

Topic extraction: Same data, different results

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Topic extraction from scientific literature seems to be as much art as science. Different teams within the field of scientometrics use different approaches, based on their familiarity with specific methods, investment in the development of specific tools, their long-term experience with the mapping of scientific fields, and in-house experimentation to optimize an approach. Rarely are results published that apply alternative approaches to the same data set and compare the results, and there is a lack of understanding how differences between approaches affect the results obtained. To shed light on these questions, a collaboration of authors from across scientometrics has applied a range topic extraction approaches to the same data set of documents in the astrophysics literature. The results of this activity will be published in a special issue of the journal *Scientometrics*. In this author panel we will provide an overview of the results obtained and reflect on the insights gained so far.