

Natural Language Processing

Review of applications and opportunities for IEG

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POLL: How familiar are you with NLP?

1. I have never heard of it
2. I have heard about it but I don't know what it is
3. I am familiar with NLP but not a practitioner
4. I have worked in projects that use NLP
5. I am an expert in NLP

What is Natural Language Processing (NLP)?

Information Retrieval



Sentiment Analysis



Information Extraction



Machine Translation



Natural Language Processing

Question Answering



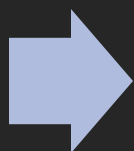
Human: When was Apollo sent to space?

Machine: First flight - AS-201, February 26, 1966

Basic NLP Workflow



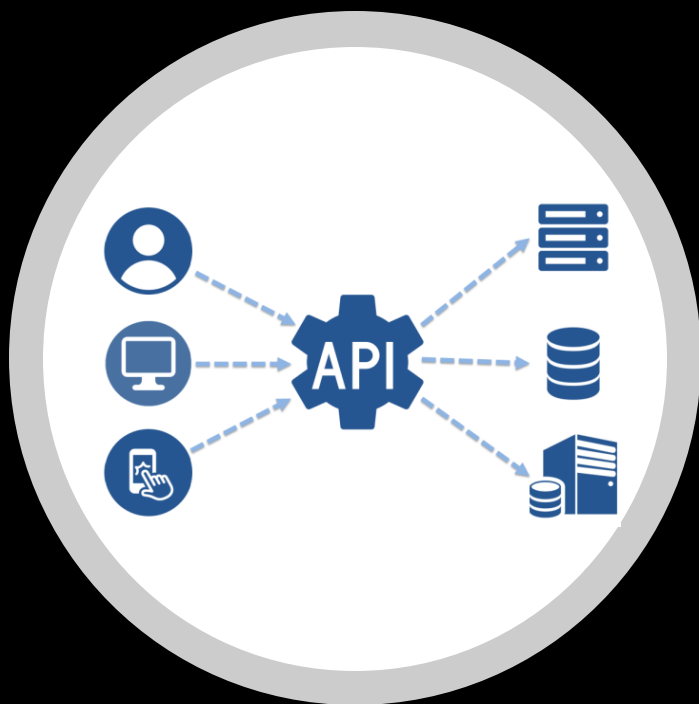
Data
acquisition



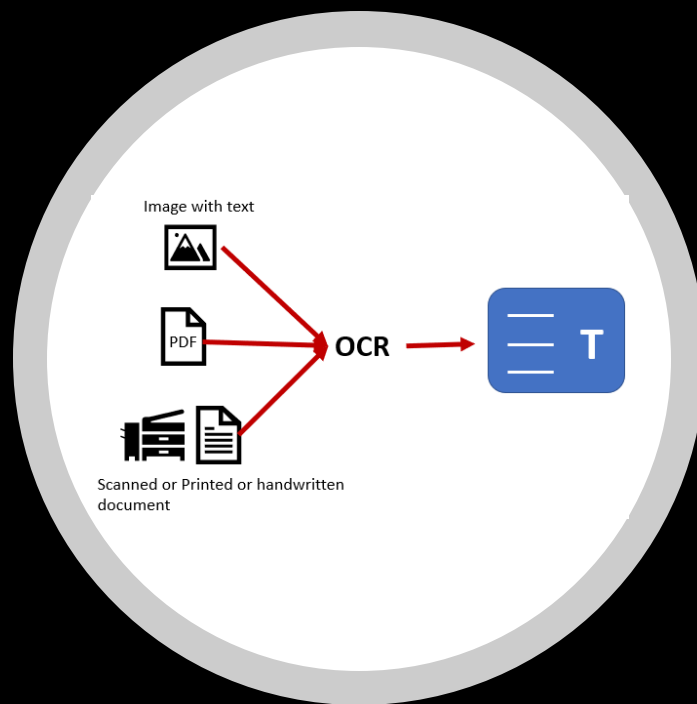
Text processing
and cleaning



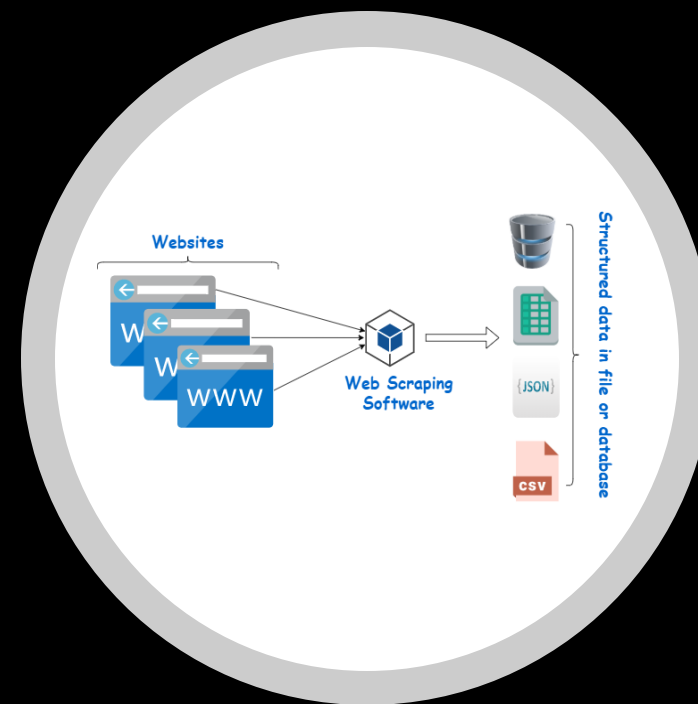
Model building,
evaluation, and
iteration



API scraping



Document parsing



Web scraping

Data acquisition

| Raw | Lowercased |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Canada Canada CANADA | canada |
| TOMCAT Tomcat toMcat | tomcat |

Lowercase text

| Raw | Normalized |
|--|------------|
| 2moro 2mrrw 2morrow 2mrw tomrw | tomorrow |
| b4 | before |
| otw | on the way |
| :) :-) ;-) | smile |

Token normalization

| text-word | to | lemma |
|-----------|----|----------|
| help | | help (v) |
| helps | | help (v) |
| helping | | help (v) |
| helped | | help (v) |

Word lemmatization

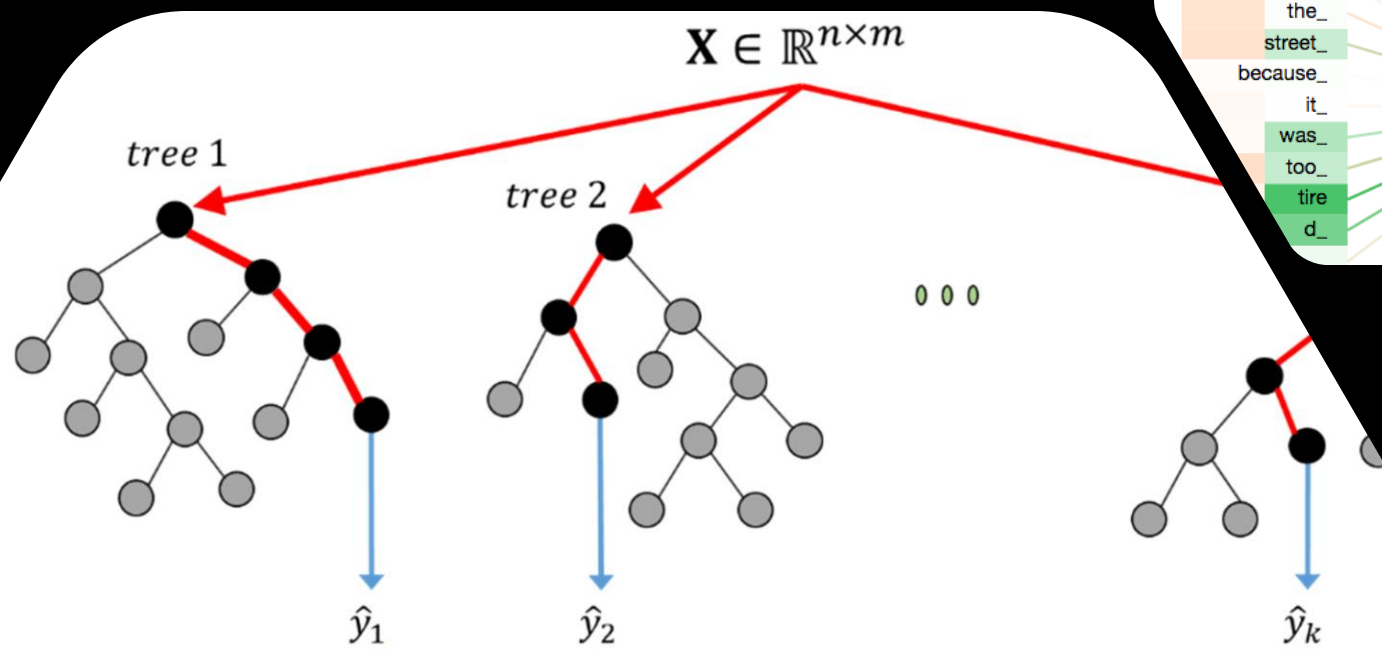


Stopwords removal

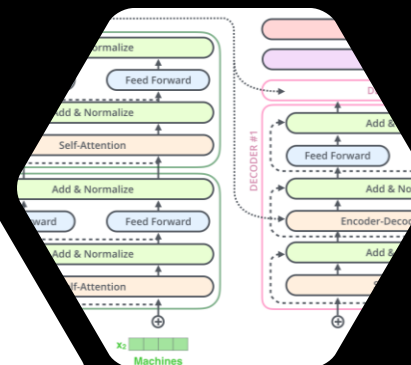
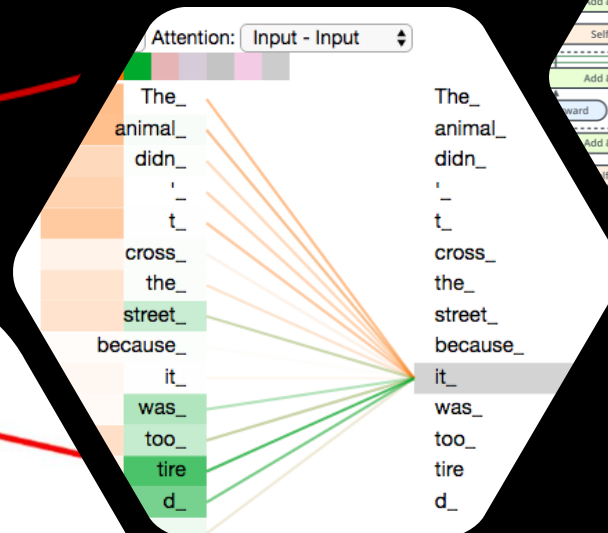
Basic text processing and cleaning

Training Data

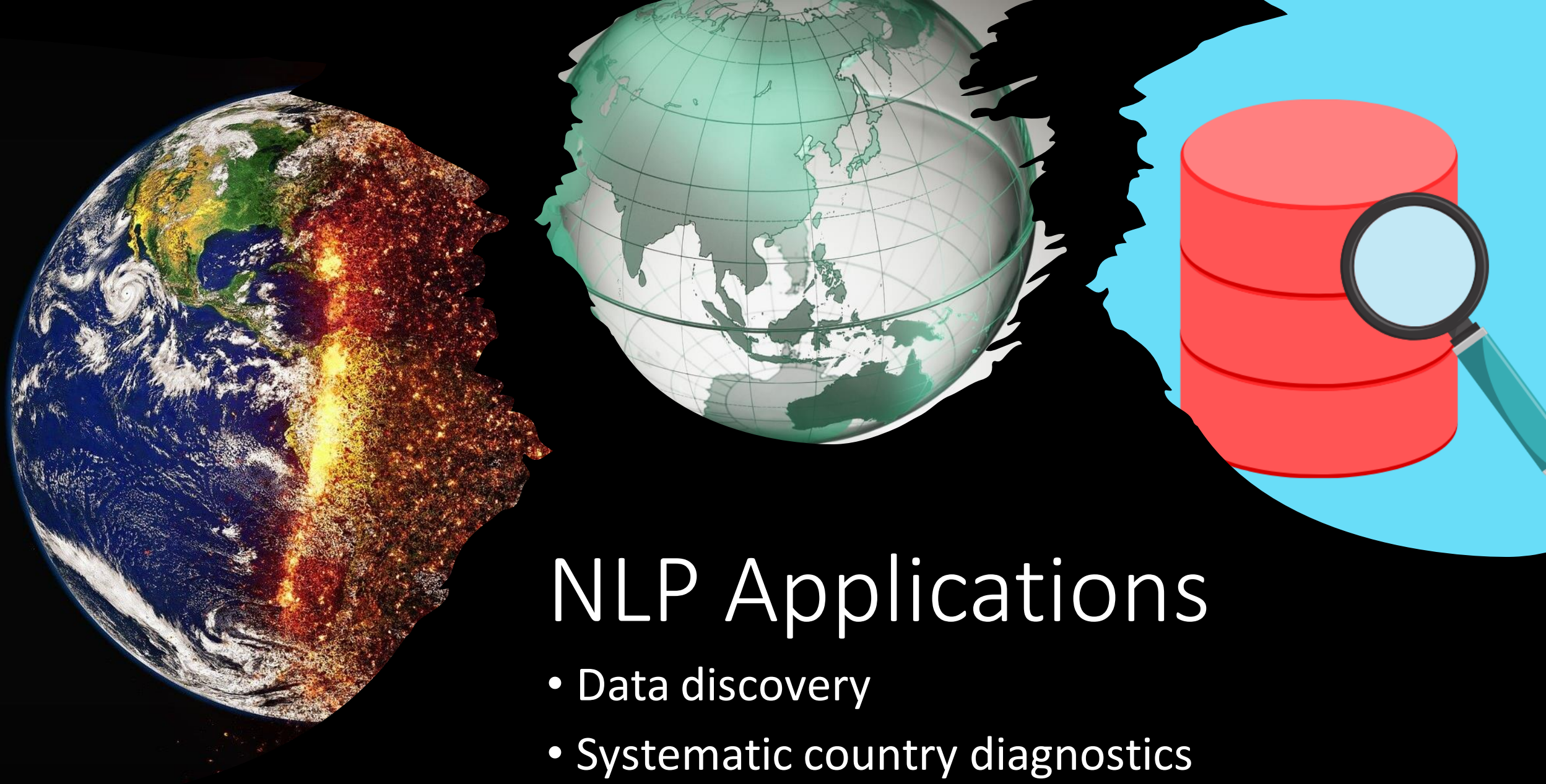
Validation Data



$$\hat{y} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \hat{y}_k$$



Model
building, evaluation,
and iteration



NLP Applications

- Data discovery
- Systematic country diagnostics
- Climate change co-benefits prediction



Data Discovery



Why is data discovery important?

- Different types of data are available across our institution and beyond.
- This is an asset when we can find the best data or document for our needs out of all the available data.
- However, it **proves to be a liability** when these data only reside in silos and databases that are **not equipped with discovery tools** to allow users to use them.

Document discovery platform



Chad - Rural Projects Fund Project

Chad, 1976

Ministry of Public Health

Corpus: [WB](#)

Created on: Nov 30, 1976 Last modified: Feb 16, 2021 Views: 0

Metadata  [JSON](#)

[Metadata](#)

[View document](#)

[Related documents](#)

LDA model


[Malawi - Agriculture Development Programme Support Project \(ADP-SP\) : environmental assessment : Environmental and social impact assessment](#)
Malawi, 2008

Created on: Mar 06, 2008
Views:

[Colombia - Rural Transport Sector Project](#)
Colombia, 1986

Created on: Feb 27, 1986
Views:

[Brazil - S](#)
Brazil, 197

Created on:
Views: 

Word2vec model


[Project Information Document-Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet](#)
Gambia, 2018

Created on: Mar 14, 2018
Views:

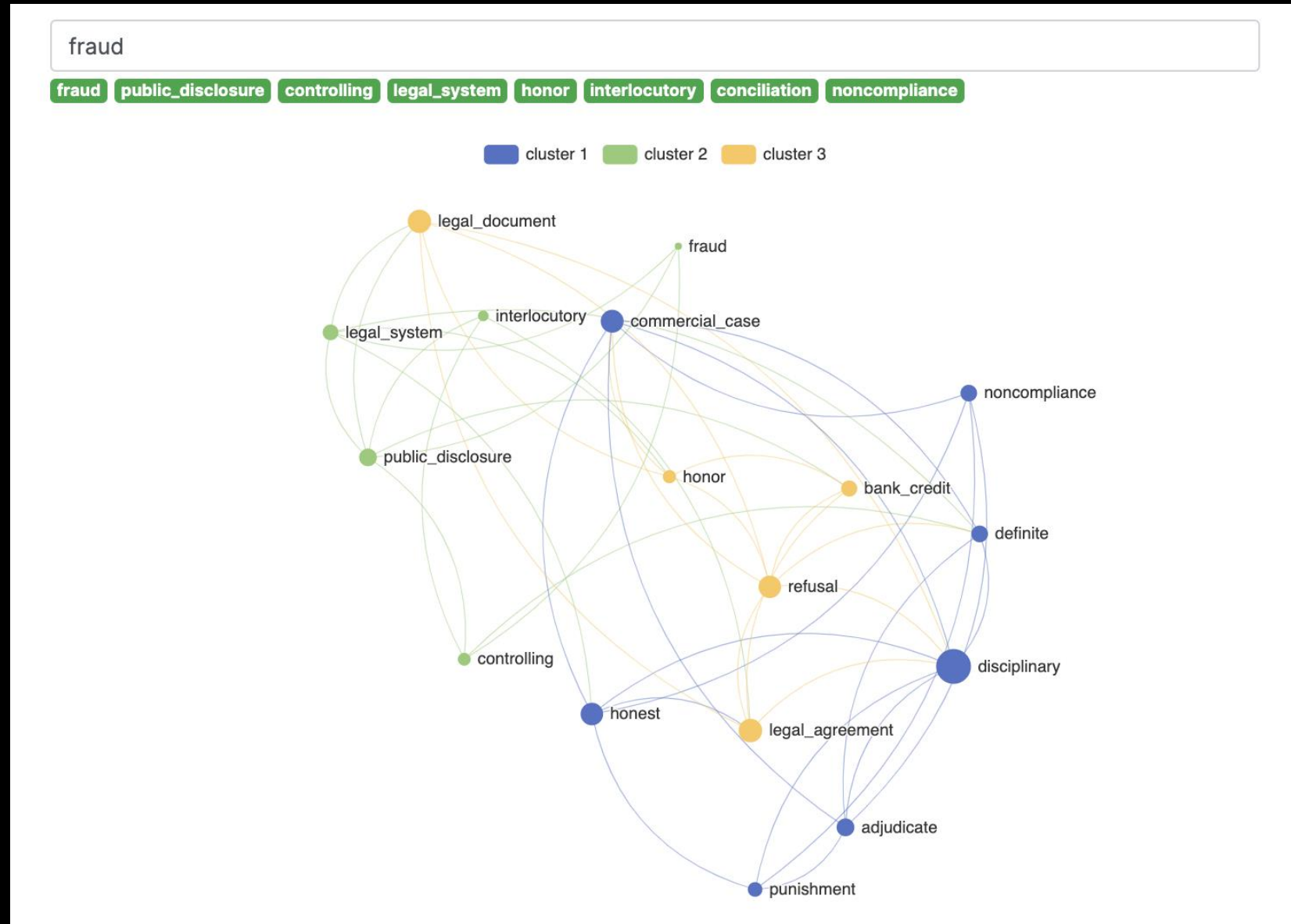
[Malawi - Smallholder Fertilizer Project](#)
Malawi, 1983

Created on: Apr 29, 1983
Views:

[Chile - C](#)
Chile, 197

Created on:
Views: 

Semantic understanding





How could data discovery be relevant for IEG?

- May be able to provide a tool for more comprehensive review of reports.
- Discover related projects based on previous reports.
- Curate audit materials based on project topics.



Systematic Country Diagnostics

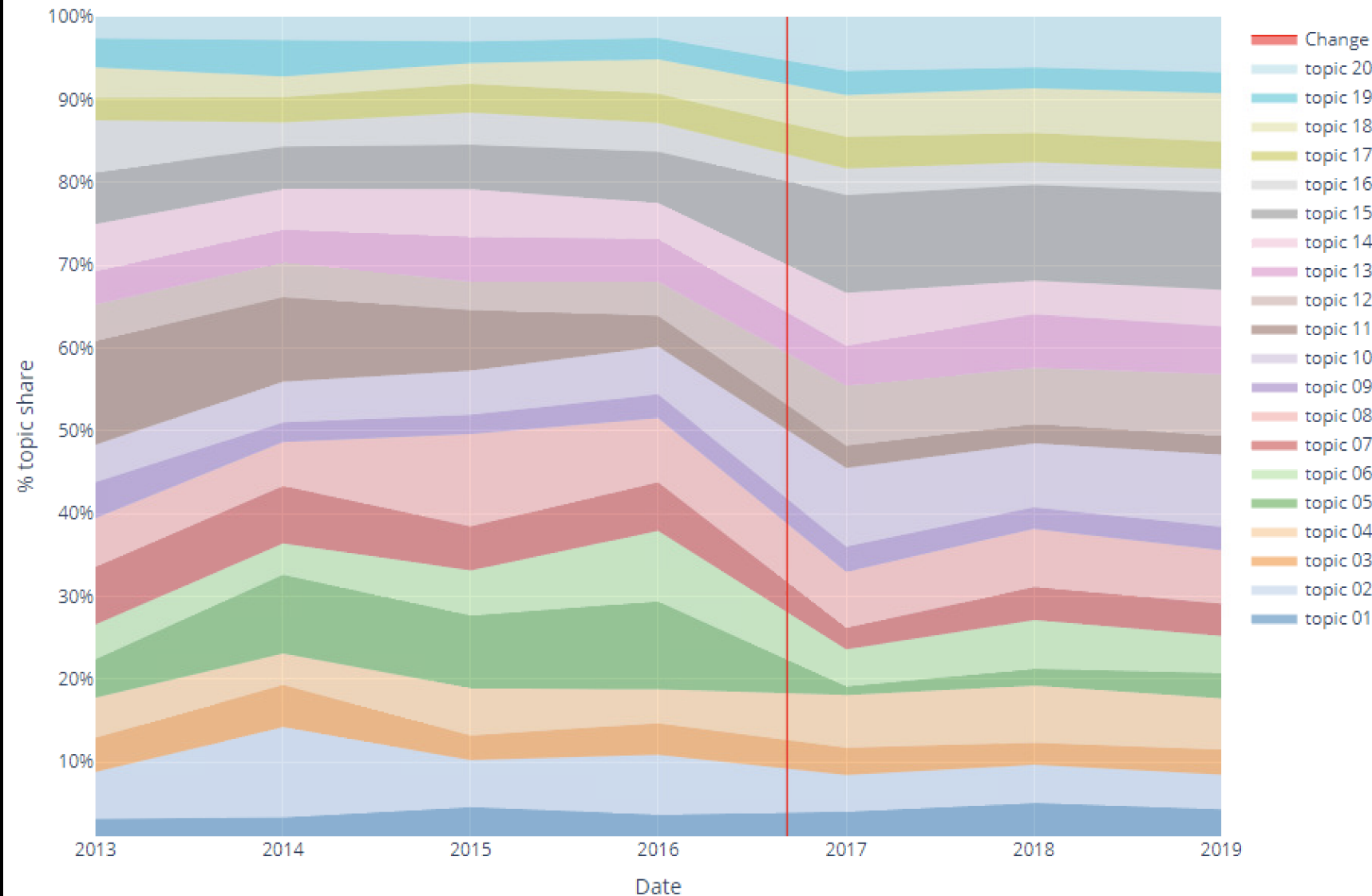


Systematic Country Diagnostics

- Use topic modeling to understand changes in legislative agenda across change in government.
- Analyze the general sentiment in the country from global news data.
- Demonstrate the feasibility of proxy methods to understand certain country-level information using NLP.

Topic evolution and changes in legislation priorities

Annual topic distribution



topic 15



topic 18



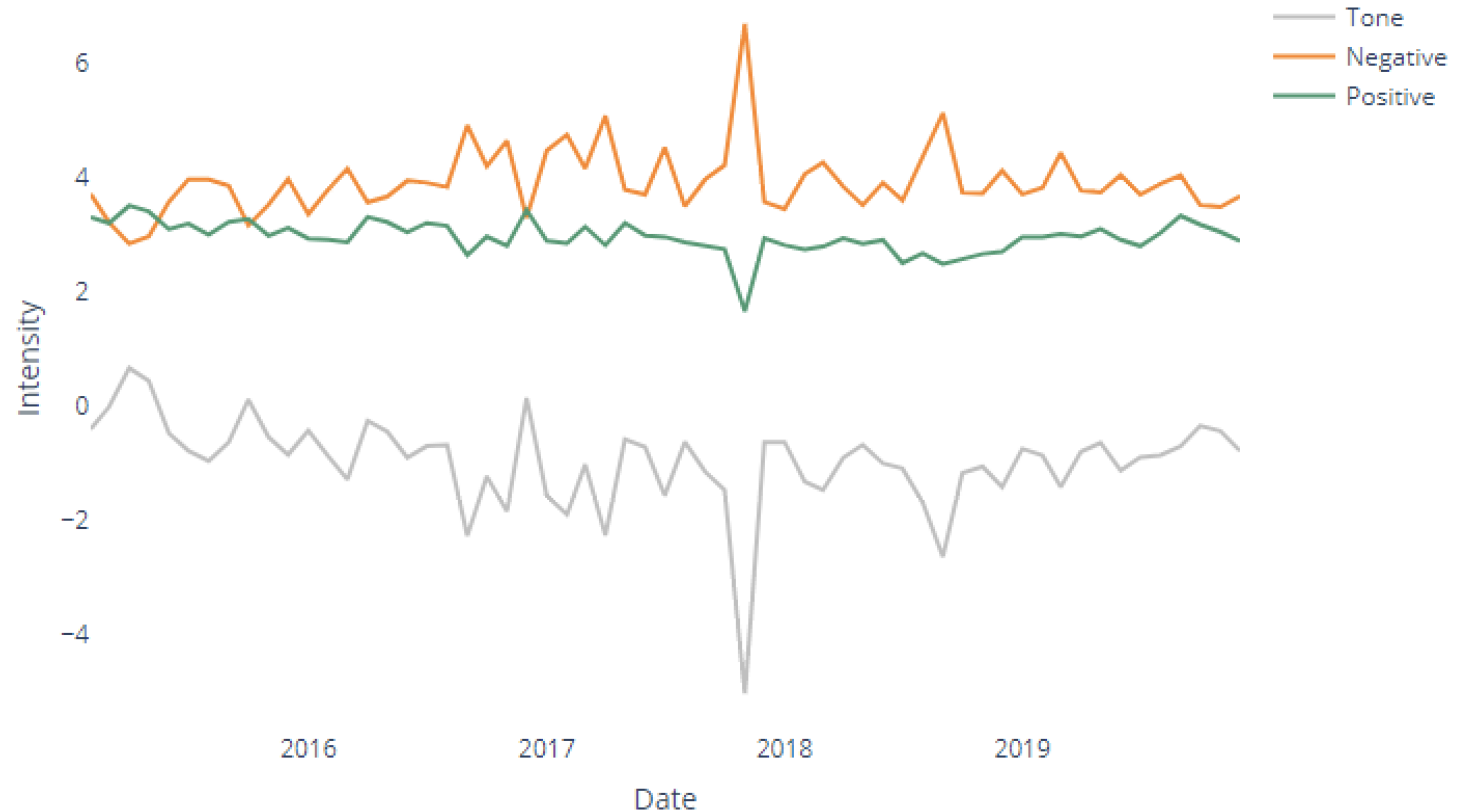
topic 20



Capturing sentiment from news

Sentiment for all data on GDELT

| | Tone | Negative | Positive | Polarity |
|---------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 5th quantile | -2.1412 | 3.2086 | 2.5757 | 6.3134 |
| mean | -0.9680 | 3.9267 | 2.9587 | 6.8854 |
| 95th quantile | 0.0753 | 4.8696 | 3.3518 | 7.6016 |





PERFORMANCE REVIEW

How might IEG benefit from sentiment and topic models?

- Monitor impact of projects based on social media sentiment.
- Improve the management of projects by using topic models.
- Understand trends between successful and unsuccessful projects.

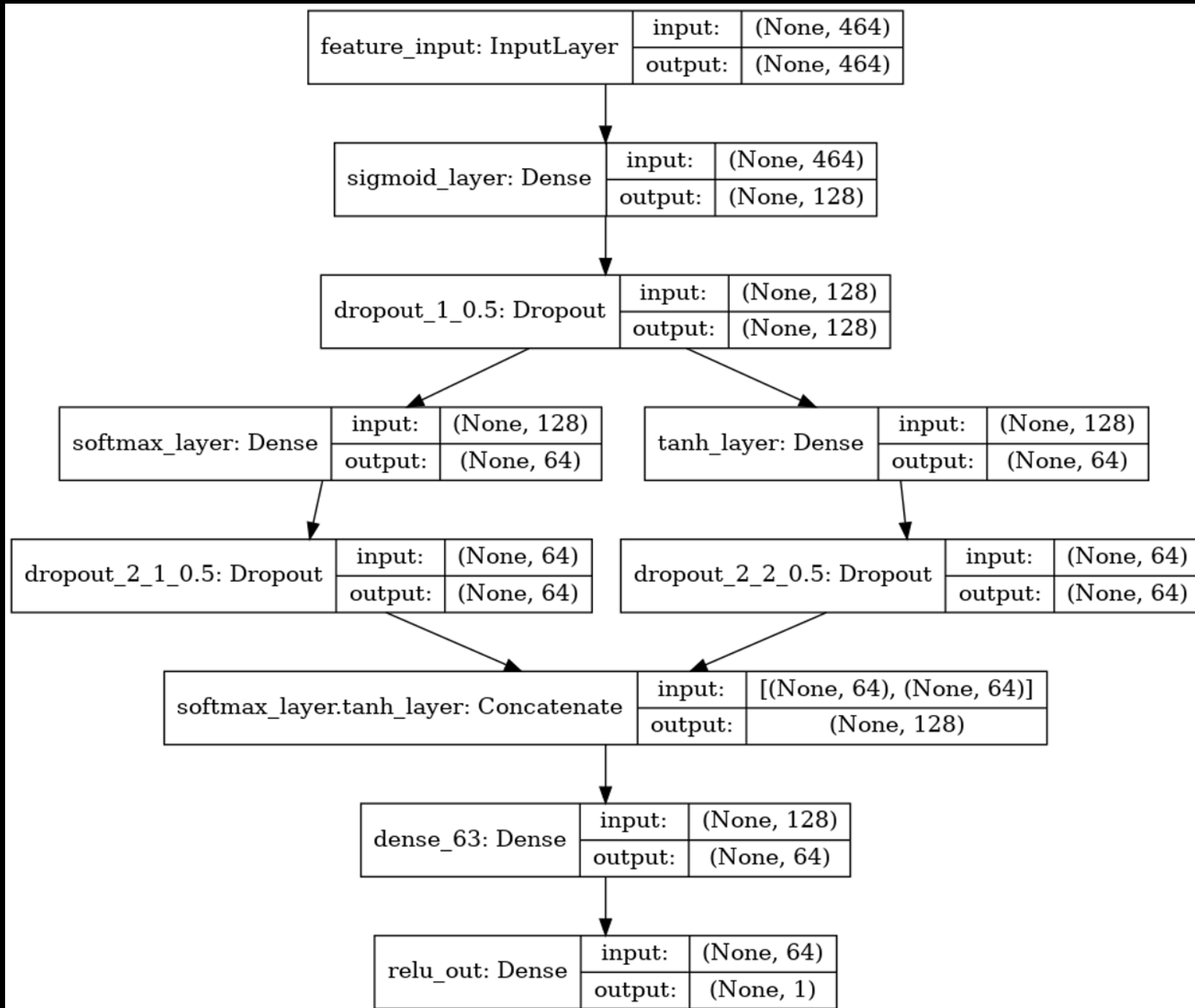
Climate change co-benefits prediction



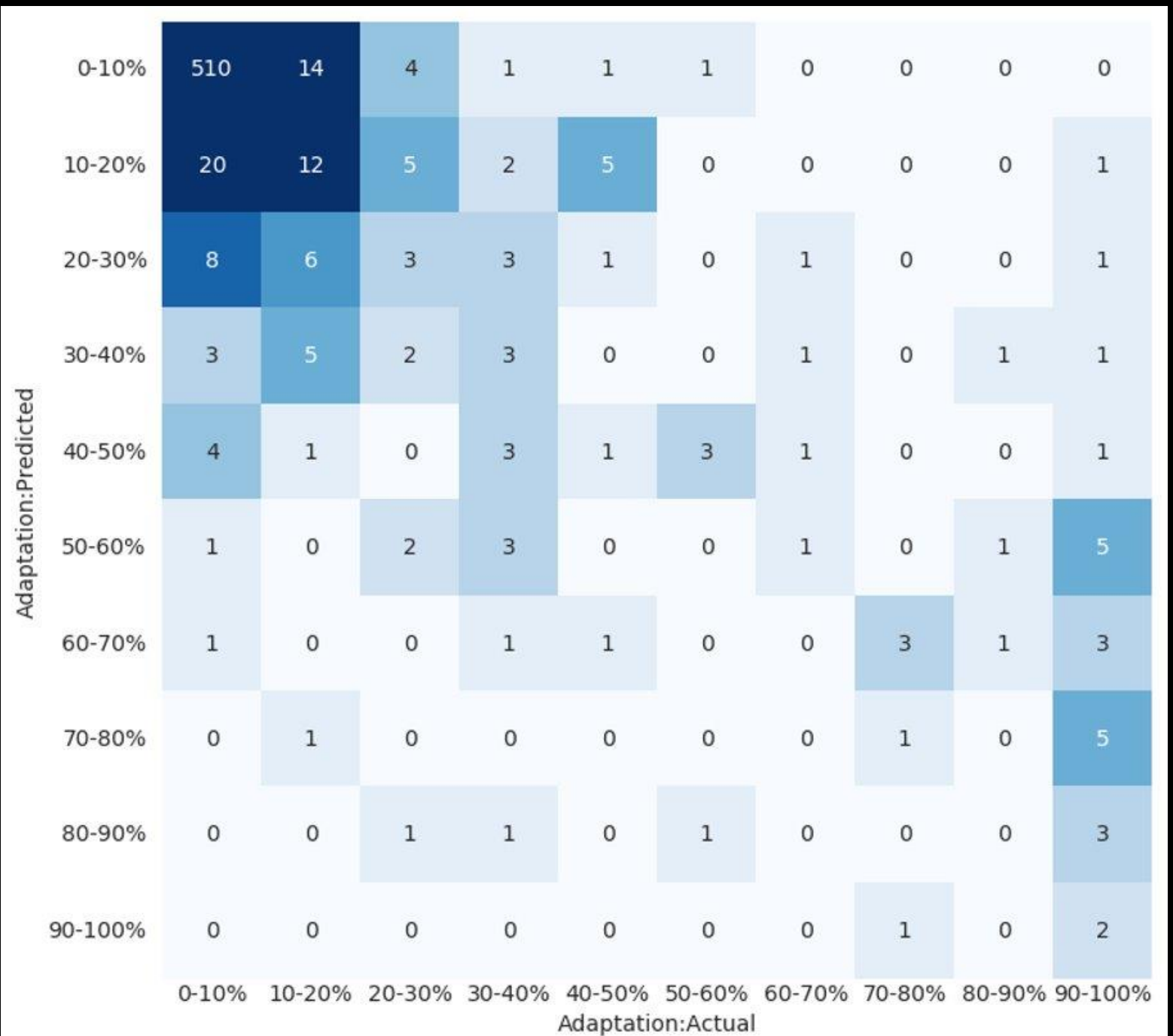
Climate change co-benefits prediction

- Process and perform text mining on project documents and enrich the available data using other sources.
- Use pretrained NLP models and machine learning to predict climate change co-benefits.
- The project was exploratory in nature. A baseline exists and our model has outperformed this baseline.

Neural network model



Predictive performance



Climate change co-benefits prediction

- While we have shown feasibility of improved performance, the degree of accuracy was still not at the desired level for automation.
- The primary reason for poor performance was the limited volume of available data.

performan

- ☒ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Poor

How machine learning with NLP could be beneficial in IEG?

- Automate data extraction from text.
- Detect fraud or potential issues in projects given historical data.

POLL: Which NLP application will be immediately useful for IEG?

1. May be able to provide a tool for more comprehensive review of reports.
2. Discover related projects based on previous reports.
3. Curate audit materials based on project topics.
4. Monitor impact of projects based on social media sentiment.
5. Improve the management of projects by using topic models.
6. Understand trends between successful and unsuccessful projects.
7. Automate data extraction from text.
8. Detect fraud or potential issues in projects given historical data.

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