MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR EVOLUTIONARY ANTHROPOLOGY

Computer-Assisted Approaches to Lexical Typology

Semantic Shifts: From lexicon to grammar. Diachronic and typological perspectives
September 2022

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Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution

Agenda

Day 1

1 Introduction

2 Concepticon

3 Norms, Ratings, and Relations

4 Case Study: Cross-linguistic Comparison of Sensory Modality Ratings

Day 2

5 Lexibank

6 Partial Colexifications

7 Case Study: Emotion Colexifications

8 Case Study: Body Colexifications

INTRODUCTION

Computer-Assisted Language Comparison (CALC)

Challenge & Goal

- **Lack of standards, agreed-upon methods, and comparable data**
  - Huge variations in naming languages, referencing concepts, or transcribing words.
  - Methods and procedures for inference differ from scholar to scholar.
  - Key aspects of the data have not been unified, as reflected in idiosyncratic elicitation glosses, language names, or transcription systems.

- **Standardizing data that has been published and encouraging scholars to standardize data along with its publication would increase the amount of comparable data out there.**

Computer-Assisted Language Comparison

Core Ideas & Data Integration

- **Data must be human- and machine-readable.**
- **Software is used to preprocess linguistic data and should specifically target linguistic problems rather than build on naive off-the-shelf solutions in machine learning.**
- **Interfaces help linguists to access the data and to post-process and correct machine output.**

- **Assemble data from multiple sources in such a way that we can use aggregated information for various studies.**

Cross-Linguistic Data Formats (CLDF)

Standardization & Curation

(Retro)-Standardization (or *Data Lifting*)

- **Establish and curate *reference catalogs* (large collections of small-scale *constructs* for linguistic research objects, including *languages*, *concepts*, and *sounds*),**
- **Parse digitized data semi-automatically in order to *link* data points to our reference catalogs,**
- **Use test-driven data curation to guarantee the workflow passes our tests.**

Test-Driven Data Curation

- **Versionize the work**
- **Test the basic characteristics of the data automatically with the help of unittests**
- **Write small, targeted web-based applications that enhance the digitization process**

Cross-Linguistic Data Formats

Reference Catalogs

- **Glottolog (https://glottolog.org)**
  - Reference catalogue for language varieties (languages and dialects), providing language identifiers, geolocations, classifications, and references.

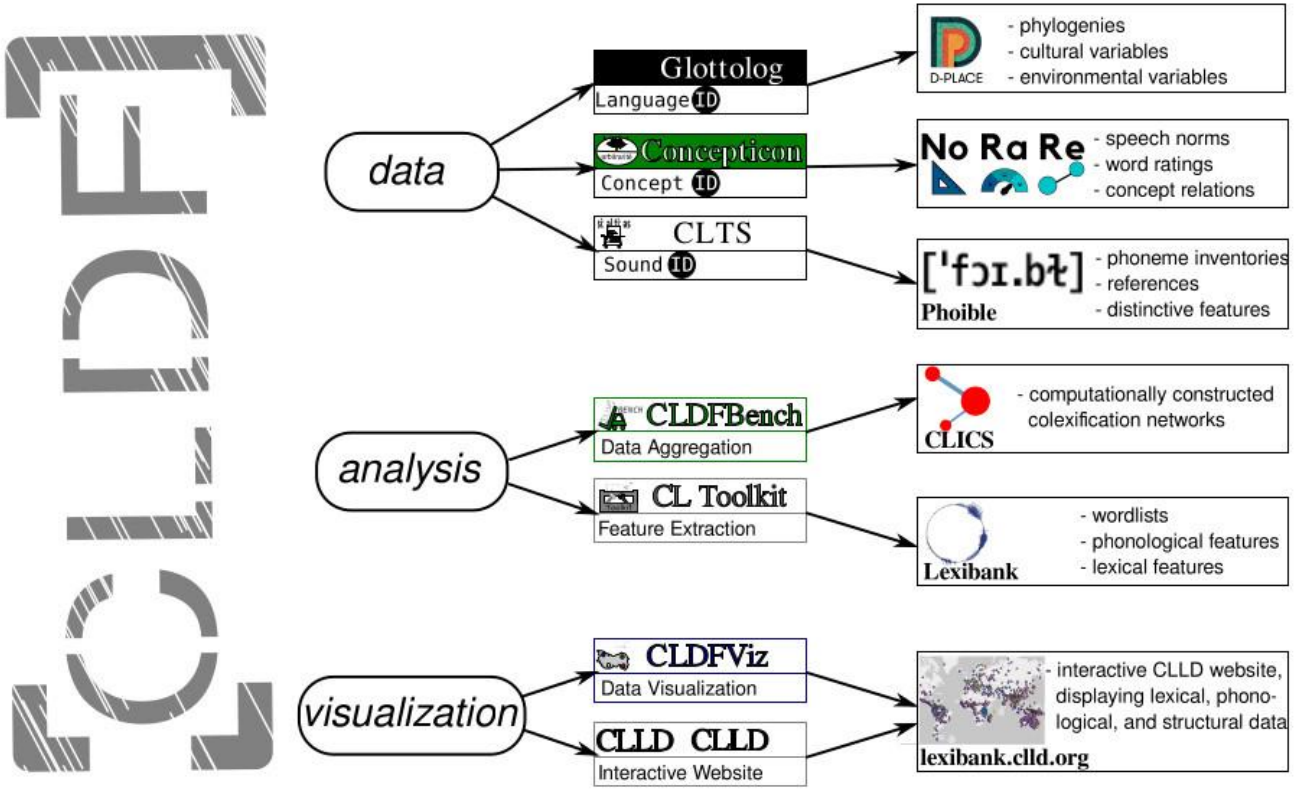
- **Concepticon (https://concepticon.clld.org)**
  - Reference catalogue for concepts, which are defined independently of concrete languages, providing concept identifiers, concept metadata, concept relations, and references.

- **Cross-Linguistic Transcription Systems (https://clts.clld.org)**
  - Reference catalogue for speech sounds (across different transcription systems and data sets), offering sound identifiers, feature-based sound descriptions, and references.

Python Package `cldfbench`

- A Python package that does the lifting of data.
- Retro-standardization and conversion of data from other formats can be done with Python code that is testable, modularizable, and transparent.
- Teach more and more people to work with CLDF.
- Examples of how to use the library are published in various forms (e.g., as blog posts at https://calc.hypotheses.org).

Workflow for Data Curation, Analysis, and Visualization



More Information

- CALC: https://digling.org/calc/
- CLDF: https://cldf.clld.org
- Data preparation and examples: https://calc.hypotheses.org/
- CLLD: https://clld.org/

CONCEPTICON

Concepticon

- **A resource of concept and word lists that offers standardized concept sets and links to glosses. It serves as a reference catalog for historical and typological language comparison.**

- **Concepticon 2.6.0 (List et al. 2022)**
  - 404 concept lists
  - 3898 concept sets
  - 94,056 glosses mapped to concept sets
  - 40 glossing languages

- **Website: https://concepticon.clld.org/**
- **GitHub: https://github.com/concepticon/concepticon-data**

Concept and Word Lists

Concept Lists

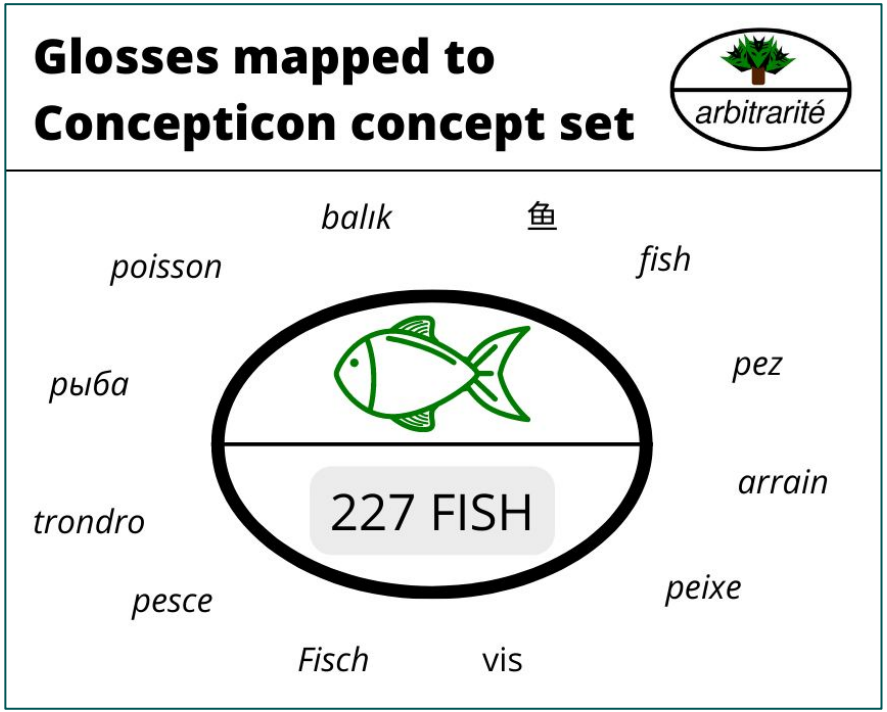
- Include basic vocabulary and cross-linguistically comparable concepts such as HAND, TREE, YOU, or GIVE.
- Used to elicit the glosses for the concepts across languages.
- Compiled by historical linguists and linguistic field workers.
- Often not standardized and adapted.
- Usually small lists of up to 300 concepts.

Word Lists

- Include basic vocabulary and information on word properties.
- Used in psychology to elicit properties of concepts.
- Word properties indicate whether a word is perceived as abstract or concrete, positive or negative, etc.
- Usually include thousands of words.

Concepticon Concept Sets

- Consist of a unique identifier, a label, a definition, a semantic field, and an ontological category.
- Concept identifiers (e.g., “227”) are connected to a unique label (e.g., “FISH”).
- Concepticon concept sets reflect concepts that are deemed interesting for comparison by linguists and occur frequently in concept lists (List et al. 2016).
- Elicitation glosses are established by linguists and are often based on already existing concept lists.



Data Curation

- **Automatic and manual mapping to Concepticon concept sets**
- **Information on data types in metadata.json**
- **Test-driven data curation**
- **Python package: `pyconcepticon` (Forkel, Rzymski & List 2019)**
- **Accessed via command line**
- **Regular releases**

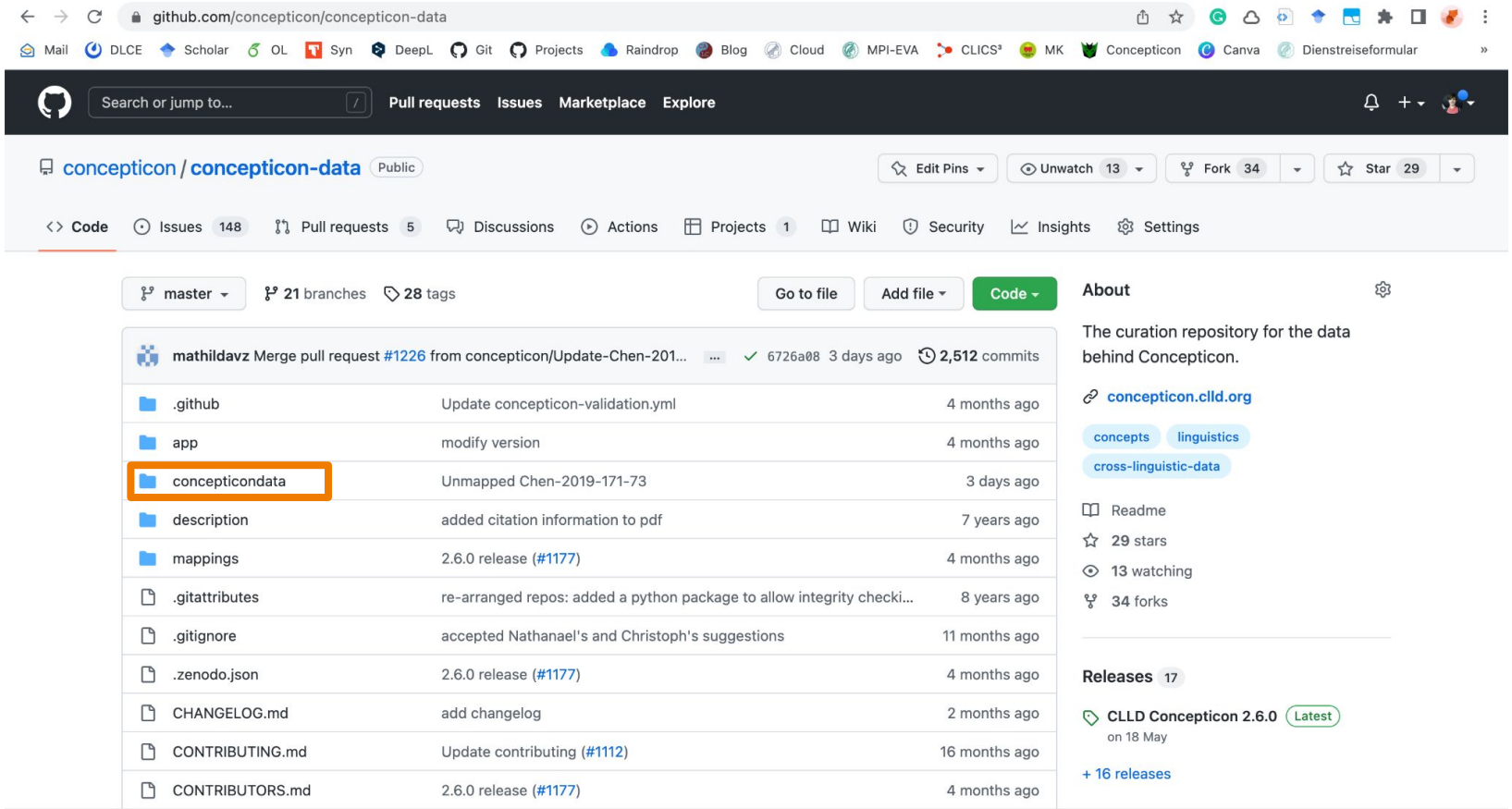
Tutorials

- Tjuka (2020); Tresoldi (2019a; 2019b)

Workflows

- All of our data is curated on GitHub.
- New lists are added via a Pull Request (PR).
- The PRs are reviewed by the editors to discuss mappings, corrections, etc.
- We offer tutorials, examples, and guidelines in form of blog posts.
- So far, we have trained several student assistants to add new data sets.
- Through GitHub people can point us to new lists, improvements, and corrections of our data.

Open: GitHub and Website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Code
mathildavz Merge pull request #1226 from concepticon/Update-Chen-201...
6726a08 3 days ago
2,512 commits
.github Update concepticon-validation.yml 4 months ago
app modify version 4 months ago
concepticondata Unmapped Chen-2019-171-73 3 days ago
description added citation information to pdf 7 years ago
mappings 2.6.0 release (#1177) 4 months ago
.gitattributes re-arranged repos: added a python package to allow integrity checki... 8 years ago
.gitignore accepted Nathanael's and Christoph's suggestions 11 months ago
.zenodo.json 2.6.0 release (#1177) 4 months ago
CHANGELOG.md add changelog 2 months ago
CONTRIBUTING.md Update contributing (#1112) 16 months ago
CONTRIBUTORS.md 2.6.0 release (#1177) 4 months ago
About
The curation repository for the data behind Concepticon.
concepticon.clld.org
concepts
linguistics
cross-linguistic-data
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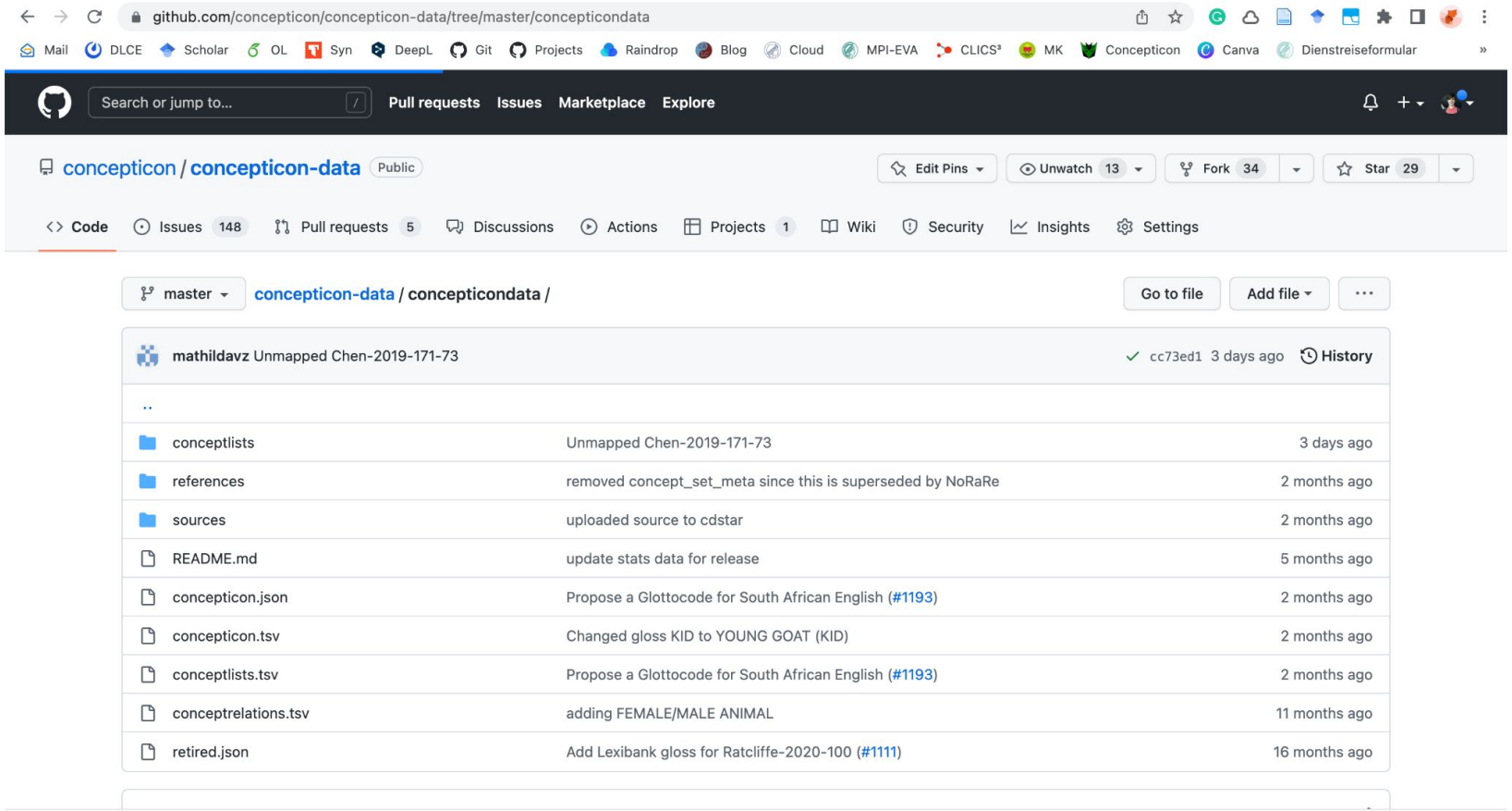
Releases 17
CLLD Concepticon 2.6.0 Latest
on 18 May
+ 16 releases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Go to file
Add file
mathildavz Unmapped Chen-2019-171-73
cc73ed1 3 days ago
History
conceptlists Unmapped Chen-2019-171-73 3 days ago
references removed concept_set_meta since this is superseded by NoRaRe 2 months ago
sources uploaded source to cdstar 2 months ago
README.md update stats data for release 5 months ago
concepticon.json Propose a Glottocode for South African English (#1193) 2 months ago
concepticon.tsv Changed gloss KID to YOUNG GOAT (KID) 2 months ago
conceptlists.tsv Propose a Glottocode for South African English (#1193) 2 months ago
conceptrelations.tsv adding FEMALE/MALE ANIMAL 11 months ago
retired.json Add Lexibank gloss for Ratcliffe-2020-100 (#1111) 16 months ago

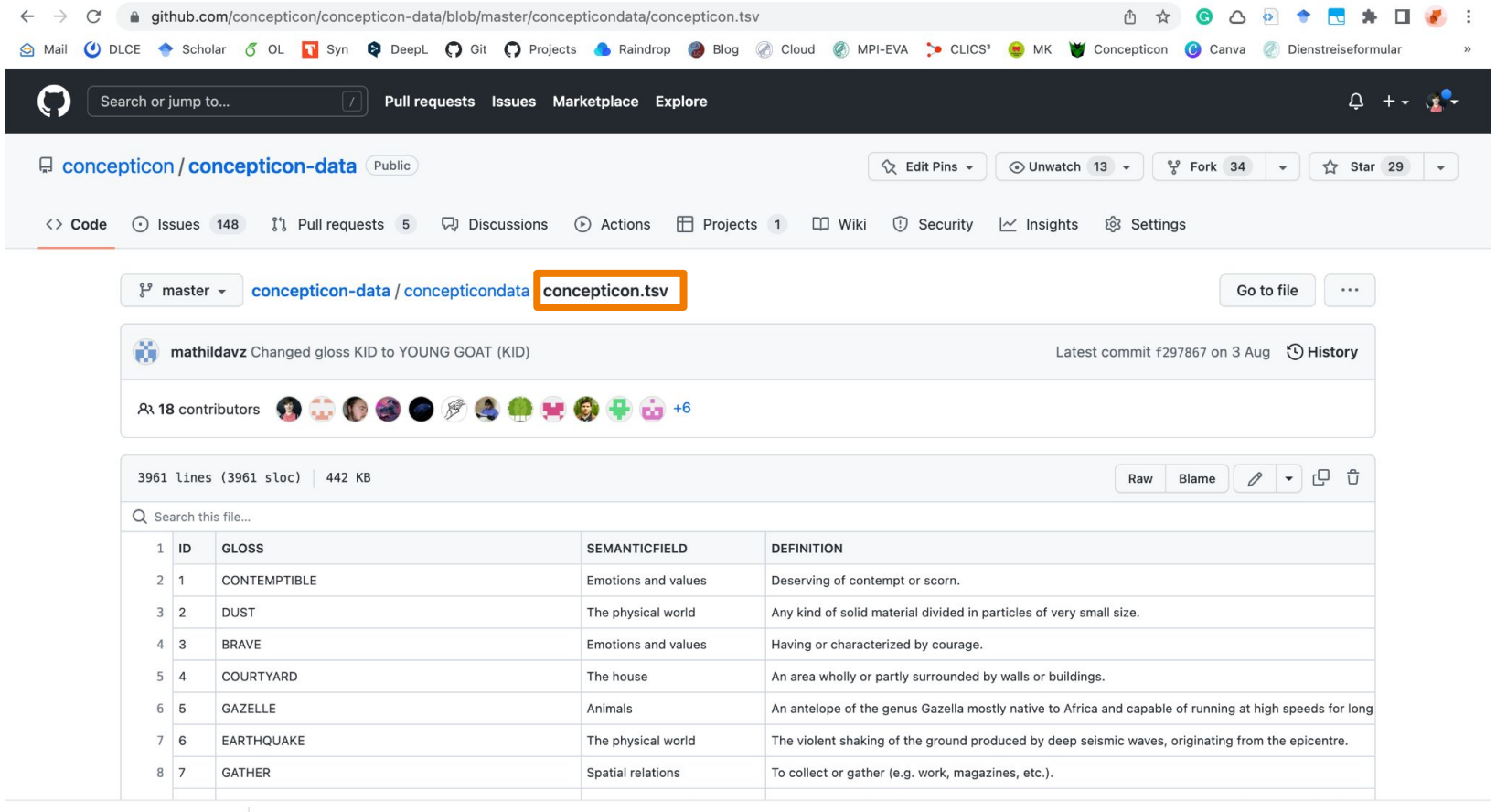
README.md

Concepticon Statistics

- concept sets (used): 3898
- concept lists: 404
- concept labels: 94056
- concept labels (unique): 21447
- Ø concepts per list: 232.81
- Ø concepts per concept set: 24.13
- Ø unique concept labels per concept set: 5.76

Twenty Most Diverse Concept Sets

No.	concept set	distinct labels	concept lists	examples
1	THOU	63	240	«2 sg.», «2SG (2nd person singular)», «2SG pronoun», «2SG», «2S», «2nd sg. (familiar)», «2sg (informal)», «2sg -hon», «2sg pronoun», «2sg.», «2sg», «THOU1 (dir.)», «THOU», «Thou», «YOU (SG.)», «YOU (SINGULAR)», «YOU (sg)», «YOU», «You (sing.)», «You sg.», «You», «[2P:SG] thou», « * THOU», « * thou», « * you (sg)», « * you», «du», «second person marker», «thou (2nd Sg.)», «thou (2s)», «thou (2sg)», «thou (you sg.)», «thou [second person singular]», «thou », «thou, you (p)», «thou, you (pronoun)», «thou, you», «thou/thee [second person sg. pronoun]», «thou/thee», «thou», «you (2 p.s.)», «you (2.Sg.)», «you (2s.)», «you (2sg)», «you (inf.)», «you (informal)», «you (int. sing.)», «you (second person



github.com/concepticon/concepticon-data/blob/master/concepticondata/concepticon.tsv

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mathildavz Changed gloss KID to YOUNG GOAT (KID) — Latest commit f297867 on 3 Aug — History

18 contributors +6

3961 lines (3961 sloc) | 442 KB | Raw | Blame

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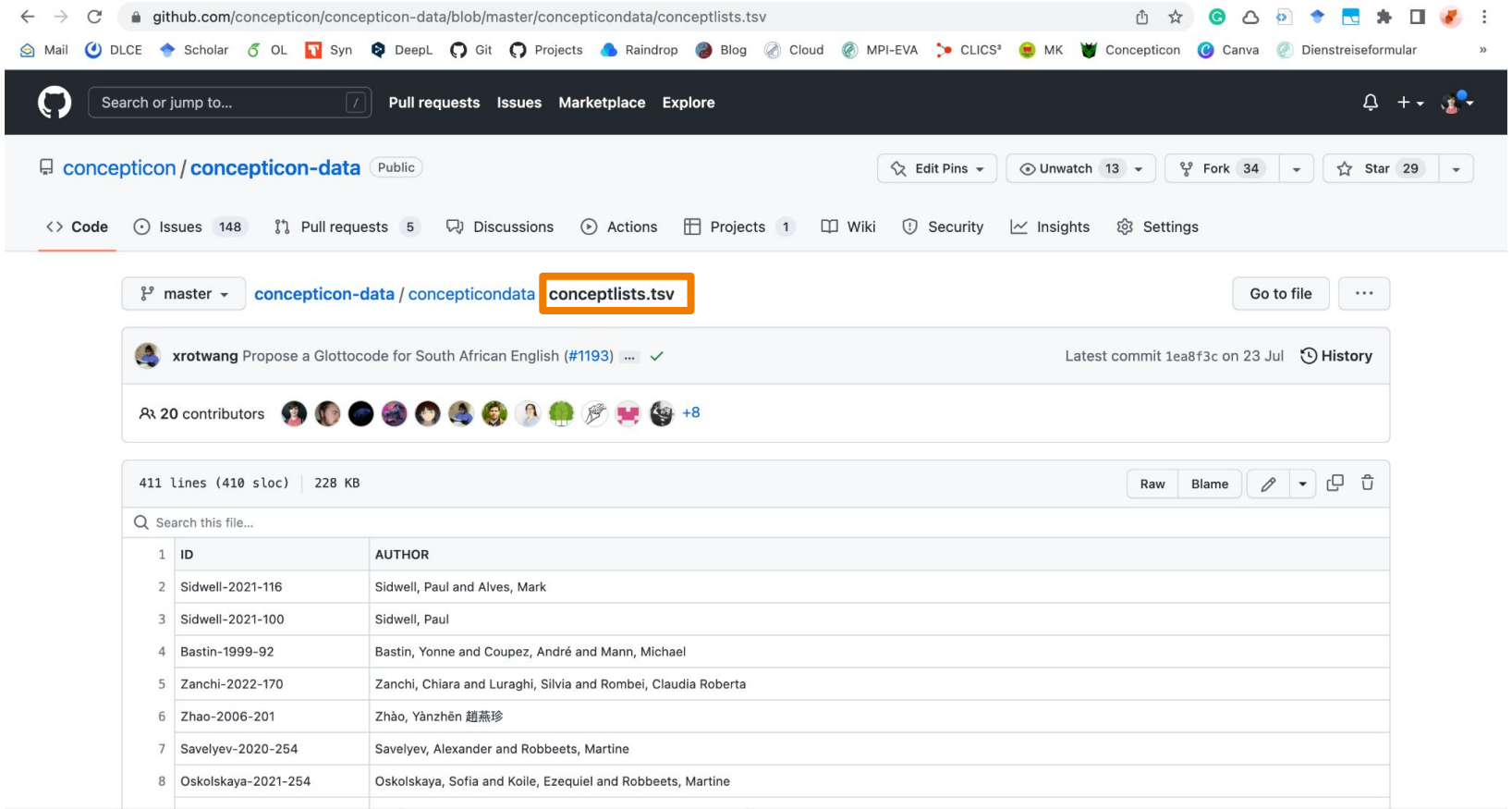
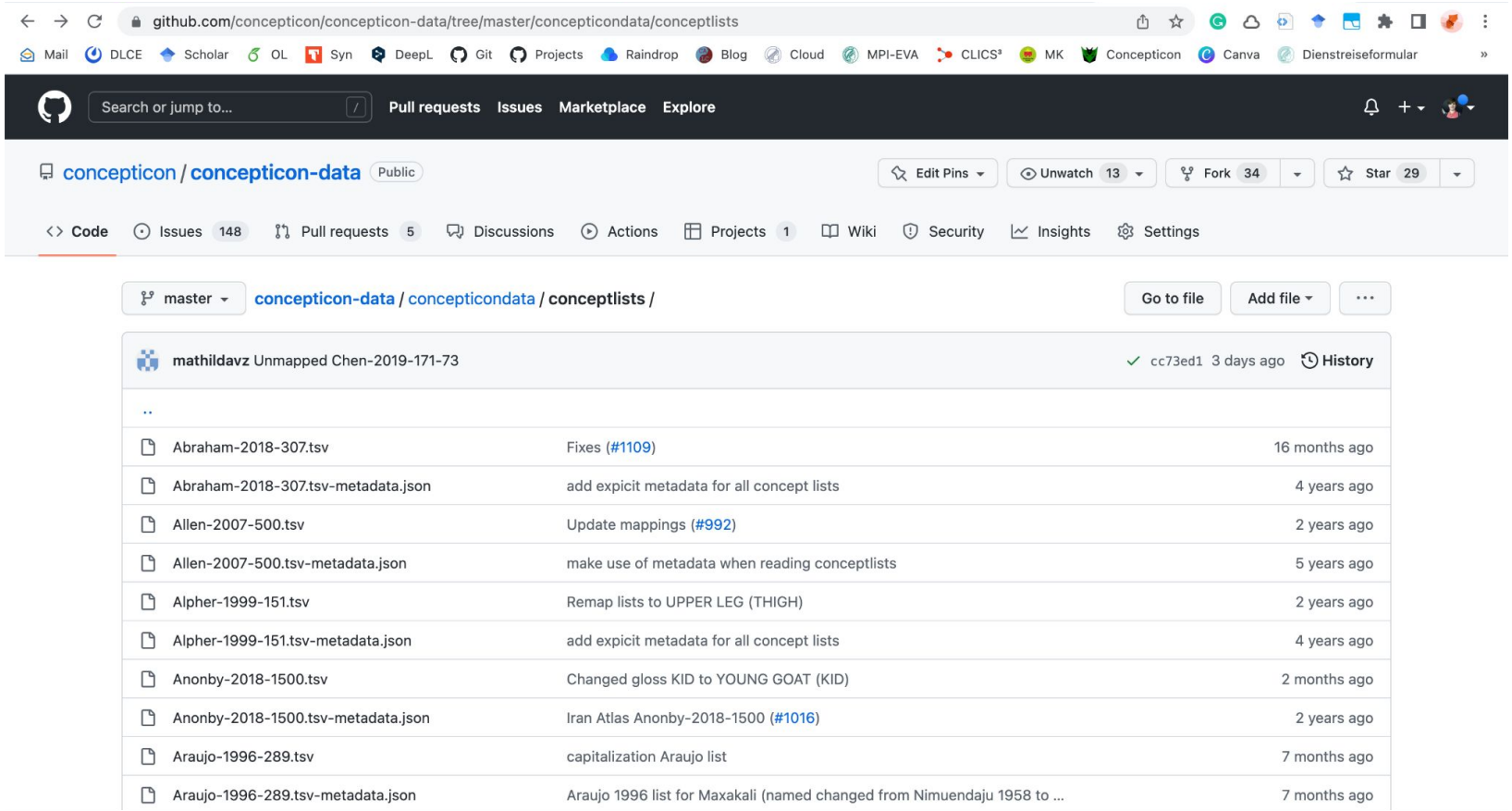
	ID	GLOSS	SEMANTICFIELD	DEFINITION
2	1	CONTEMPTIBLE	Emotions and values	Deserving of contempt or scorn.
3	2	DUST	The physical world	Any kind of solid material divided in particles of very small size.
4	3	BRAVE	Emotions and values	Having or characterized by courage.
5	4	COURTYARD	The house	An area wholly or partly surrounded by walls or buildings.
6	5	GAZELLE	Animals	An antelope of the genus Gazella mostly native to Africa and capable of running at high speeds for long
7	6	EARTHQUAKE	The physical world	The violent shaking of the ground produced by deep seismic waves, originating from the epicentre.
8	7	GATHER	Spatial relations	To collect or gather (e.g. work, magazines, etc.).



	ID	AUTHOR
2	Sidwell-2021-116	Sidwell, Paul and Alves, Mark
3	Sidwell-2021-100	Sidwell, Paul
4	Bastin-1999-92	Bastin, Yonne and Coupez, André and Mann, Michael
5	Zanchi-2022-170	Zanchi, Chiara and Luraghi, Silvia and Rombei, Claudia Roberta
6	Zhao-2006-201	Zhào, Yànzhēn 趙燕珍
7	Savelyev-2020-254	Savelyev, Alexander and Robbeets, Martine
8	Oskolskaya-2021-254	Oskolskaya, Sofia and Koile, Ezequiel and Robbeets, Martine


github.com/concepticon/concepticon-data/tree/master/concepticondata/conceptlists
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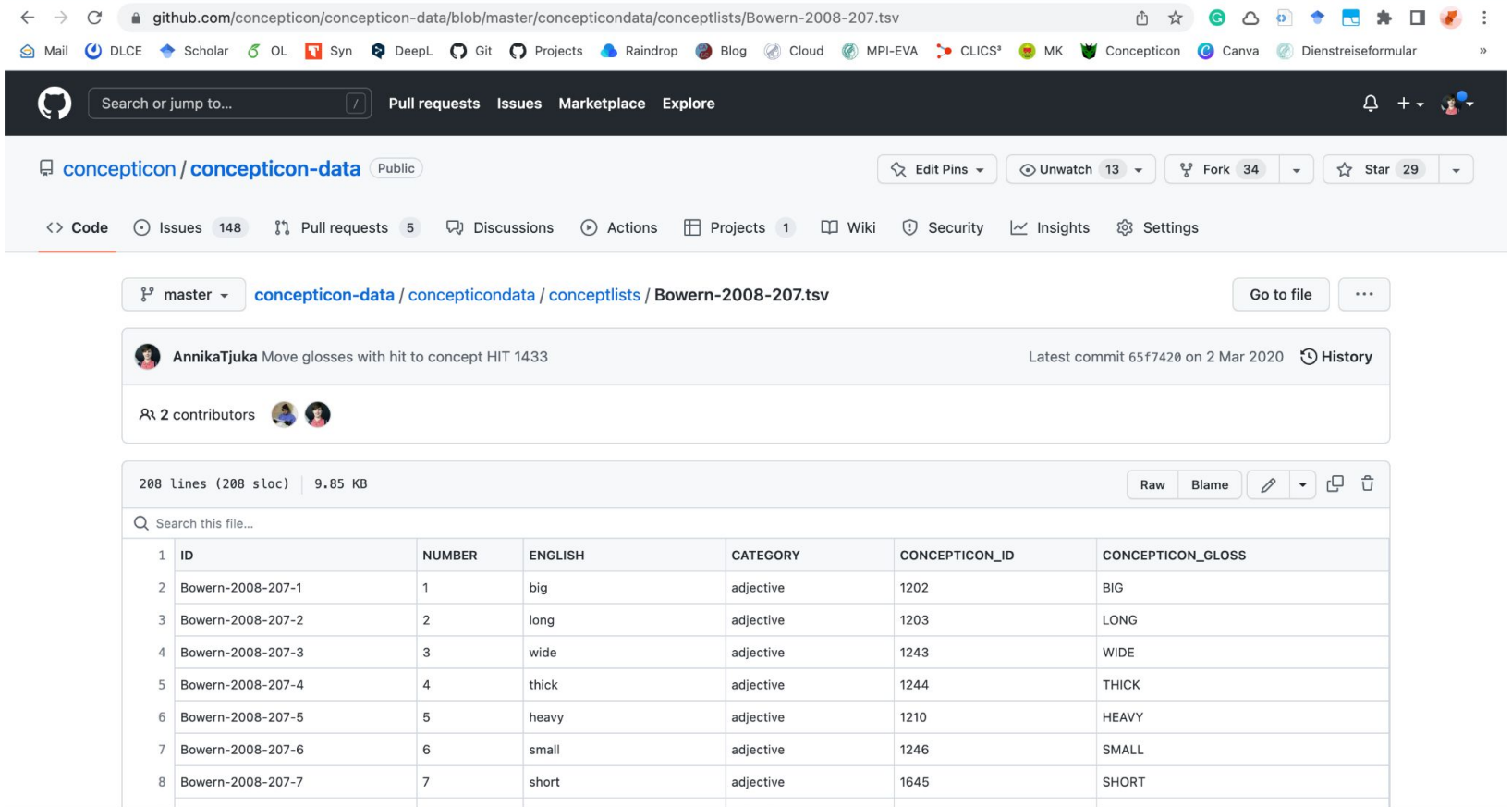
mathildavz Unmapped Chen-2019-171-73 cc73ed1 3 days ago History
..
Abraham-2018-307.tsv Fixes (#1109) 16 months ago
Abraham-2018-307.tsv-metadata.json add expicit metadata for all concept lists 4 years ago
Allen-2007-500.tsv Update mappings (#992) 2 years ago
Allen-2007-500.tsv-metadata.json make use of metadata when reading conceptlists 5 years ago
Alpher-1999-151.tsv Remap lists to UPPER LEG (THIGH) 2 years ago
Alpher-1999-151.tsv-metadata.json add expicit metadata for all concept lists 4 years ago
Anonby-2018-1500.tsv Changed gloss KID to YOUNG GOAT (KID) 2 months ago
Anonby-2018-1500.tsv-metadata.json Iran Atlas Anonby-2018-1500 (#1016) 2 years ago
Araujo-1996-289.tsv capitalization Araujo list 7 months ago
Araujo-1996-289.tsv-metadata.json Araujo 1996 list for Maxakali (named changed from Nimuendaju 1958 to ... 7 months ago



github.com/concepticon/concepticon-data/blob/master/concepticondata/conceptlists/Bowern-2008-207.tsv

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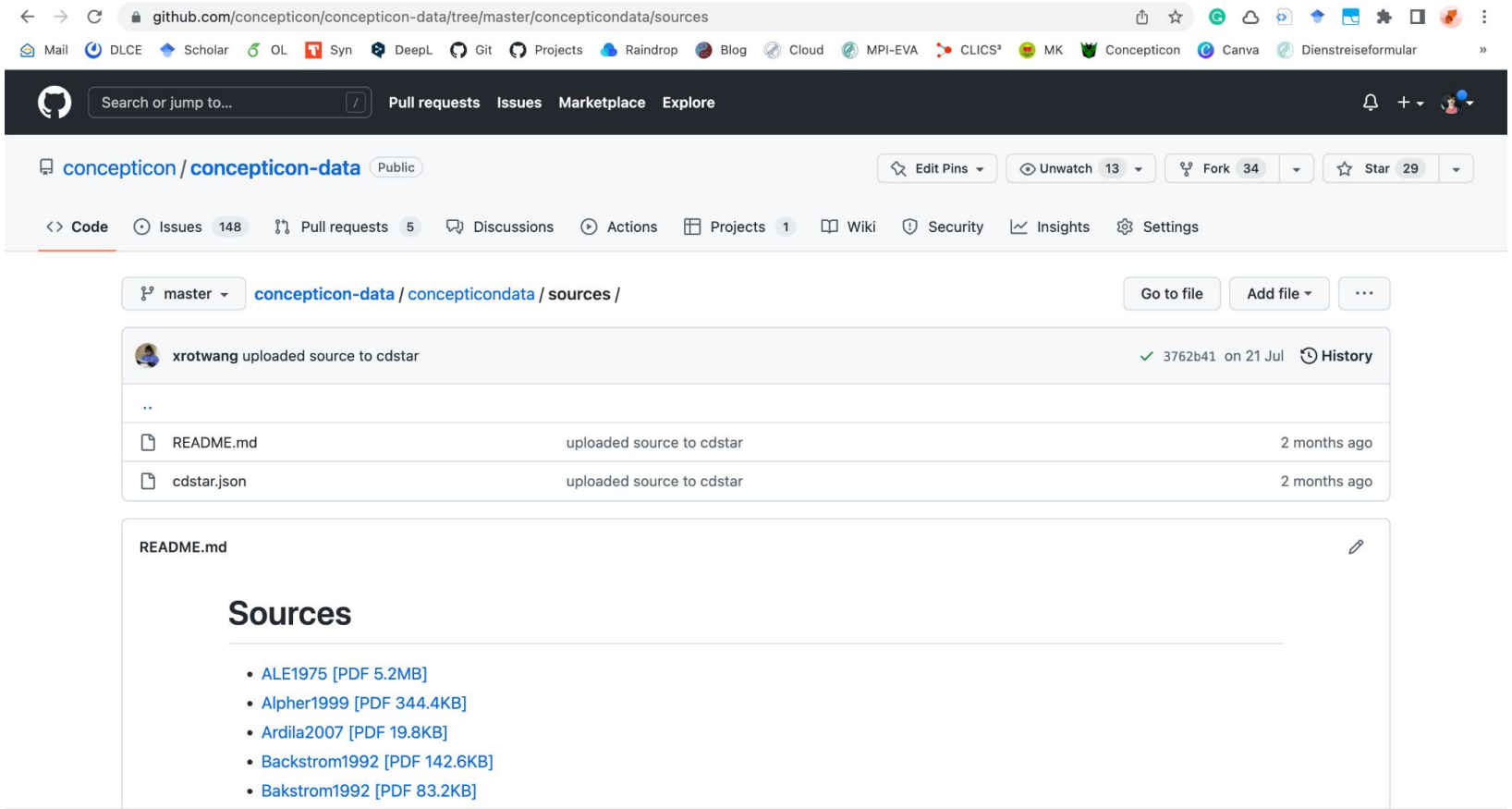
AnnikaTjuka Move glosses with hit to concept HIT 1433 — Latest commit 65f7420 on 2 Mar 2020 — History

2 contributors

208 lines (208 sloc) | 9.85 KB — Raw | Blame

Search this file...

	ID	NUMBER	ENGLISH	CATEGORY	CONCEPTICON_ID	CONCEPTICON_GLOSS
2	Bowern-2008-207-1	1	big	adjective	1202	BIG
3	Bowern-2008-207-2	2	long	adjective	1203	LONG
4	Bowern-2008-207-3	3	wide	adjective	1243	WIDE
5	Bowern-2008-207-4	4	thick	adjective	1244	THICK
6	Bowern-2008-207-5	5	heavy	adjective	1210	HEAVY
7	Bowern-2008-207-6	6	small	adjective	1246	SMALL
8	Bowern-2008-207-7	7	short	adjective	1645	SHORT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README.md uploaded source to cdstar 2 months ago
cdstar.json uploaded source to cdstar 2 months ago
README.md
Sources
ALE1975 [PDF 5.2MB]
Alpher1999 [PDF 344.4KB]
Ardila2007 [PDF 19.8KB]
Backstrom1992 [PDF 142.6KB]
Bakstrom1992 [PDF 83.2KB]

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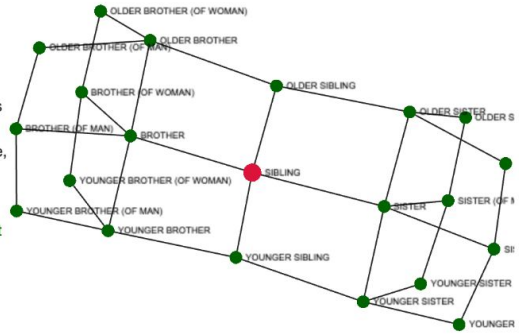
Welcome to the Concepticon

This resource presents an attempt to link the large amount of different concept lists which are used in the linguistic literature, ranging from Swadesh lists in historical linguistics to naming tests in clinical studies and psycholinguistics.

A Resource for the Linking of Concept Lists

This resource, our Concepticon, links concept labels from different conceptlists to concept sets. Each concept set is given a unique identifier, a unique label, and a human-readable definition. Concept sets are further structured by defining different relations between the concepts, as you can see in the graphic to the right, which displays the relations between concept sets linked to the concept set SIBLING. The resource can be used for various purposes. Serving as a rich reference for new and existing databases in diachronic and synchronic linguistics, it allows researchers a quick access to studies on semantic change, cross-linguistic polysemies, and semantic associations.

If you want to learn more about the ideas behind our Concepticon, have a look at our about page or read List et al. 2016, presented at LREC.



arbitrarité

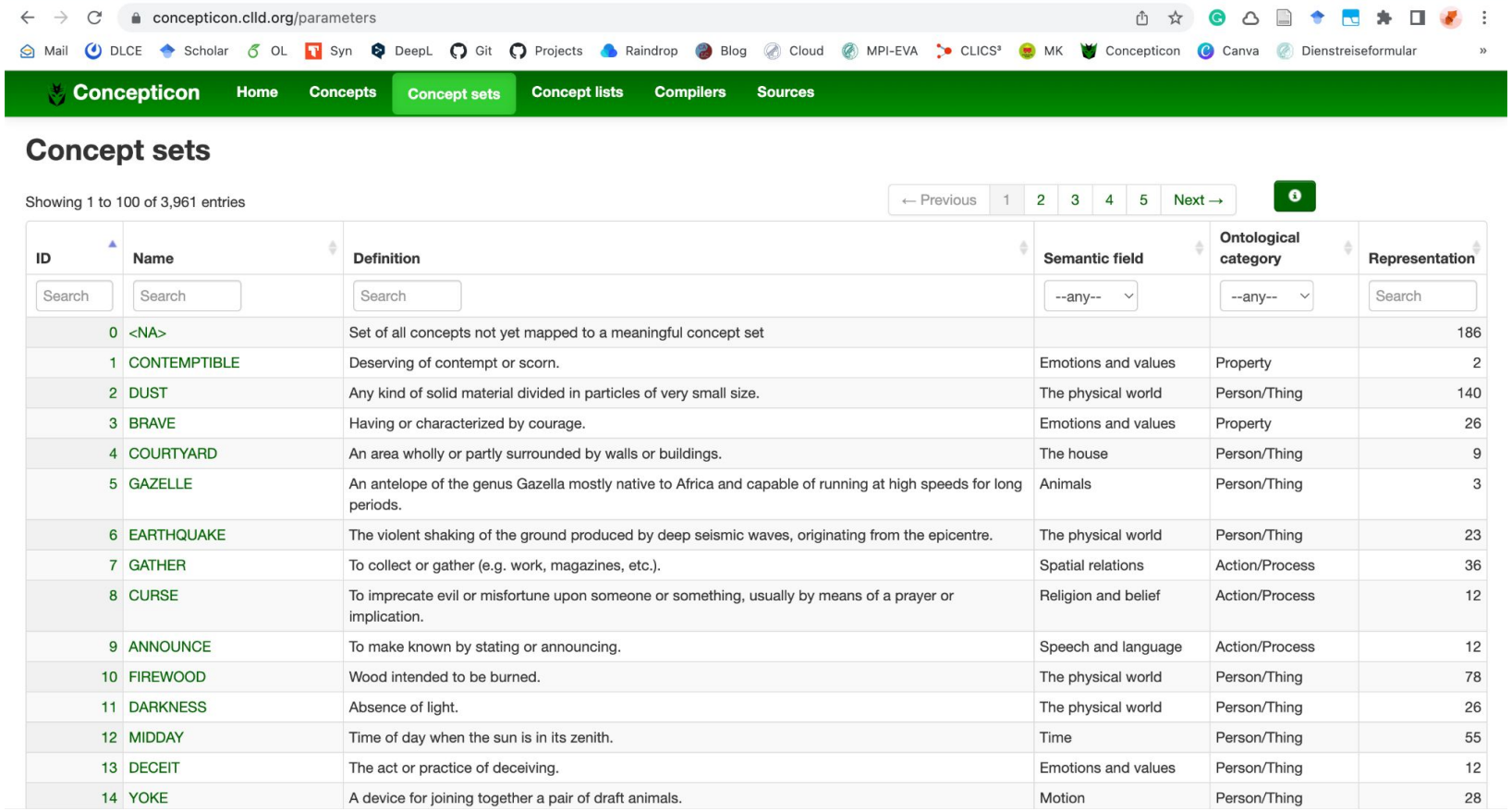
Cite

List, Johann Mattis & Tjuka, Annika & Rzymski, Christoph & Greenhill, Simon & Schweikhard, Nathanael & Forkel, Robert (eds.) 2022.
CLLD Concepticon 2.6.0 [Data set]. Zenodo.
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6560398
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.6560398

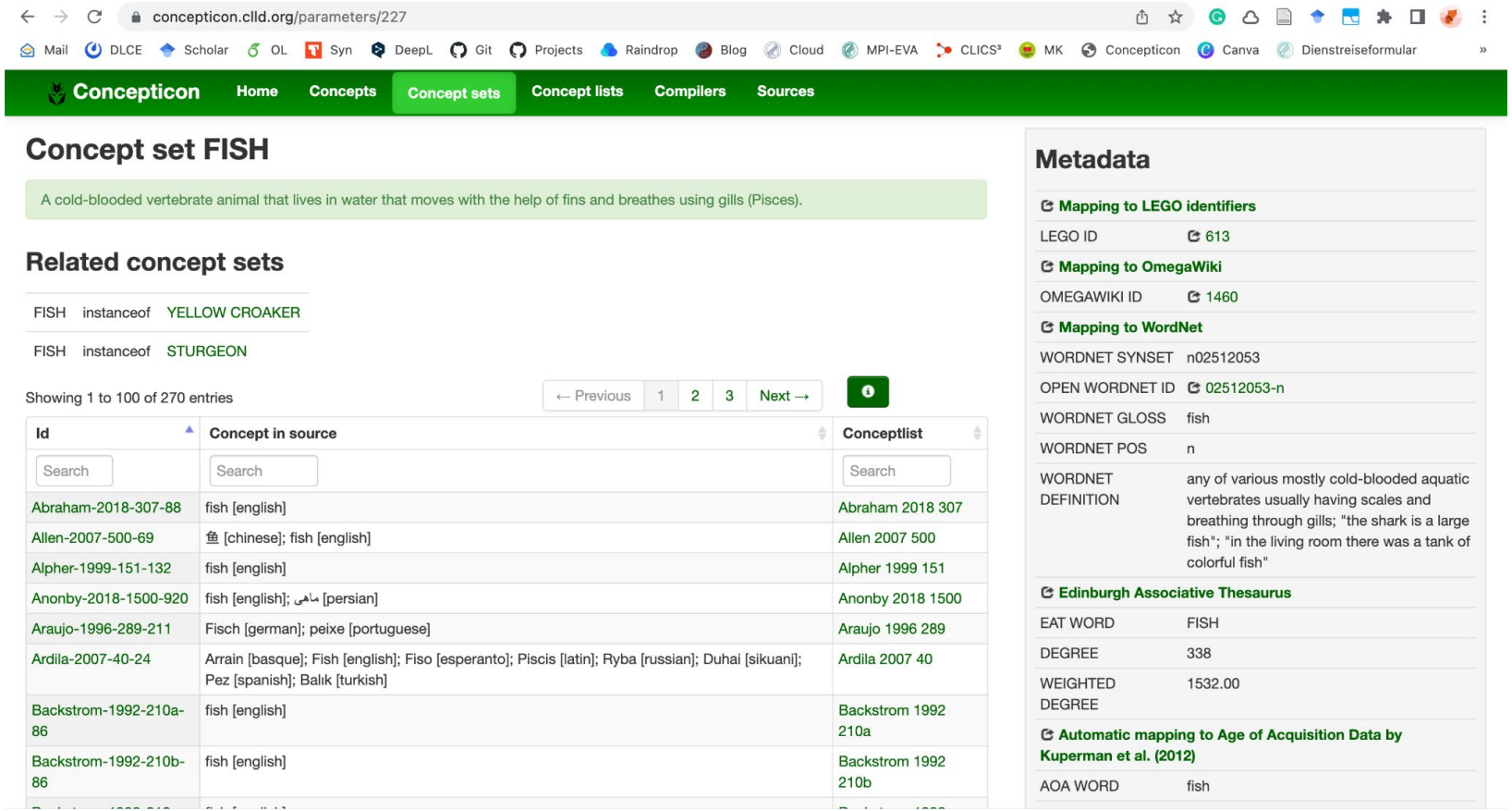
cite

Version

concepticon.clld.org serves the latest released version of data curated at concepticon/concepticon-data. Older released version are accessible via



ID	Name	Definition	Semantic field	Ontological category	Representation
Search	Search	Search	--any--	--any--	Search
0	<NA>	Set of all concepts not yet mapped to a meaningful concept set			186
1	CONTEMPTIBLE	Deserving of contempt or scorn.	Emotions and values	Property	2
2	DUST	Any kind of solid material divided in particles of very small size.	The physical world	Person/Thing	140
3	BRAVE	Having or characterized by courage.	Emotions and values	Property	26
4	COURTYARD	An area wholly or partly surrounded by walls or buildings.	The house	Person/Thing	9
5	GAZELLE	An antelope of the genus Gazella mostly native to Africa and capable of running at high speeds for long periods.	Animals	Person/Thing	3
6	EARTHQUAKE	The violent shaking of the ground produced by deep seismic waves, originating from the epicentre.	The physical world	Person/Thing	23
7	GATHER	To collect or gather (e.g. work, magazines, etc.).	Spatial relations	Action/Process	36
8	CURSE	To imprecate evil or misfortune upon someone or something, usually by means of a prayer or implication.	Religion and belief	Action/Process	12
9	ANNOUNCE	To make known by stating or announcing.	Speech and language	Action/Process	12
10	FIREWOOD	Wood intended to be burned.	The physical world	Person/Thing	78
11	DARKNESS	Absence of light.	The physical world	Person/Thing	26
12	MIDDAY	Time of day when the sun is in its zenith.	Time	Person/Thing	55
13	DECEIT	The act or practice of deceiving.	Emotions and values	Person/Thing	12
14	YOKE	A device for joining together a pair of draft animals.	Motion	Person/Thing	28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Concepticon Home Concepts Concept sets Concept lists Compilers Sources
Concept set FISH
A cold-blooded vertebrate animal that lives in water that moves with the help of fins and breathes using gills (Pisces).
Related concept sets
FISH instanceof YELLOW CROAKER
FISH instanceof STURGEON
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Id
Concept in source
Conceptlist
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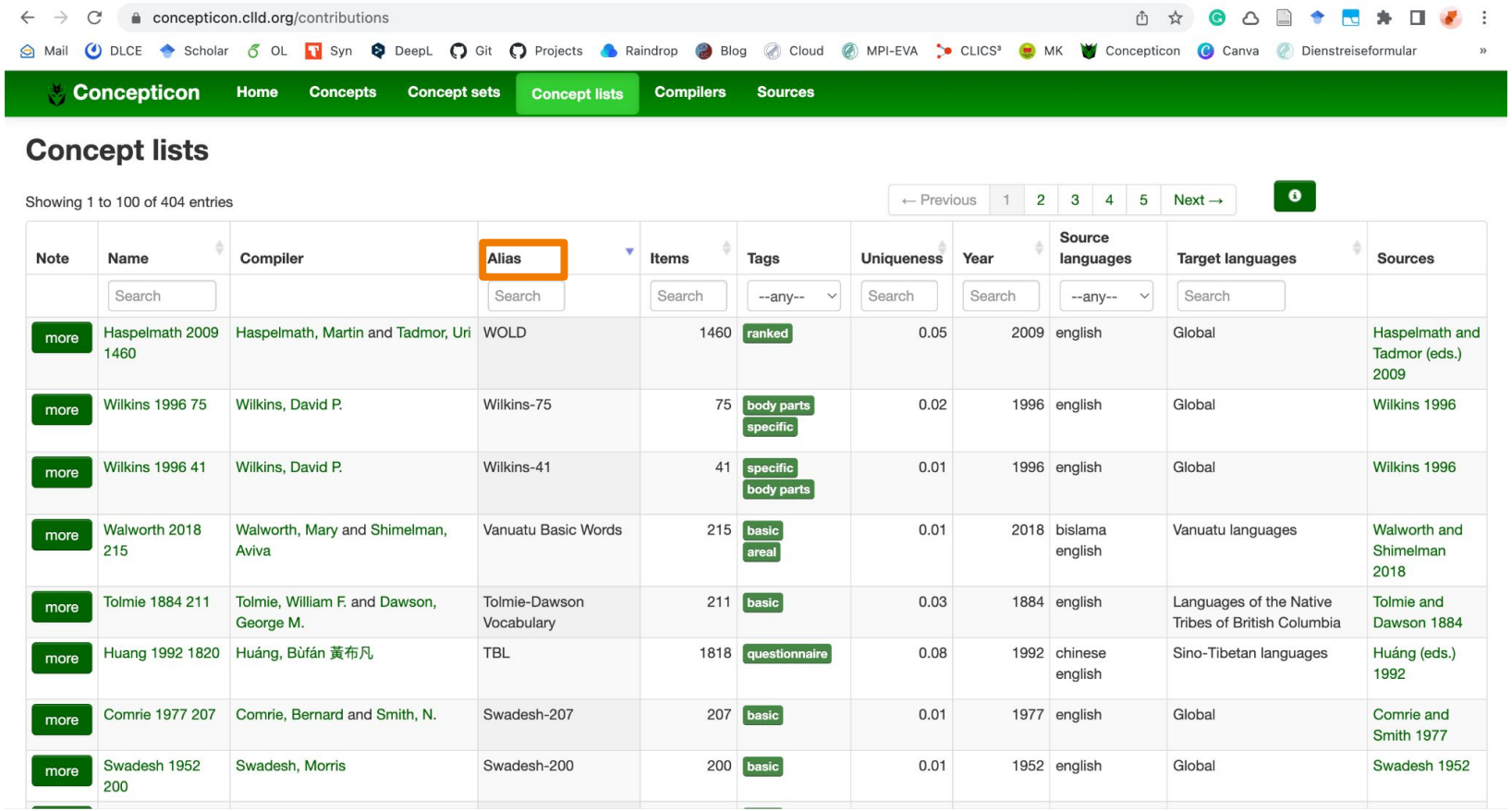
Abraham-2018-307-88 fish [english] Abraham 2018 307
Allen-2007-500-69 鱼 [chinese]; fish [english] Allen 2007 500
Alpher-1999-151-132 fish [english] Alpher 1999 151
Anonby-2018-1500-920 fish [english]; ماهی [persian] Anonby 2018 1500
Araujo-1996-289-211 Fisch [german]; peixe [portuguese] Araujo 1996 289
Ardila-2007-40-24 Arrain [basque]; Fish [english]; Fiso [esperanto]; Piscis [latin]; Ryba [russian]; Duhai [sikuani]; Pez [spanish]; Balık [turkish] Ardila 2007 40
Backstrom-1992-210a-86 fish [english] Backstrom 1992 210a
Backstrom-1992-210b-86 fish [english] Backstrom 1992 210b
Metadata
Mapping to LEGO identifiers
LEGO ID 613
Mapping to OmegaWiki
OMEGAWIKI ID 1460
Mapping to WordNet
WORDNET SYNSET n02512053
OPEN WORDNET ID 02512053-n
WORDNET GLOSS fish
WORDNET POS n
WORDNET DEFINITION any of various mostly cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates usually having scales and breathing through gills; "the shark is a large fish"; "in the living room there was a tank of colorful fish"
Edinburgh Associative Thesaurus
EAT WORD FISH
DEGREE 338
WEIGHTED DEGREE 1532.00
Automatic mapping to Age of Acquisition Data by Kuperman et al. (2012)
AOA WORD fish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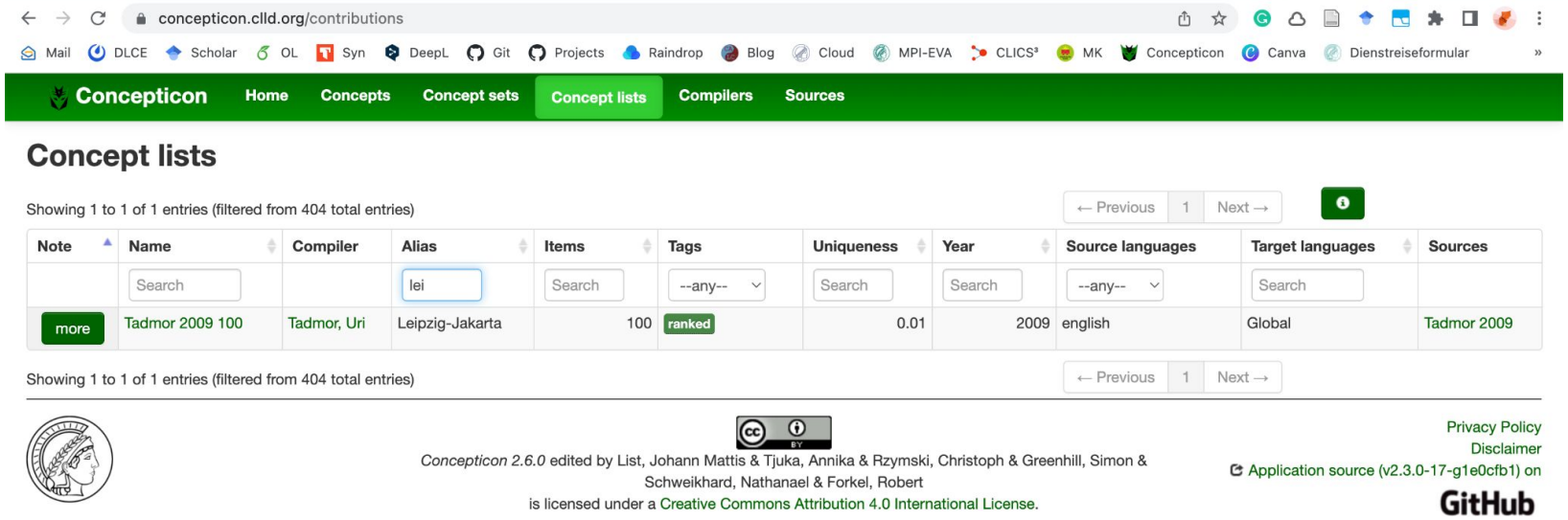
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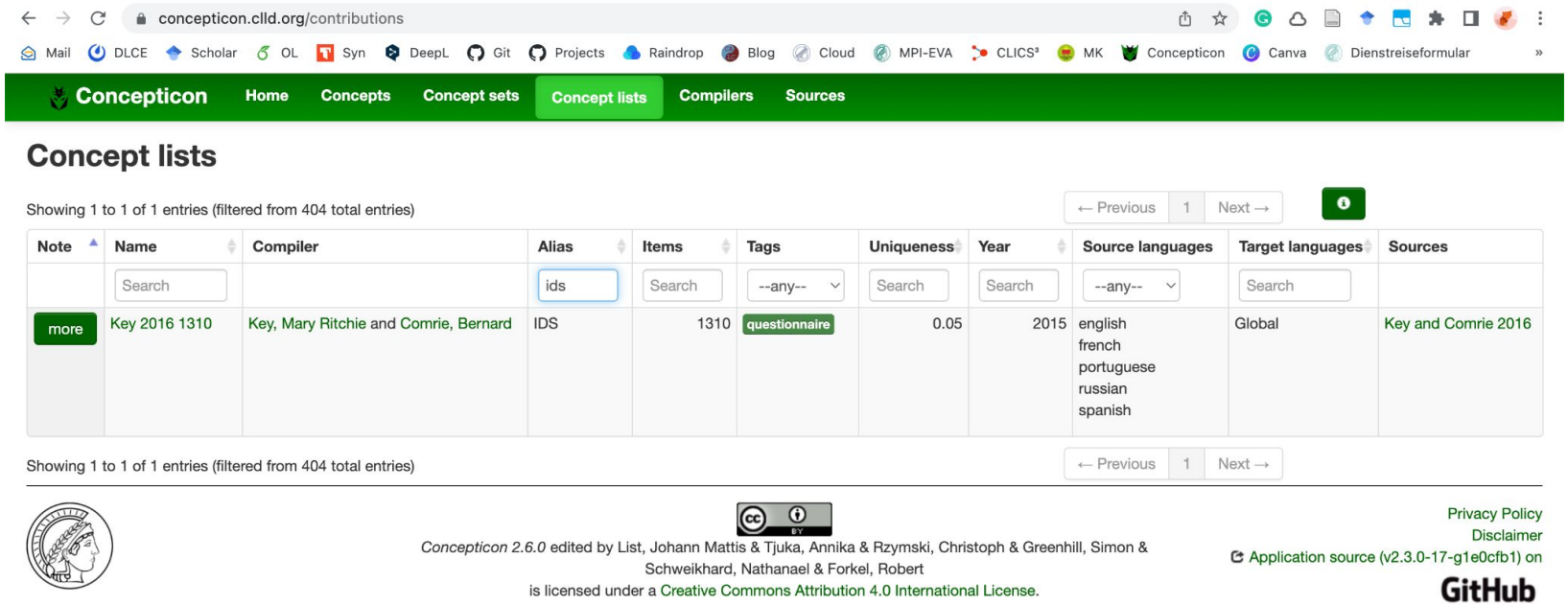
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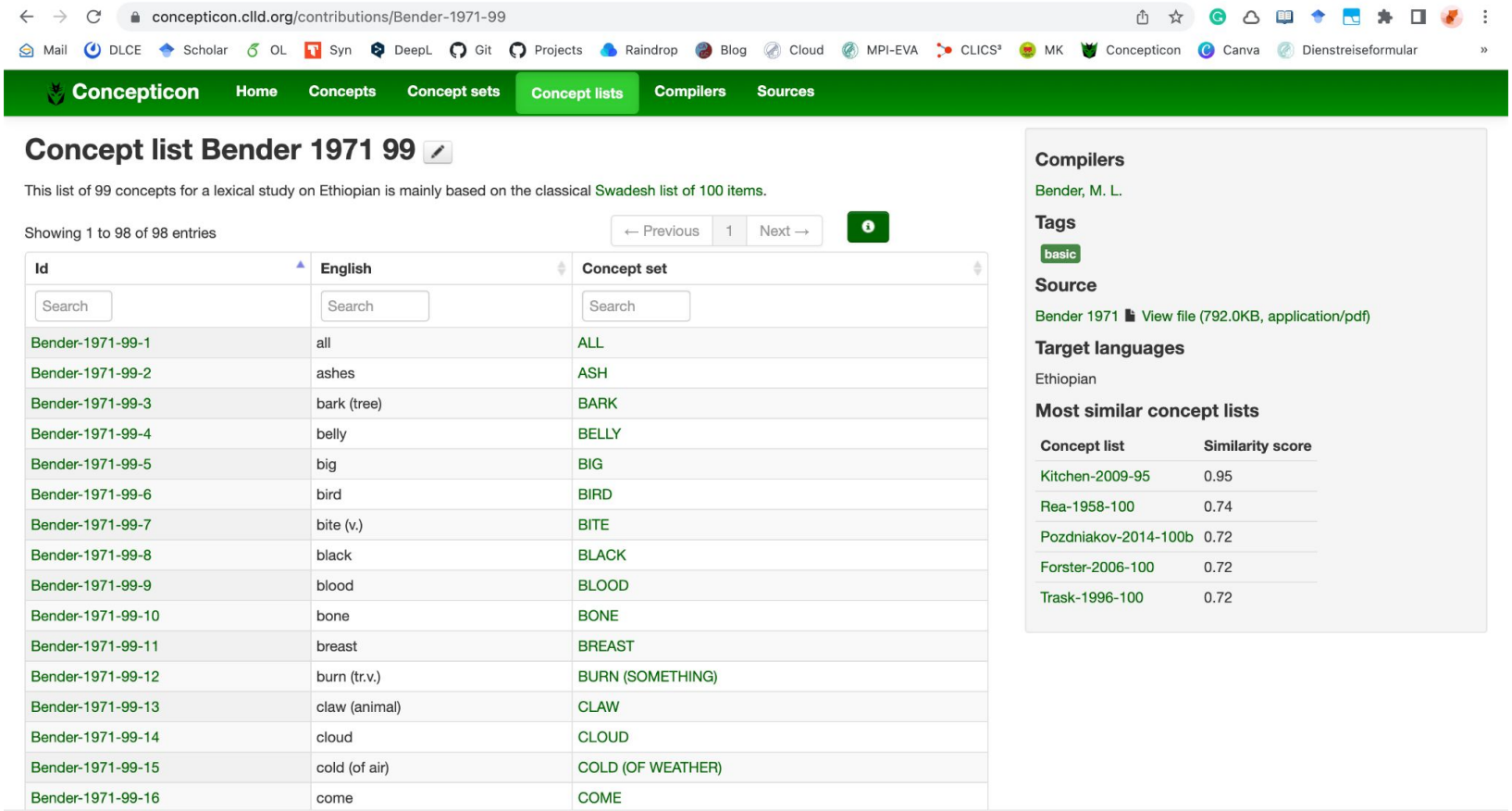
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Concept list Bender 1971 99
This list of 99 concepts for a lexical study on Ethiopian is mainly based on the classical Swadesh list of 100 items.
Showing 1 to 98 of 98 entries
← Previous 1 Next →
Id English Concept set
Search Search Search
Bender-1971-99-1 all ALL
Bender-1971-99-2 ashes ASH
Bender-1971-99-3 bark (tree) BARK
Bender-1971-99-4 belly BELLY
Bender-1971-99-5 big BIG
Bender-1971-99-6 bird BIRD
Bender-1971-99-7 bite (v.) BITE
Bender-1971-99-8 black BLACK
Bender-1971-99-9 blood BLOOD
Bender-1971-99-10 bone BONE
Bender-1971-99-11 breast BREAST
Bender-1971-99-12 burn (tr.v.) BURN (SOMETHING)
Bender-1971-99-13 claw (animal) CLAW
Bender-1971-99-14 cloud CLOUD
Bender-1971-99-15 cold (of air) COLD (OF WEATHER)
Bender-1971-99-16 come COME
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Target languages
Ethiopian
Most similar concept lists
Concept list Similarity score
Kitchen-2009-95 0.95
Rea-1958-100 0.74
Pozdniakov-2014-100b 0.72
Forster-2006-100 0.72
Trask-1996-100 0.72

Editors and Contributors

- **Current Editorial Team**
  - Johann-Mattis List, Annika Tjuka, Christoph Rzymski, Simon Greenhill, Nathanael Schweikhard, and Robert Forkel

- **Contributors**
  - 67 researchers have contributed data.
  - They point us to missing lists, provide scans, translations, and corrections.
  - Full list: https://github.com/concepticon/concepticon-data/blob/master/CONTRIBUTORS.md

NORMS, RATINGS, AND RELATIONS

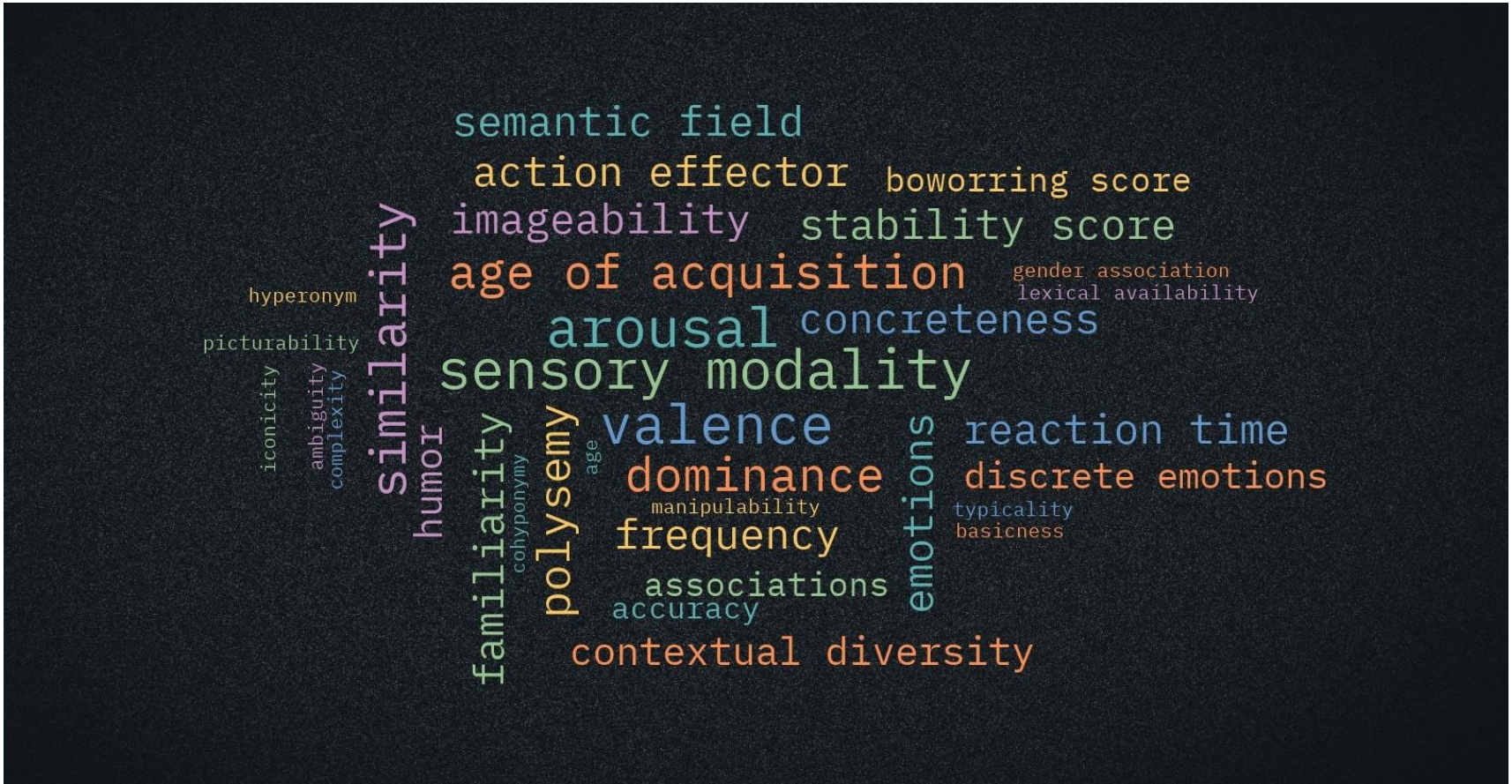
No Ra Re

- **A cross-linguistic database of norms, ratings, and relations for words and concepts. Building on Concepticon, it integrates data from psychology and linguistics.**

- **NoRaRe 0.2 (Tjuka et al. 2021)**
  - 98 data sets
  - 65 unique word properties
  - 40 languages

- **Website: https://digling.org/norare/**
- **GitHub: https://github.com/concepticon/norare-data**
- **Article: https://doi.org/10.3758/s13428-021-01650-1**

Word Properties



Norms, Ratings, and Relations

Norms

- Include data that are collected by taking samples from a total quantity.
- Collected and applied predominantly in the field of psychology.
- Examples:
  - word frequency
  - lexical decision

Ratings

- Based on participant judgments of a given word in a particular language either on a scale or on other measures.
- Examples:
  - age-of-acquisition
  - emotional states
  - sensory modality

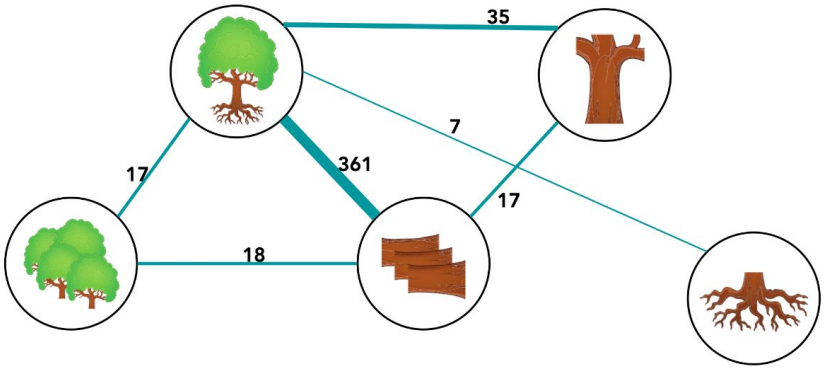
Relations

- Information on the relation between two words or concepts.
- Collected in the field of comparative linguistics and Natural Language Processing (NLP).
- Examples:
  - colexifications
  - stability rankings
  - associations

Data Structure

		402	906	1803	344	670
		FOREST	TREE	WOOD	TREE TRUNK	ROOT
	Frequency (log10)	3.06	3.52	2.78	3.00	2.72
	Frequency (log10)	3.09	3.01	2.74	2.42	0.47
	Arousal (mean)	4.00	2.97	3.51	3.18	NA
	Arousal (mean)	4.00	3.63	3.95	4.45	4.4

Cross-linguistic colexifications



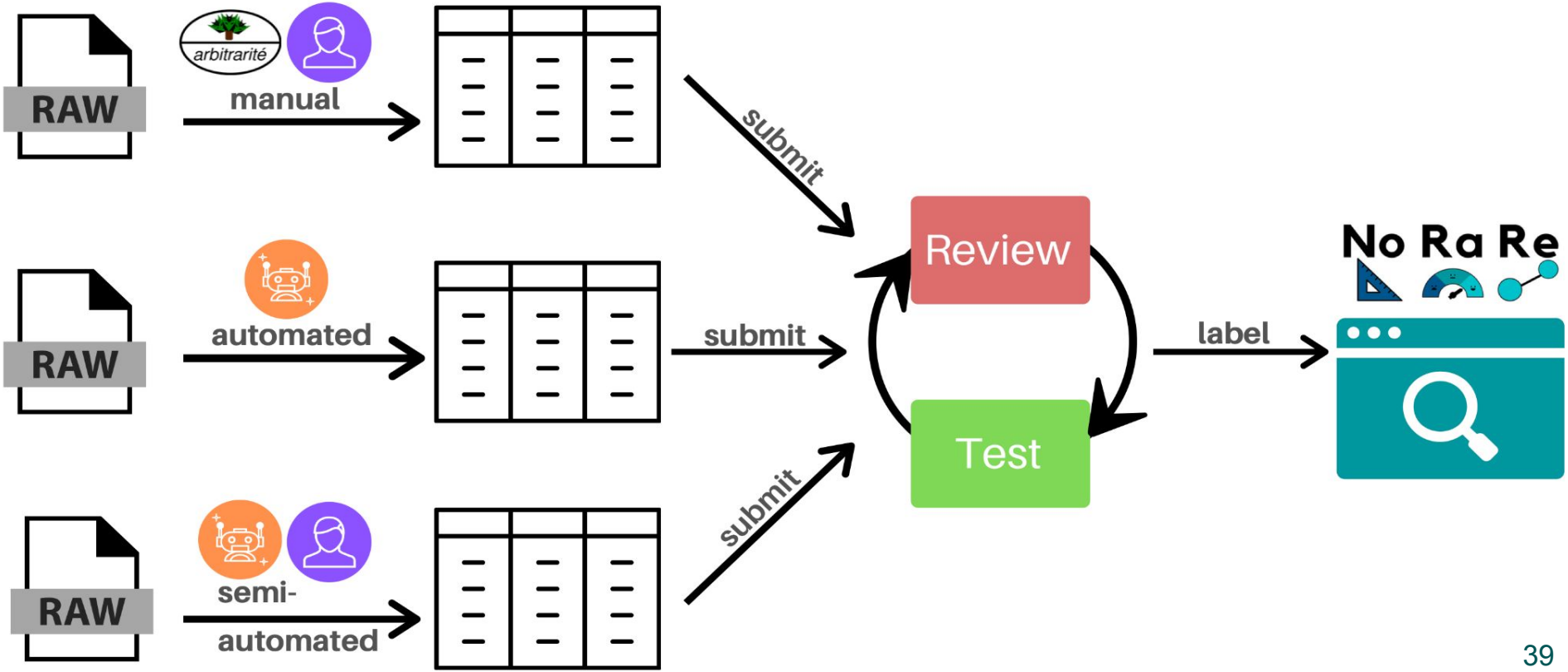
Data Curation

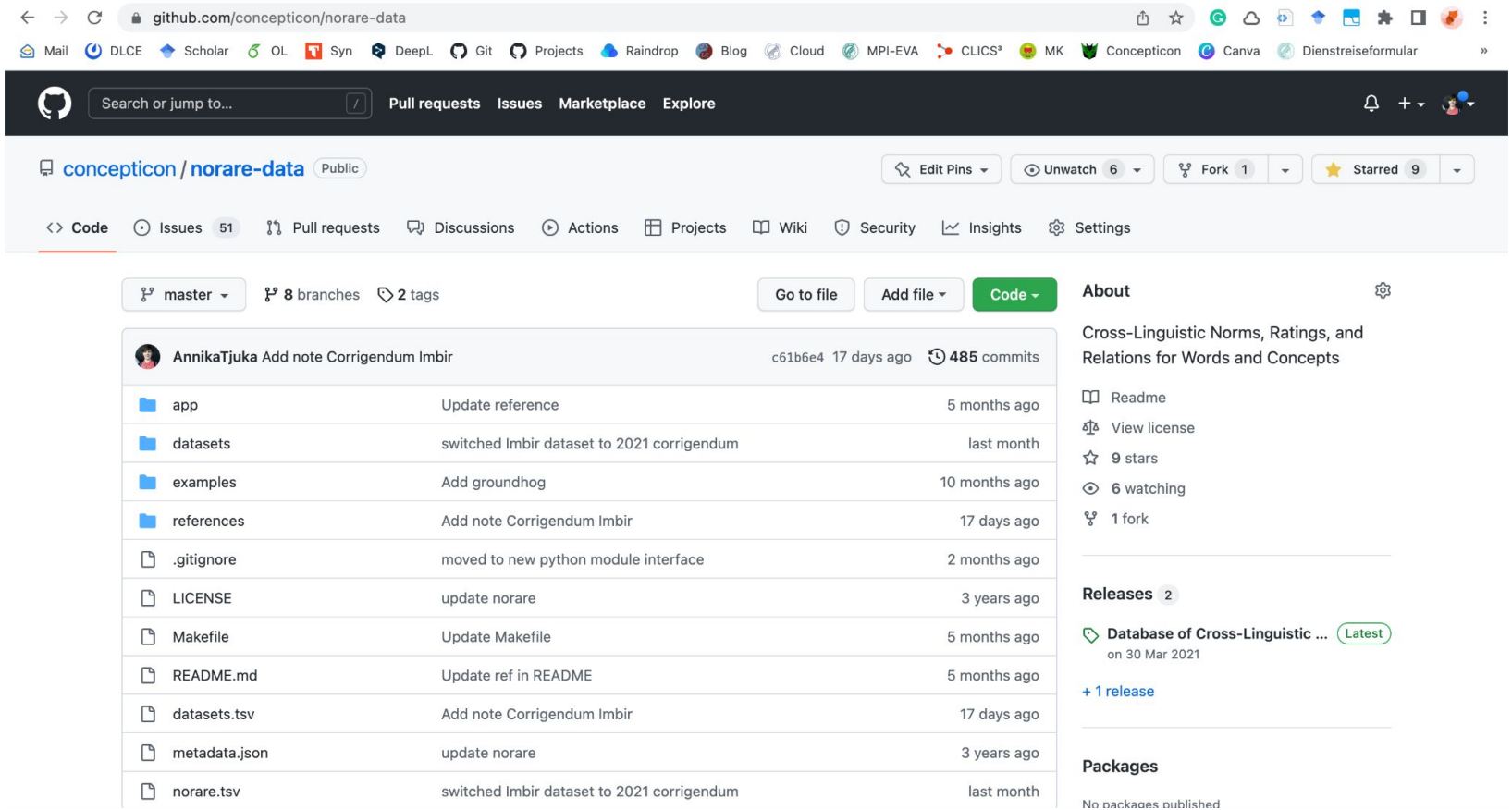
- **Manual, automated, and semi-automated mapping to Concepticon concept sets**
- **Information on data types in metadata.json**
- **Test-driven data curation**
- **Python package: `pynorare` (List & Forkel 2020)**
- **Accessed via command line**
- **Regular releases**

Tutorials

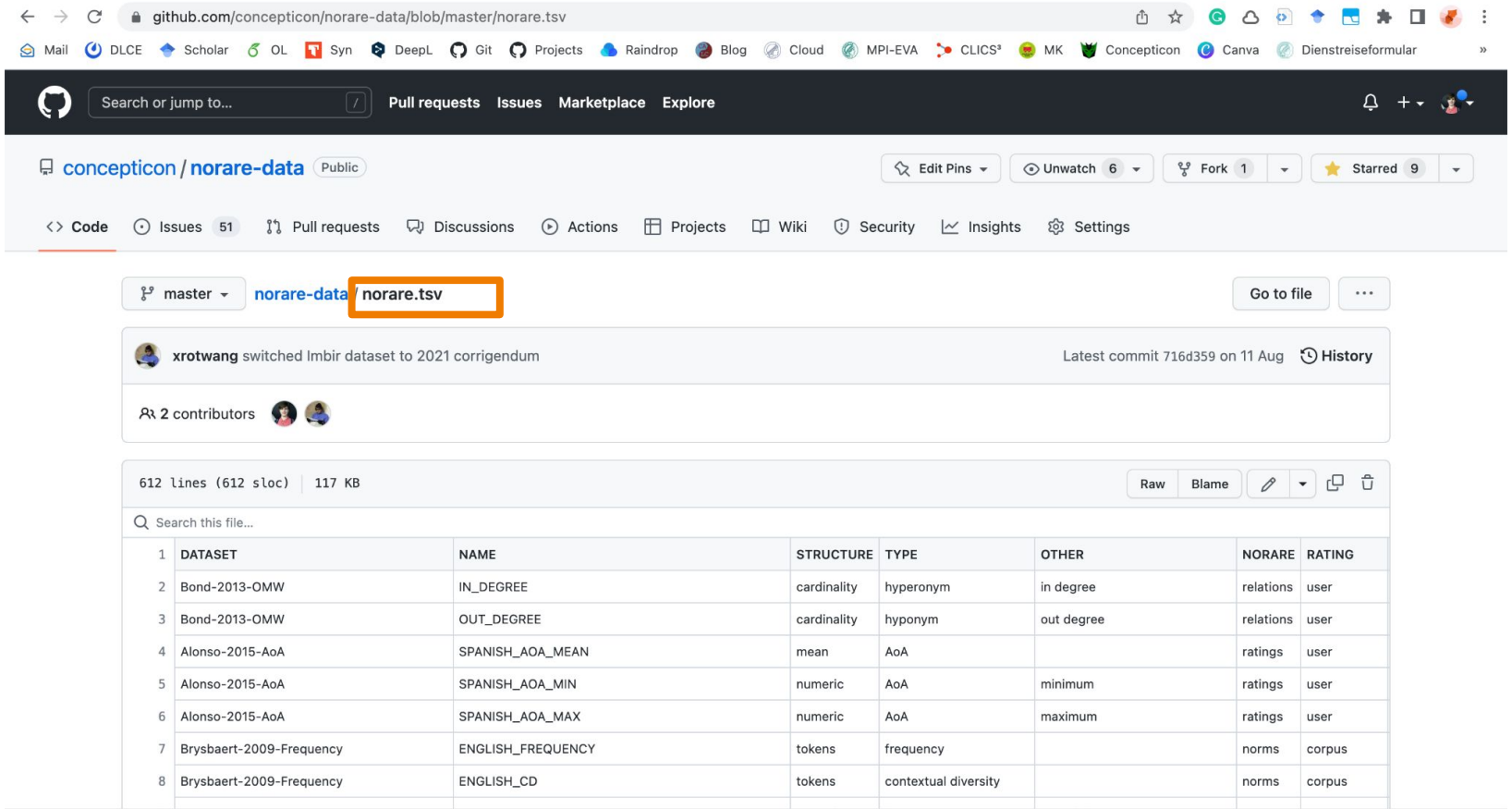
- Tjuka (2021a; 2021b)

Overview of Data Curation Workflows





Open: GitHub and Website



github.com/concepticon/norare-data/blob/master/norare.tsv

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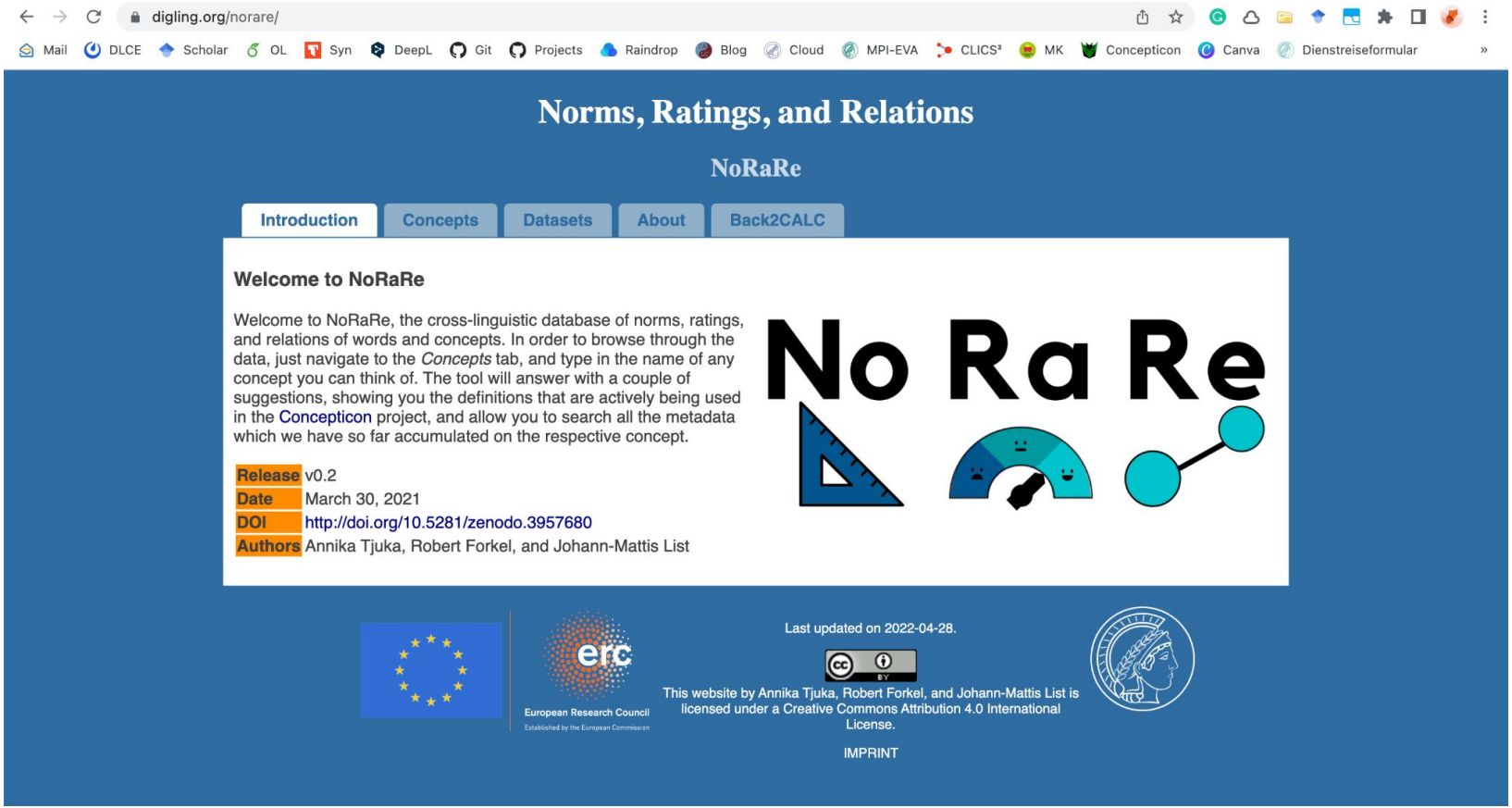
xrotwang switched lmbir dataset to 2021 corrigendum — Latest commit 716d359 on 11 Aug — History

2 contributors

612 lines (612 sloc) | 117 KB | Raw | Blame

Search this file...

	DATASET	NAME	STRUCTURE	TYPE	OTHER	NORARE	RATING
2	Bond-2013-OMW	IN_DEGREE	cardinality	hyperonym	in degree	relations	user
3	Bond-2013-OMW	OUT_DEGREE	cardinality	hyponym	out degree	relations	user
4	Alonso-2015-AoA	SPANISH_AOA_MEAN	mean	AoA		ratings	user
5	Alonso-2015-AoA	SPANISH_AOA_MIN	numeric	AoA	minimum	ratings	user
6	Alonso-2015-AoA	SPANISH_AOA_MAX	numeric	AoA	maximum	ratings	user
7	Brysbaert-2009-Frequency	ENGLISH_FREQUENCY	tokens	frequency		norms	corpus
8	Brysbaert-2009-Frequency	ENGLISH_CD	tokens	contextual diversity		norms	corpus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NoRaRe
Introduction
Concepts
Datasets
About
Back2CALC
Welcome to NoRaRe
Welcome to NoRaRe, the cross-linguistic database of norms, ratings, and relations of words and concepts. In order to browse through the data, just navigate to the Concepts tab, and type in the name of any concept you can think of. The tool will answer with a couple of suggestions, showing you the definitions that are actively being used in the Concepticon project, and allow you to search all the metadata which we have so far accumulated on the respective concept.
Release v0.2
Date March 30, 2021
DOI http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3957680
Authors Annika Tjuka, Robert Forkel, and Johann-Mattis List
No Ra Re
European Research Council
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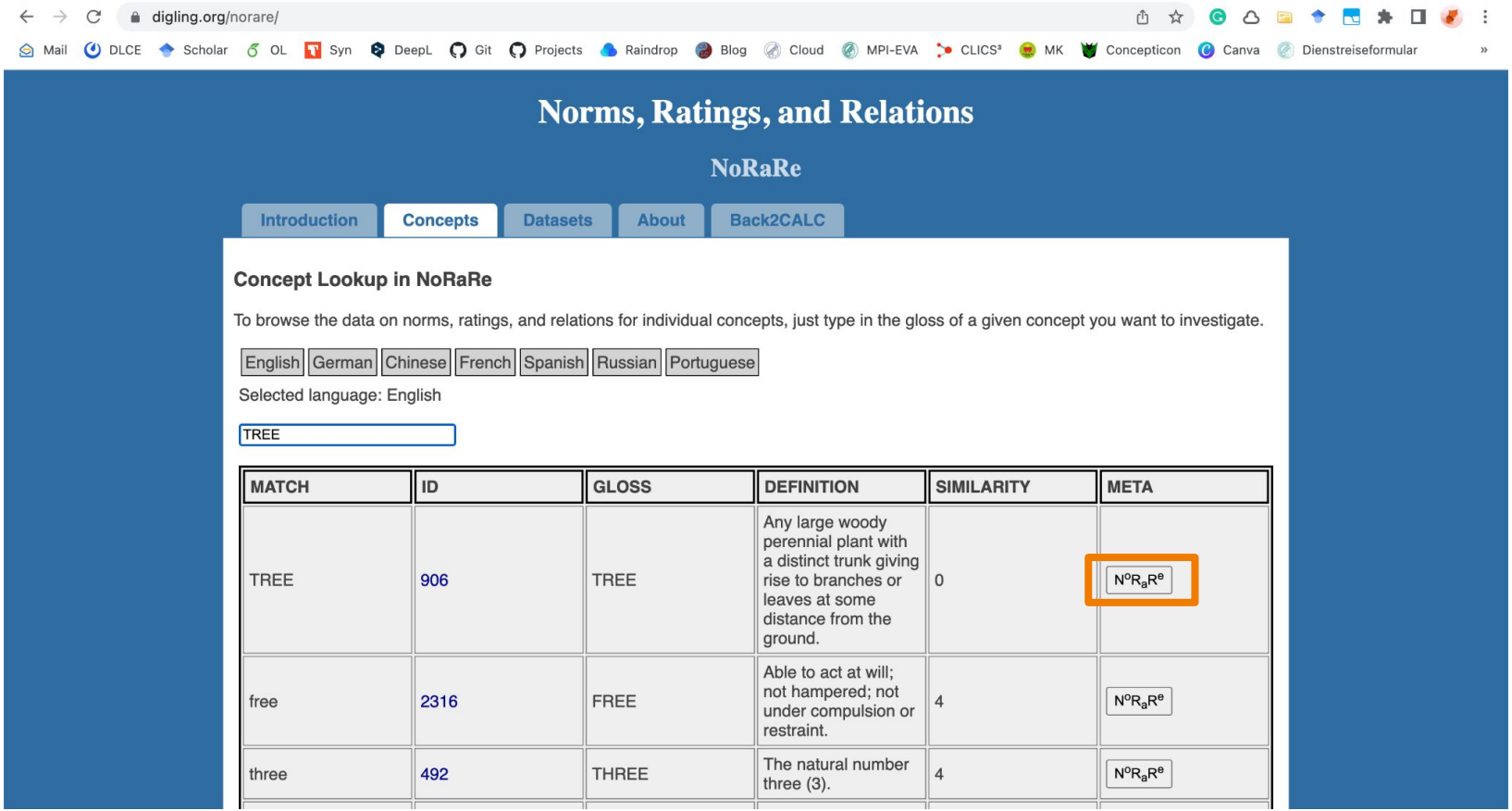
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Norms, Ratings, and Relations
NoRaRe
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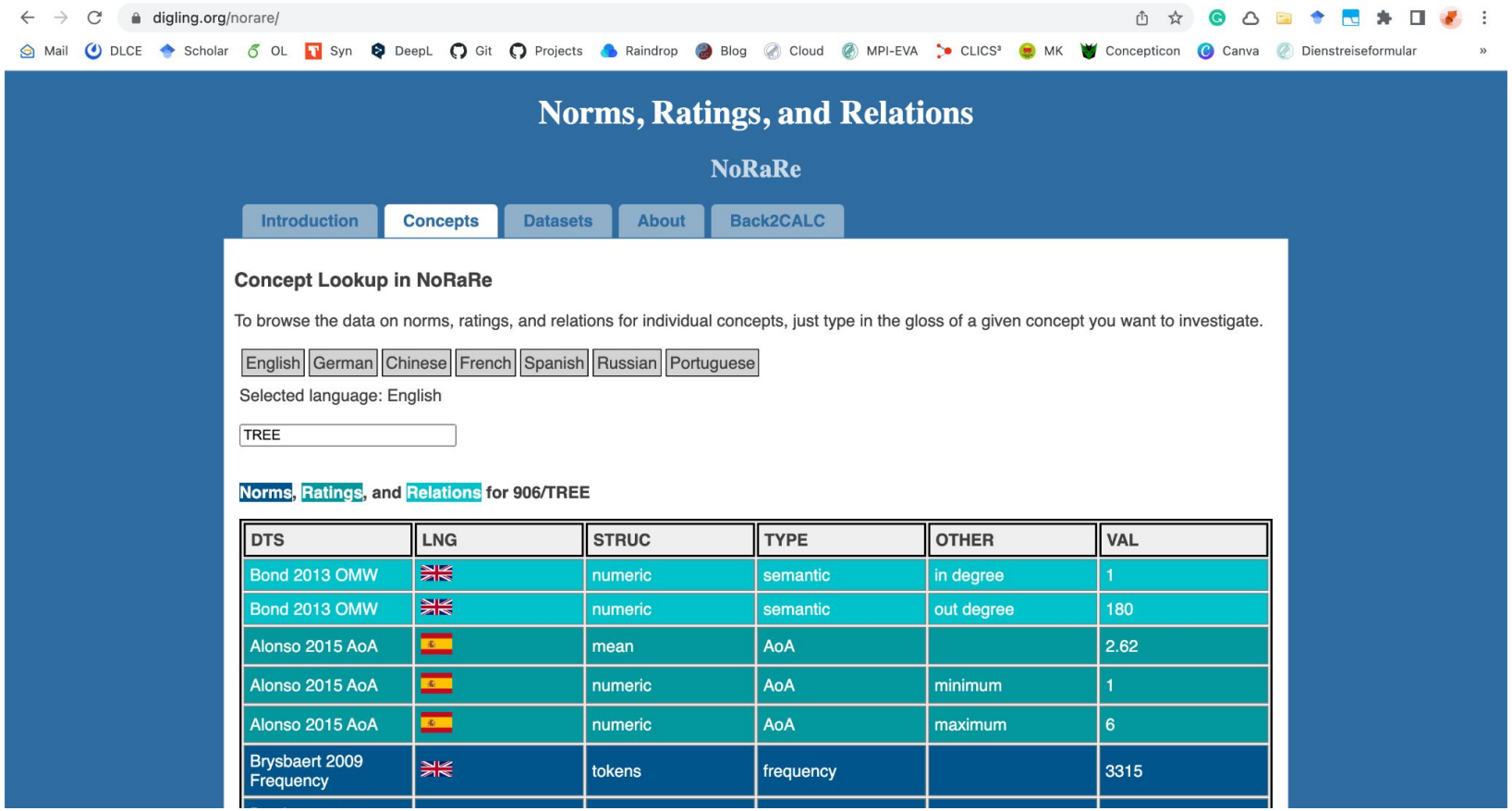
Concept Lookup in NoRaRe
To browse the data on norms, ratings, and relations for individual concepts, just type in the gloss of a given concept you want to investigate.
English German Chinese French Spanish Russian Portuguese
Selected language: English
TREE
MATCH | ID | GLOSS | DEFINITION | SIMILARITY | META
TREE | 906 | TREE | Any large woody perennial plant with a distinct trunk giving rise to branches or leaves at some distance from the ground. | 0 | NºRaRe
free | 2316 | FREE | Able to act at will; not hampered; not under compulsion or restraint. | 4 | NºRaRe
three | 492 | THREE | The natural number three (3). | 4 | NºRaRe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NoRaRe
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Concept Lookup in NoRaRe
To browse the data on norms, ratings, and relations for individual concepts, just type in the gloss of a given concept you want to investigate.
English German Chinese French Spanish Russian Portuguese
Selected language: English
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Norms, Ratings, and Relations for 906/TREE
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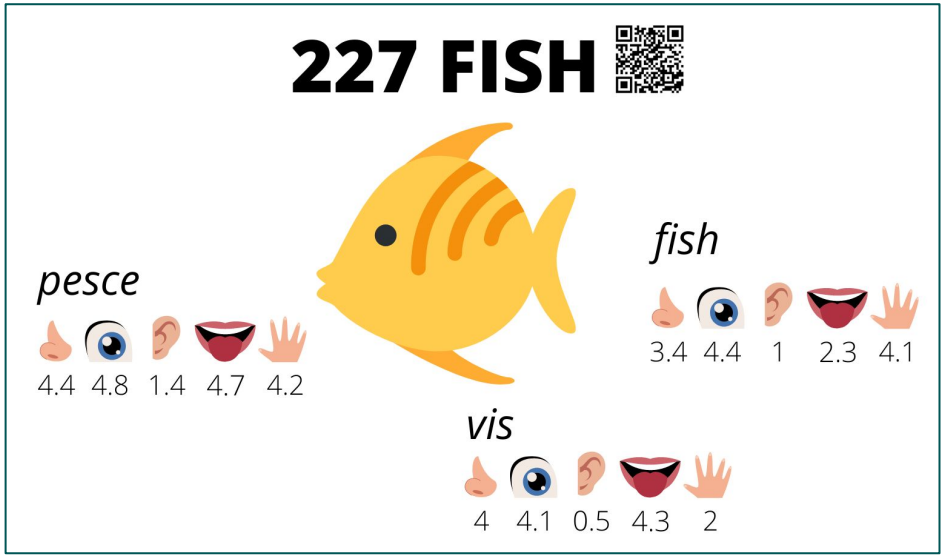
Bond 2013 OMW numeric semantic in degree 1
Bond 2013 OMW numeric semantic out degree 180
Alonso 2015 AoA mean AoA 2.62
Alonso 2015 AoA numeric AoA minimum 1
Alonso 2015 AoA numeric AoA maximum 6
Brysbaert 2009 Frequency tokens frequency 3315

CASE STUDY: CROSS-LINGUISTIC COMPARISON OF SENSORY MODALITY RATINGS

Cross-Linguistic Comparison of Word Properties

- Variation in word meaning is an inevitable phenomenon that needs further investigation to broaden our understanding of human minds.
- Main questions: Are words in different languages expressing the same concept represented similarly?
- Study: Comparing sensory modality ratings of five dimensions (haptic, visual, olfactory, gustatory, and auditory) aross English, Italian, and Dutch.
- Data: English (Lynott et al., 2020), Dutch (Speed & Brysbaert, 2022), and Italian (Vergallito et al., 2020)



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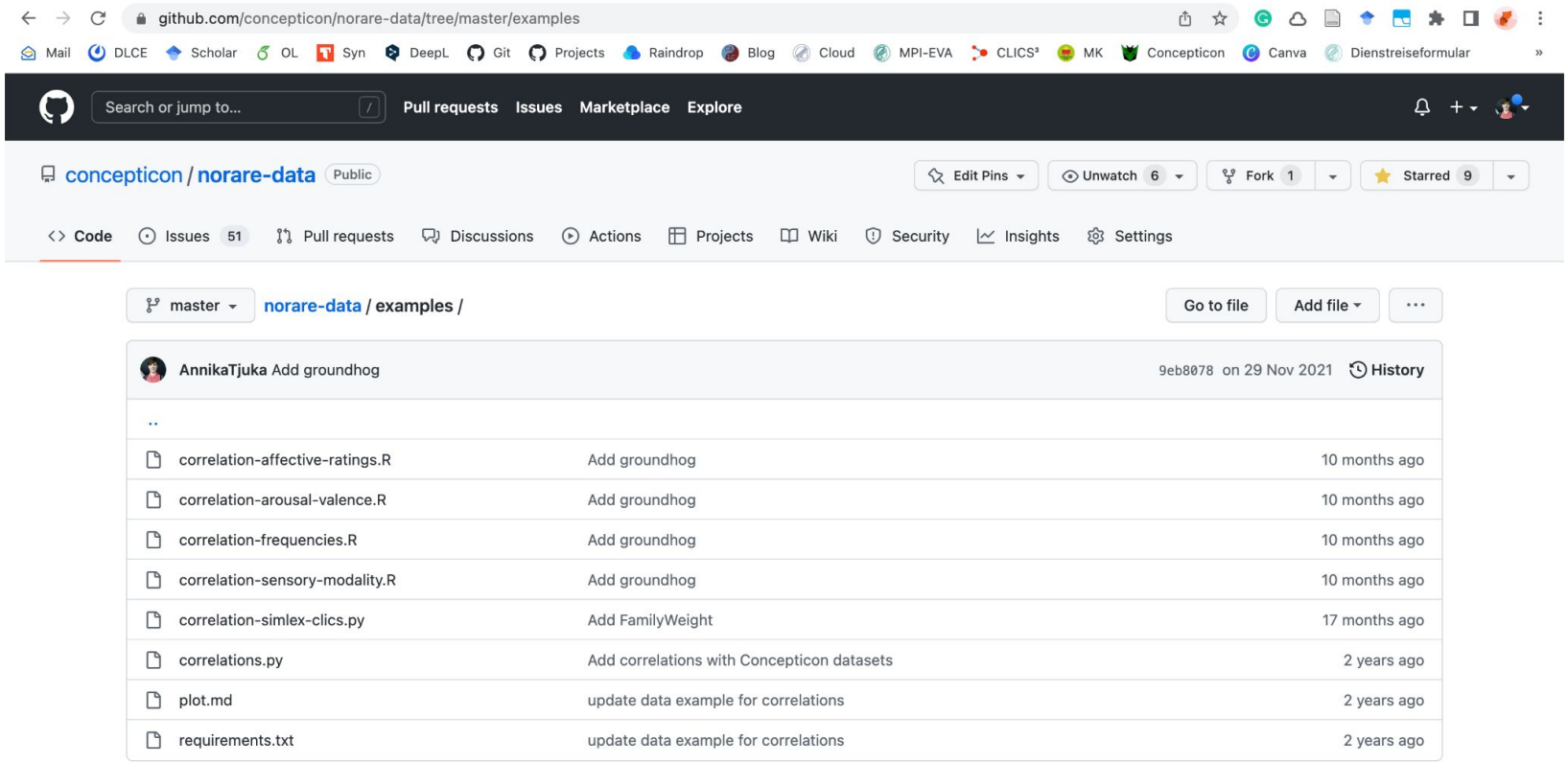
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plot.md update data example for correlations 2 years ago
requirements.txt update data example for correlations 2 years ago

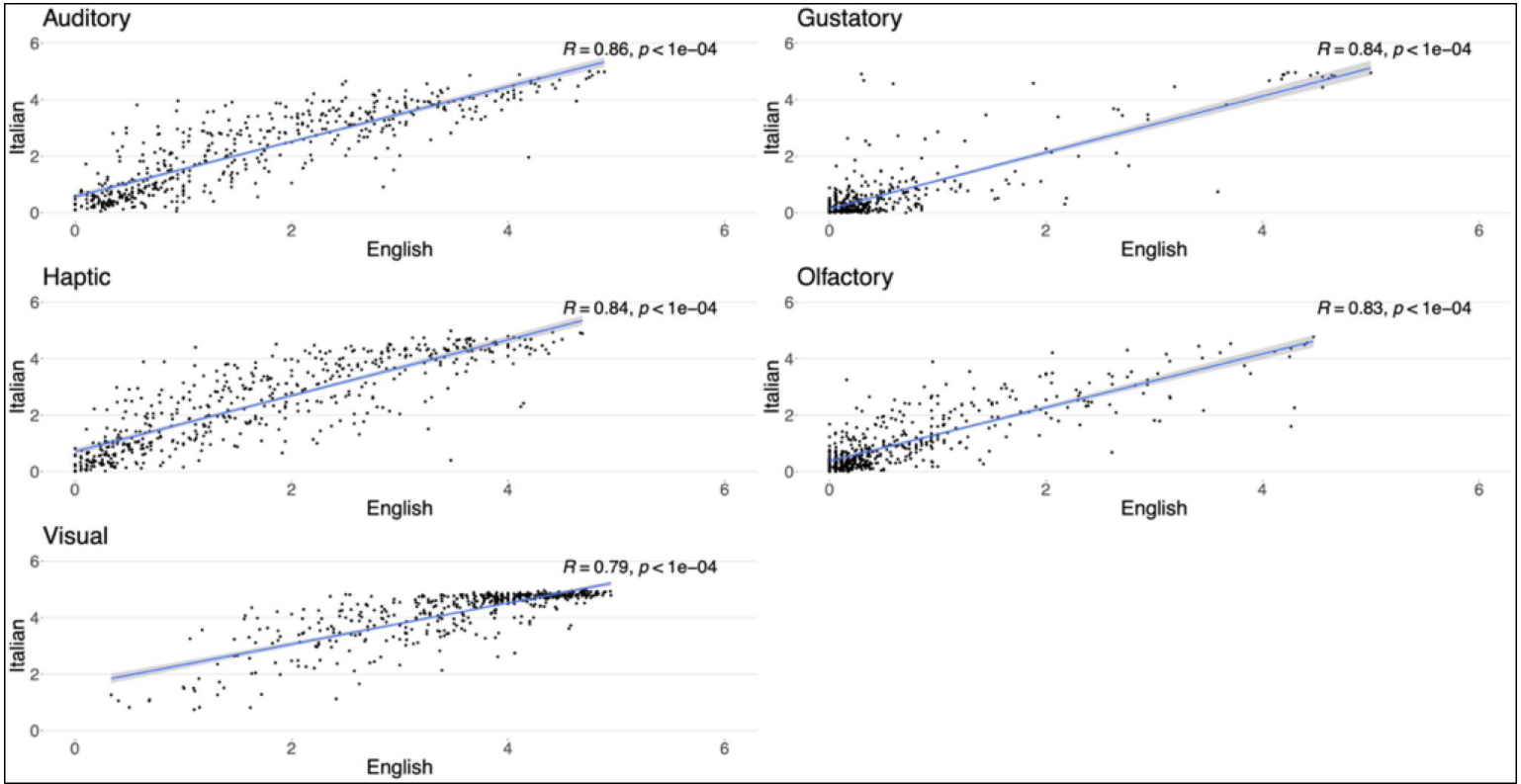
Cross-Linguistic Comparison of Word Properties

Results

Language pair	Words	Sensory modality	*R*
Italian-English	500 (nouns: 380, verbs: 28, adjectives: 92)	auditory haptic visual gustatory olfactory	0.86 0.85 0.79 0.83 0.83
Italian-Dutch	198 (nouns: 139, verbs: 6, adjectives: 53)	auditory haptic visual gustatory olfactory	0.88 0.83 0.75 0.74 0.78
English-Dutch	738 (nouns: 367, verbs: 28, adjectives: 183, other: 160)	auditory haptic visual gustatory olfactory	0.84 0.77 0.73 0.9 0.83

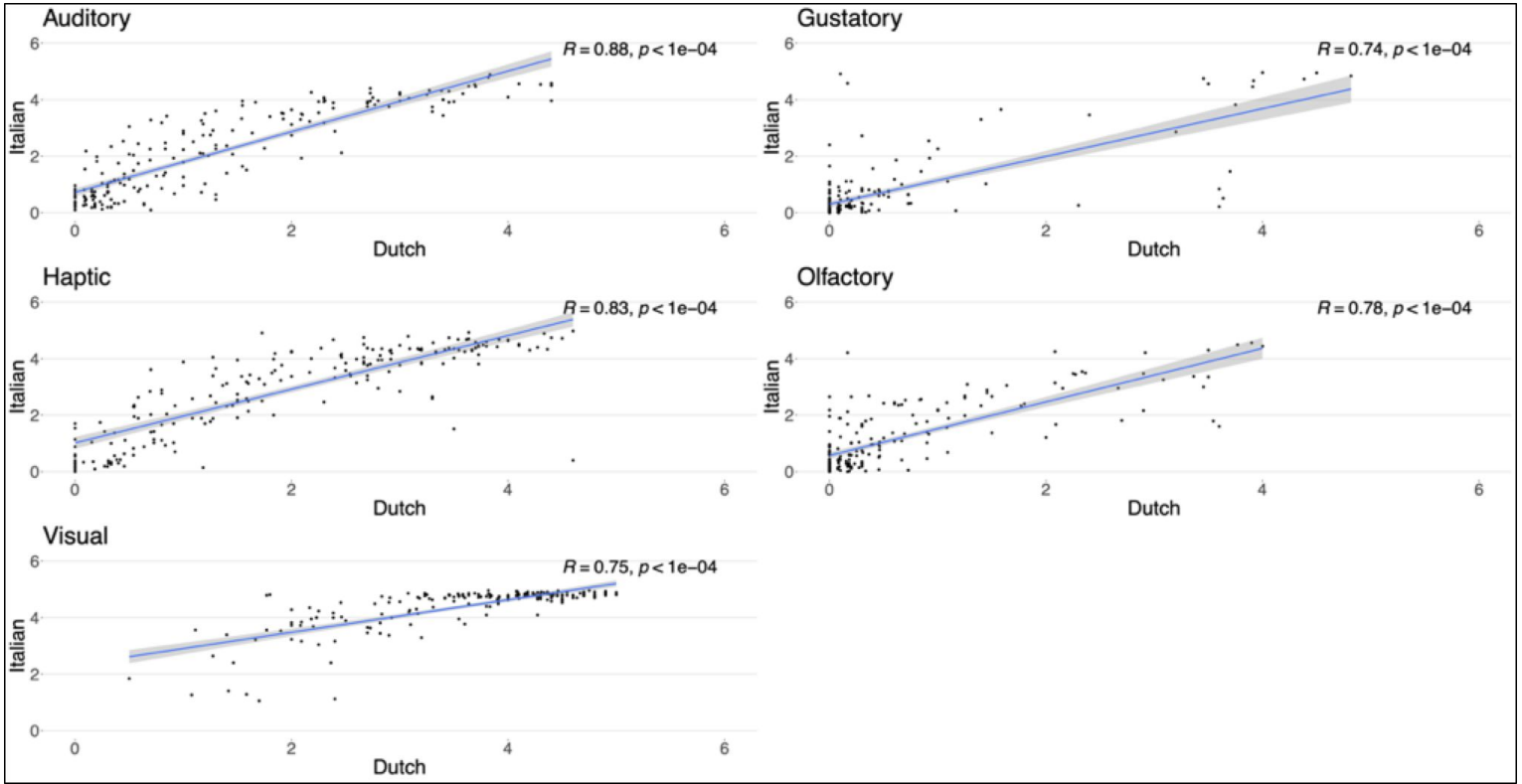
Cross-Linguistic Comparison of Word Properties

Italian-English Comparison



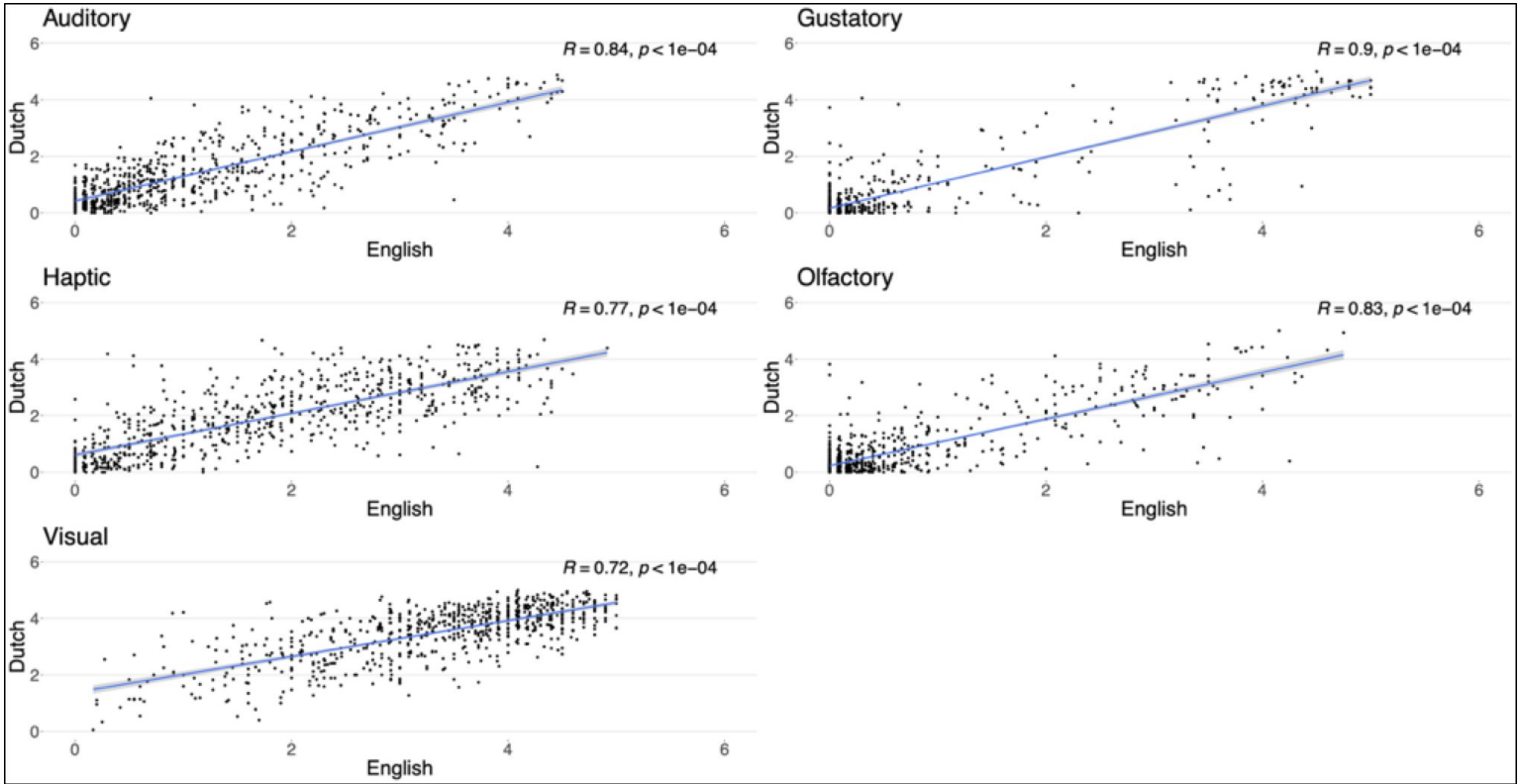
Cross-Linguistic Comparison of Word Properties

Italian-Dutch Comparison



Cross-Linguistic Comparison of Word Properties

Dutch-English Comparison



Cross-Linguistic Comparison of Word Properties

Conclusions & Implications

- **Sensory properties of words are perceived similarly across English, Dutch, and Italian speakers.**
- **Only slight differences across individual sensory modalities and language pairs occur.**
- **Additional data for various languages with the same rating scale need to be collected before a general claim can be made about the perception of sensory properties of words across cultures.**

Interim Summary

- Data must be standardized, human- and machine-readable.
- We use a test-driven data curation approach.
- Regular data releases ensure transparency, improvements, and extensions.
- Interoperability of the data allows correlations studies.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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Blog Posts

List, Johann-Mattis. 2018. Towards a history of concept list compilation in historical linguistics. Blog. History and Philosophy of the Language Sciences. https://hiphilangsci.net/2018/10/31/concept-list-compilation/. (29 December, 2020).

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MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR EVOLUTIONARY ANTHROPOLOGY

Computer-Assisted Approaches to Lexical Typology

Semantic Shifts: From lexicon to grammar. Diachronic and typological perspectives
September 2022

Annika Tjuka and Johann-Mattis List
Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution

Agenda

Day 1

1 Introduction

2 Concepticon

3 Norms, Ratings, and Relations

4 Case Study: Cross-linguistic Comparison of Sensory Modality Ratings

Day 2

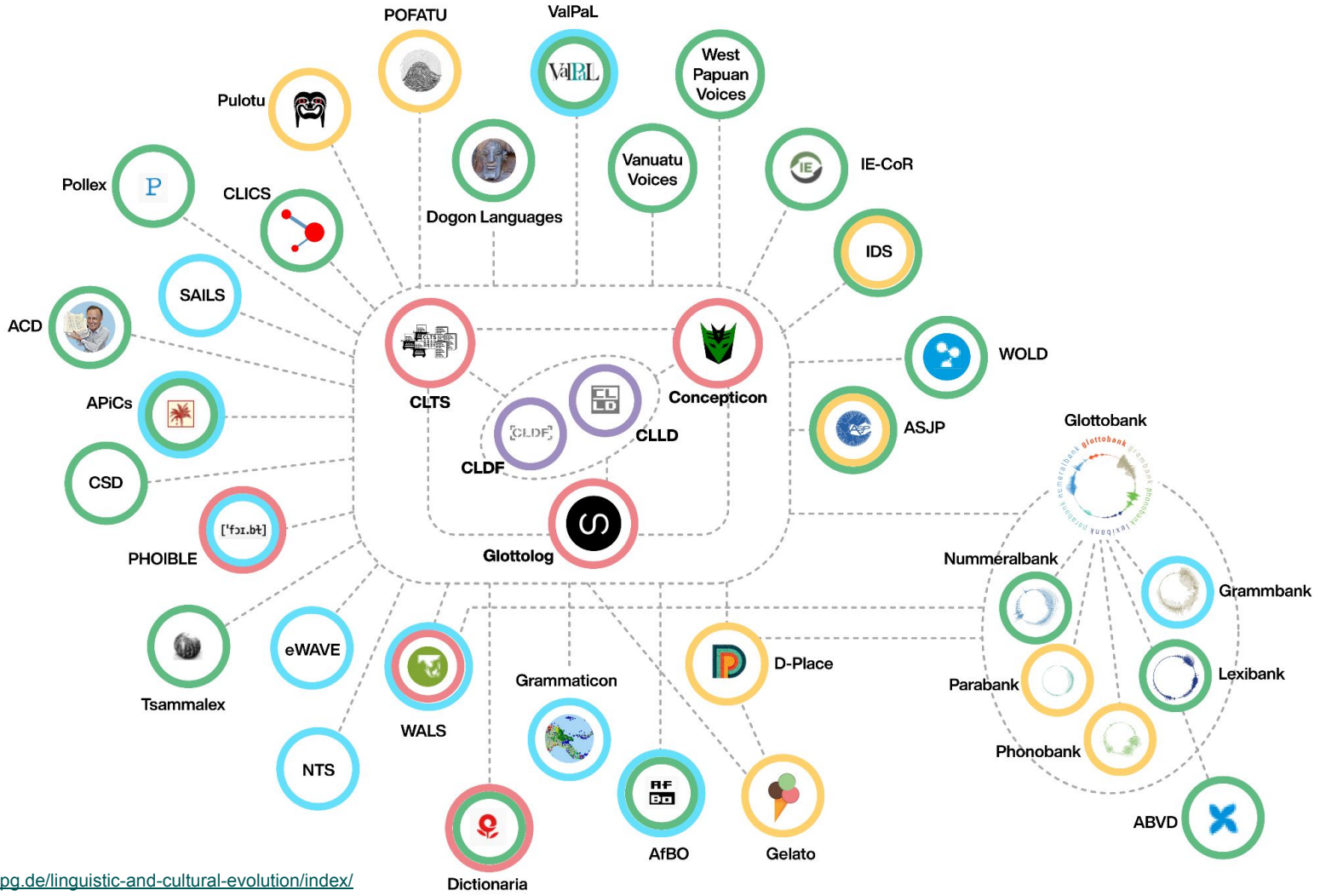
5 Lexibank

6 Partial Colexifications

7 Case Study: Emotion Colexifications

8 Case Study: Body Colexifications

LEXIBANK



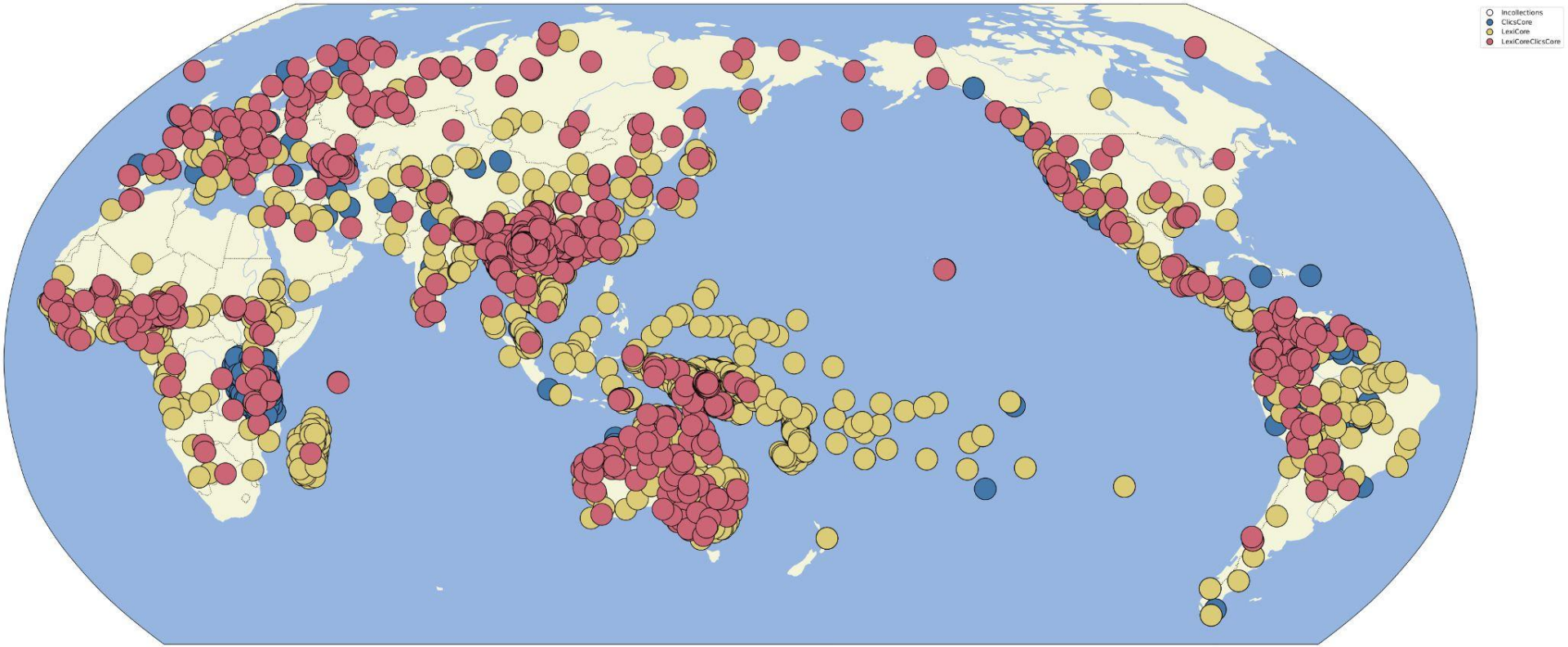
https://www.eva.mpg.de/linguistic-and-cultural-evolution/index/

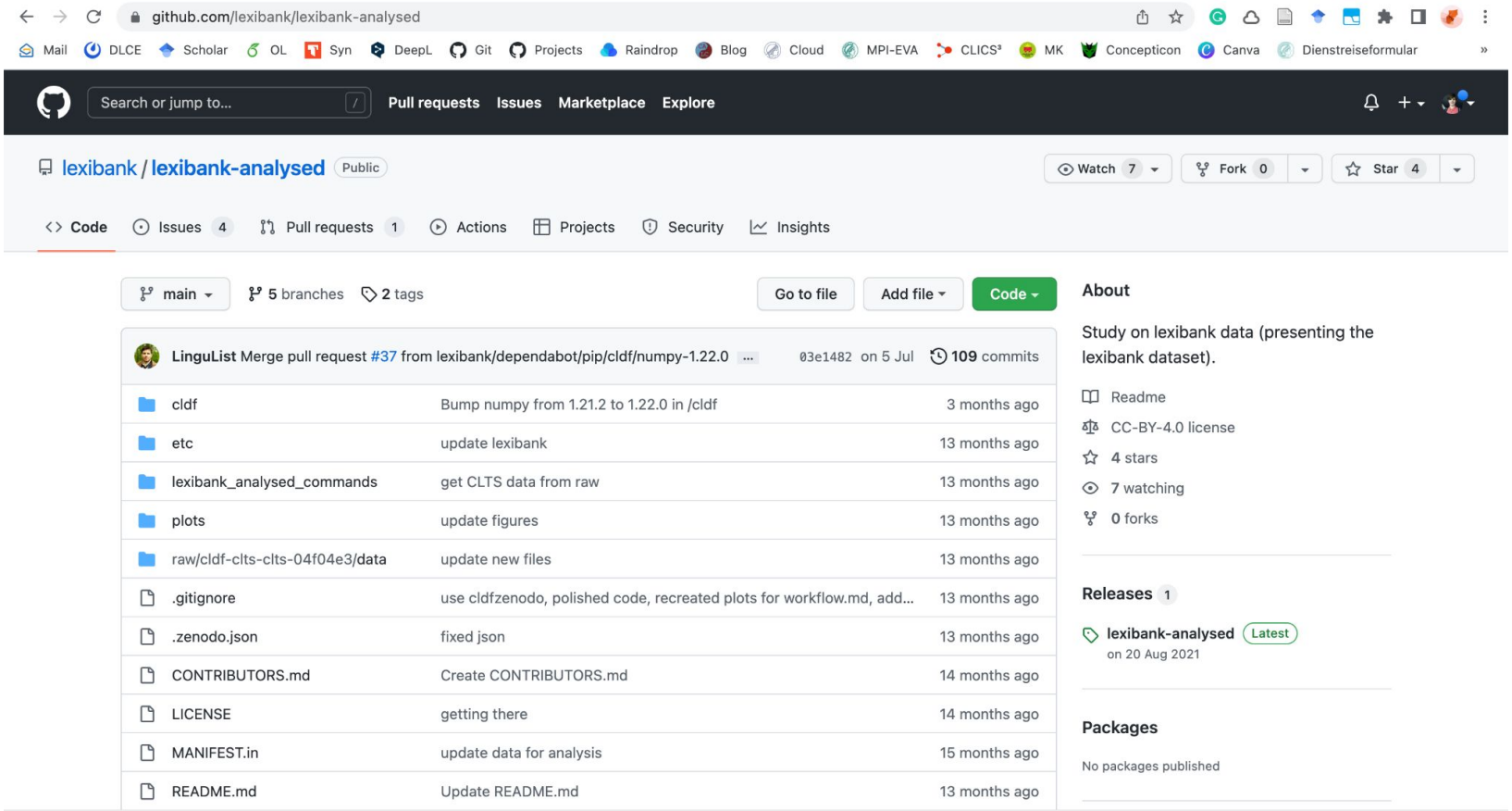
Lexibank

- **A public repository of standardized concept lists with computed phonological and lexical features. The data include unified phonetic transcriptions covering more than 2000 language varieties. It is the largest cross-linguistic lexical data collection to date.**

- **Lexibank 0.1 (List et al. 2022)**
  - 100 CLDF data sets based on 4069 concept lists from 2456 language varieties
    - LexiCore: 3320 concept lists from 94 data sets with fully standardized phonetic transcriptions for at least 80 word forms; 1806 concept lists from 52 data sets for at least 250 word forms
    - CogCore: 1441 concept lists from 49 data sets with information on etymologically related words
    - ClicsCore: 50 data sets across 1784 different language varieties with at least 250 concepts
- **GitHub: https://github.com/lexibank/lexibank-analysed**
- **Article: List et al. (2022)**
  - FAZ article (only in German): https://tinyurl.com/mwa73xn8

Data Distribution




github.com/lexibank/lexibank-analysed
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Study on lexibank data (presenting the lexibank dataset).
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7 watching
0 forks
Releases 1
lexibank-analysed Latest
on 20 Aug 2021
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No packages published

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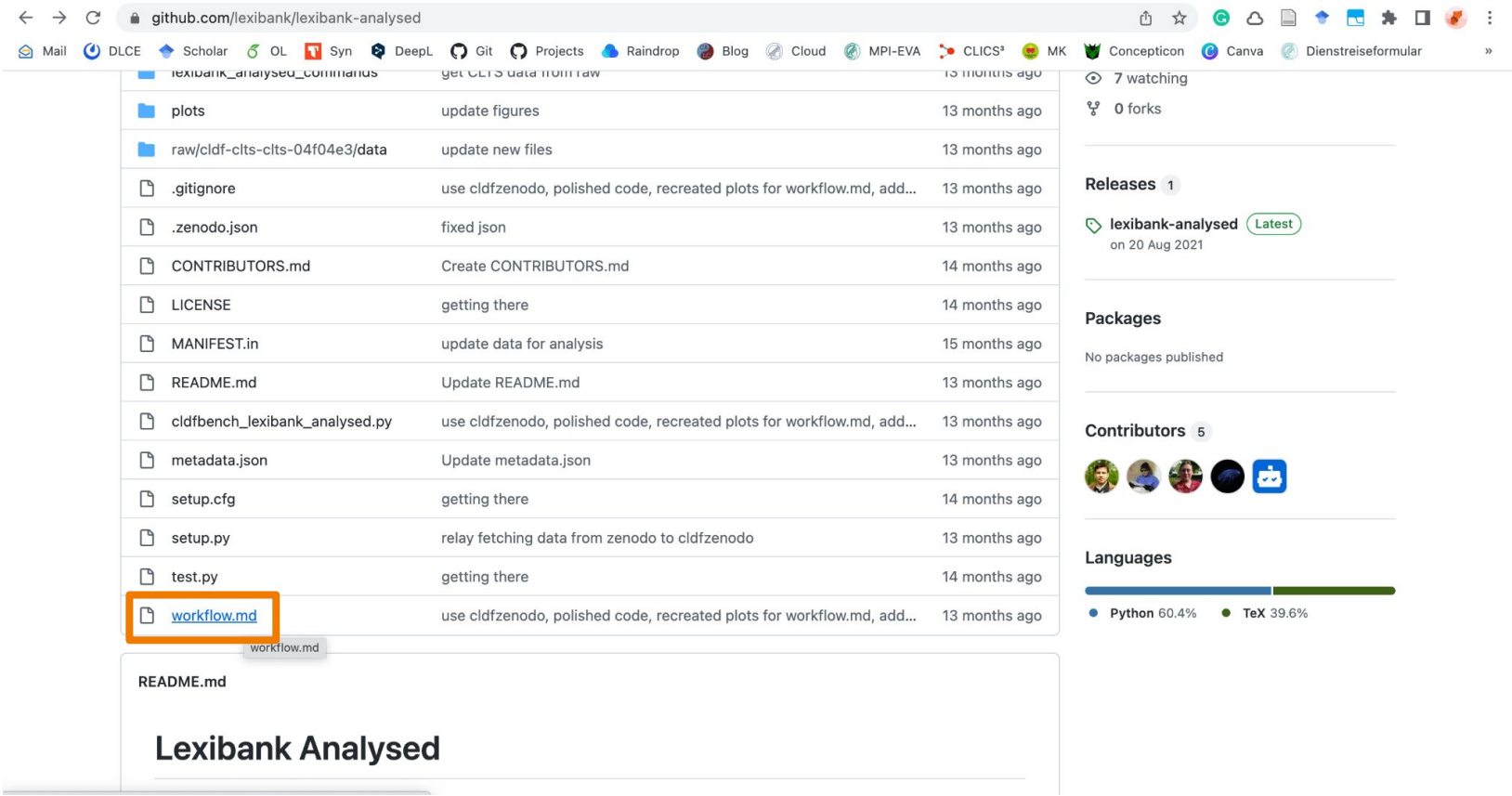
github.com/lexibank/lexibank-analysed
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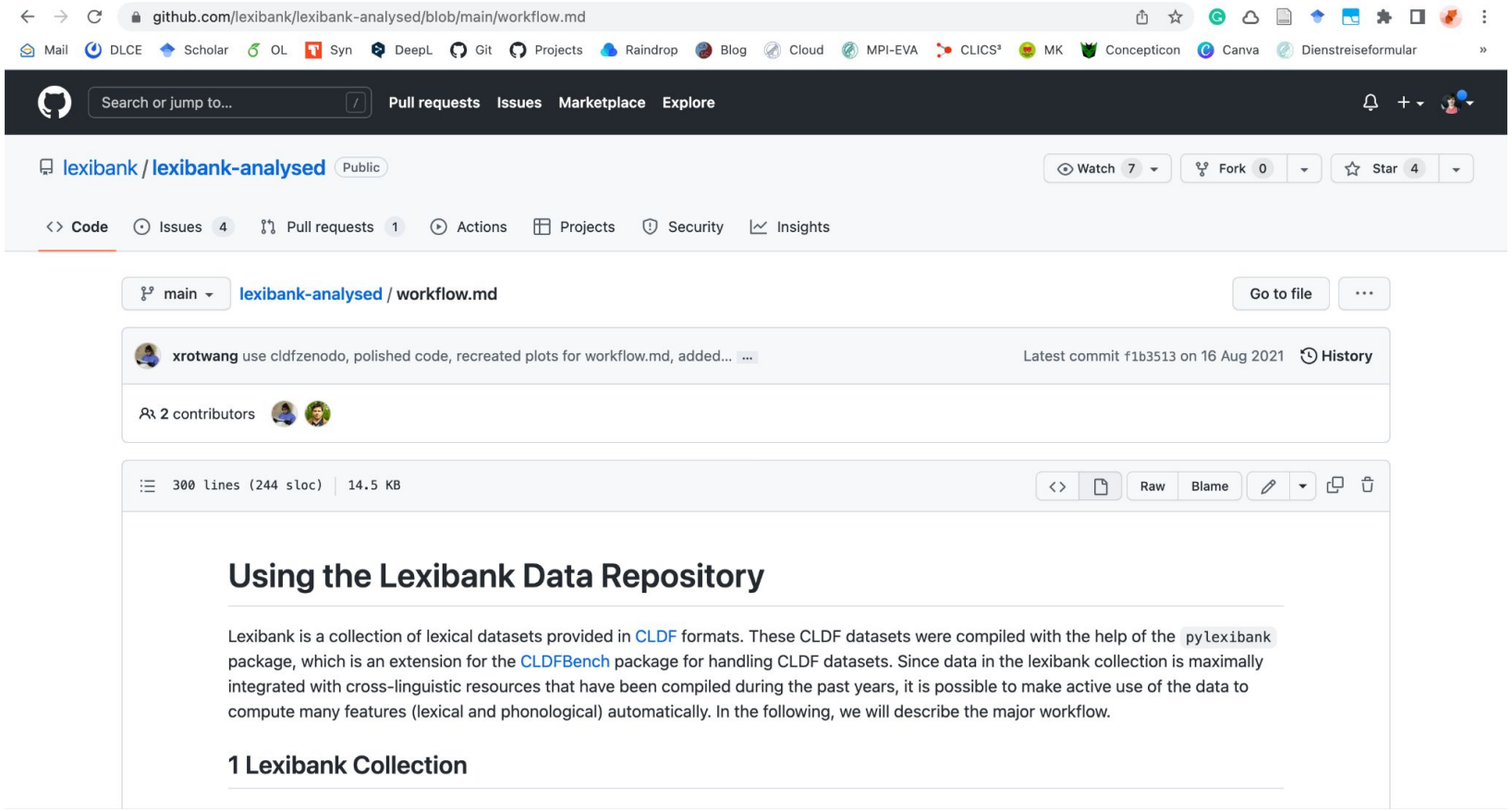
Languages
Python 60.4% TeX 39.6%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Latest commit f1b3513 on 16 Aug 2021
History
2 contributors
300 lines (244 sloc)
14.5 KB
Raw
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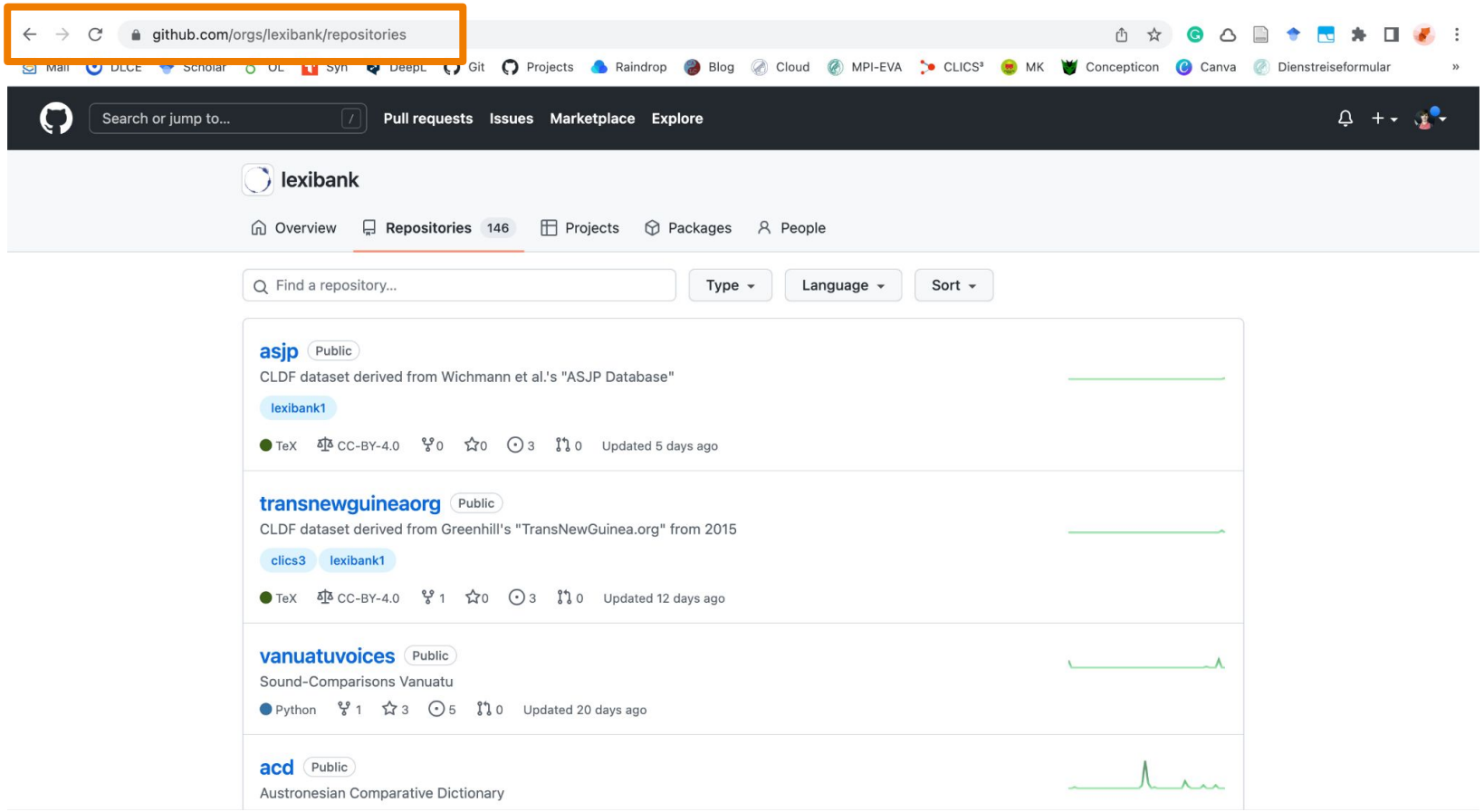
Using the Lexibank Data Repository
Lexibank is a collection of lexical datasets provided in CLDF formats. These CLDF datasets were compiled with the help of the pylexibank package, which is an extension for the CLDFBench package for handling CLDF datasets. Since data in the lexibank collection is maximally integrated with cross-linguistic resources that have been compiled during the past years, it is possible to make active use of the data to compute many features (lexical and phonological) automatically. In the following, we will describe the major workflow.
1 Lexibank Collection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CLDF dataset derived from Wichmann et al.'s "ASJP Database"
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CLDF dataset derived from Greenhill's "TransNewGuinea.org" from 2015
clics3
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Updated 12 days ago
vanuatuvoices
Public
Sound-Comparisons Vanuatu
Python
Updated 20 days ago
acd
Public
Austronesian Comparative Dictionary

github.com/lexibank/lexibank-analysed/tree/main/plots

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README.md

Plotting Instructions

In the following, we illustrate how the plots in the major study can be created with the help of the cldfviz package. The package offers plots in two major formats: *static* in the form of a PDF that requires additional packages like cartopy and matplotlib, and *interactive* in the form of an HTML file which you can open and inspect in the major webbrowsers. For the study, we have created the plots in the form of a PDF first and later post-edited the arrangements of the legends manually. As a result, the plots shown here do not correspond entirely to the ones you will find in the study.

Note that the installation of cartopy can cause troubles due to incompatible versions. As a result, we ask you to refer to the interactive HTML plots instead of the PDF plots if you do not manage to install cartopy properly.

To assemble the data, you will also need the csvkit package.

Statistics

We can use `csvcut` and other shell tools to explore the statistics of our data collection. Thus, in order to count the number of languages in the Lexibank collection of Lexibank, we just type:

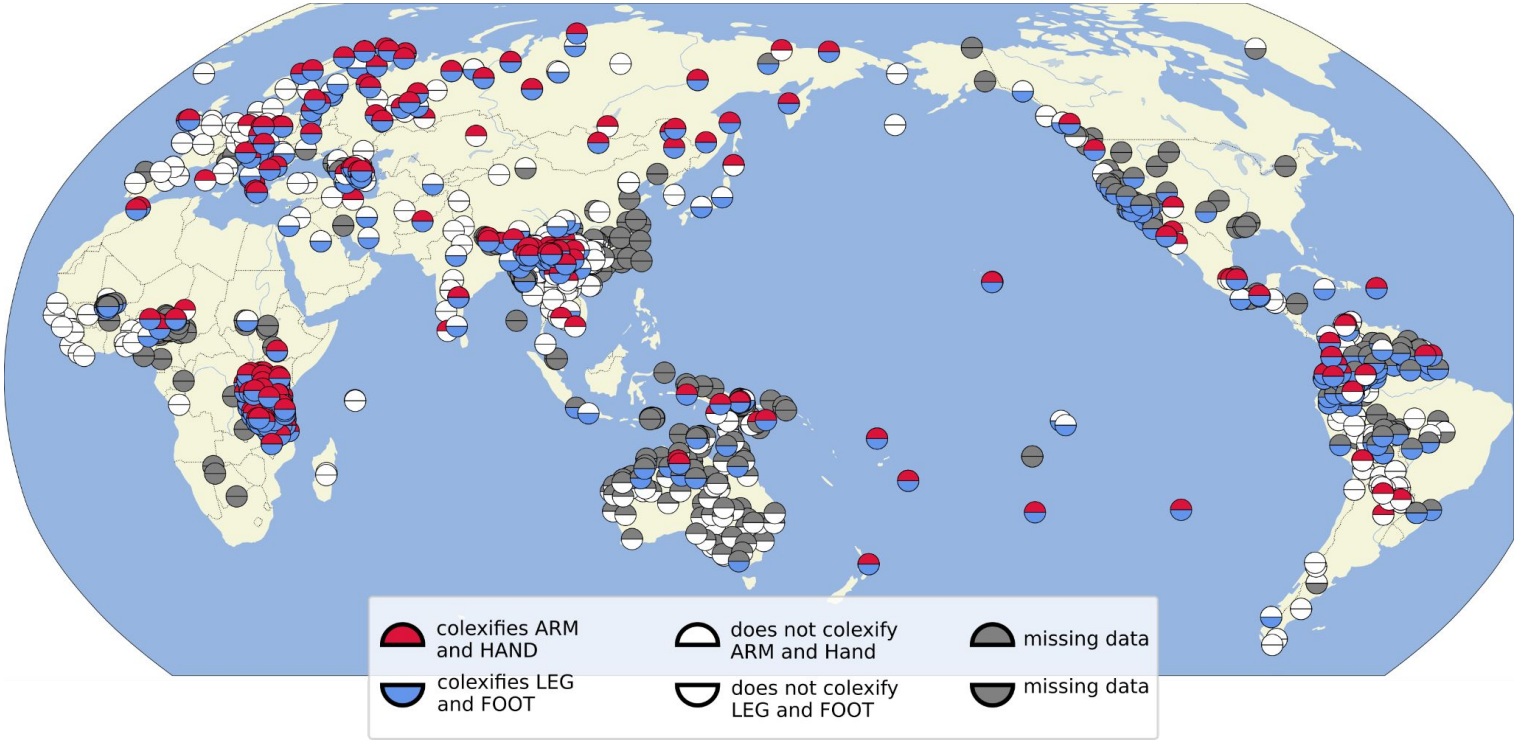
```
csvcut cldf/languages.csv -c ID | sort -u | wc -l
4070
```

To count unique Glottocodes, we type:

```
csvcut cldf/languages.csv -c Glottocode | sort -u | wc -l
2457
```

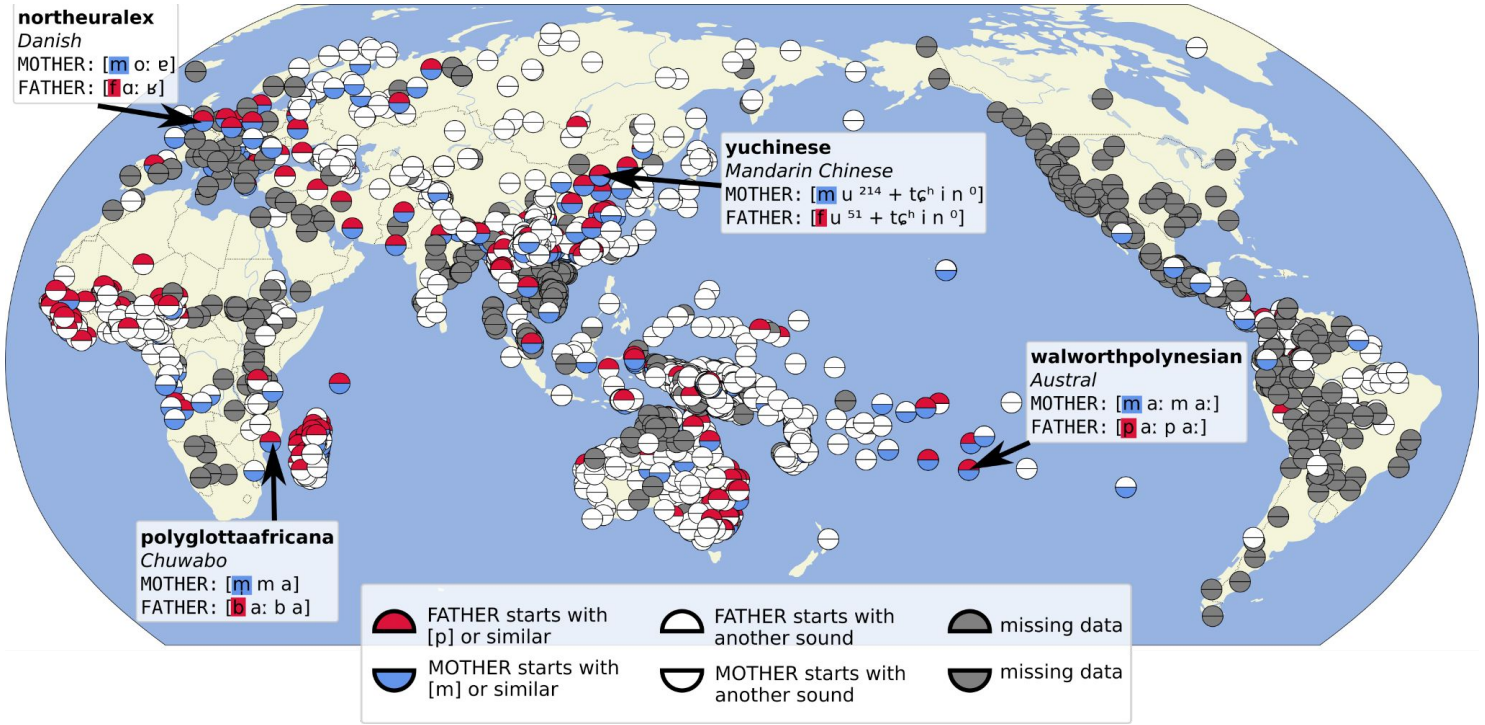
Lexical Features

Colexification of HAND-ARM (`HandAndArm`) and FOOT-LEG (`FootAndLeg`)



Sound-Symbolic Features

Start Sounds of FATHER (`FatherWithP`) and MOTHER (`MotherWithM`)



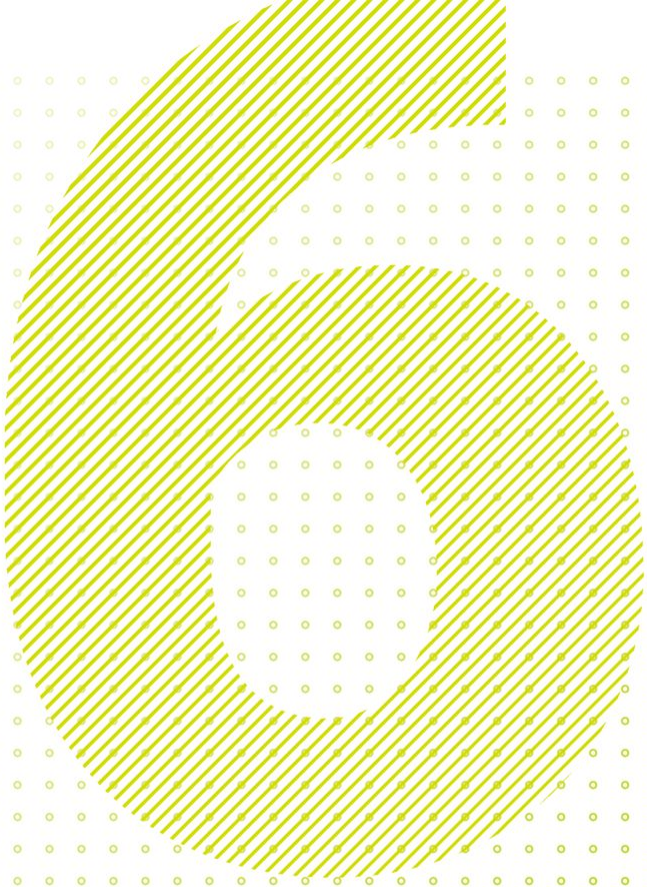
Lexibank

Conclusions & Implications

- **Lexibank can be seen as our current endpoint in a longer quest to assemble standardized lexical data for cross-linguistic large-scale approaches to lexical typology.**
- **The different versions of the CLICS database can be seen as the predecessors of Lexibank.**

- **Lexibank is a repository of standardized individual data sets, it is not a data set itself and should not be treated as such, this means specifically:**
  - In order to contribute, one has to standardize a data set in CLDF and we'll test it.
  - Errors must be changed on the level of individual data sets, not on the level of Lexibank itself.
  - Using Lexibank for one's own analyses requires a careful selection of useful data sets in order to arrive at a balanced sample of the data.

PARTIAL COLEXIFICATIONS

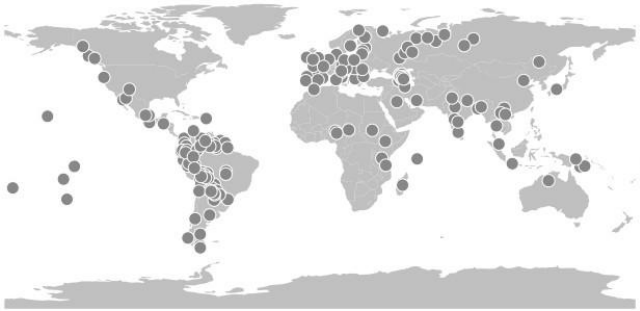


Database of Cross-Linguistic Colexifications (CLICS)

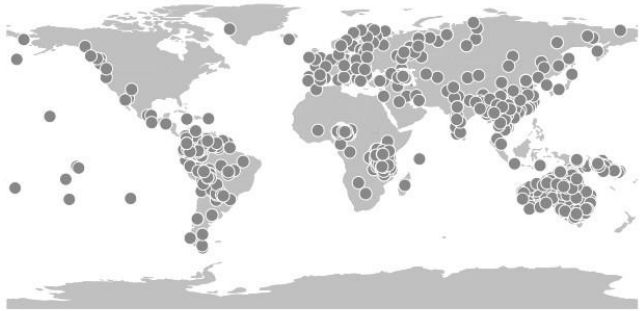
- Assemble lexical data sets coded in CLDF to extract colexification patterns automatically
- Use this to replace the not-so-easy-maintainable CLICS-1.0 database (List et al. 2014)
- Restrict the curation of the data to the selection of a couple of base data sets
- Add minimal Python code to infer colexifications from the data
- Create networks with Infomap algorithm for community detection
- Represent the data as a CLLD app

- GitHub: https://github.com/clics/clics3
- Article: Rzymski et al. (2020)

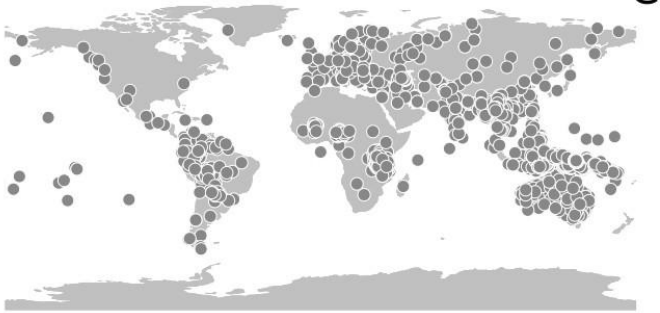
Database of Cross-Linguistic Colexifications



CLICS[1] (2014)



CLICS[2] (2018)



CLICS[3] (2020)

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CLICS³ Home Datasets Varieties Concepts

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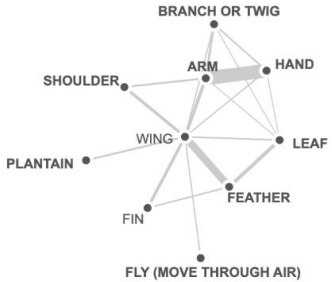
Database of Cross-Linguistic Colexifications

CLICS³ is an online database of colexifications (polysemies or homophonies) in currently 3156 language varieties of the world.

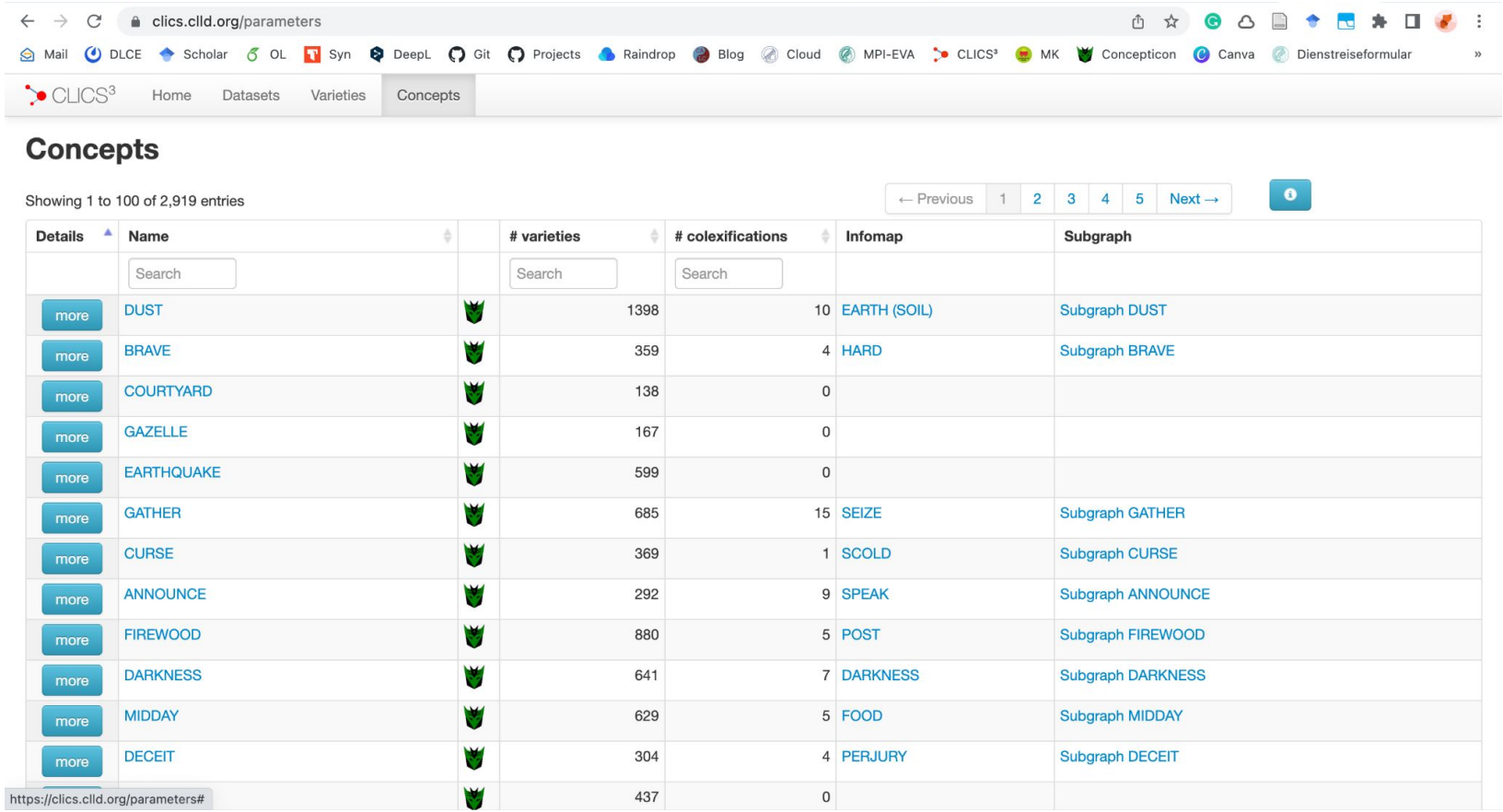
The original Database of Cross-Linguistic Colexifications (CLICS), has established a computer-assisted framework for the interactive representation of cross-linguistic colexification patterns. It has proven to be a useful tool for various kinds of investigation into cross-linguistic semantic associations, ranging from studies on semantic change, patterns of conceptualization, and linguistic paleontology. But CLICS has also been criticized for obvious shortcomings. Building on standardization efforts reflected in the CLDF initiative and novel approaches for fast, efficient, and reliable data aggregation, CLICS² expanded the original CLICS database. CLICS³ - the third installment of CLICS - exploits the framework pioneered in CLICS² to more than double the amount of data aggregated in the database.



Cite

Rzymski, Christoph and Tresoldi, Tiago et al. 2019. The Database of Cross-Linguistic Colexifications, reproducible analysis of cross-linguistic polysemies. DOI: 10.1038/s41597-019-0341-x

Open: CLICS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CLICS³ Home Datasets Varieties Concepts
Concepts
Showing 1 to 100 of 2,919 entries
← Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next →
Details Name # varieties # colexifications Infomap Subgraph
Search Search Search
more DUST 1398 10 EARTH (SOIL) Subgraph DUST
more BRAVE 359 4 HARD Subgraph BRAVE
more COURTYARD 138 0
more GAZELLE 167 0
more EARTHQUAKE 599 0
more GATHER 685 15 SEIZE Subgraph GATHER
more CURSE 369 1 SCOLD Subgraph CURSE
more ANNOUNCE 292 9 SPEAK Subgraph ANNOUNCE
more FIREWOOD 880 5 POST Subgraph FIREWOOD
more DARKNESS 641 7 DARKNESS Subgraph DARKNESS
more MIDDAY 629 5 FOOD Subgraph MIDDAY
more DECEIT 304 4 PERJURY Subgraph DECEIT
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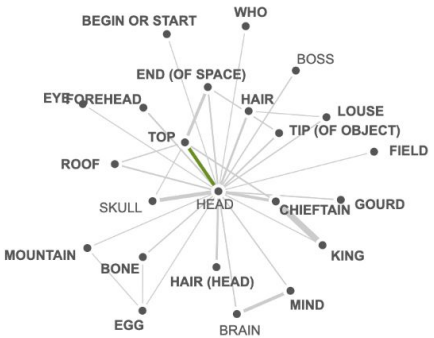
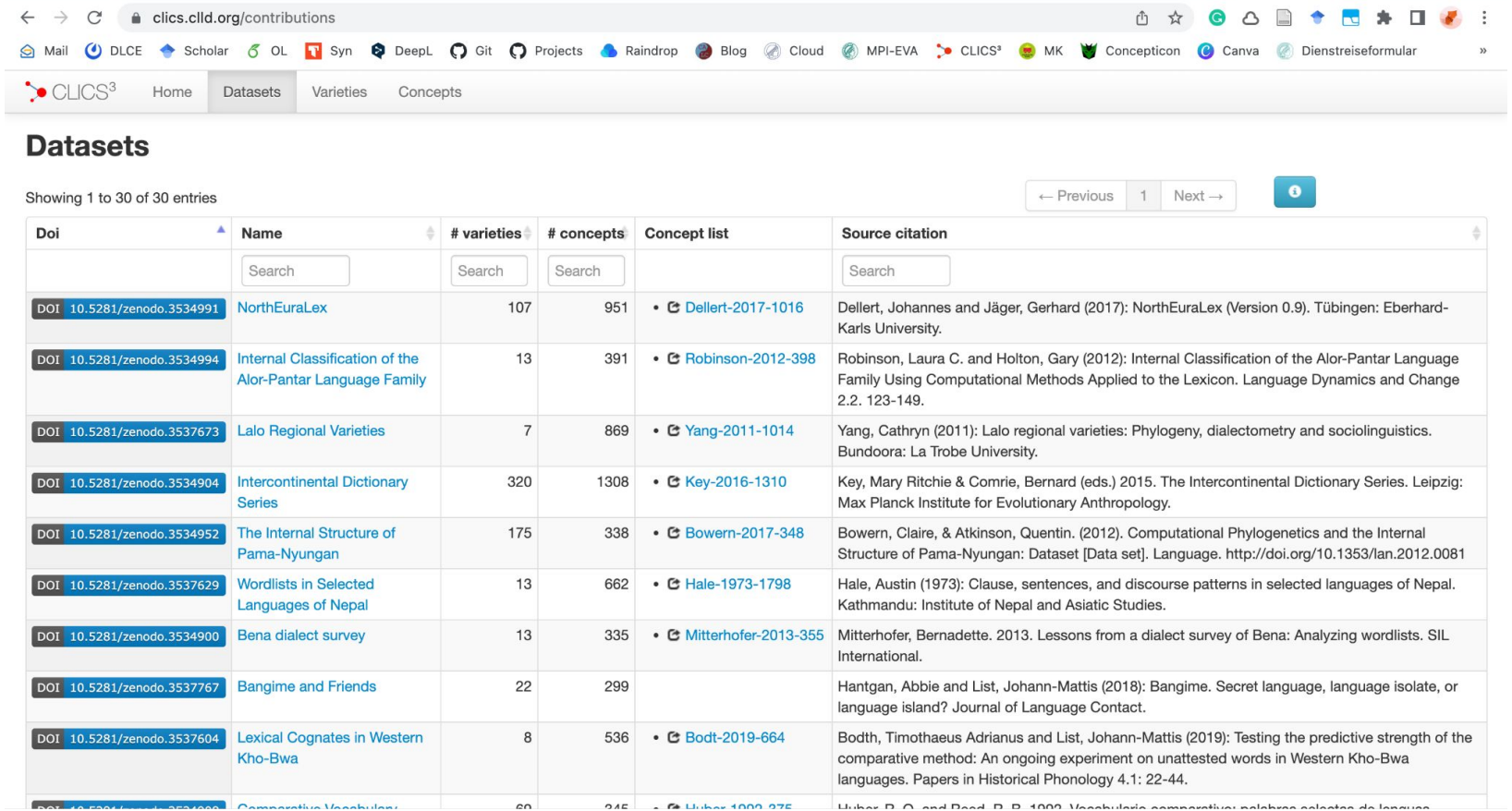
Subgraph HEAD



37 colexifications for "HEAD" and "TOP":

Language	Family	Form
Ancient Aramaic	Afro-Asiatic	resa
Ceq Wong	Austroasiatic	kuy
Malieng	Austroasiatic	kulok14
Vietnamese	Austroasiatic	dau
Hawaiian	Austronesian	poo
Embera	Chocoan	boro
Old High German	Indo-European	houbit
Ossetic	Indo-European	saer
Persian	Indo-European	saer
Saramaccan	Indo-European	hedi
Seychelles Creole	Indo-European	latet
Yuwana	Jodi-Saliban	htu
Aghul (Koshan dialect)	Nakh-Daghestanian	kil
Andi	Nakh-Daghestanian	miiar



Doi	Name	# varieties	# concepts	Concept list	Source citation
	Search	Search	Search		Search
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3534991	NorthEuraLex	107	951	• Dellert-2017-1016	Dellert, Johannes and Jäger, Gerhard (2017): NorthEuraLex (Version 0.9). Tübingen: Eberhard-Karls University.
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3534994	Internal Classification of the Alor-Pantar Language Family	13	391	• Robinson-2012-398	Robinson, Laura C. and Holton, Gary (2012): Internal Classification of the Alor-Pantar Language Family Using Computational Methods Applied to the Lexicon. Language Dynamics and Change 2.2. 123-149.
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3537673	Lalo Regional Varieties	7	869	• Yang-2011-1014	Yang, Cathryn (2011): Lalo regional varieties: Phylogeny, dialectometry and sociolinguistics. Bundoora: La Trobe University.
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3534904	Intercontinental Dictionary Series	320	1308	• Key-2016-1310	Key, Mary Ritchie & Comrie, Bernard (eds.) 2015. The Intercontinental Dictionary Series. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3534952	The Internal Structure of Pama-Nyungan	175	338	• Bowern-2017-348	Bowern, Claire, & Atkinson, Quentin. (2012). Computational Phylogenetics and the Internal Structure of Pama-Nyungan: Dataset [Data set]. Language. http://doi.org/10.1353/lan.2012.0081
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3537629	Wordlists in Selected Languages of Nepal	13	662	• Hale-1973-1798	Hale, Austin (1973): Clause, sentences, and discourse patterns in selected languages of Nepal. Kathmandu: Institute of Nepal and Asiatic Studies.
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3534900	Bena dialect survey	13	335	• Mitterhofer-2013-355	Mitterhofer, Bernadette. 2013. Lessons from a dialect survey of Bena: Analyzing wordlists. SIL International.
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3537767	Bangime and Friends	22	299		Hantgan, Abbie and List, Johann-Mattis (2018): Bangime. Secret language, language isolate, or language island? Journal of Language Contact.
DOI 10.5281/zenodo.3537604	Lexical Cognates in Western Kho-Bwa	8	536	• Bodt-2019-664	Bodth, Timothaeus Adrianus and List, Johann-Mattis (2019): Testing the predictive strength of the comparative method: An ongoing experiment on unattested words in Western Kho-Bwa languages. Papers in Historical Phonology 4.1: 22-44.

Unpublished work! Please refrain from taking pictures.

Partial Colexifications

Background

- **CLICS measures colexifications only if the same complete word form is used to express two different concepts.**
- **In many cases, however, we can note that words share certain morphemes without being completely identical.**
- **These *partial colexifications* can point to interesting patterns of *lexical motivation* in the sense of Koch (2001), reflecting the semantic and pragmatic processes underlying the formation of new words.**

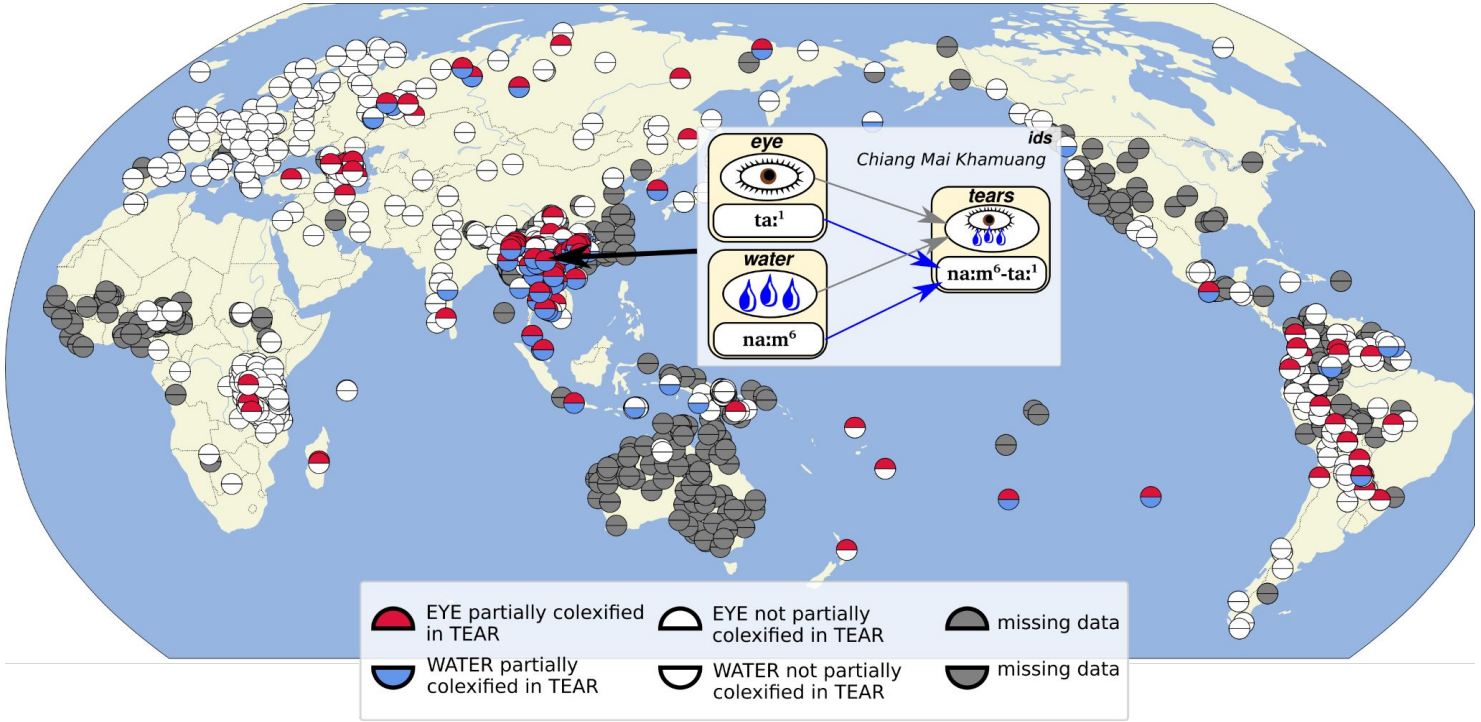
- **Article: List (in preparation)**

Partial Colexifications

- **Partial colexifications can be defined in the same way as lexical features in Lexibank.**
- **Affix colexification:**
  - If a word X in a language A recurs in the word Y in language A.
  - Modeled in the form of a directed, weighted graph (see Urban 2011, List in preparation).
  - A link is drawn from the concept expressed by the “affix” (in strict formal terms) to the concept expressing the “full” word.
- **Substring colexification:**
  - If a word X and a word Y in language A share a common substring
  - Modeled in the form of a weighted undirected graph, similar to the CLICS networks.
- **Together, affix and substring colexifications (which both represent instances of partial colexifications) can be used to extend CLICS networks by offering different perspectives on lexical data.**

Affix Colexifications

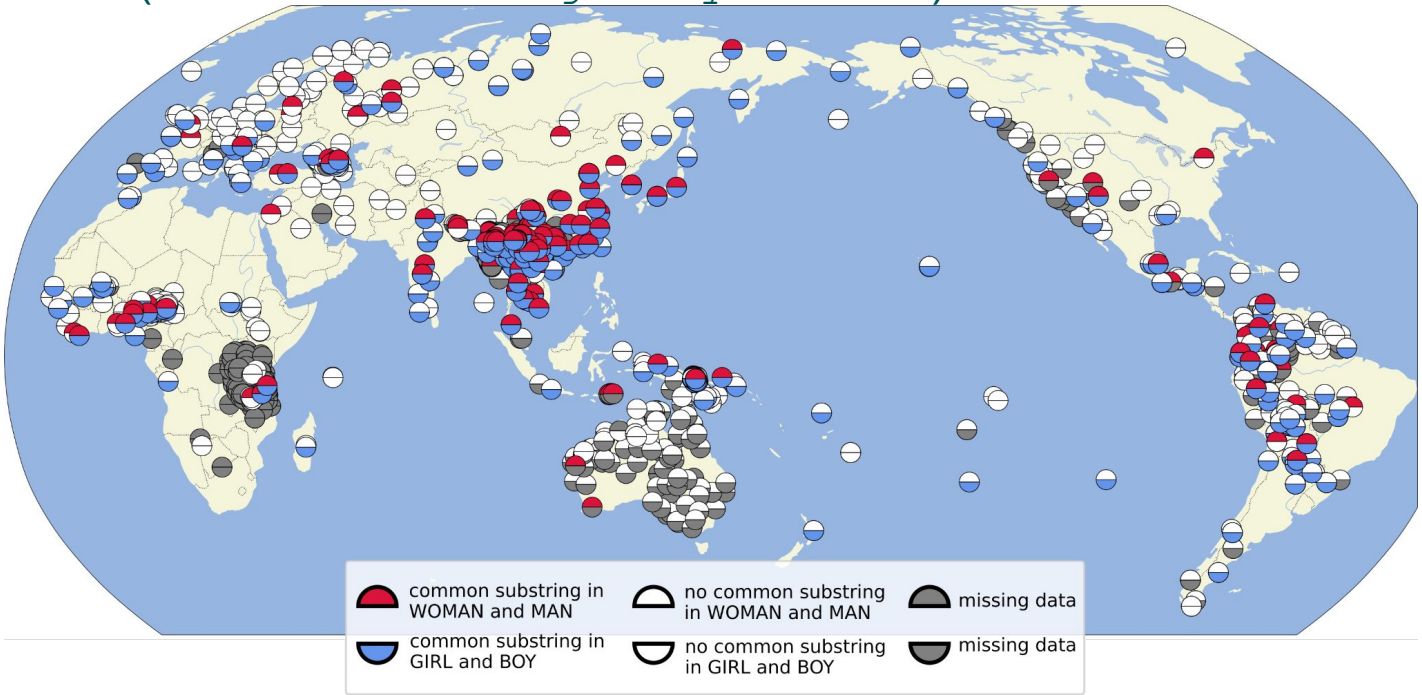
EYE-TEAR (`EyeInTear`) and WATER-TEAR (`WaterInTear`) → *eye water*



Substring Colexifications

WOMAN-MAN (`CommonSubstringInManAndWoman`) and

BOY-GIRL (`CommonSubstringInBoyAndGirl`)



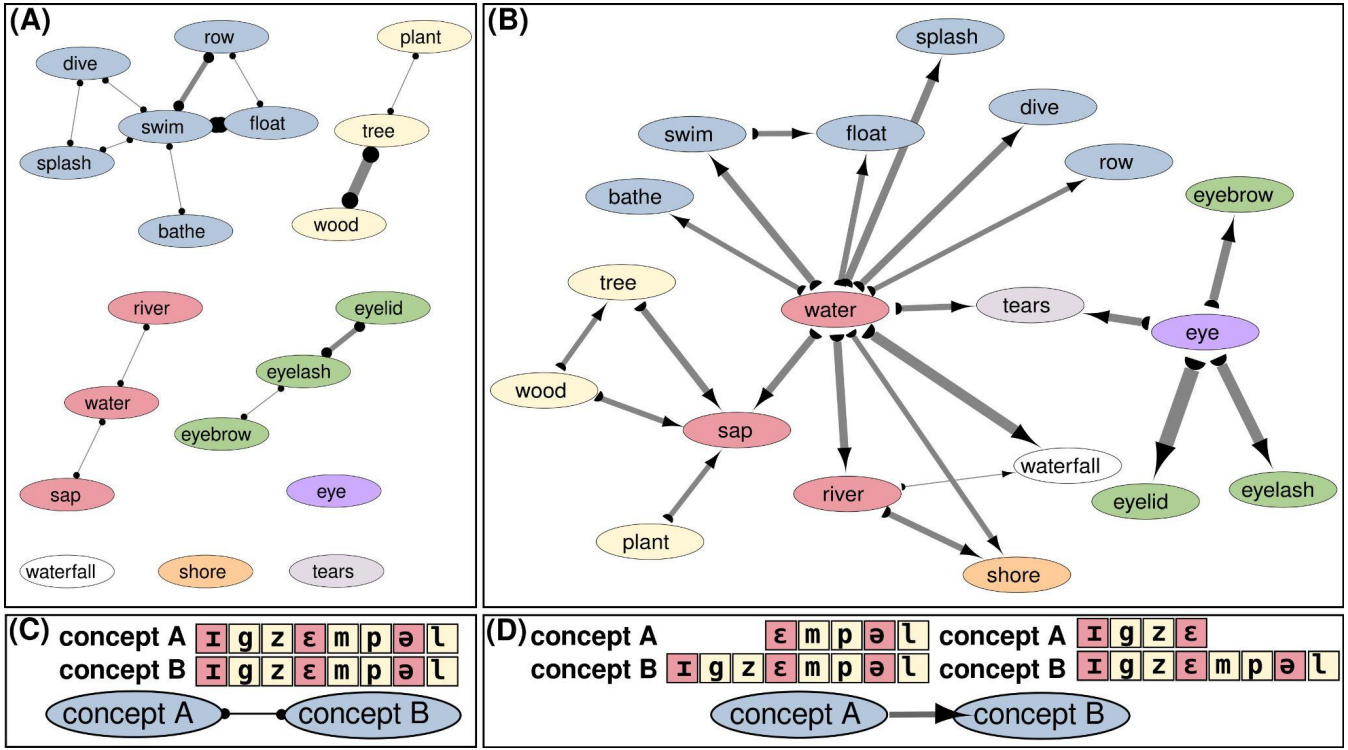
Directed Partial Colexification Networks

List (in preparation)

- **Initial experiments and pilot studies show that the visualization of affix colexifications in the form of directed weighted networks is promising.**
- **Our current experiments draw on smaller data sets and use an extended workflow by which partial colexifications in the form of affix colexifications can be inferred from standardized Lexibank data and later visualized in the form of a directed weighted network.**
- **These networks will be investigated in more detail in the upcoming research project *Productive Signs* (ERC Consolidator Grant awarded to J.-M. List), to start in January 2023.**

Directed Partial Colexification Networks

List (in preparation)



Directed Partial Colexification Networks

Summary

- **Partial colexifications bear a lot of potential that has so far not been readily explored.**
- **Generating networks of partial colexification is more difficult due to the increase of erroneous or coincidental matches in the data (increase of noise).**
- **Targeted experiments with Lexibank as well as initial pilot studies with slightly adjusted workflows yield promising results.**

CASE STUDY: EMOTION COLEXIFICATIONS

Scientific Debates about Emotions

Background

- **Early theories on emotion go back to Darwin and assumed that there is a discrete number of universal emotions which are – similar to primary colors – shared by all humans.**
- **Recent investigations argued, however, that emotions vary systematically across cultures and languages and that seemingly universal emotions like ANGER and GRIEF cannot be derived from concrete structures in the human brain (Lindquist et al. 2012).**
- **Investigating emotion semantics across different language families could give us some interesting insights into the question of whether and to what degree emotion concepts vary cross-linguistically.**

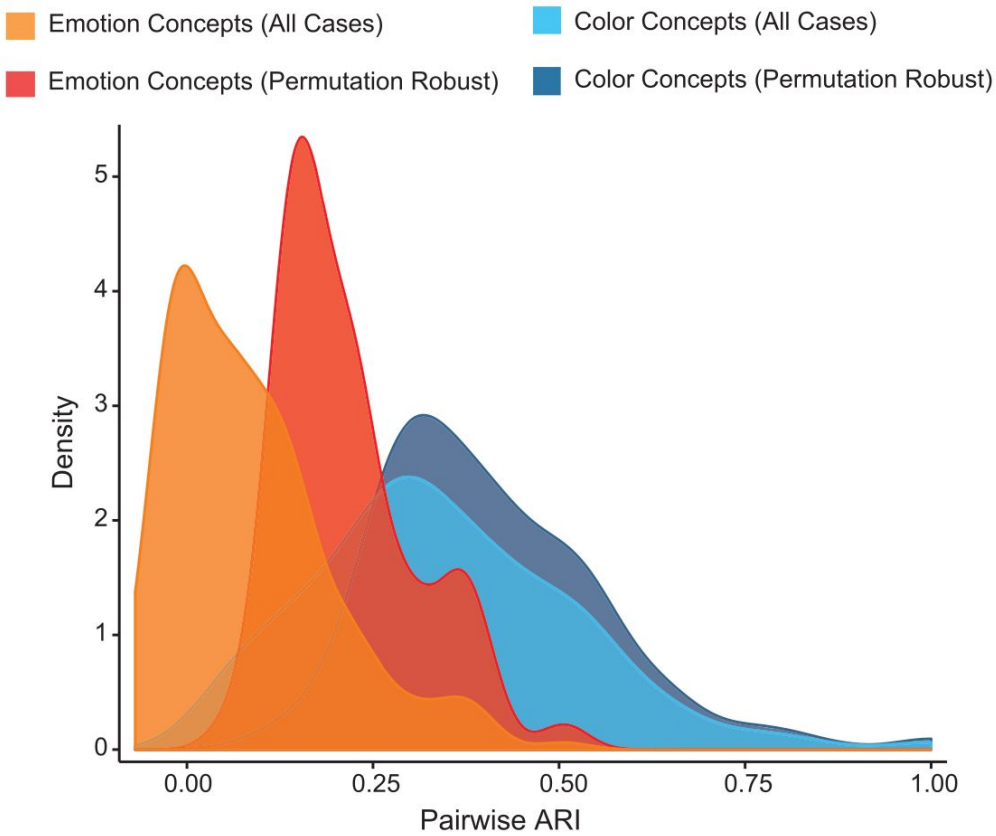
- **Article: Jackson et al. (2019)**

Studying Emotions with CLICS Data

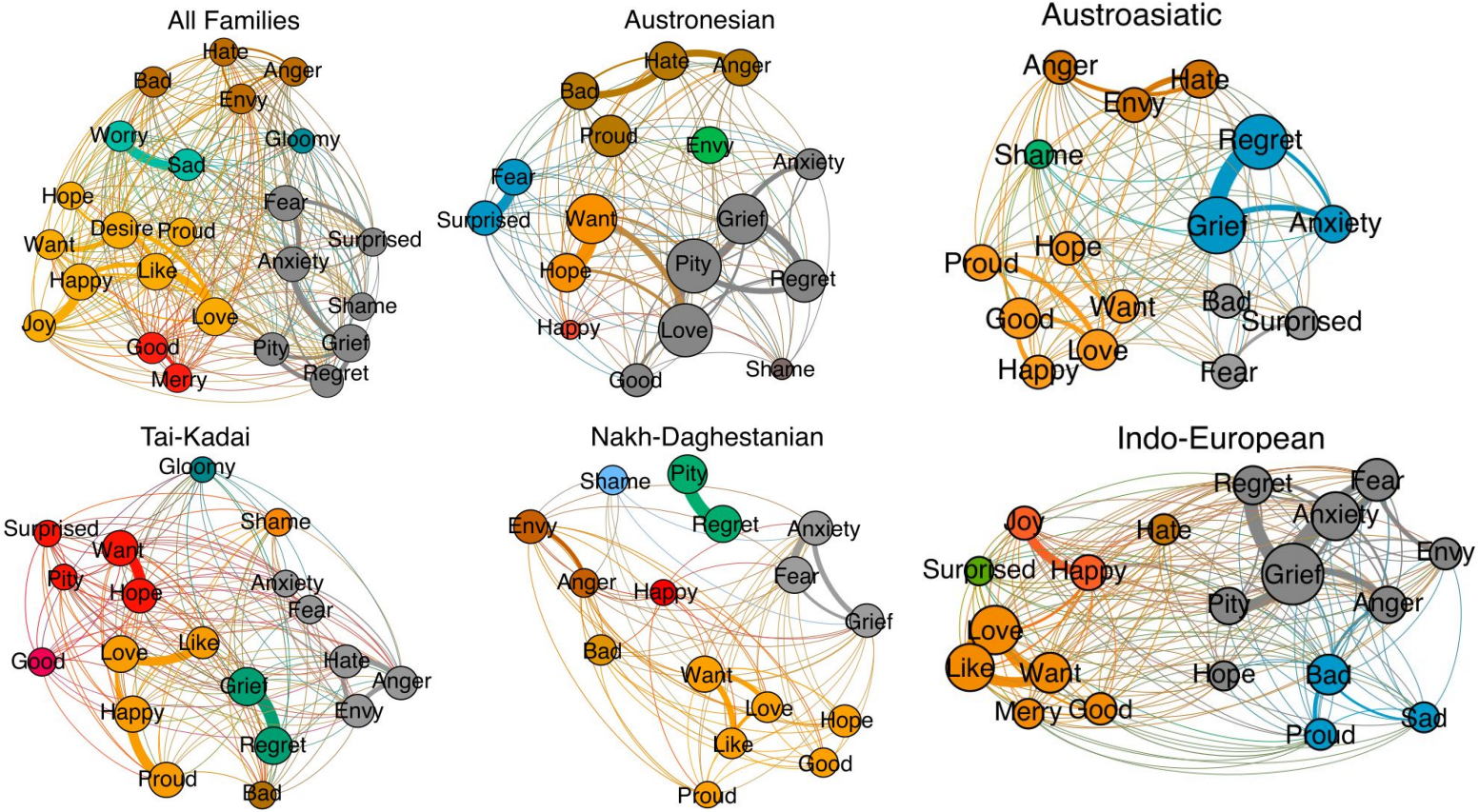
Approach

- **Using CLICS³ (Rzymski et al. 2020) offers a large amount of data with more than 2400 language varieties.**
- **24 emotion concepts were selected, showing a good coverage in the aggregated database.**
- **Community networks of emotion concepts were inferred for the 20 largest language families.**
- **The networks were systematically compared with respect to their structure (using Adjusted Rand Index) to examine the extent to which they would differ from one family to another.**

Variation in Network Structure across Language Families

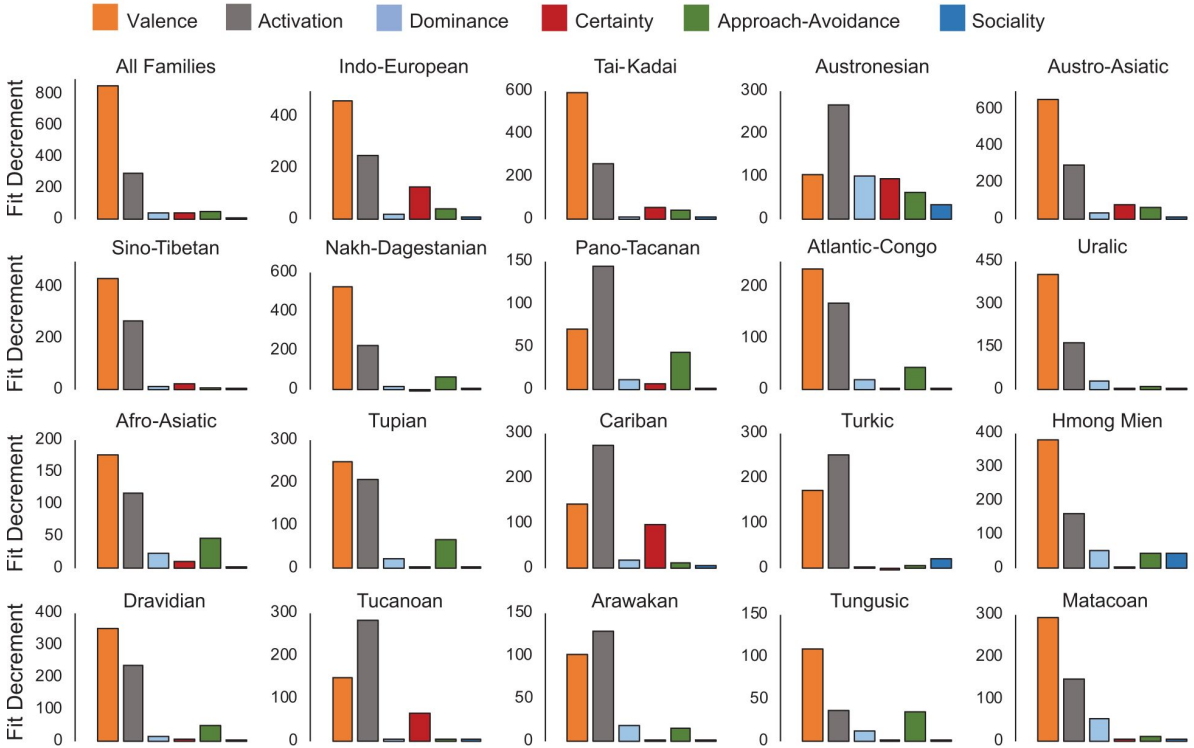


Emotion Colexifications across Language Families



Emotion Colexifications

Cross-Linguistic Tendencies in Ratings



Emotion Colexifications across Language Families

Conclusions

- **The results showed strong variation in emotion semantics across language families.**
- **Not all seems to be “constructed” individually, however. There seems to be some universal core reflected in the importance of the categories of valence and activation which predict the emotion networks in individual language families.**

CASE STUDY: BODY COLEXIFICATIONS

Unpublished work! Please refrain from taking pictures.

Scientific Debates about Body Parts

Background

- **All humans have a body with almost the same parts.**

- **Why do languages have a single word while other languages have seperate words for the same body parts?**

- **Claim 1:**
  - There are universal categorization principles in how languages refer to body parts (Brown 1976; Andersen 1978).
- **Claim 2:**
  - Not all languages follow these categorization principles (Majid et al. 2006).

- **Article: Tjuka, Blasi, and List (in preparation)**

Studying Body Colexifications with Lexibank Data

Approach

- **Using the Lexibank framework (List et al. 2022), specifically the ClicsCore data sets, to analyse data from 15 language families.**
- **Applying network analysis to investigate the connections between body concepts.**
- **Accounting for shared ancestry of languages by implementing cognate detection.**
- **Coding the data for adjacency, shape, and function.**

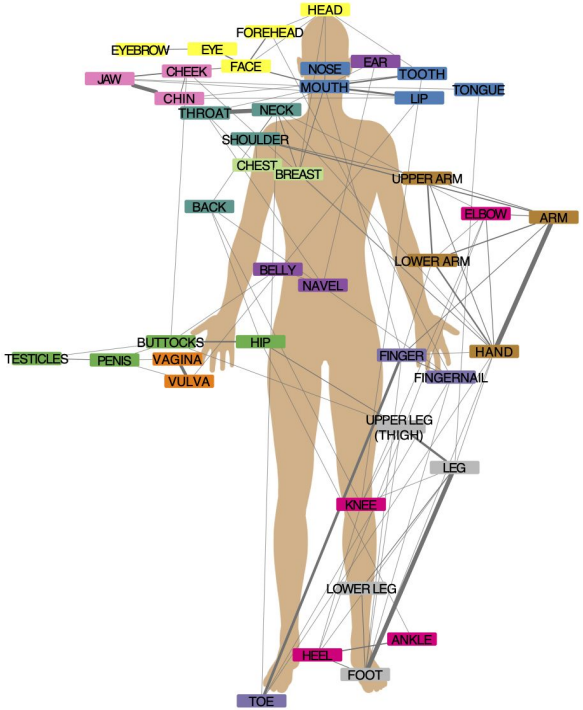
Body Colexifications across Language Families

Preliminary Results

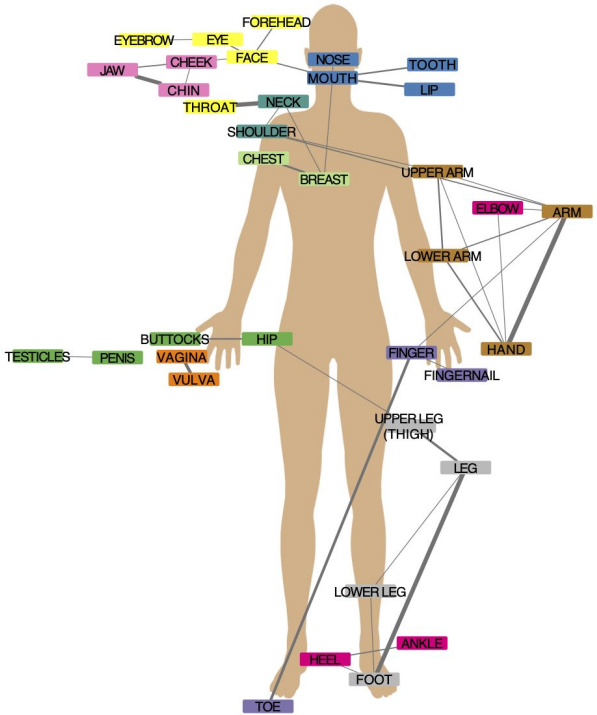
- **93 body colexifications in a set of 49 body concepts across 15 language families were found.**
- **60 out of 93 were coded for *adjacency*, 15 for *shape*, 18 for *function*.**
- **8 colexifications were coded for two features and 5 for all three (e.g., LEG-LOWER LEG).**
- **From the 35 non-adjacent colexifications, FINGER-TOE stands out because it occurs across 54 languages (7 families). All other non-adjacent colexifications occur in 1-5 languages (1-2 families).**

Body Colexifications across Language Families

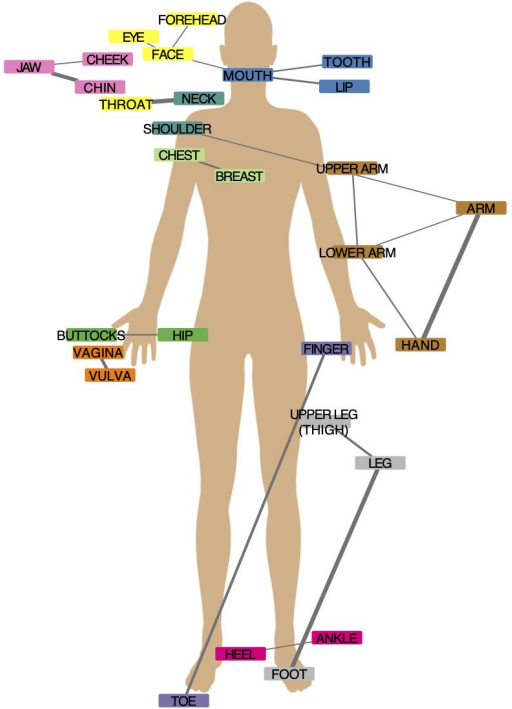
Global networks with different thresholds



no threshold



> 1 lang. fam.



> 2 lang. fam.

Body Colexifications across Language Families

Preliminary Conclusions

- **A strong tendency exists for a few universal colexifications as opposed to many language family-specific ones.**
- **Adjacency is the most frequent which indicates that languages don’t acknowledge a discontinuity (i.e., a joint) as a separating factor.**
- **Shape is less frequent, but leads to interesting connections such as LIP-NAVEL that seem to be specific to a particular language family.**
- **Function seems to occur in only a few colexifications such as ANKLE-WRIST.**

Summary

- Lexibank offers standardized lexical data for cross-linguistic large-scale approaches.
- Automatic computation of phonological and lexical features with Lexibank.
- Partial colexifications point to patterns of lexical motivation.
- Emotion and body colexifications provide insights into linguistic diversity and universality.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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