

University of Tokyo: Text-as-Data Day 1, Part I

Arthur Spirling

June 3, 2017

Boring but important sanity check

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`https://github.com/ArthurSpirling/UTokyo-TextAsData`

What this class is about...

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Introduction to quantitative 'text-as-data' approaches as strategies to learn more about social scientific phenomena of interest.

Overview

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Overview



- Descriptive inference: how to characterize text,

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- CS 'stuff' like machine translation, OCR, algorithm design etc.
- excellent options elsewhere.





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We will use **quanteda** and other packages.

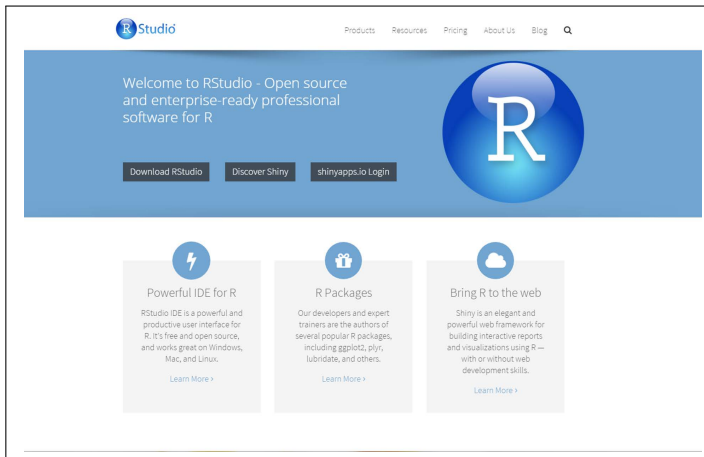
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both 'how does the way Japanese politicians talk about national defence change in response to electoral system shift?'

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 - comparing, **testing**, **validating**.

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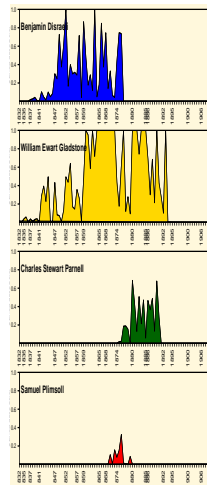
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“PREPROCESSING”

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The subject speaks its own importance; comprehending in its consequences nothing less than the existence of the UNION, the safety and welfare of the parts of which it is composed, the fate of an empire in many respects the most interesting in the world.

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e.g. stemmed word like 'treasuri', which doesn't appear in the document itself.

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e.g. "Brown vs Board of Education" may not be usefully tokenized as 'Brown', 'vs', 'Board', 'of', 'Education'

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NB these words mean something 'special' (and slightly opaque) when combined. Related to idea of **collocations**: words that appear together more often than we'd predict based on random sampling.

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am	an	and	any	are	aren't	as
at	be	because	been	before	being	below
between	both	but	by	can't	cannot	could
couldn't	did	didn't	do	does	doesn't	doing
don't	down	during	each	few	for	from
further	had	hadn't	has	hasn't	have	haven't
having	he	he'd	he'll	he's	her	here
here's	hers	herself	him	himself	his	how
how's	i	i'd	i'll	i'm	i've	if
in	into	is	isn't	it	it's	its
itself	let's	me	more	most	mustn't	my
myself	no	nor	not	of	off	on
once	only	or	other	ought	our	ours
ourselves	out	over	own	same	shan't	she
she'd	she'll	she's	should	shouldn't	so	some
such	than	that	that's	the	their	theirs
them	themselves	then	there	there's	these	they
they'd	they'll	they're	they've	this	those	through
to	too	under	until	up	very	was
wasn't	we	we'd	we'll	we're	we've	were
weren't	what	what's	when	when's	where	where's
which	while	who	who's	whom	why	why's
with	won't	would	wouldn't	you	you'd	you'll
you're	you've	your	yours	yourself	yourselves	

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- annotating in this way is called parts-of-speech tagging.

Penn POS Tagger

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Number	Tag	Description			
1.	CC	Coordinating conjunction	18.	PRP	Personal pronoun
2.	CD	Cardinal number	19.	PRP\$	Possessive pronoun
3.	DT	Determiner	20.	RB	Adverb
4.	EX	Existential <i>there</i>	21.	RBR	Adverb, comparative
5.	FW	Foreign word	22.	RBS	Adverb, superlative
6.	IN	Preposition or subordinating conjunction	23.	RP	Particle
7.	JJ	Adjective	24.	SYM	Symbol
8.	JJR	Adjective, comparative	25.	TO	<i>to</i>
9.	JJS	Adjective, superlative	26.	UH	Interjection
10.	LS	List item marker	27.	VB	Verb, base form
11.	MD	Modal	28.	VBD	Verb, past tense
12.	NN	Noun, singular or mass	29.	VBG	Verb, gerund or present participle
13.	NNS	Noun, plural	30.	VBN	Verb, past participle
14.	NNP	Proper noun, singular	31.	VBP	Verb, non-3rd person singular present
15.	NNPS	Proper noun, plural	32.	VBZ	Verb, 3rd person singular present
16.	PDT	Predeterminer	33.	WDT	Wh-determiner
17.	POS	Possessive ending	34.	WP	Wh-pronoun
			35.	WP\$	Possessive wh-pronoun
			36.	WRB	Wh-adverb

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In practice, need something faster (and cruder), so software implements the [Porter Stemmer](#) using algorithms like [Snowball](#).

Snowball examples

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Original Word		Stemmed Word
abolish	\mapsto	abolish
abolished	\mapsto	abolish
abolishing	\mapsto	abolish
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abortion	↦	abort
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treasure	↦	treasure
treasured	↦	treasure
treasures	↦	treasure
treasuring	↦	treasure
treasury	↦	treasuri

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- 1 The mountains are beautiful in Ore. and Wash.
- 2 <http://www.wsj.com/articles/son-of-saul-not-about-the-survivors-1449590175>
- 3 I can't go with him to Beijing.

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- also can use *substrings* which are groups of *n* contiguous characters.

Using String Kernels instead...

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① peace not war between

② brothers not warfare now

③ be war not friendship

documents are **similar** in word use terms...

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original/some pre-processing

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The image is a screenshot of a Google search interface. At the top left is the Google logo. To its right is a search bar containing the text "is obama a citizen of kenya". To the right of the search bar are a microphone icon and a blue search button with a magnifying glass. Below the search bar is a horizontal menu with the following items: "All" (highlighted with a blue underline), "News", "Images", "Videos", "Shopping", "More" (with a downward arrow), and "Search tools". Below the menu, the text "About 1,180,000 results (0.75 seconds)" is displayed. The first search result is titled "Obama's Kenyan Citizenship? - FactCheck.org" in blue. Below the title is the URL "www.factcheck.org/2008/08/obamas-kenyan-citizenship/" in green, followed by a small downward arrow and the text "FactCheck.org". Below the URL is a snippet of text: "Aug 29, 2008 - Q: Does Barack Obama have Kenyan citizenship? A: No. He held both U.S. and Kenyan citizenship as a child, but lost his Kenyan citizenship ...". At the bottom right of the page, there is a navigation bar with several icons: a left arrow, a square, a right arrow, a double left arrow, a double right arrow, a list icon, a search icon, and a refresh icon.

Google

is obama a citizen of kenya

All News Images Videos Shopping More Search tools

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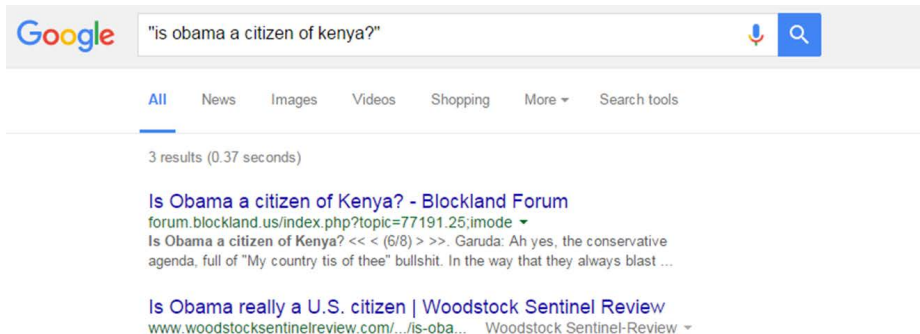
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Google

"is obama a citizen of kenya?"

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Political scientists often use text-as-data in an **exploratory** or **unsupervised** way. In that world, the metric isn't really 'prediction'. Yet most advice about pre-processing comes from the **supervised** literature.

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Denny & Spirling look at (Wordfish) scaling of four sets of UK election manifestos (1983, 1987, 1992, 1997).

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→ more variance than we would like!

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along with term frequency, we may want to consider **document frequency**: the number of documents in which this word appears.

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→ 'expect' helps us discriminate better than 'will'.

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n (natural)	$tf_{t,d}$	n (no)	1
l (logarithm)	$1 + \log(tf_{t,d})$	t (idf)	$\log \frac{N}{df_t}$
a (augmented)	$0.5 + \frac{0.5 \times tf_{t,d}}{\max_t(tf_{t,d})}$	p (prob idf)	$\max\{0, \log \frac{N - df_t}{df_t}\}$
b (boolean)	$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } tf_{t,d} > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$		
L (log ave)	$\frac{1 + \log(tf_{t,d})}{1 + \log(\text{ave}_{t \in d}(tf_{t,d}))}$		

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NB there are **efficient** ways to store and manipulate sparse matrices.

Partner Exercise

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