Multilingual Similarity

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1 Abstract

Document similarity determines how similar a given set of documents are. In this project we are planning to perform a multilingual document level similarity analysis task for news from several domains. The data required is obtained from the contest main page. The training data is released in batches throughout the contest's preparation period. Our approach for this task is to use a pairwise rating on a 4-point scale. And, do a step-by-step process from extraction of data to analyzing each article. Libraries like gensim, NLTK, spaCy and Beautifulsoup are used in this project. The final aim of this project is to develop a system that can identify multilingual news articles that give similar information.

2 Introduction

The multilingual similarity project is a document level similarity analysis task which primarily aims at identifying news articles in different languages covering the same story. To compare different stories, we make use of a pairwise rating on a 4-point scale.

There are three primary steps involved in this process which are:

- 1. Extract text from news article webpages
- 2. Data Cleansing
- 3. Entity and Topic extraction

In the first step, we extract data from the websites using NLTK and beautiful soup. In the second step we try to remove as many stop words as possible which makes comparison easier. Stop words include words like a,the,an,and etc. After Cleaning and Tokenizing the data, we check for the correlation and the means.

Post this, we now analyze the articles and compare them with each other using the pairwise elimination. Currently we are trying to analyze articles and compare them.

3 Problem Statement

This SemEval task aims to develop systems that identify multilingual news articles that provide similar information.

4 Data Description

4.1 Input Data

The training data was provided in CSV format, containing the following columns:

- Pair-ID
- Link1
- Link2
- Ia_link1
- Ia_link2
- Geography
- Entities
- Time
- Narrative
- Overall
- Style
- Tone

The entries in the pair-id column consist of a sequence of numerals separated by a '_' character to denote an ID given to a pair of URL links given for comparison. The fields Ia_link1 and Ia_link2 consist of the Internet archive links corresponding to the URLs under columns link1 and link2 respectively.

The columns, Geography, Entities, Time, Narrative, Overall, Style and Tone are scoring parameters given as a part of the input data. These fields have been scored by individuals who were asked to go through the content in each of those links and compare the contents with each other. The scores have a range from 1-4 wherein a score of 4 would signify a high degree of similarity and 1 would denote the converse.

Geography - A score under this field would denote how close the events/content described in both the links were in terms of where they had occurred.

Entities - A score under this field would denote similarities between individuals or organizations that were involved in the news article.

Time - A value under this section would give us an estimate of how close or far the news was reported in a chronological sense. The scores under the overall section would denote how similar or different the pair of news articles are from each other.

4.2 Output Data

For a successful submission, the algorithm being developed must take into consideration the content in the links in the input csv file and generate an overall similarity score for a given pair-id. This data is later scripted into a .csv file with 2 columns, pair-id and overall similarity score.

4.3 Subsection motivating your approach

Our approach is devised of five phases: extraction, translation, tokenization, and comparison. This approach gives us optimal modularity, improving our ability to fine tune results.

Cosine similarity is a measure of how documents are closely related to one another and is expressed as the dot product of 2 document vectors divided by the magnitude of the normalized form of those document vectors.

4.4 Implementation

4.4.1 Extraction

The competition organizers provided a cli, which builds a directory with HTML and JSON files. Our application utilizes the glob library to locate the articles

associated files. The HTML files are parsed utilizing the Newspaper3k library to extract key text elements such as the article, title, and metadata tags. The JSON files are parsed via the python JSON library. The key JSON elements that we extract are in a list that we can modify to fine tune data elements.

4.4.2 Translation

All text that is not labeled as English "en" in the source training data file are passed to the translation method. Translations are per- formed by Google Translate python api.

4.4.3 Tokenization

The Spacy library is used as our NLP model and has a multiple pipeline approach that tokenizes and removes stop words of all text. Spacy also has the ability to extract entities, to be analyzed and compared for future consideration.

4.4.4 Comparison

Currently we load the bag of words generated from the Spacy model into an LDA model for topic extraction. The top n topics identified in the LDA model for the tow articles being compared are vectorized and compared via cosine similarity. We manually adjust the threshold for the cosine similarity score to get the based results for the 1-4 overall similarity score for the two articles.

4.4.5 Scoring

After performing the step pertaining to comparison of the model, we set a score denoting the similarity of the contents within the two article links provided as an input. A final score is returned by the algorithm carrying out the comparison (cosine similarity in this case). We are then randomizing the score before making the first submission using some in-built python methods.

4.5 Subsection details of your experiments

4.5.1 Model Testing

Currently we are experimenting with different similarity methods and thresholds for scoring/scaling. This week we experimented with TFIDF models to get a similarity between the two documents. We take the mean of all of the words in the model and compare the mean score from the TFIDF model to the LDA Topic extraction cosine similarity score. Our results from the TFIDF mean similarity score have been unreliable and requires adjustments as document scores for similar articles was not consistent. Next steps with this experiment is to similarly extract the top n topics from the model and only get

the mean of the words associated with those topics. Figure 1 2 below show the results of comparing the topics extracted from two individual LDA modles compared to a single LDA model and randomly generated scores using cosine similarity. As you can see documents that had more text and more prominent topics had greater influence and skewed the comparison results when the documents were compared in a single model.

```
Comparing JSON: 1484084337 Files: 2 Lang:
                                  en TO 1484110209 Files: 2 Lang: en
Randomly Generated Score: 2.896463240735085
TF-IDF MEAN : 0.07
Comparing JSON: 1484396422 Files: 2 Lang: en TO 1483924666 Files: 2 Lang: en
Randomly Generated Score: 2.7790245685689245
TF-TDF MEAN : 0.08
Comparing JSON: 1484698254 Files: 2 Lang: en TO 1483758694 Files: 2 Lang: en
Randomly Generated Score: 3.742648273143918
TF-IDF MEAN : 0.07
*******
Comparing JSON: 1576314516 Files: 2 Lang: en TO 1576455088 Files: 2 Lang: en
Randomly Generated Score: 3.769708098499486
TF-IDF MEAN : 0.07
********
Comparing JSON: 1484036253 Files: 2 Lang: en TO 1483894099 Files: 2 Lang: en
Randomly Generated Score: 2.7800022044760397
TF-IDF MEAN : 0.07
***********
Comparing JSON: 1484189120 Files: 2 Lang: en TO 1484113136 Files: 2 Lang: en Randomly Generated Score: 2.7982576567836155
TF-IDF MEAN : 0.07
***********
Comparing JSON: 1484034982 Files: 2 Lang: en TO 1483785560 Files: 2 Lang: en
Randomly Generated Score: 2.93004416402147
Cosine Similarity - Documents in single model: 0.99999999999998 Rating: 4
Cosine Similarity - Seperate LDA Models: 0.6375355591062043 Rating: 2
TF-IDF MEAN : 0.06
********
```

Figure 1: Experiment with cosine similarity scores, thresholds between single and multiple LDA models, and randomly generated scores.

Figure 2: Topic extraction testing between LDA scores for the corpus

4.5.2 Bert Article Comparison

As defined by BERT's research team:

BERT stands for Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers. It is designed to pre-train deep bidirectional representations from unlabeled text by jointly conditioning on both left and right context. As a result, the pre-trained BERT model can be fine-tuned with just one additional output layer to create state-of-the-art models for a wide range of NLP tasks.

Our team used BERT to execute Cosine and Euclidean distance of a corpus composed of the main text extracted from two different news articles. What we we found is that BERT calculated results very similar to the LDA topic extraction results from our basline solution as shown in the figures below.

```
v der bert_operiment(ffilet_ffilet):

text : _ jon.tot(filet[e][e]_ffilet[e][1])

text : _ jon.tot(filet[e][e]_ffilet[e][e])

text : _ jon.tot(filet[e][e]_ffilet[e][e])

text : _ jon.tot(filet[e][e]_ffilet[e][e])

text : _ jon.tot(filet[e]_e]

text : _
```

Figure 3: Code displaying the usage of BERT model

```
Comparing JSON: 1484008894 Files: 2 Lang: en TO 1484328949 Files: 2 Lang: en Similar Documents: BERT

Cosine Similarity: 0.7060989141464233 Similar Documents: BERT

Euclidean Distance: 12.17457103729248 Similar Documents: TF-IDF

Cosine Similarity: 0.03199781934412287 Similar Documents: TF-IDF

Euclidean Distance: 1.3914037377094213

Cosine Similarity - Documents in single model: 1.0000000001342073 Rating: 4

Cosine Similarity - Seperate LDA Models: 0.7887568771355752 Rating: 3
```

Figure 4: Comparison of BERT model output with other methods

id	bert_cos	bert_euc	tf_cos	tf_euc	Ida_cos
1484084337_1484110209	0.719940066	11.62303066	0.058041964	1.372558222	0.754036894
1484396422_1483924666	0.768661916	10.65473461	0.077526118	1.358288543	0.708255546
1484698254_1483758694	0.890699387	7.303583145	0.30181321	1.181682521	0.950765341

Figure 5: BERT model experiment CSV output for analysis

4.5.3 Data Extraction

There are inconsistencies with the format and availability of news article elements. This requires a lot of experimentation with manual extraction utilizing beautiful soup, semi-manual extraction with Newspaper3k, and cli provided by the competition organizers. Currently we prioritize the organizers provided cli. Beyond extracting the article's text we must find relevant data elements such as title and meta-data tags. Articles are sourced from multiple different news sources covering multiple countries. This causes variation in format and article data elements. To experiment with different elements of the HTML and JSON files we created a list of elements that can be modified to include and exclude elements. Currently including title and metadata tags have provided the best results.

5 DISCUSSION AND RELATED WORK

Currently we are using cosine similarity to compare the top n topics extracted by the LDA method. Other methods would include Euclidean and Jaccard distance. Currently we are unable to compare our results to other teams, so we will implement these methods and compare the results to our cosine similarity score. Being that none of the articles are word for word, the Jaccard distance may not account for the differences in topics.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND OPEN PROBLEMS

6.0.1 Open Problems

A major issue right now is the availability of the evaluation data. The Organizers will release the evaluation data Dec 3, 2021. We may not be able to submit our results for evaluation and compare our results to other competitors.

```
States of the property of the
```

Figure 6: List of Unreachable links in training dataset

The current training data set contains articles that are no longer accessible. There is an open incident

The issue is still wish struggling to resolve the training data and looking to fix the websites that are unreachable. We are trying to eliminate the link pairs that are unavailable and going forward with the available links.

6.0.2 Conclusion

Combining topic extraction with cosine similarity to compare articles seems to be efficient. Currently we have a 80%-85% accuracy for finding similarity between article pairs. Once our results can be evaluated, will have the opportunity to tune our application.

Our data is available at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MqcXatfZ8rXSLR9IeEGIahYCNfAXKig6?usp=sharing Our code is available at:

https://colab.research.google.com/drive/16oQTKU8Snap\textbackslash_ SbI1YSZRHOWZ4lQh19o0?usp=sharing

7 CONTRIBUTIONS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS.

This you'll fill only for the final report (based on the tables of contributions)

References

- [1] Luling Huang. Measuring Similarity Between Texts in Python. URL: https://sites.temple.edu/tudsc/2017/03/30/measuring-similarity-between-texts-in-python. (09.22.2021).
- [2] Stuart J. Russell and Peter Norvig. Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach. Pearson, 1994.
- [3] Peipei Xia, Li Zhang, and Fanzhang Li. Learning similarity with cosine similarity ensemble. URL: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0020025515001243?casa%5C_token=roHZ2606QUsAAAAA: YtUpL8gKQj-Ss%5C_rFqgDGx-shL0cvvsqFM4LGzbWNjqF4iAI1TAHA8flj1J9o%5C_P6u9n3RTZnPwuI. (accessed: 09.22.2021).

8 APPENDIX 1

Where you put details allowing 'anyone skilled in the art' to reproduce your results – you can used as many appendices for it as you wish.

9 Appendix 2

10 Appendix 3

...

e.g. you can post the print out of your notebooks here – no limit on the number of pages in the appendices.

Codalab Multilingual Similarity Progress Summary: September 27, 2021—October 5, 2021

The overall objective of this project is:

Finding the best way to withdraw and extract the topics from articles of all languages. Includes taking the stop words from being categorized. We needed to address the articles in different languages by translating the language of the article and categorizing the topics.

The objective for the last week was:

Build an algorithm to generate a more accurate threshold for cosine similarity scores

The objective for the next week is:

Build an algorithm to generate a more accurate threshold for cosine similarity scores the problems: Some articles in the training data are not available and the links are broken. The competition organizers are working on resolving an issue with submitting project reports.

The problems we are facing are: Implementing an neural network algorithm

We plan to address them as follows:

Learn more about Neural Network Implementation and concepts behind it. We need help with:

Suggestions on improving our application by implementing an neural network algorithm

Codalab Multilingual Similarity Progress Summary: October 12, 2021—October 19, 2021

The overall objective of this project is:

Document similarity determines how similar a given set of documents are. In this project we are planning to do a multilingual document level similarity task to news from several domains. The data required is obtained from the contest main page. The training data is released in batches throughout the contest's preparation period. Our approach for this task is to use a pairwise rating on a 4-point scale. And, do a step-by-step process from extraction of data to analyzing each article. Libraries like gensim, NLTK, spaCy and Beautifulsoup are used in this project. The final aim of this project is to develop a system that can identify multilingual news articles that give similar information.

The objective for the last week was:

Build an algorithm to generate a more accurate threshold for cosine similarity scores the problems: Some articles in the training data are not available and the links are broken. The competition organizers are working on resolving an issue with submitting project reports.

The objective for the next week is:

Use the perplexity measure to fine tune the number of topics in the LDA models. Compare a sample of randomly generated scores to the predicted similarity score from cosine similarity.

The problems we are facing are:

Currently we have been able to produce a solution but we are unable to compare our results to other competitors. There are several

We plan to address them as follows:

Continue to work along side the organizers to find ways to evaluate our results and manually testing article pairs.

We need help with:

Finding the appropriate way to evaluate our results.

Date	Measure you use	Val of the mea- sure	Method	Num of Exp	Comments
Current date 10-19-2021			Cosine-Similarity	Number of Documents processed	Very reliable results identifying similar documents, and testing scoring scale (1-4)
Previous report date 10-12-2021			TF-IDF	Number of Documents processed	TF-IDF provided unreliable similarity results due to noise.
Your Baseline date 09-13-2021			tokenization,POS- tagging		
External report date					

Table 1: Progress Summary

Codalab Multilingual Similarity Progress Summary: October 19, 2021—October 26, 2021

The overall objective of this project is:

Document similarity determines how similar a given set of documents are. In this project we are planning to do a multilingual document level similarity task to news from several domains. The data required is obtained from the contest main page. The training data is released in batches throughout the contest's preparation period. Our approach for this task is to use a pairwise rating on a 4-point scale. And, do a step-by-step process from extraction of data to analyzing each article. Libraries like gensim, NLTK, Spacy and Beautifulsoup are used in this project. The final aim of this project is to develop a system that can identify multilingual news articles that give similar information.

The objective for the last week was:

Validate the results that we produced utilizing a manual QA testing method and comparison to additional models and methods.

```
visit bett can be not term to the Articles
instruct the ani text from the Articles
instruction (Article) (Article) (Article) (Article) (Article)
instruction (Article) (Article) (Article) (Article)
instruction (Article) (Article)
instruction (Article) (Article)
instruction (Article)
inst
```

Figure 7: Code displaying the usage of BERT model

```
Comparing JSON: 1484008894 Files: 2 Lang: en TO 1484328949 Files: 2 Lang: en Similar Documents: BERT

Cosine Similarity: 0.7060989141464233 Similar Documents: BERT

Euclidean Distance: 12.17457103729248 Similar Documents: TF-IDF

Cosine Similarity: 0.03199781934412287 Similar Documents: TF-IDF

Euclidean Distance: 1.3914037377094213

Cosine Similarity - Documents in single model: 1.0000000001342073 Rating: 4

Cosine Similarity - Seperate LDA Models: 0.7887568771355752 Rating: 3
```

Figure 8: Comparison of BERT model output with other methods

The objective for the next week is:

id	bert_cos	bert_euc	tf_cos	tf_euc	Ida_cos
1484084337_1484110209	0.719940066	11.62303066	0.058041964	1.372558222	0.754036894
1484396422_1483924666	0.768661916	10.65473461	0.077526118	1.358288543	0.708255546
1484698254_1483758694	0.890699387	7.303583145	0.30181321	1.181682521	0.950765341

Figure 9: BERT model experiment CSV output for analysis

Complete manual QA testing. Analyse testing results and use the results to modify comparison approach. Improve the readability of our Colab notebook to aid in the hand-off.



Figure 10: Randomly samples 200 records and assigns them to QA tester

The problems we are facing are:

Currently we have been able to produce a solution but we are unable to compare our results to other competitors.

We plan to address them as follows:

Currently we are working along side the organizers to find ways to evaluate our results and manually testing article pairs. In the interim we are comparing our Gensim LDA cosine comparison solution against Bert and SKLearn using Cosine and Euclidean distance algorithms. We are also, manually QA testing by taking a random sample of the data and splitting the testing duties amongst the team.

We need help with:

Finding the appropriate way to evaluate our results.

Date	Measure	Val	Method	Num of Exp	Comments
	you use	of the			
		mea-			
		sure			
Current date			BERT Model for	Number of docu-	Results are as re-
10-26-2021			computing similar-	ments processed	liable as Cosine
			ity		Similarity method.
Previous			Cosine-Similarity	Number of Docu-	Very reliable re-
report date				ments processed	sults identifying
10-19-2021					similar documents,
					and testing scoring
					scale (1-4).
Your Base-			tokenization,POS-		
line date			tagging		
09-13-2021					
External					
report date					

Table 2: Progress Summary

Project Summary of Individual contributions.

https://www.overleaf.com/project/61586c8fc353a408cb9334e9

	Shreyas Lokesha	Mohammed Sharik	Travis Weston	Bhuvana Sree	Rebekah Yer-
		U Zama		Garikapati	makovich
Week1(Sep	Analysis of Prob-	Went through	Worked on article	Research on docu-	Research on docu-
13th -	lem Task	thorough documen-	extraction and cli	ment comparison	ment comparison
Sep.20th)		tation of problem	configuration	methods	methods
		statement and re-			
		lated papers			
Week2(Sep	Developed pro-	Experimented with	Built Spacy nlp	Data extraction	Data extraction
21st -	gram for pair Link	trial input data.	model	and analysis	and analysis
Sep.27th)	elimination on trial	Performed Data			
,	data Input data set	extraction and			
		analysis. Reviewed			
		the shared Google			
		Colab code note-			
		book			
Week3(Sep	Developed code	Helped with pre-	Worked on trans-	Similarity results	Similarity results
28th - Oct	for randomized	sentation and doc-	lating documents	testing and valida-	testing and valida-
4th)	score during first	umentation of the	to english and	tion	tion
	submission	project. Looked	scoring threshold		
		into the testing			
		and validation of			
		built models			
Week4(Oct	Testing data ex-	LaTex Report For-	TF-IDF experi-	TF-IDF experi-	CLI testing and
5th - Oct	traction elements	matting	ment and compari-	ment and com-	integration
12th)			son	parison, Article	
				translation testing	
Week5(Oct	Pair Link elimi-	Preparing LaTex	Experimenting	Analyzing Sentence	Analyzing Sentence
12th - Oct	nation clean up	report and format-	with perplexity to	Transformer model	Transformer model
19th)	on training data,	ting	tune the number of	to apply BERT	to apply BERT ar-
	preparing weekly		topics extracted for	architecture	chitecture, prepar-
	report		the LDA model,		ing weekly report
			preparing LaTex		
			report		
Week6(Oct	Analysis of the	Validate the results	Develop Bert	Comparison to ad-	
19th - Oct	BERT model and	that were produced	Model to compare	ditional models	
26th)	Project report for-	utilizing a manual	two articles, and	and methods	
	matting in Latex	QA testing method	export the data to		
			a dataframe and		
			csv for analysis		

Table 3: Team Contributions