Predicting semantic alignment by cultural similarity

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Introduction

We compare cultural distances between socieites with linguistic similarities between societies, controlling for shared history in two ways.

The first test uses mixed effects modelling. The pairing of the language family of each language (according to Glottolog) is used as a random effect. That means that the model can capture the likelihood that two languages from the Indo-European language family will be more similar to each other than two languages from different language families. The same is done with geographic area according to Autotyp.

The second test controls for history using distances from a phylogenetic tree. The tree comes from Bouckaert et al. (2012). Patristic distances between languages are used as a measure of historical distance between societies in a Mantel test. Note that the Mantel test assumes a strict distance metric, which is not necessarily the case with this data, but there are few other ways to deal with continuous pairwise distances.

Load libraries

```
library(ape)
library(ecodist)
library(lme4)
library(sjPlot)
library(ggplot2)
library(igraph)
library(lattice)
library(dplyr)
```

Parameters (using data from Northuralex and Wikipedia, k=100, unfiltered):

```
datasetName = "wikipedia-main"
lingDistancesFile = "../data/FAIR/nel-wiki-k100-alignments-by-language-pair.csv"
lingDistancesFileNK = "../data/FAIR/nel-wiki-k100-alignments-by-language-pair-without-kinship.csv"
lingDistancesByDomainFile = "../results/EA_distances/nel-wiki-k100_with_ling.csv"
# (generated by ../processing/combineCultAndLingDistances.R)
```

All domains

Load data

Read the cultural distances:

```
cult = read.csv("../results/EA_distances/CulturalDistances_Long.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
names(cult) = c("11","12","cult.dist")
```

Add language family:

```
l = read.csv("../data/FAIR_langauges_glotto_xdid.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
g = read.csv("../data/glottolog-languoid.csv/languoid.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
l$family = g[match(l$glotto,g$id),]$family_pk
l$family = g[match(l$family,g$pk),]$name
```

Read the semantic distances

```
ling = read.csv(lingDistancesFile, stringsAsFactors = F)
```

There are very few possible comparisons for Slovenian and Northern Sami, so we'll remove these:

```
ling = ling[!(ling$11=="se" | ling$12 == "se"),]
ling = ling[!(ling$11=="sl" | ling$12 == "sl"),]
```

Combine the linguistic and cultural distances. Note that we flip the cultural measure from a distance measure to a similarity measure.

```
cult$11.iso2 = 1[match(cult$11,1$Language2),]$iso2
cult$12.iso2 = 1[match(cult$12,1$Language2),]$iso2
fairisos = unique(c(ling$11,ling$12))
cultisos = unique(c(cult$11.iso2, cult$12.iso2))
cult = cult[(cult$11.iso2 %in% fairisos) & (cult$12.iso2 %in% fairisos),]
ling = ling[(ling$11 %in% cultisos) & (ling$12 %in% cultisos),]
matches = sapply(1:nrow(ling), function(i){
  which(cult$11.iso2==ling$11[i] & cult$12.iso2==ling$12[i])
})
ling$cult.dist = cult[matches,]$cult.dist
# Flip
ling$cult.dist = 1 - ling$cult.dist
# Scale
ling$cult.dist.center = scale(ling$cult.dist)
cdc.s = attr(ling$cult.dist.center, "scaled:scale")
cdc.c = attr(ling$cult.dist.center, "scaled:center")
ling$cult.dist.center = as.numeric(ling$cult.dist.center)
ling$comparison_count.center =
  scale(ling$comparison_count)
ling$family1 = l[match(ling$11, l$iso2),]$family
ling$family2 = 1[match(ling$12, 1$iso2),]$family
1[1$Language=="Arabic",]$autotyp.area= "Greater Mesopotamia"
1[1$Language=="Persian",]$autotyp.area= "Greater Mesopotamia"
ling$area1 = l[match(ling$11, l$iso2),]$autotyp.area
```

```
ling$area2 = 1[match(ling$12, 1$iso2),]$autotyp.area
fgroup = cbind(ling$family1,ling$family2)
fgroup = apply(fgroup,1,sort)
ling$family.group = apply(fgroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
agroup = cbind(ling$area1,ling$area2)
agroup = apply(agroup,1,sort)
ling$area.group = apply(agroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
ling$rho.center = scale(ling$local_alignment)
Each observation is now assocaited with a language family pair:
head(ling[,c("11","12","local_alignment",'family.group')])
       11 12 local_alignment
##
                                             family.group
## 7
       ja ab
                   0.01930414
                                    Abkhaz-Adyge: Japonic
                   0.02225169 Abkhaz-Adyge:Sino-Tibetan
## 8
       ab zh
## 10 cv xal
                   0.02765860
                                         Mongolic:Turkic
## 11 xal ja
                   0.02832668
                                         Japonic:Mongolic
## 12 xal zh
                   0.02895876
                                   Mongolic:Sino-Tibetan
## 14 bn ab
                   0.03192066 Abkhaz-Adyge:Indo-European
And the same is true for area:
tail(ling[,c("11","12","local_alignment",'area.group')])
        11 12 local_alignment
                                          area.group
## 2522 fr es
                    0.3936442
                                      Europe: Europe
## 2524 cs uk
                    0.4023323
                                  Europe: Inner Asia
## 2528 cs ru
                    0.4082099
                                  Europe: Inner Asia
## 2529 be ru
                    0.4129814 Inner Asia:Inner Asia
## 2532 uk be
                    0.4276664 Inner Asia:Inner Asia
## 2535 uk ru
                    0.5079911 Inner Asia: Inner Asia
Number of observations:
# Number of datapoints:
nrow(ling)
## [1] 731
# Number of unique languages:
length(unique(unlist(ling[,c("11","12")])))
## [1] 39
# Number of unique language families:
uniqueFamilies = unique(unlist(ling[,c("family1","family2")]))
length(uniqueFamilies)
## [1] 10
# Number of unique areas:
uniqueAreas = unique(unlist(ling[,c("area1", "area2")]))
length(uniqueAreas)
```

[1] 6

Cross-over between language famlies and areas:

Japonic

Koreanic

Mongolic

Turkic

Uralic

Sino-Tibetan

##

##

##

##

##

##

##								
##		Europe	Greater	Mesopotamia	Indic	Inner Asia	N Coast	Asia
##	Abkhaz-Adyge	0		1	0	0		0
##	Afro-Asiatic	0		1	0	0		0
##	Dravidian	0		0	3	0		0
##	Indo-European	11		2	1	5		0
##	Japonic	0		0	0	0		1
##	Koreanic	0		0	0	0		1
##	Mongolic	0		0	0	1		0
##	Sino-Tibetan	0		0	0	0		0
##	Turkic	0		1	0	5		0
##	Uralic	1		0	0	4		0
##								
##		Southea	ast Asia					
##	Abkhaz-Adyge		0					
##	Afro-Asiatic		0					
##	Dravidian		0					
##	Indo-European		0					

0

0

0

1

0

0

LMER models

Mixed effects model, predicting Linguistic similaritys from cultural similarity, with random intercept for family and area and random slope for cultural similarity for family and area.

We start with a null model with random intercepts for family and area, and random slopes for cultural similarity by both. We add a fixed effect of the number of comparisons made for each datapoint (number of concepts that were available to compare). Then we add a fixed effect of cultural similarity

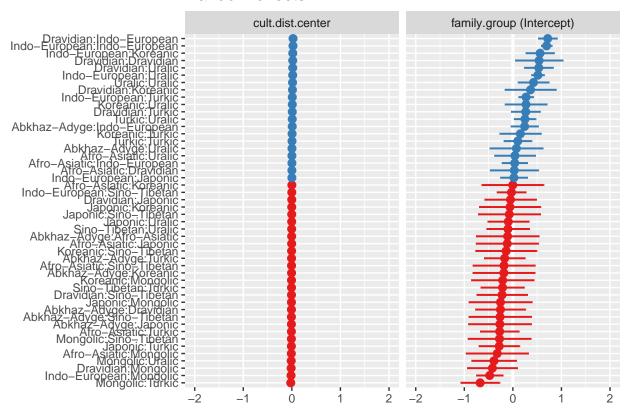
```
m0 = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling
)
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
m0.5 = lmer(
 rho.center ~ 1 +
    comparison_count.center +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling
)
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
m1 = lmer(
 rho.center ~ 1 +
    comparison count.center +
   cult.dist.center +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
an1 = anova(m0, m0.5, m1)
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
## Data: ling
## Models:
## m0: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 +
           cult.dist.center | area.group)
## mO:
## m0.5: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + (1 + cult.dist.center |
## m0.5:
             family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group)
## m1: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + cult.dist.center +
           (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center |
## m1:
## m1:
           area.group)
##
       Df
              AIC
                     BIC logLik deviance
                                            Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
        8 1654.6 1691.3 -819.30
## mO
                                 1638.6
## m0.5 9 1293.0 1334.3 -637.50 1275.0 363.597
                                                       1 < 2.2e-16 ***
## m1
       10 1278.4 1324.4 -629.22 1258.4 16.564
                                                       1 4.704e-05 ***
## ---
```

```
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Cultural similarity is not significantly correlated with Linguistic similarity. Here are the model estimates:
summary(m1)
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + cult.dist.center +
       (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center |
##
##
       area.group)
      Data: ling
##
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 1271.9
## Scaled residuals:
##
       Min
                1Q Median
                                 3Q
                                        Max
## -2.6249 -0.6167 0.1103 0.6571 4.7402
##
## Random effects:
   Groups
##
                 Name
                                   Variance Std.Dev. Corr
   family.group (Intercept)
                                   0.1612630 0.40158
##
                 cult.dist.center 0.0001817 0.01348
                                                     1.00
##
                 (Intercept)
                                   0.0510850 0.22602
    area.group
                 cult.dist.center 0.0036658 0.06055 -1.00
##
## Residual
                                   0.2885416 0.53716
## Number of obs: 731, groups: family.group, 48; area.group, 20
## Fixed effects:
                           Estimate Std. Error t value
                                        0.09073 -4.328
## (Intercept)
                           -0.39270
## comparison_count.center 0.61196
                                        0.02688 22.770
## cult.dist.center
                            0.19678
                                        0.03275
                                                 6.008
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##
               (Intr) cmpr_.
## cmprsn_cnt. 0.090
## clt.dst.cnt -0.194 -0.201
## convergence code: 0
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
Plot the estimates, rescaling the variables back to the original units:
trans = function(X){
 X * attr(ling$rho.center, "scaled:scale") +
  attr(ling$rho.center, "scaled:center")
}
gx = plot model(m1,'pred',terms='cult.dist.center')
gx$data$predicted = trans(gx$data$predicted)
gx$data$conf.low = trans(gx$data$conf.low)
gx$data$conf.high = trans(gx$data$conf.high)
gx$data$x = gx$data$x *
  cdc.s +cdc.c
gx = gx + \#coord\_cartesian(ylim=c(0,0.5),
                           xlim=c(0.15,0.85)) +
 xlab("Cultural similarity") +
```

```
ylab("Semantic alignment") +
  ggtitle("") +
  geom_point(data=ling,aes(x=cult.dist,y=local_alignment))
gx
   0.5 -
   0.4 -
Semantic alignment
   0.3 -
   0.1 -
   0.0 -
          0.2
                                      0.4
                                                                   0.6
                                                                                               0.8
                                            Cultural similarity
pdf(paste0("../results/stats/",datasetName,"/CulturalDistance_Rho_Graph.pdf"),
    height=2.5, width=2.5)
gx
dev.off()
## pdf
##
Plot the random effects:
plot_model(m1,'re', sort.est = "cult.dist.center")
```

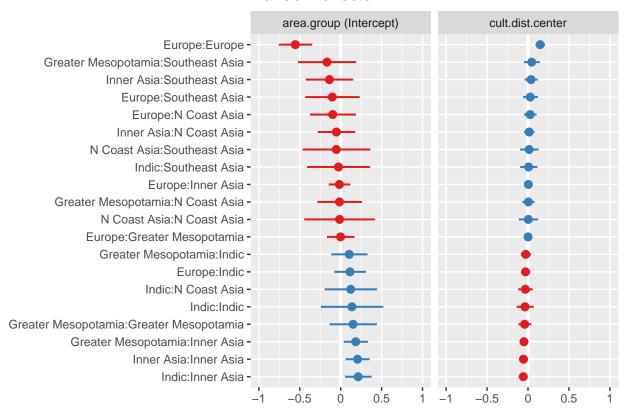
[[1]]

Random effects



[[2]]

Random effects



Without Kinship data

The analyses below show that the strongest relationship is with Kinship. Here we run the analysis as above, but using semantic distances computed without concepts that relate to kinship. Note that the local alignment values correlate with r > 0.99.

Code for constructing the data is hidden, but it is the same as above and available in the Rmd file:

Run the lmer models:

```
mONK = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = lingNK
)
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
m0.5NK = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    comparison_count.center +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = lingNK
)
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
m1NK = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
   comparison count.center +
    cult.dist.center +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = lingNK
)
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
anova(mONK,mO.5NK,m1NK)
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
## Data: lingNK
## Models:
## mONK: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 +
## mONK:
            cult.dist.center | area.group)
## m0.5NK: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + (1 + cult.dist.center |
## mO.5NK:
               family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group)
## m1NK: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + cult.dist.center +
## m1NK:
             (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center |
## m1NK:
             area.group)
                      BIC logLik deviance
                AIC
                                              Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
         Df
## mONK
          8 1654.6 1691.3 -819.30
                                    1638.6
## m0.5NK 9 1293.0 1334.3 -637.50
                                    1275.0 363.597
                                                         1 < 2.2e-16 ***
## m1NK
        10 1278.4 1324.4 -629.22
                                   1258.4 16.564
                                                         1 4.704e-05 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

summary(m1NK)

```
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + cult.dist.center +
       (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center |
##
       area.group)
##
      Data: lingNK
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 1271.9
## Scaled residuals:
       Min
             1Q Median
                               3Q
                                      Max
## -2.6249 -0.6167 0.1103 0.6571 4.7402
##
## Random effects:
## Groups
                                 Variance Std.Dev. Corr
## family.group (Intercept)
                                 0.1612630 0.40158
                 cult.dist.center 0.0001817 0.01348
## area.group
                 (Intercept)
                                 0.0510850 0.22602
                 cult.dist.center 0.0036658 0.06055 -1.00
                                  0.2885416 0.53716
## Residual
## Number of obs: 731, groups: family.group, 48; area.group, 20
## Fixed effects:
##
                           Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)
                                      0.09073 -4.328
                          -0.39270
## comparison count.center 0.61196
                                      0.02688 22.770
## cult.dist.center
                           0.19678
                                      0.03275
                                               6.008
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##
               (Intr) cmpr_.
## cmprsn_cnt. 0.090
## clt.dst.cnt -0.194 -0.201
## convergence code: 0
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
```

MRM

Use multiple regression on distance matrices (Lichstein, 2007) to do the same test as above. The code below loads the data into a matrix format:

```
# Use graph method to make distance matrix
grph <- graph.data.frame(ling[,c("11",'12','local_alignment')], directed=FALSE)</pre>
# add value as a weight attribute
ling.m = get.adjacency(grph, attr="local_alignment", sparse=FALSE)
rownames(ling.m) = 1[match(rownames(ling.m), 1$iso2), ]$Language2
colnames(ling.m) = 1[match(colnames(ling.m), 1$iso2), ]$Language2
# Same for comparison_count.center
grph <- graph.data.frame(ling[,c("11",'12','comparison_count')], directed=FALSE)</pre>
# add value as a weight attribute
cc.m = get.adjacency(grph, attr="comparison count", sparse=FALSE)
rownames(cc.m) = 1[match(rownames(cc.m), 1$iso2), ]$Language2
colnames(cc.m) = 1[match(colnames(cc.m), 1$iso2), ]$Language2
cult.m = read.csv("../results/EA_distances/CulturalDistances.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
rownames(cult.m) = cult.m[,1]
cult.m = cult.m[,2:ncol(cult.m)]
cult.m = as.matrix(cult.m)
# Flip cultural value to distance
cult.m = 1-cult.m
mx = match(rownames(ling.m),rownames(cult.m))
cult.m = cult.m[mx,mx]
colnames(cult.m) = rownames(cult.m)
# Same/different matrix for language family
family.matrix = 1[match(rownames(ling.m), 1$Language), ]$family
family.matrix = outer(family.matrix,family.matrix,"!=") *1
# Load ASJP distances for second test
asjp = readRDS("../data/ASJP/asjp17-dists FAIR.RData")
ling.m.glotto = 1[match(rownames(cult.m), 1$Language2), ]$glotto
ling.m.glotto = ling.m.glotto[ling.m.glotto %in% rownames(asjp)]
asjp.m = asjp[ling.m.glotto,ling.m.glotto]
asjp.lang.names = 1[match(rownames(asjp.m), 1$glotto), ]$Language2
# Matrices for second analysis with asjp
ling.m2 = ling.m[asjp.lang.names,asjp.lang.names]
cult.m2 = cult.m[asjp.lang.names,asjp.lang.names]
cc.m2 = cc.m[asjp.lang.names,asjp.lang.names]
# Load the geographic distances:
geoDist = read.csv("../data/GeographicDistances.csv",stringsAsFactors = F)
geoDist.m = as.matrix(geoDist)
geoDist.m = geoDist.m[!is.na(geoDist.m[,1]),!is.na(geoDist.m[1,])]
# Convert to log distance in thousand km
geoDist.m = log10(geoDist.m/1000)
geoDist.m[is.infinite(geoDist.m)] = 0
colnames(geoDist.m) = gsub("\\."," ",colnames(geoDist.m))
rownames(geoDist.m) = colnames(geoDist.m)
geoDist.m1 = geoDist.m[rownames(ling.m),rownames(ling.m)]
geoDist.m2 = geoDist.m[rownames(ling.m2),rownames(ling.m2)]
```

```
# center and scale values
ling.m = matrix(scale(as.vector(cc.m)),nrow=nrow(ling.m))
cc.m = matrix(scale(as.vector(cc.m)),nrow=nrow(cc.m))
cult.m = matrix(scale(as.vector(cult.m)),nrow=nrow(cult.m))
geoDist.m1 = matrix(scale(as.vector(geoDist.m1)),nrow=nrow(geoDist.m1))
asjp.m = matrix(scale(as.vector(asjp.m)),nrow=nrow(asjp.m))
ling.m2 = matrix(scale(as.vector(ling.m2)),nrow=nrow(ling.m2))
cc.m2 = matrix(scale(as.vector(cc.m2)),nrow=nrow(cc.m2))
cult.m2 = matrix(scale(as.vector(cult.m2)),nrow=nrow(cult.m2))
geoDist.m2 = matrix(scale(as.vector(geoDist.m2)),nrow=nrow(geoDist.m2))
```

Run the MRM model, predicting semantic alignment by cultural distance, controlling for family distance, geographic ditance, and the comparison count (number of observations). Here, the family distance between two languages is just whether they are part of the same family. Note that this does not take into account particular values for particular families, nor the random slopes within families.

```
## $coef
##
                           as.dist(ling.m)
                                              pval
## Int
                                 0.22628455 0.0452
## as.dist(cult.m)
                                0.27056532 0.0117
## as.dist(family.matrix)
                               -0.22892903 0.1053
## as.dist(geoDist.m1)
                                0.00141692 0.9863
  as.dist(cc.m)
                                 0.60941424 0.0001
##
##
## $r.squared
##
          R2
                   pval
## 0.6104647 0.0001000
##
## $F.test
##
          F
              F.pval
## 288.3577
              0.0001
```

Semantic alignment is significantly correlated with cultural distance.

In the result above, geographic distance is not correlated with semantic distance. Geographic distance turns out to be moderately correlated with cultural distance:

```
## $coef
##
                    as.dist(geoDist.m1)
## Int
                            -0.02111026 0.7707
##
   as.dist(cult.m)
                            -0.50170516 0.0001
##
## $r.squared
##
          R2
                   pval
## 0.1529605 0.0001000
##
## $F.test
##
          F
              F.pval
## 133.4504
               0.0001
```

Even when testing for non-linear geographic effects, the main result still holds:

```
as.dist(geoDist.m1^3) +
as.dist(cc.m),nperm = 10000)
```

```
## $coef
##
                           as.dist(ling.m)
                                              pval
## Int
                               0.214632722 0.0740
## as.dist(cult.m)
                               0.266769243 0.0135
## as.dist(family.matrix)
                              -0.233845007 0.1073
## as.dist(geoDist.m1)
                               0.002103012 0.9803
## as.dist(geoDist.m1^2)
                               0.016893496 0.7679
                               0.002937588 0.8697
## as.dist(geoDist.m1^3)
## as.dist(cc.m)
                               0.609370724 0.0001
##
## $r.squared
##
          R2
                  pval
## 0.6107422 0.0001000
##
## $F.test
##
          F
              F.pval
              0.0001
## 191.9400
```

Below, we run the same test, but using average string distances in basic vocabulary from the ASJP (Wichmann, Holman & Brown, 2018) as controls for history. We used the distances as calculated in Jäger (2018), which used them to construct historical phylogenies.

```
## $coef
##
                        as.dist(ling.m2)
                                            pval
## Int
                              0.09389590 0.0004
## as.dist(cult.m2)
                              0.26068360 0.0226
## as.dist(asjp.m)
                             -0.25717809 0.0001
## as.dist(geoDist.m2)
                              0.03920662 0.6016
## as.dist(cc.m2)
                              0.61582319 0.0001
##
## $r.squared
##
          R2
## 0.6251321 0.0001000
##
## $F.test
##
          F
              F.pval
              0.0001
## 260.5635
```

Mantel tests

Read the historical distances for Indo-European, based on the phylogenetic distances.

Data prep

The geographic distances are loaded above (from "../data/GeographicDistances.csv").

Load historical distances:

```
hist = read.csv("../data/trees/IndoEuropean_historical_distances.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
hist = hist[!duplicated(hist[,1]),!duplicated(hist[,1])]
rownames(hist) = hist[,1]
hist = hist[,2:ncol(hist)]
hist.m = as.matrix(hist)
colnames(hist.m) = rownames(hist.m)
hist.m = hist.m/max(hist.m)
```

Read the cultural distance as a matrix:

```
cult.m = read.csv("../results/EA_distances/CulturalDistances.csv", stringsAsFactors = F)
rownames(cult.m) = cult.m[,1]
cult.m = cult.m[,2:ncol(cult.m)]
```

Flip the cultural distance into a cultural similarity measure:

```
cult.m = 1-cult.m
```

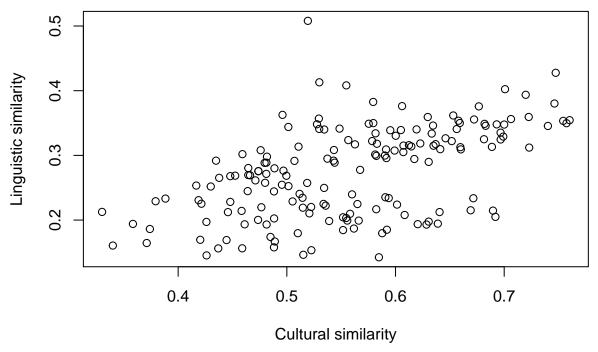
Convert the linguistic similarities to a matrix. This uses **igraph** to make an undirected graph from the long format with **local_alignment** as the edge weights, then output a matrix of adjacencies.

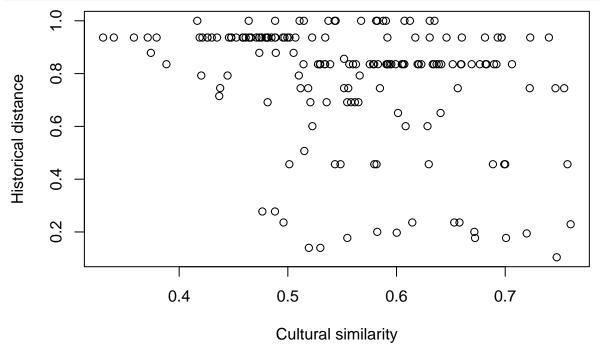
```
grph <- graph.data.frame(ling[,c("11",'12','local_alignment')], directed=FALSE)
# add value as a weight attribute
ling.m = get.adjacency(grph, attr="local_alignment", sparse=FALSE)
rownames(ling.m) = 1[match(rownames(ling.m),1$iso2),]$Language2
colnames(ling.m) = 1[match(colnames(ling.m),1$iso2),]$Language2</pre>
```

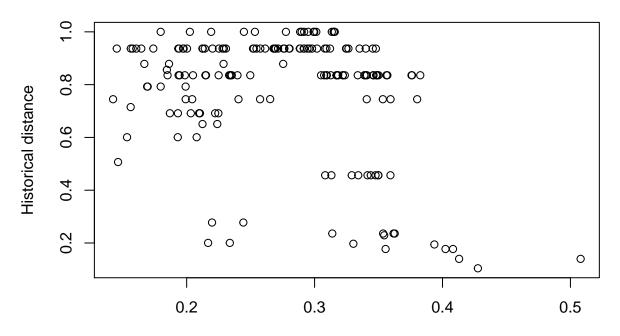
Match the distance matrices

```
in.analysis = intersect(rownames(ling.m),rownames(cult.m))
in.analysis = intersect(in.analysis, rownames(hist.m))
cult.m2 = cult.m[in.analysis,in.analysis]
ling.m2 = ling.m[in.analysis,in.analysis]
hist.m2 = hist.m[in.analysis,in.analysis]
geo.m2 = geoDist.m[in.analysis,in.analysis]
```

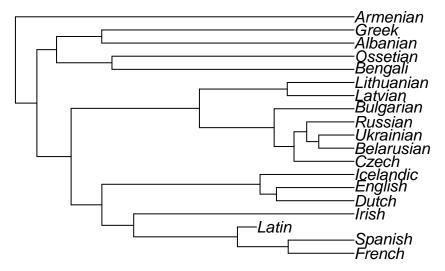
Note that there are only 19 languages with data on linguistic, cultural and historical distance.







Linguistic similarity



Tests

The results of the test list the following measures:

```
• mantelr: Mantel correlation coefficient.

• pval1: one-tailed p-value (null hypothesis: r <= 0).

• pval2: one-tailed p-value (null hypothesis: r >= 0).

• pval3: two-tailed p-value (null hypothesis: r = 0).
```

• llim: lower confidence limit for r.

• ulim: upper confidence limit for r.

```
set.seed(1498)
```

Run tests between each pair of measures.

```
distms = list("Cultrual"= cult.m2,
              "Linguistic" = ling.m2,
              "Historical" = hist.m2,
              "Geographic" = geo.m2)
for(i in 1:3){
  for(j in (i+1):4){
    var1 = names(distms)[i]
    var2 = names(distms)[j]
    print(paste("Correlation between",
                var1, "and", var2))
    stat = ecodist::mantel(as.dist(distms[[i]]) ~
                as.dist(distms[[j]]),
                nperm = 100000)
    print(stat)
    stat = round(stat,2)
    stat2 = sprintf("$r$ = %s[%s,%s], one-tailed $p$ = %s",
      stat[1],
      stat[5],
      stat[6],
      min(c(stat[2],stat[3])))
    cat(stat2,file=
          paste0("../results/stats/tex/Mantel",var1,"Vs",var2,"Distance.tex"))
  }
}
```

```
## [1] "Correlation between Cultrual and Linguistic"
##
      mantelr
                   pval1
                               pval2
                                          pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5%
    0.5243289 \quad 0.0050000 \quad 0.9950100 \quad 0.0050300 \quad 0.3796035 \quad 0.6586819
##
## [1] "Correlation between Cultrual and Historical"
                               pval2
##
      mantelr
                   pval1
                                          pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5%
## -0.3243830 0.9871000 0.0129100 0.0138900 -0.4402666 -0.2385575
## [1] "Correlation between Cultrual and Geographic"
                                          pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5%
##
      mantelr
                   pval1
                               pval2
## -0.4495398 0.9967200 0.0032900 0.0032900 -0.5754918 -0.3109193
## [1] "Correlation between Linguistic and Historical"
##
      mantelr
                   pval1
                               pval2
                                          pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5%
## -0.3372882 0.9859600 0.0140500 0.0167300 -0.5019408 -0.1639425
## [1] "Correlation between Linguistic and Geographic"
      mantelr
                   pval1
                               pval2
                                          pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5%
## -0.2594386  0.9182700  0.0817400  0.1195200  -0.3694719  -0.1840035
## [1] "Correlation between Historical and Geographic"
```

```
## mantelr pval1 pval2 pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5% ## 0.4210629 0.0004100 0.9996000 0.0004100 0.3313578 0.5176683
```

Run a mantel test comparing the Linguistic alignment to the cultural similarity, controlling for the historical distance between languages:

0.4659407 0.0100000 0.9900100 0.0107800 0.3408500 0.5938397

Main Test: Run a mantel test comparing the Linguistic alignment to the cultural similarity, controlling for the historical distance and geographic distance between languages:

```
mainMantel = ecodist::mantel(as.dist(ling.m2)~
                  as.dist(cult.m2) +
                  as.dist(hist.m2) +
                  as.dist(geo.m2),
                nperm = 100000)
mainMantel
##
                                         pval3 llim.2.5% ulim.97.5%
      mantelr
                   pval1
                              pval2
               0.0114200
                          0.9885900
                                    0.0119500 0.2962271 0.5993660
   0.4508309
mainMantel = round(mainMantel,2)
mainMantel2 = sprintf("$r$ = %s[%s,%s], one-tailed $p$ = %s",
        mainMantel[1],
        mainMantel[5],
        mainMantel[6],
        mainMantel[2]
cat(mainMantel2,
   file="../results/stats/tex/MantelCultrualVsLinguisticDistance_Partial.tex")
```

MRM

Perform the main test, but using multiple regression on distance matrices (MRM).

```
set.seed(21889)
mainMRM = ecodist::MRM(as.dist(ling.m2)~
                  as.dist(cult.m2) +
                  as.dist(hist.m2) +
                  as.dist(geo.m2), nperm=10000)
mainMRM
## $coef
##
                    as.dist(ling.m2)
                                        pval
## Int
                          0.123122021 0.9147
                          0.350192033 0.0108
## as.dist(cult.m2)
## as.dist(hist.m2)
                        -0.059044640 0.1623
## as.dist(geo.m2)
                         0.008177519 0.8212
##
## $r.squared
##
          R2
                  pval
```

Analysis of filtered data

The analyses in this section use local alignment values based on (a) data that passes the wikipedia filter, and (b) data that passes the semantic filter.

Wikipedia filter

```
ling.filtered = read.csv(
   "../data/FAIR/nel-wiki-k100-alignments-by-language-pair_Filtered.csv",
   stringsAsFactors = F)
```

Note that the semantic alignment for the filtered and unfiltered data are essentially exactly the same, but for fewer languages:

```
ling.filtered$unfiltered.rho =
   apply(ling.filtered[,
        c("iso2_l1","iso2_l2")],1,
   function(X){
    ling[(ling$l1==X[1] & ling$l2==X[2]) |
        (ling$l1==X[2] & ling$l2==X[1]),]$local_alignment[1]
})
cor(ling.filtered$unfiltered.rho,ling.filtered$rho,use = "complete.obs")
```

[1] 0.9999918

Continue to build data for replication:

```
ling.filtered$area1 = 1[match(ling.filtered$name_11,1$Language),]$autotyp.area
ling.filtered$area2 = 1[match(ling.filtered$name_12,1$Language),]$autotyp.area
fgroup = cbind(ling.filtered$family1,ling.filtered$family2)
fgroup = apply(fgroup,1,sort)
ling.filtered$family.group = apply(fgroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
agroup = cbind(ling.filtered$area1,ling.filtered$area2)
agroup = apply(agroup,1,sort)
ling.filtered$area.group = apply(agroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
ling.filtered$rho.center = scale(ling.filtered$rho)
ling.filtered$comparison_count.center = scale(ling.filtered$comparison_count)
matches = sapply(1:nrow(ling.filtered), function(i){
  x = which((cult$11==ling.filtered$name_l1[i] &
          cult$12==ling.filtered$name_12[i]) |
            (cult$12==ling.filtered$name_l1[i] &
          cult$11==ling.filtered$name_12[i]))
 x[1]
})
ling.filtered$cult.dist = cult[matches,]$cult.dist
# flip
ling.filtered$cult.dist = 1 - ling.filtered$cult.dist
ling.filtered = ling.filtered[!is.na(ling.filtered$cult.dist),]
ling.filtered$cult.dist.center = scale(ling.filtered$cult.dist)
```

```
mOF = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling.filtered
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
m0.5F = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    comparison_count.center +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling.filtered
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
m1F = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    comparison_count.center +
    cult.dist.center +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling.filtered
an1F = anova(m0F, m0.5F, m1F)
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
an1F
## Data: ling.filtered
## Models:
## mOF: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 +
            cult.dist.center | area.group)
## m0.5F: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison count.center + (1 + cult.dist.center |
              family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group)
## mO.5F:
## m1F: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + cult.dist.center +
            (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center |
## m1F:
## m1F:
            area.group)
##
        \mathsf{Df}
               AIC
                      BIC logLik deviance
                                              Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
## mOF
         8 446.96 473.74 -215.48
                                     430.96
## m0.5F 9 428.63 458.76 -205.32
                                     410.63 20.3271
                                                         1 6.527e-06 ***
## m1F
        10 425.68 459.15 -202.84
                                     405.68 4.9519
                                                         1
                                                              0.02606 *
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Cultural similarity is significantly correlated with Linguistic similarity, even in the filtered data. Here are the
model estimates:
summary(m1F)
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + cult.dist.center +
##
       (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center |
##
       area.group)
```

```
Data: ling.filtered
##
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 412.8
## Scaled residuals:
##
      Min 1Q Median
                            3Q
                                     Max
## -1.8211 -0.5105 -0.0662 0.4157 6.2698
##
## Random effects:
## Groups
                Name
                                Variance Std.Dev. Corr
## family.group (Intercept)
                                0.17449 0.4177
                cult.dist.center 0.07149 0.2674
                                                 -0.21
##
## area.group
               (Intercept)
                               0.64616 0.8038
##
                cult.dist.center 0.02791 0.1670
                                                 1.00
## Residual
                                0.26481 0.5146
## Number of obs: 210, groups: family.group, 31; area.group, 19
##
## Fixed effects:
##
                         Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)
                         -0.82996 0.21638 -3.836
## comparison_count.center 0.41070
                                  0.08668 4.738
## cult.dist.center
                          0.29681
                                    0.11189 2.653
##
## Correlation of Fixed Effects:
##
         (Intr) cmpr_.
## cmprsn_cnt. 0.133
## clt.dst.cnt 0.387 -0.054
```

Semantic filter

```
ling.semFiltered = read.csv(
  "../data/FAIR/nel-wiki-k100-alignments-by-language-pair_SemanticFiltered.csv",
  stringsAsFactors = F)
ling.semFiltered$area1 = 1[match(ling.semFiltered$name 11,1$Language),]$autotyp.area
ling.semFiltered$area2 = 1[match(ling.semFiltered$name_12,1$Language),]$autotyp.area
fgroup = cbind(ling.semFiltered$family1,ling.semFiltered$family2)
fgroup = apply(fgroup,1,sort)
ling.semFiltered$family.group = apply(fgroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
agroup = cbind(ling.semFiltered$area1,ling.semFiltered$area2)
agroup = apply(agroup,1,sort)
ling.semFiltered$area.group = apply(agroup,2,paste,collapse=":")
ling.semFiltered$rho.center = scale(ling.semFiltered$rho)
ling.semFiltered$comparison_count.center = scale(ling.semFiltered$comparison_count)
matches = sapply(1:nrow(ling.semFiltered), function(i){
  x = which((cult$11==ling.semFiltered$name_l1[i] &
          cult$12==ling.semFiltered$name_12[i]) |
            (cult$12==ling.semFiltered$name_l1[i] &
          cult$11==ling.semFiltered$name_12[i]))
  x[1]
})
ling.semFiltered$cult.dist = cult[matches,]$cult.dist
# flip
ling.semFiltered$cult.dist = 1 - ling.semFiltered$cult.dist
ling.semFiltered = ling.semFiltered[!is.na(ling.semFiltered$cult.dist),]
ling.semFiltered$cult.dist.center = scale(ling.semFiltered$cult.dist)
mOF = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling.semFiltered
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
m0.5F = lmer(
  rho.center ~ 1 +
    comparison_count.center +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling.semFiltered
)
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
m1F = lmer(
 rho.center ~ 1 +
```

```
comparison_count.center +
    cult.dist.center +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) +
    (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group),
  data = ling.semFiltered
## boundary (singular) fit: see ?isSingular
an1F = anova(m0F, m0.5F, m1F)
## refitting model(s) with ML (instead of REML)
an1F
## Data: ling.semFiltered
## Models:
## mOF: rho.center ~ 1 + (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 +
            cult.dist.center | area.group)
## m0.5F: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + (1 + cult.dist.center |
              family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center | area.group)
## m0.5F:
## m1F: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + cult.dist.center +
## m1F:
            (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center |
## m1F:
            area.group)
##
               AIC
                      BIC logLik deviance
                                              Chisq Chi Df Pr(>Chisq)
         Df
## mOF
          8 1660.3 1697.1 -822.17
                                    1644.3
## m0.5F 9 1300.8 1342.1 -641.39
                                     1282.8 361.576
                                                         1 < 2.2e-16 ***
## m1F
         10 1286.2 1332.1 -633.09
                                    1266.2 16.595
                                                         1 4.627e-05 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
Cultural similarity is significantly correlated with Linguistic similarity, even in the semantic filtered data.
Here are the model estimates:
summary(m1F)
## Linear mixed model fit by REML ['lmerMod']
## Formula: rho.center ~ 1 + comparison_count.center + cult.dist.center +
       (1 + cult.dist.center | family.group) + (1 + cult.dist.center |
##
##
       area.group)
##
      Data: ling.semFiltered
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 1279.6
## Scaled residuals:
##
       Min
                1Q Median
                                30
## -2.6257 -0.6155 0.1002 0.6528 4.7581
##
## Random effects:
##
   Groups
                 Name
                                  Variance Std.Dev. Corr
   family.group (Intercept)
##
                                  0.1627947 0.40348
                 cult.dist.center 0.0001944 0.01394
##
##
                 (Intercept)
                                  0.0515199 0.22698
   area.group
                 cult.dist.center 0.0037519 0.06125
##
                                                     -1.00
                                  0.2916401 0.54004
```

Number of obs: 731, groups: family.group, 48; area.group, 20

##

Comparison between domains

The code that produce the results of this section can be found in analysis/compareDomains.R.

Part 1: Compare each linguistic domain to the overall cultural similarity

We fit a mixed effects model to compare the linguistic similarity in a given domain to the overall cultural distance. The linguistic similarity for the given domain is the dependent variable. There are random intercepts for language family and area pairs, and random slopes for overall cultural similarity by language family and by area. The comparison_count variable is added as a fixed effect. This null model is compared to a model with an additional fixed effect for the overall cultural similarity.

There are 21 linguistic domains with enough data. All correlations are positive and 11 are significant at the 0.05 level (adjusted for multiple comparisons).

The full results are in the file:

 $../results/stats/wikipedia-main/Cor_LingAlignmentByDomains_vs_OverallCulturalSimilarity.csv\\ Summary:$

```
p1res
##
                              Domain
                                           Beta
                                                                Adjusted p sig
## 2
                      Food and drink 0.29039152 3.842274e-08 8.068775e-07
## 6
        Miscellaneous function words 0.31349670 9.672370e-08 2.031198e-06
## 9
                            The body 0.23183657 8.711593e-07 1.829434e-05
## 13
                             Animals 0.26483784 4.281952e-06 8.992099e-05
## 21
                                Time 0.26708073 3.341177e-05 7.016471e-04
## 3
          Agriculture and vegetation 0.21319270 4.954909e-05 1.040531e-03
## 16
                        Modern world 0.15392213 2.860946e-04 6.007988e-03
## 14
                  The physical world 0.15530592 6.771587e-04 1.422033e-02
## 11
                   Spatial relations 0.11188738 1.323355e-03 2.779045e-02
  20
                             Kinship 0.25408132 1.332699e-03 2.798669e-02
##
               Clothing and grooming 0.16478921 2.245060e-03 4.714625e-02
## 7
                    Sense perception 0.11168260 2.806430e-03 5.893504e-02
## 10
     Social and political relations 0.10210872 6.603817e-03 1.386802e-01
## 1
                           The house 0.10743767 1.485121e-02 3.118755e-01
## 18
                            Quantity 0.13804241 1.691864e-02 3.552914e-01
## 8
                 Speech and language 0.11367507 3.209804e-02 6.740588e-01
        Basic actions and technology 0.06996793 7.317704e-02 1.000000e+00
## 19
## 17
                           Cognition 0.06413968 9.294337e-02 1.000000e+00
## 12
                 Emotions and values 0.06324463 9.437249e-02 1.000000e+00
## 5
                          Possession 0.07833831 1.102507e-01 1.000000e+00
                              Motion 0.05544251 2.537090e-01 1.000000e+00
## 4
```

Part 2: Compare each linguistic domain to the cultural similarity of each original D-PLACE domain

The method is the same as for part 1, except the cultural distance for a particular cultural domain is used instead of the overall cultural distance.

The full results are in the file:

```
../results/stats/wikipedia-main/Cor_LingAlignmentByDomains_vs_DPlaceCulturalDomains.csv
```

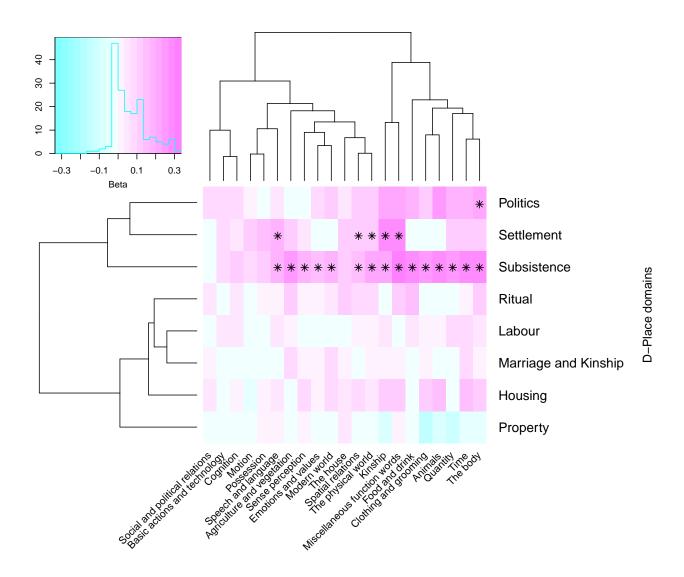
The graph below shows the mixed effects model coefficient estimate for the relationship between each linguistic domain and each cultural domain. Pink colours indicate positive correlations and blue colours indicate negative correlations. Stronger colours indicate stronger correlations. An asterisk indicates that the correlation is stronger than would be expected by chance, when adjusting the p-value for multiple comparisons.

The insert in the top left shows the distribution of Beta values.

The domains are clustered using higherarchical clustering. This is for visualisation and reflects similarity in the numeric relations, not history or conceptual hierarchies.

List of significant correlations (after adjusting p-value for multiple comparisons):

```
##
                          Ling Domain Cult Domain
                                                        Beta
                                                               Adjusted p
## 68
                             The body
                                         Politics 0.2139638 1.292033e-03
## 155
                                       Settlement 0.2785591 8.766279e-03
                              Kinship
## 43
         Miscellaneous function words
                                       Settlement 0.2899807 7.022120e-07
## 83
                    Spatial relations
                                       Settlement 0.1122428 1.431007e-03
## 59
                  Speech and language
                                       Settlement 0.1915031 3.729177e-05
## 107
                   The physical world
                                       Settlement 0.1321783 4.102261e-02
## 17
           Agriculture and vegetation Subsistence 0.2513632 2.887202e-05
## 97
                              Animals Subsistence 0.2942266 7.865336e-06
## 49
                Clothing and grooming Subsistence 0.2484714 1.338589e-04
## 89
                  Emotions and values Subsistence 0.1524638 7.946118e-04
## 9
                       Food and drink Subsistence 0.3005301 1.084517e-06
## 153
                              Kinship Subsistence 0.2346825 4.160376e-03
## 41
         Miscellaneous function words Subsistence 0.3353616 2.648483e-05
## 121
                         Modern world Subsistence 0.1851981 7.434982e-06
## 137
                             Quantity Subsistence 0.2454534 7.092645e-03
## 73
                     Sense perception Subsistence 0.1850017 6.280926e-04
## 113 Social and political relations Subsistence 0.1544007 3.637901e-05
## 81
                    Spatial relations Subsistence 0.1504141 6.897505e-04
## 57
                  Speech and language Subsistence 0.1991926 2.699664e-04
## 65
                             The body Subsistence 0.2764446 5.291731e-08
## 105
                   The physical world Subsistence 0.2221189 1.157346e-04
## 161
                                 Time Subsistence 0.2921557 1.640226e-05
```



Concepticon domains

Figure 1:

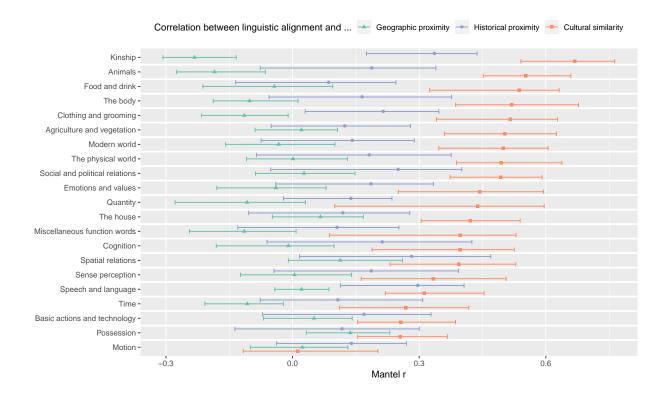


Figure 2:

Part 3: Compare each linguistic domain to the phylogenetic and geographic distance

This test compares each linguistic similarity scores to each of three target distances: the cultural distance, the historical distance and the geographic distance. We use a partial Mantel test (from the package ecodist) to estimate the strength of the relationship between the linguistic domain and the target distance, while controlling for the other two distances. The test uses 100,000 permutations.

The full results are in the file:

Cor_LingAlignmentByDomains_vs_HistoricalAndGeographicalDistance.csv

The graph below shows the results. Point estimates are the estimated Mantel R. The error bars show the 95% confidence intervals from the permutation test.

There appears to be a trade-off: The stronger the relationship with geographic distance, the weaker the relationship with cultural distance (r = -0.529, t = -2.72, df=19, p = 0.014). This does not hold for historical and cultural distance (r = 0.27, t = 1.22, df=19, p = 0.24).

Note that, after controlling for multiple comparisons, only 2 domains are significant:

```
## domain comparison mantelr lower upper pval3 p.adjusted
## 37 Animals lingVCult 0.5518312 0.4515039 0.6591382 0.00129 0.02709
## 58 Kinship lingVCult 0.6687835 0.5407906 0.7629987 0.00012 0.00252
```

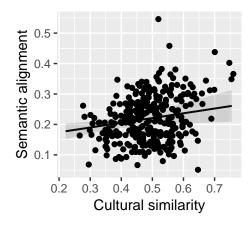


Figure 3: Semantic alignment and cultural similarity for data using the Common Crawl alignments

Summary of alternative data sources

The github repository also includes the main tests in this document, but applied to data where the alignments are done according to the Common Crawl or Subtitles databases.

Common Crawl

Mixed effects model: The correlation between semantic alignment and cultural similarity was significant (β = 0.182, $\chi^2(1)$ = 4.94, p=0.026). See figure 4.

MRM results:

	Estimate	p-value
Intercept	0.011	0.84
Cultural distance	0.086	0.172
Language family	0.001	0.987
Geographic distance	0.043	0.318
Comparison count	0.871	0.0001

Table 1: MRM analysis predicting semantic alignment (Common Crawl), with family control. R^2 =0.761

	Estimate	p-value
Intercept	0.034	0.0311
Cultural distance	0.072	0.315
ASJP	-0.168	0.0009
Geographic distance	0.075	0.108
Comparison count	0.841	0.0001

Table 2: MRM analysis predicting semantic alignment (Common Crawl), with ASJP control. R^2 =0.744

Mantel tests:

	Var1	Var2	r	llim	ulim	p
2	Cultrual	Linguistic	-0.084	-0.201	0.000885	0.277
3	Cultrual	Historical	-0.315	-0.447	-0.204	0.0211
4	Cultrual	Geographic	-0.461	-0.586	-0.312	0.00295
5	Linguistic	Historical	-0.25	-0.357	-0.114	0.015
6	Linguistic	Geographic	0.136	-0.0134	0.235	0.121
7	Historical	Geographic	0.405	0.31	0.519	0.00101
71	Linguistic	Cultural **	-0.0831	-0.152	-0.00152	0.27

Table 3: Mantel tests (Common Crawl). ** = partial Mantel test, controlling for historical and geographical distance.

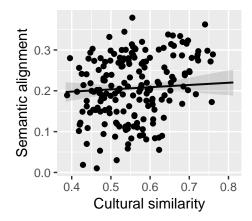


Figure 4: Semantic alignment and cultural similarity for data using the Subtitles alignments

Subtitles

Mixed effects model: The correlation between semantic alignment and cultural similarity was not significant (β = 0.0606, $\chi^2(1)$ = 0.74, p=0.39). See figure 5

MRM results:

	Estimate	p-value
Intercept	0.073	0.517
Cultural distance	0.125	0.413
Language family	-0.041	0.838
Geographic distance	-0.013	0.887
Comparison count	0.806	0.0002

Table 4: MRM analysis predicting semantic alignment (Subtitles), with family control. R^2 =0.744

Mantel tests:

	Estimate	p-value
Intercept	0.083	0.297
Cultural distance	-0.023	0.884
ASJP	-0.282	0.0083
Geographic distance	0.019	0.854
Comparison count	0.831	0.0003

Table 5: MRM analysis predicting semantic alignment (Subtitles), with ASJP control. R^2 =0.803

	Var1	Var2	\mathbf{r}	$_{ m llim}$	ulim	p
2	Cultrual	Linguistic	0.351	0.241	0.538	0.0884
3	Cultrual	Historical	-0.17	-0.286	-0.0153	0.155
4	Cultrual	Geographic	-0.34	-0.57	-0.172	0.0276
5	Linguistic	Historical	-0.352	-0.503	-0.0822	0.0301
6	Linguistic	Geographic	-0.273	-0.462	-0.0818	0.0806
7	Historical	Geographic	0.346	0.181	0.522	0.01
71	Linguistic	Cultural **	0.281	0.129	0.466	0.135

 $\label{eq:controlling} \text{Table 6: Mantel tests (Subtitles). *** = partial Mantel test, controlling for historical and geographical distance. }$

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