

# Automatic political stance detection

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# Motivation

Glastonbury preview **Coldplay** 'It will be magical' Exclusive interview

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New Order Best ever festivals  
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£2.00 (10p/20p/30p £2.40)  
Friday 24.06.16  
Published in London and Manchester  
theguardian.com

## the guardian

### Cameron faces fight for survival as Britain sets course for Brexit

4.45am edition

- Pound plunges by 9% to lowest level since 1985
- Farage claims victory as leave stretches ahead
- Tory leave MPs pledge to back PM come what may

**Amushka Athana Ben Quinn Dan Milnes**

David Cameron was facing re-election this morning as Britain appeared to be on the brink of voting to leave the EU, triggering the biggest ever currency market crash. The value of the pound fell by 9% as the financial markets prepared for a Brexit economic shock potentially greater than Black Wednesday in 1992.

Ukip's leader, Nigel Farage, declared victory to jubilant supporters shortly after 4am. "If the predictions now are right this will be a victory for the real people, a victory for ordinary people, a victory for decent people. We have fought against the multinationals, against the big men hunt banks, against big politics, against lies, corruption and deceit... and today honesty and decency and belief in nation I think now is going to win."

"We will have done it without having to fight, without a single bullet having been fired," he said, calling it the country's "independence day".

There was a tense mood in Downing Street while Labour remain campaigners

Stranger in supporters react with dismay as they hear results at London's Royal Festival Hall Photograph: Bob Stockard/PA

broke down in tears, saying people were "scared and confused".

Jeremy Cook, chief economist and head of currency strategy at WorldFirst, said: "Sterling has collapsed... It can go a lot further as well." The pound was trading at \$1.15, its lowest level since 1985.

Cameron is expected to address the country from Downing Street this morning. He had earlier received the support of 86 Conservative MPs who have campaigned for out, including Boris Johnson, Michael Gove and Chris Grayling, who said it was his "mandate and a duty to continue implementing the party's 2015 manifesto".

But Labour's shadow foreign secretary, Hilary Benn, said he could not see how the prime minister could remain in position.

Jeremy Corbyn, who is also facing re-elections and the possibility of a leadership challenge, will declare Britain a "divided country" and also indicate that the prime minister will need to consider

EU referendum

Inside How Britain went to the polls - and what might happen next Pages 2-7 →

his position. The Labour leader will say the expected result demonstrates a split between areas of high deprivation, where people feel left behind, and other areas.

A senior Labour source said there was an urgent need to address the concerns of working class communities, including over immigration and public services. But he also argued that areas with the highest levels of immigration voted to remain, suggesting the issue was more complex.

Senior Tories called for calm. Graham Brady, one of the most important figures in uniting the party because of his leadership of the key 2012 backbench committee, said: "The debate over Britain's relationship with the EU is a vitally important

Continued on page 2 →

6AM LATEST

# THE Sun

Friday, June 24, 2016 BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING PAPER 52p 1700000000

**OUT 52%** **IN 48%**

● **Britain waking to an EU exit**

● **Leave claims win in huge poll**

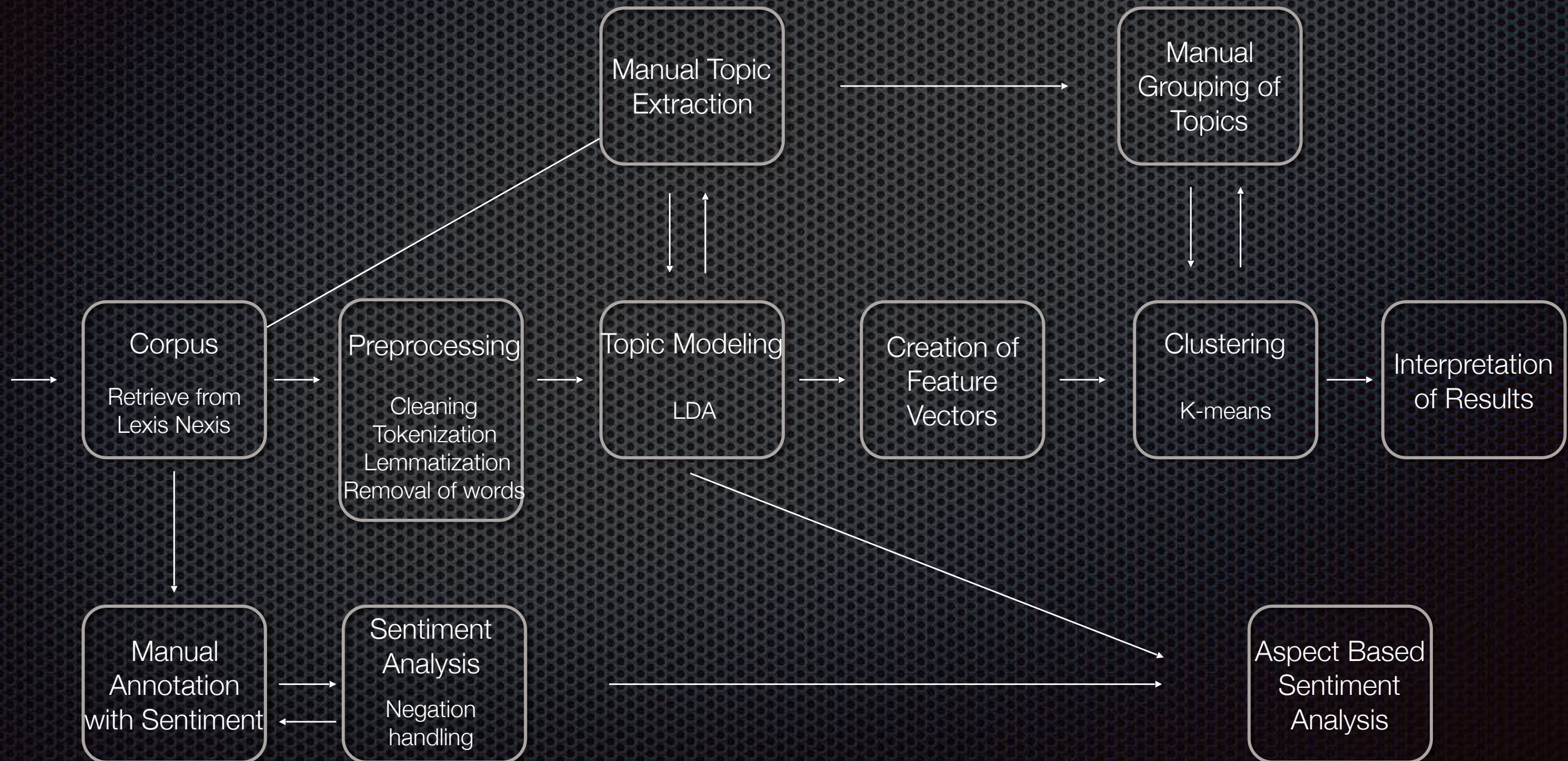
**SEE EU LATER!**

NATION'S BIG BREXFAST: SEE PAGES 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9



# Pipeline

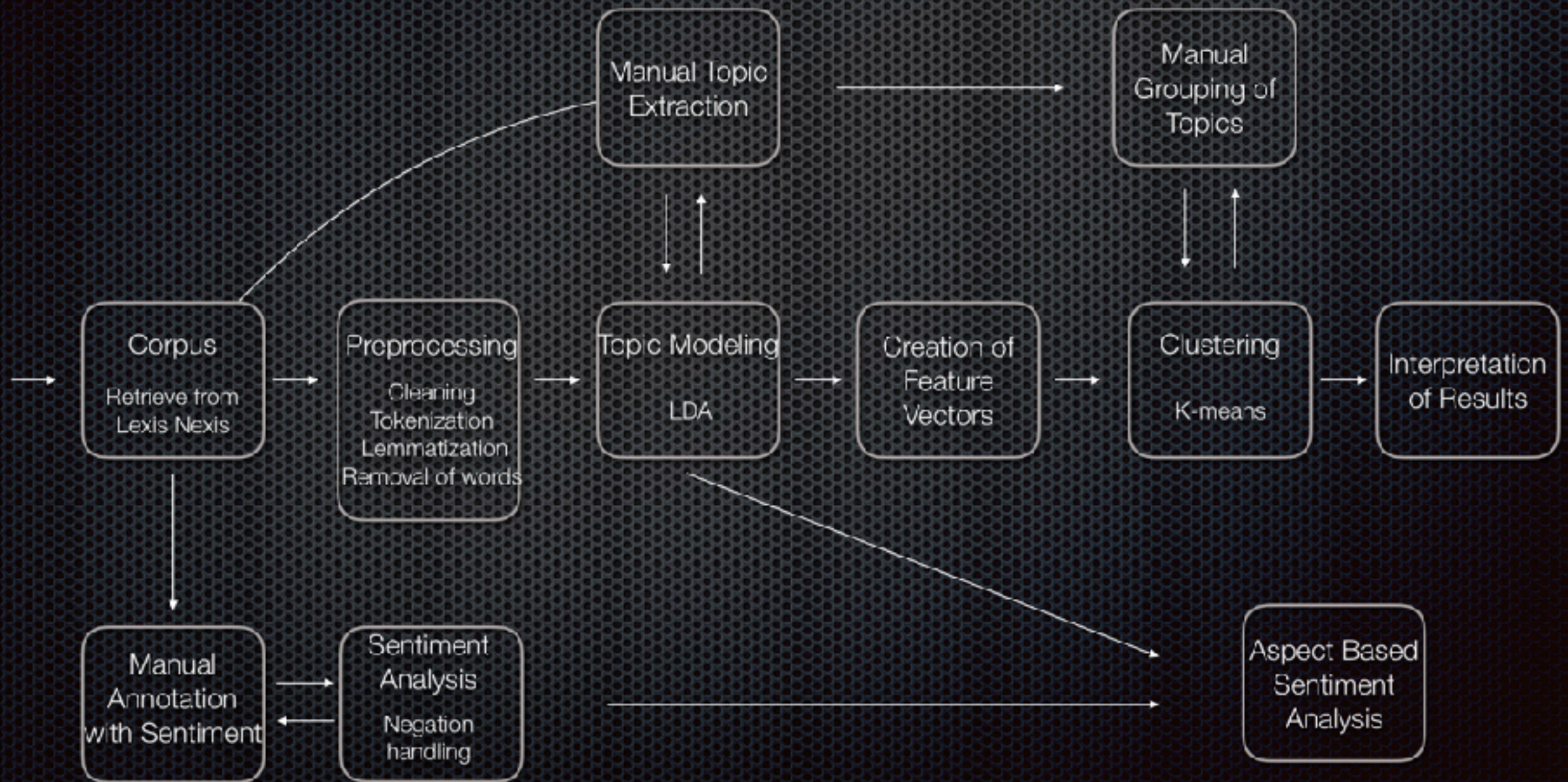
- Oriented towards Burscher et al. (2016)





# Pipeline

- Oriented towards Burscher et al. (2016)









# What we still need to do

- Manual extraction of topics and grouping
- Comparing manual evaluation with automatic results
- Implement aspect-based sentiment analysis
- Maybe try out other cluster and topic modelling methods



# Initial Results

- No meaningful difference between articles
- Different corpus or preprocessing?





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# References

Burscher, B., Vliegthart, R. and Vreese, C.H.D., 2016. Frames Beyond words: applying cluster and sentiment analysis to news coverage of the nuclear power issue. *Social Science Computer Review*, Vol. 34(5), pp.530-545.

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Karypis, G., Kumar, V., & Steinbach, M. (2000). A Comparison of Document Clustering Techniques. *Proceedings of the KDD Workshop on Text Mining*, 2000.