

EDAN20

Language Technology

<http://cs.lth.se/edan20/>
Chapter 2: Corpus Processing Tools

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Corpora

A corpus is a collection of texts (written or spoken) or speech
Corpora are balanced from different sources: news, novels, etc.

	English	French	German
Most frequent words in a collection of contemporary running texts	<i>the</i> <i>of</i> <i>to</i> <i>in</i> <i>and</i>	<i>de</i> <i>le</i> (article) <i>la</i> (article) <i>et</i> <i>les</i>	<i>der</i> <i>die</i> <i>und</i> <i>in</i> <i>des</i>
Most frequent words in Genesis	<i>and</i> <i>the</i> <i>of</i> <i>his</i> <i>he</i>	<i>et</i> <i>de</i> <i>la</i> <i>à</i> <i>il</i>	<i>und</i> <i>die</i> <i>der</i> <i>da</i> <i>er</i>



Characteristics of Current Corpora

Big: The Bank of English (Collins and U Birmingham) has more than 500 million words

Available in many languages

Easy to collect: The web is the largest corpus ever built and within the reach of a mouse click

Parallel: same text in two languages: English/French (Canadian Hansards), European parliament (23 languages)

Annotated with part-of-speech or manually parsed (treebanks):

- Characteristics/N of/PREP Current/ADJ Corpora/N
- (NP (NP Characteristics) (PP of (NP Current Corpora)))



Lexicography

Writing dictionaries

Dictionaries for language learners should be build on real usage

- *They're just trying to score **brownie points** with politicians*
- *The boss is pleased – that's another **brownie point***

Bank of English: *brownie point* (6 occs) *brownie points* (76 occs)

Extensive use of corpora to:

- Find **concordances** and cite real examples
- Extract **collocations** and describe frequent pairs of words



Concordances

A word and its context:

Language	Concordances
English	s beginning of miracles did Je n they saw the miracles which n can do these miracles that t ain the second miracle that Je e they saw his miracles which
French	le premier des miracles que fi i dirent: Quel miracle nous mo om, voyant les miracles qu'il peut faire ces miracles que tu s ne voyez des miracles et des



Collocations

Word preferences: Words that occur together

	English	French	German
You say	<i>Strong tea</i>	<i>Thé fort</i>	<i>Schmales Gesicht</i>
	<i>Powerful computer</i>	<i>Ordinateur puissant</i>	<i>Enge Kleidung</i>
You don't say	<i>Strong computer</i>	<i>Thé puissant</i>	<i>Schmale Kleidung</i>
	<i>Powerful tea</i>	<i>Ordinateur fort</i>	<i>Enges Gesicht</i>



Word Preferences

Strong w			Powerful w		
<i>strong w</i>	<i>powerful w</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>strong w</i>	<i>powerful w</i>	<i>w</i>
161	0	showing	1	32	than
175	2	support	1	32	figure
106	0	defense	3	31	minority
...					



Corpora as Knowledge Sources

Short term:

- Describe usage more accurately
- Assess tools: part-of-speech taggers, parsers.
- Learn statistical/machine learning models for speech recognition, taggers, parsers
- Derive automatically symbolic rules from annotated corpora

Longer term:

- Semantic processing
- Texts are the main repository of human knowledge



Finite-State Automata

A flexible tool to search and process text

A FSA accepts and generates strings, here *ac*, *abc*, *abbc*, *abbbc*, *abbbbbbbbbbbbc*, etc.



FSA

Mathematically defined by

- Q a finite number of states;
- Σ a finite set of symbols or characters: the input alphabet;
- q_0 a start state,
- F a set of final states $F \subseteq Q$
- δ a transition function $Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$ where $\delta(q, i)$ returns the state where the automaton moves when it is in state q and consumes the input symbol i .



FSA in Prolog

```
% The start state      % The final states
start(q0).             final(q2).
```

```
transition(q0, a, q1).
transition(q1, b, q1).
transition(q1, c, q2).
```

```
accept(Symbols) :-
    start(StartState),
    accept(Symbols, StartState).
```

```
accept([], State) :-
    final(State).
accept([Symbol | Symbols], State) :-
    transition(State, Symbol, NextState),
    accept(Symbols, NextState).
```



Regular Expressions

Regexes are equivalent to FSA and generally easier to use

Constant regular expressions:

Pattern	String
regular	<i>A section on <u>regular</u> expressions</i>
the	<i>The book of <u>the</u> life</i>

The automaton above is described by the regex `ab*c`

```
grep 'ab*c' myFile1 myFile2
```

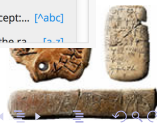
While `grep` was the first regex tool, most programming languages adopt the Perl syntax



regex101.com

regex101.com: A site to experiment and test regular expressions.

The screenshot shows the regex101.com website interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation options: 'SAVE & S...', 'FLAVOR' (with sub-options 'PCRE', 'JS', 'PY'), 'TOOLS' (with icons for menu, code, and checkmark), and a '\$' icon. The main area is divided into three sections: 'REGULAR EXPRESSION' with a text input containing '/ ac* e /' and a '3 MATCHES - 21 STEPS' status bar; 'TEST STRING' with a text area containing 'The aerial acceleration alerted the ace pilot'; and 'SUBSTITUTION' at the bottom. On the right, there are three panels: 'EXPLANATION' showing that 'a' matches the character 'a' literally and 'c*' matches the character 'c' literally; 'MATCH INFORMATION' stating 'No match groups were extracted.' and explaining that the pattern matches but has no capturing groups; and 'QUICK REFERENCE' with links to 'FULL REFERENCE', 'MOST USED TOKENS', and 'CATEGORIES'.



Metacharacters

Chars	Descriptions	Examples
*	Matches any number of occurrences of the previous character – zero or more	ac*e matches strings ae, ace, acce, accce, etc. as in “The <u>a</u> erial <u>a</u> cceleration alerted the <u>a</u> ce pilot”
?	Matches at most one occurrence of the previous character – zero or one	ac?e matches ae and ace as in “The <u>a</u> erial acceleration alerted the <u>a</u> ce pilot”
+	Matches one or more occurrences of the previous character	ac+e matches ace, acce, accce, etc. as in as in “The aerial <u>a</u> cceleration alerted the <u>a</u> ce pilot”



Metacharacters

Chars	Descriptions	Examples
<code>{n}</code>	Matches exactly n occurrences of the previous character	<code>ac{2}e</code> matches <code>acce</code> as in “The aerial <u>ac</u> celeration alerted the ace pilot”
<code>{n,}</code>	Matches n or more occurrences of the previous character	<code>ac{2,}e</code> matches <code>acce</code> , <code>accce</code> , etc.
<code>{n,m}</code>	Matches from n to m occurrences of the previous character	<code>ac{2,4}e</code> matches <code>acce</code> , <code>accce</code> , and <code>acccece</code> .

Literal values of metacharacters must be quoted using `\`



The Dot Metacharacter

The dot `.` is a metacharacter that matches one occurrence of any character except a new line

`a.e` matches the strings *ale* and *ace* in:

The aerial acceleration alerted the ace pilot

as well as *age, ape, are, ate, awe, axe, or aae, aAe, abe, aBe, a1e*, etc.

`.*` matches any string of characters until we encounter a new line.



The Longest Match

The previous slide does not tell about the match strategy.

Consider the string *aabbc* and the regular expression *a+b**

By default the match engine is greedy: It matches as early and as many characters as possible and the result is *aabb*

Sometimes a problem. Consider the regular expression *.** and the phrase

They match as early and as many characters as they can.

It is possible to use a lazy strategy with the **?* metacharacter instead: *.*?* and have the result:

They match as early and as many characters as they can.



Character Classes

[...] matches any character contained in the list.

[^...] matches any character not contained in the list.

[abc] means one occurrence of either a, b, or c

[^abc] means one occurrence of any character that is not an a, b, or c,

[ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ] one upper-case unaccented letter

[0123456789] means one digit.

[0123456789]+\.[0123456789]+ matches decimal numbers.

[Cc]omputer [Ss]cience matches Computer Science,
computer Science, Computer science, computer science.



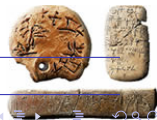
Predefined Character Classes

Expr.	Description	Example
<code>\d</code>	Any digit. Equivalent to <code>[0-9]</code>	<code>A\dC</code> matches <code>A0C</code> , <code>A1C</code> , <code>A2C</code> , <code>A3C</code> etc.
<code>\D</code>	Any nondigit. Equivalent to <code>[^0-9]</code>	
<code>\w</code>	Any word character: letter, digit, or underscore. Equivalent to <code>[a-zA-Z0-9_]</code>	<code>1\w2</code> matches <code>1a2</code> , <code>1A2</code> , <code>1b2</code> , <code>1B2</code> , etc
<code>\W</code>	Any nonword character. Equivalent to <code>[^\w]</code>	
<code>\s</code>	Any white space character: space, tabulation, new line, form feed, etc.	
<code>\S</code>	Any nonwhite space character. Equivalent to <code>[^\s]</code>	



Nonprintable Symbols or Positions

Char.	Description	Example
<code>^</code>	Matches the start of a line	<code>^ab*c</code> matches <code>ac</code> , <code>abc</code> , <code>abbc</code> , etc. when they are located at the beginning of a new line
<code>\$</code>	Matches the end of a line	<code>ab?c\$</code> matches <code>ac</code> and <code>abc</code> when they are located at the end of a line
<code>\b</code>	Matches word boundaries	<code>\babc</code> matches <code>abcd</code> but not <code>dabc</code> <code>bcd\b</code> matches <code>abcd</code> but not <code>abcde</code>
<code>\n</code>	Matches a new line	<code>a\nb</code> matches <code>a</code> <code>b</code>
<code>\t</code>	Matches a tabulation	



Union and Boolean Operators

Union denoted $|$: $a|b$ means either a or b .

Expression $a|bc$ matches the strings a and bc and $(a|b)c$ matches ac and bc ,

Order of precedence:

- 1 Closure and other repetition operator (highest)
- 2 Concatenation, line and word boundaries
- 3 Union (lowest)

abc^* is the set ab , abc , $abcc$, $abccc$, etc.

$(abc)^*$ corresponds to abc , $abcabc$, $abcabcabc$, etc.



Python

Match: m/regex/

```
import regex as re
```

```
line = 'The aerial acceleration alerted the ace pilot'
```

```
match = re.search('ab*c', line)
```

```
match      # <regex.Match object; span=(11, 13), match='ac'>
```

```
match.group() # ac
```

The `re.search()` function stops at the first match.



Python

Use `findall()` or `finditer()` to return all the matches

Match: `m/regex/g`

```
match_list = re.findall('ab*c', line)    # ['ac', 'ac']
```

Match: `m/regex/g`

```
match_iter = re.finditer('ab*c', line)
list(match_iter)
# [<regex.Match object; span=(11, 13), match='ac'>,
#  <regex.Match object; span=(36, 38), match='ac'>]
```



Python

Match: m/regex/modifiers

```
text = sys.stdin.read()
match = re.search('^ab*c', text, re.I | re.M) # m/^ab*c/im
if match:
    print('-> ' + match.group())
```



Python

Substitute: s/regex/replacement/g

```
for line in sys.stdin:
    if re.search('ab+c', line):
        print("Old: " + line, end='')
        # Replaces all the occurrences
        line = re.sub('ab+c', 'ABC', line)    # s/ab+c/ABC/g
        print("New: " + line, end='')
```

Substitute: s/regex/replacement/

If we just want to replace the first occurrence, we use this statement instead:

```
# Replaces the first occurrence
line = re.sub('ab+c', 'ABC', line, 1) # s/ab+c/ABC/
```

Python

Back references

The instruction `m/(.)\1\1/` matches sequences of three identical characters:

```
line = 'abbbcddeef'
match = re.search(r'(.)\1\1', line)
match.group(1)           # 'b'
```

We need to use a raw string and the `r` prefix to encode the regex in `search()`, otherwise `\1` would be interpreted as an octal number

Substitutions

```
s/(.)\1\1/***/g

re.sub(r'(.)\1\1', '***', 'abbbcddeef') # 'a***cd***f'
```

Python

Multiple back references

Python can create as many buffers as we need: \1, \2, \3, etc. Outside the regular expression, the \<digit> reference is returned by `group(<digit>)`: `match_object.group(1)`, `match_object.group(2)`, `match_object.group(3)`, etc.

Multiple back references

```
m/\$ *([0-9]+)\.?([0-9]*)/
```

```
price = "We'll buy it for $72.40"
match = re.search('\$ *([0-9]+)\.?([0-9]*)', price)
match.group()           # '$72.40' The entire match
match.group(1)          # '72' The first group
match.group(2)          # '40' The second group
```

Python

Substitutions

```
s/\$ *([0-9]+)\.?([0-9]*)/\1 dollars and \2 cents/g
```

```
price = "We'll buy it for $72.40"
```

```
re.sub('\$ *([0-9]+)\.?([0-9]*)',
```

```
      r'\1 dollars and \2 cents', price)
```

```
# We'll buy it for 72 dollars and 40 cents
```



Python

Match objects

- `match_object.group()` or `match_object.group(0)` return the entire match;
- `match_object.group(n)` returns the *n*th parenthesized subgroup.

In addition, the `match_object.groups()` returns a tuple with all the groups and the `match_object.string` instance variable contains the input string.

```
price = "We'll buy it for $72.40"
match = re.search('\$ *([0-9]+)\.?([0-9]*)', price)
match.string           # We'll buy it for $72.40
match.groups()         # ('72', '40')
```



Python

Match objects

We extract the indices of the matched substrings with the functions:

```
match_object.start([group])  
match_object.end([group])
```

```
line = """Tell me, O muse, of that ingenious hero  
    who travelled far and wide after he had sacked  
    the famous town of Troy."""
```

```
match = re.search(',.*,', line, re.S)  
line[0:match.start()]           # 'Tell me'  
line[match.start():match.end()] # ', O muse,'  
line[match.end():]             # 'of that ingenious hero  
    # who travelled far and wide after he had sacked  
    # the famous town of Troy.'
```

A Regex to Find Concordances

To print concordances, we need to write a regex that matches the pattern as well as a left and right context.

For instance *Nils Holgersson* with a context of 15 characters:

```
.{0,15}Nils Holgersson.{0,15}
```

Ideally, we would pass pattern and width as parameters:

```
pattern = 'Nils Holgersson'  
width = 15  
'.{0,width}pattern.{0,width}'
```



format()

`str.format()` provides variable substitutions as in:

```
begin = 'my'
'{} string {}'.format(begin, 'is empty')
# 'my string is empty'
```

`format()` has many options like reordering the arguments through indices:

```
begin = 'my'
'{1} string {0}'.format('is empty', begin)
# 'my string is empty'
```

If the input string contains braces, we escape them by doubling them: `{{` for a literal `{` and `}}` for `}`.

```
('.{0},{width}}{pattern}.{0},{width}}'
    .format(pattern=pattern, width=width))
```



Concordances in Python

```
[file_name, pattern, width] = sys.argv[1:]  
try:  
    text = open(file_name).read()  
except:  
    print('Could not open file', file_name)  
    exit(0)  
  
# spaces match tabs and newlines  
pattern = re.sub(' ', '\\s+', pattern)  
# Replaces newlines with spaces in the text  
text = re.sub('\\s+', ' ', text)  
concordance = ('({0,{width}}}{pattern}.{0,{width}})'  
               .format(pattern=pattern, width=width))  
for match in re.finditer(concordance, text):  
    print(match.group(1))
```



Approximate String Matching

A set of edit operations that transforms a source string into a target string: copy, substitution, insertion, deletion, reversal (or transposition).

Edits for *acress* from Kernighan et al. (1990).

Typo	Correction	Source	Target	Position	Operation
acress	actress	—	t	2	Deletion
acress	cress	a	—	0	Insertion
acress	caress	ac	ca	0	Transposition
acress	access	r	c	2	Substitution
acress	across	e	o	3	Substitution
acress	acres	s	—	4	Insertion
acress	acres	s	—	5	Insertion



Building a Spell Checker

Spell checkers use a dictionary and a set of transformations to suggest corrections to misspelled words in a text.

Dictionaries are collected from well-written texts: novels, newspapers, etc.

- Given a word in a text not in the dictionary, the spell checker generates all the transformations of this word.
- If we allow only one edit operation on a source string of length n , and if we consider an alphabet of 26 unaccented letters,
 - the deletion will generate n new strings;
 - the insertion, $(n + 1) \times 26$ strings;
 - the substitution, $n \times 25$; and
 - the transposition, $n - 1$ new strings.
- The spell checker keeps the transformations that are in the dictionary and orders them by frequency to suggest the correct word.

For an implementation, see <http://norvig.com/spell-correct.html>

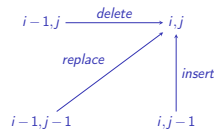


Building a Spell Checker

```
freq('acres') = 36.  
freq('caress') = 3.  
freq('cress') = false.  
freq('actress') = 7.  
freq('access') = 56.  
freq('across') = 222.
```



Distance between ab and cb



Edit distances measure the similarity between strings.

Let us align

a	b	Source
c	b	Destination

b	2		
c	1		
Start	0	1	2
	Start	a	b



Minimum Edit Distance

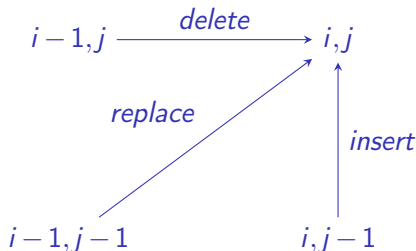
We compute the minimum edit distance using a matrix where the value at position (i,j) is defined by the recursive formula:

$$\text{edit_distance}(i,j) = \min \begin{pmatrix} \text{edit_distance}(i-1,j) + \text{del_cost} \\ \text{edit_distance}(i-1,j-1) + \text{subst_cost} \\ \text{edit_distance}(i,j-1) + \text{ins_cost} \end{pmatrix}.$$

where $\text{edit_distance}(i,0) = i$ and $\text{edit_distance}(0,j) = j$.



Edit Operations



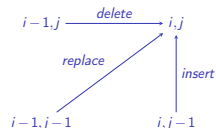
Usually, $del_cost = ins_cost = 1$

$subst_cost = 2$ if $source(i) \neq target(j)$

$subst_cost = 0$ if $source(i) = target(j)$.



Distance between ab and cb



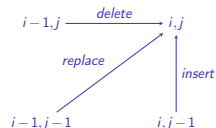
Let us align

a	b	Source
c	b	Destination

b	2		
c	1		
Start	0	1	2
	Start	a	b



Distance between ab and cb



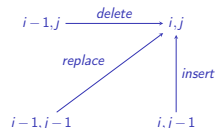
Let us align

a	b	Source
c	b	Destination

b	2		
c	1	2	
Start	0	1	2
	Start	a	b



Distance between ab and cb



Let us align

a	b	Source
c	b	Destination

b	2	3	
c	1	2	3
Start	0	1	2
	Start	a	b



Distance between ab and cb



Let us align

a	b	Source
c	b	Destination

b	2	3	2
c	1	2	3
Start	0	1	2
	Start	a	b



Distance between *language* and *lineage*

e	7								
g	6								
a	5								
e	4								
n	3								
i	2								
l	1								
Start	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Start	l	a	n	g	u	a	g	e



Distance between *language* and *lineage*

e	7	6	5						
g	6	5	4						
a	5	4	3						
e	4	3	4						
n	3	2	3						
i	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
l	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Start	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Start	l	a	n	g	u	a	g	e



Distance between *language* and *lineage*

e	7	6	5	6	5	6	7	6	5
g	6	5	4	5	4	5	6	5	6
a	5	4	3	4	5	6	5	6	7
e	4	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	6
n	3	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7
i	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
l	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Start	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Start	l	a	n	g	u	a	g	e



Python Code

```
[source, target] = sys.argv[1:]

length_s = len(source)
length_t = len(target)

# Initialize first row and column
table = [None] * (length_s + 1)

for i in range(length_s):
    table[i] = [None] * (length_t + 1)
    table[i][0] = i
for j in range(length_t):
    table[0][j] = j
```



Python Code

```
# Fills the table. Start index of rows and columns is 1
for i in range(1, length_s):
    for j in range(1, length_t):
        # Is it a copy or a substitution?
        cost = 0 if source[i - 1] == target[j - 1] else 2
        # Computes the minimum
        minimum = table[i - 1][j - 1] + cost
        if minimum > table[i][j - 1] + 1:
            minimum = table[i][j - 1] + 1
        if minimum > table[i - 1][j] + 1:
            minimum = table[i - 1][j] + 1
        table[i][j] = minimum

print('Minimum distance: ', table[length_s - 1][length_t - 1])
```



Prolog Code

```
% edit_operation carries out one edit operation
% between a source string and a target string.
edit_operation([Char | Source], [Char | Target], Source,
    Target, ident, 0).
edit_operation([SChar | Source], [TChar | Target], Source,
    Target, sub(SChar,TChar), 2) :-
    SChar \= TChar.
edit_operation([SChar | Source], Target, Source, Target,
    del(SChar), 1).
edit_operation(Source, [TChar | Target], Source, Target,
    ins(TChar), 1).
```



Prolog Code

```
% edit_distance(+Source, +Target, -Edits, ?Cost).
edit_distance(Source, Target, Edits, Cost) :-
    edit_distance(Source, Target, Edits, 0, Cost).

edit_distance([], [], [], Cost, Cost).
edit_distance(Source, Target, [EditOp | Edits], Cost,
    FinalCost) :-
    edit_operation(Source, Target, NewSource, NewTarget,
        EditOp, CostOp),
    Cost1 is Cost + CostOp,
    edit_distance(NewSource, NewTarget, Edits, Cost1,
        FinalCost).
```



Distance between *language* and *lineage*

	First alignment	Third alignment
Without epsilon symbols	l a n g u a g e	l a n g u a g e
	/ / /	/ / /
	l i n e a g e	l i n e a g e
With epsilon symbols	l a n g u a g e	l a n g u ε a g e
	l i n e ε a g e	l i n ε ε e a g e

