Text as Data

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May 2nd, 2019

Discovery and Measurement

What is the research process? (Grimmer, Roberts, and Stewart 2017)

- 1) Discovery: a hypothesis or view of the world
- 2) Measurement according to some organization
- 3) Causal Inference: effect of some intervention

Text as data methods assist at each stage of research process

Measurement

Two approaches to measurement

- 1) Use an existing classification scheme to categorize documents
- 2) Simultaneously discover categories and measure prevalence

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- Campaign agendas
 - $\Rightarrow \{ \text{Abortion, Campaign, Finance, Taxing, } \dots \ \}$

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 - \Rightarrow { Support, Ambiguous, Oppose }
- Positions on Court Cases
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Style/Tone: How is it said?

- Taunting in floor statements
 - \Rightarrow { Partisan Taunt, Intra party taunt, Agency taunt, ... }
- Negative campaigning
 - \Rightarrow { Negative ad, Positive ad}

Pre-existing word weights→ Dictionaries

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DICTION

DICTION is a computer-aided text analysis program for Windows® and Mac® that uses a series of dictionaries to search a passage for five semantic features—Activity, Optimism, Certainty, Realism an Commonality—as well as thirty-five sub-features. DICTION uses predefined dictionaries and can use up to thirty custom dictionaries built with words that the user has defined, such as topical or negative words, for particular research needs.

Pre-existing word weights → Dictionaries

DICTION

DICTION 7, now with *Power Mode*, can read a variety of text formats and can accept a large number of files within a single project. Projects containing over 1000 files are analyzed using *power analysis* for enhanced speed and reporting efficiency, with results automatically exported to .csv-formatted spreadsheet file.

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DICTION

On an average computer, DICTION can process over 20,000 passages in about five minutes. DICTION requires 4.9 MB of memory and 38.4 MB of hard disk space.

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DICTION

provides both social scientific and humanistic understandings"

—Don Waisanen, Baruch College

Pre-existing word weights→ Dictionaries

DICTION

DICTION 7 for Mac (Educational) (\$219.00)

This is the educational edition of DICTION Version 7 for Mac. You purchase on the following page.



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Many Dictionary Methods (like DICTION)

1) Proprietary

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1) Proprietary wrapped in GUI

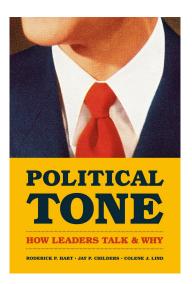
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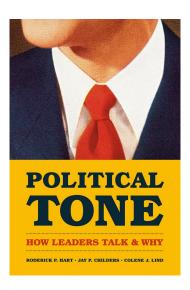
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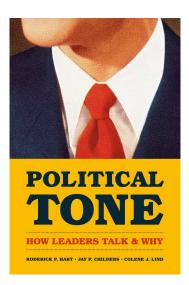




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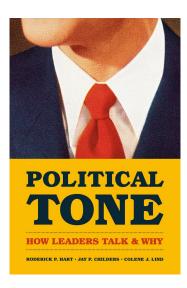
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Applies DICTION to a wide array of political texts



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Applies DICTION to a wide array of political texts
Examine specific periods of American political history

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Three ways to create dictionaries (non-exhaustive):

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Applying Methods to Documents Applying the model:

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Applying a Dictionary to Press Releases

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Python code and press releases

Least positive members of Congress:

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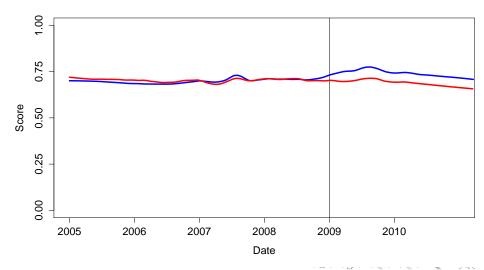
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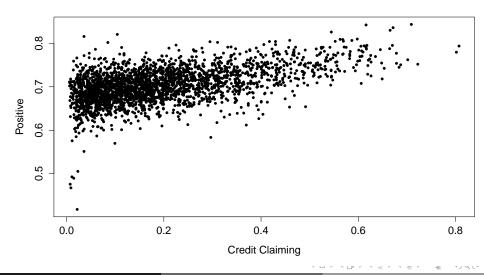
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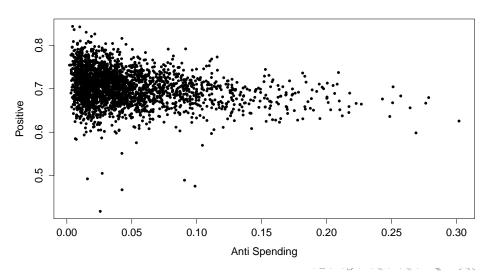
Legislators who are more extreme→ less positive in press releases

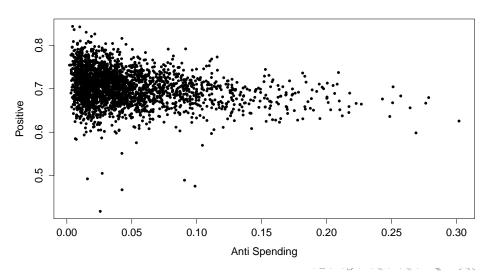


- Credit Claiming press release: 9.1 percentage points "more positive" than a non-credit claiming press release

- Credit Claiming press release: 9.1 percentage points "more positive" than a non-credit claiming press release
- Anti-spending press release: 10.6 percentage points "less positive" than a non-anti spending press release







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Validation

Classification Validity:

- Training: build dictionary on subset of documents with known labels

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- Test: apply dictionary method to other documents with known labels

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- Supervised learning classification: (Cross)validation

Humans should be able to classify documents into the categories you want the machine to classify them in

- This is hard

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- A procedure for training coders:
 - 1) Coding rules
 - 2) Apply to new texts
 - 3) Assess coder agreement (we'll discuss more in a few weeks)
 - 4) Using information and discussion, revise coding rules

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Guess	Liberal	Conservative
Liberal	True Liberal	False Liberal
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Measures of classification performance

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Under reported for dictionary classification

Necessarily more complicated

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Lower level classification

^_

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Lower level classification → label phrases and then aggregate

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Lower level classification → label phrases and then aggregate Modifiable areal unit problem in texts → aggregating destroys information, conclusion may depend on level of aggregation

Accounting Research: measure tone of 10-K reports

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- tone matters (\$)

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Previous state of art: Harvard-IV-4 Dictionary applied to texts

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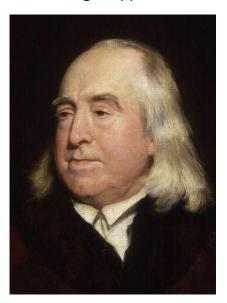
Validation, Dictionaries from other Fields

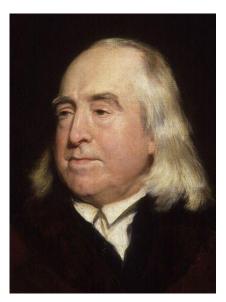
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 Quantifying Happiness: How happy is society?



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- How Happy is a Song?



- Quantifying Happiness: How happy is society?
- How Happy is a Song?
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Use Dictionary Methods

Dodds and Danforth (2009): Use a dictionary method to measure happiness

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$$\mathsf{Happiness}_{i} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{K} \theta_{k} X_{ik}}{\sum_{k=1}^{K} X_{ik}}$$

"She was more like a beauty queen from a movie scene.

And mother always told me, be careful who you love.

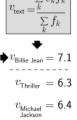
And be careful of what you do 'cause the lie becomes the truth.

Billie Jean is not my lover,

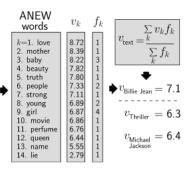
She's just a girl who claims

that I am the one.



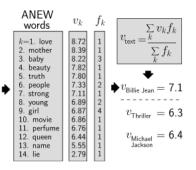






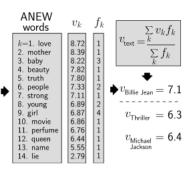
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Happiest Song on Thriller?



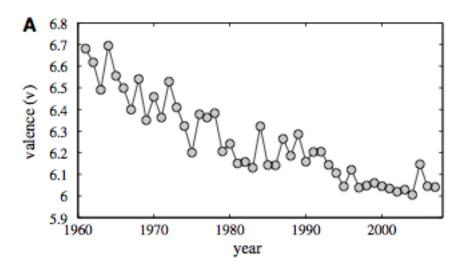


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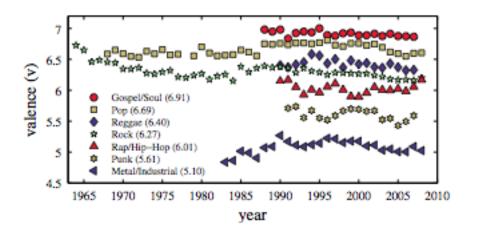
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P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing) (This is the right answer!)

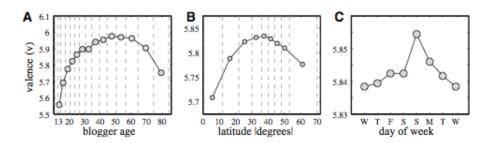
Happiness in Society



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- Models for categorizing texts

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 - Hand coding: assign documents to categories
 - Infer: new document assignment to categories (distribution of documents to categories)

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 - Assessing disagreement among coders
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Methods generalize beyond text

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- 4) Method to extrapolate from hand coding to unlabeled documents

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- 1) Write careful (and brief) coding rules
 - Flow charts help simplify problems
- 2) Train coders to remove ambiguity, misinterpretation

Iterative process for generating coding rules:

1) Write a set of coding rules

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- 4) Identify sources of disagreement, repeat

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Usual Procedure:

- Pay attention to percent agreement → reliability

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Usual Procedure:

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- Fit Annotation model (Dawid and Skene 1979), infer parameters

Coder Error → Biased proportions

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Consequences for Business, Government, and

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Solution:

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Solution:

Method and easy to use software → bounds on truth

What To Do About It

Measuring reliability → descriptive task

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Inferential tools relating reliability and validity

- Derive bounds on proportions, reliability \leftrightarrow validity

Measuring reliability → descriptive task Relationship between reliability and validity → inferential task

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- Extensions for alternative settings and inferences

Suppose 2 coders classify *D* documents into 3 categories

Suppose 2 coders classify D documents into 3 categories Truth

Suppose 2 coders classify ${\it D}$ documents into 3 categories Truth

$$\pi_d \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$
 $\bar{\pi}_k = \mathsf{mean}_d[I(\pi_d = k)],$
 $\bar{\pi} = (\bar{\pi}_1, \bar{\pi}_2, \bar{\pi}_3)$

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Coders:

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$$\begin{aligned} y_d^1 &\in \{1,2,3\} \text{ , } y_d^2 \in \{1,2,3\} \\ \bar{y}_k^1 &= \mathsf{mean}_d I[(y_d^1 = k)] \\ \bar{y}_k^2 &= \mathsf{mean}_d I[(y_d^2 = k)] \\ \bar{y}_k &= \mathsf{mean}_c[\bar{y}_k^c] \end{aligned}$$

 $\mathsf{truth} = \bar{\pi}$

Suppose 2 coders classify ${\it D}$ documents into 3 categories Truth

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 $\bar{y}_k = \mathsf{mean}_c[\bar{y}_k^c]$
 $\bar{\mathbf{y}} = (\bar{y}_1, \bar{y}_2, \bar{y}_3)$

$$\mathsf{truth} \; = \; ar{m{\pi}}$$
 naïve estimate $\; = \; ar{m{y}}$

Suppose 2 coders classify ${\it D}$ documents into 3 categories Truth

$$\begin{split} &\pi_d \in \{1,2,3\} \\ &\bar{\pi}_k = \mathsf{mean}_d[I(\pi_d = k)], \\ &\bar{\pi} = (\bar{\pi}_1, \bar{\pi}_2, \bar{\pi}_3) \end{split}$$

Coders:

$$y_d^1 \in \{1, 2, 3\}$$
, $y_d^2 \in \{1, 2, 3\}$
 $\bar{y}_k^1 = \mathsf{mean}_d I[(y_d^1 = k)]$
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Agreement and Reliability

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Agreement and Reliability

$$m_{ik}^{12} = \text{mean}_d[I(y_d^1 = j, y_d^2 = k)]$$

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$${
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 ${
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Agreement and Reliability

$$m_{jk}^{12} = \text{mean}_d[I(y_d^1 = j, y_d^2 = k)]$$

 $a^{12} = \sum_{k=1}^3 m_{kk}^{12} = 0.7$

 ${
m truth} = ar{m{\pi}}$ ${
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Coding task \rightsquigarrow map from truth to codes

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 ϵ_{jk}^1 = Proportion coder 1 classifies a document in j when truth is k

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```
\epsilon_{jk}^1 = \text{Proportion coder 1 classifies a document in } j \text{ when truth is } k
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```

Mapping from Truth to Coders' Decisions

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Mapping from Truth to Coders' Decisions

$$\bar{y}_1^2 = \epsilon_{11}^2 \bar{\pi}_1 + \epsilon_{12}^2 \bar{\pi}_2 + \epsilon_{13}^2 \bar{\pi}_3$$

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$$\mathbf{E}^{1} = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_{11}^{1} & \epsilon_{12}^{1} & \epsilon_{13}^{1} \\ \epsilon_{21}^{1} & \epsilon_{22}^{1} & \epsilon_{23}^{1} \\ \epsilon_{31}^{1} & \epsilon_{32}^{1} & \epsilon_{33}^{1} \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\mathbf{E}^{1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.9 & 0.07 & 0.02 \\ 0.08 & 0.9 & 0.08 \\ 0.02 & 0.03 & 0.9 \end{pmatrix} \\
\mathbf{E}^{2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.14 & 0.17 \\ 0.01 & 0.80 & 0.03 \\ 0.19 & 0.06 & 0.8 \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$ar{m{y}}^1 = m{E}^1ar{m{\pi}} \ ar{m{y}}^2 = m{E}^2ar{m{\pi}}$$

The Link Between Truth and Coders' Decisions Define the evaluation matrix E^1 :

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$$ar{m{y}}^1 = m{E}^1ar{m{\pi}} \ ar{m{y}}^2 = m{E}^2ar{m{\pi}}$$

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 $\bar{\mathbf{y}}^2 = (0.6, 0.21, 0.19)$

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Problem: We don't (and can't) know evaluation matrices

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Agreement, Assumptions, Structure → Set of Matrices

Goal: use coders' reliability to infer validity

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Suppose coder 1 and coder 2 have agreement rate a^{12} . Maximum Average Validity

$$\dot{\epsilon}^{12} = \frac{1+a^{12}}{2}$$

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Equivalently \rightsquigarrow maximum average validity implies:

- Coders agree: correct
- Coders disagree: at least one coder is correct $_{\mbox{\tiny LD}}$

Assumption

Wisdom of the Coders Coder 1 and 2 have maximum validity given their agreement rate a^{12}

(0.1)

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Wisdom of the Coders $Coder\ 1$ and 2 have maximum validity given their agreement rate a^{12}

Assumption

Constant Validity Assumption Coder c's validity is constant across categories. $\epsilon^c = \epsilon_{kk}^c$

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$$(\boldsymbol{E}^{1})^{-1} \, \bar{\boldsymbol{y}}^{1} \in (K-1) \text{-dimensional simplex}$$

$$(0.1)$$

Set of pairs of matrices $(\tilde{\textbf{\textit{E}}}^1, \tilde{\textbf{\textit{E}}}^2)$ that satisfy maximum average validity, constant validity, and Equations 0.1 and 0.2 into set \mathbb{E} .

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$$egin{array}{ll} ar{\pi_k}^{int} &=& \left[\min_{(ilde{\mathcal{E}}^1, ilde{\mathcal{E}}^2) \in \mathbb{E}} \left(ilde{\mathcal{E}}^c
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Optimization not straightforward \rightsquigarrow non-linear programming algorithm

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Truth	0.7	0.25	0.05
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+			

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Two coders: agree 70% of speeches

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Naive estimate \rightsquigarrow outside of bounds (Category 1 and 3)

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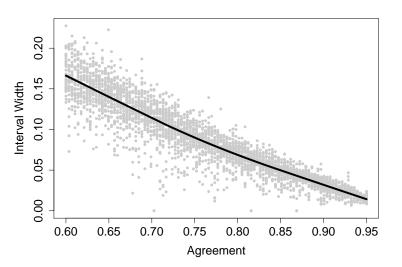
High (acceptable) reliability \neq unbiased inferences

No. Coded	Bootstrap	Prop. Contained
	Maximum Va	alidity
100	No	0.60

No. Coded	Bootstrap	Prop. Contained
	Maximum V	alidity
100	No	0.60
100	Yes	0.93

No. Coded	Bootstrap	Prop. Contained
	Maximum V	alidity
100	No	0.60
100	Yes	0.93
500	No	0.93
500	Yes	1
1000	No	0.99
1000	Yes	1
10000	No	0.98
10000	No	0.99
30000	No	1
30000	No	0.99

Bootstrap	Prop. Contained	
Relaxing Constant Validity		
No	0.86	
Independent Coders		
No	1	
No	1	
	xing Constant No ndependent No	



Generalize:

- 1) Number of coders
- 2) Maximum Average Validity
- 3) Constant Validity

Dawid-Skene (1979) Annonator Model Computer science, NLP literature

 $\pi_d \sim \mathsf{Multinomial}(1, ar{\pi})$

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1) Sensitive to starting values → bias

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- 2) Individual document labels \rightsquigarrow sensitive to starting value

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- 1) Sensitive to starting values \leadsto bias
- 2) Individual document labels → sensitive to starting value
- 3) Systematic bias in inferred proportions

Taunting (Vitrol): attack other party's (or member's) competency (Valence)

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Taunting: explict, public, and negative attacks

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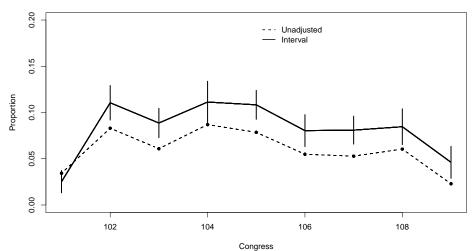
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Use extensions to apply algorithm to estimate Congress-to-Congress changes in taunting rate with non-overlapping coders

Partisan Taunting

Senate Taunting



Our Solution:

- Intervals that contain truth with probabilty 1
- Extensions (in the paper) include:
 - Bounds on agreement with alloyed gold standard for machine learning methods
 - Multiple coders (wisdom of crowds results)
 - Proportions as inputs to other models
- Extensions (outside paper) include:
 - Analysis of Computer Science prediction contests

Coder Error → Bias

Coder Error → Bias

Coder Error → Method to Address

Bias