

Homework 3 Report

Rui Wang (ruiw1)

1. System Design

- 1.1 Class Model
- 1.2 Type System
- 1.3 Annotator

2. Error Analysis

2.1 Error Type

2.1.1 Vocabulary Mismatch

This error mainly caused by lack or inappropriate stemming. For instance, in most context, feelings and feeling have the same meaning. However, without stemming, VSM will not consider this term's weight. Stemming could find the connection between Noun and Adjective, Singular and Plural, etc. in different vectors.

Here is some example in sample corpus:

a) Query: In which year did a purchase of Alaska happen?

Document: Alaska was purchased from Russia in year 1867.

In this query, "purchase" is a noun, but in document, we get "purchased". So Stemming can eliminate this mismatch error.

b) Query: What year did Wilt Chamberlain score 100 points?

Document: On March 2, 1962, Wilt Chamberlain scored a record 100 points in a game against the New York Knicks.

Without stemming, "score" and "scored" will mismatch.

Another possible reason may result in mismatch problem is about tokenization. Simple tokenization on white spaces cannot handle other symbols, e.g. comma, question mark. Stemming will fail on cases like "China's ". Stemming considers this is a Plural and return "China' ". Similar problem happens like "happen? ", "Pompeii; ". So more rules should be applied to tokenize.

2.1.2 Semantic Error

Due to variety of natural language, one concept can be expressed by different ways and different phrases and words. For example, in query "Who was the

first person to run the mile in less than four minutes” uses “four minutes” to describe speed of this person. However, in relevant document, “four-minute” is used as a effective expression, but result in a query mismatch.

2.1.3 Length biases

Cosine Similarity can measure two vector’s similarity, but the drawback of this method is it has length biases.

2.2 Solutions

2.2.1 Tokenization

I write a new rule based tokenization algorithm, in order to remove unnecessary symbols. If a token is end with “?”, “;”, “’”, regular expression I define will remove these symbols.

2.2.2 Stemming

To achieve stemming, I use Stanford Lemmatizer. It effectively transforms different forms of a word into its origin. The stemming package of Lucene is another choice.

2.2.3 Synonym

An approach to find synonym could be used to reduce semantic error. However, I didn’t implement synonym algorithm because it is too complicated, and it is context dependent, which increases problem complexity.

3. Performance Improvement