Topic Mining and Analysis: Motivation

- Topic ≈ main idea discussed in text data
  - Theme/subject of a discussion or conversation
  - Different granularities (e.g., topic of a sentence, an article, etc.)
- Many applications require discovery of topics in text
  - What are Twitter users talking about today?
  - What are the current research topics in data mining? How are they different from those 5 years ago?
  - What do people like about the iPhone 6? What do they dislike?
  - What were the major topics debated in 2012 presidential election?