

# User Manual

Maximilian Joas<sup>1</sup>

University of Leipzig - Department of Computer Science  
Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig - Germany

**Abstract.**

## 1 multiVitamin

multiVitamin is a software package to perform multiple alignments with graphs. There are two algorithms available for this task. The Bron Kerbosch [1] and the VF2 algorithm [2]. Details on the algorithms can be found in the theory section. The main function of the package is to align two or more graphs. This results in a Newick Tree of the best alignment. and the resulting multiple alignment, which is represented as a graph. [3] Sounds exciting, so let's get started and show how to use this baby.

## 2 Installation

Clone the repo from github with:

Navigate in the directory where the setup.py file is:

install with pip3 install -e . Done, now you can use multiVitamin as a command.

## 3 Graph Format

A good first step is to familiarize yourself with the graph format. A graph file is basically a .txt file, we use the .graph to be more specific. Every graph consists of nodes and edges. Every node has an id, which is a unique integer for each node. Optionally nodes can be labelled. The id and label are separated by a semicolon. The edges are two connected nodes and represented by the ids of the two nodes separated with a semicolon.

The file itself is structured as follows:

The first line indicates the authors of the graph. The second line shows the number of nodes and the third line the number of edges. This is followed by three lines that indicate whether the nodes / edges are labelled and if the graph is directed. A blank line indicates the start of the node section, which are represented as described above. The node section is followed again by a blank line and the edge section. Let's look at a small example graph for illustration. The graph has 6 nodes which are all labelled with a 'c' and 6 edges which are not labelled. Your graphs need to have exactly this format to use this package. especially the blank lines are important. For further example graphs go to the root. You can also put comments in your graph files with //. directory and navigate to the graphs directory. Now that you are familiar with the graph format, we can take a look how to use the package.

```

AUTHOR: Michel K.
#nodes;6
#edges;6
Nodes labelled;True
Edges labelled;False
Directed graph;False

```

```

1;c
2;c
3;c
4;c
5;c
6;c

```

```

1;2
1;6
2;3
3;4
4;5
5;6

```

## 4 Graph Alignment basic case

Consider the basic use without any optional flags for the start. You do NOT have to be in the directory of the package to use multiVitamin. To get an overview of all flags you can type "multiVitamin -h". If you have experience with command line tool the information provided by multivitamin -h maybe sufficient to get you started.

multiVitamin - A multiple alignment tool for graphs

optional arguments:

```

-h, --help          show this help message and exit
-a ALGORITHM, --algorithm ALGORITHM
                    choose an alignment-algorithm (BK or VF2) (default: BK)
                    Warning: VF2 is only suited if there is true graph-subgraph isomorphism
-s, --save-all      save all the graphs produced during the alignment
                    The graphs are saved as "[newick].graph"
-t, --save-shorter   save an additional version of the alignment graph with much shorter newick
-g, --save-guide      save the guide tree in Newick-format as "tree.txt"

```

required arguments:

these arguments are mutually exclusive

```

-m FILES [FILES ...] provide .graph files for multiple alignment. '.' is a valid input

```

```

-c COOPT [COOPT ...]  provide *2* graphs which will be aligned. Co-optimals will be saved
-v VIEW               get a visual representation of *1* given graph

```

There are three mutually exclusive flags. One of them is always required to make multiVitamin work. For the start we look at the case of a multiple alignment of graphs, which will be the standard use case. The flag for that is `-m`. The other flags are explained later. Just type `"multitVitamin -m ;pathToGraphFile1.graph; ;pathToGraphFile2; ;optionalMoreGraphFiles;"` in the command line. This aligns the given graphs with the Bron Kerbosch algorithm. The resulting command line seems confusing at first but follows a clear structure and provides all the important information about the alignment. In order to see from which graph each node of the alignment originates, we use abbreviations of the names of the graph input files. A dictionary of the abbreviations of the original names of the graph files is shown first in the command line output. Then you see the nodes of the alignment. Each line corresponds to one node of the alignment. A node in an alignment is represented by all nodes that got matched to each other. The aligned node is represented as follows: The id of the node consists of the graph id (more specific of the abbreviation of the graph id) of the graph where the node originates from. This is followed by a colon, followed by the id of the original node. After a dot comes the next aligned node. After that follows a tab and the label of the aligned node (if the graphs were labelled). After another tab the neighbors of the node are listed. The next line shows the same for the next node of the alignment.

The next section shows the edges of the aligned graph. The format follows the format of the edges. It basically shows two nodes separated by a comma and a tab.

Additionally to the command line output multiVitamin creates a result folder. This folder contains the aligned graph as `.graph` file. The first line of the `.graph` file shows the Newick tree of the multiple alignment. This file could theoretically be used for further computation with multiVitamin. The results folder contains also a `.txt` file of the abbreviations of the graph files. These abbreviations are used to indicate in the alignment which node originates from which graph.

#### 4.1 Graph Alignment with the Vf2

Let us still consider the basic use case with the required flag `-m`. This flag can be combined with all optional flags (see section advanced use). One of those optional flags is `-a` which specifies the algorithm that will be used for the alignment.

In order to use the VF2 algorithm for the alignment you have to use the flag `-a` with `"vf2"` as parameter in addition to the specification of the input files. So the command would be `"multitVitamin -f ;pathToGraphFile1.graph; ;pathToGraph-`

```

---GRAPH ABBREVIATIONS-----
ac1 >> acetylsalicylic_acid
be1 >> benzene
be2 >> benzoic_acid
sa1 >> salicylic_acid

---ALIGNMENT-----
#NODES (ID, LABEL, NEIGHBOURS)
be1:6,be2:5,sa1:5,ac1:5 'c' ( be1:1,be2:4,sa1:4,ac1:4, be1:5,be2:6,sa1:6,ac1:6 )
be1:3,be2:2,sa1:2,ac1:2 'c' ( be1:2,be2:3,sa1:3,ac1:3, be1:4,be2:1,sa1:1,ac1:1 )
be1:5,be2:6,sa1:6,ac1:6 'c' ( be1:4,be2:1,sa1:1,ac1:1, be1:6,be2:5,sa1:5,ac1:5 )
be1:1,be2:4,sa1:4,ac1:4 'c' ( be1:2,be2:3,sa1:3,ac1:3, be1:6,be2:5,sa1:5,ac1:5 )
be1:4,be2:1,sa1:1,ac1:1 'c' ( be1:3,be2:2,sa1:2,ac1:2, be1:5,be2:6,sa1:6,ac1:6 )
be1:2,be2:3,sa1:3,ac1:3 'c' ( be1:1,be2:4,sa1:4,ac1:4, be1:5,be2:6,sa1:6,ac1:6 )

#EDGES (ID, LABEL)
( be1:1,be2:2,sa1:2,ac1:2, be1:2,be2:3,sa1:3,ac1:3 ) ''
( be1:1,be2:4,sa1:4,ac1:4, be1:2,be2:3,sa1:3,ac1:3 ) ''
( be1:1,be2:2,sa1:2,ac1:2, be1:4,be2:1,sa1:1,ac1:1 ) ''
( be1:6,be2:5,sa1:5,ac1:5, be1:1,be2:4,sa1:4,ac1:4 ) ''
( be1:6,be2:5,sa1:5,ac1:5, be1:5,be2:6,sa1:6,ac1:6 ) ''
( be1:5,be2:6,sa1:6,ac1:6, be1:4,be2:1,sa1:1,ac1:1 ) ''

---NEWICK TREE-----
(benzene,(benzoic_acid,(acetylsalicylic_acid,salicylic_acid)))

*****
Successfully created the directory /home/max/results
All files will be saved here.
Saved graph as be1-be2-ac1-sa1.graph
Saved graph id abbreviations as graph abbreviations.txt

```

Fig. 1: A sample output of a multiple graph alignment

File2; optionalMoreGraphFiles;” -a vf2” This option is only suited for subgraph graph isomorphisms. So the smaller graph must always fit entirely in the bigger graph. Despite this restriction the Vf2 is able to align graphs based on the label of the node ids. So a structural isomorphism is not enough in this case, but the nodes that could aligned structurally must also fulfill some kind of semantic condition. This is usefull to align chemical molecules that are represented as graphs. This condition can be determined by the user in the custom.py

#### 4.1.1 Custom.py

The custom.py file can be found in the multivitamin directory of the root folder. This file contains a functino the check\_semantics function, which by default returns always true. The code of the custom.py file looks as follows:

```

[numbers=left,xleftmargin=5mm]
def check_semantics( n, m ):
    '''This function is used in VF2 algorithm to decide,
    whether aligning to nodes is allowed from the
    label point of view.
    In the sample example below, two nodes will only
    be accepted as a legal matching, if the two
    labels are exactly the same.

    Insert your scoring logic below:'''

    # if n.label == m.label:
    #     return True
    # else:
    #     return False

```

```

        return True

def get_results_dir():
    '''define, where the result files will be saved.
    Default is a dir named 'results' in the current
    working directory'''

    return "/results"

```

If you untoggle the single comments and out-comment the `return True`, you get a simple semantic check that only allows nodes to be aligned that have the same label. However you can go as crazy as you want with it.

Besides the `check_semantics` method you can also specify the path where your results should be saved. Just specify your preferred path as a string as return value from `get_results_dir()`. Before we jump into the supplementary classes, which you might want to modify for a highly sophisticated `check_semantics` function, we want to take a look at the other flag options. Note: A change in the supplementary classes is not recommended.

## 5 Advanced Usage

To make multiVitamin work you need one (exactly one) of the following flags: `-m`, `-c`, `-v`.

The `-m` option has been discussed in depth in the previous sections. It can be used with every optional flag.

The `-v` flag allows for graphical representation of our `.graph` files. You need to provide a graph file. In most cases this will be the graph of the multiple alignment. Use: `"multiVitamin -v {file.graph}"` It is not compatible with any of the optional flags.

The `-c` flag works only for exactly two input files. It gives all the co-optimal alignments of the two given graphs. There exist cases where two graphs have more than one way to be aligned in different, yet optimal ways. The `-c` flag calculates all these cases. Since `-c` only works with 2 graphs the optional flags are not helpful. Only the `-a` flag could be used to use the `vf2` algorithm. Note that this leads to high computation costs. Let us consider the optional flags now. If you want to save the guide tree in an extra file use `-g`. If you not only want the final multiple alignment graph, but also all alignments in between use `-s`. If you have three graphs for example `graph1`, `graph2` and `graph3`. Let us assume multiVitamin gives us a graph which multiple alignment is represented by this Newick tree: `((graph1,graph2),graph3)`. Now you with the option `-s` you will also get the alignment of `graph1` and `graph2` as a graph file.

## 6 Basic Classes

In order to implement the Bron Kerbosch and Vf2 algorithm, we used three classes. A graph class, a node class and a edge class. In general the classes should not be altered by the user. However for the sophisticated user there may be cases in which he or she wants to make adjustments to this classes. Therefore we will given a brief overview of them. Figure 2 shows simple UML diagrams of our base classes. The most important methods and attributes will be explained.

### 6.1 Node

Our node objects are seen in the context of a graph. Thus every node contains information about its neighbours. Therefore a node has a neighbours attribute which is a set of Node objects. In case of directed graphs one can distinguish between in and out neighbours. Thus a node object has a seperate set for these two kind of neighbours. This is useful in the Vf2 algorithmn. The mult\_id attribute gives an option to name the node in a mulitple alignment.

#### 6.1.1 Edge

An Edge consits of two node objects and an optional label. For each Edge canbe checked if it is the reverse of another edge. This only makes sense for directed graphs.

### 6.2 Graph Class

Besides the obvious attributes of nodes, edges and an id, a graph objects also as an abbrev which is TODO. Since the Vf2 only works with directed graphs, we gave our graphs the possibility to give the graph directions. Consider the Edge A-B. The create\_fake\_directions method now points node A to B and node B to A.

The method create\_undirected\_edges fills the edge set of the Graph with help of the neighbour set of the node class. The method get\_inout\_neighbours fills the in and outneighbour sets of the node objects in the node set.

All classes have build in print mehtods for more readable output as well as build in methods to compare the objects. So you can determine which graph is larger by the amount of nodes in the nodes sets and also determine if two graphs are equal based on their id.

Nodes can be also compared by its id and edges by the ids of their nodes.

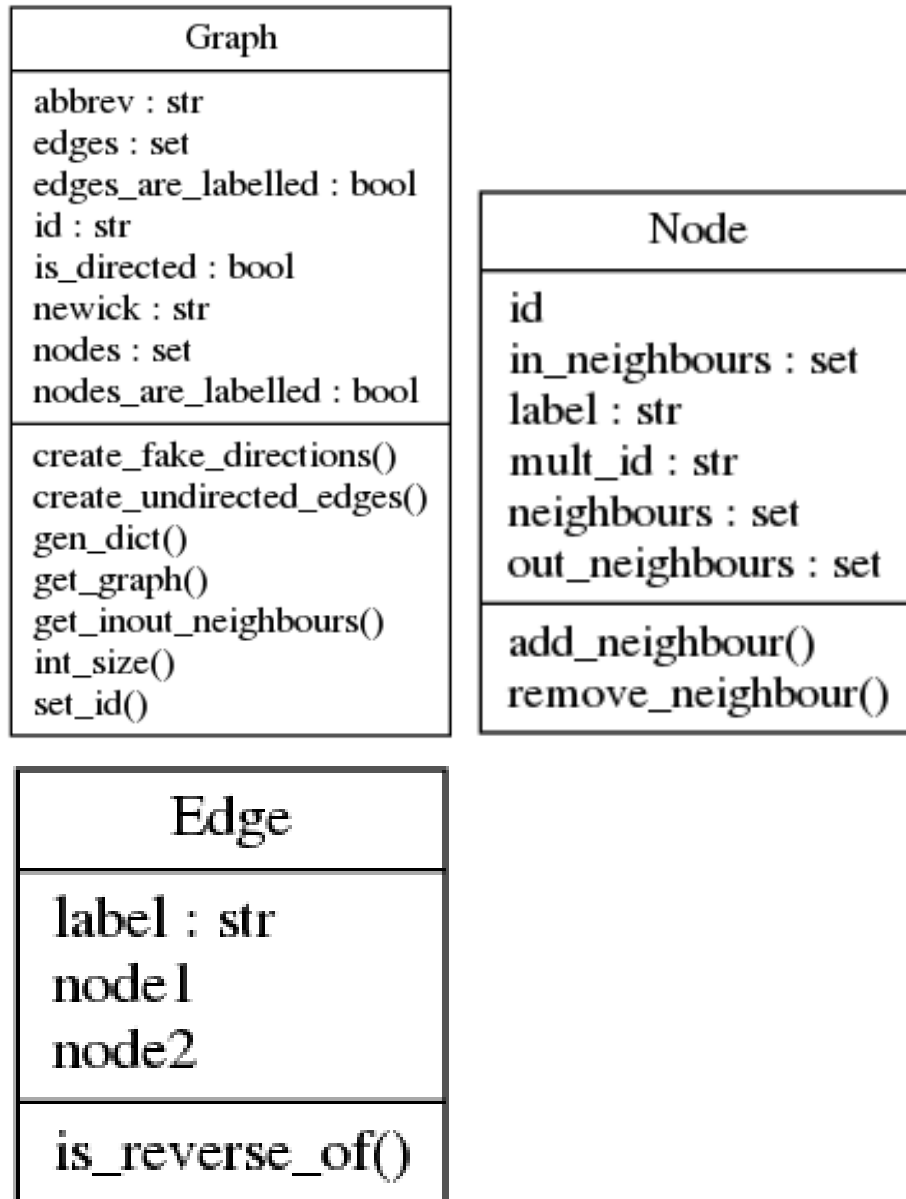


Fig. 2: A basic UML diagram of our base classes

## 7 Theoretical Foundations of the Algorithms

### 7.1 Bron Kerbosch

The Bron Kerbosch algorithm solves the problem of finding a maximal common induced subgraphs of two graphs  $G$  and  $H$  indirectly. This is done by finding the maximal clique in the modular product of  $G$  and  $H$  s. The set of nodes of the modular product of  $G$  and  $H$  is the cartesian  $N(G) \times N(H)$ , with  $N$  beeing the set of al vertices of the corresponding graph. Any nodes  $(u,v)$  and  $(x,y)$ , with  $u,x \in G$  and  $v,y \in H$  in the modular product are adjacent if:

- $u$  and  $x$  were neighbours in  $G$  and  $y$  and  $x$  were neighbours in  $H$
- $u$  and  $x$  were not neighbours in  $G$  and  $y$  and  $x$  were not neighbours in  $H$

Before giving two graphs to the Bron Kerbosch to align them we need to build the modular product of these graphs. The rest of our implementaton is straight forward:

```
def bk_pivot ( self, r, p, x ):  
    if not any ( [p, x] ):  
        self.results.append(r)  
        return r  
    pivot = self.find_max_pivot( p, x )  
    for v in p[:]:  
        if v in pivot.neighbours:  
            continue  
        r_ = r | {v}  
        x_ = x & v.neighbours  
        p_ = [n for n in v.neighbours if n in p ]  
        self.bk_pivot ( r_, p_, x_ )  
        p.remove(v)  
        x.add(v)
```

The goal of the Bron Kerbosch ,is as mentioned, to find the maximal clique in the modular product. A clique is a subgraph where every node is connected to every other node (=complete graph). A maximal clique is a clique so that no node can added to the subgraph such that the subgraph remains complete.

At the beginning  $r$  and  $x$  are empty sets and theset  $p$  that contains all nodes of the modular product of the two input graphs. All nodes in  $p$  are candiates for extending the clique.



## 7.2 VF2

## 8 Profiling

To get an idea which algorithm is better suited for which kind of graph (size, structure), we did a profiling study. Therefore we used three different kind of graphs: random graphs, wheel graphs and tree graphs. The graphs were generated with the help of the python package networkx [1]. We did the profiling for the following number of nodes: (3,8,13,18,23,XX TODO). In case of the random graphs we created 10 different random graphs for each node count and took the average time per node count. The following figures show the results of our profiling study.