

# Unsupervised Methods for NLP

CS-585

Natural Language Processing

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# Unsupervised topic modeling

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- One common NLP task is clustering documents into “topics” – automatically inferred themes or categories that characterize important aspects of the document collection
- We have seen how to do this already with Naïve Bayes
- *Generative* models like Naïve Bayes allow us to learn parameters by marginalizing (summing over all possible values) of latent variables (like topics)
- Expectation-maximization is one algorithm for this

# Goal

TOPIC 19	
WORD	PROB.
LIKELIHOOD	0.0539
MIXTURE	0.0509
EM	0.0470
DENSITY	0.0398
GAUSSIAN	0.0349
ESTIMATION	0.0314
LOG	0.0263
MAXIMUM	0.0254
PARAMETERS	0.0209
ESTIMATE	0.0204

TOPIC 24	
WORD	PROB.
RECOGNITION	0.0400
CHARACTER	0.0336
CHARACTERS	0.0250
TANGENT	0.0241
HANDWRITTEN	0.0169
DIGITS	0.0159
IMAGE	0.0157
DISTANCE	0.0153
DIGIT	0.0149
HAND	0.0126

TOPIC 29	
WORD	PROB.
REINFORCEMENT	0.0411
POLICY	0.0371
ACTION	0.0332
OPTIMAL	0.0208
ACTIONS	0.0208
FUNCTION	0.0178
REWARD	0.0165
SUTTON	0.0164
AGENT	0.0136
DECISION	0.0118

TOPIC 87	
WORD	PROB.
KERNEL	0.0683
SUPPORT	0.0377
VECTOR	0.0257
KERNELS	0.0217
SET	0.0205
SVM	0.0204
SPACE	0.0188
MACHINES	0.0168
REGRESSION	0.0155
MARGIN	0.0151

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# NAÏVE BAYES / MIXTURE OF UNIGRAMS

# Generative story for Naïve Bayes

For a document:

1. Select a topic from prior distribution  $P(T)$
2. For each word to be generated within the document:
  1. Select a word according to  $P(W|T)$

Overall probability of corpus is

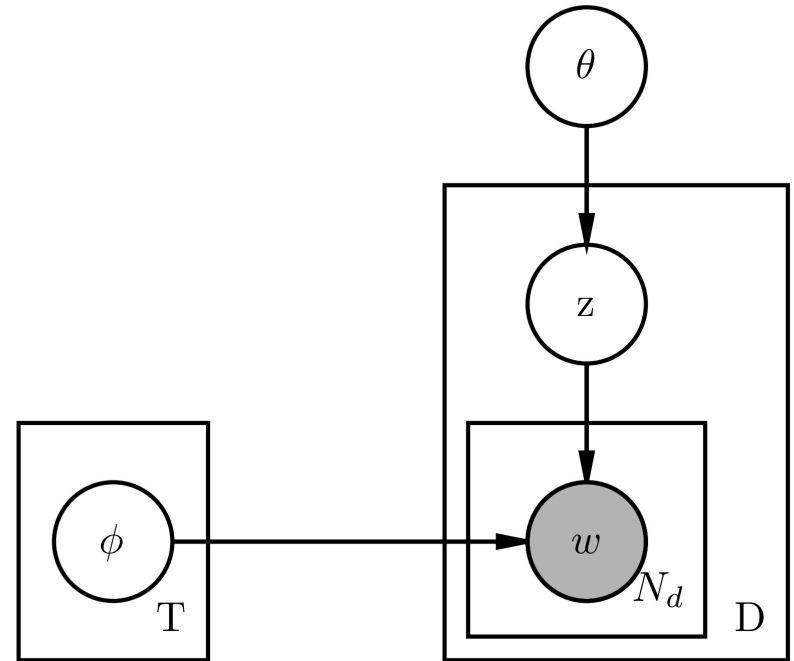
$$\prod_{d \in D} \sum_{t \in T} P(t) \prod_{w \in d} P(w|t)$$

Note:

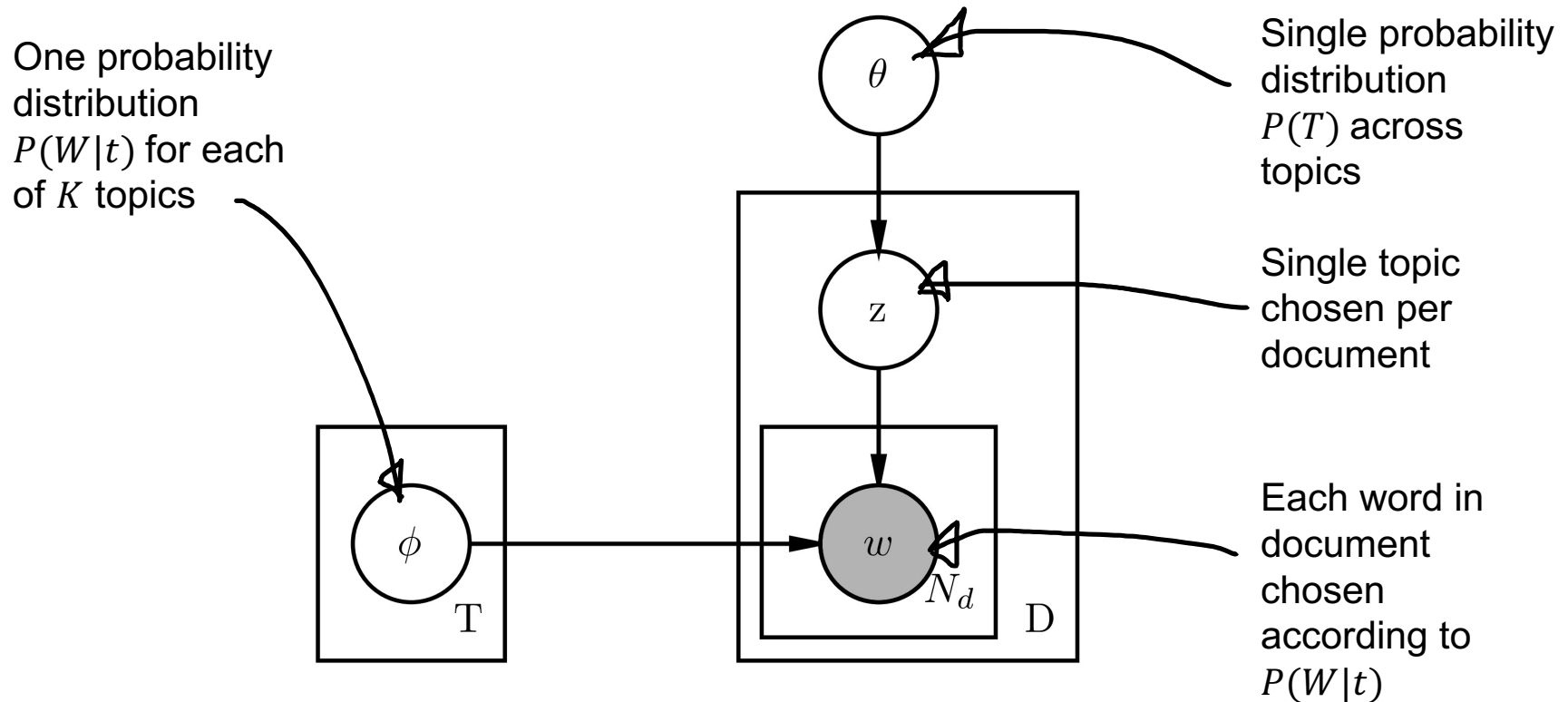
1. Each document has a unique topic
2. Each word's probability depends only on the topic

# Plate diagrams

- Probabilistic model can also be shown as a *plate diagram*
- Open circles represent latent variables; filled circles represent observed variables
- Arrows represent dependency relationships
- Boxes illustrate variables/components that are duplicated multiple times



# Plate diagrams



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# LATENT DIRICHLET ALLOCATION (LDA)



# Generative story for LDA

For a document:

1. Select a distribution  $\theta$  over topics
2. For each word to be generated within the document:
  1. Select a topic  $z$  associated with the word according to  $\theta$
  2. Generate the word according to a distribution  $\phi_z$  for that topic

From where?



Note:

1. Each document is associated with a distribution over topics
2. Each word within a document is associated with a single topic
3. Each word's probability depends only on the topic

# Plate diagram for LDA

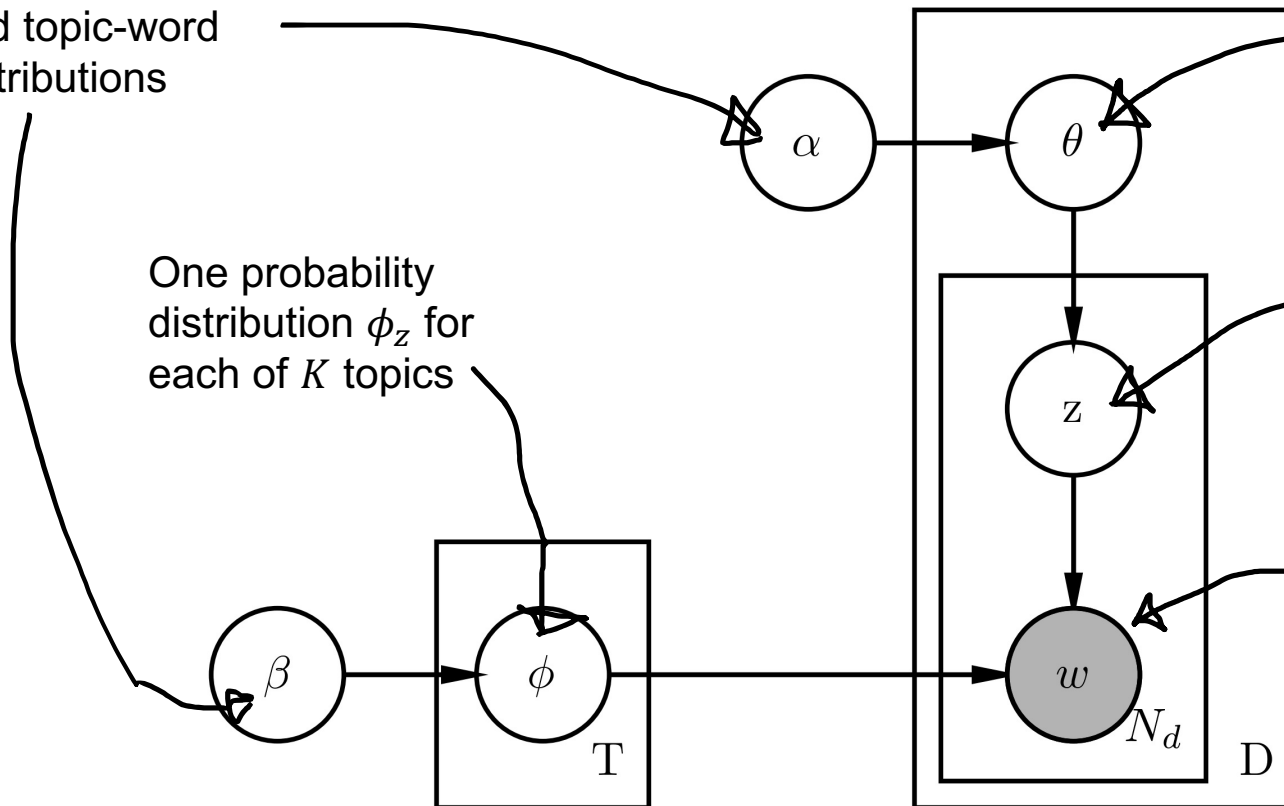
Parameters of Dirichlet  
priors on document-topic  
and topic-word  
distributions

One probability  
distribution  $\phi_z$  for  
each of  $K$  topics

Select a  
probability  
distribution  $\theta_d$   
over topics for  
each document

Single topic  $z$   
chosen for each  
word

Each word in  
document  
chosen  
according to  
topic-word  
distribution  $\phi_z$



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# DIRICHLET DISTRIBUTIONS

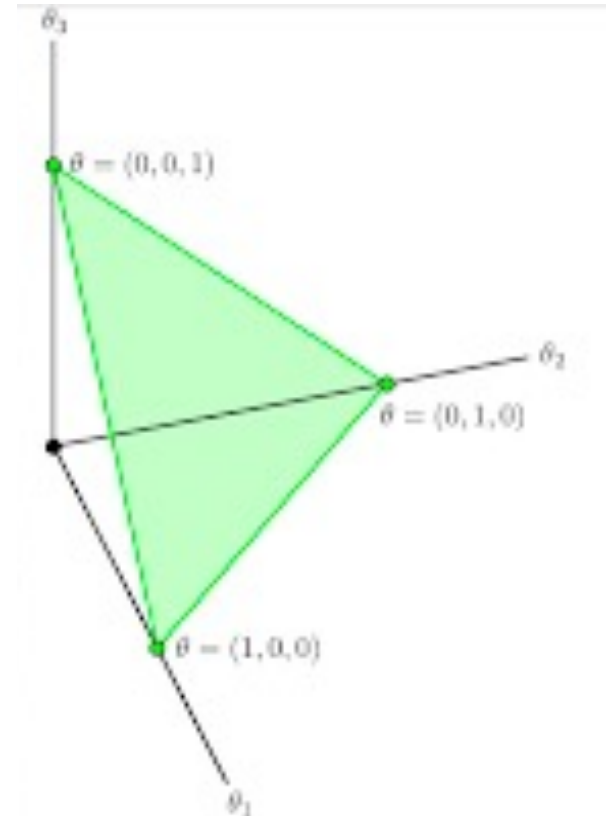
# Dirichlet distributions

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- For LDA, we need to choose a topic distribution for each document
- ...so we need to be able to draw from a *distribution over distributions*
  - Specifically, a distribution over distributions on the  $k$ -simplex
  - (Categorical distributions with  $k$  categories)
- The Dirichlet family of distributions is a flexible choice

# Dirichlet distributions

- Since a Dirichlet distribution assigns probabilities to distributions of  $k$  categories, it is only defined when  $\sum_{i=1}^k P(c_i) = 1$
- Therefore, its domain is a plane in  $k$ -space



# Dirichlet distributions

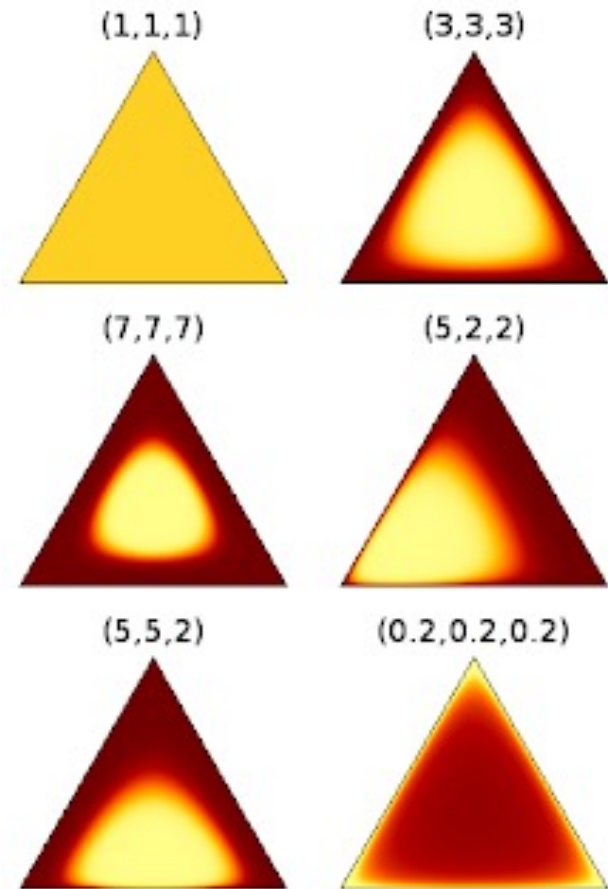
- The probability density function of a Dirichlet distribution is defined as

$$\frac{1}{B(\alpha)} \prod_{i=1}^k x_i^{\alpha_i - 1}$$

- This is related to the Beta distribution (and includes a reference to it)
- But the functional form is not important for us
- We just need to know that it is parameterized by a vector alpha that influences each category's affinity toward the average or extremes of probabilities across topics

# Dirichlet distributions

- When  $\alpha_i > 1$ ,  $P(c_i)$  will tend toward values closer to  $\frac{1}{k}$
- When  $\alpha_i < 1$ ,  $P(c_i)$  will tend toward values further from  $\frac{1}{k}$  (closer to 1 or 0)
- We can set  $\alpha$  to get topic distributions for documents that are more “mixed” or “pure” in terms of topics



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# LDA TRAINING



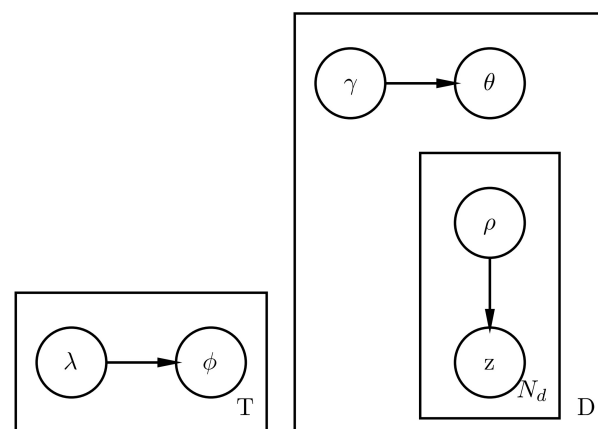
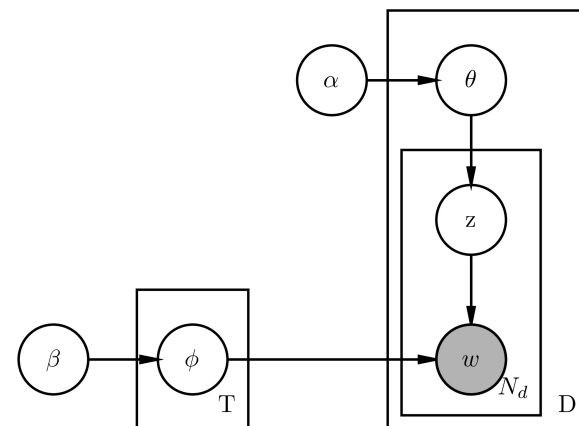
# Iterative topic model training

- If we knew the topic proportions per document (latent variable), we could estimate parameters of our model ( $\alpha, \beta / \phi$ )
- If we knew the optimal parameters, we could calculate topic proportions per document
- Candidate for EM!
  - E: Calculate posterior probabilities of  $z$  and  $\theta$  – the topic distributions associated with each document and the topics from which each word in a document was generated
  - M: Estimate  $\alpha, \beta / \phi$  based on current estimates of  $z / \theta$

Unfortunately, there is no closed-form solution for this

# Alternative: Variational Inference

- An alternative to EM is Variational Inference
- Consider alternative (more tractable) probabilistic model  $q$  with parameters  $\gamma, \lambda, \rho$
- Instead of trying to calculate actual posteriors of hidden variables  $p$ , find variational parameters  $\gamma, \lambda, \rho$  that minimize KL divergence  $D_{KL}(p||q(\gamma, \lambda, \rho))$
- There are also Monte Carlo sampling approaches to inference for LDA, but this is generally less efficient



# Iterative training using variational inference

## Variational EM

- E: Estimate  $q$  by minimizing KL divergence. Just that there is an iterative procedure for inferring parameters based on the data.
- M: Sample  $\theta$  from  $q$ . Maybe take CS583? Lower bound on  $\log p$  using  $q$  in place of  $p$  (with  $\gamma$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $\rho$  fixed)

# Example: topic models on ACL Anthology

## Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)

2019

- Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics **661 papers**
- Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Student Research Workshop **61 papers**
- Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics: System Demonstrations **35 papers**
- Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Tutorial Abstracts **10 papers**
- Proceedings of the Fourth Social Media Mining for Health Applications (#SMM4H) Workshop & Shared Task **26 papers**
- Proceedings of the First International Workshop on Designing Meaningful User Interfaces (DIUI) **15 papers**
- Proceedings of the Second Workshop on Storytelling **15 papers**
- Proceedings of the Third Workshop on Abusive Language Online (WALO) **15 papers**
- Proceedings of the 2019 Workshop on Widening NLP **57 papers**
- Proceedings of the 7th Workshop on Balto-Slavic Natural Language Processing (BSL) **15 papers**
- Proceedings of the First Workshop on Gender Bias in Natural Languages (GBNL) **15 papers**
- Proceedings of the Workshop on Deep Learning and Formal Languages (DLFL) **15 papers**
- Proceedings of the 13th Linguistic Annotation Workshop **29 papers**
- Proceedings of the First Workshop on NLP for Conversational AI (NLP4CAI) **15 papers**
- Proceedings of the 16th Workshop on Computational Research in Linguistics (CRL) **15 papers**
- Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Representation Learning for NLP (Repl4NLP-2019) **33 papers**
- Proceedings of the Fourteenth Workshop on Innovative Use of NLP for Building Educational Applications (INFLIB) **53 papers**
- Proceedings of the 6th Workshop on Argument Mining (AM) **21 papers**
- Proceedings of the Fourth Arabic Natural Language Processing Workshop (ANLP) **40 papers**
- Proceedings of the 1st International Workshop on Computational Approaches to Historical Language Change (CAHLC) **35 papers**
- Proceedings of the 2019 ACL Workshop BlackboxNLP: Analyzing and Interpreting Neural Networks for NLP **29 papers**
- Proceedings of TyP-NLP: The First Workshop on Typology for Polyglot NLP **1 paper**
- Proceedings of the 18th BioNLP Workshop and Shared Task **60 papers**
- Proceedings of the Joint Workshop on Multiword Expressions and WordNet (MWE-WN 2019) **22 papers**
- Proceedings of the Fourth Conference on Machine Translation (Volume 1: Research Papers) **13 papers**
- Proceedings of the Fourth Conference on Machine Translation (Volume 2: Shared Task Papers, Day 1) **69 papers**
- Proceedings of the Fourth Conference on Machine Translation (Volume 3: Shared Task Papers, Day 2) **42 papers**

### Studying the History of Ideas Using Topic Models

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2018

- Proceedings of the 56th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers) **257 papers**
- Proceedings of the 56th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 2: Short Papers) **126 papers**

# Example: topic models on ACL Anthology

<b>Anaphora Resolution</b>	resolution anaphora pronoun discourse antecedent pronouns coreference reference definite algorithm
<b>Automata</b>	string state set finite context rule algorithm strings language symbol
<b>Biomedical</b>	medical protein gene biomedical wkh abstracts medline patient clinical biological
<b>Call Routing</b>	call caller routing calls destination vietnamese routed router destinations gorin
<b>Categorical Grammar</b>	proof formula graph logic calculus axioms axiom theorem proofs lambek
<b>Centering*</b>	centering cb discourse cf utterance center utterances theory coherence entities local
<b>Classical MT</b>	japanese method case sentence analysis english dictionary figure japan word
<b>Classification/Tagging</b>	features data corpus set feature table word tag al test
<b>Comp. Phonology</b>	vowel phonological syllable phoneme stress phonetic phonology pronunciation vowels phonemes
<b>Comp. Semantics*</b>	semantic logical semantics john sentence interpretation scope logic form set
<b>Dialogue Systems</b>	user dialogue system speech information task spoken human utterance language
<b>Discourse Relations</b>	discourse text structure relations rhetorical relation units coherence texts rst
<b>Discourse Segment.</b>	segment segmentation segments chain chains boundaries boundary seg cohesion lexical
<b>Events/Temporal</b>	event temporal time events tense state aspect reference relations relation
<b>French Function</b>	de le des les en une est du par pour
<b>Generation</b>	generation text system language information knowledge natural figure domain input
<b>Genre Detection</b>	genre stylistic style genres fiction humor register biber authorship registers
<b>Info. Extraction</b>	system text information muc extraction template names patterns pattern domain
<b>Information Retrieval</b>	document documents query retrieval question information answer term text web
<b>Lexical Semantics</b>	semantic relations domain noun corpus relation nouns lexical ontology patterns
<b>MUC Terrorism</b>	slot incident tgt target id hum phys type fills perp
<b>Metaphor</b>	metaphor literal metonymy metaphors metaphorical essay metonymic essays qualia analogy
<b>Morphology</b>	word morphological lexicon form dictionary analysis morphology lexical stem arabic
<b>Named Entities*</b>	entity named entities ne names ner recognition ace nes mentions mention
<b>Paraphrase/RTE</b>	paraphrases paraphrase entailment paraphrasing textual para rte pascal entailed dagan
<b>Parsing</b>	parsing grammar parser parse rule sentence input left grammars np
<b>Plan-Based Dialogue</b>	plan discourse speaker action model goal act utterance user information
<b>Probabilistic Models</b>	model word probability set data number algorithm language corpus method
<b>Prosody</b>	prosodic speech pitch boundary prosody phrase boundaries accent repairs intonation
<b>Semantic Roles*</b>	semantic verb frame argument verbs role roles predicate arguments
<b>Yale School Semantics</b>	knowledge system semantic language concept representation information network concepts base
<b>Sentiment</b>	subjective opinion sentiment negative polarity positive wiebe reviews sentence opinions
<b>Speech Recognition</b>	speech recognition word system language data speaker error test spoken
<b>Spell Correction</b>	errors error correction spelling ocr correct corrections checker basque corrected detection
<b>Statistical MT</b>	english word alignment language source target sentence machine bilingual mt
<b>Statistical Parsing</b>	dependency parsing treebank parser tree parse head model al np
<b>Summarization</b>	sentence text evaluation document topic summary summarization human summaries score
<b>Syntactic Structure</b>	verb noun syntactic sentence phrase np subject structure case clause
<b>TAG Grammars*</b>	tree node trees nodes derivation tag root figure adjoining grammar
<b>Unification</b>	feature structure grammar lexical constraints unification constraint type structures rule
<b>WSD*</b>	word senses wordnet disambiguation lexical semantic context similarity dictionary
<b>Word Segmentation</b>	chinese word character segmentation corpus dictionary korean language table system
<b>WordNet*</b>	synset wordnet synsets hypernym ili wordnets hypernyms eurowordnet hyponym ewn wn

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# TOPIC VISUALIZATION



# Which words are important in the topic model?

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Q1: Which words are most important in determining the topic distribution for a document?

- *Saliency*

Q2: Which words are most representative of a given topic?

- *Relevance*

# Saliency

- Salient words (Chuang, 2012) are frequent words that contribute a great deal of information regarding the topic of a document
- Word frequency:  $P(w)$
- Information on topic of a document (distinctiveness):  
$$\sum_{t \in T} P(t|w) \log \frac{P(t|w)}{P(t)}$$
  - K-L divergence between  $P(t|w)$  – probability that a document containing  $w$  has topic  $t$  – and  $P(t)$  – probability that any word will be generated by topic  $t$
- Saliency:  $P(w) \times \sum_{t \in T} P(t|w) \log \frac{P(t|w)}{P(t)}$



# Relevance

- What words are most representative of a topic (how can I inspect and “understand” it)?
- We could use  $P(w_i|t_k)$  from the LDA model directly ( $\phi_{ik}$ )
  - But some frequent words may have high  $P(w_i|t_k)$  just because of their high general frequency
- We could use  $\frac{P(w_i|t_k)}{P(w_i)}$  to capture for word-topic association while controlling for frequency
  - But rare words may swamp the results
- Solution: introduce a parameter  $\lambda$  to govern tradeoff between frequency and association with the topic

$$\text{Relevance}(w_i|t_k) = \lambda \log P(w_i|t_k) + (1 - \lambda) \log \frac{P(w_i|t_k)}{P(w_i)}$$

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# TOPIC EVALUATION

# Evaluating topic models

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What makes a topic “good”?

Its words are strongly associated with one another  
I.e., the topic is “coherent”

What makes a topic model “good”?

Its topics are coherent

# Topic coherence

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**Coherence:** different ways of modeling it, but generally based on pairwise relationships between words within a topic

- See Röder et al. (2015). [Exploring the Space of Topic Coherence Measures](#).

One method:  $C_{UCI}$  (Newman, 2010)

- Word pairs within topics should have high pointwise mutual information (PMI)
- I.e., they should show up more frequently together in a document than expected by chance

# UCI Coherence

[Stands for UC-Irvine]

## Pointwise mutual information (PMI)

- Let  $P(w_i)$  be the probability of  $w_i$  occurring in a document, and  $P(w_i, w_j)$  be the probability of  $w_i$  and  $w_j$  occurring together in a document.
- $PMI(w_i, w_j) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \log \frac{P(w_i, w_j)}{P(w_i)P(w_j)}$
- If  $w_i$  and  $w_j$  occur independently at random, then  $P(w_i, w_j) = P(w_i)P(w_j)$  and  $PMI(w_i, w_j) = 0$
- If  $w_i$  and  $w_j$  are associated, then  $P(w_i, w_j) > P(w_i)P(w_j)$  and  $PMI(w_i, w_j) > 0$

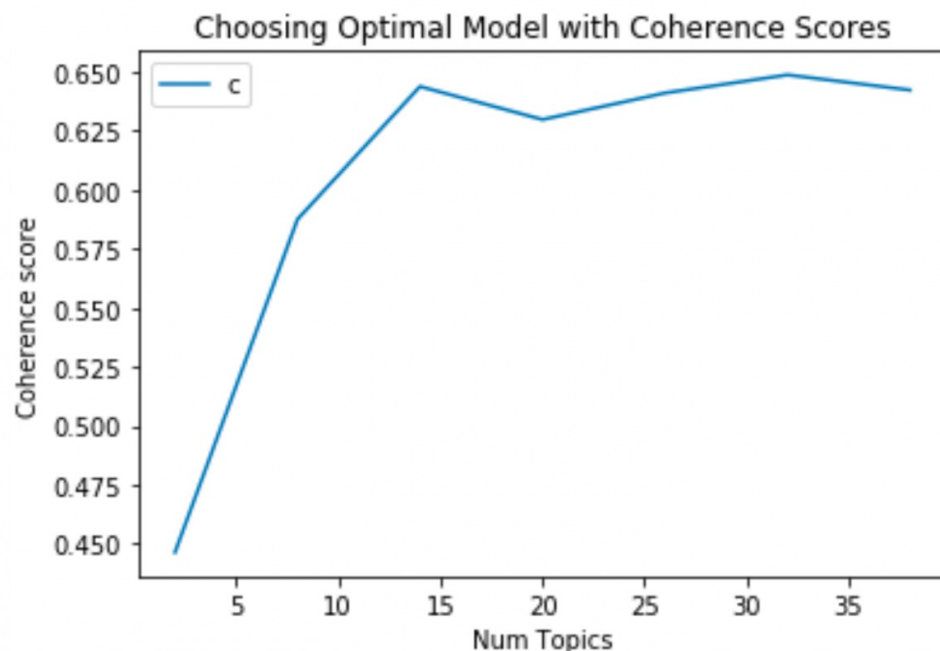
# UCI Coherence

- UCI Coherence is the average PMI of all word pairs in the top  $N$  words of a topic

$$C_{UCI} = \frac{2}{N(N-1)} \sum_{i \in [1..N], j \in [1..N], i \neq j} PMI(w_i, w_j)$$

# Using coherence to determine number of topics

- Coherence of topic model as a whole is average coherence of its topics
- Select number of topics  $k$  with maximum coherence value (or where coherence plateaus)



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# LDA EXTENSIONS



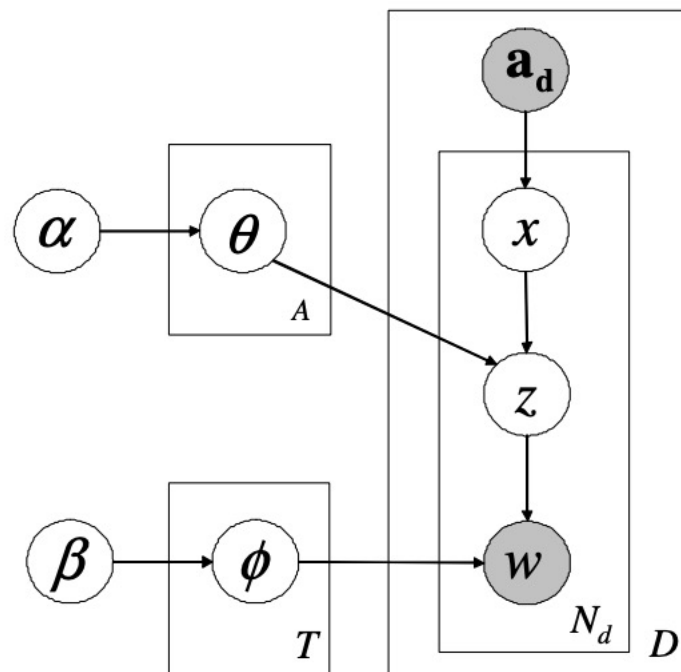
# LDA Extensions

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- LDA is an extension of the word unigram model that incorporates a more complex generative story
  - Distribution over topics for each document
  - Dirichlet prior over topic distributions
- There are extended versions of the LDA framework that involve even more complex generative stories
  - Instead of topic distributions generated independently for each document, these distributions may depend on attributes of the document

# Author-topic model

- Author(s) of a document influence topic distribution
- For a given document, select an author set  $\mathbf{a}_d$
- For each word to be generated
  - Select an author  $x$
  - Select a topic  $z$  depending on  $x$ 's topic distribution  $\theta$
  - Select a word from the distribution for the chosen topic



# Dynamic topic model

- Timestamp of a document influences topic distribution
- Similar generative story to LDA, but
  - Document-topic parameters  $\alpha$  and topic-word parameters  $\beta$  change over time
  - Have to model dynamics of this system via distributional constraints on temporally adjacent values

