

# Reflektionen zur Nutzung einer GeoVis-Bibliothek in der Lehre

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DGfK Nachwuchswissenschaftlerworkshop 2015

FHP:-) KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT  
LEUVEN

**RQ: How to support different stakeholders to create tempo-spatial data visualizations?**

# Support constructing geovis

- Increasing need to design visualizations as the demand for “rapid visual data exploration” as well as for “engaging communication through custom visualizations” grows [Grammel et al. 2013]
- Ease the development of interactive maps and geovisualizations.
- Support beginners, designers, and researchers

Microsoft Excel interface showing a data table with columns: departure country, long. departure (decimal), lat. departure (decimal), arrival airport, arrival city.

| departure country | long. departure (decimal) | lat. departure (decimal) | arrival airport     | arrival city   |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Russia            | 61.838                    | 55.509                   | Domododevo          | Moscow         |
| Russia            | 61.838                    | 55.509                   | Kazan               | Kazan          |
| Russia            | 61.838                    | 55.509                   | Tolmachevo          | Novosibirsk    |
| Russia            | 38.51                     | 55.681                   | Balandino           | Chelyabinsk    |
| Russia            | 38.51                     | 55.681                   | Khrabrovo           | Kaliningrad    |
| Russia            | 38.51                     | 55.681                   | Kazan               | Kazan          |
| Russia            | 38.51                     | 55.681                   | Beaufort Mcas       | Beaufort       |
| Russia            | 38.51                     | 55.681                   | Penza Airport       | Penza          |
| Russia            | 38.51                     | 55.681                   | Bugulma Airport     | Bugulma        |
| Azerbaijan        | 50.077                    | 40.779                   | Beaufort Mcas       | Beaufort       |
| Russia            | 20.987                    | 55.483                   | Domododevo          | Moscow         |
| Russia            | 49.464                    | 56.01                    | Balandino           | Chelyabinsk    |
| Russia            | 49.464                    | 56.01                    | Domododevo          | Moscow         |
| Russia            | 49.464                    | 56.01                    | Pulkovo             | St. Petersburg |
| Russia            | 49.464                    | 56.01                    | Franz Josef Strauss | Munich         |
| Russia            | 49.464                    | 56.01                    | Bugulma Airport     | Bugulma        |
| Russia            | 30.437                    | 60.333                   | Kazan               | Kazan          |
| Russia            | 30.437                    | 60.333                   | Beaufort Mcas       | Beaufort       |
| Russia            | 30.437                    | 60.333                   | Bugulma Airport     | Bugulma        |
| Germany           | 12.31                     | 48.589                   | Kazan               | Kazan          |
| United States     | -80.539                   | 32.795                   | Domododevo          | Moscow         |
| United States     | -80.539                   | 32.795                   | Heydar Aliyev       | Moscow         |
| United States     | -80.539                   | 32.795                   | Pulkovo             | Moscow         |
| Russia            | 76.806                    | 61.582                   | Bugulma Airport     | Bugulma        |
| Russia            | 83.084                    | 55.021                   | Balandino           | Chelyabinsk    |
| Russia            | 45.095                    | 53.184                   | Domododevo          | Moscow         |
| Russia            | 53.336                    | 55.066                   | Domododevo          | Moscow         |
| Russia            | 53.336                    | 55.066                   | Kazan               | Kazan          |



SimpleMapApp | Processing 2.1

```

SimpleMapApp
+ An application with a basic interactive map. You can zoom and pan the map.
+

import de.fhpotdam.unfolding.*;
import de.fhpotdam.unfolding.geo.*;
import de.fhpotdam.unfolding.utils.*;

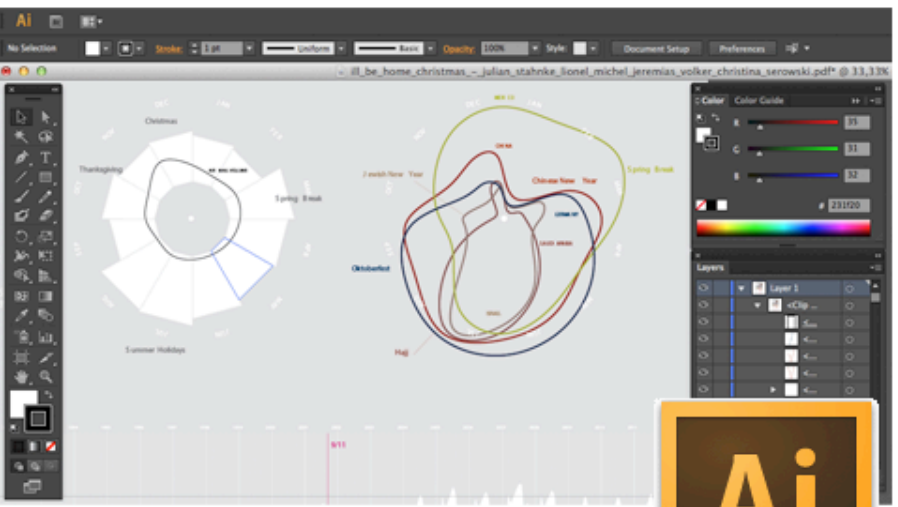
UnfoldingMap map;

void setup() {
  size(600, 600, P2D);

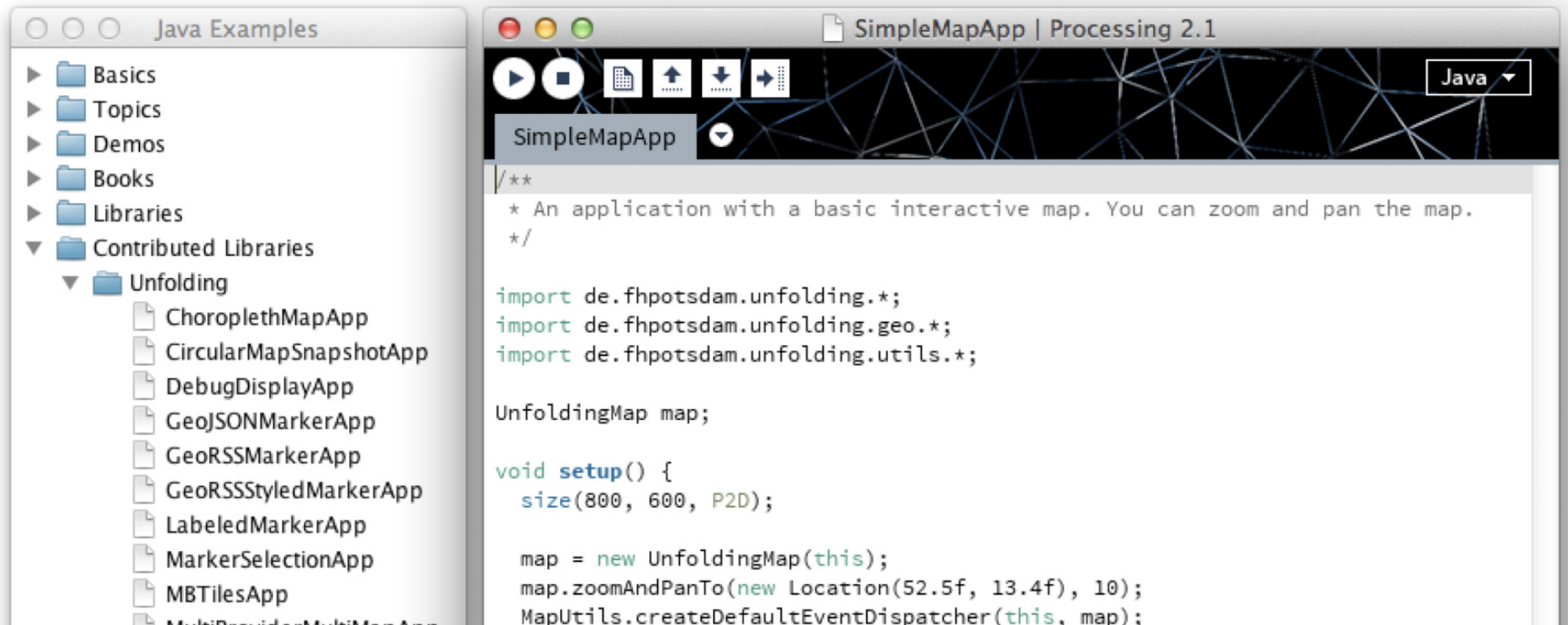
  map = new UnfoldingMap(this);
  map.zoomAndPanTo(new Location(52.5f, 13.4f), 18);
  MapUtils.createDefaultEventDispatcher(this, map);
}

void draw() {
  map.draw();
}

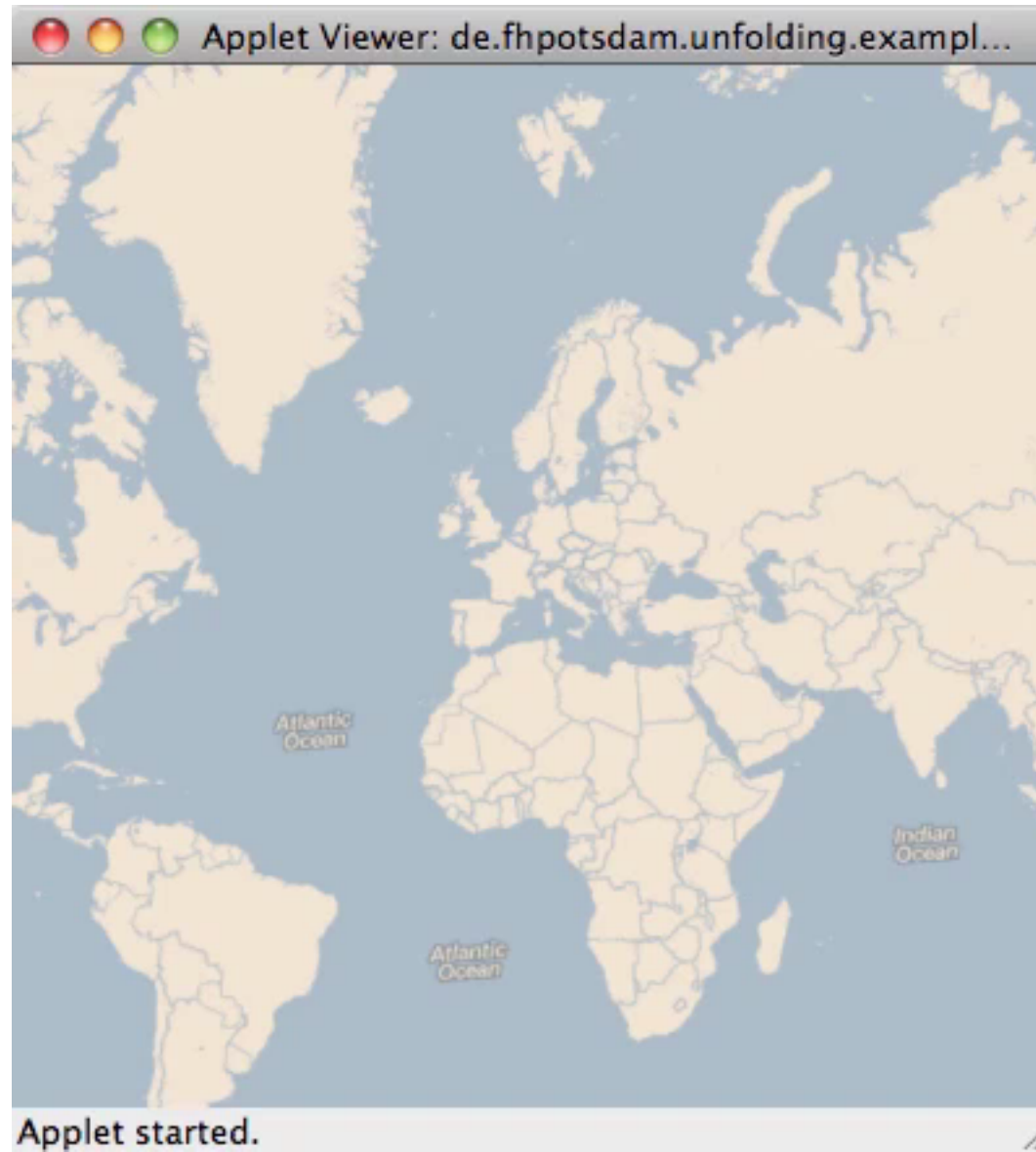
```



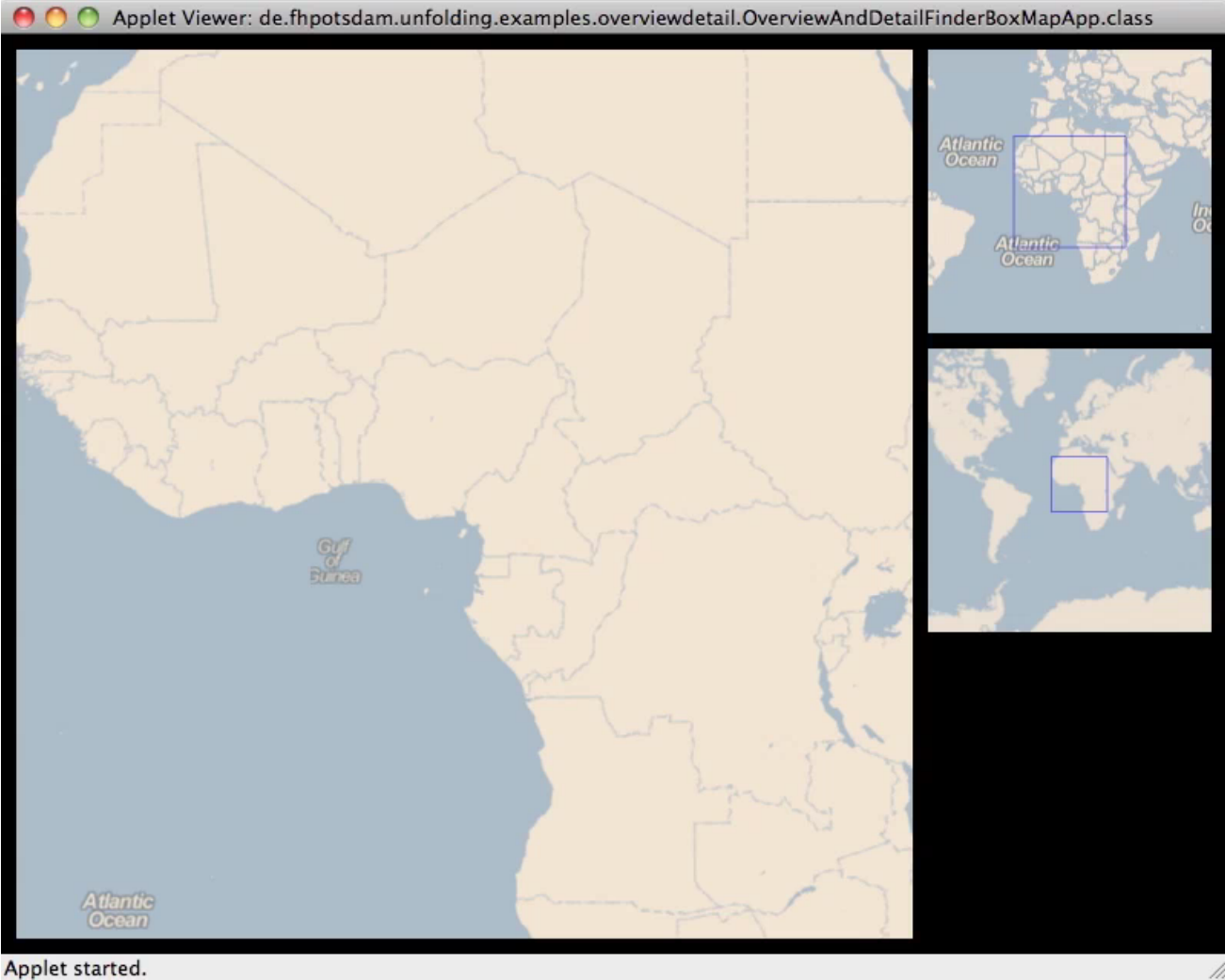
# Software library



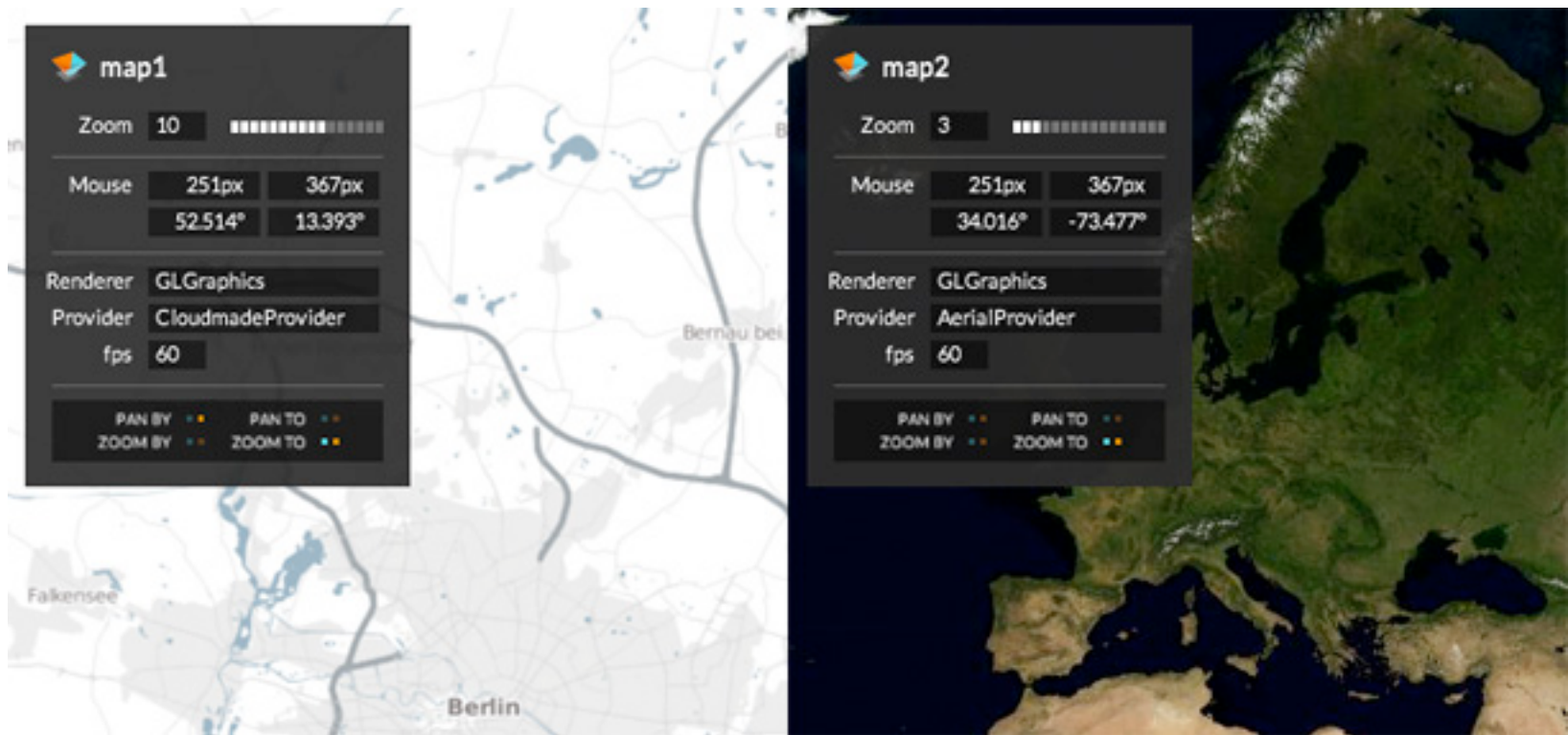
# Multitouch interactions



# Coordinated Multiple Views



# Event system





# Supports various data formats



My bike rides in Berlin, summer 2012  
Tracked on smart phone as GPX files

# Supports various data formats

- GeoRSS
- GeoJSON
- GPX
- GTFS
- ...

See tutorials for other formats such as KML, Shapefile, CSV

Unfolding is a library to create interactive maps and geovisualizations in Processing and Java



## Download

[FOR PROCESSING 2](#)[FOR ECLIPSE](#)

Or download [more packages](#) with examples, the jar only, versions for Processing 1.5, etc.

## Getting Started

Its really easy to make your own interactive maps using Unfolding. Check out these [tutorials](#) to kick-start your application.

[START IN PROCESSING](#)[START IN ECLIPSE](#)

## Features

### Interaction Events

Unfolding enables you to quickly create interactive maps. Basic interactions such as

### Data Visualization

Simply create geo-positioned markers to display data on a map. The visual style can be

## How to use Unfolding

Prerequisite: You already have installed Unfolding for your programming environment. (Otherwise, do it now: [Unfolding for Processing](#) or [Unfolding for Eclipse](#).)

Let's begin with our basic Unfolding sketch.

```
1 UnfoldingMap map;
2
3 void setup() {
4   size(800, 600, GLConstants.GL_RGBA);
5   map = new UnfoldingMap(this);
6   MapUtils.createDefaultEventDispatcher(this, map);
7 }
8
9 void draw() {
10  map.draw();
11 }
```

## Geolocations and screen positions

You can easily convert a screen position to a location, and vice versa. As an example, let's display the geo-position of the mouse pointer.



Here, we get the Location of the map at the current mouse position, and show its latitude and longitude as black text.

```
1 void draw() {
2   map.draw();
3   Location location = map.getLocation(mouseX, mouseY);
4   fill(0);
5   text(location.getLatitude() + ", " + location.getLongitude(), mouseX, mouseY);
6 }
```

## Map styles

Unfolding displays maps in a default style, with cartographic data from OpenStreetMaps and tiles from Cloudmade. To use another map style, simply specify it as second parameter when constructing an UnfoldingMap.

```
1 map = new UnfoldingMap(this, new Microsoft.AerialProvider());
```

(Don't forget importing `de.fhps.tdcm.unfolding.providers.*`)

This way, you can easily switch to one of the pre-configured map tile providers. To see the different map styles, go to the [MapProvider & Tiles tutorial](#). There you'll also find how to create your own map provider, and even how to create a completely new map style.



Keep in mind you need to check the terms and conditions of the map providers on how you are allowed to use their map tiles. We are providing the example providers for educational purposes, only.

## Zooming and panning the map

By creating the default event dispatcher (as shown above), users already can interact with your map. They can pan the map by dragging it with the mouse, or by using the arrow keys on the keyboard. Using the mouse wheel zooms in or out, which also works by pressing = or - keys. Double-clicking on the map centers it around that location, and zooms in one level.

Now, let's say you want to focus your visualization on a city. Manually set the location and zoom level in the setup() method.

```
1 map.zoomInPlace(new Location(52.5f, 13.4f), 10);
```

Here, we pan to Berlin and zoom to a level users can see the whole city area.

You might want to restrict the map interactions, for instance because you only have data for a specific area. For that, we create a Location for the city, and use it to center the map (as before), but we are using that Location also as center for the panning restriction.

```
1 Location berlinLocation = new Location(52.5f, 13.4f);
2 map.panningRestriction(berlinLocation, 10);
```

## Markers

Markers are used to highlight specific locations on a map. They can be styled and interacted with.

Displaying markers on a map is very straightforward. Just create a marker with a location and add it to the map once. Here, for instance, we are creating two point markers, one for Berlin and one for Dublin.

```
1 Location berlinLocation = new Location(52.5, 13.4);
2 Location dublinLocation = new Location(53.35, -9.26);
3
4 // Create point markers for locations
5 SimplePointMarker berlinMarker = new SimplePointMarker(berlinLocation);
6 SimplePointMarker dublinMarker = new SimplePointMarker(dublinLocation);
7
8 // Add markers to the map
9 map.addMarkers(berlinMarker, dublinMarker);
```

They will be drawn automatically on top of the map, always at the correct position.



Unfolding provides a default marker style, and has point, line, and polygon markers out of the box.

## Style your markers

All default markers provide some very basic styling methods, e.g. to set stroke and fill colors.

```
1 // Adapt style
2 berlinMarker.setColor(color(255, 0, 0, 100));
3 berlinMarker.setStrokeColor(color(255, 0, 0));
4 berlinMarker.setStrokeWeight(4);
```

For more sophisticated marker customization or for creating data glyphs, there are two options:

- Drawing it yourself
- Creating own marker class (advanced)

The easiest method to create a custom style is to draw the marker yourself instead of adding it to the map.



For this you need to make the marker global, i.e. define the variable first in your sketch (here: line 2), then assign a new marker in setup (line 1). In draw() get the current position of the marker (line 19), and draw some visual representation with Processing's drawing functions (lines 20-23).

```
1 UnfoldingMap map;
2 SimplePointMarker berlinMarker;
3
4 void setup() {
5   size(800, 600, GLConstants.GL_RGBA);
6   map = new UnfoldingMap(this);
7   MapUtils.createDefaultEventDispatcher(this, map);
8   Location berlinLocation = new Location(52.5, 13.4);
9   berlinMarker = new SimplePointMarker(berlinLocation);
10
11 // Do not add marker to the map
12
13 }
14
15 void draw() {
16  map.draw();
17  ScreenPosition berlinPos = berlinMarker.getScreenPosition(map);
18  strokeWeight(16);
19  stroke(0, 255, 255, 100);
20  fill(0);
21  ellipse(berlinPos.x, berlinPos.y, 36, 36);
22 }
23
24 // marker.getScreenPosition(map) returns the current x,y-position of the marker on the map.
25 // The method converts the geo-location to that marker to the current ScreenPosition on the canvas of the sketch.
```

marker.getScreenPosition(map) returns the current x,y-position of the marker on the map. The method converts the geo-location to that marker to the current ScreenPosition on the canvas of the sketch.

Now, you can style your markers in any way you want. In the following example we draw the marker as two arcs with a text label.



## Markers & Data 2 - Other data sources

Loading and displaying geospatial data from CSV, databases, etc.

### Combine geo-spatial data with other data sources

When you have data from multiple sources, you need to load and combine them via some ID or other unique value in both data sets.

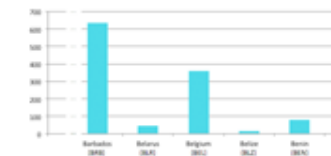
As an example, let's combine geometry data with population density data. The country shapes are loaded from a GeoJSON file via a data reader, while the population density values come from an external CSV file.

The GeoJSON includes:



```
1 [{"type": "Feature", "id": "BEL", "properties": {"name": "Belgium"}, "geometry": {"type": "Polygon",
```

The CSV file includes:



```
1 Belgium.BEL; 359.8454795
```

(Note the BEL for Belgium as ID in GeoJSON and as second value in the CSV. This is the three-letter country code.)

First, we load all country polygons as markers (line 9), and all data from the CSV into a hashmap with country codes as keys (line 14).

```
1 ListMarkers countryMarkers;
2 HashMap<String, DataEntry> dataEntryMap;
3
4 void setup() {
5   size(800, 600, GLConstants.GL_RGBA);
6   map = new UnfoldingMap(this);
7
8   // Load country polygons and add them as markers
9   ListFeatures countries = GeoJSONReader.loadData(this, "countries.geo.json");
10  countryMarkers = MapUtils.createSimpleMarkers(countries);
11  map.addMarkers(countryMarkers);
12
13  // Load population data
14  dataEntryMap = loadPopulationDensityFromCSV("population-density.csv");
15 }
```

In order to find matching population values for each country, we use the country code existing in both files to lookup a CSV value for the current marker (lines 3-4 below)

```
1 for (Marker marker : countryMarkers) {
2   // Find data for country of the current marker
3   String countryId = marker.getId();
4   DataEntry dataEntry = dataEntryMap.get(countryId);
5
6   // Encode value to transparency (value range: 0-255)
7   float alpha = map(dataEntry.value, 0, 700, 0, 255);
8   marker.setColor(color(255, 0, 0, alpha));
9 }
```

This example visualizes population density of the world as a choropleth map. Countries are shaded in proportion to the population density. The data value is encoded to transparency via a simplistic linear mapping (line 7 above).



# Task Areas

- **Learning**  
Learn to display geo-spatial data.
- **Prototyping**  
Try out new ideas in the design process.
- **Creating**  
Design projects for audience use or evaluation.

# Hello World, literally

```
UnfoldingMap map = new UnfoldingMap(this);  
map.draw();
```

# Explore data sets

```
public void setup() {
    size(1200, 700, GLConstants.GLGRAPHICS);
    // Data Utils (simple example for CSV files)
    DataUtils dataUtils = new DataUtils(this);
    trips = dataUtils.loadAllTrips();

    // Map: Creates interactive map, and centers around Berlin
    map = new UnfoldingMap(this);
    map.zoomAndPanTo(new Location(52.55, 13.4f), 11);
    MapUtils.createMouseEvent();

    // UI: Creates time range slider
    timeRangeSlider = new TimeRangeSlider(
        new DateTime(2015, 1, 1),
        new DateTime(2015, 1, 16),
        100);

}

public void draw() {
    map.draw();

    // Shows all vehicles
    for (Trip trip : trips)
        for (StopTime stopTime : trip.stopTimes)
            if (stopTime.time.isAfter(currentStartDateTime) && stopTime.time.isBefore(currentEndDateTime)) {
                ScreenPosition pos = map.getScreenPosition(stopTime.stop.location);
                ellipse(pos.x, pos.y, 6, 6);
            }
    }

    timeRangeSlider.draw();
}
```



```
// Data: Loads time table from GTFS files
DataUtils dataUtils = new DataUtils(this);
trips = dataUtils.loadAllTrips();
```

```
List<Trip> trips;

UnfoldingMap map;

TimeRangeSlider timeRangeSlider;
DateTime startTime;
DateTime endTime;

public void setup() {
    size(1200, 700, GLConstants.GLGRAPHICS);

    // Data: Loads time table from GTFS files
    DataUtils dataUtils = new DataUtils(this);
    trips = dataUtils.loadAllTrips();

    // Map: Creates interactive map, and centers around Berlin
    map = new UnfoldingMap(this);
    map.zoomAndPanTo(new Location(52.5f, 13.4f), ZOOM_LEVEL_CITY);
    MapUtils.createMouseEventDispatcher(this, map);

    // UI: Creates time range slider (4am until midnight)
    timeRangeSlider = new TimeRangeSlider(this, 200, 740, 300, 16,
        new DateTime(2011, 12, 10, 4, 0, 0),
        new DateTime(2011, 12, 10, 23, 59, 0), 60);
}

public void draw() {
    map.draw();

    // Shows all vehicles of all trips at current time
    for (Trip trip : trips) {
        for (StopTime stopTime : trip.stopTimes) {
            DateTime time = stopTime.time;
            if (time.isAfter(startTime) && time.isBefore(endTime)) {
                Location location = stopTime.stop.location;
                ScreenPosition pos = map.getScreenPosition(location);
                ellipse(pos.x, pos.y, 6, 6);
            }
        }
    }

    timeRangeSlider.draw();
}
```



```
// Map: Creates interactive map, and centers around Berlin
map = new UnfoldingMap(this);
map.zoomAndPanTo(new Location(52.5f, 13.4f), ZOOM_LEVEL_CITY);
MapUtils.createMouseEventDispatcher(this, map);
```

```
List<Trip> trips;

UnfoldingMap map;

TimeRangeSlider timeRangeSlider;
DateTime startTime;
DateTime endTime;

public void setup() {
    size(1200, 700, GLConstants.GLGRAPHICS);

    // Data: Loads time table from GTFS files
    DataUtils dataUtils = new DataUtils(this);
    trips = dataUtils.loadAllTrips();

    // Map: Creates interactive map, and centers around Berlin
    map = new UnfoldingMap(this);
    map.zoomAndPanTo(new Location(52.5f, 13.4f), ZOOM_LEVEL_CITY);
    MapUtils.createMouseEventDispatcher(this, map);

    // UI: Creates time range slider (4am until midnight)
    timeRangeSlider = new TimeRangeSlider(this, 200, 740, 300, 16,
        new DateTime(2011, 12, 10, 4, 0, 0),
        new DateTime(2011, 12, 10, 23, 59, 0), 60);
}

public void draw() {
    map.draw();

    // Shows all vehicles of all trips at current time
    for (Trip trip : trips) {
        for (StopTime stopTime : trip.stopTimes) {
            DateTime time = stopTime.time;
            if (time.isAfter(startTime) && time.isBefore(endTime)) {
                Location location = stopTime.stop.location;
                ScreenPosition pos = map.getScreenPosition(location);
                ellipse(pos.x, pos.y, 6, 6);
            }
        }
    }

    timeRangeSlider.draw();
}
```

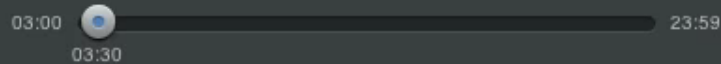
```
if (time.isAfter(startTime) && time.isBefore(endTime)) {  
    Location location = stopTime.stop.location;  
    ScreenPosition pos = map.getScreenPosition(location);  
    ellipse(pos.x, pos.y, 6, 6);  
}
```

```
List<Trip> trips;  
  
UnfoldingMap map;  
  
TimeRangeSlider timeRangeSlider;  
DateTime startTime;  
DateTime endTime;  
  
public void setup() {  
    size(1200, 700, GLConstants.GLGRAPHICS);  
  
    // Data: Loads time table from GTFS files  
    DataUtils dataUtils = new DataUtils(this);  
    trips = dataUtils.loadAllTrips();  
  
    // Map: Creates interactive map, and centers around Berlin  
    map = new UnfoldingMap(this);  
    map.zoomAndPanTo(new Location(52.5f, 13.4f), ZOOM_LEVEL_CITY);  
    MapUtils.createMouseEventDispatcher(this, map);  
  
    // UI: Creates time range slider (4am until midnight)  
    timeRangeSlider = new TimeRangeSlider(this, 200, 740, 300, 16,  
        new DateTime(2011, 12, 10, 4, 0, 0),  
        new DateTime(2011, 12, 10, 23, 59, 0), 60);  
}  
  
public void draw() {  
    map.draw();  
  
    // Shows all vehicles of all trips at current time  
    for (Trip trip : trips) {  
        for (StopTime stopTime : trip.stopTimes) {  
            DateTime time = stopTime.time;  
            if (time.isAfter(startTime) && time.isBefore(endTime)) {  
                Location location = stopTime.stop.location;  
                ScreenPosition pos = map.getScreenPosition(location);  
                ellipse(pos.x, pos.y, 6, 6);  
            }  
        }  
    }  
  
    timeRangeSlider.draw();  
}
```

03:30:00



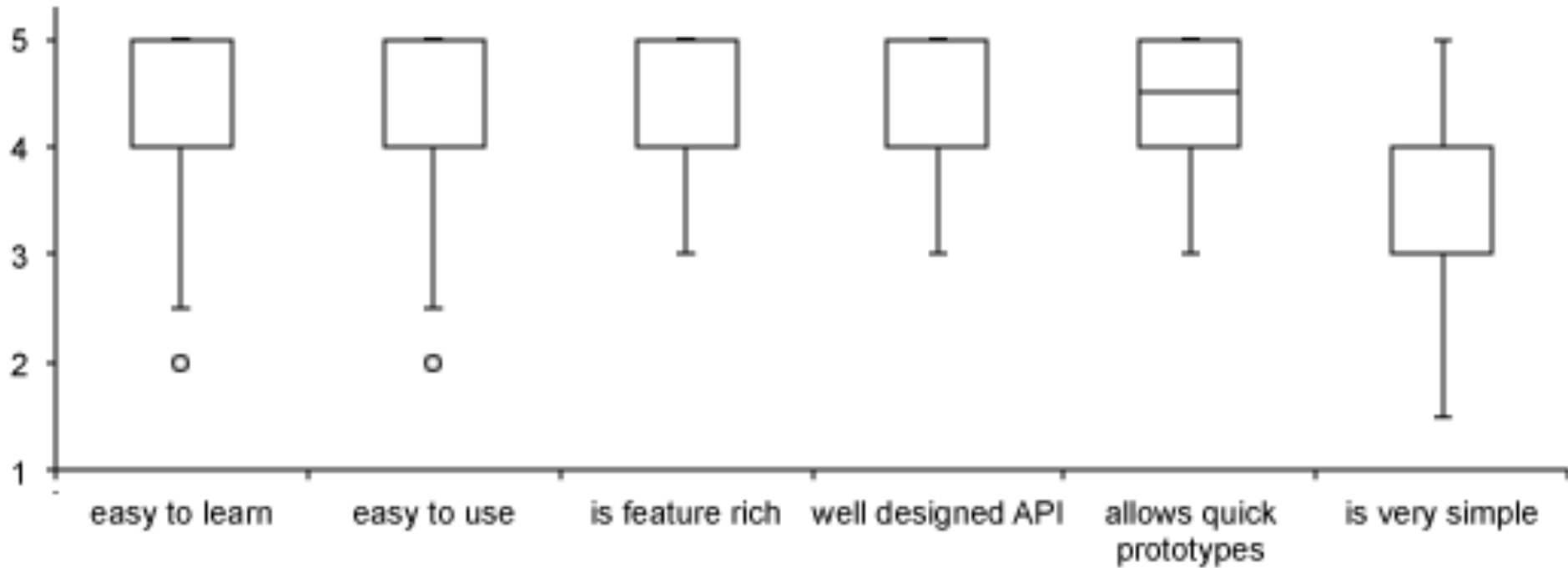
- U-Bahn
- S-Bahn
- MetroBus
- Regio
- Farben
- Trails
- Karte



# User Survey

- Online questionnaire
- 37 participants
- Based on ISO to evaluate software & SUS
  
- Asked about
  - Expertise
  - Projects & Features
  - Satisfaction

# Satisfaction with Unfolding



See details in chapter

# User Survey Results

- Satisfied with basic features, e.g. displaying maps (97%), enabling zoom + pan (91%), etc.
- Fewer satisfied with more advanced features, e.g. loading geo-spatial data (54%)
- Satisfied with examples (62%) and tutorials (53%)

# User Survey Results

- Satisfied with Unfolding (91%)
- Achieved what they planned in project (81%)
- Plan to use Unfolding in the future (88%)

# Impact



# Unfolding Software Library

| <i>Downloads</i> |   | <i>Version</i> | <i>Months</i> |     |
|------------------|---|----------------|---------------|-----|
| 3,000            | × | 0.8            | 08/11–08/12   | 250 |
| 6,000            | × | 0.9            | 09/12–07/13   | 545 |
| 6,100            | × | 0.9.3          | 08/13–06/14   | 554 |
| <u>2,200</u>     | × | 0.9.5          | 07/14–10/14   | 550 |
| <b>17,300</b>    |   |                |               |     |

Source: Github, Google Code,  
Amazon S3, Google Analytics.  
Rounded to the next hundred.

# Citations: Unfolding

**Unfolding - A Library for Interactive Maps**  
**5 citations total**

# Citations: Unfolding

**Unfolding - A Library for Interactive Maps**

**5 citations total**

**<http://unfoldingmaps.org>**

**17 citations total**

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**Unfolding - A Library for Interactive Maps**

**5 citations total**

**<http://unfoldingmaps.org>**

**17 citations total**

**Website: 53,700 visitors**

**Presentations: 42,000 views**

**Used in university courses at**

**FHP, KUL, IUAV, RCA, HMS, ...**

**MIT, UCLA, CMU, NYU, ITP, HfK, Cambridge, ...**

# Major tool in MOOC

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# Unfolding Software Library

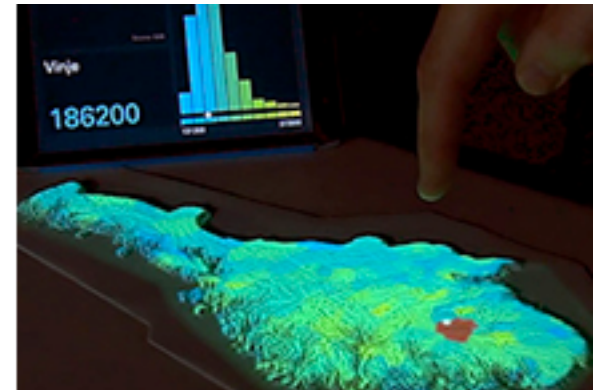
**“the true measure of the toolkit’s value lies in the creation [...] of successful visualizations by others”**

**Bostock, M., Heer, J. Protovis: A graphical toolkit for visualization. IEEE TVCG 15 (6), 2009, pp. 1121–1128.**

# Unfolding Software Library

“the true measure of the toolkit’s value lies in the creation [...] of successful visualizations by others”

Bostock, M., Heer, J. Protovis: A graphical toolkit for visualization. IEEE TVCG 15 (6), 2009, pp. 1121–1128.





Visualizing 2014: A look at the year's major events and trends through [#dataviz](#) [invent.ge/13AOTTs](#)





🕒 03:00

📅 2014/07/08  
Tuesday

Car2go  
DriveNow  
Multicity

Booked cars

1km 0

2014 World Cup Brazil

🇧🇷 KICK-OFF 22:00 🇩🇪

**civity** Management  
Consultants

visualized by MAPPABLE.INFO

# Contributions

- Supports a diverse set of users, and eases developing visualizations of geo-referenced data.
- An effective means to create state-of-the-art geovisualizations.

# Fragen

# Fragen

- Welche Werkzeuge setzt ihr in der Lehre ein?
- Was sind eure Erfahrungen mit der Veröffentlichung von Bibliotheken?
- Wie lange unterstützt man ein OpenSource-Projekt?
- Sinnvoll, verschiedene Nutzergruppen zu unterstützen?
- Dokumentation vs Beispiele?

**Vielen Dank.**

**Dr. Till Nagel**

**DGfK Nachwuchswissenschaftlerworkshop 2015**