

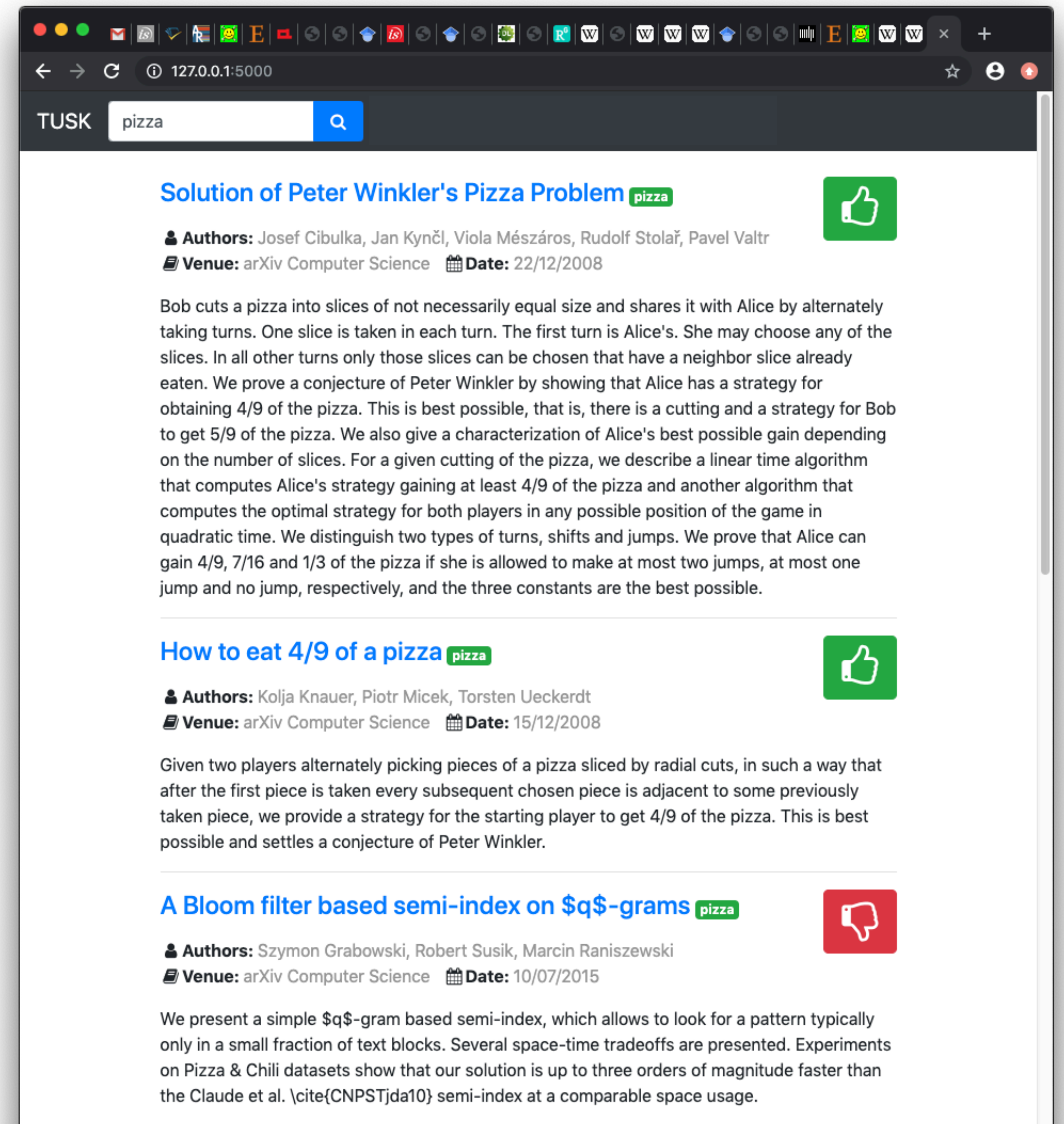
# **Manuscripts and newspapers: Using machine learning to map the sciences and identify political bias**

Alan Medlar and Dorota Glowacka

# **SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE**

# Motivation

- We perform **exploratory search** user studies on scientific literature
- Full-text retrieval has higher recall (and lower precision) over searching bibliographic records (title, abstract, etc.)
- Could using abstracts for retrieval impact experimental results?



# Abstracts vs. full-text

## Holes in the Outline: Subject-dependent Abstract Quality and its Implications for Scientific Literature Search

Chien-yu Huang and Arlene Casey  
University of Edinburgh  
s1771650@sms.ed.ac.uk; A.J.Casey@sms.ed.ac.uk

Dorota Glowacka and Alan Medlar  
University of Helsinki  
glowacka@cs.helsinki.fi; alan.j.medlar@helsinki.fi

### ABSTRACT

Scientific literature search engines typically index abstracts instead of the full-text of publications. The expectation is that the abstract provides a comprehensive summary of the article, enumerating key points for the reader to assess whether their information needs could be satisfied by reading the full-text. Furthermore, from a practical standpoint, obtaining the full-text is more complicated due to licensing issues, in the case of commercial publishers, and resource limitations of public repositories and pre-print servers.

In this article, we use topic modelling to represent content in abstracts and full-text articles. Using Computer Science as a case study, we demonstrate that how well the abstract summarises the full-text is subfield-dependent. Indeed, we show that abstract representativeness has a direct impact on retrieval performance, with poorer abstracts leading to degraded performance. Finally, we present evidence that how well an abstract represents the full-text of an article is not random, but is a consequence of style and writing conventions in different subdisciplines and can be used to infer an "evolutionary" tree of subfields within Computer Science.

### CCS CONCEPTS

• **Information systems** → Document structure; Document collection models;

### KEYWORDS

scientific literature search, topic models, term taxonomy

### ACM Reference Format:

Chien-yu Huang and Arlene Casey and Dorota Glowacka and Alan Medlar. 2019. Holes in the Outline: Subject-dependent Abstract Quality, and its Implications for Scientific Literature Search. In *2019 Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR '19)*, March 10–14, 2019, Glasgow, United Kingdom. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 5 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3295750.3298953>

### 1 INTRODUCTION

In scientific literature search abstracts are frequently used as the primary source for indexing and as snippet text that is displayed with search results. The reasons for this are twofold. First, readers assume that abstracts convey sufficient information about the paper

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CHIIR '19, March 10–14, 2019, Glasgow, United Kingdom  
© 2019 Association for Computing Machinery.  
ACM ISBN 978-1-4503-6025-8/19/03...\$15.00  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3295750.3298953>

to decide whether or not to read the full article. Second, abstracts often form part of a document's metadata (along with article title and author names), which is more readily accessible to search engines and researchers. Full-text documents are hard to obtain due to the need for commercial licenses and, in the case of public repositories such as arXiv, due to resource limitations (e.g. bandwidth costs). Given that the use of abstracts is common in Information

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Full Text: PDF

Authors: Chien-yu Huang University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom  
Arlene Casey University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom  
Dorota Glowacka University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland  
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2019 Article

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• Citation Count: 0  
• Downloads (cumulative): 56  
• Downloads (12 Months): 56  
• Downloads (6 Weeks): 4

### Published in:

• Proceeding  
CHIIR '19 Proceedings of the 2019 Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval  
Pages 289-293

Glasgow, Scotland UK — March 10 - 14, 2019

ACM New York, NY, USA ©2019  
[table of contents](#) ISBN: 978-1-4503-6025-8 doi>[10.1145/3295750.3298953](https://doi.org/10.1145/3295750.3298953)

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Abstract Authors References Cited By Index Terms Publication Reviews Comments Table of Contents

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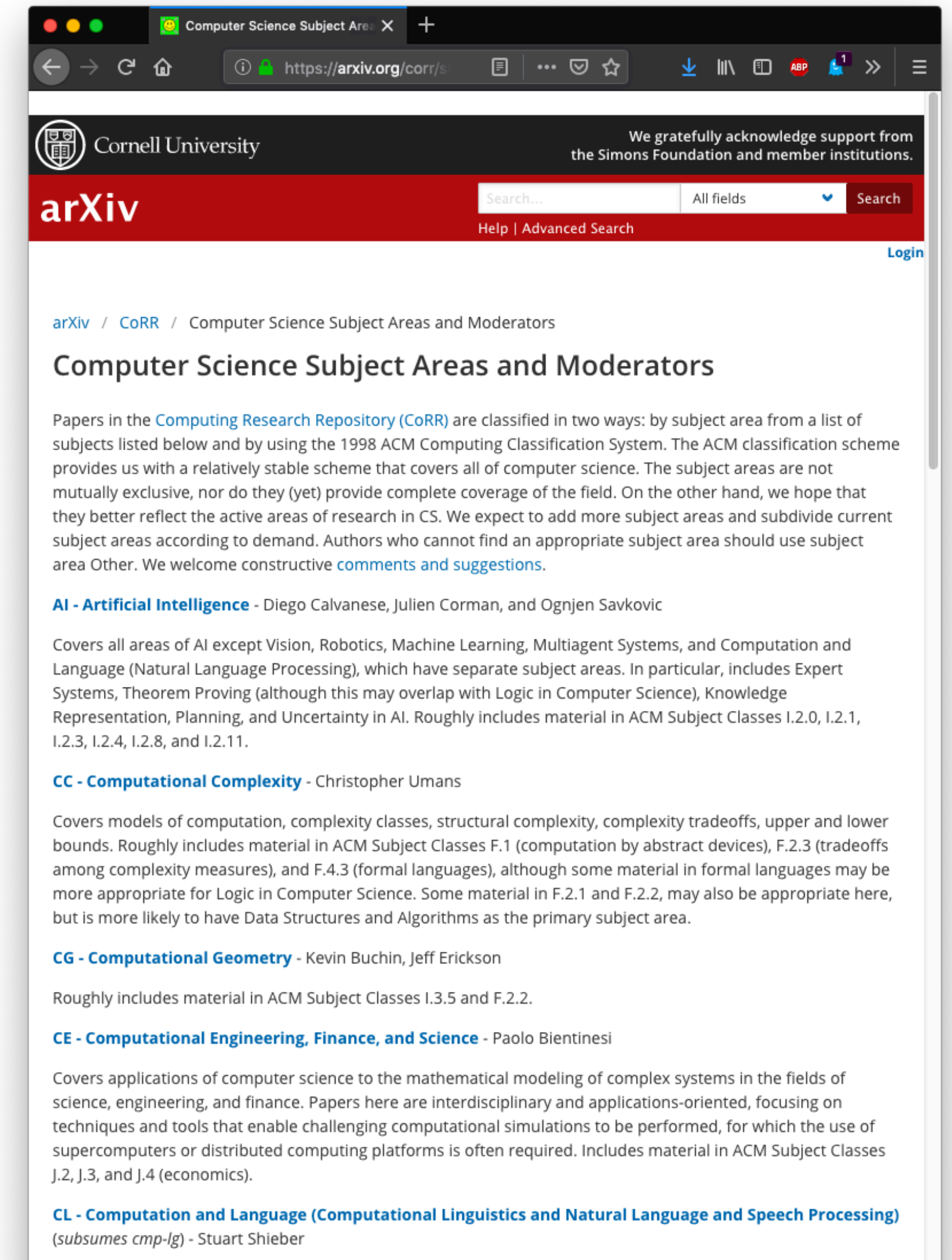
- **Bioinformatics:** article sections (e.g. results) besides abstract provides better representations of certain biological concepts
- **Medicine:** clinical decisions based solely on abstracts results in **worse patient outcomes**
- **General:** well-known differences between established/emerging fields, theoretical/applied fields, individual fields tend to have own style/expectations

# Research questions

- **RQ1:** How well do abstracts represent the full-text of a paper in different CS subfields?
- **RQ2:** If there are differences between subfields, could this impact (perceived) retrieval performance?

# Data preprocessing

- **35,137 CS papers** from arXiv (2007-mid 2015)
  - 23% papers associated with  $> 1$  category (40 possible author-assigned categories)
  - Extracted 6.7 sections per article (SD = 2.7)
- Classify **sections** as abstract, introduction, background, related work, methods, results, discussion, conclusions and back matter
  - Classified **53%** of sections based on headings **that occurred at least twice** (35% of headings were unique)
- Classified 3.3 sections per article (SD = 1.2)



# Representation

- **Full-text** and **sections** represented using probabilistic topic models
- Topic model inferred from full-text + used to predict individual sections (100 topics)
- Multi-sections merged using element-wise summarisation and normalised
- Representativeness metric
- **KL divergence**: two discrete probability distributions, P and Q, "how much information is lost when Q is used to approximate P"

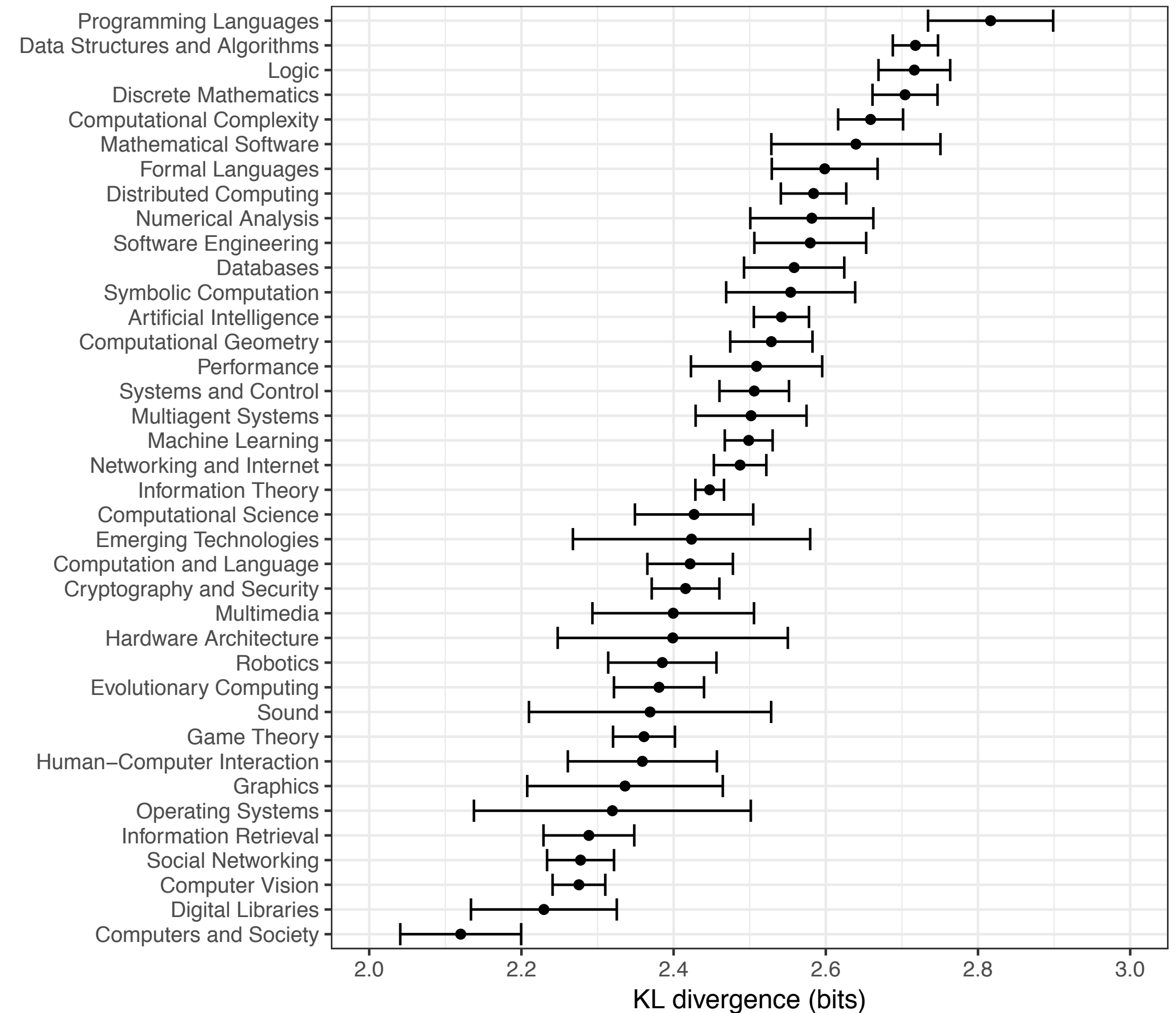
$$D_{KL}(P||Q) = \sum_i P(i) \log_2 \left( \frac{P(i)}{Q(i)} \right)$$

Full-text

Abstract

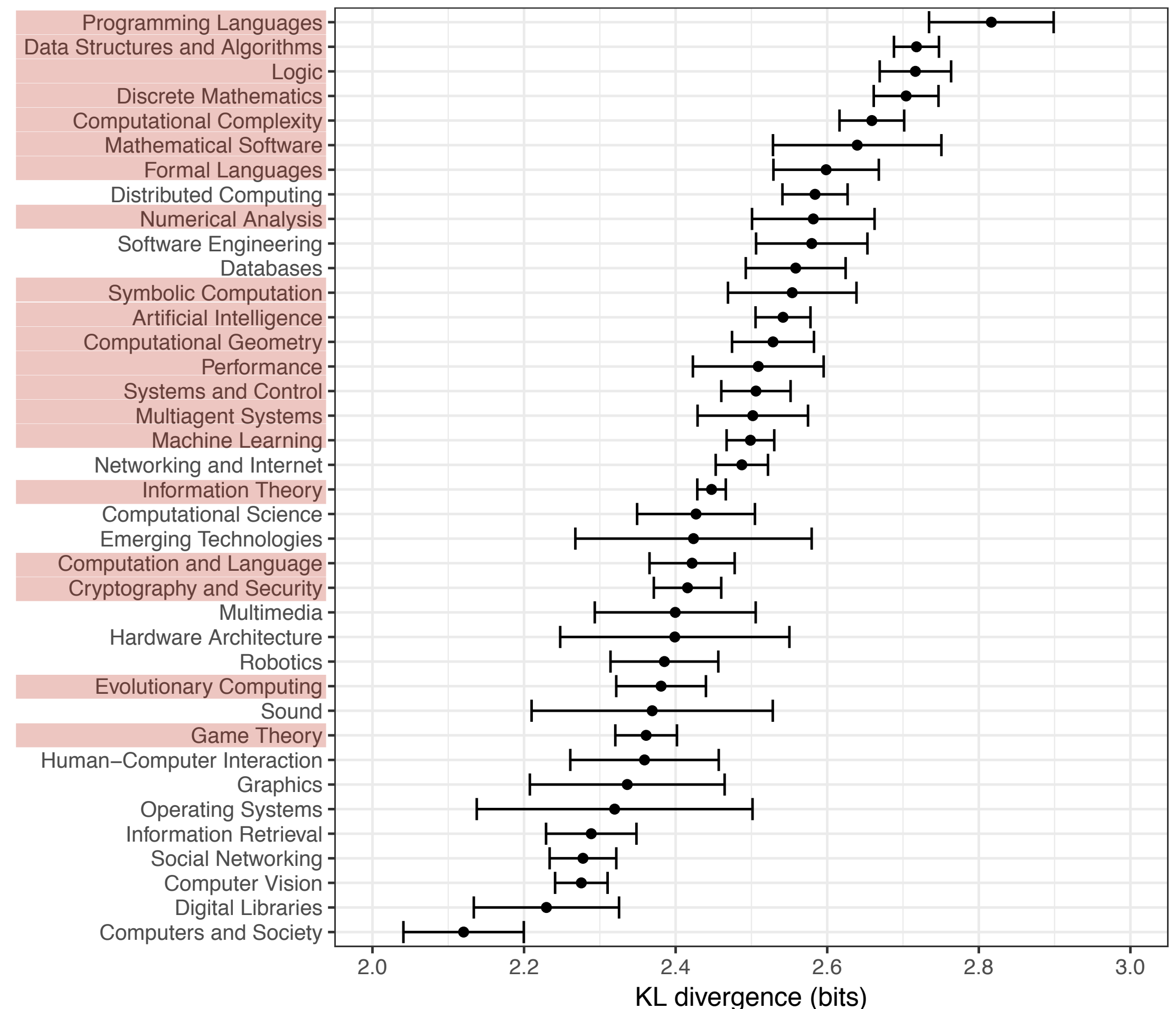
# Abstract representativeness is subfield-specific

- The degree to which abstracts represent the full-text is **subfield-specific**
- **Higher mean KL divergence** (less representative abstract) *appear* to be more theoretical...
- Lower mean KL divergence (more representative abstract) *appear* to be more applied...
- Theoretical abstracts tend to be shorter, but KL divergence is not correlated with abstract length ( $R^2 = 0.003$ ,  $p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ )



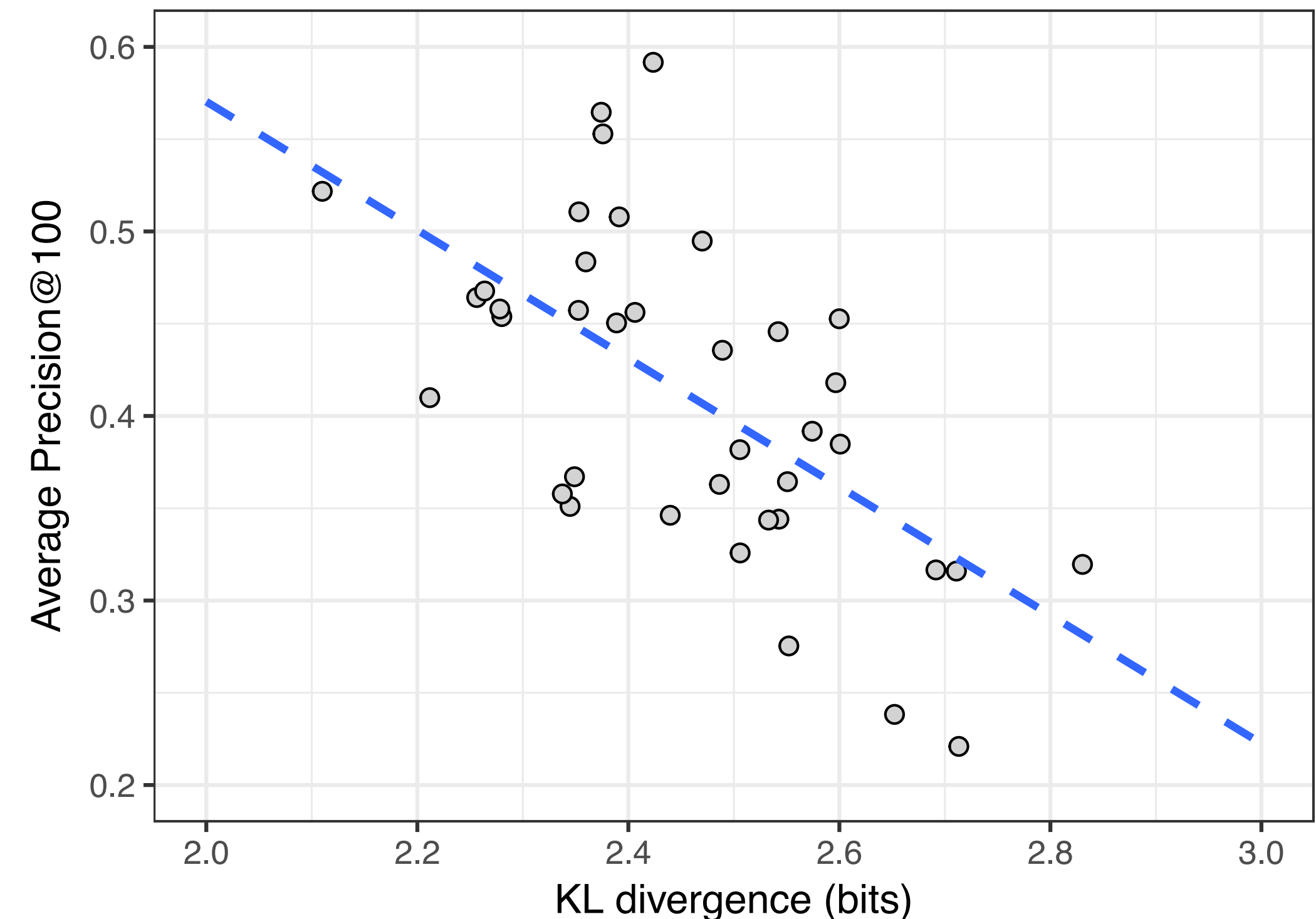
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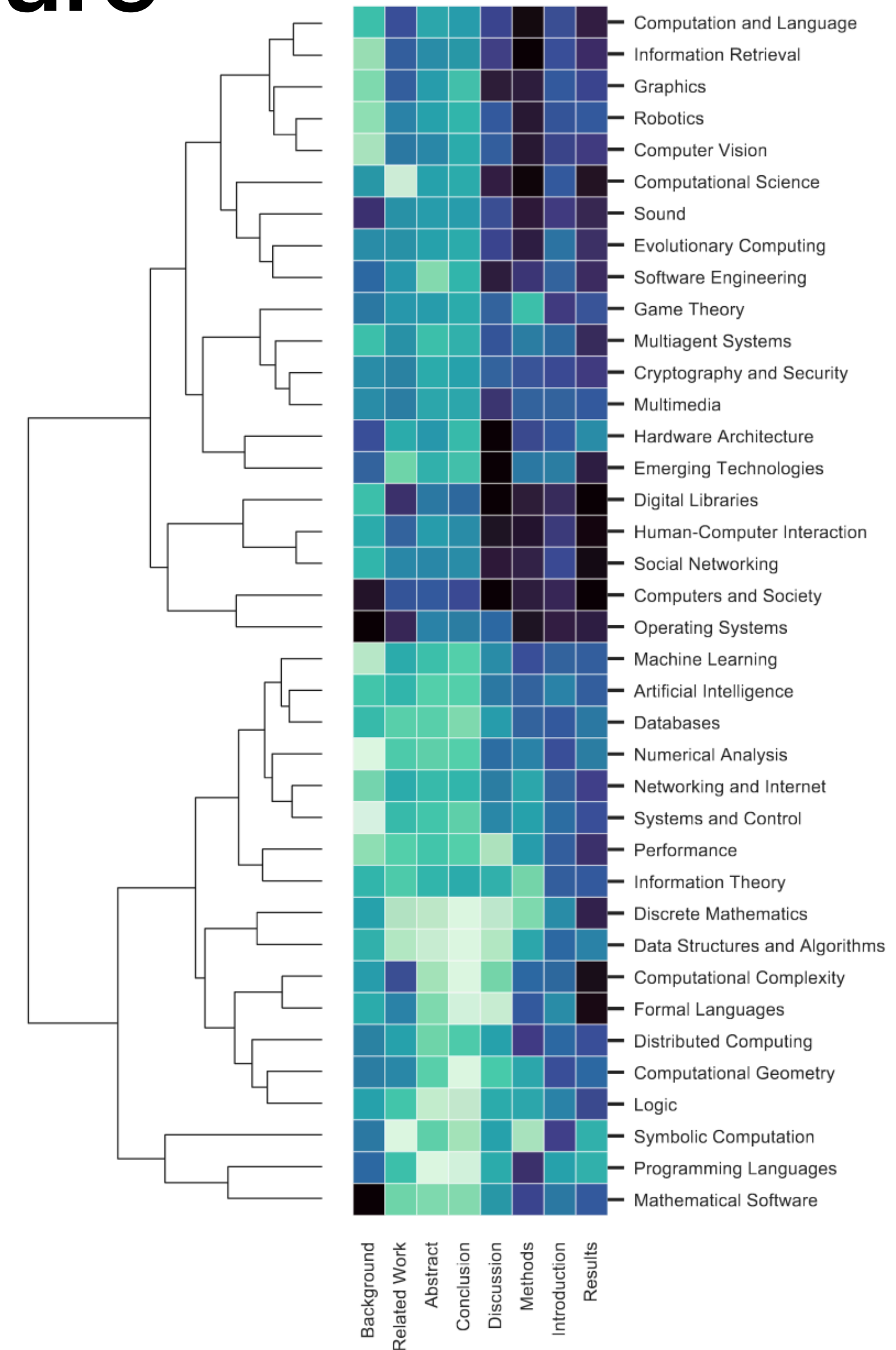
# Abstract representativeness is correlated with retrieval performance

- What is the impact on retrieval?
  - Generate queries that **disproportionately favour specific subfields** (most informative features from multi-class SVM, removed duplicates, manually removed junk)
  - 1,257 queries (33.1 per category, SD = 14.5)
  - Retrieve top-100 results using full-text and abstracts - calculate precision@100
- Precision@100 negatively correlated with KL divergence ( $R^2 = 0.38$ ,  $p = 3.65 \times 10^{-5}$ )



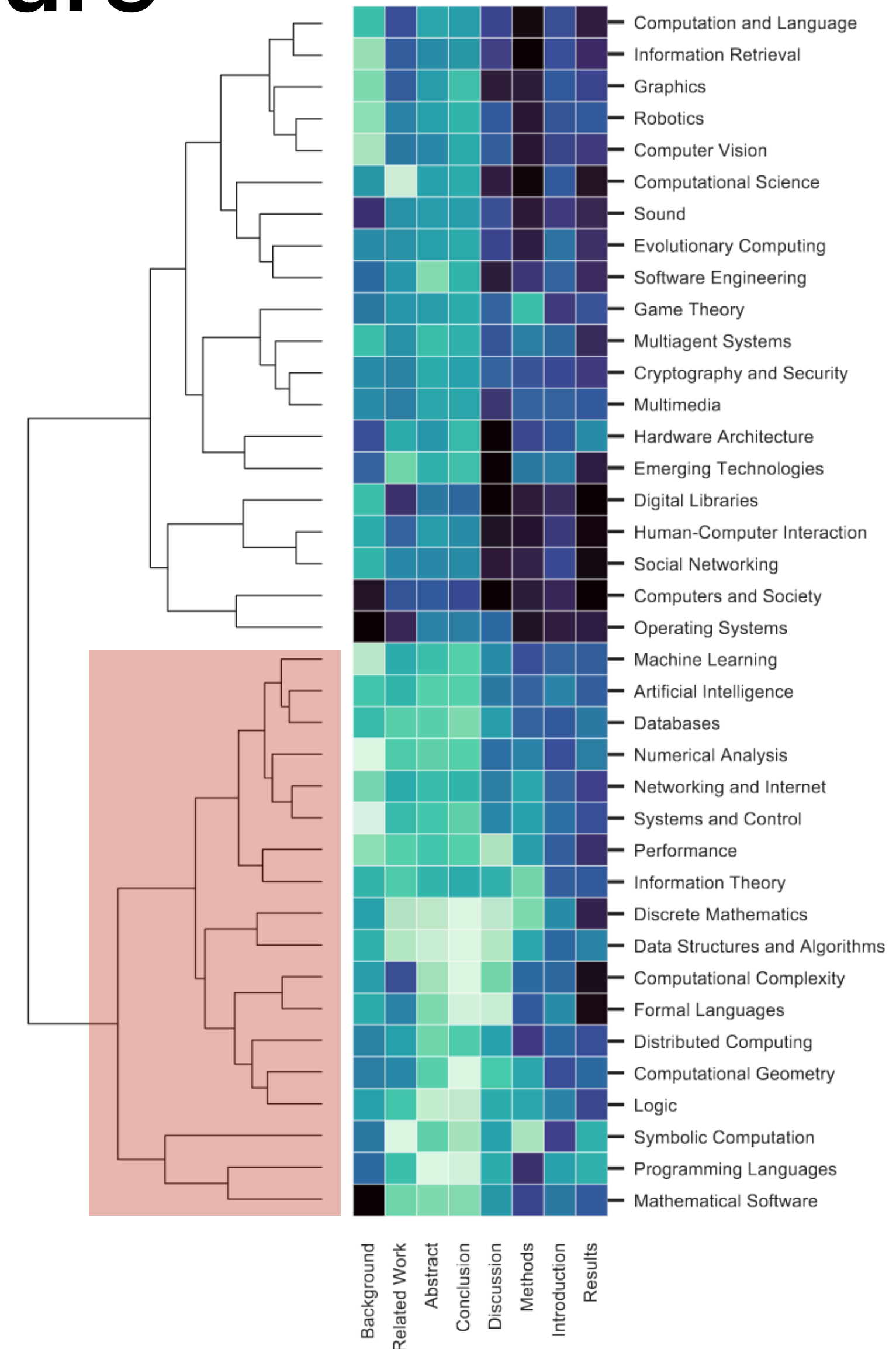
# Section-wise representativeness captures domain structure

- Are these trends random, or related to some underlying structure?
  - Calculate KL divergence between all 8 sections and full-text
  - Do hierarchical clustering (complete-linkage clustering with Euclidean distance)
- **Theoretical** and **applied** subtrees, deeper subtrees make sense
- Obvious errors explained by high variance (e.g. Operating Systems) or corpus bias (e.g. Networking and Internet, 23% associated with Information theory as well)



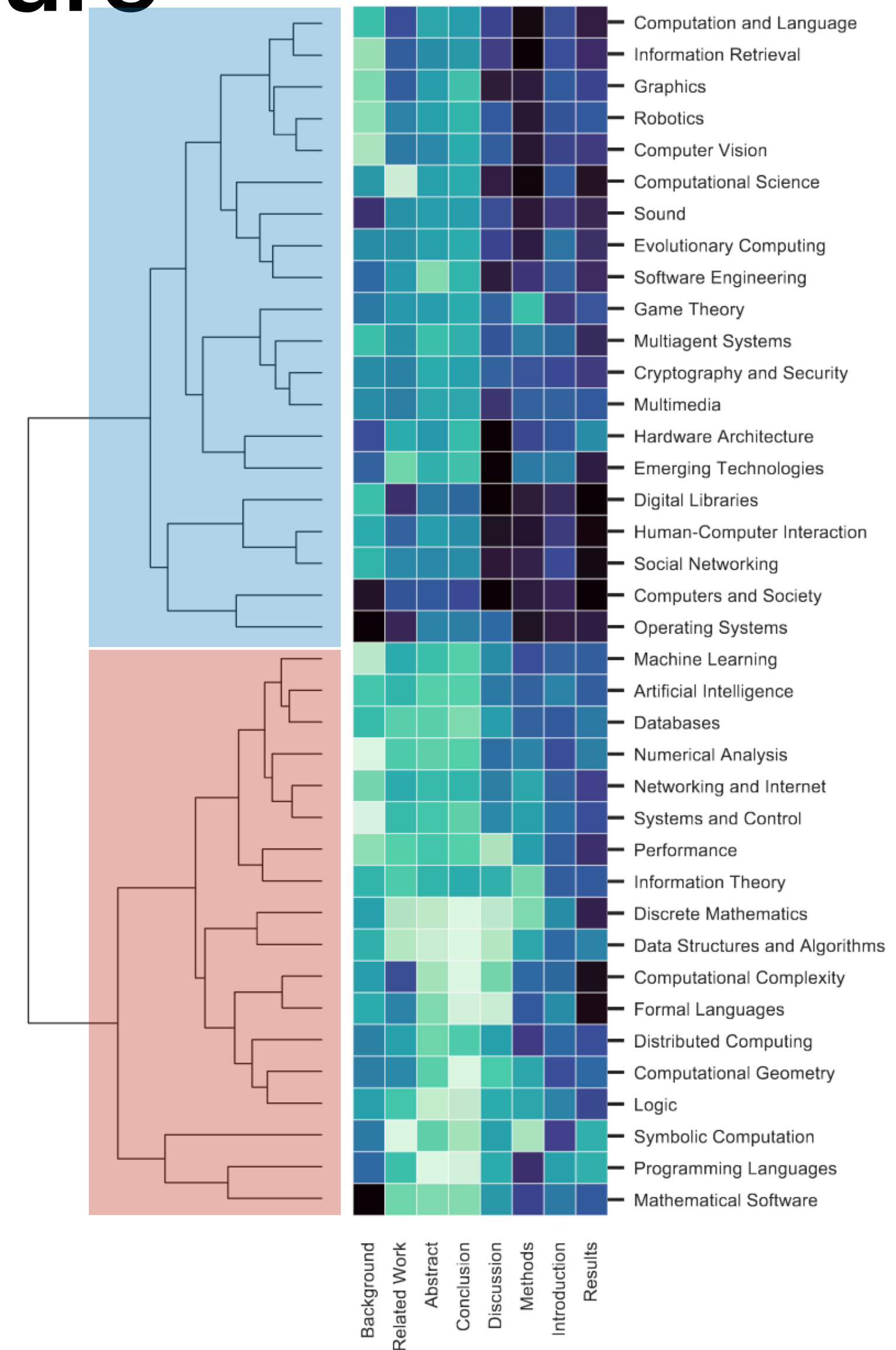
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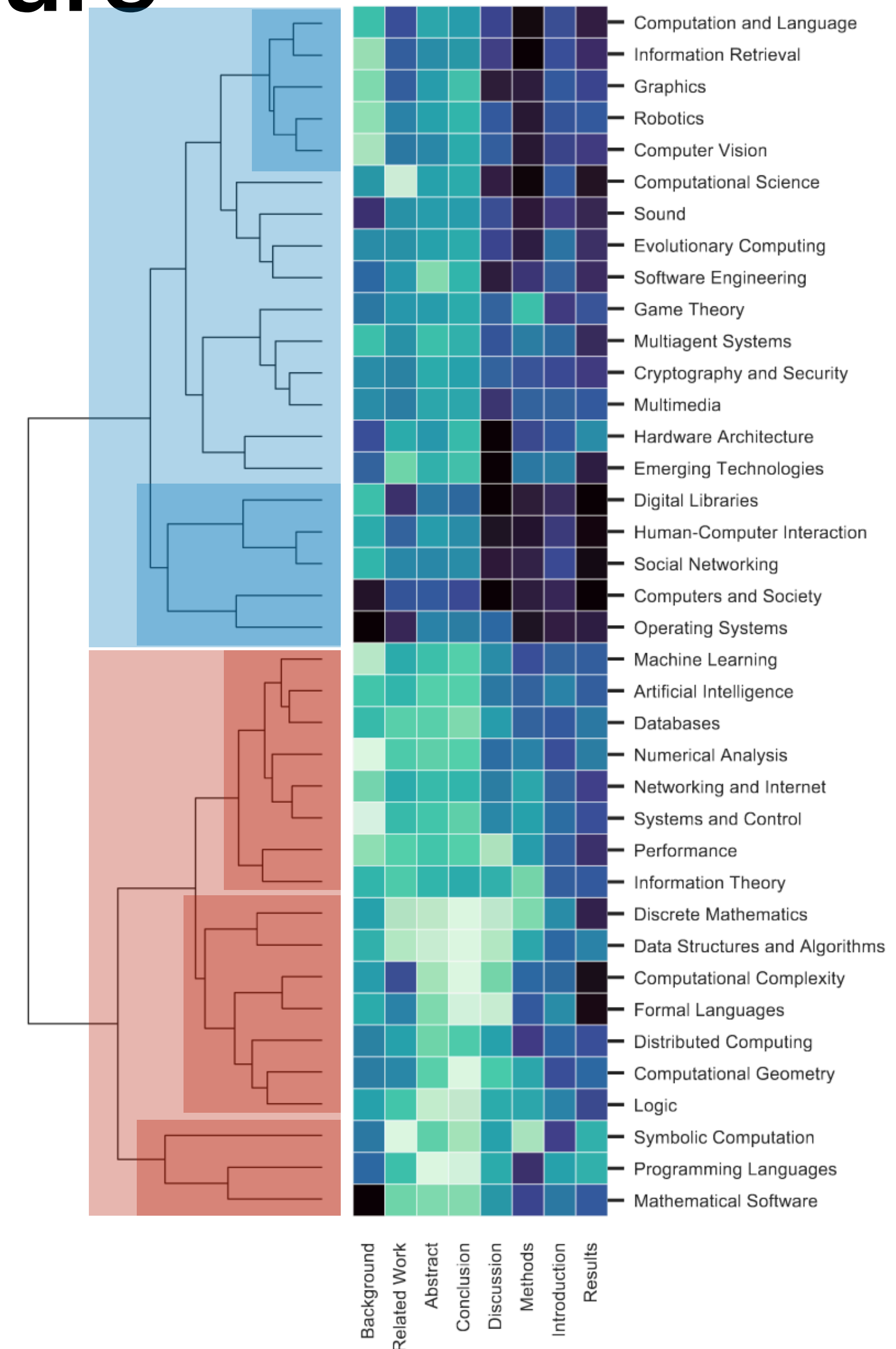
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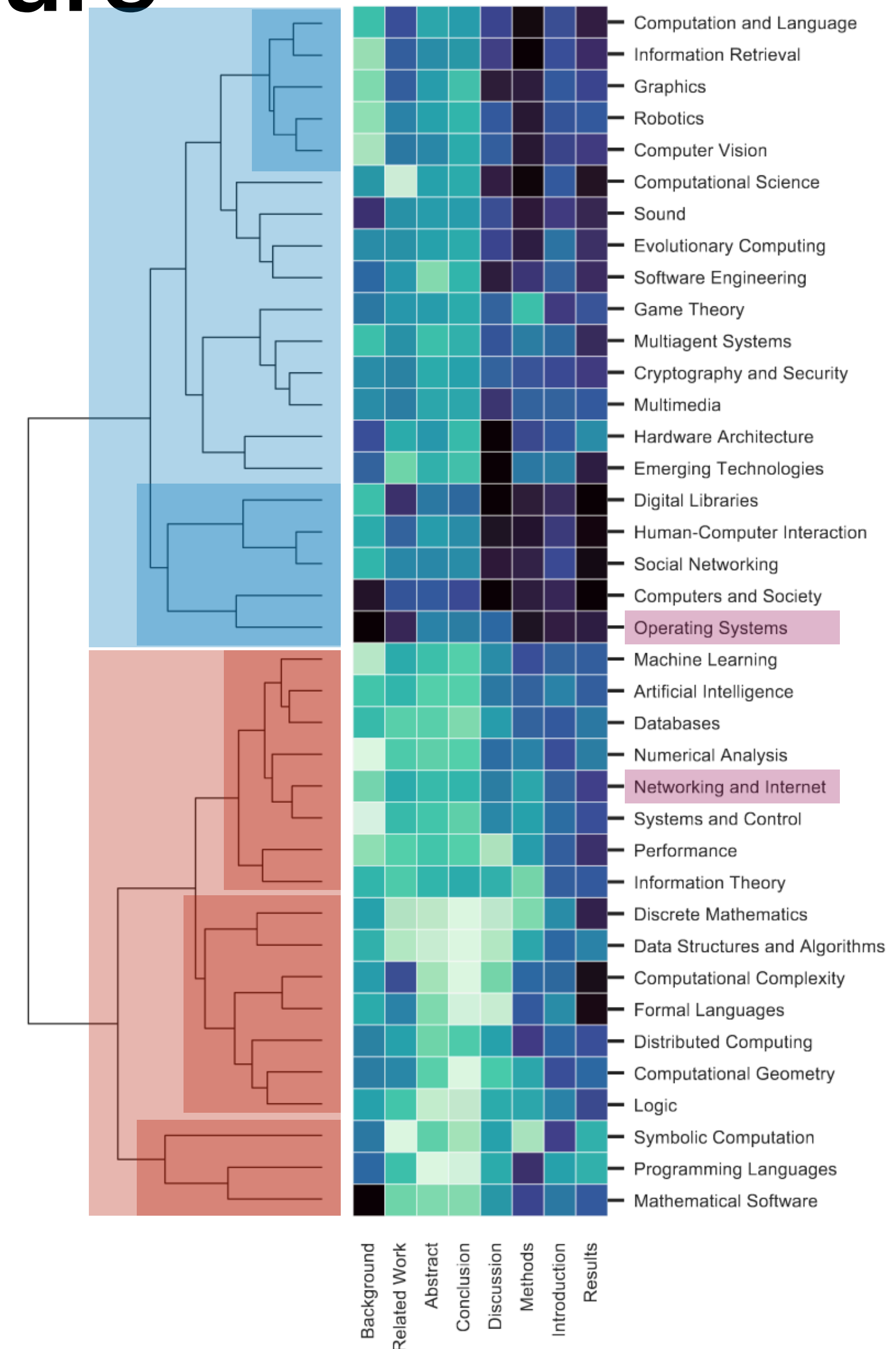
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# Current work

- Unexpectedly interesting results...
- In progress:
  - **Downloaded and preprocessed all of arXiv (~1.5M → ~1M)**
  - **CS**, Physics, CS + Physics (monophyletic?)
  - Better use of topic models
  - Improved tree building (phylogenetics)

# **POLITICAL BIAS**

# Motivation

- Facebook et al. recommend news articles, but **obscure** the publisher...
- Clicking on articles is telling Facebook "*more news about Brexit please!*"
- Can we automatically identify **political bias** in news articles?

# Left & right wing framing of Article 50 high court verdict

Section:GDN BE PaGe:1 Edition Date:161104 Edition:01 Zone:S Sent at 3/11/2016 21:29

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page 32 ->

# theguardian

## Turmoil for May as judges rule that parliament must decide on Brexit



Cina Miller outside the high court after successfully arguing that government must consult with MPs before starting the process to leave the EU. Photo: Adam Gray

- Legislation may be needed to trigger article 50
- No 10 says it will challenge court's decision
- Eurosceptic Tories demand early election

Roxana Mason  
Heather Stewart  
Owen Bowcott

Theresa May is heading for a rebellion over her Brexit strategy, after the high court ruled that Britain could not leave the European Union without the permission of parliament.

Three senior judges declared yesterday that the government could not press ahead with triggering article 50 of the Lisbon treaty, the formal process for beginning Brexit, without first consulting MPs and peers in the Commons and Lords.

The decision, made after a legal challenge brought in the wake of the EU referendum in June, is a dramatic setback for the prime minister, who had argued she had the personal authority to begin the process without a parliamentary vote.

Downing Street has said it will challenge

the judgment and is expected to lodge an appeal with the supreme court, with a hearing likely to take place next month. But David Davis, the Brexit secretary, acknowledged that the ruling as it stands means Britain's departure from the bloc will require the consent of MPs and peers.

"The judges have laid out what we can't do, and not exactly what we can do, but we're assuming that it requires an act of parliament and therefore both Commons and Lords," he said.

Parliamentarians are unlikely to block Brexit outright, given that 52% of voters opted to leave the EU on 23 June, but the need for legislation gives MPs the opportunity to shape the process by demanding May reveal more details about her plan for negotiating the terms of departure.

The Guardian understands a cross-party group of Tory and Labour MPs met yesterday afternoon to discuss how the

ruling can be used to force May to reveal more about her broad negotiating aims. Shadow Brexit secretary Kate Stanner said he now believed it was "inevitable" the prime minister will have to answer the big questions "on whether she wants Britain to be in the single market or the customs union, as there appears to be a majority of MPs demanding greater transparency."

"This is about accountability and scrutiny," he said. "Very many MPs accept and respect the referendum, of course, but the terms upon which we exit are vitally important. I think there is now consensus that the prime minister has got to disclose the overarching strategy. The idea that we are all to be kept in the dark until some time in 2019 only has to be said to be rejected."

May has repeatedly insisted she will deliver the

Continued on page 5 ->



The court's ruling is a chance for MPs to put the national interest first and halt Brexit before it wreaks any more havoc, says **Polly Toynbee**

A momentous constitutional decision was taken by the high court of England and Wales yesterday. A prime minister's absolute power to do what they like, when they like, regardless of laws and treaties, was struck down. Theresa May cannot tear up our right to be EU citizens without the authority of parliament.

Judges, wisely, do not generally want to usurp the power of elected governments to govern. Laws made by judges are a poor substitute for those made by elected MPs in parliament. But this is a matter of the profoundest constitutional importance, with deep implications, controversial whichever way they had decided. They rightly pronounced that parliament is sovereign - which is what the Brexiteers claimed we were voting on, until it no longer suited them.

What now? The government will appeal to the supreme court in December, though some suggest May should dash to the Commons for a quick vote before a hazy coalition of cross-party

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## Met's Operation Midland 'should have ended sooner'

Vikram Dodd  
Police and crime correspondent

Scotland Yard spent too long pursuing the investigation into allegations that prominent establishment figures sexually abused and killed children and should have ended the inquiry sooner, the unpublished draft report into Operation Midland has concluded.

The Guardian understands that the findings of the inquiry into Operation Midland, which collapsed amid controversy earlier this year, are more critical than police chiefs were expecting, and have sent Scotland Yard into crisis mode. The report, by Sir Richard Henriques, a retired high court judge, is understood to say that inconsistencies in the account of

the main witness, known as Nick, fatally flawed the investigation's chances of success, which meant it was never likely that a criminal case would reach the threshold needed to take any of the suspects to court. The report also criticises decisions and actions by officers involved in the high-profile, complex and emotive investigation.

Nick's claims led to allegations against public figures, including former military

**Sir Richard Henriques, a retired high court judge, is thought to be more critical of Scotland Yard in his report than police chiefs had expected**

chief Lord Bramall and former home secretary Lord Britan, as well as the former Tory MP Harvey Proctor. The report was ordered by the Met commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, after a furore over police actions and decision-making in the case, which saw officers obtain warrants to raid the homes of suspects and search through their premises.

The £2m Operation Midland ended in March after the Met concluded that there was insufficient evidence to arrest anyone, let alone ask prosecutors to consider a charge.

The findings from Henriques have been studied by senior officers and senior advisers at the Met, since they were delivered four weeks ago in draft form. Henriques is understood to conclude

in the report that the investigation should have ended sooner, and that it should have been apparent more quickly to police that Nick's credibility was too low to serve as a basis for prosecution.

The force says there is "no timetable" for the publication of the limited excerpts they will publish, but has said it will withhold the full report because it contains confidential and sensitive information. It is believed that this refers to information about and from suspected suspects and their accusers.

Some in policing are understood to be concerned that Henriques has failed to take sufficient account of key factors that may explain decision-making. These

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## The goat is dead Chicago celebrates as Qubs end 108-year wait for World Series win

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# Daily Mail

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2016

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DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 65p



The fencer: Sir Terence Etherton

Worked with Tony Blair: Lord Justice Sales

The Europhile: Lord Chief Justice Thomas

## Fury over 'out of touch' judges who defied 17.4m Brexit voters and could trigger constitutional crisis

# ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE

MPS last night tore into an unelected panel of 'out of touch' judges for ruling that embittered Remain supporters in Parliament should be allowed to frustrate the overwhelming verdict of the British public. The Lord Chief Justice and two senior col-

By **James Slack** Political Editor

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The judgement by Lord Thomas - a founding member of the European Law Institute, a club of lawyers and academics aiming to 'improve' EU law - throws

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# Left & right wing framing of Article 50 high court verdict

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**Turmoil for May as judges rule that parliament must decide on Brexit**

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Robbie Williams  
★★★

**Sci-fi gets emotional**  
Arrival and Passengers  
g2 film&music

**Rowena Mason**  
**Heather Stewart**  
**Owen Bowcott**

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Three senior judges declared yesterday that the government could not press ahead with triggering article 50 of the Lisbon treaty, the formal process for beginning Brexit, without first consulting MPs and peers in the Commons and Lords.

The decision, made after a legal challenge brought in the wake of the EU referendum in June, is a dramatic setback for the prime minister, who had argued she had the personal authority to begin the process without a parliamentary vote.

Downing Street has said it will challenge the judgment and is expected to lodge an appeal with the supreme court, with a hearing likely to take place next month.

But David Davis, the Brexit secretary, acknowledged that the ruling as it stands means Britain's departure from the bloc will require the consent of MPs and peers.

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**Continued on page 5 →**

**Gina Miller** outside the high court after successfully arguing that government must consult with MPs before starting the process to leave the EU. Photo: Adam Gray

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**ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE**

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**James Slack CBE**  
(currently Prime Minister's official spokesperson)



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25 years of



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Arrival and Passengers

Reviews  
Nocturnal Animals  
★★★★★  
Robbie Williams  
★★★  
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## the guardian

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By arguing that government must consult with MPs before starting the process to leave the EU. Photograph: Adam Gray

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What now? The government will appeal to the supreme court in December, though some suggest May should dash to the Commons for a quick vote before a hazy coalition of cross-party remainers has time to organise. If the appeal fails, will MPs galvanise? Leaving it to the unelected Lords is no answer.

There are times when MPs need to rise above their party interests, their own interests and the views of their constituents. That may risk being voted out, but they may earn more respect standing up for the national interest as best they can determine. In times of war or national crisis, defending the country

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The main witness, known as Nick, fatally flawed the investigation's chances of success, which meant it was never likely that a criminal case would reach the threshold needed to take any of the suspects to court. The report also criticises decisions and actions by officers involved in the high-profile, complex and emotive investigation.

Nick's claims led to allegations against public figures, including former military

chief Lord Bramall and former home secretary Lord Britan, as well as the former Tory MP Harvey Proctor. The report was ordered by the Met commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, after a furore over police actions and decision-making in the case, which saw officers obtain warrants to raid the homes of suspects and search through their possessions.

The £2m Operation Midland ended in March after the Met concluded that there was insufficient evidence to arrest anyone, let alone ask prosecutors to consider a charge.

The findings from Henriques have been studied by senior officers and senior advisers at the Met, since they were delivered four weeks ago in draft form. Henriques is understood to conclude

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**Page 3**

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**Daily Mail**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2016

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DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 65p



The fencer: Sir Terence Etherton

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Downing Street has said it will challenge

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REM  
25 years of



Sci-fi gets emotional  
Arrival and Passengers

Reviews  
Nocturnal Animals  
★★★★★  
Robbie Williams  
★★★★★  
g2 film&music

the guardian

for May as judges rule that



The court's ruling is a chance for MPs to put the national interest first and halt Brexit before it wreaks any more havoc, says **Polly Toynbee**

A momentous constitutional decision was taken by the high court of England and Wales yesterday. A prime minister's absolute power to do what they like, when they like, regardless of laws and treaties, was struck down. Theresa May cannot tear up our right to be EU citizens without the authority of parliament.

Judges, wisely, do not generally want to usurp the power of elected governments to govern. Laws made by judges are a poor substitute for those made by

Free GIANT map

Daily

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2016



The fencer: Sir Terence Etherton

Fury over 'out of touch' judges for ruling that embittered Remain supporters in Parliament should be allowed to frustrate the overwhelming verdict of the British public.

ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE

MPS last night tore into an unelected panel of 'out of touch' judges for ruling that embittered Remain supporters in Parliament should be allowed to frustrate the overwhelming verdict of the British public. The Lord Chief Justice and two senior col-

MPS last night tore into an unelected panel of 'out of touch' judges for ruling that embittered Remain supporters in Parliament should be allowed to frustrate the overwhelming verdict of the British public.

The Lord Chief Justice and two senior col-

leagues were accused of putting Britain on course for a full-blown 'constitutional crisis' by saying Brexit could not be triggered without a Westminster vote.

The judgment by Lord Thomas – a founding member of the European Law Institute, a club of lawyers and academics aiming to 'improve' EU law – throws

into chaos Mrs May's timetable for invoking article 50 in March next year.

Senior MPs – led by an ex-justice minister – said it was an outrage that an 'unholy alliance' of judges and embittered Remain backers could thwart the wishes of 17.4million Leave voters. They warned that Mrs May could be forced to hold an election early next year if the courts did not back down. Leave

Turn to Page 2

Eurosceptic Tories demand early election

Met's Operati

Vikram Dodd  
Police and crime correspondent  
Scotland Yard spent too long pursuing the investigation into allegations that prominent establishment figures sexually abused and killed children and should have ended the inquiry sooner, the unpublished draft report into Operation Midland has concluded.  
The Guardian understands that the findings of the inquiry into Operation Midland, which collapsed amid controversy earlier this year, are more critical than police chiefs were expecting, and have sent Scotland Yard into crisis mode.  
The report, by Sir Richard Henriques, a retired high court judge, is understood to say that inconsistencies in the account of

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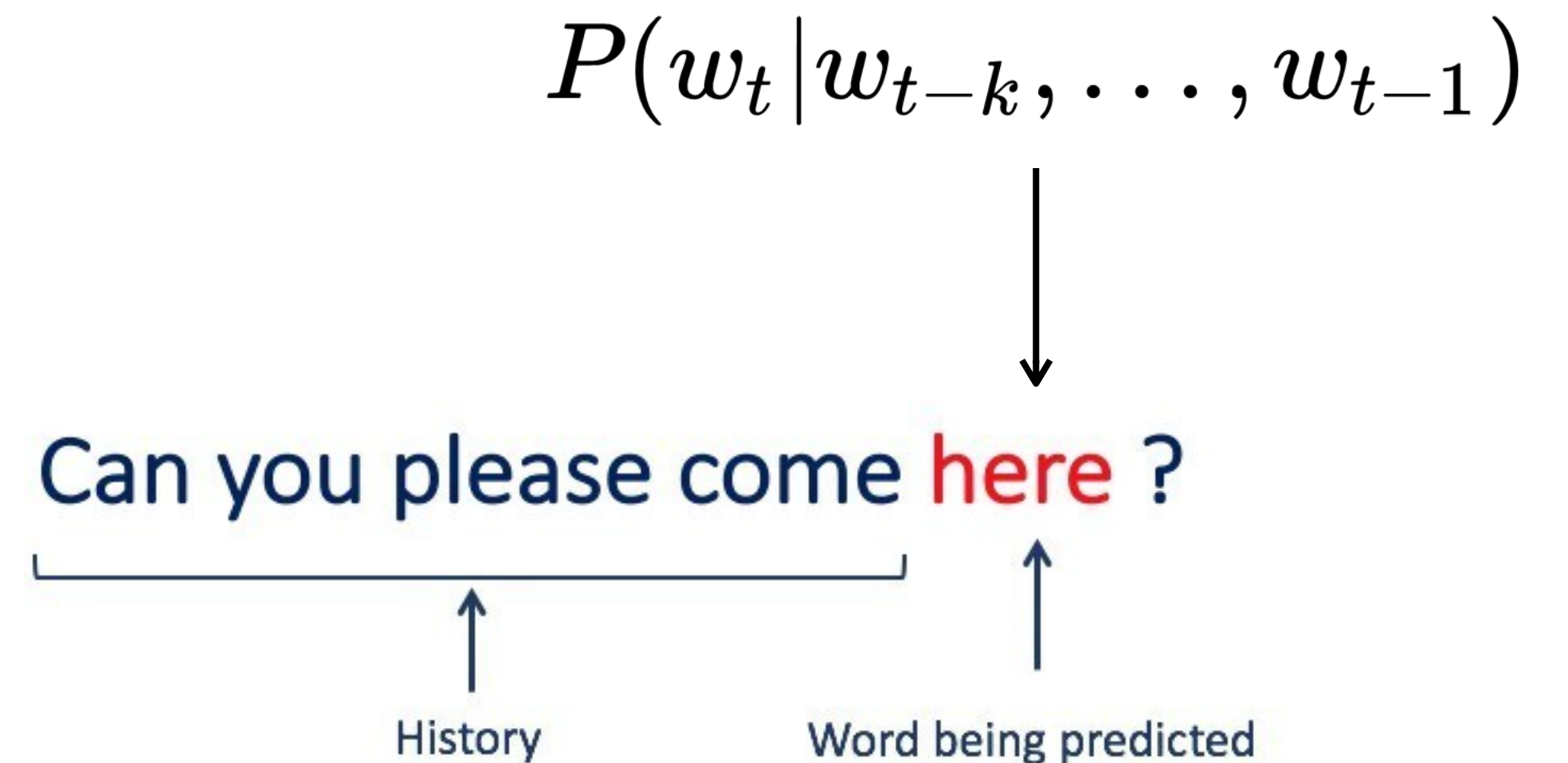
throws

and embittered Remain backers could thwart the wishes of 17.4million Leave voters. They warned that Mrs May could be forced to hold an election early next year if the courts did not back down. Leave

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# Approach

- Data sets:
  - Left-wing British newspaper articles (Guardian)
  - Right-wing British newspaper articles (Daily Mail)
- Build two **language models**
- Calculate the **likelihood ratio** on a per word basis:
  - 1.0 = neutral
  - < 1.0 = left-wing
  - > 1.0 = right-wing



# Preliminary results (with broken data)

- **Left-wing** articles about UK politics
- **Right-wing** articles about UK or politics
- Model issues (see house of commons)

What is the original ' backstop ' in the Withdrawal Agreement ? Variouslly described as an insurance policy or safety net , the backstop is a device in the Withdrawal Agreement intended to ensure that there will not be a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland , even if no formal deal can be reached on trade and security arrangements . It would mean that if there were no workable agreement on such matters , Northern Ireland would stay in the customs union and much of the single market , guaranteeing a friction - free border with the Republic . This would keep the Good Friday agreement intact . Both the UK and EU signed up to the basic idea in December 2017 as part of the initial Brexit deal , but there have been disagreements since on how

Brussels and allies across Europe . Johnson suggested the EU s position was influenced by the manoeuvres of Conservative MPs who have been examining legislative methods to stop no deal in the House of Commons , including former cabinet ministers like Philip Hammond . Downing

# Acknowledgements

Chien-yu Huang  
Arlene Casey



Yu An  
Yang Liu

