

Design Document

Description of our design pattern in use - Chain of Responsibility

For the design of this program we used the *Chain of Responsibility* as our design pattern, because the client request is getting send down the class structure chaining the classes together. We have a single processing pipeline starting at the *Input_Handler* class as our client, which is sending the request and/or inputs down to the *Element_Library* class, that decides, if it can fulfil the request itself or has to send the request further down to *Topological_Sort* and *Constraint* classes. For a request to make a graphical representation of the order of sorted elements the *Topological_Sort* class has to pass down the request to the *Graph* class. A more detailed use of classes in the *Chain of Responsibility* design pattern is as followed:

- The *Input_Handler* class acts as a client. The *read_elements_and_constraints* routine asks for user inputs and, depending of the user request, sends the user requests and inputs down to the *Element_Library* class by using its *transfer* routine. The request for one of the five examples is made by calling the *run_example* routine of the *Element_Library* class.
- The *Element_Library* takes the requests and inputs from the *Input_Handler* class and, depending of the request, makes a request itself by calling one of the routines. If the request is for a topological sort, the routines *add_element*, *add_constraint*, *add_elements_input* and *add_constraints_input* turn the user input into a form suitable for the routines of the *Topological_Sort* class to use and the *transfer* routine sends a request to the *Topological_Sort* class by calling the *process* routine of the *Topological_Sort* class. The request for the execution of one of the examples is received from the *Element_Library* class through the access of the *run_example* routine. Depending of user request, *run_example* calls *example_1*, *example_2*, or one of the three examples inside the *run_example* routine, which themselves transfer the request to the *Topological_Sort* class by calling the *process* routine.
- The *Topological_Sort* class receives the user request with inputs from different routines of class *Element_Library* calling the *process* routine of the *Topological_Sort* class. The *process* routine applies the topological sort algorithm on the given input by executing various routines inside the *Topological_Sort* class and then sends a request to the *Graph* class using the routine *choose_graph*, belonging to the *Graph* class.
- When a graphical representation of the results of the topological sort is needed, the *Graph* class receives the request and runs the routines *show_graph* or *show_cycle*, depending on the request given. The results of the both routines are the main outputs of the program.
- The *Constraint* class receives a request every time an object of type *Constraint* has to be created. Mostly the routines *add_constraints_input*, *loop_constraints*, *example_1*, *example_2*, and *run_example* of the *Element_Library* class create constraints. To create a constraint objects of class *Element* are needed, so the class *Constraint* makes an indirect request to the class *Element*.
- The *Element* class receives a request every time an object of type *Constraint* has to be created. Mostly the routines *add_elements_input*, *loop_elements*, *example_1*, *example_2*, and *run_example* of the *Element_Library* class create objects of class *Element*.

