## Introduction

This component is implemented as a part of the OpenNLP similarity component for easy integration with search engines written in Java, especially those that are Lucene/SOLR based. Aside from taxonomy learning, the similarity component performs text relevance assessment, accepting two portions of the text (phrases, sentences, paragraphs) and returning a similarity score. The similarity component can be used on top of the search to improve the relevance; it computes a similarity score between a question and all of the search results, computing a taxonomy match and syntactic generalization.

The Apache OpenNLP library is a machine learning-based toolkit for the processing of natural language text. It supports the most common NLP tasks, such as tokenization, sentence segmentation, part-of-speech tagging, named entity extraction, chunking, parsing, and coreference resolution. These tasks are usually required to build more advanced text processing services. OpenNLP also includes maximum entropy and perceptron-based machine learning. The similarity component is an extension of OpenNLP that is intended for search and machine learning engineers to allow easy integration into Java-based production environments to perform tasks that are involved in testing the relevance of the responses.

Additionally, this component is useful for web mining images, videos, forums, blogs, and other media that have textual descriptions. Applications such as content generation and filtering meaningless speech recognition results are included in the sample applications of this component. Relevance assessment is based on machine learning of syntactic parse trees (constituency trees). The similarity score is calculated as the size of all of the maximal common sub-trees for sentences from a pair of texts.

The objective of the similarity component is to give an applications engineer a tool for determining text relevance that can be used as a black box. As a result, there is no need to understand computational linguistics or machine learning.

The code is available at <https://svn.apache.org/repos/asf/incubator/opennlp> and also at <https://code.google.com/p/relevance-based-on-parse-trees>. For a quick start, a user needs to download the latest opennlp-similarity…jar and look at a few tests in the source code showing the main functionality.

## Constructing Parse Thicket

The entry point to main functionality of parse thickets is the Matcher class in package opennlp.tools.parse\_thicket.matching. To build the parse thicket from text, use

function ParseThicket buildParseThicketFromTextWithRST(String para)

To compute similarity between two paragraphs of text, use

**public** List<List<ParseTreeChunk>> assessRelevance(String para1, String para2) {

// first build PTs for each text

ParseThicket pt1 = ptBuilder.buildParseThicket(para1);

ParseThicket pt2 = ptBuilder.buildParseThicket(para2);

// then build phrases and rst arcs

List<List<ParseTreeNode>> phrs1 = phraseBuilder.buildPT2ptPhrases(pt1);

List<List<ParseTreeNode>> phrs2 = phraseBuilder.buildPT2ptPhrases(pt2);

// group phrases by type

List<List<ParseTreeChunk>> sent1GrpLst = formGroupedPhrasesFromChunksForPara(phrs1),

sent2GrpLst = formGroupedPhrasesFromChunksForPara(phrs2);

List<List<ParseTreeChunk>> res =

phraseMatcher .matchTwoSentencesGroupedChunksDeterministic(sent1GrpLst, sent2GrpLst);

**return** res;

}

The construction of parse thicket from text occurs in a singleton class ParseCorefsBuilder which does parsing and coreference resolution via Stanford NLP and then adds Speech Act arcs using the package opennlp.tools.parse\_thicket.communicative\_actions. The following code snippets shows the data staructures used to form the additional arcs to the ones obtained for anaphore:

**private** List<WordWordInterSentenceRelationArc> buildCAarcs(

List<List<ParseTreeNode>> nodesThicket) {

List<WordWordInterSentenceRelationArc> arcs = **new** ArrayList<WordWordInterSentenceRelationArc>();

**for**(**int** sentI=0; sentI<nodesThicket.size(); sentI++){

**for**(**int** sentJ=sentI+1; sentJ<nodesThicket.size(); sentJ++){

List<ParseTreeNode> sentenceI = nodesThicket.get(sentI),

sentenceJ = nodesThicket.get(sentJ);

Pair<String, Integer[]> caI = caFinder.findCAInSentence(sentenceI);

Pair<String, Integer[]> caJ = caFinder.findCAInSentence(sentenceJ);

**int** indexCA1 = caFinder.findCAIndexInSentence(sentenceI);

**int** indexCA2 = caFinder.findCAIndexInSentence(sentenceJ);

**if** (caI==**null** || caJ==**null**)

**continue**;

Pair<String, Integer[]> caGen = caFinder.generalize(caI, caJ).get(0);

ArcType arcType = **new** ArcType("ca",

caGen.getFirst().toString()+printNumArray(caGen.getSecond()), 0, 0);

WordWordInterSentenceRelationArc arc =

**new** WordWordInterSentenceRelationArc(**new** Pair<Integer, Integer>(sentI,indexCA1),

**new** Pair<Integer, Integer>(sentJ,indexCA2),

caI.getFirst(), caJ.getFirst(), arcType);

arcs.add(arc);

}

}

**return** arcs;

}

The reader is advised to consult tests which show the results of generalization of two paragraphs of text at PairwiseMatcherTest and PT2ThicketPhraseBuilderTest to observe the difference between the pair-wise sentence generalization without use of PT, and PT-generalization respectively.

## Running PT-supported search

To start with this component, please refer to SearchResultsProcessorTest.java in package opennlp.tools.similarity.apps to observe pairwise sentence match for passage re-ranking

public void testSearchOrder() runs web search using Bing API and improves search relevance.

Look at the code of public List<HitBase> runSearch(String query)

and then at BingResponse calculateMatchScoreResortHits(BingResponse resp, String searchQuery)

which gets search results from Bing and re-ranks them based on computed similarity score.

The main entry to Similarity component is

SentencePairMatchResult matchRes = sm.assessRelevance(snapshot, searchQuery);

where we pass the search query and the snapshot and obtain the similarity assessment structure which includes the similarity score.

To run this test you need to obtain search API key from Bing at http://datamarket.azure.com/and specify it in BingQueryRunner inAPP\_ID.

To proceed to PT-supported search, the reader can consult MultiSentenceSearchResultsProcessorTest.

The algorithm for search results re-ranking is as follows:

List<HitBase> calculateMatchScoreResortHits(List<HitBase> hits,

String searchQuery) {

List<HitBase> newHitList = **new** ArrayList<HitBase>();

**int** count = 0;

**for** (HitBase hit : hits) { // get a webpage and a snippet for url

String[] pageSentsAndSnippet = formTextForReRankingFromHit(hit);

Double score = 0.0;

List<List<ParseTreeChunk>> match = **null**;

match = matcher.assessRelevanceCache(pageSentsAndSnippet[0] ,

searchQuery);

score = parseTreeChunkListScorer.getParseTreeChunkListScore(match);

**if** (score < 2){ // attempt to match with snippet, if failed with original text

match = matcher.assessRelevanceCache(pageSentsAndSnippet[1],

searchQuery);

score = parseTreeChunkListScorer.getParseTreeChunkListScore(match);

}

hit.setGenerWithQueryScore(score);

newHitList.add(hit);

}

Collections.*sort*(newHitList, **new** HitBaseComparable());

**return** newHitList;

}

## Hierarchy of generalization operation

Text generalizer **Matcher.java**

Matcher

Mentions & same entity generalizer

Paragraph generalizer

**Matcher.java**

Communicative actions generalizer

Pairs of communicative actions generalizer

Mentions & same entity generalizer

Rhetoric structure generalizer

Sentence generalizer

**ParseTreeMatcher.java**

Noun phrase generalizer

Phrase group generalizer

**PhraseGroupGneralizer.java**

Verb phrase generalizer

Phrase generalizer

**PhraseGeneralizer.java**

Verb generalizer

Word generalizer

**PartseTreeNodeGeneralizer.j**ava

NER generalizer

Part-of-speech generalizer

**PartOfSpeechGeneralizer.jav**a

Lemma generalizer

**LemmaGeneralizer.jav**a

Fig…: Hieracrhy of generalizations: from paragraphs to word features

Hierarchy of syntactic generalization (SG) is shown in Fig. 8. On the left, the levels of SG are enumerated from top to bottom. On the top, the level of an arbitrary text including multiple paragraphs is shown. Since we do not develop a model for the whole text, based on parse trees of sentences, text (document) similarity is implemented as a pair-wise SG of its paragraphs. The lowest level of hierarchy is SG of lemmas (words) , according to Section 2.5, is shown on the bottom. On the right, additional SG components are depicted, which rely on additional information to generalize specific features, from discourse structures on the top-right to the features of individual words on the right-bottom.