



# Natural Language Processing With Python

## Chapter1-Language Processing and Python

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# 课程考核说明

根据教学大纲要求，本课程的考核办法为：

$$\text{总评} = \text{期末成绩} \times \underline{50} \% + \text{平时成绩} \times \underline{50} \%。$$

**1.期末考核方法：**闭卷考试

**2.平时成绩**由3项构成，具体如下：

(1) 日常作业，占比30 %；

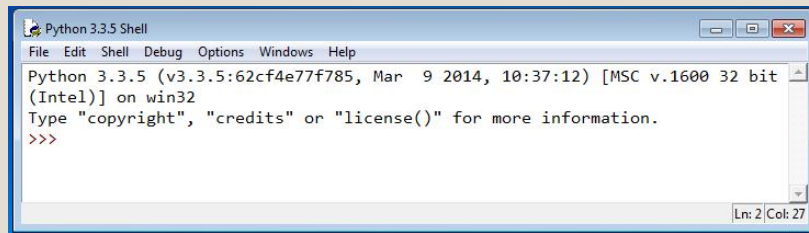
(2) 考勤，占比10 %；

(3) 课堂表现，占比10 %；

# About the course

- Elementary concepts and basics in computing linguistics
- Interesting tasks of natural language processing and the solutions
- Some useful tools and materials for text analysis and mining
- Ability of Python programming for solving interesting language processing problems, such as readability, topic mining, and text quality etc.
- Basic training of scientific paper reading and presentation

# Basic tools and useful websites



# Basic tools and useful websites (Cont.)

kaggle

 python™ NLTK  
Natural Language Tool Kit





# Motivations

- What can we achieve by combining simple programming techniques with large quantities of text?
- How can we automatically extract key words and phrases that sum up the style and content of a text?
- What tools and techniques does the Python programming language provide for such work?
- What are some of the interesting challenges of natural language processing?

# 1 Computing with Language: Texts and Words

# 1.1 Getting Started with Python

- For more study materials, please refer to my course website for *Programming Basics*:

[https://zhangjianzhang.github.io/programming\\_basics/](https://zhangjianzhang.github.io/programming_basics/)



## 1.2 Getting Started with NLTK

- Install the latest version of NLTK

```
pip install nltk
```

- Download NLTK data resource

[https://www.nltk.org/nltk\\_data/](https://www.nltk.org/nltk_data/) (manually)

**OR**

```
import nltk  
  
nltk.download()
```

## 1.2 Getting Started with NLTK (contd.)

```
1 # Download the text data needed in this chapter
2 nltk.download('gutenberg')
3 nltk.download('nps_chat')
4 nltk.download('inaugural')
```

```
>>> from nltk.book import *
*** Introductory Examples for the NLTK Book ***
Loading text1, ..., text9 and sent1, ..., sent9
Type the name of the text or sentence to view it.
Type: 'texts()' or 'sents()' to list the materials.
text1: Moby Dick by Herman Melville 1851
text2: Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen 1811
text3: The Book of Genesis
text4: Inaugural Address Corpus
text5: Chat Corpus
text6: Monty Python and the Holy Grail
text7: Wall Street Journal
text8: Personals Corpus
text9: The Man Who Was Thursday by G . K . Chesterton 1908
>>>
```

```
>>> text1
<Text: Moby Dick by Herman Melville 1851>
>>> text2
<Text: Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen 1811>
>>>
```

# 1.3 Searching Text

- Examine the context of a text

```
>>> text1.concordance("monstrous")
Displaying 11 of 11 matches:
ong the former , one was of a most monstrous size . ... This came towards us ,
ON OF THE PSALMS . " Touching that monstrous bulk of the whale or ork we have r
ll over with a heathenish array of monstrous clubs and spears . Some were thick
d as you gazed , and wondered what monstrous cannibal and savage could ever hav
that has survived the flood ; most monstrous and most mountainous ! That Himmal
they might scout at Moby Dick as a monstrous fable , or still worse and more de
th of Radney .'" CHAPTER 55 Of the monstrous Pictures of Whales . I shall ere l
ing Scenes . In connexion with the monstrous pictures of whales , I am strongly
ere to enter upon those still more monstrous stories of them which are to be fo
ght have been rummaged out of this monstrous cabinet there is no telling . But
of Whale - Bones ; for Whales of a monstrous size are oftentimes cast up dead u
>>>
```

- Examine how words have been used differently over time
- Help you find proper words to be used when writing your own course paper or something else

# 1.3 Searching Text (contd.)

- Have a new sense of the richness and diversity of language
- Find words in the similar context

```
>>> text1.similar("monstrous")
mean part maddens doleful gamesome subtly uncommon careful untoward
exasperate loving passing mouldy christian few true mystifying
imperial modifies contemptible
>>> text2.similar("monstrous")
very heartily so exceedingly remarkably as vast a great amazingly
extremely good sweet
>>>
```

- *Austen* uses this word quite differently from *Melville*

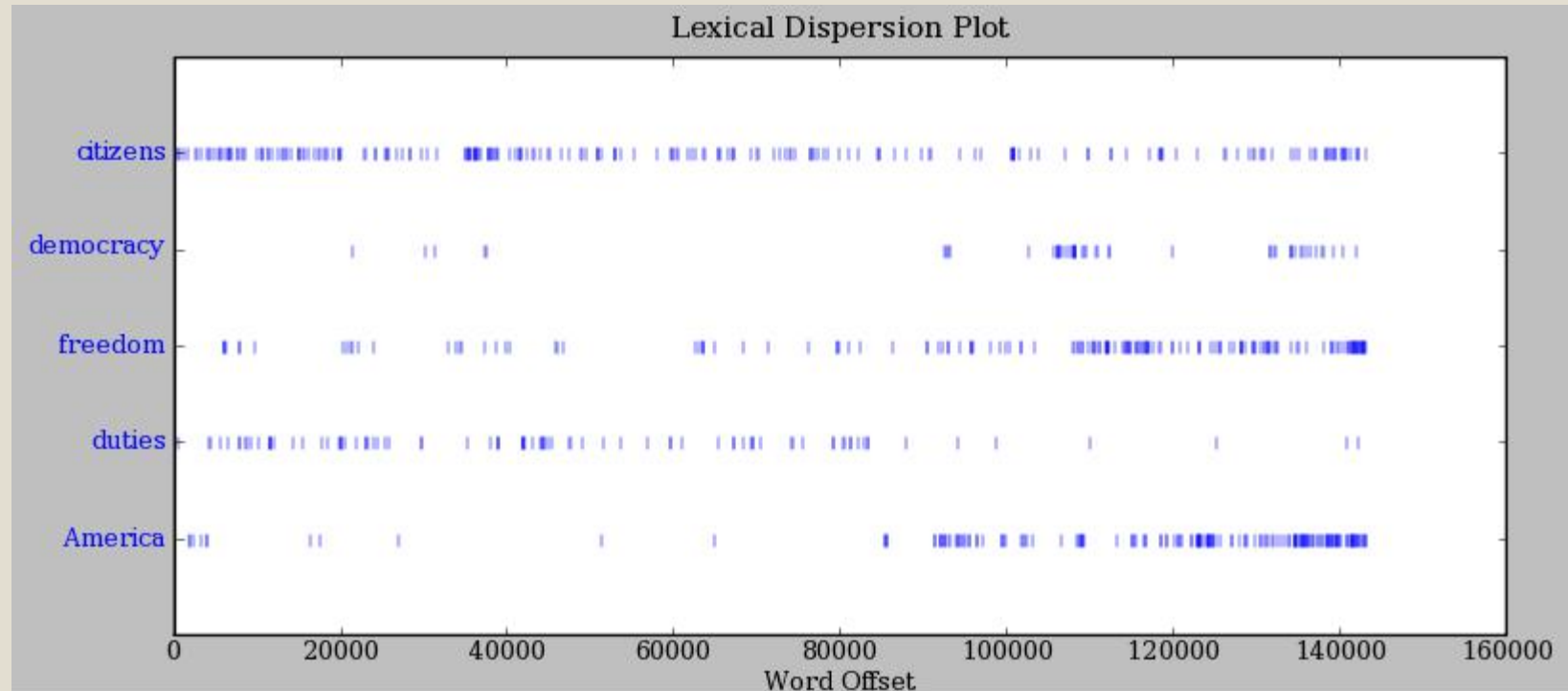
```
>>> text2.common_contexts(["monstrous", "very"])
a_pretty is_pretty am_glad be_glad a_lucky
>>>
```

- Examine the contexts that are shared by two or more words



# 1.3 Searching Text (contd.)

- Determine the location of a word in the text using a dispersion plot



- Lexical Dispersion Plot for Words in U.S. Presidential Inaugural Addresses: This can be used to investigate changes in language use over time.

# 1.3 Searching Text (contd.)

- Generate some random text in the various styles we have just seen just for fun

```
>>> text3.generate()
```

```
In the beginning of his brother is a hairy man , whose top may reach  
unto heaven ; and ye shall sow the land of Egypt there was no bread in  
all that he was taken out of the month , upon the earth . So shall thy  
wages be ? And they made their father ; and Isaac was old , and kissed  
him : and Laban with his cattle in the midst of the hands of Esau thy  
first born , and Phichol the chief butler unto his son Isaac , she
```

```
>>>
```

# 1.4 Counting Vocabulary

- Count the words in a text in a variety of useful ways
- Finding out the length of a text from start to finish
- A **token** is the technical name for a sequence of characters — such as *hairy*, *his*, or *:)* — that we want to treat as a group
- The **vocabulary** of a text is just the *set* of tokens that it uses
- A **word type** is the form or spelling of the word independently of its specific occurrences in a text — that is, the word considered as a unique item of vocabulary
- Calculate a measure of the **lexical richness** of the text
- How often a word occurs in a text, and compute what percentage of the text is taken up by a specific word



# 1.4 Counting Vocabulary (contd.)

## ➤ Lexical Diversity of Various Genres in the Brown Corpus

Lexical Diversity of Various Genres in the *Brown Corpus*

Genre	Tokens	Types	Lexical diversity
skill and hobbies	82345	11935	0.145
humor	21695	5017	0.231
fiction: science	14470	3233	0.223
press: reportage	100554	14394	0.143
fiction: romance	70022	8452	0.121
religion	39399	6373	0.162

## 2 A Closer Look at Python: Texts as Lists of Words

## 2 A Closer Look at Python: Texts as Lists of Words

- Lists
- Indexing Lists
- Variables
- Strings

### 3 Computing with Language: Simple Statistics

# 3.1 Frequency Distributions

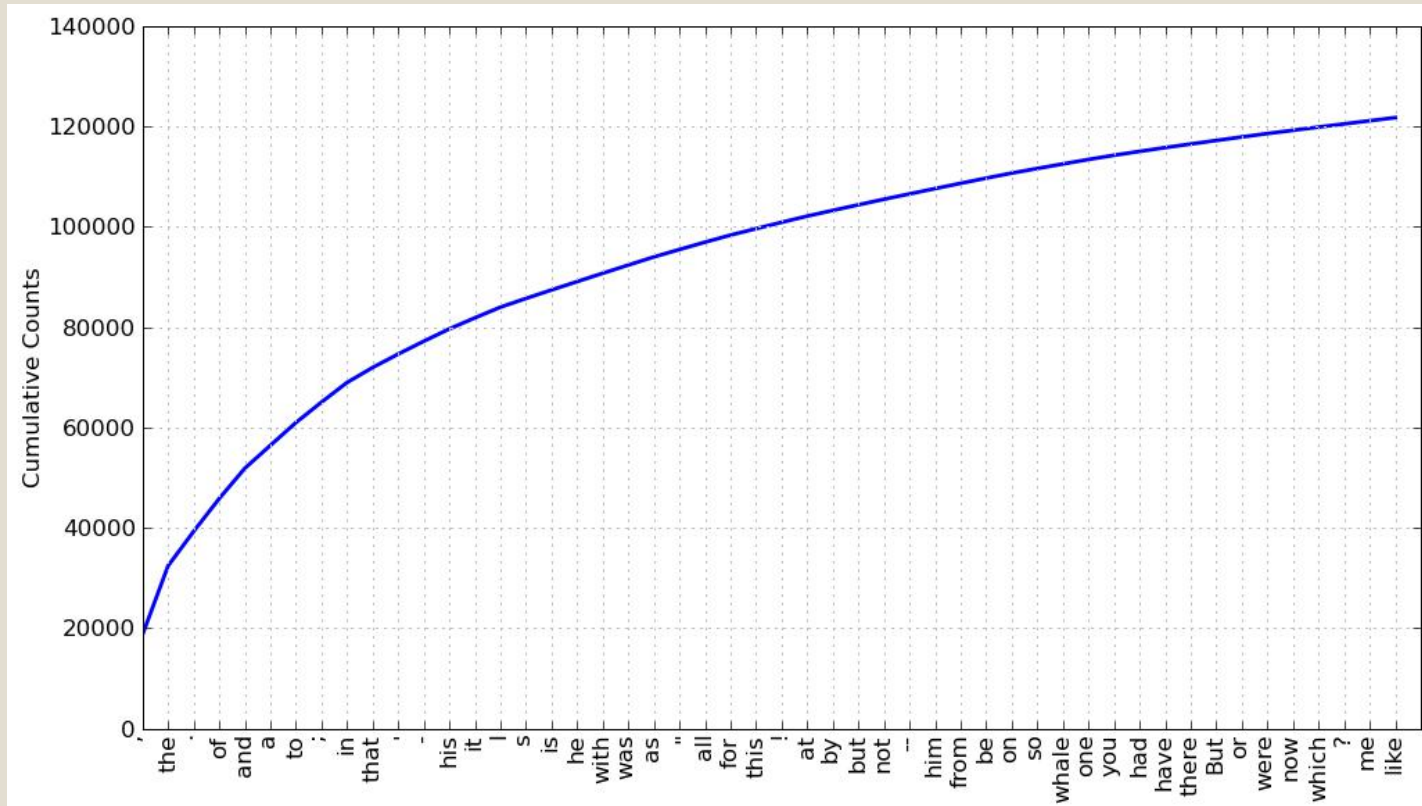
- Identify the words of a text that are **most informative** about the topic and genre of the text

Word Tally	
the	
been	
message	
persevere	
nation	

- Counting Words Appearing in a Text (a **frequency distribution**)

## 3.1 Frequency Distributions (contd.)

- Cumulative Frequency Plot for 50 Most Frequently Words in Moby Dick: these account for nearly half of the tokens.



- Only one word, whale, is slightly informative!

## 3.1 Frequency Distributions (contd.)

- If the frequent words don't help us, how about the words that occur once only, the so-called **hapaxes**?

```
In [80]: 1 fdist1.hapaxes()

Out[80]: ['Herman',
           'Melville',
           ']',
           'ETYMOLOGY',
           'Late',
           'Consumptive',
           'School',
           'threadbare',
           'lexicons',
           'mockingly',
           'flags',
           'mortality',
           'signification',
           'HACKLUYT',
           'Sw',
           'HVAL',
           'roundness',
           'Dut',
           'Ger',
           'HVAL',
           'HVAL']
```

- Since neither frequent nor infrequent words help, we need to try something else.



## 3.2 Fine-grained Selection of Words

- let's look at **the long words of a text**; perhaps these will be more characteristic and informative

```
>>> V = set(text1)
>>> long_words = [w for w in V if len(w) > 15]
>>> sorted(long_words)
['CIRCUMNAVIGATION', 'Physiognomically', 'apprehensiveness', 'cannibalistically',
'characteristically', 'circumnavigating', 'circumnavigation', 'circumnavigations',
'comprehensiveness', 'hermaphroditical', 'indiscriminately', 'indispensableness',
'irresistibleness', 'physiognomically', 'preternaturalness', 'responsibilities',
'simultaneousness', 'subterraneousness', 'supernaturalness', 'superstitiousness',
'uncomfortableness', 'uncompromisedness', 'undiscriminating', 'uninterpenetratingly']
>>>
```

- These very long words are often **hapaxes** (i.e., unique) and perhaps it would be better to find frequently occurring long words.

## 3.2 Fine-grained Selection of Words (contd.)

- At last we have managed to automatically identify the frequently-occurring content-bearing words of the text.

```
>>> fdist5 = FreqDist(text5)
>>> sorted(w for w in set(text5) if len(w) > 7 and fdist5[w] > 7)
['#14-19teens', '#talkcity_adults', '(((((((((', '.....', 'Question',
'actually', 'anything', 'computer', 'cute.-ass', 'everyone', 'football',
'innocent', 'listening', 'remember', 'seriously', 'something', 'together',
'tomorrow', 'watching']
>>>
```

- It is **a modest but important milestone**: a tiny piece of code, processing tens of thousands of words, produces some informative output.

## 3.3 Collocations and Bigrams

- A **collocation** is a sequence of words that occur together unusually often
- Thus *red wine* is a collocation, whereas *the wine* is not. A characteristic of collocations is that they **are resistant to substitution with words that have similar senses**; for example, *maroon wine* sounds definitely odd.
- To get a handle on collocations, we start off by extracting from a text a list of word pairs, also known as **bigrams**.

```
>>> list(bigrams(['more', 'is', 'said', 'than', 'done']))  
[('more', 'is'), ('is', 'said'), ('said', 'than'), ('than', 'done')]  
>>>
```

### 3.3 Collocations and Bigrams (contd.)

- Collocations are essentially just **frequent bigrams**, except that we want to pay more attention to the cases that **involve rare words**

```
>>> text4.collocations()
United States; fellow citizens; four years; years ago; Federal
Government; General Government; American people; Vice President; Old
World; Almighty God; Fellow citizens; Chief Magistrate; Chief Justice;
God bless; every citizen; Indian tribes; public debt; one another;
foreign nations; political parties
>>> text8.collocations()
would like; medium build; social drinker; quiet nights; non smoker;
long term; age open; Would like; easy going; financially secure; fun
times; similar interests; Age open; weekends away; poss rship; well
presented; never married; single mum; permanent relationship; slim
build
>>>
```

- Find bigrams that occur **more often than we would expect** based on the frequency of the individual words.
- The collocations that emerge **are very specific to the genre of the texts**. In order to find *red wine* as a collocation, we would need to process a much larger body of text.

## 3.4 Counting Other Things

- Counting words is useful, but we can count other things too. For example, we can look at [the distribution of word lengths](#) in a text

```
>>> [len(w) for w in text1] ❶  
[1, 4, 4, 2, 6, 8, 4, 1, 9, 1, 1, 8, 2, 1, 4, 11, 5, 2, 1, 7, 6, 1, 3, 4, 5, 2, ...]  
>>> fdist = FreqDist(len(w) for w in text1) ❷  
>>> print(fdist) ❸  
<FreqDist with 19 samples and 260819 outcomes>  
>>> fdist  
FreqDist({3: 50223, 1: 47933, 4: 42345, 2: 38513, 5: 26597, 6: 17111, 7: 14399,  
      8: 9966, 9: 6428, 10: 3528, ...})  
>>>
```



## 3.4 Counting Other Things (contd.)

### ➤ Functions Defined for NLTK's Frequency Distributions

Example	Description
<code>fdist = FreqDist(samples)</code>	create a frequency distribution containing the given samples
<code>fdist[sample] += 1</code>	increment the count for this sample
<code>fdist['monstrous']</code>	count of the number of times a given sample occurred
<code>fdist.freq('monstrous')</code>	frequency of a given sample
<code>fdist.N()</code>	total number of samples
<code>fdist.most_common(n)</code>	the n most common samples and their frequencies
<code>for sample in fdist:</code>	iterate over the samples
<code>fdist.max()</code>	sample with the greatest count
<code>fdist.tabulate()</code>	tabulate the frequency distribution
<code>fdist.plot()</code>	graphical plot of the frequency distribution
<code>fdist.plot(cumulative=True)</code>	cumulative plot of the frequency distribution
<code>fdist1  = fdist2</code>	update fdist1 with counts from fdist2
<code>fdist1 &lt; fdist2</code>	test if samples in fdist1 occur less frequently than in fdist2

## 4 Back to Python: Making Decisions and Taking Control



# 4.1 Conditionals

## ➤ Numerical Comparison Operators

Operator	Relationship
<	less than
<=	less than or equal to
==	equal to (note this is two "=" signs, not one)
!=	not equal to
>	greater than
>=	greater than or equal to

## ➤ Some Word Comparison Operators

Function	Meaning
<code>s.startswith(t)</code>	test if <code>s</code> starts with <code>t</code>
<code>s.endswith(t)</code>	test if <code>s</code> ends with <code>t</code>
<code>t in s</code>	test if <code>t</code> is a substring of <code>s</code>
<code>s.islower()</code>	test if <code>s</code> contains cased characters and all are lowercase
<code>s.isupper()</code>	test if <code>s</code> contains cased characters and all are uppercase
<code>s.isalpha()</code>	test if <code>s</code> is non-empty and all characters in <code>s</code> are alphabetic
<code>s.isalnum()</code>	test if <code>s</code> is non-empty and all characters in <code>s</code> are alphanumeric
<code>s.isdigit()</code>	test if <code>s</code> is non-empty and all characters in <code>s</code> are digits
<code>s.istitle()</code>	test if <code>s</code> contains cased characters and is titlecased (i.e. all words in <code>s</code> have initial capitals)

## 4.2 Operating on Every Element

```
>>> [len(w) for w in text1]
[1, 4, 4, 2, 6, 8, 4, 1, 9, 1, 1, 8, 2, 1, 4, 11, 5, 2, 1, 7, 6, 1, 3, 4, 5, 2, ...]
>>> [w.upper() for w in text1]
['[', 'MOBY', 'DICK', 'BY', 'HERMAN', 'MELVILLE', '1851', ']', 'ETYMOLOGY', '.', ...]
>>>
```

```
>>> len(text1)
260819
>>> len(set(text1))
19317
>>> len(set(word.lower() for word in text1))
17231
>>>
```

```
>>> len(set(word.lower() for word in text1 if word.isalpha()))
16948
>>>
```

## 4.3 Nested Code Blocks

```
>>> word = 'cat'
>>> if len(word) < 5:
...     print('word length is less than 5')
...     ❶
word length is less than 5
>>>
```

```
>>> if len(word) >= 5:
...     print('word length is greater than or equal to 5')
...
>>>
```

```
>>> for word in ['Call', 'me', 'Ishmael', '.']:
...     print(word)
...
Call
me
Ishmael
.
>>>
```

## 4.4 Looping with Conditions

```
>>> sent1 = ['Call', 'me', 'Ishmael', '.']
>>> for xyzzzy in sent1:
...     if xyzzzy.endswith('l'):
...         print(xyzzzy)
...
Call
Ishmael
>>>
```

```
>>> for token in sent1:
...     if token.islower():
...         print(token, 'is a lowercase word')
...     elif token.istitle():
...         print(token, 'is a titlecase word')
...     else:
...         print(token, 'is punctuation')
...
Call is a titlecase word
me is a lowercase word
Ishmael is a titlecase word
. is punctuation
>>>
```

```
>>> tricky = sorted(w for w in set(text2) if 'cie' in w or 'cei' in w)
>>> for word in tricky:
...     print(word, end=' ')
ancient ceiling conceit conceited conceive conscience
conscientious conscientiously deceitful deceive ...
>>>
```

# 5 Automatic Natural Language Understanding

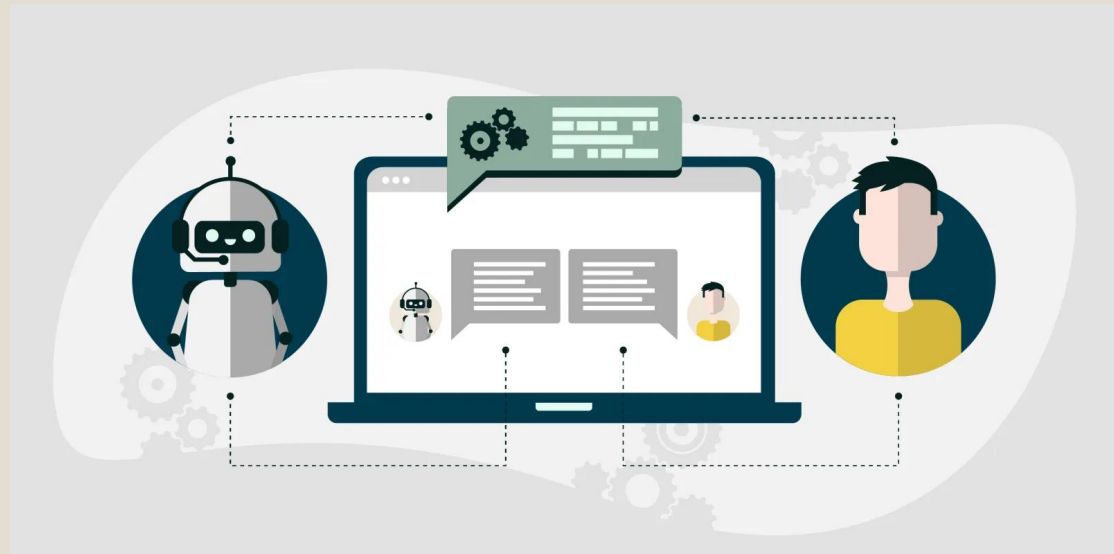
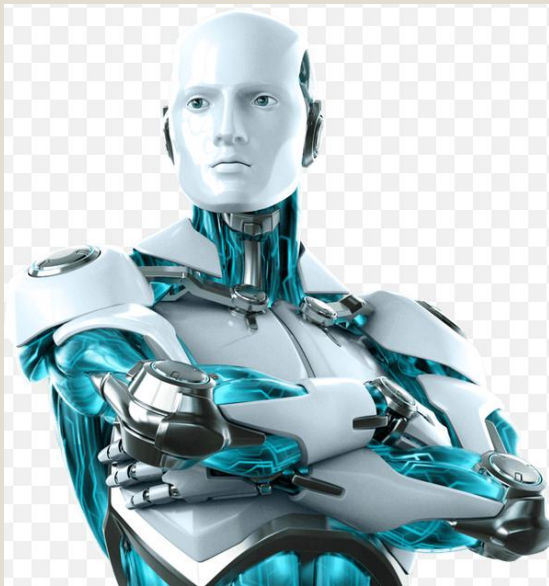
## 5 Automatic Natural Language Understanding

- Search engines have been crucial to the growth and popularity of the Web, but have some shortcomings. It takes skill, knowledge, and some luck, to extract answers to such questions as:
  - *What tourist sites can I visit between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh on a limited budget?*
  - *What do experts say about digital SLR cameras?*
  - *What predictions about the steel market were made by credible commentators in the past week?*
- Getting a computer to answer them automatically **involves a range of language processing tasks**, including information extraction, inference, and summarization, and would need to be carried out **on a scale and with a level of robustness** that is still beyond our current capabilities.



## 5 Automatic Natural Language Understanding

- On a more philosophical level, a long-standing challenge within artificial intelligence has been to build intelligent machines, and a major part of intelligent behaviour is **understanding language**.



- As NLP technologies become more mature, and robust methods for **analyzing unrestricted text** become more widespread, the prospect of natural language understanding has re-emerged as a plausible goal.



# 5.1 Word Sense Disambiguation

➤ In **word sense disambiguation** we want to work out which sense of a word was intended **in a given context**. Consider the ambiguous words *serve* and *dish*:

a. ***serve***: *help with food or drink; hold an office; put ball into play*

b. ***dish***: *plate; course of a meal; communications device*

*he served the dish*

他端上了这道菜（很自然想到的场景和画面）

他在摔盘子（网球运动员在球场边瓷茶具，可能在发火，三个词同时包含运动和瓷器这两个不同的主题，一般不太可能）

We automatically disambiguate words using **context**, exploiting the simple fact that **nearby words have closely related meanings**.

## 5.1 Word Sense Disambiguation (contd.)

➤ The meaning of the italicized word helps us interpret the meaning of *by*

- a. The lost children were found by *the searchers* (agentive)
- b. The lost children were found by *the mountain* (locative)
- c. The lost children were found by *the afternoon* (temporal)

We automatically disambiguate words using **context**, exploiting the simple fact that **nearby words have closely related meanings**.

## 5.2 Pronoun Resolution

- A deeper kind of language understanding is to work out "who did what to whom" — i.e., to detect the **subjects and objects of verbs**.
- Try to determine what was sold, caught, and found (one case is ambiguous) :
  - a. The thieves stole the paintings. They were subsequently *sold*.
  - b. The thieves stole the paintings. They were subsequently *caught*.
  - c. The thieves stole the paintings. They were subsequently *found*.
- Answering this question involves finding the **antecedent** of the pronoun they, either thieves or paintings. Computational techniques for tackling this problem include **anaphora resolution** — identifying what a pronoun or noun phrase refers to — and **semantic role labeling** — identifying **how a noun phrase relates to the verb** (as agent, patient, instrument, and so on).

To be continued