



FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC  
UNIVERSITY

**THESIS TITLE GOES HERE**

by

LEVI C. NICKLAS

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the  
DEPARTMENT OF **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

In the Graduate College

Florida Polytechnic University

**2021**

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Dedications go here

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## Abstract

Abstract goes here

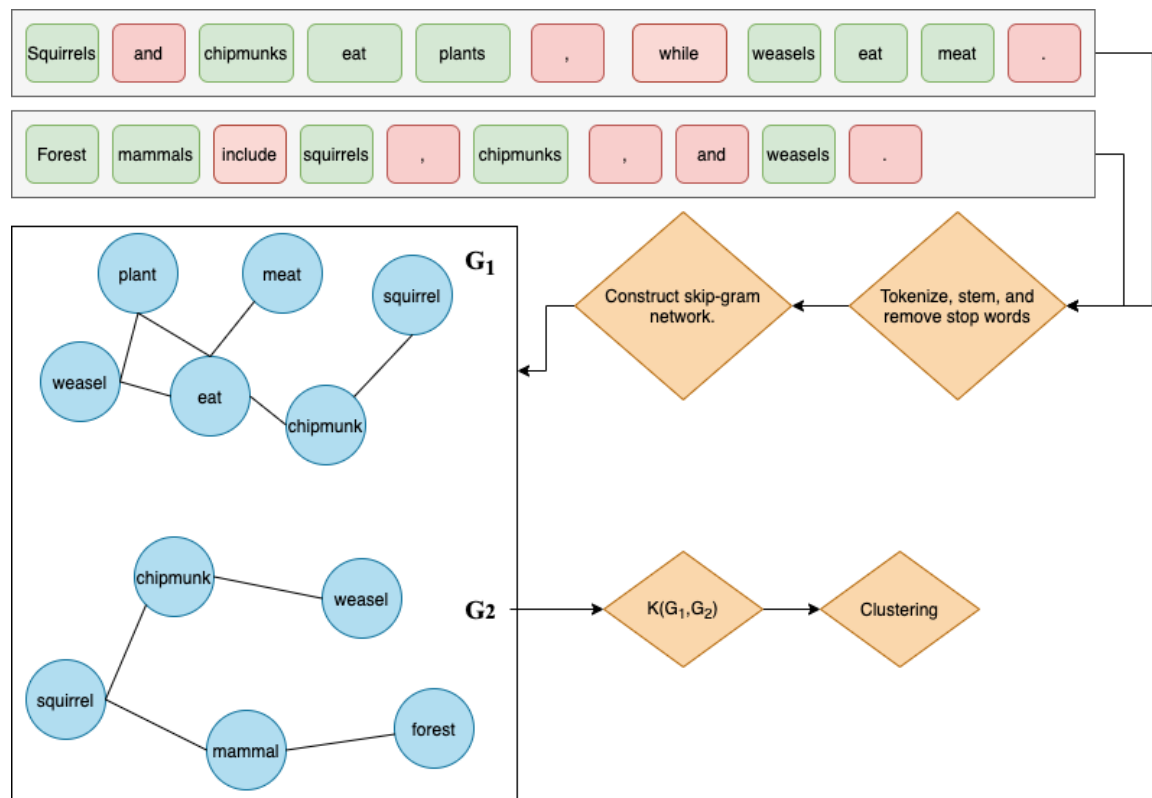
# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

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## Introduction Chapter Here

Text mining is the process of extracting insight from text documents using computational and statistical methods. A common task in text mining is document clustering, where the natural language of the documents is reformatted and used to group documents into clusters of similar topics or text content. Popular methods to cluster text include k-means, hierarchical methods, and topic models. Most of these methods utilize term frequency-inverse document frequency measures or bag-of-words methods to do clustering, though these methods often divide words and thus may lose meaning, or context, surrounding the word of concern. In an effort to cluster documents while still preserving the relationship between words, text can be modeled with graphs which better preserve the context surrounding a word. Text can be represented with bigram graphs, where the edge between two vertices is the result of two words appearing adjacent in the text. This idea can be extended to more general n-grams, and further extended to skip-n-grams, resulting in even richer representations of the text. The similarity of two of graphical representations can then be assessed using modern methods called graph kernels. Graph kernels produce a measure of similarity between graphs, thus allowing for further machine learning to take place. With a measure of similarity between two graphs, we can do an assortment of clustering methods.

The chosen graph representation of the observational unit of text is an extension of bigram graphs. The use of skip-grams here is an attempt to connect ideas between words that would have normally attained meaning through the "context" of the sentence. By connecting words that appear close to one another while not being immediately adjacent, we are creating "skip-grams"—an extension of the bigram where the window for which words are considered adjacent is widened.



In the above figure, a demonstration of bigram construction is available (**Levi**: This graphic needs to be a skipgram for which  $k > 1$ , and comments thereafter need to be about the skip gram set up...this will be a place holder for now).

Many methods used in text mining use bag-of-words techniques, but these methods do not always preserve the context and relationships between words. The graph representations for text, used here, aim to preserve the relationship and context between words. The idea of bigrams (pairs of two words) can be extended to “skip-grams”; skip-grams are words which appear within some width  $w$  of each other. This leads to more connections, and a richer graph representation of the text. This skip-gram method is similar to that used in the popular machine learning package Word2Vec, which uses the “continuous bag of words” or “continuous skip-grams”. In

this paper, a graph representation of the text is constructed, using skip-gram methods, for each comment in the dataset.

The graph representations are compared with a graph kernel, which is a measure of the similarity of two graphs. In this study, the graph kernel of choice is a “edge histogram kernel”, because the kernel utilizes the labels of the vertices to assess the similarity of two graphs– not just the topology. For each graph, the kernel produces a measure of similarity to the other  $n-1$  graphs in the dataset. We can use this similarity measure between two graphs, to assess how similar other graphs in the dataset may be. That is, we can compare the similarity of graphs B and C through their similarity to A. To do this, a KDE (Kernel Density Estimation) to estimate a kernel density curve, the curve is then used to partition the rest of the dataset into clusters. The KDE bandwidth is modified to produce more or less local minima/maxima that can be then used to identify potential clusters. Basic calculus can be used to locate to inflection points that will serve as intervals for which a cluster will be defined.

Alternatively, we can use machine learning methods which work nicely with kernels, i.e. support vector machine (supervised) or hierarchical clustering (unsupervised). These methods are more tried and true, and can serve as a comparison to the success of the KDE methods.

To test these methods, two different text data sets will be considered. First, reddit comments from subreddits pertaining to mental health. Using the redditExtractoR package by (NAME), the comments are collected if they match criteria set by the query. From the subreddit r/mentalhealth, posts are collected if they have chosen keywords and at least 10 comments. The keywords considered are “anxious”, “anxiety”, “depressed”, “depression”, “mental”, “illness”, “scared”, “afraid”, “sad”, “emotion”, “anger”, “angry”, “upset”, “suicide”, “abuse”, “emotional”, “help”, and “addiction”. These words do not represent all words which define or indicate mental health topics

may be present; these words were chosen by the researcher arbitrarily. The result of the queries is thousands of comments. Mental health continues to be a growing focus at the national level, and the discussion on reddit is often candid and open, due to reddit's reputation as an anonymous website. The second data set being considered in the study, is NHTSA report data. These reports are from the Special Crash Investigation (SCI) reports from the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). The pdf documents that are considered in this study are those that involved ambulance(s) in the incidents highlighted in the reports. These events are considered "edge cases" and could prove useful to those working in autonomous vehicles.

These datasets were chosen because they are two very different styles of writing. The reddit posts are often in contemporary and casual use of language, possibly including "netspeak", while the NHTSA reports feature a technical writing style with plain language, absent of hyperbole or sarcasm. These datasets should show two very different sides of text data, and comparisons will be made to how each dataset responds to the methods outlined above.

# CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

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Literature review chapter goes here

## 2.1 Introduction

Introduction section of this chapter goes here

### 2.1.1 Subsection Testing

subection content goes here

# CHAPTER 3: METHODS

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## 3.1 Introduction

As an alternative to natural language processing (NLP) methods, which are reliant on "bag-of-words" methods, the methods used here utilize a graph representation of the text. Consider a bigram, a pair of two words—like "hot dog" or "peanut butter", these bigrams can be constructed for a text document where every pair of adjacent words is a bigram. The bigrams can then be used to make a graph, where each word is a vertex, and each bigram is an edge. This graph representation holds more context than the bag-of-words methods; for example seeing the words "cake" and "carrot" in a bag of words may not show that "carrot cake" was the real intent of the text. This is an important concept for modeling text, as we should strive to achieve a representation of the text that makes for effective modeling that will capture the true meaning of the text in question. Keeping this in mind, with my example of "carrot cake", what about the idiom "beating a dead horse"? Each word individually may mean something other than the idiom. Even the bigrams "beating dead" and "dead horse" do not capture what the idiom means. We can expand the number of words in the n-gram to be 3 or 4 words, or alternatively, we can make more "edges" or connect more words. We can connect words that are not immediately adjacent but perhaps within  $k$  words away. These bigrams that appear within  $k$  words of each other are called "skip-grams". The skip-gram allows to capture context of larger sequences of words since the graph representation will show how the  $k$  wide neighborhood of words was connected. In the idiom example, using skip-grams with window width  $k = 2$ , and removing common words (e.g. "a", "at", "the"), will produce a graph like:

$$E(G) = \{\text{beat} \longleftrightarrow \text{dead}, \text{dead} \longleftrightarrow \text{horse}, \text{horse} \longleftrightarrow \text{beat}\}$$

Rest of sections go here



# CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

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Discussions and results go here

# CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

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Conclusion goes here.

# CHAPTER 6: FUTURE WORK

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Future work goes here.

# Appendices

## APPENDIX A: MY FIRST APPENDIX

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