Editing and Exploring Node-Link Diagrams on Pen- and Multi-Touch-operated Tabletops

Mathias Frisch, Jens Heydekorn, Sebastian Schmidt, Raimund Dachselt
Department of Computer Science
User Interface & Software Engineering Group
Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg
Germany

Miguel Nacenta, Sheelagh Carpendale
Department of Computer Science
Interactions Lab
University of Calgary
Canada

This project addresses the design of interaction techniques for the creation and manipulation of node-link diagrams on multi-touch and pen enabled displays. Analysis and creation of node-link diagrams is an important activity, and one that can benefit greatly from the enhanced interaction bandwidth and collaborative affordances of interactive tabletops.

The applications that we will demonstrate implement a broad set of novel interaction techniques for editing and manipulating node-link diagrams. Some techniques have been implemented with hybrid input (pens + touch), and allow flexible creation and manipulation of elements. Other techniques are meant to support users analyze diagrams. For example, by strumming edges, it is easy to see what nodes are connected by the edges.