

BIDS GraphXD 2021
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Institute for
Data Science



Network Analysis of Ancient Sumerian Texts



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Network Analysis of Ancient Sumerian Texts



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Sumerian Networks

DS-Discovery Team Presents:

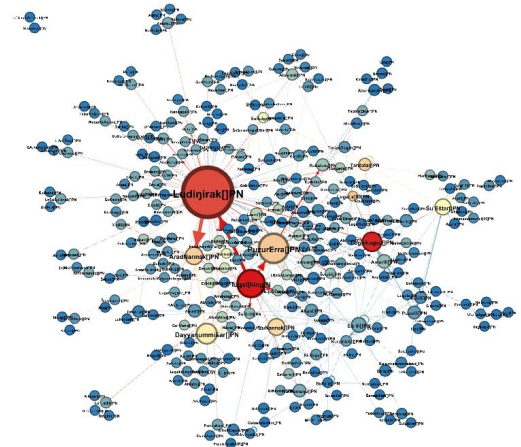
Network Analysis of Ancient Sumerian Texts

The Shoe Archive of Puzrish-Dagan, 2100-2000 BC.

Description: In this demonstration, we will use NetworkX to help solve a riddle contained in a small administrative archive of cuneiform tablets from the ancient Sumerian city-state of Puzrish-Dagan, modern Drehem, Iraq. The archive contains many records of the production of fine shoes, along with precious metals and gems, but why does this small collection of 300 texts exist among thousands of administrative records? To help answer this question, we use network analysis in order to map the relationships between the actors of this small archive, and visualize the social network to find the leaders and their cliques in the archive.

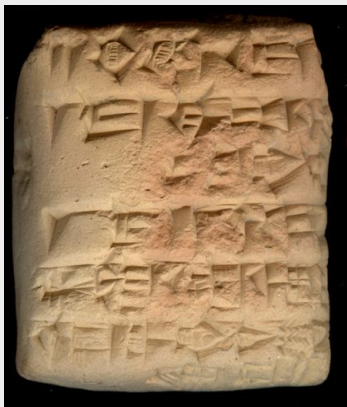
Data Science Discovery Team:

Current Team	Email	GitHub	Role	Semesters
Niek Veldhuis	veldhuis@berkeley.edu	niekveldhuis	Professor, Principal Investigator, developer	9
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Dominic Liu	hangxingliu@berkeley.edu	dominiciu129	Student developer	3



The Data in its Various Forms

Cuneiform Tablets



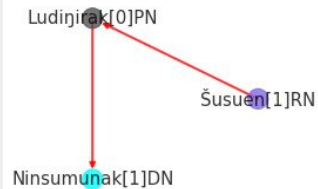
Digitization

a-ru-a
šu-{d}suen
ki
lu₂-dingir-
ra-ta

Lemmatization

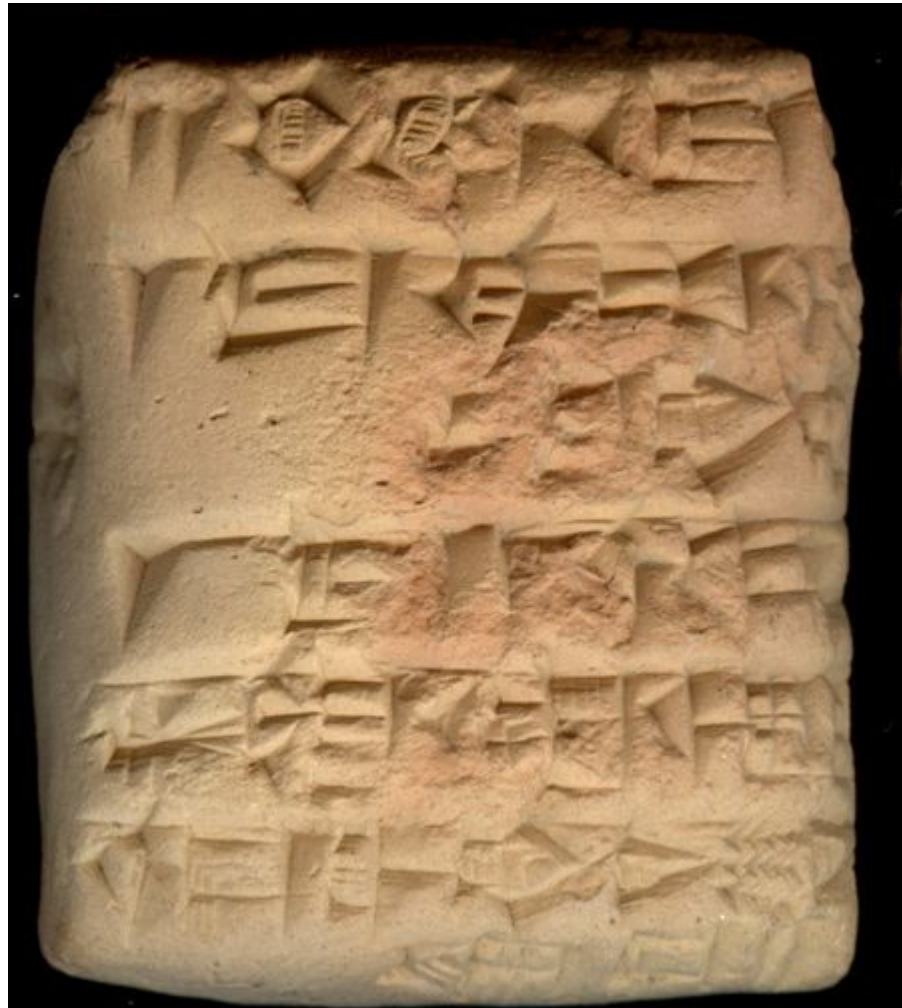
arua[offering]N;
Šusuen[1]RN
ki[place]N;
Ludiŋirak[1]PN

Graph



Tablets

- Puzriš-Dagan: Royal Archive
 - Today: Drehem (south Iraq)
 - Ca. 2060 - 2000 BCE
 - Looted, sold on blackmarket
 - Original arrangement of tablets unknown
 - 15,000 tablets spread over the world
 - Mostly *animals*
 - Treasure & Shoe archive; ca 300 tablets



ORACC: Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus

- Lemmatization of tablets performed by scholars in the field
- ORACC provides standards for *transliteration* and *lemmatization*.
 - Tablets assigned unique id number
 - Data and metadata can be downloaded in JSON format

2 har ku₃-babbar 10 gin₂-ta
n; har[ring]N; kugbabbar[silver]N; n; gin[unit]N
2 silver rings 10 shekels each

{d}nin-sun₂ u₃-suh₅{ki}
Ninsumunak[1]DN; Usuh[1]SN
For Ninsumun of Usuh

a-ru-a šu-{d}suen
aru[offering]N; Šusuen[1]RN
Offering of Šusuen (the king)

ki lu₂-dingir-ra-ta
ki[place]N; Ludi₂irak[1]PN
expended by Ludi₂ira

Rule-based Generator of Nodes and Edges

Nodes: 2 har ku₃-babbar 10 gin₂-ta
n; har[ring]N; kugbabbar[silver]N; n; gin[unit]N
2 silver rings 10 shekels each

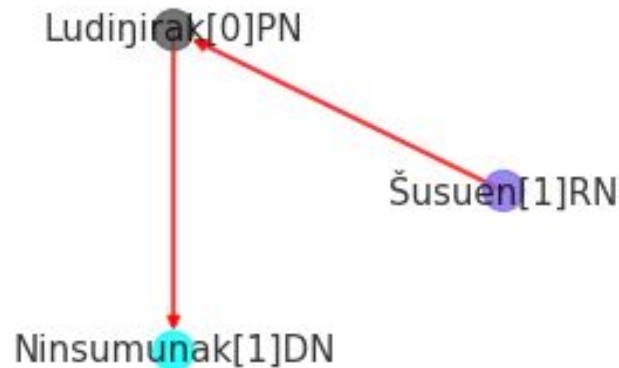
- Persons (PN)
- Kings (RN)
- Deities (DN)

Roles: {d}nin-sun₂ u₃-suh₅{ki}
Ninsumunak[1]DN; Usuh[1]SN
For the goddess Ninsumun of Usuh

- Recipient
- Offerer
- Source

Keywords: a-ru-a šu-{d}suen
arua[offering]N; Šusuen[1]RN
Offering of Šusuen (the king)

- arua (offering)
 - ki (from)
- ki lu₂-dingir-ra-ta
ki[place]N; Ludiŋirak[1]PN
expended by Ludiŋira



Resulting directed graph

Data Overview - Nodes

Nodes - people identified as either a source or recipient in the text

- lemma - the word which was identified as an actor in a transaction in the text
- translation, transliteration, pos - metadata from the lemma
- role - role the actor played in a transaction
- attribute - other attributes associated with the node in the text

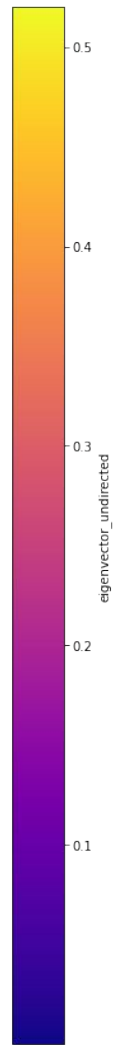
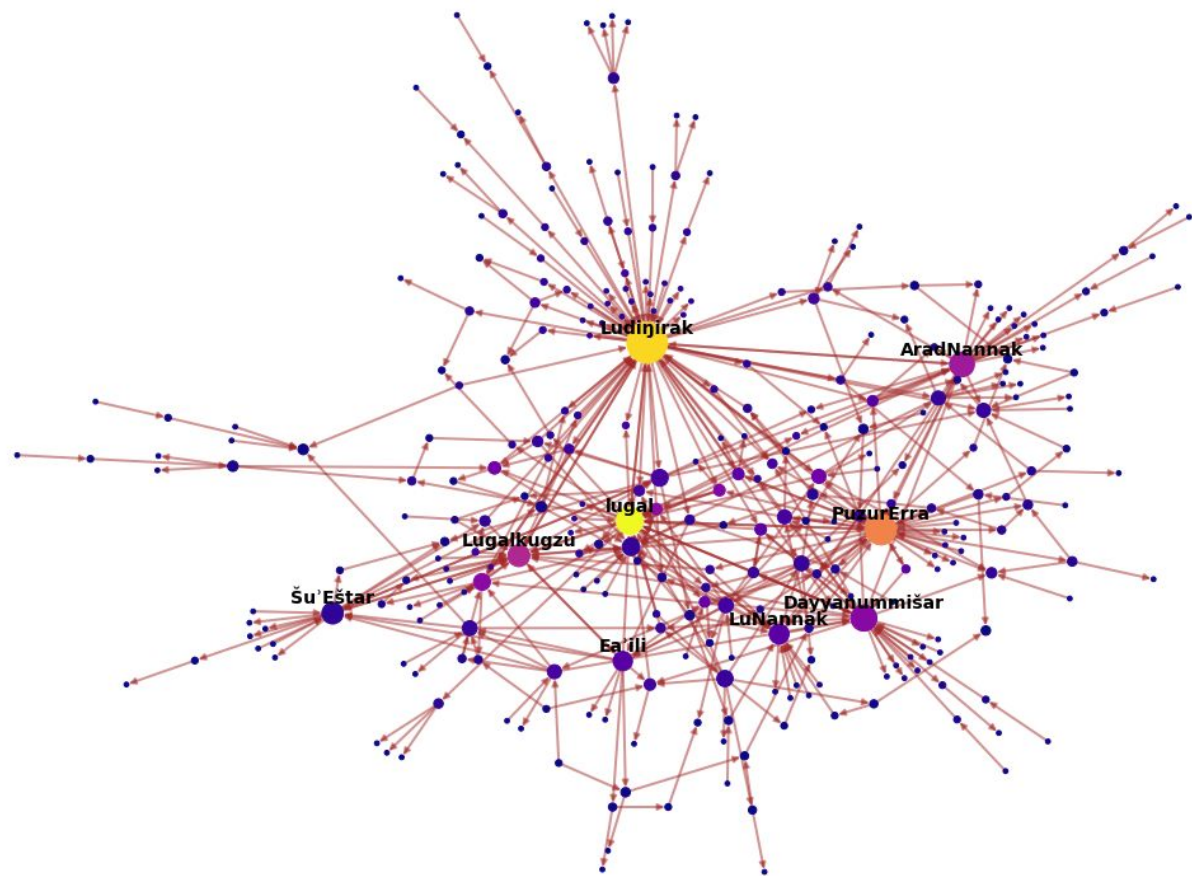
		role	attribute	transliteration	translation	pos
nodes_frame:	lemma					
	Ludiŋirak[]PN	source		Ludiŋirak		PN
	Ninsumunak[]DN	recipient	Usuh[]SN	Ninsumunak		DN

Data Overview - Edges

Edges - transactions which relate different nodes together


- source and target defines directionality, source is the source in the text, target is the recipient in the text
- edge_type: how the nodes are related
- id_text: id of the tablet the edge was scraped from
- weight: number of transactions between two individuals

		source	target	edge_type	id_text	weight
edges_frame:	224	Ludinirak[]PN	Ninsumunak[]DN	transaction	P103302	1







Network X Demo

<https://bit.ly/3lvd9AD>

 NetworkX Tutorial.ipynb ☆

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+ Code + Text



NetworkX Sumerian Network Tutorial

Authors: Colman Bouton, Niek Velhuis, Yashila Bordag, Adam Anderson

Introduction

In this demonstration, we will use NetworkX to help explore a small administrative archive of cuneiform tablets from the ancient Sumerian site of Puzrish-Dagan, modern Drehem, Iraq.


This archive contains many records of the production of fine shoes, precious metals, and gems, making it a fascinating subject of study. We are left with several questions such as why does this small collection of 300 texts exist among thousands of administrative records?

To help answer this question, we will use network analysis in order to map the relationships between the actors of this small archive, and visualize the social network to find the leaders and their cliques in the archive.

Dataset

This notebook begins with a prescaped dataset which was constructed as follows. First, the tablets were read and digitized, and then lemmatized in [Oracc](#) data base. We then took the ORACC data and used rule based NLP to find the actors in each transaction which we then used to construct our graph. Visually, we can understand this as follows:

Cuneiform Tablets



Digitization

a-ru-a
šu-{d}suen
ki
lu2-dingir-
ra-ta

Lemmatization

arua[offering]N;
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