

# DESI V WORKSHOP 2013

*Similar Document Detection and Electronic Discovery:  
So Many Documents, So Little Time*

Michael Sperling, Rong Jin, Illya Rayvych, Jianghong Li  
and Jinfeng Yi

*Predictive Coding: Turning Knowledge into Power*

Thomas I. Barnett and Michael Sperling



Overarching theme:

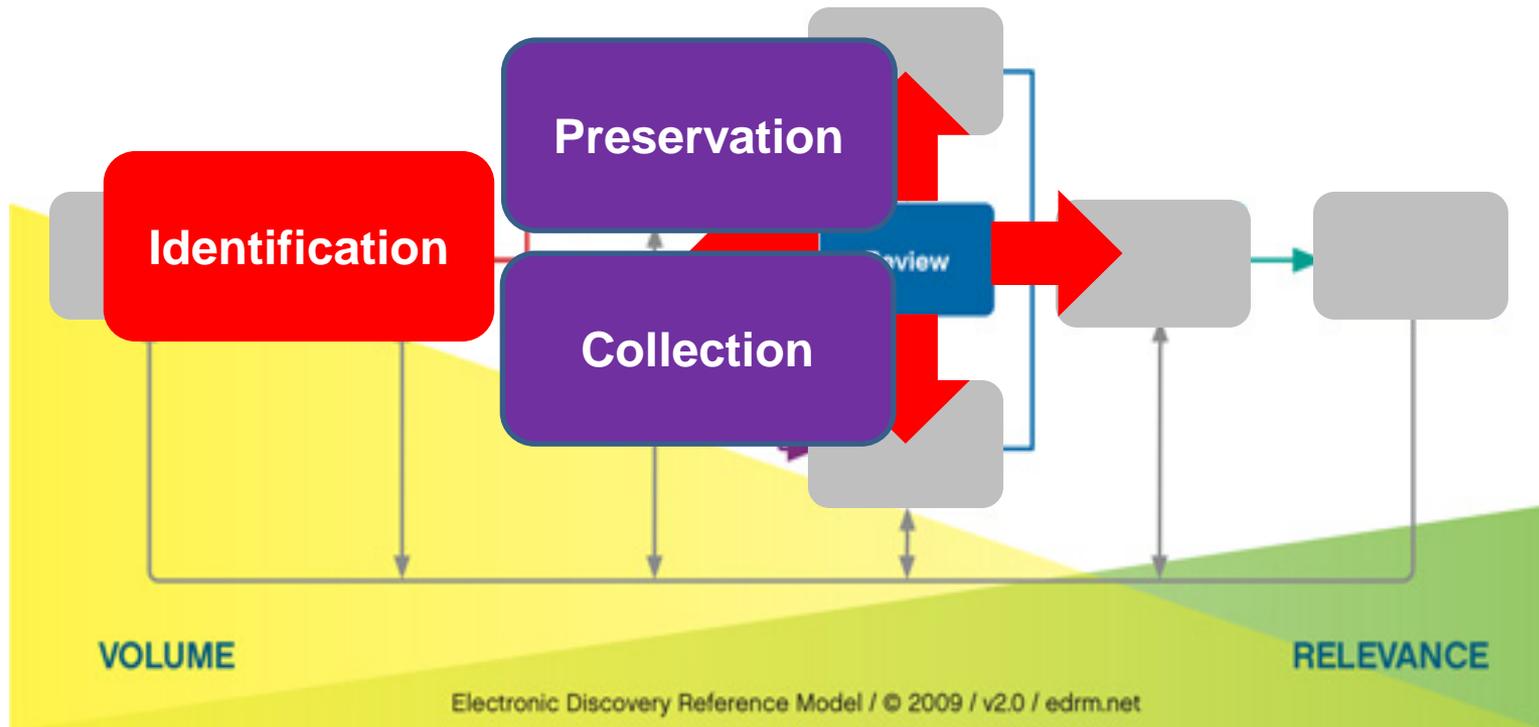
E X P A N S I O N

Process level

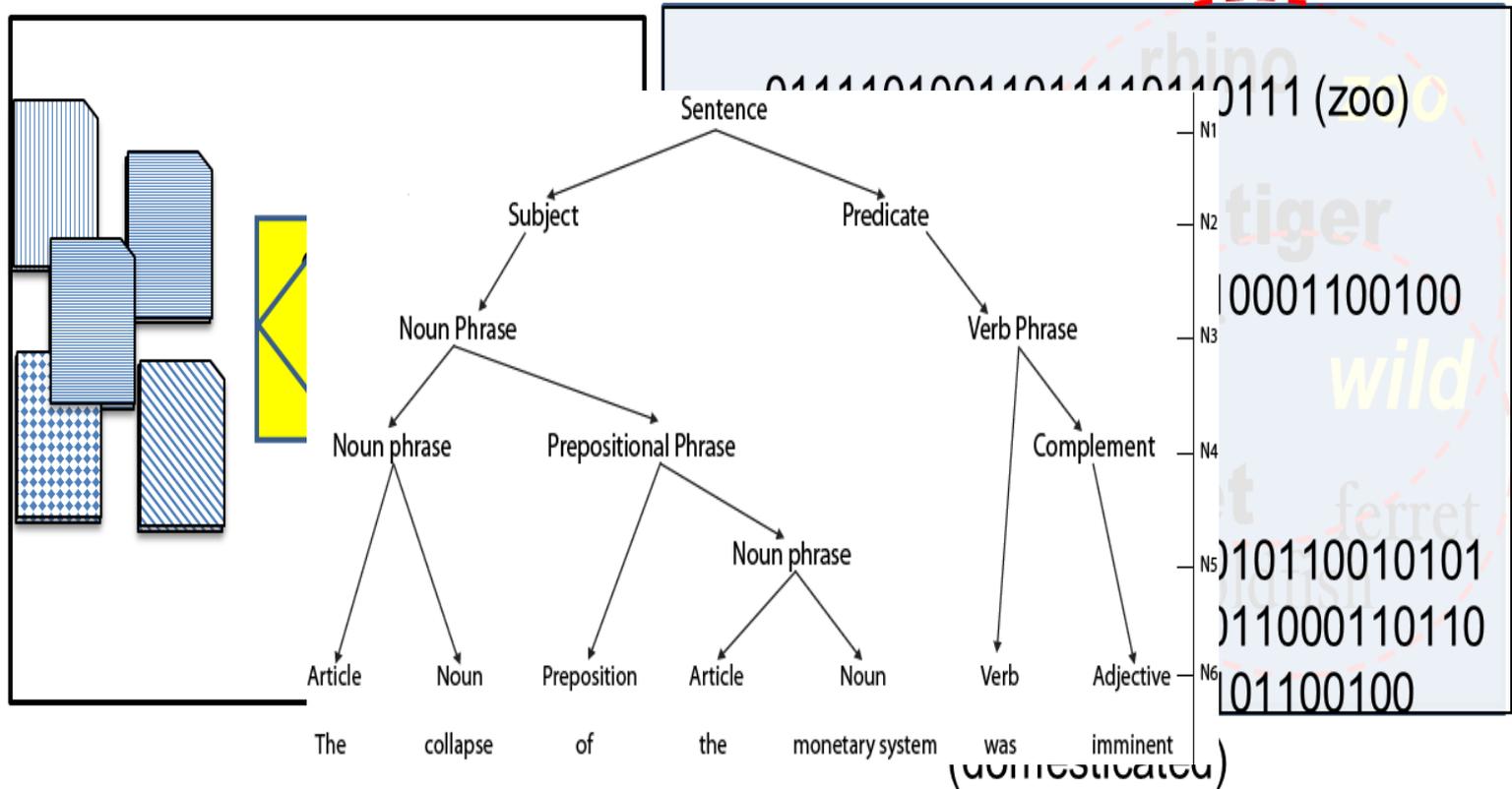
Analytical level

# Process level expansion

## Electronic Discovery Reference Model



# Analytical level expansion



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# המבין יבין

THEOREM 1. Let  $\mathbf{u}$  be a vector randomly sampled from  $\mathcal{N}(0, I/d)$ . With a probability  $1 - \delta - \frac{c \ln d}{d^3}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}(r, \mathbf{q})} |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}| \\ & \leq \frac{r}{\sqrt{d}} \left( C_1 \ln \frac{2m(r, \mathbf{q})}{\delta} + C_2 \sqrt{\ln \frac{2m(r, \mathbf{q})}{\delta}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$C_1 = 6K_2, \quad C_2 = \sqrt{6K_2 + \frac{c \ln d}{d^2}} \quad (1)$$

COROLLARY 2. Let  $\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m$  be  $m$  vectors randomly sampled from  $\mathcal{N}(0, I/d)$ . With a probability  $1 - m\delta - \frac{c \ln d}{d^3}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}(r, \mathbf{q})} \max_{1 \leq k \leq m} |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k| \leq \\ & \frac{r}{\sqrt{d}} \left( C_1 \ln \frac{2m(r, \mathbf{q})}{\delta} + C_2 \sqrt{\ln \frac{2m(r, \mathbf{q})}{\delta}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are defined (1).

THEOREM 5. Let  $U = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}(\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_m)$  be random variables with  $U_{i,j}$  having equal probability to be +1 and -1. With a probability at least  $1 - 2m/d^3$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}(r, \mathbf{q})} \max_{1 \leq k \leq m} |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k| \leq \\ & \frac{r}{\sqrt{d}} \left( 2 \ln \frac{2m(r, \mathbf{q})}{\delta} + \sqrt{2 \ln \frac{2m(r, \mathbf{q})}{\delta}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

When  $m$  is sufficiently large, i.e.,

$$m \geq 64K_1 \left( 2 \ln \frac{2}{\delta} + \sqrt{2 \ln \frac{2}{\delta}} \right)$$

Then, with a probability  $1 - (m+1)\delta$ , we have

$$\max_{1 \leq k \leq m} |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k| \geq \frac{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q}|}{2\sqrt{d}}$$

THEOREM 3. Assume  $m$  is sufficiently large, i.e.,

$$m \geq 64K_1 \left( C_1 \ln \frac{2}{\delta} + C_2 \sqrt{\ln \frac{2}{\delta}} \right)$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are defined in (1). Then, with a probability  $1 - (m+1)\delta - \frac{mc \ln d}{d^3}$ , we have

$$\max_{1 \leq k \leq m} |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k| \geq \frac{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q}|}{2\sqrt{d}}$$

THEOREM 4. Let  $\mathbf{u} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}}(u_1, \dots, u_d)$  be a random vector with  $u_i$  drawn from a Bernoulli distribution  $\Pr(u_i = 1) = \Pr(u_i = -1) = 1/2$ . Then, with a probability  $1 - \delta$ , for a fixed data point  $\mathbf{x}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}(r, \mathbf{q})} |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}| \leq \\ & \frac{r}{\sqrt{d}} \left( 2 \ln \frac{2m(r, \mathbf{q})}{\delta} + \sqrt{2 \ln \frac{2m(r, \mathbf{q})}{\delta}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

THEOREM 6. (Talagrand's inequality) Let  $X_1, \dots, X_m$  be independent random variables in  $\mathcal{X}$ . For any class of functions  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\mathcal{X}$  that is uniformly bounded by a constant  $U > 0$  and for all  $\delta > 0$ , with a probability  $1 - \delta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n f(X_i) \right| - \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n f(X_i) \right| \right| \\ & \leq K_1 U \ln \frac{K_1}{\delta} + \sqrt{K_1 \sigma^2 \ln \frac{K_1}{\delta}} \end{aligned}$$

where  $K_1$  is an universal constant and  $\sigma^2$  is defined as

$$\sigma^2 = \mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in \mathcal{F}} \sum_{i=1}^n f^2(X_i)$$

PROOF. Since

$$\max_{1 \leq k \leq m} |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k| \geq \sqrt{\frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k|^2}$$

it is sufficient to bound  $\frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k|^2$ . Using the Telegand inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} \left| \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k|^2 - \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k|^2 \right] \right| \\ & \leq K_1 U \ln \frac{K_1}{\delta} + \sqrt{K_1 \sigma^2 \ln \frac{K_1}{\delta}} \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} U & = \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} \sup_{1 \leq k \leq m} |(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k|^2 \\ \sigma^2 & = \mathbb{E} \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{k=1}^m \frac{|(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q})^\top \mathbf{u}_k|^4}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{q}|^4} \end{aligned}$$

# Current Approaches

## **Two Basic Elements:**

1. Vector representation of document (e.g.,  $n$ -grams, vector space model)
2. Mapping vector representation to perform search

# The Problem

- Inefficiency
  - Costly in compute time and storage (due to *heavy* representation of documents)
  - Slower than desired processing time
- Lack of flexibility
  - Static model for data flow doesn't match real world
  - Static centroid document doesn't allow adaptation to specific data set characteristics

# Issues with Static Clustering

## ✓ Well Separated Document Clusters

– A well separated document cluster is a set of documents such that any document in a cluster is closer to every other document in the cluster than to any point not in the cluster.

### – Challenges

- Diversity of document population
  - Individual documents are not highly focused
- Documents arrive in waves
  - Adding to cluster with closest centroid degrades clusters

✓ Threshold for “similarity” cannot be dynamically adjusted – *it's set at cluster creation*

# Why Similar Doc Detection in a world of Predictive Coding?

- ✓ Combining analytical approaches can improve results in appropriate cases
- ✓ Quality control of training set
  - Check for consistency of responsive and nonresponsive  
Are any near duplicates of responsive documents tagged as non-responsive?
  - Especially important when multiple reviewers are independently tagging training docs
  - In our case, 312 docs in training set violated this constraint. Retraining without them significantly improved model

# Why Similar Doc Detection in a world of Predictive Coding?

- ✓ Highlighting subtle changes between documents, especially drafts (Examples from Enron corpus)
  - Predictive coding will not pick up these differences
  - Terms of contract:
    - *with the first such installment being due and payable upon the issuance and activation of the initial password and user ID*
    - *with the first such installment being due and payable **within five business days** after issuance **or** activation of the initial password and user ID*
  - Comments on Electricity Competition and Reliability Act
    - **Initial draft** – *Cinergy violated East Central Area Reliability Coordination Agreement by improperly drawing power it did not own from the interchange to meet its own supply obligations*
    - **Final document** - *Cinergy **apparently** violated East Central Area Reliability Coordination Agreement by improperly drawing power it did not own from the interchange to meet its own supply obligations*

# Requirements

- ✓ Minimal resource consumption
  - Lightweight representation – storage conservation
  - Rapid preprocessing – no delay in making documents available for review within total processing time and
  - Almost instantaneous retrieval of near duplicates – reviewers are the most expensive resource
- ✓ Accuracy – high recall and precision
- ✓ Dynamically vary “near” threshold : “nearness”
- ✓ Requirement varies with different doc populations
- ✓ Deal properly with new docs – doc arrival not controllable: need to analyze entire corpus, not just new wave

# Our approach

- ✓ Lightweight document representation – 62 tuple vector for counts of Capitals, Lowercase, and Numerals + total character count + vector length
- ✓ Dynamic search for similar documents, rather than static clusters (*short-form* vector)
  - Implemented as a sequence of one-dimension range searches
  - Use random projections to reduce vector dimensionality
  - Verify retrieved documents at end using 62 tuple representation
- ✓ We prove mathematically and show experimentally the soundness of this approach

# Experimental Results

- ✓ Corpus
  - 13,228,105 documents drawn from an actual e-discovery project
  - Contained diverse content typical of e-discovery
- ✓ Sufficiency of lightweight representation
  - We show 62 tuple representation close => documents close
- ✓ Efficacy of sequential range searches and 8 random projections
  - Recall / Precision
    - Recall of .999
    - Precision of .912
  - Speed
    - 2.57 seconds (time for search to return results—too slow due to Oracle quirk)
  - Heuristics for Oracle implementation
    - Speed heavily dependent on the precision of first range searches performed
    - Use character count and 62 tuple vector size as first 2 range searches
    - Improves speed to .48 seconds

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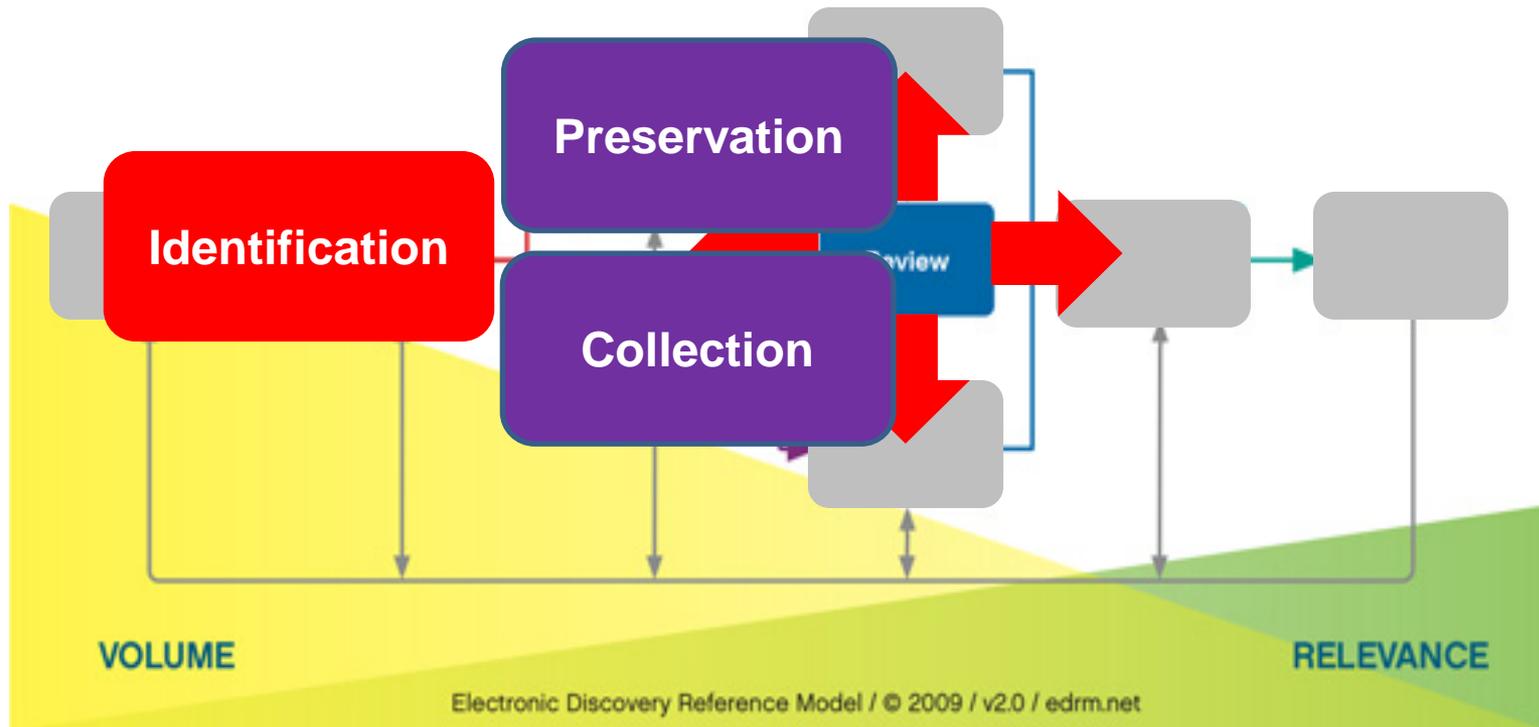
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# Process level expansion

## Electronic Discovery Reference Model



The case: a typical large class action...



# Legal Obligations

## Rule 26. Duty to Disclose; General Provisions Governing Discovery

(a) Required Disclosures.

(1) *Initial Disclosure.*

...

(ii) a copy—or **a description by category and location—of all documents, electronically stored information**, and tangible things that the disclosing party has in its possession, custody, or control and **may use to support its claims or defenses**, unless the use would be solely for impeachment;

...

(2) *Conference Content; Parties' Responsibilities* . . . **discuss any issues about preserving discoverable information; and develop a proposed discovery plan.**

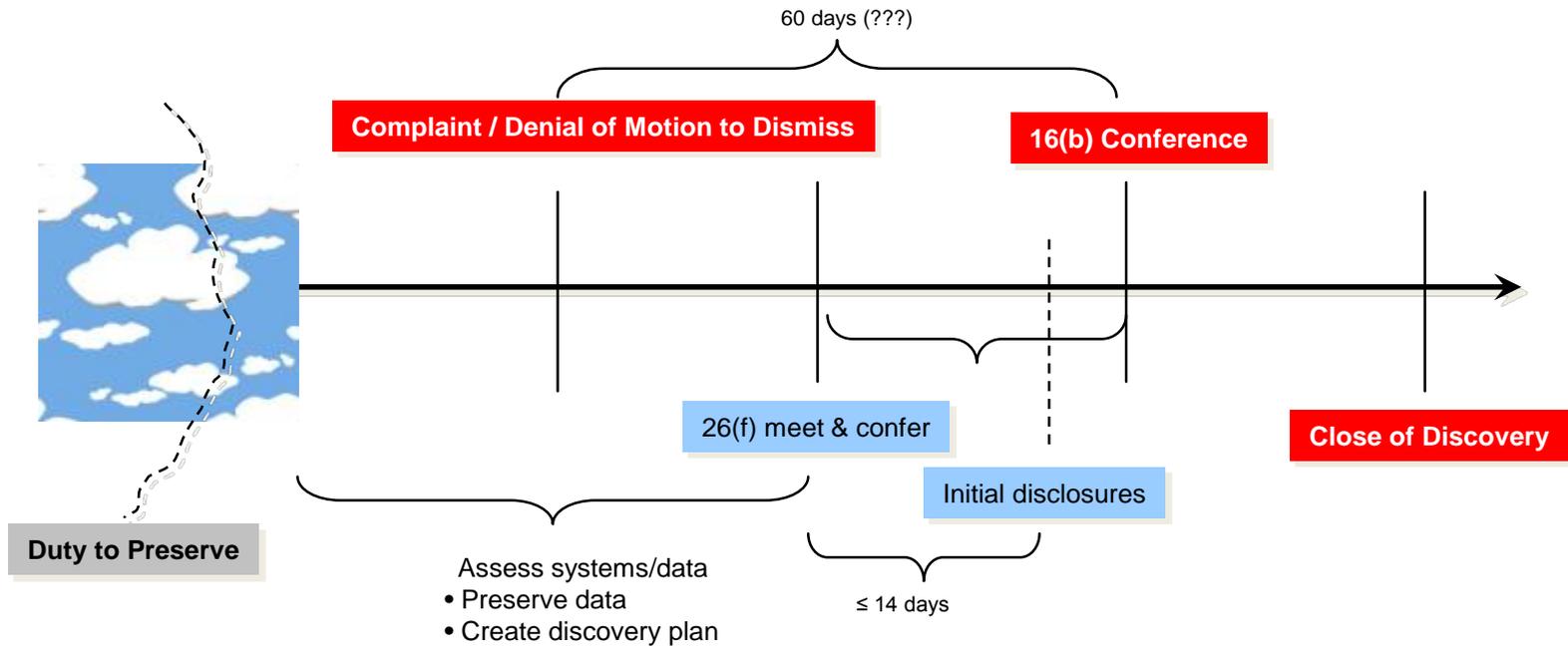
...

## Rule 37. Failure to Make Disclosures or to Cooperate in Discovery; Sanctions

...

(f) **Failure to Participate in Framing a Discovery Plan.** If a party or its attorney fails to participate in good faith in developing and submitting a proposed discovery plan as required by [Rule 26\(f\)](#), the **court may, after giving an opportunity to be heard, require that party or attorney to pay to any other party the reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, caused by the failure.**

# Time Requirements



# Typical Attorney Knowledge Base for 26(f) Conference

- ✓ Estimate of number of data custodians
- ✓ Partial list of possible data sources
- ✓ Some preservation efforts
- ✓ Some data custodian interviews

When it comes to negotiating decisions that can cost a company millions of dollars, putting aside potential penalties or liability, *this is a very thin and indefensible knowledge base.*

# Thesis of Position Paper:

Predictive coding (and other analytical tools) can and should be used to provide substantive quantifiable data upon which to negotiate scope of discovery in a meaningful way.

# Available Information

- ✓ Supportable estimate (not perfect) of how much data will actually need to be reviewed (i.e., time and cost)
- ✓ Supportable estimate of likely percentage of responsive data
- ✓ Defensible information as to relative value of data sources/custodians
- ✓ Actionable information that can be used to substantively challenge unnecessarily broad requests

# Conclusion and future work

- ✓ The emphasis on "coding" as in "coding for production" is misguided and unnecessarily limiting.
- ✓ There are many ways to apply analytical approaches to this multifaceted problem called *data discovery* and they go well beyond simply responsiveness or issue coding.
- ✓ There is an opportunity to develop work flows using different combinations of analytical approaches and get beyond the highly limited and limiting world of litigation support technology.
- ✓ There is a whole world of advanced analytical tools and processes beyond those dreamt of in most lawyers' philosophies.

THANK YOU

