Structure Recognition

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The iText R&D team

About PDF

- Various **standards**: PDF/A-1, PDF/A-2, PDF/A-3, PDF/UA, PDF/E, PAdES, etc.
- Level of **descriptiveness** (e.g. metadata) varies.
- **Basic** level:
  instructions for how a viewer (e.g. Adobe Reader) should render a document.

```
[a, -28.7356, p, 27.2652, p, 27.2652, e, -27.2652, a, -28.7356, r, 64.6889, a, -28.7356, n, 27.2652, c, -38.7594,
e, 444] TJ
/R10 10.44 Tf
68.16 0.24 Td
[", 17.1965, P, -18.7118, i, -9.35592, l, -9.35592, o, -17.2414, t, -9.35636, ", 17.1965,  , 250] TJ
```

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Expectations of end-users

- People are used to programs like Microsoft® Word™ .
- Reflow (e.g. flowing content around an image).
- Structure is part of the document.
- Export to various formats.
- Extracting data.
- Change appearance of a logical unit (e.g. word, line, or paragraph).

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Constraints

- **iText Group nv is an open source company:**
  - **Close to the community.**
  - **Code should be something you want other people to see - accessible (rather than a dirty hack) .**
  - **Code should be something the user can change - contribution.**
- Submitting pull requests.
- Tweak and fine-tune to match experience and expertise.

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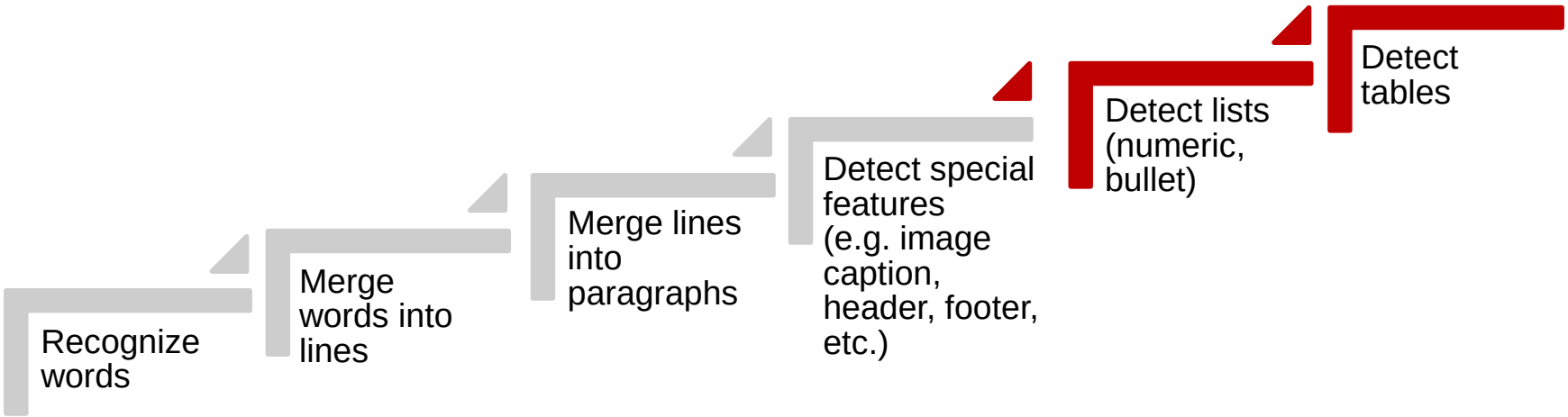
Technical

Proposed solution



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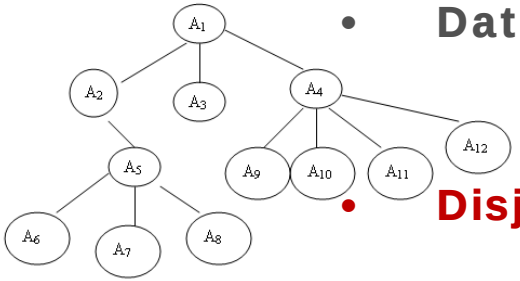
Efficient merging



- Data structure – evaluating equivalence.
- **Disjoint set** algorithm:
  - Space, find, merge all in *O(a(n)).*
  - Maps nicely to PDF ideas.

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When to merge

- **Disjoint set tells us how the merging happens, not when.**

- **When depends on what is being merged - 2 approaches:**

1. (Human) logic

- Chunks are merged into words based on distance.
- Words are merged into lines based on distance and global page layout.
- Lines into paragraphs based on distance and visual cues.

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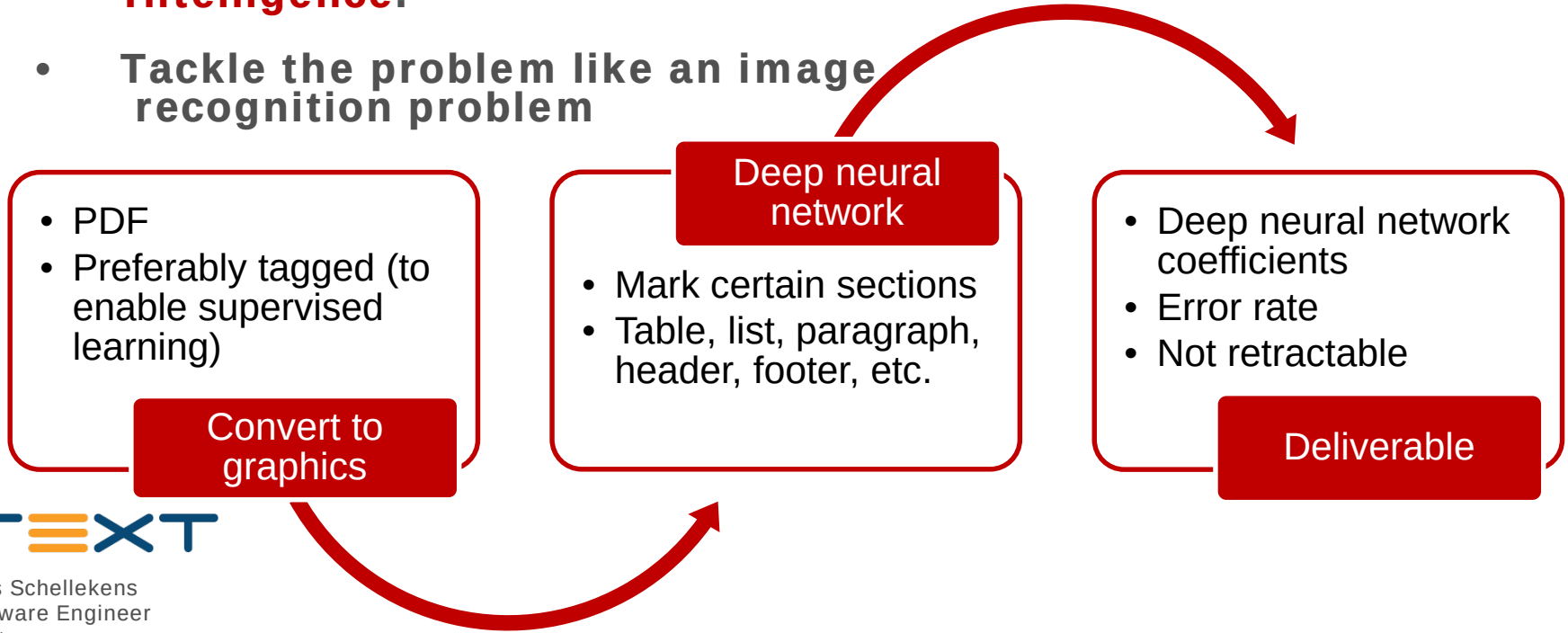
When to merge (alt)

- **Alternative (bends the constraints) – use Artificial Intelligence.**
- **Tackle the problem like an image recognition problem**



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In Depth

Building a training set

- Use of NN requires training data
  - Large volume of (perfectly) tagged PDF documents
- Not readily available
- Build our own?
  - pdfHTML (convert random crawled HTML to PDF)
  - Gutenberg
  - Crawl the internet for PDFs
  - Industry contacts

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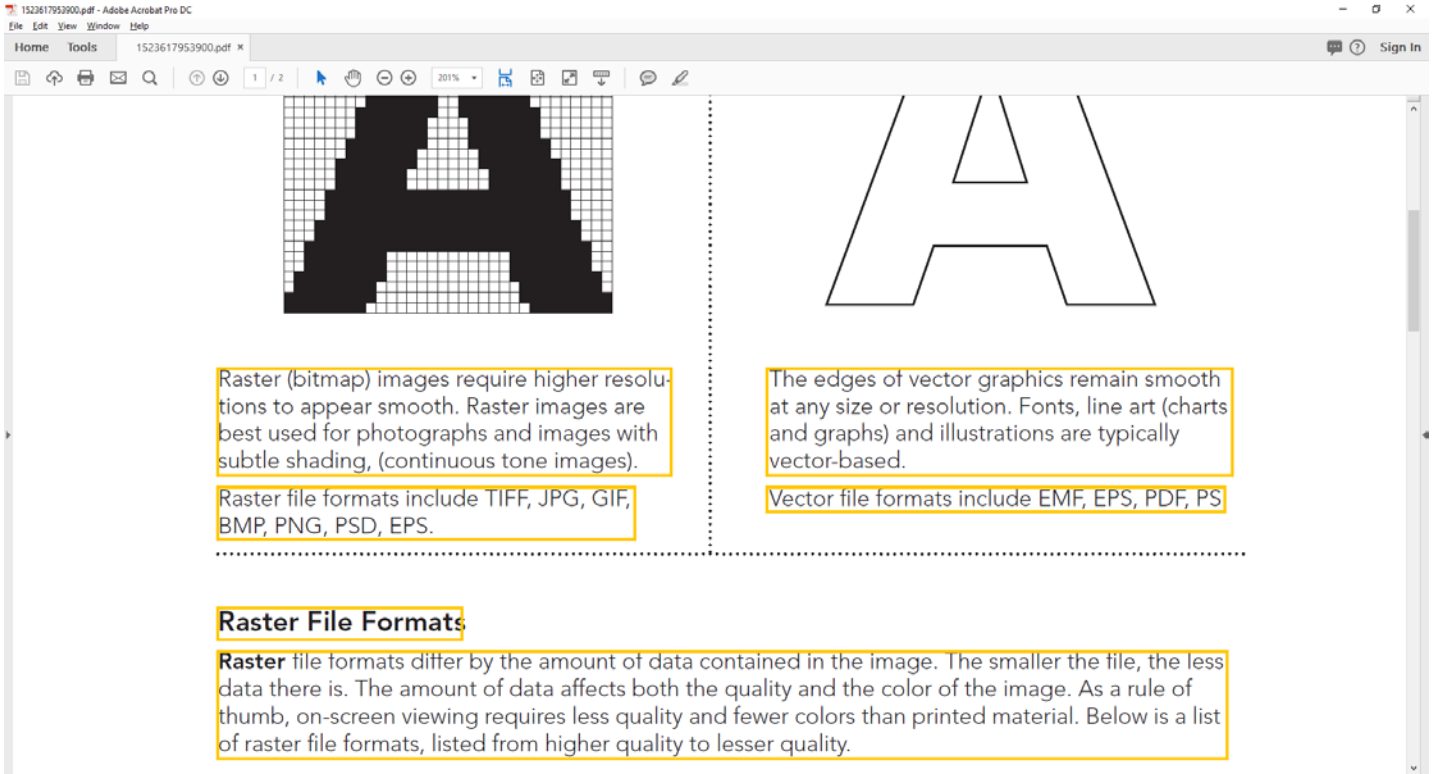
Convert training set



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Convert training set (2)

- Feature selection
  - X
  - Y
  - Width
  - Height
  - Fontsize
  - Bold?
  - Italic?
  - Underline?
  - ΔX
  - ΔY

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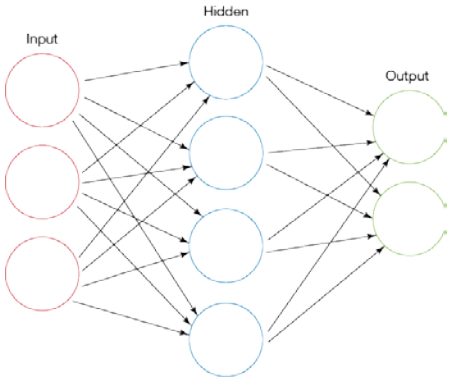
Feed the beast

41	56	10	26	16	52	56	8	26	16	1	0	1
52	56	8	26	16	41	56	10	26	16	1	0	1
52	56	8	26	16	60	56	9	26	16	0	0	1
60	56	9	26	16	52	56	8	26	16	0	0	1
60	56	9	26	16	70	56	5	26	16	1	0	1
70	56	5	26	16	60	56	9	26	16	1	0	1
70	56	5	26	16	76	56	8	26	16	1	0	1
76	56	8	26	16	70	56	5	26	16	1	0	1
76	56	8	26	16	84	56	14	26	16	0	0	1
84	56	14	26	16	76	56	8	26	16	0	0	1
84	56	14	26	16	99	56	9	26	16	1	0	1
84	56	14	26	16	276	190	17	865	16	178	134	0



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```
private void tagUsingAI(InputStream wekaModel, int confidence, List<StructureNodeImpl> nodes, boolean converge){
    IMerger nn = new WekaModelMerger()
            .load(wekaModel)
            .setThreshold(confidence / 100.0);

    // converge
    if(converge) {
        IMerger cv = new Convergence(nn);
        cv.apply(nodes);
    }
    else{
        nn.apply(nodes);
    }
}

public interface IMerger {

    void apply(List<StructureNodeImpl> l);

}
```

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Benefits

Tagging an untagged document

```
[…]
     <MCID text="e" x="409.0" y="686.0" width="11.0" height="25.0" />
     <MCID text="r" x="421.0" y="686.0" width="8.0" height="25.0" />
      <MCID text="l" x="429.0" y="686.0" width="5.0" height="25.0" />
      <MCID text="a" x="435.0" y="686.0" width="11.0" height="25.0" />
      <MCID text="n" x="446.0" y="686.0" width="12.0" height="25.0" />
      <MCID text="d" x="459.0" y="686.0" width="12.0" height="25.0" />
      <MCID text=" " x="472.0" y="686.0" width="5.0" height="25.0" />
   </Span>
</P>
<P lang="nl" x="72.0" y="295.0" width="468.0" height="109.0">
   <Span x="72.0" y="295.0" width="182.0" height="14.0">
      <MCID text="m" x="72.0" y="295.0" width="9.0" height="14.0" />
      <MCID text="e" x="81.0" y="295.0" width="5.0" height="14.0" />
      <MCID text="t" x="87.0" y="295.0" width="3.0" height="14.0" />
      <MCID text=" " x="91.0" y="295.0" width="2.0" height="14.0" />
[…]
```

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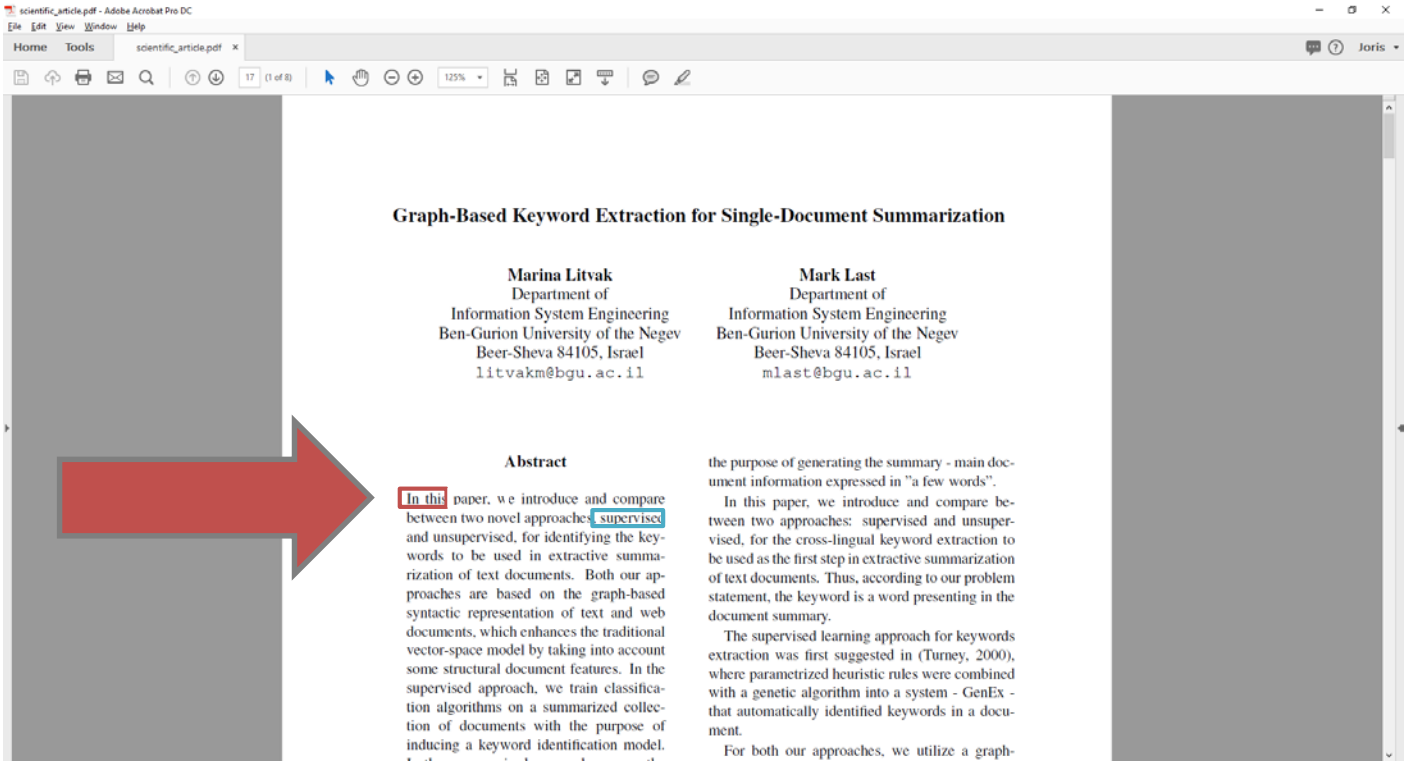
Reflow



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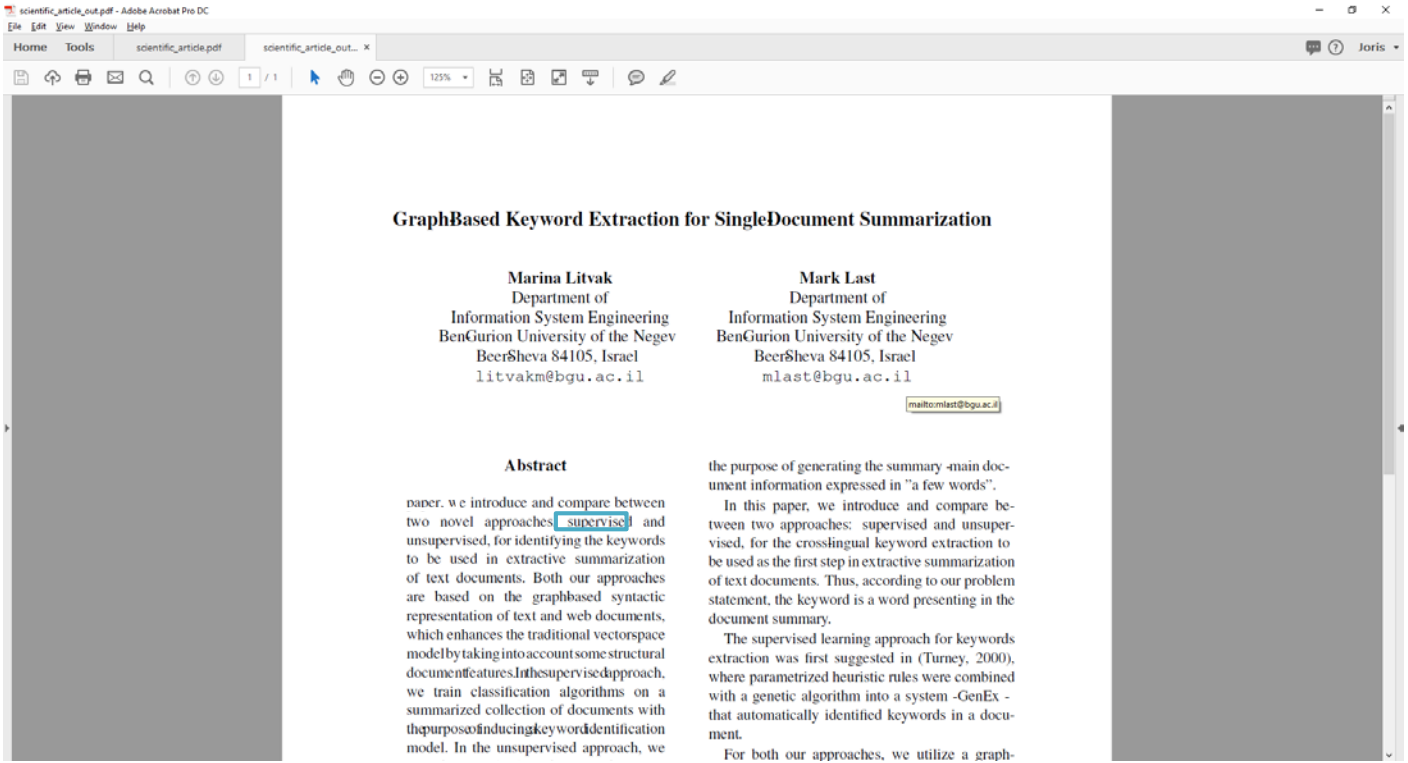
Reflow



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Responsiveness

- **Extreme case:**
  - **Layout content of A4 PDF on A3 canvas.**

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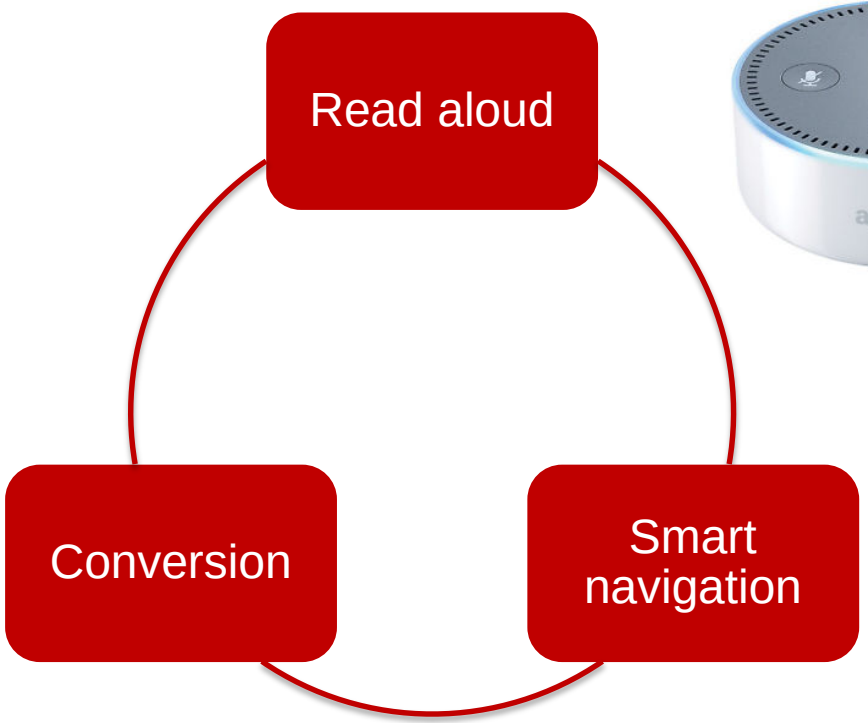
Accessibility

www.pdfa.org



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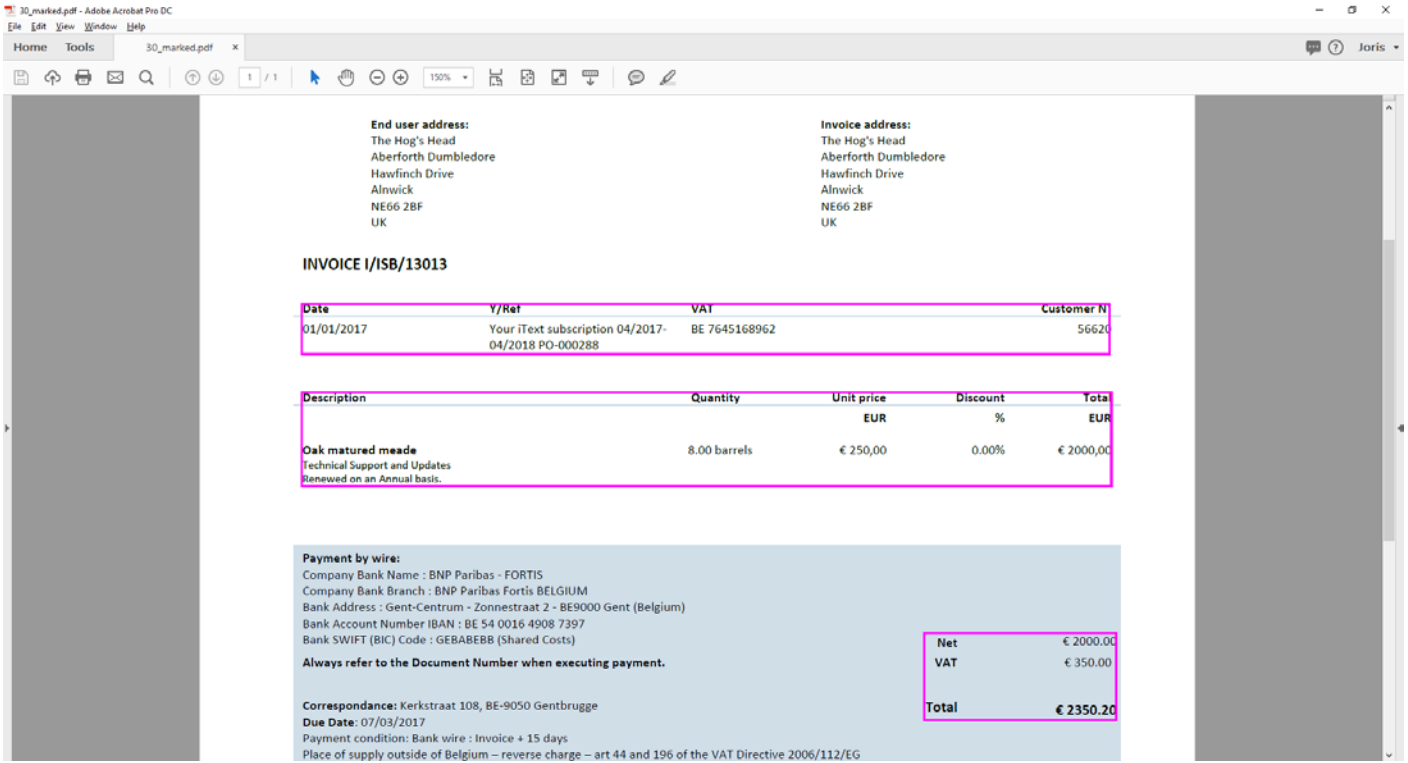
Data extraction



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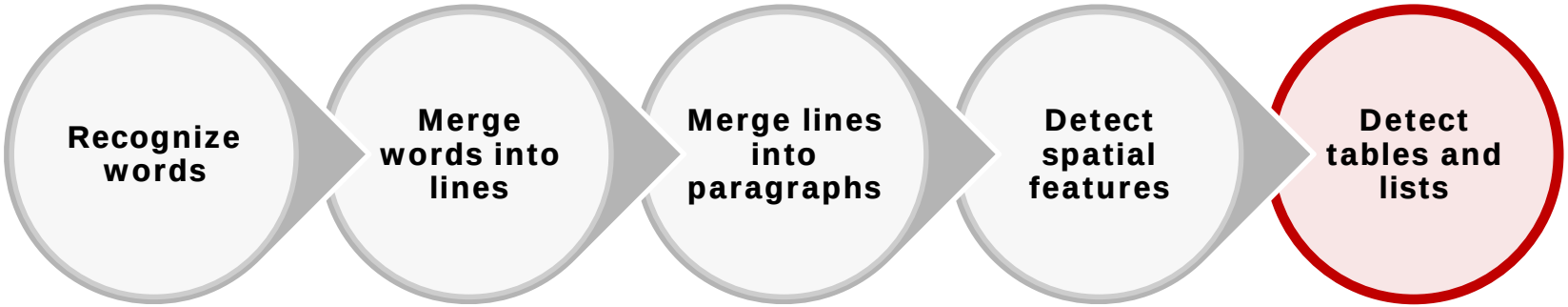

- Data structures
  - Disjoint set: (Human) logic | Global level | Artificial intelligence
- Benefits:
  - still configurable.
  - able to train network to work well for documents you typically process.
  - ‘soft fail’ mode.

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Thank you! Any questions?

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