

# Unit 3: Distinctive Words

Florida State Summer Methods Workshop

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## Last class: Dictionary methods

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- **Statistical methods**  $\rightsquigarrow$  **discriminating words**

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**Method:** Distinctive / Discriminating / Separating word scores.

# Preparing the Corpus

Our corpus: 6 novels by two authors, Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte.

First create a DTM of the corpus.

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- Requires a decision about what “distinctive” means.
- There are a variety of definitions that we might use.

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- If Brontë uses the word “access” and Austen never does, we should count “access” as distinctive.
- These words tend not to be terribly interesting or informative

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- Find the largest absolute difference.
- Doesn't take into account difference in total words.

## Option 3: Difference in Averages

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### 1 Normalize DTM from counts to proportions:

For each word  $p$  in an arbitrary corpus  $c$ :

$$\mu_p = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N p_i}{T}$$

where  $p_i$  is the number of times a  $p$  appears in document  $i$ ,  $N$  is the total number of documents in  $c$  and  $T$  is the total number of words in  $c$ .



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- 3 Find words with highest absolute difference.

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Adjustment: Divide the difference in authors' average rates by the average rate across all authors.

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- Classification  $\rightsquigarrow$  accuracy, precision, recall
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- More on this later (at the end of slides)

# Why do we care?

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## Who wrote the Federalist papers? (Hostler and Wallace (1963))

- Jay: wrote 5 essays
- Hamilton: wrote 43 papers
- Madison: wrote 12 papers
- **Disputed (Hamilton or Madison?):** Essays 49-58, 62, and 63

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**Task:** Identify authors of disputed papers

**Method:** Classify papers as Hamilton or Madison using dictionary methods

# Stylometry: Who Wrote Disputed Federalist Papers?

**Training**  $\rightsquigarrow$  papers Hamilton, Madison are known to have authored

**Test**  $\rightsquigarrow$  disputed (i.e. unlabeled) papers

**Preprocessing:**

- Hamilton/Madison discuss similar themes
- Differ on the extent they use **stop words**
- Focus analysis on the stop words

# Word Weights: Standardized Mean Difference

For each word  $p$ , construct weight  $\theta_p^*$ ,

$\mu_{p,\text{Hamilton}}$  = Rate( $p$ ) in subcorpus of Hamilton docs

$\mu_{p,\text{Madison}}$  = Rate( $p$ ) in subcorpus of Madison docs

$\sigma_{p,\text{Hamilton}}^2$  = Var( $p$ ) in subcorpus of Hamilton docs

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We can then generate weight  $\theta_p^*$  as

$$\theta_p^* = \frac{\mu_{p,\text{Hamilton}} - \mu_{p,\text{Madison}}}{\sqrt{\sigma_{p,\text{Hamilton}}^2 + \sigma_{p,\text{Madison}}^2}}$$

# Trimming the Dictionary

- Trimming weights: Focus on discriminating words (very simple **regularization**)
- Cut off: For all  $|\theta_p^*| < 0.025$  set  $\theta_p^* = 0$ .

# Classification $\rightsquigarrow$ Determining Authorship

For each disputed document  $i$ , compute discrimination statistic

$$Y_i = \sum_{p=1}^P \theta_p^* X_{ip}$$

$Y_i \rightsquigarrow$  classification (**linear discriminator**)

- Above midpoint in training set  $\rightarrow$  Hamilton text
- Below midpoint in training set  $\rightarrow$  Madison text

**Findings:** Madison is the author of the disputed federalist papers.

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- Convergence (do different metrics lead to the same result?)
- "Gold Standard" (do our results align with human coding?)