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12:30 - Exploring sustainable European gastronomy and recipes using Natural Language Processing

18th January 2021



Dr Christian Reynolds

Centre for Food Policy, City, University of London

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Who am I? Christian Reynolds

Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Food Policy



The University Of Sheffield.
Institute for Sustainable Food.



Focus: healthy sustainable diets and food consumption (including waste)



Previously: Food waste politics/history, social sciences approaches

Just publish: Sustainability and cooking (16% of UK food GHGE!) 60%+ of some foods!

Context

- Project: Communicating the environmental impact of plant based recipes – funded by the Alpro foundation (2021).
- Article:



frontiers
in Artificial Intelligence



Using Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence to Explore the Nutrition and Sustainability of Recipes and Food

Marieke van Erp^{1†}, Christian Reynolds², , Diana Maynard³, Alain Starke⁴, Rebeca Ibáñez Martín⁵, Frederic Andres⁶, Maria C. A. Leite⁷, Damien Alvarez de Toledo⁶, Ximena Schmidt Rivera⁸, Christoph Trattner⁴, Steven Brewer⁹, Carla Adriano Martins¹⁰, Alana Kluczkovski¹⁰, Angelina Frankowska¹⁰, Sarah Bridle¹⁰, Renata Bertazzi¹¹, Fernanda Rauber¹¹, Jacqueline Tereza da Silva¹⁰ and Ulbe Bosma¹²*

Problem 1 – We need to shift towards sustainable dietary patterns

- Current sustainable dietary guidance is given as ingredients
- No translation of sustainable diets into sustainable gastronomy

The Planetary Health Plate

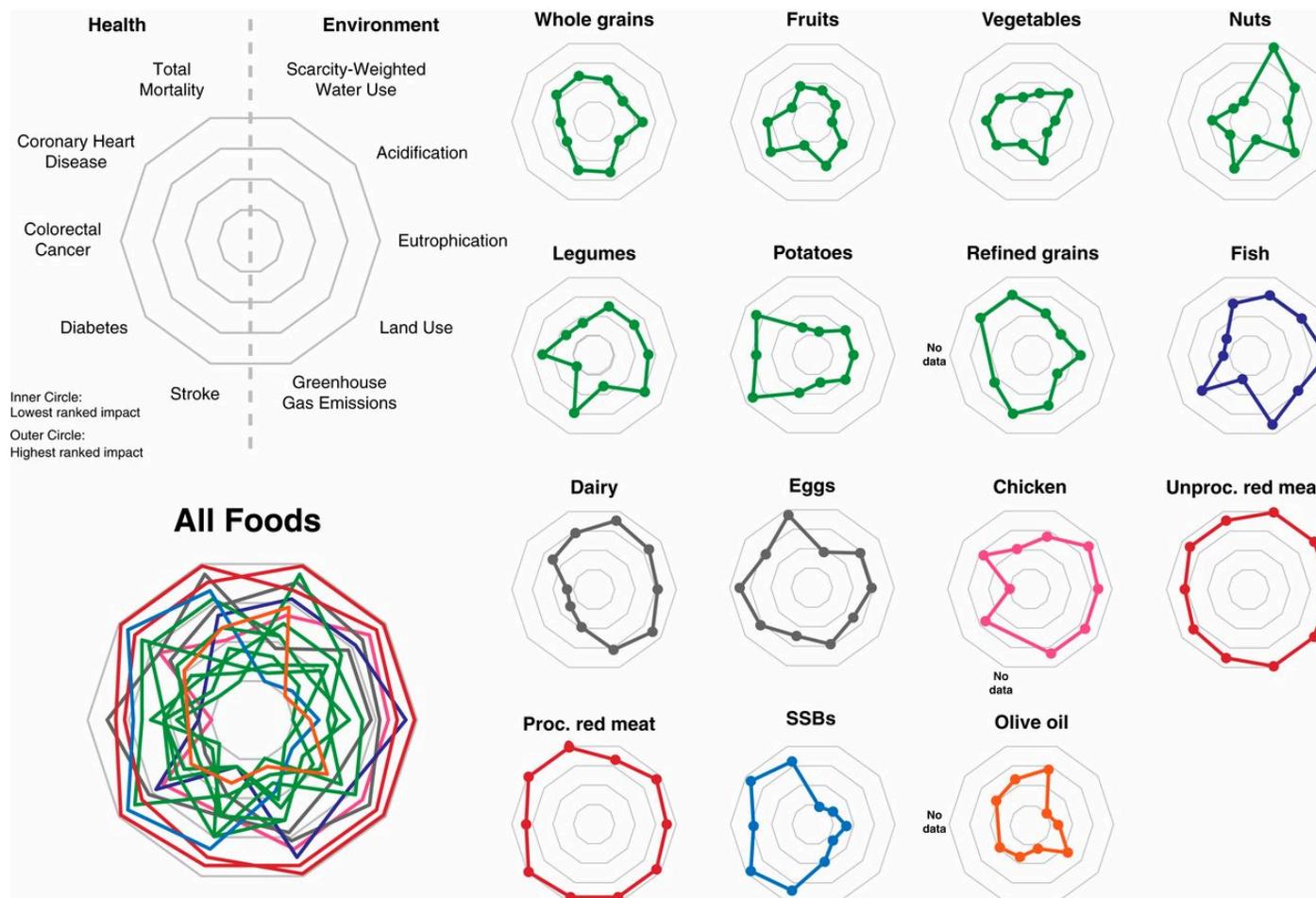


#foodcanfixit #EATLancet



Problem 2 – People do not think in ingredients, they think in recipes

Each ingredient has different health and environmental impacts.



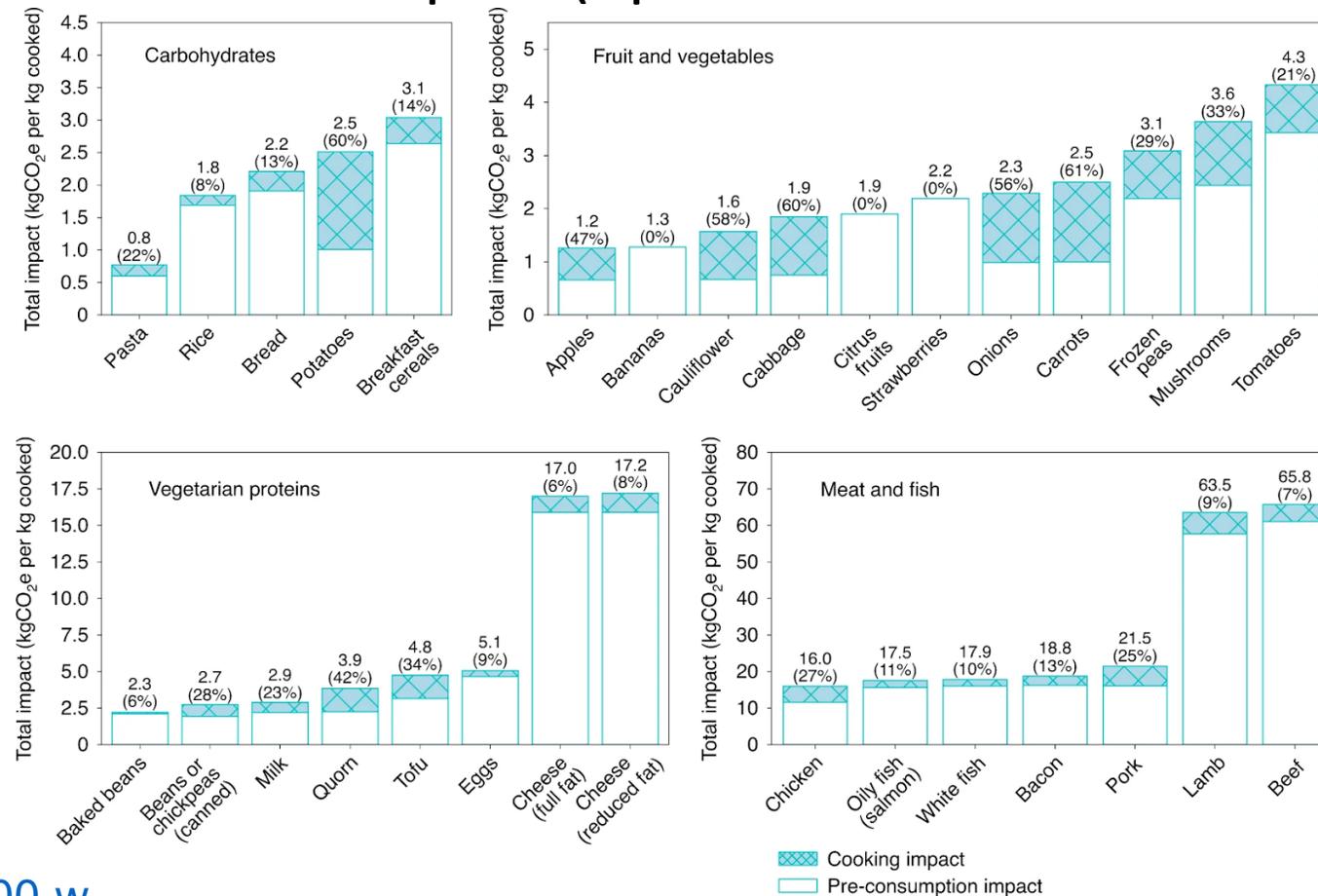
Solution – recipes to be analysed for sustainability. Use Natural Language Processing

Project proposal

- Analysis of ‘sustainable’, ‘plant based’, ‘vegan’ or ‘vegetarian’ recipes from different European gastronomic traditions or cultures (UK, Dutch, and German), assessing the ingredients used, and the methods of cooking.
- What are the differences between different cultures sustainable recipes?
- Add in cooking impacts.

Cooking, recipes and impact

- Cooking methods described in recipes have not been investigated – but recent research shows that cooking method can make a considerable environmental impact (up to 60% of some ingredients).



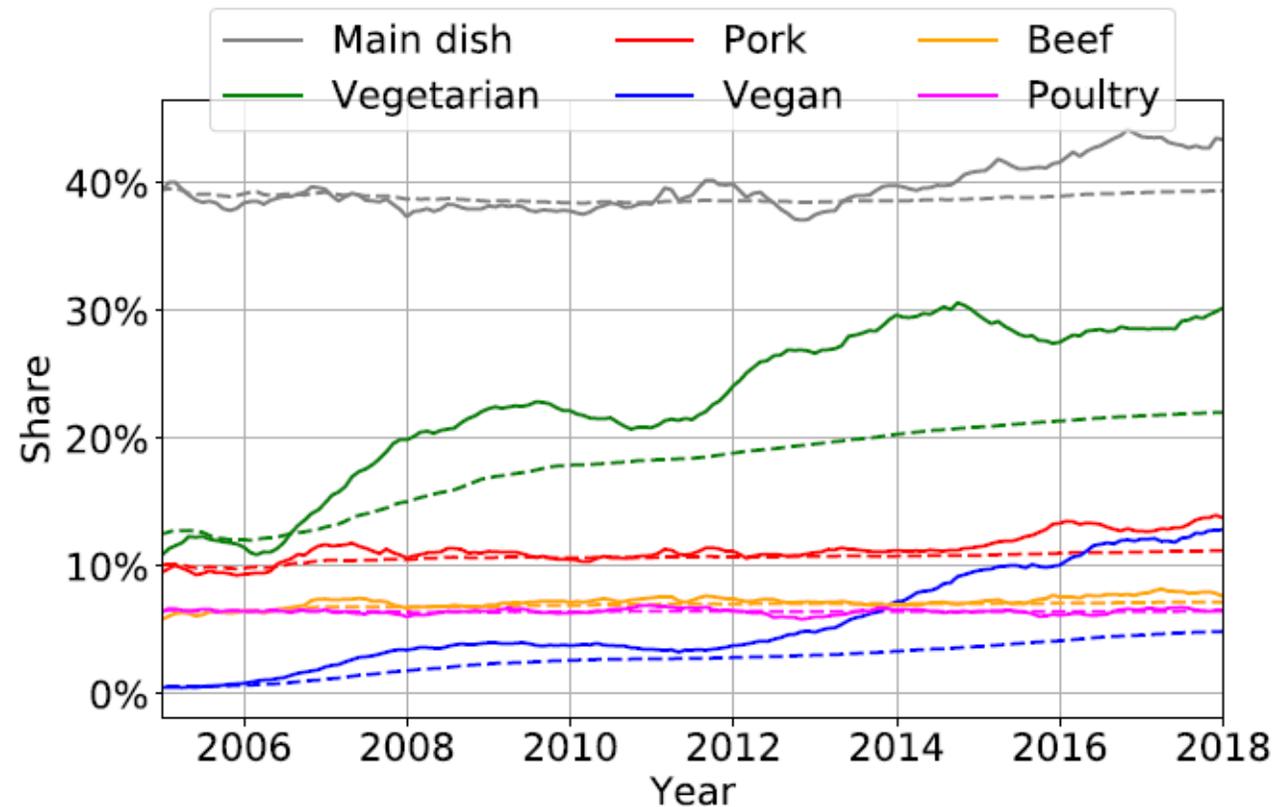
Recipe analysis and Natural Language Processing

Multiple uses already

- Nutritional and health studies (Reinivuo et al., 2009; Trattner et al., 2017)
- Computational linguistics (Jurafsky, 2015),
- Computational gastronomy (Jain et al., 2015)
- Online shopping recommendations (Aiello et al., 2019)
- Semantic web (Hausmann et al., 2019)

This is still a young field of investigation!

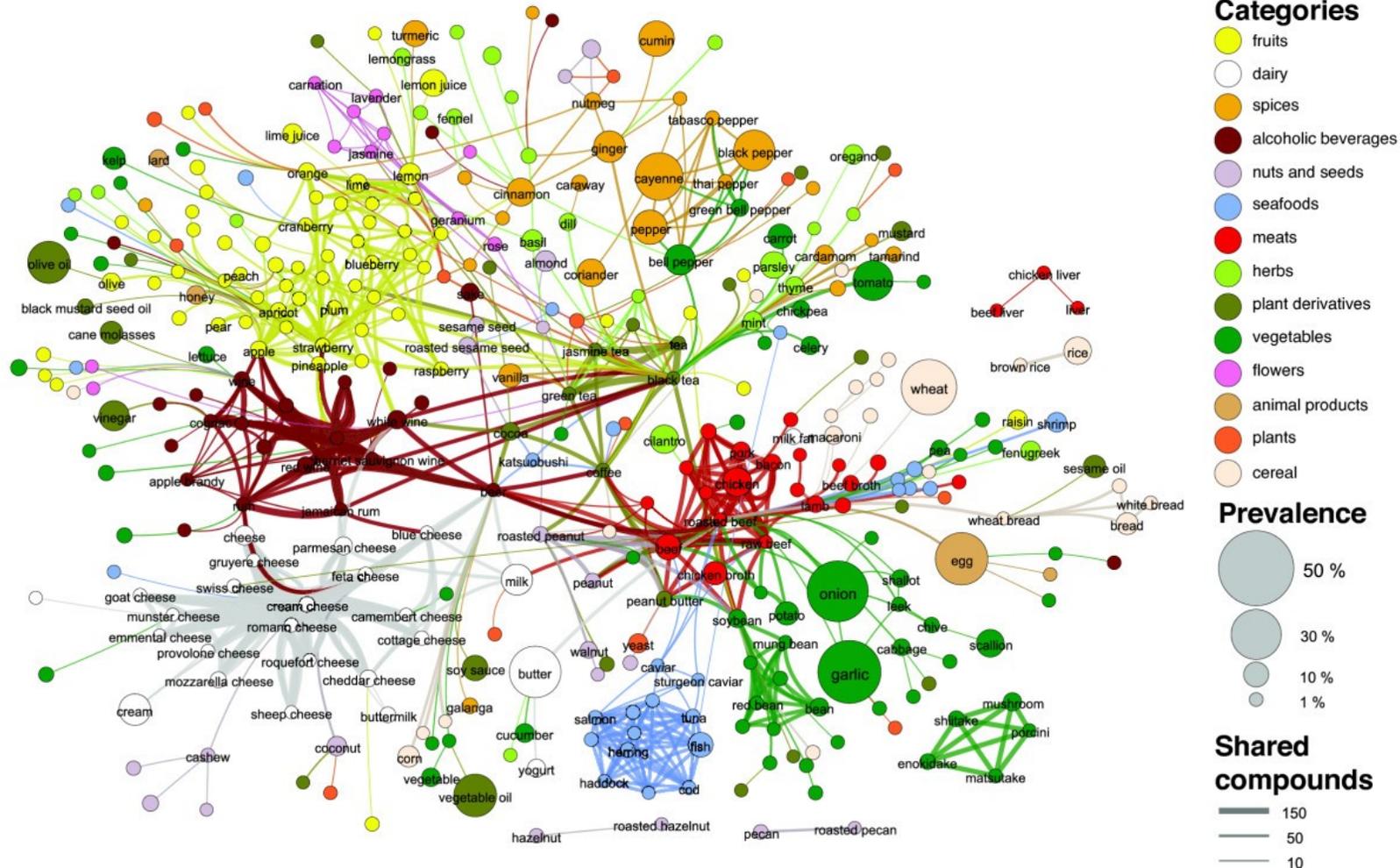
Analysis of submitted recipes (Asano and Biermann, 2019)



Share of submitted recipes containing different tags from 2005-2018 as a time-series. (Asano and Biermann, 2019), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-019-0316-0>

Flavour networks

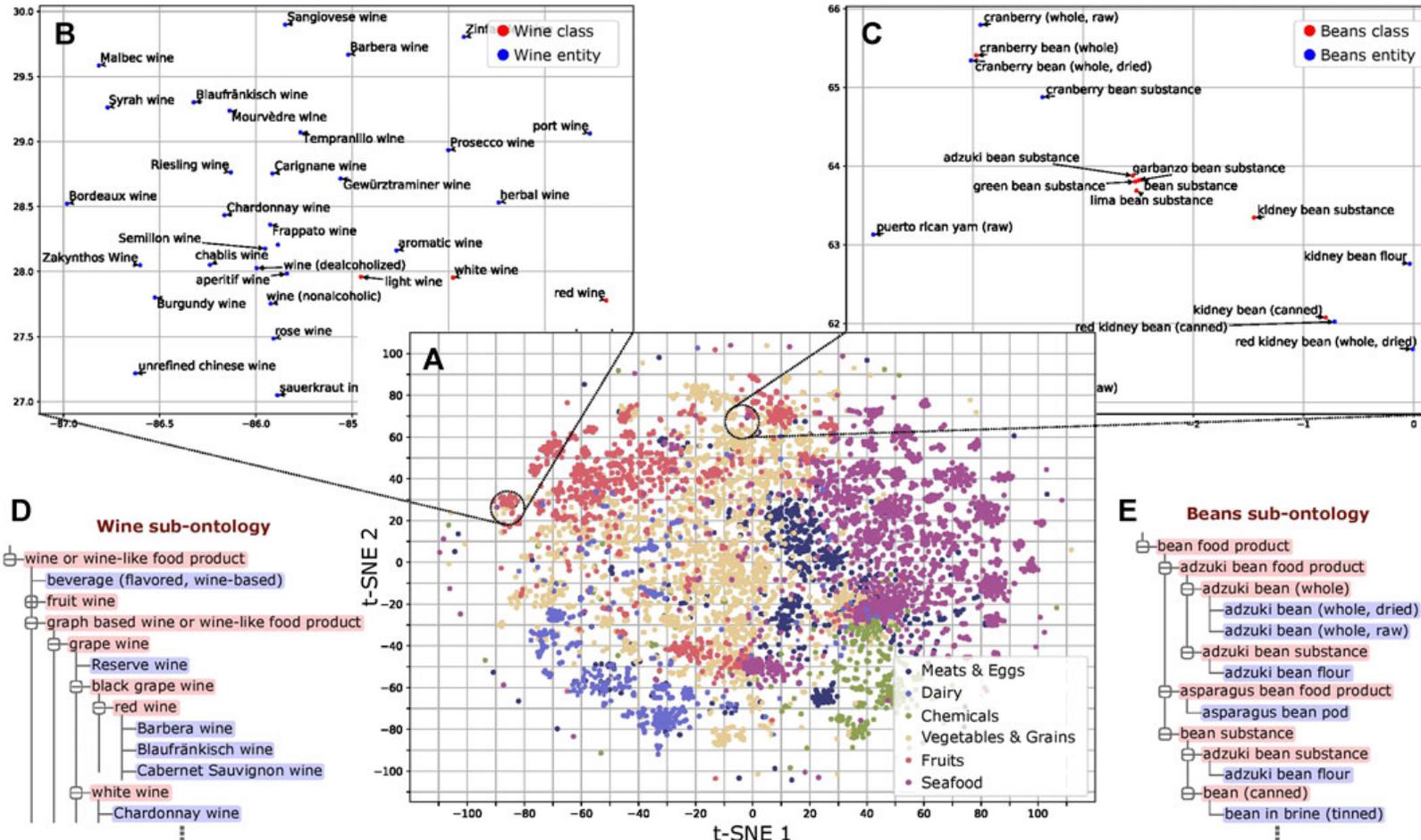
Ahnert 2013 [10.1186/2044-7248-2-4](https://doi.org/10.1186/2044-7248-2-4)



How would these differ by diet type and cuisine?

‘sustainable’, ‘plant based’, ‘vegan’ or ‘vegetarian’ recipes from different European gastronomic traditions or cultures (UK, Dutch, and German),

Existing food ontology groupings



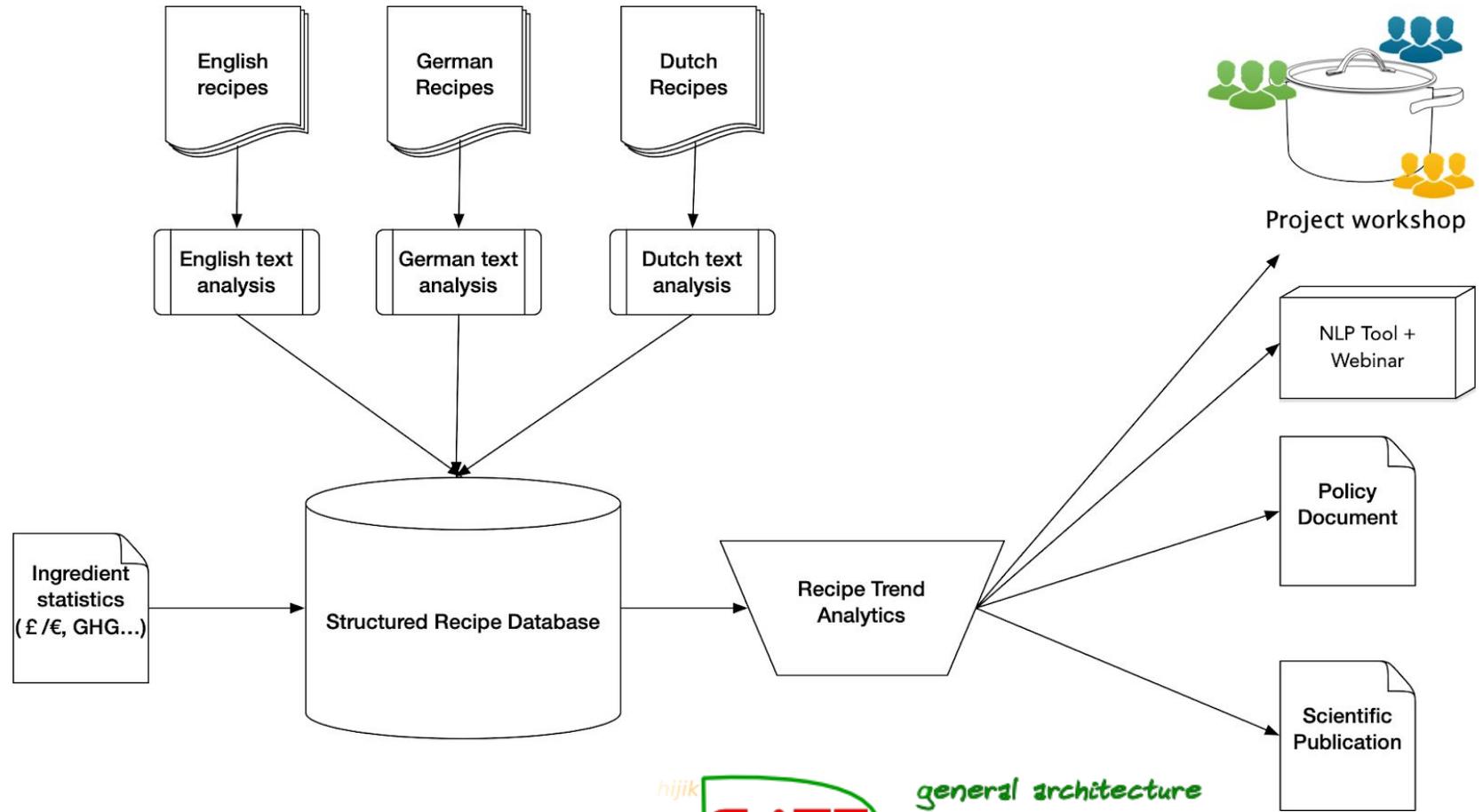
Using Word Embeddings to Learn a Better Food Ontology Front. Artif. Intell., 26 November 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/frai.2020.584784>

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Project Plan

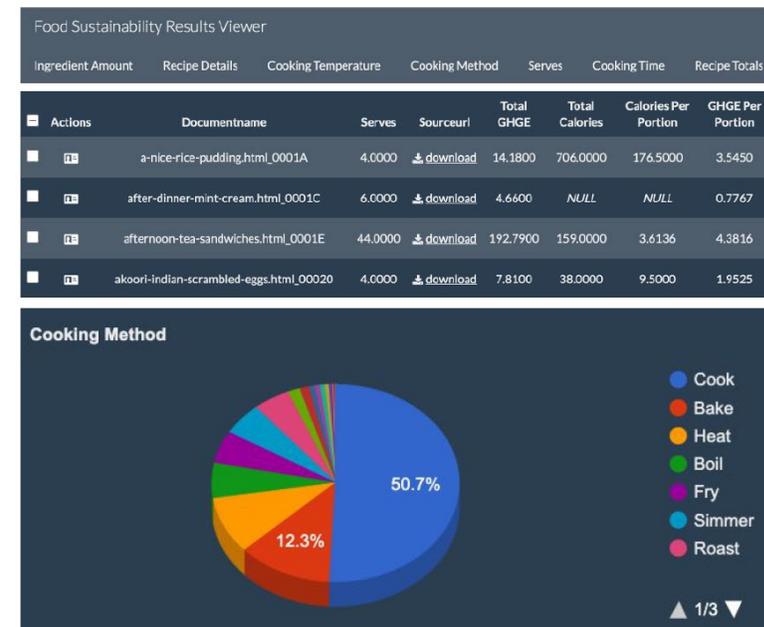
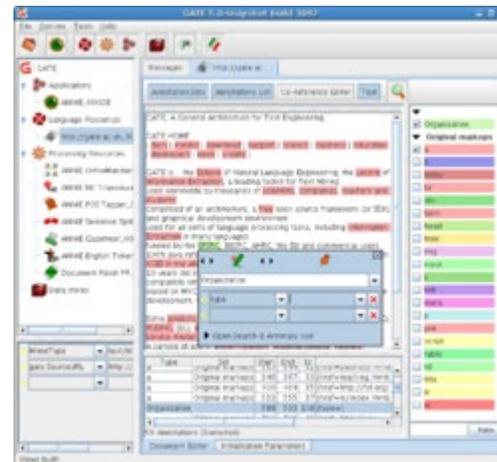
Allrecipes.com(n=4,900), Kochbar.de (n~29,000), and Albert Heijn (n~18,000)



GATE and NLP



- **General Architecture for Text Engineering** or **GATE** is a [Java](#) suite of tools



Recipe example – a potato soup

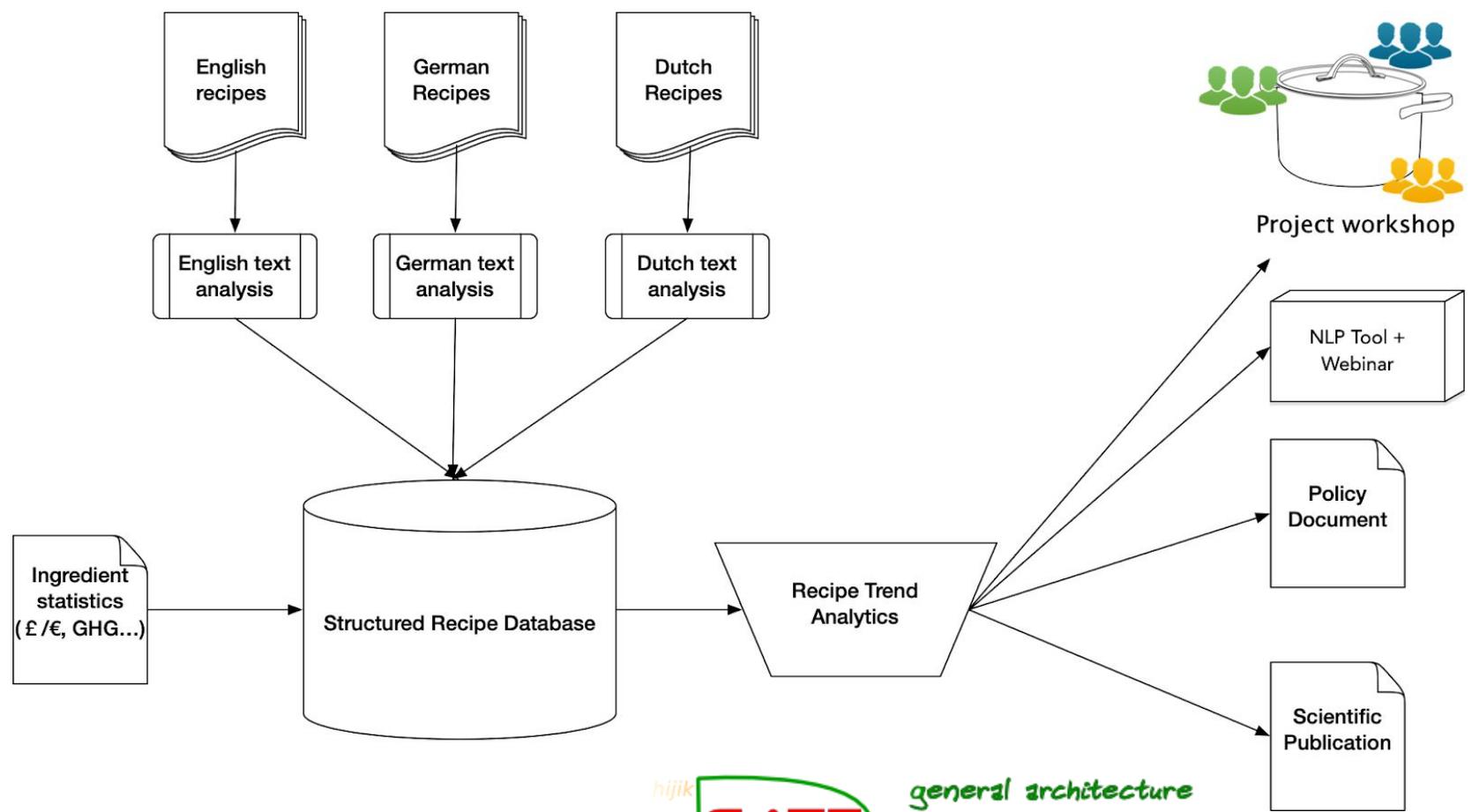
Nutrient database

LCA database

Mass (g)	Ingredient	Calories	Adjusted Calories	co2e	Adjusted GHGE
0.616125	1/8 teaspoon salt			0.42	0
0.616125	1/8 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley			0.42	0
110.11	1 onion	35	39	0.41	0.05
21	dash garlic powder	98	2	0.489	0
236.6	1 cup milk	46	109	2.572816	0.61
236.6	1 cup chopped carrots	34	80	0.4	0.09
42	potatoes	82	3	14.71	0.12
473.2	2 cups buttermilk	37	175	1.4	6.62
709.8001	3 cups water			0	0
				Total GHGE	7.49

Project Plan

Allrecipes.com(n=4,900), Kochbar.de (n~29,000), and Albert Heijn (n~18,000)



Can we integrate recipe optimisers and recommender systems?



Comments?
Questions?

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**Centre for
Food Policy**

Educating, researching, influencing for
integrated and inclusive food policy

Linking and analysis of Life Cycle Analysis data using NLP

- Ghose et al., (2019) and Ghose (2020) proposed NLP methods for semantic investigation of LCA databases.

Vision

*Community driven Open-data platform,
for data ingestion, integration, validation, and sharing.
+ Connected application for LCA calculations.*

