Bidirectional LSTM-CRF Models for Sequence Tagging

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Abstract

Named Entity Recognition (NER) is a problem in Natural Language Processing (NLP), which involves locating and classifying names (people, places, organizations, etc.) that appear in unstructured text. Many of the NLP applications that use this problem are dealing with use-cases such as machine translation, information retrieval, chatbots, etc. In a nutshell, for each training sentence, we would like to predict what "tag" each token will have.

In this paper the authors have proposed a variety of Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) based models for sequence tagging. These models include LSTM networks, bidirectional LSTM (BI-LSTM) networks, LSTM with a Conditional Random Field (CRF) layer (LSTM-CRF) and bidirectional LSTM with a CRF layer (BI-LSTM-CRF).

The tagging is achieved by applying a bidirectional LSTM CRF (denoted as BI-LSTM-CRF) model to **NLP benchmark sequence tagging data sets**. The **bidirectional LSTM** component enables the BILSTM-CRF model to efficiently use both past and future input features. And the **CRF layer** enables it to use sentence level tag information. The BI-LSTMCRF model can produce state of the art accuracy of 97.55% on POS, 94.46% on chunking and 90.10% on NER data sets. In addition, it is robust and has less dependency on word embedding as compared to previous observations.

The progress of the project and the source code can be tracked within this <u>git</u> <u>repository</u>.

Dataset details

The dataset used in this project is an annotated GMB(Groningen Meaning Bank) corpus for entity classification with enhanced and popular features by Natural Language Processing applied to the data set which is built specifically to train the classifier to predict named entities such as name, location, etc.

Tags

The tags used in datasets are in the form of "B-geo", "-org", "O", the **I-prefix** indicates that the tag is inside a chunk (i.e. a noun group, a verb group etc.); the **O-prefix** indicates that the token belongs to no chunk; the **B-prefix** indicates that the tag is at the beginning of a chunk that follows another chunk without O tags between the two chunks

Statistics

The dataset has 1354149 number of words and the target column is titled "tag".

Tagged entities

The number of tagged entities are as detailed below:

'O': 1146068', geo-nam': 58388, 'org-nam': 48034, 'per-nam': 23790, 'gpe-nam': 20680, 'tim-dat': 12786, 'tim-dow': 11404, 'per-tit': 9800, 'per-fam': 8152, 'tim-yoc': 5290, 'tim-moy': 4262, 'per-giv': 2413, 'tim-clo': 891, 'art-nam': 866, 'eve-nam': 602, 'nat-nam': 300, 'tim-nam': 146, 'eve-ord': 107, 'per-ini': 60, 'org-leg': 60, 'per-ord': 38, 'tim-dom': 10, 'per-mid': 1, 'art-add': 1

The entity tag used in this dataset is as follows:

Tag	Meaning	Example
geo	Geography	Britain
org	Organization	IAEA

per	Person	Thomas	
gpe	Geopolitical entity	Indian	
tim	Time	Wednesday	
art	Artifact	Pentastar	
eve	Event	Armistice	
nat	Natural phenomenon	H5N1	

Train, test and validation sets

The following table shows the size of the sentences, tokens, and labels for training, validation and test sets respectively.

Table 1: Size of sentences, tokens, and labels for training, validation and test sets.

		POS	CoNLL2000	CoNLL2003
training	sentence #	39831	8936	14987
	token #	950011	211727	204567
validation	sentence #	1699	N/A	3466
	token #	40068	N/A	51578
test	sentences #	2415	2012	3684
	token #	56671	47377	46666
	label #	45	22	9

More details about the data can be found <u>here</u>.