

How to Effectively Use Topic Models for Software Engineering Tasks? An Approach Based on Genetic Algorithms



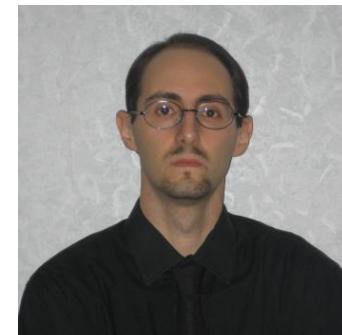
Annibale
Panichella



Bogdan
Dit



Rocco
Oliveto



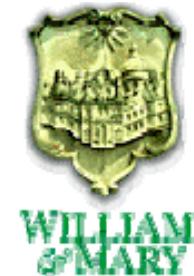
Massimiliano
Di Penta



Denys
Poshyvanyk



Andrea
De Lucia





Source Code

```

Private Function CleanUpLine(sLine As String) As String
    Dim lQuoteCount As Long
    Dim lLocateCount As Long
    Dim sChar As String
    Dim sPrevChar As String

    ' Starts with Rem it is a comment
    sLine = Trim(sLine)
    If Left(sLine, 3) = "Rem" Then
        CleanUpLine = ""
        Exit Function
    End If

    ' Starts with '' it is a comment
    If Left(sLine, 1) = "" Then
        CleanUpLine = ""
        Exit Function
    End If

    ' Contains ' ' and in a comment, so test if it is a comment or in the
    ' body of a string
    If InStr(sLine, "'") > 0 Then
        sPrevChar = ""
        lQuoteCount = 0

        For lCount = 1 To Len(sLine)
            sChar = Mid(sLine, lCount, 1)

            ' If we found a ' in an even number of " characters in front
            ' of it, then at the start of a comment, and odd number means it is
            ' part of a string
            If sChar = "" And sPrevChar = " " Then
                If lQuoteCount Mod 2 = 1 Then
                    CleanUpLine = Trim(Left(sLine, lCount - 1))
                    Exit For
                End If
            ElseIf sChar = """" Then
                lQuoteCount = lQuoteCount + 1
            End If
            sPrevChar = sChar
        Next lCount
    End If

    CleanUpLine = sLine
End Function

```

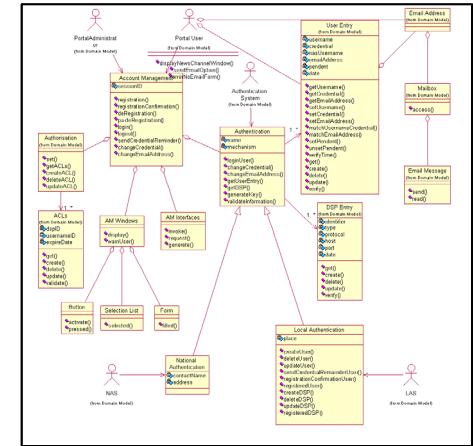
Bug Reports

Bug 616298 - Change "-moz-user-select:none" to behave like WebKit, IE, and Opera (and "-moz-user-select:moz-none")		Last Comment
Status: RESOLVED FIXED	Reported: 2012-11-29 15:05 PST by Chris Petersen	
Whiteboard:	Modified: 2013-05-20 00:14 PDT (History)	
Keywords: compat dev-doc-complete	CC List: 12 users (Show)	
Product: Core (Show info)	See Also:	
Component: DOM: CSS Object Model (Show info)	Crash Signature:	
Version: Trunk	Tracking Flags: status-firefox20: wontfix	
Platform: All	status-firefox21: fixed	
Importance: -- normal (vote)	rhino:firefox: 21+	
Target Milestone: mozilla21		
Assigned To: Chris Peterson (cpeterson)		
QA Contact:		
 URL: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/d...		
 Depends on: 739396 616554		
Blocks: 19923 614274		
Show dependency tree		
/graph		

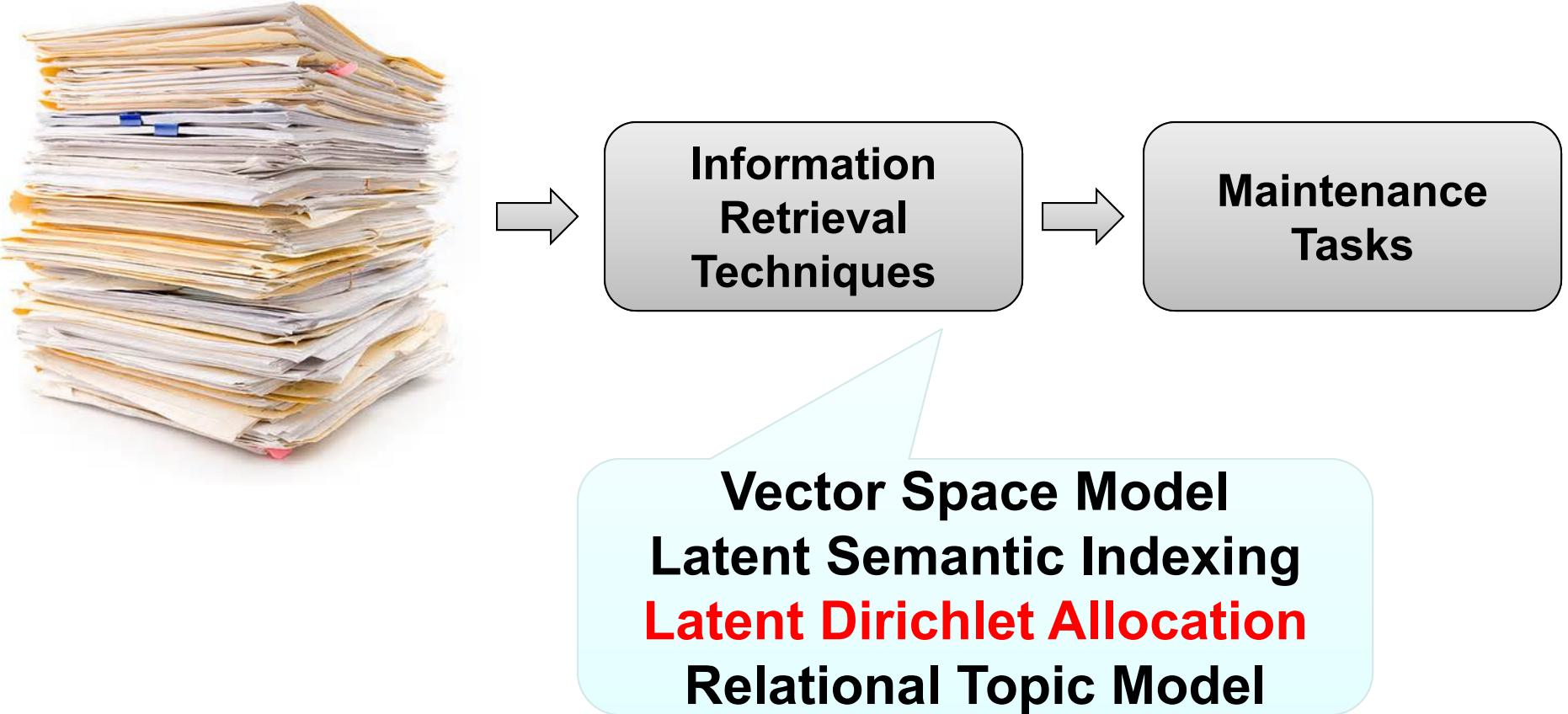
Documentation



Design documents







What is LDA?

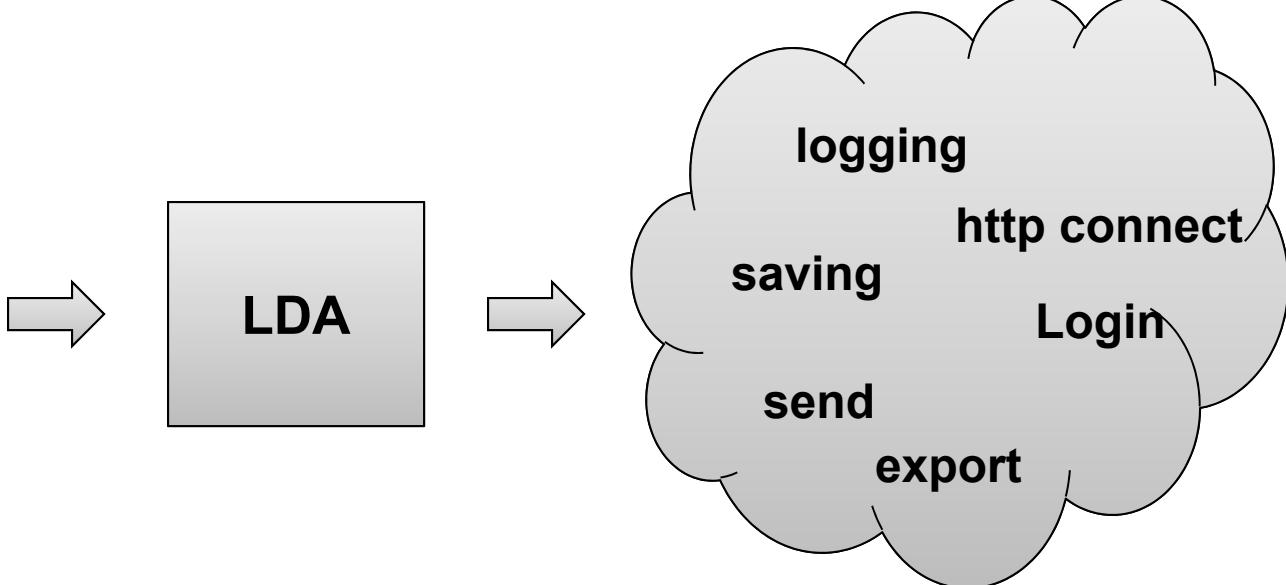
Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

- Topic model that generates the distribution of latent topics from textual documents

Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

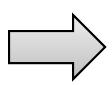
- Topic model that generates the distribution of latent topics from textual documents

```
Private Function CleanUpLine(ByVal sLine As String) As String
Dim lQuoteCount As Long
Dim sChar As String
Dim sP As String
    Private Function CleanUpLine(ByVal sLine As String) As String
    Dim lQuoteCount As Long
    Dim lCount As Long
    Dim sChar As String
    Dim sPrevChar As String
    ' Starts with Rem it is a comment
    sLine = Trim(sLine)
    -If sLine = "" Then
        CleanUpLine = sLine
        Exit Function
    End If
    Private Function CleanUpLine(ByVal sLine As String) As String
    Dim lQuoteCount As Long
    Dim lCount As Long
    Dim sChar As String
    Dim sPrevChar As String
        ' Starts with Rem it is a comment
        sLine = Trim(sLine)
        If Left(sLine, 3) = "Rem" Then
            CleanUpLine = ""
            Exit Function
        End If
        ' Starts with '
        If Left(sLine, 1) = "'" Then
            CleanUpLine = ""
            Exit Function
        End If
        ' Starts with "
        If InStr(1, sLine, Chr(34)) > 0 Then
            CleanUpLine = ""
            Exit Function
        End If
        ' Contains ' or "
        If InStr(1, sLine, Chr(39)) > 0 Then
            CleanUpLine = ""
            Exit Function
        End If
        ' Contains ' may end in a comment, so test if it is a comment or in the
        ' body of a string
        If sChar = Chr(39) Then
            lQuoteCount = 1
            For lCount = 1 To Len(sLine)
                sChar = Mid(sLine, lCount, 1)
                ' If we found an even number of " characters in front
                ' means it is the start of a comment, and odd number means it is
                ' part of a string
                If InStr(1, sLine, Chr(34), lCount) > 0 Then
                    sPrevChar = Chr(34)
                    lQuoteCount = 0
                    For lCount = 1 To Len(sLine)
                        sChar = Mid(sLine, lCount, 1)
                        If sChar = Chr(34) Then
                            lQuoteCount = lQuoteCount + 1
                            If lQuoteCount Mod 2 = 0 Then
                                CleanUpLine = Trim(Left(sLine, lCount - 1))
                                Exit For
                            End If
                            -ElseIf sChar = Chr(39) Then
                                lQuoteCount = lQuoteCount + 1
                                -End If
                                sPrevchar = sChar
                                Next lCount
                            End If
                            CleanUpLine = sLine
                        End Function
                    End If
                End If
            End If
        End If
    End If
End Function
```



Software Artifacts

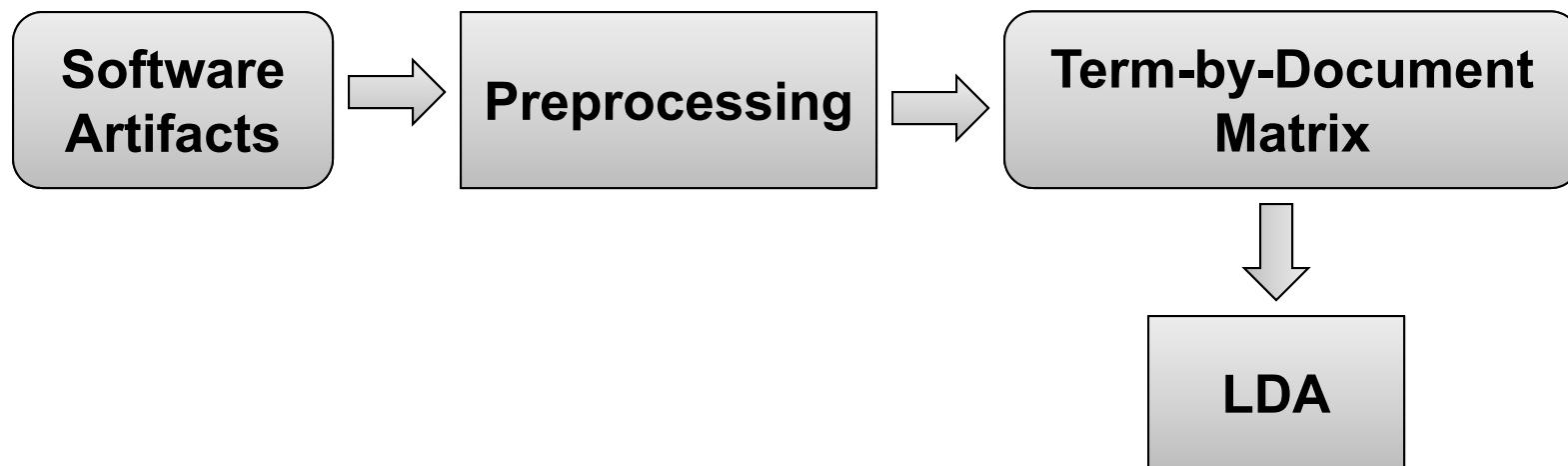
**Software
Artifacts**

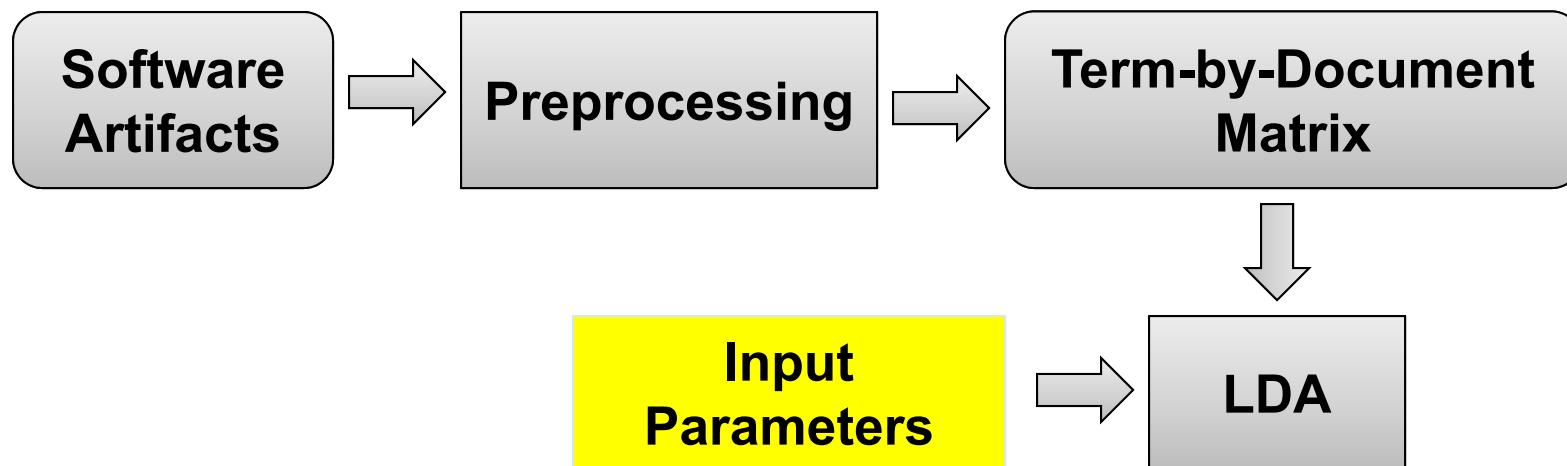


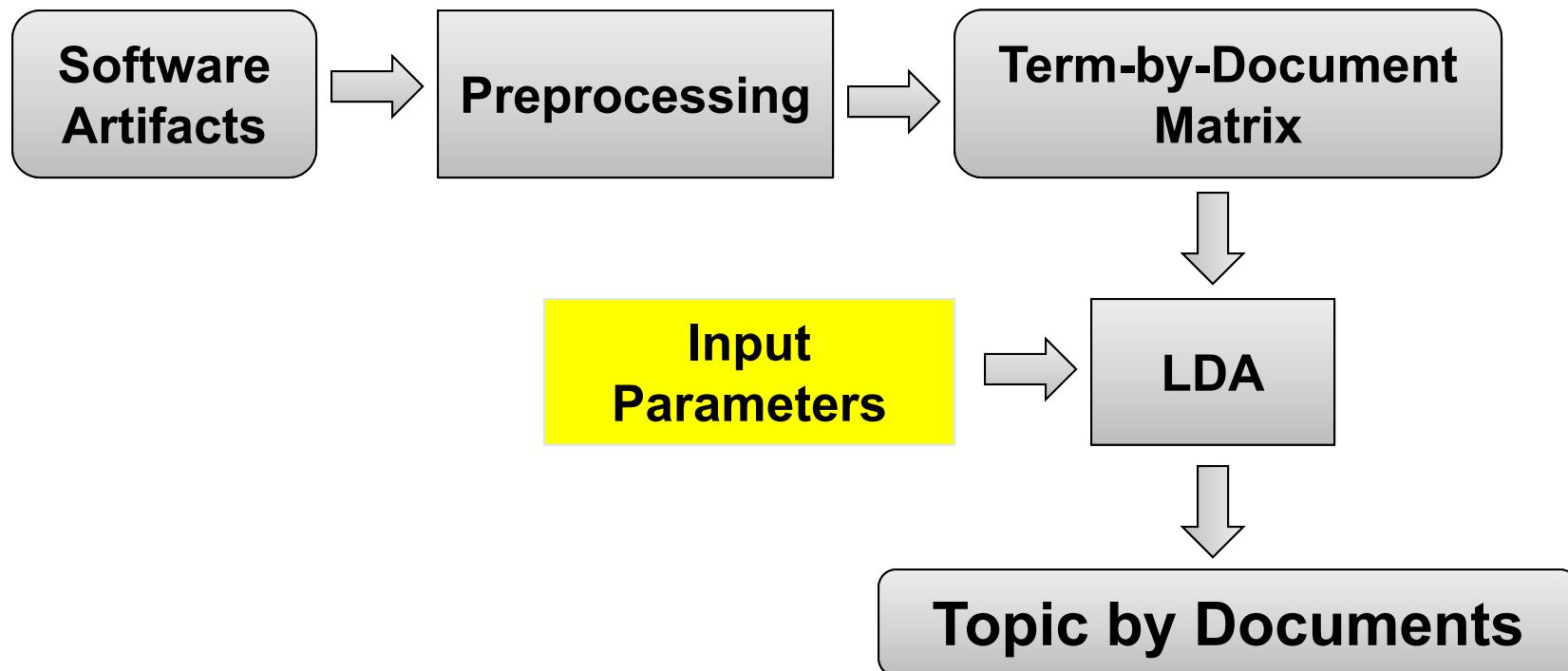
Preprocessing

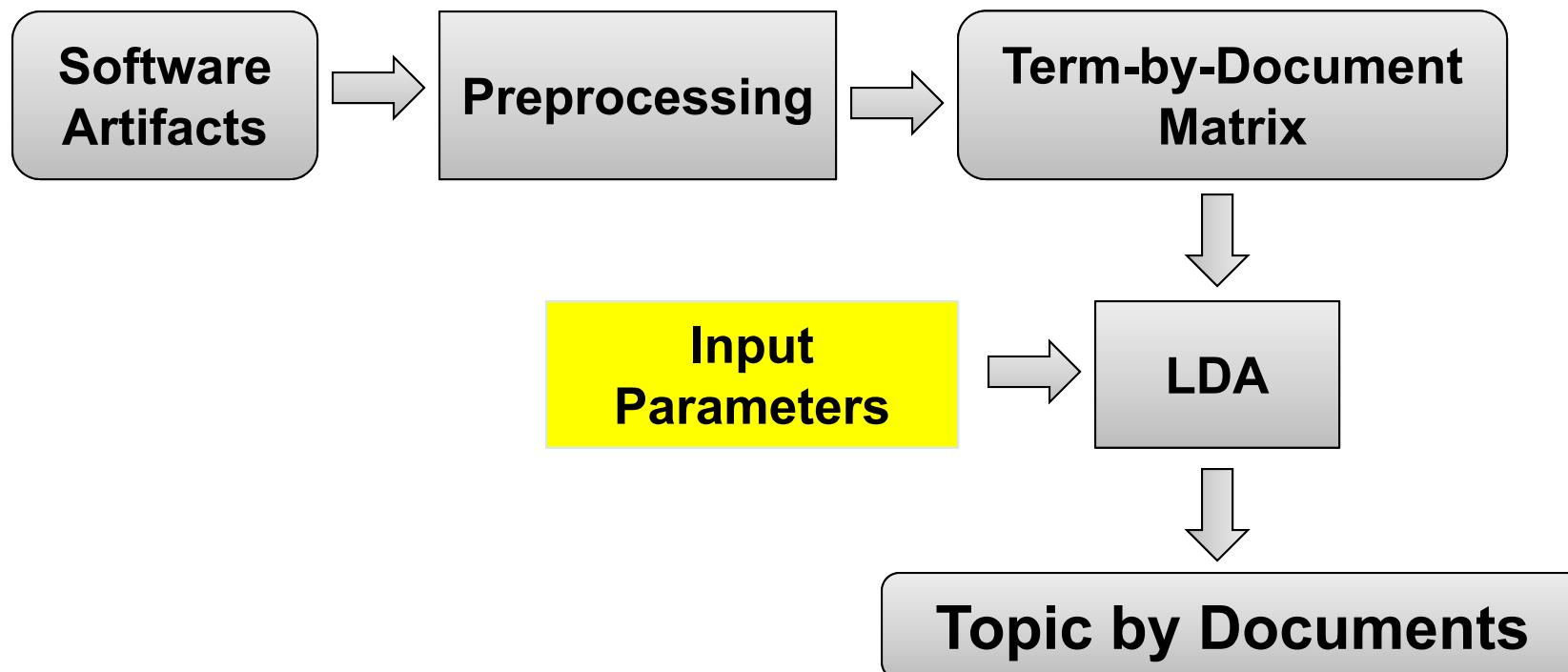
Remove special characters
Split identifiers
Remove common words
Stem



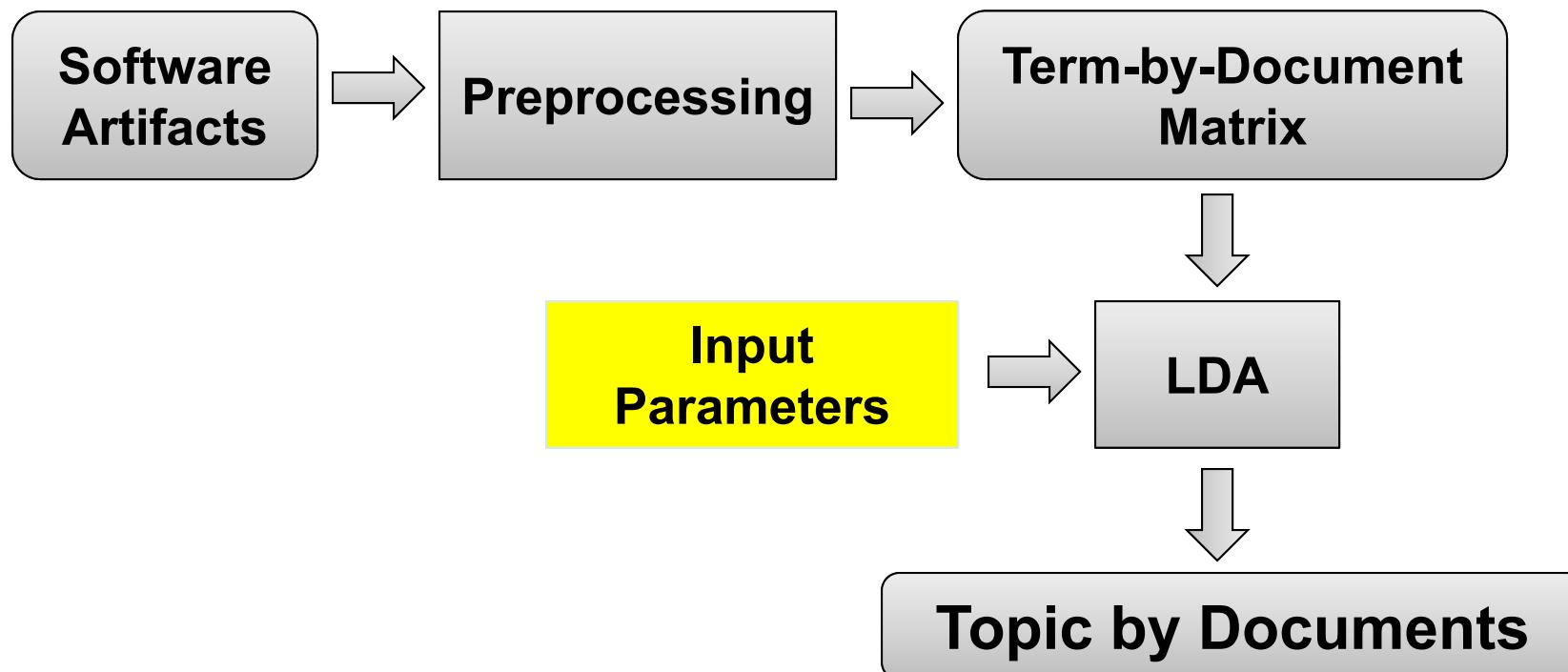






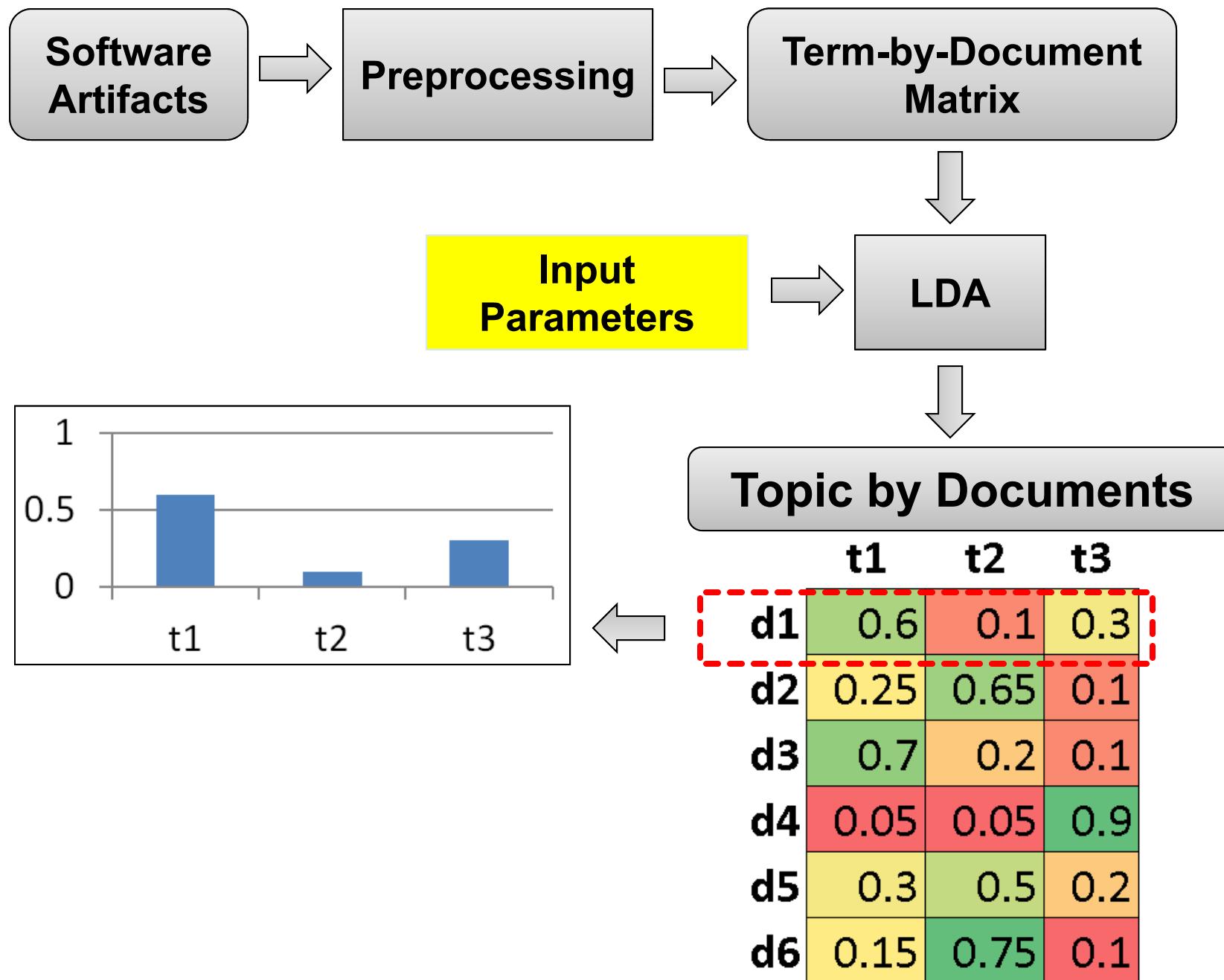


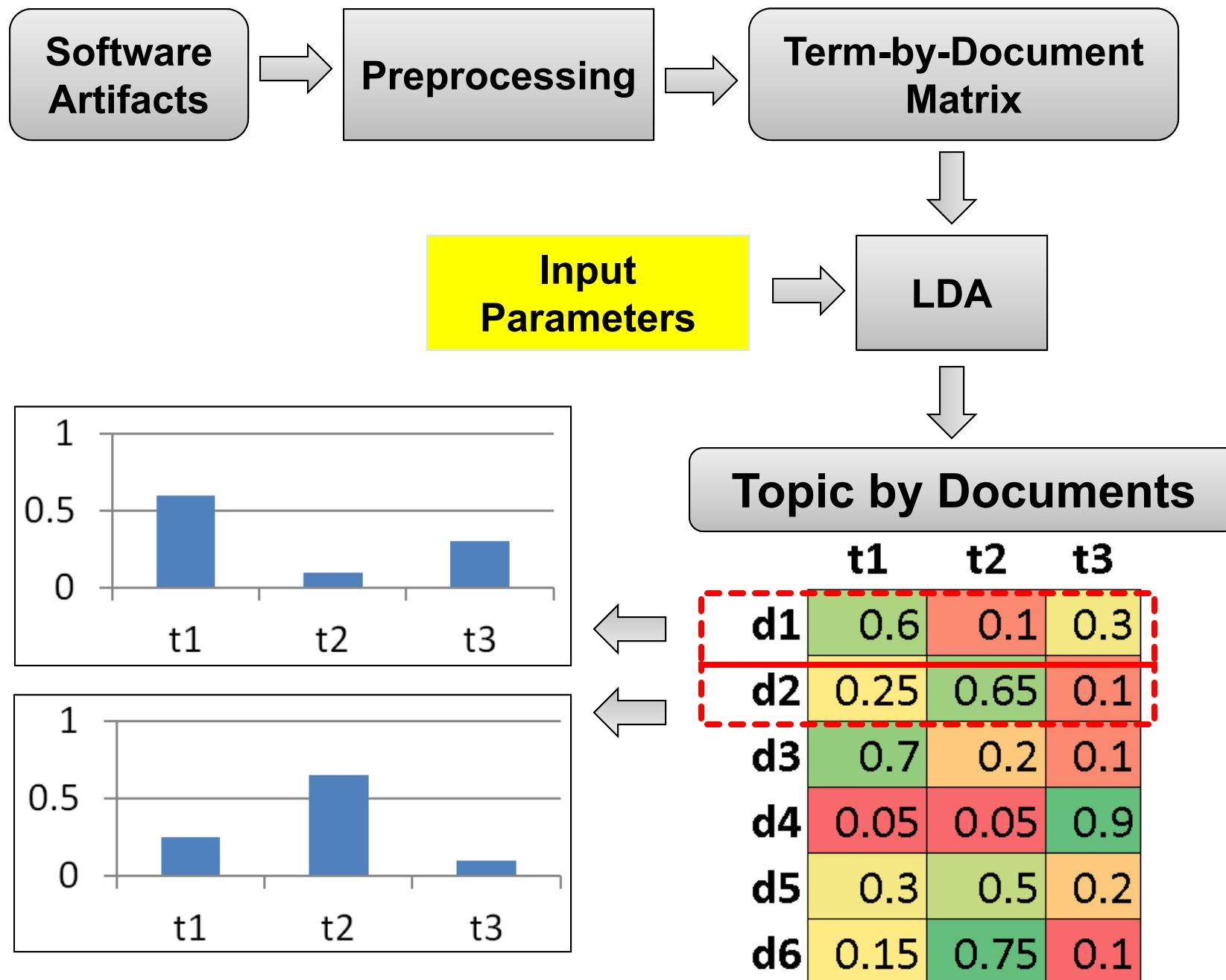
	t1	t2	t3
d1	0.6	0.1	0.3
d2	0.25	0.65	0.1
d3	0.7	0.2	0.1
d4	0.05	0.05	0.9
d5	0.3	0.5	0.2
d6	0.15	0.75	0.1

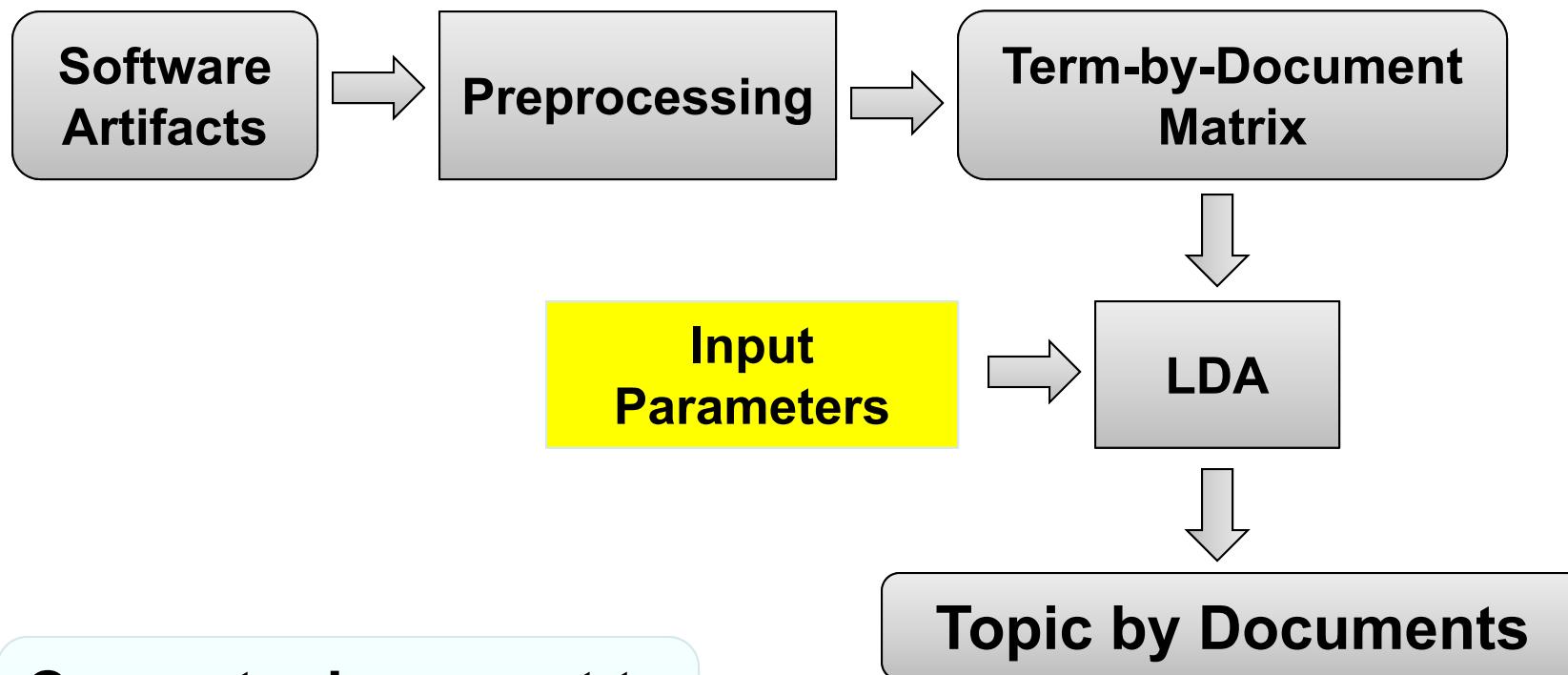


Probability that document is related to topic

	t1	t2	t3
d1	0.6	0.1	0.3
d2	0.25	0.65	0.1
d3	0.7	0.2	0.1
d4	0.05	0.05	0.9
d5	0.3	0.5	0.2
d6	0.15	0.75	0.1







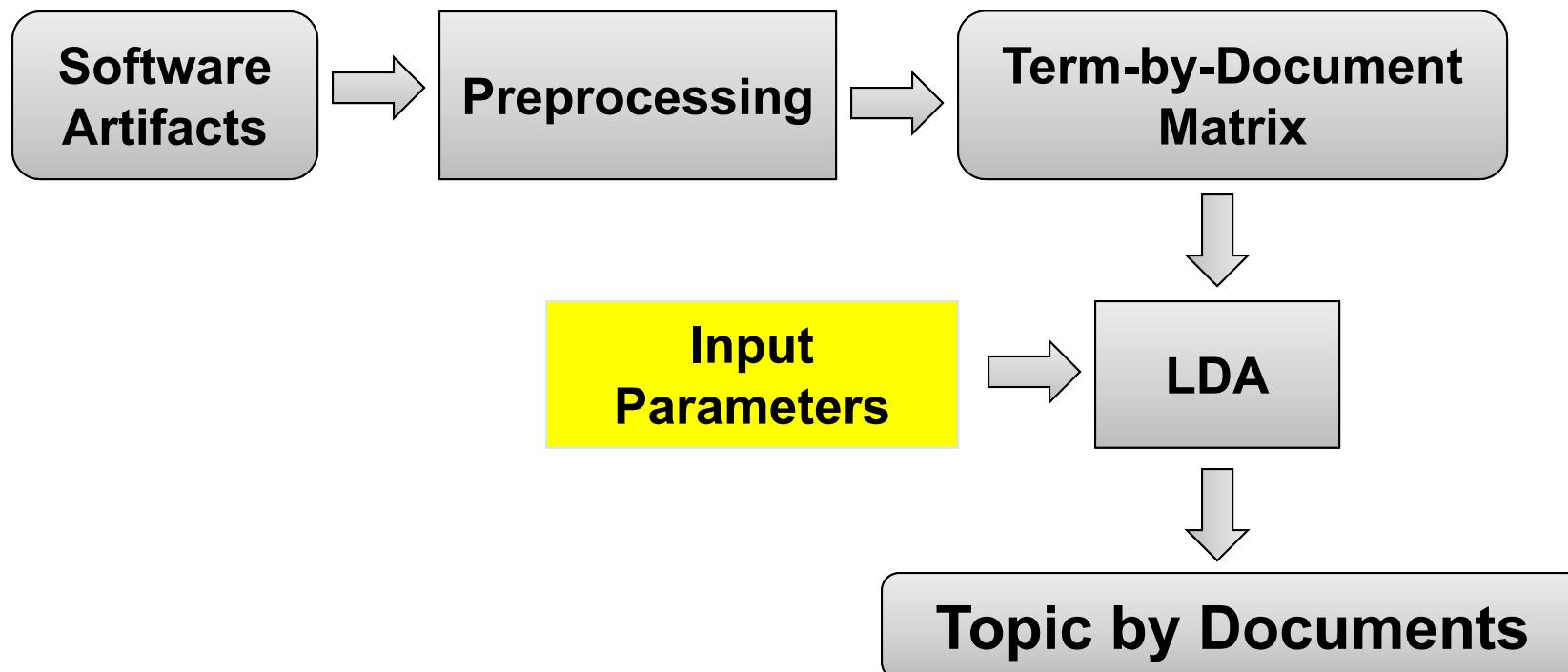
Compute document to document similarity

Compute query to document similarity

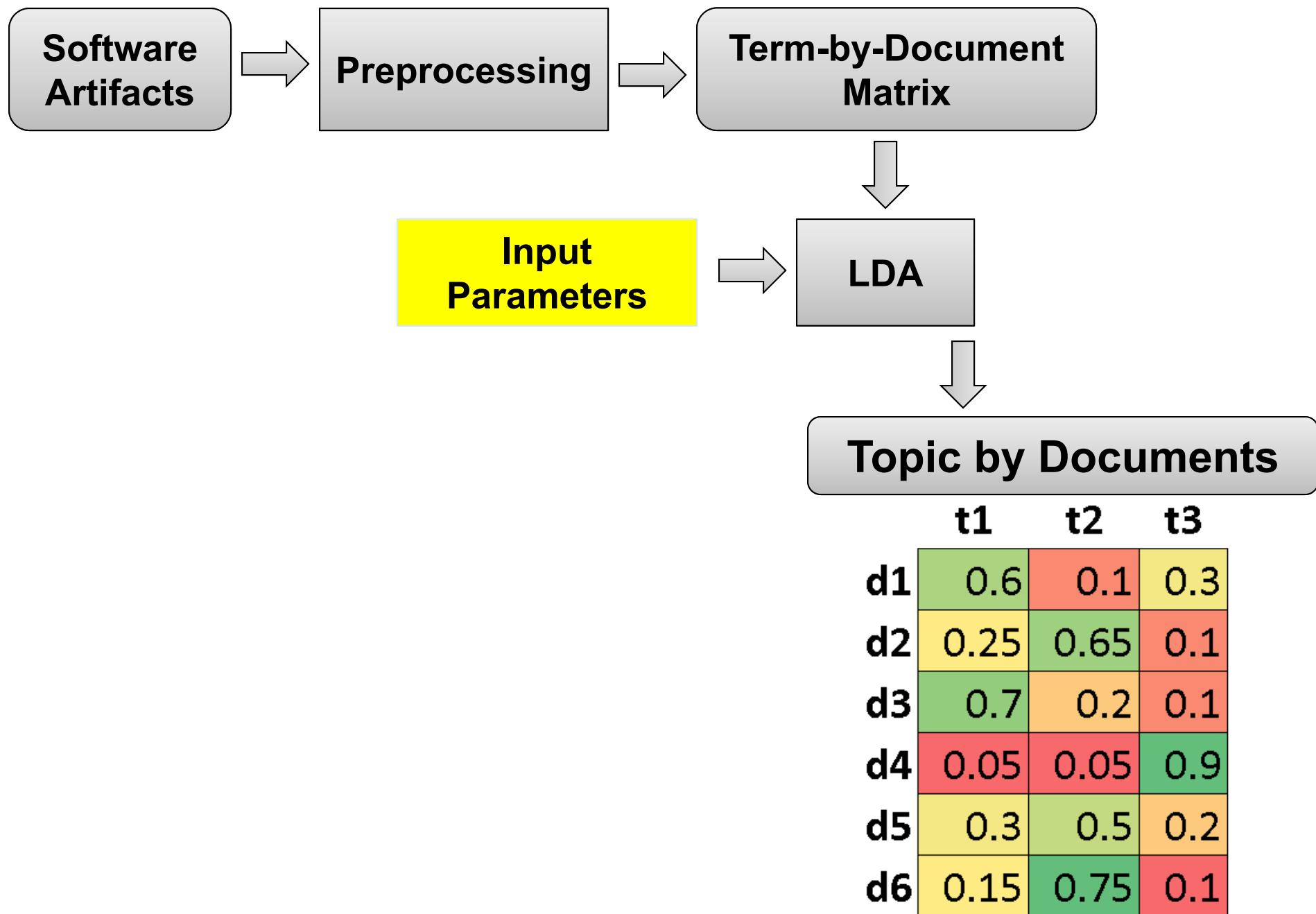
“Cluster” documents by topics

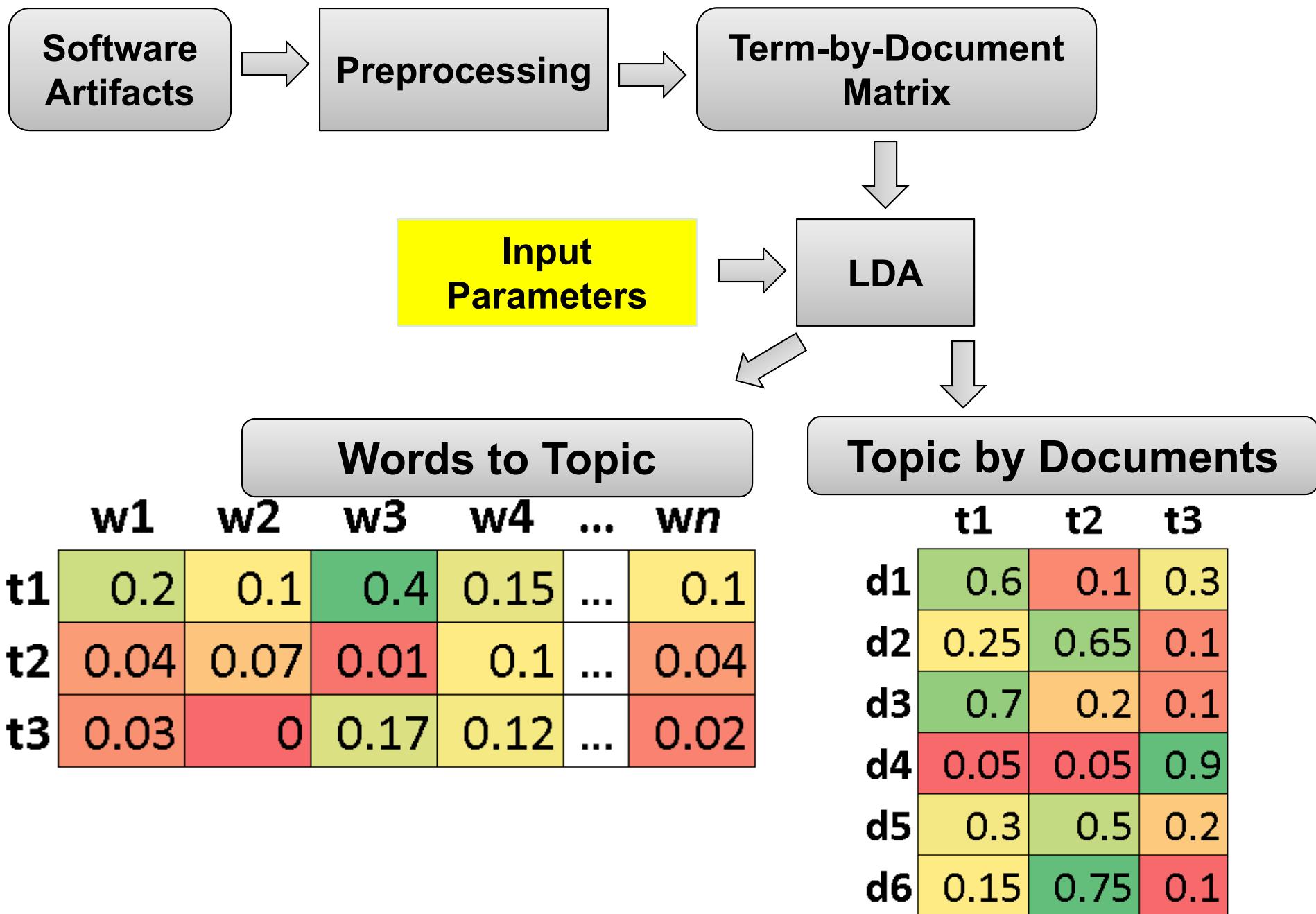
Topic by Documents

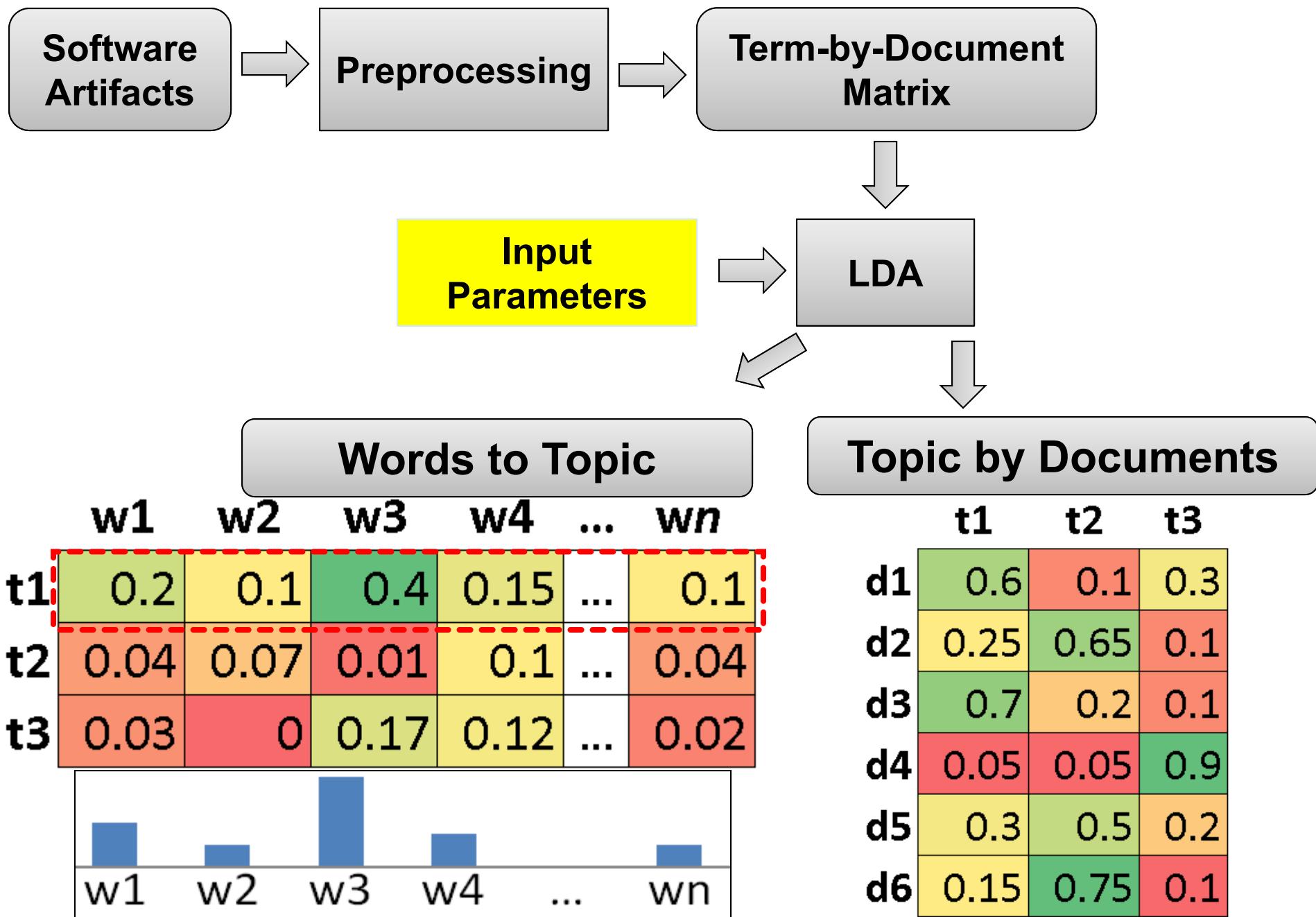
	t1	t2	t3
d1	0.6	0.1	0.3
d2	0.25	0.65	0.1
d3	0.7	0.2	0.1
d4	0.05	0.05	0.9
d5	0.3	0.5	0.2
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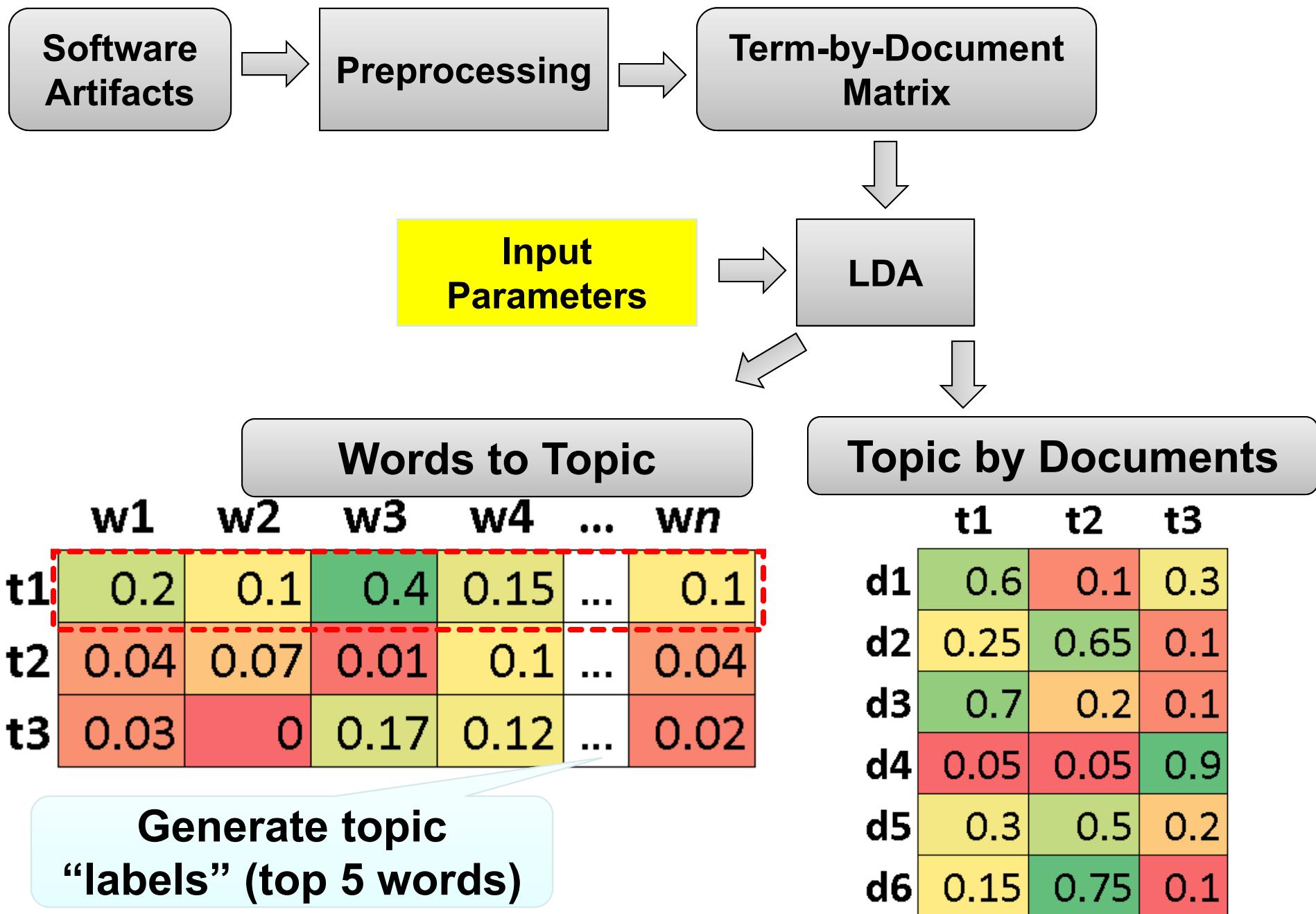


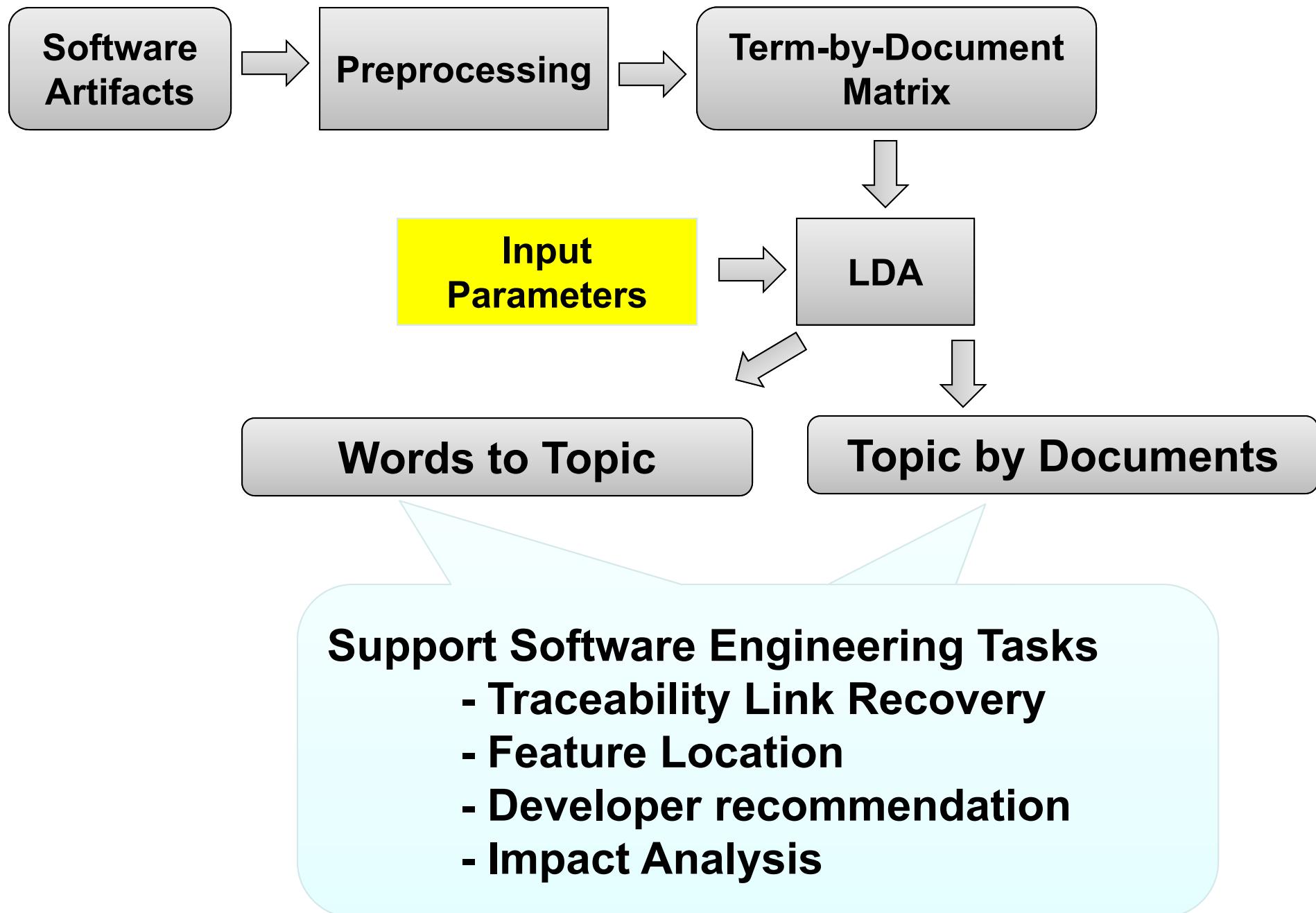
	t1	t2	t3
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d3	0.7	0.2	0.1
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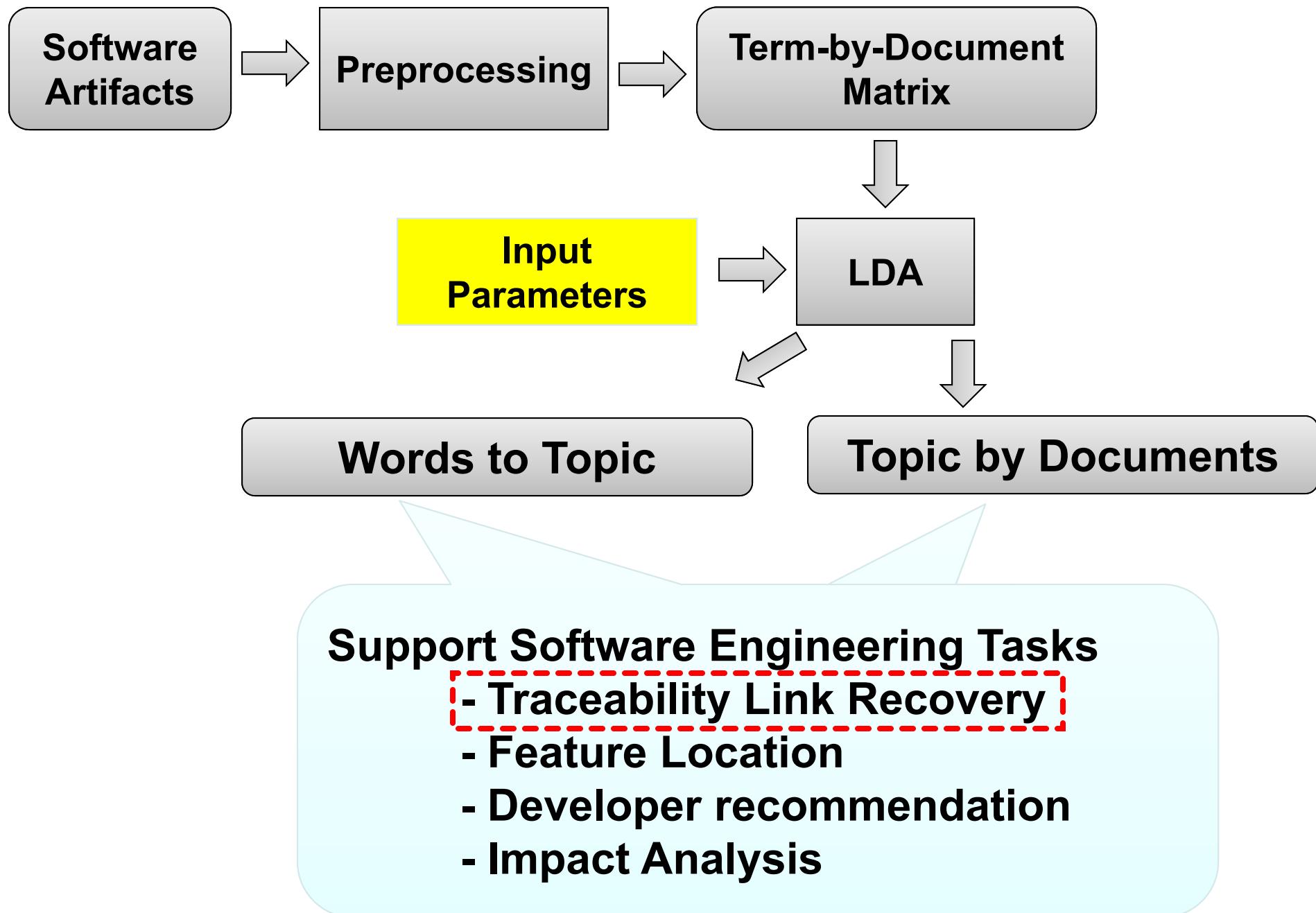








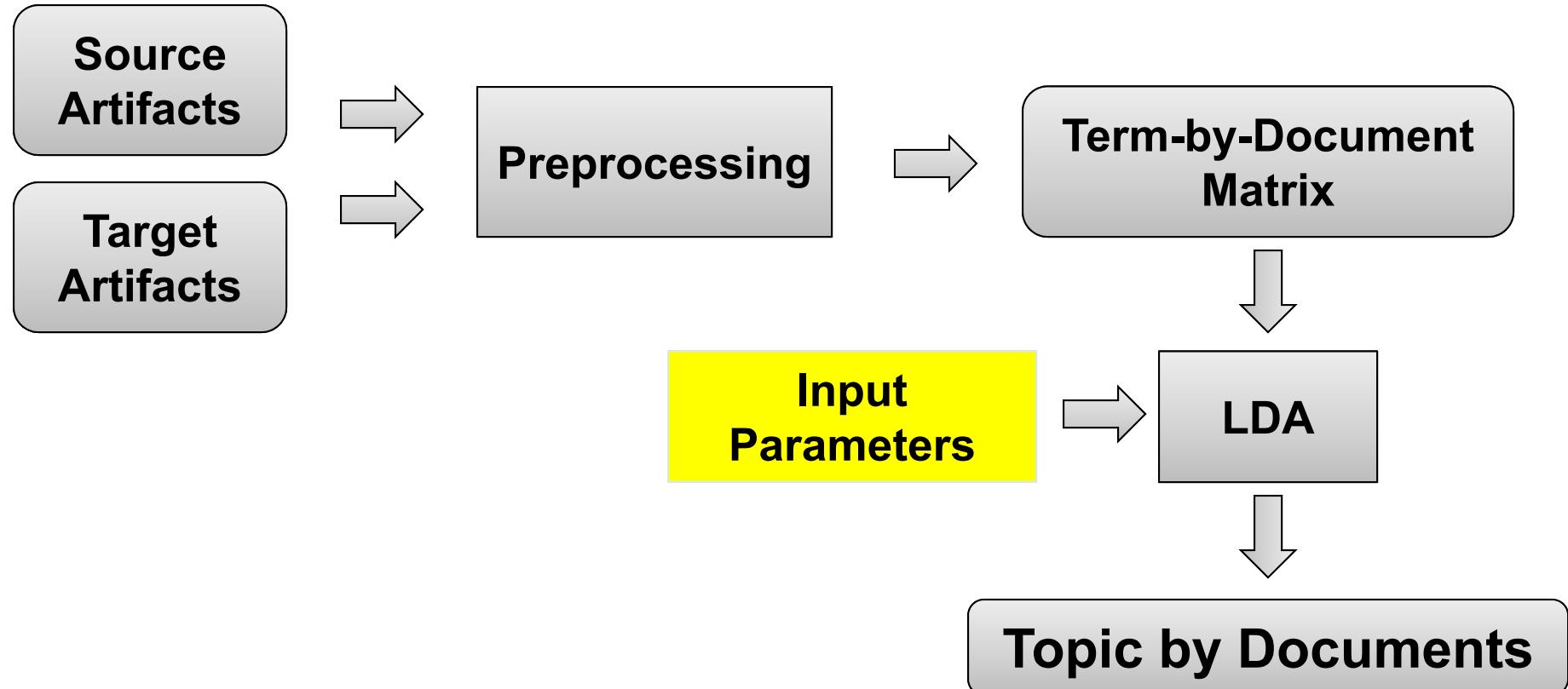


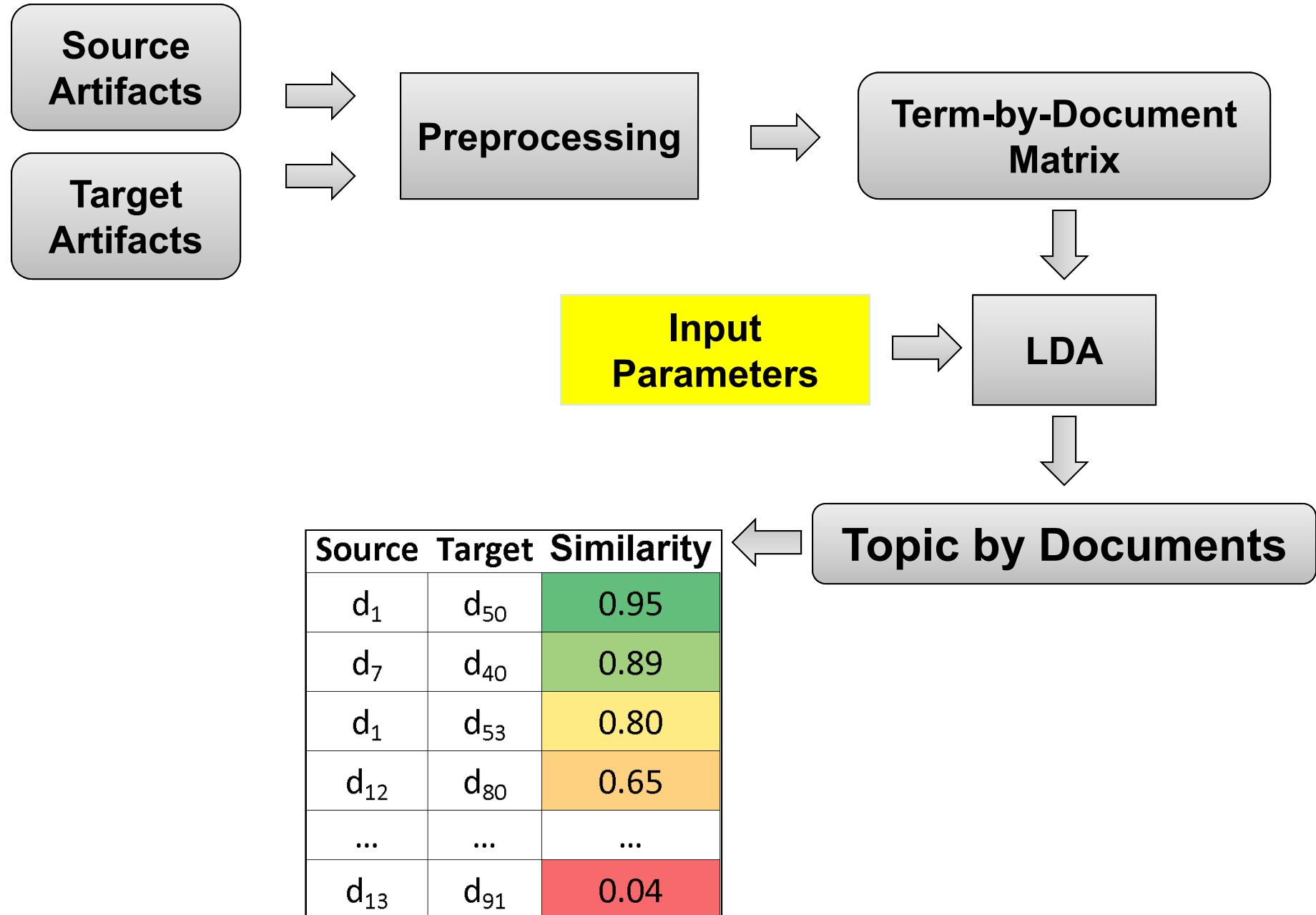


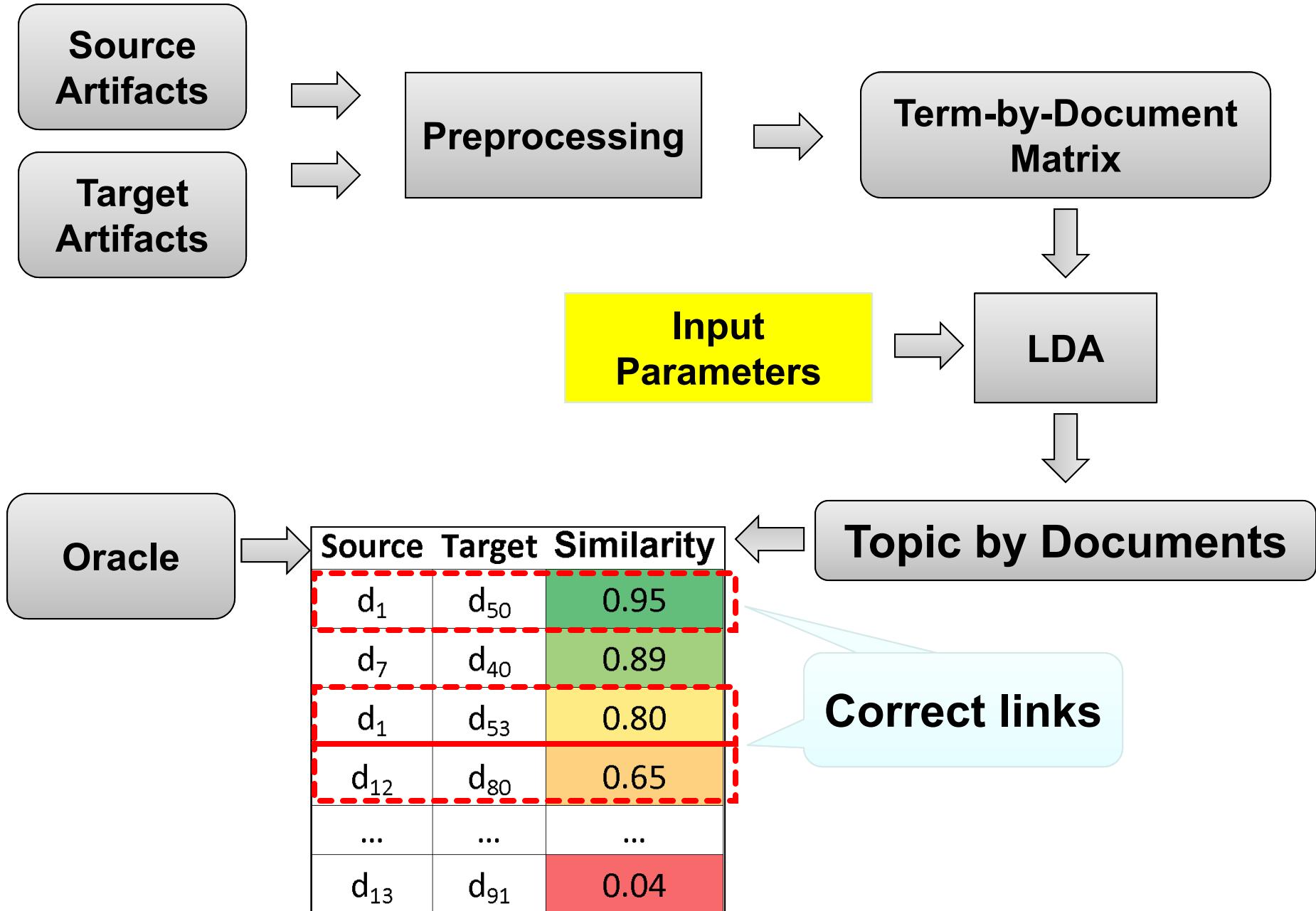
**Source
Artifacts**

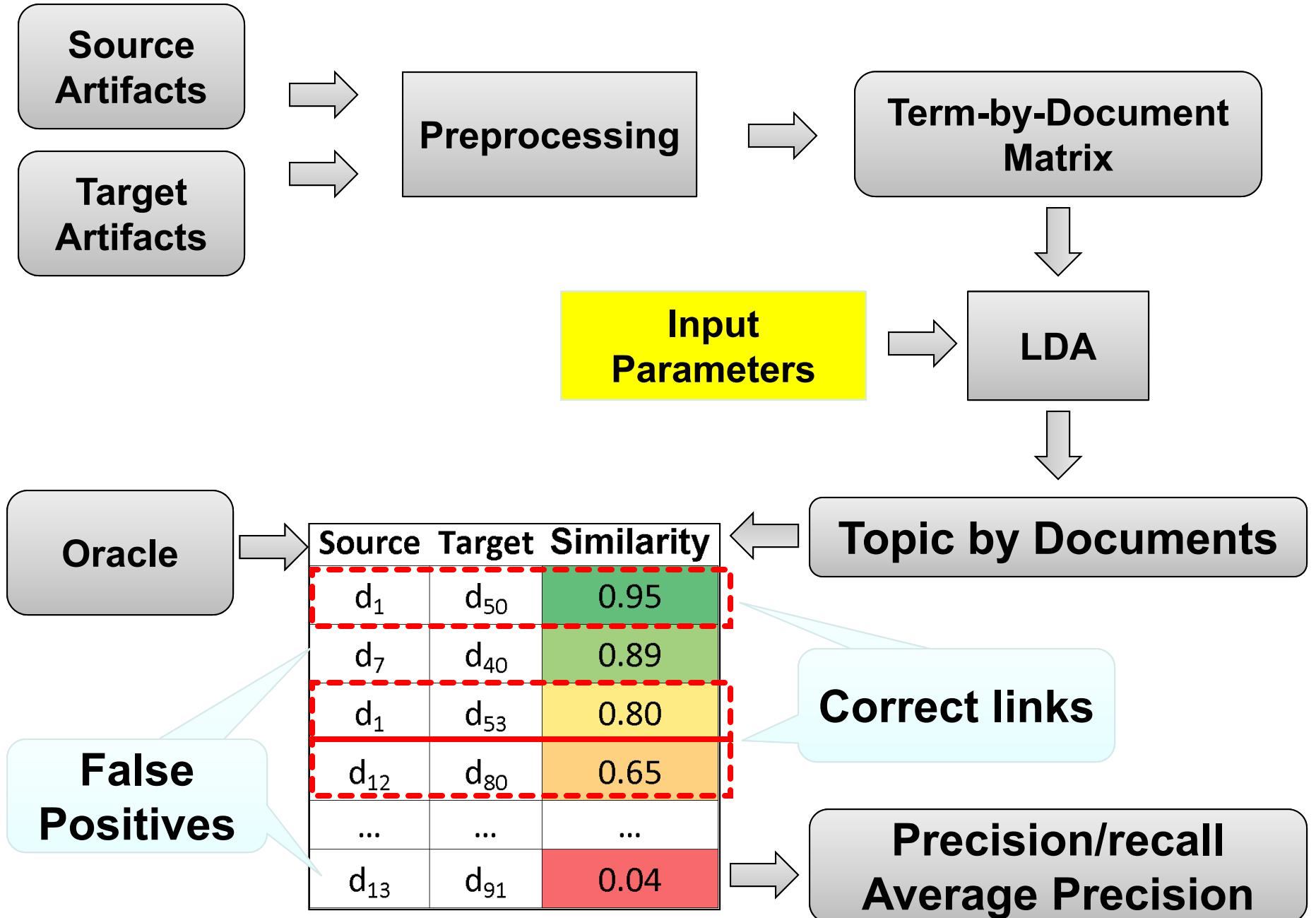
**Target
Artifacts**

**Use cases,
requirements,
classes, etc.**

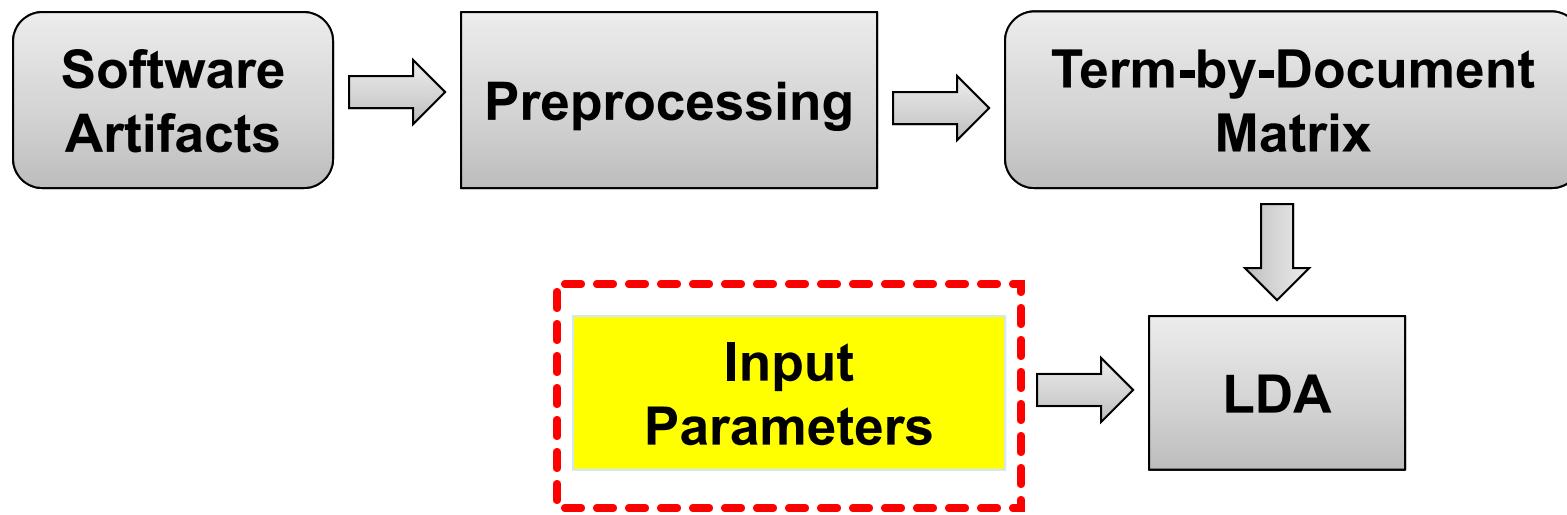


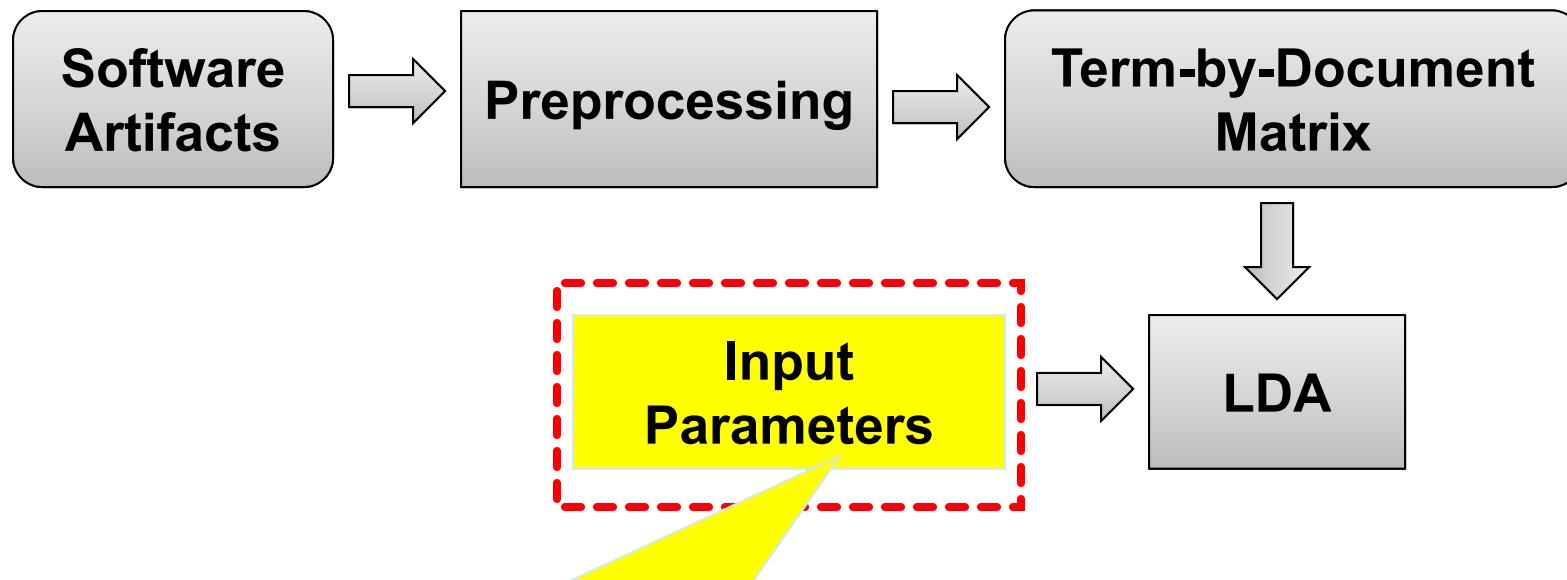






Let's examine the LDA input parameters in more details





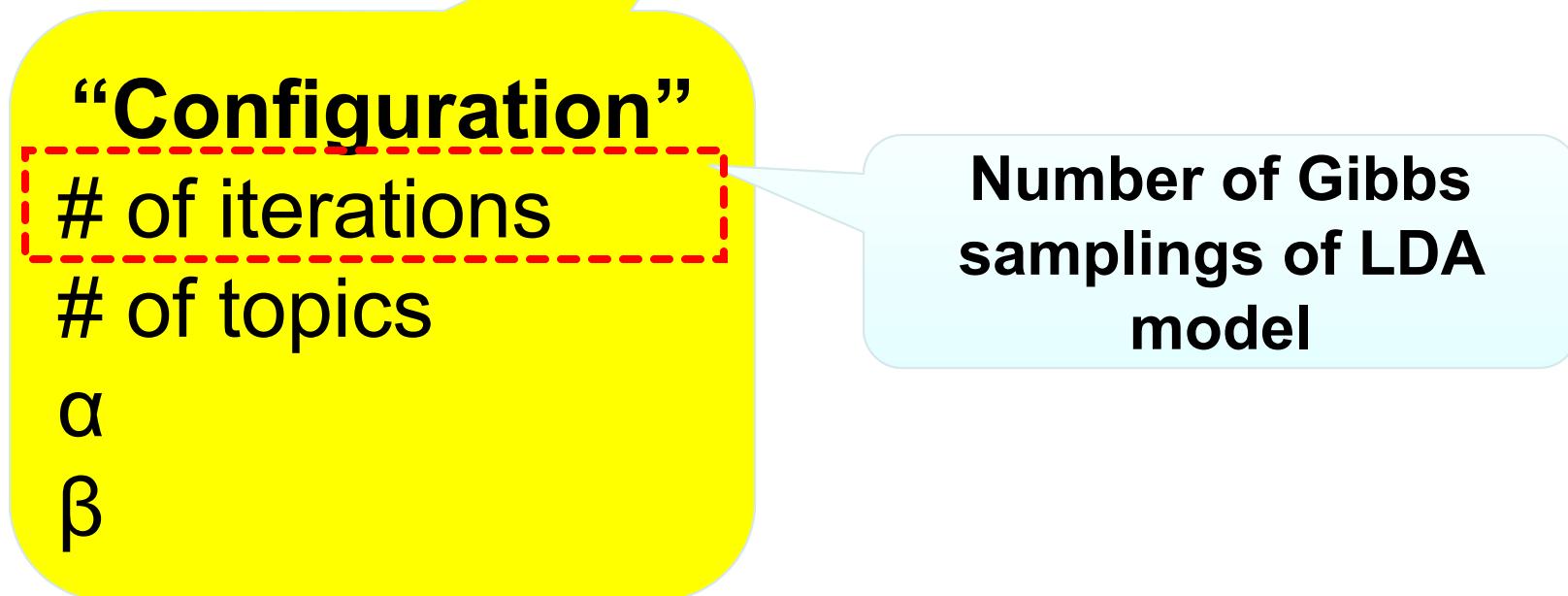
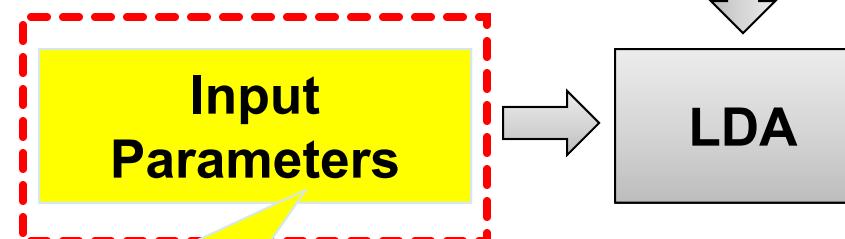
“Configuration”

of iterations

of topics

α

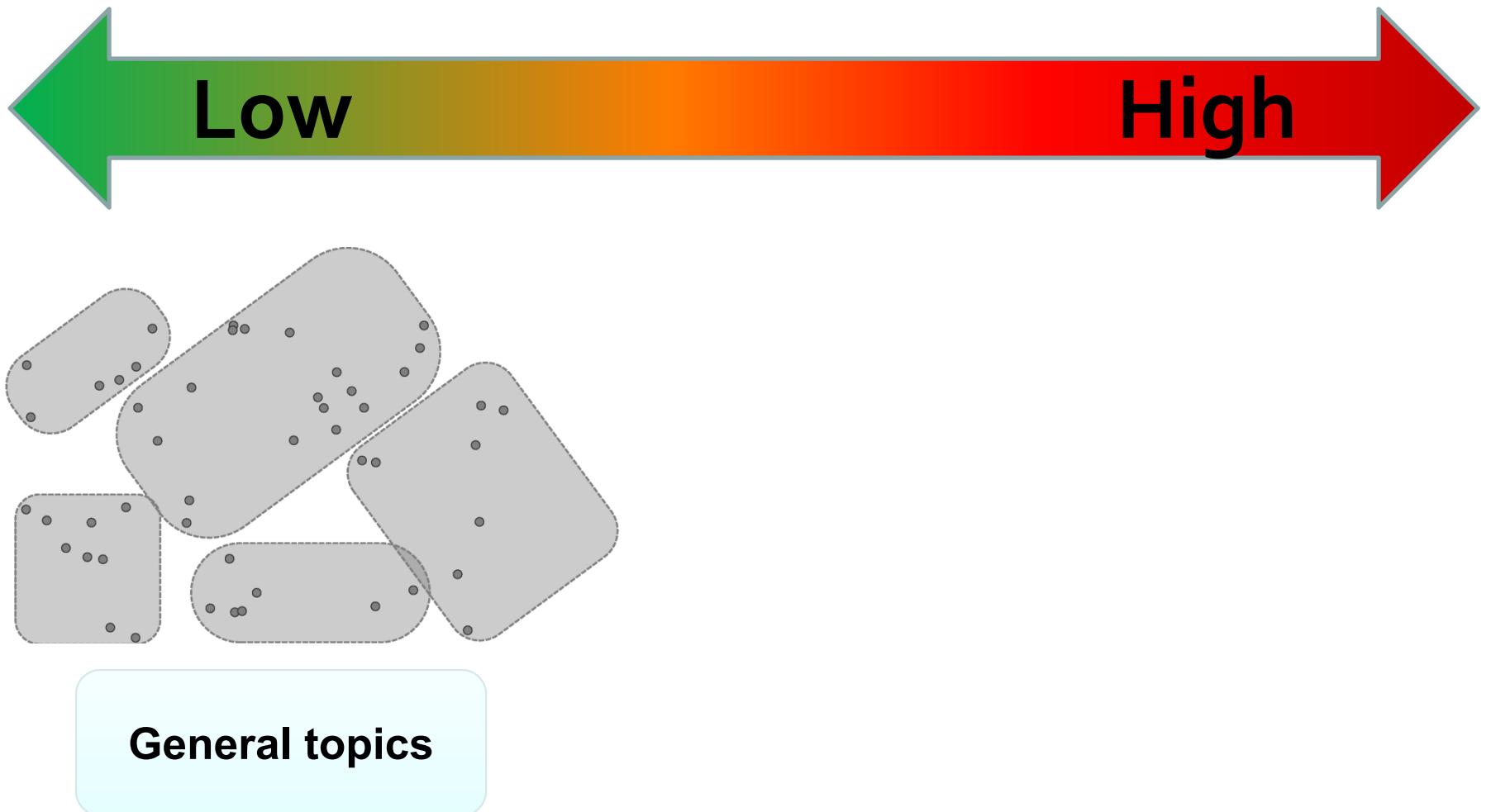
β



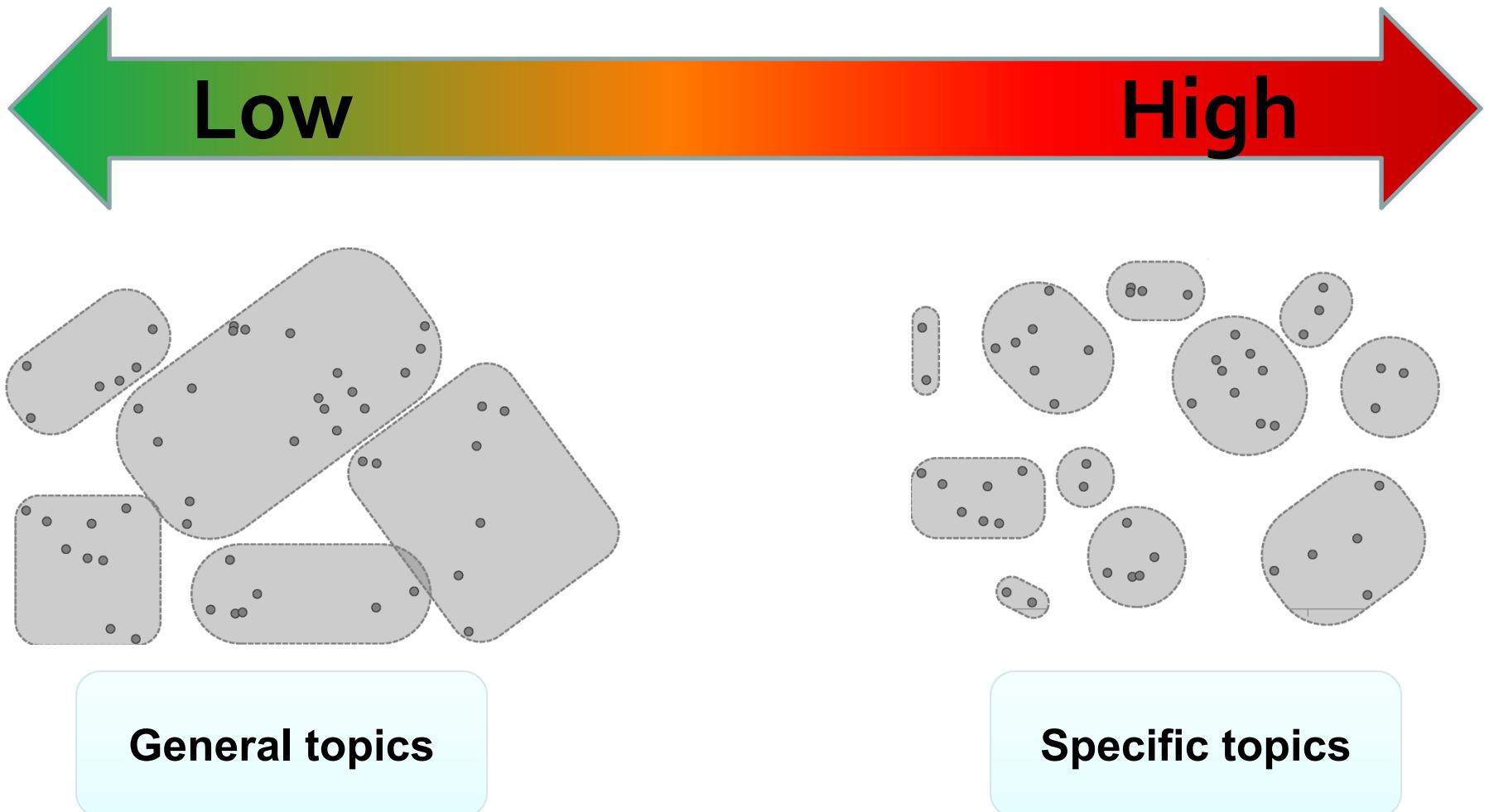
Number of topics...



Number of topics...



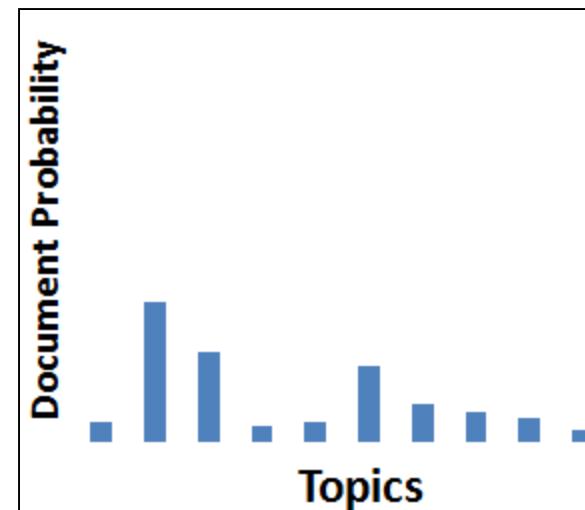
Number of topics...



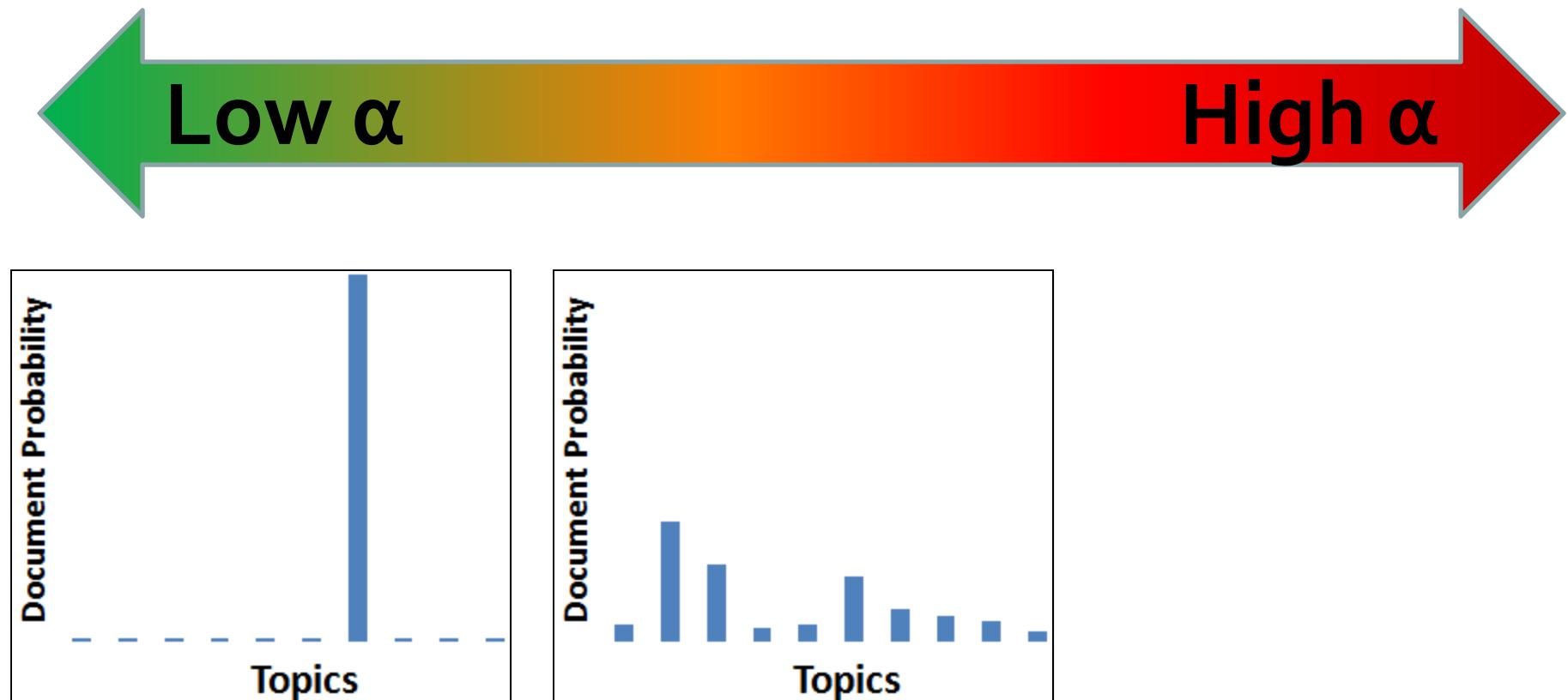
α , influences the “smoothness” of documents to topics distribution



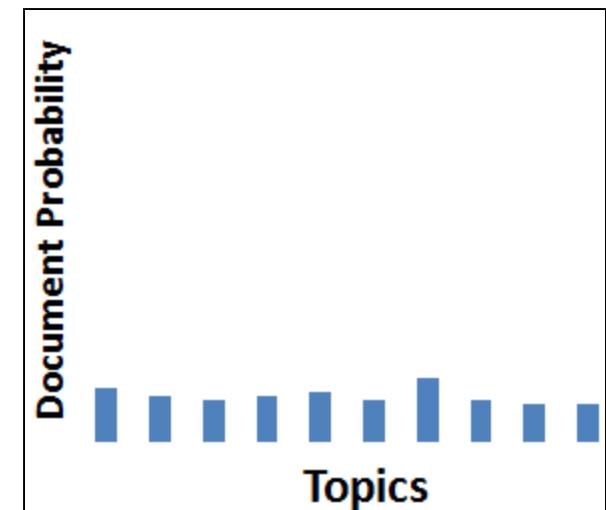
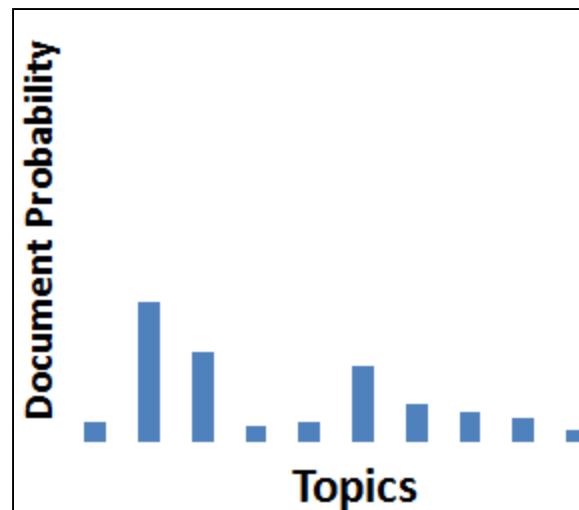
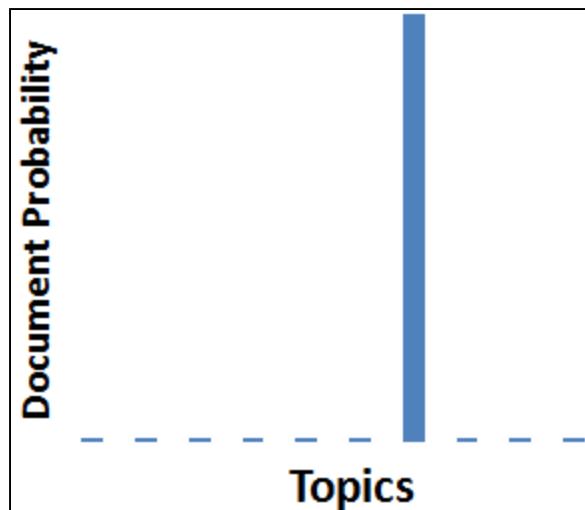
α , influences the “smoothness” of documents to topics distribution



α , influences the “smoothness” of documents to topics distribution



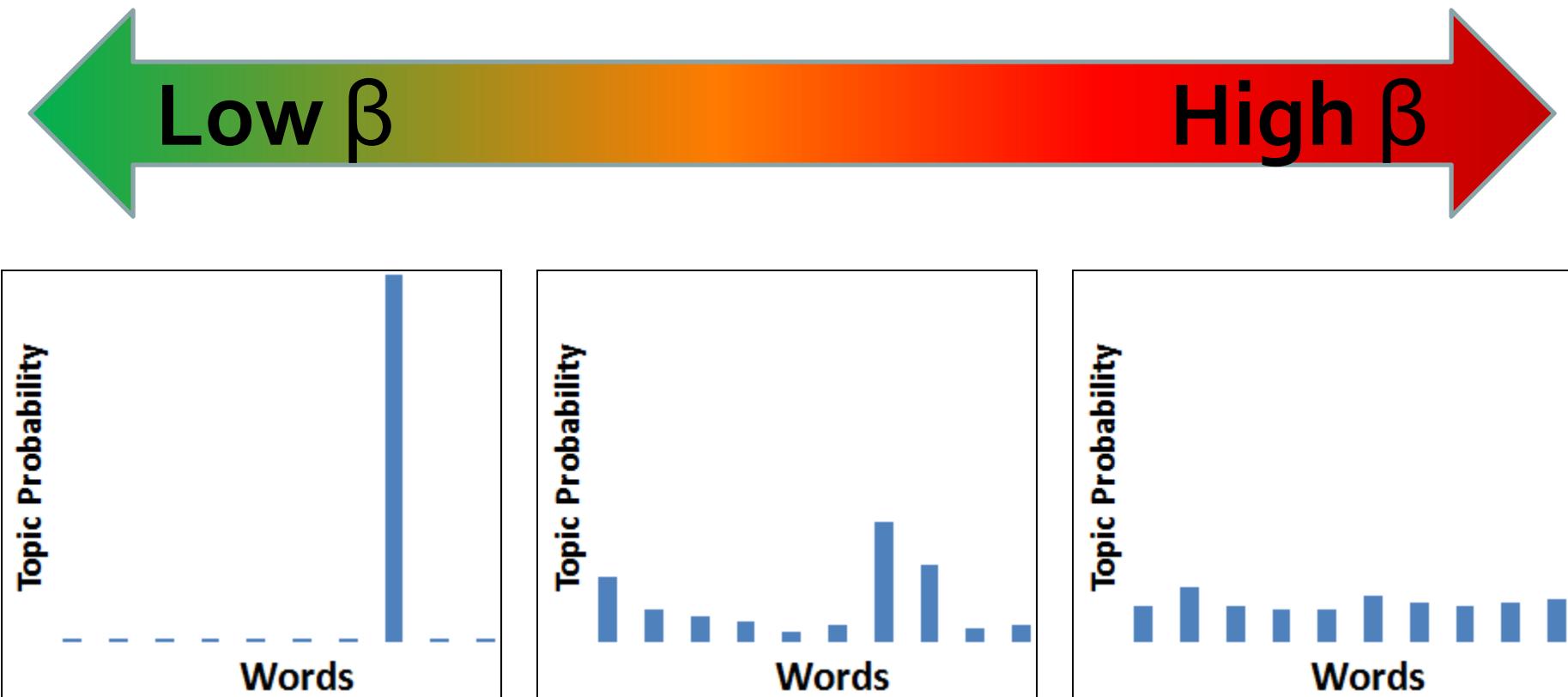
α , influences the “smoothness” of documents to topics distribution



β , influences the “smoothness” of topics to words distribution



β , influences the “smoothness” of topics to words distribution

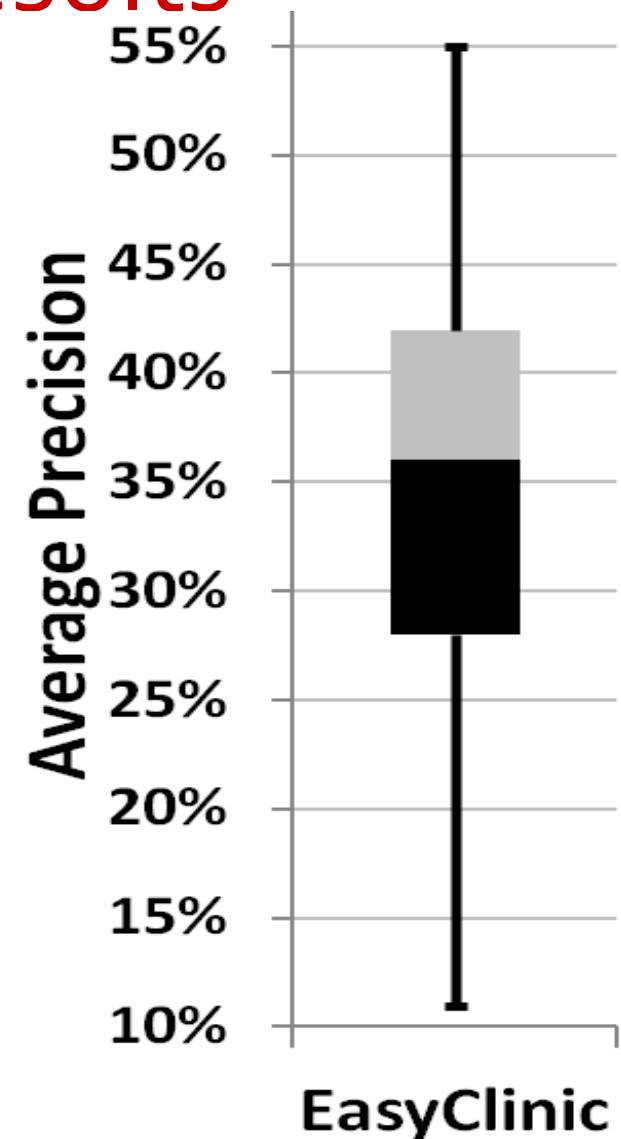


LDA parameters significantly influence the results

- Traceability Link Recovery
- 1,000 different configurations of LDA parameters
 - Evaluate the Average Precision on EasyClinic

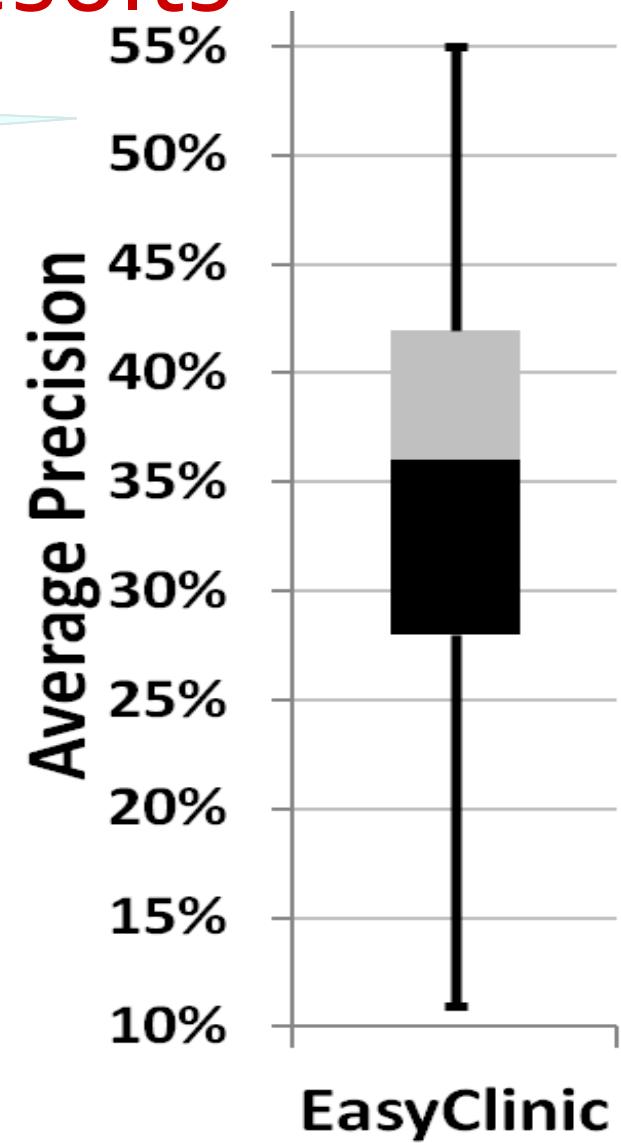
LDA parameters significantly influence the results

- Traceability Link Recovery
- 1,000 different configurations of LDA parameters
 - Evaluate the Average Precision on EasyClinic



LDA parameters significantly influence the results

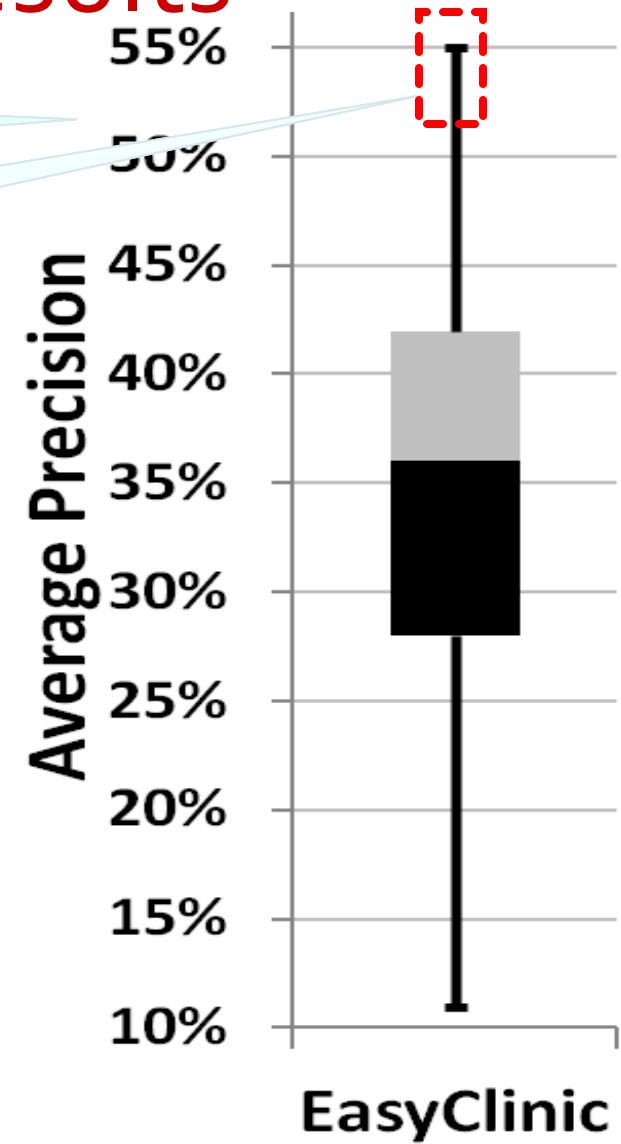
High variability in results



LDA parameters significantly influence the results

High variability in results

Few configurations produce good results



What kind of LDA configurations were used for software?



What kind of LDA configurations were used for software?



“ad-hoc”
configurations

Parameters “imported”
from natural language
community

Assumption:
source code
has the same characteristics as
natural language

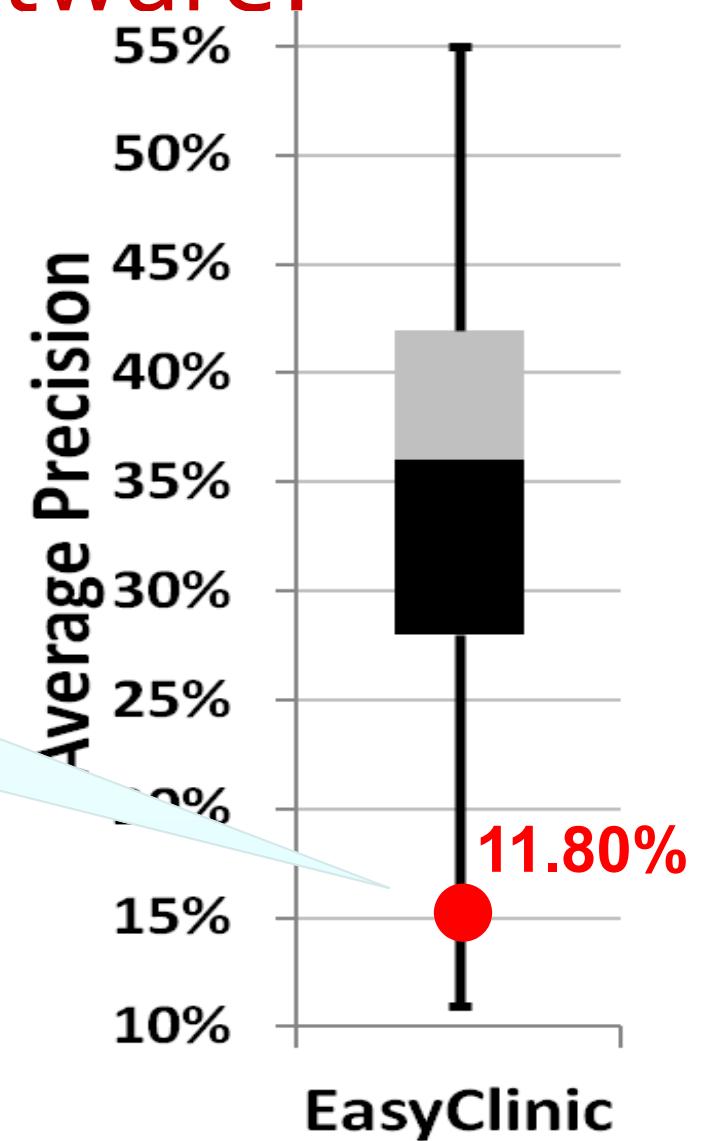
What kind of LDA configurations were used for software?



“ad-hoc” configurations

Parameters “imported” from natural language community

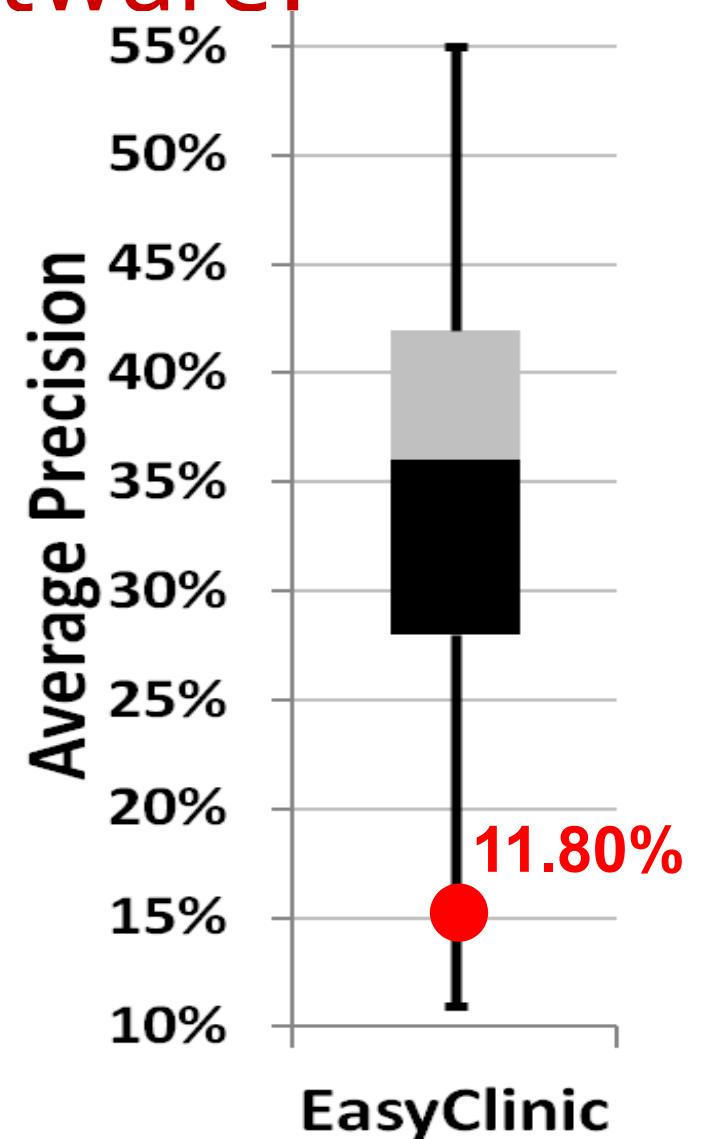
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What kind of LDA configurations were used for software?

[Hindle et al. @ ICSE'12]:
source code
is more *regular* and *predictable* than
natural language

~~Assumption:~~
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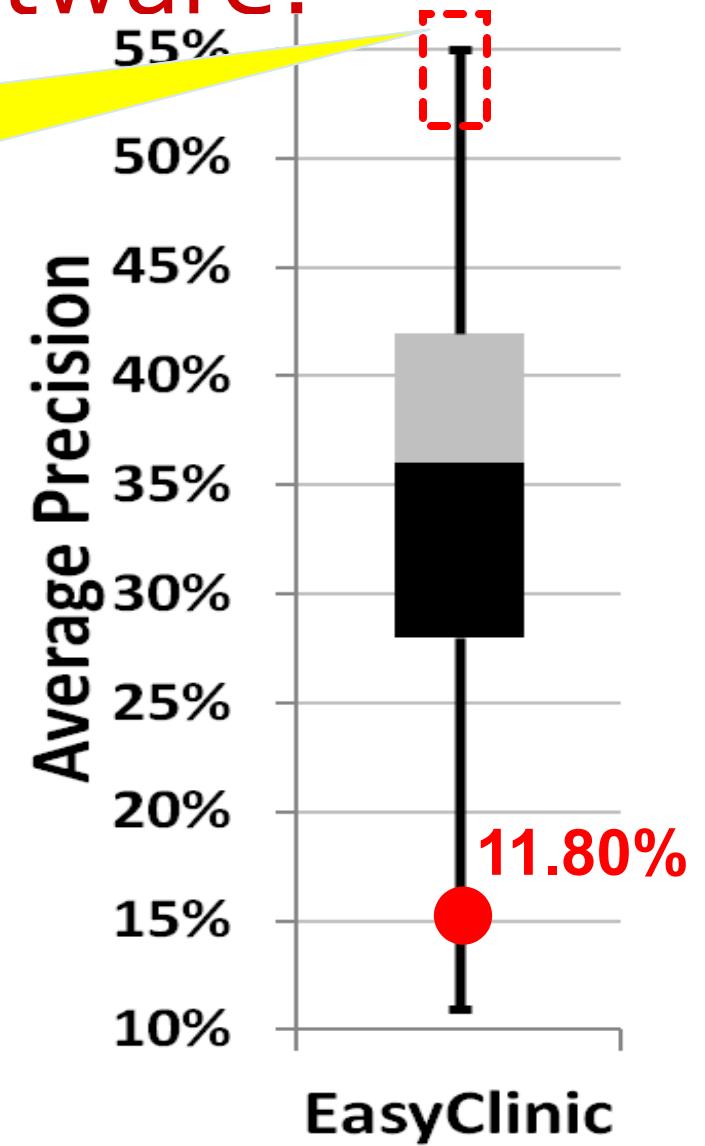


What kind of LDA configurations were used for software?

We need new techniques to find these configurations

[Hindle et al. @ ICSE'12]:
source code
is more *regular* and *predictable* than
natural language

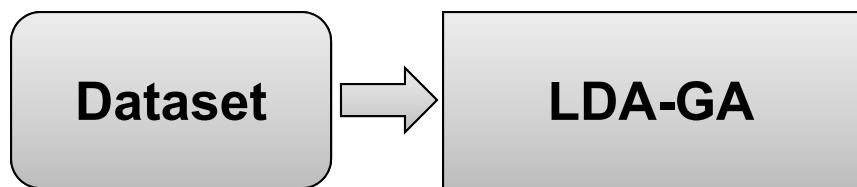
~~Assumption:~~
source code
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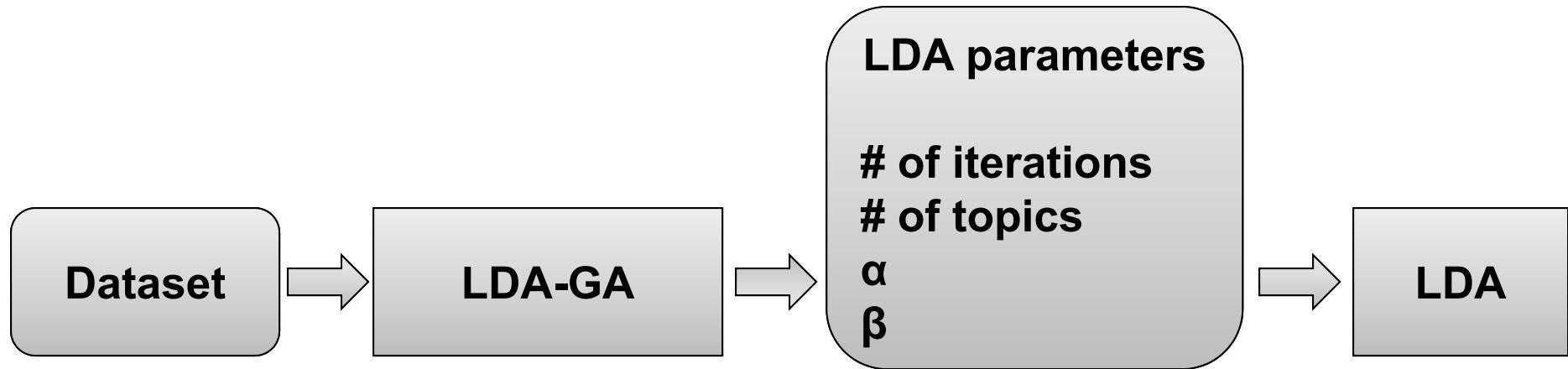
Our contribution...**LDA-GA**

LDA-GA: automatically calibrate the input parameters of LDA using a genetic algorithm

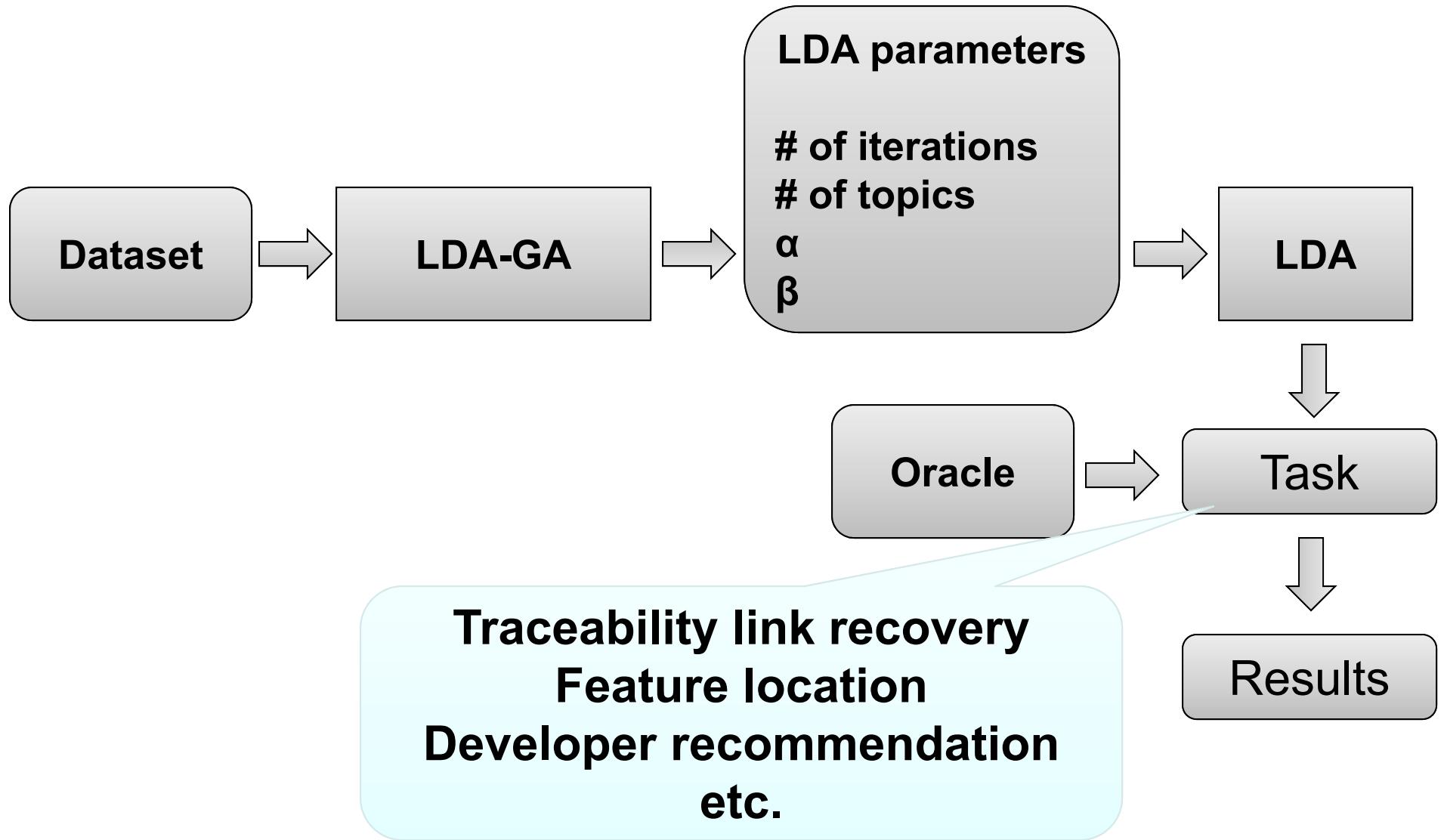
LDA-GA: automatically calibrate the input parameters of LDA using a genetic algorithm



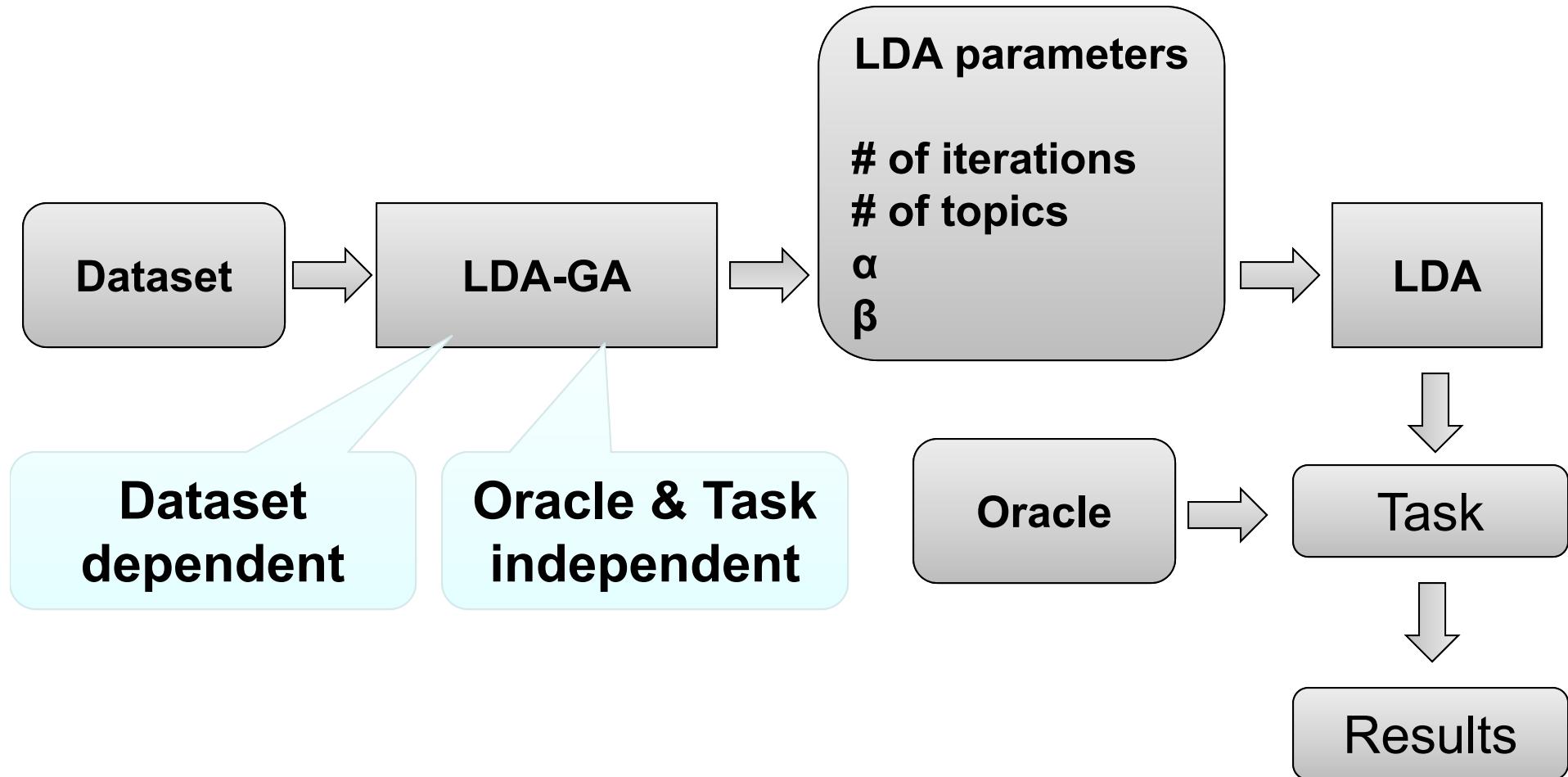
LDA-GA: automatically calibrate the input parameters of LDA using a genetic algorithm



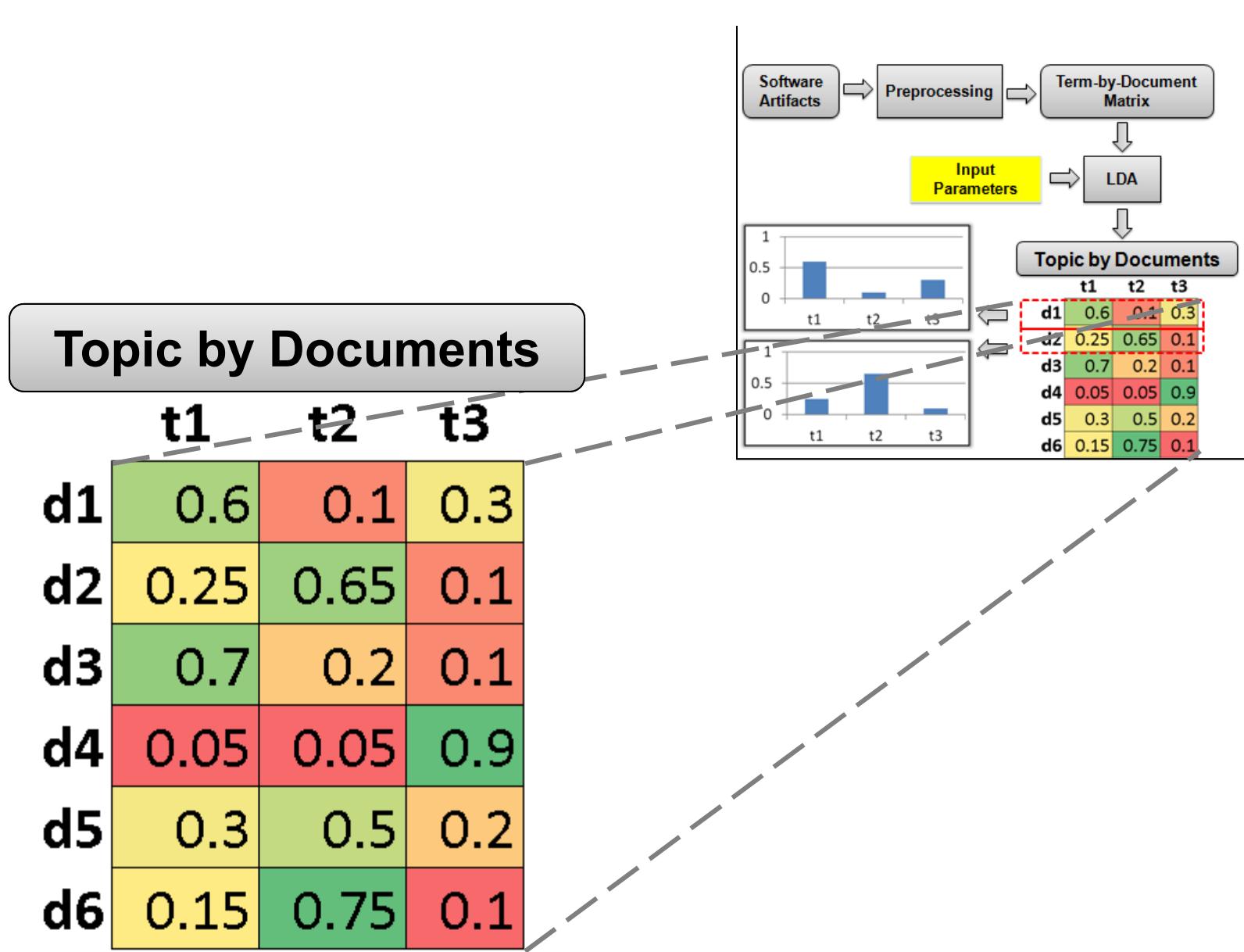
LDA-GA: automatically calibrate the input parameters of LDA using a genetic algorithm



LDA-GA: automatically calibrate the input parameters of LDA using a genetic algorithm



**How to evaluate how “good” an
LDA configuration is?**



Topic by Documents

	t1	t2	t3
d1	0.6	0.1	0.3
d2	0.25	0.65	0.1
d3	0.7	0.2	0.1
d4	0.05	0.05	0.9
d5	0.3	0.5	0.2
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Dominant
Topics

Topic by Documents

	t1	t2	t3
d1	0.6	0.1	0.3
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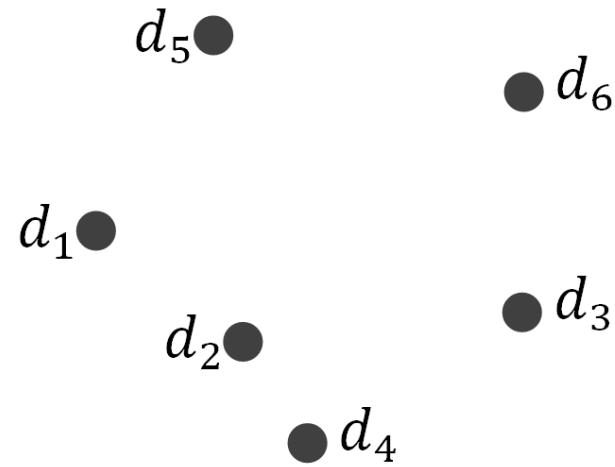
Dominant
Topics

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Dominant
Topics

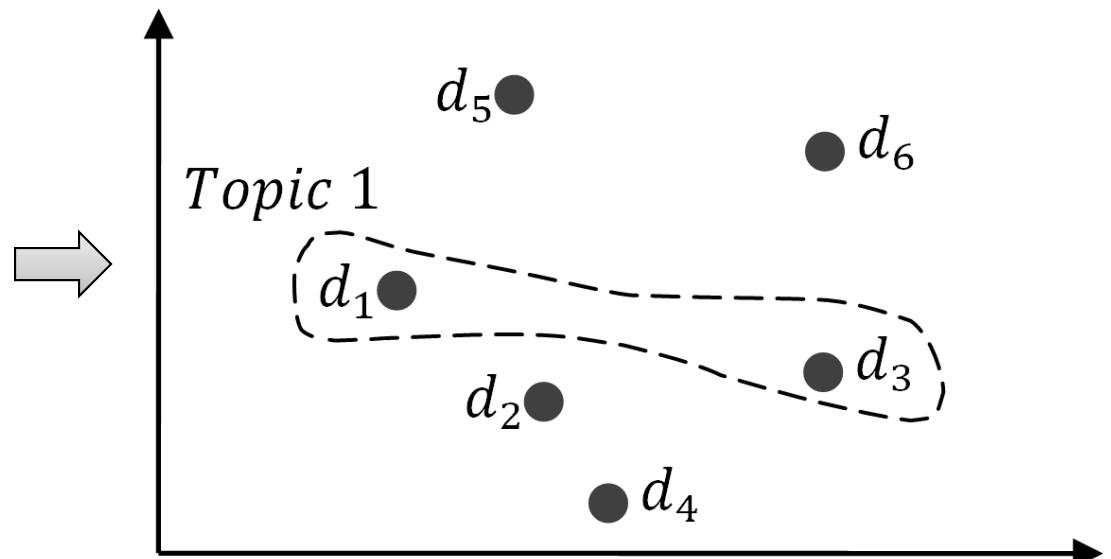
LDA Model



Topic by Documents

	t1	t2	t3
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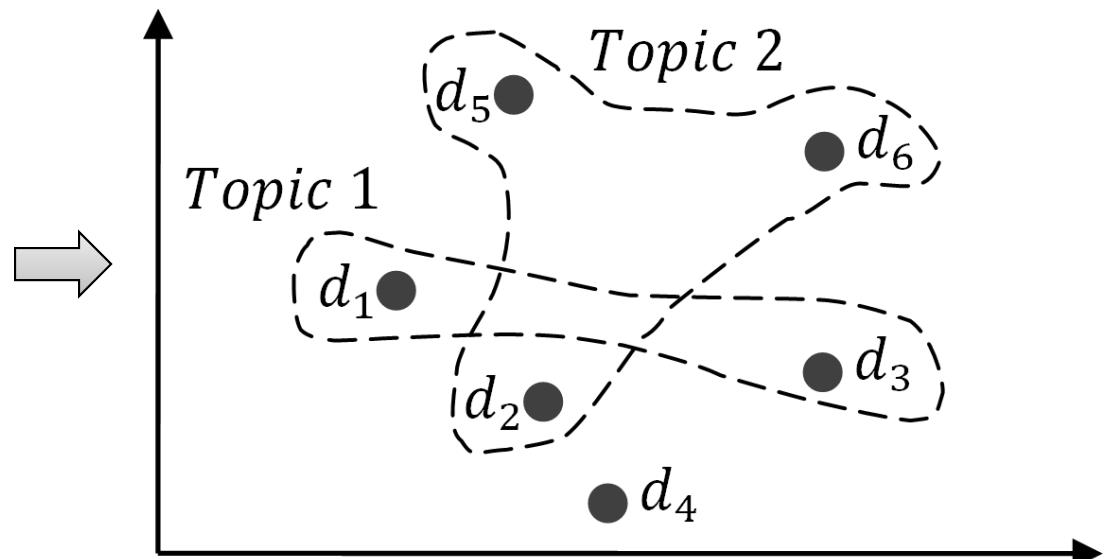
LDA Model



Topic by Documents

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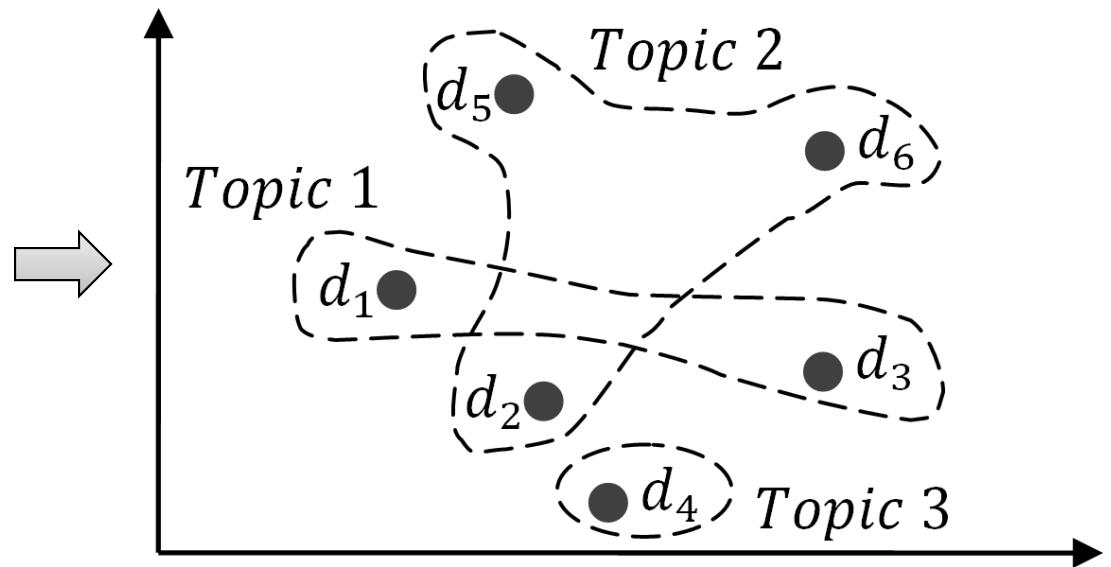
LDA Model



Topic by Documents

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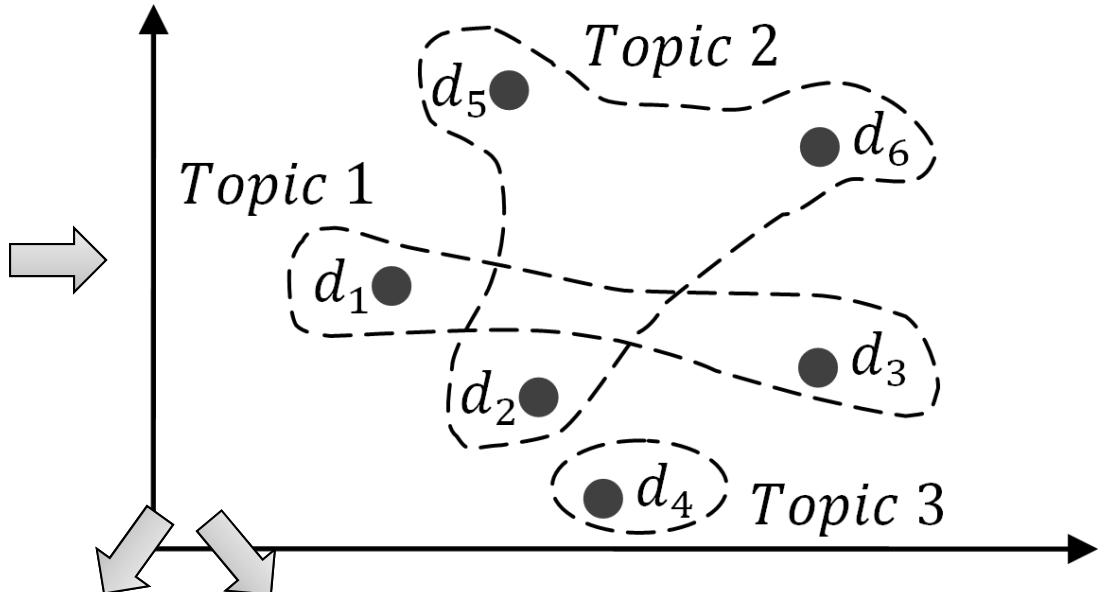
LDA Model



Topic by Documents

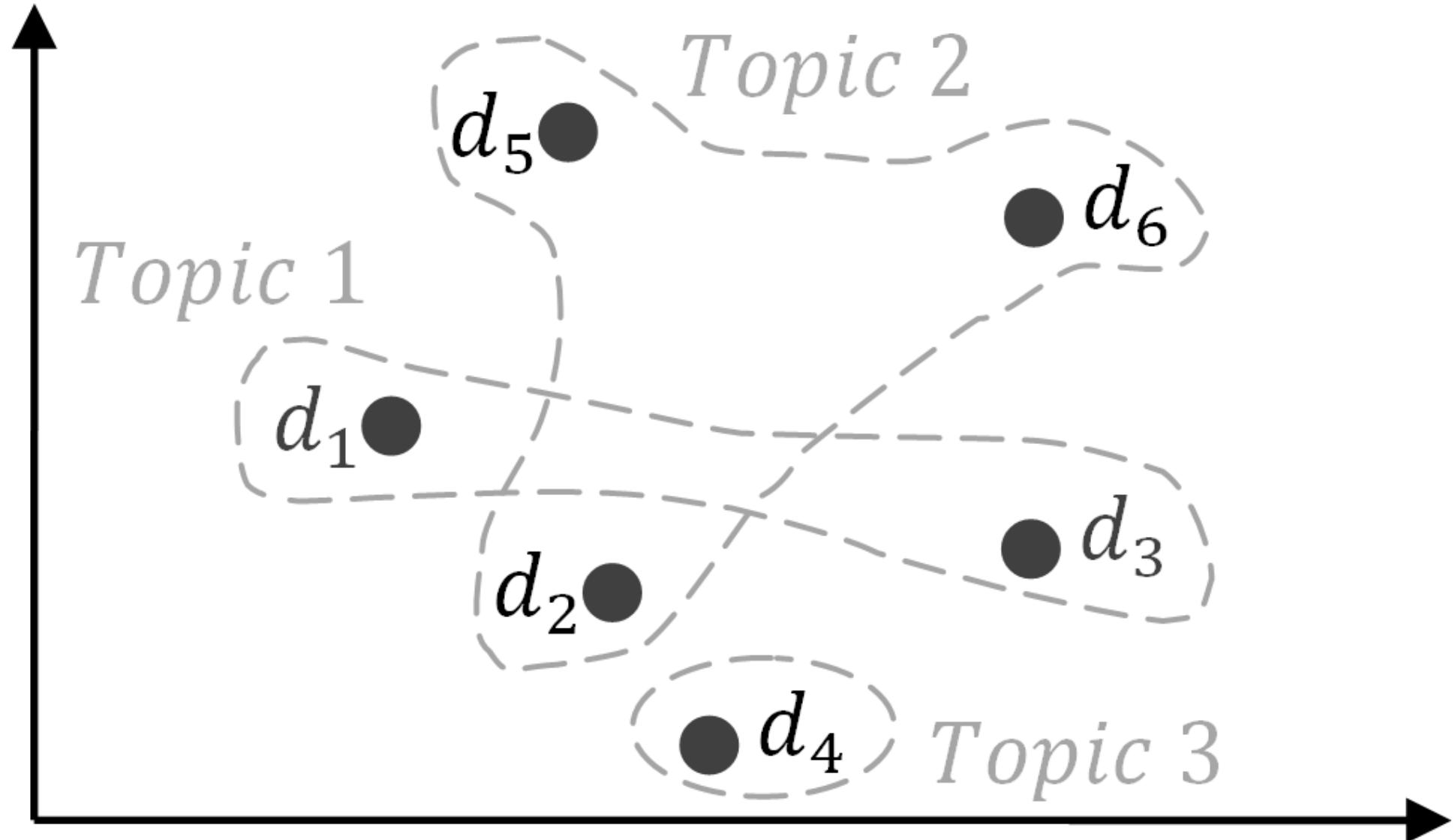
	t1	t2	t3
d1	0.6	0.1	0.3
d2	0.25	0.65	0.1
d3	0.7	0.2	0.1
d4	0.05	0.05	0.9
d5	0.3	0.5	0.2
d6	0.15	0.75	0.1

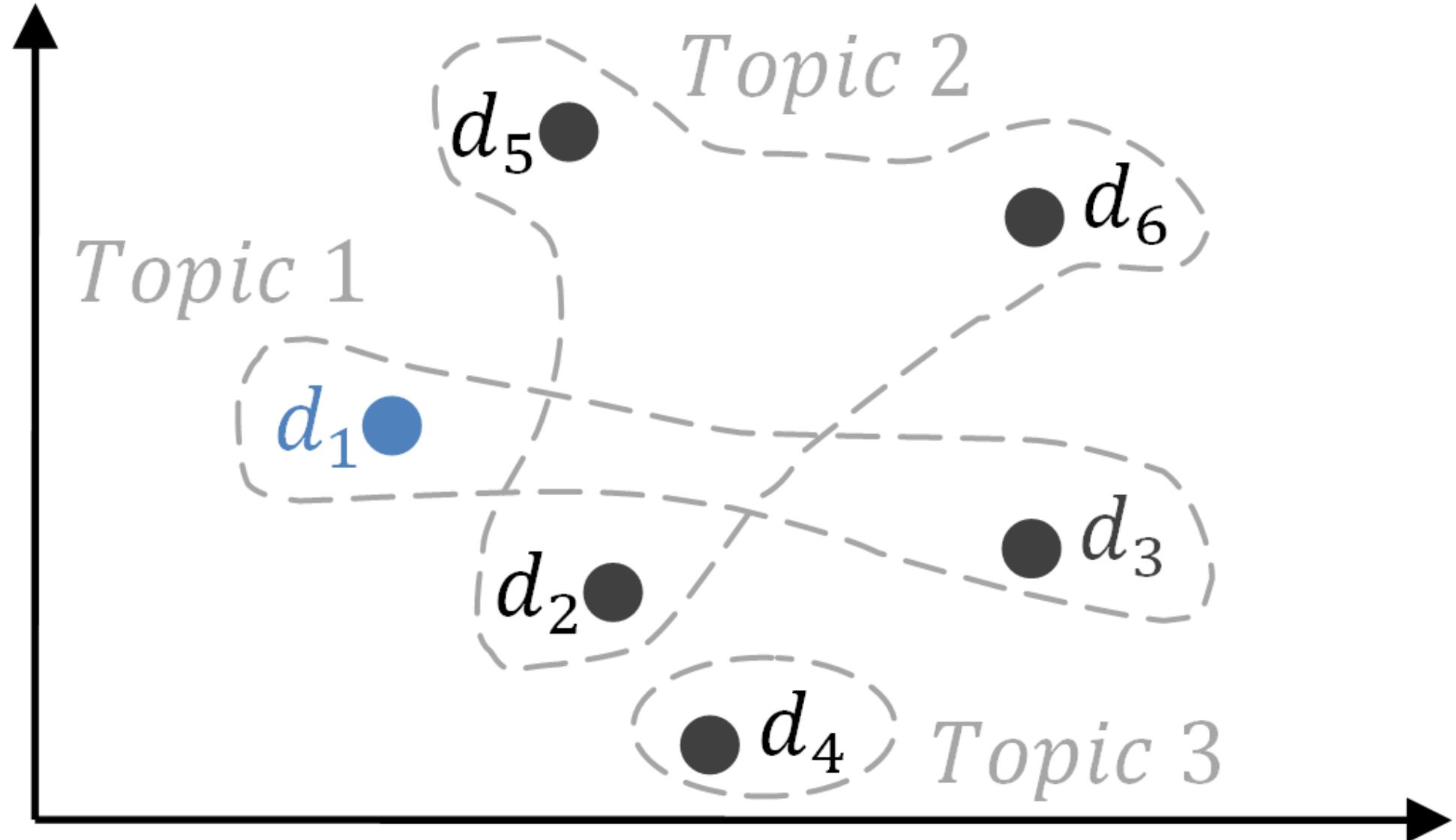
LDA Model

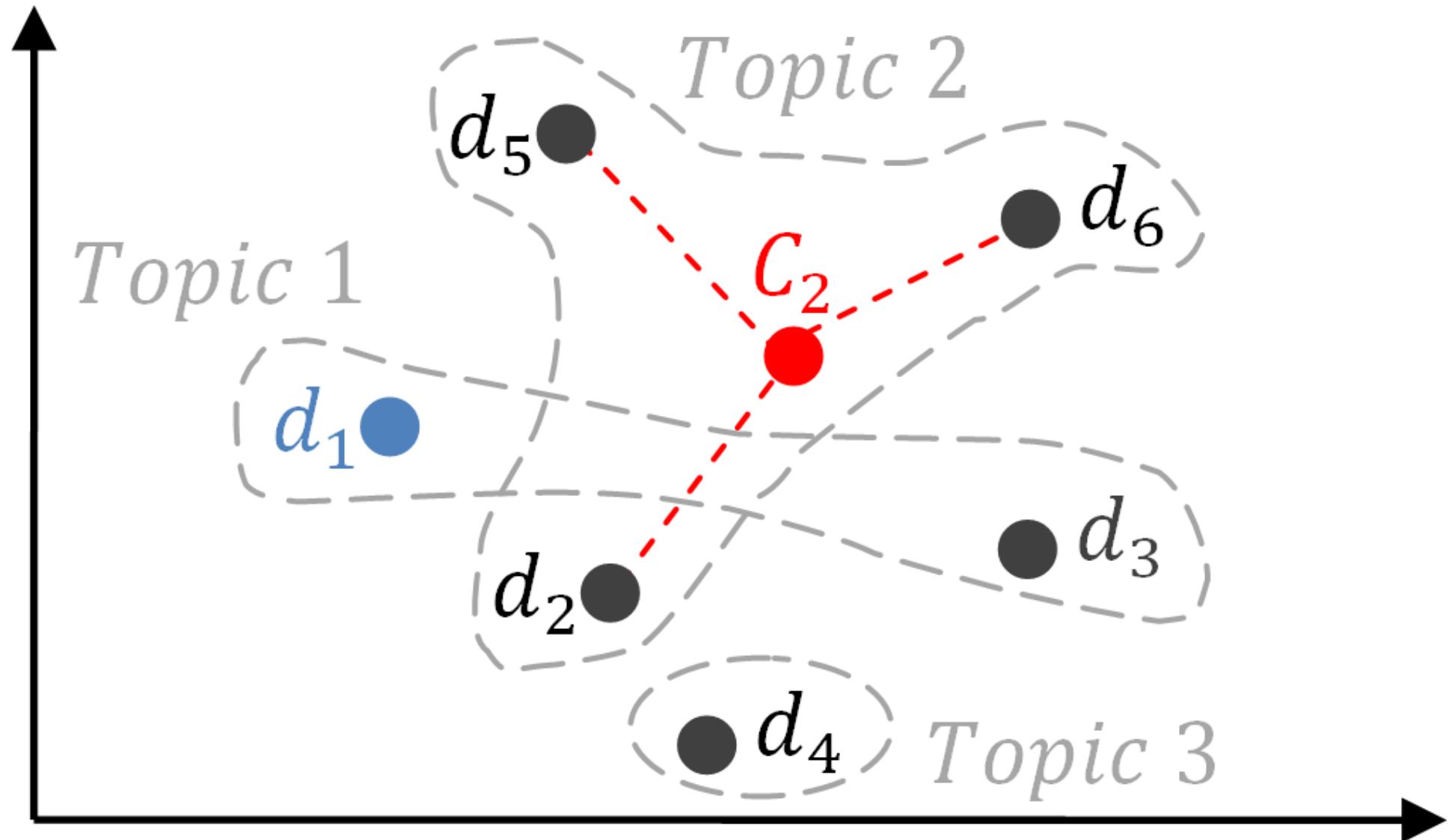


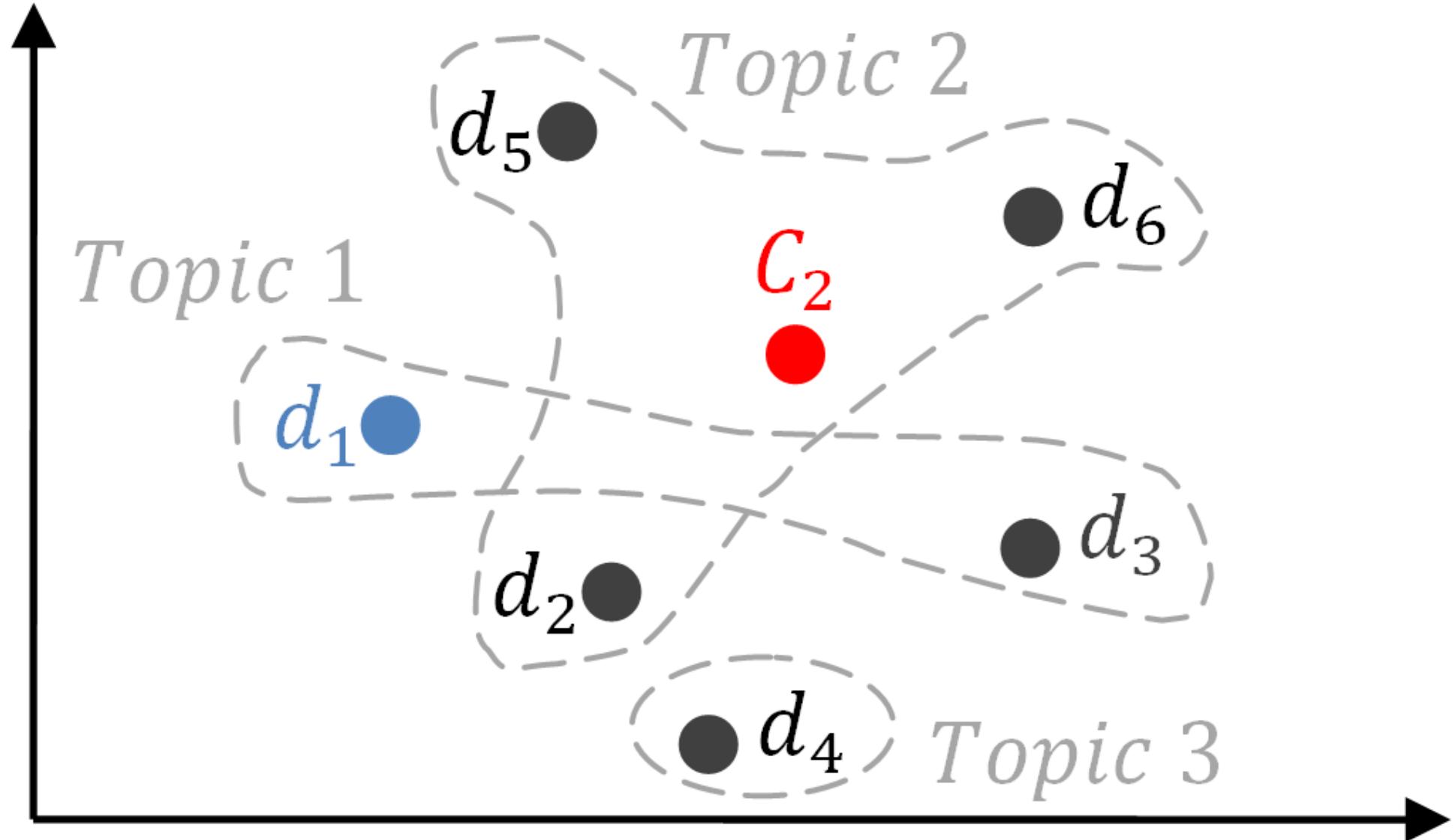
Cohesion (similarity): how related the documents in the same clusters are

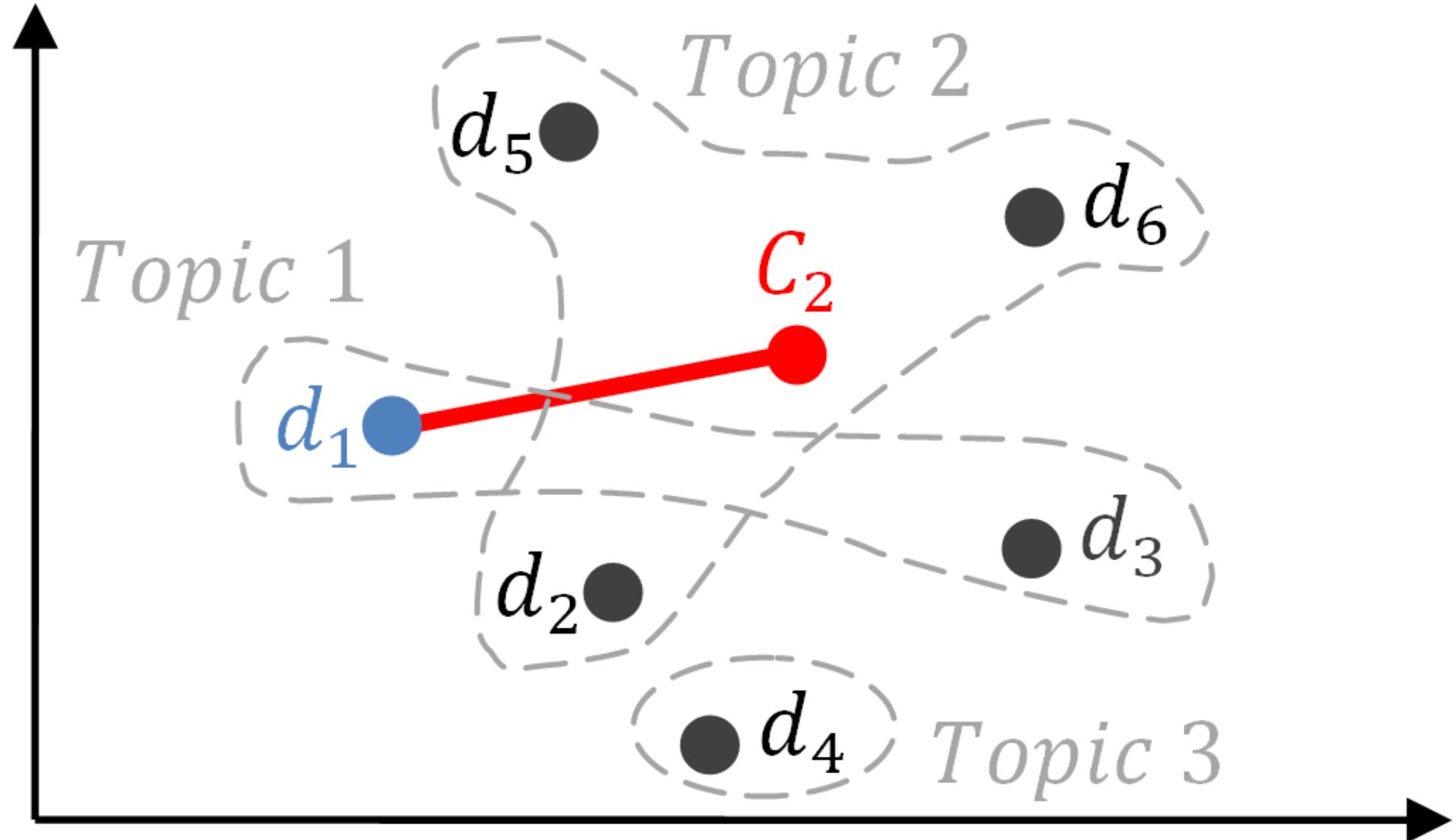
Separation (dissimilarity): how distinct a cluster is from other clusters

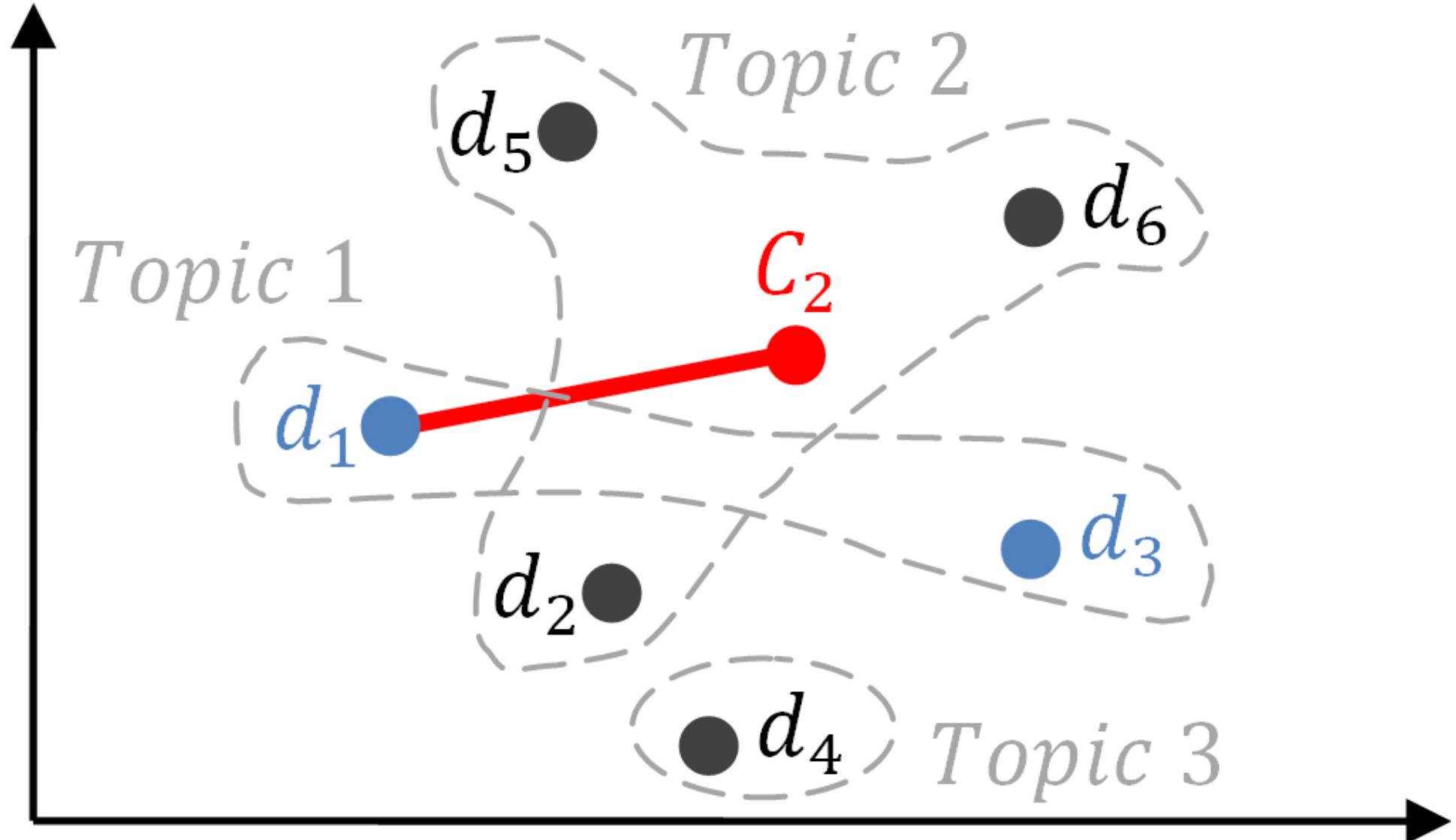


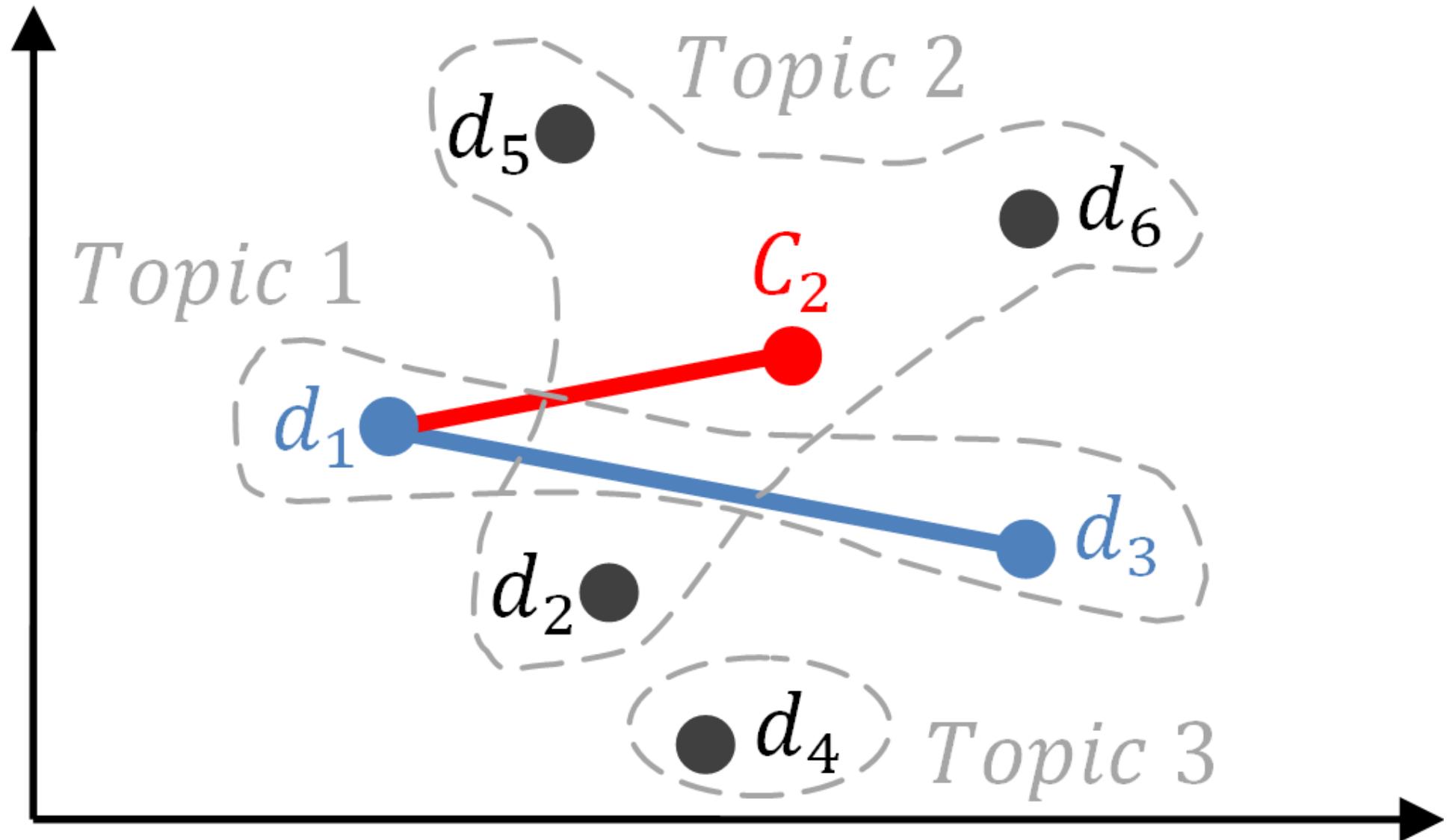


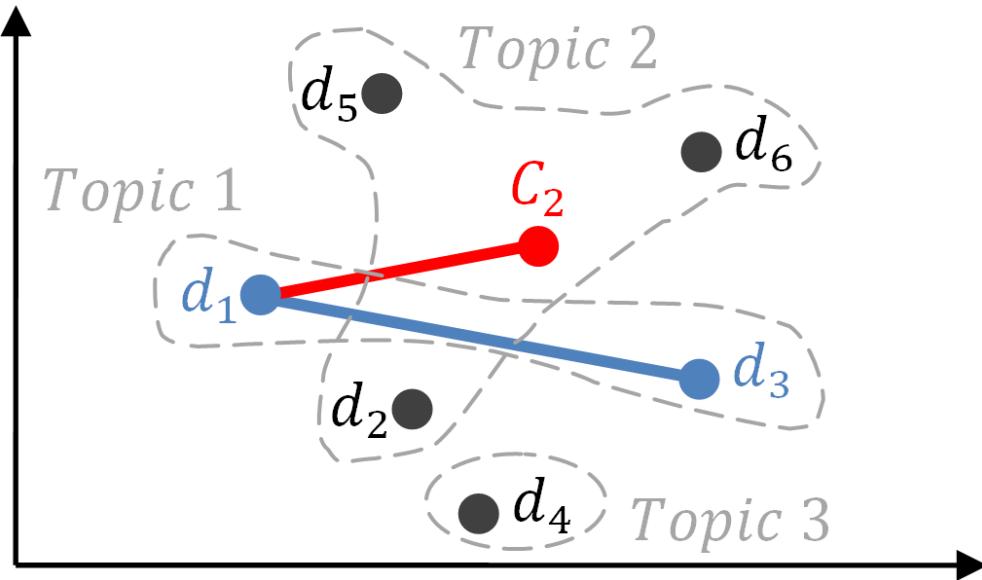




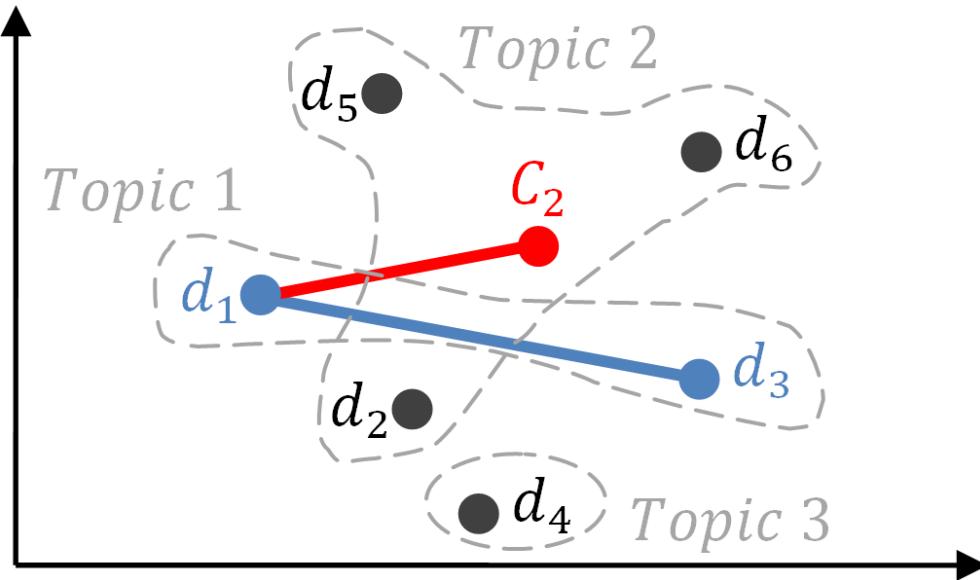








$$silhouette(doc) = \frac{red - blue}{\max(red, blue)}$$



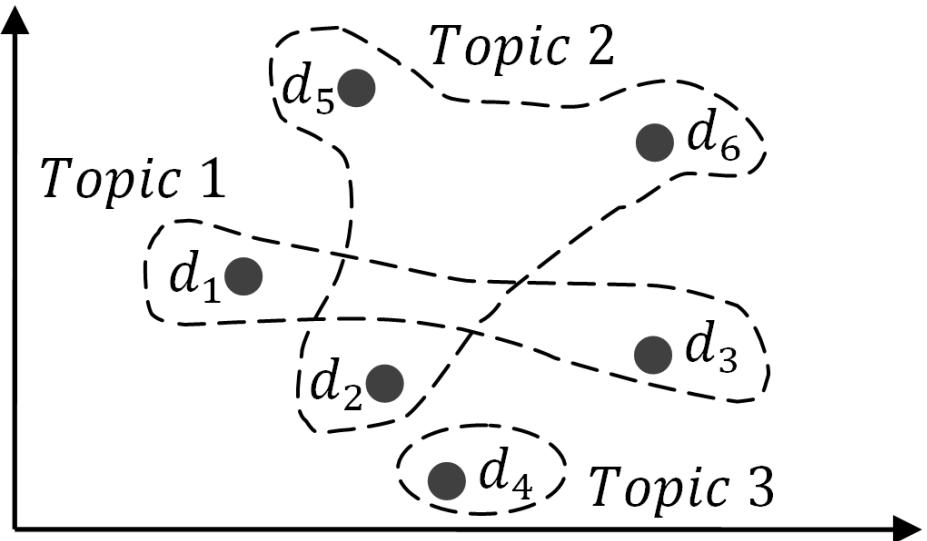
$$silhouette(doc) = \frac{red - blue}{\max(red, blue)}$$

$$silhouette(LDA\ model) = \frac{silhouette(doc_1) + \dots + silhouette(doc_n)}{number\ of\ documents}$$

**Higher silhouette
coefficients are better**

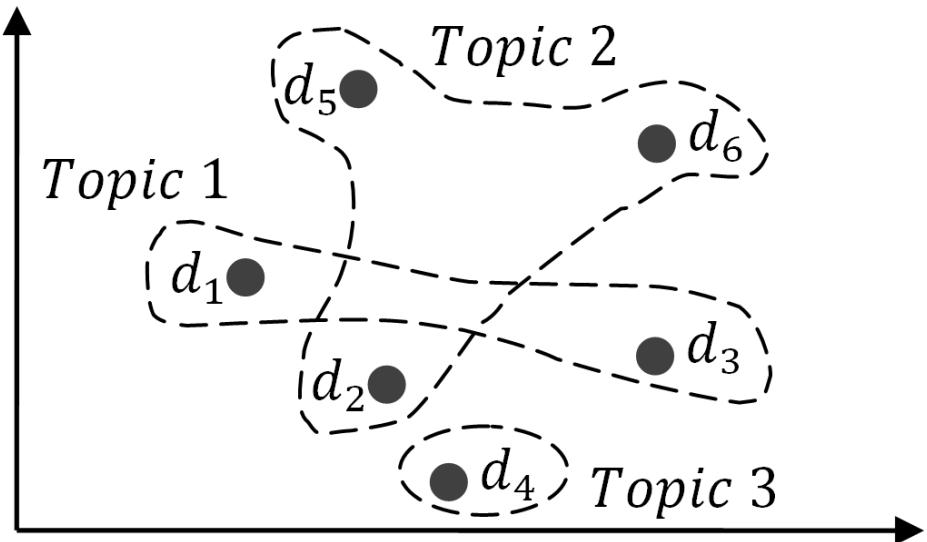
LDA Model 1

#Iterations₁; #topics₁; α_1 ; β_1



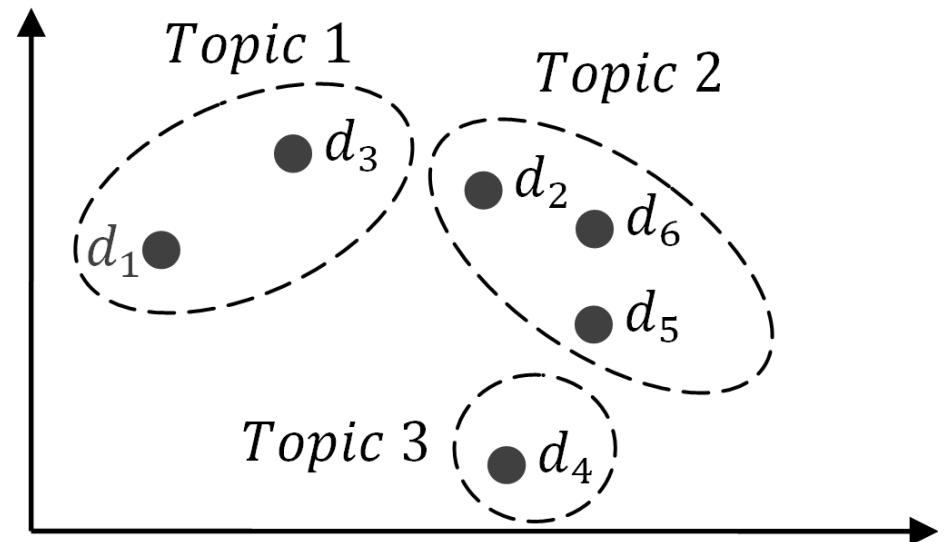
LDA Model 1

#Iterations₁; #topics₁; α_1 ; β_1



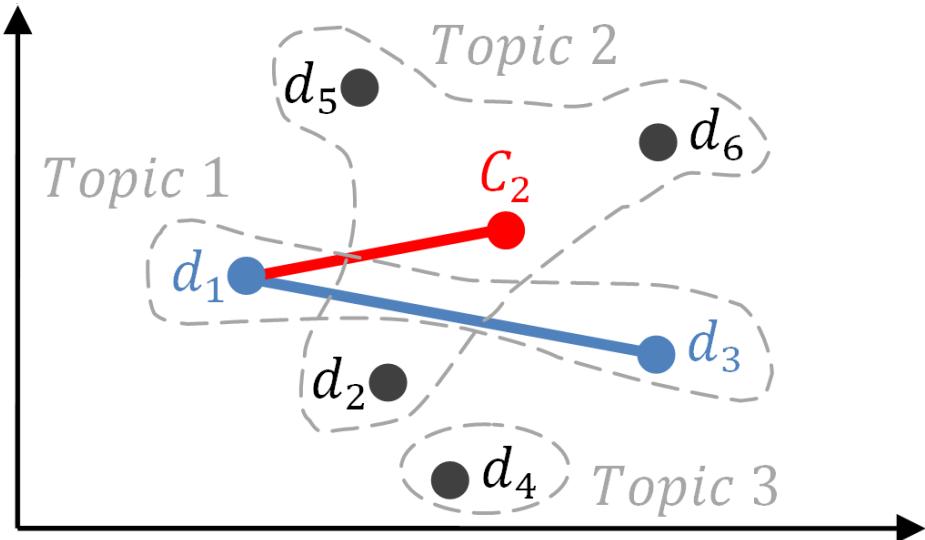
LDA Model 2

#Iterations₂; #topics₂; α_2 ; β_2



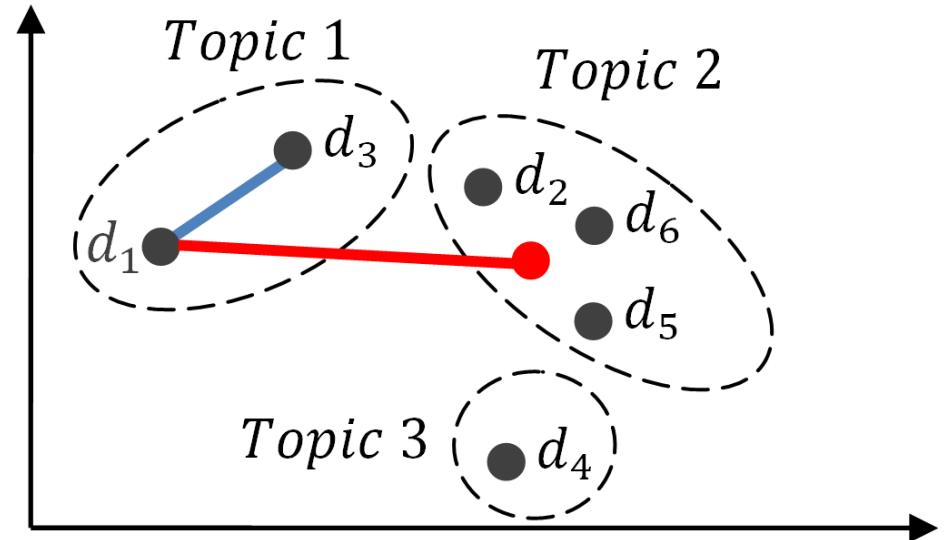
LDA Model 1

#Iterations₁; #topics₁; α_1 ; β_1



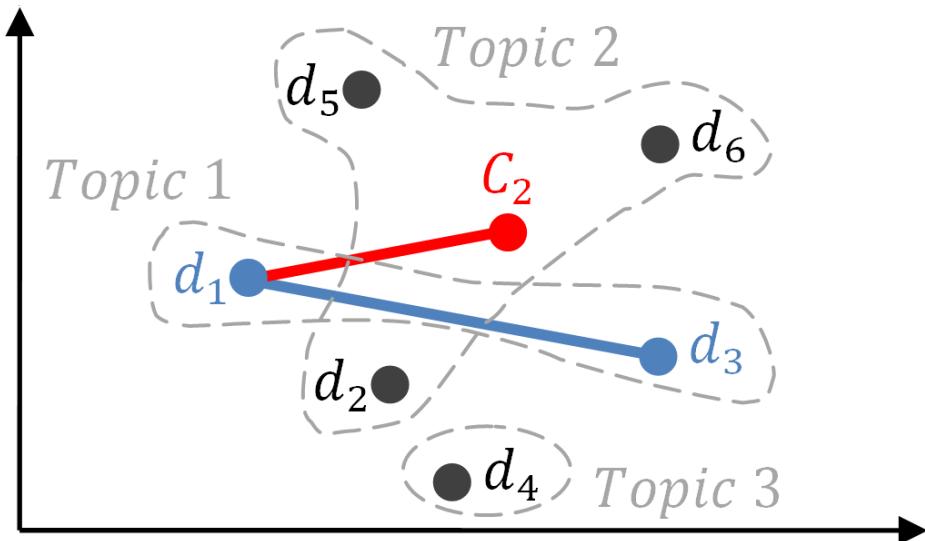
LDA Model 2

#Iterations₂; #topics₂; α_2 ; β_2



LDA Model 1

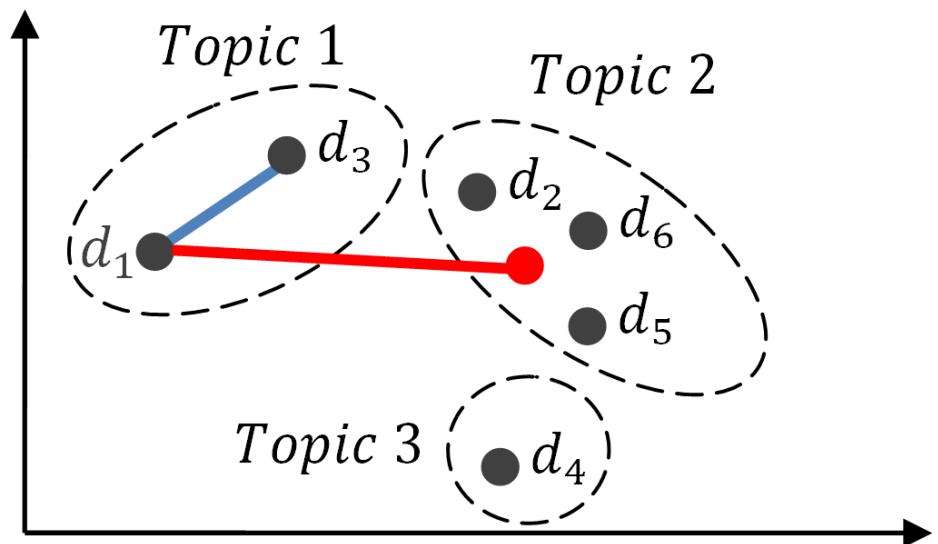
#Iterations₁; #topics₁; α_1 ; β_1



silhouette = 0.3

LDA Model 2

#Iterations₂; #topics₂; α_2 ; β_2



silhouette = 0.9

**Clusters more cohesive
Clusters well separated**

How to **evaluate** how “good” an
LDA configuration is?

How to **identify** the “good” LDA
parameter configurations?

How to identify the “good” LDA parameter configurations?

```
for numIter in [500, ...]  
    for numTopics in [5, ...]  
        for  $\alpha$  in [0.01, ...]  
            for  $\beta$  in [0.01, ...]  
                LDA[numIter , numTopics ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ]
```

Exhaustive approach:
- Discretize search space & iterate?

How to identify the “good” LDA parameter configurations?

```
for numIter in [500, ...]  
    for numTopics in [5, ...]  
        for α in [0.01, ...]  
            for β in [0.01, ...]  
                LDA[numIter, numTopics, α, β]
```

Exhaustive approach:
- Discretize search space & iterate?

Too many possibilities

Use a Genetic Algorithm

What is a Genetic Algorithm (GA)?

- Stochastic search technique based on the process of natural evolution to identify *near-optimal solutions* to search problems

**Choose a random
population of LDA
parameters**

Choose a random population of LDA parameters

**First generation:
Population of random chromosomes**

	iteration	topics	α	β
LDA Cfg. 1	510	74	0.34	2.5
LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9
...
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.74

Choose a random population of LDA parameters

First generation:
Population of random chromosomes

Individual (chromosome):
Represents one possible LDA parameter configuration

	iteration	topics	α	β
LDA Cfg. 1	510	74	0.34	2.5
LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.74

Choose a random population of LDA parameters

First generation:
Population of random chromosomes

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Represents one possible LDA parameter configuration

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LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.74

Gene:
LDA parameter

Choose a random population of LDA parameters

	iteration	topics	α	β
LDA Cfg. 1	510	74	0.34	2.5
LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9
...
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.74

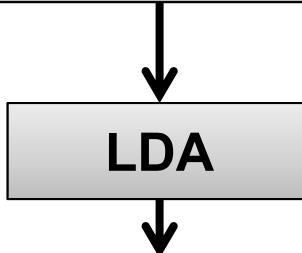
Choose a random population of LDA parameters



LDA

	iteration	topics	α	β
LDA Cfg. 1	510	74	0.34	2.5
LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9
...
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.74

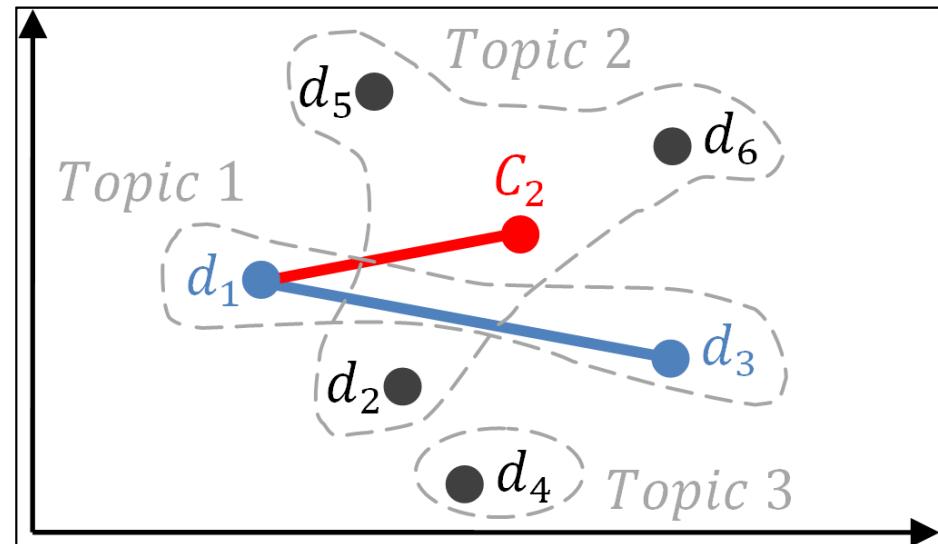
Choose a random population of LDA parameters



	iteration	topics	α	β
LDA Cfg. 1	510	74	0.34	2.5
LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9
...
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.74

Determine **fitness** of each *chromosome* (individual)

Fitness = silhouette coefficient



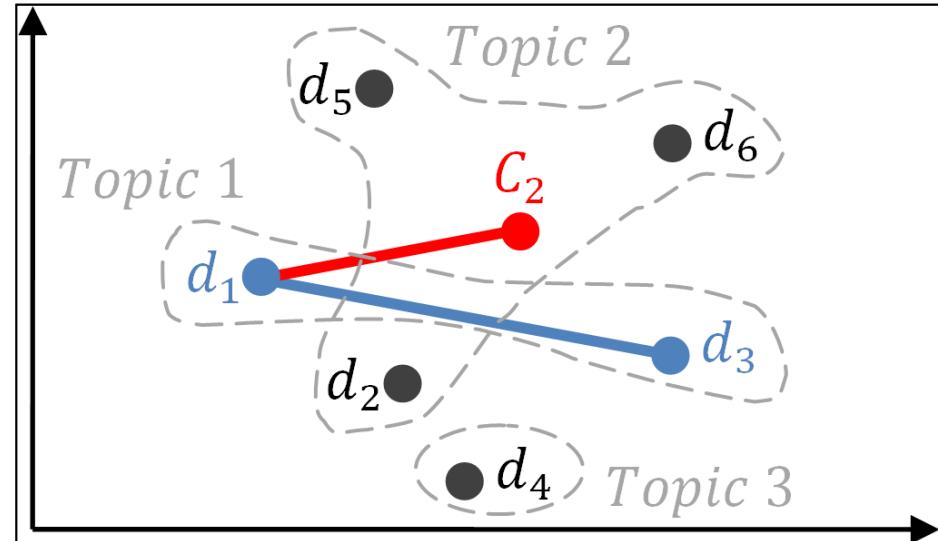
Choose a random population of LDA parameters

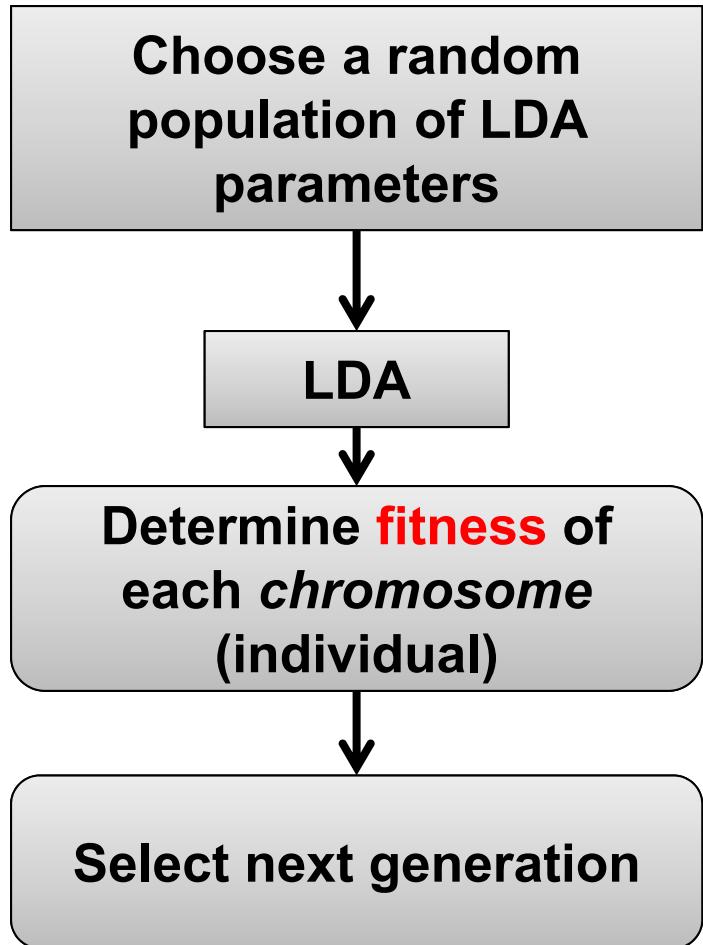
LDA

Determine **fitness** of each *chromosome* (individual)

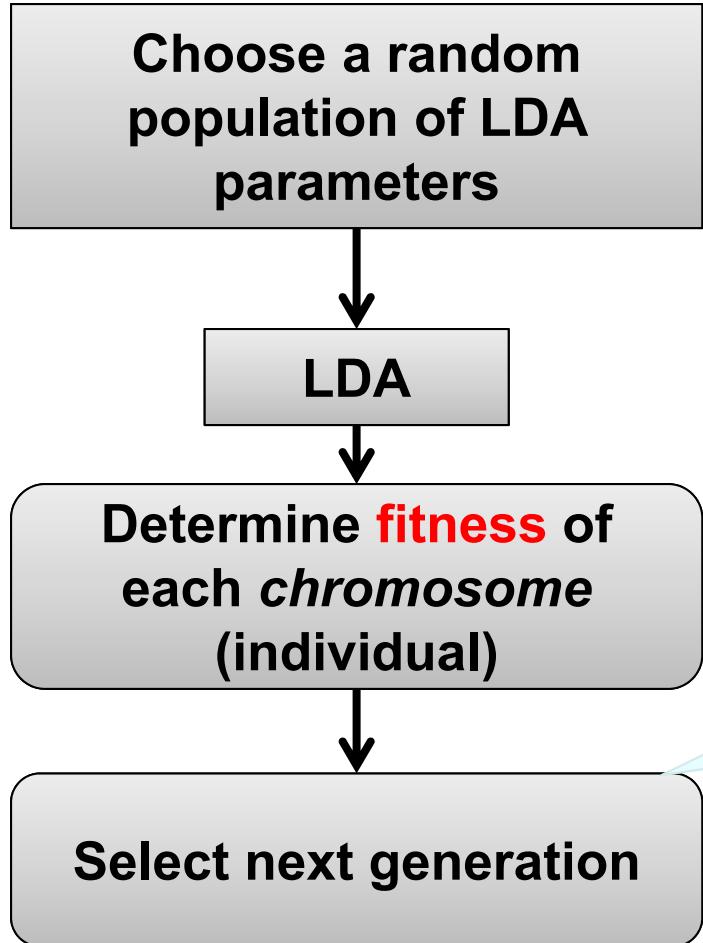
	iteration	topics	α	β	Fitness
LDA Cfg. 1	510	74	0.34	2.5	0.2
LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9	0.35
...
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.74	0.1

Fitness = silhouette coefficient



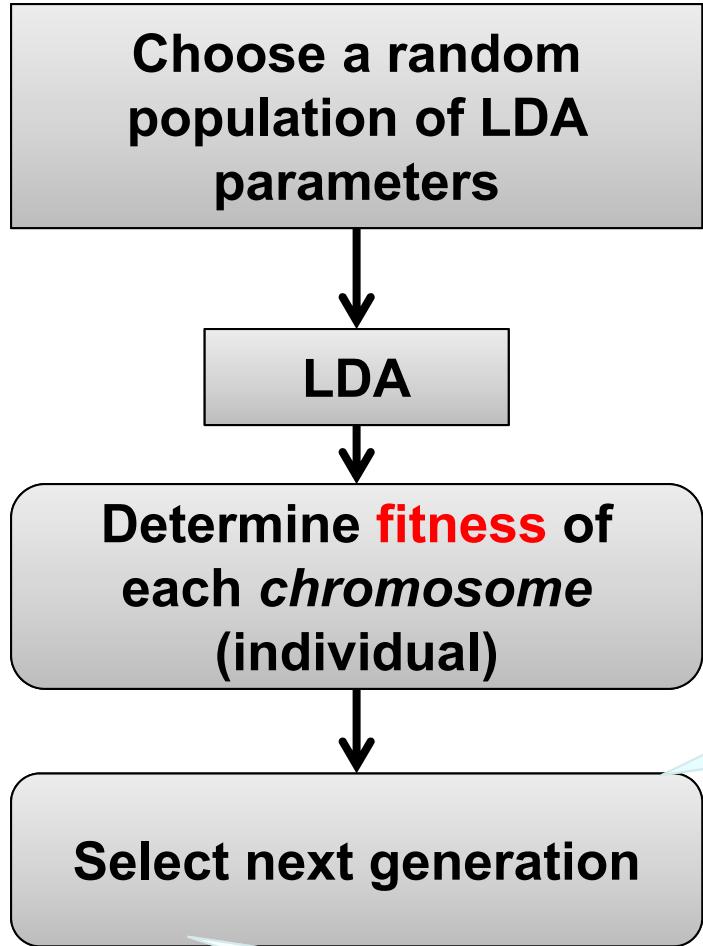


	iteration	topics	α	β	Fitness
LDA Cfg. 1	510	74	0.34	2.5	0.2
LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9	0.35
...
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.74	0.1



	iteration	topics	α	β	Fitness
LDA Cfg. 1	510	74	0.34	2.5	0.2
LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9	0.35
...
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.7	0.1

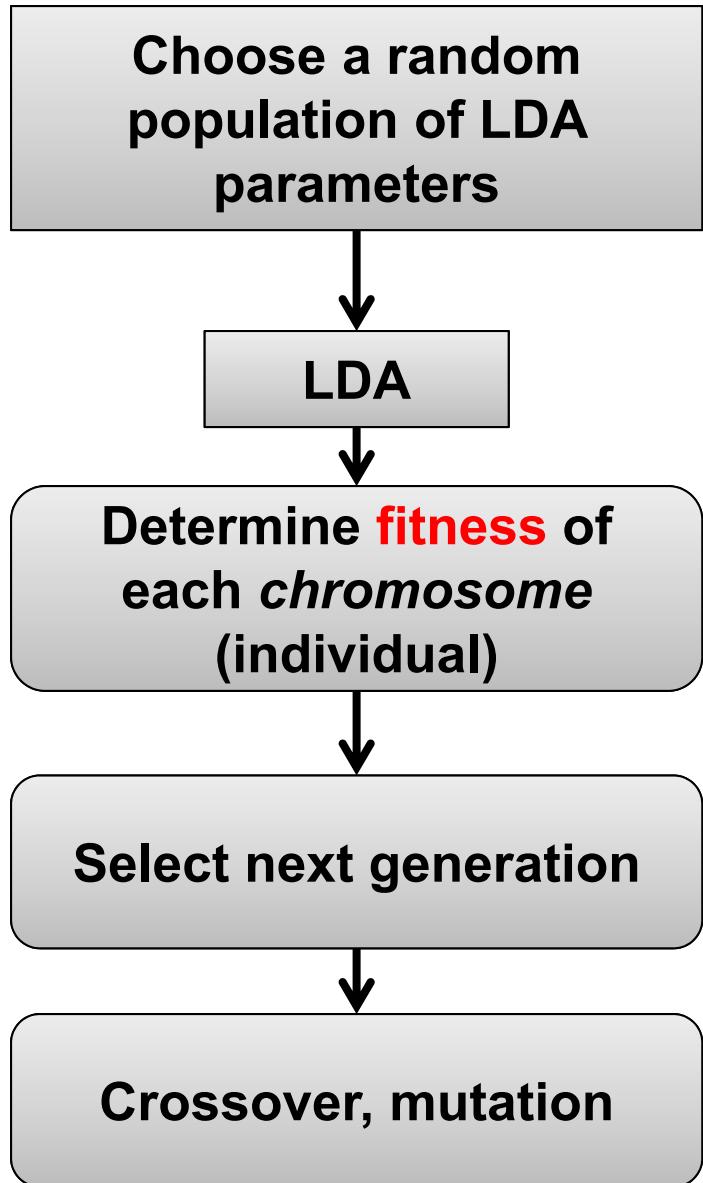
Elitism:
best (n=2) configurations will survive for next generation

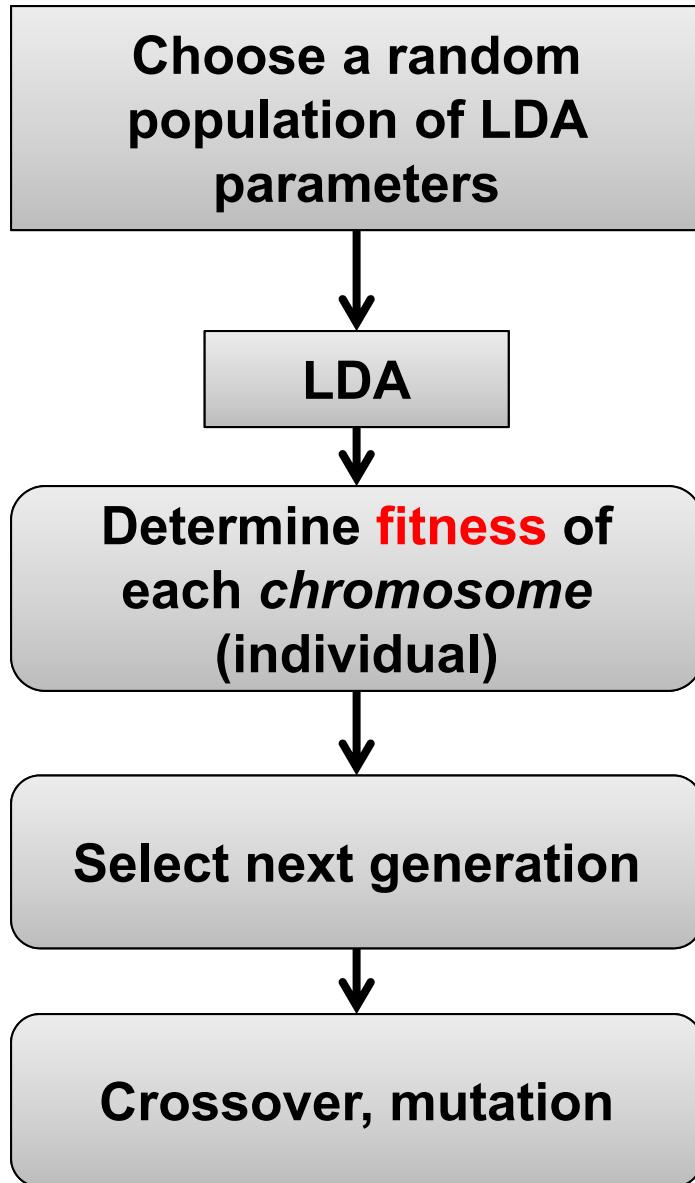


	iteration	topics	α	β	Fitness
LDA Cfg. 1	510	74	0.34	2.5	0.2
LDA Cfg. 2	725	128	1.28	0.4	0.4
LDA Cfg. 3	814	97	0.43	0.9	0.35
...
LDA Cfg. n	618	250	1.14	0.7	0.1

Elitism:
best (n=2) configurations will survive for next generation

Roulette selection:
Chance of chromosomes to contribute to next generation is proportional to their **fitness**

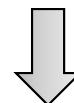




Crossover

	iteration	topics	α	β
LDA Cfg. i	510	74	0.34	2.5

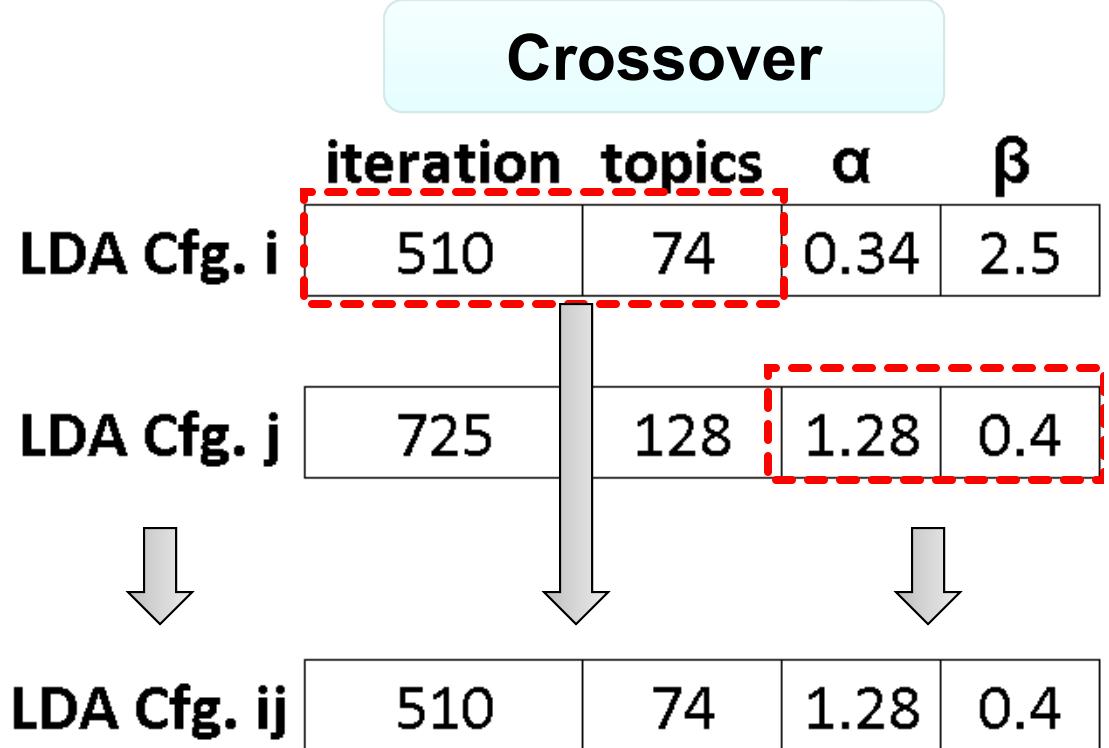
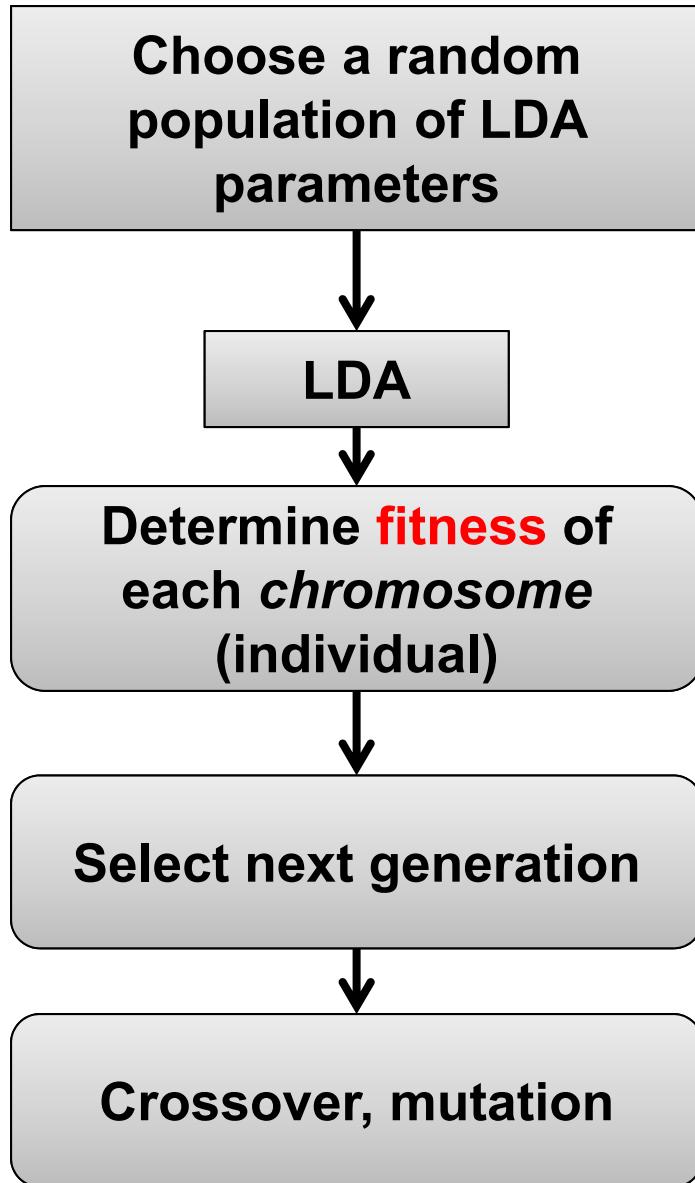
LDA Cfg. j	725	128	1.28	0.4
------------	-----	-----	------	-----

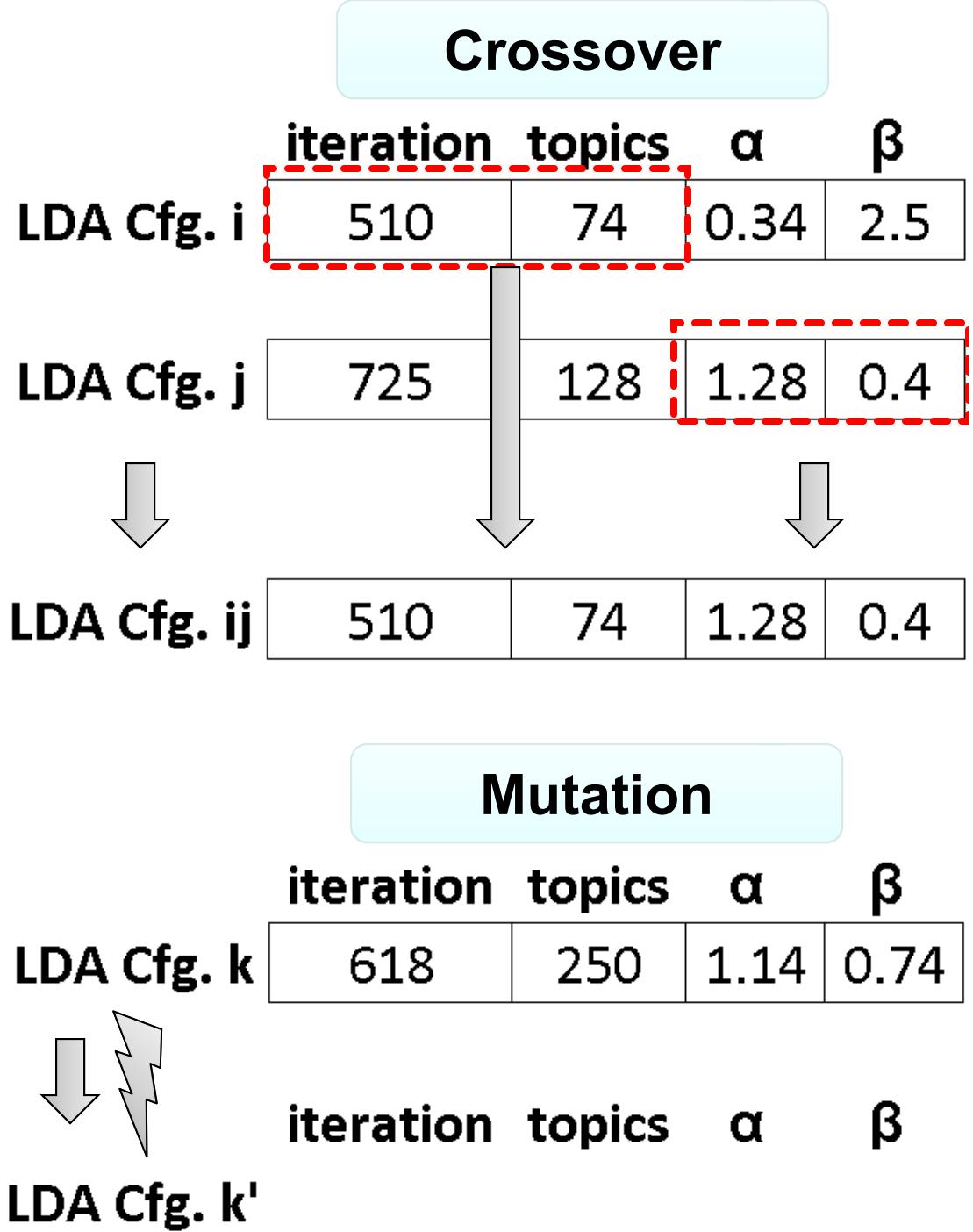
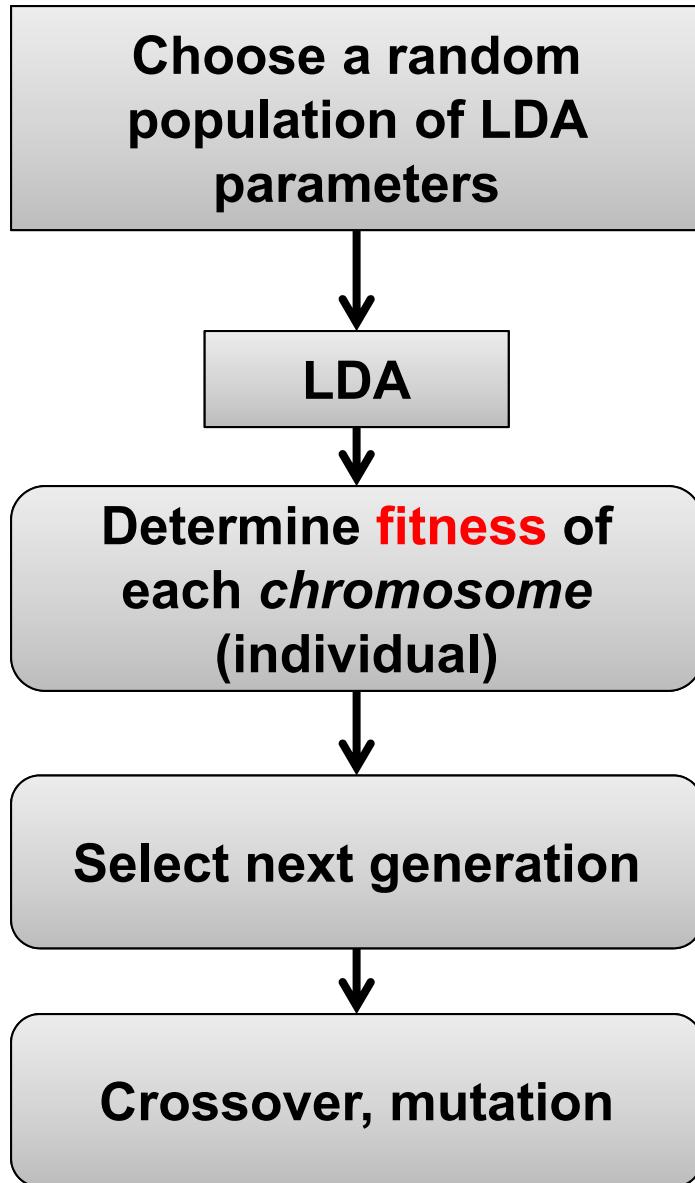


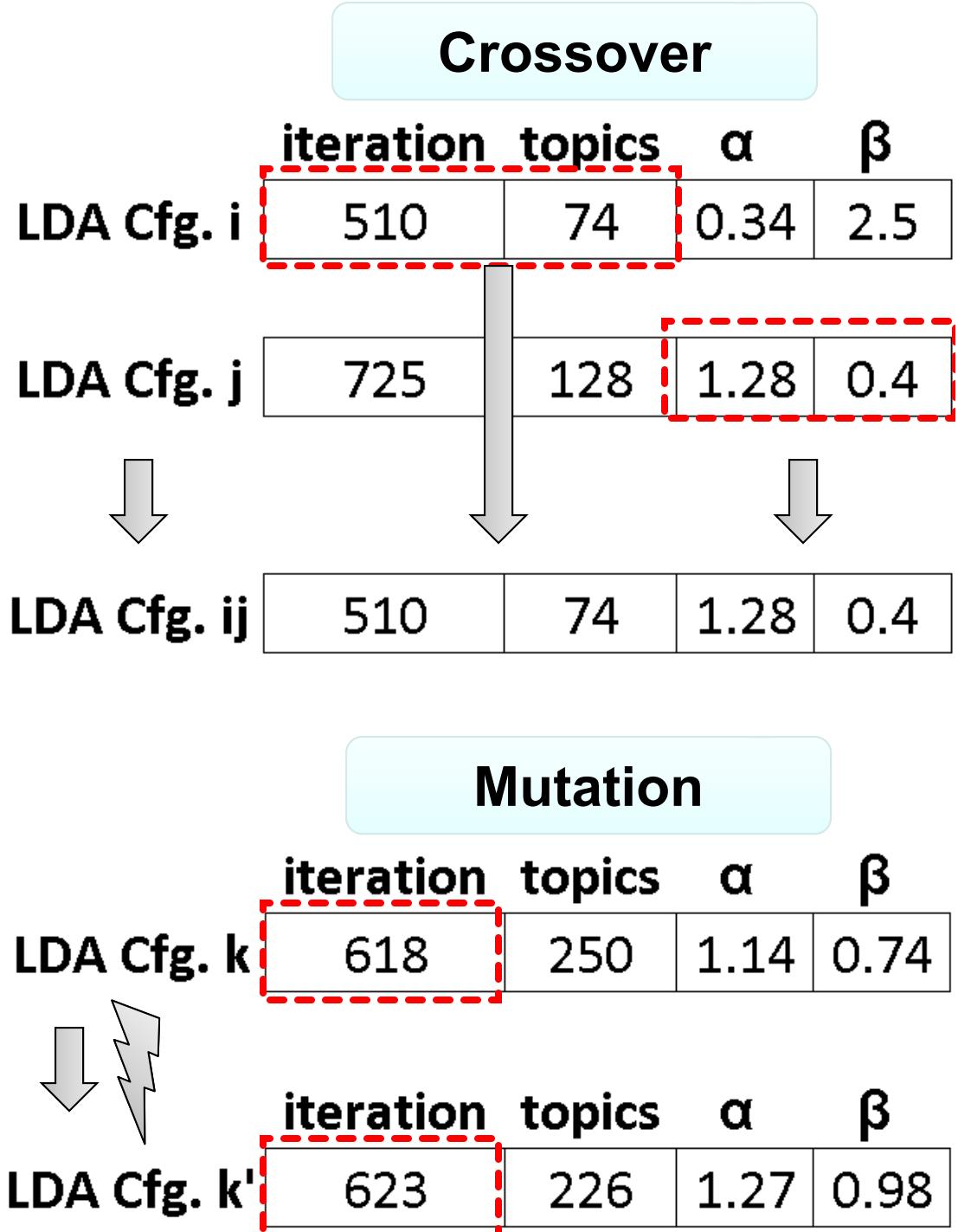
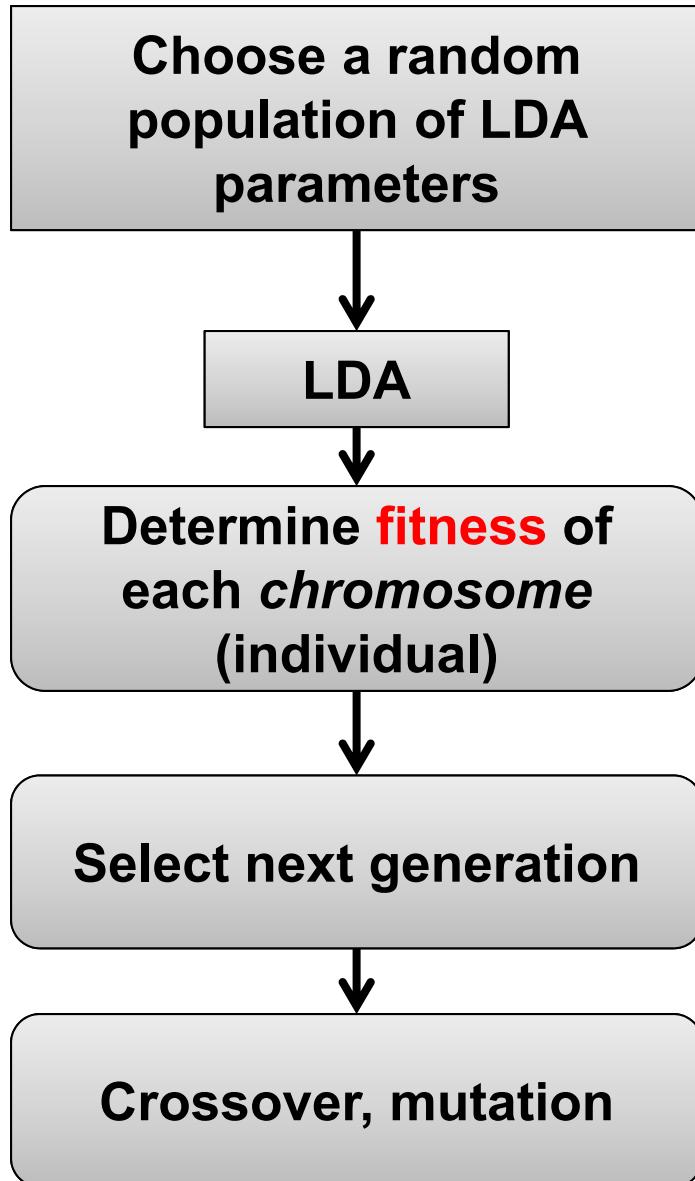
LDA Cfg. ij

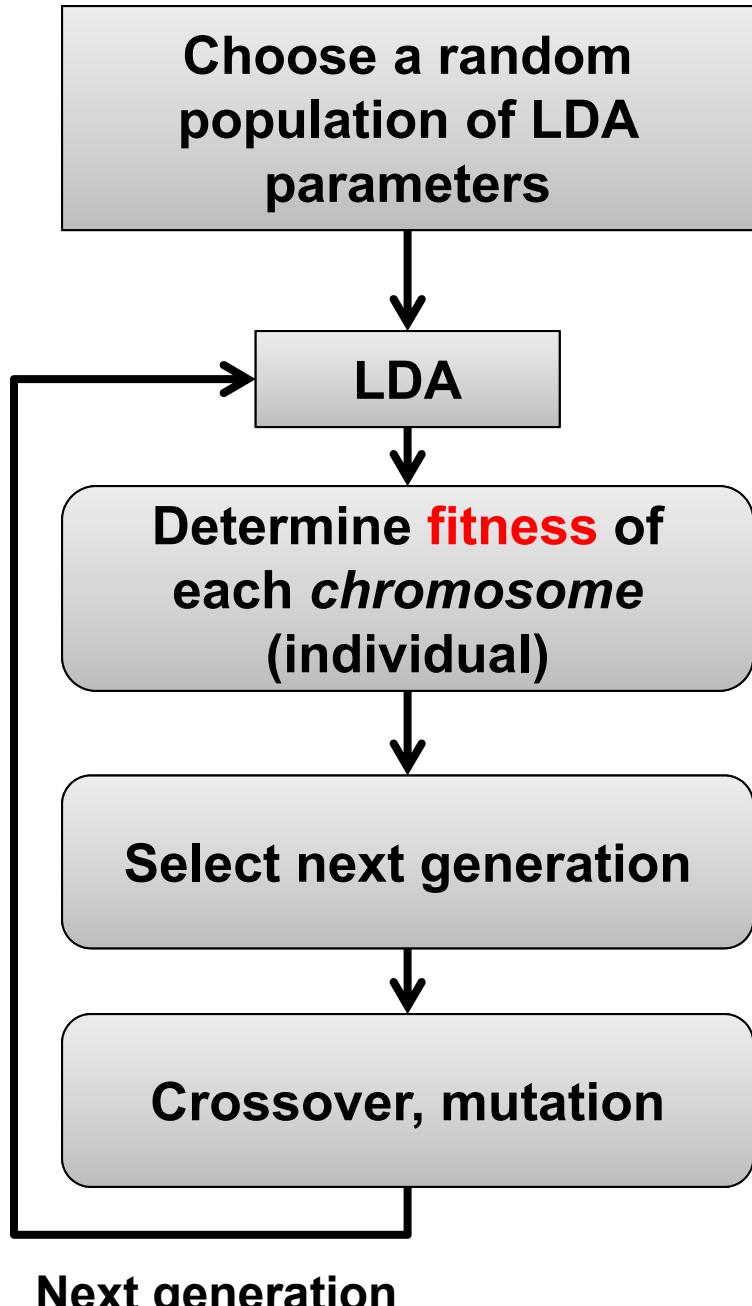


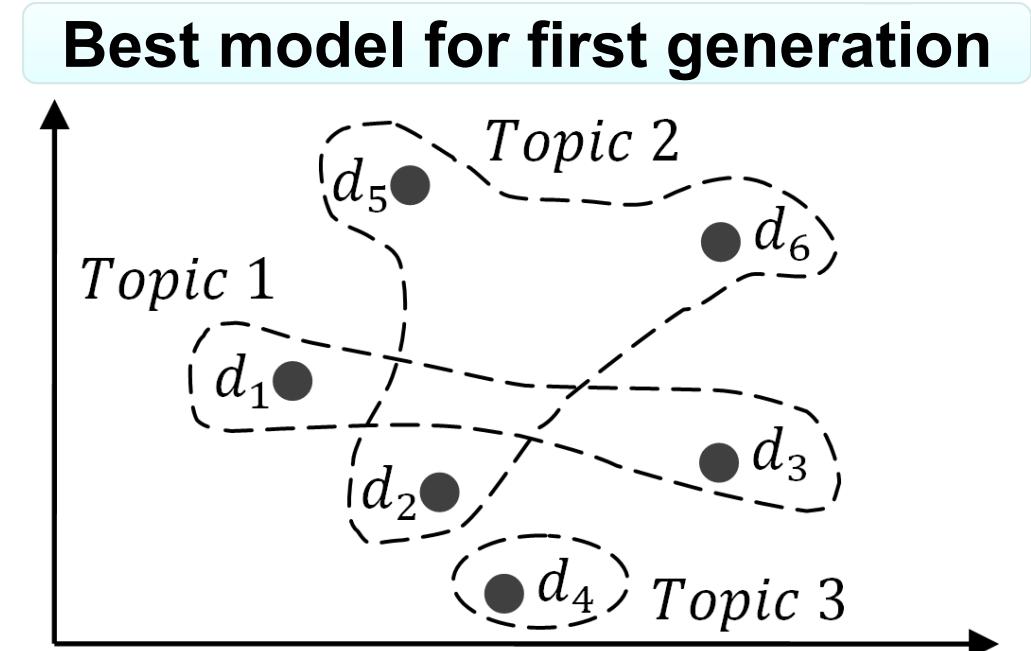
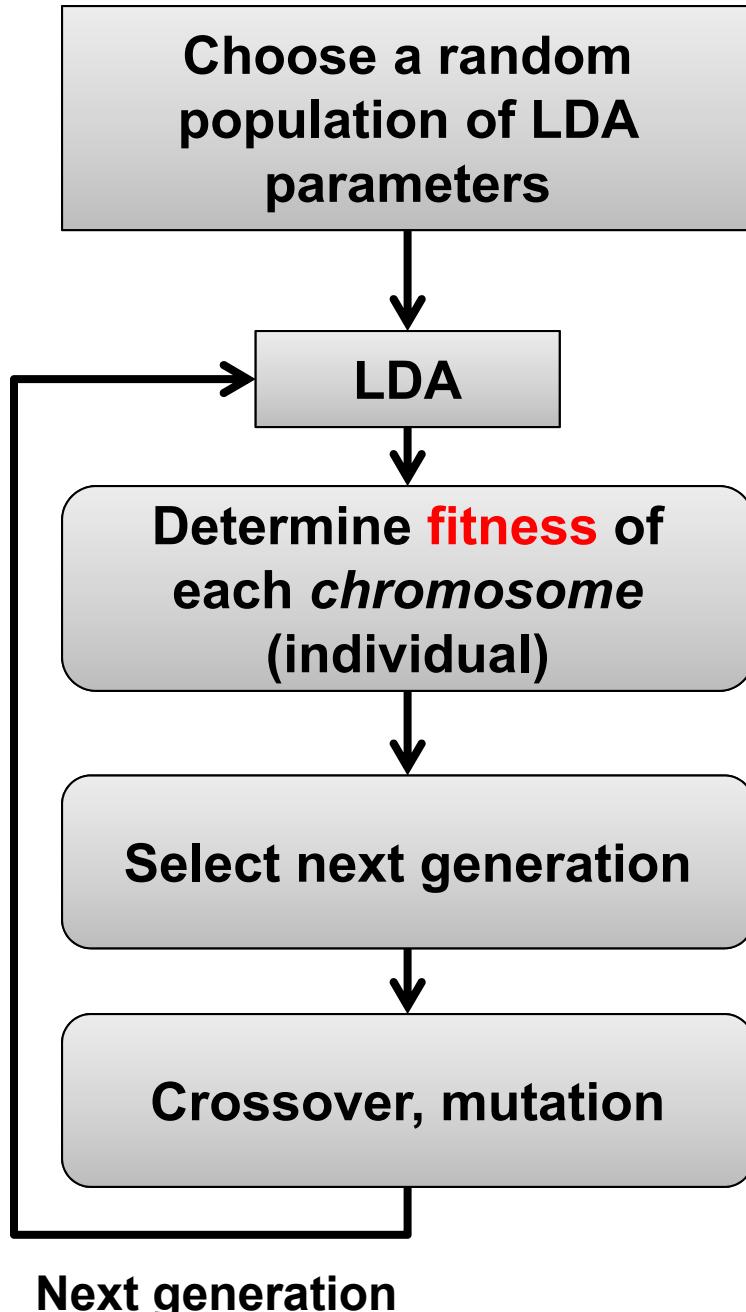
Crossover, mutation

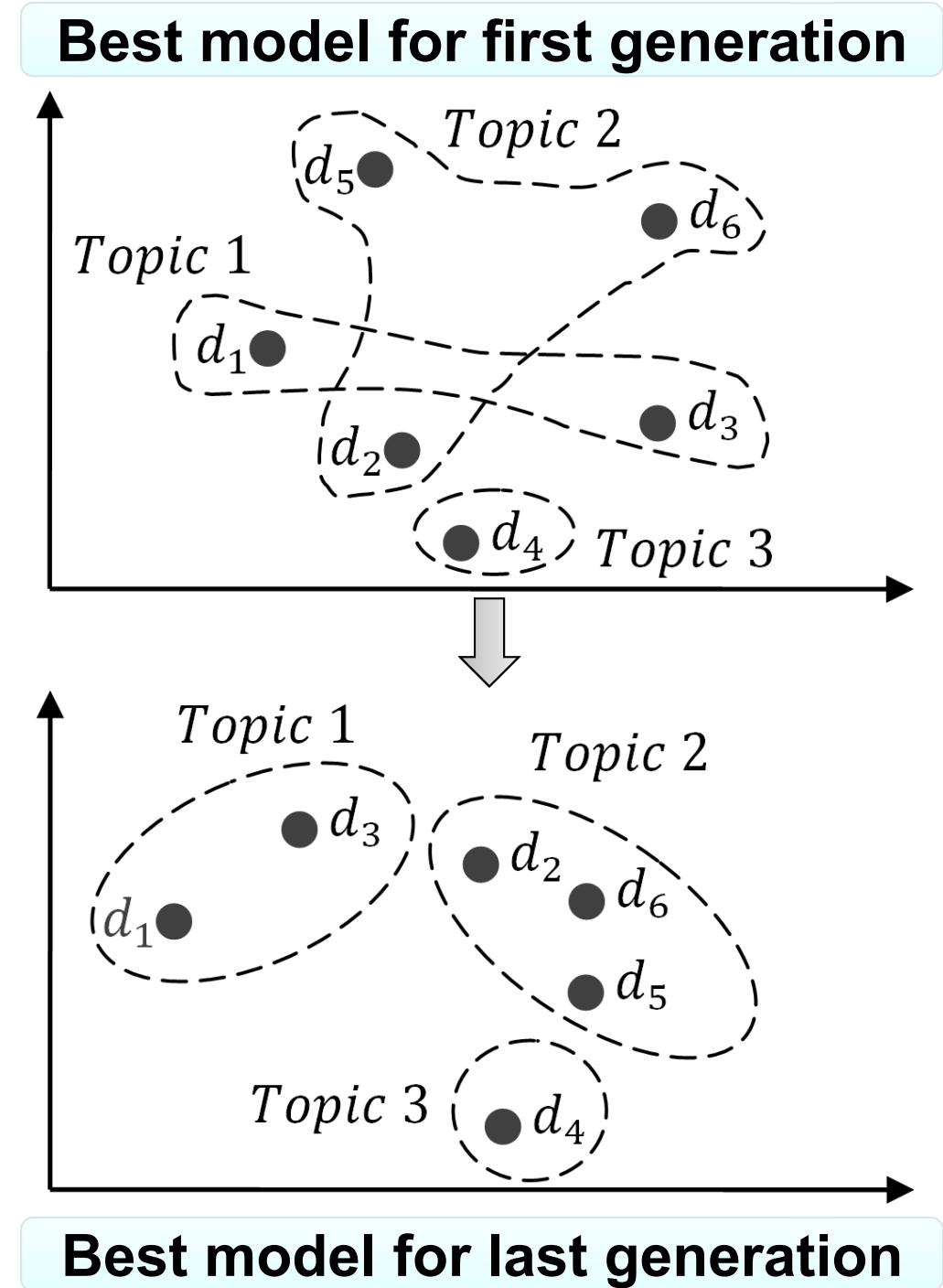
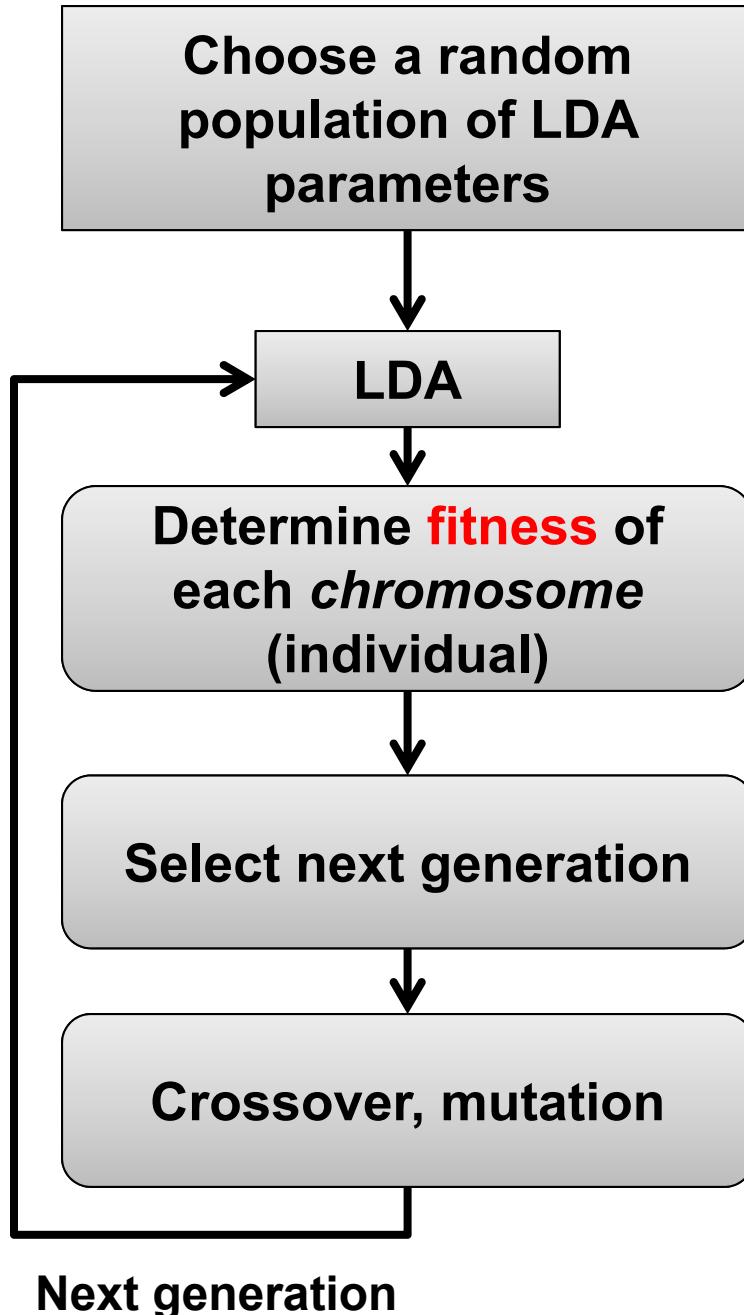


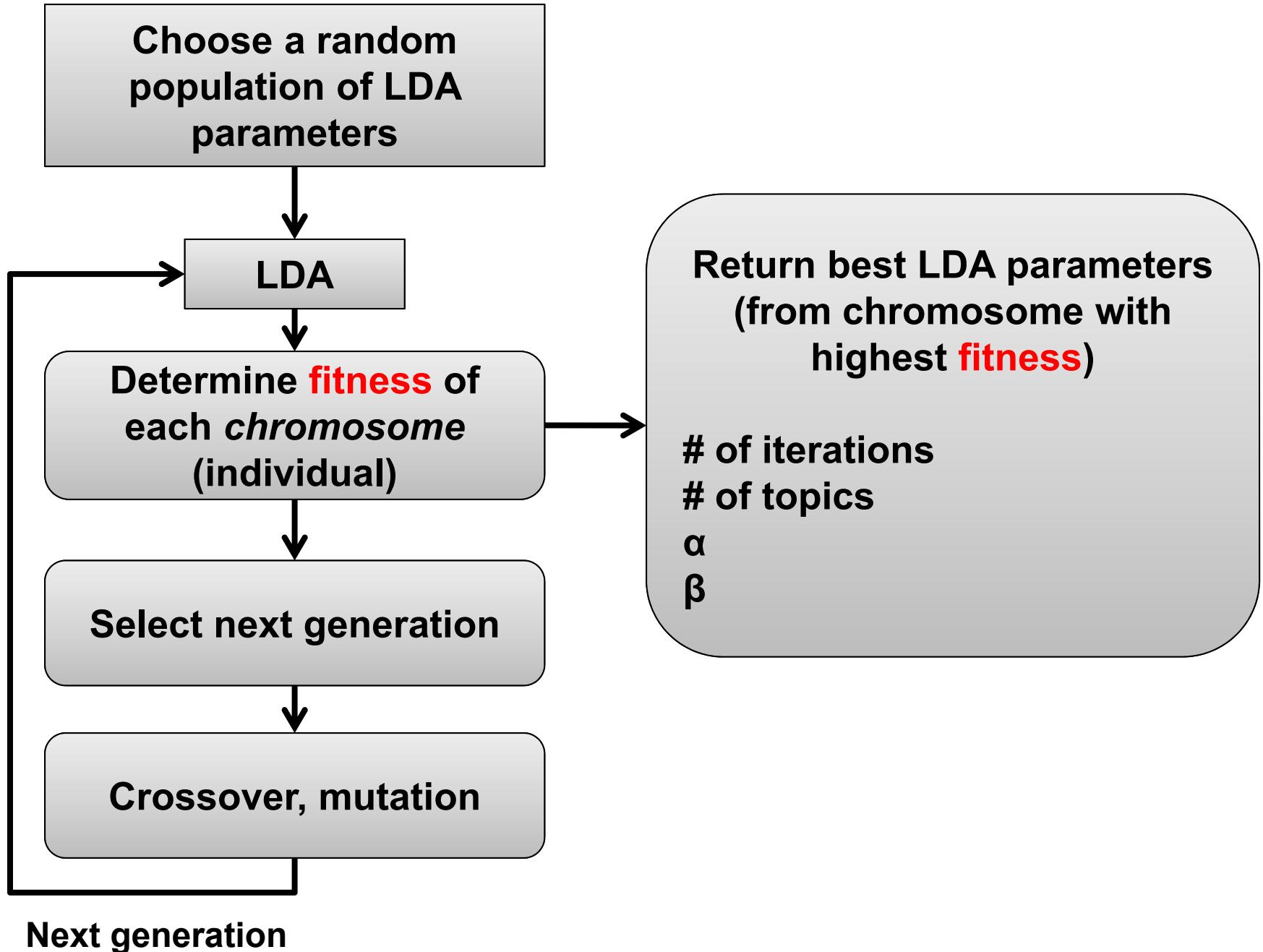




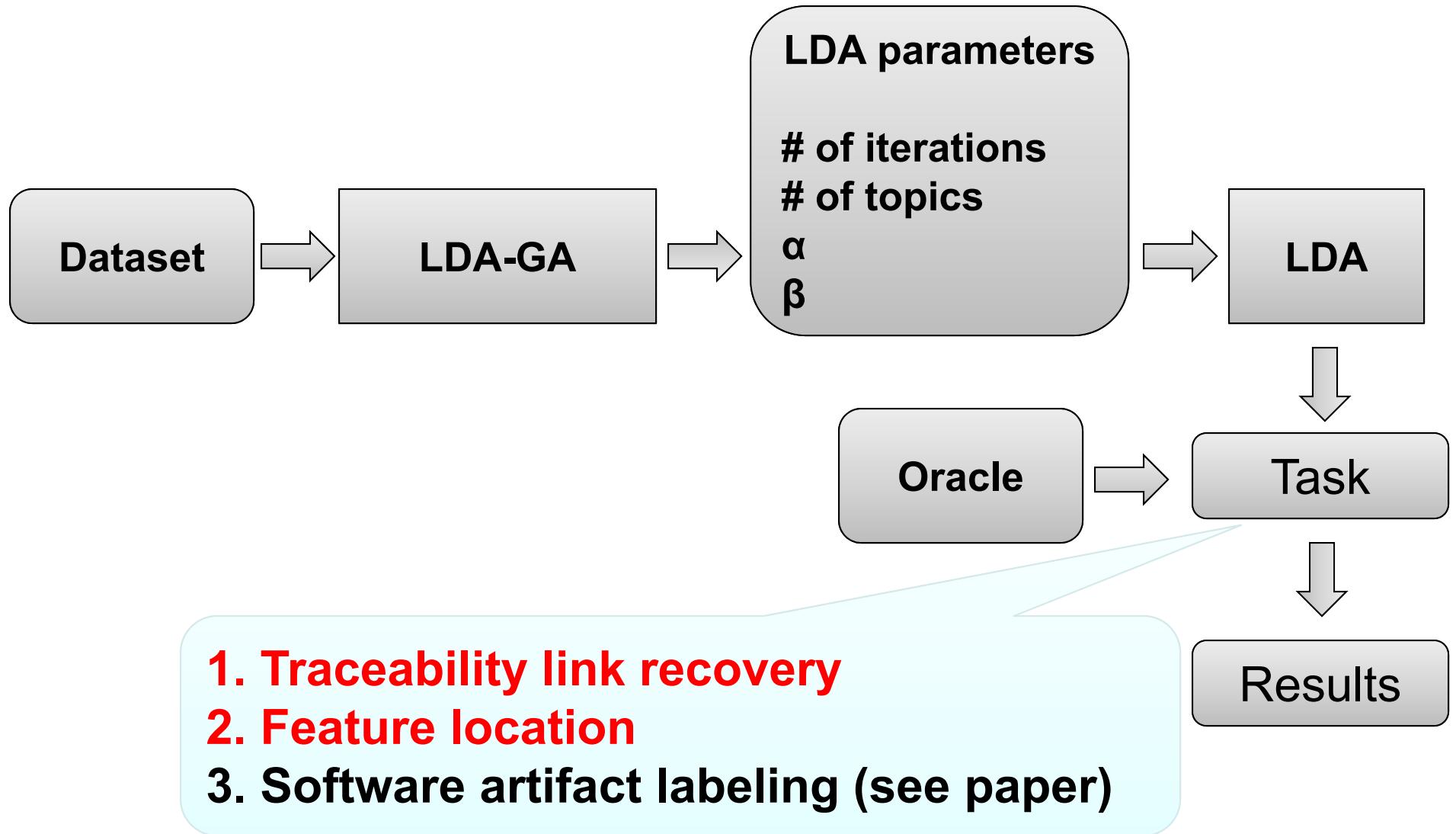








Evaluation...



Evaluation: Traceability Link Recovery

- Recover links between *use cases* and *code classes*

System	Size	# use cases	# code classes	# correct links
EasyClinic	20KLOC	30	47	93
eTour	45KLOC	58	174	366

Combinatorial:

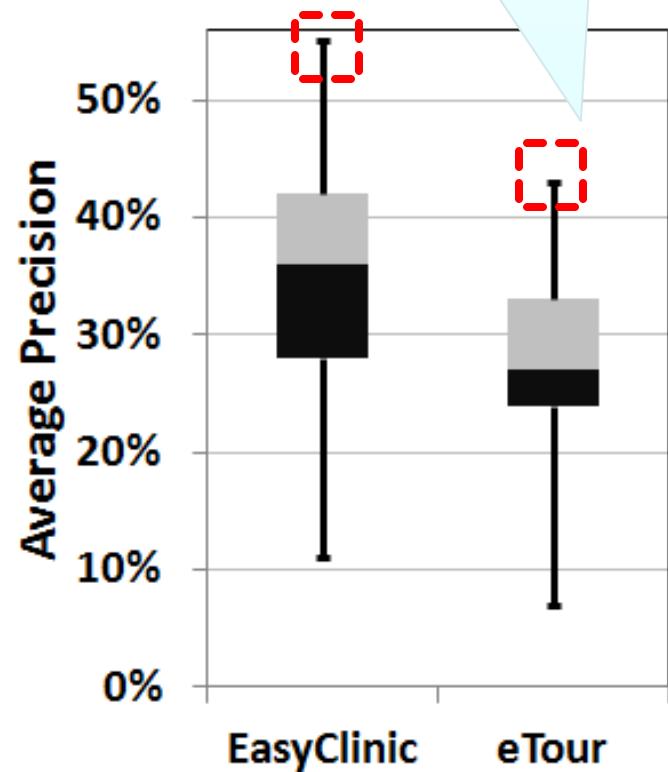
```
for numIter in [500, ...]  
    for numTopics in [5, ...]  
        for  $\alpha$  in [0.01, ...]  
            for  $\beta$  in [0.01, ...]  
                LDA[numIter , numTopics ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ]
```

Choose LDA parameters
with best average
precision using an *oracle*

Combinatorial:

```
for numIter in [500, ...]  
    for numTopics in [5, ...]  
        for α in [0.01, ...]  
            for β in [0.01, ...]  
                LDA[numIter , numTopics , α, β]
```

Choose LDA parameters
with best average
precision using an *oracle*



Combinatorial:

```
for numIter in [500, ...]  
    for numTopics in [5, ...]  
        for  $\alpha$  in [0.01, ...]  
            for  $\beta$  in [0.01, ...]  
                LDA[numIter , numTopics ,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ]
```

Choose LDA parameters
with best average
precision using an *oracle*

LDA-GA:

run LDA-GA 30 times (to
account for randomness)

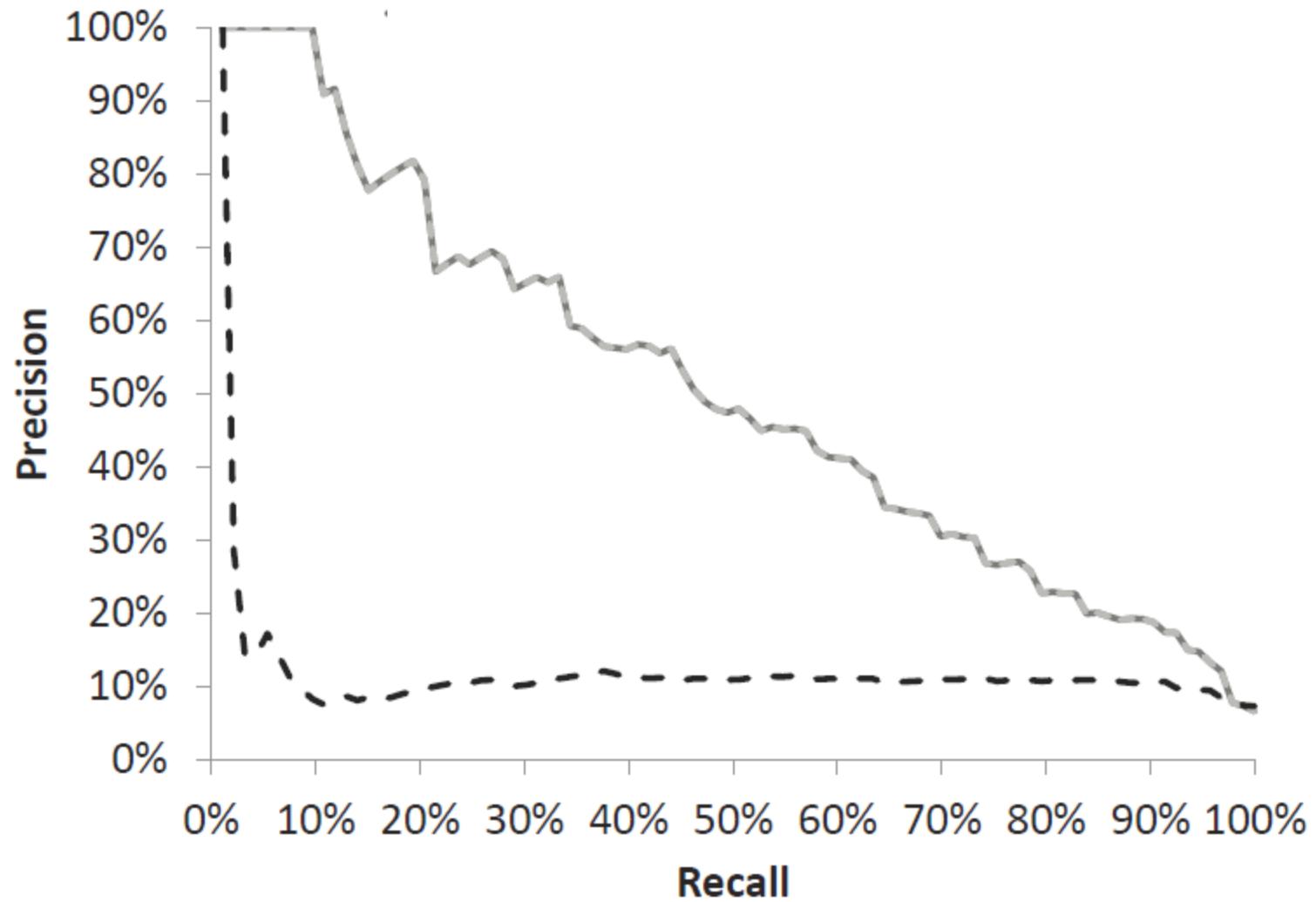
Choose LDA parameters
corresponding to median
fitness over 30 runs

Baseline:

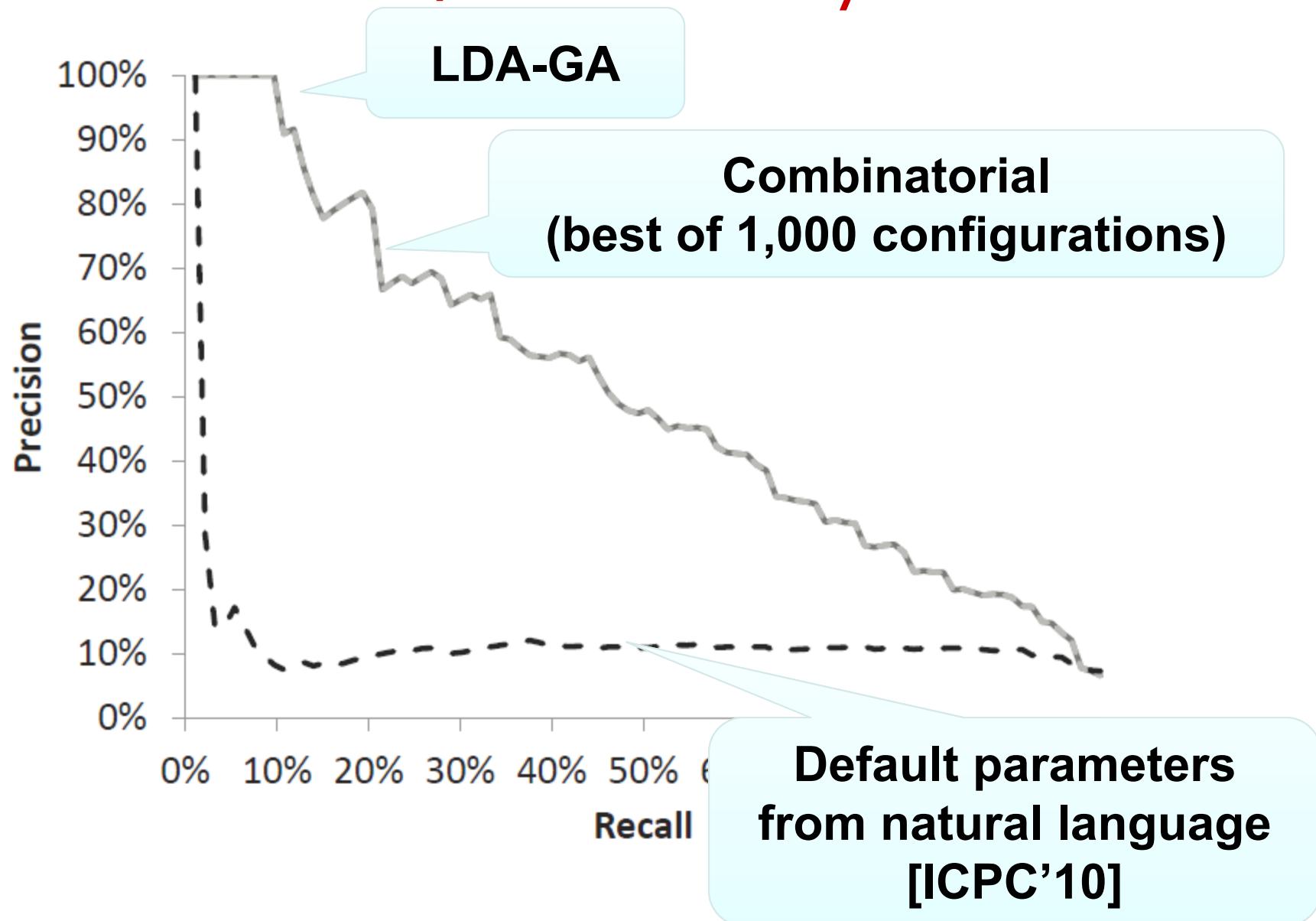
[ICPC'10]

Use default LDA
parameters from natural
language

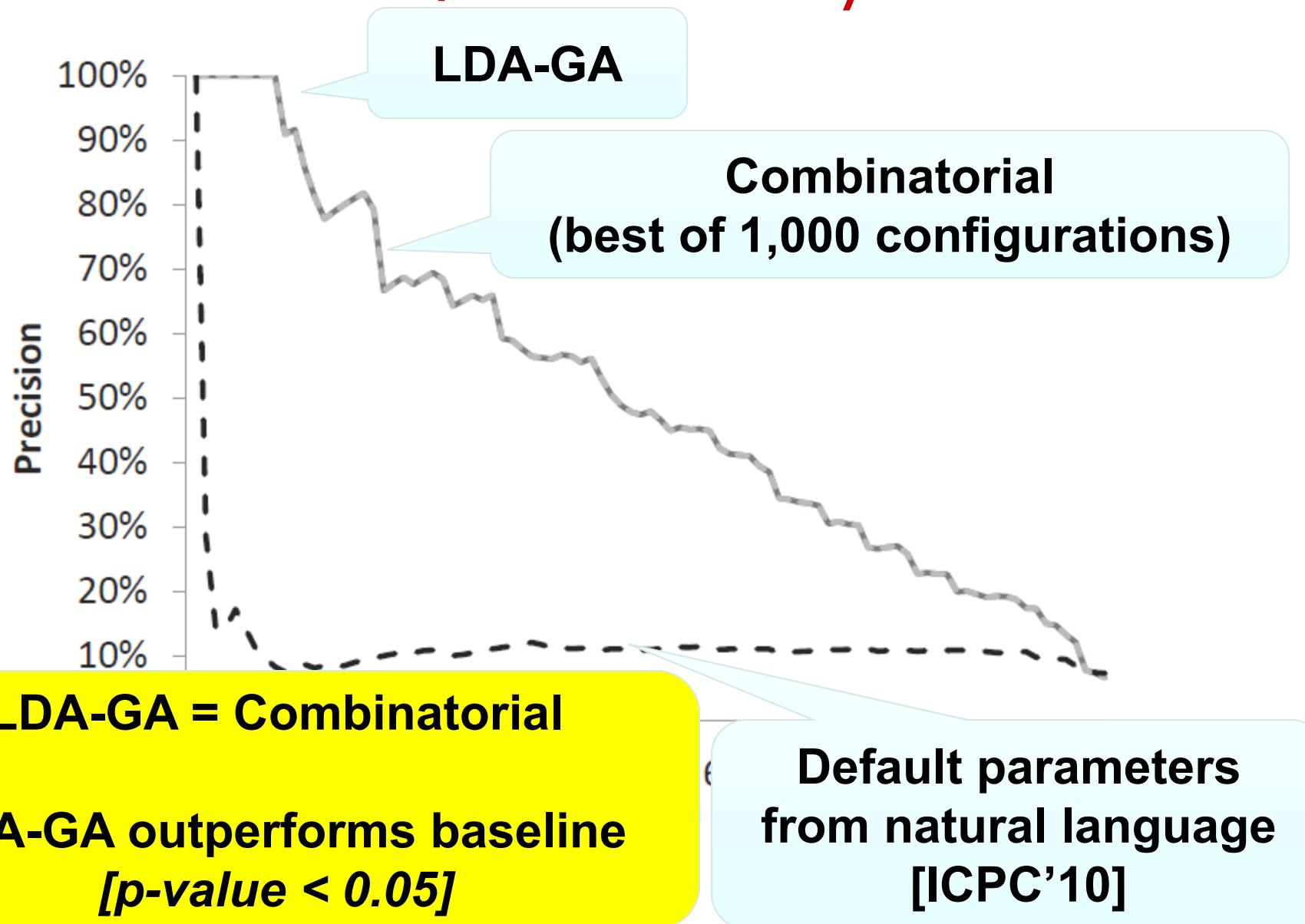
Precision/Recall EasyClinic



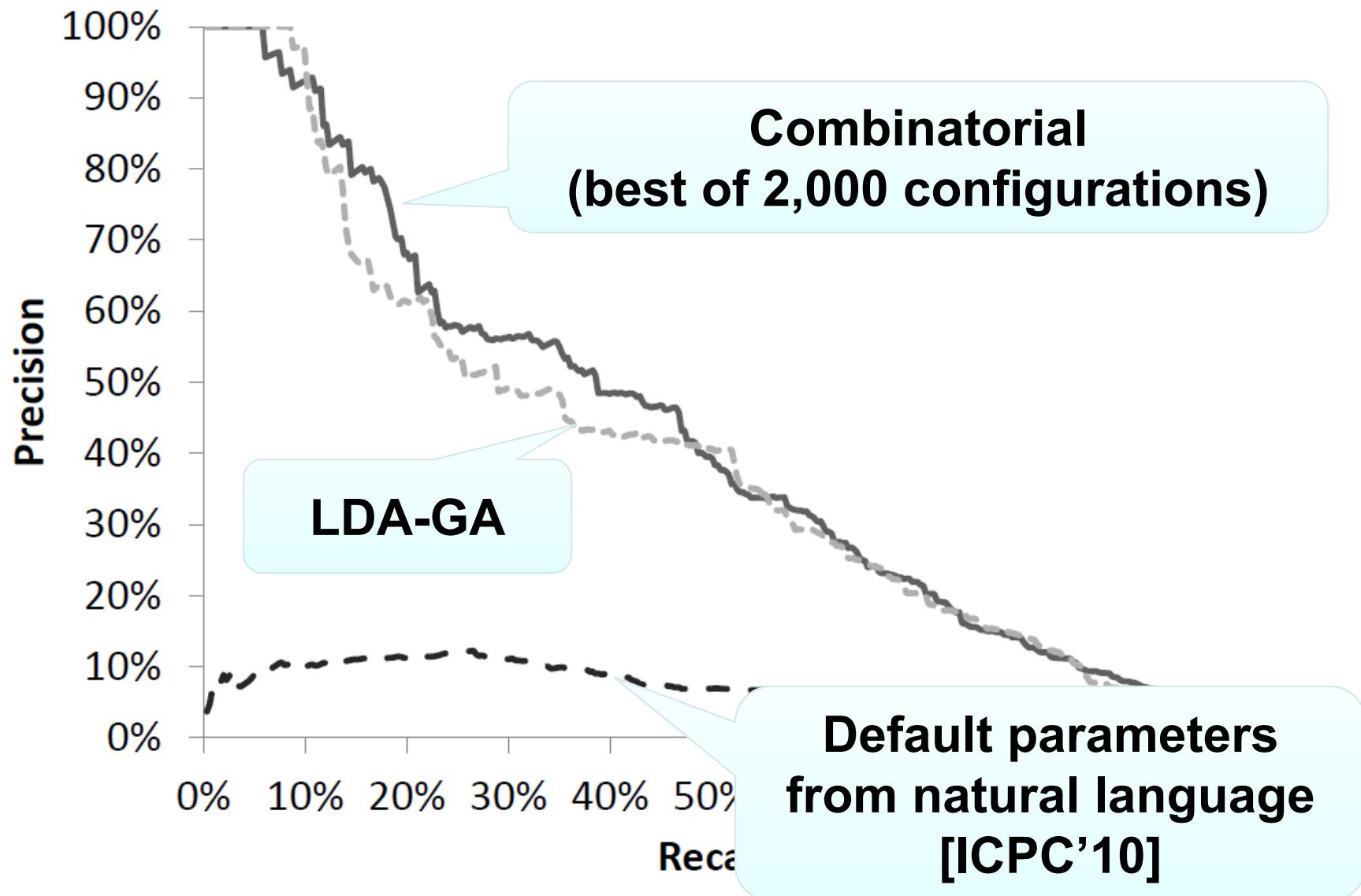
Precision/Recall EasyClinic



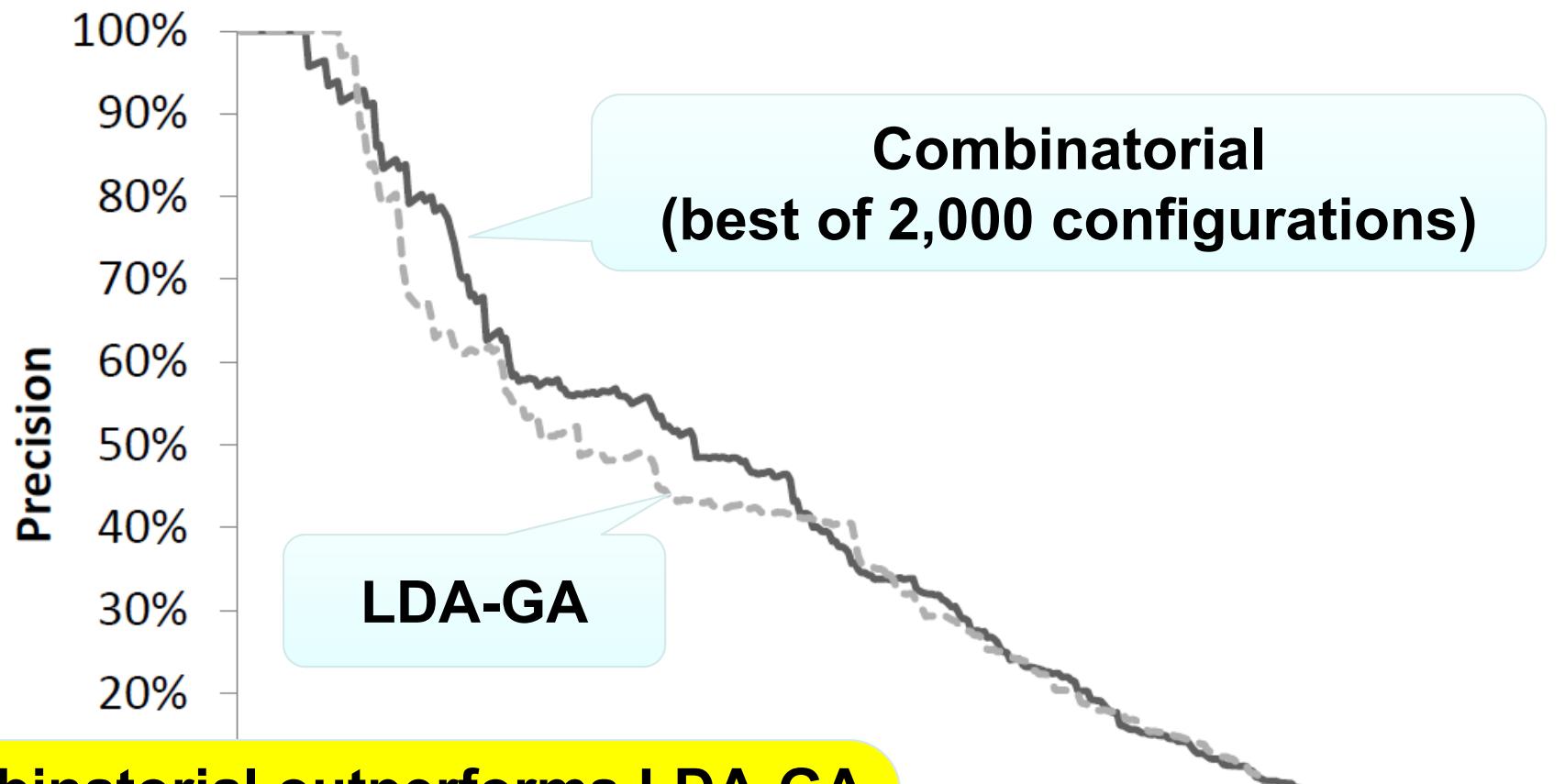
Precision/Recall EasyClinic



Precision/Recall eTour



Precision/Recall eTour



Combinatorial outperforms LDA-GA
[$p\text{-value} < 0.05$]

LDA-GA outperforms baseline

Default parameters
from natural language
[ICPC'10]

Evaluation: Feature location

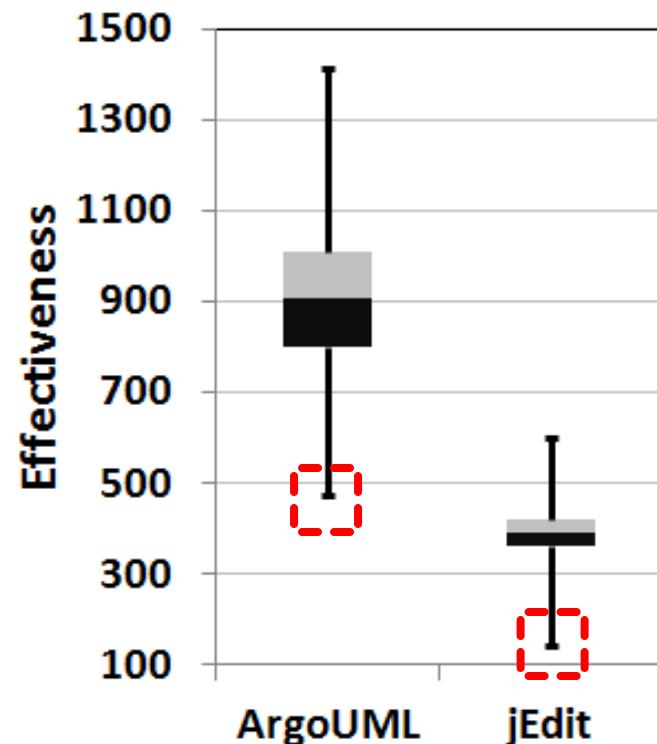
- Identify methods related to a maintenance task (e.g., bug, feature)

System	Size	# features	# methods
jEdit	104KLOC	150	6,413
ArgoUML	149KLOC	91	11,000

Combinatorial:

```
for numIter in [500, ...]  
  for numTopics in [5, ...]  
    for  $\alpha$  in [0.01, ...]  
      for  $\beta$  in [0.01, ...]  
        LDA[numIter , numTopics ,  $\alpha$  ,  $\beta$ ]
```

Choose LDA parameters with
best average effectiveness
using an *oracle*



Combinatorial:

```
for numIter in [500, ...]  
    for numTopics in [5, ...]  
        for α in [0.01, ...]  
            for β in [0.01, ...]  
                LDA[numIter , numTopics , α, β]
```

Choose LDA parameters with
best average effectiveness
using an *oracle*

LDA-GA:

run LDA-GA 30 times (to
account for randomness)

Choose LDA parameters
corresponding to median
fitness over 30 runs

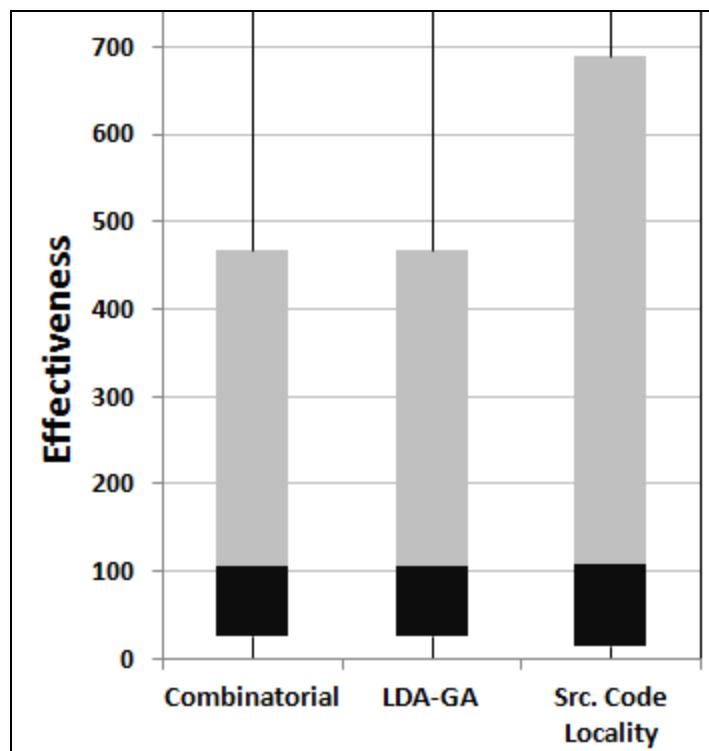
Baseline:

[SCAM'10]

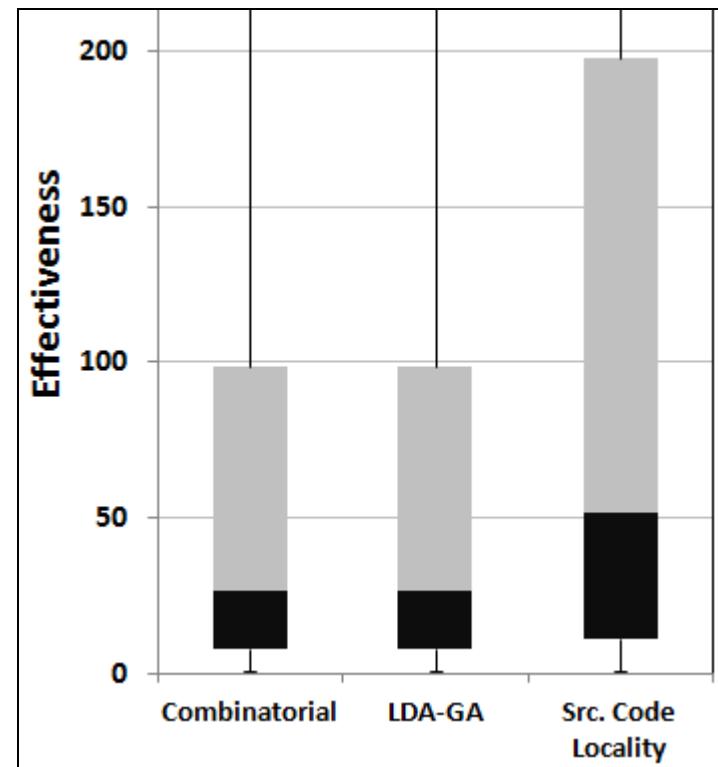
Use LDA parameters from
source locality heuristic

Effectiveness measure

ArgoUML

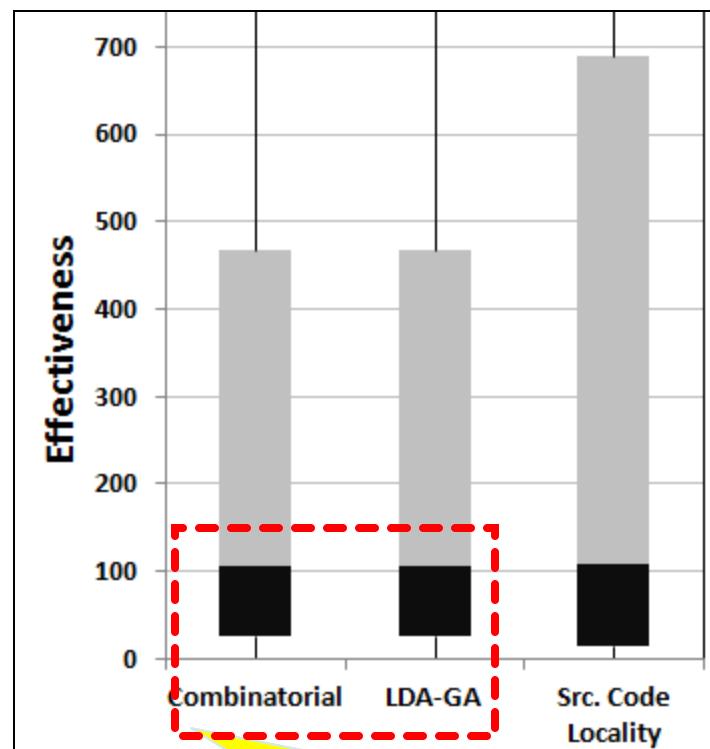


jEdit

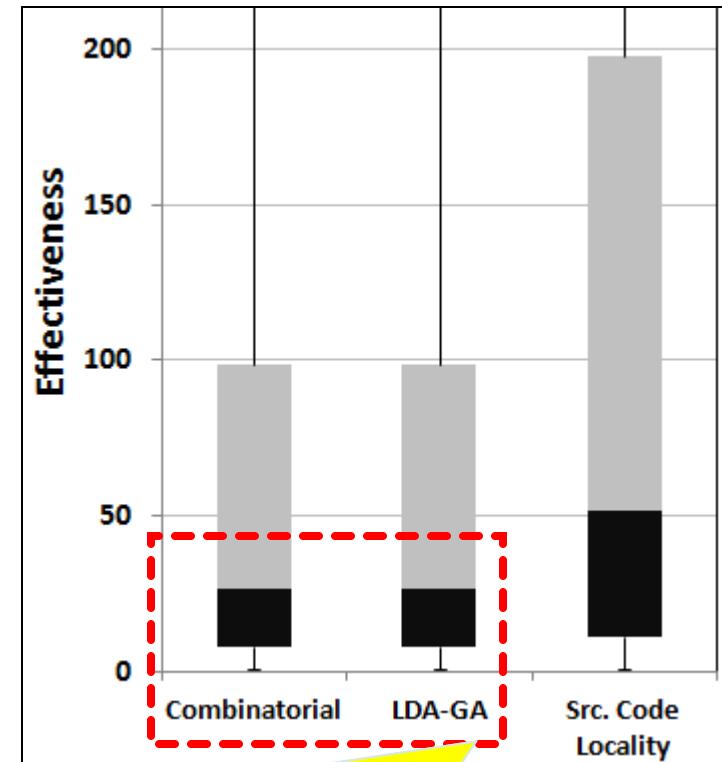


Effectiveness measure

ArgoUML



jEdit

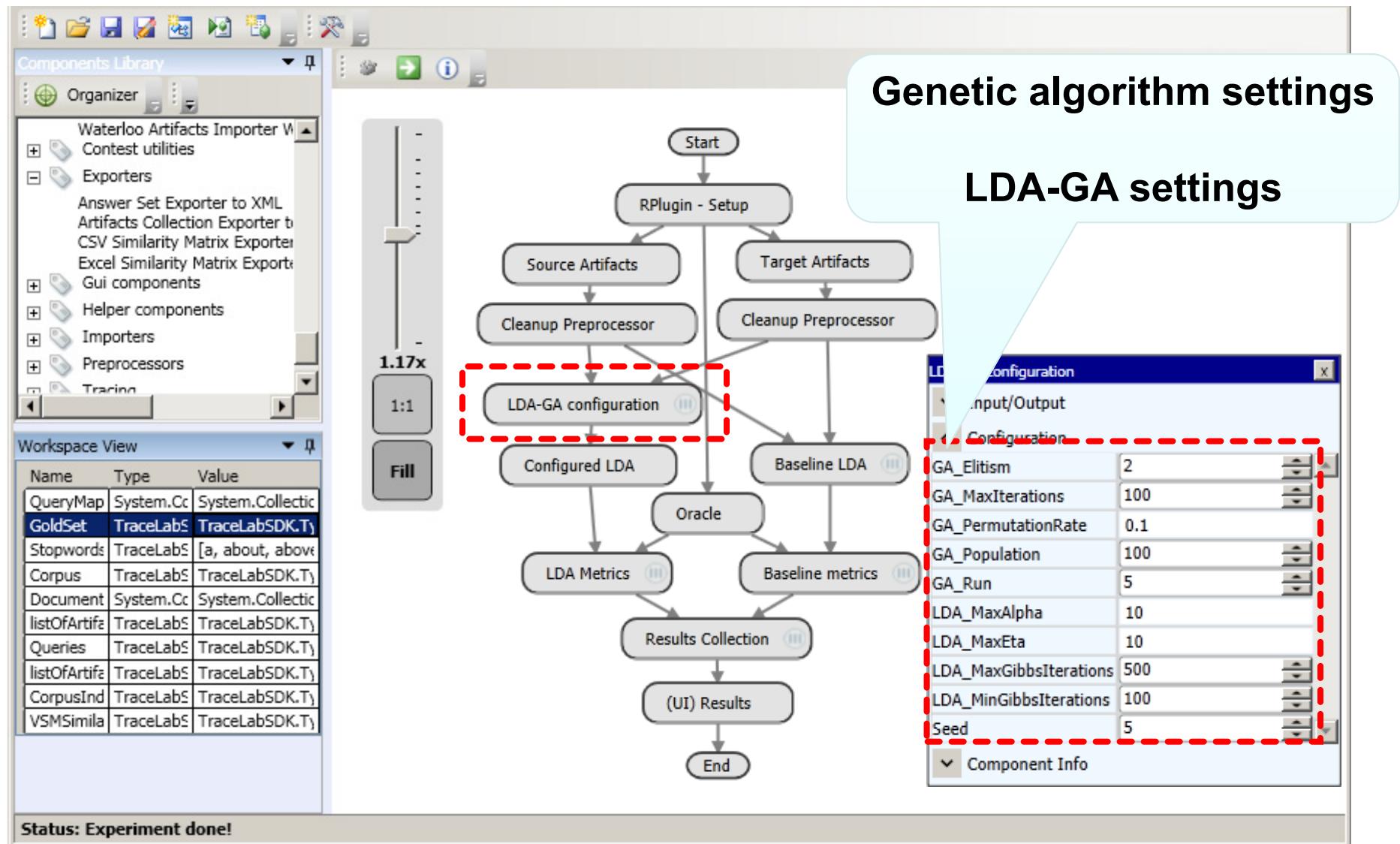


LDA-GA = Combinatorial
LDA-GA outperforms baseline [$p\text{-value} < 0.05$]

Conclusions

- Showed the impact of setting the LDA parameters on the results
- We proposed LDA-GA, a genetic based approach to automatically configure and find the near-optimal solution for LDA parameters
 - Dataset dependent
 - Oracle & task independent
- The approach was evaluated on three maintenance tasks

LDA-GA in TraceLab



Thank you! Questions?

<http://www.distat.unimol.it/reports/LDA-GA/>

<http://www.cs.wm.edu/semeru/data/tefse13/>



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DEL MOLISE



References

- [Hindle et al., ICSE'12] A. Hindle, E. T. Barr, Z. Su, M. Gabel, and P. T. Devanbu, "On the naturalness of software," in Proc. of the 34th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE'12), Zurich, Switzerland, June 2-9, 2012, pp. 837–847.
- [ICPC'10] R. Oliveto, M. Gethers, D. Poshyvanyk, and A. De Lucia, "On the equivalence of information retrieval methods for automated traceability link recovery," in Proc of the 18th IEEE International Conference on Program Comprehension (ICPC'10), Braga, Portugal, 2010, pp. 68–71.
- [SCAM'10] S. Grant and J. R. Cordy, "Estimating the optimal number of latent concepts in source code analysis," in Proc. of the 10th International Working Conference on Source Code Analysis and Manipulation (SCAM'10), 2010, pp. 65–74.

Threats to Validity

- We used datasets that have been used in other studies
- We ran GA 30 times to account for randomness
- Non-parametric statistical test
- Generalizability of results to other SE tasks

GA Settings

- Implementation: GA library in R
- Population size: 100
- Elitism of 2 individuals
- Roulette wheel selection operator
- Crossover probability: 0.6
- Mutation probability: 0.01
- Stop criteria:
 - No improvement in 10 generations
 - When reaching 100 generations

Software Artifact Labeling

TABLE IV
AVERAGE OVERLAP BETWEEN AUTOMATIC AND MANUAL LABELING.

exVantage					
	LDA		De Lucia et al. [13]		
	LDA-GA	Combinatorial	n = M	n = M/2	n = 2
Max	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
3rd Quartile	95%	95%	71%	70%	69%
Median	67%	70%	59%	60%	54%
2nd Quartile	60%	67%	34%	50%	41%
Min	50%	50%	0%	0%	40%
Mean	74%	77%	52%	56%	60%
St. Deviation	19%	17%	31%	34%	23%

JHotDraw					
	LDA		De Lucia et al. [13]		
	LDA-GA	Combinatorial	n = M	n = M/2	n = 2
Max	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
3 Quartile	81%	82%	73%	70%	66%
Median	71%	75%	65%	61%	56%
2 Quartile	47%	50%	46%	45%	41%
Min	14%	14%	0%	38%	29%
Mean	65%	66%	59%	60%	59%
St. Deviation	28%	26%	28%	20%	24%