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Improving unsupervised neural aspect extraction for online discussions using out-of-domain classification

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work was supported by Samsung Research



7th International Symposium on Language & Knowledge Engineering
Dublin, Ireland
29-31 Oct 2019

Aspect Extraction

“The **stew** was hot and delicious”

Objects of interest: aspects of the entities,
on which the opinions have been expressed

The tasks:

- 1) extract “**stew**” as an aspect
- 2) group other aspects of the similar kind into one **cluster**,
“stew”, “mole”, “borscht”, “goulash” ... [~“**food**”?]

Different methods: rule-based, supervised learning, unsupervised learning

Unsupervised Aspect Extraction

- does not rely on labeled data
- allows to work with new domains by design

Dominant approaches until recently: BTM and LDA-based topic modeling variants; each aspect = topic

ACL2017, ABAE: pretrained word embeddings + self-attention

An Unsupervised Neural Attention Model for Aspect Extraction

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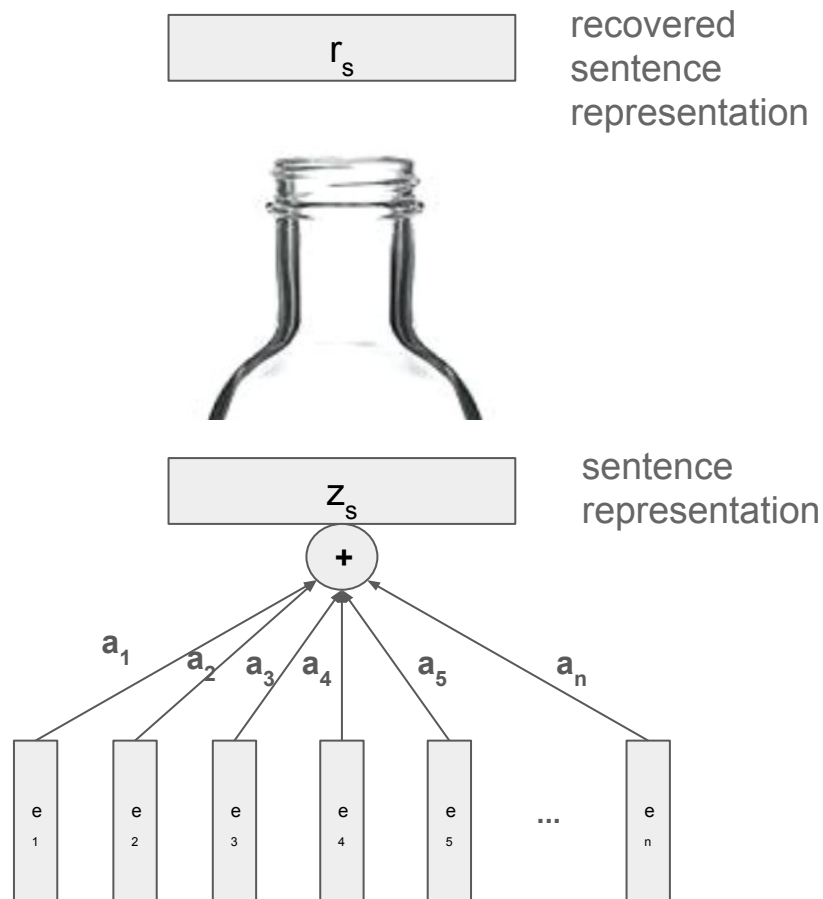
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Inferred Aspects	Representative Words	Gold Aspects
Main Dishes Dessert Drink Ingredient General	beef, duck, pork, mahi, filet, veal gelato, banana, caramel, cheesecake, pudding, vanilla bottle, selection, cocktail, beverage, pinot, sangria cucumber, scallion, smothered, stewed, chilli, cheddar cooking, homestyle, traditional, cuisine, authentic, freshness	Food
Physical Ambience Adjectives	wall, lighting, ceiling, wood, lounge, floor intimate, comfy, spacious, modern, relaxing, chic	Ambience
Staff Service	waitstaff, server, staff, waitress, bartender, waiter unprofessional, response, condescending, aggressive, behavior, rudeness	Staff
Price	charge, paid, bill, reservation, came, dollar	Price
Anecdotes	celebrate, anniversary, wife, fiance, recently, wedding	Anecdotes
Location General Other	park, street, village, avenue, manhattan, brooklyn excellent, great, enjoyed, best, wonderful, fantastic aged, reward, white, maison, mediocrity, principle	Misc.

What is ABAE, in brief: the model



Two linear feedforward layers:

$$\mathbf{r}_s = \mathbf{T}^\top \cdot \mathbf{p}_t$$

↑

$$\mathbf{p}_t = \text{softmax}(\mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{z}_s + \mathbf{b})$$

\mathbf{T} -- aspects embedding matrix $\mathbf{K} \times \mathbf{d}$
(\mathbf{K} aspects representations, each with the same number of dimensions as word embeddings)

\mathbf{p}_t -- a “share” of each aspect in a sentence in concern

What is ABAE, in brief: training

Negative sampling and max margin loss

$$J(\theta) = \sum_{s \in D} \sum_{i=1}^m \max(0, 1 - \mathbf{r}_s \mathbf{z}_s + \mathbf{r}_s \mathbf{n}_i)$$

+ the loss function that promotes topic diversity:

(\mathbf{U} reaches maximum when \mathbf{T} is orthogonal)

$$U(\theta) = \|\mathbf{T}_n \cdot \mathbf{T}_n^\top - \mathbf{I}\|$$

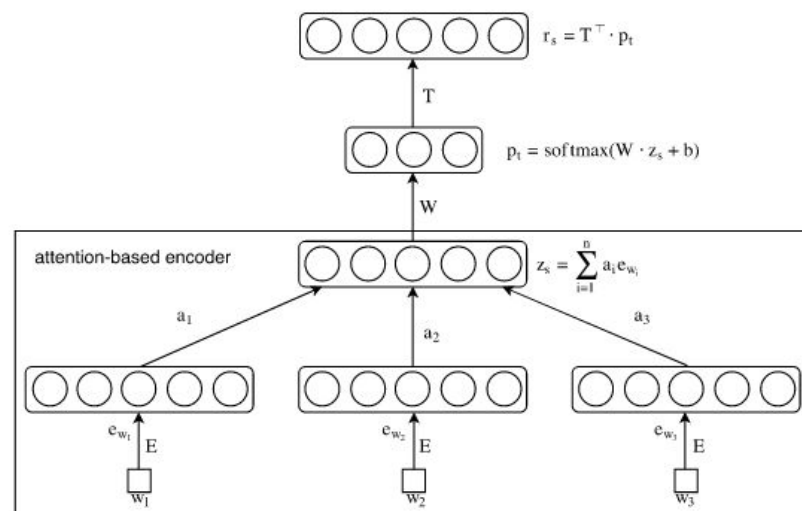


Figure 1: An example of the ABAE structure.

Why focusing on ABAE?

89 citations* and numerous diverse applications, including:

- **Extractive summaries** from multiple reviews
[Angelidis et al. 2018] [1808.08858](#)
- Summary extraction, **user profiling**
[Micheltree et al. 2018] [1804.08666](#)
- Text-based **recommender systems**
[Nikolenko et al. 2019] [1901.07829](#)

Idea: what if we apply to non-review data?

...to [possibly] enhance other tasks
[as topic modeling already did]

Yields aspects of challengeable quality!

No surprise: trained on sentences ⇒

we implicitly assume there are aspects in **each** sentence

Possible cause: in non-review texts,
authors are *less focused* on the topic/object of discussion ⇒
not every sentence is on the topic

RQ: can we improve the aspects coherence with doing data preprocessing in a slightly more sophisticated manner?

Improving coherence with text preprocessing

- **tweet pooling** by hashtags in order to improve LDA topics
[Mehrotra et al.'16]
- term-weighting approach for the LDA input in order to **promote named entities**
[Krasnashchok et al.'18]
- thesaurus **relations-based** LDA weights modifications improve coherence
[Loukachevitch et al.'18]

Proposed approach: removing out-of-domain sentences

Given:

- ID (in-domain) target text collection we are to extract aspects from
- OOD (out-of-domain): unrelated, out-of-domain texts (collected)

Method:

- 1) split all texts into sentences
- 2) train a probabilistic classifier separating ID sentences from OOD sentences
- 3) compute the trained classifier scores for all the sentences in ID
- 4) remove sentences with scores lower than certain threshold
- 5) train the aspect extraction model on the remaining sentences

Out-of-domain classifier's scores for sentences from the *sci.electronics* newsgroup

Score	Sentence after preprocessing with NLTK
0.844	paul simundza writes probably tell dc blocking capacitor series one chip single ended audio amp spe
0.836	open look power amp ic
0.047	fairly obvious
0.466	replace one connected dead output
0.668	well one thing poke around terminal power amp chip

Experimental settings

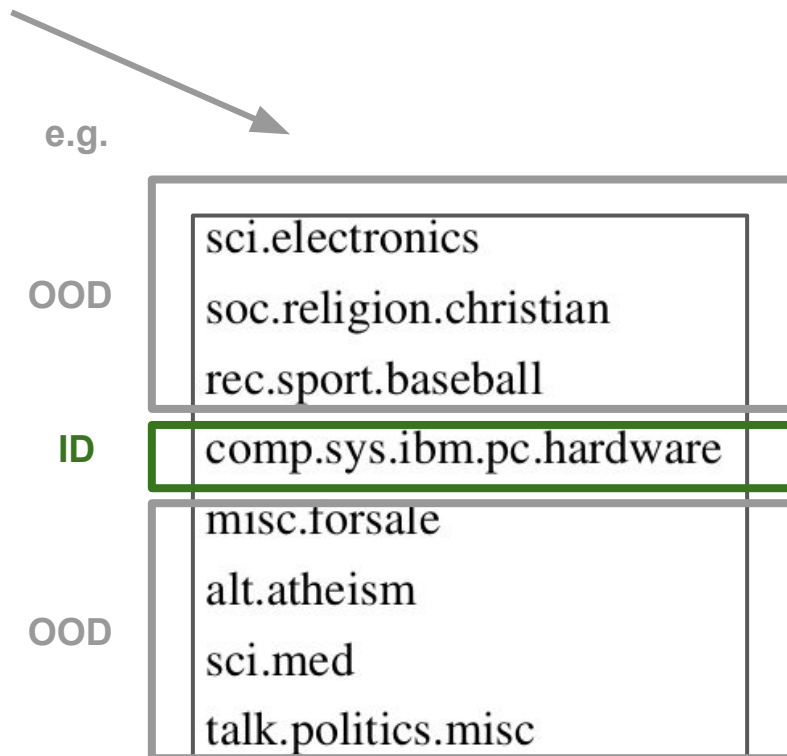
Data: selected diverse topics from 20Newsgroups

Model (ABAE):

- 15 aspects (topics)
- 20 negative samples
- 10 epochs
- batch size of 256 on one GPU

word2vec: SGNS vectors, trained on the corresponding domain (newsgroup)
dimension is 200,
window size equals 10,
5 negative samples

Baseline: OnlineLDA model [Hoffman et al.' 10]
trained with gensim [Rehurek et al.' 10] with default parameters (same vocabulary, same number of aspects)



Experiment results: aspects

ABAE trained on all sentences in a post (less coherent)	ABAE trained on selected sentences (more coherent)
<p> <num> <pad> raffle anyone copy time frequency chip source take much <num>greggo <unk>mc68882rc33 <pad> raffle <unk>raffle <pad>greggo mc68882rc33 <num> ca input dtmedin b30 catbyte ingr uunet com uucp look mail edu university writes com email uk copy anyone know could would help get edu university uk henry toronto mail input pin output data latch voltage input output data voltage pin high ca mb bison baden inqmind de sys6626 bb connected outlet hot wire grounding neutral ground wire conductor neutral outlet connected mc68882rc33 <pad>greggo input raffle voltage phone neoucom edu department oh usa computer service </p>	<p> wiring green cable box gfcı grounded case voltage input supply output signal power circuit edu university uk mail fax email internet dc digital wave drive per data decimal state com dtmedin b30 catbyte uunet ingr uucp al everywhere radar detector number someone radio law shack ca mb bison baden inqmind de sys6626 mind bb bari best year around machine least seems band phone neoucom departmentedu oh usa computer uhura pin input latch output data voltage supply ground wire neutral conductor box outlet grounding uk mail university email com edu fax internet would anyone know copy get could want pin input neutral voltage connected wire current copy anyone know could would help </p>

Evaluation: PMI and NPMI

Standard PMI-coherence:
averaged per-topic
PMI value for every pair
of top **N** tokens computed
either on the training set
or the heldout data

$$C_{\text{PMI}} = \frac{2}{N(N-1)} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^N \text{PMI}(w_i, w_j),$$

where

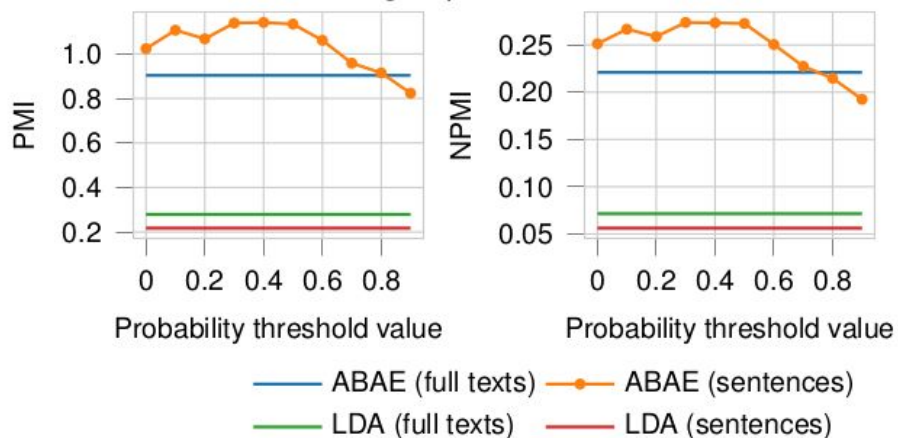
$$\text{PMI}(w_i, w_j) = \log \frac{P(w_i, w_j) + \epsilon}{P(w_i)P(w_j)};$$

And its normalized
modification

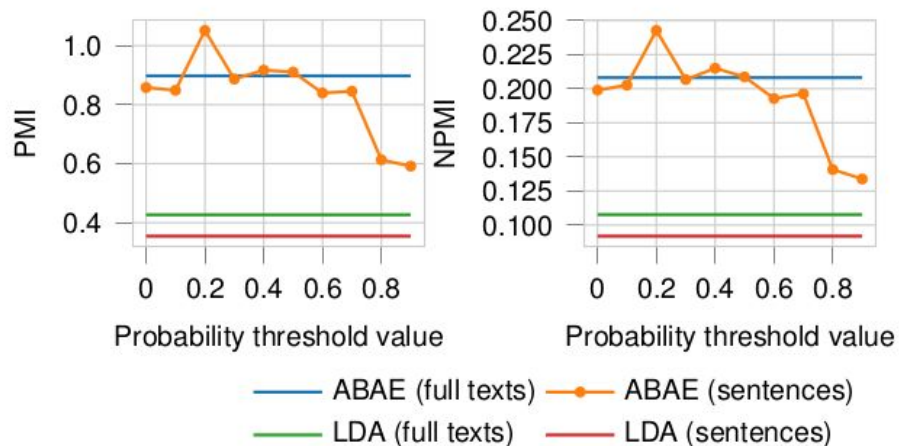
$$\text{NPMI}(w_i, w_j) = \left(\frac{\text{PMI}(w_i, w_j)}{-\log P(w_i, w_j) + \epsilon} \right)$$

Evaluation

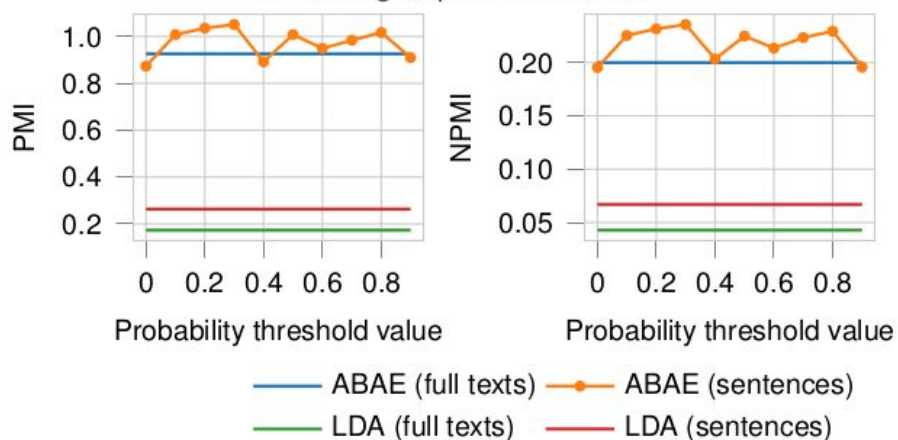
20 Newsgroups: alt.atheism



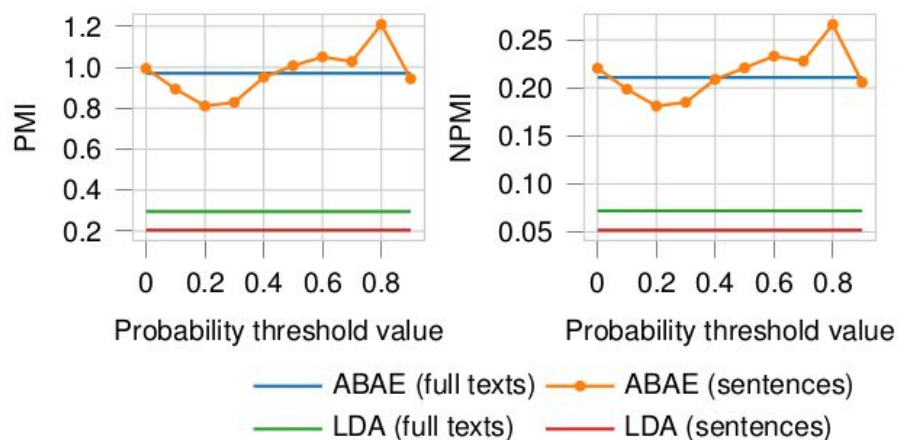
20 Newsgroups: comp.sys.ibm.pc.hardware



20 Newsgroups: misc.forsale

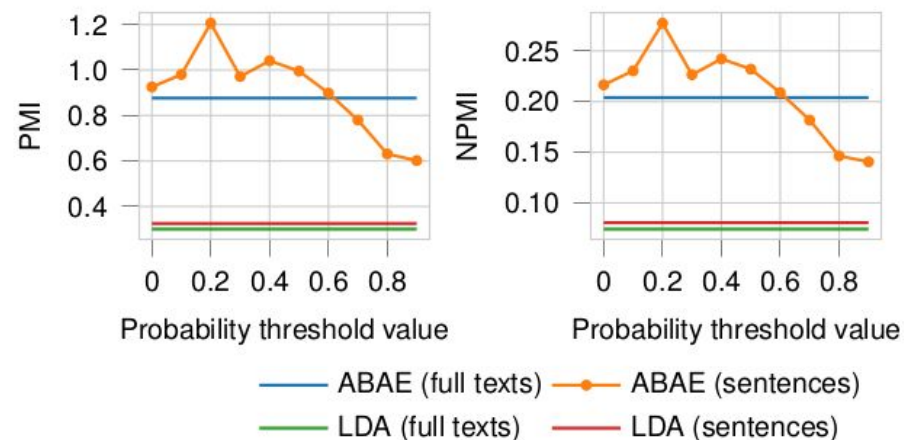


20 Newsgroups: rec.sport.baseball

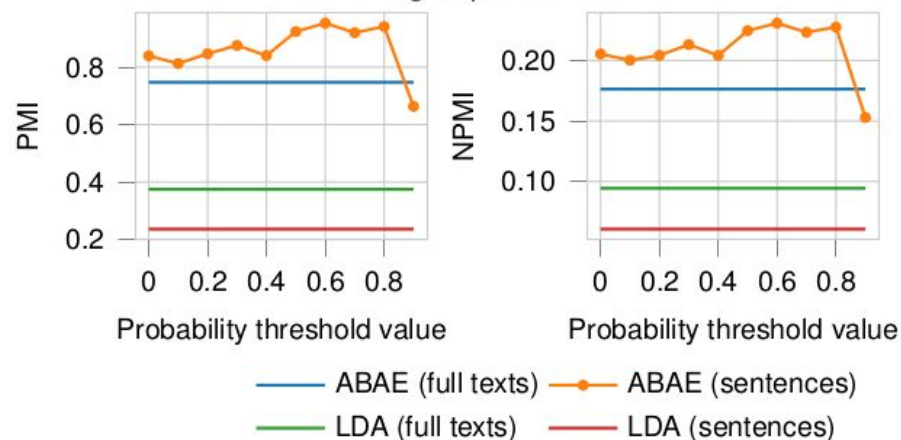


Evaluation

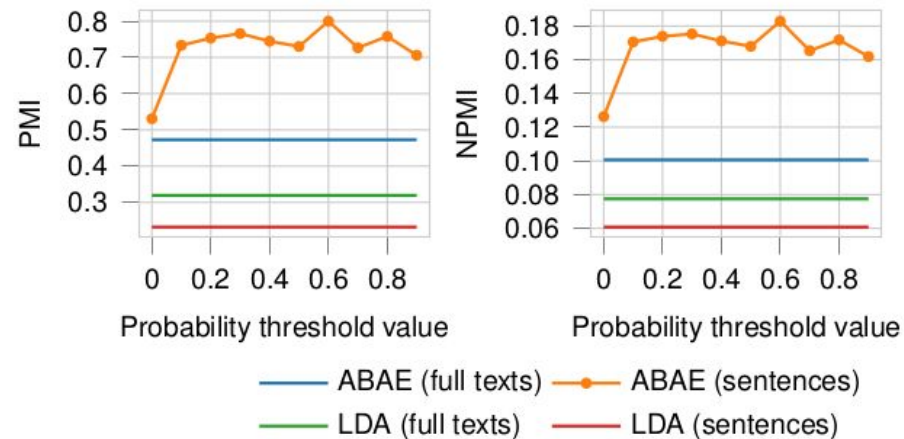
20 Newsgroups: sci.electronics



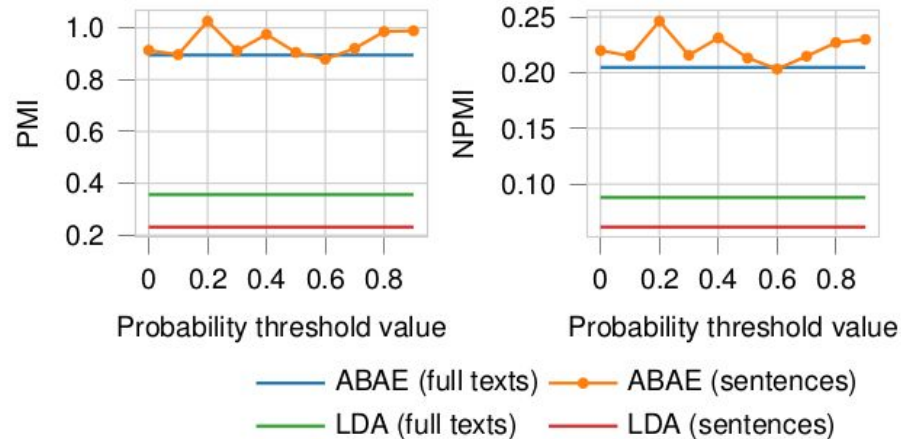
20 Newsgroups: sci.med



20 Newsgroups: soc.religion.christian



20 Newsgroups: talk.politics.misc



Conclusion and future work

Proposed technique can improve aspects coherence -- even with a simple discriminative BoW classifier without proper tuning

Future work:

- try more advanced classifications methods
- develop a reliable technique for the filtering threshold selection and make it a tool

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Thank you for your attention!

Q&A

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Goodness of fit

The evaluation results of the binary classifier on the training sets for each newsgroup.

Newsgroup (<i>ID</i>)	Precision	Recall	Accuracy
sci.electronics	0.89	0.19	0.97
soc.religion.christian	0.82	0.36	0.95
rec.sport.baseball	0.92	0.36	0.97
comp.sys.ibm.pc.hardware	0.79	0.22	0.97
misc.forsale	0.87	0.29	0.98
alt.atheism	0.76	0.18	0.95
sci.med	0.94	0.35	0.96
talk.politics.misc	0.86	0.22	0.94