



# Exploiting the dynamics of weak signals

## **A Difference That Makes a Difference**

Milton Keynes, Thurs 8 Sept 2011, 14:00-17:30

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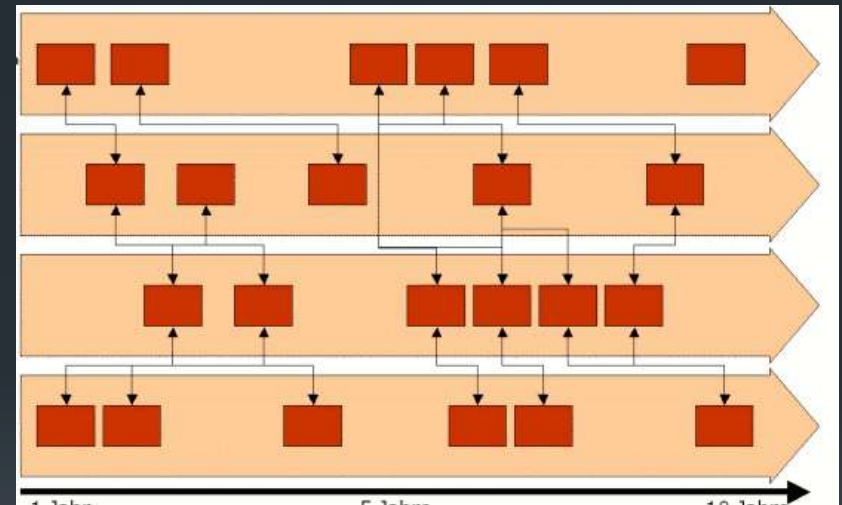
# Roadmapping – one or many?

- Roadmapping information:

**weak signals**

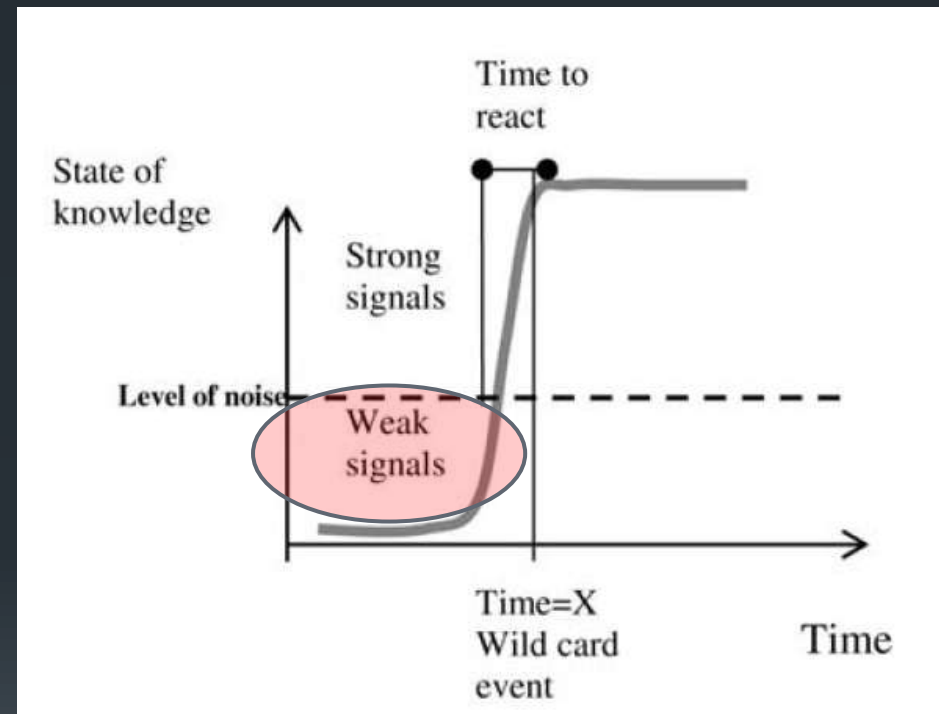
trends, delphi-evaluations,  
semantics, scenarios

- Disagreement Mgmt.



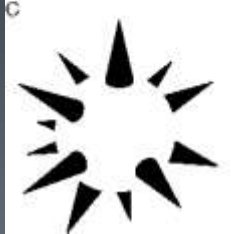
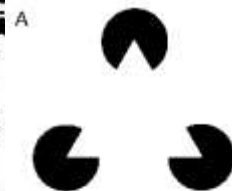
# What is a weak signal?

- Fashionable, fuzzy term
- Working definition of Weak Signals (WS)
  - indicators of change not yet appreciated
  - tendency to be surprising with hindsight
  - initially lacking clear relations to other signals



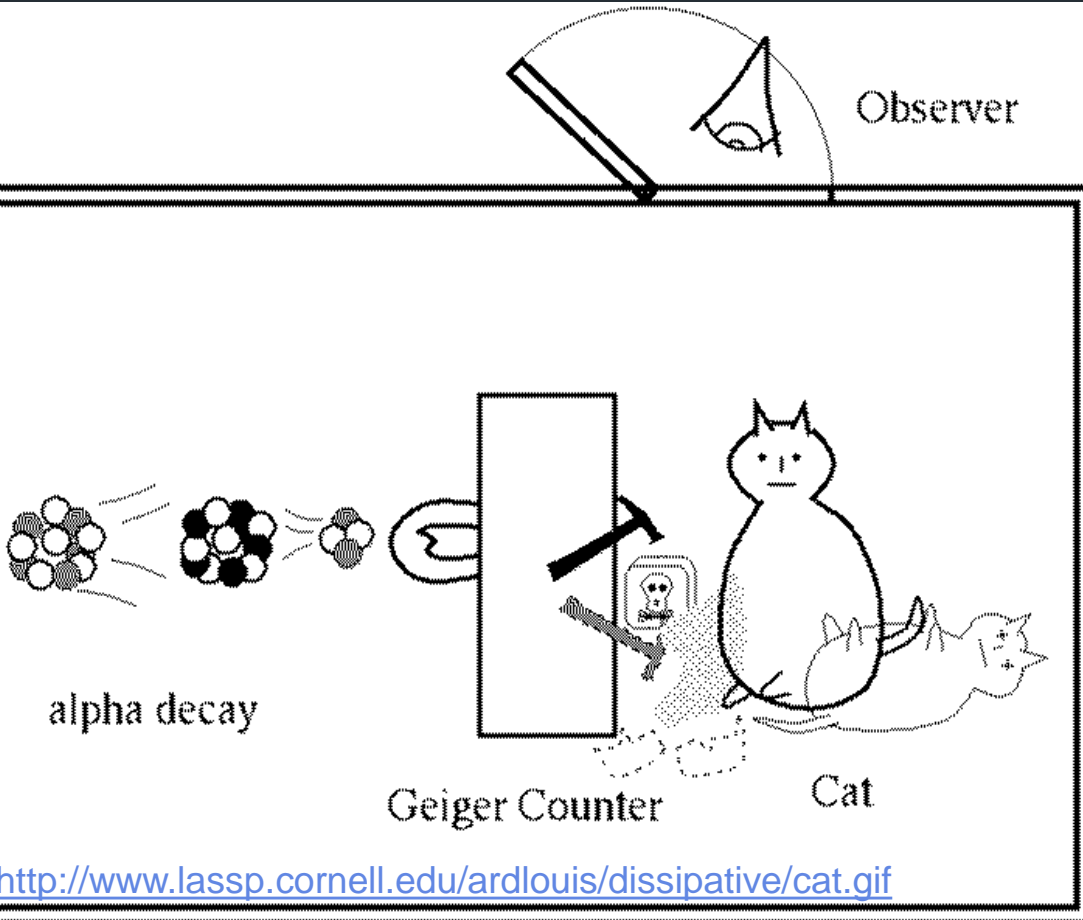
# 1. State of knowledge and (illusory) perception (Gestalt)

- **Hamlet:** Do you see yonder cloud that's almost in shape of a camel?
- **Polonius:** By the Mass, and 'tis like a camel indeed.
- **Hamlet:** Methinks it is like a weasel.
- **Polonius:** It is backed like a weasel.
- **Hamlet:** Or like a whale?
- **Polonius:** Very like a whale.



*Hamlet* (Act II, Scene II)

## 2. Role of Observer: Noise or Weak signal or both

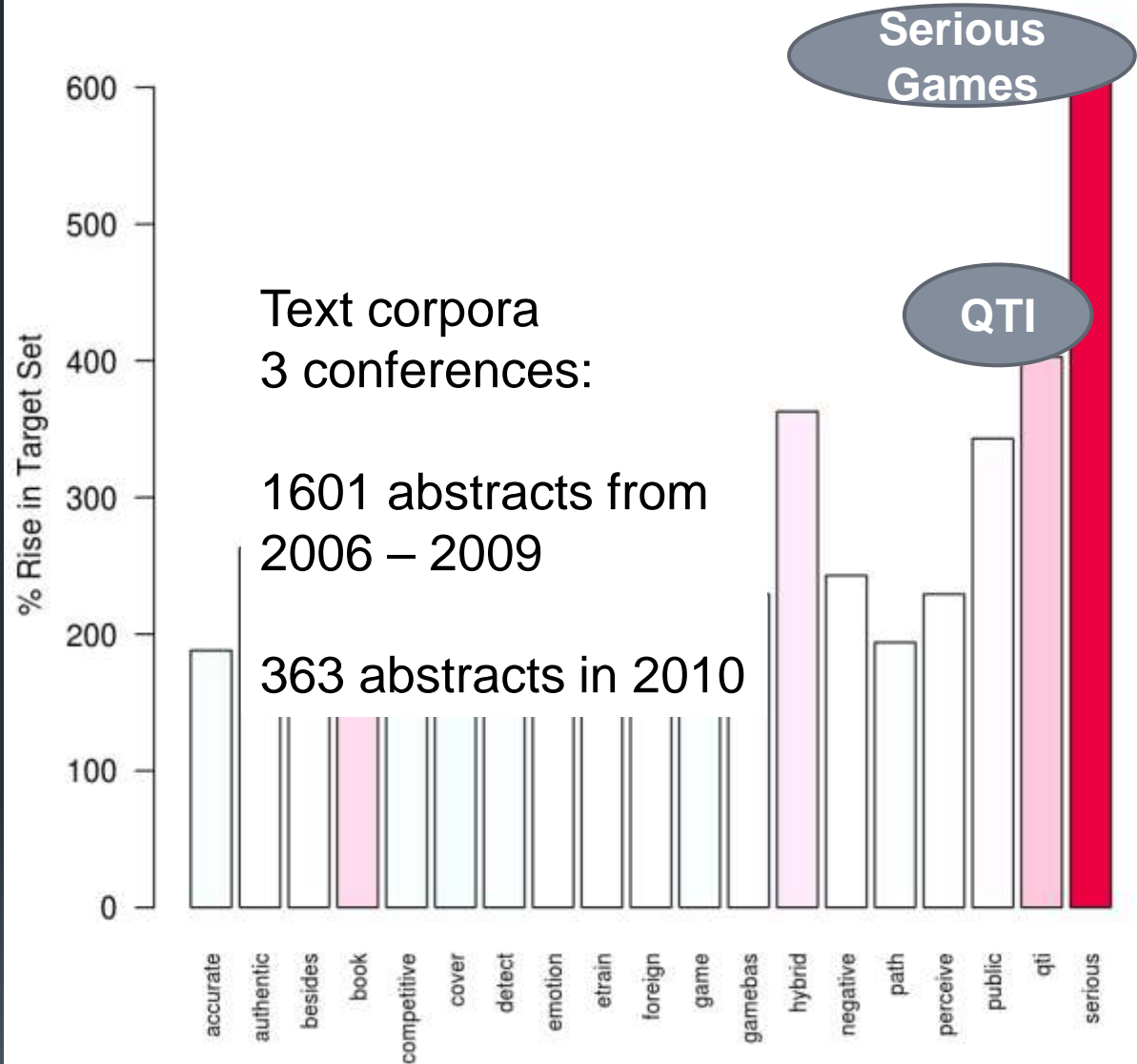


- we have weak signals
- we have human sense making
- as soon as we focus on one thing, the other thing disappears

# Publishing context: corpus exploitation

QTI: Question and Test Interoperability specification defines a standard format for the representation of assessment content and results, supporting the exchange of this material between authoring and delivery systems

## Rising Terms



# Adopter Context: context interviews

- Technology uptake impeded by lack of policies and sufficiently mature technologies
- Recording, labeling and sharing of learner data (feeding learner models) is on the rise.
- Personalised learning includes learners' goals, trajectories and backgrounds.



Each of you may be able to spot or suggest a weak signal for TEL ....



# Conclusions

- Main benefit of WS analysis comes out of using WS for scenario planning, disagreement mgmt., etc.
- WS can be ‚individual‘ or ‚historical‘
- WS analysis needs to be
  - Multimethod
  - Multidiciplinary
  - Multisourced
- Like any other information, WS remain determined by context parameters (sources, scope, lenses ...community)

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