Topic classification in Portuguese news articles

Andr F. Santos
CRACS & INESC-Porto LA
Faculty of Sciences, University of Porto
Porto, Portugal
afs@inesctec.pt

Abstract—**This document is a model and instructions for LATEX. This and the IEEEtran.cls file define the components of your paper [title, text, heads, etc.]. *CRITICAL: Do Not Use Symbols, Special Characters, Footnotes, or Math in Paper Title or Abstract.**

Index Terms—**topic classification, machine learning, text mining**

I. INTRODUCTION

The last decades have witnessed a fast increase on the rate of publication of digital text documents. Traditional document types, such as news articles, scientific papers or books are now published online together with new formats, such as blog posts or tweets, each having thousands or millions of new documents published each day.

And it was not only the publication step which has moved to the digital world; in fact, most often nowadays the whole document pipeline happens digitally, with virtual tools available for preparing, writing, styling, publishing and sharing.

Having the entire workflow happening within the digital world presents some opportunities when compared to the traditional process. In particular, due to todays processing power, tasks related to the manipulation of the information contained within these documents (searching, compiling, annotating, sharing, . . .) can now be performed automatically and to a large amount of articles.

In addition to the document content (for example, in a news article, the *title*, *lead* and *body*), its metadata is also important: author(s), date of publication, source, topic, mentioned entities and their relations, etc. Some of this metadata might be filled in and stored along with the document (e.g. *author* and *date of publication*); other is usually extracted from the document content (e.g. mentioned entities).

Online news articles first appeared as reprints from traditional newspapers; nowadays, however, they represent now the primary source of news for some segments of the population, both in developed and developing countries (whether consumed directly in the newspaper website, or indirectly (e.g. through a social media application or a feed catcher).

Unofficially know as *the fourth branch of government*, the press plays a vital role within our society, keeping us informed regarding the current state of affairs (at a local and global

scale) and acting as a watchdog for the other three powers (legislative, executive and judicial). The (lack of) freedom of press and access to the news in a given country is even often considered an indicator of a lack of democracy[**?**].

As such, improving the ways citizens can access the information (view it, query it and search it) contained in news articles has the potential to contribute for a more informed society and, ultimately, a better society.

An example of a feature which improves information access is the categorization of news articles by the topic (or topics) of its content. Having such a categorization may influence the way the information is stored, organized, displayed and queried.

The simplest way of achieving this categorization is to have the author of the article to manually introduce it (e.g. the journalist typing it on the news article authoring framework); however, this solution presents some challenges:

- it increases the amount of work the author has to do
- the author might not be sure which categories are available
- the author might not be sure which category is the best (e.g. *Economy* vs *Finance*
- it might be impractical if the goal is to categorize an existing (large) corpus

Thus, an automated way of categorizing news articles could solve some of these problems and decrease the burden of this task.

The challenges of document classification have been well studied within the machine learning research field of study. Given a corpus of already classified documents, several algorithms might be applied to train a classifier capable of determining the category of additional articles.

II. METHODS

A. Classification algorithms

1) *Decision tree:*
2) *k-nearest neighbors:*
3) *Naive Bayes:*
4) *Neural network:*
5) *Support vector machine:*

B. Most informative terms

III. RESULTS

A. Evaluation

B. Limited lexicon

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Maintaining the Integrity of the Specifications

The IEEEtran class file is used to format your paper and style the text. All margins, column widths, line spaces, and text fonts are prescribed; please do not alter them. You may note peculiarities. For example, the head margin measures proportionately more than is customary. This measurement and others are deliberate, using specifications that anticipate your paper as one part of the entire proceedings, and not as an independent document. Please do not revise any of the current designations.

V. PREPARE YOUR PAPER BEFORE STYLING

Before you begin to format your paper, first write and save the content as a separate text file. Complete all content and organizational editing before formatting. Please note sections V-A–V-E below for more information on proofreading, spelling and grammar.

Keep your text and graphic files separate until after the text has been formatted and styled. Do not number text heads—LaTeX will do that for you.

A. Abbreviations and Acronyms

Define abbreviations and acronyms the first time they are used in the text, even after they have been defined in the abstract. Abbreviations such as IEEE, SI, MKS, CGS, ac, dc, and rms do not have to be defined. Do not use abbreviations in the title or heads unless they are unavoidable.

B. Units

- Use either SI (MKS) or CGS as primary units. (SI units are encouraged.) English units may be used as secondary units (in parentheses). An exception would be the use of English units as identifiers in trade, such as "3.5-inch disk drive".
- Avoid combining SI and CGS units, such as current in amperes and magnetic field in oersteds. This often leads to confusion because equations do not balance dimensionally. If you must use mixed units, clearly state the units for each quantity that you use in an equation.
- Do not mix complete spellings and abbreviations of units: "Wb/m^2" or "webers per square meter", not "webers/m^2". Spell out units when they appear in text: ". . . a few henries", not ". . . a few H".
- Use a zero before decimal points: "0.25", not ".25". Use "cm^3", not "cc".)

C. Equations

Number equations consecutively. To make your equations more compact, you may use the solidus (/), the exp function, or appropriate exponents. Italicize Roman symbols for quantities and variables, but not Greek symbols. Use a long dash rather than a hyphen for a minus sign. Punctuate equations with commas or periods when they are part of a sentence, as in:

$$a + b = \gamma \tag{1}$$

Be sure that the symbols in your equation have been defined before or immediately following the equation. Use "(1)", not "Eq. (1)" or "equation (1)", except at the beginning of a sentence: "Equation (1) is . . ."

D. LaTeX-Specific Advice

Please use "soft" (e.g., `\eqref{Eq}`) cross references instead of "hard" references (e.g., `(1)`). That will make it possible to combine sections, add equations, or change the order of figures or citations without having to go through the file line by line.

Please don't use the `{eqnarray}` equation environment. Use `{align}` or `{IEEEeqnarray}` instead. The `{eqnarray}` environment leaves unsightly spaces around relation symbols.

Please note that the `{subequations}` environment in LaTeX will increment the main equation counter even when there are no equation numbers displayed. If you forget that, you might write an article in which the equation numbers skip from (17) to (20), causing the copy editors to wonder if you've discovered a new method of counting.

BIBTEX does not work by magic. It doesn't get the bibliographic data from thin air but from .bib files. If you use BIBTEX to produce a bibliography you must send the .bib files.

LaTeX can't read your mind. If you assign the same label to a subsubsection and a table, you might find that Table I has been cross referenced as Table IV-B3.

LaTeX does not have precognitive abilities. If you put a `\label` command before the command that updates the counter it's supposed to be using, the label will pick up the last counter to be cross referenced instead. In particular, a `\label` command should not go before the caption of a figure or a table.

Do not use `\nonumber` inside the `{array}` environment. It will not stop equation numbers inside `{array}` (there won't be any anyway) and it might stop a wanted equation number in the surrounding equation.

E. Some Common Mistakes

- The word "data" is plural, not singular.
- The subscript for the permeability of vacuum μ_0, and other common scientific constants, is zero with subscript formatting, not a lowercase letter "o".
- In American English, commas, semicolons, periods, question and exclamation marks are located within quotation marks only when a complete thought or name is cited,

such as a title or full quotation. When quotation marks are used, instead of a bold or italic typeface, to highlight a word or phrase, punctuation should appear outside of the quotation marks. A parenthetical phrase or statement at the end of a sentence is punctuated outside of the closing parenthesis (like this). (A parenthetical sentence is punctuated within the parentheses.)

- A graph within a graph is an "inset", not an "insert". The word alternatively is preferred to the word "alternately" (unless you really mean something that alternates).
- Do not use the word "essentially" to mean "approximately" or "effectively".
- In your paper title, if the words "that uses" can accurately replace the word "using", capitalize the "u"; if not, keep using lower-cased.
- Be aware of the different meanings of the homophones "affect" and "effect", "complement" and "compliment", "discreet" and "discrete", "principal" and "principle".
- Do not confuse "imply" and "infer".
- The prefix "non" is not a word; it should be joined to the word it modifies, usually without a hyphen.
- There is no period after the "et" in the Latin abbreviation "et al.".
- The abbreviation "i.e." means "that is", and the abbreviation "e.g." means "for example".

F. Authors and Affiliations

The class file is designed for, but not limited to, six authors. A minimum of one author is required for all conference articles. Author names should be listed starting from left to right and then moving down to the next line. This is the author sequence that will be used in future citations and by indexing services. Names should not be listed in columns nor group by affiliation. Please keep your affiliations as succinct as possible (for example, do not differentiate among departments of the same organization).

G. Identify the Headings

Headings, or heads, are organizational devices that guide the reader through your paper. There are two types: component heads and text heads.

Component heads identify the different components of your paper and are not topically subordinate to each other. Examples include Acknowledgments and References and, for these, the correct style to use is "Heading 5". Use "figure caption" for your Figure captions, and "table head" for your table title. Run-in heads, such as "Abstract", will require you to apply a style (in this case, italic) in addition to the style provided by the drop down menu to differentiate the head from the text.

Text heads organize the topics on a relational, hierarchical basis. For example, the paper title is the primary text head because all subsequent material relates and elaborates on this one topic. If there are two or more sub-topics, the next level head (uppercase Roman numerals) should be used and, conversely, if there are not at least two sub-topics, then no subheads should be introduced.

H. Figures and Tables

a) Positioning Figures and Tables: Place figures and tables at the top and bottom of columns. Avoid placing them in the middle of columns. Large figures and tables may span across both columns. Figure captions should be below the figures; table heads should appear above the tables. Insert figures and tables after they are cited in the text. Use the abbreviation "Fig. 1", even at the beginning of a sentence.

TABLE I
TABLE TYPE STYLES

Table Head	Table Column Head		
	Table column subhead	*Subhead*	*Subhead*
copy	More table copy[a]		

[a]Sample of a Table footnote.

Fig. 1. Example of a figure caption.

Figure Labels: Use 8 point Times New Roman for Figure labels. Use words rather than symbols or abbreviations when writing Figure axis labels to avoid confusing the reader. As an example, write the quantity "Magnetization", or "Magnetization, M", not just "M". If including units in the label, present them within parentheses. Do not label axes only with units. In the example, write "Magnetization (A/m)" or "Magnetization $\{A[m(1)]\}$", not just "A/m". Do not label axes with a ratio of quantities and units. For example, write "Temperature (K)", not "Temperature/K".

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The preferred spelling of the word "acknowledgment" in America is without an "e" after the "g". Avoid the stilted expression "one of us (R. B. G.) thanks ...". Instead, try "R. B. G. thanks...". Put sponsor acknowledgments in the unnumbered footnote on the first page.

REFERENCES

[1] Goode, L.: Social news, citizen journalism and democracy. New media & society 11(8), 1287–1305 (2009)