Detecting the Absurd

A subreddit case study.

First World Problems

- Trivial problems from developed nations

- 261k members

Fifth World Problems

- Surreal Problems

- 151k members

How do we tell if a post is surreal or not?

- Collect posts from both subreddits

- Use a model to predict what subreddit a post comes from

Data

- Collection
- Cleaning
- Visualization

Collection

- Pushift Api
- ~ 10k posts with minimum score of 1000 per subreddit

Cleaning

- Dropping posts with invalid selftext

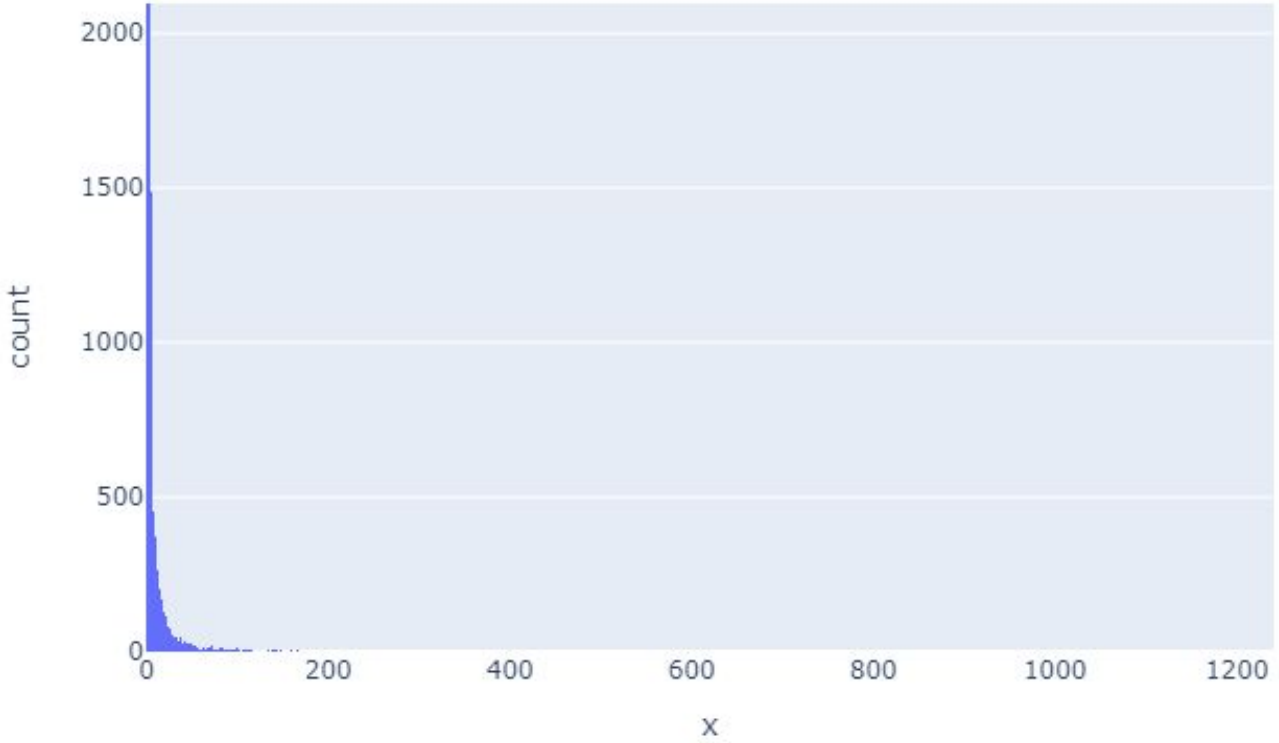
- Lemmatizing words

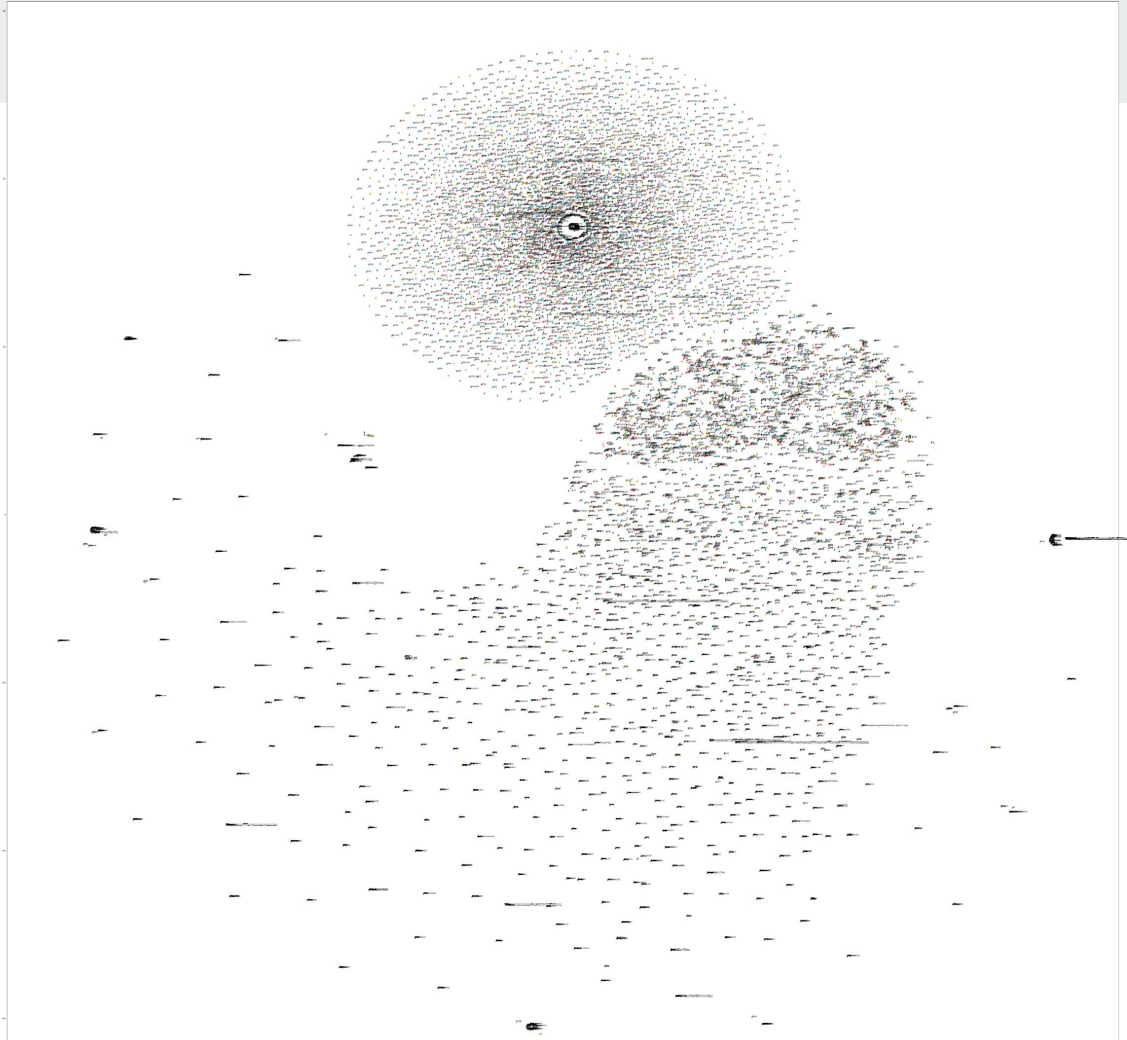
Visualization

- Distribution of words (histogram)

- Word association map (t-distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding)

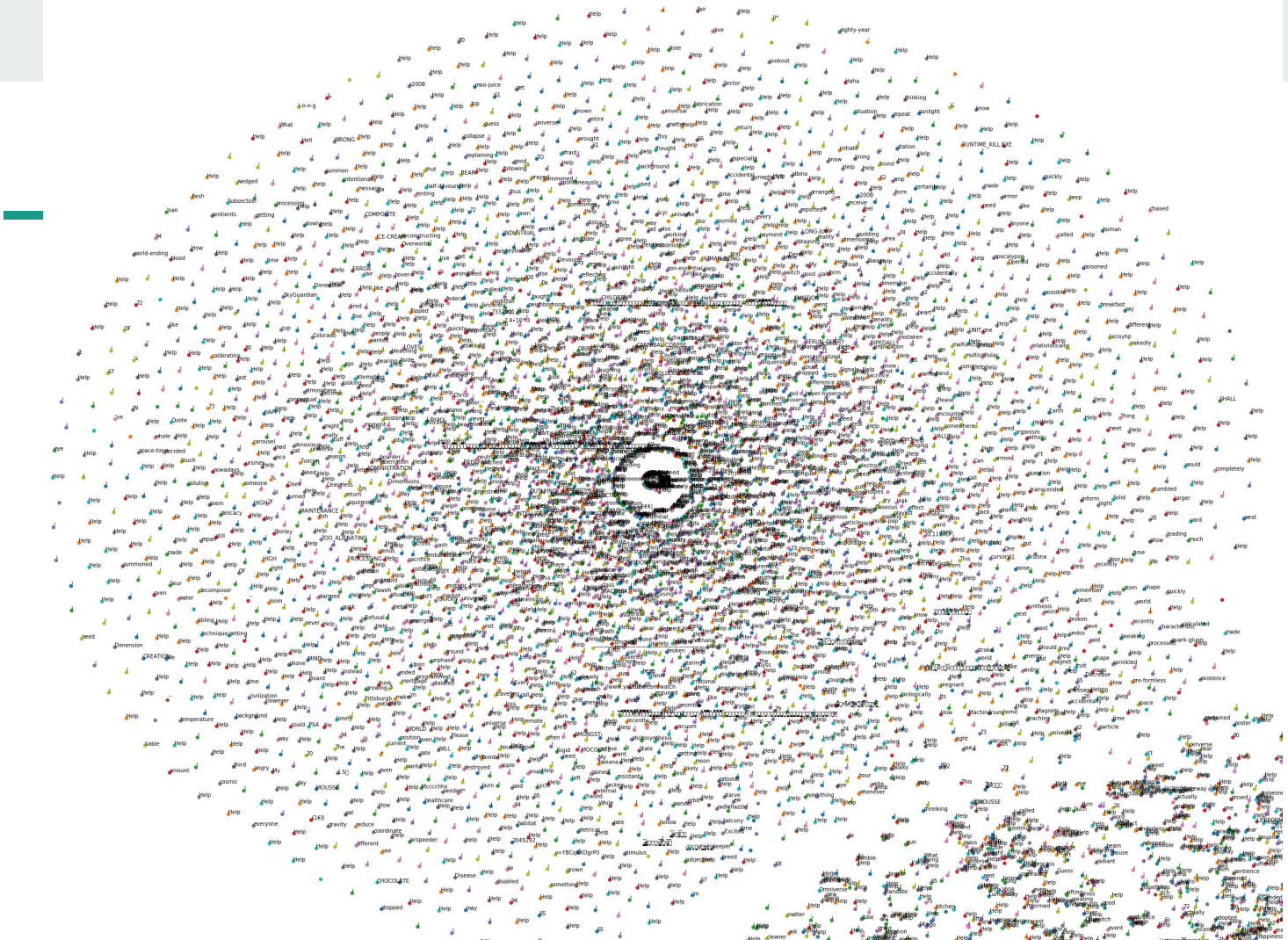
Distribution of WOrd Occurance





T-SNE

- Show word association
- Used to visualize high dimensional data
- Check out https://distill.pub/2016/misread-tsne/




20
0
Help
Help
LONGITUDE
94
80
Help

Modeling

- Many models tried (full list in Github repo)
- Grid search and train test split used to select and evaluate models
- Logistic regression classifier won out with 89% accuracy

Potential Uses

- Filtering out insincere complaints in a social media site, for example.

- Evaluating novel text for entertainment