

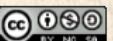
The Meaning of Meaning

Last updated: 2023/05/21, 18:19:34 CEST

Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D
CSYS/MATH 300, 303, & 394, 2022-2023 | @pocsvox

Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds | @peterdodds

Computational Story Lab | Vermont Complex Systems Center
Santa Fe Institute | University of Vermont



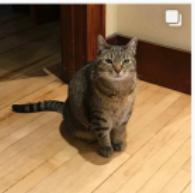
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Sealie & Lambie
Productions

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The meaning of meaning:



“Ousiometrics and Telegnomics: The essence of meaning conforms to a two-dimensional powerful-weak and dangerous-safe framework with diverse corpora presenting a safety bias” ↗

Dodds et al.,
, 2021. [?]

What does meaning even mean?

- 💡 From the smack-tweeting Merriam-Webster:¹
“The thing that is conveyed especially by language”
- 💡 What are the essential characteristics of meaning?
- 💡 Does essential meaning meaningfully span some kind of space?

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¹Life goal: Never get owned by a dictionary on social media



This is not easy:

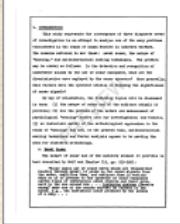
"Abed's Uncontrollable Christmas"

- ⬢ Abed searches for the meaning of Christmas (in stop animation)
- ⬢ Abed Nadir: [opens present] "It's the first season of Lost on DVD."
- ⬢ Pierce Hawthorne: "That's the meaning of Christmas?"
- ⬢ Abed Nadir: "It's a metaphor. It represents lack of payoff."

"Introduction to Teaching"

Abed Nadir: "I thought the meaning of people was somewhere in here. Then I looked inside Nicolas Cage and I found a secret—people are random and pointless."

The meaning of pings:



"A factorial study of complex auditory stimuli (passive sonar sounds)" ↗

L. M. Solomon,

Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of Illinois, , ,
1954. [?]

From the introduction:

This study represents the convergence of three disparate areas of investigation in an attempt to analyze one of the many problems encountered in the study of human factors in undersea warfare.

The domains referred to are these:

- ⬢ naval sonar,
- ⬢ the nature of "meaning,"
- ⬢ and multidimensional scaling techniques.

The problem may be stated as follows: In the detection and recognition of underwater sounds by the use of sonar equipment, what are the discriminative cues employed by the sonar operator?

More generally, what factors does the operator utilize in decoding the significance of sonar signals?

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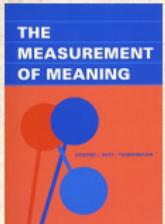
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From pings to things:



"The Measurement of Meaning" ↗
by Osgood, Suci, and Tannenbaum (1957). [?]

THE DIMENSIONALITY OF THE SEMANTIC SPACE	UNSTRUCTURED CORRELATION LOADINGS AND COMMUNALITIES (SCHORNOFF PROCT)												
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII
1. pleasant-unpleasant	.28	-.25	.26	.32	-.24	.23	-.20	.20					
2. repeated-unrepeated	-.24	.16	.24	.03	.28	-.12	.24	-.26	.21				
3. simple-complex	.20	-.16	.20	.22	-.18	.20	-.16	.20	.21				
4. retrogressive-progressive	-.07	-.05	.29	.21	-.08	.23	-.16	.18	.28				
5. conservative-revolutionary	.23	-.14	.36	.24	-.25	.19	-.18	.24					
6. Other-dimensional	.23	-.14	.36	.24	-.25	.19	-.18	.24					
7. low-high	.32	-.06	.36	.07	.39	-.15	.27	-.06	.00				
8. slow-fast	.20	-.05	.28	.21	.16	.20	-.24	.21					
9. strong-weak	.10	-.16	.20	.22	.16	.20	-.12	.20					
10. large-small	.31	-.28	.29	.08	-.13	.06	.07	.04	.45				
11. fat-thin	.30	-.28	.29	.08	-.13	.06	.07	.04	.45				
12. reading-writing	.20	-.18	.19	.18	-.12	.14	-.08	.05	.45				
13. white-black	.20	-.18	.19	.14	-.09	.05	.02	.05	.45				
14. whole-part	.23	-.18	.20	.14	-.09	.05	.02	.05	.45				
15. outgoing-withdrawn	.26	-.19	.21	.20	-.13	.09	.05	.02	.45				
16. outgoing-withdrawn	.26	-.19	.21	.20	-.13	.09	.05	.02	.45				
17. suspended	.11	.21	-.08	.03	.06	.07	.05	-.14	.45				
18. suspended	.11	.21	-.08	.03	.06	.07	.05	-.14	.45				
19. rating-scale	.20	-.19	.21	.20	-.13	.09	.05	.02	.45				
20. rating-scale	.20	-.19	.21	.20	-.13	.09	.05	.02	.45				
21. deep-shallow	.34	-.05	.03	-.13	-.06	-.05	-.04	.32	.20				
22. strong-weak	.20	-.05	.03	-.13	-.06	-.05	-.04	.32	.20				
23. familiar-strange	.45	-.16	.11	.21	-.06	.14	-.13	.09	.24				
24. heavy-light	.21	-.05	.08	.07	-.06	.05	-.04	.32	.20				
25. wet-dry	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
26. violent-peaceful	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
27. stimulate-depress	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
28. stimulate-depress	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
29. intelligent-dull	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
30. intelligent-dull	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
31. friendly-hostile	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
32. friendly-hostile	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
33. good-bad	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
34. nice-ugly	.21	-.12	.13	.22	-.13	.09	-.12	.14	.24				
35. over-cautious	.20	.21	.35	.00	.28	.00	-.06	.16	.28				
36. relaxed-tense	.20	.21	.35	.00	.28	.00	-.06	.16	.28				
37. calm-agitated	.20	.21	.35	.00	.28	.00	-.06	.16	.28				
38. quiet-noisy	.21	.22	.36	.00	.29	.00	-.06	.16	.28				
39. hot-cold	.34	.17	.20	.23	.05	.27	.17	-.11	-.03	.21			
40. sharp-blunt	.21	.22	.36	.00	.29	.00	-.06	.16	.28				
41. clean-stinky	.21	.22	.36	.00	.29	.00	-.06	.16	.28				
42. sharp-blunt	.36	.02	.43	.06	.13	.10	-.03	.11	.27				
43. hard-soft	.20	.21	.35	.00	.28	.00	-.06	.16	.28				
44. solid-liquid	.20	.21	.35	.00	.28	.00	-.06	.16	.28				
45. smooth-rough	.20	.21	.35	.00	.28	.00	-.06	.16	.28				
46. simple-complex	.14	.20	.17	.26	.28	.00	-.13	.14	.28				
47. abstract-concrete	.14	.20	.17	.26	.28	.00	-.13	.14	.28				
48. material-idealistic	.06	.24	.11	.37	.08	-.09	-.13	.38	.28				
49. material-idealistic	.06	.24	.11	.37	.08	-.09	-.13	.38	.28				



Osgood et al. used semantic differentials ↗ and factor analysis to identify a basis of three variables for meaning-space:



Evaluation: {bad ⇌ good}



Potency: {weak ⇌ strong}



Activity: {passive ⇌ active}



100s of students, 10s of things,
50 semantic differentials



"EPA framework"

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Semantic differentials from Osgood et al.: [?]

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. pleasant-unpleasant | 18. large-small | 36. colorful-colorless |
| 2. repeated-varied | 19. clean-dirty | 37. hot-cold |
| 3. smooth-rough | 20. resting-busy | 38. rich-thin |
| 4. active-passive | 21. dull-sharp | 39. obvious-subtle |
| 5. beautiful-ugly | 22. deep-shallow | 40. wide-narrow |
| 6. definite-uncertain | 23. gliding-scraping | 41. deliberate-careless |
| 7. low-high | 24. familiar-strange | 42. happy-sad |
| 8. powerful-weak | 25. soft-hard | 43. gentle-violent |
| 9. steady-fluttering | 26. heavy-light | 44. mild-intense |
| 10. soft-loud | 27. wet-dry | 45. rounded-angular |
| 11. full-empty | 28. safe-dangerous | 46. slow-fast |
| 12. good-bad | 29. concentrated-diffuse | 47. rugged-delicate |
| 13. rumbling-whining | 30. pushing-pulling | 48. simple-complex |
| 14. solid-hollow | 31. labored-easy | 49. green-red |
| 15. clear-hazy | 32. dark-bright | 50. masculine-feminine |
| 16. calming-exciting | 33. even-uneven | |
| 17. pleasing-annoying | 34. loose-tight | |
| | 35. relaxed-tense | |

Definitions:

- ❖ Ousiometrics: The quantitative study of the **essential meaningful components** of an entity, however perceived.
- ❖ Used in philosophical and theological settings, the word 'ousia' comes from Ancient Greek οὐσία.
- ❖ To be distinguished from semantics, semiotics, ...
- ❖ οὐσία is the etymological root of the word 'essence'.
- ❖ Ousiometry, ousiometer, ousiograms, ...
- ❖ Telegnomics: The distant sensing of knowledge (~ distant reading [?])

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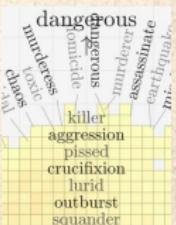
References





Essential dimensions captured by emotion:

- ⬢ Late 1800s: Three dimensional representation of emotion postulated by Wendt. [?, ?]
- ⬢ 1970s: Mehrabian and Russell explicitly port EPA framework: [?, ?]
 - ⬢ Evaluation ~ Pleasure/Valence (~ Happiness)
 - ⬢ Potency ~ Dominance
 - ⬢ Activity ~ Arousal
- ⬢ VAD has become standard nomenclature even though emotion is less general than meaning.
- ⬢ Explicit presumption of independence of VAD dimensions, has hardened as fact.
- ⬢ Intention that VAD \equiv EPA has become lost in literature. [?]



"An Approach to Environmental Psychology." ↗↗

by Mehrabian and Russell (1974). [?]



"The basic emotional impact of environments" ↗

Mehrabian and Russell,
Perceptual and motor skills, **38**, 283–301,
1974. [?]

"Semantic differential studies, in particular, have shown that human judgments of diverse samples of stimuli can be characterized in terms of three dimensions: evaluation, activity, and potency. We have termed the corresponding emotional responses pleasure, arousal, and dominance."

"Thus, each dimension is, in principle, functionally independent of the other two; none of the three dimensions could be subsumed by the others."

Major problems with measuring essential meaning:

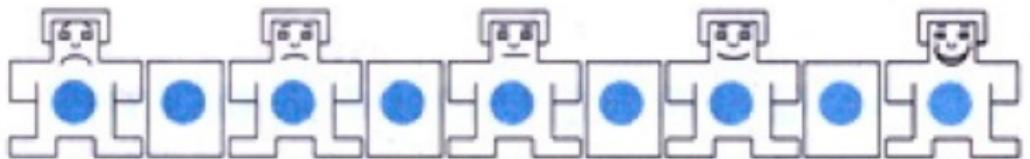
1. **Scale:** Originally 10s and 100s of words → now 10,000s + online rating.
2. **The focus on types alone and not tokens:**
Missing the forest for the book of tree species.
3. **The use of Likert scales for semantic differentials:** Solid but can be improved upon.
4. **Limitations of factor analysis for a large number of categorical dimensions:** Ousiograms will help sort things out.
5. **The misalignment between expert-chosen, end-point descriptors and dimensions of essential meaning:** How to guide raters to score VAD dimensions?

Solution is to always perform factor analysis (SVD).

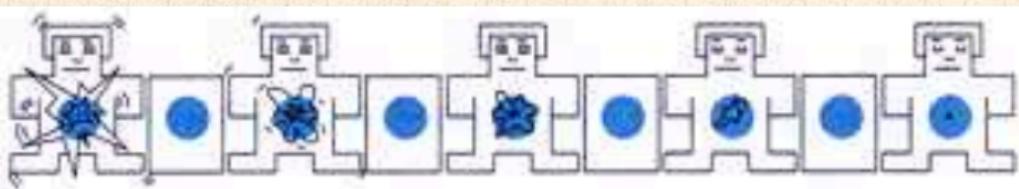


1999 ANEW study—three 1–9 scales: [?]

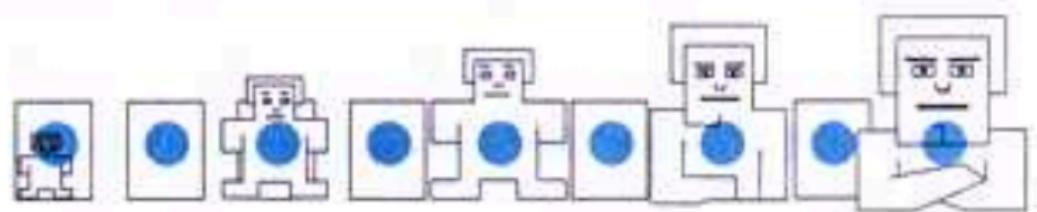
valence:



arousal:



dominance:



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dangerous	annihilating	shocking	unfriendly	murderous	toxic	chaos	evil
killer	annihilation	shock	unfriendliness	murderousness	toxicity	chaotic	evilness
aggression	pissed	crucifixion	lurid	assassinate	earthquake	squander	murder
pissed	crucifixion	lurid	outburst	assassinate	earthquake	squander	murder
crucifixion	lurid	outburst	assassinate	earthquake	squander	murder	evil

ANEW study: Valence ~ Happiness:

- Valence scale presented to participants as a 'happy-unhappy scale.'

- Participants were further told:

"At one extreme of this scale, you are happy, pleased, satisfied, contented, hopeful. ...

The other end of the scale is when you feel completely unhappy, annoyed, unsatisfied, melancholic, despaired, or bored."

- The Hedonometer was always about essential meaning.

We now know that ANEW is a no-no:

- Problem: Expert-chosen list of ~ 1,000 words.
- Fine words but poorly cover real texts [?].
- Wrongly suggests Arousal and Dominance are minimal relative to Valence.





Remeasuring meaning:



"Obtaining Reliable human ratings of valence, arousal, and dominance for 20,000 English words" ↗

Saif M. Mohammad,

Proceedings of The Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 38, , 2018. [?]

Moving beyond Likert scales:

⬢ Best-worst scaling ↗

⬢ Ask raters to examine n things once, and choose the best and worst according to some criterion.

⬢ For $n = 4$, there are 6 pair comparisons of Things.

⬢ Choosing best and worst gives 5 orderings:

$$\tau_1 > \tau_2, \tau_3 > \tau_4.$$

⬢ Things end up with scores in $[0, 1]$.

NRC VAD Lexicon [?]

VAD endpoints:	Paradigm words and phrases presented to raters: [?]
highest valence	happiness, pleasure, positiveness, satisfaction, contentedness, hopefulness
lowest valence	unhappiness, annoyance, negativeness, dissatisfaction, melancholy, despair
highest arousal	arousal, activeness, stimulation, frenzy, jitteriness, alertness
lowest arousal	unarousal, passiveness, relaxation, calmness, sluggishness, dullness, sleepiness
highest dominance	dominant, in control of the situation, powerful, influential, important, autonomous
lowest dominance	submissive, controlled by outside factors, weak, influenced, cared-for, guided

Major problem 5: Imposing dimensions through clouds of endpoint descriptors.

NRC VAD study: 20,007 words:

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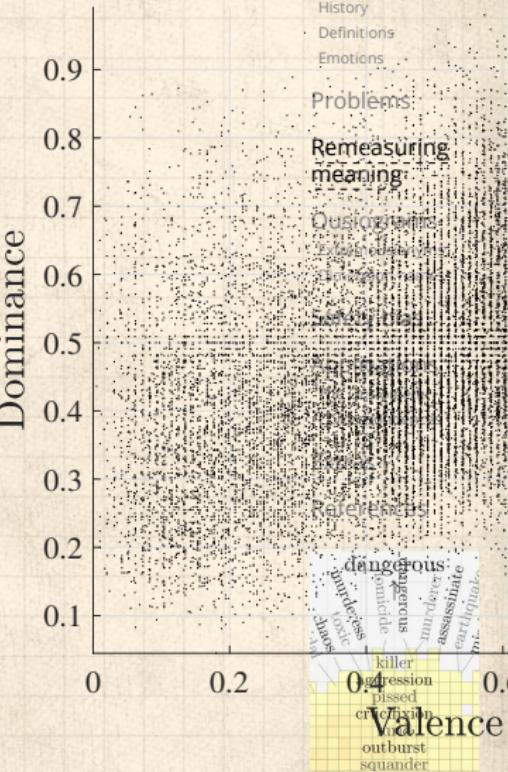
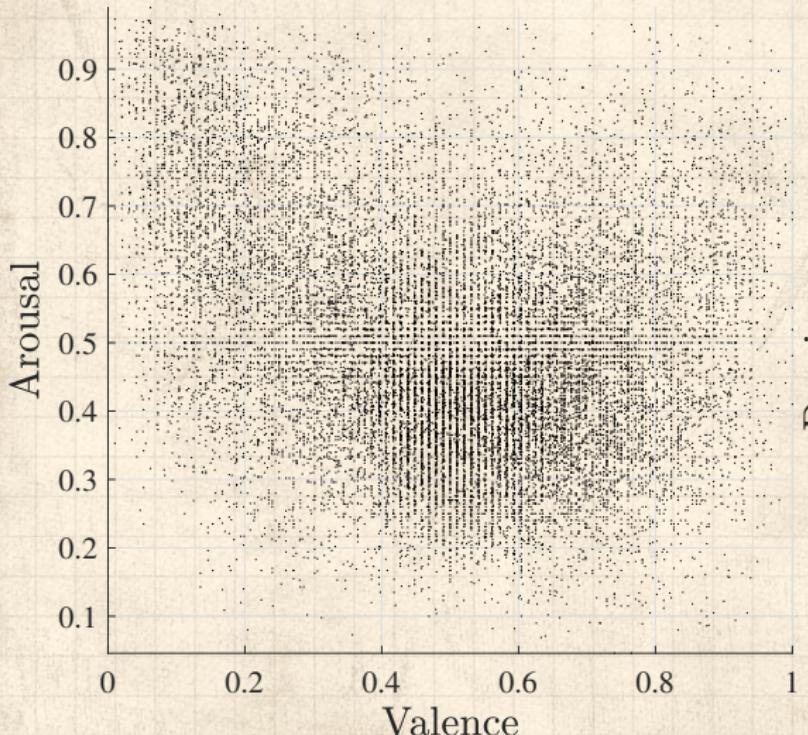
$$R(V, A) \simeq -0.268$$

$$R(A, D) \simeq 0.302$$

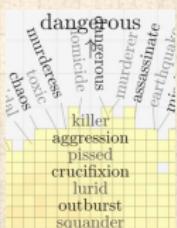
$$R(D, V) \simeq 0.488$$



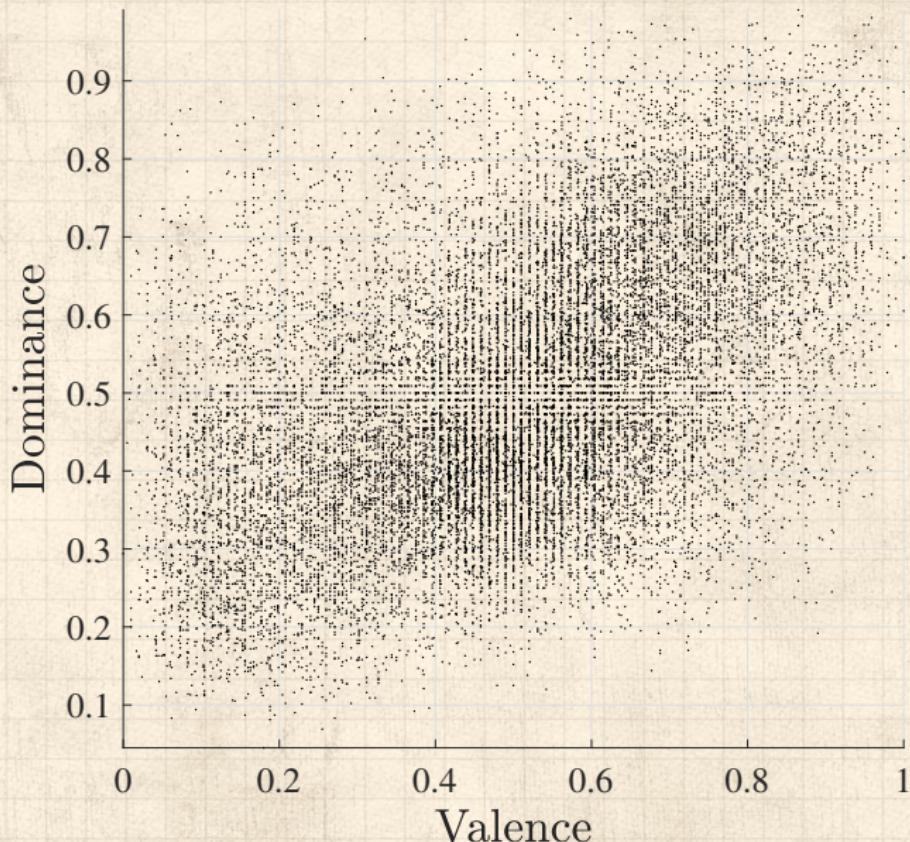
The Delicious English Muffin of Meaning:¹



¹Apricot jam, always.



$$R(D, V) \simeq 0.488$$



Release the Hounds by which we mean
Singular Value Decomposition:

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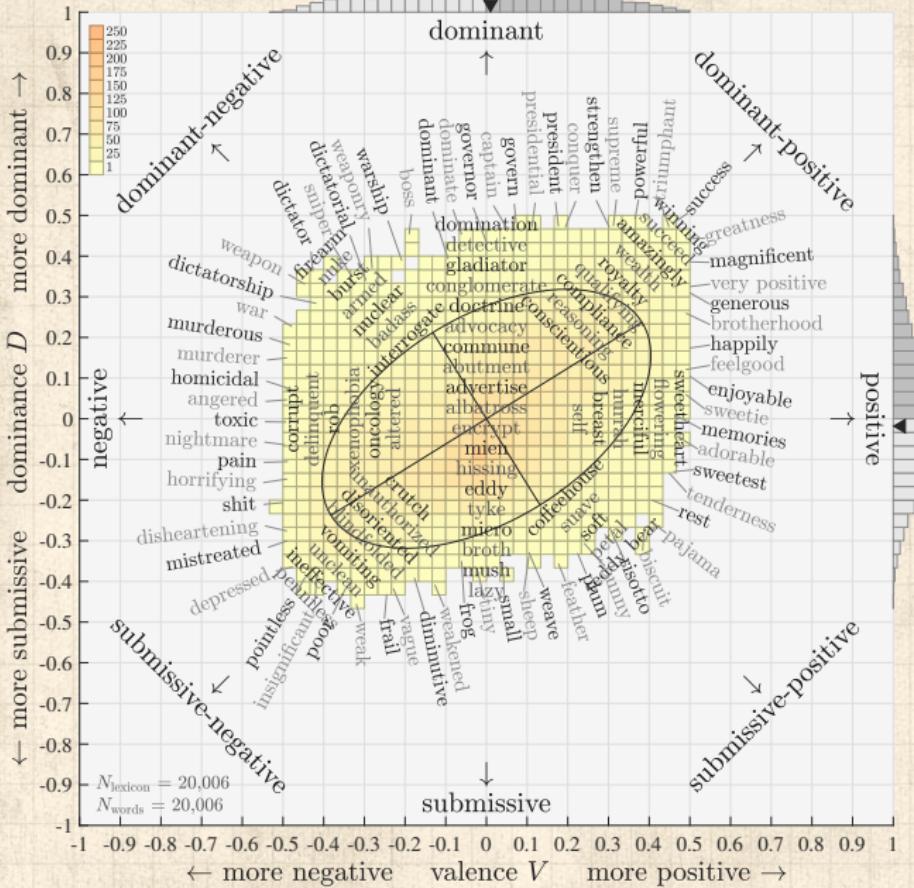
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- VAD: 44.4%, 28.0%, and 27.6%.
 - Apply SVD.
 - Singular values: $\sigma_1 \simeq 34.1$, $\sigma_2 \simeq 27.2$, and $\sigma_3 \simeq 13.8$.
 - For what will be Goodness-Energy-Structure (GES): 55.6%, 35.3%, and 9.1%
 - Rotate in G-E plane by $\pi/4$ for what will be Power-Danger-Structure (PDS) 45.5%, 45.5%, 9.1%
 - Interpretability enhancements: Ousiograms.



~ valence-dominance ousiogram for the NRC VAD lexicon ~



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dangerous
murderous
toxic
stomatitis
unfriendly
earthquake
chaos
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aggression
pissed
crucifixion
hurid
outburst
squander

Building ousiograms (2021/01/31):

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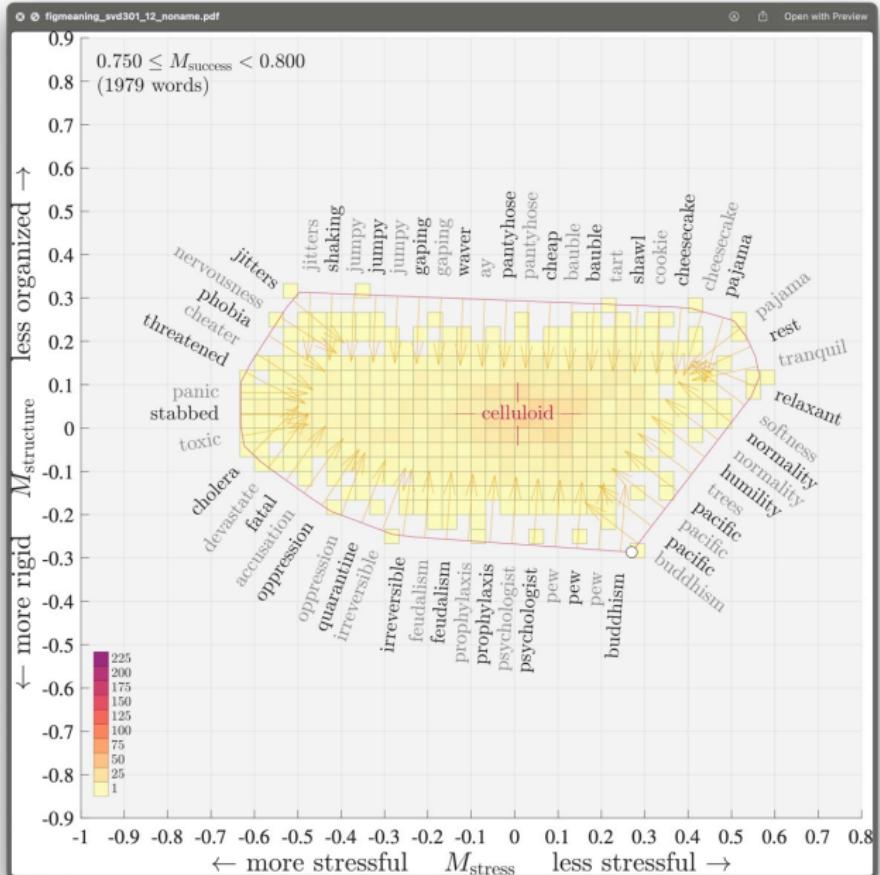


Figure 1



Building ousiograms (2021/01/31):

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Ousiograms for the NRC VAD lexicon in the VAD, GES, and PDS frameworks:

Valence-Arousal-Dominance

SVD

Goodness-Energy-Structure

Rotate
G-E plane
by $\pi/4$

Power-Danger-Structure

PCA

A vs. V

D vs. V

D vs. A

E vs. G

S vs. G

S vs. E

D vs. P

S vs. P

S vs. D

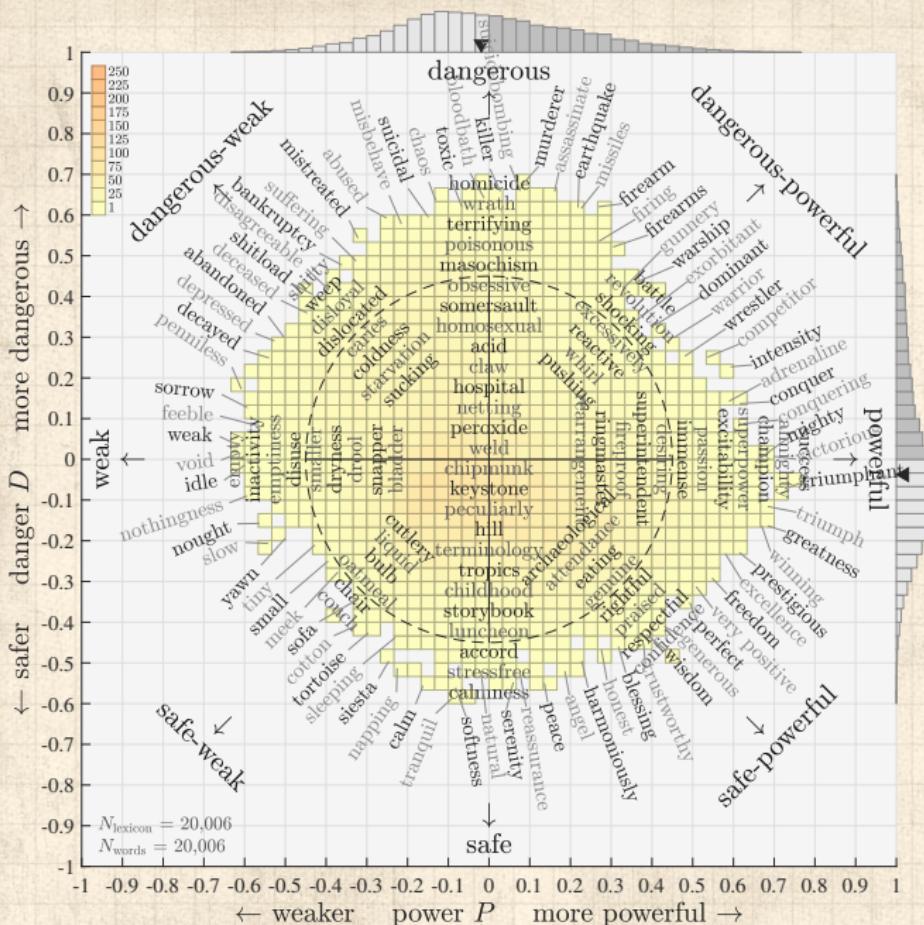
power P

power P

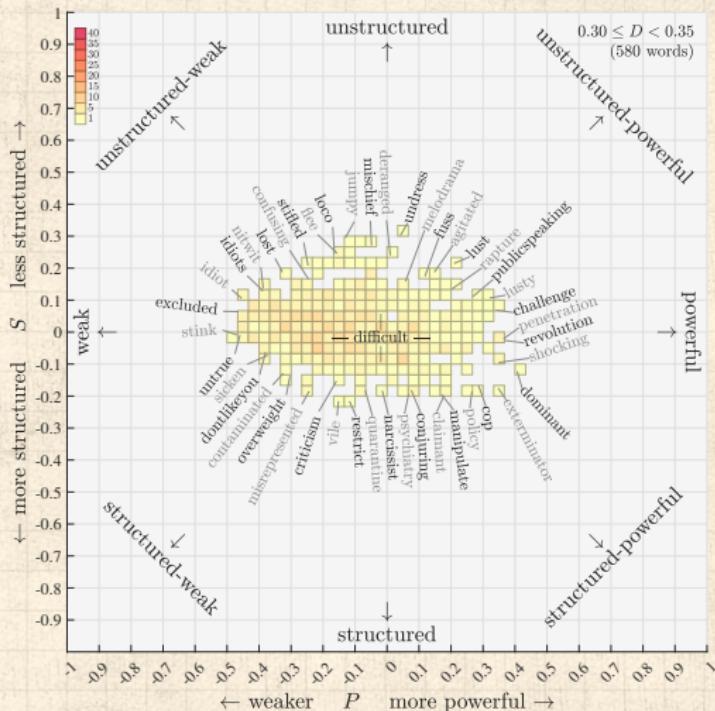
danger D

~ power-dangerousigram for the NRC VAD lexicon ~

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Ousiometric slices:



Slices of Structure Flipbook

Slices of Danger Flipbook

Slices of Power Flipbook

Extremonyms: Synousionyms and Antousionyms:

Powerful-Safe (Good) to Weak-Dangerous (Bad) axis:

Synousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Energy	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
Anchor: wisdom	0.430	-0.198	0.371	0.579	-0.031	-0.158	0.388	-0.432	-0.158
education	0.396	-0.225	0.340	0.539	-0.065	-0.167	0.336	-0.427	-0.167
healthy	0.438	-0.181	0.318	0.558	-0.047	-0.108	0.362	-0.428	-0.108
trustworthy	0.469	-0.185	0.324	0.589	-0.052	-0.100	0.379	-0.453	-0.100
reliable	0.412	-0.259	0.375	0.575	-0.076	-0.202	0.353	-0.460	-0.202
Antousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Energy	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
bullshit	-0.458	0.176	-0.317	-0.575	0.046	0.095	-0.373	0.439	0.095
shitty	-0.480	0.179	-0.337	-0.604	0.042	0.100	-0.397	0.456	0.100
nauseate	-0.438	0.160	-0.324	-0.558	0.026	0.101	-0.376	0.413	0.101
weeping	-0.418	0.188	-0.332	-0.549	0.042	0.131	-0.359	0.418	0.131
shame	-0.440	0.170	-0.345	-0.572	0.023	0.120	-0.388	0.421	0.120
diarrhea	-0.408	0.184	-0.357	-0.552	0.023	0.151	-0.374	0.407	0.151

Powerful to Weak axis:

Synousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Energy	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
Anchor: success	0.459	0.380	0.481	0.571	0.501	0.095	0.758	-0.050	0.095
almighty	0.438	0.374	0.458	0.543	0.487	0.098	0.728	-0.040	0.098
triumphant	0.449	0.337	0.472	0.565	0.462	0.073	0.726	-0.072	0.073
champion	0.390	0.380	0.445	0.494	0.492	0.087	0.698	-0.001	0.087
victorious	0.384	0.386	0.446	0.489	0.499	0.087	0.698	0.007	0.087
Antousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Energy	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
sorrow	-0.448	-0.265	-0.336	-0.509	-0.329	-0.127	-0.593	0.127	-0.127
tasteless	-0.354	-0.304	-0.352	-0.430	-0.385	-0.092	-0.576	0.032	-0.092
idle	-0.321	-0.333	-0.388	-0.414	-0.434	-0.068	-0.600	-0.014	-0.068
empty	-0.312	-0.317	-0.419	-0.424	-0.439	-0.033	-0.610	-0.011	-0.033
void	-0.365	-0.337	-0.370	-0.443	-0.420	-0.103	-0.611	0.016	-0.103

Extremonyms: Synousionyms and Antousionyms:

Dangerous-Powerful (High Energy) to Safe-Weak (Low Energy) axis:

Synousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Energy	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
Anchor: volcanic	-0.156	0.410	0.281	-0.061	0.515	-0.045	0.322	0.407	-0.045
shelling	-0.163	0.417	0.273	-0.072	0.518	-0.039	0.316	0.417	-0.039
artillery	-0.150	0.412	0.294	-0.050	0.523	-0.050	0.335	0.405	-0.050
wild	-0.188	0.422	0.250	-0.105	0.514	-0.032	0.289	0.438	-0.032
rifles	-0.163	0.364	0.265	-0.068	0.470	-0.062	0.284	0.380	-0.062
Antousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Energy	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
couch	0.094	-0.418	-0.302	-0.002	-0.524	0.025	-0.372	-0.369	0.025
mellow	0.133	-0.431	-0.235	0.066	-0.504	-0.009	-0.310	-0.403	-0.009
pillow	0.163	-0.372	-0.305	0.049	-0.498	0.085	-0.317	-0.387	0.085
tortoise	0.173	-0.422	-0.250	0.092	-0.511	0.025	-0.297	-0.427	0.025
quilt	0.143	-0.377	-0.274	0.048	-0.482	0.052	-0.307	-0.375	0.052
cotton	0.139	-0.429	-0.260	0.059	-0.517	0.012	-0.324	-0.407	0.012

Dangerous to Safe axis:

Synousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Energy	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
Anchor: homicide	-0.490	0.473	0.018	-0.485	0.478	0.011	-0.005	0.681	0.011
killer	-0.459	0.471	0.043	-0.446	0.485	0.008	0.028	0.658	0.008
psychopath	-0.460	0.443	0.036	-0.446	0.458	-0.003	0.009	0.640	-0.003
bloodshed	-0.452	0.442	0.025	-0.444	0.450	0.008	0.004	0.633	0.008
violate	-0.439	0.470	0.019	-0.440	0.468	0.033	0.020	0.642	0.033
Antousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Energy	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
natural	0.354	-0.382	-0.019	0.354	-0.382	-0.026	-0.020	-0.520	-0.026
tranquil	0.417	-0.406	-0.145	0.351	-0.480	0.078	-0.091	-0.588	0.078
softness	0.375	-0.414	-0.098	0.338	-0.455	0.021	-0.082	-0.561	0.021
serenity	0.400	-0.378	0.057	0.429	-0.345	-0.054	0.060	-0.547	-0.054
comfortable	0.427	-0.337	-0.027	0.406	-0.361	0.039	0.032	-0.542	0.039
calmness	0.434	-0.395	-0.106	0.383	-0.453	0.065	-0.049	-0.591	0.065

Etymological, taxonomic, and nomenclatural madnesses:

- ❖ Physics: Power was once sometimes called Activity
- ❖ Danger ↗ and Dominance trace back to Dominus ↗
(~ lord/ruler/person of power)
- ❖ Framing words for EPA, VAD, etc., matter greatly.

Other descriptors that don't hold up:

- ❖ Success-Stress-Structure.
- ❖ Energy/Flourishing/Thriving-Threat
- ❖ Power-Order/Chaos-Gravity/Seriousness

After much staring at the ceiling:

- ❖ Goodness-Energy-Structure (GES) (still fails)
- ❖ Power-Danger-Structure (PDS) (succeeds)

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Connections between meaning dimensions:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{Goodness} \\ \text{Energy} \\ \text{Structure} \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} +0.86 & -0.15 & +0.48 \\ -0.16 & +0.83 & +0.54 \\ +0.48 & +0.55 & -0.69 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{Valence} \\ \text{Arousal} \\ \text{Dominance} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{Power} \\ \text{Danger} \\ \text{Structure} \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} 0.53 & 0.45 & 0.72 \\ -0.70 & 0.71 & 0.07 \\ 0.48 & 0.55 & -0.69 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{Valence} \\ \text{Arousal} \\ \text{Dominance} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{Power} \\ \text{Danger} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{Goodness} \\ \text{Energy} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

From types to tokens: [?, ?]

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- ⬢ Analysis so far is for a lexicon of types: Each word counts once.
- ⬢ Must consider how words are used in real texts by frequency: Tokens.
- ⬢ Rebuild ousiograms with usage frequency incorporated.
- ⬢ A set of distinct corpora:
 - ⬢ English fiction from Google Books (120 years). [?, ?]
 - ⬢ Jane Austen's novels.
 - ⬢ Sherlock Holmes stories.
 - ⬢ New York Times (20 years). [?]
 - ⬢ Wikipedia (2019/03). [?]
 - ⬢ RadioTalk: Transcriptions of talk radio. [?]
 - ⬢ Twitter through Storywrangler. [?]

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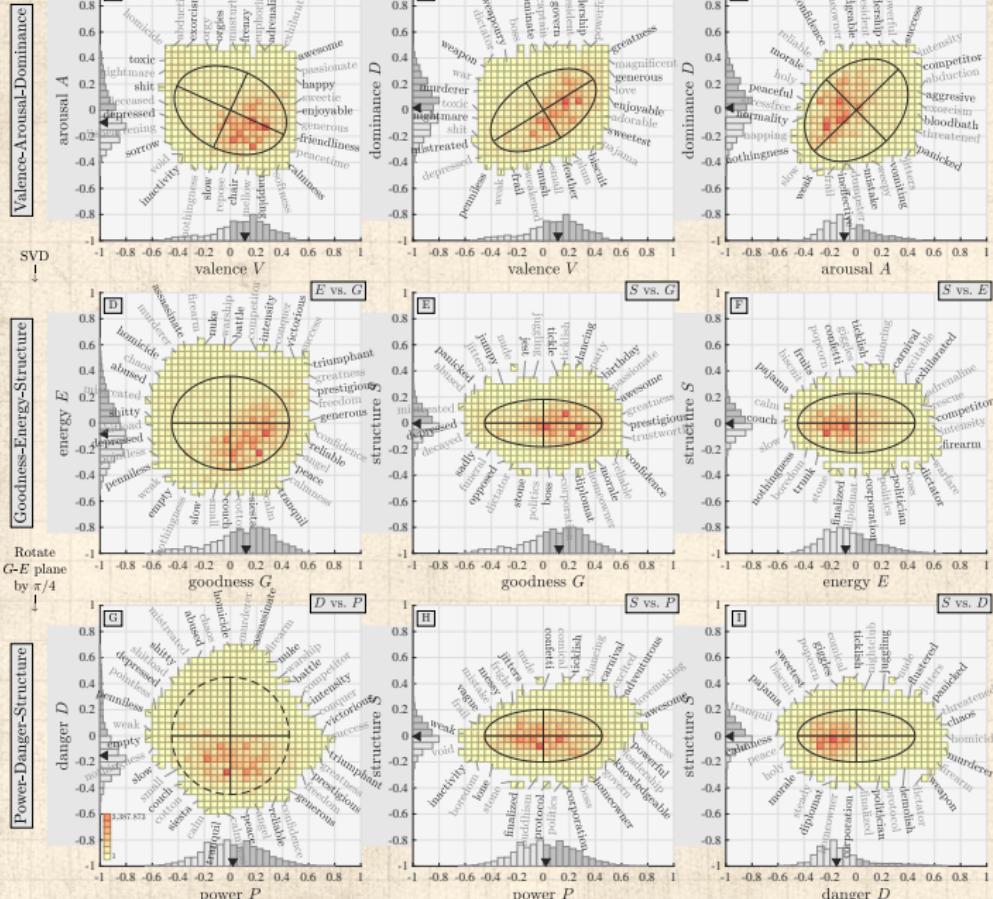
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dangerous
murderess
sinister
toxic
assassin
earthquake
mix



Ousiograms for Jane Austen's novels in the VAD, GES, and PDS frameworks:

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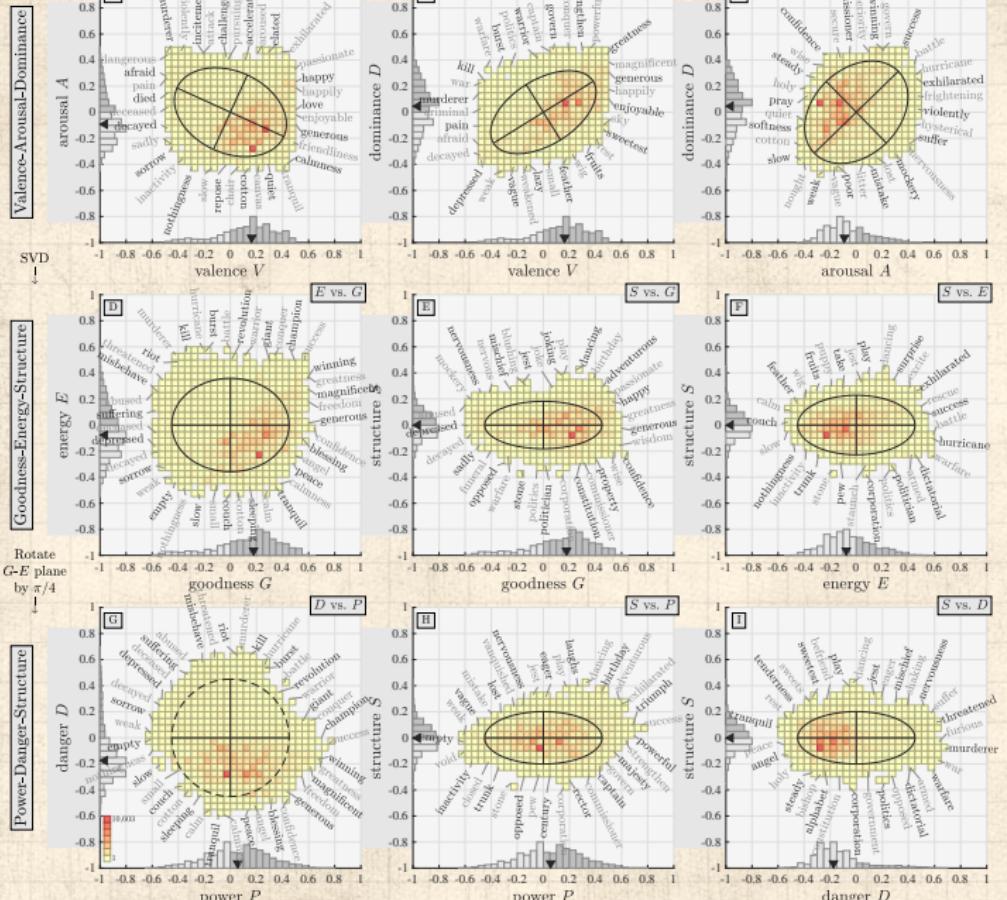
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dangerous
dangerous
murderer
assassinate
earthquake
chaos
toxic
murderess
killer
aggression
pissed
crucifixion
lurid
outburst
squander

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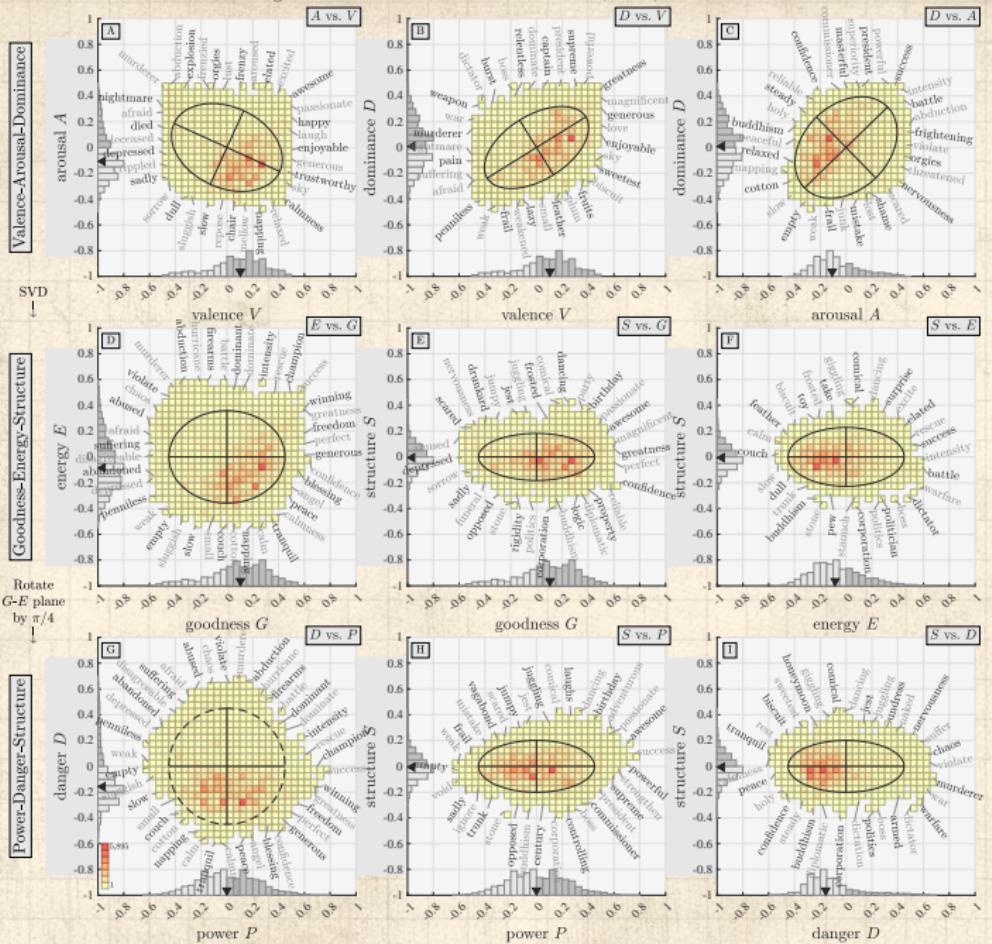
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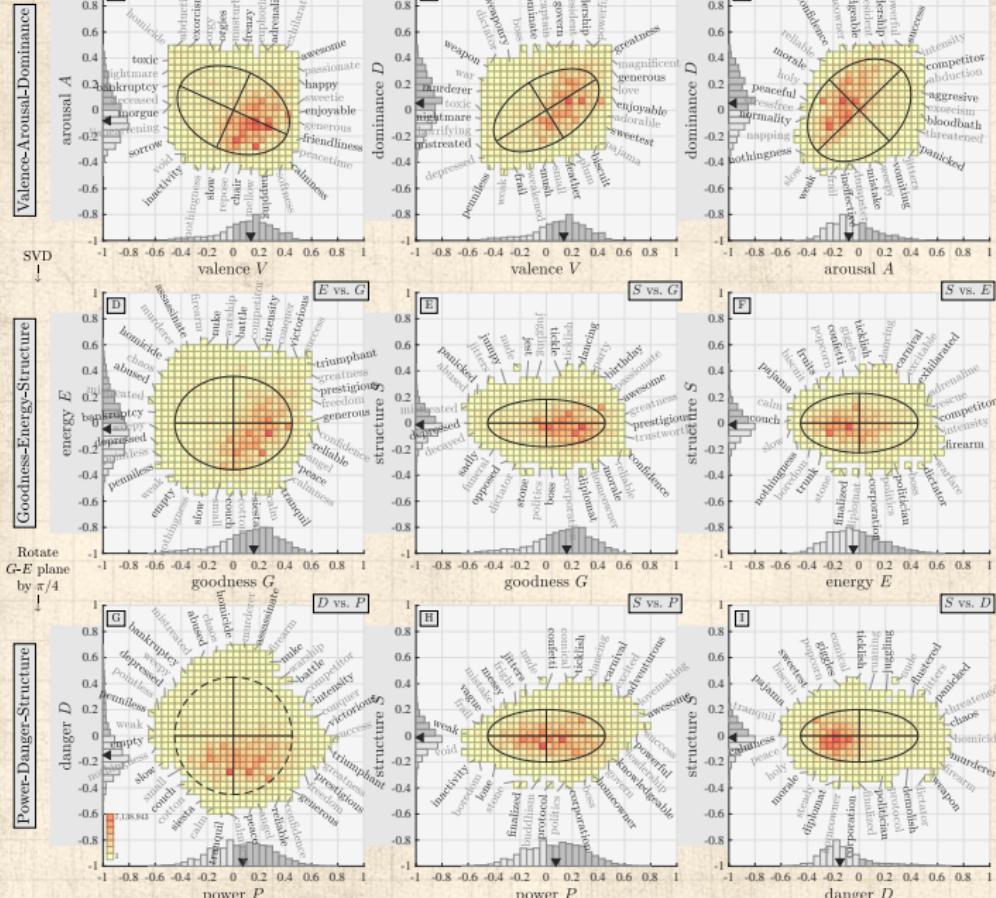
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dangerous
murderous
sinister
toxic
unfriendly
assassin
earthquake
mis
killer
aggression
pissed
crucifixion
hurid
outburst
squander

Ousiograms for the New York Times in the VAD, GES, and PDS frameworks:



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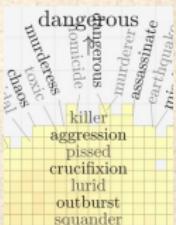
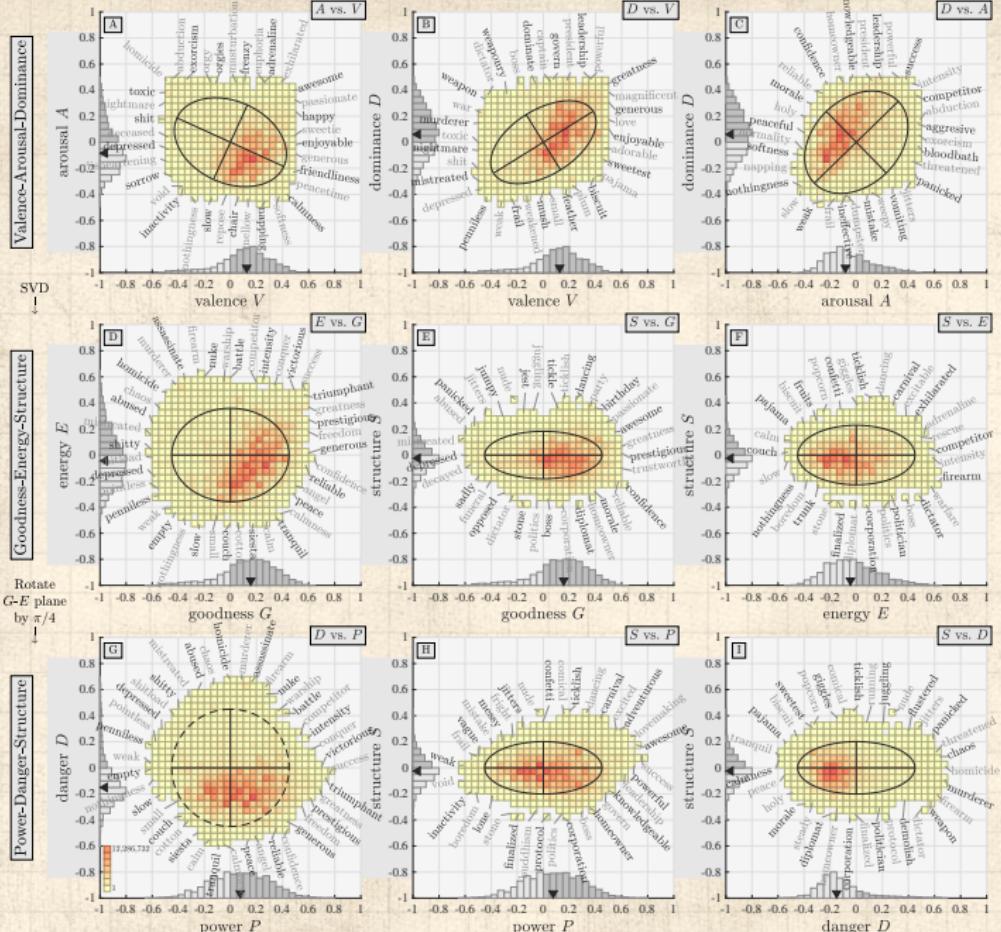
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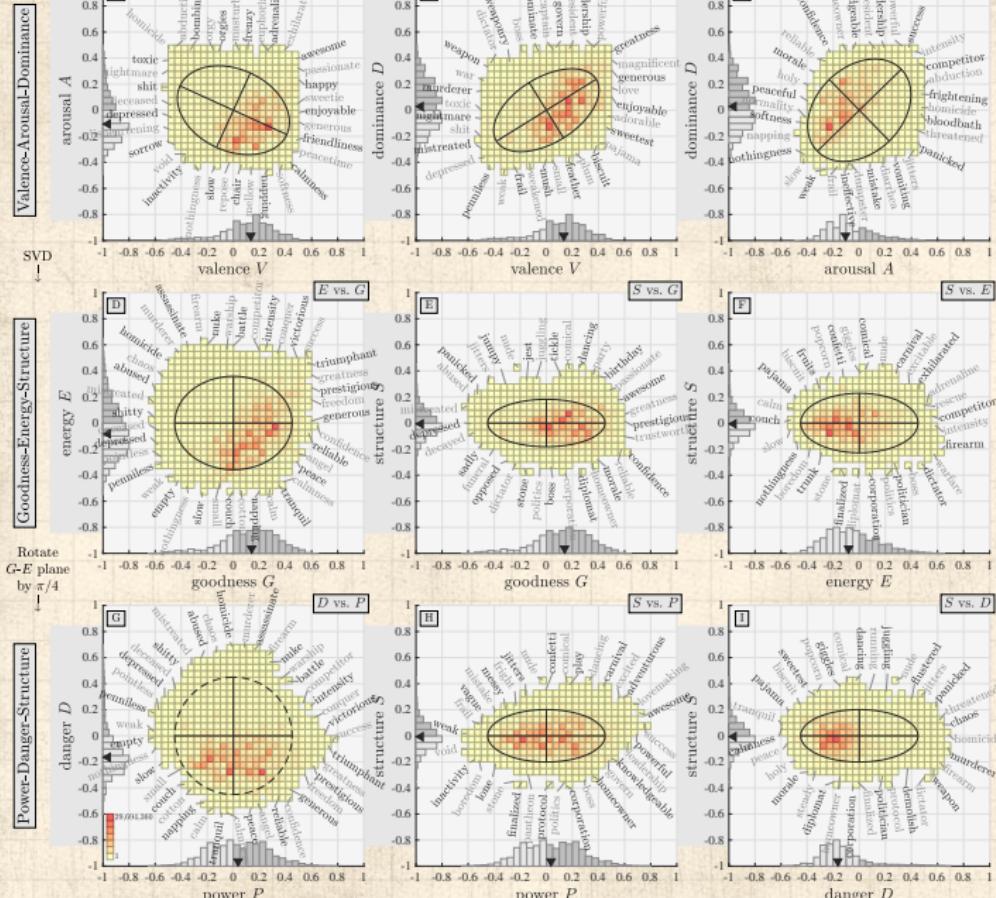
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dangerous
murderous
shouting
toxic
assassinating
earthquake
mis
killer
aggression
pissed
crucifixion
lurid
outburst
squander

Ousiograms for RadioTalk in the VAD, GES, and PDS frameworks:



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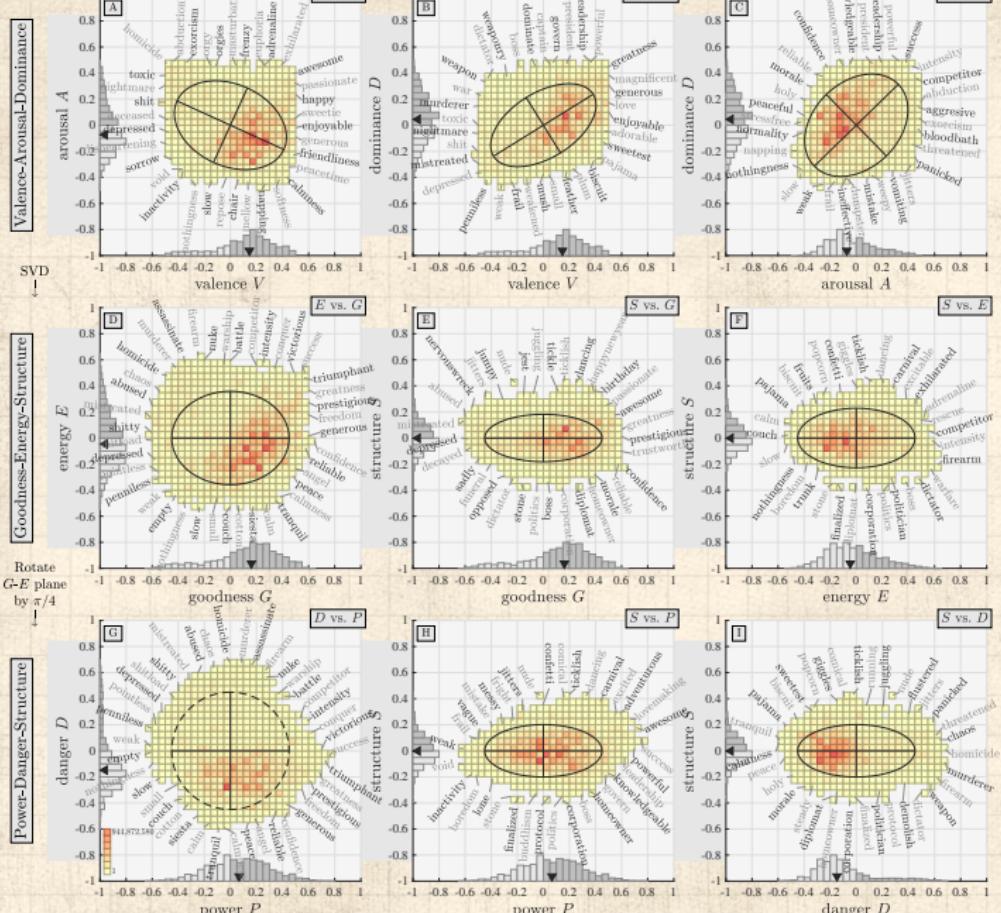
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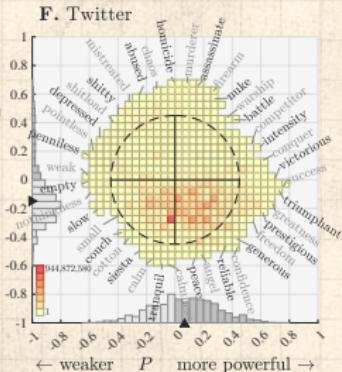
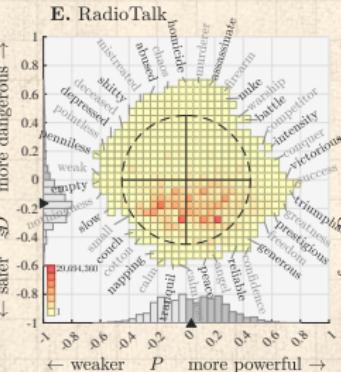
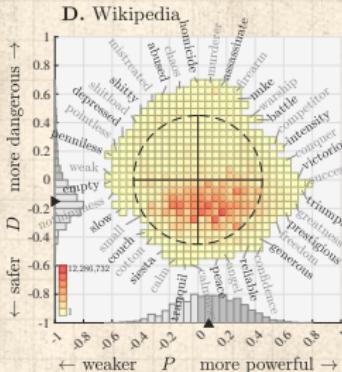
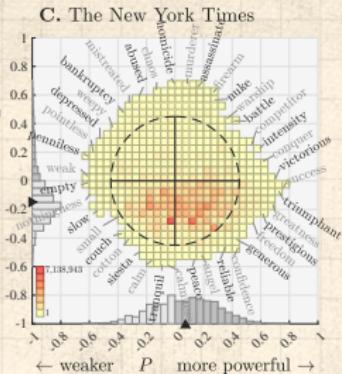
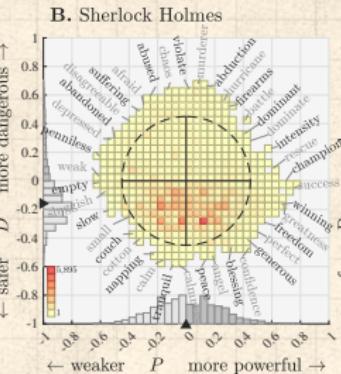
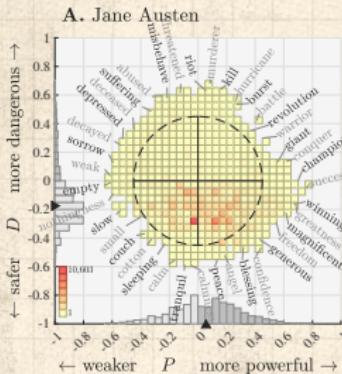
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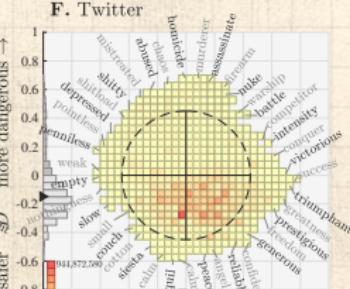
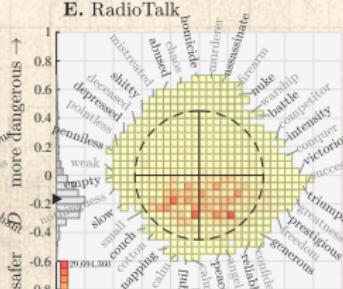
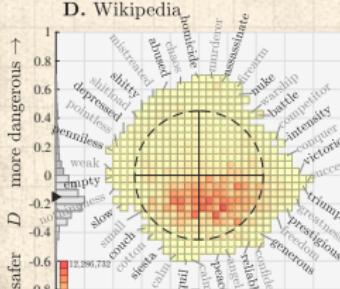
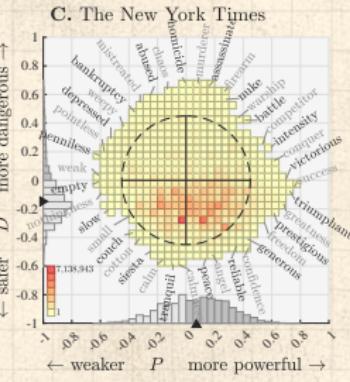
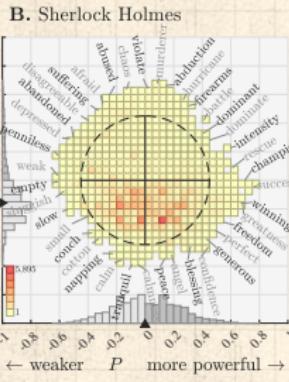
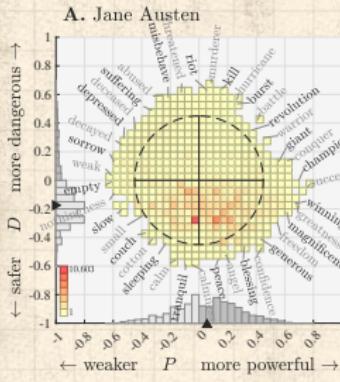
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dangerous
murderous
murdertoxic
assassinatetoxic
earthquake
invader
killer
aggression
pissed
crucifixion
lurid
outburst
squander

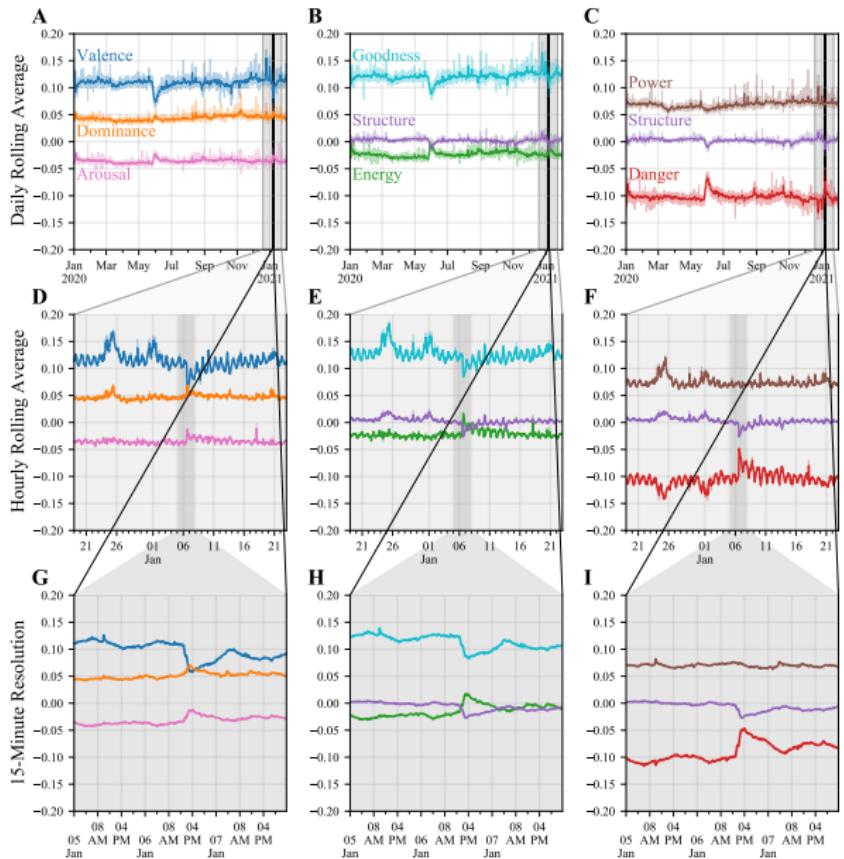
A special thing has happened:

- ⬢ The PDS framework emerged only from analyzing a lexicon (types).
 - ⬢ Applying PDS framework to disparate corpora (tokens) reveals a linguistic ‘safety bias’.



dangerous
murderous
toxic
chaos
omicide
murderer
assassinate
earthquake
killer
aggression
pissed
crucifixion
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Prototype ousiometer—Twitter:



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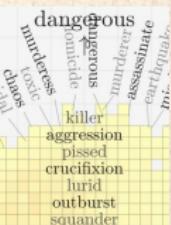
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Prototype oysiometer—Harry Potter:

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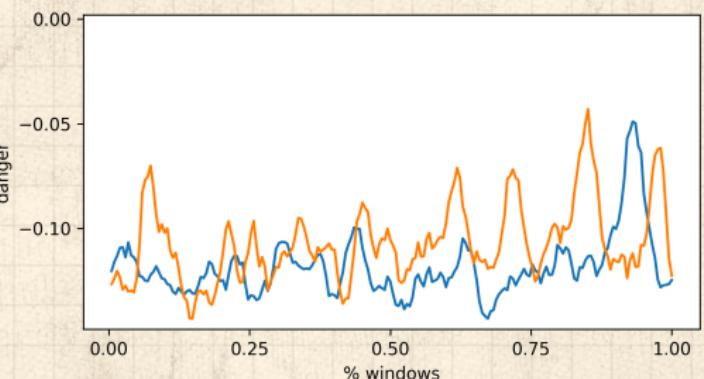
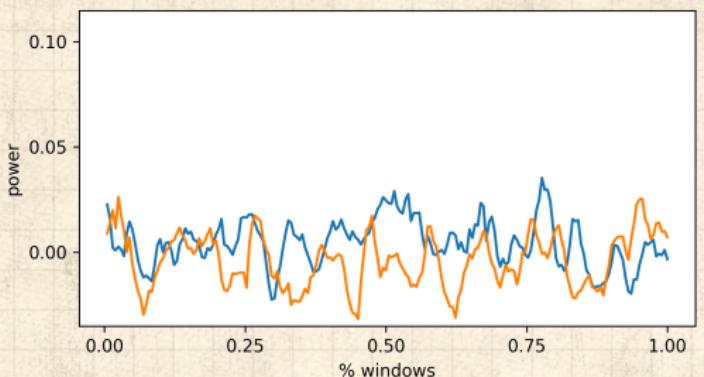
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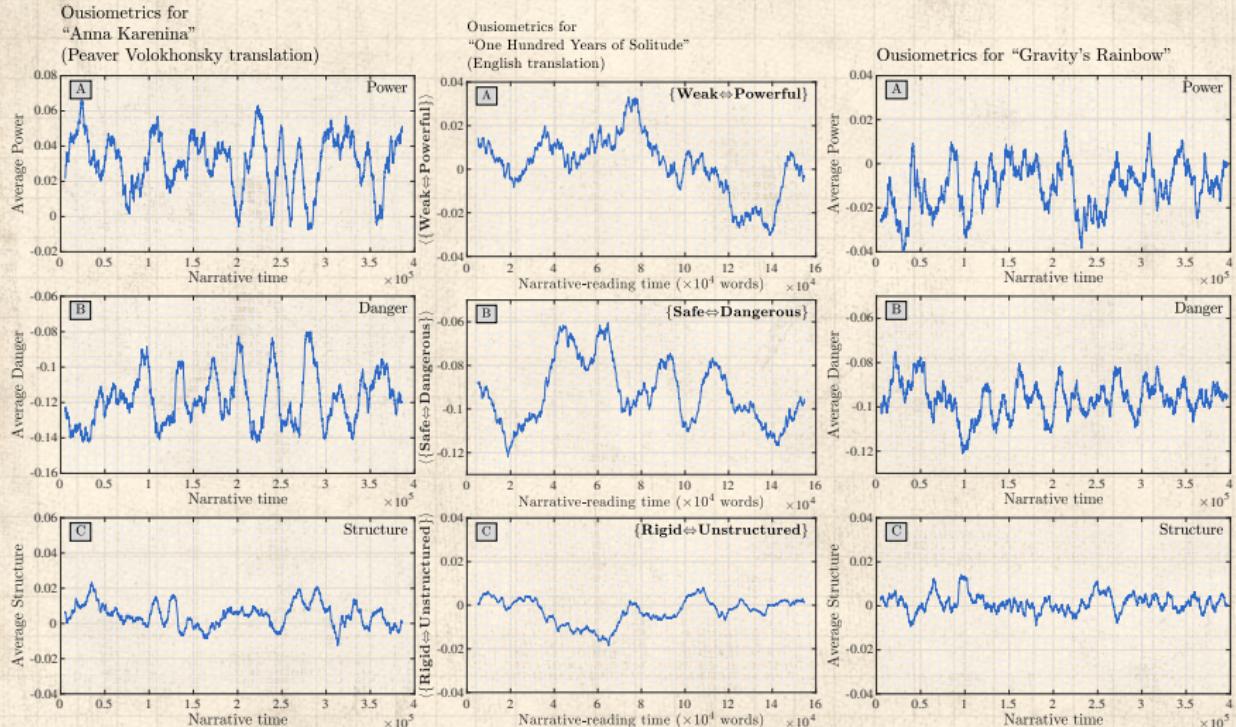
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Blue: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince
Orange: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

Power and Danger time series for books:



Prototype ousiometer—Terry Pratchett's Discworld:

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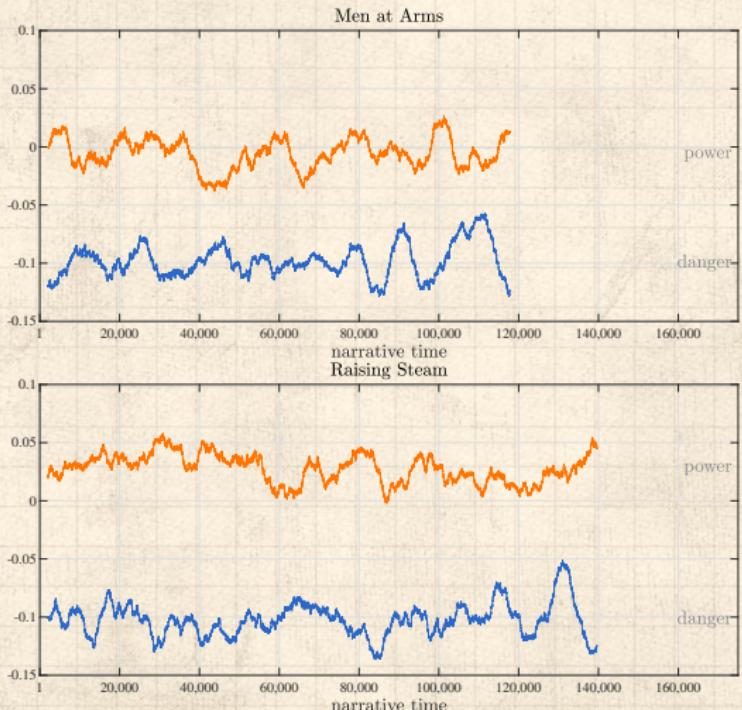
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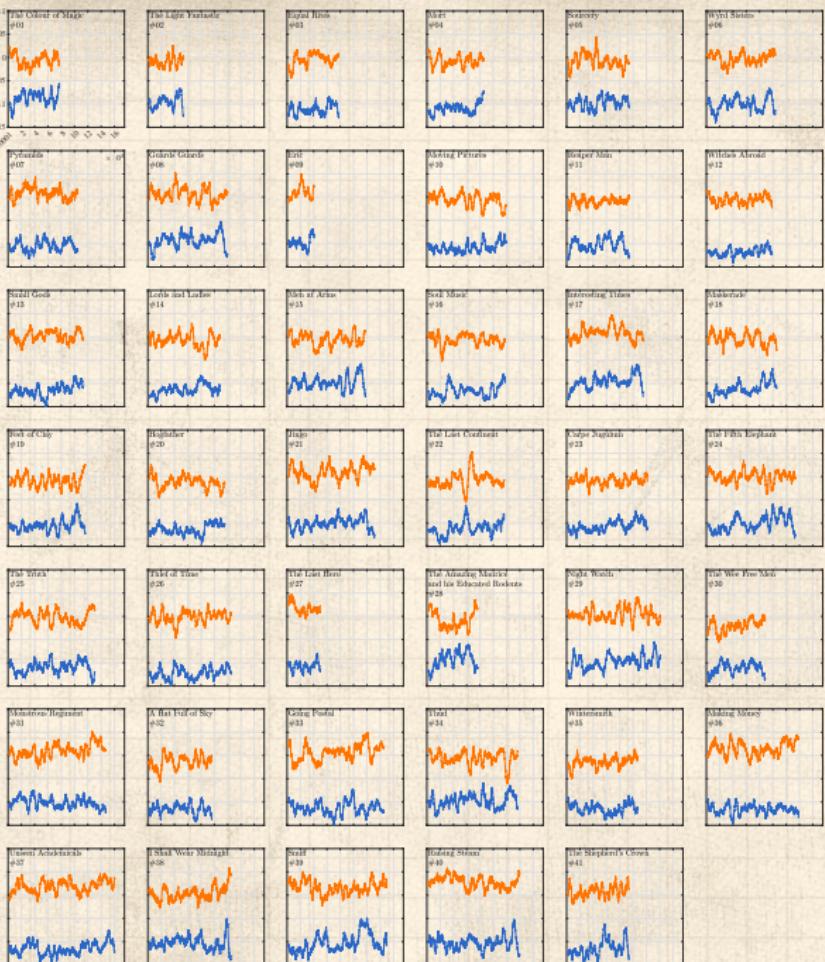
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dangerous	danger
murderous	murder
toxic	poisonous
chaos	disorderly
evil	unfriendly
killer	assassin
aggression	attack
pissed	angry
crucifixion	hanging
lurid	ghastly
outburst	explosion
squander	waste



dangerous
sinister
murderous
toxic
chaos
evil
killer
aggression
pissed
crucifixion
lurid
outburst
squander

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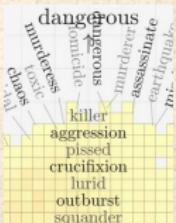
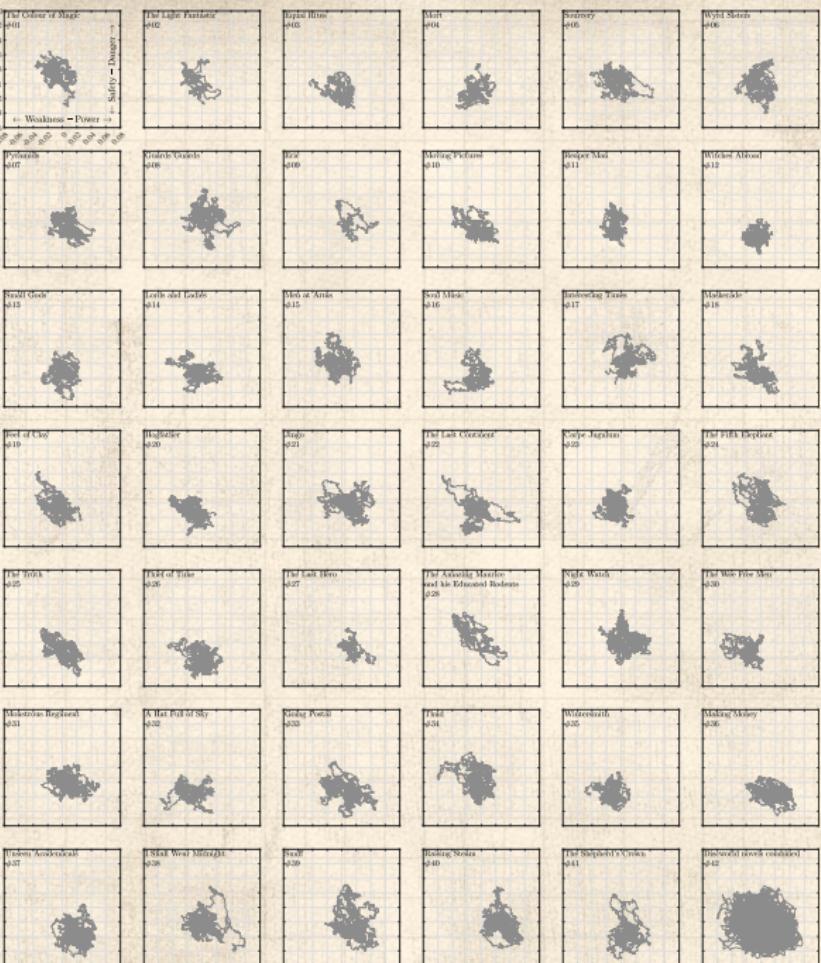
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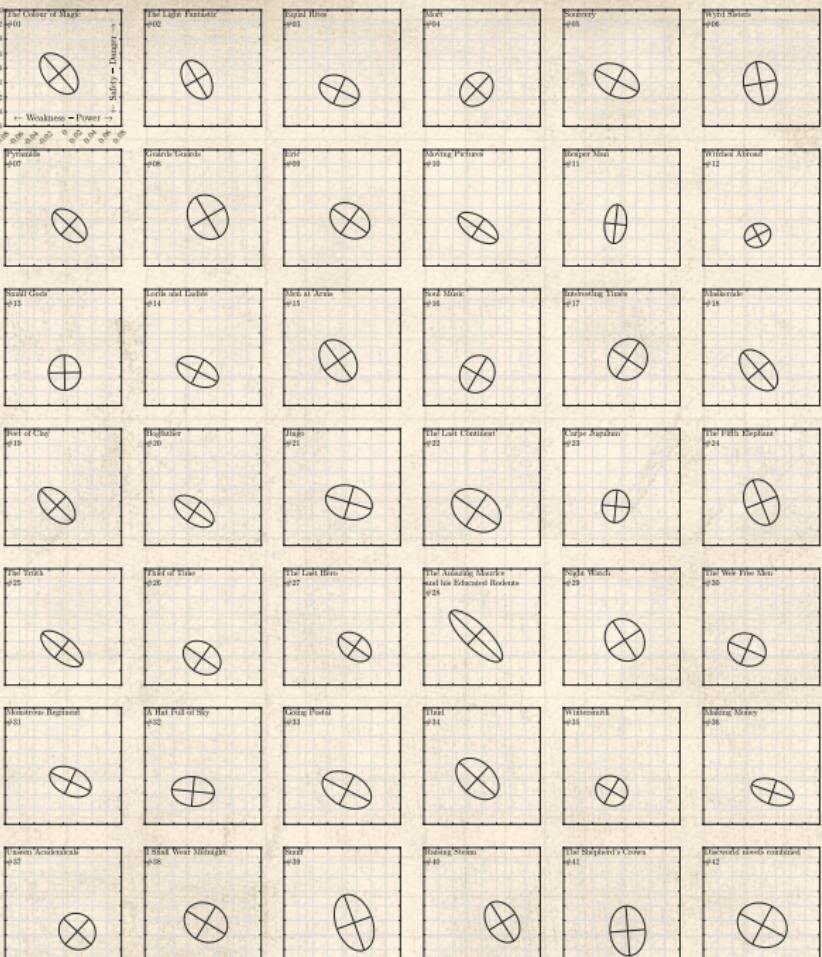
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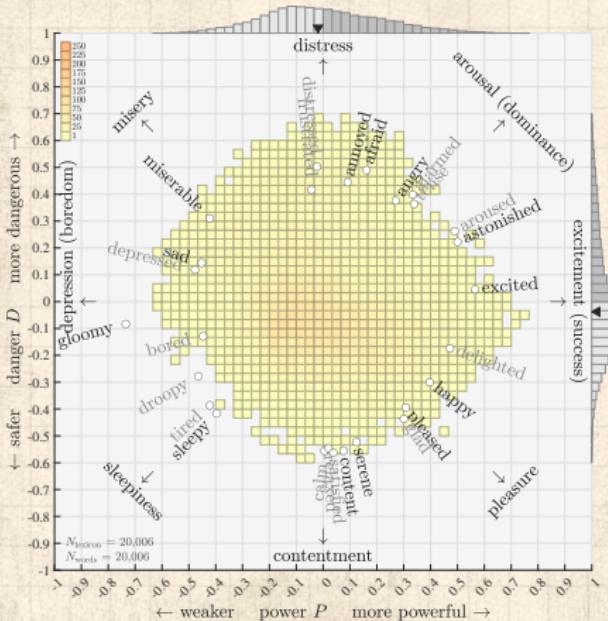
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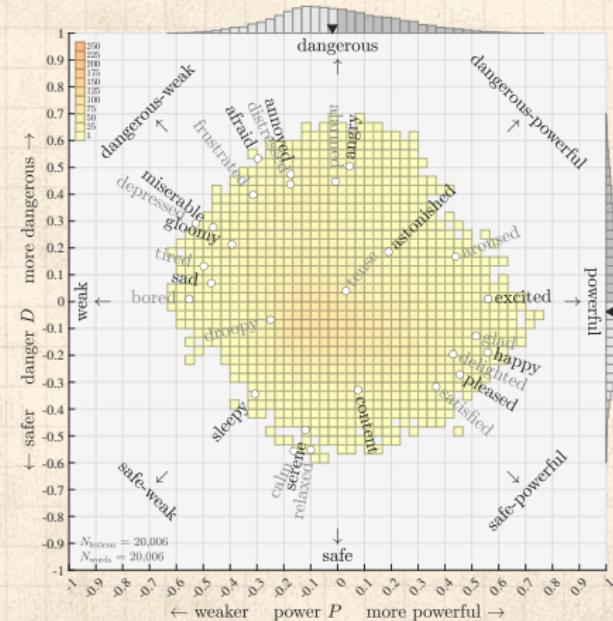


❖ Rough agreement with Russell's circumplex model, [?] which itself doesn't disagree with a 2-d orthogonal framework.

A. Circumplex model of affect:



B. Power-danger coordinates for Russell's affect words:



Dungeons & Dragons—Two alignment axes for character:



lawful good

Kind people are always kind, not just when it's easy.



lawful neutral

You expect me to watch you doing that without telling on you?



lawful evil

Call me Craig, and call blackmail a day at the mall with Craig.



neutral good

Some things are more connected than others, like tarantulas and me peeing my pants.



true neutral

I don't believe in dabs, or love at first sight, or love, or best friends, or doing things.



neutral evil

I only entered this to get back at Vicki for not lending me a pencil.



chaotic good

If loving worms is stupid I don't wanna be smart!



chaotic neutral

We're at the mercy of each other and ourselves.

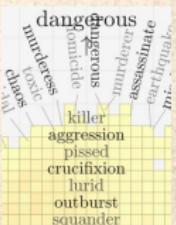


chaotic evil

I'm gonna deep fry your dog and eat your momma's face!

1

{lawful \leftrightarrow chaotic}
(vertical) and
{good \leftrightarrow evil}
(horizontal).



¹From this Reddit thread ↗, where, naturally, the choices are enthusiastically debated.

lawful-good
~
structured-powerful-safe

neutral-good
~
neutral-powerful-safe

chaotic-good
~
unstructured-powerful-safe

lawful-neutral
~
structured-neutral

(true) neutral

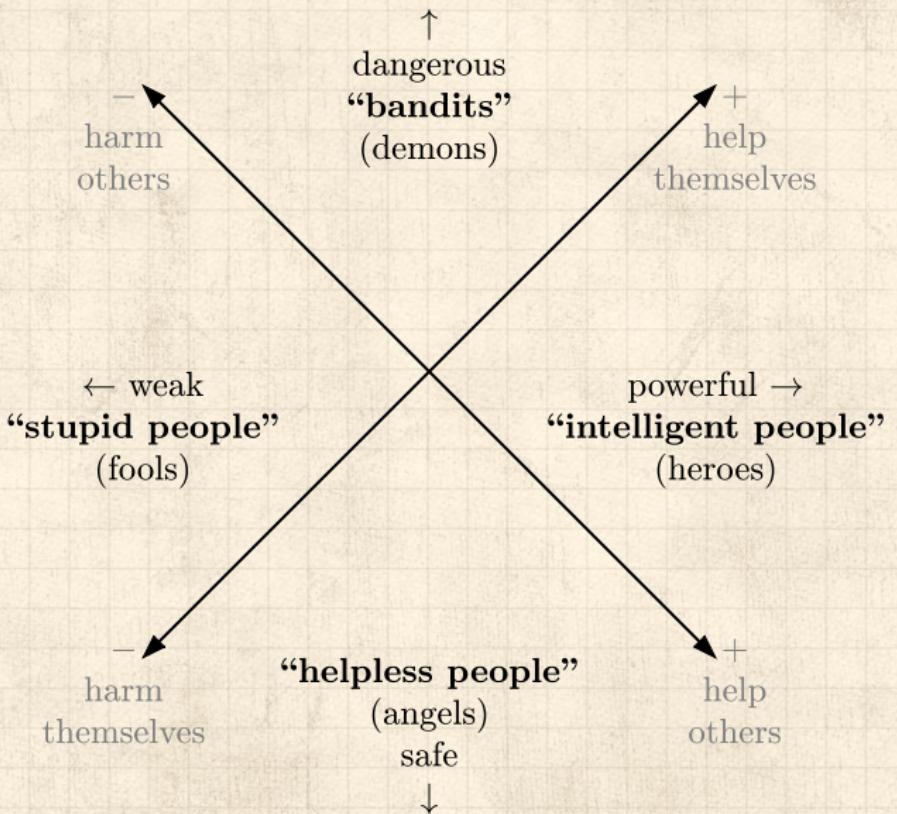
chaotic-neutral
~
unstructured-neutral

lawful-evil
~
structured-dangerous

neutral-evil
~
neutral-dangerous

chaotic-evil
~
unstructured-dangerous

Aligns with rotated version of Cipolla's Basic Laws of Human Stupidity:



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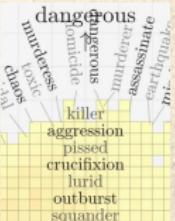
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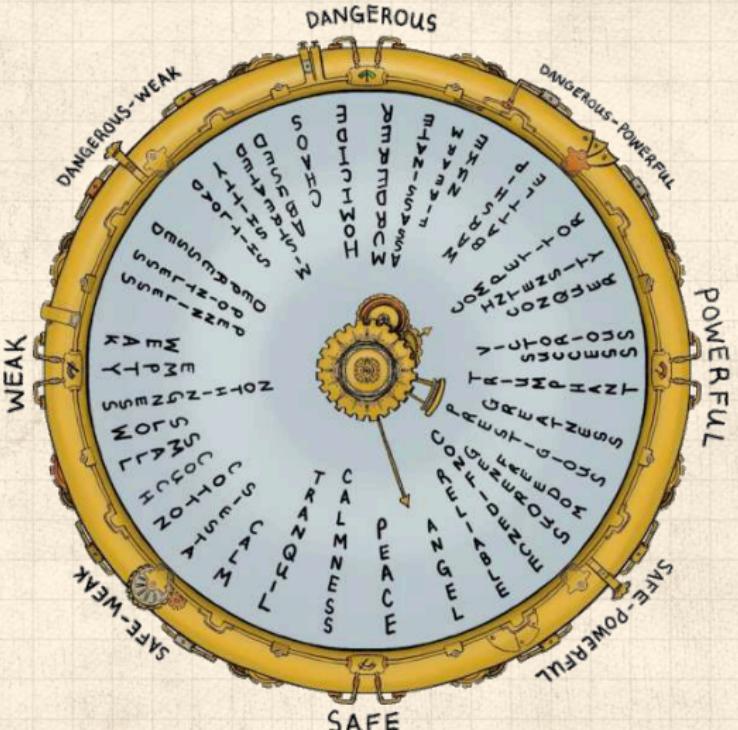
Nutshellingly:

- ⬢ Power-danger-structure framework emerges in distinct settings, fitting types and tokens.
- ⬢ Safety bias of communication refines Pollyanna Principle of positivity
- ⬢ Happiness (a mislead) = Power + Safety
- ⬢ Emotions map onto powerful-safe and danger axes.
- ⬢ Life: Power-danger compass for survival
- ⬢ Complement to information theory which is meaning-free. [?, ?]
- ⬢ Ousiometer can be improved and refined.
- ⬢ Danger permeates stories (more than conflict)
- ⬢ Contagion possibility: Measure spread and competition of stories through ousiometric distillation

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dangerous	murderous	toxic	chaotic	assassin	earthquake
unfriendly	unkind	sour	unfriendly	assassinate	earthquake



Online appendices: Paper(s), flipbooks, code, ...
<https://storylab.w3.uvm.edu/ousiometrics> ↗

Synonyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Energy	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
happy	0.50	0.24	0.27	0.53	0.26	0.18	0.57	-0.16	0.18
delighted	0.44	0.16	0.18	0.44	0.17	0.17	0.44	-0.18	0.17
excited	0.41	0.43	0.21	0.39	0.40	0.29	0.56	0.04	0.29
astonished	0.01	0.28	0.07	0.00	0.27	0.10	0.18	0.19	0.10
aroused	0.21	0.45	0.17	0.19	0.43	0.23	0.43	0.19	0.23
tense	-0.10	-0.06	0.15	-0.01	0.05	-0.19	0.03	0.04	-0.19
alarmed	-0.31	0.32	-0.01	-0.32	0.31	0.03	-0.03	0.45	0.03
angry	-0.38	0.33	0.10	-0.33	0.39	-0.07	0.02	0.51	-0.07
afraid	-0.49	0.28	-0.26	-0.59	0.17	0.09	-0.32	0.52	0.09
annoyed	-0.40	0.28	-0.16	-0.46	0.21	0.07	-0.19	0.47	0.07
distressed	-0.36	0.27	-0.18	-0.43	0.19	0.10	-0.19	0.43	0.10
frustrated	-0.42	0.15	-0.25	-0.50	0.06	0.05	-0.33	0.38	0.05
miserable	-0.44	-0.04	-0.31	-0.52	-0.13	-0.02	-0.47	0.26	-0.02
sad	-0.28	-0.17	-0.35	-0.38	-0.28	0.02	-0.47	0.05	0.02
gloomy	-0.39	-0.09	-0.21	-0.43	-0.13	-0.09	-0.40	0.20	-0.09
depressed	-0.48	-0.05	-0.36	-0.58	-0.17	-0.01	-0.54	0.27	-0.01
bored	-0.35	-0.33	-0.30	-0.40	-0.38	-0.14	-0.55	-0.02	-0.14
droopy	-0.06	-0.15	-0.20	-0.13	-0.22	0.03	-0.25	-0.08	0.03
tired	-0.38	-0.18	-0.31	-0.45	-0.26	-0.07	-0.50	0.11	-0.07
sleepy	0.10	-0.37	-0.25	0.03	-0.46	0.02	-0.29	-0.36	0.02
calm	0.37	-0.40	-0.22	0.28	-0.51	0.11	-0.14	-0.56	0.11
relaxed	0.36	-0.41	-0.12	0.32	-0.46	0.03	-0.08	-0.56	0.03
satisfied	0.46	0.01	0.18	0.48	0.04	0.10	0.38	-0.30	0.10
at ease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ease	0.30	-0.11	-0.01	0.27	-0.15	0.09	0.10	-0.29	0.09
content	0.26	-0.20	0.06	0.29	-0.18	-0.03	0.09	-0.33	-0.03
serene	0.30	-0.37	-0.13	0.25	-0.42	0.03	-0.10	-0.48	0.03
glad	0.44	0.26	0.24	0.45	0.27	0.19	0.52	-0.10	0.19
pleased	0.44	0.05	0.29	0.51	0.13	0.03	0.47	-0.25	0.03



"Semantic differential profiles for 1,000 most frequent English words." ↗

David R. Heise,

Psychological Monographs: General and Applied, 79, 1, 1965. [?]

<u>Dimension</u>	<u>Scale</u>
Evaluation	Good-Bad Pleasant-Unpleasant
Activity	Active-Passive Lively-Still
Potency	Strong-Weak Tough-Tender
Stability	Rational-Emotional Tamed-Untamed



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"Pleasure, arousal, dominance: Mehrabian and Russell revisited" ↗
Bakker et al.,
Current Psychology, 33, 405–421, 2014. [?]

- ➊ Test whether EPA and VAD match.
- ➋ Explore historical problems of defining end point descriptors for meaning dimensions.

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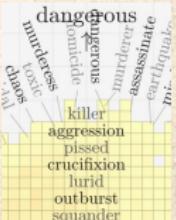
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Ousiometrics and Telegnomics: The essence of meaning conforms to a two-dimensional powerful-weak and dangerous-safe framework

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