

NLP THAT GOES BUMP
IN THE NIGHT

Noah Jaffe – Metis Project 4

A large, dark red blood splatter graphic is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the text. It features a central, irregular blotch with numerous smaller droplets and streaks radiating outwards, creating a sense of motion and horror.

“Horror is the art of going too far.”

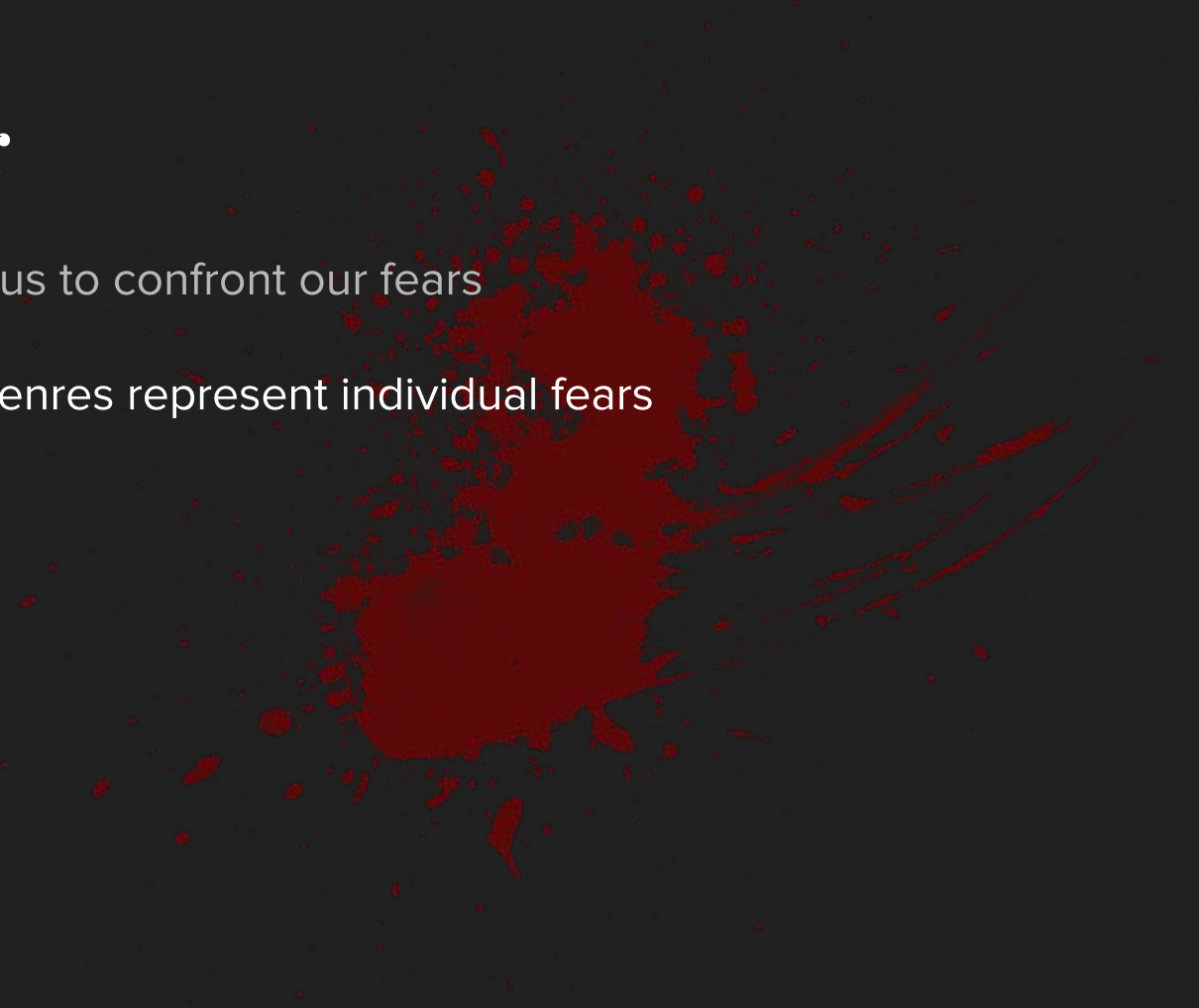
– Kim Newman

Context: horror

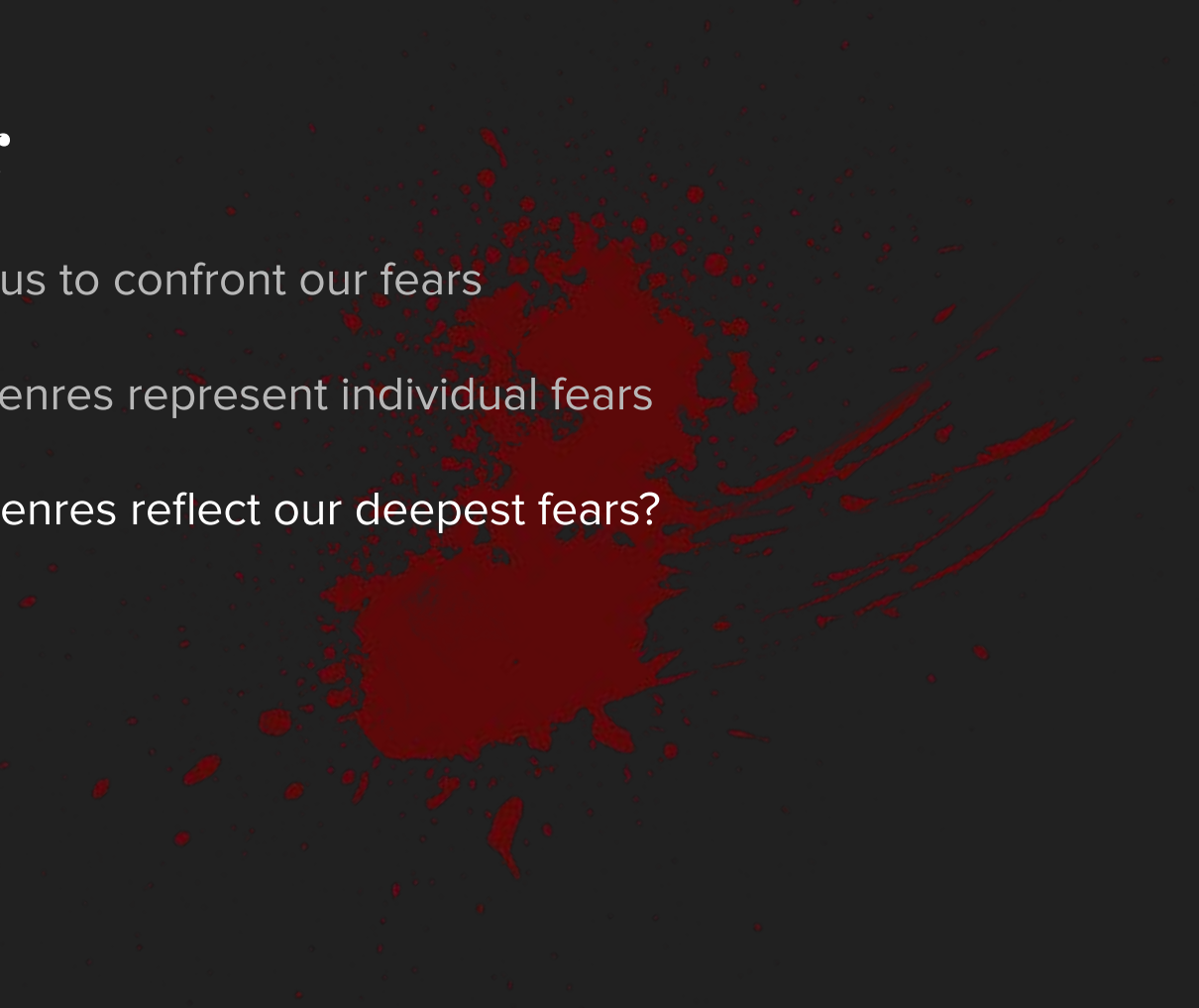
- Horror movies allow us to confront our fears



Context: horror

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 - Thus individual subgenres represent individual fears
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 - How will horror subgenres reflect our deepest fears?
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- Horror movies allow us to confront our fears
- Thus individual subgenres represent individual fears
- How will horror subgenres reflect our deepest fears?
- Can we describe these subgenres using what characters say?

Workflow overview

The background of the slide is a dark charcoal grey. It is decorated with several large, irregular splatters of a vibrant red color. These splatters are located in the upper right, lower left, and lower right areas of the slide, creating a dynamic and somewhat dramatic visual effect. The red color is a deep, slightly dark red, contrasting sharply with the dark background.

Workflow overview



Beautiful
Soup

Scrape

Workflow overview



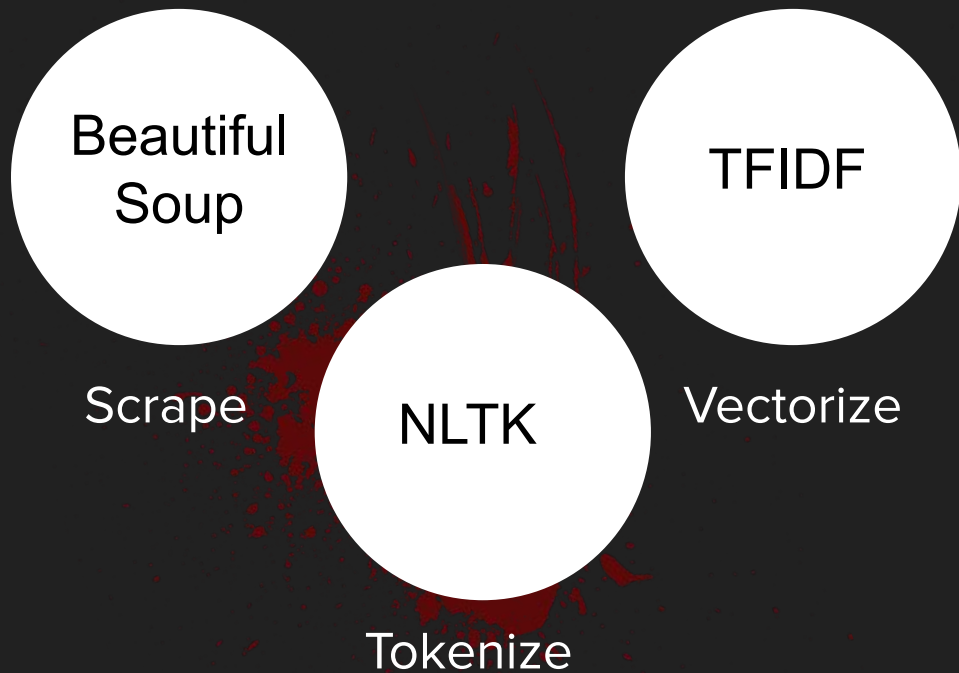
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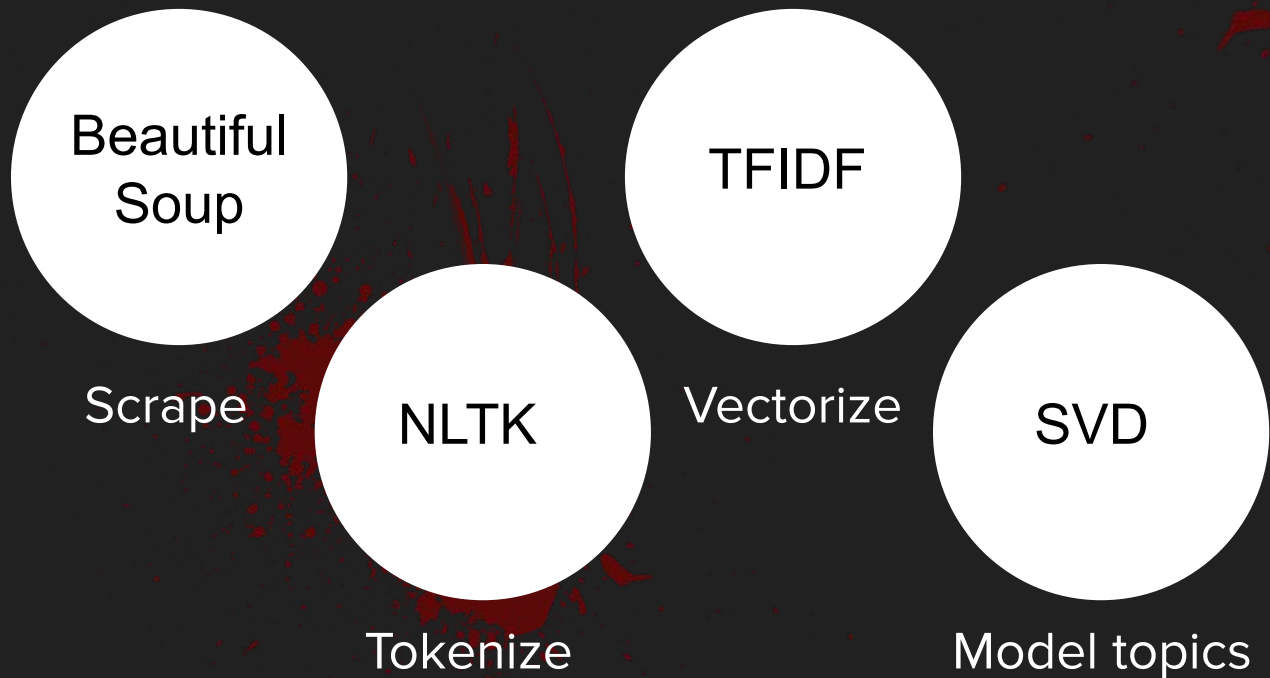
NLTK

Tokenize

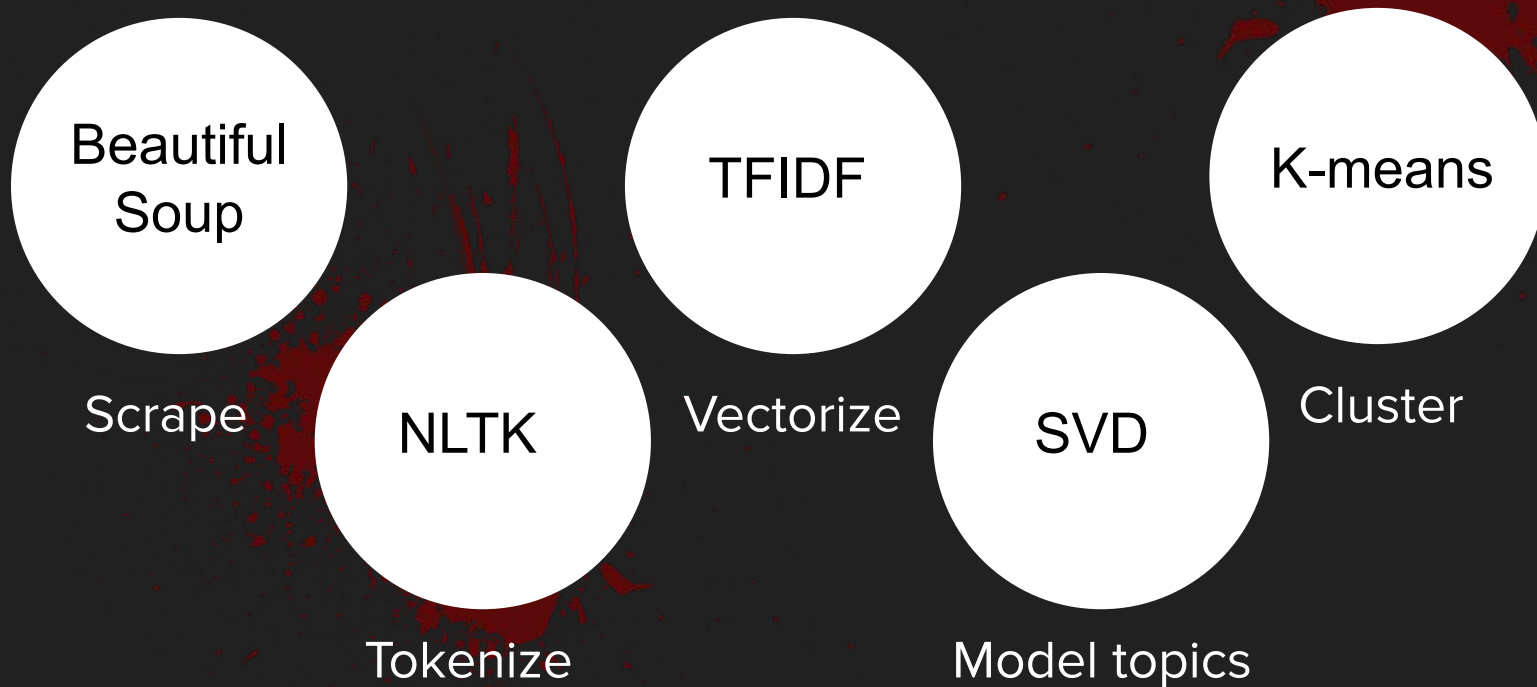
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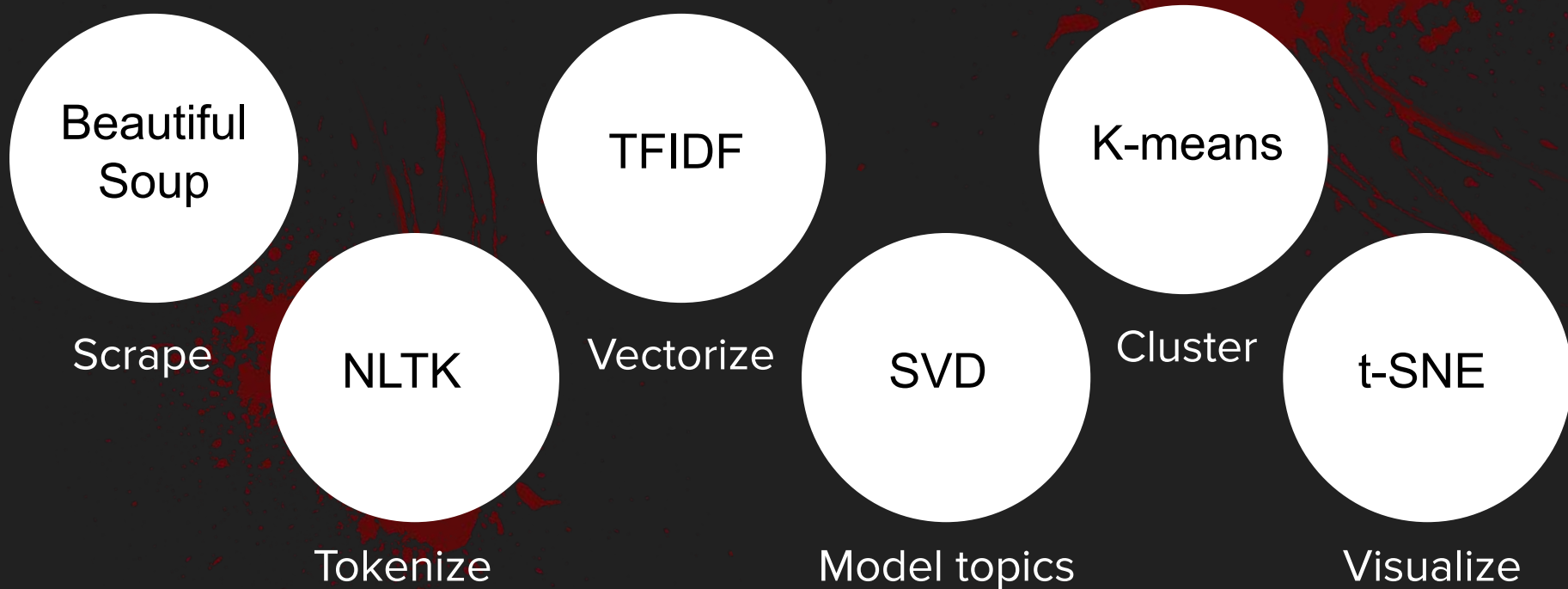
Workflow overview



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Workflow overview



Topic interpretation

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

Topic 4

Topic 5

Topic 6



Topic interpretation

Topic 1

['room' 'door' 'window' 'floor' 'bed']

Topic 2

['candlelight' 'vanish' 'torment' 'fiend' 'mansion' 'hooded']

Topic 3

['hull' 'orbit' 'generator' 'laser' 'pilot' 'cockpit' 'sensor']

Topic 4

['neck' 'hang' 'ground' 'leg' 'follows' 'bed' 'scream' 'talking']

Topic 5

['attacked' 'mangled' 'rabid' 'growl' 'devoured' 'maggot']

Topic 6

['executive' 'swim' 'fisherman' 'lamb' 'harbor' 'ant']

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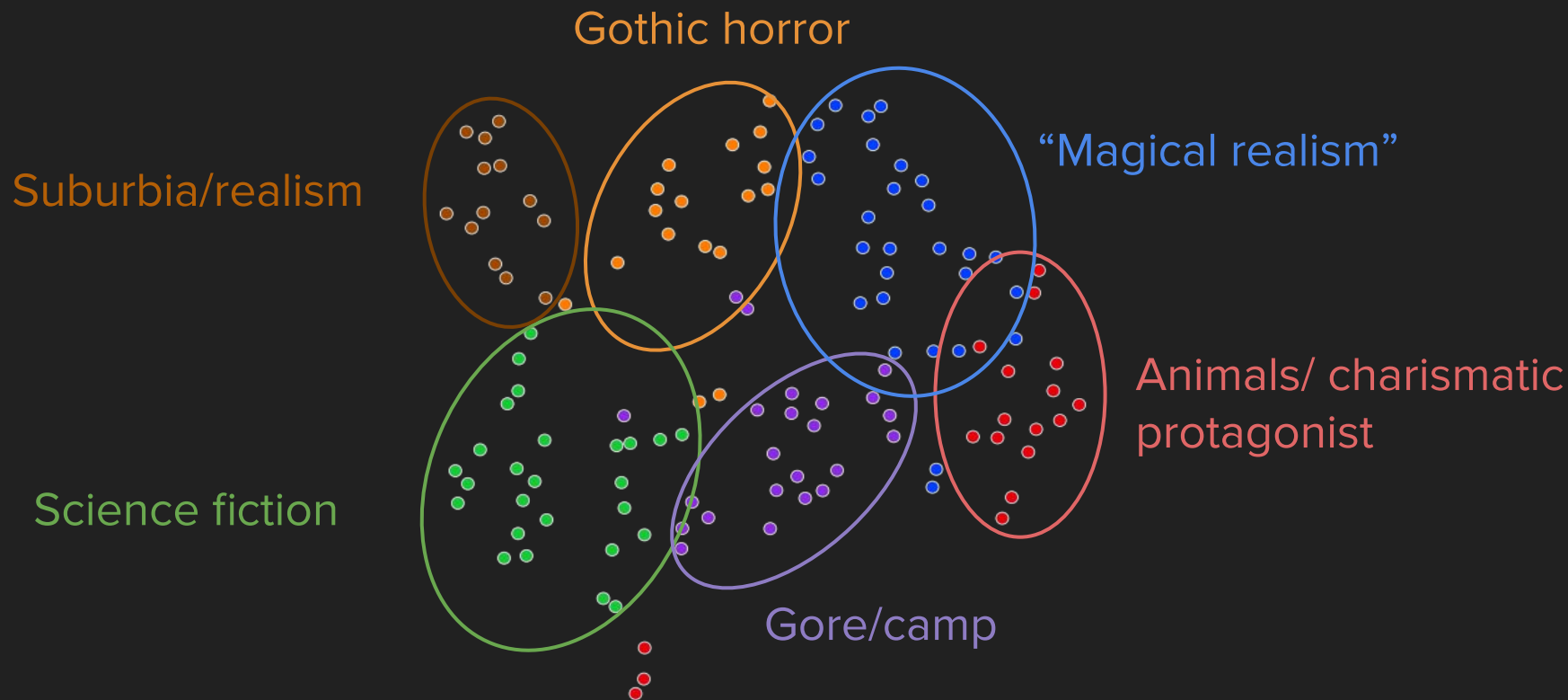
Topic 5

Gore, camp, people being eaten

Topic 6

Animals, central charismatic protagonist

t-SNE visualization of 6-topic SVD space; clusters as colors



“Archetypal” movies

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“Archetypical” movies

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<https://theabominabledrwelsh.blog/2020/04/15/elm-street-freddy-krueger-iconic-death-scenes/>,
<https://www.economist.com/books-and-arts/2020/04/25/the-shining-is-perfect-quarantine-viewing>,
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<http://thehorrorsyndicate.com/2016/11/retro-review-hellraiser-iii-hell-on-earth-1992/>

“Archetypal” movies

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<https://www.nme.com/news/interview-vampire-tv-show-begin-filming-later-year-2458489>,
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<https://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/24/books/review/Genzlinger-t.html>, <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1259571/>

“Archetypal” movies

Topic 1

Science fiction horror

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“Archetypal” movies

Topic 1

Topic 2

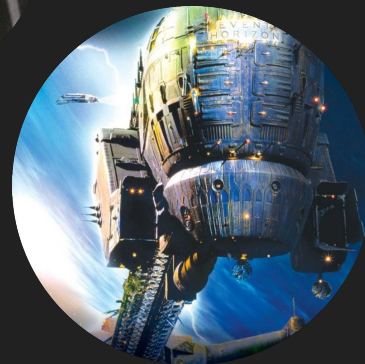
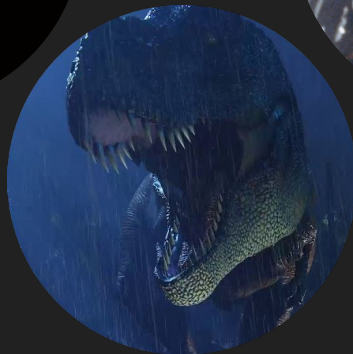
Topic 3

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Science fiction horror



<https://www.looper.com/113645/alien-movie-ranked-worst-best/>,
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<https://www.empireonline.com/movies/features/event-horizon-cult-horror-turns-20/>

“Archetypal” movies

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<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/whats-on/film-news/sir-anthony-hopkins-reveals-scary-12079267>,
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<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/films/0/pet-sematary-review-poor-stephen-king-remake-full-tasteless/>

“Archetypical” movies

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Gore, camp, people being eaten

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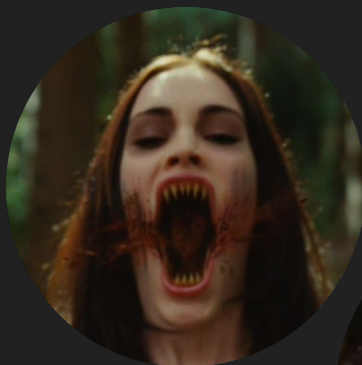
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<https://bigpicturefilmclub.com/was-it-really-that-bad-jennifers-body/>,

<https://www.digitalspy.com/movies/a28866233/it-chapter-2-director-potential-pennywise-movie/>,

<https://www.amazon.com/Grabbers-Richard-Coyle/dp/B00EMAGIKU>,

<https://www.warnerbros.com/movies/eight-legged-freaks>

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Animals, central charismatic protagonist

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<https://www.birdnote.org/listen/shows/hitchcocks-movie-birds>,
<https://www.amazon.com/27-40-Sweeney-Todd-Barber/dp/B01GDPAZKK>

Takeaways

- Topics reflect human fears: death, uncertainty, intrusion, madness

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 - Established tropes rather than “topical” horror

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 - Established tropes rather than “topical” horror
- Project limitations:
 - Scripts != descriptions of events/themes
 - Project scope - many more tools to explore

A photograph of Tom Hanks standing between two people dressed as David S. Pumpkins. Tom Hanks is in the center, smiling and clapping his hands. He is wearing a black suit jacket with a repeating pattern of orange and yellow jack-o'-lanterns. The two people on either side of him are wearing black hooded jumpsuits with white ribcage and spine details, white face paint with black eye sockets, and a large, spiky, orange wig. They have their arms crossed and are looking towards the camera with wide, toothy grins. The background is dark and out of focus.

Any questions?