

COURSE CUPID



COURSE RECOMMENDER FOR CUHKSZ STUDENTS

Edward Jayadi Halim - 120040019

Richard Cornelius Suwandi - 119010540

Tan Felicia Adriyanti Jonathan - 120040018

Calvin Kristianto Thayono - 120040029



MOTIVATION

- With over a hundred courses available, it may be challenging to pick a course that suits our interests
- There is a demand for a course recommender that can provide relevant and personalized course suggestion
- To the best of our knowledge, there is no such course recommender available yet in our university

Motivation

Solution

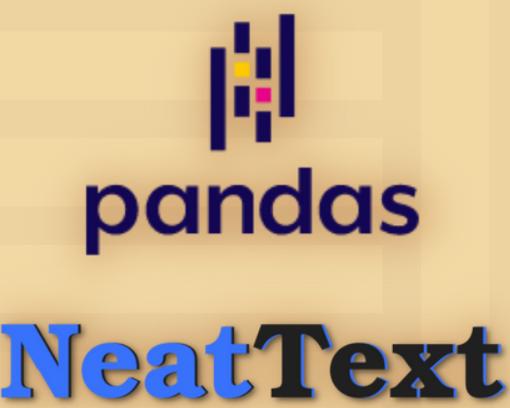
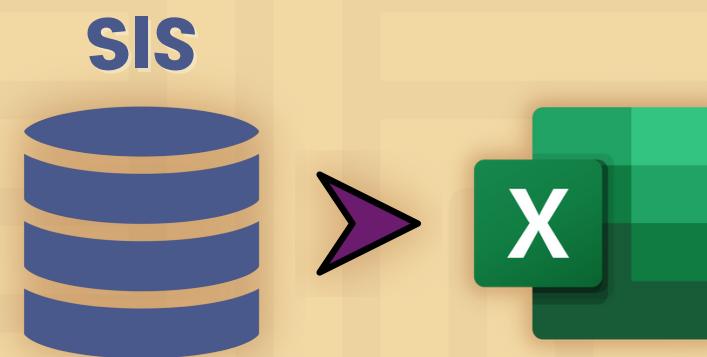
Demo

Evaluation

QnA

SOLUTION

Data Collection Preprocessing Modeling Deployment



Motivation

Solution

Demo

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QnA

Data collection

- We collected data on 125 different General Education (GE) courses, which include the course code, title, and description

- The data is obtained through the university course catalog, which is available through the Student Information System (SIS) website

	A	B	C
	Code	Title	Description
2	GEB 2001	Exploration of the Quantum World	This course is designed to broaden students' perspectives on the frontier science and technology in quantum physics for students who have the basic physics background in Newtonian mechanics. It introduces students to fundamental concepts, principles, and discoveries in quantum mechanics without emphasizing on complicated mathematics. Students will learn concepts of quantization, wave-particle duality, uncertainty principle, quantum entanglement, quantum teleportation, and the applications of quantum mechanics in the real-world life. This course covers more on the historical developments of quantum mechanics, the main concepts and principles of quantum mechanics and its impacts on daily life and world view. So the topics such as Manhattan project, multi-world theory and observer effect, will be discussed on tutorials.
3	GEB 2002	Introduction to Astronomy	Since ancient times, human beings have been curious about and fascinated with the remote sky, and this curiosity and fascination have boosted humans' inquisition into the sky and invented various techniques in observational astronomy. The course is designed not only to present a volume of knowledge, but also to arouse students' curiosity about how nature works. A wide range of topics will be covered, ranging from the origin of modern astronomy, observational astronomy to techniques in measuring celestial objects, from the solar system to stellar evolution. Moreover, traditional Chinese astronomy will be introduced.
4	GEB 2003	New Perspectives from Archeology	In recent three decades, archaeological findings in Shenzhen and Hong Kong are fruitful and unusually brilliant, which present the history as long as 7000 years and the relation between human and nature with early civilizing process of inland and coastal areas. In the course, we consider how we know what about ancient civilizations and cultures through observing the archaeological remains and discussing the meanings of archaeological remains in our contemporary societies. Not merely does the course introduce and examine the ancient culture in Shenzhen and Hong Kong from south China and Southeast Asia's perspectives, but also pay close attention to recognize archaeology—from an archaeological perspective—as a scientific discipline; from archaeological work process to archaeological research—and further to critically evaluate claims made about the past and understand how the past is used for modern and social agendas. Students are expected to observe remains in different archaeological cultures, to read some exemplary works by leading scholars, to know the sequential development through various objects including pottery, stone implement, jade, bone artefact and so on. No prior knowledge on archaeology is required for this course.
5	GEB 2004	Technology and Ethics	Forms of technology are increasingly integrated into our lives, and this development is leading to new and challenging ethical issues. This course will familiarize students with philosophical debates surrounding the nature of technology itself and the ethical consequences of technological developments. Topics explored in the course will be both historical and future-oriented, including ethical issues relating to biotechnology, computing, technological inequality, autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies. No prior knowledge of technology or ethics is required.
6	GEB 2101	Modern Biology in Every Life	In contrast to the traditional biology which usually studied all living organisms on a macro scale, modern biological research more focus on human-, especially diseases-related microbiology, cell and molecular biology. The achievements of these studies have deeply influenced our daily life. This course targets the students from non-biology major and introduces four research areas including microbiology, cell biology, immunology, and molecular biology in nowadays biological science. The ethical and social issues raised in application of these researches will also be discussed. After completing this course, the students should understand the scientific background of related topics encountered in everyday life and make informed judgment using critical thinking.
7	GEB 2103	Food Safety	During the past decades, food safety becomes a hot topic in China and attracts wide public concerns. Frequent food safety incidents made the public be anxious about the food, distrust the authorities and dislike the modern food techniques. This course is designed to help students understand the overview of food safety, develop critical thinking in food safety and make informed decision. Student will learn the major categories of food safety risks, the principles adopted by authorities to analyze food safety risk, the management system acknowledged by the industry and some techniques used in production. Many cases will also be dissected for applying the knowledge and principle to daily life.
8	GEB 2104	Serendipity: Accidental Discoveries in Science	The course is designed to illustrate some basic principles of science, chemistry in particular (e.g., atomic structure, bonding, kinetics and drug action etc) via case studies of some celebrated accidental discoveries (and wild claims) in science. It also highlights the different approaches adopted by individual scientists and industrial/pharmaceutical research teams when they are confronted with mysterious phenomena. Real-life applications of some of the discoveries are discussed.
9	GEB 2105	The Genes	The course discusses the fundamental discoveries in molecular biology, public understandings of genetics, and the latest progress in biotechnologies. The topics include the origin of genetics, Human Genome Project, inherited diseases (genetic and other traits), genetic test, ancient DNA, Lamarck and epigenetics, genetic engineering, genetically modified organisms (GMO), gene therapy and population genetics. It helps the students understand the mechanism of biotechnologies and make informed decisions in the future.
10	GEB 2106	Food Product Development	This course is an application-oriented course intended to familiarize students with basic principles and concepts in food product development. Through participation in interactive and in-class activities, students will learn basic knowledge of food formulation, food ingredients and components, ingredient interactions. They will also understand the way to conduct and terminate a project in an orderly manner, and apply the knowledge to daily life to solve basic problems related to food products (including the safety, storage and processing of foods). After this course, students will know how to successfully initiate, organize and carry out the development process of a food. The knowledge will be useful for the product development, quality control, regulation, and marketing of food and health products.

The screenshots show the university course catalog interface with three separate course lists:

- GE Areas: Area A** (Courses 2001-2006):
 - Course No.: Course Title
 - 2001 Exploration of the Quantum World
 - 2002 Introduction to Astronomy
 - 2003 New Perspectives from Archeology
 - 2004 Technology and Ethics
 - 2005 Modern Biology in Every Life
 - 2006 Food Safety
 - 2007 Serendipity: Accidental Discoveries in Science
 - 2008 The Genes
 - 2009 History and Philosophy of Science
 - 2010 Evolution and Environment
 - 2011 Space, Time, and Einstein
 - 2012 Transition to Sustainable Future
 - 2013 Ethics and Society
 - 2014 Genetics and Biotechnology of Plant for Future
 - 2015 Chemistry in Life
 - 2016 Chemistry in Kitchen
 - 2017 A Bit of Chemistry - From Food to Drug
 - 2018 Chemistry in the Kitchen in the 21st Century
 - 2019 A Journey to Mathematics
 - 2020 Logic and Science
 - 2021 Understanding Data Science
 - 2022 The Art of Programming: Construction of Integrated Circuits
 - 2023 Mathematical methods in real world
 - 2024 Smart City Fundamentals
 - 2025 Mind, Brain, and AI
 - 2026 Space, Time, and Einstein
 - 2027 Staff Papers - Amazing Material World
 - 2028 Balancing Chemistry
 - 2029 Heating
 - 2030 History and Philosophy of Biology
 - 2031 Space, Time, and Einstein for Everyone
 - 2032 Space, Time, and Einstein
 - 2033 Research Methods for Science and Technology Studies
- GE Areas: Area B** (Courses 3101-3106):
 - Course No.: Course Title
 - 3101 The History of Consumer Culture
 - 3102 A Cultural history of 20th Century America through Mass Media
 - 3103 Chinese History and Chinese Civilization
 - 3104 Chinese History and Chinese Civilization (with English subtitles)
 - 3105 The Development of Modern India
 - 3106 Chinese History and Works of Great Chinese Historians
 - 3107 Chinese History and Chinese Philosophy
 - 3108 Chinese History since 1950
 - 3109 GE2102
 - 3110 Chinese Development and Inequalities
 - 3111 Visualizing China: Culture, Modernity and Social Transformation
 - 3143 Human Culture in the Contemporary World
 - 3144 Food Safety
 - 3145 Is Art Not a Extravagance of Food?
 - 3146 Human in Twentieth-Century China: A Social Matrix
 - 3147 The Art of Shaping the Shapers
 - 3148 Philanthropy and Social Innovation
 - 3149 Chinese Medicine
 - 3170 Fast and Present: the Origin of Modern China's Economic Development
 - 3171 Controversy Issues in International Finance and Commodity
 - 3172
- GE Areas: Area C** (Courses 3201-3206):
 - Course No.: Course Title
 - 3201 Culture and Personal Development
 - 3202 Decision-making: An art of artifice
 - 3203 Chinese Philosophy and Chinese Civilization
 - 3204 A Bit of Chinese Philosophy and Chinese Civilization
 - 3205 Logic and Argumentation
 - 3206 Chinese Philosophy
 - 3207 Chinese Philosophy and the Meaning of Life
 - 3208 Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art
 - 3209 Chinese Philosophy and Chinese Civilization
 - 3210 Understanding Western Culture
 - 3211 Chinese Philosophy and Chinese Civilization
 - 3212 Chinese Philosophy
 - 3213 Ideas in the history of Philosophy
 - 3214 Great Ideas: The Zhuangzi
 - 3215 Chinese Philosophy and the Book of Changes
 - 3216 Chinese Philosophy and Chinese Civilization
 - 3217 Chinese Philosophy
 - 3218 Chinese Philosophy and Chinese Civilization
 - 3219 The Future is Now: Major Topics in Ethics & Philosophy
 - 3220 Chinese Philosophy and Chinese Civilization
 - 3221 Introduction to Philosophy
 - 3222 Chinese Philosophy and Chinese Civilization
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Preprocessing

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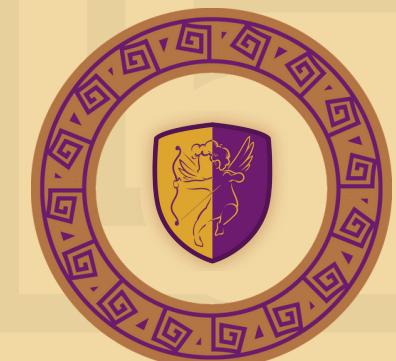
Removing
punctuation and
double quotation
marks

ϵ

Convert the text to
lowercase

β

Replacing newline
and tab characters
with spaces



δ

Removing stopwords
and non-English
characters

γ

Stripping the
leading and trailing
whitespaces



Motivation

Solution

Demo

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QnA

Modeling



Obtain feature vectors from the data using Spacy's pre-trained English language model

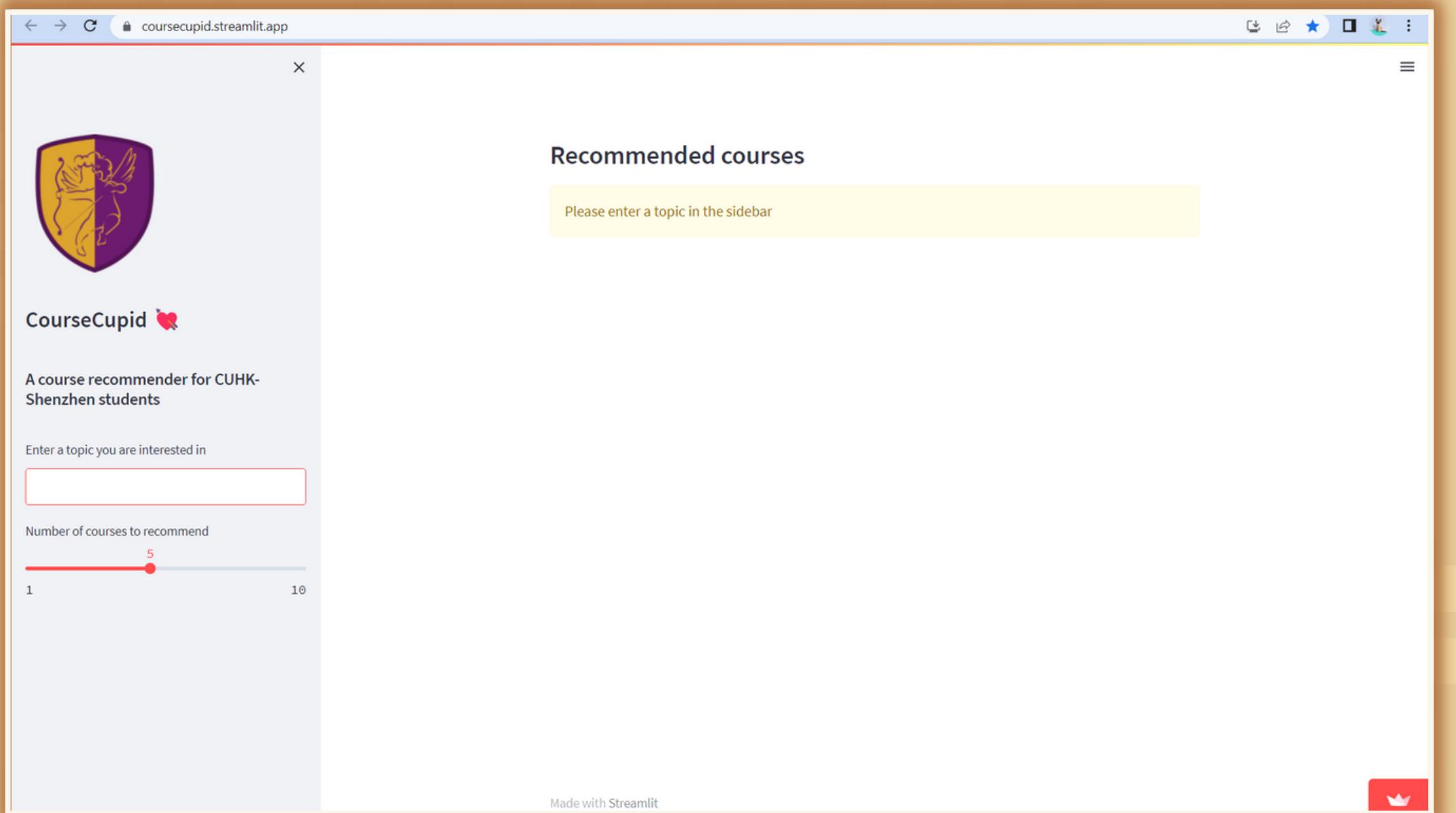


Define a pipeline that converts the user's query to a vector



Calculates the cosine similarity between the user's query and the feature vectors of each course

Deployment



<https://coursecupid.streamlit.app>

Motivation

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Suggestions for Future Work



Collect external data from users through questionnaires



Implement a hybrid or more advanced model



Incorporate more features to the model



Extend CourseCupid for recommending other courses

Motivation

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Demo

Evaluation

QnA



Thank you for listening!



QnA



Motivation



Solution



Demo



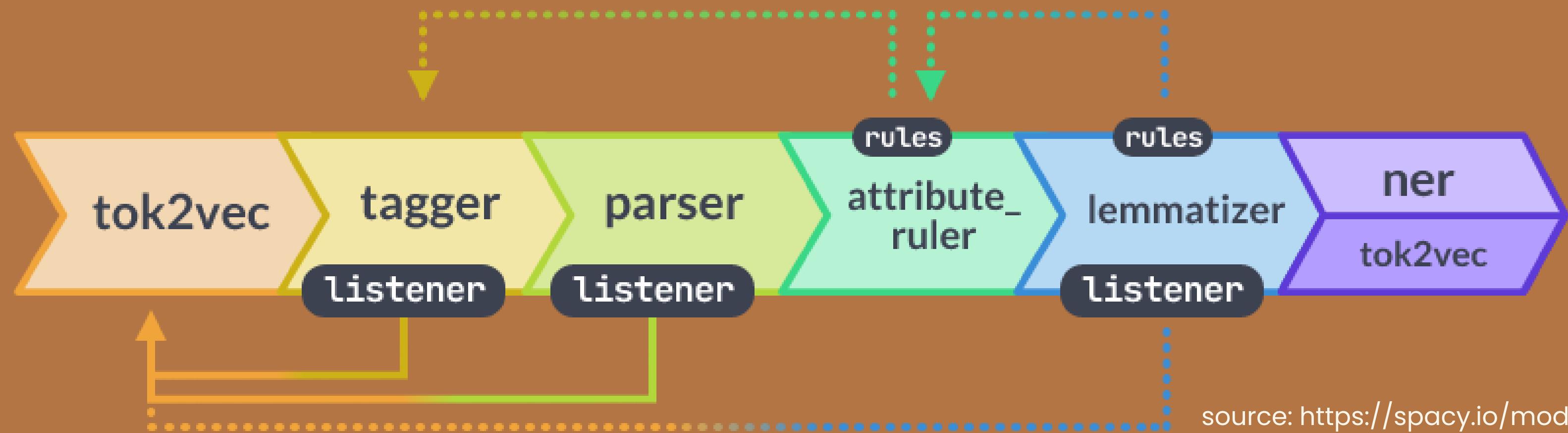
Evaluation



QnA

Appendix

Spacy pipeline



source: <https://spacy.io/models>

References

- <https://gab41.lab41.org/recommender-systems-its-not-all-about-the-accuracy-562c7dceeaaff>
- <https://realpython.com/natural-language-processing-spacy-python/>
- <https://pypi.org/project/pyspellchecker/>
- <https://norvig.com/spell-correct.html>