



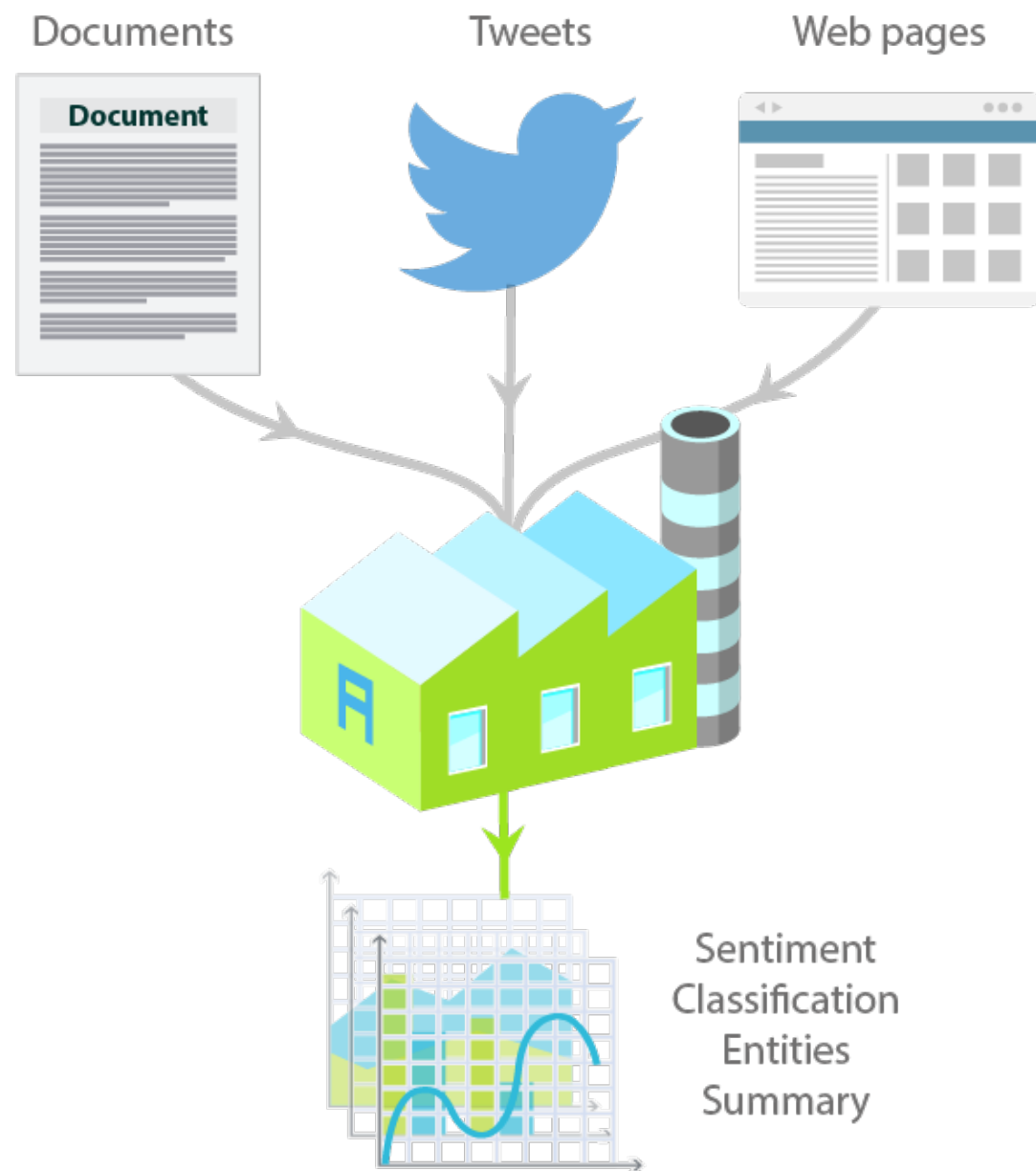
Using NLP to understand
textual content at scale

Parsa Ghaffari, CEO & Founder

aylien.com / [@_aylien](https://twitter.com/_aylien)

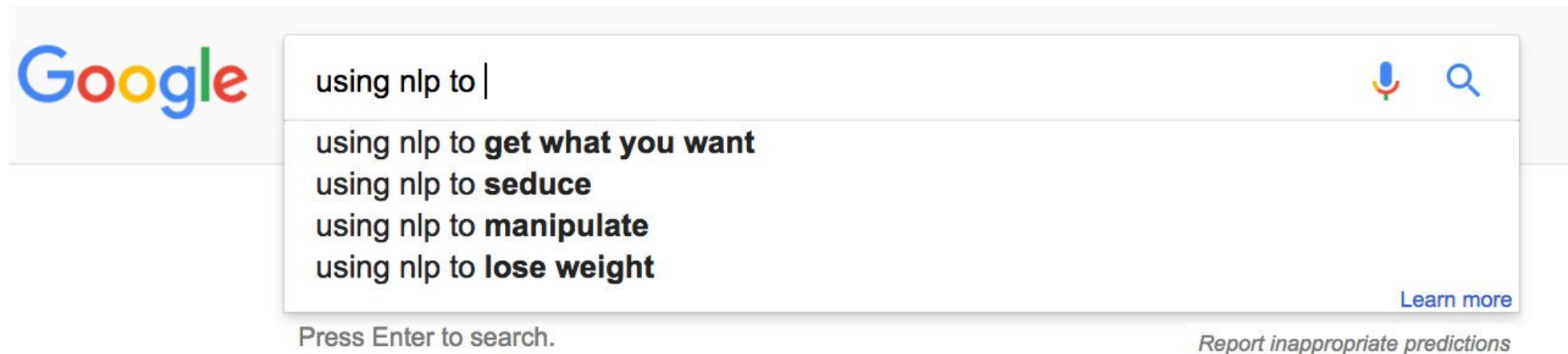
Introduction



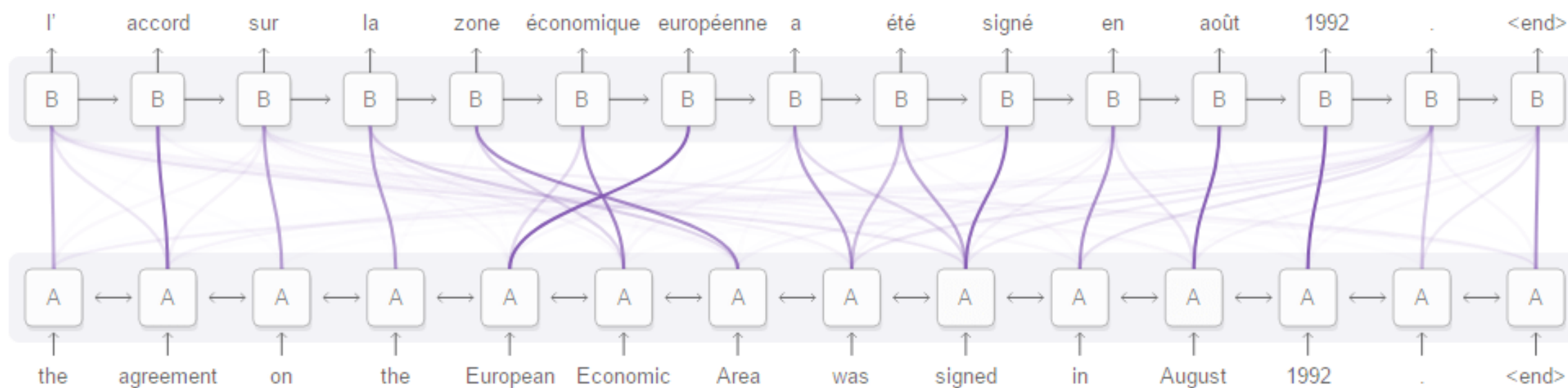
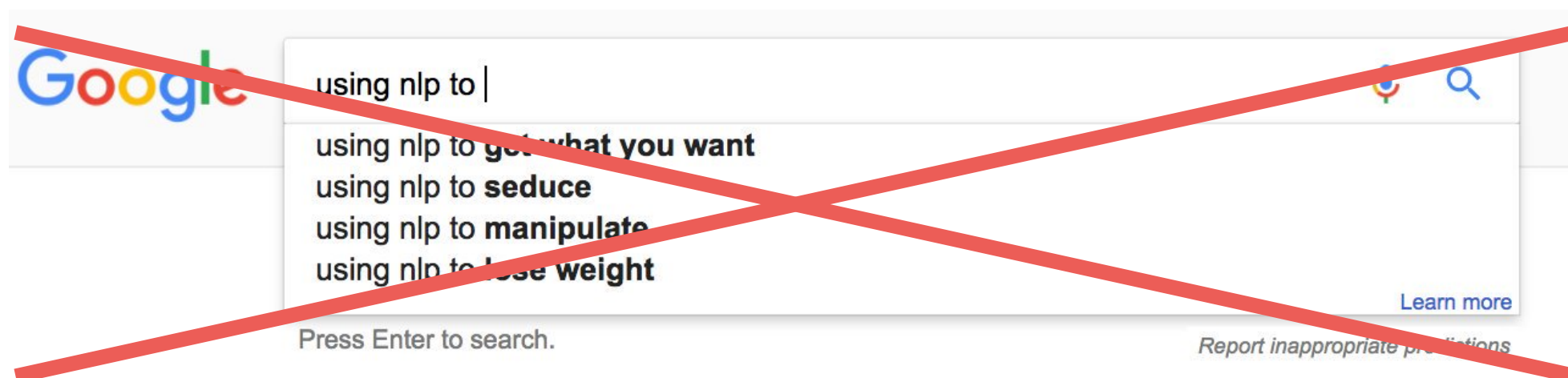


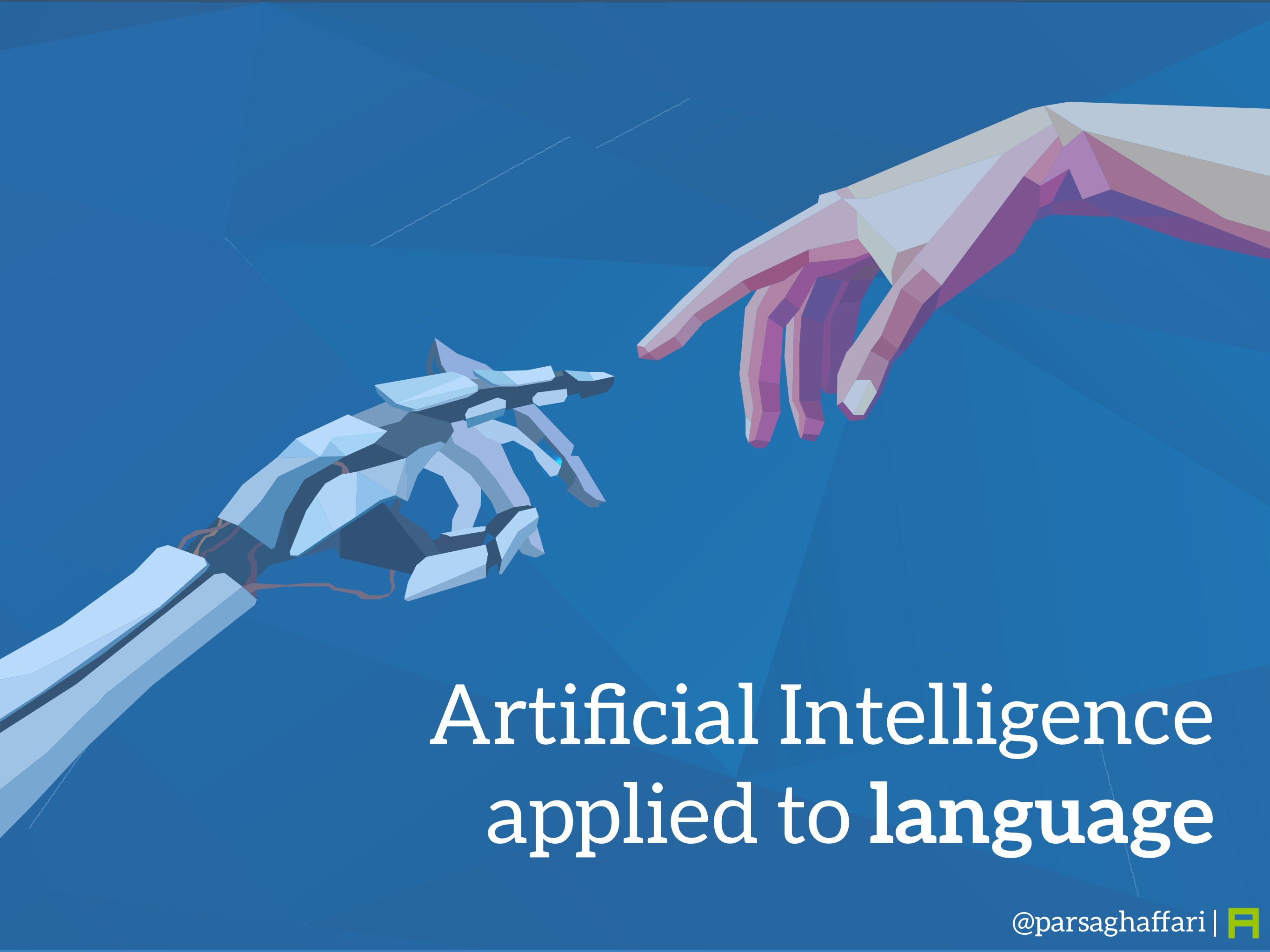
AYLIEN is a platform for aggregating large volumes of textual content and analyzing and understanding it using NLP.

What is NLP?



What is NLP *not*?





Artificial Intelligence applied to language

Why NLP?

Language is a proxy to people's thoughts, emotions and feelings, and intentions



We can understand people by understanding language



Computers can help people accomplish things more efficiently, if they understand language



Wildly applicable technology capable of creating \$B's in value

Challenges of NLP



Challenge #1

The inherent complexity of language

What does it mean when someone says:
“I made her duck”?

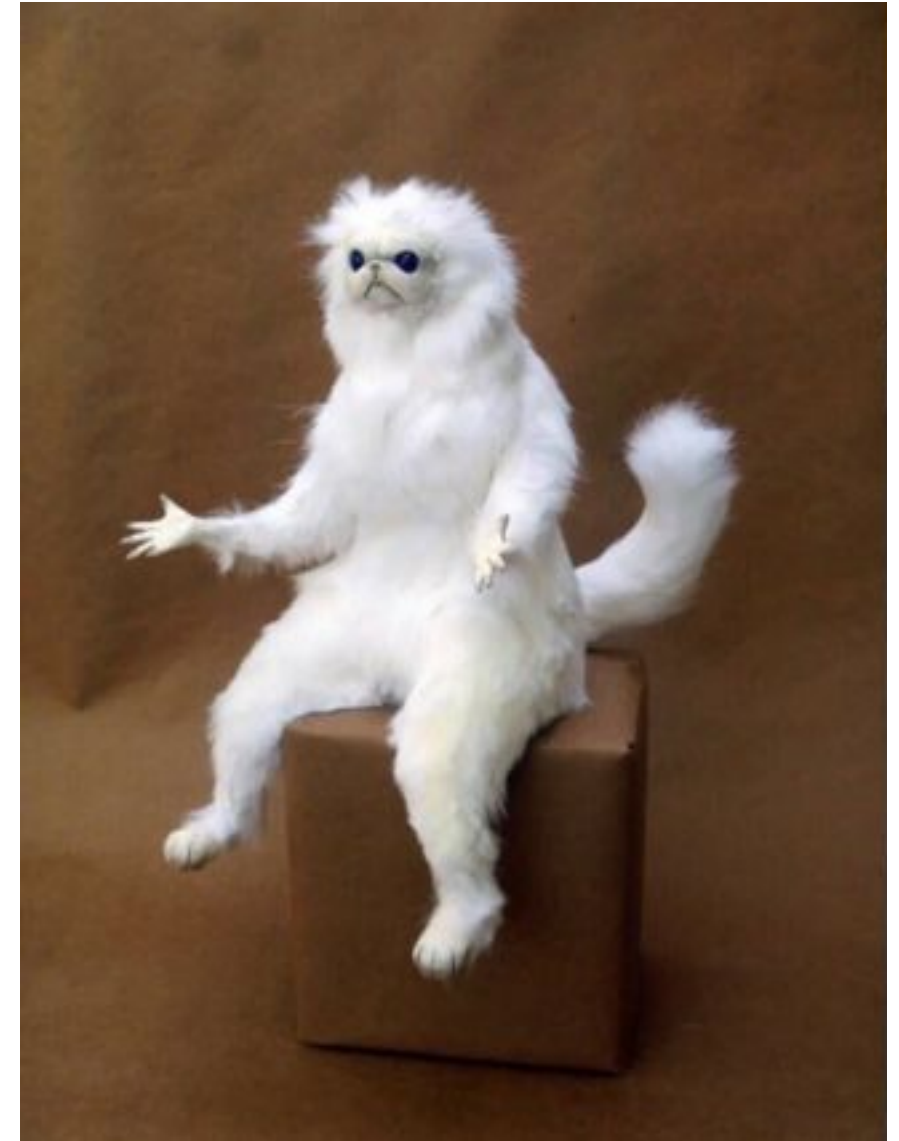
How many distinct interpretations can you count?

Challenge #1

The inherent complexity of language

“I made her duck” could be interpreted as:

- I cooked a duck for her
- I cooked a duck belonging to her
- I created a duck for her
- I created a duck that now belongs to her
- I caused her to lower her head
- I turned her into a duck (!)



Complexity of Language



Complexity of Language

And it's not just **English**!

- **German:** “Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaftskapitän” (5 “words”)
- **Chinese:** 50,000 different characters (2-3k to read a newspaper)
- **Japanese:** 3 writing systems
- **Thai:** Ambiguous word boundaries and sentence concepts
- **Slavic:** Different word forms depending on gender, case, tense

Complexity of Language

Machine Learning is the most suitable toolbox available to us for dealing with this complexity.

However, there are still challenges:

1. Variety of tasks
2. Diversity of domains
3. Data preparation
4. Model training
5. Model evaluation
6. Workflow issues

Variety of Tasks



"Literally ur **facebook** message app is **useless**, you only want it to increase profit. Please fix yourself. Its sad @facebook"

- Sentiment Analysis (**negative**)
- Emotion Detection (**frustration**)
- Language Detection (**English**)
- Entity Extraction/Linking (**Facebook, Facebook Messenger**)
- Machine Translation (**EN -> X**)
- Summarization (abstractive/extractive)
- Question Answering
- Topic modeling/Clustering

...

Diversity of Domains

Genres & sources:

- News articles
- Social media updates
- Reviews
- ...

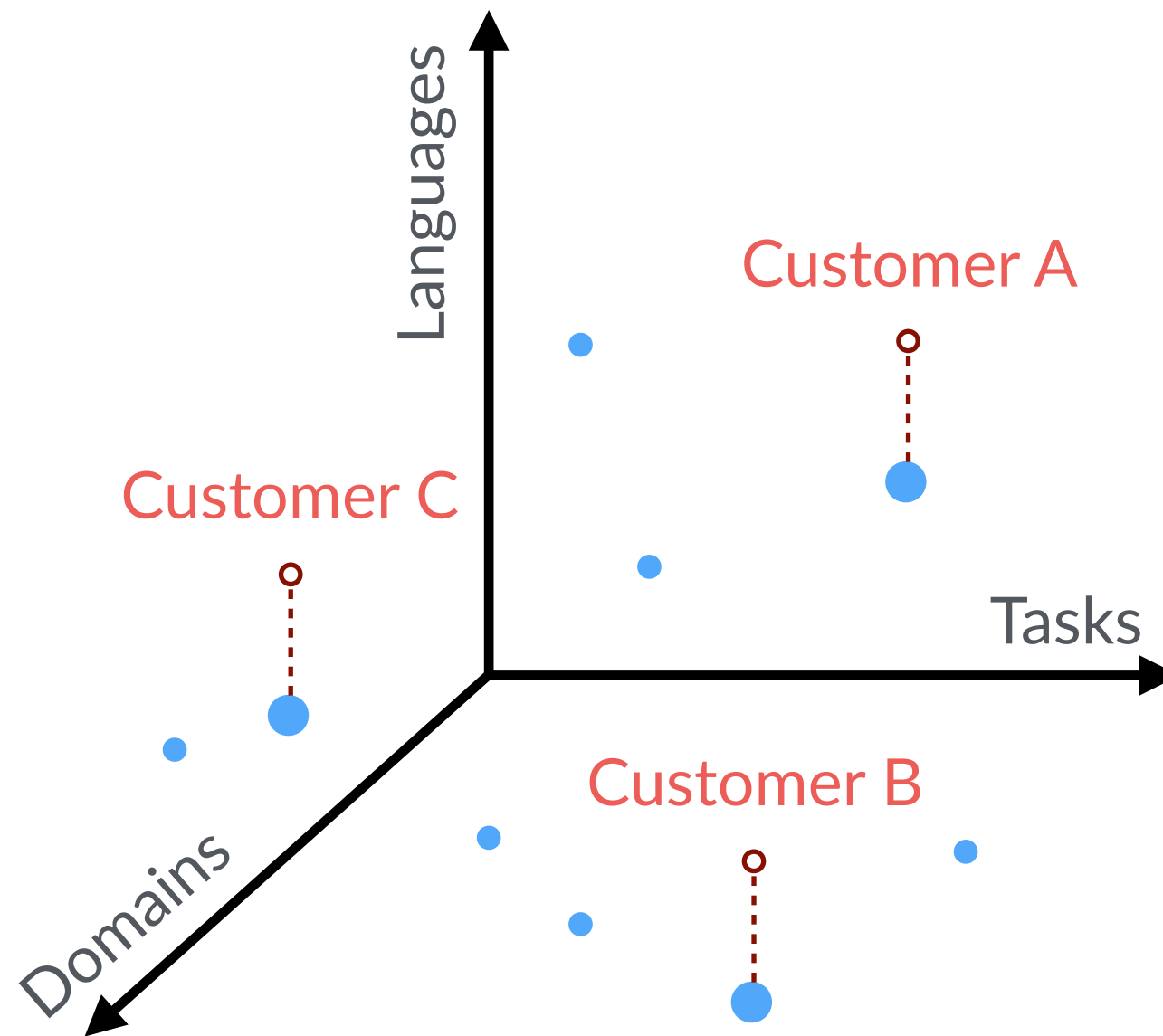
Languages & dialects:

- English:
 - British:
 - Northern:
 - Cheshire
 - ...
 - ...
 - American:
 - ...
 - ...
- ...

Other types of domains:

- Industries
- Users
- Time
- ...

Tasks, Domains & Languages



Data Preparation

- Gathering data for training/testing
- Defining labels/a taxonomy
- Cleaning up the data
- Getting the data in the right format
- Annotating the data
- Splitting the data

Model Training

- Selecting the right algorithm/NN architecture
- Picking the right representations (e.g. pre-trained word embeddings)
- Hyper-parameter tuning
- Pre-training on other data (e.g. pre-training on sentiment data before emotion detection)
- Domain adaptation/transfer learning

Model Evaluation

- Picking/defining the right metrics
- Creating a test set to evaluate models on
- Comparing models
- Qualitative evaluation
- Explaining predictions

Workflow-related Issues

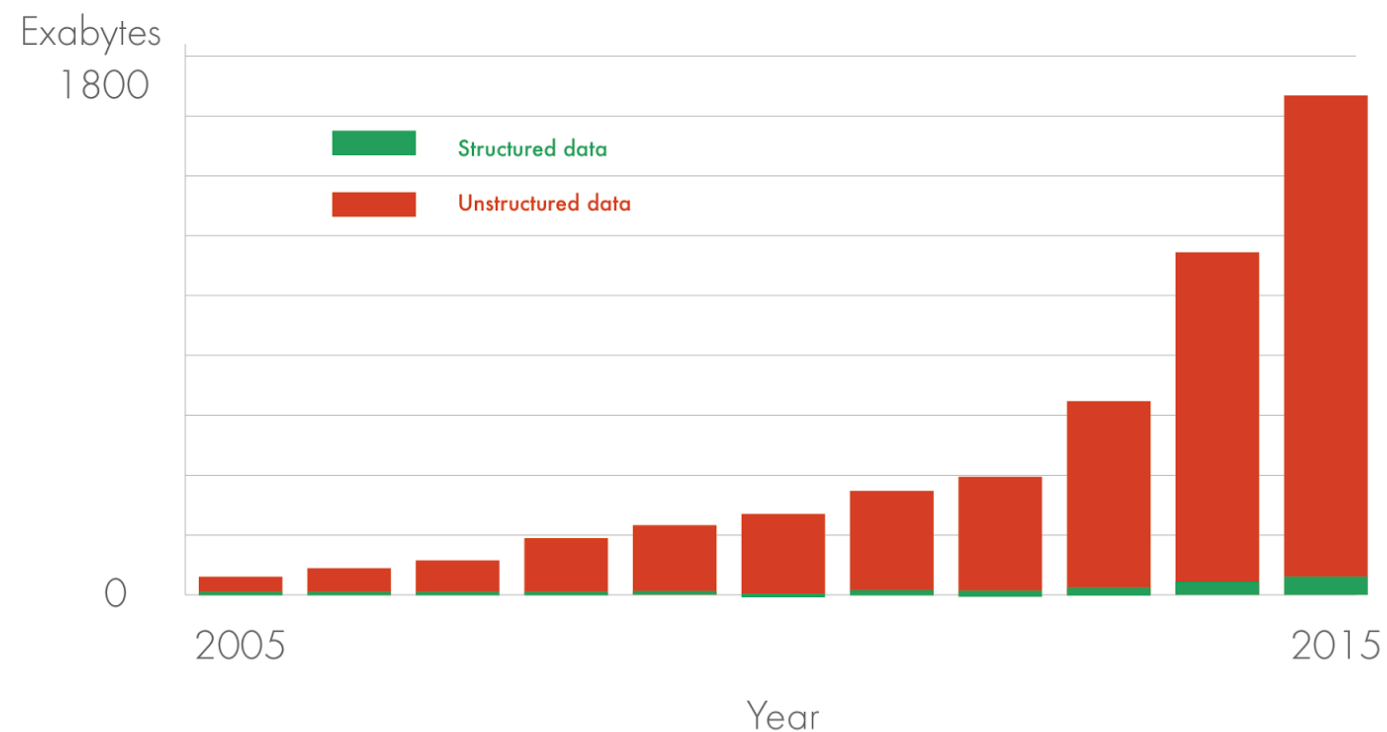
- Continuously updating models and getting feedback
- Active learning
- Domain adaptation
- Dataset visualization
- Consuming trained models

Challenge #2

The scale and production rate of unstructured data

The Rise of Unstructured Data

Merrill Lynch: Unstructured data accounts for 80%+ of all data in organizations and 95% of data generated daily online.



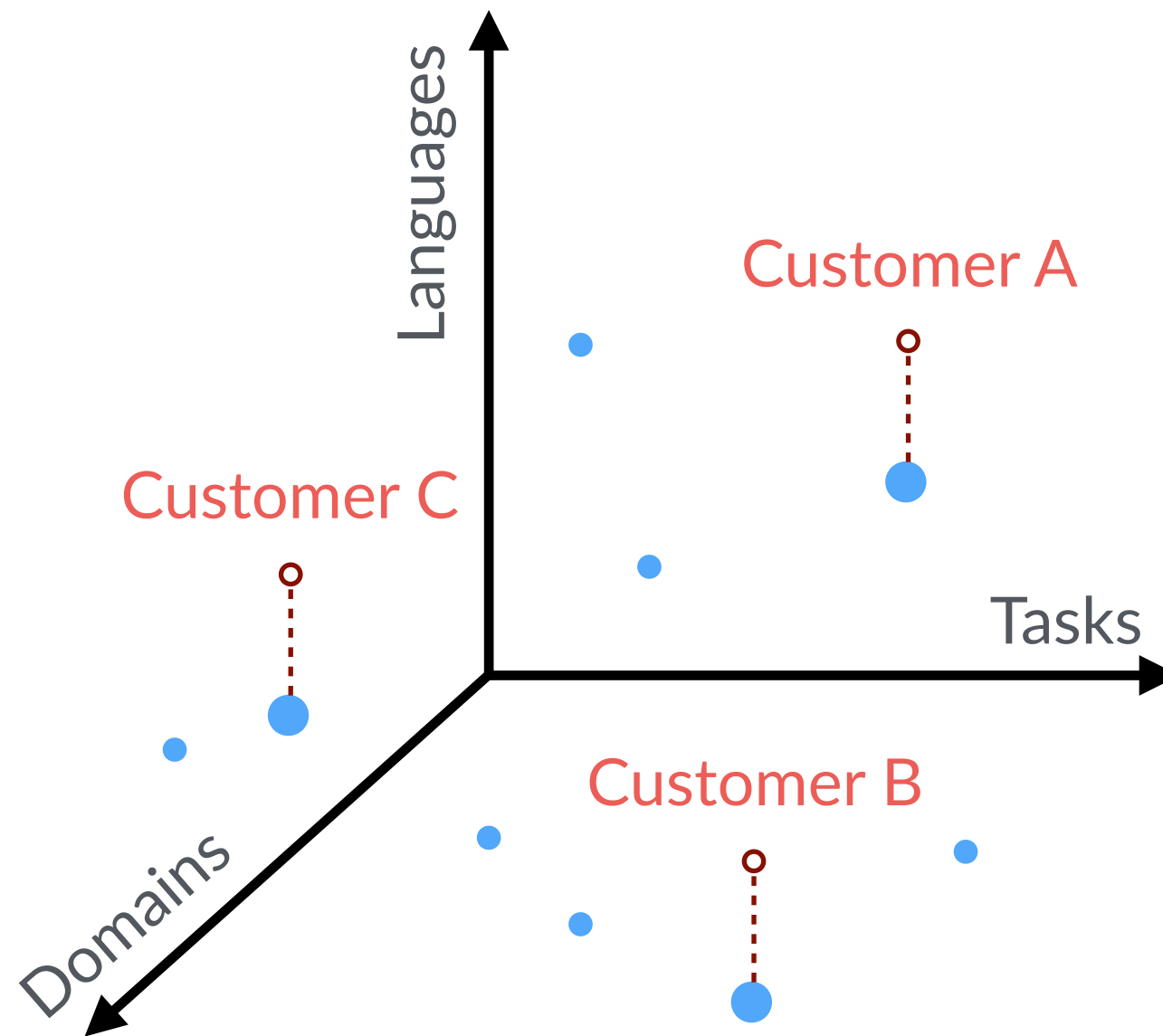
Research from International Data Corporation (IDC) shows that unstructured content accounts for 90% of all digital information.

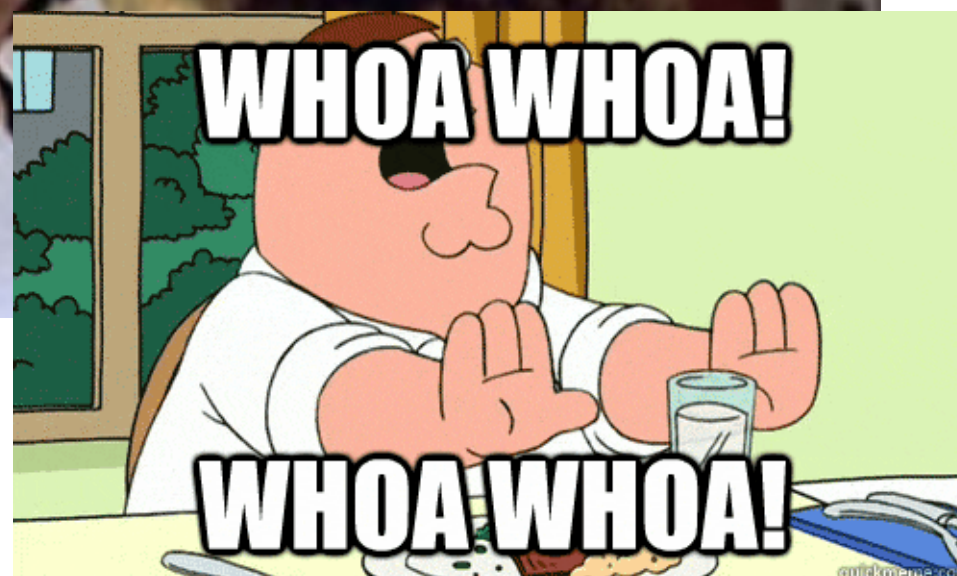
“More content was uploaded yesterday than any one human could ever consume in their entire life.” – Condé Nast

Our Solution



Tasks, Domains & Languages





Text Analysis Platform (TAP)^β

An in-browser environment for building **custom NLP models**



Build Datasets

From **CSV** files, using our **Knowledge Base** or by forking other datasets

TAPExploreMy DatasetsMy ModelsJobs0parsa?

The following table shows a few sample rows of your Dataset.

Please choose which columns should be treated as Labels and which should be treated as Documents. Once you're done, hit "Convert to Dataset" and we'll create your new Dataset.

Quick tip: You also need to tell TAP whether or not it should ignore the header row in your file using the header row switch.

Column Role

Attribute

Document

Collection

Attribute

Label

Attribute

Column Data Type

String

String

String

String

String

String

Header row?

other_topic

resolution_topics

gender

name

Resolution_Category

retweet_

Read moore books, read less facebook.

Eat healthier

female

Dena_Marina

Health & Fitness

0

Humor about Personal Growth and Interests Resolutions

female

ninjagirl325

Humor

1

Be More Confident

male

RickyDelReyy

Personal Growth

0

Help Morespread.net

Help Morespread.net

Build Datasets

From **CSV** files, using our **Knowledge Base** or by forking other datasets

TAP

Explore


My Datasets

My Models

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?


 **parsa / IAB-tier-1**

Edit DatasetFork 3Split

The first tier of the IAB Quality Assurance Guidelines (QAG) taxonomy for topical classification. <http://aylien.com>

31 labels

189,256 documents (100% no collection)


189,256 docs in 31 labels

Sample document:

Allen-Shaw Reading Room Mission Statement: To provide children in rural Jamaica with knowledge through books and cutting edge computer technology. To give them a window of opportunity to life beyond their limited boundaries and give them desire and hope to strive for excellence.nWith the popular icons of the youths today [Show more...](#)

Dataset Structure

IAB-tier-1

- IAB1-Arts_Entertainment
 - 589.txt
 - Cinema
 - Television
 - IAB2-Automotive
 - IAB3-Business
 - IAB4-Careers
 - IAB5-Education
 - IAB6-Family Parenting
 - IAB7-Health & Wellness


589.txt Preview file txt file


Metadata

Documents count: 10000

Label(s): IAB1-Arts_Entertainment

Collection: No collection





Build Datasets

From **CSV** files, using our **Knowledge Base** or by forking other datasets

Knowledge Base

Amazon reviews camera AND lens AND overall:5

reviewer_id [string]

text [string]

overall [long]

summary [string]

class_labels [string]

version [string]

review_time [date]

id [long]

You can import all results or select some specific rows to import. Select rows by clicking on each row.

Text	Reviewer Id	Overall	Summary	Class Labels	Version	Review Time
Best lens for the money. I keep this lens on my camera 90% of the time. Great lens for starting photography	A3USKITGRX OIVG	5	Amazing lens	Electronics	1.0	2012-11-28T00:00:00..
Fotodiox Lens Mount Adapter -- Nikon Lens to Sony NEX E-Series Camera arrived on time as advertised ...	ASJ7QB66JU 4RL	5	Fotodiox Lens	Electronics	1.0	2013-08-02T00:00:00..
Lens is more compact than I expected. This is a great all around camera lens!	A1Z35O63NE 2BZE	5	This is a great all ...	Electronics	1.0	2014-06-27T00:00:00..
My first time have a lens of this quality. Great lens to keep dirt and other items from camera lens ...	A1EMTRTDM XLBVB	5	Great Lens!...	Electronics	1.0	2013-07-15T00:00:00..
The camera lens is just perfect. It replaced a tamaron lens of the same specifications. I	A3VBPLKSRH	5	Camera	Electronics	1.0	2011-12-24T00:00:00..

< Previous

Results from 1 to 10 of 65,637

> Next

Close

Import documents into positive

Start

10000

Import 10,000 documents

Train Models

Compare various models/parameters and pick the best one

TAPExploreMy DatasetsMy ModelsJobs0parsa?

My Models

+ Train Model

Search for Models...

Model	Dataset	Evaluation	Status	Updated	Production	Actions
political tweets_fork1_model1	political tweets_fork1	<div><div>Accuracy</div><div>Recall</div><div>Precision</div><div>F1</div></div>	Running (sandbox)	4 hours ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate...
Airline Sentiment Analysis_for...	Airline Sentiment Analysis_for...	<div><div>Accuracy</div><div>Recall</div><div>Precision</div><div>F1</div></div>	Running (production)	8 days ago	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate...
Airline Sentiment Analysis_for...	Airline Sentiment Analysis_for...	<div><div>Accuracy</div><div>Recall</div><div>Precision</div><div>F1</div></div>	Running (production)	a month ago	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate...
twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1_...	twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1	<div><div>Accuracy</div><div>Recall</div><div>Precision</div><div>F1</div></div>	Stopped	3 months ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate...
twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1_...	twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1	<div><div>Accuracy</div><div>Recall</div><div>Precision</div><div>F1</div></div>	Stopped	4 months ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate...
twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1_...	twitter-sentiment_fork4_fork1	<div><div>Accuracy</div><div>Recall</div><div>Precision</div><div>F1</div></div>	Stopped	4 months ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate...

Evaluate Models

Understand different aspects of each model

TAP

Explore

My Datasets

My Models

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HILLARYORTRUMP_FORK (1)_MODEL1

RUNNING (SANDBOX)

Evaluation Results

Model performance

Here you can see various metrics related to your Model's performance.

Accuracy	Precision i	Recall i	F1 i
0.899	0.903	0.899	0.899

Label	Precision	Recall	F1
hillaryclinton	0.864	0.947	0.904
realdonaldtrump	0.941	0.850	0.894

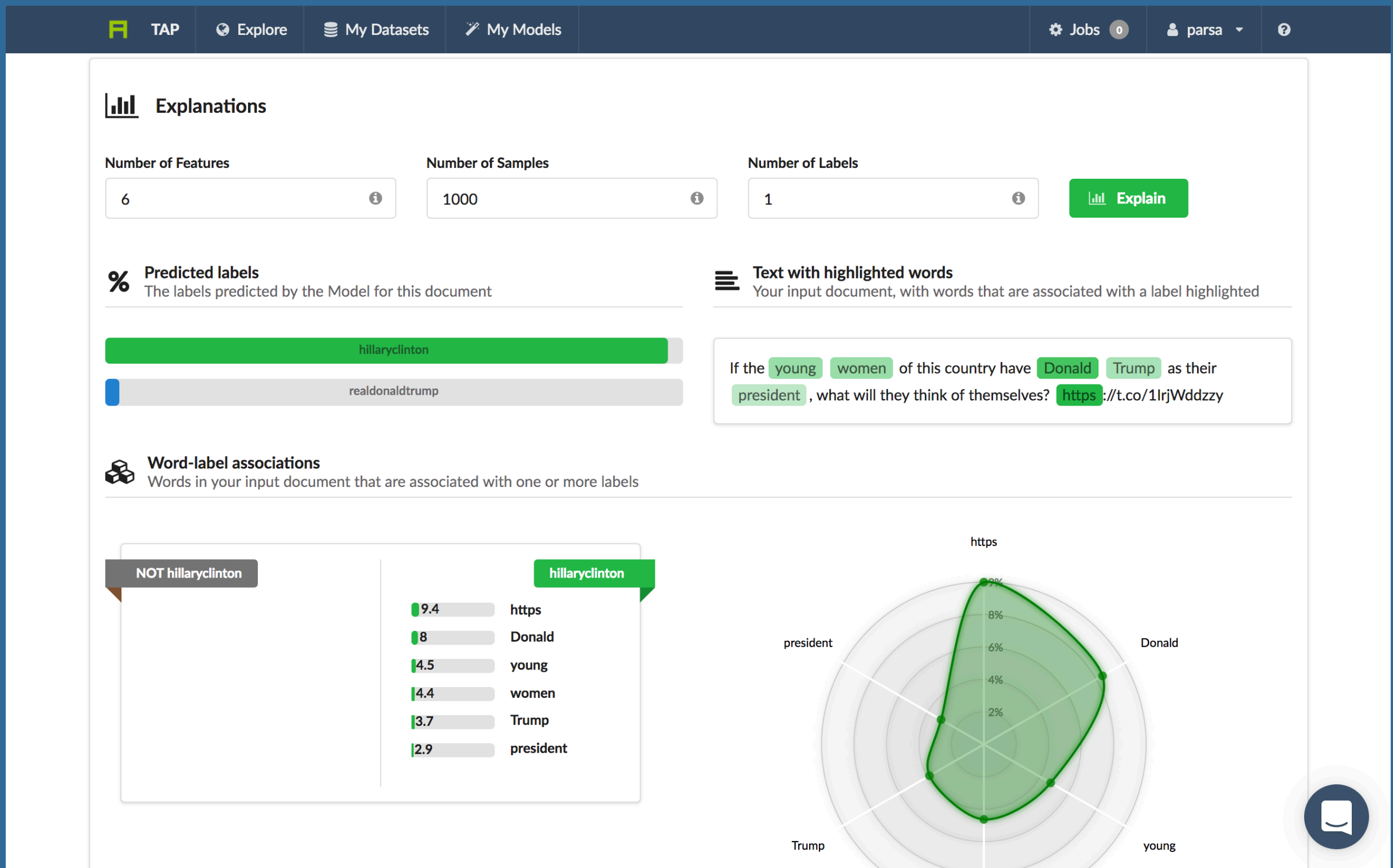
Confusion Matrix

The Confusion Matrix shows us how the Model performs by showing the number of correct and incorrect predictions for each Label.

Real Labels \ Predicted Labels	hillaryclinton	realdonaldtrump
hillaryclinton	305	17
realdonaldtrump	48	273


Evaluate Models


Explain predictions made by a model





Use Models


Deploy the best version of your model to production, and use it as an **API**


 TAP


 Explore


 My Datasets


 My Models

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 ?


 **parsa / sentiment_fork (1)_model1**

 Dataset

 sentiment_fork (1)

 API calls

 1


 Private


Make it public


View Evaluation

Retrain

...

This is a sentiment analysis model for tweets. 


 sentiment-analysis

 Manage tags

Usage details

Endpoint

http://api.tap.aylien.com/v1/models/2ee632e2-81b9-43fc-bf38-662c772cdf2d

Copy 

API Key

814c6cb9f0bf4702aebf61f3c1596171

Example request:

```
curl -X POST \  
  -H "x-aylien-tap-application-key: 814c6cb9f0bf4702aebf61f3c1596171" \  
  --data-urlencode "text=RT @vancitynomad: Thanks SD Carl and crew for the great flight ac3 to Narita sept11 @MomonaKomagata @AirC  
  http://api.tap.aylien.com/v1/models/2ee632e2-81b9-43fc-bf38-662c772cdf2d
```

Model performance



Leverage the Marketplace

Share your **models** and **datasets** with other users, or leverage theirs

TAP

Explore

My Datasets

My Models

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Datasets

Here you can see a list of Datasets that other users have made public.
Take a closer look at any Dataset by clicking on it or copy any Dataset for your own use using the **Fork** button.

Emojis

robson@aylien.com

Various emojis and messages associated with them.

Updated 5 hours ago

Inspect

Fork 6

JIRA Tickets

robson@aylien.com

A dataset consisting of different categories of JIRA tickets (bugs, feature requests, etc) along with thousands of tickets for each category.

Updated 8 days ago

Inspect

Fork 8

Offensive Speech

robson@aylien.com

Social media posts and messages categorized based on their offensiveness.

Updated 24 days ago

Inspect

Fork 5

Large Movie Review

robson@aylien.com

A large collection of positive and negative movie reviews.

Updated a month ago

Inspect

Fork 7

Rotten Tomatoes Phrases

robson@aylien.com

A collection of short phrases about movies, with positive, neutral and negative annotations.

Updated a month ago

Inspect

Fork 1

Political Ideology

robson@aylien.com

A dataset consisting of 4,062 sentences annotated for political ideology–2025 liberal sentences, 1701 conservative sentences, and 600 neutral sentences.

Updated a month ago

Inspect

Fork 4

Previous

Next

Key takeaways

- NLP brings us closer to people's thoughts, emotions and intentions => It has the potential to impact billions of people;
- We're not doing a great job at modeling the processes of which language is an output => We face the problem of too many <task, domain, language>s => Infinite room for research in this area;
- NLP(/ML) is not a one-size-fits-all problem => We need to rely on good engineering and products to fill the gap;

Thank you!



aylien.com

We're hiring!
aylien.com/jobs