

CS-734/834 Introduction to Information Retrieval:
Assignment #3:

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1 Exercise 6.5

Describe the snippet generation algorithm in Galago. Would this algorithm work well for pages with little text content? Describe in detail how you would modify the algorithm to improve it.

Answer

For this question, I downloaded the source code for Galago version 3.10 from <https://sourceforge.net/p/lemur/galago/ci/release/3.10/tree/>. It is a part of The Lemur Project. The code for the snippet generator can be found in 'galago-3.10/core/src/main/java/org/lemurproject/galago/core/index/corpus/SnippetGenerator.java'. The code is as follows:

```
public String getSnippet(String documentText, Set<String> queryTerms) throws IOException {
    ArrayList<IntSpan> positions = new ArrayList<IntSpan>();
    Document document = parseAsDocument(documentText, positions);
    return generateSnippet(document, positions, queryTerms);
}

private Document parseAsDocument(String text, ArrayList<IntSpan> positions) throws IOException {
    Document document = new Document();
    document.text = text;

    // Tokenize the document
    TagTokenizer tokenizer = new TagTokenizer();
    tokenizer.process(document);

    if (positions != null) {
        positions.addAll(tokenizer.getTokenPositions());
    }
    if (stemming) {
        document = stemmer.stem(document);
    }

    return document;
}

private ArrayList<SnippetRegion> findMatches(final Document document, final Set<String> queryTerms) {
    // Make a snippet region object for each term occurrence in the document,
    // while also counting matches
}
```

```
    ArrayList<SnippetRegion> regions = new ArrayList<SnippetRegion>();

    for (int i = 0; i < document.terms.size(); i++) {
        String term = document.terms.get(i);
        if (queryTerms.contains(term)) {
            regions.add(new SnippetRegion(term, i, width, document.terms.size()));
        }
    }
    return regions;
}

public ArrayList<SnippetRegion> combineRegions(final ArrayList<SnippetRegion> regions) {
    ArrayList<SnippetRegion> finalRegions = new ArrayList<SnippetRegion>();
    SnippetRegion last = null;
    int snippetSize = 0;
    int maxSize = 40;

    for (SnippetRegion current : regions) {
        if (last == null) {
            last = current;
        } else if (last.overlap(current)) {
            SnippetRegion bigger = last.merge(current);

            if (bigger.size() + snippetSize > maxSize) {
                finalRegions.add(last);
                last = null;
            } else {
                last = bigger;
            }
        } else if (last.size() + snippetSize > maxSize) {
            break;
        } else {
            finalRegions.add(last);
            snippetSize += last.size();
            last = current;
        }
    }

    if (last != null && snippetSize + last.size() < maxSize) {
        finalRegions.add(last);
    }

    return finalRegions;
}

public String buildHtmlString(Snippet best, Document document, ArrayList<IntSpan> positions) {
    StringBuilder builder = new StringBuilder();
```

```
for (SnippetRegion region : best.regions) {
    if (region.start != 0) {
        builder.append("...");
    }
    int startChar = positions.get(region.start).start;
    int endChar = positions.get(region.end - 1).end;
    int start = 0;

    // section string
    String section = document.text.substring(startChar, endChar);

    for (Match m : region.matches) {
        int startMatchChar = positions.get(m.start).start - startChar;
        int endMatchChar = positions.get(m.end - 1).end - startChar;

        String intermediate = stripTags(section.substring(start, startMatchChar));
        builder.append(intermediate);
        builder.append("<strong>");
        builder.append(stripTags(section.substring(startMatchChar, endMatchChar)));
        builder.append("</strong>");
        start = endMatchChar;
    }

    if (start >= 0) {
        builder.append(stripTags(section.substring(start)));
    }

    // terminate matches once we reached a max length.
    int maxSnippetSize = 500;
    if (builder.length() > maxSnippetSize) {
        break;
    }
}

if (best.regions.size() > 1 && best.regions.get(best.regions.size() - 1).end != document.terms.
    size()) {
    builder.append("...");
}
return builder.toString();
}
```

About the algorithm: Snippet creation is done by the SnippetGenerator class. This class takes as parameters to its getSnippet method the document text as a String and a Set of String query terms, and returns a String that is a query-relevant snippet, or summary, of the document.

The snippet generator begins by turning the document text into a list of tokens for processing. The generator then parses these tokens, looking for query term matches, and when it finds a match, it creates a SnippetRegion object that stores the location within the document where the query term matched, plus five contextual terms preceding and following each term match. This equates to storing sentence fragments containing query terms.

After collecting all of the regions in the document containing a query term the generator begins constructing the final snippet by adding the SnippetRegions found from the previous step, combining those regions that overlap each other into larger regions, until a final list of SnippetRegions is created with total length in terms is no greater than 40 + the length of the last SnippetRegion added.

With the final list of SnippetRegions the algorithm builds an HTML string containing all the snippets concatenated together for rendering the snippet in a browser while adding tags around each query term match for emphasis.

Would this algorithm work well for pages with little text content?

Based on my analysis, I think Galago's snippet algorithm will not work well for pages with little text content. It is because the algorithm works by matching the query terms with the page content. If there is only little content on the page, then the probability to generate a good snippet will also decrease.

Describe in detail how you would modify the algorithm to improve it

We need to define a threshold where the amount of text is not enough and then stem our query terms to find other possible terms related in the text. Further we need to expand our query terms to find other possible terms related in the text and then use the stems and expansion results to generate new sentences ranking. Then identify regions where the added terms are more significant and extract and display the result.

2 Exercise 6.1

Using the Wikipedia collection provided at the book website, create a sample of stem clusters by the following process:

1. Index the collection without stemming.
2. Identify the first 1,000 words (in alphabetical order) in the index.
3. Create stem classes by stemming these 1,000 words and recording which words become the same stem.
4. Compute association measures (Dice's coefficient) between all pairs of stems in each stem class. Compute co-occurrence at the document level.
5. Create stem clusters by thresholding the association measure. All terms that are still connected to each other form the clusters.

Compare the stem clusters to the stem classes in terms of size and the quality (in your opinion) of the groupings.

Answer

For indexing the collection, sorting the index alphabetically, and taking the first 1000 words, I used the following code and stored the words in result.txt.

```
import os
import html2text as html2text
import io
```

```
import prettyprint as prettyprint

html_files = []
# traverse the directory to list all the html files in the directory
for root, dirs, files in os.walk(os.path.abspath('../articles')):
    for file in files:
        if file.endswith('.html'):
            filepath = os.path.join(root, file)
            html_files.append(filepath)

file_words_index = {}
all_words = set()

# process each html file
for idx, file in enumerate(html_files):
    print('{} of {}. Processing file {}'.format(idx+1, len(html_files), file))
    print('=' * 30)

    # get text only from each file -> remove all tags
    h = html2text.HTML2Text()
    h.ignore_links = True
    text = h.handle(u' '.join([line.strip() for line in io.open(file, "r", encoding="utf-8").readlines()]))

    # get all words from text by splitting by whitespace
    words = [word.lower() for word in text.split() if word.isalpha()]
    all_words |= set(words)
    file_words_index[os.path.basename(file)] = words

# Select 1000 top words
all_words = sorted(list(all_words))
all_words = all_words[:1000]

word_files_index = {}

# Invert words and files
for idx, word in enumerate(all_words):
    print('{} of {}. Processing word {}'.format(idx + 1, len(all_words), word.encode('utf-8')))
    print('=' * 30)

    files = []
    for file, words in file_words_index.items():
        if word in words:
            files.append(file)
    word_files_index[word] = sorted(set(files))
```

```
filename = 'result.txt'
with open(filename, 'wb') as f:
    print('Writing to file {}'.format(filename))

    str_word_files_index = prettyprint.pp_str(word_files_index)
    f.write(str_word_files_index)

print('Done!')
```

Inorder to create the stem classes, I used the Krovetz Stemmer. The following code was used to create stem classes by stemming the 1,000 words and recorded those words which become the same stem in stemmed.csv.

```
#!/usr/bin/python
import json
from krovetzstemmer import Stemmer as KrovetzStemmer
import unicodedcsv as csv
from prettyprint import prettyprint

# Instantiate krovetz stemmer
krovetz = KrovetzStemmer()

# Read result of result.txt
with open('result.txt', 'rb') as f:
    str_word_files_index = f.read()
    word_files_index = json.loads(str_word_files_index)

    stem_word_index = {}
    for word, files in word_files_index.items():
        # Stem word using krovetz
        stemmed_word = krovetz.stem(word)

        # Group by stemmed word
        stem_word_index.setdefault(stemmed_word, [])
        stem_word_index[stemmed_word].append(word)

filename = 'stemmed.csv'
with open(filename, 'wb') as f:
    print('Writing to file {}'.format(filename))

    writer = csv.writer(f)
    for stemmed_word, words in stem_word_index.items():
        writer.writerow((stemmed_word, ', '.join(words)))

print('Done!')
```

Next step is to create the stem clusters using Dice's Coefficient as the term association measure. I applied the Dice's Coefficient formula in the following code to compute the Dice's Coefficient for each pair of terms in every stem classes and the results were stored in coefficient.csv file.

```
#!/usr/bin/python
import json
import nltk as nltk
from tabulate import tabulate
import unicodedcsv as csv
from prettyprint import prettyprint

dice_coef_t = 0.01
stem_clusters = []

# Read result of result.txt
with open('result.txt', 'rb') as f1:
    word_files_index = json.loads(f1.read())

# Read result of stemmed.csv
with open('stemmed.csv', 'rb') as f3:
    for stemmed_word, words in csv.reader(f3):
        words = words.split(',')

        # create bigrams from words
        bigrams = list(nltk.bigrams(words))
        for word_a, word_b in bigrams:
            # Lookup filename in word_files_index
            files_a = word_files_index[word_a]
            files_b = word_files_index[word_b]
            files_a_sliced_b = list(set(files_b) & set(files_a))

            dice_coef = float(2 * len(files_a_sliced_b)) / (len(files_a) + len(files_b))

            if(dice_coef > dice_coef_t):
                stem_clusters.append((stemmed_word, word_a, word_b, dice_coef))

stem_clusters = sorted(stem_clusters, key=lambda x: x[3], reverse=True)
# print tabulate(stem_clusters, headers=['stemmed_word', 'word_a', 'word_b', 'dice_coef'])

filename = 'coefficient.csv'
with open(filename, 'wb') as f:
    print('Writing to file {}'.format(filename))

    writer = csv.writer(f)
```



```
for stemmed_word, word_a, word_b, dice_coef in stem_clusters:
    writer.writerow((stemmed_word, word_a, word_b, dice_coef))
```

With a Dice's coefficient threshold value of 0.1 applied to filter out the weakly-linked stem class elements, the following are the remaining stem clusters:

accessible : accessible, accessibility
activate : activator, activate, activating
activate : activation, activates
accelerator : accelerators, accelerato
r abridge : abridges, abridged
accurate : accurate, accurately
address : addressing, addresses, addressed, address
abomination : abomination, abominations
accept : accepting, accepted, accept
abbreviation : abbreviation, abbreviations
acclaim : acclaim, acclaimed
adaptation : adaptations, adaptation
abrogate : abrogation, abrogated
accrete : accreting, accrete, accreted
acid : acidic, acids, acid
accommodate : accommodate, accommodated
absolute : absoluter, absolute
acceleration : acceleration, accelerations
additional : additional, additionally
acknowledge : acknowledges, acknowledged
addition : addition, additions
accent : accent, accented
actor : actors, actor
access : access, accessed, accessing, accesso
acyltransferase : acyltransferase, acyltransferases
add : adding, add, added, adds
activist : activist, activists
adapt : adaption, adapt
adapt : adaptive, adapted
acre : acres, acre
achieve : achieves, achieve
achieve : achieving, achieved
abstraction : abstraction, abstractions
accompany : accompany, accompanying
activity : activities, activity
accidental : accidentally, accidental
aberration : aberrations, aberration
acronym : acronym, acronyms
academy : academy, academies
acquire : acquire, acquiring
academician : academician, academicians
abut : abutting, abuts
abuse : abused, abuse

accompaniment : accompaniment, accompaniments
actress : actresses, actress
accuse : accusing, accuses
acute : acute, acutely
accumulate : accumulate, accumulated
abugida : abugidas, abugida
abduct : abducted, abductors
achievement : achievements, achievement
accredit : accrediting, accredited, accreditation
accusation : accusation, accusations
account : accounting, accounted, accounts
accident : accident, accidents
actual : actual, actualized
adapter : adapter, adapters
accomplishment : accomplishment, accomplishments
absolve : absolved, absolve
abjad : abjads, abjad
academic : academic, academically
abrupt : abrupt, abruptly
abolition : abolitionism, abolition
act : acted, act
action : action, actions
acoustic : acoustical, acoustic, acoustically
abbey : abbeys, abbey
acquisition : acquisitions, acquisition
abbot : abbots, abbot

3 Exercise 6.2

Create a simple spelling corrector based on the noisy channel model. Use a single-word language model, and an error model where all errors with the same edit distance have the same probability. Only consider edit distances of 1 or 2. Implement your own edit distance calculator (example code can easily be found on the Web).

3.1 Answer

Peter Norvig's noisy channel spelling correction algorithm was used as the basis for this solution. The `checker.py` file is uploaded which was created as an implementation of this algorithm.

The `big.txt` file was downloaded from Mr. Norvig's website to calculate language model probability function $P(W)$. The words in the text file were counted and stored in a map that was compressed and saved on disk using the pickle python library [?].

$P(W)$ is calculated with the following formula:

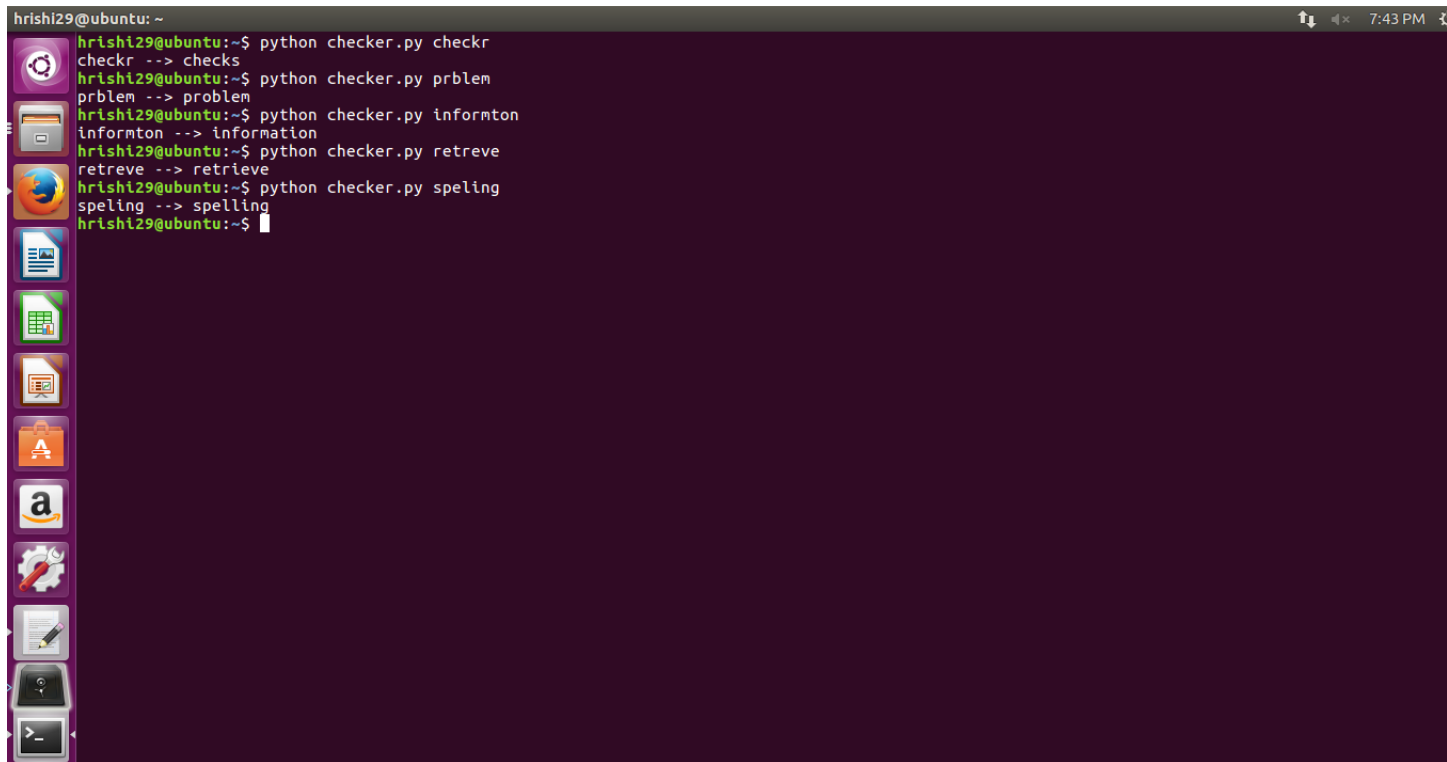
$$P(W) = \frac{C_W}{N}$$

where C_W is the word count for word W and N is the sum of all word counts.

3.2 Output

Here is some sample output from the checker.py script:

Figure 1: Sample Output



```
hrishi29@ubuntu: ~  
hrishi29@ubuntu:~$ python checker.py checkr  
checkr --> checks  
hrishi29@ubuntu:~$ python checker.py prblem  
prblem --> problem  
hrishi29@ubuntu:~$ python checker.py informton  
informton --> information  
hrishi29@ubuntu:~$ python checker.py retreive  
retreive --> retrieve  
hrishi29@ubuntu:~$ python checker.py speling  
speling --> spelling  
hrishi29@ubuntu:~$
```