Big Data and Automated Content Analysis

Week 3 – Monday Data harvesting and storage

Anne Kroon & Damian Trilling

a c kroon@uva.nl @annekroon d.c.trilling@uva.nl @damian0604 www.damiantrilling.net

Afdeling Communicatiewetenschap Universiteit van Amsterdam

19 February 2018



Today

- 1 Last week's exercise
 - Step by step Concluding remarks
- 2 Data harvesting and storage

APIs RSS feeds Scraping and crawling Parsing text files

- 3 Storing data CSV tables JSON and XMI
- 4 Next meetings



Discussing the code

Reading a JSON file into a dict, looping over the dict

Task 1: Print all titles of all videos

```
import json
2
3
   with open("/home/damian/pornexercise/xhamster.json") as fi:
       data=json.load(fi)
5
   for k.v in data.items()):
       print (v["title"])
```

Reading a JSON file into a dict, looping over the dict

Task 1: Print all titles of all videos

```
import json
2
3
   with open("/home/damian/pornexercise/xhamster.json") as fi:
       data=json.load(fi)
5
   for k.v in data.items()):
       print (v["title"])
```

NB: You have to know (e.g., by reading the documentation of the dataset) that the key is called title

Reading a JSON file into a dict, looping over the dict

Task 1: Print all titles of all videos

```
import json

with open("/home/damian/pornexercise/xhamster.json") as fi:
   data=json.load(fi)

for k,v in data.items()):
   print (v["title"])
```

NB: You have to know (e.g., by reading the documentation of the dataset) that the key is called title

NB: data is in fact a dict of dicts, such that each value v is another dict.

For each of these dicts, we retrieve the value that corresponds to the key title

What to do if you do not know the structure of the dataset?

Inspecting your data: use the functions type() and len() and/or the dictionary method .keys()

- len(data)
- type(data)
- data.keys()

What to do if you do not know the structure of the dataset?

Inspecting your data: use the functions type() and len() and/or the dictionary method .keys()

- len(data)
- type(data)
- data.keys()

len() returns the number of items of an object; type() returns the type object; .keys() returns a list of all available keys in the dictionary

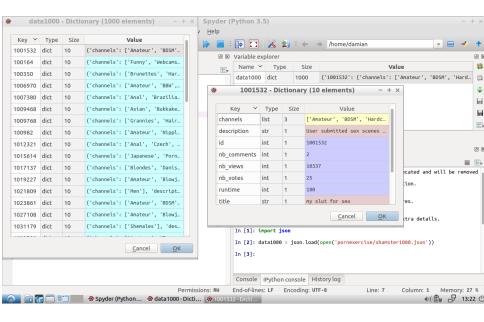
What to do if you do not know the structure of the dataset?

Inspecting your data: use the module pprint

```
from pprint import pprint
```

pprint(data)

```
{'1002968': {'channels': ['Tits'],
             'description': 'NA',
             'id': 1002968.
             'nb comments': 6,
             'nb views': 26683,
             'nb votes': 68.
             'runtime': 1083,
             'title': 'big tit chick gets fucked',
             'upload date': '2012-01-22',
             'uploader': '894621d2f89ab1b859c17b9b81f182e82a375c55'},
 '1003007': {'channels': ['Hardcore', 'Spanking', 'Squirting'],
             'description': 'Antonia plays with her 16 inch toy and her '
                            'crop, till she sprays cum into her own mouth!',
             'id': 1003007.
             'nb comments': 5.
             'nb views': 5008,
             'nb votes': 35,
             'runtime': 213.
             'title': 'antonia just playin around',
             'upload date': '2012-01-22',
```



For the sake of completeness. . .

.items() returns a key-value pair, that's why we need to assign two variables in the for statement.

These alternatives would also work:

```
for v in data.values()):
          print(v["title"])
2
   for k in data:
                      #or: for k in data.keys():
          print(data[k]["title"])
2
```

Do you see (dis-)advantages?

Working with a subset of the data

What to do if you want to work with a smaller subset of the data? Taking a random sample of 10 items in a dict:

```
import random
mydict_short = dict(random.sample(mydict.items(),10))
```

Taking the first 10 elements in a list:

```
mylist_short = mylist[:10]
```

Initializing variables, merging two lists, using a counter

Task 2: Average tags per video and most frequently used tags

```
from collections import Counter
2
    alltags=[]
    i = 0
    for k.v in data.items():
       i+=1
6
       alltags+=v["channels"] # or: alltags.extend(v["channels"])
7
8
    print(len(alltags), "tags are describing", i, "different videos")
    print("Thus, we have an average of",len(alltags)/i,"tags per video")
10
11
12
    c=Counter(alltags)
13
    print (c.most common(100))
```

(there are other, more efficient ways of doing this)

Nesting blocks, using a defaultdict to count, error handling

Task 3: What porn category is most frequently commented on?

```
from collections import defaultdict
1
2
    commentspercat=defaultdict(int)
3
    for k,v in data.items():
           for tag in v["channels"]:
5
               try:
                   commentspercat[tag]+=int(v["nb_comments"])
7
8
               except:
9
                   pass
    print(commentspercat)
10
11
    # if you want to print in a fancy way, you can do it like this:
    for tag in sorted(commentspercat, key=commentspercat.get, reverse=True):
12
13
       print( tag,"\t", commentspercat[tag])
```

A defaultdict is a normal dict, with the difference that the type of each value is pre-defined and it doesn't give an error if you look up a non-existing key

Nesting blocks, using a defaultdict to count, error handling

Task 3: What porn category is most frequently commented on?

```
from collections import defaultdict
1
2
    commentspercat=defaultdict(int)
3
    for k,v in data.items():
           for tag in v["channels"]:
5
               try:
                   commentspercat[tag]+=int(v["nb_comments"])
7
8
               except:
9
                   pass
    print(commentspercat)
10
11
    # if you want to print in a fancy way, you can do it like this:
    for tag in sorted(commentspercat, key=commentspercat.get, reverse=True):
12
13
       print( tag,"\t", commentspercat[tag])
```

A defaultdict is a normal dict, with the difference that the type of each value is pre-defined and it doesn't give an error if you look up a non-existing key

NB: In line 7, we assume the value to be an int, but the datasets sometimes contains the string "NA" instead of a string representing an int. That's why we need the try/except construction



Adding elements to a list, sum() and len()

Task 4: Average length of descriptions

```
length=[]
   for k.v in data.items():
      length.append(len(v["description"]))
3
   print ("Average length", sum(length)/len(length))
```

Merging vs appending

```
Merging:
```

```
11 = [1,2,3]
 12 = [4,5,6]
 11 = 11 + 12
 print(11)
```

gives [1,2,3,4,5,6]

```
Appending:
```

```
11 = [1,2,3]
12 = [4,5,6]
11.append(12)
```

print(11)

12 is seen as one element to append to 11

Tokenizing with .split()

Task 5: Most frequently used words

```
allwords=[]
   for k.v in data.items():
       allwords+=v["description"].split()
3
   c2=Counter(allwords)
   print(c2.most_common(100))
   .split() changes a string to a list of words.
   "This is cool".split()
   results in
   ["This", "is", "cool"]
```

Concluding remarks

Make sure you fully understand the code!

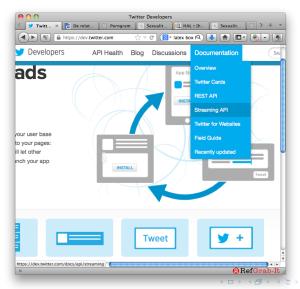
Re-read the corresponding chapters

PLAY AROUND!!!

An overview of APIs, scrapers, crawlers, RSS-feeds, and different file formats

Collecting data: APIs

APIs



Querying an API

```
# contact the Twitter API
    auth = OAuth(access_key, access_secret, consumer_key, consumer_secret)
    twitter = Twitter(auth = auth)
4
    # get all info about the user 'username')
5
    tweepinfo=twitter.users.show(screen name=username)
6
7
    # save his bio statement to the variable bio
8
9
    bio=tweepinfo["description"])
10
11
    # save his location to the variable location
    location=tweepinfo["location"]
12
```

(abbreviated Python example of how to guery the Twitter REST API)

Who offers APIs?

The usual suspects: Twitter, Facebook, Google – but also Reddit, Youtube, . . .

Who offers APIs?

The usual suspects: Twitter, Facebook, Google – but also Reddit, Youtube. . . .

If you ever leave your bag on a bus on Chicago

Who offers APIs?

The usual suspects: Twitter, Facebook, Google – but also Reddit, Youtube, . . .

If you ever leave your bag on a bus on Chicago

...but do have Python on your laptop, watch this: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrPZza_vZ3w.
That guy queries the Chicago bus company's API to calculate when exactly the vehicle with his bag arrives the next time at the

(Yes, he tried calling the help desk before, but they didn't know. He got his bag back.)



bus stop in front of his office.

APIs

Pro

- Structured data
- Easy to process automatically
- Can be directly embedded in your script

APIs

Pro

- Structured data
- Easy to process automatically
- Can be directly embedded in your script

Con

- Often limitations (requests per minute, sampling, ...)
- You have to trust the provider that he delivers the right content (⇒ Morstatter e.a., 2013)
- Some APIs won't allow you to go back in time!

Morstatter, F., Pfeffer, J., Liu, H., & Carley, K. M. (2013). Is the sample good enough? Comparing data from Twitters Streaming API with Twitters Firehose. International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media

So we have learned that we can access an API directly. But what if we have to do so 24/7?

So we have learned that we can access an API directly. But what if we have to do so 24/7?

Collecting tweets with a tool running on a server that *does* query the API 24/7.





It queries the API and stores the result

It continuosly calls the Twitter-API and saves all tweets containing specific hashtags to a MySQL-database.

You tell it once which data to collect - and wait some months.





Retrieving the data for analysis

You *could* access the MySQL-database directly.

Generally raw data needs to be cleaned and parsed, before you can start analyzing and visualizing

RSS feeds

Collecting data: RSS feeds

What's that?

• A structured (XML) format in which for example news sites and blogs offer their content

What's that?

- A structured (XML) format in which for example news sites and blogs offer their content
- You get only the new news items (and that's great!)

What's that?

- A structured (XML) format in which for example news sites and blogs offer their content
- You get only the new news items (and that's great!)
- Title, teaser (or full text), date and time, link

What's that?

- A structured (XML) format in which for example news sites and blogs offer their content
- You get only the new news items (and that's great!)
- Title, teaser (or full text), date and time, link

http://www.nu.nl/rss



<rss xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom" version="2.0" xmlns:media="http://search.yahoo.com/mr</pre> k>https://www.nu.nl/</link><description>Het laatste nieuws het eerst op NU.nl</description><ato</p> nl</language><copyright>Copyright (c) 2018, NU</copyright><lastBuildDate>Sun, 18 Feb 2018 13:34:17 <atom:logo>https://www.nu.nl/static/img/atoms/images/logos/rss-logo-250x40.png</atom:logo>citem><ti olympisch goud veroverd op de 500 meter. De Nederlandse vrouwen grepen zoals verwacht naast een med </description><pubDate>Sun, 18 Feb 2018 13:32:27 +0100</pubDate><quid isPermaLink="false">https://w url="https://media.nu.nl/m/jllxny7aub8u_sgr256.jpg/kodaira-wint-olympische-500-meter-mors-knap-zesd <category>Winterspelen</category><dc:creator>NU.nl</dc:creator><dc:rights>copyright photo: ANP</dc: 2018/5139461/verweij-vreest-ondanks-matig-optreden-niet-plek-in-ploegachtervolging.html" type="text in ploggachtervolging"></atom:link><atom:link href="http://nu.nl/olympische-winterspelen-pyeongchan type="text/html" rel="related" title="Nederlandse achtervolgingsploeg met enige moeite naar halve f pyeongchang-2018/5139386/herstelde-verbij-heeft-geen-idee-hij-kan-olympische-500-meter.html" type=" olympische 500 meter"></atom:link><atom:link href="http://nu.nl/olympische-winterspelen-pycongchang lorentzen.html" type="text/html" rel="related" title="Verbij als laatste Nederlander in actie op 50 krijgt tegen Heracles eerste basisplek sinds terugkeer bij Feyenoord</title><link>https://www.nu.nl feyenoord.html</link><description>Robin van Persie heeft zondag in de thuiswedstrijd tegen Heracles </description><pubDate>Sun, 18 Feb 2018 13:26:20 +0100</pubDate><quid isPermaLink="false">https://w url="https://media.nu.nl/m/9ixxvr8atmaf sgr256.jpg/van-persie-krijgt-heracles-eerste-basisplek-sind <category>Algemeen</category><category>Voetbal</category><dc:creator>NU.nl</dc:creator><dc:rights>c eerste toernooizege in anderhalf jaar</title><link>https://www.nu.nl/sport-overig/5139473/luiten-bo Luiten heeft zondag de Oman Open gewonnen. Voor de Nederlandse golfer is het zijn eerste toernooize 18 Feb 2018 13:27:52 +0100</pubDate><quid isPermaLink="false">https://www.nu.nl/-/5139473/</quid><e</p> eerste-toernooizege-in-anderhalf-jaar.jpg" length="0" type="image/jpeg"></enclosure><category>Sport <dc:rights>copyright photo: Getty Images</dc:rights></item><item><title>Dode gevonden in woning Zwo overschot aangetroffen. De politie gaat ervan uit dat de dode slachtoffer is geworden van een misdr vermist, is nog onduidelijk.</description><pubDate>Sun, 18 Feb 2018 13:08:55 +0100</pubDate><quid i url="https://media.nu.nl/m/i9nxbu6ag2e9 sgr256.jpg/dode-gevonden-in-woning-zwolle-politie-gaat-van-<category>Algemeen</category><category>Binnenland</category><dc:creator>ANP</dc:creator><dc:rights> â€~astronauten-tvâ€~ uit jaren â€~70</title><link>https://www.nu.nl/tech/5139467/brit-speelt-modern spelcomputers werkend gekregen op de Videosphere. De Videosphere komt uit de jaren '70 en ziet er verschillende kabels gebruiken. De Brit speelde onder meer Mario Kart 8, Forza 7 en Horizon Zero Da isPermaLink="false">https://www.nu.nl/-/5139467/</guid><enclosure url="https://media.nu.nl/m/wmgxt8 length="0" type="image/ipeg"></enclosure><category>Tech</category>dc;creator>NU.nl</dc;creator></i ploegachtervolging</title><link>https://www.nu.nl/olympische-winterspelen-pyeongchang-2018/5139461/ <description>Koen Verweij kende zondag mede door problemen met zijn linkerschaats geen goed optrede Hollander is voorlopig niet bang dat hij in de halve finales wordt vervangen door Patrick Roest.</d isPermaLink="false">https://www.nu.nl/-/5139461/</guid><enclosure url="https://media.nu.nl/m/co2x9m ploegachtervolging.jpg" length="0" type="image/jpeg"></enclosure><category>Winterspelen</category><



Parsing RSS feeds

```
1
    tree = fromstring(htmlsource)
2
3
    # parsing article teaser
4
5
    try:
        teaser=tree.xpath('//*[@class="item-excerpt"]//text()')[0]
6
    except:
       logger.debug("Could not parse article teaser.")
8
g
       teaser=""
10
11
    # parsing article text
12
    try:
13
       text=" ".join(tree.xpath('//*[@class="block-wrapper"]/div[@class="
             block-content"]/p//text()',) .strip()
14
    except:
       text = ""
15
       logger.warning("Could not parse article text")
16
```

(abbreviated Python example of how to parse the RSS feed of NU.nl)



Pro

- One protocol for all services
- Easy to use

Con

- Full text often not included, you have to download the link separately $(\Rightarrow$ Problems associated with scraping)
- You can't go back in time! But we have archived a lot of RSS feeds

Collecting data: Scraping and crawling

If you have no chance of getting already structured data via one of the approaches above

If you have no chance of getting already structured data via one of the approaches above

- Download web pages, try to identify the structure yourself
- You have to parse the data

If you have no chance of getting already structured data via one of the approaches above

- Download web pages, try to identify the structure yourself
- You have to parse the data
- Can get very complicated (depending on the specific task), especially if the structure of the web pages changes

```
Further reading:
http://scrapy.org
https:
//github.com/anthonydb/python-get-started/blob/master/5-web-scraping.py
```



Parsing text files

Collecting data: Parsing text files

Guiding question: Can we identify some kind of pattern?



Guiding question: Can we identify some kind of pattern?

Examples

• Lewis, Zamith, & Hermida (2013) had a corrupt CSV-file

Lewis, S. C., Zamith, R., & Hermida, A. (2013). Content analysis in an era of Big Data: A hybrid approach to computational and manual methods. Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media, 57(1), 3452. doi:10.1080/08838151.2012.761702



Guiding question: Can we identify some kind of pattern?

Examples

- Lewis, Zamith, & Hermida (2013) had a corrupt CSV-file
- LexisNexis gives you a chunk of text (rather than, e.g., a structured JSON or XML object)

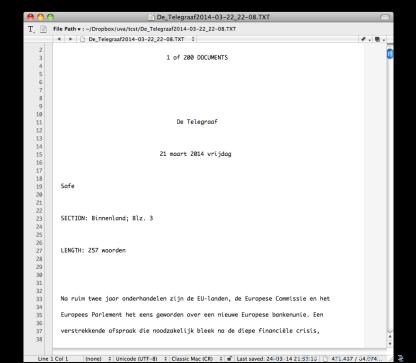


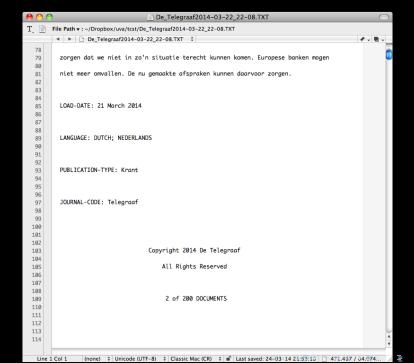
Guiding question: Can we identify some kind of pattern?

Examples

- Lewis, Zamith, & Hermida (2013) had a corrupt CSV-file
- LexisNexis gives you a chunk of text (rather than, e.g., a structured JSON or XML object)

But in both cases, as long as you can find any pattern or structure in it, you can try to write a Python script to *parse* the data.





```
tekst={}
section={}
length={}
with open(bestandsnaam) as f:
 for line in f:
   line=line.replace("\r","")
   if line=="\n":
     continue
   matchObj=re.match(r"\s+(\d+) of (\d+) DOCUMENTS",line)
   if matchObj:
     artikelnr= int(matchObj.group(1))
     tekst[artikelnr]=""
     continue
   if line.startswith("SECTION"):
     section[artikelnr]=line.replace("SECTION: ","").rstrip("\n")
   elif line.startswith("LENGTH"):
     length[artikelnr]=line.replace("LENGTH: ","").rstrip("\n")
   else:
     tekst[artikelnr]=tekst[artikelnr]+line
```

Storing data: CSV tables

CSV-files

Always a good choice

- All programs can read it
- Even human-readable in a simple text editor:
- Plain text, with a comma (or a semicolon) denoting column breaks
- No limits regarging the size
- But: several dialects (e.g., , vs. ; as delimiter)

A CSV-file with tweets

- text,to_user_id,from_user,id,from_user_id,iso_language_code,source,
 profile_image_url,geo_type,geo_coordinates_0,geo_coordinates_1,
 created at,time
- 2 :-) #Lectrr #wereldleiders #uitspraken #Wikileaks #klimaattop http://t.
 co/Udjpk48EIB,,henklbr,407085917011079169,118374840,nl,web,http://
 pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/378800000673845195/
 b47785b1595e6a1c63b93e463f3dOccc_normal.jpeg,,0,0,Sun Dec 01
 09:57:00 +0000 2013,1385891820
- Wat zijn de resulaten vd #klimaattop in #Warschau waard? @EP_Environment ontmoet voorzitter klimaattop @MarcinKorolec http://t.co/4 Lmiaopf60,,Europarl_NL,406058792573730816,37623918,en,HootSuite,http://pbs.twimg.com/profile_images/2943831271/b6631b23a86502fae808ca3efde23d0d_normal.png,,0,0,Thu Nov 28 13:55:35 +0000 2013,1385646935

Storing data: JSON and XML

JSON and XML

Great if we have a nested data structure

JSON and XML

Great if we have a nested data structure

• Items within feeds



JSON and XML

Great if we have a nested data structure

- Items within feeds
- Personal data within authors within books

JSON and XML

Great if we have a nested data structure

- Items within feeds
- Personal data within authors within books
- Tweets within followers within users



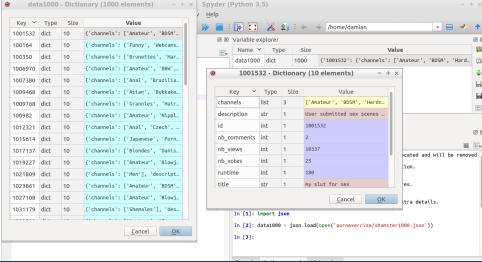
A JSON object containing GoogleBooks data

```
1 {'totalItems': 574, 'items': [{'kind': 'books#volume', 'volumeInfo': {'
    publisher': '"0\'Reilly Media, Inc."', 'description': u'Get a
    comprehensive, in-depth introduction to the core Python language
    with this hands-on book. Based on author Mark Lutz\u2019s popular
    training course, this updated fifth edition will help you quickly
    write efficient, high-quality code with Python. It\u2019s an ideal
    way to begin, whether you\u2019re new to programming or a
    professional developer versed in other languages. Complete with
    quizzes, exercises, and helpful illustrations, this easy-to-follow,
    self-paced tutorial gets you started with both Python 2.7 and 3.3\u2014 the
2
...
'kind': 'books#volumes'}
```

An XML object containing an RSS feed

```
1
    . . .
    <item>
3
           <title>Agema doet aangifte tegen Samsom en Spekman</title>
           <link>http://www.nu.nl/politiek/3743441/agema-doet-aangifte-
                samsom-en-spekman.html</link>
            <guid>http://www.nu.nl/politiek/3743441/index.html</guid>
5
            <description>PVV-Kamerlid Fleur Agema gaat vrijdag aangifte doen
6
                  tegen PvdA-leider Diederik Samsom en PvdA-voorzitter Hans
                 Spekman wegens uitspraken die zij hebben gedaan over
                 Marokkanen. </description>
            <pubDate>Thu, 03 Apr 2014 21:58:48 +0200</pubDate>
7
           <category>Algemeen</category>
            <enclosure url="http://bin.snmmd.nl/m/m1mxwpka6nn2 sqr256.jpg"</pre>
                 type="image/jpeg" />
            <copyrightPhoto>nu.nl</copyrightPhoto>
10
    </item>
11
12
```

It's the same as our "dict of dicts"/"dict of lists"/...data model!



Next meetings

Next meetings

Wednesday, 21–3

Writing some first data collection scripts

