# Chapter 1

# Introduction

This chapter provides a general overview of the dissertation, including background, aims, methods, study value, and main structure of this research.

## Dissertation Background:

In the era of rapid development of the Internet and smartphones, searching restaurants or specific food will not be a complicated stuff anymore. For example, with the Google Maps, the customers could find restaurant or food they are interested in with a simpler and more accurate way. At the same time, this kind of applications also brings benefits to restaurant operators, to better promote their business [4]. After discovering such a business opportunity, an increasing number of restaurant operators begin to advertise the link of the menu on some informational applications or websites, such as Google Maps or TripAdvisor [5]， producing a large amount data about the restaurant menu. That means we could explore more information from such a menu rather than only the name of a dish. Therefore, using data mining techniques [2] on menu datasets may obtain more meaningful information, which would be an indication of the regional differences in the UK.

## Research Aim and Research Focus:

This research aims to mining menu data from "Fish & Chips" shops to discovery the distinctions regarding the content expression among different regions, thereby revealing the regional differences in the UK. ‘Fish & Chips’ is one of the most famous food in the UK and there are more than 1,000 ‘Fish & Chip’ shops in this country [3]. In this project, we will use the websites provided by some of these ‘Fish & Chip’ shops, obtaining the raw HTML data and then focusing on employing data cleaning, mining, and visualisation techniques to find the content with regional features, which contribute to achieving the goal of the project. For example, 'Haggis' is a traditional food in Scotland and widely distributed, while rarely seen in England. According to the methodologies applied in this research, we could provide evidence that 'Haggis' is loved by the Scottish people and it is a regional dish in Scotland.

## Research Methods:

In terms of data crawling, the dissertation will illustrate the selection of data sources and methods for crawling data from ‘Fish & Chip’ shops’ websites in the UK. The data cleaning procedure focuses on extracting and cleaning text content which is used for exploring regionality from the website HTML content, such as single independent words, noun phrases, and word pairs. The methods used for extracting and cleaning HTML content is the combination of Regular Expressions, HTMLPaser and Natural Language Processing (NLP). Considering the data mining procedure of the research, the data visualisation technics to will be applied to mine the regional features based on the geographical distribution of the extracted content. In terms of the classification (regional content and national content) of the extracted data sets, the project employs machine learning methods, such as decision tree and regression classifier to generate the regionality result. Specifically, this research is an iterative process and includes four rounds of evaluation and improvement since the entire study is an exploratory process that there are no existing criteria to verify the rationality of the method selection and the correctness of the results. In fact, the features that could be used for reflecting regionality of the text is unknown and the evaluation of regionality content is based on the evaluator’s experiences to some extent. Therefore, regional features and regional results are derived from the constant attempts, evaluations, and improvements during the project. In this case, further research may use or update each of the methods and steps in the previous exploration. Besides, each iteration will also evaluate the results to identify problems and propose improvements for the next iteration.

## Value of the Research:

The research links seemingly unrelated menu information to regional differences of the UK through exploring regional content from the messy menu dataset. In addition, some features of regional content in terms of the geographical distribution are discovered. Furthermore, the methods and algorithms used in this project are universal, and they can also be used to find regional differences in other countries or used in similar studies.

## 1.5 Structure of the Dissertation

The structure of this dissertation is organised as follows: Chapter 2 covers background knowledge, which mainly illustrates the main techniques and algorithms used in this research. Chapter 3, Chapter 4, Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 are all related to methodologies, findings, evaluations, and improvements, which composes the four iterations of the project. Chapter 3 describes the first iteration, presenting the procedures of obtaining regional results of single independent word by one kind of feature. Chapter 4 is related to the second iteration, which describes the application of decision tree to get regional results of the single word. This chapter uses two types of decision tree algorithms and the makes comparison between the two algorithms. Chapter 5 covers the third round iteration, which introduces the logistics regression to obtain the probability that the single independent word is judged as a regional word. This chapter focuses on evaluating the importance of the selected features and the threshold regarding probability, in order to identify the number of probabilities exceeds the threshold, which would be judged as regional word. Chapter 6 is about the fourth iteration, which demonstrates the results of using the other two kinds of datasets (noun phrases and word pairs). Chapter 7 is a conclusion about this research. Chapter 8 provides a description of the improvement could be included in future work and also introduces the limitations, and recommendations.

**Introduction references**

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# Chapter 2

# Background

8 pages about

## Web crawling

Before crawling data from websites of ‘Fish & Chips’ shops, the dissertation compared the data source which includes food delivery websites such as Just-Eat [3] and independent ‘Fish & Chips’ shops’ websites. The advantages of using food delivery websites as data source is that it is convenient to search "Fish & Chips" shops in each city of the UK by postcode. In addition, each shop which is searched out is available to crawl data directly. Unlike when using independent websites that many links are not available, or the content of the website is PDF which cannot be crawled. Thus, the dissertation originally planned to use the food delivery website as the data source. However, sites like just-eat have a clear description that crawling data is not allowed. Therefore, using the food delivery website to crawl data directly may against legal, and this fatal flaw directly leads to the unavailability of this method. As a consequence, the dissertation planes to find independent websites of "Fish & Chips" shops from the Google Maps and uses them as the data source to crawl data. Web crawling is the process which collects information from target websites [1]. The dissertation uses Python module urllib2 which can be used to simulate browser behaviour to download web pages and handle request errors [2] to get the full website HTML source code of ‘Fish & Chips’ shops.

## HTML data cleaning technics:

Data cleaning is used for improving the quality of data which is used as data for subsequent data processing through detecting inconsistencies and removing errors [4]. In this project, the dataset required to be cleaned is HTML data. The goal of data cleaning in this project is to obtain independent words, noun phrases and word pairs with shop coordinates from HTML datasets and city dataset which contains coordinates.

In the web-based dataset, there is a lot of content that is not required by this project, such as name, attributes of HTML tags, script code and special symbols. The project only focuses on information which the user can see on the page rather than the implementation details of the page. However, in terms of content which costumers can see, there is a lot of redundancy, such as the singular and plural of the same noun all represent the same word. Therefore, the project should not only filter useless content in the HTML data, but also classifying words that represent the same meaning into the same category (mainly focuses on the identification and classification of singular and plural nouns with the same meaning). Fortunately, the regular expression, HTMLPaser and NLP can help the project to achieve the data cleaning goal. HTMLParser is an open source, fast and robust HTML parsing tool for extracting and cleaning content of HTML [5, 6]. It can customize HTML tag content extraction based on user requirements [7]. In this project, in this project, the HTMLParser mainly plays the role of data extraction and filtering. Since the data source used in the project is an independent website, the HTML structure of most websites is different (small parts of the website structure are the same because they are developed by the same company). Therefore, HTMLParser plays a huge effect that it does not pay attention to the structure of the website design, only pay attention to the name of the HTML tag, such as ‘div’ and ‘script’. As a consequence, the project can easily filter absolutely useless content based on the tag name, such as the content in the "script" tag and extract potentially valuable content from the remaining tags. However, because the design styles of different web pages are different, the extracted data may also contain special symbols such as field trailing space symbol that will interfere with the cleaning result. Thus, the project also uses the regular expression which is a source language which can locate specific character strings in text [8] to filter the result of the HTMLParser. In order to solve the problem of data redundancy in the extracted content, the project uses method of semantic recognition in NLP. Natural Language Processing (NLP) is a research about using computer to understand and manipulate natural text or speech to process tasks [9]. This project mainly wants to change the singular and plural nouns of the same root into singular nouns and the Natural Language Toolkit (nltk) can provide the solution. nltk is an open source tool written by Python with collection of modules and corpora [10, 11]. nltk determines the part of speech of a word based on its corpus and the identification method has been encapsulated which the project can use directly to identify plural nouns and convert them to singular forms.

## Map data visualisation methods:

1 BaseMap.

2 Cartesian algorithm to calculate the central point according to geographic coordinates.

## HTML data analysis with machine learning methods:

1 Decision tree: ID3 algorithm, Cart algorithm.

1. Logistic regression

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# Chapter 3

# Iteration 1

8 to 10 pages

Statement: aim to know independent words distribution through map and according to the map and ratio (the number of shops whose distance is less than 20000 meters from the center point/ total shop number) to find features of regional words.

* 1. **Methodology:**

1. Data obtain: Decomposing the content in HTML into independent words.
2. Data cleaning: Cleaning independent words (Special symbol filtering, uppercase conversion to lowercase, using NLP method to analyse part of speech to complete noun singular and plural combination).
3. Data visualisation:

* Mark points on the map, calculate central point of all shops, outlier points identify and filter, draw radius.
* Draw the ratio trend.
  1. **Findings:**

Find some regional words based on ratio and map.

**3.3 Evaluation:**

It is imperfect to rely solely on the ratio feature, and it requires more features. Give examples.

* 1. **Improvement:**

1. Observing the data set and according to the coordinates information to find more features, such as ‘city number’, ‘proportion’, ‘average distance’, ‘shop numbers’.
2. Decide to use decision tree to classify the words.

# Chapter 4

# Iteration 2

Around 8 pages

Statement: aim to use decision tree to classify the independent words and compare result of two decision tree algorithms

* 1. **Methodology:**

1. Generate different training sets that match the two algorithms based on the observations in iteration 1.
2. Generate two kinds of trees and visualise two trees.
   1. **Findings:**
3. Which words are judged as regional words.

(2) Differences between two algorithms.

**4.3 Evaluation:**

(1) Based on experiences.

(2) Difficulties of evaluation

* 1. **Improvement:**

1. Find HTML context of the words and analyse why these words are judged as regional words.
2. Can consider noun phrases and word pair as analyse target.
3. Can consider to use classification method in sklearn package.

# Chapter 5

# Iteration 3

Around 8 pages

Statement: aim to use noun phrases and word pairs as dataset to find regionality information in the menu. Besides, using logistic regression classifier to classify.

* 1. **Methodology:**

1. Data obtain: Decomposing the content in HTML into noun phrases and word pairs.
2. Data cleaning: Cleaning independent words (Special symbol filtering, uppercase conversion to lowercase).
3. Generate training dataset for noun phrases and word pairs.
4. Use Cart algorithm to generate decision tree and use logistic regression model to classify.
   1. **Findings:**
5. Independent words findings.
6. Noun phrases findings.
7. Word pairs findings.
8. In logistic regression, mainly describe the impact of features and the selection of features.
   1. **Evaluation:**
9. Independent words use context, compare the result between logistic classifier and the decision tree.
10. Noun phrases and word-pair can evaluate directly and compare the result between logistic classifier and the decision tree.
    1. **Improvement**

# Chapter 6

# Conclusion

1 or 2 pages

# Chapter 7

# Future work

1 or 2 pages