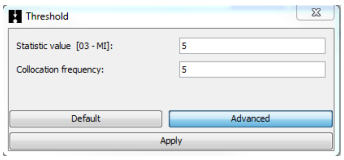
Collocations in context with #LancsBox: Collocation graphs and networks

Task 1. Create graphs. Work with the LOB corpus.

a) Build a collocation graph (first-order collocates) around the word *time* using MI score and the default settings.

b) How many collocates does the graph display? Are all of them useful?
316 collocates; no, this is an example of an overpopulated graph.

c) Change the default settings as indicated in the figure below (MI = 5 and above) and search for the node *time* again.



How many results did you get this time? 35

d) Which of the collocates occur predominantly to the left of the node *time* and which ones to the right?

Left:
e.g. *at, long, first, short, same, spare, waste, twenty* etc.……

Right:
e.g. ago, speak, saved, arrived, washing, erect, constants, etc.……

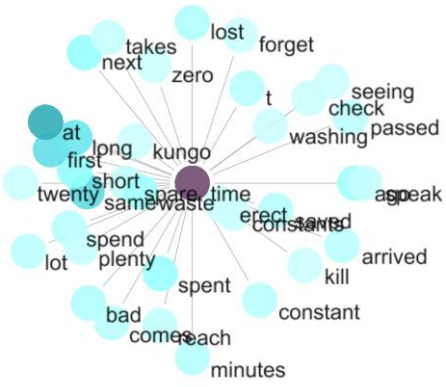
e) Some of the collocates of *time* such as *t, kungo* might not be completely transparent. Use the right-click function to obtain concordances (KWIC pop-up) and explain these collocates.

t is used as ……a mathematical term (*time t*)…….

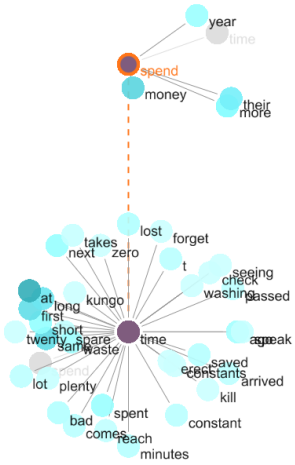
kungo is used as ……proper name in General fiction……..

Task 2. Build collocation networks and explore graphs.

a) Go to the graph you have created in Task 1 c). It should be similar to the graph displayed in the figure below:



b) Find the collocate *spend* in the graph and double click on it. You should get a collocation network similar to the one displayed below:



c) Find the second-order collocate *money* in the graph and double click on it. Comment on the connection between *time* and *money* that you can see in the resulting graph that shows collocates around the node *money*.

Time and *money* are connected via shared collocates (*spend, waste* and *lot*). This shows that we often talk about time in a similar way we talk about money: we can spend and waste both time and money, there can be a lot of time and a lot of money (Compare Lakoff & Johnson's conceptual metaphor TIME=MONEY)

d) Repeat steps a) – d) with lemma(▼ Lemma) as the unit in the collocation graph. Note that when using lemma as a unit, individual inflectional forms such as (*spend, spent*) are subsumed under one headword (spend_verb).