

# Natural Language Processing

**Text Classification**

Dirk Hovy

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 @dirk\_hovy

Bocconi

# Text is an exploding data source

Exabytes = 1M TB

120

60

0

- You read ~9000 words per day
- = 200.000.000 words in a lifetime
- = 0.4 GB of data
- 44 billion GB of new data each day

**60-80% GROWTH/YEAR**

**UNSTRUCTURED DATA**

**STRUCTURED DATA**

2 2009

Source: IDC

**Bocconi** 2017

# NLP is booming



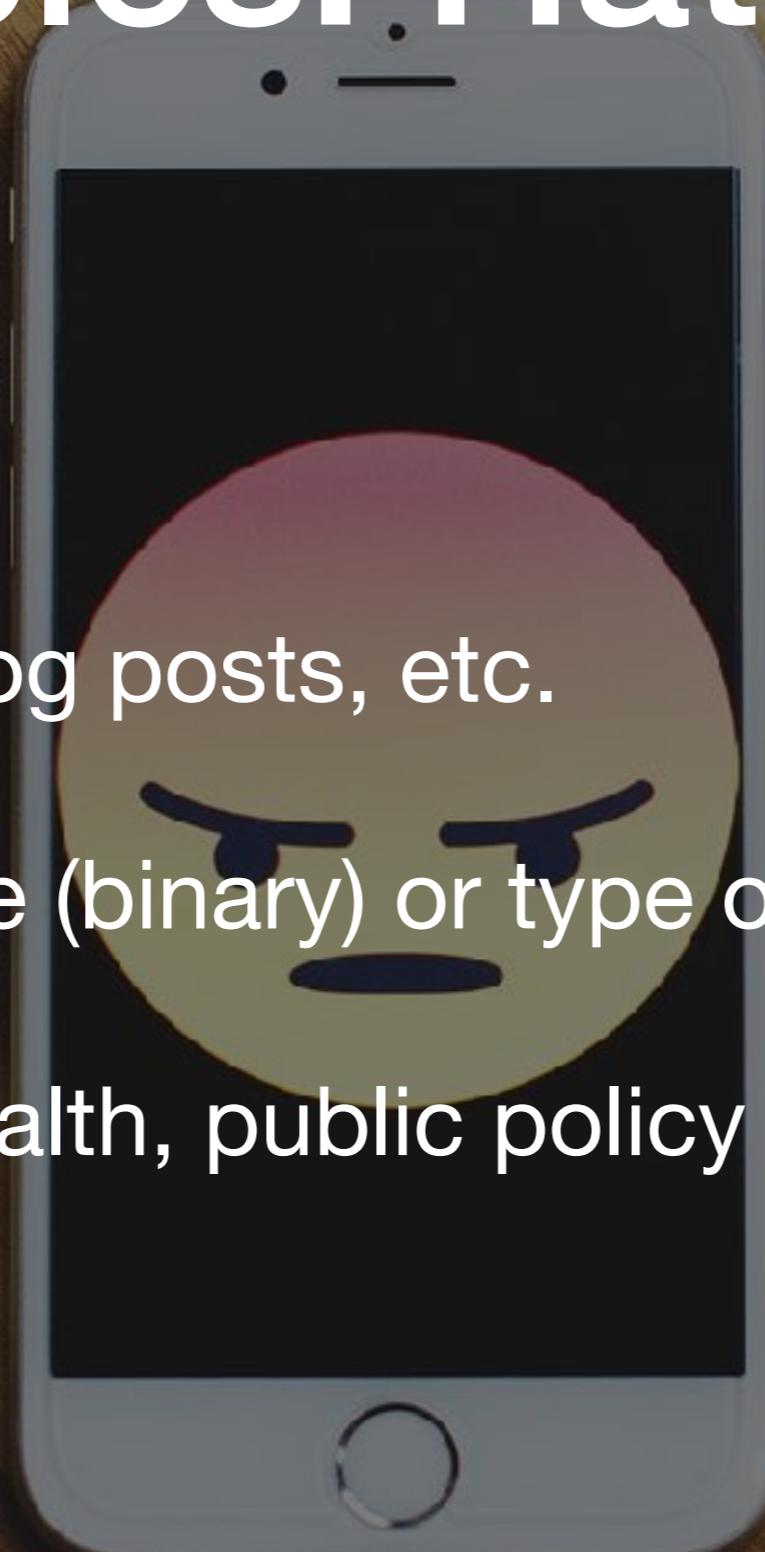
# Examples: Sentiment

- Input: reviews
- Output: positive, negative, neutral
- Use: business intelligence, market analysis



# Examples: Hate Speech

- Input: tweets, blog posts, etc.
- Output: presence (binary) or type of hate speech
- Use: platform health, public policy



# Examples: Mental Health

- Input: social media
- Output: presence of risk for mental health condition
- Use: psychologist support, risk screening

# Examples: Geolocation

*AUTHOR ATTRIBUTE PREDICTION*

- Input: tweet history
- Output: coordinates or predefined region
- Use: social media analysis, targeting

# Sentiment Analysis



# Classification Steps

- **preprocess** the data
- choose **text representation** (discrete or continuous)
- **select a model** (CV, metrics, regularization)
- **fit the final model**

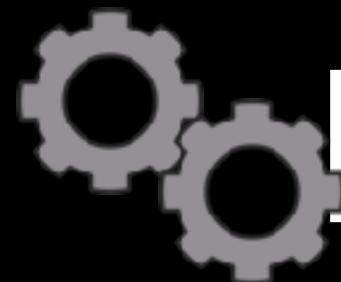
Let's start!

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# Today's Goals

- Understand where NLP comes from
- Learn about the different steps of **preprocessing**
- Learn about **bag of words** (BOW) representations
- Learn about forms of **TF-IDF** and its possibilities
- Understand the difference between sparse and dense representations
- Learn about word2vec and doc2vec

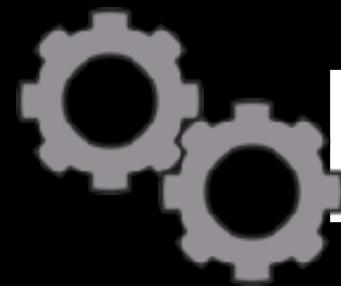
# Pre-processing



# Pre-processing steps

```
<div id="text">I've been in New York  
in 2011, but didn't like it. I  
preferred Los Angeles.</div>
```

*GOAL: MINIMIZE VARIATION*



# Pre-processing steps

- Remove formatting (e.g. HTML)

I've been in New York in  
2011, but didn't like  
it. I preferred Los  
Angeles.

- Segment sentences

- Tokenize words

- Normalize words

- numbers

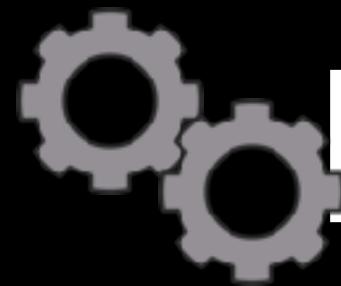
- lemmas vs. stems

- Remove unwanted words

- stopwords

- content words (use POS tagging!)

- join collocations



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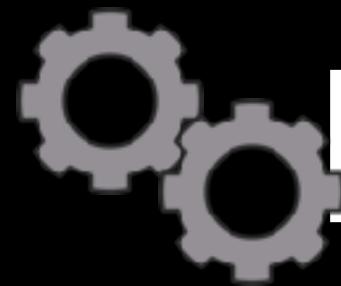
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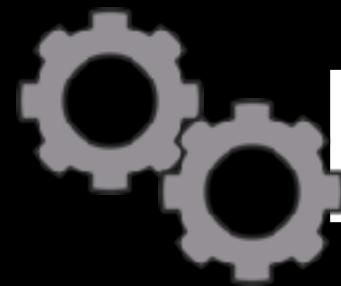
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- Remove formatting (e.g. HTML)

i 've been in new york  
in 0000 , but did n't  
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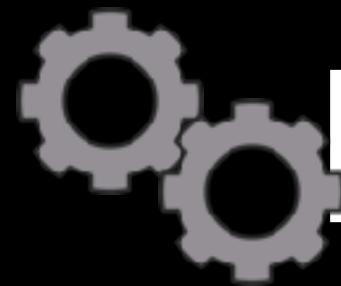
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it .

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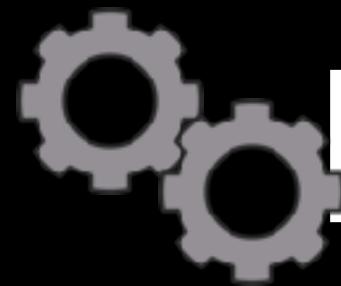
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# Pre-processing steps

- Remove formatting (e.g. HTML)

i new york 0000 , like .

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i prefer los angeles .

- Tokenize words

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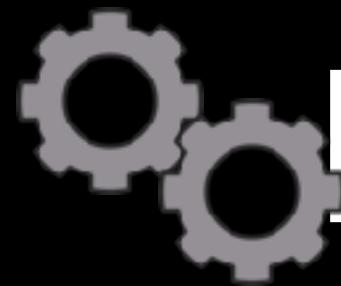
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new york 0000 like

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prefer los angeles

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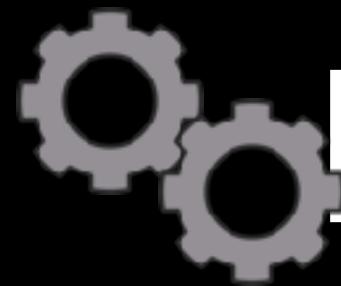
*CONTENT = (NOUN, VERB, NUM)*

- Remove unwanted words

- stopwords

- content words (use POS tagging!)

- join collocations



# Pre-processing steps

- Remove formatting (e.g. HTML)

new\_york 0000 like

- Segment sentences

- Tokenize words

prefer los\_angeles

- Normalize words

- numbers

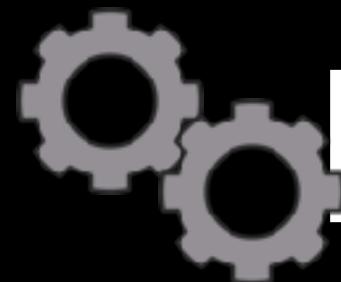
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# Pre-processing steps

```
<div id="text">I've been in New York  
in 2011, but didn't like it. I  
preferred Los Angeles.</div>
```



MINIMAL  
VARIATION

"BAG OF WORDS"

new\_york 0000 like

prefer los\_angelos

# Telling Neighbors: Pointwise Mutual Information

# Some are not like the Others



# Mutual Informativity

HOW WELL CAN WE GUESS THE BLANK?

social \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ media

\_\_\_\_\_ the

# Pointwise Mutual Information

*CHANCE OF SEEING THEM TOGETHER*

$$PMI(x, y) = \log \frac{P(x, y)}{P(x)P(y)}$$

*...SEEING EITHER*

x	y	c(x)	c(y)	c(xy)	P(x)	P(y)	P(x, y)	PMI(x; y)
moby	dick	83	83	82	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	3.48
captain	ahab	327	511	61	0.0013	0.0020	0.0002	1.97
white	whale	280	1150	106	0.0011	0.0045	0.0004	1.93
under	the	119	14175	45	0.0005	0.0553	0.0002	0.83
is	a	1690	4636	110	0.0066	0.0181	0.0004	0.56

$$c(X) = 256,149$$

$$c(XY) = 256,148$$

# Representing Text

# Ham or Spam?

From: [offr4u@rsph.com](mailto:offr4u@rsph.com)  
Subject: Unique wealth offerings  
To: [dirk.hovy@unibocconi.it](mailto:dirk.hovy@unibocconi.it)

---

Greetings dear friend

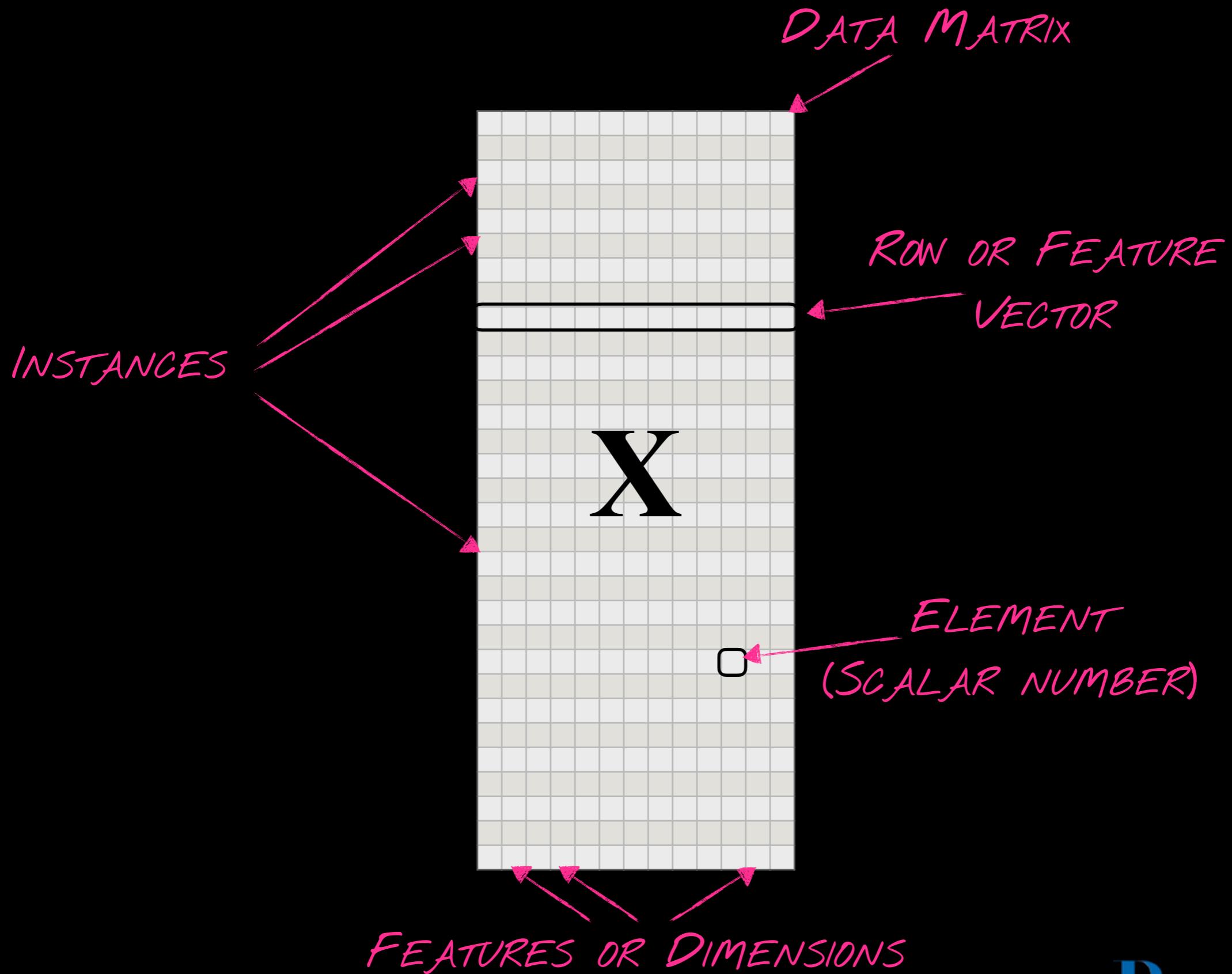
We have an amazing offer 4U: Click here to get access to a free consultation for serious wealth benefits! Urgent: offer expires soon.

Works guaranteed! Triple your income.

Spam terms:

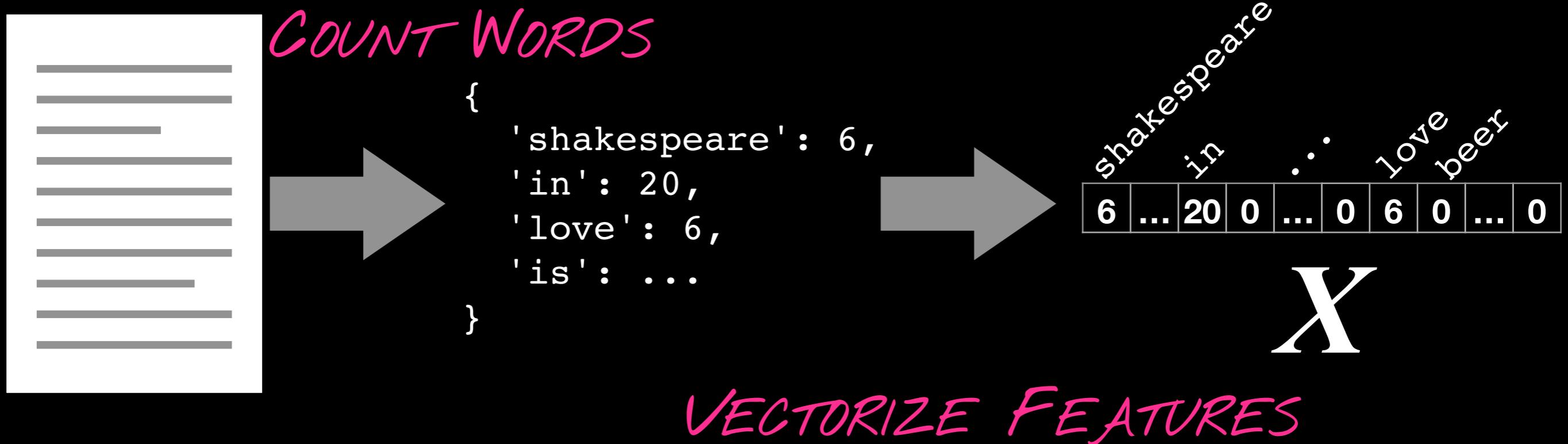
- 4U
- click
- amazing
- free
- guarantee
- offer
- urgent
- dear friend
- income
- serious

# Terminology



# Discrete Representations

# Bags of words (BOW)



# Quiz!

What happens if we allow *every possible word* to constitute a feature?

Expensive computation, and vectors have too many zeros.  
Limit to most frequent/informative words!

# Counting Trouble

*...AND A MAN NAMED ZIPF*



# *N*-grams

"As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect-like creature."

Unigrams As, Gregor, Samsa, awoke, one, morning, from,  
uneasy, dreams, ...

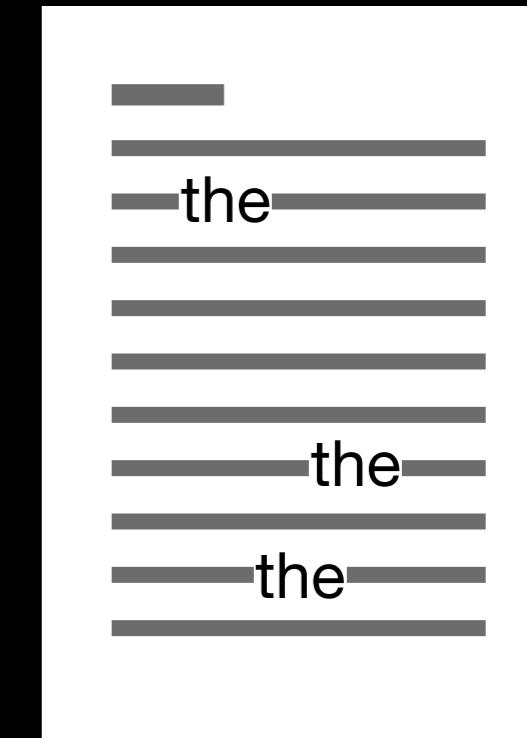
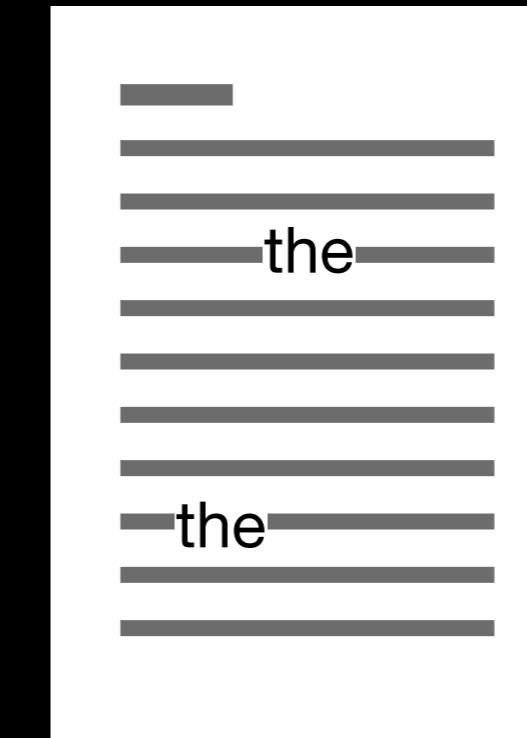
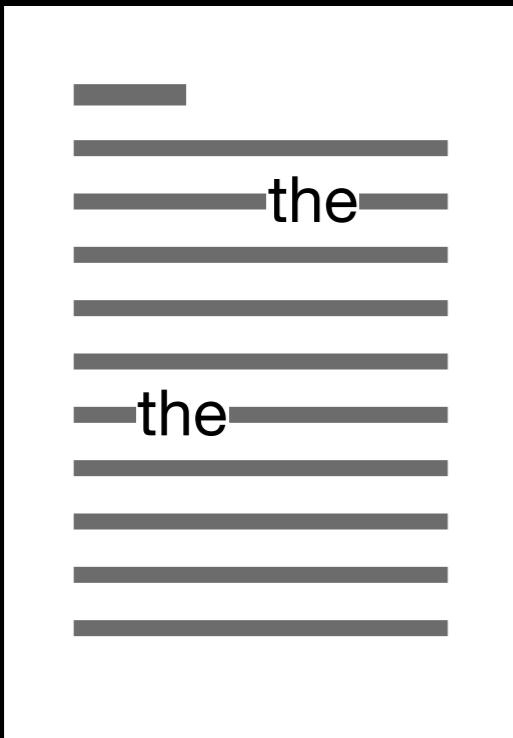
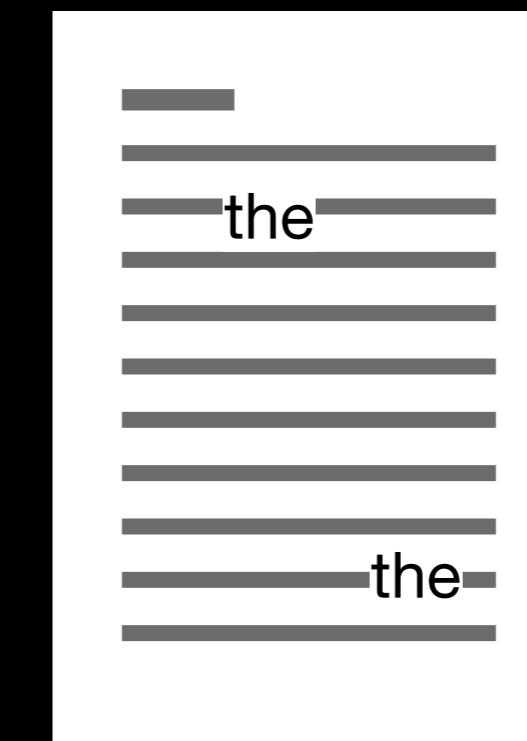
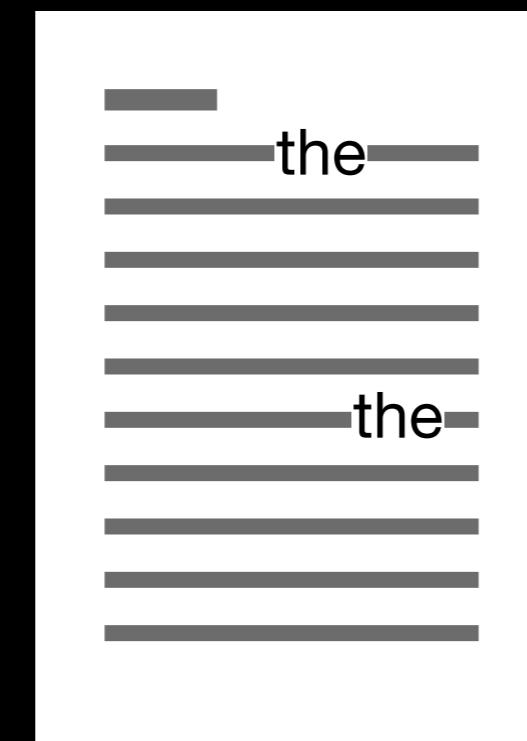
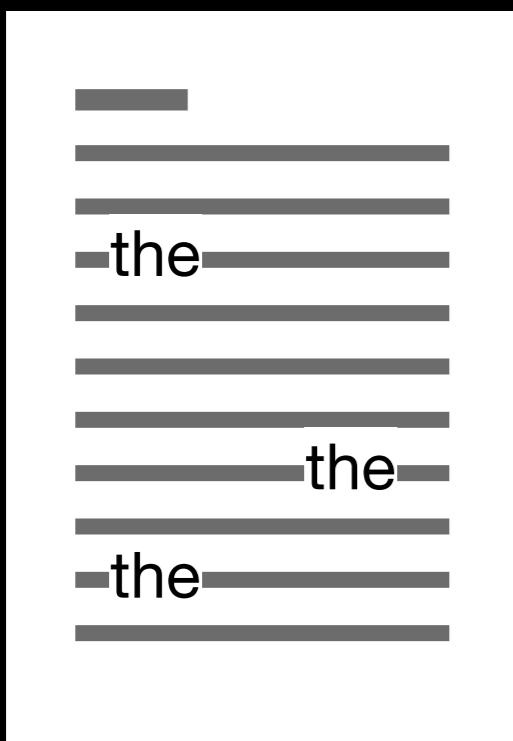
Bigrams As\_Gregor, Gregor\_Samsa, Samsa\_awoke, awoke\_one,  
one\_morning, ...

Trigrams As\_Gregor\_Samsa, Gregor\_Samsa\_awoke,  
Samsa\_awoke\_one, awoke\_one\_morning, ...

4-grams As\_Gregor\_Samsa\_awoke, Gregor\_Samsa\_awoke\_one,  
Samsa\_awoke\_one\_morning, ...

# Finding Important Words: TF-IDF

# Some Words are Just More Interesting...



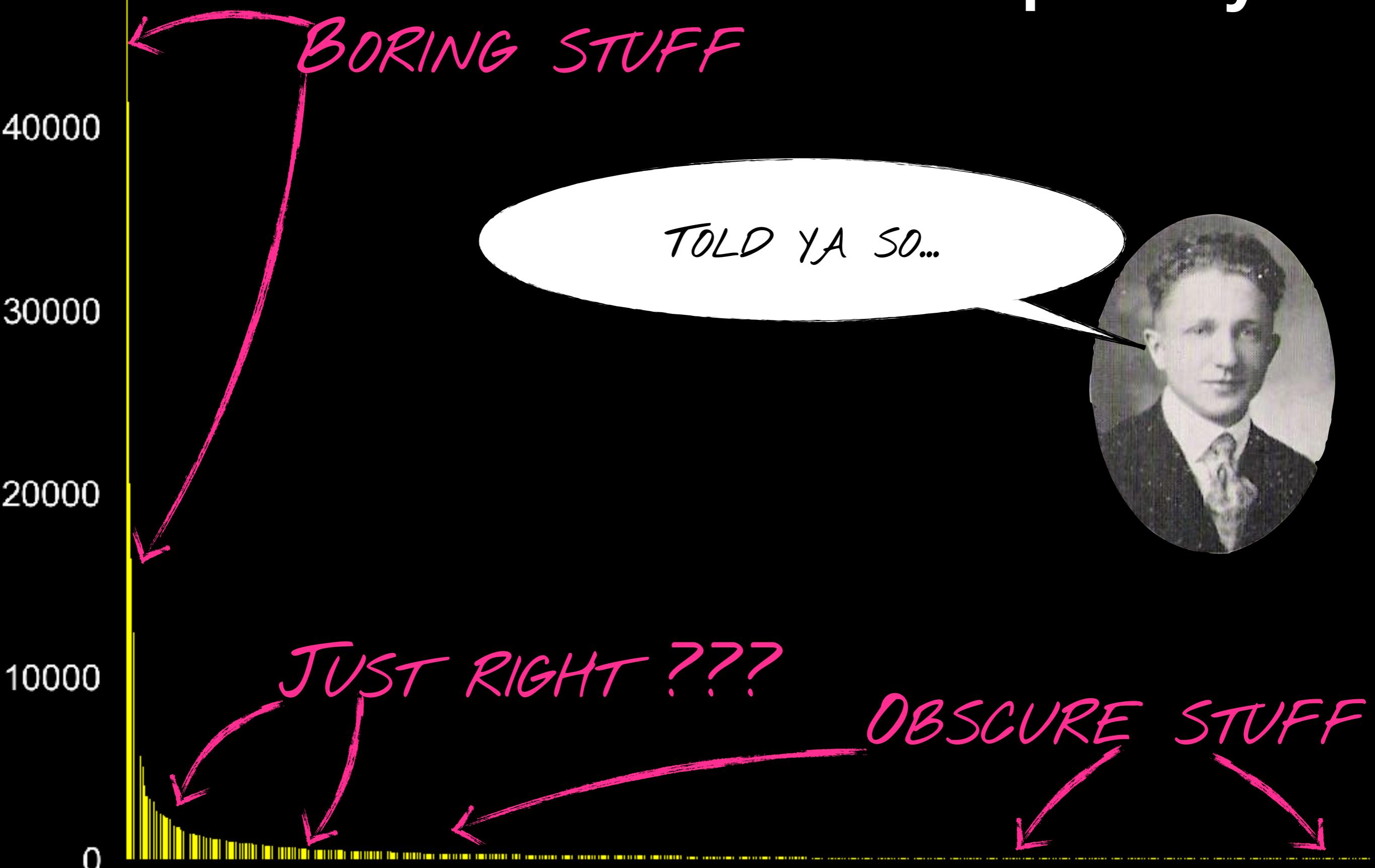
# Karen Spärck Jones

1935–2007

- Became a teacher before starting CS career at Cambridge
- Laid the foundation for modern NLP, Google Search, text classification
- Campaigned for more women in CS
- Namesake of prestigious CS prize

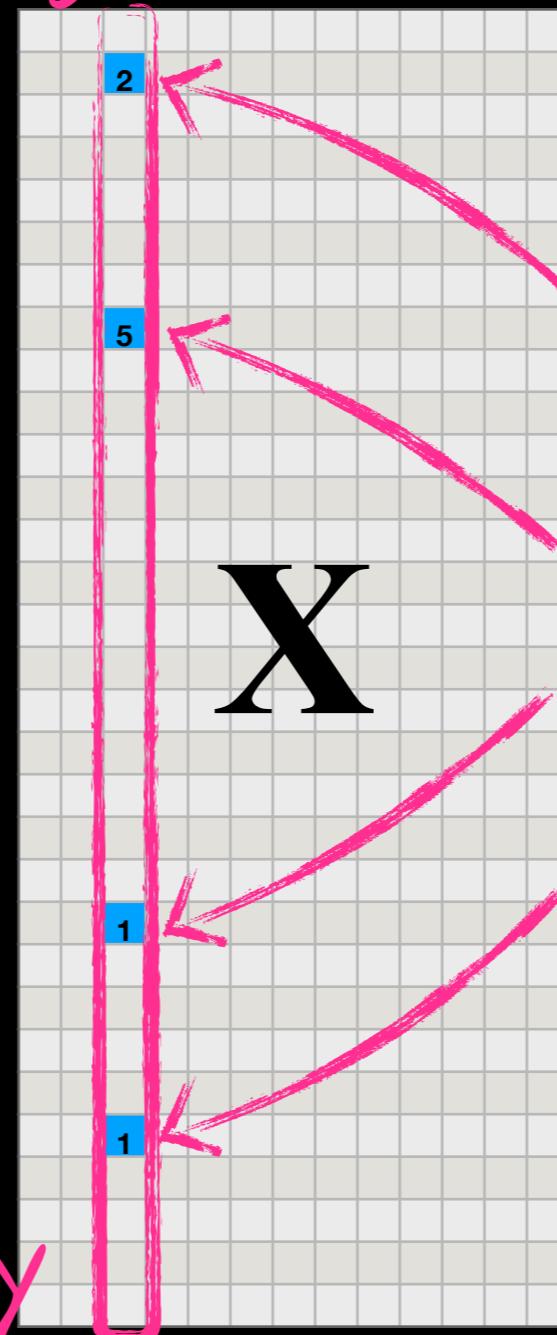


# Problems with Term Frequency



# Document and Term Frequency

$$IDF = \log \frac{N}{df(w)}$$

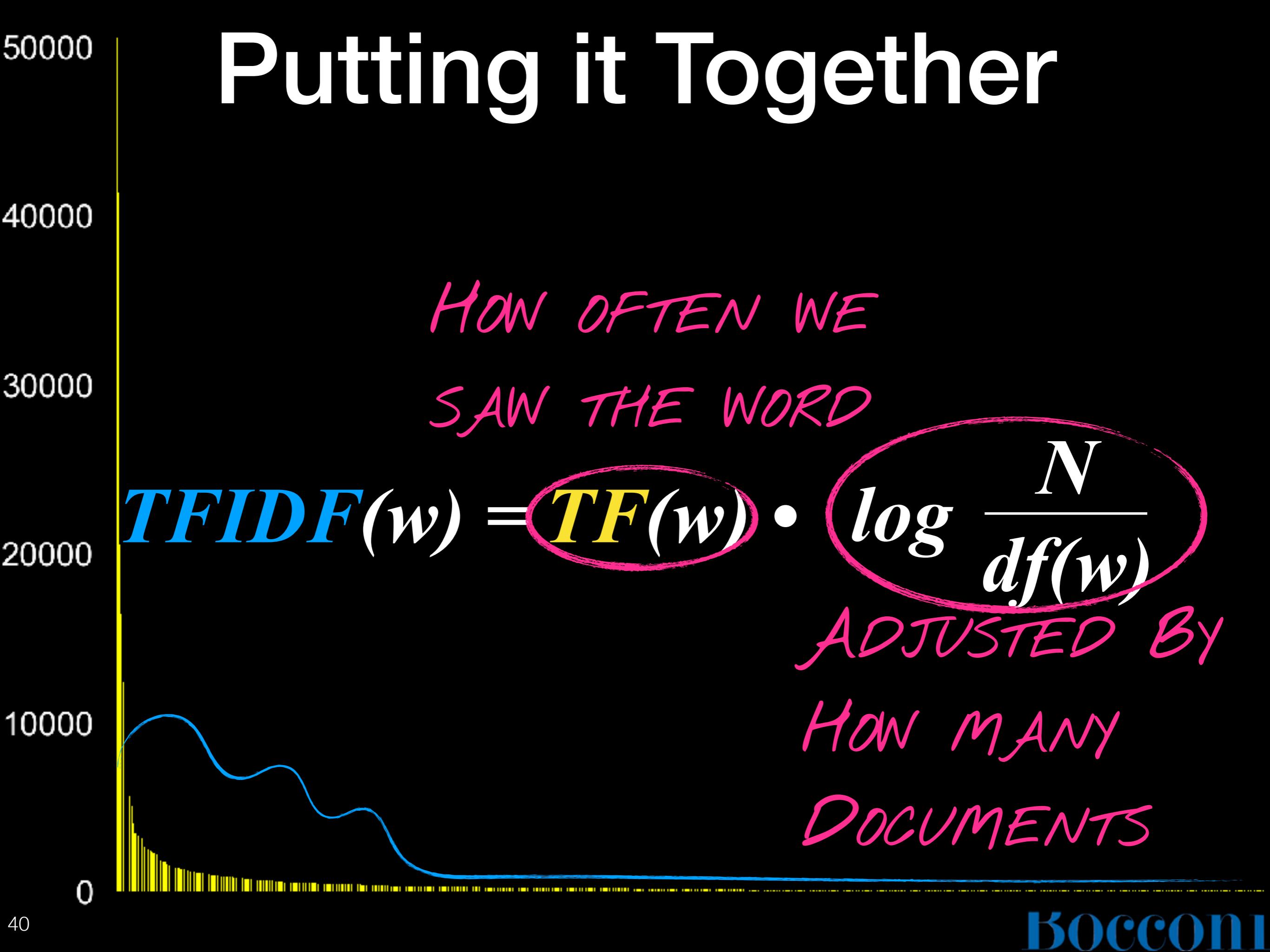


TERM FREQUENCY

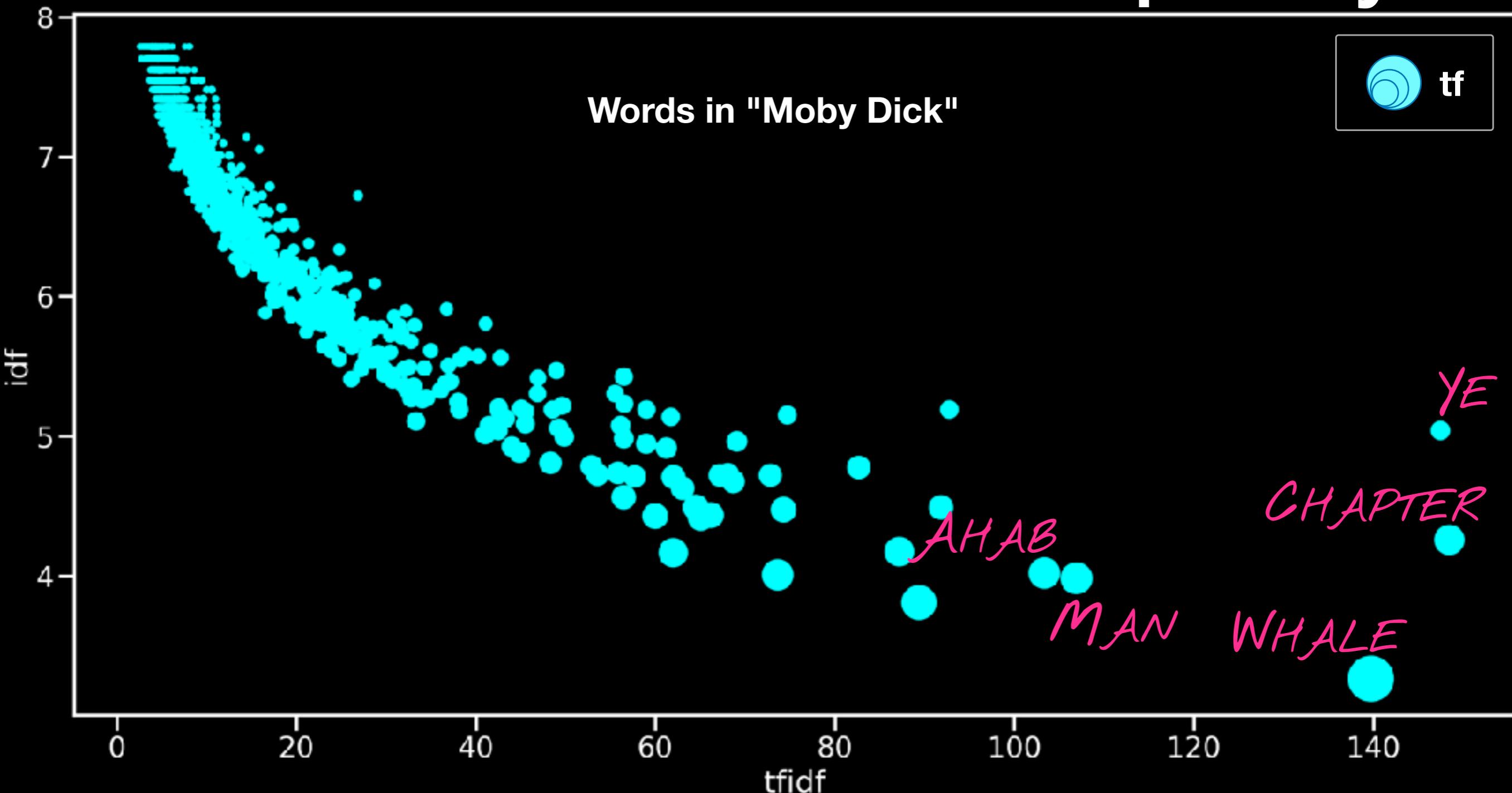
(SUM): 9 TF

FEATURE  
DOCUMENT  
FREQUENCY  
(COUNT): 4

# Putting it Together

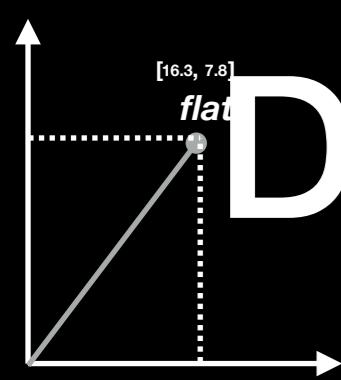


# Document and Term Frequency



word	tf	idf	tfidf
ye	467	4.257380	148.497079
chapter	171	5.039475	147.504638
whale	1150	3.262357	139.755743
man	525	3.982412	106.932953
ahab	511	4.019453	103.357774

# Dense Distributed Representations



# Distributional Hypothesis

*“You shall know the meaning of a word by the company it keeps”*

Firth (1957)

Similar words have similar **contexts**

Represent **words** as **vectors/points** in space

Similar words have similar vectors

# An Example

flats in copenhagen 

All Shopping Maps Images News More Settings Tools

About 547,000 results (0.63 seconds)

[Copenhagen Flats - Find Unique Rentals in Copenhagen - Airbnb.com.au](#)  
Ad [www.airbnb.com.au/Copenhagen](http://www.airbnb.com.au/Copenhagen) ▾  
Book Flat Rentals From \$49/Night!  
Over 1,000,000 listings · Travel like a local · \$1,000,000 Host Guarantee · 24/7 customer service  
2015 Innovative Brand of the Year – Marketing Magazine

[Apartments](#)  
from **\$59.00/day**  
[Entire Home; Private Room](#)

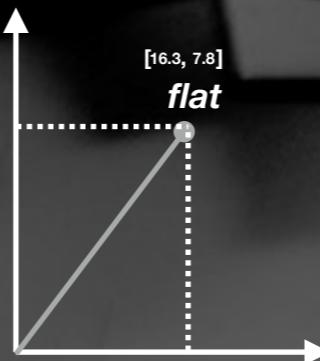
[Treehouses](#)  
from **\$39.00/day**  
[ZZZs in the Trees](#)

[Castles](#)  
from **\$129.00/day**  
[Live Out Your Fairytale](#)

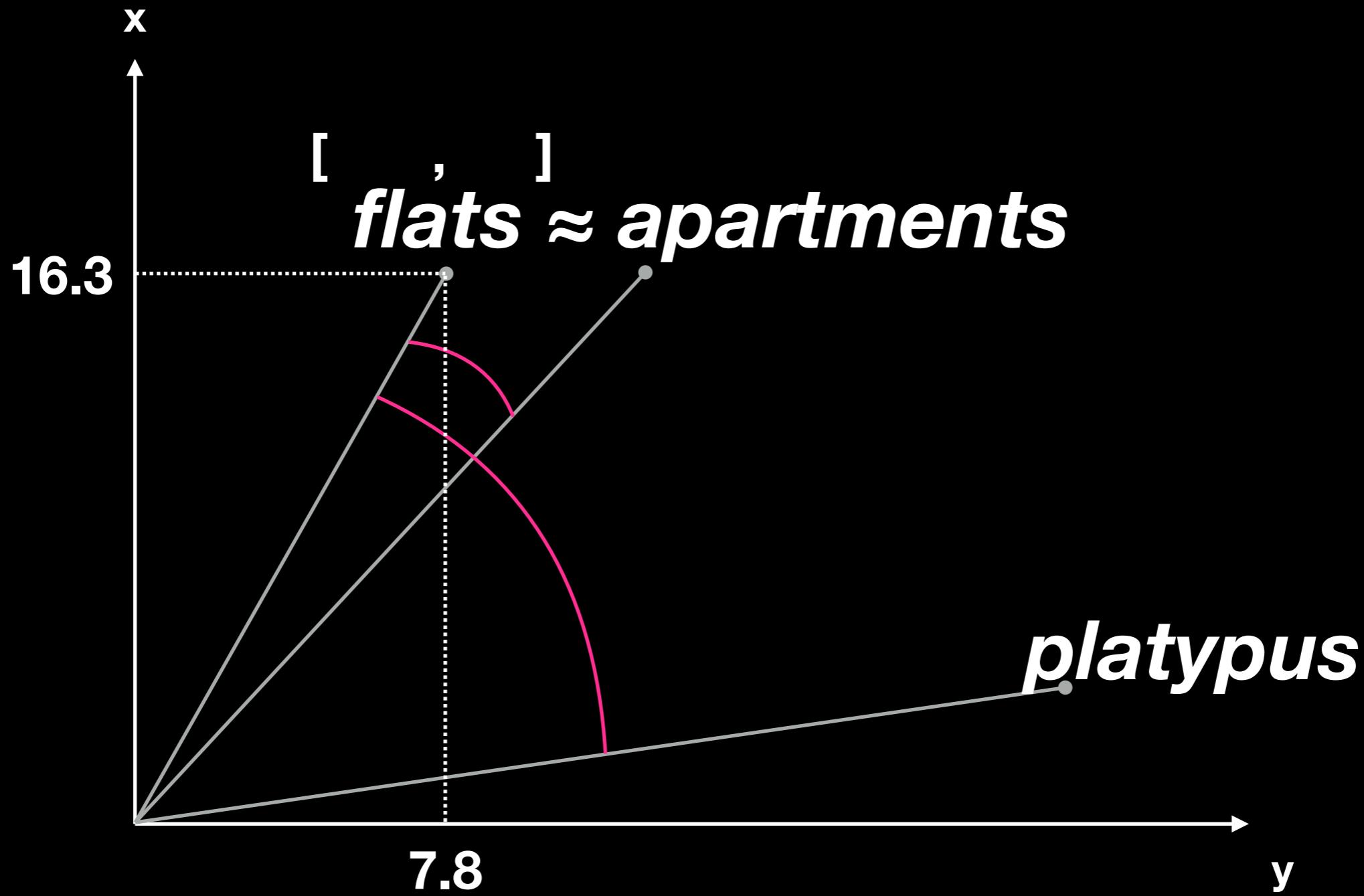
[Copenhagen Apartments - Fully Furnished - redappleapartments.com](#)  
Ad [www.redappleapartments.com/Copenhagen](http://www.redappleapartments.com/Copenhagen) ▾  
Huge Selection of Quality Furnished Apartments in Copenhagen. Book Safely Now!  
Monthly Apartments · Nightly Apartments

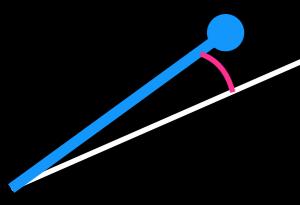
# Part 1

## Representing Words as Vectors

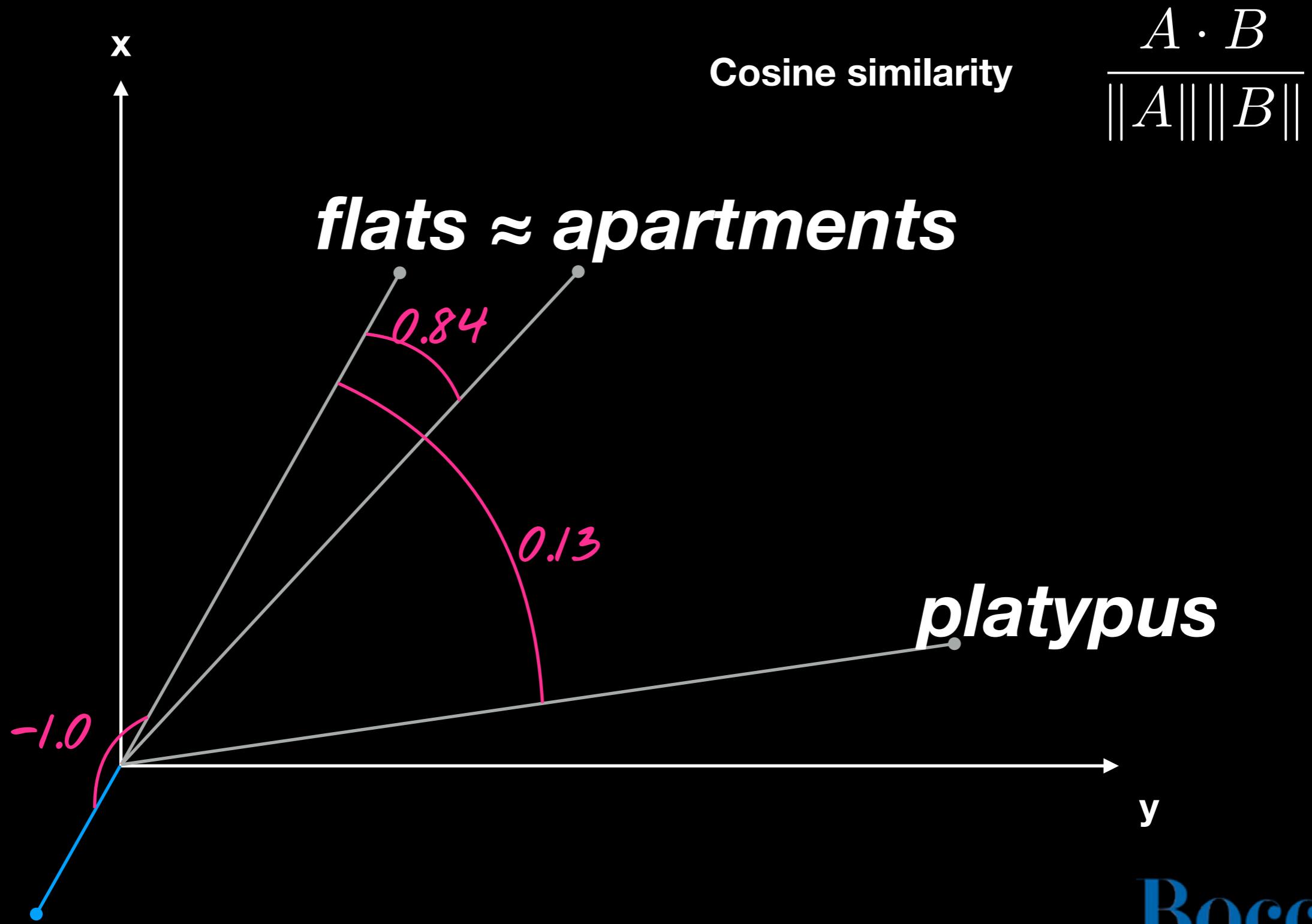


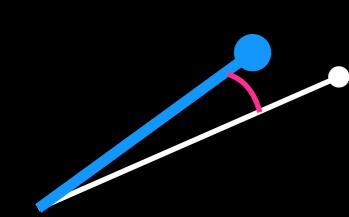
# Semantic Similarity





# Similarity Measures





# Dot Product

- “combine” vectors to a scalar

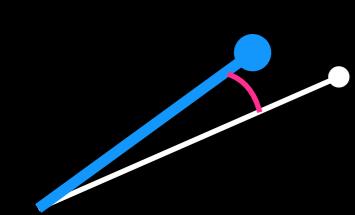
$$x \cdot y = \sum_{i=1}^D x_i y_i$$

*SUM*

*MULTIPLY*

A handwritten-style diagram illustrating the dot product formula. A curved pink arrow labeled "SUM" points from the summation symbol to the final result. Another curved pink arrow labeled "MULTIPLY" points from the term  $x_i y_i$  to the same term in the formula.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.5 \\ 0.5 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$



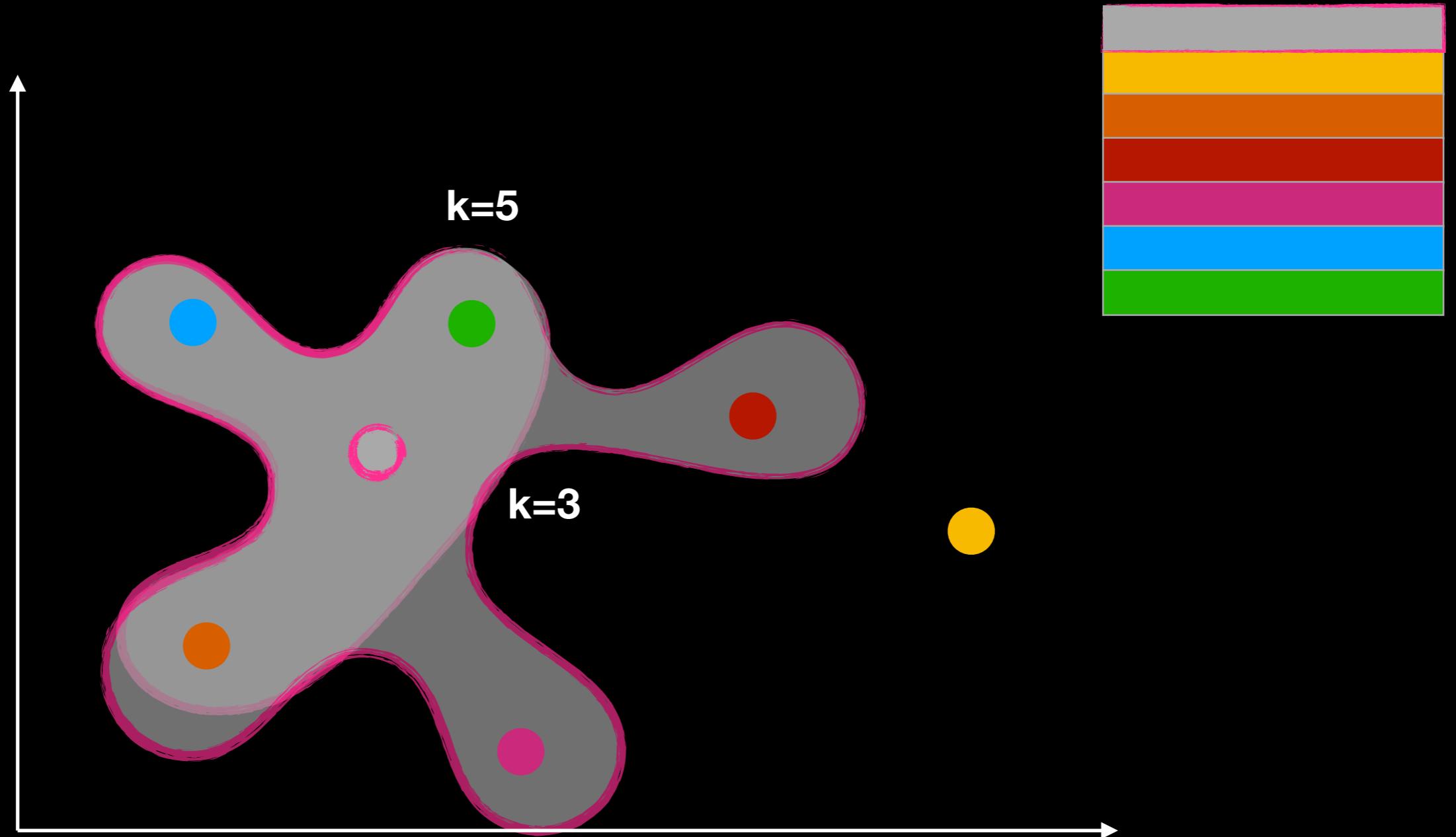
# Vector Norm

- add up square of each element, take  $\sqrt{\phantom{x}}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \sqrt{2^2 + 6^2} = 6.324$$

# Nearest neighbors



# Word2Vec – Intuitively

place all words randomly on fridge

for each pair of words:

if in same sentence:

move closer together

else:

move further apart

# Word2Vec – CBOW Model

MATRIX OF

TARGET WORDS

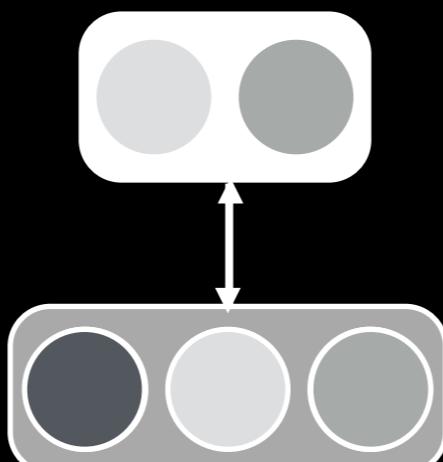
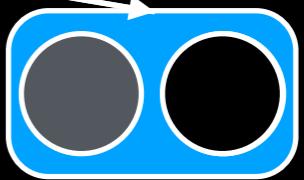
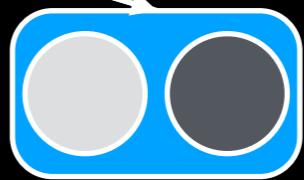
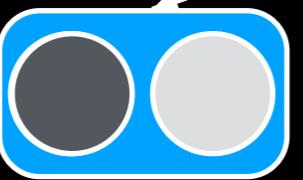
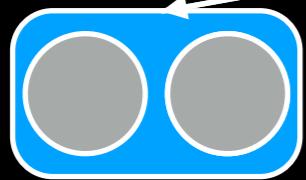
OUTPUT

garden

ERROR

BACKPROPAGATION

INPUT



MATRIX OF

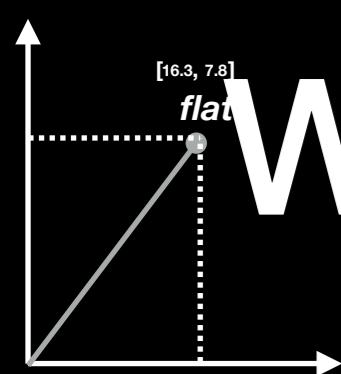
CONTEXT WORDS

rent

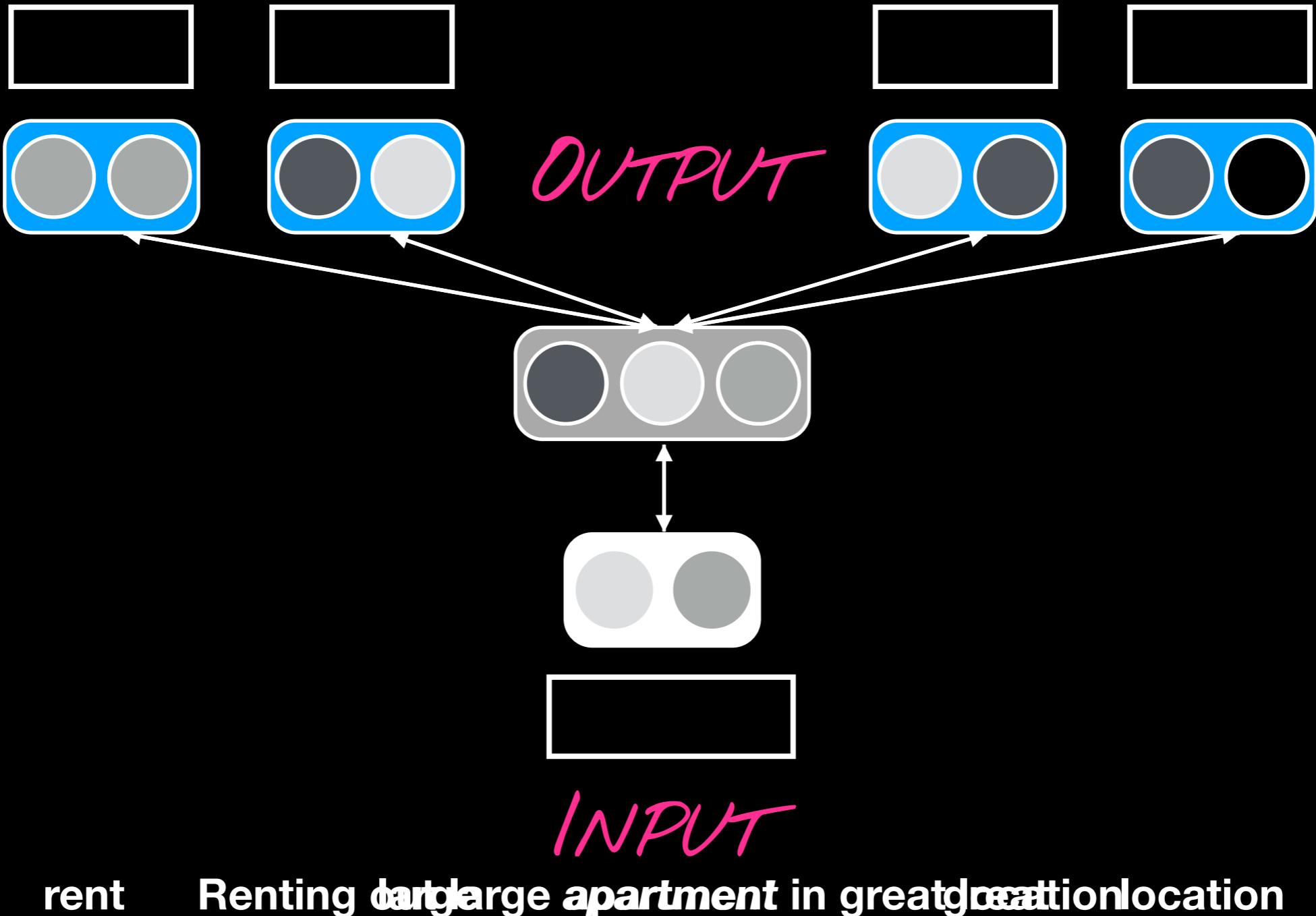
Renting ~~large~~ ~~large~~ apartment in great

location

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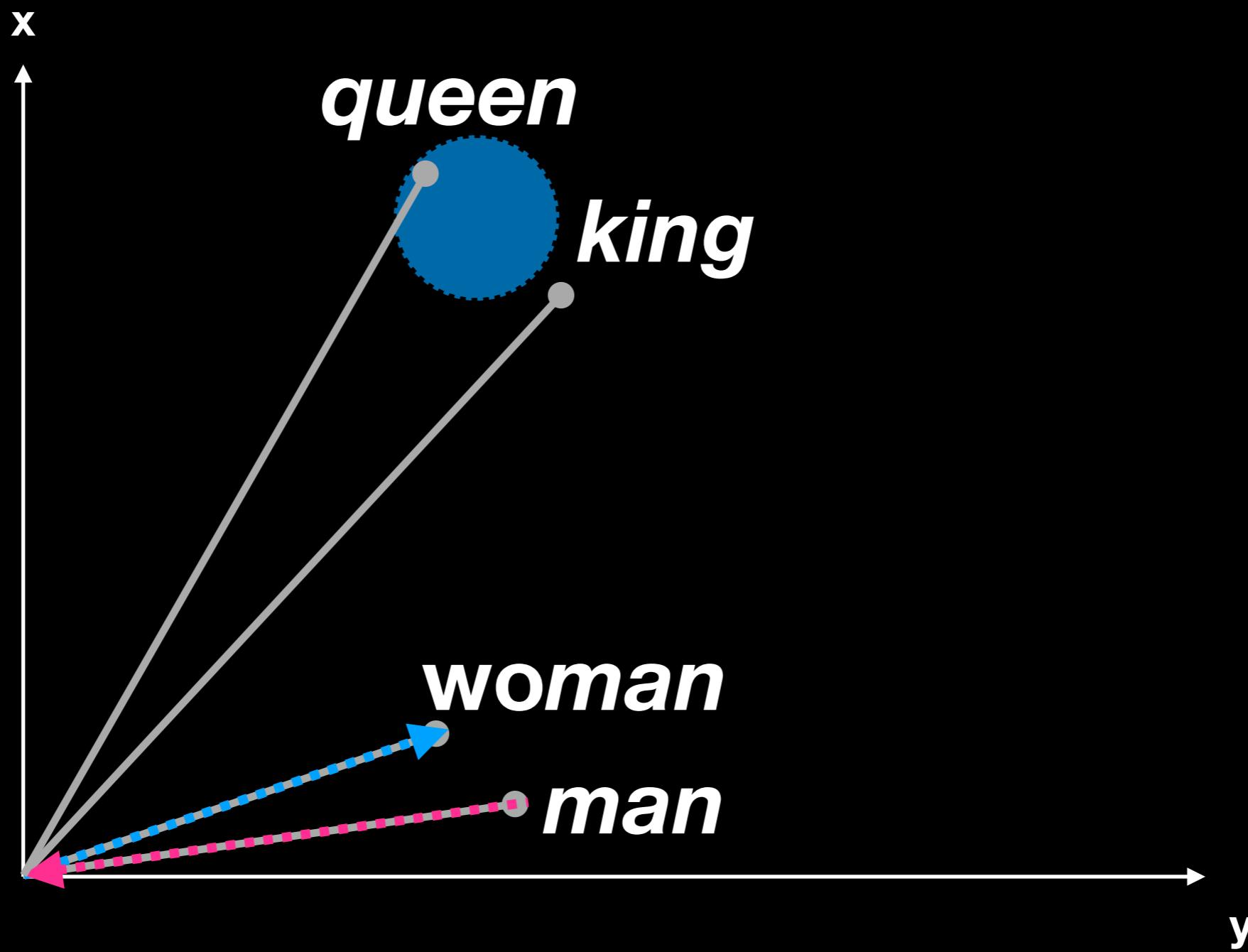


# Word2Vec – Skipgram Model



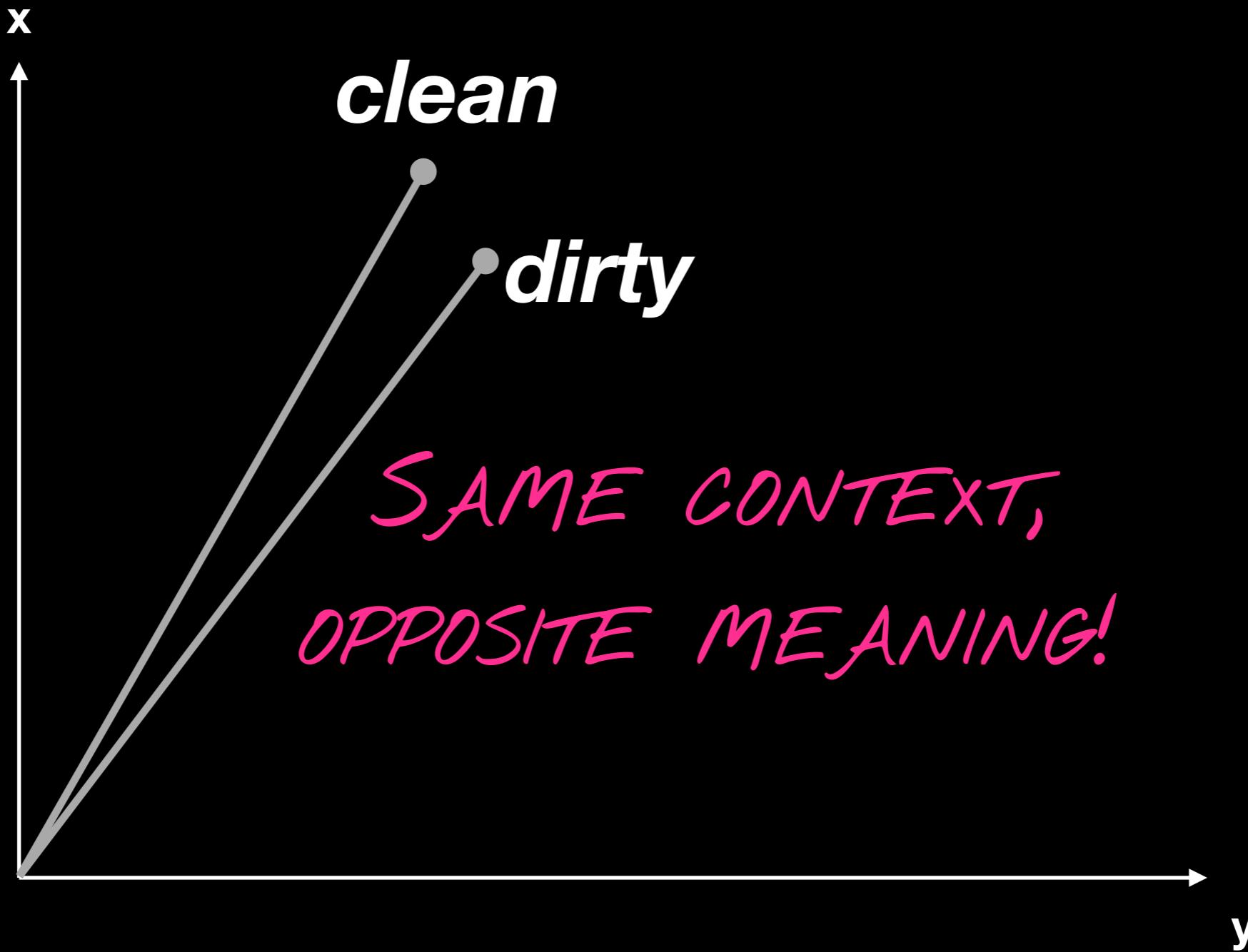
# Vector Space Semantics

$$\mathbf{king} - \mathbf{man} + \mathbf{woman} \approx \mathbf{queen}$$



# Caveat: Antonyms

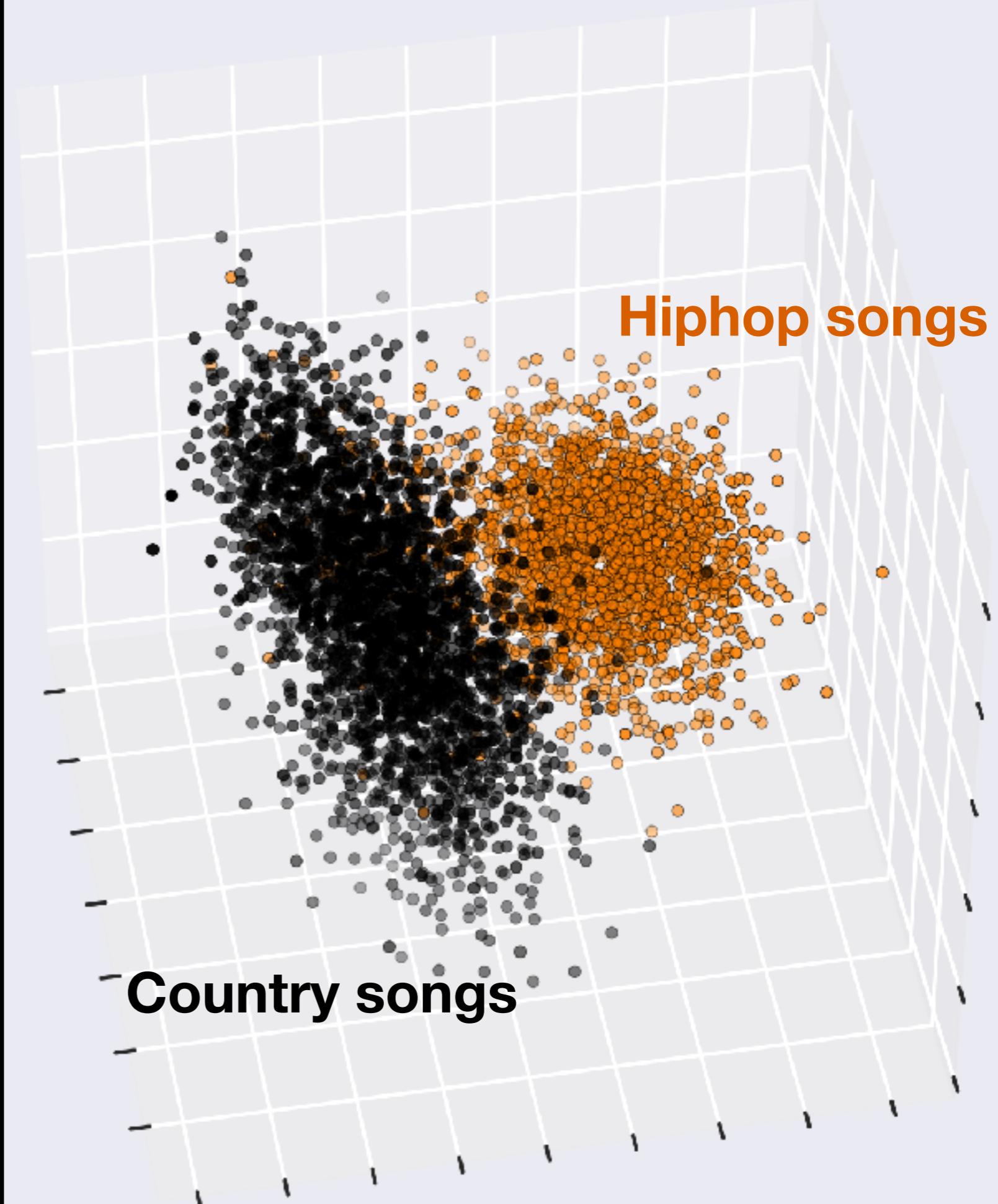
*His kitchen was always very \_\_\_\_\_*



# Part 2

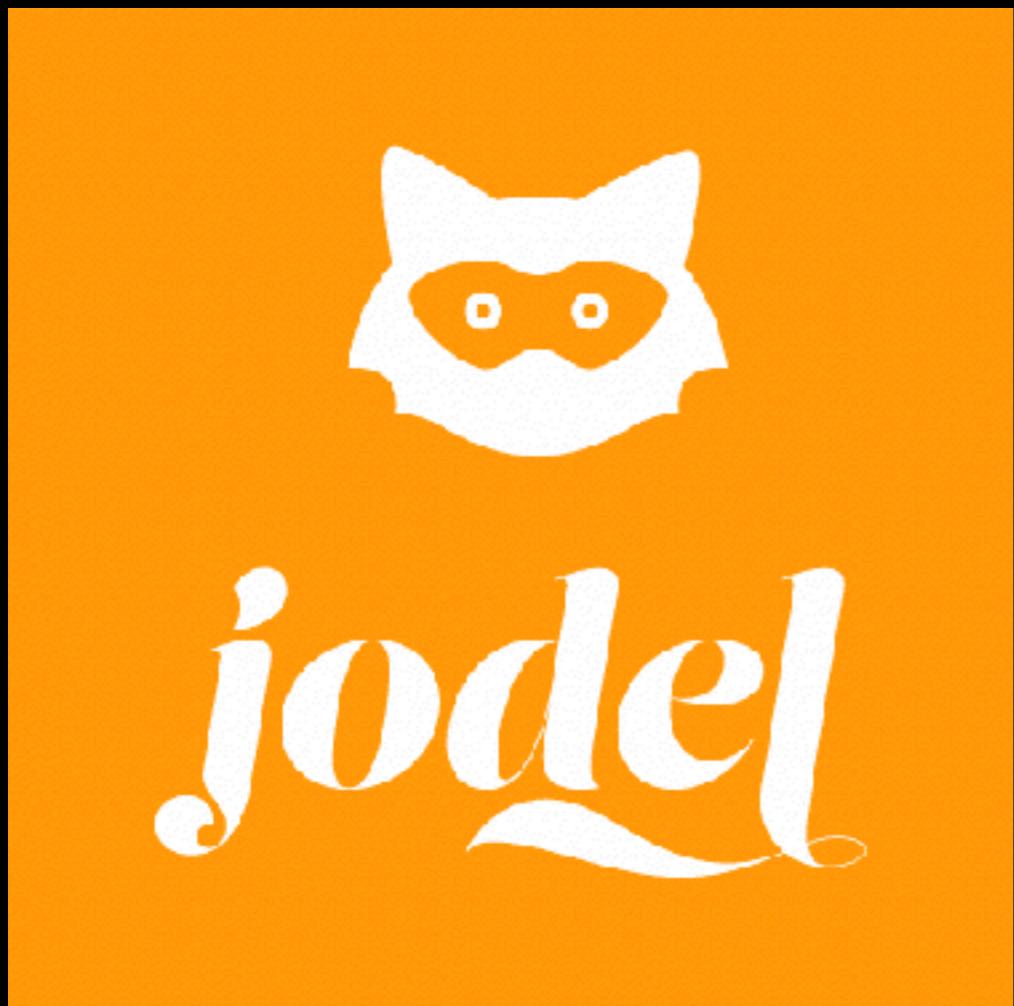
# Representing Documents as Vectors

# Example 1: Songs

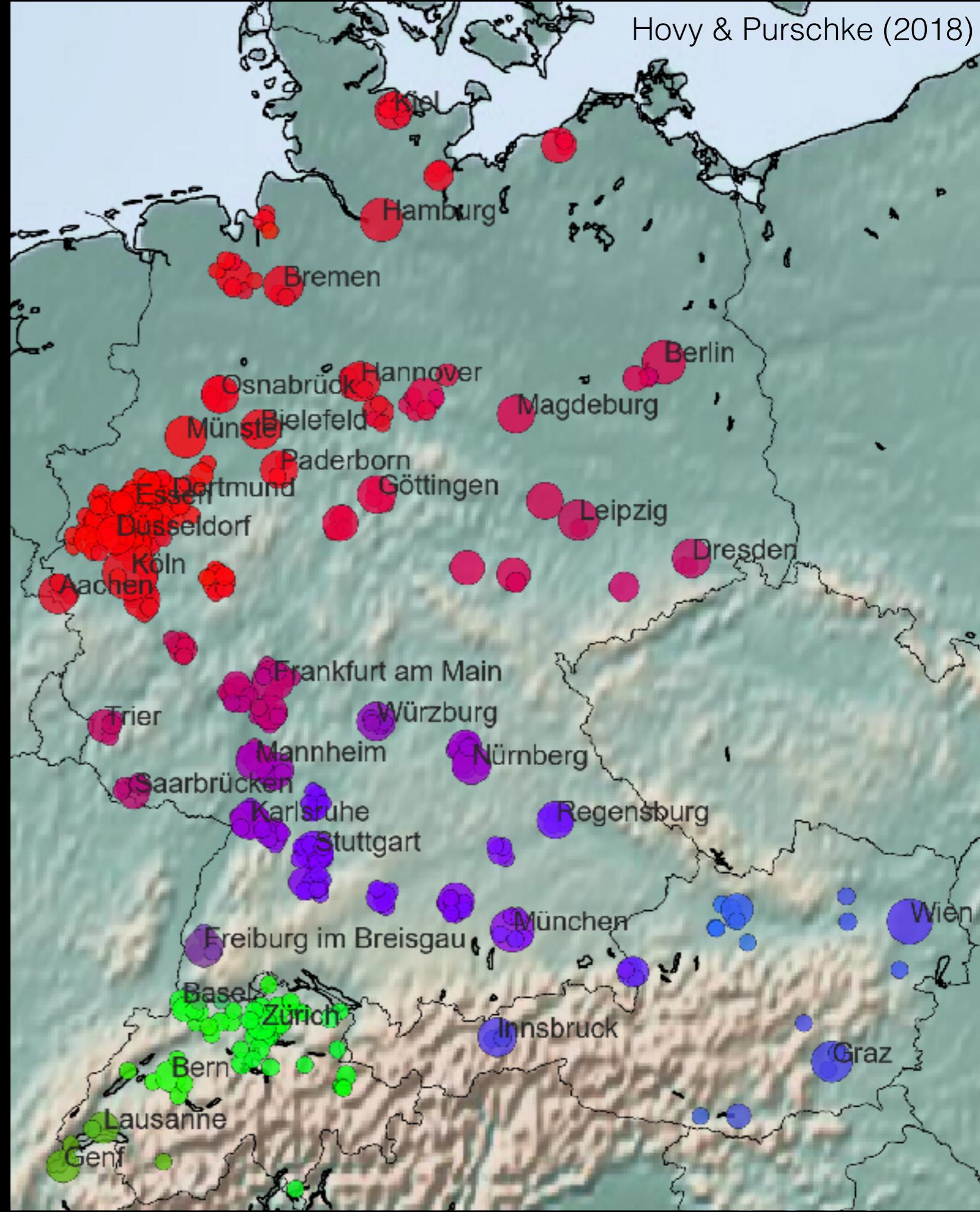
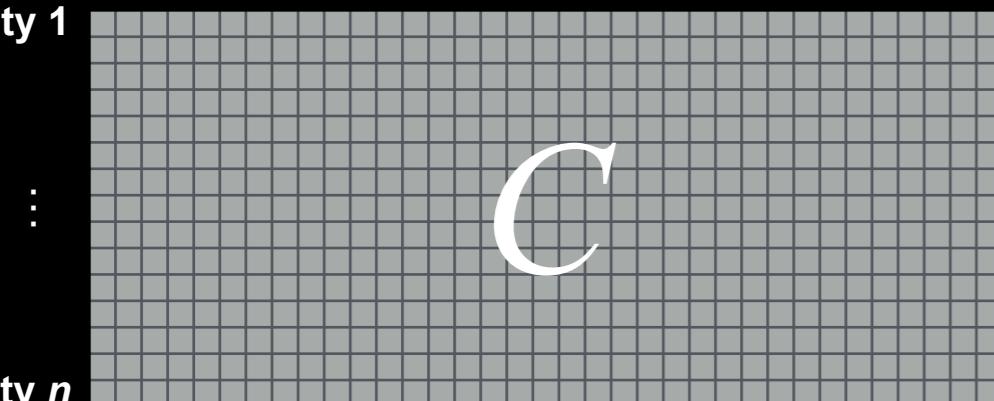


## Example 2: Cities

Hovy & Purschke (2018)



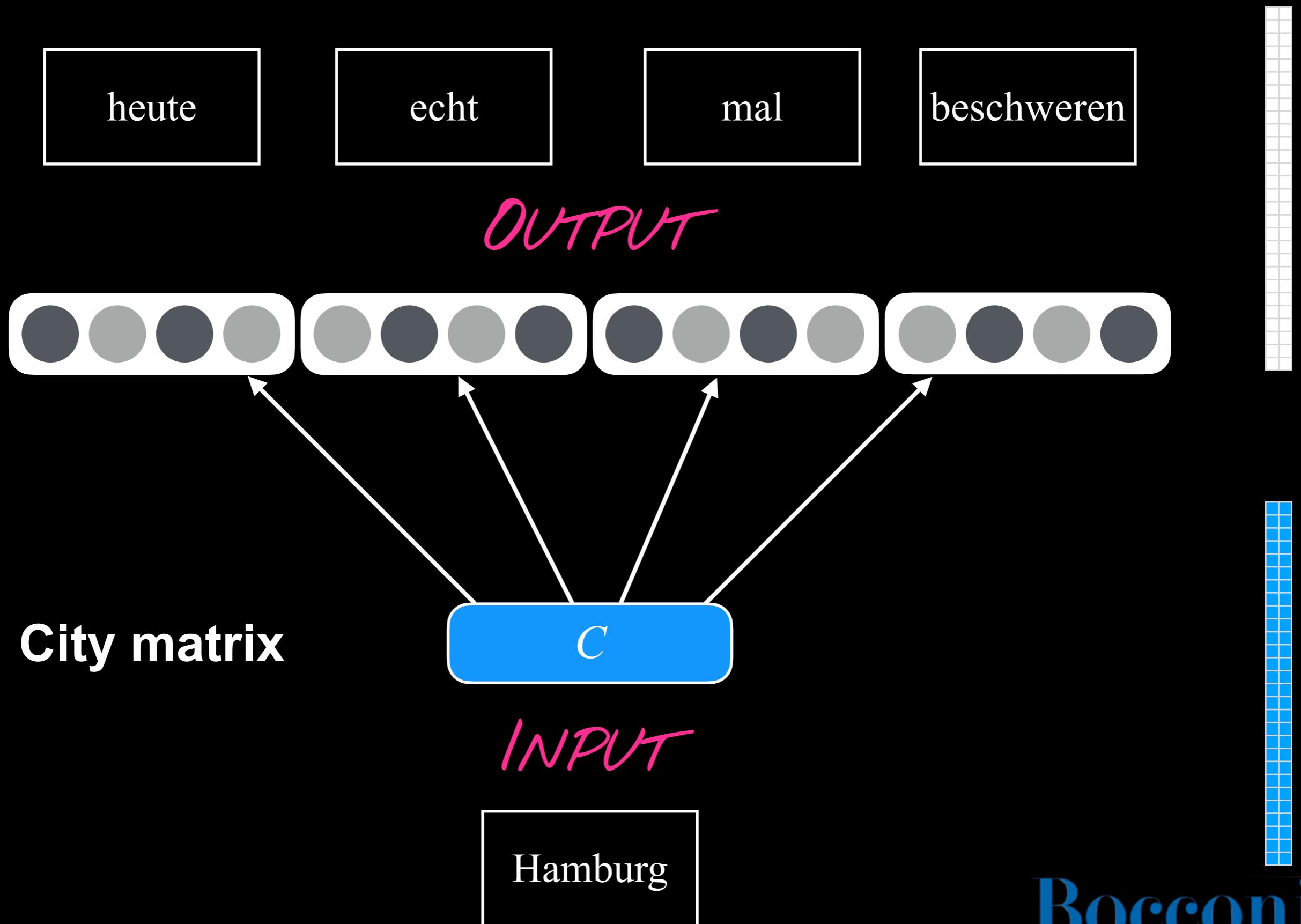
city 1



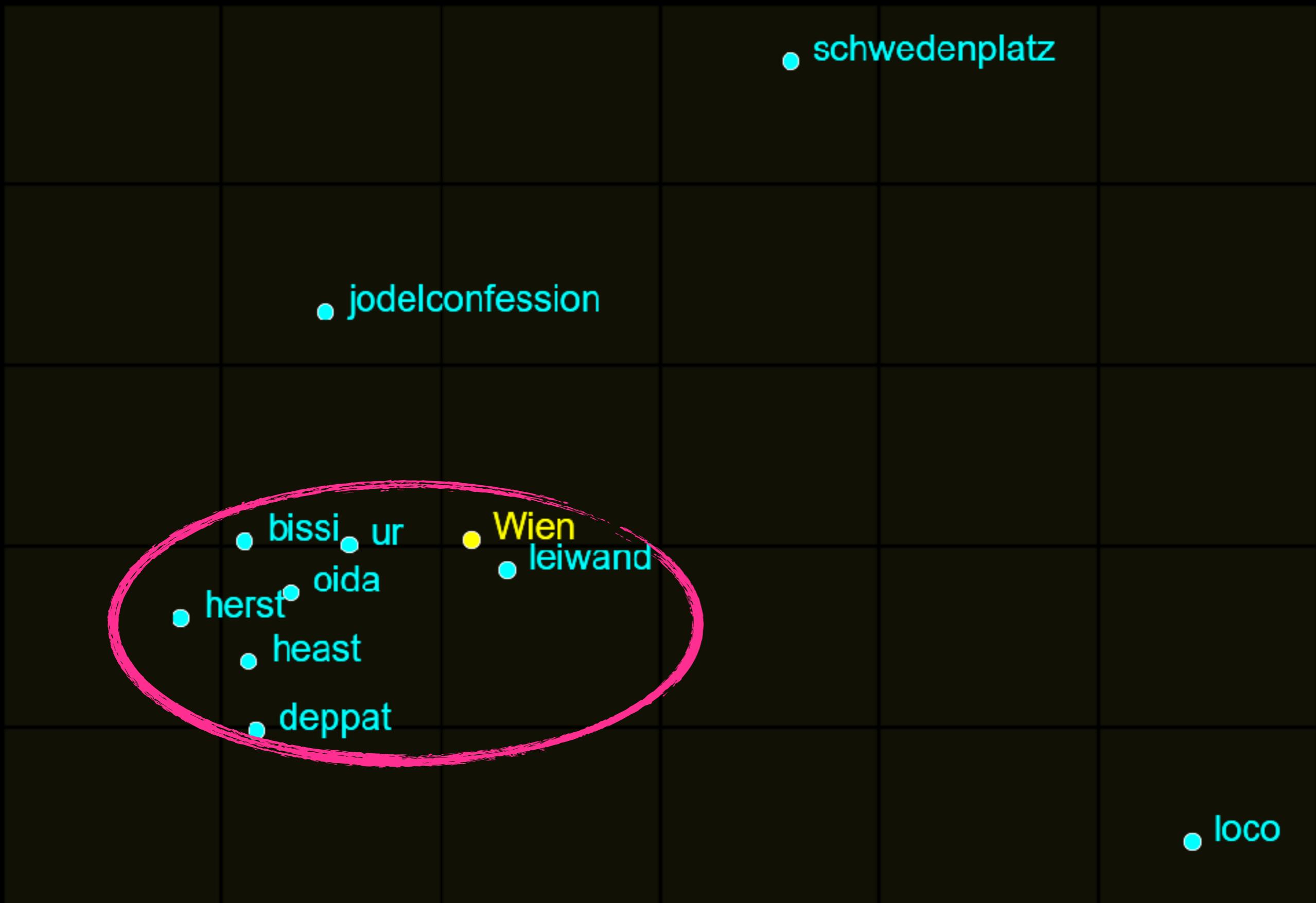
# Doc2Vec – Intuitively

```
place words & cities randomly on fridge  
for each pair of (word, city):  
if word seen in city:  
    move closer together  
else:  
    move further apart
```

# Doc2Vec – Model



# Words and Documents



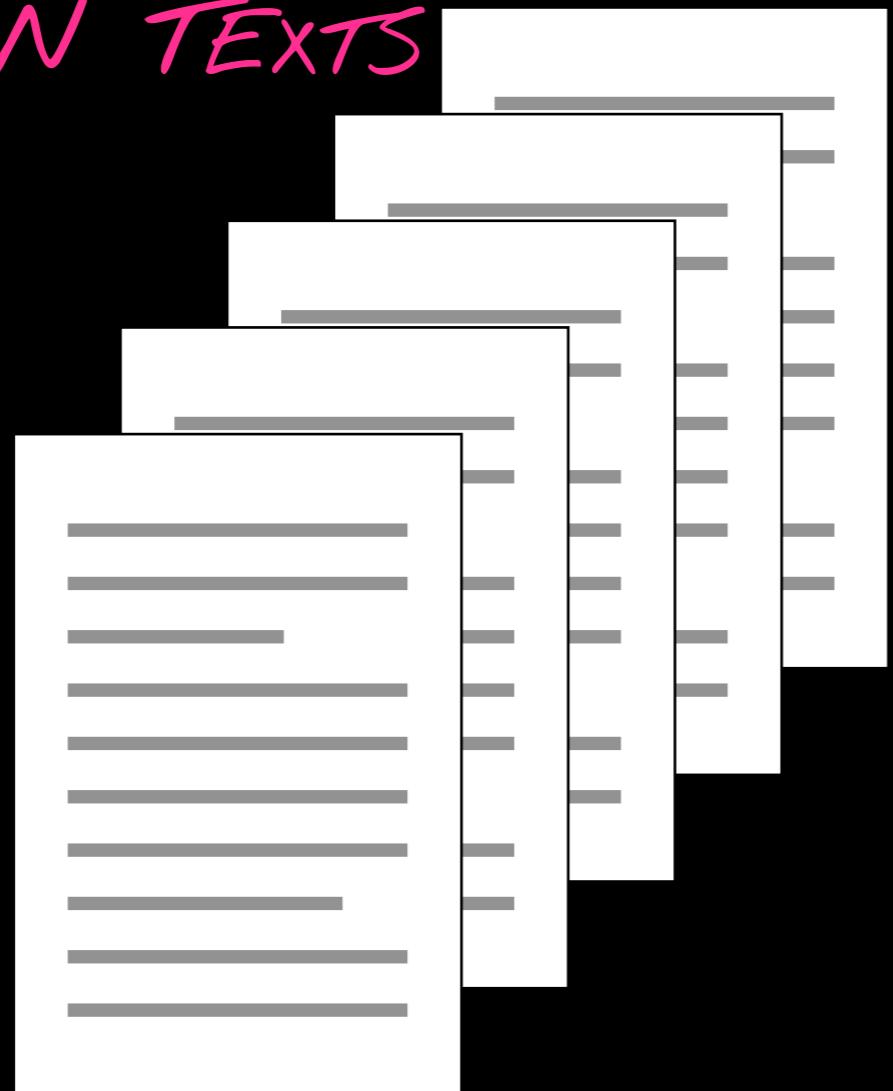
# Wrapping up

# Comparison

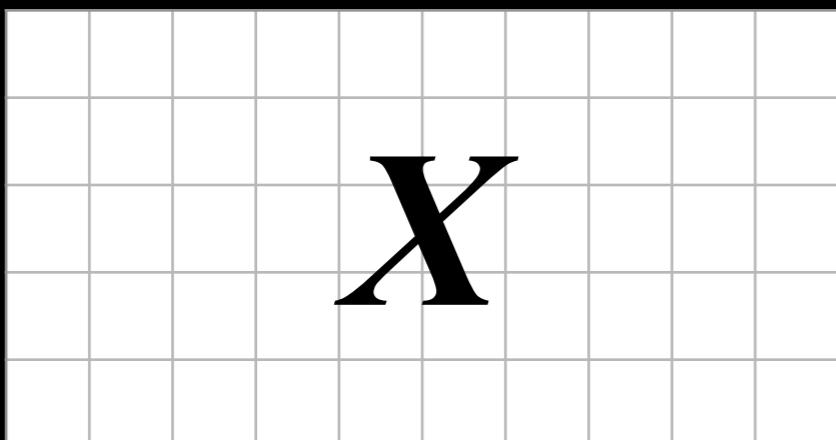
	Discrete	Distributed
#Dimensions	Data-dependent	Pre-defined
Content	Count-based	Coefficients
Density	Sparse	Dense
Strength	Interpretability	Similarity
Application	Understanding	Performance
School of thought	Rationalism	Empiricism

# Text Classification

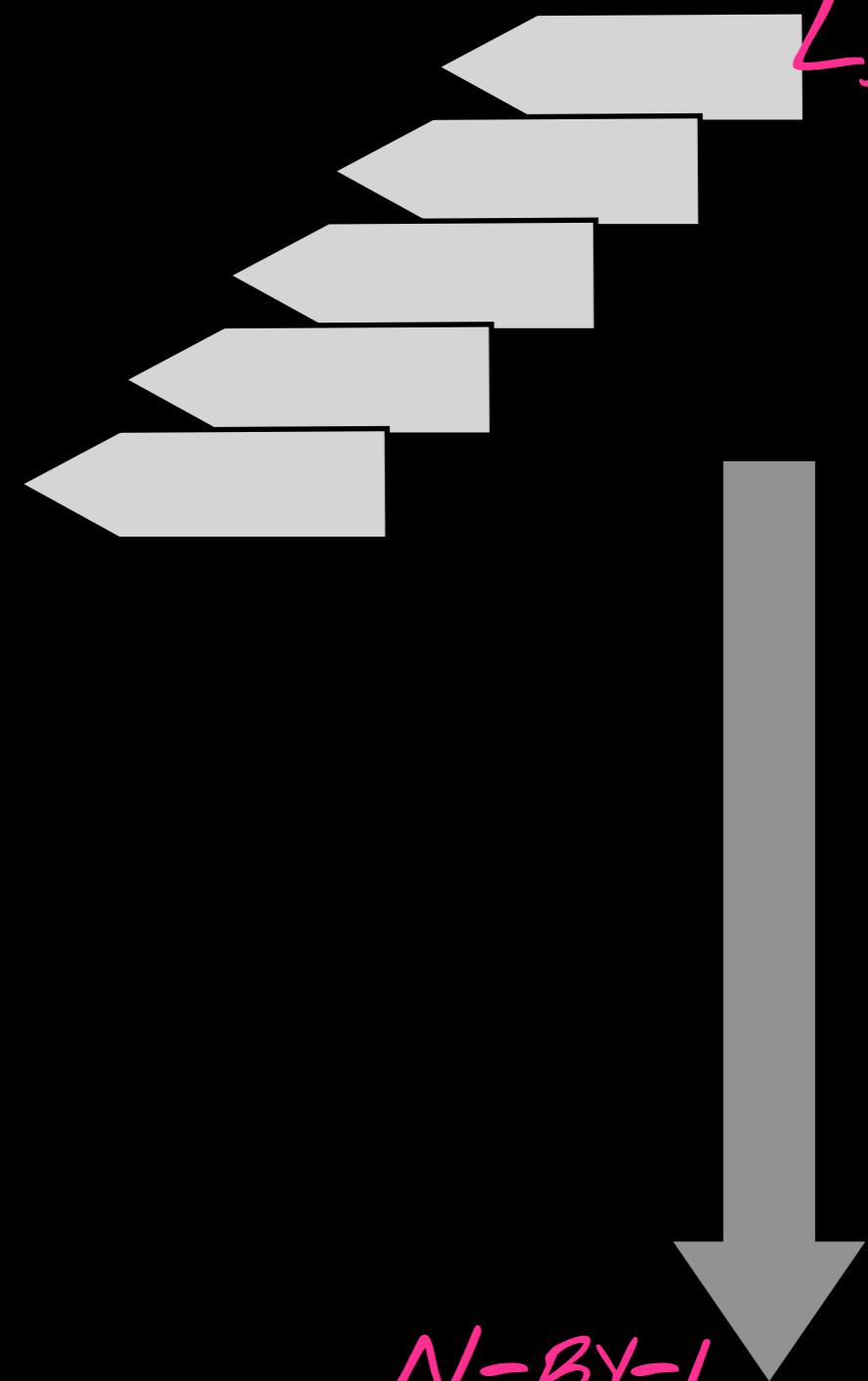
*N TEXTS*



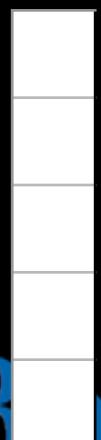
*N-BY-D  
MATRIX*



*LABELS*



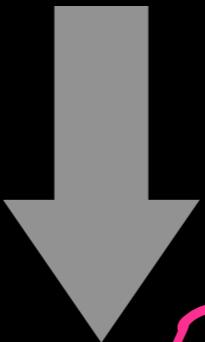
*N-BY-1  
VECTOR*



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# Fitting

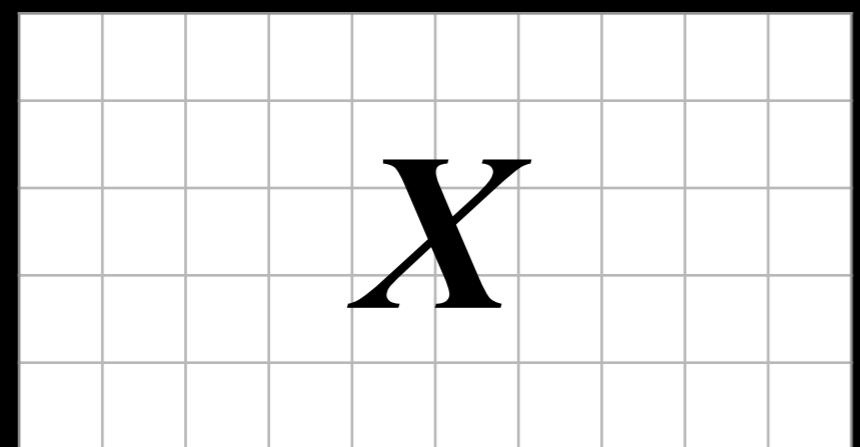
$$f(X) = y$$



D-BY-1

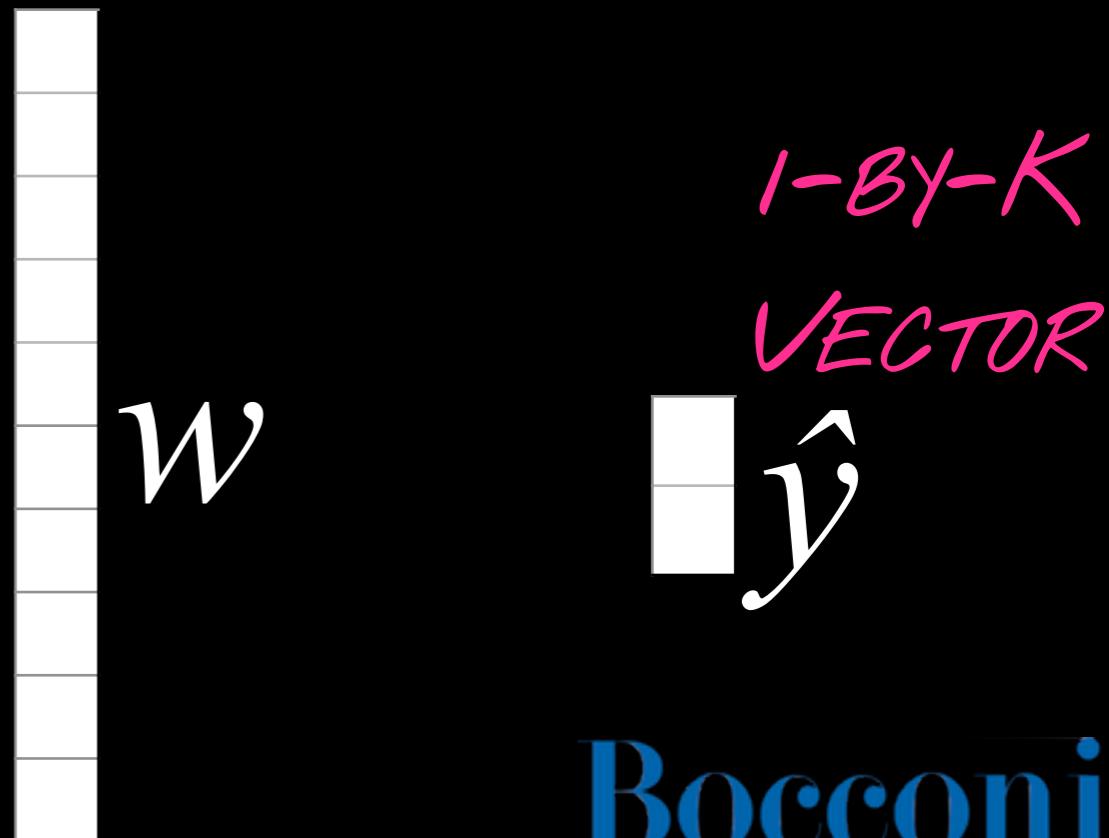
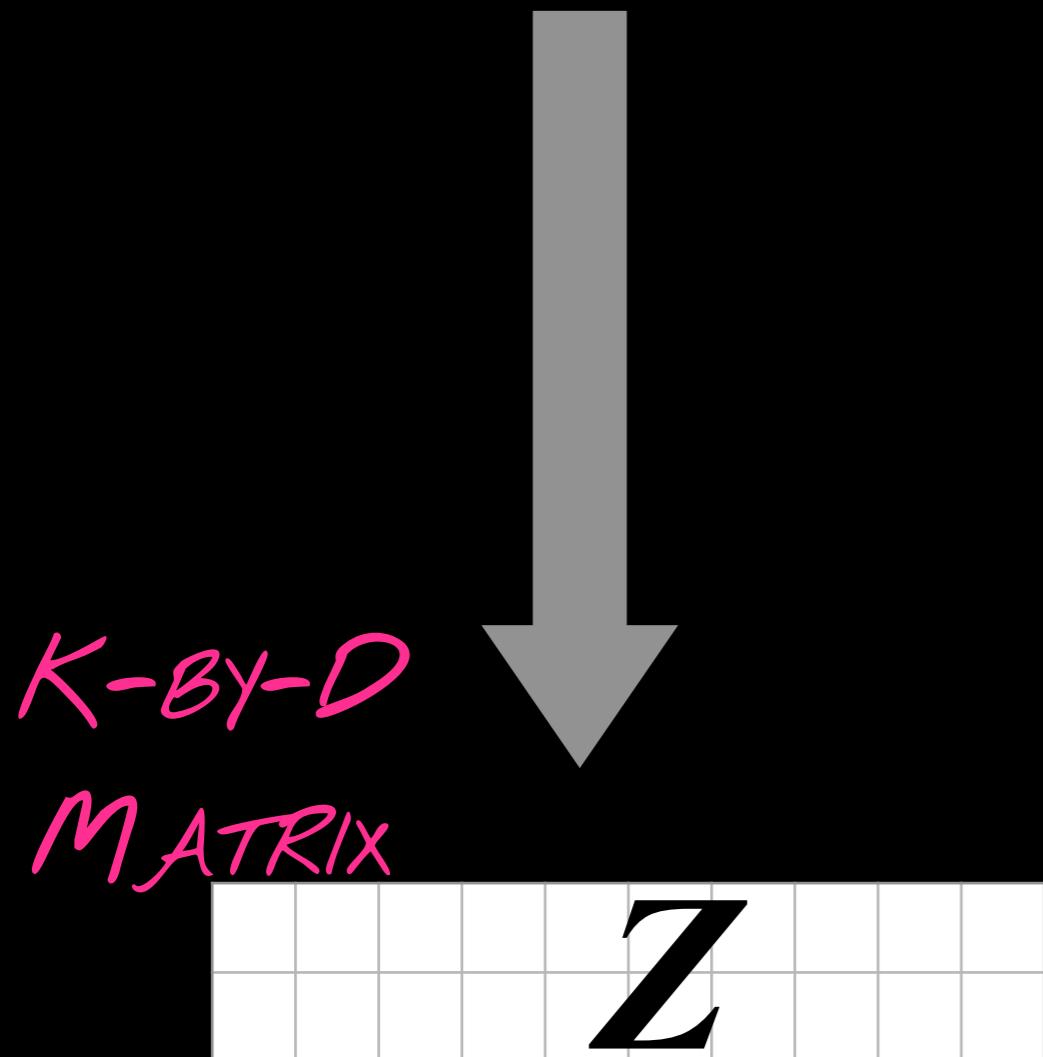
VECTOR

$w^T$



# Predicting

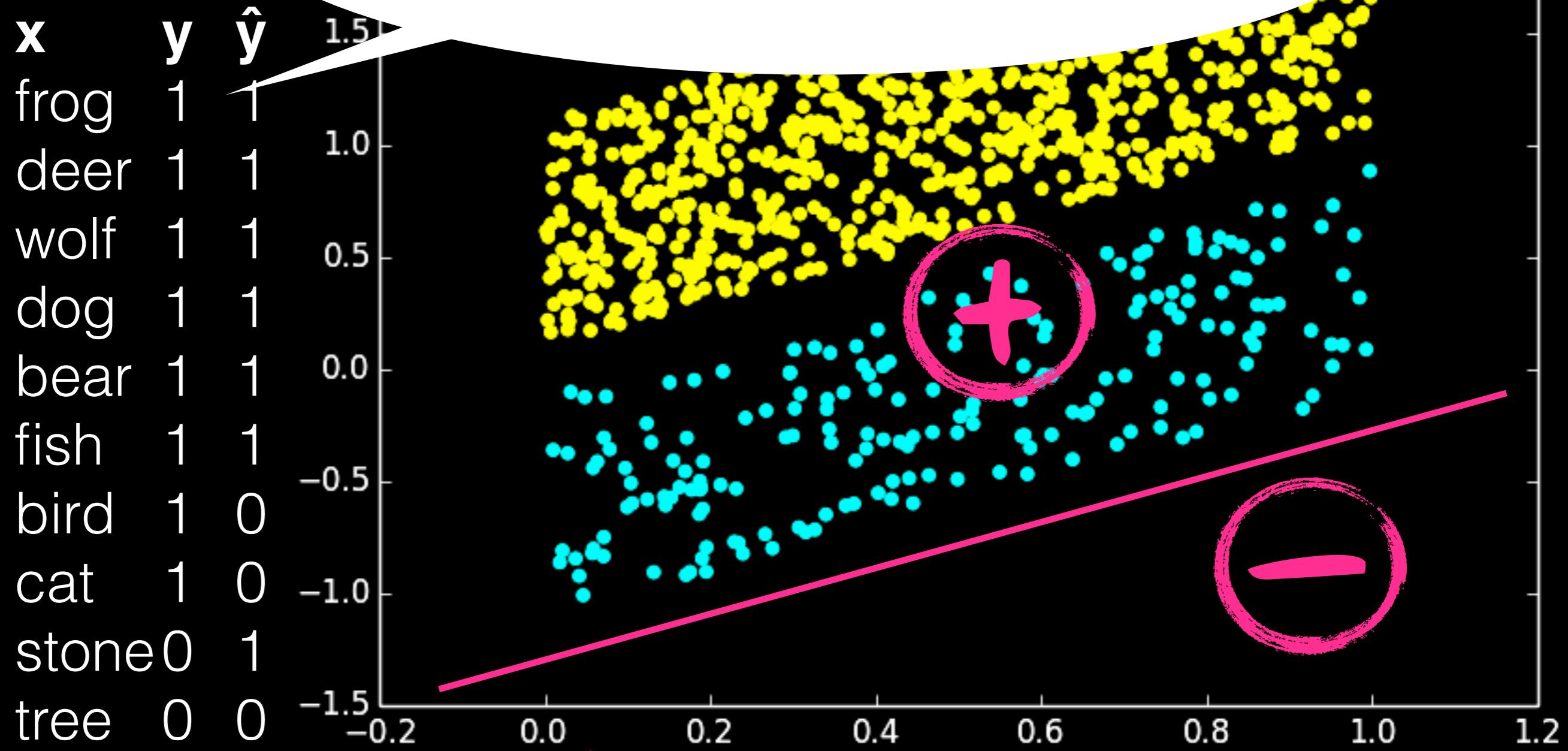
$$f(\mathbf{Z}) = \mathbf{Z} \mathbf{w}^T = \hat{\mathbf{y}}$$



# Evaluating Performance

# Performance Problems

I HAVE A CLASSIFIER THAT'S  
70% ACCURATE!



A 70% ACCURATE CLASSIFIER

	predicted		
g	1	0	
o	1	TP	FN
d	0	FP	TN

# True and False

*TARGET = ANIMAL*

	x	y	$\hat{y}$	
frog	1	1	1	
deer	1	1	1	
wolf	1	1	1	true positive
dog	1	1	1	
bear	1	1	1	
fish	1	1	1	
bird	1	0	2	false negative
cat	1	0	2	
stone	0	1	1	false positive
tree	0	0	0	true negative

$$\text{accuracy} = (\text{TP} + \text{TN}) / (\text{P} + \text{N})$$

$$\text{precision} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FP})$$

$$\text{recall} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$$

$$\text{F1} = 2 \times (\text{prec} \times \text{rec}) / (\text{prec} + \text{rec})$$

$$\text{ACCURACY} = 7/10 = 0.7$$

$$\text{PRECISION} = 6/7 = 0.86$$

$$\text{RECALL} = 6/8 = 0.75$$

$$\text{F1} = 0.81$$

predicted

		1	0
g	1	TP	FN
o	0	FP	TN
d			

# Changing Target Class

$$\text{accuracy} = (\text{TP} + \text{TN}) / (\text{P} + \text{N})$$

$$\text{precision} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FP})$$

$$\text{recall} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$$

$$\text{F1} = 2 \times (\text{prec} \times \text{rec}) / (\text{prec} + \text{rec})$$

*TARGET = THING*

x	y	$\hat{y}$
frog	0	0
deer	0	0
wolf	0	0
dog	0	0
bear	0	0
fish	0	0
bird	0	1
cat	0	1
stone	1	0
tree	1	1

true negative

false positive

$$\text{ACCURACY} = 7/10 = 0.7$$

$$\text{PRECISION} = 1/3 = 0.33$$

$$\text{RECALL} = 1/2 = 0.5$$

$$\text{F1} = 0.4$$

predicted

	1	0
g	TP	FN
o	FP	TN
d		

# MICRO Averaging

WEIGH BY CLASS SIZE

$$\text{accuracy} = (\text{TP} + \text{TN}) / (\text{P} + \text{N})$$

*ANIMAL**THING*

	x	y	$\hat{y}$	x	y	$\hat{y}$
frog	1	1	frog	0	0	
deer	1	1	deer	0	0	
wolf	1	1	wolf	0	0	
dog	1	1	dog	0	0	
bear	1	1	bear	0	0	
fish	1	1	fish	0	0	
bird	1	1	bird	0	0	
cat	1	0	cat	0	1	
stone	0	1	stone	1	0	
tree	0	0	tree	1	1	

$$\text{precision} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FP})$$

$$\text{recall} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$$

$$\text{F1} = 2 (\text{prec} \times \text{rec}) / (\text{prec} + \text{rec})$$

$$ACC = (7+7) / (10+10) = 14/20 = 0.7$$

$$PREC = (6+1) / (7+3) = 7/10 = 0.7$$

$$REC = (6+1) / (8+2) = 7/10 = 0.7$$

$$F1 = 0.7$$

predicted

g	1	0
o	1	TP FN
d	0	FP TN

# MACRO Averaging

WEIGH ALL CLASSES EQUALLY

*ANIMAL**THING*

	x	y	$\hat{y}$	x	y	$\hat{y}$
frog	1	1	frog	0	0	
deer	1	1	deer	0	0	
wolf	1	1	wolf	0	0	
dog	1	1	dog	0	0	
bear	1	1	bear	0	0	
fish	1	1	fish	0	0	
bird	1	1	bird	0	0	
cat	1	0	cat	0	1	
stone	0	1	stone	1	0	
tree	0	0	tree	1	1	

$$\text{accuracy} = (\text{TP} + \text{TN}) / (\text{P} + \text{N})$$

$$\text{precision} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FP})$$

$$\text{recall} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$$

$$\text{F1} = 2 \times (\text{prec} \times \text{rec}) / (\text{prec} + \text{rec})$$

$$ACC = (0.7 + 0.7) / 2 = 0.7$$

$$PREC = (0.86 + 0.33) / 2 = 0.6$$

$$REC = (0.5 + 0.75) / 2 = 0.63$$

$$F1 = 0.61$$

predicted

		0	1
0	TP	FN	
1	FP	TN	

# Baseline: Total Recall

PREDICT MAJORITY CLASS FOR ALL

TARGET = ANIMAL

x	y	$\hat{y}$
frog	1	1
deer	1	1
wolf	1	1

dog 1 1 true positive

bear 1 1

fish 1 1

bird 1 1

cat 1 1

stone 0 1 false positive

tree 0 1

$$\text{accuracy} = (\text{TP} + \text{TN}) / (\text{P} + \text{N})$$

$$\text{precision} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FP})$$

$$\text{recall} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$$

$$\text{F1} = 2 \times (\text{prec} \times \text{rec}) / (\text{prec} + \text{rec})$$

$$\text{ACCURACY} = 8/10 = 0.8$$

$$\text{PRECISION} = 8/10 = 0.8$$

$$\text{RECALL} = 8/8 = 1.0$$

$$\text{F1} = 0.9$$

# Metrics Overview

- **accuracy** can be too general
- **precision** and **recall** are per-class measures
- **precision** = how many of instances labeled as target class are actually *in* target class?
- **recall** = how many of *all* target class instances in data identified correctly?
- **F1** = symmetric mean of precision and recall

# Beware: Overgeneralization

## FALSE POSITIVES

June 6 2019

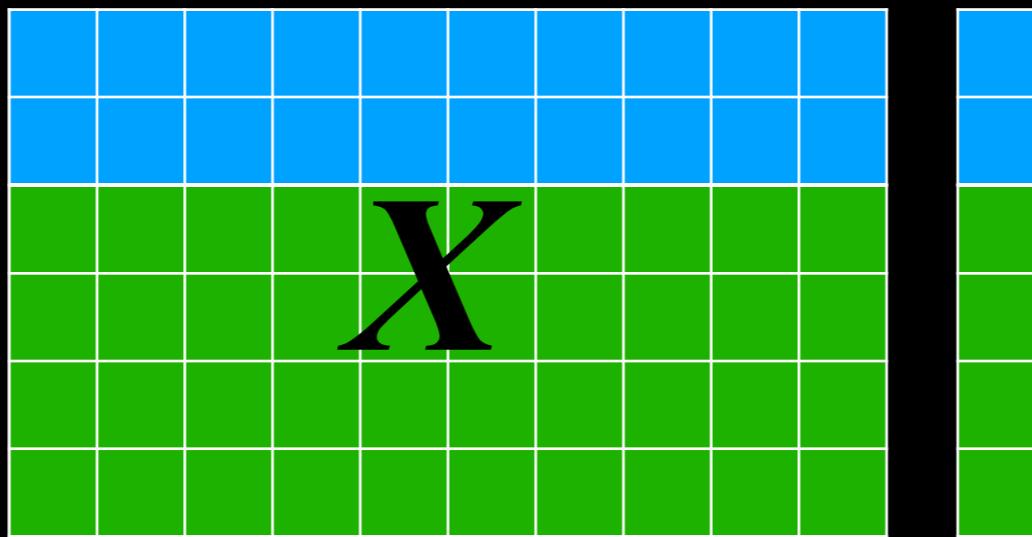
Dear Ms Hovy,

Congratulations on reaching  
retirement age!

Also, you're on a no-fly list  
because of your political  
views and religious beliefs.

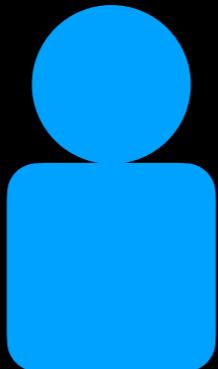
# Cross Validation

# Prediction Data

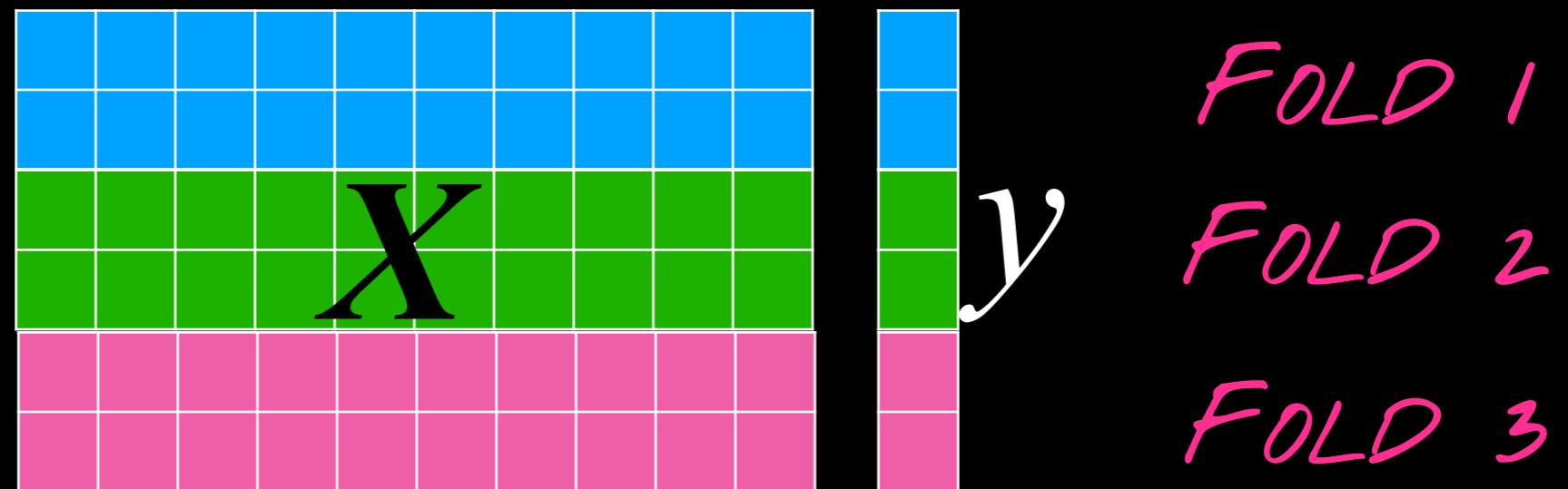


SPLIT DATA INTO TRAINING  
AND HELD-OUT TEST DATA

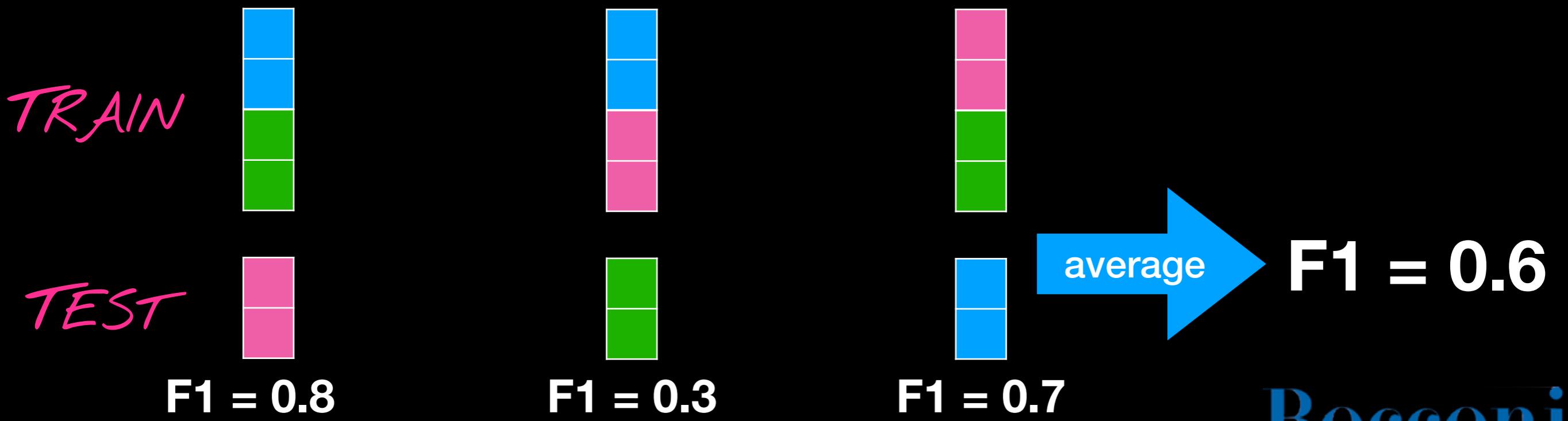
BUT I ONLY HAVE A FEW  
INSTANCES!



# $k$ -fold Cross-Validation



MODEL 1 MODEL 2 MODEL 3



# Baselines

predicted

		0	1
0	TP	FN	
1	FP	TN	

# Baseline: Total Recall

PREDICT MAJORITY CLASS FOR ALL

TARGET = ANIMAL

x	y	$\hat{y}$
frog	1	1
deer	1	1
wolf	1	1

dog 1 1 true positive

bear 1 1

fish 1 1

bird 1 1

cat 1 1

stone 0 1 false positive

tree 0 1

$$\text{accuracy} = (\text{TP} + \text{TN}) / (\text{P} + \text{N})$$

$$\text{precision} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FP})$$

$$\text{recall} = \text{TP} / (\text{TP} + \text{FN})$$

$$\text{F1} = 2(\text{prec} \times \text{rec}) / (\text{prec} + \text{rec})$$

$$\text{ACCURACY} = 8/10 = 0.8$$

$$\text{PRECISION} = 8/10 = 0.8$$

$$\text{RECALL} = 8/8 = 1.0$$

$$\text{F1} = 0.9$$

# Baseline: The Hulk

(dumb but powerful)

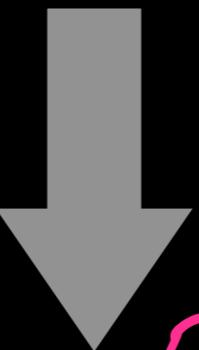
- Character 2–6 grams
- TFIDF weights
- L2-regularized Logistic Regression with balanced classes
- Can be further improved with dimensionality reduction

*ALWAYS CHECK AGAINST THIS BASELINE!*

# Regularization

# Regularization

$$y = X w^T + e$$



D-BY-1

VECTOR



$w^T$



$\|w\|$

# Regularization Norms

*L<sub>1</sub> NORM*

$$\|W\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^N |w_i|$$

*SPARSE*



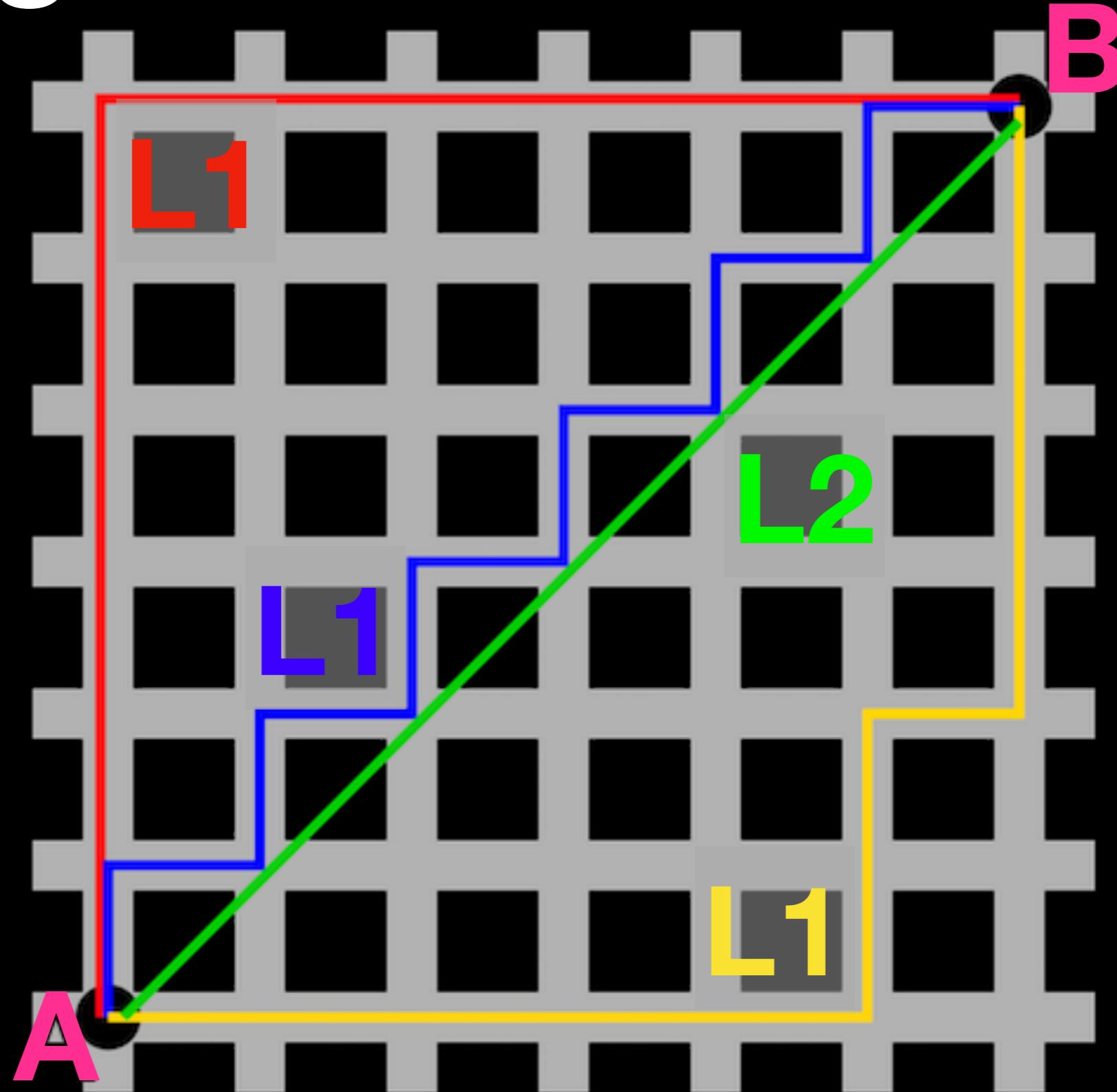
*L<sub>2</sub> NORM*

$$\|W\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N w_i^2}$$

*EVENLY DISTRIBUTED*

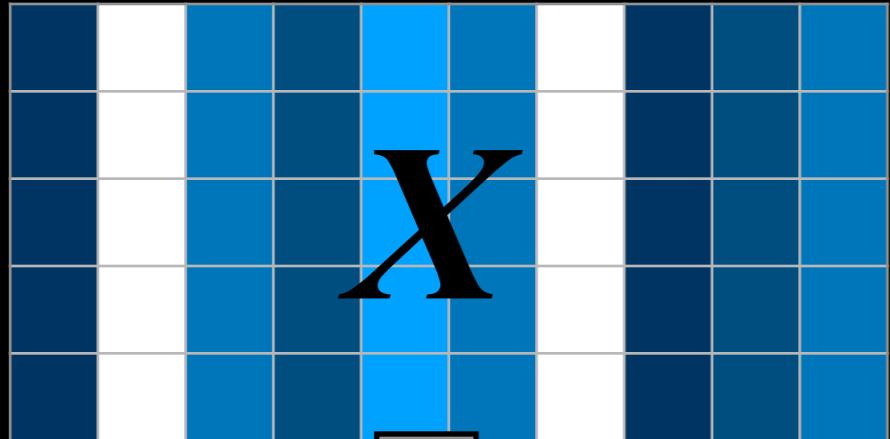


# Regularization Norms

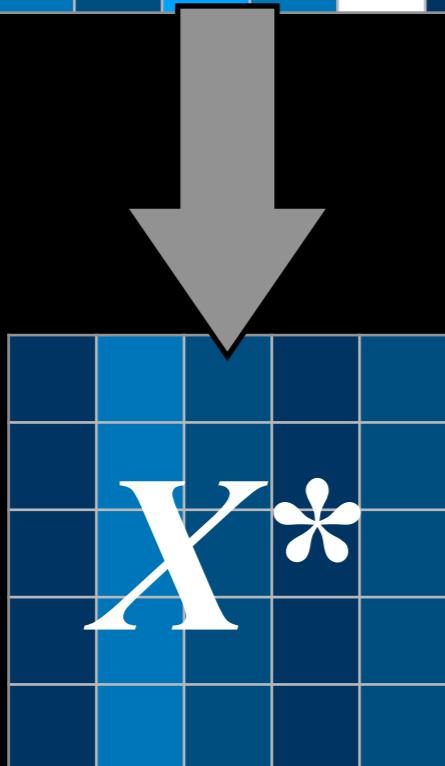


# Feature Selection

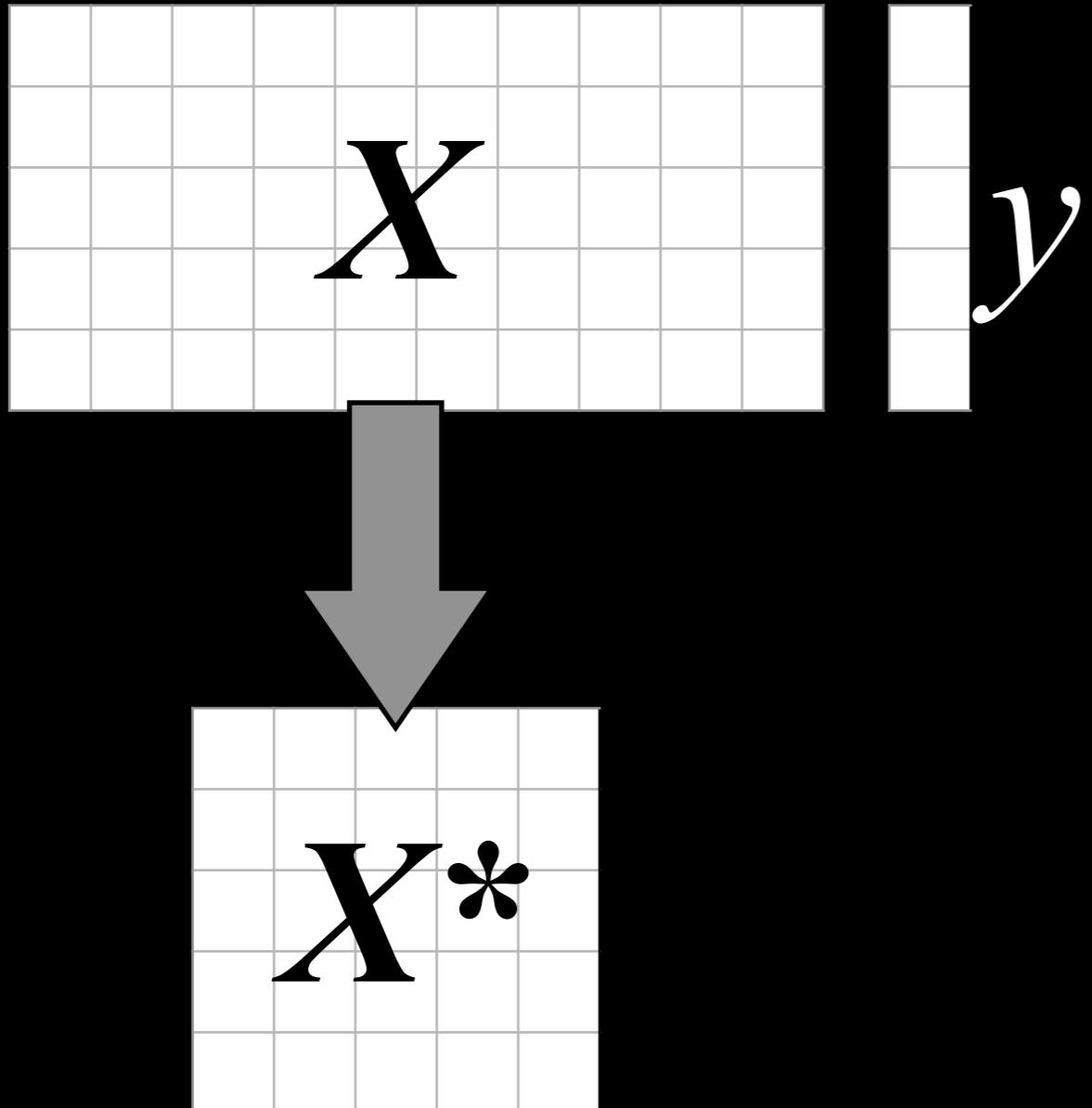
# Chi-Squared Selection



MEASURE CHI2 VALUE  
(CORRELATION) FOR  
EACH FEATURE WITH  
TARGET, SELECT TOP K  
BY CUTOFF



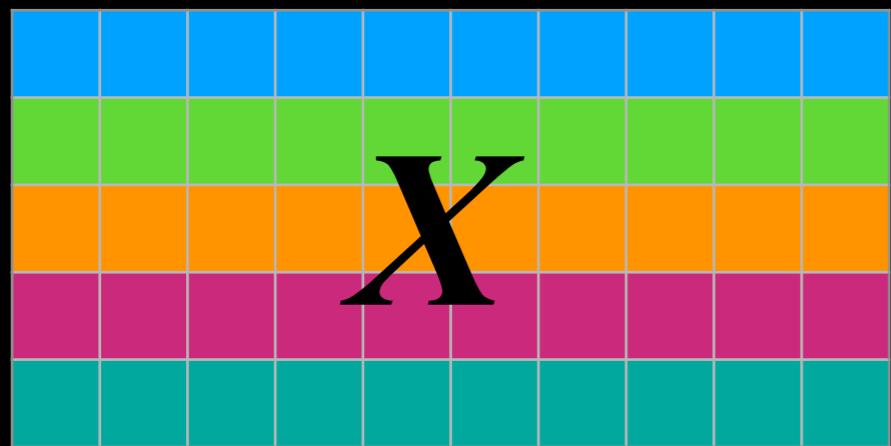
# Dimensionality Reduction



REDUCE  
DIMENSIONALITY TO  
PREVENT SPURIOUS  
CORRELATIONS WITH  
TARGET, BRING OUT  
LATENT DIMENSIONS

# Randomized Logistic Regression

$$w^T$$



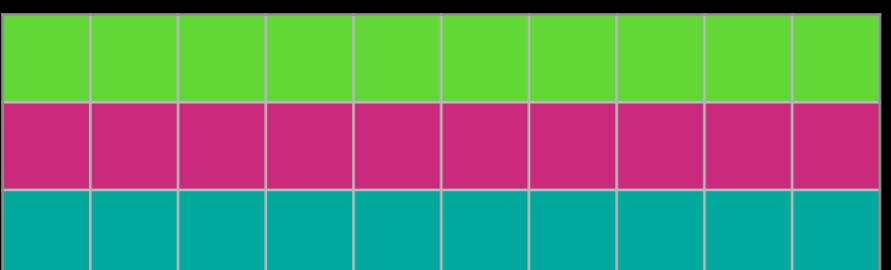
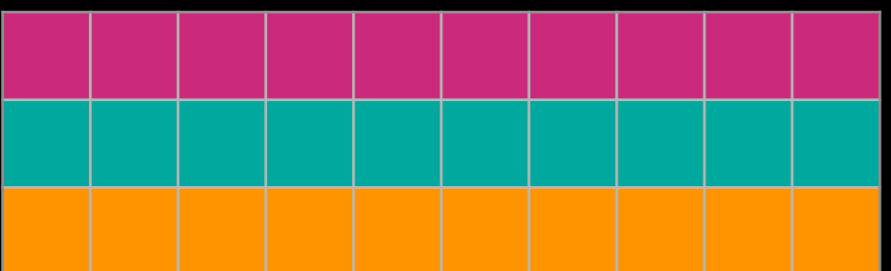
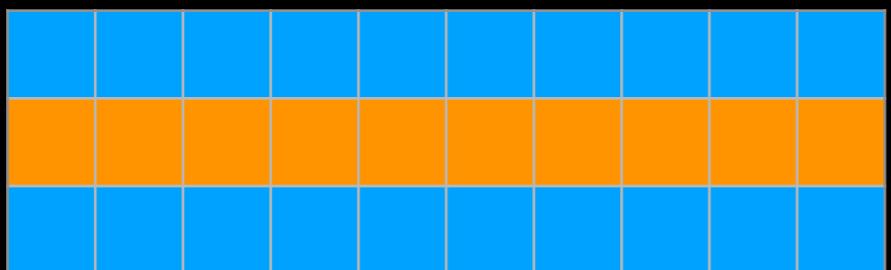
**X**



*y*



*FIT N MODELS WI LI NORM ON SUBSETS*



*AVERAGE*



1.3.6 0 1.6.3 0 1.3

# Wrapping Up

# Take Home Points

- **Preprocessing** removes noise and unwanted variation
- Words and texts can be represented as:
  - **Sparse, discrete** feature vectors (counts/TFIDF)
  - **Dense, continuous embedding** vectors
- Choose the appropriate performance **metric**
- Choose an informative **baseline**
- **Regularize, regularize, regularize**
- **Feature selection** can improve performance and provide insights