SD-TSIA214: Structured prediction in natural language processing

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Introduction

What is structured prediction?

Tasks: predict structured outputs \neq scalar value/categorical quantity

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What NLP tasks do you know?

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What NLP tasks do you know?

Not structured prediction sentiment analysis, text classification, chatbots, autocorrection, speech recognition

Structured prediction tagging, parsing, coreference resolution, text summarization

Depends? machine translation, natural language understanding, natural language inference

Outline

Part-of-Speech (POS) tagging

Named Entity Recognition (NER)

Dependency parsing

Example:

Charlie likes green tea

Example:

Charlie likes green tea
NNP VBZ JJ NN

Example:

```
Charlie likes green tea
NNP VBZ JJ NN
```

What do the tags stand for?

Example:

```
Charlie likes green tea
NNP VBZ JJ NN
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What do the tags stand for?

```
NNP Proper nounVBZ VerbJJ AdjectiveNN Noun
```

Why is POS tagging interesting and useful?

Computational linguistics tasks:

- · Linguistic change: creation of new words, meaning shift
- · Linguistic variation: regional, social, medical
- · Comparison and control: use POS to measure meaning similarity

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Computational linguistics tasks:

- · Linguistic change: creation of new words, meaning shift
- · Linguistic variation: regional, social, medical
- · Comparison and control: use POS to measure meaning similarity

NLP tasks:

- Syntactic parsing
- Machine translation: word order (SOV/SVO/VSO etc.)
- Sentiment analysis: adjectives vs. other POS
- · Text-to-speech: pronunciation disambiguation

POS tags – Universal Dependencies (UD)

ADJ	adjective			
ADP	adposition			
ADV	adverb			
AUX	auxiliary			
CCONJ	coordinating conjunction			
DET	determiner			
INTJ	interjection			
NOUN	noun			
NUM	numeral			
PART	particle			
PRON	pronoun			
PROPN	proper noun			
PUNCT	punctuation			
SCONJ	subordinating conjunction			
SYM	symbol			
VERB	verb			
Χ	other			

Exercise/example: POS tags

adjective ADJ AUX auxiliary DET determiner NOUN noun **PART** particle PRON pronoun **PROPN** proper noun **VERB** verb

Find tagging errors in the following sentence:

Does/AUX this/PRON flight/NOUN serve/VERB dinner/NOUN

Is POS tagging a difficult task in English?

Ambiguity: \sim 15% of words are ambiguous

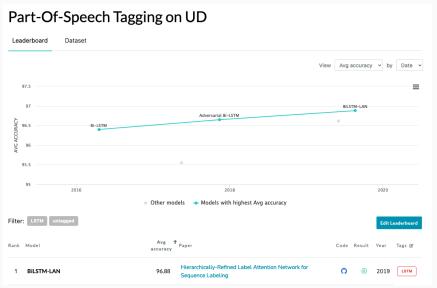
Is POS tagging a difficult task in English?

Ambiguity: \sim 15% of words are ambiguous

Example: "back"

- Earnings growth took a back/ADJ seat
- · A small building in the back/NOUN
- · A clear majority of senators back/VERB the bill
- Enable the country to buy back/PART debt
- I was twenty-one back/ADV then

SOTA performance of POS tagging in English



Garden path sentences

Example: "The horse raced past the barn fell."

Exemple: « L'oiseau vola tout en douceur au bord de la fenêtre le

diamant qui y était déposé. »

Garden path sentences

Example:

- The/DET horse/NOUN raced/VERB past/NOUN the/DET barn/NOUN fell/VERB
- Explanation: "the horse which was raced past the barn fell"

Example: « L'oiseau vola tout en douceur au bord de la fenêtre le diamant qui y était déposé »

Sources of information for POS tagging

Example: "Janet will back the bill"

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"will": AUX/NOUN/VERB?

"bill": NOUN/VERB?

Sources of information for POS tagging

Example: "Janet will back the bill"

- "will": AUX/NOUN/VERB?
- "bill": NOUN/VERB?

Some contextual clues:

- Prior probabilities of word/tag:
 - · "will" is usually an AUX
- Neighboring words:
 - \cdot "the" means the next word is probably not a VERB
- Morphology and wordshape:

Prefixes: $un- \rightarrow ADJ$ ex: unable

Suffixes: $-ly \rightarrow ADJ$ ex: importantly

Capitalization: CAP → **PROPN** ex: Janet

Exercise/example: simple grammar

Abbreviation	Name	Example
N	noun	"tea"
PN	proper noun	"Charlie"
TV	transitive verb	"likes"
Adj	adjective	"green"
D	determiner	"the"

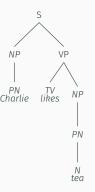
Abbreviation	Name	Example		
$NP \to D \; N$	noun phrase	"the unicorn"		
$VP \to TV \; NP$	verb phrase	"likes tea"		
$S \to NP VP$	sentence	"Charlie likes tea"		

Exercise/example: "Charlie likes tea" – A minimal grammar

Lexicon:
$$\begin{cases} PN \rightarrow Charlie \\ N \rightarrow tea \\ TV \rightarrow likes \end{cases}$$
 Grammar:
$$\begin{cases} S \rightarrow NPVP \\ VP \rightarrow TVNP \\ NP \rightarrow PN \\ PN \rightarrow N \end{cases}$$

Exercise/example: "Charlie likes tea" – A minimal grammar

Lexicon:
$$\begin{cases} PN \rightarrow Charlie \\ N \rightarrow tea \\ TV \rightarrow likes \end{cases}$$
 Grammar:
$$\begin{cases} S \rightarrow NPVP \\ VP \rightarrow TVNP \\ NP \rightarrow PN \\ PN \rightarrow N \end{cases}$$



A syntactic tree!

Exercise: "The unicorn drinks tea"

Abbreviation	Name			Example	
N	noun			"tea"	
PN	proper noun			"Charlie"	
TV	transitive verb				"likes"
D	determiner			"the"	
Grammar: {		S VP NP NP	$\begin{array}{c} \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \\ \rightarrow \end{array}$	TV P	VP NP NN N

Using the lexicon and the grammar rules, draw the syntactic tree of the sentence "The unicorn drinks tea".

Algorithms for POS tagging

Supervised Machine Learning Algorithms:

- Hidden Markov Models (HMM)
- Conditional Random Fields (CRF)
- Maximum Entropy Markov Models (MEMM)
- Neural sequence models (RNNs or Transformers)
- Finetuned LLMs (ex: BERT)
- All of these required a human-labeled training set!

Named Entity Recognition (NER)

What are Named Entities?

A **named entity** (NE) is anything that can be referred to with a proper name. Most common NE are of one of the four types:

- · People: "Marie Curie"
- · Locations: "Paris"
- · Organizations: "Institut Polytechnique de Paris"
- · Geo-Political Entities: "European Union"

The term is now extended: multi-word expressions, dates, times, prices.

Exercise/example: NE tagging/NER

Task:

- (1) find spans of text constituting the NE;
- (2) tag the type (PEO, LOC, ORG, GPE, AMOUNT) of this NE.

Example:

The STA Plaza (The Plaza or Spokane Transit Authority Plaza), is a transit center located in Downtown Spokane, Washington. It is the main hub of customer service and transit operations for the Spokane Transit Authority (STA), with 31 out of its 52 bus routes connecting with The Plaza.

Exercise/example: NE tagging/NER

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(1):

The [STA Plaza] ([The Plaza] or [Spokane Transit Authority Plaza]), is a transit center located in [Downtown Spokane, Washington]. It is the main hub of customer service and transit operations for the [Spokane Transit Authority (STA)], with [31] out of its [52] bus routes connecting with [The Plaza].

Exercise/example: NE tagging/NER

Task:

- (1) find spans of text constituting the NE;
- (2) tag the type (PEO, LOC, ORG, GPE, AMOUNT) of this NE.

(2):

The STA Plaza/LOC (The Plaza/LOC or Spokane Transit Authority Plaza/LOC), is a transit center located in Downtown Spokane, Washington/LOC. It is the main hub of customer service and transit operations for the Spokane Transit Authority (STA)/ORG, with 31/AMOUNT out of its 52/AMOUNT bus routes connecting with The Plaza/LOC.

Exercise: NER vs proper nouns (1)

In the following list, identify the NE:

Carcassonne, Napoléon, Vivendi, EDF, Dubonnet, United Nations, SNCF, French revolution, Clio, prime minister, French, table

Exercise: NER vs proper nouns (2)

How many NE are there in the following sentences?

- 1. This idea was put forward by some philosophers in the 18th and 19th centuries such as Mary Wollstonecraft and John Stuart Mill.
- These women were called Suffragettes because they were fighting for Universal suffrage which means everybody is able to vote.

Exercise: NER - heuristics

Propose two examples of polysemic NE.

Propose characteristic elements of EN for people, places and organizations:

- 1. At the level of the NEs themselves.
- 2. According to the context in which they appear.

Why is NER interesting and useful?

Examples in NLP applications:

- Sentiment analysis: consumer's sentiment towards a particular company or person?
- · Question answering: answer questions about an entity?
- · Information extraction: extracting facts about entities from text

Is NER a difficult task in English?

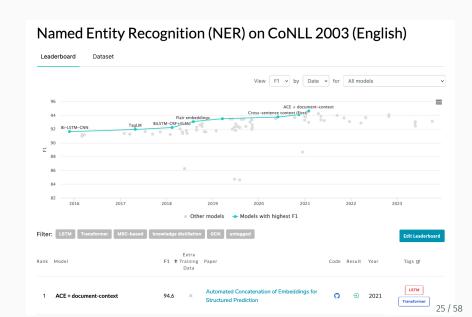
Segmentation: where does a NE start/end?

Type ambiguity: can a NE be of different types depending on the context?

Examples:

- Washington/PER was born into slavery on the farm of James Burroughs.
- Washington/ORG went up 2 games to 1 in the four-game series.
- Blair arrived in Washington/LOC for what may well be his last state visit.

SOTA performance of NER in English



An algorithm for NER

Beginning-inside-outside (BIO) tagging: merging (1) and (2) NER tasks into one tagging task.

Example:

Charlie is going to Los Angeles

An algorithm for NER

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Coreference resolution

Coreference resolution (CR) is the task of finding all linguistic expressions in a given text that refer to the same entity.

Example:

Sam saw a white star twinkle for a while. The beauty of it smote his heart, as he looked up out of the forsaken land, and hope returned to him.

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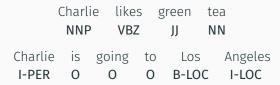
Sequence labeling algorithms

A **sequence labeler** is a model that assigns a label to each unit in a sequence, mapping a sequence of observations to a sequence of labels of the same length.

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Examples:



HMM for NLP

See jupyter notebook tutorial.

CRF and MEMM

Goal: add information about the context in which a word appears.

- → What is the previous word? AND the next word?
- → What is the syntactic shape of the sentence parts before and after the word?
- → Are there unknown words?

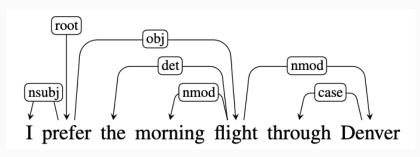
HMM vs Conditional Random Fields: (CRF) and **Maximum Entropy Markov Models** (MEMM) allow integration of rich features for better accuracy.

Cost: much slower training!

Dependency parsing

Dependency parsing

In **dependency parsing**, the syntactic structure of a sentence is described in terms of directed binary grammatical relations between the words:



The arcs go from **heads** to **dependents**; the parse is a **typed dependency structure**.

→ Dependency structure shows which words depend on (modify, attach to, or are arguments of) which other words.

Why is dependency parsing interesting and useful?

Computational linguistics tasks:

- **Human communication:** compositionality for complex sentences and meanings
- · Linguistic variation: multilingual, regional, social, medical

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Phrase attachment ambiguities

Examples:

- Scientists count whales from space
- Teacher strikes idle kids
- Enraged cow injures farmer with axe
- Miners refuse to work after death

https://www.departments.bucknell.edu/linguistics/
synhead.html

Dependency formalism

A **dependency structure** can be represented as a directed graph G = (V, A):

- a set of vertices V (\sim set of words in a given sentence + punctuation)
- a set of ordered pairs of vertices A (arcs)

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- a set of vertices V (\sim set of words in a given sentence + punctuation)
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Different grammatical theories or formalisms may place further constraints on these dependency structures:

- the structures must be connected
- have a designated root node
- be acyclic or planar.

Dependency formalism

A **dependency tree** is a directed graph that satisfies the following constraints:

- 1. There is a single designated root node that has no incoming arcs.
- 2. With the exception of the root node, each vertex has exactly one incoming arc.
- 3. There is a unique path from the root node to each vertex in V.

Thus:

- \rightarrow each word has a single head;
- → the dependency structure is connected;
- ightarrow there is a single root node from which one can follow a unique directed path to each of the words in the sentence.

Dependency relations

Clausal Argument Relations	Description
NSUBJ	Nominal subject
ОВЈ	Direct object
IOBJ	Indirect object
CCOMP	Clausal complement
Nominal Modifier Relations	Description
NMOD	Nominal modifier
AMOD	Adjectival modifier
NUMMOD	Numeric modifier
APPOS	Appositional modifier
DET	Determiner
CASE	Prepositions, postpositions and other case markers
Other Notable Relations	Description
CONJ	Conjunct
cc	Coordinating conjunction
Figure 18.2 Some of the Univer	rsal Dependency relations (de Marneffe et al., 2021).

Dependency relations examples

Relation	Examples with head and dependent	
NSUBJ	United canceled the flight.	
OBJ United <i>diverted</i> the flight to Reno.		
	We booked her the first flight to Miami.	
IOBJ	We booked her the flight to Miami.	
NMOD	We took the morning flight.	
AMOD	Book the cheapest <i>flight</i> .	
NUMMOD	Before the storm JetBlue canceled 1000 flights.	
APPOS	United, a unit of UAL, matched the fares.	
DET	The flight was canceled.	
	Which flight was delayed?	
CONJ	We flew to Denver and drove to Steamboat.	
CC	We flew to Denver and drove to Steamboat.	
CASE	Book the flight through <i>Houston</i> .	
Figure 18.3	Examples of some Universal Dependency relations.	

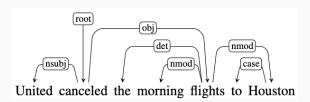
Exercise/example

Relation	Description & example (with head and dependent)
ROOT	Root of the tree, head of the entire structure
NSUBJ	Nominal subject, ex: United canceled the flight.
OBJ	Direct object, ex: We booked her the first flight to Miami.
NMOD	Nominal modifier, ex: We took the morning flight.
DET	Determiner, ex: The flight was canceled.
CASE	Prepositions, postpositions, other case markers,
	ex: Book the flight through Houston.

Exercise: What is the dependency parse of the sentence "United canceled the morning flights to Houston"?

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Universal Dependencies project - more than 100 languages

Current UD Languages

Information about language families (and genera for families with multiple branches) is mostly taken from WALS Online (IE = Indo-European).

	_		_		_		
_	•	Abaza	1	<1K	2	Northwest Caucasian	
-	\geq	Afrikaans	1	49K	₹ 0	IE, Germanic	
-	A.L	Akkadian	2	25K	0	Afro-Asiatic, Semitic	
-	©	Akuntsu	1	1K	10	Tupian, Tupari	
-		Albanian	1	<1K	W	IE, Albanian	
-	-0-	Amharic	1	10K		Afro-Asiatic, Semitic	
-	些	Ancient Greek	2	416K	≜ #0	IE, Greek	
-	0	Ancient Hebrew	1	39K	•	Afro-Asiatic, Semitic	
-	0	Apurina	1	<1K	100	Arawakan	
-	@	Arabic	3	1,042K	■W	Afro-Asiatic, Semitic	
-		Armenian	2	94K	110	IE, Armenian	
-	X	Assyrian	1	<1K	10	Afro-Asiatic, Semitic	
-		Bambara	1	13K	6	Mande	
-		Basque	1	121K		Basque	
-		Beja	1	<1K	9	Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic	
-		Belarusian	1	305K	₽ < ®® ,⋒W	IE, Slavic	
-		Bengali	1	<1K	y.	IE, Indic	
-		Bhojpuri	1	6K	130	IE, Indic	
-	(Bororo	1	<1K	7	Bororoan	
-		Breton	1	10K	BYTTO IW	IE, Celtic	
-		Bulgarian	1	156K		IE, Slavic	
-		Buryat	1	10K	879	Mongolic	
-	会	Cantonese	1	13K	9	Sino-Tibetan	
-		Catalan	1	553K		IE, Romance	
-		Cebuano	1	1K	7	Austronesian, Central Philippine	
-	0	Chinese	6	287K		Sino-Tibetan	
-	<u> </u>	Chukchi	1	6K	9	Chukotko-Kamchatkan	
-	3-	Classical Chinese	1	433K	0.0	Sino-Tibetan (2./ FO	
-	(b)	Coptic	1	55K	A #0	Afro-Asiatic, Egyptian 42 / 58	

Dependency treebanks

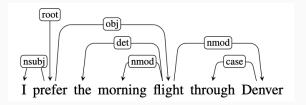
Treebanks play a critical role in the development and evaluation of dependency parsers:

- used for training parsers;
- act as the gold labels for evaluating parsers;
- provide useful information for corpus linguistics studies.

Dependency treebanks are created by having human annotators directly create dependency structures for a given corpus, or by hand-correcting the output of an automatic parser.

Sources of information for dependency parsing

Example:



- Bilexical affinities: the dependency [flight → morning] is plausible
- **Dependency distance:** Most dependencies are between nearby words
- Intervening material: Dependencies rarely span intervening words (ex: like, with, plus, including) or punctuation
- Valency of heads: How many dependents on which side are usual for a head?

Three components:

- (1) a stack, on which the parse is built
- (2) a buffer, containing the tokens to be parsed
- (3) a parser which takes actions on the parse via a predictor: an oracle

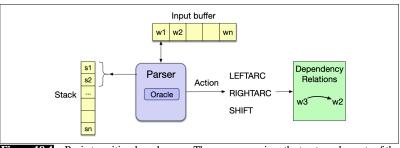


Figure 18.4 Basic transition-based parser. The parser examines the top two elements of the stack and selects an action by consulting an oracle that examines the current configuration.

The parser: walks through the sentence left-to-right, shifting items from the **buffer** onto the **stack**.

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At each time point: the top two elements on the stack are examined, the oracle makes a decision about what transition to apply to build the parse:

- LEFTARC: assign the current word as the head of some previously seen word
- RIGHTARC: assign some previously seen word as the head of the current word;
- SHIFT: postpone dealing with the current word, storing it for later processing.

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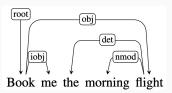
<u>∧ LEFTARC</u> cannot be applied when ROOT is the second element of the stack.

<u>\(\) LEFTARC</u> and *RIGHTARC* require two elements to be on the stack to be applied.

Example: transition-based parse trace

Step	Stack	Word List	Action	Relation Added
0	[root]	[book, me, the, morning, flight]	SHIFT	
1	[root, book]	[me, the, morning, flight]	SHIFT	
2	[root, book, me]	[the, morning, flight]	RIGHTARC	$(book \rightarrow me)$
3	[root, book]	[the, morning, flight]	SHIFT	
4	[root, book, the]	[morning, flight]	SHIFT	
5	[root, book, the, morning]	[flight]	SHIFT	
6	[root, book, the, morning, flight]	0	LEFTARC	$(morning \leftarrow flight)$
7	[root, book, the, flight]	0	LEFTARC	$(the \leftarrow flight)$
8	[root, book, flight]	0	RIGHTARC	$(book \rightarrow flight)$
9	[root, book]	0	RIGHTARC	$(\text{root} \rightarrow \text{book})$
10	[root]		Done	

Figure 18.6 Trace of a transition-based parse.



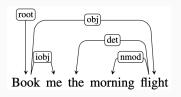
Oracle

The oracle for greedily selecting the appropriate transition is trained by supervised machine learning: need training data!

Step	Stack	Word List	Predicted Action
0	[root]	[book, the, flight, through, houston]	SHIFT
1	[root, book]	[the, flight, through, houston]	SHIFT
2	[root, book, the]	[flight, through, houston]	SHIFT
3	[root, book, the, flight]	[through, houston]	LEFTARC
4	[root, book, flight]	[through, houston]	SHIFT
5	[root, book, flight, through]	[houston]	SHIFT
6	[root, book, flight, through, houston]	0	LEFTARC
7	[root, book, flight, houston]		RIGHTARC
8	[root, book, flight]		RIGHTARC
9	[root, book]	0	RIGHTARC
10	[root]		Done

Figure 18.7 Generating training items consisting of configuration/predicted action pairs by simulating a parse with a given reference parse.

Dependency parse encoding



A possible encoding for this parse would be:

$$\{(0,1),(1,5),(1,2),(5,3),(5,4)\}$$

How is this encoding produced?

How to evaluate parsing?

How to evaluate parsing?

- Exact match (EM): how many sentences are parsed correctly
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot} \to \mathsf{most}$ sentences are marked wrong

How to evaluate parsing?

- Exact match (EM): how many sentences are parsed correctly
- $m{\cdot} o \mathsf{most}$ sentences are marked wrong
- Labeled attachment score (LAS): is a word properly assigned to its head with the correct dependency relation?
- Unlabeled attachment score (UAS): is a word properly assigned to its head? (ignoring the dependency relation)
- Label accuracy score (LS): what is the percentage of tokens with correct labels? (ignoring where the relations come from)

How to evaluate parsing?

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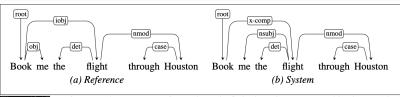


Figure 18.15 Reference and system parses for *Book me the flight through Houston*, resulting in an LAS of 2/3 and an UAS of 5/6.

Conclusion

To sum up

Structured prediction: prediction of structured outputs, such as

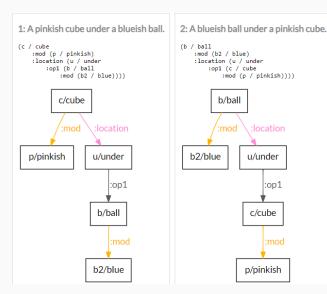
- Part-of-speech (POS) tagging
- Named Entity Recognition (NER)
- Coreference resolution

Historically, human-crafted rule-based grammars were used. Now, prediction algorithms such as **Hidden Markov Models (HMM)**, and more advanced ones such as Conditional Random Fields (CRF) and Maximum Entropy Markov Models (MEMM).

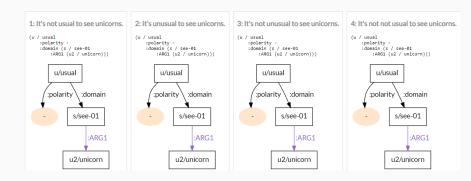
A more advanced example of a structured prediction task is **dependency parsing**, for which both feature-based models and prediction algorithms are needed.

Semantic parsing

AMR parsing [3, 1]:



Semantic parsing and semantics



To go further

Structured Prediction in NLP - A survey

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Abstract

Over the last several years, the field of Structured prediction in NLP has had seen huge advancements with sophisticated probabilistic graphical models, energy-based networks, and its combination with deep learning-based approaches. This survey provides a brief of major techniques in structured prediction and its applications in the NLP domains like parsing, sequence labeling, text generation, and sequence to sequence tasks. We also deep-dived into energy-based and attention-based techniques in structured prediction, identified some relevant open issues and gaps in the current state-of-the-art research, and have come up with some detailed ideas for future research in these fields.

Nowadays

ACL 2022 6th Workshop on Structured Prediction for NLP

Call for Papers Important Dates Schedule Accepted Papers Organizers Anti-Harassment Policy

Accepted Papers

Accepted Papers

- A Joint Learning Approach for Semi-supervised Neural Topic Modeling. Jeffrey Chiu, Rajat Mittal, Neehal Tumma, Abhishek Sharma and Finale Doshi-Velez
- SlotGAN: Detecting Mentions in Text via Adversarial Distant Learning. Daniel Daza, Michael Cochez and Paul Groth
- TempCaps: A Capsule Network-based Embedding Model for Temporal Knowledge Graph Completion.
 Guirong Fu, Zhao Meng, Zhen Han, Zifeng Ding, Yunpu Ma, Matthias Schubert, Volker Tresp and Roger Wattenhofer
- Joint Entity and Relation Extraction Based on Table Labeling Using Convolutional Neural Networks. Youmi Ma, Tatsuya Hiraoka and Naoaki Okazaki
- Multilingual Syntax-aware Language Modeling through Dependency Tree Conversion. Shunsuke Kando, Hiroshi Noji and Yusuke Miyao
- Predicting Attention Sparsity in Transformers. Marcos Vinicius Treviso, António Góis, Patrick Fernandes, Erick Rocha Fonseca, and Andre Martins
- · Neural String Edit Distance. Jindřich Libovický and Alexander Fraser

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