The textmineR Package

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1 Introduction

2 Mathematical Structures for Natural Language Processing

Two core mathematical structures in Natural Language Processing (NLP) are the document term matrix (DTM) and the term co-occurrence matrix (TCM). A DTM is a matrix whose rows index documents and whose columns index linguistic features of these documents. These linguistic features called "terms", though they may be single words, groups of words called "n-grams", stems, lemmas, or other tokens. The (i,j) entries of a document term matrix are a frequency measure of term j within document i, for example the number of times term j is used within document i. A TCM is a square, but not necessarily symmetric, matrix whose rows and columns both index terms. The (i,j) entries of a TCM represent a relationship between term i and term j, for example the number of times term j appears within n places of term i.

The core of many NLP tasks comes from the decision to make a DTM or a TCM and the definitions of rows, columns, and frequency measures of the DTM or TCM. From there an additional algorithm may be run or statistical model fit to the DTM or TCM. Some choices for common NLP tasks are below.

Probabilistic topic modeling

- DTM
- Rows are whole documents.
- Columns are unigrams or unigrams and bigrams
- Frequency measure is a raw integer count
- A probabilistic topic model, such as Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA), is applied to the DTM

Latent semantic analysis (LSA)

- DTM
- Rows are whole documents
- Columns are unigrams or unigrams and bigrams
- Frequency measure is a TF-IDF¹ reweighting
- The DTM is factored by single-value decomposition (SVD)

Calculating word embeddings

- TCM
- Rows and columns are unigrams
- Frequency measure is the number of times term j appears within 3 places of term i
- The TCM is de-composed by a method such as GloVe² or Word2Vec³

Document summarization

¹Term frequency inverse document frequency (TFIDF) is a reweighting where common words are penalized and rare words are promoted.

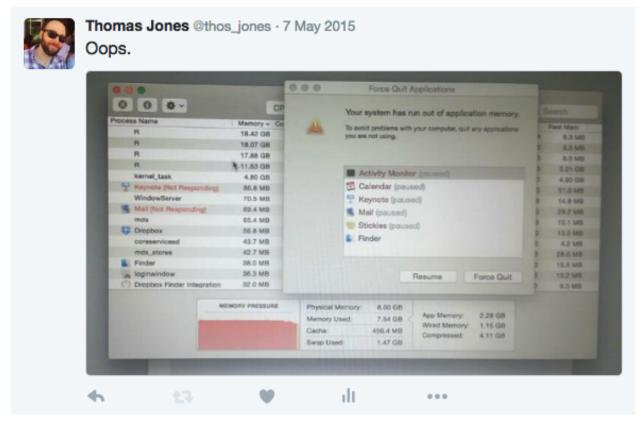
²cite

 $^{^3}$ cite

- DTM
- Each row is a sentence from a single document
- Columns are stems⁴ or lemmas⁵
- Frequency measure is TF-IDF reweighting
- Sentences (rows) are clustered, with cluster exemplars being chosen as a document summary.

3 Scaleability Issues in Natural Language Processing

The conceptual simplicity of DTMs and TCMs contrasts the computational challenges of NLP in practice. Linguistic data is large and sparse. It is common to have a DTM with 20, 80, or more times more terms than documents. Consider the sample NIH data included with textmineR. It has 100 documents. Without removing stopwords, a DTM of unigrams has 5,542 columns. A DTM of unigrams and bigrams from this corpus has 30,004 columns. A matrix of 100 rows and 30,004 columns easily fits in RAM. However, the number of unique terms in a corpus tends to grow exponentially with the number of documents. This is driven by a process known as Zipf's law⁶. Zipf's law means that in any corpus there are a handful of terms used almost always and many many terms used hardly ever. This leads to matrices that, if not stored efficiently, can quickly outpace available RAM. The below image depicts the result of trying to allocate memory for a matrix (corpus) with 100 thousand rows (documents) and 6 million terms (columns). Clearly memory-efficient data types are required for NLP. However, this raises a barrier to entry for those interested in NLP.



Computation time is also an issue in NLP, requiring the use of parallel computing. It is good that many NLP computation tasks are embarassinly parallel. Like memory-efficient data storage, parallel computing is a more advanced topic. These two properties make it difficult for many to perform NLP, even though it is often conceptually simple.

⁴Footnote or citation

⁵footnote or citation

 $^{^6{}m cite}.$

4 An Ideal Approach to Natural Language Processing in R

An ideal NLP framework for R should have the following characteristics: It should be easy to use for an experienced R programmer. It should be maximally interoperable with other R packages, instead of being its own ecosystem. Its syntax should be intuitive for experienced R users. Finally, it should scale for large NLP tasks. textmineR is a best effort at these characteristics. Used in conjunction with the text2vec library, the framework espoused by textmineR scales for corpora much larger than available RAM.

4.1 The standard NLP pipeline

4.2 Interoperability within R's ecosystem

To aid interoperability within R's ecosystem, textmineR makes use of data types available in the base package wherever possible. In the case of DTMs and TCMs, it employs the dgCMatrix from the Matrix package. dgCMatrix objects are widely-adopted and have many methods whose syntax parallels methods available for matrix objects in the base package.

4.2.1 Corpus and metadata management

R has two core data types well-suited for storing documents and metadata: data frames and lists. A corpus with relatively simple metadata may be stored as a data frame, with one variable containing the text of the documents. An example is the sample NIH dataset included with textmineR⁷. This dataset, callable by data(nih_sample) is stored as a data frame. There are five columns containing unstructured or semi-structured textual data: ABSTRACT_TEXT, NIH_SPENDING_CATS, PROJECT_TERMS, PHR, and PROJECT_TITLE. These columns are described in the table below. The nih_sample dataset contains 39 additional columns of metadata. Metadata include administrative information, geographic information, temporal information, and more. More complex metadata may be stored in a list. There is no need for any special corpus object with its own functions and methods. R's base library has this covered.

Variable Name	Variable Descripton
ABSTRACT_TEXT	The free-text abstract of an NIH-funded research project
NIH_SPENDING_CATS	Several key words tagged by NIH to the corresponding project corresponding to NIH's reports of spending to Congress
PROJECT_TERMS	Additional key words tagged to the corresponding project
PHR	The free-text field describing the public-health relevance of the corresponding research
PROJECT_TITLE	project The free-text title of the research project

 $^{^7}$ cite.

4.2.2 Sparse matrices for DTMs and TCMs

The dgCMatrix

textmineR need not be *the* framework for NLP in R. By building packages that operate on dgCMatrix objects, any number of packages can develop NLP techniques. textmineR and text2vec are already two libraries using dcCMatrix sparse matrices. In fact, textmineR's functions CreateDtm and CreateTcm are wrappers simplifying the syntax (at the expense of some flexibility) of text2vec.

4.3 textmineR's philosophy on syntax

4.4 Scaling textmineR

5 Why textmineR Improves on tm and other NLP Frameworks

The CRAN Task View on Natural Language Processing promotes the tm package as a standard framework for NLP in R. Specifically it states

In recent years, we have elaborated a framework to be used in packages dealing with the processing of written material: the package tm. Extension packages in this area are highly recommended to interface with tm's basic routines and useRs are cordially invited to join in the discussion on further developmens of this framework package.

tm is thoroughly programmed and well-established, having been around since at least 2008⁸. It has 29 reverse imports⁹ and depends as of this writing. tm has thorough vignettes demonstrating tm's applicability to many use cases in NLP and instructions for writing extensions to tm. The tm package shines in its extensions for platforms such as LexisNexis¹⁰, Factiva¹¹ and more.

Yet the tm package has two less-than-desireable properties: it is excessively object-oriented and it uses a somewhat esoteric data structure—with esoteric methods—as its sparse matrix data type. Unfortunately, this leads to a syntax that does not feel like an "R way" of doing things. The learning curve can be steep, even if the user is an experienced R programmer.

Consider the case of importing documents into tm's framework as an example. Users cannot create a DTM directly from a character vector or other core R data type. Instead, they must first create a Corpus object. This Corpus object is designed to hold the text and metadata of documents. (This report argues that a data.frame or list is sufficient. More on this in the next section.) As a prerequisite for creating a Corpus, users must first create a Source object. There are different methods and functions for creating a Source object, depending on how the documents are stored internally or externally to R. Readers of this report may type help(Source, package = "tm") or help(Corpus, package = "tm") to see the complexity of these objects. Typing help(meta, package = "tm") gives insight to tm's approach to metadata management.

The below code shows the differences in creating a DTM with tm and textmineR. The syntax of textmineR is much simpler, with transformations being passed as arguments to a single function. See section 6 for a deeper discussion of textmineR's CreateDtm function and on extending the framework employed by textmineR through the text2vec library.

⁸cite JSS paper

⁹Including textmineR

 $^{^{10}\}mathrm{See}$ package tm.plugin.lexisnexis on CRAN

¹¹See package tm.plugin.factiva on CRAN

```
data(nih_sample)
docs <- nih_sample$ABSTRACT_TEXT</pre>
names(docs) <- nih_sample$APPLICATION_ID</pre>
stopwords <- c(tm::stopwords("english"), tm::stopwords("SMART"))</pre>
### Creating a DTM with the tm package from a character vector ------
# Create a corpus object from a vector source
corp <- tm::Corpus(tm::VectorSource(docs))</pre>
# Perform document curation, lowering, removing non-alpha character,
# revmoval of stopwords, etc.
corp <- tm::tm_map(corp, tm::content_transformer(tolower))</pre>
corp <- tm::tm_map(x=corp, tm::removeWords, stopwords)</pre>
corp <- tm::tm_map(corp, tm::removePunctuation)</pre>
corp <- tm::tm_map(corp, tm::removeNumbers)</pre>
corp <- tm::tm_map(corp, tm::stripWhitespace)</pre>
# Create a final DTM
dtm <- tm::DocumentTermMatrix(corp)</pre>
### Creating a DTM with the textmineR package from a character vector ------
# note lowering, removal of non-alpha characters is the default behavior
dtm <- CreateDtm(doc_vec = docs,</pre>
                  ngram_window = c(1, 1),
                  stopword_vec = stopwords,
                  lower = TRUE,
                  remove_punctuation = TRUE,
                  remove_numbers = TRUE)
```

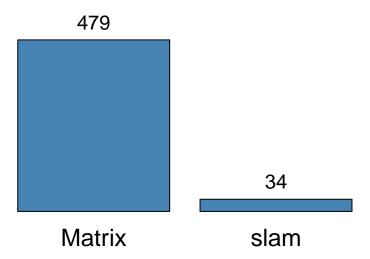
It is clear from the two types of Corpus object, that the makers of tm are concerned with scaleability issues. Corpus objects of type VCorpus are designed to be held in RAM, whereas Corpus types of PCorpus are designed to be held on disk, facilitating analyses of massive corpora. For most users, this much data is an exception rather than the rule. (cite HH analyzing the analyzers) It compels the question of whether or not the additional complexity and overhead are necessary for a corner case.

The tm package stores DTMs as a simple_triplet_matrix object from the slam package. Simple triplet matrices are a form of sparse matrix where only non-zero entries are stored. The "triplet" comes from the three standard columns: i is a row index, j is a column index, and v for the value at the (i,j) position. (i,j) entries that are not indexed in the i and j columns are assumed to be zero. There are two limitations to slam's simple_triplet_matrix class, however. Methods and functions for matrix manipulation and matrix math differ significantly from standard R dense matrices. This, again, makes for a steeper learning curve even when users are experienced R programmers. Second, simple_triplet_matrix objects are less-commonly used than other sparse matrix classes, notably from the Matrix package. (More on this in the next section.) This limits the availability of out-of-the-box statistical methods that can be performed on a DTM created by

the tm package.

The figure below illustrates

Number of Reverse Dependencies, Imports, Suggests, etc.

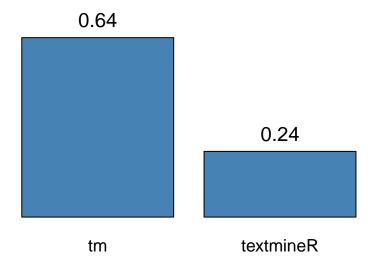


6 An Overview of textmineR's Functions

6.1 textmineR's core functions: CreateDtm and CreateTcm

textmineR has two core functions. CreateDtm creates document term matrices from a character vector. CreateTcm creates term co-occurence matrices from a character vector. Both functions have arguments allowing users to remove stop words, remove numbers, remove punctuation, tokenize unigrams and n-grams on spaces, convert terms to lowercase, an pass custom stemming and lemmatization functions. In addition, both automatically make use of parallelism on Windows and Unix-based operating systems. This parallelism is executed at the C++ level through text2vec and at the R level through textmineR's TmParallelApply function.

Mean Seconds to Create a DTM of 500 NIH Grant Abstracts



6.2 Topic models available in textmineR

6.2.1 Latent Semantic Analysis

```
data(nih_sample_dtm)
lsa <- FitLsaModel(dtm = nih_sample_dtm, k = 10)</pre>
```

6.2.2 Latent Dirichlet Allocation

6.2.3 Correlated Topic Models

```
data(nih_sample_dtm)
ctm <- FitCtmModel(dtm = nih_sample_dtm, k = 10)</pre>
```

6.2.4 Document Clustering as a Topic Model

6.3 Topic model utility functions in textmineR

6.3.1 CalcTopicModelR2

6.3.2 CalcLikelihood

6.3.3 CalcProbCoherence

6.3.4 CalcPhiPrime

```
data(nih_sample_topic_model)
data(nih_sample_dtm)
```

6.3.5 GetTopTerms

6.3.6 LabelTopics

6.4 Broadly-applicable functions available in textmineR

6.4.1 CalcHellingerDist

```
# Generate some random vectors
x <- rchisq(n = 100, df = 8)

y <- x ^ 2

mymat <- rbind(x, y)

# Get the Hellinger distance between them
CalcHellingerDist(x = mymat)</pre>
```

6.4.2 CalcJSDivergence

```
# Generate some random vectors
x <- rchisq(n = 100, df = 8)

y <- x ^ 2

mymat <- rbind(x, y)

# Get the Jensen-Shannon Divergence between them
CalcJSDivergence(x = mymat)</pre>
```

6.4.3 Dtm2Docs

```
data(nih_sample)
data(nih_sample_dtm)

# see the original documents
nih_sample$ABSTRACT_TEXT[ 1:3 ]

# see the new documents re-structured from the DTM
new_docs <- Dtm2Docs(dtm = nih_sample_dtm)

new_docs[ 1:3 ]</pre>
```

6.4.4 TmParallelApply

6.4.5 RecursiveRbind

6.5 Using textmineR with other NLP frameworks

7 Examples

7.1 Document Clustering

Describe document clustering describe dtm creation and vocab curation

describe tf-idf frequency reweighting

```
# TF-IDF Frequency re-weighting
idf <- log(nrow(dtm) / colSums(dtm > 0))

tfidf <- t(dtm) * idf

tfidf <- t(tfidf)</pre>
```

describe cosine similarity describe how dist object now works with any R clustering function

```
# Calculate document-to-document cosine similarity
csim <- tfidf / sqrt(rowSums(tfidf * tfidf))

csim <- csim %*% t(csim)

# Create a dist object of cosine distances
cdist <- as.dist(as.matrix(csim))

# Create an hclust object
doc_hclust <- hclust(cdist, method = "ward.D")</pre>
```

describe selection by silhouette

```
# Choose number of clusters with silhouette
silh <- parallel::mclapply(2:99, function(k){
    clust <- cutree(doc_hclust, k= k)

s <- cluster::silhouette(clust, dist = cdist)

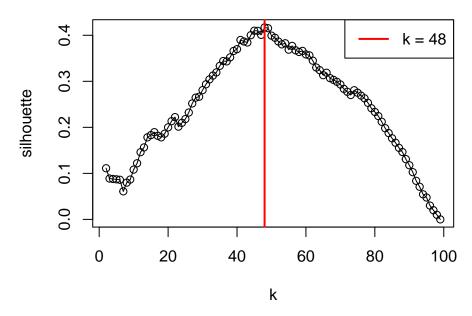
s <- summary(s)[ "avg.width" ]

data.frame(k = k, silhouette = as.numeric(s), stringsAsFactors = F)
}, mc.cores = parallel::detectCores())

silh <- do.call(rbind, silh)</pre>
```

describe selection by silhouette

Choose number of clusters with silhouette coefficient



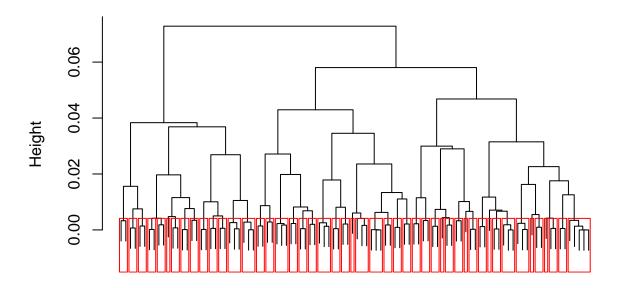
final k

```
k <- silh$k[ silh$silhouette == max(silh$silhouette) ]
doc_hclust$clustering <- cutree(doc_hclust, k = k)</pre>
```

describe final clustering

```
# Plot the document clustering
plot(doc_hclust, labels=rep("", nrow(dtm)))
rect.hclust(doc_hclust, k = k)
```

Cluster Dendrogram



cdist hclust (*, "ward.D")

```
# Get the titles of documents in cluster 2
nih_sample$PROJECT_TITLE[ doc_hclust$clustering == 2 ]
```

```
## [1] "Single molecule imaging of HIV Env"
```

- ## [2] "Overall Adminstration of Rare Diseases Clinical Research Consortia (RDCRC) "
- ## [3] "Direct Stimulation of Bacterial Metabolism with Applied Electrical Current"

7.2 Latent Dirichlet Allocation

Explain LDA overview

```
dtm <- dtm[ , vocabulary]</pre>
```

discuss selecting the number of topics and modeling choices

[1] 0.2606902

model\$r2

Explain model top terms, probabilistic coherence, topic labeling, topic prevalence

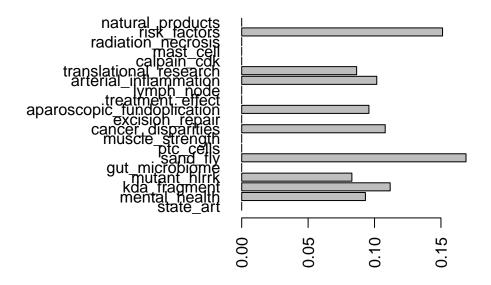
```
\mbox{\it \# top 5 terms of the model according to phi-prime}
model$top_terms <- GetTopTerms(phi = model$phi, M = 5)</pre>
# probabilistic coherence counting top 5 terms in each topic
model$coherence <- CalcProbCoherence(phi = model$phi, dtm=dtm)</pre>
# give a hard in/out assignment of topics in documents
model$assignments <- model$theta
model$assignments[ model$assignments < 0.05 ] <- 0</pre>
model$assignments <- model$assignments / rowSums(model$assignments)
model$assignments[ is.na(model$assignments) ] <- 0</pre>
# Get some topic labels using n-grams from the DTM
model$labels <- LabelTopics(assignments = model$assignments,</pre>
                             dtm = dtm,
                             M = 2)
model$doc_count <- colSums(model$assignments > 0)
# Create a summary matrix to view topics
model$topic_summary <- data.frame(topic = rownames(model$phi),</pre>
                                   top_terms = apply(model$top_terms, 2,
                                                       function(x) paste(x, collapse=", ")),
```

explain classifying a new document

```
# phi-prime, P(topic | words) for classifying new documents
model$phi_prime <- CalcPhiPrime(phi = model$phi, theta = model$theta, p_docs = rowSums(dtm))
# vectorize our new document
new_doc <- nih_sample$ABSTRACT_TEXT[ 100 ]

names(new_doc) <- nih_sample$APPLICATION_ID[ 100 ]

new_dtm <- CreateDtm(new_doc, ngram_window = c(1, 2))
# classify new topics with phi_prime
common_vocab <- intersect(colnames(new_dtm), colnames(model$phi_prime))
new_topics <- new_dtm[ , common_vocab ] %*% t(model$phi_prime[ , common_vocab])
# normalize rows
new_topics <- new_topics / rowSums(new_topics)
# give a hard in/out assignment and re-normalize
new_topics[ new_topics < 0.05 ] <- 0
new_topics <- new_topics / rowSums(new_topics)</pre>
```



7.3 Word embeddings with GloVe from text2vec

```
data(nih_sample)
tcm <- CreateTcm(doc_vec = nih_sample$ABSTRACT_TEXT, skipgram_window = 3)</pre>
glove_model <- text2vec::glove(tcm = tcm,</pre>
                               word_vectors_size = 10,
                               x_max = 10, learning_rate = 0.2,
                               num_iters = 50, grain_size = 1e5,
                               max cost = 100, convergence threshold = 0.005)
## 2016-04-25 11:50:29 - epoch 1, expected cost 0.0401
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 2, expected cost 0.0297
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 3, expected cost 0.0258
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 4, expected cost 0.0231
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 5, expected cost 0.0212
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 6, expected cost 0.0196
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 7, expected cost 0.0183
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 8, expected cost 0.0172
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 9, expected cost 0.0163
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 10, expected cost 0.0155
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 11, expected cost 0.0149
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 12, expected cost 0.0143
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 13, expected cost 0.0137
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 14, expected cost 0.0133
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 15, expected cost 0.0128
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 16, expected cost 0.0124
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 17, expected cost 0.0121
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 18, expected cost 0.0117
```

2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 19, expected cost 0.0115

```
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 20, expected cost 0.0112
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 21, expected cost 0.0109
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 22, expected cost 0.0107
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 23, expected cost 0.0105
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 24, expected cost 0.0102
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 25, expected cost 0.0101
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 26, expected cost 0.0099
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 27, expected cost 0.0097
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 28, expected cost 0.0095
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 29, expected cost 0.0094
## 2016-04-25 11:50:30 - epoch 30, expected cost 0.0092
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 31, expected cost 0.0091
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 32, expected cost 0.0090
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 33, expected cost 0.0088
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 34, expected cost 0.0087
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 35, expected cost 0.0086
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 36, expected cost 0.0085
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 37, expected cost 0.0084
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 38, expected cost 0.0083
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 39, expected cost 0.0082
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 40, expected cost 0.0081
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 41, expected cost 0.0080
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 42, expected cost 0.0080
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 43, expected cost 0.0079
```

```
## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 44, expected cost 0.0078

## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 45, expected cost 0.0077

## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 46, expected cost 0.0077

## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 47, expected cost 0.0076

## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 48, expected cost 0.0075

## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 49, expected cost 0.0075

## 2016-04-25 11:50:31 - epoch 49, expected cost 0.0074

glove_model$phi <- t(Reduce("+", glove_model$word_vectors) / 2)

colnames(glove_model$phi) <- colnames(tcm)</pre>
```

7.4 Document summarization