

# cities4me

Div Vats

# Which cities should I visit?



# Which cities should I visit?



# Overview of Algorithm

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North America > United States of America > Mid-Atlantic > New York (state) > Metro New York > New York City



New York City is a *huge city* with several *district* articles that contain information about specific sights, restaurants, and accommodation.

One of the world's great cities, **New York City** (also referred to as "New York", "NYC", or "The Big Apple") is a global center for media, entertainment, art, fashion, research, finance, and trade. The bustling, cosmopolitan heart of the 4th largest metropolis in the world and by far the most populous city in the United States, New York has long been a key entry point and a defining city for the nation.

From the Statue of Liberty in the harbor to the Empire State Building towering over the Manhattan skyline, from the tunnels of the subway to the skyscrapers of Wall Street, from the bright signs of Times Square to the naturalistic beauty of Central Park, and from Yankee Stadium in the Bronx to Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York's landmarks are quintessential American landmarks. The city's neighborhoods and streets are so iconic they have become ingrained into the American consciousness. Here the power, wealth and culture of the United States is on full display in one of the largest and most iconic skylines in the world, in the food and music to be found around every corner, and in the diverse population of immigrants who come from every corner of the globe to take part in what this city has to offer.

Lying at the mouth of the Hudson River in the southernmost part of the state of the same name and at the center of the Mid-Atlantic region, New York City has a population of approximately 8.2 million people. The New York Metropolitan Area, which spans lower New York, northern New Jersey, and southwestern Connecticut, has a population of 18.9 million, making it the largest



Manhattan skyline

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**New York City**  
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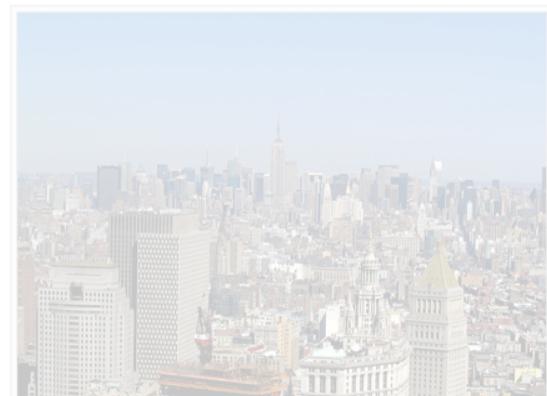
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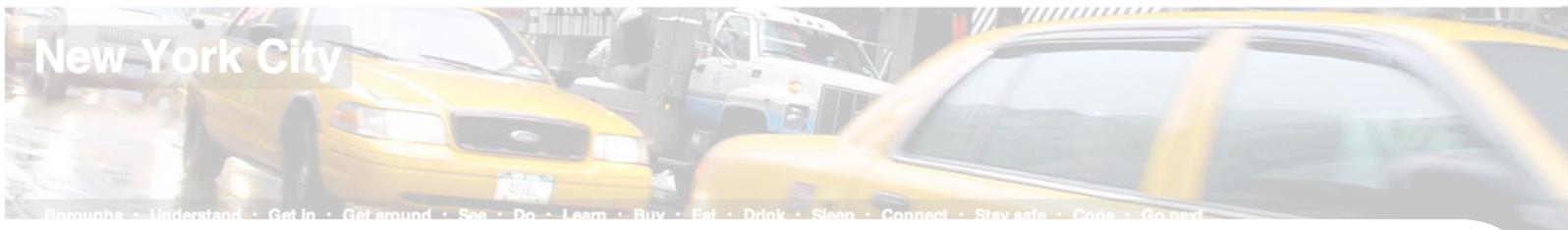
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Extracted data from 8294 guide books  
from cities all over the world



“beach”



# “beach” and  
“related words”



Ranked list  
of cities

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nontrivial

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# Topic Modeling: Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)



⋮



LDA

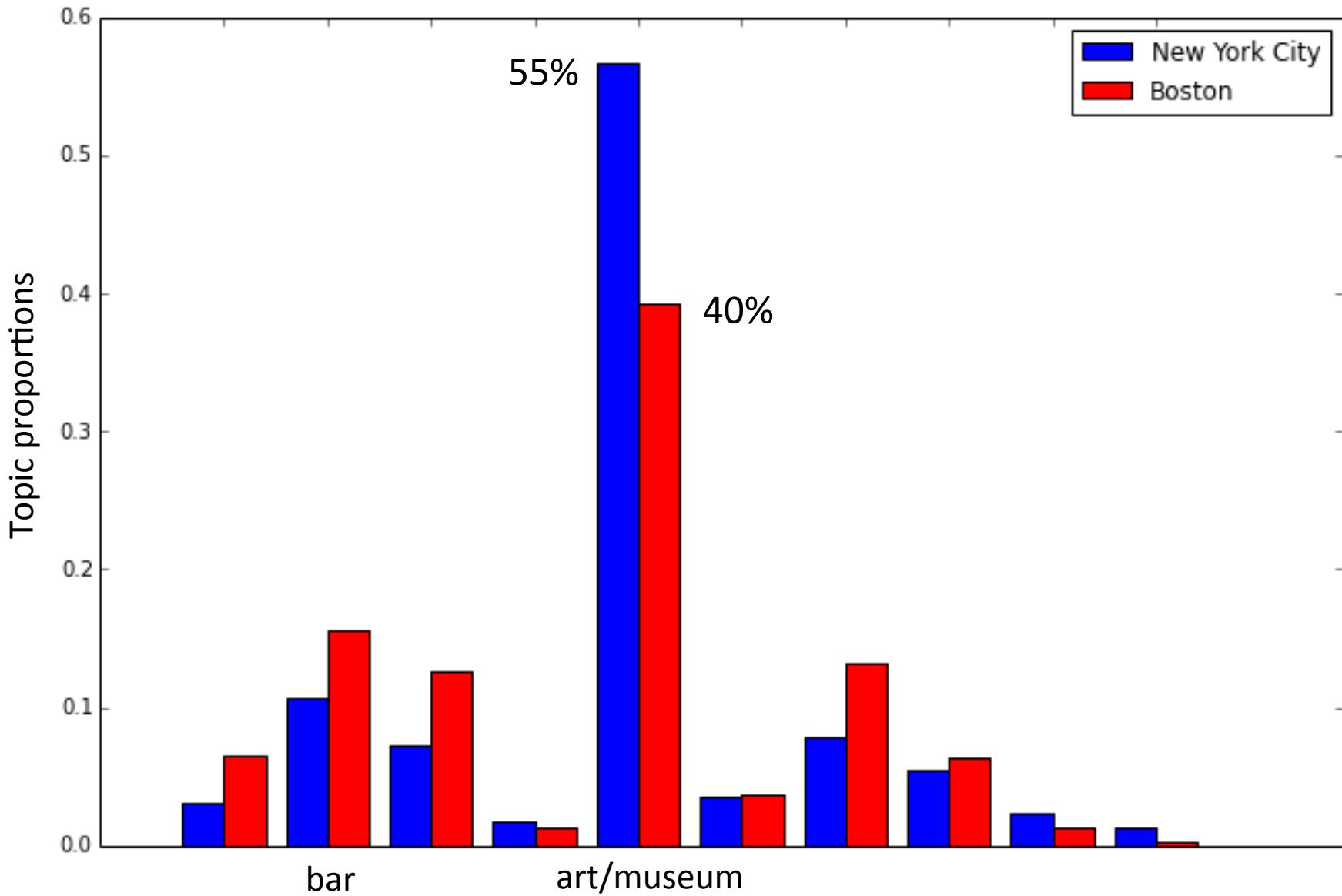


- 1 beach island boat sea water dive
- 2 town centre pub walk house open
- 3 park golf state center trail open
- 4 temple place park large famous
- 5 art museum park center building
- 6 bar night beer music club drink
- 7 local walk tour good small hour
- 8 church museum century building
- 9 museum town place open wine
- 10 lake mountain river trail hike town

$$P(\text{word}) = \sum_{k=1}^K P(\text{word}|T_k)P(T_k)$$

guide books

# LDA allows us to compare cities!



# Main Algorithm

“beach”

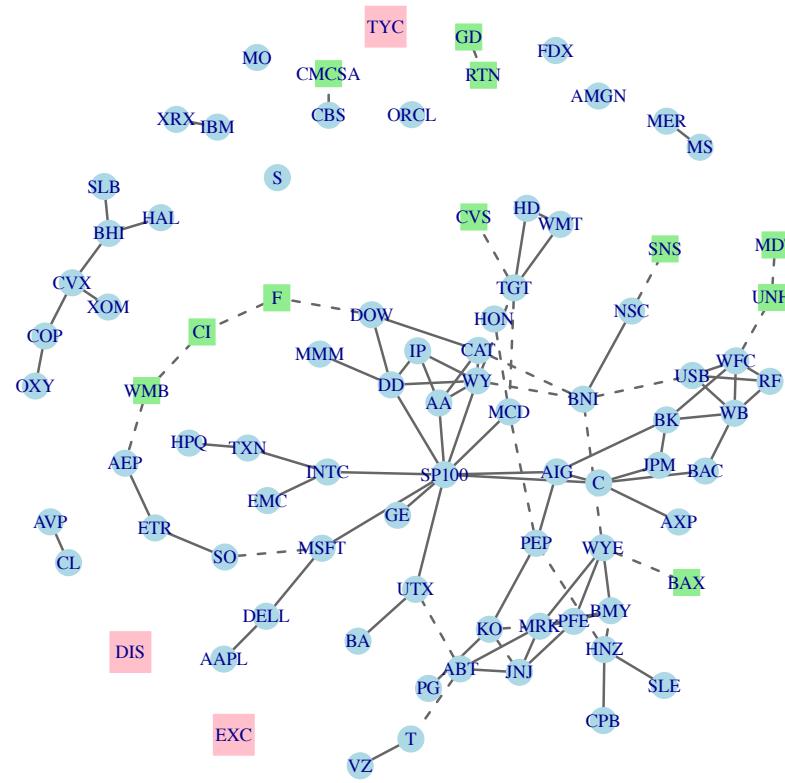
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$$(\#\text{words}) \sum_{k=1}^K P(\text{beach}|T_k)P(T_k) + (\#\text{beach})$$

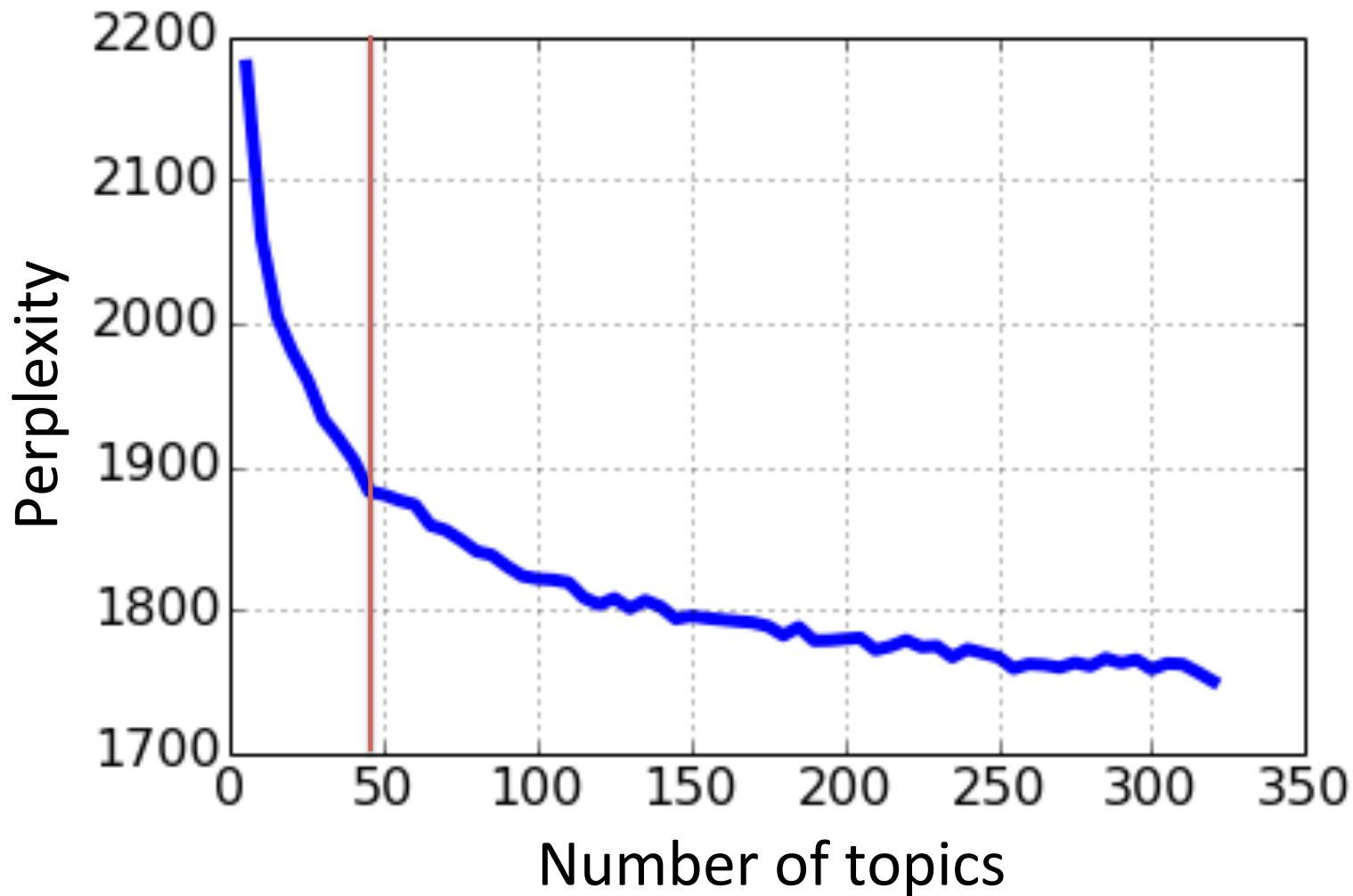
# Div Vats

## Machine Learning Research @ CMU and Rice

- 1) Graphical models
- 2) Sparse regression
- 3) Machine Learning for personalized education



# Selecting Number of Topics



# Handling Multiple Keywords

City	Rank (beach)	Rank (snorkeling)	Score (combined)	Final Rank
Sydney	1	2	3	1
San Diego	2	3	5	2
San Francisco	3	4	7	4
Mykonos	4	5	9	5
Cozumal	5	1	6	3



Your  
Interests

e.g., beach, hiking, bar

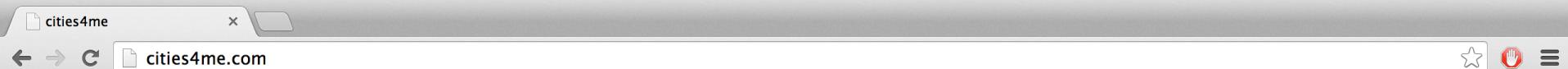
Favorite  
Cities

e.g., New York City, Prague

Destination  
Region(s)

e.g., New York, Europe

Discover Cities!



Name	Country	Top Keywords
Sydney	Australia	park beach walk harbour bay
Boracay	Philippines	beach station cave island bar
Nusa Lembongan	Indonesia	dive beach island nusa bali
Pattaya	Thailand	bar beach soi show beer
Padang Bai	Indonesia	beach dive bar friendly good
Nha Trang	Vietnam	dive beach bar dong pool
El Gouna	Egypt	dive gouna beach spa centre
Lovina	Indonesia	beach dive massage bali spa

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL "cities4me.com" in the address bar. The page has a dark header with the text "cities4me". Below the header is a search form with three input fields: "Your Interests" containing "beach, snorkeling, spa, massage", "Favorite Cities" containing "e.g., New York City, Prague", and "Destination Region(s)" containing "e.g., New York, Europe". A blue "Discover Cities!" button is centered below the inputs. The main content area displays a table of travel destinations with columns for Name, Country, and Top Keywords. The table includes rows for Sydney (Australia), Boracay (Philippines), Nusa Lembongan (Indonesia), Pattaya (Thailand), Padang Bai (Indonesia), Nha Trang (Vietnam), El Gouna (Egypt), and Lovina (Indonesia). The row for Boracay is highlighted with a red border. The background of the page is a scenic photograph of a beach with clear blue water and white sand under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Name	Country	Top Keywords
Sydney	Australia	park beach walk harbour bay
Boracay	Philippines	beach station cave island bar
Nusa Lembongan	Indonesia	dive beach island nusa bali
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**Boracay** is a tropical island about an hour's flight from [Manila](#) in the [Philippines](#). It has superb long white sand beaches, as good as any anywhere, and is one of the country's most developed tourist destinations.

Facilities are available to suit different levels of activity. For those wanting to just lounge around and take in some rays, beach-front hotels usually have lounge chairs set up just a few steps away from the hotel entrances. Facilities for the usual water sports activities such as sailing, wind surfing, snorkeling, diving and jet skiing are also widely available for those in search of more active pursuits. The fun in Boracay also doesn't end when the sun sets. Boracay nightlife is pulsating with many bars and restaurants serving food, drink and fun until the very late evening.

Boracay is an excellent choice for anyone who wants a full range of facilities in a prime tropical location and can pay for it. However, it is not a good bet for bargain hunters; prices are relatively high by Philippines standards, though moderate by Japanese or Western standards and lower than many places in the [Mediterranean](#), [Caribbean](#) or [South Pacific](#).

## Understand [edit]

### Areas [edit]

White Beach is divided into five areas:

- **Area 1** — Boracay Terraces (north) to Willy's Rock
- **Area 2** — From Willy's Rock to Red Coconut Resort

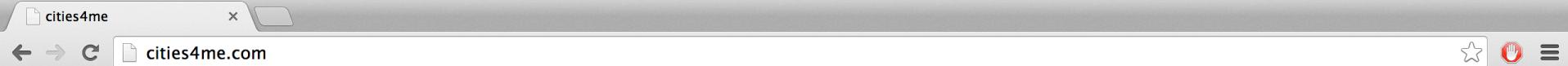


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