Types and uses of semantic networks : genetic, practical + psycholinguistic aspects

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We love semantic networks, and here is why





··· because they contain a lot of meat

You are not alone in this world







Actually, there are very few **er**-**mites** in nature, and even those who are may occasionally feel the need to travel, to hang out and to socialize with others, be they ermites or not.





🔵 Individual



Semantic networks,

two buzzwords, perhaps, but they make us dream



1. Semantic networks

Well known from *psychology* and *knowledge representation* in AI

http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Semantic_network

2. Networks

Well known from graph theory

Topology : popularity, distance, importance

- http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Network_theory
- http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Complex_network
- http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Graph_(discrete_mathematics)

3. Semantics

What's that?

- node (but, what does it represent?)
- relative place in the network





Networks are everywhere

star system geography society body brain





Ego networks



Networks are everywhere, but, who makes the connections?



The network is in the eye of the beholder

Yet, having recognized it, we can

- we can refer to it;
- compare it to similar patterns;
- posite other objects with respect to it (use it as navigational instrument);
- travel along the paths of the network,
- etc.

Outline of the talk

- 1. Semantic networks
 - What are they?
 - Different types
 - How did they come about?
 - What are they for, or, what can they be used for?
- 2. Practical aspects
 - Support encoding (ideas, messages)
 - Support expression (word finding)
- 3. Summary and conclusion.

Maps and their ubiguitous uses

Cosmologists map the universe, geologists the land, biologists the genome, and psychologists map word knowledge. They map their domains to gain *theoretical* and *practical* insights that would not be forthcoming without an atlas to guide their inquiry.

Nelson, D. L., and McEvoy, C. L. (2005). Implicitly Activated Memories: The Missing Links of Remembering.

Maps :

- means for revealing *structure* (neighbors, paths, proximity, hubs, ...)
- orientational means for *navigation*

Semantic networks

What **are** they and what are they **not**?

- Means to encode (represent) semantic information
- Knowledge maps supporting navigation (orientational guides).

Semantic nets do **not** correspond to the neuronal structure. For example, no concept or word is stored at a single cell. Neither do axons correspond (directly) to a semantic link (association).

Semantic networks



Cellular structure : two *neurons* being linked via an *axon*

Despite certain similarities, they are **not** the same

Neural Networks (NNs) and semantic nets (SNs) « have much in common and should be regarded as two points in a rich, quasi-continuous space of computational architectures rather than as radically different types of network. There are important differences in the nature and usage of links and in the degree to which computation can be thought of as local to individual nodes (although in restricted SNs the computation can be as local as it is in NNs). There are various ways of implementing or emulating SNs in NNs, and of forming hybrid SN-NN systems. »

Barnden, J.A. Lee, M.G. and Viezzer, M. In MA Arbib,(Ed.), Handbook of brain theory and neural **networks** (pp. 854-857) MIT Press.

Semantic network

A semantic network is (generally) a graphic notation for representing knowledge in patterns of interconnected nodes. While being boosted by the work done by Collins and Quillian (a psychologist and a computer scientist, speculating about the representation of concepts and words in the human memory), semantic networks have become popular in AI and NLP to represent *knowledge* or to support *reasoning*.

Collins, A. and Quillian, M.R. (1969). Retrieval time from semantic memory. Journal of verbal learning and verbal behavior 8 (2): 240–248

Simmons, R. F. (1972). Semantic networks: their computation and use for understanding English sentences. In: Schank, R. C., & Colby, K. M. (Eds.). (1973). Computer models of thought and language. San Francisco: WH Freeman, 63-113

Sowa, J. F. (2000) *Knowledge Representation: Logical, Philosophical, and Computational Foundations*, Brooks/Cole Publishing Co., Pacific Grove, CA.





Psychological Reality of Networks

The networks embody two important principles : hierarchical structure and economy. Information relevant for a whole class of objects is represented only at the highest level, as it can be inferred for entities occurring further down in the hierarchy. The gained economy of storage, is, of course, paid by processing time.

To test these hypothesises subjects were asked to judge the truth value of sentences like the following:

(a) Canaries can sing	- 1310 ms
(b) Canaries have feathers	- 1380 ms

• (c) Canaries have skin -1470 ms

Frequently used facts are also verified faster, which tends to confirm the hypothesis that this information is stored with node:

- Apples are eaten
- Apples have dark seeds

Modified Collin and Quillian Model



- No difference anymore between *concepts* and *attributes*
- Use of weighted links
- Use of spreading activation like in connectionist models

Sowa's conceptual graphs



John went by bus to Boston

Where is the semantics ?

1. Conceptual level (message)

2. Word level

- but words have meanings, hence, they encode also a conceptual structure
- Yet, apart from having individual meanings, words are stuctured in the lexicon. They are organized into a network whose structure supports wordfinding (access, search, navigation). Hence the relevance of conceptual indexing (Roget's Thesaurus), association networks (lexical graphs : WordNet, JeuxDeMots, BabelNet, ...), or other kind of cataloguing methods (library science, Dewey,...).

Where is the semantics ?

1. Sentence level (sentences are combined to form larger discourse entities, and, just as there are constraints to combine words at the sentence level, there are certain constraints to combine messages (propositions, clauses). See the work on Rhetorical Structure Theory (RST: http:// www.wikiwand.com/en/Rhetorical_Structure_Theory)



Example of RST structure



(1) The bat is a nocturnal animal. (2) It lives in the dark. (3) There are long nosed bats and mouse eared bats also lettuce winged bats. (4) Bats hunt at night (5) they sleep in the day (6) and they are very shy.

Words and their meaning



LS: lexical semantics; WL: words

Words are but shorthand labels for more or less complex knowledge graphs (conceptual structures)

Entirely specified message



CL: conceptual level; LS: lexical semantics; WL: words

> Words are the exchange money i.e. interface between language and thought

Underspecified message



CL: conceptual level; LS: lexical semantics WL: word level

Words may help or oblige us to clarify underspecified thought

Graph encoding the idea of running



The **feature 'size'** is not relevant for the word's meaning

Two word graphs expressing more or less specific information (a) to swim, (b) to move

• VERB ('to swim', VB_INTRANS) is BOY: \$5 * ASUB AGT MOVEMENT SIZE: PART OF INSTR PART OF INSTR BODY WATER HOME: \$7



Language production

- 1. The use of words to express a message
- 2. Means : map (the conceptual structure underlying) words on a conceptual structure, the message
- 3. Conceptual structures can be quite 'wordy'

Conceptual input



a man whose profession consists in catching and selling fish moves fast on the ground in direction of...



Before expression

a man whose profession consists in catching and selling fish moves fast on the ground in direction of...

After lexicalization

The fisherman rushed towards

Why do we have word-access problems, or, what happens when we are in this state?

Words in books and in the brain are fundamentally different.

- in books they exist as tokens (meaning and forms are represented together)
- in the brain they are decomposed. The elements representing meaning, form, sound are distributed over various layers. They need to be activated (not accessed). Yet activation takes time and is error prone. Actually one may question the very fact of symbolic representations in our mind.
- We do not have access to all the relevant elements (meaning, form, sound) at the same time or **when needed**, which might hinder unification.

Analogy: while you may see the *eyes*, *ears* and *nose* you don't see the *entire face*.

Access vs. activation

"A potentially counterintuitive idea is that the individual sounds of words are **assembled anew each time** they are spoken rather than **retrieved** as **intact wholes**. Yet, patterns of speech errors and latency data suggest that this is the case. "

Zenzi M. Griffin and Victor S. Ferreira,

Properties of Spoken Language Production, page 35.

In Handbook of Psycholinguistics

Traxler, M. and Gernsbacher, M. A. (Eds.), 2006





Semantic networks

- 1. How did they come about?
 - In the old days
 - Recent past (Quillian, WordNet, JeuxdeMots)

Semantic networks

What **are they for**, or, what **can they be used** for?

- Represent data
- Reveal structure (relations, proximity, relative importance)
- Support conceptual edition
- Support navigation



Learner profiles

Support conceptual encoding

- Sentence level
- Discourse level



Step 3: ...straight into the net.

Conceptual editor for messages at the sentence level

 Zock, M., Sabatier, P. & L. Jakubiec-Jamet. (2008). *Message composition based on concepts and goals*. In A. Neustein (Ed.) 'International Journal of Speech Technology', 11, 3-4, pp. 181-193. Springer Verlag

Mindmaps or Conceptual editor for messages at the discourse level



Despite our impression of language being a waterfall, ideas are, and often ought to be underspecified

Zock, M. (1996). *The power of words in message planning*. In COLING (International conference on computational linguistics). Copenhagen (pp.990–995). <u>http://aclweb.org/anthology/C96-2167</u>



Underspecified input, or,

the progressive synthesis of (what most of us would call) a word



Different access routes

The problem of lexical access

What's the problem?

How to reduce quickly and naturally the search space

- Not too big (don't drown the user; google=overkill)
- Not too small (otherwise you may filter out the target)

Ancilliary goal :

Build a bridge between the input and the desired output (target word), that is, accept as input whatever comes to the user's mind (available information at the onset of search).

Idea to express



Search entire lexicon

i.e. reduce the whole set to 1

Hypothetical alphabetically organized lexicon containing 60.000 words



Possible solution : Access via an association thesurus

	Language	Name	Link
1	English	Edinburgh Association Thesaurus (EAT)	<i>original</i> , but now dead link: http://www.eat.rl.ac.uk/ <i>revived</i> by Guy Lapalme : http://www-labs.iro.umontreal.ca/ ~lapalme/Word-Associations/
2	English	University of South Florida Free Association Norms	http://w3.usf.edu/FreeAssociation/
3	Russian English	Word Associations Network	http://wordassociations.net
4	Dutch + other languages	Dutch Word Association Database	http://www.kuleuven.be/semlab/interface/index.php http://www.smallworldofwords.com/en/ http://www.smallworldofwords.com/new/visualize/
5	German	Noun Associations for German database	http://www.psycholing.es.uni-tuebingen.de/nag/ index.php
6	French	JeuxdeMots	http://www.jeuxdemots.org/diko.php http://www.jeuxdemots.org//AKI.php
7	Japanese	Japanese Word Association Database (JWAD)	http://www.valdes.titech.ac.jp/~terry/jwad.html http://faculty.tama.ac.jp/joyce/jwad.html

Association networks



Possible problems with the Edinburgh Association Thesaurus (E.A.T.)

	DAVISTAN	12014	ELIES	1 0 01
	RUBBER	12 0.14	HIMAI AYAS	1 0 01
Input: India	CHINA	4 0.05	HINDU	1 0.01
	FOREIGN	4 0.05	HUNGER	1 0.01
	CURRY	3 0.04	IMMIGRANTS	1 0.01
	FAMINE	3 0.04	INDIANS	1 0.01
• • •	TEA	3 0.04	JAPAN	1 0.01
Output	COUNTRY	2 0.02	KHAKI	1 0.01
	GHANDI	2 0.02	MAN	1 0.01
	WOGS	2 0.02	MISSIONARY	1 0.01
	AFGHANISTAN	1 0.01	MONSOON	1 0.01
	AFRICA	1 0.01	PATRIARCH	1 0.01
	AIR	1 0.01	PEOPLE	1 0.01
	ASIA	1 0.01	PERSIA	1 0.01
	BLACK	1 0.01	POOR	1 0.01
	BROWN	1 0.01	RIVER	1 0.01
	BUS	1 0.01	SARI	1 0.01
	CLIVE	1 0.01	STAR	1 0.01
	COLONIAL	1 0.01	STARVATION	1 0.01
	COMPANY	1 0.01	STARVE	1 0.01
	COONS	1 0.01	TEN	1 0.01
	COWS	1 0.01	TRIANGLE	1 0.01
	EASTERN	1 0.01	TURBANS	1 0.01
	EMPIRE	1 0.01	TYRE	1 0.01
	FAME	1 0.01	UNDER-DEVELOPED	1 0.01

India being the answer to the following stimuli

SARI	22 0.15	CAST	1 0.01	LOOP	1 0.01
CASTE	17 0.12	CATASTROPHY	1 0.01	MEDITATE	1 0.01
NADIR	11 0.08	CHINA	1 0.01	MILDEW	1 0.01
FAMINE	6 0.04	CLUBS	1 0.01	MISSION	1 0.01
AFRICA	5 0.03	COLONIES	1 0.01	NATIVE	1 0.01
PAKISTANI	4 0.03	COMPANY	1 0.01	PLAGUE	1 0.01
STARVING	4 0.03	CONSUMPTION	1 0.01	POVERTY	1 0.01
BEGGING	3 0.02	CONTINENTS	1 0.01	PRIESTESS	1 0.01
CASTS	3 0.02	COTTON	1 0.01	QUININE	1 0.01
NAPALM	3 0.02	COUNTRY	1 0.01	SAVER	1 0.01
STARVATION	3 0.02	EAST	1 0.01	SECT	1 0.01
CHARISMA	2 0.01	ELEPHANT	1 0.01	SERVANT	1 0.01
CURRY	2 0.01	ELEPHANTS	1 0.01	SETTLEMENT	1 0.01
INCENSE	2 0.01	EMPIRE	1 0.01	SHEEPSKIN	1 0.01
KHAKI	2 0.01	FAMISHED	1 0.01	STARVED	1 0.01
PARIAH	2 0.01	FURTHER	1 0.01	SUFFERING	1 0.01
RICE	2 0.01	GHOUL	1 0.01	THUG	1 0.01
SPICE	2 0.01	HEDONISM	1 0.01	THUGS	1 0.01
STARVE	2 0.01	INCA	1 0.01	TIGER	1 0.01
TURBAN	2 0.01	INDIANS	1 0.01	TOGA	1 0.01
ALE	1 0.01	ISLAM	1 0.01	UNCLEAN	1 0.01
AMERICA	1 0.01	LEPER	1 0.01		
BIZARRE	1 0.01	LIFE-SPAN	1 0.01		

Frequency and/or recency? weights are not everything

Output ranked in terms of **frequency**

PAKISTAN	12 0.14	FLIES	1 0.01
RUBBER	10 0.12	HIMALAYAS	1 0.01
CHINA	4 0.05	HINDU	1 0.01
FOREIGN	4 0.05	HUNGER	1 0.01
CURRY	3 0.04	IMMIGRANTS	1 0.01
FAMINE	3 0.04	INDIANS	1 0.01
TEA	3 0.04	JAPAN	1 0.01
COUNTRY	2 0.02	KHAKI	1 0.01
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AIR	1 0.01	PEOPLE	1 0.01
ASIA	1 0.01	PERSIA	1 0.01
BLACK	1 0.01	POOR	1 0.01
BROWN	1 0.01	RIVER	1 0.01
BUS	1 0.01	SARI	1 0.01
CLIVE	1 0.01	STAR	1 0.01
COLONIAL	1 0.01	STARVATION	1 0.01
COMPANY	1 0.01	STARVE	1 0.01
COONS	1 0.01	TEN	1 0.01
COWS	1 0.01	TRIANGLE	1 0.01
EASTERN	1 0.01	TURBANS	1 0.01
EMPIRE	1 0.01	TYRE	1 0.01
FAME	1 0.01	UNDER-DEVELOPED	1 0.01

Clustering by category

Countries, continents, colors, food, means of transportation, instruments, ...

PAKISTAN	12 0.14	FLIES	1 0.01
RUBBER	10 0.12	HIMALAYAS	1 0.01
CHINA	4 0.05	HINDU	1 0.01
FOREIGN	4 0.05	HUNGER	1 0.01
CURRY	3 0.04	IMMIGRANTS	1 0.01
FAMINE	3 0.04	INDIANS	1 0.01
TEA	3 0.04	JAPAN	1 0.01
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COMPANY	1 0.01	STARVE	1 0.01
COONS	1 0.01	TEN	1 0.01
COWS	1 0.01	TRIANGLE	1 0.01
EASTERN	1 0.01	TURBANS	1 0.01
EMPIRE	1 0.01	TYRE	1 0.01
FAME	1 0.01	UNDER-DEVELOPED	1 0.01

Alternative 'solution'

Roget's Thesaurus

Peter Mark Roget

immediately -AA

VERBS: act, burst, cease, confront, contact, declare, deny, dispose of, draw, embark, follow, hand, inform, issue, leap, notice, notify, obey, order, perceive, precede, produce, provoke, react, recognize, regret, reject, release, replace, reply, resolve, respond, reward, rule, rush, seize, serve, start, stop, strike, surrender, surround, suspend, take effect, transfer, withdraw.

ADJECTIVES: accessible, alert, apparent, appealing, effective, evident, familiar, forthcoming, helpful, impressed, intelligible, noticeable, obvious, payable, recognizable, relevant, responsive, striking, suspicious, visible.

immeasurably -D

VERBS: help, improve, strengthen, suffer.

immensely -D

VERBS: enjoy, relieved.

ADJECTIVES: complex, complicated, damaging, detailed, difficult, encouraging, enthusiastic, exciting, expensive, experienced, fat, flattered, fond, gifted, grateful, helpful, important, impressed, impressive, interesting, likeable, pleased, popular, powerful, profitable, prolific, proud, readable, reassuring, relieved, rewarding, rich, sad, satisfying, strong, sympathetic, talented, valuable, varied, warm, wealthy.

Roget's Thesaurus (RT)

Based on the life long work of Dr. Peter Mark **Roget** (1779-1869), the 1911 edition includes over **29,000** words classified into **1000** semantic categories (ignoring several levels of subcategories).

Roget's thesaurus can be viewed as a bipartite graph, a graph in which there are two kind of nodes, *word nodes* and *semantic category* nodes, with connections allowed only between two nodes of different kinds.

In this graph, a *connection* is made between a word and category node when the word falls into the semantic category.

Top level classes2nd level classes

Structure

of the

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CLASS I.

WORDS EXPRESSING ABSTRACT RELATIONS.

SECTION I. EXISTENCE.

1. BEING, IN THE ABSTRACT.

120.

Reality, actuality, positiveness, absoluteness, fact, matter of fact; see Truth, 494.

Science of existence, Ontology. Existence in space ; see 186.

V. To be, to exist, have being, subsist, live, breathe, stand, ob- vanish, fade, dissolve, melt-away tain, occur.

To consist in, lie in.

To come into existence, 141, to more, to die, 360. arise, come out, come forth, appear, 448.

Adj. Existing, being, subsist- without existence,) &c., negative, ing, in being, in existence, ex- blank.

.

1 EXISTENCE, being, entity, | 2. INEXISTENCE, non-exist subsistence : -- coexistence, see ence, nonentity, no such thing negativeness; vacuity, 4.

Annihilation, abeyance, extinction, see Destruction, 162, and Disappearance, 449.

V. Not to be, not to exist, &c., to have no existence.

To cease to be, pass away perish, disappear, 449, to be annihilated, extinct, &c., to be no

Adj. Inexistent, non-existent, non-existing, (that which does To bring into existence; 161. not exist, has no existence, or is

* The heavy figures indicate the articles to which the figures in the index refer.

Ontology

Problem

You will find the term 'ontology' only iff you know that it is grouped under the label science of being, but you will not find it via 'hierarchy', 'order' or 'classification'.

Other problems

- **1. Metalanguage** : not very intuitive Under what label to find the target word ?
- **2.** Grouping not always very consistent;
- 3. Not corpus based;
- **4**. No provision for accessing terms via **association** :
- elephant-memory;
- monkey-banana;
- dog-bone
- 5. Hierarchy fairly **flat** and the lists very **long** (insufficient clustering)

Possible solution to the word access problem

Use *categories* or *relational* information like the ones found in WordNet or Roget's Thesaurus, but, no doubt, we need many more.



List of directly associated words (internal, intermediate result)

Tree for navigation

Some typical links in WordNet

	Type of relation	Description of the relation	prime-target
1	Hypernym	a more general word	pie-pastry
2	Hyponym	a more specific word	fruit-nut
3a	Meronym_substance	a concept being a substance of another concept	blood-body
3b	Meronym_part_of	a concept being part of another concept	ship-fleet
3c	Meronym_member_of	a concept being a member of another concept	kid-family
4a	Holonym_substance	a concept having another concept as substance	sea-salt
4b	Holonym_part_of	a concept having another concept as part	tree-leave
4c	Holonym_member_of	a concept having another concept as member	team-player
5	Cause to	a verb expressing the cause of a result	kill-die
6	Entailment	a verb expressing an unavoidable result	buy-have

Some other links

	Type of relation	Description of the relation	prime-target
7	Troponym	a specific way to perform an action	drink-sip
8	Part_of_meaning	part of the target word's definition	butter - milk
9	Quality	typical quality, or inherent feature	snow - cold
10	Co-occurrence	two concepts occuring frequently together	blue - sky
11	Topically related	two concepts related by topic	sea - tide
12	Used_for	instrumentally related words	fork - eating
13	Made_of	substance or element used to make <object></object>	glass - sand

Some other links

	Type of relation	Description of the relation	prime-target
14	Free association	any kind of link between two words (often hard to name, i.e. make explicit)	door - open
15 16	Synonym Antonym	word expressing basically the same meaning <i>a word meaning the opposite</i>	cup-mug dry-wet
17	Sound (rhyme)	two similar sounding words	bad - mad/sad
18	Homophones	words sounding alike, but spelled differently	right - write
19	Anagrams	composed of same or similar components	cheater - teacher

Summary and conclusion

Since Semantic networks (SNs) or knowledge graphs come in many forms we could mention here only some of them. Obviously, there are many more.

While these tools have great potential for supporting (not only machines, but also) human users in their quest of processing data (ideas and language), they are not the brain, eventhough they may look like it (or an externalized version of it). If you don't trust me, ask the neuroscientists or take a look at their work.

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Work in the past

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- http://www.wikiwand.com/en/De_Arte_Combinatoria
- http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Alphabet_of_human_thought
- http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Universal_language
- <u>http://www.wikiwand.com/en/</u>
 <u>An_Essay_towards_a_Real_Character_and_a_Philosophical_Language</u>
- http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Thesaurus
- http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Peter_Mark_Roget

More recent work

- http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Mind_map
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Thanks a lot



