

3. Descriptive Inference II (Flipped)

DS-GA 1015, Text as Data
Arthur Spirling

Feb 23, 2021

Housekeeping

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HW 1 out tonight (deadline: two weeks). Turn in an RMarkdown book. Note the academic honesty policy!

Where Are We?

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now cover some **more descriptive** measures, dealing with **diversity**, **complexity** and **style** of content.

and think seriously about the nature of the **sampling** process that produces the texts we see, and what to do about it.

Distinctive terms (χ^2): Democratic Debates

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Laura Bronner

@laurabronner



Some of the more distinctive words and phrases this
[#DemDebate](#)

```
docs      turn_the_page  billionaires  diverse  mr_trump  zero  busted_my_neck
BIDEN           0             1           0           0       1           1
BUTTIGIEG       5             0           0           0       0           0
KLOBUCHAR       0             0           0           0       0           0
SANDERS         0             4           0           1       0           0
STEYER         0             0           5           8       0           0
WARREN         0             6           0           0       0           0
YANG           0             0           0           0       7           0
```

> |

11:04 PM · Feb 7, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

Recap

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What is the TTR? What does it tell us?

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There is some evidence that it (initially) *falls* as babies learn to speak.
Why?

Other Ideas MTLD

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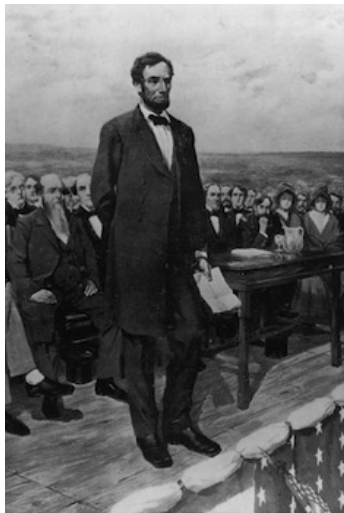
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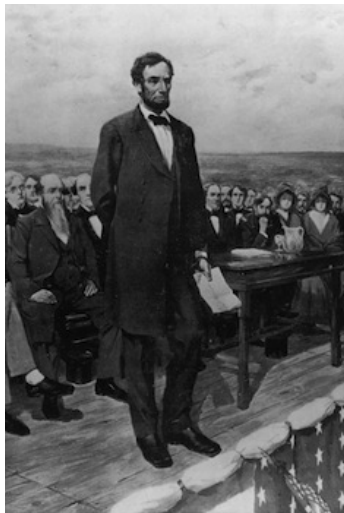
→ if text is highly diverse, be able to maintain given threshold for longer (on average) and thus mean number of words will be higher.

Lincoln Example

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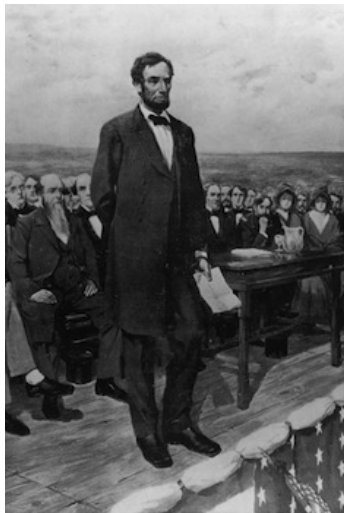


Lincoln Example



...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

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"The reporter who the senator attacked admitted the error" is harder than "The reporter who attacked the senator admitted the error" because less obvious to whom 'who' refers.

Exercise

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Restoration of national income, which shows continuing gains for the third successive year, supports the normal and logical policies under which agriculture and industry are returning to full activity. Under these policies we approach a balance of the national budget. National income increases; tax receipts, based on that income, increase without the levying of new taxes.

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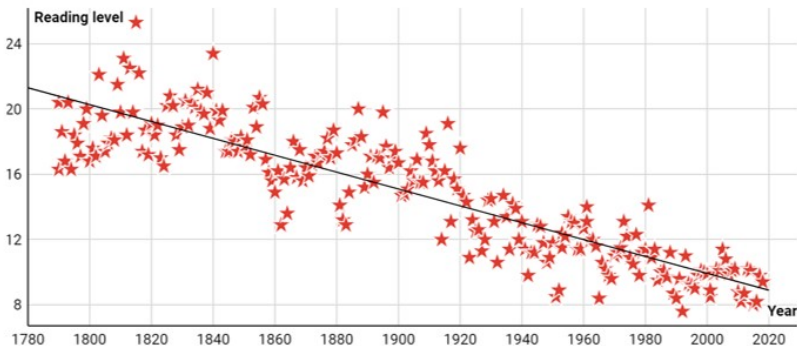
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What's 'wrong' with this measurement approach?

Reading level of State of the Union addresses, 1790-2018

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level



Includes addresses to joint sessions of Congress

Chart: Mother Jones • Source: Guardian, American Presidency Project, Readability Formulas • [Get the data](#)

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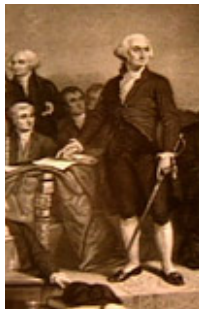


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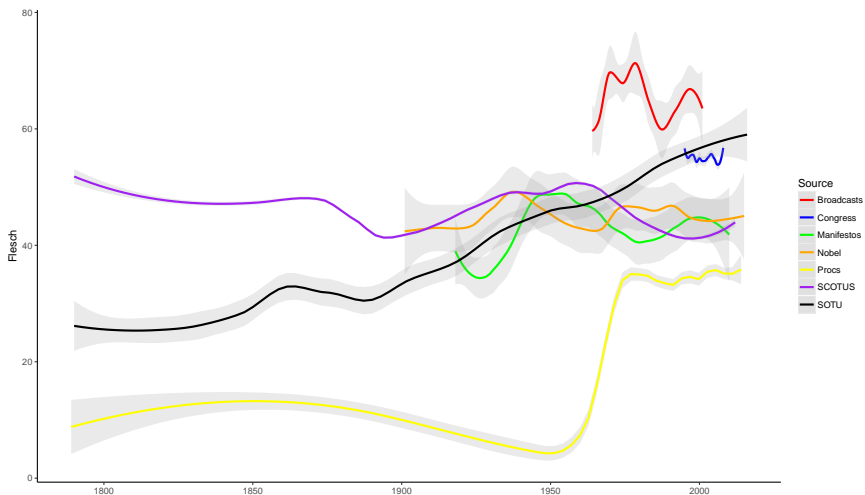
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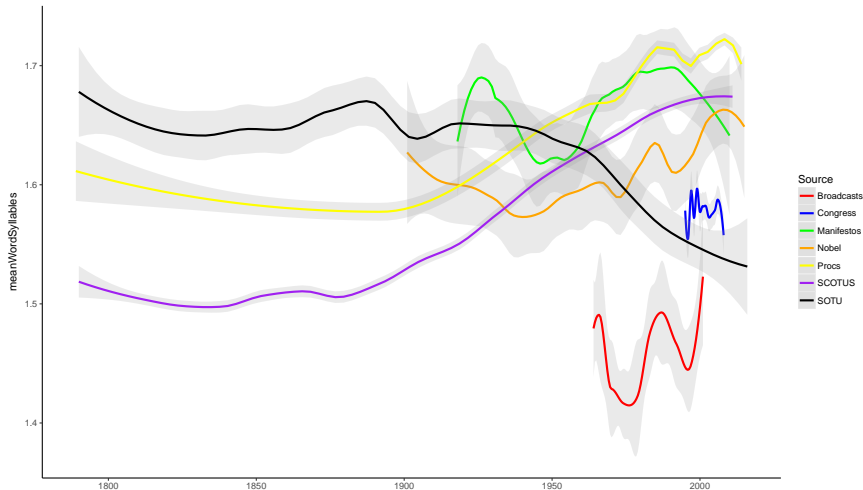


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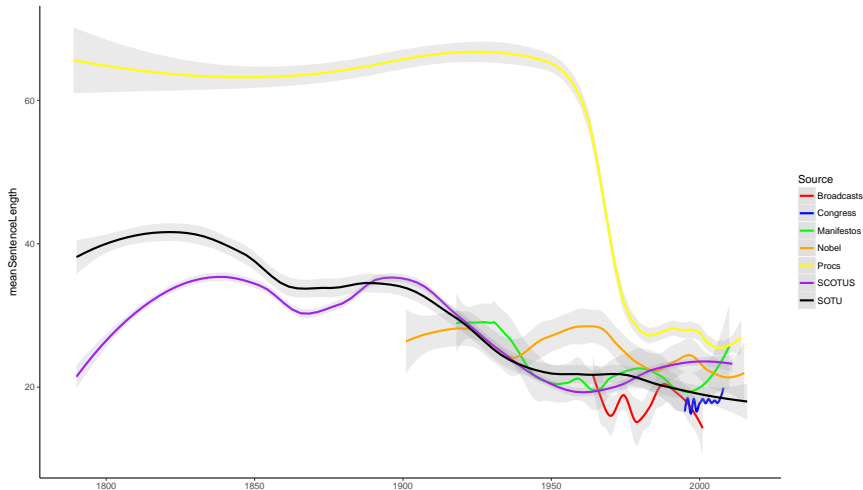


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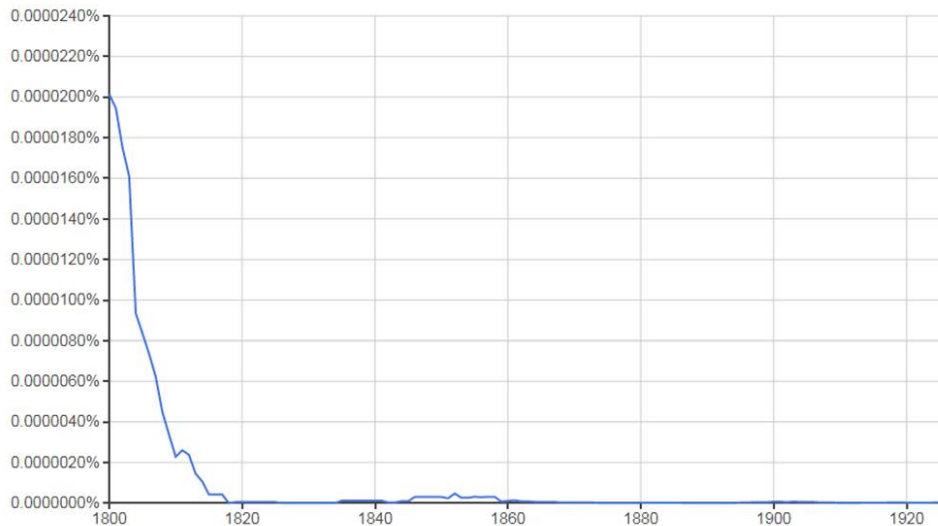
- 1 Ask adults to make [pairwise](#) comparisons between documents: [crowdsource](#) thousands of such contests.
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- 3 Incorporate **rarity** in systematic way via **Google Books Corpus**.
- 4 Provide meaningful **uncertainty** inference estimates via **bootstrapping** of document-level estimates.

→ *provide better measure of political sophistication*

Cleaning ftupid: What Could Possibly Go Wrong?



Mosteller and Wallace, 1963/4

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Q why use **function** words? what is the motivation?

A More General Model: The Backbencher's Dilemma...

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Related: unclear how seniority affects this.

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Generalize: two directions, across all **speeches**, across all **speakers**, take average pairwise differences.

Formally. . .

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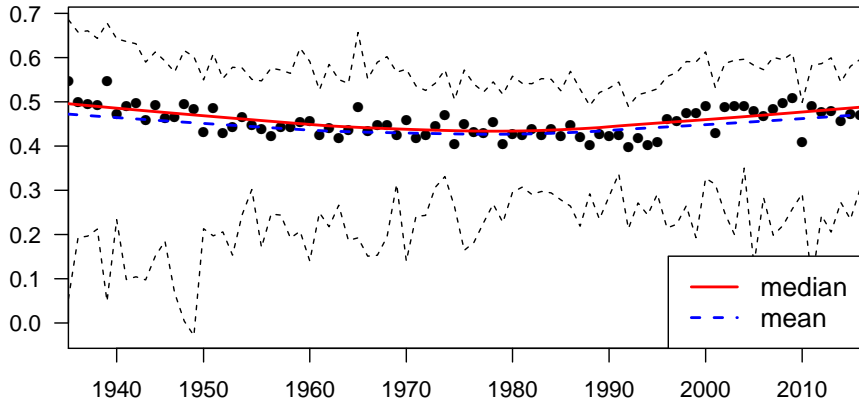
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Estimation/fitting generally fast.

Average Level of Boringness is Constant!

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Paper:

<http://nyu.edu/projects/spirling/documents/VeryBoring.pdf>



Software:

<https://github.com/leslie-huang/stylest>



Vignette:

<https://leslie-huang.github.io/stylest/>

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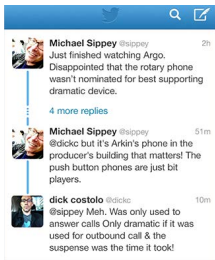
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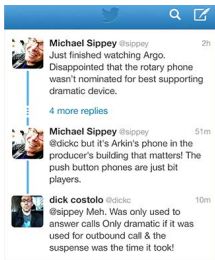
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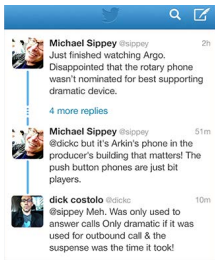
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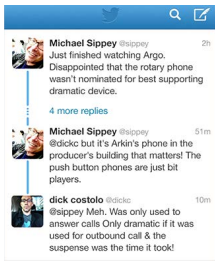
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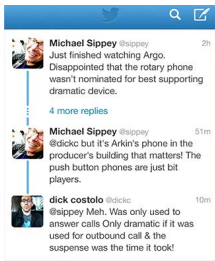
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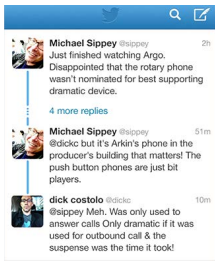
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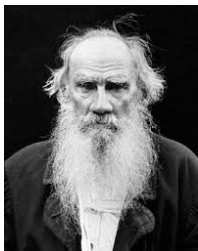
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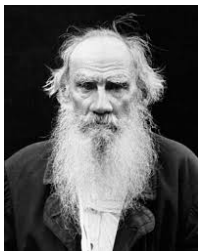
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Exercise

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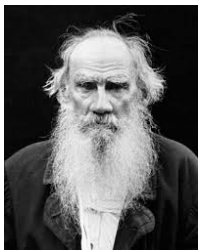
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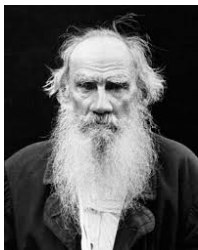


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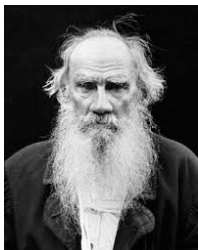
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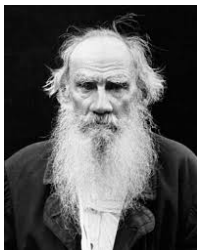
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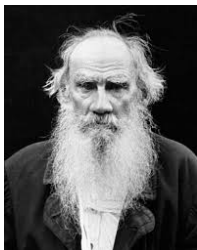


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