

Quick answers to common problems

# Gephi Cookbook

Over 90 hands-on recipes to master the art of network analysis and visualization with Gephi

Devangana Khokhar

**[PACKT]** open source\*  
PUBLISHING community experience distilled

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BIRMINGHAM - MUMBAI

# **Gephi Cookbook**

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Let me put on record my sense of gratitude to one and all for directly or indirectly lending their support to this venture.

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I would like to thank my parents, sisters, and friends for their continuous support and help while reviewing this book.

---

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---

I would like to thank the Packt Publishing team for giving me the chance to review this book, and I am pleased that this opportunity came my way. I would also like to thank my professor, Bongsoo Jang, who introduced me to the world of applied mathematics and supported me in all my endeavors. I am also extremely grateful for the support extended by my family and friends, who mean the world to me.

---

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I would like to thank Christina for making me complete on March 14, 2014, and being kind enough to become my wife; I love you.

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# Preface

*Gephi Cookbook* is a guide to learn about interactive network exploration and visualization accompanied by the graph theory concepts that drive them. It helps you to understand about the nuances of network visualization, not only from a conceptual, but also from an implementation perspective. This book is an invaluable resource if you are looking forward to getting a deep-dive into the network analysis domain without having to learn how to code.

## What this book covers

*Chapter 1, Getting Started with Gephi*, will take you through the process of installing Gephi on various platforms. It also gives you an overview of Gephi's GUI and basic understanding of various modes available in it.

*Chapter 2, Basic Graph Manipulations*, teaches you to perform basic graph manipulations such as adding and deleting nodes, editing node attributes, and applying filters on networks by exploiting the user friendly interface of Gephi.

*Chapter 3, Using Graph Layout Algorithms*, explores the basic default layout algorithms available in Gephi from both a conceptual as well as an implementation perspective.

*Chapter 4, Working with Partition and Ranking Algorithms*, will take you through the processes of the ranking and partitioning of graphs based on user-defined metrics and modifying the graph visualization based on various parameters.

*Chapter 5, Running Metrics, Filters, and Timelines*, will enable you to learn about the statistical properties of graphical networks and how they can exploit these properties with the help of Gephi.

*Chapter 6, Working in the Data Laboratory Mode*, thoroughly describes the Data Laboratory mode in Gephi, and explores a number of tasks that can be accomplished with the help of this mode.

*Chapter 7, Getting Graphs and Networks Ready for Preview*, covers the in-built rendering settings of Gephi and the process of exporting the final graph to multiple formats.

*Chapter 8, Exploring Dynamic and Multilevel Graphs*, focuses on two special kinds of graphs, dynamic graphs and multilevel graphs, and describes their working in detail.

*Chapter 9, Getting Real-world Graph Datasets*, explores various networks in Gephi. Also, it describes the art of fetching data from a number of different sources.

*Chapter 10, Exploring Some Useful Gephi Plugins*, describes a number of plugins that are extensively used by researchers and developers while working with Gephi.

## What you need for this book

To run the various recipes in this book, Gephi version 0.8 is required. Unless otherwise mentioned, it is best to have the latest version of this software.

## Who this book is for

If you want to learn network analysis and visualization along with graph concepts from scratch, then this book is for you. This is ideal for those of you with little or no understanding of Gephi and this domain, but will also be beneficial for those interested in expanding their knowledge and experience.

## Sections

In this book, you will find several headings that appear frequently (Getting ready, How to do it, How it works, There's more, and See also).

To give clear instructions on how to complete a recipe, we use these sections as follows:

### Getting ready

This section tells you what to expect in the recipe, and describes how to set up any software or any preliminary settings required for the recipe.

### How to do it...

This section contains the steps required to follow the recipe.

## How it works...

This section usually consists of a detailed explanation of what happened in the previous section.

## There's more...

This section consists of additional information about the recipe in order to make the reader more knowledgeable about the recipe.

## See also

This section provides helpful links to other useful information for the recipe.

## Conventions

In this book, you will find a number of text styles that distinguish between different kinds of information. Here are some examples of these styles and an explanation of their meaning.

Code words in text, database table names, folder names, filenames, file extensions, pathnames, dummy URLs, user input, and Twitter handles are shown as follows: "Open the `gephi.conf` file and, in the default options, change the `-J-Xmx512m` value to `-J-Xmx1024m`."

**New terms** and **important words** are shown in bold. Words that you see on the screen, for example, in menus or dialog boxes, appear in the text like this: "The upper-left corner on the screen has three tabs namely **Overview**, **Data Laboratory**, and **Preview**, which represent the three modes present in Gephi for network manipulation."



Warnings or important notes appear in a box like this.



Tips and tricks appear like this.



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# 1

## Getting Started with Gephi

In this chapter, we will cover the following recipes:

- ▶ Installing Gephi
- ▶ Troubleshooting the Gephi installation
- ▶ Exploring Gephi's graphical user interface
- ▶ The basics of working in the Overview mode
- ▶ The basics of working in the Data Laboratory mode
- ▶ The basics of working in the Preview mode

### Introduction

Gephi is an interactive graph and network analysis and visualization tool that allows its users to study the properties of graphs and networks in detail, without having to write any code. Gephi supports almost all types of graphical networks including complex networks, hierarchical networks, dynamic networks, and temporal networks. Gephi has a lot of ready-to-use features that allow users to create stunning and informative visualizations. Graph analysis is one of the preliminary steps in the process of studying graphical systems and Gephi aids in that process by freeing the user from requiring knowledge of programming.

Gephi was developed in Java and, hence, is a cross-platform application, which means it can work on Windows, Linux, and Mac OS X. This chapter will take you through the step-by-step process involved in installing Gephi on different platforms. We will also discuss troubleshooting that might be required during the installation process.

This chapter also gives you an overview of Gephi's **graphical user interface (GUI)** and a basic understanding of various modes available in it.

## Installing Gephi

This recipe discusses the minimum system configurations required in order to install Gephi and the installation process for different platforms.

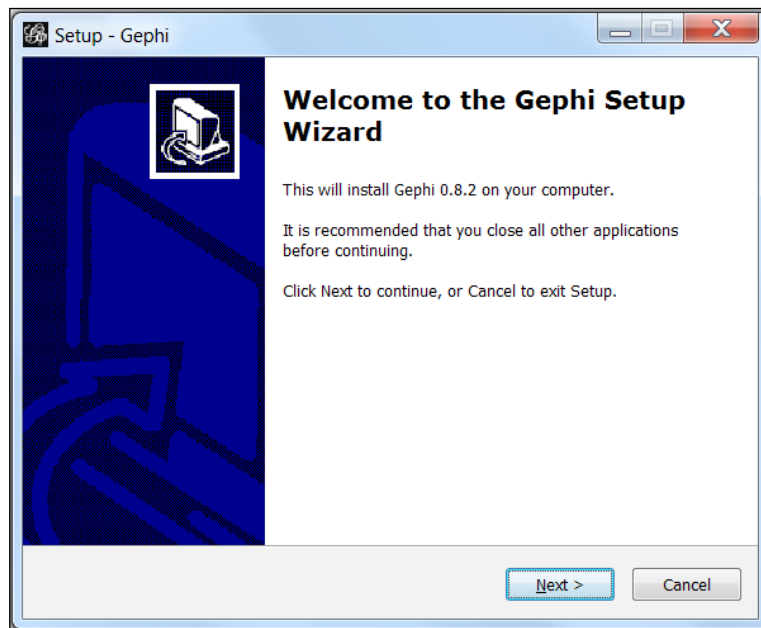
### Getting ready

Gephi, being a network analysis and visualization tool, requires a compatible graphics card to be installed on your system. It uses a built-in OpenGL engine for fast processing when dealing with very large networks. Hence, it requires OpenGL 1.2 installed on your system. Gephi also requires Java 6 or later. Make sure you have these two programs installed on your system before you go ahead with the installation process.

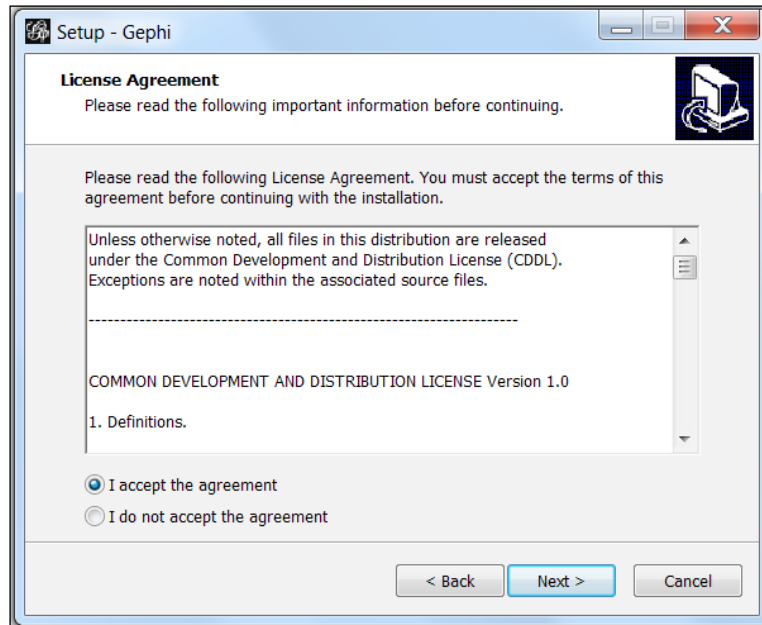
### How to do it...

Follow these steps to install Gephi on Windows:

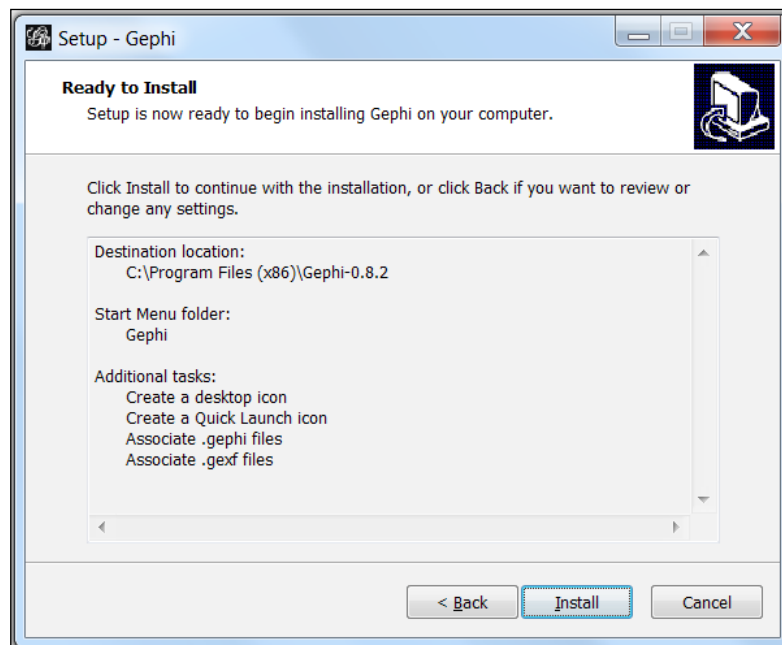
1. Download the Gephi installer from the official website: <https://gephi.github.io>.
2. Run the installer and hit **Next**:



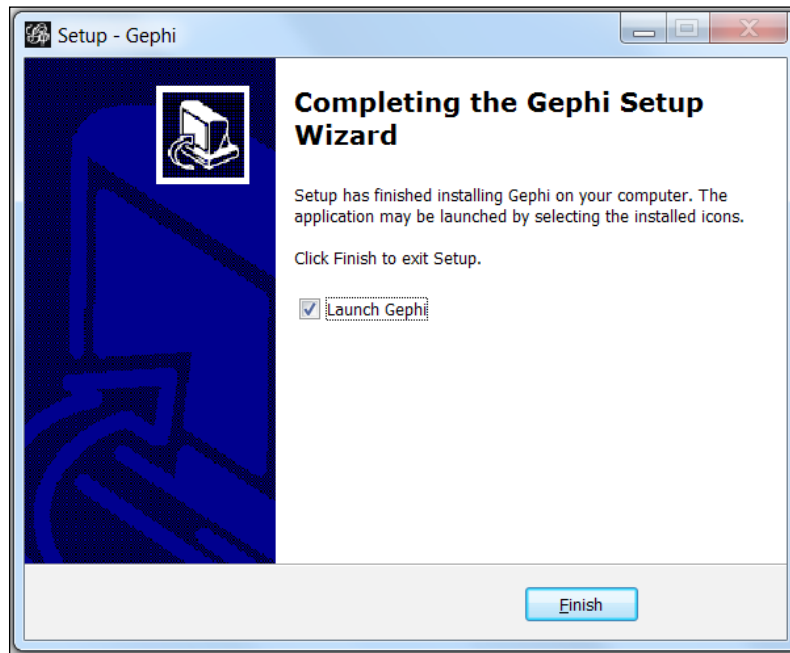
3. Accept the license agreement and hit **Next**:



4. Keep clicking on the **Next** button until you reach the following screen. Click on **Install**:



5. The installation will begin and once it's over, the following screen is displayed. Hit **Finish** to complete the setup:



To install Gephi on a Linux machine, follow these steps:

1. From Gephi's official website (<https://gephi.github.io>), download the TAR installer file.
2. Once the download has finished, untar the file and run Gephi by executing `./bin/gephi`.
3. Ubuntu users can make use of the daily build, available from Launchpad. First, run `sudo apt-add-repository ppa:rockclimb/gephi-daily` to your software sources.
4. Then, run `sudo apt-get update`, followed by `sudo apt-get install gephi`, in order to install Gephi on your box.

The installation process for Mac OS X is pretty simple and straightforward:

1. From Gephi's official website (<https://gephi.github.io>), download the installer.
2. Once the download has finished, double-click on the DMG file to run the installer.
3. Once the installation has finished, a new window will open. Double-click on the Gephi icon to run the application.

## There's more...

As mentioned earlier, Gephi is a cross-platform tool and works on many more platforms than the ones described in this recipe. If the graphs on which you are going to work are very large, then a 64-bit version of Gephi will have to be installed if you are also using a 64-bit machine.

One might face some issues while installing Gephi, most of which are related to memory management in Java. To learn about fixing some of the most common ones, refer to the next recipe, *Troubleshooting the Gephi installation*.

## See also

- ▶ <https://gephi.github.io/users/install/> for documentation on installing Gephi on other platforms

## Troubleshooting the Gephi installation

While installing Gephi, there are a couple of problems that users encounter quite frequently, most of which are related to memory-specific requirements. Some of these issues are discussed in this recipe, along with the fixes that one can employ to resolve them.

## How to do it...

If you encounter any memory- or JVM-related issues, try following these steps to check if the issue can be resolved:

1. If you are using Java 8, try downgrading to Java 7 and check whether the problem is resolved.
2. If you are using the latest version of Gephi, uninstall it and install an older version. If these two fixes do not resolve the problem, then you might need to do operating system-specific fixes, as listed in the following points:
  - For Windows systems, go to the Gephi folder in Program Files in C:\ and then go to the etc folder. Open the `gephi.conf` file in Notepad. In the default options, change the `-J-Xmx512m` value to `-J-Xmx1024m`. This changes the maximum heap size allocated to Java to 1,024 MB. If you are using a 64-bit machine, the `gephi.conf` file will be located in the Gephi folder in C:\Program Files(x86).



- ❑ For Linux systems, go to the `etc` folder in the Gephi application directory and open the `gephi.conf` file. Change the `-J-Xmx512m` value to `-J-Xmx1024m` to change the maximum heap size allocated to Java to 1,024 MB.
- ❑ For Mac OS X systems, go to **Show Package Contents** by right-clicking on the Gephi icon in the Applications folder. Inside the Contents folder, go to the `Resources/Gephi/etc` folder. Open the `gephi.conf` file and, in the default options, change the `-J-Xmx512m` value to `-J-Xmx1024m`. This changes the maximum heap size allocated to Java to 1,024 MB.



Unable to save the modified `gephi.conf` file? Open your text editor in administrator mode, navigate to the folder where the file is located, open the file, and then make the changes. Finally, hit **Save** to save the changes.

## How it works...

**Java Virtual Machine (JVM)** is an abstract computing machine, otherwise known as a virtual machine. A virtual machine emulates a part of the computing system. JVM executes a Java program compiled into Java bytecode. Since Gephi runs on JVM, its functioning depends on the memory allocated in the system for Java. If very little memory has been allocated to Java, it won't have enough resources to load all the data and, hence, the application won't start. On the other hand, if too much memory has been allocated to Java, then the system won't let Java start and will throw the "JVM Creation failed" message.

## See also

- [http://docs.oracle.com/cd/E13150\\_01/jrockit\\_jvm/jrockit/geninfo/diagnos/garbage\\_collect.html](http://docs.oracle.com/cd/E13150_01/jrockit_jvm/jrockit/geninfo/diagnos/garbage_collect.html) to understand more about memory management in Java

## Exploring Gephi's graphical user interface

Gephi offers a very user-friendly GUI to users, making it very easy for novices to explore and manipulate networks with just a few clicks of the mouse.

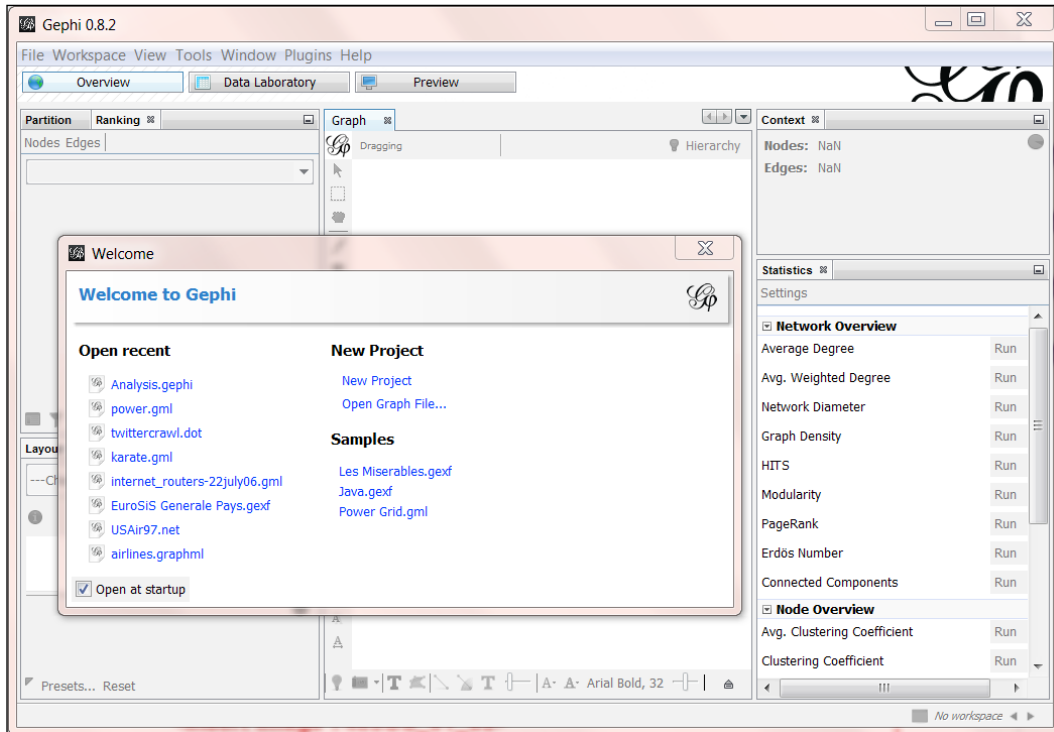
## Getting ready

This recipe describes some of the main GUI components of Gephi and gives the user an overview of what can be achieved. For this, you need to make sure that you have Gephi installed on your system.

## How to do it...

To explore Gephi's GUI, perform the following steps:

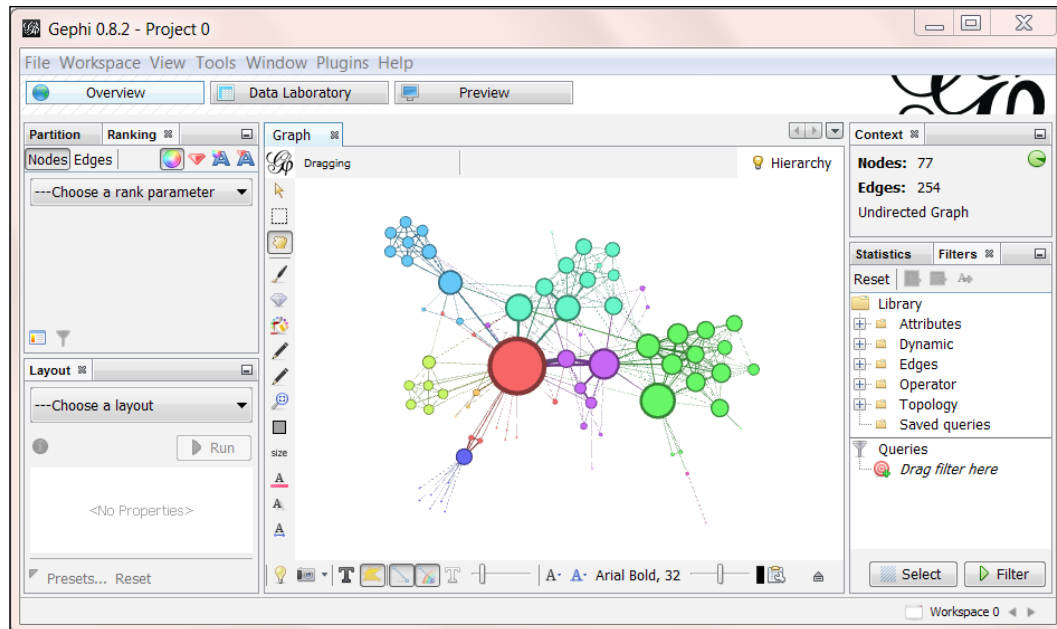
1. Run Gephi on your system. You'll be welcomed with a small screen, as shown in the following screenshot, that asks you to choose between loading a preexisting sample and creating a new project:



2. If it is your first time with Gephi, click on **Les Miserables.gexf** to load an existing network that was designed using the property of concurrence between the characters from the famous novel *Les Misérables* by Victor Hugo.

3. You will notice a prompt titled **Import report** asking you to set the properties for the graph. Just leave the pre-specified selections as they are and hit **OK** to load the graph.

The following screenshot shows the first screen you will see once the graph has been loaded:



4. To reposition the graph on the screen, place the mouse pointer somewhere on the **Graph** panel situated in the center of the screen and, while holding the right mouse button, move around to the location you want the graph to be centered at.

There are two ways in which the graph can be zoomed-in and zoomed-out:

- ▶ Rotate the mouse wheel upwards to zoom-in and downwards to zoom-out with the mouse pointer located somewhere in the graph window.
- ▶ Click on the upward-pointing arrow on the right-bottom corner of the graph window to expand the **Settings** panel. Click on the **Global** tab and use the zoom slider to zoom-in and zoom-out on the graph.

## How it works...

Gephi has a pretty simple and user-friendly GUI. The upper-left corner on the screen has three tabs namely **Overview**, **Data Laboratory**, and **Preview**, which represent the three modes present in Gephi for network manipulation. You can customize which panels appear in the application by selecting/deselecting specific panels from the **Window** option in the menu bar.

## The basics of working in the Overview mode

This recipe will take you through the basics of various functionalities available in Gephi's Overview mode.

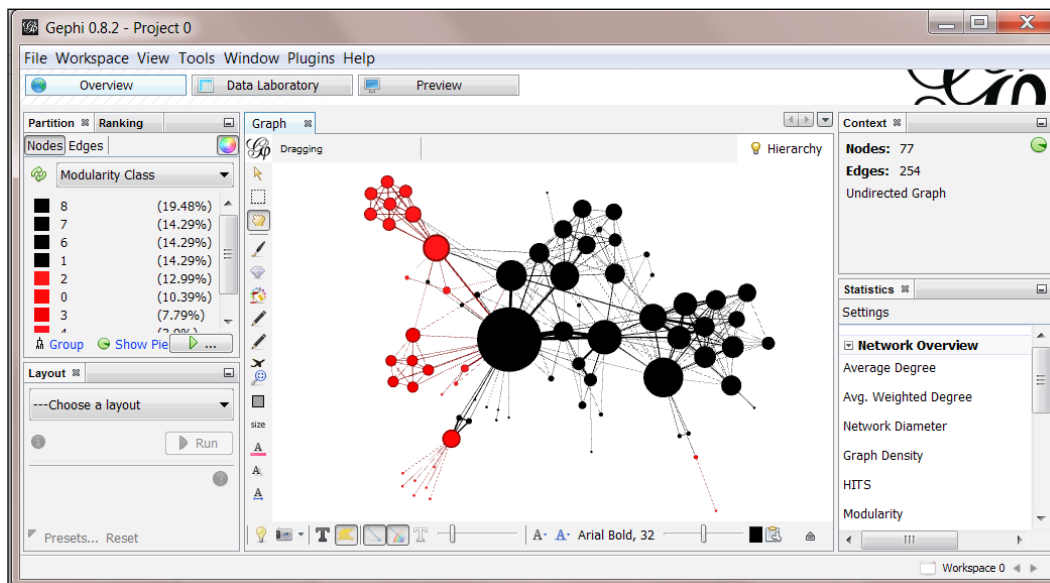
### Getting ready

Run Gephi and load a preexisting network. The first screen that you see is the **Overview** mode, which is otherwise called the Graph Manipulation mode in Gephi. If you already have Gephi running, clicking on the **Overview** tab in the upper-left corner of the screen will take you to this mode.

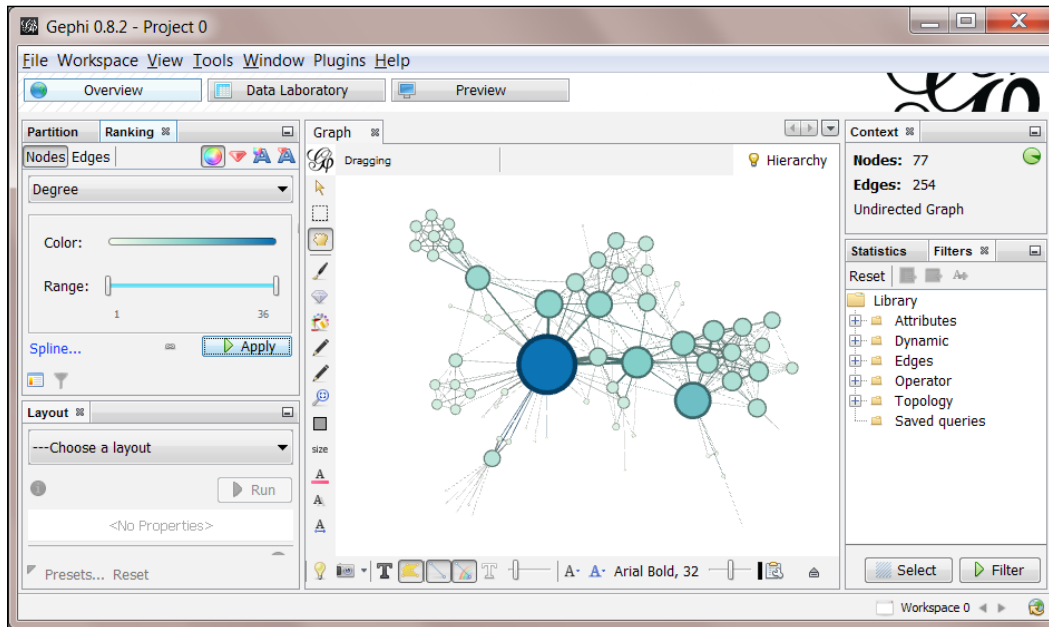
### How to do it...

When in **Overview** mode, you'll be able to perform a wide variety of manipulations on the graphs. These are categorized under the following subsections in the **Overview** mode, each located in a different part of the **Overview** screen:

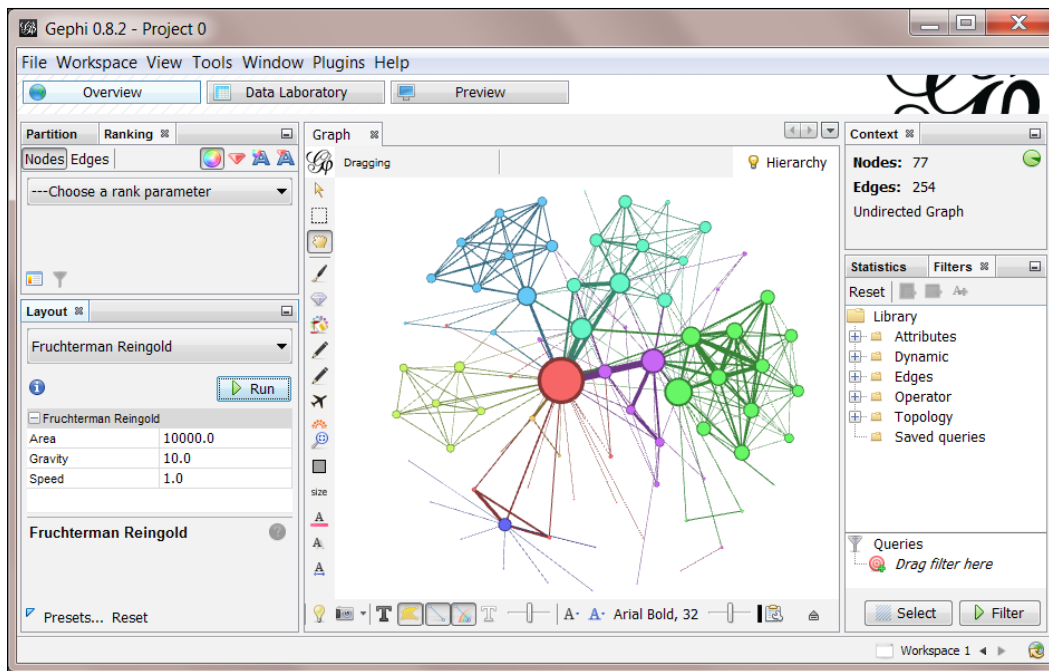
- **Partition:** This module lets you partition the graph into smaller components based on various node- and edge-specific properties, which are called **partitioning parameters**. One such example of partitioning parameters provided by Gephi is **Modularity Class**. The following screenshot shows the graph obtained after partitioning the Les Misérables graph on the basis of **Modularity Class** and then recoloring it:



- **Ranking:** This module lets you rank the nodes of the graph based on various criteria such as degree, modularity class, edge weight, and so on. The following screenshot shows the Les Misérables network after its nodes have been ranked, according to their degrees:



- **Layout:** In this module, one can obtain different visualizations of the same graph by using numerous graph layout algorithms that are provided in Gephi. Some of the most popularly used graph layout algorithms used in Gephi are Force Atlas, Fruchterman Reingold, and Yifan Hu. One such example is shown in the following screenshot, in which the Fruchterman Reingold layout algorithm has been applied to the Les Misérables graph:



- ▶ **Graph:** In this panel, you'll find a list of basic tools that you can use to perform basic manipulations on the graph such as resizing individual nodes, coloring components of the graph, coloring individual nodes, and modifying node labels. If you do not see this panel on your screen, click on **Window** in the menu bar and select **Graph** from there.
- ▶ **Context:** This part of the **Overview** screen gives information about the basic properties of the graph such as the number of edges, the number of nodes, and the type of graph.