

**BIDS GraphXD 2021**  
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# 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:

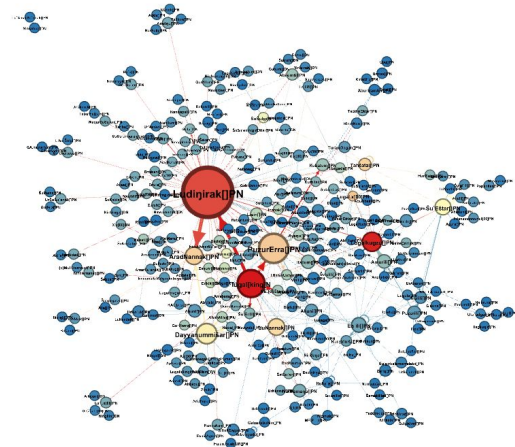
### Network Analysis of Ancient Sumerian Texts

*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.

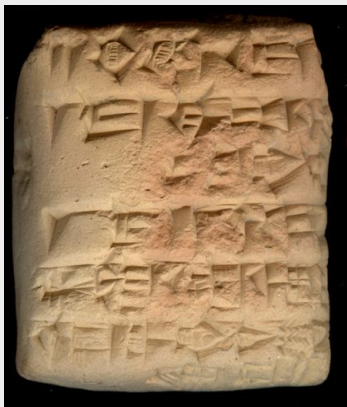
#### Data Science Discovery Team:

Current Team	Email	GitHub	Role	Semesters
Niek Veldhuis	veldhuis@berkeley.edu	<a href="#">niekveldhuis</a>	Professor, Principal Investigator, developer	9
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# The Data in its Various Forms

## Cuneiform Tablets



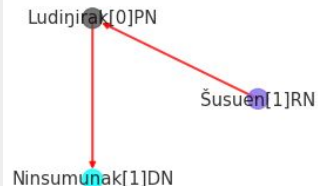
## Digitization

a-ru-a  
š<sub>u</sub>-{d}suen  
ki  
lu<sub>2</sub>-dingir-  
ra-ta

## Lemmatization

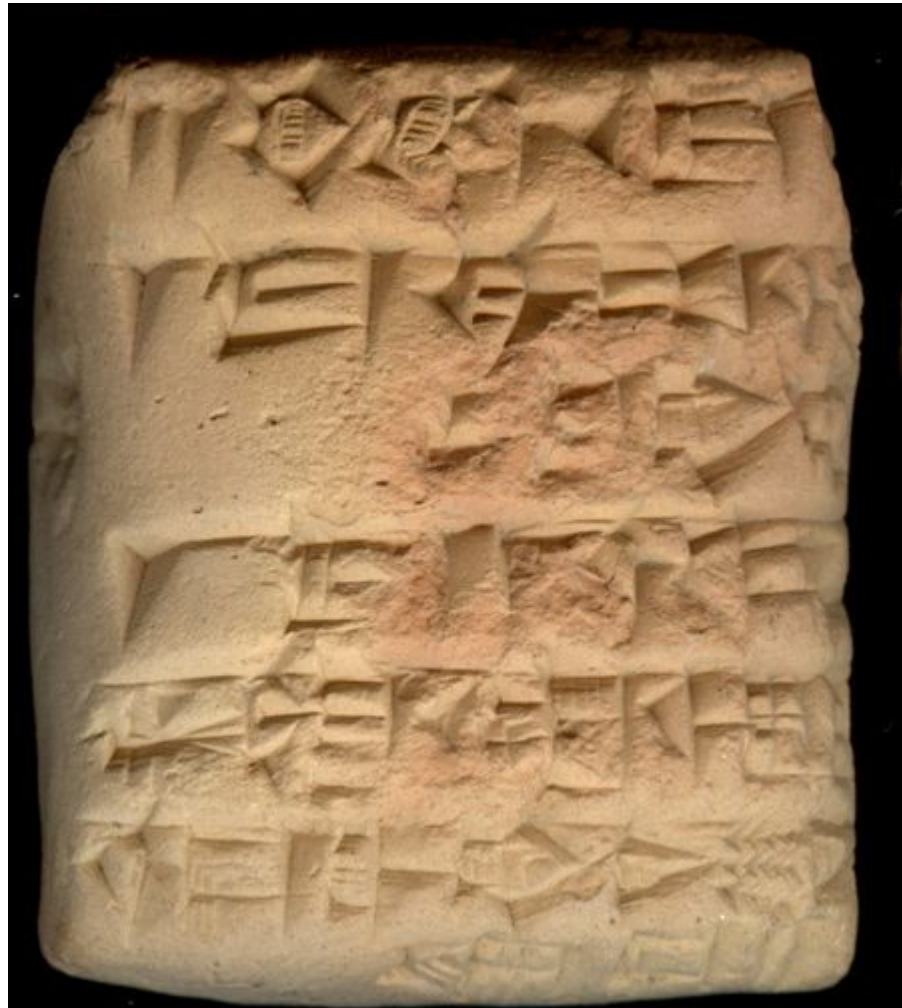
arua[offering]N;  
Š<sub>suen</sub>[1]RN  
ki[place]N;  
Ludi<sub>irak</sub>[1]PN

## 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 ku<sub>3</sub>-babbar 10 gin<sub>2</sub>-ta  
n; har[ring]N; kugbabbar[silver]N; n; gin[unit]N  
2 silver rings 10 shekels each

{d}nin-sun<sub>2</sub> u<sub>3</sub>-suh<sub>5</sub>{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 lu<sub>2</sub>-dingir-ra-ta  
ki[place]N; Ludi<sub>2</sub>irak[1]PN  
expended by Ludi<sub>2</sub>ira

# Rule-based Generator of Nodes and Edges

Nodes: 2 har ku<sub>3</sub>-babbar 10 gin<sub>2</sub>-ta  
n; har[ring]N; kugbabbar[silver]N; n; gin[unit]N  
2 silver rings 10 shekels each

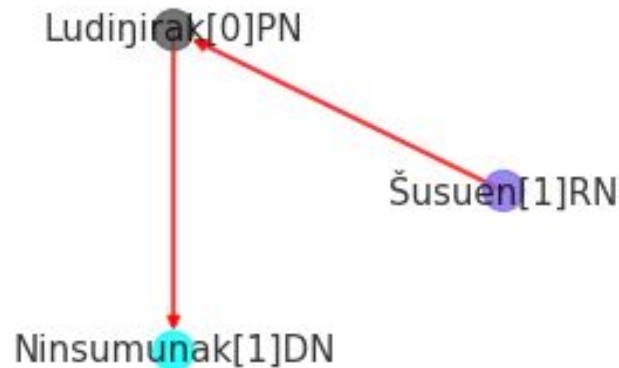
- Persons (PN)
- Kings (RN)
- Deities (DN)

Roles: {d}nin-sun<sub>2</sub> u<sub>3</sub>-suh<sub>5</sub>{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 lu<sub>2</sub>-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

