Project 2

Write up 2

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For our project, we have chosen to visualize books. We majorly want to explore the popularity they amass and the influence they have on the human psyche. We have chosen up to 50 books that are freely available online through Project Gutenberg. Most of the books we have chosen are classics by authors such as Jane Austen, Mark Twain, Jules Verne and Leo Tolstoy to name a few.

The first aspect we want to work on is to find the overall sentiment of the book. We want to separate out the book into either a positive or a negative sentiment. We chose to visualize it as a radial graph with each spoke branching down from chapters to paragraphs to sentences. The final leaf would be dedicated to the sentiment [Sketch below]. This would give the user an overall view of the book and the ebb and flow of the sentiments within the book.

This visualization is inspired in part from Stefanie Posavec’s *‘Literary Organism’*. Although there are no papers that exhaustively describe what Ms. Posavec has done, several papers cite her work, in particular, her visualization of [Jack Kerouac’s ‘*On The Road*](http://www.notcot.com/archives/2008/04/stefanie-posave.php)’. However, Ms. Posavec’s two key approaches are the ones we want to challenge. 1. Ms. Posavec manually went through the book page by page highlighting key themes and rendered the image in a computer. 2. She also analysed more than two themes, eleven to be precise.

We, want to analyse only two sentiments within the book positivity and negativity. And 2, we to use various NLP models to do the work for us as opposed to manually scanning the book.

The branches from the origin would represent the chapters of the book. The subsequent child branches would represent the paragraphs within the chapter. The leaf would give us the overall sentiment, Positive or negative. Intuitively, we chose to represent negative sentiment with red and positive with blue.

Similar is the case with the [Hinrichs et al.](http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/7192666/) paper, where the authors say, *‘The collection of metadata was conducted by a team of English literature scholars and students who read every item in our anthology subset’.* However, what drew us to this Viz paper was [the interactivity](http://www.utahinrichs.de/uta/uploads/Projects/SpeculativeWanderverse/wanderverse.png) between the nodes (apart from manually collecting meta-data from hand-drawn anthologies). In particular, the symbol cluster and the filtering mechanism.

On a side note, [here’s the link](http://www.stefanieposavec.co.uk/entangled-word-bank/) to what actually drew us to the design.

The Sketch:

