

## Computer Science 4140, Assignment 1

The genres that I have chosen are: science fiction, fiction, adventure, news, and mystery. I chose science fiction as a focus point and to find the relation of science fiction to the other genres. I chose fiction to see how closely related it would be to the science fiction since they are both fictional texts. I had the thought that adventure may well be related to science fiction because science fiction often has adventurous characteristics. Mystery and news were my 'wildcards'.

I started my selection of words with my guesses of what would occur in a science fiction text. I found that most of the words occurred less in the science fiction text than the others. One of the words I chose was ship. Ship occurred a significant amount more in science fiction than the others. I began to question what kind of ship was in the text. The possibilities I came up with are that it could be a space ship, a sea boat, or the act of shipping something. I tried several words to find what form of ship that it was. I found that water occurred 7 times but without knowing how close to the word ship it was, I couldn't determine if they were related. Send occurred 2 times but the same idea applies. My final thought on the meaning of 'ship' was that it was used similar to "ship the <some object>".

I found that news was an interesting genre when thinking of the amount of times a genre uses a specific word. 'today' occurred more often in news as I thought it would be. 'job' and 'jobs' were both found commonly in news. 'job' was found in adventure and mystery at about the same frequency but 'jobs' was found only mainly in news. This made me think about why would this occur but I could not make a good question or conclusion.

In conclusion, I find that it is hard to use only a frequency distribution to find the meaning of a word in a text. Also, the word may have been used in all forms (sea ship, space ship, and to ship something) but without more information I could not determine which was used or which was more commonly used. If I could find the words that occur before and after each use of ship then I could find a more accurate guess of the word use in context. I also found that when finding the frequency of a word, it is important to use different tenses of the word.