

**ICEST 2022****III International Conference on Economic and Social Trends for Sustainability of Modern Society****BUILDING AND ANALYSING A SKILLS GRAPH USING DATA  
FROM JOB PORTALS**

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**Abstract**

In this paper, the authors consider the process of building and analyzing a skills graph based on vacancies data from the job search portal. The connection between vacancies and skills is identified and formalized as labor market and employers' requirements to employee's qualification in the intellectual educational ecosystem model. The authors describe the collector program which can fetch vacancies data from job search sites with an example of site HeadHunter. Jupyter Notebook interactive notebooks and different Python-based libraries, such as Pandas and Numpy, are used for data processing. As a result, a skills graph is built and stored in the neo4j graph database platform. With the help of the Gephi application, the next properties of this graph are determined: degree distribution, the eigenvector centrality, closeness centrality, betweenness centrality, PageRank coefficient, and modularity. The graph is drawn using the ForceAtlas2 layout algorithm. The modularity coefficient for the vertices is used to find the main clusters of skills. The number of such skills clusters is almost the same as the count of specialties on the example job search portal. It results in the ability to determine specialty skillsets and interspecialty skills using vacancies data from job search sites.

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## 1. Introduction

Every year, universities produce a large number of trained personnel for various professions (Abramov et al., 2021). After graduation, many people have a question about finding a suitable job for their level of skills. There is a difficulty in obtaining knowledge about the current requirements and essentials of the labor market.

A mandatory requirement for high-level educational programs is to orient students to obtain professional functions from the professional standards. Such standards usually refer to the education standard in this domain. Employment centers and online services specializing in job search can also become sources of information about professional skills, requirements, and working functions (Glebova et al., 2021).

Today many information resources can help find a suitable vacancy for any person following his professional skills. Among such information resources available on the Internet, online services are the most popular way to find a job (Glebova et al., 2021). In Russian Federation, the most popular job search sites are "Superjob.ru" (2021), "HeadHunter.ru (hh.ru)" (2021) and the state portal "TrudVsem" (2021), which also aggregates information from employment centers (Glebova et al., 2021).

## 2. Problem Statement

Analyzing the vacancies presented on these information portals, we can conclude that vacancies may have the following properties that are relevant to the applicant, in particular:

- Skills requirements
- Vacancy region
- Minimum salary
- Maximum salary
- Publication date
- Employer's rating etc

The applicants' CVs also contain a description of professional skills, as well as, if specified, the desired salary, word region, and other parameters, according to data from job portal TrudVsem (2021).

A skill-based approach is one of the key research area in modern days. Intellectual educational ecosystem uses this approach to build vacancies recommendations for user based on user skills.

Skills are usually logically connected to each other and can be clustered based on their logical connections. Those clusters can be used to find related skills and new skills to learn. Those clusters may have intersections, since many skills are part of many specialities.

While it is possible to define skills and connections between skills in some speciality, in modern world, new skills are inventioned every day. And first place where new skills are becoming required are vacancies. Employers and companies wants to use the latest technologies to increase their revenue, so employee's with new skills in their skillset are very relevant for them. Building and analysing skills clusters and graph in automated way can help employers and employees to find each other.

### 3. Research Questions

This article raises up next research questions:

- i. Is it possible to automate gathering information about vacancies from job portals?
- ii. How can be this information used to build a skills graph?
- iii. Can we analyze a skills graph to find out clusters of connected skills using graph analysis methods? Are those clusters related to specializations?

### 4. Purpose of the Study

This study had four purposes:

- i. to examine the possible gathering vacancies data from the job search portals,
- ii. to explore ways to build a skills graph using gathered data,
- iii. to analyse a skills graph and its main properties and metrics
- iv. to analyse clusters of connected skills on the graph and examine their relationship with specialities.

### 5. Research Methods

The minimum unit for describing the requirements of the labor market, according to Obolenskii and Shevchenko (2020) is a vacancy. Let's specify the set of vacancies as  $V$ .

Each specialty  $sp$  can have a set of vacancies related to it. Let's mark this binary relation as a function  $VSP$  (1):

$$\forall sp \in SP \ VSP(sp): sp \rightarrow V'' : V'' \subseteq V, \quad (1)$$

where  $SP$  – specialties set,  $V$  – vacancies set.

Each vacancy  $v$  can be assigned to some set of skills. Let's define this binary relation using multivalued function  $SV$  (2):

$$\forall v \in V \ SV(v): v \rightarrow S'' : S'' \subseteq S, \quad (2)$$

where  $S$  – skills set,  $V$  – vacancies set.

It can be noticed that the set of skills  $SV(v)$  for some vacancy  $v$  may include a variety of skills, including those that do not relate to the chosen specialty  $sp$ .

We can assume that skills in  $SV(v)$  are logically connected. Then it is possible to form a fully connected graph of vacancy skills  $K(v)$ , where vertices will represent competencies in a given vacancy, and the edges will represent logical connections between those skills.

Then, for a given set of vacancies  $V$ , it is possible to form a set of skills graphs  $K$  (3):

$$K = \{K(v) \mid v \in V\} \quad (3)$$

where  $V$  – vacancies set.

The set of skills graphs  $K$  can be combined into a single competence graph  $K'$ . This graph can be built based on job vacancy data from job search portals. Let's use the social network model (Kolomeichenko et al., 2019) to analyze such a graph.

The social network model (Kolomeichenko et al., 2019) is a structure with a set of agents and a set of relationships defined on it (a set of connections between agents, for example, dating, friendship, cooperation, communication). Various methods can be used to analyze social network graphs (Aggarwal, 2011; Batura, 2012; Borgatti et al., 2013; Clauset et al., 2004; Palla et al., 2005), which make it possible to identify the structures of the graph of the interaction of subjects, for example, algorithms for identifying communities and clusters. To build such model and skills graph  $K'$  we need to be able to fetch vacancy data from job search portals.

### 5.1. Fetching Vacancy Data from Job Search Sites

To fetch job data from the job search portal, using HeadHunter as an example, we will use the API provided by this site. Figure 1 shows the main page of this job portal.

One can use HeadHunter's (2021) API to get information about job seekers and vacancies. It's also possible to leverage HeadHunter functionality to create applications.

The HeadHunter (2021) API has the following features:

All API works via HTTPS protocol

Authorization is performed via OAuth 2 protocol

All data is available only in JSON format

Base URL — <https://api.hh.ru/>

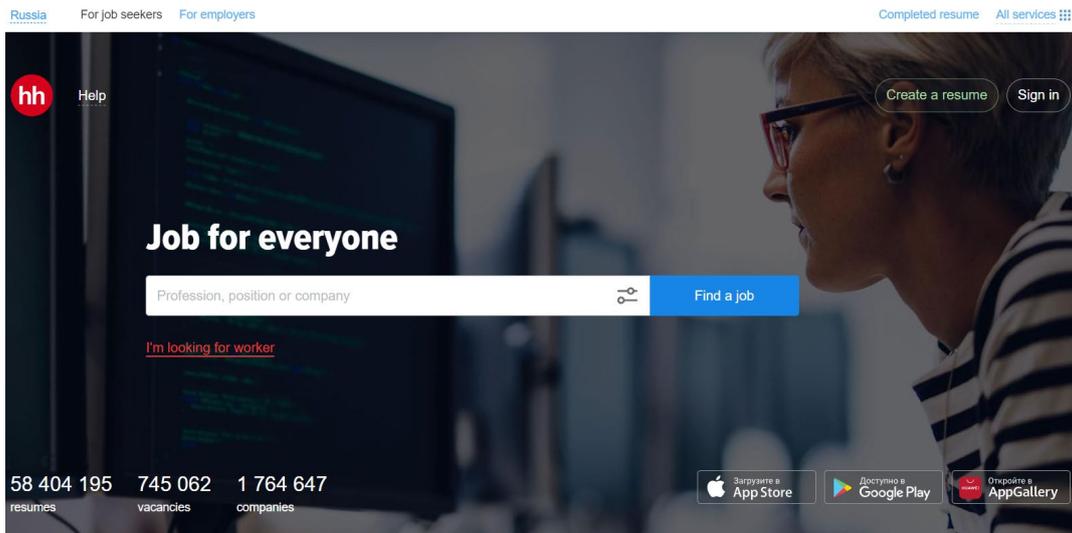
API supports paginated output

The maximum number of objects per page is 100.

The maximum number of returned objects from all the pages is 2000. To get more information from this resource, one should refine the query, for example, by specifying the region or other search parameters.

As a mechanism for collecting data, a C# collector program was implemented, which automatically receives information from this Internet resource, processes it, and saves it as a CSV file. The flowchart of the assembler program is shown in Figure 2, 3. The list of APIs used is shown in Table 1.

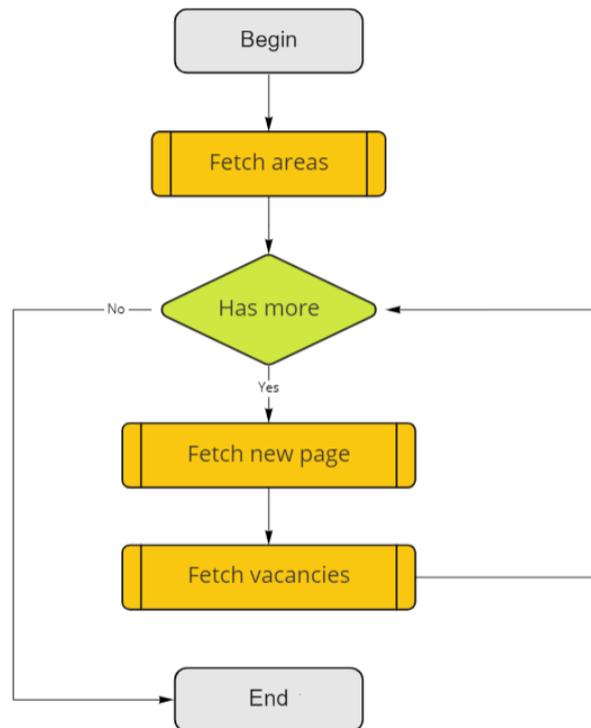
After the program's execution, it generates a file in a CSV format. This format is suitable for importing into other systems and is often used in data science. An example of the result of the work is shown in Figure 3. The structure of the CSV file is shown in Table 2.



**Figure 1.** HeadHunter main page

**Table 1.** List of used HeadHunter APIs

URL	Description	Parameters
/areas	Get all regions	–
/vacancies?area&page&per_page	Get vacancies	area – region id or name page – number of page to fetch per_page – amount of items on the page
/vacancies/{id}	Get single vacancy	id – vacancy id



**Figure 2.** Diagram of fetching process

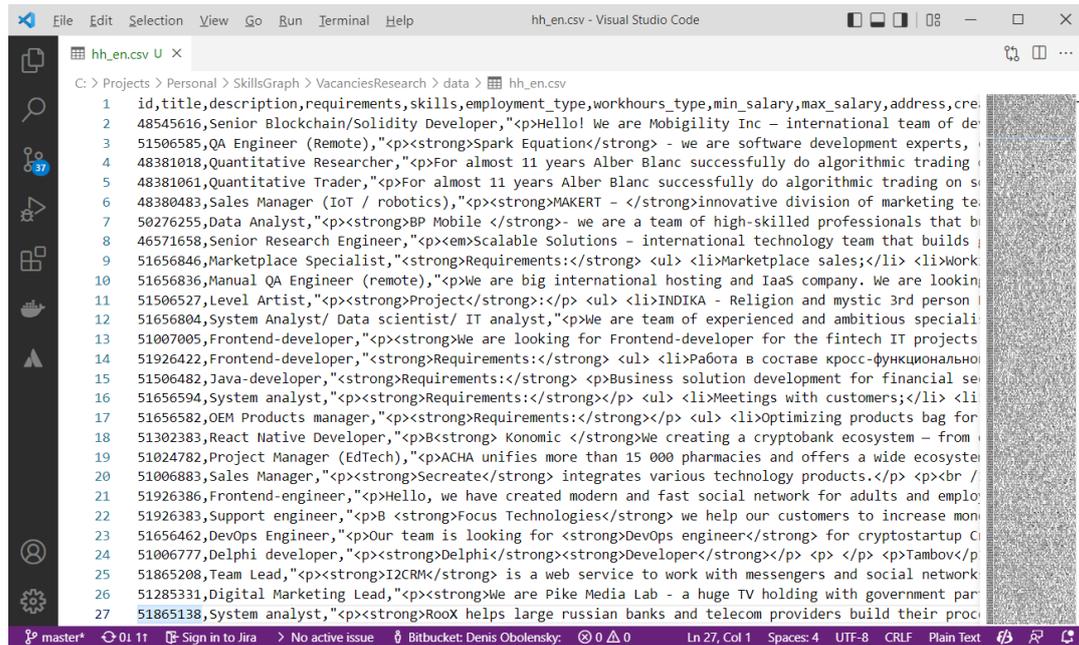


Figure 3. A CSV-file example

Table 2. CSV-file structure

Field	Type	Description
id	string	Unique identifier
title	string	Vacancy title
description	string	Vacancy description
requirements	string	Requirements for candidate
skills	list of strings	Required skills
employment_type	string	Employment type
workhours_type	string	Workhours type
min_salary	number (not required)	Minimal salary in rubles
max_salary	number (not required)	Maximum salary in rubles
address	string	Address
speciality	string	Speciality name
created_date	datetime	Creation date
published_date	datetime	Publication date
updated_date	datetime	Update date
is_deleted	boolean	Is vacancy closed

Using a separate CSV file with the structure above allows us to add support for new job search portals in the future without changing other intelligent educational ecosystem software modules.

As a result of the collector program's execution, it created a CSV file containing data on 130964 vacancies. Let's consider how to process these vacancies.

## 5.2. Data Processing

To build a skills graph based on vacancies data, the following steps should be performed:

1. Process input data and convert a row with a list of requirements into a set of skills
2. Define a list of skills and remove duplicates. Those skills will become vertices of the skills graph  $K'$
3. Define connections between skills, create edges for graph  $K'$  and remove duplicates
4. Persist graph data in a graph database platform
5. Export graph into the file in a format suitable for further analysis, for example, GraphML

As graph storage, the *neo4j* graph database (Neo4J, 2021) can be used. It is an open-source graph database management system implemented in Java. As of 2021, it is considered the most common graph DBMS (Neo4J, 2021). An example of the interface of this DBMS is shown in Figure 4.

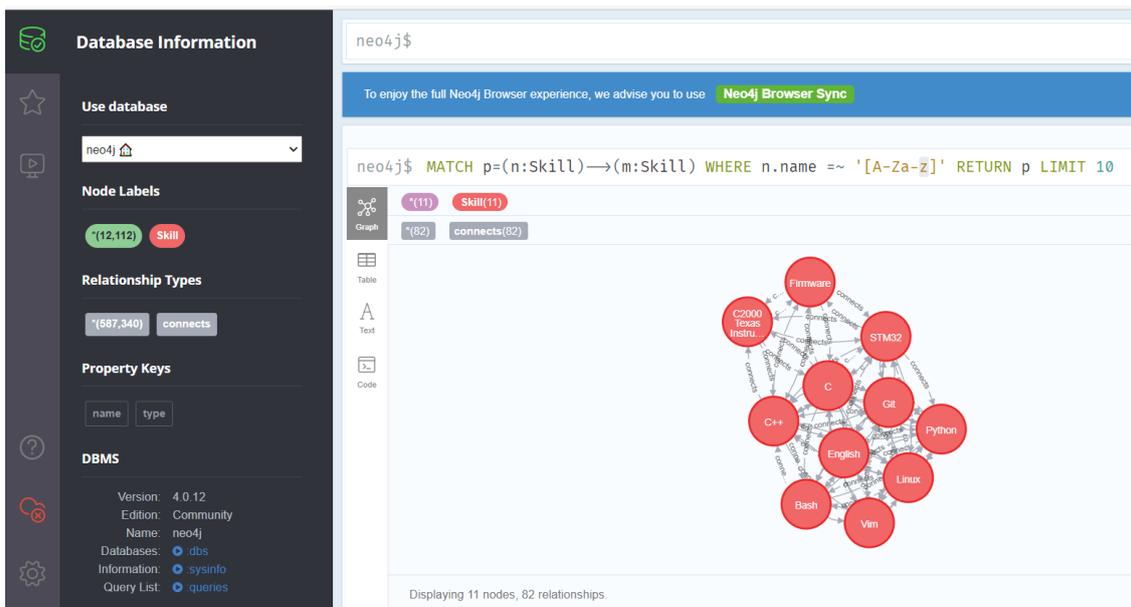


Figure 4. Neo4j user interface

*Python* was used to process vacancies data. A lot of popular data science tools and libraries, such as *Jupyter Notebook* interactive notebooks, *Numpy*, *Pandas*, and *Py2Neo*, were also used.

Loading data into an interactive notebook using *Pandas* dataframes is shown in Figure 5.

```
In [1]: import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import requests

from tqdm import tqdm
tqdm.pandas()
```

```
In [2]: df = pd.read_csv("../data/hh.csv")
```

```
In [3]: df = df.sample(frac=1).reset_index(drop=True)
```

```
In [4]: df.head()
```

Out[4]:

	id	title	description	requirements	skills	employment_type	workhours_type	min_salary	max_salary	address	crea
0	44301859	Store Manager (Dmitrovsk)	<p><strong>For everyone, who wants to try his...	NaN	NaN	Full-time	NaN	23000.0	33600.0	Orlovskaya oblast	20
1	51643008	Salesman	<p><strong><em>Road payments company...	NaN	Communications;Cash operations	Full-time	NaN	45000.0	54000.0	Moscowskaya oblast	20
2	50603046	Barman	<p><em>«Altai Palace» is a shopping...	NaN	NaN	Full-time	NaN	20000.0	NaN	Altai Republic	20
3	51134274	Foundry worker	<p><strong>Huge facility on the North...	NaN	NaN	Full-time	NaN	77000.0	82000.0	Orenburgskaya oblast	20
4	49951035	Auditor	<p>Company &quot;Business Cities&quot; is a well...	NaN	Financial control;Cost management;Purchases...	Full-time	NaN	35000.0	NaN	Republic Mordovia	20

Figure 5. Loading data into a dataframe

In Figure 6, one can see how string data transforms into a list of skills.

```
In [6]: df['skills'].isnull().any()
```

Out[6]: True

```
In [7]: df['skills'] = df['skills'].fillna('')
```

```
In [8]: df['title'] = df['title'].astype('str')
```

```
In [9]: df['id'] = df['id'].astype('str')
```

```
In [10]: df['skills_parsed'] = df['skills'].progress_apply(lambda x: x.split(';'))
```

100% | 130964/130964 [00:00<00:00, 671557.12it/s]

```
In [11]: df['skills_parsed'] = df['skills_parsed'].progress_apply(lambda x: list(filter(lambda s: s.isspace() == False or s=='', x)))
```

100% | 130964/130964 [00:00<00:00, 432160.53it/s]

Figure 6. Transforming string data into the list of strings

To determine a list of unique skills that will act as the vertices of the graph, for each vacancy, we transform a list of vacancy skills into a set, and then combine the resulting sets (Figure 7):

```
In [12]: all_skills = set()
```

```
In [13]: skills = [set(s) for s in df['skills_parsed']]
```

```
In [14]: for skill_list in tqdm(skills):
all_skills = all_skills.union(skill_list)
```

100% | 130964/130964 [00:20<00:00, 6495.24it/s]

```
In [15]: all_skills = set(filter(lambda s: s!= '', all_skills))
```

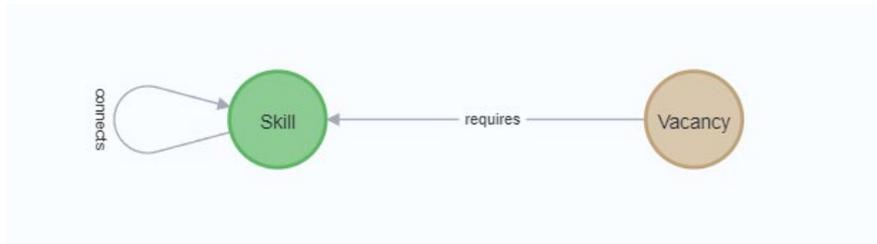
```
In [16]: len(all_skills)
```

Out[16]: 12112

Figure 7. Unique skills set calculation



Vacancies vertices and their connections can be persisted in the same way. A graph will be built automatically in neo4j as long as vertices and edges are given. An example of the structure of the resulting graph is shown in Figure 11.



**Figure 11.** Graph database structure

The neo4j DBMS also can export data to various formats, such as CSV, JSON, GraphML. Figure 12 shows an example of a query to the neo4j DBMS in the Cypher language (Neo4J, 2021) which exports the entire graph to the specified file.

```
In [32]: graph.run("CALL apoc.export.graphml.all(\"skills.graphml\", {})")
Out[32]:
```

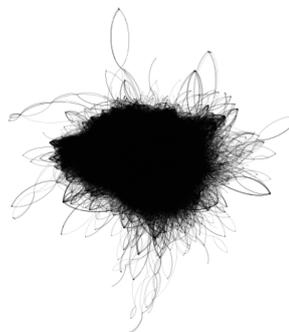
file	source	format	nodes	relationships	properties	time	rows	batchSize	batches	done	data	
skills.graphml	database	nodes(12112), rels(587340)	graphml	12112	587340	24224	2255	599452	-1	0	true	null

**Figure 12.** Exporting the whole graph into GraphML file

GraphML format helps with the subsequent visualization and analysis of the graph in specialized software, for example, Gephi.

### 5.3. Building and Analysis of the Skills Graph

Let's use the Gephi (2021) application to visualize the created graph. Visualization of the graph is shown in Figure 13. The main properties of the graph are presented in Table 3.



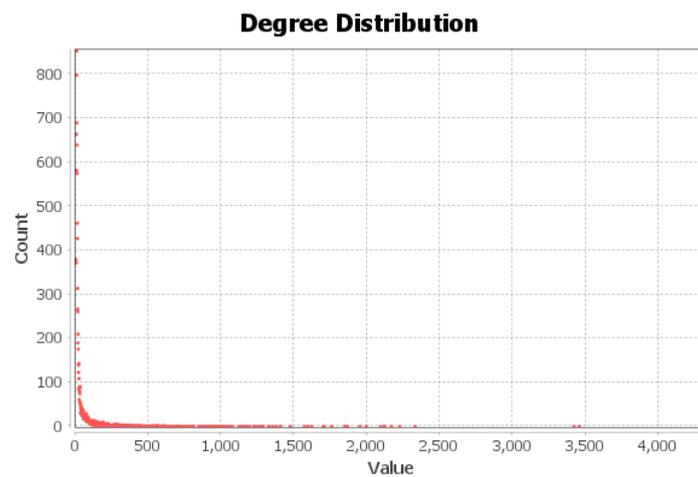
**Figure 13.** Graph built using imported data from GraphML file

**Table 3.** Skills graph properties

Property name	Value
Vertices	12112
Edges	293670
Type of graph	Undirected
Average degree	48.492
Dense	0.004
Diameter	7
Average path length	2.7136
Modularity	0.332
Clusters	566

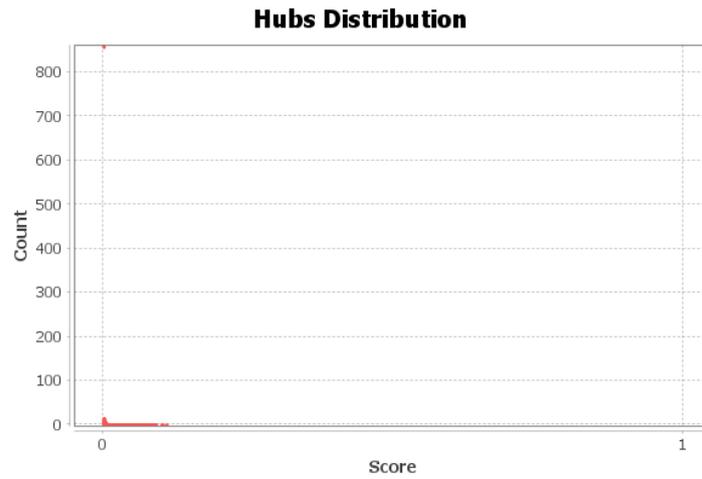
## 6. Findings

Vertices degree distribution, a metric described by Kleinberg (1999) is shown on Figure 14.

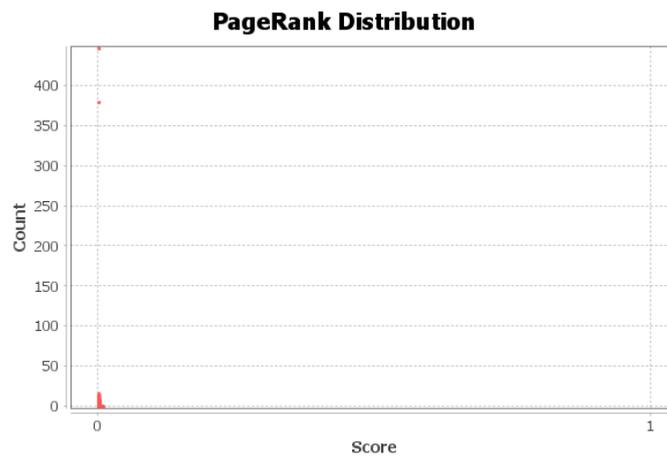


**Figure 14.** Degree distribution

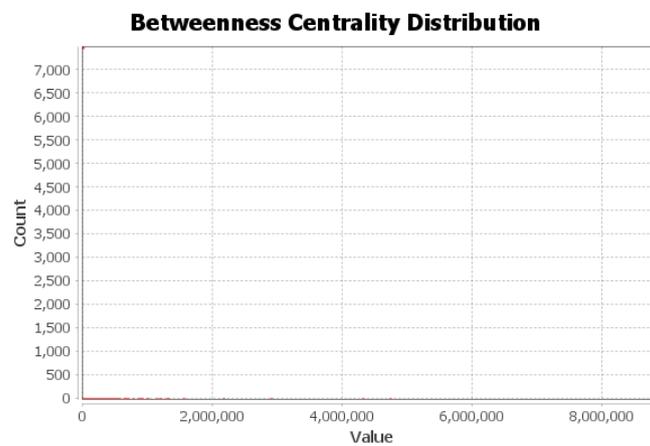
Hubs distribution, another widespread graph metric according to Kleinberg (1999) and Tarjan (1972) is shown in Figure 15. Figure 16 shows PageRank coefficient distribution. PageRank metric was first described by Brin and Page (1998). Figures 17-20 show distributions for Betweenness Centrality, Closeness Centrality, Harmonic Closeness centrality and Eccentricity (Brandes, 2001).



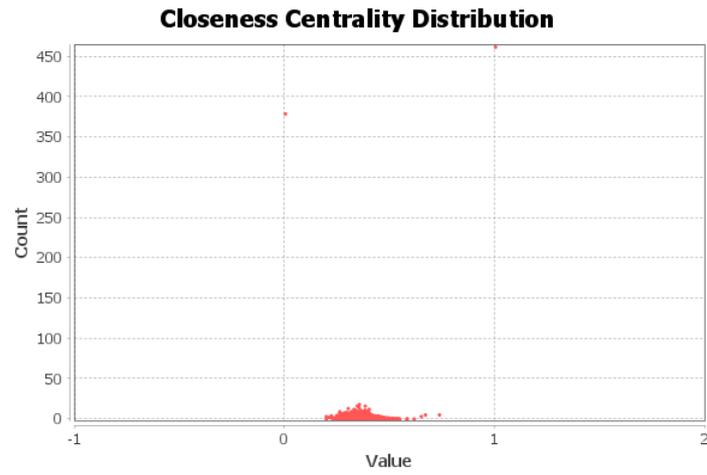
**Figure 15.** Hubs distribution



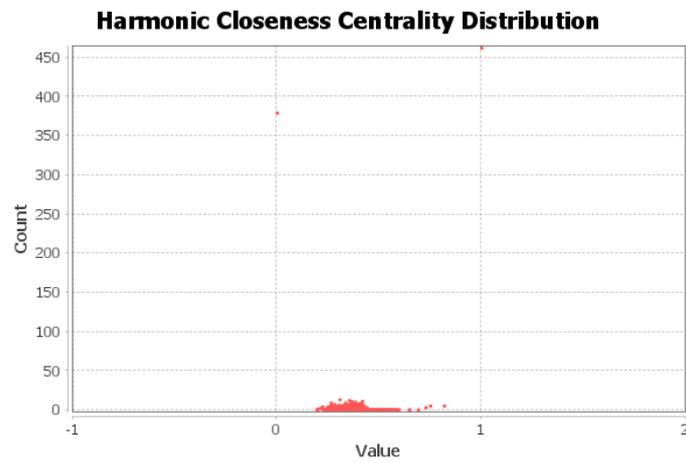
**Figure 16.** PageRank value distribution for vertices



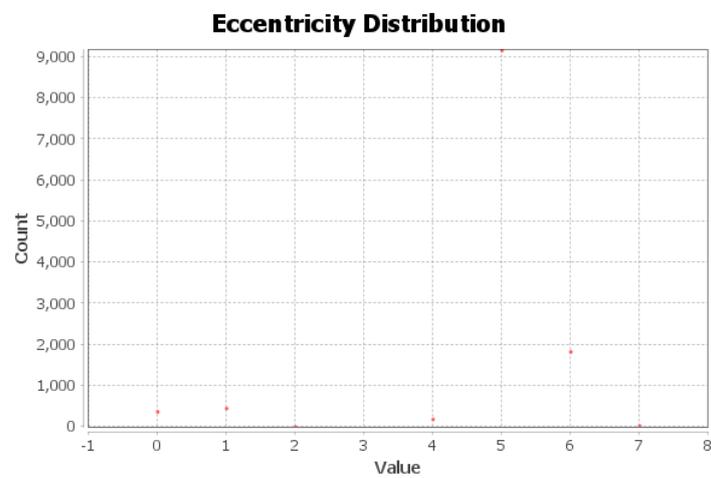
**Figure 17.** Betweenness Centrality distribution



**Figure 18.** Closeness Centrality distribution

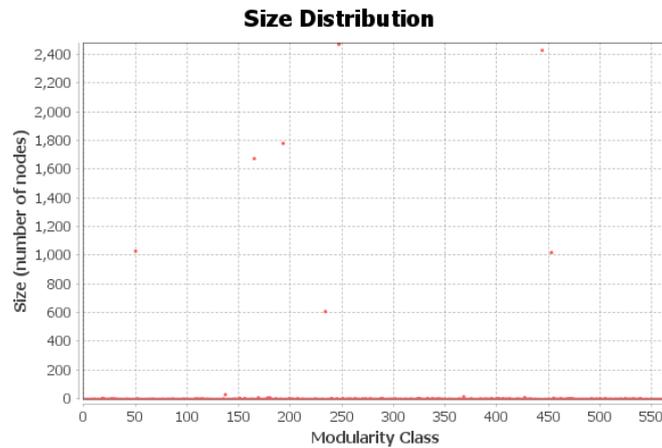


**Figure 19.** Harmonic Closeness Centrality distribution



**Figure 20.** Eccentricity distribution

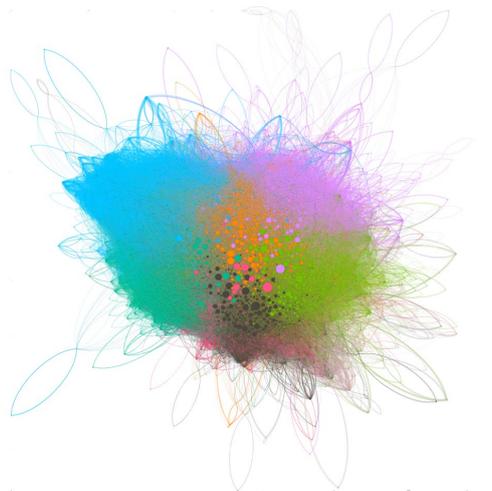
Modularity class distribution is show in Figure 21. Modularity class can be helpful to determine clusters in the graph.



**Figure 21.** Modularity distribution

With modularity classes available, it's possible to determine clusters (Abramov et al., 2021; Blondel et al., 2008; Lambiotte et al., 2009) in the skills graph using modularity value. Each cluster combines skills that are often used together. The number of clusters (566) almost coincides with the number of specialties on the HeadHunter job search portal (570 excluding the group of specialties "Career Start, students").

Each cluster was assigned a specific color. Each vertex was assigned a size depending on its PageRank value. The higher the PageRank of the vertex is, the larger size the vertex will have in the visualization. Visualization of the skills graph using *ForceAtlas2* layout is shown in Figure 22.



**Figure 22.** Skills graph with colored clusters, visualized in the Gephi

## 7. Conclusion

As a result, the connection between vacancies, skills, and specialities was established and formalized using a skill-based approach. Job sites APIs can be used to fetch data about vacancies, skills in automated way. This data can be later processed to build a skills graph.

The application of graph theory has made it possible to combine all the skills required in vacancies into a single graph. The analysis of this graph showed that the number of clusters obtained as a result of the calculation of the modularity class almost coincides with the number of specialties on the job search portal, which makes it possible in the future to determine skills for new specialties, as well as interdisciplinary skills, by analyzing the skills graph for given vacancies.

However, after analysis of graph main metrics, such as degree distribution, centrality and modularity we found, that many skills have semantical duplicates, for example, “Teamwork ability” and “Working in the team” are semantical duplicates for “Teamwork”. While it will go to the same cluster, those aliases, synonyms and semantical duplicates should be revisited in removed in the pre-processing phase.

Further work will continue research in this area. First, we need to analyse skills, find out how to treat aliases in automated way to improve resulting skills graph. Secondly, we will determine the similarity measures between vacancies based on the skill-based approach, which will formalize the principles of work of the recommendation system as the core of the intellectual educational ecosystem.

Also, important tasks that will be solved in the future are finding a way to perform dimensionality reduction of the graph using a minimal spanning tree, as well as the building an acyclic directed skills graph *DACG*.

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