

# ARM that text, make it useful!

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## Abstract

This paper recommends the extension of Association Rule Mining (ARM) to unstructured text. This unsupervised approach is logical, has minimal parameters, and is well underpinned theoretically.

The combinational challenge can be met with the parallelism of GPUs. Sherlock is an example, a parallel implementation of the A Priori algorithm coupled with an optimal rule selector; it was initially deployed to understand changes in numbers, and is now being extended to incorporate simultaneous textual commentary.

A neural network approach to learning, Word2Vec [1], which also adopts the distribution hypothesis, merits comparison. ARM output is here directly compared to the output of a Word2Vec model trained on exactly the same data, and using the same frequency threshold. This comparison uses standard Python libraries, and source is provided [8]. Word2Vec does not prevail, but we understand it better.

ARM has virtues that are not available to neural net models in general. It is grounded, so rules can be explained back to the evidence. Furthermore these rules are easy to understand and to combine, allowing filtering, even by time. ARM's fundamental data unit is the 'yes or no' answer to a question, *any* question, providing easy extension from one symbol stream to another, as here recommended with numbers and text.

## Motivation

Sherlock was designed to accumulate knowledge from a variety of sources, both textual and numerical, with minimal human intervention. The knowledge so obtained had to be grounded in demonstrable fact, chaining all the way back to the data if necessary. These constraints were entailed by the domain, foreign exchange trading, in which failure is easy to quantify, but difficult to learn from.

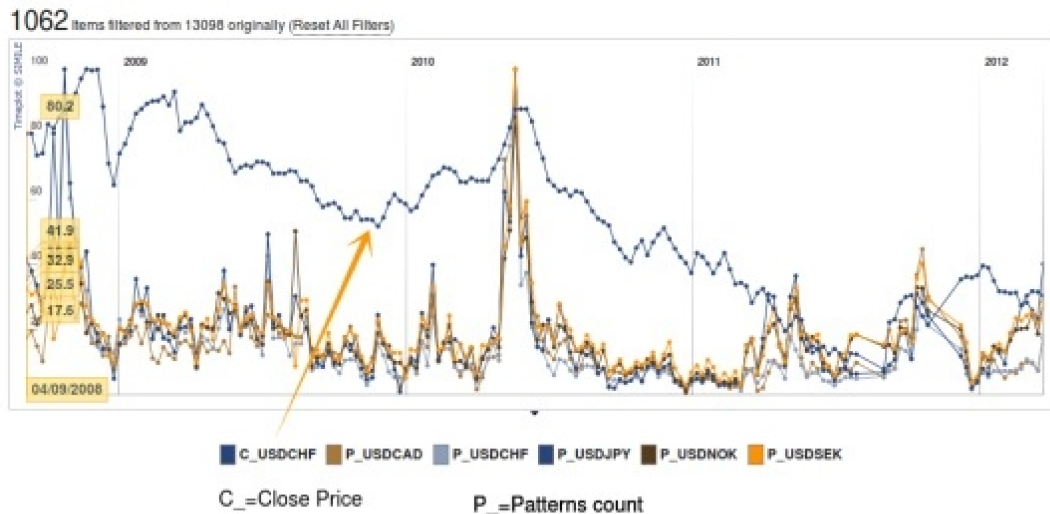


Figure 1: Prices and patterns: - USDCHF and Dollar patterns

A	B	C	D	E
1	change(AUD/USD Low)	620	102	102
1	change(EUR/JPY High_prior)	604	153	153
1	change(EUR/JPY High)	605	153	153
1	change(EUR/USD Close_prior)	618	229	229
1	change(EUR/USD Close)	618	229	229
1	change(EUR/USD High_prior)	584	103	103
1	change(EUR/USD High)	584	103	103
1	change(GBP/USD High)	599	159	159

Figure 2: Patterns and rules: - Spotting the obvious. line 5 ~ “The Euro will be up against the Dollar whenever the Euro is up against Pound, and the Pound is up against the Dollar – other rules apply”

### Cues for a next minute rise for EURUSD

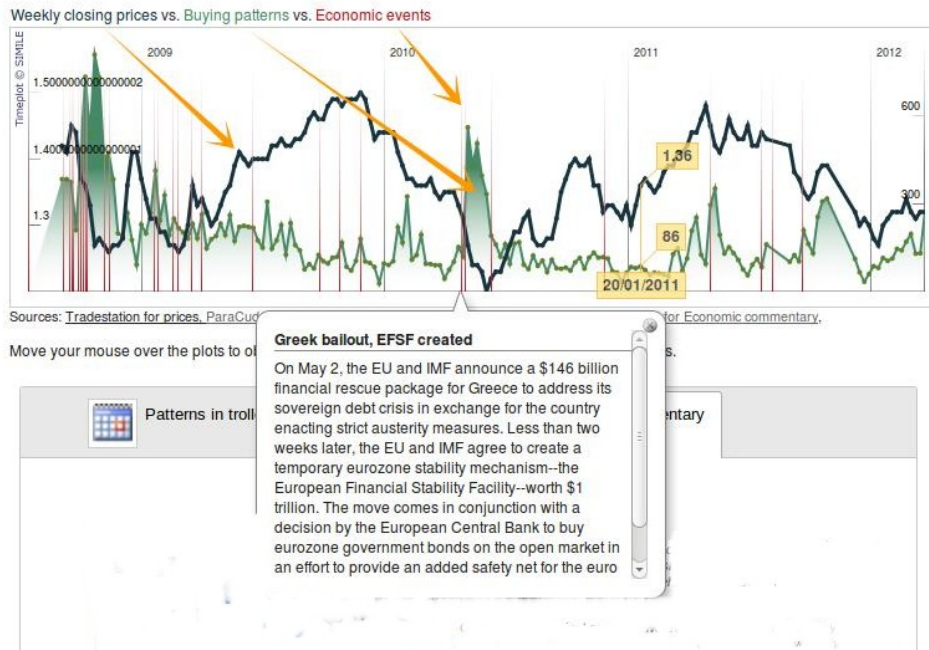


Figure 3: Motivation: -The synchronized march of prices, patterns, and text?

Each red spike in the figure above represents a commentary from the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations . This overlay against the price to pattern count *seems* to relate events to significant changes in price direction, prompting the following observations.

- More words than numbers that trade
- More number changers than word generators

Motivation? Perhaps it is possible to understand market prices as reactions to text and patterns, perhaps even predictable reactions.

## Method

Rule discovery obliges unsupervised learning, and only one approach to such learning also avoids numerical assumptions and the parameter tuning they bring. That is to extract rules from sets, and to use logic and counting to identify the sets. All can be built on the property that every non-empty subset of a frequent set is also frequent.



			Grade						
<b>Rule 725-&gt;5</b>	<b>5=1</b>	<b>5=0</b>	0	0	2	<b>5</b>	4	45	<b>20</b> 0.329428
<b>725=1</b>	4	45-4=41	0	1	2	725	4	20	45 0.329418
<b>725=0</b>	20-4=16	T-4-41-16	1	0	2	5	4	23	20 0.371579
<p>Each row represents an A-&gt;B Rule whose contingency table can be graded in parallel according to the most objective measure.</p> <p>The score enables the top N rules to be identified by sorting the entire data array, an ideal application for parallel sorting algorithms</p>			1	1	2	772	4	20	23 0.371573
			2	0	2	5	5	46	20 0.345364
			2	1	2	962	5	20	46 0.345326
			3	0	2	5	5	35	20 0.362347
			3	1	2	2272	5	20	35 0.362332
			4	0	2	5	4	29	20 0.357787
			4	1	2	6861	4	20	29 0.357753
			5	0	2	5	5	46	20 0.345364
			5	1	2	7340	5	20	46 0.345326
			6	0	2	5	4	57	20 0.313722
			6	1	2	8180	4	20	57 0.31368
			7	0	2	7	4	27	34 0.326929
			7	1	2	607	4	34	27 0.326932
			8	0	2	7	7	45	34 0.334709
			8	1	2	725	7	34	45 0.334702
			9	0	2	7	6	51	34 0.313672
			9	1	2	855	6	34	51 0.313653

*Figure 6: Grading the rules*

All that remains is to use what is termed in the literature a “measure of interestingness” for each line, which represents the rule that would be formed by taking this item from this set. Note that indexes start at 0, rather than 1, so the last line reads.

- Set is the tenth of length 2
- Conclusion of rule is second member of set, premise is rest of set
- rule is  $7 \rightarrow 855$ , which occurs 6 times, Premises {7} occurs 34 times, Conclusion {855} occurs 51 times and so has a comparative score of 0.313653
- The score will depend on the measure adopted see references [4,5,6].

## Experiments

In the following three sections are laid out the results to probing three questions about the approach.

1. How does it stack up against statistical methods ?
2. How could you test the results ?
3. How could you accumulate the results ?

For the first two items the textual data is stored in elasticsearch, and available to the public, while third takes RSS feeds, and stores the time-stamped rule observations into a Redis database.

## ARM vs Word2Vec

What happens if the same data is passed through each algorithm for training, and the task is to compare the response of each to a stimulus vector? The output below is from a Python notebook that is available for download [8].

The data comes from a copy of the Simple English Wikipedia [9] is available for view, using the coordinates below.

```
curl -XPOST "http://public:pmb7wdkcmidejm41ai@19f7aca6869af2eb2e42e72a371ff653.us-east-1.aws.found.io:9200/wikismall/document/_search?" -d'
{"query": {"match": {
  "words": "logic"
}}}'
```

The response should appear as below, each matching document is there in text, and with a **words** field, representing the sorted set of the documents vocabulary, after subtraction of a standard stop word list.

```
"hits": {
  "total": 514,
  "max_score": 2.033338,
  "hits": [
    {
      "_index": "wikismall",
      "_type": "document",
      "_id": "AVk2_00j4j8wYtSBp7u3",
```

```

    "_score": 2.033338,
    "_source": {
      "author": "wikipedia",
      "scope": "public",
      "words": [
        "Century",
        "Developed",
        "Easily",
        "Field",
        "Formalize",
        "Logic",
        "Mathematical",
        "Mathematics",
        "Reasoning",
        "Symbols"
      ],
      "source": "Mathematical_logic.html",
      "text": "Mathematical logic \r\n      Mathematical logic is a field of
mathematics , that tries to formalize logic so that it can be used for mathematics more
easily. Logic is about reasoning, mathematical logic tries to use symbols. Most of mathematical
logic was,developed in the 19th and 20th century. \r\n\r\n\r\n\r\n\r\n\r\n This article is issued
from Wikipedia - version of the Thursday, March 03, 2016. The text is available under the
Creative Commons Attribution/Share Alike but additional terms may apply for the media files.",
      "sherlock": "",
      "timestamp": 1482686262189
    }
  },....

```

Taking the top ten replies, from the words field we build the input symbol set of sets, thus.

```

sentences =
[['Century', 'Developed', 'Easily', 'Field', 'Formalize', 'Logic', 'Mathematical',
'Mathematics', 'Reasoning', 'Symbols'],
['Dilemma', 'Disambiguation', 'Good', 'Group', 'Logic', 'Mathematics', 'Meanings', 'Problems',
'Solutions', 'Song'],
['Called', 'Diagram', 'Disjunction', 'Displaystyle', 'Exclusive', 'False', 'Inclusive',
'Inputs', 'Logic', 'Lor', 'Operation', 'Scriptstyle', 'Takes', 'True', 'Venn'],
['ASCII', 'ATL', 'Cote', 'False', 'Flips', 'Input', 'Logic', 'Logical', 'Negation', 'Operation',
'Output', 'Returns', 'Takes', 'True'],
['Block', 'Called', 'Component', 'Configurable', 'Configured', 'FPGA', 'Gates', 'Hold',
'Interconnected', 'Logic', 'Number', 'Simplified'],
['Constructed', 'Engineered', 'Experiment', 'Experimental', 'Language', 'Languages',
'Linguistics', 'Logic', 'Logical', 'Philosophical', 'Philosophy', 'Types'],
['Attempts', 'Deducted', 'Deduction', 'Deductive', 'Expenditure', 'Give', 'Logic', 'Logical',
'Model', 'Natural', 'Naturally', 'Occurs', 'Profits', 'Reasoning', 'Taxation'],
['ASCII', 'ATL', 'Cote', 'False', 'Flips', 'Input', 'Logic', 'Logical', 'Negation', 'Operation',
'Output', 'Returns', 'Takes', 'True'],
['Commonly', 'Discourse', 'Element', 'Existence', 'Logic', 'Mirrored', 'Proposition',
'Quantifier', 'True', 'Universe', 'Written'],
['Aristotle', 'Grammar', 'Implication', 'Logic', 'Man', 'Men', 'Mortal', 'Suggest', 'Syllogism',
'True', 'Wednesday']]

```

A small amount of dictionary and reverse index work lines up the two approaches so that we can compare the output of an ARM rule [2] to the output of the word2vec model [3], as below

```
['Operation', 'False', 'True'] AR-> Logic <-W2V ['Logic', 'Logical']
['Operation', 'False', 'Logic'] AR-> True <-W2V ['Logical', 'True']
['Operation', 'True', 'Logic'] AR-> False <-W2V ['False', 'Takes']
['False', 'True', 'Logic'] AR-> Operation <-W2V ['Operation', 'Logical']
['Takes', 'False', 'True'] AR-> Logic <-W2V ['Logic', 'Operation']
['Takes', 'False', 'Logic'] AR-> True <-W2V ['Operation', 'True']
['Takes', 'True', 'Logic'] AR-> False <-W2V ['Operation', 'False']
['False', 'True', 'Logic'] AR-> Takes <-W2V ['Operation', 'Logical']
['Takes', 'Operation', 'True'] AR-> Logic <-W2V ['Logic', 'Logical']
['Takes', 'Operation', 'Logic'] AR-> True <-W2V ['True', 'False']
['Takes', 'True', 'Logic'] AR-> Operation <-W2V ['Operation', 'False']
['Operation', 'True', 'Logic'] AR-> Takes <-W2V ['False', 'Takes']
['Takes', 'Operation', 'False'] AR-> Logic <-W2V ['Logic', 'Logical']
['Takes', 'Operation', 'Logic'] AR-> False <-W2V ['True', 'False']
['Takes', 'False', 'Logic'] AR-> Operation <-W2V ['Operation', 'True']
['Operation', 'False', 'Logic'] AR-> Takes <-W2V ['Logical', 'True']
['Takes', 'Operation', 'False', 'True'] AR-> Logic <-W2V ['Logic', 'Logical']
['Takes', 'Operation', 'False', 'Logic'] AR-> True <-W2V ['True', 'Logical']
['Takes', 'Operation', 'True', 'Logic'] AR-> False <-W2V ['False', 'Logical']
['Takes', 'False', 'True', 'Logic'] AR-> Operation <-W2V ['Operation', 'Logical']
['Operation', 'False', 'True', 'Logic'] AR-> Takes <-W2V ['Logical', 'Takes']
['Takes', 'Operation', 'False'] AR-> True <-W2V ['Logic', 'Logical']
['Takes', 'Operation', 'True'] AR-> False <-W2V ['Logic', 'Logical']
['Takes', 'False', 'True'] AR-> Operation <-W2V ['Logic', 'Operation']
['Operation', 'False', 'True'] AR-> Takes <-W2V ['Logic', 'Logical']
```

The last line reads that the cues ['Operation', 'False', 'True'] would trigger an AR rule whose conclusion is 'Takes', whereas the Word2Vec Model would be triggered to respond 'Logic', with 'Logical' as a second choice.

Due to the logical definition, all the sets quoted by ARM actually exist, and there are no others; equally there are 91 different words in the data, so Word2Vec's close to optimal performance may suggest something akin to frequent item set mining as its underlying mechanism, and the explanation of its performance.

## Discovering non-obvious connections

Handling new or unknown terms presents more challenge for the user than the algorithm, for which the coincidence is just some factual bitset lining up with congruity. This point was the key finding of explorations into small corpora, 200 to 500 pages each, of research papers on the related subjects of Cell Ageing, Cell Repair, and Exosomes. Each corpus has been split into consecutive





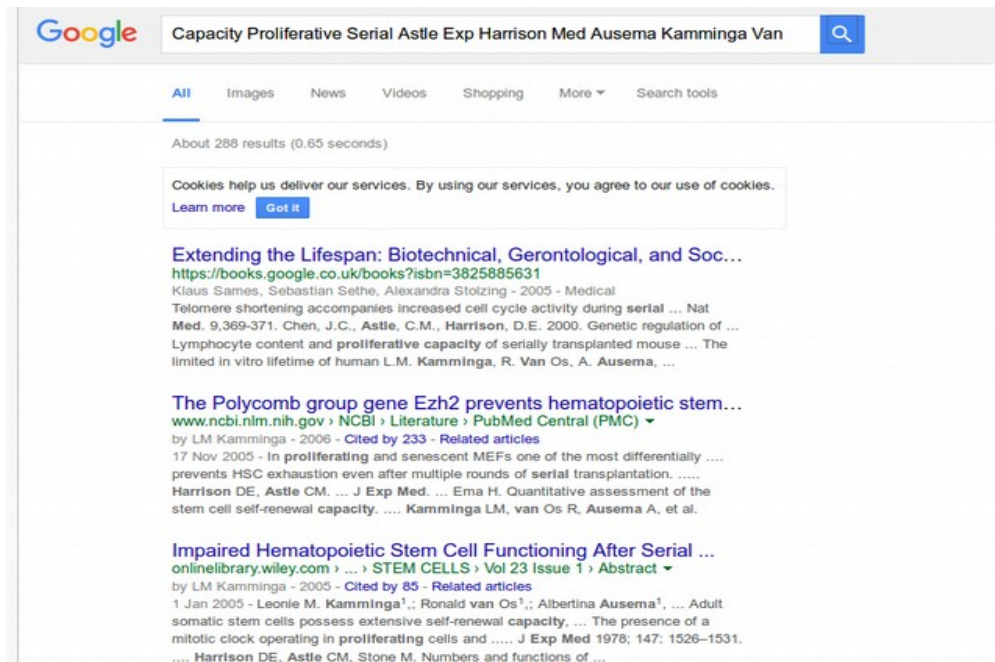


Figure 8: Would you have thought those keywords would matter?

Sherlock speaks Google: and neither speak English! The suggestions are sorted sets of clues that matter to Sherlock, sometimes names get pulled into the association, as in Figure 7. It's not unreasonable, consider the Black Scholes equation, or Einstein's Theory of Relativity, but it doesn't make easy reading for humans.

Performance: In an ideal world every chunk would have a helpful suggestion, but several factors militate against this, namely the size and homogeneity of the chunks, and the setting of stopwords and the stopping condition.

Chunk size: The process progressively reduces the text, firstly into chunks, then into just the uncommon words, and finally into just the uncommon words that combine with other uncommon words in interesting ways. Smaller chunks mean fewer uncommon words, and therefore less chance of interesting combinations, as the following coverage table shows.

Subject	Chunk size*	Count	Tagged	Tagged %
Cell Ageing	100	3454	1030	30
Cell Ageing	150	2348	1375	59
Cell Ageing	200	1795	1512	<b>84</b>
Exosomes	150	3010	1261	41
Cell Repair	150	3020	1070	35

\* The folder for each subject was indexed as a sequence of 150 word chunks. Furthermore 100 and 200 word chunk indices for the Cell Ageing folder were prepared in order to indicate sensitivity to chunk size. Memory limits prevented 200 word indices on Exosomes and Cell Repair.

Inconsistencies were noted in word totals, probably due to server conflicts as to whether a document existed already or not (<1%).

Chunk homogeneity: Mechanical extraction can be fooled by repetitive patterns that are not related to the underlying content, such as copyright notices and journal titles. Restricting the input texts to content would therefore improve results.

Stopwords : For this examination the standard Google stopwords for English, as reported by [Wikimedia](#), were ignored; that list can be augmented to improve quality.

Stopping condition : Sherlock mines progressively deeper until the results contain at least a given number of unique words, 100 in these tests. Increasing that threshold would reveal more obscure correlations, and increase coverage, but might overwhelm memory resources by generating too many candidate solutions.

## Accumulating the results

The ordered set structure of ARM rules make accumulation easy, in effect hanging branches off a tree. In figure 9 below are accumulated sequences gathered from news feeds on Blockchain, Business, Fashion, and Sport; from each is suspended an ordered tree, grounded by the timings and rule observations. The set {Goldman,Sachs} produces Goldman → Sachs as often as it does Sachs → Goldman, because it's Goldman & Sachs.

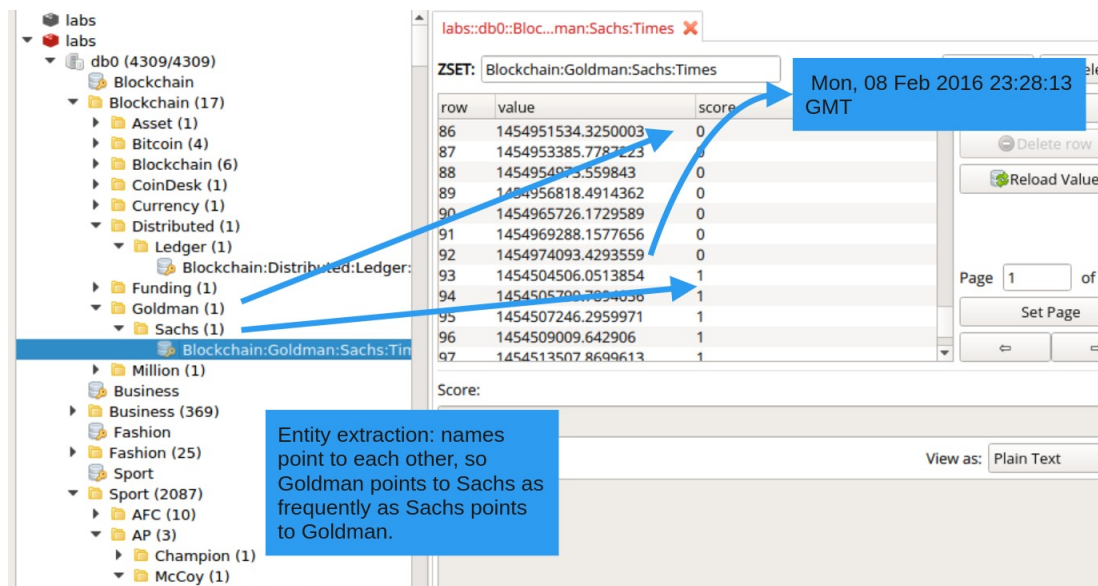


Figure 9: Redis ZSets making a timestamped knowledge base

## Conclusions

The same GPU parallel acceleration that powered the resurrection of interest in neural net learning has also renewed interest in areas that were previously avoided because of combination challenges. Frequent Item Set and the Association Rule Mining fall into that zone. Applying such techniques to text looks even more challenging, due to the size of the vocabulary of an average corpus ( the Simple English Wikipedia has more than 180,000 distinct words ).

However, neither logic nor counting have to be done in sequence. Partial parallelism on 1000+ core hardware and within 8 GB memory puts the entire Simple English Wikipedia firmly on the list of possibles.

ARM and Word2Vec confirm the attraction of looking for bags of words; Sherlock has been tried on many languages, right to left readers like Arabic included. You'll need only a stoplist to get going, conveniently like a teacher [7] who can point to combinations *not* to search, ' *forget all connectives*' etc..

Perhaps it is disappointing that brute force wins, and that the encoded bias of the numerical approach is exposed by the data; on the other hand, humans often exhibit conflicting signals, and unfounded distribution assumptions have often produced catastrophic results. Nowhere was this more true than in the financial sector. ARM the data instead ~ it's more understandable..

"In the end, people are persuaded not by what you said, but by what they understand".

John C. Maxwell

## References

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