Computer-Assisted Clustering and Conceptualization

Gary King

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Parthemos Lecture at University of Georgia, 3/4/2011

 $^{^{1}\}mathsf{Based}$ on joint work with Justin Grimmer (Harvard \rightsquigarrow Stanford)

 Conceptualization through Classification: "one of the most central and generic of all our conceptual exercises. ... the foundation not only for conceptualization, language, and speech, but also for mathematics, statistics, and data analysis.... Without classification, there could be no advanced conceptualization, reasoning, language, data analysis or, for that matter, social science research." (Bailey, 1994).

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- Main goal: Switch from Fully Automated to Computer Assisted

What's Hard about Clustering?

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(aka Why Johnny Can't Classify)

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- Now imagine choosing the optimal classification scheme by hand!
- Fully automated algorithms can help, but which ones?

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- No surprise: everyone's tried cluster analysis; very few are satisfied

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- Question: How to organize clusterings so humans can understand?

Set of clusterings

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A B K A B K

Set of clusterings \approx A list of unconnected addresses

wide at	SuperPages.com	195	Car C
NO. ID. SHITT	Cartage New England Inc	Carter F 24 Hillock Res 00131	Carter Nella E
7 566-1282	26 Alles Ln Ipswich 01938	Faye & Ricky	333 Maschets Av Bos 02115
		357 Calumbus Av Bos 02116	Nicholas S F 115 Randolph Av Mil 02185
81 447-4101	13 Jewett Ros 02131	Francis S 134 Temple W Rox 02132. 617 323-6781	115 Randolph Av Mil 02186
	Cartagena Avith	Franklin & Anne	Nick 21 Fairfeld Bos 02115
0 257-9981	9 Baecroft Ros 02119	221 Mt Auborn Cam (0138	196 Herrick Rd Newton 00457
	B Hyd 02136	Fred 42 Haverland Jam 02130	Nicole
7 566-1282	Jessica 50 Decatar Cha 02229	Fred of Heckley Rd Mil 02185	Norman G
7 364-5188	Lucilla 1/4 Harvard Cam (2139 617 491-5621		38 Chickstawbet Der 02122
	M 75 Rowe Ros 00133	G T 27 Frankin Av Son 02145	P 96 Crestwood Pk Ray (21)21
861-0380	Melvin 500 Green Cam 02139		P # Crestwood Pk Rax (2121
State State	Carte Nicholas	Geo S 115 Moss Hill Rd Jam 02130617 522-3215 George 125 Nashua Bos 02114617 367-9548	P L 44 Hutchings Rox (2121
7 566-4548	18 Appleton Baston 02116	George 125 hashua 6xs 02114617 367-9548 Carter Halliday Associate	P R 91 Bunner Jan 02130
	Cartegena O 4 Millard Bos 02138 617 338-8219	Carter Halliday Associate	Paul & Constance
7 628-8248	Carten Thos J Sr & Claire	107 5 Street Bos 02111	114 Anaryan Ar W Rax (2)32
Participant	1 Peradise Rd Mil 02186 617 698-6163	Carter Harry F	Paul F stor F Sets ST S Res (27)27. 617 268-454
7 445-5116	Thomas & Kathleen	26 Runnig Brit Rd W Rox 02132 617 325-5465 Carter Hide Co Inc	Paul M 27 Union Bri (2135
	50 Thompson Ln Mil 02286		Carter Pile Driving Inc 17 Beaver Ct
7 822-2982	Carter A Res 02131	146 Summer Bos 02110	Framingham (0/102
7 427-5712	A Roebery	Carter Hilary 61 Harvey Can 02140617 876-2750	Carter Prudence
7 569-2698	A 31 Bethune Wy Roxbury 02119 617 442-1219	Horace (37 440 5367	46 Frankin Watertown (21/2
	A 260 Putnam Ar Cambridge 02239 617 492-4174	241 Walnut Av Roebury 02119	Prodence
7 667-5190	A M 255 Maschels Ar Bos 02115 617 266-7153	Howard Jr 25 Notes Dine Res 00119, 617 445-5552	di Frankin Watertman (0172
	Adams 361 Centre St Mil 02186 617 698-9074	J Can	Reginald
7 569-1417	Alice 108 Kilmarnock Bos 02215 617 425-0193	J 538 Harvard Bro 02446	106 Brunswick Dorchester (2121617 541-284)
to Dr	Alice 45 Market Cambridge 02139 617 945-2711	J 538 Harvard Bro 0246	Rence & Andrew
7 338-9110	Andrew F 42 Vinal &r Som 02143 617 625-7623		10 Walnut Bos 02108
7 825-9195	Carter Anne MD 1165 Beacon Bro 00446	Carter J Jacques MD 1 Brooking Pl Bra 62445	Carter Rice Dowd
			Builder Dunton Publishing 163 Main Wilmington 01887
7 296-1593	Carter Athens	Carter J M	Toll Free-Dial '1' & Then
	272 Newbury Boston 02116	1410 Columbia Rd S Bos 02127 617 464-1040 Carter J M Ornamental Ironworks	
7 670-2078	B E 68 Gladeside Av Mat 02126 617 296-6911	Call	Toll Free-Dial '1' & Then
7 623-9001	Carter Barbara L MD	CalPenerola 1840-017 430-3333	Cust Svc-Printing 613 Main Wilmington
	Tufts-New England Medical Center Bes 02111 Call	Carter J Veal Co 68 Meansacket So Res 62118	Toll Free-Dial '2' & Then
7 296-4725	Carter Becky 8x5 (21)4	Carter James	Headquarters 613 Main Wilnington 00887
ALL HINKS	Carter Becky 9/5 E2194		Call
7 542-1521		1573 Cambridge St Cam 02138617 492-1214	Ingaits Cronin 163 Main Wilmington 01887
	112 Gladstone E Bes 02128	James 182 Fisher Av Roebury 02120617 739-2193	Toll Free-Dial '2' & Then
7 364-5232	Bithiah 25 Medway Der 02124	James (17.07/ 001)	Carter Richard
7 541-5649	Blake 25 Mt Vernon Bos 02108	37 Gold Star Rd Cambridge 02140 617 876-8841	1079 Commetth Av Brighton 02215 617 987-0830
	Carter Broadcasting Co	Jas L 14 Reseberry Rd Mat 02126 617 361-0773	Richard A \$7 Mt Vernos Bos 02108617 566-729.
7 739-2662	20 Park Ptz Box 02116	Jane 114 Adena Rd Newton 02465617 964-0435 Jeffrey 41 Warren & Bos 02115617 426-5994	Carter Richard A MD 170 Committe Av Bos 02116
	Carter & Burgess Consultants Inc	Jeffrey 41 Warren Ar Bos 02116 617 426* 5994	170 Commwith Av Bos 02116 617 267-071
17 879-0030	23 East St Cam 02241	John 11 Manafield Bri 02134	Carter Richard K
7 541-3948	Carter C 2000 Committe Ar Bri 02135 617 782-2118	John 327 Summer Bos 02210	15 Mercer S Bos 02127
7 436-1513	C 228 Faywood Av East Sector 02128 617 569-1545	John 40 Westwind Rd Der 02125 617 282-1235	Robert L 175 Richdale Av Cam 02140. 617 864-153.
17 569-4119	C 359 Harvard Cam 02138	June O 229 A Summit Av Bri 02135 617 734-6109	Roger 150 St Botniph Bos (2115 617 424-614
on 02128	C 633 Walk Hill Mat 07126	K 38 Browning Av Dorchester 02124 617 265-8456	Roy 44 Cancord Av Cam 02138
00 569-8782	C & M 43 Burroughs Jam 02130 617 529-9558	K 17 Esmond Dorchester 02121	Royce 18 Seminary Cha 02129

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1105	Carter Nella E		
	222 Maschety &r Ros 02115		\$7-648
7331	Nicholas S F		
6781	115 Randoloh Av Mil 02186		78-530
225	Nick 21 Fairfield Box 02116		\$7-\$22
0798	Nick & Debbi		
3078	706 Marriels Dri Mandrah (17850	617 5	27-048
1343	Nicole	617 6	28-071
8906	Norman G	19 A 19 A 19	10-11 Fe
7121	38 Chickatzwbut Dor 02122	617 9	22-120
0322	P 94 Crestwood Pk Rax 02121	617 4	27-475
3215	P E 501 E Sorth S Bos 02127	617 2	(0-121
9548	P L 44 Hutchings Rox 02121	617.0	27-017
7340	P R 91 Bymer Jan 02130	617 0	02.060
1689	Paul & Constance		
1689	114 Anawan Ar W Rox (2)32		
	114 Anawan Ax W Rax 02132		23-203
5465	Paul E 501 8 Sinth St S Bos 02127.		03 011
-	Paul M 27 Union Bri (2135		0/-211
7987	Carter Pile Driving Inc 17 Beau	r Ct	
2750	Framingham (0.702 Wellesley T	ebe-781 Z	35-848
	Carter Prudence		100 %
5307	46 Franklin Watertown 021/72		93-378
\$552	Prudence		1000
2688	46 Franklin Watertown 021/2		26-706
7990	Reginald		
9483	106 Brunswick Dorchester 02121		41-284
\$\$74	Rence & Andrew		
	10 Walnut Bos 02108		20-376
8787	Carter Rice Dowd		
	Builder Duntoe Publishing 163 Main W	Umington 01	137
1040	Toll Free-Dial "2" & Then. Cust Svc Industrial Prod 613 Main Will		38-167
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1775	Toll Free-Dial '2' & Then		48-744
1115	Headquarters 613 Main Wilnington 0	1887	
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5132	Toll Free-Olal '2' & Then		38-10/
8841	Carter Richard		22.22
0773	3879 Comewith Av Brighton 022	5-01/9	87-083
	Richard A \$7 Mt Vernos Bos 021	0161/5	00-723
0435	Carter Richard A MD	1.100	C. MIL
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2163	Carter Richard K		
4334	15 Mercer S Bos 02127		68-044
1235	Robert L 175 Richdale Av Cam 03	140.617 8	64-153
6109			
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1593	Royce 18 Seminary Cha 02129		41-041

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	B Hut 02136 617 361-5253	Fred 42 Haverland Jam 02130 617 524-3078	196 Herrick Rd Newton 00/459	
17 566-1282	Jessica 50 Decatar Cha 02229	Fred 96 Hinckley Rd Mil 02185	Nicole	
17 364-5188	Lucilla 174 Harvard Cam (213) 617 491-5621	G & R 8 Verdun Dor 02124	Norman G 36 Osidotzedut Dor (0122	
	M 75 Rowe Ros 00131	G T 27 Franklin Av Som 02145	P 94 Crestwood Pk Rox (2)21	
361-0380	Melvin 501 Green Cam 02139	Geo S 115 Mess Hill Rd Jam 07130	P E 501 E 500 S 805 (2127	
17 566-4548	18 Appieton Barton 02116	George 125 Nashua Bos 02114	P 1 44 Hutchings Rev (2)21	
11 200-4240	Cartegena Q 4 Millard Box 02118	Carter Halliday Associate	P R 91 Bunner Jan 02130	
17 628-8248	Carten Thos J Sr & Claire	107 5 Street Bos 02111	Paul & Constance	
	1 Paradise Rd Mil 02186	Carter Harry F	114 Anawan As W Rax (2132	
17 445-5116	Thomas & Kathleen	26 Runnig Birk Rd W Rox 02132 617 325-5465	Paul E 501 E Sinth St S Bos 02127 617 268-4544	
	50 Thompson Ln Mil 02286	Carter Hide Co Inc	Paul M 27 Union Bri 02135	
17 822-2982	Carter A Res 02131	146 Summer Bos (0110	Carter Pile Driving Inc 17 Seaver Ct Framingham (12/02	
17 427-5712	A Roebery	Carter Hilary 61 Harvey Can 02140617 876-2750 Horace	Carter Prudence	
17 569-2698	A 31 Bethune Wy Rosbury 02113	241 Walnut Av Roebury (2119	46 Frankin Watertown 02172	
7 667-5190	A M 255 Marschets Ar Bes (2115	Howard Jr 25 Notes Die Res 02119, 617 445-5552	Prodence	
11 001-2100	Adams 341 Centre 32 Mil (2184 617 698-9074	J Cam	46 Franklin Watertawn 02172	
17 569-1417	Alice 108 Kilmarrock Bes 02215 617 425-0193	J 15 Chatham Bro 02446	Reginald	
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17 338-9110	Andrew F #2 Vinal Ar Som 02143 617 625-7623	J 775 Who Pleasy West Roobury 02132 617 323 - 5574	Rence & Andrew 10 Watert Bos 02108	
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MR STOR	1104 Beacon Bro 00446	1 Brookine Pi Bro 0246	Builder Duttre Publishing 163 Main Wilmington 01887	
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7 670-2078	B E 68 Gladeside Av Mat 02125	Carter J M Ornamental Ironworks		
7 623-9001	Carter Barbara L MD	Call	Toll Free-Dial '1' & Then	
1) 013 1001	Tuffs New Fredard Medical Center Res (0711)	Carter J Veal Co	Cust Svc-Printing 613 Main Wilmington Toll Free-Dial '2' & Then	
17 296-4725	Call	48 Newstarket 5g Rox 02138		
	Carter Becky 8xs 02114	Carter James	Coll	
17 542-1521	Bernard J	1573 Cambridge St Cam 02138617 492-1214	Ingails Cronie 163 Main Wilmington 01887	
	112 Gladstone E Bos 02128	James 182 Fisher Av Roebury 02120617 739-2193	Toll Free-Ool 2' & Then	
17 364-5232	Bitnian 25 Medway Der 02124	37 Gold Star Rd Cambridge 02140 617 876-8841	Carter Richard M79 Conneeth Av Relation 02215	
17 541-5649	Carter Broadcasting Co	Jas L 14 Roseberry Rd Mat 02226617 361-0773	Richard A \$7 Mt Venico Bos (0108617 566-729.	
17 739-2662	20 Park Piz Bes 02116	Jane 114 Adena Rd Newton 02465 617 964-0435	Carter Richard A ND	
11737-2002	Carter & Burgess Consultants Inc	Jeffrey 41 Warren & Bos 02116 617 426-5994	170 Compath by Bos 07116	
17 879-0030	21 East St Cam 02240	John 11 Manafield Bri 02134	Carter Richard K	
17 541-3948	Carter C 2000 Comnwith Ar Bri 02135 617 782-2118	John 327 Summer Bos 02218	15 Mercer S Bos 02127	
17 436-1513	C 228 Faywood Av East Boston 02128 617 569-1545	John 40 Westwind Rd Der 02125 617 282-1235	Robert L 175 Richdale Av Cam 02140. 617 864-153	
17 569-4119	C 339 Harvard Can 02131	June O 329 A Summit &v Bri 02135 617 734-6109	Roger 150 St Botniph Bos 02115	
ton 02128		K 38 Browning Av Dorchester 02124 617 265-8456 K 17 Egmond Dorchester 02121	Roy 64 Cancord Av Cant 02138	
100 569-8782	C & M 43 surroughs Jan 02130 617 524-9558	A 1/ Estiona Dorchester 02121	Koyce 18 Semnary Cha (2)29	



\rightsquigarrow We develop a (conceptual) geography of clusterings

848 -3782 -7063

-2843

-3765

-1671

-7447 -7447

-744 -1673

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A New Strategy

Make it easy to choose best clustering from millions of choices

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EX (E)

• Code text as numbers (in one or more of several ways)

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- Code text as numbers (in one *or more* of several ways)
- Apply all clustering methods we can find to the data each representing different (unstated) substantive assumptions (<15 mins)</p>

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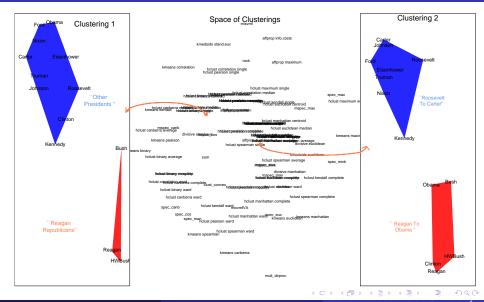
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- A new animated visualization to explore the space of clusterings (smoothly morphing from one into others)
- Millions of clusterings, easily comprehended

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Many Thousands of Clusterings, Sorted & Organized

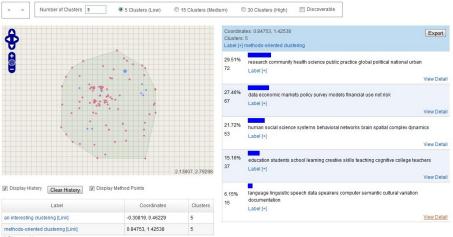
You choose one (or more), based on insight, discovery, useful information,...



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Software Screenshot

Size: 244 Files Description: NSF - Updated Set



(*) Discoverable

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Evaluating Performance

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• Goals:

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- Goals:
 - Validate Claim: computer-assisted conceptualization outperforms human conceptualization

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 - Cluster Quality \Rightarrow RA coders
 - $\bullet~$ Informative discoveries \Rightarrow Experienced scholars analyzing texts
 - Discovery \Rightarrow You're the judge

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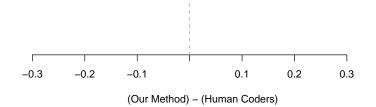
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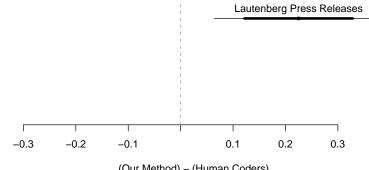
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Evaluation 1: Cluster Quality



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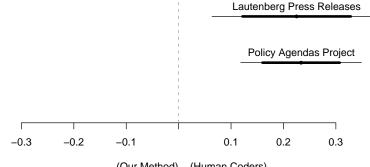
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(Our Method) – (Human Coders)

Lautenberg: 200 Senate Press Releases (appropriations, economy, education, tax, veterans, ...)

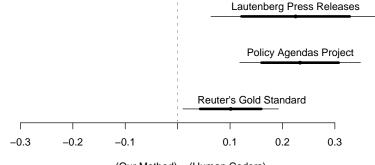
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(Our Method) – (Human Coders)

Policy Agendas: 213 quasi-sentences from Bush's State of the Union (agriculture, banking & commerce, civil rights/liberties, defense, ...)

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(Our Method) – (Human Coders)

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Reuter's: financial news (trade, earnings, copper, gold, coffee, ...); "gold standard" for supervised learning studies

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"Immigration" :

 $\underline{\text{Our Method 1}} \rightarrow \text{vMF 1} \rightarrow \text{vMF 2} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Our Method 2}} \rightarrow \text{K-Means 1} \rightarrow \text{K-Means 2}$

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"Genetic testing":

 $\underline{\text{Our Method 1}} \rightarrow \{\underline{\text{Our Method 2}}, \text{ K-Means 1}, \text{ K-means 2}\} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Dir Proc. 1}} \rightarrow \underline{\text{Dir Proc. 2}}$

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- David Mayhew's (1974) famous typology

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 - Advertising

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 - Credit Claiming

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- Data: 200 press releases from Frank Lautenberg's office (D-NJ)

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 - Position Taking
- Data: 200 press releases from Frank Lautenberg's office (D-NJ)
- Apply our method

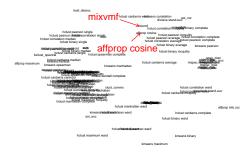


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Red point: a clustering by Affinity Propagation-Cosine (Dueck and Frey 2007)

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Red point: a clustering by Affinity Propagation-Cosine (Dueck and Frey 2007) Close to: Mixture of von Mises-Fisher distributions (Banerjee et. al. 2005)

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Space between methods:

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Space between methods:

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holust maximum ward kmeans binary

kmeans maximum

Space between methods: local cluster ensemble

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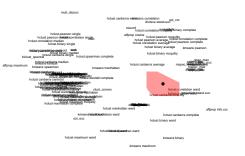
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Found a region with particularly insightful clusterings

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Mixture:

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Mixture:

0.39 Hclust-Canberra-McQuitty

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Mixture:

0.39 Hclust-Canberra-McQuitty

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0.30 Spectral clustering Random Walk (Metrics 1-6)



kmeans maximum

Mixture:

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- 0.30 Spectral clustering Random Walk (Metrics 1-6)
- 0.13 Hclust-Correlation-Ward

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0.09 Hclust-Pearson-Ward



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- 0.05 Kmediods-Cosine

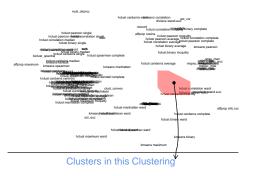


kmeans maximum

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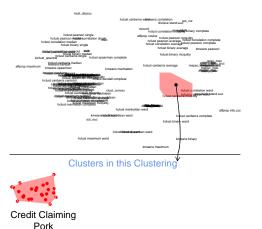
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Mayhew

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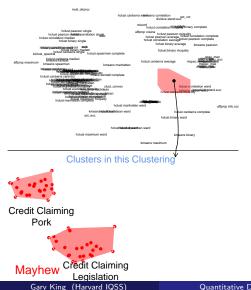
Credit Claiming, Pork:

"Sens. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) announced that the U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded a \$100,000 grant to the South Jersey Economic Development District"

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Mayhew

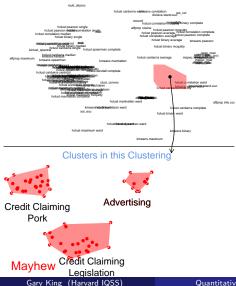
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Credit Claiming, Legislation:

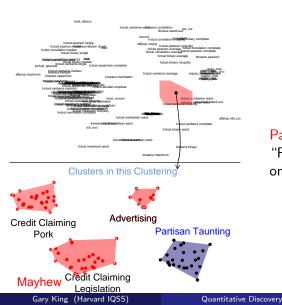
"As the Senate begins its recess, Senator Frank Lautenberg today pointed to a string of victories in Congress on his legislative agenda during this work period"

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Advertising: "Senate Adopts Lautenberg/Menendez Resolution Honoring Spelling Bee Champion from New Jersey"

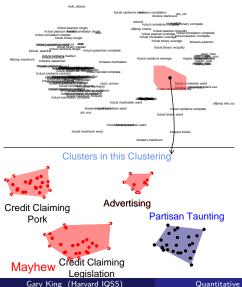
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Partisan Taunting:

"Republicans Selling Out Nation on Chemical Plant Security"

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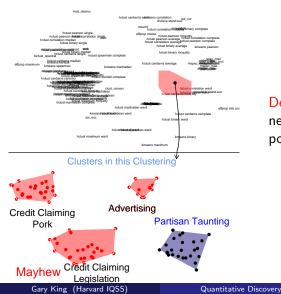


Partisan Taunting:

"Senator Lautenberg's amendment would change the name of...the Republican bill...to 'More Tax Breaks for the Rich and More Debt for Our Grandchildren Deficit Expansion Reconciliation Act of 2006"'

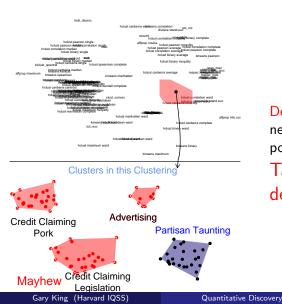
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Image: A matrix and a matrix



Definition: Explicit, public, and negative attacks on another political party or its members

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Definition: Explicit, public, and negative attacks on another political party or its members Taunting ruins deliberation

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Taunting ruins deliberation



Sen. Lautenberg on Senate Floor 4/29/04

 "Senator Lautenberg Blasts Republicans as 'Chicken Hawks' " [Government Oversight]

Taunting ruins deliberation



Sen. Lautenberg on Senate Floor 4/29/04

- "Senator Lautenberg Blasts Republicans as 'Chicken Hawks' " [Government Oversight]
- "The scopes trial took place in 1925. Sadly, President Bush's veto today shows that we haven't progressed much since then" [Healthcare]

Taunting ruins deliberation



Sen. Lautenberg on Senate Floor 4/29/04

- "Senator Lautenberg Blasts Republicans as 'Chicken Hawks' " [Government Oversight]
- "The scopes trial took place in 1925. Sadly, President Bush's veto today shows that we haven't progressed much since then" [Healthcare]
- "Every day the House Republicans dragged this out was a day that made our communities less safe." [Homeland Security]

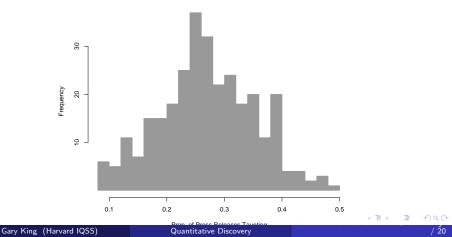
- Discovered using 200 press releases; 1 senator.

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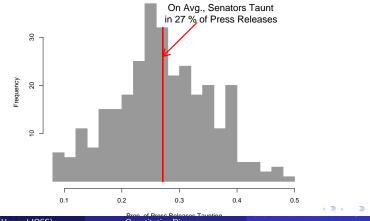
- Discovered using 200 press releases; 1 senator.
- Confirmed using 64,033 press releases; 301 senator-years.

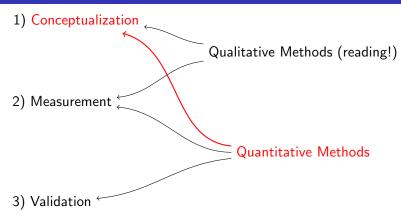
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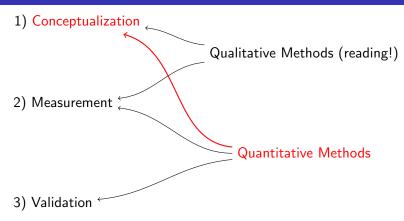


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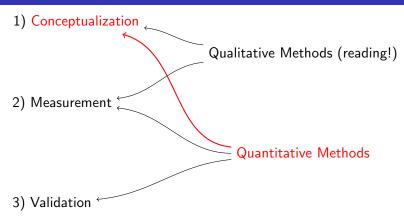


Quantitative methods for conceptualization and discovery



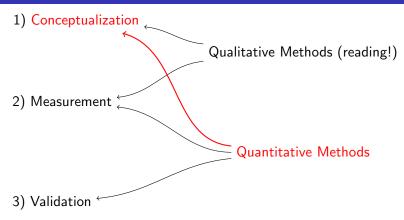
Quantitative methods for conceptualization and discovery

- Few formal methods designed explicitly for conceptualization



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- Few formal methods designed explicitly for conceptualization
- Belittled: "Tom Swift and His Electric Factor Analysis Machine" (Armstrong 1967)



Quantitative methods for conceptualization and discovery

- Few formal methods designed explicitly for conceptualization
- Belittled: "Tom Swift and His Electric Factor Analysis Machine" (Armstrong 1967)
- Evaluation methods measure progress in discovery

http://GKing.Harvard.edu

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