

SEMANTIC DOMAINS IN AKKADIAN TEXTS

Tero Alstola, Department of Modern Languages



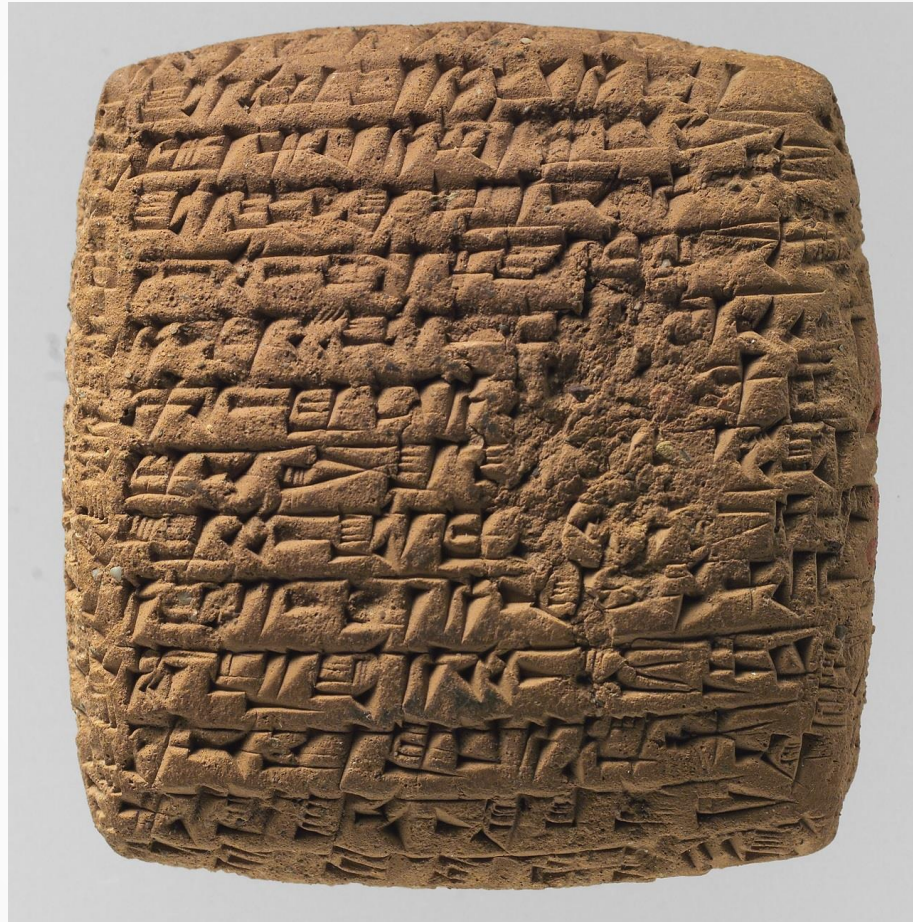
RESEARCH TEAM

- PI Krister Lindén
- Saana Svärd
- Heidi Jauhiainen
- Tommi Jauhiainen
- Aleksi Sahala
- Tero Alstola



AKKADIAN: WHAT

- Semitic language, related to Hebrew and Arabic
- Written with cuneiform script on clay tablets

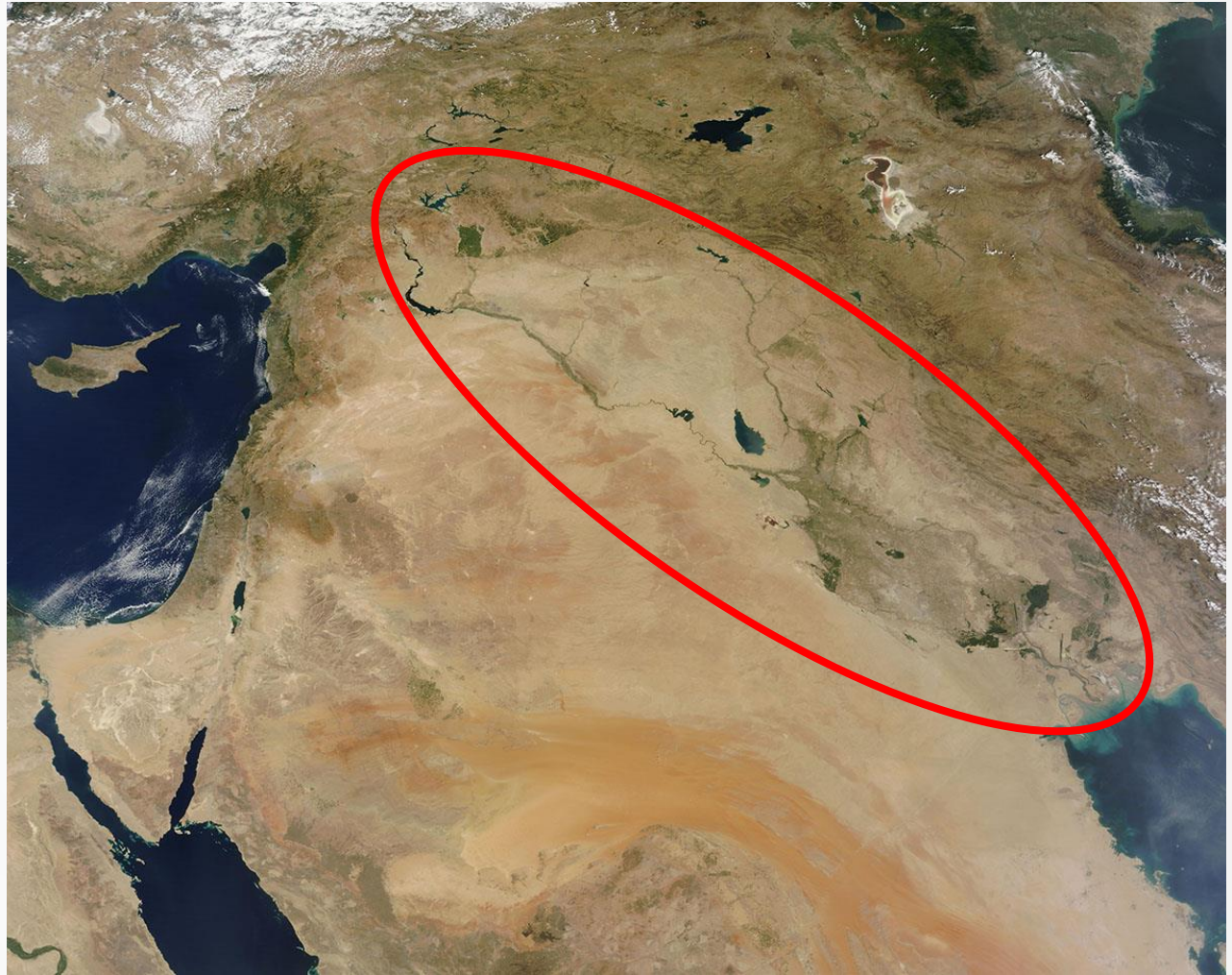


The Metropolitan Museum of Art



AKKADIAN: WHERE & WHEN

- Mesopotamia
- 3000 BCE – 75 CE



NASA Worldview



SEMANTIC DOMAINS

- What are the contexts in which the word 'horse' is attested?
- What words connect to the word 'horse' in certain usage?
 - Agriculture: ploughing, field, grain
 - War: horseman, lance, battle, victory
 - Trade: selling, buying, caravan, trade colony



SOURCES & METHODS

- 17,500 digitalised cuneiform texts from Oracc (Open Richly Annotated Cuneiform Corpus)
- The meaning of an Akkadian word has traditionally been determined qualitatively
- Language technological methods allow us to use computers to create semantic domains for a word
 - Word sense induction
 - Word2vec
 - Pointwise mutual information (PMI)