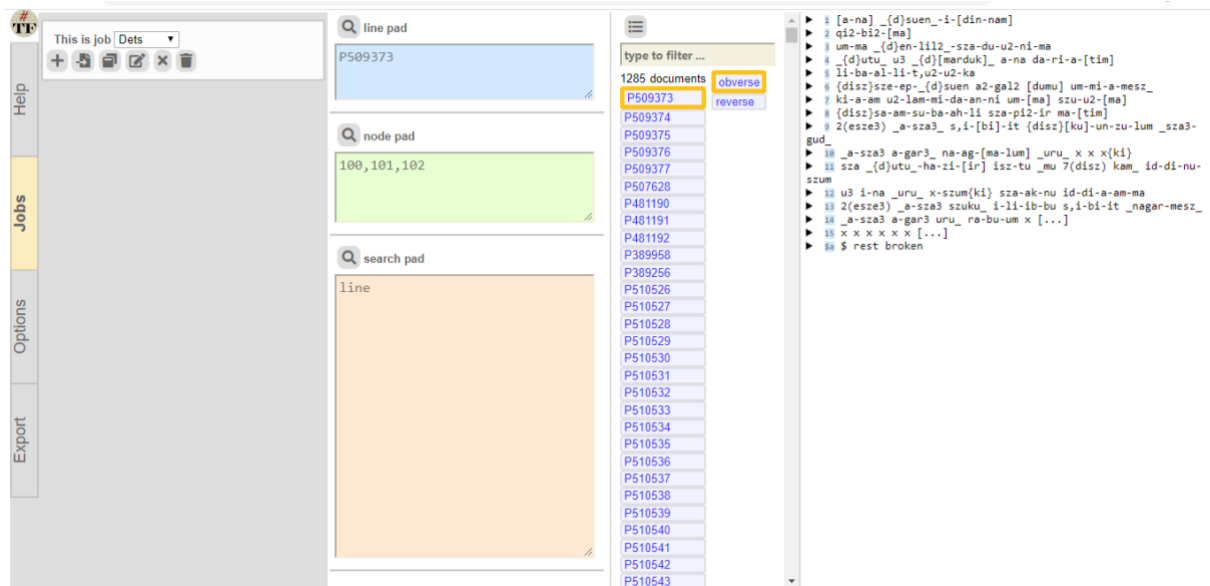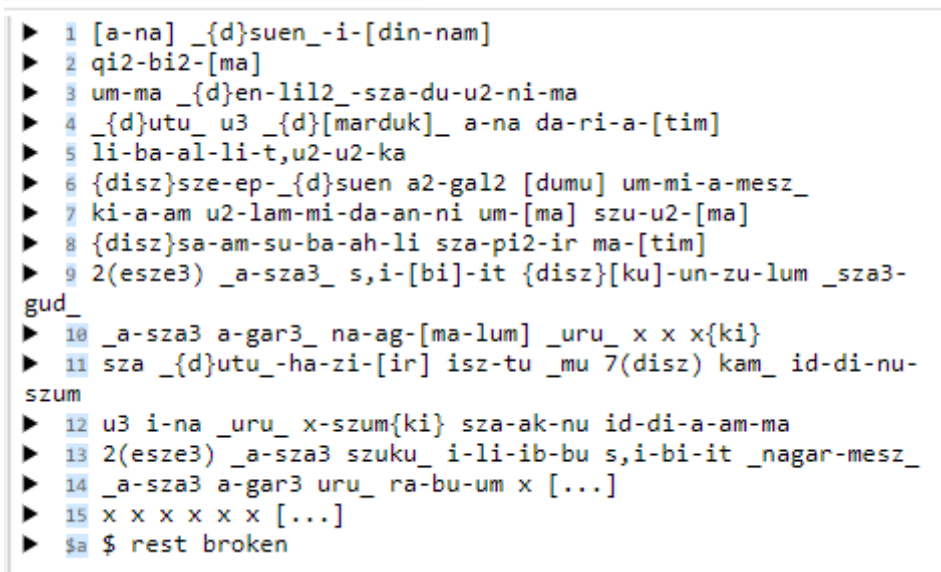Rundown of Alba de Ridder's short presentation in the Lorentzworkshop 2020.

The goal of a short sprint in the summer of 2019 was to tag parts of speech in a corpus of Old Babylonian letters. Present were Ernst Boogert, Cale Johnson, Martijn Kokken, Alba de Ridder and Dirk Roorda.

## Part 1. The Basis



*1 A Babylonian text in TF*



*2 Above, enlarged*

Here you see an example of a Babylonian letter. We tried to use orthographic shortcuts to pinpoint Parts of Speech. Here are some examples of how we did that.

## Part 2. Determinatives
Note the {d}, {ki}, {disz} parts: these are determinatives. They indicate personal names, place names, deity names and materials of which an item is made (think of reed, wood and clay). These determinatives stand next to nouns. Dirk Roorda used a script to find these determinatives and made them possible to search for them in the TF browser.

*3 Determinatives in TF*

*4 Above, enlarged*

## Part 3. Logograms

The words encased by _'s are so called logograms: signs used to express words in the Sumerian language, instead of being written syllabically in Akkadian. In the Old Babylonian letter corpus these logograms are used solely to express nouns.

## Part 4. Prepositions

Words following prepositions ana, ina, eli, isztu, itti and arki are nouns. Roorda tagged the words following these prepositions as nouns.

*5 Preposition ana in TF*



*6 Above, enlarged*

## Part 4. Prelude to verbs

We did not get around to tag verbs yet. Here I will present some methods to identify verbs using the TF browser.

Words starting with the sign u2 are verbs in the D or Š stem.

*7 Words starting with u2*



*8 Above, enlarged*

Using the browser to search for verb patterns using a i-CV-VC-CV-VC gives verbs in the G durative. This can be extended to other verbal forms as well.

*9 Verbs in G durative*



*10 Above, enlarged*

A final approach I have played with is searching for verb-exclusive suffixes. Some suffixes are common to verbs and nouns, so not all verbal suffixes are useful. The example given here is the 3rd masculine plural dative, -šunūšim.



*11 Verbs with a dative suffix*



*12 Above, enlarged*

The endpoint for this line of thinking is that TF can recognize these forms even without the suffixes. Many of the verbs listed are common but irregular, thus being harder to detect using paradigm-based searches.