

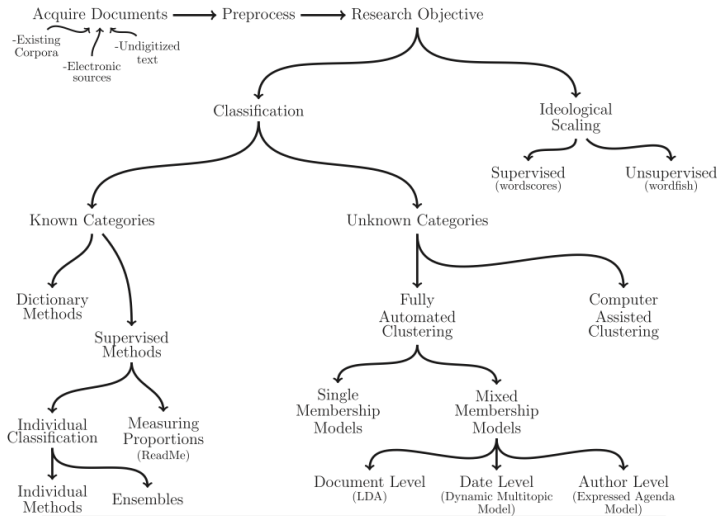
Scaling Methods for Textual Data: Day 1

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Overview of text as data methods



Outline

- ▶ From classification to scaling
 - ▶ Basics of supervised scaling methods
 - ▶ Wordscores
 - ▶ Practical aspects
 - ▶ Examples

From Classification to Scaling

- ▶ Machine learning focuses on identifying classes (**classification**), while social science is typically interested in locating things on latent traits (**scaling**), e.g.:
 - ▶ Policy positions on economic vs social dimension
 - ▶ Inter- and intra-party differences
 - ▶ Soft news vs hard news
 - ▶ Petitioner vs respondent in legal briefs
 - ▶ ...and any other continuous scale
- ▶ But the two methods overlap and can be adapted – will demonstrate later using the Naive Bayes classifier
- ▶ In fact, the class predictions for a collection of words from NB can be adapted to scaling

Outline

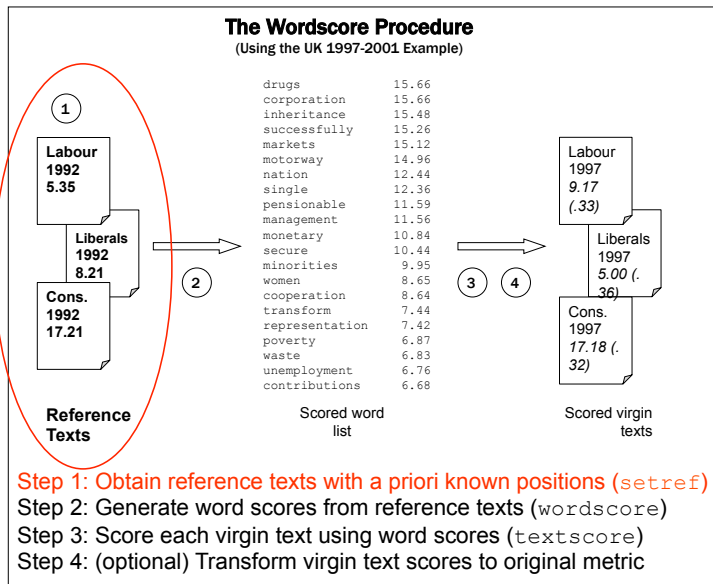
- ▶ From classification to scaling
 - ▶ Basics of supervised scaling methods
 - ▶ [Wordscores](#)
 - ▶ Practical aspects
 - ▶ Examples

Supervised scaling methods

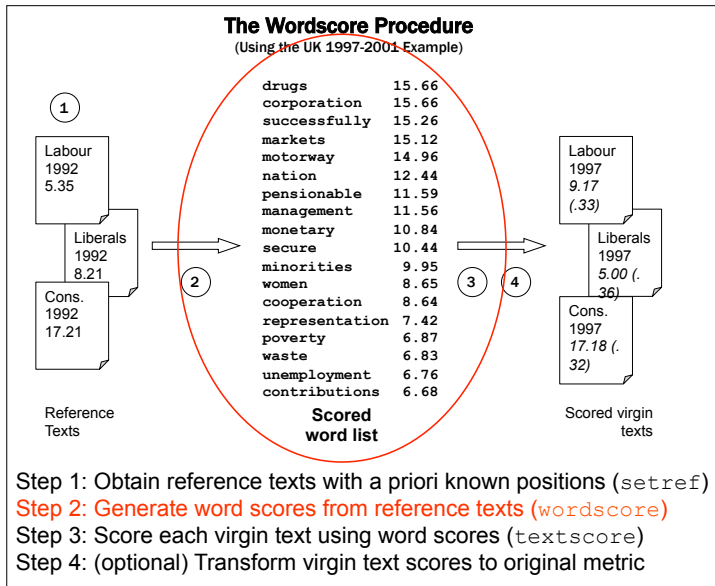
Wordscores method (Laver, Benoit & Garry, 2003):

- ▶ Two sets of texts
 - ▶ **Reference texts**: texts about which we know something (a scalar dimensional score)
 - ▶ **Virgin texts**: texts about which we know nothing (but whose dimensional score we'd like to know)
- ▶ These are analogous to a “training set” and a “test set” in classification
- ▶ Basic procedure:
 1. Analyze reference texts to obtain word scores
 2. Use word scores to score virgin texts

Wordscores Procedure



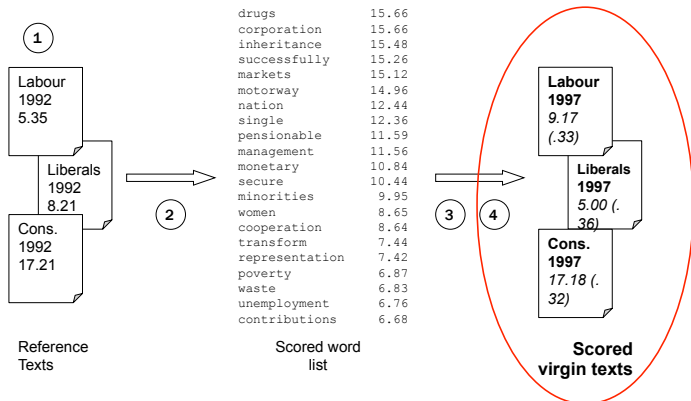
Wordscores Procedure



Wordscores Procedure

The Wordscore Procedure

(Using the UK 1997-2001 Example)



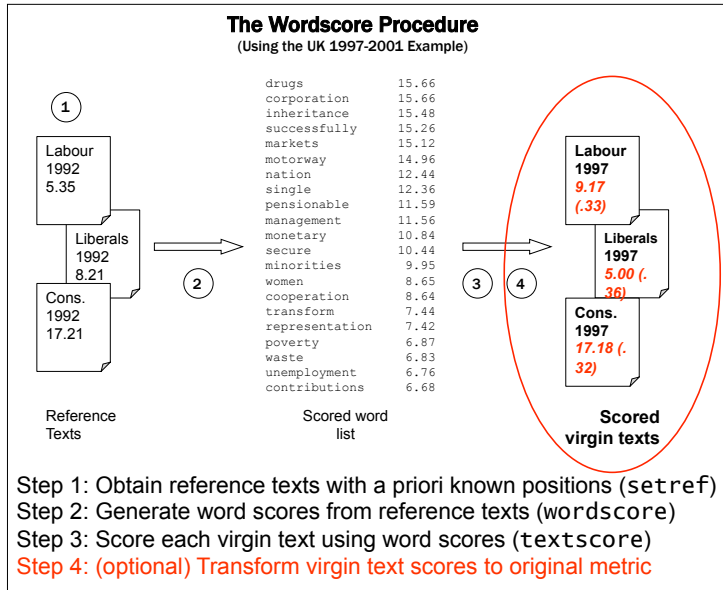
Step 1: Obtain reference texts with a priori known positions (`setref`)

Step 2: Generate word scores from reference texts (`wordscore`)

Step 3: Score each virgin text using word scores (`textscore`)

Step 4: (optional) Transform virgin text scores to original metric

Wordscores Procedure



Wordscores mathematically: Reference texts

- ▶ Start with a set of I *reference* texts, represented by an $I \times J$ document-feature matrix C_{ij} , where i indexes the document and j indexes the J total word types
- ▶ Each text will have an associated “score” a_i , which is a single number locating this text on a single dimension of difference
 - ▶ This can be on a scale metric, such as 1–20
 - ▶ Can use arbitrary endpoints, such as -1, 1
- ▶ We *normalize* the document-feature matrix within each document by converting C_{ij} into a *relative* document-feature matrix (within document), by dividing C_{ij} by its word total marginals:

$$F_{ij} = \frac{C_{ij}}{C_{i.}} \quad (1)$$

where $C_{i.} = \sum_{j=1}^J C_{ij}$

Wordscores mathematically: Word scores

- Compute an $I \times J$ matrix of relative document probabilities P_{ij} for each word in each reference text, as

$$P_{ij} = \frac{F_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^I F_{ij}} \quad (2)$$

- This tells us the probability that given the observation of a specific word j , that we are reading a text of a certain reference document i

Wordscores mathematically: Word scores (example)

- ▶ Assume we have two reference texts, A and B
- ▶ The word “choice” is used 10 times per 1,000 words in Text A and 30 times per 1,000 words in Text B
- ▶ So F_i “choice” = { .010, .030 }
- ▶ If we know only that we are reading the word “choice” in one of the two reference texts, then probability is 0.25 that we are reading Text A, and 0.75 that we are reading Text B

$$P_A \text{ “choice”} = \frac{.010}{(.010 + .030)} = 0.25 \quad (3)$$

$$P_B \text{ “choice”} = \frac{.030}{(.010 + .030)} = 0.75 \quad (4)$$

Wordscores mathematically: Word scores

- ▶ Compute a J -length “score” vector S for each word j as the average of each document i ’s scores a_i , weighted by each word’s P_{ij} :

$$S_j = \sum_{i=1}^I a_i P_{ij} \quad (5)$$

- ▶ In matrix algebra, $S = \underset{1 \times J}{a} \cdot \underset{1 \times I}{a} \cdot \underset{I \times J}{P}$
- ▶ This procedure will yield a single “score” for every word that reflects the balance of the scores of the reference documents, weighted by the relative document frequency of its normalized term frequency

Wordscores mathematically: Word scores

- ▶ Continuing with our example:
 - ▶ We “know” (from independent sources) that Reference Text A has a position of -1.0 , and Reference Text B has a position of $+1.0$
 - ▶ The score of the word “choice” is then
$$0.25(-1.0) + 0.75(1.0) = -0.25 + 0.75 = +0.50$$

Wordscores mathematically: Scoring “virgin” texts

- ▶ Here the objective is to obtain a single score for any new text, relative to the reference texts
- ▶ We do this by taking the mean of the scores of its words, weighted by their term frequency
- ▶ So the score v_k of a virgin document k consisting of the j word types is:

$$v_k = \sum_j (F_{kj} \cdot s_j) \quad (6)$$

where $F_{kj} = \frac{C_{kj}}{C_k}$ as in the reference document relative word frequencies

- ▶ Note that **new words** outside of the set J may appear in the K virgin documents — these are simply ignored (because we have no information on their scores)
- ▶ Note also that nothing prohibits reference documents from also being scored as virgin documents

Wordscores mathematically: Rescaling raw text scores

- ▶ Because of overlapping or non-discriminating words, the raw text scores will be dragged to the interior of the reference scores (we will see this shortly in the results)
- ▶ Some procedures can be applied to rescale them, either to a unit normal metric or to a more “natural” metric
- ▶ Martin and Vanberg (2008) have proposed alternatives to the LBG (2003) rescaling

Computing confidence intervals

- ▶ The score v_k of any text represents a weighted mean
- ▶ LBG (2003) used this logic to develop a standard error of this mean using a *weighted variance* of the scores in the virgin text
- ▶ Given some assumptions about the scores being fixed (and the words being conditionally independent), this yields approximately normally distributed errors for each v_k
- ▶ An alternative would be to bootstrap the textual data prior to constructing C_{ij} and C_{kj} — see Lowe and Benoit (2012)

Pros and Cons of the Wordscores approach

- ▶ Estimates unknown positions on a priori scales – hence no inductive scaling with a posteriori interpretation of unknown policy space
- ▶ Very dependent on correct identification of:
 - ▶ appropriate [reference texts](#)
 - ▶ appropriate [reference scores](#)

From classification to scaling

- ▶ Basics of supervised scaling methods
- ▶ Wordscores
- ▶ Practical aspects
- ▶ Examples

Suggestions for choosing reference texts

- ▶ Texts need to contain information representing a clearly dimensional position
- ▶ Dimension must be known a priori. Sources might include:
 - ▶ Survey scores or manifesto scores
 - ▶ Arbitrarily defined scales (e.g. -1.0 and 1.0)
- ▶ Should be as discriminating as possible: extreme texts on the dimension of interest, to provide reference anchors
- ▶ Need to be from the same lexical universe as virgin texts
- ▶ Should contain lots of words

Suggestions for choosing reference values

- ▶ Must be “known” through some trusted external source
- ▶ For any pair of reference values, all scores are simply linear rescalings, so might as well use $(-1, 1)$
- ▶ The “middle point” will not be the midpoint, however, since this will depend on the relative word frequency of the reference documents
- ▶ Reference texts if scored as virgin texts will have document scores more extreme than other virgin texts
- ▶ With three or more reference values, the mid-point is mapped onto a multi-dimensional simplex. The values now matter but only in relative terms (we are still investigating this fully)

Multinomial Bayes model of Class given a Word

Class posterior probabilities

$$P(c_k|w_j) = \frac{P(w_j|c_k)P(c_k)}{P(w_j|c_k)P(c_k) + P(w_j|c_{\neg k})P(c_{\neg k})}$$

- ▶ This represents the **posterior probability of membership in class k** for word j
- ▶ Under *certain conditions*, this is identical to what LBG (2003) called P_{wr}
- ▶ Under those conditions, the LBG “wordscore” is the linear difference between $P(c_k|w_j)$ and $P(c_{\neg k}|w_j)$

“Certain conditions”

- ▶ The LBG approach required the identification not only of texts for each training class, but also “reference” scores attached to each training class
- ▶ Consider two “reference” scores s_1 and s_2 attached to two classes $k = 1$ and $k = 2$. Taking P_1 as the posterior $P(k = 1|w = j)$ and P_2 as $P(k = 2|w = j)$, A generalised score s_j^* for the word j is then

$$\begin{aligned}s_j^* &= s_1 P_1 + s_2 P_2 \\&= s_1 P_1 + s_2 (1 - P_1) \\&= s_1 P_1 + s_2 - s_2 P_1 \\&= P_1 (s_1 - s_2) + s_2\end{aligned}$$

“Certain conditions”: More than two reference classes

- For more than two reference classes, if the reference scores are ordered such that $s_1 < s_2 < \cdots < s_K$, then

$$\begin{aligned} s_j^* &= s_1 P_1 + s_2 P_2 + \cdots + s_K P_K \\ &= s_1 P_1 + s_2 P_2 + \cdots + s_K \left(1 - \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} P_k\right) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} P_k (s_k - s_K) + s_K \end{aligned}$$

A simpler formulation:

Use reference scores such that $s_1 = -1.0, s_K = 1.0$

- ▶ From above equations, it should be clear that any set of reference scores can be linearly rescaled to endpoints of $-1.0, 1.0$
- ▶ This simplifies the “simple word score”

$$s_j^* = (1 - 2P_1) + \sum_{k=2}^{K-1} P_k(s_k - 1)$$

- ▶ which simplifies with just two reference classes to:

$$s_j^* = 1 - 2P_1$$

Implications

- ▶ LBG's “word scores” come from a linear combination of class posterior probabilities from a Bayesian model of class conditional on words
- ▶ We might as well always anchor reference scores at $-1.0, 1.0$
- ▶ There is a special role for reference classes in between $-1.0, 1.0$, as they balance between “pure” classes — more in a moment
- ▶ There are alternative scaling models, such that used in Beauchamp's (2012) “Bayesscore”, which is simply the difference in logged class posteriors at the word level. For $s_1 = -1.0$, $s_2 = 1.0$,

$$\begin{aligned} s_j^B &= -\log P_1 + \log P_2 \\ &= \log \frac{1 - P_1}{P_1} \end{aligned}$$

Moving to the document level

- ▶ The “Naive” Bayes model of a joint document-level class posterior assumes conditional independence, to multiply the word likelihoods from a “test” document, to produce:

$$P(c|d) = P(c) \frac{\prod_j P(w_j|c)}{P(w_j)}$$

- ▶ So we *could* consider a document-level relative score, e.g. $1 - 2P(c_1|d)$ (for a two-class problem)
- ▶ But this turns out to be *useless*, since the predictions of class are **highly separated**

Moving to the document level

- ▶ A better solution is to score a test document as the **arithmetic mean** of the **scores of its words**
- ▶ This is exactly the solution proposed by LBG (2003)
- ▶ Beauchamp (2012) proposes a “Bayesscore” which is the arithmetic mean of the log difference word scores in a document – which yields extremely similar results

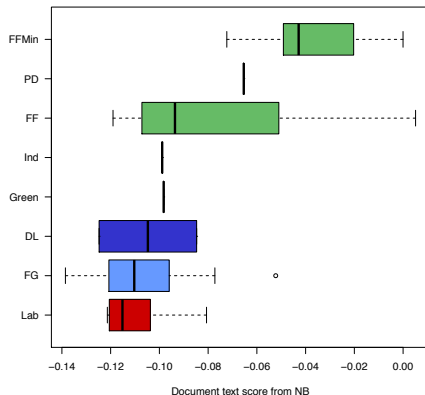
And now for some demonstrations with data...

Outline

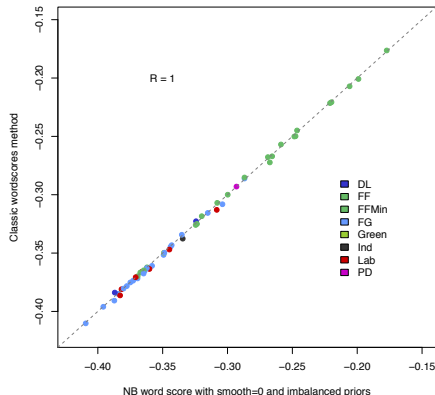
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Application 1: Daily speeches from LBG (2003)

(a) NB Speech scores by party, smooth=0, imbalanced priors



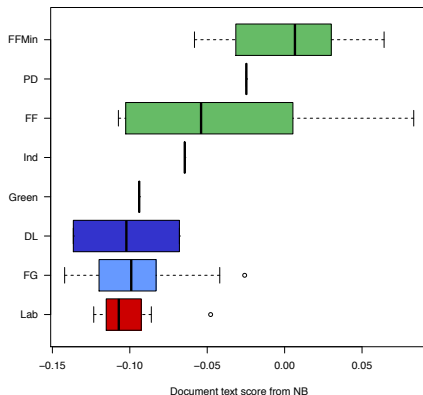
(b) Document scores from NB v. Classic Wordscores



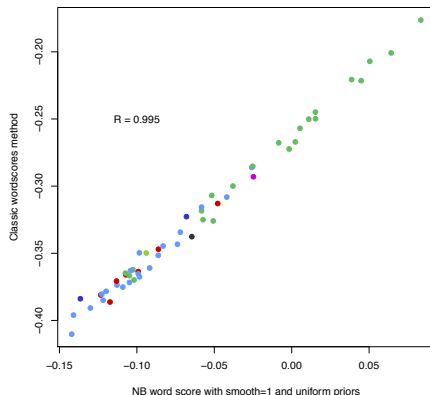
- ▶ three reference classes (Opposition, Opposition, Government) at $\{-1, -1, 1\}$
- ▶ no smoothing

Application 1: Daily speeches from LBG (2003)

(c) NB Speech scores by party, smooth=1, uniform class priors



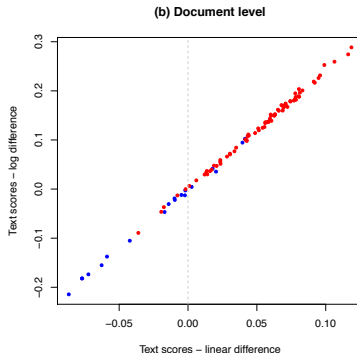
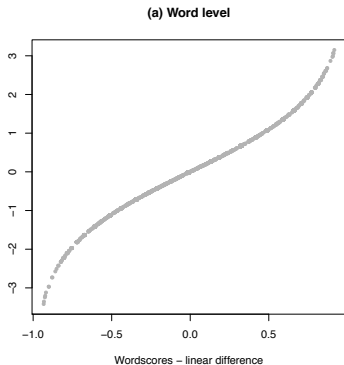
(d) Document scores from NB v. Classic Wordscores



- ▶ two reference classes (Opposition+Opposition, Government) at $\{-1, 1\}$
- ▶ Laplace smoothing

Application 2: Classifying legal briefs (Evans et al 2007)

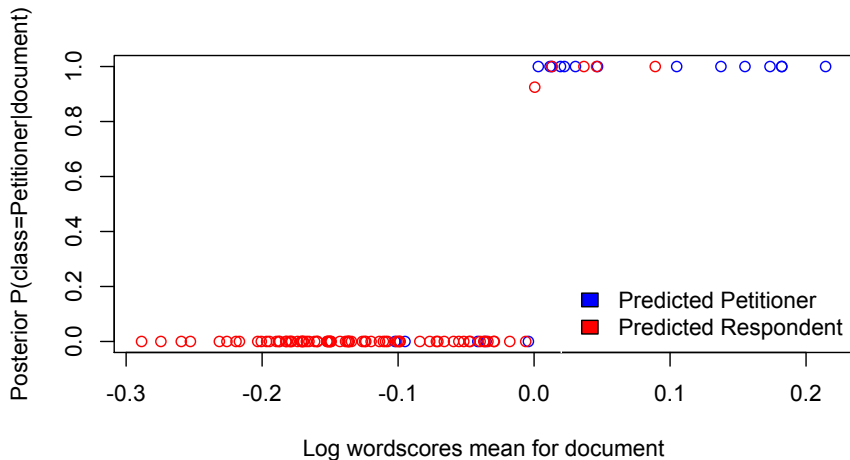
Wordscores v. Bayesscore



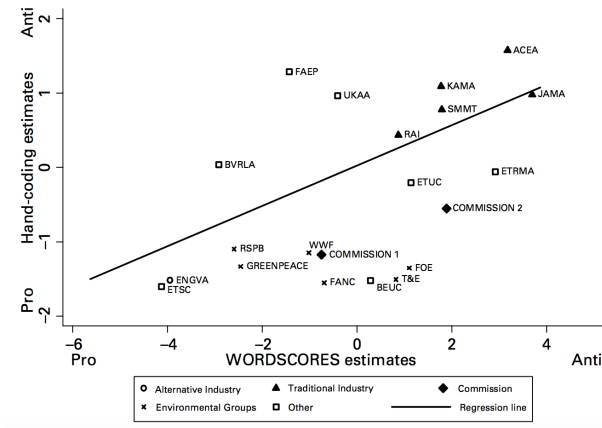
- ▶ Training set: **P**etitioner and **R**espondent litigant briefs from *Grutter/Gratz v. Bollinger* (a U.S. Supreme Court case)
- ▶ Test set: 98 amicus curiae briefs (whose **P** or **R** class is known)

Application 2: Classifying legal briefs (Evans et al 2007)

Posterior class prediction from NB versus log wordscores



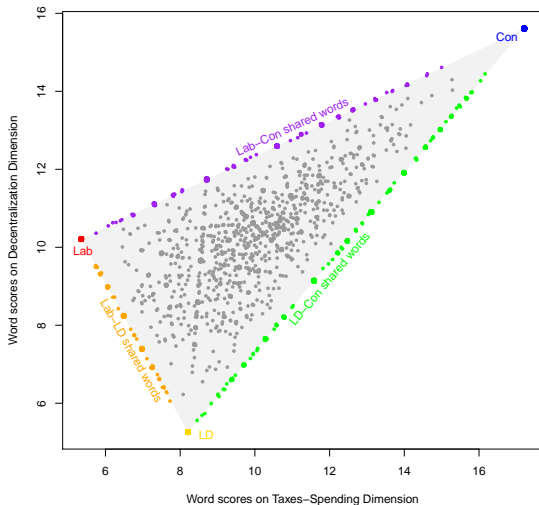
Application 3: Scaling environmental interest groups (Klüver 2009)



- Dataset: text of online consultation on EU environmental regulations
- Reference texts: most extreme pro- and anti-regulation groups

Application 4: LBG's British manifestos

More than two reference classes



- ▶ x-axis: Reference scores of $\{5.35, 8.21, 17.21\}$ for Lab, LD, Conservatives
- ▶ y-axis: Reference scores of $\{10.21, 5.26, 15.61\}$