

Plug-and-Play Macroscopes

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With special thanks to the members at the Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center, the NWB team, the Sci2 team, the EpiC team, and all other teams that use OSGi/CIShell.

*The School of Informatics and Computing Colloquium Series
January 28, 2011*

COMMUNICATIONS OF THE ACM

CACM.ACM.ORG

OF THE

ACM



**Katy Börner lorem ipsum
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Association for
Computing Machinery



Börner, Katy. (March 2011).
Plug-and-Play Macroscopes.
Communications of the ACM.



Designing “Dream Tools”

Many of the best micro-, tele-, and macrosopes are designed by **scientists keen to observe and comprehend what no one has seen or understood before.** Galileo Galilei (1564–1642) recognized the potential of a spyglass for the study of the heavens, ground and polished his own lenses, and used the improved optical instruments to make discoveries like the moons of Jupiter, providing quantitative evidence for the Copernican theory.

Today, scientists **repurpose, extend, and invent new hardware and software** to create **“macrosopes”** that may solve both local and global challenges.

The tools I will show you today **empower** me, my students, colleagues, and 100,000 others that downloaded them.

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Macrosopes

Decision making in science, industry, and politics, as well as in daily life, requires that we make sense of data sets representing the structure and dynamics of complex systems. Analysis, navigation, and management of these continuously evolving data sets require a new kind of data-analysis and visualization tool we call a macroscope (from the Greek macros, or “great,” and skopein, or “to observe”) inspired by de Rosnay’s futurist science writings.

Macrosopes provide a “vision of the whole,” helping us “synthesize” the related elements and enabling us to detect patterns, trends, and outliers while granting access to myriad details. Rather than make things larger or smaller, **macrosopes let us observe what is at once too great, slow, or complex for the human eye and mind to notice and comprehend.**



Microscopes



Telescopes



Macrosopes

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Goal of This Talk

Inspire computer scientists to implement software frameworks that **empower domain scientists** to assemble their own continuously evolving macroscopes, adding and upgrading existing (and removing obsolete) plug-ins to arrive at a set that is truly relevant for their work—with little or no help from computer scientists.

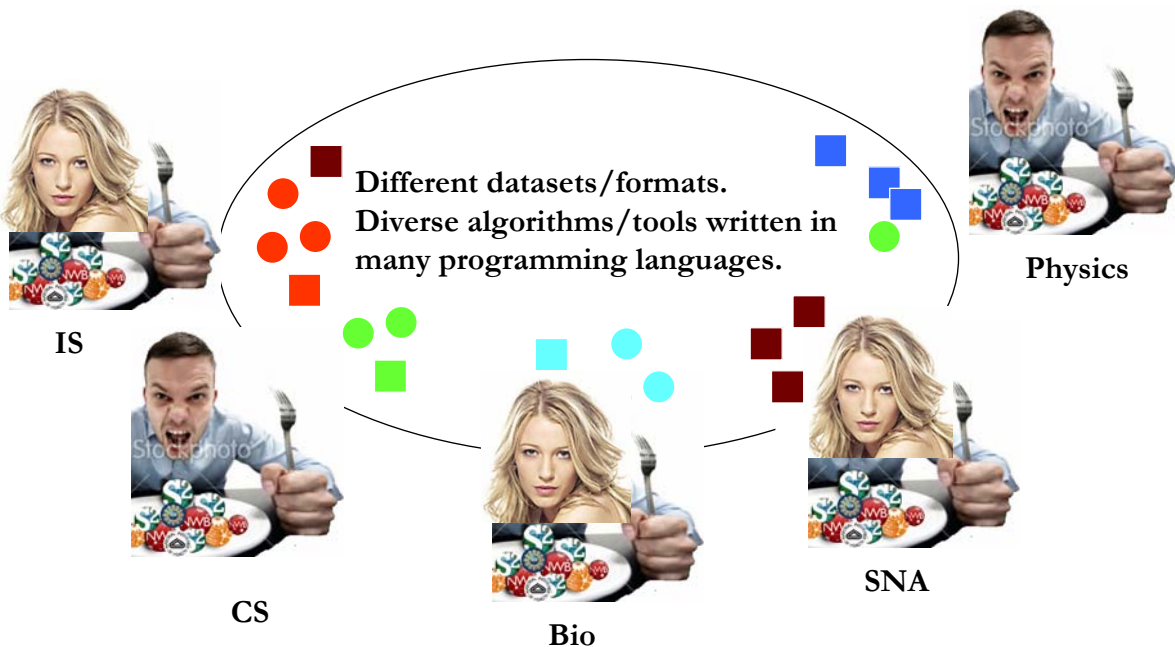
While microscopes and telescopes are physical instruments, **macroscopes resemble continuously changing bundles of software plug-ins.** Macroscopes make it easy to select and combine algorithm and tool plug-ins but also interface plug-ins, workflow support, logging, scheduling, and other plug-ins needed for scientifically rigorous yet effective work.

They make it easy to share plug-ins via email, flash drives, or online. To use new plugins, simply copy the files into the plug-in directory, and they appear in the tool menu ready for use. No restart of the tool is necessary. **Sharing algorithm components, tools, or novel interfaces becomes as easy as sharing images on Flickr or videos on YouTube. Assembling custom tools is as quick as compiling your custom music collection.**

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Changing Scientific Landscape—Personal Observations



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Changing Scientific Landscape—General Observations

Science becomes more data driven and computational but also collaborative and interdisciplinary. There is increased demand for tools that are easy to extend, share, and customize:

- *Star scientist* —> *Research teams*. Traditionally, science was driven by key scientists. Today, science is driven by collaborating co-author teams, often comprising experts from multiple disciplines and geospatial locations.
- *Users* —> *Contributors*. Web 2.0 technologies empower users to contribute to Wikipedia and exchange images, videos, and code via Flickr, YouTube, and SourceForge.net.
- *Disciplinary* —> *Cross-disciplinary*. The best tools frequently borrow and synergistically combine methods and techniques from different disciplines of science, empowering interdisciplinary and/or international teams to collectively fine-tune and interpret results;
- *Single specimen* —> *Data streams*. Microscopes and telescopes were originally used to study a single specimen at a time. Today, many researchers must make sense of massive data streams comprising multiple data types and formats from different origins; and
- *Static instrument* —> *Evolving cyberinfrastructure*. The importance of hardware instruments that are static and expensive tends to decrease relative to software tools and services that are highly flexible and evolving to meet the needs of different sciences. Some of the most successful tools and services are decentralized, increasing scalability and fault tolerance.

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Related Work

Google Code and SourceForge.net provide special means for developing and distributing software

- In August 2009, SourceForge.net hosted more than 230,000 software projects by two million registered users (285,957 in January 2011);
- In August 2009 ProgrammableWeb.com hosted 1,366 application programming interfaces (APIs) and 4,092 mashups (2,699 APIs and 5,493 mashups in January 2011)

Cyberinfrastructures serving large biomedical communities

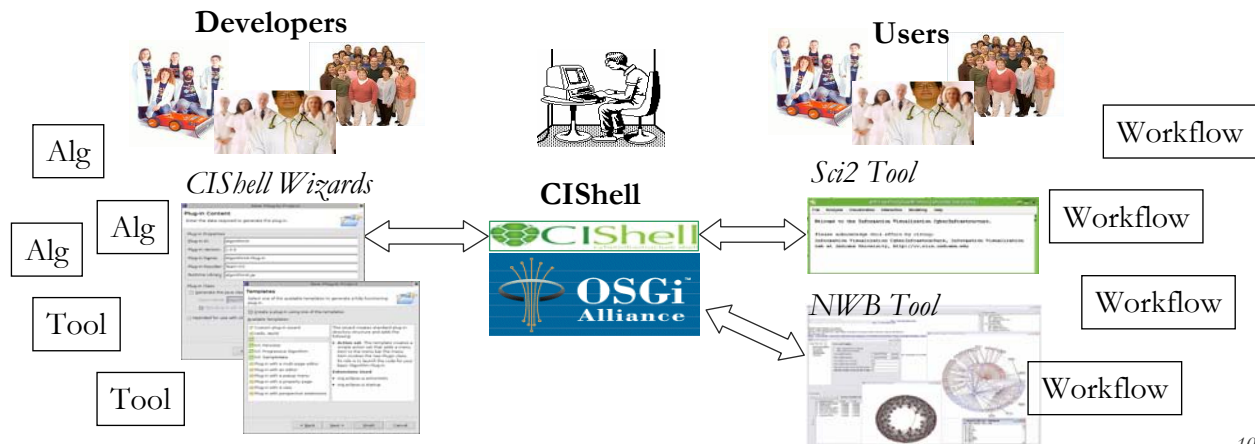
- Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG) (<http://cabig.nci.nih.gov>)
- Biomedical Informatics Research Network (BIRN) (<http://nbirn.net>)
- Informatics for Integrating Biology and the Bedside (i2b2) (<https://www.i2b2.org>)
- HUBzero (<http://hubzero.org>) platform for scientific collaborations uses
- myExperiment (<http://myexperiment.org>) supports the sharing of scientific workflows and other research objects.

Missing so far is a **common standard** for

- the design of **modular, compatible algorithm and tool plug-ins** (also called “modules” or “components”)
- that can be **easily combined into scientific workflows** (“pipeline” or “composition”),
- and packaged as **custom tools**.

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- CIShell (<http://cishell.org>) is an open source software specification for the integration and utilization of datasets, algorithms, and tools.
- It extends the Open Services Gateway Initiative (OSGi) (<http://osgi.org>), a standardized, component oriented, computing environment for networked services widely used in industry since more than 10 years.
- Specifically, CIShell provides “sockets” into which existing and new datasets, algorithms, and tools can be plugged using a wizard-driven process.



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A framework for easy integration of new and existing algorithms written in any programming language Using CIShell, an algorithm writer can fully concentrate on creating their own algorithm in whatever language they are comfortable with. Simple tools are provided to then take their algorithm and integrate it into cishell with no additional coding.

A well-defined pool of algorithms and datasets CIShell clearly defines how algorithms and datasets are integrated into the system to create a pool of algorithms and data. An application may then query for algorithms in this pool and execute them. Many applications/tools can be built and customized for different user groups by utilizing the same pool of algorithms.

Leveraging open standards CIShell avoids re-inventing wheels by building on other standards for its specification and reference implementations. It benefits most from the [Eclipse](#) family of projects (in particular, the [Rich Client Platform](#) and [Equinox](#)) and the Open Services Gateway Initiative ([OSGi](#)). All CIShell algorithms are integrated as OSGi services and can be used by any OSGi compliant system (including any Eclipse 3.0 or newer based products).

Choose the way you work CIShell offers reference applications that build on the pool of algorithms defined by CIShell. Scripting and a Graphical User Interface (GUI) are offered initially with a remoting (peer-to-peer and client-server) architecture, a web front-end, and other interfaces planned. We invite other toolkit developers to build their own applications on top of CIShell's algorithm pool.

Open source, community-driven project

CIShell is released under the [Apache 2.0 License](#). Community input is welcome to create a piece of software that advances science and education.

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Algorithm Developer's Guide

Overview

The Cyberinfrastructure Shell (CIShell) is an open source, community-driven platform for the integration and utilization of datasets, algorithms, tools, and computing resources. Algorithm integration support is built in for Java and most other programming languages. Being Java based, it will run on almost all platforms. The software and specification is released under an [Apache 2.0 License](#).

This guide attempts to aid algorithm developers in creating algorithms for CIShell (and applications built on CIShell).

This guide tries to contain all the information a new developer needs, but where necessary, it may cite the [CIShell 1.0 Specification \(API\)](#) or the [OSGi Service Platform Specification, Release 4 \(API\)](#). While the guide tries to make beginning algorithm development easier, the CIShell Specification has the last word on how the CIShell Platform works.

Table of Contents

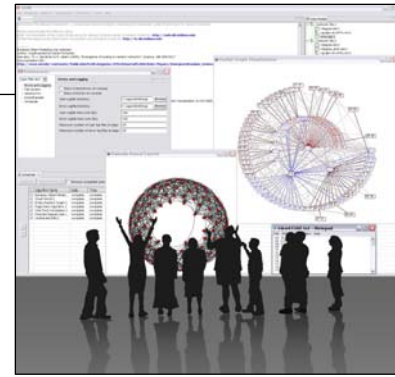
1. [CIShell Basics](#)
2. Getting Started
 1. [Tutorial 0: Setting Up the Development Environment](#)
 2. [Tutorial 1: Creating a Hello World Java Algorithm](#)
 3. [Tutorial 2: Practical Java Algorithm Development](#)
 4. [Tutorial 3: Integrating a Non-Java Program As An Algorithm](#)
 5. [Mini-Tutorial: Integrating 3rd-party libraries](#)
 6. [Where to Learn More](#)
3. Reference
 1. [How Algorithms Work: A guide to algorithm plugins in CIShell](#)
 2. [Accessing the OSGi Console in CIShell tools](#)

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The screenshot shows the CIShell Tools Portal. At the top, it says "CIShell Powered Tools Portal". Below this, there is a section for "Cyberinfrastructure Shell (CIShell)" with a description and a "Visit the CIShell wiki" button. A note at the bottom of this section says "Provided by the Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center at Indiana University." Below this is a section titled "Learn more about existing CIShell-powered tools below." which lists two tools: "Network Workbench Tool (NWB)" and "Science of Science Tool (Sci²)". Each tool has a description and a "Gallery" of images.

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Network Workbench (NWB) Tool

<http://nwb.cns.iu.edu>



Science of Science (Sci²) Tool

<http://sci2.cns.iu.edu>



Epidemics (EpiC) Tool (with Alex Vespignani and Jim Sherman, IU)

In progress



TEXTrend

<http://textrend.org>



Dyneta

<http://www.dynanets.org>



Network Workbench Tool

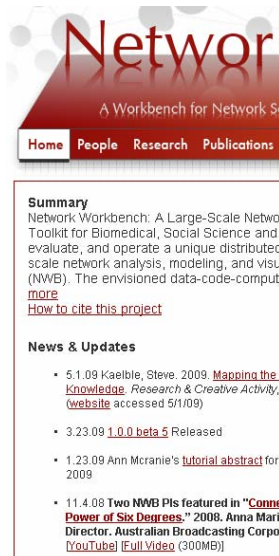
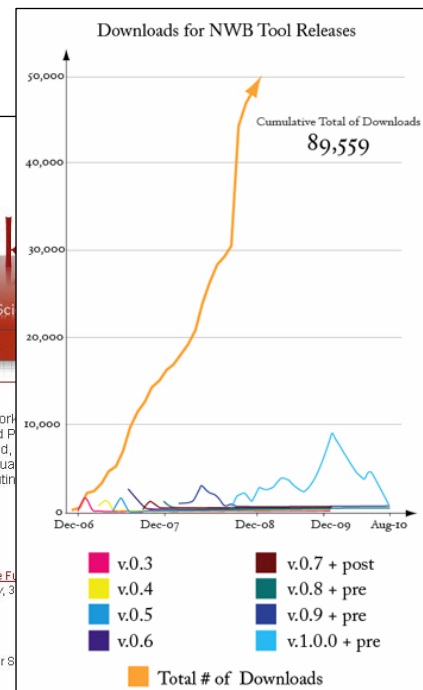
<http://nwb.slis.indiana.edu>

The Network Workbench (NWB) tool supports researchers, educators, and practitioners interested in the study of biomedical, social and behavioral science, physics, and other networks.

In February 2009, the tool provides more than 169 plugins that support the preprocessing, analysis, modeling, and visualization of networks.

More than 50 of these plugins can be applied or were specifically designed for S&T studies.

It has been downloaded more than 65,000 times since December 2006.

Herr II, Bruce W., Huang, Weixia (Bonnie), Penumarthy, Shashikant & Börner, Katy. (2007). *Designing Highly Flexible and Usable Cyberinfrastructures for Convergence*. In Bainbridge, William S. & Roco, Mihail C. (Eds.), *Progress in Convergence - Technologies for Human Wellbeing* (Vol. 1093, pp. 161-179), *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, Boston, MA.

Computational Proteomics

What relationships exist between protein targets of all drugs and all disease-gene products in the human protein–protein interaction network?

Yildirim, Muhammed
A., Kwan-II Goh,
Michael E. Cusick,
Albert-László Barabási,
and Marc Vidal. (2007).
Drug-target Network.
Nature Biotechnology
25 no. 10: 1119-1126.



mpg © 2007 Nature Publishing Group

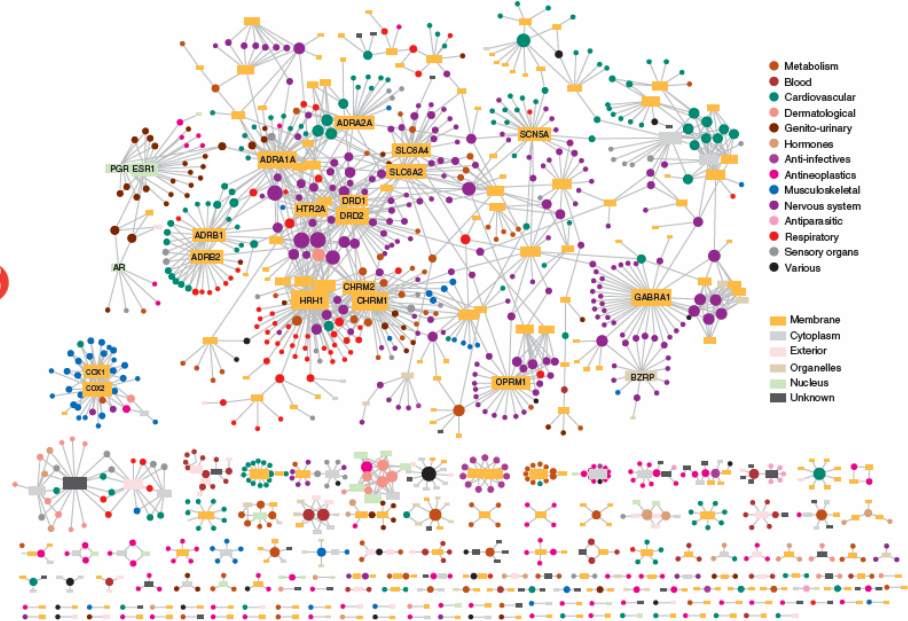


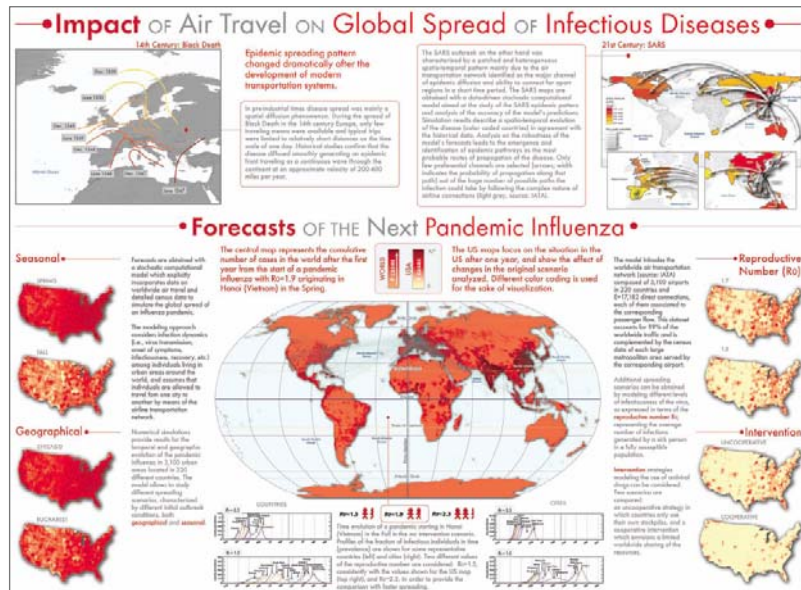
Figure 2 Drug-target network (DT network). The DT network is generated by using the known associations between FDA-approved drugs and their target proteins. Circles and rectangles correspond to drugs and target proteins, respectively. A link is placed between a drug node and a target node if the protein is a known target of that drug. The area of the drug (protein) node is proportional to the number of targets that the drug has (the number of drugs targeting the protein). Color codes are given in the legend. Drug nodes (circles) are colored according to their Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical Classification, and the target proteins (rectangular boxes) are colored according to their cellular component obtained from the Gene Ontology database.

Computational Epidemics

Forecasting (and preventing the effects of) the next pandemic.

Epidemic Modeling in Complex realities, V. Colizza, A. Barrat, M. Barthelemy, A. Vespignani, *Comptes Rendus Biologie*, 330, 364-374 (2007).
Reaction-diffusion processes and metapopulation models in heterogeneous networks, V. Colizza, R. Pastor-Satorras, A. Vespignani, *Nature Physics* 3, 276-282 (2007).

Modeling the Worldwide Spread of Pandemic Influenza: Baseline Case and Containment Interventions, V. Colizza, A. Barrat, M. Barthelemy, A.-J. Valleron, A. Vespignani, *PloS-Medicine* 4, e13, 95-110 (2007).





Forgot your password?

To recover your account password, please visit our [password recovery page](#).

Not registered yet?

[Register now](#)

Tutorials

Scott Weingart, Biberstine (2010) Science, Indiana

Katy Börner (2010) Science of Science Research and Tools (12 Tutorials). Reporting Branch, Office of Extramural Research/Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD.

- Tutorial #01: [Science of Science Research](#)
- Tutorial #02: [Network Science / Information Visualization](#)
- Tutorial #03: [CIShell Powered Tools: Network Workbench and Science of Science Tool](#)
- Tutorial #04: [Temporal Analysis—Burst Detection](#)
- Tutorial #05: [Geospatial Analysis and Mapping](#)
- Tutorial #06: [Topical Analysis & Mapping](#)
- Tutorial #07: [Tree Analysis and Visualization](#)
- Tutorial #08: [Network Analysis and Visualization](#)
- Tutorial #09: [Large Network Analysis and Visualization](#)
- Tutorial #10: [Using the Scholarly Database at IU](#)
- Tutorial #11: [VIVO National Researcher Networking](#)
- Tutorial #12: [Future Developments](#)

<http://sci2.cns.in.edu>
<http://wiki.sci2.cns.in.edu>

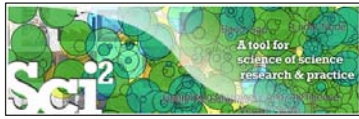
Geetha Senthil (2010). [Multidisciplinary Nature of Work With Reference to PIs and ICs Within a Portfolio](#). PA Group at NIH.

NIH Office of Extramural Research and Katy Börner (2010) [Network Visualizations Using SPIRES Data and the Sci2 Tool](#). Office of Extramural Research at NIH.



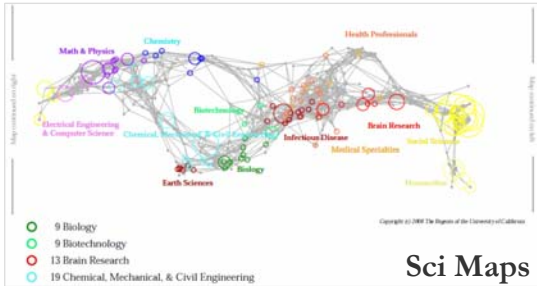
Type of Analysis vs. Level of Analysis

	<i>Micro/Individual (1-100 records)</i>	<i>Meso/Local (101-10,000 records)</i>	<i>Macro/Global (10,000 < records)</i>
Statistical Analysis/Profiling	Individual person and their expertise profiles	Larger labs, centers, universities, research domains, or states	All of NSF, all of USA, all of science.
Temporal Analysis (When)	Funding portfolio of one individual	Mapping topic bursts in 20-years of PNAS	113 Years of Physics Research
Geospatial Analysis (Where)	Career trajectory of one individual	Mapping a states intellectual landscape	PNAS Publications
Topical Analysis (What)	Base knowledge from which one grant draws.	Knowledge flows in Chemistry research	VxOrd/Topic maps of NIH funding
Network Analysis (With Whom?)	NSF Co-PI network of one individual	Co-author network	NSF's core competency

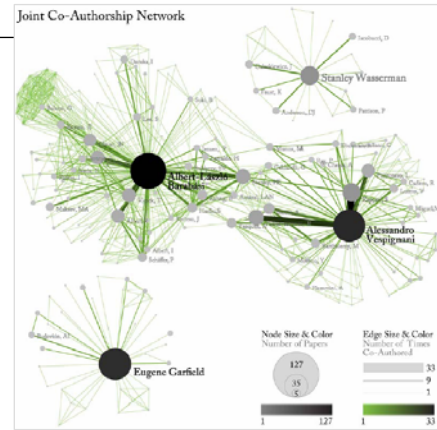


Sci² Tool – “Open Code for S&T Assessment”

OSGi/CIShell powered tool with NWB plugins and many new scientometrics and visualizations plugins.



Sci Maps

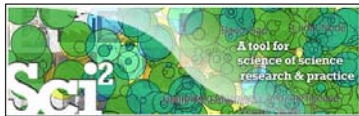


GUESS Network Vis

Horizontal Time Graphs



Börner, Katy, Huang, Weixia (Bonnie), Linnemeier, Micah, Dubon, Russell Jackson, Phillips, Patrick, Ma, Nianli, Zoss, Angela, Guo, Hanning & Price, Mark. (2009). *Rete-Netzwerk-Red: Analyzing and Visualizing Scholarly Networks Using the Scholarly Database and the Network Workbench Tool*. *Proceedings of ISSI 2009: 12th International Conference on Scientometrics and Informetrics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 14-17*. Vol. 2, pp. 619-630.



Sci² Tool

File Preprocessing Modeling Analysis Visualization Scientometrics Help

Console

Welcome to the Science of Science Tool (Sci²). The development of this tool is supported in part by the Network Science Center and the School of Li and Lu, Indiana University, the National Science Foundation and IIS-0715303, and the James S. McDonnell Cyberinfrastructure portal (<http://sci.slis.indiana.edu>).

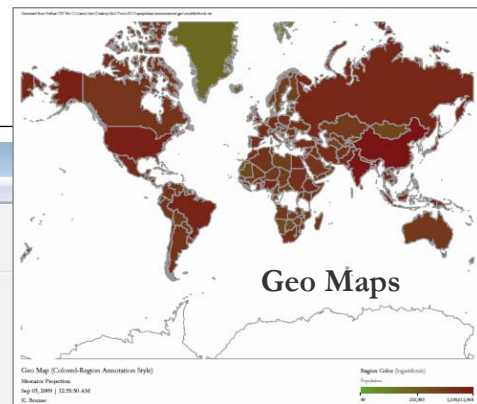
The primary investigators are Katy Börner, Ingrid Isenhardt, J. Duhan, Patrick A. Phillips, Chintan Tank, a Cyberinfrastructure Shell (<http://cishell.org>) for Network Science Center (<http://cns.slis.indiana.edu>) and the James S. McDonnell Cyberinfrastructure portal (<http://nwb.slis.indiana.edu>).

Please cite as follows:
Sci² Team. (2009). Science of Science Tool. Ingrid Isenhardt, Strategies Inc., <http://sci.slis.indiana.edu>.

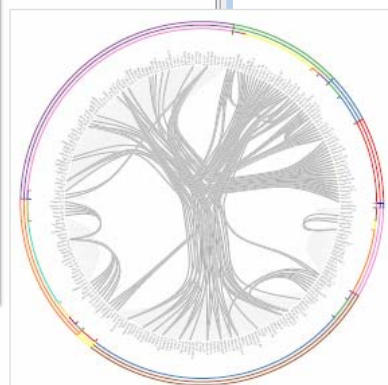
Scheduler

Remove From List Remove completed

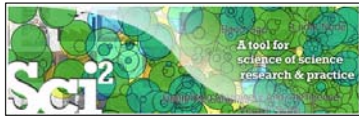
Algorithm Name	Date	Time	% Complete
Extract Co-Author Network	09/03/2009	00:15:20 AM	100%
Load and Clean ISI File	09/03/2009	00:15:05 AM	100%



Geo Maps



Circular Hierarchy



Sci² Tool: Algorithms

See <https://nwb.slis.indiana.edu/community>

Preprocessing

Extract Top N% Records
Extract Top N Records
Normalize Text
Slice Table by Line

Extract Top Nodes
Extract Nodes Above or Below Value
Delete Isolates

Extract top Edges
Extract Edges Above or Below Value
Remove Self Loops
Trim by Degree
MST-Pathfinder Network Scaling
Fast Pathfinder Network Scaling

Snowball Sampling (in nodes)
Node Sampling
Edge Sampling

Symmetrize
Dichotomize
Multipartite Joining

Geocoder

Extract ZIP Code

Modeling

Random Graph
Watts-Strogatz
Small World
Barabási-Albert Scale-Free
TARL

Analysis

Network Analysis Toolkit (NAT)
Unweighted & Undirected

Node Degree
Degree Distribution

K-Nearest Neighbor (Java)
Watts-Strogatz Clustering Coefficient
Watts Strogatz Clustering Coefficient over K

Diameter
Average Shortest Path
Shortest Path Distribution
Node Betweenness Centrality

Weak Component Clustering
Global Connected Components

Extract K-Core
Annotate K-Coreness

HITS

Weighted & Undirected

Clustering Coefficient
Nearest Neighbor Degree
Strength vs Degree
Degree & Strength
Average Weight vs End-point Degree
Strength Distribution
Weight Distribution
Randomize Weights

Blondel Community Detection

HITS

Unweighted & Directed

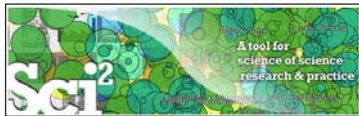
Node Indegree
Node Outdegree
Indegree Distribution
Outdegree Distribution

K-Nearest Neighbor
Single Node in-Out Degree Correlations

Dyad Reciprocity
Arc Reciprocity
Adjacency Transitivity

Weak Component Clustering
Strong Component Clustering

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Sci² Tool: Algorithms cont.

See <https://nwb.slis.indiana.edu/community>

Extract K-Core
Annotate K-Coreness

HITS

PageRank

Weighted & Directed

HITS

Weighted PageRank

Textual

Burst Detection

Visualization

GnuPlot
GUESS
Image Viewer

Radial Tree/Graph (prefuse alpha)
Radial Tree/Graph with Annotation
(prefuse beta)

Tree View (prefuse beta)
Tree Map (prefuse beta)
Force Directed with Annotation
(prefuse beta)

Fruchterman-Reingold with Annotation
(prefuse beta)

DrL (VxOrd)
Specified (prefuse beta)

Horizontal Bar Graph
Circular Hierarchy
Geo Map (Circle Annotation Style)
Geo Map (Colored-Region Annotation Style)
Science Map (Circle Annotation)

Scientometrics

Remove ISI Duplicate Records
Remove Rows with Multitudinous Fields
Detect Duplicate Nodes
Update Network by Merging Nodes

Extract Directed Network

Extract Paper Citation Network
Extract Author Paper Network

Extract Co-Occurrence Network

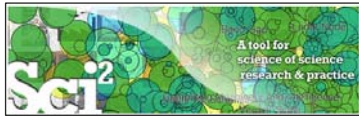
Extract Word Co-Occurrence Network
Extract Co-Author Network
Extract Reference Co-Occurrence
(Bibliographic Coupling) Network

Extract Document Co-Citation Network

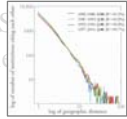
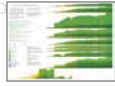

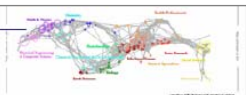
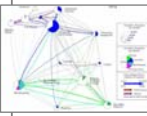


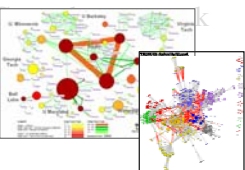
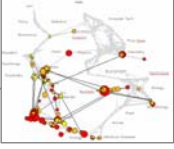
Soon:

Database support for ISI and
NSF data.

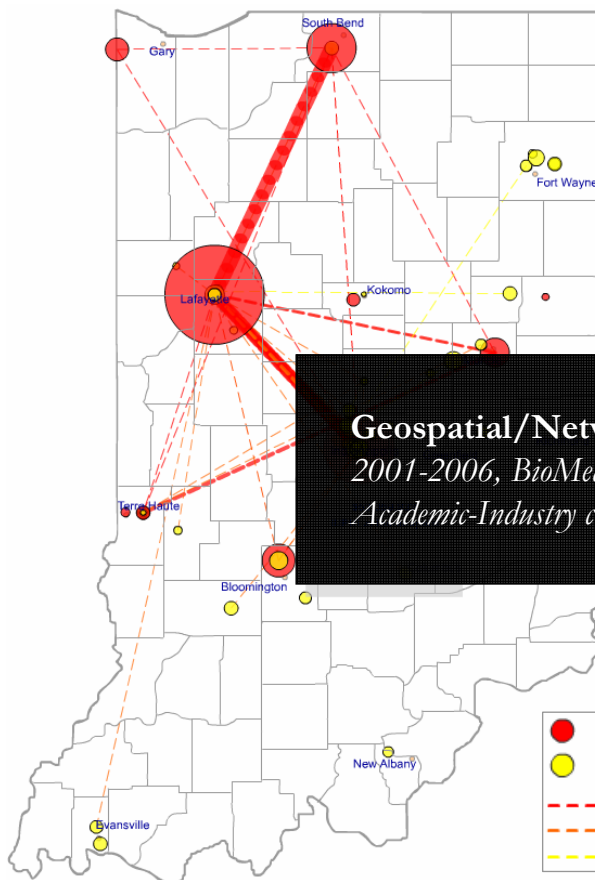
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Type of Analysis vs. Level of Analysis

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Statistical Analysis/Profiling	Individual person and their expertise profiles	Larger labs, centers, universities, research domains, or states	All of NSI, SA, all of sci 
Temporal Analysis (When)	Funding portfolio of one individual	Mapping a s... of PNAS	113 Years of P... Research 
Geospatial Analysis (Where)	Career trajectory of one individual	Mapping a s... intellectual l...	PNAS 
Topical Analysis (What)			VxOrd/Topic t... NIH funding 
Network Analysis (With Whom?)	NSI one... network of 		NIH's... cy 

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Mapping Indiana's Intellectual Space

Geospatial/Network Analysis

2001-2006, BioMed, IN Scope

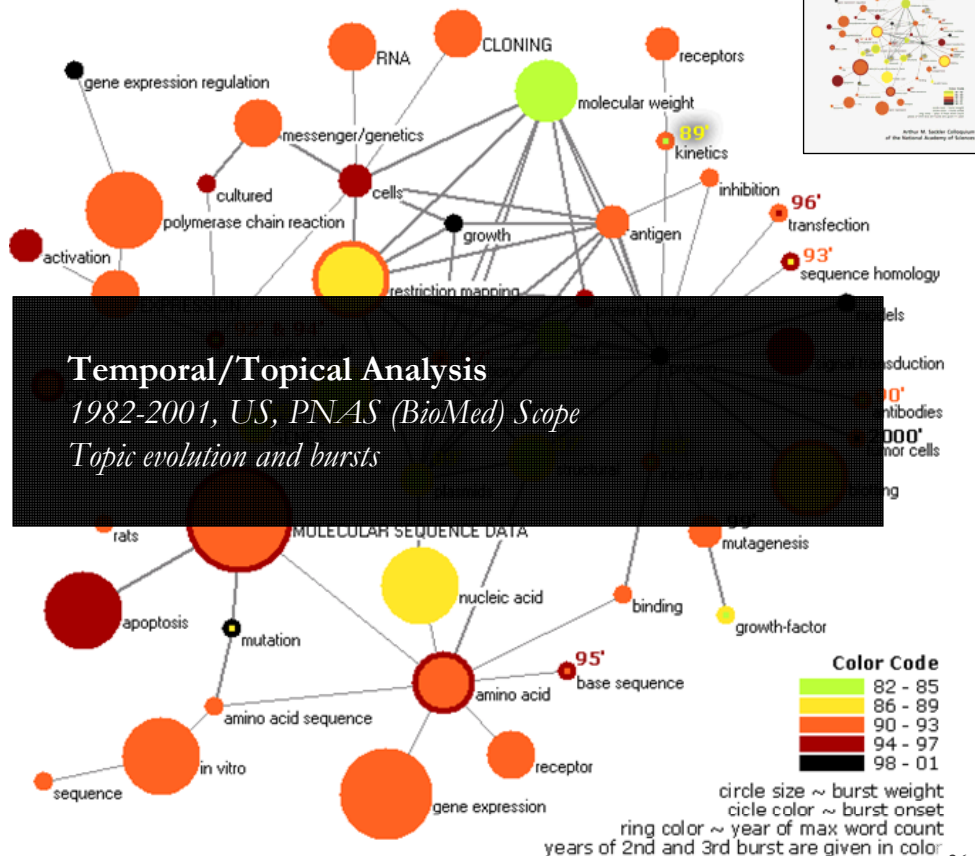
Academic-Industry collaborations and knowledge diffusion

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Mapping Topic Bursts

Co-word space of the top 50 highly frequent and bursty words used in the top 10% most highly cited PNAS publications in 1982-2001.

Mane & Börner. (2004) PNAS, 101(Suppl. 1): 5287-5290.



Spatio-Temporal Information Production and Consumption of Major U.S. Research Institutions

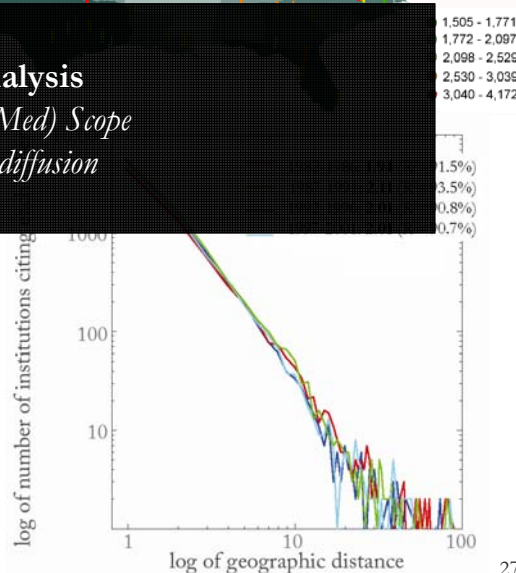
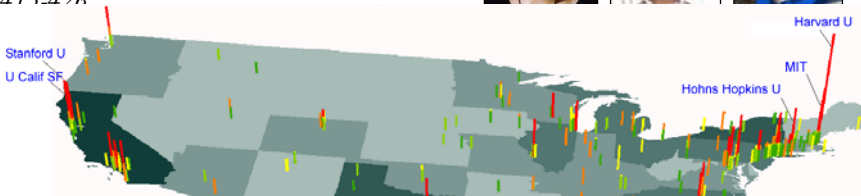
Börner, Katy, Penumarthy, Shashikant, Meiss, Mark and Ke, Weimao. (2006) Mapping the Diffusion of Scholarly Knowledge Among Major U.S. Research Institutions. Scientometrics. 68(3), pp. 415-426



Research questions:

1. Does space still matter in the Internet age?
2. Does one still have to study and work at research institutions in order to produce high quality data and quality research?
3. Does the Internet change citation patterns, i.e., more research produced at geographically distant research institutions?

Temporal/Geospatial Analysis
1982-2001, US, PNAS (BioMed) Scope
Citation impact and knowledge diffusion



Contributions:

- Answer to Qs 1 + 2 is YES.
- Answer to Qs 3 is NO.
- Novel approach to analyzing the dual role of institutions as information producers and consumers and to study and visualize the diffusion of information among them.

Research Collaborations by the Chinese Academy of Sciences

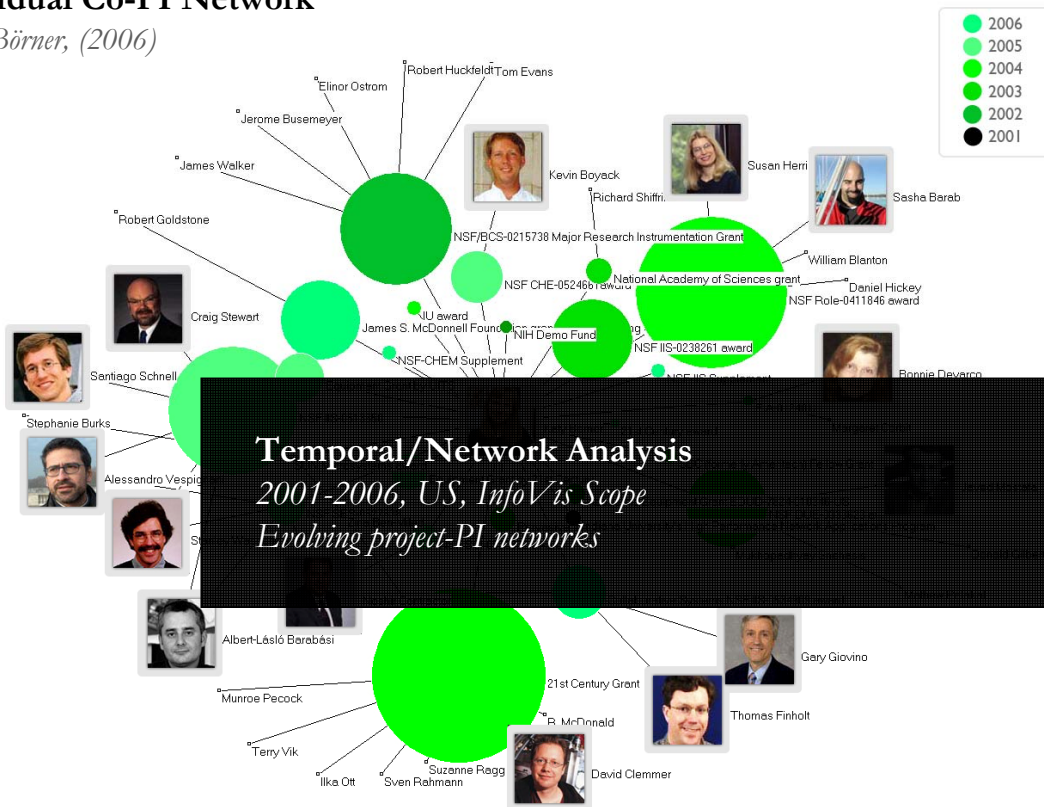
By Weixia (Bonnie) Huang, Russell J. Duhon, Elisha F. Hardy, Katy Börner, Indiana University, USA



This map highlights the research collaborations of the Chinese Academy of Sciences with locations in China and countries around the world. The large geographic map shows the research collaborations of all CAS institutes. Each smaller geographic map shows the research collaborations by the CAS researchers in one province-level administrative division. Collaborations between CAS researchers are not included in the data. On each map, locations are colored on a logarithmic scale by the number of collaborations from red to yellow. The darkest red is 3,395 collaborations by all of CAS with researchers in Beijing. Also, flow lines are drawn from the location of focus to all locations collaborated with. The width of the flow line is linearly proportional to the number of collaborations with the locations it goes to, with the smallest flow lines representing one collaboration and the largest representing differing amounts on each geographic map.

Individual Co-PI Network

Ke & Börner, (2006)

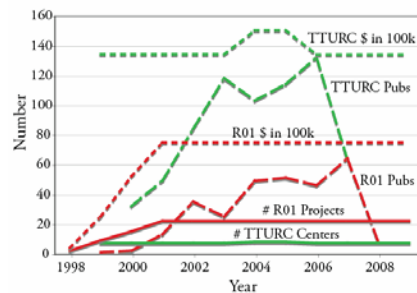


Mapping Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Centers Publications

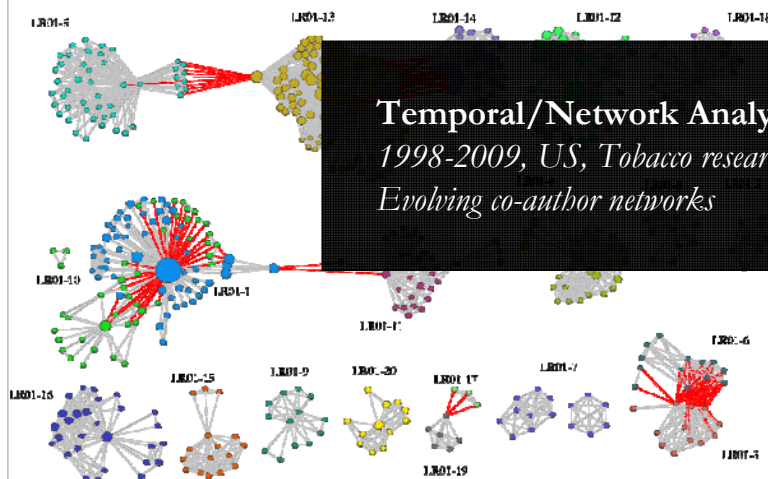
Compare R01 investigator based funding with TTURC Center awards in terms of number of publications and evolving co-author networks.

Zoss & Börner, *forthcoming*.

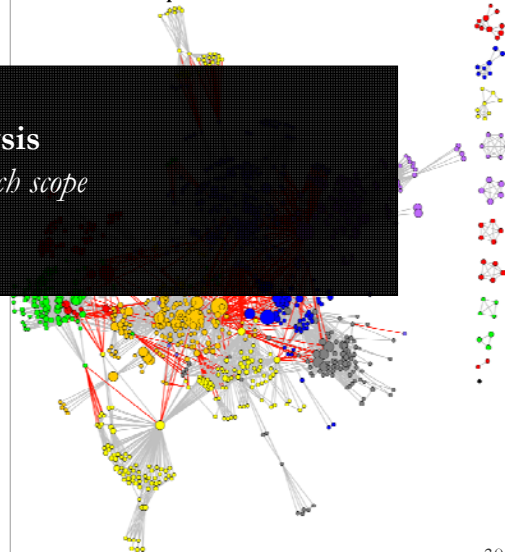
R01 & TTURC Project Information



Longitudinal R01 Co-Authorship Network



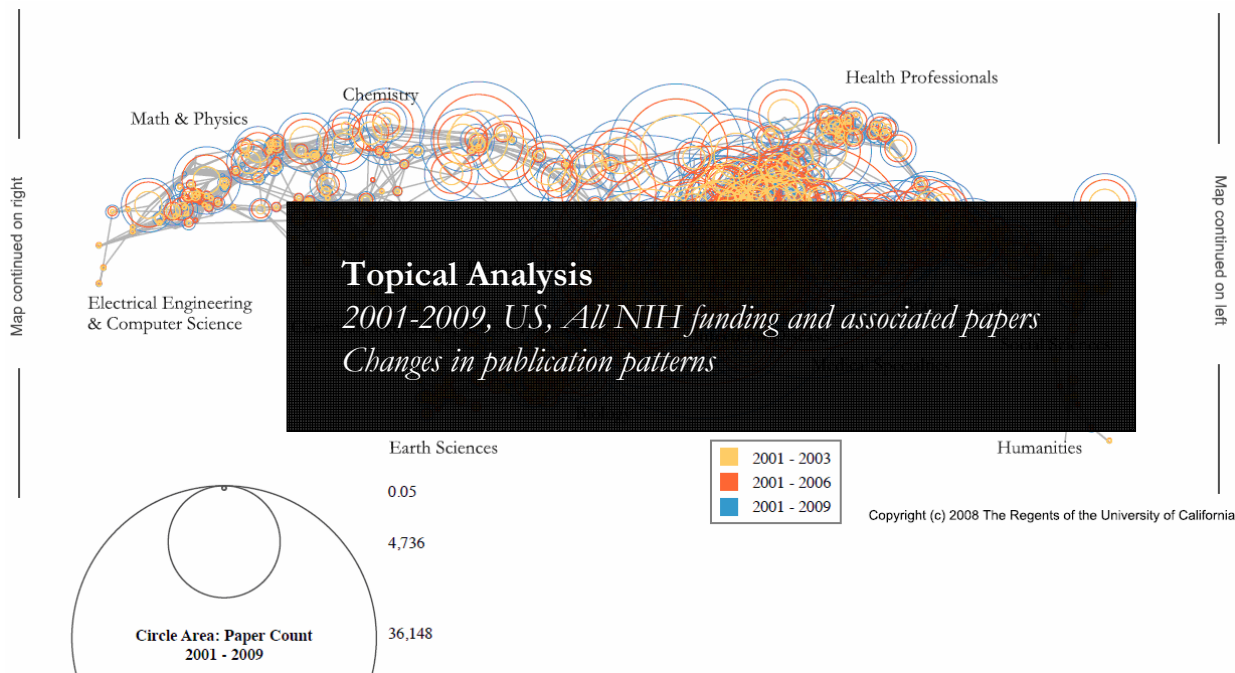
TTURC Co-Authorship Network

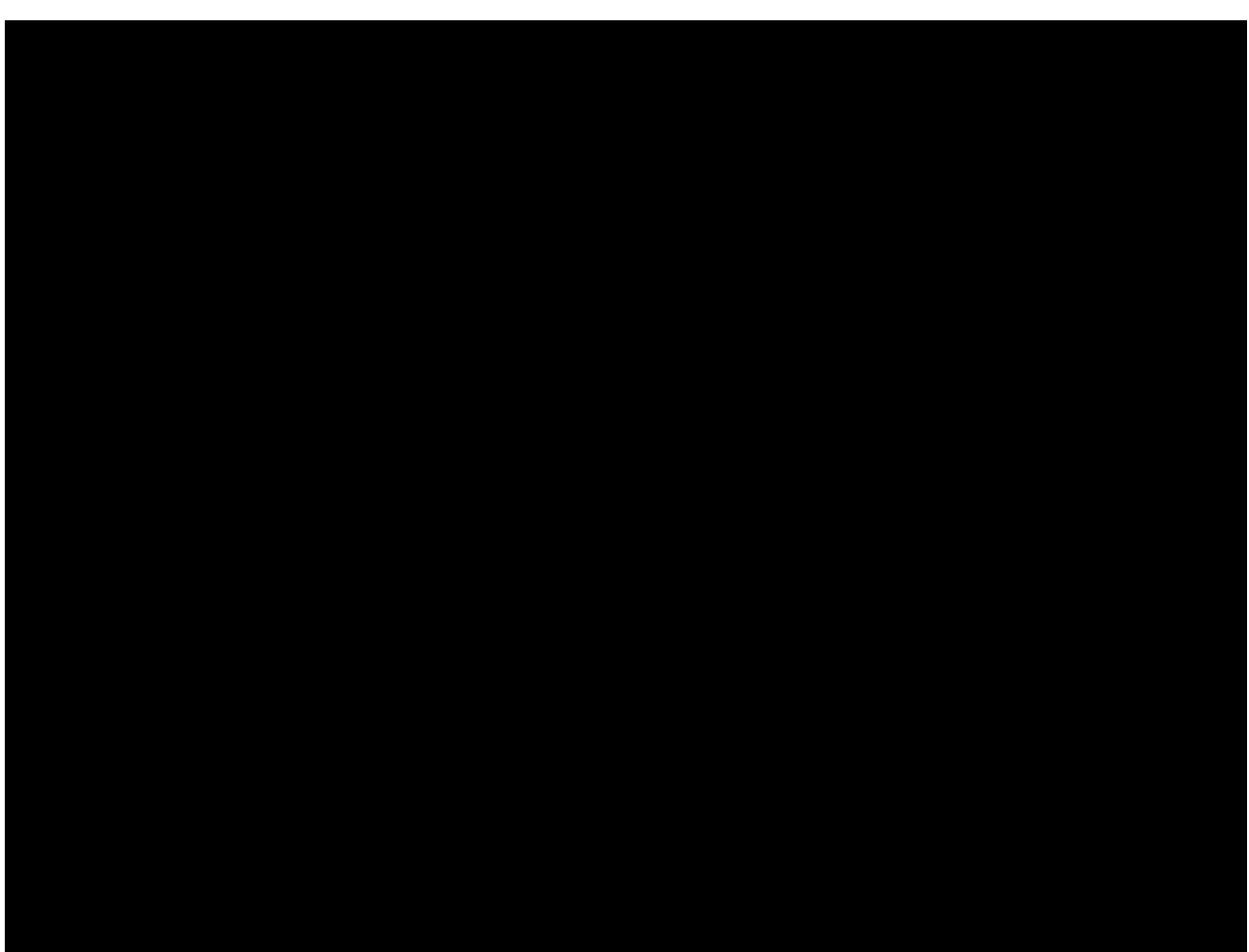


Temporal/Network Analysis
 1998-2009, US, Tobacco research scope
 Evolving co-author networks

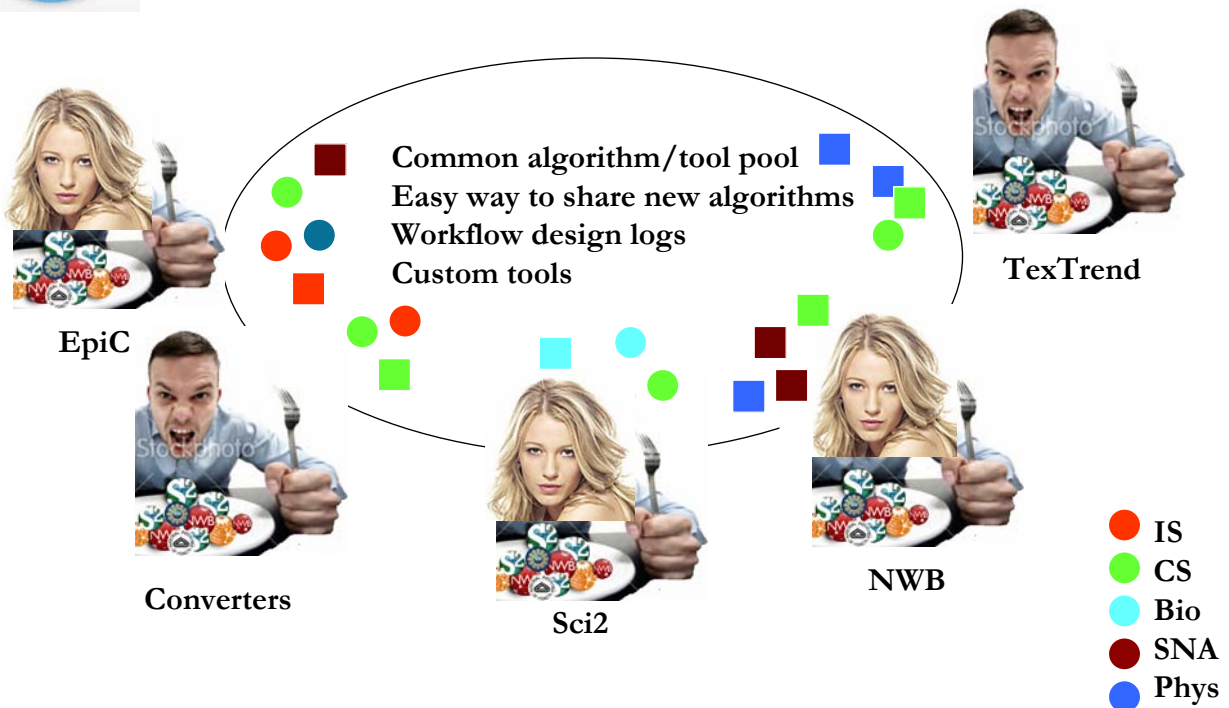
MEDLINE Publication Output by The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Using Nine Years of ExPORTER Data

Katy Börner, Nianli Ma, Joseph R. Biberstine, Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center, SLIS, Indiana University, Robin M. Wagner, Rediet Berhane, Hong Jiang, Susan E. Ivey, Katrina Pearson and Carl McCabe, Reporting Branch, Division of Information Services, Office of Research Information Systems, Office of Extramural Research, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD.





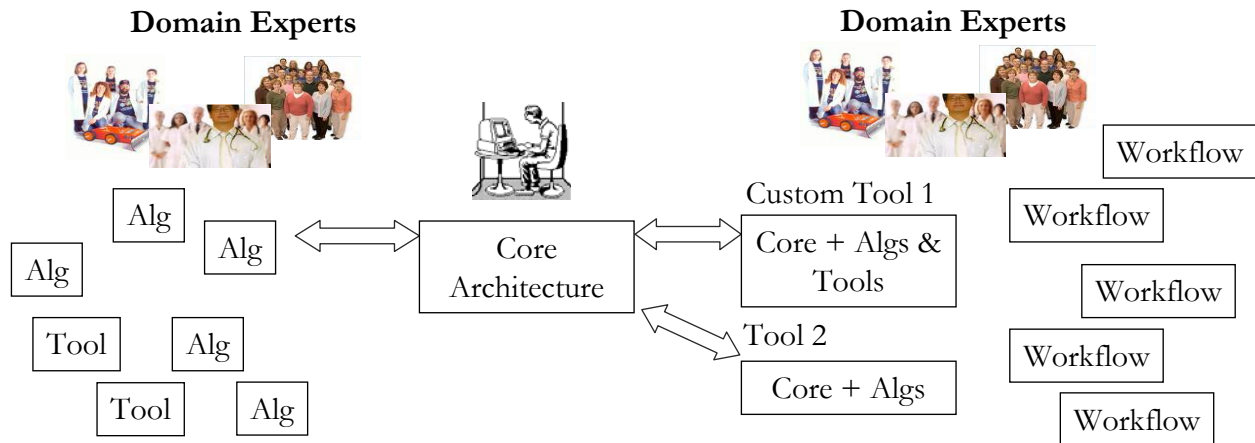
Changing Scientific Landscape—Personal Observations Cont.





Desirable Features and Key Decisions

- *Division of labor.* The design/documentation of the “core architecture” requires extensive computer science expertise and a close collaboration with domain experts. Data set and algorithm plug-ins—the “filling”—are typically provided by domain experts most invested in the data and most knowledgeable about the inner workings and utility of different algorithms. The design/documentation of “custom tools” is best performed by domain experts, as only they have the expertise needed to bundle different plug-ins relevant for diverse workflows.



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Desirable Features and Key Decisions Cont.

- *Ease of use.* Non-computer scientists must be able to contribute, share, and use plug-ins without having to write new code. Wizard-driven integration of algorithms and data sets, sharing of plug-ins through email and online sites, deploying plug-ins by adding them to the “plug-in directory,” and running them via a menu-driven user interface work well;
- *Core vs. plug-ins.* Determining whether the graphical user interface, interface menu, scheduler, and data manager should be part of the core or its filling depends on the types of tools and services to be delivered;
- *Plug-in content and interfaces.* Should a plug-in be a single algorithm or an entire tool? What about data converters needed to make the output of one algorithm compatible with the input of another algorithm? Which general interfaces are needed to communicate parameter settings, input, and output data? Answers are domain-specific, depending on existing tools and practices and the problems domain experts aim to solve;
- *Supported (central) data models.* Some tools (such as Cytoscape) use a central data model to which all algorithms conform. Others (such as NWB and Sci2) support many internal data models and provide an extensive set of data converters. The former often speeds execution and visual rendering, and the latter eases integration of new algorithms. In addition, most tools support an extensive set of input and output formats, since a tool that cannot read or write a desired data format is usually of little use by domain experts;
- *Supported platforms. Standalone tools vs. Web services.* Domain specific answers.

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Empowering “A Million Minds”

To design flexible, scalable software that can be used by many flexibly and freely.

- *Modularity.* Software modules with well-defined functionality that can accept contributions from multiple users reduce costs and increase flexibility in tool development, augmentation, and customization;
- *Standardization.* Standards accelerate development, as existing code is leveraged, helping pool resources, support interoperability, and ease migration from research code to production code and hence the transfer of research results into industry applications and products; and
- *Open data and open code.* The practice of making data sets and code freely available allows users to check, improve, or repurpose data and code, easing replication of scientific studies.

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- Software development benefits greatly from the open-source community. Full software credits are distributed with the source, but I would especially like to acknowledge Jython, JUNG, Prefuse, GUESS, GnuPlot, and OSGi, as well as Apache Derby, used in the Sci2 tool.

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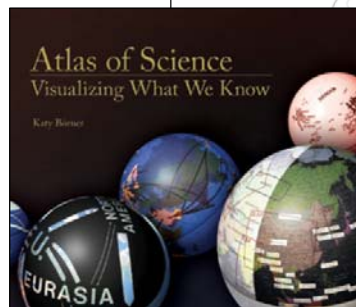
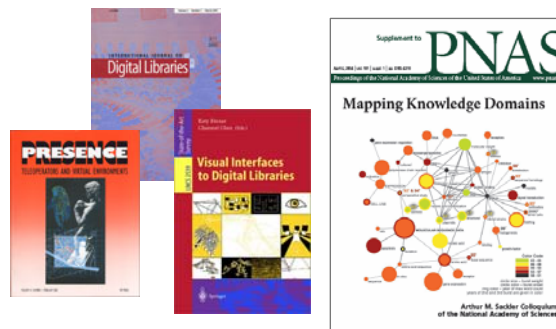
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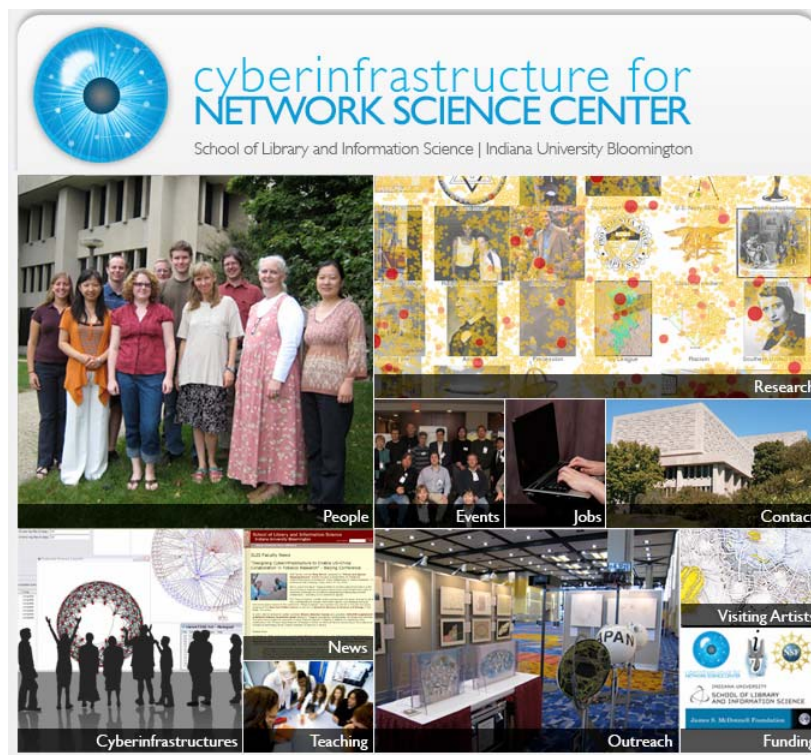
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All papers, maps, cyberinfrastructures, talks, press are linked from <http://cns.slis.indiana.edu>

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