# **Classification of Semantic Paraphasias: Optimization of a Word Embedding Model**

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#### Abstract

In clinical assessment of people with aphasia, impairment in the ability to recall and produce words for objects (anomia) is assessed using a confrontation naming task, where a target stimulus is viewed and a corresponding label is spoken by the participant. Vector space word embedding models have had inital results in assessing semantic similarity of targetproduction pairs in order to automate scoring of this task; however, the resulting models are also highly dependent upon training parameters. To select an optimal family of models, we fit a beta regression model to the distribution of performance metrics on a set of 2,880 grid search models and evaluate the resultant first- and second-order effects to explore how parameterization affects model performance. Comparing to SimLex-999, we show that clinical data can be used in an evaluation task with comparable optimal parameter settings as standard NLP evaluation datasets.

## **1** Introduction

In clinical assessment of people with aphasia, impairment in the ability to recall and produce words for objects (anomia) is assessed using a confrontation naming task, where a target stimulus is viewed and a corresponding label is spoken by the participant. Semantic impairment is measured by a clinician's rating of semantic similarity between the target-production pairs, and involves a defined similarity criteria involving synonymy, association, and hypernymy. Research into word embedding models has shown that different window parameterization settings capture different semantic relations of association/relatedness vs synonymy, functional properties vs topicality, and word embedding models have been adapted to synonymy, association, and hypernymy (Hill et al., 2015; Levy et al., 2015; Levy and Goldberg, 2015; Lison and Kutuzov, 2017). A

central question in NLP research is how to use extrinsic evaluation to measure what semantic relations are encoded by a model. In this paper, we engage in the interdisciplinary question of how semantic relations can be modeled in a clinical domain, and present an application of word embedding models for assessing semantic impairment.

The Philadelphia Naming Test (PNT) implements one such naming task that was developed for psycholinguistic and clinical research; the scoring of this test involves a large taxonomy of coding responses based on phonological and semantic similarity of the response to the target object (Roach et al., 1996). The taxonomy is motivated by Dell's two-step model of aphasia, where anomia results from a disruption in accessing both the phonological representation as well as semantic properties of the object (Dell, 1986).

PNT scoring is time-intensive due to the high number of items, and there have been successful attempts to both shorten the number of items on the test via computer adaptive assessment (Hula et al., 2015) as well as automate the scoring of the PNT via automated classification of paraphasias to facilitate the use of the PNT as a tool in clinical practice (Fergadiotis et al., 2016). Our work is part of a broader goal to develop an end-to-end automation of the PNT, from presentation of target items to an individual error profile.

In this paper, we present results of a classification task that identifies semantic paraphasias (errors) on the PNT, using a word embedding model to measure semantic similiarity of a production to the target item. Fergadiotis et al. (2016) showed that word embeddings can be successfully applied to classification of semantic paraphasias in the context of the PNT, and our paper builds on this baseline work by exploring (i) the nature of semantic similarity that their optimal model encodes; (ii) the relationship between the evaluation

synonym	$TOILET \to ``commode"$
category coordinate	$BANANA \rightarrow$ "apple"
superordinate	$APPLE \to ``fruit"$
subordinate	FLOWER $\rightarrow$ "rose"
associated	$BENCH \rightarrow$ "park"
diminutive	$DOG \rightarrow$ "doggie"

#### Table 1: PNT Semantic Error Relations

metric, a large database of PNT target-production pairs, and the distribution of similarity scores in an optimal model.

We present results of parameter optimization tasks and post-hoc analysis of the resulting vector space in optimal and non-optimal models for the downstream application of classifying semantic paraphasias on the PNT, using a novel application of the beta regression model to evaluate grid search parameters. We then compare the evaluation metric of psycholinguistic aphasic data with SimLex-999, a standard NLP evaluation tasks with measured controls for synonymy and association, and explore best practices for adapting models to psycholinguistic, clinical environments.

## 2 Optimizing for confrontation naming

## 2.1 Using Clinical Data for Model Evaluation

Canonical word embedding tasks strive to model semantic relations that are similar to those used in the definition of PNT semantic errors such as synonymy and association (e.g. Hill et al. (2015); Levy et al. (2015)), and thus should be well suited for the classification of semantic errors in the PNT. Conventional scoring of the PNT defines a criteria for semantic errors that involves a real word noun production that is in one of six semantic relations with the target word; see Table 1 (Roach et al., 1996).

The PNT consists of 175 items, represented by a set of black-and-white images, and were selected based on a series of controls, involving varying word frequency based on Francis and Kučera (1982), word length (1 to 4 syllables), and high name performance by control participants (Roach et al., 1996). Items in the PNT come from several semantic categories, and avoid landmarks or other recognizable individuals (Mirman et al., 2010). The Moss Aphasia Psycholinguistic Project Database (MAPPD) contains transcribed responses from over 300 administrations of the PNT, and is often used in aphasiological research; in this work, we use a subsample of 152 administrations selected on the basis of clinical characteristics. The 152 administrations of the PNT are from 99 subjects from 1-195 months post onset of aphasia. Five different sub-types of aphasia were present among the subjects (anomic, Broca, conduction, transcortical sensory, and Wernicke). Some subjects had multiple administrations of the PNT at different months post onset; the range is 1-6 administrations per subject.

The frequency and length controls for targets on the PNT, in addition to the semantic relations that define paraphasic errors on the naming test, establish a paradigm for target-production word pairs that is quite similar to the structure of certain external evaluation datasets developed for word embedding models. For example, SimLex-999 (Hill et al., 2015) is a benchmark dataset for assessing semantic similarity that is based on human ratings of word pairs on a scale of synonymy, as opposed to association/relatedness. SimLex-999 balances word association strength using the USF Free Association norms, samples from both associated and unassociated word pairs, and controls for features such as the concreteness and part-ofspeech of the word pairs. Additionally, the PNT involves human evaluation of these semantic relations - in this case, two trained clinicians with instructions that train evaluators to look for specific dimensions of semantic similiarity when evaluating whether a word pair is semantically similar (the instructions are very similar to those used by SimLex-999). Comparing results from MAPPD, which depends on a clinician's identification of a word pair as semantically similar, with results from SimLex-999 should establish whether clinical data is a reliable evaluation metric for embedding models.

## 2.2 Parameterization Affects Semantic Relations in Word Embedding Models

From the NLP literature, parameterization is one consideration that has been shown to have a large effect on the semantic information encoded in word embedding models. In general, larger context windows are associated with more topical similarities, while smaller windows are expected to produce more functional/syntactic similarities (Goldberg, 2015). For Skipgram models, a smaller window size is associated with increased performance on SimLex-999, a word pair similiarity task (Lison and Kutuzov, 2017), and qualitatively less topicality (Levy and Goldberg, 2015). Addition-

ally, there are more domain general considerations when optimizing models to our downstream task. It has been shown that there is an ideal parameter setting for dimensionality of the resulting word vectors that is neither too high nor too low (Landauer and Dumais, 1997; Yin and Shen, 2018).

## 3 Methods

The current study tests whether model architecture, corpus preparation, and training parameters influence the semantic content of the word embedding model, as measured via the downstream classification task of scoring paraphasic errors on the PNT. We performed a grid search over these sets of parameters, and we evaluate the resultant models on both the PNT dataset as well as the SimLex-999 dataset (Hill et al., 2015), to evaluate and compare what patterns both evaluation methods find in the data. In doing this, we ask whether the items and semantic similarity criteria of the Philadelphia Naming Test are informative in the context of evaluating parameter settings of word embedding models.

#### 3.1 Corpus Preparation Pipelines

Following the method described by Fergadiotis et al. (2016), four versions of the English Gigaword corpus (LDC2011T07) were prepared,<sup>1</sup> with stemming and stopword/punctuation removal as variables (see Table 2).<sup>2</sup> Stemming was done using NLTK's implementation of the Porter stemming algorithm (Porter, 1980; Bird et al., 2009). Stopword removal used the NLTK list of English-language stop words, notably including *can*, which is a PNT item; punctuation was re-

Parameter	Levels		
Corpus Preparation	+Stemming, -Stemming		
Corpus Preparation	+Stopword Removal,		
	-Stopword Removal		
Dimensionality	100, 200, 500, 750		
Minimum Word Frequency	100, 250, 500, 750, 1000,		
	1500, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000		
Context Window Size	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25		

#### Table 2: Grid Search Variables

moved with stopwords.<sup>3</sup>

## 3.2 word2vec Training Parameters

At training time, three parameters were varied: the size of the *context window*<sup>4</sup>, *dimensionality* of word embedding vectors, and *minimum word frequency* threshold (see Table 2). 1,440 CBOW and 1,440 Skipgram models were trained using Gensim v3.4.0, using the four Gigaword corpora, varying the above-mentioned parameters. The default *word2vec* training parameters were used for both CBOW and Skipgram models, including a negative sampling rate of 5, a negative sampling exponent of 0.75, cbow\_mean=1 (uses the mean rather than the sum of context word vectors), 5 training epochs, alpha = 0.025, a minimum learning rate of .0001, and downsampling word frequency of  $0.001.^5$ 

### 3.3 Evaluation Tasks

## 3.3.1 MAPPD Database of Philadelphia Naming Tests

We evaluated the word embedding model using a semantic classification task for all trials in the MAPPD database. To do this, we took the orthographic representation of the visual target item and the produced response to the naming task to be a target-production word pair in the embedding model, and used cosine similarity scores as input to the classifier to determine semantic similarity of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>A reviewer suggests that multiple corpora could have been included in the grid search, with which we wholeheartedly agree. Our preliminary experiments using pretrained embedding models trained on different corpora (such as a Wikipedia crawl), do not show large differences in performance in terms of optimal parameter settings. We leave a more detailed parameter search over different corpora to future research, and do have reason to expect that corpus selection would be important for this task. With the embeddings described in the present study, we observed word sense issues for certain PNT items, such as *head*, which when trained on newswire text obtains a dominant word sense for *ruler/dictator/chairperson* rather than the body part; work aimed at modeling and addressing issues of word sense is in progress.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Note that the original paper by Fergadiotis et al. had used a version of the Gigaword corpus that had been augmented with additional conversational text; we elected to use the standard "vanilla" version of Gigaword, for reasons of reproducibility. An initial pilot study showed that the changes to the corpus resulted in negligible differences in performance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>For comparability with previous classification experiments, the version of Gigaword with +Stemming, +Stopword Removal was formatted with line breaks after each one article. This may have had an effect on window trimming at training time for this particular variable manipulation. However, the limited second-order interaction of stemming and stopword removal shows that this likely had only a minor effect (see Section 4). Samples from the corpora are in Appendix A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>word2vec window is symmetrical on both sides of target word; e.g. window n = 1 is [Word1 Target Word2].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>A future grid search parameter could include a comparison of *word2vec* output/decoding methods (hierarchical softmax vs. negative sampling), along with their various related hyperparameter settings. We did not vary this in the current study.

target-production pairs in MAPPD. Cosine similarity of the vectors for the target and production were computed from each model on a transformed scale of [0,1]; target/production pairs including an OOV term were assigned a similarity score of  $0.^6$ 

We then used these cosine similarity scores to determine whether, for the purposes of PNT item scoring, a subject's production is sufficiently similar to the target word to count as a semantic paraphasia. Following the approach described by Fergadiotis et al. (2016), we do this via thresholdbased classification: word pairs with cosine similiary above a pre-identified threshold are classified as paraphasias with semantic relatedness, and word pairs with cosine similarity below the threshold are classified as not semantically related. This approach has the advantage of being easily integrated into downstream classifiers in a way that is interpretable as well as tunable (by raising or lowering the threshold, we can trivially trade off precision for recall). Furthermore, there exist numerous well-understood methods for optimizing the operating point of the threshold classifier. In this work, we calculated the optimal operating point for a model to be that which maximized the S1 score (the harmonic mean of sensitivity and specificity) in the cosine similarity space.

In this work, we compared the performance of a large number of trained similarity models. To compare models, we took the set of computed similarity scores from each model and calculated the Area Under the Curve for the Receiver Operating Characteristic (AUC for ROC; Hanley and McNeil (1982)). We take AUC score as a broad, threshold-independent evaluation of model performance (Huang and Ling, 2005) and use this as a criteria for selection of our optimal family of models.

The resulting distribution of AUC scores show clear interactions over parameter settings. We used beta regression (Ferrari and Cribari-Neto, 2004) to model the distribution of the AUC scores from our grid search, and used the resulting coefficients to find optimal settings for each parameter. Beta regression is used for a response variable that is bounded within the standard unit interval, such as rates or proportions, and is appropriate to use for data that are heteroskedastic and/or asymmetric, as is the case with the distribution of AUC scores resulting from our grid search over word embedding models. It is typical to fit two beta regression models, one for each of the two hyperparameters of the Beta distribution (mode and dispersion) (Simas et al., 2010; Cribari-Neto and Zeileis, 2010).

## 3.3.2 SimLex-999

Cosine similarity scores for all SimLex-999 word pairs were computed for each of the 2,880 grid search models, and Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was calculated to test the correlation of any given models' similarity scores with the human rating of similarity for synonymy. The resulting models were compared by fitting a beta regression model, scaling  $(\rho + 1)/2$  as the response variable to fit the distribution of  $\rho$  to the unit interval [0,1] which is required in beta regression (see Ferrari and Cribari-Neto (2004)).

## 4 **Results**

#### 4.1 MAPPD Grid Search

Coefficients from a beta regression model are reported individually for each parameter (a table of estimates is provided in Appendex B). Coefficients represent the log-odds of an increase in AUC score per unit change in that parameter. We take the mean model as the main heuristic to evaluate how each parameter moves the center of AUC distribution. Precision model coefficients are used to evaluate how each parameter changes the dispersion of the data (positive coefficients indicate smaller dispersion). In beta regression, the dispersion (or precision) parameter  $\phi$  increases as the variance of the reponse variable decreases when the mean of the response variable is fixed (response variable in this case is the AUC score) (Ferrari and Cribari-Neto, 2004).

## 4.1.1 Model Type

AUC scores move in the positive direction for Skipgram models compared with CBOW models ( $\beta_{SKIP} = .067, p < .001$ ; mean model), indicating that Skipgram models outperform CBOW models when other parameters are held constant. How-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>A reviewer of this work noted that OOVs could have been treated as missing data for this task. The output of the semantic classifier under consideration in this study is used as a feature in a larger multinomial classifier, which also involves identifying nonwords, such that in our larger errorclassification pipeline, nonwords are not assigned a similarity score. In the present study we used a zero value rather than a missing value, to avoid conflating nonwords with OOVs. Additionally, we note that investigations of the resulting distribution of cosine similiarity scores shows a floor of .49, so that OOVs with a zero score are fully distinguishable from low-similarity word pairs in the MAPPD dataset.

ever, the type of word embedding model interacts with corpus preparation and window size, such that the absolute highest performing model is a CBOW model with parameters (+stemmed, +stopword removed, dimensions= 750, window size n = 1, frequency threshold= 100). However, Skipgram models show higher dispersion, especially with smaller window sizes.

## 4.1.2 Corpus Preparation

Stopword removal moves AUC scores in a positive direction when other parameters are held constant ( $\beta_{\text{STOPRM}} = .108, p < .001$ ; mean model). A negative interaction with Skipgram models indicates that stopword removal improves CBOW models more than Skipgram models ( $\beta_{\text{SKIP X STOPRM}} = -.060, p < .001$ ; mean model); however, for both types of models the AUC scores are still pulled in the positive direction when stopwords are removed. Stopword removal also decreases variance in the data, though there are second-order effects with all other parameters that subsequently show increased variance.

Optimal settings for stemming varies by the type of word embedding model. As a main effect, stemming improves model performance ( $\beta_{\text{STEM}} = .034, p < .001$ ; mean model). However, the negative interaction with Skipgram models is significantly large enough that the effect is reversed, and stemming is contraindicated for Skipgram models ( $\beta_{\text{SKIP X STEM}} = -0.078, p < .001$ ; mean model) when other parameters are held constant.

The mean model shows a non-significant effect for the interaction of stemming and stopword removal ( $\beta_{\text{STEM X STOPRM}} = .004, p > .05$ ; mean model). See Appendix C for a heat map of perfomance broken down by corpus preparation.

## 4.1.3 Frequency Threshold

The frequency threshold has the largest effect on the mean model, in the negative direction ( $\beta_{\rm FT} = -0.191, p < .001$ ), indicating that the smallest frequency threshold is optimal for all models. This interacts with stemming as well ( $\beta_{\rm STEM\,X\,FT} = 0.079, p < .001$ ); models trained on stemmed Gigaword show less decrease in the mean AUC score than the non-stemmed versions. As frequency threshold decreases, dispersion increases; this is mitigated via second-order effects with Skipgram/CBOW, Stemming, and Stopword removal.

## 4.1.4 Dimensionality

As dimensionality increases, so do corresponding AUC scores ( $\beta_{\text{DIM}} = 0.035, p < .001$ ). Skipgram models show even higher performance from large dimensionality ( $\beta_{\text{SKIP X DIM}} = 0.015, p < .001$ ).

## 4.1.5 Window Size

Increasing window size shows a corresponding increase in AUC scores ( $\beta_{\text{WIN}} = .027, p < .001$ ; mean model), but second-order effects show that this holds only for CBOW models. A negative interaction of window size with Skipgram models is large enough that the effect is reversed, and a larger window size is contraindicated for Skipgram models ( $\beta_{\text{SKIP} \times \text{WIN}} = -0.080, p < .001$ ; mean model).

While CBOW models generally perform better with larger windows, there is one parameter setting for window size that violates the general trend. A heat map of the three parameters is given in Figure 1, which shows that the highest AUC scores occur in the smallest windows. The inverse relationship in performance for CBOW and Skipgram models holds for a window size of [2, 25], but does not when n=1 (see Section 5.2).

## 4.1.6 Summary

The optimal parameter selection is frequency threshold=100 and dimensions=750 for all models. Skipgram models are optimal when the corpus has been stopword removed and not stemmed, with window size n = 1. CBOW models perform well when the corpus is stemmed and stopword-removed. While CBOW models generally show top performance as window sizes increase, with the exception that for window size n = 1 the CBOW models perform highest.

## 4.2 SimLex-999

To evaluate models on the SimLex-999 dataset, Spearman's rank correlation coefficient ( $\rho$ ) was calculated for each model comparing the relationship of model similarity scores and the human similarity judgments. The mean correlation across models, mean<sub> $\rho$ </sub> = .379 and range<sub> $\rho$ </sub> = (.262, .496), is close to the state-of-the-art SimLex-999 score reported for Skipgram *word2vec* models of .37.<sup>7</sup>

There is a significant moderate correlation of AUC scores to Spearman's  $\rho$  (R = .41, p < .001).

Following the same method for reporting AUC scores, we report only the differences on param-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>https://fh295.github.io/simlex.html





Figure 1: Heat Map of AUC scores for CBOW and Skipgram models, by Dimensionality (facet), Window Size, and Frequency Threshold

eterization effects for a beta regression model, fit to scaled SimLex  $\rho$  scores (Pseudo- $R^2 = .874$ ; a table of estimates is included in Appendix B).

Frequency threshold has much less of an effect on the SimLex task than the clinical MAPPD task. The beta regression model finds less of a negative impact for frequency threshold ( $\beta_{FT} = -.028, p < .001$ ) than in the MAPPD model. This is due to out-of-vocabulary (OOV) counts, as these are much lower proportionally in SimLex. OOVs impact the MAPPD dataset at a higher rate partly because there is a pool of 175 items that occur, and at differing frequency thresholds some of these items are excluded from training.

Stemming is dispreferred when looking at performance on SimLex CBOW models, ( $\beta_{\text{STEM}} = -.084, p < .001$ ). There is an interaction between stemming and Skipgram models that shows slight improvement in performance when Skipgram models are stemmed over CBOW models ( $\beta_{\text{SKIP X STEM}} = 0.028, p < .001$ ), but still dispreferred. This differs from the MAPPD results, where stemming improves CBOW models.

Interestingly, window size still shows an inverse relation for CBOW and Skipgram models, as in the MAPPD task. Larger window sizes are optimal for CBOW models; smaller window sizes are optimal for Skipgram models. The same exception for n = 1 with CBOW models is apparent, with the highest  $\rho$  in the smallest window size.

## 5 Discussion

## 5.1 Dimensionality, Frequency Threshold and Corpus Preparation

Across all model types, models with high dimensionality and low minimum frequency thresholds proved optimal. Furthermore, stopword removal also produced consistently optimal results, while stemming was optimal for CBOW models but not for Skipgram models.

Stemming proved to be a more complex parameter, and interacted with minimum frequency threshold. Models with a higher frequency threshold performed better with unstemmed training data, whereas those with a lower threshold benefited from stemming. This is intuitive, as stemming a corpus will increase the token frequency for observed words while reducing the number of distinct types (e.g. cat and cats are stemmed to the same form, cat) relative to the unstemmed version of the corpus. In the unstemmed condition, there will be more distinct token types whose frequency falls below any given minimum frequency threshold, which will result in proportionally more words being removed from the final model's vocabulary than would be the case in the stemmed condition. A greater amount of information is therefore removed prior to training, along with an increase in the out-of-vocabularly count when analyzing the PNT data.<sup>8</sup>

# 5.2 Parameter Optimization: Model Type and the Window *n*=1 Mystery

Window size affects how much linguistic context is available during training time and the semantic properties of resulting word vectors. We find concordance in the literature that Skipgram outperforms CBOW on small window sizes for word pair similarity tasks (Levy et al., 2015) and that Skipgram models show better SimLex performance for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Looking at the resulting distribution of cosine similarity scores for comparable high vs. low frequency shows that the OOV count is much higher, while the distribution of non-OOV scores remains similar.

smaller windows (Lison and Kutuzov, 2017); our results show that Skipgram models perform better with smaller window sizes for both MAPPD and on SimLex. However, we also find overall that CBOW models show improved performance over Skipgram models as window size grows to 25, which is a much larger window size than reported in the literature on hyperparameter comparison. A notable exception is that performance for n = 1 shows high performance for CBOW models across all parameter settings.

In addition to small context windows, we find Skipgram models to be optimal on the nonstemmed corpora, which decreases the token frequency. Levy et al. (2015) observe that the smoothing in Skipgram models may alleviate PMI's bias towards rare occurrences, improving performance. However, it may still be the case that Skipgram models perform better with a larger variety of lower-frequency tokens overall, as in the non-stemmed corpora. This, combined with a small context window may increase the rarity of word co-occurrences overall with a given target and explain the interaction.

It remains a mystery why CBOW models show high performance with both large windows and the smallest window size n = 1. It may be the case that the symmetric bi-gram context returns the densest information context, only matched by window sizes that are quite large. While there are qualitative differences in the information captured by the CBOW window sizes for some items (not reported here due to space), it also appears that the resulting vector space geometry for large and small windows differs even for items where the list of most similar words is very similar.

For example, *jewelry* shares 4/5 of the five most similar words (*pendant, earring, brooch, jewelry*) for the optimal n = 1 and n = 25 CBOW model, but the range of cosine similarity scores for the two lists of most similar words differs: n = 1, (.60, .70) vs. n = 25, (.46, .54). However, the optimal operating threshold for these models is approximately the same: n = 1, S1 = .562; n = 25, S1 = .578. Investigation of neighborhood density with respect to the target words across models trained with different window sizes may result in a very different geometry of the resulting embedding space. Word frequency can bias the resulting vector space of word embedding models (Gong et al., 2018), making direct comparison of word vectors of high and low frequencies problematic. Simple optimization based on operating threshold on the ROC may be insufficient for overall optimization, and transformations of embedding space based on neighborhood density and word frequency an interesting vein of future work.

## 5.3 MAPPD and SimLex: Using Clinical Datasets for Evaluation

Optimization over the SimLex dataset shows similar parameter settings as MAPPD for dimensionality and window size. Skipgram models are optimal, and a similar pattern of performance across window sizes is observed for Skipgram and CBOW models. Key differences in frequency threshold are related to differences in outof-vocabulary items. Stemming is dispreferred across the SimLex dataset, which differs from the MAPPD CBOW models. As MAPPD utilizes only a limited vocabulary of nouns, the stemmed corpus might have a smaller effect than on the more morphologically varied SimLex word pairs.

## 6 Conclusion

Using beta regression to explore how parameterization affects model performance, we show that performance on MAPPD and SimLex-999 datasets depends on similar optimal parameters. The implications, particularly for window size, are that the semantic relations encoded in these word pair datasets are comparable. However, results also reveal the importance of further investigation into the geometry of resulting vector spaces. Patterns of performance demonstrate that the MAPPD dataset, based on a carefully constructed clinical assessment, is useful as an evaluation task for word embedding models and sheds additional insight onto the sensitivity of training parameter selection.

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#### A Samples from Gigaword Corpora

## +Stemming, +Stopword Removal

TRIBUT POUR AROUND WORLD LATE LABOUR PARTI LEADER JOHN SMITH DIE EARLIER MASSIV HEART ATTACK AGE WASHINGTON US STATE DEPART ISSU STATEMENT REGRET UNTIM DEATH SCOTTISH BARRIST PARLIAMENTARIAN SMITH THROUGHOUT DISTINGUISH CA-REER GOVERN OPPOSIT LEFT PROFOUND IMPRESS HISTORI PARTI COUNTRI STATE DEPART SPOKESMAN MICHAEL MC-CURRI SAID SECRETARI STATE WARREN CHRISTOPH EXTEND DEEPEST CONDOL SMITH SMITH CHILDREN

#### +Stemming, -Stopword Removal

TRIBUT POUR IN FROM AROUND THE WORLD \*DAY\* TO THE LATE LABOUR PARTI LEADER JOHN SMITH , WHO DIE EARLIER FROM A MASSIV HEART ATTACK

## AGE # .

IN WASHINGTON , THE US STATE DE-PART ISSU A STATEMENT REGRET " THE UNTIM DEATH " OF THE RAPIER-TONGU SCOTTISH BARRIST AND PARLIAMENTAR-IAN .

" MR. SMITH , THROUGHOUT HIS DIS-TINGUISH CAREER IN GOVERN AND IN OPPOSIT , LEFT A PROFOUND IMPRESS ON THE HISTORI OF HIS PARTI AND HIS COUNTRI , " STATE DEPART SPOKESMAN MICHAEL MCCURRI SAID .

" SECRETARI ( OF STATE WARREN ) CHRISTOPH EXTEND HIS DEEPEST CON-DOL TO MRS. SMITH AND TO THE SMITH CHILDREN."

## -Stemming, +Stopword Removal

tributes poured around world late labour party leader john smith died earlier massive heart attack aged

washington us state department issued statement regretting untimely death scottish barrister parliamentarian

smith throughout distinguished career government opposition left profound impression history party country state department spokesman michael mccurry said

secretary state warren christopher extends deepest condolences smith smith children

## -Stemming, -Stopword Removal

tributes poured in from around the world \*day\* to the late labour party leader john smith , who died earlier from a massive heart attack aged # .

in washington , the us state department issued a statement regretting " the untimely death " of the rapier-tongued scottish barrister and parliamentarian .

" mr. smith , throughout his distinguished career in government and in opposition , left a profound impression on the history of his party and his country , " state department spokesman michael mccurry said .

## **B** Table of Estimates for Beta Regression Models

	MAPPD				SimLex-999	
	Mean Model		<b>Precision Model</b>		Mean Model	
Parameter	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE	Coefficient	SE
Intercept	1.617***	(0.006)	7.778***	(0.155)	0.692***	(0.004)
Skip	0.067***	(0.006)	-0.582***	(0.148)	0.129***	(0.004)
Stem	0.034***	(0.006)	0.119	(0.148)	-0.084***	(0.004)
StopRm	0.108***	(0.005)	0.364*	(0.148)	0.105***	(0.004)
DIM	0.035***	(0.001)	0.056*	(0.027)	0.027***	(0.001)
WIN	0.027***	(0.003)	0.098	(0.089)	0.020***	(0.002)
FreqThresh	-0.191***	(0.002)	-0.118**	(0.046)	-0.028***	(0.001)
SKIP x STEM	-0.078***	(0.004)	0.053	(0.105)	0.028***	(0.003)
SKIP x STOPRM	-0.060***	(0.004)	-0.013	(0.105)	-0.077***	(0.003)
SKIP X DIM	0.015***	(0.001)	0.035	(0.021)	0.003***	(0.001)
SKIP x WIN	-0.080***	(0.002)	-0.236***	(0.064)	-0.067***	(0.002)
SKIP x FREQTHRESH	0.003*	(0.001)	0.109***	(0.033)	0.005***	(0.001)
STEM x STOPRM	0.004	(0.004)	-0.274**	(0.105)	-0.017***	(0.003)
Stem x Dim	-0.002**	(0.001)	-0.015	(0.021)	0.001	(0.001)
STEM X WIN	0.006*	(0.002)	-0.014	(0.064)	-0.003*	(0.002)
Stem x FreqThresh	0.079***	(0.001)	0.162***	(0.033)	0.013***	(0.001)
STOPRM x DIM	-0.006***	(0.001)	-0.062**	(0.021)	-0.002***	(0.001)
STOPRM x WIN	-0.016***	(0.002)	-0.164*	(0.064)	-0.020***	(0.002)
STOPRM x FREQTHRESH	0.000	(0.001)	0.118***	(0.033)	0.001	(0.001)
DIM x WIN	-0.002***	(0.000)	0.055***	(0.013)	-0.002***	(0.000)
DIM x FREQTHRESH	-0.004***	(0.000)	-0.029***	(0.006)	-0.000	(0.000)
Win x FreqThresh	0.004***	(0.001)	-0.027	(0.020)	0.004***	(0.001)
Pseudo- $R^2$	0.965				0.874	
N	2880				2880	

Table 3: Table of Estimates for Beta Regression for Mean ( $\mu$ ) and Precision ( $\phi$ ). 'x' denotes second-order effects. \*p < .05/\*\*p < .01/\*\*\*p < .001

# C MAPPD Grid Search Results, by Corpus Preparation Type



Figure 2: Heat Map of AUC scores for CBOW and Skipgram models, by Corpus Preparation Type (plot), Dimensionality (facet), Window Size, and Frequency Threshold