

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.



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ACME3 data

24 hosts, 15 days ~137,847 command lines ~31,000 unique command lines

```
c:\windows\system32\conhost.exe Oxfffffff -forcevI 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

....

- $c: \programdata \microsoft \windows defender \platform \4.18.23O9O.2OO8-O \mbox{\mathemath{microsoft}} except a skname wdcleanup \mbox{\mathemath{microsoft}} except a skname \mbox{\mathemath{microsof$
- c:\programdata\microsoft\windows defender\platform\4.18.23O9O.2OO8-O\mpcmdrun.exe -idletask -taskname wdverification
- c:\windows\system32\taskhostw.exe keyroaming
- c:\windows\system32\fontdrvhost.exe
- $c:\windows\system 32 \onessh\sshd.exe-r$
- c:\windows\system32\openssh\sshd.exe -y
- c:\windows\system32\cmd.exe
- C:\windows\system32\conhost.exe

....



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







Manifold Learning











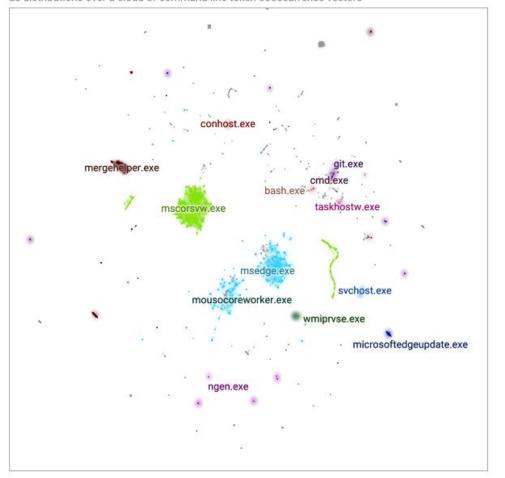


Data map of processes



Process instances

as distributions over a cloud of command line token cooccurrence vectors





Building lenses







Manifold Learning



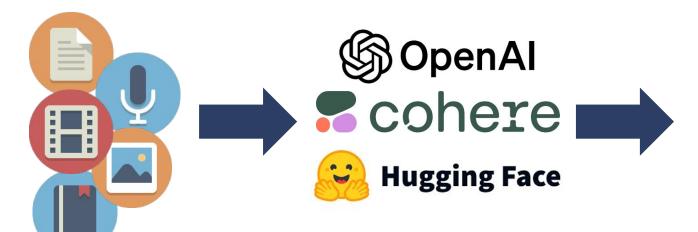












```
[ 0.0021  0.0246 -0.0134  0.0343  ... -0.0103 -0.0008  0.0047  0.0363]
[ 0.0068  0.0098  -0.0079  -0.0006  ...  -0.0018  0.0361  0.002  0.0045]
[-0.0082 0.0234 -0.0166 0.0078 ... 0.0375 -0.03 0.0367 -0.0141]
[-0.0535 -0.002 -0.0141 -0.0198 ... -0.0071 -0.0074 0.0042 0.0034]
[ 0.0233  0.0273 -0.0139  0.0361 ...  0.0036 -0.0334  0.041  0.0253]
Γ-0.002 0.0076 0.0048 -0.0299 ... 0.0057 0.0089 0.015 0.01691
[ 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]
Γ-0.0183 0.011 0.0172 -0.0162 ... -0.0168 -0.003 0.0287 0.00691
F 0.0392 0.0106 -0.0003 0.0082 ... -0.0287 0.0081 0.0042 0.026 T
[-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]
Γ-0.0173 0.0227 0.0188 -0.0349 ... -0.0235 -0.0243 0.004 -0.00721
[-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
F 0.0171 -0.009 0.0408 -0.0232 ... -0.0122 0.0043 -0.0433 0.01647
Γ-0.0029 0.0067 -0.0018 -0.0205 ... -0.017 0.0101 0.0083 -0.00497
[-0.0028 0.0106 0.0173 0.0014 ... -0.0097 -0.0186 0.0058 -0.0031]
Γ-0.0089 0.0277 -0.014 -0.0308 ... 0.0001 0.0137 -0.0063 -0.01697
Γ-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 0.0678 -0.0091]
Γ-0.0249 0.0234 0.0223 -0.0028 ... 0.0049 -0.0101 0.0248 0.01847
[-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]
Γ-0.0395 0.0227 -0.0322 -0.0335 ... -0.0503 0.0124 -0.021 -0.02497
```





Tools to vectorize other types of data

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



Text to token sequences



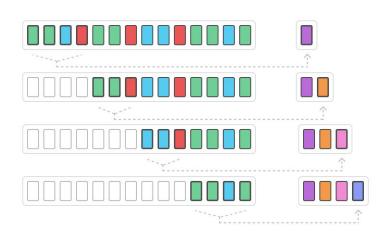
```
1 %%time
2 cmdlines_vec = vz.BytePairEncodingVectorizer(max_vocab_size=600).fit_transform(cmdlines_u.tolist())
3 cmdlines_vec
```

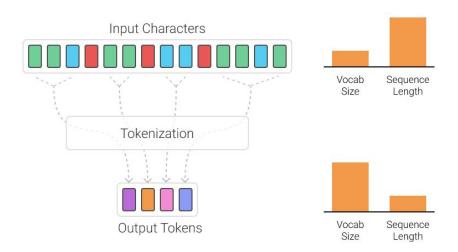


```
1 vz_bpe = vz.BytePairEncodingVectorizer(max_vocab_size=600).fit(cmdlines_u.tolist())
2 [longest for longest in sorted(vz_bpe.tokens_, key=len, reverse=True)][75:100]
```

```
['\\v4.0.30319\\mscorsvw.exe -'.
 ' --disable-gpu-compositing',
' --enable-main-frame-befor',
 'c:\\windows\\microsoft.net\\',
' --lang=en-us --service-s',
' --time-ticks-at-unix-epo',
' --mojo-platform-channel',
' --field-trial-handle=19',
' --device-scale-factor=1',
 'c:\\program files\\wintap',
' --time-ticks-at-unix-e',
 'c:\\windows\\microsoft.n',
 'tevent 0 -ngenprocess '.
 'c:\\program files (x86)',
 ' --field-trial-handle=',
' --lang=en-us --servic',
 ' --num-raster-threads=',
 ' --renderer-client-id='.
 ' --disable-gpu-composi',
""ngen worker process",
 'c:\\program files (x86',
 'device-scale-factor=1',
 ' --launch-time-ticks=',
 ' --time-ticks-at-unix'.
 ' --enable-main-frame-'l
```









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
$"c:\windows\syswow64\label{lem:c:windows} wow64\label{lem:c:windows} wow64\label{lem:c:windows} wow64\label{lem:c:windows} abb2a6d532491a1295e2c3d16e9fdfd$	$["c:\windows\syswow64\mbedding, dabb2a6d532491a1295e2c3d16e9fdfd]$	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 sq9lrmw140ena5nxthiida.0.1	["c:\windows\system32\sihclient.exe", /cv, sq9lrmw140ena5nxthiida.0.1]	3
"c:\program files\git\usr\bin\ls.exe" -fcolor=autoshow-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" -fcolor=autoshow-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 cmdline	"c:\windows\system32\svchost.exe"	-k	-p	-s	appxsvc	unistacksvcgroup	waasmedicsvc	wersvcgroup	wsappx	wusvcs
"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

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

Information Weight

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

where

$$P_t(d) = \frac{f_{t,d}}{\sum_{d \in D} f_{t,d}}$$
 $Q(d) = \frac{|d|}{\sum_{d' \in D} |d'|}$



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

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

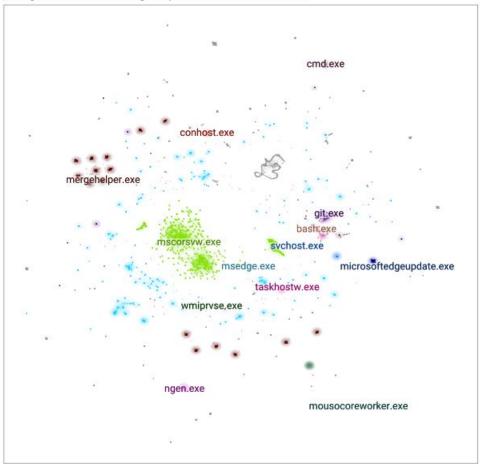
Approximated by cosine distance

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



Process instances

as bags of information-reweighted parsed command line tokens





Document vectorization strategies

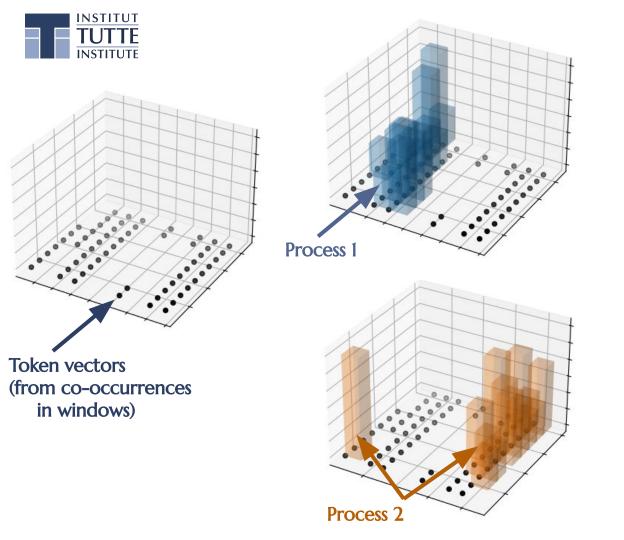
Bag of tokens

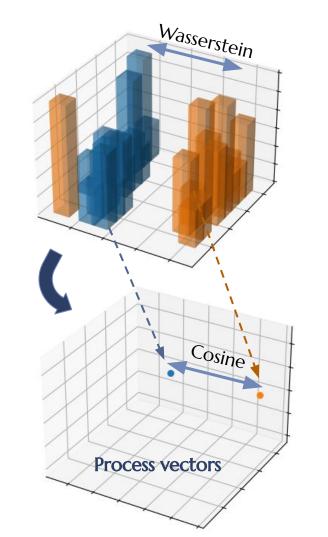
Discard order, count how often each word occurs Sequence similarities?

Optimal transport on **token vector** distributions

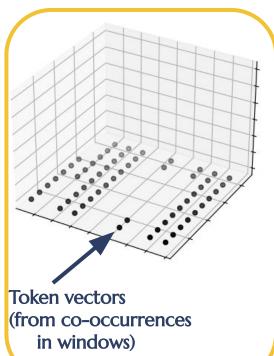


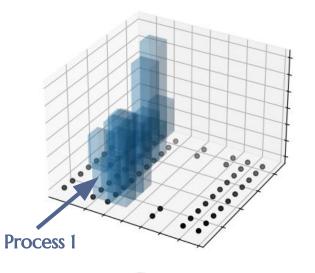
Tokens to vectors: distributions on point clouds

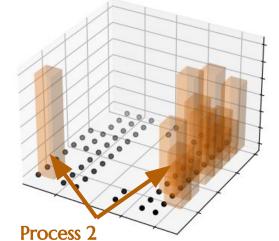


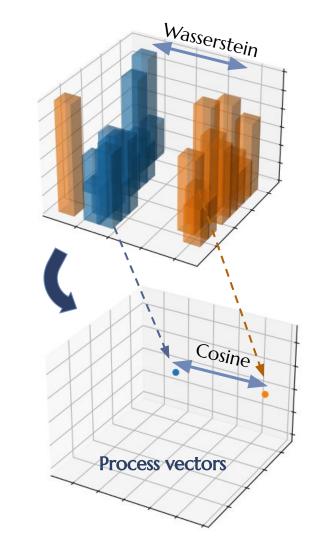














(20887, 512)

```
%%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
```

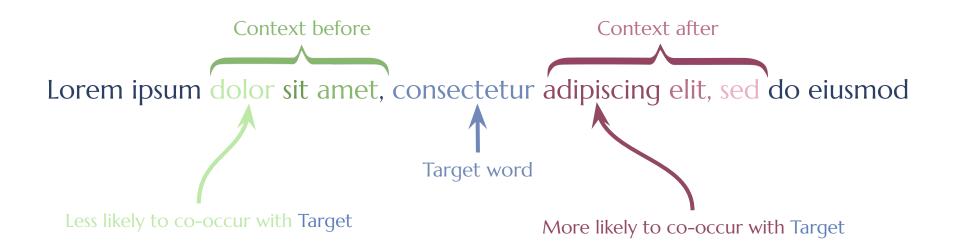


Tokens aren't independent



Count local cooccurrences of tokens to generate vector representation of tokens



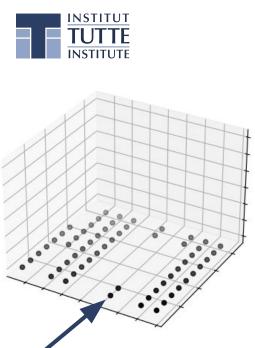




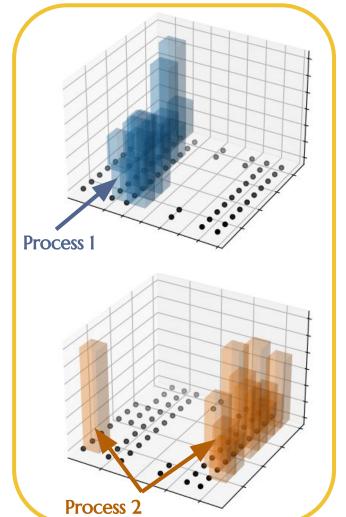
Token vectors

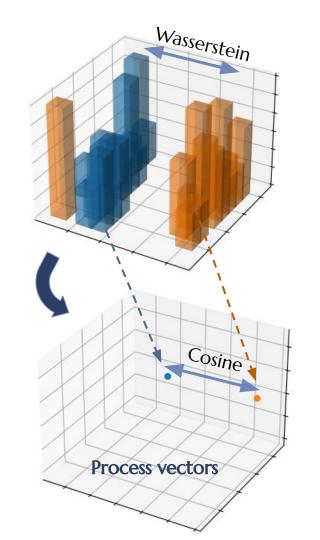
composed from cooccurrence with other tokens across command lines

```
bgo9wb8vaeku ...
8+zfklvzd0iy ...
                                                qdpkjejhnu+x ...
                        d2acb8ea-a3f ...
                                                                    yyzjmieusec6 ...
gwhua/1zgkg6 ...
                                     -čv:wxohwxzi ...
                                                                    fov7u7wttu+v ...
                                     -cv:qdhwmu9l ...
                                     -cv:zwiv+mbq ...
                                                                                          1becace1a97c ...
                                                        /state0:0xa3 ...
                                                                                          ea8a452951d2 ...
                                                        /state0:0xb3 ...
                                                                                          29b095b6b166 ...
                                                        /state0:0xa5 ...
                                                                           -cv:vd+kugxb ... -systemevent ...
-cv:aelhvp6b ...
-cv:owknfqv4 ...
                      -session.k ...
                     --iopub=9025"
                                                        {e6e1da18-2b ...
                                       -moz_log_file
                                                         {313cf0f9-53 ...
                                                        fefd8d4d0-ae ...
                                                                              pd94bwwgdmvy ...
                                        /usage=typic ... 0x41c -forcev1 0x3c4
                                                                                           -nonstatecha ...
                                                     cd0 fec c7,c
                                                                                -lifetimeid: ...
                           device-sca
       c:\programda ...
--channel=11508
                                                                                          -iocanceleve ...
             -nic5
                                                 veny-eb
                                                               -cv:pwtyxx7b ...
                                                               -cv:spwrwdog ...
/c/users/use ...
                                                               -cv:c2oozr5r ...
nextbigthingcli/
nextbigthing ...
                                                                                 "c:\windows\ ...
                                                                                 x -ioeventport
```



Token vectors (from co-occurrences in windows)







Wasserstein vectorization Via linear optimal transport



```
%%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

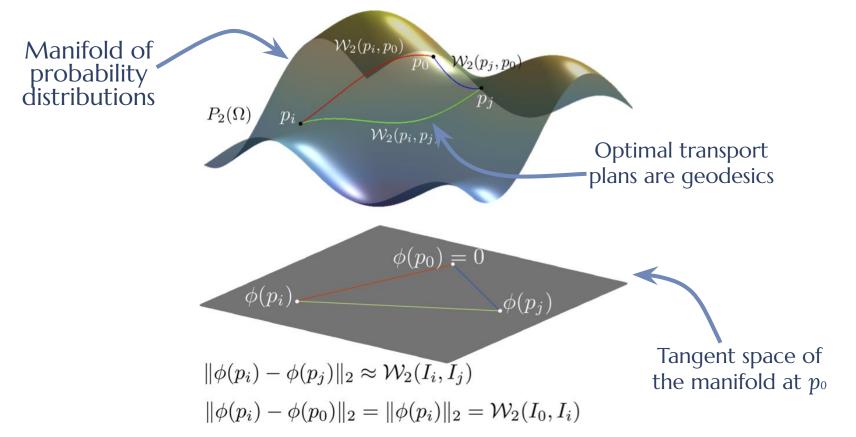
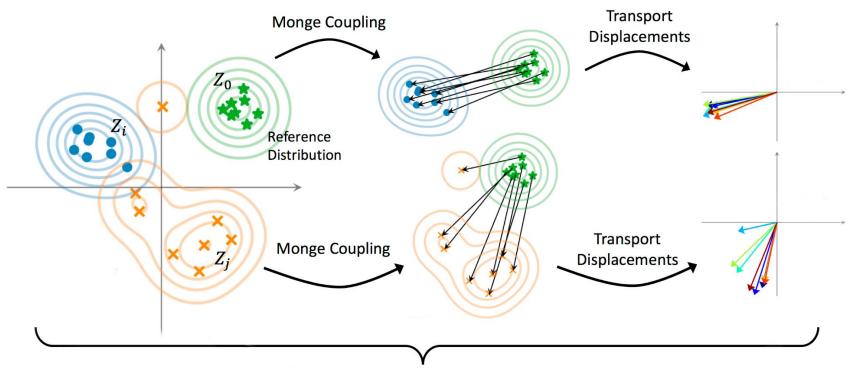


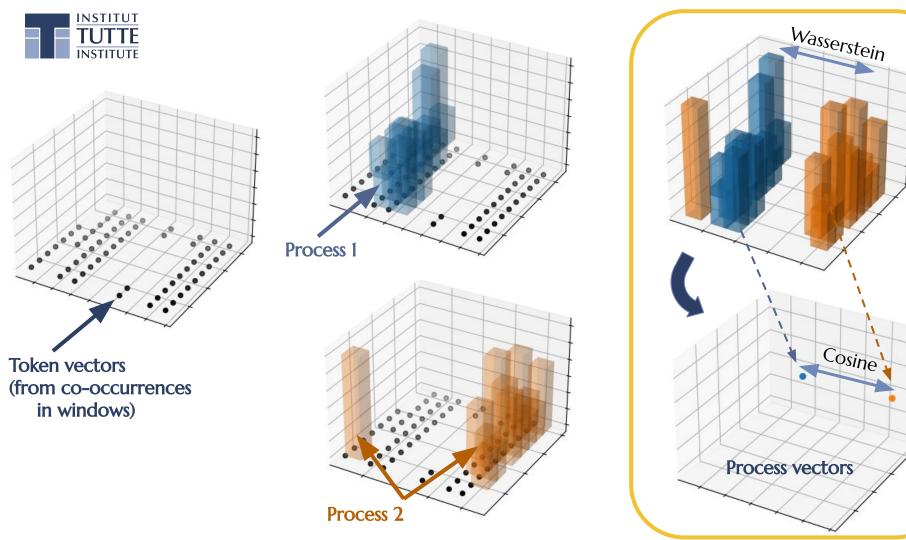
Image credit: Soheil Kolouri



Practice



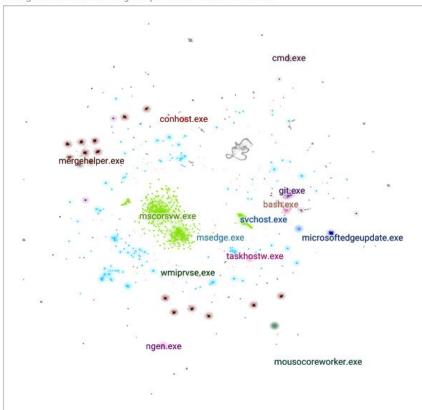
Linear Wasserstein Embedding





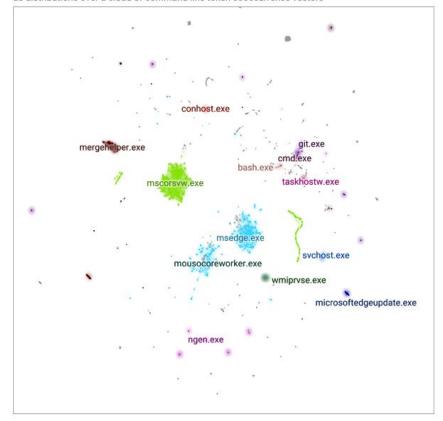
Process instances

as bags of information-reweighted parsed command line tokens



Process instances

as distributions over a cloud of command line token cooccurrence vectors





Explore

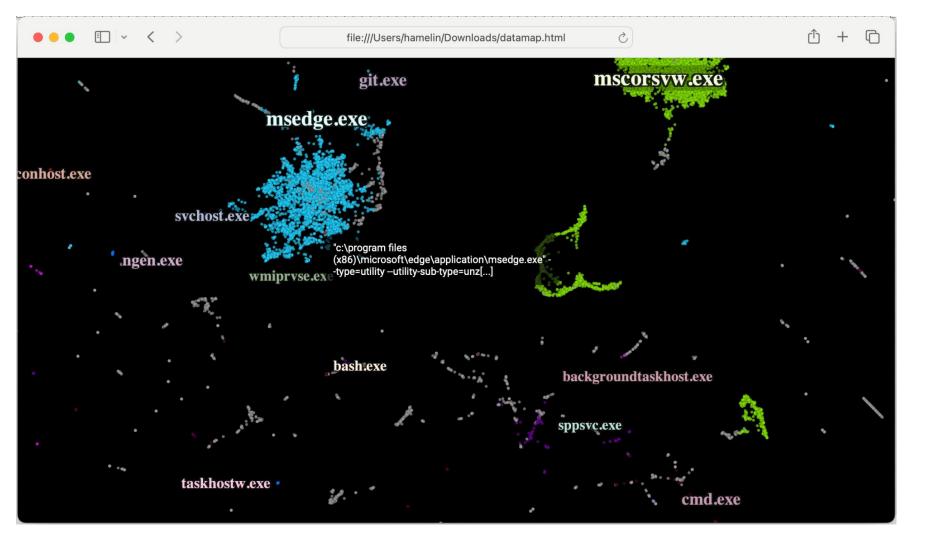




Easily build attractive static and simple interactive maps



```
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")
```





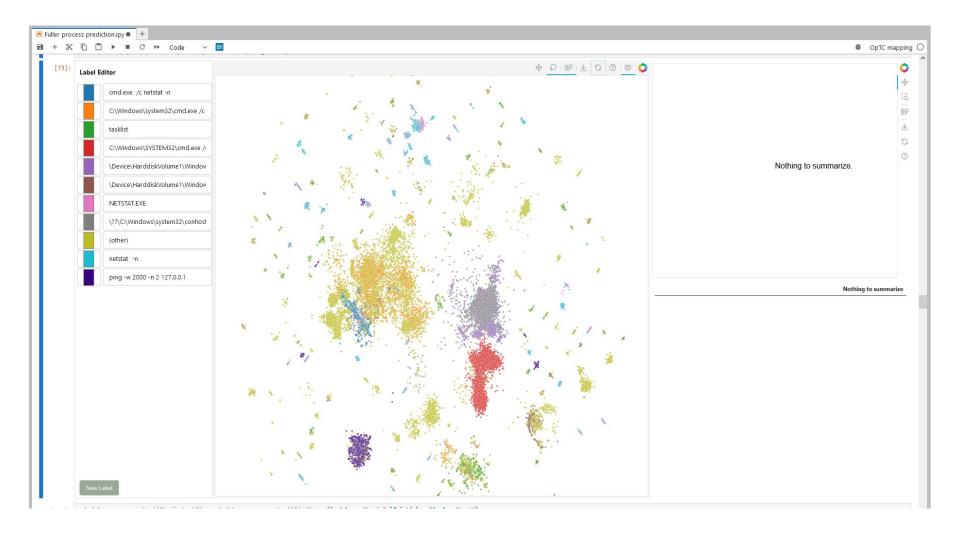


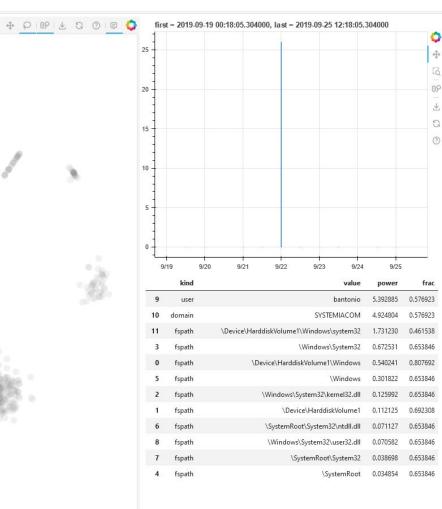
Easily build interactive map web applications

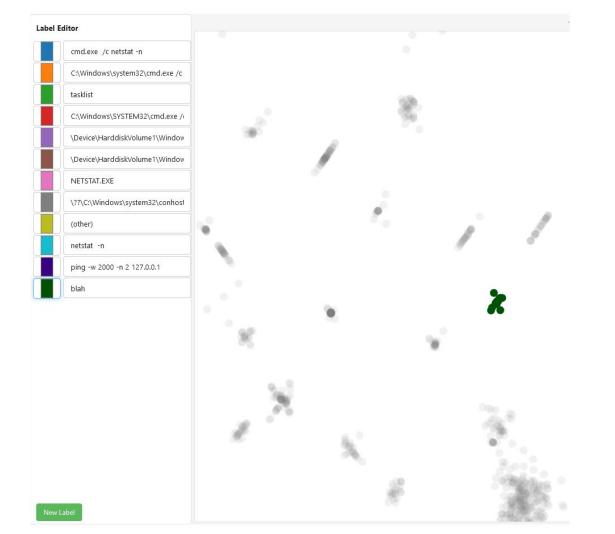
Built on top of the Panel library



```
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))
```









Summary







Manifold Learning

















Manifold Learning















VECTORIZERS

Manifold Learning

Interactive



















Learning











```
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)
distribs_iwt = vzt.InformationWeightTransformer().fit_transform(tokens_counts)
vecs = vz.WassersteinVectorizer().fit_transform(distribs_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, ...)
```



INSTITUT TUTTE TUTTE INSTITUTE

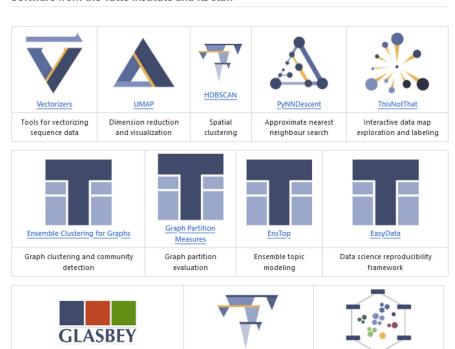


The Tutte Institute for Mathematics and Computing (TIMC) is a government research institute focused on fundamental mathematics and computer science. Research work from the Institute that has been released as open source can be found here.

Software from the Tutte Institute and its staff

Glasbey

Glasbey Algorithmic Categorical Colour Palettes



Fast HDBSCAN

Fast Multicore HDBSCAN in Numba

DataMapPlot

Presentation Ready Data Map Plots





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





Sequence vectorization strategies

Bag of tokens

Discard order, count how often each word occurs Information from tokens?

$$Info(t) =$$

$$\sum_{d \in D} P_t(d) \log \left(\frac{P_t(d)}{Q_t(d)} \right)$$

Sequence similarities?

Optimal transport on token vector distributions



Document vectorization strategies

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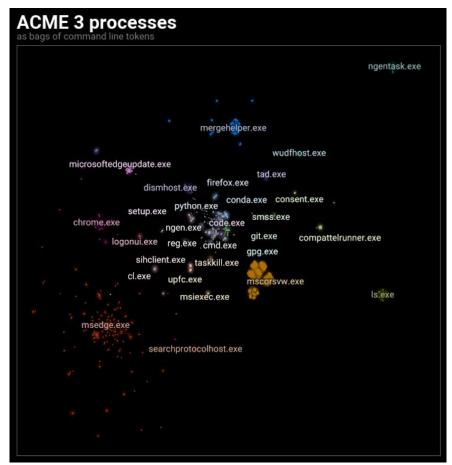
```
%%time
cmdlines_iwt = vzt.InformationWeightTransformer().fit_transform(cmdlines_vec)
cmdlines_iwt
```

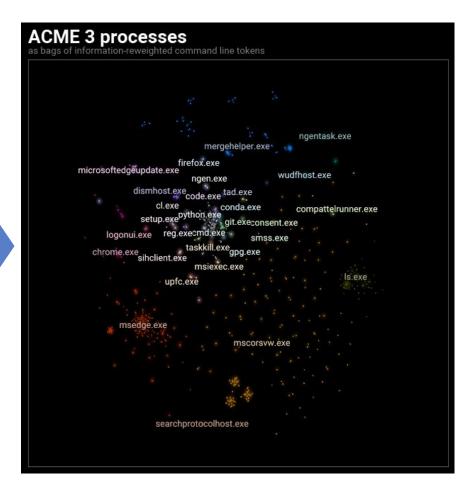
CPU times: user 1 s, sys: 61.7 ms, total: 1.07 s

Wall time: 883 ms

<137847x728 sparse matrix of type '<class 'numpy.float64'>'
 with 2647458 stored elements in Compressed Sparse Row format>









Careful: bags of words involve heuristics that generate entropy



Document vectorization strategies

Bag of tokens

Discard order, count how often each word occurs Information from tokens?

$$Info(t) =$$

$$\sum_{d \in D} P_t(d) \log \left(\frac{P_t(d)}{Q_t(d)} \right)$$

Sequence similarities?

Optimal transport on token vector distributions



Exploit





Cluster Inference

Out of distribution detection +

Classification



Alternate Lenses



A host is a point cloud of their process vectors, in a time window

svchost exe 339 dsregcmd exe 23 sc.exe 12

ø

0

6

0

2023-11-05 00:00:00-05:00



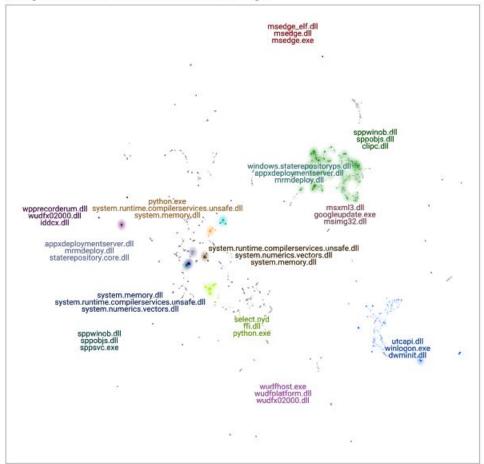
DLL co-occurrence vectorization

A process is a point cloud of the DLLs it loads



Process instances

as bags of cooccurrence vectors of loaded code images





Turning your data into vectors is useful



For cyber analysts: visibility into networks like never before



For data scientists and tooling developers: illustrate opportunities and pitfalls for detector design



Look at your data



Start simple and iterate



Threat detection requires human investigation

Good math is important Good visualization is essential