

PSC 400

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

DATA ANALYTICS FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE

TEXT AS DATA

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Problem Set 5 due today**
- **Data Analysis Memo 5 due on Friday**

TEXT AS DATA

T H E
F E D E R A L I S T :
A C O L L E C T I O N
O F
E S S A Y S ,
WRITTEN IN FAVOUR OF THE
NEW CONSTITUTION,
AS AGREED UPON BY THE FEDERAL CONVENTION.
SEPTEMBER 17, 1787.
IN TWO VOLUMES .
VOL. I.
NEW - YORK:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY J. AND A. MCLEAN,
No. 41, HANOVER-SQUARE.
M, DCC, LXXXVIII

The Federalist

ADDRESSED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The Federalist, I (HAMILTON)

Introduction

AFTER an unequivocal experience of the inefficacy of the subsisting federal government, you are called upon to deliberate on a new Constitution for the United States of America. The subject speaks its own importance; comprehending in its consequences nothing less than the existence of the UNION, the safety and welfare of the parts of which it is composed, the fate of an empire in many respects the most interesting in the world. It has been frequently remarked that it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force. If there be any truth in the remark, the crisis at which we are arrived may with propriety be regarded as the era in which that decision is to be made; and a wrong election of the part we shall act may, in this view, deserve to be considered as the general misfortune of mankind.

This idea will add the inducements of philanthropy to those of patriotism, to heighten the solicitude which all considerate and good men must feel for the event. Happy will it be if our choice should be directed by a judicious estimate of our true interests, unperplexed and unbiased by considerations not connected with the public good. But this is a thing more ardently to be wished than seriously to be expected. The plan offered to our deliberations affects too many particular interests, innovates upon too many local institutions, not to involve in its discussion a variety of objects foreign to its merits, and of views, passions, and prejudices little favorable to the discovery of truth.

Among the most formidable of the obstacles which the new Constitution will have to encounter may readily be distinguished the obvious interest of a certain class of men in every State to resist all

TEXT AS DATA

- **Some questions about Federalist Papers**
 - What are the topics of the different papers about?
 - The authorship of some of the papers is disputed.
Who wrote them?

TEXT AS DATA

- **“Bag-of-words” approach**
 - **Idea: We can learn about a text by focusing on the frequency of occurrence of words**
 - **Disregards word order, grammar**

DATA

Table 5.1. *The Federalist Papers* Data.

AFTER an unequivocal experience of the inefficiency
of the subsisting federal government, you are called
upon to deliberate on a new Constitution for the
United States of America.

⋮

This shall accordingly constitute the subject of my next
address.

Note: The data consists of the raw text of each of 85 essays in *The Federalist Papers*. The first and last sentences of *The Federalist Paper* no. 1 appear here as an example.

- **federalist.zip**