

# Matching Needs and Desires

Job and Candidate Matching using Machine Learning

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Clemens Westrup  
@ICMA 12.10.2017

# Hello!

## Who I am

Clemens Westrup ([firstname.lastname@sanoma.com](mailto:firstname.lastname@sanoma.com))

Data Scientist at Sanoma, a media and learning company

Background: Computer Science, Machine Learning and  
Product Development

## This talk

Matching Jobs and Candidates using Machine Learning



# Overview

20 min

1. Intro: Job Recommendations at Sanoma
2. The Challenge: Matching Jobs and Candidates
3. Approaches: A Small Deep Dive into Machine Learning
4. Learnings and Takeaways

10 min

5. Questions

# Intro

- Recruitment site **Oikotie Työpaikat** in Sanoma's portfolio
- Recently introduced feature:  
automatic job and candidate discovery
- Recommendations powered by our algorithm



Open jobs, find your next job - x

https://tyopaikat.oikotie.fi/en/

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OIKOTIE TYÖPAIKAT KEIKKATYÖT OSAAJAPROFIILI TYÖKALUT AJANKOHTAISTA KESÄTYÖT FOR EMPLOYERS

# Kun aika on löytää seuraava työpaikka

AREA OF EXPERTISE LOCATION KEYWORDS

Select... Select...

SEARCH

Expanded search

Newest jobs » Jobs Helsinki » Jobs Turku » Jobs Espoo » Jobs Oulu » Jobs Tampere » Jobs Jyväskylä » Jobs Kuopio » Jobs Vaasa »

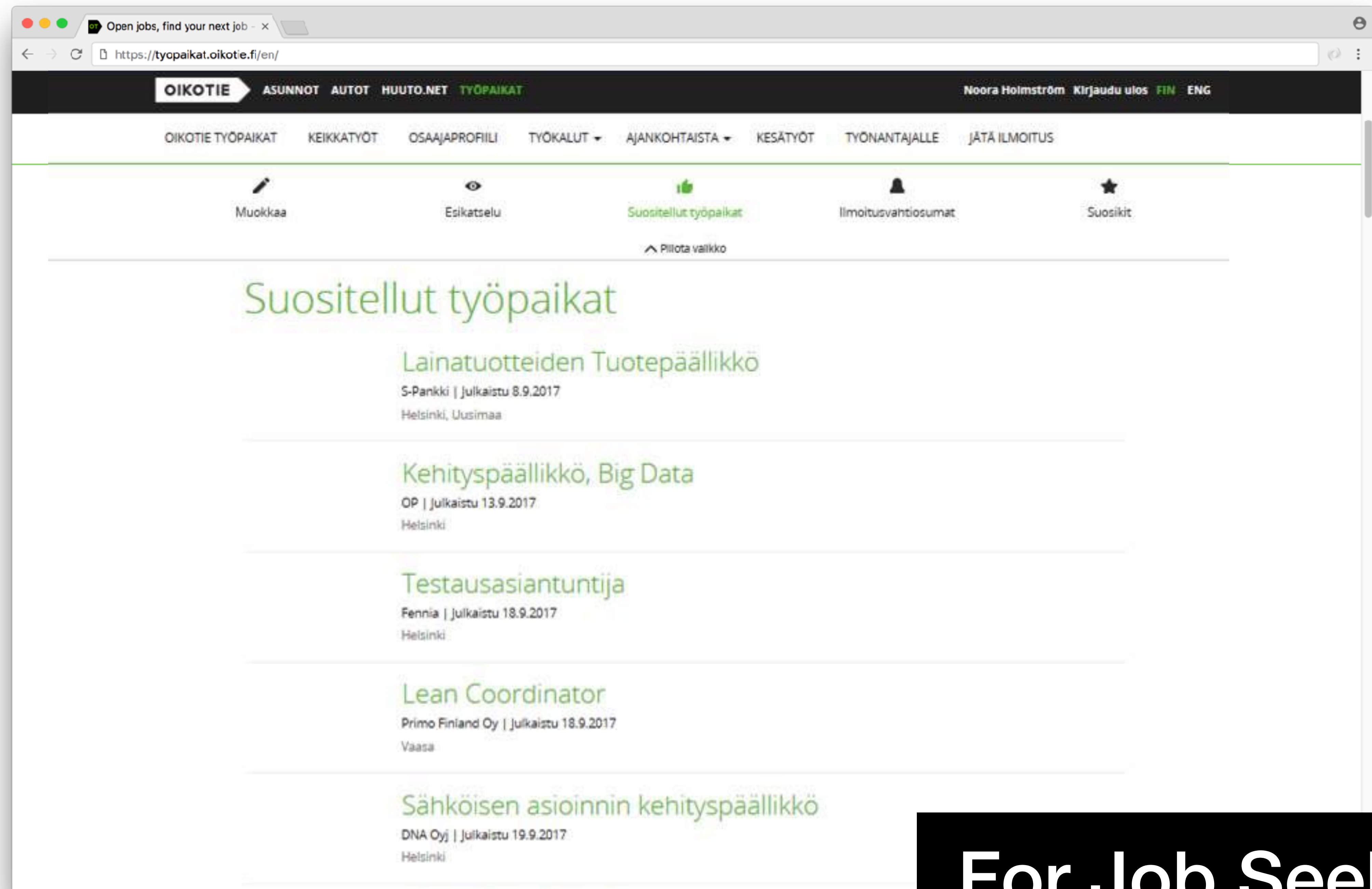
4810 ads

Published ADD AGENT

OKMETIC Prosessi-insinööri

Oikotie Työpaikat





For Job Seekers

Open jobs, find your next job - x

https://tyopaikat.oikotie.fi/en/

OIKOTIE

ASUNNOTAUTOTHUUTO.NETTYÖPAIKAT

My accountCompanyLog outFINENG

RATKAISUTMY JOB ADSOSAAJAHAKUREC30TUOTTEETILASTOT

BALANCE0 credits

CART0 products


OsaajahakuRecommended profilesSaved profiles

# Recommended profiles

Here are some recommended profiles based on your job ads. You can search more from tens of thousands of profiles using the profile search. [Try the profile search](#)

SELECT THE AD FOR PROFILE MATCHING

Cloud Data Architect




Anne Analyttikko

Modified 12.2.2015

Analyytikko | Suomalainen yritys Oy

1.11.2012 -



Daniel Developer

Modified 28.11.2015

Company Oy

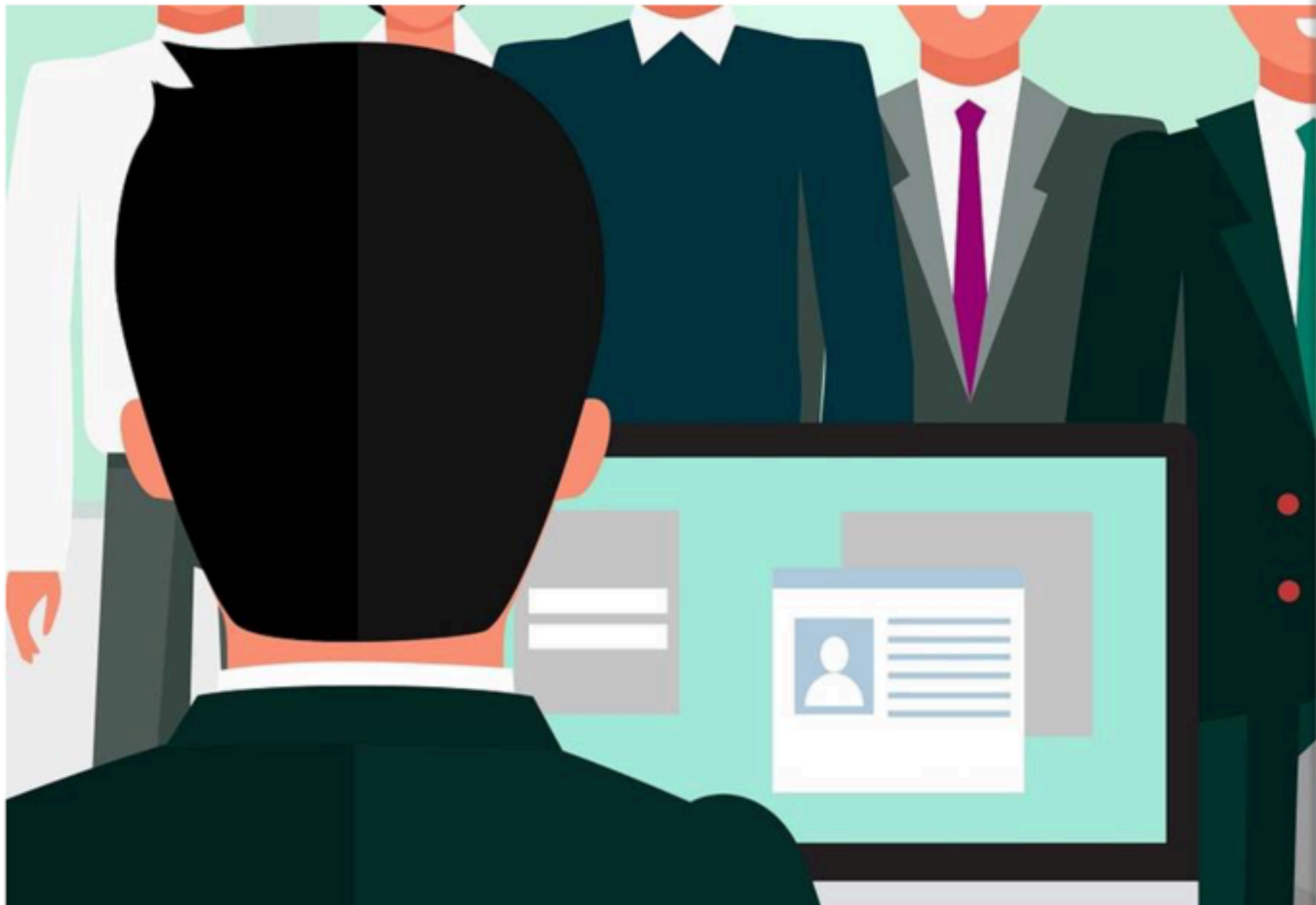
1.10.2016 - 31.8.2017

For Recruiters



REKRYTOINTI | Katja Ylinen 14.6. klo 14:58

## Tekoäly tulee rekrytointiin - "algoritmi suosittelee"



JAA  
ARTIKKELI

Oikotien työpaikkapalvelu on ottanut käyttöönsä uutta matching-teknologiaa, joka perustuu tekoälyyn.



TYÖELÄMÄ

## Keinoäly auttaa työnhakijoiden seulomisessa: "Algoritmi suosittelee avoimiin työpaikkoihin sopivia osaajaprofiileita"

15.6.2017 15:01

JURIDIKKAFOKUS

OMA DIGI

ICT

RAKENTAMINEN

TALOUS JA POLITIIKKA



**Oikotien työpaikkapalvelu on ottanut käyttöönsä uutta matching-teknologiaa, joka perustuu tekoälyyn.**

OIKOTIEN työpaikkapalvelu on ottanut käyttöönsä uutta matching-teknologiaa, joka perustuu tekoälyyn.

Uusi palvelu perustuu Oikotien työpaikkailmoitusdatan ja Oikotielle syötettyjen osaajaprofiilien yhdistämiseen. Työnhakijoiden tekemiä

Olet lukenut 0/5 maksutonta uutista



Katja Ylinen

Ota yhteyttä



### Uusimmat

1

21:30 AUTO

**Škodan menestys ärsyttää Volkswagenia - VW:n johto ja työntekijät haluavat hillitä sisarmerkki Škodan kilpailua**

2

21:00 YHDYSVALTOJEN TALOUS

**Trumpin budjettiesitys liikahti eteenpäin - edessä tulikoe**

3

20:30 KAUPPA

**Konkurssin jälkeen Seppälän työntekijät saivat palkkaturvasta nopeutetulla käsittelyllä 600 000 euroa - Anttilallekin maksettu jo 5 miljoonaa**

4

20:00 DIGITALOUS

**Opiskelijoiden vetämä ohjelmointipahtuma ratkaisee Suomen hälyttävää koodaripulaa**

# The Algorithm In the News



# The Challenge

*“How might we **suggest**  
the most **relevant positions** to a job seeker,  
and vice versa **relevant candidates** to a recruiter,  
to help both parties **find each other** more easily?”*

Open jobs, find your next job - x

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← Back

Java developer  
Pearson Frank

Original publication date 6.10.2017

Are you a passionate Java developer?

Do you love Linux, JavaEE, Spring, PostgreSQL and Docks?

Are you comfortable with more than one language or okay to learn more?

You will work in a long-term and above all-extraordinary project at the Gothenburg office. With an Agile work environment and lots of space to be creative this is the perfect chance for you to branch out and learn more.

You will be a valued member of the team and thus make a make a real impression on the project and the software we develop.

To be a perfect fit it is likely that you will have some commercial experience and maybe a few projects under your belt that you could share with us. The team is a family so you should want to join a good culture where you get the opportunity to go to international meet ups, Oktoberfest, Mushroom Tests, Nerdy Code Evenings, Absolute After Works, Parachute jumping, tech talk or sword fighting.

APPLY FOR THIS JOBSEND THIS JOB AD VIA EMAIL

Additional information

Ad number: 1066264

Employment: Permanent employment

Type of job: Full-time

Open jobs, find your next job - x

https://tyopaikat.oikotie.fi/en/

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SHARE Back Pearson Frank

# A Challenging Task for a Machine

Original publication date 6.10.2017

Are you a passionate Java developer?

Data is unstructured and complex

You will work in a long-term and above all-extraordinary project at the Gothenburg office. You will be a creative this is a challenge for you.

Data is sparse

You will be a valuable member of the team and make a positive impression on the project and the software we develop.

Humans and their needs and desires are hard to understand

Evenings, Absolute After Works, Parachute jumping, tech talk or sword fighting.

APPLY FOR THIS JOB SEND THIS JOB AD VIA EMAIL

Additional information  
Ad number: 1066264  
Employment: Permanent employment  
Type of job: Full-time



# Approaches

A Small Deep Dive into Machine Learning



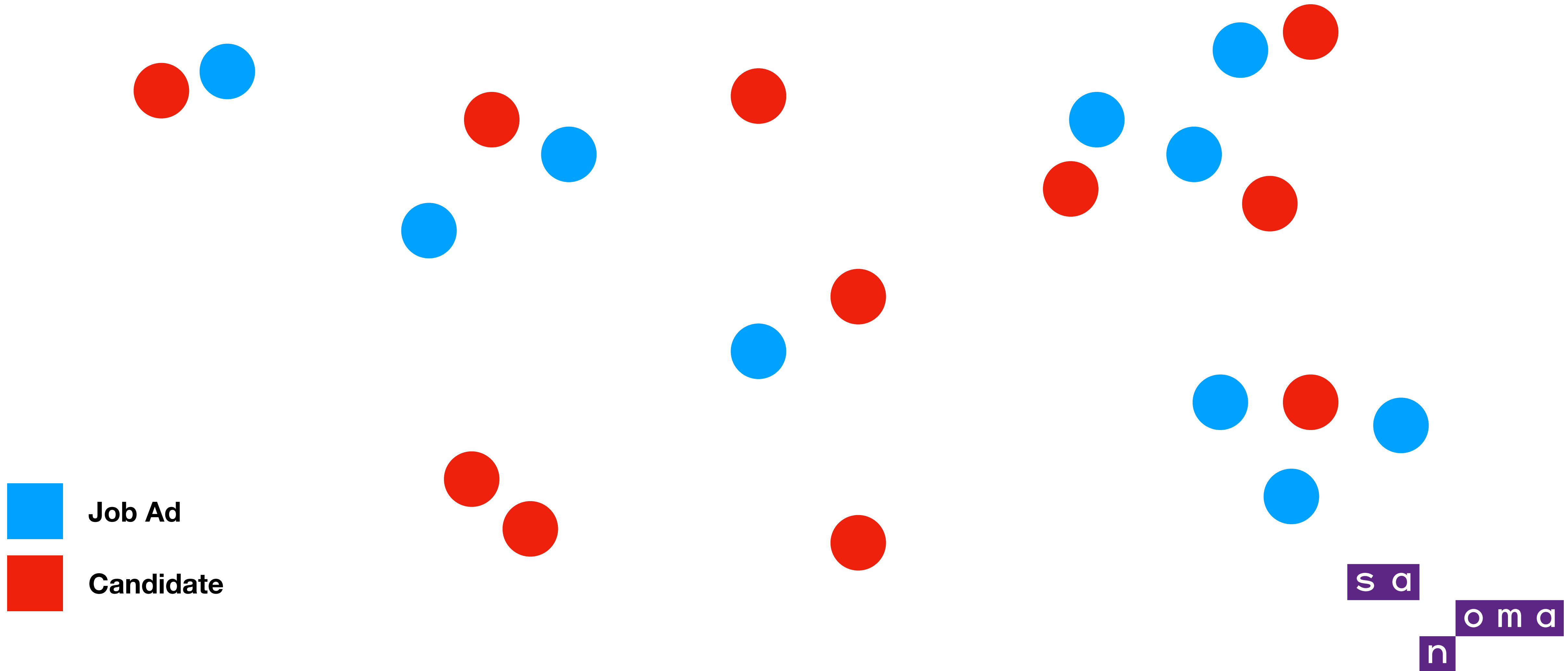
Approaches

# Vector Space Models

- Relevance = distance
- Candidates and Jobs are mapped into a space
- Find closest matches with a distance metric
- Space is high-dimensional

Approaches

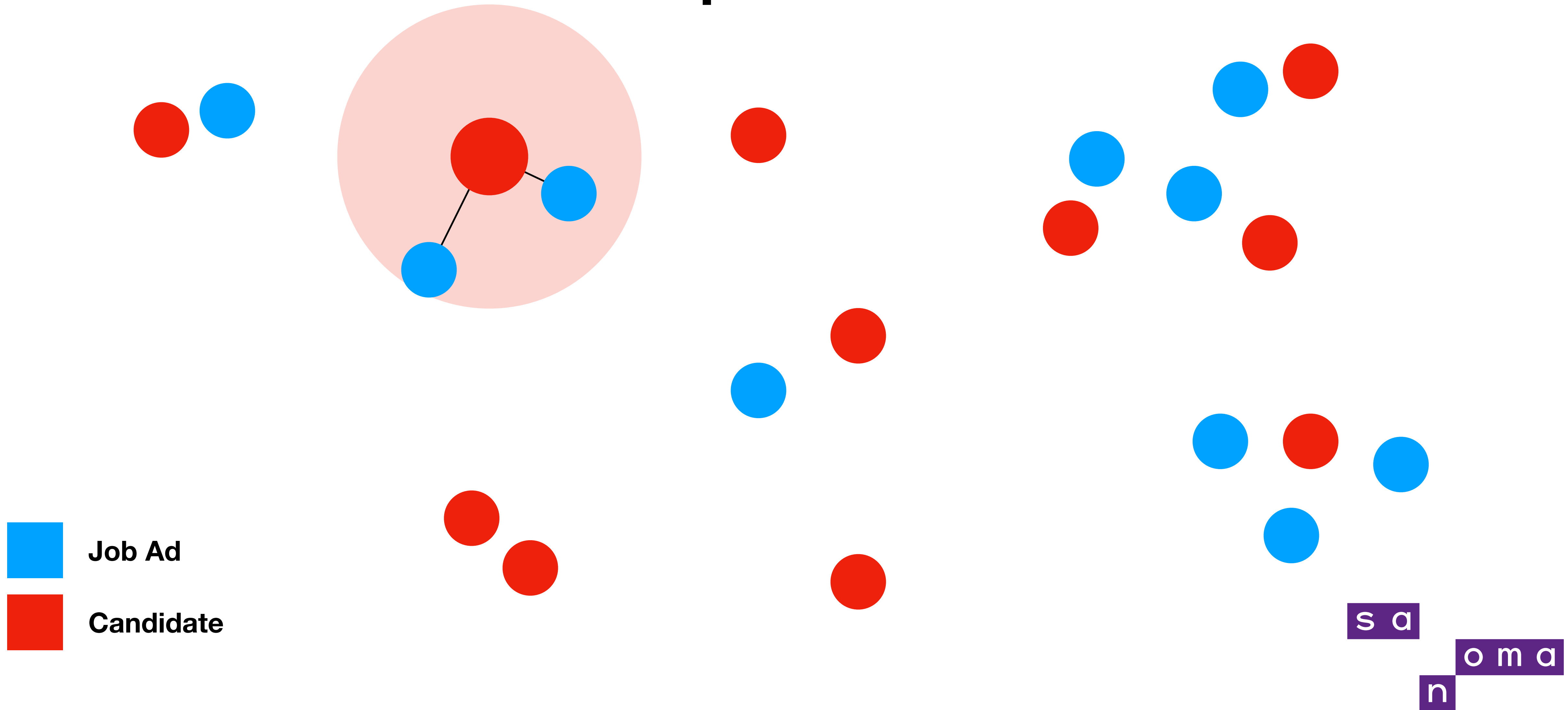
# Vector Space Models





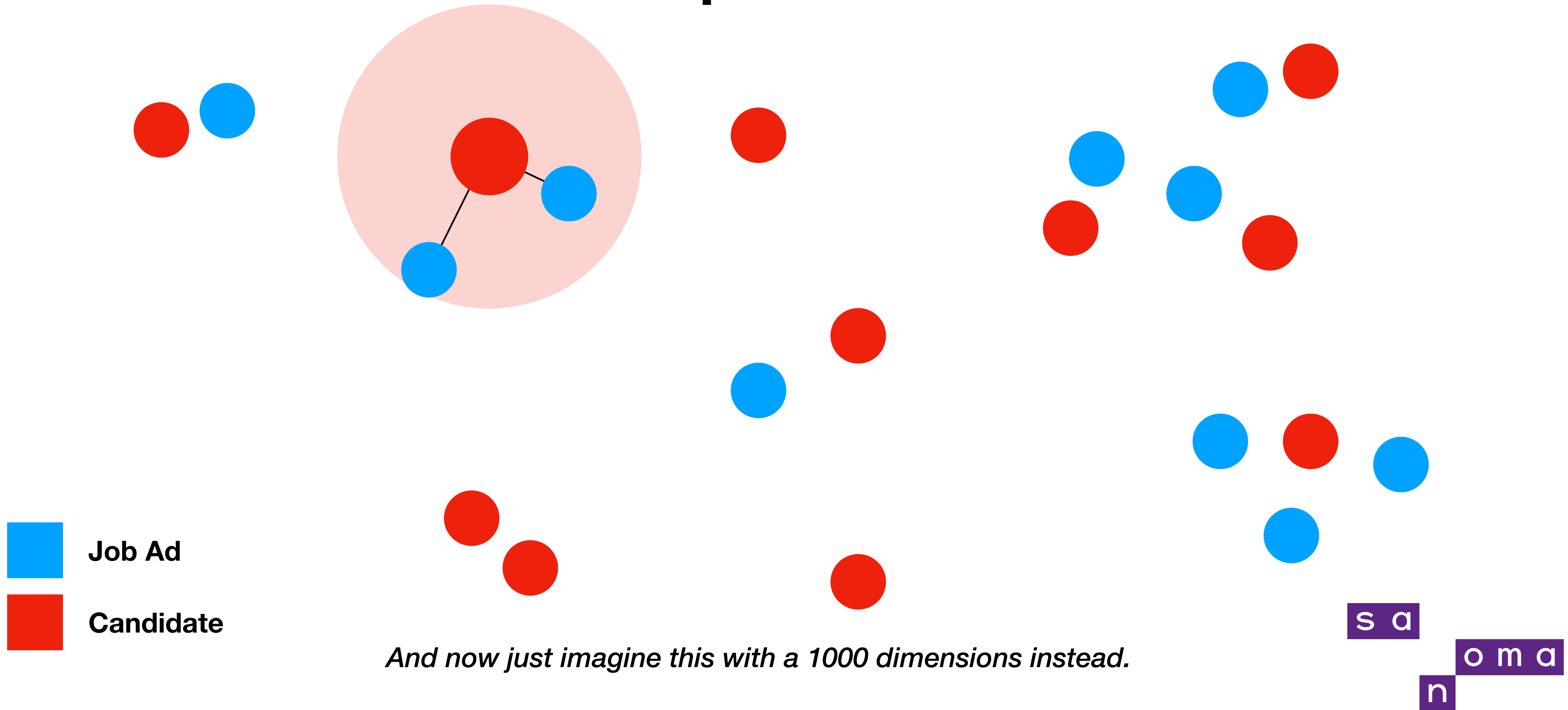
Approaches

# Vector Space Models



Approaches

# Vector Space Models



## Approaches

# Constructing the Vector Space

- Basic search techniques on metadata
- Natural Language Processing
  - Keyword matching
  - **Topic Modeling with Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)**
  - **Continuous Distributed Representations**
- Behavioral Analysis
  - **Collaborative Filtering**
- Many other techniques



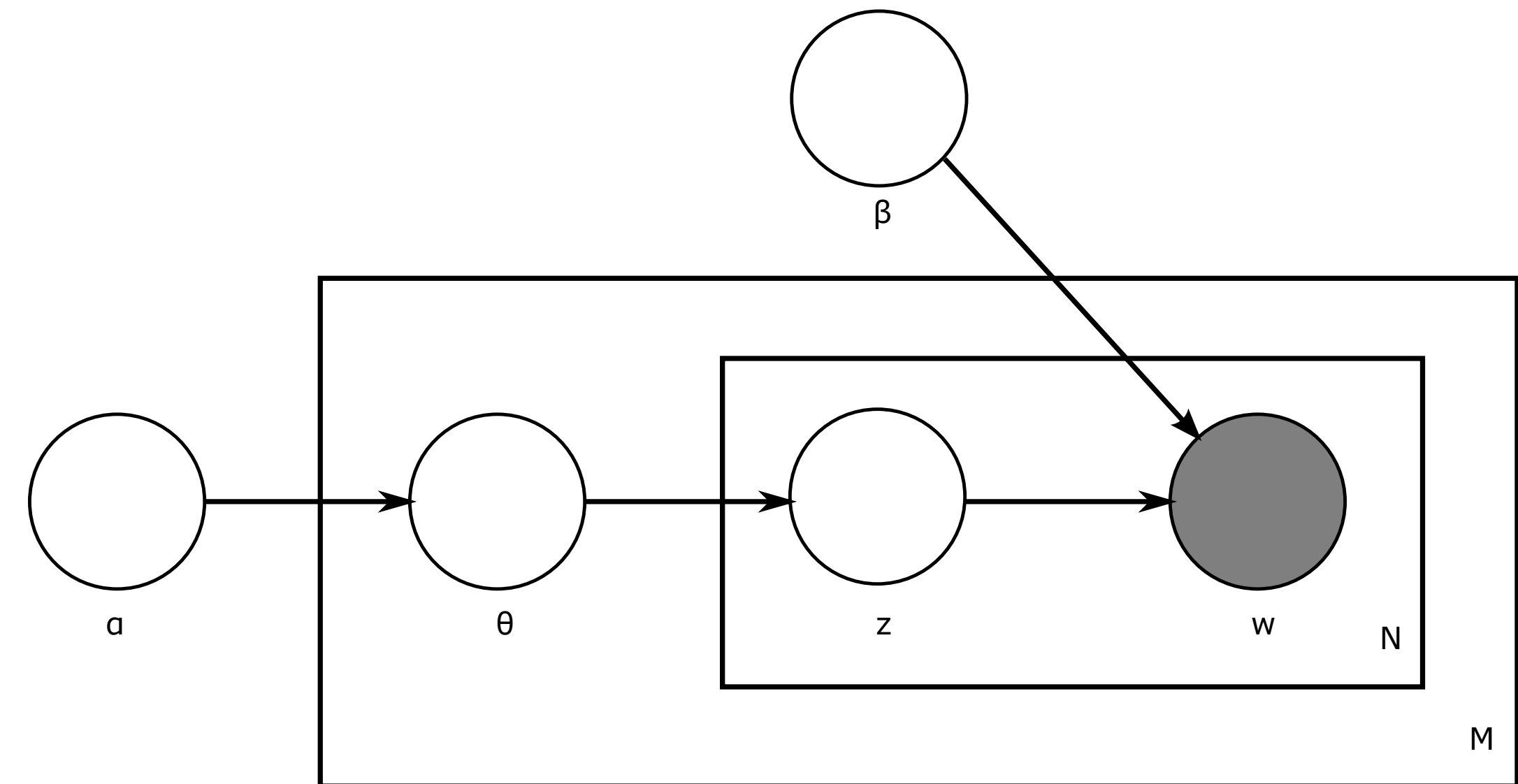
## Approaches

# Topic Modeling with Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

- Unsupervised Method by [Blei et al., 2003]
- Assumes process of creating documents:

First: choose a few topics, then:

1. Pick a topic
2. Pick a word associated with the topic
3. Repeat until we have enough words



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# Approaches

## Topic Modeling with Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

- Learning using Bayesian Inference
- Yields probabilities, how likely
  - A. each word occurs with each topic
  - B. each topic occurs in each document
- For new documents:  
infer its association with the topics

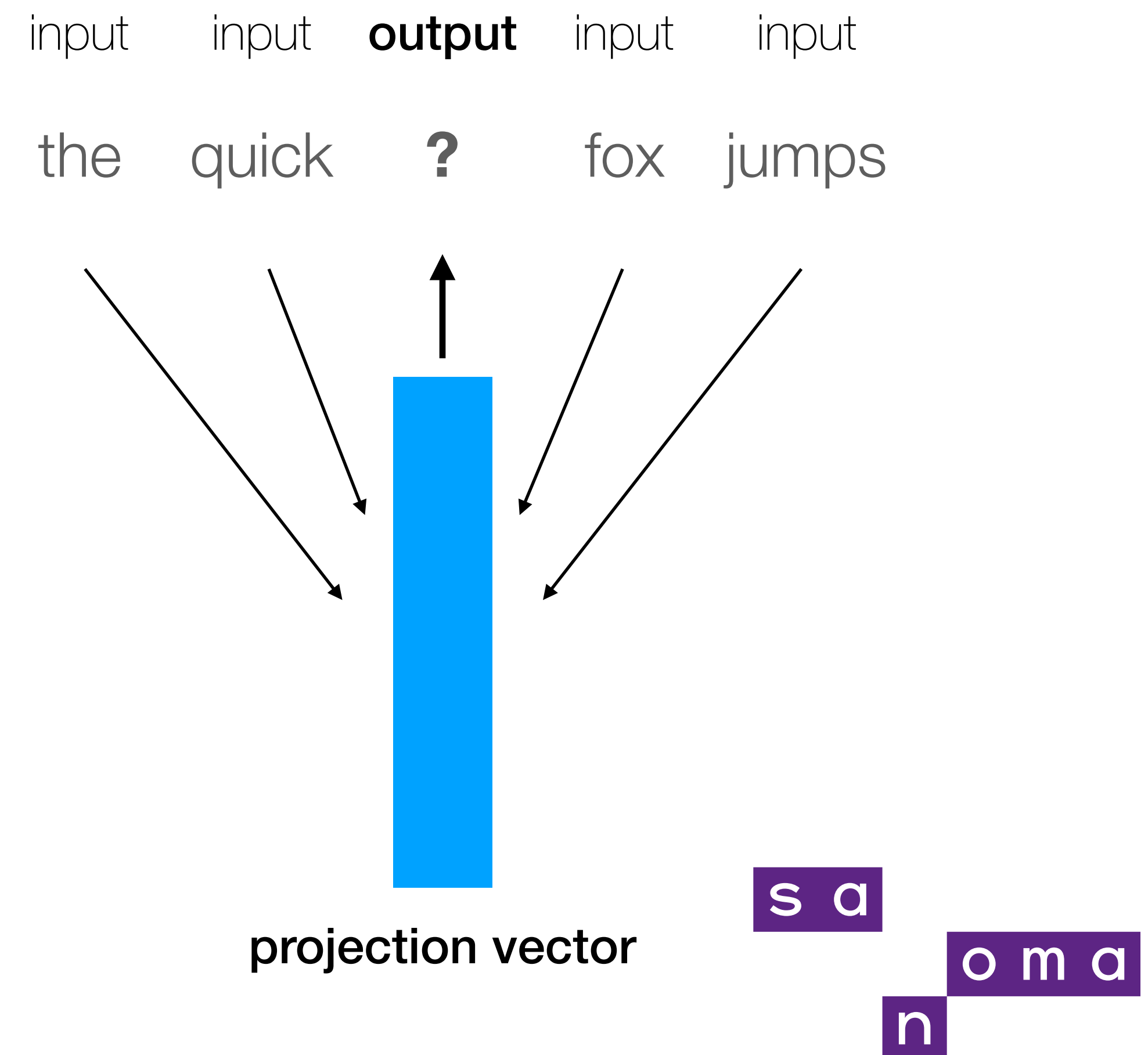
	Job ad <b>1</b>	Candidate <b>a</b>	...
Topic 1	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.03 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.8 \end{bmatrix}$	
Topic 2	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.21 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.11 \end{bmatrix}$	
Topic 3	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.09 \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} 0.01 \end{bmatrix}$	
...	$\begin{bmatrix} \dots \end{bmatrix}$	$\begin{bmatrix} \dots \end{bmatrix}$	

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# Approaches

## Continuous Distributed Representations

- Commonly known as “word2vec”  
[Mikolov, 2013], roots in [Hinton, 1986]
- Neural Network based
- Learn word representations by predicting in which context a word appears
- Needs huge amounts of data to work (e.g. all of wikipedia)

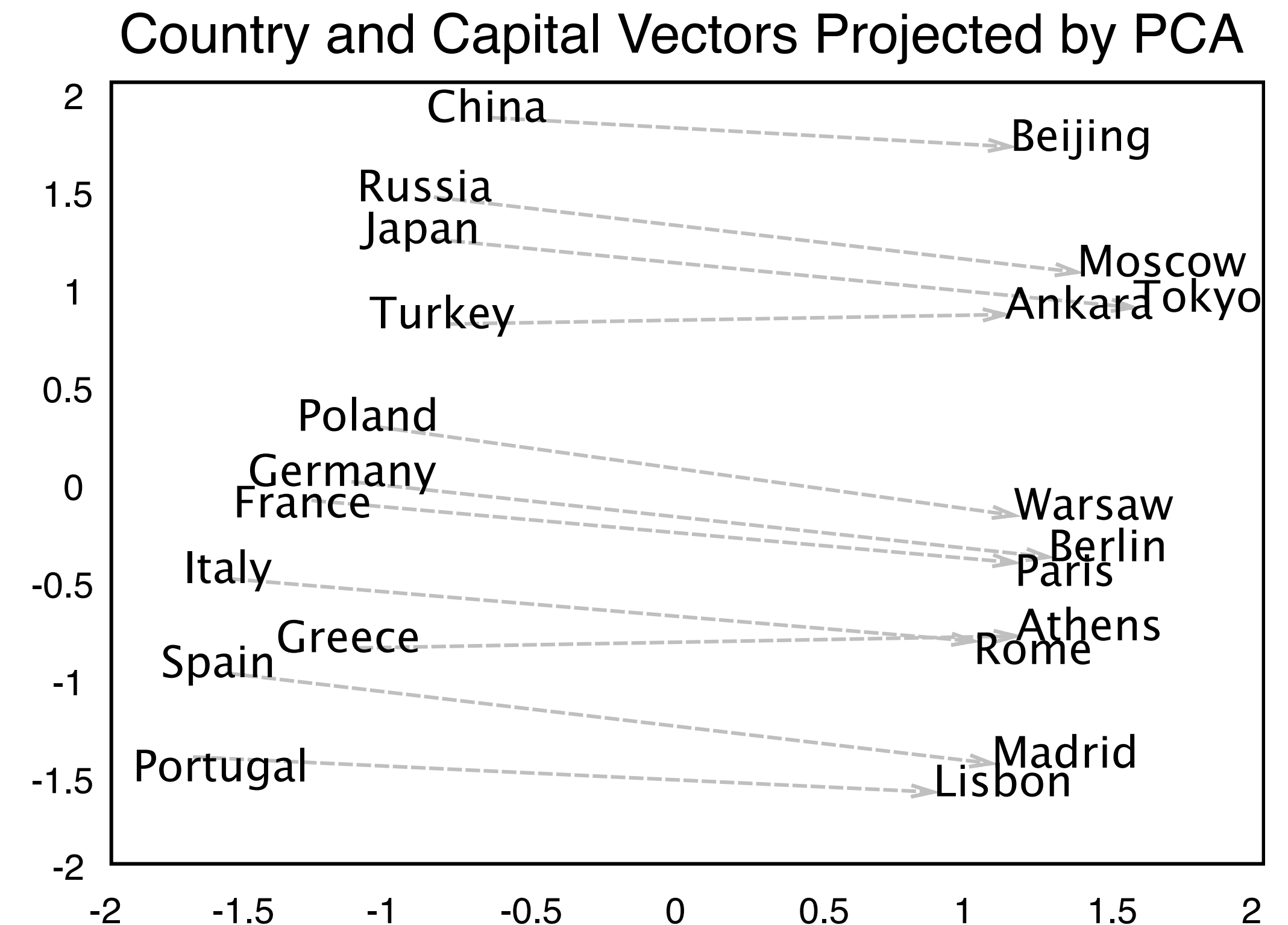




## Approaches






# Continuous Distributed Representations

- Captures surprising semantic properties:  
$$v(\text{Berlin}) - v(\text{Germany}) + v(\text{France}) = v(\text{Paris})$$
- This allows e.g. for analogy queries
- Several techniques to extend “word vectors” to “document vectors”
- Allows us again to map job ads and candidate profiles to the vector space



# Approaches

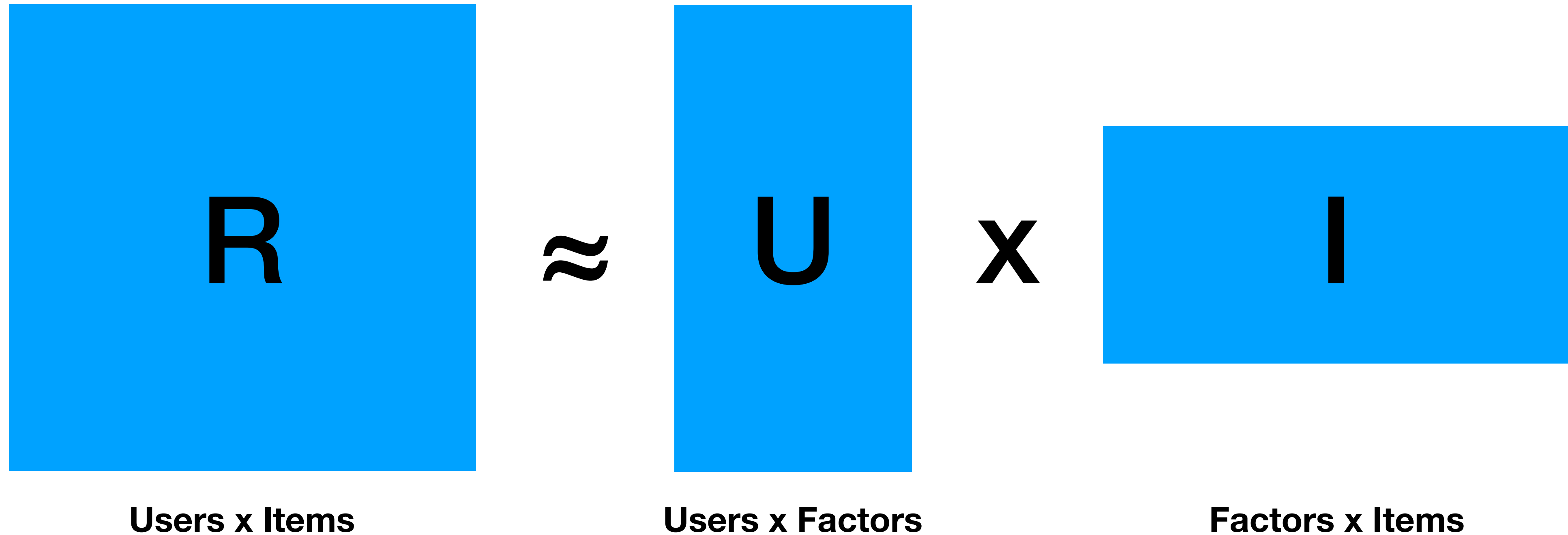
## Behavioral Analysis: Collaborative Filtering

					
JOHN	5		1	2	2
LUCY	1	2	5	5	5
DIANE	4	5	3	3	
YOU	2	3	?	5	4

Users x Items matrix **R**

Approaches

# Matrix Factorization



# Matching in Oikotie Työpaikat

- We use a mixture of similar and additional approaches
- An API serves the results, e.g. like this:

```
{
  "results": [
    {"id": 1050236, "confidence": 0.92},
    {"id": 2572425, "confidence": 0.81},
    {"id": 1235285, "confidence": 0.73},
    {"id": 3413478, "confidence": 0.69}
  ]
}
```



# Evaluation

- Qualitative: Interviews, user testing, surveys
- Quantitative:
  - Verify with implicit feedback (job ad visits, “apply”-clicks)
  - Implement explicit feedback mechanism
  - Test with rating experiment
  - Can be framed as prediction or ranking problem

# Learnings and Takeaways

## **Plan well and follow a process (e.g. double diamond)**

- User need must be understood (the problem scope)
- Prototype: fail and learn (the solution scope)
- Productization according to software quality standards takes 3x more time than you think
- Don't forgot maintenance, privacy assessments, handovers

## **Capture your problem with a metric (or several ones)**

- Measure from the start (validates results and helps communicating them)
- Update if needs change

# Gracias

Time for Questions

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