Chapter NLP:III

III. Words

- Word-level Phenomena & Text Preprocessing
- □ Morphological Analysis
- Word Classes

Word-level Phenomena

Phenomena listing

Tokens are the individual occurrences of something

- \Box words
- \Box numbers
- punctuation marks
- □ emoticons

Words might be consisting of inner word special characters

- □ data-source, deep-learning
- □ devil's advocate
- □ Micro\$oft
- 🗅 Sk8er

Multiple words might be composing a single context unit named "Multi Word Expression"

- □ Names: John Doe, New York, Bad Düben
- Idioms: piece of cake, raining cats and dogs, devil's advocate

Word-level Phenomena

Phenomena listing (Fortsetzung)

Stop Words are function words which do not carry any special information regarding topics or intends of a text

- $\hfill\Box$ the, from, could, he, she
- □ very frequent
- wordforms from closed categories see POS in the following point

Linguists divide words of a language into classes (sets) of words which show similar syntactic behavior

- □ parts of speech (POS)
- Most important: noun (people, animal, concept), verb (action), adjective (expression, property)
- open category: many members see above
- closed category: few members e.g. prepositions, determiners

Morphology is the systematic production of new wordforms by inflection, derivation and compounding of single lexemes

□ dog, dog-s, call, call-ed

Casing – Words might appear with different case depending on their position in the text

Dogs are barking at people on the street! Why are the dogs doing this?

The goal of text preprocessing is its conversion into a canonical form.

PRELIMINARY PROOFS.

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Chapter 1 Introduction

Dave Bowman: Open the pod bay doors, HAL. HAL: I'm sorry Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that. Stanley Kubrick and Arthur C. Clarke, screenplay of 2001: A Space Odyssey

The idea of giving computers the ability to process human language is as old as the idea of computers themselves. This book is about the implementation and implications of that exciting idea. We introduce a vibrant interdisciplinary field with many names corresponding to its many facets, names like speech and language processing, human language technology, natural language processing, computational linguistics, and speech recognition and synthesis. The goal of this new field is to get computers to perform useful tasks involving human language, tasks like enabling human-machine communication, improving human-human communication, or simply doing useful processing of text or speech.

Conversational agent

Dialogue system

One example of a useful such task is a conversational agent. The HAL 9000 computer in Stanley Kubrick's film 2001: A Space Odyssey is one of the most recognizable characters in twentieth-century cinema. HAL is an artificial agent capable of such advanced language-processing behavior as speaking and understanding English, and at a crucial moment in the plot, even reading lips. It is now clear that HAL's creator Arthur C. Clarke was a little optimistic in predicting when an artificial agent such as HAL would be available. But just how far off was he? What would it take to create at least the language-related parts of HAL? We call programs like HAL that converse with humans via natural language conversational agents or dialogue systems. In this text we study the various components that make up modern conversational agents, including language input (automatic speech recognition and natural language

Let's turn to another useful language-related task, that of making available to non-English-speaking readers the vast amount of scientific information on the Web in English. Or translating for English speakers the hundreds of millions of Web pages written in other languages like Chinese. The goal of machine translation is to automatically translate a document from one language to another. We will introduce the algorithms and mathematical tools needed to understand how modern machine translation works. Machine translation is far from a solved problem; we will cover the algorithms currently used in the field, as well as important component tasks.

Question answering

Machine translation

Many other language processing tasks are also related to the Web. Another such task is Web-based question answering. This is a generalization of simple web search, where instead of just typing keywords a user might ask complete questions, ranging from easy to hard, like the following:

- What does "divergent" mean?
- · What year was Abraham Lincoln born?
- · How many states were in the United States that year?

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Overview

Rationale:

Ease implementation of subsequent processing steps

A unified input format simplifies implementing processing steps. Example: In web search engines, all documents are converted to HTML. All indexing steps can expect HTML as input.

Avoid processing errors and model bias

Many rule-based and learning-based processing steps in an NLP pipeline may fail or be misled because of random text artifacts. High-level processing steps presume clean text. Examples: Text classifications may learn to exploit PDF-to-text conversion artifacts rather than a text's contents; parsers require grammatical text.

Constraints:

Task-dependence

The canonical form depends on the task at hand and its requirements.

Provenance

The possibility to determine from where in a raw text corpus, a preprocessed text originated.

Reversibility

The capability to render a preprocessed text in human-readable form.

Overview

Common preprocessing steps:

- Conversion to plain text
- □ Line break encodings: n UNIX, rn Windows
- D Encoding detection and unification e.g. iconv -f original_charset -t utf-8 originalfile > newfile
- Extraction of main content and meta information
- Normalization and/or paraphrasing
- Annotation

Plain text formats:

- □ unformatted, raw
- □ formatted and/or markup
- □ inline or external annotations

Overview

Normalization and/or paraphrasing:

- □ Faithful to the original text
- Departure from the original text
 - Unification across texts
 - Canonicalization

Whitespace, spelling, grammar; translation of text messages to common text norms

- Expansion and/or abstraction

Abbreviations, anaphora, translation to spoken language, canonicalization of tokens

Annotation:

- □ Syntactic units: phonemes, morphemes, tokens (esp. words), sentences
- Discourse units: paragraphs, sections, chapters
- **Typographic units:** lines, pages (layout, meta-information), documents
- □ Meta-information: title, authors, date, properties, ...

Tokenization

Tokenization turns a sequence of characters into a sequence of tokens.

Example:

```
Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears !
Friends , Romans , Countrymen , lend me your ears !
```

Terminology: (simplified)

- □ A token is a character sequence forming a useful semantic unit.
- □ A type is to a token what a class is to an object.

Token-granularity:

- □ Word-level: may or may not include whitespace between words
- Phrase-level: identification of multi-term named entities and common phrases
- Sentence-level: one token corresponds to one clause, or one sentence

Remarks:

- A related philosophical concept is the type-token distinction (see unit about corpus linguistics in this course). Here, a token is a specific instance of a word (i.e., its specific written form), and a type refers to its underlying concept as a whole. This is comparable to the distinction between class and object in object-oriented computer programming. For example, the sentence "A rose is a rose is a rose." comprises nine token instances but only four types, namely "a", "rose", "is", and ".".
- Tokenization is strongly language-dependent. English is already among the easiest languages to be tokenized, and there are still many problems to be solved. In Chinese, for example, words are not separated by a specific character, rendering the process of determining word boundaries much more difficult.

Tokenization: Special Cases

Contractions

Apostrophes can be a part of a word, a part of a possessive, or just a mistake: it's, o'donnell, can't, don't, 80's, men's, master's degree, shriner's

Hyphenated compounds

Hyphens may be part of a word, a separator, and some words refer to the same concept with or without hyphen: winston-salem, e-bay, wal-mart, active-x, far-reaching, loud-mouthed, 20-year-old.

Compounds

English: wheelchair, German: Computerlinguistik for computational linguistics.

Other special characters

Special characters may form part of words, **especially in technology-related text**: M*A*S*H, I.B.M., Ph.D., C++, C#, , http://www.example.com.

Numbers

Numbers form tokens of their own, and may contain punctuation as well: 6.5, 1e+010.

□ Phrase tokens: named entities, phone numbers, dates

San Francisco, (800) 234-2333, Mar 11,1983.

Tokenization Approaches

Heuristics

- Whitespace: A token is every character sequence separated by whitespace characters.
- TREC: A token is every alphanumeric sequence of characters of length > 3, separated by a space or punctuation mark.

Rule-based

Applications of rules to a text so that tokens are separated by whitespace from each other. This allows subsequent processing steps to apply the Whitespace Heuristic

Machine learning-based

Based on sufficiently large training data of correctly tokenized text, a model can be trained to decide at every character position whether to split tokens.

Rule-based Tokenization

- Algorithm: Tokenization with Regular Expressions.
- Input: *d*. Document in the form of a string.
 - A. Dictionary of abbreviations.
- Output: The document with space in-between its tokens.

Tokenize(d, A)

- 1. alnum = [A-Za-z0-9]; nalnum = $[^A-Za-z0-9]$; alwayssep = [?!()";/|']
- 2. clitic = ('|:|-|'S|'D|'M|'LL|'RE|'VE|N'T|'s|'d|'m|'ll|'re|'ve|n't)
- 3. Apply **s/\$alwayssep/_\$&_/g** to d.
- 4. Apply s/([^0-9]),/\$1_,_/g and s/,([^0-9])/_,_\$1/g to d.
- 5. Apply $s/^{\prime}/\$\&_{g}$ and $s/(\$nalnum)'/\1_{g} to d.
- 6. Apply s/\$clitic\$/_\$&/g and s/\$clitic(\$nalnum)/_\$1_\$2/g to d.
- 7. Split d by whitespace (/\s+/) to obtain a list of tokens $T\,.$
- 8. Apply s/\.\$/_\./ to t ∈ T if t matches /\$alnum\./ and is not in A and does not match /^([A-Za-z]\.([A-Za-z]\.)+)\$/.
- 9. Optionally expand clitics: **s/'ve/have/** and **s/'m/am/** and so on.
- 10. Return a whitespace-separated string of \boldsymbol{T} .

NLP:III-13 Words

Stopping (Token Removal)

Stopping refers to the removal of tokens from a token sequence that are not useful in order to reduce data and improve performance of subsequent tasks:

- Frequent tokens (collection-specific)
 Example: Wikipedia when processing Wikipedia.
- Function word tokens (language-dependent)
 the, of, and, etc; strong overlap with frequent tokens.
 Problem: to be or not to be would be completely lost.
- Punctuation-only tokens Counter-example: ; -)
- Number-only tokens

Short tokens

Short words may be important. Examples: xp, ma, pm, ben e king, el paso, master p, gm, j lo, world war II.

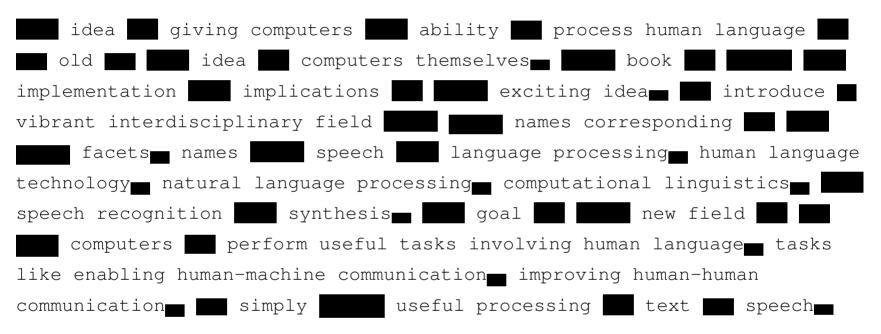
Stop word lists are typically customized to the text domain.

Example of stopword removal

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Stopping (Token Removal) (Fortsetzung)

Example of stopword removal



Token Normalization

Application of heuristic rules to each token in an attempt to unify them. (e.g. Normalization of social media texts for NLP [Clarke, Araki 2011])

□ Lower-casing

Problem: Capitalization may carry distinctions between word semantics. Examples: Bush vs. bush, Apple vs. apple.

- □ Removal of diacritical marks Example: café → cafe
- □ Spelling correction: I think my gramma got die of beaties → I think my grandma got diabetes

- Source data may contain "noise"
 - messed up OCR results
 - page headers, page numbers in OCRscanned books
 - XML-documents may contain copyright information in body texts
 - HTML-text may contain unwanted javascript text

Morphological analysis

Lemmatization or stemming

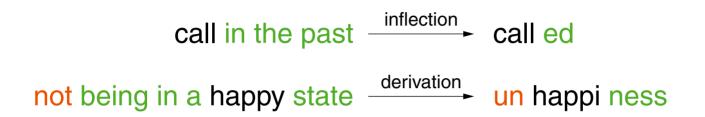
Chapter NLP:III

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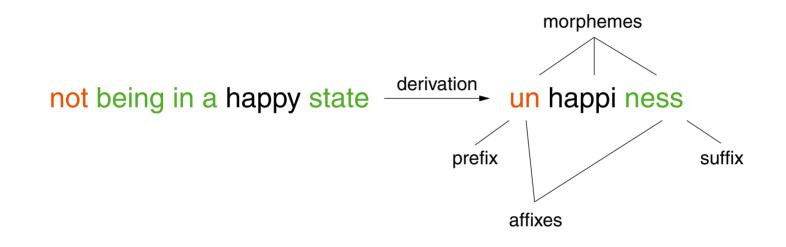
Overview [Hancox 1996]

Morphology is the study of the structure and formation of words.



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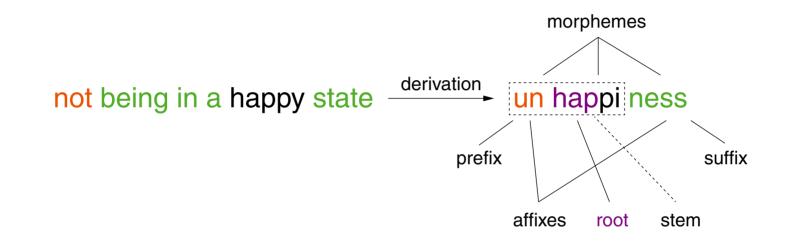


□ A morpheme is a "minimal unit of meaning".

Free morphemes can also be used as words. Bounded morphemes appear only as affixes (prefix, suffix, infix, and **more**) to words.

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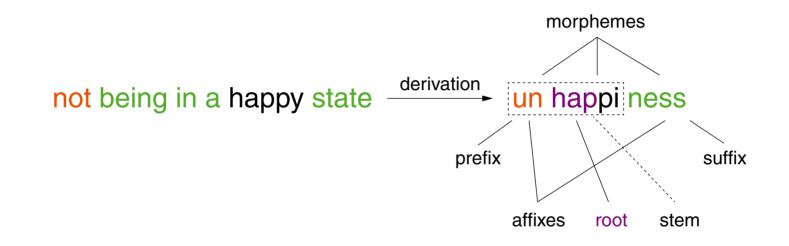
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□ A root is a single morpheme, a stem one or more.

A root is the derivational base, or type, of a word, a stem its inflectional base.

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Morphological analysis: identification of a word's morphemes and their role.

Stemming

Mapping of a word token to its word stem by removal of inflection (e.g., affixes).

Inflections:

- □ noun declination (grammatical case, numerus, gender)
- □ verb conjugation (grammatical person, numerus, tense, mode, ...)
- adjective and adverb comparison

Example:

connect connects connected connecting connection

Stemming: Principles [Frakes 1992]

1. Table lookup:

Given a word stem, store its inflections in a hash table. Problem: completeness.

2. Affix elimination:

Rule-based algorithms to identify prefixes and suffixes. Given their efficiency and intuitive workings, these are most commonly used.

3. Character *n*-grams:

Usage of 4-grams or 5-grams from tokens as stems. Basic heuristic for English: use the first 4 characters as stem.

4. Successor variety:

Exploits knowledge about structural linguistics to identify morpheme boundaries. The character sequences of tokens are added to a trie data structure; the outdegrees of inner nodes are analyzed to find suitable stems. Problem: difficult to operationalize.

Stemming: Affix Elimination

Principle: "iterative longest match stemming"

- 1. Removal of the longest possible match based on a set of rules.
- 2. Repetition of Step 1 until no rule can be applied, anymore.
- 3. Recoding to address irregularities captured by the rules.

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Notation:

- c denotes a consonant, C a non-empty sequence of consonants.
 v denotes a vowel, V a non-empty sequence of vowels.
 - → Every word is defined by $[C](VC)^{m}[V]$
- Consonant: Letter that is not a vowel.
- □ Vowel: Letters A, E, I, O, and U as well as Y after a consonant. Example: In TOY the Y is a consonant, in LOVELY the Y is a vowel.

Stemming: Porter Stemmer

Concepts:

- □ 9 rule sets, each consisting of 1-20 rules
- □ Rules of each group are sorted, to be applied top to bottom
- Only one rule per set can be applied
- **\Box** Rules are defined as follows: <Premise> S1 \longrightarrow S2

Stemming: Porter Stemmer

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Semantics:

If a character sequence ends with S1 and if the subsequence ahead of S1 (= word stem) fulfills the <Premise>, replace S1 by S2

Premises:

- (m>x) Number of vowel-consonant-sequences is larger than x.
- $(\star S)$ Word stem ends with S.
- $(\star v \star)$ Word stem contains a vowel.
- (*o) Word stem ends with cvc, where the second consonant $c \notin \{W, X, Y\}$.
- $(\star d)$ Word stem ends with two identical consonants.

NLP:III-24 Words

Stemming: Porter Stemmer

Selection of rules:

Rule set	Premise	Suffix	Replacement	Example
1a	Null	sses	SS	caresses \rightarrow caress
1a	Null	ies	i	ponies \rightarrow poni
1b	(m>0)	eed	ee	agreed \rightarrow agree feed \rightarrow feed
1b	(*⊽*)	ed	ε	plastered \rightarrow plaster bled \rightarrow bled
1b	(*⊽*)	ing	arepsilon	motoring \rightarrow motor sing \rightarrow sing
lc	(*⊽*)	У	i	happy $ ightarrow$ happi sky $ ightarrow$ sky
2	(m>0)	biliti	ble	sensibiliti \rightarrow sensible

Stemming: Porter Stemmer

Example:

Alan Mathison Turing was an English mathematician, computer scientist, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist. Turing was highly influential in the development of theoretical computer science, providing a formalisation of the concepts of algorithm and computation with the Turing machine, which can be considered a model of a general-purpose computer. Turing is widely considered to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.

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Stemming: Porter Stemmer

Weaknesses of the algorithm:

- Difficult to modify:
 The effects of changes are hardly predictable.
- □ Tends to overgeneralize:

university/universe, organization/organ

Does not capture clear generalizations:
 European/Europe, matrices/matrix, machine/machineri

Stemming: Krovetz Stemmer

The Krovetz stemmer combines a dictionary-based approach with rules:

- 1. Word looked up in dictionary
- 2. If present, replaced with word stem
- 3. If not present, word is checked for removable inflection suffixes
- 4. After removal, dictionary is checked again
- 5. If still not present, different suffixes are tried

Observations:

- □ Captures irregular cases such as is, be, was.
- Produces words not stems (more readable, similar to lemmatization)
- Comparable effectiveness to Porter stemmer
- Lower false positive rate, somewhat higher false negative rate

Stemming: Stemmer Comparison

Porter Stemmer:

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Stemming: Stemmer Comparison

Porter Stemmer:

Alan Mathison Turing was an English mathematician, computer scientist, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist. Turing was highly influential in the development of theoretical computer science, providing a formalisation of the concepts of algorithm and computation with the Turing machine, which can be considered a model of a general-purpose computer. Turing is widely considered to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.

Krovetz Stemmer:

Alan Mathison Tur**ing** was an English mathematician, computer scientist, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist. Tur**ing** was highly influential in the development of theoretical computer science, providing a formalis**ation** of the concepts of algorithm and computation with the Tur**ing** machine, which can be considered a model of a general-purpose computer. Tur**ing** is widely considered to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.

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Stemming: Character n-grams [McNamee et al. 2004] [McNamee et al. 2008]

A substring of length *n* from a longer string is called a character *n*-gram. A string of length $m \ge n$ has at most (m - n) + 1 character *n*-grams.

Example: Alan Mathison Turing ...

- □ 1-grams: A, l, a, n, M, a, t, h, i, s, o, n, T, u, r, i, n, g
- □ 2-grams: Al, la, an, Ma, at, th, hi, is, so, on, Tu, ur, ri, in, ng
- □ 3-grams: Ala, lan, Mat, ath, thi, his, iso, son, Tur, uri, rin, ing
- □ 4-grams: Alan, Math, athi, this, hiso, ison, Turi, urin, ring
- □ 5-grams: Alan, Mathi, athis, thiso, hison, Turin, uring

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Use the first (or all) character *n*-grams for n = 4 or n = 5 as pseudo-stems of a word.

Observations:

- Language-independent; good performance for many languages.
- □ Well-developed stemmers yield better performance (e.g., for English).
- □ Large overhead in terms of vocabulary size.

NLP:III-35 Words

Lemmatization

Problems with stemming:

- □ overstemming: artificial ambiguity {organization, organ} → organ
- understemming: unification fails

European \rightarrow european, Europe

 \rightarrow europ

Lookup of canonical / dictionary form of a word

 Approach 1: usually retrieved by long dictionary files which contain

inflected_type	lemma_type
European	Europe
Europe	Europe
Organizations	Organization

Problems with lookup approach:

- Getting good lemma resources
- Incomplete lemma lookup lists
- Approach 2 Morphology: many taggers also provide lemma output

e.g. Tree-tagger, Parzu (for German), SpaCy