



# Vivian Ellis

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A Recommendation  
Engine for Relevant  
Segmentation  
Retrieval of Podcasts

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# 01

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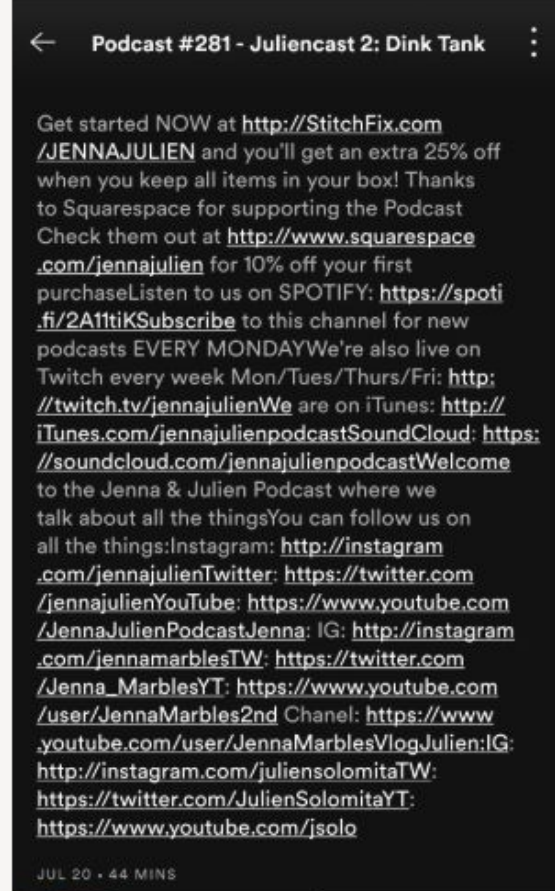
## INTRODUCTION



# CURRENT SEARCH FUNCTIONALITY

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- Combines episode title and description and matches a search query
- Episode title and description are written by the creators of the show



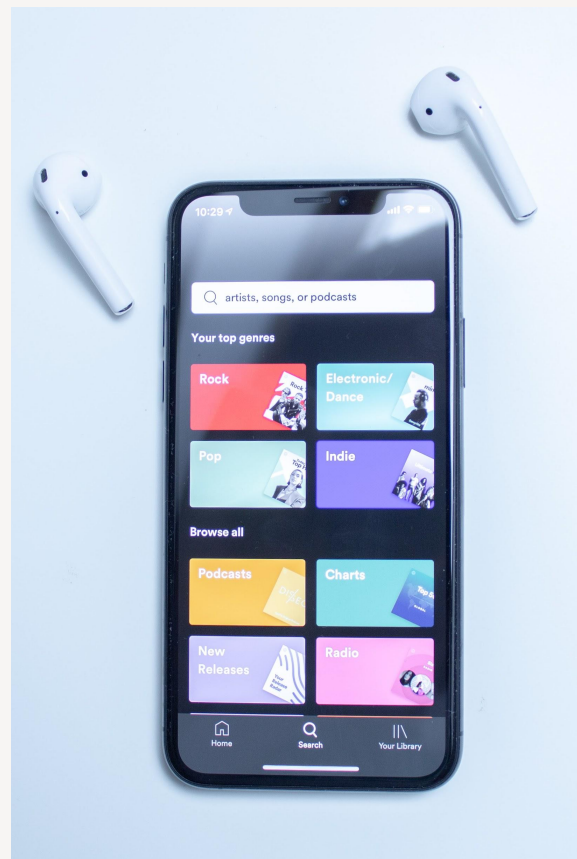
- A good description and title that accurately convey the content of the episode
- A bad description that contains ads and is not informative to a user

# Recommendation Engine for Spotify

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A scalable and experimental search engine is implemented in a three-phase model

- Query Expansion
- Topic Detection
- Retrieval and Ranking



# 02

## RELATED WORKS



# Sound and Music Recommendation with Knowledge Graphs

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Oramas & Ostuni (2017)

- DBPedia is used to enrich information about named entities
- WordNet synset is used for the disambiguated words
- Entities are mapped together to create links between audio with the same tag
- User interaction



# Introducing the Knowledge Graph: Things, Not Strings

Singhal (2012)

- Contains over 500 million objects and 35 billion facts from combined data sources:
  - Wikipedia
  - DBPedia
  - GeoNames
  - WordNet
  - CIA World Factbook



The screenshot shows the Wikipedia page for Eddie Aikau. At the top, there is a gallery of images including a portrait of Aikau, a photo of him surfing, and a photo of him with a surfboard. Below the gallery is the title "Eddie Aikau" and the subtitle "Lifeguard". A share icon is visible on the right. The main text describes Aikau as a Hawaiian lifeguard and surfer, mentioning his role at Waimea Bay and his achievements in surfing. Below the text are several biographical facts: "Born: May 4, 1946, [Kahului, HI](#)", "Died: March 17, 1978, [Hawaii](#)", "Spouse: [Linda Crosswhite](#) (m. 1972–1978)", "Residence: [Kahului, Hawaii, United States](#)", "Siblings: [Clyde Aikau](#), [Myra Aikau](#)", and "Parents: [Sol Aikau](#), [Henrietta Aikau](#)". At the bottom, there is a section titled "People also search for" with a "View 10+ more" link. This section displays five small images of related people: Clyde Aikau (labeled "Brother"), Duke Kahanamoku, Mark Foo, Nainoa Thompson, and Greg Noll. A "Feedback" link is located at the bottom right of the page.

# A Review Paper On The Application Of Knowledge Graph On Various Service Providing Platforms

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Nigam & Paul (2020)

- Facebook creates a personalized view of content based upon location and friend connections
- Uber Eats recommends food based on menu items, location and cuisines
- Netflix increases viewership of TV and movies
- LinkedIn a knowledge graph for the professional world

# TOPIC CLASSIFICATION IN SEARCH ENGINES

# Latent Dirichlet Allocation for Tag Recommendation

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Krestel & Fankhauser (2009)

# CATEGORIZING WEB CONTENT

Tagging:  
Organize, manage, and assist in the  
search for similar content

# LATENT DIRICHLET ALLOCATION VS ASSOCIATION RULES

LDA:

- Implemented using Gibbs sampling
- Outperformed AR in recall, f-measure, and tf-idf

AR:

- Recommend generic tags and frequent tags
- Ineffective in tag recommendation

# Latent Dirichlet Allocation in Web Spam Filtering.

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Bíró & Szabó (2008)

- A novel multi-corpus LDA is integrated in a search engine to reduce spam
- F-measure of 46%

# Topic-Aware Automatic Snippet Generation for Resolving Multiple Meaning on Web Search Result



Abe & Matsuhara (2018)



# CLUSTERING WEB SEARCH RESULTS

- Set the number of topics to three
- Return 1,000 web pages for each query
- Text from each web page was extracted and used as input for the LDA
- F-measure calculated 95.6%

# RELEVANCY AND RANKING IN INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

# A Comparison of Information Retrieval Models



Pannu & James (2014)

# EXPLORING ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES IN CLASSICAL IR TECHNIQUES

BM

Boolean Model

PRM

Probabilistic Retrieval  
Model

VSM

Vector Space Model

The documents and the queries need to be represented in a way that allows mathematical operations to be performed

# BM



- Based on set theory
- Requires dictionary of interesting words
- Query expressed using logical operators: AND, NOT, OR



- Does not return ranked list
- Exact matching criteria



- Determine the probability that a document within the corpus is relevant to the query
- Probability  $p$ : the number of relevant documents containing term over the total number of relevant documents
- Probability  $q$ : the number of irrelevant documents containing term over the total number of not relevant documents



- Probability  $p$  is set arbitrarily

# VSM



- Represents documents using a vector of words
- Words have weights calculated by tf-idf
- Relevancy determined by cosine similarity between query vector and document vector



- Loss of recall and accuracy

# Application of Topic Based Vector Space Model with WordNet



Wibowo & Handojo (2011)



# EXPANDING VSM INPUT

- The query keyword becomes a list of related terms using WordNet
- Each term has an associated relation score
- Tests on 350 documents and expanded queries with a varying level of relation scores

03

# DATASET



# ABOUT THE PODCASTS

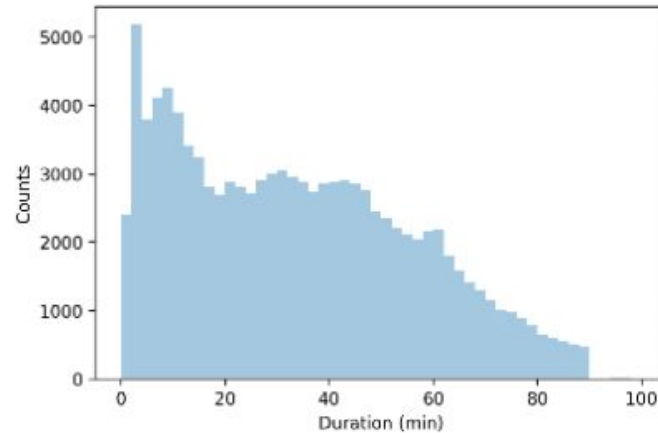
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- 100,000 text transcripts
- Contain only podcasts in English
- Noisy podcasts have been removed
- Unscripted to scripted and professionally developed to amateur
- Topics include arts & education, business & technology, comedy, educational, games, lifestyle & health, music, news & politics, society & culture, sports & recreation, stories, and true crime

# DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

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- Each episode ranges from less than a minute long to a maximum of 305 minutes
- An average length of 31.6 minutes
- Contains between 11 words and 43,504 words
- Average word count of 5,728



# CONTENTS OF THE DATASET

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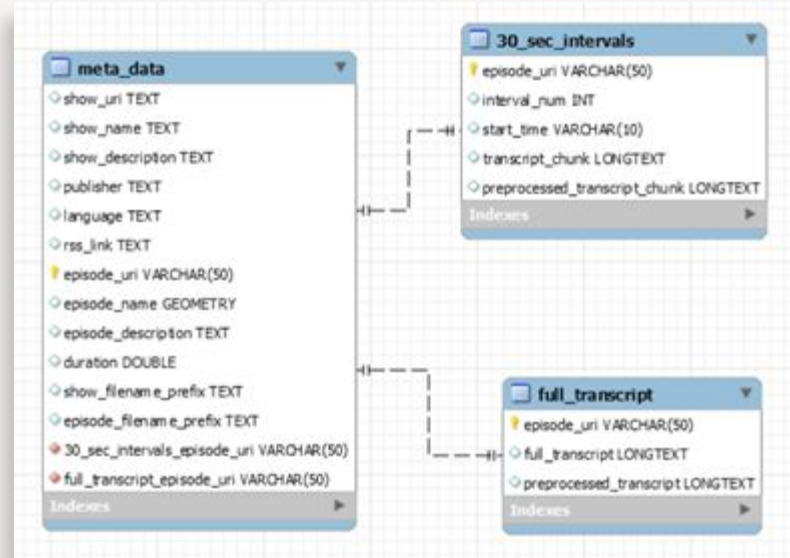
- Transcripts – a JSON file
  - Broken up into 30-second intervals
  - Each word has the associated start and end time
  - Estimated the size of the transcript JSON file to be 12GB
- Metadata – a CSV file
  - Metadata about each episode: show uri, show name, show description, publisher, language, rss link, episode uri, episode name, episode description, and duration.
- Query – a JSON file
  - 50 queries

# TRANSCRIPT JSON

```
{
  "results": [
    {
      "alternatives": [
        {
          "transcript": "Hello, y'all, ... <30 s worth of text> ... ",
          "confidence": 0.8640950322151184,
          "words": [
            {
              "startTime": "3s", "endTime": "3.300s", "word": "Hello,"
            }
          ]
        }
      ]
    },
    {
      "alternatives": [
        {
          "transcript": "Aaron ... ",
          "confidence": 0.7733442187309265,
          "words": [
            {
              "startTime": "30s", "endTime": "30.200s", "word": "Aaron"
            }
          ]
        }
      ]
    }
  ],
  "speakerTag": [
    {
      "words": [
        {
          "startTime": "3s", "endTime": "3.300s", "word": "Hello,", "speakerTag": 1
        }
      ]
    },
    {
      "startTime": "30s", "endTime": "30.200s", "word": "Aaron", "speakerTag": 1
    },
    {
      "startTime": "39.900s", "endTime": "40.500s", "word": "salon.", "speakerTag": 2
    }
  ]
}
```

# MYSQL DATABASE SCHEMA

- MySQL database is used to store metadata information and preprocessed transcripts
- JSON transcript files were parsed out to store the full transcript and each 30-second interval
- Full transcripts and 30-second intervals to undergo preprocessing before entering the database
- Episode uri is the primary key



04

# METHODOLOGY



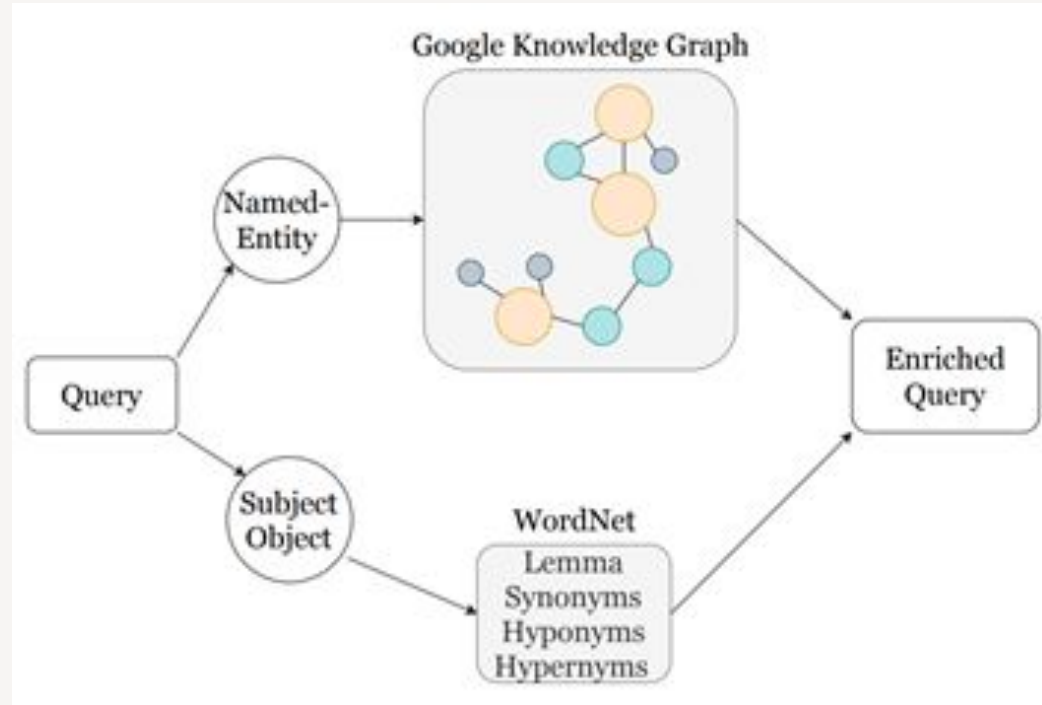


# METHODOLOGY

- Query expansion
- Topic detection using LDA
  - Visualizing the LDA model
  - Coherence score
  - Tuning
  - Query tagging
- Retrieval and ranking using VSM

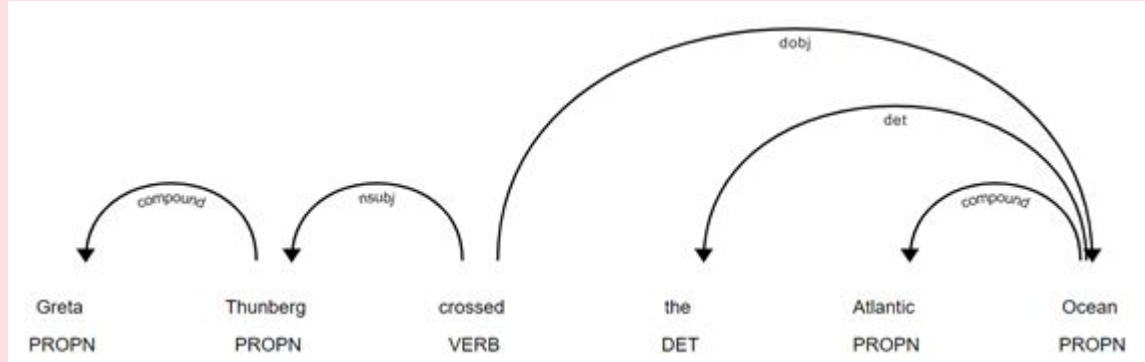
# QUERY EXPANSION

Enriched query will uncover user semantics



# COMPONENTS OF A SENTENCE

- The following sentence contains a direct object and a nominal subject, both of which are named entities that are linked to Google Knowledge Graph



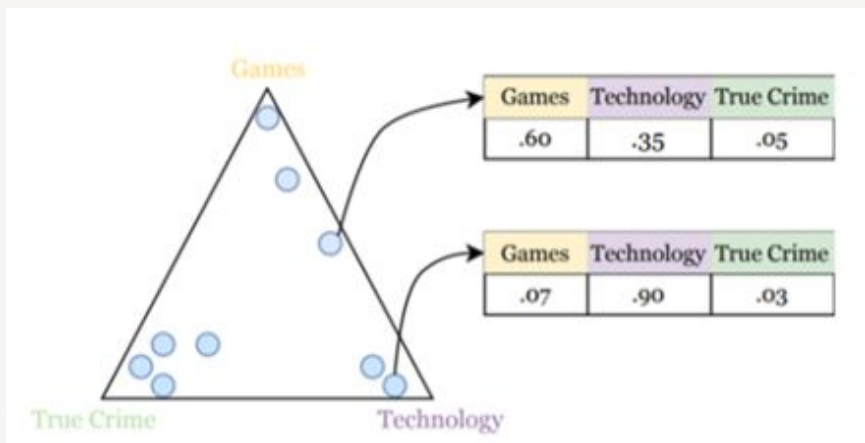
Text	Part-of-Speech	Dependency
How	ADV	advmod
was	AUX	ROOT
Greta	PROPN	compound
Thunberg	PROPN	poss
's	PART	case
sailing	NOUN	compound
trip	NOUN	nsubj
across	ADP	prep
the	DET	Det
Atlantic	PROPN	Compound
Ocean	PROPN	Pobj
related	VERB	Acomp
to	ADP	Prep
global	ADJ	Amod
climate	NOUN	Compound
change	NOUN	Pobj

- Structure of the following sentence, “How was Greta Thunberg’s sailing trip across the Atlantic Ocean related to global climate change”?

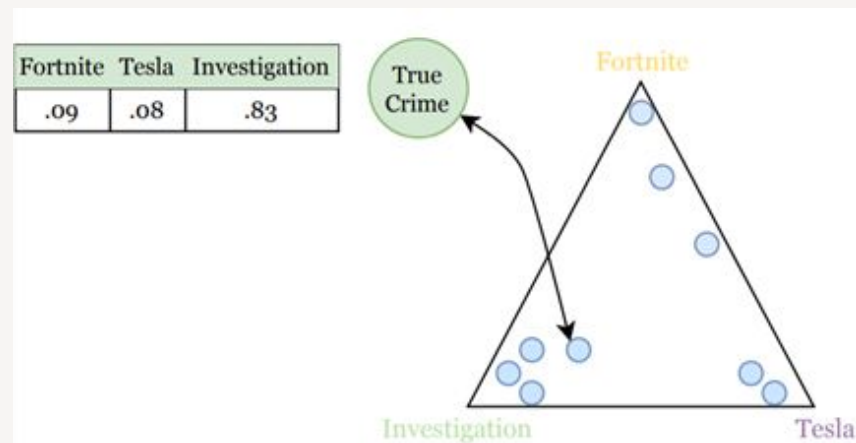
# INTERESTING WORDS

- Subjects, objects, and named entities
- Interesting words in the sentence “How was Greta Thunberg’s sailing trip across the Atlantic Ocean related to global climate change”:
  - Greta Thunberg, sailing trip, Atlantic Ocean, and climate change
- Interesting words that are not named entities are passed through WordNet
  - lemmas, synonyms, hyponyms, and hypernyms

# LATENT DIRICHLET ALLOCATION

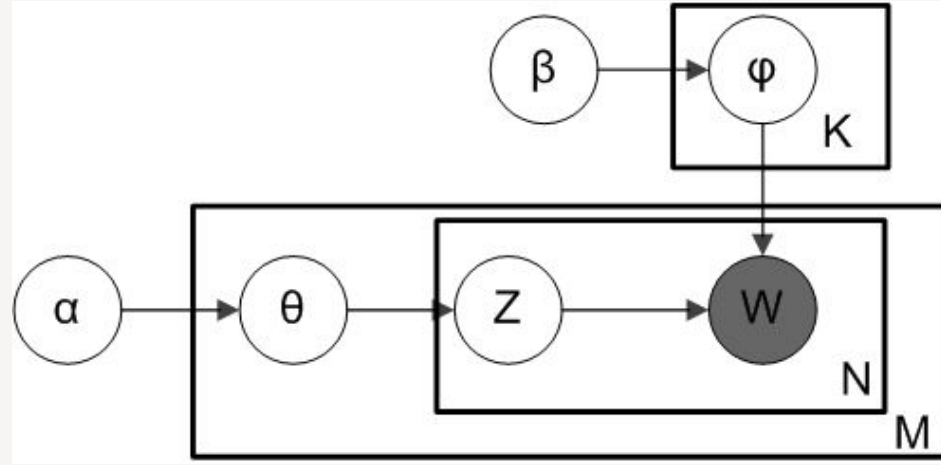


Per-Document  
Topics Distribution



Per-Topic Word  
Distributions

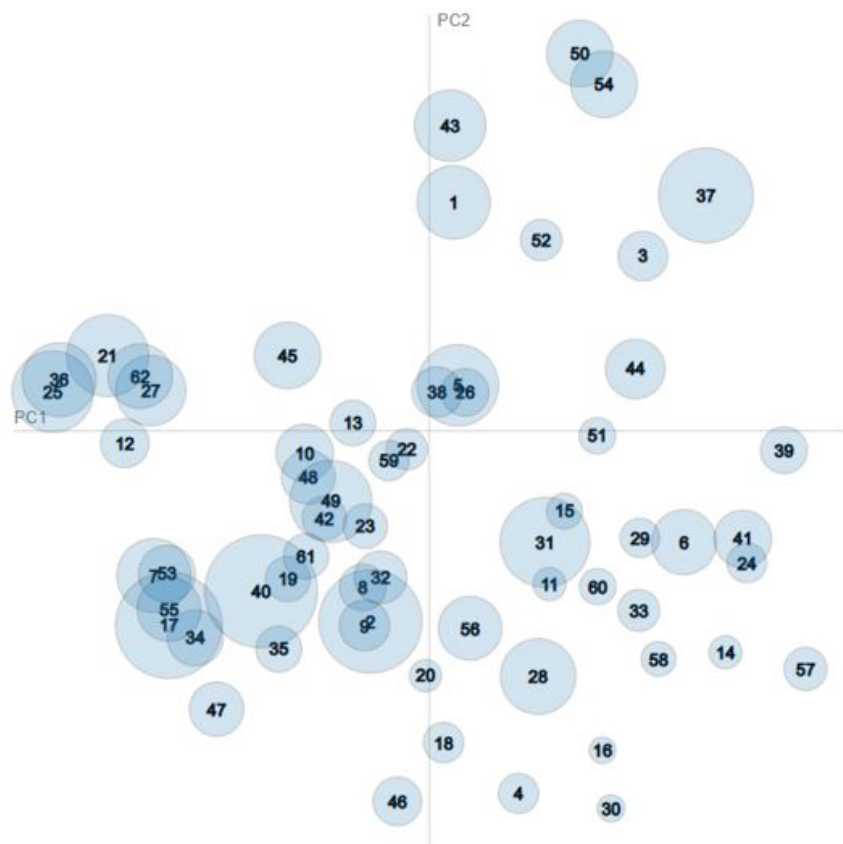
- $\alpha$  is the Dirichlet prior on the per-document topic distributions
- $\beta$  is the Dirichlet prior on the per-topic word distribution
- $\theta$  and  $\phi$ , defined as the topic distribution for documents and the word distribution for topic  $k$  respectively
- $Z$  is the list of topics
- $M$  is the corpus
- $N$  is a document



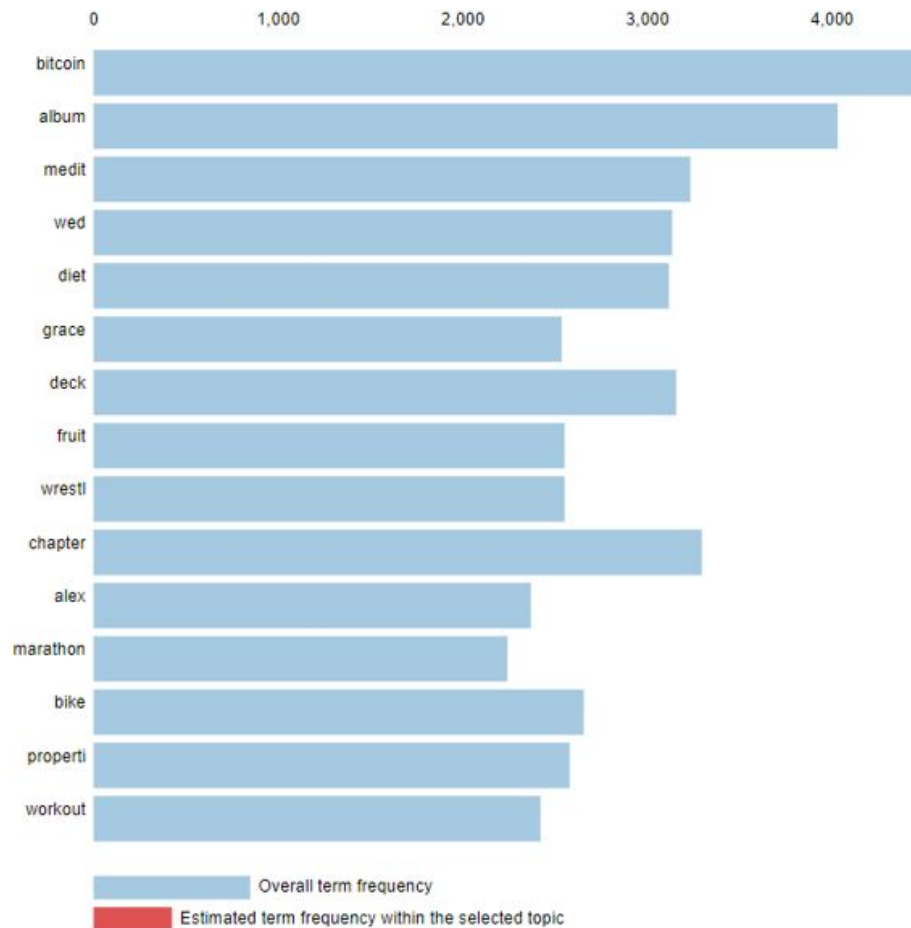


1. All the transcripts are tokenized to remove any punctuation
2. Boundary of each word is found to split the text into smaller units
3. Words that have fewer than 3 characters are removed
4. Each word is lemmatized to find a common root between words
5. Words are stemmed into root form to reduce inflection of words
6. A dictionary is created to tell us the number of times a word appears in the training set
7. The dictionary filters out very rare and very common words
8. A bag-of-words corpus is created

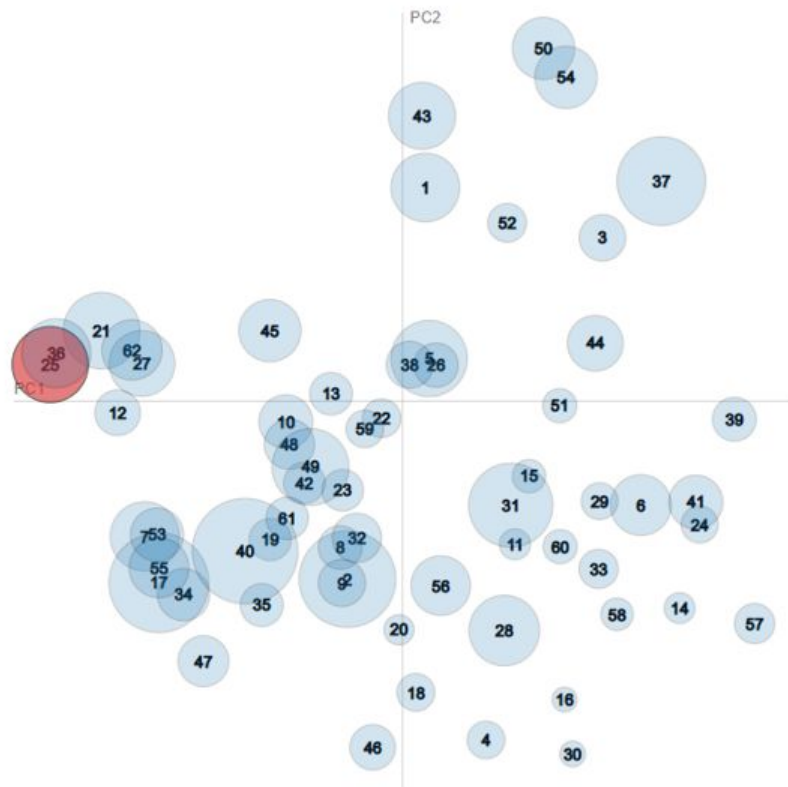
Intertopic Distance Map (via multidimensional scaling)



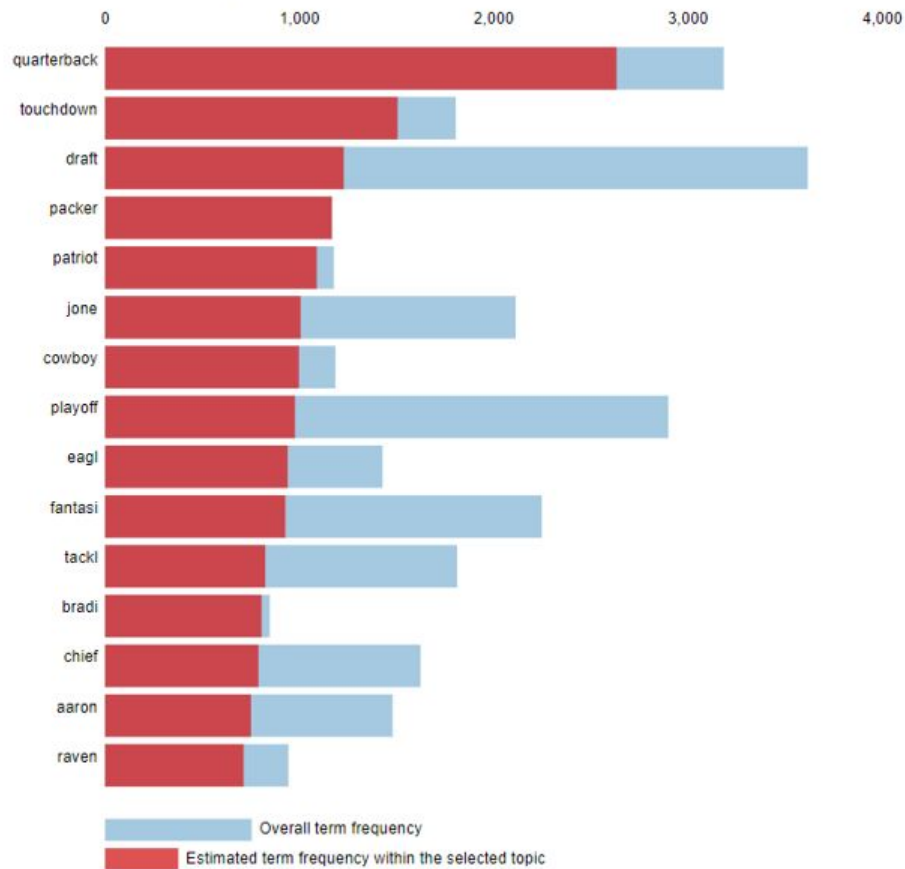
Top-15 Most Salient Terms



Intertopic Distance Map (via multidimensional scaling)



Top-15 Most Relevant Terms for Topic 25 (3% of tokens)



# LDA COHERENCE SCORE

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Coherence score reveals how similar the most relevant terms in a single topic are to each other to determine the interpretability of topics

The measure used to calculate coherence score is  $c_v$  and occurs in four steps:

1. Data segmentation
2. Probabilities of words
3. Confirmation measure
4. Mean of all confirmation measures is taken

# LDA COHERENCE SCORE

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The results are then normalized on a  $[-1,+1]$  scale where -1 indicates never occurs together, 0 for independence, and +1 for complete co-occurrence. The final coherence score of the LDA model is **0.537**

# TUNING THE LDA MODEL

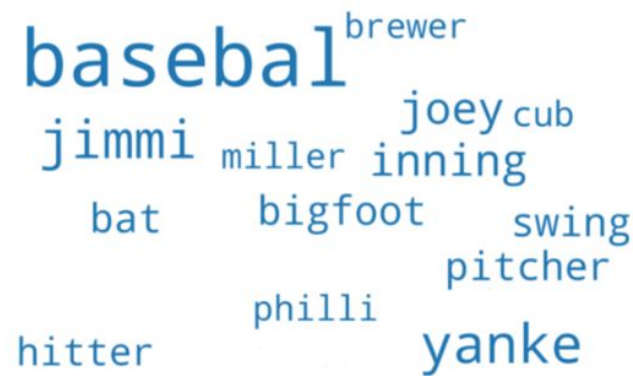
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<i>Beta</i>	<i>Alpha</i>					
	<i>0.01</i>	<i>0.31</i>	<i>0.61</i>	<i>0.91</i>	<i>symmetric</i>	<i>asymmetric</i>
<i>0.01</i>	0.536	0.510	0.510	0.543	0.534	0.525
<i>0.31</i>	0.530	0.538	0.490	0.517	0.527	0.527
<i>0.61</i>	0.535	0.531	0.515	0.496	0.522	0.540
<i>0.91</i>	0.519	0.534	0.516	0.499	0.512	0.497
<i>symmetric</i>	0.502	0.520	<b>0.551</b>	0.524	0.509	0.510

# QUERY TAGGING

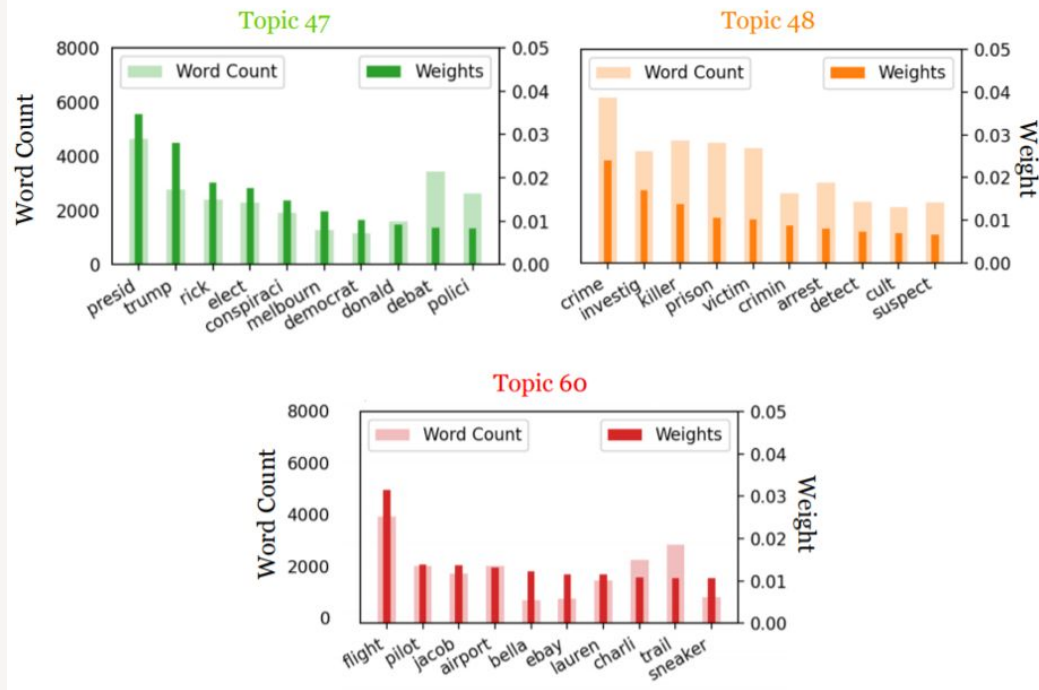
## LDA THRESHOLD

- Let the minimum probability of the LDA model be **.25**
- Returning only topics with the highest scoring probabilities



A word cloud visualization of baseball-related terms. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with 'baseball' being the largest and most prominent word at the top. Other words include 'brewer', 'joey cub', 'jimmie miller', 'inning', 'bat', 'bigfoot', 'swing', 'pitcher', 'philli', 'yanke', and 'hitter'.

- Let the query be 'Babe Ruth' the enriched GKG entity is returned and classified into Topic 12 with a **0.640** probability



“Who was involved in the assassination of JFK?”

- Interesting words are: involved, assassination and JFK

- Topic 47 with a 0.318 probability
- Topic 48 with a 0.176 probability
- Topic 60 with a 0.281 probability



# IMPROVING GKG RESULTS

Relevance Score: 7,758.24

1 of 81

## John F. Kennedy

35th U.S. President

Entity Types: Thing Person

*John Fitzgerald Kennedy, often referred to by his initials JFK, was an American politician who served as the 35th president of the United States from January 1961 until his assassination in November 1963.*

— Source: [en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org) (License)



[Image Source](#)

View on Google

Relevance Score: 2,438.61

2 of 81

## John F. Kennedy International Airport

Airport in Queens, New York

Entity Types: Airport Settlement Thing Place

*John F. Kennedy International Airport is an international airport in Queens, New York, USA, and one of the primary airports serving New York City.*

— Source: [en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org) (License)



[Image Source](#)

View on Google

Relevance Score: 1,185.92

3 of 81

## JFK

1991 film

Entity Types: Thing Movie

*JFK is a 1991 American epic political thriller film directed by Oliver Stone. It examines the events leading to the assassination of United States President John F.*

— Source: [en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org) (License)

View on Google

- Topic 47 with a 0.296 probability
- Topic 48 with a 0.586 probability

# VECTOR SPACE MODEL

# TERM FREQUENCY – INVERSE DOCUMENT FREQUENCY (TF-IDF)

$V = (w_1, \dots w_n)$  where  $i$  is the word on the  $i^{th}$ - dimension

$\vec{q} = (x_1, \dots x_n)$  where  $x_i$  is the count of  $w_i$  in the query

$\vec{d} = (y_1, \dots y_n)$  where  $y_i$  is the count of  $w_i$  in the document

# TERM FREQUENCY – INVERSE DOCUMENT FREQUENCY (TF-IDF)

$$TF = \frac{\text{Number of time the word occurs in the text}}{\text{Total number of words in text}}$$

$$IDF = \frac{\text{Total number of documents}}{\text{Number of documents with a word } t \text{ in it}}$$

## LAYER ONE:

### EPISODE LEVEL

Query and corpus are represented as vectors with tf-idf, and return all episodes with a cosine similarity greater than **.1**

## LAYER TWO:

### 30-SECOND INTERVALS

Query and the corpus of 30-second intervals are projected into a vector space. Cosine similarity is calculated with an arbitrary threshold of **.15**

# SEGMENT ASSESSMENT

- Excellent (3): the segment conveys highly relevant information
- Good (2): the segment conveys highly-to-somewhat relevant information, is a good entry point for a human listener
- Fair (1): the segment conveys somewhat relevant information but is a sub-par entry point for a human listener
- Bad (0): the segment is not relevant

# 05 RESULTS



# NORMALIZED DISCOUNTED CUMULATIVE GAIN

$$CG = \sum_{i=1}^n rel_i$$

$$DCG = \sum_i^n \frac{rel_i}{\log_2(i+1)}$$

$$iDCG = \sum_i^n \frac{idealrel_i}{\log_2(i+1)}$$

$$nDCG = \frac{DCG}{iDCG}$$



# NORMALIZED DISCOUNTED CUMULATIVE GAIN

Query: What were people saying about the spread of the novel coronavirus NCOV-19 in Wuhan at the end of 2019?

<i>rank</i>	<i>segment</i>	<i>rel</i>
1	And the strain of coronavirus now are two different things. So yes coronavirus was there before but this coronavirus is of different strain. So is this coronavirus something which we can call the which can cause in World epidemic that is a question again, which is very very biased and very very subjective. I feel not bias. I'm so sorry for using that book. So why is objective is because...	2
2	Was reading through this because I was also like okay this coronavirus is something I should know about and I should think why is this really going to be an epidemic? So basically coronavirus has no vaccine that is the problem here and has no no proper medications which can directly which we can say that this medicine if you have coronavirus you can see it. So there are no proper precautionary...	2
3	Me give me the Deets bro. Give me the Deets the DJ. So this will happen details are in case you don't know what okay, so why should me the Deets bro? So the wahad virus is busy lately. K1 is a place in China scary. Yes, you'll excuse me. Before we continue. We don't want to spread panic. All right want to spread any like Panic. So before we continue we would like to tell you guys that I will pray...	1
4	Iris now before we start to everybody who's listening to this, thank you. Please don't listen to all my other episodes which will come every Thursday and I'm really glad that you guys are so let's do it. Now. What is Coronavirus coronavirus and its relation with the Corolla alcohol? There is no relation guys. So sorry coronavirus is basically when you look into the microscope, when you look at the coronavirus, you see that it is in the shape of...	2
5	Come over and listen, then the second one is moose meat. Oh, yeah, probably something that must be reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. And then it's spread. Yeah. It's pretty little one but it wasn't there's no reason...	0

<i>rank</i>	<i>segment</i>	<i>rel</i>
6	Or coronavirus but in general, please wash your hands timely please maintain personal hygiene and hygiene when you cuff when you sneeze, please take a tissue paper and cover your mouth or your mouth when you cough and sneeze or take a cloth and do it wear masks. If you think you have a cold which can spread to others if it is a viral which is going viral if all these of all these precautions...	2
7	You already should yeah, I dropped the world the way yes, Lord cyclopaedia. Yeah, then I look down and it's like chemicals being spread your fucking donors back bending over or normal Le but honestly only 30 people of people are supposed...	0
8	What this virus and you show all the disease's we believe it because of this virus you should not have proper medications to cure yourself the Wuhan incident which we see from where the coronavirus outbreak has happened this the researchers which has been done on there and whatever from media channel channels and Outlets. We've heard that coronavirus stream is all this coronavirus stream...	1
9	Virus spread actually from from a seafood market in one is closely linked to the wanan seafood market where they sell this is fish my fish in animals do everything...	3

# NORMALIZED DISCOUNTED CUMULATIVE GAIN

Query: What were people saying about the spread of the novel coronavirus NCOV-19 in Wuhan at the end of 2019?

$$DCG = 6.554$$

$$iDCG = 7.586$$

$$nDCG = \mathbf{.864}$$

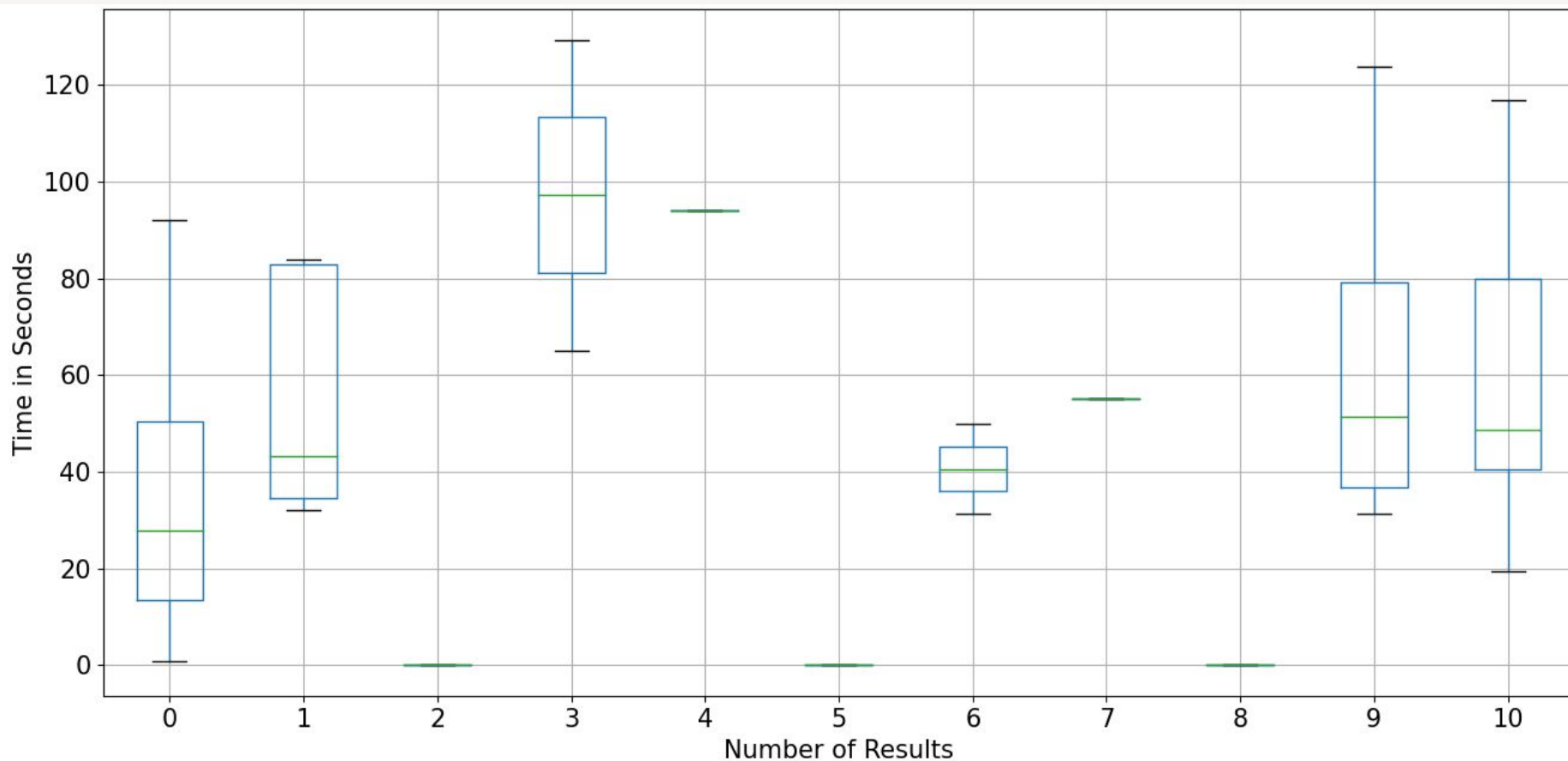
All nDCG values will be on the interval  $[0.0, 1.0]$  where a nDCG of 1.0 is a perfect ranking

# NORMALIZED DISCOUNTED CUMULATIVE GAIN

A test ran by lowering the threshold of the first layer VSM from .1 to .08 for all eight queries

<i>query</i>	<i>nDCG<sub>.1</sub></i>	<i>nDCG<sub>.08</sub></i>
1	0.864	0.789
2	N/A	N/A
3	0.897	0.897
4	0.557	0.557
5	N/A	0.6
6	1	1
7	N/A	1
8	0.567	0.737

# AVERAGE TIME COST OVER 5 RUNS



06

# FUTURE WORK



# FUTURE WORK

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- Incorporating user feedback, listening patterns, and content they follow for collaborative filtering
- Create a tailored experience for users to find relevant information based upon their listening habits on Spotify
- Expanding the LDA would allow the recommendation system to stay current
- Overcome VSM word mis-match
- DRMM to replace the second layer of VSM to increase the accuracy of the retrieved results



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07

# DISCUSSION

Thank you for your time  
Questions, comments, and feedback is now welcome

