

# Big Data for Public Policy

## Methods Lectures on Text as Data

Elliott Ash & Malka Guillot

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- ▶ Text data is **unstructured**:
  - ▶ the information we want is mixed together with (lots of) information we don't.
- ▶ All text data approaches will throw away some information:
  - ▶ The trick is figuring out how to retain valuable information.

## **1. Read text documents as data:**

- Convert texts to features – words, phrases, syntactic/semantic relations.
- Feature selection / dimension reduction to exclude irrelevant information.

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- applying regressors and classifiers to text features.

**5. Word embedding for isolating dimensions of language:**

- Analyze values, attitudes, and ideology

# Outline

## Reading Text Documents as Data

Corpora

Quantity of Text as Data

Dictionary Methods

Featurization

## Document Distance/Similarity

## Machine Learning with Text

### Topic Models

### Word Embeddings

### Document Embeddings

### Syntactic and Semantic Parsing

## In-Depth Application: Demszky et al (2019)

## Social Science Research with Text

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```
[4]: from sklearn.datasets import fetch_20newsgroups  
data = fetch_20newsgroups() # object is a dictionary  
data.keys()  
  
[4]: dict_keys(['data', 'filenames', 'target_names', 'target', 'DESCR'])
```

Data Set Characteristics:

```
[5]: print(data['DESCR'])  
  
.. _20newsgroups_dataset:  
  
The 20 newsgroups text dataset  
-----
```

The 20 newsgroups dataset comprises around 18000 newsgroups posts on 20 topics split in two subsets: one for training (or development) and the other one for testing (or for performance evaluation). The split between the train and test set is based upon a messages posted before and after a specific date.

```
[6]: W, y = data.data, data.target
n_samples = y.shape[0]
n_samples

[6]: 11314

[7]: y[:10] # news story categories

[7]: array([ 7,  4,  4,  1, 14, 16, 13,  3,  2,  4])

[8]: doc = W[0]
doc

[8]: "From: lerxst@wam.umd.edu (where's my thing)\nSubject: WHAT car is this!?\nNntp-Posting-Host: rac3.wam.umd.edu\nOrganization: University of Maryland, College Park\nLines: 15\n\n I was wondering if anyone out there could enlighten me on t his car I saw\nthe other day. It was a 2-door sports car, looked to be from the late 60s/\nearly 70s. It was called a Bricklin. The doors were really small. In addition,\nthe front bumper was separate from the rest of the body. This is\nall I know. If anyone can tellme a model name, engine specs, years\nof productio n, where this car is made, history, or whatever info you\nhave on this funky lo oking car, please e-mail.\n\nThanks,\n- IL\n    --- brought to you by your neig hborhood Lerxst\n\n\n\n"
```

```
df = pd.DataFrame(W,columns=['text'])
df['topic'] = y
df.head()
```

	text	topic
0	From: lerxst@wam.umd.edu (where's my thing)\nS...	7
1	From: guykuo@carson.u.washington.edu (Guy Kuo)...	4
2	From: twillis@ec.ecn.purdue.edu (Thomas E Will...	4
3	From: jgreen@amber (Joe Green)\nSubject: Re: W...	1
4	From: jcm@head-cfa.harvard.edu (Jonathan McDow...	14

## Corpus cleaning

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  - ▶ Remove HTML markup, extra white space, and unicode

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  - ▶ HTML markup for section header names.
  - ▶ e.g., legal database web sites often have HTML tags for citations to other cases.

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- ▶ But HTML markup is often valuable:
  - ▶ HTML markup for section header names.
  - ▶ e.g., legal database web sites often have HTML tags for citations to other cases.
- ▶ Other cleaning steps:
  - ▶ page numbers
  - ▶ hyphenations at line breaks
  - ▶ table of contents, indexes, etc.
- ▶ These are all corpus-specific, so inspect ahead of time.

## OCR (Optical Character Recognition)

- ▶ Your data might be in PDF's or images. Needs to be converted to text
- ▶ The best solution (that I know of) is ABBYY FineReader, which is expensive but might be available at your university library.
- ▶ My colleague Joe Sutherland at Columbia has a nice open-source package for OCR:
  - ▶ <https://github.com/jlsutherland/doc2text>

## Other Languages

- ▶ All of the tools that we discuss in this class are available in many languages.
  - ▶ See, e.g., <https://spacy.io/usage/models>.
- ▶ Can also translate (e.g., API links to google translate and DeepL).
- ▶ The machine learning models are language-independent.

## What counts as a document?

The unit of analysis (the “document”) will vary depending on your question.

- ▶ needs to be fine enough to fit the relevant metadata variation
- ▶ should not be finer – would make dataset more high-dimensional without empirical benefit.

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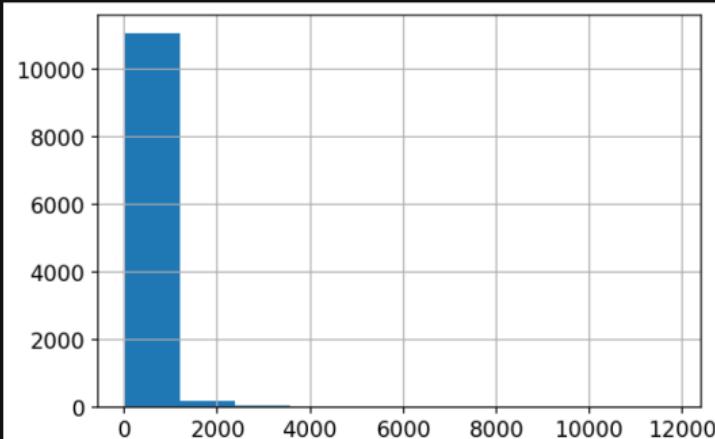
## Social Science Research with Text

Count words per document.

```
[13]: def get_words_per_doc(txt):
        # split text into words and count them.
        return len(txt.split())

# apply to our data
df['num_words'] = df['text'].apply(get_words_per_doc)
df['num_words'].hist()
```

```
[13]: <AxesSubplot:>
```

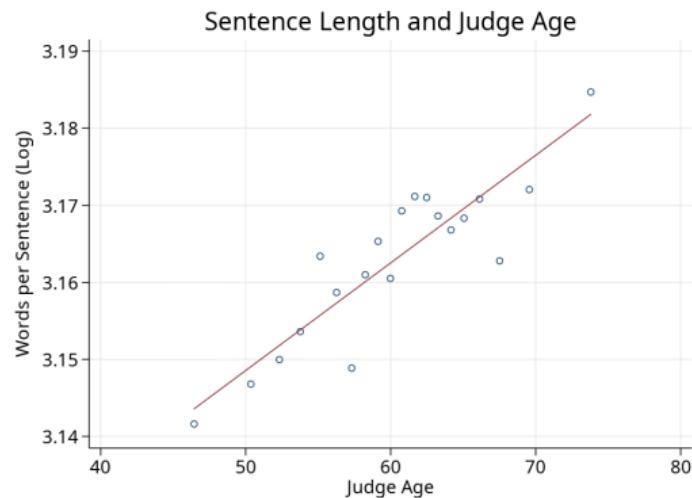
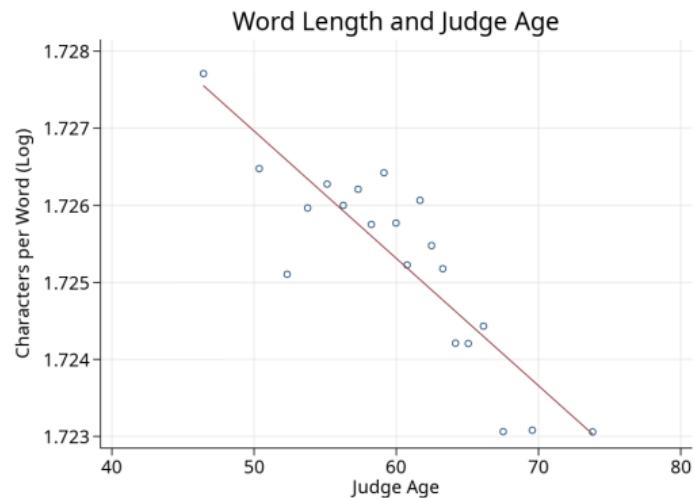


# Judge Age and Writing Style

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## Optimal Legal Complexity (Katz and Bommarito 2014)

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Five largest and smallest titles by token count

Title	Tokens	Tokens per section
Public Health and Welfare (Title 42)	2,732,251	369.22
Internal Revenue Code (Title 26)	1,016,995	487.07
Conservation (Title 16)	947,467	200.48
Commerce and Trade (Title 15)	773,819	336.88
Agriculture (Title 7)	751,579	274.00
President (Title 3)	7,564	120.06
Intoxicating Liquors (Title 27)	6,515	144.78
Flag and Seal, Seat of Govt. and the States (Title 4)	5,598	119.11
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Five highest and lowest titles by word entropy

Title	Word entropy
Commerce and Trade (Title 15)	10.80
Public Health and Welfare (Title 42)	10.79
Conservation (Title 16)	10.75
Navigation and Navigable Waters (Title 33)	10.67
Foreign Relations and Intercourse (Title 22)	10.67
Intoxicating Liquors (Title 27)	9.01
President (Title 3)	8.89
National Guard (Title 32)	8.50
General Provisions (Title 1)	8.49
Arbitration (Title 9)	8.24

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## Overview of Dictionary-Based Methods

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  - ▶ (e.g., number of times a judge says “justice” vs “efficiency”)

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  - ▶ use regular expressions for this task (see notebook)
- ▶ Corpus-specific: counting sets of words or phrases across documents
  - ▶ (e.g., number of times a judge says “justice” vs “efficiency”)
- ▶ General dictionaries: WordNet, LIWC, MFD, etc.

# Measuring uncertainty in macroeconomy

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For each newspaper on each day since 1985,  
submit the following query:

1. Article contains “uncertain” OR  
“uncertainty”, AND
2. Article contains “economic” OR  
“economy”, AND
3. Article contains “congress” OR  
“deficit” OR “federal reserve” OR  
“legislation” OR “regulation” OR  
“white house”

Normalize resulting article counts by total  
newspaper articles that month.

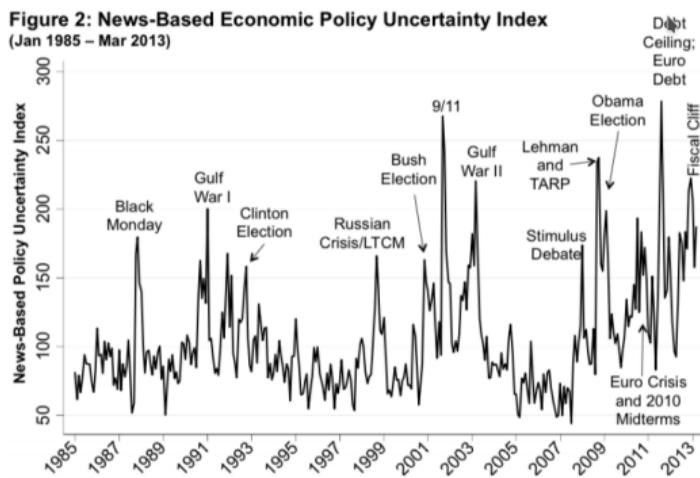
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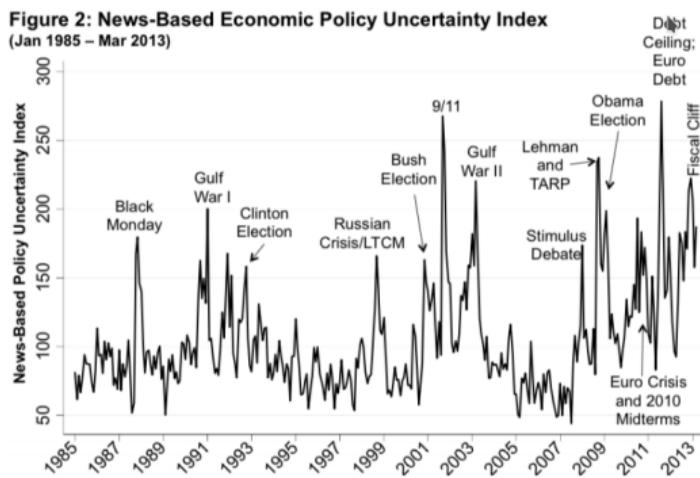
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- ▶ but see Keith et al (2020), showing some big problems with this measure (<https://arxiv.org/abs/2010.04706>).



## Sentiment Analysis

Extract a “tone” dimension – positive, negative, neutral

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- ▶ flair’s pre-trained sentiment model uses a context-sensitive neural net
- ▶ Off-the-shelf scores designed for online writing – may not work for legal text, for example.
  - ▶ Hamilton et al (2016) and Zorn and Rice (2019) show how to make domain-specific sentiment lexicons using word embeddings (more on this later).

# Sentiment Analysis

```
[16]: # Dictionary-Based Sentiment Analysis

from nltk.sentiment.vader import SentimentIntensityAnalyzer
sid = SentimentIntensityAnalyzer()
polarity = sid.polarity_scores(doc)
print(polarity)

{'neg': 0.012, 'neu': 0.916, 'pos': 0.072, 'compound': 0.807}
```

## General Dictionaries

- ▶ WordNet: English word database: 118K nouns, 12K verbs, 22K adjectives, 5K adverbs. Synonym sets (synsets) are a group of near-synonyms, plus a gloss (definition).
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- ▶ Mohammad and Turney (2011):
  - ▶ code 10,000 words along four emotional dimensions: joy–sadness, anger–fear, trust–disgust, anticipation–surprise
- ▶ Warriner et al (2013):
  - ▶ code 14,000 words along three emotional dimensions: valence, arousal, dominance.

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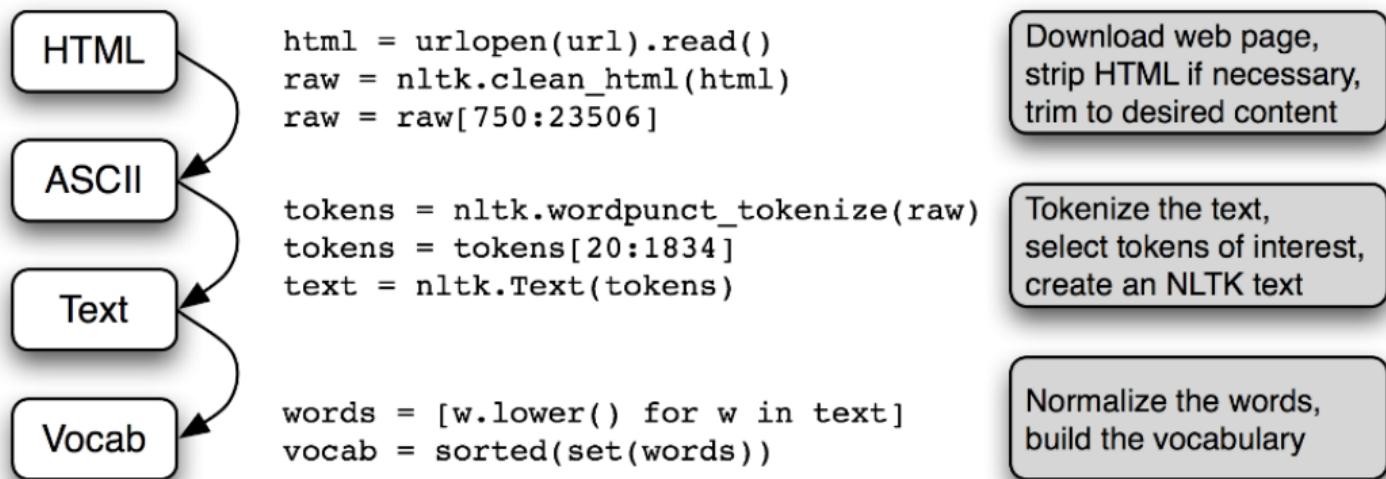
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## Goals of Featurization

- ▶ The goal: produce features that are
  - ▶ **predictive** in the learning task
  - ▶ **interpretable** by human investigators
  - ▶ **tractable** enough to be easy to work with



## Pre-processing

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- ▶ Pre-processing choices can affect down-stream results, especially in unsupervised learning tasks (Denny and Spirling 2017).
  - ▶ some features are more interpretable
- ▶ Standard pre-processing steps:
  - ▶ drop capitalization, punctuation, numbers, stopwords (e.g. “the”, “such”)
  - ▶ remove word stems (e.g., “taxes” and “taxed” become “tax”)

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More generally:

- ▶ **Document counts:** number of documents where a token appears.
- ▶ **Term counts:** number of total appearances of a token in corpus.
- ▶ **Term frequency:**

$$\text{Term Frequency in document } k = \frac{\text{Term count in document } k}{\text{Total tokens in document } k}$$

## Building a vocabulary

- ▶ An important featurization step is to build a vocabulary of words:
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  - ▶ Inspect low-frequency words and determine a minimum document threshold.
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- ▶ Can also impose more complex thresholds, e.g.:
  - ▶ appears twice in at least 20 documents
  - ▶ appears in at least 3 documents in at least 5 years
- ▶ Assign numerical identifiers to tokens to increase speed and reduce disk usage.

## TF-IDF Weighting

- ▶ TF/IDF: “Term-Frequency / Inverse-Document-Frequency.”
- ▶ The formula for word  $w$  in document  $k$ :

$$\underbrace{\frac{\text{Count of } w \text{ in } k}{\text{Total word count of } k}}_{\text{Term Frequency}} \times \log\left(\frac{\text{Number of documents in } D}{\text{Count of documents containing } w}\right) \underbrace{\quad}_{\text{Inverse Document Frequency}}$$

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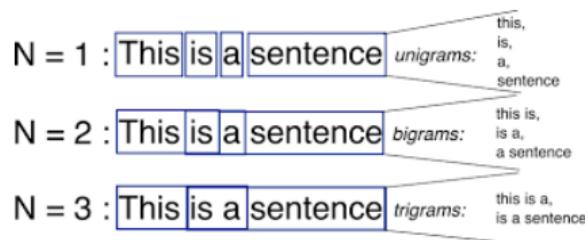
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- ▶ The formula up-weights relatively rare words that do not appear in all documents.
  - ▶ These words are probably more distinctive of topics or differences between documents.
  - ▶ Example: A document contains 100 words, and the word appears 3 times in the document. The TF is .03. The corpus has 100 documents, and the word appears in 10 documents. the IDF is  $\log(100/10) \approx 2.3$ , so the TF-IDF for this document is  $.03 \times 2.3 = .07$ . Say the word appears in 90 out of 100 documents: Then the IDF is 0.105, with TF-IDF for this document equal to .003.

# N-grams

- ▶ N-grams are phrases, sequences of words up to length  $N$ .
  - ▶ bigrams, trigrams, quadgrams, etc.



- ▶ capture information and familiarity from local word order.
  - ▶ e.g. "estate tax" vs "death tax"

## scikit-learn's TfidfVectorizer

[https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/feature\\_extraction.html#text-feature-extraction](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/feature_extraction.html#text-feature-extraction)

[https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.feature\\_extraction.text.TfidfVectorizer.html](https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.feature_extraction.text.TfidfVectorizer.html)

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```
>>> from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer  
>>> vectorizer = TfidfVectorizer()  
>>> vectorizer.fit_transform(corpus)  
<4x9 sparse matrix of type '<... 'numpy.float64'>'  
    with 19 stored elements in Compressed Sparse ... format>
```

- ▶ `corpus` is a sequence of strings, e.g. pandas data-frame columns.
- ▶ pre-processing options: strip accents, lowercase, drop stopwords,
- ▶ n-grams: can produce phrases up to length n (words or characters).
- ▶ vocab options: min/max frequency, vocab size
- ▶ post-processing: binary, l2 norm, (smoothed) idf weighting, etc

## Filtering the Vocabulary

- ▶ N-grams will blow up your feature space: filtering out uninformative n-grams is necessary.
  - ▶ Google Developers recommend vocab size =  $m = 20,000$ ; I have gotten good performance from  $m = 2,000$ .

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- 4. supervised feature selection: select phrases that are predictive of outcome.

## Feature selection using univariate comparisions

- ▶  $\chi^2$  is a fast feature selection routine for classification tasks
  - ▶ features must be non-negative
  - ▶ works on sparse matrices
  - ▶ works on multi-class problems

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#%% Univariate feature selection using chi2
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  - ▶ use f\_classif.
- ▶ For regression tasks:
  - ▶ use f\_regression or OLS coefficients.

# Hashing Vectorizer

Traditional Vocabulary Construction		Hashing Trick	
the	→ 5	the	hash → 19322
cats	→ 6	cats	hash → 67
and	→ 7	and	hash → 31011
dogs	→ 8	dogs	hash → 67

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## Pros:

- can have arbitrarily small feature space
- handles out-of-vocabulary words – any word or n-gram gets assigned to an arbitrary integer based on the hash function.

## Cons:

- harder to interpret features, at least not directly – but the eli5 implementation keeps track of the mapping
- collisions – n-grams will randomly be paired with each other in the feature map.
  - usually innocuous, but could sum outputs of two hashing functions to minimize this.

# Named Entity Recognition

- ▶ refers to the task of identifying named entities such as “ETH Zurich” and “Marie Curie”, which can be used as tokens.

[PER John Smith] , president of [ORG McCormik Industries] visited his niece [PER Paris]  
in [LOC Milan], reporters say .

```
import spacy

nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
doc = nlp("Apple is looking at buying U.K. startup for $1 billion")
|
for ent in doc.ents:
    print(ent.text, ent.start_char, ent.end_char, ent.label_)
```

## Parts of speech

- ▶ Parts of speech (POS) tags provide useful word categories corresponding to their functions in sentences:
  - ▶ **Content:** noun (NN), verb (VB), adjective (JJ), adverb (RB)
  - ▶ **Function:** determinant (DT), preposition (IN), conjunction (CC), pronoun (PR).

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  - ▶ **Function:** determinant (DT), preposition (IN), conjunction (CC), pronoun (PR).
- ▶ Parts of speech vary in their informativeness for various functions:
  - ▶ For categorizing **topics**, nouns are usually most important
  - ▶ For **sentiment**, adjectives are usually most important.

## A decent baseline for featurization

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- ▶ Represent documents as tf-idf frequencies over these bigrams.

## Application: What Drives Media Slant?

Gentzkow and Shapiro (2010)

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- ▶ Pre-process text, stripping away prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns, and common words
  - ▶ get bigrams and trigrams
- ▶ Identify polarizing phrases using  $\chi^2$  metric.

TABLE I  
MOST PARTISAN PHRASES FROM THE 2005 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD<sup>a</sup>

Panel A: Phrases Used More Often by Democrats		
<i>Two-Word Phrases</i>		
private accounts	Rosa Parks	workers rights
trade agreement	President budget	poor people
American people	Republican party	Republican leader
tax breaks	change the rules	Arctic refuge
trade deficit	minimum wage	cut funding
oil companies	budget deficit	American workers
credit card	Republican senators	living in poverty
nuclear option	privatization plan	Senate Republicans
war in Iraq	wildlife refuge	fuel efficiency
middle class	card companies	national wildlife
<i>Three-Word Phrases</i>		
veterans health care	corporation for public broadcasting	cut health care
congressional black caucus	additional tax cuts	civil rights movement
VA health care	pay for tax cuts	cuts to child support
billion in tax cuts	tax cuts for people	drilling in the Arctic National
credit card companies	oil and gas companies	victims of gun violence
security trust fund	prescription drug bill	solvency of social security
social security trust	Voting Rights Act	Congressional Black Caucus
privatize social security	caliber sniper rifles	war in Iraq and Afghanistan
American free trade	increase in the minimum wage	civil rights protections
central American free	system of checks and balances	credit card debt
	middle class families	

## WHAT DRIVES MEDIA SLANT?

TABLE I—Continued

Panel B: Phrases Used More Often by Republicans		
<i>Two-Word Phrases</i>		
stem cell	personal accounts	retirement accounts
natural gas	Saddam Hussein	government spending
death tax	pass the bill	national forest
illegal aliens	private property	minority leader
class action	border security	urge support
war on terror	President announces	cell lines
embryonic stem	human life	cord blood
tax relief	Chief Justice	action lawsuits
illegal immigration	human embryos	economic growth
date the time	increase taxes	food program
<i>Three-Word Phrases</i>		
embryonic stem cell	Circuit Court of Appeals	Tongass national forest
hate crimes legislation	death tax repeal	pluripotent stem cells
adult stem cells	housing and urban affairs	Supreme Court of Texas
oil for food program	million jobs created	Justice Priscilla Owen
personal retirement accounts	national flood insurance	Justice Janice Rogers
energy and natural resources	oil for food scandal	American Bar Association
global war on terror	private property rights	growth and job creation
hate crimes law	temporary worker program	natural gas natural
change hearts and minds	class action reform	Grand Ole Opry
global war on terrorism	Chief Justice Rehnquist	reform social security

<sup>a</sup>The top 60 Democratic and Republican phrases, respectively, are shown ranked by  $\chi^2_{pf}$ . The phrases are classified as two or three word after dropping common “stopwords” such as “for” and “the.” See Section 3 for details and see Appendix B (online) for a more extensive phrase list.

## Consumers drive media slant (GS 2010)

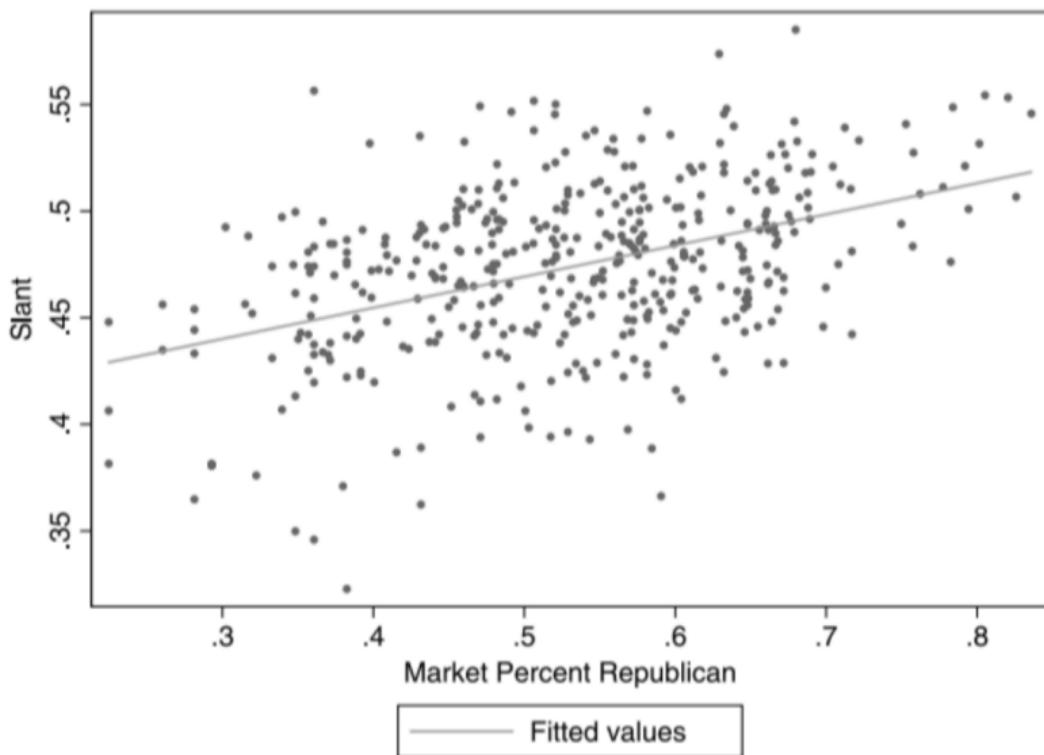


FIGURE 4.—Newspaper slant and consumer ideology. The newspaper slant index against Bush's share of the two-party vote in 2004 in the newspaper's market is shown.

# Outline

Reading Text Documents as Data

Corpora

Quantity of Text as Data

Dictionary Methods

Featurization

**Document Distance/Similarity**

Machine Learning with Text

Topic Models

Word Embeddings

Document Embeddings

Syntactic and Semantic Parsing

In-Depth Application: Demszky et al (2019)

Social Science Research with Text

## Text Re-Use

- ▶ Text Re-Use algorithms (like “Smith-Waterman”) measure similarity by finding and counting shared sequences in two texts above some minimum length, e.g. 10 words.
  - ▶ useful for plagiarism detection, for example.
- ▶ precise but slow
  - ▶ shortcut: look at proportion of shared (hashed) 5-grams across texts

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  - ▶ that is, documents are rays, and similar documents have similar vectors.
- ▶ Can measure similarity between documents  $i$  and  $j$  by the cosine of the angle between  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  :
  - ▶ With perfectly collinear documents (that is,  $x_i = \alpha x_j$ ,  $\alpha > 0$ ),  $\cos(0) = 1$
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Cosine similarity is computable as the normalized dot product between the vectors:

$$\text{cos\_sim}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{x_1 \cdot x_2}{\|x_1\| \|x_2\|}$$

```
from sklearn.metrics.pairwise import  
cosine_similarity  
# between two vectors:  
sim = cosine_similarity(x, y)[0,0]  
# between all rows of a matrix:  
sims = cosine_similarity(X)
```

## Burgess et al, “Legislative Influence Detectors”

- ▶ Compare bill texts across states in two-step process:
  - (1) find candidates using elasticsearch (tf-idf similarity);
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(iii) Legislative Proceedings: The legislature finds that the best interest of the public requires that public recognition be given.

adult's exercise daily. Inconsistencies are present, however, from state to state. The following table summarizes those laws as they stand at the present time:

State	Age of children	Duration of exercise	Intensity of exercise	Supervision required
Alabama	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
Arkansas	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
Florida	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
Illinois	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
Michigan	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
Mississippi	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
North Carolina	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
South Carolina	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
Tennessee	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
Virginia	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes
West Virginia	6 to 16 years	15 minutes	At least 50% of adult's exercise	Yes

It is interesting to note that the range of ages covered by these laws is 6 to 16 years. This is the age group in which the greatest number of children are involved in organized sports. It is also the age group in which the greatest number of children have been given physical examinations without the physician's knowledge or consent. The laws in all states require that a physician's consent be obtained before a child may participate in organized sports. The physician's consent is required in most states, however, only if a child has been given a physical examination within the previous year. In other words, the physician's consent is required only if there is a discrepancy between the physician's records and the records of the school, physician, medical examiner and the coach. This is a reasonable procedure, since it is unlikely that a physician would refuse to give his consent to a child to participate in organized sports unless there was a discrepancy between the physician's records and the records of the school, physician, medical examiner and the coach.

types of behavior, according to the following table, which are present throughout the culture.

organisms are given more time to respond to the brain's signals. This may be the reason why, in the short time after fertilization, the embryo starts to move, while in the long time after fertilization, the embryo starts to grow. For example, in the short time after fertilization, the embryo's heart begins to beat, while in the long time after fertilization, the embryo's heart begins to grow. This is because the heart is a muscle that grows as it beats.

Figure 10: Match between Scott Walker’s bill and a highly similar bill from Louisiana. For a detailed view, please visit <http://dssg.uchicago.edu/lid/>.

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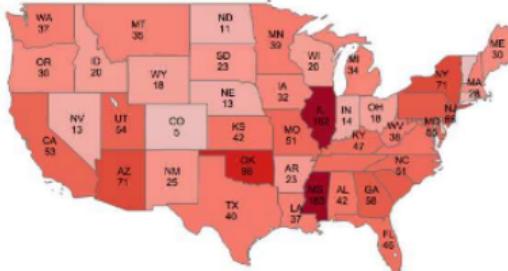


Figure 7: Introduced bills by state from ALEC model legislation

(3) Legislative findings: the legislature finds that the best interest defense confuses the pain recognition function.

child's earliest words, *recipients* were asked to rate their child's early language development on a scale from 1 to 10, where 10 = best. The mean rating was 7.5, with a standard deviation of 1.81 ( $n = 6$  weeks after birth).

On child study results or recall, there should be recognition as valid evidence of the child's developmental status at the time of the event. In the above, evidence of a – parental account to estimate the participant's impression in Africa before the trip to the USA, and the child's language development at the time of the trip – is considered to be valid. This is because the child's language development is a key variable in this study. The child's language development is also a key variable in the child's language development, later in life. (See the paragraph of *language development*, later in this section.)

Local knowledge is evidently acknowledged by the researcher, who stated children as objects of research. (See the *introduction*.) On the positive, however, to be valid research object, that the researcher must have a clear idea of what he wants to know about the child in question. In this case, the researcher wanted to know about the child's language development in the USA during pregnancy. At 28 weeks after fertilization, presumably reflects on the assumption that the quality of experience also affects the child's language development. (See the *introduction*.) The researcher and the parties, however, required medical research and the like, especially medical care, provide strong evidence for the child's language development.

(1) *Individual evidence* indicates that children born abroad have been found to have language difficulties compared with children born in the same country. (See the *introduction*.) Evidence of a decline of the cultural context can also enter into perception while the child is growing up. (See the *introduction*.) The researcher, however, indicates two observations for the hypothesis that early development differs from those of adults, such as different cerebral structures and different brain functions. (See the *introduction*.)

(2) *Statistical evidence* indicates that the rate of language development is lower than the rate of age progression.

(3) *Consequently*, there is individual medical evidence that

**Voluntary exercise training** — As the later stage, voluntary aerobic exercise training is known to have receptors in the brain's septal area, which are associated with pleasure. In other words, when you exercise, your body releases endorphins, the endorphins cause you to feel good. That would be considered as a positive feedback loop. The exercise training is also known to increase the production of **serotonin**, which is associated with stress resilience. In other words, when you do the stress-resilience exercise, you will feel better. This is also known as a **positive feedback loop**. That is, the more you exercise, the more chemicals you release, which makes you feel better, so you want to exercise more.

Figure 10: Match between Scott Walker’s bill and a highly similar bill from Louisiana. For a detailed view, please visit <http://dssg.uchicago.edu/lid/>.

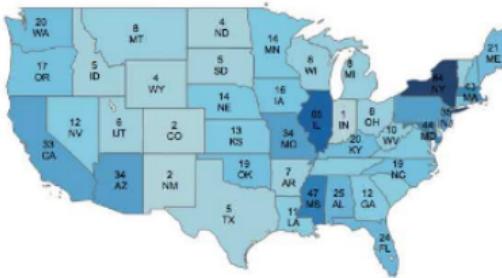


Figure 8: Introduced bills by state from ALICE model legislation

## ABSTRACT

State legislatures introduce at least 45,000 bills each year. However, we lack a clear understanding of who is actually writing those bills. As legislators often lack the time and staff to draft each bill, they frequently copy text written by other states or interest groups.

However, existing approaches to detect text reuse are slow, biased, and incomplete. Journalists or researchers who want to know where a particular bill originated must perform a largely manual search. Watchdog organizations even hire armies of volunteers to monitor legislation for matches. Given the time-consuming nature of the analysis, journalists and researchers tend to limit their analysis to a subset of topics (e.g. abortion or gun control) or a few interest groups.

This paper presents the Legislative Influence Detector (LID). LID uses the Smith-Waterman local alignment algorithm to detect sequences of text that occur in model legislation and state bills. As it is computationally too expensive to run this algorithm on a large corpus of data, we use a search engine built using Elasticsearch to limit the number of comparisons. We show how LID has found 45,405 instances of bill-to-bill text reuse and 14,137 instances of model-legislation-to-bill text reuse. LID reduces the time it takes to manually find text reuse from days to seconds.

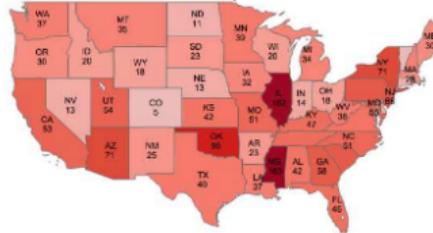


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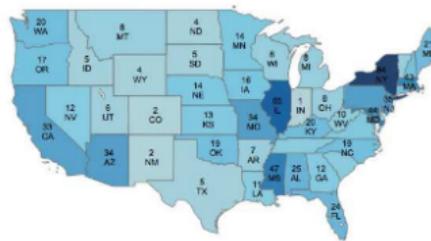


Figure 8: Introduced bills by state from ALICE model legislation

1. What is the research question?
2. Why is it important?
3. What is the problem solved?
4. What is being measured?
5. How does the measurement help answer the research question?

# Text analysis of patent innovation

Kelly, Papanikolau, Seru, and Taddy (AERI 2020)

“Measuring technological innovation over the very long run”

- ▶ Data:
  - ▶ 9 million patents since 1840, from U.S. Patent Office and Google Scholar Patents.
  - ▶ date, inventor, backward citations
  - ▶ text (abstract, claims, and description)

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  - ▶ date, inventor, backward citations
  - ▶ text (abstract, claims, and description)
- ▶ Text pre-processing:
  - ▶ drop HTML markup, punctuation, numbers, capitalization, and stopwords.
  - ▶ remove terms that appear in less than 20 patents.
  - ▶ 1.6 million words in vocabulary.

## Measuring Patent Similarity

- ▶ Each patent  $i = x_i$  = TF-IDF word features (vector with 1.6m entries)
- ▶ Compute (roughly) TF-IDF cosine similarity  $\rho_{ij}$  between patents  $i$  and  $j$ .
  - ▶  $9m \times 9m$  similarity matrix = 30TB of data.
  - ▶ enforce sparsity by setting similarity  $< .05$  to zero (93.4% of pairs).

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  - ▶ enforce sparsity by setting similarity  $< .05$  to zero (93.4% of pairs).
- ▶ Validation:
  - ▶ For pairs with higher  $\rho_{ij}$ , patent  $j$  more likely to cite patent  $i$ .
  - ▶ Within technology class (assigned by patent office), similarity is higher than across class.

- ▶ “Novelty” is defined by dissimilarity (negative similarity) to previous patents:

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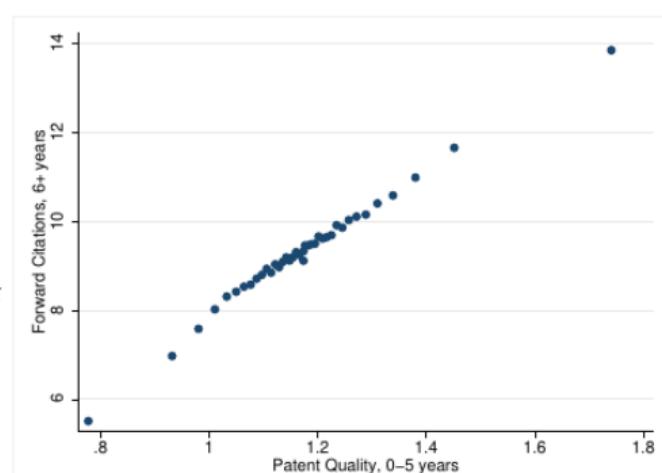
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- ▶ A patent has high **quality** if it is **novel** and **impactful**:

$$\log \text{Quality}_k = \log \text{Impact}_k + \log \text{Novelty}_k$$

- ▶ Higher quality patents get more cites:



# Most Innovative Firms

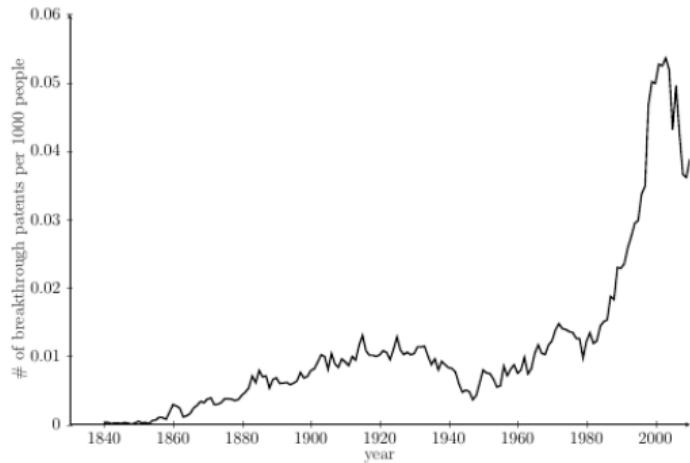
Kelly, Papanikolau, Seru, and Taddy (2018)

Assignee	First Year	# Breakthroughs
General Electric	1872	3,457
Westinghouse Electric Co.	1889	1,762
Eastman Kodak Co.	1890	2,244
Western Electric Co.	1899	1,222
AT&T (includes Bell Labs)	1899	5,645
Standard Oil Co.	1900	1,212
Dow Chemical Co.	1902	1,235
Du Pont	1905	3,353
International Business Machines	1908	14,913
American Cyanamid Co.	1909	690
Universal Oil Products Co.	1919	590
RCA	1920	3,222
Monsanto Company (inc. Monsanto Chemicals)	1921	902
Honeywell International, inc.	1928	872
General Aniline & Film Corp.	1929	1,181
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1935	504
Philips	1939	1145
Texas Instruments	1960	2,088
Xerox	1961	2,198
Applied Materials	1971	510
Digital Equipment	1971	1,101
Hewlett-Packard Co.	1971	2,661
Intel	1971	2,629
Motorola, inc.	1971	4,129
Regents of the University of California	1971	823
United States Navy	1945	791
NCR	1973	737
Advanced Micro Devices	1974	1,195
Apple Computer	1978	864

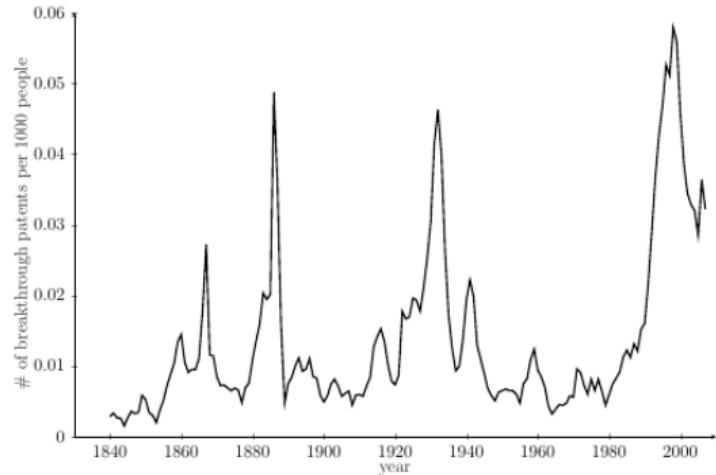
# Breakthrough patents: citations vs quality

Kelly, Papanikolau, Seru, and Taddy (2018)

B. Breakthrough patents (top 5% in terms of citations) per capita



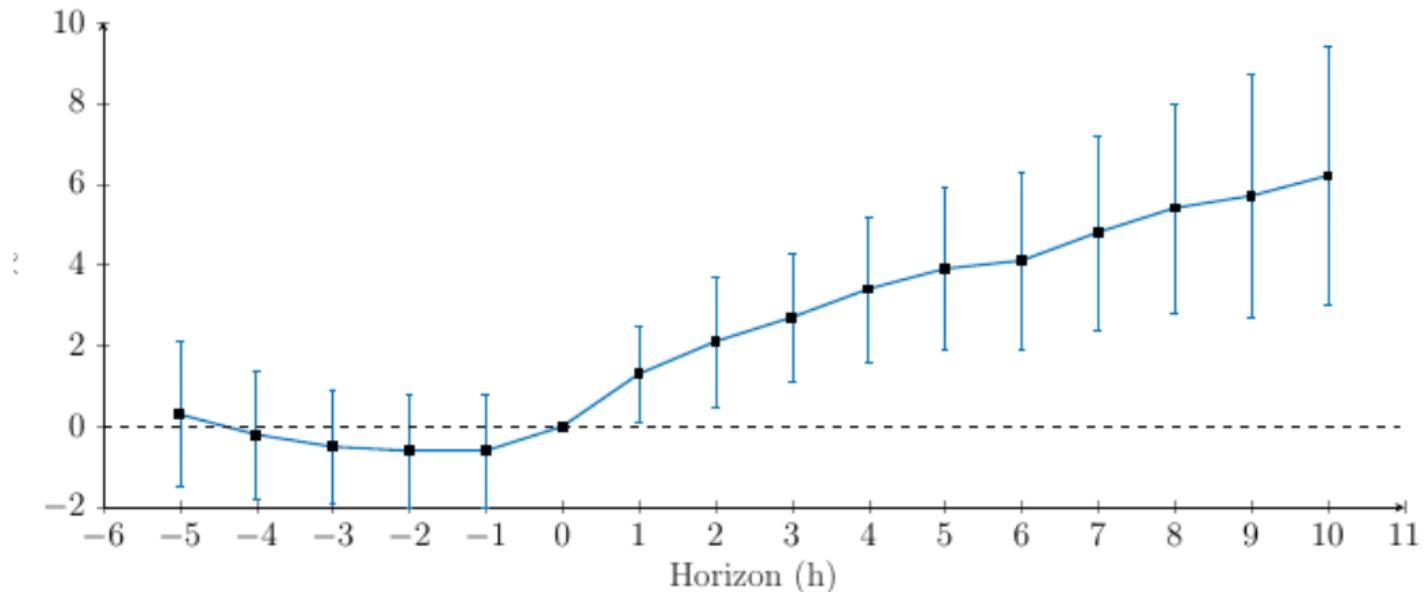
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# Breakthrough patents and firm profits

Kelly, Papanikolau, Seru, and Taddy (2018)

A. Breakthrough Innovations and Profitability



# Outline

Reading Text Documents as Data

- Corpora

- Quantity of Text as Data

- Dictionary Methods

- Featurization

Document Distance/Similarity

Machine Learning with Text

Topic Models

Word Embeddings

Document Embeddings

Syntactic and Semantic Parsing

In-Depth Application: Demszky et al (2019)

Social Science Research with Text

## Machine Learning with Text Data

- We have a corpus (or dataset)  $D$  of  $n_D \geq 1$  documents (or data points), whose features can be represented as a matrix of vectors  $\mathbf{x}$  with  $n_x \geq 1$  features.

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- ▶ Some documents are unlabeled → we would like to train a model to machine-classify them.

# XGBoost

- ▶ Feurer et al (2018) find that XGBoost beats a sophisticated AutoML procedure with grid search over 15 classifiers and 18 data preprocessors.
- ▶ A good starting point for any machine learning task.

- ▶ easy to use
- ▶ actively developed
- ▶ efficient / parallelizable
- ▶ provides model explanations
- ▶ takes sparse matrices as input

```
from xgboost import XGBClassifier
model = XGBClassifier()

model.fit(X_train, y_train,
           early_stopping_rounds=10,
           eval_metric="logloss",
           eval_set=[(X_eval, y_eval)])
)

y_pred = model.predict(X_test)
accuracy = accuracy_score(y_test, y_pred)
```

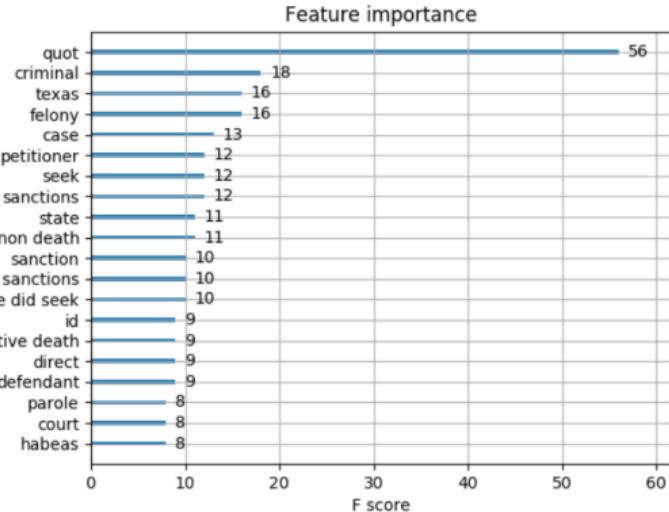
# Interpreting Tree Ensembles

```
from xgboost import plot_importance  
plot_importance(xgb_reg, max_num_features=20)  
<IPython.core.display.Javascript object>
```

## XGBoost's Feature Importance Metric:

- ▶ At each decision node, compute **information gain** for feature  $j$  (**change in predicted probability**).
- ▶ Average across all nodes for each  $j$ .

Ranks predictors by their relative contributions.



1

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from xgboost import plot_importance  
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```

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  - ▶ Interpret predictions using model explanation methods.
- 4. Empirical analysis**
  - ▶ Produce statistics or predictions with the trained model.
  - ▶ **Answer the question / solve the problem.**

## Application: Predicting Political Party from Text

**Andrew Peterson and Arthur Spirling, "Classification accuracy as a substantive quantity of interest: Measuring polarization in Westminster systems," *Political Analysis* (2018).**

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  - ▶ Label  $Y$  = party of speaker (Conservative or Labour)

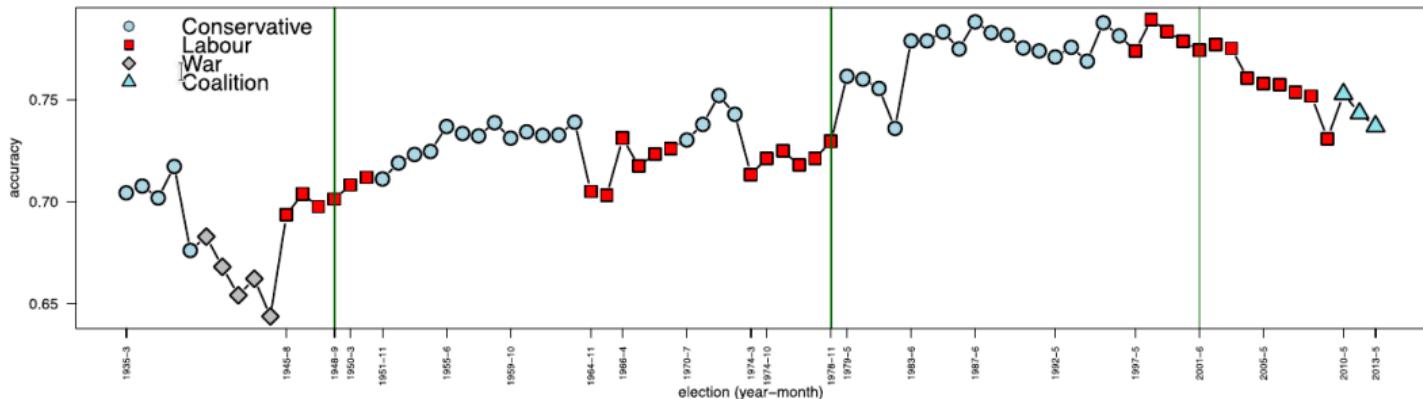
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In years that classifier is more accurate, speech is more polarized:



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6. Answer the research question!

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- ▶ Social scientists use topics as a form of measurement
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  - ▶ tell a story not just about what, but how and why
  - ▶ **topic models are more interpretable** than other dimension reduction methods, such as PCA.

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- Each document is a distribution over topics.

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- ▶ Assume: there are  $K$  topics (tunable hyperparameter, use coherence).
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## Seeking Life's Bare (Genetic) Necessities

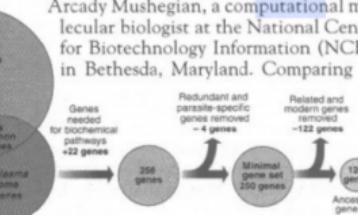
COLD SPRING HARBOR, NEW YORK—How many genes does an organism need to survive? Last week at the genome meeting here,\* two genome researchers with radically different approaches presented complementary views of the basic genes needed for life. One research team, using computer analyses to compare known genomes, concluded that today's organisms can be sustained with just 250 genes, and that the earliest life forms required a mere 128 genes. The other researcher mapped genes in a simple parasite and estimated that for this organism, 800 genes are plenty to do the job—but that anything short of 100 wouldn't be enough.

Although the numbers don't match precisely, those predictions

"are not all that far apart," especially in comparison to the 75,000 genes in the human genome, notes Siv Andersson of Uppsala University in Sweden, who arrived at the 800 number. But coming up with a consensus answer may be more than just a genetic numbers game, particularly as more and more genomes are completely mapped and sequenced. "It may be a way of organizing any newly sequenced genome," explains Arcady Mushegian, a computational molecular biologist at the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) in Bethesda, Maryland. Comparing an

\* Genome Mapping and Sequencing, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, May 8 to 12.

Image from Hanna Wallach



**Stripping down.** Computer analysis yields an estimate of the minimum modern and ancient genomes.

```
# creating the term dictionary
from gensim import corpora
dictionary = corpora.Dictionary(doc_clean)
```

Converting list of documents (corpus) into Document Term Matrix using dictionary prepared above.

```
doc_term_matrix = [dictionary.doc2bow(doc) for doc in doc_clean]
```

```
# train LDA with 10 topics and print
from gensim.models.ldamodel import LdaModel

lda = LdaModel(doc_term_matrix, num_topics=10,
               id2word = dictionary, passes=3)
lda.show_topics(formatted=False)
```

high imaging slysses subject .com project years posting  
mars several upcoming solar lunar studies experiments build state one  
soul cells information observations missions surface  
go currently probe ray data stars  
would every nasda saturn is as radar find rocket  
assist science global organization cd  
cassini shuttle bo informix asteroid spacecraft cs  
space atmosphere possible launched  
registered energy phone flyby moon observer alexis  
advanced resolution observing transit fire toshiba  
mission earth study satellite

western university east van pp armies cities leaders  
genocide one new day  
armenian see nazi article latvia turks  
jew russians armenians muslim show  
turkish armenians war system kars  
people subject lines windows  
villages things driven source help state ntp  
turkey army user many host list supply time  
Still anyone bill left would like posting following documents  
lines could could instead writes reply ottoman religion  
soviet british million

would writes nasa tank small design ms Keith  
power flights lead end crew around think  
module hp tank design ms Keith  
tended ports problems control solar around think  
nntp using reference couple Comrod  
lrc gov world like organization vehicle germany kw day  
two existing mfc system host acne external  
organization existing system host acne external  
two existing mfc shuttle achieved bus  
posting ssf orbiter ctrltest  
space shuttle team us also  
capability ssps problem  
human used subject jsc  
son used options article mode another  
host one window dos

CC game facilities close question also  
lines thanks nntp aprs  
scsi writes like  
well enough demographic vision au  
article last hammer csiro today people done  
th naval email roby  
information csiro today people done  
Organization work  
host year  
conference paul file  
pattern virginia services  
host work  
major centers  
problems bulgaria  
marine cameras even division  
bulgaria commission  
interest  
list reply  
udel using  
member  
board three  
university final  
problem box  
prof  
next  
cs

## Using an LDA Model

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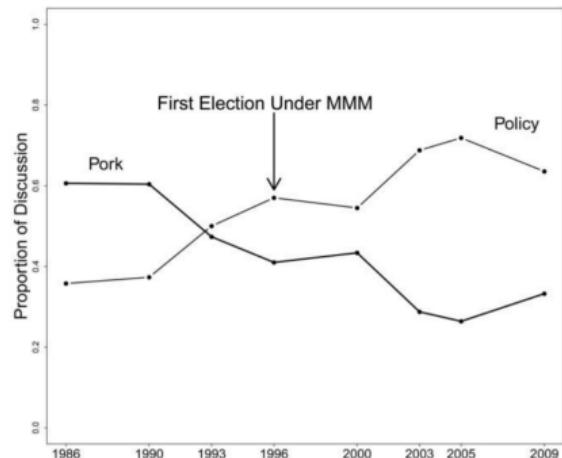
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Can then use the topic proportions as variables in a social science analysis.

- ▶ e.g., Catalinac (2016) shows that after a Japanese political reform that reduced intraparty competition, candidate platforms reduced local pork and increased national policy.



# Topic modeling Federal Reserve Bank transcripts

Hansen, McMahon, and Prat (QJE 2017)

- ▶ Analyze speech transcripts from FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee).
  - ▶ private discussions among committee members at Federal Reserve (U.S. Central Bank)
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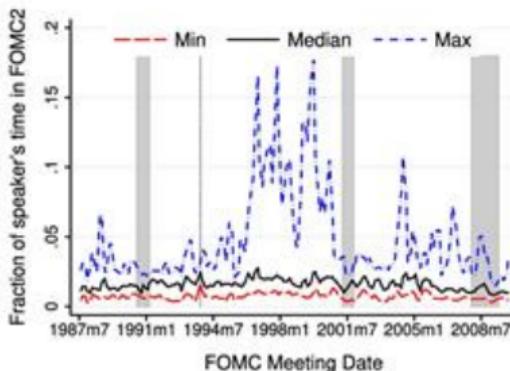
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- ▶ LDA:
  - ▶  $K = 40$  topics selected for interpretability / topic coherence.

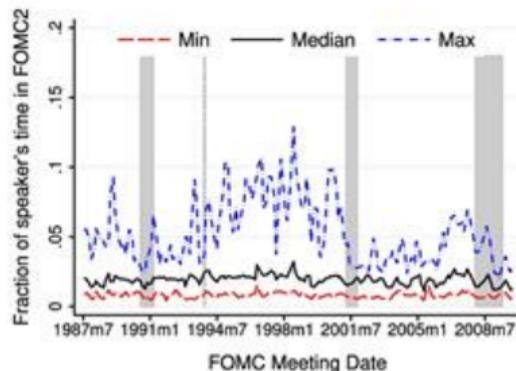
															Pro-cyclicality	
Topic0 <sup>1</sup>	product	increas	wage	price	cost	labor	rise	acceler	inflat	pressur	trend	compens	0.024		0.150	
Topic1 <sup>1,2</sup>	growth	slow	econom	continu	expans	strong	trend	inflat	will	recent	slowdown	moder	0.023			
Topic2 <sup>2</sup>	inflat	expect	core	measur	higher	path	slack	gradual	continu	remain	view	suggest	0.017			
Topic3 <sup>1</sup>	percent	year	quarter	growth	month	rate	last	next	state	averag	california	employ	0.007			
Topic4	number	data	look	chang	measur	use	point	show	revis	estim	gdp	actual	0.007			
Topic5 <sup>1,2</sup>	polici	inflat	monetarpol	need	time	can	monetari	move	tighten	view	action	believ	0.005			
Topic6 <sup>2</sup>	rate	term	expect	real	lower	increas	rise	level	declin	short	nomin	year	0.005			
Topic7	statement	word	chang	meet	languag	discuss	issu	want	read	sentenc	view	use	0.005			
Topic8 <sup>2</sup>	chairman	support	mr	direct	recommend	agre	asymmetr	prefer	symmetr	move	toward	favor	0.004			
Topic9 <sup>1</sup>	employ	continu	growth	job	nation	region	seem	state	manufactur	greenbook	busi	bit	0.004			
Topic10	dollar	unitedstates	export	countri	import	foreign	japan	growth	abroad	trade	develop	currenc	0.003			
Topic11	model	use	simul	shock	effect	scenario	nairu	differ	rule	chang	baselin	altern	0.003			
Topic12 <sup>2</sup>	risk	may	balanc	seem	side	uncertainti	possibl	econom	probabl	reason	upsid	much	0.003			
Topic13	forecast	greenbook	staff	project	differ	assumpt	littl	assum	somewhat	lower	end	period	0.002		0.100	
Topic14	period	committe	consist	econom	run	maintain	futur	read	slightli	stabil	expect	develop	0.002			
Topic15	invest	incom	spend	capit	household	consum	busi	hous	consumpt	sector	stock	stockmarket	0.002			
Topic16 <sup>1</sup>	month	report	increas	survey	expect	indic	remain	continu	last	recent	data	activ	0.002			
Topic17 <sup>1</sup>	project	forecast	year	quarter	expect	will	percent	revis	anticip	growth	next	recent	0.002			
Topic18	question	ask	issu	let	want	answer	rais	discuss	don	start	without	okay	0.001			
Topic19	peopl	talk	lot	much	comment	around	differ	number	reall	look	thing	hear	0.001			
Topic20	presid	ye	governor	parri	stern	vice	hoenig	minehan	kelley	jordan	moskow	mcteer	0.001			
Topic21	move	can	evid	signific	stage	inde	will	issu	econom	may	quit	clearli	0.001		0.075	
Topic22 <sup>2</sup>	chairman	thank	mr	time	meet	laughter	comment	let	will	point	call	may	0.0			
Topic23 <sup>1</sup>	year	panel	line	shown	right	chart	expect	project	percent	middl	left	next	0.0			
Topic24	district	nation	area	continu	sector	construct	manufactur	report	activ	region	economi	remain	0.0			
Topic25	know	someth	happen	right	thing	want	look	sure	can	reall	anyth	els	0.0			
Topic26 <sup>1,2</sup>	polici	might	committe	market	may	tighten	eas	risk	action	staff	possibl	potenti	-0.001			
Topic27	year	continu	product	price	level	industri	will	sale	increas	auto	last	district	-0.001			
Topic28 <sup>1</sup>	inventori	product	sale	level	order	will	sector	come	good	quarter	much	adjust	-0.001		0.050	
Topic29	price	oil	increas	energi	effect	import	suppli	product	demand	will	market	oilprices	-0.002			
Topic30	term	might	point	can	sens	run	short	probabl	time	longer	tri	someth	-0.002			
Topic31	seem	may	time	certainili	bit	littl	quit	much	far	perhap	better	might	-0.003			
Topic32	money	aggred	borrow	seem	rang	reserv	rate	target	time	altern	suggest	million	-0.003			
Topic33 <sup>2</sup>	move	market	point	will	fundsrate	rate	basispoints	need	fed	today	basi	time	-0.004			
Topic34 <sup>1</sup>	report	busi	compani	year	contact	firm	sale	worker	expect	plan	director	industri	-0.004			
Topic35	will	fiscal	ta	budget	cut	govern	effect	billion	state	spend	deficit	year	-0.005		0.025	
Topic36	will	econom	world	rather	problem	believ	can	situat	much	seem	view	good	-0.008			
Topic37	reall	look	side	thing	lot	problem	concern	littl	pretti	situat	kind	much	-0.012			
Topic38	bank	credit	market	loan	financi	debt	lend	fund	concern	financ	problem	spread	-0.018			
Topic39 <sup>1,2</sup>	economi	weak	recoveri	recess	confid	eas	neg	econom	will	turn	declin	period	-0.059			

## Pro-Cyclical Topics

Hansen, McMahon, and Prat (QJE 2017)



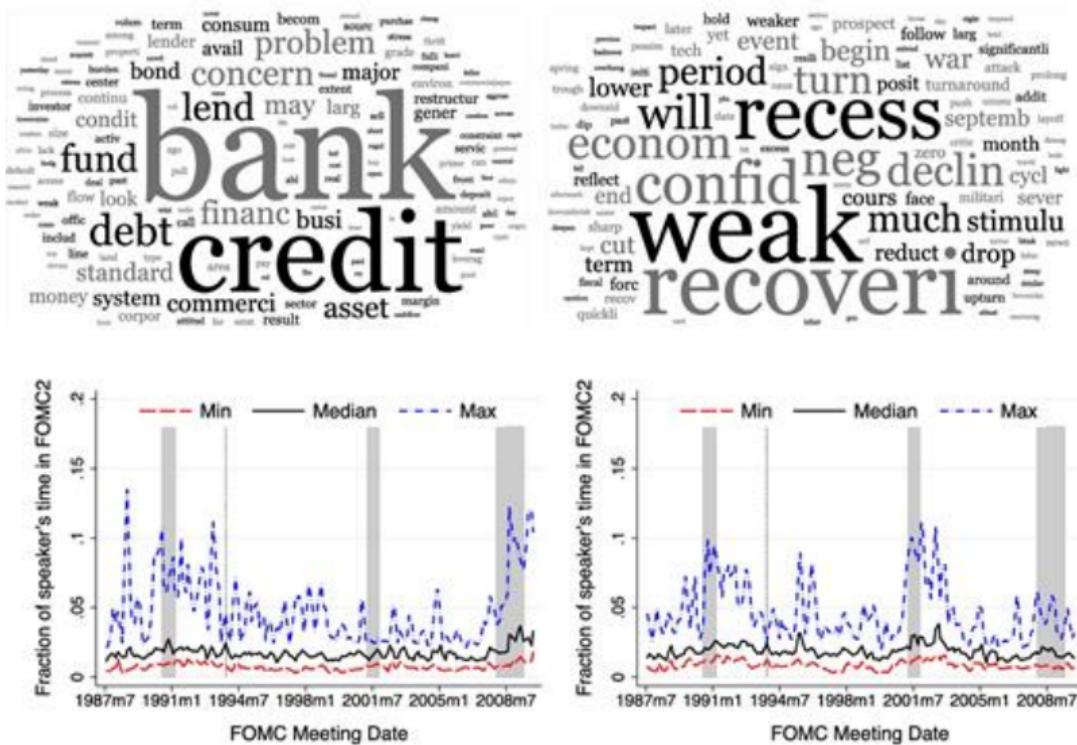
#### (A) TOPIC 0 'PRODUCTIVITY'



(B) TOPIC 1 'GROWTH'

## Counter-Cyclical Topics

Hansen, McMahon, and Prat (QJE 2017)



(A) TOPIC 38 'FINANCIAL SECTOR'

## (B) TOPIC 39 'ECONOMIC WEAKNESS'

## Effect of Transparency

Hansen, McMahon, and Prat (QJE 2017)

- ▶ In 1993, there was an unexpected transparency shock where transcripts became public.

# Effect of Transparency

Hansen, McMahon, and Prat (QJE 2017)

- ▶ In 1993, there was an unexpected transparency shock where transcripts became public.
- ▶ Increasing transparency results in:
  - ▶ higher discipline / technocratic language (probably beneficial)
  - ▶ higher conformity (probably costly)
- ▶ Highlights tradeoffs from transparency in bureaucratic organizations.

# Structural Topic Model = LDA + Metadata

Roberts, Stewart, and Tingley

STM provides two ways to include contextual information:

- ▶ Topic prevalence can vary by metadata
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- ▶ The main implementation is in R. gensim has a light-weight version called “author topic model”.

# Outline

Reading Text Documents as Data

Corpora

Quantity of Text as Data

Dictionary Methods

Featurization

Document Distance/Similarity

Machine Learning with Text

Topic Models

**Word Embeddings**

Document Embeddings

Syntactic and Semantic Parsing

In-Depth Application: Demszky et al (2019)

Social Science Research with Text

## Word2Vec & GloVe

- ▶ “Word embeddings” often refer to Word2Vec or GloVe – these are particular (popular) models for producing word embeddings.
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## Word2Vec & GloVe

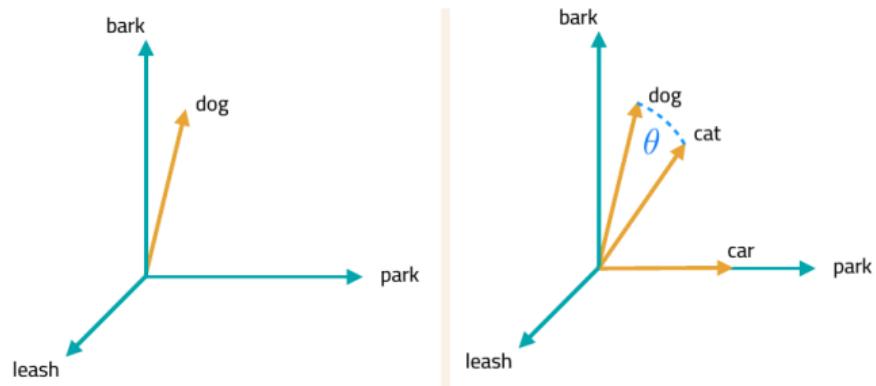
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  - ▶ rather than predicting some metadata (such as classifying topic labels) they predict the co-occurrence of neighboring words.
- ▶ “You shall know a word by the company it keeps”:
  - ▶ “He filled the **wampimuk**, passed it around and we all drunk some.”
  - ▶ “We found a little, hairy **wampimuk** sleeping behind the tree.”

## Word Similarity

- Once words are represented as vectors  $\{v_1 = M_{[w_1,:]}, v_2 = M_{[w_2,:]}, \dots\}$ , we can use linear algebra to understand the relationships between words:
  - Words that are geometrically close to each other are similar: e.g. “dog” and “cat”:



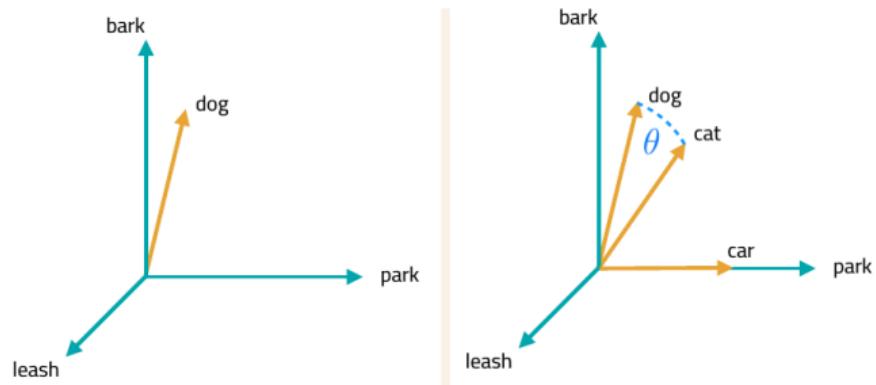
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- alternatives include e.g. Jaccard similarity (Goldberg 2017)
- Thanks to linearity, can compute similarities between groups of words by averaging the groups.

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- ▶ How does it learn the meaning of the word “fox”?
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- ▶ Word2Vec learns embedding vectors for the target word (“fox”) and context words (neighbors of “fox”) to distinguish true from false samples.

```
# train the model
from gensim.models import Word2Vec
w2v = Word2Vec(sentences, # list of tokenized sentences
                workers = 8, # Number of threads to run in parallel
                size=300, # Word vector dimensionality
                min_count = 25, # Minimum word count
                window = 5, # Context window size
                sample = 1e-3, # Downsample setting for frequent words
                )

# done training, so delete context vectors
w2v.init_sims(replace=True)

w2v.save('w2v-vectors.pkl')

: w2v.wv.most_similar('man') # most similar words
: [ ('christ', 0.7512136697769165),
  ('woman', 0.7265682220458984),
  ('jesus', 0.7187944650650024),
  ('satan', 0.6972118616104126),
  ('lord', 0.6948500275611877),
  ('god', 0.6891006231307983),
```

## GloVe Embeddings

- ▶ Pennington et al (2014) (GloVe = Global Vectors) take a different (non-neural-net) approach.
- ▶ Input:  $C_{ij}$  = local co-occurrence counts between words  $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n_w\}$  within some co-occurrence window, e.g. ten words.

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Learn word vectors  $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_i, \dots, w_{n_w})$ , where  $w_i \in (-1, 1)^{n_E}$ , to solve

$$\min_{\mathbf{w}} \sum_{i,j} f(C_{ij}) \left( w_i^T w_j - \log(C_{ij}) \right)^2$$

where  $f(\cdot)$  is weighting function to down-weight frequent words.

- ▶ Minimizes **squared difference** between:
  - ▶ **dot product of word vectors**,  $w_i^T w_j$
  - ▶ **empirical co-occurrence**,  $\log(C_{ij})$
- ▶ Intuitively: words that co-occur should have high correlation (dot product)

## Word Embeddings Encode Linguistic Relations

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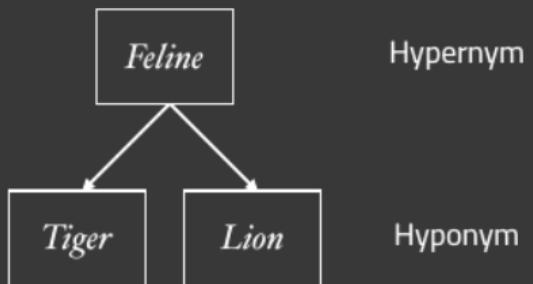
Synonymy



Antonymy



Hyponymy



## Similarity vs. Relatedness (Budansky and Hirst, 2006)

- ▶ Semantic **similarity**: words sharing salient attributes / features
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- ▶ Word embeddings will recover one or both of these relations, depending on how contexts and associated are constructed.

## Most similar words to “dog”, depending on context window size

	2-word window	30-word window	
More paradigmatic	cat	<u>kennel</u>	
	horse	puppy	
	fox	pet	
	pet	bitch	
	rabbit	terrier	
	pig	rottweiler	
	animal	canine	
	mongrel	cat	
	sheep	bark	
	pigeon	alsatian	
		More syntagmatic	

- ▶ Small windows pick up substitutable words; large windows pick up topics.

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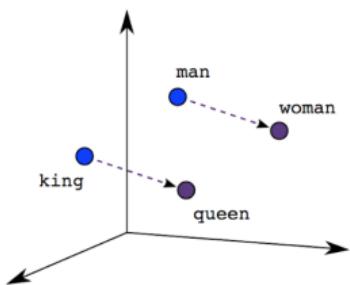
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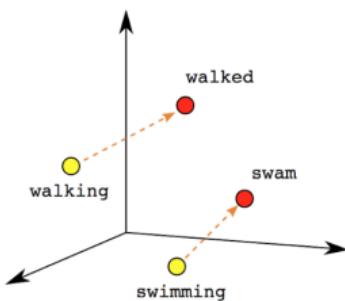
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- ▶ This is really important when we will use embeddings to analyze beliefs/attitudes.
- ▶ Relatedly, antonyms are often rated similarly, have to be careful with that.

# Vector Directions $\leftrightarrow$ Meaning

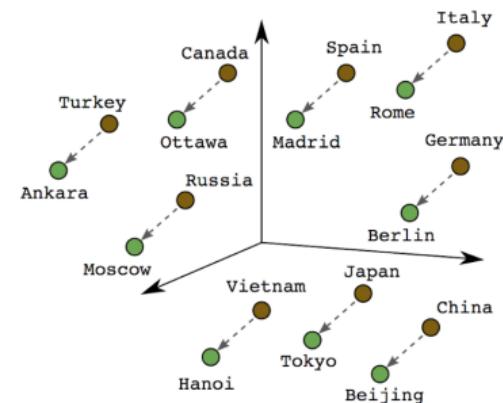
- Intriguingly, word2vec algebra can depict conceptual, analogical relationships between words:



Male-Female



Verb Tense



Country-Capital

## Word Embeddings for Analogies

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- More generally: The analogy  $a_1 : b_1 :: a_2 : b_2$  can be solved (that is, find  $b_2$  given  $a_1, b_1, a_2$ ) by

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- Often works better with normalized vectors (so that one long vector doesn't wash out the others)
- Levy and Goldberg (2014) recommend the following “CosMul” metric which tends to perform better:

$$\arg \max_{b_2 \in V} \frac{\cos(b_2, a_2) \cos(b_2, b_1)}{\cos(b_2, a_1) + \epsilon}$$

- requires normalized, non-negative vectors (can transform using  $(x + 1)/2$ )
- $\epsilon$  is a small smoothing parameter.

## Tokenizing for Word Embeddings

- ▶ drop capitalization
- ▶ punctuation is optional
- ▶ don't drop stopwords/function-words
- ▶ add special tokens for start of sentence and end of sentence
- ▶ for out-of-vocab words, substitute a special token or replace with part-of-speech tag

# Can cluster word embeddings to produce topics

Cluster #	Top 10 Words
174	complicate, depend, crucial, illustrate, elusive, focus, important, straightforward, elide, critical
134	implausible, problematic, exaggeration, skeptical, ascribe, discredit, contradictory, weak, exaggerate, supportable
75	reverse, AFFIRM, affirm, vacate, reversed, REMANDED, forego, foregoing, forgoing, remands
70	importation, import, ecstasy, marihuana, illicit, opium, distilled, export, phencyclidine, narcotic
178	perverse, sensible, tempt, unlikely, unwise, anomalous, would, easy, costly, attractive
32	phrase, meaning, word, synonymous, language, interpret, noun, wording, verb, adjective
169	circumscribe, endow, unfettered, vest, unlimited, boundless, broad, constrain, exercise, unbounded
85	hundred, thousand, many, million, huge, massive, large, enormous, most, dozen
28	emphasis, bracket, alteration, citation, footnote, italic, ellipsis, ptcitation, idcitation, punctuation
138	logo, symbol, stylized, imprint, emblem, grille, prefix, lettering, suffix, crosshair
181	wilful, carelessness, recklessness, careless, intentional, willful, conscious, reckless, unintentional, wantonness
158	rigorous, demanding, heightened, reasonableness, rigid, heighten, objective, deferential, flexible, particular
55	agreement, contract, contractual, promise, novation, repudiate, guaranty, enforceable, novate, repurchase
197	summation, admonish, sidebar, prosecutor, admonishment, mistrial, curative, questioning, remark, recess
120	scrivener, typographical, reversible, plain, harmless, clerical, invited, clear, requiresthe, instructional
15	adjudicatory, adjudicative, adversarial, judicial, rulemaking, decisionmaking, administrative, meaningful, rulemake, agency

Clustered word embeddings in judicial opinions, from Ash and Nikolaus (2020)

## Pre-trained word embeddings

- ▶ In many settings (e.g. a small corpus), better to use pre-trained embeddings.

```
import spacy
en = spacy.load('en_core_web_lg') # higher-quality vectors (but 800MB)
apple = en('apple')
apple.vector[:10] # vector for 'apple'

[158]: array([-0.36391,  0.43771, -0.20447, -0.22889, -0.14227,  0.27396,
   -0.011435, -0.18578,  0.37361,  0.75339], dtype=float32)

[159]: apple.similarity(apple)

[159]: 1.0

[166]: orange = en('orange')
apple.similarity(orange)

[166]: 0.5618917538704213
```

- ▶ e.g, spaCy's GloVe embeddings:
  - ▶ one million vocabulary entries, 300-dimensional vectors, trained on the Common Crawl corpus
- ▶ Can initialize models with pre-trained embeddings, can fine-tune as needed.

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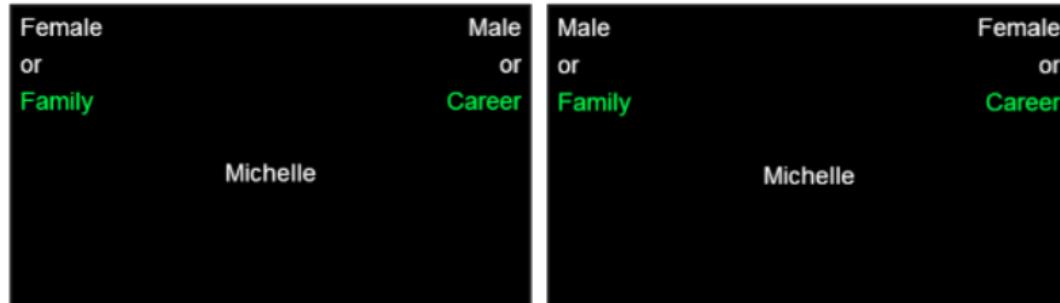
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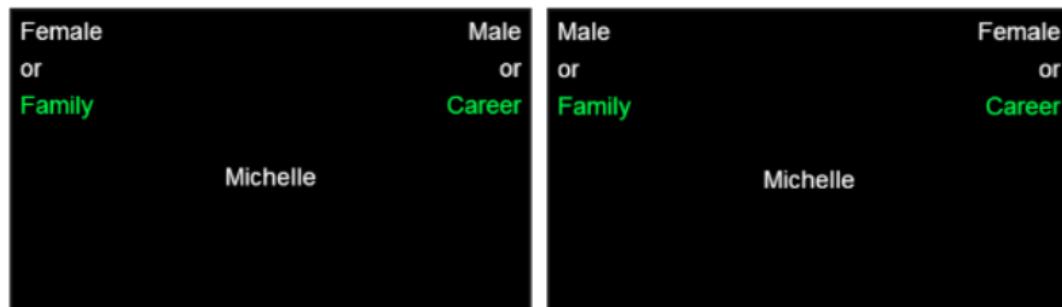


- ▶ Comparing reaction times across trials with different word pairs:
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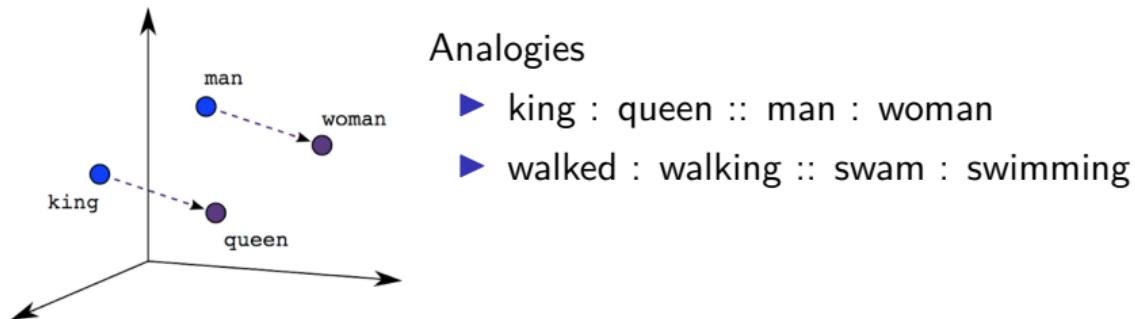


- ▶ Comparing reaction times across trials with different word pairs:
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  - ▶ IAT score = difference in reaction time between stereotype-consistent and stereotype-inconsistent rounds.

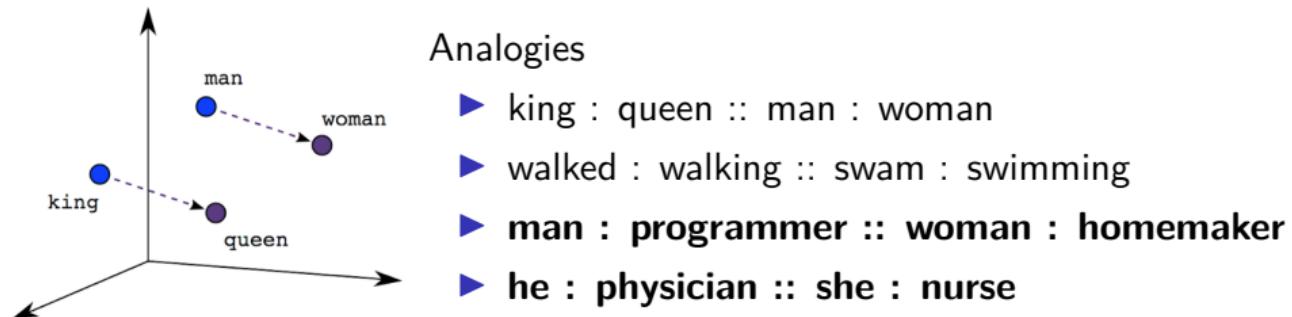
## Caliskan, Bryson, and Narayanan (2017)

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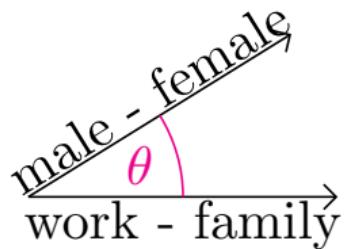
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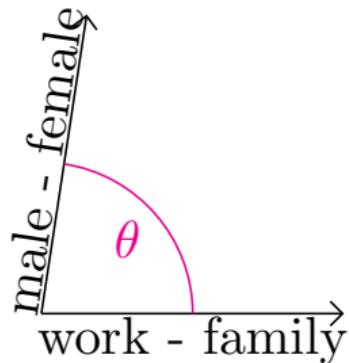
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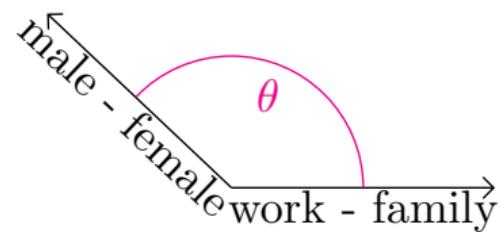
## Measuring Gender Stereotypes using Cosine Similarity



(a)



(b)



(c)

## Example Stimuli

- ▶ Targets:
  - ▶ **Flowers:** aster, clover, hyacinth, marigold, poppy, azalea, crocus, iris, orchid, rose, bluebell, daffodil, lilac, pansy, tulip, buttercup, daisy, lily, peony, violet, carnation, gladiola, magnolia, petunia, zinnia.
  - ▶ **Insects:** ant, caterpillar, flea, locust, spider, bedbug, centipede, fly, maggot, tarantula, bee, cockroach, gnat, mosquito, termite, beetle, cricket, hornet, moth, wasp, blackfly, dragonfly, horsefly, roach, weevil.

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- ▶ Attributes:
  - ▶ **Pleasant:** caress, freedom, health, love, peace, cheer, friend, heaven, loyal, pleasure, diamond, gentle, honest, lucky, rainbow, diploma, gift, honor, miracle, sunrise, family, happy, laughter, paradise, vacation.
  - ▶ **Unpleasant:** abuse, crash, filth, murder, sickness, accident, death, grief, poison, stink, assault, disaster, hatred, pollute, tragedy, divorce, jail, poverty, ugly, cancer, kill, rotten, vomit, agony, prison.

## Results

- ▶ Pleasant vs. Unpleasant?
  - ▶ Flowers vs. Insects
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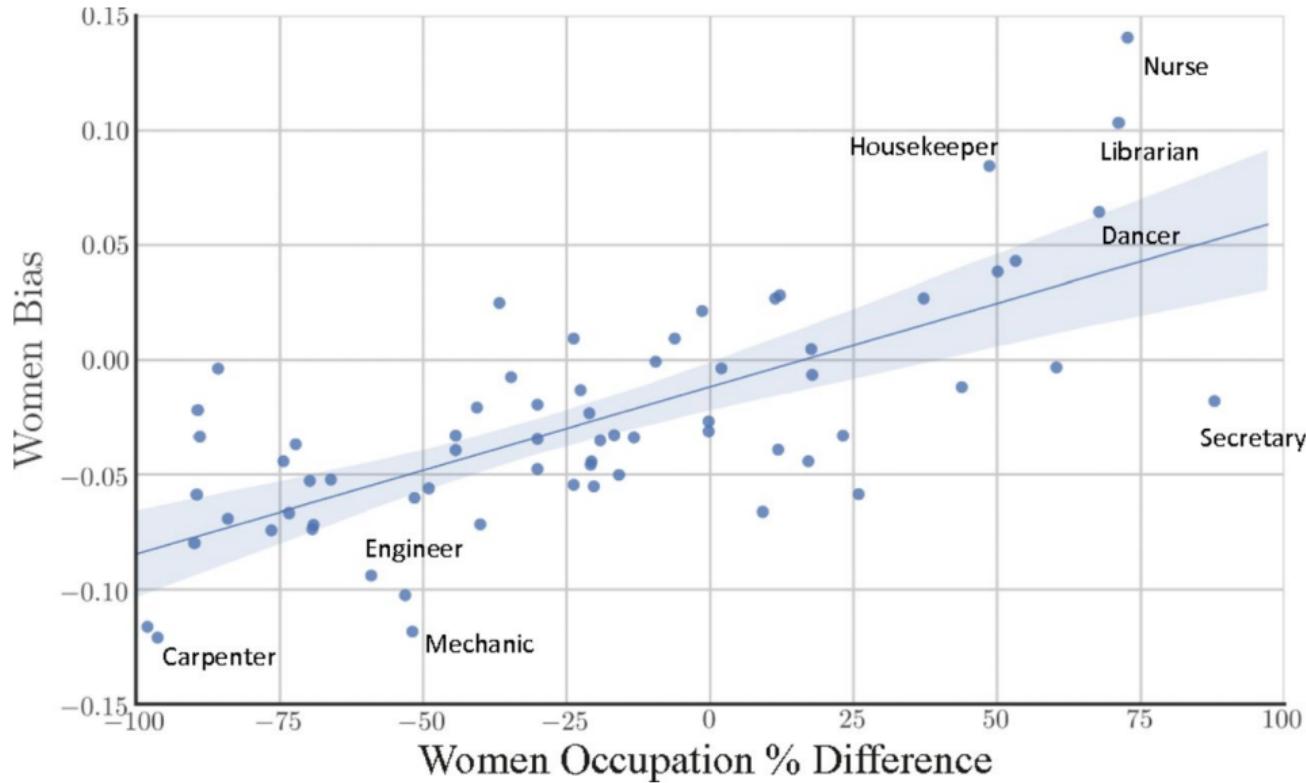
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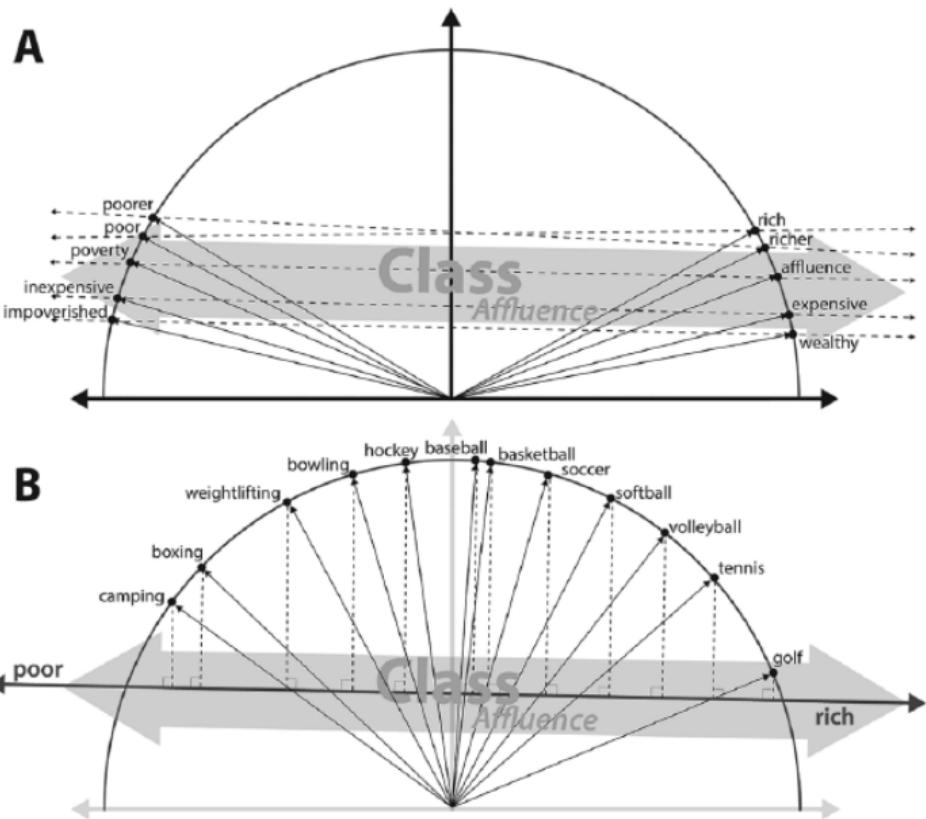
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- ▶ Male names vs. Female names:
  - ▶ Career words (e.g. professional, corporation, ...) vs. family words (e.g. home, children, ...)
  - ▶ Math/science words vs arts words

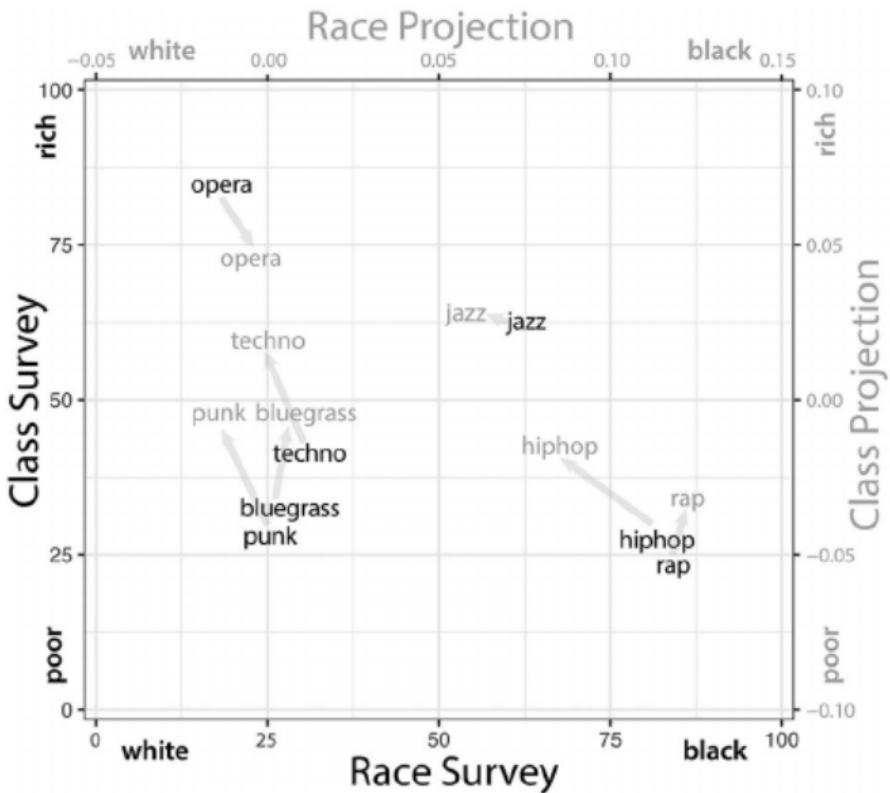
**What do we learn from this?**

# Garg, Schiebinger, Jurafsky, and Zou (PNAS 2018)



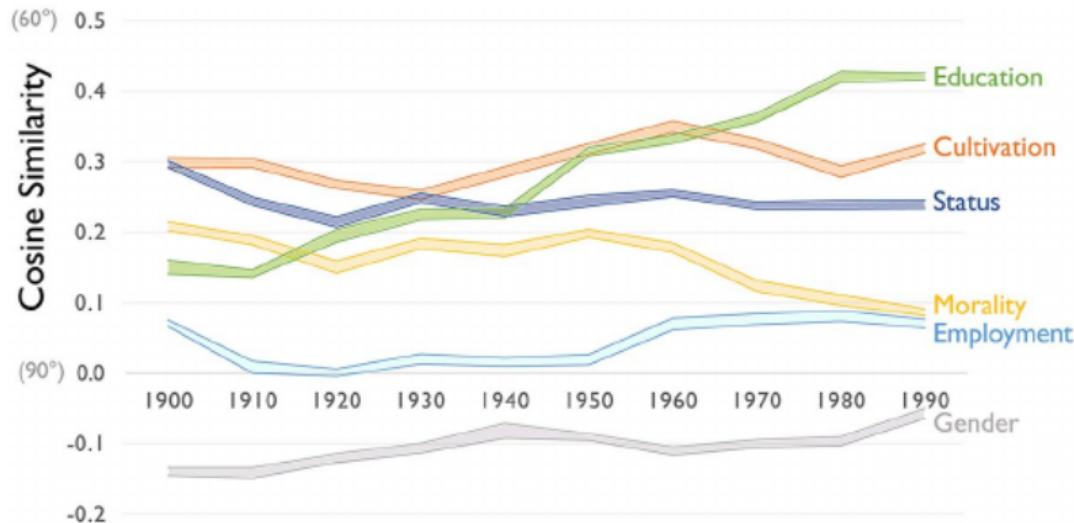
Women's occupation relative percentage vs. embedding bias in Google News vectors.





**Figure 3.** Projection of Music Genres onto Race and Class Dimensions of the Google News Word Embedding (Gray) and Average Survey Ratings for Race and Class Associations (Black)

## Time Series Analysis of Affluence



**Figure 5.** Cosine Similarity between the Affluence Dimension and Six Other Cultural Dimensions of Class by Decade; 1900 to 1999 Google Ngrams Corpus  
Note: Bands represent 90 percent bootstrapped confidence intervals produced by subsampling.

"Among the 10 nouns most highly projecting on the affluence dimension in the first decade of the twentieth century are "fragrance," "perfume," "jewels," and "gems," ..."

## Measuring stereotypical beliefs in the judiciary (Ash, Chen, and Ornaghi 2021)

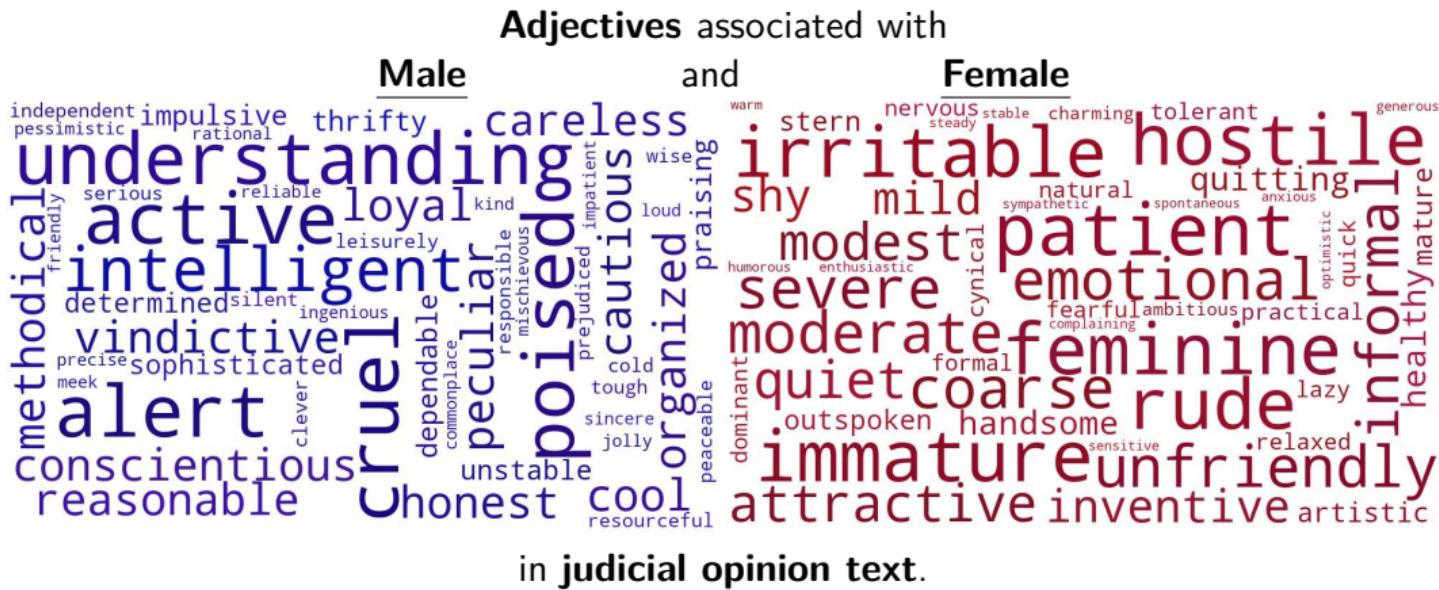
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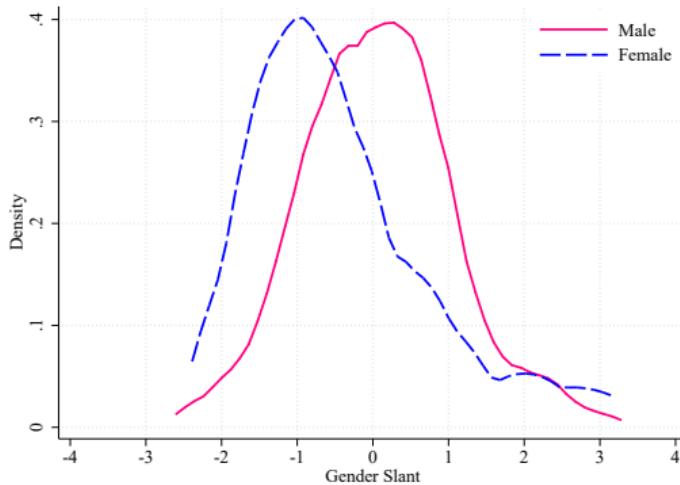
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## Gender Slant, by Judge Gender



Distribution of the slant measure (cosine similarity between the gender and career-family dimensions), by judge gender. ( $p=0.012$ )

# Does Gender Stereotyping Matter? (Ash, Chen, and Ornaghi 2021)

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# Does Gender Stereotyping Matter? (Ash, Chen, and Ornaghi 2021)

1. It matters for **decisions**: More stereotyped judges tend to vote against expanding women's rights.
2. It matters for **treatment of colleagues**: More stereotyped judges more likely to reverse female judges and less likely to cite them.
3. It reshapes the **language of the law**, which could influence culture and society.

# Outline

Reading Text Documents as Data

- Corpora

- Quantity of Text as Data

- Dictionary Methods

- Featurization

Document Distance/Similarity

Machine Learning with Text

Topic Models

Word Embeddings

**Document Embeddings**

Syntactic and Semantic Parsing

In-Depth Application: Demszky et al (2019)

Social Science Research with Text

## Vectorizing Documents

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- ▶ Quantitative analysis of language requires that documents be transformed to numbers – that is, vectors.
- ▶ We started with the baseline approach: documents become sparse vectors of token counts/frequencies.
  - ▶ high-dimensionality can cause issues, but sparsity mitigates.
  - ▶ can use documents of arbitrary length
  - ▶ can capture local word order with n-grams, but long-run word order is lost.

## From Word Vectors to Document Vectors

$$\vec{D} = \sum_{w \in D} a_w \vec{w}$$

- ▶ The “continuous bag of words” representation for document  $D$  is the sum, or the average (potentially weighted by  $a_w$ ), of the vectors  $\vec{w}$  for each word  $w$  in the document.
  - ▶ word vectors  $\vec{w}$  constructed using Word2Vec or GloVe (pre-trained or trained on the corpus).
  - ▶ “Document” could be sentence, paragraph, section, etc.

## Document Vectors

$$\vec{D} = \sum_{w \in D} a_w \vec{w}$$

- ▶ Can filter tokens:
  - ▶ drop stopwords
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## Document Vectors

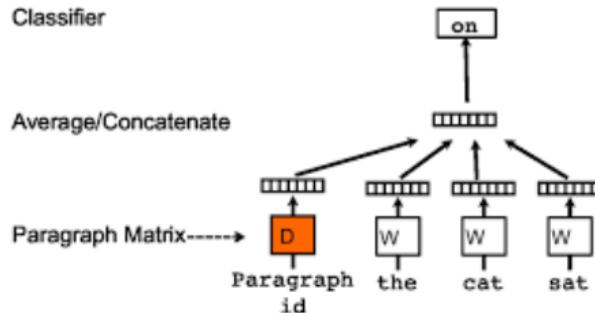
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- ▶ Token weighting:
  - ▶ set  $a_w$  to weight words by inverse term frequency or inverse document frequency (that is, up-weight rare/informative words)
  - ▶ Arora, Liang, and Ma (2016) provide a “tough to beat baseline”, the SIF-weighted (“smoothed inverse frequency”) average of the vectors:

$$a_w = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + p_w}$$

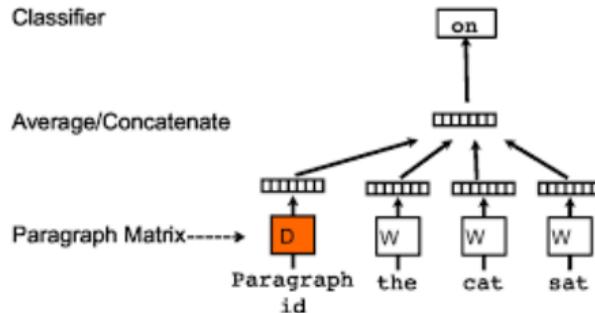
where  $p_w$  is the probability (frequency) of the word and  $\alpha = .001$  is a smoothing parameter.

## Doc2Vec (Le and Mikolov)



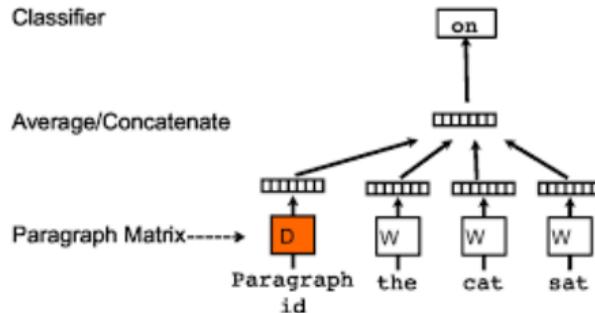
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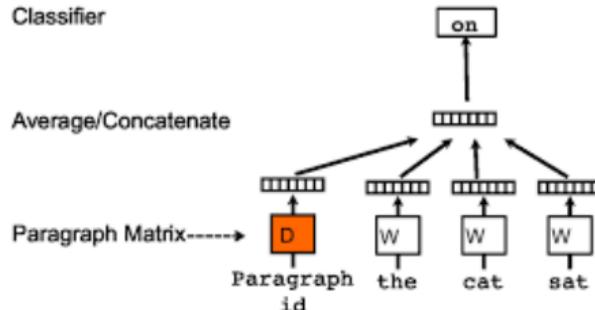
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- ▶ In Doc2Vec, both words **and documents** are assigned a learned vector representation through an embedding layer.
- ▶ Just as directions in word space encode semantic information about the words, directions in document space encode topical information about the documents.
- ▶ In topic models, each dimension has a topical interpretation; in document embeddings, a direction (might) have a topical interpretation.

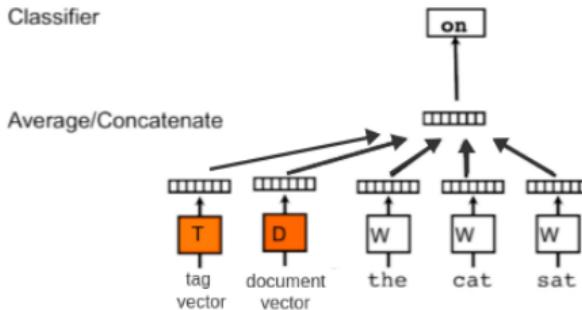
## Doc2Vec in gensim

```
from gensim.models.doc2vec import Doc2Vec, TaggedDocument
doc_iterator = [TaggedDocument(doc, [i]) for i, doc in enumerate(docs)]
d2v = Doc2Vec(doc_iterator,
               min_count=10, # minimum word count
               window=10,     # window size
               vector_size=200, # size of document vector
               sample=1e-4,
               negative=5,
               workers=4, # threads
               #dbow_words = 1 # uncomment to get word vectors too
               max_vocab_size=1000) # max vocab size
```

- ▶ can train both document vectors and word vectors.
- ▶ can get similarity between documents, and use clustering to get groups of related documents.

## Tagged Documents for Classifier Features

- ▶ Can add additional non-unique document “tags”; these will be embedded separately from the unique doc ID:



```
In [168]: tagged_docs[3]
```

```
Out[168]: TaggedDocument(words=['aftershore', 'project', 'finishing', 'stages', 'home', 'decor', 'kitchen', 'design', 'beforehere', 'project', 'finishing', 'stages', 'home', 'decor', 'kitchen', 'design', 'afterhere', 'project', 'finishing', 'stages', 'home', 'decor', 'kitchen', 'design', 'beforehere', 'project', 'finishing', 'stages', 'home', 'decor', 'kitchen', 'design'], tags=['Remodeling & Renovating', 'SENT 3'])
```

- ▶ will improve performance if using the embeddings to classify the tag.

## Doc2Vec on Wikipedia



Figure 3: Visualization of Wikipedia paragraph vectors using t-SNE.

Table 5: arXiv nearest neighbours to “Distributed Representations of Sentences and Documents” using Paragraph Vectors.

Title	Cosine Similarity
Evaluating Neural Word Representations in Tensor-Based Compositional Settings	0.771
Polyglot: Distributed Word Representations for Multilingual NLP	0.764
Lexicon Infused Phrase Embeddings for Named Entity Resolution	0.757
A Convolutional Neural Network for Modelling Sentences	0.747
Distributed Representations of Words and Phrases and their Compositionality	0.740
Convolutional Neural Networks for Sentence Classification	0.735
SimLex-999: Evaluating Semantic Models With (Genuine) Similarity Estimation	0.735
Exploiting Similarities among Languages for Machine Translation	0.731
Efficient Estimation of Word Representations in Vector Space	0.727
Multilingual Distributed Representations without Word Alignment	0.721

Table 2: Wikipedia nearest neighbours

(a) Wikipedia nearest neighbours to “Lady Gaga” using Paragraph Vectors. All articles are relevant.

<b>Article</b>	<b>Cosine Similarity</b>
Christina Aguilera	0.674
Beyonce	0.645
Madonna (entertainer)	0.643
Artpop	0.640
Britney Spears	0.640
Cyndi Lauper	0.632
Rihanna	0.631
Pink (singer)	0.628
Born This Way	0.627
The Monster Ball Tour	0.620

(b) Wikipedia nearest neighbours to “Lady Gaga” - “American” + “Japanese” using Paragraph Vectors. Note that Ayumi Hamasaki is one of the most famous singers, and one of the best selling artists in Japan. She also has an album called “Poker Face” in 1998.

<b>Article</b>	<b>Cosine Similarity</b>
Ayumi Hamasaki	0.539
Shoko Nakagawa	0.531
Izumi Sakai	0.512
Urbangarde	0.505
Ringo Sheena	0.503
Toshiaki Kasuga	0.492
Chihiro Onitsuka	0.487
Namie Amuro	0.485
Yakuza (video game)	0.485
Nozomi Sasaki (model)	0.485

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- ▶ The models we have seen so far have counted words and phrases, or embedded sequences
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  - ▶ “The negligent defendant”
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  - ▶ “The defendant, a driver, was negligent”

## Beyond Word Order

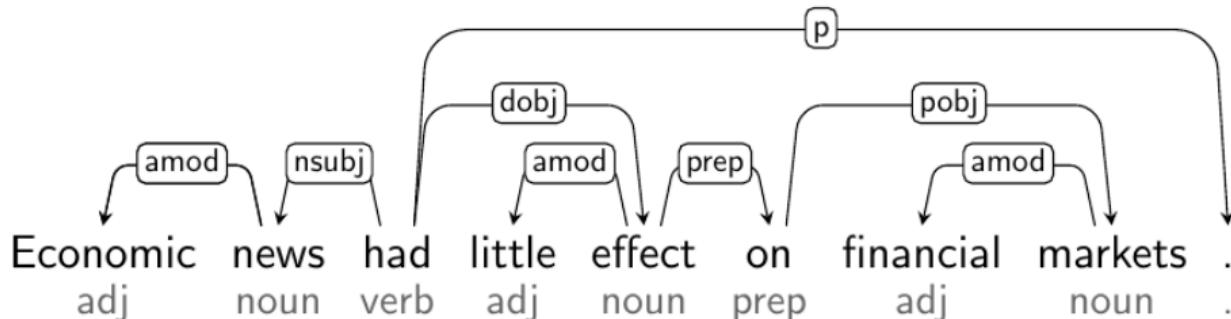
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- ▶ How to identify whether the defendant was negligent?
  - ▶ “The negligent defendant”
  - ▶ “The defendant was negligent”
  - ▶ “The defendant, a driver, was negligent”
- ▶ Syntactic and semantic parsing will do this.

## Dependency Grammar

- ▶ The basic idea:
  - ▶ **Syntactic structure** consists of **words**, linked by binary symmetric relations called **dependencies**.
  - ▶ Dependencies identify the grammatical relations between words.

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- ▶ Dependency structures represent grammatical relations between words in a sentence:
  - ▶ head-dependent relations (directed arcs)
  - ▶ functional categories (arc labels)
  - ▶ structural categories (parts-of-speech)

# dependencies in spaCy

```
for sent in doc.sents:  
    print(sent)  
    print(sent.root)  
    print([(w, w.dep_) for w in sent.root.children])  
    print()  
  
Science cannot solve the ultimate mystery of nature.  
solve  
[(Science, 'nsubj'), (can, 'aux'), (not, 'neg'), (mystery, 'dobj'), (., 'punct')]  
  
And that is because, in the last analysis, we ourselves are a part of the mystery  
that we are trying to solve.  
is  
[(And, 'cc'), (that, 'nsubj'), (are, 'advcl'), (., 'punct')]
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- ▶ For production, use spaCy processing pipelines  
(<https://spacy.io/usage/processing-pipelines>)
  - ▶ customizable and parallelizable

# Unsupervised Discovery of Gendered Language

- ▶ This paper builds on the “gender bias” NLP papers by adding in syntactic information:

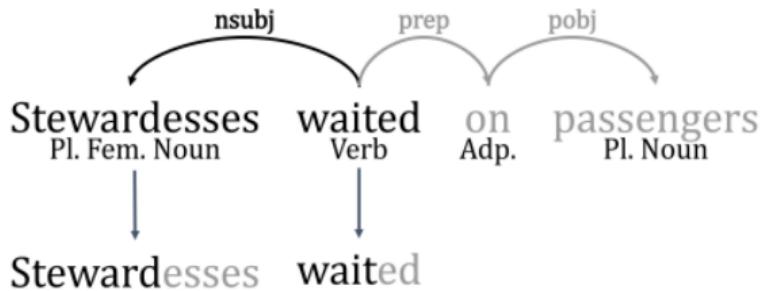


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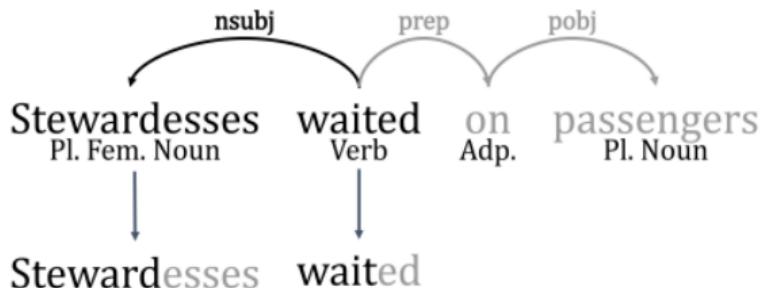


Figure 2: An example sentence with its labeled dependency parse (top) and lemmatized words (bottom).

- ▶ Corpus: dependency parse of 3.5 million books from Goldberg and Orwant (2013).
  - ▶ 37 million noun-adjective pairs
  - ▶ 41-million subject-verb pairs
  - ▶ 14 million verb-object pairs

## Extracting gendered language

- ▶ Hoyle et al (2019) extract the set of adjectives and verbs attached to nouns that are predictive of the gender of the noun.
  - ▶ they use a regularized latent variable model
  - ▶ the resulting metric is (almost) proportional to PMI.

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- ▶ Interpreting the dimensions:
  - ▶ categorize adjectives/verbs by sentiment (positive, negative, neutral)
  - ▶ categorize adjectives/verbs as related to the body and emotions.

# Gendered Adjectives

$T_{MASC-POS}$			$T_{MASC-NEG}$			$T_{MASC-NEU}$			$T_{FEM-POS}$			$T_{FEM-NEG}$			$T_{FEM-NEU}$		
Adj.	Value	Adj.	Value	Adj.	Value	Adj.	Value	Adj.	Value	Adj.	Value	Adj.	Value	Adj.	Value	Adj.	Value
faithful	2.3	unjust	2.4	german	1.9	pretty	3.3	horrible	1.8	virgin	2.8						
responsible	2.2	dumb	2.3	teutonic	0.8	fair	3.3	destructive	0.8	alleged	2.0						
adventurous	1.9	violent	1.8	financial	2.6	beautiful	3.4	notorious	2.6	maiden	2.8						
grand	2.6	weak	2.0	feudal	2.2	lovely	3.4	dreary	0.8	russian	1.9						
worthy	2.2	evil	1.9	later	1.6	charming	3.1	ugly	3.2	fair	2.6						
brave	2.1	stupid	1.6	austrian	1.2	sweet	2.7	weird	3.0	widowed	2.4						
good	2.3	petty	2.4	feudatory	1.8	grand	2.6	harried	2.4	grand	2.1						
normal	1.9	brutal	2.4	maternal	1.6	stately	3.8	diabetic	1.2	byzantine	2.6						
ambitious	1.6	wicked	2.1	bavarian	1.5	attractive	3.3	discontented	0.5	fashionable	2.5						
gallant	2.8	rebellious	2.1	negro	1.5	chaste	3.3	infected	2.8	aged	1.8						
mighty	2.4	bad	1.9	paternal	1.4	virtuous	2.7	unmarried	2.8	topless	3.9						
loyal	2.1	worthless	1.6	frankish	1.8	fertile	3.2	unequal	2.4	withered	2.9						
valiant	2.8	hostile	1.9	welsh	1.7	delightful	2.9	widowed	2.4	colonial	2.8						
courteous	2.6	careless	1.6	ecclesiastical	1.6	gentle	2.6	unhappy	2.4	diabetic	0.7						
powerful	2.3	unsung	2.4	rural	1.4	privileged	1.4	horrid	2.2	burlesque	2.9						
rational	2.1	abusive	1.5	persian	1.4	romantic	3.1	pitiful	0.8	blonde	2.9						
supreme	1.9	financial	3.6	belted	1.4	enchanted	3.0	frightful	0.5	parisian	2.7						
meritorious	1.5	feudal	2.5	swiss	1.3	kindly	3.2	artificial	3.2	clad	2.5						
serene	1.4	false	2.3	finnish	1.1	elegant	2.8	sullen	3.1	female	2.3						
godlike	2.3	feeble	1.9	national	2.2	dear	2.2	hysterical	2.8	oriental	2.2						
noble	2.3	impotent	1.7	priestly	1.8	devoted	2.0	awful	2.6	ancient	1.7						
rightful	1.9	dishonest	1.6	merovingian	1.6	beauteous	3.9	haughty	2.6	feminist	2.9						
eager	1.9	ungrateful	1.5	capetian	1.4	sprightly	3.2	terrible	2.4	matronly	2.6						
financial	3.3	unfaithful	2.6	prussian	1.4	beloved	2.5	damned	2.4	pretty	2.5						
chivalrous	2.6	incompetent	1.7	racial	0.9	pleasant	1.8	topless	3.5	asiatic	2.0						

# Gendered Verbs (as agent)

$\tau_{\text{MASC-POS}}$		$\tau_{\text{MASC-NEG}}$		$\tau_{\text{MASC-NEU}}$		$\tau_{\text{FEM-POS}}$		$\tau_{\text{FEM-NEG}}$		$\tau_{\text{FEM-NEU}}$	
Verb	Value	Verb	Value	Verb	Value	Verb	Value	Verb	Value	Verb	Value
succeed	1.6	fight	1.2	extend	0.7	celebrate	2.4	persecute	2.1	faint	0.7
protect	1.4	fail	1.0	found	0.8	fascinate	0.8	faint	1.0	be	1.1
favor	1.3	fear	1.0	strike	1.3	facilitate	0.7	fly	1.0	go	0.4
flourish	1.3	murder	1.5	own	1.1	marry	1.8	weep	2.3	find	0.1
prosper	1.7	shock	1.6	collect	1.1	smile	1.8	harm	2.2	fly	0.4
support	1.5	blind	1.6	set	0.8	fan	0.8	wear	2.0	fall	0.1
promise	1.5	forbid	1.5	wag	1.0	kiss	1.8	mourn	1.7	wear	0.9
welcome	1.5	kill	1.3	present	0.9	champion	2.2	gasp	1.1	leave	0.7
favour	1.2	protest	1.3	pretend	1.1	adore	2.0	fatigue	0.7	fell	0.1
clear	1.9	cheat	1.3	prostrate	1.1	dance	1.7	scold	1.8	vanish	1.3
reward	1.8	fake	0.8	want	0.9	laugh	1.6	scream	2.1	come	0.7
appeal	1.6	deprive	1.5	create	0.9	have	1.4	confess	1.7	fertilize	0.6
encourage	1.5	threaten	1.3	pay	1.1	play	1.0	get	0.5	flush	0.5
allow	1.5	frustrate	0.9	prompt	1.0	give	0.8	gossip	2.0	spin	1.6
respect	1.5	fright	0.9	brazen	1.0	like	1.8	worry	1.8	dress	1.4
comfort	1.4	temper	1.4	tarry	0.7	giggle	1.4	be	1.3	fill	0.2
treat	1.3	horrify	1.4	front	0.5	extol	0.6	fail	0.4	fee	0.2
brave	1.7	neglect	1.4	flush	0.3	compassionate	1.9	fight	0.4	extend	0.1
rescue	1.5	argue	1.3	reach	0.9	live	1.4	fake	0.3	sniff	1.6
win	1.5	denounce	1.3	escape	0.8	free	0.9	overrun	2.4	celebrate	1.1
warm	1.5	concern	1.2	gi	0.7	felicitate	0.6	hurt	1.8	clap	1.1
praise	1.4	expel	1.7	rush	0.6	mature	2.2	complain	1.7	appear	0.9
fit	1.4	dispute	1.5	duplicate	0.5	exalt	1.7	lament	1.5	gi	0.8
wish	1.4	obscure	1.4	incarnate	0.5	surpass	1.7	fertilize	0.5	have	0.5
grant	1.3	damn	1.4	freeze	0.5	meet	1.1	feign	0.5	front	0.5

# Gendered Verbs (as patient)

$\tau_{\text{MASC-POS}}$		$\tau_{\text{MASC-NEG}}$		$\tau_{\text{MASC-NEU}}$		$\tau_{\text{FEM-POS}}$		$\tau_{\text{FEM-NEG}}$		$\tau_{\text{FEM-NEU}}$	
Verb	Value	Verb	Value	Verb	Value	Verb	Value	Verb	Value	Verb	Value
praise	1.7	fight	1.8	set	1.5	marry	2.3	forbid	1.3	have	1.0
thank	1.7	expel	1.8	pay	1.2	assure	3.4	shame	2.5	expose	0.8
succeed	1.7	fear	1.6	escape	0.4	escort	1.2	escort	1.3	escort	1.4
exalt	1.2	defeat	2.4	use	2.1	exclaim	1.0	exploit	0.9	pour	2.1
reward	1.8	fail	1.3	expel	0.9	play	2.7	drag	2.1	marry	1.3
commend	1.7	bribe	1.8	summon	1.7	pour	2.6	suffer	2.2	take	1.1
fit	1.4	kill	1.6	speak	1.3	create	2.0	shock	2.1	assure	1.6
glorify	2.0	deny	1.5	shop	2.6	have	1.8	fright	2.4	fertilize	1.6
honor	1.6	murder	1.7	excommunicate	1.3	fertilize	1.8	steal	2.0	ask	1.0
welcome	1.9	depose	2.3	direct	1.1	eye	0.9	insult	1.8	exclaim	0.6
gentle	1.8	summon	2.0	await	0.9	woo	3.3	fertilize	1.6	strut	2.3
inspire	1.7	order	1.9	equal	0.4	strut	3.1	vioilate	2.4	burn	1.7
enrich	1.7	denounce	1.7	appoint	1.7	kiss	2.6	tease	2.3	rear	1.5
uphold	1.5	deprive	1.6	animate	1.1	protect	2.1	terrify	2.1	feature	0.9
appease	1.5	mock	1.6	follow	0.7	win	2.0	persecute	2.1	visit	1.3
join	1.4	destroy	1.5	depose	1.8	excel	1.6	cry	1.8	saw	1.3
congratulate	1.3	deceive	1.7	want	1.1	treat	2.3	expose	1.3	exchange	0.8
extol	1.1	bore	1.6	reach	0.9	like	2.2	burn	2.6	shame	1.6
respect	1.7	bully	1.5	found	0.8	entertain	2.0	scare	2.0	fade	1.2
brave	1.7	enrage	1.4	exempt	0.4	espouse	1.4	frighten	1.8	signal	1.2
greet	1.6	shop	2.7	tip	1.8	feature	1.2	distract	2.3	see	1.2
restore	1.5	elect	2.2	elect	1.7	meet	2.2	weep	2.3	present	1.0
clear	1.5	compel	2.1	unmake	1.5	wish	1.9	scream	2.3	leave	0.8
excite	1.2	offend	1.5	fight	1.2	fondle	1.9	drown	2.1	espouse	1.3
flatter	0.9	scold	1.4	prevent	1.1	saw	1.8	rape	2.0	want	1.1

Female		Male	
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
beautiful	battered	just	unsuitable
lovely	untreated	sound	unreliable
chaste	barren	righteous	lawless
gorgeous	shrewish	rational	inseparable
fertile	sheltered	peaceable	brutish
beauteous	heartbroken	prodigious	idle
sexy	unmarried	brave	unarmed
classy	undernourished	paramount	wounded
exquisite	underweight	reliable	bigoted
vivacious	uncomplaining	sinless	unjust
vibrant	nagging	honorable	brutal

BODY	FEELING	MISCELLANEOUS
BEHAVIOR	SPATIAL	TEMPORAL
SUBSTANCE	QUANTITY	SOCIAL

- Female nouns were correlated with adjectives/verbs related to the body and to emotions.

## Extracting Modal Verb Structures in Labor Contracts (Ash et al 2020)

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  - ▶ worker, union, owner, and manager.

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# Extracting Modal Verb Structures in Labor Contracts (Ash et al 2020)

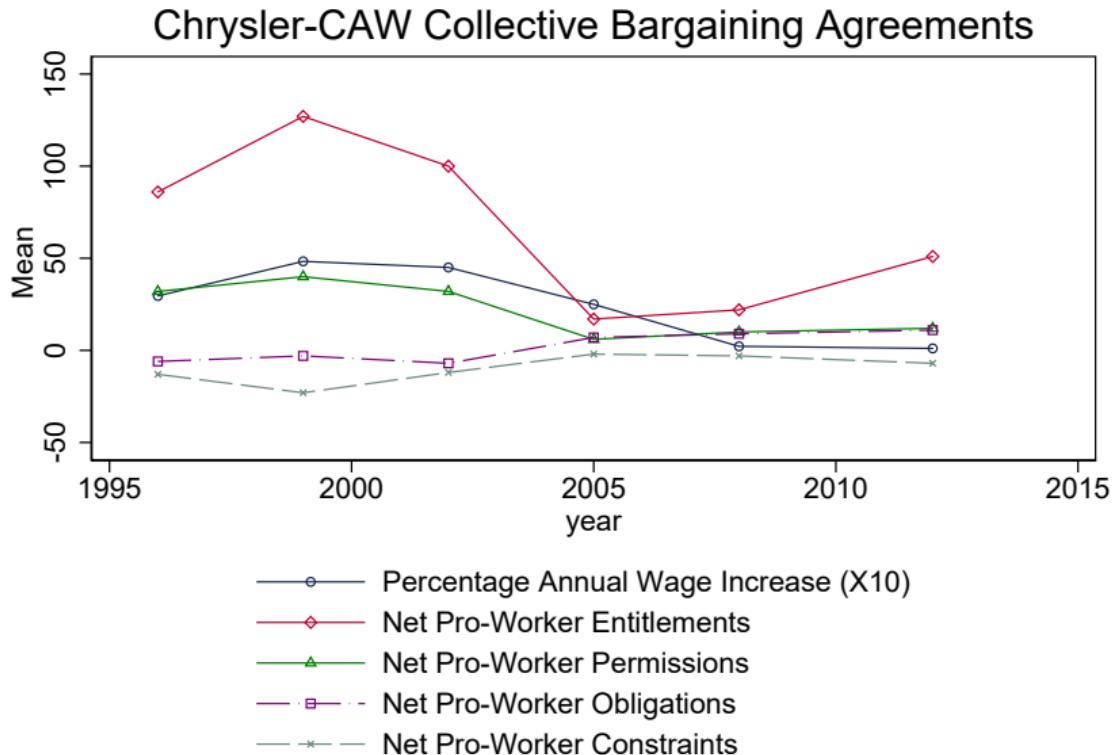
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- ▶ In law, deontic modal verb structures create legal requirements (Kratzer 1991).
  - ▶ strict (*shall, will, must*)
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- ▶ Statements coded as negative (“shall not” rather than “shall”) and active (“shall provide”) or passive (“shall be provided”).

# Most Frequent Subject-Modal-Verb Tuples

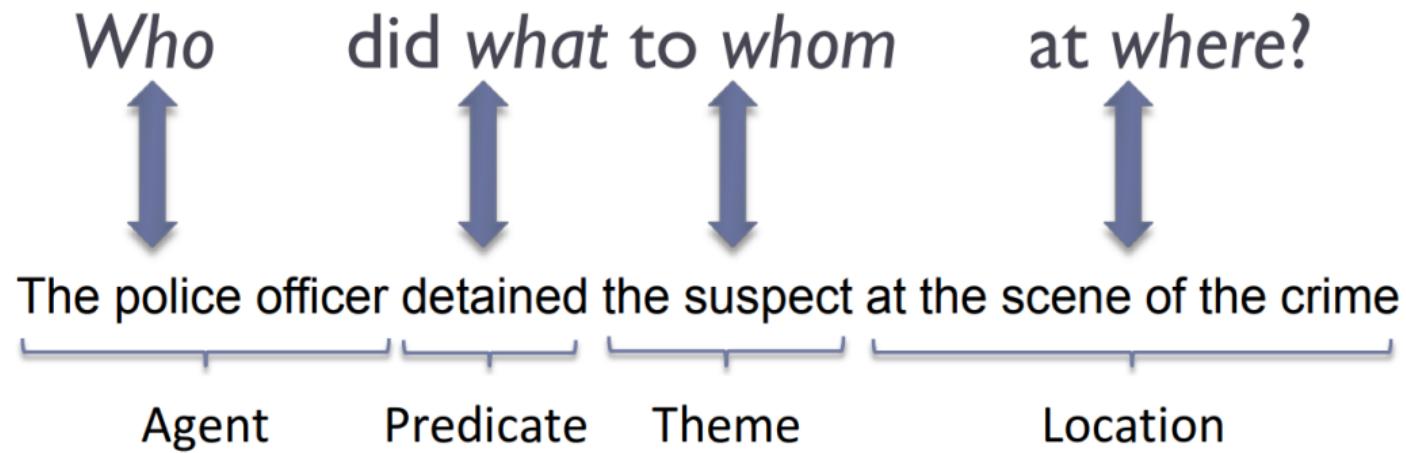
Subject - Modal - Verb	Subject - Modal - Verb	Subject - Modal - Verb
agreement_shall_be	<b>employee_shall_be</b>	<b>employee_shall_receive</b>
arbitrator_shall_have	<b>employee_shall_be_allowed</b>	<b>employee_shall_retain</b>
board_shall_have	<b>employee_shall_be_considered</b>	<b>employee_will_be</b>
case_may_be	<b>employee_shall_be_entitled</b>	<b>employee_will_be_allowed</b>
committee_shall_meet	<b>employee_shall_be_given</b>	<b>employee_will_be_entitled</b>
<b>company_shall_pay</b>	<b>employee_shall_be_granted</b>	<b>employee_will_be_given</b>
<b>company_shall_provide</b>	<b>employee_shall_be_laid_off</b>	<b>employee_will_be_granted</b>
<b>company_will_pay</b>	<b>employee_shall_be_paid</b>	<b>employee_will_be_paid</b>
<b>company_will_provide</b>	<b>employee_shall_be_required</b>	<b>employee_will_be_required</b>
decision_shall_be	<b>employee_shall_continue</b>	<b>employee_will_have</b>
<b>employee_may_request</b>	<b>employee_shall_lose</b>	<b>employer_shall_grant</b>

## Case Study: Canadian Auto Workers Union Contract

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## Semantic Role Labeling



Source: Jurafsky-Martin slides.

*"Higher taxes will hurt the economy."*

*"Health insurance saves lives."*

*'Immigrants steal our jobs.'*

**Our (broad) research agenda: How do narratives influence and/or reflect political and economic outcomes?**

**A preliminary challenge: How to *identify* and *quantify* narratives.**

## Raw sentences and their mined narratives

- ▶ "President, I think the administration has begun to address the overseas basing issue."  
→ (administration, address, foreign policy)
- ▶ "As always, God bless and protect our troops and their families."  
→ (god, bless, troop)  
→ (god, protect, troop)
- ▶ "We need to pay attention to agriculture and the survival of the family farm as other countries protect and subsidize their farmers."  
→ (country, protect, farmer)  
→ (country, subsidize, farmer)
- ▶ show wordviews HTML

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# Analyzing polarization in social media: Method and application to tweets on 21 mass shootings

Demszky, Garg, Voigt, Zou, Gentzkow, Shapiro, and Jurafsky

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- ▶ Context:
  - ▶ tweets in response to mass shooting events.
- ▶ Research question:
  - ▶ does political partisanship manifest in polarized responses to violent/polarizing events?

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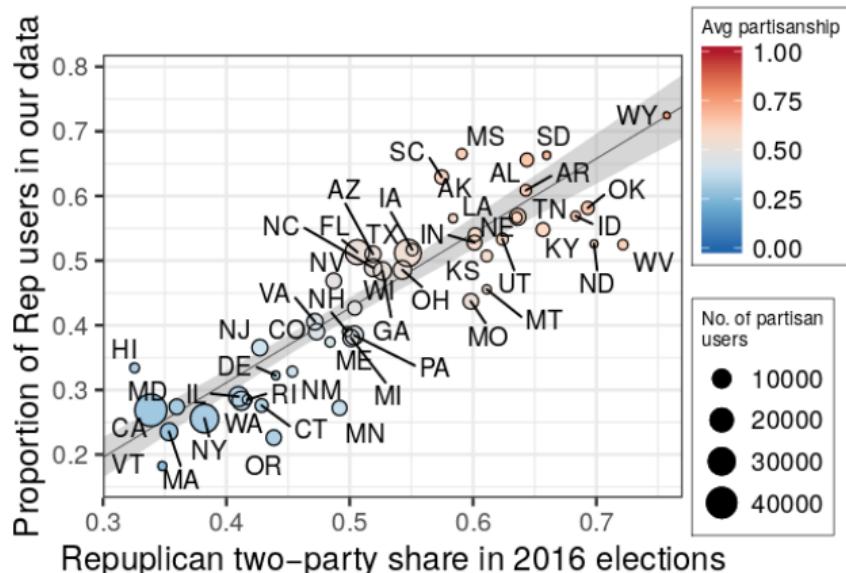
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  - ▶ event keywords (lemmas): shoot, gun, kill, attack, massacre, victim
  - ▶ filter out retweets and tweets from deactivated accounts
  - ▶  $N = 10,000$  (out of 4.4 million tweets from the firehose archive).

## Identifying party affiliation of Twitter users

- ▶ Party affiliation identified off of whether you follow more Democrats or Republicans, from a list of Twitter accounts associated with legislators, presidential candidates, and party organizations (Volkova et al 2014).
  - ▶ at least 51% of tweets for each event can be assigned partisanship this way.

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- ▶ For geolocated users this matches up pretty well with party vote shares by state ( $R^2 = .82$ ):



## Measuring Partisanship: Pre-processing

- ▶ Stemming and stopword removal.
- ▶ Event-specific vocabulary:
  - ▶ unigrams and bigrams
  - ▶ occur in event's tweets at least 50 times
  - ▶ must be used by at least two tweeters.

## Partisanship metric

- ▶ Leave-one-out estimator from Gentzkow et al (2019), applied to each shooting event:

$$\pi = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{|D|} \sum_{i \in D} \hat{\mathbf{q}}_i \cdot \hat{\rho}_{-i} + \frac{1}{|R|} \sum_{i \in R} \hat{\mathbf{q}}_i \cdot (1 - \hat{\rho}_{-i}) \right)$$

- ▶  $\hat{\mathbf{q}}_i$  = token frequencies for user  $i$ , drawn from set of democrats  $D$  and set of republicans  $R$
- ▶  $\hat{\rho}_{-i}$  has elements

$$\rho_{-i} = \frac{q_i^D}{q_i^D + q_i^R}$$

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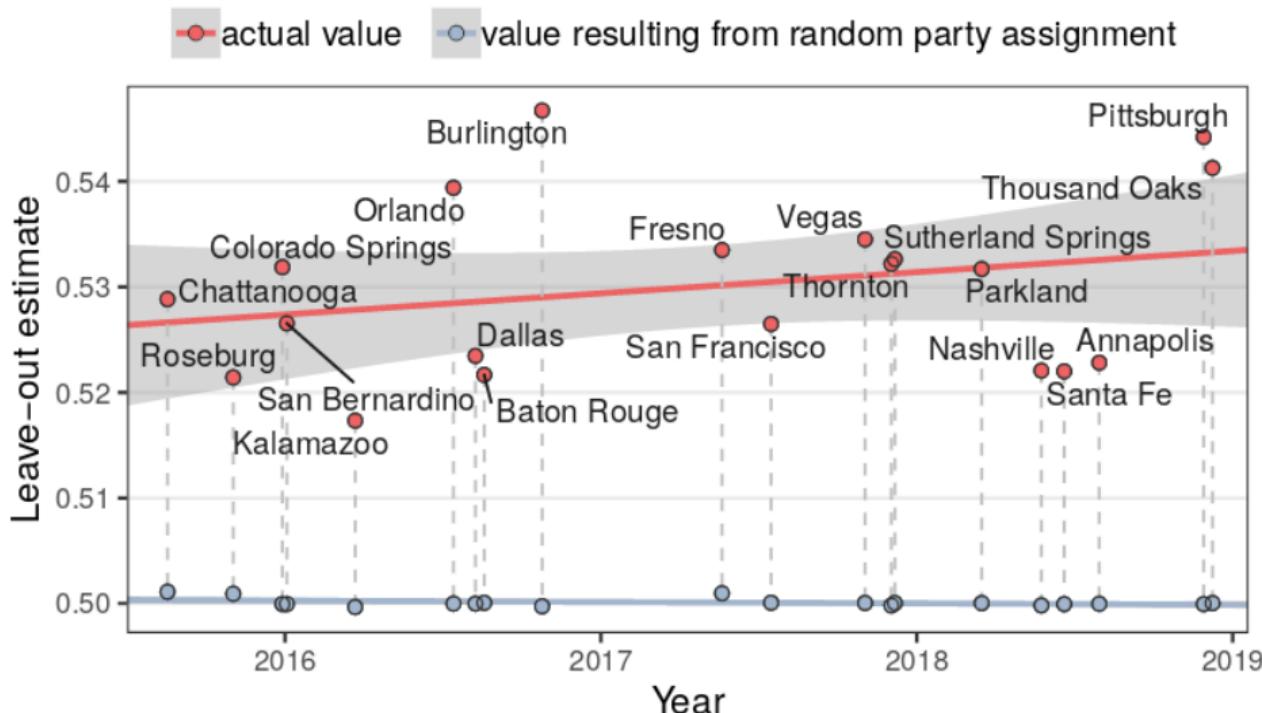
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empirical posterior probabilities computed from all other users.

- ▶  $\pi$  is an estimate for expected posterior probability that a Bayesian observer would correctly predict party after observing one randomly sampled token.
  - ▶ consistency assumes tokens are drawn from multinomial logit.

## Tweet texts about mass shootings are predictive of party



- comparable to  $\pi = .53$  in Congressional speeches (GST 2019).
- The increase in polarization over time is not statistically significant.

## Questions/Issues with this Analysis

- ▶ How polarized are tweets about other topics (not mass shootings)?
  - ▶ why not use a tweeter fixed effect and compare to their other tweets?
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- ▶ Can show polarization separately by party?
- ▶ Validating  $\pi$ :
  - ▶ How accurate is  $\pi$  at the individual level?
  - ▶ Where is the binscatter of  $\pi$  versus actual party affiliation?

## Sentence Embeddings for Topic Assignment

1. Make a new vocabulary:
  - 1.1 Sample 10,000 tweets from each event
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3. Create Arora et al (2017) embeddings:
  - 3.1 for each tweet  $t$ , compute weighted average vectors  $v_t$  for each word, weighted by inverse frequency.
  - 3.2 take out first principal component of matrix whose rows are  $v_t$

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    - 2.2 drop tweets above the 75th percentile.
- Validation using Amazon Mechanical Turk to choose number of clusters:
- Identify word intruder: five from one cluster, one from another cluster.
  - Identify tweet intruder: three from one cluster, and one from another cluster.

## Topic Content

Topic	10 Nearest Stems
news (19%)	break, custodi, #breakingnew, #updat, confirm, fatal, multipl, updat, unconfirm, sever
investigation (9%)	suspect, arrest, alleg, apprehend, custodi, charg, accus, prosecutor, #break, ap
shooter's identity & ideology (11%)	extremist, radic, racist, ideolog, label, rhetor, wing, blm, islamist, christian
victims & location (4%)	bar, thousand, california, calif, among, los, southern, veteran, angel, via
laws & policy (14%)	sensibl, regul, requir, access, abid, #gunreformnow, legisl, argument, allow, #guncontrolnow
solidarity (13%)	affect, senseless, ach, heart, heartbroken, sadden, faculti, pray, #prayer, deepest
remembrance (6%)	honor, memori, tuesday, candlelight, flown, vigil, gather, observ, honour, capitol
other (23%)	dude, yeah, eat, huh, gonna, ain, shit, ass, damn, guess

- ▶ The embedding method resulted in more coherent topics (better MTurk validation for words and tweets) than a topic model.  $k = 8$  got best coherence.
  - ▶ Appendix reports samples of tweets for each topic (but does not say how samples were selected).

## Between-topic vs within-topic polarization

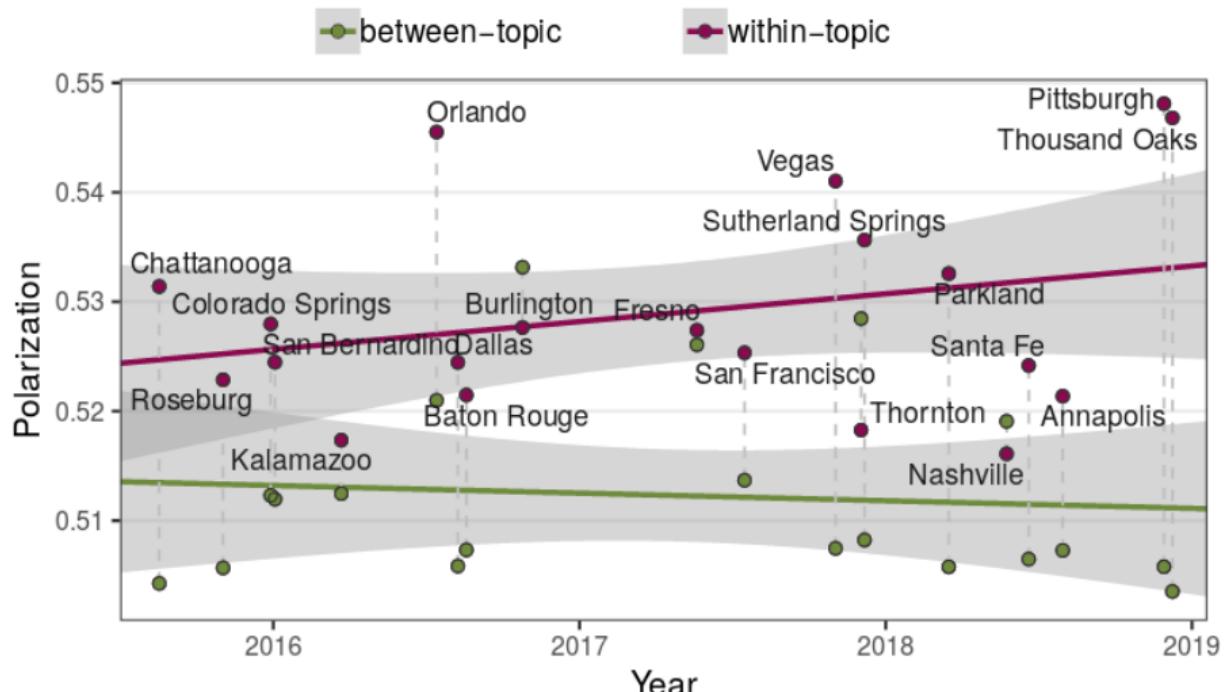
- ▶ Within-topic polarization: compute  $\pi$  separately by the tweet clusters.

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## Trends in within-topic polarization

- Most polarized topics: shooter's identity & ideology (.55), laws & policy (.54)

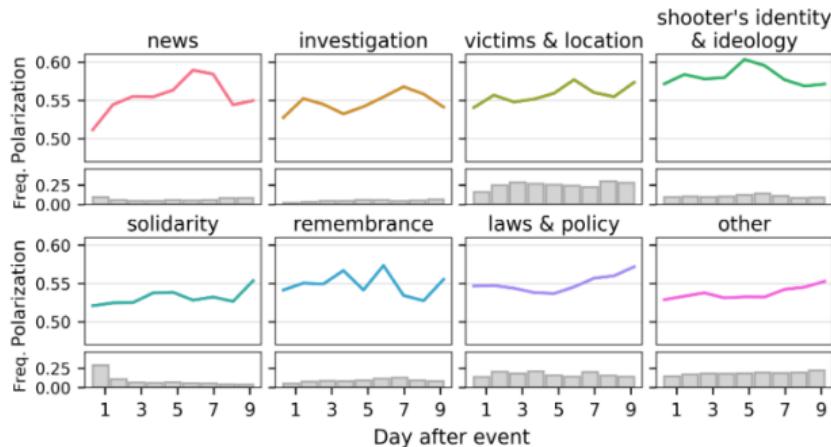


Figure 6: Las Vegas within-topic polarization in the days after the event. The bar charts show the proportion of each topic in the data at a given time.

- “measuring polarization of topics for other events over time is noisy”.

## Partisanship of Topics, by Race of Shooter

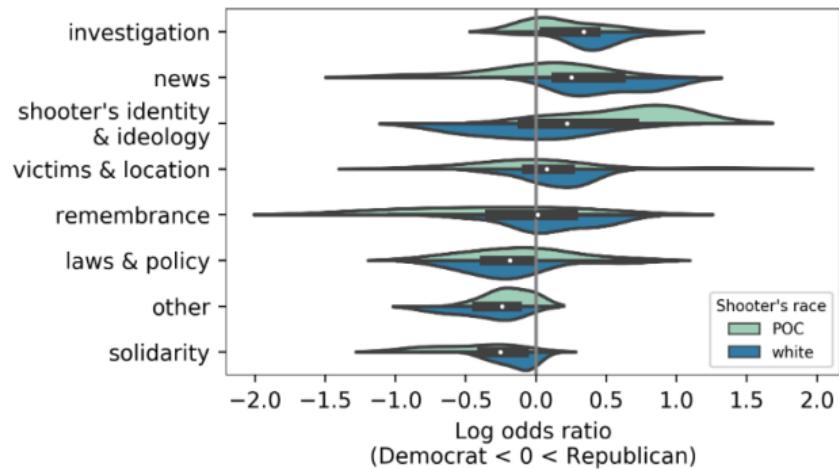


Figure 7: The plot shows the kernel density of the partisan log odds ratios of each topic (one observation per event). The white points show the median and the black rectangles the interquartile range across events.

## Partisan Framing Devices: Words

- ▶ Partisanship of phrases from supervised model:

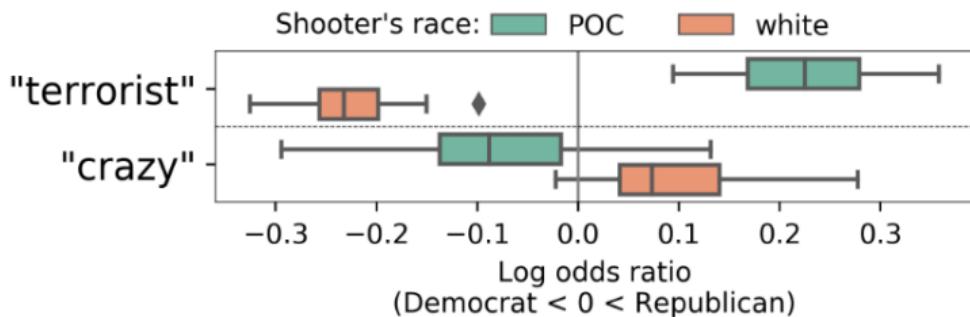
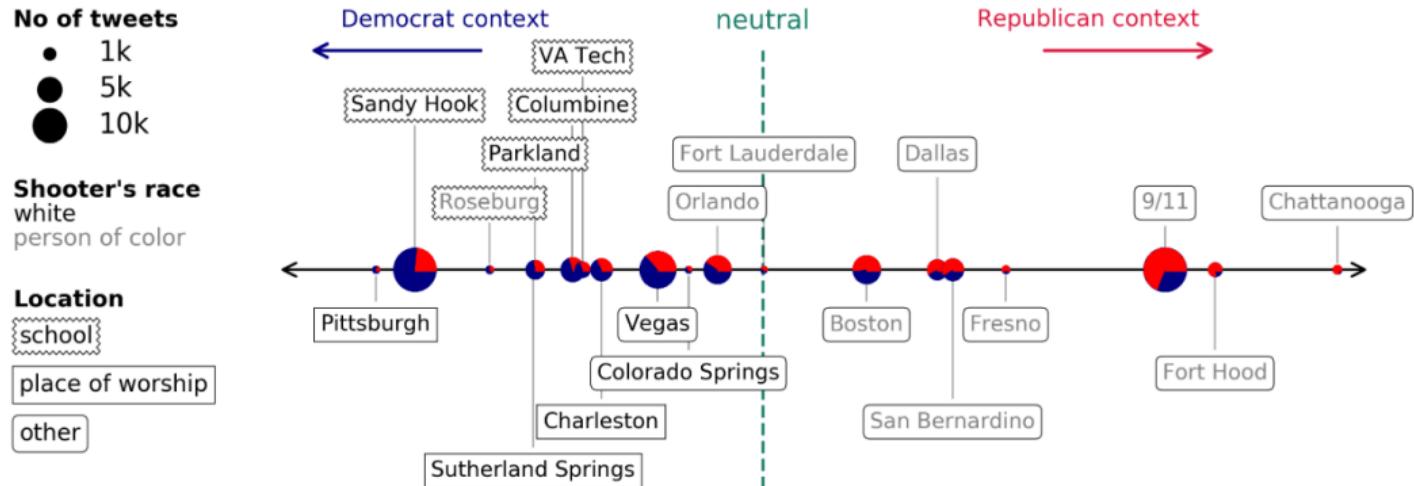


Figure 8: The log odds ratios of “terrorist” and “crazy” across events, grouped by the shooter’s race. The boxes show the interquartile range and the diamond an outlier.

- ▶ Partisan valence of “terrorist” and “crazy” flip depending on race of shooter (these words have the largest racial difference in the joint vocabulary).

# Partisan Framing Devices: Events

- ▶ Partisanship of keywords for previous events:



- ▶ Democrats invoke white shooters, Republicans invoke POC shooters.

## Affect (Emotions)

- ▶ Starting point: Emotion lexicon from Mohammad and Turney (2013), available at [saifmohammad.com](http://saifmohammad.com).
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**sadness** senseless, loss, tragedi, lost, devast, sad, love, griev, horrif, terribl, pain, violenc, condol, broken, hurt, feel, victim, mourn, horrifi, will, grief, ach, suffer, sick, kill, aw, sicken, evil, massacr, mad

**disgust** disgust, sick, shame, ignor, wrong, blame, hell, ridicul, idiot, murder, evil, coward, sicken, feel, disgrac, slaughter, action, bad, insan, attack, pathet, outrag, polit, terrorist, mad, damn, lose, shit, lie, asshol

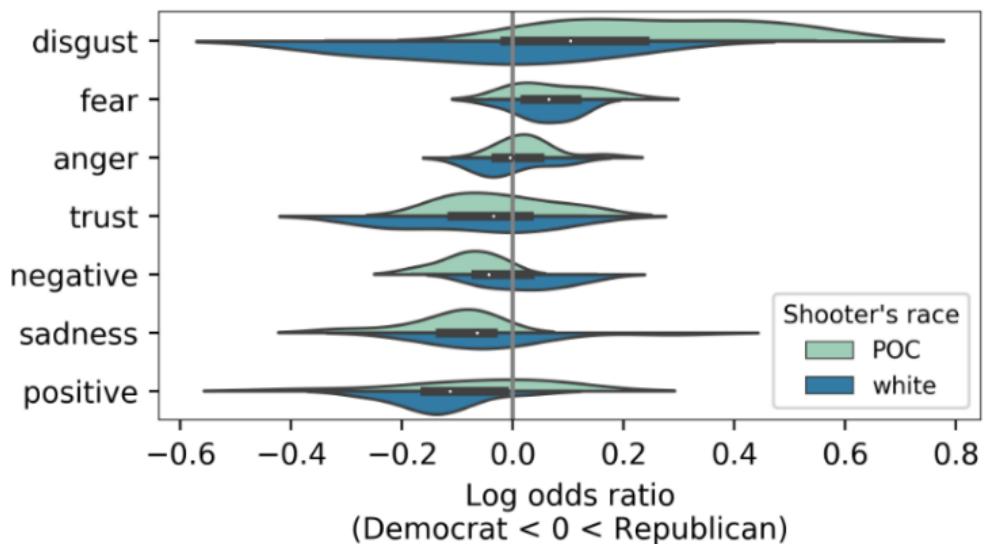
**anger** gun, will, murder, kill, violenc, wrong, shoot, bad, death, attack, feel, shot, action, arm, idiot, crazi, crimin, terrorist, mad, hell, crime, blame, fight, ridicul, insan, shit, die, threat, terror, hate

**fear** danger, threat, fear, arm, gun, still, shooter, attack, feel, fight, hide, murder, shot, shoot, bad, kill, chang, serious, violenc, forc, risk, defend, warn, govern, concern, fail, polic, wrong, case, terrorist

**trust** school, like, good, real, secur, show, nation, don, protect, call, teacher, help, law, great, save, true, wonder, respons, sad, answer, person, feel, safe, thought, continu, love, guard, church, fact, support

## Partisanship of Affect Categories

- ▶ Compute partisanship scores using affect-category counts:



- ▶ Disgust affect flips along partisan lines depending on race of shooter.

# Modality

This roller coaster debate **MUST STOP!** Sensible gun ownership is one thing but assault weapons massacre innocent lives. The savagery of gore at #Parkland was beyond belief & **must** be the last.

In times of tragedy **shouldn't** we all come together?! Prayers for those harmed in the #PlannedParenthood shooting.

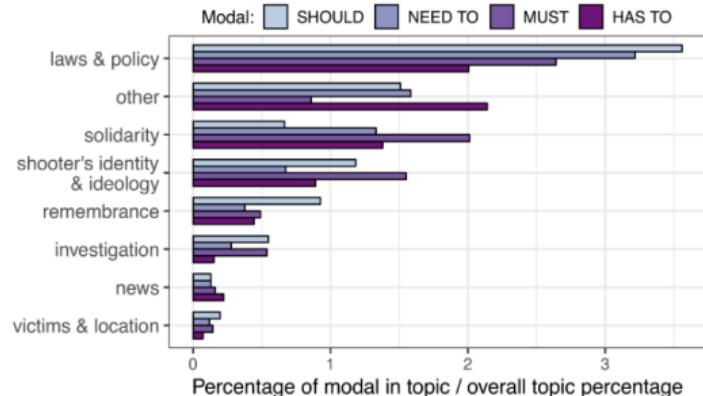
Communities **need to** step up and address white on white crime like the Las Vegas massacre. White men are out of control.

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Shooting cops is horrible, cannot be condoned. But **must be** understood these incidents are outgrowth of decades of police abuses. #BatonRouge

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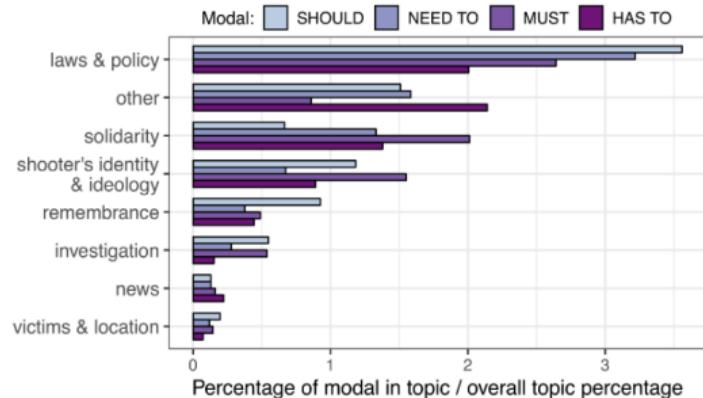
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- ▶ Democrats use modals more than Republicans; Republicans seem more fatalistic.

## Comments

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- ▶ For all outcomes, would help to compare to other types of events, and to show pre-trends.
  - ▶ there is no baseline for polarization for comparison.
  - ▶ they do not distinguish whether outcomes are driven by different people selecting into tweeting, vs within-user changes.

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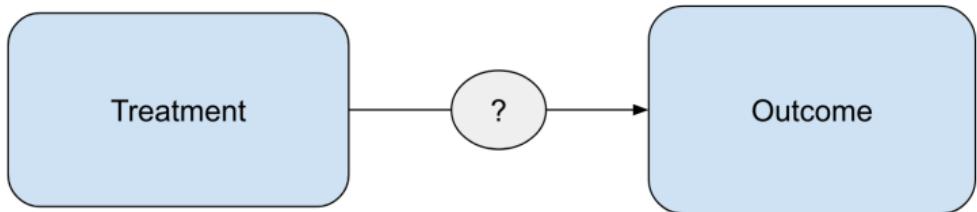
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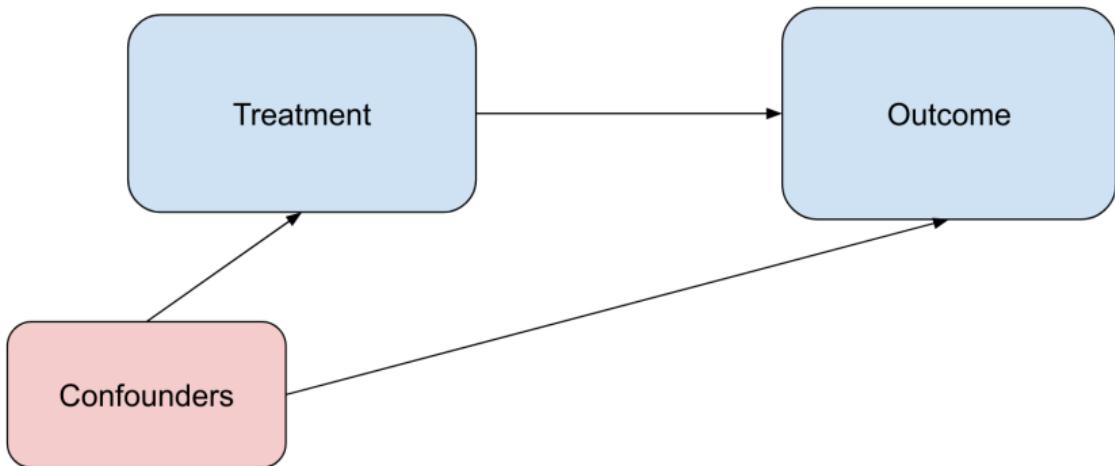
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  - ▶ e.g., variation in number of coronavirus cases before/after openings, using differences in the timing of openings (differences-in-differences).
- ▶ Google/Facebook understand the importance of causal inference with A/B testing; social scientists want to use it to assist public policy.

## Causal Graphs



- ▶ We are interested in estimating a causal effect (if any) of a “treatment” on an “outcome”.

- ▶ **Unobserved Confounders** are variables that affect both the treatment and the outcome, which we don't have in our dataset:



- ▶ **Observed confounders** are not a problem, because we can adjust (control) for them in causal inference analysis (that is, including them in a regression).

- ▶ **Reverse causation:** “the outcome” affects “the “treatment”.  
**Joint causation:** there is bidirectional causation.



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- ▶ e.g., effect of tax collections on economic growth.
- ▶ Resulting estimates are biased (not causal), and cannot be fixed by adjusting for observed confounders.

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- ▶ The gold standard: randomized control trials.
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- ▶ But hard to generalize what features drive differences.

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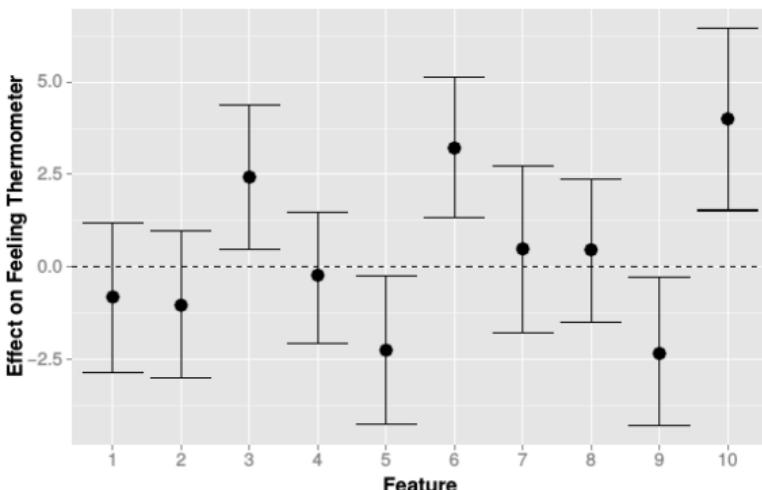
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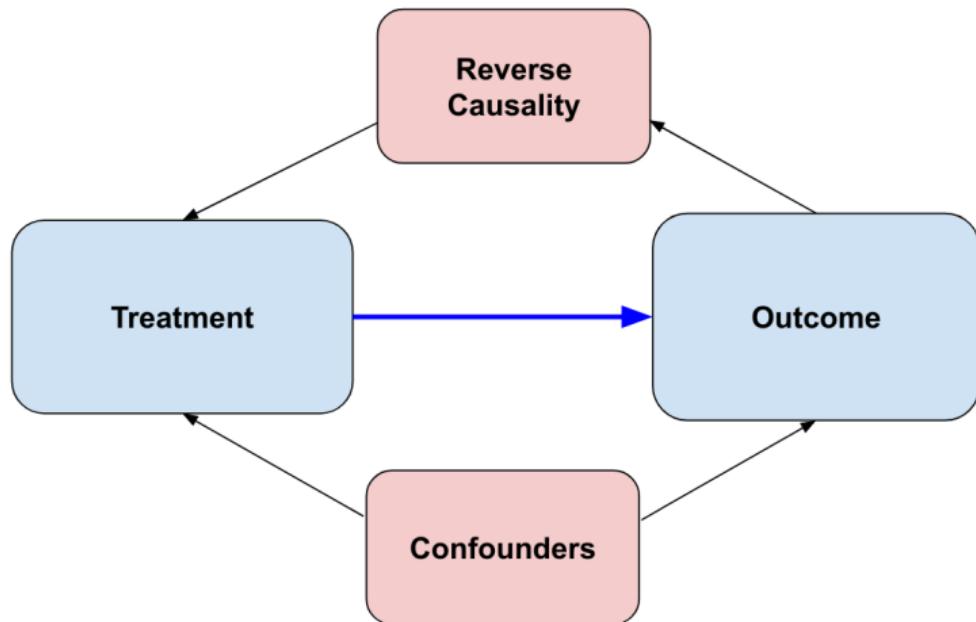
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## Fong and Grimmer (2016): Results

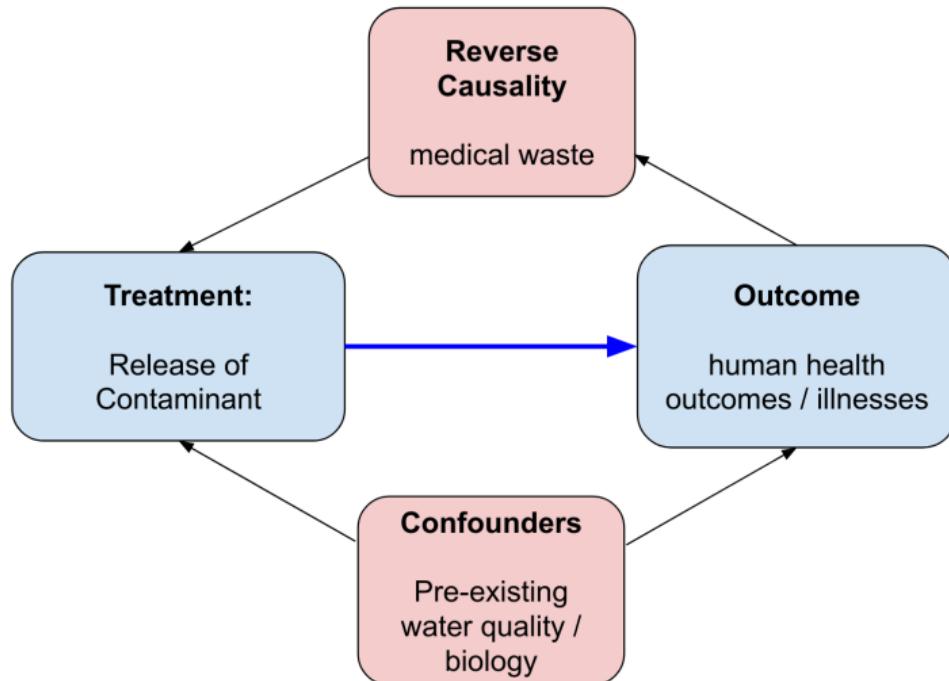
Treatment	Keywords
3	director, university, received, president, phd, policy
5	elected, house, democratic, seat
6	united_states, military, combat, rank
9	law, school_law, law_school, juris_doctor, student
10	war, enlisted, united_states, assigned, army



## Causal Graphs



## Causal Graph Example: Pollution of a River



## Activity: Practice with Causal Graphs

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- ▶ Link to causal graph template posted in zoom chat:
  - ▶ make a copy, fill it in
  - ▶ make your doc viewable and paste link into padlet (also in zoom chat).
  - ▶ will review these at beginning of next lecture.