

Cultural Dynamics Program

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1 Introduction

Cultural Dynamics is a computer program for visualising historical and cultural events, influences and interactions. The program originated from the author's own need to visualise when people lived, who else was alive at the same time, how they were related, when they created their artifacts, which people influenced each other and what other events influenced people or their artifacts. The program creates a diagrammatic **model** of a timespan.

The following basic requirements for a diagram were identified as follows:

- **Simplicity:** as Einstein said, models should be as simple as possible but no simpler. We would like to have as few different symbols as possible so that diagrams can be easily read. The aim is to visualise information without extraneous decoration.
- **Generality:** it should be possible to represent any desired relationship or connection.
- **Consistency:** help the user to ensure internal consistency and completeness.
- **Single Function:** it should not implement functions that other programs do better but should be open to exchange data with other programs.

What it is not

The program is not intended as a database for storing information. Only the information needed for the diagram is stored.

It is not intended as a general-purpose drawing tool.

What it is intended to be

It aims to use as few different diagram elements as possible to visualise historical and cultural events and connections between them as a way of converting the data into information and thus knowledge for researchers, teachers, students, authors, and anyone else interested in such things.

Main Features

Timelines, Events related to timelines, General Events, Untimed Events.

Division of timeline into segments.

Optionally show age on timelines.

Connections between the above: direct, wave, spiral; plain, dotted, dashed; straight or curved.

Connections labelled with names.

Optional Icons for Events and start and end of timelines.

Vague Dates, e.g. 1500 rather than 1500-12-31; intelligent entry (just type the year).

User-defined colour palette.

Hash Tags and comprehensive Filters.

Find function.

Separate texts for overall Introduction and technical notes.

Reports to extract data, ensure consistency (cross-references), detect missing data. All in html for internal navigation and export to text processors or presentations.

Export of graphics in any resolutions and paper size, e.g. for presentations or documents.

Complete html export for websites.


Filter and Find in separate windows to drive presentation from a second monitor.

Storage in JSON text file.

The symbols

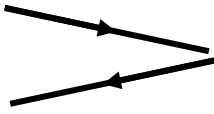


I am a fan of simple and clear graphical representation¹, and when looking for a suitable standard I remembered the physicist Richard Feynman and his Feynman Diagrams² (see example in Figure 1-1) and it seemed appropriate to adapt some of the concepts of Feynman Diagrams, namely:

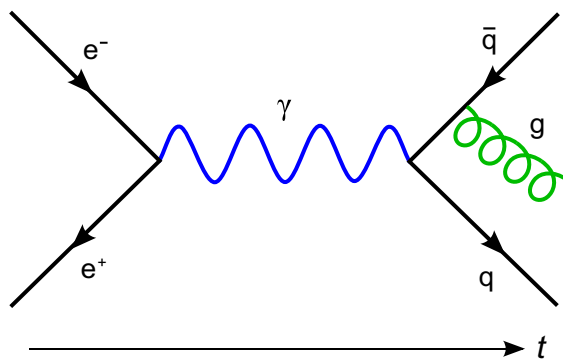
Table 1-1 Feynman Diagram Symbols and their Use

Symbol	Feynman Usage	Our Usage	Comments
Vertex 	Particle created or annihilated. Photon emission or absorption.	Artifact (created or destroyed).	The dot is not always used in Feynman diagrams (see example).

¹ See for example: Tufte, Edward R. The Visual Display of Quantitative Information. Graphics Press, 1983. Envisioning Information. Graphics Press, 1990.

² Feynman, Richard. P. Space-time approach to quantum electrodynamics. Physical Review 76:769–789, 1949. QED: The Strange Theory of Light and Matter. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1985.

Symbol	Feynman Usage	Our Usage	Comments
Arrow 	Particle. Anti-Particle.	Artifact created. Artifact lost or destroyed.	The line will start from an event such as a point in a person's life and end at a artifact. Destruction shows the arrow going backwards in time.
Wave 	Boson, e.g., photon.	Relationship such as influenced, inspired, arranged, commented, translated, etc.	The wave can connect a person or artifact to another person or artifact to denote any kind of influence. The wave seems appropriate for the transmission of ideas between minds.
Helix 	Gluon (exchange particle between quarks).	Family relationship, e.g., parent, spouse.	Appropriate because reminiscent of the DNA double helix.



In this Feynman diagram, an **electron** (e^-) and a **positron** (e^+) **annihilate**, producing a **photon** (γ , represented by the blue sine wave) that becomes a **quark-antiquark** pair (quark q , antiquark \bar{q}), after which the antiquark radiates a **gluon** (g , represented by the green helix).

Figure 1-1 Example Feynman Diagram

By Joel Holdsworth (Joelholdsworth) - Non-Derived SVG of Radiate_gluon.png, originally the work of SilverStar at Feynmann-diagram-gluon-radiation.svg, updated by joelholdsworth., Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1764161>

(I initially named the program “Quantum Cultural Dynamics” or QCD, but later dropped the “Quantum” as it is misleading and may discourage non-physicists.)

The program implements the above concepts but does not restrict the user to this level of formality. The objective is to use as few different artifacts as possible to represent the information.

2 Install and Run

2.1 Prerequisites

A Java runtime environment must be installed. This is available free from Oracle at www.java.com.

2.2 Download

Download the program from
<https://my.hidrive.com/share/0.9irug35u>

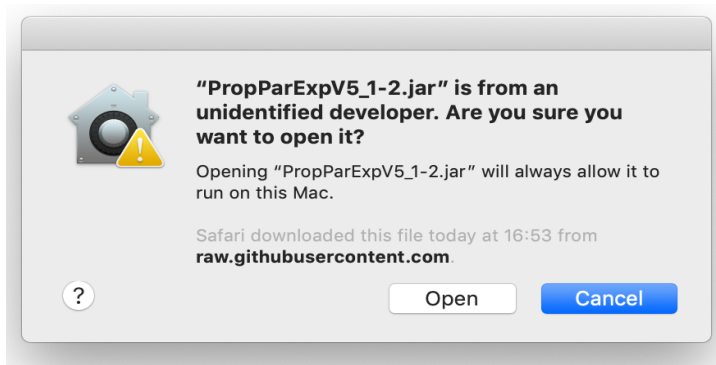
Move the /icons folder to your home folder (see 5.1.2 if you wish to put it somewhere else).
The two .txt files are sample data that can be opened with the program.

2.3 Run

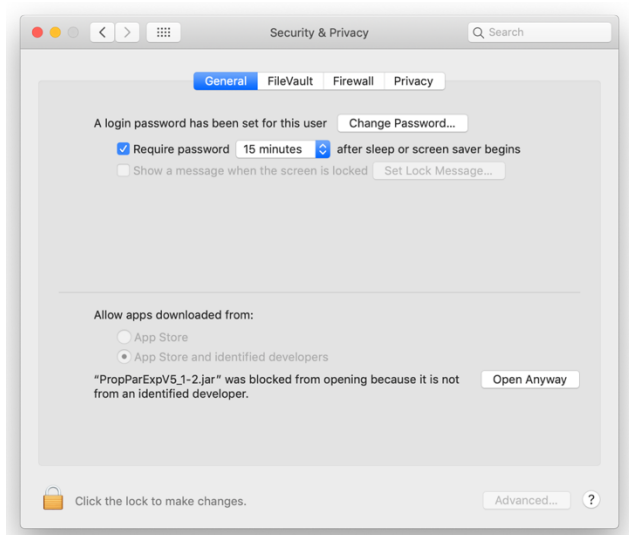
Run the program by double-clicking on the .jar file.

Notes for Apple MacOS

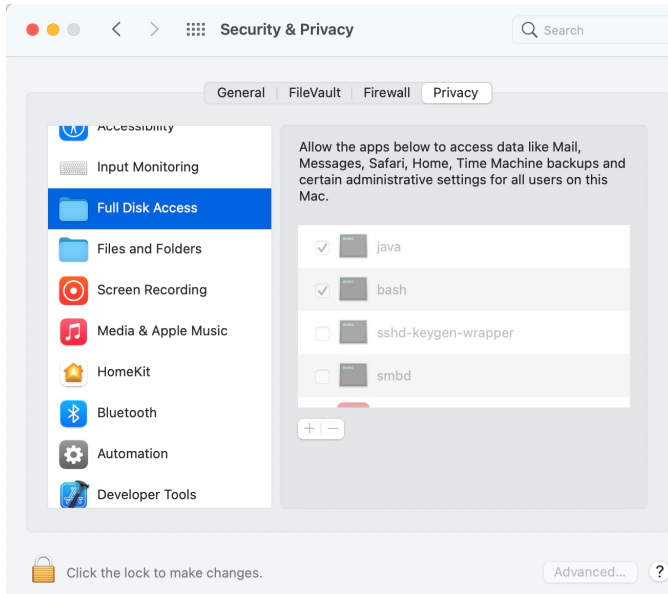
- Apple MacOS has tighter security restrictions on downloading and running unsigned files. The program file is not signed, so the user must confirm download and execution.



- This can be circumvented by control-clicking on the jar file and selecting "Open", which will then ask if you want to open it.
- Alternatively, you can go to System Preferences – Security and Privacy and in "Allow apps downloaded from", select "Open Anyway" as shown below:



It may also be necessary to permit access to the disc in the Apple System Preferences:



Unix: run from the command line (see 2.4).

2.4 Running the Program from the Command Prompt

To run the program from a command prompt:

Start a Command Prompt, e.g., in the Windows start menu under Windows System, on Mac OS start a terminal window.

Change the directory to the folder³ where the .jar file is saved.

Type the following command:

```
java -jar QCDv0_7.jar (or the file name with the current version)
```

3 Saving Your Data

The data is saved in a JSON file. This is a standard for the exchange of data over the internet.

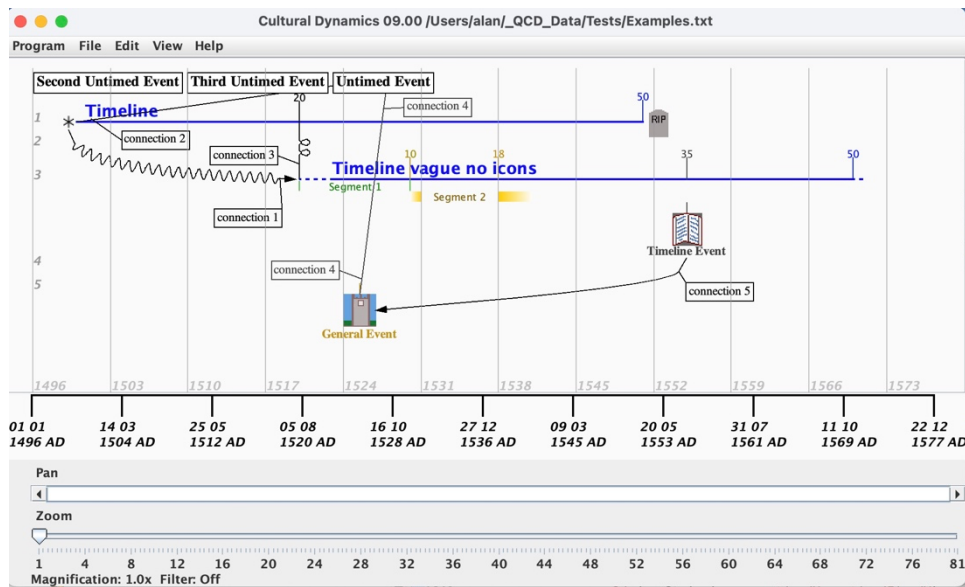
See section 13 for further details.

³ The terms “directory” and “folder” are synonymous - the usage depends on the operating system.

4 Overview

4.1 Diagram Components

The diagram appears as shown here:



The overall timeframe represented on the screen is determined by the earliest and latest dates of the data and initially shows the whole timespan. Events are arranged vertically in rows and can be scrolled.

As a typical timeframe will contain a lot of data, it will overlap and may be unclear at this high-level view, so there is a zoom control to magnify the time axis up to the point where the screen width covers one year. A pan control then enables the magnified timeframe to be traversed.

There is also a preference to “Stack Events” which draws timeline-events that would overlap below each other.

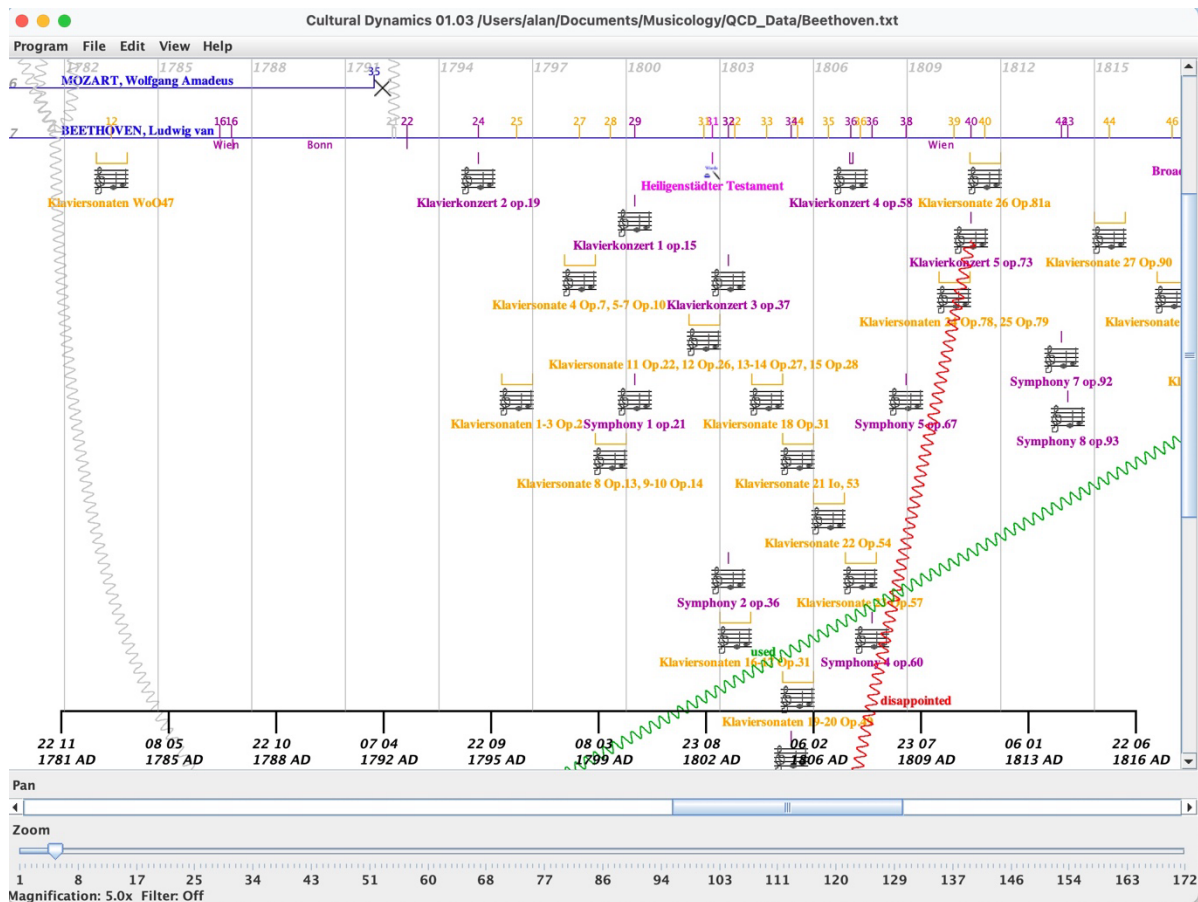
The events are arranged vertically in rows. Rows can be added or moved up or down. Empty rows can be added or deleted. To save vertical space, events can be placed in the same row, but only if they do not overlap.

The left, right, top and bottom margins can be set in the preferences.

4.1.1 Zoom and Pan

The sliders below the diagram are used to zoom in or magnify the time axis and pan left and right. The initial magnification of 1 displays the entire period covered. The maximum zoom magnifies such that the diagram width displays one year.

The following image shows the above zoomed to a magnification of 5x and panned across with the events stacked.



4.1.2 Time Axis

This is shown along the bottom of the diagram dividing the width into 10 equal periods, labelled with the dates.

Since months and years are of different lengths, these will not necessarily be neat month or year boundaries.

To compensate for this, the year boundaries are shown as vertical lines labelled at the top of the window. These will not necessarily be equally spaced.

Some extra time may be left at the start and end to ensure that the outermost icons and their labels are shown.

4.1.3 Rows

Events are placed in horizontal rows and the row numbers can be displayed down the left side. Rows can be left empty for spacing the layout.

Multiple events can be placed in the same row to save vertical space. They cannot overlap, and the minimum space between them can be set in the preferences.

4.1.4 Events

Events represent a point in time or a duration, e.g., a person's life, a war, an epoch, an artifact created by a person, a letter written, a battle, a natural disaster. An event has a start date, and optionally an end date. These can also be given with an earliest and a latest date if the exact dates are not known.

There are four types of events:

- Untimed Event
- Timeline
- Timeline-Event
- General-Event.

An **Untimed Event** appears at the top of the graphic, above the first row. Untimed events have no time information and are used for summaries or similar; they can be connected to other timelines and events. If there are too many to fit in the width of the window, they are divided into multiple lines.

A **Timeline** is intended to represent an extension in time, e.g., a person's life, a war, an epoch. A timeline has start and end dates which may be vague, i.e. given with an earliest and latest date. A timeline can have segments – see 4.1.6.

Timeline-Events are points in time associated with a timeline, e.g., a work created at a point in an artist's life and are drawn below the timeline in the same row. Their dates can be vague.

General-Events are points in time independent of a timeline and can be placed in any row where they will fit. Their dates can be vague.

An event must have a unique name.

An event will fit in a row if its dates do not overlap with any event already in the row, including the minimum number of days between entries – the “Minimum X Gap” in Preferences (see 5.1.3). This does not prevent the event icons from overlapping at low magnifications.

Note: we sometimes use the word “event” to refer to general-events or timeline-events as opposed to timelines.

4.1.5 Ages

Points that affect a timeline can additionally show the time elapsed from the beginning of the timeline until that point (years from the start of the timeline), e.g., the age of the person when a timeline-event occurred, or when a segment started or ended. The age is measured from the earliest start date of the timeline.

The age is shown in the colour of the corresponding event or segment.

4.1.6 Segments

Segments show divisions of a timeline, e.g., where a person lived or what position they had, phases of a war, etc. These are shown below the timeline. There can be up to 10 lines of segments below each timeline.

Segment boundaries are shown with a vertical line, or, if the dates are vague, i.e. a late date is given, as a gradient-shaded rectangle.

4.1.7 Connections

Connections are lines between events to represent relationships such as spouse, parent - child, teacher - student, influence on a person or artifact, copying, arranging, destruction, etc.

Connection lines can be plain or can be a wave or helix in reminiscence of Feynman diagrams as shown above.

They may be straight or curved, dotted or dashed and may have arrowheads.

Connections have a name of their own which can be displayed at the source, destination, both or neither. The name is surrounded by a rectangle and has a linkage to the connection line. The name can be dragged to the desired position relative to the connection end. The dragging is limited to the visible screen area so that the connection cannot inadvertently be moved to a point where it is no longer visible or moveable.

Connections are identified by the source event name, destination event name, and an index to differentiate between multiple connections between the same two events in the same direction, so the name does not have to be unique.

Connections will enter the destination icon or leave the source icon of an event at the appropriate edge or corner of the icon depending on the direction. This may change depending on zoom magnification and filtering.

Likewise, the linkage between the name box and the connection will join to the name box at the appropriate point. The linkage joins the name box to the connection line at the tail of the arrow, or if there is no arrow, on a straight line of the same length.

The name box can be dragged with the mouse and its position relative to the source or destination end is saved in the data. When a name is clicked it is highlighted together with the associated connection line and can be dragged. A name can also be double clicked to open the connection editor.

4.2 Editors

There are editors for events, connections, preferences and rows. The editors provided for creating and changing data all work on the same principle. They open showing the current values of the data or the default values for new data.

Multiple editors can be open at the same time.

The OK button updates the data according to the inputs and closes the editor window.

The Apply button does the same but leaves the window open so that further changes can be made on seeing the effect.

The Cancel button closes the window without changing anything. When the editor is next opened, the old values will be shown.

The Delete button deletes the item.

Any other buttons are described below.

4.3 Dates

Times are given by calendar dates to the precision of one day, but since historical times are not always known exactly, they can be given as an earliest and latest possible date, and these are represented on the diagrams by a corresponding bracket over the time for general- and timeline-events and by dotted lines at the beginning and end of timelines.

All dates are in the format YYYY-MM-DD EE where:

YYYY is the four-digit year

MM is the two-digit month

DD is the two-digit day of the month

EE is the epoch AD or BC – this can be omitted when typing and will default to AD.

Data entry is further facilitated as follows:

If you type only a year in the earliest date and go to the latest date (tab or click on it), the dates will be preset to span that year.

If you only type a year and month, the dates will be preset to span that month.

Exact dates must be given as the earliest date when the latest date is blank.

Handling living people or unfinished events

Set the earliest end time to the current date, no latest end time, and a suitable end icon, e.g., a green right arrow. The date then indicates when the file was created and thus how up to date the information is.

4.4 Icons

Icons are small graphics used to represent events and the start and end of timelines. Most standard graphics file formats can be used, e.g., .PNG, .JPG, .GIF.

The program expects to find the icons in the directory set in the preferences (see 5.1.2), and if this is not set it will expect a folder named “icons” in the user’s home directory.

Some basic icons are provided with the program, and these should be copied to the desired folder.

Users can make their own icons with any pixel graphics program.

When drawing your own icons, it is recommended to ensure that they go to all the edges so that they will connect with lines (see 4.1.7 and 10.3). This can be achieved by giving them a background or a frame.

The icon directory for each icon is NOT saved in output files, otherwise this would overrule the preference, and when receiving files from others the directory is likely to be different. The Output/Input file therefore only has icon file names, and when exchanging files with others, the icon files need to be provided as well.

If icons are missing, a default icon of a small grey square is used.

4.5 Colours

Events, segments and connections have colours. These are selected from a palette to ensure that colours can be used consistently. A default palette is created when a new diagram is started. Users can define their own colours and delete the default colours – see 5.1.4.

The colours can be named for their purpose to ensure consistency, e.g., green for philosophers, red for artists, green for writers or to differentiate types of connections, etc.

The transparency or alpha value should be used to allow overlapping items to be visible, e.g. make connections slightly transparent so that they do not obscure other items.

The cross-reference report (see 8.3.2) shows where each colour is used and unused colours.

4.6 Metadata

4.6.1 Tags

Tags are attributes of events and connections used for filtering. They are similar to hash tags used in social networks on the internet. They consist of a # followed by any number of lower-case letters and numbers and underline. (Upper case letters are not allowed because this is usual in other applications, and it avoids having to take care to get the case right when filtering.)

4.6.2 Tags and Connections

Two possible strategies for handling connections are as follows.

- Add the tags of the source and destination events. The Missing Metadata Report can then be used to find connections that have less than two tags. Disadvantage: if other filter criteria are used you must ensure that all connections have the appropriate additional tags.

- Do not put any tags on connections and set the filter option “Show items with no tags”. In the Preferences for the Missing Metadata Report, set the Connection Tags to <0 so that no missing tags are reported for connections (see 5.1.7). This ensures that all connections will be shown in a filtered view. To exclude specific connections from a filtered view additional tags must be used.

4.6.3 Description

Events and connections have a description field for a plain text giving any details that the user desires, e.g., source references, details of the item, etc. They can contain any characters, including the separator.

4.6.4 Links

Events and connections can have any number of links to Internet sources. These consist of a text, which is displayed in the metadata, and the link itself which is opened in the system browser when the text is clicked.

Note: there is a known bug in Java Mac OS that may cause an error with URLs that contain special characters (e.g., accents)⁴. This can sometimes be solved by substituting the unaccented character in the URL.

Location from Google Maps

To make a link to show a location on Google Maps, go to Google maps in your browser, search for the location, click “Share” and “Copy link”. Paste this into the URL in the editor. Pasting directly from the browser address line does not work.

Location from Apple Maps

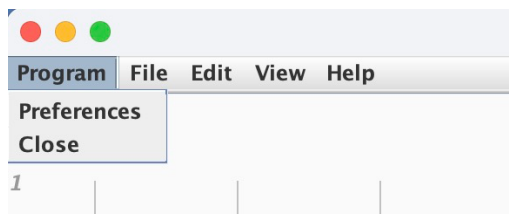
To make a link to show a location with the Apple Maps app on Mac, search for the location in the Maps app and use the menu (three dots) to Copy Link. Paste this into the URL in the editor.

4.6.5 Introduction

The Introduction text is intended for an overall description of the diagram, list of references etc. This can be included in the summary report.

There is a separate text to document technical details such as how the tags are designed and any other conventions. This is not shown anywhere other than in the editor (see 7.9).

5 Program Menu



5.1 Preferences

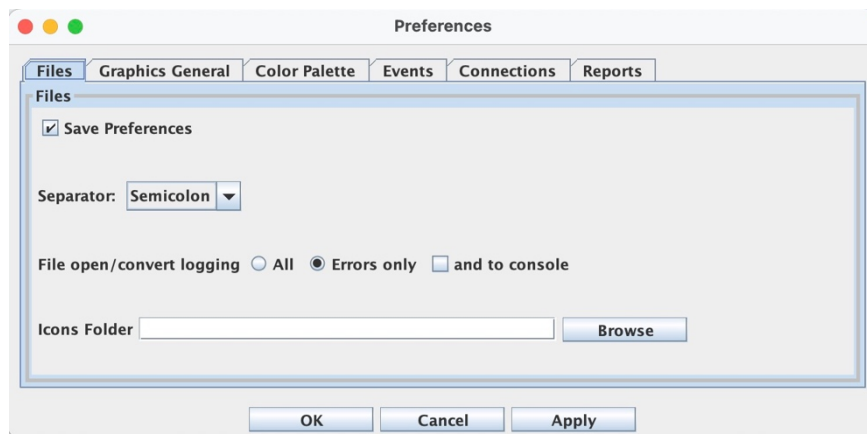
5.1.1 Overview

The preferences are basic settings that apply generally, i.e. not to any specific item.

They can optionally be saved with the data. If no settings are in a file when it is opened, the default values are used.

⁴ <https://bugs.openjdk.java.net/browse/JDK-8255754?attachmentOrder=asc>

5.1.2 Files Tab



Save Preferences – check this box to save the preferences to the output file so that the layout will be the same when the file is next read. It is preset to on and is de-selected if a file with no preferences is read.

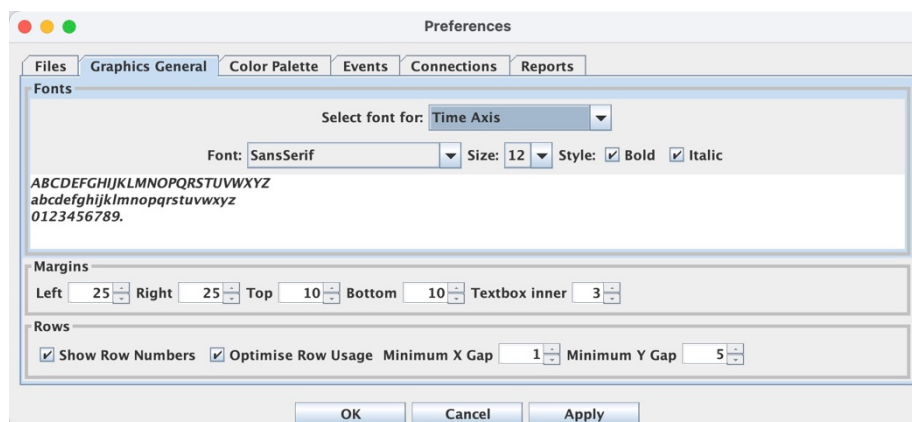
Separator – select the separator for writing the file.

File read logging – **All** will log all lines read from the input file, **Errors only** will only log errors. **And to console** will additionally output the log entries to the java console (may be useful if the logging window fails).

Note: this setting is not saved to the file – you don’t want the setting you chose for reading a file to be changed by the file itself.

Icons Folder – select the folder from which the icons will be read, and where the program will start browsing for icons (the default icon folder).

5.1.3 Graphics General Tab



Fonts – first select the type of text in the upper field “Select font for:” and then select the font, size and style. The result is shown in the sample text. The following fonts can be changed:

- Timeline names
- Timeline segments
- Timeline ages
- General- or Timeline-Event names
- Untimed Events
- Time axis

The colour of the font is determined by the colour of the item. The time axis is always black and the year lines and row number grey.

Margins Left, Right, Top, Bottom – set the size of the area around the graphic in pixels. You may need to adjust these if curves or event labels go off the window.

Textbox inner – set the size of the inside margin for text boxes, i.e. untimed events and connection labels.

Rows:

Show Row Numbers – if checked the row numbers are shown down the left side of the graphic and can be double-clicked to start the row editor.

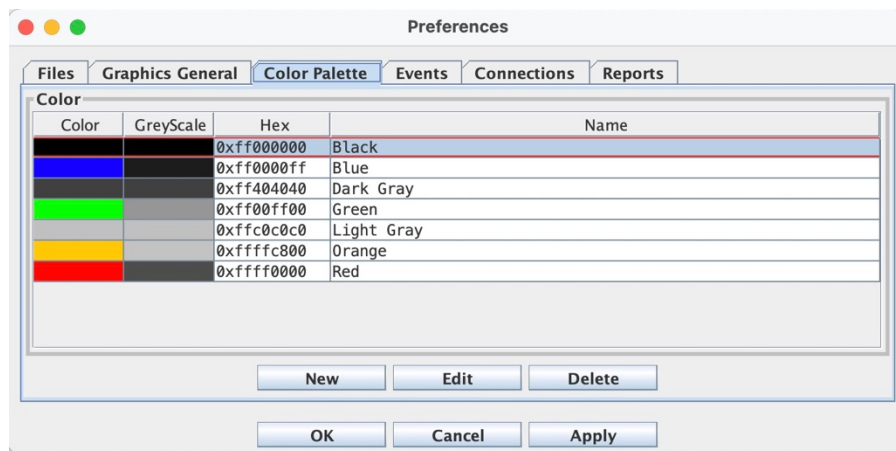
Optimise Row Usage – if checked, the First Fit option will be preset for new events.

Minimum X Gap – the minimum number of days to be left between events for them to fit in the same row.

Note: this only applies to the times the icons and names may still overlap at low magnifications.

Minimum Y Gap – the minimum number of pixels to be left between rows and the height of an empty row.

Note: if this is set to 0, the row numbers of empty rows will overlap.



5.1.4 Color Palette Tab

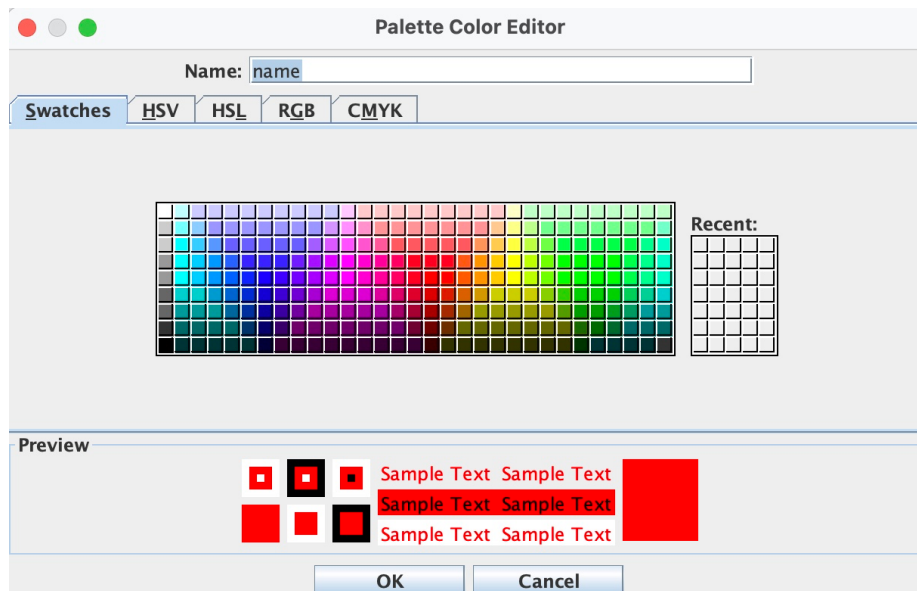
The current palette is shown in the table. The **GreyScale** column shows approximately how the colour will appear on a black and white printer – use this to make sure the colours can be differentiated if so desired.

The **Hex** column shows the hexadecimal value of the colour. “0x” indicates that it is a hexadecimal number. The following digit pairs are the Transparency, Red, Green and Blue values. This is the same format as saved to the data file.

New brings up a Palette Color Editor window where a new colour can be defined.

When a colour is selected by clicking in the table, the selected colour is indicated with a red rectangle and can be changed with the **Edit** button. This brings up the colour editor. The name can also be changed here to rename the colour.

Delete removes the selected colour from the palette.



The Palette Color Editor has tabs with different methods of defining the colour:

Swatches – a set of predefined colours.

HSV – Hue, Saturation, Value colour model

HSL – Hue, Saturation, Lightness colour model.

RGB – Red, Green, Blue colour model

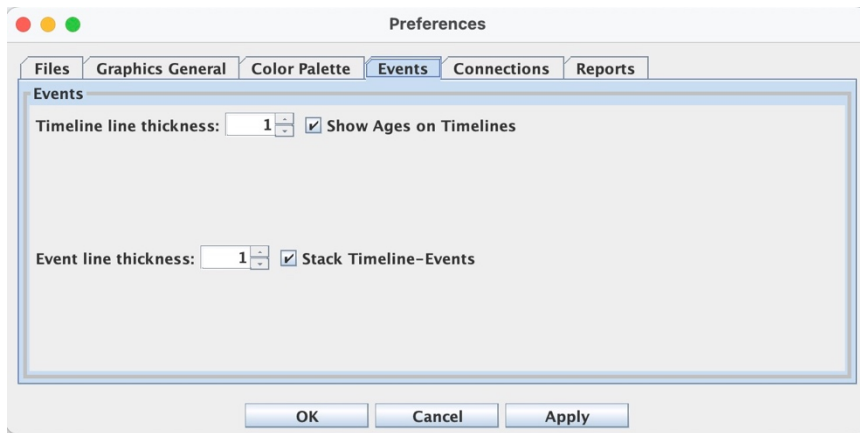
CMYK – Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, Key (black) complementary colour model.

The Preview panel shows the colour against white and black backgrounds.

The colour model tabs have a slider for Transparency or Alpha. Reducing this lightens the colour and allows other items that might otherwise be obscured to shine through them.

Note: the new, changed or deleted colour is not saved until OK or Apply is clicked on the main Preferences window.

5.1.5 Events Tab



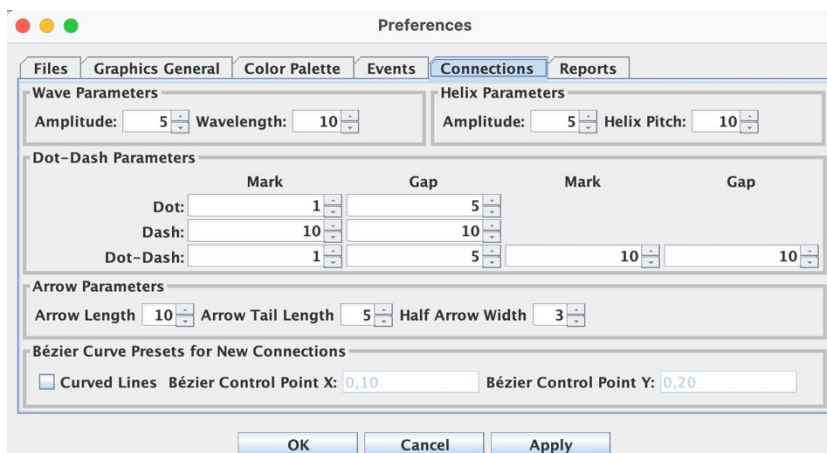
Timeline line thickness – the height of timeline lines in pixels.

Show Ages on Timelines – if checked, the ages are shown above the timelines.

Event line thickness – the width of the lines between timeline-events and their timelines and for the time bracket of vague general- or timeline-events.

Stack Timeline-Events – if checked, timeline-events will be “stacked” or staggered so that they do not overlap. As the magnification of the display is increased, the events will move to minimise the vertical space required.

5.1.6 Connections Tab



Wave Parameters:

Amplitude – the height in pixels of waves for wavy lines.

Wavelength – the length of one cycle of the wave in pixels.

Helix Parameters:

Amplitude – the width of a helix loop in pixels.

Helix Pitch – the distance between loops in pixels.

Dot-Dash Parameters:

Mark – the length of the mark of a dot or dash.

Gap – the length of the gap between dots or dashes.

Dot – the lengths of the marks and gaps for dotted lines.

Dash – the lengths of the marks and gaps for dashed lines.

Dot-Dash – the lengths of the marks and gaps for the dots and for the dashes.

Note: To use dotted and or dashed connections with wavy or helix lines, the wave and helix parameters will need to be adjusted in conjunction with the dot and dash settings to give the desired effect. Flexibility has been given priority over usability in this case.

Arrow Parameters:

Arrow Length: the length in pixels of the arrow heads.

Arrow Tail Length: the length in pixels of the straight tails of the arrows.

Half Arrow Width: the width in pixels of one side of the arrows.

Bézier Curve Presets for New Connections:

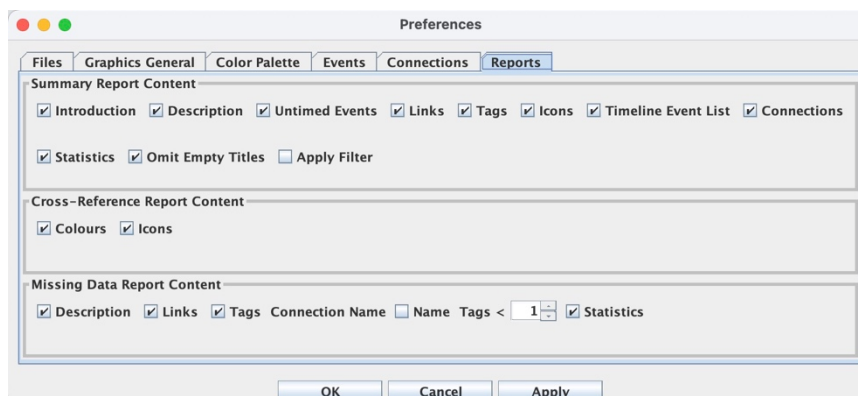
Curved Lines: check to preset new connections to be curved.

Bézier Control Point X and Y: the default values of these for new connections.

5.1.7 Reports Tab

This tab is used to configure the contents of the summary, cross-reference and missing metadata reports.

Ticked sections are included in the report. Other specific fields are described below.



Summary Report

Statistics gives a summary of the numbers of timelines, events and connections at the end of the summary report.

Omit Empty Titles if checked will leave out the titles of sections that have no data. This is useful if an item of data or metadata is not used in the file.

Apply Filter if checked will only list those timelines, events and connections that are selected by the currently active filter (see 8.1).

Cross-Reference Report

(No specific fields)

Missing Data Report

Connection Tags can be set to 0 to allow connections to have no tags (see 4.6.2).

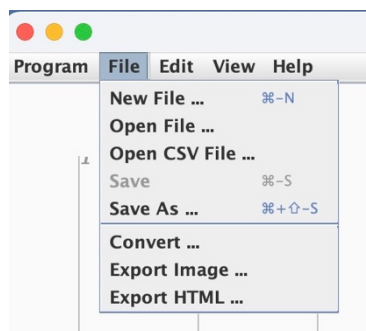
The settings are saved in the data file.

Statistics gives a summary of the numbers of timelines, events and connections at the end of the summary report.

5.2 Close

This closes the program having checked with the user whether any unsaved changes should be discarded.

6 File Menu



6.1 New File

This deletes all the data ready to start a new session. The preferences are set to default values. These can be modified in Preferences – see 5.1.4.

6.2 Open File

Deletes all the data and opens a new JSON data file.

If preferences were not saved to the file, the default values are used.

Errors are logged in red in an error log window:

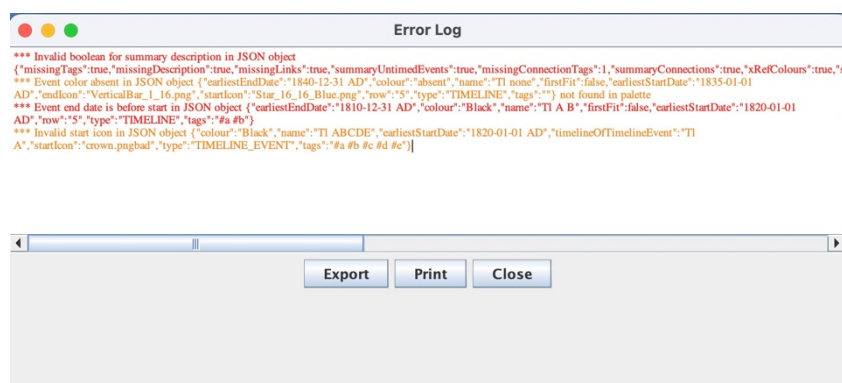


Figure 6-1 Error log showing errors only

If colours are encountered which are not in the palette, a warning is logged and the first colour in the palette is used. If “File read logging” is set to “All” in the preferences (see 5.1.2), all lines read from the file (except empty lines and comment lines) will be logged in a new window. If this is set to “Errors only”, only errors will be logged (if any). The window includes buttons:

Export – to export the log to an html file that can be read in a browser.

Print – to print the log.

Close – to close the window.

6.3 Open CSV File

This opens a legacy CSV file similarly to Open File above. This is temporarily available to convert files previously saved in the CSV format.

The data can only be saved in JSON format.

6.4 Save

Saves the diagram to the currently open file, overwriting it.

6.5 Save As ...

Saves the diagram to a new JSON file. If the file already exists, the user will be asked for confirmation before overwriting it.

6.6 Convert ...

Use this to convert files which were written with a previous version of the program.

Whenever a program version has changes to the data file format, the major version is changed. The major version is recorded in the second line of the data file.

The menu item brings up a file chooser where multiple files can be selected for conversion. The conversion works as follows:

1. Create a backup subdirectory named “preConvert_<timestamp>”.
2. Copy the selected files to the backup subdirectory.
3. For each of the selected files:
 - 3.1. Do the conversion to a temporary file named “out...tmp”.
 - 3.2. If the conversion is successful, replace the original file with the temporary output file.
 - 3.3. Delete the temporary output file.

The backup files are left in place and should be deleted when the user is certain that the files are all correctly readable with the current program version. In case of problems, they can be copied back from there.

The processing is logged in a separate window. This either shows only the errors or logs each step of the process, depending on the setting for “File read logging” in the preferences (see 5.1.2). When all steps are logged, changed lines are added in green.

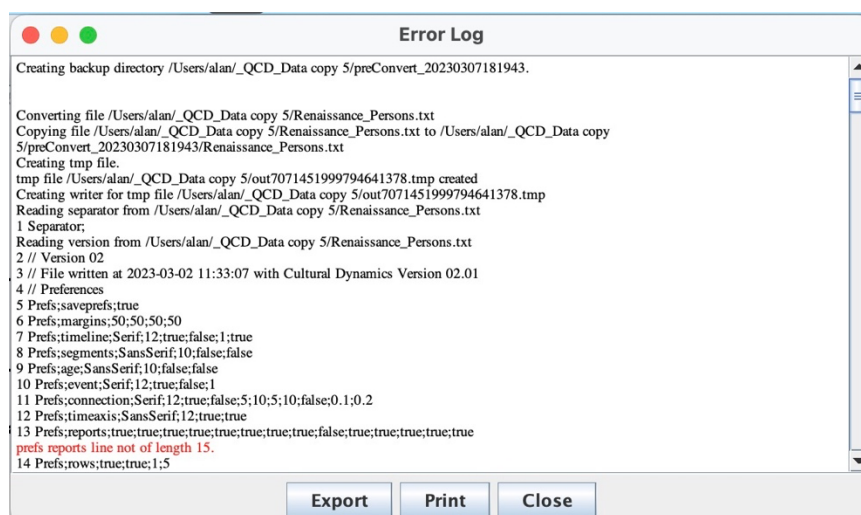


Figure 6-2 Error log from Conversion

6.7 Export Image ...

The export image function outputs the displayed diagram as one or more graphics files which can be used for printing or for inclusion in other documents or presentations.

The export is based on the chosen resolution and width of the image. The image width in pixels will be the width in inches multiplied by the dots per inch (dpi). The height of the resulting image depends on the diagram and the layout chosen.

Image Resolution dpi

Select the desired standard resolution or select “Custom” and enter your own.

Image Size

Standard – select a standard paper size from the drop-down list

Portrait/Landscape – select the orientation

Custom – enter your own width and height and select the unit inches or millimetres.

Result

This shows the resulting image size in pixels and the total. The file size will normally be less, especially if a compressed format such as JPG is used.

Export File Type

Select the desired file type for the export.

Export Layout

Single Image – The diagram will be output as a single image. The width in pixels is determined as above, and the height will be as required to accommodate the diagram.

Multiple Images High – The diagram will have the width determined as above and will be split into multiple images such that each will fit in the selected image size.

Full Diagram – This has not been implemented yet.

X-Axis on each page – if checked, the X-axis will be repeated at the bottom of each page.

Split rows across pages – if this is not checked, the output will avoid splitting a row across pages, e.g., keeping a timeline and its time-line events on the same page. Any rows that do not fit on one page will be shown in the result at the bottom of the export window; these will be taller than the selected page height.

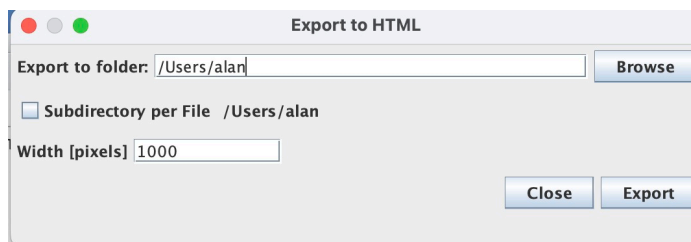
Export File

Export as – determines the target file to be used. If multiple image files are produced they are given numerical suffixes. Use the Browse button to select the directory and enter the file name.

When started with the “Export” button, the progress of the export and end result are shown at the bottom of the export window.

Note: while the export is running the width of the graphic in the main screen will be changed for the export width and restored when the export is finished.

6.8 Export HTML ...

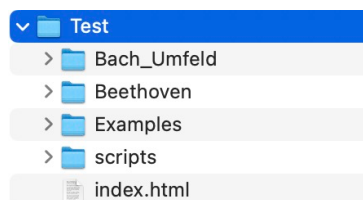


Export HTML creates a web site for viewing in a browser. This is useful to make diagrams available on platforms which cannot run the Java application, such as Apple iPads or iPhones, or for making them available without the data files.

A diagram is written for each saved filter as well as for the unfiltered graphic. A data file is written for each event. The Introduction (see section 7.9) and Summary Report (see section 8.3.1) are written and included in the menu.

The export can handle multiple input files, creating a subdirectory for each and a simple table of contents. It uses a JavaScript which is written by the program into a “/scripts” subdirectory.

An example directory structure with “Export to folder” set to Test and “Subdirectory per File” checked, after exporting three input files (Bach_Umfeld, Beethoven, Examples), would be as shown:



Export to folder – use the browse button to select the folder (or directory) in which the html will be written.

Subdirectory per File – if this is checked the html will be written to a subdirectory with the name of the input file. The path is shown on the right.

Width [pixels] – the width of the main graphics in pixels.

Export button – this starts the export. Note that existing files of the same name will be overwritten (after confirming with a warning message), but no files will be deleted. It is therefore recommended to delete any old files from the directory before exporting. The JavaScript file is also written to a subdirectory “/scripts”. If “Subdirectory per File” was checked, a table of contents file “index.html” will be written to the top level folder.

To indicate progress, the file currently being written is shown at the bottom right of the “Export to HTML” window. During export, the main window stops displaying the graphic while it is working through the filters to generate the images and html code.

Note: the file names for the event descriptions are derived from the event names; to avoid problems, the following characters are substituted:

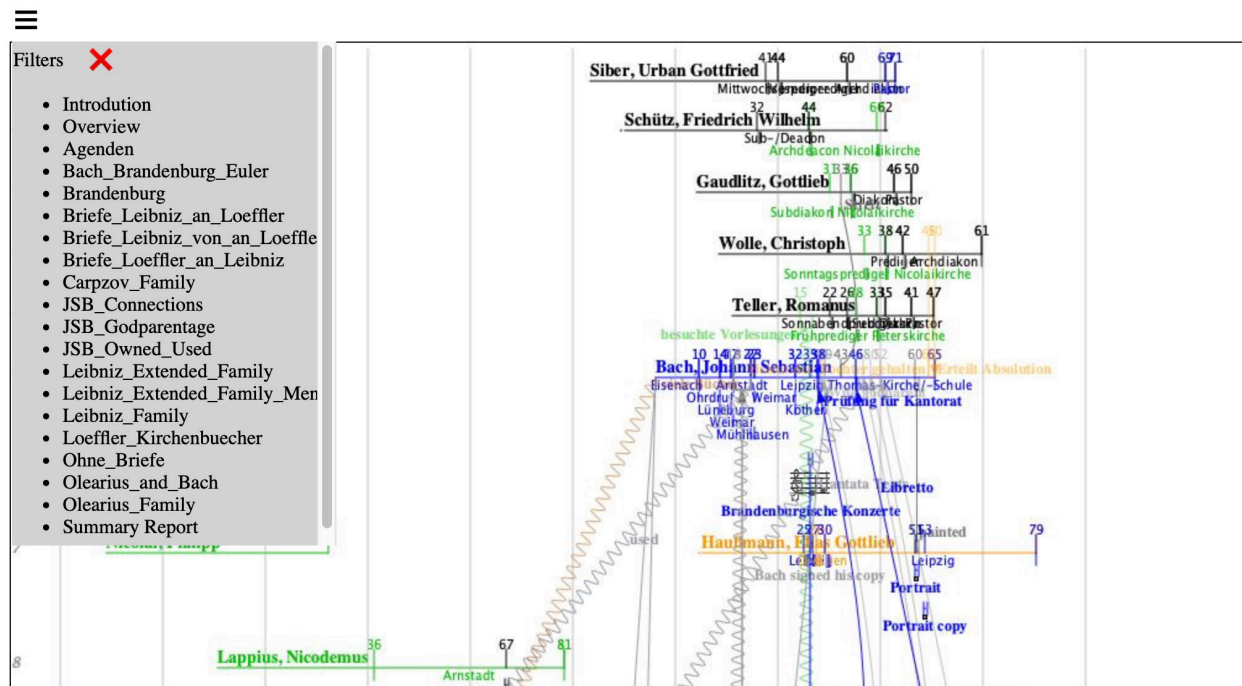
- for /
- _ for .

Other problematic characters are prevented in event names (see section 7.1, 7.3, and 7.4).

The resulting html file contains the title from the input file name and a menu of the filters. Clicking on a filter name displays the corresponding graphic. Clicking the red X closes the menu. The “Overview” entry is the unfiltered graphic. The names of the events can be clicked to bring up a window with a summary of the data. (Note that this does not work reliably in all browsers; the clickable areas have to be adjusted by the JavaScript depending on the window resizing, moving and scrolling.

Note: most browsers will open the data window on the main screen, even if the main diagram is on another monitor. Tablets such as iPad do not have independent windows and will usually open the data in a new tab.

Bach_Umfeld



7 Edit Menu

7.1 New Timeline and Timeline Editor

From the “New Timeline ...” menu item a new timeline is created with default settings. If a timeline name is double-clicked an editor for that timeline with its current values is opened. If the editor for that timeline is already opened it will be brought to the front of the screen.

Color	GreyScale	Hex	Name
		0xff0000ff	Composer
		0xff000000	Erbe
		0xff000000	Event
		0xffff9999	Frau
		0xff510000	Jurist
		0xff00cc33	Kantate
		0xffff4600	Leibniz
		0xff0000ff	Leipzig

Name – the name of the timeline, must be unique among all types of events. The name cannot contain ; \ ? % * : | " < > = as the name is used for file names in the HTML export. A timeline name is on one line.

Row:

Current – shows current row.

First fit – if this is checked when OK or Apply are clicked, the timeline will be placed in the first row where it will fit.

New – if First fit is not checked, a row can be selected in which the timeline will be placed. If it will not fit in that row and error message is shown. The row after the current last row or 0 can be chosen to put the event in a new row at the end.

Note: the timeline will not be moved into rows that have “Keep row empty” checked – see 7.8.

Note: if a new row is entered and rows are manipulated by the row editor such that the current row of the timeline is changed, and the row number has not been edited, the new row will be reset to the new current row of the timeline when the editor gains focus.

Dates – give the dates of the earliest and latest start and end of the timeline. A timeline must have an Earliest Start and an Earliest End. See 4.3.

Colour – Select the colour from the palette. The palette can be changed or extended in Preferences, see 5.1.4.

Note: this does not affect the colour of the icon.

Note: The colours of ages are determined by the source of the age.

Icons – select the icons for the start and end of the timeline – see 4.4. These are optional.

New Segment Button – adds a new segment to the timeline and opens the segment editor – see below. This is disabled until the new timeline has been saved with Apply or OK.

New Event Button – creates a new timeline event attached to this timeline and opens its editor (see section 7.3).

Other buttons – see 4.2.

Metadata – see 7.6.1

7.2 Segment Editor

Click on “New Segment” in the timeline editor to create a new segment. Double-click on a segment name to change it.

Line Number – the line below the timeline for the segment.

Segment Name – the name displayed in the segment. It does not have to be unique. It cannot contain semicolons.

Dates – the earliest and latest start and end dates – see 4.3. When creating a new segment, the earliest start date is preset to the end date of the previous segment.

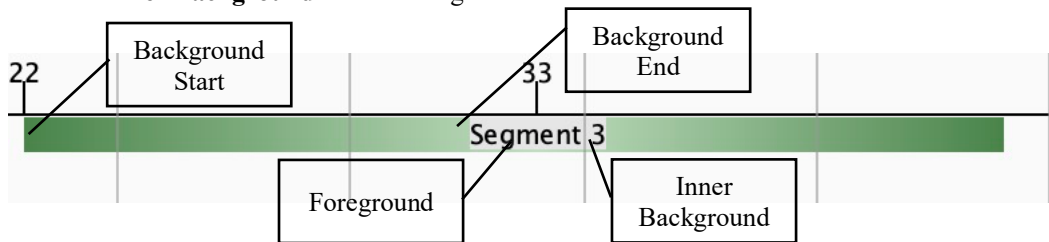
Colour – There are four colours for a segment, selected in the tabs. For vague dates the time spans between the early and late start and end dates are shaded with a gradient.

Foreground – the colour of the segment text and the ages shown on the timeline.

Outer Background Start – the colour with which the shading of the vague time starts, or if the date is exact, a vertical line to mark the edge of the segment.

Outer Background End – the colour with which the shading of the vague time ends.

Inner Background – the shading behind the time between latest start and earliest end dates.



Color	GreyScale	Hex	Name
		0xff0000ff	Composer
		0xff000000	Erbe
		0xff000000	Event
		0xffff9999	Frau
		0xff510000	Jurist
		0xff00cc33	Kantate
		0xffff4600	Leibniz
		0xff0000ff	Leipzig

The palette can be changed or extended in Preferences, see 5.1.4.

Note: The segment is created with OK or Apply and will not be removed if the underlying Timeline Editor is cancelled.

Colour Samples – This shows how the selected colours will appear on the screen and in grey-scale printouts.

7.3 New Event and Event Editor

From the Edit menu a new timeline-event or general-event can be created. If an event name is double-clicked the corresponding editor is opened.

Name – the name of the event must be unique among all events (including timelines). The name cannot contain ; \ ? % * : | " < > = . The name can have multiple lines.

Row (only applicable to general-events):

Current: - shows the current row of the general-event.

First fit – if this is checked when OK or Apply are clicked, the event will be placed in the first row where it will fit.

New – if First fit is not checked, a row can be selected in which the general-event will be placed. If it will not fit in that row and error message is shown. The row after the current last row or 0 can be chosen to put the event in a new row at the end.

Note: the event will not be moved into rows that have “Keep row empty” checked – see 7.8.

Note: if a new row is entered and rows are manipulated by the row editor such that the current row of the event is changed, and the row number has not been edited, the new row will be reset to the new current row of the event when the editor gains focus.

Timeline (only applicable to timeline-events):

Timeline – select the timeline with which the event is associated.

Dates – give the dates of the start and end of the event. An event must have an Early Start date. See 4.3. The combinations have the following meanings which are represented accordingly:

Earliest Start	Latest Start	Earliest End	Latest End	Meaning
Y	N	N	N	Exact point in time
Y	Y	N	N	Vague point in time
Y	N	Y	N	Exact duration
Y	Y	Y	N	Duration with vague start date
Y	N	Y	Y	Duration with vague end date
Y	Y	Y	Y	Duration with vague start and end dates

Other combinations are not allowed.

Colour – Select the colour of the event and its name from the palette. The palette can be changed or extended in Preferences, see 5.1.4.

Note: this does not affect the colour of the icon, only the time bracket and for timeline-events, the line to the timeline and the age on the timeline

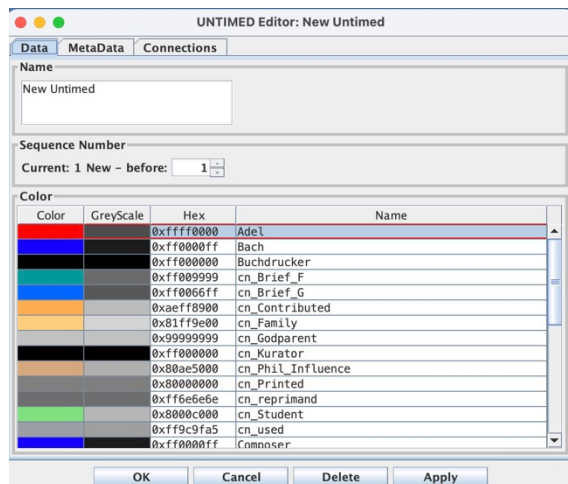
Icon – select the icon for the event – see 4.4. An event must have an icon to represent it on the diagram.

Buttons – see 4.2.

Metadata tab – see 7.6.1

7.4 New Untimed Event and Untimed Event Editor

From the Edit menu create a new untimed event. Double-clicking on an untimed event in the graphic opens its editor.



Name – the name must be unique among all events (including timelines). The name cannot contain ; \ ? % * : | " < > = . The name can have multiple lines.

Sequence Number – the order in which the untimed events appear:

Current: - shows the current sequence number of the untimed event.

New: - select the new sequence number. This can be 0 to put it first or one more than the number of untimed events to put it at the end.

Colour – Select the colour of the event and its name from the palette. The palette can be changed or extended in Preferences, see 5.1.4.

7.5 New Connection and Connection Editor

From the menu create a new connection or double-click on a connection line or on the name to open the editor for that connection.

Name:

Enter the name of the connection to be displayed on the screen. This may be empty and does not have to be unique. It can have multiple lines. The position of the name relative to the source or destination end of the connection can be changed by dragging the name with the mouse. If and where the name is shown is determined by the next two checkboxes.

Show at Source

Check to show the name at the source end of the connection.

Show at Destination:

Check to show the name at the destination end of the connection.

Source (where the connection begins):

Select the appropriate event from the list to determine where the connection begins.

Earliest, Latest – Only applicable to timelines. The date on the timeline from which the connection from a timeline begins. If none are given, the connection starts from the beginning (earliest start date) of the timeline.

Destination (where the connection ends):

Similar to source above.

For timelines, when the cursor enters the Earliest field, the earliest and latest dates are preset to those of the source, unless they have already been set.

Line Type

Line Type – whether the line is direct, wave or a helix shape.

Dash Type – whether the line is dotted, dashed or dot-dashed.

Forward Arrow, Back Arrow – select whether there is an arrow at the destination and/or source end of the connection.

Curve – check to make the line curved.

Bézier Control X and Y – the control points which determine the shape of the curve – see 10.2

Note: the parameters for the above are set in the preferences – see 5.1.6.

Colour – Select the colour of the connection, its name if shown, and the ages where it connects to a timeline. The palette can be changed or extended in Preferences, see 5.1.4.

Note: connections will be drawn over other items, so it may be advisable to increase the transparency (or reduce the alpha) of the connection colour to make the other items more visible. See 5.1.4.

Buttons – see 4.2.

Metadata – see 7.6.1

Note: A connection is uniquely identified by its source, name and destination, so this combination must be unique.

Connection Editor: Verbot von Goethe's Leiden des jungen Werther -> Vollst. Kir...

Data **MetaData**

Name

Show at: ☐ Source ☐ Destination

Source

Verbot von Goethe's Leiden des jungen Werther

Earliest: Latest:

Destination

Vollst. Kirchenbuch 1771

Earliest: Latest:

Line Type

Line Type: DIRECT Forward Arrow ☐ Bézier Control X: 0.5

Dash Type: PLAIN Back Arrow ☐ Curve ☐ Bézier Control Y: 0.2

Color

Color	GreyScale	Hex	Name
Red		0xffff0000	Adel
Blue		0xff0000ff	Bach
Black		0xff000000	Buchdrucker
Green		0xff009999	cn_Brief_F
Light Blue		0xff0066ff	cn_Brief_G
Orange		0xaeff8900	cn_Contributed
Yellow		0x81ff9e00	cn_Family
Grey		0x99999999	cn_Godparent

OK Cancel Delete Apply

7.6 Metadata

Timelines, Events and Connections have a Metadata tab for ancillary information relating to the item.

TIMELINE_EVENT Editor: Palazzo Barberini

Data **MetaData**

Use

#barberini
#maderno
#palazzo

< >

Available

#_vitruvius
#alberti
#aldobrandini
#ammanati
#arch
#architect
#astronomer
#barbaro
#barozzi

Define Delete

Description of event

aka Casa Grande ai Giubbonari. [Waddy]

Links

Wikipedia English

Edit

OK Cancel Delete Apply

7.6.1 Tags

Use – the tags to be used in the event or connection. When the tag selector is opened it shows those currently used

Available – shows the tags available for use in the event or connection. It shows all the tags currently defined, less the ones in the “Use” pane.

To quickly find the required tag type in the initial letters of the tag name (without the #). The first tag beginning with a sequence of letters typed within on second will be searched in the list. One second after typing a character the search string is reset and the next letter typed will be taken as the first letter of the sought tag.

< and > buttons

Existing tags can be moved between the available tags list (right-hand-side) and those to be used (left-hand-side) by selecting one or more of them and clicking the left and right arrow buttons. A single tag can also be moved by double-clicking it.

Define

A new tag can be defined by typing it into the field and clicking Define.

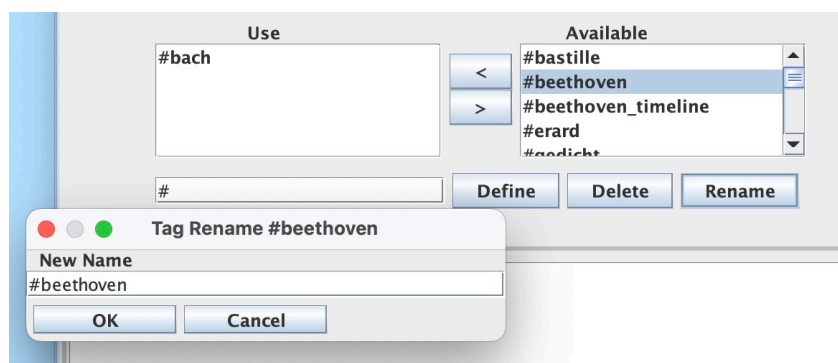
Delete

Tags can be deleted from the available list by selecting them and clicking the Delete button. This is only possible if they are not used anywhere (places where they are used are listed in a message).

Note: the tag is deleted immediately without waiting for the OK or Apply button – the deletion will not be cancelled by the Cancel button.

Rename

When a single tag is selected in either the Use or Available list, the Rename button shows a dialog to rename the tag:



The renamed tag will be visible in other open editors and the filter window when they regain focus.

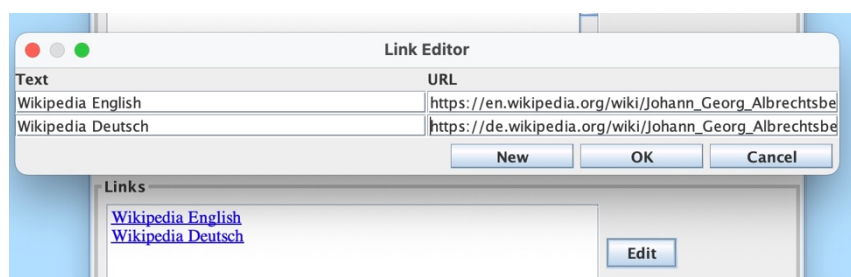
If the last item that uses a tag is deleted, the tag will remain in the list until the file is saved and re-opened.

7.6.2 Description

The description can hold a multi-line text. It has no formatting. This is intended for any additional information such as literature sources.

Note: empty lines at the end of the text will be removed when it is saved.

7.6.3 Links



Use the edit button in the event or connection editor to open the Link Editor. Links consist of:

Text to be displayed and

Hyperlink which will be opened when the text is clicked. The program uses the operating system standard browser.

New button – adds new rows to the table.

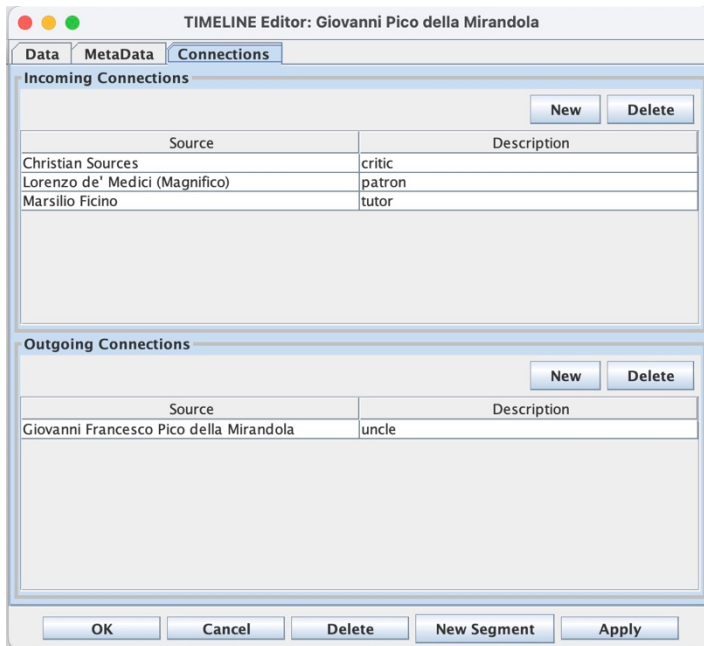
The URL is checked for syntax, but no further checks can be performed on the validity as the user may be working offline or the site may be temporarily unavailable. It is best to copy the link from the browser and paste it into the URL field (use Ctrl-a or Cmd-a to select the existing data and replace it with paste Ctrl-v or Cmd-v).

To delete an entry, delete the contents of one of the fields (Text or URL) and click OK.

See 4.6.4 for inserting map references.

7.7 Connections Tab

The event editors have a connections tab to give a convenient overview of the event's incoming and outgoing connections.



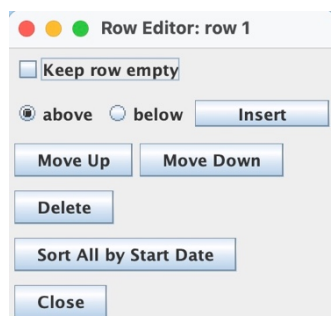
A double-click on a table row will open the connection editor.

New button – Creates a new incoming or outgoing connection with the current event set as source or destination.

Delete Button – Deletes the selected connections. Any open editors for the deleted connections will be closed.

7.8 Edit Rows and Row Editor

The row editor is opened either from the menu or by double-clicking on a row number. (The row numbers must first be displayed via the preferences – see 5.1.3.) The row editor acts on the row shown in its title; when started from the menu this is the last one used and when started by double-clicking it is the row number selected.



The buttons act immediately, so there is no cancel, but any operation except sort can be easily reversed.

Keep row empty

if this is checked the “First fit” function of timelines and general-events will not move them into this row. This is to ensure the row is kept empty if it is being used as a layout aid. This can only be checked if the row is currently empty.

Above, Below, Insert

inserts a new row above or below the current row.

Move Up, Move Down

moves the current row up or down, keeping the editor on that row.

Delete

deletes the current row (only possible if it is empty).

Sort All by Start Date

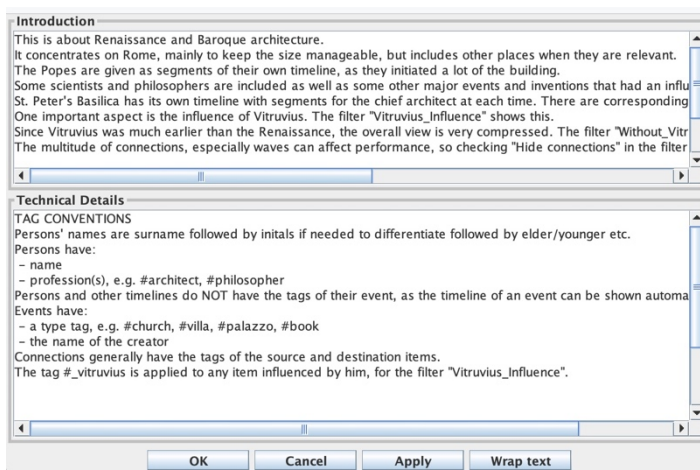
sorts the rows by the start date of the earliest entry in each row, with the earliest at the top.

Close

closes the row editor window.

7.9 Edit Introduction

This includes two simple text fields for an introductory text for whole diagram and for technical details.



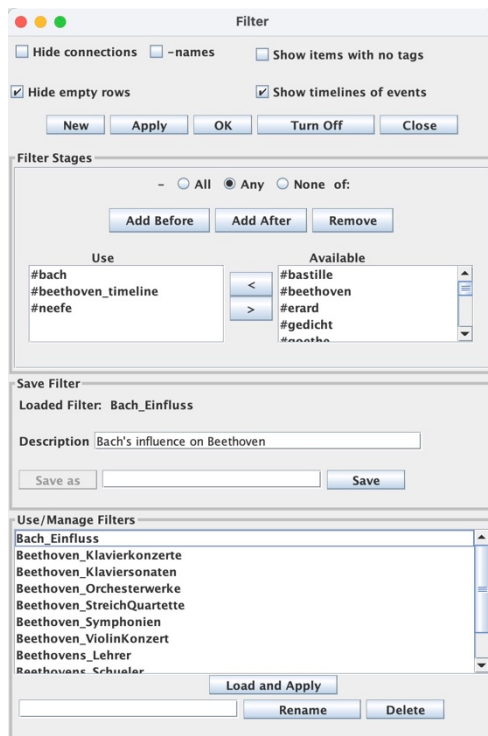
The Introduction text can be included in the Summary Report (see 5.1.7) and is intended for a general overview, list of references, rationale of filters, etc.

The Technical Details are not shown anywhere else and are intended for design information such as conventions for tags.

Wrap text – toggles the text wrapping. When displayed in the summary the text will wrap to the window. To avoid unwanted empty lines it is useful to view the text without wrapping.

8 View Menu

8.1 Filter ...



The filter function allows the user to restrict the amount of data that is displayed to show different aspects or make the diagram more readable. It can also be applied to the contents of the summary reports (see 5.1.7).

The filter uses the tags defined for events and connections.

A filter is built up with a series of filter stages consisting of an operation (All, Any, None) and a tag list. The stages are combined with Boolean logic functions (AND, OR). See below.

Changes to the filter only take effect when the Apply or OK button is clicked.

Hide connections – if checked all the connections are hidden.

This can be useful if there are many connections, for example to see events more easily, and to improve performance on resizing the window.

Hide connection names – if checked all the connection names are hidden.

Show items with no tags – normally, an item with no tags would never be shown if an All or Any filter is active; if this checkbox is ticked, items with no tags will always be shown.

Hide empty rows – this will remove any rows left empty by the filter so that all the remaining rows appear together at the top of the window.

Show timelines of events – normally, a timeline-event is only shown if its associated timeline is also shown. If this box is checked, the timeline for an included event will be shown with the event, regardless of any other filtering of that timeline. This allows more flexibility in defining tags.

New button – deletes the existing filter and removes the loaded filter set.

Apply button – applies the defined filter and redraws the main diagram, leaving the filter window open.

OK button – applies the defined filter and redraws the main diagram and closes the filter window.

Turn Off button – turns the filter off and unchecks the Hide Connections checkbox.

Close button – closes the filter window.

Each stage consists of a list of tags with:

- **All** an object is shown if it contains all the given tags (AND function)
- **Any** an object is shown if it contains any of the given tags (OR function)
- **None** an object is shown if it contains none of the given tags (NOT AND function)

AND / OR – these buttons determine how the filter stages are combined. With AND an item (event or connection) is shown if its tags pass both filter stages. With OR and item is shown if its tags pass either or both of the filter stages.

Note that connections are also filtered with tags, but they will only be shown if both their source and destination are shown, i.e. not filtered out.

Note that if the box “Show timelines of events” is not checked, timeline-events will only be shown if their timeline is shown, so filters to show specific timeline-events must then also include tags for their related timelines.

Add Before / Add After / Remove – further stages can be added with the “Add” buttons or removed with the “Remove” button. The first stage does not have logical AND / OR buttons as there is no previous stage.

Use and Available

All available tags are listed in the Available list. By selecting one or more and clicking on the left arrow, the selected tags are moved to the Use list. A single tag can be moved by double-clicking on it in the Available list. The Use list shows the tags that will be used in the filter logic.

Tags are removed from the Use list by selecting one or more and clicking on the right arrow or double-clicking on one tag. They then move back into the Available list.

Note that if the Use list is empty, no filtering is performed.

A tag can be found in the list by typing its initial letters (see section 7.6.1).

Save Filter

The filter can be saved. All the checkboxes are saved as well. Note: this is only saving within the program – saving to the data file must be done with the Save or Save As function of the main program.

Save as – having defined a filter, type a name in the field and click the “Save as” button. It will now appear in the list under “Use/Manage Filters”.

Save – use this button to save the current filter after it has been changed.

Note: Save as and Save only save the filter within the program. To save them to the file, the Save function in the main menu of the diagram must be used. This is indicated by the red Unsaved Changes text in the bottom status bar of the main window.

Use/ Manage Filters

Select a filter from the list and click “**Load and Apply**”, or just double-click on the filter name. The filter will be loaded into the top part of the screen and applied to the diagram.

The last filter selected is shown beside “Loaded Filter Set”. If any changes are made, “Unsaved changes” appears in red beside the name until Save or Save As is used. This is removed when the changes are saved with Save or Save as, or when the same filter is reloaded or when a different filter is loaded or when New is clicked.

Rename – the selected filter can be renamed by typing a new name in the field beside the “Rename” button and then clicking that.

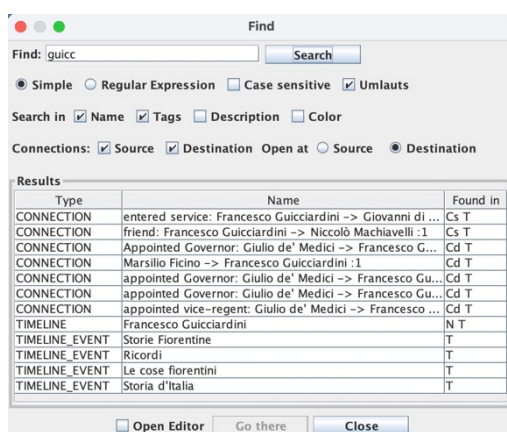
Delete – Similarly, the selected filter can be deleted with the Delete button.

The filters are saved to the data file with Save or Save as in the file menu of the main window and are read back in when the file is opened.

The filter function can be used in presentations by having the Filter window on a second monitor and going through the filters to show the aspects being presented.

8.2 Find

The find function is used to find a events, segments or connections and move the diagram to highlight one of the results with a red rectangle while optionally opening its editor. Searches for events and connections can be made on any combination of the name, tags, description and colour. Searches for connections can additionally be mad on the source



and destination event names and can highlight either the source or the destination end of the connection. The search can be simple or can use regular expressions. It can be case sensitive and it can transliterate umlauts.

Note: connections that do not have a name can only be found with the search string in the tag, description, colour, source or destination. The Name column shows the name and identifier of the connection (source, destination and index).

The results can be sorted by clicking on the column headers.

Find – type the search string into the field.

Search button – start the search. The search can also be started by hitting the Enter key while in the Find field.

Simple – this performs a simple search for the given string being contained in the selected data fields (name, tags, description, etc.). Wildcards are not used.

Regular Expression – this performs an advanced search interpreting the string in the Find field as a regular expression. For details of how to use this, see <https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/regex/Pattern.html>.

Note that some expressions can cause the program to crash with a stack overflow.

Case sensitive – if this is checked, upper and lower case are differentiated when searching. Otherwise, both the search string and the data being searched are converted to lower case before searching.

Umlauts – if this is checked, transliterations of German umlauts will be found, ae for ä, oe for ö, ue for ü and ss for ß, including upper case versions.

Note that it will also find these even if they were not from German, for example ae in Raffaello.

Note that case and umlaut alteration is not performed on the search string for regular expressions. If these are desired they must be incorporated into the regular expression itself.

Search in: Name, Tags, Description, Color – check the data fields in which to search. If none are checked, no results are shown.

Connections: Source, Destination – check to search in the connection source and/or destination event name.

Open at: Source, Destination – this determines whether the source or destination end of connections will be shown.

Results – the window shows all the results of the search. One result can be selected to act on with the “Go there” button, or it can simply be double-clicked. The results show the following in each line:

- Item type Timeline_Event, General_Event, Untimed, Segment, Connection, Introduction
- Name of the item
- Where the search string was found: N = Name, D = Description, T = Tags, C = Colour, I = Introduction, Te = Technical Introduction. (This is shown when the mouse is over the table header.)

Items that are filtered out are in italics.

Open Editor – if this is checked, the editor for the selected result will be opened when “Go there” is clicked or the result entry is double-clicked.

Go there Button – Click the button to move the main display to show the selected item in the centre of the main window and highlight it with a red rectangle. If “Open Editor” was checked, the editor will also be opened.

For Introduction and Technical Details the introduction editor is opened and there is no highlighting. These are treated as Descriptions and only searched if the Description box is checked.

Close – closes the Find window. In fact, the window is only hidden, so when it is opened again from the menu, it will re-appear in the same place and the fields will be unchanged.

Note: the highlighting rectangle is removed when the main display is zoomed, panned, scrolled or resized and when the Find window is closed.

Note: the search results include items that are hidden by a filter and thus not shown in the graphic. These are shown in italics in the results list. If such a result is double-clicked or selected and “Got there” clicked the Open Editor function still works so that the hidden item can be examined or edited.

Note: when the Find window is opened or regains focus, the previous Find string is preserved, and the search is executed. This also occurs when opening a different file so that searches can be repeated in multiple files.

8.3 Reports

The reports are produced in new windows. They have a table of contents and are hyperlinked to navigate between items or to external links.

The report can be printed with the Print button. The printout is formatted as shown in the window with the addition of page numbers at the bottom of the pages. This opens a standard printer dialog to select the printer etc. Note that this does not show the number of pages.

The report can also be exported to an html file for use in browsers or import to word processors or other programs.

They are formatted in html so the content can be copied and pasted into other programs such as Microsoft Word along with the exported diagram, and from there saved as a document or presentation.

8.3.1 Summary Report

The “Summary report” lists all the items with their data and metadata and statistics, e.g., for use in handouts. The content can be configured in the preferences – see 8.3.3, to decide which meta-data to include, whether to omit empty titles, and whether only the items shown by the currently active filter should be included. The final line is “End of Summary Report” which serves to confirm that the report is complete.

8.3.2 Cross-Reference Report

To gain an overview of which tags are present and where they are used, the “Cross-Reference Report” function in the View menu produces a formatted cross-reference list showing:

- For each event and connection the tags and colour used
- For each event, the icons used
- For each tag, which events, connections and filters reference it
- For each colour, which events and connections use it.
- The saved filters
- Unused colours

This is useful for finding problems in tags and filters and checking the consistent use of colours.

The content can be configured in the preferences – see 8.3.3.

Unused colours are also shown in the Missing Metadata Report.

8.3.3 Missing Metadata Report

This report shows any metadata missing from events and connections and unused colours. It can be used to check the completeness of the metadata.

The content can be configured in the preferences – see 5.1.7.

9 Help Menu

Release Notes – shows information on the changes in the program.

About – shows basic information about the program

Help – shows how to extract this manual.

Extract Manual – extracts this manual file to your computer disc and opens it with your pdf reader.

10 Connections

10.1 Identification

A connection is identified by its source event, destination event and an index. If there is more than one connection between the same two events in the same direction, they are differentiated by the index starting at 1. The identification is shown in the title bar of the connection editor, in the Find results, in the reports, etc.

See section 10.4 about the name.

10.2 Curved Connection Shape

The shape of curved connections is defined by a quadratic Bézier curve. Determining the shape of the curve with the Bézier control point is not intuitive at first sight, so may require some experimentation⁵.

⁵ See <https://pomax.github.io/bezierinfo/> for a detailed overview with an interactive demonstration.

The shape of the curve is defined by the Control Point. Its X and Y coordinates are defined for a line between points 0,0 and 1,0 along the x-axis and the curve is then enlarged and rotated onto the actual start and end points – see Figure 10-1. This enables the curve to be defined independently of the current magnification of the diagram.

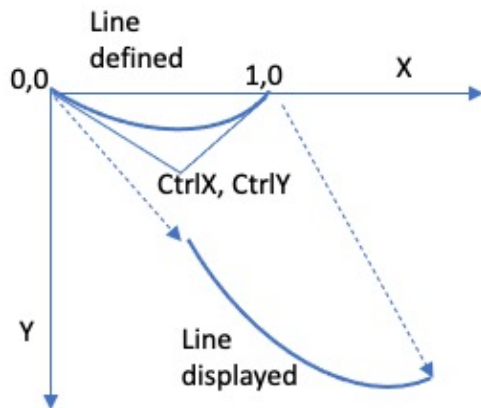
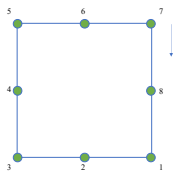


Figure 10-1 Bézier Curve Construction

The Control-X parameter is the distance along the x-axis and the Control-Y parameter is the perpendicular distance along the y-axis of the control point. The values can be negative: a negative X is to the left of the start point so the curve will start by going away from the end point. A negative Y will cause the curve to the other side of the straight line. The values can be greater than 1: Control-X > 1 will cause the curve to go past the end point and then curve back to it. Control-Y > 1 or Control-Y < -1 simply gives a more extreme curve. If Control-Y = 0 the line will be straight. Note that when drawing the control point is limited to within the visible bounds of the graphic so that the curve stays completely visible.

10.3 Connection Points on Events



Connection lines will connect to event icons at the most appropriate of 8 points around the edge of the event depending on the direction of the line.

This will change as the positions of events relative to one another change, depending on the zoom level, the filters used, etc.

The icon should therefore fill its whole area up to those eight points, e.g. with a background or frame.

10.4 Connection Names

The names are positioned at the ends (source and/or destination) but need not be shown. The meaning of many connections is obvious from the colour and line shape (e.g. helix from a place in one timeline to the beginning of another for a parent-child connection), so the names can be omitted altogether to avoid clutter.

The names can be moved by dragging with the mouse. The position is saved relative to the connection end point.

The linkage between name and connection goes to the tail of the connection arrow or an equivalent length from the end if there is no arrow. This avoids optical conflicts with whatever is at the end of the connection.

11 Where and When Editors Open

Editors for existing objects are opened by double-clicking on them.

Multiple editors can be opened at once making it easier to adjust the layout by trial and error.

At low magnifications objects will overlap and it may not be clear where to click to open a specific editor. This applies in particular to curved connections, as their bounds are defined by a rectangle as shown in Figure 11-1. When the mouse

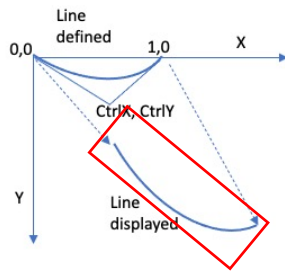


Figure 11-1 Bounds for Mouse-Click on Connection

position is within the bounds of multiple objects, double-clicking will bring up a pop-up menu showing the items that are under the mouse (see Figure 11-2) and the desired item can be selected to open the editor. For connections the menu item consists of the source, name and destination.

Selecting an object with an editor already open will bring that editor to the front.

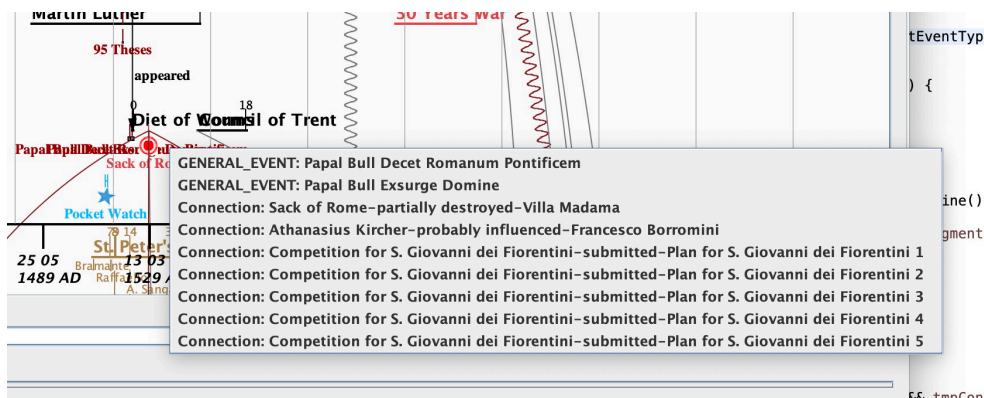


Figure 11-2 Pop-up Menu for Multiple Objects

Editors are opened on the right of the screen of the main window (in case you have multiple monitors) and will cascade from the right as more are opened.

The Preferences, Row and Filter editors and the Find and Export windows are permanently present and are hidden or revealed, so they will continue with the data and at the position with which they were last used when opened.

The Row Editor is initially positioned at the top left of the current screen but will reappear where it was when last hidden.

When “Apply” is clicked on a new object, the editor continues with the newly created object and does not create another new one.

12 Deleting

Timelines	any timeline-events associated with the timeline must be deleted or associated with a different timeline before a timeline can be deleted. Any connections giving the timeline must be deleted or rerouted. Segments do not need to be deleted first – they will be deleted with the timeline.
Other Events	any connections giving the event as source or destination must be deleted or rerouted first.
Connections	can be deleted without checks as they have no dependencies.
Segments	can be deleted without checks as they have no dependencies.
Rows	can only be deleted when they are empty.
Palette Colors	can only be deleted when not used.
Tags	can be deleted from the available list in the tag editor if not used.
Filters	can be deleted from the filter editor.

13 The Data File

The data file contains the saved diagram in a textual form with all its items and metadata, saved filters and optionally the preferences settings.

The file can be manipulated with a text editor, e.g., to copy items from one file to another. An editor that understands the JSON format should be used. The specification of the file is given in the technical reference document.

14 FAQ

Why can't I drag things on the screen?

It is not a drawing tool. The graphic is intended to have a consistent and accurately scaled representation of the data. It would not be possible to accurately drag to a specific date except at the highest magnification.

Why can't I open editors by clicking on ...?

There is often a lot of overlap between artifacts.

Timelines are opened by clicking on the name, not the line itself.

Segments are opened by clicking on the segment name.

General- and Timeline-Events are opened by clicking on the event name.

Connections are opened by clicking on the line, not on the name as the name is not always displayed. The clickable area for a connection is actually a rectangle encompassing the entire connection, so connections with a large curve will open in unexpected places.

When the mouse is over multiple overlapping items, double-clicking will bring up a list of objects under the mouse so that the desired object can be selected for editing.

How do I create the different artifacts?

Create new Events and Connections from the Edit menu.

Create a new Connection to or from an event in the connections tab of the event editor.

Segments are created from the timeline editor to make it easier to create them for the right timeline.

Create new rows from the row editor with Insert or when creating a timeline or general-event by giving it a row number one higher than the last row. The row editor is opened either by double-clicking on a row number or from the Edit menu.

Posthumous artifacts

A timeline-event can be before the start or after the end of its timeline. It will still have a vertical connection to the timeline's position and the age that the timeline would have had. You can add a connection from a point on the timeline to the event, e.g., to indicate when an artifact was written and when it was posthumously published.

Why can't I change the order of filter stages?

The order of the filter stages is not important for the logic (Boolean AND and OR are commutative). Adding the facility to re-order, e.g., move a stage up or down, would overload the user interface. If you need to change the order, add a new stage at the target position, enter the contents of the stage to be moved in the new stage, and then remove the old stage.