

# What is Sentiment Analysis?

## Bag of Words

# What is a Bag of Words?

- One way a computer reads a text is called “Bag of Words”
- The computer makes a list of all words used along with how many times each word occurs in the text

Vocabulary:

- **Bag of words:** a method of analyzing a text that looks at the whole text as a bunch of separate words.

# ACTIVITY SLIDE

The following words were all pulled from a poem. Look at the poem like this.  
What do you think it's about?

Dreams - 5

A - 2

Fast - 2

For - 2

Hold - 2

Is - 2

Life - 2

To - 2

Broken-winged - 1

Barren - 1

Bird - 1

Cannot - 1

Die - 1

Fly - 1

Field - 1

Frozen - 1

Go - 1

If - 1

Snow - 1

That - 1

When - 1

With - 1

# DISCUSSION

- What can you tell about this poem from the word count?
- What does it seem to be about?

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# Dreams - Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams

For if dreams die

Life is a broken-winged bird

That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams

For when dreams go

Life is a barren field

Frozen with snow.

# ACTIVITY SLIDE

The following words were all pulled from a review. Can you tell if it is a positive or negative review? How? Label the words “Positive,” “Negative,” or “Neutral.”

Was - 3

Alright - 2

It - 2

And - 1

Generic - 1

Good - 1

Just - 1

No - 1

Nothing - 1

Pretty - 1

Soundtrack - 1

Special - 1

Story - 1

Twists - 1

Unexpected - 1

Visual - 1

Were - 1

With - 1

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# The Review

It was alright, nothing special, it was just alright, visual and soundtrack were good, story was pretty generic with no unexpected twists (7 stars)

# DISCUSSION

- Would you call this review “positive,” “negative,” or “neutral”?
- Were you correct about the review when you saw it as just words? Why or why not?
- What might have helped you be more accurate?



# Vocabulary

**N-grams:** Sets of  $n$  words

- A 3-gram (also called a “trigram”) would be a set of three words like “I like pickles”
- A 2-gram (also called a “bigram”) would be sets of 2 words such as “I like” and “like pickles.”

A bag of words model can use  $n$ -grams instead of single words.

# DISCUSSION

- What might have helped you understand the bag of words that you saw for the poem and the review better?
  - Would having more words have helped?

# Order

- Bag of words doesn't take the order of words into account (except in n-grams).
- Other methods do, for example:
  - Turning words into vectors as described briefly in unit one
  - **Bayesian probability** - Guessing what word is likely the next word based on the word before it

# Unit Learning Goals

You will be able to:

- Explain how computers see texts as a “bag of words” that are not necessarily related to each other
- Name ways sentiment analysis could be biased
- Describe impacts sentiment analysis can have on different communities

## Exit ticket: Unit 2.07 - Bag of Words

Describe a difference between how a human reads a text and how a computer does.



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