

# NLP For Economists

## Lecture 4: Deep dive into text classification and topic modeling

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# Week 1 - A Recap

- ▶ NLP Basics
- ▶ Introductory python
- ▶ NLP and Economics: an overview
- ▶ NLP Methods: An Overview

# Do these NLP approaches work?

A small exercise

Visit <https://huggingface.co/tasks>, pick a task, and browse some model demos there. Check out how they work for a few minutes. (10 minutes)

Share your observations.

# Outline for Today

- ▶ Text classification: Overview
- ▶ Different approaches to text classification
- ▶ Code walkthrough
- ▶ Topic modeling: Overview

# Why?

Why is there a deeper discussion only on these tasks, and not on others?

- ▶ popular use cases of NLP in general
- ▶ also the most common NLP tasks in the economics papers I came across.

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- ▶ Consider a scenario where we want to classify all reviews for a product into three categories: positive, negative, and neutral.
- ▶ The challenge here is to “learn” this categorization from a collection of examples and predict the categories for new, unseen products and new customer reviews.

# Different approaches to text classification

- ▶ rule based (heuristics, regular expressions etc)
- ▶ rule based features+machine learning
- ▶ data driven features + machine learning
- ▶ neural text representations + machine learning
- ▶ deep learning/transfer learning

Hutto, C., & Gilbert, E. (2014, May). Vader: A parsimonious rule-based model for sentiment analysis of social media text. In Proceedings of the international AAAI conference on web and social media (Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 216-225). ([url](#))

(next few slides quote verbatim from the paper)

# Identifying generalizable heuristics for the task

- ▶ Vader team analysed a corpus of 400 positive and 400 negative tweets manually (these ratings were obtained by using another tool - details in paper).
- ▶ Next, two human experts scrutinized all 800 tweets, and independently scored their sentiment intensity on a scale from  $-4$  to  $+4$ .
- ▶ They then used qualitative analysis techniques to identify properties and characteristics of the text which affect the perceived sentiment intensity of the text
- ▶ This deep qualitative analysis resulted in isolating five generalizable heuristics based on grammatical and syntactical cues.

1. Punctuation, namely the exclamation point (!), increases the magnitude of the intensity without modifying the semantic orientation. For example, "The food here is good!!!" is more intense than "The food here is good."
2. Capitalization, specifically using ALL-CAPS to emphasize a sentiment-relevant word in the presence of other non-capitalized words, increases the magnitude of the sentiment intensity without affecting the semantic orientation. For example, "The food here is GREAT!" conveys more intensity than "The food here is great!"

1. Degree modifiers (also called intensifiers, booster words, or degree adverbs) impact sentiment intensity by either increasing or decreasing the intensity. For example, “The service here is extremely good” is more intense than “The service here is good”, whereas “The service here is marginally good” reduces the intensity.
2. The contrastive conjunction “but” signals a shift in sentiment polarity, with the sentiment of the text following the conjunction being dominant. “The food here is great, but the service is horrible” has mixed sentiment, with the latter half dictating the overall rating.



1. By examining the tri-gram preceding a sentiment-laden lexical feature, we catch nearly 90% of cases where negation flips the polarity of the text. A negated sentence would be “The food here isn't really all that great.
2. These heuristics go beyond what would normally be captured in a typical bag-of-words model. They incorporate word-order sensitive relationships between terms:

# Peeping into Vader's code-1

```
# #Static methods# #
```

```
def negated(input_words, include_nt=True):
    """
    Determine if input contains negation words
    """
    input_words = [str(w).lower() for w in input_words]
    neg_words = []
    neg_words.extend(NEGATE)
    for word in neg_words:
        if word in input_words:
            return True
    if include_nt:
        for word in input_words:
            if "n't" in word:
                return True
    '''if "least" in input_words:
        i = input_words.index("least")
        if i > 0 and input_words[i - 1] != "at":
            return True'''
    return False
```

# Peeping into Vader's code-2

```
def allcap_differential(words):  
    """  
    Check whether just some words in the input are ALL CAPS  
    :param list words: The words to inspect  
    :returns: `True` if some but not all items in `words` are ALL CAPS  
    """  
  
    is_different = False  
    allcap_words = 0  
    for word in words:  
        if word.isupper():  
            allcap_words += 1  
    cap_differential = len(words) - allcap_words  
    if 0 < cap_differential < len(words):  
        is_different = True  
    return is_different
```

# Peeping into Vader's code-2

```
def scalar_inc_dec(word, valence, is_cap_diff):
    """
    Check if the preceding words increase, decrease, or negate/nullify the
    valence
    """
    scalar = 0.0
    word_lower = word.lower()
    if word_lower in BOOSTER_DICT:
        scalar = BOOSTER_DICT[word_lower]
        if valence < 0:
            scalar *= -1
        # check if booster/dampener word is in ALLCAPS (while others aren't)
        if word.isupper() and is_cap_diff:
            if valence > 0:
                scalar += C_INCR
            else:
                scalar -= C_INCR
    return scalar
```

# Vader - I will stop here

- ▶ Vader has functions like this for various rules it implements.
- ▶ ..and more functions for combining different rules to make a final sentiment/polarity prediction
- ▶ All packed into a [single python file!](#)

# Rule based classification on a large scale

Markov, I. L., Liu, J., Vagner, A. (2021). Regular Expressions for Fast-response COVID-19 Text Classification. arXiv preprint arXiv:2102.09507.

- ▶ A recent (not peer-reviewed yet) report described how Facebook used regular expressions to determine whether a post is about COVID-19.
- ▶ They built two sets of regular expressions: (1) for 66 languages, with 99% precision and recall  $>50\%$ , (2) for the 11 most common languages, with precision  $>90\%$  and recall  $>90\%$ .
- ▶ Comparisons to a DNN classifier show explainable results, higher precision and recall, and less overfitting.

# Sounds great! Why can't we just do it always?

- ▶ The approach of using regular expressions to identify COVID-19 and related posts seems like a straight forward one for text classification.
- ▶ Vader's sentiment analyser in a single file seems like a good one too.
- ▶ Why can't we just follow that process for most problems?



# Building such regular expressions is non-trivial

```
([ck][ao]?r[ao]n[ao](?! (ry|do|[ct]tion|\\W{0,3}  
beer|dal|\\W*queens|\\W{0,2}(ca|california)
```

accounting for word order.

```
([ck][ao]?r[ao]n[ao]|c[o]vid){0,80}? (v[ai]i?r[aou]s|flu)  
|(v[ai]i?r[aou]s|flu){0,80}? ([ck][ao]?r[ao]n[ao]|c[o]vid)
```

Each time you create a new expression, you miss a few past matches.

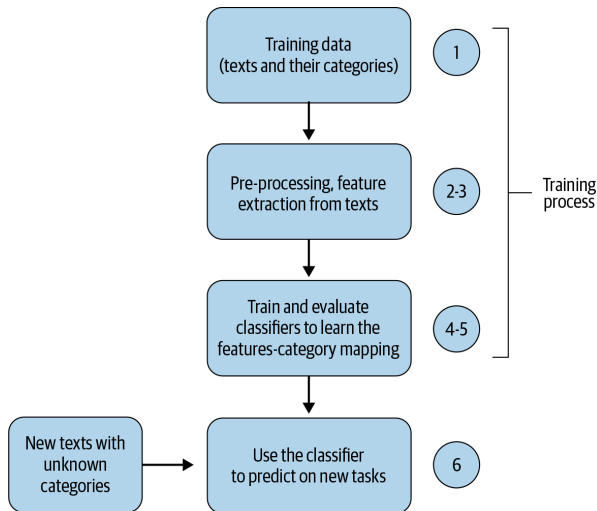
2690 new matches	230 lost matches
corona news	corona beer
corona news 24	koronadal news update
zoom news corona live	brigada news koronadal update
#coronacrisis	convit19
zoom news live corona	corona beer virus joke
korona news	corona beer virus
corona news bangladesh	koronadal updates
nepal corona news	corona beer virus funny
#coronanews	sharp coronado hospital
corona news nepal	coronation hospital
...	...

**Table 1: Evaluating a change to COVID-19 regexes.**

# Rule Based NLP: Comments

- ▶ Rule based NLP still has its place in current day tech.
- ▶ Yet, it is also non-trivial to build.
- ▶ Sometimes, it may even be impossible to create such rules that cover all possibilities (e.g., machine translation, summarization etc)
- ▶ Thus, rule based NLP is used only in specific cases, or as a supplement to existing ML/DL based approaches now.

# Text Classification Pipeline



source:

Practical NLP book

# Text Classification Pipeline

One typically follows these steps when building a text classification system:

1. Collect or create a labeled dataset suitable for the task.
2. Split the dataset into two (training and test) or three parts: training, validation (i.e., development), and test sets, then decide on evaluation metric(s).
3. Transform raw text into feature vectors.
4. Train a classifier using the feature vectors and the corresponding labels from the training set.
5. Using the evaluation metric(s) from Step 2, benchmark the model performance on the test set.
6. Deploy the model to serve the real-world use case and monitor its performance.

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source: Practical NLP book

# Some commonly used features in text classification

- ▶ ngrams (word, character, POS, mixed representations)
- ▶ neural embeddings (word, character, sentence, document embeddings)
- ▶ specific hand-crafted features: e.g., number of spelling errors, number of dependent clauses per clause, number of preposition phrases per sentence etc.
- ▶ feature representation: binary (presence or absence), count (number of occurrences), ratios etc.

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- ▶ Potentially understand why a prediction is X but not Y etc.



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- ▶ Sometimes, a text is entirely represented in terms of linguistically meaningful features, instead of embeddings or bag of words etc.
- ▶ This is useful when you want to understand which features carry more weight in making predictions
- ▶ Potentially understand why a prediction is X but not Y etc.
- ▶ LingFeat is a recent effort to build a comprehensive library of various kinds of linguistic features used in NLP research.

<https://github.com/brucewlee/lingfeat>

```
each method returns a dictionary of the corresponding features
"""

# Advanced Semantic (AdSem) Features
WoKF = LingFeat.WoKF_() # Wikipedia Knowledge Features
WBKF = LingFeat.WBKF_() # WeeBit Corpus Knowledge Features
OSKF = LingFeat.OSKF_() # OneStopEng Corpus Knowledge Features

# Discourse (Disco) Features
EnDF = LingFeat.EnDF_() # Entity Density Features
EnGF = LingFeat.EnGF_() # Entity Grid Features

# Syntactic (Synta) Features
PhrF = LingFeat.PhrF_() # Noun/Verb/Adj/Adv... Phrasal Features
TrSF = LingFeat.TrSF_() # (Parse) Tree Structural Features
POSF = LingFeat.POSF_() # Noun/Verb/Adj/Adv... Part-of-Speech Features

# Lexico Semantic (LxSem) Features
TTRF = LingFeat.TTRF_() # Type Token Ratio Features
VarF = LingFeat.VarF_() # Noun/Verb/Adj/Adv Variation Features
PsyF = LingFeat.PsyF_() # Psycholinguistic Difficulty of Words (AoA Kuperman)
WoLF = LingFeat.WoLF_() # Word Familiarity from Frequency Count (SubtlexUS)

# Shallow Traditional (ShTra) Features
ShaF = LingFeat.ShaF_() # Shallow Features (e.g. avg number of tokens)
TraF = LingFeat.TraF_() # Traditional Formulas
```

note: I did not use this library.

Okay, we know how to get some feature representation for a text. Now What?

# Some commonly used machine learning algorithms

- ▶ Naive bayes classifier
- ▶ K-nearest neighbors classifier
- ▶ Logistic regression
- ▶ Decision trees
- ▶ Random forests
- ▶ neural network classifiers

.. etc.

Note: I will only give an overview of how some of these work. Look for a machine learning textbook for more details.

# Recommended Readings

1. Machine Learning in Action, from Manning publications.
  2. Deep learning with python, from Manning publications
- I found these relatively accessible for people without a lot of mathematical/statistical background.

- ▶ Let us say I have a collection of emails ( $E_1, E_2 \dots E_n$ ). My problem is to classify them as spam or non-spam.
- ▶ Let us assume I already have some training data of 1000 emails labeled as Spam, 1000 labeled non-spam.
- ▶ Bayes classifier solves the text classification problem using bayes rule. For some email  $E_1$   
$$P(\text{spam}|E_1) = P(\text{spam}) * P(E_1|\text{spam}) / P(E_1)$$
$$P(\text{non-spam}|E_1) =$$
$$P(\text{non-spam}) * P(E_1|\text{non-spam}) / P(E_1)$$
- ▶ if first probability is higher than second, the email is spam. Else, it is non-spam.
- ▶ Since this is a comparison, we can ignore the denominator.

# Naive Bayes - continued

Let us take individual terms:

- ▶  $P(\text{spam})$ ,  $P(\text{non-spam})$ : prior probability of seeing a spam or non-spam message. If your training data has 400 spam and 100 non-spam messages, what are  $P(\text{spam})$  and  $P(\text{non-spam})$ ?

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- ▶  $P(E1|\text{spam})$ ,  $P(E1|\text{non-spam})$ : likelihood that the email is actually spam or non-spam based on our training data. How do we get this?
- ▶ If we take a "bag of words" approach, and consider each word as a feature, each unique word in the email becomes a feature.
- ▶ If an email has only two words: "my mail",  $P(E1|\text{spam}) = P(\text{my}|\text{spam}) * P(\text{mail}|\text{spam})$ .  $P(E1|\text{non-spam}) = P(\text{my}|\text{non-spam}) * P(\text{mail}|\text{non-spam})$ .



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- ▶ If an email has 100 words,  $P(E1|\text{spam})$  and  $P(E1|\text{non-spam})$  are products of 100 conditional probabilities. You assign E1 to spam if  $P(E1|\text{spam})$  is higher than  $P(E1|\text{non-spam})$  and vice-versa.

# Naive Bayes - conclusion

- ▶ Assumption: Each feature is independent of the other.
- ▶ There is no in-built way to account for inter-correlation between features
- ▶ So, this assumption does not really tell the whole story about what is happening. But it works for predictive modeling!

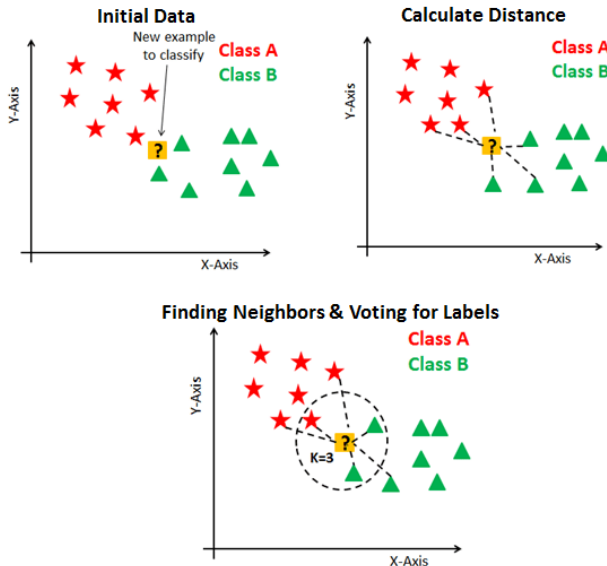
# k-NN classifier

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- ▶ Idea: A document belongs to the majority category among its k-neighbors.
- ▶ Let us say my classification problem is: classifying movie reviews into three groups - positive, negative, neutral.
- ▶ My training data: say 500 examples for each of these categories.
- ▶ Let us say I am using only two features: Use of positive adjectives, Use of negative adjectives
- ▶ If I say my k is 5, when I have to classify a new review, and 3 of its neighbors on this feature space have category "positive", 1 has "negative", 1 has "neutral", I will choose "positive" as the category for this new review, because majority of my k neighbors have "positive".
- ▶ What is neighborhood? - any measure of distance.

# k-NN classifier - 2D example



- ▶ Also called "instance based classifier" or "lazy learner"
- ▶ Does not really have a "model" or "function". All computation of near-ness or far-ness happens during actual classification
- ▶ If you have large amounts of training data, and large feature set, this will become extremely slow.
- ▶ selecting k is heuristic.
- ▶ relationship between features is till not considered. Features are considered independent of each other.

- ▶ Goal: same as any other classification algorithm. Classify a given text into one of the pre-defined categories, based on some feature representation.
- ▶ Difference compared to naive bayes or knn: learning function.
- ▶ Learning function in Logistic Regression:
  1. If  $x$  is my text,  $f_1, f_2 \dots f_i$  is my feature vector for this text,  $C = c_1, c_2, c_3$  are my three possible categories,

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  2. for a class  $c$ ,
$$p(c|x) = \frac{\exp(\sum_{i=1}^n (w_i * f_i(c, x)))}{\sum_{c' \in C} \exp(\sum_{i=1}^n (w_i * f_i(c', x)))}$$
  3. The class with the maximum probability in will be the predicted class. Since it is a comparison, again, we can ignore denominator.



- ▶ Note: You don't have to struggle with the math. There are ready to use implementations you can use if you want.
- ▶ Check Chapter 5 in Jurafksy & Martin for a detailed discussion on Logistic Regression
- ▶ (personal experience): At one point, I lead a project to deploy a comment moderator for "The Globe & Mail", Canada's largest news paper (2019 March). This was based on Bag of n-gram features + Logistic Regression!

# Learning algorithms: Summary

- ▶ There are several other learning algorithms
- ▶ I gave a very superficial overview in this and previous classes.
- ▶ They are different in the way the learning functions are, what their loss functions are etc.
- ▶ So, it is always a good idea to compare and experiment before choosing one approach.

# Measuring Success of your classification approach

Multiple ways. Depends on the nature of your dataset, and your application. Here are a few common measures:

- ▶ Prediction accuracy on test set: commonly used
- ▶ False positive rate (Type 1 Error), False negatives (Type 2 error)
- ▶ Precision ( $TP/(TP+FP)$ ), Recall ( $TP/(TP+FN)$ ), F-score ( $2PR/(P+R)$ )
- ▶ Confusion matrices, to understand what sort of errors occur

... ..

# Questions?

Let us take a short 5 minute break before moving into some code discussion.

# an End to End walkthrough

# Walking through an example: Corpus

- ▶ we'll use the “Economic News Article Tone and Relevance” dataset
- ▶ It consists of 8,000 news articles annotated with whether or not they're relevant to the US economy
- ▶ The dataset is also imbalanced, with 1,500 relevant and 6,500 non-relevant articles, which poses the challenge of guarding against learning a bias toward the majority category (in this case, non-relevant articles)
- ▶ Clearly, learning what a relevant news article is is more challenging with this dataset than learning what is irrelevant. After all, just guessing that everything is irrelevant already gives us 80% accuracy!
- ▶ Let us explore how a BoW representation can be used with this dataset following the pipeline described earlier in this chapter.

<https://data.world/crowdfunder/economic-news-article-tone>

# Using relatively older NLP approaches

Code source: [https://github.com/practical-nlp/practical-nlp-code/blob/master/Ch4/01\\_OnePipeline\\_ManyClassifiers.ipynb](https://github.com/practical-nlp/practical-nlp-code/blob/master/Ch4/01_OnePipeline_ManyClassifiers.ipynb)



# Using BERT+Fine-tuning

Code source: [https://huggingface.co/transformers/v3.4.0/custom\\_datasets.html](https://huggingface.co/transformers/v3.4.0/custom_datasets.html)

# Using a model and interpreting its predictions

- ▶ Assuming we explore several classifiers, and fix on one best thing for our dataset, what next?
- ▶ We need a way to "use" this trained model
- ▶ It would be good to also have a way to understand the model predictions at least
- ▶ Recent research in NLP has focused on interpretability of such ML models.
- ▶ one of the libraries useful for this task is: lime  
<https://github.com/marcotcr/lime>

# Use this model to predict or interpret for new text

```
from lime import lime_text
from lime.lime_text import LimeTextExplainer

y_pred_prob = classifier.predict_proba(X_test_dtm)[: , 1]
c = make_pipeline(vect, classifier)
mystring = list(X_test)[221] #Take a string from test instance
print(c.predict_proba([mystring])) #Prediction is a "No" here. i.e., not relevant
class_names = ["no", "yes"] #not relevant, relevant
explainer = LimeTextExplainer(class_names=class_names)
exp = explainer.explain_instance(mystring, c.predict_proba, num_features=6)
exp.as_list()
```



# Use the model to predict for new texts

## Step 1: Save the model and its processing pipeline

```
from sklearn.pipeline import make_pipeline
from sklearn.externals import joblib

vect = CountVectorizer(preprocessor=clean, max_features=1000)
classifier = LogisticRegression(class_weight='balanced')
pipeline = make_pipeline(vect, classifier)
pipeline.fit(X_train, y_train)
joblib.dump(pipeline, "mymodel.pkl")
```

# Use the model to predict for new texts

## Step 2: Use this model and make predictions!

```
from sklearn.feature_extraction import stop_words
import string
from sklearn.externals import joblib

#same preprocessor is needed again:
stopwords = stop_words.ENGLISH_STOP_WORDS
def clean(doc): #doc is a string of text
    doc = doc.replace("</br>", " ") #This text contains a lot of <br/> tags.
    doc = "".join([char for char in doc if char not in string.punctuation and not char.isdigit()])
    doc = " ".join([token for token in doc.split() if token not in stopwords])
    #remove punctuation and numbers
    return doc

model_file = "mymodel.pkl"
pipeline = joblib.load(model_file)

mystring = "Every facet of Canadian life has been changed by the current pandemic, from how and
    where we live, to how we shop, eat and work. While not all changes have been
    for the better, COVID-19 could bring about some positive changes to Canada's economy."
print(pipeline.predict([mystring])) #prints only the prediction
print(pipeline.predict_proba([mystring]))
#prints predictions with probabilities in the order: [not relevant, relevant]
```

# Others one can explore

- ▶ Using other embeddings as features instead of bag of ngrams/words
- ▶ Using other pre-trained models in the fine-tuning approach
- ▶ Exploring fine-tuning itself deeper (should I tune all layers of the network? Should I tune at all? Can't I add some new layers instead? etc)

# Text classification: Comments

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- ▶ No model can solve the problem of data quality. So, focus on getting good quality data to solve your problem first.
- ▶ Build a solution incrementally. Don't jump into the most complex solution first. Eventually, you want your stuff to be reliable, and not too expensive to maintain in short/long term.

# Questions?

A 10minute break?

# Topic Modeling

- ▶ Give a general overview of topic models and their applications

note: since I don't have much experience with topic models other than classroom instruction, I am giving you relevant resources where possible. useful resources:

- ▶ <https://mimno.infosci.cornell.edu/>
- ▶ <http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~blei/topicmodeling.html>
- ▶ <https://github.com/MaartenGr/BERTopic>

# What is topic modeling?

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- ▶ They use statistical methods to analyze word usage in the texts to discover what "themes" run through them, how these themes connect to each other etc.
- ▶ Good thing about them: they do not expect us to provide any prior annotations/categories for texts. Topics will "emerge" from the analysis.
- ▶ Bad thing: "Topics" need not necessarily be meaningful, unless you know how to tweak the models



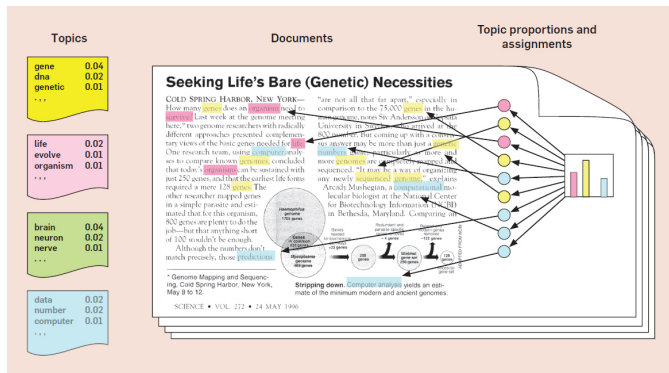
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- ▶ Topic Models are a group of algorithms which attempt to discover latent themes in large collections of documents.
- ▶ They use statistical methods to analyze word usage in the texts to discover what "themes" run through them, how these themes connect to each other etc.
- ▶ Good thing about them: they do not expect us to provide any prior annotations/categories for texts. Topics will "emerge" from the analysis.
- ▶ Bad thing: "Topics" need not necessarily be meaningful, unless you know how to tweak the models
- ▶ They seem to be the most popular method for analyzing unstructured text data in Economics

# Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

- ▶ LDA is the most known topic modeling algorithm
- ▶ Intuitions:
  - ▶ each document is a mixture of multiple topics
  - ▶ each topic can be characterized by some set of keywords related to that topic.
  - ▶ a keyword can exist in multiple topics with different degrees of importance.

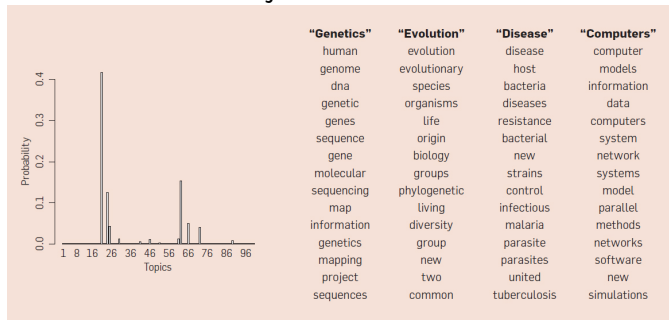
# What does a Topic Model do?-1



source: <https://goo.gl/azc7Gc>

# What does a Topic Model do? -2

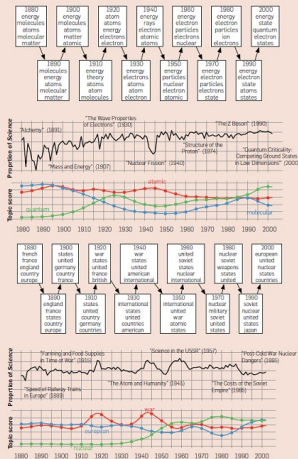
Real inference with LDA - topic model built using 17000 articles from Science journal.



source: <https://goo.gl/azc7Gc>

# How are topic models useful? -2

## Analysing topics over time



source: <https://goo.gl/azc7Gc>

# How are topic models useful? -3

## Analyzing topics by author

TOPIC 10		TOPIC 209		TOPIC 87		TOPIC 20	
WORD	PROB.	WORD	PROB.	WORD	PROB.	WORD	PROB.
SPEECH	0.1134	PROBABILISTIC	0.0778	USER	0.2541	STARS	0.0164
RECOGNITION	0.0349	BAYESIAN	0.0671	INTERFACE	0.1080	OBSERVATIONS	0.0150
WORD	0.0295	PROBABILITY	0.0532	USERS	0.0788	SOLAR	0.0150
SPEAKER	0.0227	CARLO	0.0309	INTERFACES	0.0433	MAGNETIC	0.0145
ACOUSTIC	0.0205	MONTE	0.0308	GRAPHICAL	0.0392	RAY	0.0144
RATE	0.0134	DISTRIBUTION	0.0257	INTERACTIVE	0.0354	EMISSION	0.0134
SPOKEN	0.0132	INFERENCE	0.0253	INTERACTION	0.0261	GALAXIES	0.0124
SOUND	0.0127	PROBABILITIES	0.0253	VISUAL	0.0203	OBSERVED	0.0108
TRAINING	0.0104	CONDITIONAL	0.0229	DISPLAY	0.0128	SUBJECT	0.0101
MUSIC	0.0102	PRIOR	0.0219	MANIPULATION	0.0099	STAR	0.0087
AUTHOR	PROB.	AUTHOR	PROB.	AUTHOR	PROB.	AUTHOR	PROB.
Waibel_A	0.0156	Friedman_N	0.0094	Shneiderman_B	0.0060	Linsky_J	0.0143
Gauvain_J	0.0133	Heckerman_D	0.0067	Rautenberg_M	0.0031	Falcke_H	0.0131
Lamel_L	0.0128	Ghahramani_Z	0.0062	Lavana_H	0.0024	Mursula_K	0.0089
Woodland_P	0.0124	Koller_D	0.0062	Pentland_A	0.0021	Butler_R	0.0083
Ney_H	0.0080	Jordan_M	0.0059	Myers_B	0.0021	Bjorkman_K	0.0078
Hansen_J	0.0078	Neal_R	0.0055	Minas_M	0.0021	Knapp_G	0.0067
Renals_S	0.0072	Rafferty_A	0.0054	Burnett_M	0.0021	Kundu_M	0.0063
Noth_E	0.0071	Lukasiewicz_T	0.0053	Winiwarter_W	0.0020	Christensen-J	0.0059
Boves_L	0.0070	Halpern_J	0.0052	Chang_S	0.0019	Crammer_S	0.0055
Young_S	0.0069	Muller_P	0.0048	Korvemaker_B	0.0019	Nagar_N	0.0050

Figure 3: An illustration of 4 topics from a 300-topic solution for the CiteSeer collection. Each topic is shown with the 10 words and authors that have the highest probability conditioned on that topic.

source:

<https://mimno.infosci.cornell.edu/info6150/readings/398.pdf>

# How are topic models useful? -4

## Picking up similar documents

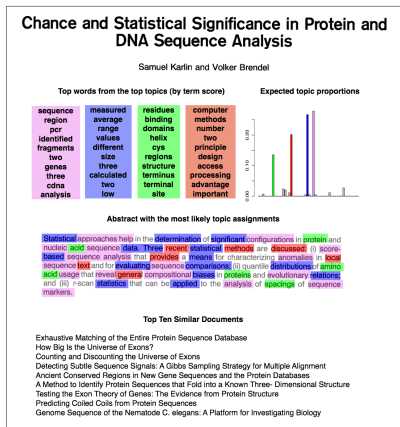


FIGURE 4. The analysis of a document from *Science*. Document similarity was computed using Eq. (4); topic words were computed using Eq. (3).

source: [http:](http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~blei/papers/BleiLafferty2009.pdf)

[//www.cs.columbia.edu/~blei/papers/BleiLafferty2009.pdf](http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~blei/papers/BleiLafferty2009.pdf)

# A small exercise

## Interpreting Topic Models

What do you think of these topics (and their 5 most frequent keywords)? If you are asked to evaluate this topic model now, what will you look for?

- ▶ Topic 1 : Onion, Cream, Black pepper, Milk, Cinnamon
- ▶ Topic 2: Cumin, Coriander, Turmeric, Fenugreek, Lemongrass
- ▶ Topic 3: Vanilla, Cream, Almond, Coconut, Oat
- ▶ Topic 4: Olive oil, tomato, parmesan cheese, lemon juice, garlic
- ▶ Topic 5: soy sauce, scallion, sesame oil, cane molasses, roasted sesame seed
- ▶ Topic 6: Milk, pepper, yeast, potato, lemon juice
- ▶ Topic 7: Scallion, garlic, ginger, soy bean, pepper
- ▶ Topic 8: Pepper, vinegar, onion, tomato, milk



# Some questions to ponder on:

- ▶ Coherence among the keywords for a topic (Is some word looking out of place?)
- ▶ Are there two topics that perhaps should be one?
- ▶ Can we name the topics with what we think is the group?
- ▶ Do you think the topic model learnt something about ingredients in this example?

# Building Topic models

- ▶ gensim is a popular library for topic models in python.  
<https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/>
- ▶ sklearn also has an implementation of LDA
- ▶ bertopic is a recent development, that seems to be getting popular.

# Building a topic model online: an exercise

- ▶ I was about to write a demo code, and discovered this in browser topic model builder!:  
<https://mimno.infosci.cornell.edu/jsLDA/>
- ▶ Try it out with some longish document (e.g., a book from gutenber.org) and see what happens.

Time: 15 minutes

# Share your observations

# 2020-22: \*BERT models and topic models

How do we combine recent transformer models with topic modeling? One approach:

1. Use transformer models to get text representation

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3. Use a clustering approach to group the documents together
4. get cluster level TF-IDF scores (c-TFIDF) for words and treat those as the topic words for that topic (cluster).
5. (potentially) merge similar topics to reduce the number of generated topics.



# Recent topic modeling tools

- ▶ Top2Vec
- ▶ BerTopic

# Evaluating Topic Models

- ▶ Topic coherence: normalized pointwise mutual information (NPMI), an automatic measure, shown to correlate with human judgements.
- ▶ Topic diversity: the percentage of unique words for all topics
- ▶ Visualization of topics
- ▶ Human evaluations
- ▶ Using topic models in a downstream task and comparing (e.g., as feature representation in text classification)

Note: Topic modeling toolkits generally support the first three

- ▶ Should we rebuild each time there is new info?  
→ **Dynamic topic modeling**: used to analyze the evolution of topics of a collection of documents over time
- ▶ Should I always have a huge collection of documents?  
→ **Recent research** proposes a pre-training+fine-tuning approach for topic models too!

# Topic Models: Summary

- ▶ Topic models are a good tool to use when we have a large corpus of texts, and no other related annotation.
- ▶ Although they are complex mathematical models, they are relatively easier to implement for a not so experienced person.
- ▶ However, training/tuning model performance can take time, it can be hard to understand what is a good number of topics, get topics with coherent keywords, etc.

Questions so far?

What do we do when we don't have labeled data in advance?