

Node, Edge and Graph Attributes

The table below describes the attributes used by various Graphviz tools. The table gives the name of the attribute, the graph components (node, edge, etc.) which use the attribute and the type of the attribute (strings representing legal values of that type). Where applicable, the table also gives a default value for the attribute, a minimum allowed setting for numeric attributes, and certain restrictions on the use of the attribute.

All Graphviz attributes are specified by name-value pairs. Thus, to set the fillcolor of a node `abc`, one would use

```
abc [fillcolor = red]
```

Similarly, to set the arrowhead style of an edge `abc -> def`, one would use

```
abc -> def [arrowhead = diamond]
```

Further details concerning the setting of attributes can be found in the description of the [DOT language](#).

At present, most device-independent units are either inches or [points](#), which we take as 72 points per inch.

Note: Some attributes, such as [dir](#) or [arrowtail](#), are ambiguous when used in [DOT](#) with an undirected graph since the head and tail of an edge are meaningless. As a convention, the first time an undirected edge appears, the [DOT](#) parser will assign the left node as the tail node and the right node as the head. For example, the edge `A -- B` will have tail `A` and head `B`. It is the user's responsibility to handle such edges consistently. If the edge appears later, in the format

```
B -- A [taillabel = "tail"]
```

the drawing will attach the tail label to node `A`. To avoid possible confusion when such attributes are required, the user is encouraged to use a directed graph. If it is important to make the graph appear undirected, this can be done using the [dir](#), [arrowtail](#) or [arrowhead](#) attributes.

The tools accept standard C representations for *int* and *double* types. For the *bool* type, TRUE values are represented by "true" (case-insensitive) and any non-zero integer, and FALSE values by "false" (case-insensitive) and zero. In addition, there are a variety of specialized types such as *arrowType*, *color*, *pointf* and *rankdir*. Legal values for these types are given at the end.

In the **Used By** field, the characters E, N, G, S and C represent edges, nodes, the root graph, subgraphs and cluster subgraphs, respectively. This field indicates which graph component uses the attribute.

Name	Used By	Type	Default	Minimum	Notes
Damping	G	double	0.99	0.0	neato only
K	GC	double	0.3	0	sfdp, fdp only
URL	ENG	escString	<none>		svg, postscript, map only
arrowhead	E	arrowType	normal		
arrowsize	E	double	1.0	0.0	
arrowtail	E	arrowType	normal		
aspect	G	aspectType			dot only
bb	G	rect			write only
bgcolor	GC	color	<none>		
center	G	bool	false		
charset	G	string	"UTF-8"		

clusterrank	G	clusterMode	local		dot only
color	ENC	color colorList	black		
colorscheme	ENCG	string	""		
comment	ENG	string	""		
compound	G	bool	false		dot only
concentrate	G	bool	false		
constraint	E	bool	true		dot only
decorate	E	bool	false		
defaultdist	G	double	$1+(\text{avg. len})\sqrt{ V }$	epsilon	neato only
dim	G	int	2	2	sfdp, fdp, neato only
dimen	G	int	2	2	sfdp, fdp, neato only
dir	E	dirType	forward(directed) none(undirected)		
diredgeconstraints	G	string bool	false		neato only
distortion	N	double	0.0	-100.0	
dpi	G	double	96.0 0.0		svg, bitmap output only
edgeURL	E	escString	""		svg, map only
edgehref	E	escString	""		svg, map only
edgetarget	E	escString	<none>		svg, map only
edgetooltip	E	escString	""		svg, cmap only
epsilon	G	double	.0001 * # nodes(mode == KK) .0001(mode == major)		neato only
esep	G	double pointf	+3		not dot
fillcolor	NC	color	lightgrey(nodes) black(clusters)		
fixedsize	N	bool	false		
fontcolor	ENG	color	black		
fontname	ENG	string	"Times-Roman"		
fontnames	G	string	""		svg only
fontpath	G	string	system-dependent		
fontsize	ENG	double	14.0	1.0	
group	N	string	""		dot only
headURL	E	escString	""		svg, map only
headclip	E	bool	true		
headhref	E	escString	""		svg, map only
headlabel	E	lblString	""		
headport	E	portPos	center		
headtarget	E	escString	<none>		svg, map only
headtooltip	E	escString	""		svg, cmap only

height	N	double	0.5	0.02	
href	E	escString	""		svg, postscript, map only
id	GNE	lblString	""		svg, postscript, map only
image	N	string	""		
imagescale	N	bool string	false		
label	ENG	lblString	"\N" (nodes) "" (otherwise)		
labelURL	E	escString	""		svg, map only
labelangle	E	double	-25.0	-180.0	
labeldistance	E	double	1.0	0.0	
labelfloat	E	bool	false		
labelfontcolor	E	color	black		
labelfontname	E	string	"Times-Roman"		
labelfontsize	E	double	14.0	1.0	
labelhref	E	escString	""		svg, map only
labeljust	GC	string	"c"		
labelloc	GC	string	"t"(clusters) "b"(root graphs)		
labelloc	N	string	"c"(clusters)		
labeltarget	E	escString	<none>		svg, map only
labeltooltip	E	escString	""		svg, cmap only
landscape	G	bool	false		
layer	EN	layerRange	""		
layers	G	layerList	""		
layersep	G	string	" :t"		
layout	G	string	""		
len	E	double	1.0(neato) 0.3(fdp)		fdp, neato only
levels	G	int	MAXINT	0.0	sfdp only
levelsgap	G	double	0.0		neato only
lhead	E	string	""		dot only
lp	EGC	point			write only
ltail	E	string	""		dot only
margin	NG	double pointf	<device-dependent>		
maxiter	G	int	100 * # nodes(mode == KK) 200(mode == major) 600(fdp)		fdp, neato only
mclimit	G	double	1.0		dot only
mindist	G	double	1.0	0.0	circo only
minlen	E	int	1	0	dot only
mode	G	string	"major"		neato only

model	G	string	"shortpath"		neato only
mosek	G	bool	false		neato only
nodesep	G	double	0.25	0.02	dot only
nojustify	GCNE	bool	false		
normalize	G	bool	false		not dot
nslimit	G	double			dot only
nslimit1	G	double			dot only
ordering	G	string	""		dot only
orientation	N	double	0.0	360.0	
orientation	G	string	""		
outputorder	G	outputMode	breadthfirst		
overlap	G	string bool	true		not dot
overlap_scaling	G	double	-4	-1.0e10	prism only
pack	G	bool int	false		not dot
packmode	G	packMode	node		not dot
pad	G	double pointf	0.0555 (4 points)		
page	G	pointf			
pagedir	G	pagedir	BL		
pencolor	C	color	black		
penwidth	CNE	double	1.0	0.0	
peripheries	NC	int	shape default(nodes) 1(clusters)	0	
pin	N	bool	false		fdp, neato only
pos	EN	point splineType			
quadtree	G	quadType bool	"normal"		sfdp only
quantum	G	double	0.0	0.0	
rank	S	rankType			dot only
rankdir	G	rankdir	TB		dot only
ranksep	G	double	0.5(dot) 1.0(twopi)	0.02	twopi, dot only
ratio	G	double string			
rects	N	rect			write only
regular	N	bool	false		
remincross	G	bool	false		dot only
repulsiveforce	G	double	1.0	0.0	sfdp only
resolution	G	double	96.0 0.0		svg, bitmap output only
root	GN	string bool	""(graphs) false(nodes)		circo, twopi only
rotate	G	int	0		
samehead	E	string	""		dot only

sametail	E	string	""		dot only
samplepoints	N	int	8(output) 20(overlap and image maps)		
searchsize	G	int	30		dot only
sep	G	double pointf	+4		not dot
shape	N	shape	ellipse		
shapefile	N	string	""		
showboxes	ENG	int	0	0	dot only
sides	N	int	4	0	
size	G	pointf			
skew	N	double	0.0	-100.0	
smoothing	G	smoothType	"none"		sfdp only
sortv	GCN	int	0	0	
splines	G	bool string			
start	G	startType	""		fdp, neato only
style	ENC	style			
stylesheet	G	string	""		svg only
tailURL	E	escString	""		svg, map only
tailclip	E	bool	true		
tailhref	E	escString	""		svg, map only
taillabel	E	lblString	""		
tailport	E	portPos	center		
tailtarget	E	escString	<none>		svg, map only
tailtooltip	E	escString	""		svg, cmap only
target	ENG	escString string	<none>		svg, map only
tooltip	NEC	escString	""		svg, cmap only
truecolor	G	bool			bitmap output only
vertices	N	pointfList			write only
viewport	G	viewPort	""		
voro_margin	G	double	0.05	0.0	not dot
weight	E	double	1.0	0(dot) 1(neato,fdp,sfdp)	
width	N	double	0.75	0.01	
z	N	double	0.0	-MAXFLOAT -1000	

Attribute Descriptions

Damping

Factor damping force motions. On each iteration, a nodes movement is limited to this factor of its potential motion. By being less than 1.0, the system tends to ``cool'', thereby preventing cycling.

K

Spring constant used in virtual physical model. It roughly corresponds to an ideal edge length (in inches), in that increasing K tends to increase the distance between nodes. Note that the edge attribute [len](#) can be used to override this value for adjacent nodes.

[URL](#)

Hyperlinks incorporated into device-dependent output. At present, used in ps2, cmap, i*map and svg formats. For all these formats, URLs can be attached to nodes, edges and clusters. URL attributes can also be attached to the root graph in ps2, cmap and i*map formats. This serves as the base URL for relative URLs in the former, and as the default image map file in the latter.

For svg, cmapx and imap output, the active area for a node is its visible image. For example, an unfilled node with no drawn boundary will only be active on its label. For other output, the active area is its bounding box. The active area for a cluster is its bounding box. For edges, the active areas are small circles where the edge contacts its head and tail nodes. In addition, for svg, cmapx and imap, the active area includes a thin polygon approximating the edge. The circles may overlap the related node, and the edge URL dominates. If the edge has a label, this will also be active. Finally, if the edge has a head or tail label, this will also be active.

Note that, for edges, the attributes [headURL](#), [tailURL](#), [labelURL](#) and [edgeURL](#) allow control of various parts of an edge. Also note that, if active areas of two edges overlap, it is unspecified which area dominates.

[arrowhead](#)

Style of arrowhead on the head node of an edge. See also the [dir](#) attribute, and a [limitation](#).

[arrowsize](#)

Multiplicative scale factor for arrowheads.

[arrowtail](#)

Style of arrowhead on the tail node of an edge. See also the [dir](#) attribute, and a [limitation](#).

[aspect](#)

Target aspect ratio (width of the layout divided by the height) of the graph drawing. If unset, dot minimizes the total edge length. For certain graphs, like those with large fan-in or fan-out, this can lead to very wide layouts. Setting `aspect` will cause dot to try to adjust the layout to get an aspect ratio close to that specified by `aspect`.

By default, dot will do 5 passes attempting to achieve the desired aspect ratio. For certain graphs, more passes will be needed to get close enough. The `aspect` attribute can also be used to specify the maximum number of passes to try.

At present, there is no mechanism for widening a very tall layout. Also, the algorithm doesn't handle clusters, nor disconnected graphs. For the latter case, one can split the pipeline

```
cocomps -x | dot | gvpack | neato -n2
```

to get a similar effect.

[bb](#)

Bounding box of drawing in points.

[bgcolor](#)

When attached to the root graph, this color is used as the background for entire canvas. When a cluster attribute, it is used as the initial background for the cluster. If a cluster has a filled [style](#), the cluster's [fillcolor](#) will overlay the background color.

If no background color is specified for the root graph, no graphics operation are performed on the background. This works fine for PostScript but for bitmap output, all bits are initialized to something. This means that when the bitmap output is included in some other document, all of the bits within the bitmap's bounding box will be set, overwriting whatever color or graphics were already on the page. If this effect is not desired, and you only want to set bits explicitly assigned in drawing the graph, set `bgcolor="transparent"`.

[center](#)

If true, the drawing is centered in the output canvas.

charset

Specifies the character encoding used when interpreting string input as a text label. The default value is "UTF-8". The other legal value is "iso-8859-1" or, equivalently, "Latin1". The **charset** attribute is case-insensitive. Note that if the character encoding used in the input does not match the **charset** value, the resulting output may be very strange.

clusterrank

Mode used for handling clusters. If **clusterrank** is "local", a subgraph whose name begins with "cluster" is given special treatment. The subgraph is laid out separately, and then integrated as a unit into its parent graph, with a bounding rectangle drawn about it. If the cluster has a [label](#) parameter, this label is displayed within the rectangle. Note also that there can be clusters within clusters. At present, the modes "global" and "none" appear to be identical, both turning off the special cluster processing.

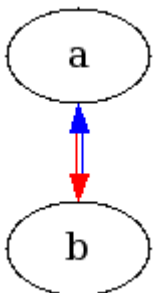
color

Basic drawing color for graphics, not text. For the latter, use the [fontcolor](#) attribute.

For edges, the value can either be a single color or a [colorList](#). In the latter case, the edge is drawn using parallel splines or lines, one for each color in the list, in the order given. The head arrow, if any, is drawn using the first color in the list, and the tail arrow, if any, the second color. This supports the common case of drawing opposing edges, but using parallel splines instead of separately routed multiedges. For example, the graph

```
digraph G {
  a -> b [dir=both color="red:blue"]
}
```

yields



colorscheme

This attribute specifies a color scheme namespace. If defined, it specifies the context for interpreting color names. In particular, if a [color](#) value has form "xxx" or "//xxx", then the color xxx will be evaluated according to the current color scheme. If no color scheme is set, the standard X11 naming is used. For example, if **colorscheme**=bugn9, then **color**=7 is interpreted as "/bugn9/7".

comment

Comments are inserted into output. Device-dependent

compound

If true, allow edges between clusters. (See [lhead](#) and [ltail](#) below.)

concentrate

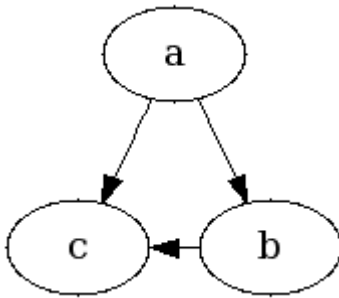
If true, use edge concentrators. This merges multiedges into a single edge and causes partially parallel edges to share part of their paths. The latter feature is not yet available outside of dot.

constraint

If false, the edge is not used in ranking the nodes. For example, in the graph

```
digraph G {
  a -> c;
  a -> b;
  b -> c [constraint=false];
}
```

the edge $b \rightarrow c$ does not add a constraint during rank assignment, so the only constraints are that a be above b and c , yielding the graph:



decorate

If true, attach edge label to edge by a 2-segment polyline, underlining the label, then going to the closest point of spline.

defaultdist

This specifies the distance between nodes in separate connected components. If set too small, connected components may overlap. Only applicable if [pack](#)=false.

dim

Set the number of dimensions used for the layout. The maximum value allowed is 10.

dimen

Set the number of dimensions used for rendering. The maximum value allowed is 10. If both `dimen` and `dim` are set, the latter specifies the dimension used for layout, and the former for rendering. If only `dimen` is set, this is used for both layout and rendering dimensions.

dir

Set edge type for drawing arrowheads. This indicates which ends of the edge should be decorated with an arrowhead. The actual style of the arrowhead can be specified using the [arrowhead](#) and [arrowtail](#) attributes. See [limitation](#).

diredgeconstraints

Only valid when [mode](#)="ipsep". If true, constraints are generated for each edge in the largest (heuristic) directed acyclic subgraph such that the edge must point downwards. If "hier", generates level constraints similar to those used with [mode](#)="hier". The main difference is that, in the latter case, only these constraints are involved, so a faster solver can be used.

distortion

Distortion factor for [shape](#)=polygon. Positive values cause top part to be larger than bottom; negative values do the opposite.

dpi

This specifies the expected number of pixels per inch on a display device. For bitmap output, this guarantees that text rendering will be done more accurately, both in size and in placement. For SVG output, it is used to guarantee that the dimensions in the output correspond to the correct number of points or inches.

edgeURL

If [edgeURL](#) is defined, this is the link used for the non-label parts of an edge. This value overrides any [URL](#) defined for the edge. Also, this value is used near the head or tail node unless overridden by a [headURL](#) or [tailURL](#) value, respectively. See [limitation](#).

edgehref

Synonym for [edgeURL](#).

edgetarget

If the edge has a [URL](#) or [edgeURL](#) attribute, this attribute determines which window of the browser is used for the URL attached to the non-label part of the edge. Setting it to "_graphviz" will open a new window if it doesn't already exist, or reuse it if it does. If undefined, the value of the [target](#) is used.

edgetooltip

Tooltip annotation attached to the non-label part of an edge. This is used only if the edge has a [URL](#)

or [edgeURL](#) attribute.

[epsilon](#)

Terminating condition. If the length squared of all energy gradients are < **epsilon**, the algorithm stops.

[esep](#)

Margin used around polygons for purposes of spline edge routing. The interpretation is the same as given for [sep](#). This should normally be strictly less than [sep](#).

[fillcolor](#)

Color used to fill the background of a node or cluster assuming [style](#)=filled. If **fillcolor** is not defined, [color](#) is used. (For clusters, if **color** is not defined, [bgcolor](#) is used.) If this is not defined, the default is used, except for [shape](#)=point or when the output format is MIF, which use black by default.

Note that a cluster inherits the root graph's attributes if defined. Thus, if the root graph has defined a **fillcolor**, this will override a **color** or **bgcolor** attribute set for the cluster.

[fixedsize](#)

If true, the node size is specified by the values of the [width](#) and [height](#) attributes only and is not expanded to contain the text label.

[fontcolor](#)

Color used for text.

[fontname](#)

Font used for text. This very much depends on the output format and, for non-bitmap output such as PostScript or SVG, the availability of the font when the graph is displayed or printed. As such, it is best to rely on font faces that are generally available, such as Times-Roman, Helvetica or Courier.

If Graphviz was built using the [fontconfig library](#), the latter library will be used to search for the font. However, if the `fontname` string contains a slash character "/", it is treated as a pathname for the font file, though font lookup will append the usual font suffixes.

If Graphviz does not use fontconfig, `fontname` will be considered the name of a Type 1 or True Type font file. If you specify `fontname=schlbk`, the tool will look for a file named `schlbk.ttf` or `schlbk.pfa` or `schlbk.pfb` in one of the directories specified by the [fontpath](#) attribute. The lookup does support various aliases for the common fonts.

[fontnames](#)

Allows user control of how basic fontnames are represented in SVG output. If `fontnames` is undefined or "svg", the output will try to use known SVG fontnames. For example, the default font "Times-Roman" will be mapped to the basic SVG font "serif". This can be overridden by setting `fontnames` to "ps" or "gd". In the former case, known PostScript font names such as "Times-Roman" will be used in the output. In the latter case, the fontconfig font conventions are used. Thus, "Times-Roman" would be treated as "Nimbus Roman No9 L". These last two options are useful with SVG viewers that support these richer fontname spaces.

[fontpath](#)

Directory list used by libgd to search for bitmap fonts if Graphviz was not built with the fontconfig library. If **fontpath** is not set, the environment variable `DOTFONTPATH` is checked. If that is not set, `GDFONTPATH` is checked. If not set, libgd uses its compiled-in font path. Note that `fontpath` is an attribute of the root graph.

[fontsize](#)

Font size, [in points](#), used for text.

[group](#)

If the end points of an edge belong to the same group, i.e., have the same group attribute, parameters are set to avoid crossings and keep the edges straight.

[headURL](#)

If **headURL** is defined, it is output as part of the head label of the edge. Also, this value is used near the head node, overriding any [URL](#) value. See [limitation](#).

[headclip](#)

If true, the head of an edge is clipped to the boundary of the head node; otherwise, the end of the edge goes to the center of the node, or the center of a port, if applicable.

[headhref](#)

Synonym for [headURL](#).

[headlabel](#)

Text label to be placed near head of edge. See [limitation](#).

[headport](#)

Indicates where on the head node to attach the head of the edge. In the default case, the edge is aimed towards the center of the node, and then clipped at the node boundary. See [limitation](#).

[headtarget](#)

If the edge has a [headURL](#), this attribute determines which window of the browser is used for the URL. Setting it to "`_graphviz`" will open a new window if it doesn't already exist, or reuse it if it does. If undefined, the value of the [target](#) is used.

[headtooltip](#)

Tooltip annotation attached to the head of an edge. This is used only if the edge has a [headURL](#) attribute.

[height](#)

Height of node, in inches. This is taken as the initial, minimum height of the node. If [fixedsize](#) is true, this will be the final height of the node. Otherwise, if the node label requires more height to fit, the node's height will be increased to contain the label. Note also that, if the output format is dot, the value given to **height** will be the final value.

[href](#)

Synonym for [URL](#).

[id](#)

Allows the graph author to provide an id for graph objects which is to be included in the output. Normal "N", "E", "G" substitutions are applied. If provided, it is the responsibility of the provider to keep its values sufficiently unique for its intended downstream use. Note, in particular, that "E" does not provide a unique id for multi-edges. If no id attribute is provided, then a unique internal id is used, however this value is unpredictable by the graph writer. An externally provided id is not used internally.

[image](#)

Gives the name of a file containing an image to be displayed inside a node. The image file must be in one of the recognized [formats](#), typically JPEG, PNG, GIF or Postscript, and be able to be converted into the desired output format.

Unlike with the [shapefile](#) attribute, the image is treated as node content rather than the entire node. In particular, an image can be contained in a node of any shape, not just a rectangle.

[imagescale](#)

Attribute controlling how an image fills its containing node. In general, the image is given its natural size, (cf. [dpi](#)), and the node size is made large enough to contain its image, its label, its margin, and its peripheries. Its width and height will also be at least as large as its minimum [width](#) and [height](#). If, however, `fixedsize=true`, the width and height attributes specify the exact size of the node.

During rendering, in the default case (`imagescale=false`), the image retains its natural size. If `imagescale=true`, the image is uniformly scaled (i.e., its aspect ratio is preserved) to fit inside the node. At least one dimension of the image will be as large as possible given the size of the node. When `imagescale=width`, the width of the image is scaled to fill the node width. The corresponding property holds when `imagescale=height`. When `imagescale=both`, both the height and the width are scaled separately to fill the node.

In all cases, if a dimension of the image is larger than the corresponding dimension of the node, that

dimension of the image is scaled down to fit the node. As with the case of expansion, if `imagescale=true`, width and height are scaled uniformly.

label

Text label attached to objects. If a node's [shape](#) is record, then the label can have a [special format](#) which describes the record layout.

labelURL

If **labelURL** is defined, this is the link used for the label of an edge. This value overrides any [URL](#) defined for the edge.

labelangle

This, along with [labeldistance](#), determine where the headlabel (taillabel) are placed with respect to the head (tail) in polar coordinates. The origin in the coordinate system is the point where the edge touches the node. The ray of 0 degrees goes from the origin back along the edge, parallel to the edge at the origin.

The angle, in degrees, specifies the rotation from the 0 degree ray, with positive angles moving counterclockwise and negative angles moving clockwise.

labeldistance

Multiplicative scaling factor adjusting the distance that the headlabel(taillabel) is from the head(tail) node. The default distance is 10 points. See [labelangle](#) for more details.

labelfloat

If true, allows edge labels to be less constrained in position. In particular, it may appear on top of other edges.

labelfontcolor

Color used for headlabel and taillabel. If not set, defaults to edge's fontcolor.

labelfontname

Font used for headlabel and taillabel. If not set, defaults to edge's fontname.

labelfontsize

Font size, [in points](#), used for headlabel and taillabel. If not set, defaults to edge's fontsize.

labelhref

Synonym for [labelURL](#).

labeljust

Justification for cluster labels. If "r", the label is right-justified within bounding rectangle; if "l", left-justified; else the label is centered. Note that a subgraph inherits attributes from its parent. Thus, if the root graph sets **labeljust** to "l", the subgraph inherits this value.

labelloc

Top/bottom placement of graph and cluster labels. If the attribute is "t", place label at the top; if the attribute is "b", place label at the bottom. By default, root graph labels go on the bottom and cluster labels go on the top. Note that a subgraph inherits attributes from its parent. Thus, if the root graph sets **labelloc** to "b", the subgraph inherits this value.

labelloc

Vertical placement of node label. By default, if the height of a node is larger than the height of its label, the label is vertically centered. If `labelloc` is set to "t", "c", or "b", the label is aligned with the top, centered, or aligned with the bottom of the node, respectively.

labeltarget

If the edge has a [URL](#) or [labelURL](#) attribute, this attribute determines which window of the browser is used for the URL attached to the label. Setting it to "_graphviz" will open a new window if it doesn't already exist, or reuse it if it does. If undefined, the value of the [target](#) is used.

labeltooltip

Tooltip annotation attached to label of an edge. This is used only if the edge has a [URL](#) or [labelURL](#) attribute.

landscape

If true, the graph is rendered in landscape mode. Synonymous with [rotate=90](#) or [orientation=landscape](#).

layer

Specifies layers in which the node or edge is present.

layers

Specifies a linearly ordered list of layer names attached to the graph. The graph is then output in separate layers. Only those components belonging to the current output layer appear. For more information, see the page [How to use drawing layers \(overlays\)](#).

layersep

Specifies the separator characters used to split the [layers](#) attribute into a list of layer names.

layout

Specifies the name of the layout algorithm to use, such as "dot" or "neato". Normally, graphs should be kept independent of a type of layout. In some cases, however, it can be convenient to embed the type of layout desired within the graph. For example, a graph containing position information from a layout might want to record what the associated layout algorithm was.

This attribute takes precedence over the [-K flag](#) or the actual command name used.

len

Preferred edge length, in inches.

levels

Number of levels allowed in the multilevel scheme.

levelsgap

Specifies strictness of level constraints in neato when [mode](#)="ipsep" or "hier". Larger positive values mean stricter constraints, which demand more separation between levels. On the other hand, negative values will relax the constraints by allowing some overlap between the levels.

lhead

Logical head of an edge. When [compound](#) is true, if **lhead** is defined and is the name of a cluster containing the real head, the edge is clipped to the boundary of the cluster. See [limitation](#).

lp

Label position, [in points](#). The position indicates the center of the label.

ltail

Logical tail of an edge. When [compound](#) is true, if **ltail** is defined and is the name of a cluster containing the real tail, the edge is clipped to the boundary of the cluster. See [limitation](#).

margin

For graphs, this sets x and y margins of canvas, in inches. If the margin is a single double, both margins are set equal to the given value.

Note that the margin is not part of the drawing but just empty space left around the drawing. It basically corresponds to a translation of drawing, as would be necessary to center a drawing on a page. Nothing is actually drawn in the margin. To actually extend the background of a drawing, see the [pad](#) attribute.

For nodes, this attribute specifies space left around the node's label. By default, the value is 0.11, 0.055.

maxiter

Sets the number of iterations used.

mclimit

Multiplicative scale factor used to alter the MinQuit (default = 8) and MaxIter (default = 24) parameters used during crossing minimization. These correspond to the number of tries without improvement before quitting and the maximum number of iterations in each pass.

mindist

Specifies the minimum separation between all nodes.

minlen

Minimum edge length (rank difference between head and tail).

mode

Technique for optimizing the layout. If **mode** is "major", neato uses stress majorization. If **mode** is "KK", neato uses a version of the gradient descent method. The only advantage to the latter technique is that it is sometimes appreciably faster for small (number of nodes < 100) graphs. A significant disadvantage is that it may cycle.

There are two new, experimental modes in neato, "hier", which adds a top-down directionality similar to the layout used in dot, and "ipsep", which allows the graph to specify minimum vertical and horizontal distances between nodes. (See the [sep](#) attribute.)

[model](#)

This value specifies how the distance matrix is computed for the input graph. The distance matrix specifies the ideal distance between every pair of nodes. neato attempts to find a layout which best achieves these distances. By default, it uses the length of the shortest path, where the length of each edge is given by its [len](#) attribute. If **model** is "circuit", neato uses the circuit resistance model to compute the distances. This tends to emphasize clusters. If **model** is "subset", neato uses the subset model. This sets the edge length to be the number of nodes that are neighbors of exactly one of the end points, and then calculates the shortest paths. This helps to separate nodes with high degree.

[mosek](#)

If Graphviz is built with MOSEK defined, mode=ipsep and mosek=true, the Mosek software (www.mosek.com) is used to solve the ipsep constraints.

[nodesep](#)

Minimum space between two adjacent nodes in the same rank, in inches.

[nojustify](#)

By default, the justification of multi-line labels is done within the largest context that makes sense. Thus, in the label of a polygonal node, a left-justified line will align with the left side of the node (shifted by the prescribed [margin](#)). In record nodes, left-justified line will line up with the left side of the enclosing column of fields. If **nojustify** is "true", multi-line labels will be justified in the context of itself. For example, if the attribute is set, the first label line is long, and the second is shorter and left-justified, the second will align with the left-most character in the first line, regardless of how large the node might be.

[normalize](#)

If set, normalize coordinates of final layout so that the first point is at the origin, and then rotate the layout so that the first edge is horizontal.

[nslimit](#)

[nslimit1](#)

Used to set number of iterations in network simplex applications. **nslimit** is used in computing node x coordinates, **nslimit1** for ranking nodes. If defined, # iterations = **nslimit(1)** * # nodes; otherwise, # iterations = MAXINT.

[ordering](#)

If "out" for a graph G, and n is a node in G, then edges n->* appear left-to-right in the same order in which they are defined. If "in", the edges *->n appear left-to-right in the same order in which they are defined for all nodes n.

[orientation](#)

Angle, in degrees, used to rotate polygon node shapes. For any number of polygon sides, 0 degrees rotation results in a flat base.

[orientation](#)

If "[IL]*", set graph orientation to landscape. Used only if [rotate](#) is not defined.

[outporder](#)

Specify order in which nodes and edges are drawn.

[overlap](#)

Determines if and how node overlaps should be removed. Nodes are first enlarged using the [sep](#) attribute. If "true", overlaps are retained. If the value is "scale", overlaps are removed by uniformly scaling in x and y. If the value converts to "false", node overlaps are removed by a Voronoi-based technique. If the value is "scalexy", x and y are separately scaled to remove overlaps.

If `sfdp` is available, one can set `overlap` to "prism" to use a proximity graph-based algorithm for overlap removal. This is the preferred technique, though "scale" and "false" can work well with small graphs. This technique starts with a small scaling up, controlled by the [overlap_scaling](#) attribute, which can remove a significant portion of the overlap. The prism option also accepts an optional non-negative integer suffix. This can be used to control the number of attempts made at overlap removal. By default, `overlap="prism"` is equivalent to `overlap="prism1000"`. Setting `overlap="prism0"` causes only the scaling phase to be run.

If the value is "compress", the layout will be scaled down as much as possible without introducing any overlaps, obviously assuming there are none to begin with.

N.B. The remaining allowed values of `overlap` correspond to algorithms which, at present, can produce bad aspect ratios. In addition, we deprecate the use of the "ortho*" and "portho*".

If the value is "vpssc", overlap removal is done as a quadratic optimization to minimize node displacement while removing node overlaps.

If the value is "orthoxy" or "orthoyx", overlaps are moved by optimizing two constraint problems, one for the x axis and one for the y. The suffix indicates which axis is processed first. If the value is "ortho", the technique is similar to "orthoxy" except a heuristic is used to reduce the bias between the two passes. If the value is "ortho_yx", the technique is the same as "ortho", except the roles of x and y are reversed. The values "portho", "porthoxy", "porthoxy", and "porthoyx" are similar to the previous four, except only pseudo-orthogonal ordering is enforced.

If the layout is done by `neato` with `mode="ipsep"`, then one can use `overlap=ipsep`. In this case, the overlap removal constraints are incorporated into the layout algorithm itself. N.B. At present, this only supports one level of clustering.

Except for `fdp` and `sfdp`, the layouts assume `overlap="true"` as the default. `Fdp` first uses a number of passes using built-in, force-directed technique to remove overlaps. Thus, `fdp` accepts **overlap** with an integer prefix followed by a colon, specifying the number of tries. If there is no prefix, no initial tries will be performed. If there is nothing following a colon, none of the above methods will be attempted. By default, `fdp` uses `overlap="9:portho"`. Note that `overlap="true"`, `overlap="0:true"` and `overlap="0:"` all turn off all overlap removal.

By default, `sfdp` uses `overlap="prism0"`.

Except for the Voronoi and prism methods, all of these transforms preserve the orthogonal ordering of the original layout. That is, if the x coordinates of two nodes are originally the same, they will remain the same, and if the x coordinate of one node is originally less than the x coordinate of another, this relation will still hold in the transformed layout. The similar properties hold for the y coordinates. This is not quite true for the "porth*" cases. For these, orthogonal ordering is only preserved among nodes related by an edge.

[overlap_scaling](#)

When `overlap=prism`, the layout is scaled by this factor, thereby removing a fair amount of node overlap, and making node overlap removal faster and better able to retain the graph's shape.

If `overlap_scaling` is negative, the layout is scaled by $-1 \times \text{overlap_scaling}$ times the average label size. If `overlap_scaling` is positive, the layout is scaled by `overlap_scaling`. If `overlap_scaling` is zero, no scaling is done.

[pack](#)

This is true if the value of `pack` is "true" (case-insensitive) or a non-negative integer. If true, each connected component of the graph is laid out separately, and then the graphs are packed together. If `pack` has an integral value, this is used as the size, in [points](#), of a margin around each part;

otherwise, a default margin of 8 is used. If **pack** is interpreted as false, the entire graph is laid out together. The granularity and method of packing is influenced by the [packmode](#) attribute.

For layouts which always do packing, such a twopi, the **pack** attribute is just used to set the margin.

[packmode](#)

This indicates how connected components should be packed (cf. [packMode](#)). Note that defining **packmode** will automatically turn on packing as though one had set **pack=true**.

[pad](#)

The pad attribute specifies how much, in inches, to extend the drawing area around the minimal area needed to draw the graph. If the pad is a single double, both the x and y pad values are set equal to the given value. This area is part of the drawing and will be filled with the background color, if appropriate.

Normally, a small pad is used for aesthetic reasons, especially when a background color is used, to avoid having nodes and edges abutting the boundary of the drawn region.

[page](#)

Width and height of output pages, in inches. If this is set and is smaller than the size of the layout, a rectangular array of pages of the specified page size is overlaid on the layout, with origins aligned in the lower-left corner, thereby partitioning the layout into pages. The pages are then produced one at a time, in [pagedir](#) order.

At present, this only works for PostScript output. For other types of output, one should use another tool to split the output into multiple output files. Or use the [viewport](#) to generate multiple files.

[pagedir](#)

If the [page](#) attribute is set and applicable, this attribute specifies the order in which the pages are emitted. This is limited to one of the 8 row or column major orders.

[pencolor](#)

Color used to draw the bounding box around a cluster. If **pencolor** is not defined, [color](#) is used. If this is not defined, [bgcolor](#) is used. If this is not defined, the default is used.

Note that a cluster inherits the root graph's attributes if defined. Thus, if the root graph has defined a **pencolor**, this will override a **color** or **bgcolor** attribute set for the cluster.

[penwidth](#)

Specifies the width of the pen, in points, used to draw lines and curves, including the boundaries of edges and clusters. The value is inherited by subclusters. It has no effect on text.

Previous to 31 January 2008, the effect of `penwidth=W` was achieved by including `setlinewidth(W)` as part of a [style](#) specification. If both are used, `penwidth` will be used.

[peripheries](#)

Set number of peripheries used in polygonal shapes and cluster boundaries. Note that [user-defined shapes](#) are treated as a form of box shape, so the default peripheries value is 1 and the user-defined shape will be drawn in a bounding rectangle. Setting `peripheries=0` will turn this off. Also, 1 is the maximum peripheries value for clusters.

[pin](#)

If true and the node has a pos attribute on input, neato or fdp prevents the node from moving from the input position. This property can also be specified in the pos attribute itself (cf. the [point](#) type).

Note: Due to an artifact of the implementation, final coordinates are translated to the origin. Thus, if you look at the output coordinates given in the (x)dot or plain format, pinned nodes will not have the same output coordinates as were given on input. If this is important, a simple workaround is to maintain the coordinates of a pinned node. The vector difference between the old and new

coordinates will give the translation, which can then be subtracted from all of the appropriate coordinates.

pos

Position of node, or spline control points. For nodes, the position indicates the center of the node. On output, the coordinates are in [points](#).

In `neato` and `fdp`, `pos` can be used to set the initial position of a node. By default, the coordinates are assumed to be in inches. However, the `-s` command line flag can be used to specify different units. As the output coordinates are in points, feeding the output of a graph laid out by a Graphviz program into `neato` or `fdp` will almost always require the `-s` flag.

When the `-n` command line flag is used with `neato`, it is assumed the positions have been set by one of the layout programs, and are therefore in points. Thus, `neato -n` can accept input correctly without requiring a `-s` flag and, in fact, ignores any such flag.

quadtree

Quadtree scheme to use.

A TRUE bool value corresponds to "normal"; a FALSE bool value corresponds to "none". As a slight exception to the normal interpretation of bool, a value of "2" corresponds to "fast".

quantum

If **quantum** > 0.0, node label dimensions will be rounded to integral multiples of the quantum.

rank

Rank constraints on the nodes in a subgraph. If **rank**="same", all nodes are placed on the same rank. If **rank**="min", all nodes are placed on the minimum rank. If **rank**="source", all nodes are placed on the minimum rank, and the only nodes on the minimum rank belong to some subgraph whose rank attribute is "source" or "min". Analogous criteria hold for **rank**="max" and **rank**="sink". (Note: the minimum rank is topmost or leftmost, and the maximum rank is bottommost or rightmost.)

rankdir

Sets direction of graph layout. For example, if **rankdir**="LR", and barring cycles, an edge `T -> H`; will go from left to right. By default, graphs are laid out from top to bottom.

This attribute also has a side-effect in determining how record nodes are interpreted. See [record shapes](#).

ranksep

In `dot`, this gives the desired rank separation, in inches. This is the minimum vertical distance between the bottom of the nodes in one rank and the tops of nodes in the next. If the value contains "equally", the centers of all ranks are spaced equally apart. Note that both settings are possible, e.g., `ranksep = "1.2 equally"`. In `twopi`, specifies radial separation of concentric circles.

ratio

Sets the aspect ratio (drawing height/drawing width) for the drawing. Note that this is adjusted before the [size](#) attribute constraints are enforced.

If **ratio** is numeric, it is taken as the desired aspect ratio. Then, if the actual aspect ratio is less than the desired ratio, the drawing height is scaled up to achieve the desired ratio; if the actual ratio is greater than that desired ratio, the drawing width is scaled up.

If **ratio** = "fill" and the [size](#) attribute is set, node positions are scaled, separately in both x and y, so that the final drawing exactly fills the specified size.

If **ratio** = "compress" and the [size](#) attribute is set, `dot` attempts to compress the initial layout to fit in the given size. This achieves a tighter packing of nodes but reduces the balance and symmetry. This

feature only works in dot.

If **ratio** = "expand", the [size](#) attribute is set, and both the width and the height of the graph are less than the value in [size](#), node positions are scaled uniformly until at least one dimension fits [size](#) exactly. Note that this is distinct from using [size](#) as the desired size, as here the drawing is expanded before edges are generated and all node and text sizes remain unchanged.

If **ratio** = "auto", the [page](#) attribute is set and the graph cannot be drawn on a single page, then [size](#) is set to an "ideal" value. In particular, the size in a given dimension will be the smallest integral multiple of the page size in that dimension which is at least half the current size. The two dimensions are then scaled independently to the new size. This feature only works in dot.

[rects](#)

Rectangles for fields of records, [in points](#).

[regular](#)

If true, force polygon to be regular.

[remincross](#)

If true and there are multiple clusters, run cross minimization a second time.

[repulsiveforce](#)

The power of the repulsive force used in an extended Fruchterman-Reingold force directed model. Values larger than 1 tend to reduce the warping effect at the expense of less clustering.

[resolution](#)

This is a synonym for the [dpi](#) attribute.

[root](#)

This specifies nodes to be used as the center of the layout and the root of the generated spanning tree. As a graph attribute, this gives the name of the node. As a node attribute (circo only), it specifies that the node should be used as a central node. In twopi, this will actually be the central node. In circo, the block containing the node will be central in the drawing of its connected component. If not defined, twopi will pick a most central node, and circo will pick a random node.

[rotate](#)

If 90, set drawing orientation to landscape.

[samehead](#)

Edges with the same head and the same **samehead** value are aimed at the same point on the head. See [limitation](#).

[sametail](#)

Edges with the same tail and the same **sametail** value are aimed at the same point on the tail. See [limitation](#).

[samplepoints](#)

If the input graph defines the [vertices](#) attribute, and output is dot or xdot, this gives the number of points used for a node whose shape is a circle or ellipse. It plays the same role in neato, when adjusting the layout to avoid overlapping nodes, and in image maps.

[searchsize](#)

During network simplex, maximum number of edges with negative cut values to search when looking for one with minimum cut value.

[sep](#)

Specifies margin to leave around nodes when removing node overlap. This guarantees a minimal non-zero distance between nodes.

If the attribute begins with a plus sign '+', an additive margin is specified. That is, "+w,h" causes the node's bounding box to be increased by w points on the left and right sides, and by h points on the top and bottom. Without a plus sign, the node is scaled by 1 + w in the x coordinate and 1 + h in the y coordinate.

If only a single number is given, this is used for both dimensions.

If unset but [esep](#) is defined, the `sep` values will be set to the `esep` values divided by 0.8. If `esep` is unset, the default value is used.

[shape](#)

Set the shape of a node.

[shapefile](#)

(Deprecated) If defined, `shapefile` specifies a file containing user-supplied node content. The [shape](#) of the node is set to `box`. The image in the `shapefile` must be rectangular. The image formats supported as well as the precise semantics of how the file is used depends on the [output format](#). For further details, see [Image Formats](#) and [External PostScript files](#).

There is one exception to this usage. If **`shape`** is set to `"epsf"`, `shapefile` gives a filename containing a definition of the node in PostScript. The graphics defined must contain all of the node content, including any desired boundaries. For further details, see [External PostScript files](#).

[showboxes](#)

Print guide boxes in PostScript at the beginning of routesplines if 1, or at the end if 2. (Debugging)

[sides](#)

Number of sides if [shape](#)=`polygon`.

[size](#)

Maximum width and height of drawing, in inches. If defined and the drawing is too large, the drawing is uniformly scaled down so that it fits within the given size.

If `size` ends in an exclamation point (!), then it is taken to be the desired size. In this case, if both dimensions of the drawing are less than `size`, the drawing is scaled up uniformly until at least one dimension equals its dimension in `size`.

Note that there is some interaction between the **`size`** and [ratio](#) attributes.

[skew](#)

Skew factor for [shape](#)=`polygon`. Positive values skew top of polygon to right; negative to left.

[smoothing](#)

Specifies a post-processing step used to smooth out an uneven distribution of nodes.

[sortv](#)

If [packmode](#) indicates an array packing, this attribute specifies an insertion order among the components, with smaller values inserted first.

[splines](#)

Controls how, and if, edges are represented. If true, edges are drawn as splines routed around nodes; if false, edges are drawn as line segments. If set to `""`, no edges are drawn at all.

(1 March 2007) The values `line` and `spline` can be used as synonyms for `false` and `true`, respectively. In addition, the value `polyline` specifies that edges should be drawn as polylines.

By default, the attribute is unset. How this is interpreted depends on the layout. For `dot`, the default is to draw edges as splines. For all other layouts, the default is to draw edges as line segments. Note that for these latter layouts, if `splines="true"`, this requires non-overlapping nodes (cf. [overlap](#)). If `fdp` is used for layout and `splines="compound"`, then the edges are drawn to avoid clusters as well as nodes.

[start](#)

Parameter used to determine the initial layout of nodes. If unset, the nodes are randomly placed in a unit square with the same seed is always used for the random number generator, so the initial placement is repeatable.

[style](#)

Set style for node or edge. For cluster subgraph, if `"filled"`, the cluster box's background is filled.

[stylesheet](#)

A URL or pathname specifying an XML style sheet, used in SVG output.

tailURL

If **tailURL** is defined, it is output as part of the tail label of the edge. Also, this value is used near the tail node, overriding any [URL](#) value. See [limitation](#).

tailclip

If true, the tail of an edge is clipped to the boundary of the tail node; otherwise, the end of the edge goes to the center of the node, or the center of a port, if applicable.

tailhref

Synonym for [tailURL](#).

taillabel

Text label to be placed near tail of edge. See [limitation](#).

tailport

Indicates where on the tail node to attach the tail of the edge. See [limitation](#).

tailtarget

If the edge has a [tailURL](#), this attribute determines which window of the browser is used for the URL. Setting it to "_graphviz" will open a new window if it doesn't already exist, or reuse it if it does. If undefined, the value of the [target](#) is used.

tailtooltip

Tooltip annotation attached to the tail of an edge. This is used only if the edge has a [tailURL](#) attribute.

target

If the object has a URL, this attribute determines which window of the browser is used for the URL. See [W3C documentation](#).

tooltip

Tooltip annotation attached to the node or edge. If unset, Graphviz will use the object's [label](#) if defined. Note that if the label is a record specification or an HTML-like label, the resulting tooltip may be unhelpful. In this case, if tooltips will be generated, the user should set a `tooltip` attribute explicitly.

truecolor

If set explicitly to true or false, the value determines whether or not internal bitmap rendering relies on a truecolor color model or uses a color palette. If the attribute is unset, truecolor is not used unless there is a [shapefile](#) property for some node in the graph. The output model will use the input model when possible.

Use of color palettes results in less memory usage during creation of the bitmaps and smaller output files.

Usually, the only time it is necessary to specify the truetype model is if the graph uses more than 256 colors. However, if one uses `bgcolor=transparent` with a color palette, font antialiasing can show up as a fuzzy white area around characters. Using `truecolor=true` avoids this problem.

vertices

If the input graph defines this attribute, the node is polygonal, and output is dot or xdot, this attribute provides the coordinates of the vertices of the node's polygon, in inches. If the node is an ellipse or circle, the [samplepoints](#) attribute affects the output.

viewport

Clipping window on final drawing.

voro margin

Factor to scale up drawing to allow margin for expansion in Voronoi technique. $\text{dim}' = (1 + 2 * \text{margin}) * \text{dim}$.

weight

Weight of edge. In dot, the heavier the weight, the shorter, straighter and more vertical the edge is.

width

Width of node, in inches. This is taken as the initial, minimum width of the node. If [fixedsize](#) is true, this will be the final width of the node. Otherwise, if the node label requires more width to fit, the

node's width will be increased to contain the label. Note also that, if the output format is dot, the value given to **width** will be the final value.

z

Deprecated: Use [pos](#) attribute, along with [dimen](#) and/or [dim](#) to specify dimensions.

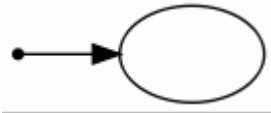

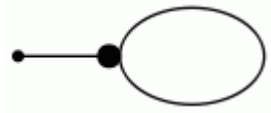
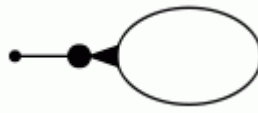
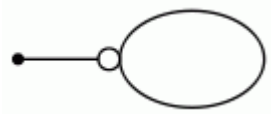
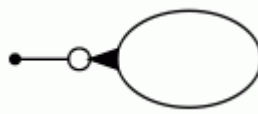
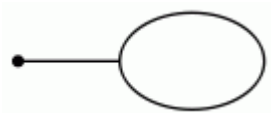
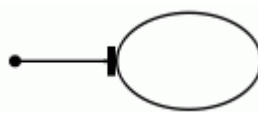
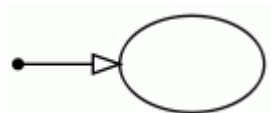
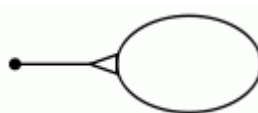
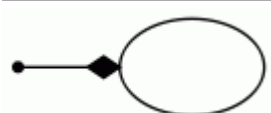
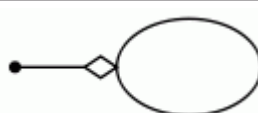
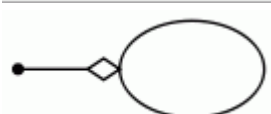


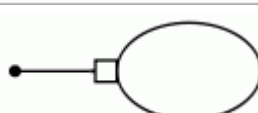



Provides z coordinate value for 3D layouts and displays. If the graph has [dim](#) set to 3 (or more), neato will use a node's **z** value for the z coordinate of its initial position if its [pos](#) attribute is also defined.

Even if no **z** values are specified in the input, it is necessary to declare a **z** attribute for nodes, e.g. using `node[z=""]` in order to get z values on output. Thus, setting `dim=3` but not declaring **z** will cause `neato -Tvrml` to layout the graph in 3D but project the layout onto the xy-plane for the rendering. If the **z** attribute is declared, the final rendering will be in 3D.

Attribute Type Descriptions

The following list gives the legal strings corresponding to values of the given types.

arrowType

"normal"		"inv"	
"dot"		"invdot"	
"odot"		"invodot"	
"none"		"tee"	
"empty"		"invempty"	
"diamond"		"odiamond"	
"ediamond"		"crow"	
"box"		"obox"	
"open"		"halfopen"	
"vee"			

These are the basic set of backward-compatible arrow shapes. In addition, there is a grammar of [arrow shapes](#) which can be used to describe a collection of 1,544,761 arrow combinations of the 36 variations of the primitive set of 9 arrows. The basic arrows shown above contain all of the primitive shapes (box, crow, diamond, dot, inv, none, normal, tee, vee) plus ones that can be derived from the grammar (odot, invdot, invodot, obox, odiamond) plus some supported as special cases for backward-compatibility (ediamond, open, halfopen, empty, invempty).

aspectType

An aspect ratio, double, followed optionally by a ',' and a maximum pass count. If the aspect ratio is given, but no maximum pass count, the latter defaults to 5.

clusterMode

"local", "global", "none"

color

Colors can be specified using one of four formats.

"#%2x%2x%2x" Red-Green-Blue (RGB)

"#%2x%2x%2x%2x" Red-Green-Blue-Alpha (RGBA)

H[,]+S[,]+V Hue-Saturation-Value (HSV) $0.0 \leq H, S, V \leq 1.0$

string [color name](#)

The specification for the RGB and RGBA formats are the format strings used by `sscanf` to scan the color value. Thus, these values have the form "#RGB" or "#RGBA", where R, G, B, and A each consist of 2 hexadecimal digits, and can be separated by whitespace. HSV colors have the form of 3 numbers between 0 and 1, separated by whitespace or commas.

String-valued color specifications are case-insensitive and interpreted in the context of the current color scheme, as specified by the [colorscheme](#) attribute. If this is undefined, the X11 naming scheme will be used. An initial "/" character can be used to override the use of the `colorscheme` attribute. In particular, a single initial "/" will cause the string to be evaluated using the default X11 naming. If the color value has the form "/ssss/yyyy", the name yyyy is interpreted using the schema ssss. If the color scheme name is empty, i.e., the color has the form "//yyyy", the `colorscheme` attribute is used. Thus, the forms "yyyy" and "//yyyy" are equivalent.

At present, Graphviz recognizes the default color scheme x11, and the [Brewer color schemes](#). Please note that Brewer color schemes are covered by this [license](#).

Examples:

Color	RGB	HSV	String
White	"#ffffff"	"0.000 0.000 1.000"	"white"
Black	"#000000"	"0.000 0.000 0.000"	"black"
Red	"#ff0000"	"0.000 1.000 1.000"	"red"
Turquoise	"#40e0d0"	"0.482 0.714 0.878"	"turquoise"
Sienna	"#a0522d"	"0.051 0.718 0.627"	"sienna"

Note that some output formats, e.g., [mif](#), only support a limited number of specific colors.

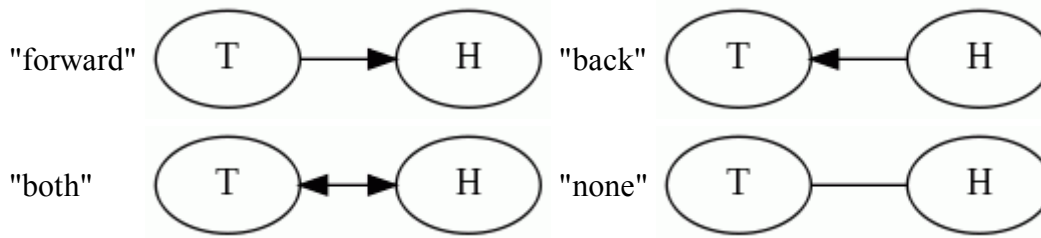
The string value `transparent` can be used to indicate no color. This is only available in the output formats ps, svg, fig, vmrl, and the bitmap formats. It can be used whenever a color is needed but is most useful with the [bgcolor](#) attribute. Usually, the same effect can be achieved by setting [style](#) to `invis`.

colorList

A colon-separated list of color values: $C(:C)^*$ where each C is a [color](#) value.

dirType

For an edge $T \rightarrow H$;



For undirected edges $T \text{ -- } H$, one of the nodes, usually the righthand one, is treated as the head for the purpose of interpreting "forward" and "back".

escString

string allowing escape sequences which are replaced according to the context. For node attributes, the substring "\N" is replaced by the name of the node, and the substring "\G" by the name of the graph. For graph or cluster attributes, the substring "\G" is replaced by the name of the graph or cluster. For edge attributes, the substring "\E" is replaced by the name of the edge, the substring "\G" is replaced by the name of the graph or cluster, and the substrings "\T" and "\H" by the names of the tail and head nodes, respectively. The name of an edge is the string formed from the name of the tail node, the appropriate edge operator ("--" or "->") and the name of the head node. In all cases, the substring "\L" is replaced by the object's label attribute.

In addition, if the associated attribute is [label](#), [headlabel](#) or [taillabel](#), the escape sequences "\n", "\l" and "\r" divide the label into lines, centered, left-justified, and right-justified, respectively.

layerList

list of strings separated by characters from the [layersep](#) attribute (by default, colons, tabs or spaces), defining [layer](#) names and implicitly numbered 1,2,...

layerRange

layerId or layerId:layerId,

where layerId = "all", a decimal integer or a [layer](#) name. (An integer i corresponds to layer i.) The string s consists of 1 or more separator characters specified by the [layersep](#) attribute.

lblString

an [escString](#) or an [HTML label](#).

outputMode

"breadthfirst", "nodesfirst", "edgesfirst" These specify the order in which nodes and edges are drawn in concrete output. The default "breadthfirst" is the simplest, but when the graph layout does not avoid edge-node overlap, this mode will sometimes have edges drawn over nodes and sometimes on top of nodes. If the mode "nodesfirst" is chosen, all nodes are drawn first, followed by the edges. This guarantees an edge-node overlap will not be mistaken for an edge ending at a node. On the other hand, usually for aesthetic reasons, it may be desirable that all edges appear beneath nodes, even if the resulting drawing is ambiguous. This can be achieved by choosing "edgesfirst".

packMode

"node", "clust", "graph", "array[_flags][%d]"

The modes "node", "clust" or "graph" specify that the components should be packed together tightly, using the specified granularity. A value of "node" causes packing at the node and edge level, with no overlapping of these objects. This produces a layout with the least area, but it also allows interleaving, where a node of one component may lie between two nodes in another component. A value of "graph" does a packing using the bounding box of the component. Thus, there will be a rectangular region around a component free of elements of any other component. A value of "clust" guarantees that top-level clusters are kept intact. What effect a value has also depends on the layout algorithm. For example, neato does not support clusters, so a value of "clust" will have the same effect as the default "node" value.

The mode "array[_flags][%d]" indicates that the components should be packed at the graph level

into an array of graphs. By default, the components are in row-major order, with the number of columns roughly the square root of the number of components. If the optional flags contains "c", then column-major order is used. Finally, if the optional integer suffix is used, this specifies the number of columns for row-major or the number of rows for column-major. Thus, the mode "array_c4" indicates array packing, with 4 rows, starting in the upper left and going down the first column, then down the second column, etc., until all components are used.

If the optional flags contains "u", this causes the insertion order of elements in the array to be determined by user-supplied values. Each component can specify its sort value by a non-negative integer using the [sortv](#) attribute. Components are inserted in order, starting with the one with the smallest sort value. If no sort value is specified, zero is used.

pagedir

"BL", "BR", "TL", "TR", "RB", "RT", "LB", "LT". These specify the 8 row or column major orders for traversing a rectangular array, the first character corresponding to the major order and the second to the minor order. Thus, for "BL", the major order is from bottom to top, and the minor order is from left to right. This means the bottom row is traversed first, from left to right, then the next row up, from left to right, and so on, until the topmost row is traversed.

point

"%f,%f"(!) representing the point (x,y). The optional "!" indicates the node position should not change (input-only).

If [dim](#) is 3 or more, **point** may also have the format "%f,%f,%f"(!) to represent the point (x,y,z).

pointf

"%lf,%lf" representing the point (x,y).

pointfList

list of **pointf**, separated by spaces.

portPos

modifier indicating where on a node an edge should be aimed. It has the form *portname[:compass_point]* or *compass_point*. If the first form is used, the corresponding node must either have [record](#) shape with one of its fields having the given *portname*, or have an [HTML-like label](#), one of whose components has a `PORT` attribute set to *portname*.

If a compass point is used, it must have the form

"n", "ne", "e", "se", "s", "sw", "w", "nw", "c", "_". This modifies the edge placement to aim for the corresponding compass point on the port or, in the second form where no *portname* is supplied, on the node itself. The compass point "c" specifies the center of the node or port. The compass point "_" specifies that an appropriate side of the port adjacent to the exterior of the node should be used, if such exists. Otherwise, the center is used. If no compass point is used with a *portname*, the default value is "_".

This attribute can be attached to an edge using the [headport](#) and [tailport](#) attributes, or as part of the edge description as in

```
node1:port1 -> node2:port5:nw;
```

Note that it is legal to have a *portname* the same as one of the compass points. In this case, this reference will be resolved to the port. Thus, if node A has a port *w*, then `headport=w` will refer to the port and not the compass point. At present, in this case, there is no way to specify that the compass point should be used.

quadType

"normal", "fast", "none".

Using "fast" gives about a 2-4 times overall speedup compared with "normal", though layout quality

can suffer a little.

rankType

"same", "min", "source", "max", "sink"

rankdir

"TB", "LR", "BT", "RL", corresponding to directed graphs drawn from top to bottom, from left to right, from bottom to top, and from right to left, respectively.

rect

"%f,%f,%f,%f" The rectangle llx, lly, urx, ury gives the coordinates, in points, of the lower-left corner (llx, lly) and the upper-right corner (urx, ury).

shape

A string specifying the [shape](#) of a node. There are three main types of shapes : [polygon-based](#), [record-based](#) and [user-defined](#).

smoothType

Values are "none", "avg_dist", "graph_dist", "power_dist", "rng", "spring" and "triangle".

splineType

spline (';' spline)*

where spline = (endp)? (startp)? point (triple)+

and triple = point point point

and endp = "e,%f,%f"

and startp = "s,%f,%f"

If a spline has points $p_1 p_2 p_3 \dots p_n$, ($n = 1 \pmod{3}$), the points correspond to the control points of a B-spline from p_1 to p_n . If startp is given, it touches one node of the edge, and the arrowhead goes from p_1 to startp. If startp is not given, p_1 touches a node. Similarly for p_n and endp.

startType

has the syntax `[style][seed]`.

If *style* is present, it must be one of the strings "regular", "self", or "random". In the first case, the nodes are placed regularly about a circle. In the second case, an abbreviated version of neato is run to obtain the initial layout. In the last case, the nodes are placed randomly in a unit square.

If *seed* is present, it specifies a seed for the random number generator. If *seed* is a positive number, this is used as the seed. If it is anything else, the current time, and possibly the process id, is used to pick a seed, thereby making the choice more random. In this case, the seed value is stored in the graph.

If the value is just "random", a time-based seed is chosen.

Note that input positions, specified by a node's [pos](#) attribute, are only used when the style is "random".

style

styleItem (';' styleItem)*

where styleItem = name or name('args')

and args = name (';' name)*

and name = `[^](, [^](,)*`

Note that whitespace characters are ignored, except for names which can contain them. A name cannot contain any comma, or left or right parenthesis, and it cannot begin with a whitespace character.

At present, the recognized style names are "dashed", "dotted", "solid", "invis" and "bold" for nodes and edges, and "filled", "diagonals" and "rounded" for nodes only. The styles "filled" and "rounded" are recognized for clusters. Additional styles are available in device-dependent form. Style lists are passed to device drivers, which can use this to generate appropriate output.

The `setlinewidth` style value can be used for more control over the width of node borders and edges than is allowed by `bold`. This style value takes an argument, specifying the width of the line in [points](#). For example, `style="bold"` is equivalent to `style="setlinewidth(2)"`. **The use of `setlinewidth` is deprecated; one should use the [penwidth](#) attribute instead.**

viewPort

`"%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf,%lf"` or `"%lf,%lf,%lf,%s"`

The viewPort w, h, z, x, y or w, h, z, N specifies a viewport for the final image. The pair (w, h) gives the dimensions (width and height) of the final image, in [points](#). The optional z is the zoom factor, i.e., the image in the original layout will be w/z by h/z points in size. By default, z is 1. The optional last part is either a pair (x, y) giving a position in the original layout of the graph, in [points](#), of the center of the viewport, or the name N of a node whose center should be used as the focus. By default, the focus is the center of the graph bounding box, i.e., $(bbx/2, bby/2)$, where `"bbx, bby"` is the value of the bounding box attribute [bb](#).

Sample values: `50,50,.5,'2.8 BSD'` or `100,100,2,450,300`. The first will take the 100x100 point square centered on the node 2.8 BSD and scale it down by 0.5, yielding a 50x50 point final image.