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e.g. authors with limited vocabularies will have a low lexical diversity.

Tabloid vs Broadsheet

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RCH NEW YORK POST

NEWS

Iraqi troops retake key government complex in Ramadi

By Associated Press December 28, 2015 | 6:34am | Updated

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MIDDLE EAST

Iraqi Forces Retake Center of Ramadi From ISIS

By FALIH HASSAN and SEWELL CHAN DEC. 28, 2015

Iraqi soldiers at the Anbar police headquarters in Ramadi, Iraq, on Monday, after seizing a government complex from the Islamic State. Ahmad Al-Rubaye/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Email

Share

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so make denominator non-linear:

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- Kincaid et al later translate to US School grade level that would be (on average) required to comprehend text.

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0–30	college graduates	very difficult	28
31–50		difficult	72
51–60		fairly difficult	85
61–70	9th grade	standard	–
71–80		fairly easy	–
81–90		easy	–
91–100	4th grade	very easy	–

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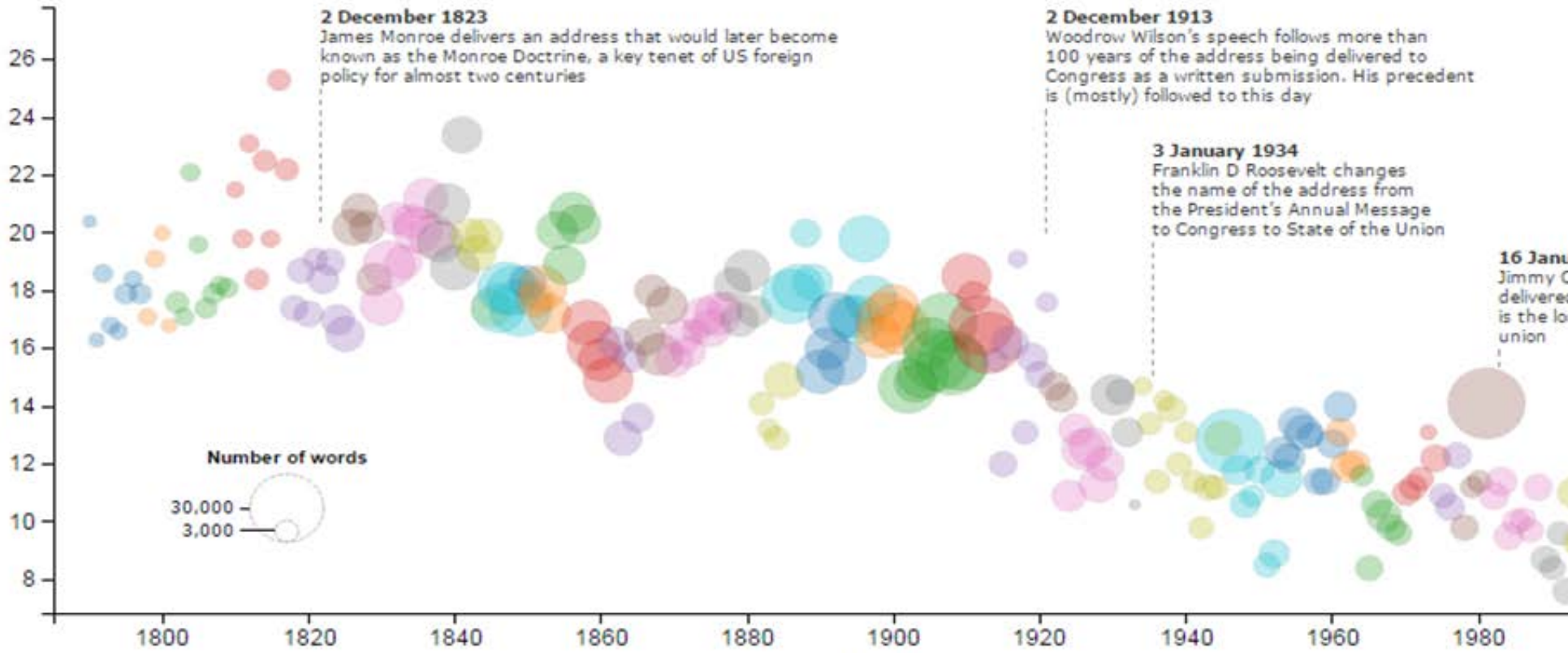
The state of our union is ... dumber:

How the linguistic standard of the presidential address has declined

Using the Flesch-Kincaid readability test the Guardian has tracked the reading level of every State of the Union



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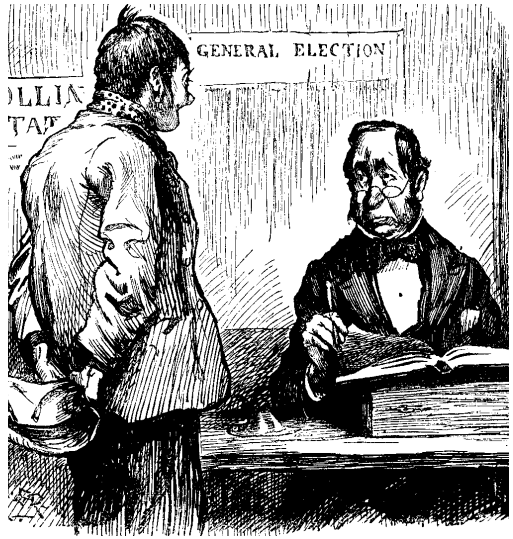

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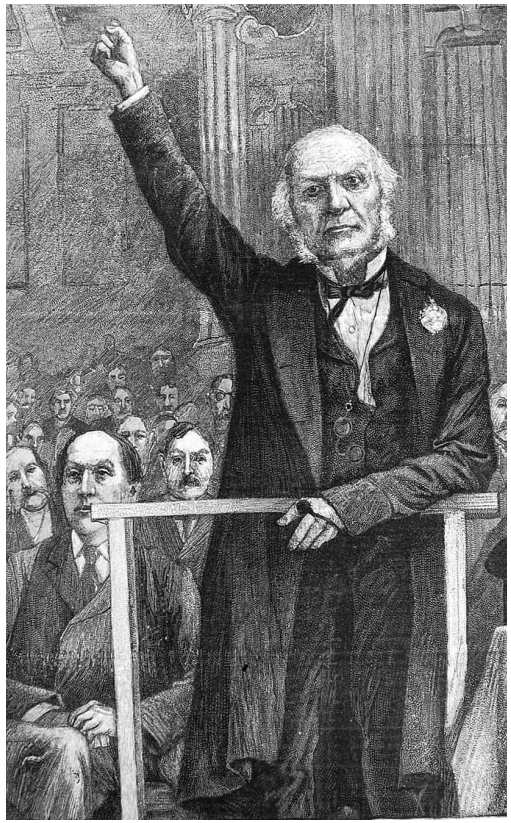

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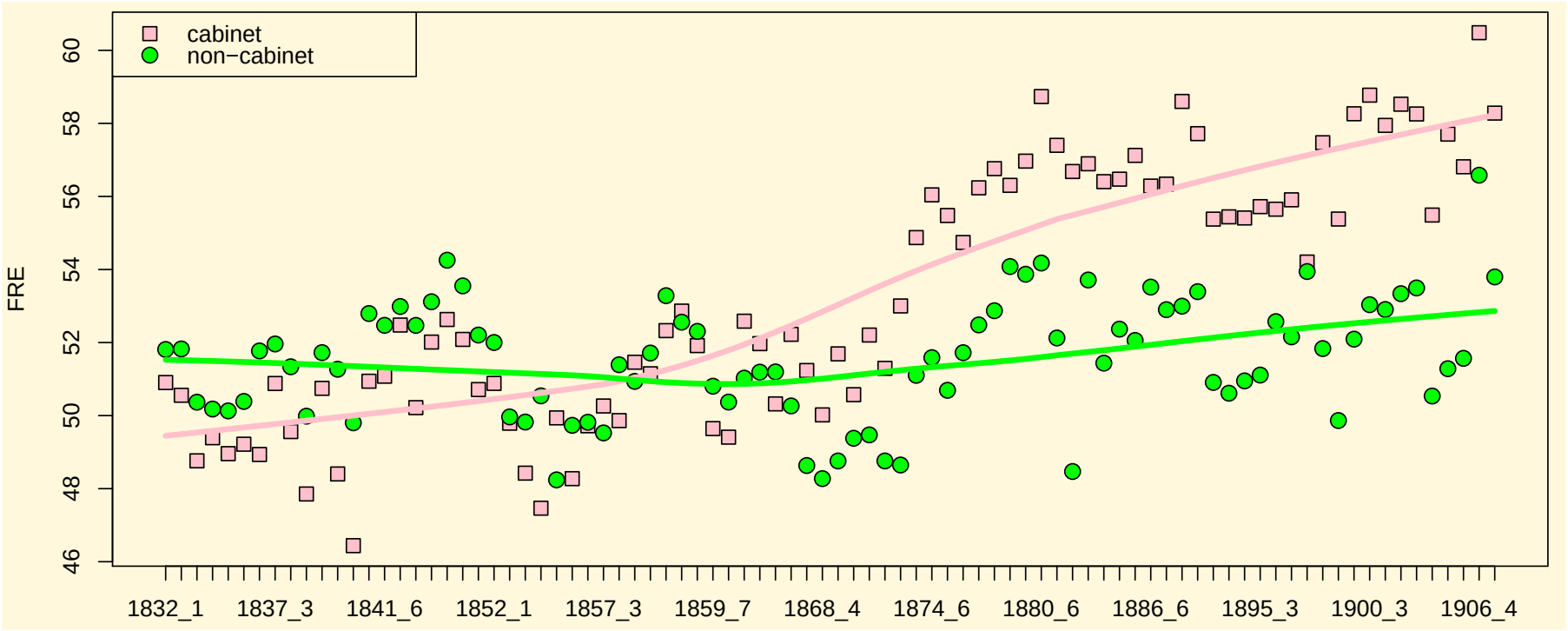
Flesch overtime plot



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e.g. `about`, `back`, `call`, etc.

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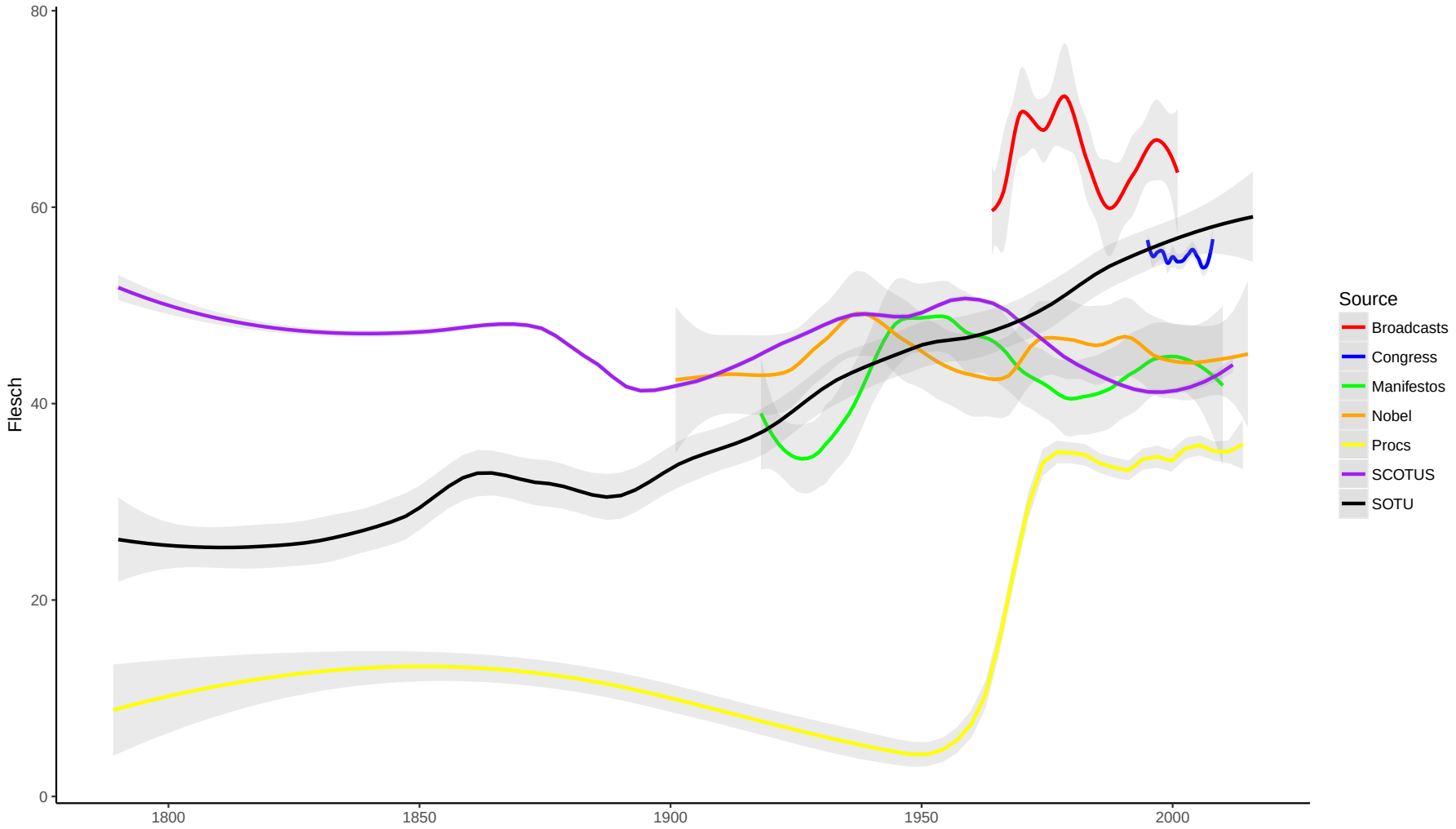

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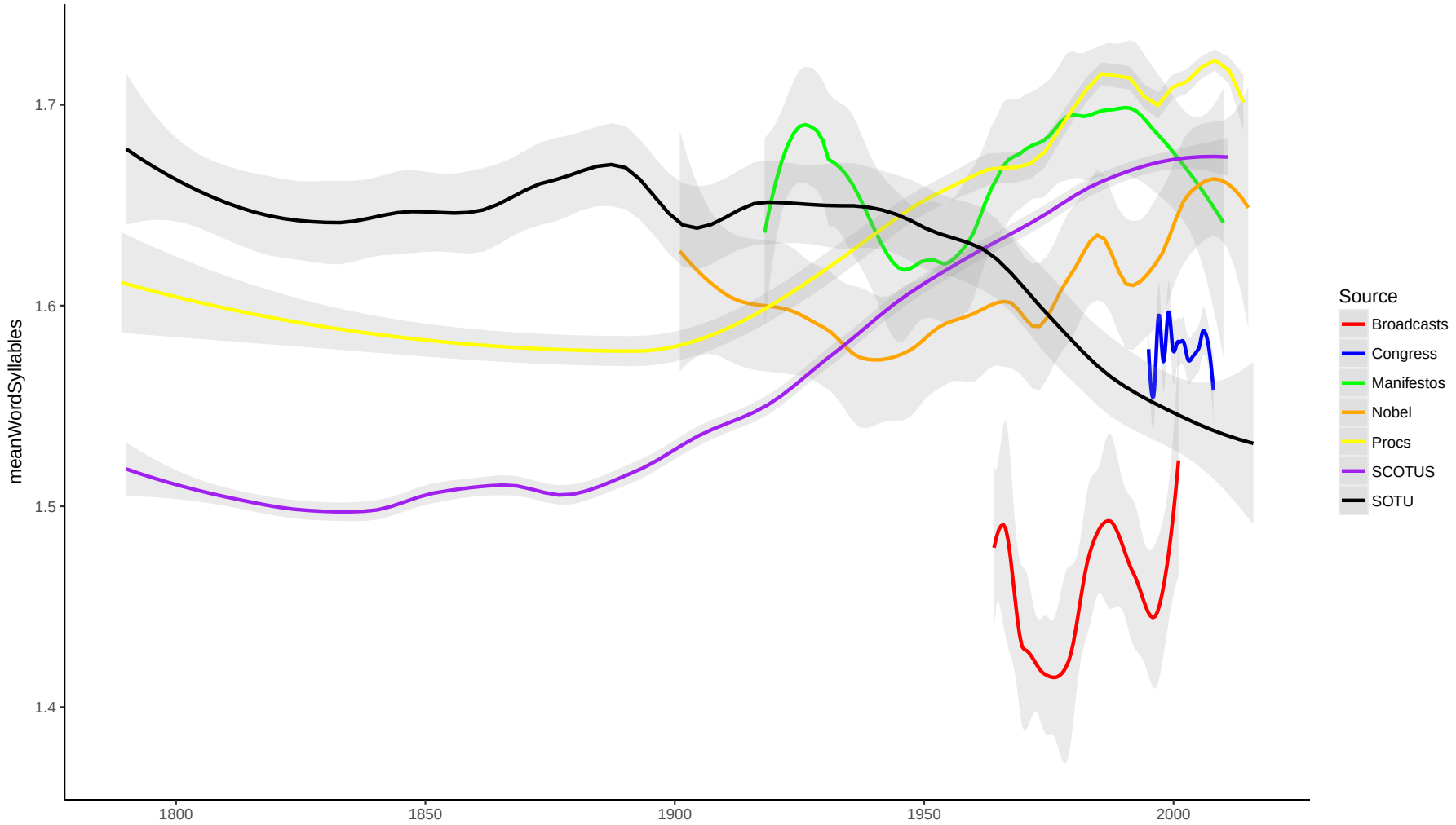

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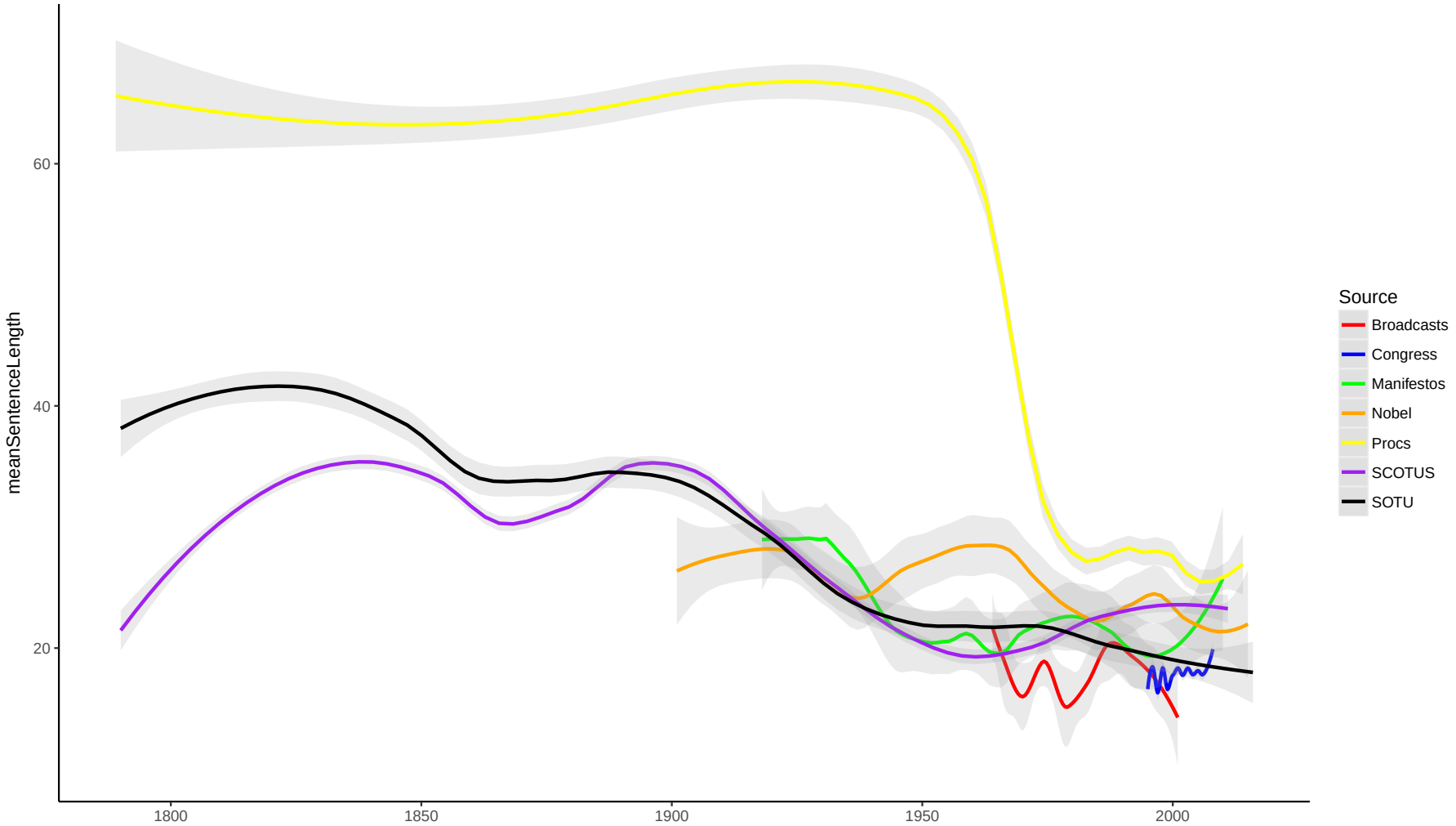

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Paper and Software

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Measuring and Explaining Political Sophistication Through Textual Complexity

42 Pages • Posted: 1 Nov 2017

Kenneth Benoit
London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE); Trinity College Dublin

Kevin Munger
New York University (NYU)

Arthur Spirling
New York University

Date Written: October 30, 2017

Abstract

The sophistication of political communication has been measured using "readability" scores developed from other contexts, but their application out of domain is problematic. We systematically review the shortcomings of previous measures, before developing a new approach, with software, better suited to the task. We use the crowd to perform thousands of pairwise comparisons of text snippets and incorporate these results into a statistical model of comprehension. We include previously excluded features such as parts of speech, and a

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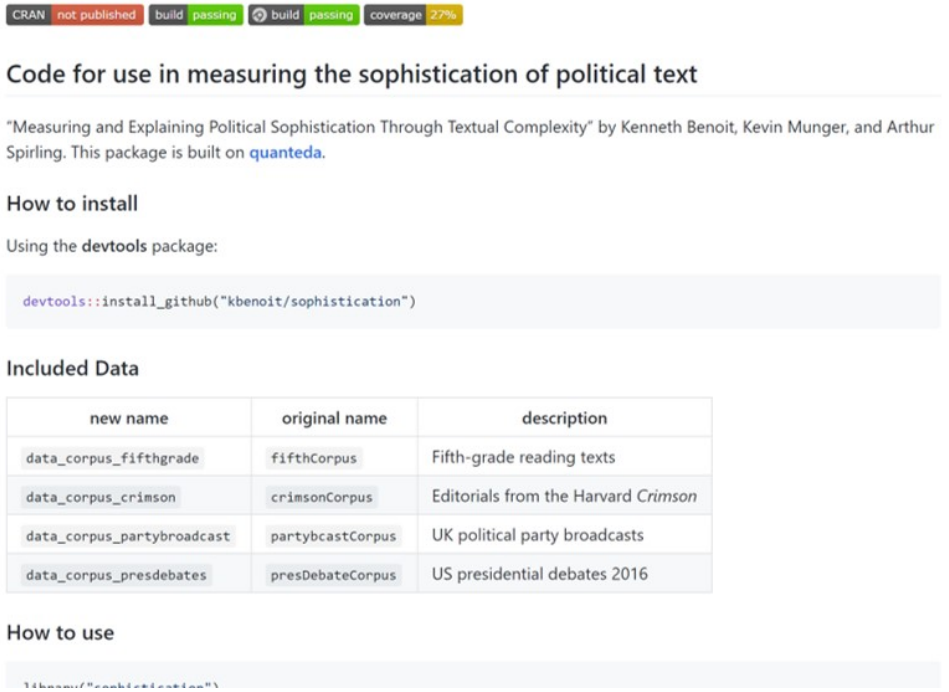
The sophistication of political communication has been measured using "readability" scores developed from other contexts, but their application out of domain is problematic. We systematically review the shortcomings of previous measures, before developing a new approach, with software, better suited to the task. We use the crowd to perform thousands of pairwise comparisons of text snippets and incorporate these results into a statistical model of comprehension. We include previously excluded features such as parts of speech, and a



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Code for use in measuring the sophistication of political text

"Measuring and Explaining Political Sophistication Through Textual Complexity" by Kenneth Benoit, Kevin Munger, and Arthur Spirling. This package is built on quanteda.

How to install

Using the **devtools** package:

```
devtools::install_github("kbenoit/sophistication")
```

Included Data

new name	original name	description
data_corpus_fifthgrade	fifthCorpus	Fifth-grade reading texts
data_corpus_crimson	crimsonCorpus	Editorials from the Harvard *Crimson*
data_corpus_partybroadcast	partybcastCorpus	UK political party broadcasts
data_corpus_presdebates	presDebateCorpus	US presidential debates 2016

How to use

Paper and Software

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Measuring and Explaining Political Sophistication Through Textual Complexity

42 Pages • Posted: 1 Nov 2017

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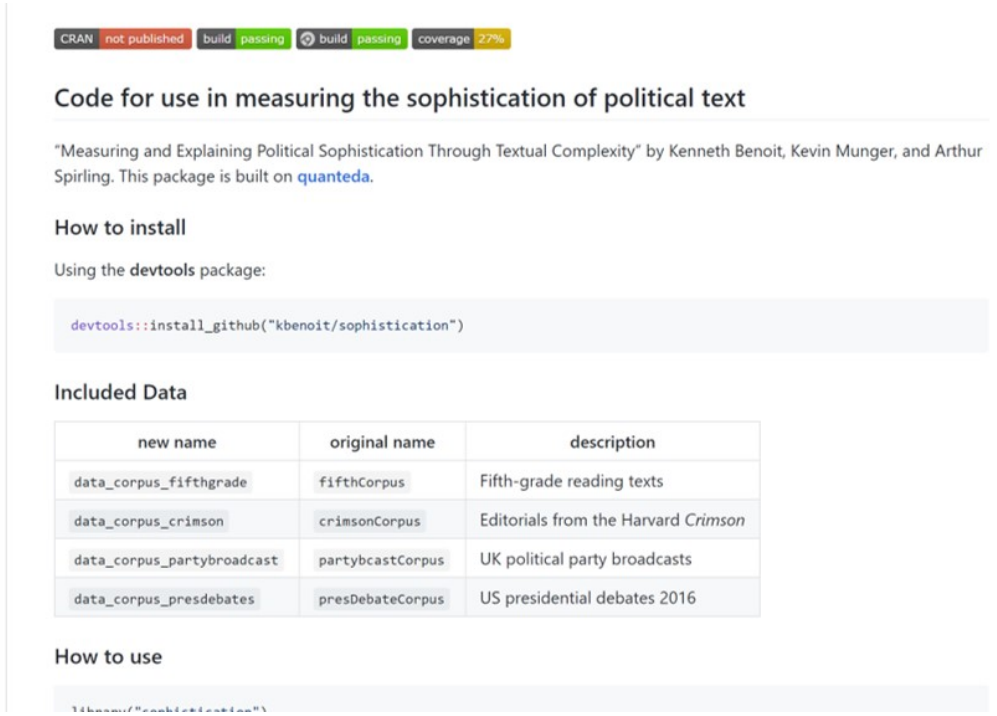

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How to use

`github.com/kbenoit/sophistication`