

Vector Space Embeddings and Data Maps for Cyber Defense

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Cyber Defense Data

What is cyber defense?

Detect threats to

Confidentiality

Integrity

Availability

Gather forensic evidence of incidents

Requires data and
infrastructure monitoring:
telemetry

Telemetry analysis:

- Know the infrastructure
- Retrace malicious activity

Which “the telemetry”

Process command lines
IP traffic flows
Event logs
Malware binaries
Operating system events
etc.

Which “the telemetry”

Process command lines

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Event logs

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etc.

ACME3 data

24 hosts, 16 days

~137,847 command lines

~31,000 unique command lines

c:\windows\system32\conhost.exe Oxfffffff -forcevl

c:\windows\system32\mousocoreworker.exe -embedding

c:\program files (x86)\microsoft\edgeupdate\microsoftedgeupdate.exe /ua /installsource scheduler

c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe -k netsvcs -p -s netsetupsvc

c:\windows\system32\taskhostw.exe

....

c:\programdata\microsoft\windows defender\platform\4.18.23090.2008-O\mpcmdrun.exe -idletask -taskname wdcleanup

c:\programdata\microsoft\windows defender\platform\4.18.23090.2008-O\mpcmdrun.exe -idletask -taskname wdverification

c:\windows\system32\taskhostw.exe keyroaming

c:\windows\system32\fontdrvhost.exe

c:\windows\system32\openssh\sshd.exe -r

c:\windows\system32\openssh\sshd.exe -y

c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\windows\system32\conhost.exe

....

<https://gdo168.llnl.gov/data/ACME-2023>

Key constraint: no label

Unsupervised analysis:
examine patterns of similarity

Every approach is a lense

Every representation
tells a story

Lenses
All ~~models~~ are wrong,
Some are useful

George Box

A useful lense
provides insight and
helps with labelling

Data to
Vectors



Manifold
Learning



Interactive
Visualization



and



Supervised
Cluster
Inference

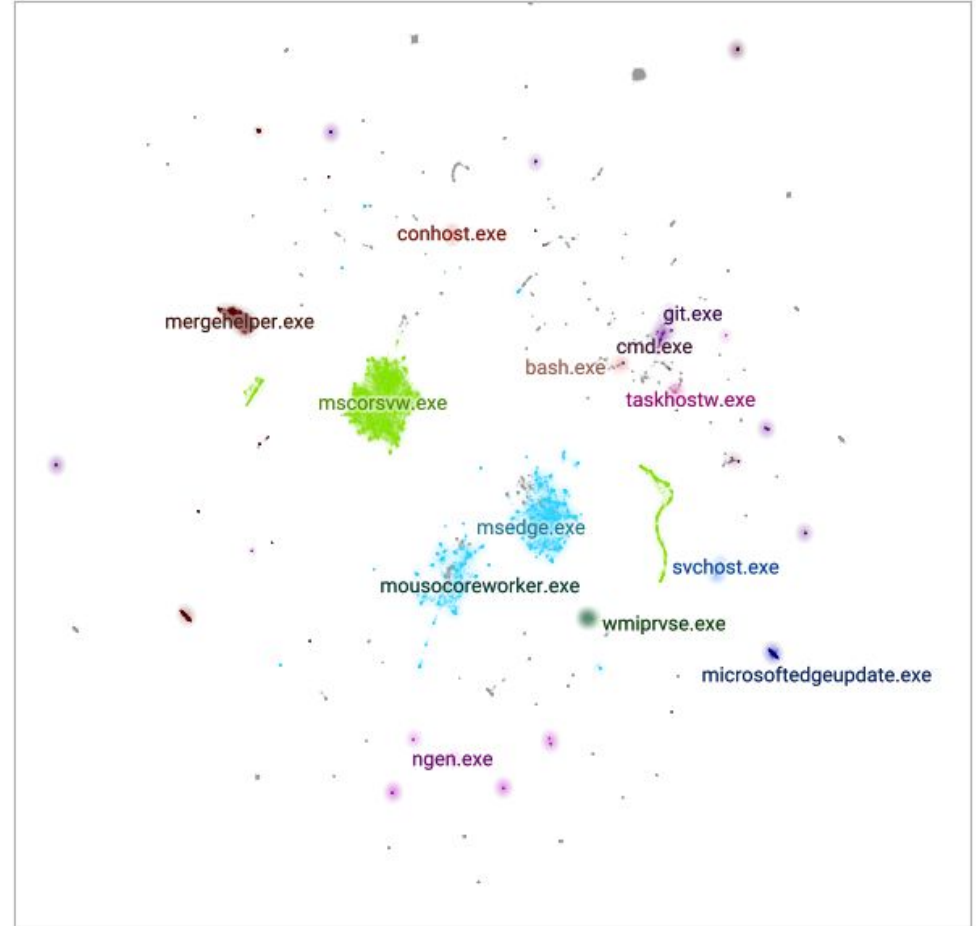


Data map of processes



Process instances

as distributions over a cloud of command line token cooccurrence vectors



Building lenses

Data to
Vectors

Manifold
Learning

Interactive
Visualization

Supervised
Cluster
Inference

 **VECTORIZERS**

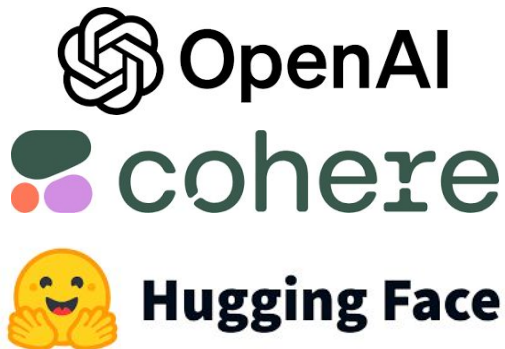
 **UMAP**
UNIFORM MANIFOLD
APPROXIMATION & PROJECTION

 **TNT**
THIS NOT THAT

and

 **DATA MAP PLOT**

 scikit
learn



[0.0021	0.0246	-0.0134	0.0343	...	-0.0103	-0.0008	0.0047	0.0363]
[0.0068	0.0098	-0.0079	-0.0006	...	-0.0018	0.0361	0.002	0.0045]
[0.021	0.0239	0.0024	0.0087	...	-0.0167	-0.0309	-0.0144	-0.0045]
[-0.0082	0.0234	-0.0166	0.0078	...	0.0375	-0.03	0.0367	-0.0141]
[-0.0535	-0.002	-0.0141	-0.0198	...	-0.0071	-0.0074	0.0042	0.0034]
[0.0233	0.0273	-0.0139	0.0361	...	0.0036	-0.0334	0.041	0.0253]
[-0.002	0.0076	0.0048	-0.0299	...	0.0057	0.0089	0.015	0.0169]
[0.0066	0.0171	-0.0076	-0.0234	...	-0.0065	-0.0082	-0.0097	0.0065]
[-0.0112	0.0172	0.0051	-0.0432	...	0.028	-0.0114	0.0481	-0.0051]
[-0.0003	0.0093	-0.0221	0.0302	...	-0.015	-0.0136	0.0012	-0.0205]
[-0.0183	0.011	0.0172	-0.0162	...	-0.0168	-0.003	0.0287	0.0069]
[0.0392	0.0106	-0.0003	0.0082	...	-0.0287	0.0081	0.0042	0.026]
[0.0155	0.0163	-0.0126	-0.0035	...	0.0233	0.0009	-0.028	0.0179]
[-0.0101	0.0118	-0.0006	-0.0225	...	-0.0283	-0.0076	0.0293	0.0114]
[-0.0341	0.0303	-0.0015	-0.0195	...	-0.0459	-0.0501	0.0211	0.0116]
[0.0011	0.0125	0.0176	-0.0349	...	-0.0147	0.0016	0.035	0.0386]
[-0.0329	0.0044	-0.0127	-0.0076	...	0.	-0.008	0.0692	-0.0044]
[-0.0039	0.0214	-0.0231	0.0164	...	0.0124	-0.005	0.0266	-0.0446]
[-0.0173	0.0227	0.0188	-0.0349	...	-0.0235	-0.0243	0.004	-0.0072]
[-0.0254	0.0279	-0.0279	-0.0003	...	-0.0189	-0.0109	0.032	0.0067]
[-0.0196	0.0046	0.0117	-0.0074	...	-0.0047	-0.0076	0.0297	0.0075]
[-0.0255	0.0056	0.0052	0.0046	...	-0.0005	0.0038	0.0074	0.0015]
[-0.004	0.0218	-0.024	0.0136	...	-0.0122	0.0158	0.001	0.0139]
[-0.0319	0.0259	0.0051	0.0245	...	-0.0092	-0.0121	-0.0023	-0.026]
[0.0046	0.0147	-0.033	-0.0037	...	-0.0223	0.0213	0.0352	-0.0205]
[-0.0097	0.0017	-0.0027	-0.0412	...	-0.0039	-0.0041	0.0132	0.0119]
[-0.0043	0.0303	-0.0093	-0.0129	...	-0.0054	0.0176	0.0062	0.011]
[0.0032	-0.0213	-0.0307	-0.0157	...	-0.0327	-0.007	0.0099	-0.0053]
[0.0171	-0.009	0.0408	-0.0232	...	-0.0122	0.0043	-0.0433	0.0164]
[-0.0029	0.0067	-0.0018	-0.0205	...	-0.017	0.0101	0.0083	-0.0049]
[-0.0028	0.0106	0.0173	0.0014	...	-0.0097	-0.0186	0.0058	-0.0031]
[-0.0089	0.0277	-0.014	-0.0308	...	0.0001	0.0137	-0.0063	-0.0169]
[-0.0099	-0.0112	-0.0366	-0.0169	...	-0.0178	0.0003	0.0122	-0.0082]
[-0.0049	0.0123	-0.0125	-0.0267	...	-0.0284	-0.0124	-0.0069	-0.0086]
[-0.0206	0.0202	0.0198	0.002	...	0.0108	0.0031	0.0146	-0.0195]
[0.0132	-0.004	-0.0075	0.006	...	-0.0001	-0.0082	0.0078	-0.0091]
[-0.0249	0.0234	0.0223	-0.0028	...	0.0049	-0.0101	0.0240	-0.0184]
[-0.0414	0.0088	-0.0256	0.0013	...	-0.0255	-0.0297	0.0186	0.0312]
[0.0086	0.0071	-0.0162	-0.0069	...	-0.0312	0.0254	0.0032	-0.0135]
[-0.0015	0.0054	0.0004	-0.0261	...	0.0167	-0.0128	-0.0093	0.0118]
[0.0141	-0.0039	0.0078	0.0028	...	-0.0111	-0.0412	-0.0066	-0.0232]
[-0.0002	0.0219	-0.0078	0.0075	...	-0.0385	0.0036	-0.0074	-0.0108]
[-0.0191	-0.003	-0.0061	-0.0098	...	-0.0053	-0.0144	0.0156	0.0071]
[-0.0152	0.0059	-0.	-0.0005	...	-0.0059	0.0006	-0.0383	0.018]
[-0.0209	0.0095	-0.0229	-0.0163	...	-0.0211	0.0104	-0.0013	0.006]
[0.0083	0.0059	-0.0371	-0.0072	...	0.0056	-0.0122	0.022	-0.0132]
[-0.0393	0.0132	-0.0268	-0.0057	...	0.0072	-0.0173	0.0238	0.0131]
[-0.0213	-0.0035	0.0078	-0.0224	...	0.0013	-0.0067	-0.0158	-0.0085]
[-0.0371	-0.019	-0.0137	-0.0019	...	-0.0052	-0.037	0.0164	0.0238]
[0.0252	-0.017	0.0041	0.0001	...	-0.0062	-0.0307	-0.0372	0.002]
[-0.0395	0.0227	-0.0322	-0.0335	...	-0.0503	0.0124	-0.021	-0.0249]



VECTORIZERS

Tools to vectorize
other types of data

Process command lines
IP Traffic Flows
Event logs
Malware Binaries
etc...

Text to vectors: bag of words

Parse command lines into tokens

cmdline	tokens	num
"c:\windows\system32\consent.exe" 8364 316 00000225c123a720	["c:\windows\system32\consent.exe", 8364, 316, 00000225c123a720]	4
"c:\windows\syswow64\msiexec.exe" -embedding dabb2a6d532491a1295e2c3d16e9dfdf	["c:\windows\syswow64\msiexec.exe", -embedding, dabb2a6d532491a1295e2c3d16e9dfdf]	3
"c:\windows\system32\consent.exe" 7040 288 0000019ec8c2a540	["c:\windows\system32\consent.exe", 7040, 288, 0000019ec8c2a540]	4
"c:\windows\system32\curl.exe" --help	["c:\windows\system32\curl.exe", --help]	2
"c:\windows\system32\consent.exe" 1640 318 00000204e5430040	["c:\windows\system32\consent.exe", 1640, 318, 00000204e5430040]	4
"c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe" -k wsappx -p -s appxsvc	["c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe", -k, wsappx, -p, -s, appxsvc]	6
"c:\windows\system32\ping.exe" acme-dc1.acme.com	["c:\windows\system32\ping.exe", acme-dc1.acme.com]	2
"c:\windows\system32\sihclient.exe" /cv sq9lrwm140ena5nxthiida.0.1	["c:\windows\system32\sihclient.exe", /cv, sq9lrwm140ena5nxthiida.0.1]	3
"c:\program files\git\usr\bin\ls.exe" -f --color=auto --show-control-chars 1277	["c:\program files\git\usr\bin\ls.exe", -f, --color=auto, --show-control-chars, 1277]	5
"c:\users\user10\downloads\visualstudiosetup.exe"	["c:\users\user10\downloads\visualstudiosetup.exe"]	1
"c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe" -k unistacksvcgroup	["c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe", -k, unistacksvcgroup]	3
"c:\windows\system32\sihclient.exe" /cv cxixvz5jlemri9ydvjhbea.0.1	["c:\windows\system32\sihclient.exe", /cv, cxixvz5jlemri9ydvjhbea.0.1]	3
"c:\windows\system32\systeminfo.exe" /?	["c:\windows\system32\systeminfo.exe", ?]	2
"c:\program files\git\usr\bin\ls.exe" -f --color=auto --show-control-chars 953	["c:\program files\git\usr\bin\ls.exe", -f, --color=auto, --show-control-chars, 953]	5
"c:\windows\system32\wbem\wmic.exe" product list brief	["c:\windows\system32\wbem\wmic.exe", product, list, brief]	4

```
%%time  
vz_ngram = vz.NgramVectorizer().fit(cmdlines_tokenized.tolist())  
cmdlines_tc = vz_ngram._train_matrix.tocsr()  
cmdlines_tc
```

CPU times: user 771 ms, sys: 35.8 ms, total: 807 ms

Wall time: 812 ms

<31029x20887 sparse matrix of type '<class 'numpy.float32'>'
with 236570 stored elements in Compressed Sparse Row format>

Bag of words: vectorize by counting tokens

	tokens	"c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe"	-k	-p	-s	appxsvc	unistacksvcgroup	waasmedicsvc	wersvcgroup	wsappx	wusvcs
cmdline											
"c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe" -k unistacksvcgroup		1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
"c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe" -k wersvcgroup		1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
"c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe" -k wsappx -p -s appxsvc		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
"c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe" -k wusvcs -p -s waasmedicsvc		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0

Information weight transform:
downweight tokens with low
similarity information contribution

```
cmdlines_iwt = vzt.InformationWeightTransformer().fit_transform(cmdlines_mnom)  
cmdlines_iwt
```

```
<31029x20907 sparse matrix of type '<class 'numpy.float64'>'  
  with 259822 stored elements in Compressed Sparse Row format>
```

Classical TF-IDF

$$\text{IDF}(t) = \log \left(\frac{|D|}{|\{d \in D : t \in d\}|} \right)$$

Information Weight

$$\text{Info}(t) = \sum_{d \in D} P_t(d) \log \left(\frac{P_t(d)}{Q(d)} \right)$$

where

$$P_t(d) = \frac{f_{t,d}}{\sum_{d \in D} f_{t,d}}$$

$$Q(d) = \frac{|d|}{\sum_{d' \in D} |d'|}$$



UNIFORM MANIFOLD

UMAP

APPROXIMATION & PROJECTION

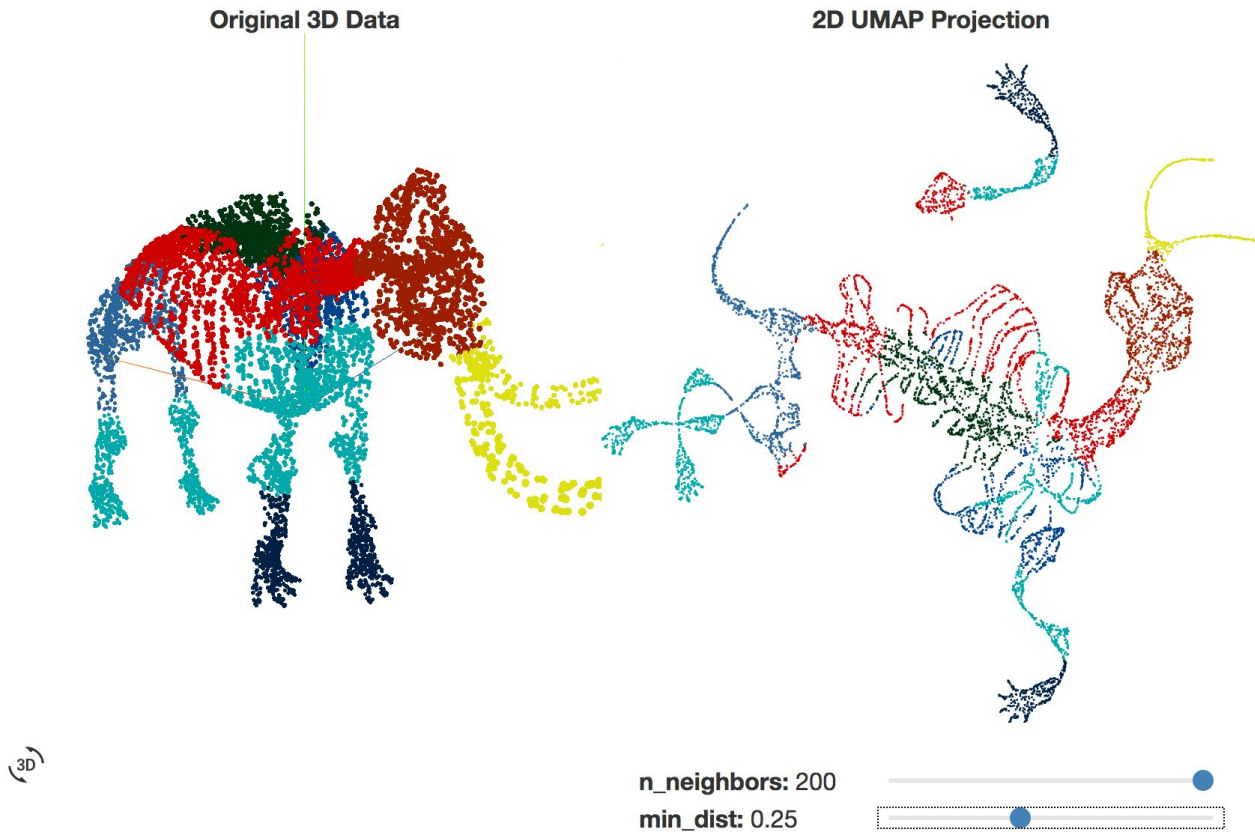


Figure 5: UMAP projections of a 3D woolly mammoth skeleton (50,000 points) into 2 dimensions, with various settings for the `n_neighbors` and `min_dist` parameters.

Reduce dimensionality
while preserving local
similarity structure

```
%%time  
bagofwords_dmap = umap.UMAP(metric="hellinger").fit_transform(cmdlines_vec)  
bagofwords_dmap.shape
```

CPU times: user 1min 50s, sys: 3.08 s, total: 1min 53s

Wall time: 19.1 s

(31029, 2)

Hellinger distance

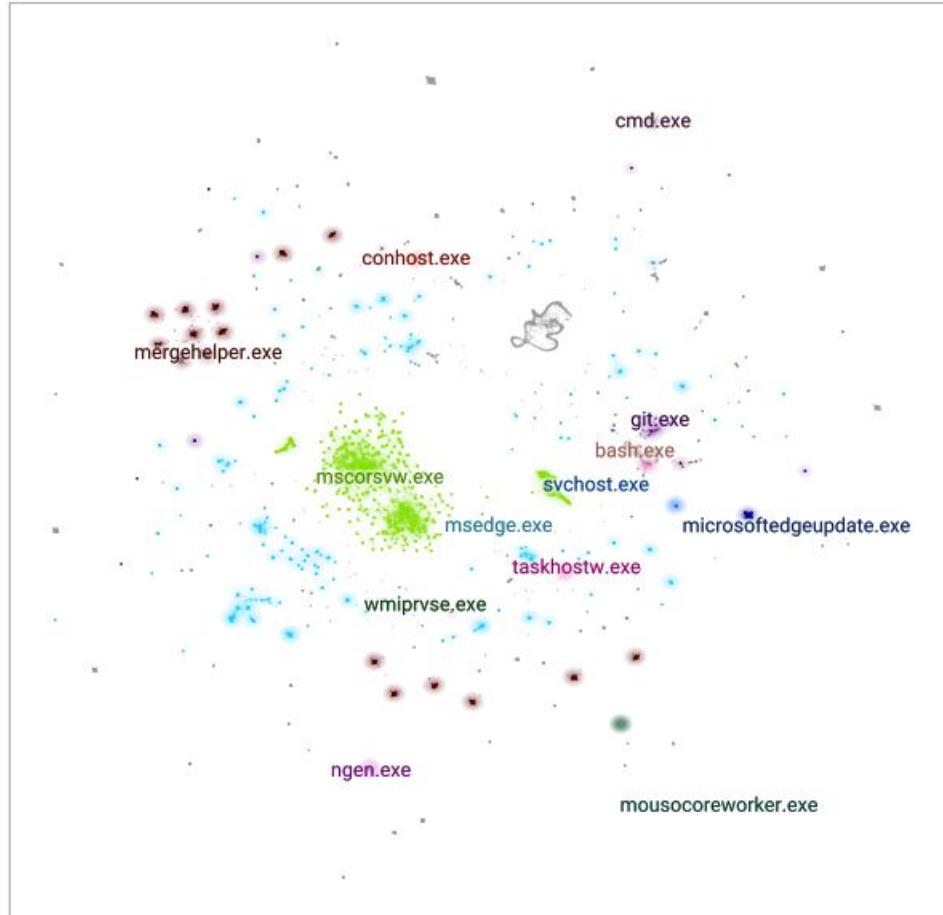
$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sqrt{1 - \sum_{i=1}^d \sqrt{\frac{x_i y_i}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_1 \|\mathbf{y}\|_1}}}$$

Approximated by
cosine distance

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{x_i y_i}{\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 \|\mathbf{y}\|_2}$$

Process instances

as bags of information-reweighted parsed command line tokens



Tokens aren't independent

Command Line vectorization strategies

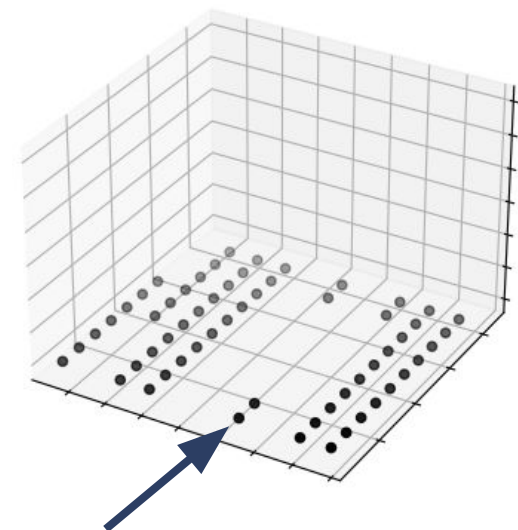
Bag of tokens

Discard order,
count how often
each word occurs

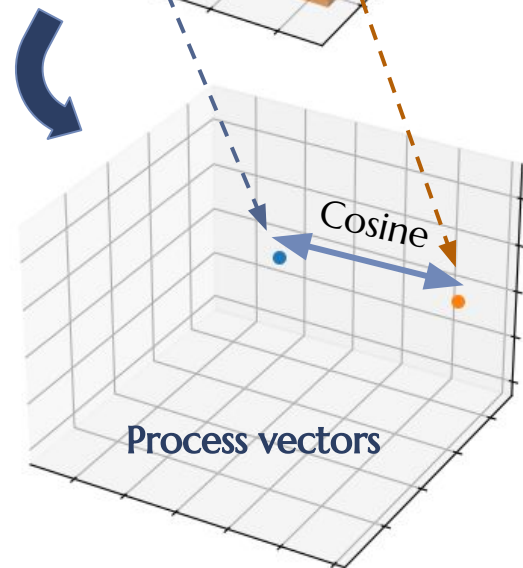
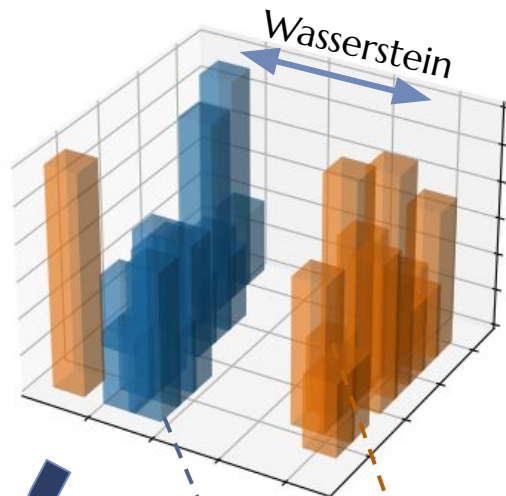
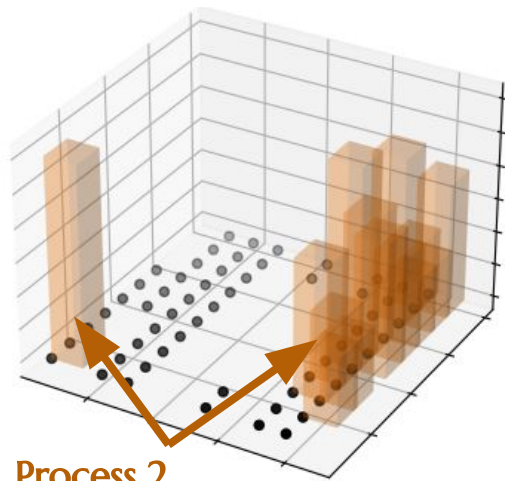
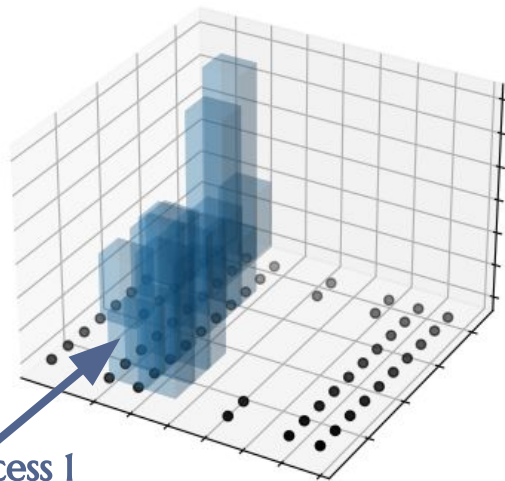
Point cloud of
tokens

Optimal transport
on **token vector**
distributions

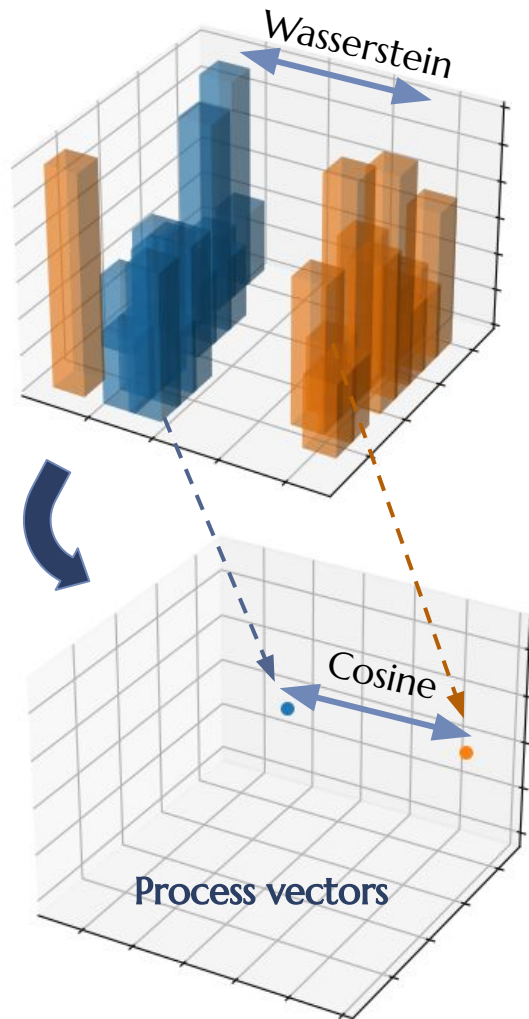
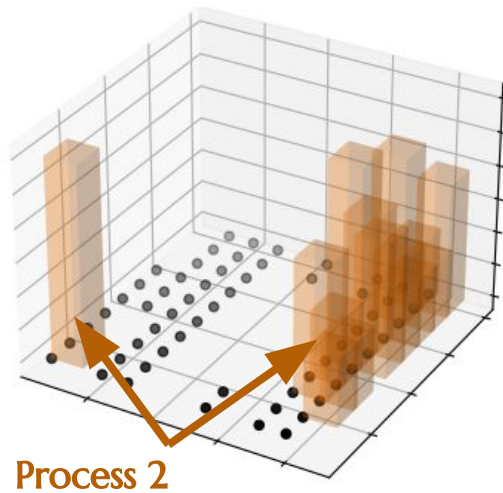
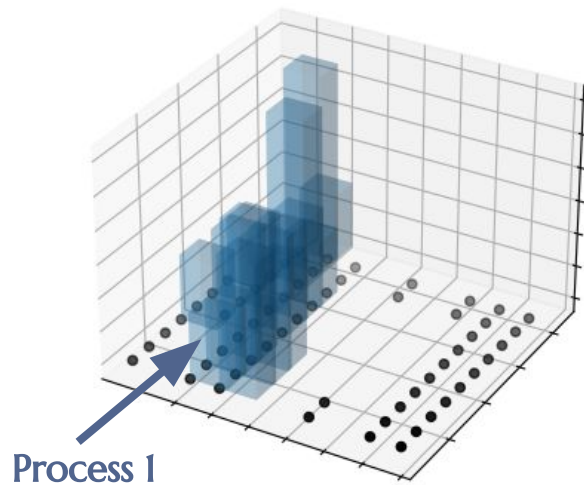
Tokens to vectors:
command lines are
distributions on
point clouds



Process 1



Process vectors



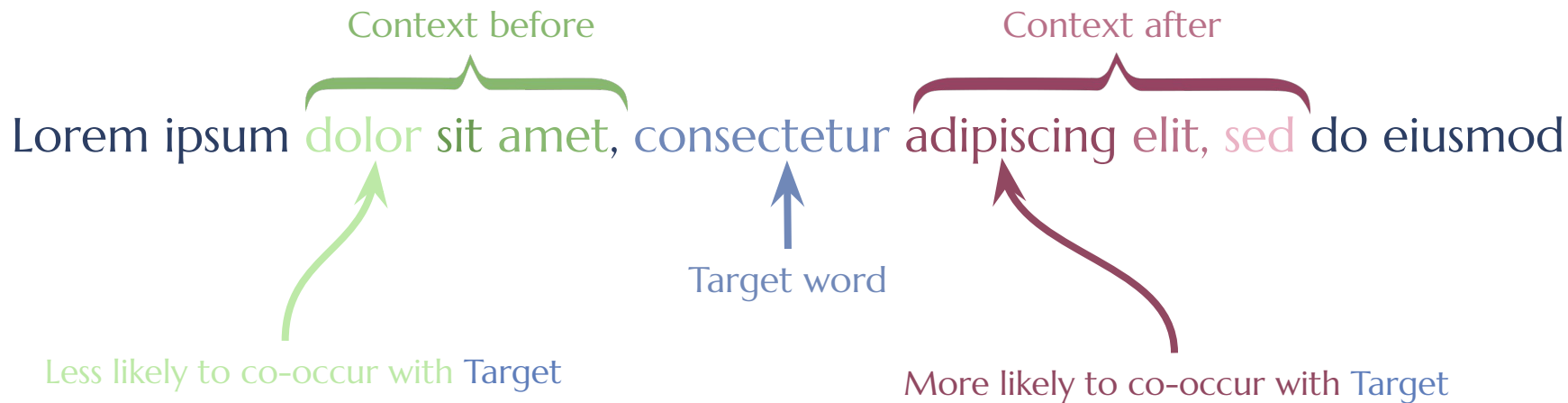
```
%%time  
vz_cooc = vz.TokenCooccurrenceVectorizer(n_threads=os.cpu_count(), n_iter=3)\  
    .fit(cmdlines_tokenized.tolist())  
cooc_vec = vz_cooc.reduce_dimension(512)  
cooc_vec.shape
```

CPU times: user 2min 1s, sys: 7.18 s, total: 2min 8s

Wall time: 25.9 s

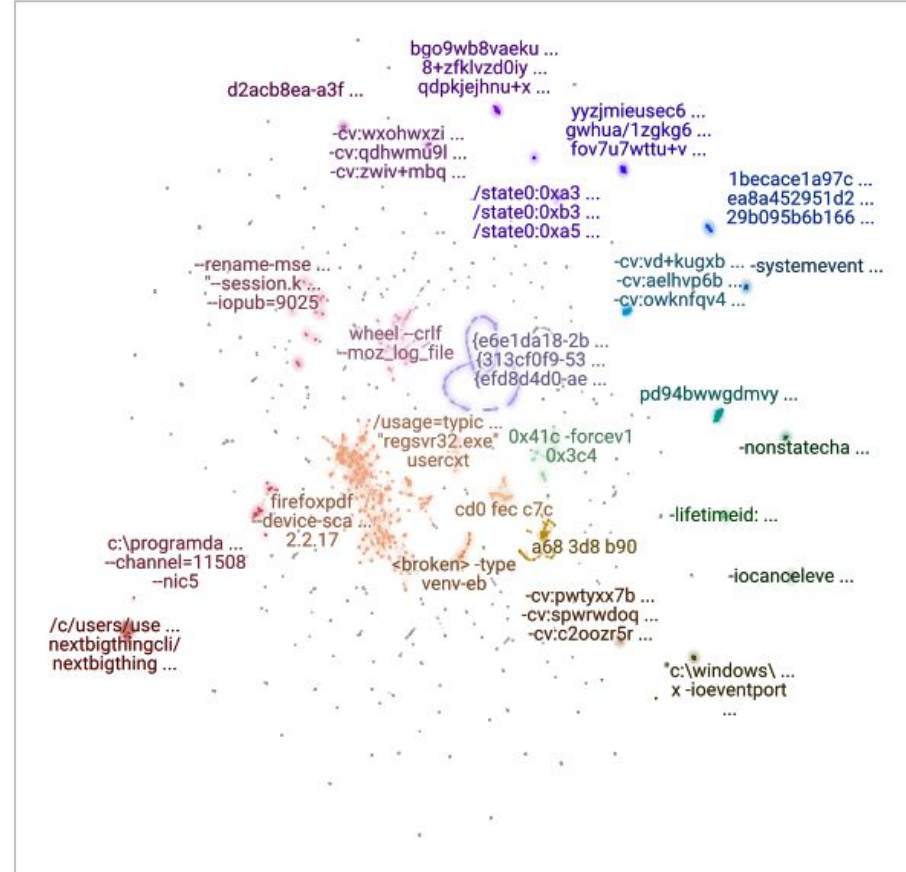
(20887, 512)

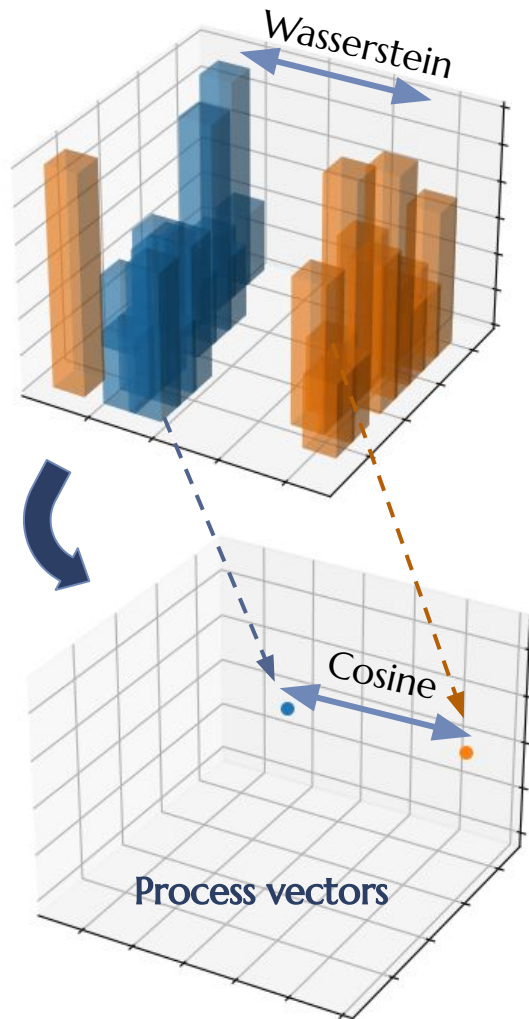
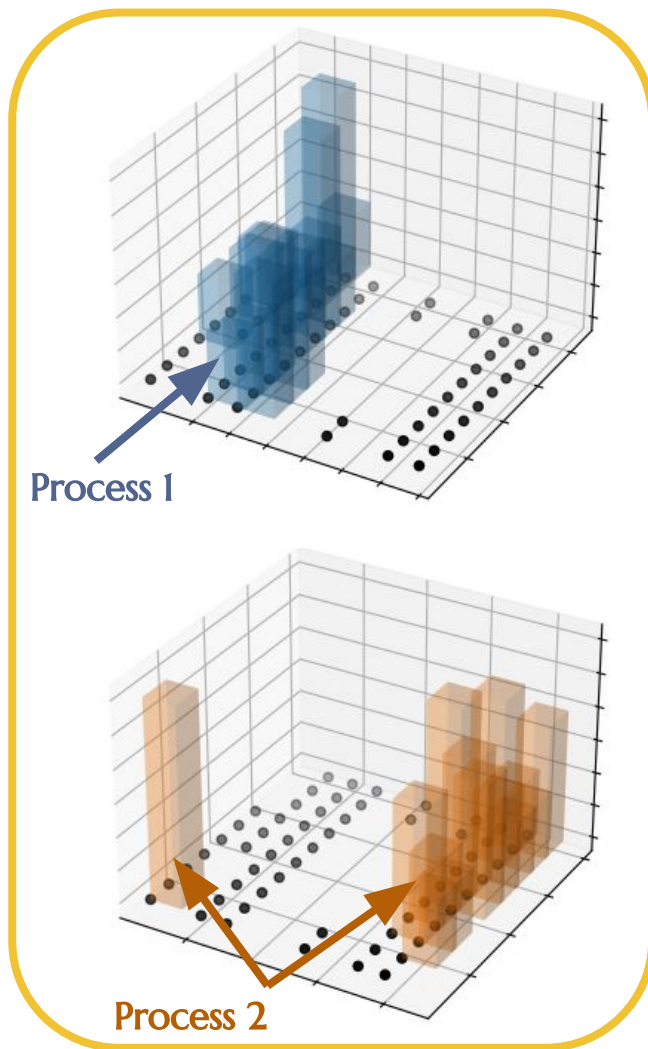
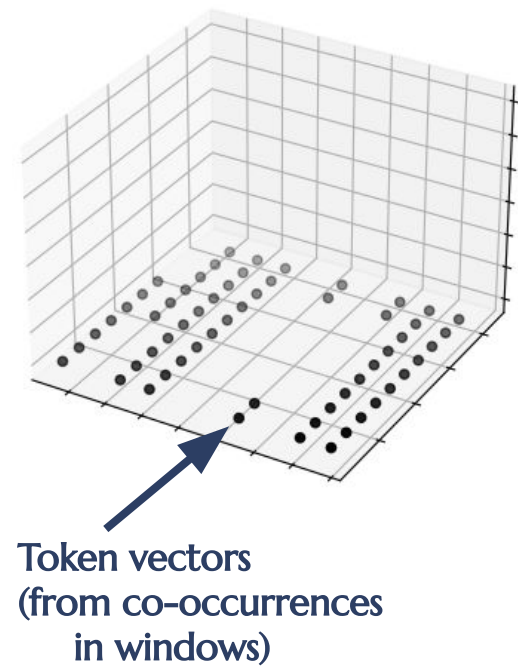
Count local cooccurrences
of tokens to generate
vector representation of
tokens



Token vectors

composed from cooccurrence with other tokens across command lines





Wasserstein vectorization

Via linear optimal transport

WASSERSTEIN EMBEDDING FOR GRAPH LEARNING

Soheil Kolouri* †, Navid Naderializadeh*†, Gustavo K. Rohde‡ , & Heiko Hoffmann†, 2021

```
%%time  
cmdlines_wass = vz.WassersteinVectorizer().fit_transform(cmdlines_iwt, vectors=cooc_vec)  
cmdlines_wass.shape
```

CPU times: user 1min 33s, sys: 5.9 s, total: 1min 39s

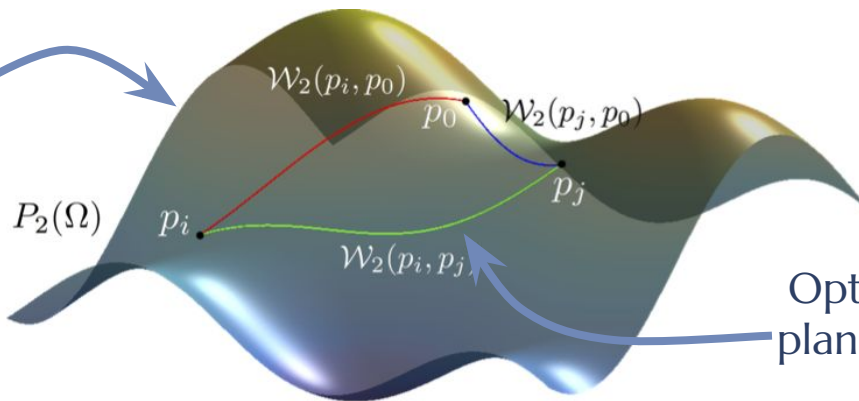
Wall time: 17 s

(31029, 128)

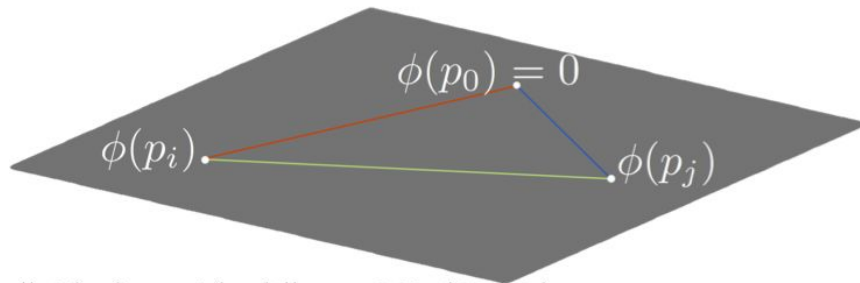
Each process is a
distribution
over a
point cloud
(of token cooccurrence vectors)

Theory

Manifold of
probability
distributions



Optimal transport
plans are geodesics

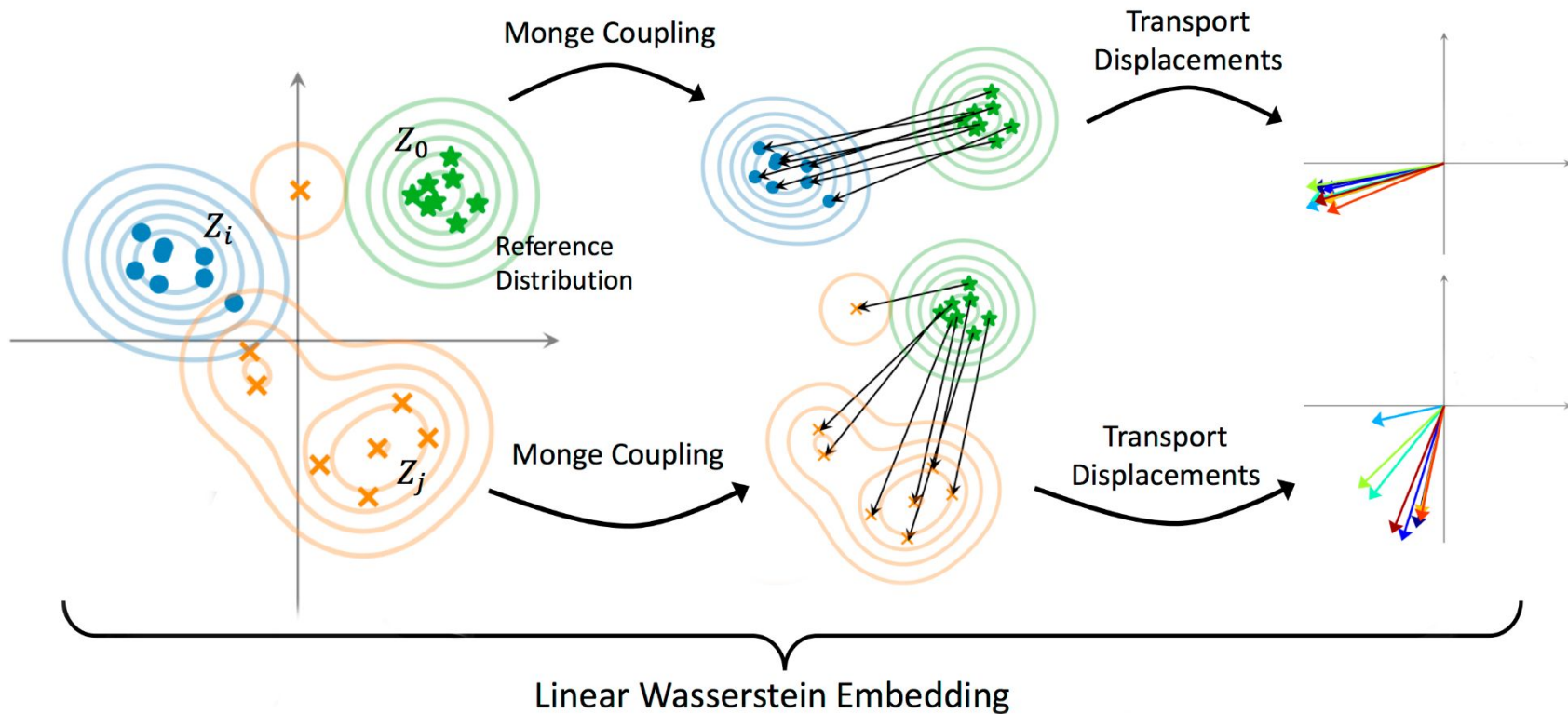


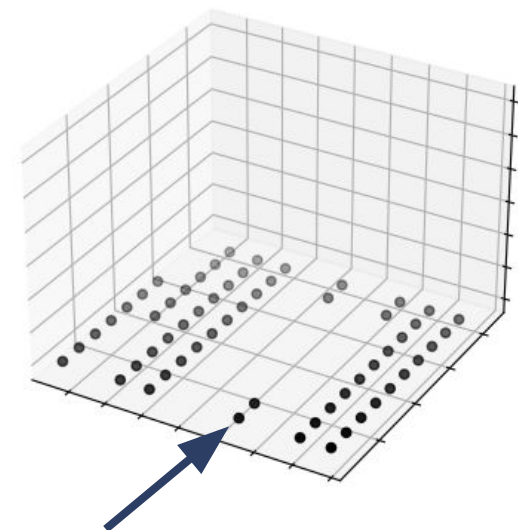
Tangent space of
the manifold at p_0

$$\|\phi(p_i) - \phi(p_j)\|_2 \approx \mathcal{W}_2(I_i, I_j)$$

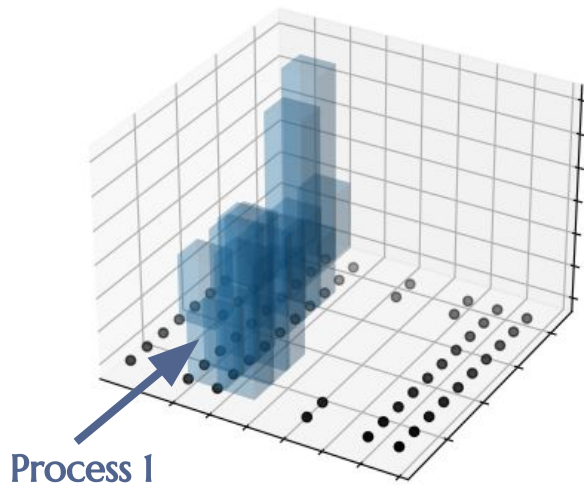
$$\|\phi(p_i) - \phi(p_0)\|_2 = \|\phi(p_i)\|_2 = \mathcal{W}_2(I_0, I_i)$$

Practice

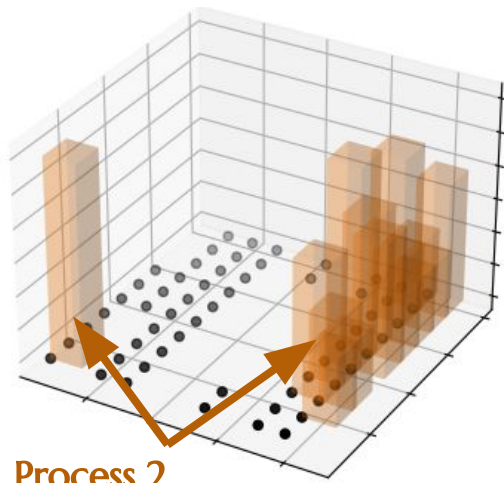




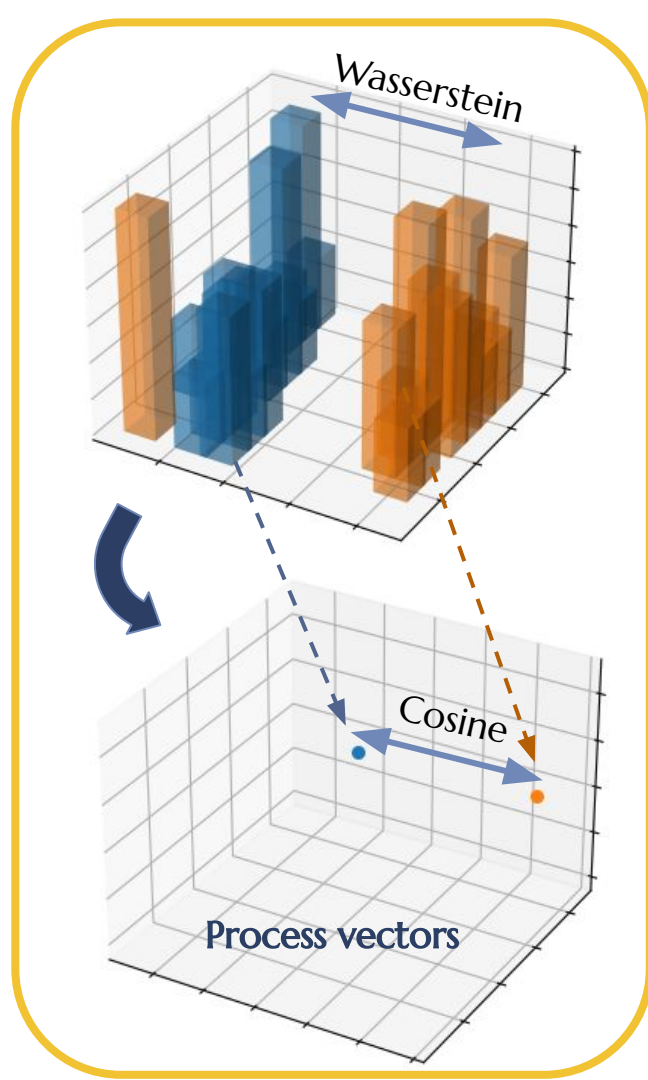
Token vectors
(from co-occurrences
in windows)



Process 1

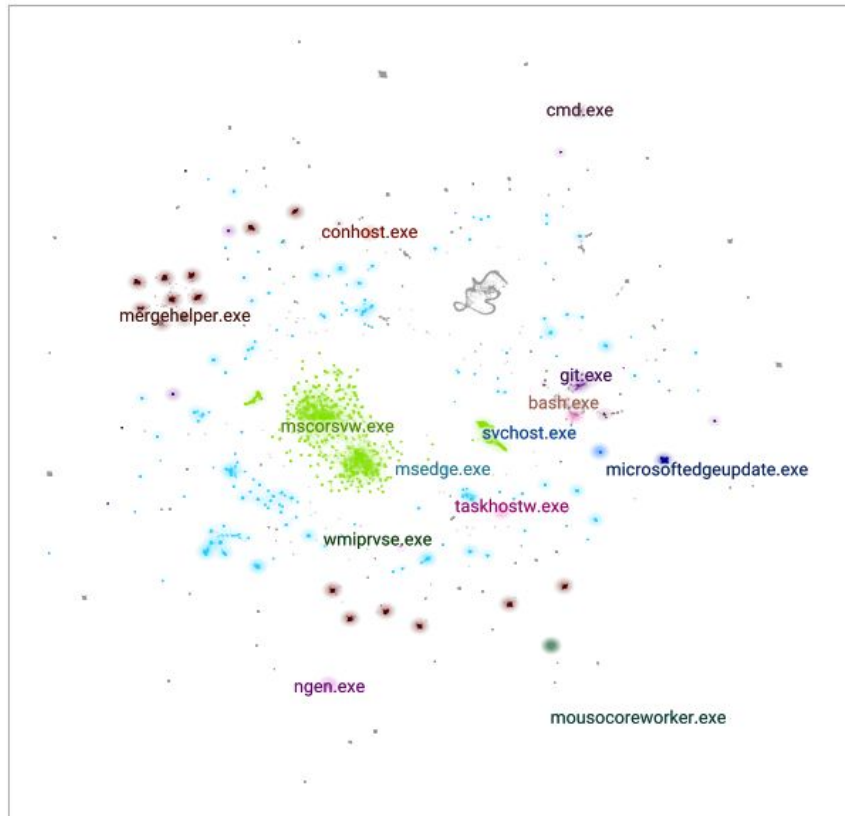


Process 2



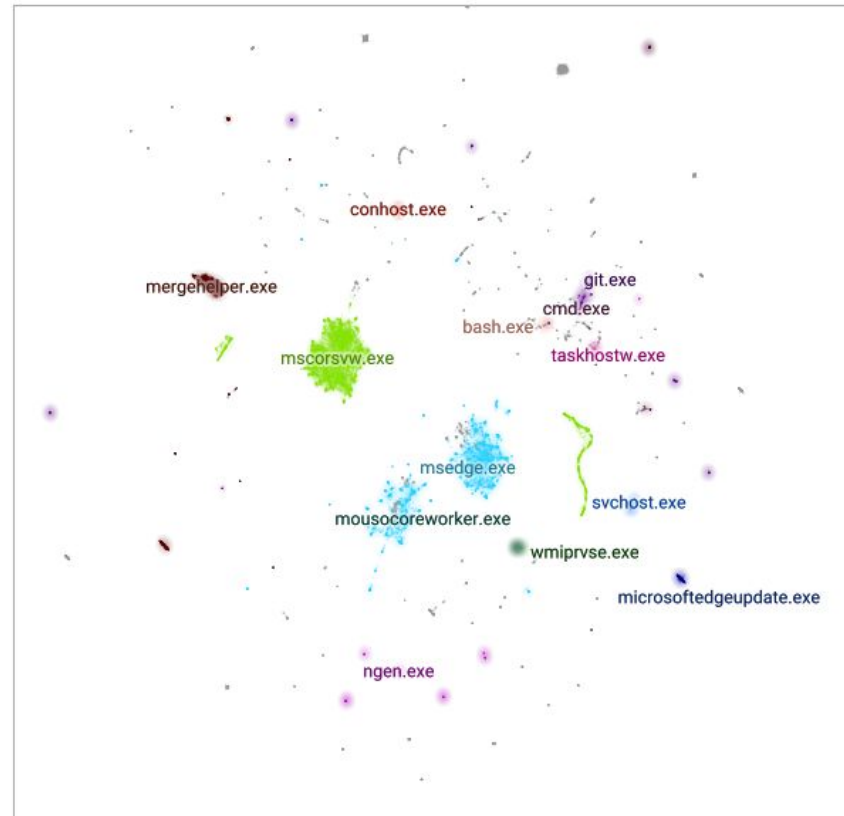
Process instances

as bags of information-reweighted parsed command line tokens



Process instances

as distributions over a cloud of command line token cooccurrence vectors



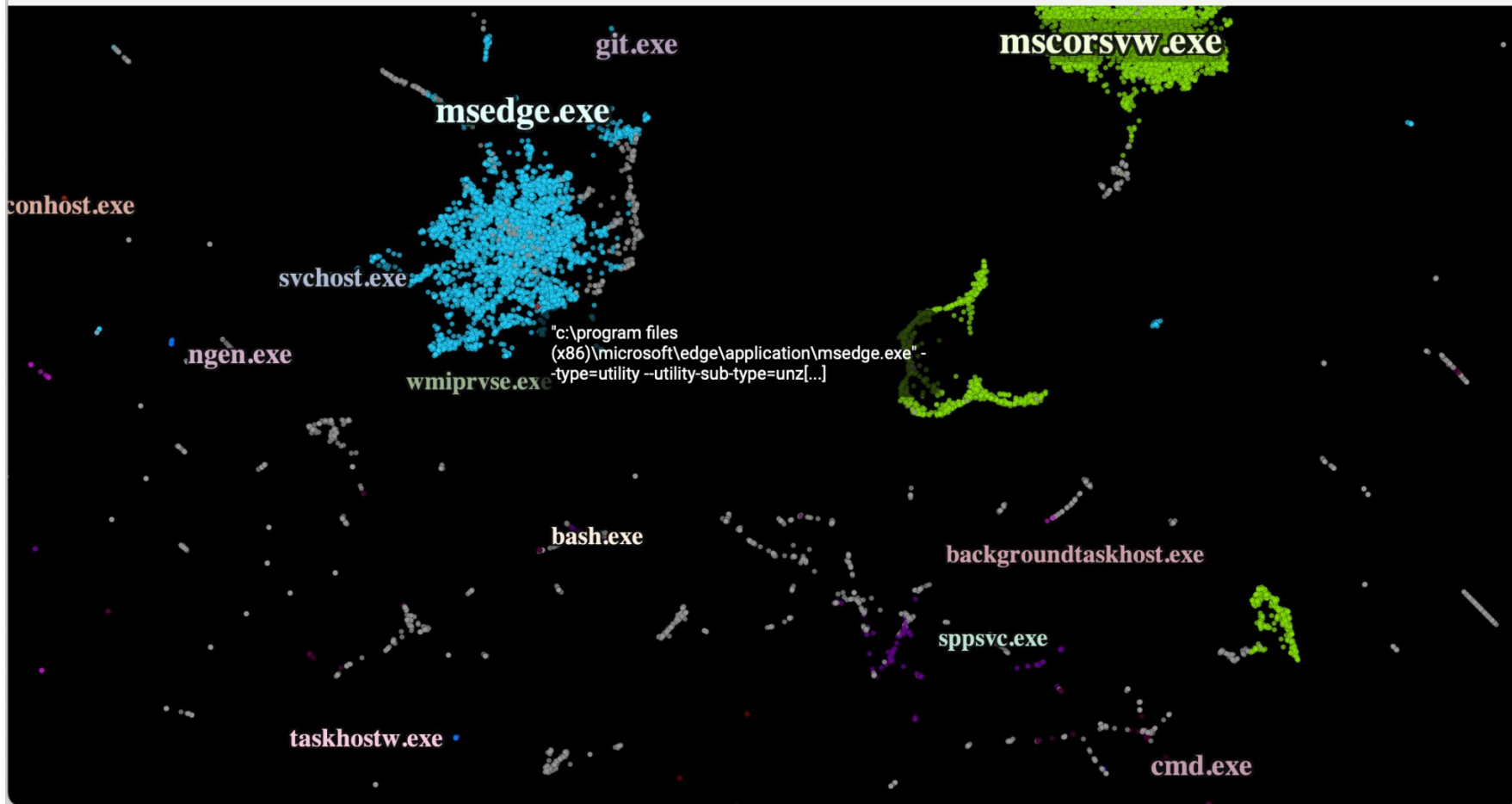
Explore



DATA MAP PLOT

Easily build
attractive static and
simple interactive maps

```
plot_interactive = dmp.create_interactive_plot(  
    datamap|,  
    metadata_cmdlines["label"],  
    hover_text=metadata_cmdlines["hover_text"],  
    darkmode=True,  
    label_color_map=label_color_map,  
)  
plot_interactive.save("datamap.html")
```





Easily build interactive map web applications

Built on top of the Panel library














Panel

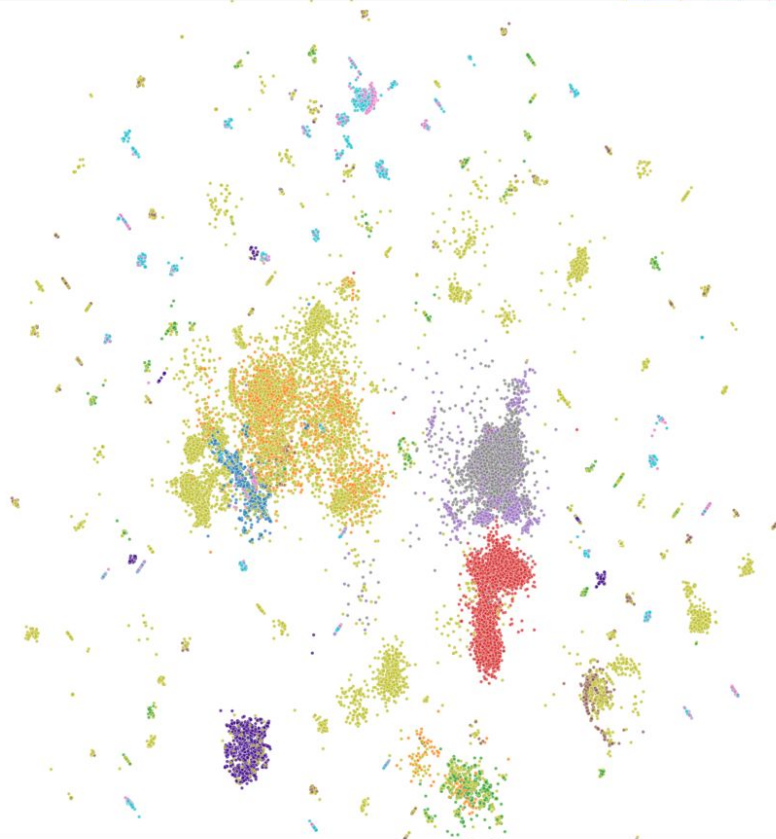

```
plot = tnt.BokehPlotPane(
    xy,
    labels=metadata_processes_short["description_topK"],
    hover_text=metadata_processes_short["description"],
    width=900,
    height=900,
    show_legend=False
)
summ_common = tnt.DataSummaryPane(FeatureCommonSummarizer())
summ_common.link_to_plot(plot)
summ_ts = tnt.PlotSummaryPane(tnt.summary.plot.TimeSeriesSummarizer(
    metadata_processes_short.assign(ones=1.),
    time_column="time_first",
    count_column="ones",
    freq="12H"
))
summ_ts.link_to_plot(plot)
editor = tnt.LabelEditorWidget(labels=metadata_processes_short["description_topK"])
editor.link_to_plot(plot)
pn.Row(editor, plot, pn.Column(summ_ts, summ_common, height=900))
```

[73]:

Label Editor

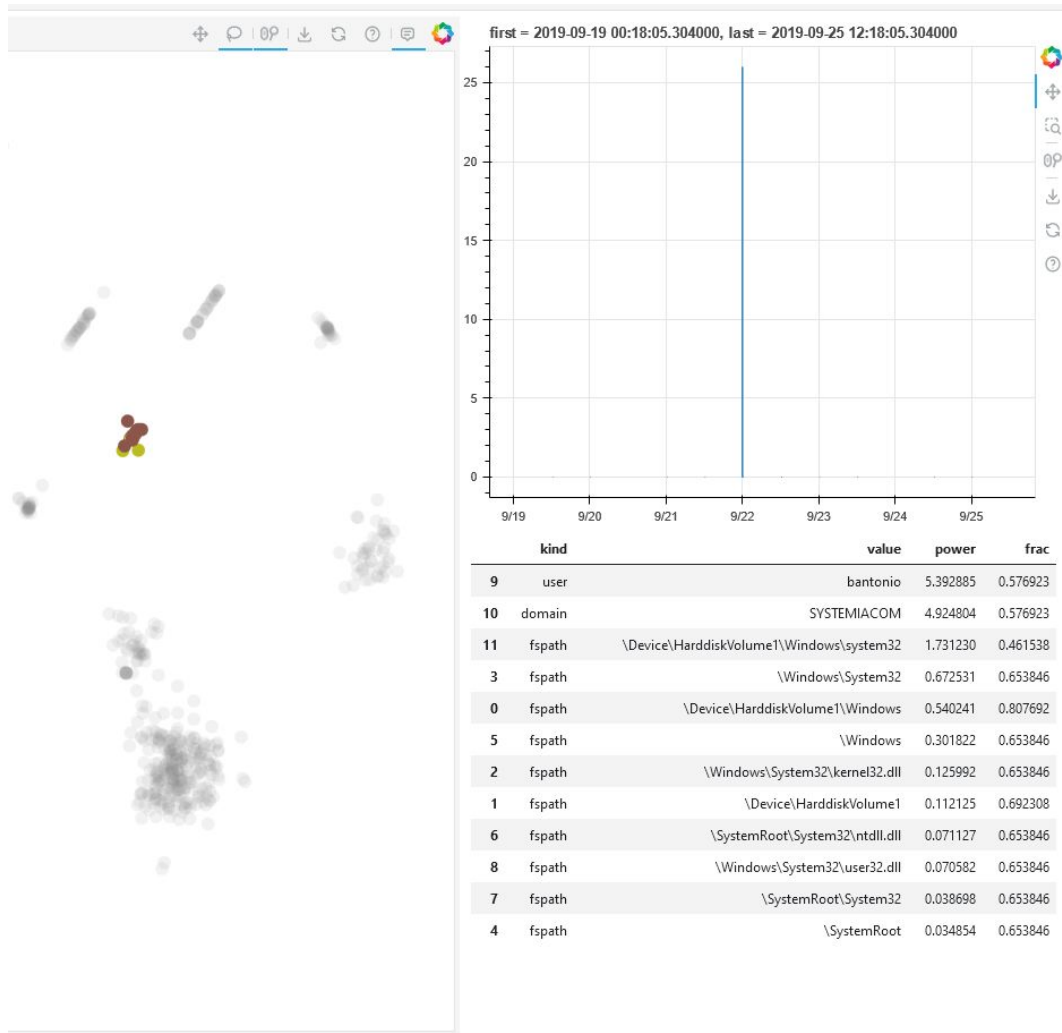
	cmd.exe /c netstat -n
	C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c
	tasklist
	C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\cmd.exe /i
	\Device\HarddiskVolume1\Window
	\Device\HarddiskVolume1\Window
	NETSTAT.EXE
	\\?\C:\Windows\system32\conhost
	(other)
	netstat -n
	ping -w 2000 -n 2 127.0.0.1

New Label















Nothing to summarize.

Nothing to summarize



Label Editor

	<code>cmd.exe /c netstat -n</code>
	<code>C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe /c</code>
	<code>tasklist</code>
	<code>C:\Windows\SYSTEM32\cmd.exe /i</code>
	<code>\Device\HarddiskVolume1\Window</code>
	<code>\Device\HarddiskVolume1\Window</code>
	<code>NETSTAT.EXE</code>
	<code>\\??\C:\Windows\system32\conhost</code>
	<code>(other)</code>
	<code>netstat -n</code>
	<code>ping -w 2000 -n 2 127.0.0.1</code>
	<code>blah</code>

New Label

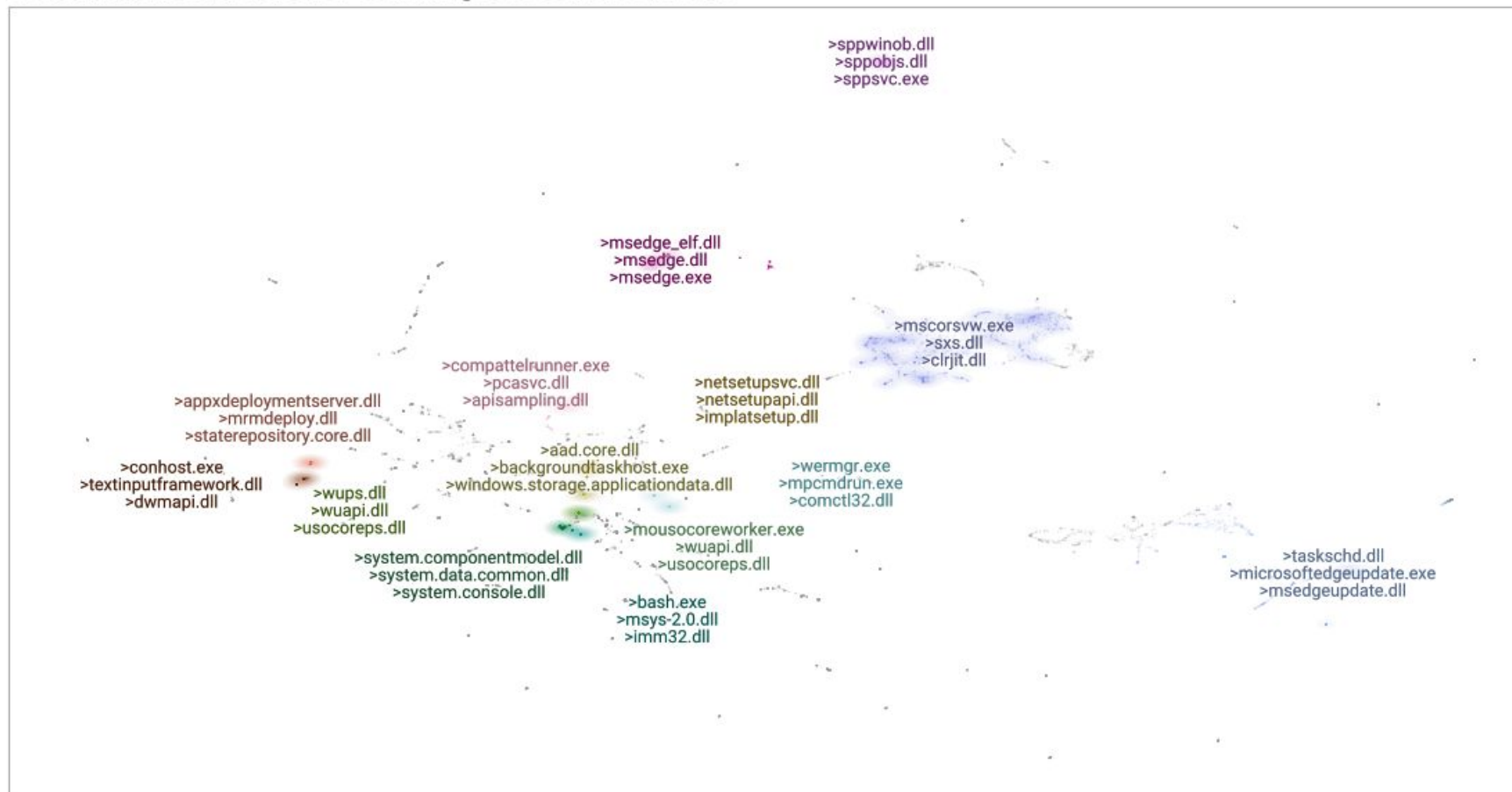


Predict labels
or
Find clusters & anomalies

Alternate Lenses

Process instances

as distributions over a cloud of code image cooccurrence vectors



as distributions over a cloud of command line vectors

The following table lists the executables and their associated values from the network graph:

Executable	Value
speechmodeldownload.exe	3.9
5.5 dsregcmd.exe	3.9
backgroundtaskhost.exe	3.5
dsregcmd.exe	6.2
backgroundtaskhost.exe	4.5
speechmodeldownload.exe	3.7
sc.exe	9.4
backgroundtaskhost.exe	7.8
speechmodeldownload.exe	7.5
backgroundtaskhost.exe	27.8
dsregcmd.exe	13.5
svchost.exe	9.3
mpcmdrun.exe	20.4
deviceconsensus.exe	19.0
rundll32.exe	11.2
cleanmgr.exe	52.1
googleupdate.exe	25.7
tiworker.exe	6.9
firefox.exe	30.7
default-browser-agent.exe	6.5
backgroundtaskhost.exe	6.4
mpcmdrun.exe	17.7
googleupdate.exe	7.6
googleupdatecomregistershell64.exe	4.6
speechmodeldownload.exe	14.7
wsqmcons.exe	2.2
microsoftedgeupdate.exe	1.6
dsregcmd.exe	20.0
backgroundtaskhost.exe	11.6
wmiprivse.exe	11.3
microsofedgeupdate.exe	3.5
wmiprivse.exe	3.4
vssvc.exe	2.4
bash.exe	775.3
reg.exe	361.5
svchost.exe	287.8
nngen.exe	51.4
cleanmgr.exe	39.6
apphostregistrationverifier.exe	39.6
powershell.exe	175.0
wmiprivse.exe	31.4
googleupdate.exe	42.1

2023-11-20

Summary

Data to
Vectors



Manifold
Learning



Interactive
Visualization



and



Supervised
Cluster
Inference



Data to
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 **VECTORIZERS**

 **UMAP**
UNIFORM MANIFOLD
APPROXIMATION & PROJECTION

 **TNT**
THIS NOT THAT

and

 **DATA MAP PLOT**

 scikit
learn

Data to
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 VECTORIZERS

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 DATAMAPLOT

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```
import vectorizers as vz, vectorizers.transformers as vzt, umap, fast_hdbscan, datamapplot













token_seqs = # Tokenize your data, yielding a list of lists of tokens.
vz_cooc = vz.TokenCooccurrenceVectorizer().fit(token_seqs)
vecs_cooc = vz_cooc.reduce_dimension(DIM_COOC) # Unsure? Use 128 🙋

token_counts = vz.NgramVectorizer().fit_transform(token_seqs)
distrib_iwt = vzt.InformationWeightTransformer().fit_transform(token_counts)
vecs = vz.WassersteinVectorizer().fit_transform(distrib_iwt, vectors=vecs_cooc)

datamap = umap.UMAP(metric="cosine").fit_transform(vecs)
labels = # Find clusters in data map and figure names for them.
datamapplot.create_interactive_plot(datamap, labels, ...)
```

The Tutte Institute for Mathematics and Computing (TIMC) is a government research institute focused on fundamental mathematics and computer science. Research work from the Institute that has been released as open source can be found here.

Software from the Tutte Institute and its staff

 <p>Vectorizers</p> <p>Tools for vectorizing sequence data</p>	 <p>UMAP</p> <p>Dimension reduction and visualization</p>	 <p>HDBSCAN</p> <p>Spatial clustering</p>	 <p>PyNNDescent</p> <p>Approximate nearest neighbour search</p>	 <p>ThisNotThat</p> <p>Interactive data map exploration and labeling</p>
 <p>Ensemble Clustering for Graphs</p> <p>Graph clustering and community detection</p>	 <p>Graph Partition Measures</p> <p>Graph partition evaluation</p>	 <p>EnsTop</p> <p>Ensemble topic modeling</p>	 <p>EasyData</p> <p>Data science reproducibility framework</p>	
 <p>Glasbey</p> <p>Glasbey Algorithmic Categorical Colour Palettes</p>	 <p>Fast HDBSCAN</p> <p>Fast Multicore HDBSCAN in Numba</p>	 <p>DataMapPlot</p> <p>Presentation Ready Data Map Plots</p>		

<https://github.com/TutteInstitute>



<https://github.com/TutteInstitute/acme3-mapping>