



**CS224C: NLP for CSS**

# **Topic Modeling**

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# Overview

- **What is topic modeling?**
- **LDA topic modeling**
- **Evaluation methods**
- **LDA variants**
  - SeededLDA
  - Structural Topic Model
- **LLM based topic modeling**
  - BERTopic, TopicGPT, LLoom

# Topic Modeling

Organize the documents into a set of coherent topics

Find relationships between these topics

Understand how different documents talk about the same topic

Track the evolution of topics over time

# Topic Modeling

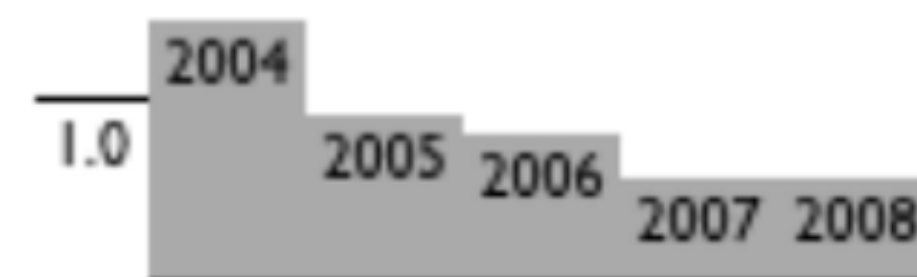
A method of (unsupervised) discovery of latent or hidden structure in a corpus

- ◆ Applied primarily to text corpora
- ◆ Provides a modeling toolbox
- ◆ Has prompted the exploration of a variety of new inference methods to accommodate large-scale datasets



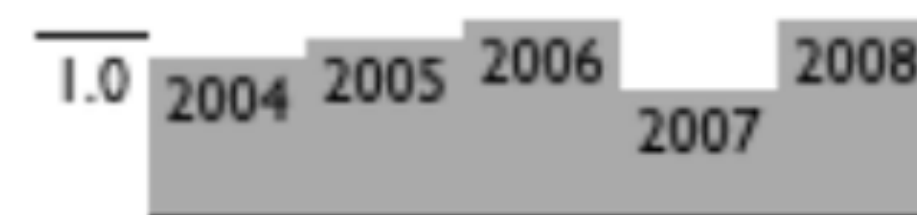
problem, optimization, problems, convex, convex optimization, linear, semidefinite programming, formulation, sets, constraints, proposed, margin, maximum margin, optimization problem, linear programming, programming, procedure, method, cutting plane, solutions

### Topic 54 [0.051]



decision trees, trees, tree, decision tree, decision, tree ensemble, junction tree, decision tree learners, leaf nodes, arithmetic circuits, ensembles modts, skewing, ensembles, anytime induction decision trees, trees trees, random forests, objective decision trees, tree learners, trees grove, candidate split

### Topic 99 [0.066]



inference, approximate inference, exact inference, markov chain, models, approximate, gibbs sampling, variational, bayesian, variational inference, variational bayesian, approximation, sampling, methods, exact, bayesian inference, dynamic bayesian, process, mcmc, efficient

<http://www.cs.umass.edu/~mimno/icml100.html>

# Latent Dirichlet Allocation

## Generative Process

For each topic  $k \in \{1, \dots, K\}$ :

$$\phi_k \sim \text{Dir}(\beta) \quad [\textit{draw distribution over words}]$$

For each document  $m \in \{1, \dots, M\}$

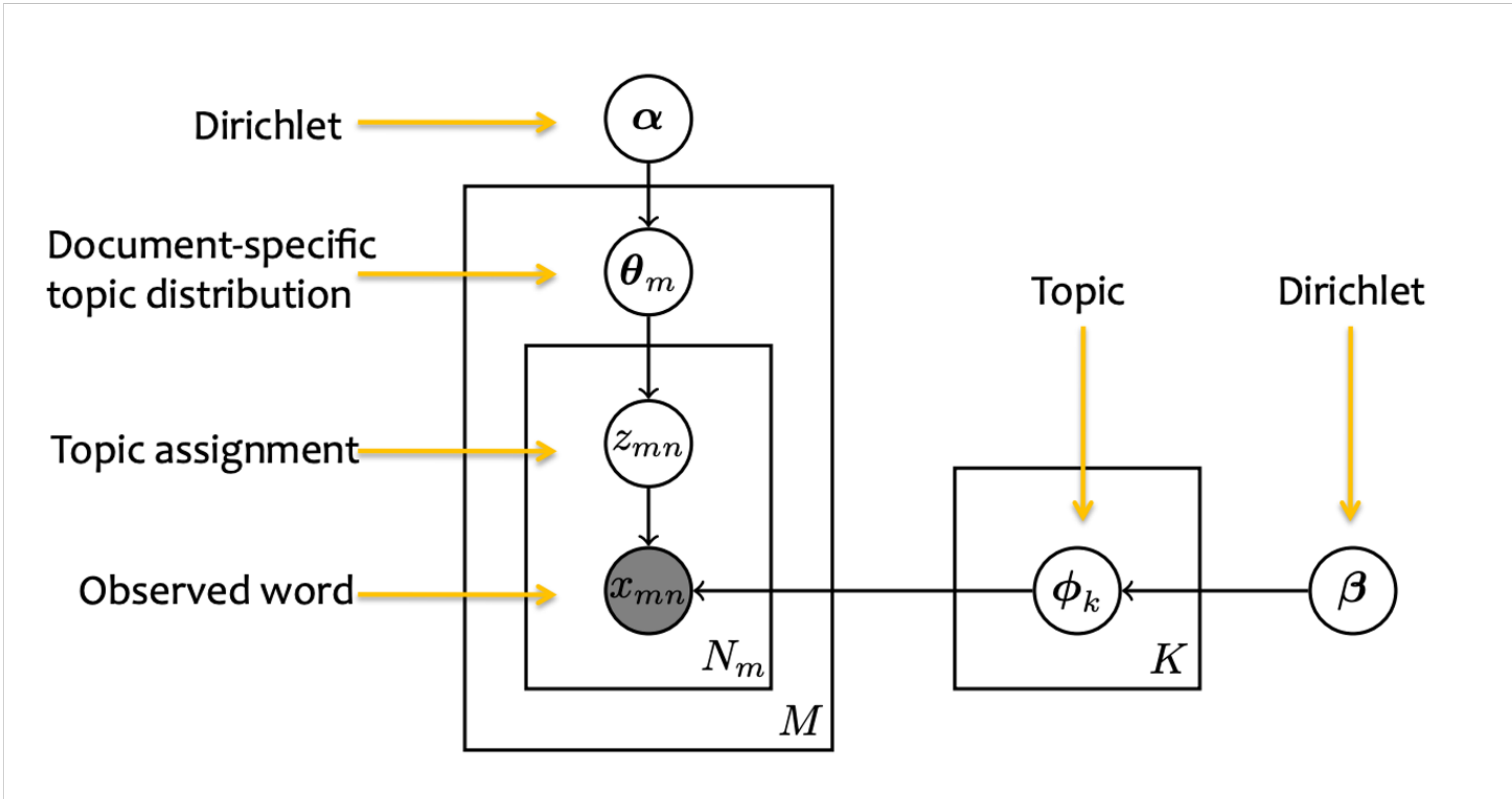
$$\theta_m \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha) \quad [\textit{draw distribution over topics}]$$

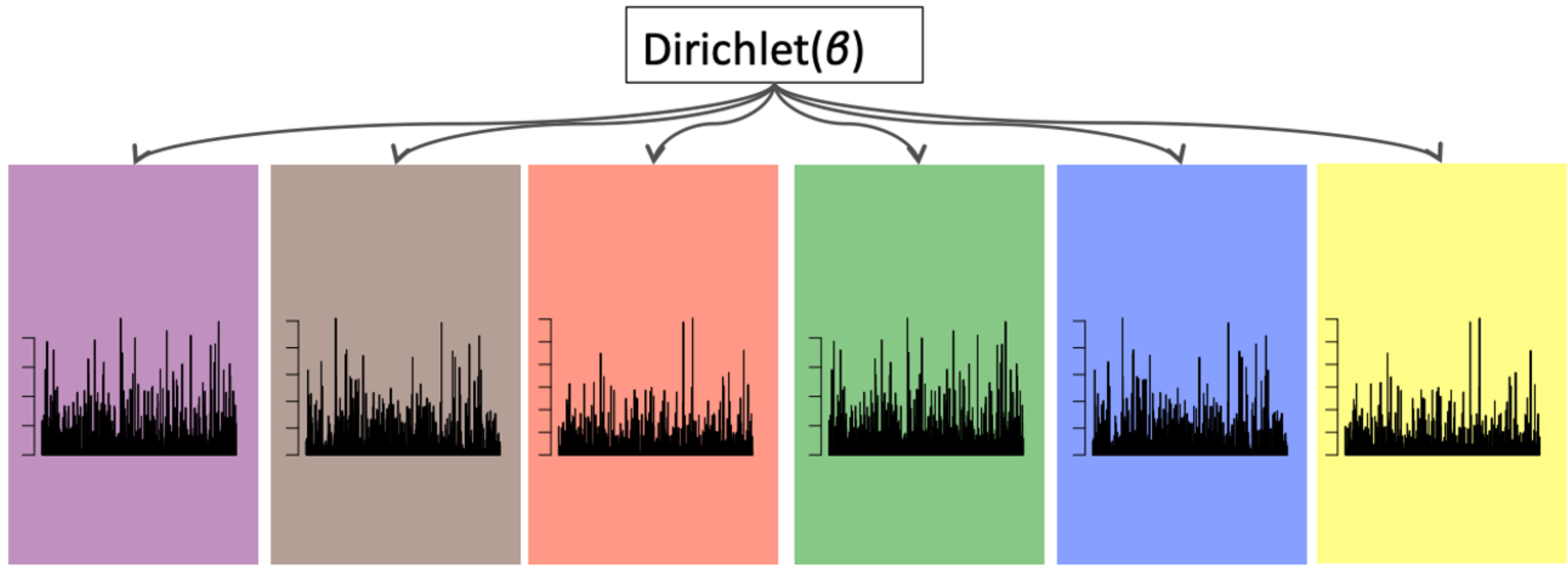
For each word  $n \in \{1, \dots, N_m\}$

$$z_{mn} \sim \text{Mult}(1, \theta_m) \quad [\textit{draw topic assignment}]$$

$$x_{mn} \sim \phi_{z_{mi}} \quad [\textit{draw word}]$$

# Latent Dirichlet Allocation



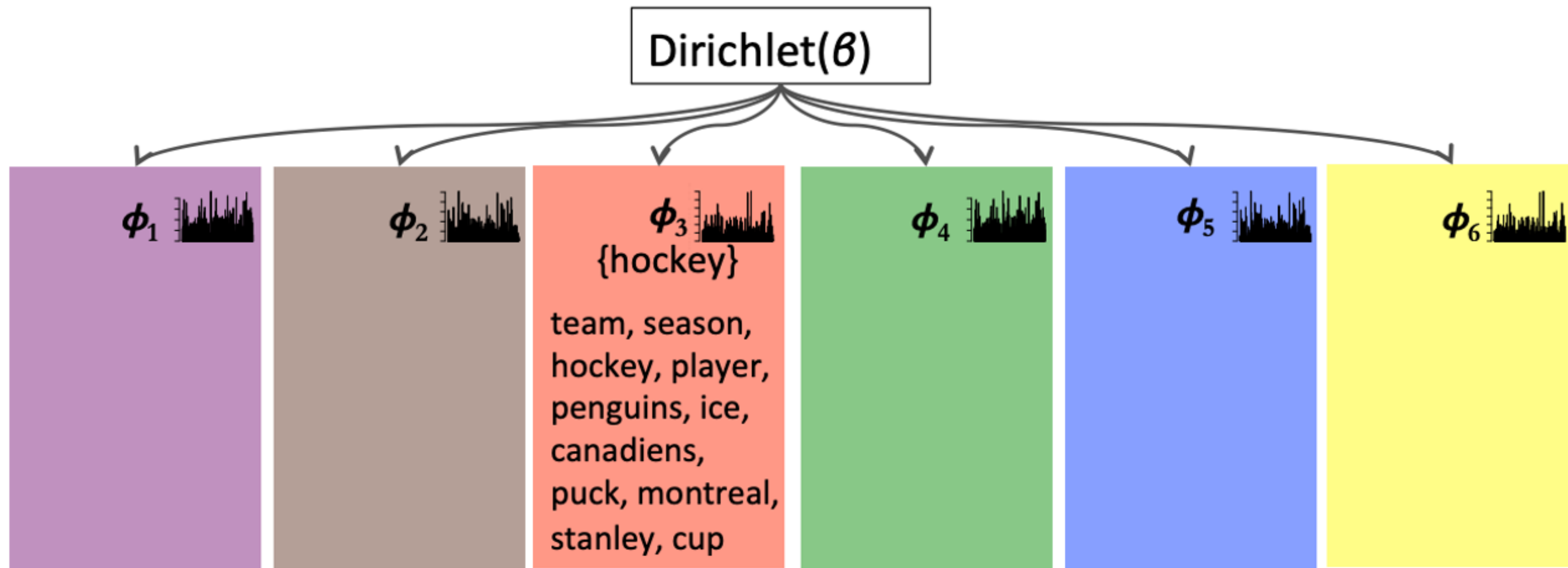


The **generative story** begins with only a **Dirichlet prior** over the topics

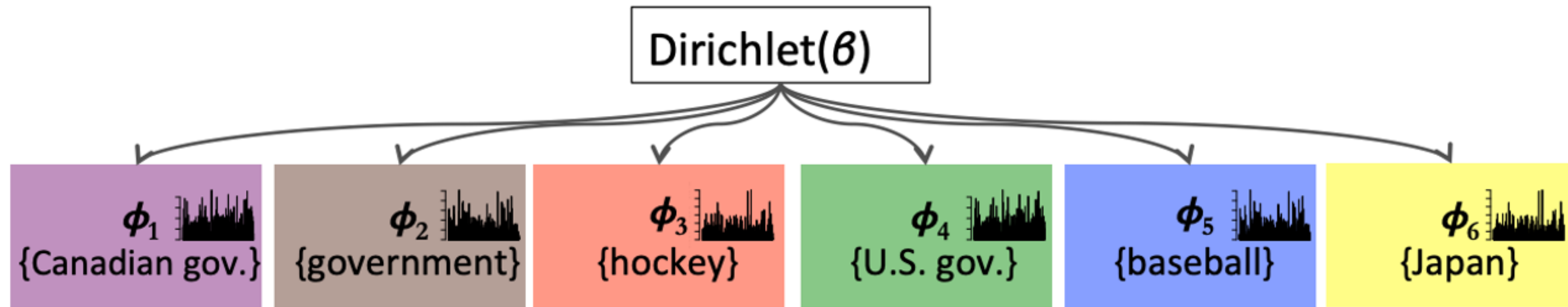
Each topic is defined as a **Multinomial distribution** over the vocabulary, parameterized by  $\phi_k$

Example Credit to Matthew R. Gormley

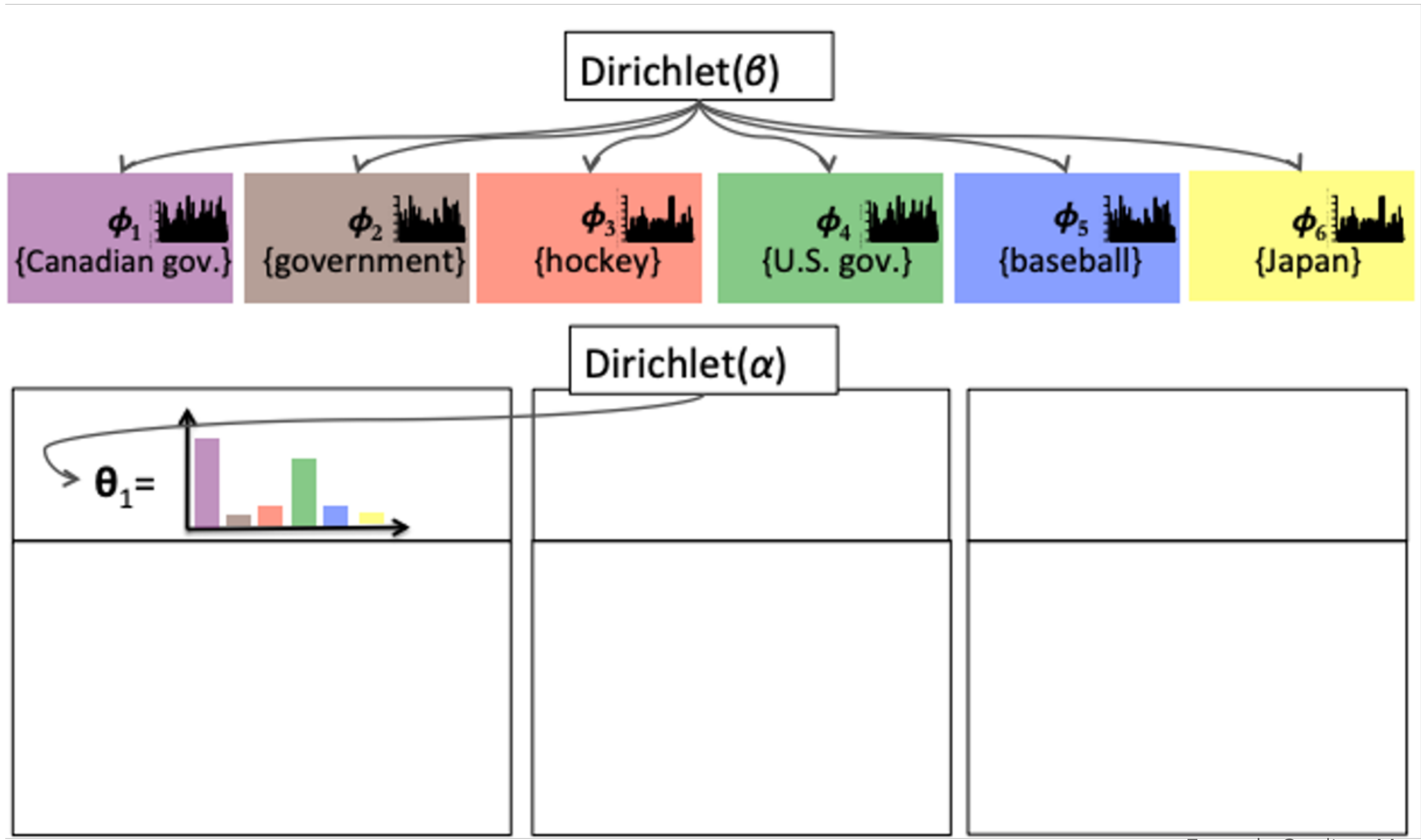




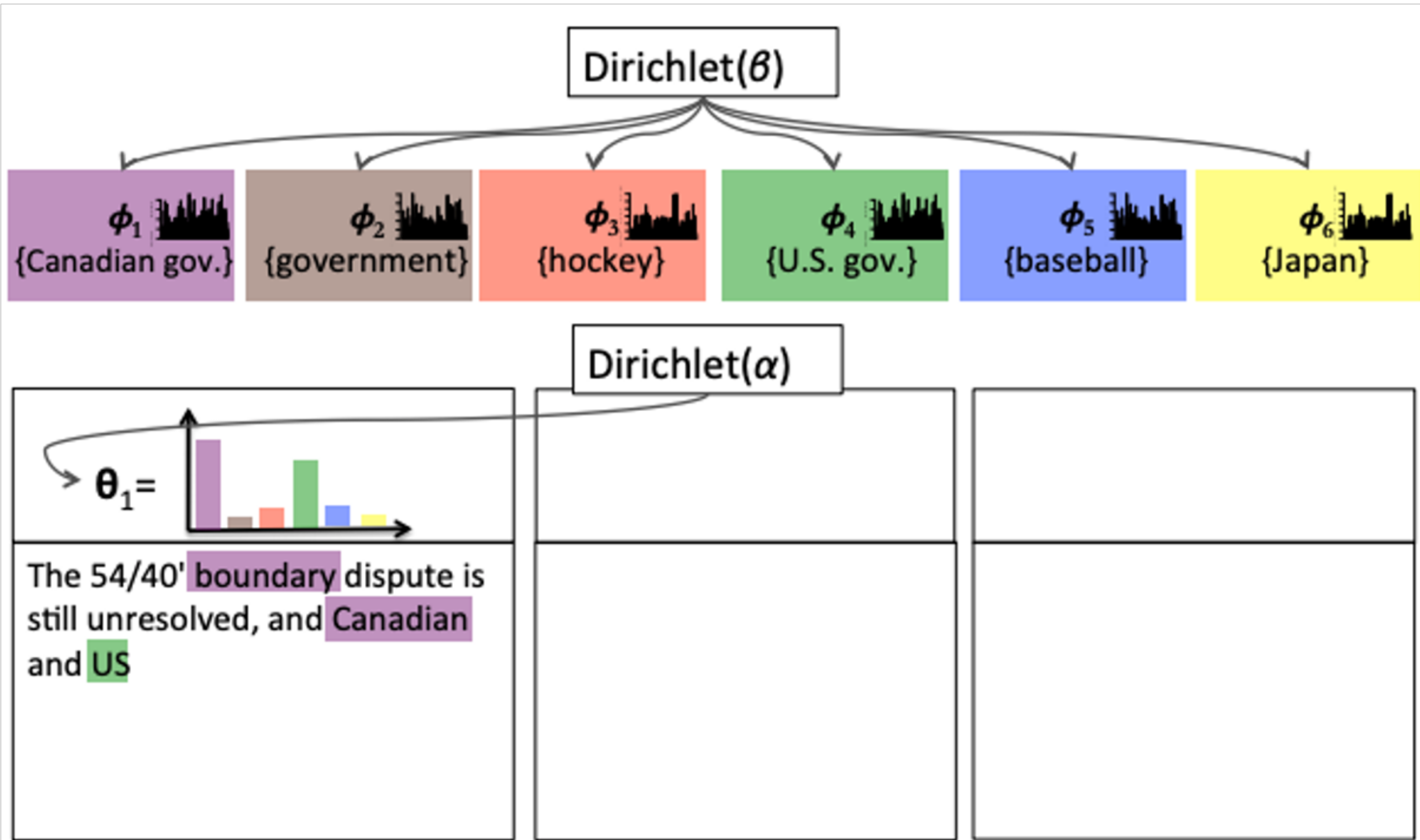
A topic is visualized as its **high probability words**.  
A pedagogical **label** is used to identify the topic.



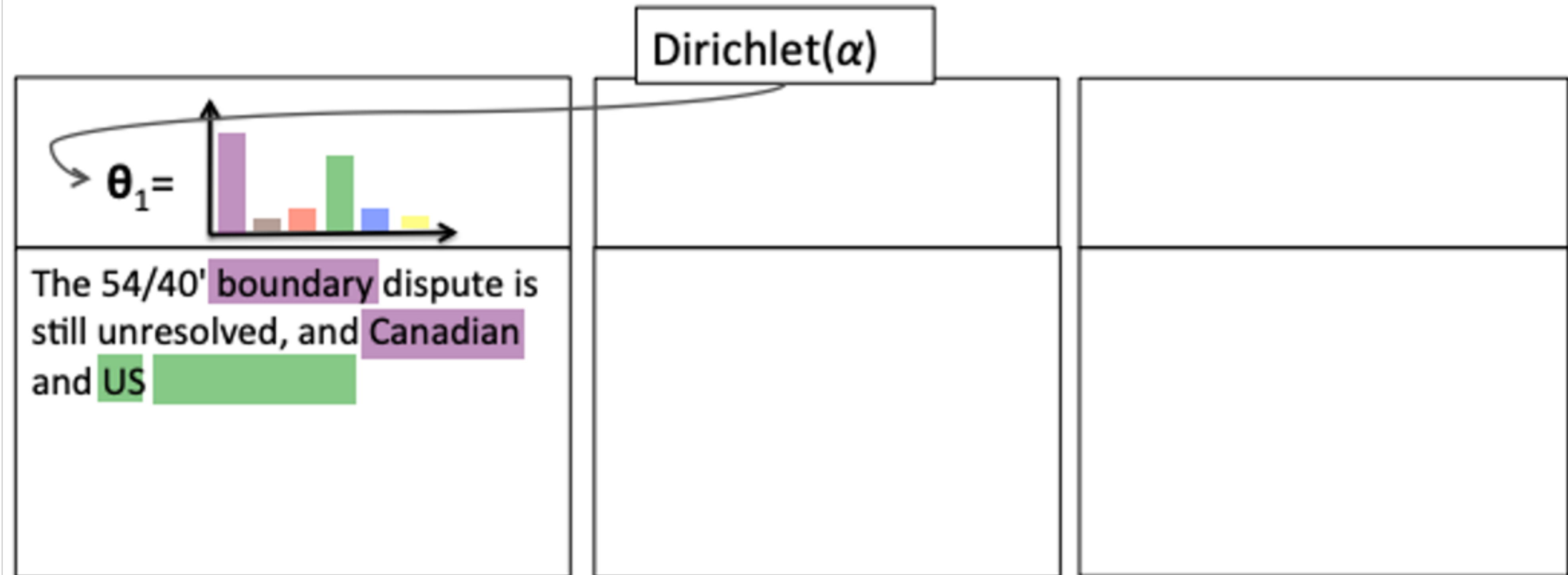
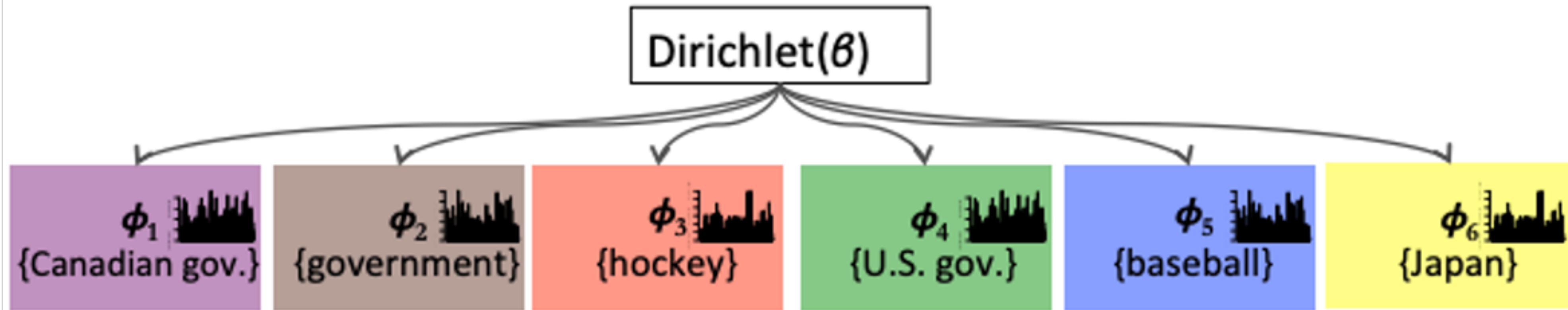
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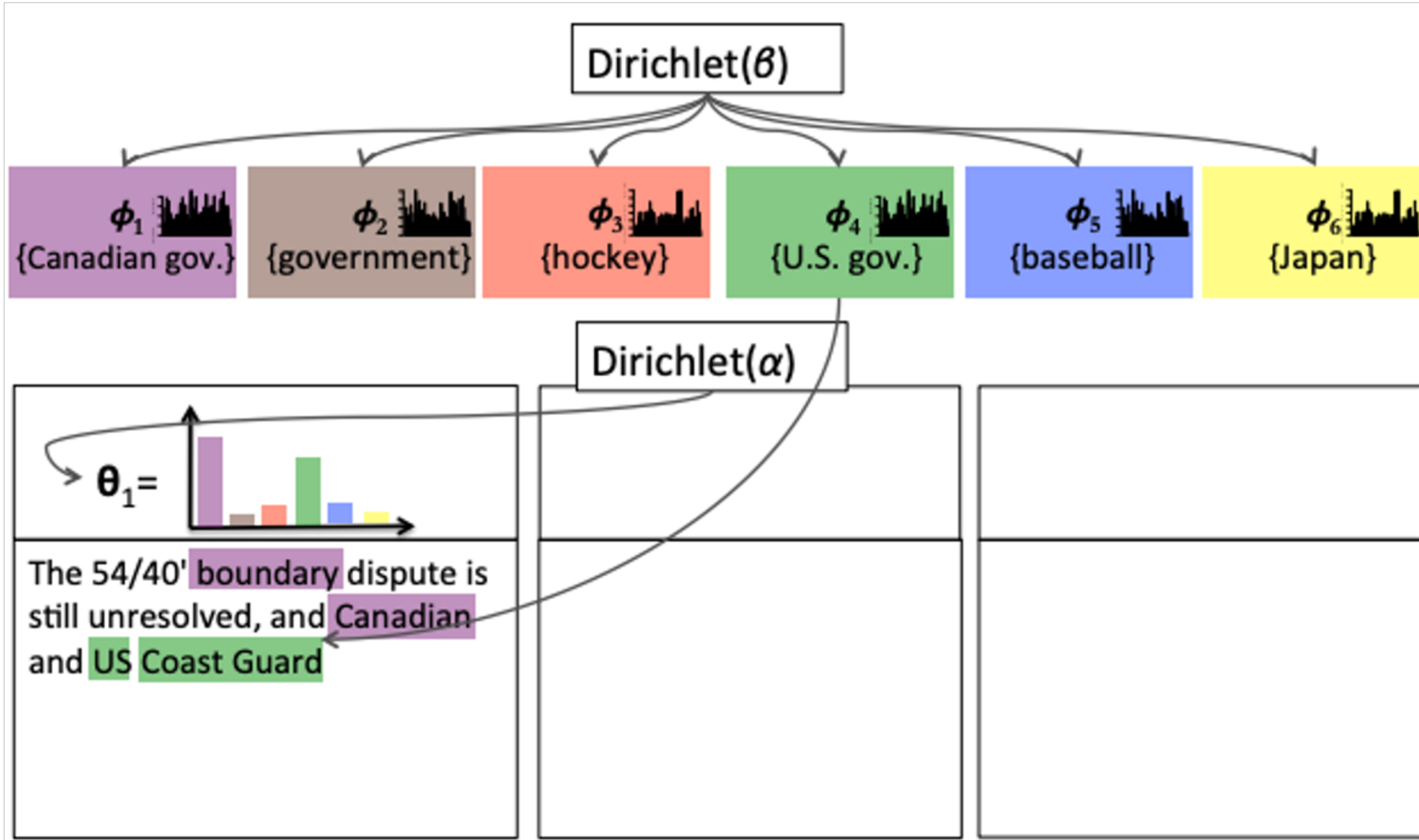
Example Credit to Matthew R. Gormley



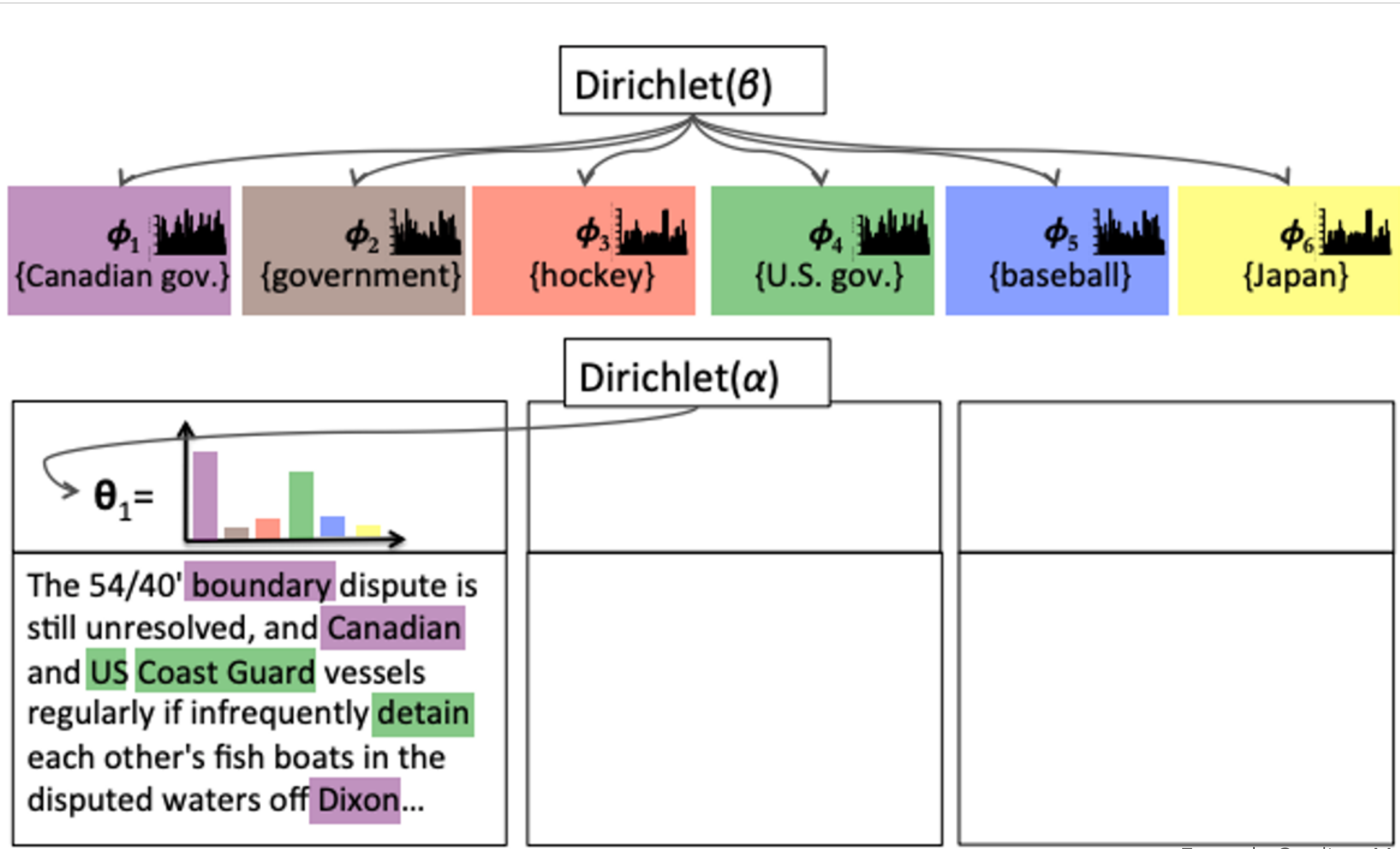
Example Credit to Matthew R. Gormley



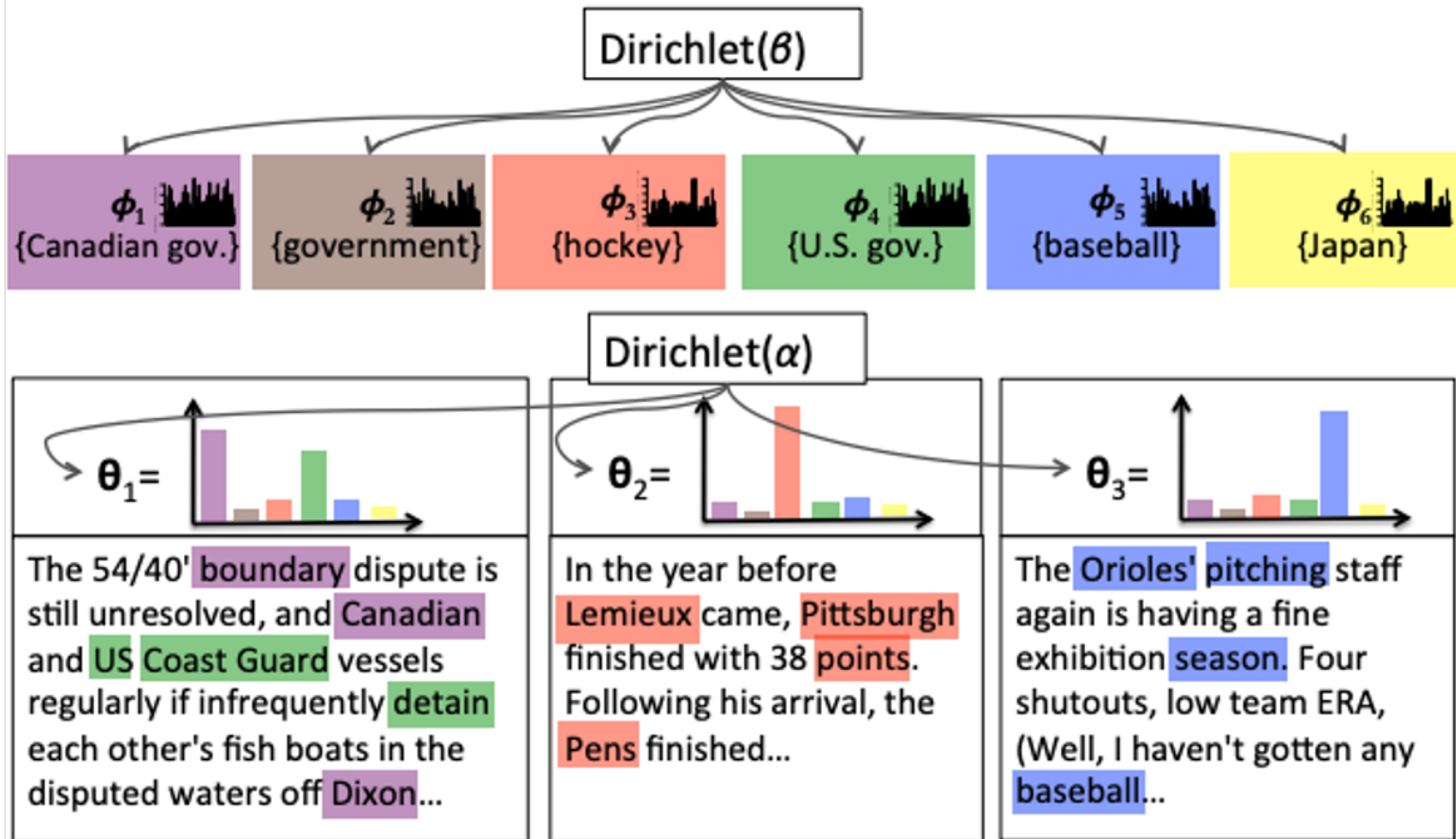
Example Credit to Matthew R. Gormley



Example Credit to Matthew R. Gormley



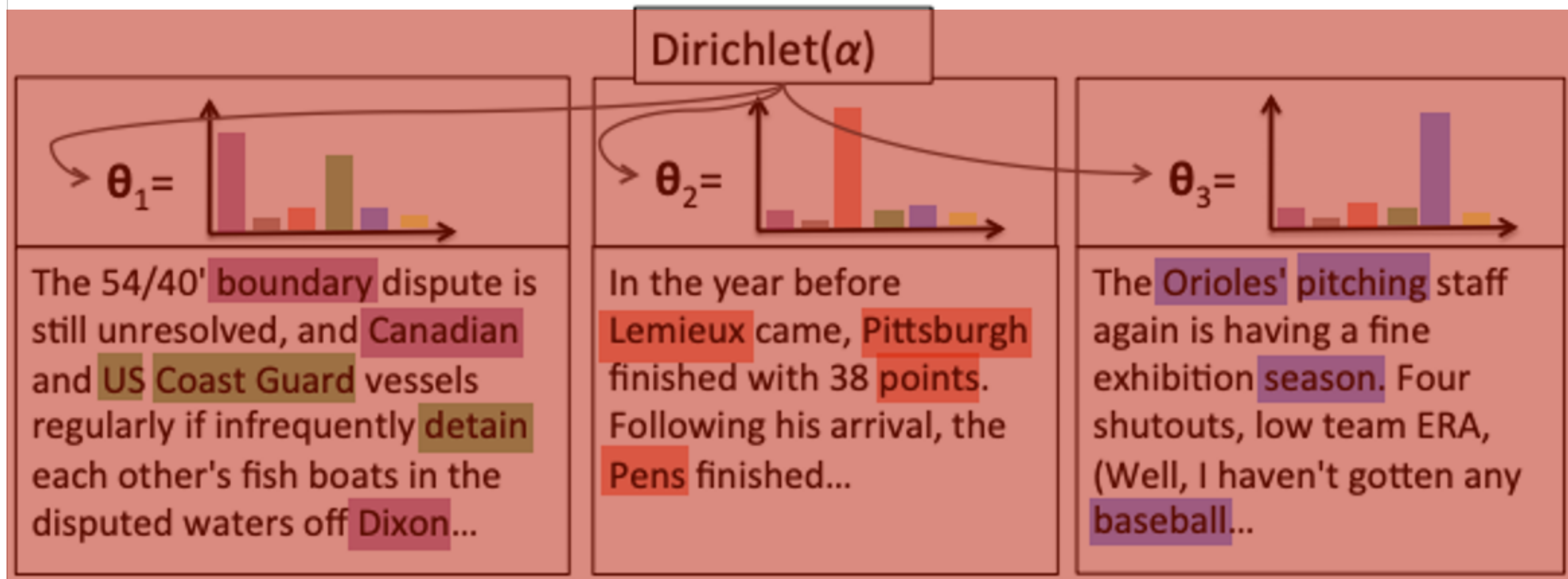
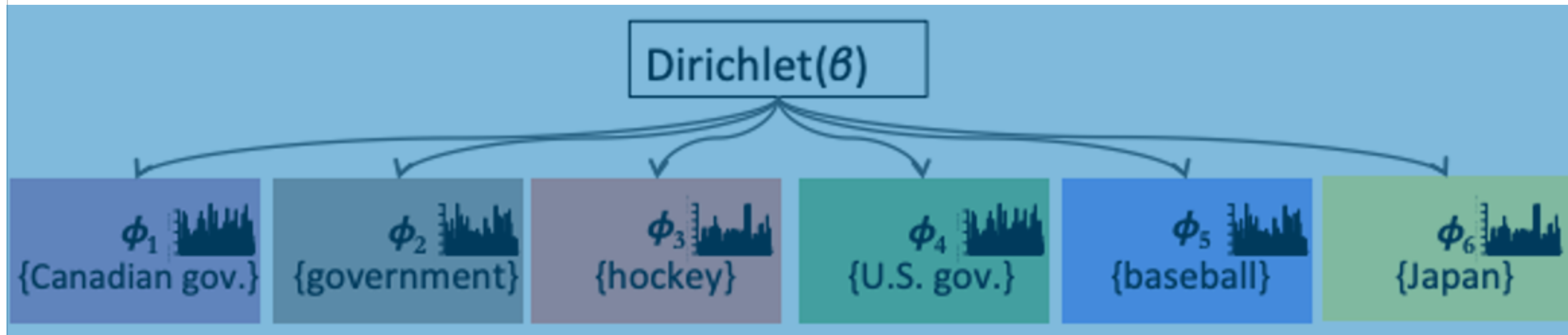
Example Credit to Matthew R. Gormley



Example Credit to Matthew R. Gormley



# Distribution over words (topics)



# Distribution over topics (docs)

# Overview

- **What is topic modeling?**
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-

# Interpreting Topics Models

What is the meaning of each topic?

How to set the number of topics?

How to evaluate the resulting topics?

# Evaluating Topic Modeling

Manual Inspection / Human judgement

- Top ranked words

Intrinsic Evaluation

- Coherence score

- Intruder test

Extrinsic Evaluation

- Downstream application

# Coherence Score

Whether the words in a topic is coherent in terms of semantic similarity

UCI coherence measure  $\sum_{i < j} \log \frac{p(w_i, w_j)}{p(w_i)p(w_j)}$

UMass coherence measure  $\sum_{i < j} \log \frac{1 + D(w_i, w_j)}{D(w_i)}$

Mimno, David, Hanna Wallach, Edmund Talley, Miriam Leenders, and Andrew McCallum. "Optimizing semantic coherence in topic models." In Proceedings of the 2011 conference on empirical methods in natural language processing, pp. 262-272. 2011.

Newman, David, Jey Han Lau, Karl Grieser, and Timothy Baldwin. "Automatic evaluation of topic coherence." In Human language technologies: The 2010 annual conference of the North American chapter of the association for computational linguistics, pp. 100-108. 2010.

# Word Intrusion Task

Given a few randomly ordered words, find the word which is out of place or does not belong with the others, i.e., the intruder

Dog, cat, horse, apple, pig, cow

Car, teacher, platypus, agile, blue, Zaire

Chang, Jonathan, Sean Gerrish, Chong Wang, Jordan Boyd-Graber, and David Blei. "Reading tea leaves: How humans interpret topic models." *Advances in neural information processing systems* 22 (2009).

# Topic Intrusion

Tests whether a topic model's decomposition of documents into a mixture of topics agrees with human judgements of the document's content

Given a title and a snippet from a document, judge which topic out of the four given topics does not belong with the document

# Two Intrusion Tasks to Evaluate Topics

## Word Intrusion

1 / 10  
floppy alphabet computer processor memory disk

2 / 10  
molecule education study university school student

3 / 10  
linguistics actor film comedy director movie

4 / 10  
islands island bird coast portuguese mainland

## Topic Intrusion

6 / 10

**DOUGLAS\_HOFSTADTER**

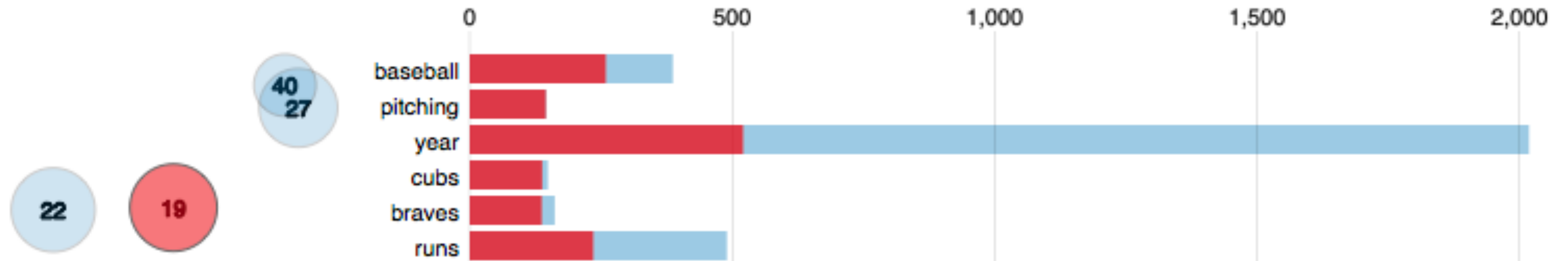
Douglas Richard Hofstadter (born February 15, 1945 in New York, New York) is an American academic whose research focuses on consciousness, thinking and creativity. He is best known for "[Show entire excerpt](#)", first published in

student	school	study	education	research	university	science	learn
human	life	scientific	science	scientist	experiment	work	idea
play	role	good	actor	star	career	show	performance
write	work	book	publish	life	friend	influence	father



# Toolkits & Interactive topic model visualization

- Gensim
- <https://github.com/bmabey/pyLDAvis>
- [Jupyter Notebook demo](#)



Řehůřek, Radim, and Petr Sojka. "Software framework for topic modelling with large corpora." (2010).

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# What if the input text is “noisy”?

Removing non-latin characters

Filtering out stop words

*e.g., “the”, “is” and “and”*

Converting words to lower case?

Filtering out words with a frequency less than  $k$

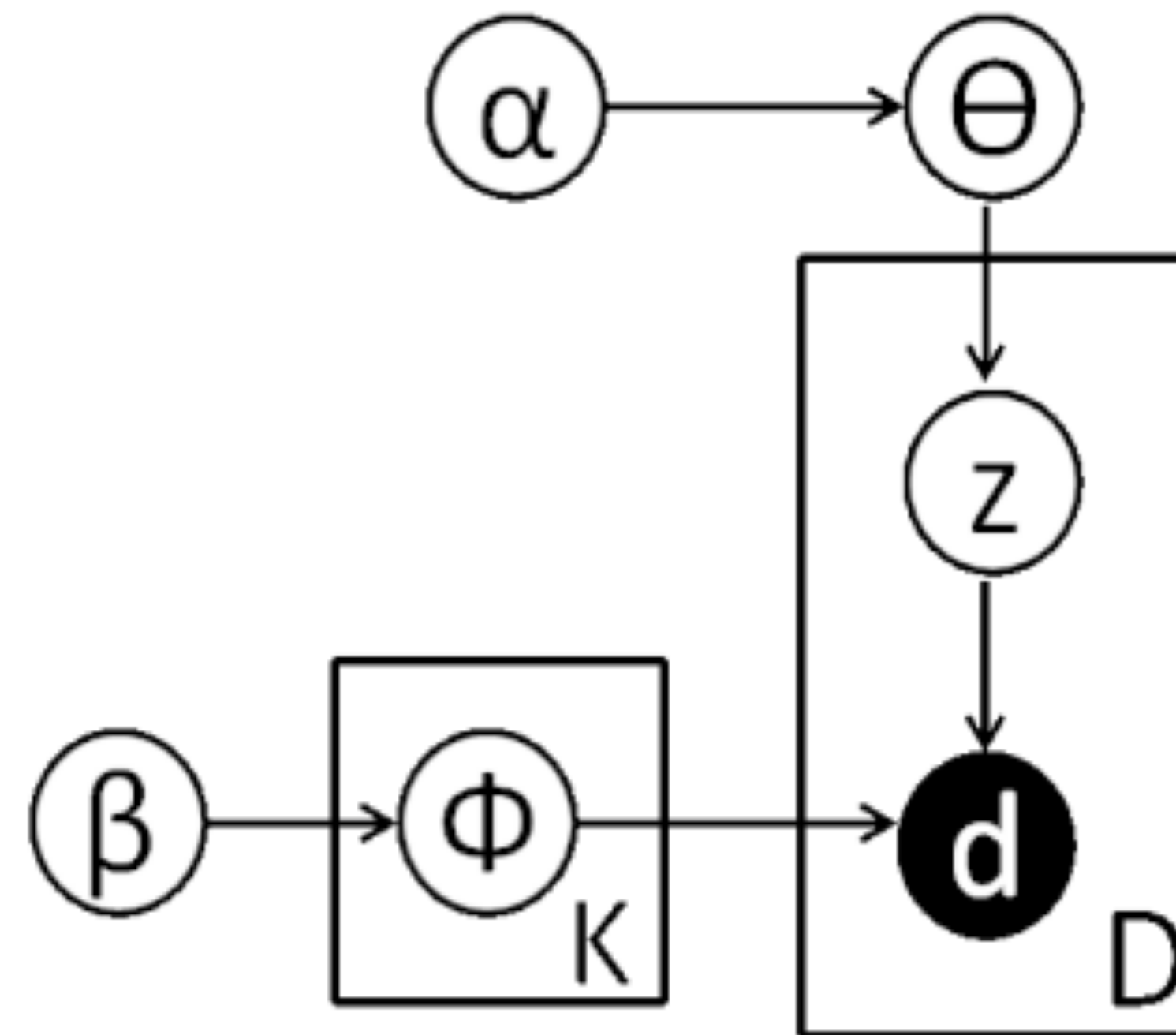
Performing stemming

...

# What if the input text is short?

Dirichlet Multinomial Mixture model for short text clustering (GSDMM)

The Movie Group Process



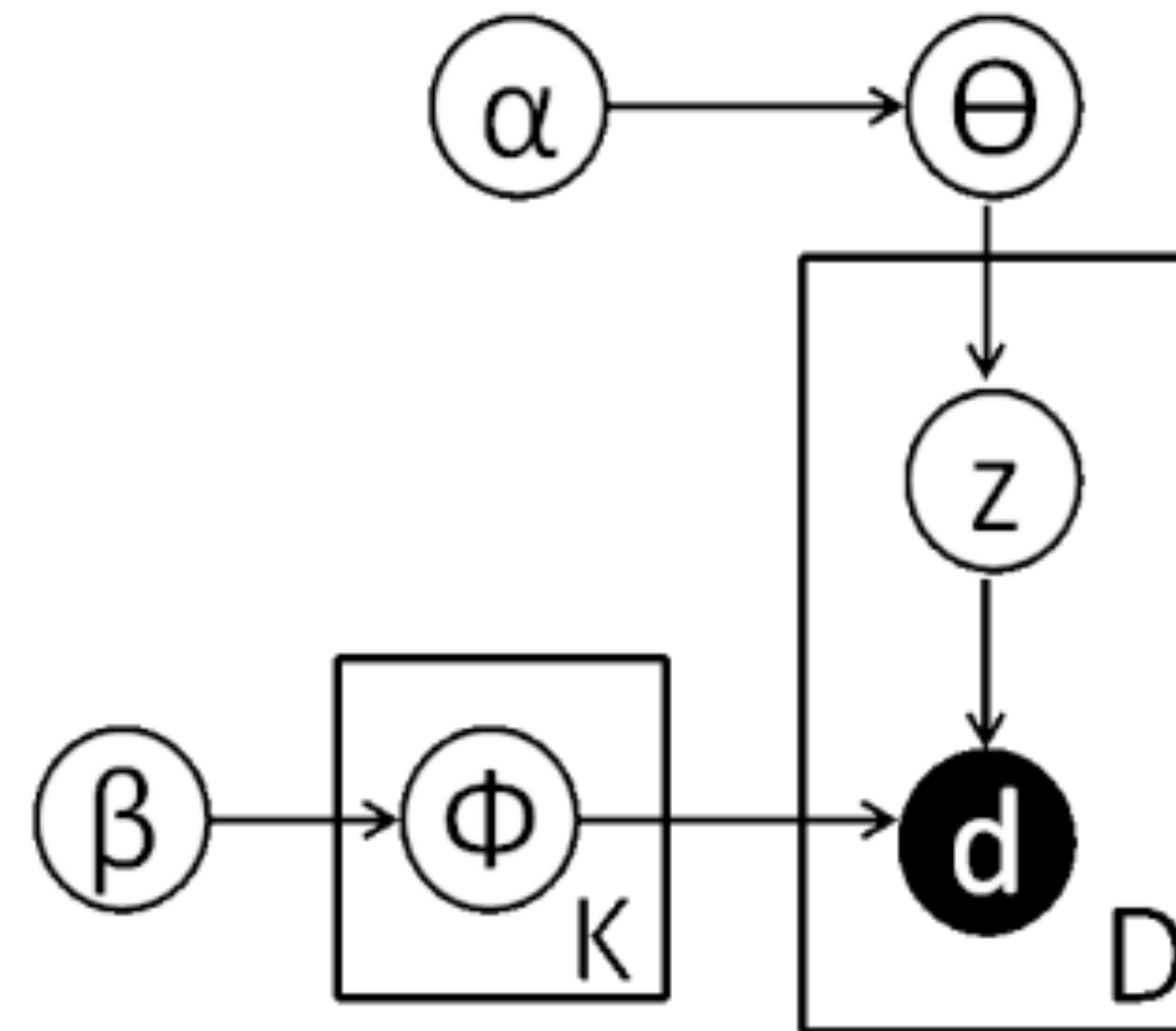
Yin, Jianhua, and Jianyong Wang. "A dirichlet multinomial mixture model-based approach for short text clustering." In Proceedings of the 20th ACM SIGKDD international conference on Knowledge discovery and data mining, pp. 233-242. 2014

# What if the input text is short?

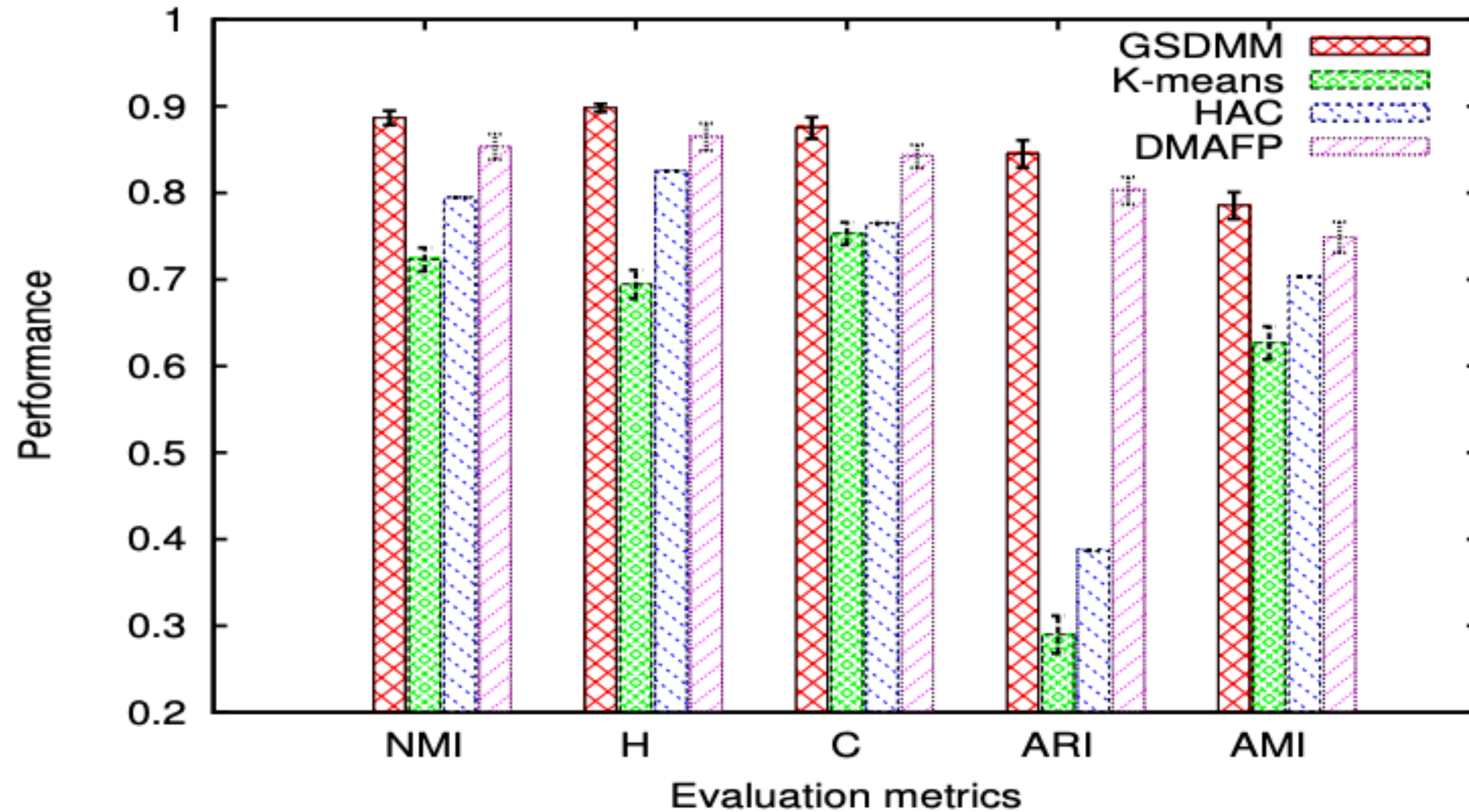
Dirichlet Multinomial Mixture model for short text clustering (GSDMM)

$$p(d) = \sum_{k=1}^K p(d | z = k) p(z = k)$$

$$p(d | z = k) = \prod_{w \in d} p(w | z = k)$$



# What if the input text is short?



Performance of the models on the TweetSet.

<https://github.com/rwalk/gsdmm-rust>

# What if there are user priors?

“To improve topic-word distributions, we set up a model in which each topic prefers to generate words that are related to the words in a seed set”

“To improve document-topic distributions, we encourage the model to select topics based on the existence of input seed words in that document”

1	company, billion, quarter, shrs, earnings
2	acquisition, procurement, merge
3	exchange, currency, trading, rate, euro
4	grain, wheat, corn, oilseed, oil
5	natural, gas, oil, fuel, products, petrol

# What if there are user priors? (seededLDA)

**SeededLDA** allows one to specify seed words that can influence the discovered topics

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topic 1: kodak, management, great, innovation, post, agree, film, understand, something, problem, businesses, changes, needs  
topic 2: good, change, publishing, brand, companies, publishers, history, marketing, traditional, believe, authors  
topic 3: think, work, technologies, newspaper, content, paper, model, business, disruptive, information, survive, print, media, course, assignment  
topic 4: digital, kodak, company, camera, market, quality, phone, development, future, failed, high, right, old,  
topic 5: amazon, books, netflix, blockbuster, stores, online, experience, products, apple, nook, strategy, video, service  
topic 6: time, grading, different, class, course, major, focus, product, like, years  
topic 7: companies, interesting, class, thanks, going, printing, far, wonder, article, sure

---

Table 2: Topics identified by LDA

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topic 1: thank, professor, lectures, assignments, concept, love, thanks, learned, enjoyed, forums, subject, question, hard, time, grading, peer, lower, low  
topic 2: learning, education, moocs, courses, students, online, university, classroom, teaching, coursera

---

Table 3: Seed words in LOGISTICS and GENERAL for DISR-TECH, WOMEN and GENE courses

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topic 3a: disruptive, technology, innovation, survival, digital, disruption, survivor  
topic 3b: women, civil, rights, movement, american, black, struggle, political, protests, organizations, events, historians, african, status, citizenship  
topic 3c: genomics, genome, egg, living, processes, ancestors, genes, nature, epigenetics, behavior, genetic, engineering, biotechnology

---

Table 4: Seed words for COURSE topic for DISR-TECH, WOMEN and GENE courses



# What if there are user priors? (seededLDA)

---

topic 1: time, thanks, one, low, hard, question, course, love, professor, lectures, lower, another, concept, agree, peer, point, never  
topic 2: online, education, coursera, students, university, courses, classroom, moocs, teaching, video  
topic 3: digital, survival, management, disruption, technology, development, market, business, innovation  
topic 4: publishing, publisher, traditional, companies, money, history, brand  
topic 5: companies, social, internet, work, example  
topic 6: business, company, products, services, post, consumer, market, phone, changes, apple  
topic 7: amazon, book, nook, readers, strategy, print, noble, barnes

---

**Table 5: Topics identified by SeededLDA for DISR-TECH**

---

topic 1: time, thanks, one, hard, question, course, love, professor, lectures, forums, help, essays, problem, thread, concept, subject  
topic 2: online, education, coursera, students, university, courses, classroom, moocs, teaching, video, work, english, interested, everyone  
topic 3: women, rights, black, civil, movement, african, struggle, social, citizenship, community, lynching, class, freedom, racial, segregation  
topic 4: violence, public, people, one, justice, school,s state, vote, make, system, laws  
topic 5: idea, believe, women, world, today, family, group, rights  
topic 6: one, years, family, school, history, person, men, children, king, church, mother, story, young  
topic 7: lynching, books, mississippi, march, media, youtube, death, google, woman, watch, mrs, south, article, film

---

**Table 6: Topics identified by SeededLDA for WOMEN**

---

topic 1: time, thanks, one, answer, hard, question, course, love, professor, lectures, brian, lever, another, concept, agree, peer, material, interesting  
topic 2: online, education, coursera, students, university, courses, classroom, moocs, teaching, video, knowledge, school  
topic 3: genes, genome, nature, dna, gene, living, behavior, chromosomes, mutation, processes  
topic 4: genetic, biotechnology, engineering, cancer, science, research, function, rna  
topic 5: reproduce, animals, vitamin, correct, term, summary, read, steps  
topic 6: food, body, cells, alleles blood, less, area, present, gmo, crops, population, stop  
topic 7: something, group, dna, certain, type, early, large, cause, less, cells

---

**Table 7: Topics identified by SeededLDA for GENE**

# What if there are some topics are related?

//

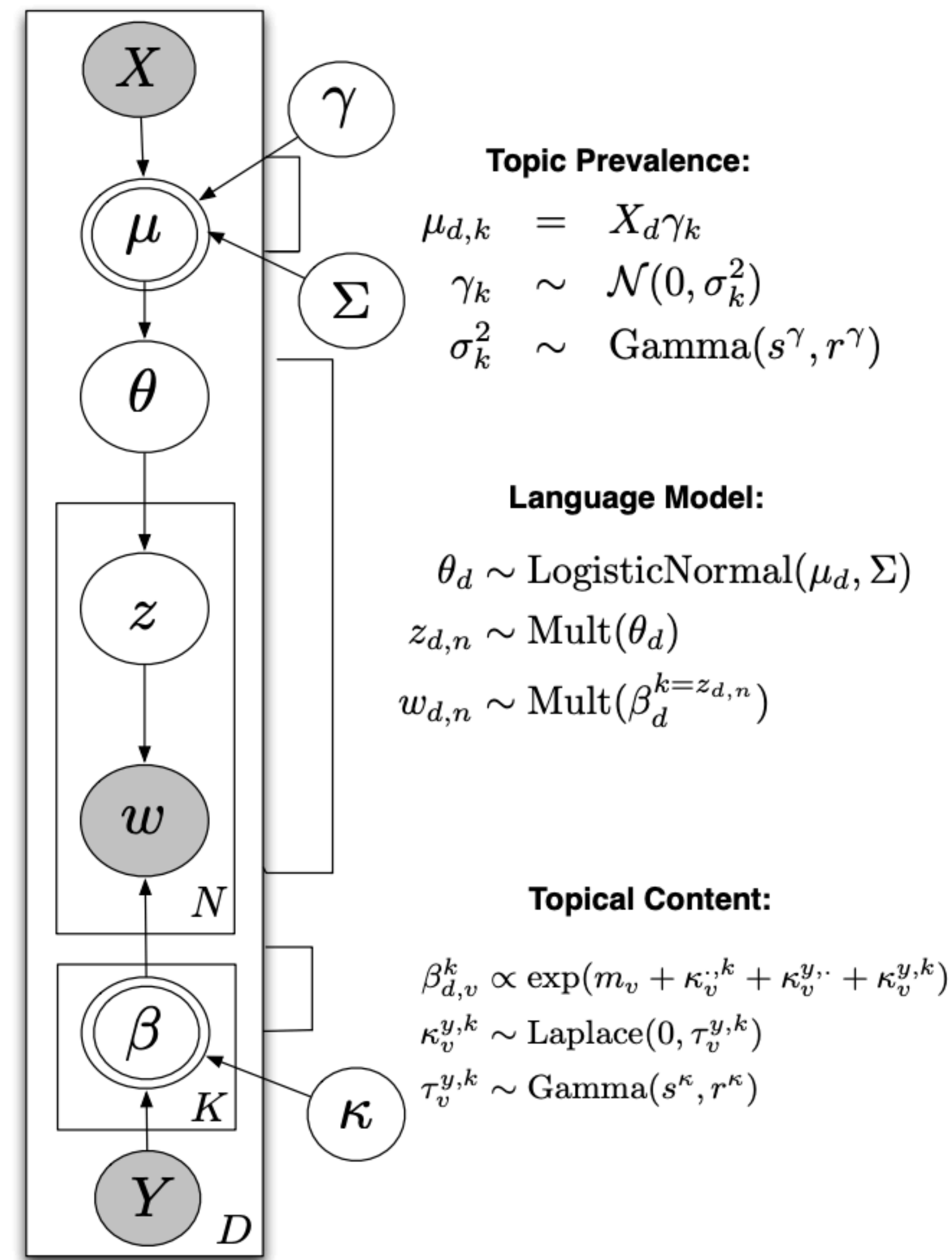
Topic proportions  $\theta$  can be correlated, and the prevalence of these topics can be influenced by some set of covariates  $X$  through a standard regression model with covariates

Roberts, Margaret E., Brandon M. Stewart, Dustin Tingley, and Edoardo M. Airoldi. "The structural topic model and applied social science." In Advances in neural information processing systems workshop on topic models: computation, application, and evaluation, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 1-20. 2013.

# The Structural Topic Model

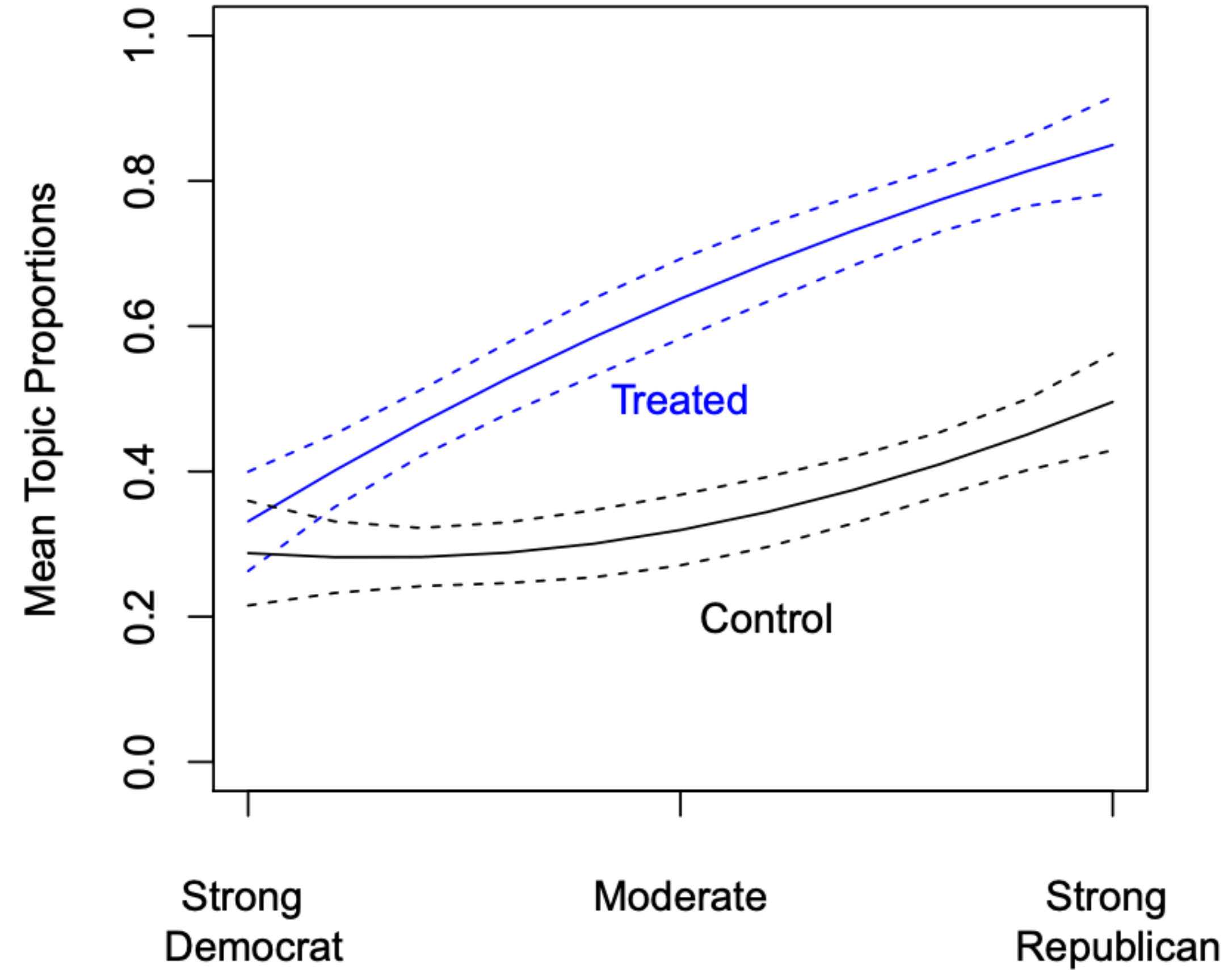
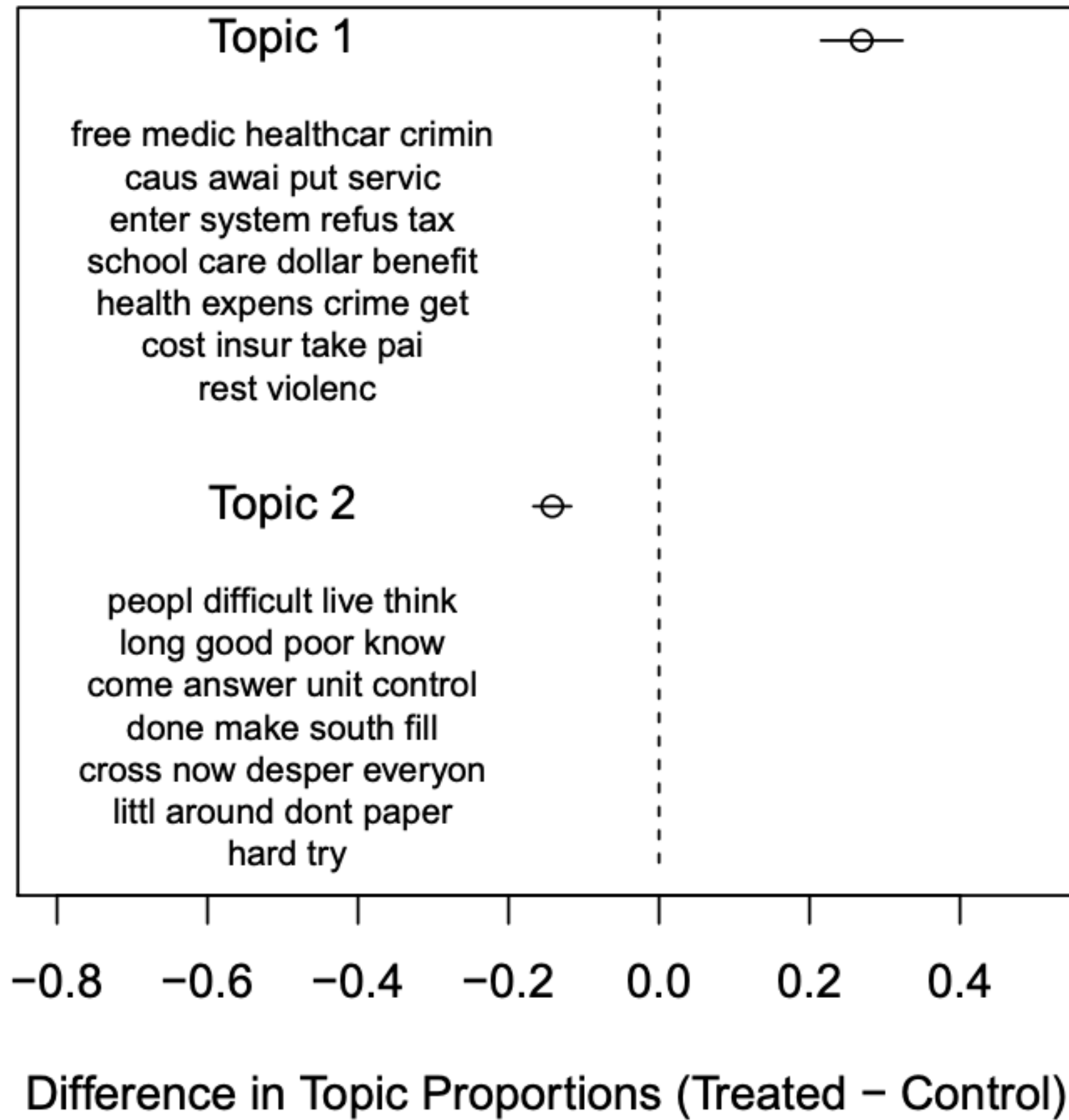
- Topics can be correlated
- Each document has its own prior distribution over topics, defined by covariate  $X$  rather than sharing a global mean
- Word use within a topic can vary by covariate  $U$

Provide a way of “structuring” the prior distributions in the topic model



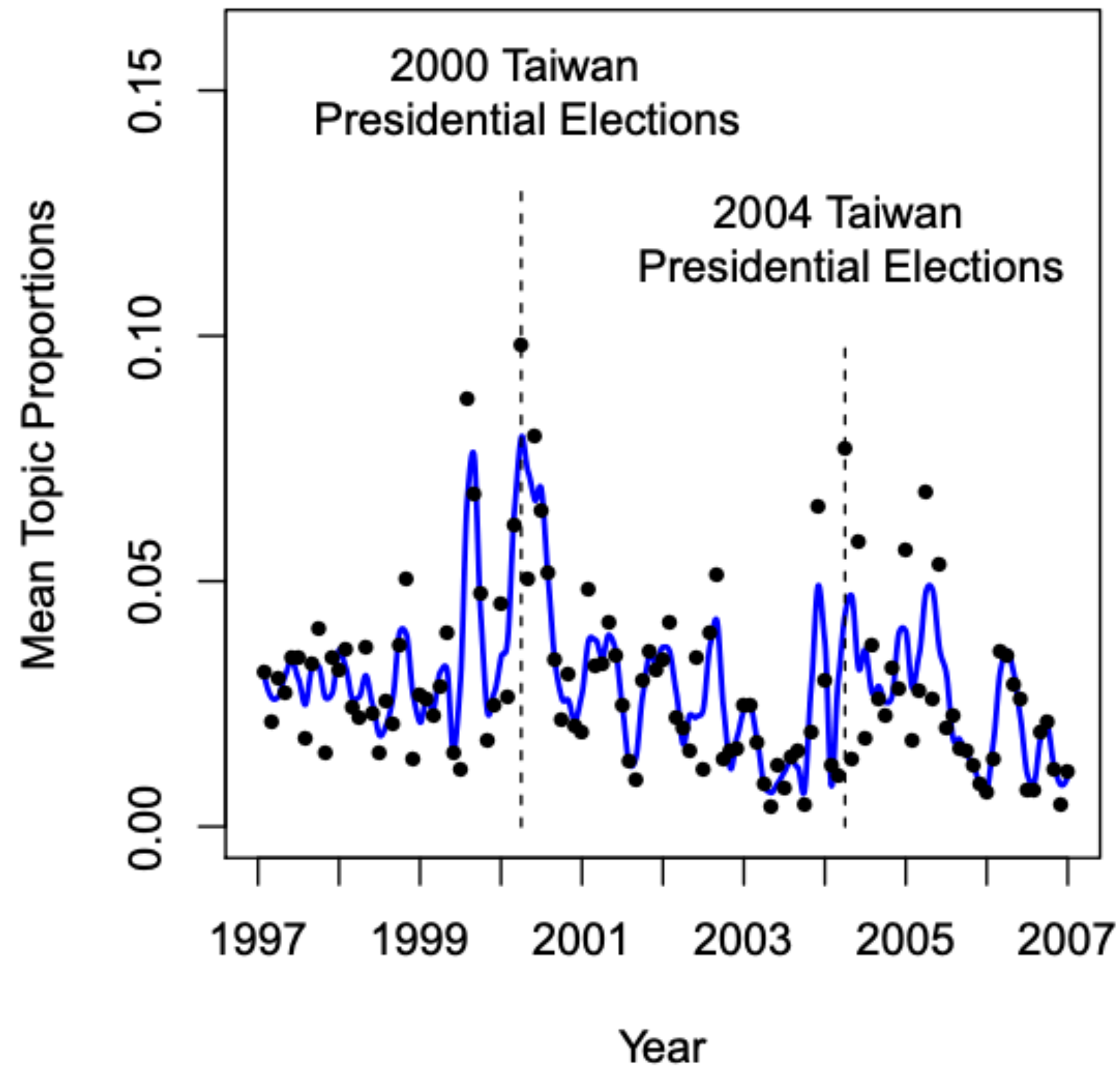
# The STM for Open-ended Questions in Survey Experiments

Topic 1 and Party ID



Party ID, Treatment, and the Predicted Proportion in Fear Topic (1 of 3)

# How News Wires Describe China's Rise, 1997-2006



## Associated Press

island, taiwan',  
 taiwanes, chen, lee,  
 independ, war, relat,  
 taipei, direct, strait,  
 sinc, ani, elect,  
 civil, polici,  
 nationalist, over, one,  
 democrat, support,  
 could, link, opposit,  
 move, onli, vote

## Xinhua

chen, taipei, island,  
 cross-strait, lee,  
 taiwanes, reunif,  
 independ, one, strait,  
 provinc, side, war,  
 taiwan', principl,  
 across, offic, link,  
 direct, civil, negoti,  
 council, sinc,  
 one-china, sovereignti,  
 wang, shui-bian

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# BERTopic in 3 steps

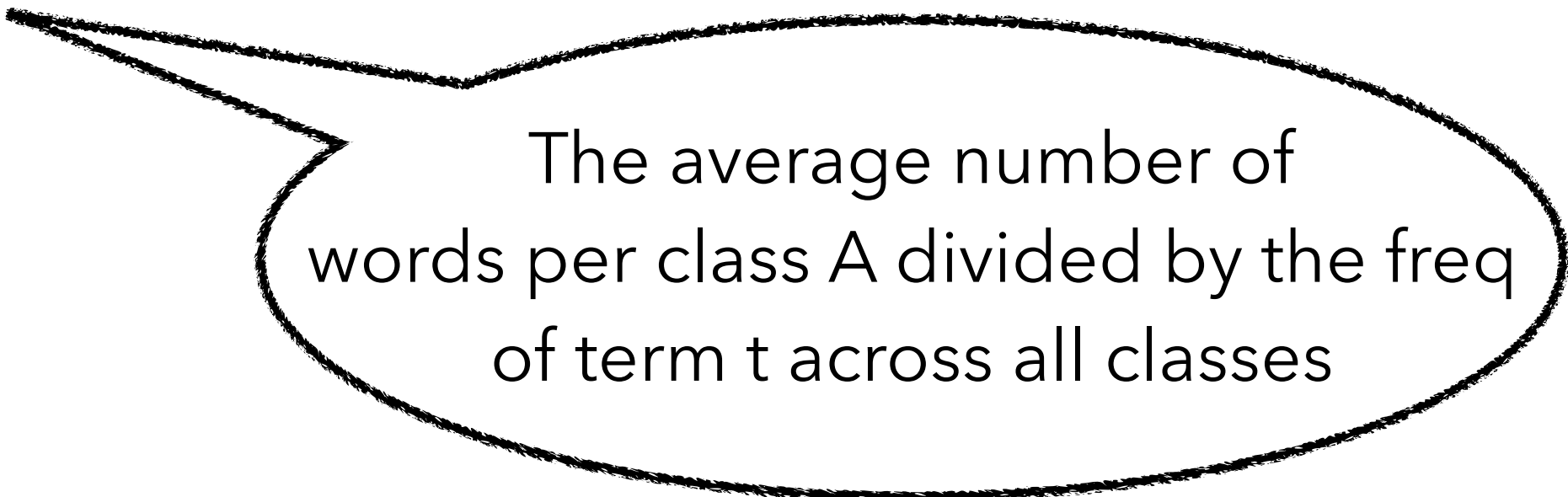
1. Each document is converted to its embedding representation using a pretrained language model
2. The dimensionality of these embeddings is reduced to optimize clustering
3. Topic representations are extracted using a class-based variation of TF-IDF

# Topic Representation

Classic TF-IDF  $W_{t,d} = \text{tf}_{t,d} \cdot \log\left(\frac{N}{\text{df}_t}\right)$

Custom Class TF-IDF: models the importance of words in clusters

$$W_{t,c} = \text{tf}_{t,c} \cdot \log\left(1 + \frac{N}{\text{tf}_t}\right)$$



The average number of words per class A divided by the freq of term t across all classes



# Topic Representation and Dynamic Topic Model

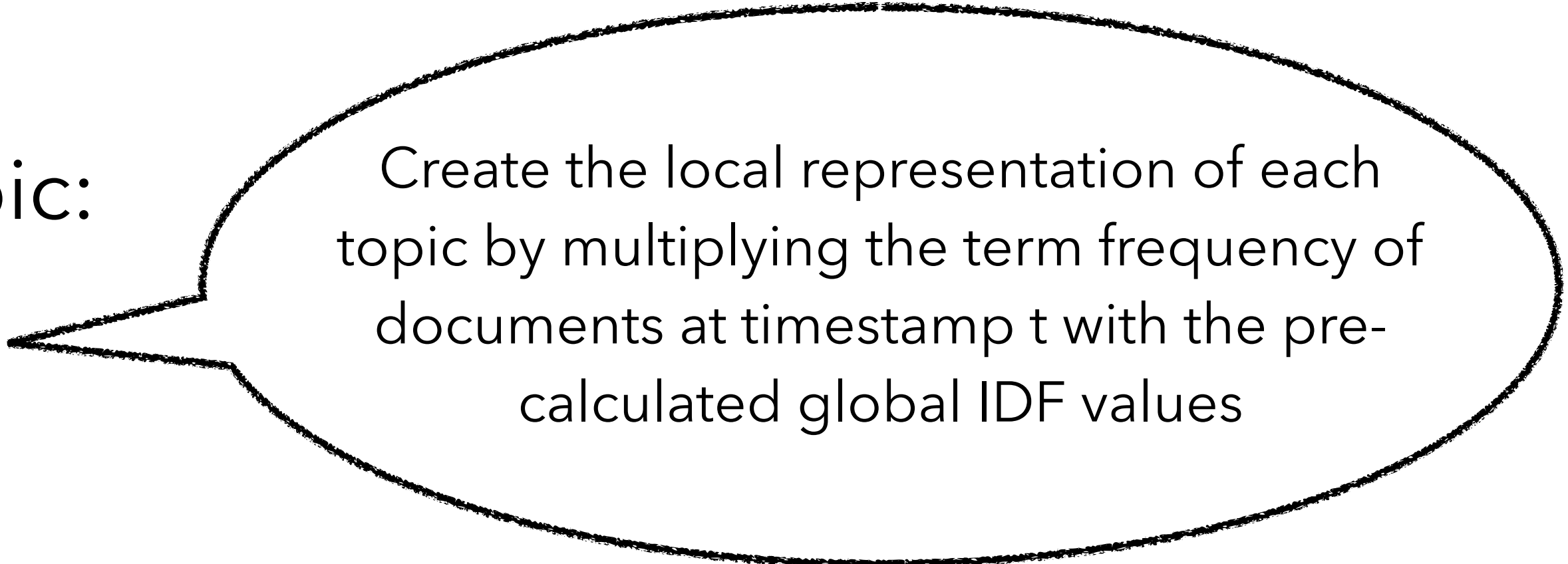
Classic TF-IDF  $W_{t,d} = \text{tf}_{t,d} \cdot \log\left(\frac{N}{\text{df}_t}\right)$

Custom Class TF-IDF: models the importance of words in clusters

$$W_{t,c} = \text{tf}_{t,c} \cdot \log\left(1 + \frac{N}{\text{tf}_t}\right)$$

Local representation of each topic:

$$W_{t,c,i} = \text{tf}_{t,c,i} \cdot \log\left(1 + \frac{N}{\text{tf}_t}\right)$$



Create the local representation of each topic by multiplying the term frequency of documents at timestamp  $t$  with the pre-calculated global IDF values

# BERTopic in 3 steps

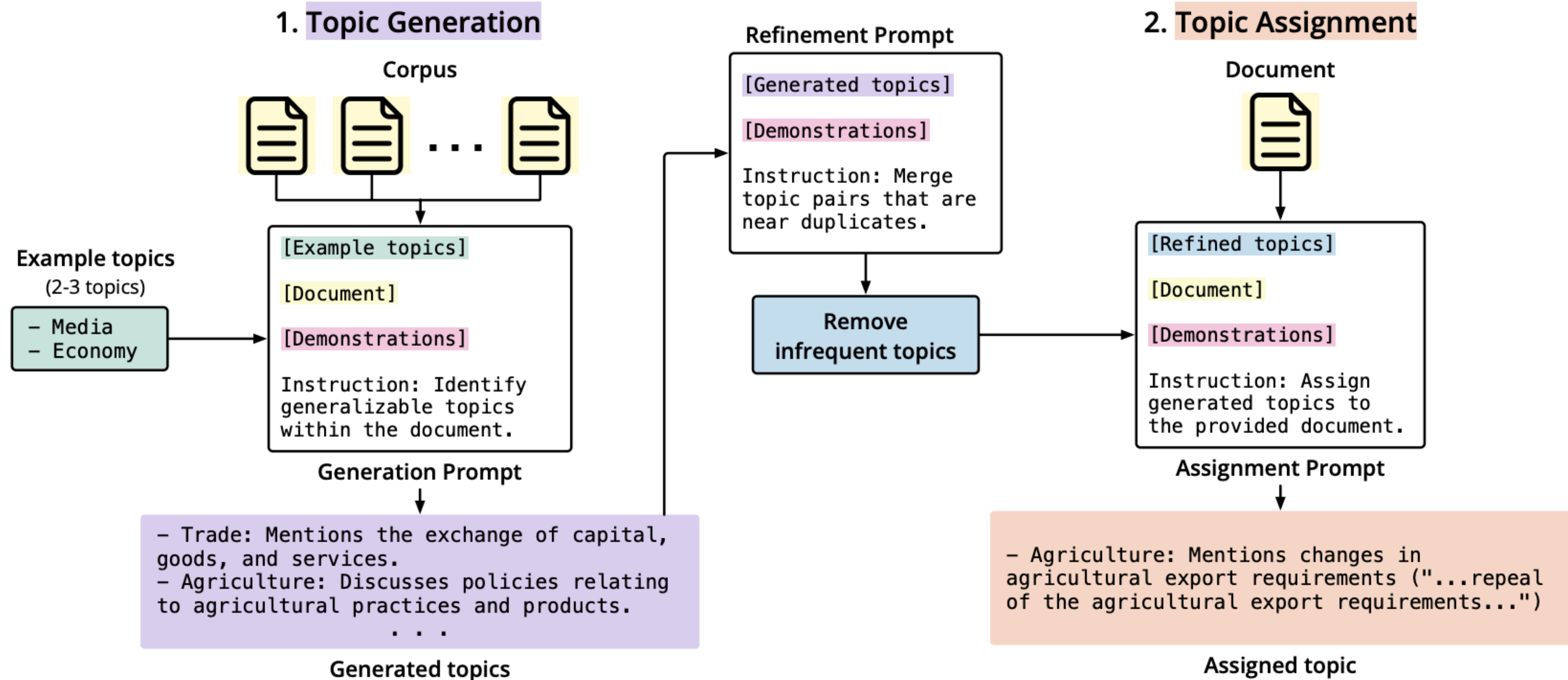
	<b>20 NewsGroups</b>		<b>BBC News</b>		<b>Trump</b>	
	TC	TD	TC	TD	TC	TD
LDA	.058	.749	.014	.577	-.011	.502
NMF	.089	.663	.012	.549	.009	.379
T2V-MPNET	.068	.718	-.027	.540	-.213	.698
T2V-Doc2Vec	<b>.192</b>	.823	<b>.171</b>	.792	-.169	.658
CTM	.096	<b>.886</b>	.094	<b>.819</b>	.009	<b>.855</b>
BERTopic-MPNET	<b>.166</b>	<b>.851</b>	<b>.167</b>	<b>.794</b>	<b>.066</b>	<b>.663</b>

Topic diversity: the percentage of unique words for all topics

Topic coherence: normalized pointwise mutual information

# The Three Pillars of BERTopic

# TopicGPT: A Prompt-based Topic Modeling Framework



Pham, Chau Minh, Alexander Hoyle, Simeng Sun, and Mohit Iyer. "TopicGPT: A prompt-based topic modeling framework." arXiv preprint arXiv:2311.01449 (2023).

# TopicGPT: A Prompt-based Topic Modeling Framework

## 1) Topic Generation:

Given a corpus and some manually-curated example topics, TopicGPT identifies additional topics in each corpus document.

## 2) Topic Assignment:

Given the generated topics, TopicGPT assigns the most relevant topic to each document and provides a quote that supports this assignment.

# More Metrics for Topic Alignment

Given a set of ground-truth classes and a set of predicted assignment clusters

**Purity:** harmonic mean of purity and inverse purity to match each ground-truth category with the cluster that has the highest combined precision and recall.

**Adjusted Rand Index:** pairwise agreement between two sets of clusters

**Normalized Mutual Information:** the amount of shared information between two sets of clusters.

# Topical alignment between ground-truth labels and predicted assignments

TopicGPT achieves the best performance across all settings and metrics compared to LDA, BERTopic, and SeededLDA

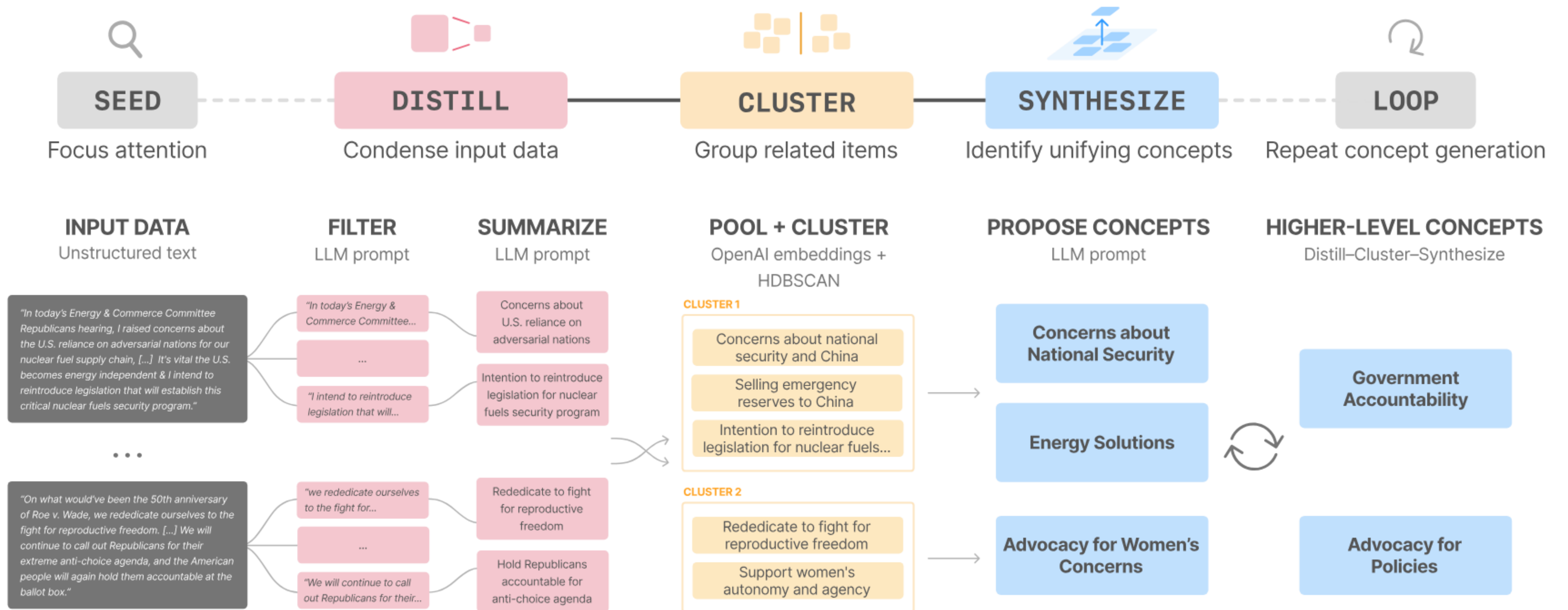
Dataset	Setting	TopicGPT			LDA			BERTopic			SeededLDA		
		$P_1$	ARI	NMI	$P_1$	ARI	NMI	$P_1$	ARI	NMI	$P_1$	ARI	NMI
Wiki	Default setting ( $k=31$ )	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>0.71</b>	0.59	0.44	0.65	0.54	0.24	0.50	0.61	0.47	0.65
	Refined topics ( $k=22$ )	<b>0.74</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.70</b>	0.64	0.52	0.67	0.58	0.28	0.50	0.62	0.51	0.65
Bills	Default setting ( $k=79$ )	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>0.52</b>	0.39	0.21	0.47	0.42	0.10	0.40	0.50	0.28	0.43
	Refined topics ( $k=24$ )	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.49</b>	0.52	0.32	0.46	0.39	0.12	0.34	0.52	0.31	0.45
<i>TopicGPT stability ablations, baselines controlled to have the same number of topics (<math>k</math>).</i>													
Bills	Different generation sample ( $k=73$ )	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.51</b>	0.41	0.23	0.47	0.38	0.08	0.38	0.40	0.21	0.44
	Out-of-domain prompts ( $k=147$ )	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>0.51</b>	0.31	0.14	0.47	0.35	0.07	0.41	0.29	0.13	0.44
	Additional example topics ( $k=123$ )	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.49</b>	0.33	0.15	0.46	0.36	0.07	0.40	0.33	0.15	0.44
	Shuffled generation sample ( $k=118$ )	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.52</b>	0.33	0.16	0.47	0.36	0.08	0.40	0.34	0.18	0.44
	Assigning with Mistral ( $k=79$ )	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.37</b>	0.46	0.39	0.21	<b>0.47</b>	0.42	0.10	0.40	0.50	0.28	0.43

# Example topic assignments from TopicGPT and LDA

Data	Document	Ground truth	TopicGPT assignment	LDA assignment
Wiki	<p><a href="#">Grant Park Music Festival</a> = The Grant Park Music Festival ( formerly Grant Park Concerts ) is an annual ten-week classical music concert series held in Chicago, Illinois, USA. It features the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra and Grant Park Chorus along with featured guest performers and conductors. The Festival has earned non-profit organization status. It claims to be the nation's only free, outdoor classical music series. The Grant Park Music Festival has been a Chicago tradition since 1931 when Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak suggested free concerts to lift the spirits of...</p>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Music &amp; Performing Arts:</b> Discuss creation, production, and performance of music, as well as related arts and cultural aspects.	<b>City infrastructure:</b> city, building, area, new, park
Bills	<p><a href="#">Perkins Fund for Equity and Excellence</a>. This bill amends the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to replace the existing Tech Prep program with a new competitive grant program to support career and technical education. Under the program, local educational agencies and their partners may apply for grant funding to support: career and technical education programs that are aligned with postsecondary education programs, dual or concurrent enrollment programs and early college programs, certain evidence-based strategies and delivery models related to career and technical education, teacher and leader experiential ...</p>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Education:</b> Mentions policies and programs related to higher education and student loans.	<b>Programs and grants:</b> program, grants, grant, programs, state



# Concept Induction via LLoom (<https://stanfordhci.github.io/lloom>)



Lam, Michelle S., Janice Teoh, James Landay, Jeffrey Heer, and Michael S. Bernstein. "Concept Induction: Analyzing Unstructured Text with High-Level Concepts Using LLoom." arXiv preprint arXiv:2404.12259 (2024).

## Example Inputs

of the Alief Multi-Service Center; joined by Mayor @sylvesterturner and Councilmember @tiffanydeshellthomas . From swimming pools, to tennis courts, to skate parks, this facility will serve our city greatly for years to come.

I obtained \$1,800,000 for the Roe Road Extension Project in Paradise and \$1,400,000 for the Cohasset Road Widening and Fire Safety Project to improve evacuation routes in those areas. These projects are focused on increasing road capacity to help people more quickly evacuate areas threatened by natural disasters, such as wildfires. This also aids first responders and emergency services to get to a disaster scene more expeditiously. These improvements to evacuation infrastructure will improve the safety and quality of life for the residents of Paradise and Butte County. Learning from previous disasters and expanding our ability to react and respond helps us prepare for potential new ones.

The fatal beating of Tyre Nichols is horrifying. I'm devastated for his family and the Memphis community. We must fight for a world that ends this injustice and inhumane brutality at last.

I am honored to continue serving on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Republicans. Solid infrastructure is critical to Florida's economy, which is dependent on moving goods and people efficiently and effectively.

## Example L L O O M Outputs

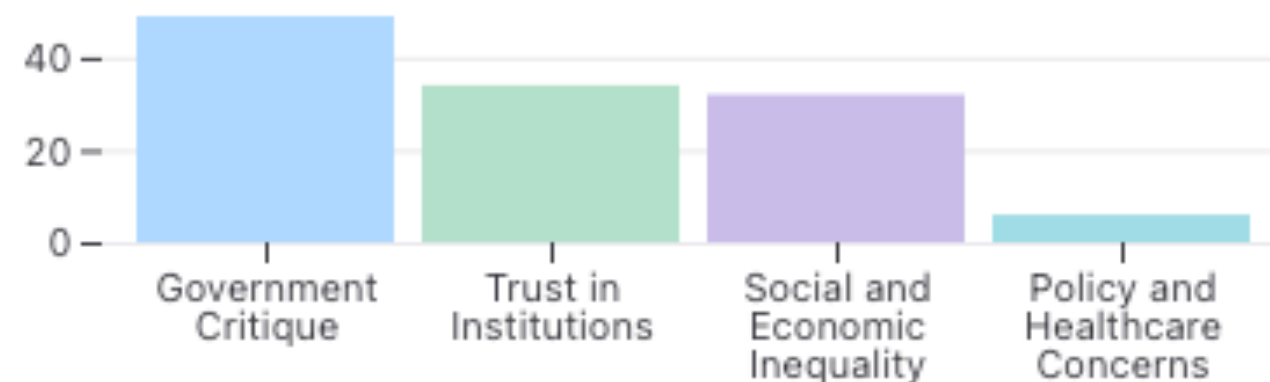
**SELECT SEED.** The seed term can steer concept induction towards more specific areas of interest. Try out one of the options below:

social distrust

political candidates

no seed

↑ Number of documents



### Government Critique

**Criteria:** Does this text criticize government actions or policies?

**Summary:** Critique of government actions, policies, and officials, advocating for accountability, transparency, and reform.

### Trust in Institutions

**Criteria:** Does this text address trust or distrust in social or governmental institutions?

**Summary:** Emphasizing trust in institutions through healthcare access, equality, disaster preparedness, combat readiness, and justice initiatives.

### Social and Economic Inequality

**Criteria:** Does this text discuss social or economic disparities?

**Summary:** Advocating for social justice, economic equality, healthcare access, and accountability in government and society.

### Policy and Healthcare Concerns

**Criteria:** Does this text express concerns about healthcare policies or costs?

**Summary:** Advocating for healthcare access, protecting abortion rights, lowering drug prices, and investigating federal agency corruption.

## Example Inputs

men do better it's not just the bible it's biology Feminism lied

The naive young women who call them selves feminists are completely irrelevant to anything because they don't push to change anything. What the fuck difference do they make? None.

The only solution is for people to learn to stop being angry at entire genders

I think you listed the order. 1. People of color 3. Women Although 2 & 3 can interchange

The short/average dick dudes and the women lurking here. Or just to themselves to boost their self esteem

Can we agree that feminism is a bullshit concept and all it is aimed to do is oppress the common working man? I honestly don't have any idea what to do with my life right now...

This is just another attempt to govern women's bodies. Come on.

Let's do it again with Feminists. Now

## Example L L O O M Outputs

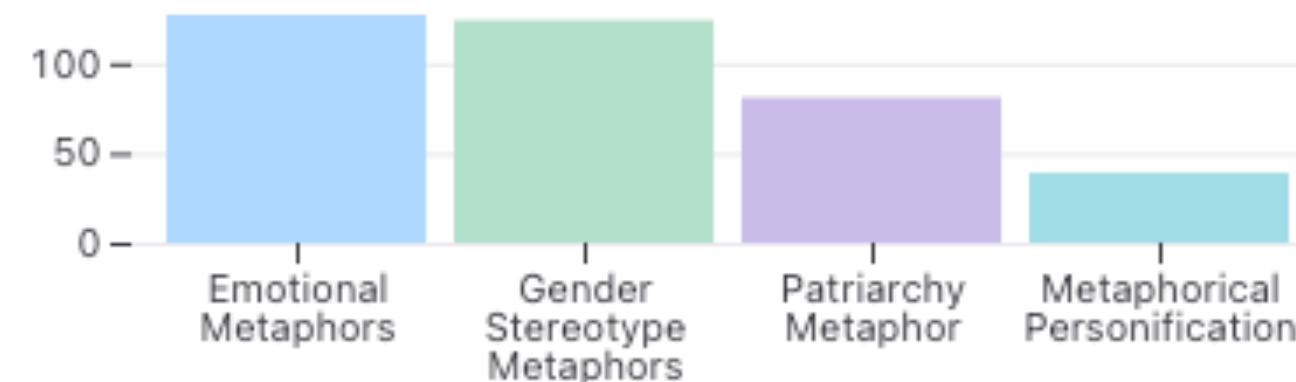
**SELECT SEED.** The seed term can steer concept induction towards more specific areas of interest. Try out one of the options below:

metaphorical language

specific instances of metaphors

no seed

↑ Number of documents



### Emotional Metaphors

**Criteria:** Does this text express emotions using metaphorical language?

**Summary:** Women are objectified, lack control, and are seen as tribal and revenge-minded. Feminism is criticized as promoting hostility and entitlement.

### Gender Stereotype Metaphors

**Criteria:** Identify if metaphorical language reinforces gender stereotypes.

**Summary:** Gender stereotype metaphors perpetuate harmful beliefs about women's appearance, behavior, and worth, reinforcing societal biases and inequalities.

### Patriarchy Metaphor

**Criteria:** Is metaphorical language used to discuss patriarchy?

**Summary:** The examples highlight the negative impact of patriarchy, objectification of women, gender discrimination, and societal expectations on women.

### Metaphorical Personification

**Criteria:** Does this text use personification as a form of metaphorical language?

**Summary:** Using metaphorical personification, we depict women as tribal, men as evil, and society as oppressive.

# Overview

- **What is topic modeling?**
- **LDA topic modeling**
- **Evaluation methods**
- **LDA variants**
  - SeededLDA
  - Structural Topic Model
- **LLM based topic modeling**
  - BERTopic, TopicGPT, LLoom