



BC COMS 2710: Computational Text Analysis

BARNARD COLLEGE OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Lecture 10 – Topic Models

Announcements – Assignments



- Tutorial 2.2
 - Due tomorrow night (Thursday, 04/20)
 - Long - Broken into lots of small steps
- Readings:
 - Reading 03 – link course site, due Sunday
- HW 02:
 - Released later today
 - Open ended assignment
- Office hours

Guest speakers: June 1st, 9th



- Guest Speakers:
 - Maria Antoniak:
 - PhD student @ Cornell – June 1st
 - Lucy Li
 - PhD student @ Berkeley – June 9th
 - Author of *Content Analysis of Textbooks via Natural Language Processing: Findings on Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in Texas US History Textbooks*
- Attendance is required



Course so far



- Insights from individual words
 - TF-IDF
 - Dictionary based methods
- Insights from specific documents
 - Readability
- Today: Group individual words into larger constructs

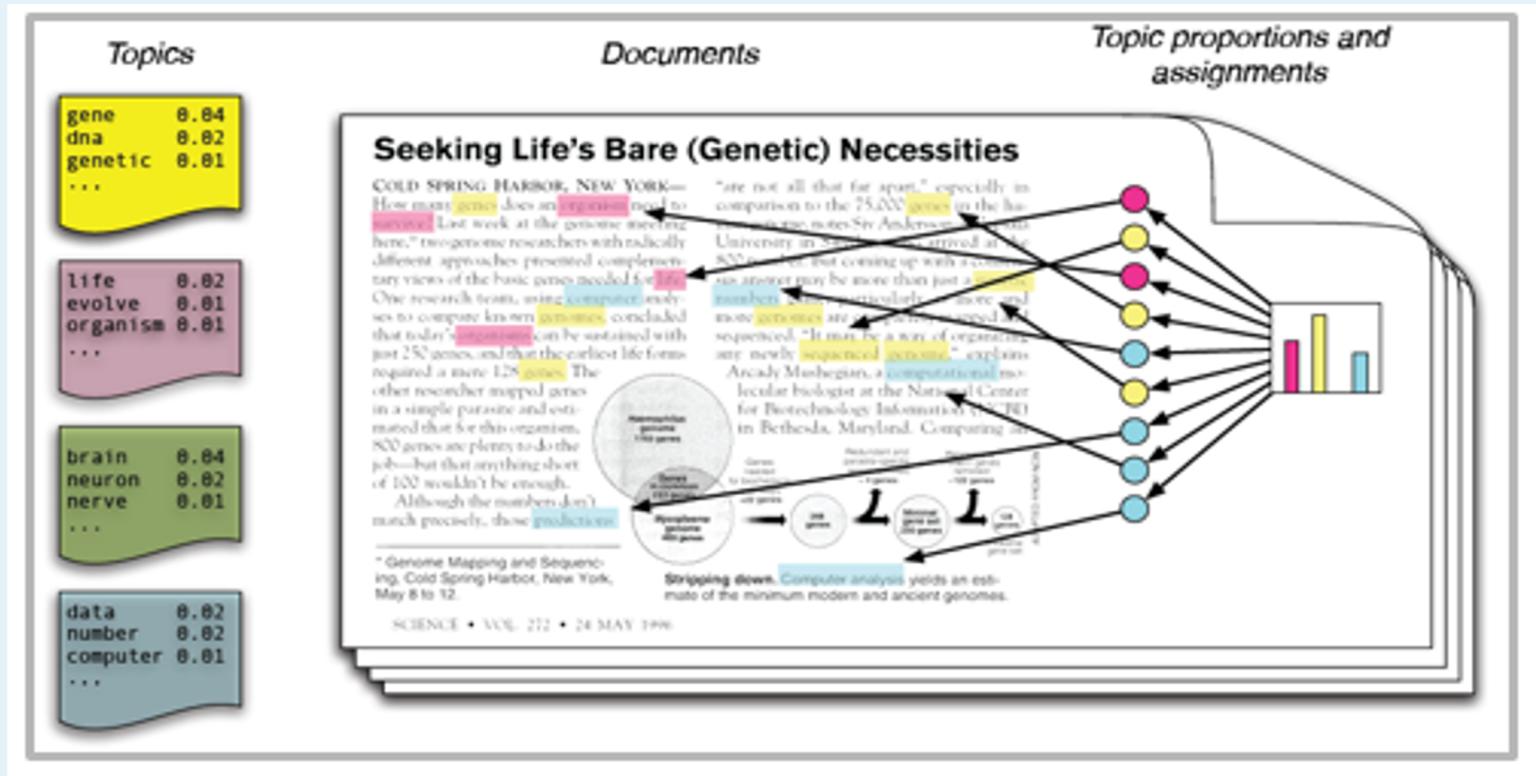
Course Outline



- Python Overview Week 1
- Lexical based analysis methods
 - Text Processing
 - Document Representation
 - Topic ModelingWeek 2 - 3
- Data Collection
 - Web Scraping
 - APIsWeek 4
- Machine Learning
 - Regression & Classification
 - ClusteringWeek 5
- Advanced Topics & Final Projects
 - Dimensionality Reduction
 - Word RepresentationsWeek 6

Topic Modeling

- Goal: Identify underlying topics across documents



What are topics?



Observation

Tokens that are likely to appear in the same context

Hidden structure that determines how **tokens** appear in a corpus

Want to uncover

Topic Modeling: Corpora -> Topics



Input:
Millions of Books



Output: topics
(distributions over
words)

killed wounded sword slain arms military rifle wounds loss
human Plato Socrates universe philosophical minds ethics
inflammation affected abdomen ulcer circulation heart
ships fleet sea shore Admiral vessels land boats admiral
sister child tears pleasure daughters loves wont sigh warm
sentence clause syllable singular examples clauses syllables
provinces princes nations imperial possessions invasion
women Quebec Women Iroquois husbands thirty whom
steam engines power piston boilers plant supplied chimney
lines points direction planes Lines scale sections extending

Each row is a topic

— Breakout Rooms:

<https://mimno.infosci.cornell.edu/jsLDA/>



Discovering Topics

How do we discover topics?



- Latent Semantic Analysis
- Probabilistic Latent Semantic Analysis
- Latent Dirichlet Allocation

How do we discover topics?



- Latent Semantic Analysis
- Probabilistic Latent Semantic Analysis
- **Latent Dirichlet Allocation**



- Probabilistic model
- Generative model

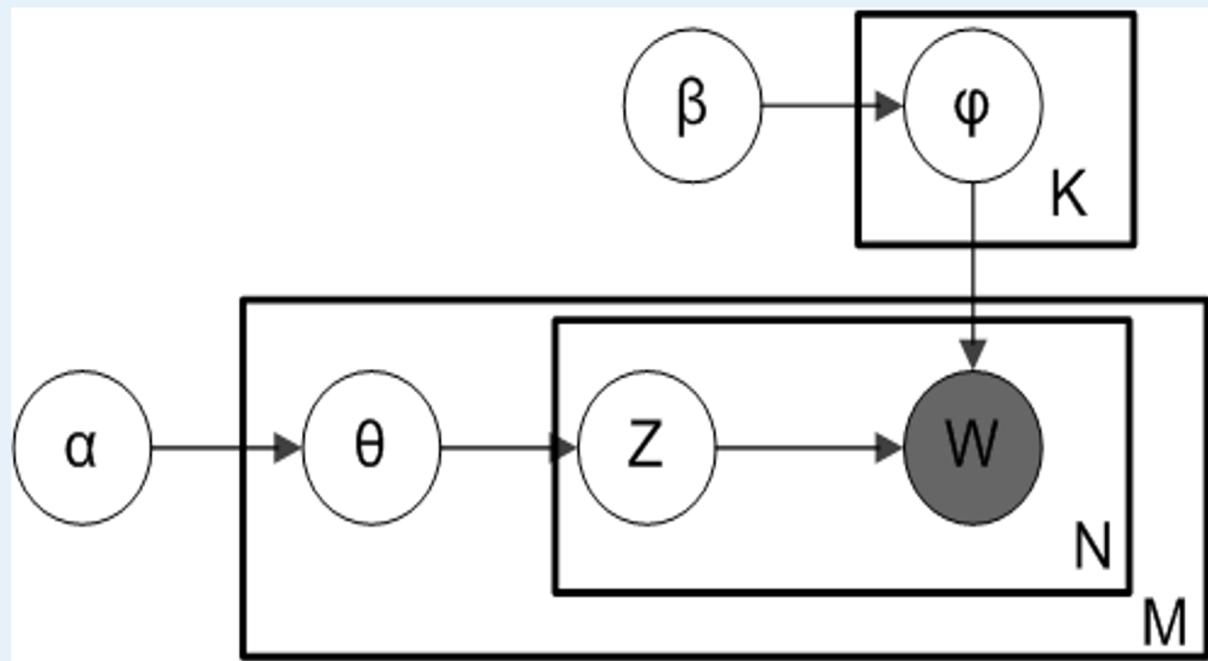
LDA Generative Story



- Each word appears independent of each other
- Each word depends on the topic
 - Topics have a distribution of words
 - Topics have a distribution of documents



LDA Plate Notation



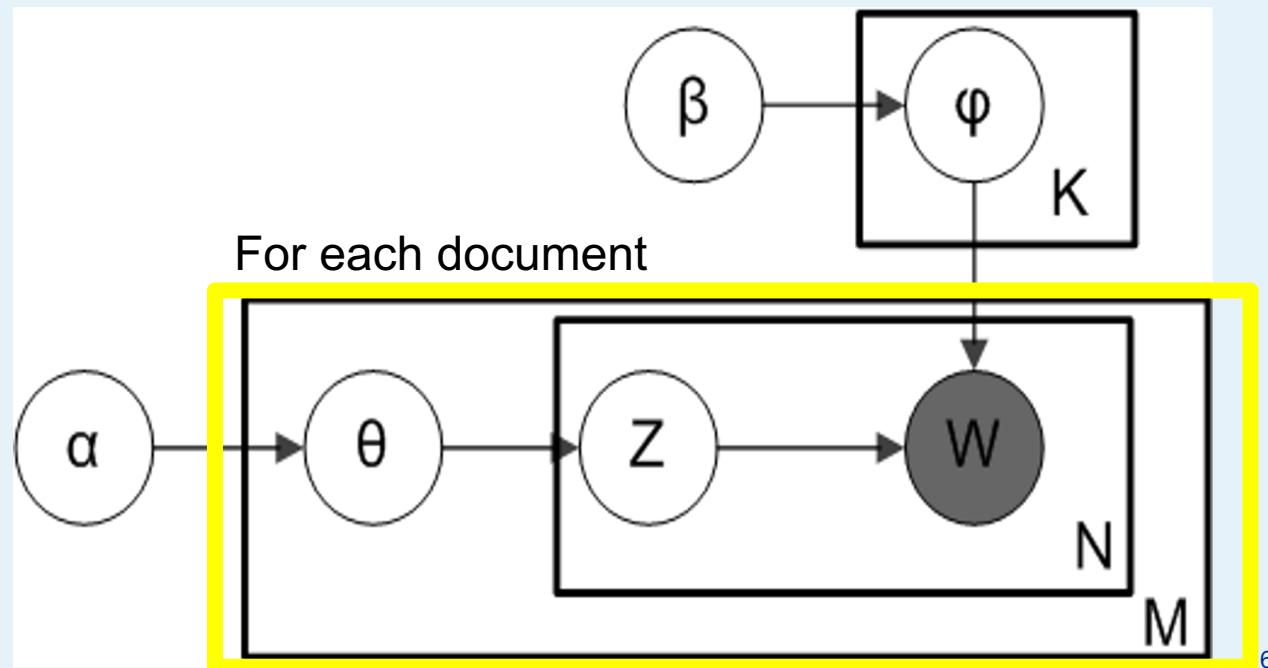


LDA Plate Notation

M = number of documents

N = number of words in a document

K = number of topics (we choose this)



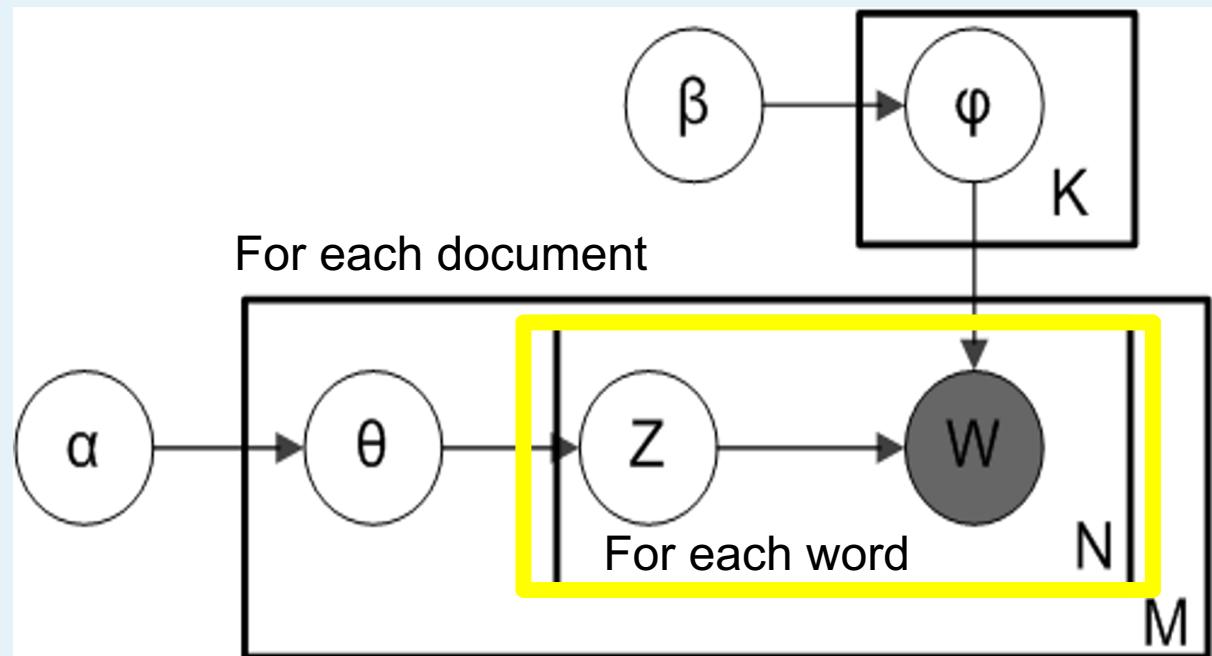
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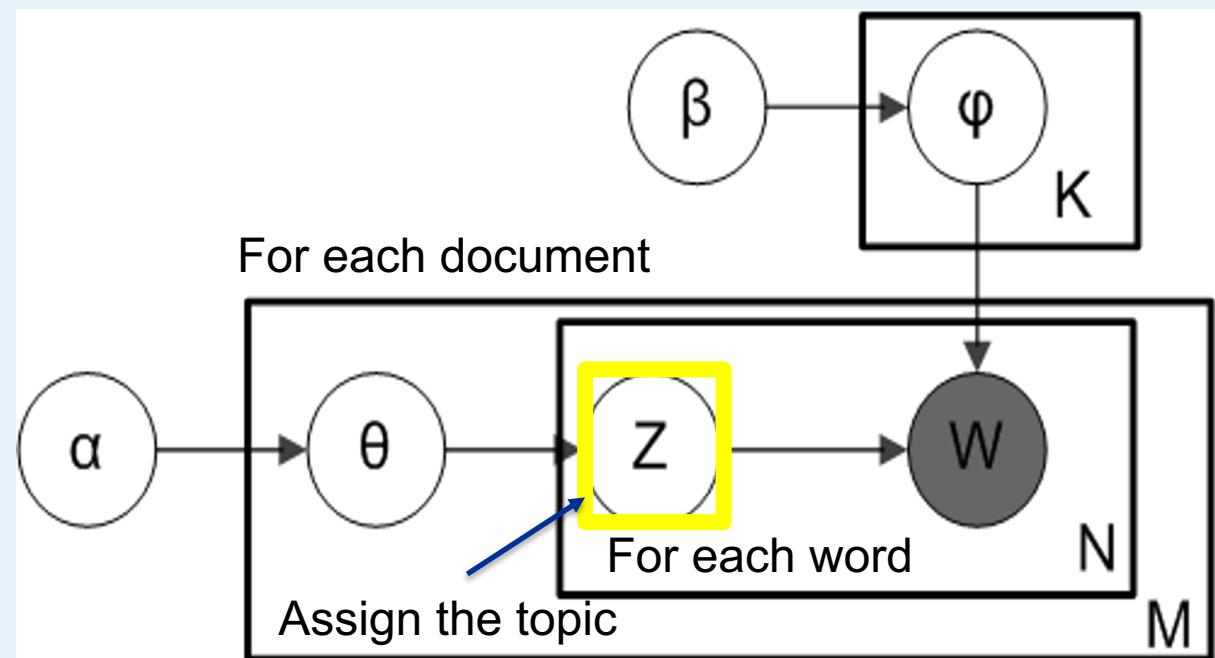
LDA Plate Notation



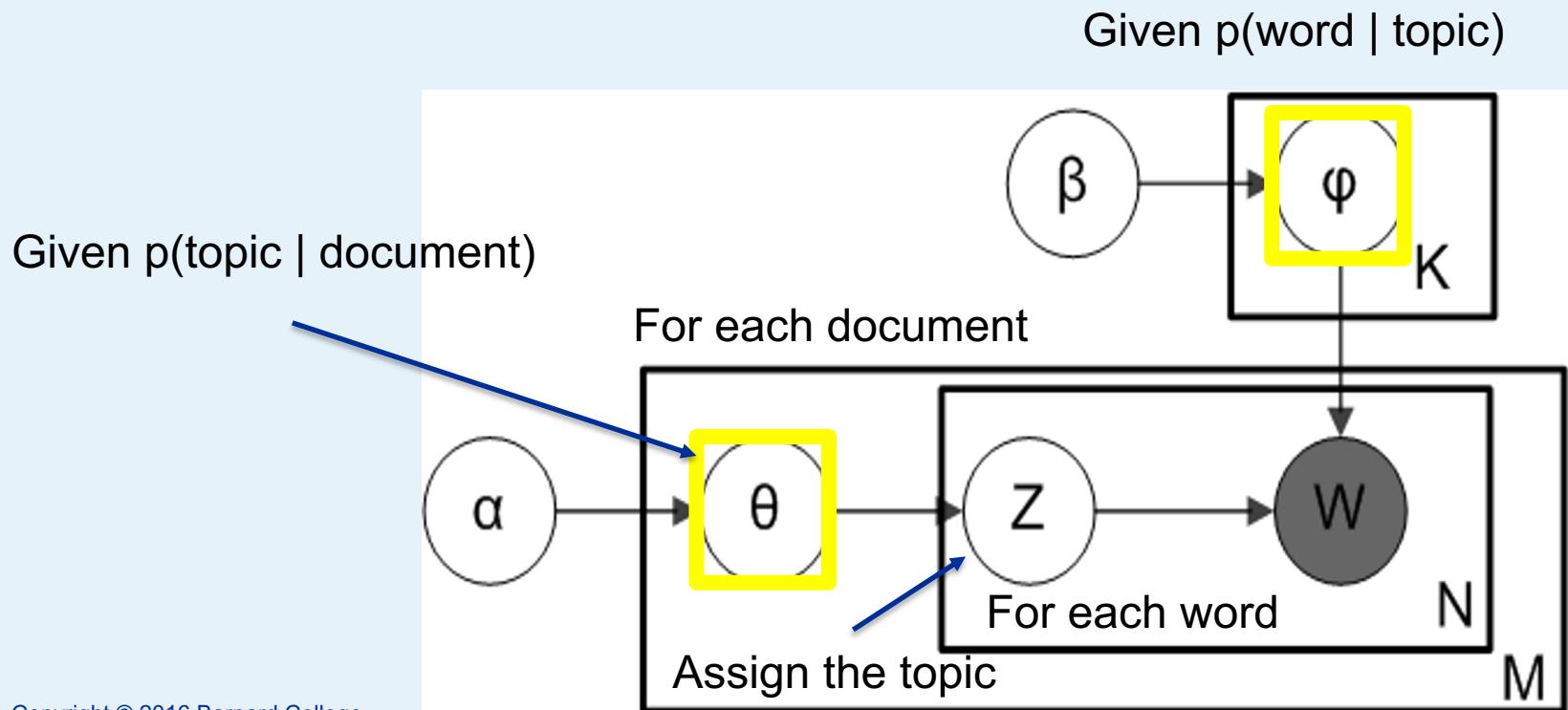
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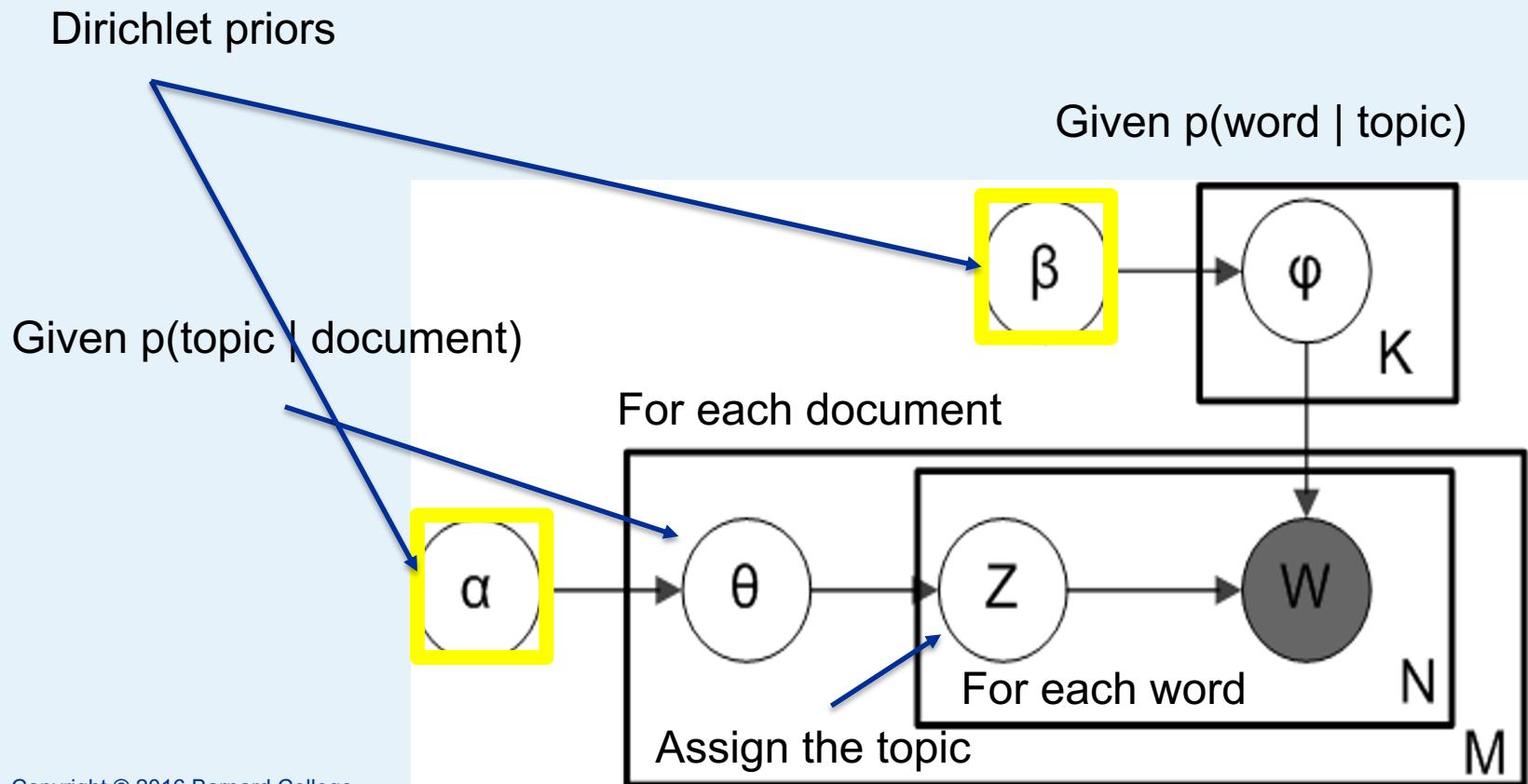


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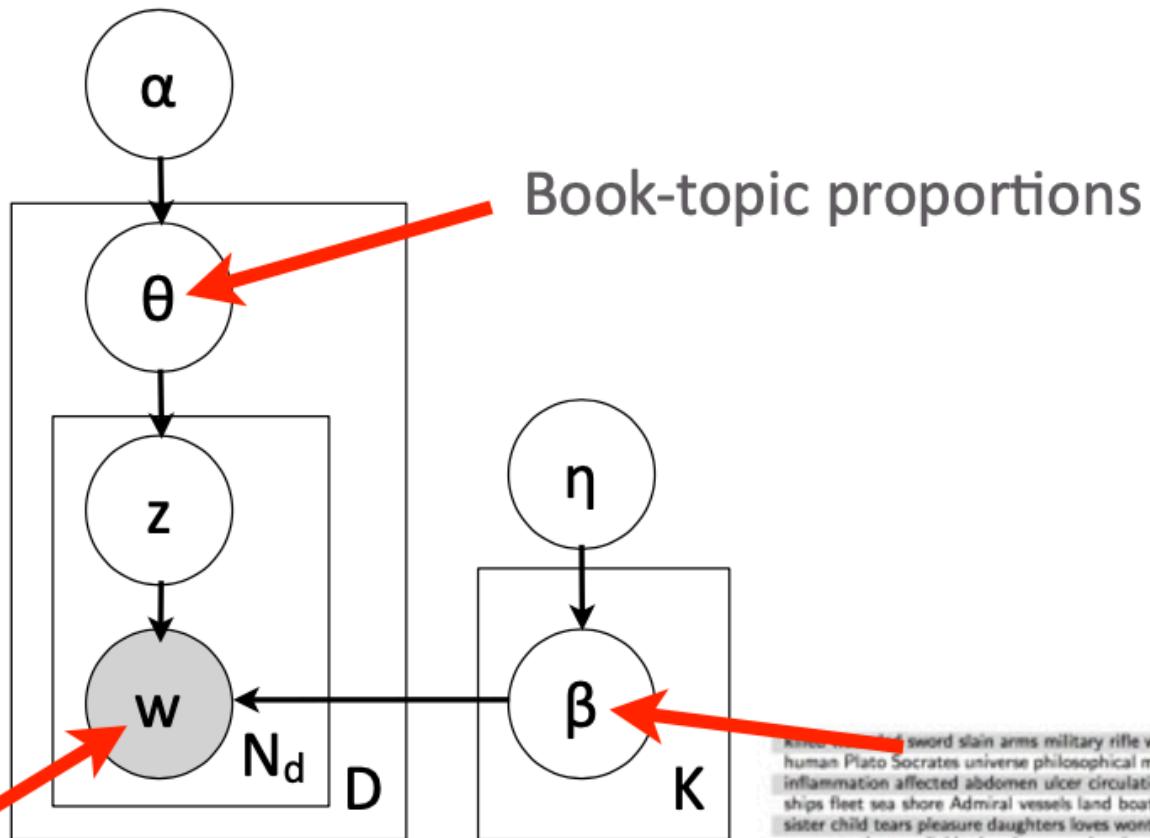


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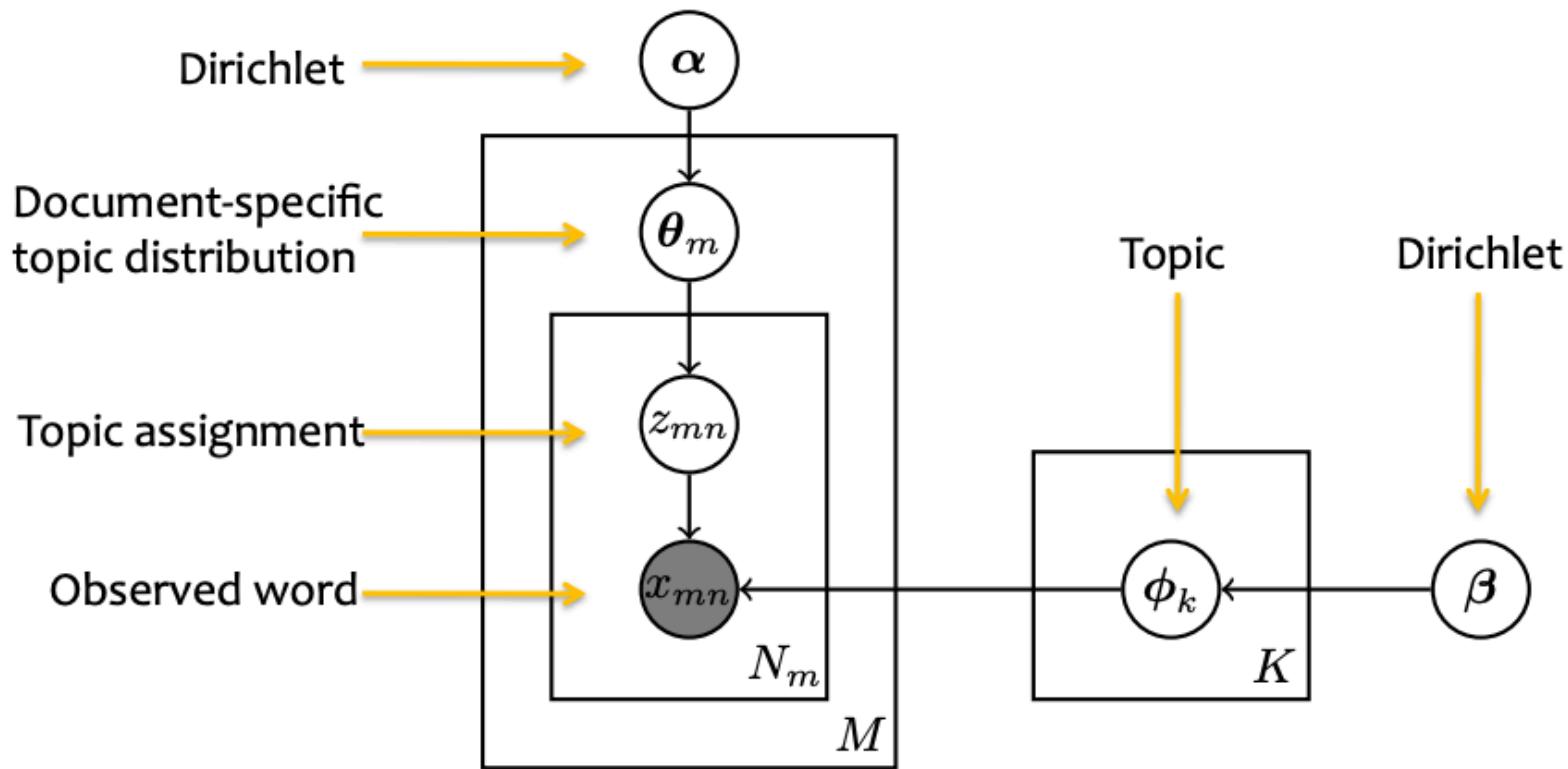


LDA Plate Notation



sword slain arms military rifle wounds loss
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LDA Plate notation





LDA Algorithm

Training LDA Model



1. Randomly assign words to topics
2. Repeat many times:
 1. For each document:
 1. For each token, re-assign the topic based on:
 1. Topic assignment for every other token in the document
 2. Topic assignment for every other instance of the type in the corpus
 3. Return: Topics assignments for all tokens

music band songs rock album jazz pop song singer night	book life novel story books man stories love children family	art museum show exhibition artist artists paintings painting century works	game Knicks nets points team season play games night coach	show film television movie series says life man character know
theater play production show stage street broadway director musical directed	clinton bush campaign gore political republican dole presidential senator house	stock market percent fund investors funds companies stocks investment trading	restaurant sauce menu food dishes street dining dinner chicken served	budget tax governor county mayor billion taxes plan legislature fiscal



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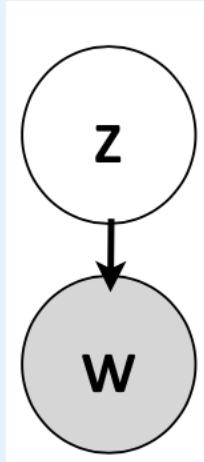


Randomly assign words to topics

Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market



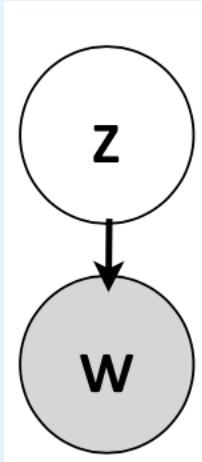
Randomly assign words to topics



Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market
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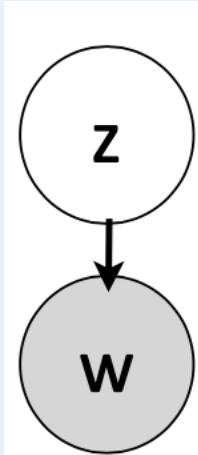
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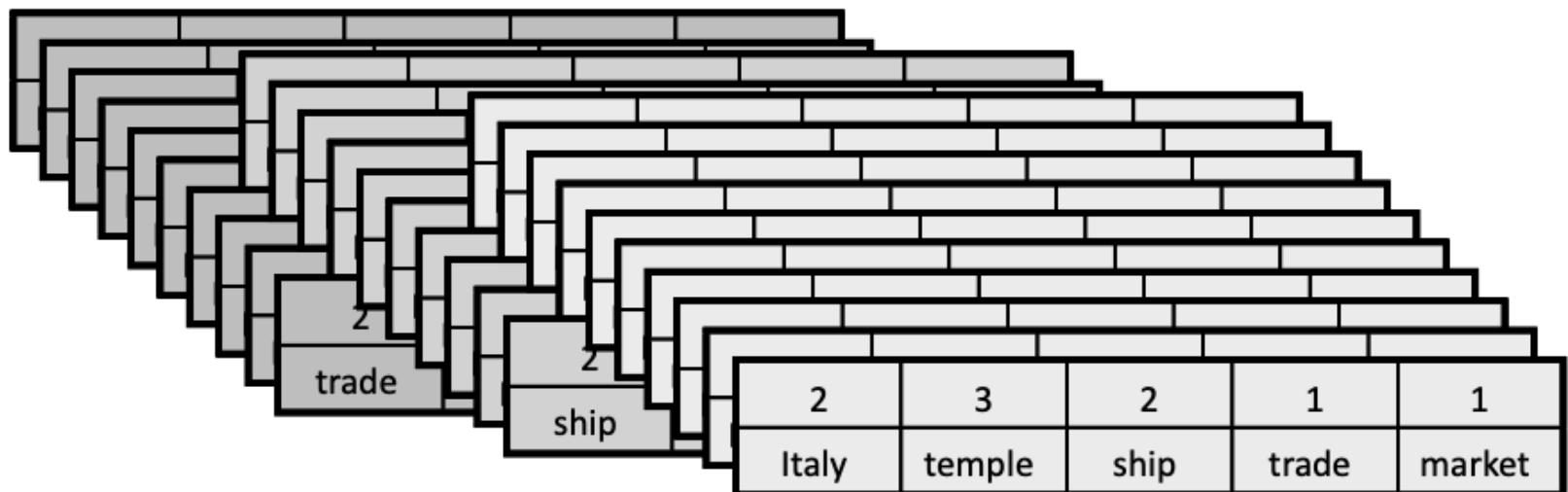
	3	2	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market	



Randomly assign words to topics



	3	2	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market	



Global Statistics from Random Topic Assignments



3	2	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market

Total counts across corpus

	1	2	3
Etruscan	1	0	35
trade	10	8	1
price	42	1	0
market	50	0	1
temple	0	0	20
...			



1. ~~Randomly assign words to topics~~
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Reassign topic for “Trade”

3	2	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market

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	1	2	3
Etruscan	1	0	35
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...			

Pick a topic for “Trade”



3	?	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market

Which topics occur in this document?

Topic 1



Topic 2



Topic 3





Pick a topic for “Trade”

3	?	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market

Which topics like the word-type “trade”?

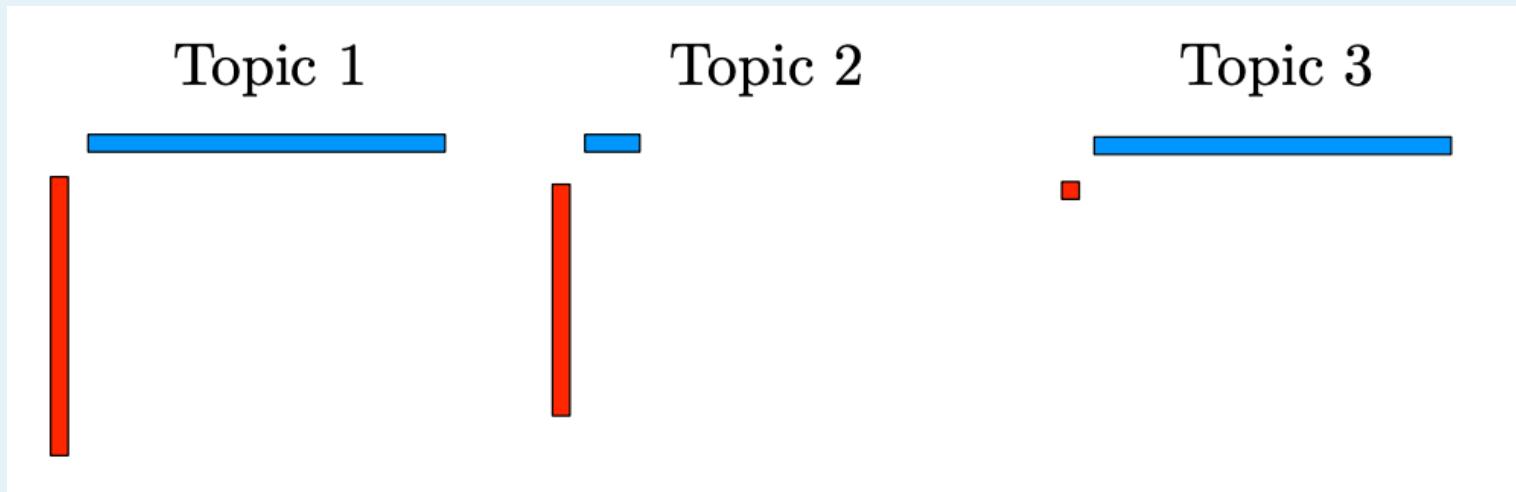
	1	2	3
trade	10	7	1



Pick a topic for “Trade”

3	?	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market

Which topics like the word “trade”?

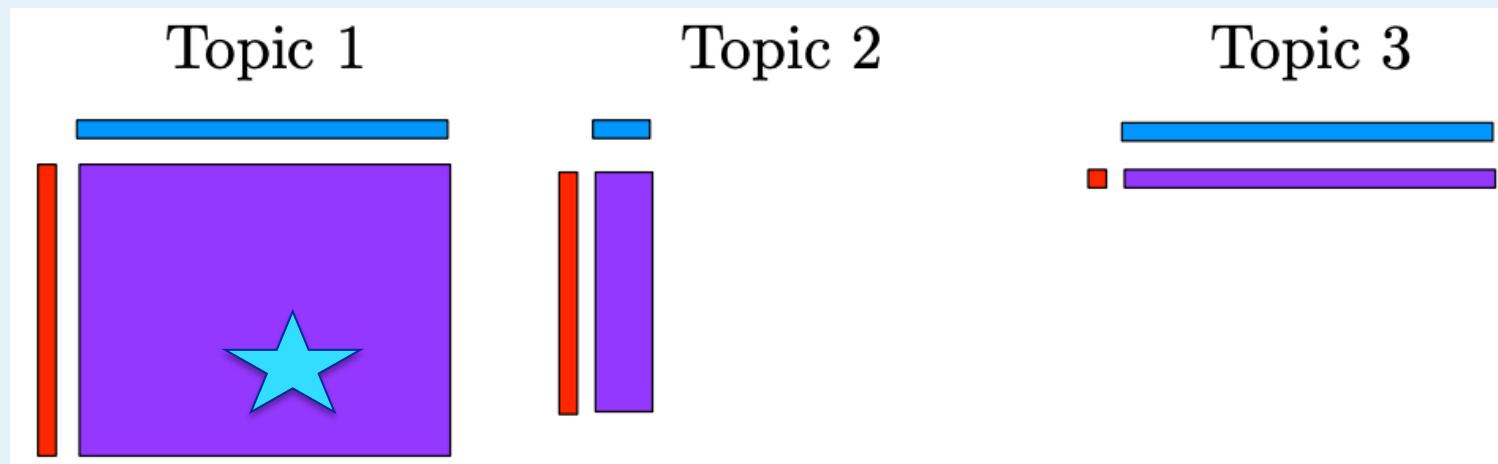




Pick a topic for “Trade”

3	?	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market

Pick a topic for “trade”?





Update topic for “Trade”

3	?	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market

	1	2	3
Etruscan	1	0	35
trade	10	7	1
price	42	1	0
market	50	0	1
temple	0	0	20
...			



Update topic for “Trade”

3	1	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market

	1	2	3
Etruscan	1	0	35
trade	11	7	1
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market	50	0	1
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Modeling Decisions

Modeling decisions – hard choices



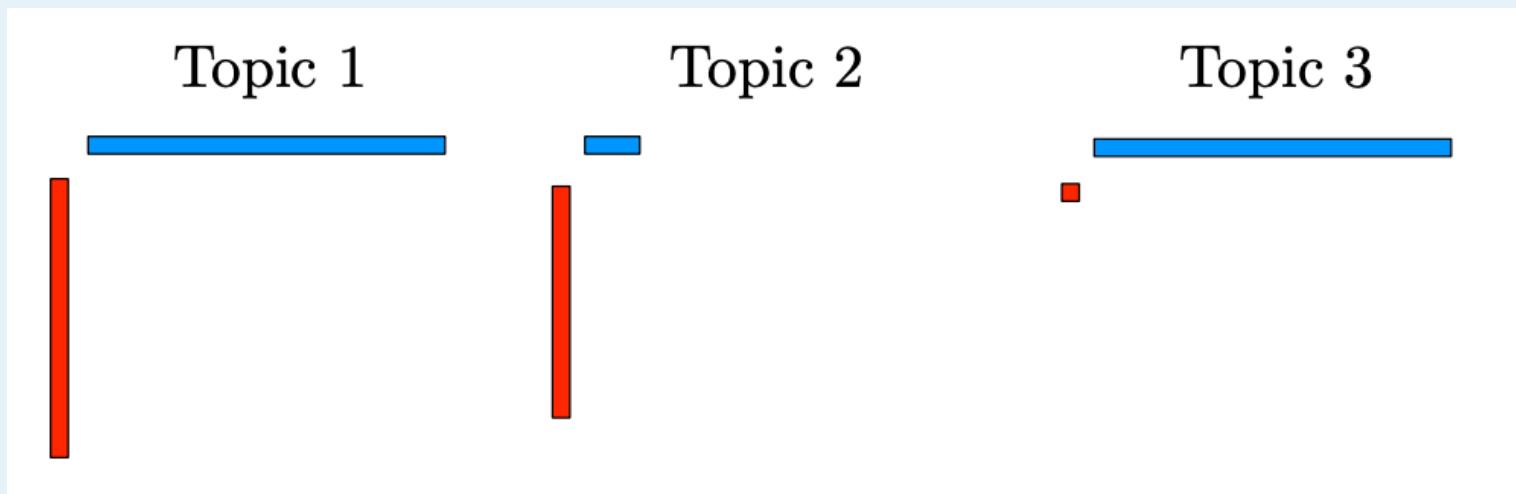
- Document definition
- Interesting words
- Knobs:
 - K - Number of topics
 - Hyper-parameters



Hyperparameters

3	?	1	3	1
Etruscan	trade	price	temple	market

Which topics like the word “trade”?





Hyperparameters - alpha

Topic 1

α

price

market

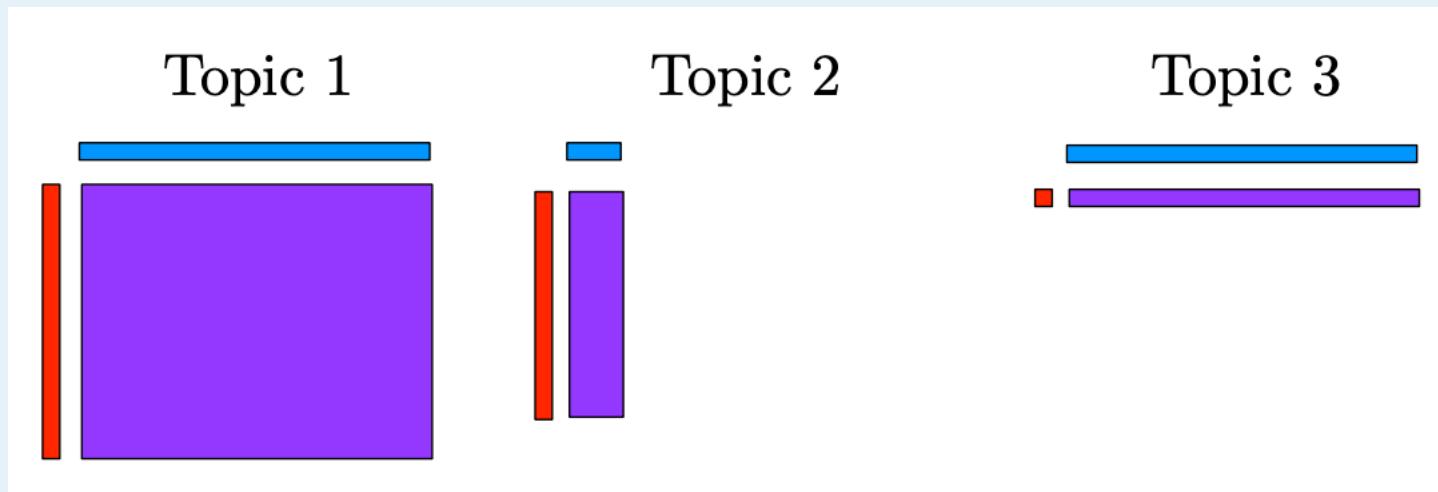




Hyperparameters

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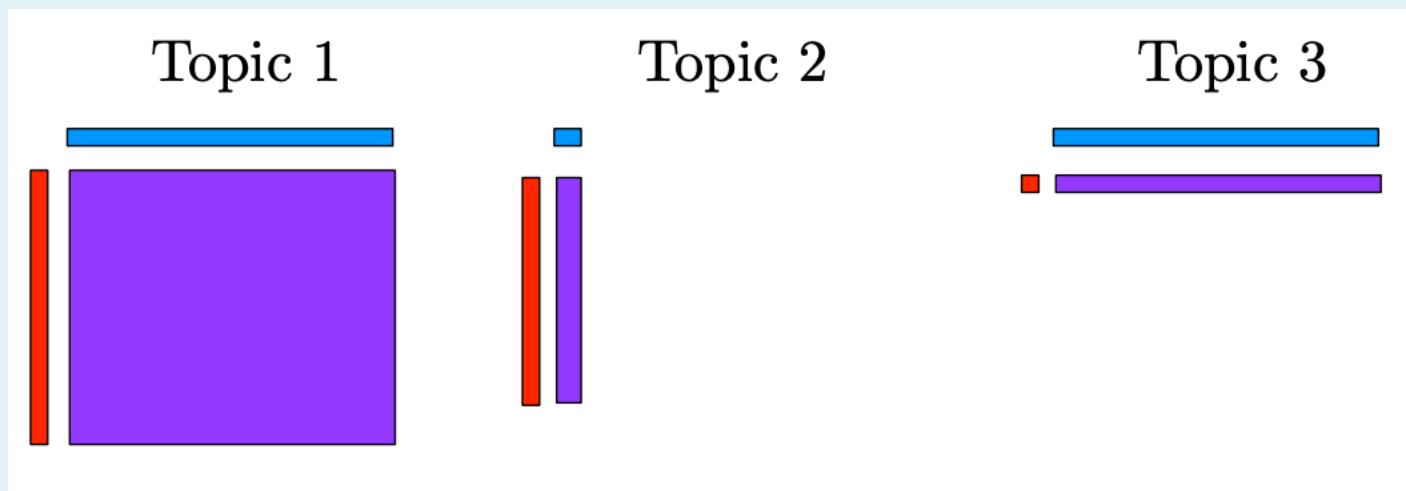


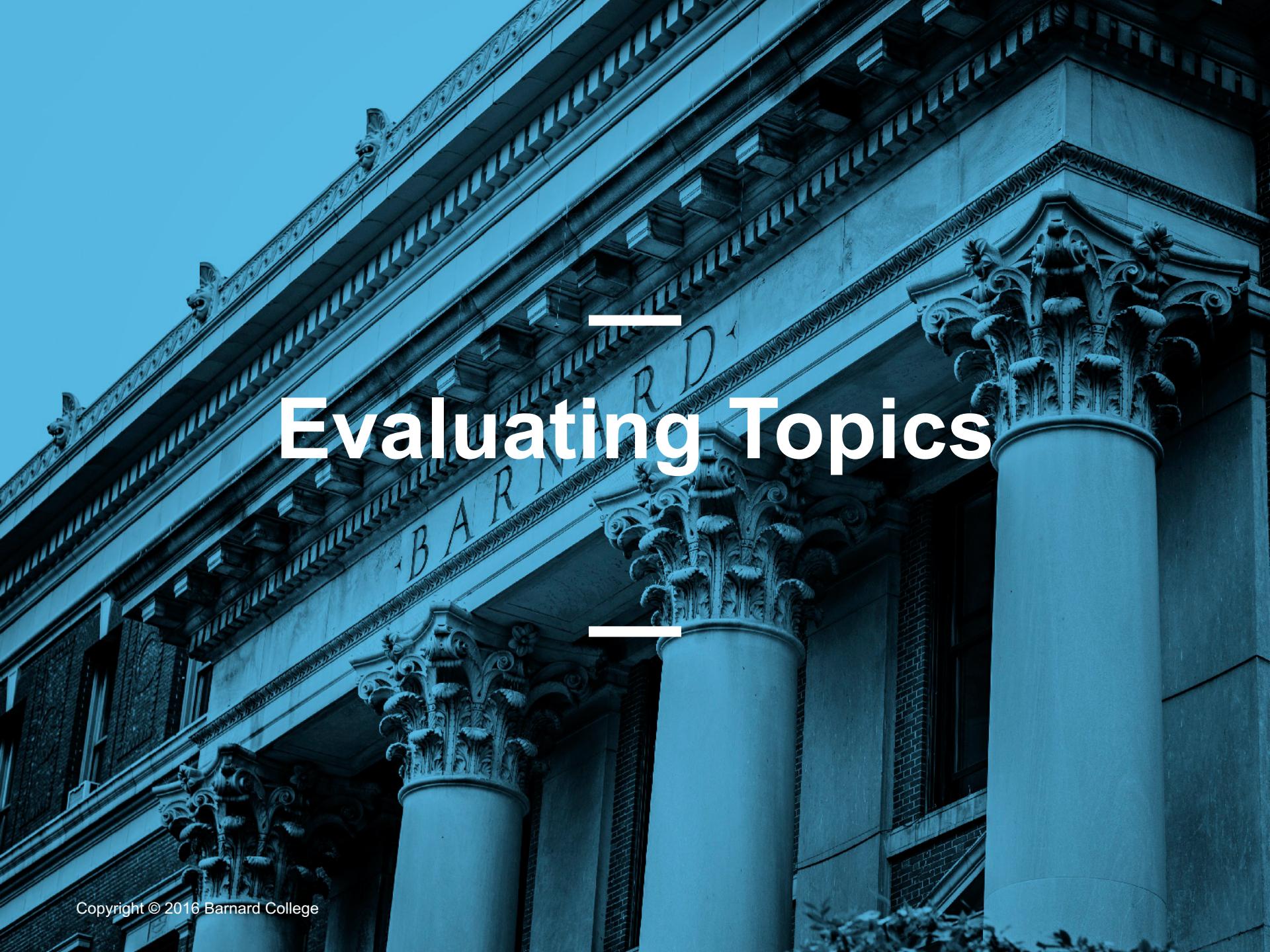


Hyperparameters

3	?	1	3	1
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Which topics like the word “trade”?





Evaluating Topics

Output of topic models



Top 10 topic terms

face, problem, depress, econom, suffer, economi, caus, great depress, crisi, prosper
bank, money, tax, pay, debt, loan, rais, fund, paid, govern
worker, labor, work, union, job, employ, strike, factori, industri, wage
govern, power, feder, nation, peopl, author, constitut, state, system, unit
roosevelt, wilson, peac, presid, treati, negoti, theodor roosevelt, taft, leagu, agreement
men, women, famili, children, young, work, woman, home, mother, husband
citi, york, urban, hous, live, town, center, communiti, move, chicago
railroad, build, line, technolog, transport, road, develop, travel, invent, canal
good, trade, product, manufactur, market, import, produc, economi, consum, tariff
farmer, farm, planter, small, land, cotton, plantat, crop, famili, larg



What makes topics bad?

- **Random**, unrelated words
- ***Intruder*** words
- Boring, **overly general** words
- **Chimaeras:**
 - Multiple topics combined

Evaluation – Word Intrusion Task



- Take top k words in a topic
 - Usually 5 or 10
- Substitute 1 word with a top word from another topic
- Shuffle the words
- Ask someone to pick the intruder
 - If they can pick the intruder – it's a good topic