${\tt graphviz-dot-mode}\ \mathbf{Manual}$

edition 0.3.10.a

for graphviz-dot-mode version 0.3.10

graphviz-dot-mode by Pieter Pareit, et al. manual by Daniel Birket

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This is the graphviz-dot-mode Manual, edition 0.3.10.a, by Daniel Birket, updated 2 July 2017, which describes how to install and use the Emacs package graphviz-dot-mode, version 0.3.10, released 25 May 2015, which was written by and Copyright © 2002-2015 Pieter Pareit, et al. (See http://ppareit.github.com/graphviz-dot-mode)

This manual is based upon (and frequently copied verbatim from) the documentation in the graphviz-dot-mode.el source code, which begins with:

```
;;; graphviz-dot-mode.el --- Mode for the dot-language used by graphviz (att).
    ;; This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or
    ;; modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as
    ;; published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of
    ;; the License, or (at your option) any later version.
    ;; This program is distributed in the hope that it will be
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    . . .
    ;; Rubens Ramos <rubensr AT users.sourceforge.net>
    ;; Eric Anderson http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~andersoe/
    ;; Maintainer: Pieter Pareit <pieter.pareit@gmail.com>
    ;; Homepage: http://ppareit.github.com/graphviz-dot-mode/
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Graphviz is by AT&T Labs Research. (See http://graphviz.org)

texinfo/)

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1 Introduction

This manual describes how to install and use graphviz-dot-mode, an Emacs package for working with *Graphviz* DOT-format files. The features of this package help you to create .dot or .gv files containing syntax compatible with the separate *Graphviz* package and use *Graphviz* to convert these files to diagrams.

Graphviz is a set of open source graph visualization tools created by AT&T Labs Research. A graph is a way of representing information as a network of connected nodes (shapes) and edges (lines). Graphviz is documented at http://graphviz.org.

The powerful text editor, Emacs, was created in 1976 by Richard Stallman. It is highly extensible and has 40 years of other extensions. *GNU Emacs* is documented at https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/. XEmacs is documented at http://www.xemacs.org.

2 Installing

This chapter describes how to install graphviz-dot-mode.

2.1 Recommended Installation

The recommended way to install the package graphviz-dot-mode is to use package.el, which has been integrated with Emacs since version 24. (It is included in version 23, but must be initialized.)

To install graphviz-dot-mode, first add the MELPA Stable archive to the list of archives used by package.el (if it is not alrady there) by adding the following lines to your .emacs, .emacs.d/init.el, or other Emacs startup file and restarting Emacs (or just evaluate the statements):

Then, after restarting Emacs (or otherwise evaluating the above statements), type the following command:

M-x package-install RET graphviz-dot-mode RET.

When installed using the package manager this way, graphviz-dot-mode will be used automatically for file names ending in either .dot or .gv.

You may browse the 1500+ other Emacs packages in the MELPA-Stable archive at http://stable.melpa.org/ or by typing M-x list-packages RET (after adding it to your package-archives list, above).

2.2 Manual Installation

You can manually download and install graphviz-dot-mode.

```
First, download graphviz-dot-mode.el from:
```

```
http://ppareit.github.com/graphviz-dot-mode
```

Then save the file where Emacs can find it in a directory listed in your load-path like /usr/local/share/emacs/site-lisp.

Then configure graphviz-dot-mode to load automatically by adding the following to your .emacs, .emacs.d/init.el, or other Emacs startup file:

3 Using graphviz-dot-mode

This chapter describes how to use graphviz-dot-mode.

3.1 Compiling & Viewing

This section describes how to use compile and view functions. See Section 4.1 [Compile & View Variables], page 5.

C-c p graphviz-dot-preview

This command shows the output of the current dot file visited by the *Emacs* buffer, provided that *GNU Emacs* or *XEmacs* is running on a graphical display capable of displaying the graphic file output by dot.

See image-file-name-extensions in *GNU Emacs* or image-formats-alist in *XEmacs* to customize the graphic files that can be displayed.

C-c c compile

This command compiles the current dot file visited by the *Emacs* buffer. The output file is in the same directory and has the extension determined by the variable graphviz-dot-preview-extension.

C-c v graphviz-dot-view

This command invokes an external viewer specified by the variable graphviz-dot-view-command. If graphviz-dot-view-edit-command is t, you will be prompted to enter a new graphviz-dot-view-command. If graphviz-dot-save-before-view is t, the buffer is saved before the external viwer command is invoked.

(See http://graphviz.org/content/resources for a list of *Graphviz* viewers and editors.)

3.2 Editing

This section describes how to edit with graphviz-dot-mode. See Section 4.2 [Editing Variables], page 6.

C-M-q graphviz-dot-indent-graph

This command will indent the graph, diagraph, or subgraph at point and any subgraph within it.

TAB Indent.

RET electric-graphviz-dot-terminate-line

If the variable graphviz-dot-auto-indent-on-newline is t, RET will insert a newline and indent the next line.

{ electric-graphviz-dot-open-brace

If the variable graphviz-dot-auto-indent-on-braces is t, { will insert a {, newline and indent the next line.

} electric-graphviz-dot-close-brace

If the variable graphviz-dot-auto-indent-on-braces is t, } will insert a }, newline and indent the next line.

; electric-graphviz-dot-semi

If the variable graphviz-dot-auto-indent-on-semi is t, ; will insert a ;, newline and indent the next line.

3.2.1 Completion

See Section 4.2.2 [Completion Variables], page 6,

M-t graphviz-dot-complete-word

This command will complete the attribute or value keyword at point. If more than one completion is possible, a list is displayed in the minbuffer.

3.2.2 Commenting

- M-; Insert new comment line.
- M-j Indent new comment line.

C-c C-c comment-region

This command will comment-out the region.

C-c C-u graphviz-dot-uncomment-region

This command will un-comment the region.

4 Customizing

This section describes the customizable variables of graphviz-dot-mode. You may customize variables by typing

M-x graphviz-dot-customize RET

This function invokes the Emacs customization facility to allow you to view and change the graphviz-dot-mode variables below.

4.1 Compile & View Variables

This section describes variables related to compiling and viewing. See Section 3.1 [Compiling & Viewing], page 3,

graphviz-dot-dot-program

string, default: "dot"

This variable determines the command name (and path, if necessary) used to invoke the *Graphviz* dot program. The *C-c* c compile function invokes this command.

graphviz-dot-preview-extension

string, default "png"

This variable determines the file extension used for the *C-c c* compile and *C-c p* graphviz-dot-preview functions. The format for the compile command is dot -T<extension> <filename>.dot > <filename>.<extension>

graphviz-dot-save-before-view

boolean, default t

This variable controls whether the buffer will be saved to the visited file before the *C-c v* graphviz-dot-view function invokes the external dot-file viewer command. Set this boolean variable to t (true) or nil (false).

graphviz-dot-view-command

string, default: "doted %s"

This variable determines the command name (and path, if necessary) used to invoke an external dot-file viewer program. The C-c v graphviz-dot-view function invokes this command. The name of the file visited by the buffer will be substituted for %s in this string.

(See http://graphviz.org/content/resources for a list of *Graphviz* viewers and editors.)

${\tt graphviz-dot-view-edit-command}$

boolean, default: nil

This variable controls whether you will be prompted for the external dot-file viewer command name when you use C-c v graphviz-dot-view. Set this to t (true) to be prompted to edit the viewer command variable graphviz-dot-view-command every time you use C-c v or nil to avoid the prompt.

4.2 Editing Variables

This section describes variables related to editing. See Section 3.2 [Editing], page 3,

4.2.1 Indenting Variables

This subsection describes variables related to indenting.

graphviz-dot-auto-indent-on-braces

boolean, default nil

This variable controls whether the functions electric-graphviz-dot-open-brace and electric-graphviz-dot-close-brace are called when { and } are typed. Set this boolean variable to t (true) or nil (false).

graphviz-dot-auto-indent-on-newline

boolean, default t

This variable controls whether the function electric-graphviz-dot-terminate-line is called when a line is terminated with a newline. Set this boolean variable to t (true) or nil (false).

graphviz-dot-auto-indent-on-semi

boolean, default t

This variable controls whether the function electric-graphviz-dot-semi is called when a semicolon; is typed. Set this boolean variable to t (true) or nil (false).

graphviz-dot-indent-width

integer, default: default-tab-width

This variable determines the indentation used in graphviz-dot-mode buffers.

4.2.2 Completion Variables

This subsection describes variables related to completion.

graphviz-dot-delete-completions

boolean, default: nil

This variable controls whether the completion buffer is automatically deleted when a key is pressed. Set this boolean variable to t (true) or nil (false).

graphviz-dot-toggle-completions

boolean, default: nil

This variable controls whether repeated use of *M-t* graphviz-dot-completeword will toggle the display of possible completions in the minibuffer. If this variable is set to nil, when there are more than one possible completions, a buffer will display all completions. Set this boolean variable to t (true) or nil (false).

4.3 Keyword Variables

This section describes the variables containing DOT-language keywords, which may change if *Graphviz* is updated. You may update these variables after new releases of *Graphviz* from http://www.graphviz.org/doc/schema/attributes.xml.

graphviz-dot-attr-keywords

```
list of strings, default: ("graph" "digraph" . . . )
```

This variable holds a list of keywords for attribute names in a graph. This is used by the M-t auto completion function. The actual completion tables are built when the mode is loaded, so changes to this variable are not immediately visible.

graphviz-dot-value-keywords

```
list of strings, default: ("true" "false" . . . )
```

This variable holds a list of keywords for attribute values in a graph. This is used by the M-t auto completion function. The actual completion tables are built when the mode is loaded, so changes to this variable are not immediately visible.

4.4 Mode Hook

graphviz-dot-mode-hook

list of functions, default: nil

This variable determins which functions are called when graphviz-dot-mode starts. To use it, add a line like below to your .emacs or other startup file.

(add-hook 'graphviz-dot-mode-hook 'my-hook)

5 Development

This section is about the development of graphviz-dot-mode.

5.1 Credits

graphviz-dot-mode was written by:

- Pieter Pareit pieter.pareit@gmail.com
- Rubens Ramos rubensr@users.sourceforge.net
- Eric Anderson http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~andersoe/

Other contributors are noted in the version history, below.

5.2 Maintenance

The source code is maintained by Pieter Pareit (pieter.pareit@gmail.com) on GitHub at http://ppareit.github.com/graphviz-dot-mode. Please send software issues to the issue tracker there.

This manual is maintained by Daniel Birket (danielb@birket.com) on GitHub at https://github.com/daniel-birket/graphviz-dot-mode. Please send manual errata to the issue tracker there.

5.3 Known Issues

This section echoes some issues noted in the 0.3.10 source code.

parse errors

Cleanup the mess of graphviz-dot-compilation-parse-errors.

electric indentation

Electric indentation is fundamentally broken, because {...} are also used for record nodes. You could argue, I suppose, that any diagrams don't need those, but it would be worth having a note (and it makes sense that the default is now for electric indentation to be off).

comment lines

Lines that start with # are comments, lines that start with one or more whitespaces and then a # should give an error.

5.4 Version History

The version history from the 0.3.10 source code is below. See also the commit history on GitHub.

```
;; 28/08/2012: * compile-command uses -ofile instead of >
;; Version 0.3.8 new home
;; 27/06/2012: * put graphviz-dot-mode into git, updated links
;; Version 0.3.7 Tim Allen
;; 09/03/2011: * fix spaces in file names when compiling
;; Version 0.3.6 maintenance
;; 19/02/2011: * .gv is the new extension (Pander)
               * comments can start with # (Pander)
;;
               * highlight of new keywords (Pander)
;;
;; Version 0.3.5 bug (or at least feature I dislike) fix
;; 11/11/2010: Eric Anderson http://www.ece.cmu.edu/~andersoe/
               * Preserve indentation across blank (whitespace-only) lines
;; Version 0.3.4 bug fixes
;; 24/02/2005: * fixed a bug in graphviz-dot-preview
;; Version 0.3.3 bug fixes
;; 13/02/2005: Reuben Thomas <rrt AT sc3d.org>
               * add graphviz-dot-indent-width
;; Version 0.3.2 bug fixes
;; 25/03/2004: Rubens Ramos <rubensr AT users.sourceforge.net>
               * semi-colons and brackets are added when electric
;;
                behaviour is disabled.
;;
               * electric characters do not behave electrically inside
;;
;;
                 comments or strings.
               * default for electric-braces is disabled now (makes more
;;
                sense I guess).
;;
               * using read-from-minibuffer instead of read-shell-command
;;
;;
               * Fixed test for easymenu, so that it works on older
;;
                versions of XEmacs.
;;
              * Fixed indentation error when trying to indent last brace
;;
                 of an empty graph.
;;
               * region-active-p does not exist in emacs (21.2 at least),
;;
                 so removed from code
;;
               * Added uncomment menu option
;; Version 0.3.1 bug fixes
;; 03/03/2004: * backward-word needs argument for older emacs
;; Version 0.3 added features and fixed bugs
;; 10/01/2004: fixed a bug in graphviz-dot-indent-graph
;; 08/01/2004: Rubens Ramos <rubensr AT users.sourceforge.net>
               * added customization support
;;
               * Now it works on XEmacs and Emacs
;;
               * Added support to use an external Viewer
;;
               * Now things do not break when dot mode is entered
;;
                 when there is no buffer name, but the side effect is
;;
                 that in this case, the compilation command is not
;;
;;
                 correct.
               * Preview works on XEmacs and emacs.
;;
```

```
* Electric indentation on newline
;;
               * Minor changes to indentation
;;
               * Added keyword completion (but could be A LOT better)
;;
               * There are still a couple of ugly hacks. Look for 'RR'.
;; Version 0.2 added features
;; 11/11/2002: added preview support.
;; 10/11/2002: indent a graph or subgraph at once with C-M-q.
;; 08/11/2002: relaxed rules for indentation, the may now be extra chars
               after beginning of graph (comment's for example).
;; Version 0.1.2 bug fixes and naming issues
  06/11/2002: renamed dot-font-lock-defaults to dot-font-lock-keywords.
               added some documentation to dot-colors.
               provided a much better way to handle my max-specpdl-size
;;
               problem.
;;
               added an extra autoload cookie (hope this helps, as I don't
               yet use autoload myself)
;; Version 0.1.1 bug fixes
;; 06/11/2002: added an missing attribute, for font-locking to work.
               fixed the regex generating, so that it only recognizes
;;
               whole words
;; 05/11/2002: there can now be extra white space chars after an '{'.
;; 04/11/2002: Why I use max-specpdl-size is now documented, and old value
               gets restored.
;; Version 0.1 initial release
;; 02/11/2002: implemented parser for *compilation* of a .dot file.
;; 01/11/2002: implemented compilation of an .dot file.
;; 31/10/2002: added syntax-table to the mode.
;; 30/10/2002: implemented indentation code.
;; 29/10/2002: implemented all of font-lock.
;; 28/10/2002: derived graphviz-dot-mode from fundamental-mode, started
               implementing font-lock.
;;
```

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Version 2, June 1991

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