

POP77022: Programming Exercise 2

Daniel Murray

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Overview

The second homework assignment covers concepts and methods from Weeks 3 and 4 (Supervised and unsupervised text classification).

Please provide your answers as code and text in the RMarkdown file provided. When completed, first knit the file as an HTML file and then save the resulting HTML document in PDF format. Upload the PDF to Turnitin.

Supervised text classification of Yelp reviews (50 points)

We begin by analyzing a sample from the Zhang, Zhao & LeCun (2015) dataset of Yelp reviews which have been coded for sentiment polarity. The authors of the dataset have created a `sentiment` variable where a value of 1 indicates a “negative” review (1 or 2 stars), and a 2 means a “positive” review (3 or 4 stars).

First, bring in the reviews dataset from the `data` directory.

```
setwd(getwd())
data <- read.csv("./data/yelp_data_small.csv",
                  stringsAsFactors=FALSE,
                  encoding = "utf-8")

# Load required Libraries
library(quanteda)
library(quanteda.textmodels)
library(quanteda.textstats)
library(caret)
library(stringi)
library(ggplot2)
library('MLmetrics')
library('doParallel')
library(textstem)
```

1. Create a `quanteda` `corpus` object from this matrix and inspect its attributes.

- What is the overall probability of the “positive” class in the corpus? Are the classes balanced?
(Hint: Use the `table()` function)

```
# Convert dataframe to corpus
corp <- quanteda::corpus(data,
                         text_field = "text")

# Inspect corpus attributes
print(summary(corp,5))
```

```
## Corpus consisting of 10000 documents, showing 5 documents:
##
##   Text Types Tokens Sentences sentiment
##   text1    112     211      9      neg
##   text2      5       5      1      pos
##   text3    187     355     17      pos
##   text4     89     131     10      pos
##   text5     98     156      4      pos
```

```
# Inspect sentiment frequencies of corpus
print(table(corp$sentiment))
```

```
##
##   neg   pos
## 5088 4912
```

```
# Calculate probability of "positive" class
cat("\n", "Probability of 'positive' class: ", round(length(corp[corp$sentiment == "pos"])/length(corp),2))
```

```
##
## Probability of 'positive' class:  0.49
```

Answer: The classes are broadly balanced with a 49%/51% positive/negative split.

2. Create a document-feature matrix using this corpus. Process the text so as to increase predictive power of the features. Justify each of your processing decisions in the context of the supervised classification task.

```
# Remove Line breaks from corpus
corp <- gsub("\\\\n", "", corp)

# Inspect first five corpus documents
head(corp, 5)
```

```
## Corpus consisting of 5 documents and 1 docvar.  
## text1 :  
## "It's hard to not compare a place like Blimpie to Subway beca..."  
##  
## text2 :  
## "Great family place and price"  
##  
## text3 :  
## "Oh, Armadillo Grill...you are something special.The first ti..."  
##  
## text4 :  
## "I came here twice for breakfast. The first morning I had th..."  
##  
## text5 :  
## "It was the start of a long vacation and we just needed a roo..."
```

```
# Tokenise text, removing punctuation/symbols/URLs, etc. and retaining docvars  
toks <- quanteda::tokens(corp,  
                           include_docvars = TRUE,  
                           remove_numbers = TRUE,  
                           remove_punct = TRUE,  
                           remove_symbols = TRUE,  
                           remove_hyphens = TRUE,  
                           remove_separators = TRUE,  
                           remove_url = TRUE)
```

```
## Warning: remove_hyphens argument is not used.
```

```
# Convert tokens to lowercase
toks <- tokens_tolower(toks)

# Create list of stopwords and remove these from tokens, retaining whitespaces in place of removed stopwords
stop_list <- stopwords("english")
toks <- tokens_remove(toks, stop_list, padding=TRUE)

# Identify trigram collocations
trigrams <- textstat_collocations(toks,
                                    method = "lambda",
                                    size = 3,
                                    min_count = 5,
                                    smoothing = 0.5)

# Create list of trigrams of interest (z-score > 3)
trigrams <- trigrams[trigrams$z > 3,]

# Identify bigram collocations
bigrams <- textstat_collocations(toks,
                                    method = "lambda",
                                    size = 2,
                                    min_count = 20,
                                    smoothing = 0.5)

# Create list of bigrams of interest (z-score > 30)
bigrams <- bigrams[bigrams$z > 30,]

# Compile a list of collocations to keep
keep_coll_list <- rbind(trigrams, bigrams)

# Merge collocations with tokens and remove whitespaces
toks_col <- tokens_compound(toks,
                             pattern = keep_coll_list)
toks_col <- tokens_remove(toks_col, "")

# Create dfm
dfm <- dfm(toks_col)

# Check term keyness by class group
dfm_keyness <- dfm_group(dfm, groups = sentiment)
keyness_stat <- textstat_keyness(dfm_keyness, target = "pos")

# Compile list of most predictive features
high_key_features <- keyness_stat[order(keyness_stat$p),]

# Compile list of features with low predictive power
low_key_features <- keyness_stat[keyness_stat$p > 0.05,]

# Remove features with low predictive power from dfm
dfm <- dfm_remove(dfm, pattern = low_key_features$feature)
```

```
# Weight dfm
dfm <- dfm_tfidf(dfm)
```

Answer:

In order to reduce dimensionality and noise and increase the predictive power of the resultant features, the following tasks were performed:

- Removal of line breaks
- Removal of punctuation/symbols/hyphens/URLs
- Lowercasing of tokens
- Removal of stopwords

Trigrams and bigrams were identified with respective minimum frequencies to reduce dimensionality.

Collocations to keep were selected using a threshold of $z > 3$ (trigrams) and $z > 30$ (bigrams) as these values were both statistically robust and around the point where collocations appeared to stop exhibiting any potential predictive power warranting inclusion from a theoretical point of view.

After creation of the dfm, key features for each class were identified. Features with a p-value > 0.05 were removed as these were deemed to have little predictive power. This would further reduce dimensionality and noise, making the resulting model more efficient and effective.

Lemmatisation was not performed in order to retain docvars. Stemming and trimming were not performed in order to retain as many features with high predictive power as possible prior to calculation of keyness and subsequent feature removal (as outlined above).

3. Now that you have your document-feature matrix, use the `caret` library to create a training set and testing set following an 80/20 split.

```

# Convert dfm to data frame for input into supervised ML pipeline
tmpdata <- convert(dfm, to = "data.frame", docvars = NULL)

# Drop doc_id variable
tmpdata <- tmpdata[, -1]

# Get sentiment labels
human_labels <- dfm@docvars$sentiment

# Join sentiment labels to data frame
tmpdata <- as.data.frame(cbind(human_labels, tmpdata))

## Create Train, Test and Validation Sets ##

# Set seed for replicability
set.seed(1234)

# Randomly order Labelled dataset
tmpdata <- tmpdata[sample(nrow(tmpdata)),]

# Determine cutoff point for 5% validation set
split <- round(nrow(tmpdata) * 0.05)

# Create validation set
vdata <- tmpdata[1:split,]

# Create labelled dataset minus validation set
ldata <- tmpdata[(split + 1):nrow(tmpdata),]

# Create training and test sets
train_row_nums <- createDataPartition(ldata$human_labels,
                                       p=0.8,
                                       list=FALSE)

Train <- ldata[train_row_nums, ]
Test <- ldata[-train_row_nums, ]

```

5% of the dataset was withheld for model validation. The remaining 95% was divided into a training set and testing set following an 80/20 split.

4. Using these datasets, train a naive Bayes classifier with the `caret` library to predict review sentiment.

Explain each step you take in the learning pipeline. Be sure to:

- Evaluate the performance of the model in terms of classification accuracy of predictions in the testing set. Include a discussion of precision, recall and F1.
- Explain in detail what steps were taken to help avoid overfitting.
- Describe your parameter tuning.
- Discuss the most predictive features of the dataset. (*Hint: use `kwic` to provide a qualitative context)

```
# Specify cross-validation conditions
train_control <- trainControl(method = "repeatedcv",
                               number = 5,
                               repeats = 3,
                               classProbs= TRUE,
                               summaryFunction = multiClassSummary,
                               selectionFunction = "best",
                               verboseIter = TRUE)

## Train Model ##

# View default parameter settings for Naive Bayes algorithm
modelLookup(model = "naive_bayes")
```

##	model parameter	label	forReg	forClass	probModel
## 1	naive_bayes laplace Laplace Correction	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	
## 2	naive_bayes usekernel Distribution Type	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	
## 3	naive_bayes adjust Bandwidth Adjustment	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	

```
# Set number of cores for parallel processing
cl <- makePSOCKcluster(3)
registerDoParallel(cl)

# Train model
nb_train2 <- train(human_labels ~ .,
                     data = Train,
                     method = "naive_bayes",
                     metric = "F1",
                     trControl = train_control,
                     tuneGrid = expand.grid(laplace = c(0,1),
                                           usekernel = c(TRUE, FALSE),
                                           adjust = c(0.75, 1, 1.25, 1.5)),
                     allowParallel= TRUE)

# Stop parallel processing
stopCluster(cl)
```

```
# Read in model
nb_train2 <- readRDS("data/nb_train2")

# Print cross-validation results
print(nb_train2)
```

```

## Naive Bayes
##
## 7601 samples
## 1894 predictors
##    2 classes: 'neg', 'pos'
##
## No pre-processing
## Resampling: Cross-Validated (5 fold, repeated 3 times)
## Summary of sample sizes: 6081, 6081, 6080, 6081, 6081, ...
## Resampling results across tuning parameters:
##
##   laplace  usekernel  adjust  logLoss      AUC      prAUC      Accuracy
##   0         FALSE      0.75    9.308732  0.7988285  0.2172579  0.7233236
##   0         FALSE      1.00    9.308732  0.7988285  0.2172579  0.7233236
##   0         FALSE      1.25    9.308732  0.7988285  0.2172579  0.7233236
##   0         FALSE      1.50    9.308732  0.7988285  0.2172579  0.7233236
##   0         TRUE       0.75    17.548842  0.6907116  0.4305584  0.4919090
##   0         TRUE       1.00    17.548842  0.6912307  0.4309180  0.4919090
##   0         TRUE       1.25    17.548842  0.6929638  0.4326700  0.4919090
##   0         TRUE       1.50    17.548842  0.6928491  0.4324893  0.4919090
##   1         FALSE      0.75    9.308732  0.7988285  0.2172579  0.7233236
##   1         FALSE      1.00    9.308732  0.7988285  0.2172579  0.7233236
##   1         FALSE      1.25    9.308732  0.7988285  0.2172579  0.7233236
##   1         FALSE      1.50    9.308732  0.7988285  0.2172579  0.7233236
##   1         TRUE       0.75    17.548842  0.6907116  0.4305584  0.4919090
##   1         TRUE       1.00    17.548842  0.6912307  0.4309180  0.4919090
##   1         TRUE       1.25    17.548842  0.6929638  0.4326700  0.4919090
##   1         TRUE       1.50    17.548842  0.6928491  0.4324893  0.4919090
##   Kappa      F1      Sensitivity      Specificity      Pos_Pred_Value
##   0.4500217  0.6619748  0.5336597  0.9192305  0.8721903
##   0.4500217  0.6619748  0.5336597  0.9192305  0.8721903
##   0.4500217  0.6619748  0.5336597  0.9192305  0.8721903
##   0.4500217  0.6619748  0.5336597  0.9192305  0.8721903
##   0.0000000  NaN      0.0000000  1.0000000  NaN
##   0.4500217  0.6619748  0.5336597  0.9192305  0.8721903
##   0.4500217  0.6619748  0.5336597  0.9192305  0.8721903
##   0.4500217  0.6619748  0.5336597  0.9192305  0.8721903
##   0.4500217  0.6619748  0.5336597  0.9192305  0.8721903
##   0.0000000  NaN      0.0000000  1.0000000  NaN
##   Neg_Pred_Value  Precision  Recall      Detection_Rate  Balanced_Accuracy
##   0.6562918  0.8721903  0.5336597  0.2711463  0.7264451
##   0.6562918  0.8721903  0.5336597  0.2711463  0.7264451
##   0.6562918  0.8721903  0.5336597  0.2711463  0.7264451
##   0.6562918  0.8721903  0.5336597  0.2711463  0.7264451
##   0.4919090  NaN      0.0000000  0.0000000  0.5000000
##   0.6562918  0.8721903  0.5336597  0.2711463  0.7264451

```

```
## 0.6562918    0.8721903 0.5336597 0.2711463    0.7264451
## 0.6562918    0.8721903 0.5336597 0.2711463    0.7264451
## 0.6562918    0.8721903 0.5336597 0.2711463    0.7264451
## 0.4919090      NaN 0.0000000 0.0000000    0.5000000
##
## F1 was used to select the optimal model using the largest value.
## The final values used for the model were laplace = 0, usekernel = FALSE
## and adjust = 0.75.
```

```
## Evaluate Model Performance on Test Set ##
```

```
# Generate prediction on Test set using training set model
pred1 <- predict(nb_train2, newdata = Test)
head(pred1) # first few predictions
```

```
## [1] pos pos pos pos neg neg
## Levels: neg pos
```

```
# Generate confusion matrix
confusionMatrix(reference = as.factor(Test$human_labels),
                 data = pred1,
                 mode='everything',
                 positive='neg')
```

```

## Confusion Matrix and Statistics
##
##             Reference
## Prediction neg pos
##           neg 576 89
##           pos 389 845
##
##           Accuracy : 0.7483
##                 95% CI : (0.7281, 0.7677)
##      No Information Rate : 0.5082
##      P-Value [Acc > NIR] : < 2.2e-16
##
##           Kappa : 0.499
##
## McNemar's Test P-Value : < 2.2e-16
##
##           Sensitivity : 0.5969
##           Specificity : 0.9047
##      Pos Pred Value : 0.8662
##      Neg Pred Value : 0.6848
##           Precision : 0.8662
##           Recall : 0.5969
##           F1 : 0.7067
##      Prevalence : 0.5082
##      Detection Rate : 0.3033
## Detection Prevalence : 0.3502
##      Balanced Accuracy : 0.7508
##
##      'Positive' Class : neg
##

```

```

# Train final model
nb_final2 <- train(human_labels ~ .,
                     data = ldata,
                     method = "naive_bayes",
                     trControl = trainControl(method = "none"),
                     tuneGrid = data.frame(nb_train2$bestTune))

print(nb_final2)

```

```

## Naive Bayes
##
## 9500 samples
## 2835 predictors
##   2 classes: 'neg', 'pos'
##
## No pre-processing
## Resampling: None

```

```

# Generate prediction on Validation set using training set model
pred2 <- predict(nb_final2, newdata = vdata)
head(pred2) # first few predictions

```

```
## [1] pos neg pos pos neg pos
## Levels: neg pos
```

```
# Generate confusion matrix
confusionMatrix(reference = as.factor(vdata$human_labels),
                 data = pred2,
                 mode='everything',
                 positive='neg')
```

```
## Confusion Matrix and Statistics
##
##             Reference
## Prediction neg pos
##       neg 230 119
##       pos  31 120
##
##             Accuracy : 0.7
##                 95% CI : (0.6577, 0.7399)
##     No Information Rate : 0.522
## P-Value [Acc > NIR] : 4.040e-16
##
##             Kappa : 0.3894
##
## McNemar's Test P-Value : 1.216e-12
##
##             Sensitivity : 0.8812
##             Specificity  : 0.5021
##    Pos Pred Value : 0.6590
##    Neg Pred Value : 0.7947
##             Precision : 0.6590
##             Recall    : 0.8812
##             F1       : 0.7541
##             Prevalence : 0.5220
##             Detection Rate : 0.4600
## Detection Prevalence : 0.6980
## Balanced Accuracy : 0.6917
##
## 'Positive' Class : neg
##
```

```
# Check most predictive features
head(high_key_features)
```

	feature	chi2	p	n_target	n_reference
## 1	great	1223.7506	0	2341	847
## 2	delicious	704.1398	0	807	136
## 3	love	631.1477	0	1021	306
## 4	amazing	599.6817	0	709	128
## 5	best	493.6357	0	1080	441
## 6	excellent	429.6908	0	469	70

```
# Run KWIC on most predictive features
kwic_nb1 <- kwic(corp,
                  pattern = "great",
                  window = 5,
                  case_insensitive = TRUE)
```

```
## Warning: 'kwic.corpus()' is deprecated. Use 'tokens()' first.
```

```
kwic_nb2 <- kwic(corp,
                  pattern = "delicious",
                  window = 5,
                  case_insensitive = TRUE)
```

```
## Warning: 'kwic.corpus()' is deprecated. Use 'tokens()' first.
```

```
kwic_nb3 <- kwic(corp,
                  pattern = "love",
                  window = 5,
                  case_insensitive = TRUE)
```

```
## Warning: 'kwic.corpus()' is deprecated. Use 'tokens()' first.
```

```
kwic_nb4 <- kwic(corp,
                  pattern = "amazing",
                  window = 5,
                  case_insensitive = TRUE)
```

```
## Warning: 'kwic.corpus()' is deprecated. Use 'tokens()' first.
```

```
kwic_nb5 <- kwic(corp,
                  pattern = "best",
                  window = 5,
                  case_insensitive = TRUE)
```

```
## Warning: 'kwic.corpus()' is deprecated. Use 'tokens()' first.
```

```
# Check 10 KWIC results for "great"
head(kwic_nb1, 10)
```

```
## Keyword-in-context with 10 matches.
## [text2, 1] | Great |
## [text3, 291] Armadillo Grill has always been | great |
## [text3, 311] becoming a regular here! | Great |
## [text3, 315] ! Great happy hour, | great |
## [text9, 22] friendly, they did a | great |
## [text10, 3] It's a | great |
## [text13, 1] | Great |
## [text16, 2] Always | great |
## [text25, 74] , hey they have a | great |
## [text32, 67] good, but maybe not | great |
##
## family place and price
## and I'm sure they will
## happy hour, great food
## food and friendly service in
## job cleaning my car,
## location with endless combinations of
## breakfast food, specifically the
## service even during a Sunday
## patio I should do my
## . There are about 8
```

```
# Check 10 KWIC results for "delicious"
head(kwic_nb2, 10)
```

```
## Keyword-in-context with 10 matches.
## [text3, 130] Not only were they like | delicious |
## [text17, 58] which was so creamy and | delicious |
## [text17, 325] sorry, it is too | delicious |
## [text18, 152] ). The eel was | delicious |
## [text20, 341] key lime mousse that was | delicious |
## [text43, 25] , the food was really | delicious |
## [text52, 178] con Pollo. It was | delicious |
## [text62, 112] we tried was fresh and | delicious |
## [text69, 132] onion rings were crisp and | delicious |
## [text98, 223] these were also tender and | delicious |
##
## sin in my mouth,
## that we carefully cleaned up
## !!!
## and cut thicker than the
## as well. Cold sandwiches
## . We had the basil
## and a huge portion.
## . The service was friendly
## , too. Everyone in my dining
## . As for the sides
```

```
# Check 10 KWIC results for "Love"
head(kwic_nb3, 10)
```

```
## Keyword-in-context with 10 matches.
## [text23, 9]      let me just say I | love |
## [text37, 22]      now as well. I | love |
## [text37, 26]      I love my ring and | love |
## [text47, 18]      myself or others. I | love |
## [text62, 14]      is so cute! I | love |
## [text64, 2]        I | love |
## [text64, 3]        I love | love |
## [text64, 154]     painfully chilly. I still | love |
## [text65, 6]        Oh, Oreganos how I | love |
## [text65, 219]     . Anyway, I really | love |
##
## strip clubs. Men and
## my ring and love the
## the service. I brought
## to cook and being single
## the inside and the staff
## love the Venetian during the
## the Venetian during the holidays
## the Venetian but will not
## thee, let me count
## Oregano's, they go above
```

```
# Check 10 KWIC results for "amazing"
head(kwic_nb4, 10)
```

```
## Keyword-in-context with 10 matches.
## [text14, 52]      pizzas and theirs is pretty | amazing |
## [text77, 105]     at sit down restaurants with | amazing |
## [text117, 4]       This place was | amazing |
## [text118, 149]    the tech, is absolutely | amazing |
## [text122, 19]      . I could see Big | Amazing |
## [text129, 25]     produce. The milkshakes are | amazing |
## [text143, 244]    me, but they were | amazing |
## [text157, 37]     am obsessed with Bouchon Bakery's | amazing |
## [text160, 7]       lovely little desert shop looks | amazing |
## [text172, 30]     Green Zing. It was | amazing |
##
## . No waiter service.
## ambience. I am not
## ! Great\" street
## ! She interacted with my
## Smile from Kids. Telling
## , very thick and creamy
## ! Snickerdoodle was killer!
## pastries and treats. I
## and is located in the
## ! Collard greens, parsley
```



```
# Check 10 KWIC results for "best"
head(kwic_nb5, 10)
```

```

## Keyword-in-context with 10 matches.
## [text3, 115] places but Armadillo serves the | best |
## [text3, 168] with confidence that it's the | best |
## [text19, 243] \\ You have the | best |
## [text33, 120] that Maple Tree saw its | best |
## [text34, 28] date with current technology and | best |
## [text39, 25] that their restaurant was voted | best |
## [text45, 8] and pesto bruschetta is THE | BEST |
## [text54, 12] ! Food is ok at | best |
## [text58, 11] and I finally find the | best |
## [text64, 127] other were like warm at | best |
##
## I've ever had. They
## chicken I've had at a
## plan\\", he
## days many, many years
## practices. For those without
## Mex in Phoenix and she
## ! wash it down with
## & price is good but
## one.she does such a good
## . I called the guy

```



- Performance

The final model performed relatively well when predicting the classes of the validation set, achieving an accuracy score of 0.7. This means that out of all predictions made, 70% were correct.

In terms of precision, the model scored 0.69 whereas for recall it scored 0.88. This means that the model is better at predicting negative reviews (remembering we have set 'neg' as the positive class in our confusion matrix). The model correctly classified 88% of negative reviews. Its poorer performance in precision means that the model has a tendency to falsely classify positive reviews as negative.

The model achieved an F1 score of 0.75. This metric is the harmonic average of precision and recall, and is therefore a good overall measure of performance particularly useful in imbalanced datasets. The model was tuned for F1 considering its general use-case: we are not specifically interested in being better able to predict positive or negative reviews, we are aiming to get the best overall performance.

- Overfitting

To help avoid overfitting, the dataset was randomly shuffled before splitting into training, testing and validation sets. This was to account for the possibility that the original dataset followed some order with documents at the start/end having different feature probabilities.

Cross-validation (repeated 5-fold) was also performed when training the model. This means that when training the model, the training dataset was randomly divided into 5 equally-sized subsets, 4 of which were used to train the model and 1 held back for validation. This process of training and validation is repeated so that each subset is used once for validation and performance metrics recorded for each iteration. The whole process is repeated three times and performance metrics are aggregated for each variation in model parameter tuning, allowing calculation of the best-performing, most generalisable model.

- Parameter Tuning

Testing was performed with models tuned on all possible combinations of the following:

- Kernel Density Estimation: True, False

- Laplace Smoothing: 0, 1
- Adjust: 0.75, 1, 1.25, 1.5
- Most Predictive Features

The most predictive features, based on lowest p-values for class keyness, were:

“great”, “delicious”, “love”, “amazing”, “best”. A KWIC analysis is provided above. There are some interesting divergences from the expected positive usage, with some of these used in a negative light (e.g. “not the best”, “maybe not great”, “I still love...”).

5. Provide a similar analysis using a Support Vector Machine. However, irrespective of your settings for Question 4, for this exercise use a 5-fold cross-validation when training the model. Be sure to explain all steps involved as well as an evaluation of model performance. Which model is better, NB or SVM? Explain in detail.

```
## Train SVM ###
```

```
# Check model parameters
modelLookup(model = "svmLinear")
```

```
##      model parameter label forReg forClass probModel
## 1 svmLinear          C  Cost    TRUE     TRUE  TRUE
```

```
# Define parameter settings to iterate over
tuneGrid = expand.grid(C = c(0.5, 1, 1.5))
```

```
# Allow parallel processing
registerDoParallel(cl)

# Train model
svm_train2 <- train(human_labels ~ .,
                      data = Train,
                      method = "svmLinear",
                      metric = "F1",
                      trControl = train_control,
                      tuneGrid = expand.grid(C = c(0.5, 1, 1.5)),
                      allowParallel= TRUE)
```

```
# Stop parallel processing
stopCluster(cl)
```

```
# Read in model
svm_train2 <- readRDS("data/svm_train2")
```

```
# Print cross-validation results
print(svm_train2)
```

```

## Support Vector Machines with Linear Kernel
##
## 7601 samples
## 2835 predictors
##    2 classes: 'neg', 'pos'
##
## No pre-processing
## Resampling: Cross-Validated (5 fold, repeated 3 times)
## Summary of sample sizes: 6081, 6080, 6081, 6081, 6081, ...
## Resampling results across tuning parameters:
##
##   C    logLoss     AUC      prAUC      Accuracy     Kappa      F1
##   0.5  0.3425549  0.9315936  0.9287987  0.8630893  0.7261424  0.8647207
##   1.0  0.3620805  0.9247057  0.9215483  0.8568143  0.7135887  0.8585555
##   1.5  0.3573737  0.9256276  0.9227925  0.8583071  0.7165551  0.8603266
##   Sensitivity  Specificity  Pos_Pred_Value  Neg_Pred_Value  Precision
##   0.8613867   0.8648483   0.8683041    0.8581768   0.8683041
##   0.8553265   0.8583533   0.8620855   0.8519241   0.8620855
##   0.8586964   0.8579044   0.8620807   0.8546433   0.8620807
##   Recall       Detection_Rate  Balanced_Accuracy
##   0.8613867   0.4376620   0.8631175
##   0.8553265   0.4346018   0.8568399
##   0.8586964   0.4362676   0.8583004
##
## F1 was used to select the optimal model using the largest value.
## The final value used for the model was C = 0.5.

```

```

# Generate prediction on test set using training set model
pred_svm1 <- predict(svm_train2, newdata = Test)

# Generate confusion matrix
confusionMatrix(reference = as.factor(Test$human_labels),
                 data = pred_svm1,
                 mode='everything',
                 positive='neg')

```

```

## Confusion Matrix and Statistics
##
##             Reference
## Prediction neg pos
##           neg 844 121
##           pos 121 813
##
##           Accuracy : 0.8726
##                 95% CI : (0.8567, 0.8872)
##   No Information Rate : 0.5082
## P-Value [Acc > NIR] : <2e-16
##
##           Kappa : 0.7451
##
## McNemar's Test P-Value : 1
##
##           Sensitivity : 0.8746
##           Specificity : 0.8704
##   Pos Pred Value : 0.8746
##   Neg Pred Value : 0.8704
##           Precision : 0.8746
##           Recall : 0.8746
##           F1 : 0.8746
##           Prevalence : 0.5082
##   Detection Rate : 0.4444
## Detection Prevalence : 0.5082
## Balanced Accuracy : 0.8725
##
## 'Positive' Class : neg
##

```

```

# Finalise model
svm_final2 <- train(human_labels ~ .,
                     data = ldata,
                     method = "svmLinear",
                     trControl = trainControl(method = "none"),
                     tuneGrid = data.frame(svm_train2$bestTune))

```

```

# Read in model
svm_final2 <- readRDS("data/svm_final2")

print(svm_final2)

```

```

## Support Vector Machines with Linear Kernel
##
## 9500 samples
## 2835 predictors
##   2 classes: 'neg', 'pos'
##
## No pre-processing
## Resampling: None

```

```
# Run prediction on validation set
svm_pred2 <- predict(svm_final2, newdata = vdata)

# Generate confusion matrix
confusionMatrix(reference = as.factor(vdata$human_labels),
                 data = svm_pred2,
                 mode='everything',
                 positive='neg')
```

```
## Confusion Matrix and Statistics
##
##             Reference
## Prediction neg pos
##       neg 227 27
##       pos  34 212
##
##               Accuracy : 0.878
##                     95% CI : (0.8461, 0.9054)
##       No Information Rate : 0.522
##       P-Value [Acc > NIR] : <2e-16
##
##               Kappa : 0.7558
##
##   Mcnemar's Test P-Value : 0.4424
##
##               Sensitivity : 0.8697
##               Specificity  : 0.8870
##       Pos Pred Value : 0.8937
##       Neg Pred Value : 0.8618
##               Precision  : 0.8937
##               Recall    : 0.8697
##               F1        : 0.8816
##       Prevalence : 0.5220
##       Detection Rate : 0.4540
##       Detection Prevalence : 0.5080
##       Balanced Accuracy : 0.8784
##
##       'Positive' Class : neg
##
```

- Performance

The final SVM model performed better than the naive bayes model across almost all metrics.

When predicting the classes of the validation set, it achieved an accuracy score of 0.88. This means that out of all predictions made, 88% were correct.

In terms of precision, the model scored 0.89 and for recall it scored 0.87. This means that the model is slightly better at predicting positive reviews (remembering we have set 'neg' as the positive class in our confusion matrix). The model correctly classified 89% of positive reviews. It's slightly poorer performance in recall means that the model has a tendency to falsely classify negative reviews as positive more often than it tends to falsely classify positive reviews as negative.

The model achieved an F1 score of 0.88. Considering our model's use case as a general purpose classifier, we would choose the SVM model over the Naive Bayes model as a better classifier. We would only choose the Naive Bayes model in the case that we were specifically concerned with capturing all instances of negative reviews (and we don't mind that some positive reviews are misclassified as negative). This is because it has a better performance in terms of recall.

- Overfitting

The same approach to avoiding overfitting was followed as with the naive bayes classifier.

- Parameter Tuning

Testing was performed with models tuned on different values of C, as below:

- C: 0.5, 1, 1.5
- Most Predictive Features

As the same train/test/validation sets were used as for the naive bayes classifier, the same features were most predictive as above.

Topic Modeling Breitbart News (50 points)

In this section, we will analyze the thematic structure of a corpus of news articles from Breitbart News, a right-wing American news outlet. Employ a Structural Topic Model from the `stm` library to investigate the themes found within this corpus.

First, bring in a sample of Breitbart articles from 2016 (n=5000):

```
# Set working directory and read in data
setwd(getwd())
data_unsup <- read.csv("./data/breitbart_2016_sample.csv",
                      stringsAsFactors=FALSE,
                      encoding = "utf-8")

# Load required Libraries
library(stm)
library(lubridate)
library(tidyverse)
```

1. Process the text and generate a document-feature matrix. Be sure to remove unhelpful characters and tokens from the DFM and to also retain the original text for model validation. Remove tokens that occur in less than 20 documents. Justify your feature selection decisions.

```
# Create corpus object
corp_unsup <- corpus(data_unsup,
                      text_field="content")

# Add original text as docvar
docvars(corp_unsup)$text <- texts(corp_unsup)
```

```
## Warning: 'texts.corpus' is deprecated.
## Use 'as.character' instead.
## See help("Deprecated")
```

```
# Inspect corpus attributes  
summary(corp_unsup,5)
```

```

## Corpus consisting of 5000 documents, showing 5 documents:
##
##   Text Types Tokens Sentences      date
##   text1    139    234          2  5 May 2016
##   text2    179    356          2 23 Sep 2016
##   text3    282    643         11  9 Jun 2016
##   text4    303    624          5  2 Feb 2016
##   text5    186    357          3  6 May 2016
##                                         title
##                                         Arizona Police Charge Man with Bringing Dog to Hotel for Sex
## Ivanka Trump at Charter School: Still 'A Lot of Work To Do in Terms of Gender Equality'
## Hamas Warns of 'More Surprises' After Tel Aviv Terror Shooting
## EU's Tusk to Present New Proposal in Britain Talks
## Jon Stewart to Military: 'Trump's Going to Keep You Busy'
##
## url
##           http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/05/05/arizona-police-charge-
## man-bringing-dog-hotel-sex/
##   http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2016/09/23/ivanka-trump-charter-school-still-lot-
## work-terms-gender-equality/
##           http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2016/06/09/hamas-praises-heroic-attack-z
## ionists-promises-surprises/
##           http://www.breitbart.com/london/2016/02/02/eus-tusk-to-present-new-
## -proposal-in-britain-talks/
##           http://www.breitbart.com/big-hollywood/2016/05/06/jon-stewart-milit
## ary-trumps-going-keep-busy/
##
## text
##
Police charged a man in Tempe, Arizona, with bestiality after he was arrested in a sex sting at a local motel.,The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office ,reported, that 47-year-old Mesa resident James Hauser was arrested after attempting to arrange a sex act between himself, his dog, and four women.,Unbeknownst to the suspect, however, the deal was being made not with a prostitute, but with an undercover police officer.,After allegedly arranging on Craigslist the time and place he wanted to meet for the illicit sex acts, Hauser was arrested at a Holiday Inn.,Animal services has taken the suspect's dog into custody, and Hauser was booked into the 4th Avenue jail and is awaiting court action.,The arrest comes on the heels of the Tempe Police Department's awareness campaign on sexual assault.,“So many stories of violence, loss and victimization all too often go unreported,” Tempe police chief ,Sylvia Moir said., “Through patrol action, tenacious investigations, and the many dedicated partners we are most fortunate to work with, we are determined to make positive strides in addressing this epidemic.”,Follow Warner Todd Huston on Twitter ,@warnerthuston, or email the author at igcolonel@hotmail.com.,.
##
Ivanka Trump's visit to Liberty Common public charter school was not open to media questions, but Donald Trump's daughter tells students there is still "a lot of work to do in terms of gender equality" in America.,The younger Trump's visit to Liberty Common in Fort Collins, Colorado was arranged by former GOP Senate candidate Robert Blaha, who now ,works, for the Trump campaign. ,Former, GOP Rep. Bob Schaffer is now principal of the school, ,reports, the ,Reporter-Herald.,,Trump held a question-and-answer session with students who asked her if she plans to take a government position if her father is elected president. She responded, "We'll see," but added she is a mother of three children and runs two businesses.,“I feel very blessed and fortunate to be here in America as a woman,” Trump said, but added there is still “a lot of work to do in terms of gender equality.”,Trump mentioned her father's proposals to eliminate the gender gap, but did not go into specific detail.,The Republican presidential candidate ,says, he is the “biggest cheerleader for school choice,” and that, if elected, he will use $20

```

billion to establish a block grant to fund school choice for children living in low-income areas., “School choice is something my father is an enormous proponent on, just better education really, pushing the bar for this country and the next generation,” Ivanka Trump told students., Schaffer says he would like to see states expand charter schools through school vouchers, tuition tax credits, and other means., “We want the next president to understand that when you have market forces at play, you get higher quality, schools that are able to zero in on their academic mission, like we do here,” he said.

TEL AVIV - Hamas ,praised ,the terror attack in Tel Aviv that left four people dead and another 16 injured on Wednesday evening, saying it was to avenge Israeli “violations” at the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Jerusalem’s Temple Mount., “The Tel Aviv operation is a natural response to Israeli desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the crimes against the Palestinian people,” Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said in a statement, but failed to specify the nature of the “violations and crimes.”, The Gaza-based Islamist group earlier announced that the two terrorists were Hamas members. Hamas ,praised ,the shooting as a “heroic operation” and warned the “Zionists” of “more surprises” to follow., Hamas added that the attack was “a message from children of the resistance to leaders of the occupation, especially [Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman],” who took office last week., The terror group’s chief, Ismail Haniyeh, called the wounded terrorist a “hero” and said he was praying for his soul., Abu Zuhri also threatened more attacks and said that the attack was evidence that the “Intifada” is continuing and all attempts by Israel to stop the wave of violence were failing., Hamas stopped sort of claiming responsibility for the attack. But a ,statement, from the terrorist group warned it “is the first of many surprises that will be waiting” for Israel during this Ramadan season., The attack occurred during the first week of the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, a time when tensions are high. As a result of increased visits to the Temple Mount during the month of fasting, Israel had announced that more permits would be granted to Muslims living in the West Bank and Gaza to visit Jerusalem., The flashpoint site has been used as a justification for terror attacks on Israelis in the past, with the Palestinian leadership accusing Israel of plans to change the Temple Mount’s status quo. The site is the holiest place in Judaism, where its two Temples once stood. Jews are arrested if they are caught praying on the site, now under control of the Islamic Waqf., Palestinian Islamic Jihad threatened more violence, saying that the “Jerusalem Intifada” will not end until “all of Palestine is restored.”, “He who bets on the decline of the Jerusalem Intifada is taking a losing bet. Our people will continue this intifada and defend its right until the defeat of the occupation and the restoration of all of Palestine,” spokesman Daud Shahab said., The Fatah party led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas posted on Twitter that Israel was “reaping the repercussions of choosing violence against the Palestinian people.”, The mainly Arab Joint List party in the Knesset condemned the attack, but added that Israel’s leadership was responsible for the violence., “I painfully regret the terrible attack on citizens,” chairman of the Joint List faction Ayman Odeh said in a statement. “My heart goes out to the families.”, “This government is leading all of us only to the depths of hatred and violence,” he said. “The general Israeli and Palestinian population should be excluded from the circle of horror and blood. Together we must campaign in a justified way to bring justice and peace to both peoples,” he added., Watch a video of the attack below. Warning: graphic footage.

The head of the European Council will on Tuesday present a “new settlement” proposal in talks with Britain on reforms aimed at keeping the country in the 28-nation bloc., The move came after British Prime Minister David Cameron on Sunday met Council President Donald Tusk, who chairs the meetings of EU states’ leaders and plays a key role in seeking a compromise around London’s demands for a better membership deal., “Tomorrow around noon I will table proposal for a new settlement for #UKinEU. Good progress last 24 hours but still outstanding issues,” Tusk said on Twitter., Cameron has promised to reform Britain’s ties with the EU and hold a public vote on EU membership before the end of 2017., Among the most controversial of his demands is stronger powers to curb immigration, including barring EU immigrants from in-work benefits for at least their first four years in Britain., Cameron and Tusk left their dinner on Sunday saying they had failed to reach a deal and eurosceptic British lawmakers said the divergence was being played up to make an eventual agreement seem like a triumph., The two sides have indicated they want a deal agreed by EU leaders at their Brusse

ls summit in mid-February, enabling Cameron to call a referendum on EU membership as early as June., Cameron's spokeswoman earlier told reporters: "There is more work to do in all four areas, more work in some areas than in others.", But she said a "significant" agreement had been reached with the European Commission, the EU executive, allowing Britain to suspend some payments to migrants from the bloc for four years immediately after the referendum., That would go some way to appeasing critics of EU membership in Cameron's party, but a spokesman for the Commission warned it would need to be agreed by the leaders of all 28 countries., "It is not enough for the Commission and Council lawyers to agree; this is a process that is run 'at 28,'" said Margaritis Schinas., HIGH STAKES, Cameron has demanded reform in three other areas. He wants Britain excluded from the EU goal of "ever closer union" and protected against moves by the 19 countries that share the euro currency to impose rules by majority vote on London. He also seeks to empower groups of national parliaments to block EU legislation., The stakes are high. The referendum will not only determine Britain's future role in world trade and affairs, but also shape the European Union, which has struggled to maintain unity over migration and financial crises, by ripping away its second-largest economy and one of its two main military powers., Some eurosceptics have branded the negotiation a waste of time., "Don't be fooled, again, by Cameron's ongoing charade," Paul Nuttall, deputy leader of the UK Independence Party, said in a statement., There are plenty of areas where EU countries have concerns about Britain's demands and, if and when agreement is found, there will still be tussles over some details., Still up for grabs is how long the so-called "emergency brake" on welfare payments to migrants will be in force, how many countries would have to agree in order to block EU legislation, and how to enforce protection for London's financial industry, among others., From Reuters,

##

Former *Daily Show* host Jon Stewart took several jabs at Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on Thursday while hosting a ceremony in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the United Service Organizations (USO)., A gray-bearded Stewart began his short remarks by likening Trump's campaign rhetoric to the "crazy" things that Vice President Joe Biden says., "He'll say whatever he kind of thinks of, whatever comes to his mind, sort of impulsive," Stewart said of Biden, who was also in attendance Thursday., "Sometimes, you might think to yourself, 'That sounds crazy,' or 'Man, that is crazy,'" he continued, before firing at Trump: "And who would have thought that now, that gets you the Republican nomination.", Stewart's Trump joke was met with resounding boos from the crowded room of military men and women., "Don't worry, Trump's going to keep you busy when he's the commander-in-chief," Stewart said. "You're going to have to repaint all the planes with 'Trump' in big, gold letters.", When Biden took the stage, he turned the joke back around on Stewart., "I was going to say something nice about Jon, but to hell with him," Biden quipped., The United Service Organizations (USO) offers services and provides live entertainment to U.S. servicemen and their families., Stewart was, of course, famously supportive of President Obama and took secret visits to the White House, during pivotal moments in his presidency. Stewart's knock on Trump came on the heels of news, that Stewart could reappear on television – on HBO, with whom he signed a four-year production deal, in November – just before a likely general election matchup between Trump and Democrat frontrunner Hillary Clinton., Follow Jerome Hudson, on Twitter, @jeromeehudson

Tokenise text and remove punctuation/symbols/URLs, etc.

```
toks_unsup <- quanteda::tokens(corp_unsup,
  include_docvars = TRUE,
  remove_numbers = TRUE,
  remove_punct = TRUE,
  remove_symbols = TRUE,
  remove_hyphens = TRUE,
  remove_separators = TRUE,
  remove_url = TRUE)
```

```
## Warning: remove_hyphens argument is not used.
```

```
# Convert tokens to lowercase
toks_unsup <- tokens_tolower(toks_unsup)

# Create list of stopwords and remove these from tokens, retaining whitespaces in place of removed stopwords
stop_list <- stopwords("english")
toks_unsup <- tokens_remove(toks_unsup, stop_list, padding=TRUE)

# Identify bigram collocations
bigrams_unsup <- textstat_collocations(toks_unsup,
                                         method = "lambda",
                                         size = 2,
                                         min_count = 10,
                                         smoothing = 0.5)

# Create list of bigrams of interest (z-score > 30)
bigrams_unsup <- bigrams_unsup[bigrams_unsup$z > 30,]

# Merge collocations with tokens and remove whitespaces
toks_col_unsup <- tokens_compound(toks_unsup, pattern = bigrams_unsup)
toks_col_unsup <- tokens_remove(toks_col_unsup, "")

# Generate dfm and trim
dfm_unsup <- dfm(toks_col_unsup)
dfm_unsup <- dfm_trim(dfm_unsup, min_docfreq = 20)

# Check top features of dfm
topfeatures(dfm_unsup, 50)
```

##	said	people	one	also	trump	state	new
##	10555	5082	4934	4857	3606	3148	3113
##	can	just	like	percent	u.s government	according	
##	3029	2987	2777	2750	2694	2683	2611
##	now	time	two	many	told	president	even
##	2559	2418	2342	2277	2259	2188	2174
##	police	first	country	twitter	may	going	says
##	2148	2135	2117	2100	2089	1952	1840
##	since	us	campaign	support	made	group	clinton
##	1837	1828	1801	1793	1783	1764	1751
##	get	reported	back	political	say	make	world
##	1741	1738	1670	1657	1649	1630	1623
##	think	american	know	way	want	including	year
##	1593	1579	1575	1562	1561	1517	1490
##	take						
##	1485						

```
# Parse dates within dfm docvars
dfm_unsup@docvars$date <- dmy(dfm_unsup@docvars$date)
dfm_unsup@docvars$date_month <- floor_date(dfm_unsup@docvars$date, "month")
```

Standard, minimal pre-processing was performed: punctuation/symbols/URLs, etc., conversion to lowercase, identification of collocations, stopword removal, and trimming of dfm. This was mostly to reduce dimensionality. Stemming/lemmatisation was not performed as research indicates minimal pre-processing is preferable for topic models (Schofield et al. 2017).

2. Convert the DFM into STM format and fit an STM model with k=35 topics.

```
# Convert dfm to stm
stmdfm <- convert(dfm_unsup, to = "stm")
```

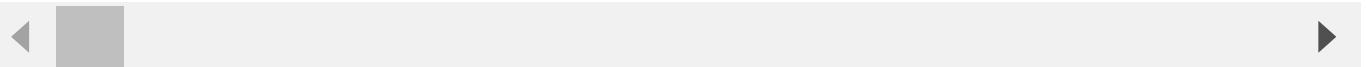
```
# Run stm algorithm
modelFit <- stm(documents = stmdfm$documents,
                 vocab = stmdfm$vocab,
                 K = 35,
                 prevalence = ~ s(as.numeric(date_month)),
                 data = stmdfm$meta,
                 max.em.its = 500,
                 init.type = "Spectral",
                 seed = 1234,
                 verbose = TRUE)
```

3. Interpret the topics generated by the STM model. Discuss the prevalence and top terms of each topic.

Provide a list of the labels you have associated with each estimated topic. For each topic, justify your labelling decision. (Hint: You will want to cite excerpts from typical tweets of a given topic. Also, use the date variable to inform estimates of topic prevalence.).

```
# Read in model
stm_model <- readRDS("data/STM_model")

# Check top terms per topic
labelTopics(stm_model)
```



```

## Topic 1 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: twitter, facebook, social_media, online, post, video, users
## FREX: facebook, andrew, page, users, social_media, user, tweet
## Lift: allum, milo_alert, facebook's, andrew, bokhari, @ben_kew, kew
## Score: andrew, facebook, users, Breitbart_tech, milo, facebook's, twitter's

## Topic 2 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: pic.twitter.com, march, trump, says, april, rally, june
## FREX: pic.twitter.com, march, rally, april, pm, crowd, protesters
## Lift: employ, pic.twitter.com, trump_rally, @realdonaldtrump, capitol, protester, ma
rch
## Score: pic.twitter.com, trump, employ, protesters, rally, march, trump_rally

## Topic 3 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: military, american, army, u.s, soldiers, war, one
## FREX: veterans, army, soldiers, king, air_force, veteran, memorial
## Lift: demonstration, sailors, veterans, woods, memorial, union_address, sacrifice
## Score: demonstration, soldiers, army, veterans, military, sailors, air_force

## Topic 4 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: black, white, group, Breitbart, police, people, protest
## FREX: Breitbart, black, black_lives_matter, white, racial, protest, pegida
## Lift: Breitbart, black_lives_matter, pegida, demonstrators, black_lives_matter_movem
ent, racial, robinson
## Score: Breitbart, black_lives_matter, black, pegida, white, protesters, police

## Topic 5 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: migrants, german, germany, said, migrant, asylum, europe
## FREX: migrants, asylum, migrant, german, germany, seekers, sweden
## Lift: cologne, seekers, migrant_camp, seeker, switch, welt, balkan
## Score: migrants, asylum, migrant, german, germany, seekers, calais

## Topic 6 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: de, el, la, los, en, y, que
## FREX: que, por, una, se, nuevo, para, las
## Lift: como, por, sus, amordazan, áreas, arriesgar, artículo
## Score: por, una, que, para, de, se, sus

## Topic 7 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: news, media, fox_news, Breitbart_news, story, former, fox
## FREX: fox, fox_news, beck, bannon, kelly, network, nbc
## Lift: library, megyn_kelly, anchor, executive_chairman_stephen_k_bannon, bannon, fo
x, network's
## Score: fox_news, library, fox, beck, bannon, megyn_kelly, kelly

## Topic 8 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: film, show, twitter, also, star, told, music
## FREX: film, hollywood, actress, actor, song, nussbaum, wars
## Lift: nussbaum, @dznussbaum, album, follow_daniel, rapper, wars, photo_posted
## Score: wars, film, actress, nussbaum, @dznussbaum, follow_daniel, @jeromeehudson

## Topic 9 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: iran, said, russia, saudi, syria, syrian, russian
## FREX: aleppo, iran, russia, iran's, iranian, saudi, arabia
## Lift: aleppo, assad's, moscow, rebel-held, tehran, bashar_al-assad, injustice
## Score: iran, saudi, aleppo, syrian, russia, russian, syria

## Topic 10 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: muslim, muslims, islamic, islam, religious, christian, world
## FREX: muslims, muslim, islam, christians, mosque, religion, church
## Lift: machines, non-muslims, archbishop, sharia, imam, christians, muslims
## Score: muslim, muslims, islam, islamic, christians, religious, machines

## Topic 11 Top Words:
## Highest Prob: company, new, technology, can, google, system, also

```

```
##      FREX: technology, apple, google, company, company's, app, space
##      Lift: pack, @get2church, nate_church, iphone, apple, electric, gaming
##      Score: pack, company, apple, google, technology, company's, electric
## Topic 12 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: students, university, school, education, student, schools, campus
##      FREX: students, campus, student, school, education, schools, teachers
##      Lift: breitbart_tech_editor_milo_yiannopoulos, faculty, public_schools, student's, c
##ampuses, campus, school's
##      Score: students, student, campus, common_core, school, education, university
## Topic 13 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: women, men, abortion, gay, sex, woman, female
##      FREX: abortion, gay, women, lgbt, gender, marriage, girls
##      Lift: ain't, feminist, feminism, couples, sexuality, abortion, abortions
##      Score: ain't, abortion, women, gay, sex, gender, parenthood
## Topic 14 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: law, bill, immigration, court, state, senate, said
##      FREX: supreme_court, senate, ryan, constitutional, constitution, amendment, bill
##      Lift: house's, antonin, scalia, unconstitutional, plaintiffs, court's, supreme_court
##      Score: senate, supreme_court, ryan, immigration, house's, scalia, legislation
## Topic 15 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: email, author, said, twitter, houston, also, @warnerthouston
##      FREX: houston, @warnerthouston, follow_warner_todd, bathroom, author, giant, store
##      Lift: @warnerthouston, follow_warner_todd, giant, houston, charlotte, bathroom, bathro
##oms
##      Score: giant, duterte, @warnerthouston, follow_warner_todd, houston, bathroom, transge
##nder
## Topic 16 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: government, cuba, cuban, president, castro, olympic, officials
##      FREX: cuban, olympic, cuba, olympics, castro, venezuela, brazil
##      Lift: olympic, celebration, cuban, janeiro, olympics, rio_de, venezuelan
##      Score: celebration, cuban, cuba, olympics, olympic, castro, rio_de
## Topic 17 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: obama, president, u.s., united_states, american, administration, white_
##house
##      FREX: obama, white_house, administration, president_obama, obama's, president_barack
##_obama, obama_administration
##      Lift: prepares, va, president-elect, president-elect_trump, inauguration, president_
##barack_obama, president_obama
##      Score: obama, prepares, white_house, obama's, va, president_obama, president
## Topic 18 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: gun, guns, breitbart_news, hawkins, awr, reach, directly
##      FREX: hawkins, awr, @awrhawkins, political_analyst, guns, armed_american_radio_follo
##w, second_amendment_columnist
##      Lift: @awrhawkins, armed_american_radio_follow, second_amendment_columnist, conceale
##d_carry, concealed_carry_permit, equipment, political_analyst
##      Score: equipment, gun, awr, @awrhawkins, armed_american_radio_follow, second_amendme
##nt_columnist, hawkins
## Topic 19 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: police, said, attack, two, man, people, according
##      FREX: suspect, injured, police, bomb, scene, car, suspects
##      Lift: allahu, stabbing, explosion, parked, incident_occurred, knives, injured
##      Score: police, allahu, arrested, injured, bomb, gunman, car
## Topic 20 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: trump, clinton, hillary_clinton, sanders, says, donald_trump, campaign
##      FREX: sanders, hillary_clinton, hillary, clinton, trump's, bernie_sanders, donald_tr
##ump
```

```

##      Lift: i-vt, jill_stein, sanders's, amazon_follow, evil_hard_truths, new_book_see, re
gnery
##      Score: clinton, trump, sanders, hillary_clinton, trump's, hillary, jill_stein
## Topic 21 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: health, refugees, zika, medical, cases, state, water
##      FREX: zika, virus, health, patients, mosquito, medical, public_health
##      Lift: disease_control, mosquitoes, virus, aedes, microcephaly, tune, aegypti
##      Score: zika, virus, health, refugees, microcephaly, mosquito, zika_virus
## Topic 22 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: one, even, much, like, can, world, climate_change
##      FREX: climate_change, climate, science, scientists, global_warming, earth, professor
##      Lift: milk, global_warming, climate, climate_change, science, scientific, scientist
##      Score: milk, climate_change, climate, global_warming, scientists, science, scientifi
c
## Topic 23 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: percent, voters, poll, vote, state, among, support
##      FREX: poll, percent, polls, voters, survey, margin, votes
##      Lift: polled, surveyed, respondents, poll, poll_conducted, survey, pollsters
##      Score: percent, poll, voters, surveyed, polls, vote, polling
## Topic 24 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: texas, breitbart_texas, reported, county, u.s, houston, criminal
##      FREX: houston, border_patrol, @bobpricebbtx, border_patrol_agents, senior_political_
news_contributor, shadwick, told_breitbart_texas
##      Lift: associate_editor, breitbart_texas_team_follow, texas_follow, @bobpricebbtx, @l
anashadwick2, associate_judge, border_patrol_agents
##      Score: breitbart_texas, texas, houston, seal, cbp, border_patrol_agents, border_patr
ol
## Topic 25 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: isis, islamic_state, iraq, syria, said, group, u.s
##      FREX: mosul, taliban, militants, islamic_state, isis, iraqi, iraq
##      Lift: iraq's, pkk, hurriyet, iraqi_forces, taliban, boko_haram, sinai
##      Score: islamic_state, mosul, isis, sinai, iraqi, kurdish, syria
## Topic 26 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: said, people, going, just, think, know, like
##      FREX: think, know, going, really, things, want, lot
##      Lift: universe, somebody, yeah, little_bit, know, think, everybody
##      Score: think, know, universe, really, said, people, going
## Topic 27 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: israel, israeli, said, palestinian, hamas, jewish, read
##      FREX: israel, israeli, israel's, jerusalem, gaza, palestinian, palestinians
##      Lift: israel_reports, netanyahu's, prime_minister_benjamin_netanyahu, israeli, gaza,
gaza_strip, israel's
##      Score: israel, israeli, hamas, palestinian, gaza, israel's, jerusalem
## Topic 28 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: clinton, fbi, investigation, information, emails, planned, said
##      FREX: emails, fbi, Podesta, documents, clinton_foundation, state_department, clinto
n's
##      Lift: john_podesta, classified_information, ethical, Podesta, parenthood's, schweize
r, private_email_server
##      Score: clinton, emails, fbi, clinton's, parenthood, Podesta, clinton_foundation
## Topic 29 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: game, team, players, nfl, football, sports, games
##      FREX: nfl, players, football, game, sports, nba, player
##      Lift: colin_kaepernick, yards, @themightygwinn, gwinn, playoff, san_francisco_49ers,
nba
##      Score: nfl, game, players, yards, football, nba, games

```

```

## Topic 30 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: eu, said, mr, british, britain, uk, leave
##      FREX: eu, britain, brexit, referendum, ukip, britain's, european_union
##      Lift: conservative_party, eurosceptic, cameron's, eu_referendum, labour's, mps, norbert
##      Score: eu, britain, brexit, referendum, ukip, uk, european_union
## Topic 31 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: million, billion, money, percent, tax, jobs, companies
##      FREX: tax, costs, wages, prices, bank, billion, growth
##      Lift: trillion, oil_prices, inflation, savings, subsidies, h-1b, prices
##      Score: trillion, percent, billion, obamacare, wages, economy, tax
## Topic 32 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: family, said, children, told, home, child, one
##      FREX: victim, family, mother, girl, father, child, trial
##      Lift: js, http, https, rushing, d.createelement, d.getelementbyid, d.getelementsbytagname
##      Score: rushing, girl, js, victim, rape, child, sentenced
## Topic 33 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: china, turkey, chinese, turkish, military, sea, international
##      FREX: sea, china's, south_china_sea, chinese, erdogan, china, turkish
##      Lift: south_china_sea, china's, sea, taiwan, visa-free, erdogan's, turkish_president
##      Score: sea, turkey, china, turkish, south_china_sea, china's, chinese
## Topic 34 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: trump, cruz, rubio, campaign, conservative, gop, state
##      FREX: rubio, cruz, rubio's, ted_cruz, kasich, marco_rubio, delegates
##      Lift: rubio's, tyler, chris_christie, cruz's, florida_gov_jeb_bush, rubio, ted_cruz's
##      Score: rubio, cruz, trump, rubio's, kasich, delegates, ted_cruz
## Topic 35 Top Words:
##      Highest Prob: border, city, mexican, mexico, breitbart_texas, cartel, authorities
##      FREX: mexican, cartel, border, mexico, wall, gunmen, battles
##      Lift: award_winning_journalist, battles, drug_cartels, u.s.-mexico, mexico's, cartel, gulf_cartel
##      Score: border, mexican, battles, tamaulipas, cartel, breitbart_texas, gulf_cartel

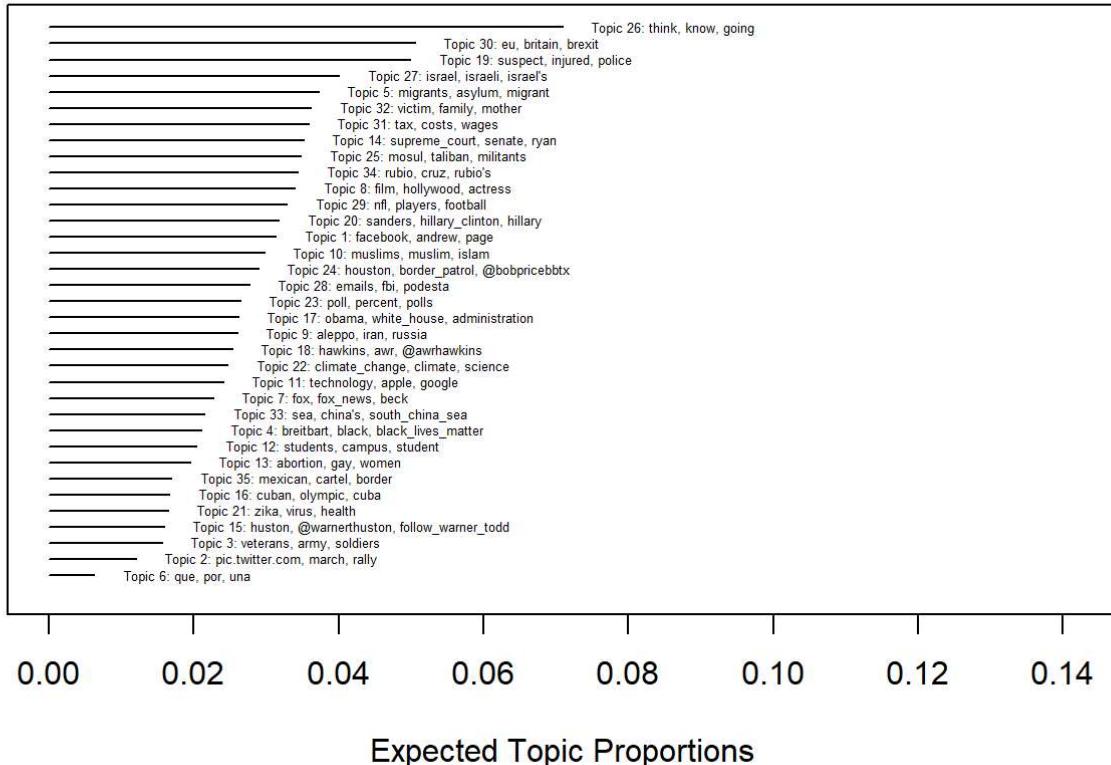
```

```

# Plot topic prevalence and top terms per topic by FREX metric
print(plot.STM(stm_model,
  type = "summary",
  labeltype = "frex",
  text.cex = 0.4,
  main = "Topic prevalence and top terms (FREX)"))

```

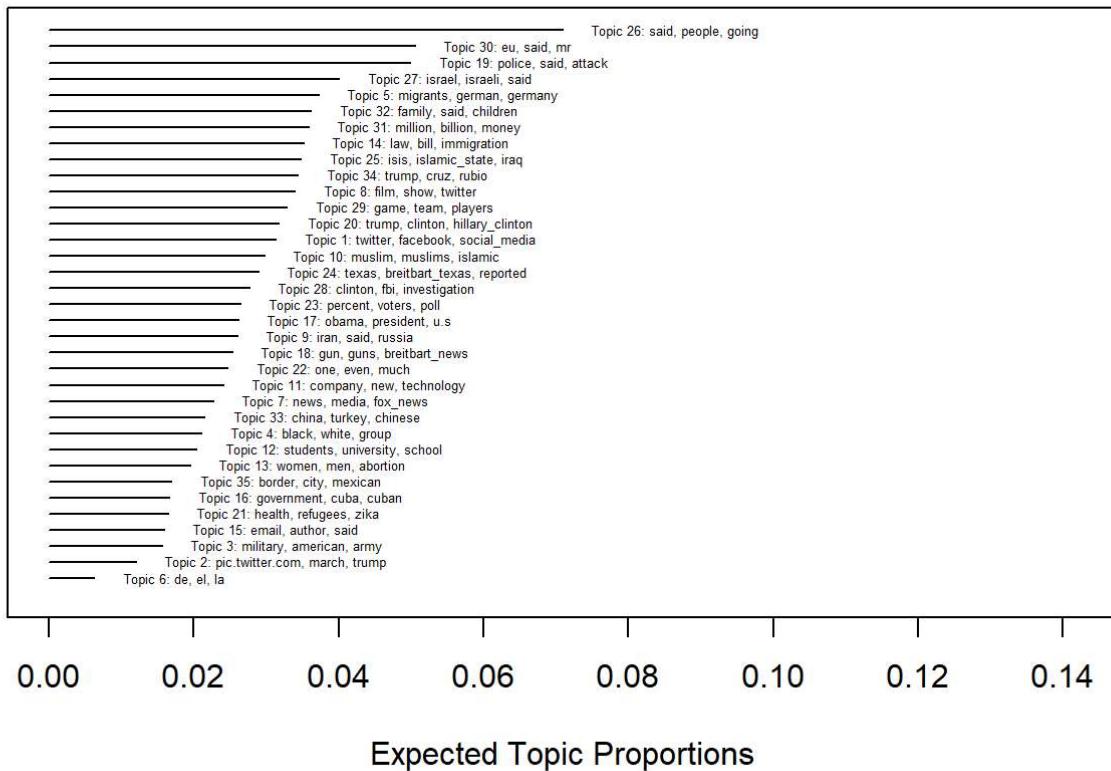
Topic prevalence and top terms (FREX)



```
## NULL
```

```
# Plot topic prevalence and top terms per topic by Probability metric
print(plot.STM(stm_model,
  type = "summary",
  labeltype = "prob",
  text.cex = 0.4,
  main = "Topic prevalence and top terms (Probability)"))
```

Topic prevalence and top terms (Probability)



```
## NULL
```

```
## Check sample documents with a high probability of containing each topic ##
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 1
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 1,
             n = 10)
```

```
##
## Topic 1:
## Twitter Fixes Reply System After Update ‘Accidentally’ Changes Function for iOS Users
##
## Reddit CEO Admits Changing Comments to Direct Users’ Insults at Pro-Trump Moderators
## Twitter Censors Milo, and Most of the Media Celebrates
## Facebook Classifying Users as Liberal, Moderate, or Conservative
## Facebook Denies Reports of Bias Against Conservative News
## Twitter: Donald Trump’s Account Will Be Banned if He Violates Rules
## Milo Did Nothing Wrong
## Facebook Removes Another Popular Comedy Page as Content Creator Revolt Expands
## Popular Video Game Designer Suspended From Twitter After Islam Tweets
## Buzzfeed: Twitter Unverifies Breitbart’s Milo Yiannopoulos Amid Speech Wars
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 2
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 2,
             n = 10)
```

```
## Topic 2:
## Post Debate Surge: Donald Trump Fills Massive Hangar for Florida Rally, Thousands Turned Away
## Disrupters Fail, Trump Rally Wraps Peacefully in Illinois
## **LiveWire** Assorted Activists Gather in Manhattan for Day of Protests
## Two Men Arrested as Fight Breaks Out at Trump Rally in Texas
## ***Horse Race LiveWire*** Trump: 'We're Going to Take Our Country Back from Those People'
## Donald Trump: San Jose Supporters Were 'Accosted By A Bunch Of Thugs'
## ***2016 LiveWire*** Trump Slams 'Thugs' Who Accosted His Supporters
## Hollywood Liberals Blame Trump for Violent Leftwing Protesters Shutting Down Free Speech
## Donald Trump Venue-Busting Ticket Distribution Worries Vermont Officials
## Update – Breitbart News Statement: Trump Claim About Michelle Fields 'Contradicts the Evidence'
```



```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 3
```

```
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 3,
             n = 10)
```

```
## Topic 3:
## The Battle of Kings Mountain: American DNA and Why the Revolution Matters Today
## The American Way of War: The Battle of Cowpens – Leadership and Adaptability
## Would You Follow Hillary 'To Hell and Back?'
## France Commemorates Centenary of WWI Battle of Verdun
## Israel to Fly Alongside Pakistan, UAE in US Air Force Drill
## WATCH: Thousands of Soldiers Place American Flags at Arlington Cemetery for Memorial Day
## Benghazi Families Push Back Against Clinton for Calling Them Liars
## America's Troops Celebrate Christmas Around the World
## British Warship Docks at Israeli Port Amid Increased Military Cooperation
## Israeli Students Find Ancient Ballista Ball Used by Jewish Warriors Against Roman Empire
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 4
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 4,
             n = 10)
```

```
##
## Topic 4:
## Black Lives Matter Accuses Police of 'Genocide' at UC Irvine
## 'White Lives Matter' Protest Features Racist Symbols in Houston
## Walmart Drops Black Lives Matter 'Bulletproof' Clothing
## Black Lives Matter Protesters Bring London to Standstill Days After Dallas Police Massacre
## It's Official: Leftists Failed at Protesting GOP Convention
## Black Council Member Forced to Apologize for Criticizing Black-On-Black Shootings
## Obama Hides Anti-Cop Message As 'War on Cops' Accelerates
## Walmart Selling Black Lives Matter Shirts with 'Bulletproof' on Them
## SF Police Must Take Anti-Intolerance Pledge
## Video Shows Black Lives Matter Protesters Clash with Portland Police
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 5
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 5,
             n = 10)
```

```
##
## Topic 5:
## One Third Of 'Asylum Seekers' In Capital Are Criminals
## Norway Security Agency To Liberal Sweden: Muslim Influx Will Bring Problems
## Syrian Arrivals In Germany To Double As Family Reunification Add 500,000
## 'Fleeing War' Yet Only 7 Per Cent of Asylum Seekers Would Actually Return After Conflict
## In Austria, Over Half Of All 'Asylum Seekers' Commit Crimes
## Migrant Gang Crime Soars
## Italy Fears Migrant Wave As 15,000 Reach Its Shores This Week
## As Norway Begins Organised Deportations, Migrants Go AWOL To Avoid Being Sent To Russia
## Serbia Prepared For Tougher Border Control After Hungarian Referendum
## Merkel's Party, Sliding in Polls, Explores Speedy Repatriation Centres
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 6
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 6,
             n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 6:  
##     Celebran Día de Reyes Magos Con Balacera en Matamoros; El Gobierno Trata de Minimiza  
rlo  
##     Vídeo: Terror en Ciudad Fronteriza por Balaceras, Gobierno Trata de Minimizar el Caos  
##     CONTENIDO GRAFICO: Los Zetas llevan su Guerra Civil de las Calles a las Prisiones  
##     Gobierno Mexicano Busca a Víctimas 'desaparecidas' y Probablemente Incinerados por Lo  
s Zetas  
##     El Toro del Cártel del Golfo Escapa Intento de Captura en Ciudad Fronteriza  
##     Caza-Zetas Tienen Nuevo Cuartel Cerca de Frontera con Texas  
##     Sicarios Chocan Contra Transporte Público Tras Enfrentamiento, Hieren Inocentes  
##     GRAFICO Imágenes Exclusivas: Sicarios Queman Vivos a sus Rivales Cerca de la Frontera  
en Guerra Civil de Los Zetas  
##     GRAFICO: Penal de Nuevo León Considerado Bomba de Tiempo por Lucha Interna de Cartele  
s  
##     VIDEO: Los Zetas se Enfrentan Entre si, Ejército Mexicano Emboscado cerca de Frontera  
con Texas
```



```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 7  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 7,  
            n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 7:  
##     UPDATE-Fox News Chief Fights Back: 'Roger Ailes Has Never Sexually Harassed Megyn Ke  
lly'  
##     Steve Bannon: I Warned Roger Ailes that Megyn Kelly Would Turn On Him  
##     Watch Live: Nancy Reagan Funeral at Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
##     Drudge Report: Ailes to Step Down from Fox News, Stay on as 21st Century Fox Consulta  
nt Until 2018  
##     Report: Glenn Beck's The Blaze 'Falling Apart'  
##     NYT: Trump's War on Fox Is About 'Control Against the Power Structure of the GOP'  
##     Roger Ailes vs. the Liberal Sharks – But Which One Could Be Deadly?  
##     Michelle Malkin: 'My Base Is Fed Up with Fox' News Channel; Murdoch 'Treacherous Bedf  
ellow'  
##     Exclusive- Gretchen Carlson Attorney Donates Big to Left Wing Democrats Who Aggressiv  
ely Criticize Fox News  
##     Breitbart News Daily – Grassroots Rising: Setting the Stage for the GOP Debate
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 8  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 8,  
            n = 10)
```

```

## 
## Topic 8:
##     Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg to Host 'Dinner Party' Reality Series
##     George Michael Helped Turn 'Carpool Karaoke' into Viral Hit (Video)
##     WATCH: Matt Damon Returns in 'Jason Bourne' Trailer
##     Watch: Sony Releases International Trailer for All-Female 'Ghostbusters' Reboot
##     Ellen DeGeneres: Transgender Stingray in Disney's 'Finding Dory'
##     GRAMMYS Recap: Kendrick Gets Political, Rihanna Cancels, Adele Hurt by CBS Audio Issues
##     WATCH: Darth Vader Returns in Star Wars 'Rogue One' Trailer
##     Critics: All-Female 'Ghostbusters' an 'Unfunny Mess'
##     Box Office: 'Dirty Grandpa' – Another R-Rated Teen Comedy Flops
##     Don Cheadle: I Want Chris Rock to 'Take Everybody to Task' for 'White Oscars'

```

Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 9

```

findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 9,
             n = 10)

```

```

## 
## Topic 9:
##     Fiercest Airstrikes yet on Aleppo as Syria Declares Offensive
##     Kerry, Lavrov Want to Keep Talking About Syria Despite War Crimes Row
##     Russia Says Still Holding Off on Aleppo Air Strikes
##     Kerry Hopes To Work With Russia On Syria, UN Aims To Restart Talks
##     Syria Army Seizes New Rebel District in Aleppo – Monitor
##     EXCLUSIVE – Senior Arab Diplomat: Saudis See Putin, Not Obama, as Key to Syria's Future
##     Houthis Make Overtures to Saudi Arabia, Tell Iran to Stay Out of Yemen
##     Iran Denies Providing Missiles to Shiite Houthis in Yemen
##     Kerry in Saudi Arabia for Talks on Yemen, Syria Conflicts
##     Syria Says East Aleppo Ceasefire has Begun, Promises "Safe Exit"

```

Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 10

```

findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 10,
             n = 10)

```

```
##  
## Topic 10:  
## Arab Press: We Muslims Curse Europeans as Racists, Then Blow Up Airports  
## Muslim Writers: Islam To Blame For Global Terror  
## Al-Qaeda to U.S. Muslims: Target ‘Anglo-Saxon Community,’ Avoid Minorities  
## Pope Francis Declares Father Jacques Hamel a Saint, Killing in God’s Name ‘Satanic’  
## Iraqi Journalist Dispels Myth that Islamic State Has No Ties to Islam  
## In Joint Declaration, Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill Defend Religious Freedom, Marriage, Life of Unborn  
## Pakistani Daily: Islamic State Has No Relation To Islam, Is ‘Creation of America And Europe’  
## The ‘Red-Green Alliance’: A New Anti-Semitism from the Far Left and Islam  
## Rome’s Iconic Trevi Fountain to Be Dyed Red in Honor of New Christian Martyrs  
## Dr. Charles Jacobs: Elitist Self-Loathing Is a ‘Deadly’ ‘Ideological Catastrophe’ for the West in Fighting Radical Islam
```



Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 11

```
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 11,  
            n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 11:  
## Tesla ‘Ludicrous Mode’: 0 to 60 MPH in 2.5 Seconds  
## TESLA: California Regulators to Demand Cease & Desist Advertising “Auto-pilot”  
## Microsoft Introducing VR Headsets at Half the Price of Oculus Rift  
## Former Mozilla CEO Chased Off by SJWs Announces New Internet Browser ‘Brave’  
## Road to E3 2016 Part 1 – Is Microsoft Ready to Unveil a New Console Already?  
## Self-Powering ‘Smart Skin’ Allows Robots to ‘Feel’ the World Around Them  
## Israeli Startup Bets On ‘Smart’ Satellite Antennas For Global Web Access  
## Snapchat Buys Israeli Augmented Reality Startup Cimagine  
## Uber Rolls Out Self-Driving Car in Pittsburgh  
## America Last: 20 American-Born Companies that Have Sold Out to Foreign Interests
```

Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 12

```
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 12,  
            n = 10)
```

```

## 
## Topic 12:
##     Scrapped STAAR Scores Add to Frustrations Over Standardized Testing in Texas
##     University of Chicago Warns Freshmen Not to Expect 'Trigger Warnings' and 'Safe Space'
##     s'
##     Washington State University Professors Argue that Free Speech 'Hurts' Marginalized St
##     udents
##     College Board's Common Core Math SAT 'Wordy Problems' Hurt Low-Performing Students
##     Princeton Wants Students to Stop Using the Word 'Man'
##     Task Force Will Focus on Needs of Texas Rural Schools
##     Bucknell Students Demand Financial Aid for Illegal Alien Students
##     Qatar Gives $100,000 to Texas School to Push Arabic Language and Culture
##     Baltimore County School Superintendent Calls For End To 'GT' Label
##     Barnard College to Offer 8-week 'Social Justice Education' Program

```

```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 13
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 13,
             n = 10)

```

```

## 
## Topic 13:
##     Girl Wants Boy Scout Group to say she is a Transgender Boy
##     Boy Scouts Refuse to Admit Crossdressing Girl
##     Washington Post Reveals Left's Abortion Hypocrisy
##     Report Claiming Half Of Women Harassed At Work Involved Hardline Feminist Group
##     Archdiocese of St. Louis Severing Ties with Girl Scouts
##     J. Lo Plays Six Different Oppressed Women in Video for Feminist Anthem
##     Oregon Man Becomes Country's First Legal 'Gender Non-Binary'
##     Fatwa: Transgender People May Only Marry the Opposite Sex in Pakistan
##     Top London Uni LGBT+ Campaign: Never Call a Stranger He or She
##     One-Third of 'Pro-Choice' Women Turn Against Abortion After Viewing Video of Procedur
e

```

```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 14
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 14,
             n = 10)

```

```
##  
## Topic 14:  
## Senate Judiciary Committee Republicans Vow: No Hearings on Supreme Court Nominee  
## Democrats File Supreme Court Brief In Support of Executive Amnesty  
## Sen. Mike Lee Reaffirms: 'The American People' Should Choose Next SCOTUS Nominee  
## Constitution Allows Muslim Immigration Ban  
## Mitch McConnell: Supreme Court Vacancy Should Be Filled After Election  
## Texas Governor Calls for Article V Constitutional Convention  
## Mitch McConnell Can Block Obama Recess Appointment to SCOTUS  
## McConnell Says 'No' to Merrick Garland for SCOTUS, Citing 'Biden Rule'  
## DACA Beneficiary Sues to Exempt N.Y.ers from Injunction Blocking Exec. Amnesty  
## House Republicans Join Democrats to Block Impeachment of IRS Commissioner
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 15  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 15,  
            n = 10)
```

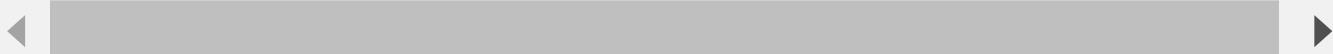
```
##  
## Topic 15:  
## Group in Mississippi Protests Target's Pro-Transgender Bathroom Policy  
## Group Offers Top Ten Christian-Friendly Stores for Parents Who Oppose Target's Transgender Promotion  
## Pro-Family Group Launches #BoycottTarget Movement over Transgender-Friendly Bathroom Policy  
## Chipotle Mexican Restaurant Being Sued for Making Customers 'Too Full'  
## Target Spends $20 Million on One-Person Bathrooms After Transgender Stunt Sparks Boycott  
## Before Pushing Transgender Bathrooms, Target Hired Former La Raza Executive as Board Member  
## Muslim Employees at Wisconsin Company Upset over Prayer-Time Cancellation  
## Jordan Brown Admits Hoax After Accusing Whole Foods of Gay Slur  
## Man Accused of Peeping in Women's Restroom Also Faces Child Porn Charges  
## Target's Stock Down 5 Percent, Brand Damaged, by Public Rebuke to Pro-Transgender Bathroom Rules
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 16  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 16,  
            n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 16:  
## First Argentina, Then Brazil: Cuba Is Losing All Its Friends  
## Cuba Arrested Nearly 500 Political Dissidents During Obama Visit  
## Olympics Chaos: Staffers Sold Tickets for Seats That Don't Exist  
## Six U.S. Airlines to Begin Flights to and from Cuba  
## Sour Grapes in Havana as Exiles Outshine Cuba's Olympic Team  
## Colombia: FARC Terrorists May Have Forced Retirement of Brigadier General  
## Rio Cops Seize Bags of Cocaine Using Olympic Logo on Them as Marketing Gimmick  
## Man Bikes from Argentina to Rio de Janeiro Olympics – Bike Gets Stolen  
## 'We Are Slaves in Lab Coats': Cuban Doctor Reunites with Mother After Flight to U.S.  
## White House Vetoes Cuban Anti-Communist Jazz Legend's Invite, Later Calls it 'Error'
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 17  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 17,  
            n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 17:  
## Charity Still Needs 'Few Thousand Wreaths' to Cover All Headstones in Arlington National Cemetery  
## Trump Transition Update: Meeting with Henry Kissinger, Nikki Haley, Rick Scott and More  
## Stephen Miller to Write Trump's Inaugural Speech  
## Trump Team Blasts Politico Report on Private Security: 'Complete Nonsense'  
## POLITICO: Arlington Cemetery: A Year in Pictures  
## CitiGroup: Major Sponsor of Refugee Advocate Gathering to Plan Opposition to Trump Policies  
## Wikileaks: Obama Transition Team Member Resigns After Being Ignored on 'Badly Broken' DHS  
## President-Elect Trump Appoints Stephen Miller Senior Advisor to the President for Policy  
## Making His Demands: Obama Summons Paul Ryan And Mitch McConnell For Meeting  
## Hacked Soros Memo: $650,000 to Black Lives Matter
```



```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 18  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 18,  
            n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 18:  
## California Assemblyman: Universal Background Checks Not Enough, Must Video Every Gun  
Sale  
## California Passes 'Gunpocalypse': War on 2nd Amendment  
## South Dakota to Let Concealed Permits Replace Background Check Requirement  
## Joe Biden: Ban 'Civilian Ownership' Of 'Assault Weapons'  
## ATF: Omar Mateen Bought Guns 'Legally'  
## CNN's Sandy Hook Lawsuit Report Omits Crucial Detail: Adam Lanza Stole His Guns  
## Not A Happy Thanksgiving: 70 Shot in Gun-Controlled Chicago Over Holiday Weekend  
## California Sheriffs Unite in Opposition to Gavin Newsom's Gun Control  
## Minnesota House Rejects Universal Background Checks  
## Gov. McAuliffe Reverses Course: Restoring Concealed Carry Reciprocity with 25 States
```



```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 19  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 19,  
            n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 19:  
## 'Allahu Akbar': Belgian Police Officers Injured in Machete Attack  
## Gunman Shot By Police After Opening Fire In Belgian City  
## Elderly Woman Shot and Killed Inside Grocery Store in Philadelphia  
## Police: 4 Dead in Seattle-Area Mall Shooting, Gunman on the Loose  
## Belgian Prime Minister Returns From Holiday, Says Machete Attack 'May Be Terrorism'  
## Terror Attack Thwarted, Bombs Found in Downtown Jerusalem  
## Israeli Teen Stabbed in Back Outside Old City's Damascus Gate  
## France Attacker Visited Site With Truck Twice: Investigative Source  
## 13 Dead And 6 Injured As Fire Engulfs Bar In France  
## Brussels Airport Suspect: Bombers Planned to Target Tel Aviv Passengers
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 20  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 20,  
            n = 10)
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```

## 
## Topic 20:
##   'Plan B': Green Party's Jill Stein Reaches Out to Sanders Supporters
##   DNC Admits that Republicans Are the Party of Donald Trump
##   ***Live Updates*** Clinton, Sanders Face Off in First Head-to-Head Debate
##   ***Live Updates*** Dems Hold Sunday Evening Debate in South Carolina
##   Exclusive: 'Black Men for Bernie' Founder to End Democrat 'Political Slavery' of Minority Voters... by Campaigning for Trump
##   'Rigged' Message Gains Steam, Donald Trump Catching Up to Hillary Clinton in Latest Reuters Poll
##   L.A. Times Columnist Worries: 'Crooked Hillary' May Stick
##   Clinton Cash: Hillary Rakes in Nearly $70 Million in June
##   Leeson: Word 'Again' Holds Power in America Today
##   Bill Clinton Calls for 'Shared Prosperity' with Hillary Clinton

```

```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 21
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 21,
             n = 10)

```

```

## 
## Topic 21:
##   One in Four Refugees Sent to Tennessee Carry Tuberculosis
##   Dallas County Confirms First West Nile Virus Fatality of 2016
##   Brazil Confirms Case of Zika Infection by Blood Transfusion
##   Zika: CDC Hits the Panic Button
##   Zika Virus Reaches San Francisco
##   More Zika Reported in Texas as 2016 Winds Down
##   Zika: Aerial Spraying and Releasing Bats Approved
##   Zika: CDC Warns Pregnant Women to Avoid Travel to Miami
##   Study Links Zika to Brain Damage in Adults
##   Refugee Public Health Controversy in Michigan

```

```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 22
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 22,
             n = 10)

```

```
##  
## Topic 22:  
## Bill Nye and Scientism  
## Study: West Antarctic - Poster Child of Global Warming - is Getting Colder  
## Climate Scientists: Antarctic Temperatures Cooling Every Year Since 1998  
## Esquire Panic! Global Warming Creating 'Vast Deserts'  
## When You Hear a Scientist Talk About 'Peer Review' You Should Reach For Your Browning  
## Ocean Acidification: Your Chance To Help Kill This Dodgy Scam Once And For All!  
## Global Temperatures Plunge. Icy Silence from Climate Alarmists  
## Cows Worse Than Cars for Climate Change, Environmentalists Admit  
## Icegate: Now NSIDC Caught Tampering With Climate Records  
## Attorney General Loretta Lynch Wants to Prosecute 'Deniers': Here's Why She'll Fail
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 23  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
             topics = 23,  
             n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 23:  
## Latinos Desert Sanchez for Harris in California Senate Race  
## 'Vote by Mail' Ballots Sent in California Primary  
## Flood of GOP Senate Candidates Boosts Odds of Double Democrat Showdown in California  
## Donald Trump Won 7.5 Million Popular Vote Landslide in Heartland  
## Poll: Only 13 Percent of Democrats Enthusiastic About Their Party's Future  
## Obama's Approval Rating Increases to 55 Percent  
## Early L.A. County Voter Turnout Trumping 2012 by 350%  
## Poll: Trump Lead in South Carolina Drops to 5  
## Los Angeles: Nearly 1 Million Voters Have No Republicans Down-ticket  
## Donald Trump Maintains Lead in Latest Missouri Poll
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 24  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
             topics = 24,  
             n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 24:  
## Alleged Rapist Arrested During Drug Smuggling Attempt  
## Texas Woman Uses Infant Child to Smuggle Meth From Mexico  
## Feds Seize Nearly $2 Million in Meth at Texas-Mexico Border  
## $7 Million in Meth Seized by Border Patrol Agents in Texas  
## Feds Stop Meth, Human Smuggling in Arizona Over Weekend  
## $500K in Cocaine, Marijuana Seized in 3 Arizona Busts  
## Captured Illegal Immigrant Child Predator Sent to 'Sanctuary' Texas County  
## FBI Informant Helps Bust Massive Tennessee Meth Ring  
## Previously Deported Illegal Alien Rapist Captured in California  
## 3 Men Indicted for Attempted Assassination of Texas Judge, Says FBI
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 25
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 25,
             n = 10)
```

```
## Topic 25:
## Mosul Operation: Islamic State Using Thousands as Human Shields
## Islamic State Video Praises Successes of Boko Haram in Niger
## Mosul: Anti-Islamic State Coalition ‘Cratering’ Roads to Stop Suicide Bombers
## Iraqi Forces Launch Military Operations to Liberate Mosul From Islamic State
## Rights Group: Islamic State in Mosul Targets Civilians as it Retreats
## Report: Islamic State May Use ‘Human Shields’ to Defend Libyan Stronghold Sirte
## Afghan President Ashraf Ghani: ‘We Will Bury’ Islamic State
## WATCH: Iraqi Civilians Swim Across Euphrates to Escape Islamic State
## Niger: 31 Boko Haram Jihadists Surrender, Expect Pardon
## Mosul: Iraqi Army Retakes State TV Station After Heavy ‘Street Fighting’
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 26
findThoughts(stm_model,
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             n = 10)
```

```
## Topic 26:
## Bungie Confirms Endgame Matchmaking Isn't Coming with ‘Destiny: Rise of Iron’
## Glenn Beck's Farewell Address to His 40 Laid-Off Troops... from His Pretend Oval Office
## Glenn Beck and Samantha Bee Bond Over Their Fear and Loathing of Trump
## Arizona Woman Removed from Life Support Lives to Tell Story
## Apologize For What? Curt Schilling Stands Strong Against Left on Transgender Bathroom
Comments
## Dad Whose Son Was Killed by Illegal: Ted Cruz Angrier About Donald Trump Tweets Than
Illegal Immigrant Killers
## Milo vs Ann Coulter on Donald Trump's Mischievous Late-Night Tweets
## EXCLUSIVE – Jackie Mason Slams Mitt Romney For Interest in State Job After Repeatedly
Criticizing Donald Trump
## ‘Mmm Mmm Mmm’ Michelle Obama Describes The Good Times At The White House
## Sharyl Attkisson: Brexit Support Was ‘Largely Censored from the Mainstream Media’
```



```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 27
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 27,
             n = 10)
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```

## Topic 27:
## Palestinians Stage UN Showdown Over Israeli Settlements
## Five Reasons Obama Targeting Israel At The United Nations Would Reward Palestinian Extremism
## Following Palestinian Terror Rampage, Israel Okays 800 New Homes in and Near Eastern Jerusalem
## Hamas Threatens To 'Surprise The World' With Prisoner Exchange Deal
## State Department: We 'Strongly Oppose' Jews Building in Eastern Jerusalem
## Report: Kerry Told Netanyahu U.S. Undecided on UN Resolution
## Watch: Netanyahu and Abbas Shake Hands at Peres Funeral
## Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman Likens Upcoming Paris Mideast 'Peace' Summit to Anti-Semitic Dreyfus Affair
## Hamas Official Downplays Discovery of Attack Tunnel in Israel
## Hamas Claims Tunnel Inside Israel 'Only A Small Part' of Battle Plans Against Jewish State

```

```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 28
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 28,
             n = 10)

```

```

##
## Topic 28:
## Report: Concerned State Dept Employees Told to 'Never Speak of' Hillary's Server
## House Oversight Chair Chaffetz Issues Subpoena to FBI for All Clinton Email Investigation Documents
## Clinton Foundation Fears It Was Hacked, Hires Cyber Security Firm
## Gedrich: Blame Clinton, Not Comey, for Email Woes
## Report: At the FBI, 'Incredulity at what Is Being Discovered' in Hillary Clinton's Emails
## EXCLUSIVE: Former RNC Chairman: Evidence Shows Hillary Clinton Never Qualified For Security Clearance
## Hillary Clinton Deleted More Emails Than She Sent to the State Department
## Clinton Wrote 104 of the Classified Emails Discovered on Her Server
## Hillary Clinton Campaign Meltdown: Top-Secret Emails 'Innocuous,' Should Be Released
## FBI IRS Scandal Documents: Obama IRS Waited Years to Tell Truth

```

```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 29
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
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             n = 10)

```

```

## 
## Topic 29:
##     Royce Gracie Beats Ken Shamrock in Controversial Stoppage at Bellator 149
##     Angel Plays Devil to Wichita State Turney Run
##     NFL Preview: Pats Look to Stay on Top Post-Gronk, Giants Travel to Pittsburgh, Chiefs
Battle Falcons
##     NFL Preview: Is Colin Kaepernick Playing Himself Out of the League?
##     Trevor Story Sets Record in Hitting 7th HR Through Season's 1st 6 Games
##     Peyton Manning Compiles Fewest Passing Yards of Any Winning SB QB Since Terry Bradsha
w
##     Cavs-Warriors Game 7 All Time Highest Rated NBA Broadcast for ABC
##     King James Dethroned as Ruler of NBA Jersey Sales
##     NFL Preview: No Debate, No World Series, No Excuses If Broncos-Raiders Doesn't Get Ga
ngbuster Ratings
##     Georgetown Road Upset of Xavier Brings Point Guard Closer to Big East Immortality

```



```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 30
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 30,
             n = 10)

```

```

## 
## Topic 30:
##     More Than 2,000 Sign Petition Demanding Douglas Carswell Resign From UKIP After 'Cou
p'
##     EU Meets Without Britain For First Time Since Brexit Vote
##     Brexit Referendum Forces EU Summit Delay
##     Tory Cabinet Minister Says Staying in an Unreformed EU Would Be 'Disastrous'
##     Brexit Minister: We Will Reject Any Attempt To Delay EU Exit
##     Marine Le Pen in Euro Parliament: 'UK Sent A Signal Of Freedom Out To The Entire Worl
d'
##     Cameron Claims 'More to be Done' As EU Chief Reveals 'Watered Down' Migrant Benefits
Deal
##     Poland's Populists Panic, Ask Britain To Hold Second Referendum
##     Who's 'Nexit'? As The 'Patriot Spring' Sweeps The Continent, Europeans Call For Their
Own Referendums
##     Italian PM Says Brits Cannot Expect More Rights than Other Non-EU Citizens

```



```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 31
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
             topics = 31,
             n = 10)

```

```
##  
## Topic 31:  
##   Federal Reserve Could Push Economy into Another Recession  
##   Morici: Federal Reserve Should Stick to a Schedule to Raise Rates  
##   Oil Prices Plunge and Stocks Hit Lowest Level Since 2014  
##   Crude Oil Price Still Crashing Toward $25  
##   Morici: Donald Trump's Economy Will Benefit Ordinary Investors  
##   As Israel's Tech Sector Booms, its Pension Funds Miss Out  
##   China's Market Chaos: Obama Should Lift Page from Trump to Avert Crisis  
##   U.S. Economy Accelerates with 287,000 Jobs in June  
##   OPEC Agrees to Production Decrease, Prices Increase  
##   Expert: Wages Drop in Jobs With Many Foreign Guest-Workers
```

```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 32  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 32,  
            n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 32:  
##   Brexit Voter Died Hours After Brutal Attack by Remain Supporter  
##   Rotherham Abuse Trial: Defendant Was Police Cadet When Alleged Offences Occurred  
##   Colorado Woman Sentenced to 100 Years for Cutting Baby from Stranger's Womb  
##   Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Cutting Out Girlfriend's Lung While She Was Still  
Alive  
##   6-Year-Old Rescues Ducklings from Drainpipe  
##   'Keep A Diary': Police Advice To 12-Year-Old Rape Victim Still Being Abused By Attack  
er's Family And Friends  
##   Texas Kids Chained to Fence Show Long History of Abuse  
##   Pakistani Girl Marries for Love, Gets Incinerated by Mother  
##   Rotherham Child Abuse Gang Sentenced for Raping 16 Girls  
##   West Virginia Infant Dies After Vicious Sexual Assault
```



```
# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 33  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
            texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,  
            topics = 33,  
            n = 10)
```

```

## 
## Topic 33:
##   U.S. Intel Director: China to Keep Pushing Illegal South China Sea Boundaries
##   U.S. Canceled Anti-China 'Freedom of Navigation' Operation in South China Sea
##   Intelligence Chief: China Will Have 'Substantial Military Power' in South China Sea by 2017
##   U.S. Navy Plans More Military Exercises of 'Greater Complexity' in South China Sea
##   Vietnam Challenges China with Bigger Military Facilities in South China Sea
##   World View: China's Military Deploys Bombers and Closes Part of the South China Sea
##   South China Sea: China Denies U.S. Aircraft Carrier Permission to Visit Hong Kong
##   John Kerry Promises 'Very Serious' Talk with China on Missiles in South China Sea
##   Report: China Building Reinforced Hangars on Disputed Islands
##   World View: Australia's Defense Plans Stress Huge Naval Buildup Targeting China

```

```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 34
findThoughts(stm_model,
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             topics = 34,
             n = 10)

```

```

## 
## Topic 34:
##   McCain 'Cronies' Show 'True Colors' in Palin Attack Says Primary Challenger Kelli Ward
##   Donald Trump: 'Mixed up Man' Mitt Romney's Vote for Ted Cruz Is 'Good for Me'
##   Club For Growth PAC Makes First Ever Presidential Endorsement with Ted Cruz
##   Establishment Nightmare: Team Kasich Fires at Marco Rubio After Nevada
##   Nevada: Ben Carson Focused on Reno
##   Donald Trump Crushes 'Little Marco' in His Home State of Florida with Embarrassing Defeat for Rubio
##   Mike Huckabee: Ted Cruz's Tactics 'Cheap;' 'Low Life, Sleazy Politics'
##   Ted Cruz Has Raised $3 Million Since Iowa Caucus
##   Donald Trump on Ted Cruz Debate Challenge: 'Can We Do It in Canada?'
##   Report: Rick Santorum to End Presidential Campaign

```

```

# Check headline of articles with high probability for Topic 35
findThoughts(stm_model,
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$title,
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             n = 10)

```

```
##  
## Topic 35:  
## El Chapo: A Momentary Distraction for a Country in Flames  
## Mexigate: Border Politicos Caught Stealing Files from Government Building  
## Mexico's Case of 43 Missing Students in Hands of El Chapo's Friend, Wedding Guest  
## Mexican Clergy Call for Dialogue with Drug Cartels, Governor Calls for Media Silence  
## Federales Tout Victories Against Crime, Fiddle on While Mexico Burns  
## Corruption, Ties to Organized Crime Taint Mexican Border State Elections  
## DEA Fugitive Praised by Mexican Newspaper that Misled Voters About Corrupt Candidate  
## EXCLUSIVE – Feds Capture Los Zetas Cartel Boss in Houston  
## Foreigners Gather in Droves at Border to Illegally Enter U.S.  
## Mexican Border State Working the Media to Hide Narco-Image
```

```
# Check text of articles with high probability for Topic 26
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```
findThoughts(stm_model,  
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            n = 10)
```

```
##  
## Topic 26:  
## At this year's E3, I interviewed Bungie's Scott Taylor on co-operative shooter ,Destiny's, new expansion, Rise of Iron,, player concerns, and hints toward the game's inevitable sequel.,It was a challenging interview, setting myself opposite both Scott and a Bungie PR representative, working to derive answers to the burning questions that many in the 30 million strong community of players have asked about.,The notoriously tight-lipped developer didn't offer much more than bullet point marketing for its next expansion, but did manage to illuminate some of how they approach the responsibility of governing one of our most populous virtual worlds. I appreciate the candor with which we were able to speak at the end, and I'm hoping that in the future we can dig a little deeper.,It began with an introduction:,PR: So, Scott Taylor is the Executive Producer for ,Rise of Iron, and what's really fun about working with him is that we worked together on [,Destiny,'s second expansion] ,House of Wolves, as well. He was also the Executive Producer on ,House of Wolves,.,Scott: And I got the group together.,PR: Yeah, got the band back together, and we're...,Scott: Same creative game director as ,House of Wolves, too.,PR: We're really excited about it.,First off: how has the response been to the April update?,Scott: I think, it seems like fans – I don't want to speak for all fans – but internally, I think that we've been very happy with how people have been playing. I think people have liked seeing their increased light level, seeing the new gear. Chroma's been, I think, going well. Challenge of Elders, I think is great. You know, so, there's new quests and a new boss and everything. So, yeah, I think we're happy with it.,Okay. What's the biggest feedback you've got from the April update? There were a lot of changes, a lot of additions. What was the biggest –,Scott: Yeah, I think, I think the Infusion mechanic update that we're going to hold onto in ,Rise of Iron,, having it so it's very clear when you're going to transition a weapon or piece of armor, to what level it's going to go to. I think that's been pretty universally, they're happy with it, we're happy with it – like I said, we're not changing it.,Have you guys seen any sort of player increase post-update?,Scott: We saw people come back, yeah we saw people that hadn't played in a while, you know, jump back in. And that's always, that's exciting to hear, right? You know, we didn't have a huge media blitz for April, so the word of mouth was good. People loved it.,So, Rise of Iron is right now, but I know we're steadily approaching the horizon upon which we'll start hearing about ,Destiny 2,.,Scott: My face says nothing.,PR: What?! [laughs],So, is this a sort of a grand finale, or do we have a lot more coming for ,Destiny,? What's the slate look like for current players?,Scott: I think, so.. I'm sorry, ,Destiny: Rise of Iron, comes out September 20th for PS4 and Xbox One. And then, you know, we're always looking at how we're going to support the game. And if you look at what happened since launch, you see a bunch of different ways that we've supported the game. That's because I think there's a lot of different – there is a lot of different actually effective ways to support the game. There's things that we did last year like the racing, that were neat. And the thing that we were hearing, in addition to the fact that people seemed to like those things, was the fact that they really were looking for new space to play in, a new storyline, new cinematics, learning more about the lore –,PR: Weapons.,Scott: Yeah, weapons, armor, gear, exotics – all those things people were looking for. And the best way to deliver that is in a package, right? Like, to wrap all that stuff into one, tell a story, have them play off each other. So, we really looked at supporting the game right now with something like ,Rise of Iron.,.,Okay. So, for those who may not be as versed in the ,Destiny, lore – What's the core of Rise of Iron's story?,Scott: So, ,Rise of Iron, is focused on the Iron Lords, which are a group of – I don't want to say Guardians – a group of characters that have been from the past that Lord Saladin, who's our main protagonist, has been honoring with a PvP event called The Iron Banner, which has been in the game since the beginning. He was in the tower in the beta. So, now, there's been this ritual that's going on, and – you don't need any of this context if you don't want it, but it's there to enrich and expand the history for players that have been there since the beta. So, it's really taking a character in the corner of the universe in ,Destiny,, and really uncovering it and diving deep, and learning a ton about it, right?,So, we've done this with Eris' story – Eris is one of the characters in ,Dark Below, – and then, you know, Cade really had a ton to do with... So, we're taking these different characters
```

and kind of diving in deeper to them. So this is Saladin's past coming back and how you're going to play into it. It really opens up the whole side of the ,Destiny, universe in the PvU world, which we haven't done yet. We're taking this pretty overtly PvP thing and we're making a story, a campaign, out of it.,What would you say that makes ,Rise of Iron, unique among the expansions that you guys have done so far? What is ,different, about ,Rise of Iron, for ,Destiny, veterans?,Scott: A bunch, actually. It's really interesting. The fact that we have a new social space that you are going to capture and take over that right now, as we speak I suppose, is overrun with Fallen and so you're going to go in and take it back. And then, so there's a different feeling you get from actually claiming a space. And then the space also has a much different tonal feel than the other social spaces we have. You know, the Tower is bustling, it's clean and there's a lot of activity there. And the Reef is very industrial. It kind of tells that it's mysterious.,This is very remote. This feels like you're off in the wilderness and in the wild, and you're just starting to kind of come back into the space. And we're also doing some new mechanics around the social space that we're not going to talk about today, but there's some things to do there that we've never done before in the social space.,So, I know you said you weren't going to say a whole lot about it, but you mentioned you were taking over a new social space. Is that just a lore thing? Or do you mean the players will be actively -,Scott: I mean THAT. So, yes, you're going to encounter a space and if you're in the game and you don't read any of this stuff, or whatever, you're not going to know that you're coming back here to have the hub of the story, and new characters here. So there's this neat experience that you have where you clear a place out and go off on some adventures and then get something back at the spaces – you know, people are starting to move back into it. That's kind of a cool way of telling the story.,So that's going to be fun. We haven't done that before. We are really excited about that, and then so you know the new space is very unique. The spaces that we've introduced since ,Destiny, [year] one – you know, the Dreadnaught's incredible and it's an interior space, so it does that very well as an interior, claustrophobic feel. So, when we decided to go in the way of this very vast, this "no one can see it" thing where you can see out to the horizon, it's this feeling of open exploration that's going to be fun. We have new controls and public events in there too. And so, yeah, there's a bunch of neat things that you're going to discover in the open world that are unique to this one.,Cool.,PR: And a new raid.,Scott: Oh, of course. There's a new raid, new strikes, all the things that you'd expect from ,Destiny,.,The Iron Banner is obviously a central element. Will we be seeing any changes or additions to Iron Banner content itself?,Scott: Yeah, so the PvP is going to get its own time later in the summer to talk, but when you see Lord Saladin's out, you assume there's a big PvP aspect as well, and that is true. So I can say that there's new maps, and we have a new mode, which we're going to let those guys talk about more in the summer later. And then, there's surprises and features that we think people will be happy there are.,Good to hear. I'd like to redirect a little, and talk about an issue that I think is very pertinent to ,Destiny,, but is typically associated with more traditional MMOs: player fatigue. What have you seen? How does the team approach that issue? With the continuing post-release content drops, I know you're hoping for people to stick around for the long haul.,Scott: Yeah, so you know I think that's part of why we're here is to show the new content, and if you haven't played in a while, maybe you want to come back. But, I think that the best answer to that is the fact that ,Destiny, is, I think, unique in the way that there are many different ways to engage in.,So, if you want to, instead of making a phone call to my brother, sometimes I'll be like, "Hey, let's play some Destiny," and then we'll chat while we do patrols. But if I want an intense experience, I can go do a raid. If I want something in between, I can do strike matchmaking in the heroic playlist, or you know, I can do the Nightfall that week. And so, you can, Destiny has a bunch of different ways that you can engage with it, and so my hope would be that people can kind of come to Destiny on the terms that they want to.,Mind if we dip into some slightly more technical, or mechanical questions?,Scott: Sure, we'll see how I can do.,Okay. Have you guys taken any further consideration to any kind of matchmaking, for [endgame] group play? It continues to be the most talked about aspect of gameplay in Destiny. Have you guys considered it?,Scott: The truth of it is that all those things are discussed. There's a healthy debate and discussion about anything you can imagine, and those are two things that are discussed. What I can say is that there is no matchmaking in the ,Rise of Iron,. But we always t

alk about those things.,Can you share at all the reason behind why that hasn't been a priority, or a goal?,Scott: I can't. Yeah.,PR: It's just, it's a development decision.,Scott: Yeah.,Okay. Can you tell me whether it is more of a creative decision, or a technical challenge?,PR: We're not going to go there.,Got it. So, another hot topic has been unified weapon balance, and its effect on single-player and multiplayer. Have you guys had any further discussion or talks about changing that system to deal with balance issues?,Scott: I can answer that. We're always looking at balancing the sandbox for the phase that we're in for ,Destiny.,,PR: You're known for that.,Scott: Yeah, we are. And so, ,Destiny,, it's really cool that you're on a character and you go into different types of activities. That's really neat, but because of that and because of that being important to us, we're constantly looking at the balance of the sandbox. And so, that's something that we're going to continue to do. I'll say that. We're always looking at that, always iterating on trying to make – to me, that falls in the mission of trying to make the best version of ,Destiny, we can make right now.,All right. Well, we know that Gjallarhorn will be returning. Can you talk any more about exotics?,Scott: Yeah, I can confirm that we will have new exotics and we're – as you see, Gjallarhorn coming back and having the Iron Gjallarhorn. So it's safe to say that there'll be some other friends coming back as well. So, yeah we're going to have new exotics. I can say that. And we're excited to talk about them later this summer.,After the Rift game mode [in Iron Banner], you introduced restrictions to make sure people weren't "pub-stomping" it – in other words, exploiting it with premade groups. Have you considered implementing something like that in the Iron Banner, in order to level the playing field a bit?,Scott: I think I would answer this the same way I would answer the matchmaking questions, which is that that team is always looking at ways – at all ways – of making the experience as good as it should be, and so you should talk with them about that.,Are there any other content additions that you'd like to talk about in ,Rise of Iron,?,Scott: Yeah, so we have the axe. Rise of Iron has this sweet new axe, which we internally called "Relic," so it's a weapon that when you really need to cause some damage, it might show up and help you do that. And so, you feel very powerful. But there's some other new ways that we're going to have players express. that we're going to talk about later this summer, that are really really cool.,The biggest thing I think I would be excited for people to know about, besides the fact that you're getting a new weapon, new armor, new exotics – which people love – is the space. Like, you're getting new real estate. You're getting new places to explore and patrol, secrets to find. So, you know, and the new cinematic campaign with the really, really neat story that dives deep into the lore and, so I think that one of the things we hear is that people want to know more about the characters of ,Destiny,, and so we're excited to deliver that. And introduce some new characters that are going to have their own little secrets.,Have you considered adding more vehicle-centric content? I'd happily be a full time Sparrow racer.,Scott: You want to race sparrows all the time?,It's fun.,PR: It is fun.,Scott: That's good.,So..?,Scott: Yeah, we introduced sparrow-racing in December last year, for three weeks I believe. And a lot of people really liked it. We're looking at that as a potential idea, that's another "arrow in our quiver," to see if we want to bring it back at some point.,A nything for the expansion?,Scott: It is not coming back with ,Rise of Iron.,,Finally – and this is probably what you're asked more than anything else – ,Destiny 2., Do you know when we're going to hear anything about it? Is ,Rise of Iron, going to have any hints to the sequel?,Scott: You want to handle that one?,PR: We have said that there is a sequel coming next year.,Okay, okay. Well, thank you very much for taking the time to talk about all of this.,PR: Of course.,Scott: Anyone wants to talk about ,Destiny,, we're always here. Just waiting for people to show up and talk about ,Destiny.,,Yes, I'm sure there are a lot of moving pieces behind the scenes.,PR: Well, also, and like you [Scott] say really well, it's not just that we don't want to talk about it, it's like using PvP design as an example, they should be able to share their...,Scott: I'm very aware that I'm representing many people here, and so, um, I take that pretty seriously. Because I don't want to be representing like... like there's a lot of amazing people that came up with lots of these ideas, and I want them to be able to speak about it. And that's – it's a big deal to be able to have the opportunity to talk to the audience, and so I feel like it would be impolite. I really want to give people the opportunity to have that conversation, and also you're going to get a better answer, frankly, if you're having a conversation with a PvP designer about how they're handling latency issues. They're going to be ab

le to speak to that in a way, in a level of detail that is going to be much more interesting.,Understandable. More than anything, I'm trying to get to the root of what players would want to discuss with you, given the chance. ,Scott: I mean, the way I look at that is that people – your readers, and hopefully you – like ,Destiny,, and they want to know more about it, right? So that's not bad.,PR: That's not a bad thing, that's exciting.,Scott: And we want to talk about, and I always want to say more than I'm supposed to. But, I'm not going to because I like being here. [laughs],PR: I've been doing games PR for 21 years, and I think Bungie just has such a unique relationship with their audience.,Scott: Well, there's a real level of – I feel that we are, as a studio, able to just make what we want to make. Which, I don't know if it's true of every studio.,Oh, I'd say it's definitely not true of every studio.,Scott: Yeah, so we can just go in a room and do whatever we want to do. And then, like, now we're here right? So I feel like I have a really unique perspective of seeing all these things. That really the gift of having this job. So, I don't feel imposed upon. I feel like we're able to do what is the right thing to do for ,Destiny.,And ,Destiny, represents a whole lot of gamers, in arguably the most important entertainment industry on the planet. These questions are important to those people.,PR: It's awesome. We have over 30 million people registered to play Destiny.,Scott: That's like a whole country.,PR: 30 MILLION people. I mean, what?,That's a massive community of people – and you're right, it's like we're talking a country's worth of people – inhabiting this single world for a significant fraction of their daily lives.,PR: Yeah, this entertainment property, and it's so...,Scott: It's hard to process.,PR: Yeah, it's an honor to work in this industry.,The subjects we're discussing, from the balance between PvP and PvE content, all the way to the ability to group with friends to tackle these challenges... These are laws by which people who invest in this world have to live. People committed to your world will be adamant about the issues in it that are important to them.,Scott: Well, that's why – the reason your questions are nit-picky is that they are important to people, because you know, a law affects how people's lives are. So, it affects how I play. Just wait til VR comes out.,Precisely. Open communication with your player base will only become more important. But speaking of VR – one final question. Do you guys have any VR ideas for ,Destiny,?,Scott: Not yet.,PR: I mean, we're so focused on these platforms, and it's like...,Scott: Yeah, the PS4 and Xbox One are our jam right now.,I understand. Again, thank you for your time.

In a special video ,posted to his website, today, Glenn Beck addressed news reports of the latest mass layoffs at his troubled media empire.,According to ,a report yesterday in the Daily Beast,, Beck laid off 40 employees of his Blaze media organization "in order to satisfy the requirements of a multimillion-dollar bank loan taken out recently to keep Beck's revenue-challenged enterprise running.",As the Daily Beast noted, "This latest round of mass firings comes as no surprise to insiders at The Blaze and Mercury Radio Arts, which laid off dozens of employees last May on a day referred to internally as 'Black Monday,' around the same time that Beck was purchasing a private jetliner and a \$200,000 Maybach sedan.",In the video released today, Beck is seen seated at a replica of the Resolute desk in his mock Oval Office set delivering the opening monologue of his radio show.,Below is the transcript of his remarks.,***,I wanted to start there today because there's a story that maybe you have read that came out yesterday that is talking about how yesterday my company, TheBlaze, laid off 40 people. And my media empire is crumbling. And part of it is because I'm traveling around with Ted Cruz.,Well, I want you to know, yes, I've lost a lot of money traveling around with Ted Cruz. I've lost about half a million dollars. That's my choice. I believe in something.,Did that cause the 40 people to lose their job? No.,I want to talk to you today because we're in a community together, and I trust you. And I tried to be trustworthy. And when I make a mistake, I own up to it. And I'm a trusting guy.,I think anybody on the show will tell you my biggest problem is I trust everybody, until they prove otherwise. And I try to live my life in a transparent way. And I try to surround myself with others that I believe are trustworthy.,And then I went on to build my own company with an authentic voice, a trustworthy company. And one of my main principles – and you heard me saying Isaiah it a million times: We take on no debt. Root ourselves in principles and people. Live within our own means.,And I trusted the people that ran my company, that they wanted the same things. And in the beginning, maybe they did want the same things. But a couple of years ago, I realized there were problems in my own company, and that even though the managers were all saying the right things to me, those things were n

ever getting done. And you know this to be true. Because I would talk about things that we were going to do on TheBlaze and everything else, and then they never seemed to materialize. And I was losing credibility with you, but behind the scenes, I was a holy terror for about a year because I couldn't find out what was going on.,Without saying anything bad about anybody because we just have different principles, the people I had moved down to Dallas and the rest was in New York and Los Angeles and Washington, DC – and we were working now towards being, I guess, a normal, status quo kind of media company, a big media company, and I didn't ever want that.,But because our team was split from Dallas, Los Angeles – I think we had people at one time in Chicago, Washington, and New York – I didn't know who really got the vision and who didn't, who got it and who didn't.,It was almost two years ago when we had a museum here at the studios in Dallas. And we invited you to come and just see the museum. And I bet there were 10,000 people here that came through – and I loved it. And everybody kept telling me, go home. Go home. Go home. And I wouldn't go home. None of us did. Nobody on the show went home.,We were there and we spent that whole weekend with you because we love you. We love you.,But I noticed one thing about my company. Not one single person from the management team actually showed up that entire weekend. And I realized, they didn't love the audience like I did. They weren't connecting to the message like you did and I did. I'm not sure they were part of the culture of the principles. And I knew I had to get a hold of my company again, and that would mean making really hard choices.,First one was, are you going to stick to your principles? You going to be honest with yourself? Stand for what you believe in, or are you going to give into the status quo and go along to get along? Because these people were my friends, they were my partners, and I don't know at the time, I thought maybe they were right. But I knew they weren't in my gut.,And my gut and my spirit said, "Stick by what you know, even if it's hard and even in the end if you lose.",I had to start firing people, people that I counted as my friends, best friends, partners. And the process that I began was the hardest process of my life. Yeah, almost as hard as picking myself up off of that carpet when I was facing suicide, that carpet that smelled like soup. But this time I had something I didn't have before: I had you. I knew you existed. I knew that you believed in the same principles I believe and that we – no, that I had made a promise to you. Our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.,And so I kept going. This has been a really hard five years for me, but the last 18 months have been unbelievable. One thing I had to do was get everyone in my house under one roof so I could look everyone in the eye. Culture matters at a company.,I stopped telling you about the things that were coming on TheBlaze. It's called the Phoenix project. We've been working on it now for about nine months. I haven't talked to you about it, nor will I until we launch it. I'm tired of telling you the things that I think we're going to do. I bet you are too. We're just going to do them. Because I failed you too many times.,The reason the articles like the one that came out yesterday are coming out, part of it is political. Part of it is because Frank Sinatra was right, some people get a kick out of stomping on your dreams. They really do.,Some is, I guess, it's news when somebody loses their job. Unfortunately, my media company isn't the only place in America laying people off. My media company is not the only one that's looking at their balance sheet and saying, "We can't go into debt, or we're going to lose all of the jobs.",They said in this article yesterday – this has been claimed before that my business is failing. I will tell you, two years ago, it was. It was absolutely on fire. Because when I started to go into the books – I was a bad steward. And when I started going into the books and see what had been done to my company that didn't ever take on debt, I was first told that we were, I think, \$4 million in debt. And then it became \$7 million in debt. And then when I got the final accounting, 18 months ago, my company that doesn't take on debt was \$13 million in debt.,If I'm going to tell you you shouldn't have debt, how could I have a company that was \$13 million in the hole? I made really hard decisions. And in 18 months, my company that is dying and struggling paid our debt down from 13 million to two.,A couple of months ago, we had a great sponsor of ours, about a 7-million-dollar-a-year sponsor go broke. I feel for that company because everybody that worked for that company, much larger than mine, went out of business. And they left us with a lot of debt.,You see, economies, it's – it's like Jenga. One person pulls one big thing out, and the whole thing could fall. But it definitely weakens. And the more pieces of stress or the more pieces that come out of Jenga, the weaker your house becomes. Somebody – Delco goes out of business because GM is no longer making their cars in O

hio, and so that hurts Delco. And then that hurts the grocery store down the street and the restaurants in the town.,We're in this together. I'm not going to tell you that I'm not running a fail company because the proof is in the pudding. I will just tell you the old managers got us into \$13 million of debt. And in less than 18 months, we've shaved that off by over \$10 million. That doesn't seem like a failing business. That seems like a business that is thriving and is doing its best to set its principles right.,But I want you to know, when you read TheBlaze, because I'm not happy with it – and I've quietly said that recently, over the last year or so. Not happy with it. But it's changing. We just hired one of the guys who put together American Idol, Oreo cookies. We just hired a guy who was one of the main guys at Good Morning America and CNN. We just hired an HR person from Viacom. I'm rebuilding. And it will be a lot better for me honestly – honestly, it would be a lot better if I would have just filed Chapter 11. But I actually like Harry Truman too much. I don't believe – Chapter 11, sometimes you have to do. Chapter 7, sometimes you have to do.,But I wanted to pay every single person back because it's not their fault. It was my fault for not watching what people were doing underneath me.,One last thought and then I'll move off: When I first put TheBlaze on the air, it was GBTV. And I won a hammer. It's the Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Award. It's a disruptor's award. It goes to some of the best disrupters in the world. I couldn't believe I was in the room when I won this award. That year, I earned that award because we broke television and we're the first one to make it an app and put it online.,I haven't earned this hammer a day since. But I will tell you this: Sometimes it takes a hammer to break what is broken so you can rebuild it. And in today's world and economy, if you ever get fat and sassy, if you ever start to put profits over people, if you ever decide, "I really don't need – I really don't – I don't care what the people say. Yeah, yeah, they're customers. They'll just keep coming." No, they won't. You have to innovate every day. You have to actually love your customer every day. You have to actually care about them and wonder, "How can I make their life better or easier?" And when you do that and you understand that by doing that you're disrupting the entire system and you'll go places that will scare the living daylights out of you, but you proceed without fear, that's when you will win.,I'm not going to tell you we're going to win. I'm just going to tell you, watch us. Watch us over the next year.

TheBlaze founder Glenn Beck ,interviewed, ,Full Frontal, host Samantha Bee on his show Thursday as the first part in an effort between the rightwing talker and the leftwing comedian to find common ground.,“We're doing a piece with Glenn,” Bee said. “And so you [Beck] generously invited me to be on your show. We are merging worlds in a way.”,Beck and Bee – both vociferous critics of President-elect Donald Trump from the right and the left, respectively – bonded over their mutual distress at the election outcome, the dangers of “fake news,” and their desire to “stand up for people who are imperiled” now that Trump won.,While they both conceded that there are “many things” they don't agree on, Bee said, “It's okay with us to agree with each other on some things. I feel like there's a shared humanity, right?”,Beck agreed and complimented Bee's humor, saying that he finds her “very, very funny.”,Beck suggested that the way he responded to Barack Obama's victory in 2008 was comparable to Bee's response to Trump's election.,“Does it bother to you that we seem to be playing musical chairs, that under the last president I was freaked out and thinking, ‘Oh, my gosh.’ And now, under this president, you're saying, ‘Oh, my gosh,’” he asked.,“Well, it's not just me saying it. There are a lot more people,” she replied.,“I'm saying it as well!” Beck said, quick to add himself to the list of people disturbed by Trump.,Beck explained that he doesn't believe any leader should “ever make you feel that way.”,“No man should have so much power that he can reach into your life and change our culture and change everything,” he said.,“I guess fundamentally I don't really trust anyone,” Bee replied, saying that she doesn't see presidents as “messianic figures.”,“I just don't think that any one person or leader is going to be everything to everybody. And, you know, the pendulum swings,” she said.,Bee, who is from Canada, noted, “I think what we're going through right now feels very different to me, in my experience, which is limited because, remember, I'm an immigrant. And this is the first election that I was able to vote in.”,Beck suggested that the Bill of Rights is the one thing “they could unite on.”,“I was dumb enough in 2003 to go, ‘Oh, George Bush, he'd never misuse the Patriot Act.’ By 2006, I'm like, ‘Oh, my gosh, how stupid was I,’” Beck said.,“The people on the left were right there,” he continued. “And the reason why a lot of us didn't listen to that warning was because, ‘Yo

u're just the other side. You're just against George Bush.' Oh, my God, shut up. And now, under Barack Obama, it expanded and got worse. And under this guy [Trump], it's going to expand and get even worse.",Bee explained, "Part of the reason why we're here today is because I do think that it's important for us to kind of redraw the lines a little bit. I don't think that it's as clear-cut as left and right or liberal and conservative anymore.",She continued:,I feel like you need to form alliances in a different way now. I think that, you know, there are things that are imperiled now, or certainly there feels like there's an urgency and there feels like there's violence in the air to me. And I think that it's going to be more important than ever for people to kind of reach into areas where they wouldn't necessarily feel comfortable and hold hands with people in a different way.,They both agreed that while it's important to engage in "civil discourse" and "speak nice" and "listen to each other," that isn't enough.,"Civil discourse is really, for me, just the beginning of change," Bee explained and Beck agreed.,"There's an action moment too, where you have to defend people" she continued. "You have to stand up for people who are imperiled in this new world. You have to take action. I don't know what the action moment is. We do have to find it.",Beck said that when the time comes, the left and the right will have to "stand on common principles.",He lamented, "No one wants to talk about common principles. Everybody is talking about policies. And that's been our problem – that's been my problem. I wanted you here because I think you felt – you feel right now like I felt – not in '08, but in '12.",He explained that after the 2012 election, he was astonished that people re-elected Obama despite all of the information available showing how unacceptable he was.,"And you feel that way now about Donald Trump. So do I," Beck said and Bee agreed. "You kind of lost faith in, 'Crap, it's not just the president, it's the people around me too. I don't understand how they're disconnecting from truth. They're just accepting it.'", "So my question is: How do we take on – how do you take on your side and say, You know what, there are some things that – lying about Benghazi did matter. It did matter," Beck asked.,"There are consequences to lies. I think we are seeing that," Bee responded.,"There are just false narratives," she explained. "I mean, we've all been talking about fake news. We were talking about it on the show the other night. There's so much distrust.", "People are receiving their news in their own bubble of the internet," Bee said, as Beck nodded in agreement. "It's very difficult to penetrate that with actual information.", "On both sides," Beck interjected., "I agree," Bee said., "We're self-selecting out," Beck added., "Well, of course," Bee agreed, adding: "I don't really know how to penetrate that. I don't think anybody really does.", "But that's what we're here for," Beck offered., She agreed, "That is why we need to be so vigilant and so diligent and do things in a different way and take ownership of those.", "We're going to spend some more time together," Beck said, getting back to their collaborative project. "I'm doing something for your show. And then we're going to spend some time on Facebook.", "It's going to be delightful," Bee said., The call for civil discourse, speaking "nice" to each other, and "hold[ing] hands with people in a different way" is a striking departure from the tone these hosts took during and immediately after the election.,The day after Trump's victory, Bee ,claimed on her show, that "white people" "ruined America" by voting for Trump. This was in keeping with her penchant during the campaign of smearing ,Trump's supporters as racists.,Beck, for his part, has been unrivaled in his invective against Trump. During the campaign, he regularly described the New York builder as a ,Hitler-like, ,psychopath, with supporters he compared to ,Nazi Brownshirts.,The former radio shock jock's disdain for Trump reached a crescendo in April when he donned swim goggles and ,rubbed his face in a bowl of crushed Cheetos, to see if he could "look like Donald Trump.",Beck's interview with Bee seems to be the latest example of his recent rapprochement with liberals. In October, he was featured in a flattering profile in ,Rolling Stone, magazine,. In early November, a ,New Yorker ,profile, of Beck explained that he had "rethought some things" after listening to a recent speech by Michelle Obama that he praised as "the most effective political speech I have heard since Ronald Reagan." The article described Beck as a "Black Lives Matter supporter" and quoted him praising the president he once harshly criticized, declaring that Barack Obama made him "a better man.",Listen to the full audio of Beck and Bee's interview below. Read the transcript ,here.,Follow Rebecca Mansour on Twitter ,@RAMansour

Doctors told an Arizona woman's family to take her off life support; she woke from her coma, to the surprise of everyone around her., "Everything can be taken away. You can wake u

p one day and everything is fine, and then your life is a mess,” ,said Steven Pellettieri-Swapp,. “Keep your family close and don’t let them go.”,Last month, Steven found his mother Lyndee Pellettieri-Swapp unconscious. She remained in a coma for 12 days.,The doctors told the family they could not do anything more for Lyndee. They recommended taking her off life support.,But Lyndee heard everything around her.,“I remember people talking to me,” she said, adding:,I remember when people came to visit, my niece reading to me. [Doctors] told [my family] that I would start to make noises when they turned off life support. I was very agitating. I couldn’t move. I couldn’t talk, couldn’t respond. I could just hear conversations around me and about me. I remember a doctor opening my eyes, messing with me, and telling my family I was not reacting.,She wanted to speak, but could not. Lyndee said that in her mind, she could hear herself speak, but her family heard nothing. However, when Steven whispered, “I’m a fighter” in her ear, she managed to repeat it.,“I need you to fight,” he had cried to her.,She responded and awoke, surprising her daughter, Amanda, the next day.,“I looked at her, and she just says, ‘Hi,’ and I just fell to my knees,” said Amanda. “I told her, ‘I thought you had been gone for 12 hours.’”,The experience has made the family take nothing for granted.,“I don’t take for granted that I get to come home and kiss my mom,” Steven said. “Every day I come home from work, seeing her and talking to her.”,Lyndee hopes people can learn from her story and encourage others not to give up on their loved ones.,“Just because you are not conscious does not mean you cannot hear,” she stated. “So you should talk to your loved ones if you are in that situation. They hear you.”

Curt Schilling, the ex-Boston Red Sox ace pitcher, appeared on Breitbart News Daily on SiriusXM 125 The Patriot Channel with host and Breitbart News Executive Chairman Stephen K. Bannon on Friday morning to make absolutely clear he is not backing down to the left over his transgender bathroom comments.,Schilling, who led the Red Sox to their first World Series victory in 86 years in 2004 by carrying the team through the American League Championship Series against the New York Yankees by literally pitching on an ankle so busted his sock was bleeding, was fired from ESPN this week for siding with the majority of America on the transgender public restrooms issue.,Schilling, a conservative, this week posted on his blog a photograph of a heavyset overweight man wearing women’s clothing and a wig with the caption: “Let him in! To the restroom with your daughter or else you’re a narrow minded, judgmental, unloving, racist bigot who needs to die!!!”,It came amid the controversy surrounding the North Carolina bathroom law regarding transgender people, and as such ESPN used Schilling’s common-sense comments to fire him. “Curt Schilling has been advised that his conduct was unacceptable and his employment with ESPN has been terminated,” the network said in a statement.,When Bannon asked Schilling if he’s a “hater,” Schilling replied that he’s not.,“Hand to God, I’m going to tell you a quick story: in my family, my kids, the minute the word hate comes out of [somebody’s] mouth [when talking about me], they now kind of chuckle about it because I’ve always said, ‘Listen, there’s very little of anything in the world that I hate.’” Schilling said. “Hate takes effort. Hate takes energy. There’s far too much in this world that requires effort and energy otherwise that I don’t have the energy to hate. I don’t hate anything.”,Schilling compared the accusations against him to someone who hasn’t molested children being accused of being a child molester.,“That’s how I feel,” Schilling told Bannon. “I don’t have a racist bone in my body. I’m not transphobic. I’m not homophobic. My 16-year-old son is one of the founding members of the LBGT club in high school. That’s his group. That’s the people he loves and hangs out with. He has no blinders on. His whole world is about ‘I don’t care who you are and what you are—you’re good people.’ Those kids are in and out of this house all the time. I’ve never in my life treated somebody based on a racial denomination or religion or sexual preference. I don’t care. I’ve never cared. As long as you’re not sleeping with my wife, I don’t care who you sleep with. So that, to me, to be where we’re at—something had to go wildly askew. I hate to use that defense when people talk about ‘oh, you’re a racist,’ that ‘no, I have black friends.’ But listen, I’m 49 years old. I had a company with almost 400 employees. I had many people that were transgender. There were people that were gay and all the things that were like that. They were some of the greatest people in the world; they’re still friends and some of the people I talk with. If in my past, I’d ever been a racist or I’d ever said something racist or if I had ever been transphobic or homophobic, somebody somewhere would have said something I’m sure given my status.”,Schilling added that the motivation of people who have been cri

ticizing him over this seems to be that they have an agenda., “That’s why I sleep well at night—I’m okay with people I don’t know saying things that aren’t true because life is hard enough. I can’t live my life to make people that don’t know me like me,” Schilling said. “And I won’t. And people don’t like that, for whatever reason they don’t like that. And one more thing I would tell you this: I am firmly a believer now in that this isn’t about me being transphobic or me trying to promote transphobic things. It feels to me like this is about people whose agenda is way more important to them than it is to me, and I’m not making a big enough deal about it.”, Alex Marlow, the Editor of Chief of Breitbart News, asked Schilling about a headline—“Contribution Continues To Elude Curt Schilling”, linking to a New York Times article that calls for him to apologize for what he said. Marlow noted that the “Social Justice crowd” is “trying to shame” Schilling into “one of those ritual public apologies.”, “Listen, people that know me know I talk a lot—I have opinions on a lot of things—I never have a problem admitting when I’m wrong or make a mistake,” Schilling said. “And I do it a lot—number one because I’m human and the only perfect human who ever walked the earth died a couple thousand years ago. I don’t try to be wrong. I love debate. I love to talk about things. I love to debate people who have a completely opposing opinion of mine because I think it helps me get educated about things I don’t know about, number one. But number two, I think vice versa is true as well. But here’s the problem: People have a very, very distorted view of opinions and beliefs. Beliefs, to me, are things that are foundational to what makes you. Jesus was the living Son of God, that’s a belief. I know that. An opinion is that I don’t think men should pee in women’s bathrooms, and vice versa. That’s an opinion. I don’t think anything differently about people because of that opinion. If you disagree with me, that’s fine. There’s a discussion to be had.”, Bannon noted to Schilling that “they’re trying to break you,” but Schilling said he won’t back down., “Oh yeah, this is not the first time [they’ve tried to break me],” Schilling said. “For 20 years as a baseball player, I drove GMs [general managers] kind of batshit crazy because I wasn’t afraid to say what I thought and felt. Now, listen, that doesn’t make me right. That makes me me. I was in a position to question ownership and general managers because I knew I wasn’t going to get fired—and younger players wouldn’t say the things I said. So, if you’re expected me to give you everything I possibly have to win every night, I expect the same from you—and if you’re not going to give it to us, then I have a problem. That rubbed people the wrong way. That made GMs [upset]. But no one ever questioned—my job was to pitch every fifth day and win. No one I ever played with before would ever tell you, or question the amount of effort I put in on those days. So, that was my job. My job was to win. It wasn’t to play baseball—it was to win. And I took that very seriously, and I do that with everything—and much to my wife’s chagrin, 9 times out of 10, I don’t have the ability to just answer a question I’m passionate about ‘yes’ or ‘no’ because I think that that’s a shallow thing to do a lot of times.”, Breitbart News Daily airs on SiriusXM Patriot Channel 125 weekdays from 6:00AM to 9:00AM EST., You can listen to the full interview with Curt Schilling below:

“It’s like we’ve got a voice now. People are listening,” says 53-year-old Billy Inman, whose teenage son was murdered by an illegal alien nearly sixteen years ago. “Donald Trump gives us a little bit of hope. ... For years, I’d talk to our ‘elected ones,’ and it was like talking to a wall ... [but] Donald Trump is bringing us onto his stage.”, In June 2000, the Inman family—Billy, Kathy, their 16-year-old son Dustin, and their dog Lucky—were on their way to enjoy an early Father’s Day family fishing trip. They were stopped at a traffic light when an illegal alien rear-ended their car at over 60 mph, killing Dustin instantly. Billy and Kathy were knocked unconscious. When Billy finally regained consciousness days later, he found himself in a world in which his son was dead and his wife was in a coma. Kathy remained in a coma for five weeks and suffered spinal injuries that would render her confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life and would force her to endure unending pain, weekly doctor visits, and frequent medical procedures., The Inman family’s car following the crash, “We didn’t get to go to our son’s funeral,” Billy Inman told Breitbart., “The doctors told our family members that they didn’t know if we would live or not. I was in the hospital nearly two weeks after the crash, and she [Kathy] was in the hospital for three months. The families—my mother and her father—got together and made the decision to hold the funeral [without us].”, Billy and Kathy Inman said that this tragedy and their subsequent efforts in the fight to close America’s borders made their choice of whom to vote for in the 2016 election plainly simple., “I voted for Tru

mp because of the way he feels about illegal immigration. He's going to do something about it," Kathy Inman told Breitbart., ,As a result of the car crash, Mrs. Inman now suffers from dystonia, a neurological movement disorder, which causes her muscles to involuntarily contract and twist painfully and uncontrollably.,Donald Trump "loves America," Billy Inman explained. "This man is one of the richest people that we have. He could live anywhere in the world if he wants to, but he chooses America. He lives in New York and Florida. He's raised his kids here, his grandkids here. He loves America.",Inman said that he does not believe any of the other politicians running for president are committed to securing the nation's borders. "Cruz is a talker," Inman explained, adding:,He can talk about it, but I haven't seen nothing done. He might come out--especially during election times--and say, "This needs to be done, and that needs to be done," but nothing has ever gotten done on illegal immigration with any teeth to it. ... He's going to be more of the same. He didn't say nothing about this until after Donald Trump got into it. Why?, "I wish he [Cruz] cared as much about American people--and got as angry about what's happened to us--as he's gotten about Donald Trump tweeting about his wife," Inman said.,Billy, Dustin, and Lucky, who was lost in the wreck with Dustin (Courtesy Inman Family),Inman explained he does not foresee Cruz being any different than George W. Bush on the issue of immigration. "Bush broke my heart," Inman said. "He was more of the same--more of the open borders stuff. Ted Cruz will be more of the same too. He's more establishment than Donald Trump.", ,Inman explained:,It's not just Cruz, Bush, or Obama. It's every one of our elected ones from every city, state, and town that we have. Everybody's passing the buck, and it falls back on the working man; the legal American folks are the ones who are losing, and it just ain't right. ... My son's killer is still running. ... Everyone just keeps kicking this can down the road.,Billy and Dustin (Courtesy Inman Family),"I wish the RNC and Cruz would fight as hard to secure our borders as they're fighting to not let Trump into office," Inman said. "It bothers me that they're more bothered by him and are working harder to get rid of him and are spending all this money [to get rid of him], instead of fixing the problems that he's addressing.", "What have they done to help?" Inman continued. Elaborating, he said:,People don't really care about me. Anytime I see somebody, they say, "My condolences. I'm sorry for you." But nothing's been done. I want people to be involved [in this issue] without having to join this club [of the American victims of illegal alien crime] that we've been thrown into. ... We've got to have a voice somewhere. ...Politicians like Donald Trump give us a little bit of hope. It gives some kind of hope to me because there are so many people that have tried to bring attention to this stuff, but they're knocked down. They're tired. I feel like I've talked to this wall so many times here. For years, I'd talk to our 'elected ones' and it was like talking to a wall.,Inman said that he was also concerned about Heidi Cruz's endorsement and co-authorship of a 2005 report entitled "Building a North American Community.", "A lot of the elites are trying to have this North American Union. This superhighway from Texas to Canada," Inman said while speaking of Heidi Cruz. "Look at how many of them are supporting that.",Inman said that, by contrast, Donald Trump will not be beholden to corporate donors and open borders special interests. "He's funding all of this himself," Inman said. "And he's not scared. He's not backing down from nothing.",Inman said that he was not surprised that Cruz had recently earned the endorsement of open borders advocate Sen. Lindsey Graham:,I look at it like this: they're all establishment, and that's why the establishment likes Ted Cruz. He's been in office for a while, and he's more of the same stuff that they've had. Donald Trump is rocking their boats. ... He [Trump] has got more of the American people involved now. He's got more people now involved in this and speaking their minds about it--the everyday working man., "I met him one time for just a couple of minutes, and his handshake meant the world to me," Inman said of Donald Trump. "It was firm. It wasn't paper. ... He's got all of Washington shook up, and they're trying to get rid of him.",Inman said that the money the special interests have poured into the "Never Trump" movement could be better used to help Americans. "For as much money as they've spent, there should be nobody that's hungry in America. There's so much waste. There shouldn't be nobody hungry in America.", "I think our world is turned upside down," Inman continued. "To me, America used to be respected, and today it's not. Washington has just gotten so far away from everyday people--from the American people. We all need help. I'm 53 years old, and today, times are nothing like it was when I was growing up. I know things change with time, but it's just amazing how much has changed--and I don't see it being better," Inman said. "I truly feel

if immigration were fixed, our health care would be better, our education would be better, our roads would be better, our infrastructure, unemployment," and, of course, the safety of innocent American children like Dustin., "I want something done so this doesn't happen to others, but there's just too many people that just don't care. Even when you have family members that tell you we're wasting our time. They say it's making my wife worse, and the depression and all of the issues she's got going on worse. They say it's just dragging her heartache out even longer—they don't understand that our heartache isn't going to be any longer or lesser either way," Inman said., "I feel so sorry for my wife, and I don't know how to help her," he said. "I can't help her, except love her, and she deserves better than what she's got. She's heart broken, on top of the pain she lives physically every day. I have to take her to the doctor's just about every week because of this. The brain injury she got [from the wreck]—the physical pain that she has to live daily because of this. She's has something called Dystonia, her muscles have set and curl up. She wakes up crying.", Kathy Inman protesting illegal immigration (Courtesy Inman Family), "We've been through a lot," Kathy Inman explained. "And we're still going through a lot. Billy still has to watch me go through pain every day. He has to hear me cry and scream.", "It really hurts. It really hurts bad," Mrs. Inman said slowly. "It really hurts bad. I miss my only child bad. He was our only child.", "He was going to take care of us when we got older," Billy added quietly, making a practical observation that oftentimes gets overlooked in these sorts of stories. Growing older will now be immeasurably more difficult given the physical injuries the Inmans suffered at the hands of the illegal alien., Kathy Inman visiting Dustin (Courtesy Inman Family), Valentine's Day (Inman Family Photo), "Dustin was just starting his life," Bill Inman said. "I just realized here a couple months ago. One of my customers had a birthday and I said, 'How old are you now? You're getting to be an old man!' My customer was 31 and that's when I realized my son would have been a grown man today. I had hopes of moving to the mountains, kicking back. Dustin always said [when he grew up] he wanted 10 kids because he was the only kid in our family," Inman chuckled at the memory., "I was just hoping to be a grandpa and retire and move up in the mountains and take the grandkids fishing and playing ball with them or something. Our dreams are shot. And I just really don't know... [Inman trails off] I just thank God as best I can and try again tomorrow.", Celebrating Dustin's 31st Birthday (Courtesy Inman Family), (Courtesy Inman Family), "Dustin was my pride and joy. ... He looked like his Momma, but he acted like his Daddy," Inman said, laughing. "He had the best of both worlds.", Inman Family Photo, "He loved hunting and fishing, but fishing was his favorite. He fished anything that would bite. He'd always catch something when he went fishing. I've got people that still talk about him today. They say, 'That boy could catch a fish out of a mud hole.' He just had the patience and the will to catch something. But me and him, we fished and hunted just every week, just about. I haven't been fishing since this has happened because that was his favorite thing to do.", Dustin fishing (Courtesy Inman Family), Dustin fishing (Courtesy Inman Family), "He was my buddy. We done everything together pretty much. I'd never leave him at home to go to a party or nothing like that. If we had a party, he went with us. Ever since he was a little feller. And it was people's respect for him that blows my mind away. People up on our street here—heck, even the preacher a couple of houses up from us—he'd say, 'Billy, I want you to know... he was really respected.' They admired him for how he was. And that just makes me feel so good. Like I said, I was proud to have been his dad. I really was. I can't say that 'He did this,' or 'he did that' or he didn't do nothing better than anybody else, but... I can tell you how so many people would say that he just brightened up a room when he came into it. He'd walk in and people would just come up to him and they'd start talking or they'd start smiling. [And they'd say] 'There's Dustin!' or 'Dustin, where you been? What have you been up to?' or 'Dustin, let's go do this.' It was really something else to watch.", (Courtesy Inman Family), "He was just starting his life. I mean, he had just turned 16 years old, had his learner's license, and was going to go get his driver's license. And then this happened, and it's a hole in my heart that can never be healed," Inman said., "I've got Dustin's last picture that I love tremendously," Inman told Breitbart. "He was at a car show, having a funnel cake, and he's with his grandparents and his aunt and uncle, but that particular day, some other boys that were at the car show, they found a baby deer—a little fawn—in the woods." The boys had led the fawn away from the woods and started bringing it around the car show., When Dustin saw what the other boys were doing, he stood up and said, "Y'all leave t

his fawn alone. Its momma will come back and get it. Its momma will be coming back for it.” Dustin then proceeded to follow the boys back into the woods to make sure they had returned the innocent fawn to its home where Dustin knew the mother deer would return to look for her baby., “I just love that that was his last picture,” Inman said. “Him eating his funnel cake out there. With the grin on his face. It was a pretty day. I just love that that was his last picture. God, I was proud to have been his dad.”, Dustin’s last photo, May 27, 2000 (Courtesy Inman Family)

Ann Coulter and ,Breitbart ,senior editor Milo Yiannopoulos have a lot in common. Both blonde, both conservative firebrands, both ardent defenders of GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump. But the two have a difference of opinion on the frontrunner’s relentless crassness on social media.,In an exclusive sneak preview of next week’s episode of ,The Milo Yiannopoulos Show, ,Coulter and Yiannopoulos engaged in an energetic back-and-forth over whether Trump crossed the line in ,his recent tweet comparing the attractiveness of his own wife, Melania, to Heidi Cruz. ,“It’s like constantly having to bail your 16-year old son from prison” Coulter said of the need to defend Trump’s tweets “I just wish it would be a teensy bit less low -brow.”,“The trashier he gets, the more I love him!” replied Yiannopoulos. “I think it’s so outrageously funny. People are so sick of earnest pearl-clutching from the establishment. A presidential candidate – and not just a presidential candidate, but somebody who’s probably going to get the nomination is saying “you’re wife’s ugly and my wife’s hot” – I think that’s amazing. It may not scream “presidential material...” But some people are going to think “what a boss!”,“You know, I love him so much on immigration I’m not even going to argue with you.” said Coulter. “I say low-brow, you say amazing.. Let’s just talk about what he’s good on. He’s the only one who’s going to build a wall, but please stop testing our patience on the rest of this stuff.”,Don’t forget to follow ,@TheMiloShow,, ,@Nero, and ,@LibertarianBlue, on Twitter.

During a radio interview on Sunday, comic legend Jackie Mason blasted Mitt Romney for his reported interest in serving as Secretary of State after repeatedly criticizing President-elect Donald Trump during the recent presidential campaign.,Stated Mason: “Can you imagine going to a guy’s office and calling him abusive names for a half an hour and then saying, ‘By the way, you’ve got a job for me? I’m looking for something to do for a living. I would do anything if you could help me.’”,Mason was speaking during his regular segment on “Aaron Klein Investigative Radio,” this reporter’s Sunday night talk radio program broadcast on New York’s AM 970 The Answer and NewsTalk 990 AM.,Listen to the full audio here:,Here is a partial transcript of Mason’s routine on Romney:,This is unbelievable to me. Because Romney only a few weeks ago, like you say, called him the most vicious names I’ve ever heard. You would never know that Trump wasn’t running away with his furniture or robbing his car or maybe grabbed him by the throat and maybe was choking him or something. You would never imagine that there was any excuse for Romney, who was not in the race, to all of the sudden blast Trump the way he did and start calling him all of these ugly, abusive, vicious names for no reason and out of nowhere. ...,And after he finishes with that whole speech he starts looking for a job. Can you imagine going to a guy’s office and calling him abusive names for a half an hour and then saying, “By the way, you’ve got a job for me? I’m looking for something to do for a living. I would do anything if you could help me.”,First, he says that this man (Trump) is so dangerous that he would destroy the country if he became president. Now you want to work for him? Which means you want to help him. You want to help him do what? Destroy the country?,All of the sudden the country doesn’t count? You don’t care if it’s destroyed as long as you can get a job from him? Not only that but then he came back to him for a dinner. Are you that poverty-stricken that you have to have dinner with a person who you think is about to destroy America? And now you want to work for him. You’re going to take orders from him. You’re going to take orders from a person that you could swear is the most dangerous thing in this country. So how dangerous are you going to be if you are going to help him? It’s dangerous if he does it, but if you help him all of the sudden it’s a wonderful thing to do.,Romney was one of Trump’s ,strongest GOP critics, in recent months. During a speech last March, Romney stated, “Donald Trump is a phony, a fraud. His promises are as worthless as a degree from Trump University. He’s playing the American public for suckers: He gets a free ride to the White House and all we get is a lousy hat.”,In June, Romney ,told, CNN of Trump, “Presidents have an impact on the nature of o

ur nation. Trickle-down racism, trickle-down bigotry, trickle-down misogyny, all these things are extraordinarily dangerous to the heart and character of America.”,Mason, meanwhile, took aim at Romney’s tone and message delivery, calling the politician “the most boring presidential candidate in the history of this country.”,Mason added:,He could actually teach boredom in schools. That’s how boring he is. ... When he talked, nothing came out. Everything he said was so flat whether it was a bar mitzvah or a funeral it all sounds the same. ... Anytime you wanted to go to sleep he would be more effective than any pill. No sleeping pill that would put you to sleep faster than Romney.,Aaron Klein is Breitbart’s Jerusalem bureau chief and senior investigative reporter. He is a New York Times bestselling author and hosts the popular weekend talk radio program, “,Aaron Klein Investigative Radio,.” Follow him on, ,Twitter @AaronKleinShow., ,Follow him on, ,Facebook.

“Mmm mmm mmm.”,That’s what life at the White House can be like for First Lady Michelle Obama.,During an interview with Oprah Winfrey at the White House United State of Women summit, Oprah asked her “what are those days when you just say, mmm, mmm, mmm, look at me in the White House.”,Obama cited the White House concerts first – reminding the audience that both Prince and Stevie Wonder had performed for her there.,“Yeah, just sitting up here, mmm, mmm, mmm,” she said. “There are a lot of those moments.”,

She also mentioned her mother and daughters talking to Pope Francis as an “Mmm, mmm, mmm” moment as well as dinner with the Queen of England.,“You know, you try to play these moments off, like oh, yes, yes, I know what I’m doing,” she said. “And inside you’re going, mmm, mmm, mmm.”,Oprah Winfrey nodded, “Mmm mmm mmm.”,“Watching my husband walk off of Marine One and go to the Oval Office, it’s like, mmm, mmm, mmm,” Michelle Obama added.,“Mmm mmm mmm,” replied Winfrey.,“And you know he’s got that walk, right?” Obama asked Winfrey.,“I know!” said Winfrey.,“Like, mmm, mmm, mmm,” Obama said.,“He’s got the swag,” Winfrey affirmed. “Did he always have that swag? Or has he gotten swaggier?”,“No, he was very swagalicious,” Obama replied.,Watch the full exchange below:,

Sharyl Attkisson of ,Full Measure, told ,Breitbart News Daily, SiriusXM host Stephen K. Bannon that “if the media is this shocked” over last night’s Brexit vote, “that means they aren’t really good listeners, or predictors, or measurers of what’s happening on the ground. That’s kind of basically what they’re admitting.”,Continued Attkisson:,This is just more evidence of the same trend. Journalists I spoke to said they aren’t allowed to write about this sort of thing. If they write anything that discussed the Brexit, or the exit part of the vote and the sentiment for it, that was, they said, largely censored from the mainstream media. So, maybe it’s no surprise that our media over here was unaware there was so much sentiment on that side. It’s being censored from the news. If you write off the narrative on that topic and others, in that country, just like in this country, they want to drum you out of the mainstream and paint you as controversial. Maybe that’s why people didn’t have the information to understand what was going on.,She then went on to make the point that even American media appear to increasingly be an echo chamber of sorts, with so-called journalists not doing the leg work or critical thinking that the job would normally entail:,I think journalists here, some of them, have a tendency now to listen to one another and kind of believe what they read, rather than do the critical analytical thinking themselves. Rather than understanding, I mean, part of the art is figuring out who to listen to and, based on history and track record and good judgment, whose probably got the best pulse of what’s going on, and also getting out of your own skin with what you hope happens to be able to see what’s really happening. A lot of people kind of hope for one thing and listen to each other, and they ignore what’s really going on.,On another front, Attkisson discussed her latest at ,Full Measure,: “,EXCLUSIVE: U.S. Soldiers Arrested for Allegedly Smuggling Illegal Immigrants Across Texas,“,I found out that the US Government, actually Border Patrol stopped a couple of guys trying to smuggle in some Mexican citizens about a week ago and the two guys trying to smuggle them in were active duty soldiers out of Fort Bliss in Texas – a pretty huge deal. Upon their arrest, one of them spoke of other soldiers that are involved in a smuggling ring. A leader there at Fort Bliss that he said is paying them \$1,000 – \$1,500 each for the runs that they would make. Interestingly, I don’t know why but Homeland Security took the case, didn’t announce it, pretty big case, hasn’t answered my questions about it. I think it’s kind of baffling. This is a good case in terms that they stopped something that may have been going on inside the military. Why won’t th

ey answer questions about it?, On the other hand, I think about the military guys and they may think, is this a victimless crime? It's really not illegal to come to this country. The two Mexicans they had been transporting last week had each been removed from the US three times before. And maybe they think, why shouldn't I make some money on the side doing something the government doesn't really mind. They don't mind if the illegal immigrants come here., I think they know about it. And it's people inside Border Patrol and inside the military who have long been involved in smuggling drugs, as well as smuggling humans. They're well aware of it. They don't talk about it much but it's well known inside. I'll be doing a story in the Fall about corruption inside the Border Patrol which is just out of control. There's so many agents. The cartels place people inside Border Patrol now, smugglers place people inside Border Patrol get them hired there. It's a big issue., Breitbart News Daily, airs on SiriusXM Patriot 125 week days from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Eastern.

Labels were attributed to each identified topic, informed by a review of terms with the highest probability, but primarily by terms with highest FREX (frequency and exclusivity - indicating terms that "distinguish" a topic).

For better interpretation, each topic was also explored in further detail by checking headlines and/or text for articles with a high probability of containing the topic, to get a better idea of the frequent terms when used in context, and topic labels were amended accordingly.

Topic prevalence over time was also plotted to explore any temporal patterns that might aid in interpretation. For example, interpretation of Topic 34 (GOP primary candidates) was helped by noting the high prevalence during Q1-2 of 2016, when primary elections were taking place.

Below is a list of the final labels, ranked by overall topic prevalence as identified by the plots:

- Topic 26: Interviews / direct speech
- Topic 30: Britain / Brexit
- Topic 19: Deadly incidents / terrorist attacks / shootings
- Topic 27: Israel / Palestine
- Topic 5: European immigration
- Topic 32: Criminal trials
- Topic 31: Economy
- Topic 14: Supreme Court / Judiciary
- Topic 25: Islamic extremist groups
- Topic 34: Republican party primary candidates
- Topic 8: Celebrities
- Topic 29: Sports
- Topic 20: Democratic election candidates
- Topic 1: Social media platforms
- Topic 10: Sectarianism / Religious persecution
- Topic 24: Breitbart Texas correspondents
- Topic 28: Hillary Clinton email controversy & investigation
- Topic 23: Elections and polls
- Topic 17: Obama-Trump interaction / transition of power
- Topic 9: Syrian/Yemeni civil war
- Topic 18: Gun control
- Topic 22: Climate change
- Topic 11: Tech industry
- Topic 7: Fox news
- Topic 33: International territorial disputes / border conflicts / South China Sea
- Topic 4: BLM / Race relations / police brutality
- Topic 12: Education

- Topic 13: Gender & LGBT issues
- Topic 35: Mexico
- Topic 16: Latin American left-wing administrations
- Topic 21: Public health
- Topic 15: Warner Todd Huston articles / bathroom gender policy (possibly junk)
- Topic 3: US armed forces
- Topic 2: Trump rallies
- Topic 6: Spanish language news

*Note: a review of samples of full article texts was carried out for several more topics, but I did not include here to save space.

4. Topic model validation. Demonstrate and interpret the semantic and predictive validity of the model. Also discuss the quality of topics in terms of semantic coherence and topic exclusivity. Discuss how you would show construct validity.

```

## Predictive Validation: plot topic probabilities over time ##

# Convert metadata to correct format
stmdfm$meta$num_month <- month(stmdfm$meta$date)

# Aggregate topic probability by month
agg_theta <- setNames(aggregate(stm_model$theta,
                                by = list(month = stmdfm$meta$num_month),
                                FUN = mean),
                           c("month", paste("Topic",1:35)))
agg_theta <- pivot_longer(agg_theta, cols = starts_with("T"))

# Aggregate topic probability by month (Topic 1-7)
agg_theta1 <- agg_theta[agg_theta$name %in% c("Topic 1", "Topic 2", "Topic 3",
                                              "Topic 4", "Topic 5", "Topic 6",
                                              "Topic 7"),]

# Aggregate topic probability by month (Topic 8-14)
agg_theta2 <- agg_theta[agg_theta$name %in% c("Topic 8", "Topic 9", "Topic 10",
                                              "Topic 11", "Topic 12", "Topic 13",
                                              "Topic 14"),]

# Aggregate topic probability by month (Topic 15-21)
agg_theta3 <- agg_theta[agg_theta$name %in% c("Topic 15", "Topic 16", "Topic 17",
                                              "Topic 18", "Topic 19", "Topic 20",
                                              "Topic 21"),]

# Aggregate topic probability by month (Topic 22-28)
agg_theta4 <- agg_theta[agg_theta$name %in% c("Topic 22", "Topic 23", "Topic 24",
                                              "Topic 25", "Topic 26", "Topic 27",
                                              "Topic 28"),]

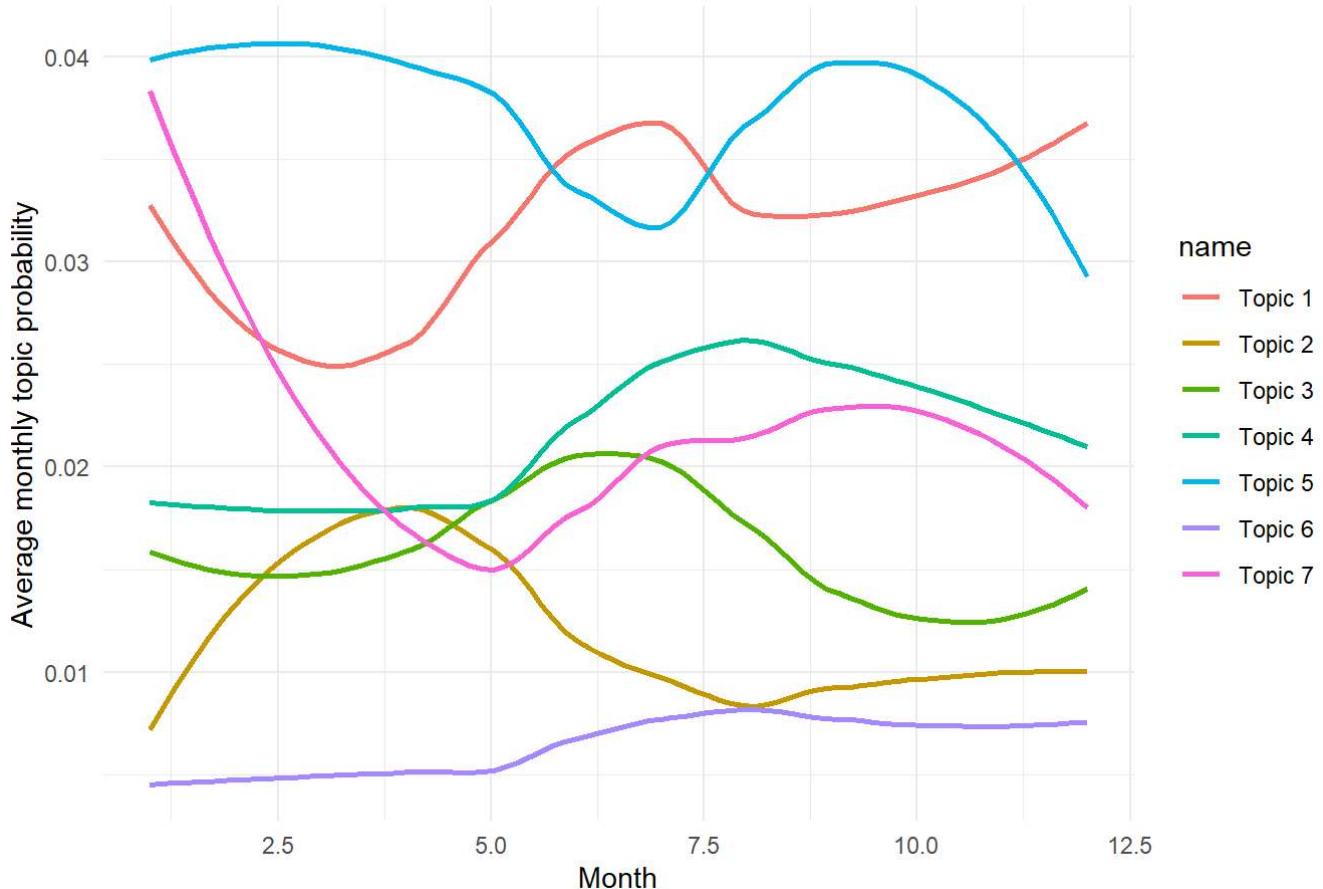
# Aggregate topic probability by month (Topic 29-35)
agg_theta5 <- agg_theta[agg_theta$name %in% c("Topic 29", "Topic 30", "Topic 31",
                                              "Topic 32", "Topic 33", "Topic 34",
                                              "Topic 35"),]

# Plot aggregated theta over time (Topic 1-7)
print(ggplot(data = agg_theta1,
              aes(x = month, y = value, group = name)) +
  geom_smooth(aes(colour = name), se = FALSE) +
  labs(title = "Topic prevalence (1-7)",
       x = "Month",
       y = "Average monthly topic probability") +
  theme_minimal())

## `geom_smooth()` using method = 'loess' and formula = 'y ~ x'

```

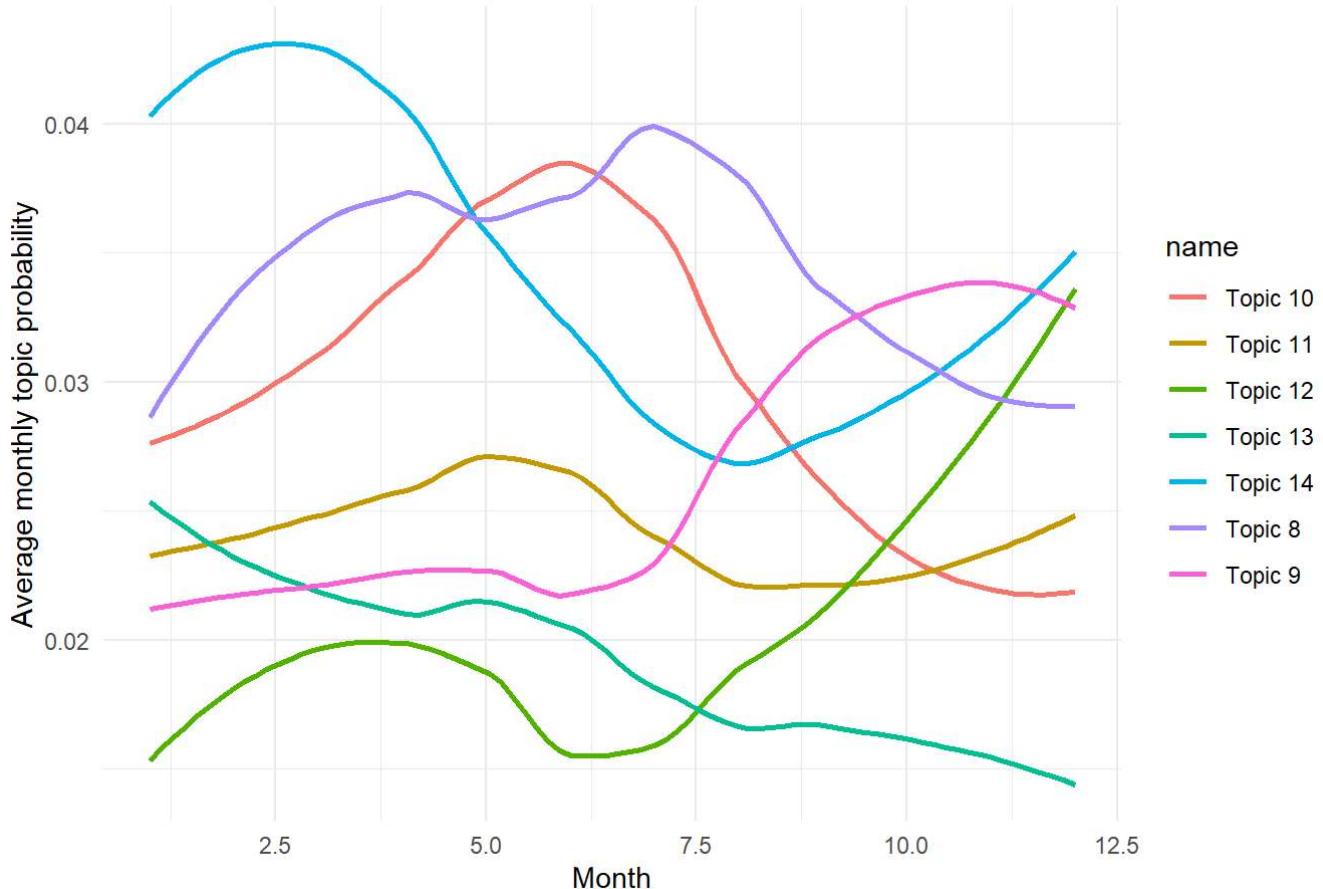
Topic prevalence (1-7)



```
# Plot aggregated theta over time (Topic 8-14)
print(ggplot(data = agg_theta2,
    aes(x = month, y = value, group = name)) +
  geom_smooth(aes(colour = name), se = FALSE) +
  labs(title = "Topic prevalence (8-14)",
    x = "Month",
    y = "Average monthly topic probability") +
  theme_minimal())
```

```
## `geom_smooth()` using method = 'loess' and formula = 'y ~ x'
```

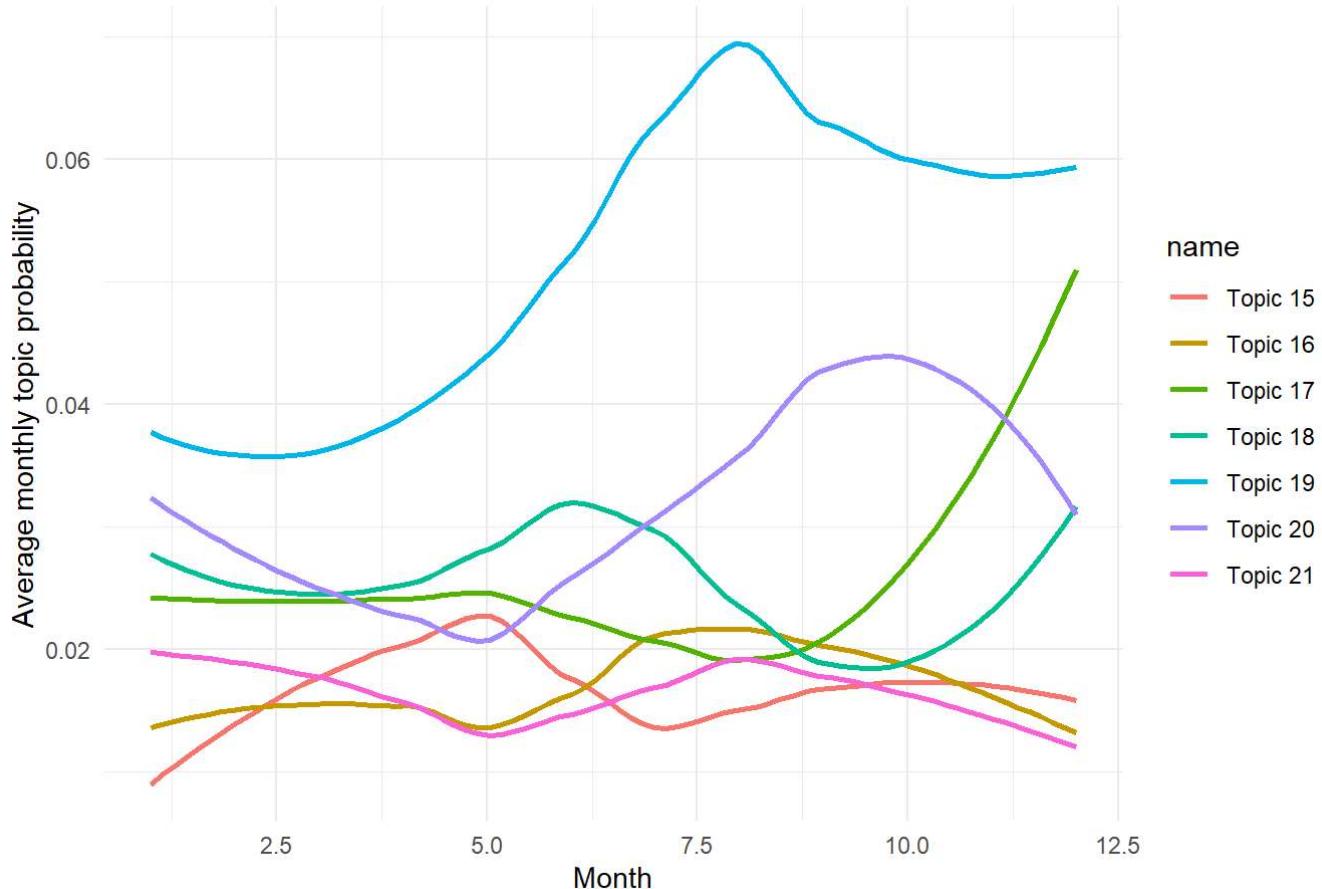
Topic prevalence (8-14)



```
# Plot aggregated theta over time (Topic 15-21)
print(ggplot(data = agg_theta3,
    aes(x = month, y = value, group = name)) +
  geom_smooth(aes(colour = name), se = FALSE) +
  labs(title = "Topic prevalence (15-21)",
    x = "Month",
    y = "Average monthly topic probability") +
  theme_minimal())
```

```
## `geom_smooth()` using method = 'loess' and formula = 'y ~ x'
```

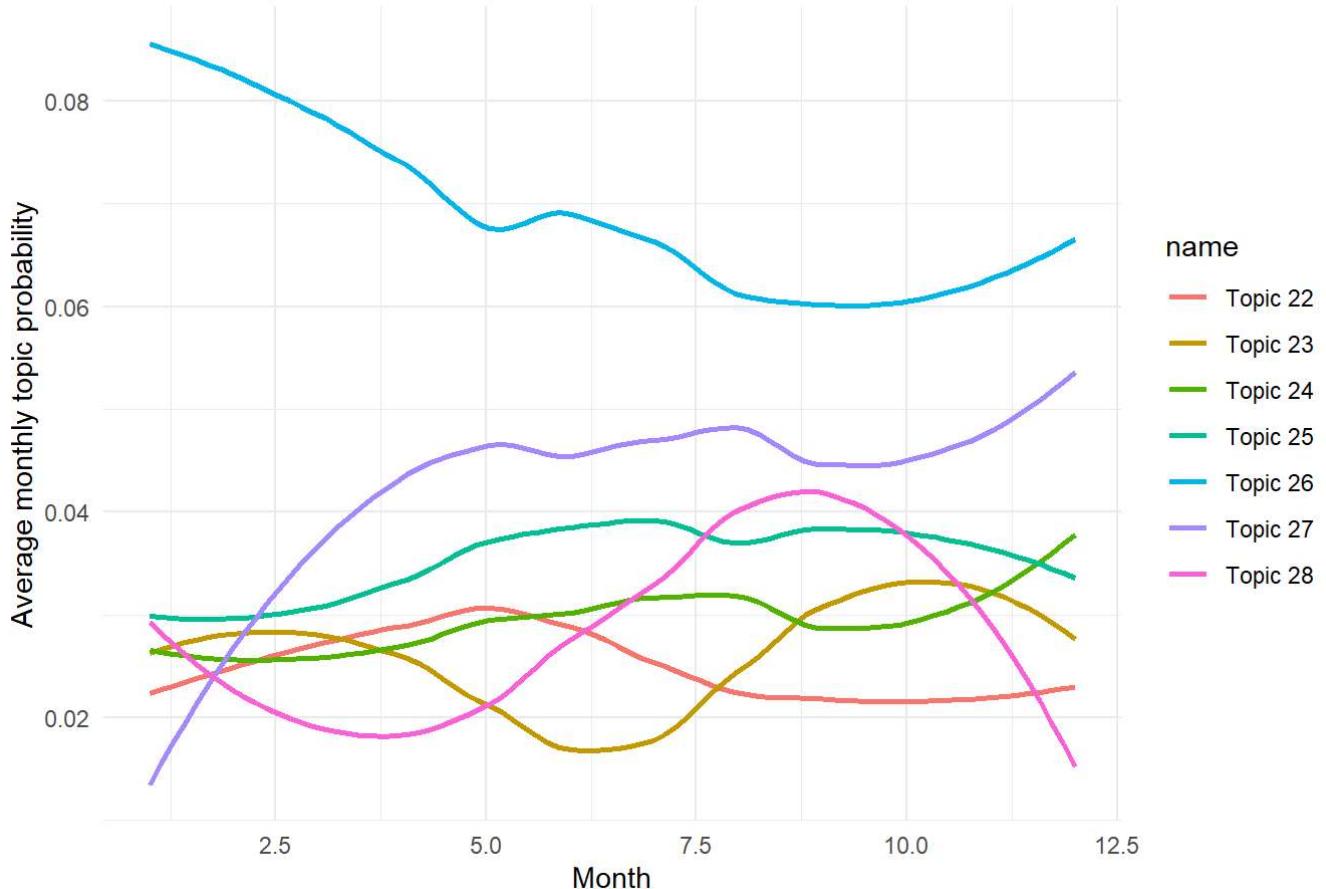
Topic prevalence (15-21)



```
# Plot aggregated theta over time (Topic 22-28)
print(ggplot(data = agg_theta4,
    aes(x = month, y = value, group = name)) +
  geom_smooth(aes(colour = name), se = FALSE) +
  labs(title = "Topic prevalence (22-28)",
       x = "Month",
       y = "Average monthly topic probability") +
  theme_minimal())
```

```
## `geom_smooth()` using method = 'loess' and formula = 'y ~ x'
```

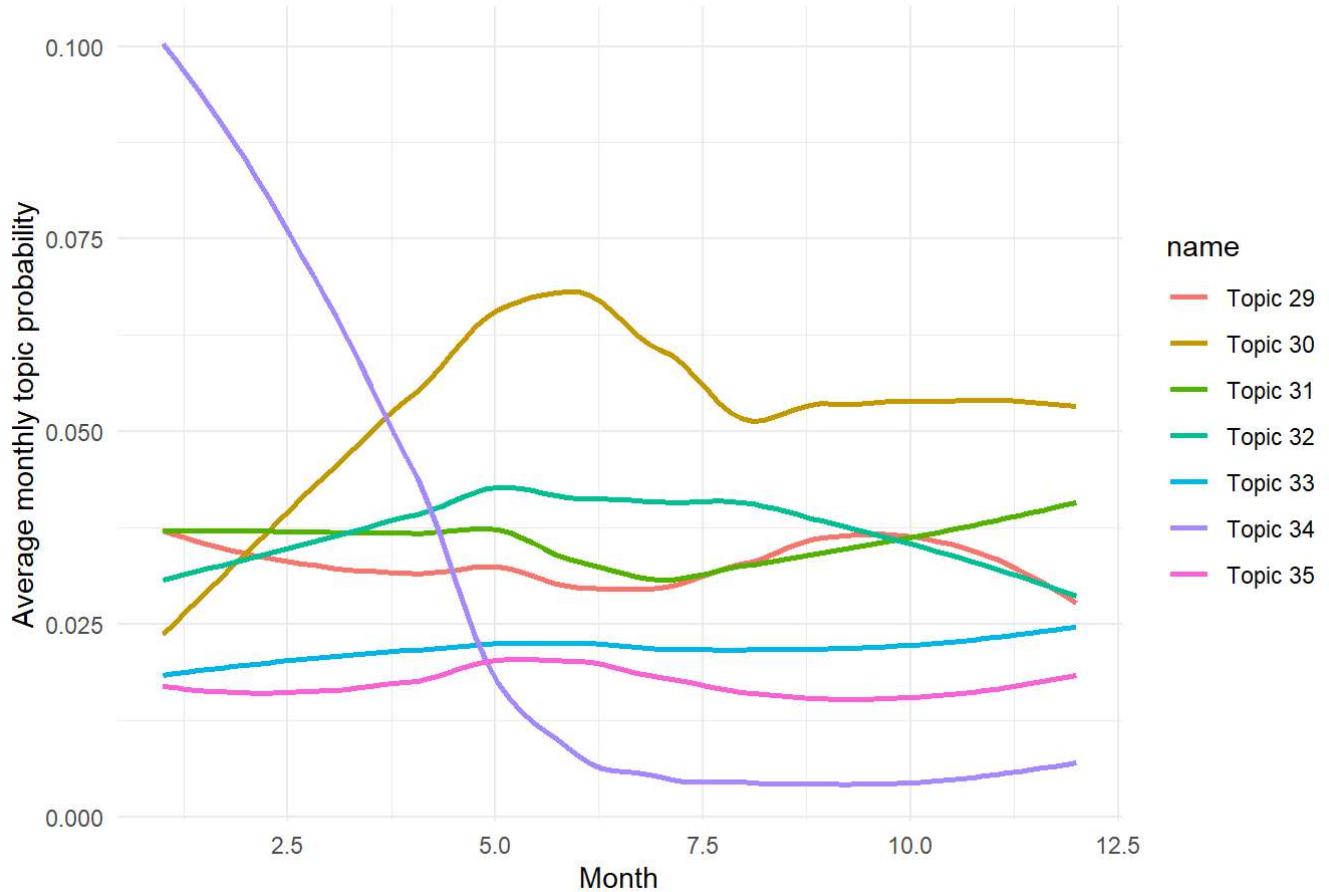
Topic prevalence (22-28)



```
# Plot aggregated theta over time (Topic 29-35)
print(ggplot(data = agg_theta5,
    aes(x = month, y = value, group = name)) +
  geom_smooth(aes(colour = name), se = FALSE) +
  labs(title = "Topic prevalence (29-35)",
    x = "Month",
    y = "Average monthly topic probability") +
  theme_minimal())
```

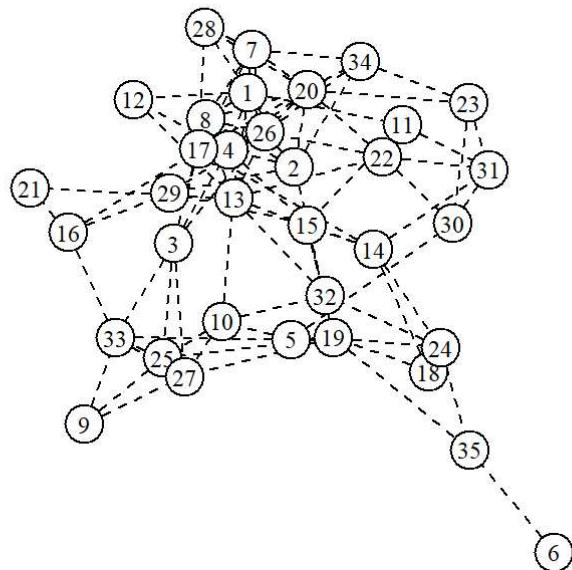
```
## `geom_smooth()` using method = 'loess' and formula = 'y ~ x'
```

Topic prevalence (29-35)



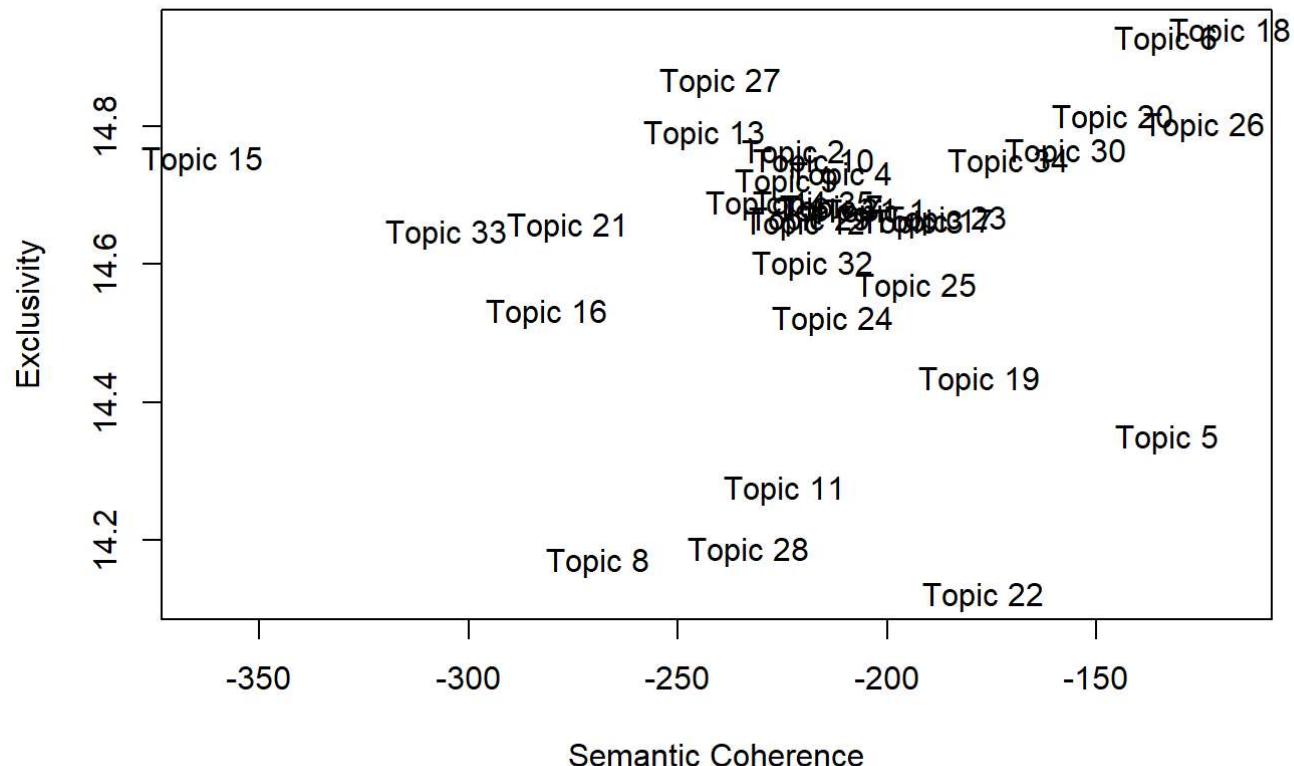
```
## Semantic validation: plot topic correlations
topic_correlations <- topicCorr(stm_model)
plot.topicCorr(topic_correlations,
               vlabels = seq(1:ncol(stm_model$theta)),
               vertex.color = "white",
               main = "Topic correlations")
```

Topic correlations



```
## Topic quality: plot semantic coherence and exclusivity
topicQuality(model = stm_model,
             documents = stmdfm$documents,
             xlab = "Semantic Coherence",
             ylab = "Exclusivity",
             labels = 1:ncol(stm_model$theta),
             M = 15)
```

```
## [1] -202.9225 -222.3021 -193.9988 -210.9630 -133.0942 -133.4051 -213.1804
## [8] -268.8833 -223.8402 -217.3533 -224.4124 -219.6088 -243.5675 -228.7122
## [15] -363.4595 -281.2005 -188.9892 -117.9728 -177.8603 -146.0776 -276.1382
## [22] -176.8205 -185.7161 -212.8757 -192.8957 -124.2870 -239.6767 -233.1363
## [29] -218.2948 -157.2406 -212.0345 -217.7430 -305.0771 -171.0108 -217.3326
## [1] 14.67510 14.76106 14.65959 14.72918 14.34698 14.92518 14.68121 14.16767
## [9] 14.71815 14.74757 14.27316 14.65802 14.78833 14.68722 14.75078 14.53000
## [17] 14.66035 14.93640 14.43219 14.81216 14.65491 14.11837 14.66459 14.51915
## [25] 14.56671 14.80071 14.86449 14.18373 14.66304 14.76293 14.67629 14.59915
## [33] 14.64446 14.74716 14.68720
```



```
# Check top words of outliers
labelTopics(stm_model,
            topics = c(8,15,22,28))
```

```
## Topic 8 Top Words:  
##     Highest Prob: film, show, twitter, also, star, told, music  
##     FREX: film, hollywood, actress, actor, song, nussbaum, wars  
##     Lift: nussbaum, @dznussbaum, album, follow_daniel, rapper, wars, photo_posted  
##     Score: wars, film, actress, nussbaum, @dznussbaum, follow_daniel, @jeromeehudson  
## Topic 15 Top Words:  
##     Highest Prob: email, author, said, twitter, houston, also, @warnerthuston  
##     FREX: houston, @warnerthuston, follow_warner_todd, bathroom, author, giant, store  
##     Lift: @warnerthuston, follow_warner_todd, giant, houston, charlotte, bathroom, bathro  
oms  
##     Score: giant, duterte, @warnerthuston, follow_warner_todd, houston, bathroom, transge  
nder  
## Topic 22 Top Words:  
##     Highest Prob: one, even, much, like, can, world, climate_change  
##     FREX: climate_change, climate, science, scientists, global_warming, earth, professor  
##     Lift: milk, global_warming, climate, climate_change, science, scientific, scientist  
##     Score: milk, climate_change, climate, global_warming, scientists, science, scientifi  
c  
## Topic 28 Top Words:  
##     Highest Prob: clinton, fbi, investigation, information, emails, planned, said  
##     FREX: emails, fbi, podesta, documents, clinton.foundation, state_department, clinto  
n's  
##     Lift: john_podesta, classified_information, ethical, podesta, parenthood's, schweize  
r, private_email_server  
##     Score: clinton, emails, fbi, clinton's, parenthood, podesta, clinton.foundation
```

```
# Check sample texts from topic 15  
findThoughts(stm_model,  
             texts = dfm_unsup@docvars$text,  
             topics = 15,  
             n = 5)
```

##

Topic 15:

A group of customers in Mississippi recently gathered in front of a Jackson Target to protest the retail giant's pro-transgender bathroom policy.,As customers around the nation continue to react unfavorably to the decision by retail giant Target to allow men who claim to be transgender to use whatever store bathroom they choose at any given time, many worry that the loose policy will more easily deliver customers into the hands of sexual predators.,“A man could put on a dress and say, ‘I identify as a transgender,’ and they can go in there,” customer ,Keith Daltol told WAPT TV, reporters.,Another protesting customer, Johnny Brekeen, said, “I’m not saying that a transgender would harm a child. What I’m saying is if men are all owed to go into the restroom, children are going to be harmed.” Daltol added that he thinks Target should do what is right and reverse its policy. He also said he “would love” for Target to lose market share, as it would teach the retailer a lesson.,The news crew found another customer, who noted that people have been molesting women and children in public restrooms for years. Indeed, Breitbart News recently posted a roundup of ,twenty sex crimes committed in Target stores, across the nation.,Only days after it announced its new pro-transgender policy, Target was hit with a boycott petition, which quickly reached ,more than a million signers.,Despite the boycott, however, the company insisted that it was ,standing behind its unpopular decision.,In the weeks after the announcement, ,Target Corp. lost five percent in stock prices,, costing the chain about \$2.5 billion in company value.,Follow Warner Todd Huston on Twitter ,@warnerthuston, or email the author at igcolonel@hotmail.com,.

A group that ranks businesses by their respect for Christian buyers has identified the top ten alternatives to Target, as more Americans walk away from Target for embracing the radical gay lobby and the transgender movement.,The group ,Faith Driven Consumer,, which says it advocates for the 41 million Christian-minded Americans who spend \$2 trillion annually, has responded to the #BoycottTarget movement with a hashtag campaign of its own: #BUYcottWalmart.,As part of its ,FaithEqualityIndex,, the group has ranked and published a top ten list of the best alternatives to Target.,The list and the #BUYcottWalmart campaign comes after ,the Target department store chain decided released, to allow men who claim to be transgendered to use whichever bathroom they feel like using at any given time, at the chain’s retail outlets across the nation.,Target’s announcement spurred ,#BoycottTarget,, a campaign launched by the American Family Association. The effort proved so popular that the petition AFA started to accompany its campaign ,garnered over 500,000 signatures, in only a few days.,In explanation of its new #BUYcottWalmart campaign, FDC’s founder, Chris Stone, noted that customers deserve to feel safe when shopping.,“There’s a critical business lesson to be learned with Target’s recent decision,” Stone said in a press release. “When including one group, don’t expressly exclude another. In its statement explaining why it is allowing men in women’s bathrooms and changing rooms, Target pointed out that inclusivity is at its core, and that everyone deserves to be protected equally.”,“However, hundreds of thousands of consumers around the country are expressing frustration because they specifically feel excluded by Target’s actions and, more importantly, unprotected and unsafe in Target stores,” Stone continued. “They have reacted by signing up to boycott the retailer. Our question to consumers is: So, you’ve decided to #BoycottTarget, now what?”,Transgenders comprise only about 0.03 percent of the American population, according to a study of the 2010 census. That’s roughly 1 person in every 2,400 people. Also, public opinion has ,shifted strongly, in mid-April against Target’s transgender policy, according to a new poll.,“We believe,” Stone concluded, “a BUYcott offers consumers what they actually need and want. If you are unsatisfied with Target, the most effective way forward is a BUYcott—actively doing business with another brand that is a better fit for you. And in this case, that better fit is arch rival Walmart.”,Follow Warner Todd Huston on Twitter ,@warnerthuston, or email the author at igcolonel@hotmail.com

A backlash is growing against retail giant Target Corp. after its announcement this week that it will allow men or women who claim to be transgender to use whichever bathroom or changing room they choose while shopping or working at their stores.,After two days of a social media firestorm, forces are now gathering to #BoycottTarget over its bathroom policy.,On Tuesday, April 19, the retailer ,put out a statement welcoming transgender people, to its stor

es, saying it celebrates “inclusivity,” insisting the company “strive[s] to make our guests and team members feel accepted, respected and welcomed in our stores and workplaces every day.”,The retailer added, “We welcome transgender team members and guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity.”,The day after the department store chain’s announcement, the backlash began. By Thursday, many were flooding ,Facebook, and ,Twitter, with missives urging people to boycott the retail giant, with many of the posts linking to ,a new effort, launched by the American Family Association (AFA).,AFA launched its effort on Thursday because, it said, Target “would allow men to use the women’s restrooms and dressing rooms in their stores.”,AFA added that Target’s policy tells a sexual predator he “can simply say he ‘feels like a woman today’ and enter the women’s restroom … even if young girls or women are already in there.”,“Clearly, Target’s new policy poses a danger to wives and daughters,” AFA warned. “We think many customers will agree. And we think the average Target customer is willing to pledge to boycott Target stores until it makes protecting women and children a priority.”,In the meantime, thousands of potential Target customers are warning the chain they will no longer shop there.,Facebook users posted thousands of complaints on Target’s own ,Facebook page,. Customers like Mark Spence were adamant:,Angela DeVivo Piazza also urged her friends to “unlike” Target’s Facebook page as an added jab at the retailer:,According to even the most generous assessment, the number of transgender Americans amounts to only 0.3 percent of the country, meaning that less than half-a-percent of the nation claims to be transgender. A review of the 2010 census data says only 1 in 2,400 Americans change their name from one sex to the other.,Twitter users, were equally incensed by Target’s announcement:@Target, I have loved shopping at your stores: spent A LOT of money. No longer, though. Bathrooms are biological, not social. ,#BoycottTarget,- Cathy Knowlson (@Ckbeme) ,April 21, 2016,I've canceled my ,@Target, credit card & will NEVER shop there again! I'm sure target doesn't care, but I do!! ,#BoycottTarget,- JewishPrincess (@LuvRedWhiteBlue) ,April 21, 2016,And many, like Jordan Cook and others, worried for the safety of women and children in Target stores:,Mothers of children: Say NO to Target's allowing men into the Womens' rest and changing rooms. ,#boycottTarget, ,#Target,- Linda Rizzo (@rizzole9) ,April 20, 2016,This is a slap in the face to the vast majority of ,@Target, shoppers & their children. ,#BoycottTarget, ,http s://t.co/NMFzLbuxwL,- ProperGander News (@BamaStephen) ,April 21, 2016,I wonder how safe women shopping at Target are going to feel when a man follows her and her small children to the bathroom!?,#BoycottTarget,- Jordan Cook t (@jayyleighcook) ,April 21, 2016,This is not the first time the chain waded into gay-friendly and left-wing issues. On its corporate website, there are many posts and announcements ,celebrating the LGBT lifestyle.,Furthermore, last year, Target was a ,corporate sponsor, of the “Out & Equal” conference, a summit aimed at forcing corporations into adopting gay-friendly workplace policies.,The company was also praised by gay groups for its “,It Gets Better,” campaign meant to boost the status of homosexuality in the U.S.,In addition, Target raised the ire of many with its decision to re-engineer its kids’ sections when in August of 2015 the chain announced it was ,eliminating “gender specific” labels and store signage for kids’, clothing and toy sections.,This is not the only issue Target has taken on. Nearly a year before, ,the company demanded that customers “not bring firearms” into stores,, despite legal concealed-carry laws saying gun owners may do so.,Follow Warner Todd Huston on Twitter ,@warnerthuston, or email the author at igcolonel@hotmail.com.,## Joining the woman who sued McDonald’s for serving coffee that was “too hot,” a trio of customers have decided to sue Chipotle for making the burritos “too full.”,The Mexican food outlet recently introduced a new burrito with a different meat choice and other fixings to bring down the total calories of the meal. But three customers from Los Angeles were still upset that the meal was too filling.,According to court documents, one of the customers insisted he “felt excessively full and realized that the burrito couldn’t have been just 300 calories,” ,CBS Pittsburgh reported.,,This suit joins such cases as the McCoffee suit filed by Stella Liebeck, who apparently did not expect her coffee to be hot, as well as ,the suit taking Subway sandwiches to task, for not being 12 inches long. Then there was the lawsuit against the White Castle hamburger chain because a customer thought their ,booths were too small,. Add those complaints to the obese man who sued practically everyone, claiming that ,fast food made him fat,. Furthermore, there was the man who sued McDonald’s because ,he did not get enough napkins, with his quarter pounder meal.,Follow Warner Todd Huston on Twitter ,@warnerthuston,

or email the author at igcolonel@hotmail.com,.

A consumer protest by Americans has successfully forced Target Corp. to walk a few steps away from its disastrous \$10 billion decision to back the radical transgender lobby.,Instead of opening all bathrooms and changing rooms to both sexes – for the benefit of a small number of transgender people – as the company promised in April, it is now set to spend \$20 million on building new lockable, single-user restrooms.,However, Target is still insisting that it won't offer single-sex changing rooms to customers. Instead, Target's changing rooms remain open to both sexes as a sign of support for sexually mixed transgender people.,A spokesperson for the retailer admitted that the new bathroom expenditure is a reaction to feedback from angry customers.,But Cathy Smith, Target's finance chief, insisted that the massive losses seen since April have nothing to do with company's decision to implement the radical gay lobby's agenda ,of suppressing the differences between men and women,. But she Smith did admit that many customers have told the company that its policy is disliked. "It's clear that some of our guests like and some dislike our inclusive bathroom policy," Smith told reporters as she reported on the \$20 million expenditure on new bathrooms, according to ,Fortune, magazine.,In its original April 19 statement, Target portrayed the decision as protecting rights of a few transgender people, saying "we welcome transgender team members and [customer] guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity.",But the "gender identity" term largely hides the far-reaching ambition of the transgender ideology. That ideology says that people are free to pick their own sex –regardless of biology – and that government should force Americans to accept each person's "gender identity," and also to end normal deference to the different needs and preferences of men and women.,To implement that ideology, President Barack Obama and other progressives are now barring K-12 schools, agencies and federal parks and government-funded homeless shelters from offering any single-sex bathrooms or showers, and they're allowing transgender people to serve as soldiers. They're also threatening opponents with lawsuits and funding-cuts.,Polls show that ideology is ,very unpopular,. A study of the 2010 census reported that only ,1 in 2,400, American adults change their names from one sex to another.,When Target announced its cooperation with the transgender ideology, the resulting consumer boycott ,reached 1.2 million supporters, in only a month. The opposition did much damage to the company's brand, and a massive sell-off on Wall Street chopped the company's share price from almost \$84 on April 19 to \$75.70 on May 11, cutting \$10 billion from its value on Wall Street.,The value slowly recovered, but fell, on August 17 when ,Target admitted that its net income fell, to \$680 million during the boycott, down from \$753 million a year ago. Total sales fell to \$16.7 billion, down from \$17.43 billion. That news slashed the company's value on Wall Street by \$3 billion.,Target Corp's stock value, courtesy of Yahoo.,Despite the massive loss, ,Target's CEO initially insisted, the bathroom policy had nothing to do with its losses, defended it, and insisted the company had no intentions of changing the policy.,Meanwhile, rival retailer Walmart has reported a major jump in share value – from \$69 per share in mid-April to \$74 per share in mid-August – and has just beat its projection on earnings and sales, ,USA Today, reported.,Follow Warner Todd Huston on Twitter ,@wernerthuston, or email the author at igcolonel@hotmail.com,.

- Face Validity

The topics appear to be distinct and well delineated, with a few exceptions that are somewhat ambiguous (Topic 24, 15). ➤

- Predictive Validity

The monthly mean value of theta for each topic was plotted to show topic probabilities over time. Certain topics would naturally be expected to be more prevalent over certain time periods. Below is a list of such topics:

Topic 34 (Republican party primary candidates): expected to be more prevalent while primaries are ongoing Q1-2 2016; plots agree with this expectation.

Topic 20 (Democratic election candidates): expected to be more prevalent in the run up to the presidential election Q3-4 2016; plots agree with this expectation.

Topic 17 (Obama-Trump interaction / transition of power): expected to be more prevalent immediately following the presidential election Q4 2016: plots agree with this expectation.

Topic 14 (Supreme Court / Judiciary): expected to be more prevalent around the nomination of new candidates (Q1 2016; Q1 2017); plots agree with this expectation.

Topic 28 (Hillary Clinton email controversy & investigation): expected to be more prevalent in the run up to the presidential election Q4 2016 as an attempt to discredit democratic candidate; plots agree with this expectation.

Topic 23 (Elections and polls): expected to be more prevalent around primary caucuses (Q1-2 2016) and presidential election (Q4 2016); plots agree with this expectation.

The above examples demonstrate that the model has good predictive validity.

- Semantic Validity

The correlation plot shows that there are topics that are related to each other which tend to co-occur in documents. For example, Topic 18 (gun control) is correlated with Topic 19 (deadly incidents/terrorist attacks/shootings) and Topic 14 (supreme court / judiciary). This makes sense as articles related to gun control would also likely reference challenges to the second amendment and deadly shooting incidents.

- Semantic Coherence & Topic Exclusivity

The plot of topic quality shows that the majority of topics are clustered in the top right of the chart and therefore exhibit good semantic coherence and topic exclusivity. However, there are some notable outliers.

Topics 8, 22 and 28 exhibit relatively low semantic coherence - the semantic relationships between the probable words of the topics are not as helpful for understanding and interpreting the topics. Probable terms for these topics were inspected for issues.

Topic 8 (Celebrities): topic still has good face validity and top FREX terms are coherent. Topic 22 (Climate Change): top probable terms have poor semantic coherence but FREX terms are coherent. Topic 28 (Hillary Clinton email controversy & investigation): topic does have poor semantic coherence on the face of it, but model has identified a salient topic even though it does require some domain/prior knowledge to identify.

Topic 15 exhibits relatively low exclusivity - its probable words are less unique to that topic.

Topic 15 (Warner Todd Huston articles / bathroom gender policy): this was identified as a possible junk topic from the outset. Review of some sample texts shows that documents are mostly about transgender bathroom policies. There is some overlap with Topic 13 (Gender & LGBT issues) and it may be better to disregard this topic for analysis.

5. What insights can be gleaned about right-wing media coverage of the 2016 US election? What election-related topics were derived from the model? What interesting temporal patterns exist? Why might the prevalence of certain important topics vary over 2016? Provide evidence in support of your answers.

Answer:

Right-wing media coverage of the 2016 US election focussed heavily on Republican party candidates during the primaries, with this topic (topic 34) having about 3% overall probability and as much as 10% during Q1 2016.

By contrast, democratic candidates (topic 20) had only about 2-3% probability during the same period rising to ~4.5% in Q3-4 in the run up to the election date. Analysis of texts show that the majority of this coverage was negative and may have been an attempt to discredit the candidates.

Supreme court judge appointment also featured (topic 14), with articles suggesting that appointment of SCOTUS nominee should wait until after the election as part of the presidential mandate.

The model identified a topic around Hillary Clinton's email scandal and subsequent investigation (topic 28) and this was reported on most heavily on the run up to the election date (Q3-4 2016; ~4% probability), most likely as an attempt to disrupt her campaign.

Interestingly, Trump rallies (topic 2) featured very low on the overall topic frequency at ~1.5%.

Trump-Obama interaction / transition of power (topic 17), while having low overall topic frequency at ~2%, rose significantly in the period immediately after the election (Q4 2016) peaking at 5% probability.

Reporting on deadly incidents (topic 19), which includes a high prevalence of terrorist attacks and shootings, rose sharply in the period immediately preceding the election date. Possibly to bolster the position of a candidate who's campaign was built on anti-immigration and a tough stance on crime?

