The ABC of computational Text Analysis

10: NLP with Python

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Recap last Lecture

- introduce Python 🐍
    - *editor*
    - *syntax*

Outline

- NLP, getting serious! 😇

- interactive coding
  interrupt, ask, complement

- mini-project
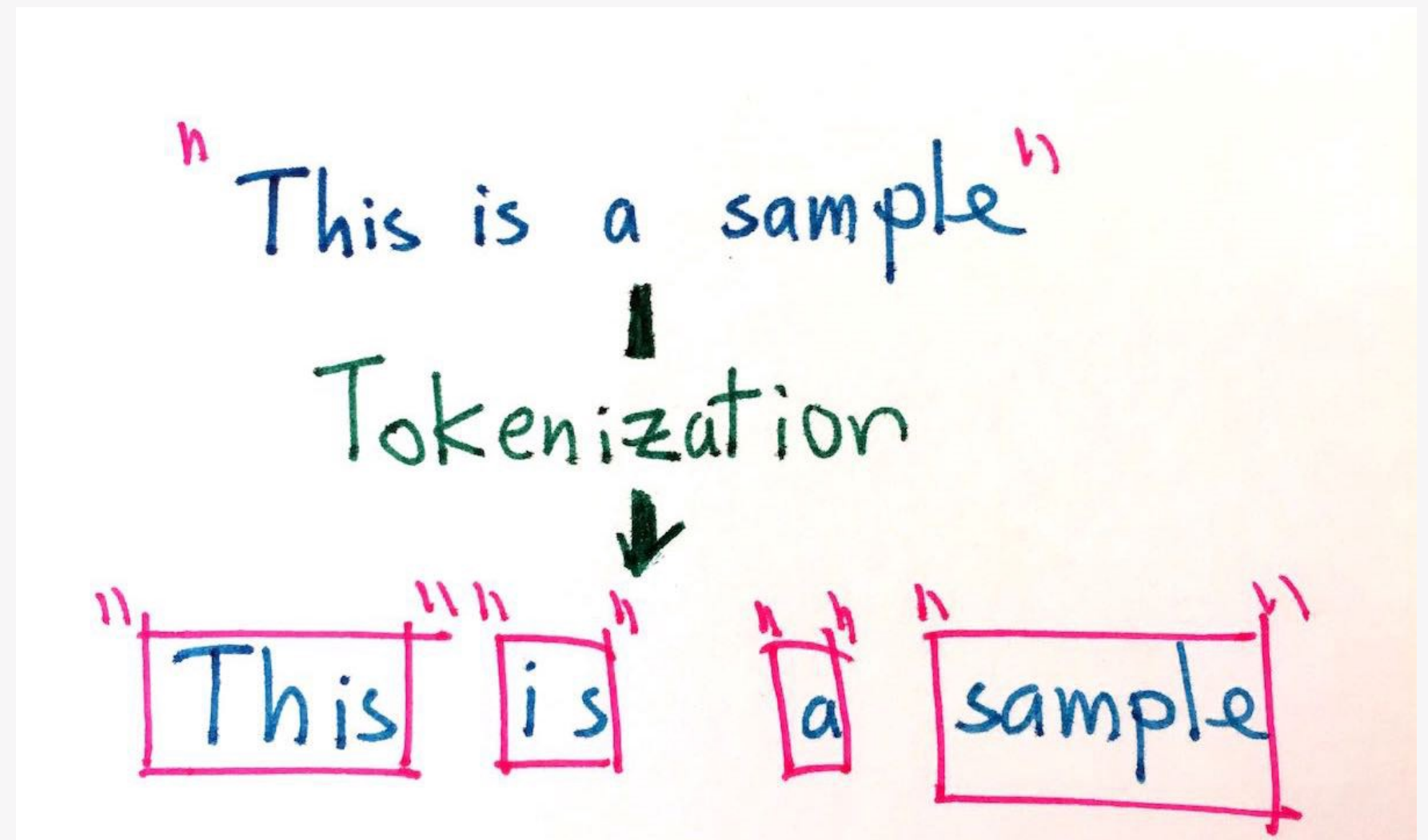
Primer on NLP

What is a Word?

- word ~ segments between whitespace

- yet, there are ...
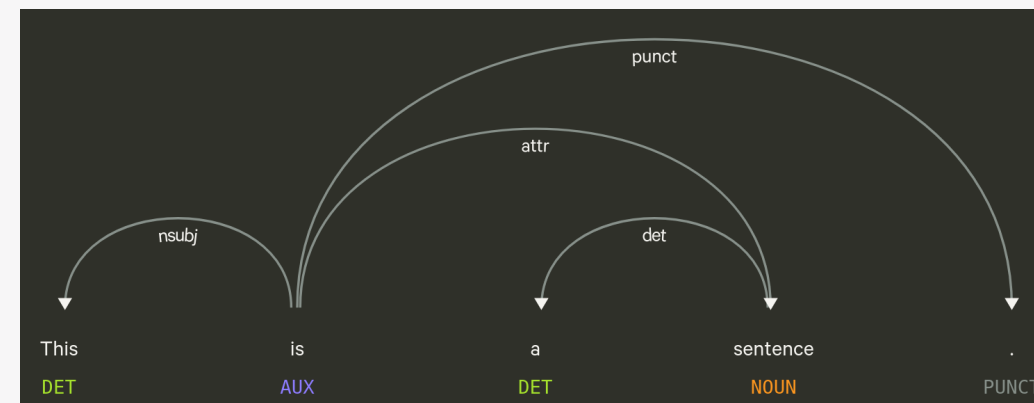 *contractions:* `U.S.`, `don't`
  collocations: `New York`

Token

- token ~ computational unit
  representation of words

- lemma ~ base form of a word
  texts → text
  goes → go

- stop words ~ functional words
  lack meaning
  the, a, on, and

NLP Processing Steps

1. tokenizing

   segmenting text into words, punctuations etc.

2. tagging part-of-speech (POS)

   assigning word types (e.g. verb, noun)

3. parsing

How does the computer "know?"

- using language specific models

- supervised machine learning

- trained on human-annotated data

Representation of Corpus

document term matrix

- Doc 1: `NLP is great. I love NLP.`

- Doc 2: `I understand NLP.`

- Doc 3: `NLP, NLP, NLP.`

NLP	I	is	*term*
2	1	1	...
1	1	0	...
3	0	0	...
Doc ID ...	...	...	*term frequency*

Mini-Project

- multiple documents

- write a script

- compare ...
  historically
  across actors

- relative frequency 👍, absolute frequency 👎

Optional Seminar Paper

- writing a seminar paper (4 ECTS)

- get in touch to discuss your idea

Outlook NLP

- explore corpus differences by political party

- term frequency over time

- data
  party programmes
  1 August speeches by Swiss Federal Councillors

Do NLP

Check out the Python code

Resources

tutorials on spaCy

- official spaCy 101

- official online course spaCy

- Hitchhiker's Guide to NLP in spaCy