

# Zipfer 1.2

## Important information and licence conditions

Zipfer 1.2  
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Mark Schonewille Economt-x-Talk.com  
Nijmegen, the Netherlands

This document provides brief instructions for using Zipfer. Reading the license conditions at the end of this text is obligatory.

### Introduction

Zipfer is a little tool by xTalk programmer Mark Schonewille. This software retrieves data from any text file, counts the words and creates a proper data file. From the resulting data file, Zipfer can calculate a number of statistics, such as a linear regression equation expressing the relationship between rank and frequency of each word. Additionally, Zipfer creates graphs, showing the zipf curve and errors estimated from the theoretical and actual frequencies. Zipfer also allows you to export the data for further exploration in more advanced tools such as Excel and SPSS. These files can also be opened by Zipfer again. It is also possible to export the graphs as JPEG pictures, for use in your papers and in websites. Currently, there are versions available for MacOS PPC (Classic), MacOS X and Windows XP. If you need a version for a different operating system, you may send a request to the author. Zipfer is shareware and currently costs 9 euro (approximately USD 11). More information about Zipfer can be found at <http://economy-x-talk.com>.

## Using Zipfer

Before using Zipfer, one needs to prepare a corpus file. Use any text document and convert it to a plain text file. For example, a Microsoft Word file Corpus.doc or an AppleWorks (iWork) file Corpus.cwk needs to be converted to Corpus.txt before Zipfer can read it. To convert a file, open the file Corpus.doc with Microsoft Word or open the file Corpus.cwk with AppleWorks. Choose Save As... from the file menu and select a text format from the appropriate menu in the Save As dialogue window. Select the Okay button to save your new text file. To start using Zipfer, double-click the application in the graphical user interface of your operating system. Zipfer uses a graphical user interface and does not provide access to its features from a command line.

Once the application is running, choose Import from the File menu. Select the corpus file in the appearing dialog and select the Open button. Now, you can choose several possibilities, which are new in Zipfer 1.2.



Choose Words to analyse files the same way as you did in Zipfer 1.0. This way, you can create a list with a frequency for each different word, excluding punctuation and numbers. Choose Phrases to count word groups. Three different word groups are possible. Phrases can be distinguished by paragraph. This means that you can have more than 1 phrase in a paragraph. Phrases will be found based on punctuation. You can also define phrases by returns, meaning that each phrase starts on a new line. The third possibility is to have Zipfer find word sequences, regardless of whether they actually are a phrase and regardless of any punctuation.

Zipfer will need between few seconds and several minutes to import the text file (note: if your computer appears frozen, Zipfer may still be calculating. Don't force-quit too soon! We will solve this problem with proper visual feedback in a future version). Increasing the maximum length of a phrase causes calculation time to increase exponentially.

To view graphs, choose one from the Analysis menu. Zipfer will calculate the graph and show it in its window. To export the graph, choose Export Graph... from the File menu. Make sure that the window is not covered by any other window, as Zipfer will export a screenshot of the window, including any covering objects. Create a Report by choosing the appropriate menu item from the Analysis menu. You can print the graphs and the report. The report, too, can be saved as a picture.

If you are running an unregistered version of Zipfer, only the first 100 different words, or word groups, will be counted. While you're trying the software, well-known songs with titles like "99 bottles of beer on the wall" are excellent samples to use with the unregistered version.

## **Contact**

If you have comments about Zipfer or want to make a feature request, you can contact the author at [support@economy-x-talk.com](mailto:support@economy-x-talk.com).

## **History**

1.2.1 - A problem that prevented the data from being saved to disk has been solved.

1.2 - better interface for spreadsheet window - no error occurs if a graph is drawn while all frequencies are equal (but the line drawn may be invisible) - Zipfer will no longer complain that a file is not a Zipfer file, after cancelling the Open File dialog. - Registration made easier - Better icon in Windows - Added Update and Website menu items in Help menu - Besides single words, one may now also analyse sentences, paragraphs and word groups.

1.0.1 Fixed a problem with the registration procedure - Main window opens at a size not larger than the screen size - Linux version is now available.

1.0 Original release

## **License Conditions**

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