# Text as Data

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A pre-2000's view of text in social science

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  - Statistical methods/algorithms, computationally intensive

Massive collections of texts are increasingly used as a data source in social science:

- Congressional speeches, press releases, newsletters, ...

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- Facebook posts, tweets, emails, cell phone records, ...

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- Newspapers, magazines, news broadcasts, ...
- Foreign news sources, treaties, sermons, fatwas, ...

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#### What automated text methods don't do:

- Develop a comprehensive statistical model of language
- Replace the need to read
- Develop a single tool + evaluation for all tasks

We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now.

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Texts→ high dimensional, not self contained

# Texts are Surprisingly Simple

(Lamar Alexander (R-TN) Feb 10, 2005)

Word	No. Times Used in Press Release
department	12
grant	9
program	7
firefight	7
secure	5
homeland	4
fund	3
award	2
safety	2
service	2
AFGP	2
support	2
equip	2
applaud	2
assist	2

# Texts are Surprisingly Simple (?)

US Senators Bill Frist (R-TN) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) today applauded the U S Department of Homeland Security for awarding a \$8,190 grant to the Tracy City Volunteer Fire Department under the 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program's (AFGP) Fire Prevention and Safety Program...

9 / 55

Manually develop categorization scheme for partitioning small (100) set of documents

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Automated methods can help with even small problems

#### Plan for the Course

- 1) 5/23, Morning: Acquiring, preprocessing, and comparing text
- 2) 5/23, Afternoon: **Discovery**: Vector Space Model of Text, Clustering Methods, Topic Models, Separating Words
- 5/24, Morning: Measurement: Dictionary Methods, Hand Coding, Supervised Methods Part 1
- 4) 5/24, Afternoon: **Causal Inference**: Train/Test Split, Analyst Induced SUTVA, Text as Dependent and Independent Variable

Principle 1: All Quantitative Models of Language are Wrong—But Some are Useful

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- Models necessarily fail to capture language → useful for specific tasks
- Validation → demonstrate methods perform task

Principle 2: Quantitative Methods Augment Humans, Not Replace Them

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- Computer-Assisted Reading
- Quantitative methods organize, direct, and suggest
- Humans: read and interpret

Principle 3: There is no Globally Best Method for Automated Text Analysis

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- Debate→ acknowledge differences, resolved

Principle 4: Validate, Validate, Validate

- Quantitative methods → variable performance across tasks

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- Apply methods → validate

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- Apply methods → validate
- Avoid: blind application of methods

# Goal for Today: Document-Term Matrices

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 3 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\boldsymbol{X} = N \times J$  matrix

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- *N* = Number of documents
- J = Number of features

### Learning From Text

A plan for using texts

- 1) Acquiring text data
- 2) Regular expression search in text
- 3) Creating document-term matrices (term-document matrices)

### Finding Text Data

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Many places to find text Goal: plain text (.txt) file. (UTF-8, ASCII)

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#### Plain Text

September 19, 2010 Sunday 10:46 AM EST
REP. FOXX VISITS LOCAL SCHOOLS, TALKS WITH STUDENTS ON
CONSTITUTION DAY
LENGTH: 320 words
CLEMMONS, N.C., Sept. 17 -- Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C.
(5th CD), issued the following press release:
Congresswoman Virginia Foxx is celebrating Constitution Day
today by visiting several schools in her district to talk

today by visiting several schools in her district to talk with students about the Constitution and the individuals who helped create our charter document. She will visit Davie County High School, Forbush High School in Yadkin County and Piney Creek School in Alleghany County.

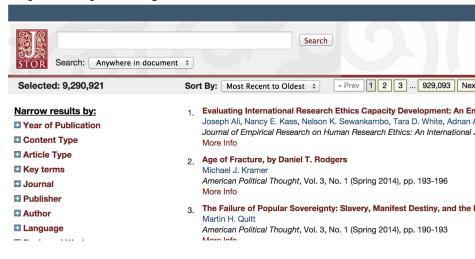
### **XML**

```
<DOC>
<DOCNO>101-levin-mi-1-19901027/DOCNO>
<TEXT>
Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today the House passed and sent to the President the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act.
... Mr. President, I commend and thank Ms. Bean for her exceptional efforts on the Great Lakes Critical Programs Act
/TEXT>
/DOC>
```

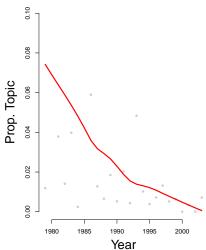
### **JSON**

```
{"id":"tag:search.twitter.com,2005:287886850381713411",
"objectType":"activity"...displayName":"Linda Bowersox",
"postedTime":"2010-03-10T05:16:14.000Z"...
"body":"@JeffFlake thank you for standing firm and voting
NO on the #FiscalCliff (via #PJNET)", "object"...
```

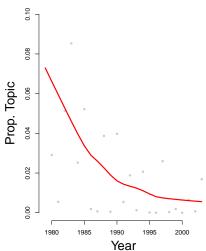
#### http://dfr.jstor.org



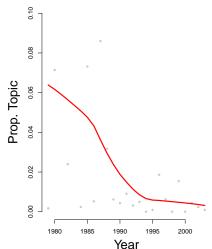
#### **Congressional Life Cycle**



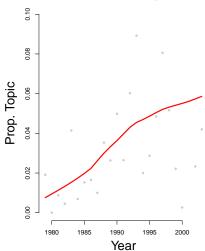
#### Comparative Study of Home Style



#### Casework and the Incumbency Advantage

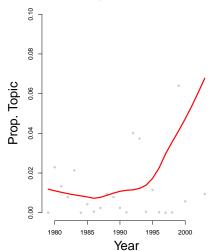


#### **Causes of Roll Call Voting Decisions**



# Ideological Shirking 0.10 0.08 Prop. Topic 0.02 0.00 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 Year

#### **Biases in Congressional Communication**



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- Facilitate interaction with applications (like Twitter)
- Download data (often in JSON format) → Twitter, Data.gov, ...

befit the servant towards the master; and he will not behave like many, who on meeting any great prince, with whom if only they have spoken but once, press forward with a certain smiling and friendly look, as if they" wished to caress an equal or show favour to an inferior.

"He will very rarely or almost never ask anything of his lord j for himself, lest his lord, being reluctant to deny it to him "directly, may sometimes grant it with an ill grace, which is much worse. Even in asking for others he will choose his time discreetly and ask proper and reasonable things; and he will so frame his request, by omitting what he knows may displease and by skilfully doing away with difficulties. that his lord shall always grant it, or shall not think him offended by refusal even if it be denied; for when lords have denied a favour to an importu nate suitor, they often reflect that he who asked it with such eagerness, must have desired it greatly, and so having failed to obtain it, must feel ill will towards him who denied it; and believing this, they begin to hate the man and can never more look upon him with favour., 19.-" He will not seek to intrude unasked into his masters chamber or private retreats, even though he be of great consequence; for when great lords are in private, they often like a little liberty to say and do what they please, and do not wish to be seen or heard by any who may criticise them; and it is very proper. Hence I think those men do ill who blame great lords for consorting privately with persons who are of little worth save in matters of personal service, for I do not see why lords should not have the same freedom to relax their minds that we fain would have to relax ours. But if a Courtier accustomed to deal with important matters, chances to find himself in private with his lord, he must put on another face, postpone grave concerns to another place and time, and give the conversation a cast that shall amuse and please his lord, so as not to

1) Create images of texts

- 1) Create images of texts
- 2) Optical Character Recognition

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  - Built in Adobe Pro

- 1) Create images of texts
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  - Tesseract (Google, command line tool)

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  - Built in Adobe Pro
  - Abbyy FineReader (Batch processing)
  - Tesseract (Google, command line tool)
- 3) Also use, e-book formats...

## HAGAMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT



08/22/12

HAGAMAN, N.Y. – Congressman Paul Tonko announced today that the federal government has awarded a grant of \$61,332 to the Hagaman Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program in the eighth round of Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) announcements. The grant will help the company purchase a new safety trailer to provide fire prevention and life safety training to residents throughout Montgomery County.

"Our first responders not only help us in times of need, they educate our communities on safety and prevention," said Congressman Paul Tonko. "I want to congratulate Hagaman on receiving this award. These are the sort of investments that are worth making – bettering our communities and improving our quality of life."

"The Hagaman Volunteer Fire Department is humbled and honored to receive this Fire Prevention and Safety grant award to help improve our educational programs not only in the Village of Hagaman and the Town of Amsterdam but throughout our neighboring communities as well," said Hagaman Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. Chief Donald Reksc. "Our department is currently able to provide educational programs to about 1,800 children and adults annually. Through the use of this award, we'll be able to purchase a new safety trailer that will also allow us to accommodate students we currently haven't been able to include such as disabled and special needs students. We're very excited for the opportunity to extend our program further to our communities."

<a href="f" onclick="return popup('/common/popup/popup.cfm?action=item.print&amp;itemID=715',600,500);"><img
src="/common/images/print3.gif" alt="Print" border="0" /></a>

<h3><span>HAGAMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT </span></h3>

<span class="contentdate">08/22/12</span>

<div class="contentdata">

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Here are the details of the award:

>

· &nbs

On April 11, 2012 Congressman Tonko wrote a letter of support on behalf of the Hagaman Volunteer Fire Department for the grant to the Assistant Administrator of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Programs.

The Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FPEamp;8) are part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG), and are under the purview of the Grant Programs Directorate at FEMA. FPEamp;8 Grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to target high-risk populations and reduce injury and prevent death. In 2005, Congress reauthorized funding for FPEamp;8 and expanded the eligible uses of funds to include Firefighter Safety Research and Development.

May 23rd, 2019

```
base = 'http://tonko.house.gov'
for j in range(len(html)):#
   out = urlopen(html[j]).read()
   soup = BeautifulSoup(out)
   h3s = soup.findAllfindAll('h3')
   fr = []
   date = □
    for m in range(len(h3s)):
       dd = h3s[m].findNext('a')
       dd = dd\Gamma'href'
       dd2 = base + dd.encode('UTF-8')
       fr.append(dd2)
       temp = h3s[m].findNext('span')
       temp2 = util.clean_html(str(temp)).split('/')
       mons = mon_key[temp2[0]]
       day = temp2[1]
       year = '20' + temp2[2]
       temp3 = day + mons + year
       date.append(temp3)
    for num in range(len(fr)):
       out2 = urlopen(fr[num]).read()
       soup2 = BeautifulSoup(out2)
       divs = soup2.findAll('div')
       content = ''
       for m in range(len(divs)):
            if divs[m].has_key('class'):
                if divs[m]['class']=='contentdata':
                    stuff = util.clean_html(str(divs[m]))
                    content += stuff
       names = date[num] + 'Tonko' + str(num) +'.txt'
       files = open(names, 'w')
       files.write(content)
        files.close()
```

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Rep. Paul <u>Tonko</u> (NY-21) released the following statement on the passage of H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act:

" Today the House of Representatives took a giant step towards fixing our broken health care system by passing legislation that will provide coverage for millions of uninsured Americans, strengthen Medicare for our seniors, lower costs for businesses and individuals, and provide protections for those who already have health care coverage. In the 21st Congressional District alone, this bill will cover 22,000 of the uninsured and close the Medicare Part " D" donut hole that currently has 7,300 of our seniors paying out of pocket for prescription drug costs. " As I traveled throughout the district over the past 10 months, I heard heartbreaking stories of families thrust into bankruptcy because they had been denied coverage when they became ill, heard from people

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#### Exercise: Scraping a Presidential Speech: HW1 on the github:

- http://www.crummy.com/software/BeautifulSoup/
- Parse paragraphs, label speakers

## Acquiring Data from Web: Distributed Human Computing

#### Amazon.com's Mechanical Turk

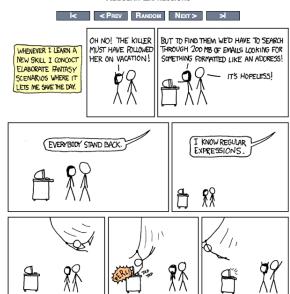
- Marketplace for Human Itensive Tasks
- Requester (you): create HITs, offer \$ (about \$0.05 per task)
- Workers (bored + broke people): complete task
- Requester: evaluate and pay

Odesk, elance, ...

You have text, now what?

## Regular Expressions (from Jurafsky Slides)

#### REGULAR EXPRESSIONS



## Systematic Searches

A language for searching texts:

- Count mentions of a person
- Calculate amount of money discussed
- Prepare texts for analysis: Identify where to "split" a document
- ...

Provide a quick introduction here, with some examples

#### - Disjunctions

RE	Match	<b>Example Patterns Matched</b>
[mM] oney	Money or money	"Money"
[abc]	'a', 'b', <i>or</i> 'c'	"Investing in Ir <u>a</u> n"
		"is d <u>a</u> ngerous <u>b</u> usiness"
[1234567890]	any digit	"sitting on $$7.5$ billion dollars"
		" <u>2005</u> and <u>2006</u> , more than "
		"\$ <u>150</u> million dollars"
[\.]	A period	" 'Run!', he screamed <u>.</u> "

#### - Ranges

RE	Match	<b>Example Patterns Matched</b>
[A-Z]	an upper case letter	" <u>R</u> ep. <u>A</u> nthony <u>W</u> einer
		( <u>D</u> - <u>B</u> rooklyn & Queens)''
[a-z]	a lower case letter	"ACORN's"
[0-9]	a single digit	"( <u>9</u> th CD) "

#### - Negations

RE	Match	<b>Example Patterns Matched</b>
[^A-Z]	not an upper case letter	"ACORN <u>'s</u> "
[^Ss]	neither 'S' nor 's'	" <u>ACORN'</u> s"
[^\.]	not a period	" 'Run!', he screamed."

- Optional Characters: ?, \*, +

RE	Match	<b>Example Patterns Matched</b>
colou?r	Words with u 0 or 1 times	" <u>color</u> " or
		" <u>colour</u> "
oo*h!	Words with o 0 or more times	" <u>oh!</u> " or
		" <u>ooh!</u> " or
		" <u>oooh!</u> "
o+h!	Words with o $1$ or more times	" <u>oh!</u> " or
		" <u>ooh!</u> " or
		"oooooh!" or

- Wild Cards .

#### RE Match

beg.n Any word with "beg" then "n"

### **Example Patterns Matched**

"begin" or

"began" or

"beg<mark>u</mark>n" or

"beggn" (Poor grammar!)

- Start of the line anchor ^, end of the line anchor \$

RE	Match	<b>Example Patterns Matc</b>
$^{\sim}[A-Z]$	Upper case start of line	" <u>P</u> alo Alto"
		"the town of Palo Alto"
^[^A-Z]	Not upper case start of line	"the town of Palo Alto"
		"Palo Alto"
<b>^</b> .	Start of line	" <u>P</u> alo Alto"
		" <u>t</u> he town of Palo Alto"
.\$	Identify character that ends a line	"Wait <u>!</u> "
		"This is the end"

- "Or" | statements, Useful short hand

RE	Match	<b>Example Patterns Matched</b>
yours mine	Matches "yours" or "mine"	"it's either yours or mine"
\ d	Any digit	" <u>1</u> -Mississippi"
\ D	Any non-digit	"1-Mississippi"
\ s	Any whitespace character	"1,_2"
\ S	Any non-whitespace character	"1, <u>2</u> "
\ w	Any alpha-numeric	" <u>1</u> -Mississippi "
\ W	Any non-alpha numeric	"1-Mississippi"

Quick Example to Illuminate Differences:

A "simple" example: identify all instances of the.

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Returns words that are too long (theocrat, theme )

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Misses the first "the" in a sentence

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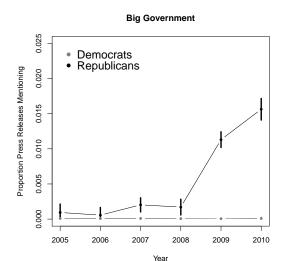
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- [^a-zA-Z][tT]he[^a-zA-Z]Misses the first "the" in a sentence
- (^ | [^ a-zA-Z])[tT]he[^ a-zA-Z]

# An Example: Searching for Tea Party Language Grimmer, Westwood, and Messing (2014): Criticism and credit

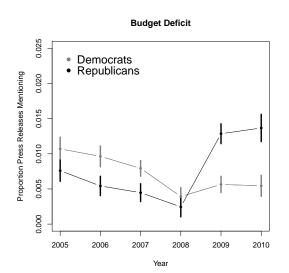
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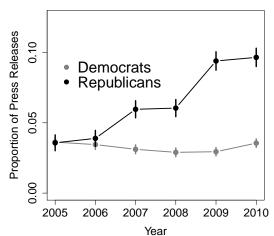
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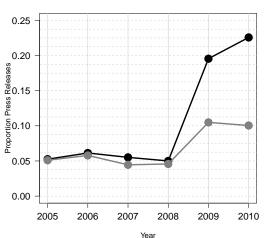
#### Anti-spending Press Releases



### An Example: Searching for Tea Party Language

Goodman, Grimmer, Parker, Zlotnik (2015): Criticism

#### Branding Rhetoric, Press Releases



- WCopyFind:

- WCopyFind: http://plagiarism.bloomfieldmedia.com/z-wordpress/software/wcopyfind/

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- Useful:
  - Media uptake
  - Joint Press Releases

Regular expressions and search are useful

Regular expressions and search are useful We want to use statistics/algorithms to characterize text

Regular expressions and search are useful We want to use statistics/algorithms to characterize text We'll put it in a document-term matrix

Preprocessing → Simplify text, make it useful

Preprocessing → Simplify text, make it useful Lower dimensionality

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- For our purposes

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Remember: characterize the Hay stack

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 If you want to analyze a straw of hay, these methods are unlikely to work

Preprocessing → Simplify text, make it useful Lower dimensionality

- For our purposes

Remember: characterize the Hay stack

- If you want to analyze a straw of hay, these methods are unlikely to work
- But even if you want to closely read texts, characterizing hay stack can be useful

One (of many) recipe for preprocessing: retain useful information

1) Remove capitalization, punctuation

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- 2) Discard Word Order (Bag of Words Assumption)

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Output: Count vector, each element counts occurrence of stems Provide tools to preprocess via this recipe

### Preprocessing Texts

We're going to use the Natural Language Toolkit (nltk) to work with texts

- Built in functionality
- Ensures we can customize our feature spaces

### Text Loaded into Python

```
WUSTL_1.py
Gettysburg Address
```

```
from BeautifulSoup import BeautifulSoup
from urllib import urlopen
import re, os
url =
urlopen('http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/gettyb.asp').read()
soup = BeautifulSoup(url)
text = soup.p.contents[0]
```

### Preprocessing Texts

### Removing capitalization:

```
- Python: string.lower()
```

```
- R : tolower('string')
```

#### Removing punctuation

```
- Python: re.sub('\W', '', string)
```

```
- R:gsub('\\W', '', string)
```

### Preprocessing Texts

```
text_1 = text.lower()
text_2 = re.sub('\W', '', text_1)
```

### The Bag of Words Assumption

### Assumption: Discard Word Order

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation

### Assumption: Discard Word Order

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### Assumption: Discard Word Order

i. Discaru	vvoru
Unigram	Count
a	1
any	1
are	1
civil	1
engaged	1
great	1
in	1
nation	2
now	1
or	1
testing	1
that	1
war	1
we	1

whether

**Unigrams** 

#### Assumption: Discard Word Order

on. Discura vvoic	a Orac
Bigram	Count
now we	1
we are	1
are engaged	1
engaged in	1
in a	1
a great	1
great civil	1
civil war	1
war testing	1
testing whether	1
whether that	1
that nation	1
nation or	1
or any	1
any nation	1

Bigrams

### Assumption: Discard Word Order

m. Biscara Troia Oi	ac.
Trigram	Count
now we are	1
we are engaged	1
are engaged in	1
engaged in a	1
in a great	1
a great civil	1
great civil war	1
civil war testing	1
war testing whether	1
whether that nation	1
that nation or	1
nation or any	1
or any nation	1

**Trigrams** 

## How Could This Possibly Work?

#### Speech is:

- Ironic

A real strength of the Bears is their place kicking and I'm super glad they didn't give Robbie Gould a reasonable raise

- Subtle Negation (Source: Janyce Wiebe):
   They have not succeeded, and will never succeed, in breaking the will of this valiant people
- Order Dependent (Source: Arthur Spirling):
   Peace, no more war
   War, no more peace

## How Could This Possibly Work?

#### Three answers

- 1) It might not: Validation is critical (task specific)
- 2) Central Tendency in Text: Words often imply what a text is about war, civil, union or tone consecrate, dead, died, lives. Likely to be used repeatedly: create a theme for an article
- 3) Human supervision: Inject human judgement (coders): helps methods identify subtle relationships between words and outcomes of interest Dictionaries
  - Training Sets

## Discarding Word Order in Python

```
from nltk import word_tokenize
from nltk import bigrams
from nltk import trigrams
from nltk import ngrams

text_3 = word_tokenize(text_2)
text_3_bi = bigrams(text_3)
text_3_tri = trigrams(text_3)
```

 $text_3_n = ngrams(text_3, 4)$ 

- Stop Words: English Language place holding words

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- Exercise caution when discarding stop words
- You may need to customize your stop word list
   → abbreviations, titles, etc

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- Discard stop words: focus on substantive words

Note of Caution: Monroe, Colaresi, and Quinn (2008) she, he, her, his
Many English language stop lists include gender pronouns

- Exercise caution when discarding stop words
- You may need to customize your stop word list
   → abbreviations, titles, etc

To the Python code!

Reduce dimensionality further

Reduce dimensionality further  $\leadsto$  create equivalence class between words

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- Words used to refer to same basic concept

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 Words used to refer to same basic concept family, families, familial→ famili

Reduce dimensionality further  $\leadsto$  create equivalence class between words

- Words used to refer to same basic concept family, families, familial→ famili
- Stemming/Lemmatizing algorithms: Many-to-one mapping from words to stem/lemma

Stemming algorithm:

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- Simplistic algorithms

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- Condition on part of speech (noun, verb, etc)

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- Verify result is a word

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Key comparison: equivalence classes

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- Condition on part of speech (noun, verb, etc)
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Key comparison: equivalence classes

Python Code!

quivarence ciasse

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Step 1: Remove capitalization and punctuation:

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Step 2: Discard word order:

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four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal Step 2: Discard word order:

four, score, and, seven, years, ago, our, fathers, brought, forth, on, this, continent, a, new, nation, conceived, in, liberty, and, dedicated, to, the, proposition, that, all, men, are, created, equal

```
Step 1: Remove capitalization and punctuation:
Step 2: Discard word order:
four, score, and, seven, years, ago, our, fathers, brought,
forth, on, this, continent, a, new, nation, conceived, in,
liberty, and, dedicated, to, the, proposition, that, all,
men, are, created, equal
```

Step 3: Remove stop words:

Step 1: Remove capitalization and punctuation:

Step 2: Discard word order:

four, score, and, seven, years, ago, our, fathers, brought, forth, on, this, continent, a, new, nation, conceived, in, liberty, and, dedicated, to, the, proposition, that, all, men, are, created, equal

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four, score, seven, years, ago, fathers, brought, forth, continent, new, nation, conceived, liberty, dedicated, proposition, men, created, equal

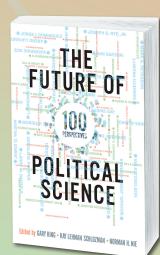
- Step 1: Remove capitalization and punctuation:
- Step 2: Discard word order:
- Step 3: Remove stop words :
- four, score, seven, years, ago, fathers, brought, forth, continent, new, nation, conceived, liberty, dedicated,
- proposition, men, created, equal
- Step 4: Applying Stemming Algorithm

- Step 1: Remove capitalization and punctuation:
- Step 2: Discard word order:
- Step 3: Remove stop words :
- four, score, seven, years, ago, fathers, brought, forth, continent, new, nation, conceived, liberty, dedicated, proposition, men, created, equal
- Step 4: Applying Stemming Algorithm
- four, score, seven, year, ago, father, brought, forth, contin, new, nation, conceiv, liberti, dedic, proposit, men, creat, equal

```
Step 1: Remove capitalization and punctuation:
Step 2: Discard word order:
Step 3: Remove stop words:
Step 4: Applying Stemming Algorithm
four, score, seven, year, ago, father, brought, forth,
contin, new, nation, conceiv, liberti, dedic, proposit,
men, creat, equal
Step 5: Create Count Vector (Python Code!)
       Count
 Stem
 ago
 brought 1
 seven
 creat 1
 conceiv 1
 men
 father
```

```
Step 1: Remove capitalization and punctuation:
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## This Can Actually Work!



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Generate pairs of similar documents: Humans vs Machines

- Scale: (1) unrelated, (2) loosely related, or (3) closely related
- Table reports: mean(scale)

Pairs from Overall Mean Evaluator 1 Evaluator 2

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p.s. The hand-coders did	I the evaluation!		

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