

Our major contributions and findings are as follows:

1. We connect all 4.7 million Wikipedia articles in a directed network via the first link. The network reflects how the many inventions, places, figures, objects, and events are related and organized.
2. We develop a novel algorithm to map the structure of a directed network as a flow. Our measures quantify:
 - a. where references accumulate
 - b. groups of path-connected nodes
 - c. the influence each node exerts in shaping the network.
3. We identify a gravitation of references on Wikipedia from specific to general, which culminates disproportionately around only a few fundamental notions.

Our findings form the basis for a new network-based topic search engine with applications in natural language processing and cognitive psychology.