What if fan-fiction, but also coding: **TUDe**It How does fan-fiction differ in style to its original canon and does it affect its success?

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Keywords

- Canon: The original work, what is official by the author.
- Fan-fiction: Work of fiction using components from a canon to make something new. Appear as "fic" on graphs.
- Stylometry: The field of Natural Language Processing that tries to quantify texts systematically.
- Kudos: Equivalent of likes on AO3 where the fan-fictions were obtained, used as a measure of success.

Background

- Stylometry has mostly been used in authorship attribution¹.
- Function word frequency is one of the most successful stylometric features².
- -Fan-fiction is inspired from a canon.
- -Style has been shown to correlate to fan-fiction success³.

Method

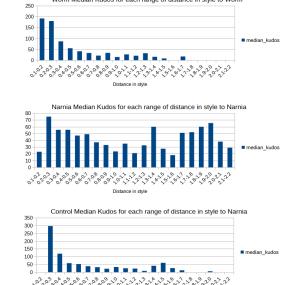
- Count function word frequencies in 7971 fanfictions and compare them with 2 canons: The Chronicles of Narnia & Worm.
- Establish a "distance", a difference in style to those canons.
- Check for similarity.
- Check for correlation of similarity to success.

Proportions of fics in similarity in style to Worm Supply Leg 10 On 1-02 0.2-0.3 0.3-0.4 0.4-0.5 0.5-0.6 0.6-0.7 0.7-0.8 0.8-0.9 0.9-1.0 1.0-1.1 Distance in style Proportions of fics in similarity in style to Narnia Narnia fics Ocontrol set Worm fics Narnia fics Ocontrol set Worm fics Narnia fics Ocontrol set Worm fics Narnia fics

- The most similar to the canon are fan-fictions

from that canon.

- Narnia and Worm very similar style.
- All fan-fiction more successful when more similar to Worm and Narnia.



Discussion

- Inheritance of stylistic features inconclusive, true for the Worm set of fan-fiction, but the Narnia set of fan-fiction is less similar to its canon than the control set. May be due to Narnia fan-fiction being an outlier compared to general fan-fiction.
- The few fan-fictions that showed extreme similarity were of the corresponding canon, so inheritance may exist for a subset of fan-fictions.
- Control set of fan-fiction being more successful when more similar to Worm and Narnia suggests there is a generic, "good" style, which Worm and Narnia appear to share.
- Outliers in style have found some success as well.

Conclusion

- Some writers can be stylistically influenced by original works they use in their writings.
- A "good" style is more important than a similar style for the success of fan-fiction.
- This study could be recreated with different datasets or stylometric methods.
- Authors' influences could be researched further

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[:] A. Mattei, D. Brunato, and F. DellâOrletta, "The Style of a Successful Story: a Computational Study on the Fanfiction Genre," in Proceedings of the Seventh Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics CLiC-it 2020: Bologna, Italy, March 1-3, 2021 (F. Dell'Orletta, J. Monti, and F. Tamburini, ed Collana dell'Associazione Italiana di Linguistica Computazionale, pp. 284–289, Torino: Accademia University Press, 2020. Code: Proceedings of the Seventh Italian Conference on Computational Linguistics CLiC-it 2020: Bologna, Italy, March 1-3, 2021.