

Modeling the Bag of Words

POS6933: Computational Social Science

Jake S. Truscott, Ph.D

University of Florida
Spring 2026



Overview

- Week 5 Problem Set Review
- Dictionaries
- Multinomial Language Model
- Vector Space Model

Week 5 Problem Set Review

- Comments [...]

Focus Today

- Focus today begins preliminary application of modeling strategies re: text as data
- Things to Consider:
 - Embrace the learning curve
 - Ask questions
 - If we need to continue this next week, we will!

Dictionaries

- A **dictionary** (*lexicon*) is a predefined list of words associated with categories (*classifications*)
- We can engage in basic classification or labeling tasks using these dictionaries to:
 - ① Pre-processing our text to normalize/reduce complexity
 - ② Counting how many dictionary words appear
 - ③ (Optional) Scaling document by length
 - ④ Assigning a category score based on the totals
- **Classification Tasks:** Assigning each document (or sentence) to one or more predefined categories based on its content – with dictionary methods, classification is completed by matching words.

Dictionaries for Classification Tasks – Binary Classification (e.g., *Positive or Negative*)

$$\text{Label}_i = \arg \max_c (\text{DictionaryMatches}_{ic})$$

or Score = $\frac{C_1 \text{ Words} - C_2 \text{ Words}}{\text{Total Words}}$

- $\arg \max$ = Discrete Label
- Score = Continuous Measure
- Example: 10 Positive Words and 12 Negative Words

$$10_{\text{Pos}} < 12_{\text{Neg}} \Rightarrow \text{Label} = \text{Neg}$$

$$-0.09 = \frac{10(\text{Pos}) - 12(\text{Neg})}{22(\text{Total})}$$

Dictionaries for Classification Tasks – Multiclass Classification (e.g., *Positive*, *Negative*, or *Neutral*)

$$\text{Label}_i = \arg \max_{c \in \{\text{Pos}, \text{Neg}, \text{Neu}\}} (\text{DictionaryMatches}_{ic}) \quad \text{or} \quad \text{Score} = \frac{C_c}{\text{Total Words}}$$

- Note: Continuous score now recovered as weight of each category in document.
- Example: 10 Positive Words, 12 Negative Words, 3 Neutral words

$$3_{\text{Neu}} < 10_{\text{Pos}} < 12_{\text{Neg}} \Rightarrow \text{Label} = \text{Neg}$$

$$(\text{Pos}) \frac{10}{25} = 0.4 \quad (\text{Neg}) \frac{12}{25} = 0.48 \quad (\text{Neu}) \frac{3}{25} = 0.12$$

Dictionaries for Classification Tasks (Example)

- **Your Turn** – Work to recover classification labels for a binary task with 15 **positive** words and 11 **negative** words.
- Do the same for a multiclass task that now also includes 13 **neutral** words.

Dictionaries for Classification Tasks (Example Cont.)

- Binary:

$$15_{pos} > 11_{neg} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{15 - 11}{26} \approx 0.15$$

- Multiclass:

$$(\text{Pos}) \frac{15}{39} = 0.38 \quad (\text{Neg}) \frac{11}{39} = 0.28 \quad (\text{Neu}) \frac{13}{39} = 0.33$$

Creating Dictionaries

- Creating dictionaries is fairly intuitive – Create vectors (classes) with terms exclusively representing words unique to that classification.
- Ex:
 - **Positive:** Good, Great, Excellent, Benefit, Success
 - **Negative:** Bad, Poor, Failure, Harm, Risk
 - **Neutral:** Okay, Average, Fine, Moderate

Creating Dictionary in R

```
dictionary <- list(Positive = c("good", "great", "excellent", "benefit", "success"),
                  Negative = c("bad", "poor", "failure", "harm", "risk"),
                  Neutral   = c("okay", "average", "fine", "moderate")) # Dictionary as List

dictionary[['Positive']] # Sample
```

```
[1] "good"      "great"      "excellent"  "benefit"    "success"
```

Applying Dictionary in R

```
sample_text <- reduce_complexity('The project had some success but also some risk') # Reduce Complexity
print(sample_text) # Print Sample
```

```
[1] "project success also risk"
```

```
sapply(dictionary, function(categories) sum(strsplit(sample_text, "\\W+")[[1]] %in% categories)) # Apply
```

Positive	Negative	Neutral
1	1	0

Applying Dictionary in R

- **Your Turn:** Create another string and apply the same dictionary.
- Afterwards – include additional values to the dictionary.

Existing Lexicons in R (BING)

- BING – lexicon widely used for binary sentiment classification.
- Assigns words to *positive* or *negative* classifications – approximately 2k positive words and 4.8k negative words

Existing Lexicons in R (BING – Cont.)

```
bing_dictionary <- tidytext::get_sentiments("bing") # Grab Dictionary
```

```
bing_dictionary %>%
  group_by(sentiment) %>%
  slice_sample(n = 3) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  arrange(sentiment) # 3 Word Sample of Each
```

```
# A tibble: 6 x 2
  word      sentiment
  <chr>    <chr>
1 venom     negative
2 scrap     negative
3 covetous  negative
4 readily   positive
5 thank     positive
6 joyous    positive
```

Existing Lexicons in R (BING – Cont.)

```
strings <- c("This decision is excellent, fair, and clearly the right outcome",
           "The opinion is good and persuasive, even if it is not perfect",
           "The ruling has some good points but also several serious flaws",
           "The decision is bad and poorly reasoned", "This opinion is terrible, deeply unfair, and completely wrong")

strings <- sapply(strings, function(x) reduce_complexity(x),
                 USE.NAMES = FALSE)
print(strings)

[1] "decision excellent fair clearly right outcome"    "opinion good persuasive even perfect"
[3] "rule good point also several serious flaw"        "decision bad poorly reason"
[5] "opinion terrible deeply unfair completely wrong"
```

Existing Lexicons in R (BING – Cont.)

```
strings <- tibble(  
  doc_id = seq_along(strings),  
  text = strings)  
  
strings_tokens <- strings %>% # Convert to tibble  
  tidytext::unnest_tokens(word, text) # Convert to Unnested Tokens  
  
head(strings_tokens)
```

```
# A tibble: 6 x 2  
  doc_id word  
  <int> <chr>  
1       1 decision  
2       1 excellent  
3       1 fair  
4       1 clearly  
5       1 right  
6       1 outcome
```

Existing Lexicons in R (BING – Cont.)

```
strings_tokens %>%
  inner_join(tidytext::get_sentiments("bing"), by = "word") %>% # Get Sentiment
  group_by(doc_id, sentiment) %>%
  summarise(n = n(), # Total Word Matches
            words = paste(word, collapse = ", "), # Combine Word matches
            .groups = "drop") %>%
  left_join(strings, by = "doc_id") %>% # Add Back Original Text
  select(doc_id, text, sentiment, n, words) # Apply BING
```

A tibble: 6 x 5

	doc_id	text	sentiment	n words
	<int>	<chr>	<chr>	<int> <chr>
1	1	decision excellent fair clearly right outcome	positive	4 excellent, fair, clearly, right
2	2	opinion good persuasive even perfect	positive	2 good, perfect
3	3	rule good point also several serious flaw	negative	1 flaw
4	3	rule good point also several serious flaw	positive	1 good
5	4	decision bad poorly reason	negative	2 bad, poorly
6	5	opinion terrible deeply unfair completely wrong	negative	2 terrible, wrong

Existing Lexicons in R (AFINN)

- AFINN is another lexicon widely used in R
- Captures both direction **and** intensity of rhetoric
- Generally ranges from -5 (**Very Negative**) to +5 (**Very Positive**)

Existing Lexicons in R (AFINN – Cont.)

```
set.seed(1234)
afinn_dictionary <- tidytext:::get_sentiments("afinn") # Afinn Dictionary
```

```
afinn_dictionary %>%
  group_by(value) %>%
  slice_sample(n = 1) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  arrange(value) %>%
  print(n = 10) # Sample Words (Value -5 to 5)
```

```
# A tibble: 11 x 2
  word      value
  <chr>     <dbl>
1 nigger     -5
2 fraudulent -4
3 distrustful -3
4 overreact   -2
5 exposes     -1
6 some kind    0
7 protected    1
8 stimulating   2
```

Existing Lexicons in R (AFINN – Cont.)

```
strings_tokens %>%
  inner_join(tidytext::get_sentiments(lexicon = 'afinn'), by = 'word') %>%
  group_by(doc_id, value) %>%
  summarise(n = n(), # Total Word Matches
            words = paste(word, collapse = ", "), # Combine Word matches
            .groups = "drop") %>%
  left_join(strings, by = "doc_id") %>% # Add Back Original Text
  select(doc_id, text, value, n, words)
```

A tibble: 8 x 5

	doc_id	text	value	n	words
		<int> <chr>	<dbl>	<int>	<chr>
1	1	decision excellent fair clearly right outcome	1	1	clearly
2	1	decision excellent fair clearly right outcome	2	1	fair
3	1	decision excellent fair clearly right outcome	3	1	excellent

Existing Lexicons in R (SentimentR)

- `sentimentR` uses a BING-style polarity lexicon (i.e., words have singular meaning) while also providing for **negators** (e.g., not, never, etc.), **amplifiers** (e.g., very or extremely), and **adversarial conjunction** (e.g., but).
- Result is a BING-style score combined with a valence multiplier to adjust for sentence heuristics (ex: *good* = 1x, *not good* = -1x, *barely good* = 0.5x)
- *Note:* Negative doesn't always flip the sign from positive to negative but it will help to scale the intensity.

Existing Lexicons in R (SentimentR - Cont.)

```
strings %>%
```

```
  mutate(sentiment = sentimentr::sentiment_by(text)$ave_sentiment) # Apply S
```

```
# A tibble: 5 x 3
```

	doc_id	text	sentiment
	<int>	<chr>	<dbl>
1	1	decision excellent fair clearly right outcome	1.14
2	2	opinion good persuasive even perfect	0.671
3	3	rule good point also several serious flaw	-0.0567
4	4	decision bad poorly reason	-0.45
5	5	opinion terrible deeply unfair completely wrong	-1.18

Existing Lexicons in R (Example)

- **Your turn:** Recover scores from Bing, AFINN, and SentimentR after reducing the complexity of the following strings:
 - The recent peace agreement between the two nations is a remarkable step toward stability
 - The summit produced some promising proposals, though implementation will take time
 - The delegation met to discuss ongoing trade negotiations without reaching a conclusion
 - The sanctions imposed by the council are likely to harm the civilian population disproportionately
 - The military escalation is a disastrous and reckless move that threatens global security

Existing Lexicons in R (Example)

```
print(bing %>% select(text, doc_id))
```

```
# A tibble: 4 x 2
  text                                         doc_id
  <chr>                                         <int>
1 recent peace agreement two nation remarkable step toward stability      1
2 summit produce promise proposal though implementation will take time   2
3 sanction impose council likely harm civilian population disproportionately 4
4 military escalation disastrous reckless move threaten global security    5
```

```
print(bing %>% select(-c(text)))
```

```
# A tibble: 4 x 4
  doc_id sentiment     n words
  <int> <chr>     <int> <chr>
1      1 positive      3 peace, remarkable, stability
2      2 positive      1 promise
3      4 negative      2 impose, harm
4      5 negative      3 disastrous, reckless, threaten
```

Existing Lexicons in R (Example)

```
print(afinn %>% select(-c(text)))  
  
# A tibble: 8 x 4  
  doc_id value      n words  
  <int> <dbl> <int> <chr>  
1     1     1      1 agreement  
2     1     2      2 peace, remarkable  
3     2     1      1 promise  
4     3     1      1 reach  
5     4    -2      1 harm  
6     4    -1      1 impose  
7     5    -3      1 disastrous  
8     5    -2      2 reckless, threaten
```

Existing Lexicons in R (Example)

```
print(sentimentr)
```

```
# A tibble: 5 x 3
# Groups:   doc_id [5]
  doc_id text                                     sentiment
  <int> <chr>                                    <dbl>
1      1 recent peace agreement two nation remarkable step toward stability 0.833
2      2 summit produce promise proposal though implementation will take time 0.25
3      3 delegation meet discuss ongoing trade negotiation without reach conclusion 0
4      4 sanction impose council likely harm civilian population disproportionately -0.389
5      5 military escalation disastrous reckless move threaten global security -0.742
```

Multinomial Language Model

- **Multinomial Language Model:** A probabilistic model that treats a document as a bag of words generated from a multinomial distribution over a fixed vocabulary
- **Formally:** For a document represented as a sequence of word counts, the likelihood of observing the document is given by the multinomial probability mass function (PMF), which combines the factorial of the total word count with the product of the probabilities of each word raised to the power of its observed count
- Assumes that each word in a document is drawn independently from a fixed vocabulary according to a categorical distribution – i.e., in accordance with the Bag of Words approach, where each word has a certain probability of occurring.

Probability Mass Function – Categorical to Multinomial

PMF – Categorical Distribution:

$$p(\mathbf{W}_i \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{j=1}^J \mu_j^{w_{ij}}$$

We can generalize for documents that are longer than one word using the multinomial distribution:

$$p(\mathbf{W}_i \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{M!}{\prod_{j=1}^J W_{ij}!} \prod_{j=1}^J \mu_j^{w_{ij}}$$

Multinomial PMF (Explained)

$$p(\mathbf{W}_i | \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{M!}{\prod_{j=1}^J W_{ij}!} \prod_{j=1}^J \mu_j^{W_{ij}}$$

- $p(\mathbf{W}_i | \boldsymbol{\mu})$ = probability of observing the entire word-count vector for document i given probabilities μ
- $\mathbf{M} = \sum_{j=1}^J \mathbf{W}_{ij}$ = Total number of word tokens in document i
- $\frac{M!}{\prod_{j=1}^J W_{ij}!}$ = Number of distinct word sequences consistent with the observed counts
- J = Vocabulary size (i.e., number of unique words)
- $\prod_{j=1}^J \mu_j^{W_{ij}}$ = Product of word probabilities raised to the number of times each word appears in document i

Multinomial Language Model – Food Example

- Vocabulary = $c(\text{hamburger}, \text{salad}, \text{taco}, \text{nuggets})$
- Probabilities (μ):
 - $p(\text{hamburger}) = 0.3$
 - $p(\text{salad}) = 0.25$
 - $p(\text{taco}) = 0.15$
 - $p(\text{nuggets}) = 0.3$
- Count vector from Document i for
 $c(\text{hamburger}, \text{salad}, \text{taco}, \text{nuggets}) = (2, 0, 1, 1)$
- i.e., Hamburger (2), Salad (0), Taco (1), and Nuggets (1)

Multinomial Language Model – Food Example (Add Our Values – Simplify)

$$p(\mathbf{W}_i \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{M!}{\prod_{j=1}^J W_{ij}!} \prod_{j=1}^J \mu_j^{W_{ij}}$$

Multinomial Language Model – Food Example (Add Our Values – Simplify)

$$p(\mathbf{W}_i \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{M!}{\prod_{j=1}^J W_{ij}!} \prod_{j=1}^J \mu_j^{W_{ij}}$$

$$p(H, H, T, N \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{4!}{(2_H!)(0_S!)(1_T!)(1_N!)} (0.3_H)^2 (0.25_S)^0 (0.15_T)^1 (0.3_N)^1$$

Multinomial Language Model – Food Example (Add Our Values – Simplify)

$$p(\mathbf{W}_i \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{M!}{\prod_{j=1}^J W_{ij}!} \prod_{j=1}^J \mu_j^{W_{ij}}$$

$$p(H, H, T, N \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{4!}{(2_H!)(0_S!)(1_T!)(1_N!)} (0.3_H)^2 (0.25_S)^0 (0.15_T)^1 (0.3_N)^1$$

$$= \frac{4!}{2! \cdot 0! \cdot 1! \cdot 1!} \quad 0.09 \cdot 1 \cdot 0.15 \cdot 0.3$$

Multinomial Language Model – Food Example (Add Our Values – Simplify)

$$p(\mathbf{W}_i \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{M!}{\prod_{j=1}^J W_{ij}!} \prod_{j=1}^J \mu_j^{W_{ij}}$$

$$p(H, H, T, N \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{4!}{(2_H!)(0_S!)(1_T!)(1_N!)} (0.3_H)^2 (0.25_S)^0 (0.15_T)^1 (0.3_N)^1$$

$$= \frac{4!}{2! \cdot 0! \cdot 1! \cdot 1!} \quad 0.09 \cdot 1 \cdot 0.15 \cdot 0.3$$

$$p(H, H, T, N \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}) \approx 0.0486$$

Federalist Papers

- Collection of essays published in NY newspapers advocating ratification of US Constitution
- Published anonymously by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and Jon Jay – all using pseudonym *Publius*
- Virtually any course on American politics prescribes Federalist 10 (*republics and factionalism*) and 51 (*separation of powers to prevent tyranny*) – I also prescribe 78 (*Judiciary*)

Mosteller and Wallace (1963) – Cont.

- 85 essays in total – some where authorship was known, others not – and some disputed.
- By mid-20th century, it was believed that Jay authored 5, Hamilton (at least) 43, and Madison (at least) 14
- Left several with disputed authorship.
- Mosteller and Wallace (1963) used Bag of Words assumption to try and prescribe unknown authorship.
- **Basic Idea:** Variance in each potential author's word choice should emerge in disputed essay.

Prescribing Authorship for Federalist 51

What We Need:

- A vocabulary
 - by, heretofore, man, upon, whilst
- Variance of that vocabulary in a document of interest i
- The associated probabilities μ

Authorship of Federalist 51 (Cont.)

```
tidy_federalist %>%
  count(author, word) %>%
  tidyr:: pivot_wider(names_from = author, values_from = n, values_fill = 0) %>%
{
  wide <- .
  bind_rows(
    wide,
    wide %>%
      select(-word) %>%
      summarise(across(everything(), sum)) %>%
      mutate(word = "TOTAL") %>%
      select(word, everything()))
}
```

Authorship of Federalist 51 (Vocab Frequencies by Author)

A tibble: 6 x 4

	word	Hamilton	Jay	Madison
	<chr>	<int>	<int>	<int>
1	by	861	82	477
2	heretofore	13	1	1
3	man	102	0	17
4	upon	374	1	7
5	whilst	1	0	12
6	TOTAL	1351	84	514

Authorship of Federalist 51 (Recovering μ)

$W_{Hamilton} \text{Multinomial}(1351, \mu_H)$

$W_{Madison} \text{Multinomial}(514, \mu_M)$

$W_{Jay} \text{Multinomial}(84, \mu_J)$

Authorship of Federalist 51 (Recovering $\mu_{H,M,J}$) – Cont.

$$\mu_{\sigma j} = \frac{W_{\sigma j}}{N_{\sigma}}$$

Hamilton:

$$\mu_{Hamilton} = \left(\frac{861}{861 + 13 + 102 + 374 + 1}, \frac{13}{1351}, \frac{102}{1351}, \frac{374}{1351}, \frac{1}{1351} \right)$$

Hamilton:

$$\mu_{Hamilton} = (0.63, 0.009, 0.07, 0.27, 0.0007)$$

Authorship of Federalist 51 (Recovering $\mu_{H,M,J}$) – Cont.

Solve for Madison

Authorship of Federalist 51 (Recovering $\mu_{H,M,J}$) – Cont.

Solve for Madison

Madison:

$$\mu_{Madison} = (0.92, 0.001, 0.033, 0.013, 0.023)$$

Jay:

$$\mu_{Jay} = (0.97, 0.01, 0, 0.01, 0)$$

Authorship of Federalist 51 – Vocabulary in 51

- We know the following frequency of the vocabulary in Federalist 51:
 - by (23)
 - man (1)
 - upon (0)
 - heretofore (0)
 - whilst (2)
- **Next Step:** Plug in our values!

Federalist 51 – Putting Together: Hamilton

$$p(\mathbf{W}_{\text{Fed51}} \mid \mu_{\text{Hamilton}}) = \frac{26!}{(23!)(1!)(0!)(0!)(2!)} (0.63)^{23} (0.009)^1 (0.07)^0 (0.27)^0 (0.0007)^2$$

Federalist 51 – Putting Together: Hamilton

$$p(\mathbf{W}_{\text{Fed51}} \mid \mu_{\text{Hamilton}}) = \frac{26!}{(23!)(1!)(0!)(0!)(2!)} (0.63)^{23} (0.009)^1 (0.07)^0 (0.27)^0 (0.0007)^2$$

$$p(\mathbf{W}_{\text{Fed51}} \mid \mu_{\text{Hamilton}}) = 0.0000000008346$$

Federalist 51 – Putting Together: Madison

- **Your Turn** – Do the same for Madison

Federalist 51 – Putting Together: Madison

- **Your Turn** – Do the same for Madison

$$p(\mathbf{W}_{\text{Fed51}} \mid \mu_{\text{Madison}}) = \frac{26!}{(23!)(1!)(0!)(0!)(2!)} (0.92)^{23} (0.001)^1 (0.033)^0 (0.013)^0 (0.023)^2$$

$$p(\mathbf{W}_{\text{Fed51}} \mid \mu_{\text{Madison}}) = 0.00055692$$

Federalist 51 – Putting Together: Jay

$$p(\mathbf{W}_{\texttt{Fed51}} \mid \mu_{Jay}) = \frac{26!}{(23!)(1!)(0!)(0!)(2!)} (0.97)^{23} (0.01)^1 (0)^0 (0.01)^0 (0)^2$$

$$p(\mathbf{W}_{\text{Fed51}} \mid \boldsymbol{\mu}_{J\text{ay}}) = 0$$