

Form binary synonymy to near synonymy by optimal proxemy of lexical resources

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Synonymy as a binary relation

Traditional Synonymy Dictionaries



Binary Relation between Words

arrest

vb

apprehend, bust (informal) capture, catch, collar (informal) detain, feel one's collar (slang) lay hold of,

lift (slang) nab (informal) nail (informal) nick (slang, chiefly

Brit.) pinch (informal) run in (slang) seize, take, take into custody, take prisoner

block, check, delay, end, halt, hinder, hold, inhibit, interrupt, obstruct, restrain, retard, slow, stall, stay, stop, suppress

absorb, catch, engage, engross, fascinate, grip, hold, intrigue, occupy

n

apprehension, bust (informal) capture, cop (slang) detention, seizure
blockage, check, delay, end, halt, hindrance, inhibition, interruption,
obstruction, restraint, stalling, stay, stoppage, suppression

Collins

- ▶ may have POS and sub-sense divisions,
- ▶ may have additional information (register, ...)
- ▶ BUT:

Two words are synonyms or not!

from an on-line version of the *English Collins Dictionary*
<http://dictionary.reverso.net/english-synonyms/>

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Listmania!

Rechercher Listmania!**" Dictionnaire des synonymes"**Recherches connexes: [dictionnaire des synonymes larousse](#).

Résultats 1 - 16 sur 687



Dictionnaire des synonymes de Emile Genouvier, Claude Désirat, Tristan Hordé, et Dominique Désirillat-Leblanc (**Broché** - 13 juin 2007)

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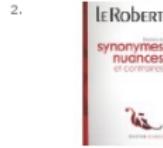
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Résultats 1 - 16 sur 687



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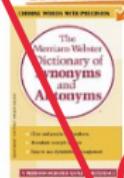
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synonym dictionary

1. [LOOK INSIDE!](#)**The Merriam-Webster Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms** by Merriam-Webster (May 1994)

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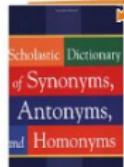
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Also useful in NLP, and computer science...

- ▶ Query Expansion in I.R.,
- ▶ Disambiguation,
- ▶ Machine translation,
- ▶ ...

Many *digital* lexical resources are based on binary synonymy (at least WordNet(s), ...).

Computer scientist's issues:

- ▶ Not available, or very expensive !
- ▶ Small coverage !
- ▶ Accuracy ?

We came with another issue:

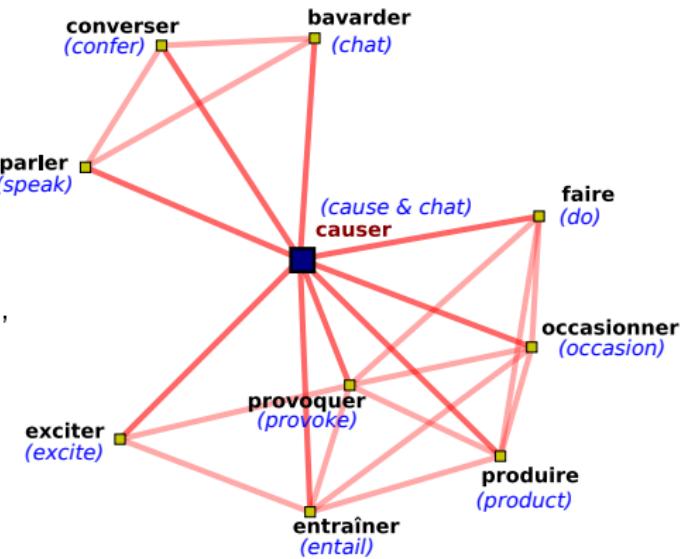
- ⇒ **Do different ressources indicate same synonymy links ?**
- ⇒ **What is the consistency between ressources ?**

Studying the consistency of 7 dictionaries of synonyms

Coverage of 7 dictionaries of French synonyms:

	Bailly	Benac	Bertaud	Guizot	Lafaye	Larousse	Robert	\cup
V	12 739	21 231	50 130	3 160	3 119	25 441	52 429	83 244
E	14 212	32 428	126 260	2 199	2 500	78 909	116 289	246 667

- ▶ 7 french **general purpose** dictionaries of synonymy, electronic version¹ of paper dictionaries,
- ▶ Naturally encoded as **un-weighted un-directed graphs**,
- ▶ No sub-sense,
- ▶ No POS separation.



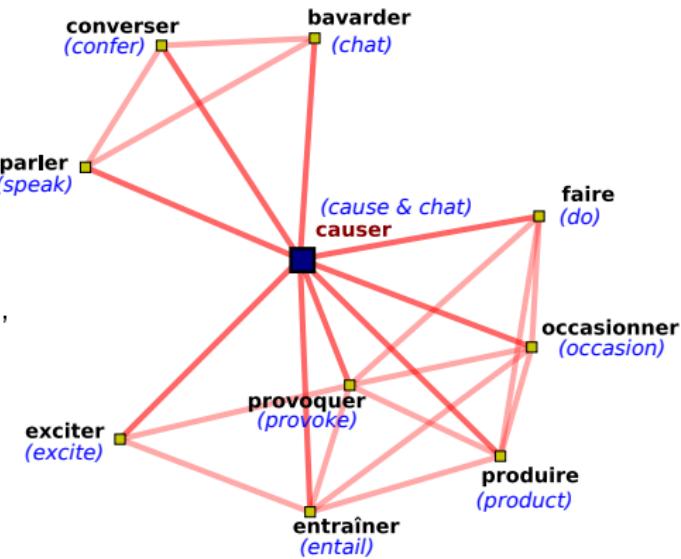
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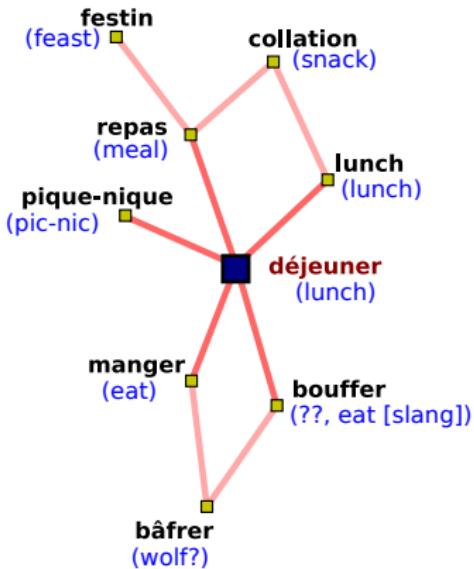
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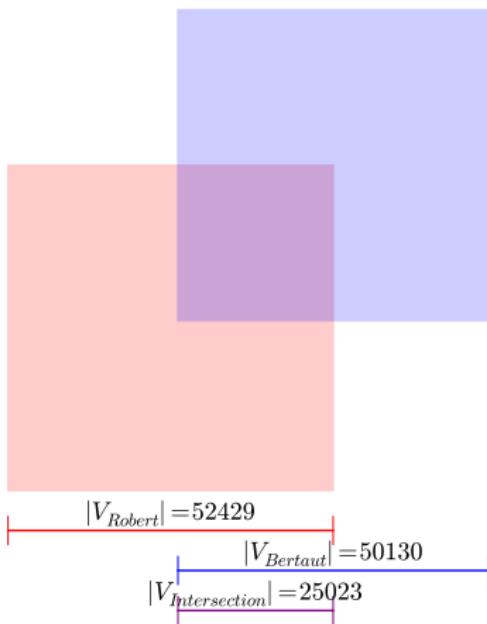


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How to compare two *binary* graphs ?

$$G_1 = (V_1, E_1), \quad G_2 = (V_2, E_2)$$

Robert vs. Bertaud



Lexical coverage :

$$R_{\bullet} = \frac{|V_1 \cap V_2|}{|V_2|} \quad P_{\bullet} = \frac{|V_1 \cap V_2|}{|V_1|}$$
$$F_{\bullet} = 2 \cdot \frac{R_{\bullet} \cdot P_{\bullet}}{R_{\bullet} + P_{\bullet}}$$

Synonymy links agreement :
(reduce graphs to common vertices)

$$R_{\uparrow} = \frac{|E_{1(v_1 \cap v_2)} \cap E_{2(v_1 \cap v_2)}|}{|E_{2(v_1 \cap v_2)}|}$$

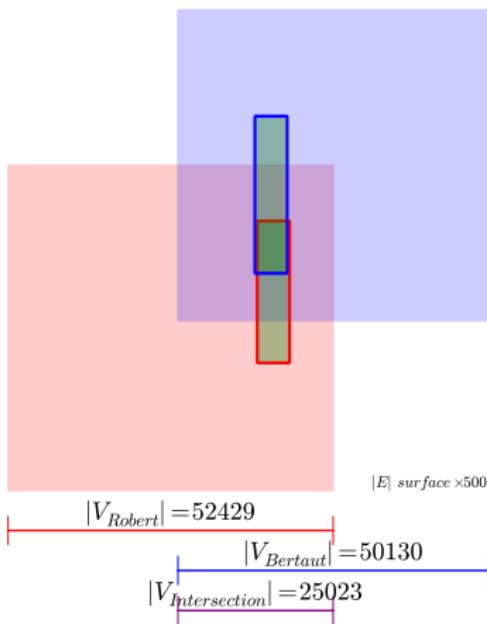
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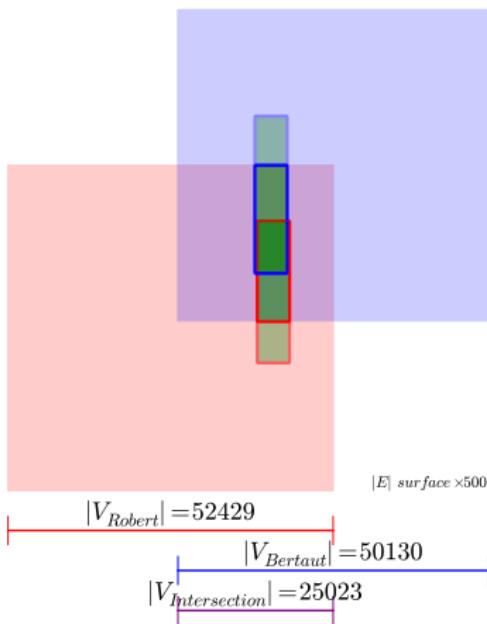
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A Weak Agreement ...

		Benac (•) (↓)	Bertaud (•) (↓)	Guizot (•) (↓)	Lafaye (•) (↓)	Larousse (•) (↓)	Robert (•) (↓)	\cup (•) (↓)
Bail.	R	0.49 0.57	0.23 0.20	0.84 0.60	0.90 0.61	0.40 0.18	0.22 0.20	0.15 0.17
	P	0.82 0.60	0.91 0.73	0.21 0.50	0.22 0.52	0.81 0.62	0.89 0.69	1.00 1.00
	F	0.62 0.58	0.37 0.31	0.33 0.54	0.36 0.56	0.54 0.28	0.35 0.30	0.27 0.29
Ben.	R		0.37 0.31	0.84 0.58	0.90 0.68	0.52 0.18	0.28 0.18	0.26 0.26
	P		0.87 0.71	0.13 0.43	0.13 0.51	0.62 0.60	0.69 0.63	1.00 1.00
	F		0.52 0.43	0.22 0.49	0.23 0.59	0.57 0.27	0.40 0.28	0.41 0.42
Bert.	R			0.92 0.74	0.96 0.78	0.74 0.42	0.48 0.51	0.60 0.63
	P			0.06 0.17	0.06 0.18	0.38 0.38	0.50 0.49	1.00 1.00
	F			0.11 0.27	0.11 0.29	0.50 0.40	0.49 0.50	0.75 0.77
Guiz.	R				0.79 0.68	0.11 0.19	0.06 0.18	0.04 0.15
	P				0.78 0.69	0.88 0.72	0.91 0.82	1.00 1.00
	F				0.78 0.69	0.19 0.30	0.10 0.29	0.07 0.26
Laf.	R					0.11 0.18	0.06 0.17	0.04 0.15
	P					0.92 0.65	0.95 0.76	1.00 1.00
	F					0.20 0.28	0.11 0.28	0.07 0.26
Lar.	R						0.41 0.51	0.31 0.53
	P						0.84 0.53	1.00 1.00
	F						0.55 0.52	0.47 0.69
Rob.	R							0.63 0.61
	P							1.00 1.00
	F							0.77 0.75

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What's wrong ??

- ▶ Why resources describing the same lexicon appear so different ?
- ▶ *Maybe we look at them too much "in detail" ...*

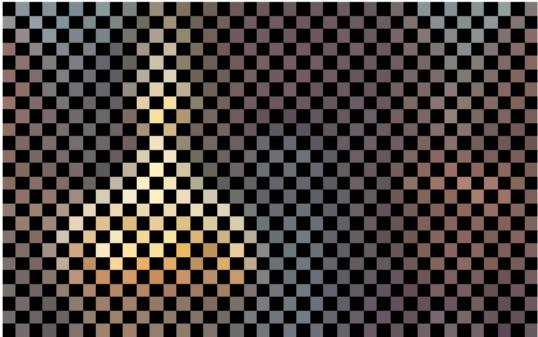
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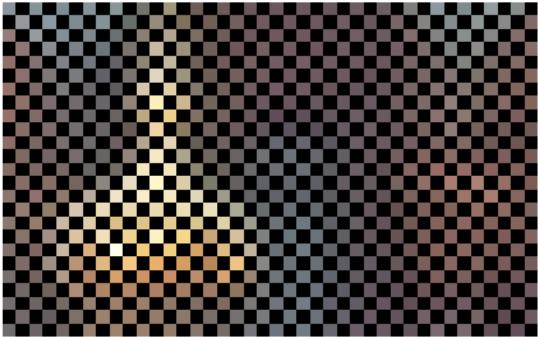
The picture metaphor (1/2)



Uspenski Cathedral, Helsinki



Each **even** pixel painted in black...



Each **odd** pixel painted in black...

The picture metaphor (2/2)

Even =



The picture metaphor (2/2)

Even =



Odd =



Can you see a difference ?

however... $sim(A, B) \approx 0$, when computed at **pixel level**.

Similarly on graphs : take a step back !

Weak agreement at the **edge level**

but

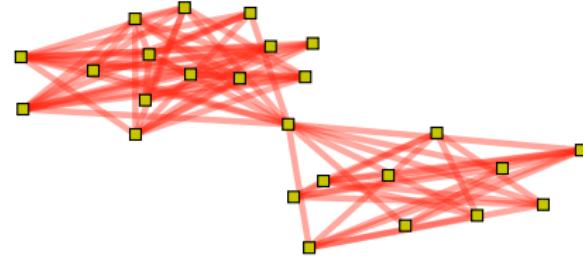
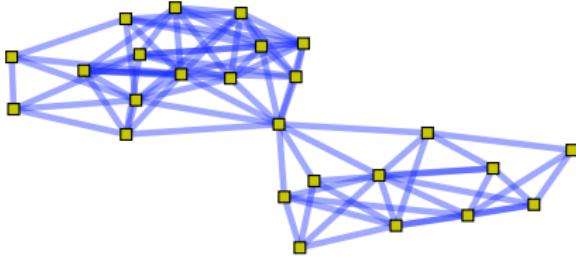
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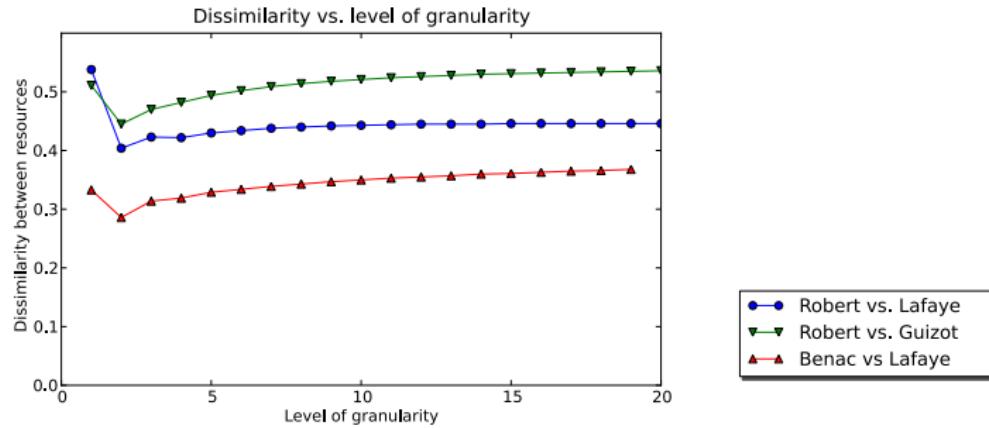


As for the cat picture: there is **no edge in common** between these two graphs...

How to validate this hypothesis ? (1/2)

Given a method to represent graphs at different levels of granularity,

- ▶ Distance/Similarity between graphs at different levels of granularity...
- ▶ Is there an optimal level ?



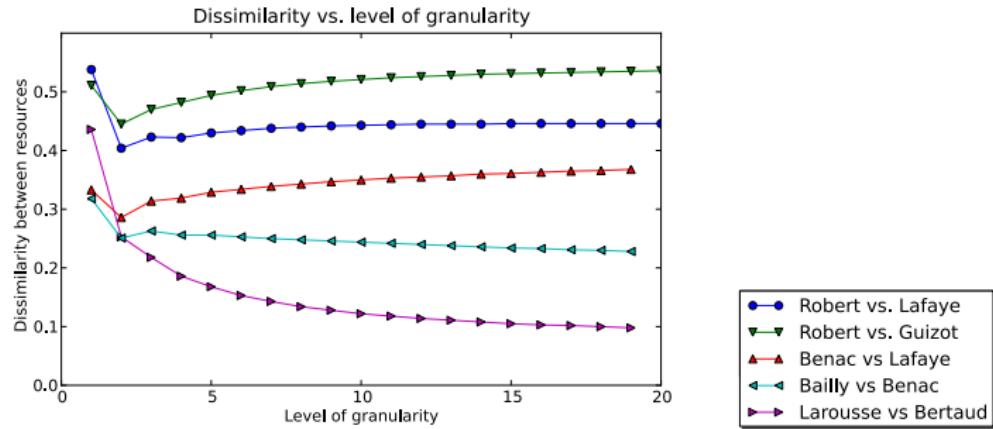
But:

- ▶ Pb 1: some graphs tend to be very similar at the *coarsest grain level*...
- ▶ Pb 2: “level of granularity” is given by the method, is it correct ?

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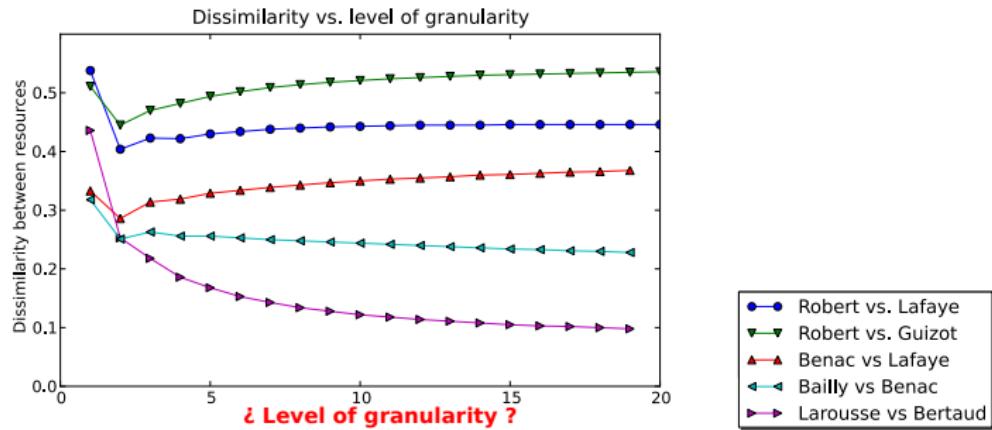
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But:

- ▶ Pb 1: some graphs tend to be very similar at the *coarsest grain level*...
- ▶ Pb 2: “level of granularity” is given by the method, is it correct ?

How to validate this hypothesis ? (2/2)

- ➊ Enrich a graph G with **edges that appear at a higher level of granularity**,
- ➋ Compare it to the union graph (G_{\cup}).

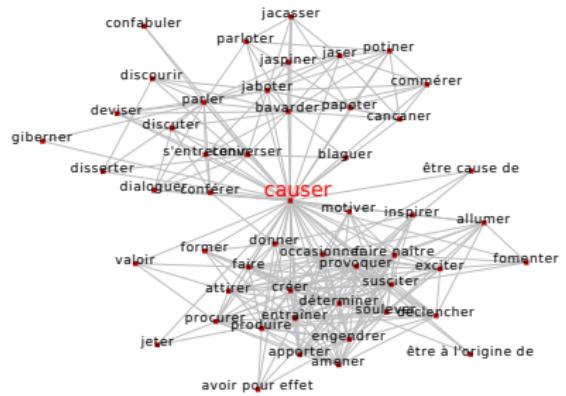
Can we find **edges missing** in G when we look at it at a coarser grain level ?

- ▶ **Missing edges:** edges present in G_{\cup} but not in G
(G_{\cup} restricted to vertices of G)

How can we look at our graph at different grain levels ?

Graph Clustering

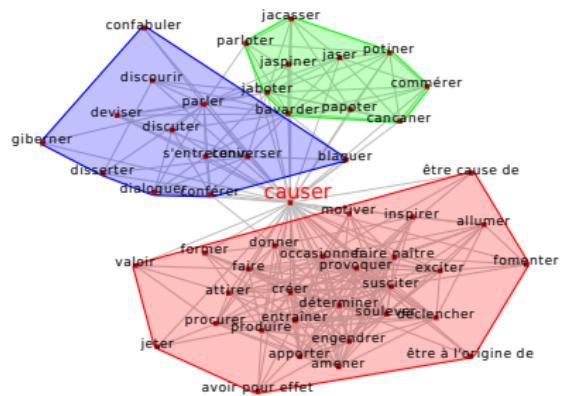
- ▶ how detect **mesoscopique structures** ?
 - ▶ Currently a lot of research...
 - ▶ but not (yet!) good method handling **overlapping communities**.



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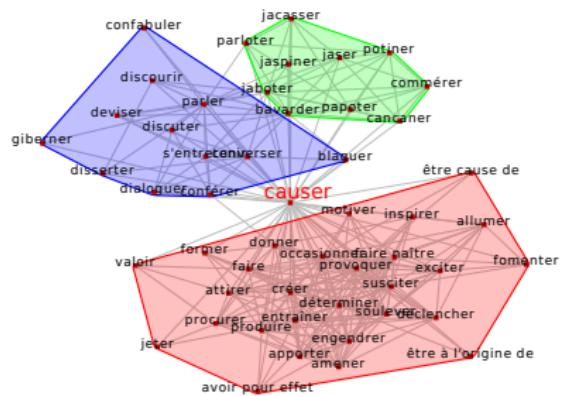
Random Walks

- ▶ the idea: if (u, v) are in the same “cluster”, they may **not** be adjacent, but going from u to v should be **very** likely with a **short lenght random walk**.
- ▶ Random walkers tends to be trapped into clusters,
- ▶ Note: idea used by many graph clustering methods,
- ▶ See next slide...

How can we look at our graph at different grain levels ?

Graph Clustering

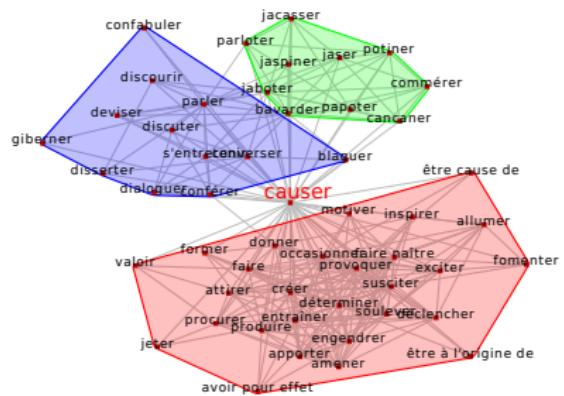
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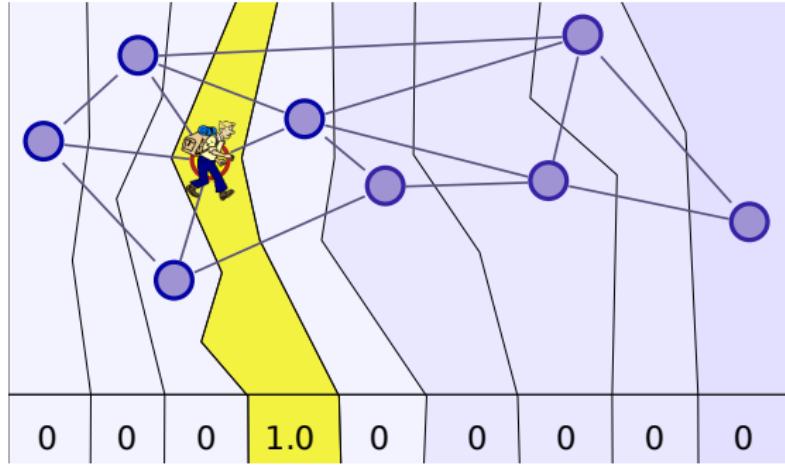
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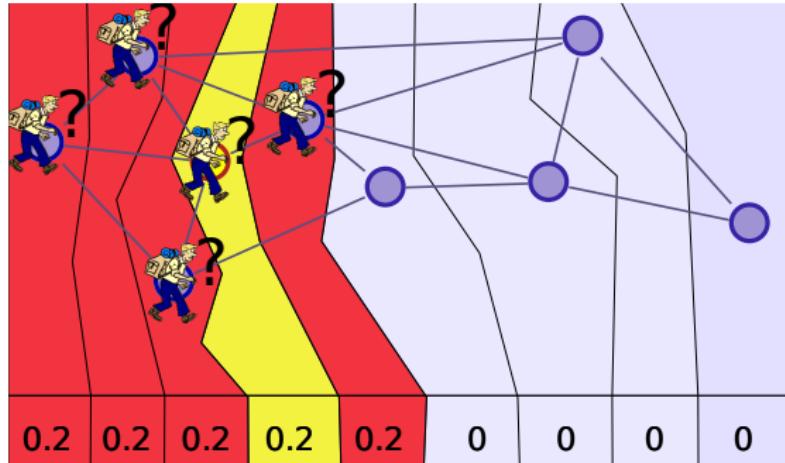
Random walks on graph...



- ➊ start from a node u ,
- ➋ walk to a neighbour with equal probability,
- ➌ walk to a neighbour with equal probability,
- ➍ etc...

$$t = 0, \quad P^t(u, *) = [0, 0, 0, 1.0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]$$

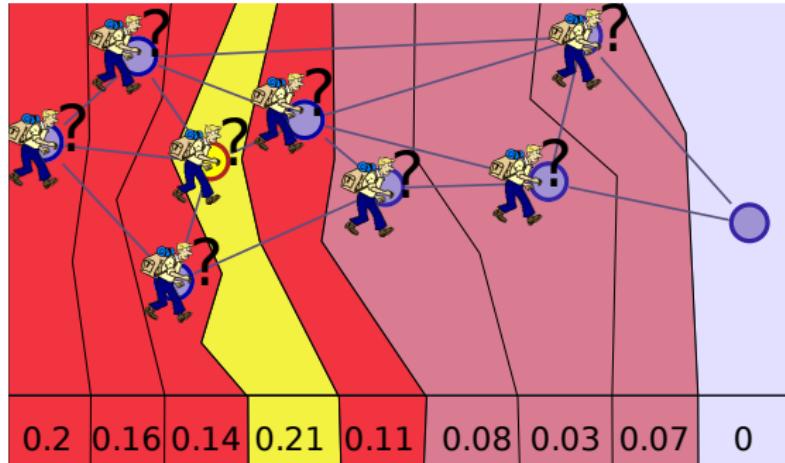
Random walks on graph...



- ① start from a node u ,
- ② walk to a neighbour with equal probability,
- ③ walk to a neighbour with equal probability,
- ④ etc...

$$t = 1 , \quad P^t(u, *) = [0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]$$

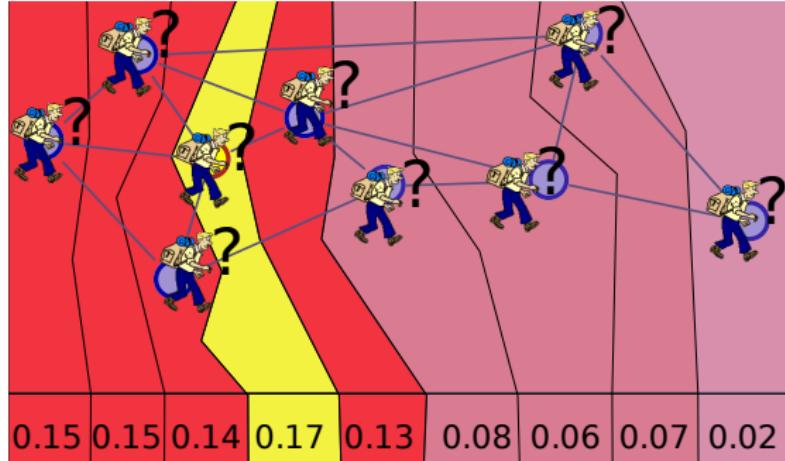
Random walks on graph...



- ① start from a node u ,
- ② walk to a neighbour with equal probability,
- ③ walk to a neighbour with equal probability,
- ④ etc...

$$t = 2, \quad P^t(u, *) = [0.2, 0.16, 0.14, 0.21, 0.11, 0.08, 0.03, 0.07, 0]$$

Random walks on graph...



- ① start from a node u ,
- ② walk to a neighbour with equal probability,
- ③ walk to a neighbour with equal probability,
- ④ etc...

$$t = 3, \quad P^t(u, *) = [0.15, 0.15, 0.14, 0.17, 0.13, 0.08, 0.06, 0.07, 0.02]$$

Build coarse grain graphs with *random walks*

- ▶ $P^t(u, v)$: **probability to reach v from u in t steps** (that we called *proxemy*).
- ▶ $P^\infty(u, v) = P^\infty(v) = \frac{\deg(v)}{D}$: no more depends on u ²
(simplest version of *pagerank*)

For a given t and a number M of edges to add:

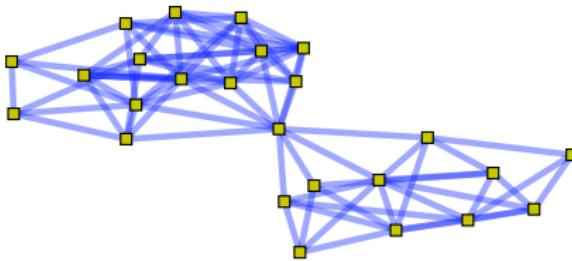
- ① Compute all $P^t(u, v)$,
- ② Add edges between the M pairs (u, v) that have the largest :

$$\frac{P^t(u, v)}{P^\infty(v)}$$

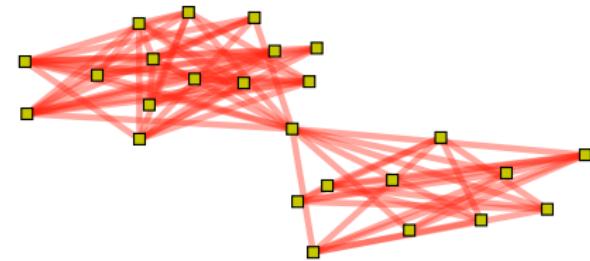
(we choose $t = 3$, experiments with $t = 2, 5, 10, 20$ give similar results)

²If the graph is not directed and reflexive

Toy example

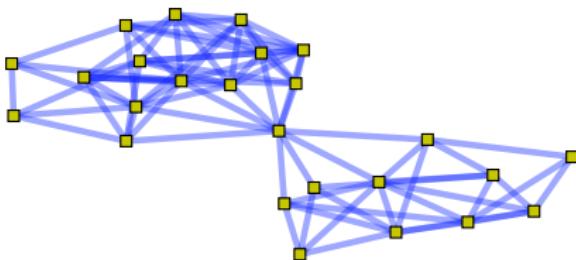


$$R_{\downarrow} = 0.51, P_{\downarrow} = 1, F_{\uparrow} = 0.67$$

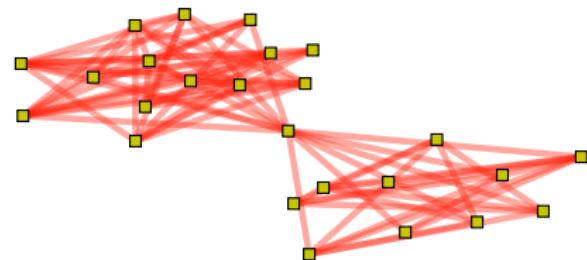


$$R_{\downarrow} = 0.49, P_{\downarrow} = 1, F_{\uparrow} = 0.66$$

Toy example

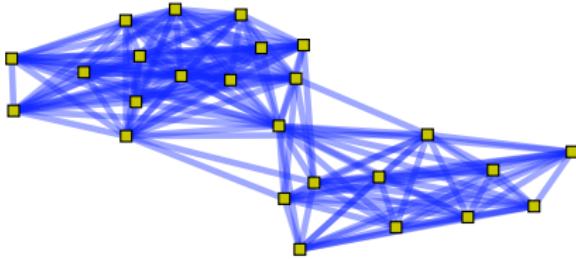


$$R_{\downarrow} = 0.51, P_{\uparrow} = 1, F_{\uparrow} = 0.67$$

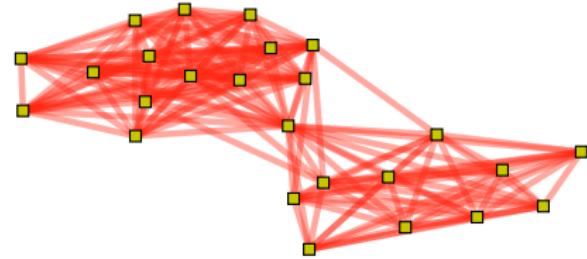


$$R_{\downarrow} = 0.49, P_{\uparrow} = 1, F_{\uparrow} = 0.66$$

With 86 edges added :

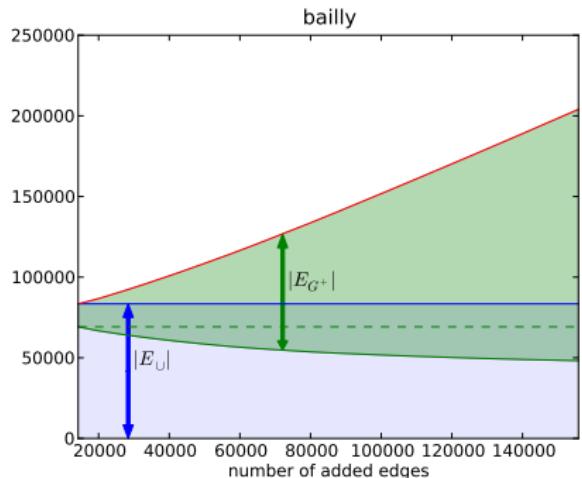


$$R_{\downarrow} = 1, P_{\uparrow} = 0.95, F_{\uparrow} = 0.98$$



$$R_{\downarrow} = 1, P_{\uparrow} = 0.96, F_{\uparrow} = 0.98$$

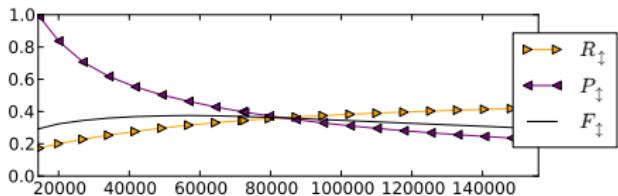
Enriched graph vs. union graph (Bailly vs Union Graph)



- (1) Edges in G_U that are in G or in G^+ :
17% to 42%: not so inconsistent !
- (2) **not** in G_U **and** added to G :
what is it?
- (3) **in** G_U **but not** added to G :
still inconsistent...

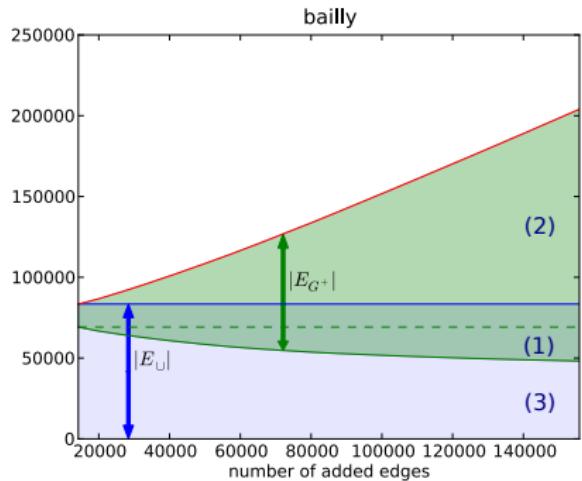
Probability to find an edge of G_U
by random :

$$\frac{2 \cdot |E_{U \cap V_{bailly}}|}{|V_{bailly}| \cdot |V_{bailly}|} = \frac{2 \cdot 83430}{12739^2} \approx 0.001$$



if we add 120 000 edges:
about 120 in G_U ...

Enriched graph vs. union graph (Bailly vs Union Graph)



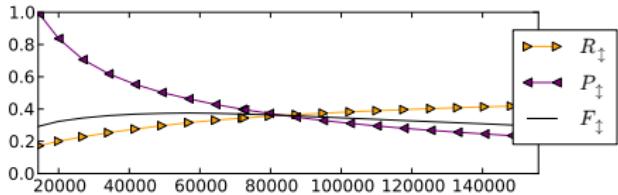
(1) Edges in G_U that are in G or in G^+ :
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(3) in G_U but not added to G :
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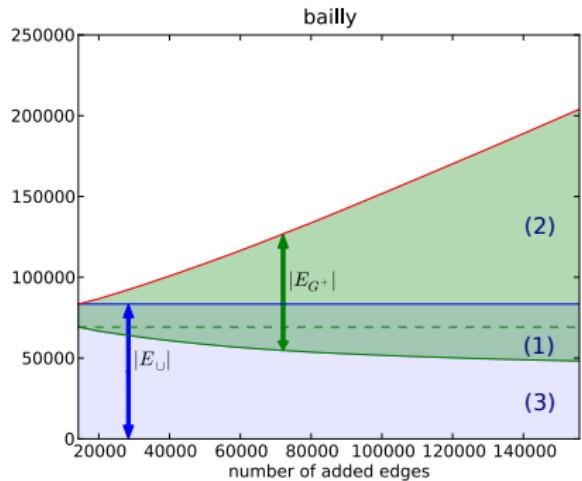
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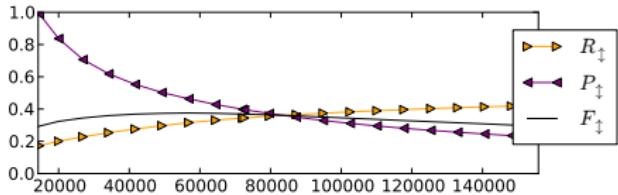
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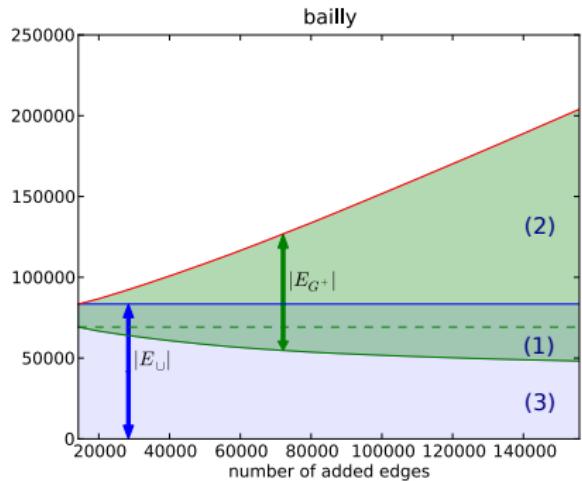
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Enriched graph vs. union graph (Bailly vs Union Graph)



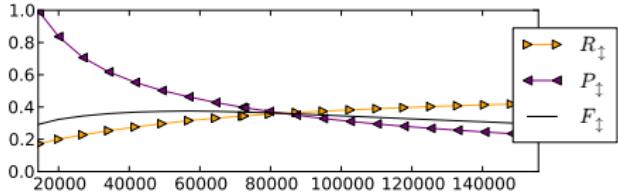
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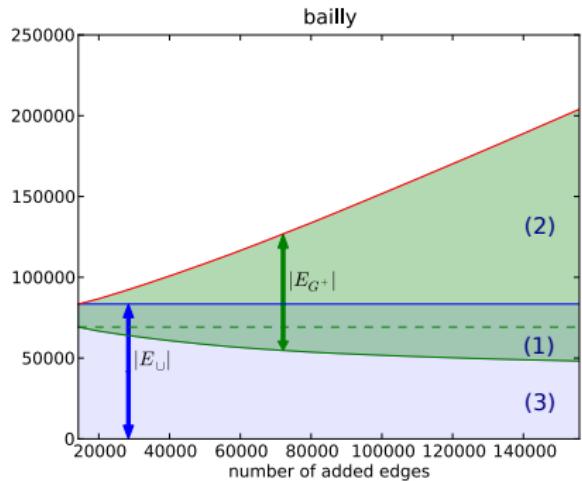
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Enriched graph vs. union graph (Bailly vs Union Graph)



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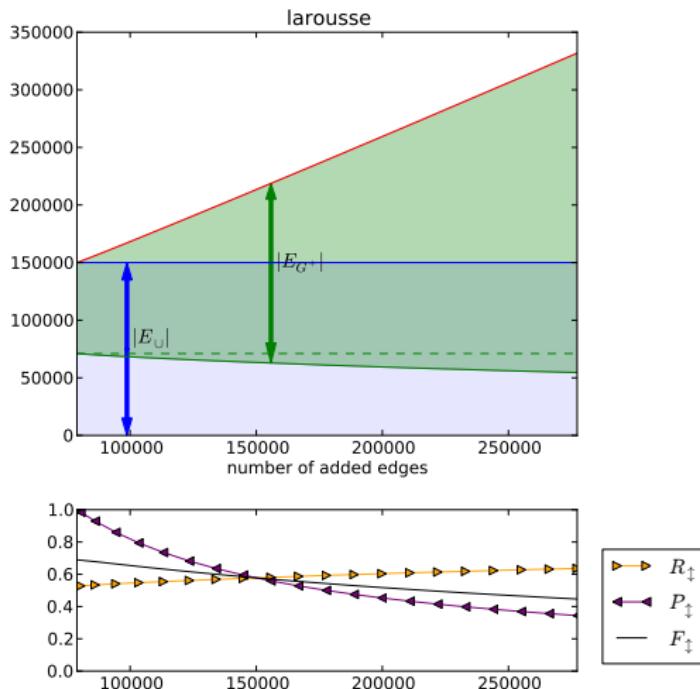
(3) in G_U **but not** added to G :
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Probability to find an edge of G_U
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$$\frac{2 \cdot |E_{U \cap V_{\text{bailly}}}|}{|V_{\text{bailly}}| \cdot |V_{\text{bailly}}|} = \frac{2 \cdot 83430}{12739^2} \approx 0.001$$

if we add 120 000 edges:
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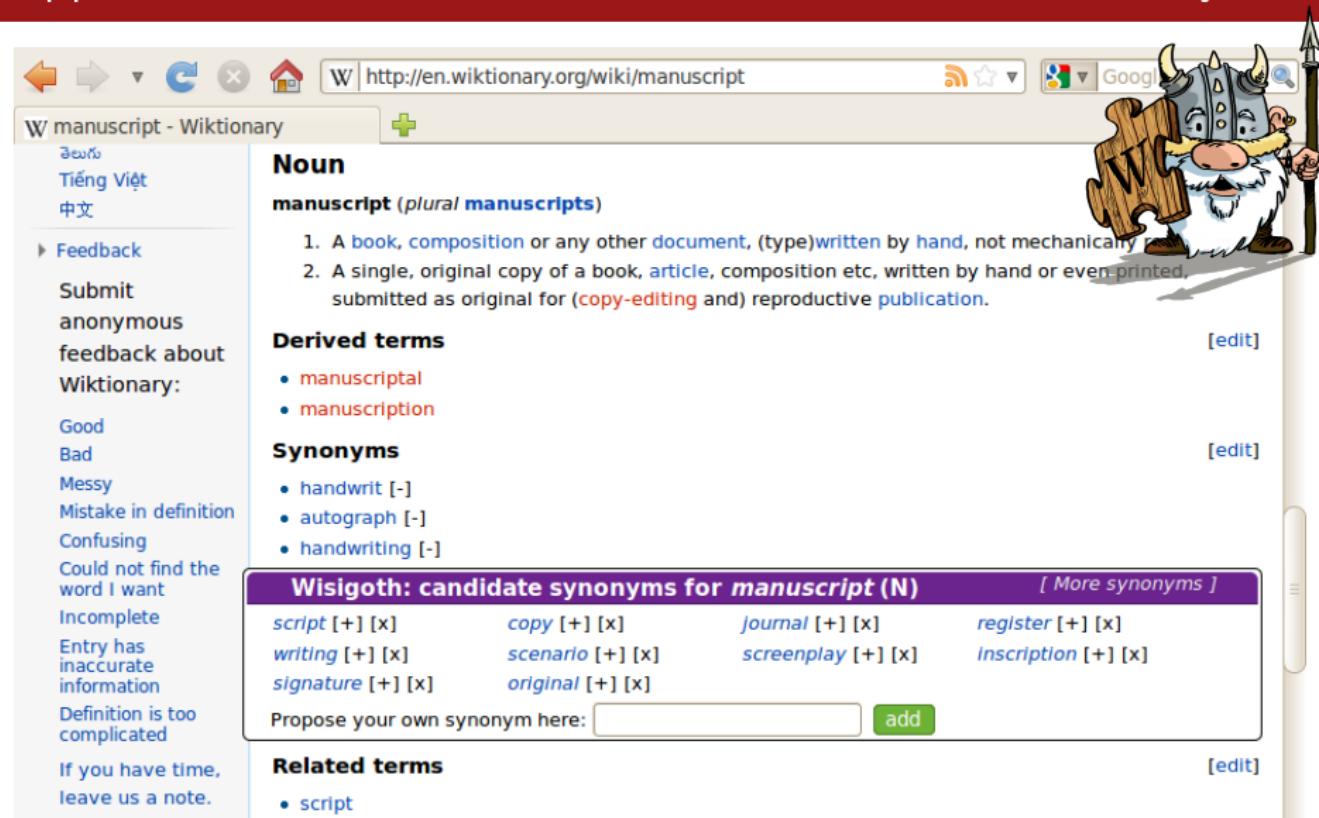
Enriched graph vs. union graph (Larousse vs Union Graph)



Conclusion and Perspectives

- ▶ Binary synonymy is not a good model !
- ▶ **however** they may be good proxy to compute a **graded semantic similarity**.
- ▶ Taking a step back: a more consistent image,
- ▶ Still some inconsistencies :
 - experts may have left out some word senses ie. problem of coverage... (?)
- ▶ Graph clustering with overlaps may help expliciting word senses...

Application to semi-automatic enrichment of Wiktionary



The screenshot shows a browser window displaying the Wiktionary entry for 'manuscript'. The page includes sections for 'Noun', 'Derived terms', 'Synonyms', 'Related terms', and 'Wisigoth: candidate synonyms for manuscript (N)'. A cartoon Viking character is visible on the right side of the page.

Noun

manuscript (*plural manuscripts*)

1. A book, composition or any other document, (type)written by hand, not mechanically printed.
2. A single, original copy of a book, article, composition etc, written by hand or even printed, submitted as original for (copy-editing and) reproductive publication.

Derived terms

- [manuscriptal](#)
- [manuscription](#)

Synonyms

- [handwrit](#) [-]
- [autograph](#) [-]
- [handwriting](#) [-]

Wisigoth: candidate synonyms for manuscript (N) [More synonyms]

script [+][x]	copy [+][x]	journal [+][x]	register [+][x]
writing [+][x]	scenario [+][x]	screenplay [+][x]	inscription [+][x]
signature [+][x]	original [+][x]		

Propose your own synonym here: [add](#)

Related terms [edit]

- [script](#)

WISIGOTH Project : <http://redac.univ-tlse2.fr/wisigoth/>

Thank you !



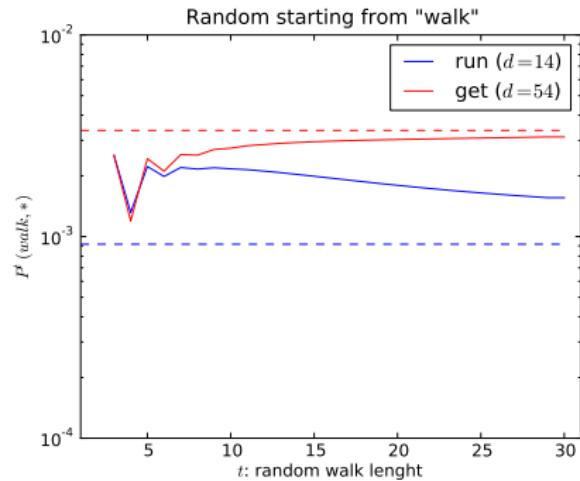
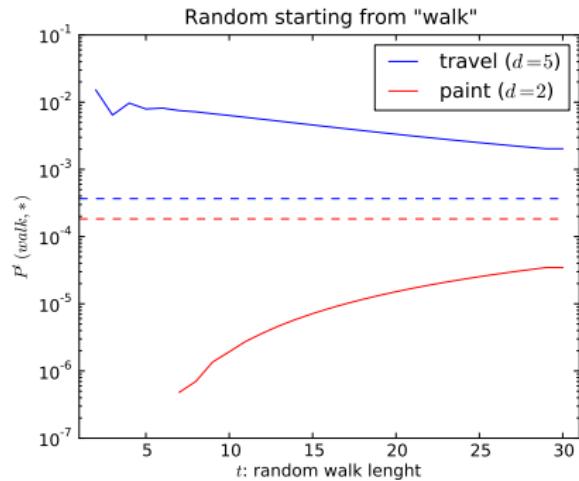
Any question ?

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-  Navarro, E., Sajous, F., Gaume, B., Prévot, L., Hsieh, S., Kuo, I., Magistry, P., and Huang, C.-R. (2009).
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Springer Berlin / Heidelberg.

Appendix

Proxemy convergence examples

Starting from *walk* in synonymy graph of english *wiktionary* :



- ▶ The ratio of $P^t(u, v)$ to the limit $P^\infty(v)$ is more informative !