

Lezen vanop afstand

Digital Humanities en de computationele analyse
van middeleeuwse literatuur

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Digital Humanities

- Digitale geesteswetenschappen
- R. **Busa** (1913-2011)
- IBM's *Index Thomisticus*
- Busa award door **ADHO**
- Mediëvist!



Gemeenplaats...

- Explosie digitale data & methodes
- “Digital humanities”
- Taal- en letterkunde
- “Traditionele” vakbeoefening
- Veel nieuw **potentieel**
- Maar hoe realiseren?



Distant reading

- Veelgeciteerde, ‘holle’ term
- **F. Moretti** (2000)
- *Close reading*
- Analyse van grote verzameling teksten “without a single direct textual reading”
- Uitdaging...

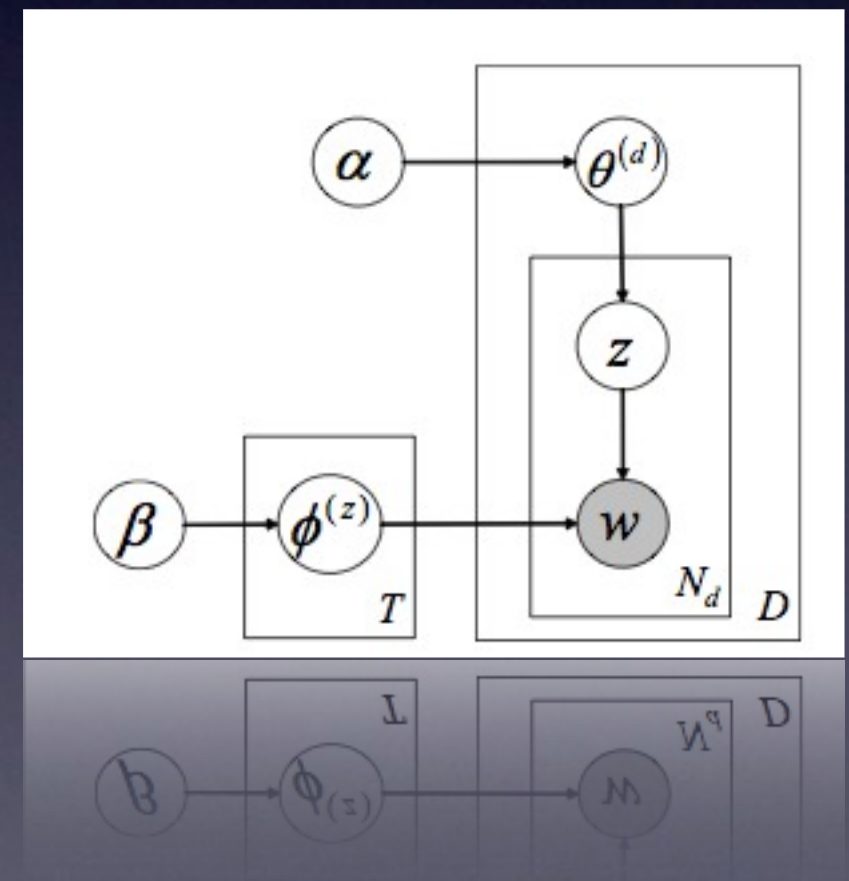


Topic modeling

- Recent veel aandacht in DH
- Automatische detectie van **topics** in groot corpus documenten
- a **synecdoche** of digital humanities. It is distant reading in the most pure sense: focused on corpora and not individual texts, treating the works themselves as unceremonious ‘buckets of words’, and providing seductive but obscure results in the forms of easily interpreted “topics” (Meeks & Weingart 2012)

Latent Dirichlet Allocation

- Dimensie-reductie (multivariate statistiek)
- *Latent Semantic Analysis, Non-negative Matrix Factorization, ...*
- Distributionele semantiek
- Monte Carlo-methode (via Gibbs sampler)
- Niet geometrisch, maar probabilistisch



Topics?

Topic 247

word	prob.
DRUGS	.069
DRUG	.060
MEDICINE	.027
EFFECTS	.026
BODY	.023
MEDICINES	.019
PAIN	.016
PERSON	.016
MARIJUANA	.014
LABEL	.012
ALCOHOL	.012
DANGEROUS	.011
ABUSE	.009
EFFECT	.009
KNOWN	.008
PILLS	.008

Topic 5

word	prob.
RED	.202
BLUE	.099
GREEN	.096
YELLOW	.073
WHITE	.048
COLOR	.048
BRIGHT	.030
COLORS	.029
ORANGE	.027
BROWN	.027
PINK	.017
LOOK	.017
BLACK	.016
PURPLE	.015
CROSS	.011
COLORED	.009

Topic 43

word	prob.
MIND	.081
THOUGHT	.066
REMEMBER	.064
MEMORY	.037
THINKING	.030
PROFESSOR	.028
FELT	.025
REMEMBERED	.022
THOUGHTS	.020
FORGOTTEN	.020
MOMENT	.020
THINK	.019
THING	.016
WONDER	.014
FORGET	.012
RECALL	.012

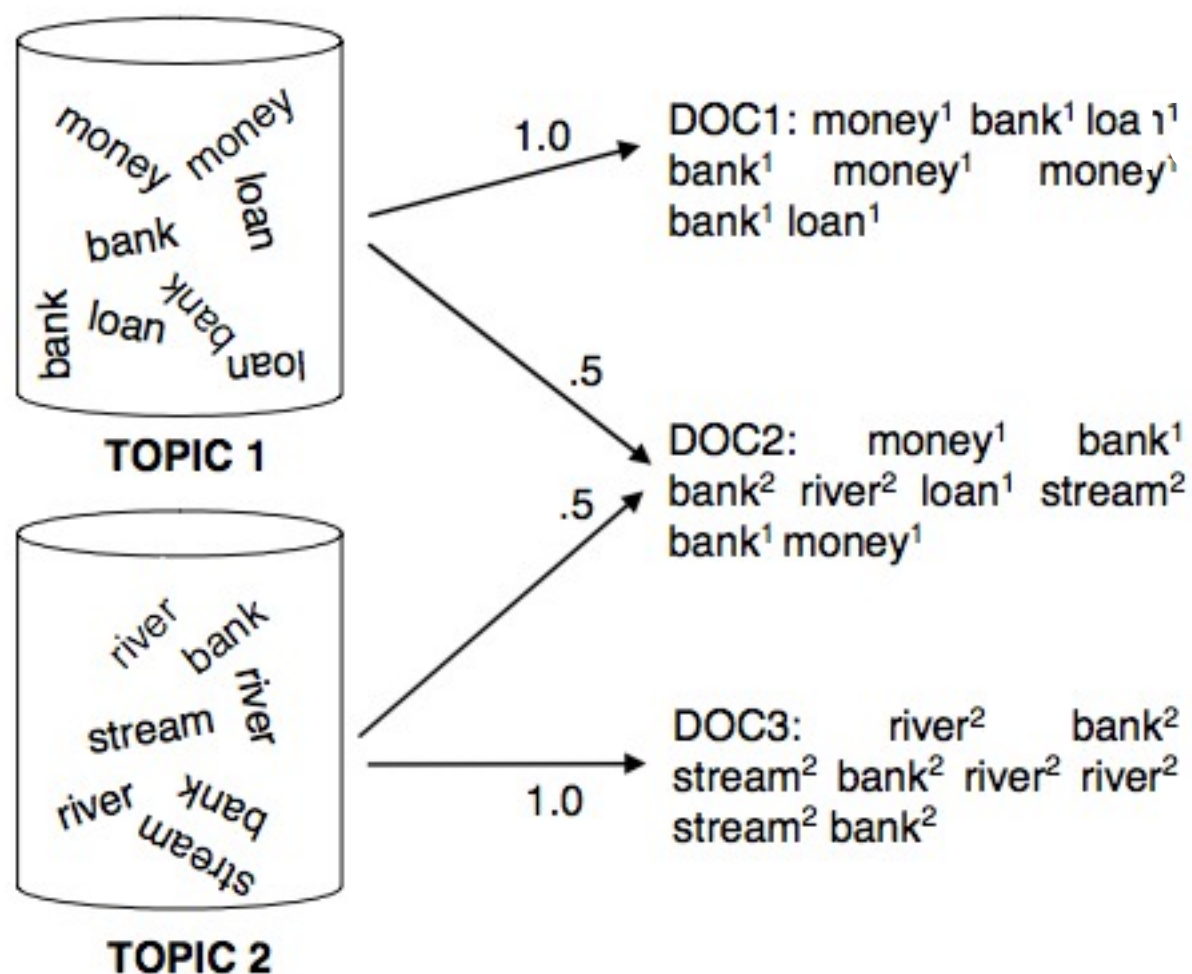
Topic 56

word	prob.
DOCTOR	.074
DR.	.063
PATIENT	.061
HOSPITAL	.049
CARE	.046
MEDICAL	.042
NURSE	.031
PATIENTS	.029
DOCTORS	.028
HEALTH	.025
MEDICINE	.017
NURSING	.017
DENTAL	.015
NURSES	.013
PHYSICIAN	.012
HOSPITALS	.011

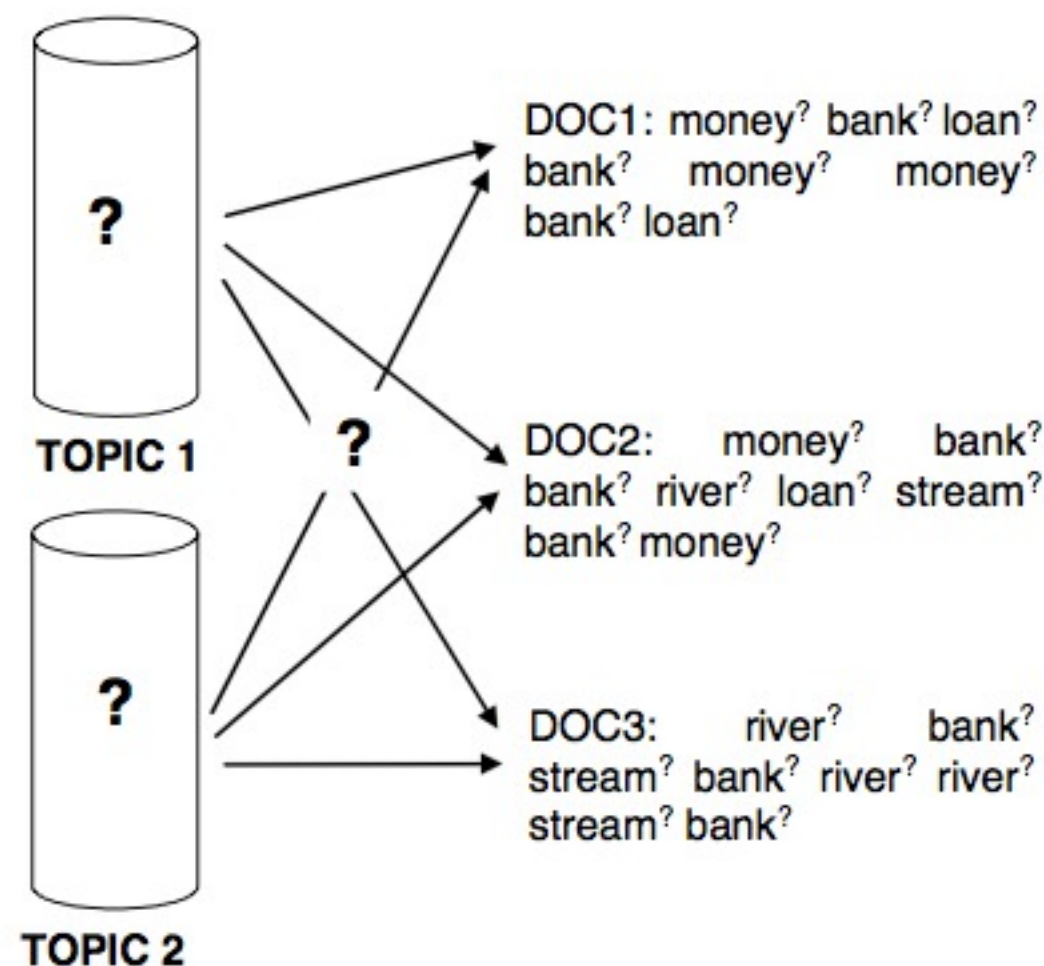
Figure 1. An illustration of four (out of 300) topics extracted from the TASA corpus.

Grabbelton

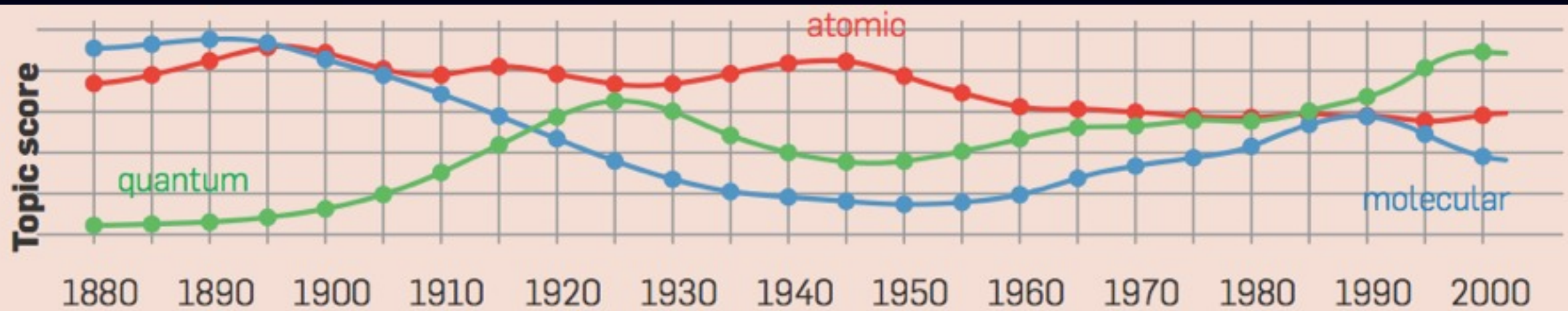
PROBABILISTIC GENERATIVE PROCESS



STATISTICAL INFERENCE

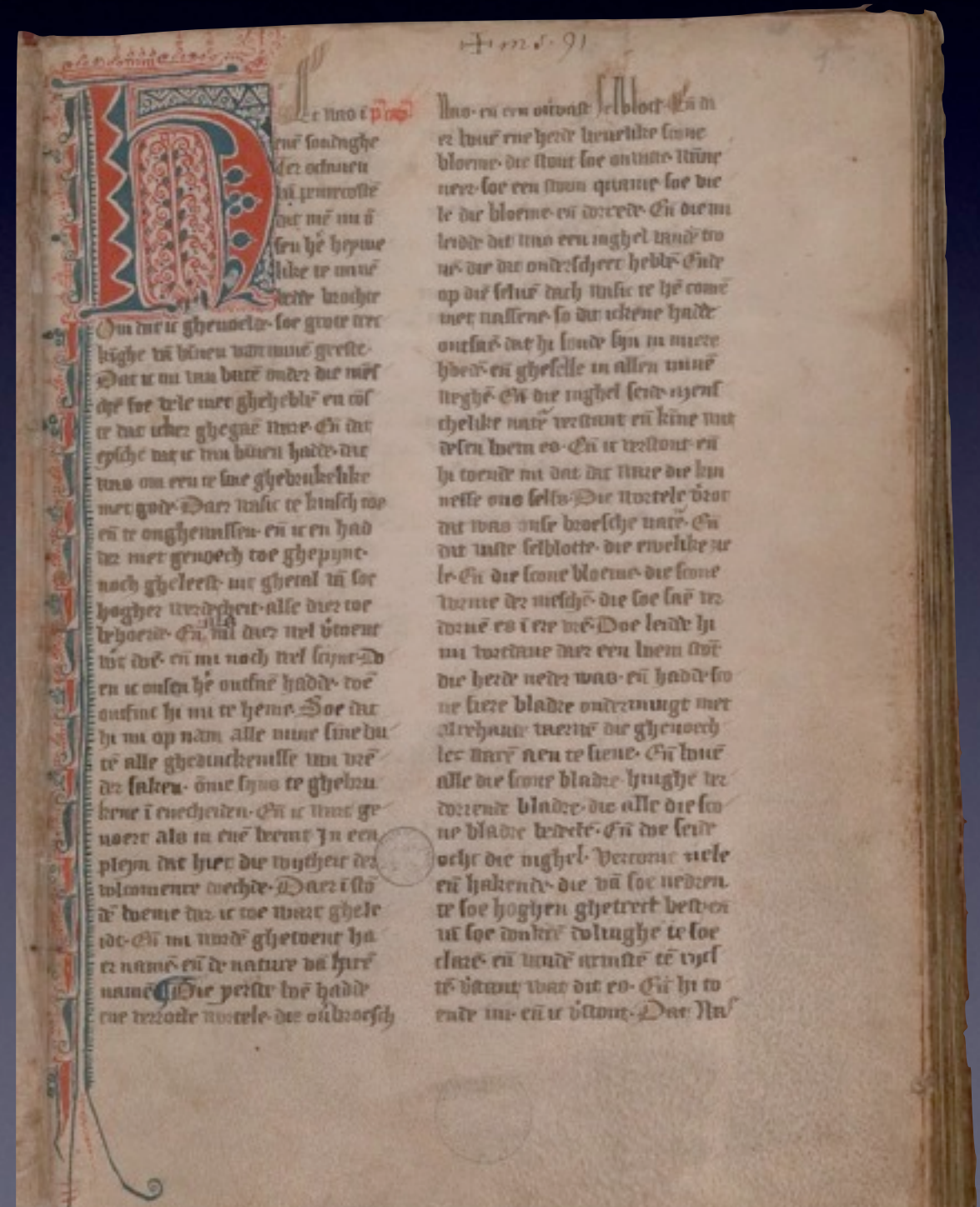


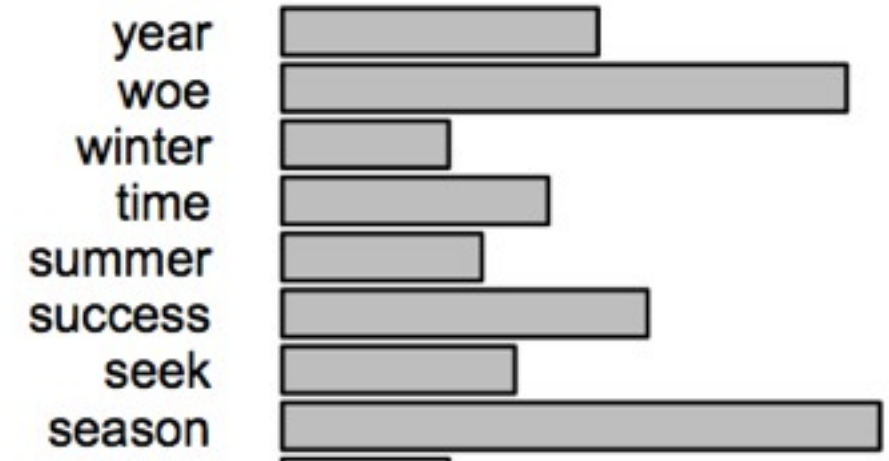
Thematische evoluties



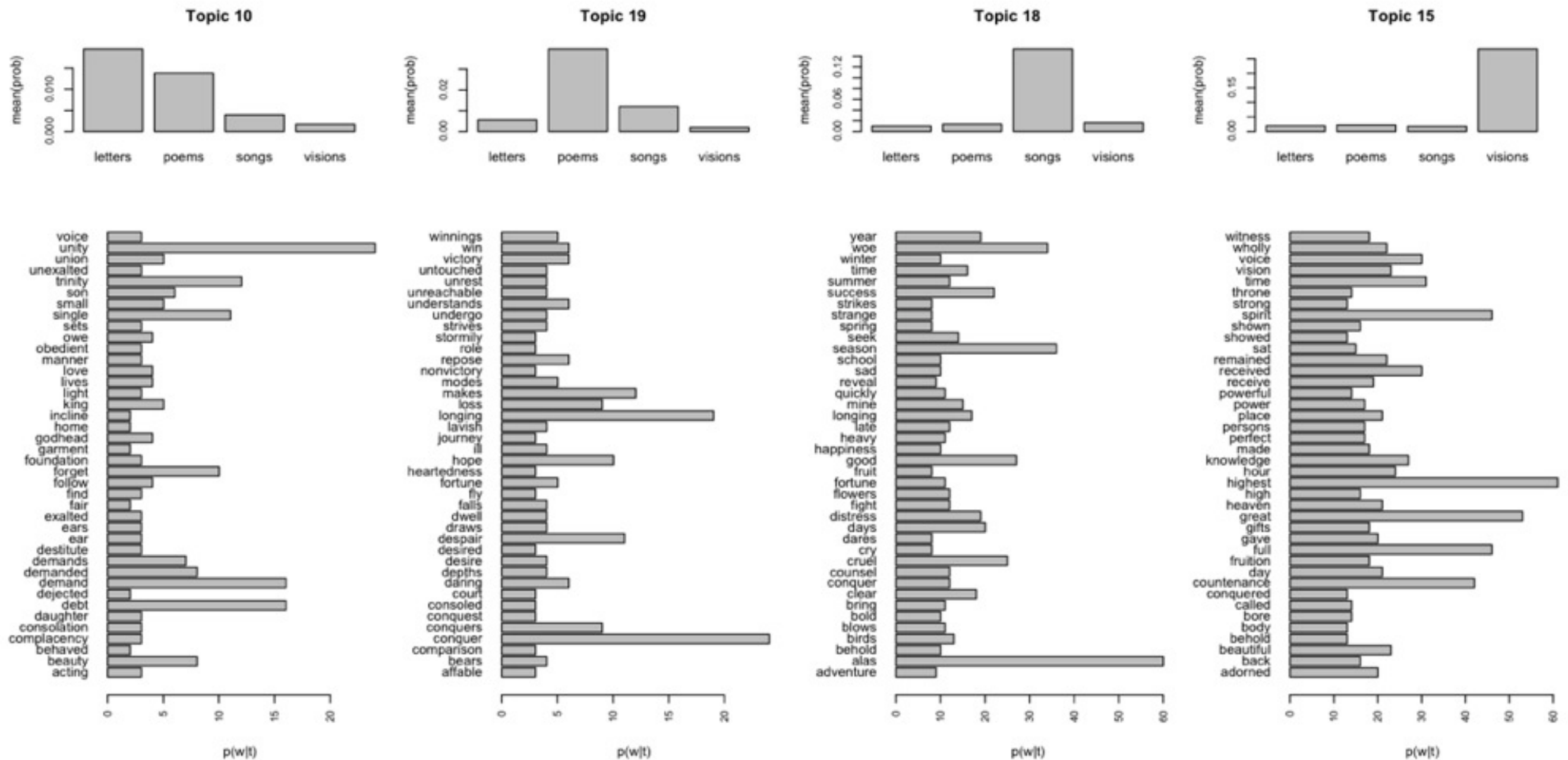
Historische letterkunde?

- **Hadewijch** (13e E)
- Brabantse mystica
- Middelnederlands
- 4 genres:
 - visioenen
 - brieven
 - gedichten
 - liederen
- Vert. C. Hart (1980)
- Traditioneel *close reading*





Topics in Hadewijch's Oeuvre
English translation by C. Hart (1980)





Circos

Circulaire visualisatie
van genomische data

“Where’s the beef?”

- + Visuele DH (“mooie plaatjes”): bevrijdend?
- + Innovatie als drijfveer: vruchtbare confrontatie met exacte wetenschappen?
- - Wat levert het op? Nieuwigheidswaarde?
- - Verwijt: Oppervlakkigheid als Achilleshiel

Stylometrie

- Kwantitatieve studie van schrijfstijl
- Stijl $\Leftrightarrow$ meta-data
- Auteurschap (*authorship attribution*)
- Datering (*stylochronometry*)
- Tekstsoort (*genre studies*)
- ...

The Evolution of Stylometry in Humanities Scholarship

DAVID I. HOLMES
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Abstract

This paper traces the historical development of the use of statistical methods in the analysis of literary style. Commencing with stylometry's early origins, the paper looks at both successful and unsuccessful applications, and at the internal struggles as statisticians search for a proven methodology. The growing power of the computer and the ready availability of machine-readable texts are transforming modern stylometry, which has now attracted the attention of the media. Stylometry's interaction with more traditional literary scholarship is also discussed.

1. Introduction

The successful uncovering of Joe Klein as author of *Primary Colors* by Don Foster, the coverage by CBS TV of the UCLA conference in 1996 discussing the attribution of *A Funeral Elegy*, Robert Matthews' thoughtful articles in *Newsweek* and *The Sunday Telegraph* (see, for example, Matthews, 1994), and the request by the BBC for the Bristol Stylometry Research Unit to investigate the authorship of the 'Cassandra' letters in *Tribune* followed by footage of Richard Forsyth and myself on their *Newsnight* programme are examples of how stylometry—the statistical analysis of literary style—has begun to intrigue the media. Indeed, the age of 'pop' stylometry could now be with us.

Not all such publicity has been necessarily good, however. Channel 4's *Sireer-legal* programme unmasked flaws in the reliability of Andrew Morton's so-called 'csum' technique, which had been used in UK courts in a number of high-profile criminal cases, and the Shakespeare scholar Stanley Wells recently was moved to write in the *Times Literary Supplement*:

'Most people who make a profession of the study of literature do so because they have an artistic rather than a scientific bent. They are, to put it simply, better at English than at Maths. But the investigation of authorship of disputed and apocryphal works relies increasingly on statistical tests that take their exponents into the realms of higher mathematics. Their works are packed with tables, charts and statistical analyses which many of those interested in the works investigated have neither the inclination nor even the intellectual ability to understand, let alone to assess.' (Wells, 1996).

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Literary and Linguistic Computing, Vol. 13, No. 3, 1998

What, then, does stylometry seek to do? It certainly does not seek to overturn traditional scholarship by literary experts and historians, rather it seeks to complement their work by providing an alternative means of investigating works of doubtful provenance. At its heart lies an assumption that authors have an unconscious aspect to their style, an aspect which cannot consciously be manipulated but which possesses features which are quantifiable and which may be distinctive.

Bailey (1979) lists the general properties which quantifiable features of a text should possess: 'They should be salient, structural, frequent and easily quantifiable, and relatively immune from conscious control.' By measuring and counting these features, stylometrists hope to uncover the 'characteristics' of an author.

The two primary applications of stylometry are attributional studies and chronological problems, and Laan (1995) has provided a sound exposition of the rationale behind such applications. Laan points out that these applications seem to be based on seemingly contradictory premises, with attributional studies claiming that the unconscious aspect of an author's style remains fixed whilst chronological studies claim that stylistic features develop rectilinearly during the course of an author's life. These claims may not be incompatible; the choice of features is the overriding concern. With attributional problems, it is certainly wise to work within the same genre when faced with a list of candidate authors for a disputed work and to work within as close a time period as possible when selecting appropriate 'control' authors. Genre effects generally will supersede authorial features in the discrimination process.

The major problem inhibiting stylometry's acceptance within humanities scholarship is that, as yet, there is no consensus as to correct methodology or technique. Rudman (1997) provides a perceptive analysis of this problem and illustrates well how, for every method that 'works', there soon appear counter-arguments pointing out crucial flaws. A methodology successful for one attributional problem does not necessarily 'work' for another. Practitioners search for the 'holy grail' of stylometry, a technique beyond reproach which may be applied successfully to all genres, languages, and eras.

The historical development of stylometry is reflected in the choice of quantifiable features used as authorial discriminators. Lexical features have predominated, yet this decade has seen the application of syntactic and semantic features to attributional problems, allied to the enormous growth in computing power and the

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Auteursherkenning

- Populairste toepassing
- Stylome Hypothesis
 - Unieke vingerafdruk
 - Kwantitatief meten

Journal of Quantitative Linguistics
2005, Vol. 12, No. 1, pp. 65–77
DOI: 10.1080/09296170500055350



New Machine Learning Methods Demonstrate the Existence of a Human Stylome*

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Marco Haverkort⁴ & Anneke Neijt⁵

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⁴Department of Linguistics, Radboud University Nijmegen (also Department of Linguistics, Boston University) ⁵Department of Dutch, Radboud University Nijmegen

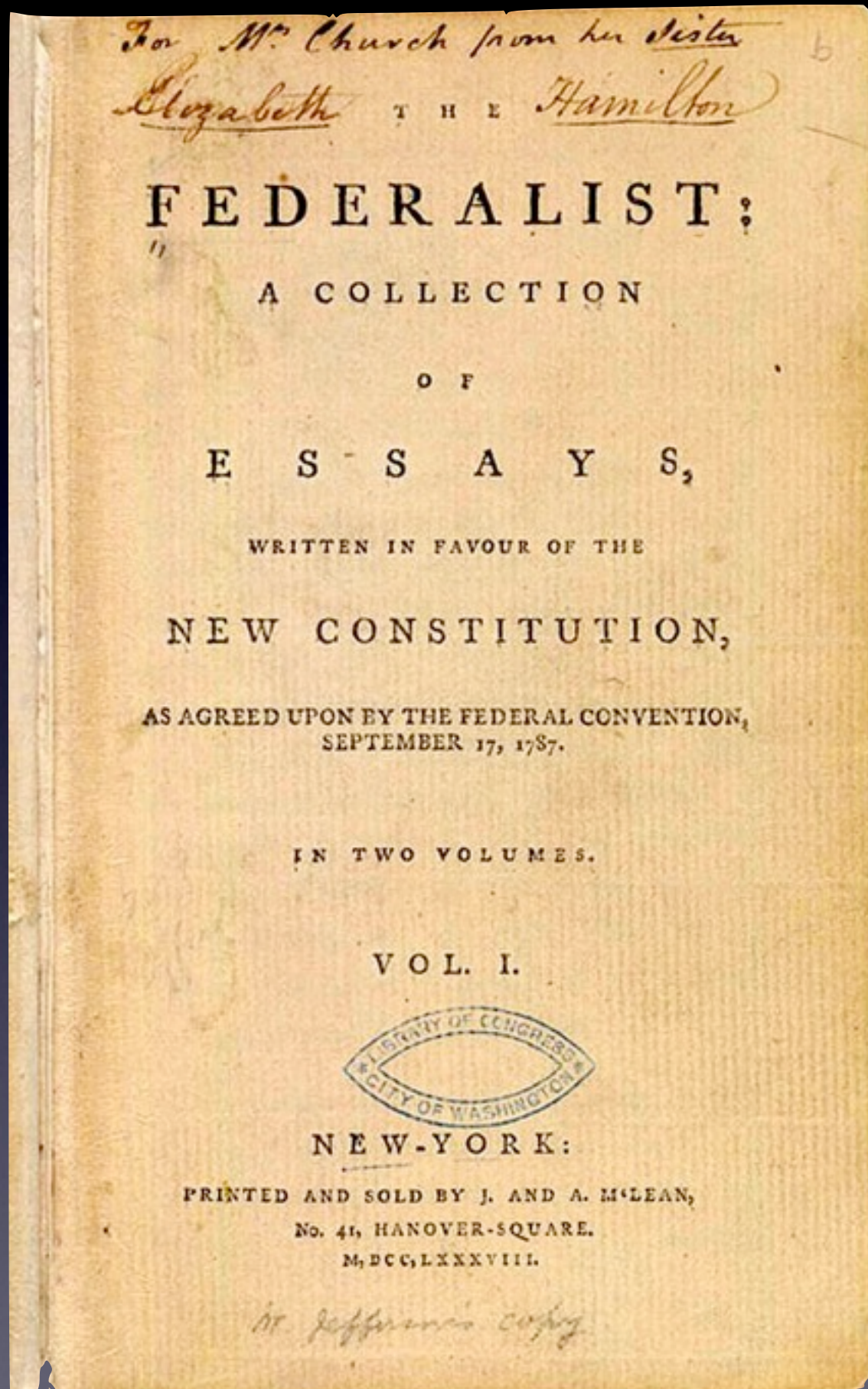
ABSTRACT

Earlier research has shown that established authors can be distinguished by measuring specific properties of their writings, their stylome as it were. Here, we examine writings of less experienced authors. We succeed in distinguishing between these authors with a very high probability, which implies that a stylome exists even in the general population. However, the number of traits needed for so successful a distinction is an order of magnitude larger than assumed so far. Furthermore, traits referring to syntactic patterns prove less distinctive than traits referring to vocabulary, but much more distinctive than expected on the basis of current generativist theories of language learning.

INTRODUCTION

We all make extensive use of a natural language to communicate with others. The ease with which we do this might give the impression that all the users of a particular natural language are using the exact same language. Now, specific languages do not come completely hard-wired in the brain, although the brain is thought to contain a set of hard-wired expectations about the structure of natural language, the so-called Universal Grammar. Whether or not there is indeed some support from structures in the brain, we always have to learn a language on the basis of

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- Jong paradigma (1960s)
- **Mosteller & Wallace** (US)
- *Federalist papers* (1780s)
- Twee innovaties:
 - Kwantitatieve aanpak
 - “Functoren”

Traditioneel

- Natte vinger...
- Opvallende kenmerken
 - bv. zeldzaam werkwoord
- “Checklist”
- Maar:
 - scholen, ateliers, ...
 - tradities
 - vervalsing, imitaties ...
 - ...

Mosteller & Wallace

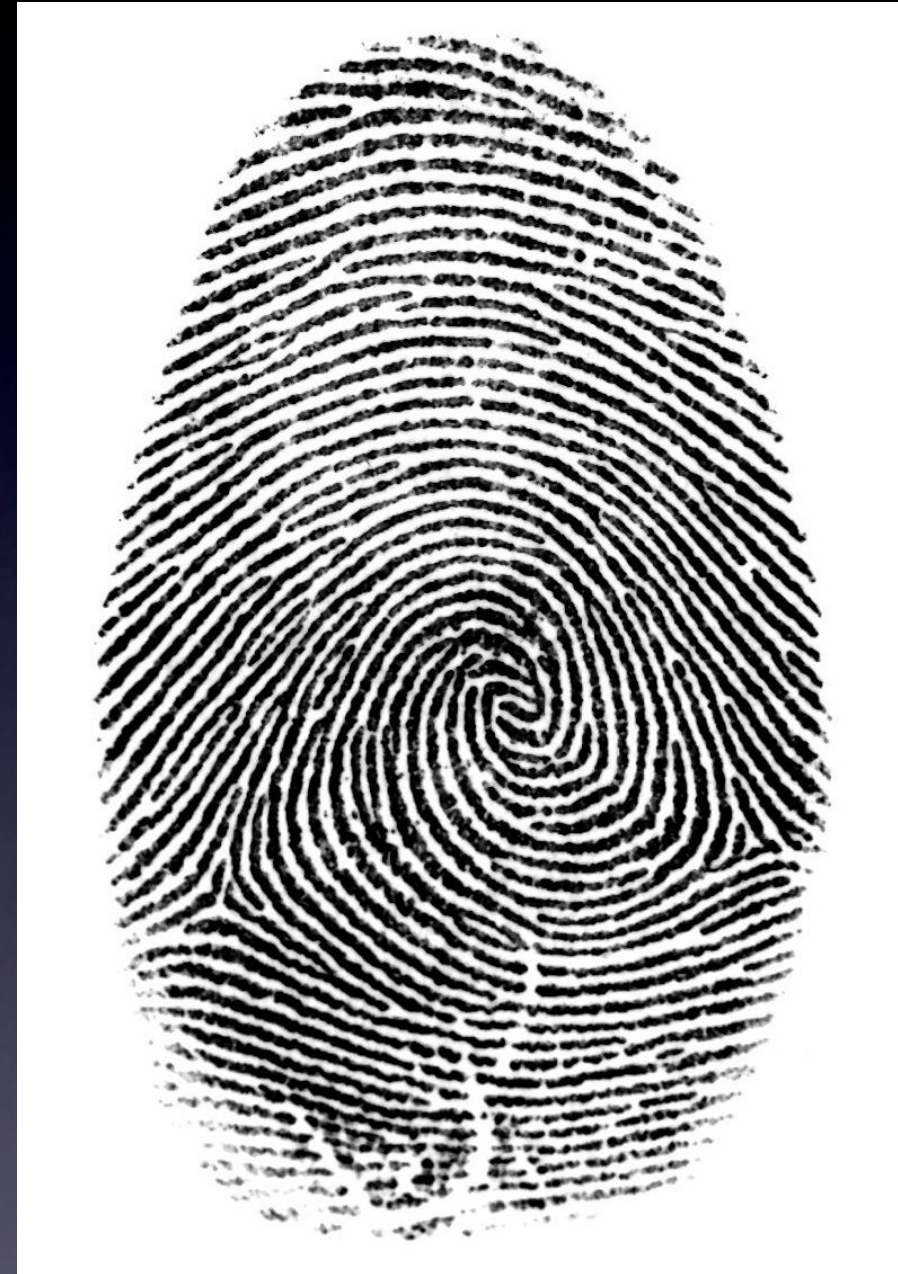
- Onopvallend kenmerken
- Functiewoorden of functoren
 - lidwoorden
 - voorzetsels
 - voornaamwoorden
 - [naamvallen?]

Voordelen?

Veel observaties

Alle auteurs, zelfde set

Relatief inhoudsonafhankelijk



Aantal letters *f* op volgende
slide?

Finished files are the result
of years of scientific study
combined with the experience
of many years.

Hoeveel?

Verwerken wij functoren
'onbewust'?

Finished files are the result
of years of scientific study
combined with the experience
of many years.

Welke tekst staat op de volgende slide?

**PARIS
IN THE
THE SPRING**

En?

Moeilijk fouten detecteren...

Memory & Cognition
1977, Vol. 5 (6), 636-647

Detection errors on *the* and *and*: Evidence for reading units larger than the word

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and

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In five experiments, subjects read 100-word passages and circled instances of a given target letter, letter group, or word. In each case subjects made a disproportionate number of detection errors on the common function words *the* and *and*. The predominance of errors on these two words was reduced for passages in which the words were placed in an inappropriate syntactic context and for passages in which word-group identification was disturbed by the use of mixed typecases or a list, rather than a paragraph, format. These effects for the word *and* were not found for the control word *ant*. These results were taken as evidence that familiarity

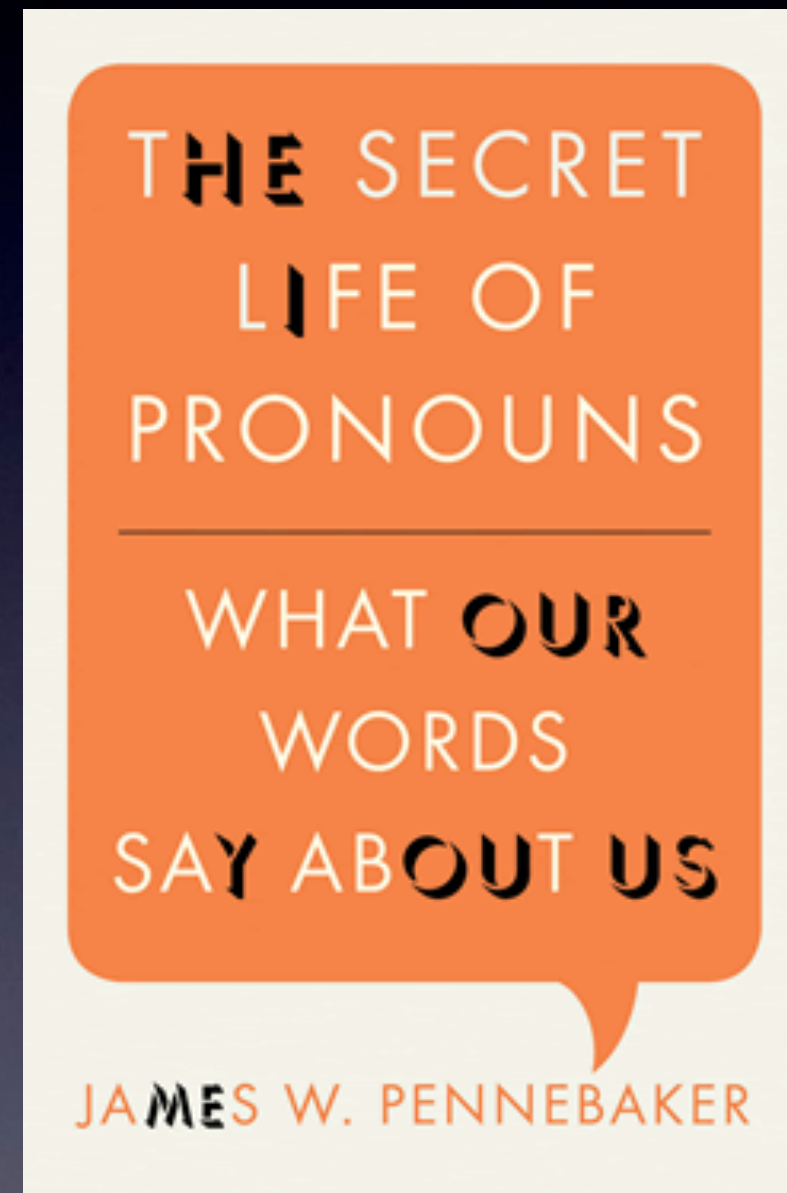
Onbelangrijk?

According to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.

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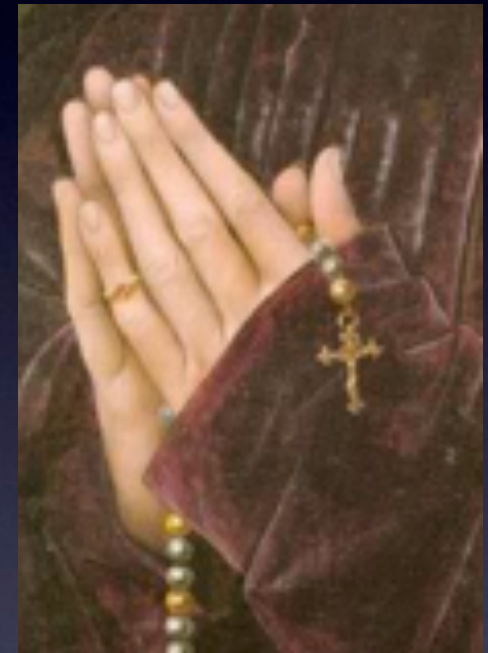
Functoren

- Populair in stylometrie
- Frequenties als input
- Pennebaker (2011)



Parallel in kunstgeschichteis

Morelli (1816–1891)



Middelnederlands

- Germaanse volkstaal
- Lage landen
- **Middeleeuwen**
- Ca. 1200-1500
- Literatuur



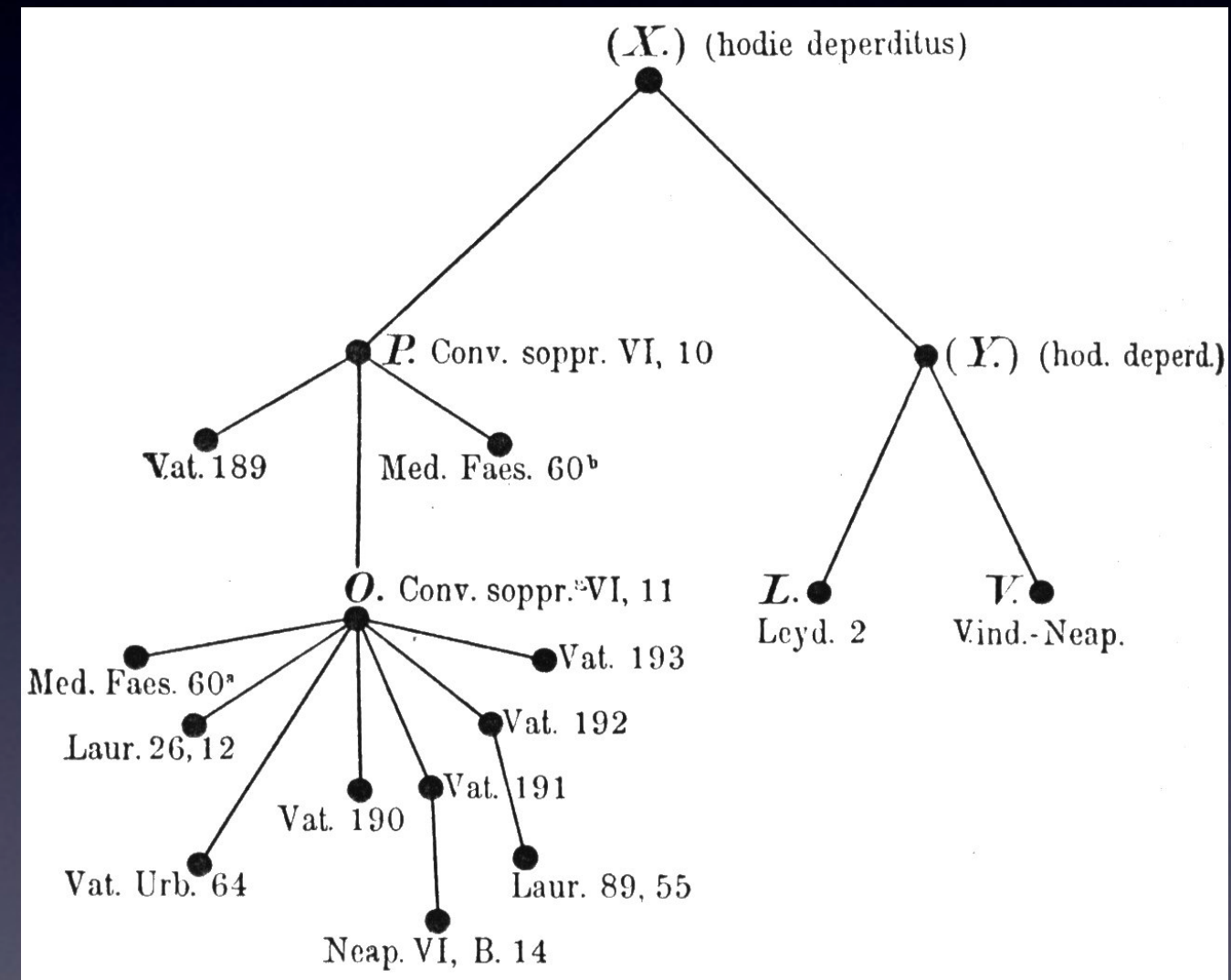
Handgeschreven wereld

- Geen drukpers
- **Manu-scripten**
- Kopiisten scribenten
- Iedere kopie uniek



Variatie als regel

- Geen standaardtaal, -spelling
- Kopieën wijken af van legger:
 - Spelling
 - Locale dialecten
 - Stilistische voorkeur?
 - ...
- Tekst oorspronkelijke auteur?



Middelnederlands

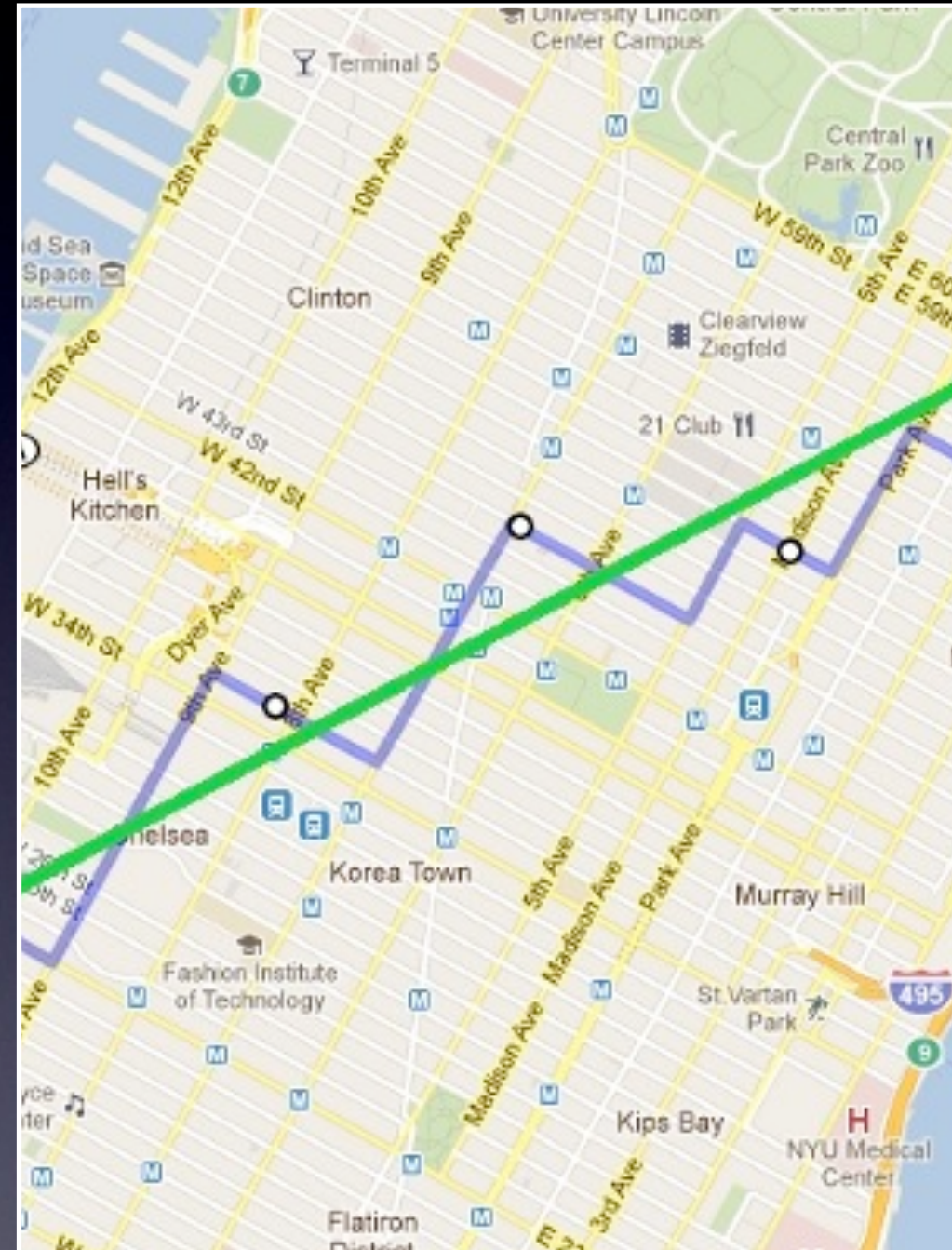
- Van Dalen-Oskam & Van Zundert 2007
- *Literary and Linguistic Computing*
- *Roman van Walewein*
- Auteursovergang
- Leiden, Ltk. 195
- Pionierswerk

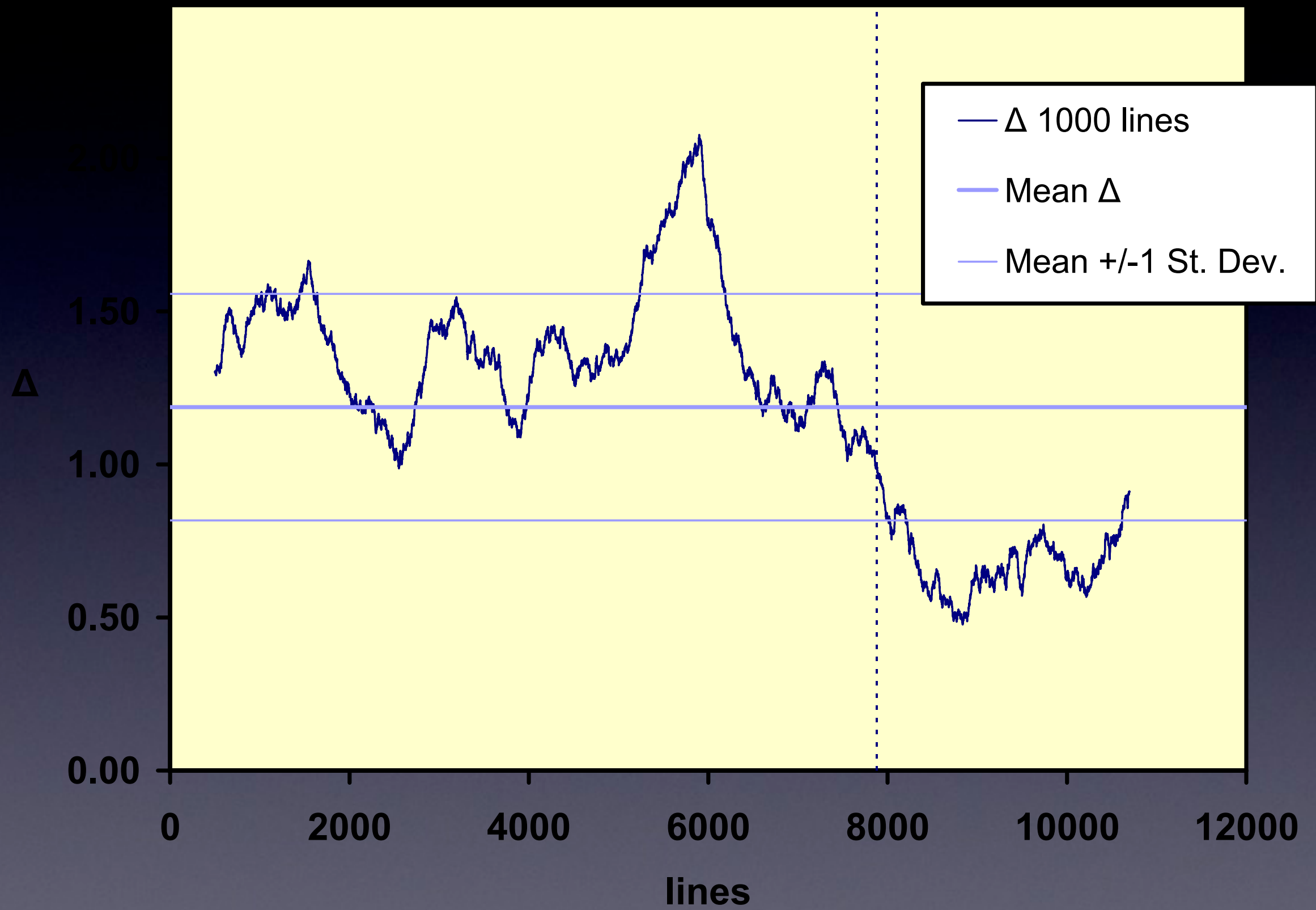


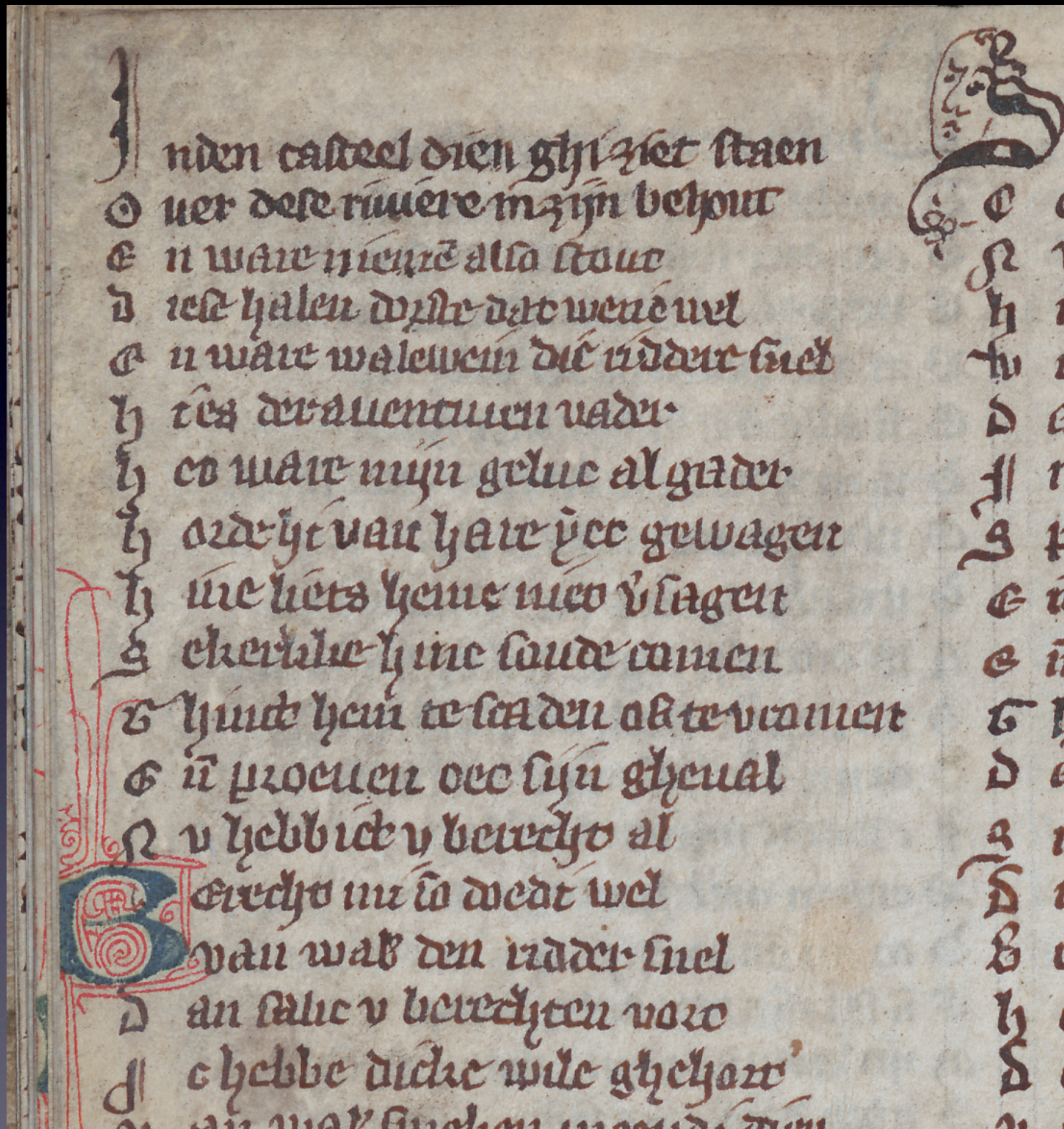
Burrows's Delta

- Stilistische afstandsberkening
- *Manhattan distance* op MWF
- *Nearest neighbor learning*
- Zowel classificatie als afstand

$$\Delta_B^{(n)}(D, D') = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sigma_i} |f_i(D) - f_i(D')|$$

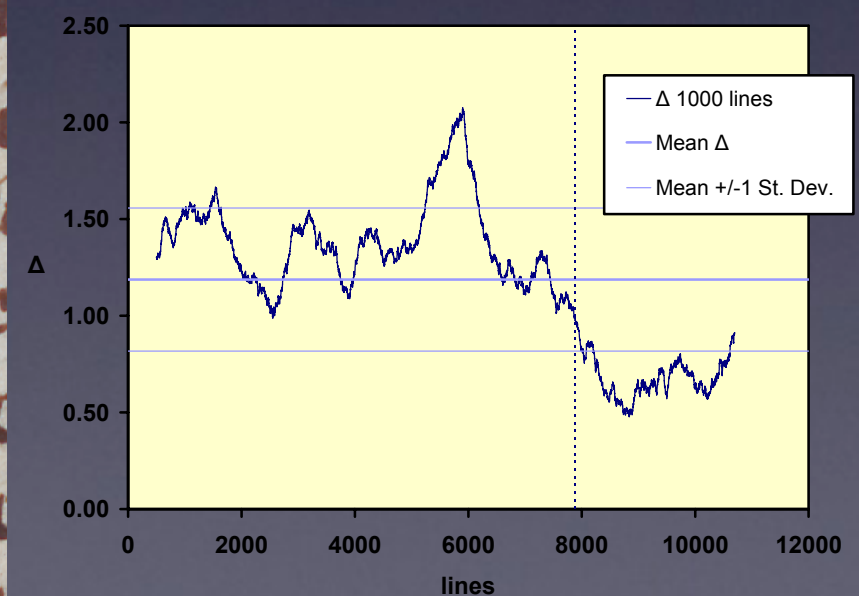






Leiden

UB, Ltk. 195



Serendipiteit?

Zochten auteurs en vonden kopiisten...

Delta for Middle Dutch—Author and Copyist Distinction in *Walewein*

Karina van Dalen-Oskam and Joris van Zundert
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Abstract

The Middle Dutch Arthurian romance *Roman van Walewein* ('Romance of Gawain') is attributed in the text itself to two authors, Penninc and Vostaert. Very little quantitative research into this dual authorship has been done. This article describes our progress in applying different non-traditional authorship attribution methods to the text of *Walewein*. After providing an introduction to the romance and an overview of earlier research, we evaluate previous statements on authorship and stylistics by applying both Yule's measure of lexical richness and Burrows's Delta. To find out whether these new methods would confirm or even enhance our present knowledge about the differences between the two authors, we applied an adapted version of John Burrows's Delta procedure. The adapted version seems to be able to distinguish the double authorship of the romance. It also helps us to confirm some and to reject other earlier statements about the position in the text where the second author started his work.

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1 Introduction¹

Until now, non-traditional authorship attribution techniques have hardly been applied to medieval texts. The fact that we do not and probably never will know the author of many texts, may play a role in this. There are cases, however, in which the researcher does not necessarily want to identify a specific author but wishes to distinguish one (perhaps anonymous) author from another. In these cases, it could indeed be very interesting to turn to modern authorship attribution techniques and find out of how much help they actually can be.

In our research on medieval Dutch literature, we have long been intrigued by a Middle Dutch Arthurian romance that seems to be the perfect case for an experiment like this. In this article, we first present the case and the questions we started out with (Section 2). We then summarize our first results and present the new questions to which these lead (Section 3). In Section 4, we investigate

two specific questions. We then focus on the possibilities of Burrows's Delta for distinguishing the authors as well as the scribes of *Walewein* (Section 5). After presenting our results, we sum up our conclusions and describe how we plan to test our results and to refine the method we are developing.

2 The Case: *Roman van Walewein*

One of the few Middle Dutch romances that were not translated from Old French is the Arthurian romance known as *Walewein* or *Roman van Walewein* ('Romance of Walewein'). The main character of this verse text in rhyming couplets is Arthur's nephew Walewein—the 'Gawain' of English texts and the 'Gauvain' of the French. *Walewein* was probably written around the year 1260, but the only surviving complete manuscript dates from almost a century later. The manuscript was written by two scribes. The first wrote lines

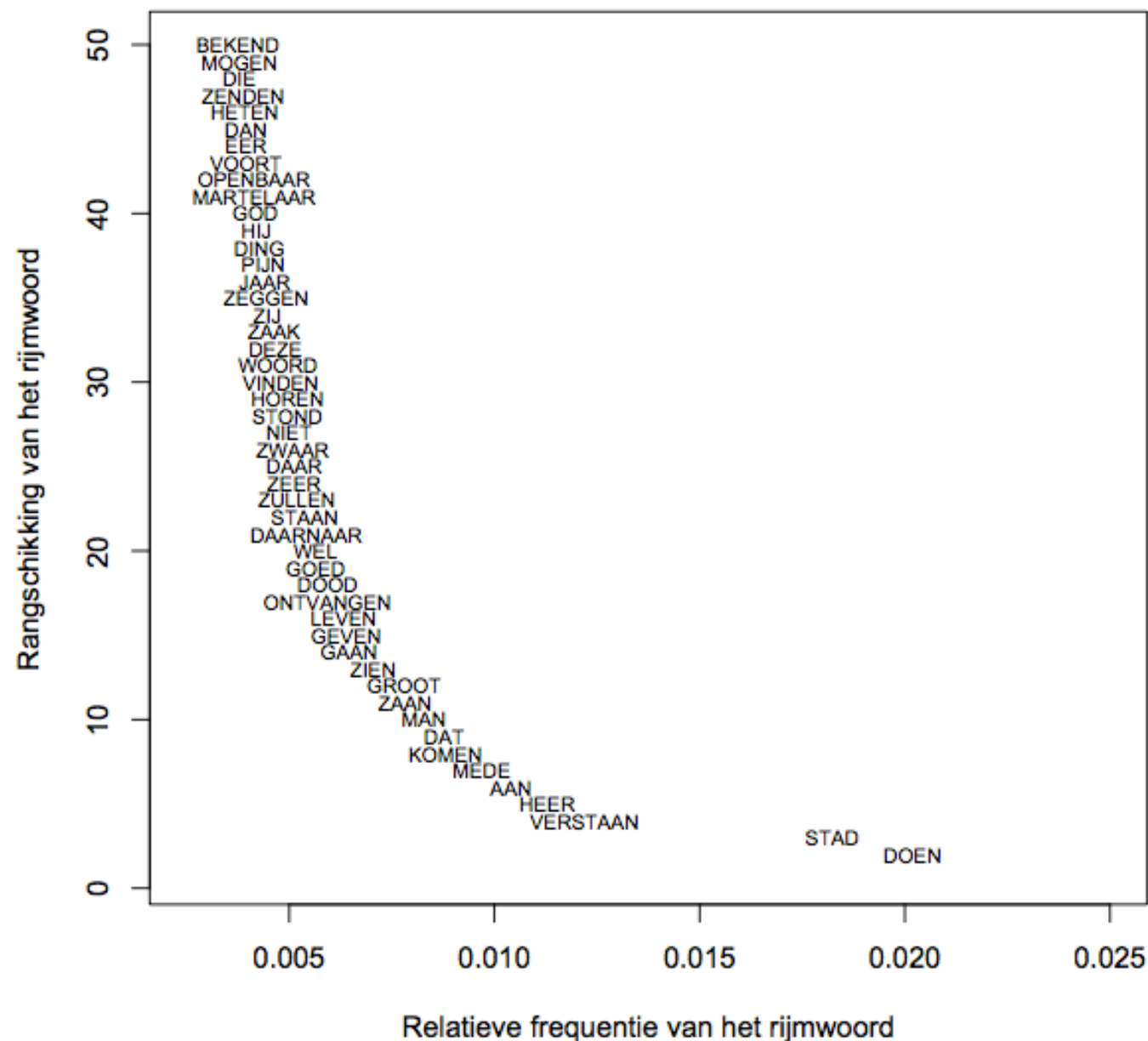
D	Ter stont ende ter seluer vren
E	Tier stont ende ter seluer vren
F	Tlere stont enter seluer vren
G	Tottien stonden en ter uren
H	TEn stonden ende ter seluer vren
I	Tjerst stont ende tier veren
J	Tyer stont ende tier seluer vren
N	TJer stont tier seluer vre

Auteursherkenning vs. **Scribent**herkenning...

Rijmwoord

- Meeste Middelnederlandse literatuur **berijmd**
- Bijbel, encyclopedie, liefdesgedichten, ...
 - Willam die madock **maecte** / Dair hi dicke om **waecte**
- **Skelet** van tekst
- Heel moeilijk aan te passen
- “Oorspronkelijke dichter in het aangezicht staren”?

Rijmwoorden als functors?



- Eindig # combinaties
- Formules, “stoplap”
- Popliedjes: “De lucht is blauw : Ik hou van ...”
- Zipfianse verdeling
- Surrogaat functoren?

Lemmatiseren

- Spellingvariatie
- Lemmatiser
- Lemma-frequenties

in der ierster partien inden	EIND
mogedi van claudiusse vinden	VINDEN
hoe hi was keyser ende here groot	GROOT
dese heeft gedaen so vor sine doot	DOOD
dat nero keyser na hem blive	BLIJVEN
bi den rade van sinen wive	WIJF
ende der heren daer hi in desen	DEZE
te seer af scheen bedwongen wesen	WEZEN
octavien siere dochter man	MAN
was nero ende also dan	DAN

Spiegel historiael

Speculum historiale (13e E)

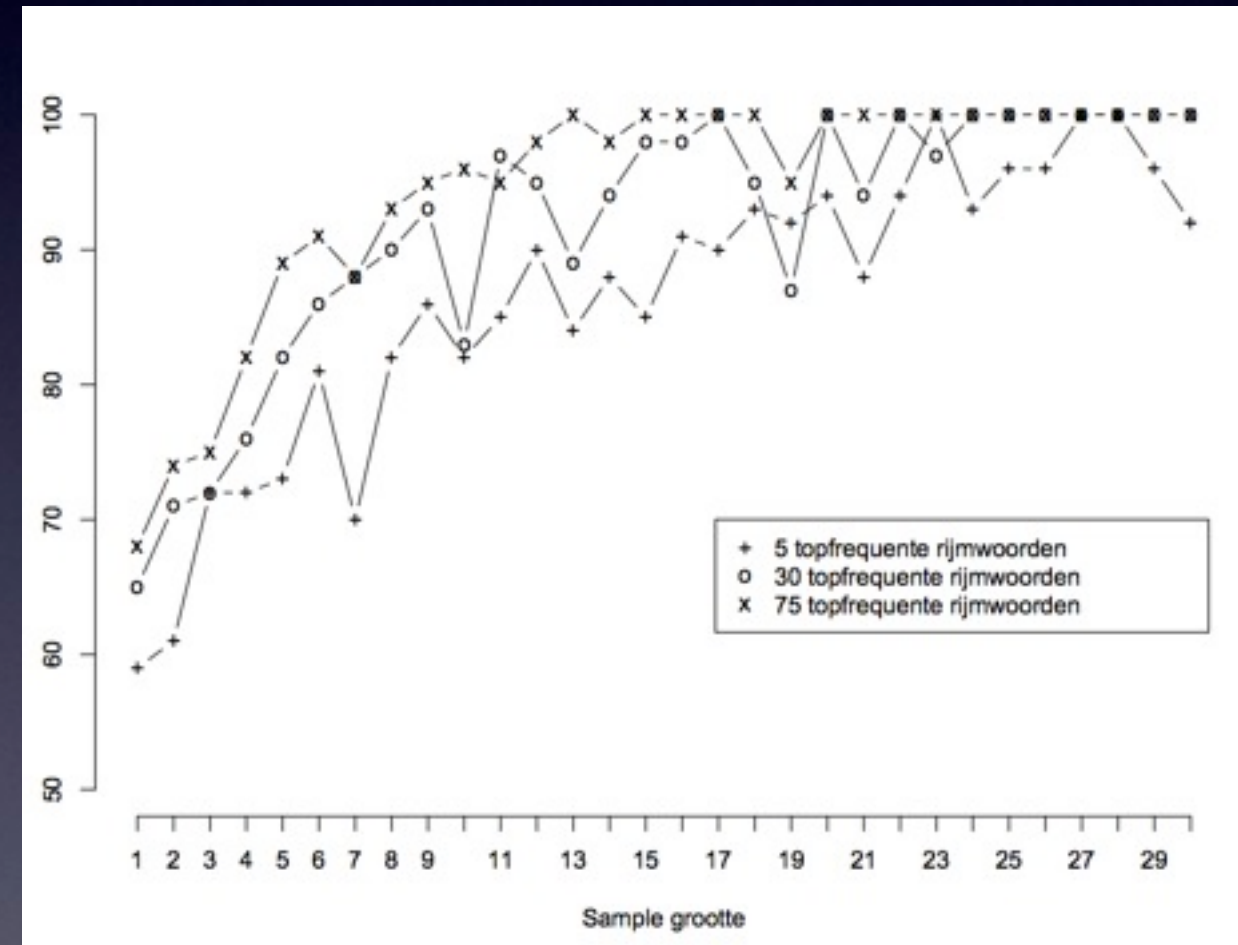
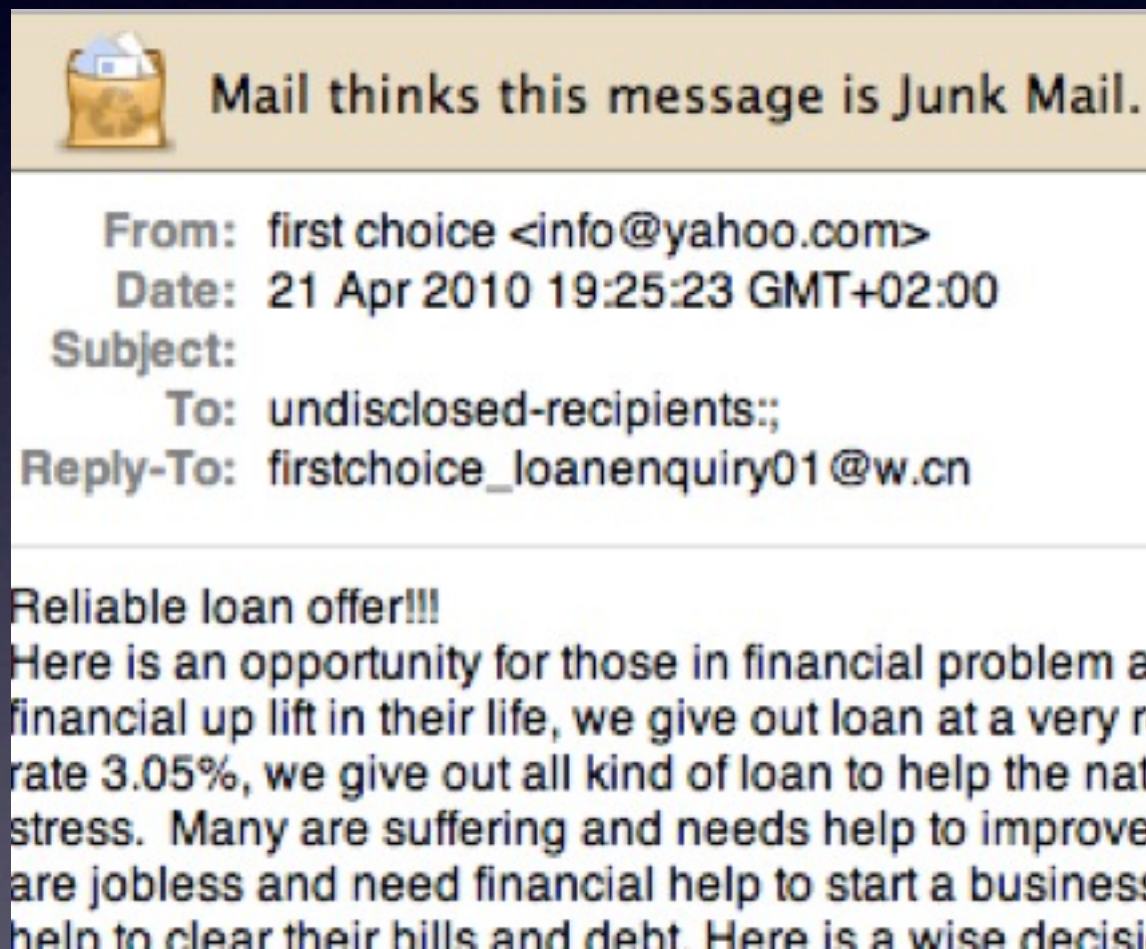




Jacob van Maerlant | Filip Utenbroeke

Tekstclassificatie

Spam filtering



Die vader die
al heuet gena
et. Dat m
die werelt na
et en waert.
en dat luf en
voeme heuet

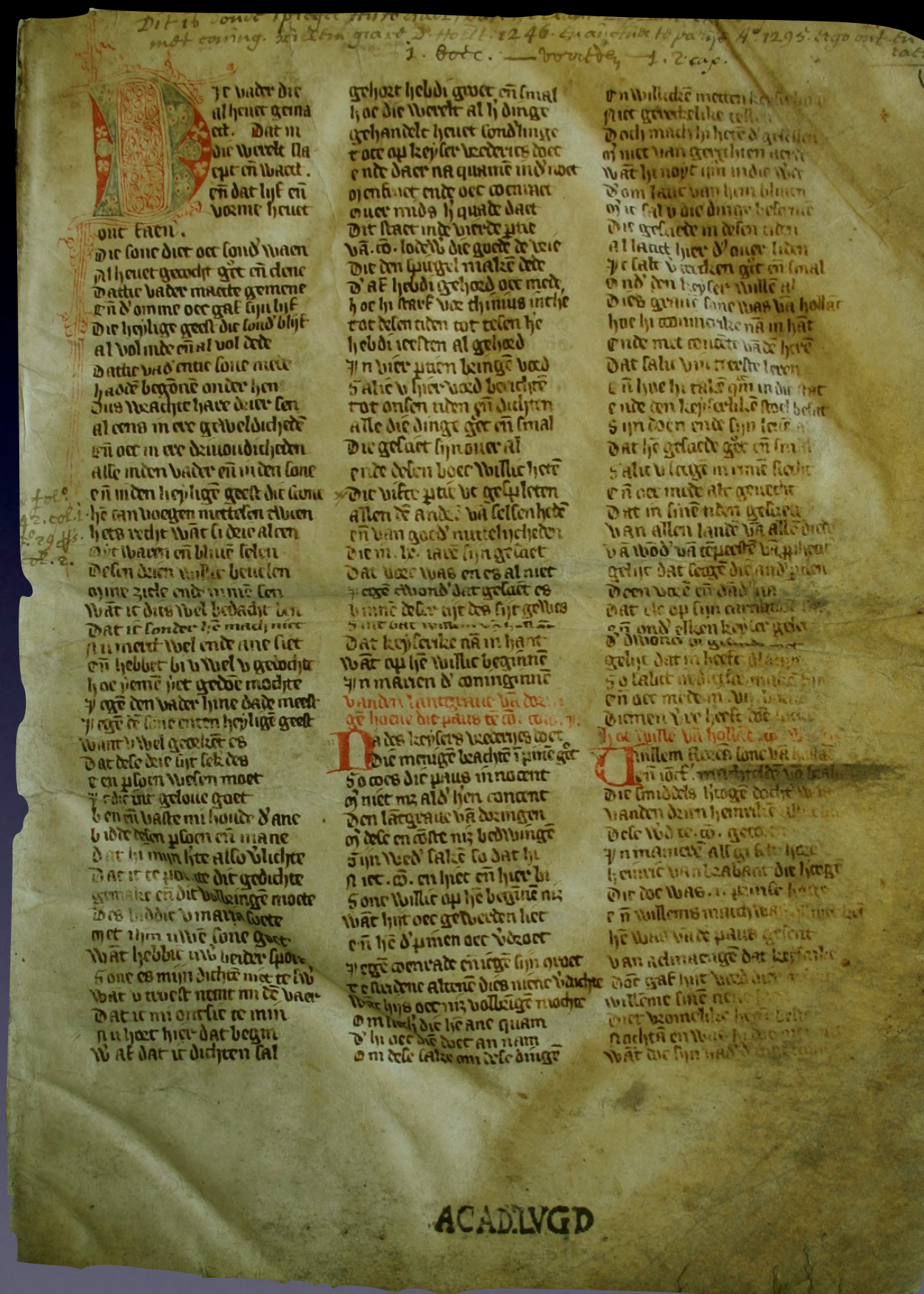
ont faen.
die sone die oec sond waen
al heuet geacht get en dene
dattie vader maecte gemene
en d'omme oec gaf luf luf
die heilige geest die sond blyt
al vol inde en al vol dede
dattie vader enne sone maecte
hadde begone onder hen
dus waechte hare dier sen
al eens in ere geweldichede
en oec in ere deuoudicheden
alle inden vader en in den sone
en in den heilige geest die sone
he can voegen metelen elken
heer vechte wat si die alen
die waen en blide selen
desen dien v... beuelen
oyne ziele end in me sen
wat ic dies wel bedacht ben
dat ic sonde he mach niet
si u maect wel ende ane liet
en hebbet bi u wel v geochte
hoe yeme het gedde mochte
y ege den vader hine dade meel
y ege de sone enen heilige geest
want u wel geochte es
dat dese die luf se des
en pson welen moet
y ege die geloue goet
ben en vatte mi houde danc
b ide den pson en mane
dat hi myn hee also vlichte
dat ic te p... die gedichte
gemake en dit volkeinge moete
des liddie v... wete
met ihm u... sone goet
wat hebbet u... beider spore
sone es mijn diche met te luf
wat u weest nemt mi de vaer
dat ic nu ontlic te min
nu hoer hier dat begin
wat dat ic dichten sal

gehoert hebdi goet en smal
hoe die werelt al h dinge
gehandele heuet sondlinge
et oec op keiser wederics doet
ende dater na quame in d'waer
oer en hiet en oec coeniet
oer mids h quade daet
dit staet inde vierde yue
va. co. loede die goede de reie
die den lufgel maecte dede
d'ae hebdi gehoert oec mede
hoe hi staet v... thinius inche
tot desen tiden tot telen he
hebdi iersten al gehoert
y n vier yuen leinge v...
s alie v hier v... bechre
tot onsen tiden en dichten
alle die dinge get en smal
die gesaet luf en oer al
ende desen boec willec hore
die vste yue de gesloten
allen de ande v... sellen hede
en van goed nuttelicheden
die m. le. iace luf gesaet
dat voer was en es al niet
y ege d'waer dat gesaet es
v... d'elc af des luf geloes
s... dat v...
dat keiserike na in hant
wat op he willec beginne
y n maen d' coning ruit
vanden lantgraue v... d'...
ge hoene die p... te co. co. y.
Die menige lechte y... ge
so coes die p... in noent
of niet m... ald' hen conent
den lantgraue v... d'...
of dese en coe m... bedwingen
sijn v... sake so dat hi
n iet. co. en hiet en hiet bi
sone willec op he beginne m...
wat hiet oec gebeden hiet
en he d'pimen oec v...
y ege conrade en iage luf groet
te elidene alene dies m... v...
wat hys oec m... volkeinge mochte
om luf die he ane quam
d'hi oec die doet an nam
om dese sake om dese dinge

en willec meten keiserike
niet gebedelike tellen
doch mach hi hore d' gesellen
of niet van gesellen aere
wat hi noyt in indie d'...
som laet van hen blimen
of ic sal v die dinge belome
die gesaet in desen tiden
al laet hier d'ouer tiden
y e late v... d'... get en smal
ond den keiser willec al
dies grane sone was v... hollar
hoe hi conuolke na in hat
ende met conate vade here
dat salu v... t... leen
en hoe hi tal... qm in die t...
ende den keiserike stoel belat
sijn den ende luf luf
dat he gesaet get en smal
s alie v... m... s...
en oec mede al geueche
dat in luf inden gesaet
van allen lande v... alle d'...
v... v... v... v...
gelic dat lege die and' yuen
doen v... en d'...
dat de op luf car...
d' d'... d'...
gelic dat in hore d'...
so latic in d'... m...
en oec mede m... d'...
d'... v... hore d'...
hoe willec v... hollar
d'... d'... d'...
die smidde l... d'...
vanden d'... h...
d'... d'... d'...
y n m... all... hore
h... v... d'...
die doe was... hore
en willems m...
he w... v... d'...
van ad... d'...
d'... d'... d'...
willeme luf...
d'... d'...
nacht en v... d'...
wat die luf v... d'...

ACAD.LVGD

Laatste deel, ca. 1316:
Lodewijk van Velthem
Vierde en Vijfde Partie



Top 25			
	Utenbroeke	Maerlant	Velthem
Utenbroeke	15	0	0
Maerlant	0	15	0
Velthem	1	0	14
Top 50			
	Utenbroeke	Maerlant	Velthem
Utenbroeke	15	0	0
Maerlant	0	15	0
Velthem	0	1	14
Top 75			
	Utenbroeke	Maerlant	Velthem
Utenbroeke	15	0	0
Maerlant	0	15	0
Velthem	0	1	14

4de boek steeds “fout”
toegeschreven...

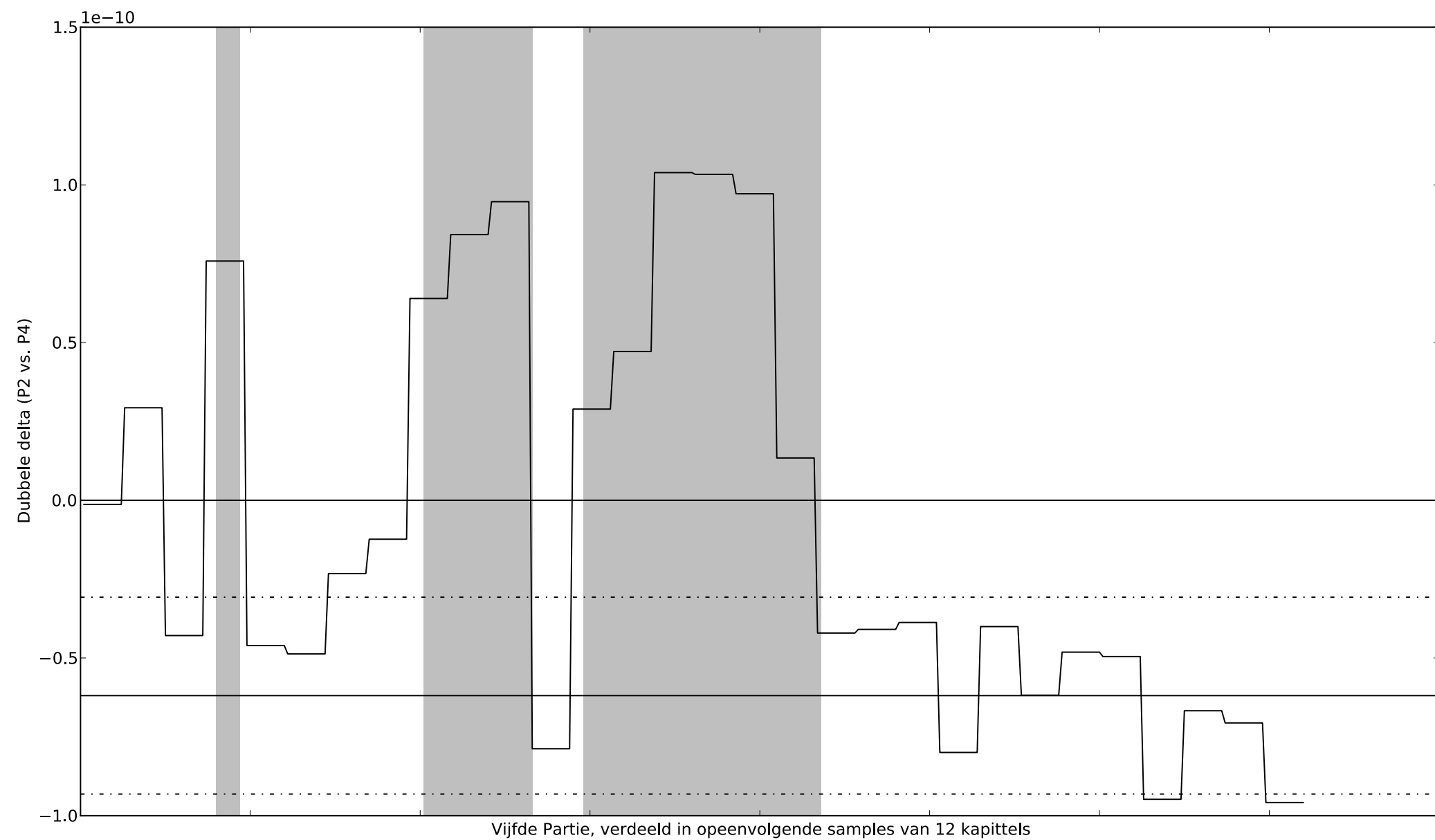
Guldensporenslag, 1302



Jan van Heelu Slag bij Woeringen 1288



Stijlcurve Velthems Vijfde Partie...



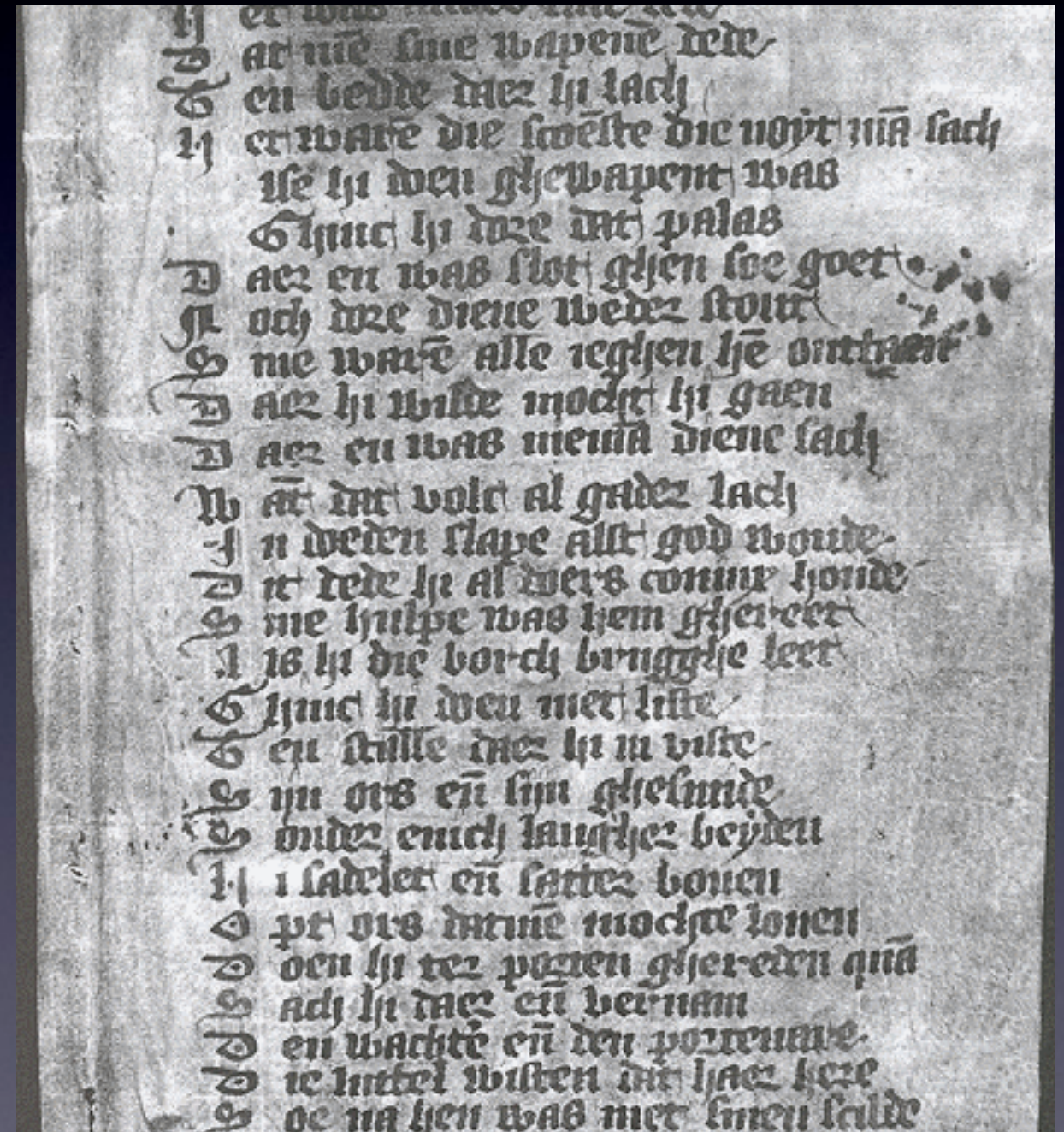


“Ontleende” Velthem een
reeds bestaand Vlaams
ooggetuigeverslag?
(serendipiteit...)

Wij willen Gedenke ons op goud
of de blaminge laet ons laic
eclant men so dat Gyt hende
le die he me bejorden
Hartike volcom

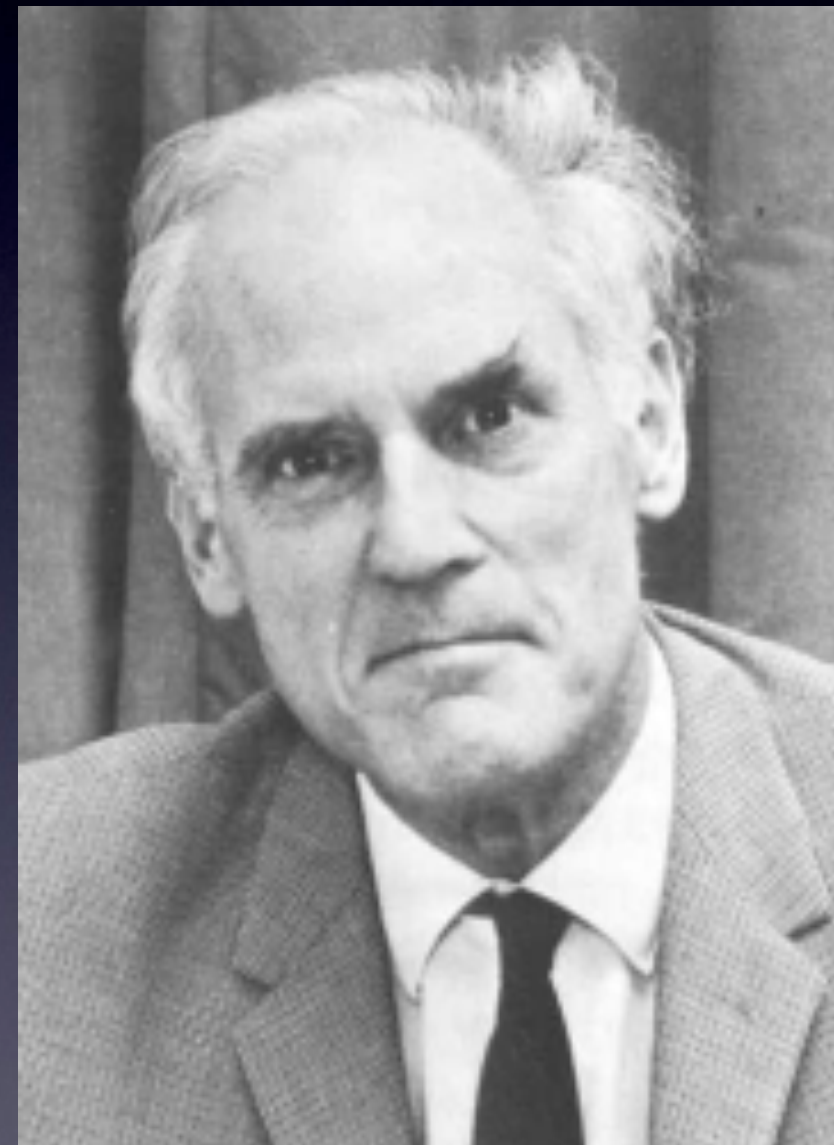
Karel ende Elegast

- Icoon Mnl'se literatuur
- 13e eeuw (?), Vlaanderen
- Anoniem, berijmd verhaal
- *Fraeye historie ende al waer*
- Nachtelijke rooftocht van Karel de Grote en Elegast



K.H. Heeroma (1909-1972)

- Nederlands filoloog, zelf dichter
- “Subjectieve” stilistische analyse
- Controversieel
- “Hoorde” zelfde stem in *Elegast* en *Moriaen*
- Zelfde auteur?



Moriaen

- Koning Artur en Rondetafelridders
- Moriaen, zwarte ridder uit Afrika
- Op zoek naar biologische vader
- Eerste Nederlandse roman met zwart hoofdpersoonage
- Ongebruikelijk onderwerp

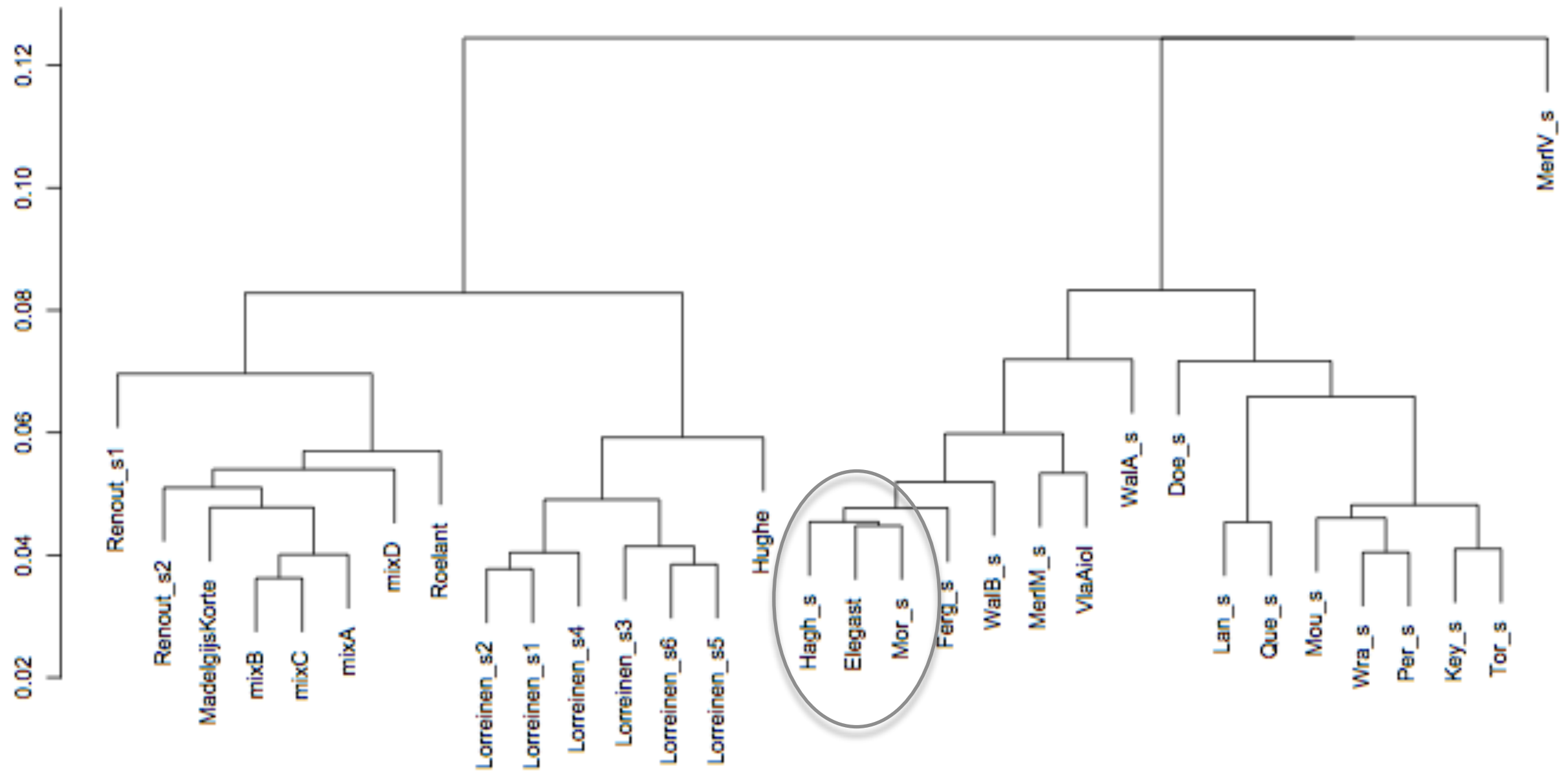


Icarus...

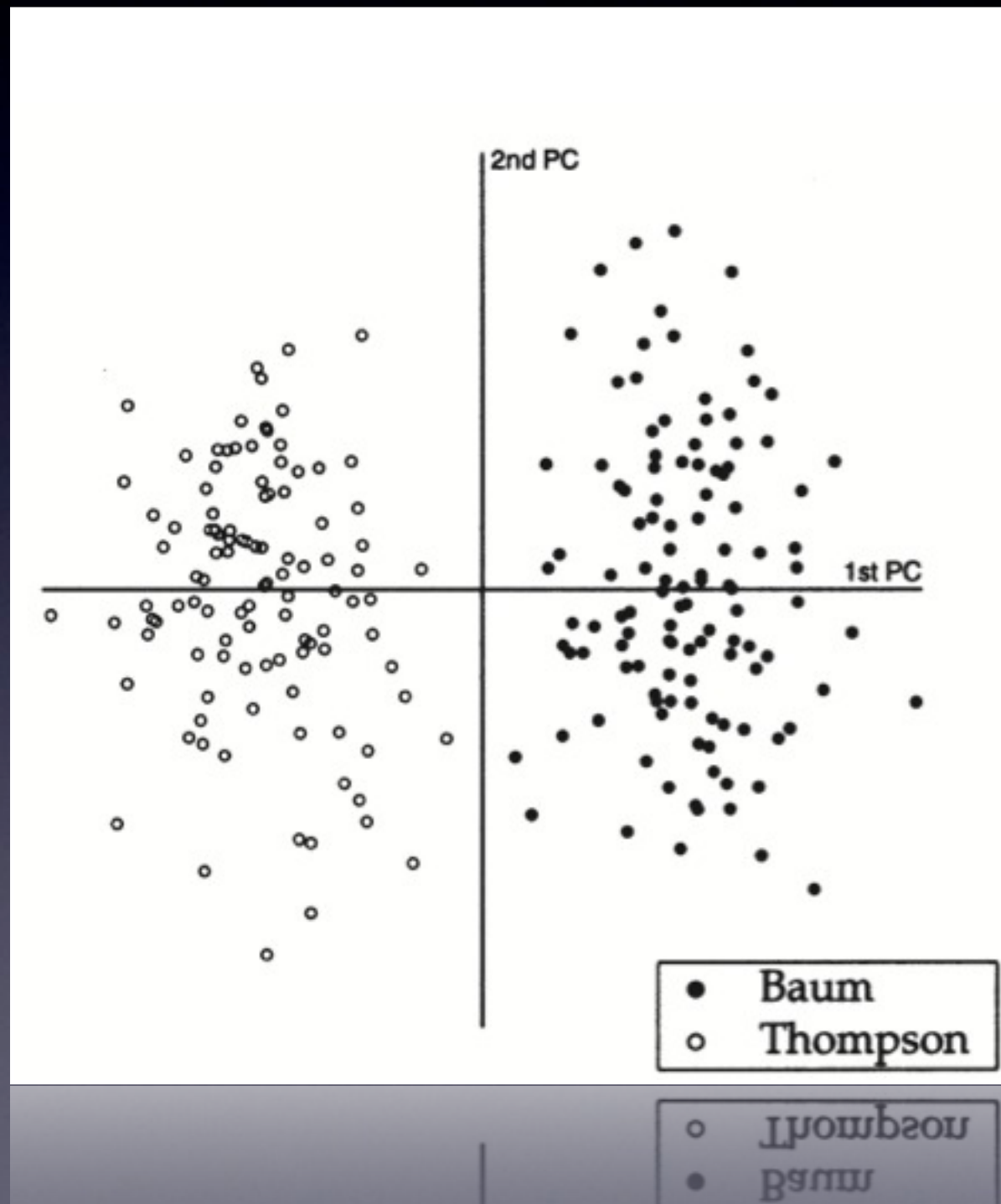


- Toeschrijving afgewezen...
- Té subjectief
- *Ohrenphilologie* ≠ wetenschap
- Bijnaam “Icarus”
- Stylometrie?!

Genres: Serendipiteit?



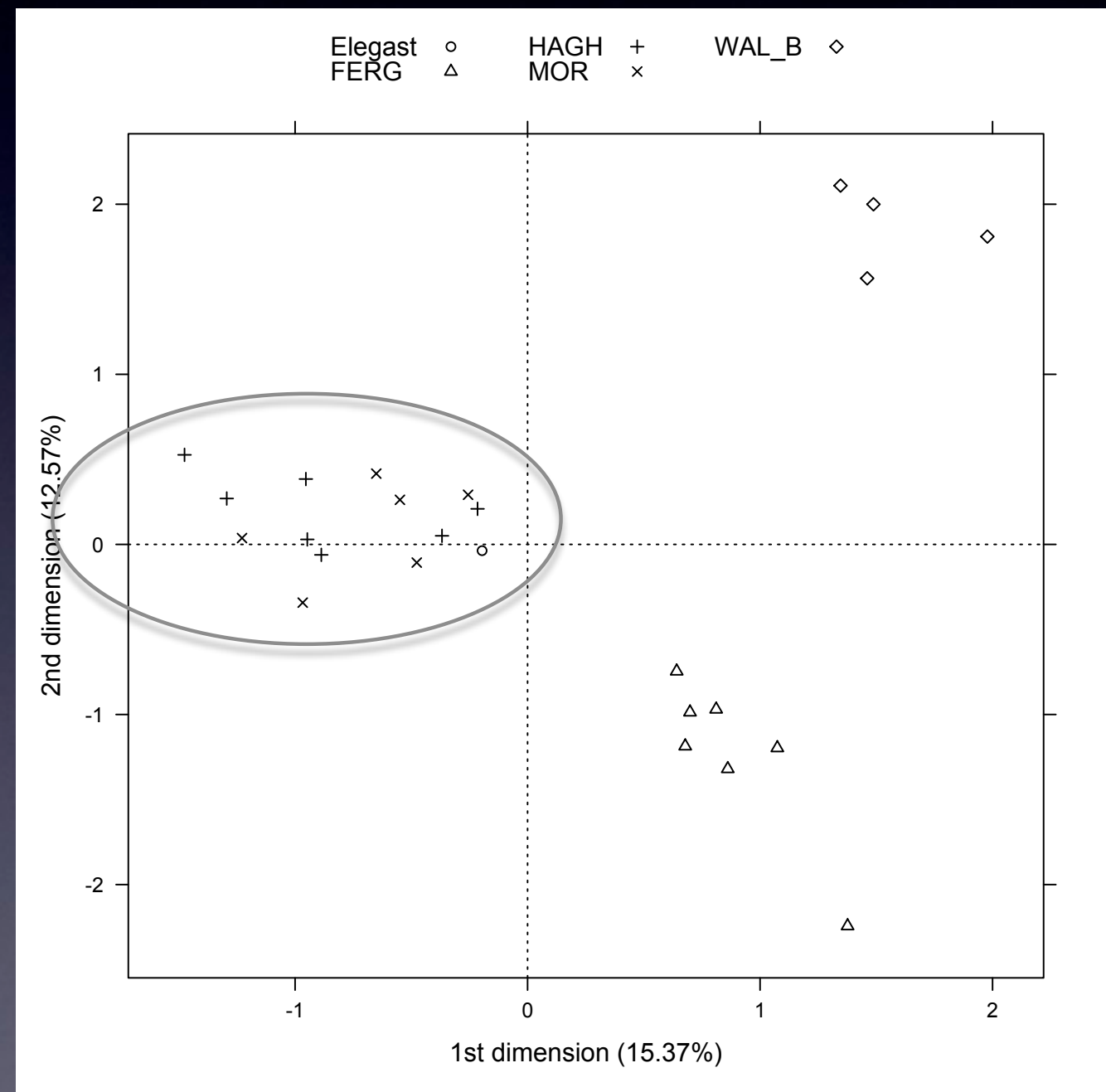
Dimensie-reductie



- Terugdringen # variabelen
- **Abstracte, latente dimensies**
- Heel populair in stylometrie
- Attributie via clusters
- Bv. PCA, CA, MDS, ...

Eerherstel?

- Correspondentie-analyse
- Sterkst verwant in ridderepiek
- **Meting bevestigt buikgevoel**
- Eerherstel Heeroma?
- (Maar Gruuthuse...)

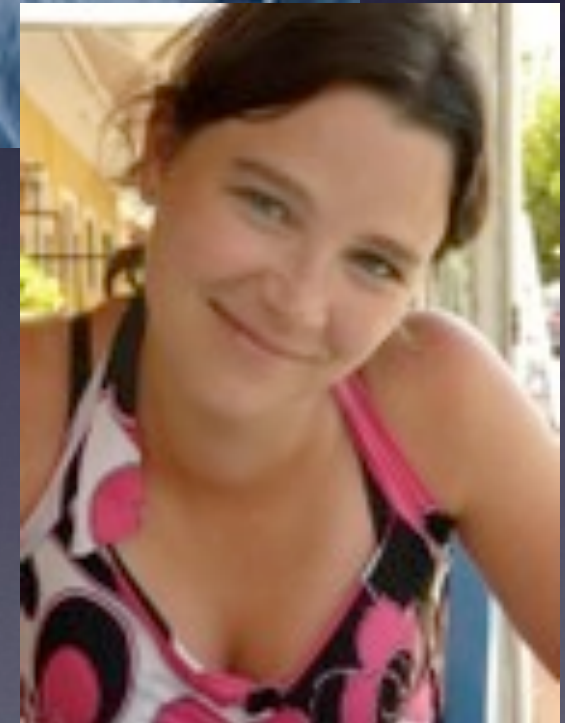
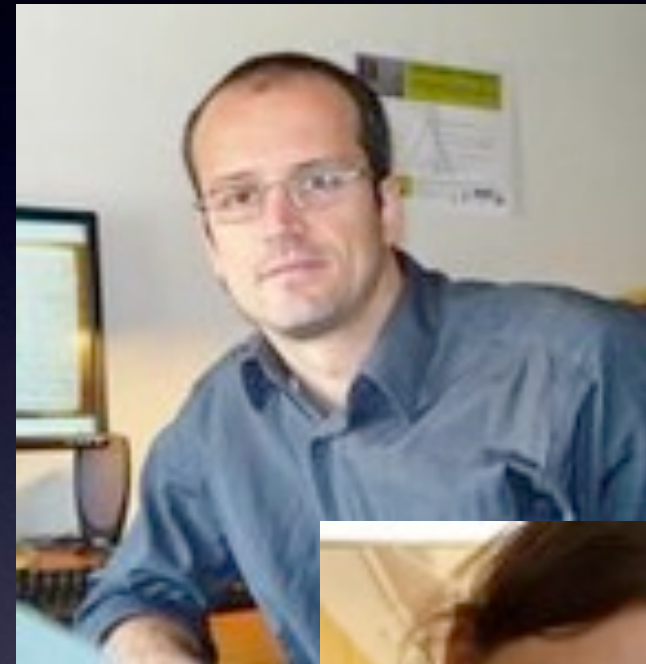


Momenteel...

- FWO-postdoc (2012-2015)
- Uitbreiding stylometrie:
 - proza
 - Latijn
- Veel **groter toepassingsgebied**

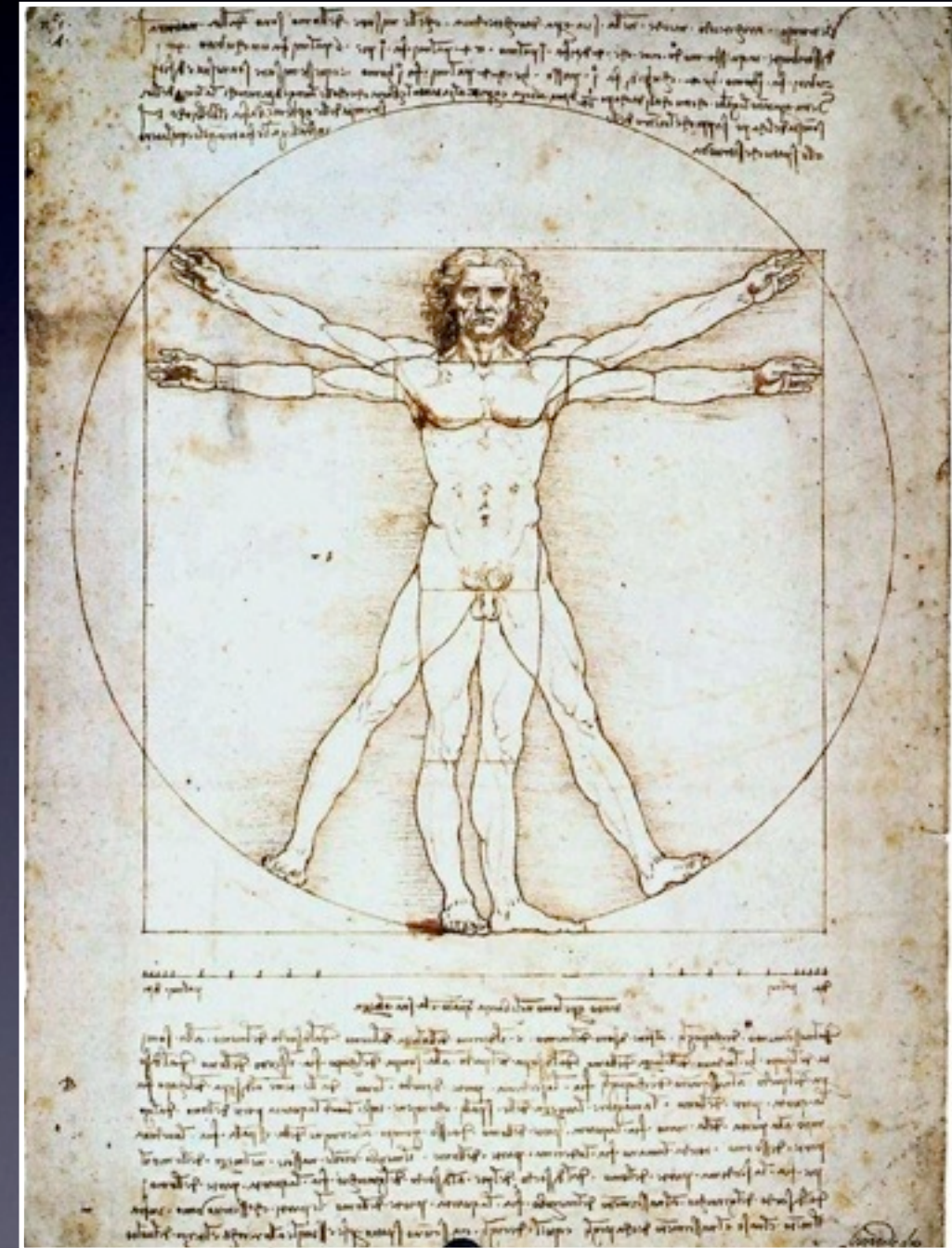
Latijnse mediëvistiek?

- J. Deploige & S. Moens
- Editie 2 korte tekstjes:
 - *Visio de sancto Martino*
 - *Visio ad Guibertum missa*
- Toegeschreven aan Hildegard van Bingen
- Twijfels...



Vitruvische man (LDO)

Renaissance 12e eeuw



Hildegard von Bingen

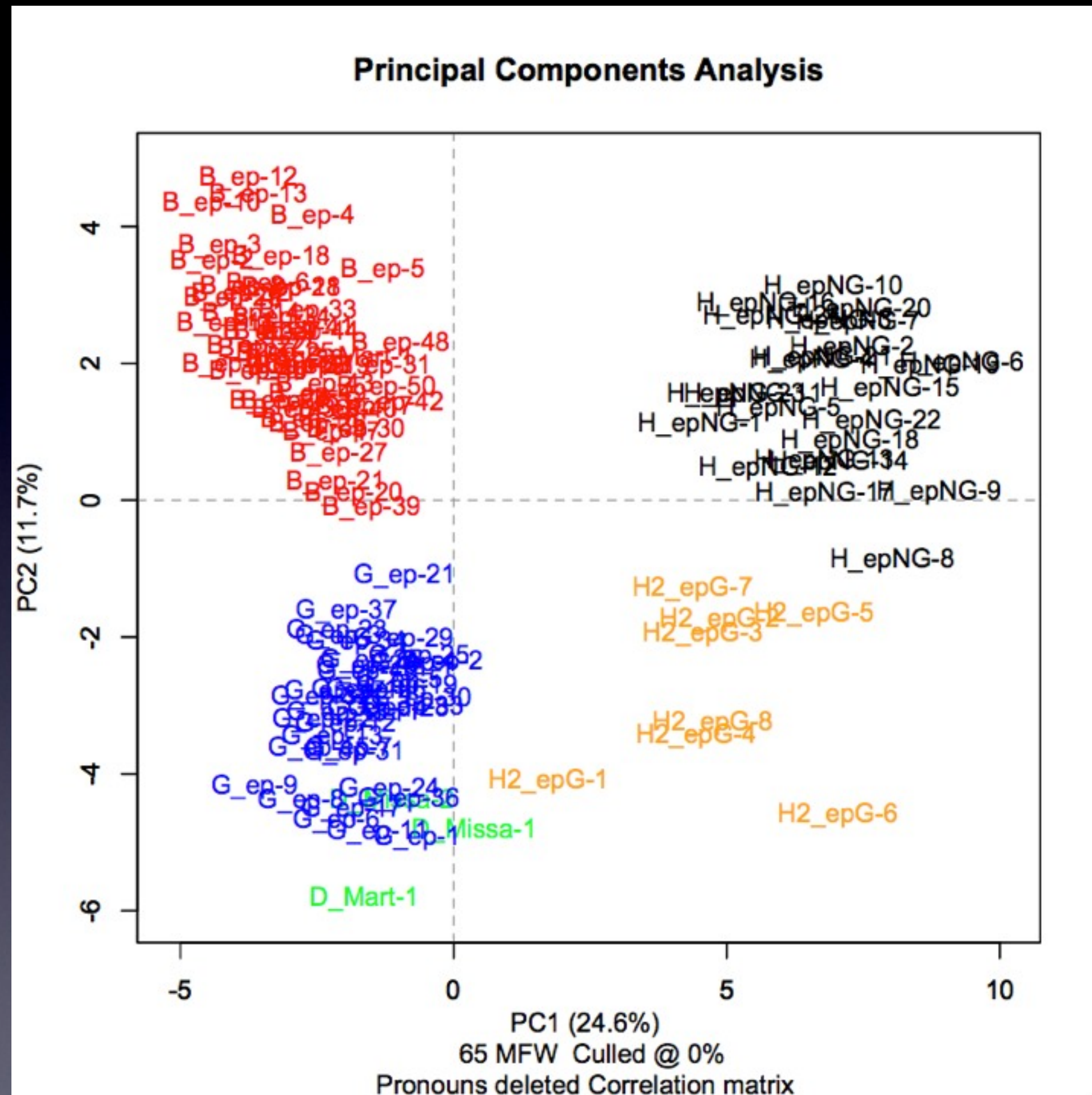
- Rijnlandse mystica (1098-1179)
- Hoog aanzien (Bernardus, paus, ...)
- Mystieke visioenen:
 - Dicteerde aan secretarissen
 - Latijn niet volledig machtig (*indocta*)
- Complex “auteurschap”



Laatste secretaris: Guibert van Gembloux

When you correct [the *Visio de sancto Martino*] you should keep to this rule: that adding, subtracting, and **changing nothing**, you apply your skill only to make corrections where the order or the rules of **correct Latin** are violated. Or if you prefer – and this is something I have conceded in this letter **beyond my normal practice** – you need not hesitate to clothe the whole sequence of the vision in **a more becoming garment of speech**.

- Stylometrische vingerafdruk
- Toeschrijving onder druk...
- Synergy hypothesis



Meerwaarde stylometrie?

- Erg gerichte applicatie in DH
- Meerwaarde:
 - Falsifiëren oude inzichten
 - Genereren nieuwe inzichten
- Serendipiteit als nevenproduct van *distant reading*

Het gewicht van de
auteur
Stylometrische
auteursherkenning in
Middel nederlandse literatuur

Mike Kestemont



Gent, Koninklijke Academie voor
Nederlandse Taal- en Letterkunde, 2013

Toekomst?

- Breder dan stylometrie en mediëvistiek
- *TIME Magazine* archief (i.s.m. Folgert Karsdorp; 1920s-2000s)
- **Big Data & Humanities**: onderschat probleem
- Recente reeks papers:
 - toptijdschriften
 - “geesteswetenschappelijk”
 - retoriek van de Big Data
 - methodologie unaniem verworpen door vakgenoten

Google Books paper

- Science paper
- Google books corpus
- Michel et al.
- “Culturomics”
- Woordfrequenties
- Diachroon

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Quantitative Analysis of Culture Using Millions of Digitized Books

Jean-Baptiste Michel,^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7} Yuan Kui Shen,^{2,6,7} Ariva Presser Alden,^{2,6,8} Adrian Veres,^{2,6,9} Matthew K. Gray,¹⁰ The Google Books Team,¹⁰ Joseph P. Pickett,¹¹ Dale Holberg,¹² Dan Clancy,¹³ Peter Norvig,¹⁴ Jon Orwant,¹⁵ Steven Pinker,⁵ Martin A. Nowak,^{1,3,16} Erez Lieberman Aiden^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,17,18}

We constructed a corpus of digitized texts containing about 4% of all books ever printed. Analysis of this corpus enables us to investigate cultural trends quantitatively. We survey the vast terrain of ‘culturomics,’ focusing on linguistic and cultural phenomena that were reflected in the English language between 1800 and 2000. We show how this approach can provide insights about fields as diverse as lexicography, the evolution of grammar, collective memory, the adoption of technology, the pursuit of fame, censorship, and historical epidemiology. Culturomics extends the boundaries of rigorous quantitative inquiry to a wide array of new phenomena spanning the social sciences and the humanities.

Reading small collections of carefully chosen works enables scholars to make powerful inferences about trends in human thought. However, this approach rarely enables precise measurement of the underlying phenomena. Attempts to introduce quantitative methods into the study of culture (1–6) have been hampered by the lack of suitable data.

We report the creation of a corpus of 3,193,769 digitized books containing ~4% of all books ever published. Computational analysis of this corpus enables us to observe cultural trends and subject them to quantitative investigation. ‘Culturomics’ extends the boundaries of scientific inquiry to a wide array of new phenomena.

The corpus has emerged from Google’s effort to digitize books. Most books were drawn from over 40 university libraries around the world. Each page was scanned with custom equipment (7), and the text was digitized by means of optical character recognition (OCR). Additional volumes, both physical and digital, were contributed

by publishers. Metadata describing the date and place of publication were provided by the libraries and publishers and supplemented with bibliographic databases. Over 15 million books have been digitized [~12% of all books ever published (7)]. We selected a subset of over 5 million books for analysis on the basis of the quality of their OCR and metadata (Fig. 1A and fig. S1) (7). Periodicals were excluded.

The resulting corpus contains over 500 billion words, in English (161 billion), French (45 billion), Spanish (45 billion), German (37 billion), Chinese (13 billion), Russian (35 billion), and Hebrew (2 billion). The oldest works were published in the 1500s. The early decades are represented by only a few books per year, comprising several hundred thousand words. By 1800, the corpus grows to 98 million words per year; by 1900, 1.8 billion; and by 2000, 11 billion (fig. S2).

The corpus cannot be read by a human. If you tried to read only English-language entries from the year 2000 alone, at the reasonable pace of 200 words/min, without interruptions for food or sleep, it would take 80 years. The sequence of letters is 1000 times longer than the human genome: If you wrote it out in a straight line, it would reach to the Moon and back 90 times over (8).

To make release of the data possible in light of copyright constraints, we restricted this initial study to the question of how often a given 1-gram or *n*-gram was used over time. A 1-gram is a string of characters uninterrupted by a space; this includes words (“banana”, “SCUBA”) but also numbers (“3.14159”) and typos (“encense”). An *n*-gram is a sequence of 1-grams, such as the phrases “stock market” (a 2-gram) and “the United States of America” (a 5-gram). We restricted *n* to 5 and limited our study to *n*-grams occurring at least 40 times in the corpus.

Usage frequency is computed by dividing the number of instances of the *n*-gram in a given year by the total number of words in the corpus in that year. For instance, in 1861, the 1-gram “slavery” appeared in the corpus 21,460 times, on 11,687

pages of 1298 books. The corpus contains 386,434,758 words from 1861; thus, the frequency is 5.5×10^{-5} . The use of “slavery” peaked during the Civil War (early 1860s) and then again during the civil rights movement (1955–1968) (Fig. 1B).

In contrast, we compare the frequency of “the Great War” to the frequencies of “World War I” and “World War II”. References to “the Great War” peak between 1915 and 1941. But although its frequency drops thereafter, interest in the underlying events had not disappeared; instead, they are referred to as “World War I” (Fig. 1C).

These examples highlight two central factors that contribute to culturomic trends. Cultural change guides the concepts we discuss (such as “slavery”). Linguistic change, which, of course, has cultural roots, affects the words we use for those concepts (“the Great War” versus “World War I”). In this paper, we examine both linguistic changes, such as changes in the lexicon and grammar, and cultural phenomena, such as how we remember people and events.

The full data set, which comprises over two billion culturomic trajectories, is available for download or exploration at www.culturomics.org and ngrams.googlelabs.com.

The size of the English lexicon. How many words are in the English language (9)?

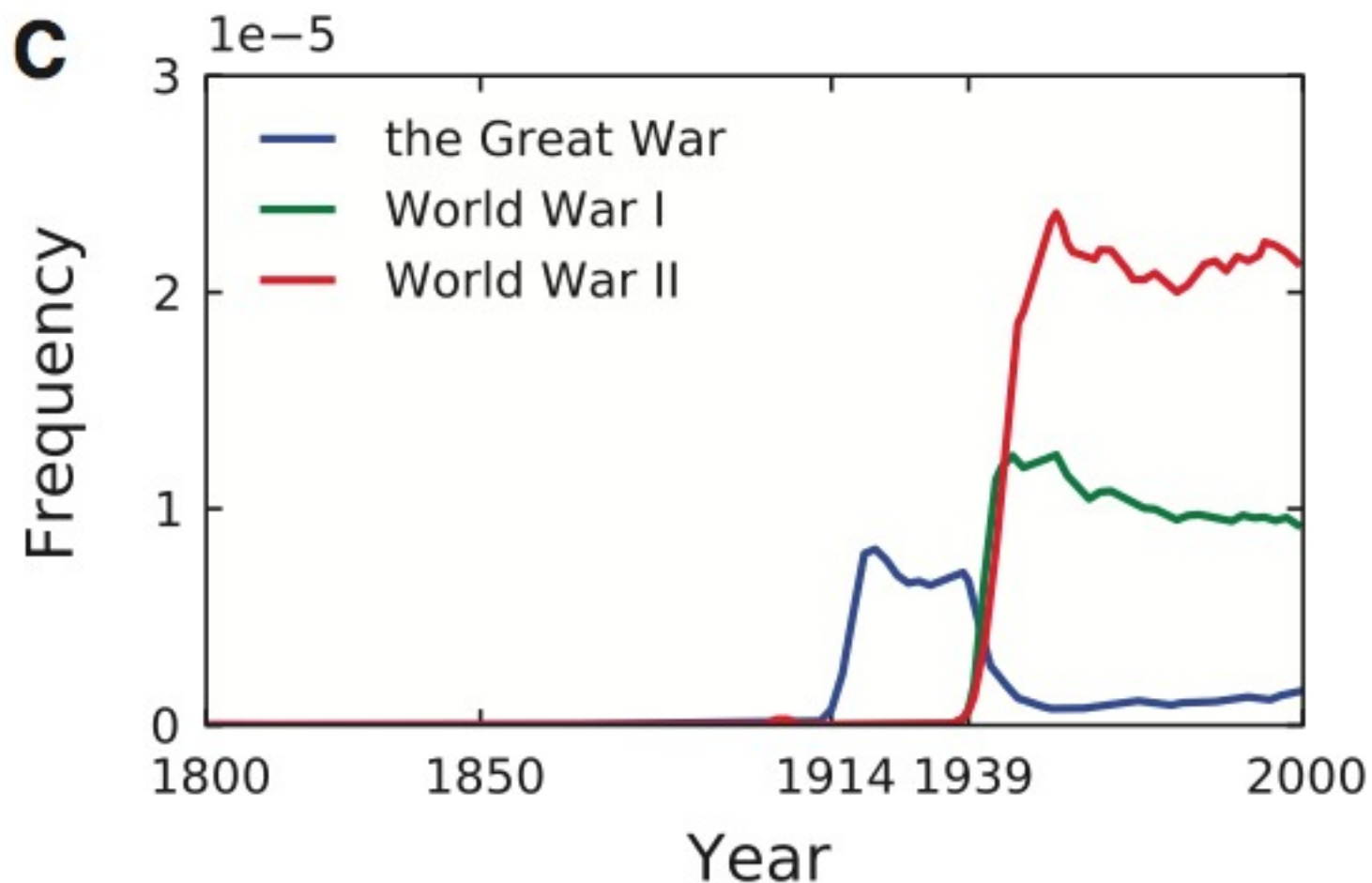
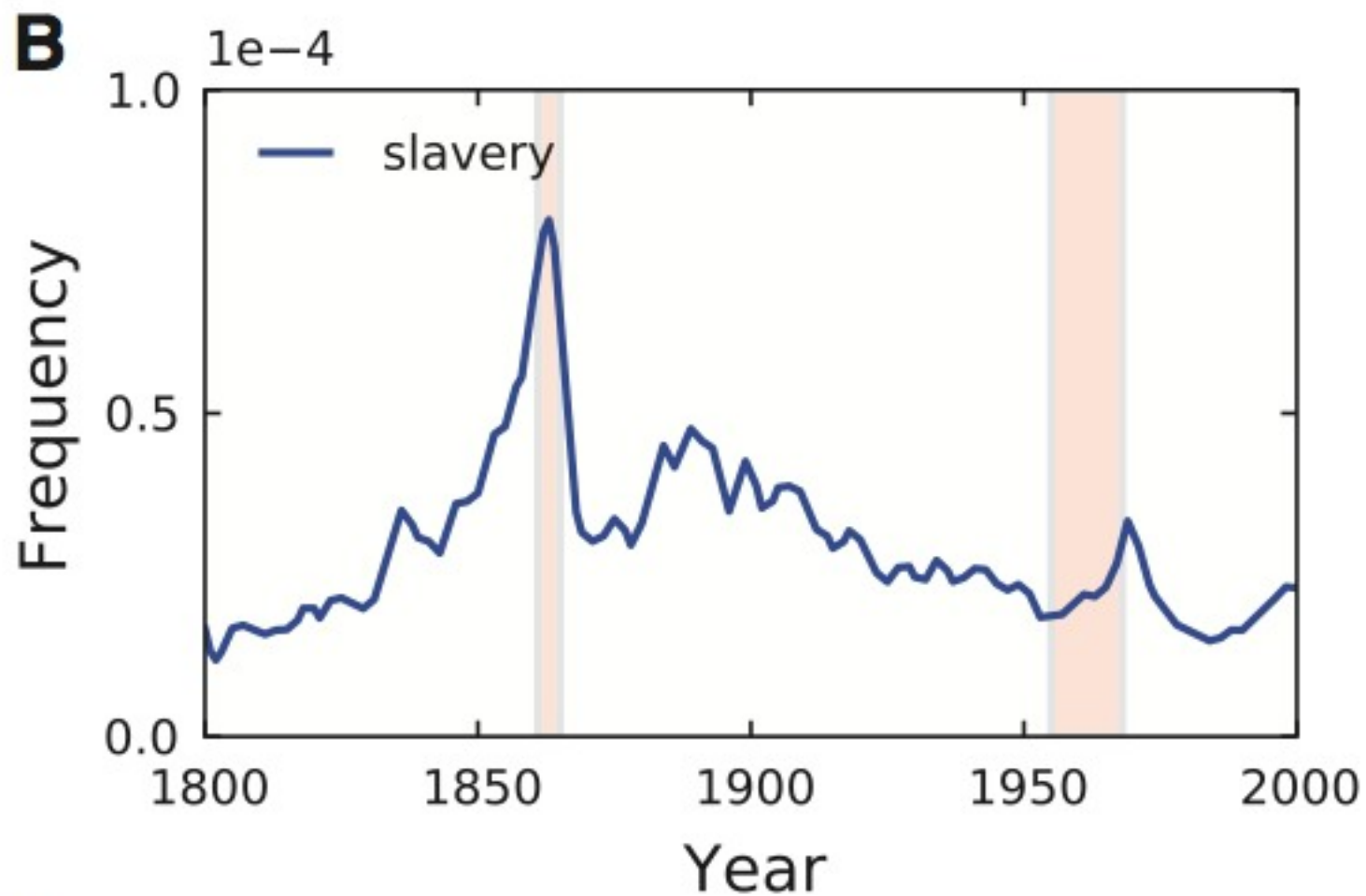
We call a 1-gram “common” if its frequency is greater than one per billion. [This corresponds to the frequency of the words listed in leading dictionaries (7) (fig. S3).] We compiled a list of all common 1-grams in 1900, 1950, and 2000, based on the frequency of each 1-gram in the preceding decade. These lists contained 1,117,997 common 1-grams in 1900, 1,102,920 in 1950, and 1,489,337 in 2000.

Not all common 1-grams are English words. Many fell into three nonword categories: (i) 1-grams with nonalphabetic characters (“%”, “3.14159”), (ii) misspellings (“because”, “abbeverion”), and (iii) foreign words (“sensitivo”).

To estimate the number of English words, we manually annotated random samples from the lists of common 1-grams (7) and determined what fraction were members of the above nonword categories. The result ranged from 51% of all common 1-grams in 1900 to 33% in 2000.

Using this technique, we estimated the number of words in the English lexicon as 544,000 in 1900, 597,000 in 1950, and 1,022,000 in 2000. The lexicon is enjoying a period of enormous growth: The addition of ~8500 words/year has increased the size of the language by over 70% during the past 50 years (Fig. 2A).

Notably, we found more words than appear in any dictionary. For instance, the 2002 *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary* (W3), which keeps track of the contemporary American lexicon, lists approximately 348,000 single-word wordforms (10); the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition* (AHD4) lists 136,361 (11). (Both contain additional multiword entries.) Part of this gap is because dictionaries often



Tikje **simplistisch** (?),
maar hoe beter doen?

Ultraconserved words point to deep language ancestry across Eurasia

Mark Pagel^{1,2,3}, Quentin D. Atkinson¹, Andrea S. Calude⁴, and Andrew Meade⁵

¹School of Biological Sciences, University of Reading, Reading, Berkshire RG6 6AS, United Kingdom; ²Santa Fe Institute, Santa Fe, NM 87501; ³School of Psychology, University of Auckland, Auckland 1142, New Zealand; and ⁴Linguistics Programme, University of Waikato, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

Edited by Colin Barthelemy, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, and approved April 15, 2013 (received for review October 31, 2012)

The search for ever deeper relationships among the world's languages is bedeviled by the fact that most words evolve too rapidly to preserve evidence of their ancestry beyond 5,000 to 10,000 y. On the other hand, quantitative modeling indicates that some "ultraconserved" words exist that might be used to find evidence for deep linguistic relationships beyond that time barrier. Here we use a statistical model, which takes into account the frequency with which words are used in common everyday speech, to predict the existence of a set of such highly conserved words among seven language families of Eurasia postulated to form a linguistic superfamily that evolved from a common ancestor around 15,000 y ago. We derive a dated phylogenetic tree of this proposed superfamily with a time-depth of ~14,450 y, implying that some frequently used words have been retained in related forms since the end of the last ice age. Words used more than once per 1,000 in everyday speech were 7- to 10-times more likely to show deep ancestry on this tree. Our results suggest a remarkable fidelity in the transmission of some words and give theoretical justification to the search for features of language that might be preserved across wide spans of time and geography.

cultural evolution | phylogeny | historical linguistics

The English word *brother* and the French *frère* are related to the Sanskrit *Bhratṛ* and the Latin *frater*, suggesting that words as more sounds can remain associated with the same meaning for millennia. But how far back in time can traces of a word's genealogical history persist, and can we predict which words are likely to show deep ancestry?

These questions are central to ancient history and to efforts to identify linguistic world's languages (1-5). Evidence for as much as Amerind (6), linking most of the New World, and Nostratic (7-9) and Fin the major language families of Eurasia-identification of putative "cognate" words (in biology), the sound and meaning correspondence thought to indicate that they derive from a common ancestor. Such evidence is often criticized for it words are thought to suffer from too much erosion to allow secure identification of 5,000 to 10,000 y (11, 12), and second, even cognates can be identified, proponents ships have been unable to provide statistical resemblances they have found are beyond by chance between unrelated languages (13). Both objections can be overcome if a class of words exists whose members' soundness are expected to last long via their ancestry between language families of years, and (iv) these ultraconserved words are independent of their own other words. Regarding the former, we

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We report the creation of a corpus of 5,195,769 digitized books containing ~4% of all books ever published. Computational analysis of this corpus enables us to observe cultural trends and subject them to quantitative investigation. "Culturistics" extends the boundaries of scientific inquiry to a wide array of new phenomena.

The corpus has emerged from Google's effort to digitize books. Most books were drawn from over 40 university libraries around the world. Each page was scanned with custom equipment (7), and the text was digitized by means of optical character recognition (OCR). Additional volumes, both physical and digital, were contributed

by publishers. Metadata describing the date and place of publication were provided by the libraries and publishers and supplemented with bibliographic databases. Over 13 million books have been digitized (~12% of all books ever published) (7). We selected a subset of over 5 million books for analysis on the basis of the quality of their OCR and metadata (Fig. S1 and Fig. S1) (7). Periodicals were excluded.

The resulting corpus contains over 500 billion words, in English (361 billion), French (45 billion), Spanish (45 billion), German (37 billion), Chinese (13 billion), Russian (35 billion), and Hebrew (12 billion). The oldest works were published in the 1500s. The early decades are represented by only a few books per year, comprising several hundred thousand words. By 1800, the corpus grows to 98 million words per year; by 1900, 1.8 billion; and by 2000, 11 billion (Fig. S2).

The corpus cannot be read by a human. If you tried to read only English-language entries from the year 2000 alone, at the reasonable pace of 200 words/min, without interruptions for food or sleep, it would take 80 years. The sequence of letters is 2000 times longer than the human genome: If you wrote it out in a straight line, it would reach to the Moon and back 30 times over (8).

To make release of the data possible in light of copyright constraints, we restricted this initial study to the question of how often a given 1-gram or n-gram was used over time. A 1-gram is a string of characters unsegmented by a space; this includes words ("house", "SCUBA") but also nonwords ("3.14159") and typos ("morse"). An n-gram is a sequence of 1-grams, such as the phrase "stock market" (a 3-gram) and "the United States of America" (a 5-gram). We restricted n to 5 and limited our study to n-grams occurring at least 40 times in the corpus.

Usage frequency is computed by dividing the number of instances of the n-gram in a given year by the total number of words in the corpus in that year. For instance, in 1881, the 1-gram "slavery" appeared in the corpus 21,660 times, or 11,667

pages of 1208 books. The corpus contains 386,434,758 words from 1800; thus, the frequency is 5.5×10^{-5} . The use of "slavery" peaked during the Civil War (early 1860s) and then again during the civil rights movement (1955-1968) (Fig. 1B).

In contrast, we compare the frequency of "the Great War" to the frequencies of "World War I" and "World War II". References to "the Great War" peak between 1913 and 1941. But although its frequency drops thereafter, interest in the underlying events did not dissipate; instead, they are referred to as "World War I" (Fig. 1C).

These examples highlight two central factors that contribute to culturistics trends. Cultural change guides the concepts we discuss (such as "slavery"). Linguistic change, which, of course, has cultural roots, affects the words we use for those concepts ("the Great War" versus "World War I"). In this paper, we examine both linguistic changes, such as changes in the lexicon and grammar, and cultural phenomena, such as how we remember people and events.

The full data set, which comprises over two billion culturistics inquiries, is available for download or exploration at www.culturistics.org and ngrams.googlelabs.com.

The size of the English lexicon. How many words are in the English language (9)?

We call a 1-gram "lexeme" if its frequency is greater than one per billion. (This corresponds to the frequency of the words listed in leading dictionaries (7) (Fig. S3).) We compiled a list of all common 1-grams in 1900, 1950, and 2000, based on the frequency of each 1-gram in the preceding decade. These lists contained 1,117,997 common 1-grams in 1900, 1,302,920 in 1950, and 1,489,337 in 2000.

Not all common 1-grams are English words. Many fell into three nonword categories: (i) 1-grams with nonsyllabic characters ("78", "3.14159"), (ii) misspellings ("because", "abbenzen"), and (iii) foreign words ("venetian").

To estimate the number of English words, we manually annotated random samples from the lists of common 1-grams (7) and determined what fraction were members of the above nonword categories. The result ranged from 51% of all common 1-grams in 1900 to 57% in 2000.

Using this technique, we estimated the number of words in the English lexicon as 544,000 in 1900, 597,000 in 1950, and 1,022,000 in 2000. The lexicon is enjoying a period of enormous growth: The addition of ~8500 words/year has increased the size of the language by over 70% during the past 50 years (Fig. 2A).

Notably, we found more words than appear in any dictionary. For instance, the 2002 *Reverso Third New International Dictionary* (NID), which keeps track of the contemporary American lexicon, lists approximately 348,000 single-word words (10). The *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition* (AHD4) lists 116,361 (11). (Both contain additional multistored entries.) Part of this gap is because dictionaries often

Ancient symbols, computational linguistics, and the reviewing practices of the general science journals

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1. Introduction

Few archaeological finds are as evocative as artifacts inscribed with symbols. Whereas an archaeologist finds a potsherd or a seal impression that seems to have symbols scratched or impressed on the surface, it is natural to want to "read" the symbols. As if the symbols come from an undeciphered or previously unknown symbol system is common to ask what language the symbols supposedly represent and whether the system can be deciphered.

First question that really should be asked is whether the symbols are a writing system, as linguists usually define it, is a symbol system that language. Familiar examples are alphabets such as the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic alphabets, and morphosyllabic systems like Chinese characters. But if they do not encode language at all, they are not a writing system. European heraldry, mathematical symbols (used to represent dance), and boy scout merit badges are all systems that represent things, but do not function as part of a writing system.

Whether a system is writing or not is a difficult question to answer definitively in the affirmative if one can develop a verifiable system of language or languages. Statistical techniques have been used to analyze writing systems, but these have always been used under the assumption that the system is writing, and the techniques are used to uncover patterns that might aid in the decipherment. Patterns of symbol distribution might indicate a writing system is not linguistic; for example, odd repetition patterns that a symbol system is unlikely to be writing. But until recently, no statistical techniques could be used to determine that a system

is quite a surprise when, in April 2009, there appeared in Science a paper by Rajesh Rao of the University of Washington and colleagues at two

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existence of quasi-Zipfian distributions in symbol systems to argue for their status as writing in the work of Rao and colleagues. But since it has been long known that the hold of many things besides language, such arguments are easy to dismiss.

computational linguistics

Quantitative patterns of stylistic influence in the evolution of literature

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Literature is a form of expression whose temporal structure, both in content and style, provides a historical record of the evolution of culture. In this work we take on a quantitative analysis of literary style and conduct the first large-scale temporal stylistic study of literature by using the vast holdings in the Project Gutenberg Digital Library corpus. We find temporal stylistic localization among authors through the analysis of the similarity structure in feature vectors derived from content-free word usage, nonhomogeneous decay rates of stylistic influence, and an accelerating rate of decay of influence among modern authors. Within a given time period we also find evidence for stylistic coherence with a given literary topic, such that writers in different fields adopt different literary styles. This study gives quantitative support to the notion of a literary "style of a time" with a strong trend toward increasingly contemporaneous stylistic influence.

cultural evolution | stylometry | culture | complexity | big data

Written works, or literature, provide one of the great bodies of cultural artifacts. The analysis of literature typically involves the aggregation of information on several levels, ranging from words to sentences and even larger scale properties of temporal narratives such as structure, plot, and the use of irony and metaphor (1-3). Quantitative methods have long been applied to literature, most notably in the analysis of style, which can be traced back to a comment by the mathematician Augustus de Morgan regarding the attribution of the Platonic epistles (4) and the late nineteenth century work of the historian of philosophy Wincenty Lutoski, who brought basic statistical ideas of word usage to the problem of dating the dialogues of Plato (5). It was Lutoski who coined the word "stylometry" to describe such an approach to investigating questions of literary style. Since then, a wide range of statistical techniques have been developed toward this end (6), generally with the goal of settling questions of author attribution (see, e.g., refs. 6-11). Stylometric studies have also been pursued in the study of visual art (12, 13) and music (both in composition (14-16) and performance (17)), and are part of a growing body of work in the quantitative analysis of cultural artifacts (18).

In this paper we report our findings from the first large-scale stylometric analysis of literature. The goal of this work is not author attribution—the authorship of all the works is well known—but is instead to articulate, in a quantitative fashion, large-scale temporal trends in literary (i.e., writing) style. This type of study has been, until now, impossible to undertake, but the advent of mass digitization has created dramatic new opportunities for scholarly studies in literature as well as in other disciplines (19). Our literature sample is obtained from the Project Gutenberg Digital Library (<http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Gutenberg:About>). Project Gutenberg consists of more than 30,000 public domain texts, music, audiobooks, etc., is freely available online, and is among the digital archives that have become, over the past 50 y, crucial components of the preservation of cultural artifacts (20).

In scope, our work is related to, but quite different from, recent studies in the dating of literary works (20), the analysis of the coarse-grained structure of literary history (and the evolution of genre) (21), and most notably, a recent analysis of Google Books (22), whereas the temporal trends in content-word usage were articulated. Content words also form the basis of the various topic model analyses that have been applied to large corpora of science texts (see, e.g., ref. 23).

In contrast, the work presented here focuses on the usage of content-free words as the basis of the first large-scale study of the similarity structure of literary style. Content-free words are the "stylistic glue" of a language: They are words that carry little meaning on their own but form the bridge between words that convey meaning. Their joint frequency of usage is known to provide a useful stylistic fingerprint for authorship (8, 11), and thus suggests a method of comparing author styles. When we consider content-free word frequencies from a large number of authors and works over a long period of time, we can ask questions related to temporal trends in similarity. The primary results of our analysis are that time provides the most coherent means of clustering work and a trend of diminishing stylistic influence as we move forward in time. Such a finding is consistent with a simple evolutionary model for stylistic influence, which assumes that imitation spreads preferentially to contemporary authors. In addition, we uncover quantitative support of the previously purely anecdotal notion of a literary "style of a time." Taken together, these two findings suggest the utility and perhaps the creation of a new field of stylometric analysis in culturistics.

Materials and Methods

In our experiments, we studied a subset of the authors in the Project Gutenberg database composed of those who wrote after the year 1500, had at least five works in English in the Project Gutenberg collection, and for whom we had birth and death date information. This left us with 537 authors. For each author, we created a representative feature vector by aggregating the content-free word frequencies for each individual work by that author in total, we analyzed 7,730 works.

In our experiments, we used a list of 363 content-free words that included prepositions, articles, conjunctions, "to be" verbs, and some common nouns and pronouns (see Table S1 for a complete list). We did not attempt to systematically distinguish between occurrences of homographs in situ (e.g., when using "to" as a preposition or as an indicator of an infinitive verb). Doing so would require a sophisticated grammatical model, and it was not our aim to model this particular aspect of word usage. We believe that ignoring these distinctions is not likely to greatly affect our results, because words that account for the greatest differences in usage frequency among

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“Would a paper that made some blatantly wrong claim about genetics be published in such venues?”
(R. Sproat)

Discussie

- Goed voor **visibiliteit** vakgebied
- **Kruisbestuiving** exacte wetenschappen
- **Afgunst** speelt mee?
- Maar ook beschermen eigen vakgebied:
 - Retoriek Big Data wordt 'misbruikt'...
 - Methodologie unaniem afgewezen...
 - Onderzoekers zijn allesbehalve geesteswetenschappers...
- **Hebben de Geesteswetenschappen een eigen 'toptijdschrift' nodig?**