

Introduction to NLP

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Some slides adapted from slides by
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- "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do." For additional information, please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>.
- Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System.

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- Piazza: CSCE 689, NLP
- <https://piazza.com/class/isgmuz7h4e36t>
- course page:
- [http://faculty.cse.tamu.edu/huangrh/
Fall16_nlp_foundation_technique.html](http://faculty.cse.tamu.edu/huangrh/Fall16_nlp_foundation_technique.html)

- **Ten In-Class Quizzes: 20%**
- **Class participation: 10%**
- **Four Programming Assignments: 40%**
- **The Final Project: 30%**

- Late Policy: 20% reduction per day. For both programming assignments and the final project.

Programming Assignments

- Code: has to be runnable
- Report: how to run, results and analysis, remaining issues, known bugs.

The Final Project

- By the end of the semester: submit code data and a report.
- Report: 8 pages maximum, describe the problem, approaches and evaluation results.

The final Project

- Solving a mini core research problem you have identified by reading recent research papers from top NLP conferences.
- Developing a nice NLP application system.

Basic Recipe of Forming a Project

- Choose a Topic and do a quick survey
- Prepare data
- Think about evaluation methods
- Start to work on it

Core research problems

- Coreference resolution, discourse
- Semantics

Applications

- Question-Answering
- Sentiment Analysis
- Text Summarization
- Machine Translation

Consider to participate in a SemEval task

- <http://alt.qcri.org/semeval2017/index.php?id=tasks>

What is NLP?



- Fundamental goal: *deep* understand of *broad* language
 - Not just string processing or keyword matching
- End systems that we want to build:
 - Simple: spelling correction, text categorization...
 - Complex: speech recognition, machine translation, information extraction, sentiment analysis, question answering...

Question Answering: Jeopardy!



US Cities: Its largest airport is named for a World War II hero; its second largest, for a World War II battle.



Information Extraction

Subject: **curriculum meeting**

Date: January 15, 2012

To: Dan Jurafs

Event: Curriculum m

Date: Jan-16-2012

Start: 10:00am

End: 11:30am

Where: Gates 159

Hi Dan, we've now scheduled the curriculum meeting.

It will be in Gates 159 tomorrow from 10:00-11:30.

-Chris

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Create new Calendar entry

Google Knowledge Graph

Home Tips & Tricks **Features** Search Stories Playground Blog Help

The Knowledge Graph
Learn more about one of the key breakthroughs behind the future of search.

See it in action
Discover answers to questions you never thought to ask, and explore collections and lists.

Leonardo da Vinci
Leonardo di ser Piero da Vinci was an Italian Renaissance polymath: painter, sculptor, architect, musician, scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, geologist, cartographer, botanist, and writer. [Wikipedia](#)

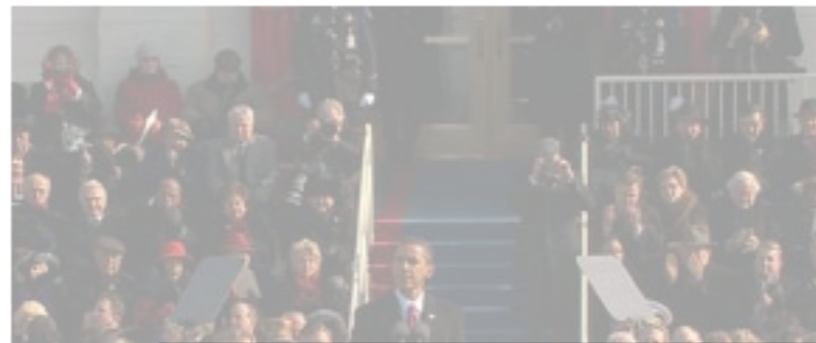
Born: April 15, 1452, [Anchiano](#)
Died: May 2, 1519, [Clos Lucé](#)
Buried: [Château d'Amboise](#)
Parents: [Caterina da Vinci](#), [Piero da Vinci](#)
Structures: [Vebjørn Sand Da Vinci Project](#)

Ginevra de' Benci 1478
The Virgin & Child 1508
Adoration of the M... the M... 1481

Text Summarization

- Condensing documents
 - Single or multiple docs
 - Extractive or synthetic
 - Aggregative or representative
- Very context-dependent!
- An example of analysis with

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- President Obama's inaugural address was cooler, more measured and reassuring than that of other presidents making it, perhaps, the right speech for the times.



Some inaugural addresses are known for their soaring, inspirational language. Like John F. Kennedy's in 1961: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

Obama's address was less stirring, perhaps, but it was also more candid and down-to-earth.

"Starting today," the new president said, "we must begin

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Obama's address less stirring than others but more candid, analyst says
- Schneider: At a time of crisis, president must be reassuring
- Country has chosen "hope over fear, unity of purpose over ... discord," Obama said
- Obama's speech was a cool speech, not a hot one, Schneider says

CNN

President Obama renewed his call for a massive plan to stimulate economic growth.

[more photos »](#)

aid in his first inaugural in 1933, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Or Bill Clinton, who took office during the economic crisis of the early 1990s. "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be fixed by what is right with America," Clinton declared at his first inaugural.

[Obama](#), too, offered reassurance.

"We gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord," Obama said.

Obama's call to unity after decades of political division echoed Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address in 1861. Even though he delivered it at the onset of a terrible civil war, Lincoln's speech was not a call to battle. It was a call to look beyond the war, toward reconciliation based on what he called "the better angels of our

Machine Translation

- Helping human translators

Enter Source Text:

这不过是一个时间的问题。

fully automatic

Translation from Stanford's *Phrasal*:

This is only a matter of time.

Enter Source Text:

تعرض الرئيس اللبناني اميل لحود ل# حملة عنيفة في مجلس النواب الذي انعقد امس في جلسة تشريعية عادية تحولت الي " محاكمة " ل# رئيس الجمهورية علي موقف +ه من المحكمة الدولية و " الملاحظات " التي ادلي ب# +ها حول هذا الموضوع .

Translate Clear

Enter Translation:

lebanese

president
suffered
exposed
president emile
before
presented
offer

Done!

Human-machine Dialogs



Inter-Disciplinary

Computer Science: artificial intelligence, machine learning

Linguistics: computational linguistics

Psychology: cognitive psychology, psycholinguistics

Statistics: probabilistic methods, information theory

Interactions with Linguists (History)

- 70s and 80s: more linguistic focus
 - deeper models, toy domains, rule-based systems
- 90s: empirical revolution
 - robust corpus-based methods, empirical evaluation
- 2000s: richer linguistic representations used in statistical approaches

Outline

- **Bag** of Words: Text classification
- **Sequence** of Words: language modeling, parts of speech tagging
- **Tree** of Words: syntactic parsing, dependency parsing
- **Semantics**: thesaurus, distributed
- **Discourse**, pragmatics
- **Applications**: QA, MT..

Language Technology

making good progress

mostly solved

Spam detection

Let's go to Agra! ✓

Buy V1AGRA ... ✗

Part-of-speech (POS) tagging

ADJ ADJ NOUN VERB

ADV

Colorless green ideas sleep furiously.

Named entity recognition (NER)

PERSON

ORG

LOC

Einstein met with UN officials in Princeton

Sentiment analysis

Best roast chicken in San Francisco! 

The waiter ignored us for 20 minutes. 

Coreference resolution

Carter told Mubarak he shouldn't run again. 

Word sense disambiguation (WSD)

I need new batteries for my *mouse*. 

Parsing

I can see Alcatraz from the window! 

Machine translation (MT)

第13届上海国际电影节开幕...

The 13th Shanghai International Film Festival...

Information extraction (IE)

You're invited to our dinner party, Friday May 27 at 8:30

Party
May
27
add

still really hard

Question answering (QA)

Q. How effective is ibuprofen in reducing fever in patients with acute febrile illness?

Paraphrase

XYZ acquired ABC yesterday

ABC has been taken over by XYZ

Summarization

The Dow Jones is up

The S&P500 jumped

Housing prices rose

Economy
is good

Dialog

Where is Citizen Kane playing in SF?

Castro Theatre at 7:30.
Do you want a ticket?



- **Ambiguity !!**

Ambiguities inherent in Language

- Language is succinct and expressive.
- Human resolve ambiguities naturally.

Syntax: structural ambiguity

Time flies like an arrow.

Metaphor:

Time/**NOUN** flies/**VERB** like/**PREP** an/**ART** arrow/**NOUN**

New Fly Species:

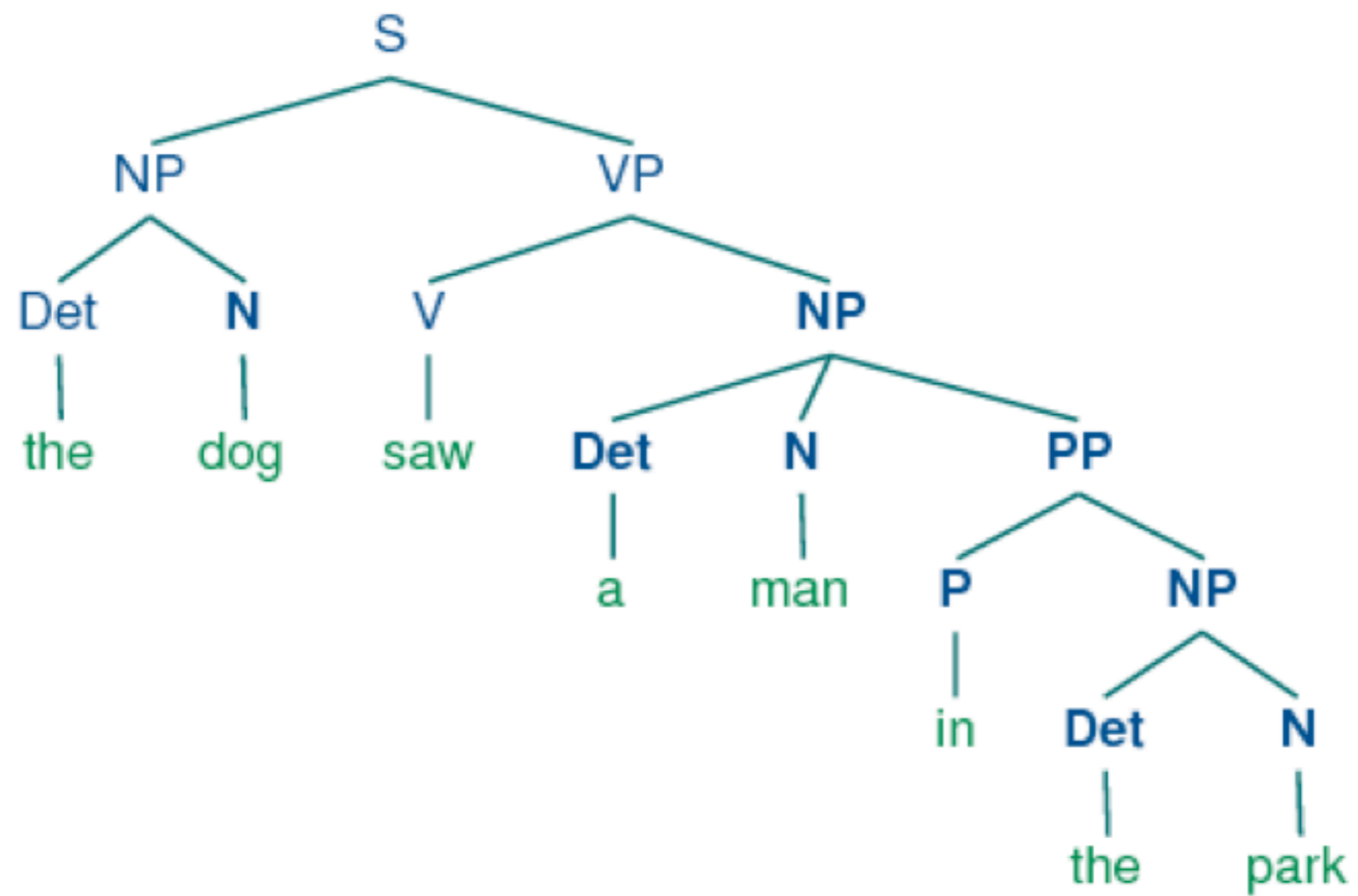
Time/**NOUN** flies/**NOUN** like/**VERB** an/**ART** arrow/**NOUN**

Stopwatch Imperative:

Time/**VERB** flies/**NOUN** like/**PREP** an/**ART** arrow/**NOUN**

Syntax: structural ambiguity (attachment)

- *I saw the Grand Canyon flying to New York.*
- *I watered the plant with yellow leaves.*
- *I saw the man on the hill with the telescope.*



But syntax doesn't tell
us much about
meaning...

- *Colorless green ideas sleep furiously. [Chomsky]*
- *plastic cat food can cover*

Semantics: Lexical Ambiguity

- *I walked to the bank ...
of the river.
to get money.*
- *The bug in the room ...
was planted by spies.
flew out the window.*
- *I work for John Hancock ...
and he is a good boss.
which is a good company.*

Discourse: coreference

A Short Story

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

The **president** was shot yesterday.

Relatives said that **John** was **a good father**.

JFK was **the youngest president** in history.

His family will bury **him** tomorrow.

Friends of **the Massachusetts native** will hold a candlelight service in **Mr. Kennedy's** home town.

Pragmatics

Rules of Conversation

- Can you tell me what time it is?
- Could I please have the salt?

Speech Acts

- I bet you \$50 that the Jazz will win tonight.
 - Will you marry me?

NLP: a branch of AI

- Lack of world knowledge
- inferences

World Knowledge, Inferences

John went to the diner.

He ordered a steak.

He left a tip and went home.

John wanted to commit suicide.

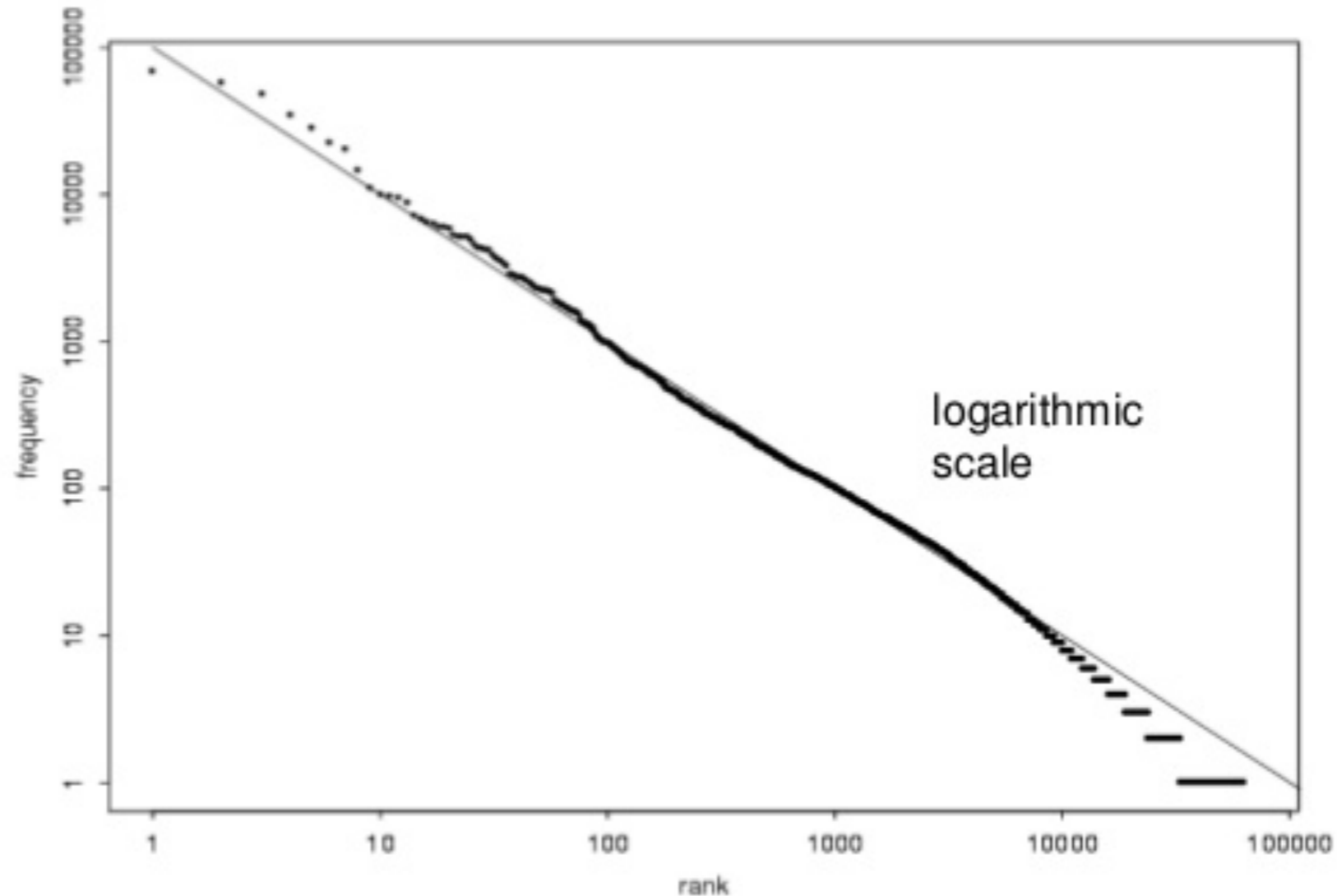
He got a rope.

- Sparsity!!!

Zipf's Law

- the frequency of any word is inversely proportional to its rank: $f = K / r$
- fat-tail, most words occur only a couple of times
- high lexical diversity \rightarrow data sparseness

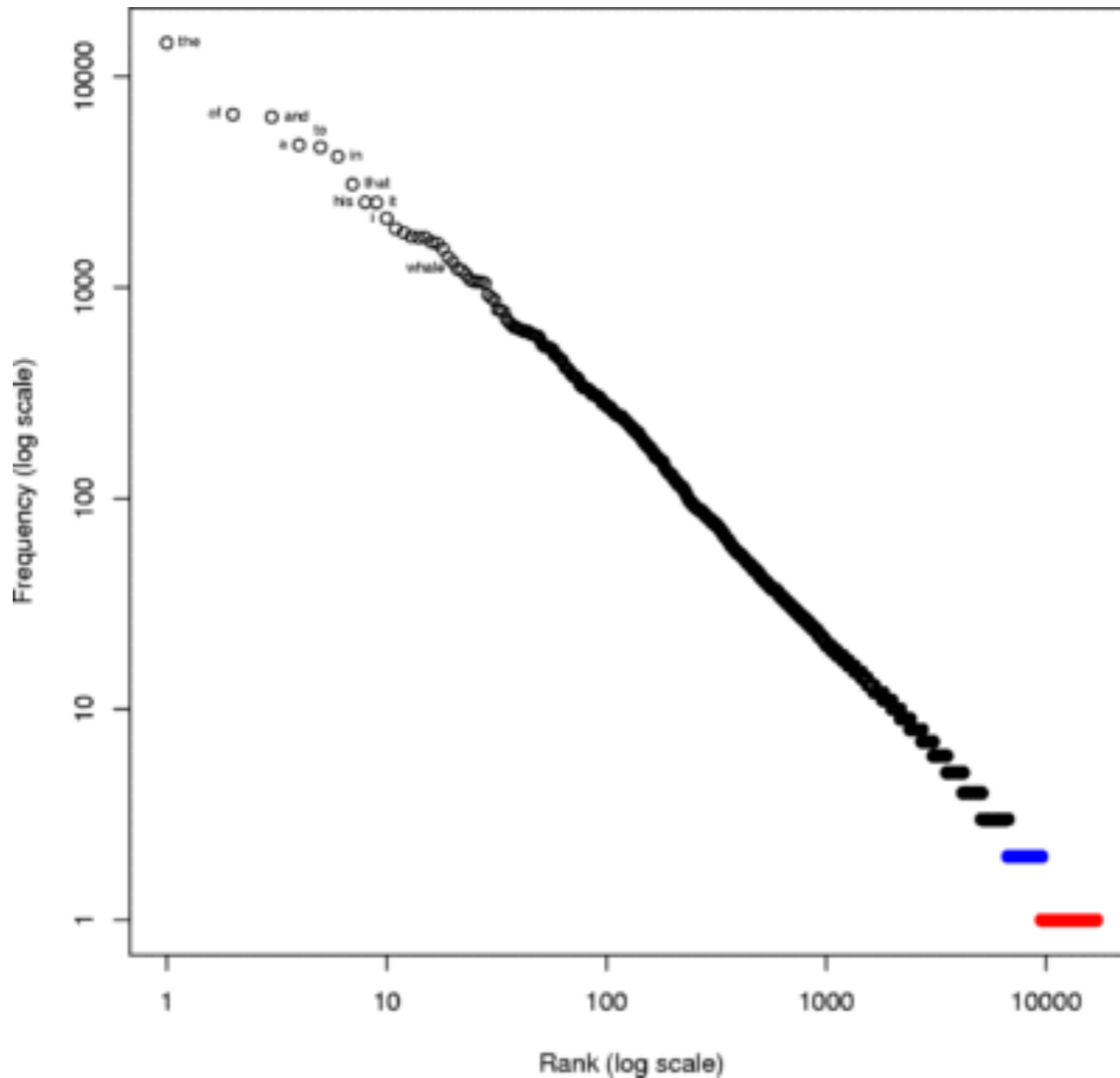
Illustration of Zipf's Law



(Brown Corpus, from M&S p. 30)

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- **Brown Corpus:** A balanced corpus of written American English in 1960 (except poetry!), 1 million words.



- the novel: “The Whale” , 44% words : one time

Goals of the class

- Key tasks, algorithms
- Essentially skills to build your system
- (Hopefully) see problems, holes, gaps, start research