

Exploratory Search Through Visual Analysis of Topic Models

- Göttingen Dialog in Digital Humanities -

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Agenda

- Topic Models (Latent Dirichlet Allocation)
- Exploratory Search and Visual Analysis
 - Task 1 – Inspecting a topic
 - Task 2 – Overview over topics
 - Task 3 – Ambiguity Resolution
 - Task 4 – Document retrieval
 - Task 5 – Finding topics transitively

Topic Models

- Who has heard of topic models?
- Who knows what they do?
- Who knows how they do it?

Topic Models

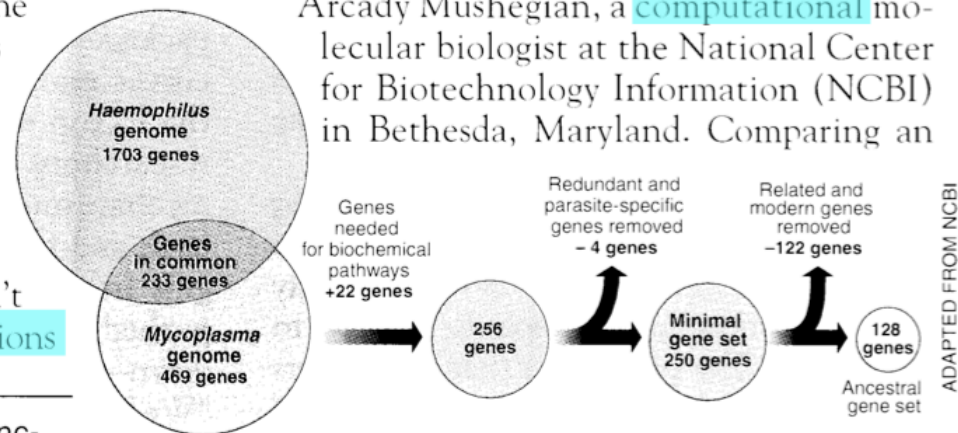
Seeking Life's Bare (Genetic) Necessities

COLD SPRING HARBOR, NEW YORK—How many **genes** does an **organism** need to **survive**? Last week at the genome meeting here,* two genome researchers with radically different approaches presented complementary views of the basic genes needed for **life**. One research team, using **computer** analyses to compare known **genomes**, concluded that today's **organisms** can be sustained with just 250 genes, and that the earliest life forms required a mere 128 **genes**. The other researcher mapped genes in a simple parasite and estimated that for this organism, 800 genes are plenty to do the job—but that anything short of 100 wouldn't be enough.

Although the numbers don't match precisely, those **predictions**

* Genome Mapping and Sequencing, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, May 8 to 12.

“are not all that far apart,” especially in comparison to the 75,000 **genes** in the human genome, notes Siv Andersson of Uppsala University in Sweden, who arrived at the 800 number. But coming up with a consensus answer may be more than just a **genetic numbers** game, particularly as more and more **genomes** are completely mapped and sequenced. “It may be a way of organizing any newly **sequenced genome**,” explains Arcady Mushegian, a **computational** molecular biologist at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) in Bethesda, Maryland. Comparing an



Stripping down. **Computer analysis** yields an estimate of the minimum modern and ancient genomes.

Topic Models

Topics

gene 0.04
dna 0.02
genetic 0.01
...

life 0.02
evolve 0.01
organism 0.01
...

brain 0.04
neuron 0.02
nerve 0.01
...

data 0.02
number 0.02
computer 0.01
...

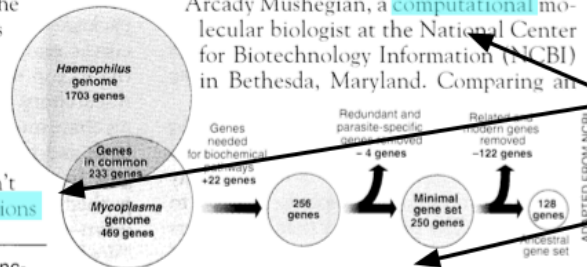
Documents

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Topic proportions and assignments

Topic Models

Topics

Documents

Topic proportions and assignments

Seeking Life's Bare (Genetic) Necessities

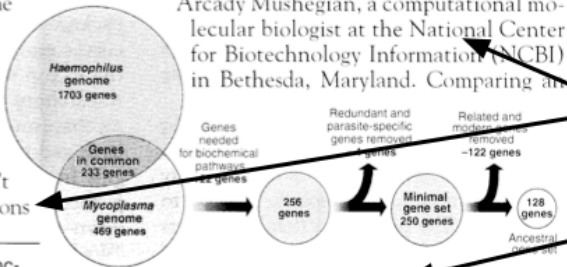
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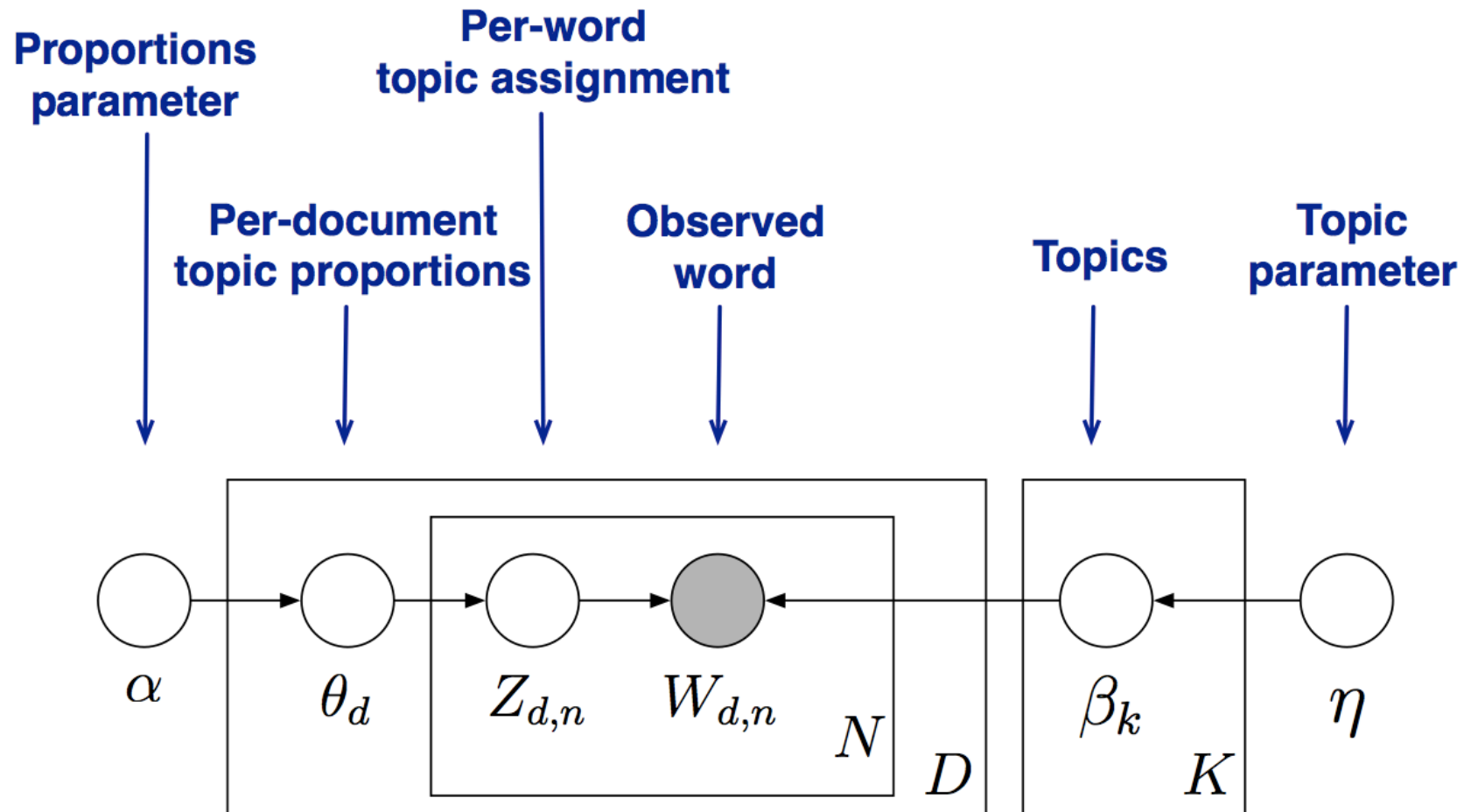
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Topic Models



Topic Models

- Bayes' law

$$p(\text{parameters}|\text{data}) = \frac{p(\text{data}|\text{parameters})p(\text{parameters})}{p(\text{data})}$$

- parameters: the documents' topic proportions, the topics, the word topic assignments
- data: the words

Topic Models

$$p(\beta, \theta, z, w) = \prod_{k=1}^K p(\beta_k | \eta) \prod_{d=1}^D \left\{ p(\theta_d | \alpha) \prod_{n=1}^{N_d} p(z_{dn} | \theta_d) p(w_{dn} | z_{dn}, \beta_{1:K}) \right\}$$

- easy-to-read-off joint probability
- (don't worry too much about it)
- helps to determine $p(w)$ because

$$p(w) = \int_{\beta} \int_{\theta} \int_z p(\beta, \theta, z, w)$$

Topic Models

- finding $p(w)$ is intractable
- learn an approximation: 2 main methods
- Sampling
 - Initialize randomly
 - Repeatedly reassign each word to a topic (conditioned on all other assignments)
 - measure the likelihood each time
- Variational inference
 - Find probable solution by optimization

Topic Models

- example analysis of some of our wortschatz data (<http://wortschatz.uni-leipzig.de>)
- 100 million sentences from 2010
- the following results are taken from an LDA model with 100 topics

Topic Models

people
haiti
air
flight
day
hours
airport
weather
morning
port
night
earthquake
early
thursday
fire
area
officials



"Peacekeeping – MINUSTAH" by Marco Domino/The United Nations Development Programme , as used in [1], CC BY 2.0

Topic Models

fight
vegas
las
round
ring
boxing
match
world
wrestling
champion
fighter
ufc
pacquiao
title
continues
mayweather
fights



Topic Models

oil
bp
gulf
spill
gas
company
coast
water
mexico
drilling
million
day
disaster
louisiana
barrels
damage
hurricane



“Deepwater Horizon offshore drilling unit on fire”, US Coast Guard [3], CC0, Public Domain

Topic Models

space
nasa
station
shuttle
program
earth
planet
center
rocket
moon
international
mission
launch
mars
star
search
science



Exploratory Search

- only looked at topics by now
- what about those small bar charts
- can use information about topics in documents *and* about words in topics

Exploratory Search

- define tasks for exploratory search
 - inspect a topic
 - get an overview over all of them
 - find words that appear in multiple topics (i.e. have different meanings)
 - get the documents that talk about a topic
 - having a document, find other related ones (that have similar topic distributions)

Exploratory Search

- Task 1 – Inspecting a topic
 - difficult, a topic is a probability distribution
 - problem 1: find prominent words in the topic
 - this is easy: sort them by probability is one option
 - problem 2 – find overall topic significance
 - use information on topics in documents
 - compute the average usage of a topic across documents

Visual Analysis

- Task 1 – Inspecting a topic
 - topics are presented as word clouds
 - most prominent term in the middle, other follow in a spiral around it (inside -> outside)
 - first portion of list has high probability -> display only those (parameter for minimum probability)
 - cloud is scaled according to topic relevance

Visual Analysis



Visual Analysis



Visual Analysis

rescuers
federal
months
called
death
cream
afraid
wondered
forever
cottages
sodium
clouds
curse
observed
noticed
convention
teddy
evenhanded
tunnels
refining
making
american
shermen
dozens
swing
makers
tower
collapse
beard
turned
quickly
started
official
handles
attack
calls
concrete
teams
route
stake
chore
sites
south
madrid
station
louis
claudia
homes

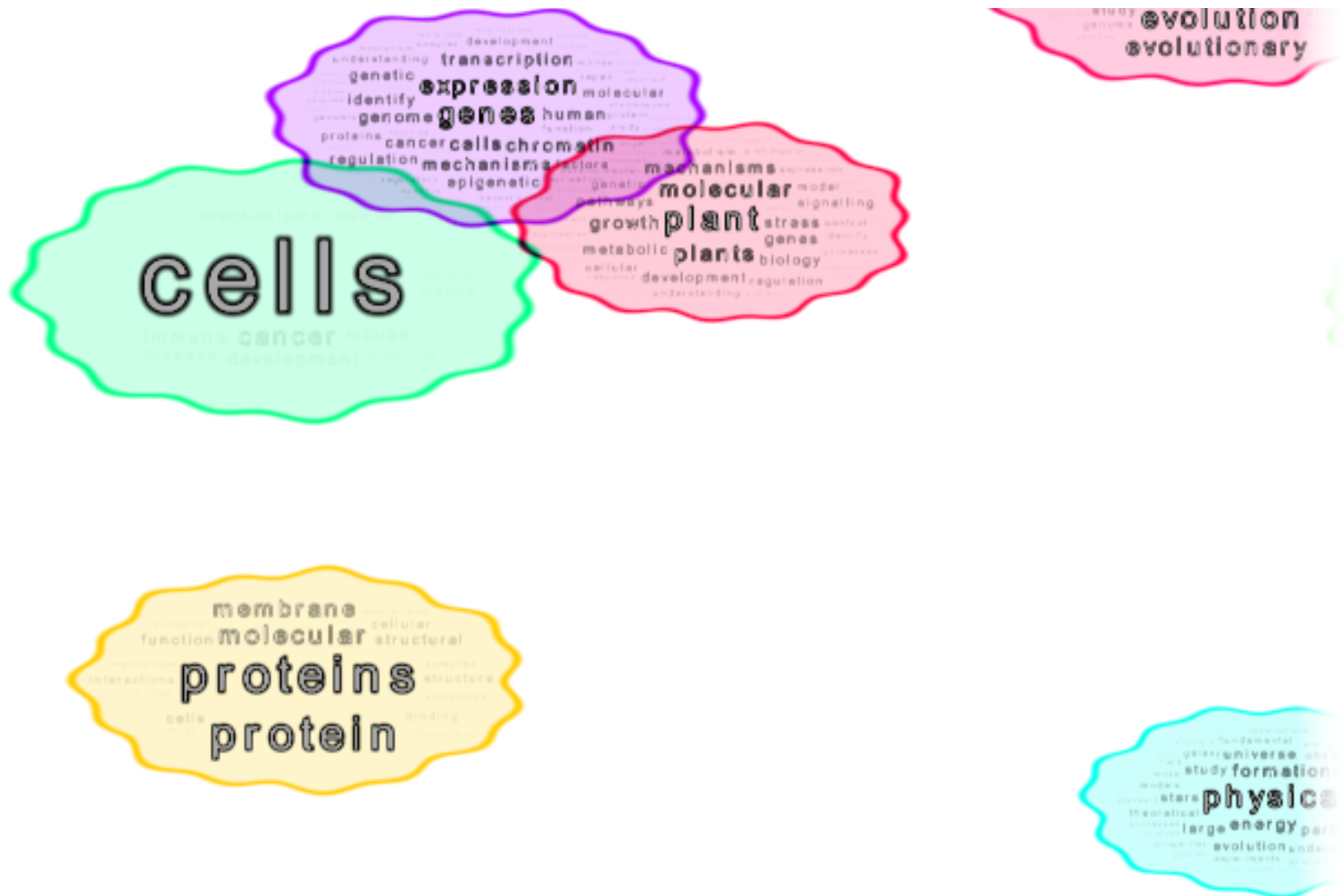
Exploratory Search

- Task 2 – Overview over Topics
 - use information about topic relevance from last task
 - problem: find similarities between topics
 - interpret topics as distributions \rightarrow posterior log-odds, Jensen-Shannon divergence
 - interpret topics as vectors in $\mathbb{R}^V \rightarrow$ cosine distance, euclidean distance etc.

Visual Analysis

- Task 2 – Overview over Topics
 - after computing similarities, we have a similarity matrix
 - find a mapping into two dimensions given this matrix
 - implementation with Force Directed and Sammon's mapping

Visual Analysis



Visual Analysis



Exploratory Search

- Task 3 – Ambiguity resolution
 - based on structural semantics
 - if terms appear in different contexts, they have different meanings
 - meanings can be related (polysemous terms) or not (homonyms)

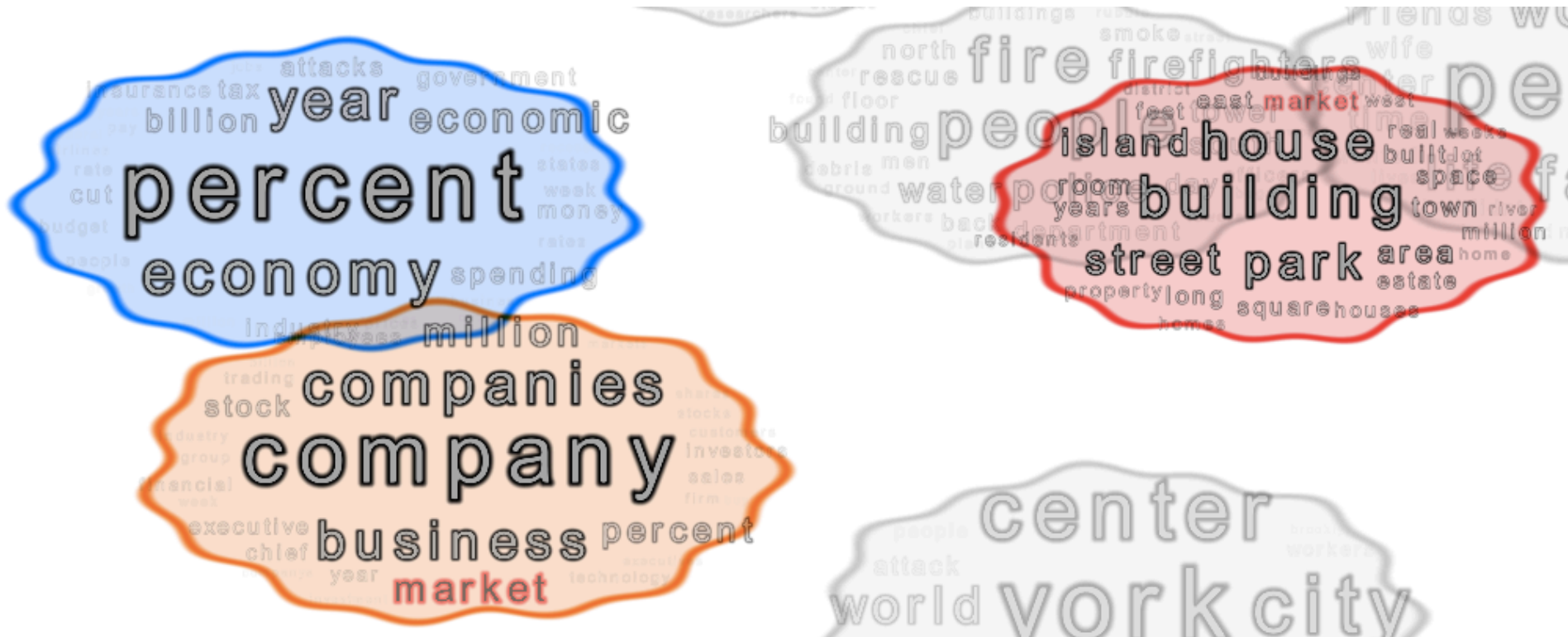
Visual Analysis

- Task 3 - Ambiguity resolution
 - words are clickable and highlighted when selected
 - also highlighted in other topics (when they are above a certain threshold)
 - a pie chart shows how high the probability is in other topics
 - other topics are de-colored

Visual Analysis



Visual Analysis



Exploratory Search

- Task 4 – Document retrieval
 - find documents that are related to topics
 - makes use of documents' topic distributions (the bar charts)
 - again sort by probabilities
 - also, select multiple topics -> gets documents that are related to topic combination

Visual Analysis

- Task 4 – Document retrieval
 - Documents are also clickable (with right click) and then framed
 - multiple topics are clickable in that way
 - according to the probability of the selected topics, a list of document is displayed

Visual Analysis



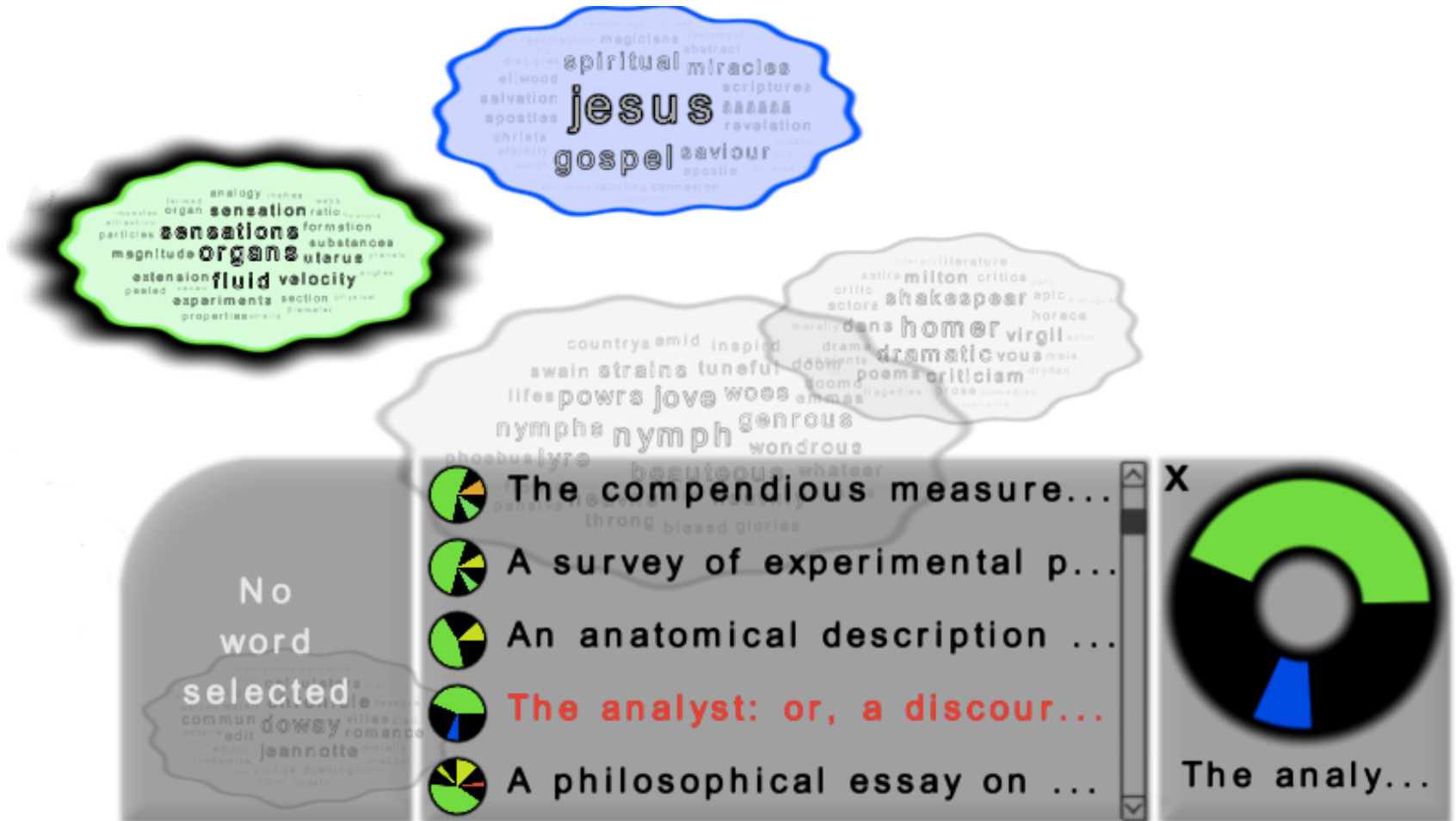
Exploratory Search

- Task 5 – Finding topics transitively
 - having identified an interesting document find other topics related to it
 - easy task, but can help immensely to uncover relationships in the data

Visual Analysis

- Task 5 – Finding topics transitively
 - click documents in the list highlights them
 - shows a second pie chart with the topic distribution of the selected document
 - pie chart elements are clickable and select other topics
 - in consequence, this also finds related documents

Visual Analysis



Visual Analysis



References

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- [5] David M. Blei, „Probabilistic Topic Models“, talk at Machine Learning Summer School Kyoto, 2012,
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