Introduction to Machine Learning Applications

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Natural Language Processing (NLP) overview

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Language is challenging

Verb ambiguity:

- I looked straight at an eclipse of the sun.
- I looked after my little sister.
- I looked at the catalogue and saw the dress that I wanted to order.

Noun ambiguity:

- River bank / financial bank
- Mountain bike / tandem bike
- Wine glass / sea glass

Subfields of linguistics

| Subfield | Description |
|------------|--|
| Phonetics | The study of the sounds of human language |
| Phonology | The study of sound systems in human language |
| Morphology | The study of formation and internal structure of words |
| Syntax | The study of formation and internal structure of sentences |
| Semantics | The study of the meaning of sentences |
| Pragmatics | The study of the way sentences with their semantic meanings are used for particular communicative goals. |

Table from: Linguistic Fundamentals for Natural Language Processing, June 2013, Emily M. Bender

Different Components

- Language models
- Part Of Speech tagging
- Parsing
- Named Entity Recognition
- Co-reference
- Automatic Speech Recognition
- Text To Speech
- Semantic roles

Applications

- Text classification
 - Spam detection
 - Sentiment analysis
- Question answering systems
- Machine translation
- Spoken dialogue systems
 - Siri, Alexa

Types of text

- Subjective text:
 - Blogs, online product reviews, movie reviews, social media posts
- Objective text:
 - Wikipedia articles, NYT news articles, WSJ articles

Sentiment analysis

| Positive | Negative |
|--|------------------------------|
| My experience so far has been fantastic! | Your support team is useless |
| Package is nice. | Absolutely horrible! |
| This product is second to none. | This is better than nothing. |
| I will absolutely recommend it. | Yeah sure. So smooth! |

Sentiment analysis: practical issues

- Cleaning the text
- Tokenization
- POS tagging
- Semantics
- Named entity recognition
- Coreference resolution

Sentiment analysis: approaches

- Unsupervised classification
 - Using POS tagging, bigrams and calculating Semantic Orientation (SO)
- Supervised classification
 - Naïve Bayes
 - Maximum entropy
 - Support vector machines