

Axwoman 6.0 Extension for ArcGIS 10

User's Guide

Disclaimer

Axwoman 6.0 Extension may be freely used and redistributed for academic uses. It is provided "as is", without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, by statute or otherwise. The author does not warrant that the operation of the extension shall be uninterrupted or error free. The user bears all risk as to the quality and performance of the extension. Technical support is not available. The author appreciates any feedback regarding bug reports or suggestions for future improvement.

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Table of Contents

1. General Information.....	1
2. Install Axwoman 6.0 Extension for ArcGIS 10.....	1
3. Draw Axial Lines 	4
4. Get Isolated Lines 	6
5. Calculate Parameters in Case of Lines with Lines 	7
6. Tick overpass 	9
7. Tracking Street Segments to Form Natural Streets 	12
8. Generate Axial Lines from Street Center Lines 	13
9. AxialGenG (Generating the axial lines globally)	14
10. AxialGenL (Generating the axial lines locally)	15
11. MedialAxesGen (Generating the medial axes)	17
12. IsovistExplorer (Exploring isovists of a complex polygon with holes).....	18
13. BucketExplorer (Generating the bucket for an arbitrary ray or axial lines in a complex polygon with holes	19
14. FAQs	19
15. Acknowledgements.....	20
16. References.....	20
17. Data source.....	20

1. General Information

Axwoman 6.0 developed using Microsoft C# and ESRI's ArcObjects is an extension for ArcGIS 10. It supports space syntax analysis based on both axial lines and natural streets. The space syntax analysis is initially developed by Bill Hillier and his colleagues (Hillier and Hanson 1984) mainly using axial lines, the longest visibility lines representing individual urban spaces. The kind of space syntax analysis has been recently extended using individual streets. The streets we refer to here include both named streets (Jiang and Claramunt 2004), and natural streets or "strokes" in Thomson's term (Thomson 2003). This new Axwoman is implemented with some efficient computation, thus it can handle large systems involving thousands of axial lines or streets. For instance, it takes no more than a few minutes to finish the computation for an axial map with 17 000 lines.

2. Install Axwoman 6.0 Extension for ArcGIS 10

(1) Check for Prerequisites Modules

Before you install the Axwoman 6.0, ensure that:

- Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 and
- ESRI ArcGIS 10 with ArcGIS Data Interoperability Extension, have been installed.

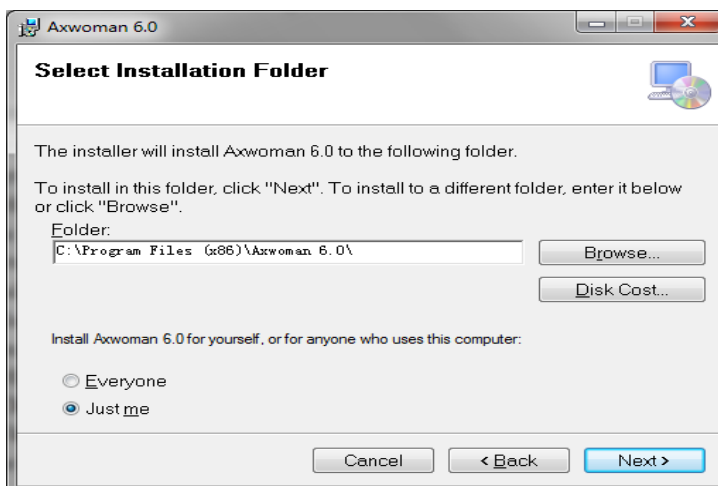
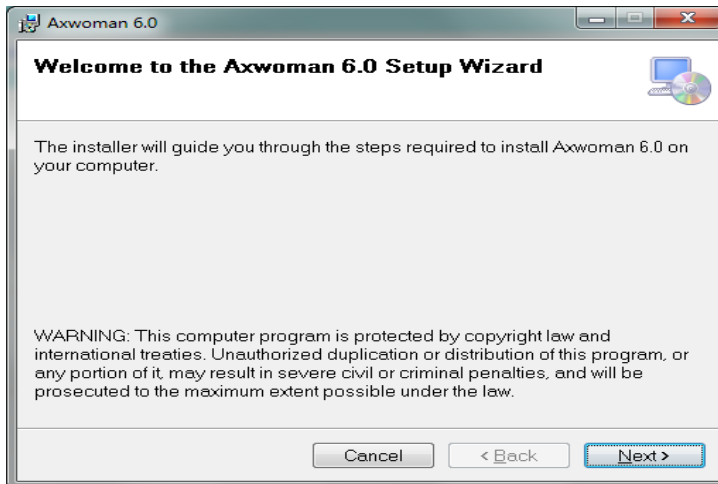
Microsoft .Net Framework Version 4.0

You can download the .NET Framework 4.0 from the Microsoft Download Center. If you have installed this successfully in your machine, you should be able to identify this from the **Add/Move** Programs list in Control Panel.

ESRI ArcGIS 10 with ArcGIS Data Interoperability Extension

The ESRI ArcGIS Data Interoperability Extension can be installed from the ArcGIS 10 installation CD.

(2) Installing the Axwoman is pretty simple. You download the Axwoman 6.0 from this website (<http://fromto.hig.se/~bjg/Axwoman.htm>), and save to a location on your computer. Extract the installer file and double click the **setup.exe** to launch setup:

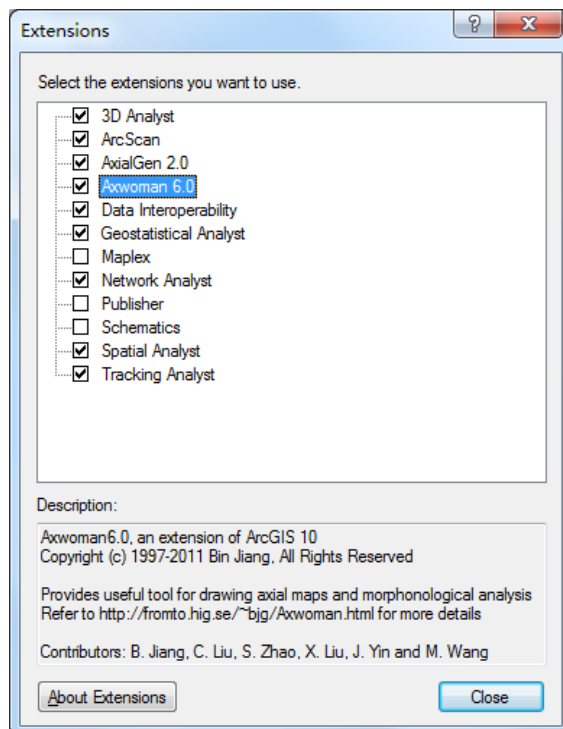


Click **Next**. The screen for specifying the installation location will appear as below. You may accept the default installation path. If you wish, you may specify another path in the **Folder** path field.

When you finished specifying the path, click **Next** to start the installation and click **Close** to complete the installation window.

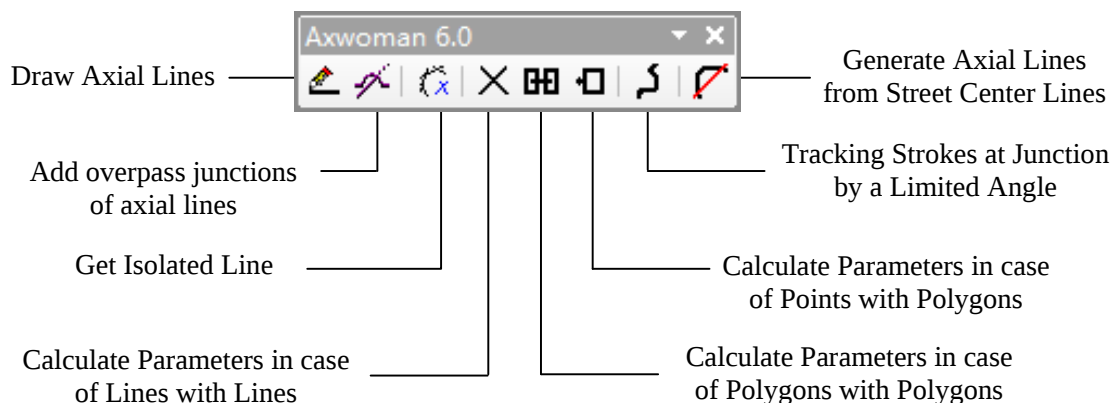
After installation, we can activate the extension as follow these steps:

- 1) Click the **Start** menu, point to **Programs** and Start **ArcMap**
- 2) Click on ArcMap's **Tools** Menu and then choose **Extension**.
- 3) Check the **Axwoman 6.0** and **AxialGen 2.0**.

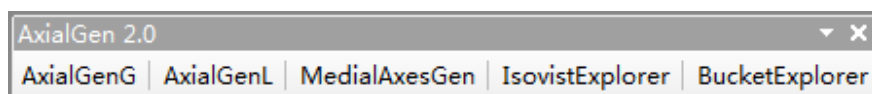


- 4) Click **Close**.
- 5) Click **View**, point to **Toolbars**, and select Axwومان 6.0 and AxialGen 2.0.
- 6) Add the **Editor** Toolbar the same way.

The Axwومان toolbar has eight buttons:

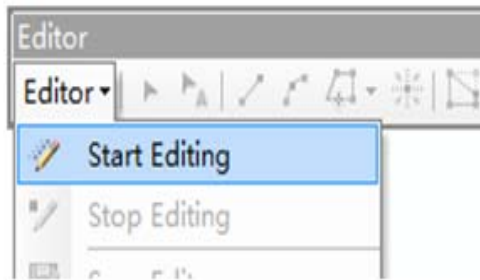


The AxialGen toolbar has five buttons, whose labels speak for itself as follow:

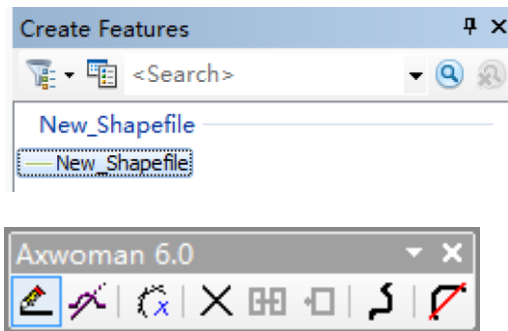


3. Draw Axial Lines

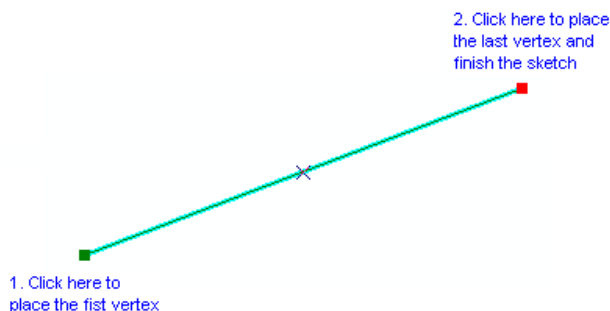
To create a new axial map, you must have an existing polyline layer to which you want to digitize. If you do not, you can create one using **ArcCatalog**. The **Draw Axial Lines** takes place within an edit session. To begin, choose **Start Editing** from the **Editor** menu.



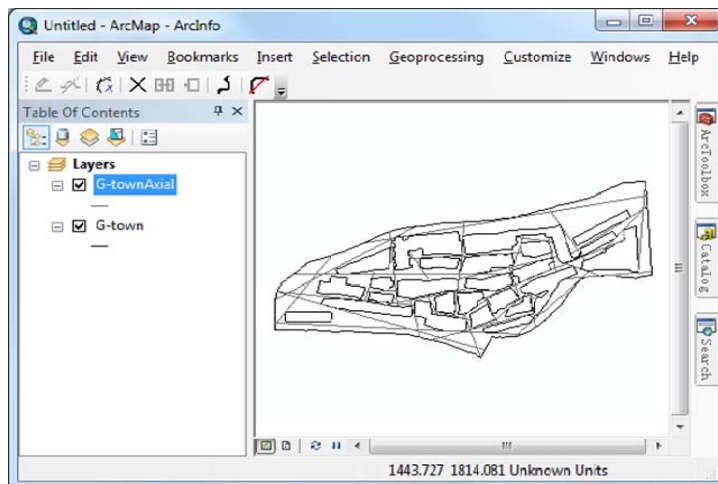
Then select the target layer in the Create Features to activate the Draw Axial Lines button in the Axwoman toolbar.



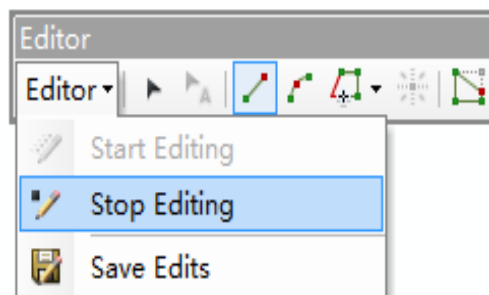
Click the **Draw Axial Lines** button from the Axwoman toolbar, click on the map to digitize the starting vertex. Click with the mouse to create the last vertex and finish the sketch.



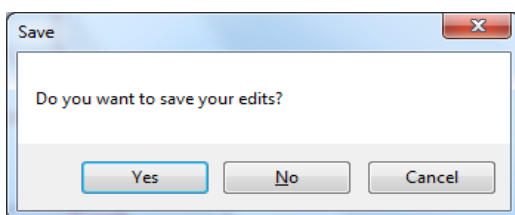
To delete the sketch of axial line, use the **Select Features tool**  to select the line and then press **Delete**.



When you have finished the digitizing, you can save any changes you have made or quit editing without saving. You can also save the edits you have made at any time by choosing **Save Edits** from the **Editor** menu. To stop an editing session, click **Editor** and click **Stop Editing**.



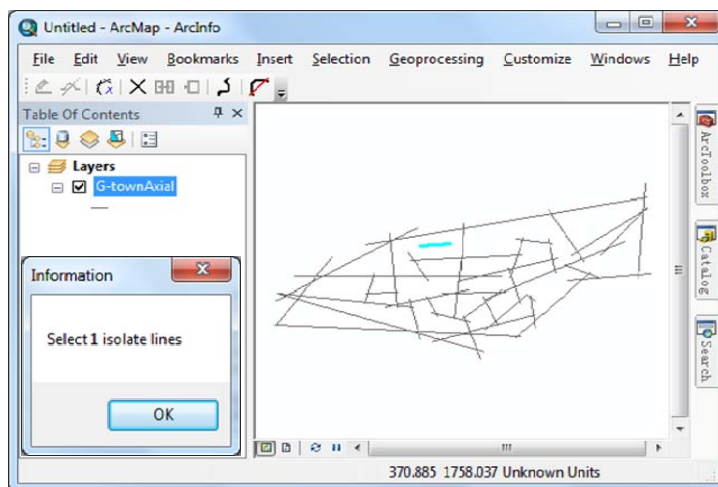
To save changes, click **Yes**. To quit without saving, click **No**.



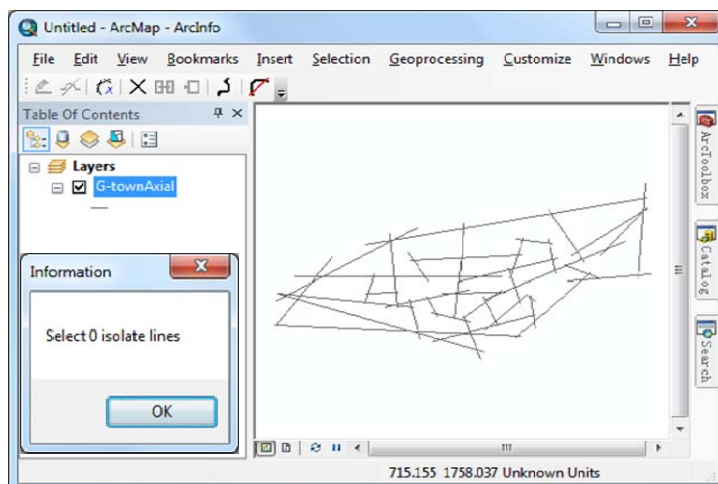
4. Get Isolated Lines

Axwoman 6.0 provides a tool for checking the existence of any isolated lines. When you have finished digitizing the axial map, select any one line from the axial map using the **Select Features tool**  and then click the **Get isolate lines button** from the Axwoman toolbar.

If there are any isolated lines, a message box appears telling you how many of the lines are isolated. Only those lines that are isolated remain selected.

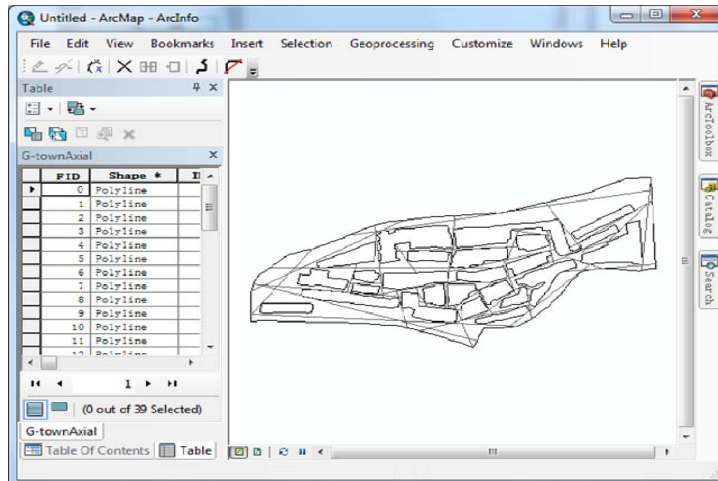


Click **OK** and make necessary edits to the axial map to make the isolated lines connected. Save edits, stop editing and use the **Get isolate line** tool until there is no line being isolated from the network.

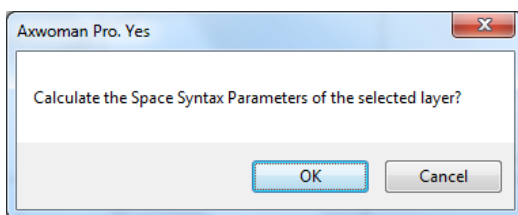


5. Calculate Parameters in Case of Lines with Lines

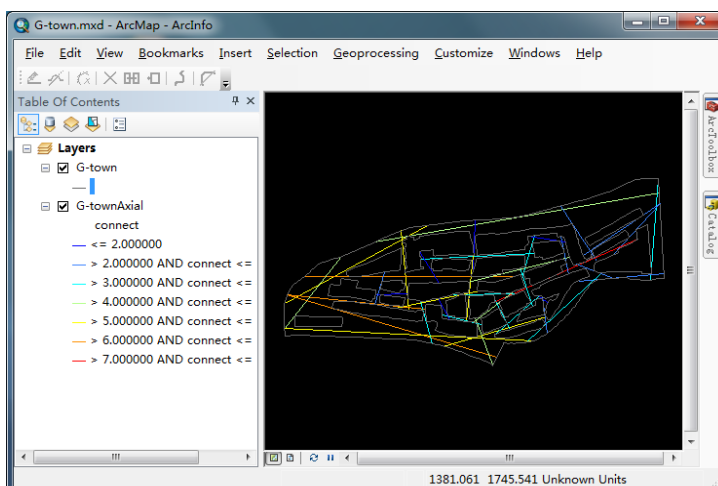
Once the digitization work is finished, you can put the polyline layer on editing status again, and highlight the corresponding layer on the table of contents.



Click  on the Axwoman toolbar to computer all the space syntax measures.



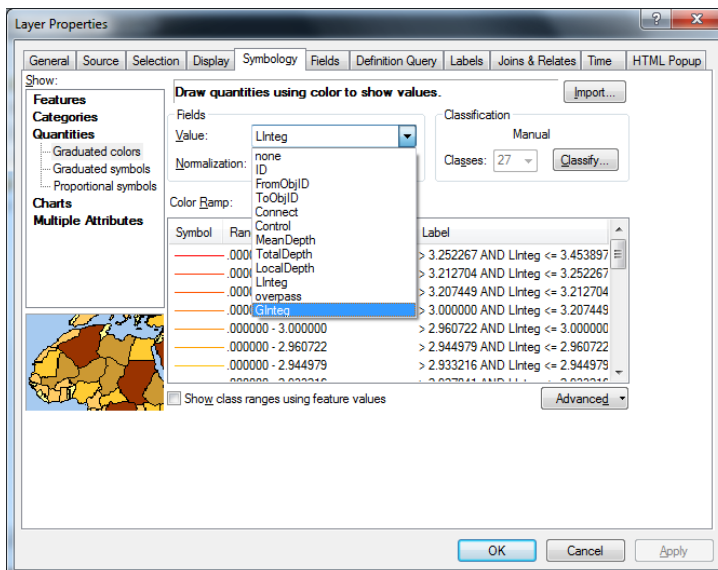
When the computation is done, the map will be rendered according to the connect attribute.



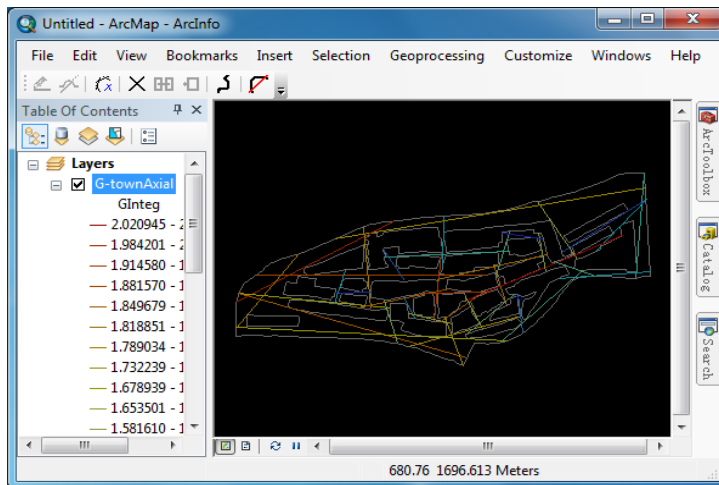
The space syntax values of each axial line can be seen in the attributes table of the polyline shapefile.

Connect	Control	MeanDepth	TotalDepth	LocalDepth	LInteg	overp
5	1.416667	2.605263	99	27	2.660946	
6	.995228	2.421053	92	22	2.960722	
6	1.319048	2.078947	98	30	2.944979	
4	1.2	2.947368	112	18	2.238387	
3	.658333	2.736842	104	25	2.139713	
2	.45	2.131579	119	16	1.571429	
7	1.753333	2.5	95	31	3.207449	
7	1.42619	2.657895	101	29	3.252267	
5	.761905	2.578947	98	27	2.660946	
7	1.292857	2.526316	96	29	3.212704	
6	1.47619	2.826316	96	32	2.960722	
2	.5	3.5	133	12	1.379143	
3	.916667	2.473684	132	9	1.693246	
3	.708333	3	114	21	2.020563	
2	.622222	2.121579	119	15	1.822222	
6	2.283333	2.315789	88	36	3.433897	
4	1.416667	2.947368	112	20	2.273133	
6	1.259524	2.447368	93	36	3	
5	1.142857	2.552632	97	29	2.687822	
3	.765714	2.131579	119	21	2.020563	
2	.392857	2.315789	126	18	1.658781	
4	.619048	2.868421	109	24	2.353751	

And you can render the map according to other attribute as shown below:

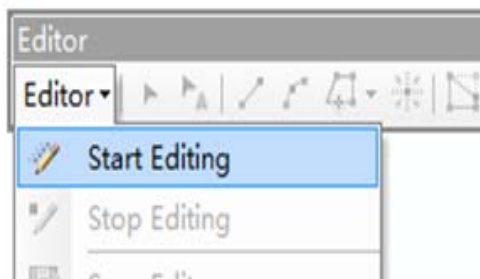


Click **Ok** to render the map again.

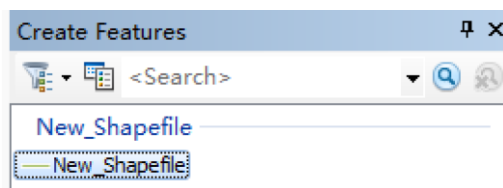


6. Tick overpass

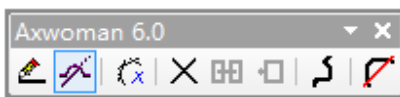
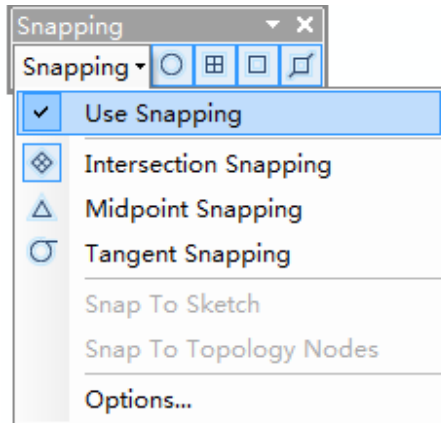
To tick an overpass in a layer of axial lines, you should check the target layer. And then, choose **Start Editing** from the **Editor** menu.



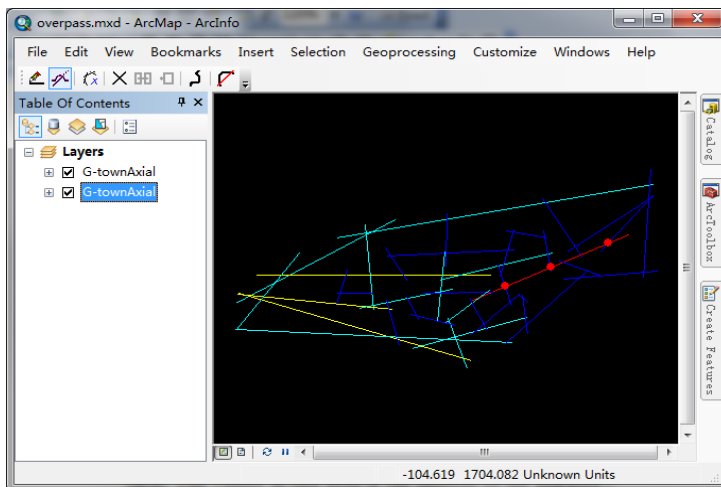
Then select the target layer in the Create Features to activate the **Tick overpass** button in the Axwoman toolbar.



Then check the **Use Snapping** and **Intersection Snapping** in the **Snapping Tools**.

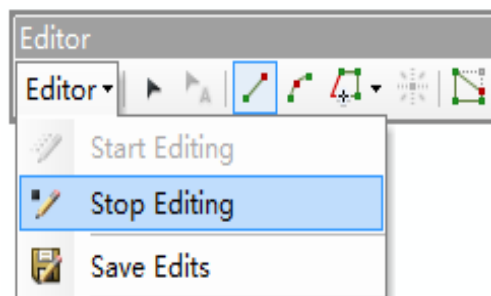


Click the **Tick overpass** button (shown above) from the Axwoman toolbar, to tick an overpass of axial lines. When the overpass (or junction) is ticked, a red dot will be added, and the corresponding axial lines will flash.

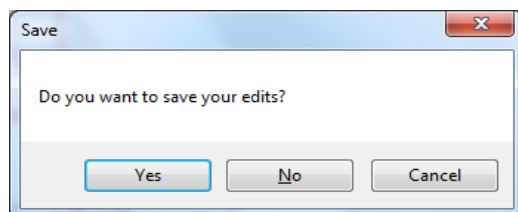


Open the attribute table (of the axial lines layer), and you will find a new field namely “overpass” is added. To check what values are added in the field, try to sort the field in decreasing order, and you will see some values except 0s. The values indicate that some overpasses have been added into the axial lines.

When you have finished the above editing, you can save the changes. You can also save the edits you have made at any time by choosing **Save Edits** from the **Editor** menu. To stop an editing session, click **Editor** and click **Stop Editing**.

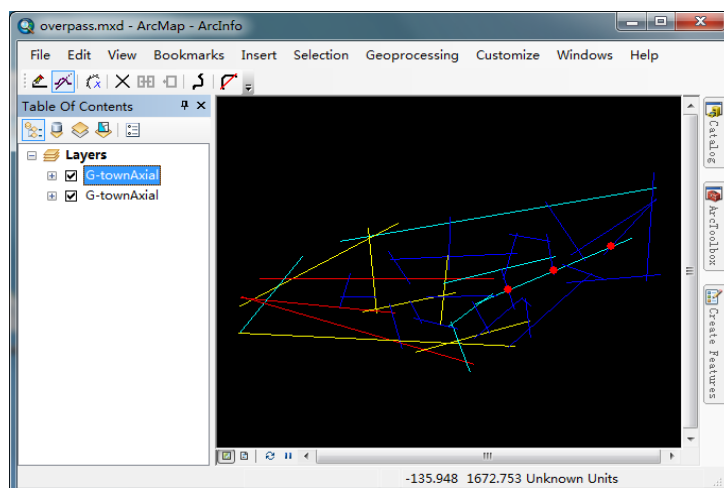


To save changes, click **Yes**.



(Because of some bug with ArcGIS 10, we cannot save the editing changes in the way we described above. As a tentative solution, we introduce the following manual process to save the editing changes: (1) in the axial lines attribute table, remember FID of those values unequal to 0, (2) stop editing, (3) (re)start editing, (4) now manually retype the same values again remembered in step (1), (5) stop editing and choose save edits. In this manner, all the values in the field overpass will be saved; this should have been automatically done if no such a bug.)

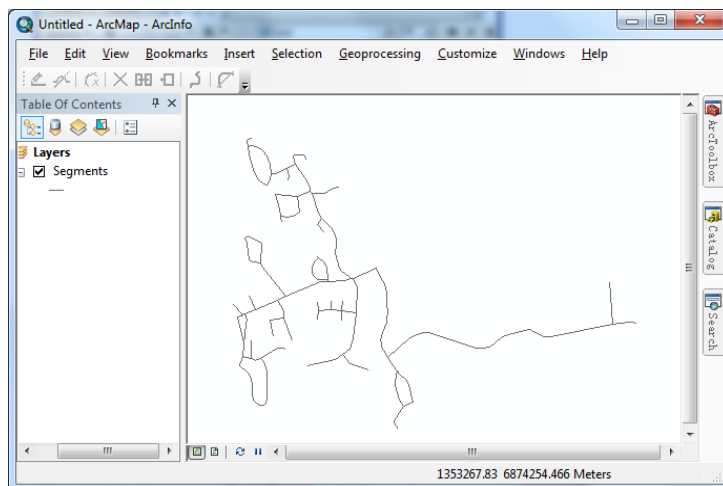
Recalculate space syntax parameter by clicking , one can see coloring of lines has changed, indicating that the line with three overpasses is no longer most connected one.



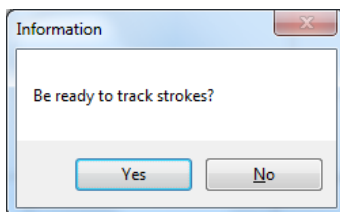
7. Tracking Street Segments to Form Natural Streets

To perform this function, you need to have to highlight the corresponding polyline layer on the table of contents. Click  on the Arcwoman toolbar to start the tracking strokes at junction by a limited angle.

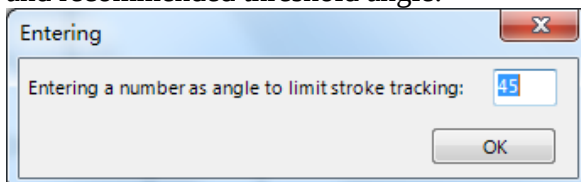
(Note: Make it sure that the shape file for this process is segment or arc based. It means that the shape file must be a coverage file first in ArcMap rather than the raw data.)



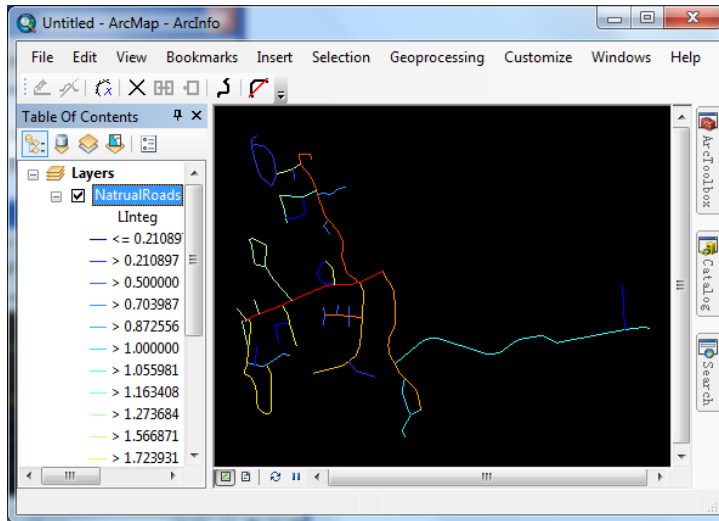
Click **Yes** to start the tracking processing.



Enter an angle for computation and then press **Enter**. Here we use degree 45 as a default and recommended threshold angle.

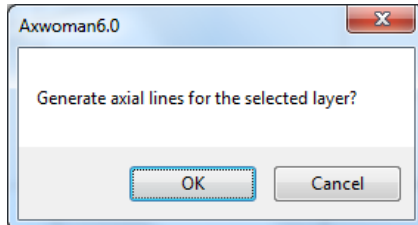


The result will be stored as a shapefile. Enter a name for the resulting shapefile and then click **Save**. The resulting shapefile will then be added to ArcMap.

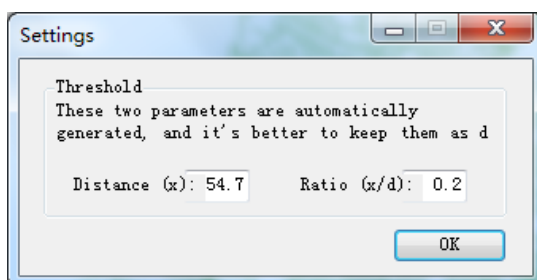


8. Generate Axial Lines from Street Center Lines

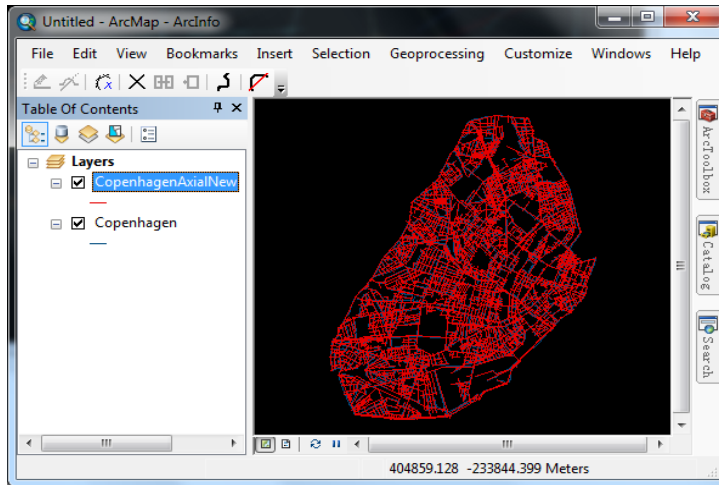
In this function, Axwoman6.0 provides an automatic method to generate the axial lines from street center lines. We put an example shapefile under the installation directory, e.g. %\program files \Axwoman6.0\ Street2AxialSampleData\. Add this shape file to current map window, and click the button . A confirmation dialog appears as follow:



Click “OK” to continue. A progress bar appears to show the current state. And a setup window pops up with two parameters. Click OK to finish the progress.

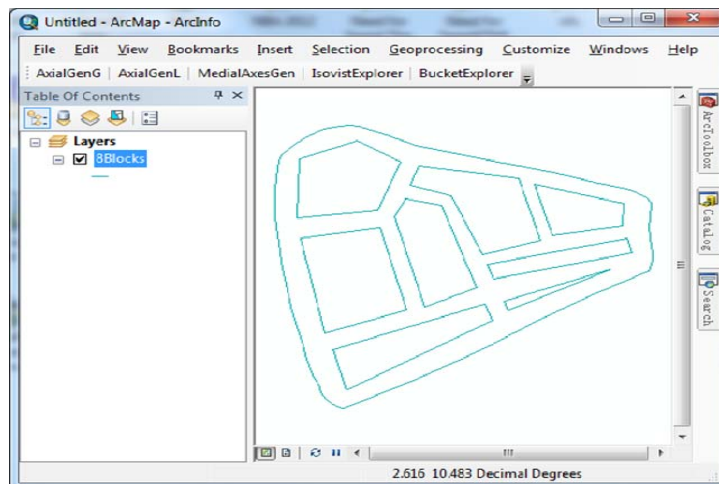


When the process finished, a dialog shows the statistical results. The generated axial lines are automatically added to current map window, which is symbolized with red solid line.

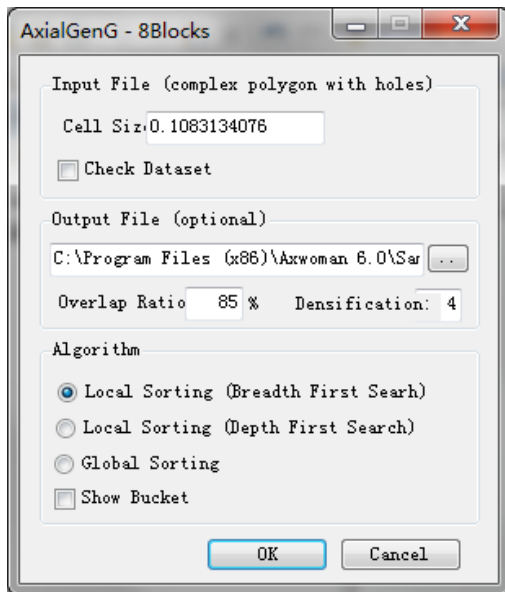


9. AxialGenG (Generating the axial lines globally)

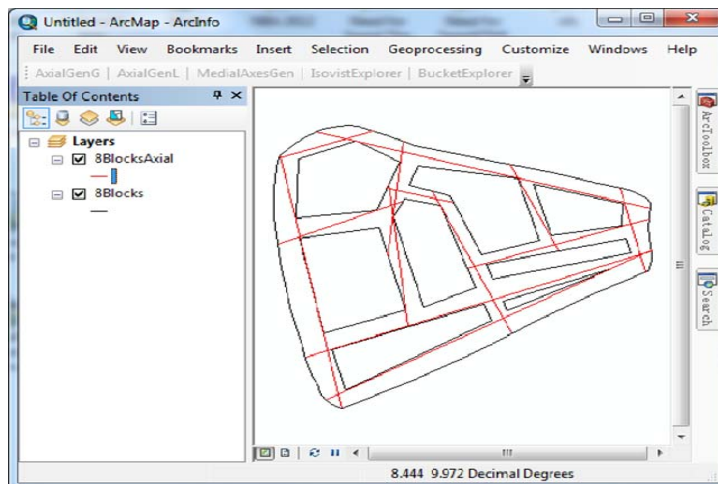
In this function, AxialGen 2.0 provides an automatic method to generate the axial lines from the isovist ridges of the medial axes vertices. We put an example shapefile under the installation directory, e.g. %\program files \Axwoman6.0\SampleData\AxialGen\8Blocks.shp. Add 8Blocks.shp shape file to current map window.



Click **AxialGenG** button. A progress bar appears to show the current state. And a setup window pops up with some parameters. Click OK to finish the progress.

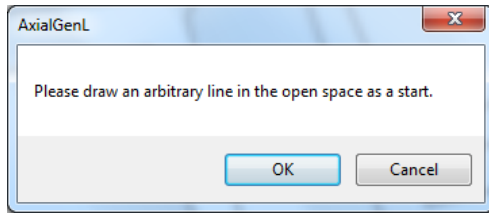


When the process is done, a dialog shows the statistical results. The generated axial lines are automatically added to current map window, which is symbolized with red solid line.

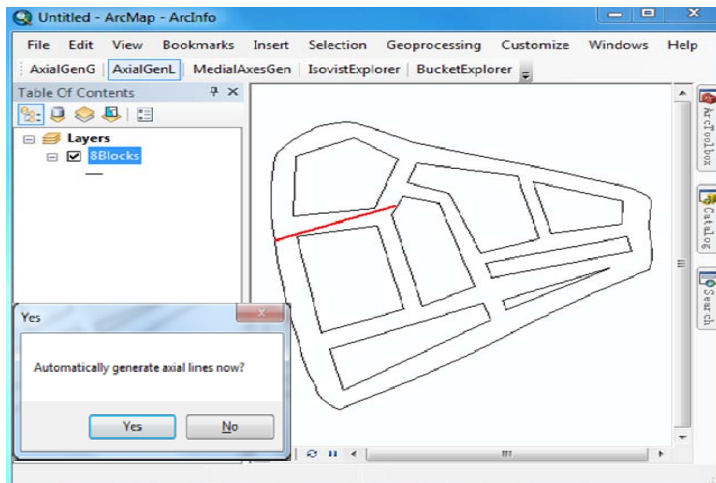


10. AxialGenL (Generating the axial lines locally)

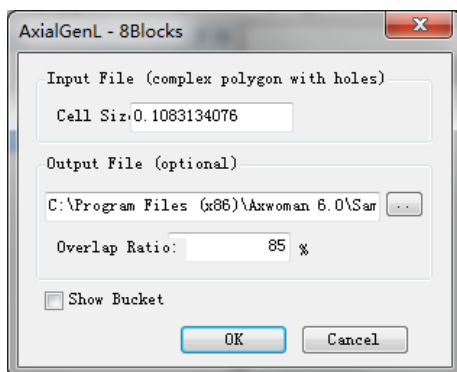
In this function, AxialGen 2.0 provides an automatic method to generate the axial lines from the isovist ridges of the discrete points of a recursively created line. Click **AxialGenL** button. A confirmation dialog appears as follow:



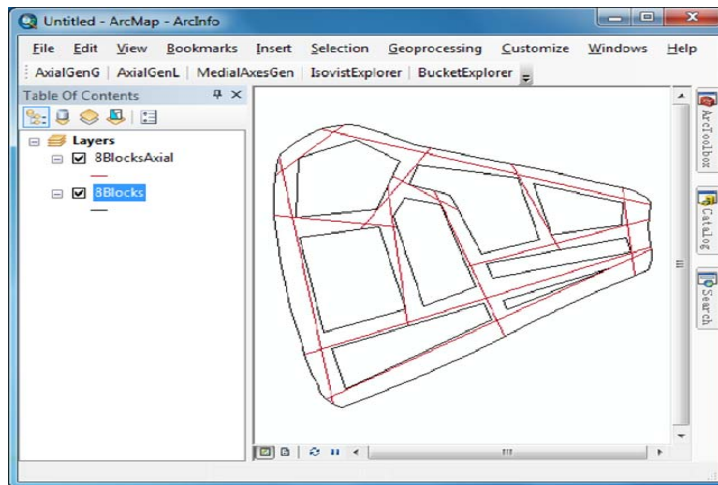
Click "OK" to continue. Click on the map to draw the starting vertex. Move and Release the mouse to finish the sketch. A confirmation dialog appears.



Click "Yes" to continue. A progress bar appears to show the current state. And a setup window pops up with some parameters. Click OK to finish the progress.

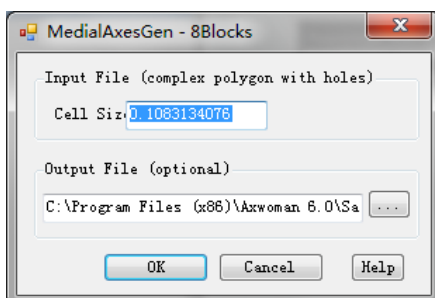


When the process finished, a dialog shows the statistical results. The generated axial lines are automatically added to current map window, which is symbolized with red solid line.

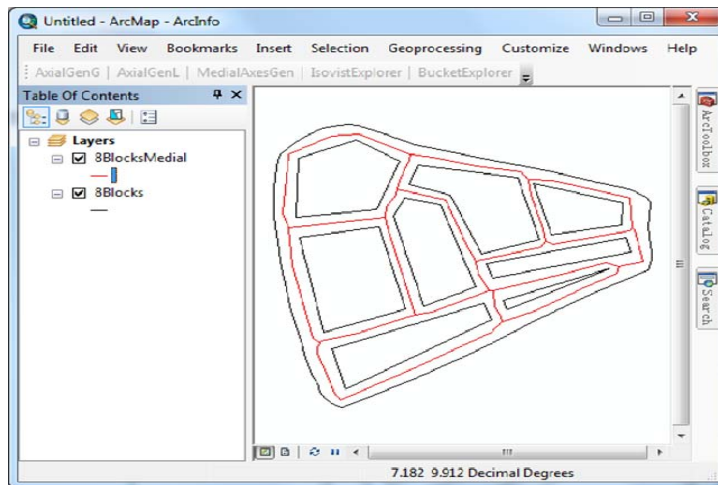


11. MedialAxesGen (Generating the medial axes)

In this function, AxialGen 2.0 provides an automatic method to generate the medial axes of a complex polygon with holes. Click **MedialAxesGen** button. A progress bar appears to show the current state. And then a set up window pops up with some parameters, which are generated by system. Click OK to finish the progress.



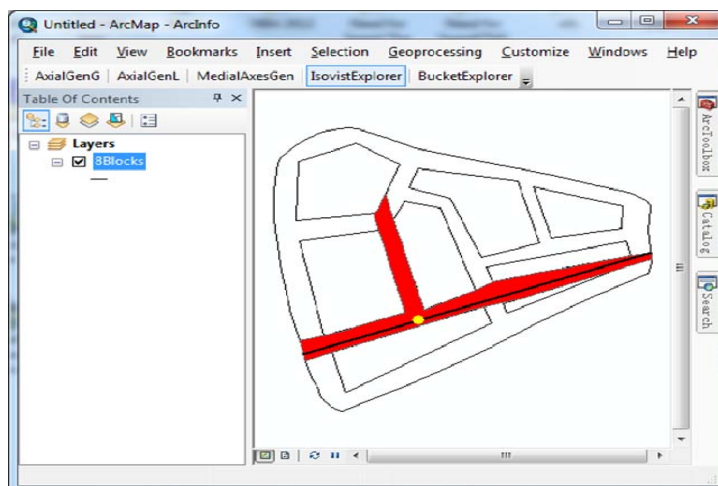
When the process finished, a dialog shows the statistical results. The generated medial axes lines are automatically added to current map window, which is symbolized with red solid line.



12. IsovistExplorer (Exploring isovists of a complex polygon with holes)

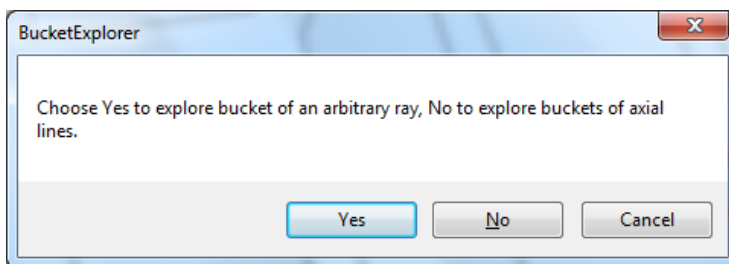
In this function, AxialGen 2.0 provides way to create isovist ridges or rays. With this tool, the user can interactively explore the isovist patterns and the isovist ridges with a complex polygon.

Click the **IsovistExplorer** button, the mouse will change to a yellow dot, and you can move it around in the map to get the isovist ridges or rays.

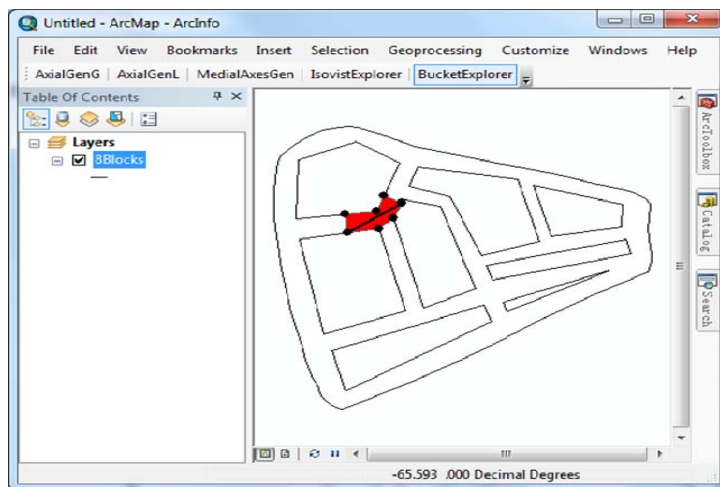


13. BucketExplorer (Generating the bucket for an arbitrary ray or axial lines in a complex polygon with holes)

With this function the users can interactively explore the bucket of an arbitrarily drawn ray, or that of axial lines. It is particularly useful for checking whether or not there are redundant axial lines, i.e., for simply checking if an axial line is within another axial line's bucket. Click the **BucketExplorer** button, a confirmation dialog appears.



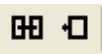
Click "Yes" to continue. Click on the map to draw the starting vertex. Move and Release the mouse to finish the sketch (The line should be in an open space).



14. FAQs

1. Why are some functional buttons of Axwoman 6.0 grey?

In such situation, you should add some shapefile to current ArcMap document, and HIGHLIGHT the corresponding layer, according to the previous instructions.

The two functions of  do not work yet in current version.

2. What is the limitation for the computation?

There is no limitation for the number of axial lines as far as we know. If otherwise, please report to us.

15. Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Chengke Liu, Xintao Liu, Mandy Tang, Junjun Yin, and Sijian Zhao who helped the software implementation or the preparation of the manual. The Gassin dataset is taken from <http://www.vr.ucl.ac.uk/research/axial/>, prepared by Alasdair Turner.

16. References

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- Thomson R. C. (2003), Bending the axial line: smoothly continuous road centre-line segments as a basis for road network analysis, in Hanson, J. (ed.), *Proceedings of the Fourth Space Syntax International Symposium*, University College London, London.

17. Data source

C:\Program Files\Axwoman 6.0\SampleData\Street2AxialSampleData
C:\Program Files\Axwoman6.0\SampleData\AxailGen\

