

¹ The Keçeci Layout: A Deterministic, Order-Preserving Visualization Algorithm for Structured Systems

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Summary

⁶ Graph visualization is a cornerstone of network analysis, yet traditional algorithms often prioritize
⁷ topological representation over the preservation of inherent node order. This can obscure
⁸ sequential or procedural information critical in many scientific and structural analyses. This
⁹ paper introduces the *Keçeci Layout*, a deterministic, order-preserving graph layout algorithm
¹⁰ designed to arrange nodes in a structured zigzag pattern. This method provides a clear,
¹¹ predictable, and structurally informative visualization for systems where the sequence of
¹² nodes is meaningful. The layout is implemented in the open-source `kececelayout` Python
¹³ package, which offers seamless interoperability with major graph analysis libraries, including
¹⁴ NetworkX, igraph, rustworkx, Networkkit, and Graphillion. `kececelayout` is open source,
¹⁵ licensed under the MIT license, and the source code is available on GitHub at <https://github.com/WhiteSymmetry/kececelayout>. The version of the software described in this paper is
¹⁶ archived on Zenodo ([Keçeci, 2025g](#)). We detail the algorithm's methodology, showcase its
¹⁷ implementation, and discuss its applications as a cross-disciplinary framework for structural
¹⁸ analysis. The deterministic nature of the layout ensures that any given graph will always be
¹⁹ rendered identically, facilitating reproducible research and comparative analysis.
²⁰

Statement of Need

²² The visualization of complex networks is fundamental to understanding their structure, function,
²³ and underlying patterns. Algorithms such as force-directed layouts ([Fruchterman & Reingold, 1991](#))
²⁴ are highly effective at revealing topological features like clusters and central nodes.
²⁵ However, they achieve this by optimizing node positions to minimize edge crossings and
²⁶ regularize edge lengths, a process that inherently disregards any pre-existing order among the
²⁷ nodes.

²⁸ To address this gap, the Keçeci Layout was developed as a structural approach for
²⁹ interdisciplinary scientific analysis ([Keçeci, 2025m, 2025n, 2025o](#)). It is a deterministic
³⁰ algorithm that explicitly preserves the order of nodes, arranging them in a predictable
³¹ zigzag pattern ([Keçeci, 2025d, 2025f](#)). This approach moves beyond purely topological
³² representations to provide a "structural thinking" framework, enabling clearer insight into
³³ ordered systems ([Keçeci, 2025c](#)). As described by Keçeci ([2025l](#)), this paper describes the
³⁴ core principles of the Keçeci Layout, details its implementation, and highlights its utility in
³⁵ cross-disciplinary contexts.
³⁶

The Keçeci Layout Algorithm

³⁷ The Keçeci Layout is fundamentally a sequential algorithm that places nodes one by one
³⁸ according to their given order. Its defining characteristic is the combination of linear progression
³⁹ along a primary axis and an alternating, expanding offset along a secondary axis. This generates

⁴⁰ the distinctive zigzag shape (Keçeci, 2025d). The algorithm is deterministic: for a given list of
⁴¹ nodes and a fixed set of parameters, the resulting layout is always identical (Keçeci, 2025b).

⁴² Algorithmic Principles

⁴³ The position of each node is determined by its index in the sorted node list. Let $N =$
⁴⁴ $(n_0, n_1, \dots, n_{k-1})$ be the ordered sequence of k nodes. For each node n_i at index i , its
⁴⁵ coordinates (x_i, y_i) are calculated based on four key parameters:

- ⁴⁶ ■ **primary_direction**: Defines the main axis of progression. It can be vertical ('top-down',
⁴⁷ 'bottom-up') or horizontal ('left-to-right', 'right-to-left').
- ⁴⁸ ■ **primary_spacing**: The constant distance separating consecutive nodes along the primary
⁴⁹ axis.
- ⁵⁰ ■ **secondary_spacing**: The base unit of distance for the offset along the secondary axis.
- ⁵¹ ■ **secondary_start**: Defines the direction of the first offset on the secondary axis (e.g.,
⁵² 'right' or 'left' for a vertical primary axis).

⁵³ The core logic for a 'top-down' primary direction is as follows:

- ⁵⁴ 1. **Primary Coordinate Calculation**: The primary coordinate (in this case, y) is determined
⁵⁵ by the node's index i .

$$y_i = -i \times \text{primary_spacing}$$

- ⁵⁶ 2. **Secondary Coordinate Calculation**: The secondary coordinate (x) is calculated based on
⁵⁷ an alternating and growing offset. The magnitude of the offset for node n_i is proportional
⁵⁸ to $\lceil i/2 \rceil$, and its direction depends on whether i is odd or even.

$$\text{side} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \text{ is odd} \\ -1 & \text{if } i \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

$$x_i = \text{start_direction} \times \lceil i/2 \rceil \times \text{side} \times \text{secondary_spacing}$$

⁵⁹ The node at index $i = 0$ is placed at the origin of the secondary axis ($x_0 = 0$).

⁶⁰ This deterministic procedure ensures that nodes are arranged sequentially, making it easy to trace
⁶¹ paths and understand flow while effectively utilizing two-dimensional space to avoid overlap.
⁶² The graph-theoretic underpinnings of this structured approach facilitate cross-disciplinary
⁶³ inquiry by providing a common visual language (Keçeci, 2025a).

⁶⁵ Implementation: The kec Cecilayout Package

⁶⁶ The Keçeci Layout algorithm is implemented and distributed as an open-source Python package
⁶⁷ named kec Cecilayout. The package is designed for ease of use and seamless integration with
⁶⁸ the scientific Python ecosystem.

⁶⁹ Availability and Installation

⁷⁰ The package is available on both the Python Package Index (PyPI) and Anaconda, and its
⁷¹ source code is hosted on GitHub. It can be installed using standard package managers:

⁷² Using pip:

```
pip install kec Cecilayout
```

⁷³ Using conda (from the 'bilgi' channel):

```
conda install -c bilgi kec Cecilayout
```

⁷⁴ Relevant resources, including the source code and data sets, are publicly available (Keçeci,
⁷⁵ 2025j, 2025g, 2025h, 2025i, 2025k).

76 Interoperability and Usage

77 A key design goal of the kecceilayout package is to provide a unified interface for various
78 graph libraries. The main function, kecceilayout.kecceilayout(), automatically detects
79 the input graph type and returns a position dictionary in the format expected by that library.
80 This promotes a cross-disciplinary graphical framework by allowing researchers to use the same
81 visualization logic regardless of their preferred analysis tool (Keçeci, 2025).

82 Supported libraries include:

- 83 ▪ **NetworkX**: The most popular graph analysis library in the Python data science community.
84 ▪ **igraph**: A high-performance library widely used in academic research.
85 ▪ **rustworkx**: A fast, thread-safe graph library written in Rust, often used in performance-
86 critical applications.
87 ▪ **Networkkit**: A library focused on high-performance analysis of large-scale networks.
88 ▪ **Graphillion**: A specialized library for very large sets of graphs.

89 The following example demonstrates how to apply the Keçeci Layout to a simple NetworkX
90 path graph and visualize it with Matplotlib.

```
import networkx as nx
import kecceilayout as kl
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# 1. Generate a graph (e.g., a path graph with 25 nodes)
G = nx.path_graph(25)

# 2. Compute the node positions using Keçeci Layout
# The node order is preserved (0, 1, 2, ...)
pos = kl.kecceilayout(G, primary_spacing=1.5, secondary_spacing=0.8)

# 3. Visualize the graph
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 10))
nx.draw(
    G,
    pos=pos,
    with_labels=True,
    node_color='skyblue',
    node_size=500,
    font_size=8,
    edge_color='gray'
)
plt.title("Keçeci Layout Applied to a Path Graph (n=25)")
plt.axis('equal') # Ensure aspect ratio is not distorted
plt.show()
```

Keçeci Layout Applied to a Path Graph (n=25)

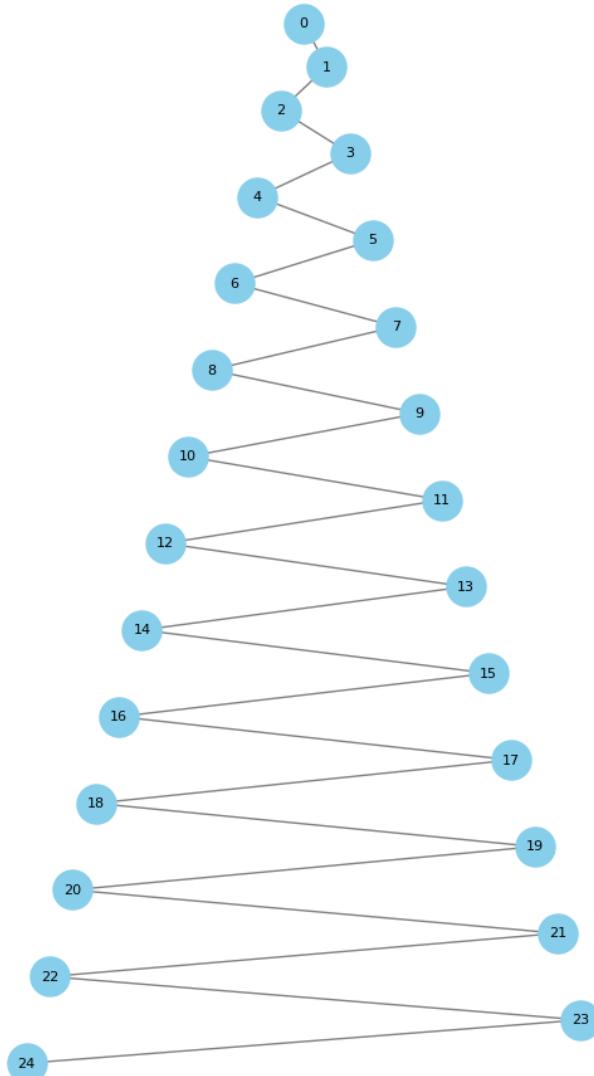


Figure 1: An example visualization of a path graph using the Keçeci Layout. The nodes are ordered sequentially from top to bottom, with their positions determined by the deterministic zigzag algorithm. This preserves the inherent one-dimensional structure of the path.

Applications and Use Cases

The primary strength of the Keçeci Layout is its ability to visualize systems “when nodes have an order” (Keçeci, 2025p). Its application is particularly relevant in fields where sequential data is modeled as a graph.

- **Workflow and Process Visualization:** Representing business processes, experimental workflows (Keçeci, 2025d, 2025b), or CI/CD pipelines where the sequence of steps is paramount. The layout clearly shows the progression from start to finish.

- 98 ▪ **Narrative and Structural Analysis:** Analyzing the structure of stories, legal arguments, or
 - 99 scientific papers where nodes represent events, sections, or concepts in a specific order.
 - 100 ▪ **Time-Series and Event Logs:** Visualizing sequences of events from logs or time-series
 - 101 data, where the temporal order must be maintained.
 - 102 ▪ **Comparative Structural Analysis:** As a standardized graphical framework, it allows for
 - 103 the visual comparison of different ordered systems, fostering interdisciplinary insights
 - 104 ([Keçeci, 2025m, 2025n](#)).
- 105 By providing a stable and structured visual representation, the layout encourages a “structural
- 106 thinking” approach, where the focus shifts from complex topological entanglements to the
- 107 clear, sequential architecture of the system being studied ([Keçeci, 2025c, 2025e](#)).

108 Conclusion

- 109 The Keçeci Layout provides a much-needed alternative to traditional graph drawing algorithms
- 110 for the visualization of ordered systems. Its deterministic, zigzag-based approach ensures that
- 111 the inherent sequence of nodes is not only preserved but becomes the primary organizing
- 112 principle of the visualization. This results in clear, predictable, and structurally informative
- 113 diagrams that are easy to interpret.
- 114 The implementation of this algorithm in the user-friendly and interoperable `kececilayout`
- 115 Python package makes it an accessible tool for a wide range of researchers and practitioners. By
- 116 offering seamless support for dominant graph libraries, it serves as a robust, cross-disciplinary
- 117 framework for structural analysis. Ultimately, the Keçeci Layout champions the idea that for
- 118 many systems, visualization should go beyond topology to faithfully represent structure and
- 119 order ([Keçeci, 2025b](#)).

120 Future Work

- 121 Future work will focus on extending the layout’s principles to three dimensions and developing
- 122 adaptive spacing strategies for graphs with highly variable node density or connectivity.
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