Discourse processing of oral history

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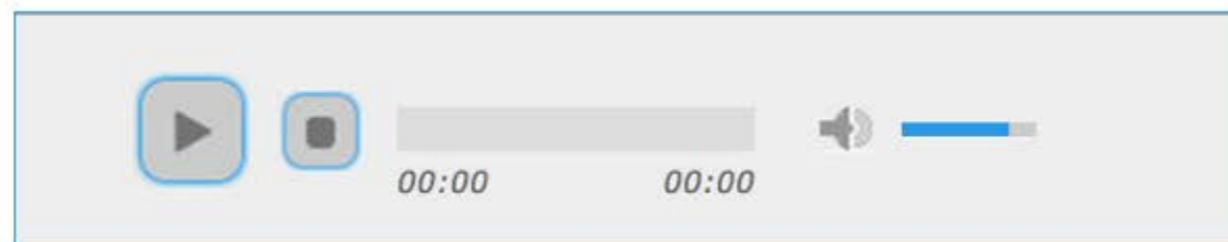
https://aeshin.org/

Contours of the Past

- Project to invent new tools for exploring oral histories using computational discourse processing techniques

- Funded by an Early Career Development grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Discourse Processing

Manfred Stede
University of Potsdam

SYNTHESIS LECTURES ON HUMAN LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES #15

MORGAN & CLAYPOOL PUBLISHERS

"… marking up a text with structural descriptions on several levels …"

Topic-based segmentation

Coreference resolution

▶ ■   00:00   00:00   🔊 ━━

U0017_Audio

Object Description

Interview no.	U-0017
Restrictions	No restrictions. Open to research.
Project	U.2. Long Civil Rights Movement: School Desegregation in Robeson County, N.C.
Date	21 October 2003
Interviewee	Thompson, Angus, 1919?-
Interviewee occupation	Tailors Farmers Construction workers
Interviewee DOB	1919
Interviewee ethnicity	African American/Black
Interviewer	Lowery, Malinda Maynor.
Abstract	Angus Thompson recalls decades of civil rights activism, from pushing school integration to opposing segregated public facilities. Thompson inherited a legacy of activism from his father and became a forceful leader in the African American community in Lumberton, N.C., forging voting alliances with local Indians and opposing other black politicians'; accommodationist impulses. Thompson's story is one of undiluted support for integration, which he sees as the cornerstone of racial progress in the second half of the twentieth century. This interview will prove useful for researchers looking for on-the-ground narratives of civil rights activism and an impassioned defense of the progress of the past fifty years.

Transcripts are great, but…

- Names mentioned only in passing

- Misspeaking

- Oblique references

- Transcription errors

- Replaces listening with reading

Finer-grained access

- segments 5–15 minutes in length, with boundaries at "a natural ending of a topic, a break before a new question, or other natural pause in the flow of speech."

- "unify the scale of the navigable unit"

Lambert & Frisch, "Meaningful access to audio and video passages," http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/?p=1817

Manual segmentation

"Oral Histories
of the American South"

About this Interview | Close: Selected Segments | Alternative Formats | Help

Selected segments, with brief description, notes and descriptive classification: 11 ❓

- [00:10:48 - 00:21:33] NAACP campaigns for desegregation
- [00:21:34 - 00:33:30] Struggling to find successful desegregation plan
- [00:33:31 - 00:39:09] Blacks and Native Americans form political alliance
- [00:39:10 - 00:42:24] Desegregation creates white need for black political support
- [00:42:25 - 00:56:15] Blacks sue to enforce integration order
- [00:56:16 - 01:03:52] African American man describes legal struggle to enforce integration
- [01:03:53 - 01:09:17] Fighting against accomodation in black community
- [01:09:18 - 01:12:46] Black reluctance to resist white hegemony
- [01:12:47 - 01:16:56] Desegregation creates opportunities for African Americans
- [01:16:57 - 01:20:59] School mergers improve resources
- [01:21:00 - 01:32:37] Threat of violence hangs over black activists

Getting more judgments

CHARLES THOMPSON: Well, let's talk about the flood itself.

BILLY RAY HALL: Sure.

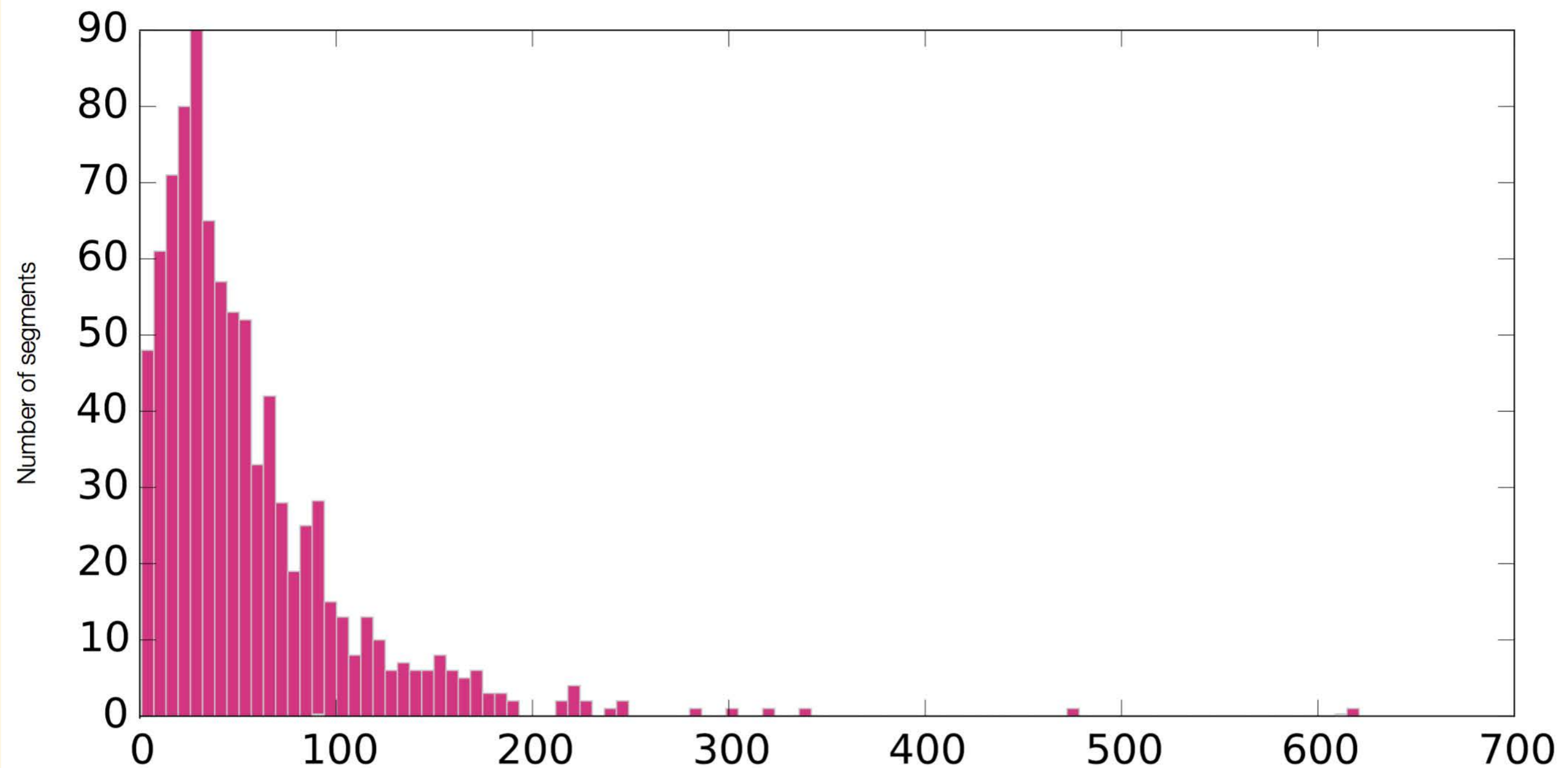CHARLES THOMPSON: What are the effects of the flood as you describe them?

BILLY RAY HALL: I think anytime you start talking about numbers they are only understandable when you put them in relation to something. For example, if you say you had a hundred dollars worth of damage if you're in a developing nation where you house costs 150 dollars and is made out of natural materials, it's a lot different than in America when you have a hundred dollars worth of damage. So the first thing to do is let's put perspective. This was a six billion dollar disaster in North Carolina. The entire agriculture output for the state of North Carolina last year was seven billion dollars. So six billion dollars is huge relative to this state's economy, relative to our resource base. And that is big by any stretch of the imagination—600,000 hogs died in this flood, 2.4 million chickens and 7,000 are totally destroyed. So you get really huge numbers to go along with the fifty-one people, the, normally, and it... you start to get a feel for the size. The second thing to look at is in the agricultural community—we lost 190 million dollars of cotton in the fields that were flooded. In addition, we lost over 300 million dollars of other crops in the field for a total of 538 million dollars worth of crops that were washed away
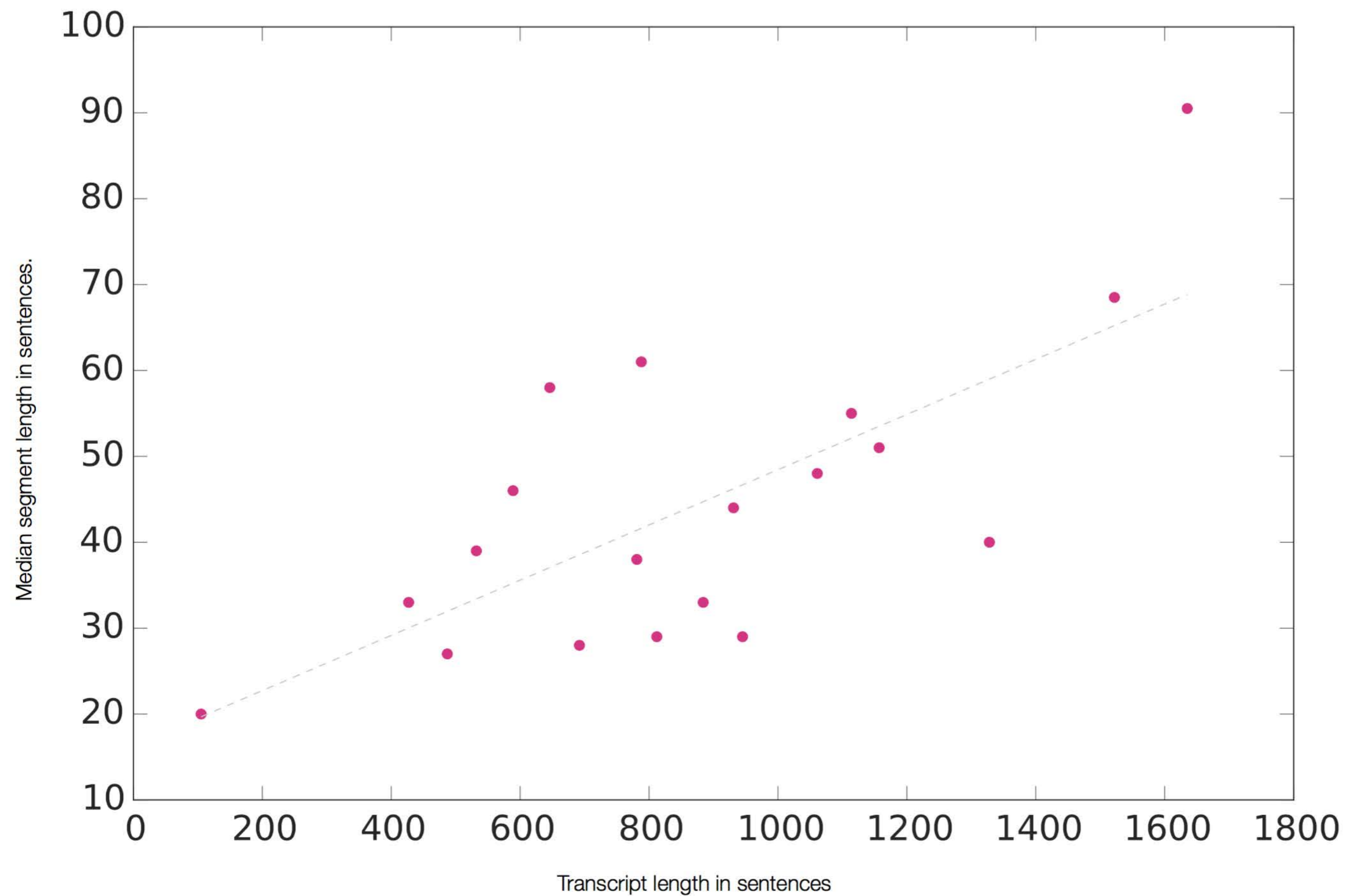
break indicator

segment extent indicator
(red means selected as excerpt)

Manual segment lengths

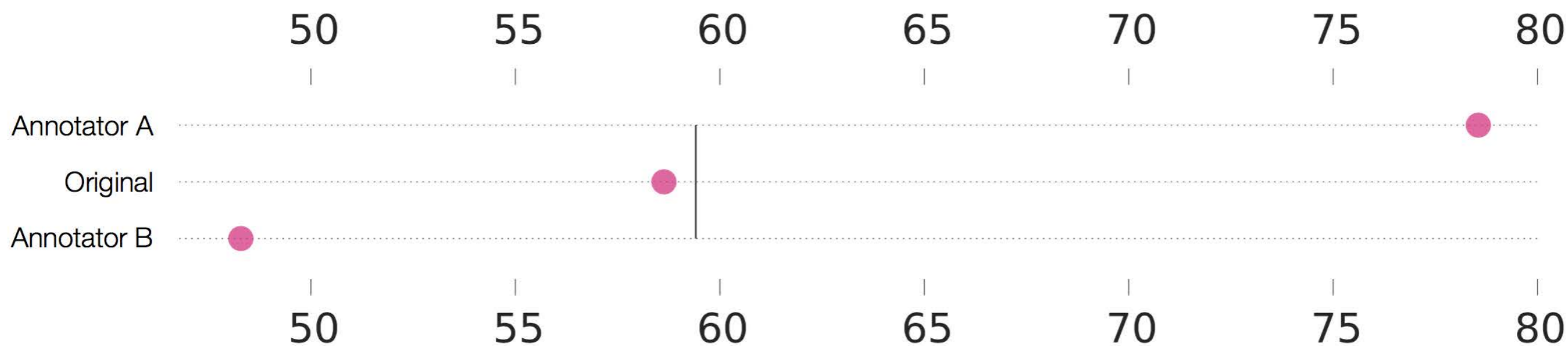# Different segmentation granularities
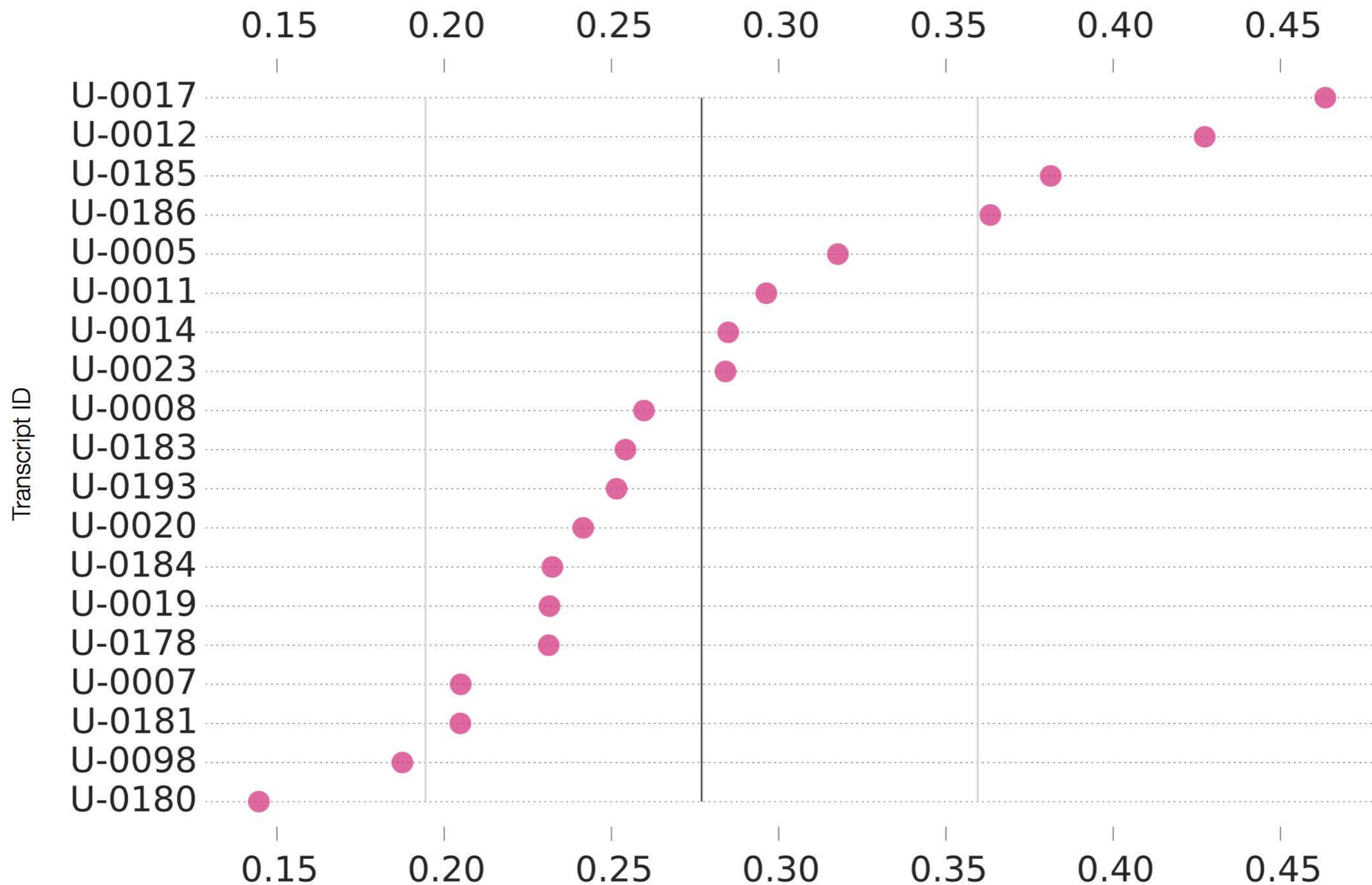

Fig 6. Possible boundaries per boundary placed

Fig. 5. Mean boundary edit distance between annotators' segmentations, by transcript.

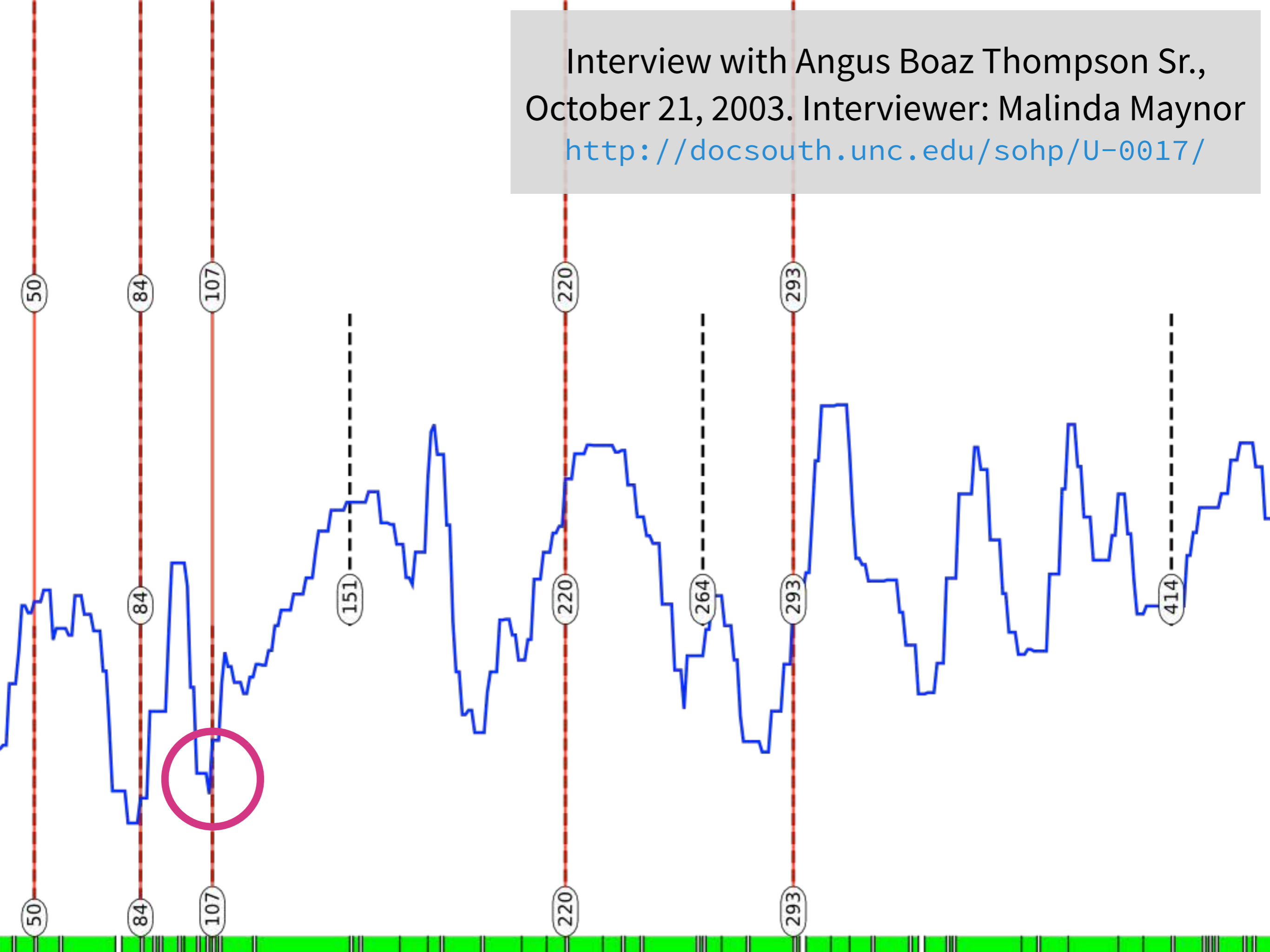# Automatic segmentation

Automatic segmentation

- Considerable work on topically segmenting texts

- Transcripts of broadcast news, lectures, and meetings

- MALACH project (Franz et al. 2003) used supervised learning to segment Shoah interviews

Franz et al., "Automated transcription and topic segmentation of large spoken archives"

Unsupervised segmentation

- Assumption: greater similarity in the language within topically coherent segments than across such segments

- How to define language similarity?

- How to postulate boundaries?

Interview with Angus Boaz Thompson Sr.,
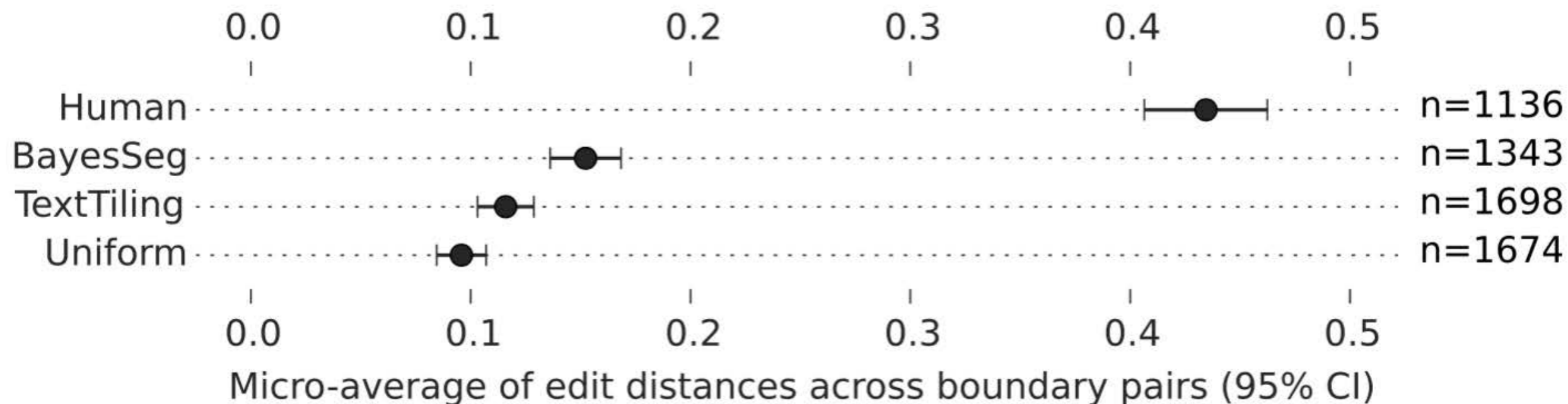October 21, 2003. Interviewer: Malinda Maynor
http://docsouth.unc.edu/sohp/U-0017/

Automatic segmentation 👎

Fig. 2: All differences are significant except between TextTiling and Uniform.

Coreference resolution

MALINDA MAYNOR:

Now go ahead for us. Julius Chambers.

ANGUS BOAZ THOMPSON SR.:

Julius had just sued UNC so he could go to school there. So I contacted Julius, and he agreed to come and look our situation over and help us. So we were meeting at McMillan Funeral Home. He came down twice to talk to us and look the situation over. The second time he left and went back he called me. He said, "Angus I've been in communication with your black city councilman. I've been in communication with your school board superintendent, Dr. Carroll."

MALINDA MAYNOR:

Is it Gale, G-A-L-E?

ANGUS BOAZ THOMPSON SR.:

Carroll, C-A-R-R-O-L-L.

MALINDA MAYNOR:

I'm sorry, okay.

ANGUS BOAZ THOMPSON SR.:

He said, "Neither one of them want to compromise. In fact, the superintendent told me that he wasn't interested in meeting with our group over there. Nothing he can do for them." He said, "The city councilman said there were two different bodies. The school board was independent. The city council was independent of the school board." He said, "Well, they ought to know that I know better than that. All city councils work together with the school board on certain issues." He said, "In the first place the school board didn't zigzag that line out there like it did to build that school." He said, "The city council had to put it out there. They did it for the school board." He said, "That councilman insulted my intelligence." He said, "He really made me hot, so I'm going to tell you what you do." He said, "You get your group together down there." He said, "When they did that they broke a statute of the state of North Carolina." He told me what that statute was. At that time if you extend the city limit you had to take into consideration all the [unclear] of the residents, and they did not, not one. He said, "We've got to put heat to the seat, sue the school board and the city council." So he came down the third time. He said, "Be ready to show me what you want in the school district." That's the way he was going to approach it and soon.

So he came down the third time. When he was getting ready to go, as I've said we always met at McMillan Funeral Home, our black city councilman was in the rear. I didn't know he was in there, but when he heard Chambers make his plan of what he was going to do, he immediately jumped up and said, "No, don't sue. We can help you. I can help you."

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1116
1117    "Jack Shaws , who was my chief investigator"
1118    Jack Shaws [PERSON]
1119    238: [Jack Shaws] I had Jack Shaws , who was my chief investigator .
1120    238: [Jack Shaws , who was my chief investigator] I had Jack Shaws , who was my chief investigator .
1121    239: [He] He had retired as the chief of detectives , assistant chief of police for the Montgomery Police Department .
1122    240: [a young detective] When he was a young detective he had solved the bombings in Montgomery of Dr. King 's house and his church , and
1123    240: [he] When he was a young detective he had solved the bombings in Montgomery of Dr. King 's house and his church , and made arrests ,
1124    240: [his] When he was a young detective he had solved the bombings in Montgomery of Dr. King 's house and his church , and made arrests
1125    241: [Jack] Jack had brought with him to our office one of his other retired detectives that we 'd hired named Tom Ward who was a terrifi
1126    241: [him] Jack had brought with him to our office one of his other retired detectives that we 'd hired named Tom Ward who was a terrific
1127    276: [Jack Nelson] I was in Washington , and I had a good friend that was the LA Times bureau chief named Jack Nelson .
1128    277: [Jack] Jack originally was from Alabama .
1129    278: [Jack] When I would go to Washington I would try to get with Jack , and we 'd go out to dinner or something .
1130    279: [his] I 'd go over to his house .
1131    280: [He] He had been active in covering some of the civil rights bombings in Mississippi on behalf of the Times , LA Times .
1132    281: [he] So we went out one night , and he wanted to know if I was still working on the bombing case , and I said , `` Yeah . ''
1133    282: [him] I said , `` I think we 've reached an impasse , '' and I told him about the trouble .
1134    283: [He] He knew I 'd been working on it for years .
1135    284: [him] I told him about the problem that we had , if we could n't get the cooperation of the FBI that I did n't think we were going t
1136    285: [He] He said , `` I think I can help you if you want me to . ''
1137    286: [He] He said , `` If you do n't think it 's meddling , I 'll do what I can to help you .
1138    302: [Nelson] It was either Levi or Saxby , one or the other , but Nelson knew them from his work .
1139    302: [his] It was either Levi or Saxby , one or the other , but Nelson knew them from his work .
1140    304: [Nelson] Nelson goes up there to the Attorney General 's office and bypasses the FBI .
1141    305: [He] He says he 's working on a big story , and it 's not going to be just a story it 's going to be a whole series of stuff , and t
1142    305: [he] He says he 's working on a big story , and it 's not going to be just a story it 's going to be a whole series of stuff , and t
1143    310: [Nelson] About I think it would have been two weeks , they called Nelson back .
1144    315: [Nelson] I think I was with Nelson .
1145    335: [Jack Nelson] So I 'll always be grateful and indebted to Bob Eddy and Jack Nelson both .
1146    451: [Jack Shaws] They had more evidence than what I had to convict Chambliss , but , and this is a big but -- I mentioned early on when
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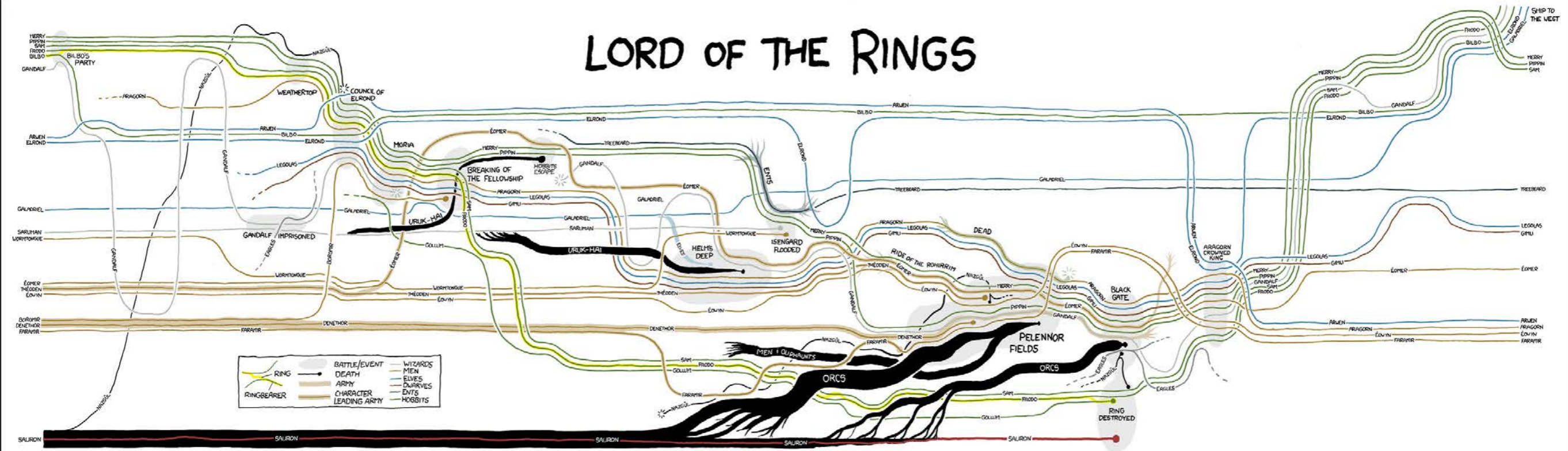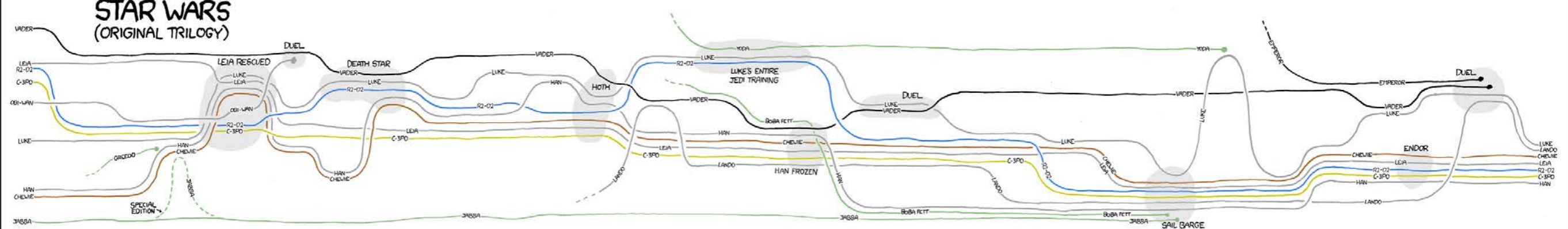
http://stanfordnlp.github.io/CoreNLP/

Entity Flow

Legend:
- Baxley, Bill, 22 May 2003
- Hanes, Arthur, Jr., 27 May 2003

Nodes (left to right):

Friction with the FBI over access to their investigation files
- Ku Klux Klan
- Bob Eddy
- Thomas Blanton, Jr.
- Bobby Cherry
- Robert Chambliss
- FBI
- J. Edgar Hoover

Beginning of 16th Street Baptist Church bombing investigation; early focus on Stoner
- Ku Klux Klan
- J. B. Stoner
- Jack Shaws

Decision to indict Chambliss; indictment of Stoner; indictment of Blanton and Cherry
- J. B. Stoner
- Robert Chambliss

Witnesses at the Chambliss trial
- Bob Eddy
- Tee Chambliss
- Robert Chambliss
- Jack Shaws
- FBI
- Elizabeth Cobbs

Growing up in Alabama; early observations of racism; starting to practice law

Breaking the color line by hiring black attorneys

(Lack of) cooperation with the FBI

Mouseover entities for details.

Open ⬈

This is a d3 layout for visualizing patterns of entity participation in some sequence. It is inspired by xkcd's movie narrative charts as well as subsequent efforts to automatically generate such charts, notably Tanahashi & Ma 2012 and Liu et al. 2013. The algorithm implemented here is not nearly as sophisticated or capable as those. It is based heavily on Mike Bostock's Sankey plugin.
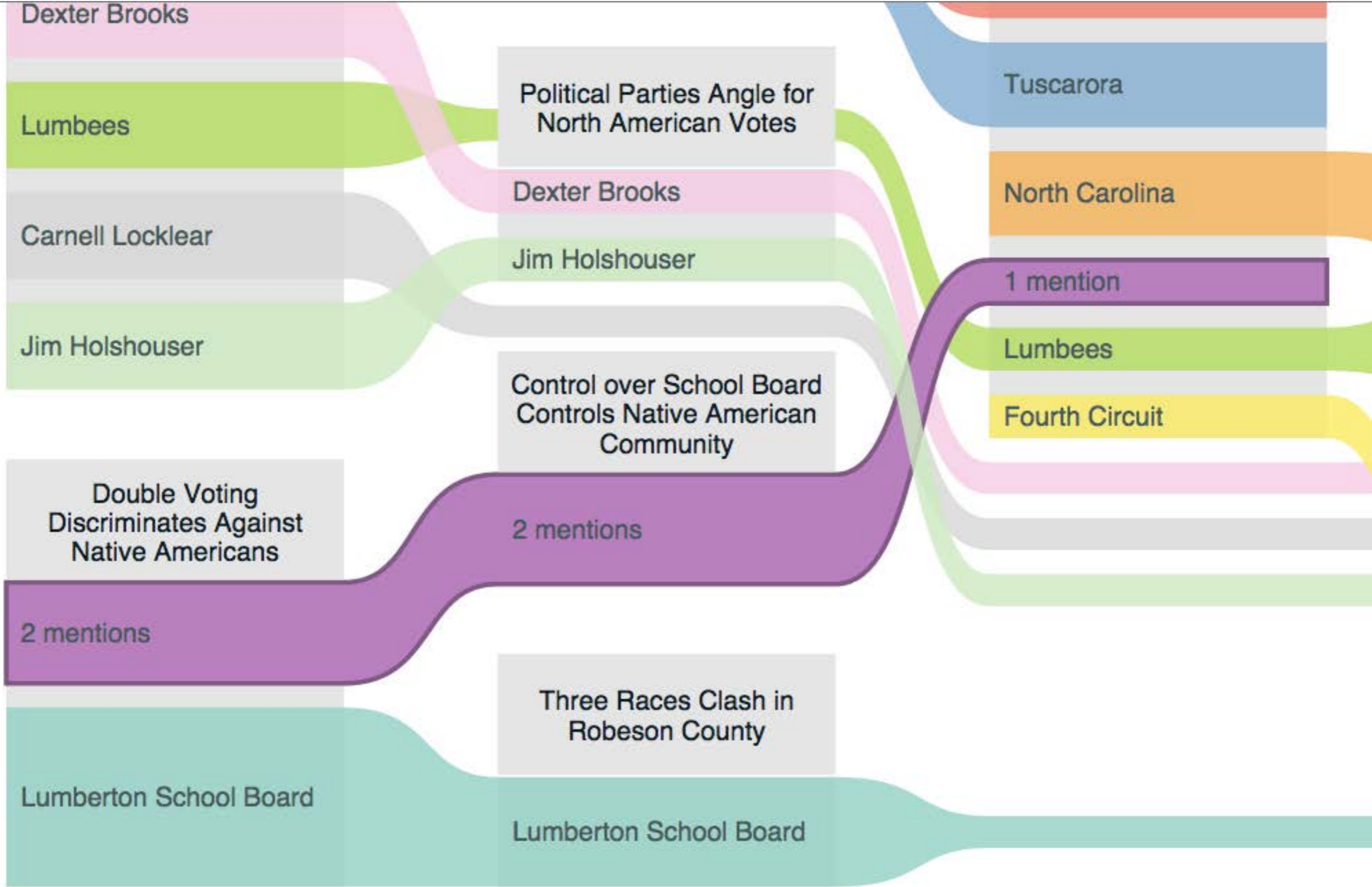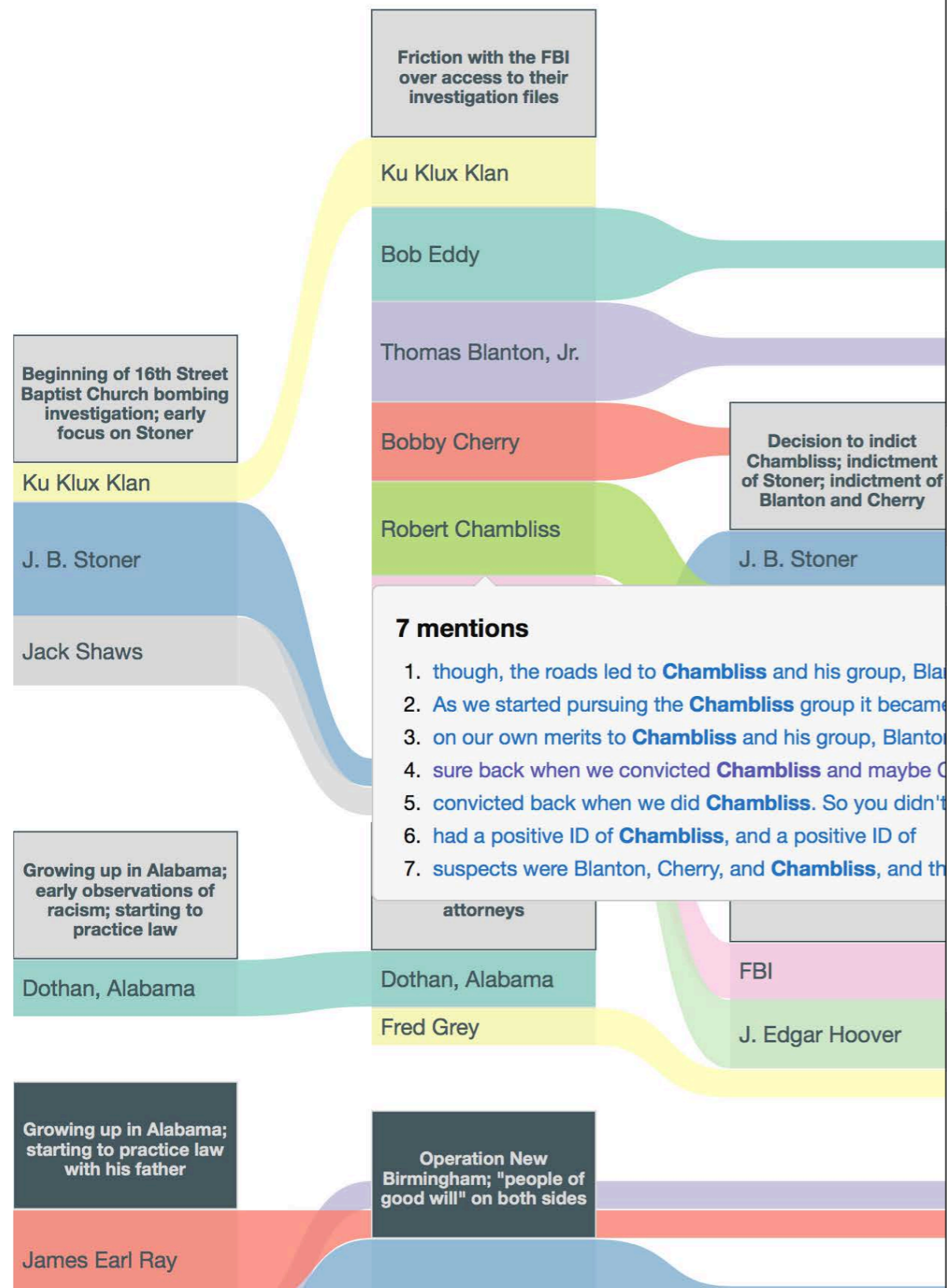
23

Tuscaroras Fight to Preserve Old Main

Developing Interest in Civil Rights

Lumbee Leaders Use Legal Services to Help Community

Janie Maynor Locklear

Victory over Double Voting ... Tensions Between Native Americans

UNC law school

Washington DC

Bruce Barton

Tuscarora

Dexter Brooks

Political Parties Angle for North American Votes

Tuscaroras Split from Lumbees

Lumbees

North Carolina

Carnell Locklear

Jim Holshouser

Control over School Board Controls Native American Community

Fourth Circuit

Influence of Poverty on Radicalism

Double Voting Discriminates Against Native Americans

Legal Victory Starts Process of Change

Robeson County Board of Education

Three Races Clash in Robeson County

Lumberton School Board

entity

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Access via visualization

Thanks!

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https://aeshin.org/