

# Topic Compositional Neural Language Model

Wang et al 2018  
AISTATS

Presenter Robert Thorstad

# What Does *Magical* Mean?

1) Salman Rushdie uses magical realism.

Context: fiction book

2) I watched Calvin Harris and it was magical

Context: music performance

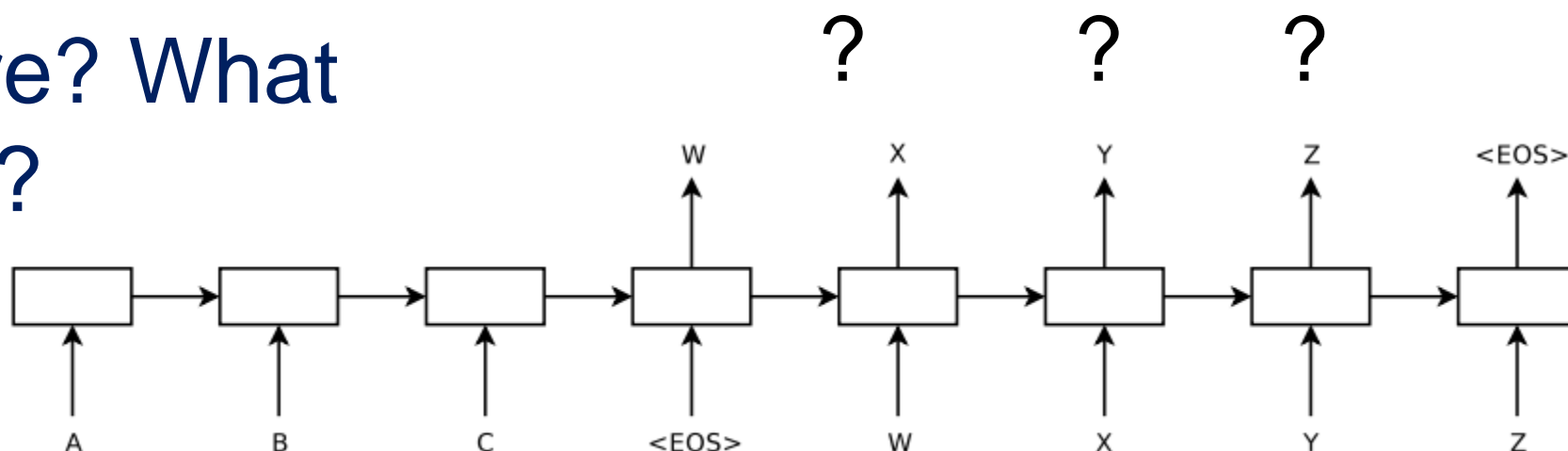
3) Herbs have enormous magical power.

Context: book on wizardry

**Need to  
know  
context!**

# Traditional language models lack long-range context

What came  
before? What  
is “it”?



It was magical

(Sutskever, Vinyals, & Le, 2012)

# What Does *Magical* Mean?

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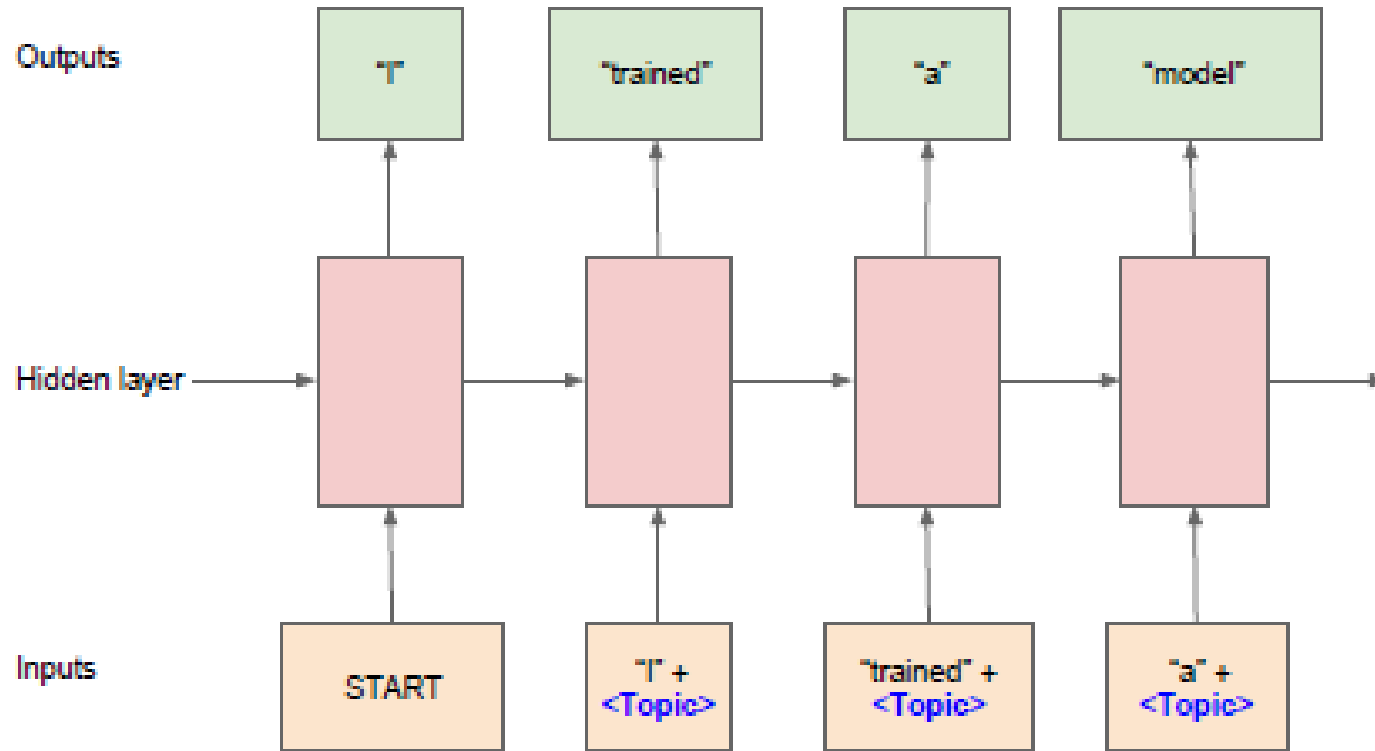
Context: music performance

3) Herbs have enormous magical power.

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**Insight:**  
**Context**  
**mostly**  
**semantic**

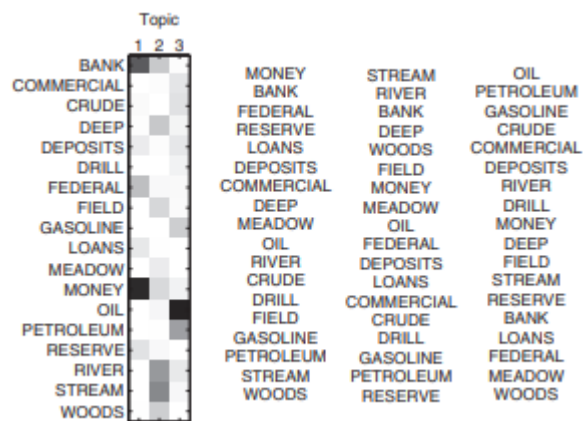
# Idea: Add context using topic model



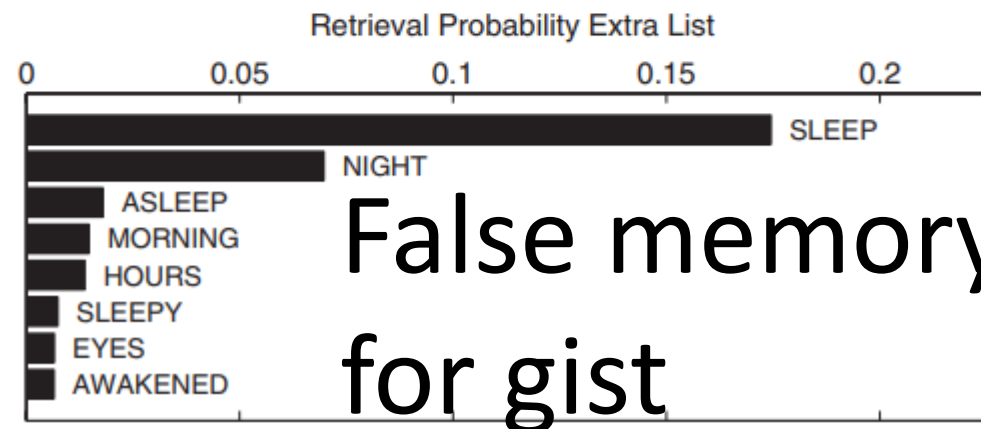
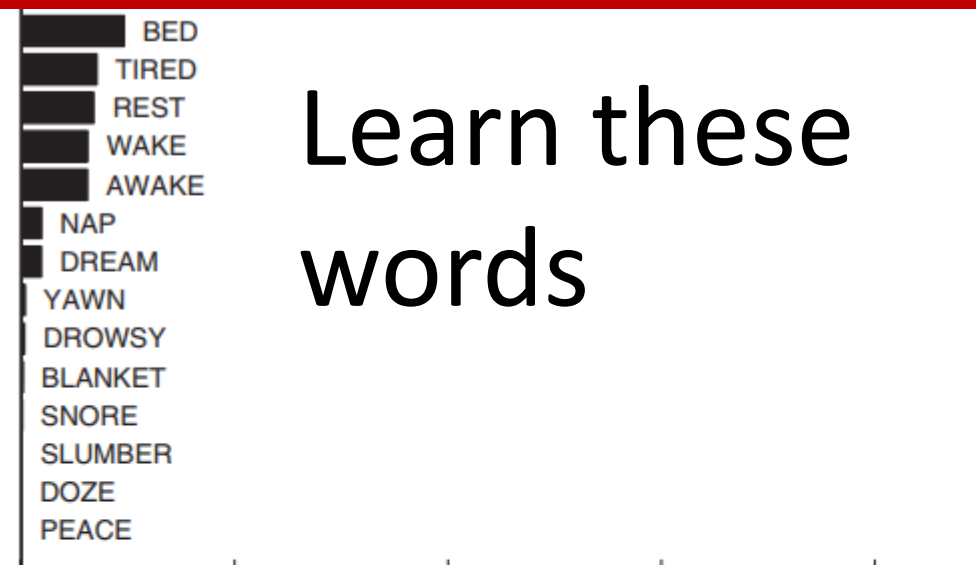
(Ghosh et al, 2016; similar idea by Mikolov et al, 2012)

# Adding Topics Tells us Something About Psychology

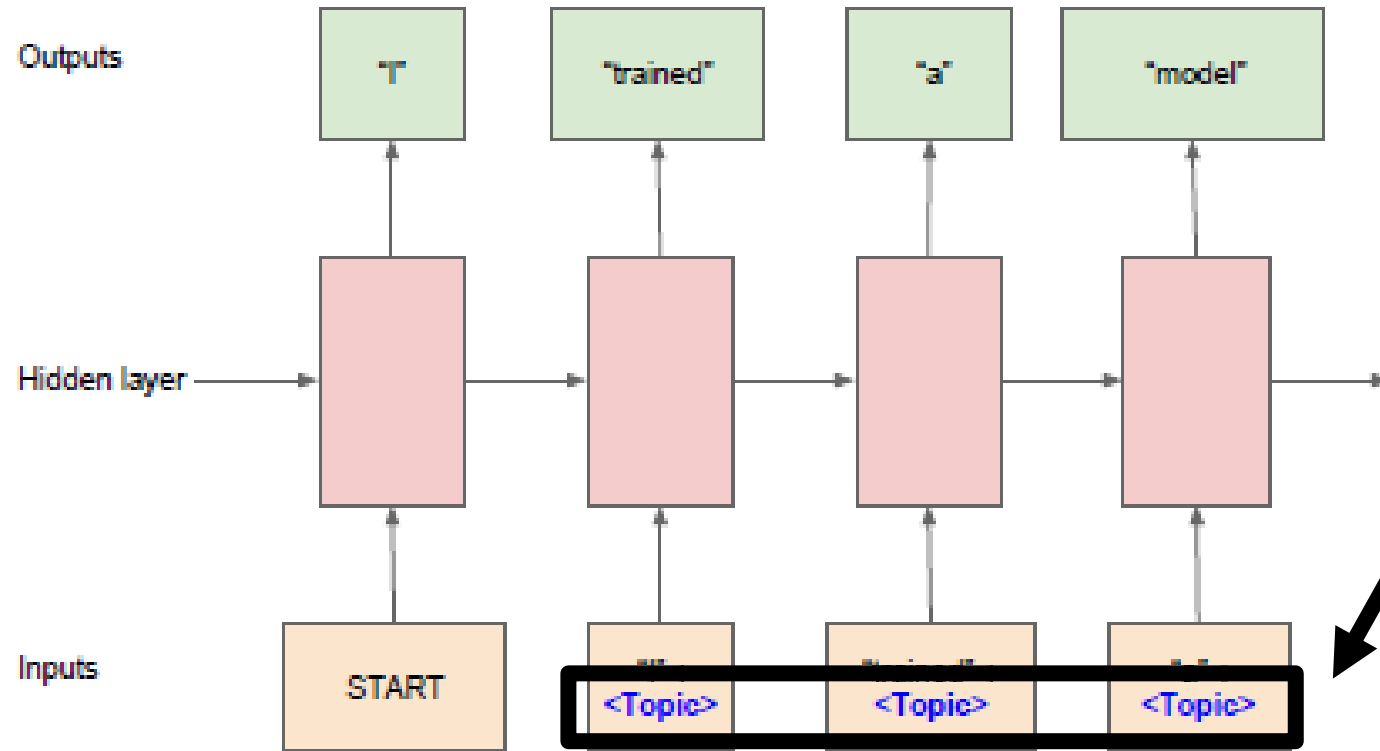
## Topics as models of semantic knowledge base



(Griffiths, Steyvers, & Tenenbaum, 2007)



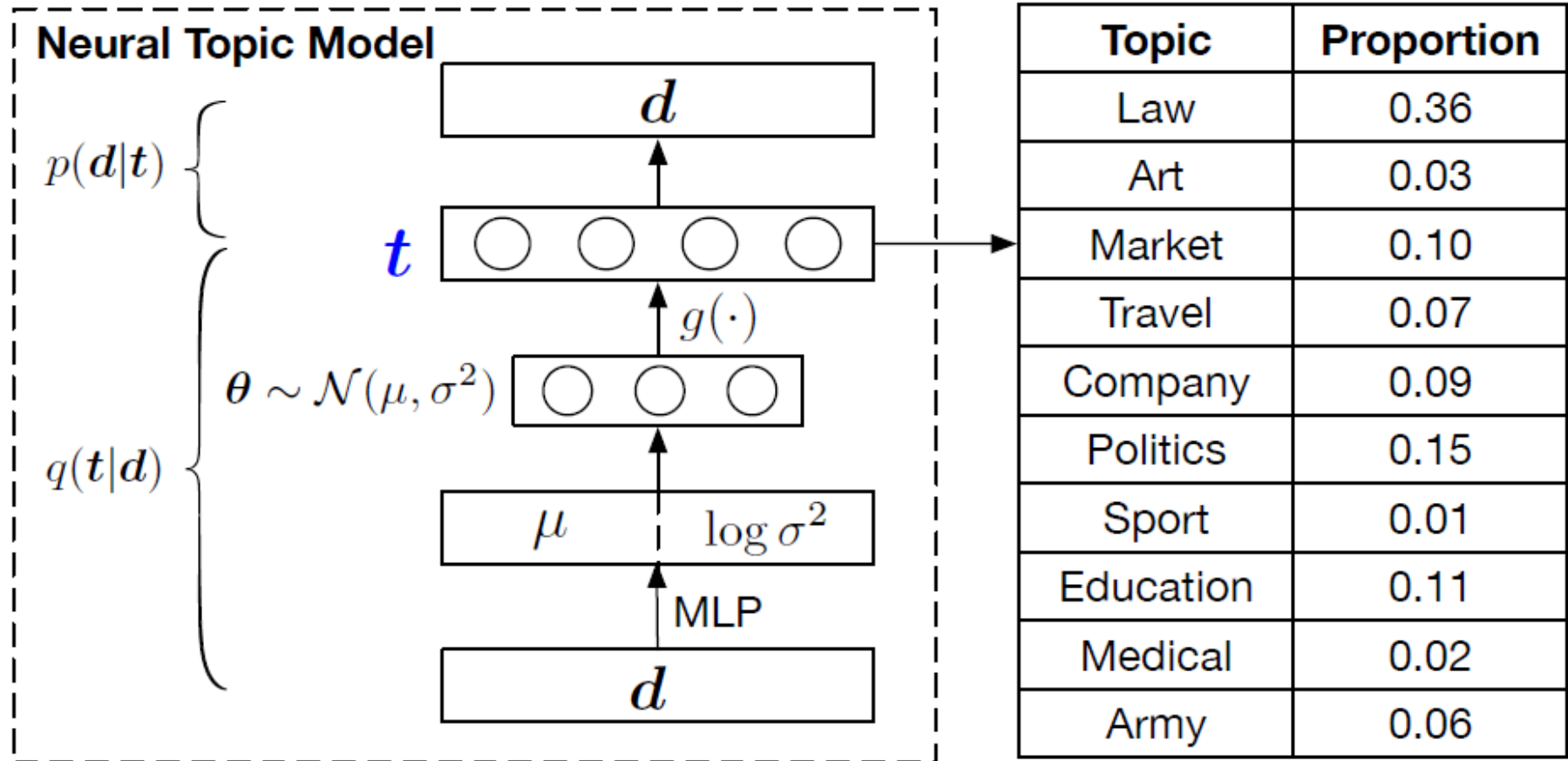
# Really want topics integrated in model



Learned  
before  
training  
from a  
different  
corpus ☹️

(Ghosh et al, 2016)

# Proposal: Learn Topics using VAE

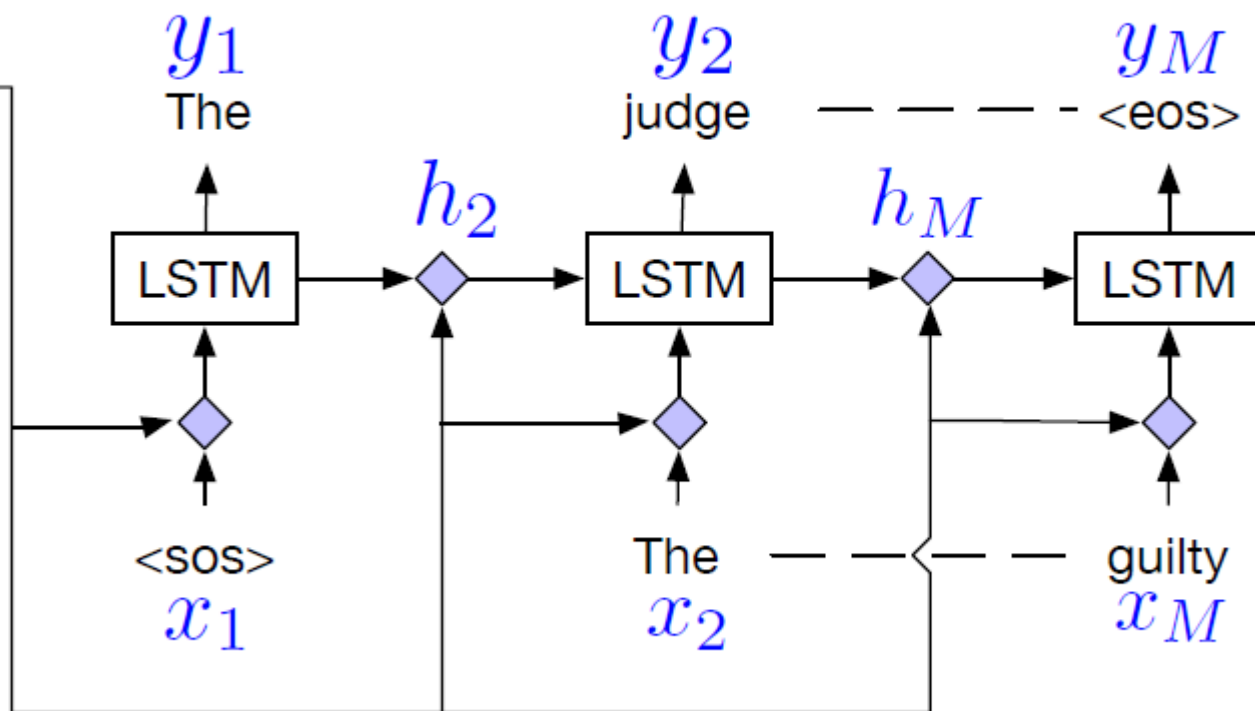




# Then add topics to language model

Topic	Proportion
Law	0.36
Art	0.03
Market	0.10
Travel	0.07
Company	0.09
Politics	0.15
Sport	0.01
Education	0.11
Medical	0.02
Army	0.06

Neural Language Model



# Learns qualitatively good topics

Dataset	army	animal	medical	market
APNEWS	afghanistan	animals	patients	zacks
	veterans	dogs	drug	cents
	soldiers	zoo	fda	earnings
	brigade	bear	disease	keywords
	infantry	wildlife	virus	share
IMDB	<b>horror</b>	<b>action</b>	<b>family</b>	<b>children</b>
	zombie	martial	rampling	kids
	slasher	kung	relationship	snoopy
	massacre	li	binoche	santa
	chainsaw	chan	marie	cartoon
	gore	fu	mother	parents
BNC	<b>environment</b>	<b>education</b>	<b>politics</b>	<b>business</b>
	pollution	courses	elections	corp
	emissions	training	economic	turnover
	nuclear	students	minister	unix
	waste	medau	political	net
	environmental	education	democratic	profits

# Topics generate reasonable sentences

Seed RNN with a topic or mixture (!) of topics:

horror	• the killer is a guy who is n't even a zombie .
action	• the action is a bit too much , but the action is n't very good .
family	• the film is also the story of a young woman whose <unk> and <unk> and very ye and palestine being equal , and the old man , a <unk> .
children	• i consider this movie to be a children 's film for kids .
war	• the documentary is a documentary about the war and the <unk> of the war .
horror+negative	• if this movie was indeed a horrible movie i think i will be better off the film .
sci-fi+children	• paul thinks him has to make up when the <unk> eugene discovers defeat in order and then finds his wife and boys .

# Topics competitive with existing models

## Perplexity

Dataset	LSTM type	basic-LSTM*	LDA+LSTM*			LCLM*	Topic-RNN			TDLM*			TCNLM		
			50	100	150		50	100	150	50	100	150	50	100	150
APNEWS	small	64.13	57.05	55.52	54.83	54.18	56.77	54.54	54.12	53.00	52.75	52.65	52.75	52.63	<b>52.59</b>
	large	58.89	52.72	50.75	50.17	50.63	53.19	50.24	50.01	48.96	48.97	48.21	48.07	47.81	<b>47.74</b>
IMDB	small	72.14	69.58	69.64	69.62	67.78	68.74	67.83	66.45	63.67	63.45	63.82	63.98	62.64	<b>62.59</b>
	large	66.47	63.48	63.04	62.78	67.86	63.02	61.59	60.14	58.99	59.04	58.59	57.06	56.38	<b>56.12</b>
BNC	small	102.89	96.42	96.50	96.38	87.47	94.66	93.57	93.55	87.42	85.99	86.43	87.98	86.44	<b>86.21</b>
	large	94.23	88.42	87.77	87.28	80.68	85.90	84.62	84.12	82.62	81.83	80.58	80.29	80.14	<b>80.12</b>

# Topics competitive with existing models

## Coherence

# Topic	Model	Coherence		
		APNEWS	IMDB	BNC
50	LDA*	0.125	0.084	0.106
	NTM*	0.075	0.064	0.081
	TDLM(s)*	0.149	0.104	0.102
	TDLM(l)*	0.130	0.088	0.095
	Topic-RNN(s)	0.134	0.103	0.102
	Topic-RNN(l)	0.127	0.096	0.100
	TCNLM(s)	<b>0.159</b>	<b>0.106</b>	<b>0.114</b>
	TCNLM(l)	0.152	0.100	0.101
100	LDA*	0.136	0.092	0.119
	NTM*	0.085	0.071	0.070
	TDLM(s)*	0.152	0.087	0.106
	TDLM(l)*	0.142	0.097	0.101
	Topic-RNN(s)	0.158	0.096	0.108
	Topic-RNN(l)	0.143	0.093	0.105
	TCNLM(s)	<b>0.160</b>	<b>0.101</b>	0.111
	TCNLM(l)	0.152	0.098	0.104
150	LDA*	0.134	0.094	0.119
	NTM*	0.078	0.075	0.072
	TDLM(s)*	0.147	0.085	0.100
	TDLM(l)*	0.145	0.091	0.104
	Topic-RNN(s)	0.146	0.089	0.102
	Topic-RNN(l)	0.137	0.092	0.097
	TCNLM(s)	0.153	<b>0.096</b>	0.107
	TCNLM(l)	<b>0.155</b>	0.093	0.102

# Interestingly absent:

Does adding topics make a better language model?

Need this...

to do this?

