

Hello, tech journalists!



Goodreads Introduces Netflix-Style
Book Recommendations

What Book Should You Read Next? Putting Librarians And Algorithms To The Test

Amazon: Jeff Bezos' juggernaut began
with a recommender system that
launched a thousand algorithms

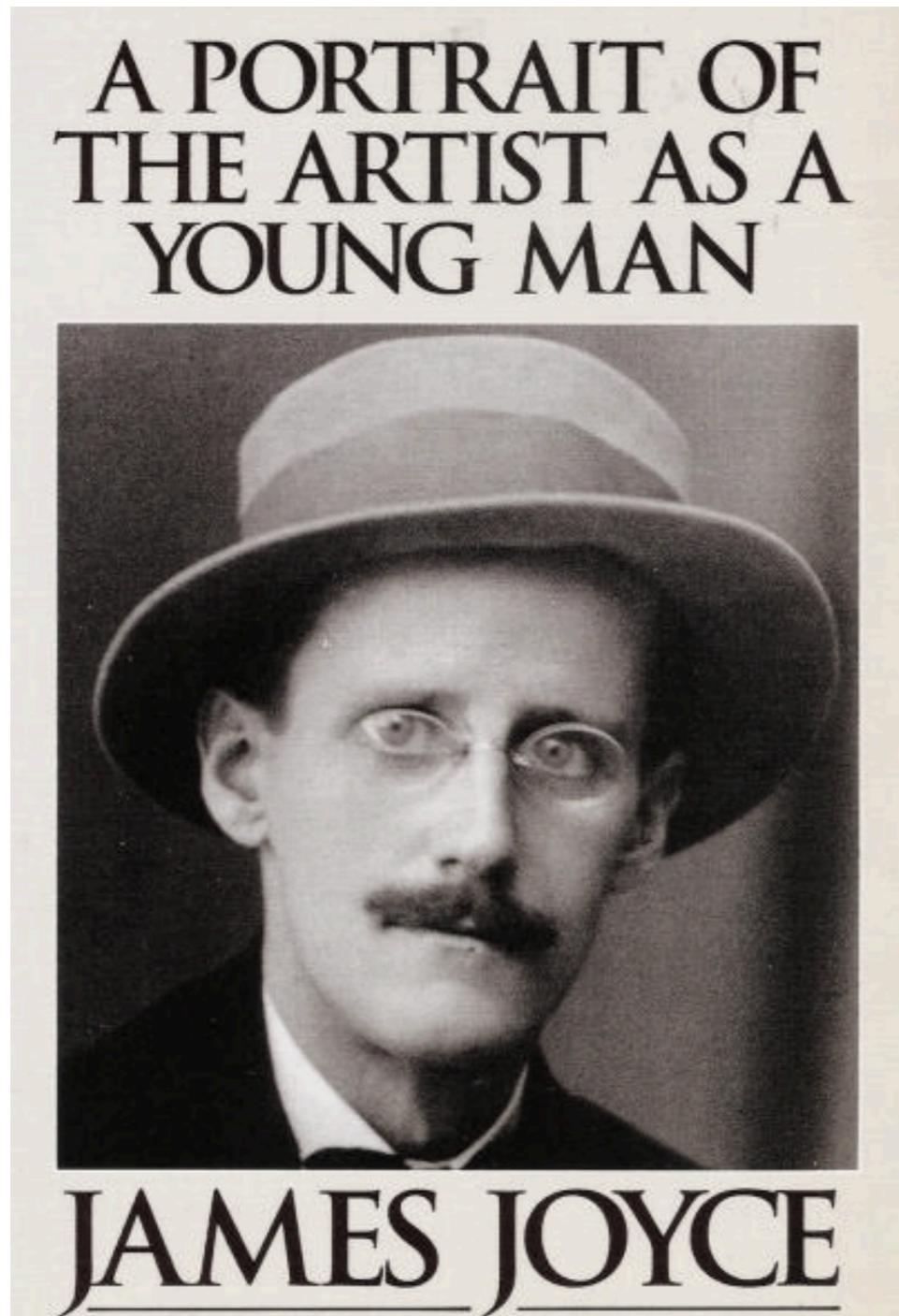
HOW RECOMMENDATION ALGORITHMS RUN THE WORLD

So many breathless headlines.

How good are the algorithms getting?

Can an algorithm really *read* a book?

Words into numbers: a pattern to discern



Chapter 1
small child

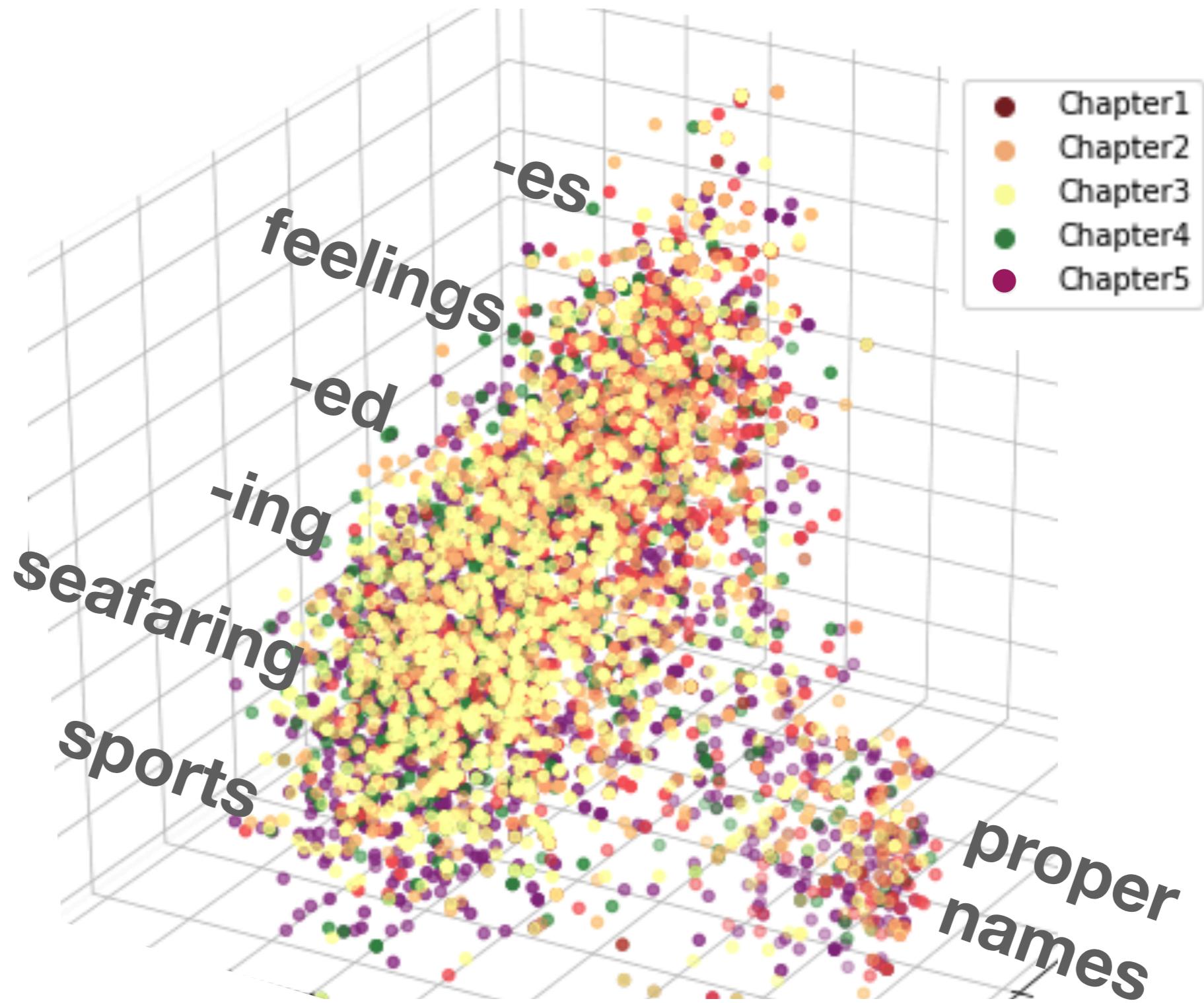
Chapter 2
fluent older child

Chapter 3
angsty teen

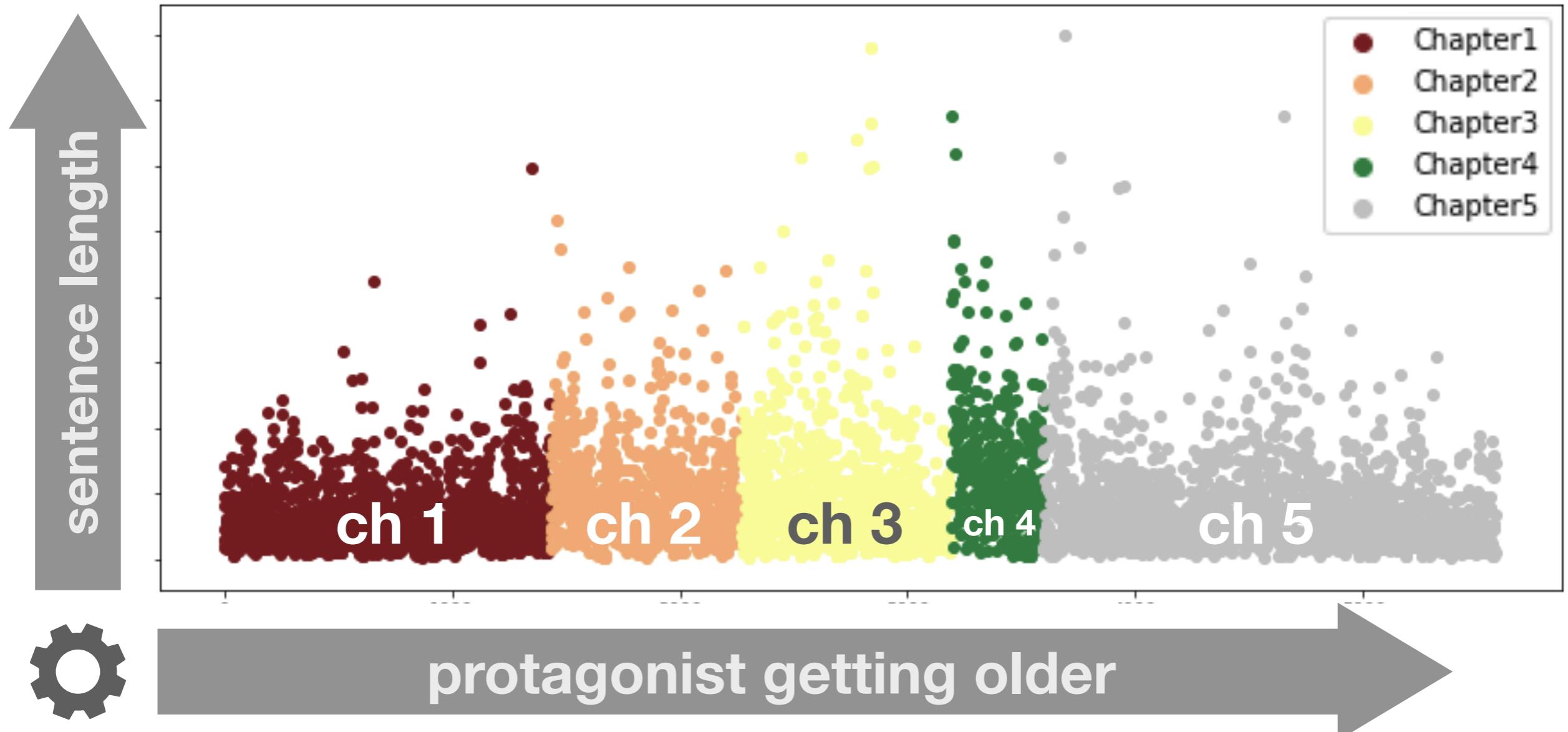
Chapter 4
very religious

Chapter 5
confident adult

Words as numbers across ‘space’



Words as numbers across ‘time’



Putting chapter to sentence

Chapter 1
small child



Chapter 2
fluent older child



Chapter 3
angsty teen



Chapter 4
very religious



Chapter 5
confident adult

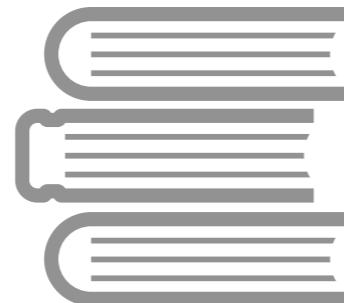


Avg accuracy: 50%



Temper your enthusiasm

**Book recommendation
algorithms work well for
boosting sales.**



**Probably won't become
useful for detecting
subtleties in literature.**

Based on your
purchase of:

