
LINGI2263 Computational linguistics

Assignment 2 : Text Categorization



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29/03/2012

2 Preprocessing

To tokenize the files we had to determine where to split the sentences in words and which types of expressions should be replaced by a token representing the type.

For splitting the tokens we simply used the whitespace as a separator as well as special characters that we didn't include in our types definitions. With the exception of the special characters "-" and "'" which can appear inside some tokens that we didn't wish to split.

We also added markers for start and end of sentences. The start of sentences were placed before capitalized words followed by any sequence of tokens finishing by a dot or a newline. The end of sentences were then placed after any dot followed by either a start of sentence, a newline or the end of the string.

2.1 Mapping expressions to types

We replaced some types of expressions by aliases :

email replaces any email

date replaces the dates

kikoo replaces words such as "xoXOxo" or any variation.

smiley replaces any smiley

math replaces mathematical expressions

punctuationfreak replaces multiple punctuation marks.

repeatedchars replaces any word containing a letter repeated 3 or more times in a row.

weirdcaps replaces words with at least a non capitalized character followed by a capitalized one.

We also replaced occurrences of "'s" by "is" and of "'m" by "am". However for the negations such as in "don't" we decided to keep the "'t" attached to "don" instead of replacing it all by "do not".

2.2 Most frequent tokens

After tokenizing the corpus (composed of the training files for both male and female blogs) the total number of tokens retrieved in the lexicon is 52505 distinct tokens.

Here are the top 20 most frequent tokens types extracted from the corpus. We removed the markers `|s|` and `|/s|` used to represent respectively the beginning and the end of a sentence from this top list. They were in the top 2 positions and weren't really interesting.

token	frenquency
the	34631
to	22906
and	21281
a	19722
of	18168
I	16620
is	16436
in	11903
that	9428
for	7512
it	7179
on	6184
my	5854
was	5843
with	5705
you	5656
have	4692
this	4468
be	4186
as	4157

We can see that the word "the" is the most frequent one as expected.

3 Word and N-gram counts

Here is the graph of the number of unigrams, bigrams and trigrams for each frequency :

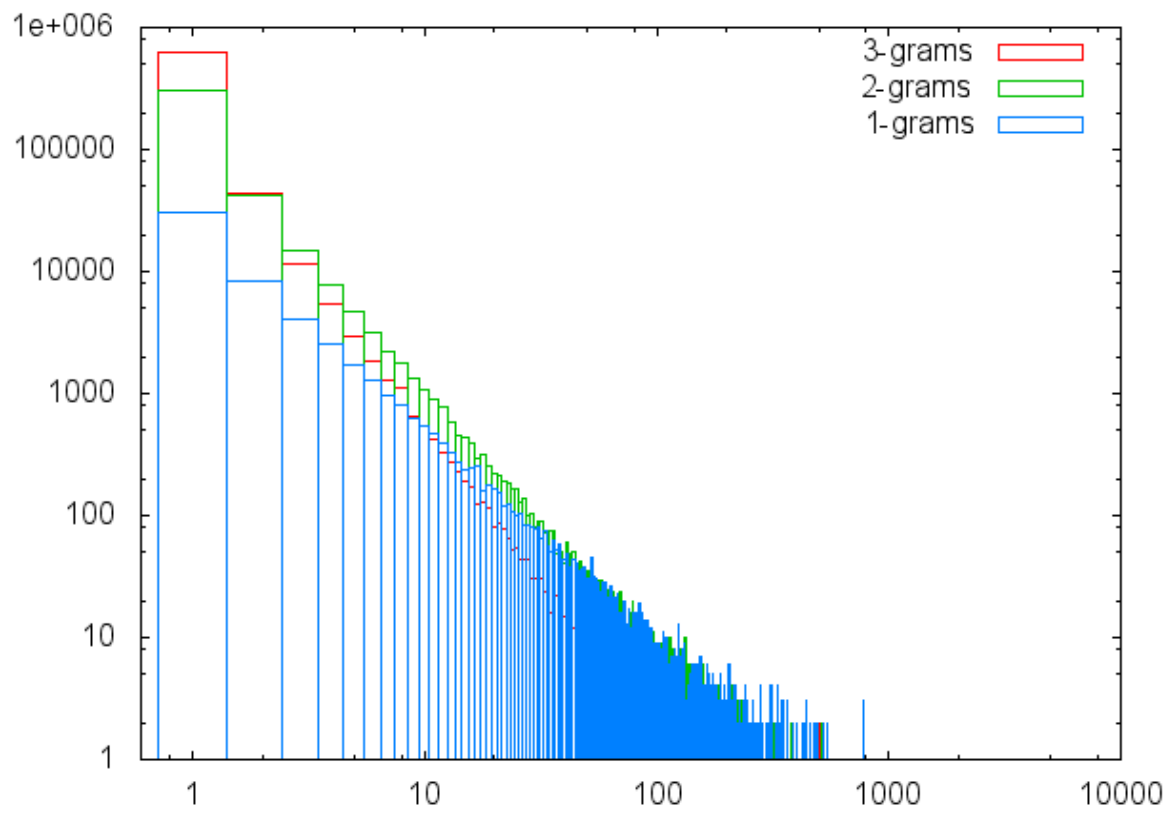


Figure 1

We can see the unigrams histogram in blue and it is linear in log-log scale so Zipf's law is respected. The same seems to be true for bigrams and trigrams.

4 N-gram estimation

We computed the mean perplexity over each test set using each training set for n-grams with $n \in [1, 5]$ and with the basic laplace add one smoothing and the linear interpolation smoothing.

We didn't manage to keep the consistency for the laplace model so the associated perplexities are a little bit crazy...

4.1 1-gram with laplace smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	140.07300098438208	0.03219323101098795	165.55490835053433	0.03644707958261017
male	134.49432287066887	0.03219323101098795	143.43047078221815	0.03644707958261017

4.2 1-gram with linear smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	1181.4392640498015	0.03219323101098795	1396.3652360335718	0.03644707958261017
male	1273.3247776421954	0.03219323101098795	1357.9277431026294	0.03644707958261017

4.3 2-gram with laplace smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	6597.051090993472	0.03219323101098795	7526.464184988605	0.03644707958261017
male	6751.450681527784	0.03219323101098795	7068.504328026753	0.03644707958261017

4.4 2-gram with linear smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	85.85618860497664	0.03219323101098795	98.29094897820075	0.03644707958261017
male	94.7289894781771	0.03219323101098795	93.48257298944773	0.03644707958261017

4.5 3-gram with laplace smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	19419.704289536854	0.03219323101098795	21080.08273975077	0.03644707958261017
male	19857.104934164177	0.03219323101098795	20674.655403927376	0.03644707958261017

4.6 3-gram with linear smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	74.05775785805339	0.03219323101098795	96.82676770775483	0.03644707958261017
male	87.29893378787449	0.03219323101098795	88.4301357336149	0.03644707958261017

4.7 4-gram with laplace smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	23270.25113767307	0.03219323101098795	24783.006381785264	0.03644707958261017
male	23512.386931883306	0.03219323101098795	24376.779729652386	0.03644707958261017

4.8 4-gram with linear smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	132.88670099907827	0.03219323101098795	174.63117442256916	0.03644707958261017
male	151.2064322011711	0.03219323101098795	153.94702577858564	0.03644707958261017

4.9 5-gram with laplace smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	23428.567965680333	0.03219323101098795	24823.951627660903	0.03644707958261017
male	23588.180660734663	0.03219323101098795	24415.93450835315	0.03644707958261017

4.10 5-gram with linear smoothing :

training set	On female test set		On male test set	
	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate	mean perplexity	mean perplexity OOV rate
female	164.70561612766298	0.03219323101098795	214.29336077008773	0.03644707958261017
male	190.28328162528635	0.03219323101098795	193.30692013526775	0.03644707958261017

4.11 Conclusions from the perplexities

We notice that most of the time the perplexity is lower on the same test set as the training set used. This is expected since sets from the same gender match better.

We also notice that the lowest perplexity is for linear smoothing with 3-grams. We'll see later if this reflects on the quality of the prediction.

5 Categorization of blog messages per gender

Here are the confusion matrices that we obtained with unigrams, trigrams and pentagrams while using laplace add one smoothing and linear interpolation smoothing. Each line corresponds to the results obtained for the lines of a given test set. Columns represent the value guessed.

5.1 1-grams with laplace smoothing :

	male	female
male	596	78
female	342	205

5.2 1-grams with linear smoothing :

	male	female
male	326	348
female	93	454

5.3 3-grams with laplace smoothing :

	male	female
male	382	292
female	151	396

5.4 3-grams with linear smoothing :

	male	female
male	402	272
female	148	399

5.5 5-grams with laplace smoothing :

	male	female
male	411	263
female	198	349

5.6 5-grams with linear smoothing :

	male	female
male	399	275
female	164	383

5.7 Conclusions

5.7.1 Optimal model order and smoothing technique

First of all we can easily tell that the linear interpolation smoothing tends to be better than the laplace add one. For unigrams laplace results on detecting female test samples are disastrous.

Then about the optimal order, unigrams be excluded since the results are pretty random. However with linear smoothing the results with 3-grams and 5-grams are nearly the same. But since 5-grams require more computation power the 3-grams can be selected as optimal.

5.7.2 Correlation to the perplexity results

We noted that the lowest perplexities were obtained with 3-grams linear smoothing. This is also the model order and smoothing technique that we selected as optimal from the confusion matrices so the perplexity results were a good indicator of the classification accuracy.