

The Meaning of Meaning

Last updated: 2023/08/26, 09:18:43 EDT

Principles of Complex Systems, Vols. 1, 2, & 3D
CSYS/MATH 6701, 6713, & a pretend number,
2023–2024 | @pocsvox

Prof. Peter Sheridan Dodds | @peterdodds

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



The PoCSverse
Meaning
1 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



Licensed under the *Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 License*.

These slides are brought to you by:

Sealie & Lambie
Productions



The PoCVerse
Meaning
2 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras



References



These slides are also brought to you by:

Special Guest Executive Producer



 On Instagram at [pratchett_the_cat](https://www.instagram.com/pratchett_the_cat) 

The PoCverse
Meaning
3 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousimeter
Correspondences

Extras

References



Outline

Measuring essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousionyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

Correspondences

Extras

References

The PoCSverse

Meaning

4 of 76

Measuring essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousionyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

Correspondences

Extras

References



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. [5]

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?

The PoCverse
Meaning
5 of 76

Measuring essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras





References



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."

Measuring essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousimeter
Correspondences


Extras

References



The meaning of pings:






“A factorial study of complex auditory stimuli (passive sonar sounds)” 

L. M. Solomon,

Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of Illinois, , ,
1954. ^[23]

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?

The PoCSverse
Meaning
8 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousimeter
Correspondences

Extras

References




From pings to things:



“The Measurement of Meaning” by Osgood, Suci, and Tannenbaum (1957). ^[13]



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”

Table 4

UNSCALED CUBIC FACTOR LOADINGS AND COMMUNITIES (EIGENVALUES IN PARENTHESES)

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	λ
1. pleasant-unpleasant	.08	.35	-.05	.33	-.07	-.24	.12	-.20	.25
2. pleasant-pleasant	.24	.16	.24	.52	.20	-.11	.04	-.26	.21
3. successful-unsuccessful	.22	-.02	.33	.19	-.24	-.05	-.07	.18	.24
4. interesting-uninteresting	.07	-.05	.23	.27	-.65	.23	.10	.18	.24
5. beautiful-ugly	.26	.36	.00	.22	-.25	-.15	-.15	-.18	.24
6. white-black	.22	.14	.36	.20	.35	.24	.18	.03	.44
7. low-high	.22	-.02	.36	.07	.26	-.15	-.17	-.04	.45
8. powerful-weak	.13	-.40	.32	-.02	-.26	.16	.02	-.20	.58
9. slow-fast	.22	.01	.26	.21	.15	.16	.02	.21	.31
10. normal-abnormal	.16	.41	-.27	.23	.07	-.26	.06	.11	.47
11. literary-nonliterary	.43	-.25	.28	-.06	-.11	-.06	.07	.04	.43
12. peaceful-unpeaceful	.30	.20	.16	-.16	-.16	-.11	.10	-.16	.50
13. good-bad	.30	-.46	-.18	.04	.04	-.02	.04	.04	.62
14. safe-dangerous	.35	.17	.46	-.13	.23	-.25	.22	-.07	.40
15. clean-dirty	.28	.33	.38	-.24	.21	-.29	-.06	.26	.36
16. intelligent-stupid	.41	.36	.06	.33	-.37	-.47	.01	-.16	.57
17. strong-weak	.33	-.01	.02	.33	.20	-.32	.03	.02	.37
18. smart-dumb	.33	.31	.22	-.33	-.30	-.32	.03	.02	.37
19. safe-dangerous	.40	.21	.42	.02	.12	-.05	-.04	.11	.37
20. healthy-sick	.42	-.07	.28	.11	.36	-.06	-.02	.04	.36
21. fair-unequal	.24	-.45	-.02	-.33	.05	-.25	-.04	-.06	.52
22. fair-unequal	.30	.20	.20	.20	.30	.30	.20	.20	.30
23. kind-unkind	.43	.14	.21	.36	-.11	.19	.09	.04	.34
24. safe-dangerous	.21	.28	.28	.02	-.07	-.07	-.13	.05	.35
25. noisy-quiet	.45	-.28	.02	-.11	-.03	.04	.02	.02	.41
26. noisy-quiet	.29	.42	-.18	.32	-.07	.04	.07	.13	.43
27. noisy-quiet	.29	.42	-.18	.32	-.07	.04	.07	.13	.43
28. active-passive	.31	-.01	.24	.24	.21	-.21	.14	-.07	.41
29. active-passive	.31	-.01	.24	.24	.21	-.21	.14	-.07	.41
30. active-passive	.31	-.01	.24	.24	.21	-.21	.14	-.07	.41
31. active-passive	.31	-.01	.24	.24	.21	-.21	.14	-.07	.41
32. dark-bright	.35	-.36	.13	.14	.14	-.42	-.47	-.10	.24
33. energetic-inert	.29	.21	.45	.06	-.23	-.01	-.30	.10	.34
34. low-high	.21	.04	-.43	.00	-.27	.20	-.28	.11	.41
35. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
36. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
37. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
38. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
39. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
40. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
41. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
42. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
43. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
44. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
45. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
46. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
47. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
48. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
49. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34
50. calm-energetic	.24	.43	.40	-.23	.29	-.20	.08	.14	.34

The PoCverse
Meaning
9 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



Semantic differentials from Osgood et al.:^[13]

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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^[12])

Measuring
essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousionyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer


Correspondences


Extras


References





Essential dimensions captured by emotion:


 Late 1800s: Three dimensional representation of emotion postulated by Wendt. [24, 17]


 1970s: Mehrabian and Russell explicitly port EPA framework: [7, 8]


 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. [2]

The PoCverse
Meaning
14 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousimeter
Correspondences

Extras

References



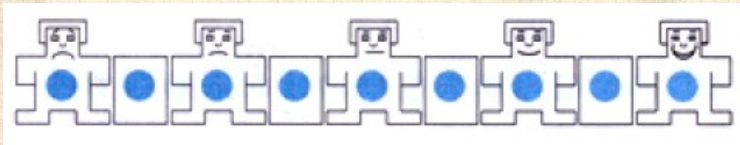
Major problems with measuring essential meaning:

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).

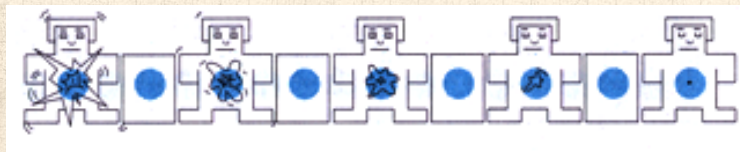


1999 ANEW study—three 1–9 scales: [4]

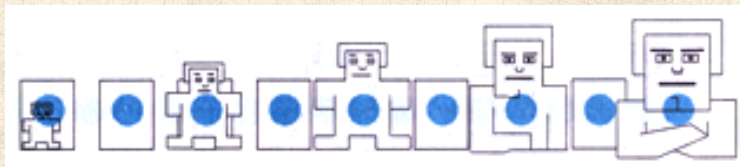
valence:



arousal:



dominance:



The PoCverse

Meaning

17 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousonyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousimeter

Correspondences

Extras

References



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. ^[10]



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 $[0, 1]$.

The PoCverse
Meaning
19 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



NRC VAD Lexicon ^[10]

VAD endpoints:	Paradigm words and phrases presented to raters: ^[11]
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:

Standard correlations suggests a bit of Barney Rubble:

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

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

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

The PoCverse
Meaning
21 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousimeter
Correspondences

Extras

References



The Delicious English Muffin of Meaning:¹

The PoCVerse
Meaning
22 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems:

Remeasuring
meaning

Customizing

Using

Tools

Resources

References

Feedback

Help

Privacy

Terms

Contact

Support

Feedback

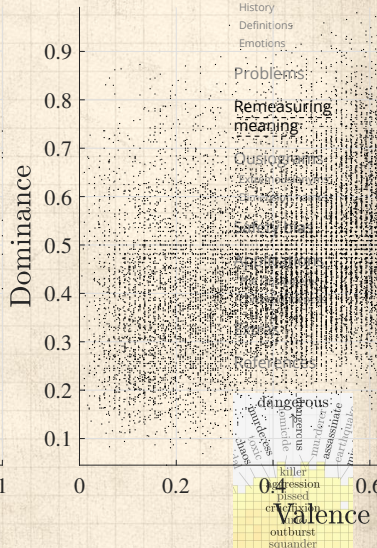
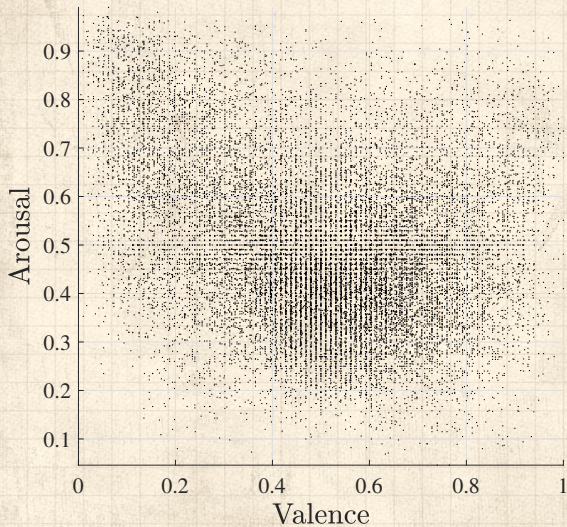
Help

Privacy

Terms

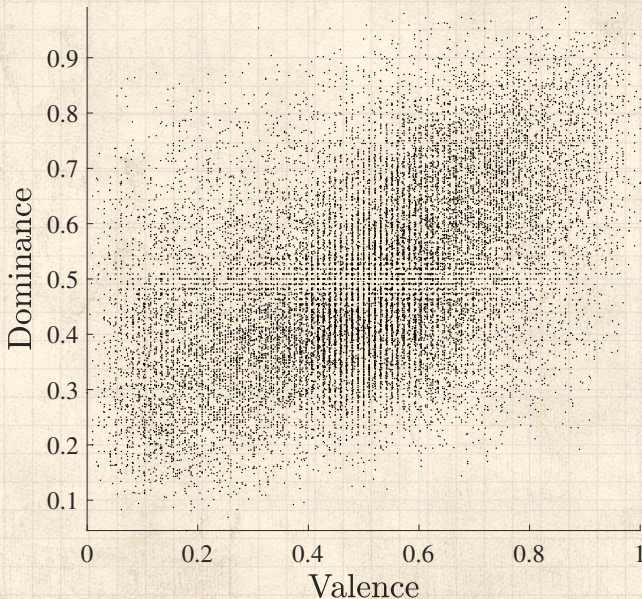
Contact

Support



¹Apricot jam, always.

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



The PoCVerse
Meaning
23 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



Release the Hounds by which we mean Singular Value Decomposition:

Variance explained:

- 🧱 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.

The PoCVerse
Meaning
24 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

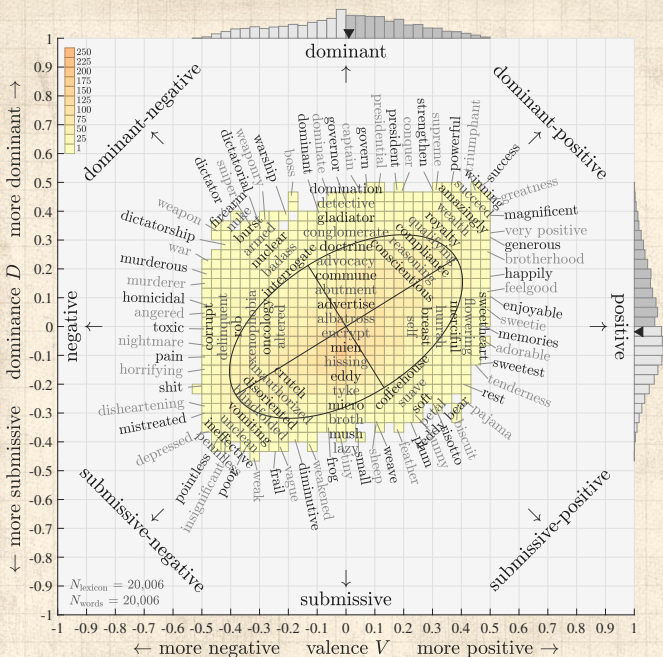
Applications
The Ousimeter
Correspondences

Extras

References



~ valence-dominance ouosiogram for the NRC VAD lexicon ~



The PoCverse

Meaning

25 of 76

Measuring essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousionyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

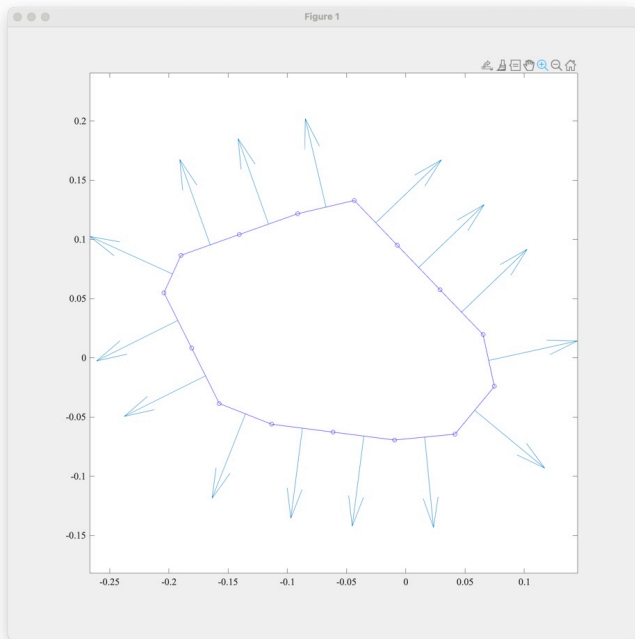
Correspondences

Extras

References



Building ousiograms (2021/01/31):



The PoCverse

Meaning

26 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousonyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

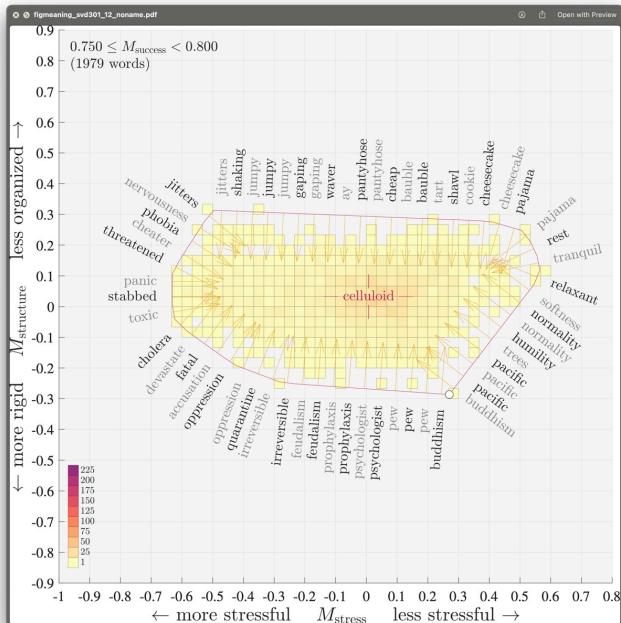
Correspondences

Extras

References



Building ousiograms (2021/01/31):



The PoCverse
Meaning
27 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

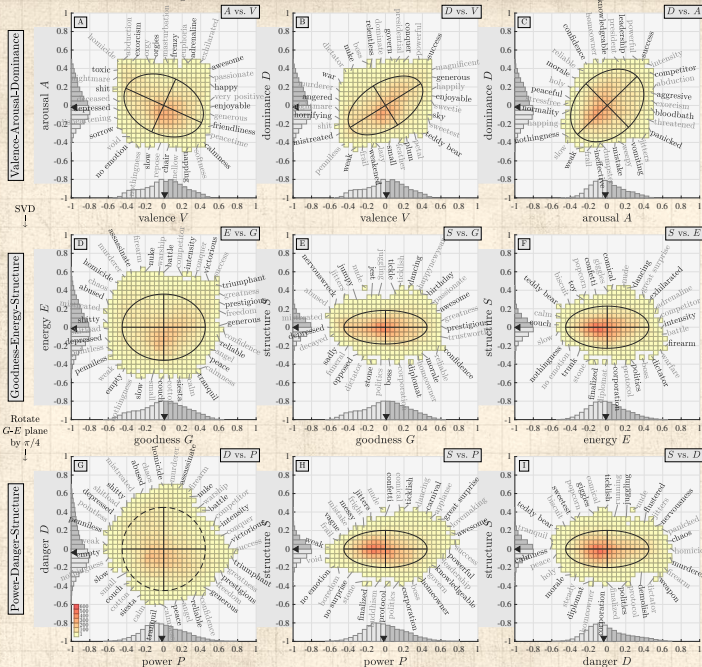
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



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



The PoCVerse
Meaning
28 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning
History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

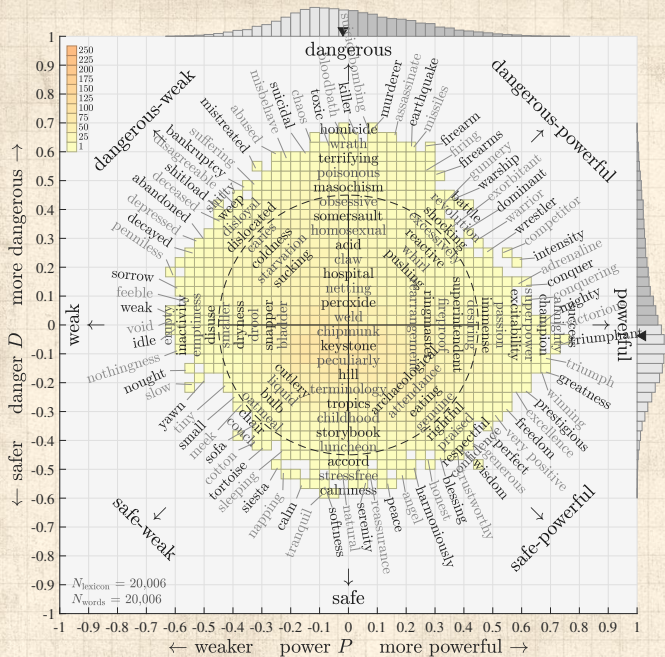
Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



~ power-danger ousiogram for the NRC VAD lexicon ~



The PoCverse

Meaning

29 of 76

Measuring

essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring

meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousionyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

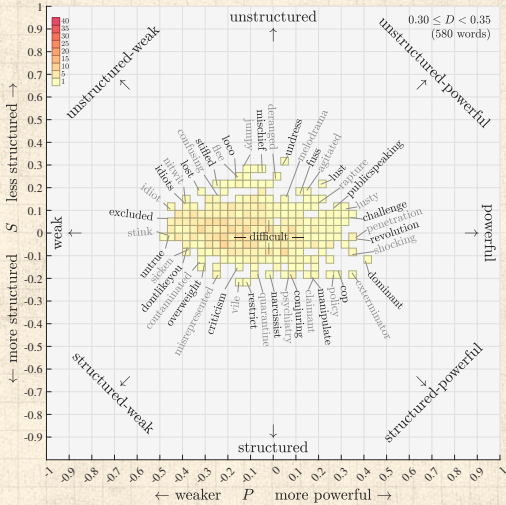
Correspondences

Extras

References



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 madnasses:

🧱 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)

The PoCSverse
Meaning
38 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



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: [15, ?]

- 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). [9, 14]
 - Jane Austen's novels.
 - Sherlock Holmes stories.
 - New York Times (20 years). [19]
 - Wikipedia (2019/03). [20]
 - RadioTalk: Transcriptions of talk radio. [3]
 - Twitter through Storywrangler. [1]

The PoCverse
Meaning
40 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

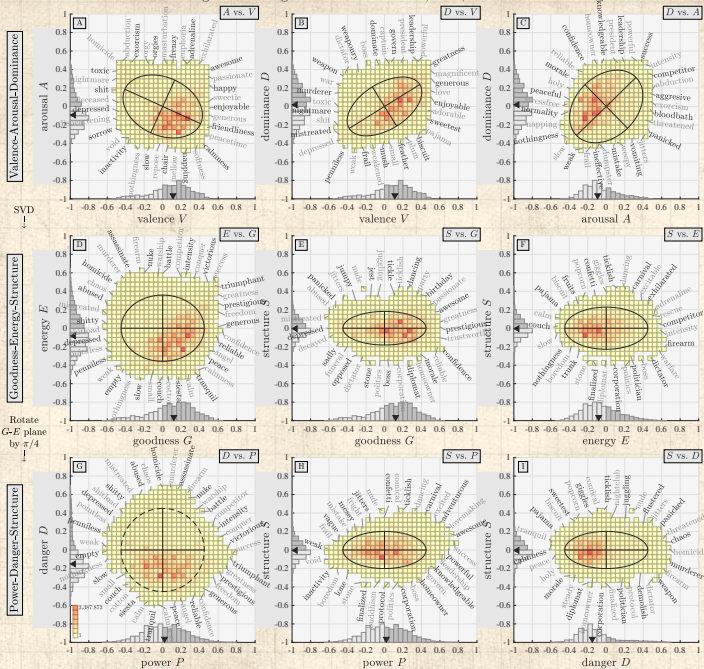
Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



Ousiograms for English fiction in the VAD, GES, and PDS frameworks:



The PoCVerse
Meaning
 41 of 76

Measuring
 essential meaning
 History
 Definitions
 Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
 meaning

Ousiograms
 Extremouionyms
 Dimension names

Safety bias

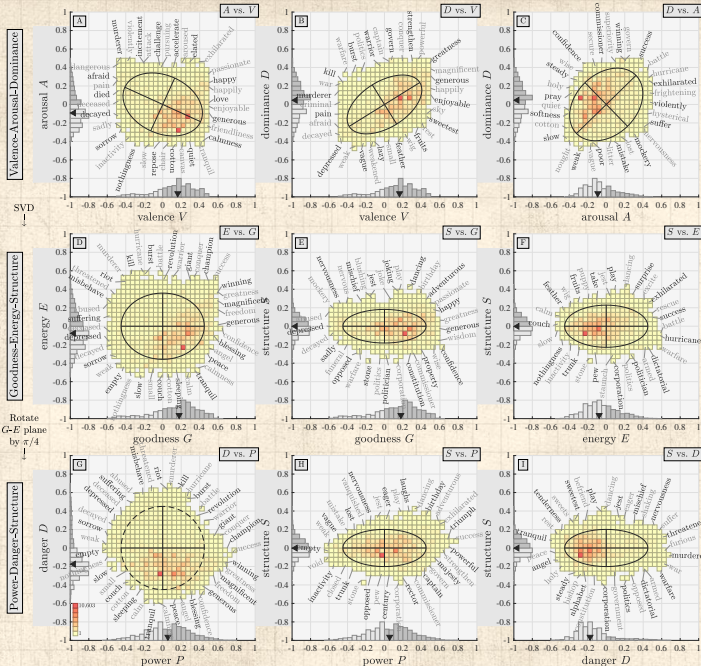
Applications
 The Ousiometer
 Correspondences

Extras

References



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



The PoCVerse

Meaning
42 of 76

Meaning
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

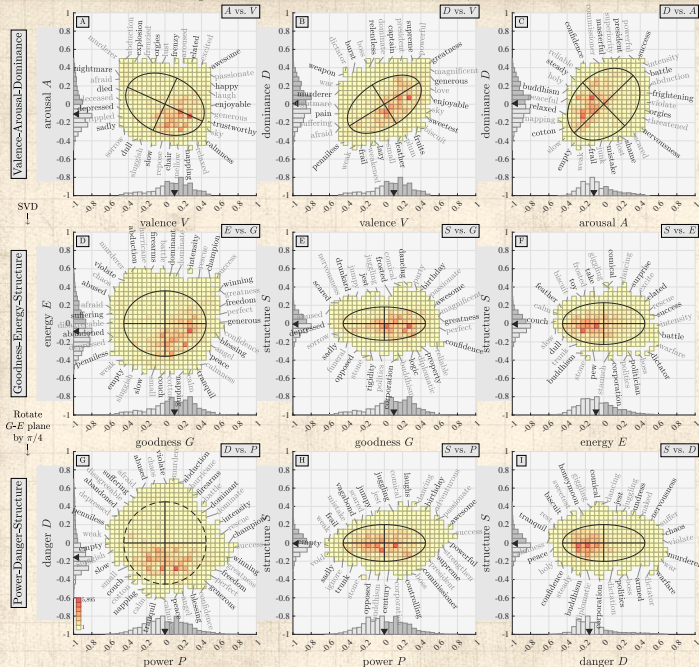
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



Ousiograms for Sherlock Holmes in the VAD, GES, and PDS frameworks:



The PoCVerse
Meaning
 43 of 76

Essential meaning
 History

Definitions
 Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
 meaning

Ousiograms
 Extremousionyms
 Dimension names

Safety bias

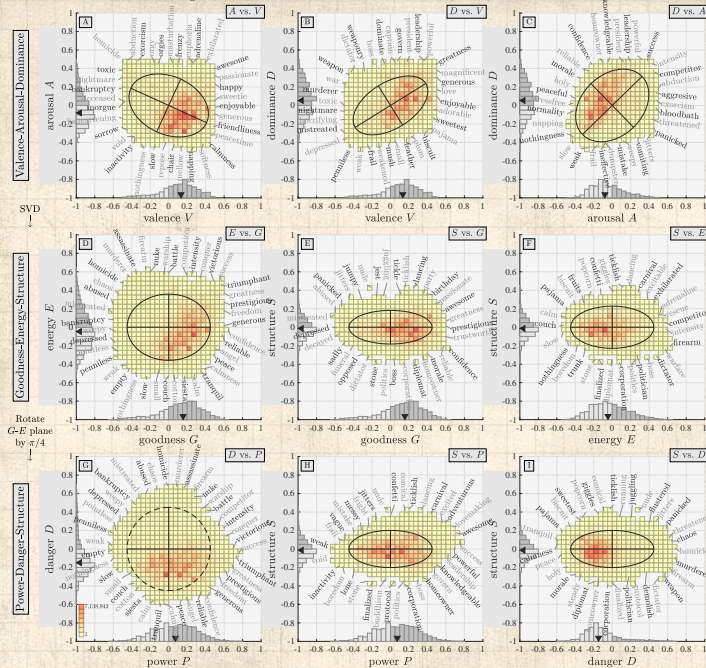
Applications
 The Ousiometer
 Correspondences

Extras

References



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



The PoCverse

Meaning
44 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

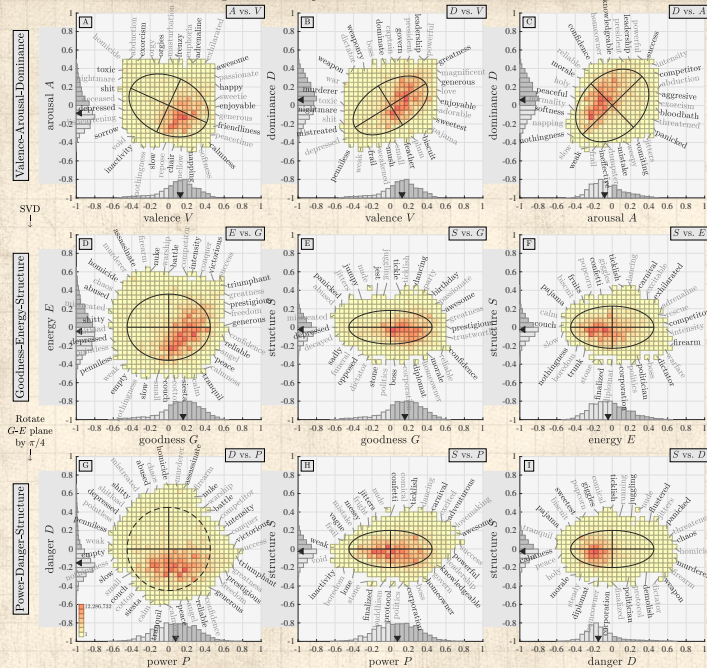
Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



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



The PoCVerse

Meaning
45 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

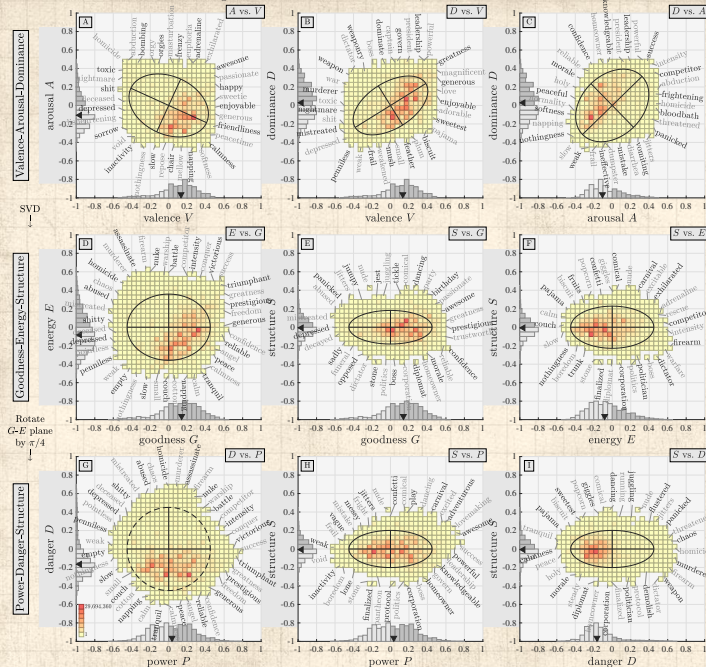
Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



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



The PoCVerse

Meaning
46 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning
History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

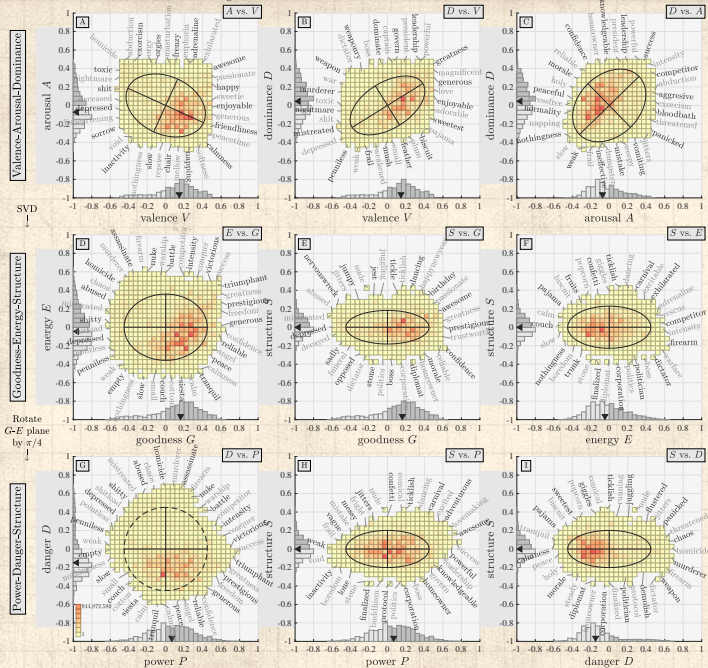
Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



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



The PoCverse
Meaning
 47 of 76

Measuring
 essential meaning
 History
 Definitions
 Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
 meaning

Ousiograms
 Extremousionyms
 Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
 The Ousiometer
 Correspondences

Extras

References



Measuring
essential meaning

- History
- Definitions
- Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

- Extremousonyms
- Dimension names

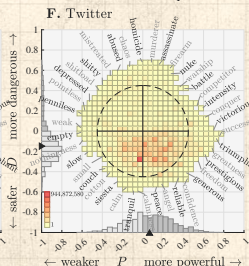
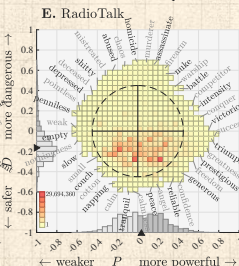
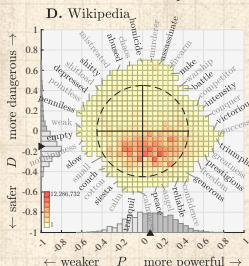
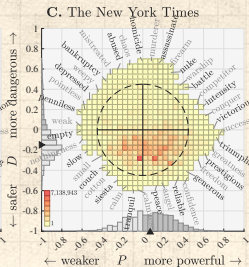
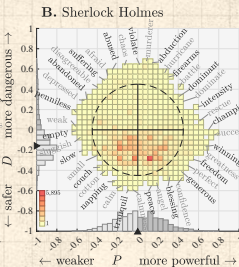
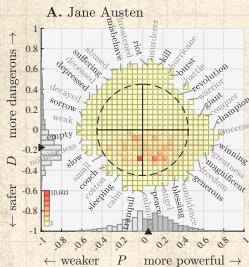
Safety bias

Applications


- The Ousiometer
- Correspondences


Extras

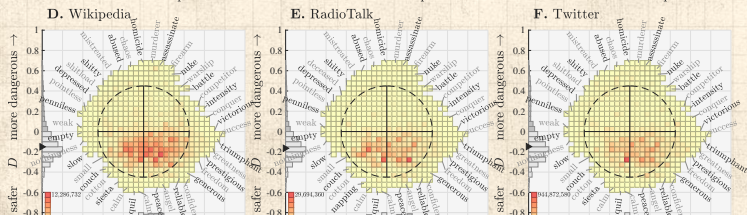
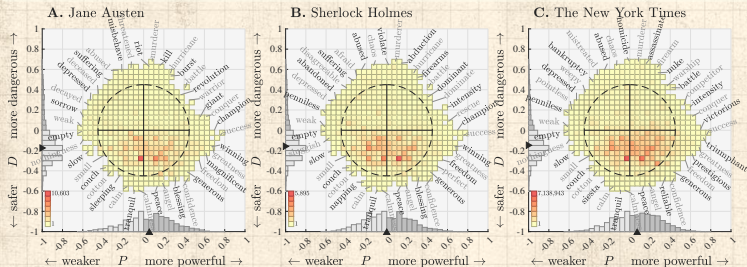
References



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'.



The PoCverse
Meaning
49 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremouonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

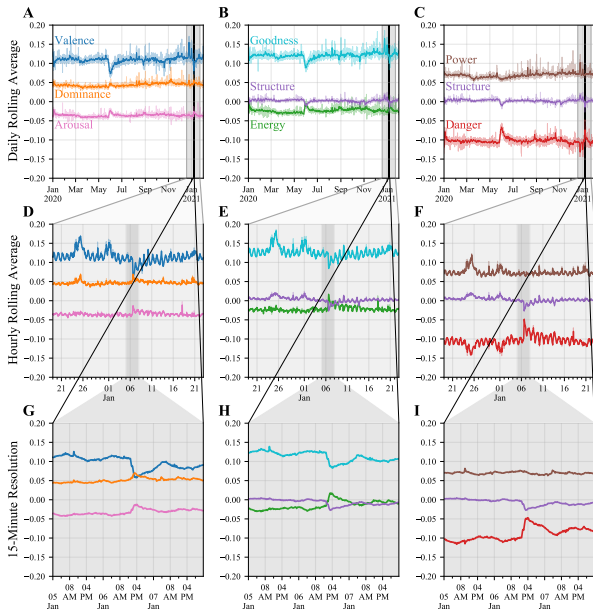
Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



Prototype ousiometer—Twitter:



The PoCverse

Meaning

51 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremouionyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

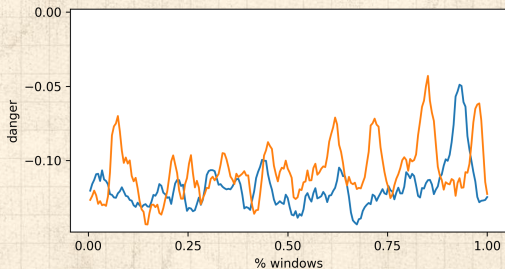
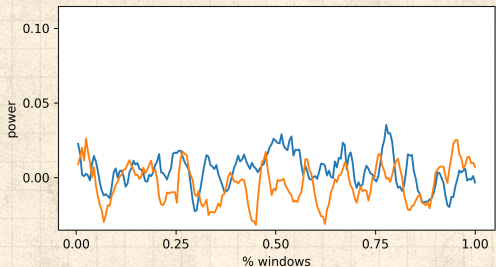
Correspondences

Extras

References



Prototype ousiometer—Harry Potter:



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

The PoCverse

Meaning

52 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousonyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

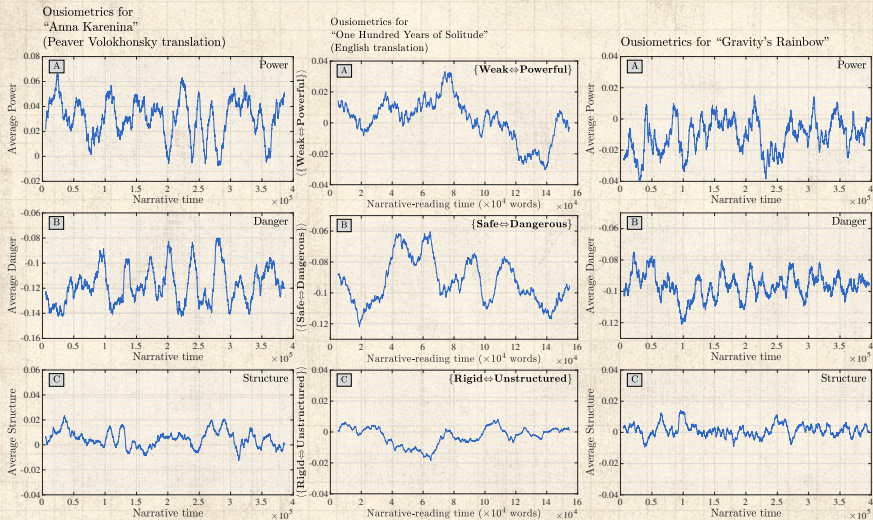
Correspondences

Extras

References



Power and Danger time series for books:



Prototype ousiometer—Terry Pratchett's Discworld:

The PoCVerse

Meaning

54 of 76

Measuring essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousionyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

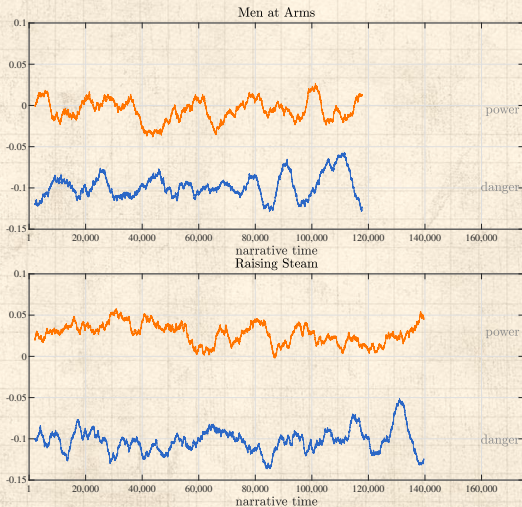
Applications

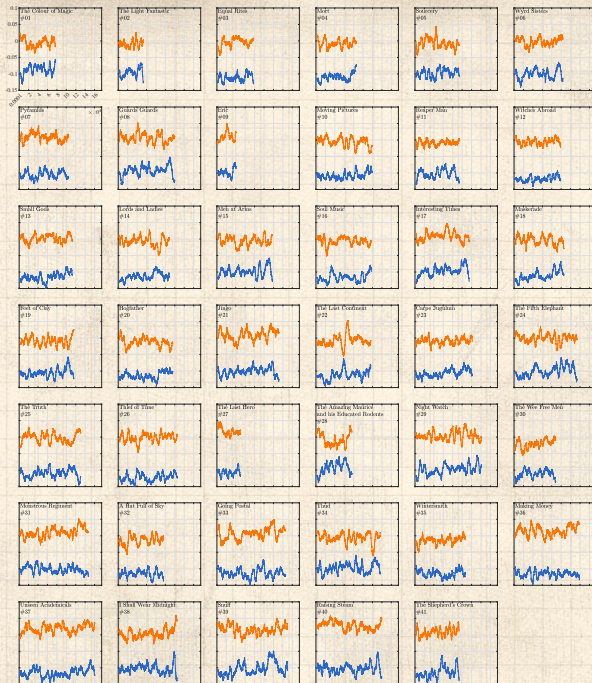
The Ousiometer

Correspondences

Extras

References





The PoCVerse

Meaning
55 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

- History
- Definitions
- Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousio-meter
Correspondences

Extras

References





The PoCVerse

Meaning
56 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousigrams
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

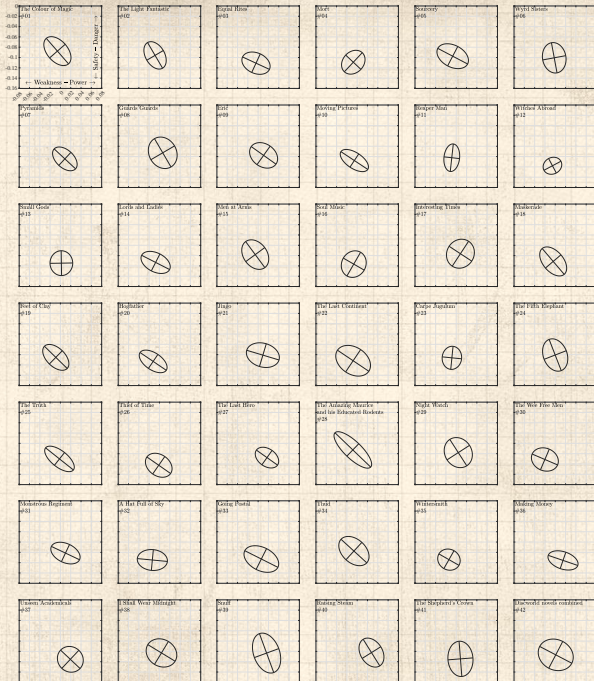
Applications

The Ousimeter
Correspondences

Extras

References





The PoCverse
Meaning
 57 of 76

Measuring
 essential meaning

- History
- Definitions
- Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
 meaning

Ousiograms
 Extrêmementonyms
 Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
 The Ousimeter
 Correspondences

Extras

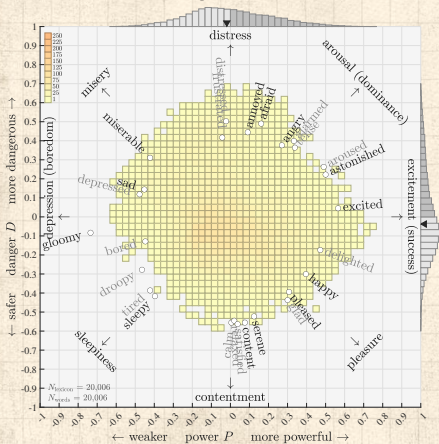
References



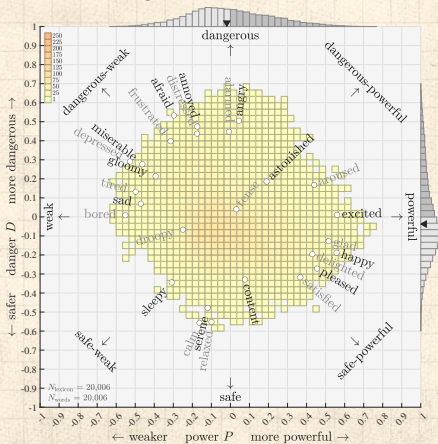


Rough agreement with Russell's circumplex model, [18] which itself doesn't disagree with a 2- d orthogonal framework.

A. Circumplex model of affect:



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



Dungeons & Dragons—Two alignment[↗] axes for character:



1

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

The PoCverse
Meaning
60 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremouonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousimeter
Correspondences

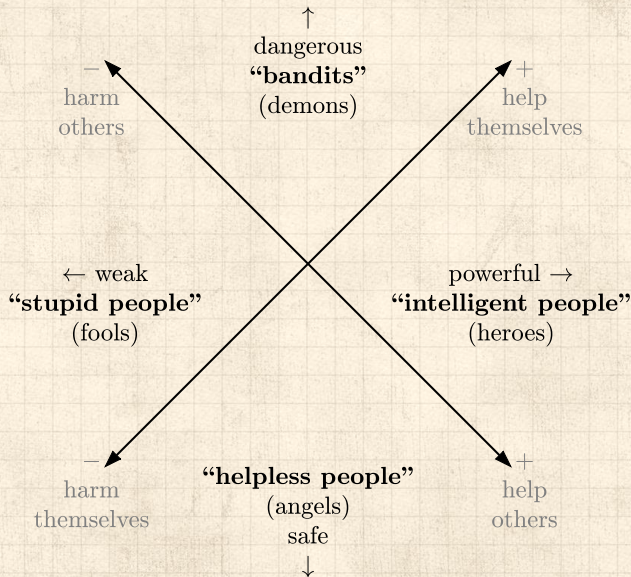
Extras

References



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:



The PoCverse
Meaning
62 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



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. [21, 22]
- Ousiometer can be improved and refined.
- Danger permeates stories (more than conflict)
- Contagion possibility: Measure spread and competition of stories through ousiometric distillation

The PoCSverse
Meaning
63 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

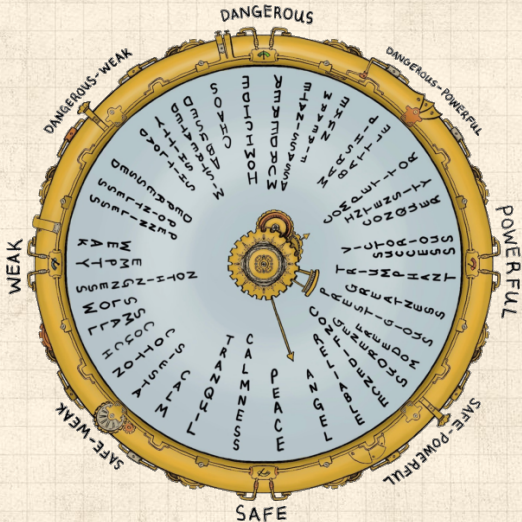
Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



The Compass of Meaning:



The PoCVerse
Meaning
64 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



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. [6]

Dimension

Scale

Evaluation

Good-Bad
Pleasant-Unpleasant

Activity

Active-Passive
Lively-Still

Potency

Strong-Weak

Stability

Tough-Tender
Rational-Emotional
Tamed-Untamed

The PoCVerse

Meaning

66 of 76

Measuring essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousonyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

Correspondences

Extras


References



Remeasuring meaning:

Confusion and Conflation:



“Pleasure, arousal, dominance: Mehrabian and Russell revisited” 
Bakker et al.,
Current Psychology, **33**, 405–421, 2014. ^[2]



Test whether EPA and VAD match.



Explore historical problems of defining end point descriptors for meaning dimensions.

The PoCVerse
Meaning
67 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias


Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



References II

- [3] D. Beeferman, W. Brannon, and D. Roy.
RadioTalk: A large-scale corpus of talk radio transcripts.
[arXiv preprint arXiv:1907.07073, 2019.](#) pdf 
- [4] M. M. Bradley and P. J. Lang.
Affective norms for English words (ANEW):
Stimuli, instruction manual and affective ratings.
Technical report c-1, University of Florida,
Gainesville, FL, 1999.
- [5] P. S. Dodds, T. Alshaabi, M. I. Fudolig, J. W.
Zimmerman, J. Lovato, S. Beaulieu, J. R. Minot,
M. V. Arnold, A. J. Reagan, and C. M. Danforth.
Ousiometrics and Telegnomics: The essence of
meaning conforms to a two-dimensional
powerful-weak and dangerous-safe framework

The PoCSverse
Meaning
69 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousionyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

Correspondences

Extras

References



References III

with diverse corpora presenting a safety bias,
2021.

Available online at

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.06847>. pdf

- [6] D. R. Heise.
Semantic differential profiles for 1,000 most
frequent English words.
Psychological Monographs: General and Applied,
79(8):1, 1965. pdf

- [7] A. Mehrabian and J. A. Russell.
An Approach to Environmental Psychology.
MIT Press, 1974.

- [8] A. Mehrabian and J. A. Russell.
The basic emotional impact of environments.
Perceptual and motor skills, 38:283–301, 1974.
pdf

The PoCSverse

Meaning

70 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History

Definitions

Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms

Extremousonyms

Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications

The Ousiometer

Correspondences


Extras

References




References IV

- [9] J.-B. Michel, Y. K. Shen, A. P. Aiden, A. Veres, M. K. Gray, The Google Books Team, J. P. Pickett, D. Hoiberg, D. Clancy, P. Norvig, J. Orwant, S. Pinker, M. A. Nowak, and E. A. Lieberman. Quantitative analysis of culture using millions of digitized books.

[Science Magazine, 331:176–182, 2011. pdf](#) 

- [10] S. M. Mohammad. Obtaining reliable human ratings of valence, arousal, and dominance for 20,000 English words.

[In Proceedings of The Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics \(ACL\), Melbourne, Australia, 2018. pdf](#) 

The PoCSverse
Meaning
71 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias


Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



References V

- [11] S. M. Mohammad.
Word affect intensities.
In Proceedings of the 11th Edition of the
Language Resources and Evaluation Conference
(LREC-2018), Miyazaki, Japan, 2018. pdf 
- [12] F. Moretti.
Distant Reading.
Verso, New York, 2013.
- [13] C. Osgood, G. Suci, and P. Tannenbaum.
The Measurement of Meaning.
University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, 1957.

The PoCVerse
Meaning
72 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



References VI

- [14] E. A. Pechenick, C. M. Danforth, and P. S. Dodds.
Characterizing the Google Books corpus: Strong
limits to inferences of socio-cultural and linguistic
evolution.

[PLoS ONE, 10:e0137041, 2015. pdf](#)

- [15] C. S. S. Peirce.
Prolegomena to an apology for pragmatism.

[The Monist, 16\(4\):492-546, 1906. pdf](#)

- [16] A. J. Reagan, B. F. Tivnan, J. R. Williams, C. M.
Danforth, and P. S. Dodds.
Sentiment analysis methods for understanding
large-scale texts: A case for using
continuum-scored words and word shift graphs.

[EPJ Data Science, 6, 2017. pdf](#)

The PoCSverse
Meaning
73 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning
History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousonyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



References VII

- [17] R. Reisenzein.
Wundt's three-dimensional theory of emotion.
[Poznan Studies in the Philosophy of the Sciences and the Humanities, 75:219-250, 2000.](#)
- [18] J. A. Russell.
A circumplex model of affect.
[Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 39:1161, 1980. pdf ↗](#)
- [19] E. Sandhaus.
The New York Times Annotated Corpus.
Linguistic Data Consortium, Philadelphia, 2008.
Available online at:
<https://doi.org/10.35111/77ba-9x74>.

The PoCSverse
Meaning
74 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References



References IX

- [23] L. M. Solomon.
A factorial study of complex auditory stimuli
(passive sonar sounds).
[Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of
Illinois, 1954.](#) pdf ↗
- [24] W. M. Wundt.
[Grundriss der Psychologie.](#)
Kröner, 1922.

The PoCSverse
Meaning
76 of 76

Measuring
essential meaning

History
Definitions
Emotions

Problems

Remeasuring
meaning

Ousiograms
Extremousionyms
Dimension names

Safety bias

Applications
The Ousiometer
Correspondences

Extras

References

