Machine Learning Techniques for Text

Module 2: Detecting Spam Emails

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- Module 0: Python Crash Course
- Module 1: Intro to Machine Learning
- Module 2: Detecting Spam Emails
- Module 3: Classifying Topics of Newsgroup Posts
- Module 4: Extracting Sentiments from Product Reviews
- Module 5: Recommending Music Titles

- Module 6: Teaching Machines to Translate
- Module 7: Summarizing Wikipedia Articles
- Module 8: Detecting Hateful and Offensive Language
- Module 9: Generating Text in Chatbots
- Module 10: Clustering Speech-to-Text Transcriptions

Overview



- Electronic mail is one of the most ubiquitous Internet services to exchange messages asynchronously
- The problem in this communication scheme is identifying and blocking unsolicited and unwanted messages
- We deal with this problem from a machine learning perspective and unfolds as a series of steps for developing and evaluating a typical spam detector
 - We elaborate on the limitations of performing spam detection using traditional programming
 - Next, we introduce the basic techniques for text representation and preprocessing
 - Finally, we implement two classifiers using an open-source dataset and evaluate their performance on standard metrics

Module objectives



After completing this module, you should be able to:

- Obtaining the data
- Understanding its content
- Preparing the datasets for the analysis
- Training the classification models
- Realizing the tradeoffs of the algorithms
- Assessing the performance of the models

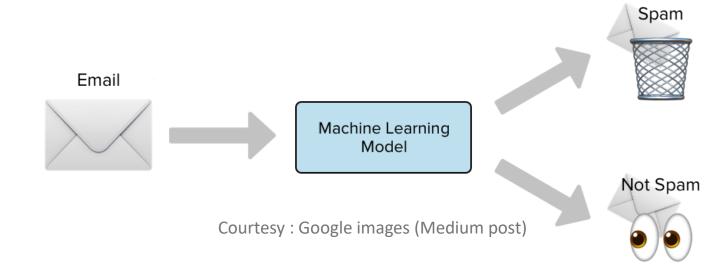
Recommending Music Titles 4

Machine Learning Techniques for Text

Section 1: Understanding spam detection

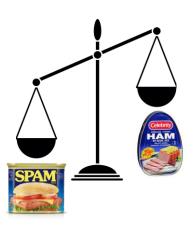


- Software inside the mail server that decides whether an incoming email is spam or not
- Without a spam detector the inbox will be flooded with irrelevant and possibly dangerous correspondence
- A serious technical, economic and even social threat!
- If you were to implement a detector program from scratch how would you do it?





How can we build a spam detector for the following email?



From: kmitnick@jakqd.com
To: tjones@tsourakis.net
Subject: Urgent!

Dear MR tjones,

You have noticed lately that your laptop is runing slow! This is because I gained access to your machine, and I installed a harmful VIRUS!!!

Even if you change your password my virus CANNOT BE intercept!

The only SOLUTION is to following my instractions here: $\underline{\text{https://bit.ly/33rhdNM}}$

You have 48 hour before the virus is activated! ...OTHERWISE...GOOD LUCK!!!!



Let's try to think of possible strategies for the detector

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➤ **T1** – The text in the subject field is typical for spam. It is characterized by a manipulative style that creates unnecessary urgency and pressure



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➤ T2 – The message begins with the phrase *Dear MR tjones*. The last word was probably extracted automatically from the recipient's email address



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➤ **T3** – Bad spelling and the incorrect use of grammar are potential spam indicators

Dear MR tjones,



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➤ **T4** – The text in the body of the message contains sequences with multiple punctuation marks or capital letters

Write the code



- We can now implement a program taking into account the four triggers
- When a new email arrives, the detector runs the following code and decides whether it is a spam

```
IF (subject is typical for spam)

AND IF (message uses recipients email address)

AND IF (spelling and grammar errors)

AND IF (multiple sequences of marks-caps) THEN

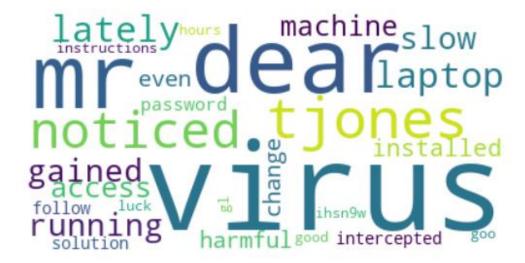
print("It's a SPAM!")
```

Pseudocode is an informal high-level description of a program or an algorithm.

Obviously, this is not the best detector ever built!



- Words can also serve as part of our separation criteria
- Visualize the text data using word clouds (also known as tag clouds)



 The image suggests that the most common word in our spam message is "virus"



Next, we adapt the pseudocode

```
AND IF (multiple sequences of marks-caps) THEN

AND IF (common word = "virus") THEN

print("It's a SPAM!")
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- Is this new version of the program better?
 - Slightly 😥
 - We can engineer even more criteria, but the problem becomes insurmountable at some point



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AND IF (multiple sequences of marks-caps) THEN

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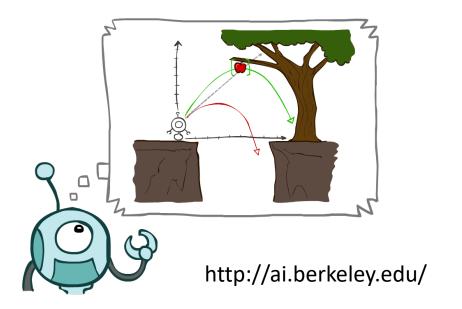
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```

- Is this new version of the program better?
 - Slightly 🔄
 - We can engineer even more criteria, but the problem becomes insurmountable at some point
- This is where machine learning algorithms become handy and can help us to solve this problem

Learn by example



 As humans learn by example; touching something very hot (input) causes pain (output), we can train a machine to read emails (input) and classify them automatically into spam/non-spam (output)





- The input to the learning algorithm was not the actual emails text but some kind of information extracted from those (*T1-T4*)
- These are called *features* and the process of creating them is called *feature engineering*
- Identifying a suitable list of features for any ML task requires domain knowledge – comprehending the problem you want to solve indepth.
- How you choose them directly impacts the algorithm's performance and determines its success to a significant degree:
 - certain features can overlap with others
 - specific features might be less relevant



• Let's see a few examples and propose good features

Problem	Features
Classify movie reviews as positive or negative	
Separate images that contain either forests or the sea	
Classify flowers into specific categories	
Identify angry customers from telephone recordings	
Predict the value of an apartment in a specific area	



• Let's see a few examples and propose good features

Problem	Features
Classify movie reviews as positive or negative	Count the number of times words such as good, excellent, bad, or horrible appear in a review
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• But as we are dealing with text, and we need pertinent features

Machine Learning Techniques for Text

Section 2: Extracting word representations

Data representation

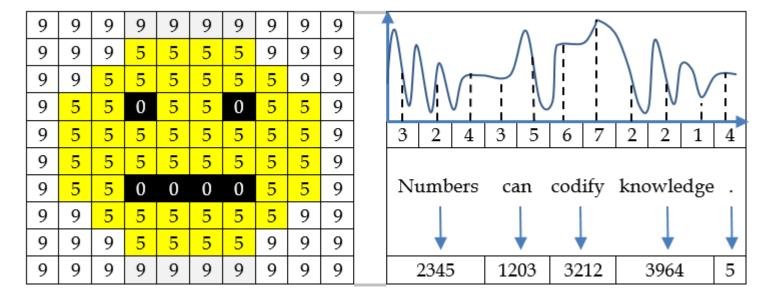


- What does a word mean to a computer? What about an image or an audio file?
 - To put it simply, nothing!
- A computer circuit can only process signals that contain two voltage levels or states, similar to an on-off switch
- This representation is the well-known binary system where every quantity is expressed as a sequence of *1s* (high voltage) and *0s* (low voltage)
- All data should be represented numerically

Word representations



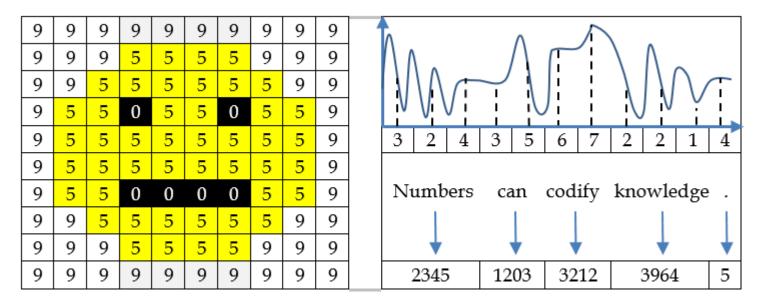
• Numbers can codify a word, the pixels of an image, the audio samples of an audio file, etc.



Word representations



• Numbers can codify a word, the pixels of an image, the audio samples of an audio file, etc.





 There are various ways to represent words in machine learning problems

Using label encoding



- Consider this quote from Aristotle "a friend to all is a friend to none"
- Using label encoding we can produce the following mapping:

Input										
a friend to all is a friend to none										
0	2	5	1	3	0	2	5	4		

• This representation, however, implies some short of order (because 0 < 2 < 5), which is not true

"a friend to all is a friend to none"

Using one-hot encoding



- One-hot encoding codifies every word as a vector with zeros and a single one
 - no two words exist with the same one-hot vector

	Input								
Unique words	Α	friend	to	all	is	а	friend	to	none
а	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
all	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
friend	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
is	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
none	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
to	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
		i							

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Unique words	Α	friend	to	all	is	а	friend	to	none
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all	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
friend	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
is	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
none	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
to	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
		i							

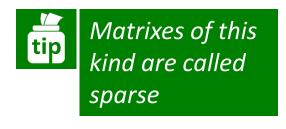
 The majority of the elements in the array are zeros and can pose challenges due to the memory required to store them

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none	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
to	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
		1							



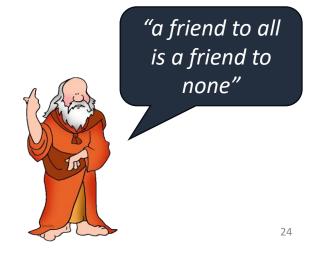
• The majority of the elements in the array are zeros and can pose challenges due to the memory required to store them

Using token count encoding



- Also known as bag-of-words (BoW) counts the absolute frequency of each word within a sentence or a document
- The input is represented as a bag of words without taking into account grammar or word order
- Create a table (*Term Document Matrix*) where each cell represents the number of times a word from the vocabulary appears the quote

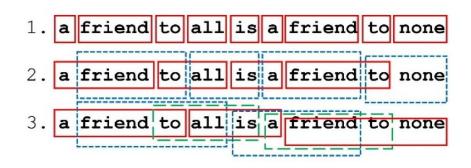
	Unique words										
а	all	friend	is	me	none	to	world				
2	1	2	1	0	1	2	0				



N-grams as tokens



- Certain word combinations are more frequent than others in any human language
- Consist of a single word (unigrams), two words (bigrams), three words (trigrams), etc.



<u>Unigrams</u>	2. Bigrams	3
а	a friend	а
all	friend to	fr
friend	to all	
is	all is	
none	is a	i
to	to none	frie

rams
2. Trigrams
2. And a friend to
3. Trigrams
4. And a friend to all
4. And all is
5. And all is a
6. And a friend
6. And a

Using tf-idf encoding



- One limitation of BoW representations is that they do not consider the value of words inside the corpus
- If solely frequency were of prime importance, articles such as a or
 the would provide the most information for a document
- The *term frequency-inverse document frequency* (tf-idf) encoding scheme:
 - penalizes these frequent words
 - allows us to weigh each word in the text
- Heuristic where more common words tend to be less relevant for most semantic classification tasks, and the weighting reflects this approach

Using tf-idf encoding

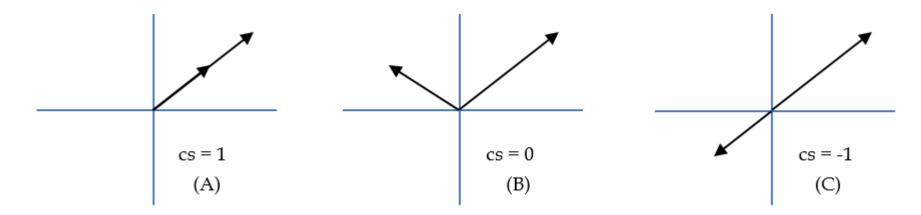


- From a virtual dataset with 10 million emails, we randomly pick one containing 100 words
- Suppose that the word *virus* appears three times in this email, so its term frequency (tf) is: $\frac{3}{100} = 0.03$
- Moreover, the same word appears in 1000 emails in the corpus, so the inverse document frequency (idf) is: $\log(\frac{10000000}{1000}) = 4$
- The tf-idf weight is simply the product of these two statistics: 0.03 * 4 = 0.12

Calculating vector similarity



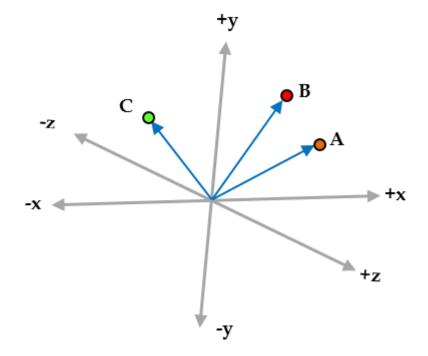
- Cosine similarity is the degree to which two vectors point in the same direction
- It targets orientation, rather than magnitude
- When the two vectors are aligned to the same direction cosine similarity is 1, when they are perpendicular it is 0, and when they point in opposite directions it is -1



Cosine similarity



• Which vectors are more similar (A, B or C)?



Cosine similarity



- Given that: $cos(V, U) = \frac{V \cdot U}{\|V\| \times \|U\|}$
- A=(4, 4, 4), B=(1, 7, 5) and C=(-5, 5, 1)
- We have:

$$A \bullet B = 4 \times 1 + 4 \times 7 + 4 \times 5 = 52$$

 $A \bullet C = 4 \times (-5) + 4 \times 5 + 4 \times 1 = 4$
 $B \bullet C = 1 \times (-5) + 7 \times 5 + 5 \times 1 = 35$

$$||A|| = \sqrt{4^2 + 4^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{48}, ||B|| = \sqrt{75} \text{ and } ||C|| = \sqrt{51}$$

• We obtain:

$$\cos(A, B) = \frac{52}{\sqrt{48} \times \sqrt{75}} \cong 0.87$$
, $\cos(A, C) = \frac{4}{\sqrt{48} \times \sqrt{51}} \cong 0.08$ and $\cos(B, C) = \frac{35}{\sqrt{75} \times \sqrt{51}} \cong 0.57$

Machine Learning Techniques for Text

Section 3: Executing data preprocessing

Tokenizing the input



- During tokenization we split textual data into smaller components called tokens
- These can be words, phrases, symbols, or other meaningful elements
- We can use regular expressions (regexp) that can assist with the creation of a tokenizer

Understanding regular expressions



- Regular expressions (regexp) are used to:
 - find a string in a document
 - replace part of the text with something else
 - examine the conformity of some textual input

Understanding regular expressions



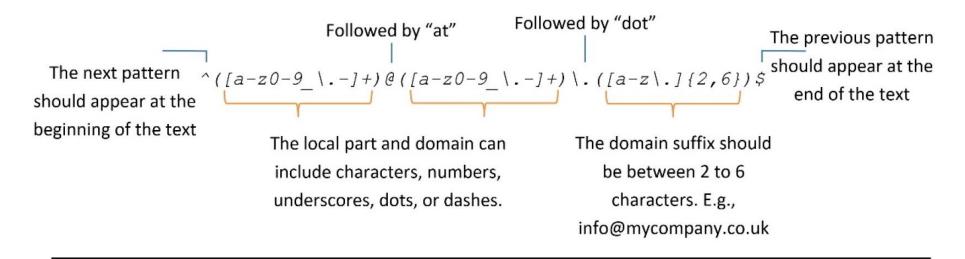
- Regular expressions (regexp) are used to:
 - find a string in a document
 - replace part of the text with something else
 - examine the conformity of some textual input

regexp	matches
[A-Za-z0-9]	Any character, letter, or digit, in the range A to Z, a to z, or 0 to 9 – for example, G.
[A-Za-z0-9]+	Any sequence of characters, letters, or digits, in the range A to Z, a to z, or 0 to 9. The plus sign signifies at least one occurrence – for example, Hello2You.
[a-z]{2,5}	Any sequence of lowercase letters containing two to five characters – for example, hello.
^([0-9][a-z]+)	Any sequence of characters beginning with a number and followed by lowercase letters – for example, 4ever.
([A-Z]+[0-9])\$	Any sequence of characters with uppercase letters that ends with a number – for example, ME2.

Understanding regular expressions



Check the validity of an email address



\. = the dot character needs to be escaped otherwise it will match any character

[] = defines character ranges

() = defines a group

Removing stop words



- A typical task during the preprocessing phase is removing all the words that presumably help us focus on the most important information in the text
- These are called stop words and there is no universal list in English or any other language
- Examples of stop words include determiners (such as another and the), conjunctions (such as but and or), and prepositions (such as before and in)

```
tokenization "The", "best", "course", "ever", "taught", "about", "Text", "Mining"

$\displaystyle{\psi}$

stop word removal "best", "course", "ever", "taught", "Text", "Mining"
```

Stemming the words



- Map words with the same core meaning to a central word or symbol
- During stemming we cut off the end (suffix) or the beginning (prefix) of an inflected word and ending up with its stem (the root word)
- For example, the stem of the word plays is play

stop word removal "best", "course", "ever", "taught", "Text", "Mining"

the st", "course", "ever", "taught", "Text", "Mining"

the st", "course", "ever", "teach", "text", "mine"

Lemmatizing the words



- Another approach for reducing the inflectional forms of a word to a base root is called *lemmatization*
- The method performs morphological analysis of the word and obtains its proper lemma (the base form under which it appears in a dictionary)
- For example, the lemma of *led* is *lead*
- Lemmatization differs from stemming, as it requires detailed dictionaries to look up a word

stop word removal "best", "course", "ever", "taught", "Text", "Mining"

stemming or/and lemmatization "best", "course", "ever", "teach", "text", "mine"



Let's practice!



Tasks

- Word representations
- Data preprocessing



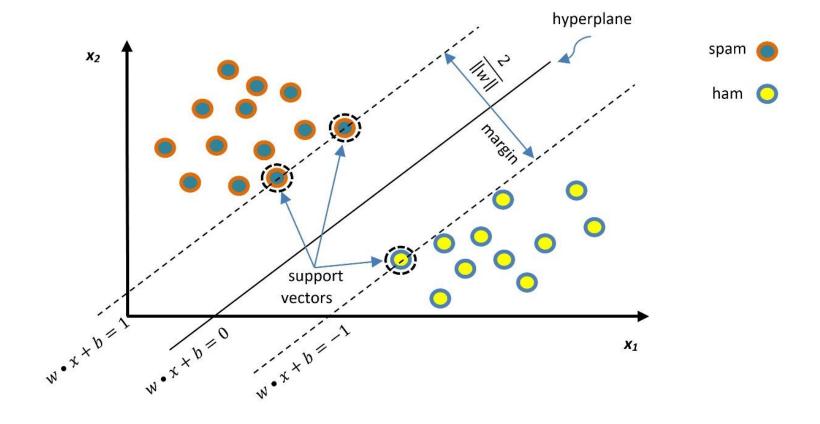
https://colab.research.google.com/git hub/PacktPublishing/Machine-Learning-Techniques-for-Text/blob/main/chapter-02/spamdetection.ipynb

Machine Learning Techniques for Text

Section 4: Performing classification

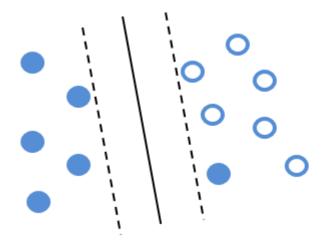


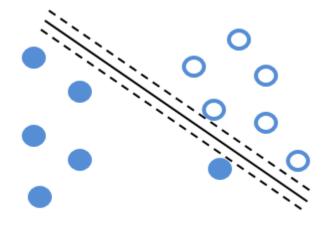
• Support Vector Machines is a supervised machine learning algorithm





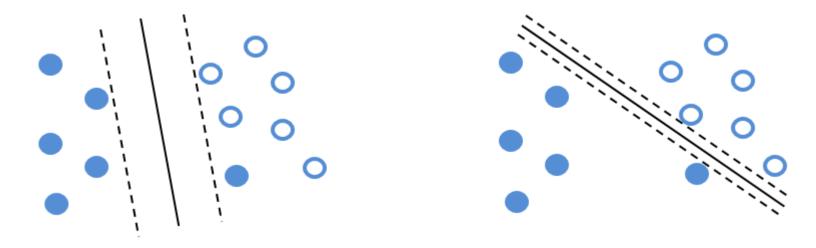
• The data below is separated with two different lines. Which separation is better?







• The data below is separated with two different lines. Which separation is better?



- The line in the left plot has a higher classification error
- The margin in the second is small and therefore the model lacks in generalization

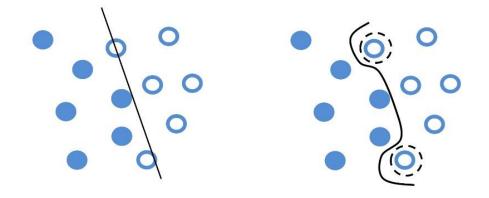
Hyperparameter C



- The SVM algorithm permits the adjustment of the training accuracy versus generalization tradeoff using the hyperparameter $\boldsymbol{\mathcal{C}}$
- A frequent point of confusion is that hyperparameters and model parameters are the same things, but this is not true
 - Hyperparameters are parameters whose values are used to control the learning process
 - On the other hand, model parameters update their value in very training iteration until we obtain a good classification model
- We can direct the SVM to create the most efficient model for each problem by adjusting the hyperparameter *C*



Which one seems to work better this time?



- At first glance, the curved line in the plot on the right perfectly separates the data into two classes
- But getting too specific boundaries entails the risk of overfitting
 - The model learns the training data perfectly but fails to classify a slightly different example correctly

Overfitting



- Most of us have grown in a certain cultural context, trained (overfit) to interpret social signals like body posture, facial expressions, voice tone, etc. in a certain way
- When socializing with people of diverse social cultures we might fail to interpret similar social signals correctly (generalization)



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There is always a tradeoff between *accuracy* during training and *generalization* during inference

Hyperparameter gamma



- We can also prevent overfitting by adjusting the gamma hyperparameter
- Defines how far the influence of a single training example reaches
- The curvature of the decision boundary can also be affected by points that are pretty far from it.
- The takeaway here is that both *C* and *gamma* hyperparameters help us create more efficient models but identifying their best values demands experimentation

Data pipeline



- Getting the data
 - Use the SpamAssassin public mail corpus is a selection of mail messages, suitable for use in testing spam filtering systems
 - https://spamassassin.apache.org/old/publiccorpus/
- Creating the train and test sets
 - We choose a 75:25 split between the training and test sets, attributing the larger proposition to the training data
- Preprocessing the data
 - tokenization, stop word removal, and lemmatization
- Extracting the features
 - tf-idf vectorization



Let's practice!



Tasks

- Word representations
- Data preprocessing
- Classification



https://colab.research.google.com/git hub/PacktPublishing/Machine-Learning-Techniques-for-Text/blob/main/chapter-02/spamdetection.ipynb

Machine Learning Techniques for Text

Section 5: Measuring classification performance



• Accuracy is the percentage of correctly classified examples by an algorithm divided by the total number of examples, defined as:

$$Accuracy = \frac{Number\ of\ correctly\ classified\ examples}{Total\ number\ of\ examples}$$

- If we had to choose the best algorithm this should probably be the one with the highest accuracy
- The argument is that the algorithm with the highest number of correct classifications should be the right choice
- Although this is not far from the truth, it is not always the case



- A model classifies 1000 emails that we already know whether they spam or ham
- A possible result of classifying these emails is shown in the table below, known as *confusion matrix*

	spam	ham
	True Positive (TP)	False Positive (FP)
619.019		
spam	Reality: spam	Reality: ham
	Prediction: spam	Prediction: spam
	Total number: 15	Total number: 20
	False Negative (FN)	True Negative (TN)
ham	Reality: spam	Reality: ham
	Prediction: ham	Prediction: ham
	Total number: 85	Total number: 880



• Rewrite the formula

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} = \frac{15 + 880}{15 + 880 + 20 + 85} = 0.895$$

spam

ham

	Spain	nam
	True Positive (TP)	False Positive (FP)
spam	Reality: spam	Reality: ham
	Prediction: spam	Prediction: spam
	Total number: 15	Total number: 20
	False Negative (FN)	True Negative (TN)
ham	Reality: spam	Reality: ham
	Prediction: ham	Prediction: ham
	Total number: 85	Total number: 880



• Rewrite the formula

$$Accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} = \frac{15 + 880}{15 + 880 + 20 + 85} = 0.895$$

	spam	ham
	True Positive (TP)	False Positive (FP)
spam	Reality: spam	Reality: ham
	Prediction: spam	Prediction: spam
	Total number: 15	Total number: 20
	False Negative (FN)	True Negative (TN)
ham	Reality: spam	Reality: ham
	Prediction: ham	Prediction: ham
	Total number: 85	Total number: 880

• Out of the 1000 spam emails (TP + FN) only 15 were correctly identified and the other 85 were considered as ham emails



- To assess the performance of a model correctly, we need to make this analysis and consider the type of errors that are most important within the task
- Is it better to have a *strict* model that can block a legitimate email for the sake of fewer spam ones (increased FPs)?
- Or is it preferable to have a *lenient* model that doesn't block most ham emails but allows more undetected spam in your mailbox (increased FNs)?

	spam	ham
	True Positive (TP)	False Positive (FP)
spam	Reality: spam	Reality: ham
	Prediction: spam	Prediction: spam
	Total number: 15	Total number: 20
	False Negative (FN)	True Negative (TN)
ham	Reality: spam	Reality: ham
	Prediction: ham	Prediction: ham
	Total number: 85	Total number: 880



- Similar questions arise in all ML problems and generally in many realworld situations
- For example, wrong affirmative decisions (FPs) in a fire alarm system are preferable to wrong negative ones (FNs)
 - In the first case, we get a false alert of a fire that didn't occur
- Conversely, declaring innocent a guilty prisoner implies higher FNs, which is preferable to finding guilty an innocent one (higher FPs)
- Accuracy is a good metric when the test data is balanced and the classes are equally important

Precision and Recall



 Precision us the proportion of positive identifications that are, in reality, correct, given by:

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} = \frac{15}{15 + 20} = 0.43$$

• *Recall* tells us the proportion of the actual positives that are identified correctly, given by:

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} = \frac{15}{15 + 85} = 0.15$$

Improving precision often deteriorates recall and vice versa

F-score



 We can combine precision and recall (harmonic mean) in one more reliable *F-score* metric

F-score =
$$2 * \frac{precision * recall}{precision + recall} = 2 * \frac{0.43 * 0.15}{0.43 + 0.15} = 0.22$$

- When precision and recall reach their perfect score (equal to 1), the F-score becomes 1
- Based on this metric we can evaluate more reliably different ML models

ROC and AUC



- When the classifier returns some kind of confidence score for each prediction, we can use another technique for evaluating performance called the *Receiver Operator Characteristic* (ROC) curve
- A ROC curve is a graphical plot that shows the model's performance at all classification thresholds
- It utilizes two rates, namely the *True Positive Rate* (TPR), the same as recall, and the *False Positive Rate* (FPR)

ROC and AUC



True Positive Rate (TPR)

$$TPR = \frac{TP}{TP + FN}$$

False Positive Rate (FPR)

$$FPR = \frac{FP}{FP + TN}$$

- The benefit of ROC curves is that they help us visually identify the trade-offs between the TPR and FPR
- In this way, we can find which classification threshold better suits the problem under study

ROC and AUC



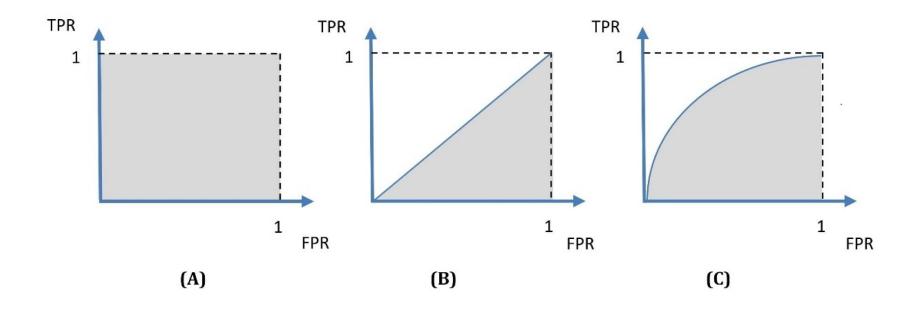
- A simplified example with 10 emails
- 7 thresholds are used
- For each prediction a probability score is generated by the model

Reality • ham	Pred. prob.	0.0	0.5	0.55 0.65			Threshold 0.75		0.85		0.95		1.0	
o spam	0.4													
•	0.1	0	•		•		•		•		•		•	
•	0.2	0	0		•		•		•		•		•	
•	0.3	0	•		•		•		•		•		•	
•	0.4	0	•		•		•		•		•		•	
•	0.5	0	•		•		•		•		•		•	
0	0.6	0	0		•		•		•		•		•	
•	0.7	0	0		0		•		•		•		•	
•	8.0	0	0		0		0		•		•		•	
0	0.9	0	0		0		0		0		•		•	
0	0.99	0 0			0		0		0		0		•	
		3 7	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
		0 0	0	5	1	5	1	6	1	7	2	7	3	7
	TPR	1	1		0.67		0.67		0.67		0.33		0	
	FPR	1	0.29	9	0.29		0.14		0		0		0	

ROC and AUC



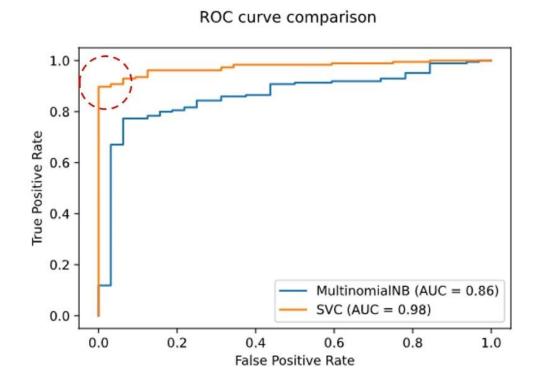
The grayed area in these plots, called the Area Under the ROC Curve
 (AUC), is related to the quality of our model; the higher its surface,
 the better it is



AUC for two models



The model based the support vector machines provides better results



Precision-recall curves



- ROC curves can sometimes perform too optimistically with imbalanced datasets
- For example, using the TN factor during the FPR calculation can skew the results
- The solution, in this case, is to generate another visualization called the *Precision-Recall curve*
- Fortunately, this factor is not part of the precision or recall formulas
- We must scrutinize both ROC and precision-recall curves to understand the models' performance and the differences between the classifiers



Let's practice!



Tasks

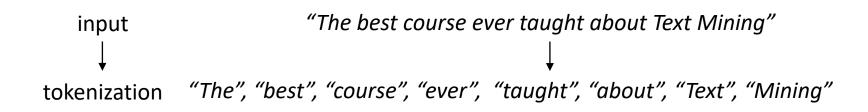
- Word representations
- Data preprocessing
- Classification
- Performance

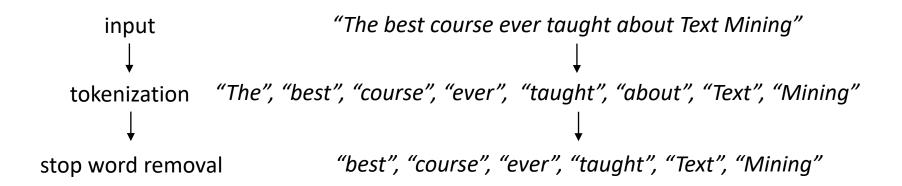


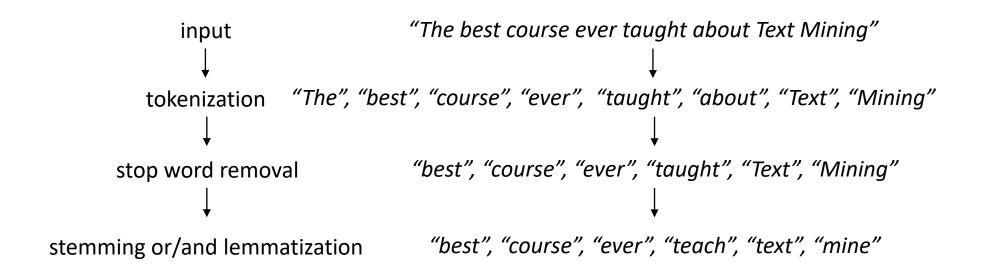
https://colab.research.google.com/git hub/PacktPublishing/Machine-Learning-Techniques-for-Text/blob/main/chapter-02/spamdetection.ipynb

Machine Learning Techniques for Text

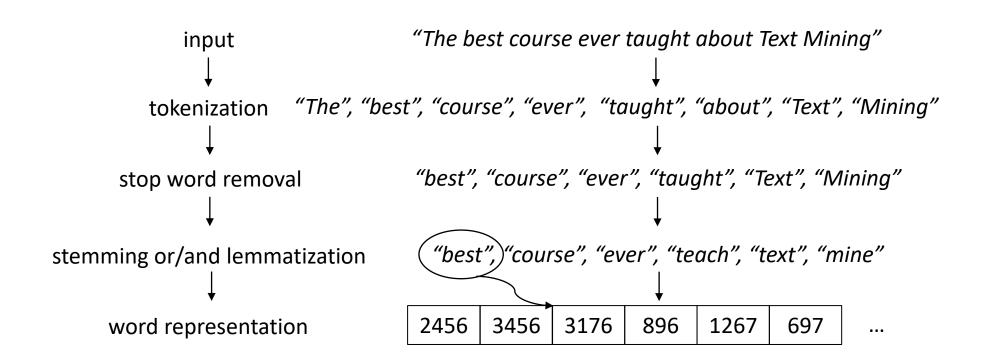
Section 6: Typical pipeline





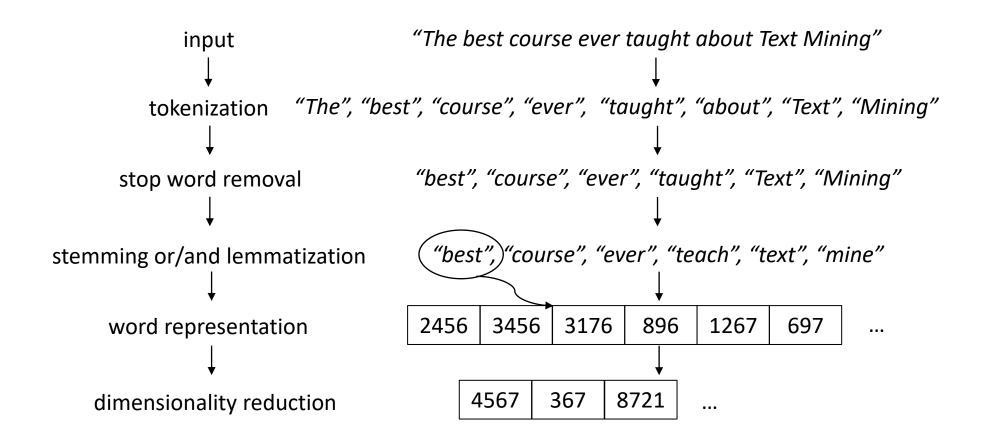


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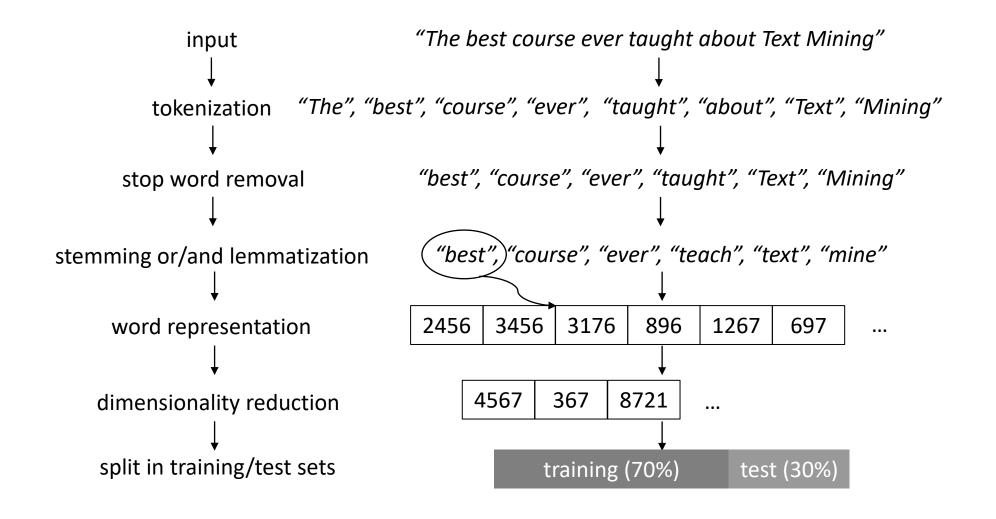


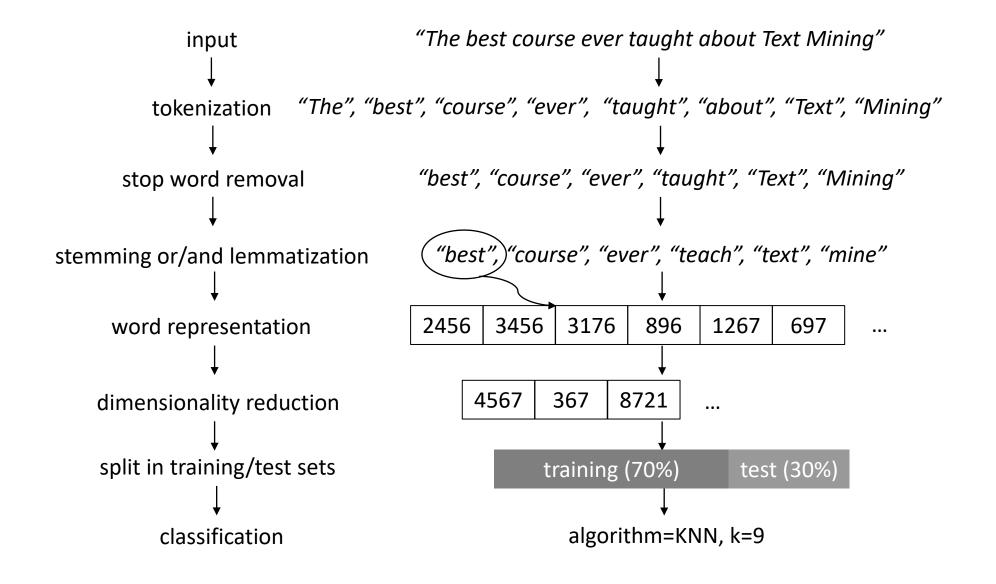
Detecting Spam Emails

64

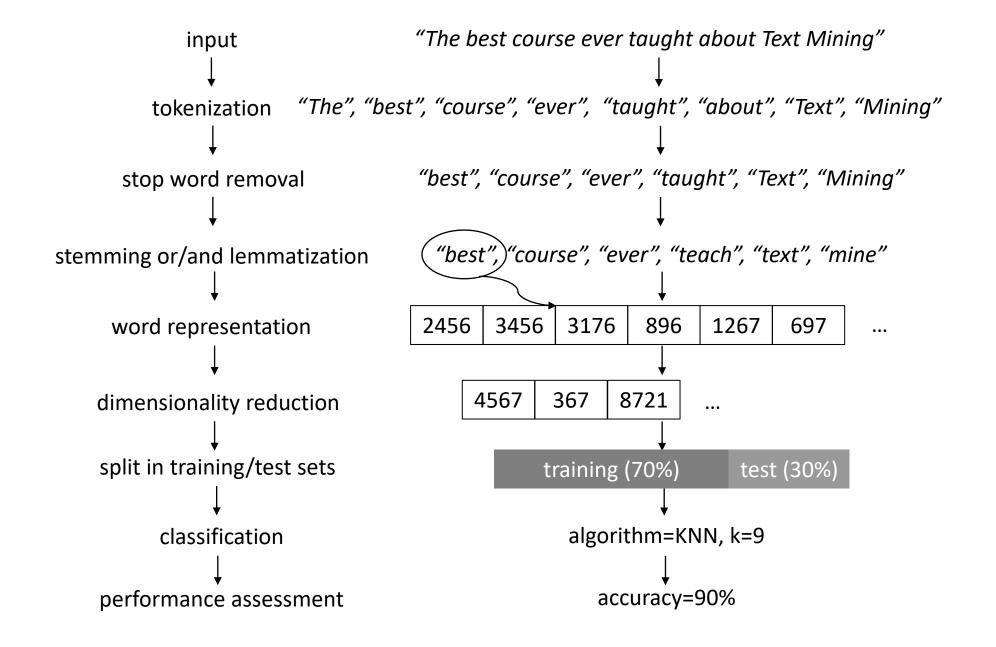


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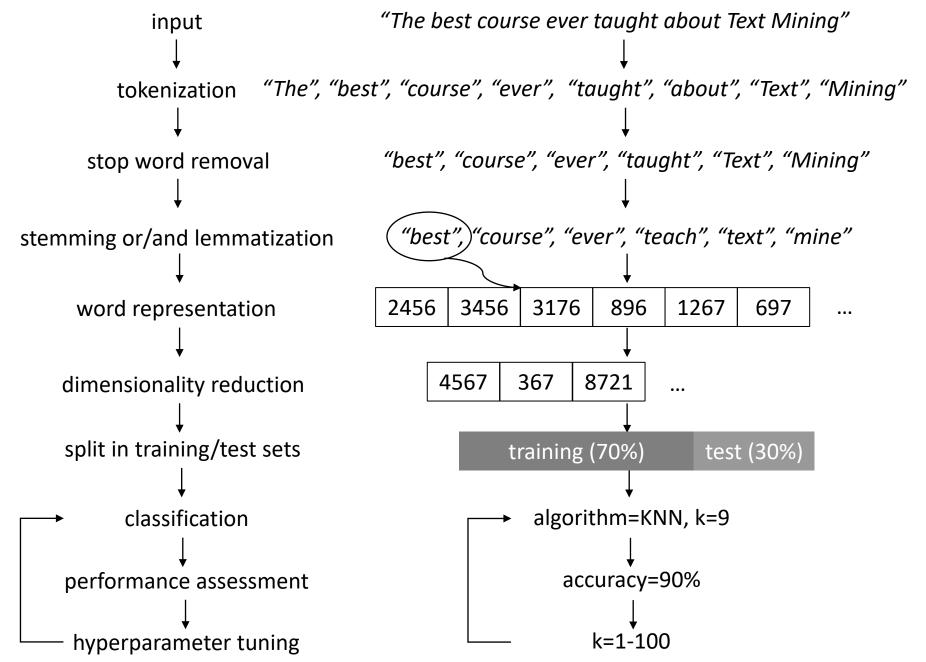




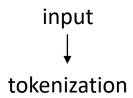
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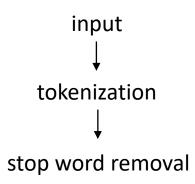


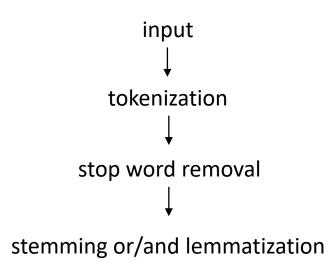
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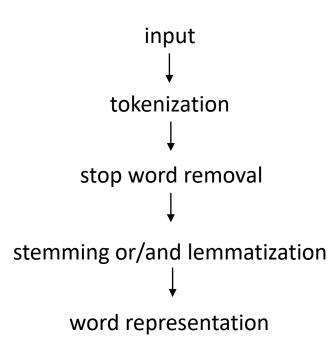






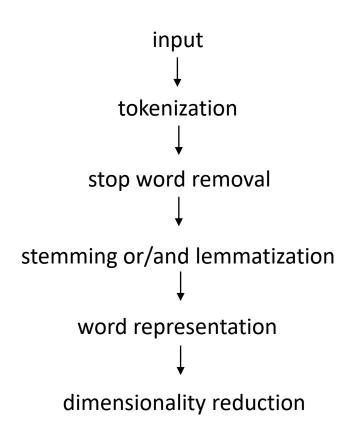






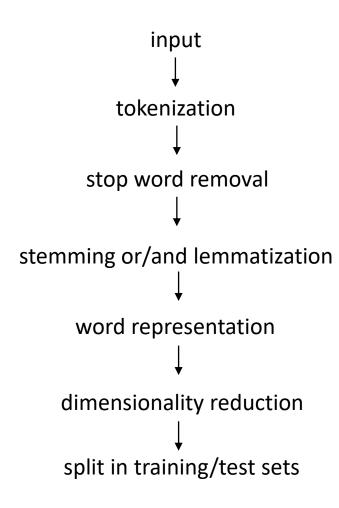
Label, One-hot, Token count, tf-idf, Word Embedding

65



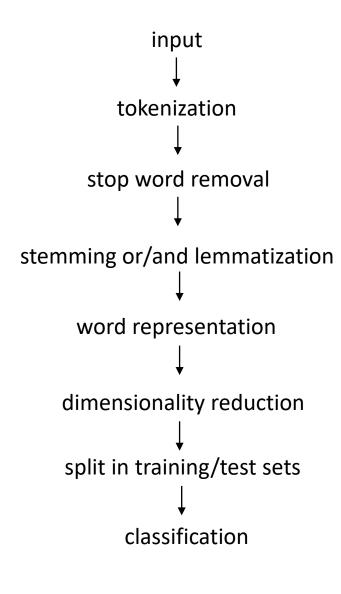
Label, One-hot, Token count, tf-idf, Word Embedding

PCA, LDA, SVD, t-SNE



Label, One-hot, Token count, tf-idf, Word Embedding

PCA, LDA, SVD, t-SNE

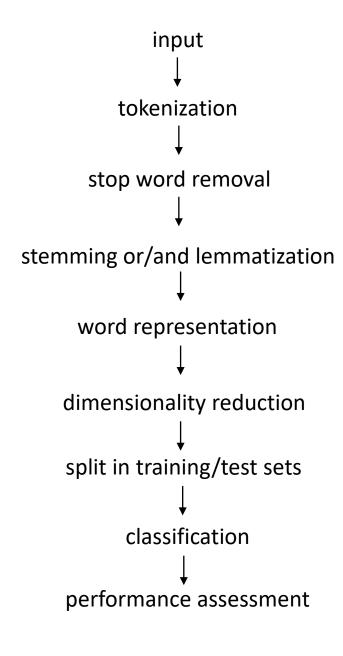


Label, One-hot, Token count, tf-idf, Word Embedding

PCA, LDA, SVD, t-SNE

SVM, Naïve Bayes, K-Nearest Neighbor, Random Forest, Logistic Regression, Neural Networks

65

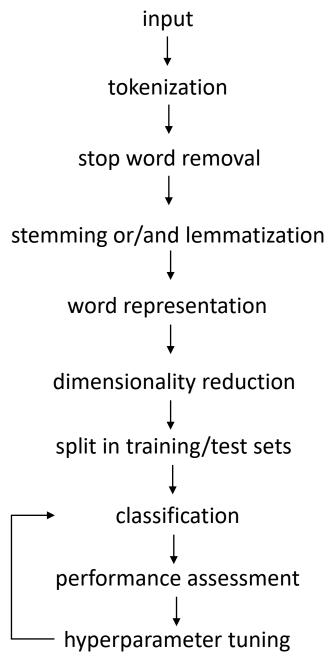


Label, One-hot, Token count, tf-idf, Word Embedding

PCA, LDA, SVD, t-SNE

SVM, Naïve Bayes, K-Nearest Neighbor, Random Forest, Logistic Regression, Neural Networks Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F-score, Confusion matrix

65



Label, One-hot, Token count, tf-idf, Word Embedding

PCA, LDA, SVD, t-SNE

SVM, Naïve Bayes, K-Nearest Neighbor, Random Forest, Logistic Regression, Neural Networks Accuracy, Precision, Recall, F-score, Confusion matrix

65

Grid search





Word clouds

Text preprocessing

- Tokenization
- Stop words removal
- Stemming
- Lemmatization
- Regular expressions

7

Text representations

- Label encoding
- One-hot encoding
- Token count encoding
- Tf-idf encoding



ML concepts

- Supervised learning
- Creating train and test sets
- Feature engineering
- Overfitting



ML algorithms & models

- Support Vector Machines
- Naïve Bayes



Performance metrics

- Accuracy
- Precision
- Recall
- F-score
- ROC and AUC
- True Positive Rate

Machine Learning Techniques for Text

Questions?