

Ousiometrics: The Essence of Meaning

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Principles of Complex Systems,
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The meaning of meaning:¹



“Ousiometrics: The essence of meaning aligns with a power-danger-structure framework instead of valence-arousal-dominance”
Dodds et al.,
Science Advances, **12**, eadr4039, 2026. ^[5]

What does meaning even mean?

- From the smack-tweeting Merriam-Webster:²
“The thing that is conveyed especially by language”
- What are the essential characteristics of meaning?
- Does essential meaning meaningfully span some kind of space?

¹Original title (too long!): 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
²Life goal: Never get owned by a dictionary on social media

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Abed’s struggle:

“Abed’s Uncontrollable Christmas”
Community

- 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”
SSE02 of Community

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.”

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The meaning of pings:



“A factorial study of complex auditory stimuli (passive sonar sounds)”
L. M. Solomon,
Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, University of Illinois, **12**,
1954. ^[24]

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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“The Measurement of Meaning”
by Osgood, Suci, and Tannenbaum (1957). ^[15]

- 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, 50 semantic differentials, 10s of things.
- “EPA framework”

THE MEASUREMENT OF THE MEANING OF THE WORDS

Table 1

Meaning of the words as measured by the semantic differential method

Words: 1. pleasant, 2. unpleasant, 3. smooth, 4. rough, 5. active, 6. passive, 7. beautiful, 8. ugly, 9. definite, 10. uncertain, 11. low, 12. high, 13. powerful, 14. weak, 15. steady, 16. fluttering, 17. soft, 18. loud, 19. full, 20. empty, 21. good, 22. bad, 23. rumbling, 24. whining, 25. solid, 26. hollow, 27. clear, 28. hazy, 29. calming, 30. exciting, 31. pleasing, 32. annoying, 33. colorful, 34. colorless, 35. hot, 36. cold, 37. rich, 38. thin, 39. obvious, 40. subtle, 41. wide, 42. narrow, 43. deliberate, 44. careless, 45. happy, 46. sad, 47. gentle, 48. violent, 49. mild, 50. intense, 51. rounded, 52. angular, 53. slow, 54. fast, 55. rugged, 56. delicate, 57. simple, 58. complex, 59. green, 60. red, 61. masculine, 62. feminine

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Semantic differentials from Osgood et al.: ^[15]

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	



“Semantic differential profiles for 1,000 most frequent English words.”
David R. Heise,
Psychological Monographs: General and Applied,
79, 1, 1965. ^[8]

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

- Good evolution of the field.
- Good: An increase in scale to 1,000 words.
- Good: Focus on frequently used words (always dependent on corpus)

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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, ...¹
- Telegnomics**: The distant sensing of knowledge (~ distant reading ^[14])

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¹“Gretchen, stop trying to make fetch happen, it’s NOT going to happen!” — Regina George

Side Main quest:



Meowsiometrics

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Seriously: Animal language. Why the slow roll?

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.

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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 [18].
- ☞ Wrongly suggests Arousal and Dominance are minimal relative to Valence.

Essential dimensions captured by emotion:

- ☞ Late 1800s: Three dimensional representation of emotion postulated by Wundt. [25, 19]
- ☞ 1970s: Mehrabian and Russell explicitly port EPA framework: [9, 10]
 - ☞ 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 ≡ EPA has become lost in literature. [2]

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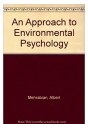
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“An Approach to Environmental Psychology.”
by Mehrabian and Russell (1974). [9]

“The basic emotional impact of environments”
Mehrabian and Russell,
Perceptual and Motor Skills, 38, 283–301, 1974. [10]

“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.”

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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).

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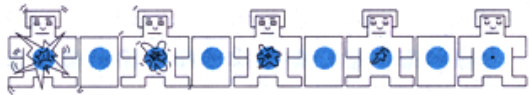
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1999 ANEW study—three 1–9 scales: [4]

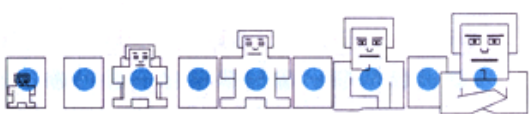
valence:



arousal:



dominance:



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LLMs encode semantic differentials:



“Semantic projection recovers rich human knowledge of multiple object features from word embeddings”
Grand et al.,
Nature Human Behaviour, 6, 975–987, 2022. [6]

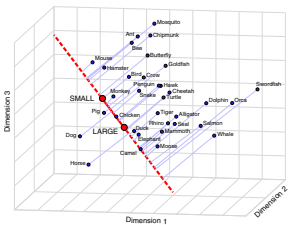


Fig. 11 Schematic illustration of semantic projection. Word-vectors in the category ‘animals’ (blue circles) are orthogonally projected (light-blue lines) onto the feature subspace for ‘size’ (red line), defined as the vector difference between large and small (red circles). The three dimensions in this figure are arbitrary and were chosen via principal component analysis to enhance visualization (the original GloVe word embedding has 300 dimensions, and projection happens in that space). For an animated version of this figure, see Supplementary Video 1.

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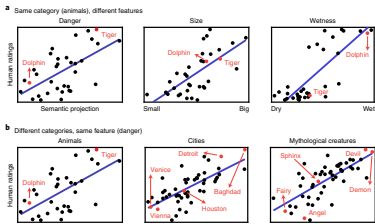


Fig. 21 Semantic projection predicts human judgements: sample cases. a. Examples of three features for the same category (animals). Notice that the items—for instance, dolphin versus tiger—change their similarities to one another depending on context (feature), and semantic projection recovers these cross-feature differences. In other words, the model does not recover the same relationships across features. b. Examples of three categories for the same feature (danger). Sample items are highlighted in red for illustrative purposes. For descriptive and inferential statistics, see Table 1. Each panel is based on data from n=25 participants.

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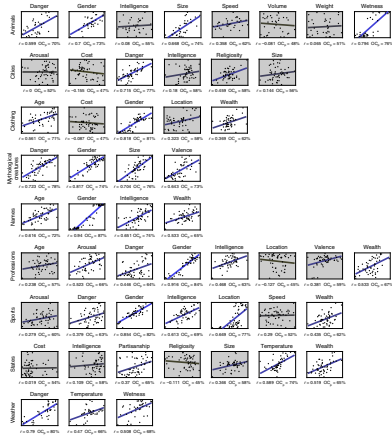


Fig. 4) Semantic projection predicts human judgments: detailed results. For each of 12 category-feature pairs, scatterplots show the relationship between scores of average from ratings across participants (n=25) and arousal predicted by semantic projection (x-axis). Correlation and pairwise order consistency (OC) values are presented below each scatterplot. Experiments for which both of these measures were significant are shown over a white background. Straight lines are linear regression fits to the data and, across figures, vary according to correlation strength from black (weak) to blue (strong).

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), 6, 174–184, 2018. [12]

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 $[0, 1]$.

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NRC VAD Lexicon [12]

VAD endpoints:	Paradigm words and phrases presented to raters: [13]
highest valence	happiness, pleasure, positiveness, satisfaction, contentedness, hopefulness
lowest valence	unhappiness, annoyance, negativity, 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—20,006 words²:

Numbersinaboxology format:

- Scores stored in a $3 \times 20,006$ matrix $\mathbf{A}$.
- Rows are scores for $\mathbf{Va}$, $\mathbf{Ar}$, and $\mathbf{Dm}$.
- Each column records VAD scores for a word, ordered alphabetically from ‘aaaaaaah’ [7] to ‘zucchini’.
- For SVD, $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^T$, and we have:
 - $\mathbf{A}$ is of rank 3,
 - $\mathbf{U}$ is 3×3 ,
 - $\mathbf{\Sigma}$ is $3 \times 20,006$ (the heart of $\mathbf{A}$),
 - $\mathbf{V}$ is $20,006 \times 20,006$
- $\mathbf{U}$ and $\mathbf{V}$ transform bases and are orthogonal matrices ($\mathbf{U}\mathbf{U}^T = \mathbf{U}^T\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{I}_3$ and $\mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^T = \mathbf{V}^T\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{I}_{20,006}$)
- What we will use: σ_1, σ_2 , and σ_3 , and $\mathbf{U}$.

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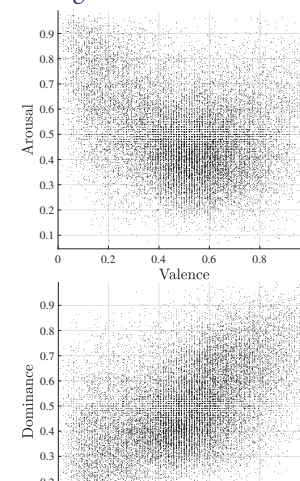
Ruh-roh

Standard³ correlations suggests a bit of https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Barney_Rubble for orthogonality claims:

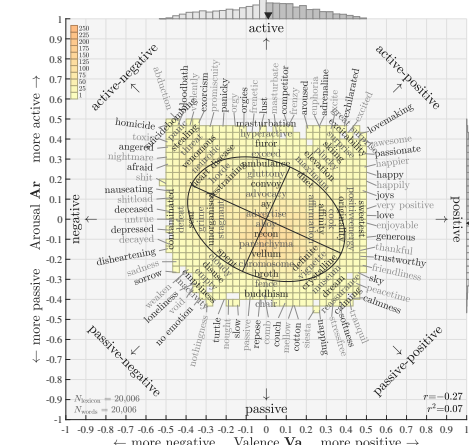
$$\begin{aligned} r_{\mathbf{Va}, \mathbf{Ar}} &\approx -0.268, \\ r_{\mathbf{Ar}, \mathbf{Dm}} &\approx +0.302, \\ r_{\mathbf{Dm}, \mathbf{Va}} &\approx +0.488. \end{aligned}$$

- Compare these numbers with 0.

The Delicious English Muffin of Meaning:¹



~ Valence-Arousal ousiogram for the NRC VAD lexicon ~



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³Don’t name fundamental scientific things after people.

Release the Hounds by which we mean Singular Value Decomposition:

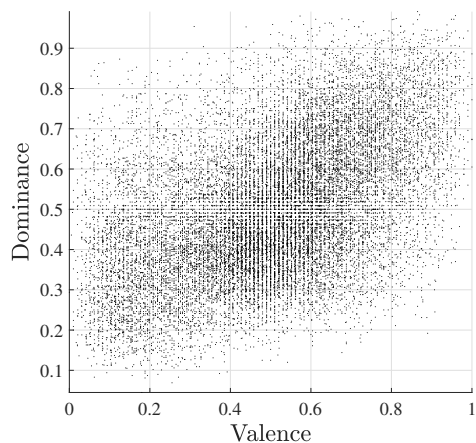
Variance explained:

- VAD: 44.4%, 28.0%, and 27.6%.
- Apply SVD: $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}^T$
- Singular values: $\sigma_1 \approx 34.1, \sigma_2 \approx 27.2$, and $\sigma_3 \approx 13.8$.
- For what will be Goodness-Aggression-Structure (GAS): 55.6%, 35.3%, and 9.1%
- Rotate $\mathbf{Gd-Ag}$ plane by $-\pi/4$ for what will be Power-Danger-Structure (PDS): 45.5%, 45.5%, and 9.1%
- Interpretability enhancements: Ousiograms.

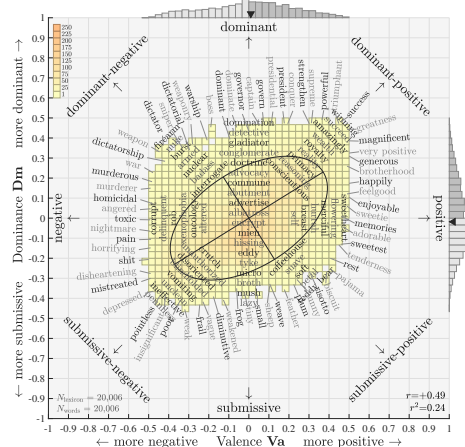
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²Original study had 20,007 words. We removed one.

$$R(\mathbf{Dm}, \mathbf{Va}) \approx 0.488$$



~ Valence-Dominance ousiogram for the NRC VAD lexicon ~



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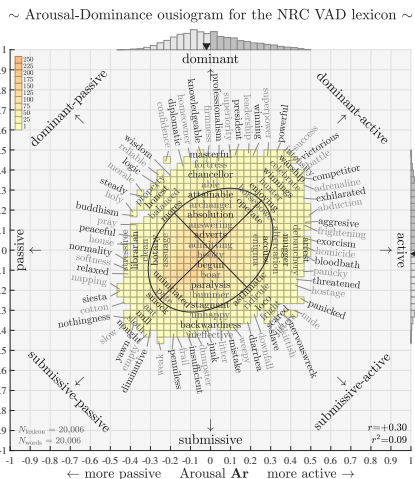
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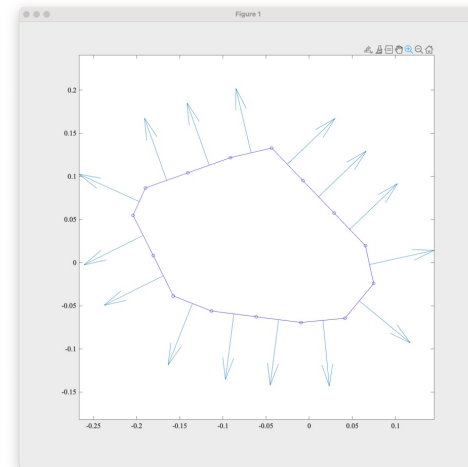
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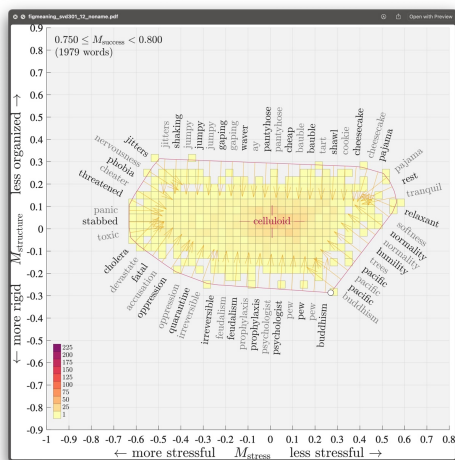
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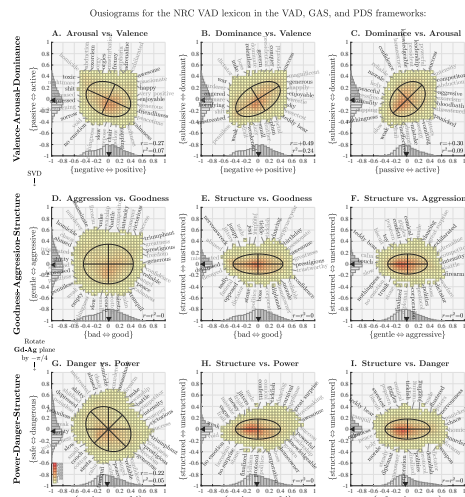
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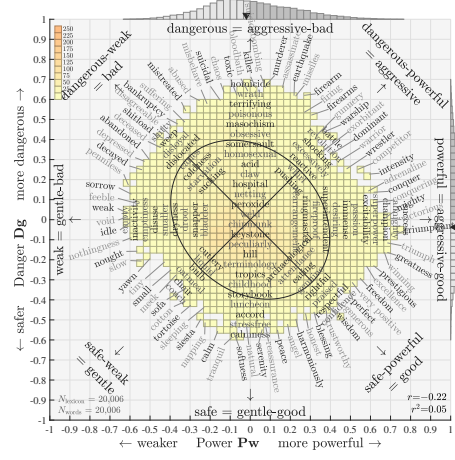
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~ Power-Danger ousiogram for the NRC VAD lexicon ~



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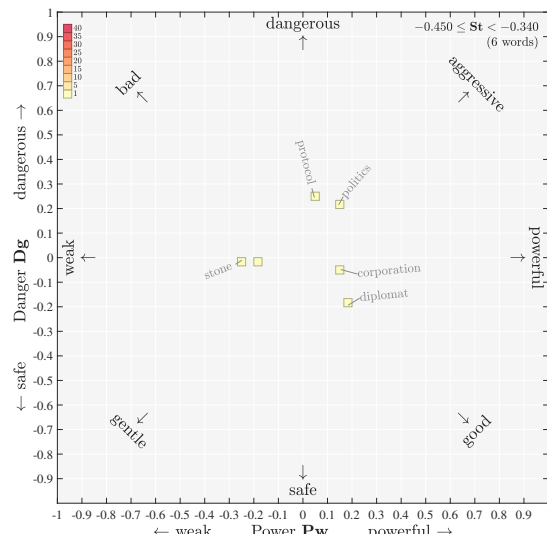
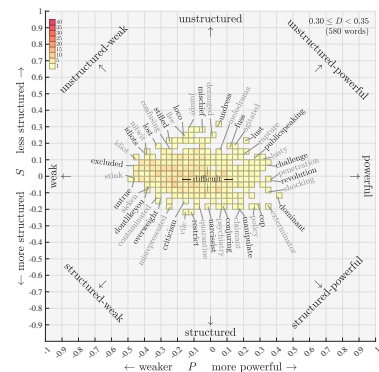
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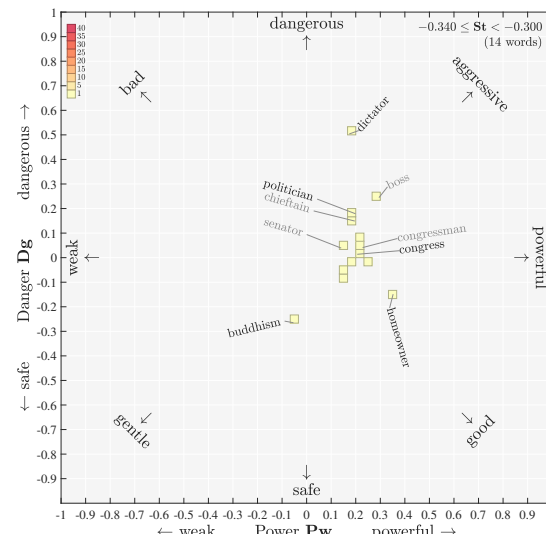
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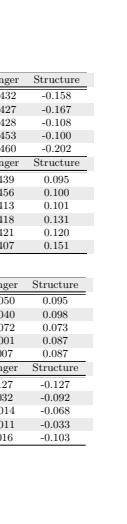
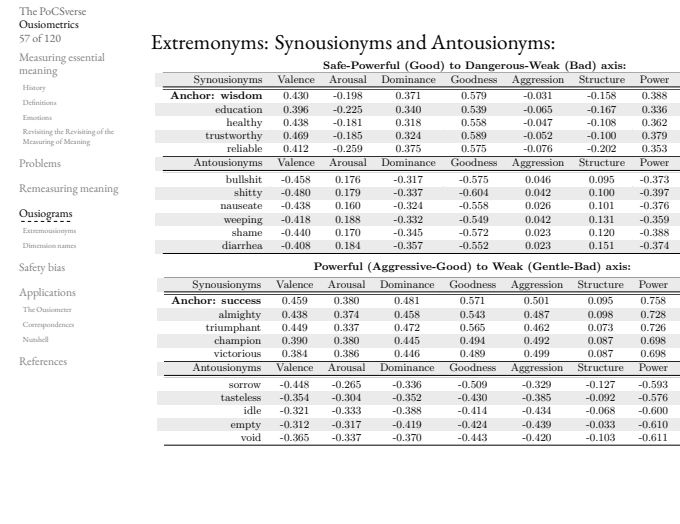
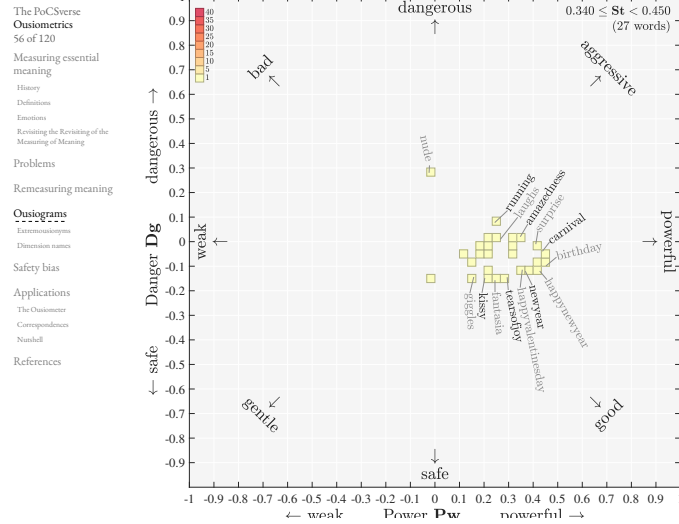
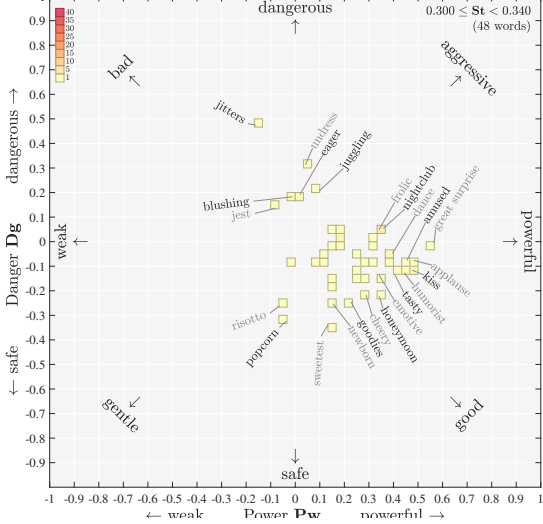
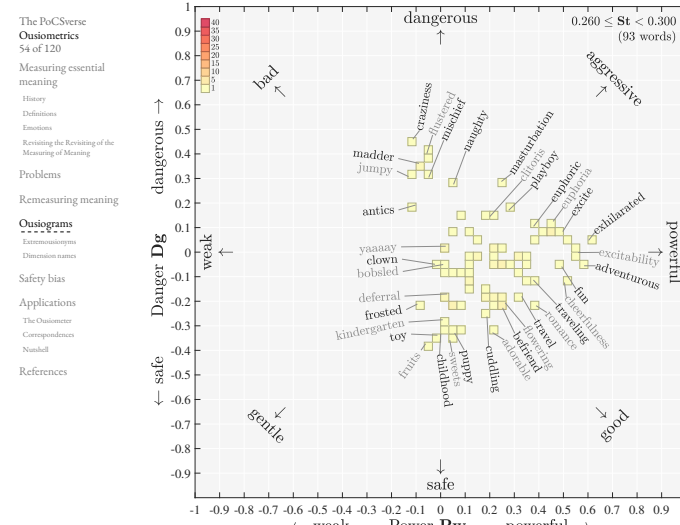
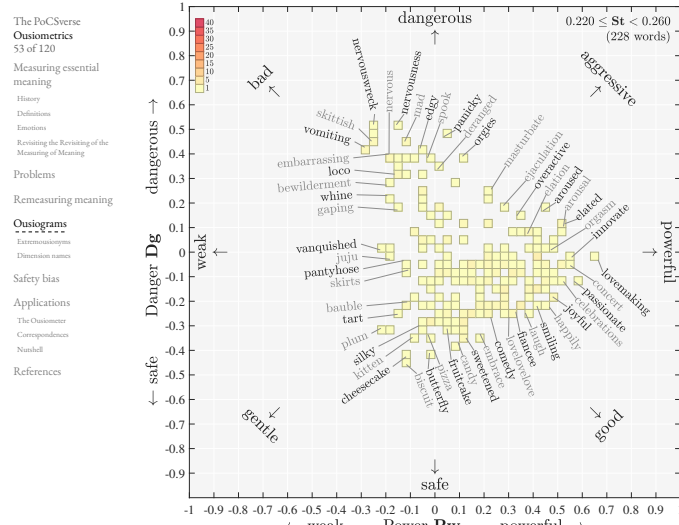
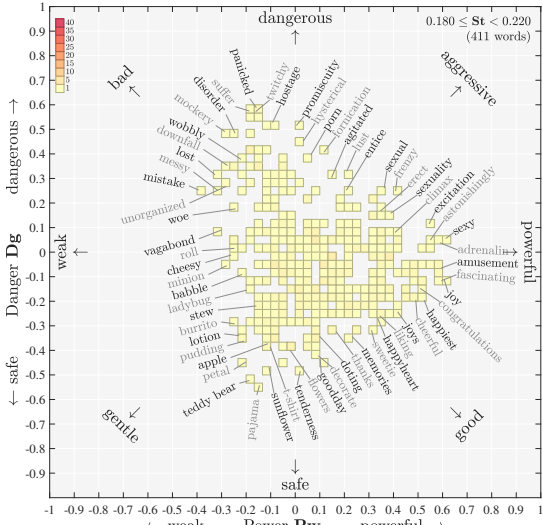
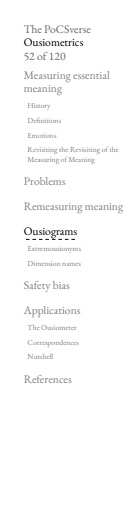
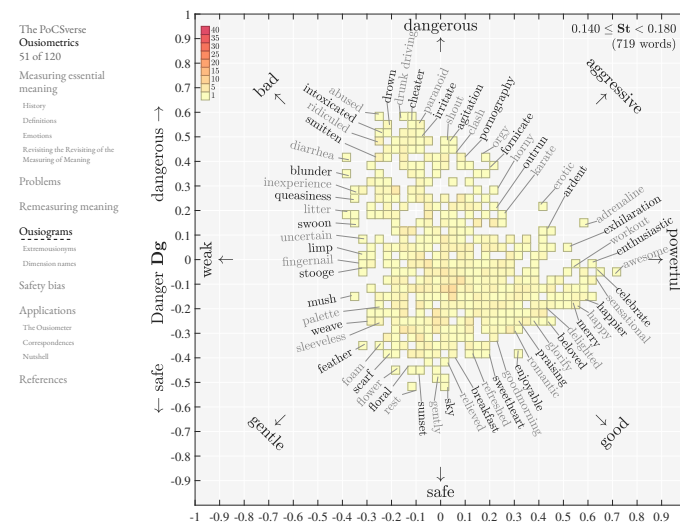
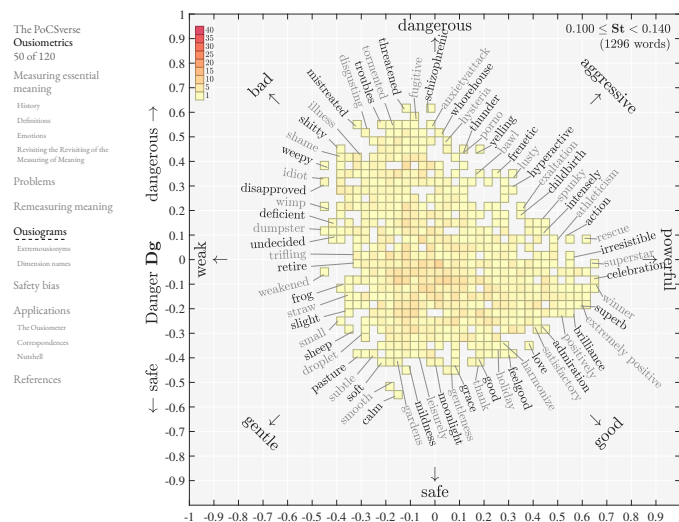
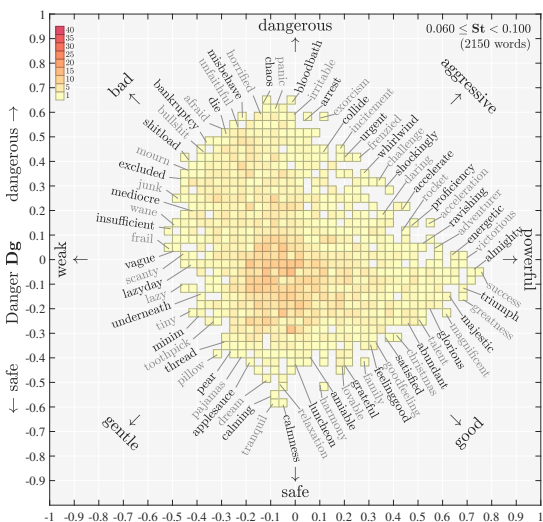
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Extremonyms: Synousionyms and Antousionyms:

Safe-Powerful (Good) to Dangerous-Weak (Bad) axis:									
Synousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Aggression	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	Aggression	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	0.169	-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 (Aggressive-Good) to Weak (Gentle-Bad) axis:									
Synousionyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Aggression	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	Aggression	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	-0.285	-0.092	-0.576	0.032	-0.092
idle	-0.321	-0.333	-0.388	-0.414	-0.368	-0.600	-0.014	-0.068	-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

safe										dangerous										
(gentle-good) peaceful serene angelic										(aggressive-bad) murderous violent demonic										
Word	Comp.	Size	Angle	Cos	Pw	Dg	St			Word	Comp.	Size	Angle	Cos	Pw	Dg	St			
1. calmness	77.1	77.9	7.9	0.99	-0.05	-0.59	0.07			1. homicide	89.0	89.0	179.0	-1.00	-0.01	0.68	0.01			
2. tranquil	76.7	78.3	11.6	0.98	-0.09	-0.58	0.08			2. murderer	88.5	89.9	108.9	-0.98	-0.08	0.68	-0.09			
3. relaxed	73.7	75.5	12.5	0.98	-0.11	-0.56	0.05			3. abduction	86.5	88.8	106.9	-0.97	-0.11	0.66	-0.06			
4. softness	73.2	74.1	8.6	0.99	-0.08	-0.56	0.02			4. murderous	86.3	88.6	106.8	-0.97	-0.10	0.66	-0.12			
5. coloring	72.7	73.3	12.0	0.98	-0.10	-0.56	0.07			5. snide/denouncing	86.2	87.1	111.5	-0.99	-0.08	0.66	-0.08			
6. relaxed	72.0	73.3	10.8	0.98	-0.10	-0.55	0.03			6. killer	86.0	86.1	177.5	-1.00	-0.03	0.66	0.01			
7. peace	71.8	74.3	14.9	0.97	-0.14	-0.55	0.06			7. dangerous	85.9	87.6	106.8	-0.98	-0.09	0.66	-0.10			
8. serenity	71.5	72.3	8.4	0.99	-0.08	-0.55	-0.05			8. assassinate	85.9	89.6	103.4	-0.96	-0.16	0.66	-0.11			
9. comfortable	70.8	71.1	5.3	1.00	-0.02	-0.54	0.04			9. terrorist	85.1	87.4	106.8	-0.97	-0.10	0.65	-0.12			
10. peacetime	70.8	72.7	13.3	0.97	-0.13	-0.54	-0.01			10. daylight	85.0	88.9	105.1	-0.97	-0.14	0.65	-0.10			
11. peaceful	69.6	70.7	10.3	0.98	-0.05	-0.53	-0.09			11. gunshot	85.0	87.1	107.4	-0.98	-0.11	0.65	-0.09			
12. stress-free	69.1	70.1	9.7	0.99	-0.01	-0.53	-0.40			12. terrorism	84.9	87.2	107.0	-0.97	-0.13	0.65	-0.07			
13. reassurance	68.5	70.1	12.5	0.98	-0.08	-0.52	-0.40			13. aggressive	84.8	86.2	108.8	-0.98	-0.11	0.65	-0.05			
14. natural	67.9	68.1	3.6	1.00	-0.02	-0.52	-0.40			14. terrorist	84.5	87.1	105.7	-0.97	-0.14	0.65	-0.08			
15. sky	67.8	70.4	15.6	0.96	-0.06	-0.52	0.14			15. tsunami	84.3	86.7	106.4	-0.97	-0.12	0.65	-0.10			
16. harmony	66.7	68.4	13.0	0.97	-0.10	-0.51	0.06			16. violate	83.9	84.0	176.6	-1.00	-0.02	0.64	0.03			
17. relaxation	66.4	67.6	10.9	0.98	-0.09	-0.51	0.08			17. bloodthirst	83.8	84.2	173.2	-1.00	-0.01	0.64	0.06			
18. tranquility	65.3	65.6	5.4	1.00	-0.02	-0.50	0.00			18. slaughter	83.7	84.3	173.2	-1.00	-0.01	0.67	0.04	-0.04		
19. relaxing	64.4	64.5	0.7	1.00	-0.01	-0.49	-0.40			19. psychopath	83.5	83.5	179.2	-1.00	-0.01	0.64	-0.00			
20. teatime	64.4	66.9	15.9	0.96	-0.11	-0.49	0.09			20. hell	83.3	83.6	178.8	-1.00	-0.01	0.64	-0.05			

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gentle										aggressive									
(safe-weak) restful mild sleepy										(dangerous-powerful) competitive warlike forceful									
Word	Comp. Size	Syn	Ant	Angle	Cos	Pw	Dg	St		Word	Comp. Size	Syn	Ant	Angle	Cos	Pw	Dg	St	
1. couch	67.5	68.5	2.8	1.00	-0.37	-0.37	0.03			1. battle	78.5	77.4	172.7	-0.99	-0.41	0.42	-0.08		
2. cotton	67.5	68.0	6.6	0.99	-0.42	-0.41	0.01			2. warship	73.9	70.9	163.9	-0.96	-0.36	0.44	-0.15		
3. tortoise	66.8	67.9	10.6	0.98	-0.40	-0.43	0.04			3. fireproof	72.1	72.3	175.7	-1.00	-0.37	0.41	-0.03		
4. meadow	65.9	66.4	7.5	0.99	-0.31	-0.40	-0.01			4. counterattack	71.8	74.0	161.7	-0.97	-0.30	0.48	-0.04		
5. posture	65.5	67.9	13.2	0.97	-0.43	-0.39	0.12			5. bang	70.5	71.4	163.7	-0.98	-0.27	0.40	-0.03		
6. pillow	65.1	66.3	11.2	0.98	-0.32	-0.39	0.09			6. warrior	68.4	72.2	163.8	-0.96	-0.45	0.39	-0.11		
7. lawn	63.1	65.3	15.0	0.97	-0.30	-0.39	0.11			7. artillery	67.5	69.9	172.4	-0.99	-0.39	0.31	-0.05		
8. quilt	63.0	63.7	8.3	0.99	-0.31	-0.37	0.05			8. dominant	67.9	70.1	165.5	-0.97	-0.41	0.31	-0.12		
9. chair	62.2	62.5	5.3	1.00	-0.33	-0.34	-0.04			9. tempest	67.5	70.9	162.8	-0.98	-0.28	0.40	-0.09		
10. sleeping	61.6	64.5	17.3	0.95	-0.25	-0.44	0.10			10. shelling	67.0	71.1	169.9	-0.92	-0.42	0.42	-0.04		
11. asleep	61.6	61.8	4.8	1.00	-0.31	-0.36	-0.01			11. hurricanes	67.4	69.7	165.4	-0.97	-0.29	0.44	-0.04		
12. sofa	61.0	61.0	2.5	1.00	-0.32	-0.34	-0.04			12. volcanic	67.1	68.0	171.7	-0.99	-0.32	0.41	-0.04		
13. sleepy	60.3	60.4	3.8	1.00	-0.31	-0.34	0.02			13. wild	67.1	68.6	167.9	-0.98	-0.29	0.44	-0.03		
14. meek	59.7	60.5	8.2	0.99	-0.37	-0.38	0.02			14. showdown	66.2	68.9	163.8	-0.98	-0.28	0.36	0.02		
15. subtle	59.3	62.4	17.6	0.95	-0.28	-0.39	0.11			15. revolution	66.1	66.2	178.8	-1.00	-0.37	0.35	-0.03		
16. minimized	58.9	61.1	15.4	0.96	-0.41	-0.23	-0.02			16. gunslinger	66.0	67.8	166.8	-0.97	-0.31	0.40	-0.10		
17. poor	58.9	60.6	13.7	0.97	-0.26	-0.37	0.08			17. fighting	65.8	68.1	165.4	-0.97	-0.29	0.43	-0.08		
18. napkins	58.5	60.4	14.3	0.97	-0.40	-0.24	-0.01			18. explode	64.1	68.2	163.8	-0.98	-0.27	0.44	-0.08		
19. teacup	57.9	58.5	8.3	0.99	-0.27	-0.36	0.02			19. overbearing	63.1	68.2	162.8	-0.96	-0.33	0.37	-0.15		
20. sheep	57.9	60.2	16.0	0.96	-0.36	-0.39	0.12			20. combat	63.0	67.8	163.2	-0.96	-0.31	0.40	-0.14		

sleepy										aggressive										
(safe-weak) restful mild sleepy										(dangerous-powerful) competitive warlike forceful										
Word	Comp. Size	Syn	Ant	Angle	Cos	Pw	Dg	St		Word	Comp. Size	Syn	Ant	Angle	Cos	Pw	Dg	St		
1. couch	67.5	68.5	2.8	1.00	-0.37	-0.37	0.03			1. battle	78.5	77.4	172.7	-0.99	-0.41	0.42	-0.08			
2. cotton	67.5	68.0	6.6	0.99	-0.42	-0.41	0.01			2. warship	73.9	70.9	163.9	-0.96	-0.36	0.44	-0.15			
3. tortoise	66.8	67.9	10.6	0.98	-0.40	-0.43	0.04			3. fireproof	72.1	72.3	175.7	-1.00	-0.37	0.41	-0.03			
4. meadow	65.9	66.4	7.5	0.99	-0.31	-0.40	-0.01			4. counterattack	71.8	74.0	161.7	-0.97	-0.30	0.48	-0.04			
5. posture	65.5	67.9	13.2	0.97	-0.43	-0.39	0.12			5. bang	70.5	71.4	163.7	-0.98	-0.27	0.40	-0.03			
6. pillow	65.1	66.3	11.2	0.98	-0.32	-0.39	0.09			6. warrior	68.4	72.2	163.8	-0.96	-0.45	0.39	-0.11			
7. lawn	63.1	65.3	15.0	0.97	-0.30	-0.39	0.11			7. artillery	67.5	69.9	172.4	-0.99	-0.39	0.31	-0.05			
8. quilt	63.0	63.7	8.3	0.99	-0.31	-0.37	0.05			8. dominant	67.9	70.1	165.5	-0.97	-0.41	0.31	-0.12			
9. chair	62.2	62.5	5.3	1.00	-0.33	-0.34	-0.04			9. tempest	67.5	70.9	162.8	-0.98	-0.28	0.40	-0.09			
10. sleeping	61.6	64.5	17.3	0.95	-0.25	-0.44	0.10			10. shelling	67.0	71.1	169.9	-0.92	-0.42	0.42	-0.04			
11. asleep	61.6	61.8	4.8	1.00	-0.31	-0.36	-0.01			11. hurricanes	67.4	69.7	165.4	-0.97	-0.29	0.44	-0.04			
12. sofa	61.0	61.0	2.5	1.00	-0.32	-0.34	-0.04			12. volcanic	67.1	68.0	171.7	-0.99	-0.32	0.41	-0.04			
13. sleepy	60.3	60.4	3.8	1.00	-0.31	-0.34	0.02			13. wild	67.1	68.6	167.9	-0.98	-0.29	0.44	-0.03			
14. meek	59.7	60.5	8.2	0.99	-0.37	-0.38	0.02			14. showdown	66.2	68.9	163.8	-0.98	-0.28	0.36	0.02			
15. subtle	59.3	62.4	17.6	0.95	-0.28	-0.39	0.11			15. revolution	66.1	66.2	178.8	-1.00	-0.37	0.35	-0.03			
16. minimized	58.9	61.1	15.4	0.96	-0.41	-0.23	-0.02			16. gunslinger	66.0	67.8	166.8	-0.97	-0.31	0.40	-0.10			
17. poor	58.9	60.6	13.7	0.97	-0.26	-0.37	0.08			17. fighting	65.8	68.1	165.4	-0.97	-0.29	0.43	-0.08			
18. napkins	58.5	60.4	14.3	0.97	-0.40	-0.24	-0.01			18. explode	64.1	68.2	163.8	-0.98	-0.27	0.44	-0.08			
19. teacup	57.9	58.5	8.3	0.99	-0.27	-0.36	0.02			19. overbearing	63.1	68.2	162.8	-0.96	-0.33	0.37	-0.15			
20. sheep	57.9	60.2	16.0	0.96	-0.36	-0.39	0.12			20. combat	63.0	67.8	163.2	-0.96	-0.31	0.40	-0.14			

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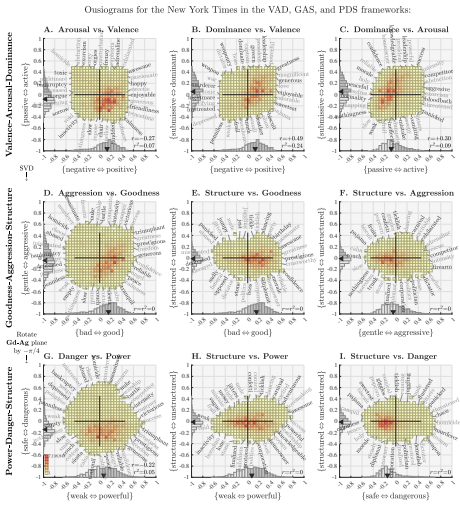
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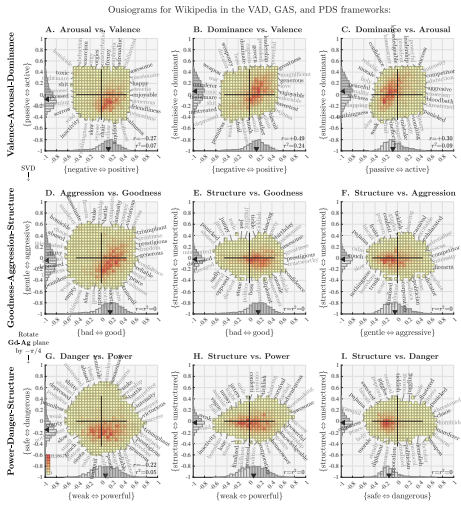
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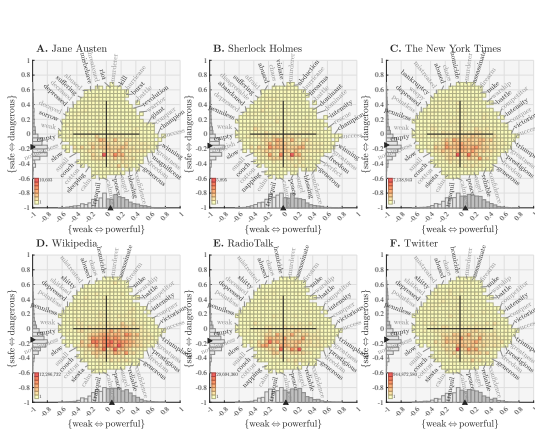
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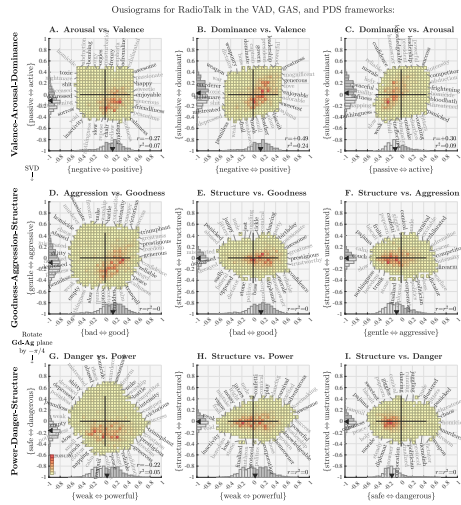
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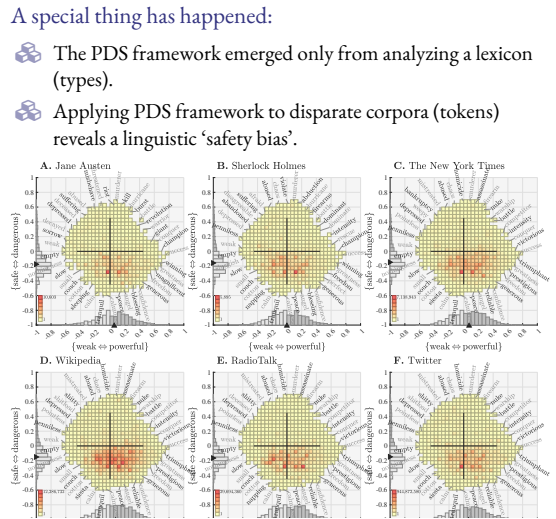
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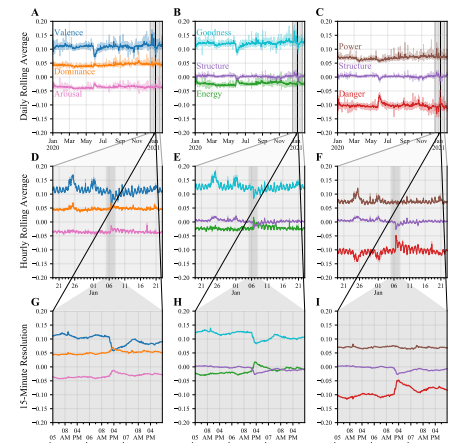
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Prototype ouisiometer—Twitter:



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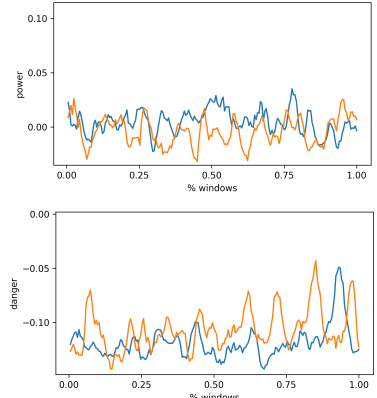
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Prototype ouisiometer—Harry Potter:



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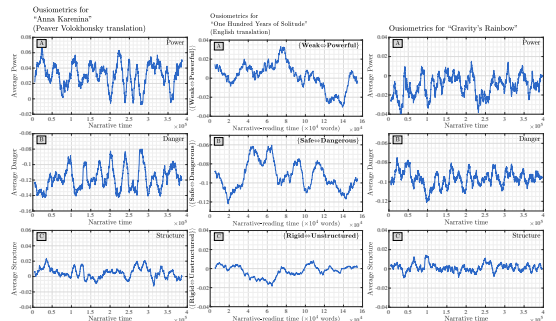
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Power and Danger time series for books:



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

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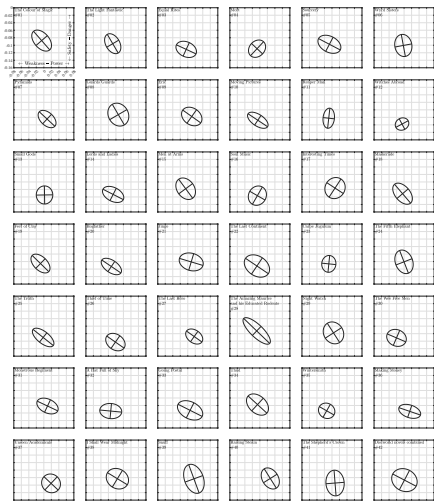
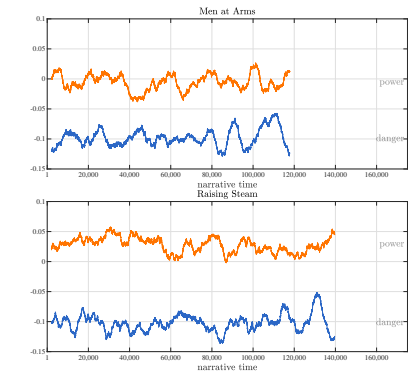
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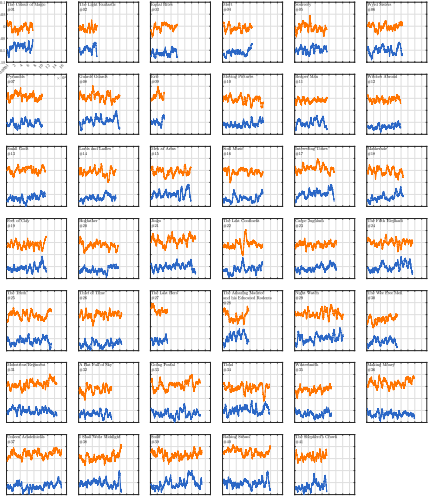
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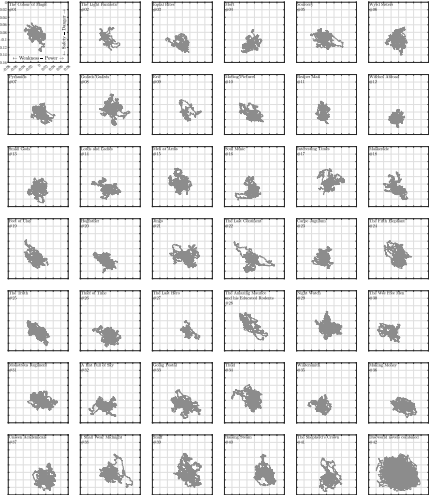
Prototype ouisiometer—Terry Pratchett’s Discworld:



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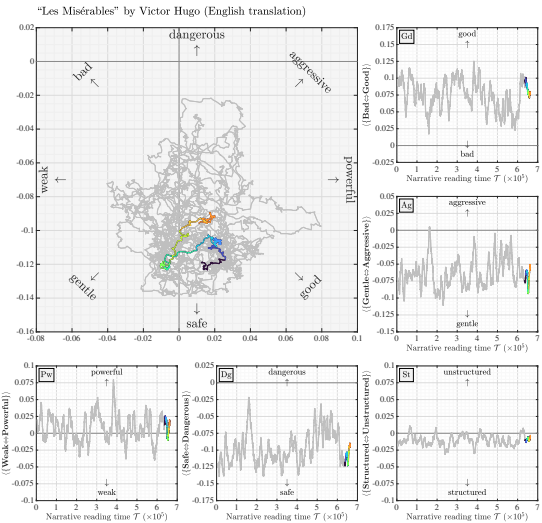


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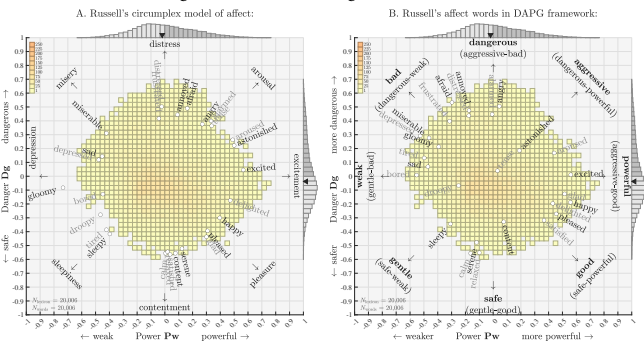
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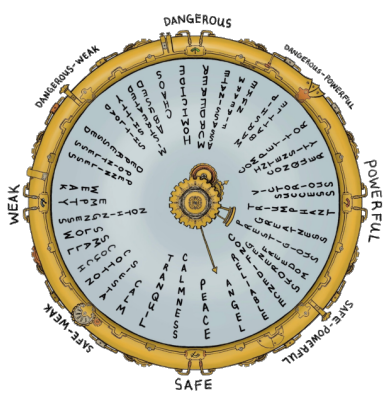
Rough agreement with Russell’s circumplex model, [20] which itself doesn’t disagree with a 2-d orthogonal framework.



Findings, observations, possibilities:

- Power-danger-structure framework emerges in distinct settings, fitting types and tokens.
- Safety bias of communication refines Pollyanna Principle of positivity.
- Full circumplex model is GPADS: Goodness, Power, Aggression, Danger, Structure.
- Happiness/Goodness/Wisdom = Power + Safety
- An essential question of others: “Are you safe?”
- GPADS circumplex framework: A compass for evolution and survival.
- Possible: Telegnomics for stories—Measuring character arcs, plots.
- Ousiometer can be improved and refined. Replaces Hedonometer.
- Essential meaning is a complement to information theory which is meaning-free. [23]
- See concluding remarks in version 2 of the arxiv preprint. [24]

The Compass of Meaning:



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Synonyms	Valence	Arousal	Dominance	Goodness	Aggression	Structure	Power	Danger	Structure
happy	0.50	0.24	0.27	0.53	0.18	0.17	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	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

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

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