



METHODOLOGY TO GENERATE NAVIGATION MODELS IN BUILDING

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Abstract. Indoor route networks models are created for use in navigation. They may be built manually, but it is better to generate them automatically, based on the building floor plans. Research has been conducted in this field in many research centers. The authors undertook to develop their own methodology for generating navigation networks, using topological neighborhood relations and semantic data. The research project focuses on one floor in a building, which consists of rooms and an expanded corridor with an obstacle in the form of an open space between the floors. The first stage of the project consisted in the segmentation of the corridor space to improve its resolution. The objective of the conducted research was to select special points (five suggestions) for the segmentation. As a result, five different segmentations of the corridor space were obtained. The aim of the second stage was to automatically generate five navigation network models. The graphically presented results have been verified against the routes generated between the selected points in the building plan. A comparison of the results with other solutions shows that the routes generated in the presented methodology are more straight-line and less zigzagging.

Keywords: indoor navigation, navigation routes in buildings, TIN, Voronoi, segmentation hallway.

Introduction

Indoor navigation complements GPS navigation which is not available in buildings (Hilsenbeck *et al.* 2014; Gao *et al.* 2017). It requires a model of a navigation network (Coleman *et al.* 2016; Boeters *et al.* 2015), which allows setting footpaths or emergency routes. Such models, in the form of navigation route presentations, are commonly used in their analogue form on notice boards and commercial leaflets. In the digital age, navigation in buildings is increasingly implemented with the use of mobile applications. In this technology, the process of navigation based on network models saved in the mathematical structures of a graph plays an important role. The models should reflect the natural flow of individuals inside buildings.

Research work has been done on the automatic process of generating navigation network models, based on building plans. Different solutions have been offered in the relevant literature, based on well-described methodologies. Some of them rely on simple topological relations (Figure 1a), based on the neighborhood (Tang *et al.* 2015; Lewandowicz 2015). Lee (2004) proposed a modified topological model from a Graph Node Relations Structure

(NRS) to a navigation network model (Figure 1b). He used the medial axis transformation (MAT) algorithm (Prinz, Cern 1988; Joan-Arinyo *et al.* 1997). The MAT algorithm is also applied in other presented solutions (Teo, Cho 2016) (Figure 2).

Other solutions based on topological, semantic and geometric relations (Stoffel *et al.* 2007; Whiting 2006; Zhu *et al.* 2016; Lewandowicz 2014, 2015). In those cases, the type of rooms and entries are considered (Figure 3). Other network generating solutions are based on the Triangulated Irregular Network (TIN) models (Xu *et al.* 2016a). Selected points from the tested space (entrances, refracted walls) form the basis for creating TIN (Figure 4). Krūminaitė (2014) and Mortari *et al.* (2014) proposed a modification of the TIN network by increasing density. Krūminaitė (2014) used polygon TIN for segmentation spaces by combining the means of neighboring polygons of TIN. Bogusławski *et al.* (2016) used Voronoi Diagrams for a segmentation hallway. They generated a network and combined the means of neighboring polygons (Voronoi Diagram) (Figure 5). In this way, the polylines are defined,

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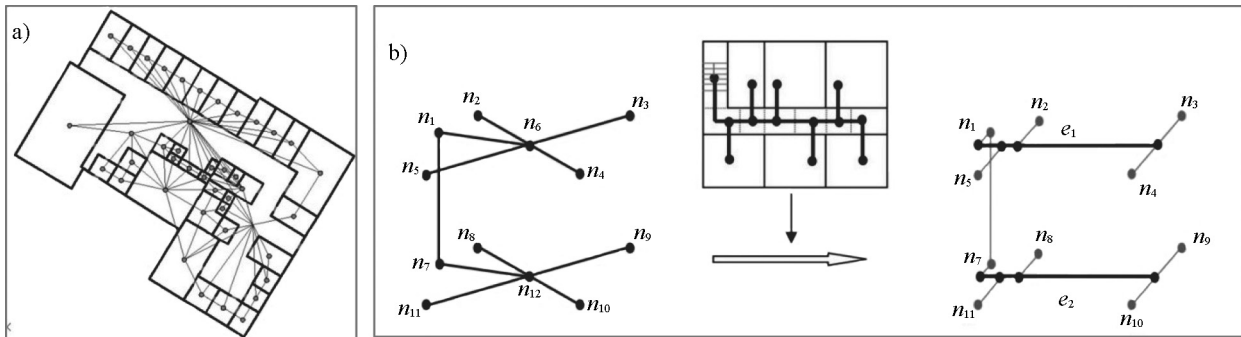


Figure 1. Network model based on the relationship topological neighborhood structures (NRS): a) graphNode Relations Structure (NRS) (Lewandowicz 2015); b) transformation of the model NRS to a navigation network model (Lee 2004)

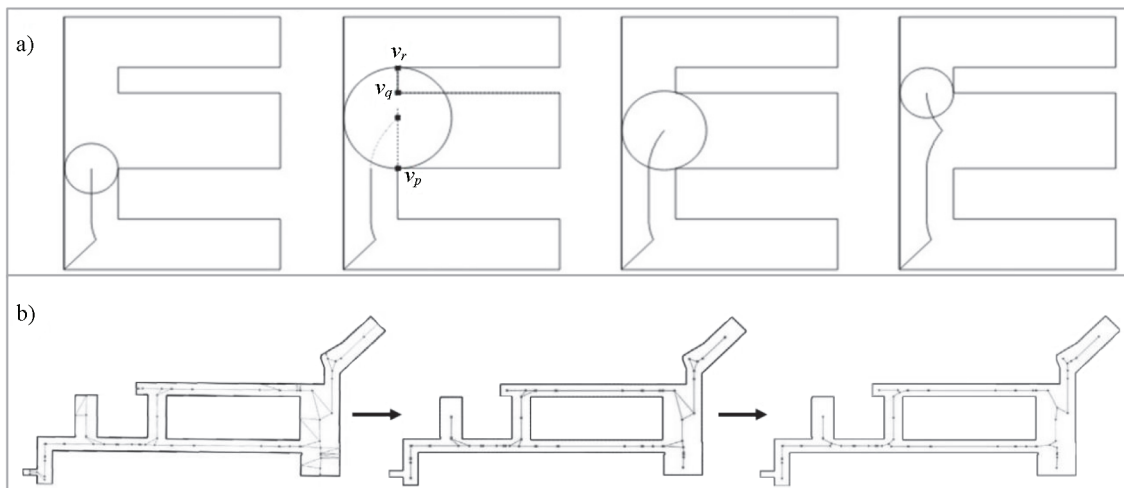


Figure 2. The principle of applying the MAT algorithm to establish an axis in indoor navigation: a) the principle of the MAT algorithm (Joan-Arinyo *et al.* 1997); b) optimization of networks generated with MAT (Teo, Cho 2016)

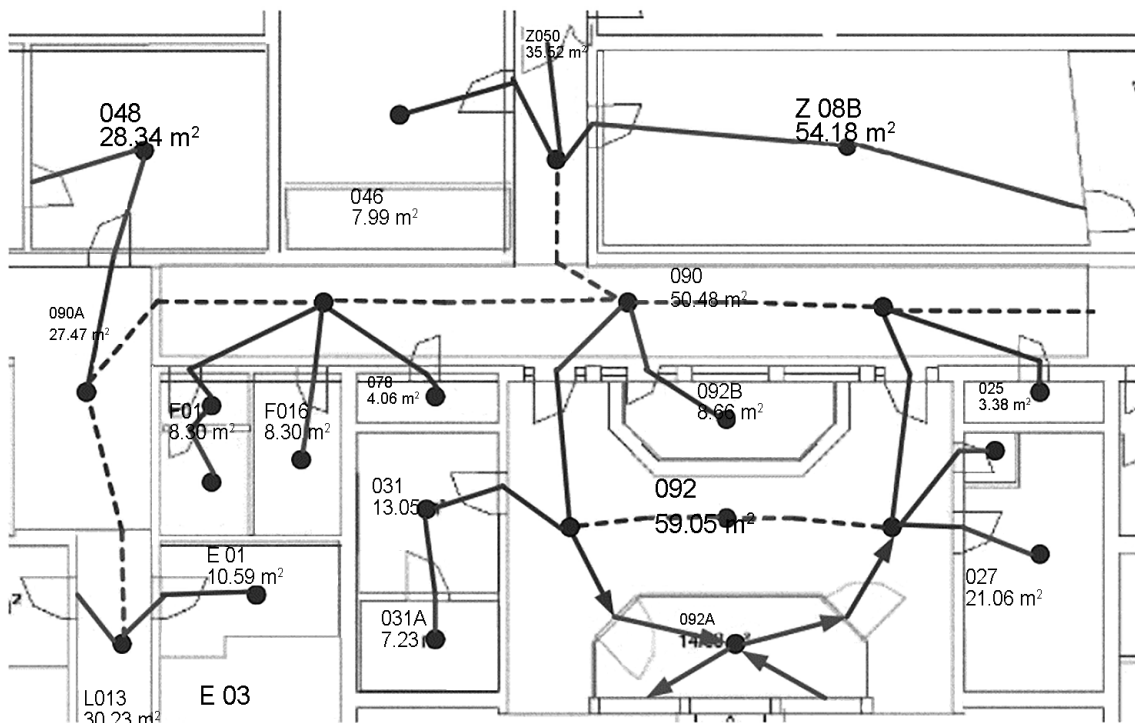


Figure 3. Cell centers and paths overlaid with a floor Plan (Stoffel *et al.* 2007)

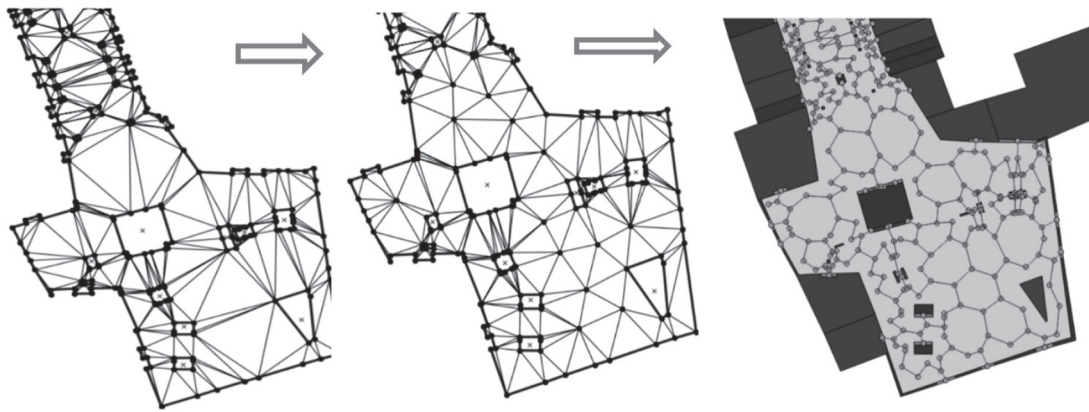


Figure 4. Construction of navigation network based on TIN by connections of central points of neighboring polygons of TIN (Krūminaitė 2014)

often zigzagging, which must be simplified. Other hybrid solutions (Lin *et al.* 2017; Afyouni *et al.* 2012) combined topological relations with GRID models. These solutions segment the space into regular high-resolution grids. The processing time of the data necessary to obtain a network can be very elongated (Franz *et al.* 2005).

The algorithms are also related to interpolation using Thiessen Polygons (called Voronoi Diagrams) (Brassel, Reif 1979; Hilsenbeck *et al.* 2014). Wallgrün (2004) proposes to create a navigation network based on simplified lines of the diagram Voronoi (Figure 6).

Bogusławski *et al.* (2016) postulates an automatic generation of navigation networks, of diverse modified resolution, depending on the needs. Despite the many proposed solutions (Liu, Zlatanova 2015), work is still being done to develop new, better methodologies (Staats *et al.* 2017; Yan *et al.* 2018; Yang *et al.* 2017; Yang, Worboys 2015; Alattas *et al.* 2017; Teo, Cho 2016). New opportunities are being sought for modelling navigation networks inside furnished spaces (Xu *et al.* 2016a), as well as applications, e.g. for emergency (rescue) actions (Lee 2007; Bogusławski *et al.* 2016; Lin *et al.* 2017; Cichociński 2017; Xu *et al.* 2016b). All solutions are assumed to simulate natural navigation routes. A natural route does not contain right and sharp angles and does not pass near walls. In addition, they should strive to minimize the processing time of the input data in the network generation, as well as minimize

the time of generating routes to various users. A comparison of results of various algorithms (analytical methods) is conducted to find the optimal solution (Hahmann *et al.* 2018).

1. Research objective and methodology

This work is a continuation of the research previously undertaken by the author (Lewandowicz 2014, 2015) on the automatic generation of indoor navigation routes (Figure 7), based on topological and semantic relations. Those studies relied on centroids of the spaces (rooms, corridors) and took into account the centroids of entries – door passages. As with other researchers (Stoffel *et al.* 2007; Whiting 2006), the produced solutions did not reflect the natural routes in public navigation spaces – corridors (Figures 3 and 7). The designated network routes in corridors contain sharp angles.

The aim of the study is to continue the research on the automatic generation of the navigation network in the building. The authors have solved the problem of generating networks in the corridor's space. The objective of the ongoing research is to build models of navigation networks of higher resolution. Topological and semantic relations have been assumed to be the basis for the generation of navigation network models (Lewandowicz *et al.* 2013). However, before they can be used for construction of

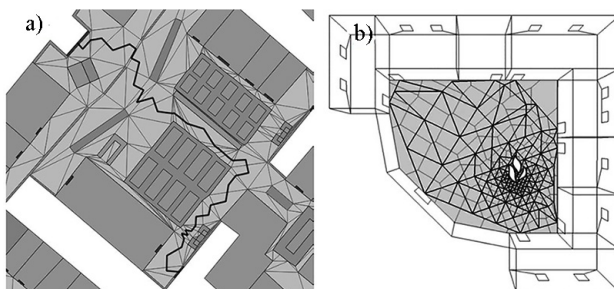


Figure 5. Navigation models based on topological data from segmentations hallway: a) polygon TIN segmentation space (Krūminaitė 2014); b) Voronoi Diagram segmentation space (Bogusławski *et al.* 2016)

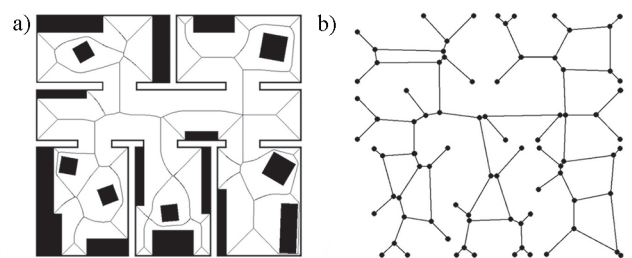


Figure 6. Modeling of the navigation network based on the Voronoi diagram: a) modeling Voronoi-based route graph; b) generalized Voronoi graph (Wallgrün 2004)

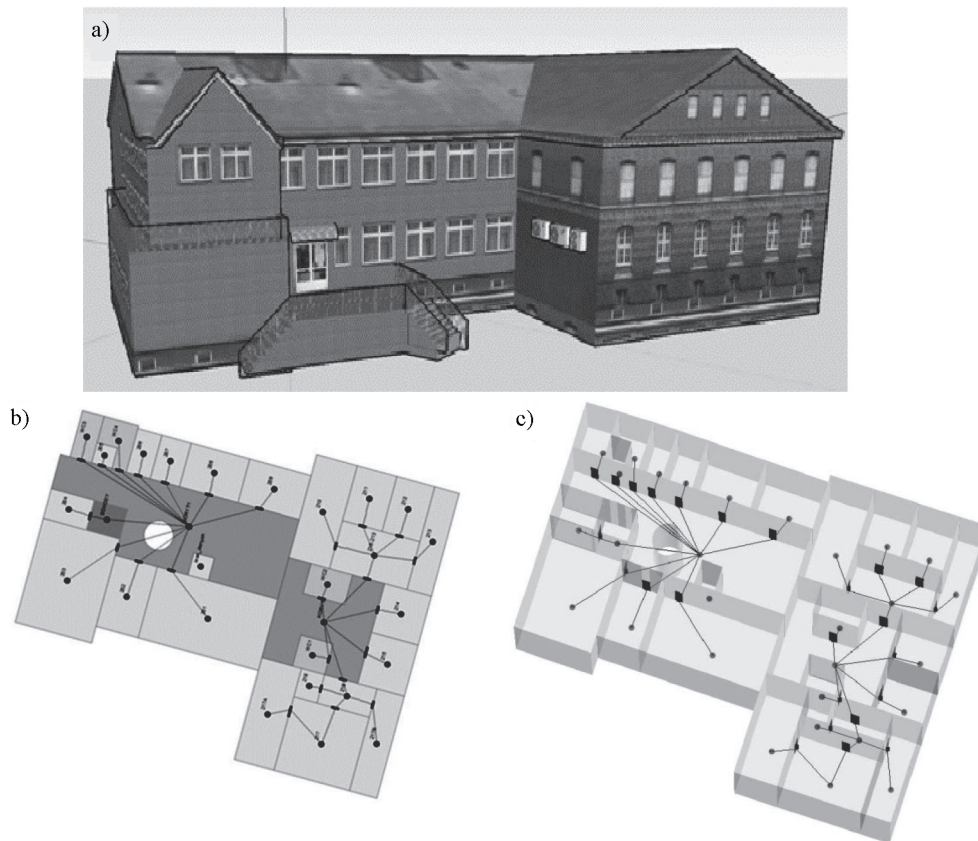


Figure 7. Research object: a) building (Kaliszczuk 2013); b) floor 2 network model based on topological and semantic relations on the basis of centroids in 2D image; c) isometric view (Lewandowicz 2014, 2015)

network models, public navigation passages (corridors) will be segmented into sub-spaces. The score of the segmentation of the public space will be done by evaluating the generated models of navigation networks. The generated routes should not be zigzagging and should not contain sharp or straight angles.

Figure 8 shows the research object, in the form of the first-floor plan in the presented building (Figure 7). The plan details rooms, the corridor, elevator, stairs and room entries and barriers and an open space between the two

floors. The expanded space of the corridor allows for the opportunity of testing various methodologies for public space segmentation. The results will be verified against the automatic generated exemplary route (Figure 8b).

It is assumed that the solution should be possible by using the Geographic Information System (GIS), e.g. software ArcGIS of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI 2018) and the author's application "Cgraph" (Lisowski, Lewandowicz 2018), prepared for PC-class computers containing GDAL and Neo4jdriver. Building

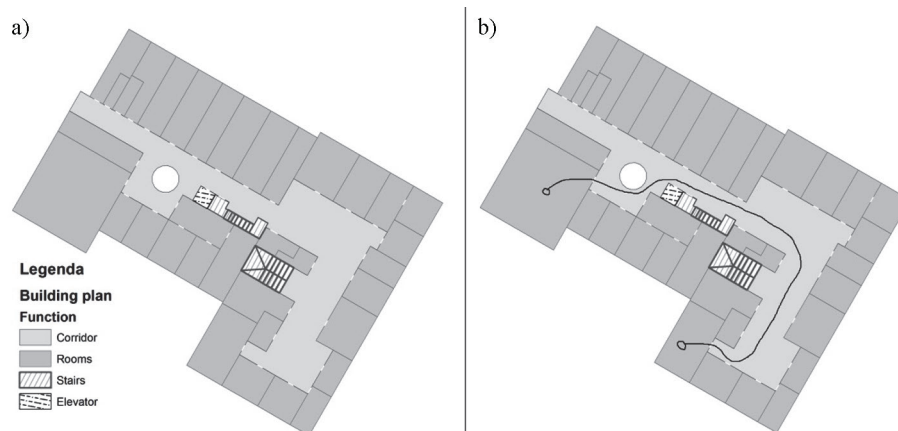


Figure 8. The research object. In the corridor is the open space between the two floors, shown by a white circle, showing: a) floor and building plan; b) the route between two points, as a proposal to verify the results from generating the shortest route

plans made in 3d CAD can be imported into GIS (Lewandowicz 2015). The GIS provides spatial data processing tools and the generation of TIN and Polygonal Thiessen (Voronoi). Using these tools, the authors performed the segmentation of public space. The Cgraph application generated network models from the segmentation space. In the GIS application, the authors performed a network analysis.

The authors performed segmentation based on the GIS tools, using algorithms for the construction of TIN – Constrain Delaunay Triangulation (Chew 1987) and Voronoi Diagram (Thiessen Polygon) (Wei *et al.* 2012; ESRI 2018). The topological network model generation was made in the Cgraph application. The network was built based on the topological neighborhood relation, taking advantage of the attributes describing the function of the rooms (the corridor, rooms, stairs, entries, and the elevator). The network models were then applied to the GIS application. Generation of the shortest routes was done in ArcGIS (ESRI 2018). The network analysis tools use Dijkstra’s algorithm. The costs of the route were determined by the length of route sections.

The elaborate processing algorithm for corridor segmentation is described below. It takes into account the total space of the object S_{Whole} and distinguishes corridor space $S_{Corridor}$ and other usable space S_{Use} (Eqn (1)). The algorithm also emphasizes the functional space of the corridor S_{CF} (Eqn (2)). This is a space limited to the middle of the corridor, away from walls, e.g. 0.7–1 m. Krūminaitė (2014) in her studies determined a functional space near different objects. The value of 1 m can be assumed to be optimal.

$$S_{Whole} = S_{Corridor} S_{Use}; \tag{1}$$

$$S_{CF} < S_{Corridor} \tag{2}$$

The basis for segmentation of corridor space will be a set of base points $\{P\}$.

The authors put forward the thesis that the selection of P points affects segmentation and the shape of the generated network. They assumed that the $\{P\}$ set have been used as: entry points to the rooms $\{E\}$, vertices of partition walls $\{W\}$, means of the partition wall lines $\{C\}$. When setting up the experiment, they wanted to check how a selection of base points affects the results of segmentation and a model of the generated network. The experiment results are supposed to allow for determination of the optimum set of base points.

The study adopted five subsets of the base points $\{P_i\}$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$, selected from the set $\{P\}$ (Eqn (3)):

$$P_i \subset P. \tag{3}$$

It is known that various segmentations of the public space follow from various selection subset P_i (Eqn (3)). The number of selected points accepted for the analysis influences the resolution of segmentation. With a small number of points, it will be smaller, and with a large set of

base points, the segmentation will be larger. What choices are optimal? In carrying out the research objective, five tests were performed based on various subsets: P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4, P_5 . In each test, a P_i data set was determined according to the following criteria:

- Test 1 – only room entry points were selected, $P_1 = \{E\}$;
- Test 2 – the apex points on partition walls were selected, $P_2 = \{W\}$;
- Test 3 – center room entry points and apex points on partition walls were selected, $P_3 = (\{E\} \cup \{W\})$;
- Test 4 – center of walls (polylines) were selected, $P_4 = \{C\}$;
- Test 5 – room entry points, medium points of walls and apex points on partition walls were selected, $P_5 = (\{E\} \cup \{C\} \cup \{W\})$.

The collection of points $\{E\}, \{W\}, \{C\}$ was obtained from digital floor plans.

Data processing was performed according to the algorithm, as shown below.

Based on P_i , TIN was generated (Eqn (4)):

$$P_i \xrightarrow{generate} (TIN). \tag{4}$$

The TIN polygon was converted to TIN edges (Eqn (5)):

$$(TIN) \xrightarrow{conversion} \{EDGE\}_{(TIN)}. \tag{5}$$

The fragments of TIN edges, located in the functional space of the S_{CF} corridor from the $\{EDGE\}_{TIN}$ were selected (Eqn (6)):

$$\{EDGE\} \cap S_{CF} = \{EDGE\}_{Selection\ and\ cut}. \tag{6}$$

From set $\{EDGE\}_{Selection\ and\ cut}$ a set of centre points $\{P_V\}$ was generated (Eqn (7)):

$$\{EDGE\}_{Selection\ and\ cut} \xrightarrow{generate\ line\ center\ point} \{P_V\}. \tag{7}$$

The set $\{P_V\}$ was the basis for creating the set of Theisen Polygons $\{Voronoi\}$ (Eqn (8)):

$$\{P_V\} \xrightarrow{generate\ Polygon\ Voronoi} \{Voronoi\}. \tag{8}$$

The collection $\{Voronoi\}$ had to be cut to the surface of the corridor $S_{Corridor}$:

$$\{Voronoi\} \cap S_{Corridor} = \{Voronoi_{Corridor}\}. \tag{9}$$

The collection of polygons $\{Voronoi_{Corridor}\}$ is the result of segmentation of the public space (corridor).

It must be connected to the output set S_{Whole} . The surfaces of the corridor $S_{Corridor}$ should be replaced with a collection of polygon $\{Voronoi\}_{Corridor}$. This can be done by combining:

$$(\{S_{Use}\} \cup \{Voronoi_{Corridor}\}) = S_{Whole}^{New}. \tag{10}$$

S_{Whole}^{New} is a collection of new polygons showing a floor plan with the segmentation of public space.

The polygons S_{Whole}^{New} described by attributes are the basis for the generated navigation network. They are cre-

ated based on topological and semantic relations. It is carried out by analogy, as in the work by Stoffel *et al.* (2007), Whiting (2006), Lewandowicz (2015). The authors use an in-house application to generate networks (Lisowski, Lewandowicz 2016, 2018). By generating the topological, semantic model of the road network, neighborhood relations were used:

- $\left(\left\{ NOD_{Voronoi_{Corridor}} \right\} to \left\{ NOD_{Voronoi_{Corridor}} \right\} \right)$,
- $\left(\left\{ NOD_{Voronoi_{Corridor}} \right\} to \left\{ NOD_{Stair} \right\} \right)$,
- $\left(\left\{ NOD_{Voronoi_{Corridor}} \right\} to \left\{ NOD_{Elevator} \right\} \right)$,
- $\left(\left\{ NOD_{Voronoi_{Corridor}} \right\} to \left\{ NOD_E \right\} \right)$,
- $\left(\left\{ NOD_E \right\} to \left\{ NOD_{Room} \right\} \right)$.

$NOD_{Voronoi_{Corridor}}$ is the centroid $Voronoi_{Corridor}$ polygons and similar, NOD_{Stair} is the centroid of star polygons, $NOD_{Elevator}$ is the centroid of the platform of elevator polygons, NOD_{ROOM} is the centroid of room polygons. Only $\{NOD_E\} = \{E\}$.

The research was divided into two stages. The first involved the segmentation of the public space. The second stage included the process of building a network model and generating routes. Upon the automatic generation of navigation network models, the results should be verified. Each edge of the network model should be embedded in the uniform space: $S_{Corridor}$ or S_{Room} . This means, for instance, that the sections of the network in the public space (corridor) should not intersect the space of the other ob-

jects (rooms, stairs) S_{Use} . Edges should not be very close to wall. Krūminaitė (2014) identified the minimal distance for 0.7 m. Edges that do not meet these rules should be removed.

The final assessment of the generated models should be verified against the assessment of the shortest way (route, pathway) between two rooms on one floor in building. Figure 8b presents this route which was proposed for result verification.

In each test (T1–T5), the execution methodology is similar, there are only changes in the initial set P_i .

2. Results

The results of the research were presented in graphic form and table data.

Indirect data from processing results spatial data are shown in Figure 9, based on data from test 4.

As a result of the research, various segmentations of the public space have been generated, as well as various navigation network models and various passage routes. The results of segmentation are shown in Figure 10. These are intermediate results and Figure 11 presents the final result showing five navigation network models and five roads between the two rooms.

The statistical data regarding the results is shown in Table 1. The figures in the second column indicate the different number of elements of subsets $\{P_i\}$. These are figures showing whole sets of points and their subsets situated in the corridor space. The figures range from 28 points in test

Table 1. Description of the research results in the assumed tasks 1–5

	Number of points in set $\{P_i\}$ in corridor space	Number of segments in the public space	Number of edges in the network model	Number of nodes in the network model	Verify the results – length of the shortest route [m]
Test 1 – model 1, $\{P_1\} = \{E\}$	37	32	125	106	54.1
Test 2 – model 2, $\{P_2\} = \{W\}$	74	63	165	138	56.2
Test 3 – model 3, $\{P_3\} = \{E\} \cup \{W\}$	111	83	219	157	57.6
Test 4 – model 4, $\{P_4\} = \{C\}$	28	39	135	113	56.6
Test 5 – model 5, $\{P_5\} = \{E\} \cup \{C\} \cup \{W\}$	139	135	269	196	58.2

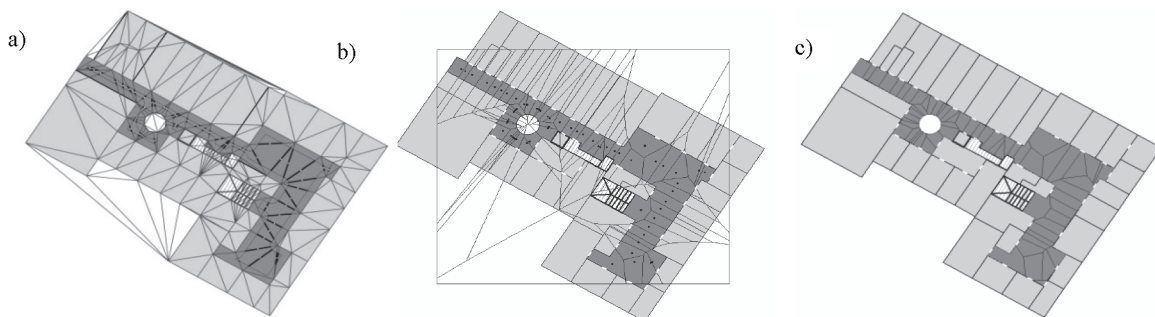


Figure 9. Segmentation of the public space: a) selection of points $\{P_V\}$, it is the middle sections of the edges of Delaunay Triangulation in S_{CF} ; b) generation of Thiessen Polygons $\{Voronoi\}$ based on points $\{P_V\}$; c) S_{Whole}^{New} – result of the performed segmentation

	TIN	VORONOI	SEGMENTATION
Model 1 base on $\{E\}$			
Model 2 base on $\{W\}$			
Model 3 base on $\{E\} \cup \{W\}$			
Model 4 base on $\{C\}$			
Model 5 base on $\{E\} \cup \{W\} \cup \{C\}$			

Figure 10. Graphic results of the first stage of the research involving the segmentation of the public space

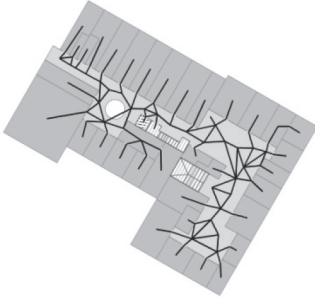
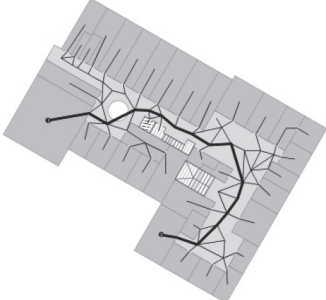
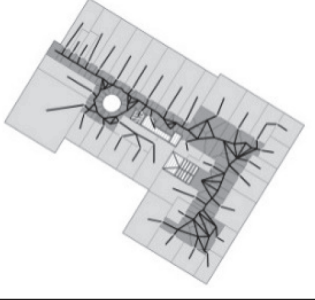
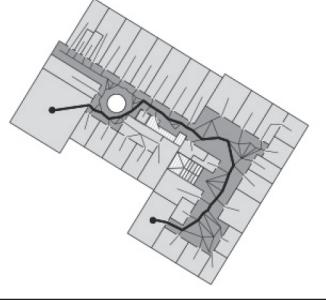
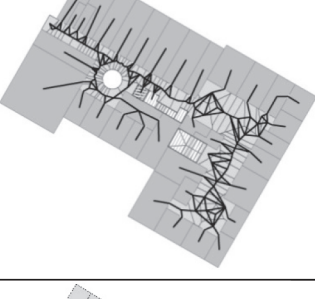
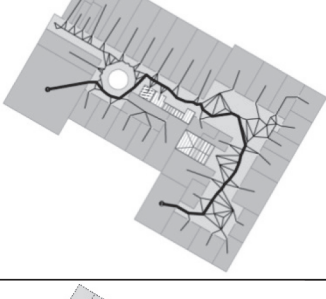
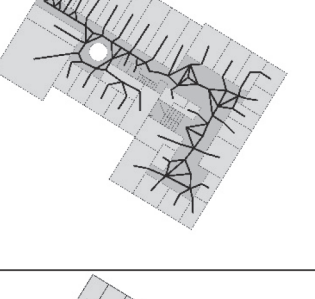

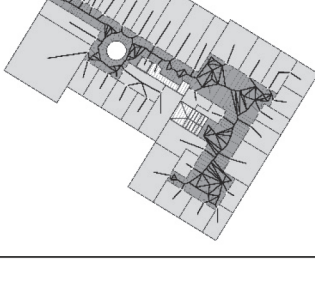
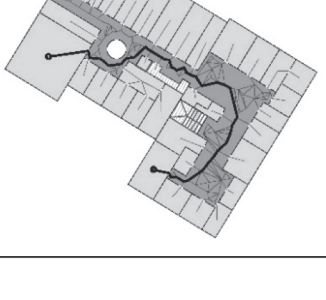
	NAVIGATION NET	ROUTE
Methodology 1, $\{E\}$ Route length 54.11 m		
Methodology 2, $\{W\}$ Route length 56.18 m		
Methodology 3, $\{E\} \cup \{W\}$ Route length 57.57 m		
Methodology 4, $\{C\}$ Route length 56.62 m		
Methodology 5, $\{E\} \cup \{W\} \cup \{C\}$ Route length 58.21 m		

Figure 11. Graphic results of the second stage of the research involving the production of the network models and the generation of routes

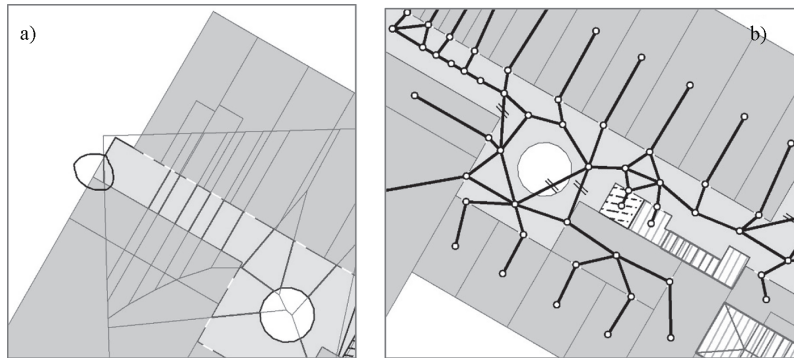


Figure 12. Image of the errors detected in the process of generating models with the use of methodology 1: a) the Voronoi diagram does not cover the entire space of the researched object; b) the model of navigation network goes across the open space between the two floors and near the wall, in pictures the edges are marked which have to be removed

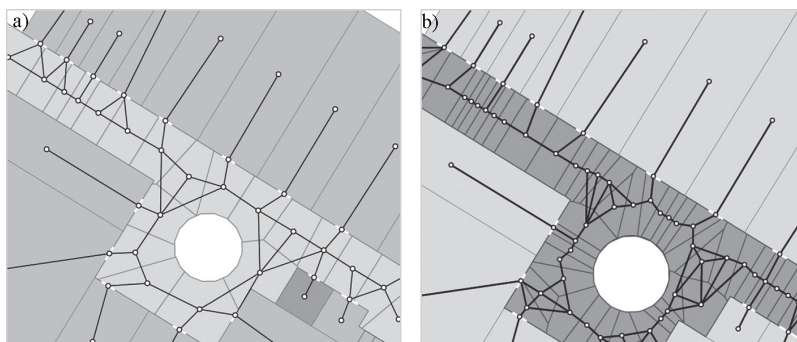


Figure 13. The topological lines connecting corridor segments to the room entrances: a) entry polygons were the size of the door hole (model 4); b) entry polygons were the size of 1/3 the door hole (model 5)

4 to 139 in test 5. The number of the corridor segments obtained in successive tests is shown in column 3; the smallest number is 32 segments and the largest is 135 with set $\{P_i\}$ of 139 points. Various numbers of nodes and edges were obtained in the network model. The differences in the length of the generated routes are small.

In all solutions, segmentation on straight corridor fragments (in the north-western part of the corridor) runs perpendicular to the axis. In open space (in the eastern part of the corridor), all models are similar. Segmentation in five models differs in details.

3. Discussion

This study presents a methodology of generating models of road networks and identifies the optimum base set $\{P_i\}$ initiating an automatic process. The presented results indicate that network models using varied data sets $\{P_i\}$ are similar. Models differ by resolution, which means that with a small set of base points $\{P\}$, models are simplified, while with a large one $\{P_i\}$ they are fragmented. The generated network models do not intersect the open space between the two floors, except for the network produced using methodology 1. The largest diversification of the network models occurs in the western side of the building, where the public space is extensive. The larger segmentation did

not involve the shortening of the route between two given points. The length of the shortest routes increased with the expanding segmentation (Table 1). The shortest generated routes (2–5) are of different values of length, but the difference is insignificant and does not exceed 2 meters. The shortest routes run along the center of the corridor. They are not zigzagging. Only the route in the first model is not suitable for navigation. The other routes can be used for navigation before eliminating the same edge running near the walls.

The models generated with the use of test 1 should be interpreted separately. They contain two types of errors. In the first type of error, the Voronoi diagram (Thiessen Polygons) does not cover the entire area of the corridor (Figure 12a). The scope of the Voronoi polygons is smaller than the corridor area. The second type of errors is also important (presented in Figure 12b). One edge of the network model goes across the open space between the two floors and four edges run near the wall. These errors are not present in models which were generated from more points $\{P_i\}$.

When drawing conclusions from the presented solutions, one must observe that:

- Selection of base points for automatic construction of models should not be limited only to entry points $\{E\}$;
- A recommended set should contain points $\{W\}$;

- A set with the maximum number of points $\{E\} \cup \{W\} \cup \{C\}$ should not be used. This results in unnecessary details of the network and does not contribute to the minimization of the length of the generated routes;
- Using the functional space of a corridor S_{CF} in the selection $\{EDGE\}_{TIN}$ limited the number of the generated points $\{P_V\}$ for the building segment. Points near the corridor walls near the recesses were eliminated. Thereby, the number of segments not perpendicular to the (virtual) corridor axis was minimized.

This thesis has been verified. Segmentation of corridors with various subsets $\{P_i\}$ runs in a similar manner, perpendicularly to the middle line of the corridor. Network models are similar. Results for various sets $\{P_i\}$ have different resolutions. In Model 2, $P_2 = \{W\}$, corridor-to-room routes involve almost right angles. A similar situation occurs for a larger number of segments, e.g. in Model 5. For a smaller number of segments, e.g. Models 1 and 4, the angles are different than a right angle.

During the generation of topological relationships between layers with different geometry which were automatically generated, there were occasionally problems with topological consistency data. The points $\{E\}$ are not consistent with the borders of segments. The application Cgraph solved this problem. The algorithm changed the entry point $\{E\}$ to polygons (buffer). This solution can generate more lines from corridor segments to entry if the polygons $\{E\}$ are too large. Figure 13 presents these results: a) with a bigger buffer and b) with a smaller buffer. It should be discussed whether solution a) (Figure 13a) with the application of a larger buffer and, consequently with a larger number of generated edges, is more effective. Routes generated in these solutions will have a smaller number of angles close to straight angles. The minimum buffer value was applied in solution b) – Figure 13b. Thereby, the number of additional edges from segments to entry points $\{E\}$ was reduced.

If data are arranged topologically, then points $\{E\}$ are located exactly on the boundary edge of the segments (i.e. points $\{E\}$ are consistent with the boundaries of the segments). In this case, the algorithm in the Cgraph application, based on topological relations, generates single edges from entry $\{E\}$ to the segments. Furthermore, if more edges are required, the replacement of entry points $\{E\}$ with polygons (buffers) should be proposed in the Cgraph application.

In the presented solutions, a door-hole size buffer was used (Models 1, 2, 3, 4). In Model 5, a 1/3 door-hole size buffer was used (Model 5).

The analysis of the results shows that the adopted methodology is alternative to methodologies which employ the MAT algorithm (Lee 2004; Teo, Cho 2016). When comparing the results with other solutions (Krūminaitė 2014; Bogusławski *et al.* 2016), one must observe that routes in the presented methodology are straighter and less zigzagging.

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