Numerical Relation Extraction with Minimal Supervision

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

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Introduction





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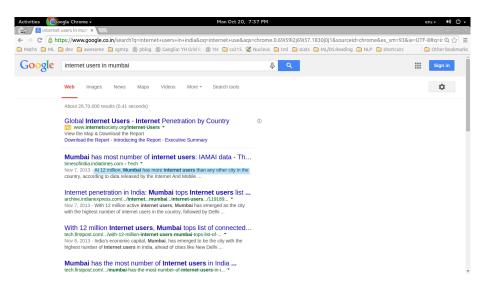
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 - Percent of Internet users in Mumbai?





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 - Population of India reached 1.3 billion, making it the second largest country in the world.
 - Population of Arbit Apartments, Powai reached 1300.

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 Given that we know a lot of facts about some entities, can we train extractors that run over the web and pull similar facts about other entities?

• The knowledge is scattered in unstructured text on the Web.

590.56 million people in China were using the internet at mid-2013, an increase of nearly 53 million (or 9.85%) from a year earlier.

The land area of the contiguous United States is 2,959,064 square miles (7,663,941 km²), Alaska, separated from the contiguous United States by Canada, is the largest state at 663,268 square miles (1,717,856 km²), Hawaii, occupying an archipelago in the central Pacific, southwest of North America, is 10,931 square miles (28,311 km²) in area. [138]

• Can such facts be extracted automatically?

- Formally, train extractors that can harness the Web for numerical relations, where relations are 3-tuples linking an entity to a number
 - (India, economy, 1.842 trillion USD)
 - (China, internet users, 590.56 million)
 - (USA, land area, 2,959,054 square mile)

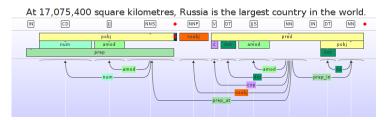


- **Structure** and **content** of sentences expressing the same relations can be *expected* to be similar.
 - The population of Australia is estimated to be 23,622,400 as of 7 October 2014.
 - According to an official estimate for 1 June 2014, the population of Russia is 143,800,000.

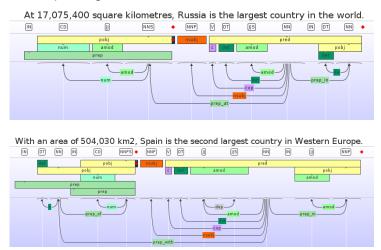
- **Structure** and **content** of sentences expressing the same relations can be *expected* to be similar.
 - At 17,075,400 square kilometres, Russia is the largest country in the world.
 - With an area of 504,030 km^2 , Spain is the second largest country in Western Europe.

 Redundancy in grammatical features and dependencies of the sentences expressing same relation.

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 Redundancy in grammatical features and dependencies of the sentences expressing same relation.



Possible Workflow

Possible Workflow

- 1: **Collect enough examples** for each relation so that there are sufficient patterns and enough redundancy to exploit.
- 2:
- 3: **Extract features** (important keywords, grammatical structure, parse trees, etc.) for these sentences.
- 4:
- 5: **Train** a multi-class classifier on this training data.
- 6:
- 7: **for** *sentence* $s \in Corpus$ **do**
- 8: **Extract** features for *s*.
- 9: **Predict** the relation using the model for these features.
- 10: **Store** the fact into a database.

Challenge

 \bullet Large Corpus (${\sim}16$ million sentences), hand labeling is out of question

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- \bullet Large Corpus ($\sim\!\!16$ million sentences), hand labeling is out of question
- Need lots of training data to learn high quality extractors
- Is there a middle ground?



Peculiarities of Numerical Relation Extraction

Numbers are weak entities

- Quantities can appear in far more contexts than typical entities.
 ("Bill Gates", "Microsoft") vs. ("11", "Microsoft")
- Regular IE have fewer cases of entity disambiguation as compared to numerical IE



Peculiarities of Numerical Relation Extraction

Numbers are weak entities

- Noise is more for the small whole numbers that are unitless or with popular units (e.g, percent)
- 1 or 5% vs. 11.42145 or 330 m/sec

Number	Frequency (Avg. 57.84)
3	85333
20	86359
2	91608
1	100014
10	100780

Peculiarities of Numerical Relation Extraction Units

- Unit acts as types for numbers.
- Same quantity may be expressed with different unit
 - 20 kms or 12.4 miles
- Unit extractor needs to perform unit conversions for effective matching and extraction

Peculiarities of Numerical Relation Extraction Delta Words

- Not uncommon to find sentences expressing change in the value of a relation (instead of, or in addition to, the actual value).
 - Amazon stock price increased by \$35 to close at \$510.
 - India's tiger population sees 30% increase.
 - Ford poised to raise dividend by 20% even as profit declines.

Peculiarities of Numerical Relation Extraction

Relation/Argument Scoping

- Additional modifiers to arguments or relation words may subtly change the meaning and confuse the extractor.
 - rural literacy rate of India
 - literacy rate of rural India

Peculiarities of Numerical Relation Extraction Keywords

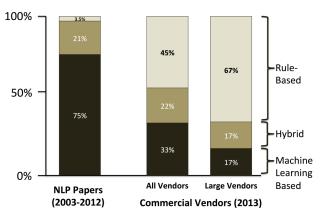
- Many numerical relations are described using one or a handful of keywords.
 - For example, sentences expressing *inflation rate*, *GDP*, *life expectancy* would often use these keywords.

NumberRule: Rule Based Relation Extraction

Rule Based IE

Academia vs. Industry

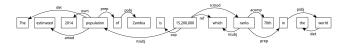
Implementations of Entity Extraction



Motivation

From [BM05]

If e_1 and e_2 are two entities mentioned in the same sentence such that they are observed to be in a relationship R, our hypothesis stipulates that the contribution of the sentence dependency graph to establishing the relationship $R(e_1,e_2)$ is almost exclusively concentrated in the shortest path between e_1 and e_2 in the undirected version of the dependency graph.



Motivation

From [BM05]

If e_1 and e_2 are two entities mentioned in the same sentence such that they are observed to be in a **relationship** \mathbf{R} , our hypothesis stipulates that the contribution of the sentence **dependency graph** to establishing the relationship $R(e_1,e_2)$ is almost **exclusively concentrated in the shortest path** between e_1 and e_2 in the undirected version of the dependency graph.

- When looking for clues for relation extraction, dependency path is a good place to start.
- In the case of Numerical Relations, we already know what to look for: *keywords*.
- Need to take care of modifications to the entities, delta words

Definitions

- Keywords Words that might help in identifying relations. (GDP, internet, inflation)
- Delta words Words that indicate that the mention expresses a change, and not the actual relation.
 (change, up, down, increased, changed, risen)
- Modifiers A word m is said to be a modifier of the word w if there is a modifying dependency from m to w.
 (blue modifies whale in blue whale, urban population).
- Augmented Phrase For a word W, the Augmented Phrase W' is formed by concatenating W with words P such that W and P are related via a modifying dependency. (for the word whale, blue whale is the augmented phrase)

Extraction Algorithm

- 1: Given a sentence S, let E_S be the set of entities and N_S be the set of numbers that are present in the sentence.
- 2: Let R be the set of relations
- 3: Let LegalUnits(r) be the set of possible units for a relation r in R
- 4: Let Unit(n) be the unit for a given number n as returned by the unit tagger.
- 5: Let K be the set of keywords
- 6: Let Δ be the set of delta words
- 7: **for** $(e, n) \in (E_S \times N_S)$ **do** //For all entity-number pairs
- 8: $P \leftarrow$ the set of words in the dependency path between e and n
- 9: **for** $r \in R$ **do**
- 10: **if** $P \cap K_r = \emptyset$ **then** //keyword is not present
- 11: continue;

NumberRule II

Extraction Algorithm

```
if P ∩ ∆ ≠ ∅ then //delta words are present
continue;
if Unit(n) ∉ LegalUnits(r) then //incompatible units?
continue;
Extract r(e', r', n), where e' and r' are the augmented entity and relation phrases.
```

NumberRule: Extractions

- "The estimated population for 2014 of the Australian continent is about 36.25 million people"
- $\underbrace{\begin{array}{c} \text{Australian} \xrightarrow{amod} \text{continent} \xrightarrow{prep_of} 2014 \\ \xrightarrow{prep_for} \xrightarrow{population} \xrightarrow{nsubj} \text{people} \xrightarrow{num} \text{million} \xrightarrow{number} 36.25 \\ \end{array} }$
- "The estimated population for 2014 of the Australian continent increased by about 3.25 million people"
- Australian \xrightarrow{amod} continent $\xrightarrow{prep_of}$ 2014 $\xrightarrow{prep_for}$ population \xrightarrow{nsubj} increased $\xrightarrow{prep_by}$ people \xrightarrow{num} million \xrightarrow{number} 36.25

Sentence	Test
The estimated population of Australia is	-
about 36.25 million people.	
The estimated population density of Aus-	Incompatible Units
tralia is 36.25 million people per sq km.	
The estimated population of Australia in-	Delta Word Present
creased by about 36.25 million people.	
The estimated population of urban Aus-	Entity is Modified
tralia is about 36.25 million people.	
The estimated adolescent population of	Entity is Modified
Australia is about 36.25 million.	
The estimated populations in 2014 are Aus-	100 million is closest
tralia, 100 million and New Zealand, 36.25	to Australia
million.	

Table: NumberRule outputs (Australia, Total Population, 36.25 million) only in the first sentence. The second column is test number that fails for other sentences. The input keyword is "population".

NumberTron: Probabilistic Relation Extraction

Definitions

For an entity e (India)

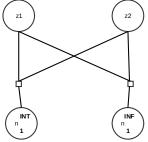
- Let S_e be the set of sentences that express the entity e.
- ullet Let $Q_{
 m e}$ denote the distinct numbers with unit that appear in $S_{
 m e}$ 3
- $\forall q \in Q_e$, let $S_{e,q} \subseteq S_e$ denote the sentences that mention e and q.

³We use the unit tagger by [SC14] to identity units of numbers in the text and to convert all unit variants like "mile", "km" to a canonical SI unit, "meter".

Graphical Model

... China says that annual inflation...to 4.3 percent

...China would initiate ... that its inflation rate ... 4.3 percent in October ...the number of chinese internet users has grown to 840 million...





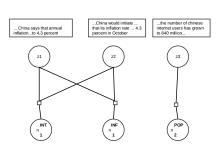
Definitions

```
For e = (China)
```

- $S_{china} = \{(i)... China says that annual inflation... to 4.3 percent, (ii)...China would initiate ... that its inflation rate ... 4.3 percent in October, (iii)...the number of chinese internet users has grown to 840 million...}$
- $Q_{china} = \{4.3 \text{ percent}, 840000000\}$
- $S_{china,4.3percent} = \{(i),(ii)\}$
- $S_{china,840000000} = \{(iii)\}$

For e = (China)

- $S_{china} = \{(i), (ii), (iii)\}$
- $Q_{china} = \{4.3 \%, 840000000\}$
- $S_{china,4.3\%} = \{(i), (ii)\}$
- $S_{china,840000000} = \{(iii)\}$



Random Variables

For each entity e, for each number n_q

• n_r^q , number nodes Binary, 1 if the number q is related to e via relation r.

For each mention, $s \in S_{e,q}$

• z_s , mention nodes multi-ary, can take values $r \in \mathcal{R} = (R \cup \bot)$, set to $r \in R$ if the sentence expresses any of the R relations, else set to $z_s = \bot$.

Features

- Mintz Features Lexical and Synctactic features derived from POS tags and dependency path [MBSJ09]
- Keyword Features Derived from a pre-specified list of keywords per relation.
- Number Features Capture Information on the magnitude, type (whole, fraction) can also be useful for relation extraction.

Afghanistan , which is mostly rural , has one of the lowest life expectancy rate in the world at 44 year for both man and woman.

Features

Feature type	Features
Fixed Keywords	key: life key: expect
All Keywords	key: life key: expect key: world
Number Features	Num: Billion Num: Integer

Afghanistan, which is mostly rural, has one of the lowest life expectancy rate in the world at 44 year for both man and woman. The time "44 year" is converted to the SI unit, which comes out to be around 1.3 billion and thus the feature Num: Billion is fired.

Features

- inverse_false|LOCATION|*LONG*|DURATION, There is a long dependency path between the two entities, one of which is a location and other duration
- inverse_false|B_-2 B_-1|LOCATION|*LONG*|DURATION|year for, Same as above, but now with windows of text around entities of interest
- \bullet str:rural[rcmod]— > |LOCATION|[nsubj]— >have[root]< -at[prep]< -year[pobj]< -|DURATION , The typed dependency path
- \bullet dir:— > |LOCATION|— >< < < —|DURATION , Direction of dependencies

Afghanistan, which is mostly rural, has one of the lowest life expectancy rate in the world at 44 year for both man and woman.

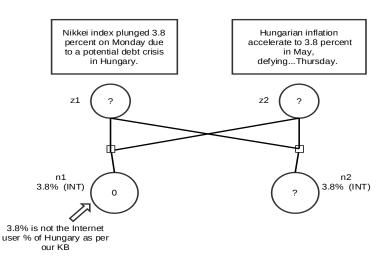
Perceptron

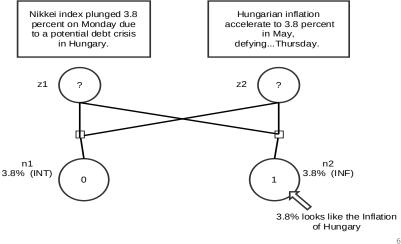
• The classical perceptron forms the core of our training procedure.

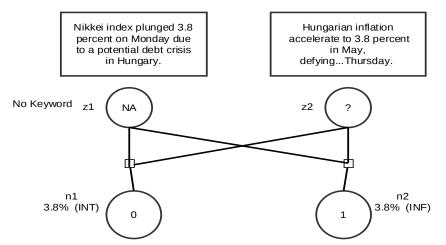
$$\theta \leftarrow \theta + \eta * (t_i - o_i) * x_i \tag{1}$$

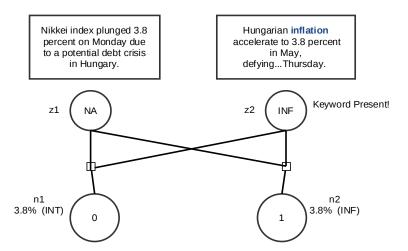
$$\underbrace{\theta} \leftarrow \underbrace{\theta} + \eta * (\underbrace{t_i} - \underbrace{o_i}) * \underbrace{x_i}) \tag{2}$$

- Weights
- True Label
- Observed Label
- Feature (Binary)

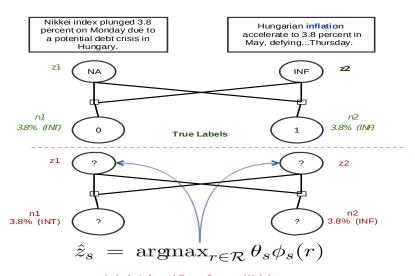






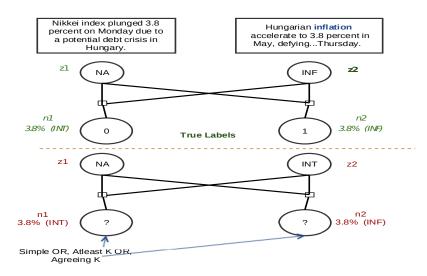


Observed Labels: Full Inference



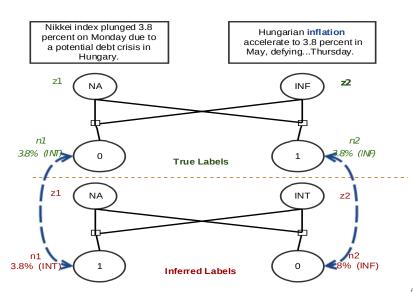
Labels Inferred From Current Weights

Observed Labels: Full Inference

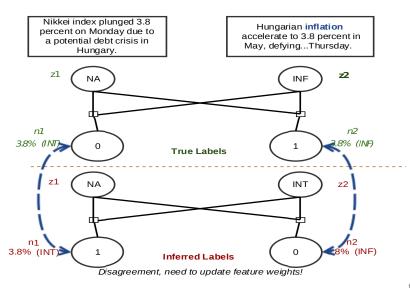


Labels Inferred From Current Weights

Observed Labels: Full Inference



Observed Labels: Full Inference



Updating Feature Weights

- Let $f_1, f_2, ..., f_k$ be the features fired for Hungarian inflation accelerate to 3.8 percent in May, defying...Thursday.
- Examples: key: inflation, Num: Units and so on.

•
$$\theta_{f_i}^{INT} \leftarrow \theta_{f_i}^{INT} - 1$$

$$\bullet \ \theta_{\mathit{f_i}}^{\mathit{INF}} \leftarrow \theta_{\mathit{f_i}}^{\mathit{INF}} + 1$$

 These features actually indicate inflation relation, and not the internet relation!

Extraction

Sentence Level Extractions

- Given a sentence S, let E be the set of entities and Q be the set of numbers that are present in the sentence.
- We then calculate a score(r,e,q) for a $e\in E$ and $q\in Q$ for being tagged r as $\theta_q^r\phi_q(n_q=1)+\theta_s\phi_s(r)$ where ϕ_s captures the features in sentence S tied to entity e and number q.
- For each (e, q) we assign a label r if the min-max normalized score is greater than some threshold α .
- We use a cross validation set to obtain the $\alpha = 0.90$.

Results

Experiments

Training Corpus

- Tac KBP 2014 corpus comprising roughly 3 million documents from NewsWire, discussion forums, and the Web.
- Knowledge base is compiled from data.worldbank.org
 - Dataset contains 1,281 numeric indicators for 249 countries, with over 4 million base facts.
 - Dataset is normalized by converting all the values to their SI base unit value.

Experiments

Test Set

 Mix of 430 sentences from TAC corpus and sentences from Web search on relation name.

Relation	Units	Positive	Negative
Land Area	Sq. Km	57	17
Population	-	51	300
Inflation	percent	51	84
Internet Users	percent	15	04
FDI	\$ (USD)	10	
GDP	\$ (USD)	8	35
Goods Export	\$ (USD)	11	
Life Expectancy	year	15	34
Electricity Production	kWh	13	6
CO ₂ Emissions	kiloton	8	16

Table : Test corpus statistics: The third column is the number of instances per relation and the fourth column is the number of "none-on-the-above" (\bot) grouped by relation of the same unit.

Baseline Algorithms

- **Recall –Prior Baseline:** For each unit, predict the relation with the highest *test* prior ignoring the "none-of-the-above" class.
 - All the numbers with the unit "USD" will be labeled 'Goods Exported' since it is most frequent class ignoring the "none-of-the-above" class.

Baseline Algorithms

- **Recall –Prior Baseline:** For each unit, predict the relation with the highest *test* prior ignoring the "none-of-the-above" class.
 - All the numbers with the unit "USD" will be labeled 'Goods Exported' since it is most frequent class ignoring the "none-of-the-above" class.
- MultiR ++ : Adapting MultiR for Numerical Relations
 - Added unit tagger as in our algorithms for identifying and normalizing numbers and units.
 - Added our partial matching (using $\pm \delta_r \%$) technique in distant supervision.

Results

Numbertron vs NumberRule vs Baselines

System	Precision	Recall	F1 Score
MultiR++	31.81	28.10	29.84
Recall-Prior	28.18	86.19	42.47
NumberRule	59.30	53.60	56.30
NumberTron	60.93	66.92	63.78

Table: Aggregate results. NumberTron outperforms all other methods.

- Statistical method like NumberTron outperforms NumberRule on increased recall, which jumps from 53.6% to 67
- MultiR++ performs poorly because it does not model peculiarities of numerical relations.

Analysis

NumberTron vs NumberRule

- NumberRule's missed recall is primarily because of not having a keyword on the dependency path.
 - "Turkey's central bank said Wednesday it expects the annual inflation rate to reach 6.09 percent at the end of 2009, lower than the official target of 7.5 percent."
 - Turkey \xrightarrow{poss} bank \xrightarrow{nsubj} said \xrightarrow{ccomp} expects \xrightarrow{xcomp} reach \xrightarrow{dobj} percent \xrightarrow{num} 6.09
 - Since keyword 'inflation' is not on the shortest dependency path between Turkey and 6.09, NumberRule does not extract.
 - Since NumberTron combines evidences from multiple features such as number's range, presence of 'inflation' in context and dependency path features.

Ablation tests

of various configurations of NumberTron

Distant Supervision	S	imple O	R	<i>I</i>	Atleast-l	<	A	greeing-	·K
	Р	R	F1	Р	R	F1	Р	R	F1
KB	43.24	50.93	46.54	40.05	53.93	45.97	35.20	44.52	39.35
Keywords	43.35	73.22	54.46	43.69	73.62	54.83	45.97	70.80	55.74
KB + Keywords	61.56	64.96	63.21	60.93	66.92	63.78	63.46	60.21	61.79

Table : Comparison of various configurations for NumberTron

 Keywords are crucial and KB in conjunction with keyword-based labeling adds significant value.

Ablation tests

of feature templates for NumberTron

Features	Precision	Recall	F1-score
Mintz features only	22.85	36.86	28.21
Keyword features only	51.24	52.55	51.89
Mintz + Keyword	47.10	39.04	42.71
Mintz + Number	17.80	35.03	23.67
Keyword + Number	45.15	69.70	54.80
Mintz + Keyword + Number	60.93	66.92	63.78

Table : Ablation tests of feature templates for NumberTron

 Large set of Mintz features confuses the classifier; Keyword features are much effective in learning.

Results

NumberTron vs NumberRule

Relation	NumberTron F1	NumberRule F1
FDI	0	50.00
Life Expectancy	68.96	69.50
Internet Users	55.73	54.54
Electricity Prod.	50.00	62.50
GDP	57.14	42.80
CO ₂ Emissions	47.61	53.30
Inflation	88.40	56.25
Goods export	75.00	35.20
Population	49.99	60.30
Land Area	57.44	52.22

Table : Per relation F1 scores for NumberRule and best configuration of NumberTron

Analysis

per relation analysis of NumberTron vs NumberRule

- For FDI relation, NumberTron does not make a extraction because in our corpus sentence expressing the relation are rare.
- Inflation and Population are well represented in training corpus and hence higher recall.

- Numerical relation extraction has several peculiarities, more challenging than standard IE.
- **NumberRule**, a rule based system that can extract any numerical relation given input keywords for that relation.
- NumberTron, a probabilistic graphical model, that employs novel task-specific features and can be trained via distant supervision or other heuristic labelings.
- NumberTron aggregates evidence from multiple features and produces higher recall at a precision comparable to NumberRule.
- Both systems vastly outperform baselines and non-numeric IE systems, with NumberTron yielding over 33 point F-score improvement.

NumberTron vs NumberRule

	NumberRule	NumberTron
Idea	Use dep path between	A Graphical Model
	the number and the	with Perceptron like
	entity in the mention	training algorithm
Supervision	Relation specific key-	Relation specific key-
	words.	words + Numerical
		knowledge base.
Handling False +ves	Look for relation spe-	Keyword features.
	cific keywords in the	
	dep path.	
Handling Mentions	No extraction if a	Remove sentences
Expressing Change	delta word exists on	having delta words on
	the dep path.	the dep path

NumberTron vs NumberRule

Use of Unit Tagger	Used to test compati-	Used for training data	
	bility of a relation and	creation and flattening	
	the number.	to SI units.	
Common Number	N/A	Features included to	
Pruning		capture type (whole,	
		fraction), magnitude	
		and frequency.	
Modified Relations	Handled by attach-	Not handled in the	
	ing words related via	model, can be han-	
	modifying dependen-	dled at the time of ex-	
	cies, <i>urban</i> popula-	traction using a similar	
	tion.	scheme.	
Results	P = 59.30, R = 53.60,	P = 60.93, R = 66.92,	
	F-Score = 56.30	F-Score = 63.78	

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