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# Industrial requirements classification for redundancy and inconsistency detection in **SEMIOS**

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# Plan

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- ❑ Introduction
- ❑ Industrial Context
- ❑ Workflow
  - ✓ Preprocesses: Filtering noise, Detecting business terms
  - ✓ Clustering method: K-means
  - ✓ Experimentation (Dataset, validation, results)
- ❑ Discussion and Conclusion

# Projet CLE-ELENAA

**CLE** (Contrat de Recherche Laboratoires-Entreprises)

**ELENAA** (des Exigences en LanguEs Naturelles à leurs Analyses Automatiques)

## Partners



Institut de Recherche  
en Informatique de Toulouse

## Objectif

- Development of a prototype system of analysis of inconsistency and redundancy in requirements
- Demonstrable to customers

## How to finance?



Help from the region  
Support Contract Midi-  
Pyrénées Innovation  
115 365 € / 2 years

# Projet CLE-ELENAA

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## Prometil company, Toulouse, France

- Specialized in Requirements Engineering since 2007
- Software « Semios for Requirements » first released in 2015
- Major clients in Aerospace, Automotive, Naval

## IRIT SIG, Toulouse, France

- Research team specialized in Generalized Information Systems
- Collaboration with Prometil since 2015
  - on the subject of « Requirements quality analysis »



# Industrial Context (1)

Specifications



Specification with high « quality »



- Data from different domains
  - Aeronautic, Automobile, Spatial, Finance, Energy
- How to deal with each domain specification ?
  - Acronyms, Business terms

## Quality criteria

**IEEE830**

Correct

Unambiguous

Complete

Verifiable

Traceable

**Consistent**

Modifiable

Ranked

**Non-Redundant**

**ISO29148**

Unambiguous

Singular

**Consistent**

Complete

Feasible

Traceable

Verifiable

**Others.....**

INCOSE

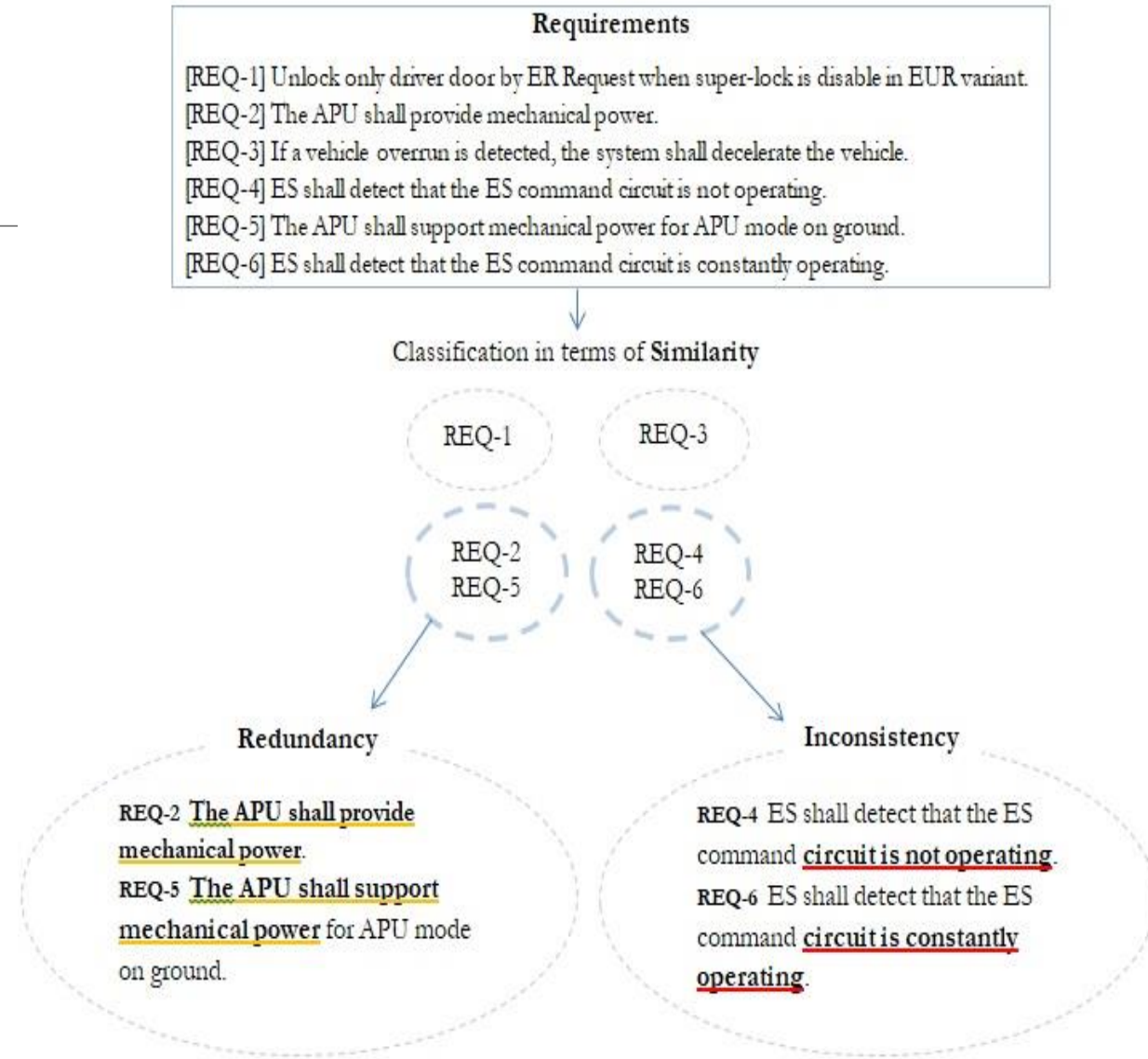
IREB

ARP4754

ASD-STE100

# Industrial Context (2)

- Redundancy and inconsistency detection requires
  - Manual processing: **need an "expert"** in the field
  - Take time for analysis (especially for a large size specifications)
  - Not always obvious ...



# Workflow

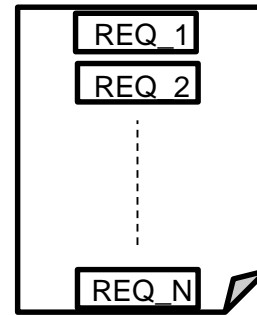
Industrial Specification



Requirement extraction



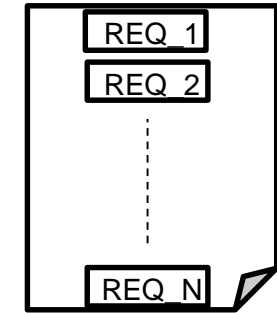
Requirement file



Preprocessing 1



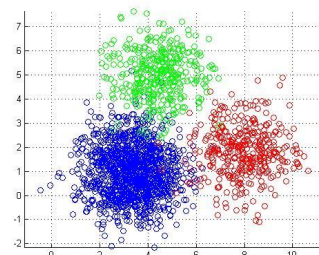
New Requirement file



Clustering results file

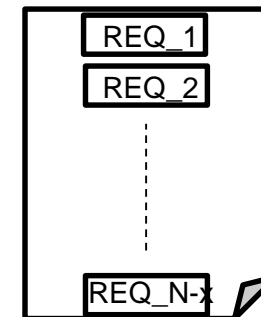


K-means



“Statistic gap” to determinate best k value

New requirement file  
With business terms



Preprocessing 2

spaCy

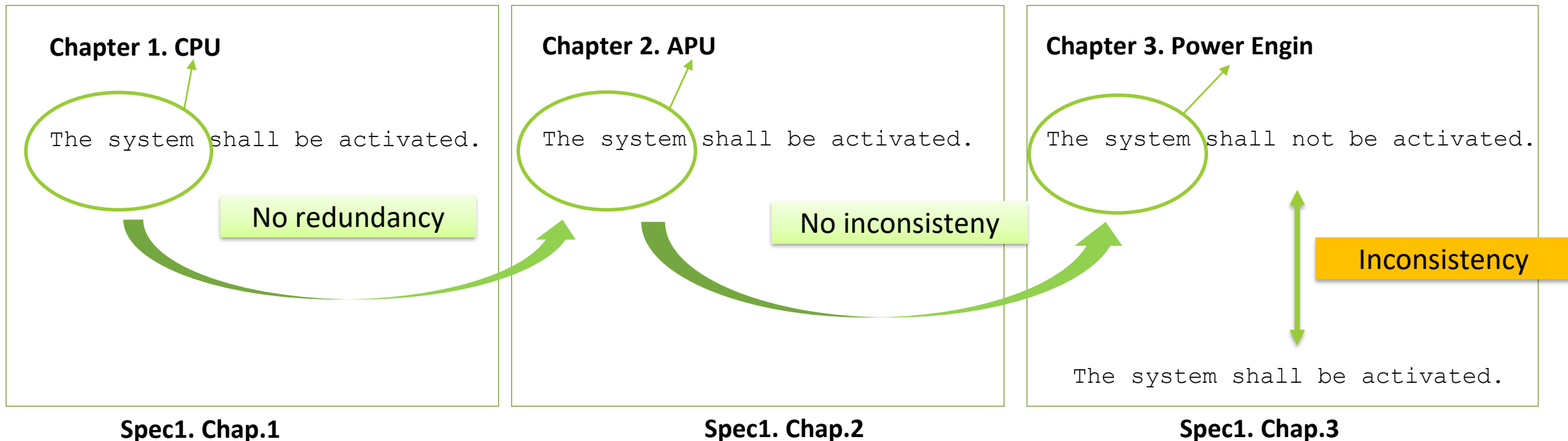
Part-Of-Speech  
tagging

# Preprocessing (1): filtering noisy requirements

- **Goal:** discard **identical** requirements belonging to the **different chapters**

False positives

- **Example**





# Preprocessing (2): spaCy

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- **Goal:** detect **business terms**
- The most used 13 combination patterns in **business terms** by RE expert
  - noun-noun (e.g. runway overrun)
  - adjective-noun (e.g. normal mode)
  - proper noun- noun (e.g. BSP data)
  - adjective-adjective-noun (e.g. amber visual indication)
  - noun-noun-noun (e.g. output voltage value)
  - ...
- **POS tagging:** Annotate part-of-speech tags on documents

Example: `Unlock only driver door by DR request SW  
when superlock is disable in EUR variant.`

<https://spacy.io/api/>

# Preprocessing (2): spaCy

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Unlock **PROPN** only **ADV** driver **NOUN** door **NOUN** by **ADP** DR **PROPN** request **NOUN** SW **PROPN**  
when **ADV** superlock **NOUN** is **VERB** disable **ADJ** in **ADP** EUR **PROPN** variant **NOUN**

## ■ Preprocessing output

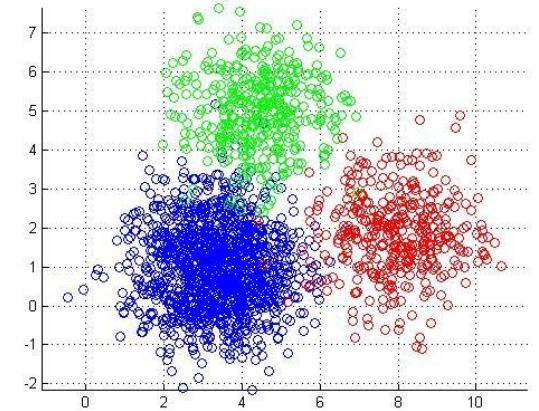
- Unlock only driver door by DR request SW when superlock is disable in EUR variant.
- Unlock only **driver\_door** by **DR\_request** SW when superlock is disable in **EUR\_variant**.



# K-means

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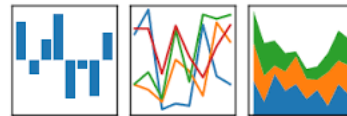
- Approach: unsupervised learning
- Goal: cluster the data into k groups
- Prerequisite: predefined value of k as an input
- **Best value of K:**



based on **Statistic gap** (Tibshirani et al., 2001) vs based on **RE expert**



pandas  
 $y_{it} = \beta' x_{it} + \mu_i + \epsilon_{it}$



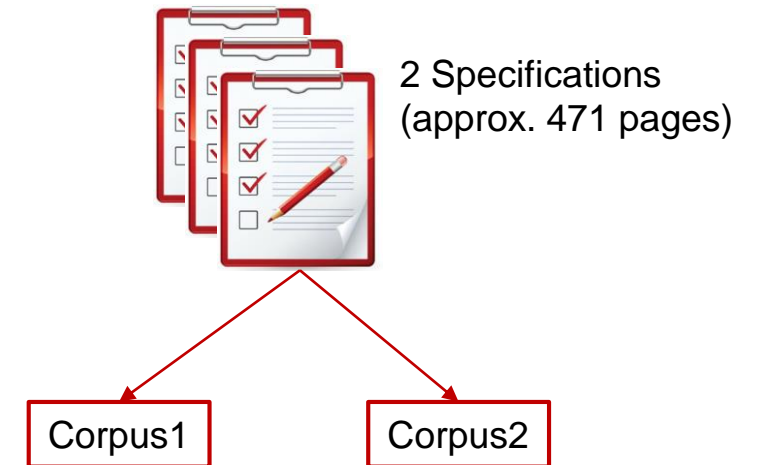
\*Expert with more than 15 years of experience in an industrial domain

# Datasets

- Texts following various kinds of business style and format guidelines imposed by companies
- Texts coming from various industrial areas: Aerospace, Automobile

	Number of requirements	Observation
<b>Corpus1</b>	913	Randomly chosen with no a priori information of redundancy and inconsistency according to our expert*
<b>Corpus2</b>	326	Randomly chosen with no a priori information of redundancy and inconsistency according to our expert*

\*Expert with more than 15 years of experience in an industrial domain



# Validation

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- Only clusters with more than one requirement
- **"Strict" Validation (SV)**
  - Relevant cluster = **100% correct** requirements (fully redundant or inconsistent requirements)
  - Clusters with partially relevant requirements: discarded
  - For example
    - Cluster1={requirement1, requirement2, requirement3, requirement4}
    - Cluster 1 is **relevant only if all** the 4 requirements are similar (redundant/ inconsistent)
- **"Average" Validation (AV)**
  - Calculate the average of relevant requirements per cluster
  - For example
    - Cluster1={requirement1, requirement2, requirement3, requirement4} :
    - if only requirement1 and requirement2 are similar (redundant/ inconsistent) → Cluster1 is 50% relevant

# K-means : Example of results

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## Cluster1:

1. The approval shall be **stamped** in conformance with 5.2.4, and recorded.
2. The approval shall be **marked** in conformance with 5.2.4, and recorded.

Redundancy

## Cluster2:

1. Digital\_state : (switch conversion) states are calculated using input\_voltage.
2. Digital\_state : (switch conversion) states are calculated for frequency external inputs using input\_voltage.

Redundancy

## Cluster3:

1. The range of the transducer shall be **-0.5 to + 3.25 Psid.**
2. The range of the transducer shall be **-90 to + 90 Psid.**

Inconsistency

## Cluster4:

1. SYS 3WSV\_Command\_circuit shall be **activated.**
2. SYS 3WSV\_Command\_circuit shall **not be activated.**

Inconsistency

# Experimental results

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**Table 1:** Results: new number Of requirements, best value of K, validation results and the associated number of relevant clusters for each data set

Dataset	New nb. of req.	Best value of K		SV (Nb. of relevant clusters)	AV (Nb. of relevant clusters)
		Based on statistic gap	Based on RE expert		
Corpus1	902	38	–	11.11% (4)	26.17% (31)
		–	721	48.69% (56)	51.31% (64)
Corpus2	280	42	–	8.33% (2)	19.54% (11)
		–	224	76% (19)	76% (19)

# Discussion

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- Approach tested on **real industrial datasets** → domain independent, different types of requirements in NL, no a priori knowledge
- Statistic gap for a best K-value → **not the best way** to calculate the « optimal » value in RE context
- K-value defined by RE expert according to the errors rate (20%) → **significantly improve** results



# Conclusion

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- First step for detecting redundancy and inconsistency
- Collaboration between academic and industrial (ELENAA project)
- ML algorithms to solve clients needs
- Results implemented in an industrial product



# Thanks for your attention!

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Semios for Requirements 

<https://twitter.com/semiosapp>



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