

# Text Mining

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February 27, 2019

# Overview

## 1 Introduction

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- Sentence Segmentation

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# Simple Question: Why do dogs howl at the moon?

← → C https://www.google.com/search?q=why+do+dogs+howl+at+the+moon&rlz=1C1CHBF\_en-GBGB823GB823&oq=w



why do dogs howl at the moon



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They **do** tend to **howl** more as darkness is falling, or morning is coming. That might be why people think they're **howling at the moon**. They also tip their heads back, adding to that impression. **Dogs** still have some wolf behavior, so some **howl**.

[Why do dogs or wolves howl at the moon when it ... - UCSB Science Line](#)  
sciencline.ucsb.edu/getkey.php?key=340

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[When a dog howls does it mean death?](#)

[What does it mean when a dog is howling?](#)

[Why does my dog bark at the moon?](#)

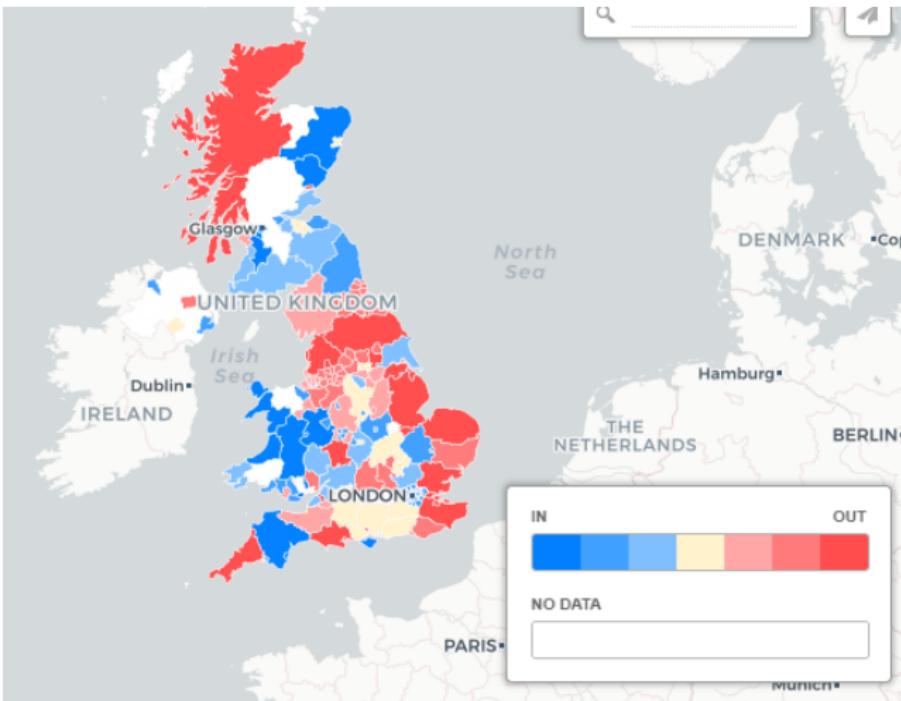
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[Why Do Dogs Howl At The Moon? - Dogtime](#)

<https://dogtime.com/dog-health/dog...22207-why-do-dogs-howl-at-the-moon>

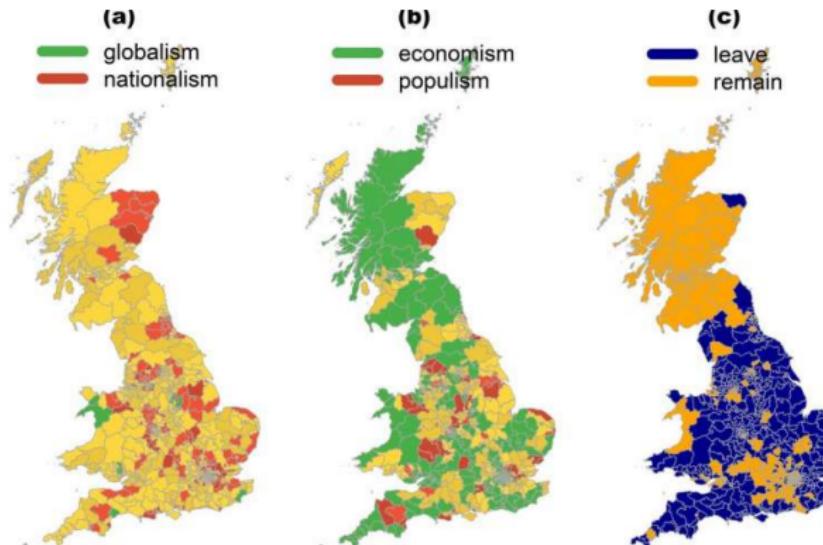
Wolves are the ancestors of our indoor pups, and they're known for howling at the moon. ... Wolves are nocturnal, and they need to communicate, so they howl at night. They also throw their heads back.

# Text Mining Around Us - Sentiment Analysis



source: <https://www.jellyfish.co.uk/news-and-views/update-eu-referendum-campaigns-seem-to-be-causing-little-impact>

# Text Mining Around Us - Opinion Mining



Color-coded heat map of UK parliamentary constituencies (see legend). In graphics (a) and (b), green is used for constituencies showing majority economic and globalist sentiment, and red is used for constituencies showing majority populist and nationalist sentiment. Yellow is the result of adding green to red, with these constituencies somewhere in the middle of the scales. Graphic (c) shows voting patterns in the referendum. Credit: Dr. Marco Bastos and Dr. Dan Mercea

source: <https://phys.org/news/2018-04-brexit-debate-twitter-driven-economic.html>

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- The Guilty (2018) R | 85 min | Crime, Drama, Thriller. ...
- Mission: Impossible - Fallout (2018) PG-13 | 147 min | Action, Adventure, Thriller. ...
- Searching (III) (2018) ...
- A Star Is Born (2018) ...
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# Text Mining Around Us - Document Summarization

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**Text mining**, also referred to as **text data mining**, roughly equivalent to **text analytics**, is the process of deriving high-quality information from **text**. High-quality information is typically derived through the devising of patterns and trends through means such as statistical pattern learning.

[Text mining - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_mining)   
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text\\_mining](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_mining)



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## Text mining

**Text mining**, also referred to as **text data mining**, roughly equivalent to **text analytics**, is the process of deriving high-quality information from **text**. High-quality information is typically derived through the devising of patterns and trends through means such as statistical pattern learning.

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### People also ask

- What is text mining and how does it work?
- What is NLP in text mining?
- What are text mining techniques?
- What is text analytics How does it differ from text mining?

[Feedback](#)

# Text Mining - Definition and Challenges

- Text mining

- process of extracting interesting and non-trivial patterns or knowledge from unstructured text documents [Tan et al., 1999].
- *a.k.a* text data mining [Hearst, 1997],
- knowledge discovery from textual databases [Feldman and Dagan, 1995]
- text analytics - application to solve business problems

# Text Mining - Challenges

- Unorganized form of data
  - semi-structured or unstructured
- Deriving semantics from content
  - ambiguities at different levels - lexical, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic
  - Text has multiple interpretations  
Teacher Strikes Idle Kids  
Violinist linked to JAL crash blossoms
  - Word sense ambiguity  
Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
- Non-standard English
  - language in Tweets
  - SOO PROUD of what U accomp.

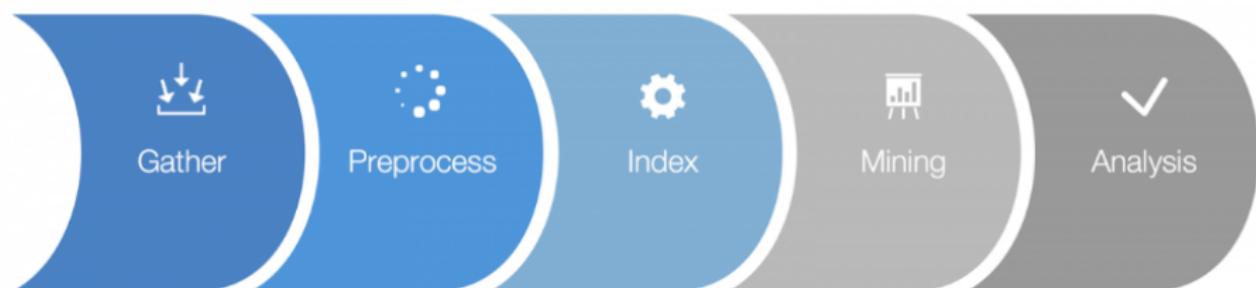
# Text Mining - Challenges

- New Words
  - 850 new words added dictionary at Merriam-Webster.com in 2018
  - Cryptocurrency
  - Chiweenie - a cross between a Chihuahua and a dachshund
  - Dumpster fire - a disastrous event
- Idioms
  - dark horse; get cold feet
- Combining information from multi-lingual texts
- Integrate domain knowledge

# Steps in Text Mining

## Text Mining

Text mining involves a series of activities to be performed in order to efficiently mine the information. These activities are:



Data assemble from  
difference resources

Data preparation  
and transformation

Quick access and  
search stored data

Algorithm, inference and  
information extraction

User analysis,  
Navigation

source: <http://openminted.eu/text-mining-101/>

# Text Mining - Preprocessing Steps

- Tokenisation
- Stemming
- Stopword Removal
- Sentence Segmentation

# Tokenisation

- Process of splitting text into words
- What is a word?

string of contiguous alphanumeric characters with space on either side;  
may include hyphens and apostrophes, but no other punctuation  
marks [Kučera and Francis, 1967].

- Useful clue - space or tab (English)

# Tokenisation - Problems

- Periods
  - usually helps if we remove them
  - but useful to retain in certain cases such as \$22.50; Ed.,
- hyphenation
  - useful to retain in some cases e.g., state-of-the-art
  - better to remove in other cases e.g., gold-import ban, 50-year-old
- Single apostrophes
  - useful to remove them e.g., *isn't*, *didn't*
- space may not be a useful clue all the time
- sometimes we want to use words separated by space as 'single' word
- For example:
  - San Francisco
  - University of Liverpool
  - Danushka Bollegala

# Regular Expressions for Tokenisation

- Regular Expressions Cheatsheet

REGEX	NOTE	EXAMPLE	EXPLANATION
\s	white space	\d\s\d	digit space digit
\S	not white space	\d\S\d	digit non-whitespace digit
\d	digit	\d\d\d-\d\d-\d\d\d	SSN
\D	not digit	\D\D\D	three non-digits
\w	word character (letter, number, or _)	\w\w\w	three word chars
\W	not a word character	\W\W\W	three non-word chars
[...]	any included character	[a-z0-9#]	any char that is a thru z, 0 thru 9, or #
[^...]	no included character	[^xyx]	any char but x, y, or z
*	zero or more	\w*	zero or more words chars
+	one or more	\d+	integer
?	zero or one	\d\d\d-?\d\d-?\d\d\d	SSN with dashes being optional
	or	\w \d	word or digit character

# Regular Expressions for Tokenisation

```
1 raw = """'When I'M a Duchess,' she said to herself, (not in a very hopeful tone
2         though), 'I won't have any pepper in my kitchen AT ALL. Soup does very
3         well without--Maybe it's always pepper that makes people hot-tempered,'..."""
4
5 import re
6 print(re.split(r'\s+', raw))
7 ['"When", "I'M", "a", "Duchess,", "she", "said", "to", "herself,", "(not", "in", "a",
8  'very', 'hopeful', 'tone\n\t', "", 'though', "", "I", "won't", "have", "any",
9  'pepper', 'in', 'my', 'kitchen', 'AT', 'ALL.', 'Soup', 'does', 'very\n\t', '',
10 'well', 'without--Maybe', "it's", 'always', 'pepper', 'that', 'makes', 'people',
11 'hot-tempered,..."]
12
13 print(re.split(r'[\t\n]+', raw))
14 ['"When", "I'M", "a", "Duchess,", "she", "said", "to", "herself,", "(not", "in", "a",
15  'very', 'hopeful', 'tone', 'though', "", "I", "won't", "have", "any", 'pepper', 'in',
16  'my', 'kitchen', 'AT', 'ALL.', 'Soup', 'does', 'very', 'well', 'without--Maybe',
17  "it's", 'always', 'pepper', 'that', 'makes', 'people', "hot-tempered,..."]
18
19 print(re.findall(r"\w+ (?:[-]\w+)*|[.-(.)]+\S\w*", raw))
20 ["""', 'When ', 'I', "", 'M', 'a', 'Duchess', ' ', "", 'she ', 'said ', 'to ',
21 'herself', ' ', '(', 'not ', 'in ', 'a ', 'very ', 'hopeful ', 'tone', 'though',
22 ')', ' ', '."', 'I ', 'won', ' ', 't ', 'have ', 'any ', 'pepper ', 'in ', 'my ',
23 'kitchen ', 'AT ', 'ALL', ' ', 'Soup ', 'does ', 'very ', 'well ', 'without', '--',
24 'Maybe ', 'it', "", 's ', 'always ', 'pepper ', 'that ', 'makes ', 'people ',
25 '|hot', '--', 'tempered', ' ', "", '...']
```

# Stanford Parser for Tokenisation

```
1 raw = """'When I'M a Duchess,' she said to herself, (not in a very hopeful tone
2 | | | though), 'I won't have any pepper in my kitchen AT ALL. Soup does very
3 | | | well without--Maybe it's always pepper that makes people hot-tempered, '..."""
4
5 path_to_parser_jar = 'lib/stanford-parser.jar'
6 path_to_models_jar = 'lib/stanford-parser-3.5.1-models.jar'
7
8 # POS Tagger
9 from nltk.tokenize.stanford import StanfordTokenizer
10 tokenizer = StanfordTokenizer(path_to_parser_jar)
11
12 tokenized_text = tokenizer.tokenize(raw)
13 print tokenized_text
14
15 [u'', u'When', u'I', u'M', u'a', u'Duchess', u'', u'', u'she', u'said', u'to',
16 u'herself', u'', u'-LRB-', u'not', u'in', u'a', u'very', u'hopeful', u'tone', u'though',
17 u'-RRB-', u'', u'', u'I', u'wo', u'n't', u'have', u'any', u'pepper', u'in', u'my',
18 u'kitchen', u'AT', u'ALL', u'.', u'Soup', u'does', u'very', u'well', u'without', u'--',
19 u'Maybe', u'it', u's', u'always', u'pepper', u'that', u'makes', u'people', u'hot-tempered',
20 u', u'', u'...']
```

# Tokenisation

- Tokenisation turns out to be more difficult than one expects
- No single solution works well
- Decide what counts as a token depending on the application domain

# SPACY (<https://spacy.io/>)

- SPACY - a relatively new package for “Industrial strength NLP in Python”.
- Developed by Matt Honnibal at Explosion AI
- Designed with applied data scientist in mind
- SPACY supports:
  - Tokenisation
  - Lemmatisation
  - Part-of-speech tagging
  - Entity recognition
  - Dependency parsing
  - Sentence recognition
  - Word-to-vector transformations

# SPACY - Feature Comparison

	SPACY	SYNTAXNET	NLTK	CORENLP
Programming language	Python	C++	Python	Java
Neural network models	✓	✓	✗	✓
Integrated word vectors	✓	✗	✗	✗
Multi-language support	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tokenization	✓	✓	✓	✓
Part-of-speech tagging	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sentence segmentation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dependency parsing	✓	✓	✗	✓
Entity recognition	✓	✗	✓	✓
Coreference resolution	✗	✗	✗	✓

source: <https://spacy.io/usage/facts-figures>

# SPACY - Benchmarks

SYSTEM	YEAR	LANGUAGE	ACCURACY	SPEED (WPS)
spaCy v2.x	2017	Python / Cython	92.6	n/a ?
spaCy v1.x	2015	Python / Cython	91.8	13,963
ClearNLP	2015	Java	91.7	10,271
CoreNLP	2015	Java	89.6	8,602
MATE	2015	Java	92.5	550
Turbo	2015	C++	92.4	349

source: <https://spacy.io/usage/facts-figures>

# SPACY - Detailed Speed Comparison

SYSTEM	ABSOLUTE (MS PER DOC)			RELATIVE (TO SPACY)		
	TOKENIZE	TAG	PARSE	TOKENIZE	TAG	PARSE
spaCy	0.2ms	1ms	19ms	1x	1x	1x
CoreNLP	0.18ms	10ms	49ms	0.9x	10x	2.6x
ZPar	1ms	8ms	850ms	5x	8x	44.7x
NLTK	4ms	443ms	n/a	20x	443x	n/a

source: <https://spacy.io/usage/facts-figures>

# Tokenization in SPACY

- Tokenizes text into words, punctuations and so on.
- Applies rules specific to each language
- Step 1: Split raw text based on whitespace characters (`text.split(' ')`)
- Step 2: Processes each substring from left to right and performs two checks:
  - Does the substring match a tokenizer exception rule
  - e.g., “don’t” ==> no whitespace ==> but split into two tokens “do” and “nt
  - “U.K.” ==> remain as one token

# Tokenization in SPACY



source: <https://spacy.io/usage/spacy-101>

# Tokenization in SPACY

The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook cell with the following content:

```
import spacy

nlp = spacy.load('en_core_web_sm')
doc = nlp(u'Apple is looking at buying U.K. startup for $1 billion')

for token in doc:
    print(token.text, token.lemma_, token.pos_, token.tag_, token.dep_,
          token.shape_, token.is_alpha, token.is_stop)
```

At the bottom left of the cell is a "RUN" button.

source: <https://spacy.io/usage/spacy-101>

# Tokenization in SPACY

TEXT	LEMMA	POS	TAG	DEP	SHAPE	ALPHA	STOP
Apple	apple	PROPN	NNP	nsubj	Xxxxx	True	False
is	be	VERB	VZ	aux	xx	True	True
looking	look	VERB	VBG	ROOT	xxxx	True	False
at	at	ADP	IN	prep	xx	True	True
buying	buy	VERB	VBG	pcomp	xxxx	True	False
U.K.	u.k.	PROPN	NNP	compound	X.X.	False	False
startup	startup	NOUN	NN	dobj	xxxx	True	False
for	for	ADP	IN	prep	xxx	True	True
\$	\$	SYM	\$	quantmod	\$	False	False
1	1	NUM	CD	compound	d	False	False
billion	billion	NUM	CD	pobj	xxxx	True	False

source: <https://spacy.io/usage/spacy-101>

# Stemming

- Removal of inflectional ending from words (strip off any affixes)
  - connections, connecting, connect, connected → connect
- Problems
  - Can conflate semantically different words
    - *Gallery* and *gall* may both be stemmed to *gall*
- Lemmatization: a further step to ensure that the resulting form is a word present in a dictionary

# Regular Expressions for Stemming

```
1 import re
2 print re.findall(r'^(.*)ing|ly|ed|ions|ies|ive|es|s|ment$', 'processing')
3 [('process', 'ing')]
4
5 import re
6 print re.findall(r'^(.*)ing|ly|ed|ions|ies|ive|es|s|ment$', 'processes')
7 [('processe', 's')]
8
```

- note that the star operator is “greedy”
- the `.*` part of expression tries to consume as much as the input as possible
- for non-greedy version of the star operator = `*?`

```
9 import re
10 print re.findall(r'^(.*)?ing|ly|ed|ions|ies|ive|es|s|ment$', 'processes')
11 [('process', 'es')]
12
13
```

# Regular Expressions for Stemming

```
78 import nltk, re
79
80 def stem(word):
81     regexp = r'^(.*)ing|ly|ed|ions|ies|ive|es|s|ment)?$'
82     stem, suffix = re.findall(regexp, word)[0]
83     return stem
84
85 raw = """DENNIS: Listen, strange women lying in ponds distributing swords
86           is no basis for a system of government. Supreme executive power derives from
87           a mandate from the masses, not from some farcical aquatic ceremony."""
88
89 tokens = nltk.word_tokenize(raw)
90 print [stem(t) for t in tokens]
91
92 ['DENNIS', ':', 'Listen', ',', 'strange', 'women', 'ly', 'in', 'pond', 'distribut', 'sword',
93  'i', 'no', 'basi', 'for', 'a', 'system', 'of', 'govern', '.', 'Supreme', 'execut', 'power',
94  'deriv', 'from', 'a', 'mandate', 'from', 'the', 'mass', ',', 'not', 'from', 'some',
95  'farcical', 'aquatic', 'ceremeony', '.']
```

# Regular Expressions for Stemming

```
78 import nltk, re
79
80 def stem(word):
81     regexp = r'^(.*)ing|ly|ed|ions|ies|ive|es|s|ment)$'
82     stem, suffix = re.findall(regexp, word)[0]
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84
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89 tokens = nltk.word_tokenize(raw)
90 print [stem(t) for t in tokens]
91
92 ['DENNIS', ':', 'Listen', ',', 'strange', 'women', 'ly', 'in', 'pond', 'distribut', 'sword',
93 'i', 'no', 'basi', 'for', 'a', 'system', 'of', 'govern', '.', 'Supreme', 'execut', 'power',
94 'deriv', 'from', 'a', 'mandate', 'from', 'the', 'mass', ',', 'not', 'from', 'some',
95 'farcical', 'aquatic', 'ceremeony', '.']
```

## • Problems

- RE removes 's' from 'ponds', but also from 'is' and 'basis'
- produces some non-words like 'distribut', 'deriv'

# NLTK Stemmers

- NLTK provides several off-the-shelf stemmers
- Porter and Lancaster stemmers have their own rules for stripping affixes

```
1 import nltk, re
2
3 raw = """DENNIS: Listen, strange women lying in ponds distributing swords
4         is no basis for a system of government. Supreme executive power derives from
5         a mandate from the masses, not from some farcical aquatic ceremony."""
6
7 porter = nltk.PorterStemmer()
8 lancaster = nltk.LancasterStemmer()
9 tokens = nltk.word_tokenize(raw)
10
11 print [porter.stem(t) for t in tokens]
12 ['denni', ':', 'listen', ',', 'strang', 'wom', 'lie', 'in', 'pond', 'distribut',
13 'sword', 'is', 'no', 'basi', 'for', 'a', 'system', 'of', 'govern', '.', 'suprem',
14 'execut', 'power', 'deriv', 'from', 'a', 'mandat', 'from', 'the', 'mass', ',', 'not',
15 'from', 'some', 'farcic', 'aquat', 'ceremeoni', '.']
16
17 print [lancaster.stem(t) for t in tokens]
18 ['den', ':', 'list', ',', 'strange', 'wom', 'lying', 'in', 'pond', 'distribut', 'sword',
19 'is', 'no', 'bas', 'for', 'a', 'system', 'of', 'govern', '.', 'suprem', 'execut', 'pow',
20 'der', 'from', 'a', 'mand', 'from', 'the', 'mass', ',', 'not', 'from', 'som', 'farc',
21 'aqua', 'ceremeony', '.']
```

# Is stemming useful?

- Provides some improvement for IR performance (especially for smaller documents).
- Very useful for some queries, but on an average does not help much.
- Since improvement is very minimal, often IR engines does not use stemming.

# Stopword Removal

- Removal of high frequency words
- Most common words such as articles, prepositions, and pronouns etc. does not help in identifying meaning

a      an      and      are      as      at      be      by      for      from  
has    he    in    is    it    its    of    on    that    the  
to    was    were    will    with

**Figure:** A stop list of 25 semantically non-selective words which are common in Reuters-RCV1

# Methods for stopword removal

- Classic Method
  - removing stop-words using pre-compiled lists
- Zipf's law (Z-methods)
  - frequency of a word is inversely proportional to its rank in the frequency table
  - remove most frequent words
- Mutual Information Method
  - supervised method that computes mutual information between a given term and a document class
  - low mutual information suggests low discrimination power of the term and hence should be removed

# Sentence Segmentation

- Divide text into sentences
- Involves identifying **sentence boundaries** between words in different sentences
- *a.k.a* sentence boundary detection, sentence boundary disambiguation, sentence boundary recognition
- Useful and necessary for various NLP tasks such as
  - sentiment analysis
  - relation extraction
  - question answering systems
  - knowledge extraction

# Sentence boundary detection algorithms

- Heuristic methods
- Statistical classification trees [Riley, 1989]
  - probability of a word occurring before or after a boundary, case and length of words
- Neural Networks [Palmer and Hearst, 1997]
  - POS distribution of preceding and following words
- Maximum entropy model [Mikheev 1998]

# Sentence Segmentation - Using SPACY

The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook cell with the title "Editable code example (experimental)". The code imports spaCy, loads the 'en\_core\_web\_sm' model, processes a multi-sentence string, and prints each sentence. A "RUN" button is visible, and the output shows the two sentences separated by a blank line.

```
import spacy

nlp = spacy.load('en_core_web_sm')
doc = nlp(u"This is a sentence. This is another sentence.")
for sent in doc.sents:
    print(sent.text)
```

This is a sentence.  
This is another sentence.

# Sentence Segmentation - Using SPACY

The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook cell with the title "Editable code example (experimental)" and version "v2.0.18 · Python 3 · via Binder". The code imports spaCy, loads the 'en\_core\_web\_sm' model, and processes a text string. It defines a function to set custom boundaries for ellipses ('...') and adds it as a pipe before the parser. The output shows the original text and the modified text where the ellipsis is treated as a separate sentence boundary.

```
import spacy

text = u"This is a sentence...hello...and another sentence."

nlp| = spacy.load('en_core_web_sm')
doc = nlp(text)
print('Before:', [sent.text for sent in doc.sents])

def set_custom_boundaries(doc):
    for token in doc[:-1]:
        if token.text == '...':
            doc[token.i+1].is_sent_start = True
    return doc

nlp.add_pipe(set_custom_boundaries, before='parser')
doc = nlp(text)
print('After:', [sent.text for sent in doc.sents])
```

Before: ['this is a sentence...', 'hello...', 'and another sentence.']  
After: ['this is a sentence...', 'hello...', 'and another sentence.']}

# Part-of-Speech Tagging (POS)

- Task of tagging POS tags (Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, ...) for words
- POS tags provide lot of information about a word
  - knowing whether a word is **noun** or **verb** gives information about neighbouring words
  - nouns are preceded by determiners; adjectives and verbs by nouns
  - useful for Named entity recognition; Machine Translation; Parsing; Word sense disambiguation
- Given a word, we assume it can belong to only of the POS tags.
- POS Tagging problem
  - Given a sentence  $S = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n$  consisting of  $n$  words, determine the corresponding tag sequence  $P = P_1 P_2 \dots P_n$

## POS Tagging - Challenges

- Words often have more than one POS: e.g., back
  - *The back door* = adjective (JJ)
  - *On my back* = noun (NN)
  - *Win the voters back* = adverb (RB)
  - *Promised to back the bill* = verb (VB)

# POS Tagging - Tagset

Tag	Description	Example	Tag	Description	Example
CC	coordin. conjunction	<i>and, but, or</i>	SYM	symbol	+%, &
CD	cardinal number	<i>one, two</i>	TO	"to"	<i>to</i>
DT	determiner	<i>a, the</i>	UH	interjection	<i>ah, oops</i>
EX	existential 'there'	<i>there</i>	VB	verb base form	<i>eat</i>
FW	foreign word	<i>mea culpa</i>	VBD	verb past tense	<i>ate</i>
IN	preposition/sub-conj	<i>of, in, by</i>	VBG	verb gerund	<i>eating</i>
JJ	adjective	<i>yellow</i>	VBN	verb past participle	<i>eaten</i>
JJR	adj., comparative	<i>bigger</i>	VBP	verb non-3sg pres	<i>eat</i>
JJS	adj., superlative	<i>wildest</i>	VBZ	verb 3sg pres	<i>eats</i>
LS	list item marker	<i>1, 2, One</i>	WDT	wh-determiner	<i>which, that</i>
MD	modal	<i>can, should</i>	WP	wh-pronoun	<i>what, who</i>
NN	noun, sing. or mass	<i>llama</i>	WP\$	possessive wh-	<i>whose</i>
NNS	noun, plural	<i>llamas</i>	WRB	wh-adverb	<i>how, where</i>
NNP	proper noun, sing.	<i>IBM</i>	\$	dollar sign	\$
NNPS	proper noun, plural	<i>Carolinas</i>	#	pound sign	#
PDT	predeterminer	<i>all, both</i>	"	left quote	‘ or “
POS	possessive ending	<i>'s</i>	"	right quote	’ or ”
PRP	personal pronoun	<i>I, you, he</i>	(	left parenthesis	[, (, {, <
PRP\$	possessive pronoun	<i>your, one's</i>	)	right parenthesis	], ), }, >
RB	adverb	<i>quickly, never</i>	,	comma	,
RBR	adverb, comparative	<i>faster</i>	.	sentence-final punc	. ! ?
RBS	adverb, superlative	<i>fastest</i>	:	mid-sentence punc	: ; ... --
RP	particle	<i>up, off</i>			

Figure: Penn Treebank POS Tags

# POS Tagging - Brown Corpus

- **Brown Corpus** - standard corpus used for POS tagging task
- first text corpus of American English
- published in 1963-1964 by Francis and Kucera
- consists of 1 million words (500 samples of 2000+ words each)
- Brown corpus is PoS tagged with Penn TreeBank tagset.
- ≈ 11% of the word types are ambiguous with regard to POS
- ≈ 40% of the word tokens are ambiguous
- ambiguity for common words. e.g. **that**
  - I know **that** he is honest = preposition (IN)
  - Yes, **that** play was nice = determiner (DT)
  - You can't to **that** far = adverb (RB)

# Automatic POS Tagging

- Symbolic
  - Rule-based
  - Transformation-based
- Probabilistic
  - Hidden Markov Models
  - Maximum Entropy Markov Models
  - Conditional Random Fields

- An example of Transformation-Based Learning
  - Basic idea: do a quick job first (using frequency), then revise it using contextual rules.
  - Painting metaphor from the readings
- Very popular (freely available, works fairly well)
- A supervised method: requires a tagged corpus

# Automatic POS Tagging - Brill Tagger

- Start with simple (less accurate) rules...learn better ones from tagged corpus
  - Tag each word initially with most likely POS
  - Examine set of **transformations** to see which improves tagging decisions compared to tagged corpus
  - Re-tag corpus using best transformation
  - Repeat until, e.g., performance doesn't improve
  - Result: tagging procedure (ordered list of transformations) which can be applied to new, untagged text

# Automatic POS Tagging: Brill Tagger - Example

- Examples:
  - They are expected to race tomorrow.
  - The race for outer space.
- Tagging algorithm:
  1. Tag all uses of “race” as NN (most likely tag in the Brown corpus)
    - They are expected to race/NN tomorrow
    - the race/NN for outer space
  2. Use a transformation rule to replace the tag NN with VB for all uses of “race” preceded by the tag TO:
    - They are expected to race/VB tomorrow
    - the race/NN for outer space

# Automatic POS Tagging: Brill Tagger - Sample Final Rules

## Rules:

NN -> NNP if the tag of words i+1...i+2 is 'NNP'  
NN -> VB if the tag of the preceding word is 'TO'  
NN -> VBD if the tag of the following word is 'DT'  
NN -> VBD if the tag of the preceding word is 'NNS'  
NN -> JJ if the tag of the preceding word is 'DT', and the tag of the following word is 'NN'  
NN -> NNP if the tag of the preceding word is 'NN', and the tag of the following word is ','  
NN -> NNP if the tag of words i+1...i+2 is 'NNP'  
NN -> IN if the tag of the preceding word is '..'  
NNP -> NN if the tag of words i-3...i-1 is 'JJ'  
NN -> JJ if the tag of the following word is 'JJ'  
NN -> VBP if the tag of the preceding word is 'PRP'  
WDT -> IN if the tag of the following word is 'DT'  
NN -> JJ if the tag of the preceding word is 'IN', and the tag of the following word is 'NN'  
NN -> VBN if the tag of the preceding word is 'VBP'  
VBD -> VB if the tag of the preceding word is 'MD'  
NN -> JJ if the tag of the preceding word is 'CC', and the tag of the following word is 'NN'

# Next Week

- Probabilistic Models for POS Tagging
- Relation Extraction
- Question and Answering