

LDA and LSA for Topic Modeling on ORA

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Topic Models

- When we have a large amount of data, we would like to know if they can be grouped in a meaningful way
- "Topics" are a way of thinking of the clustering problem
 - Data instances are "documents"
 - Different documents use different "words"
 - When documents use similar words in similar ways, they might belong to the same "topic"



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Some examples

Literal texts

More figurative "documents"

Dogs like to run and play.

Dogs are people's best friend.

Dogs like to chew on bones.

Biology is the study of living organisms.

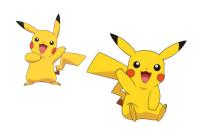
Chemistry is the study of matter.

Psychology is the study of human behavior and mental processes.

One Direction will hold their concert next week.

Did you buy the One Direction merchandise?

Harry is my favorite One Direction member.





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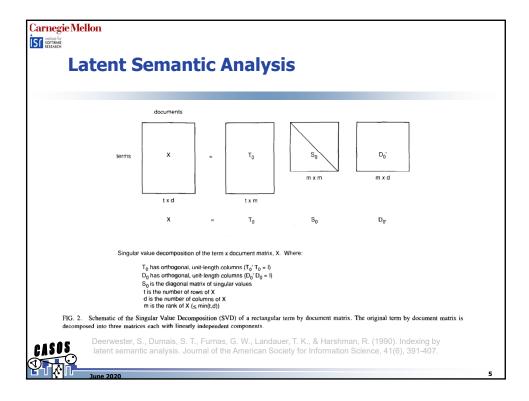
LSA vs. LDA

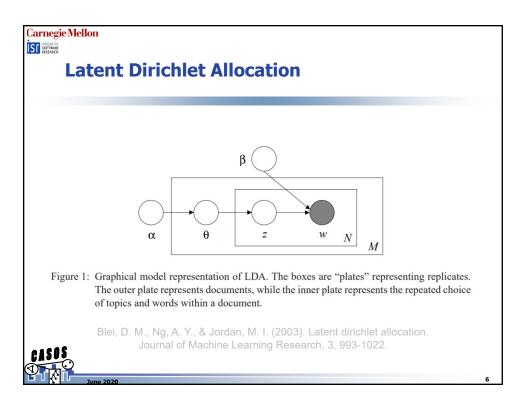
- Latent Semantic Analysis or Latent Semantic Indexing
 - Based on matrix factorization
 - Big difference: You can have negative values
- Latent Dirichlet Allocation
 - Based on probabilistic graphical model
 - Big difference: Scores expressed as probabilities
- Both popular



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In practice...

- There is no hard and fast way to decide which model is better
- A large factor in deciding on the quality and interpretation of a topic model is human judgment
- Many will work for general purposes



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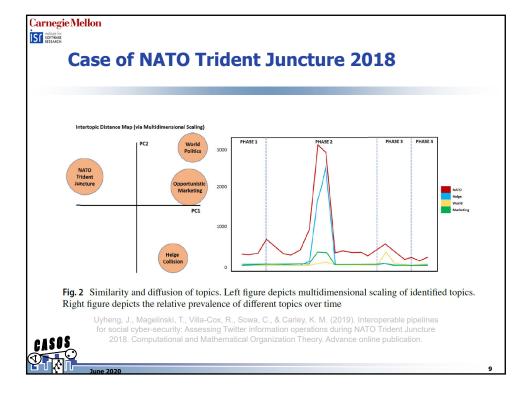
In a network setting

- 1. Documents and words don't have to be literal documents and words
 - People can serve as "documents"
 - Hashtags can serve as "words"
 - Topics can represent tendencies between certain agents to invoke certain hashtags
- We can visualize multiple kinds of connections between agents and concepts



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Topics extracted

Table 1 Summary of topics identified using LDA. While some tweets specifically focused on NATO and events during the Trident Juncture Exercise, others focused more broadly on world politics or exploited public attention surrounding NATO to market various commodities online

Topics	Key words	Sample tweets
NATO Trident Juncture	Nato, exercise, trident juncture, norway, russia, military, maneuver, soldier, large, participate	JORSTADMOEN, Norway—A U.S. Army AH-64 Apache assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. 12th Combat Aviation Brigade departs Rena Leir Airfield, Norway, during Exercise Trident Juncture, Nov. 5, 2018. TridentJuncture2018. WeAreNATO
Collision of Helge Ingstad	Russian, ship, photo, october, navy, frigate, sink, tanker, great, take	NATO has to learn from his TridentPUNCTURE. A fire on Canadian frigate HMCS Halifax. The storm nearly sank ship of USNavy GunstonHall. CanadianNavy ship #Toronto lost its turn. A collision with tanker, Navy frigate Norwegian KNM 'Helge Ingstad'
World politics	Go, prepare, need, medium, thank, want, leave, Ukraine, man, injure	There might be more truth here than you can handle Just sayin' USA Syria Palestine MidEast Yemen Iraq Libya Afghanistan Kushner Zionism Nazi Wahhabism NATO NewWorldOrder UN AIPAC Genie Energy Trump Obama Hillary GeorgeBush Obama BillClinton
Opportunistic marketing	Say, member, test, do, amp, defense, war, time, big	New on ebay: Arc Touch Wireless USB Receiver Mouse Slim Optical Flat Microsoft Touch Mouse KZ

Uyheng, J., Magelinski, T., Villa-Cox, R., Sowa, C., & Carley, K. M. (2019). Interoperable pipelines for social cyber-security: Assessing Twitter information operations during NATO Trident Juncture 2018. Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory. Advance online publication.

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Topics for social cyber-security

Table 4 Summary of bot activity for each topic identified with LDA

Topic	Bot activity		
	Number of bot tweets	(%)	
Collision of Helge Ingstad	2385	31.97	
NATO Trident Juncture	42512	25.63	
World politics	3018	20.30	
Opportunistic marketing	3799	7.82	

We organize rows by percentage of tweets in each topic associated with a predicted bot. The collision topic featured the highest level of predicted bot activity

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