

MOLIERE

Automatic Biomedical Hypothesis Generation System

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UNDISCOVERED PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

- Proposed by Swanson in 1986
- The set of public knowledge is too large
- Contains implicit connections

HUMAN LIMITS

- No person can read everything
 - 2,000 – 4,000 new papers *daily*
- People Specialize
 - Limits knowledge sharing across disciplines
- Bias and Inconsistent Assumptions

WHAT IS A HYPOTHESIS?

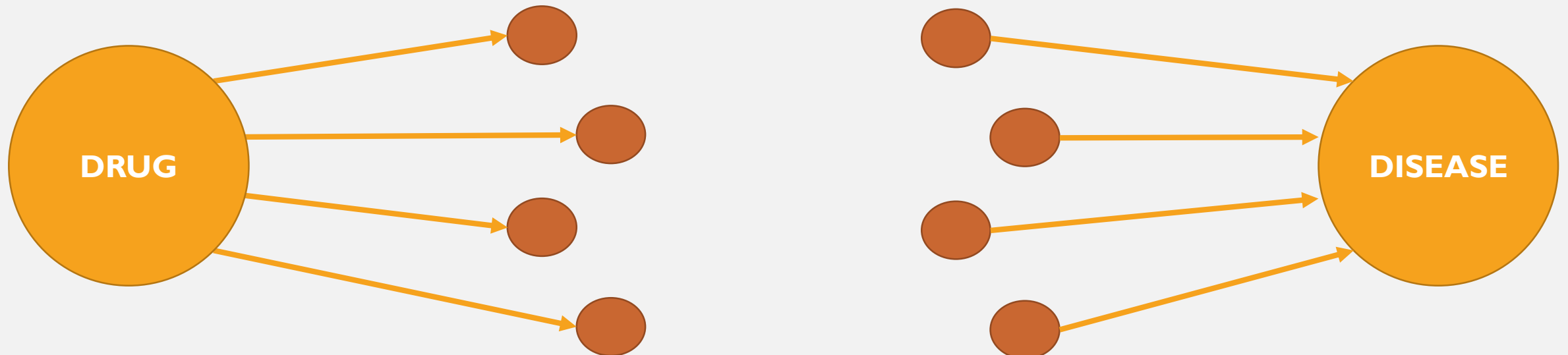


- An idea or explanation for something that is based on known facts but has not yet been proven
 - (Definition of “hypothesis” from the Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary © Cambridge University Press)

AUTOMATIC HYPOTHESIS GENERATION

Network of Medical Objects

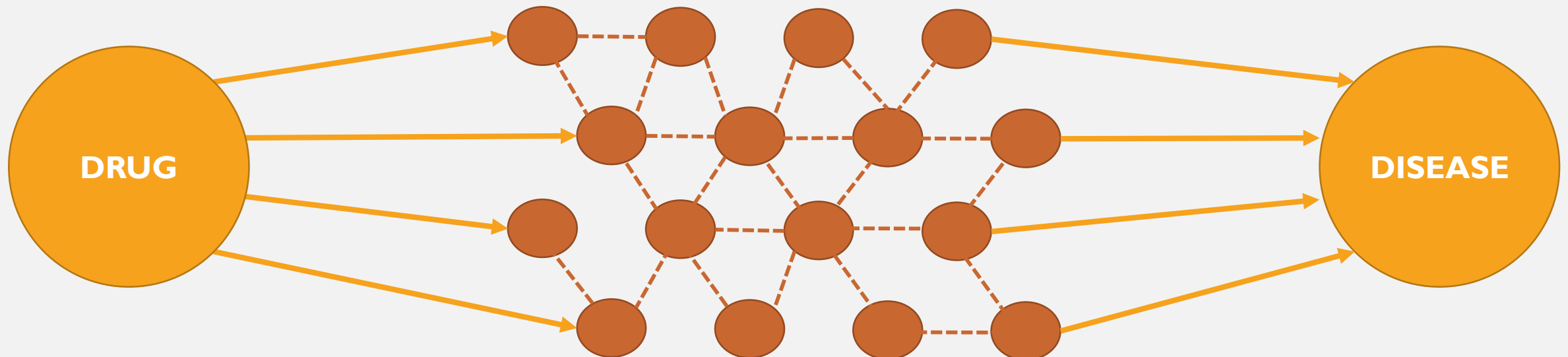
Connections Not Well Studied



AUTOMATIC HYPOTHESIS GENERATION

Network of Medical Objects

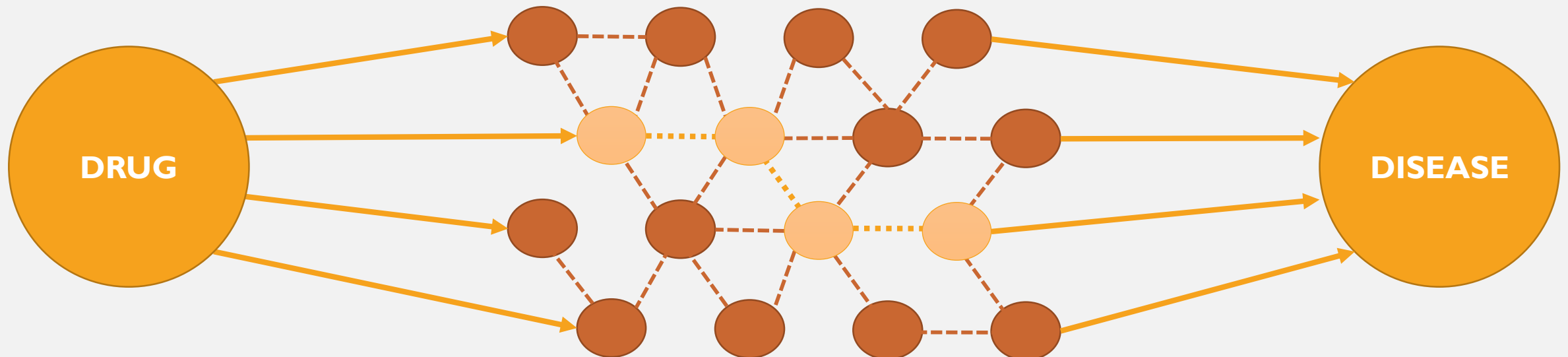
Connections Not Well Studied



AUTOMATIC HYPOTHESIS GENERATION

Network of Medical Objects

Connections Not Well Studied



RELATED APPROACHES

Methodology	Highlights
ARROWSMITH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One of the first hypothesis generation systems.• Found link between Fish Oil and Raynaud's Disease.
DiseaseConnect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finds connections between genes and diseases.• Displays information in an interactive prompt.
BioLDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constructs high quality topic models aided by domain-specific information.• Identified link between Venlafaxine and HTR1A.

RELATED APPROACHES

Methodology	Limitation	Reference
ARROWSMITH	Limited Document Set	Neil R Smalheiser and Don R Swanson. 1998.
DiseaseConnect	Limited Document Set	Chun-Chi Liu et al. 2014.
BioLDA	Limited Vocabulary	Huijun Wang et al. 2011.

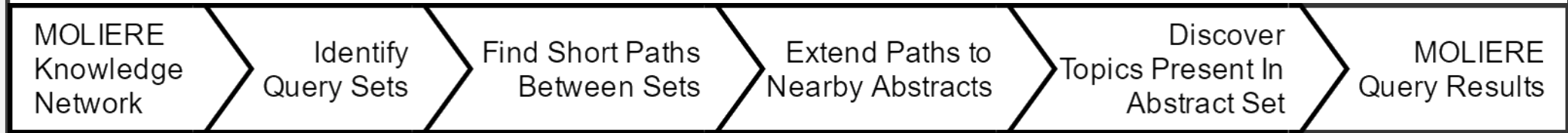
NEW APPROACH

- Construct a large network
- Identify meaningful paths
- Extend paths to neighboring nodes
- Mine neighborhoods for important topics

NETWORK CONSTRUCTION



QUERY PROCESS

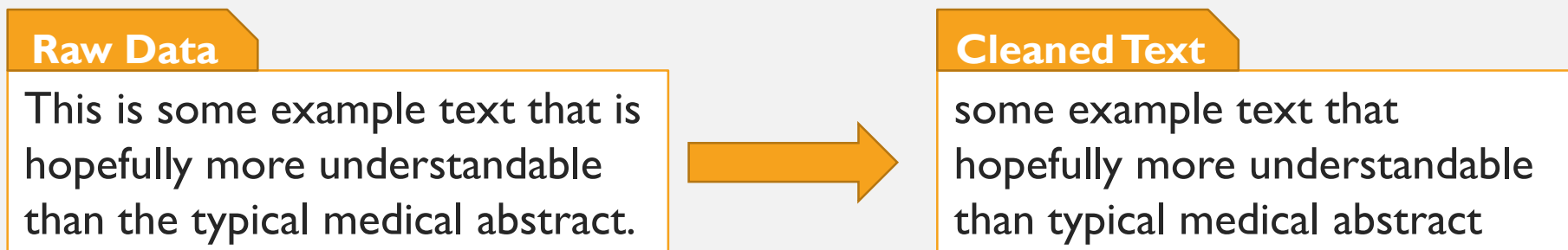




- National Library of Medicine (NLM)
- National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)
- MEDLINE
 - 25 Million Documents
 - Titles and Abstracts

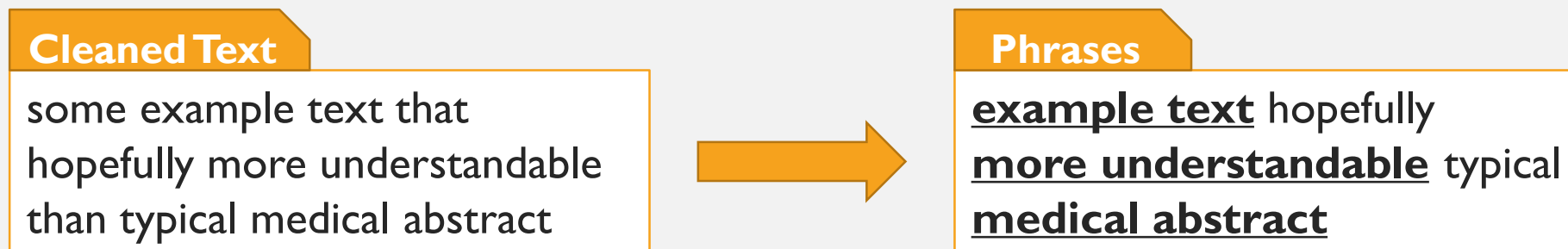


- SPECIALIST NLP TOOLSET
- Natural Language ToolKit (NLTK)





- Topical Pattern Mining
 - Groups together common phrases
 - Creates 2,3,...,n-grams

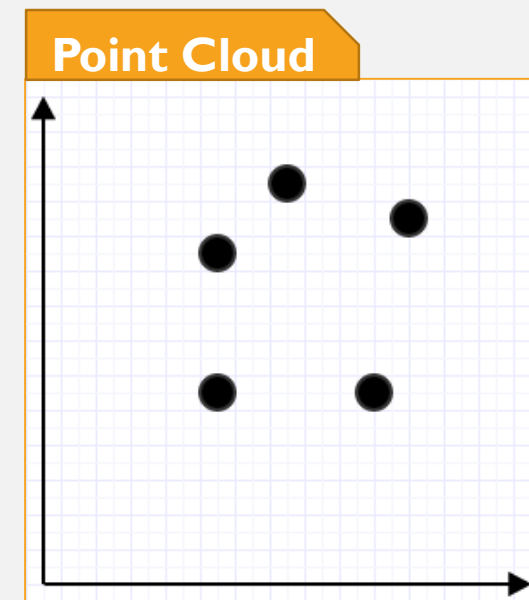




- FastText: Projects phrases into real valued vector space
- Long word embedding composed from subwords

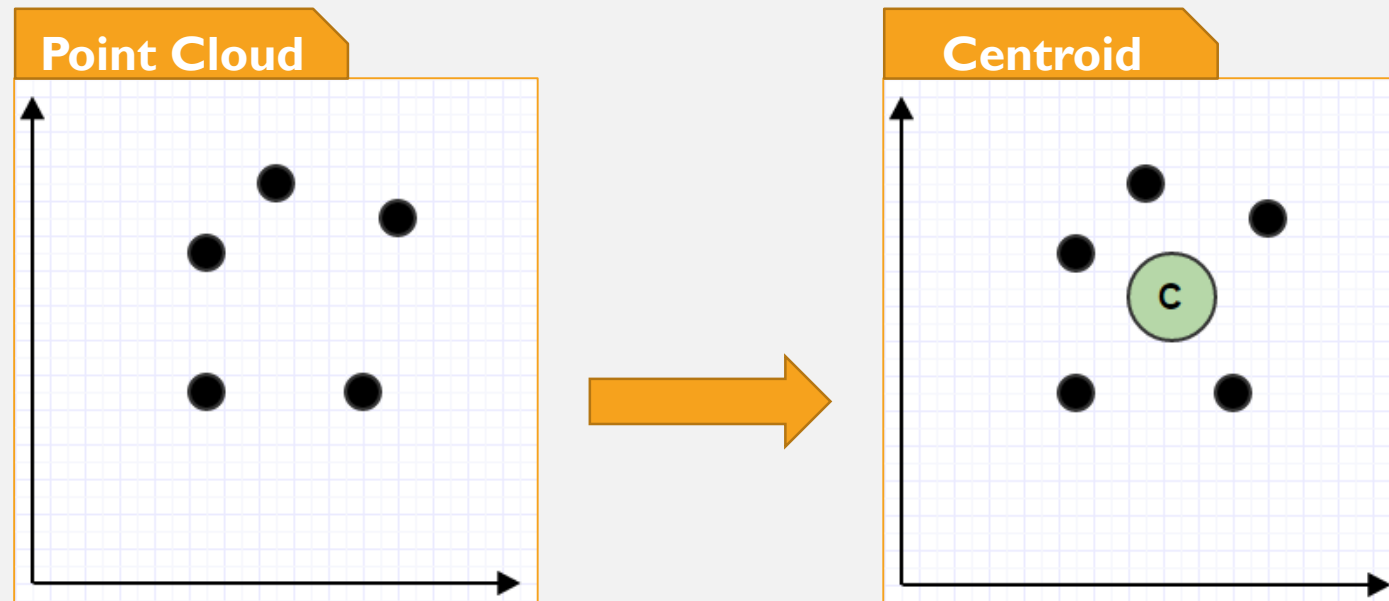
Phrases

example text hopefully
more understandable typical
medical abstract





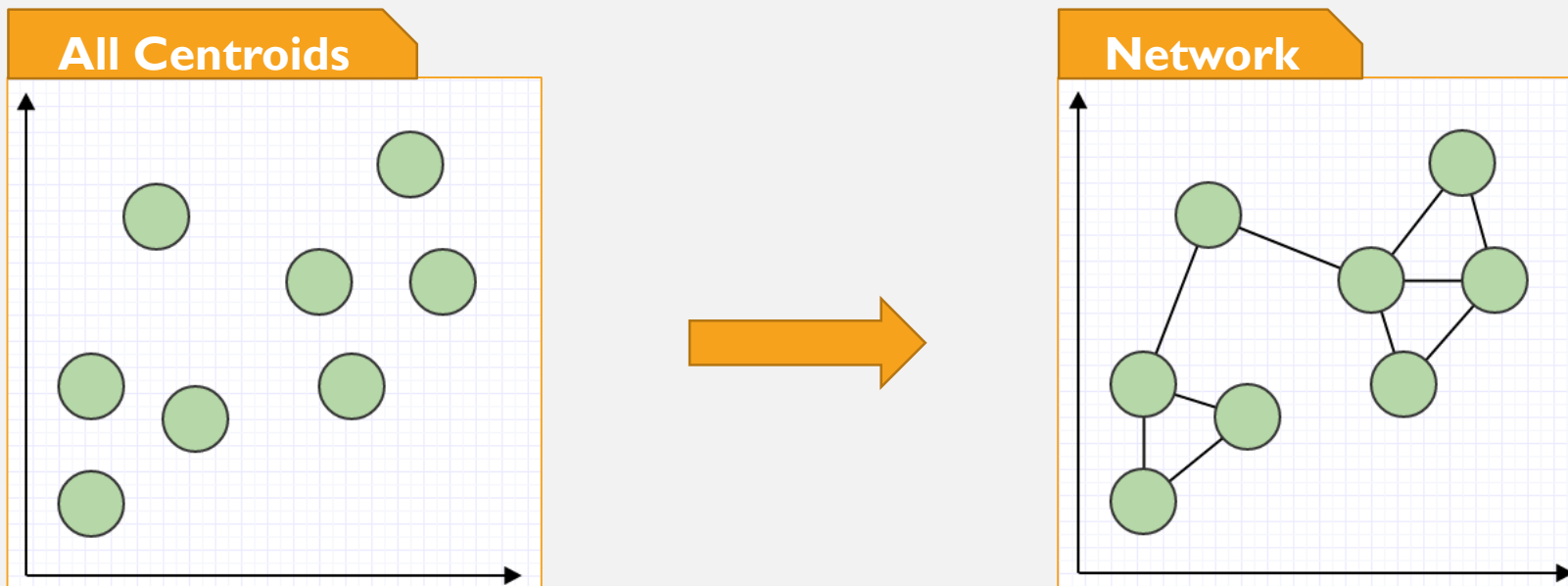
- Embed documents by averaging over point clouds



NETWORK CONSTRUCTION



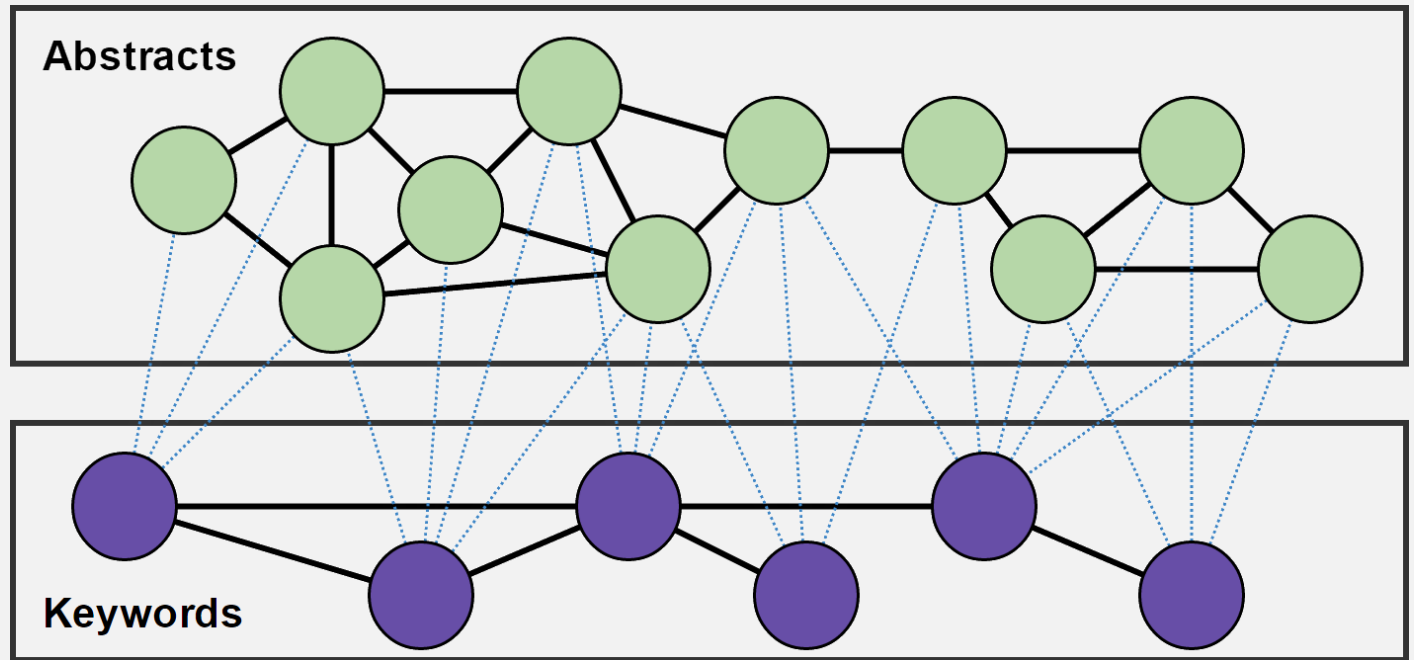
- Construct KNN
 - Fast Library for Approximate Nearest Neighbors



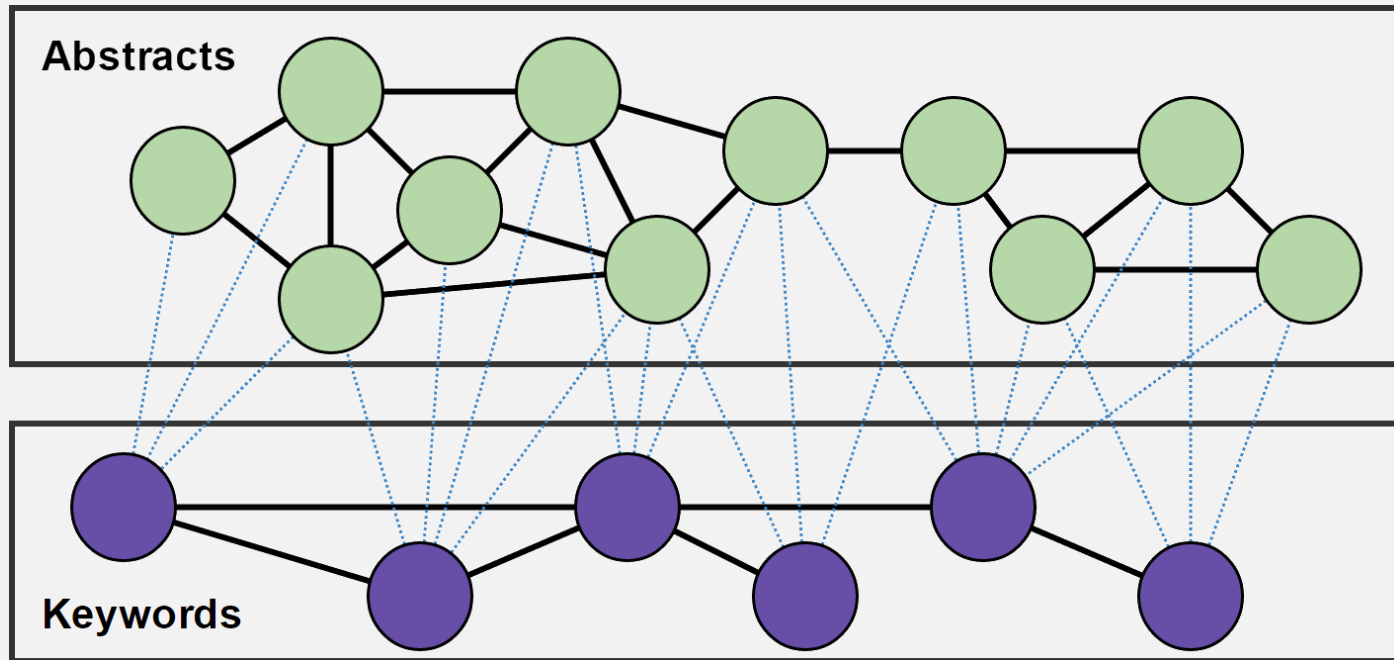
NETWORK CONSTRUCTION



- UMLS Metathesaurus
 - Curated keyword network
 - 2 Million Nodes
 - Superset of MESH



NETWORK CONSTRUCTION

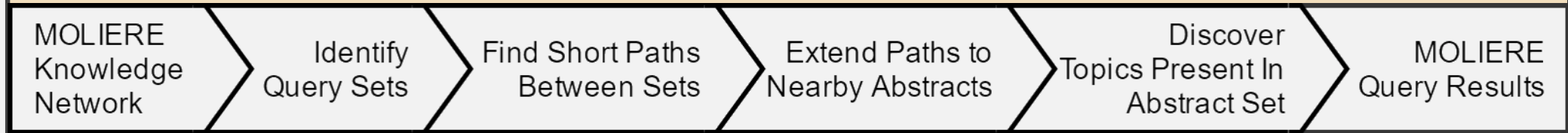


- Edge weight \sim Distance
- Inv. TF-IDF cross-layer edges
- Edges normalized [0,1]

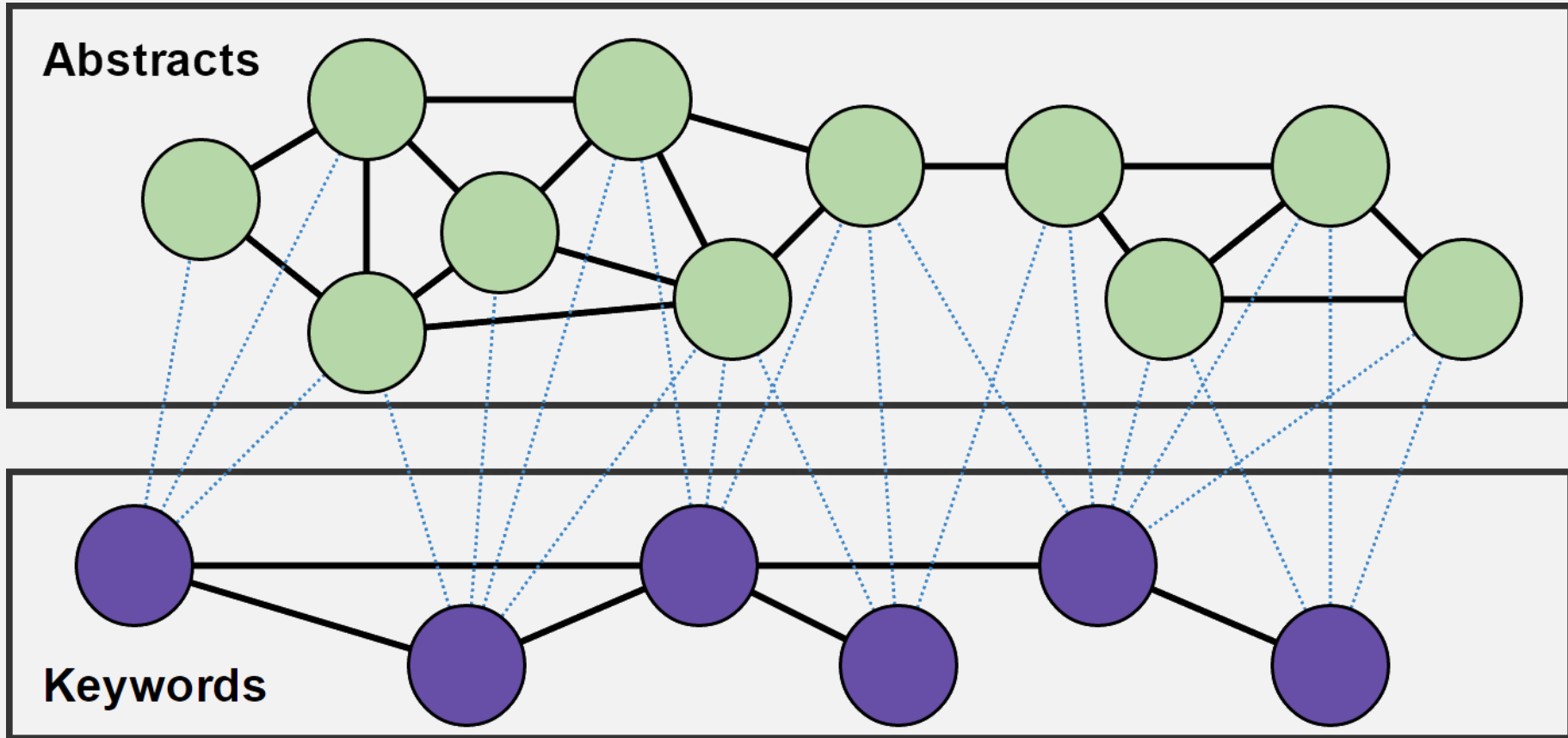
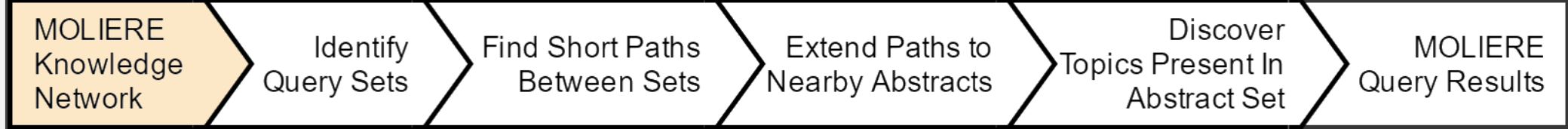
NETWORK CONSTRUCTION



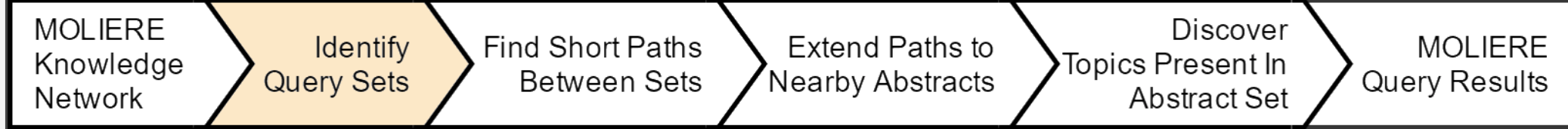
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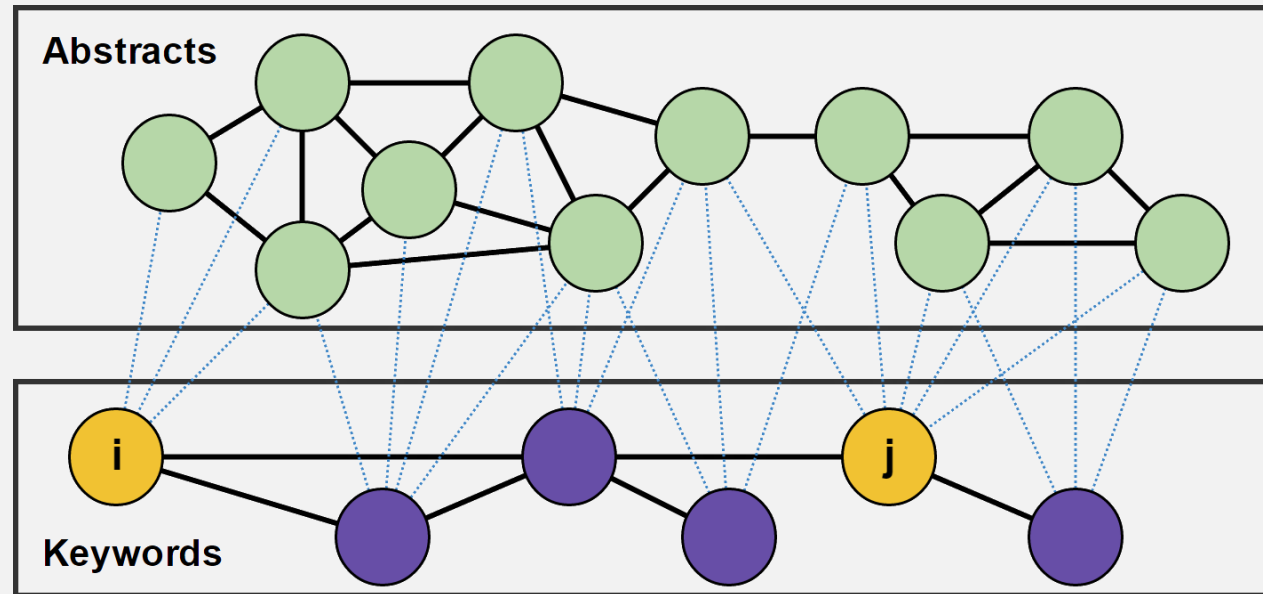
QUERY PROCESS

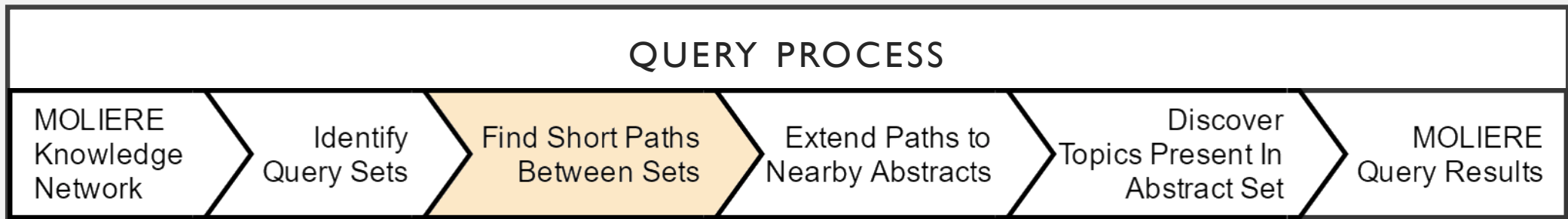


QUERY PROCESS

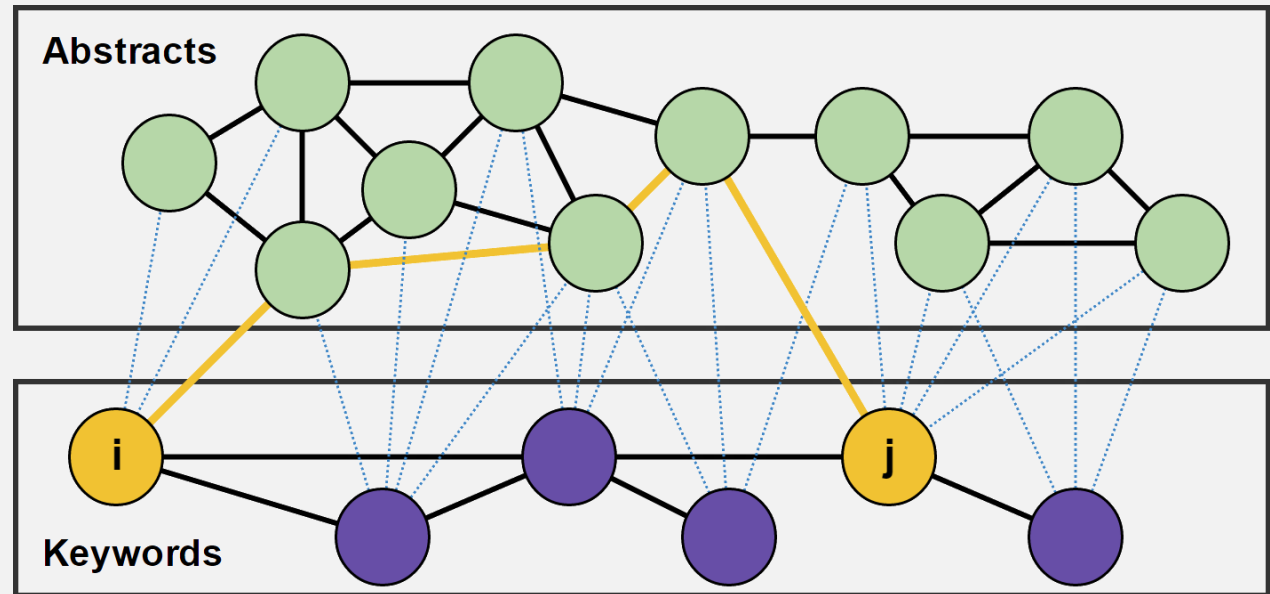


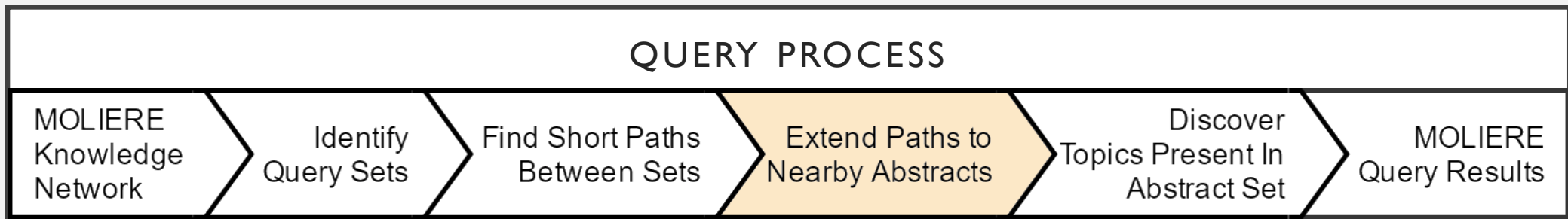
- User selects two nodes
 - Restrained to keywords
- Can generalize to two sets



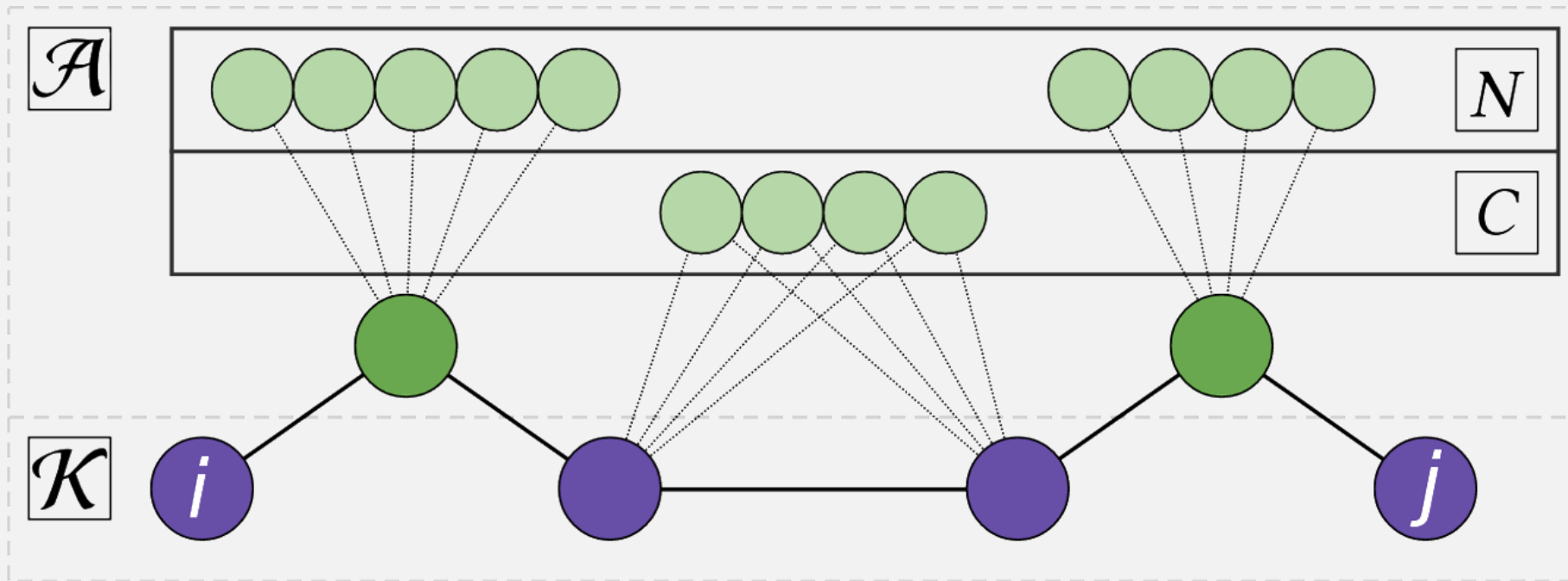


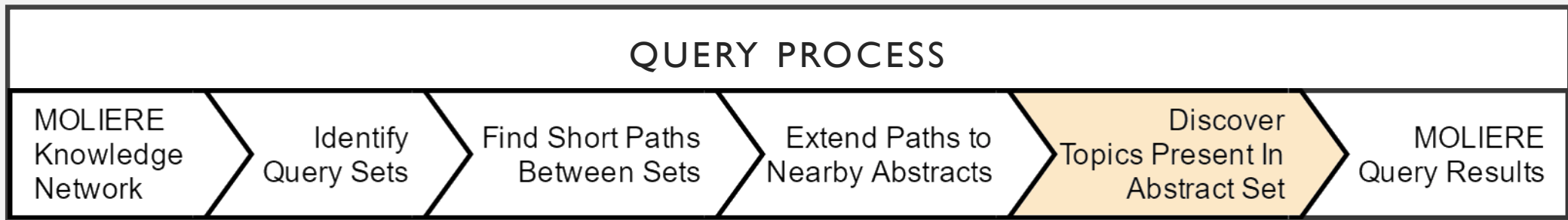
- Identify shortest path between query sets



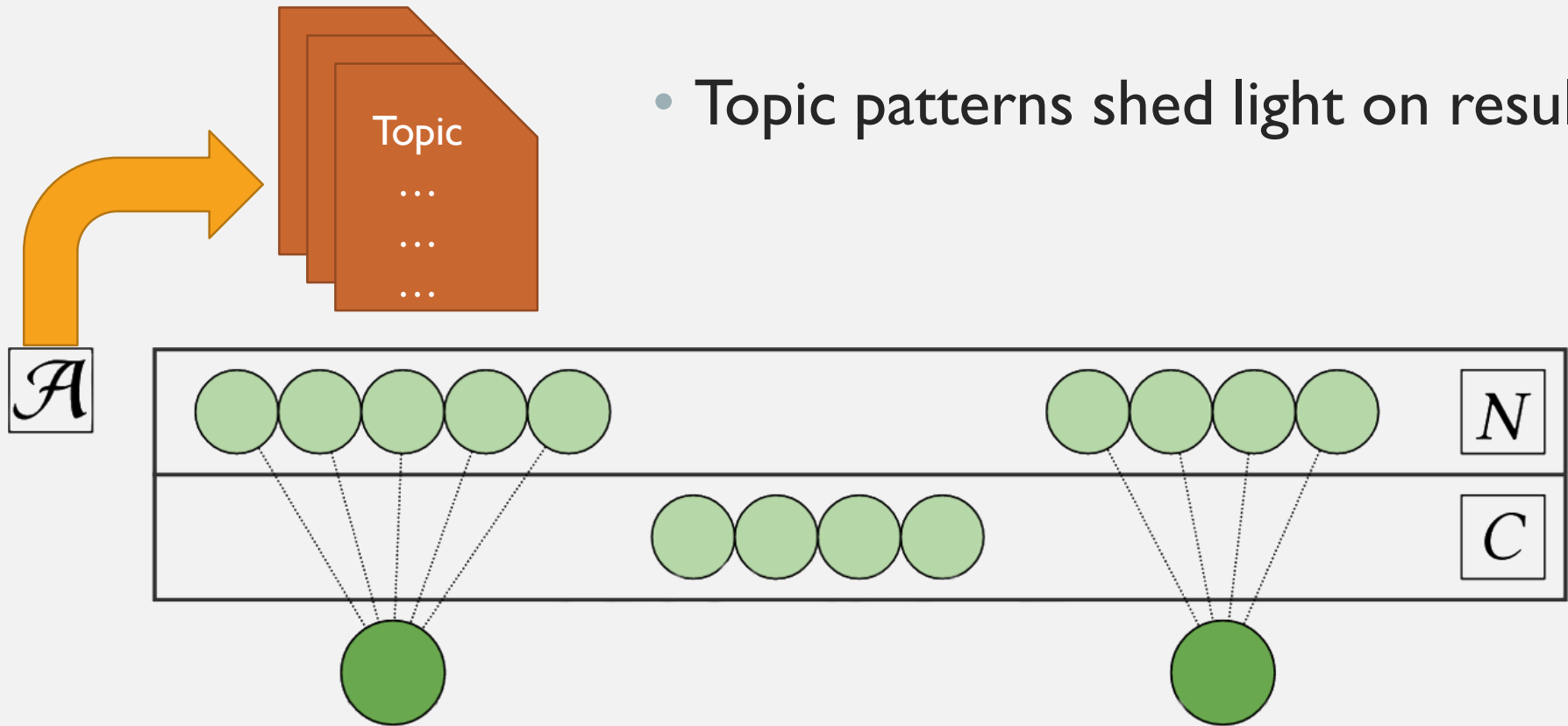


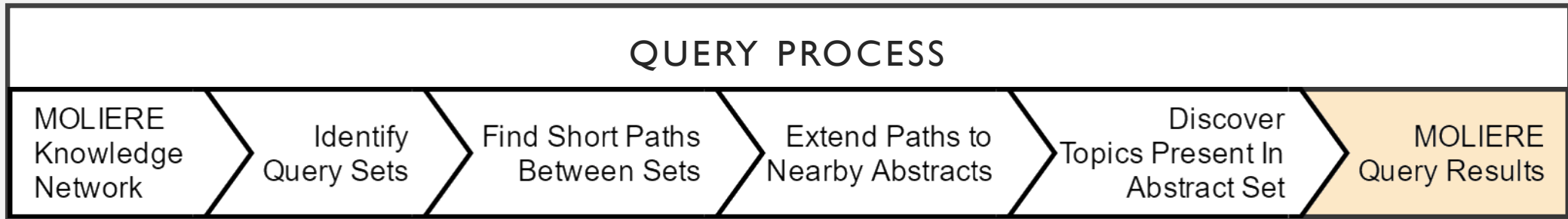
- N : Abstracts close to those in original path
- C : Abstracts which share path-adjacent keywords



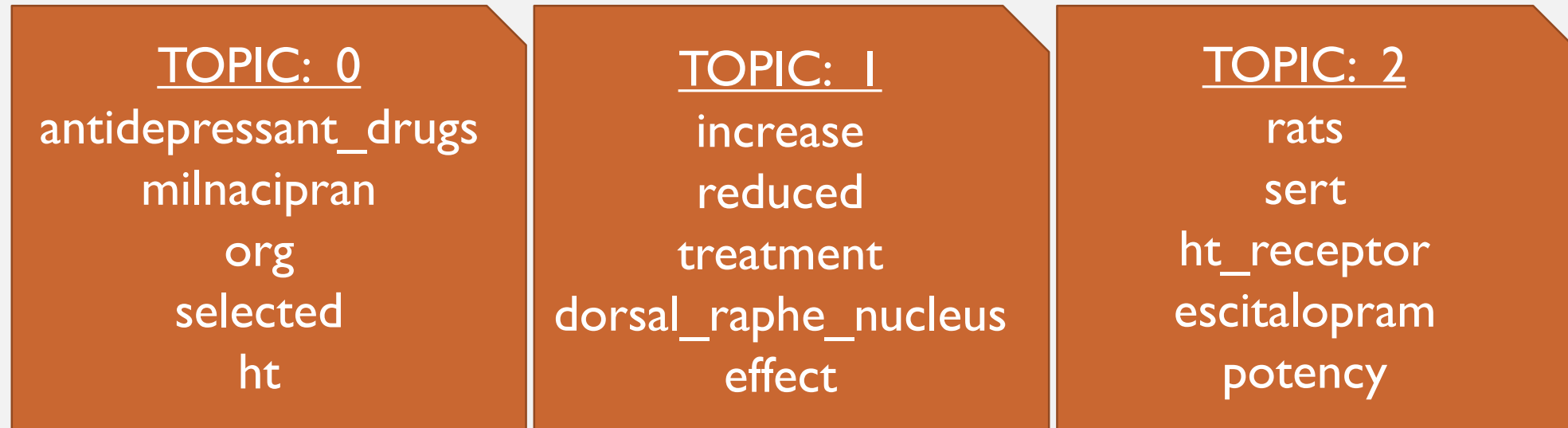


- PLDA+: Identifies topics present in a set of text.





- Hypothesis represented as a topic model
- Shown: Venlafaxine vs. HTRIA



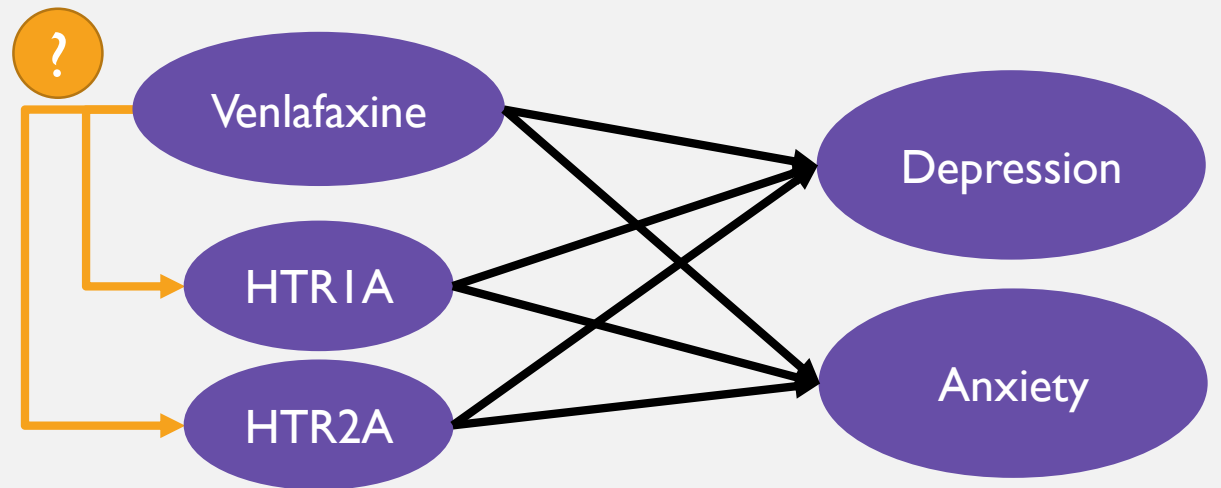
RESULTS

VENLAFAXINE

DRUG
REPURPOSING

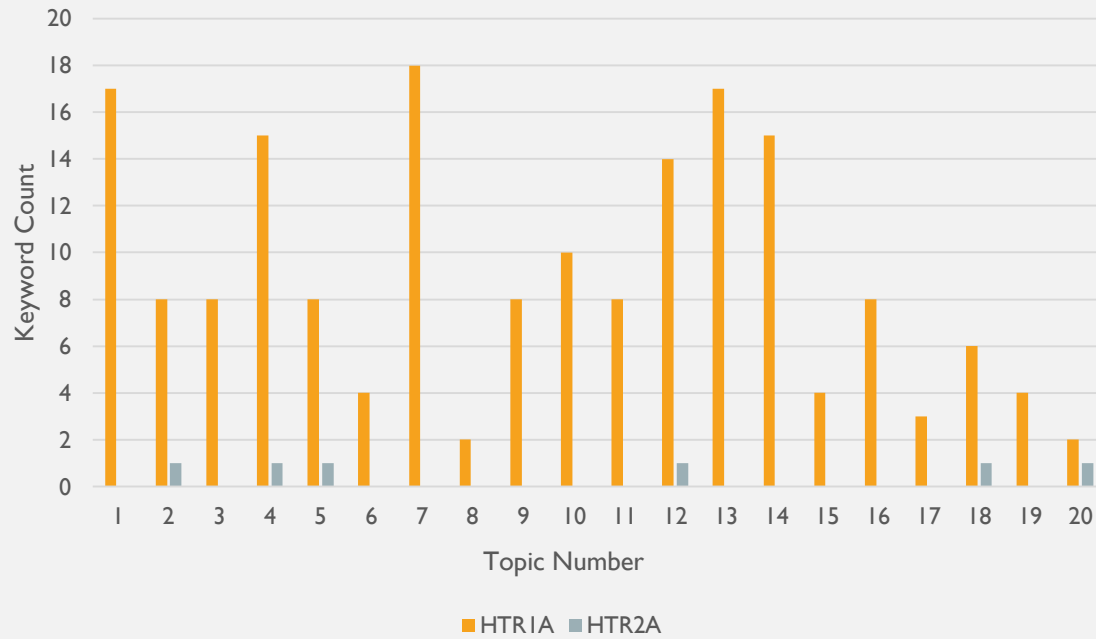
VENLAFAXINE EXAMPLE

- Venlafaxine:
 - Treats depression / anxiety
- HTR[12]A:
 - Linked to depression / anxiety
- No paper linked these concepts

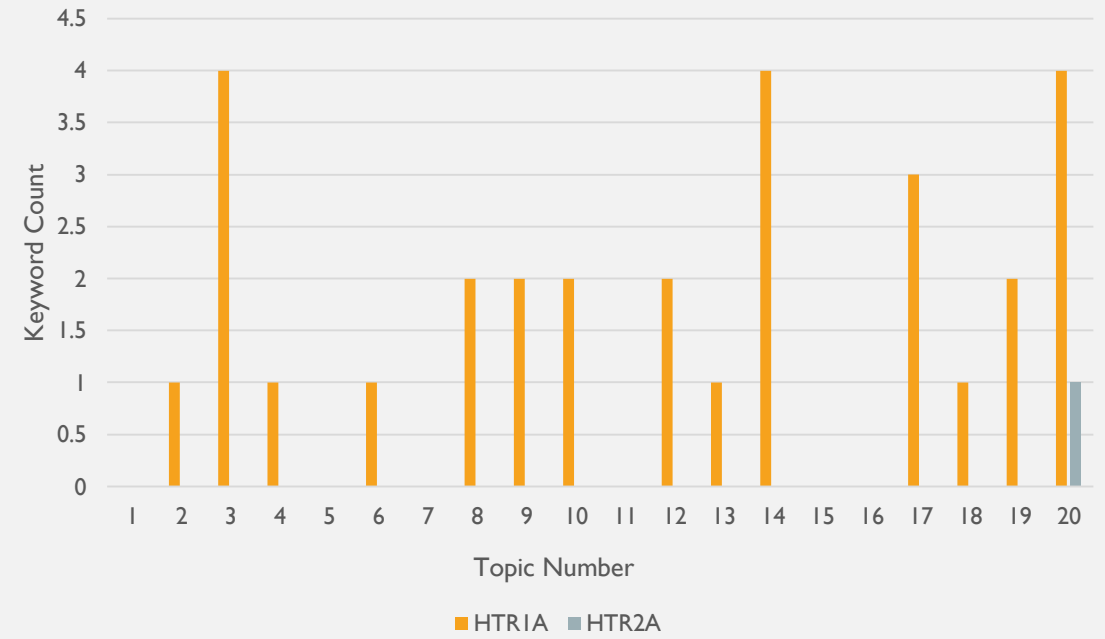


VENLAFAXINE RESULTS

Depression Related Keywords Per Topic

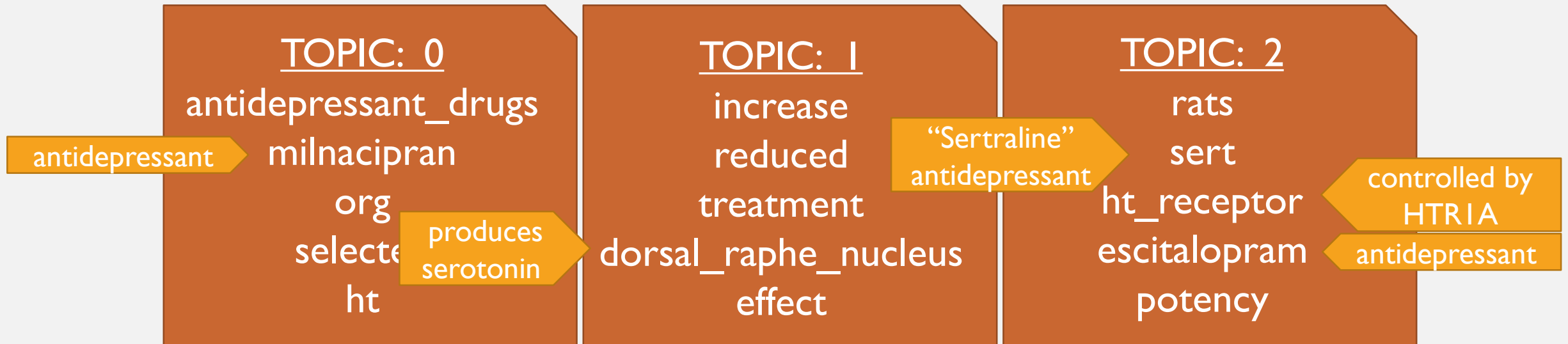


Anxiety Related Keywords Per Topic



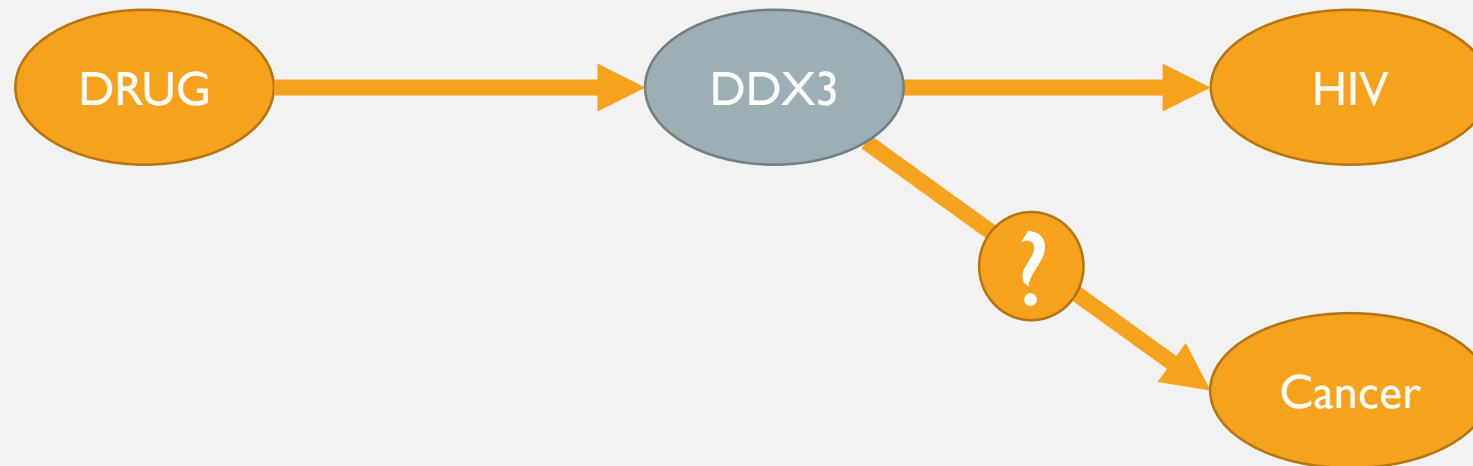
VENLAFAXINE RESULTS

- Hypothesis represented as a topic model
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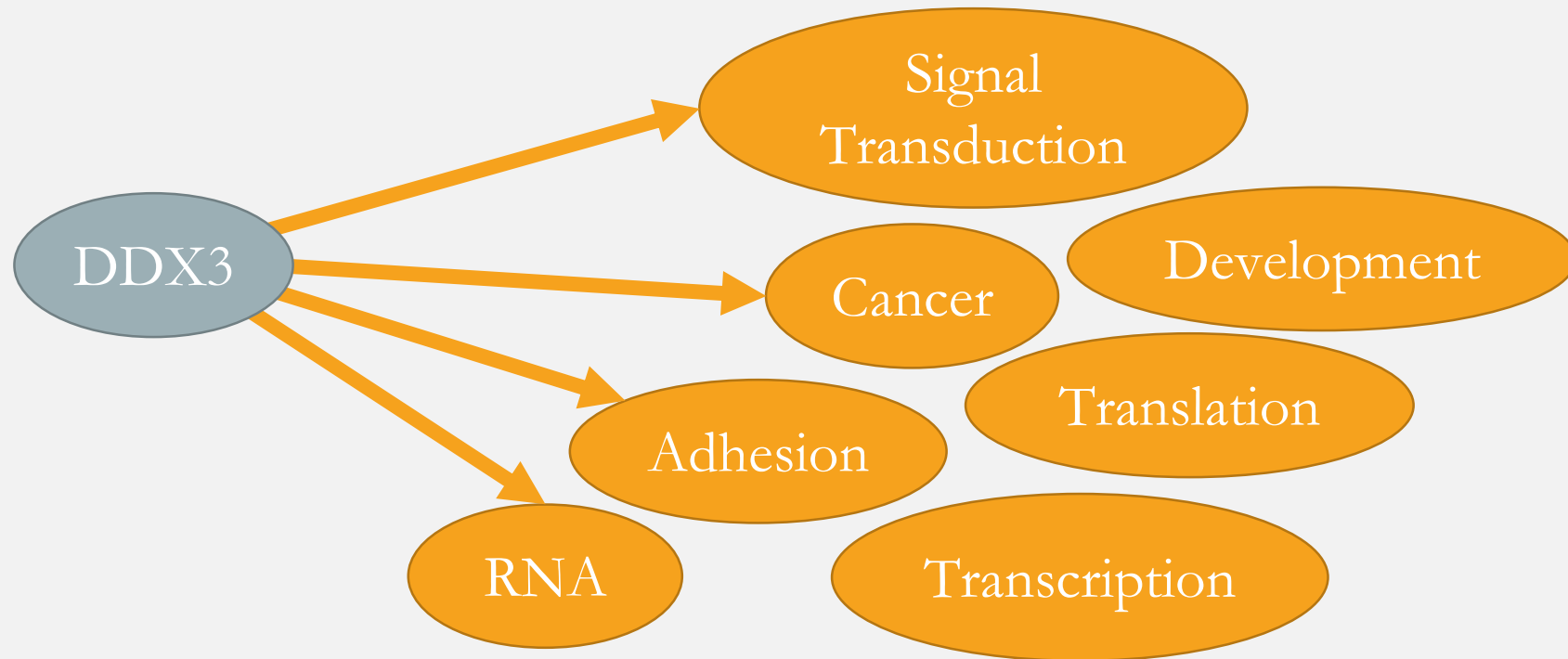
DRUG REPURPOSING EXAMPLE

- Drugs can be modified to treat new diseases
- Decreases drug development time and costs



DRUG REPURPOSING EXPERIMENT

- Ran nearly 10,000 queries involving DDX3:



DRUG REPURPOSING EXPERIMENT

- Ran nearly 10,000 queries involving DDX3:
- Expecting:

Cell – Cell
Adhesion

WNT Signaling
Pathways

Cell – Matrix
Adhesion

DRUG REPURPOSING RESULTS

Cell – Cell
Adhesion

cell-cell adhesion
regulation of cell-cell adhesion
cell-adhesion molecules

WNT Signaling
Pathways

signal-transduction associated kinases
cell adhesion kinase

Cell – Matrix
Adhesion

substrate adhesion
RGD cell adhesion domain
cell adhesion factor
focal adhesion kinase

APPLICATIONS

- Drug Repurposing
- Extensions to new domains
 - Patents, Economics, etc.
- Coping with Deadlines



OPEN RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Result Interpretation
- System Verification
- Automatic Network Tuning
- Streaming Network Reconstruction
- Inclusion of Additional Data Sources

THANK YOU

J. Sybrandt, M. Shtutman, I. Safro “MOLIERE: Automatic Biomedical Hypothesis Generation System”

Code and Data: <https://people.cs.clemson.edu/~isafro/software.html>

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