The ABC of Computational Text Analysis

SUPPLEMENTS

Alex Flückiger

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences University of Lucerne

April 14, 2023

Purpose

Here I present some stuff that we did not cover in class.

Tasks

- find various ngrams with wildcards
- check gender specific language

what follows she/he or her/his

Forms of Data

content data

```
clean, plain text data preferable as . txt
```

metadata ~ information about the actual data

```
publishing date, authors, source, version preferable as csv
```

Key Word in Context (KWIC)

```
1 ptx -f -w 50 */*.txt > ptx.txt
2 egrep -i "[a-z] word" ptx.txt
```

Select Column in Dataset

1 cut -d\t -f1 # extract the 2nd column from a tab-separated file

Extract texts from tsv:

• http://www.theunixschool.com/2012/05/shell-read-text-or-csv-file-and-extract.html

Variables

1 echo "Starting program at \$(date)"

Better Tokenization

tokenization ~ splitting into words

```
1 # new, improved approach
2 cat text.txt | tr -sc "[a-zäöüA-ZÄÖÜ0-9-]" "\n"
3
4 # old approach
5 cat text.txt | tr ' ' '\n'
```

Batch Processing

```
1 for file in *.txt; do  # loop over all text files
2 cat "$file" | pipe commands > "proc_$file"
3 done
```

Batch Renaming

```
1 rename " " " *.txt # replace spaces with underscores
2 # since there are different versions, if this doesn't work try:
3 # rename 's/ /_/' *.txt
1 i=1
2 for file in *.txt; do # loop over all text files
 mv -- "$file" "text_$i.txt" # rename each file with a sequentia
  i=$((i+1))
 done
```

Imperfect Data: A Tail of Bias

social bias

view from somewhere, stereotypes

data/archive holes

lost, uncollected

corpus curation

supposition that key-word indicates topic

noise in data

OCR errors, inconsistent spelling, non-content

think about the data and mitigate issues

Outlook: NLP is on Fire

- supervised machine learning
- you can do basically anything with modern NLP

train on human-annotated data

effort, insights and quality may differ

for better or worse

Mind your Data

Who has a voice in your data?

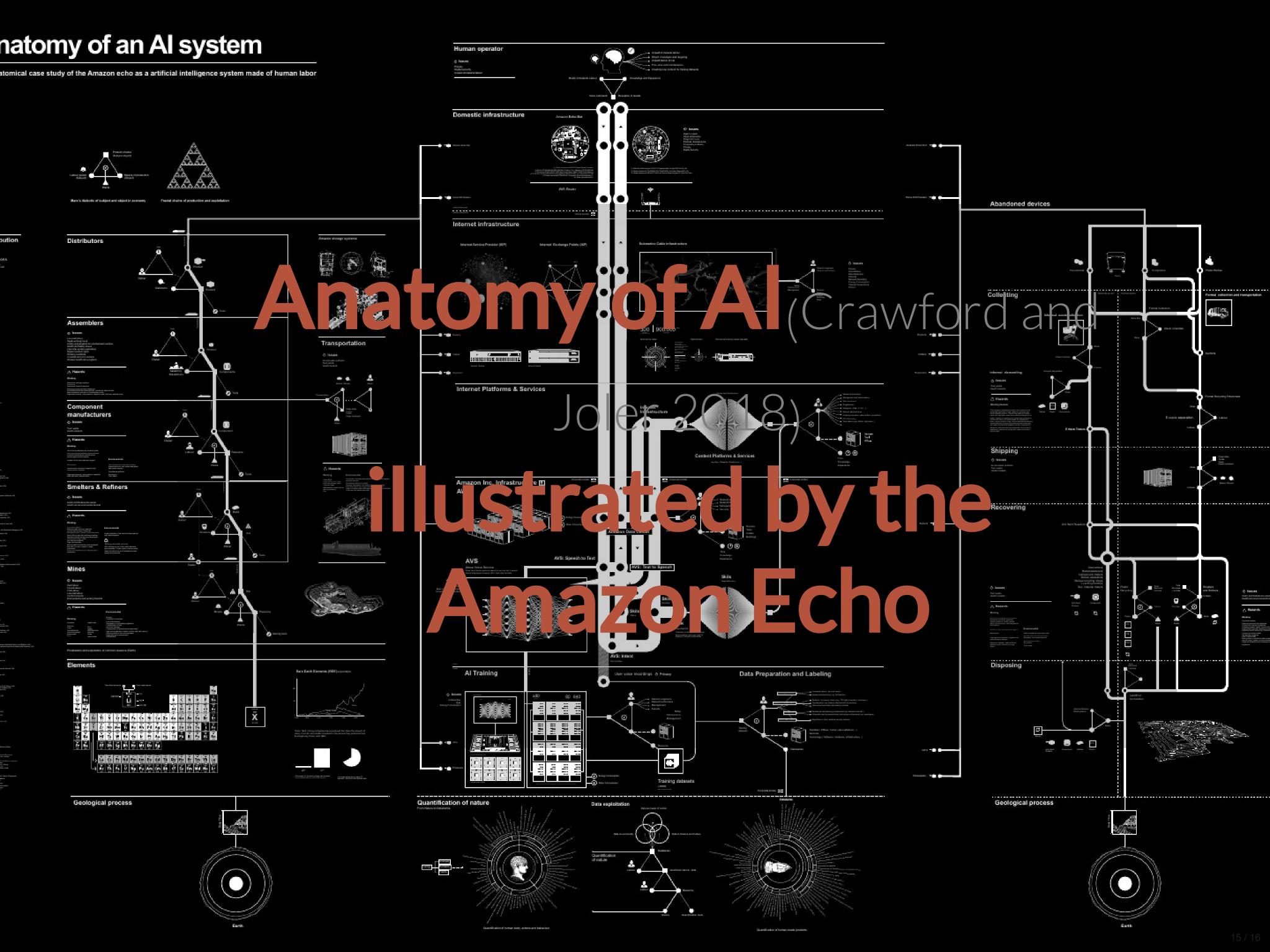
social context

bigger is not necessarily better

more vs. more diverse data

clean your data thoroughly

noisy vs. clean data



Grid Example

text processing
text processing
COL 2
existing resources
creating new resources

Crawford, Kate, and Vladan Joler. 2018. "Anatomy of an Al System." Anatomy of an Al System. 2018. http://www.anatomyof.ai.