Part of Speech Tagging

Task description

- The process of assigning a part-of-speech or lexical class marker to each word in a collection.

WORD	tag
the	**DET**
koala	**N**
put	**V**
the	**DET**
keys	**N**
on	**P**
the	**DET**
table	**N**

Why is POS Tagging Useful?

- First step of a vast number of practical tasks
- Speech synthesis
  - How to pronounce “lead”?
  - INsult inSULT
  - OBject obJECT
  - OVERflow overFLOW
  - DIScount disCOUNT
  - CONtent conTENT
- Parsing
  - Need to know if a word is a Noun or a Verb before you can parse
- Information extraction
  - Finding names, relations, etc.
- Machine Translation

POS examples

• N	noun	*chair, bandwidth, pacing*
• V	verb	*study, debate, munch*
• ADJ	adjective	*purple, tall, ridiculous*
• ADV	adverb	*unfortunately, slowly*
• P	preposition	*of, by, to*
• PRO	pronoun	*I, me, mine*
• DET	determiner	*the, a, that, those*

Parts of Speech

- 8 (ish) traditional parts of speech
  - Noun, verb, adjective, preposition, adverb, article, interjection, pronoun, conjunction, etc
  - Called: parts-of-speech, lexical categories, word classes, morphological classes, lexical tags...
  - Lots of debate within linguistics about the number, nature, and universality of these
    - We'll completely ignore this debate.

Open and Closed Classes

- Closed class: a small fixed membership
  - Prepositions: of, in, by, …
  - Auxiliaries: may, can, will had, been, …
  - Pronouns: I, you, she, mine, his, them, …
  - Usually function words (short common words which play a role in grammar)
- Open class: new ones can be created all the time
  - English has 4: Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs
  - Many languages have these 4, but not all!

Open Class Words

- Nouns
  - Proper nouns (Boulder, Granby, Eli Manning)
    - English capitalizes these.
  - Common nouns (the rest).
    - Count: have plurals, get counted: goat/goats, one goat, two goats
    - Mass: don't get counted (snow, salt, communism) (*two snows)
- Adverbs: tend to modify things
  - Unfortunately, John walked home extremely slowly yesterday
  - Directional/locative adverbs (here, home, downhill)
  - Degree adverbs (extremely, very, somewhat)
  - Manner adverbs (slowly, slinkily, delicately)
- Verbs
  - In English, have morphological affixes (eat/eats/eaten)

Closed Class Words

Examples:

- prepositions: *on, under, over, …*
- particles: *up, down, on, off, …*
- determiners: *a, an, the, …*
- pronouns: *she, who, I, ..*
- conjunctions: *and, but, or, …*
- auxiliary verbs: *can, may should, …*
- numerals: *one, two, three, third, …*

Prepositions from CELEX

of	540,085	through	14,964	worth	1,563	pace	12
in	331,235	after	13,670	toward	1,390	nigh	9
for	142,421	between	13,275	plus	750	re	4
to	125,691	under	9,525	till	686	mid	3
with	124,965	per	6,515	amongst	525	o'er	2
on	109,129	among	5,090	via	351	but	0
at	100,169	within	5,030	amid	222	ere	0
by	77,794	towards	4,700	underneath	164	less	0
from	74,843	above	3,056	versus	113	midst	0
about	38,428	near	2,026	amidst	67	o'	0
than	20,210	off	1,695	sans	20	thru	0
over	18,071	past	1,575	circa	14	vice	0

English Particles

aboard	aside	besides	forward(s)	opposite	through
about	astray	between	home	out	throughout
above	away	beyond	in	outside	together
across	back	by	inside	over	under
ahead	before	close	instead	overhead	underneath
alongside	behind	down	near	past	up
apart	below	east, etc.	off	round	within
around	beneath	eastward(s),etc.	on	since	without

Conjunctions

and	514,946	yet	5,040	considering	174	forasmuch as	0
that	134,773	since	4,843	lest	131	however	0
but	96,889	where	3,952	albeit	104	immediately	0
or	76,563	nor	3,078	providing	96	in as far as	0
as	54,608	once	2,826	whereupon	85	in so far as	0
if	53,917	unless	2,205	seeing	63	inasmuch as	0
when	37,975	why	1,333	directly	26	insomuch as	0
because	23,626	now	1,290	ere	12	insomuch that	0
so	12,933	neither	1,120	notwithstanding	3	like	0
before	10,720	whenever	913	according as	0	neither nor	0
though	10,329	whereas	867	as if	0	now that	0
than	9,511	except	864	as long as	0	only	0
while	8,144	till	686	as though	0	provided that	0
after	7,042	provided	594	both and	0	providing that	0
whether	5,978	whilst	351	but that	0	seeing as	0
for	5,935	suppose	281	but then	0	seeing as how	0
although	5,424	cos	188	but then again	0	seeing that	0
until	5,072	supposing	185	either or	0	without	0

POS Tagging - Choosing a Tagset

- There are many parts of speech with potential distinctions
- To do POS tagging, we need to choose a standard set of tags to work with
- Could pick very coarse tagsets
  - N, V, Adj, Adv.
- More commonly used set is finer grained, the “Penn TreeBank tagset” with 45 tags
  - PRP$, WRB, WP$, VBG
- German STTS Tagset comprises 54 Tags
- Even more fine-grained tagsets exist

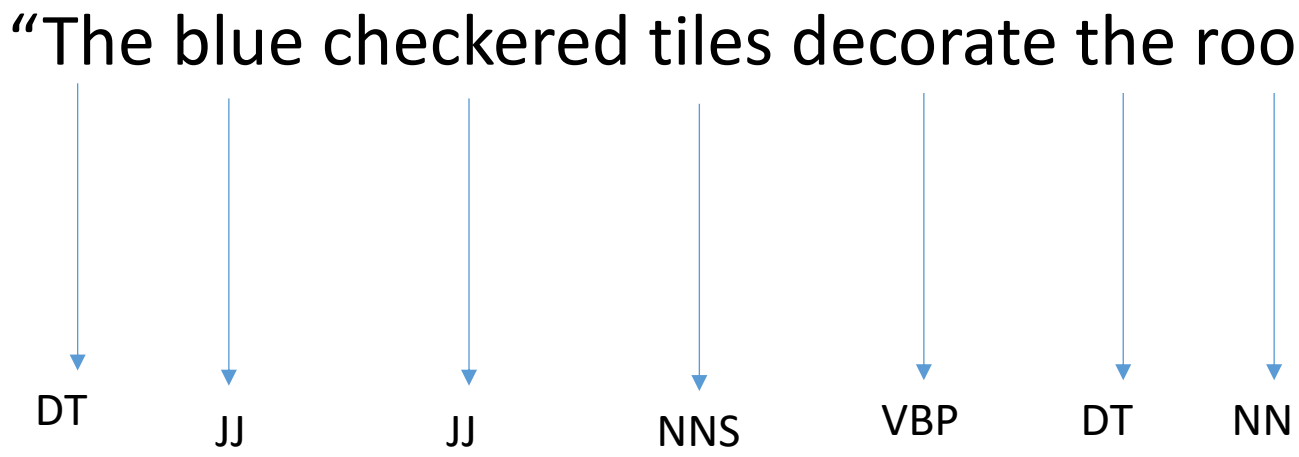
Penn TreeBank POS Tagset

Tag	Description	Example	Tag	Description	Example
CC	coordin. conjunction	*and, but, or*	SYM	symbol	+,%, &
CD	cardinal number	*one, two, three*	TO	"to"	*to*
DT	determiner	*a, the*	UH	interjection	*ah, oops*
EX	existential 'there'	*there*	VB	verb, base form	*eat*
FW	foreign word	*mea culpa*	VBD	verb, past tense	*ate*
IN	preposition/sub-conj	*of, in, by*	VBG	verb, gerund	*eating*
JJ	adjective	*yellow*	VBN	verb, past participle	*eaten*
JJR	adj., comparative	*bigger*	VBP	verb, non-3sg pres	*eat*
JJS	adj., superlative	*wildest*	VBZ	verb, 3sg pres	*eats*
LS	list item marker	*1, 2, One*	WDT	wh-determiner	*which, that*
MD	modal	*can, should*	WP	wh-pronoun	*what, who*
NN	noun, sing. or mass	*llama*	WP$	possessive wh-	*whose*
NNS	noun, plural	*llamas*	WRB	wh-adverb	*how, where*
NNP	proper noun, singular	*IBM*	$	dollar sign	*$*
NNPS	proper noun, plural	*Carolinas*	#	pound sign	#
PDT	predeterminer	*all, both*	"	left quote	' or "
POS	possessive ending	*'s*	"	right quote	' or "
PRP	personal pronoun	*I, you, he*	(	left parenthesis	[, (, {, <
PRP$	possessive pronoun	*your, one's*	)	right parenthesis	],), }, >
RB	adverb	*quickly, never*	,	comma	,
RBR	adverb, comparative	*faster*	.	sentence-final punc	. ! ?
RBS	adverb, superlative	*fastest*	:	mid-sentence punc	: ; ... – -
RP	particle	*up, off*			

German STTS-Tagset

ADJA	attributives Adjektiv	[das] große [Haus]
ADJD	adverbiales oder prädikatives Adjektiv	[er fährt] schnell, [er ist] schnell
ADV	Adverb	schon, bald, doch
APPR	Präposition; Zirkumposition links	in [der Stadt], ohne [mich]
APPRART	Präposition mit Artikel	im [Haus], zur [Sache]
APPO	Postposition	[ihm] zufolge, [der Sache] wegen
APZR	Zirkumposition rechts	[von jetzt] an
ART	bestimmter oder unbestimmter Artikel	der, die, das, ein, eine
CARD	Kardinalzahl	zwei [Männer], [im Jahre] 1994
FM	Fremdsprachliches Material	[Er hat das mit ``] A big fish [" übersetzt]
ITJ	Interjektion	mhm, ach, tja
KOUI	unterordnende Konjunktion mit ``zu" und Infinitiv	um [zu leben], anstatt [zu fragen]
KOUS	unterordnende Konjunktion mit Satz	weil, dass, damit, wenn, ob
KON	nebenordnende Konjunktion	und, oder, aber
KOKOM	Vergleichskonjunktion	als, wie
NN	normales Nomen	Tisch, Herr, [das] Reisen
NE	Eigennamen	Hans, Hamburg, HSV
PDS	substituierendes Demonstrativpronomen	dieser, jener
PDAT	attribuierendes Demonstrativpronomen	jener [Mensch]
PIS	substituierendes Indefinitpronomen	keiner, viele, man, niemand
PIAT	attribuierendes Indefinitpronomen ohne Determiner	kein [Mensch], irgendein [Glas]
PIDAT	attribuierendes Indefinitpronomen mit Determiner	[ein] wenig [Wasser], [die] beiden [Brüder]
PPER	irreflexives Personalpronomen	ich, er, ihm, mich, dir
PPOSS	substituierendes Possessivpronomen	meins, deiner
PPOSAT	attribuierendes Possessivpronomen	mein [Buch], deine [Mutter]
PRELS	substituierendes Relativpronomen	[der Hund ,] der
PRELAT	attribuierendes Relativpronomen	[der Mann ,] dessen [Hund]
PRF	reflexives Personalpronomen	sich, einander, dich, mir
PWS	substituierendes Interrogativpronomen	wer, was
PWAT	attribuierendes Interrogativpronomen	welche[Farbe], wessen [Hut]
PWAV	adverbiales Interrogativ- oder Relativpronomen	warum, wo, wann, worüber, wobei
PTKZU	``zu" vor Infinitiv	zu [gehen]
PTKVZ	abgetrennter Verbzusatz	[er kommt] an, [er fährt] rad
PTKANT	Antwortpartikel	ja, nein, danke, bitte
PTKA	Partikel bei Adjektiv oder Adverb	am [schönsten], zu [schnell]
TRUNC	Kompositions-Erstglied	An- [und Abreise]
VVFIN	finites Verb, voll	[du] gehst, [wir] kommen [an]
VVINF	Infinitiv, voll	gehen, ankommen
VVPP	Partizip Perfekt, voll	gegangen, angekommen
VAFIN	finites Verb, aux	[du] bist, [wir] werden
VAIMP	Imperativ, aux	sei [ruhig !]
VAINF	Infinitiv, aux	werden, sein
VAPP	Partizip Perfekt, aux	gewesen
VMFIN	finites Verb, modal	dürfen
VMINF	Infinitiv, modal	wollen
VMPP	Partizip Perfekt, modal	gekonnt, [er hat gehen] können
XY	Nichtwort, Sonderzeichen enthaltend	3:7, H2O, D2XW3
$,	Komma	,
$.	Satzbeendende Interpunktion	. ? ! ; :
$(	sonstige Satzzeichen; satzintern	- [,]()

Using the Penn TreeBank POS Tagset



POS Tagging - Problems

- Words often have more than one POS: *"all"*
  - all students were present = DT
  - they gave it their all = NN
  - they finished the exam all at once = RB

- The POS tagging problem is to determine the POS tag for a particular instance of a word (not the type!), even if the word is **"unknown"**

How Hard is POS Tagging? Measuring Ambiguity

		87-tag Original Brown		45-tag Treebank Brown	
Unambiguous (1 tag)		**44,019**		**38,857**	
Ambiguous (2–7 tags)		**5,490**		**8844**	
Details:	2 tags	4,967		6,731	
	3 tags	411		1621	
	4 tags	91		357	
	5 tags	17		90	
	6 tags	2	(*well*, *beat*)	32	
	7 tags	2	(*still*, *down*)	6	(*well*, *set*, *round*, *open*, *fit*, *down*)
	8 tags			4	(*'s*, *half*, *back*, *a*)
	9 tags			3	(*that*, *more*, *in*)

Three Methods for POS Tagging

1. Rule-based tagging
   - ENGTWOL
2. Rule Learning
3. Stochastic
   - Probabilistic **sequence** models ➔ structured prediction
     - HMM (Hidden Markov Model) tagging
     - MEMMs (Maximum Entropy Markov Models)
     - Conditional Random Fields