

# USING *ROLLING.CLASSIFY* ON THE SAGAS OF ICELANDERS: COLLABORATIVE AUTHORSHIP IN *BJARNAR SAGA HÍTDÆLAKAPPA*

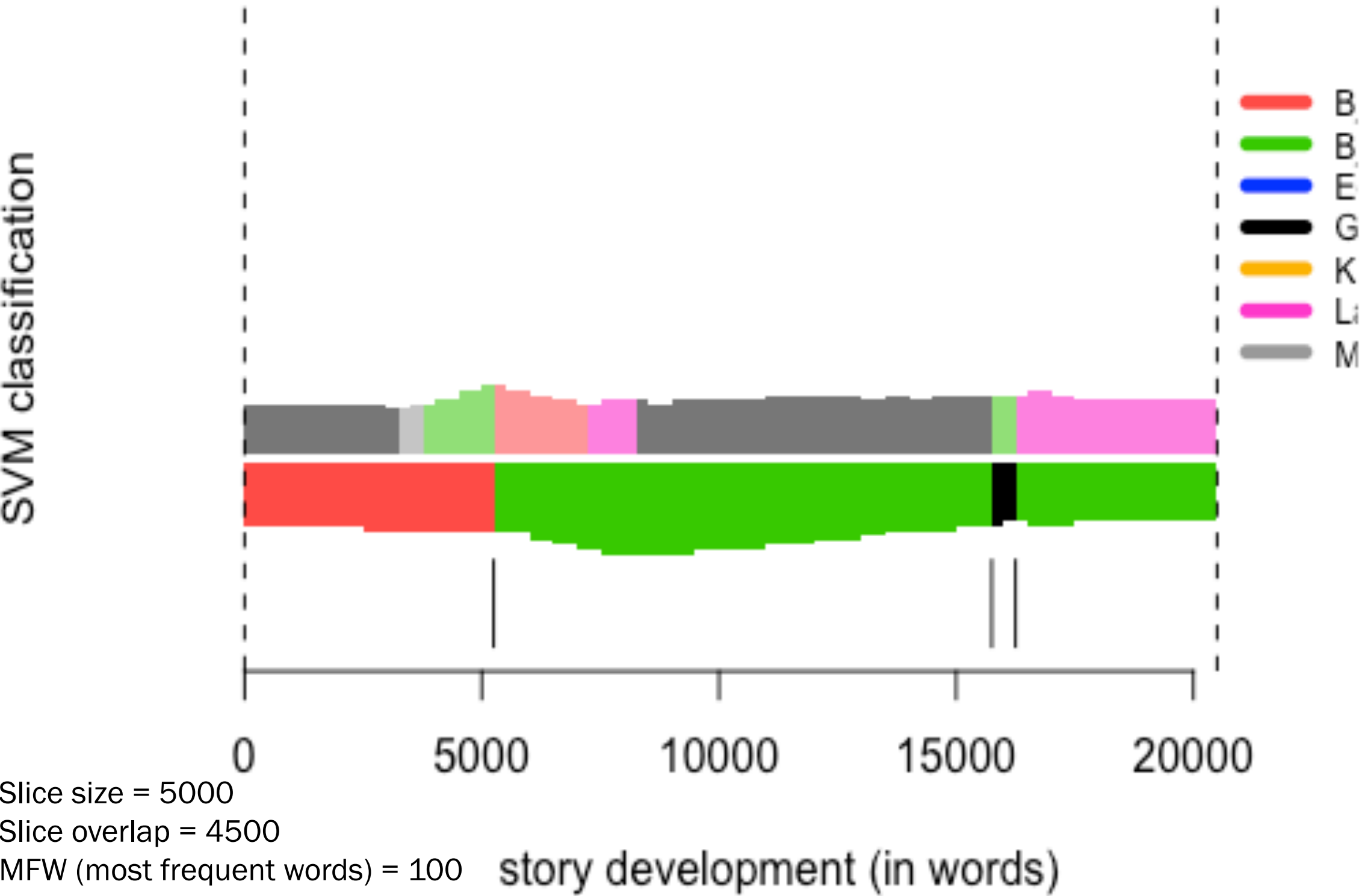
DARIA GLEBOVA  
INSTITUTE OF SLAVIC STUDIES (RAS), MOSCOW

## Introduction

*Bjarnar saga Hítðælakappa* is one of the “sagas of Icelanders” (Ice. *Íslendingasögur*). It has been noted that *Bjarnar saga* shows signs of a stylistic change between the first 10 chapters and the rest of the saga as well as a change in the usage of some narrative techniques. The question is whether the change is entirely compositional and motivated by the narrative strategy of the medieval compiler or it is actually a result of a compilation of two texts that have two different authors?

## Aim

The aim of the research is to check the hypothesis of the stylistic change that was proposed by the literary analysis of composition and narrative techniques in the saga.



## State of the Sources

**The long redaction:** AM 551 d α, 4to (17<sup>th</sup> c.) and its copies; 2 lacunae – first 5 ch. and a part between 14-15 ch. (chapters are given according to critical editions).

**The short redaction:** as a part of the *Separate saga St. Olaf* in *Boëjarbók* (15<sup>th</sup> c.) (preserved in later copies). Ends right on the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of the longer version. This leads to an idea that these first 10 chapters were seen by the medieval compilers as something solid and complete. How did they become a part of the longer version? Did they exist prior to the longer version composition or they were created during the composition? If the second, what is the reason of the stylistic change then?

## Methodology

**Sequential stylometric analysis:** function *rolling.classify* in *Stylo (R)* [1]. The function chunks the text into the even slices and allows the overlap so that some parts of the slices can be used several times in the creation of a model. This feature elaborates the results – each slice is tested for the similarity [2].

**Reference set:** 5 sagas + a sample from the 1<sup>st</sup> part of *Bjarnar saga* and a sample from the 2<sup>nd</sup> part.

**Test set:** the whole *Bjarnar saga*.

## Works cited

[1]: Eder, M., Kestemont, M., Rybicki, J. (2013). “Stylometry with R: A Suite of Tools.” *Digital Humanities 2013: Conference Abstracts*. University of Nebraska–Lincoln: 487–489.  
[2]: Eder, M. (2015). “Rolling Stylometry.” *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, Vol. 31-3: 457–469

## Results

- The change in style is evident and more or less where it was expected to be – the red colour corresponds to the first 10 ch.
- The parts were either created by different authors or they belong to completely different genres/have two different pragmatical aims that influence the style. However, the question of origins of the parts and their relationship remains.