



Digging by Debating (DbyD):

From Big Data Text Repositories to Argument Analysis

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- **The International Centre for Public Pedagogy (ICPuP)**, University of East London (UEL): Andrew Ravenscroft with Simon McAlister
- **ARG:dundee**, University of Dundee: Chris Reed with John Lawrence
- **Centre for Digital Philosophy**, University of Western Ontario: David Bourget

From Big Data to Argument Analysis

Linking massive datasets to specific arguments, where ‘text is data’

Project Goals

- Uncover and represent the key argumentative structures of digitized documents from a large philosophy/science corpus;
- Allow users to find and interpret detailed arguments in the broad semantic landscape of books and articles, and to support innovative interdisciplinary research and better-informed critical debates

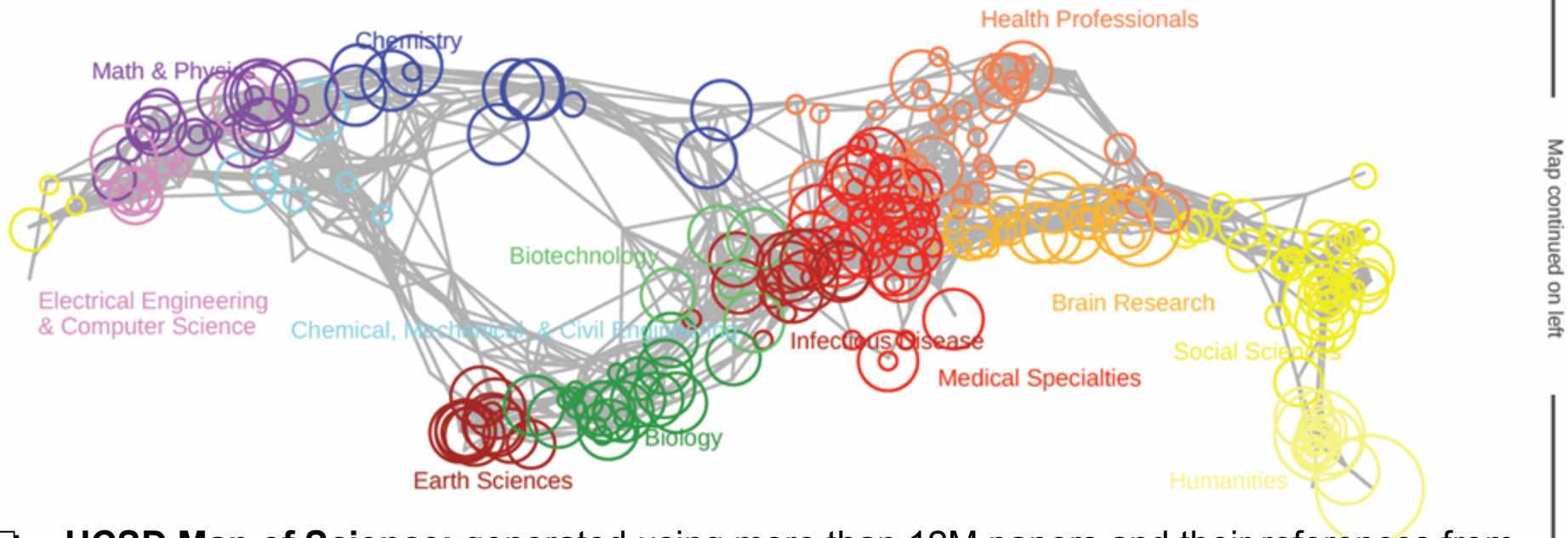
Data Sources

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, HathiTrust Collection, PhilPapers

4 Levels of Analysis: Macro (Sci/Phil Maps) to Micro (detailed arguments)

1. *Visualizing* points of contact between philosophy and the sciences
2. *Topic modeling* to identify the volumes/pages ‘rich’ in a chosen topic;
3. Identify and map *key arguments*; apply a novel analysis framework for propositions and arguments;
4. *Sentence modeling* to get back to HathiTrust materials

Mapping Philosophy in the Sciences (analysis level 1)



- ❑ **UCSD Map of Science:** generated using more than 12M papers and their references from Elsevier's Scopus and Thomson Reuters' Web of Science (25,000 journals), see <http://sci.cns.iu.edu/ucsdmap>
- ❑ Shows **554** **subdiscipline nodes** aggregated into **13 color-coded disciplines**.
- ❑ Overlaid are citations made by the **Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy** to visualize the impact of the sciences on philosophy.
- ❑ **Node sizes** scale from 0 (no circle) to 43. Highest numbers are in **Humanities, Earth Sciences, and Math & Physics**.

Topic Modeling in HT Books (analysis level 2)

- LDA Topic Modeling: Bayesian method generates set of **"topics"** – **probability distributions** over terms in the corpus
 - **Every topic contains every term** – different probabilities in the different topics
 - **The number of topics** is a user-selected parameter
- Finds the set of topics best able to reproduce term distributions in the **documents**
- Documents may be whole **volumes, chapters, articles, single pages**, even individual **sentences** – modelers' choice

```
In [36]: # finding related topics using multiple terms
vl.sim_word_top(['anthropomorphism', 'animal', 'psychology'])
```

Out[36]:

Sorted by Word Similarity	
Topic	Words
26	consciousness, experience, p, psychology, process, individual, object, activity, relation, feeling
16	animals, evolution, life, animal, development, man, species, cells, living, theory
10	animals, water, animal, food, birds, one, leaves, insects, species, many
1	pp, der, vol, die, de, des, und, ibid, university, la
58	man, among, tribes, primitive, men, people, also, races, women, race
47	college, university, professor, school, law, work, students, degree, education, new
25	nature, ii, us, mr, without, life, human, natural, language, every
29	fig, two, body, form, cells, animals, first, ii, side, organs
12	child, children, first, development, movements, play, life, little, mental, mother

```
In [38]: # showing documents by combined topics
vl.sim_top_doc([10,16,26], print_len=20, label_fn=htrc_label_link_fn_1315)
```

Out[38]:

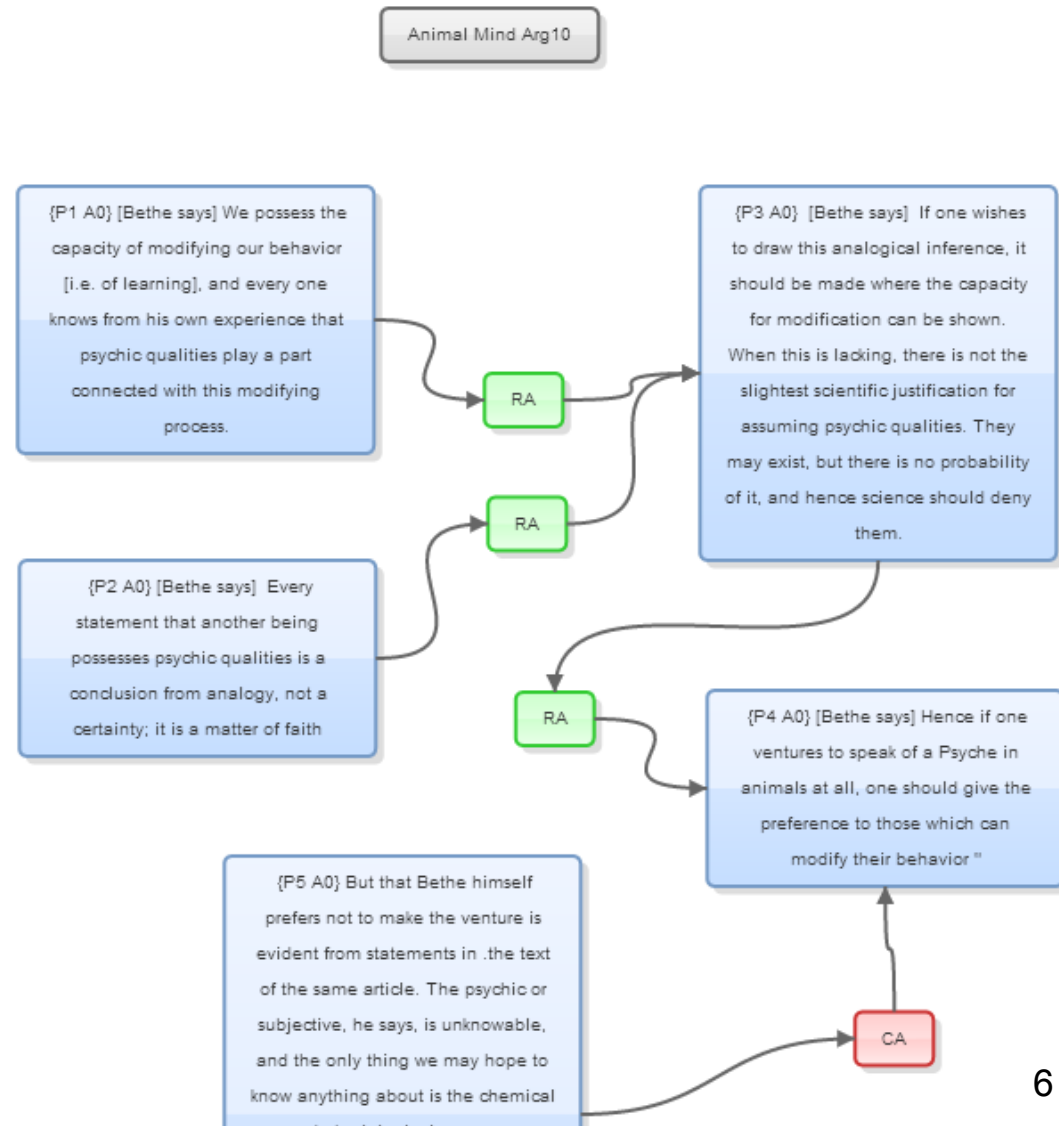
Topics: 10, 16, 26		
Document	Prob	
Secrets of animal life., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t7wm15g73	0.63954	
Comparative studies in the psychology of ants and of higher , http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t6057f659	0.63085	
The colours of animals, their meaning and use, especially co., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t9114w82w	0.55333	
The foundations of normal and abnormal psychology., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/oc.ark:/13960/t9m33nm99	0.54171	
The bird rookeries of the Tortugas., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t3pv6cc9j	0.53789	
Mind in animals., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015005169357	0.53783	
Ants and some other insects; an inquiry into the psychic pow., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89095158218	0.53606	
Systematic science teaching ; a manual of inductive elementa., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t11n8195t	0.53152	
The riddle of the universe at the close of the nineteenth ce., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t5v69b880	0.52804	
The riddle of the universe at the close of the nineteenth ce., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/oc.ark:/13960/t2s47h57b	0.52763	
The riddle of the universe at the close of the nineteenth ce., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/oc.ark:/13960/t2s47h57b	0.52035	
The colour-sense: its origin and development. An essay in co., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015009245195	0.51658	
Advanced elementary science.; http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t8z895h4k	0.50012	
Report of the Brown-Harvard Expedition to Nachvak, Labrador., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t41r70n1f	0.49748	
The germ-plasm : a theory of heredity /, http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t0qr4pc9z	0.49713	
Biology and its makers, with portraits and other illustration., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t1td9pw8y	0.49495	
Report of the Brown-Harvard expedition to Nachvak, Labrador., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/oc.ark:/13960/t4vh6bb8k	0.49243	
Last words on evolution; a popular retrospect and summary., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/iny.33433081629184	0.48496	
Thought and things; a study of the development and meaning o., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/nc01.ark:/13960/t9x06sq8q	0.48331	
The psychic life of micro-organisms. A study in experimental., http://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc2.ark:/13960/t73l9h556	0.47866	

Argument Selection, Mapping and Analysis (analysis level 3)

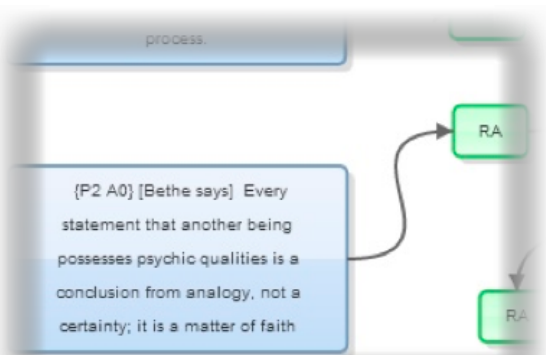
1. Identifying arguments from rated pages (currently human/manual, but developing algs for automation)

2. Mapping of key arguments with OVA mapping tool:

- Provides a formal framework, or 'lens', for investigation and comparative analysis, e.g. role, structure, status
- More indirectly: meaning, importance and context



Back to the Sentences (analysis level 4)



```

What did we get? -- tokenized sentences (word lists) followed by original text...

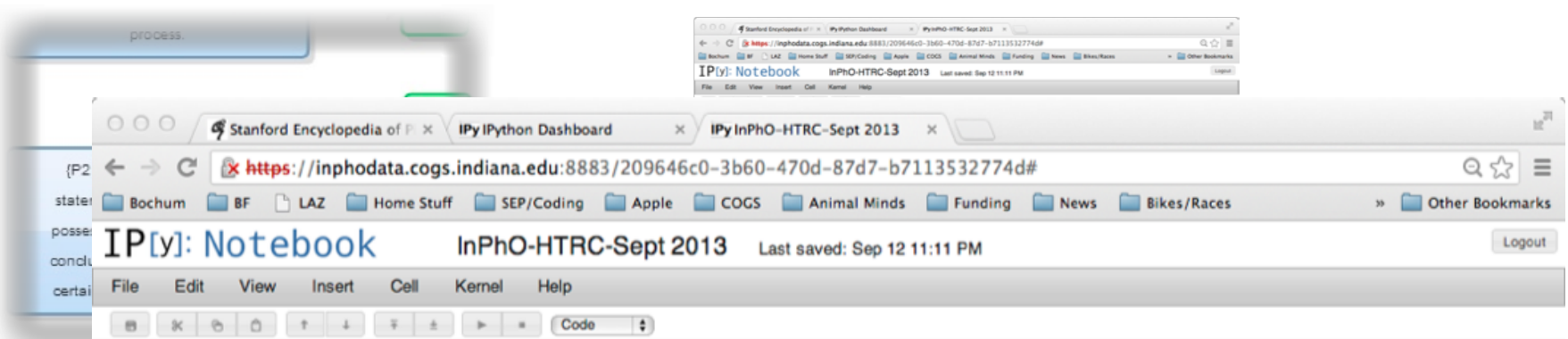
In [22]: #tok_sentences
In [23]: orig_sentences

Out[23]: ["Every statement that another being possesses 'n' psychic qualities is a conclusion from analogy, not a certainty; it is a matter
of faith".
"Of any consciousness 'n' accompanies it, then the nearest human analogy to such 'n' consciousness is to be found in organic
sensations, and Abson, 'n' as has just been said, must necessarily be in the human mind 'n' wholly different in quality from
anything to be found in an 'n' animal whose structure is as simple as the Amoeba's.",
'learning, 208, 'n' to 214.',
'On the other 'n' to 161.',
'Sydney, 86.',
'Barnett, 128, 130.',
'Wilson, 139, 182.',
'Geopline, 192, 194.',
'Markens, 197, 198.',
'Every, for example, one of us entering a 'n' room in the dark and groping about among the furniture.',
'This, of 'n' course, does not refer to the power to judge distance.",
'Again, a bodily structure entirely unlike our own 'n' must create a background of organic sensation which renders 'n' the whole
mental life of an animal foreign and unfamiliar 'n' to us.",
'He dispense of the psychic learning by experience theory of Bepi 'n' by saying that the only experience upon which the animal
is said to rest the filter paper must be experience that it is not 'n' good for food.",
'We speak, for example, of an "angry" wasp.",
'All traces of the "learning" 'n' to "learning" 'n' to 'n' give evidence of the power to judge distance."']
    
```

Topics Sorted by Index	
Topic	Words
0	j, l, f, e, cole, w, bentley, uexkull, loeb, akad
1	sense, smell, hearing, taste, sight, organ, insects, fishes, sensory, study
2	psychology, comparative, animal, experimental, mind, human, study, writers, psychologist, upon
3	process, may, become, food, many, long, reaction, used, reduced, state
4	h, c, g, f, e, m, b, j, parker, o
5	body, surface, animal, food, contact, occur, solid, end, water, two
6	experience, learning, animal, memory, form, individual, ideas, rapid, idea, learn
7	vol, physiol, ibid, psych, nat, sci, studies, n.s, science, arts
8	cilia, current, paramecium, water, swim, bodies, reaction, fact, jennings, animals
9	animal, method, behavior, interpretation, methods, error, facts, anecdote, trial, experiment
10	p, 1, 15, 8, 10, 4, ibid, 5, 13, 23
11	sensation, different, sensations, may, consciousness, qualities, experience, quality, animal, human
12	p, 17, 14, 16, 21, 22, ibid, 20, 12, 18
13	pp, two, seen, already, observation, pages, ways, may, dark, rapidly
14	water, sounds, case, produced, response, current, vibrations, respond, electric, react
15	side, direction, toward, would, one, opposite, move, object, moved, fish
16	effect, upon, body, movement, like, light, position, sides, influence, motor
17	make, conditions, tell, find, behavior, study, observation, ordinary, good, careful
18	placed, food, one, containing, side, fish, water, either, tank, forceps
19	jour, neur, trans, leipzig, abth, und, wiss, wien, abstract, st
20	bees, hive, flowers, visual, memory, bethe, back, insects, explain, smell
21	reaction, negative, stimulus, mechanical, contact, may, stimulation, positive, form, response
22	human, experience, animals, power, would, ideas, know, beings, mind, difference
23	reaction, substances, stimuli, also, edible, gonionemus, chemical, reactions, hand, metridium
24	evidence, must, distance, us, use, give, could, learning, experience, think
25	animals, processes, mental, methods, visual, life, form, test, discrimination, phenomena
26	r, c, acad, w, n, m, soc, v, e, yerkes
27	number, found, place, romanes, years, series, mollusk, takes, cause, compartment
28	wasp, nest, wasps, one, solitary, new, least, locality, flight, prey
29	sensation, sense, may, specific, quality, special, reactions, accompanied, organ, organs

['every', 'statement', 'another',
'possesses', 'psychic', 'qualities',
'conclusion', 'analogy',
'certainty', 'matter', 'faith']

Back to the Sentences (analysis level 4)



What did we get? -- tokenized sentences (word lists) followed by original text...

In [22]: `#tok_sents`

In [23]: `orig_sents`

```
Out[23]: ['Every statement that another being possesses \n psychic qualities is a conclusion from analogy, not a certainty; it is a matter of faith.',
          "If any consciousness \n accompanies it, then the nearest human analogy to such \n consciousness is to be found in organic sensations, and these, \n as has just been said, must necessarily be in the human mind \n wholly different in quality from anything to be found in an \n animal whose structure is as simple as the Amoeba's.",
          '; learning, 208, \n \n 214.',
          'On the other \n \n1).',
          'Dytiscus, 86.',
          'Burnett, 126, 170.',
          'Willem, 130, 192.',
          'Caterpillars, 192, 196.',
          'Murbach, 107, 158.',
          'Fancy, for example, one of us entering a \n room in the dark and groping about among the furniture.',
          'This, of \n course, does not refer to the power to judge distance.',
          'Again, a bodily structure entirely unlike our own \n must create a background of organic sensation which renders \n the whole mental life of an animal foreign and unfamiliar to \n us.',
          'She disposes of the psychic learning by experience theory of Nagel \n by saying that the only experience upon which the animal \n could reject the filter paper must be experience that it is not \n good for food.',
          'We speak, for example, of an "angry" wasp.',
          'All traces of the "learning" \n \ne "learning" \n \n \n give evidence of the power to judge distance.']
```

Not great! Not bad?!



DbyD: Conclusions so far...

Project Achievements - *proof-of-concept and loose integration of key components:*

1. Method for visualizing points of contact between philosophy and sciences
2. Method for Text selection from Big Data using multi-scale modeling techniques
3. Identified, represented and mapped key arguments about topics (OVA) and devised a novel framework for investigation and comparative analysis
4. Used sentence-level Topic Modeling to 'go back' to the texts to find similar propositions to those mapped (investigating context)

Future work

- From loose integration to usable tools, e.g. linked to Philpapers
- To understand and incrementally construct argument maps (mark-up interface) AND automated extraction and mapping
- Funding from future DiD or similar Big Data initiatives ('open data'?)

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