

CS-410

Text Information Systems

Final Project

Text Miners

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Improving

EducationalWeb System

1. Introduction

The EducationalWeb System is the term given to the Web of Slides (WOS) created at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign by Sahiti Labhishetty, Bhavya, Kevin Pei, Assma Boughoula and Prof. Chengxiang Zhai. It aimed to link all the lecture slides of a course which would be easily navigable and searchable. Not only that, with Machine Learning, it is also able to provide a list of related slides which has some similarity to the current slide displayed. It is created as a Python Flask Web App with an interface which is similar to opening up a PowerPoint presentation. Navigation can be primarily done by clicking through the previous and next buttons in the interface as well as from the list of similar slides provided by the system. A separate system allows the search ability through which the navigation can be done as well.

This project consisted of adding a few features which would enhance the System so that it can be used in a more widespread manner. Keeping true to the vision which was to create a system which would interact with each of the slides in a way that the current internet interacts, the modifications are aimed that doing just that.

2. Background

The existing code consists of two major components:

- a. The related slides code which computes the similarity between slides using Deep Learning
<https://github.com/Bhaavya/mooc-web-of-slides>
- b. The structural part of the application which consists of the rest of the Python Flask Web App.
<https://github.com/CS410Fall2020/EducationalWeb>

Initially, we thought of incorporating both parts of the code into one and then including the modifications but due to the computationally heavy part of the Deep Learning component, we decided to exclude this part completely and focus on adding the new components to the Web App.

3. Code Explanation

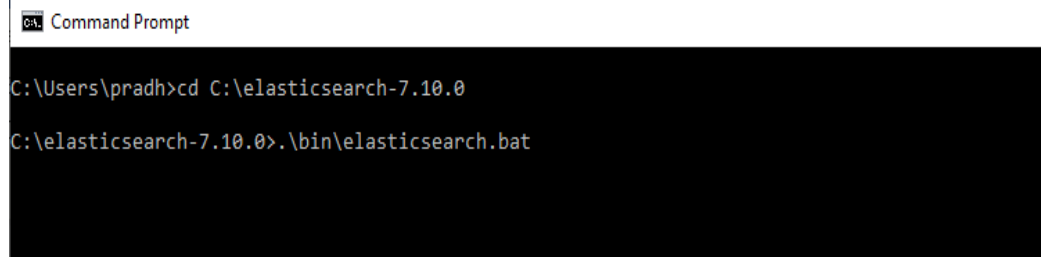
Before incorporating the modifications, installing the existing code from the repository was necessary. We have detailed the following steps taken for installing the code in our Windows Machines.

- a. Download the
Download the code from the github page (<https://github.com/CS410Fall2020/EducationalWeb>)
to a folder EducationalWeb in your local machine
- b. Elastic Search
Elastic Search was installed by downloading the zip file from the Elastic Search Website.
<https://artifacts.elastic.co/downloads/elasticsearch/elasticsearch-7.10.1-windows->

[x86_64.zip](#). Unzip the folder in a folder **ElasticSearch** and then run the following code in the command prompt after changing the directory to that location.

.\bin\elasticsearch.bat

This will start the elastic search in your local machine.

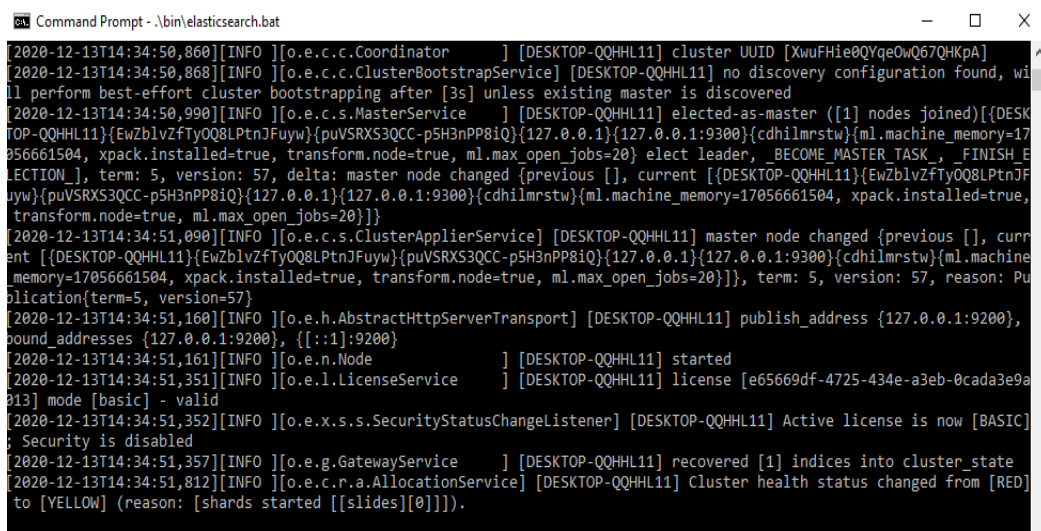


```
Command Prompt

C:\Users\pradh>cd C:\elasticsearch-7.10.0

C:\elasticsearch-7.10.0>.\bin\elasticsearch.bat
```

Fig 1



```
Command Prompt - .\bin\elasticsearch.bat

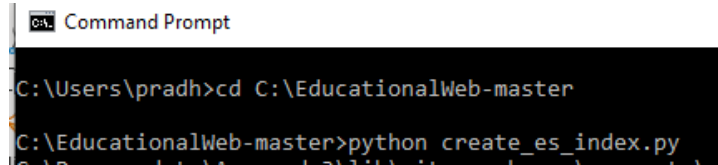
[2020-12-13T14:34:50,860][INFO ][o.e.c.c.Coordinator] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] cluster UUID [XwuFHie0QYqeOwQ67QHkpA]
[2020-12-13T14:34:50,868][INFO ][o.e.c.c.ClusterBootstrapService] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] no discovery configuration found, will
perform best-effort cluster bootstrapping after [3s] unless existing master is discovered
[2020-12-13T14:34:50,990][INFO ][o.e.c.s.MasterService] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] elected-as-master ([1] nodes joined){DESK
TOP-QQHHL11}{EwZblvZfTyQ08LPtnJFuyw}{puVSRXS3QCC-p5H3nPP8iQ}{127.0.0.1}{127.0.0.1:9300}{cdhilmrstw}{ml.machine_memory=17
956661504, xpack.installed=true, transform.node=true, ml.max_open_jobs=20} elect leader, _BECOME_MASTER_TASK_, _FINISH_E
LECTION_, term: 5, version: 57, delta: master node changed {previous [], current [{DESKTOP-QQHHL11}{EwZblvZfTyQ08LPtnJF
uyw}{puVSRXS3QCC-p5H3nPP8iQ}{127.0.0.1}{127.0.0.1:9300}{cdhilmrstw}{ml.machine_memory=17956661504, xpack.installed=true,
transform.node=true, ml.max_open_jobs=20}}}]
[2020-12-13T14:34:51,090][INFO ][o.e.c.s.ClusterApplierService] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] master node changed {previous [], curr
ent [{DESKTOP-QQHHL11}{EwZblvZfTyQ08LPtnJFuyw}{puVSRXS3QCC-p5H3nPP8iQ}{127.0.0.1}{127.0.0.1:9300}{cdhilmrstw}{ml.machine
memory=17956661504, xpack.installed=true, transform.node=true, ml.max_open_jobs=20}}]}, term: 5, version: 57, reason: Pu
blication{term=5, version=57}
[2020-12-13T14:34:51,160][INFO ][o.e.h.AbstractHttpServerTransport] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] publish_address {127.0.0.1:9200},
bound_addresses {127.0.0.1:9200}, {[::]:9200}
[2020-12-13T14:34:51,161][INFO ][o.e.n.Node] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] started
[2020-12-13T14:34:51,351][INFO ][o.e.l.LicenseService] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] license [e65669df-4725-434e-a3eb-0cada3e9a
913] mode [basic] - valid
[2020-12-13T14:34:51,352][INFO ][o.e.x.s.s.SecurityStatusChangeListener] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] Active license is now [BASIC]
; Security is disabled
[2020-12-13T14:34:51,357][INFO ][o.e.g.GatewayService] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] recovered [1] indices into cluster_state
[2020-12-13T14:34:51,812][INFO ][o.e.c.r.a.AllocationService] [DESKTOP-QQHHL11] Cluster health status changed from [RED]
to [YELLOW] (reason: [shards started [[slides][0]])].
```

Fig 2

- c. Create index (need to be done only once)

Run the following script after navigating to the EducationalWeb folder in the command prompt

python create_es_index.py

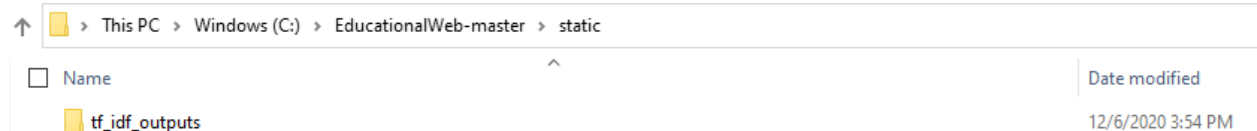


```
C:\Users\pradh>cd C:\EducationalWeb-master
C:\EducationalWeb-master>python create_es_index.py
```

Fig 3

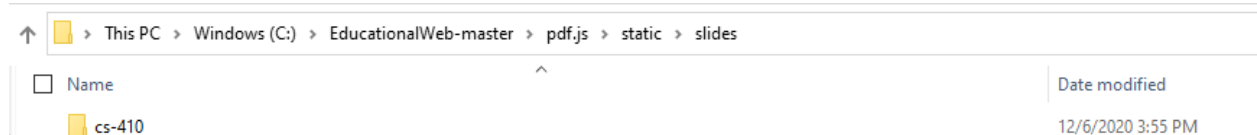
- d. Download tfidf_outputs.zip folder

Download it from the following link, unzip it and save it in EducationalWeb/static
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19ia7CqaHnW3KKxASbnfs2clqRlgdTFiw/view?usp=sharing>



- e. **Download the lecture slides**

Use the following link to download the lecture slides and then unzip it to EducationalWeb/pdf.js/static/slides/
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xiw9oSavOOeJsy_SliXPf4agsuyuu6/view?usp=sharing



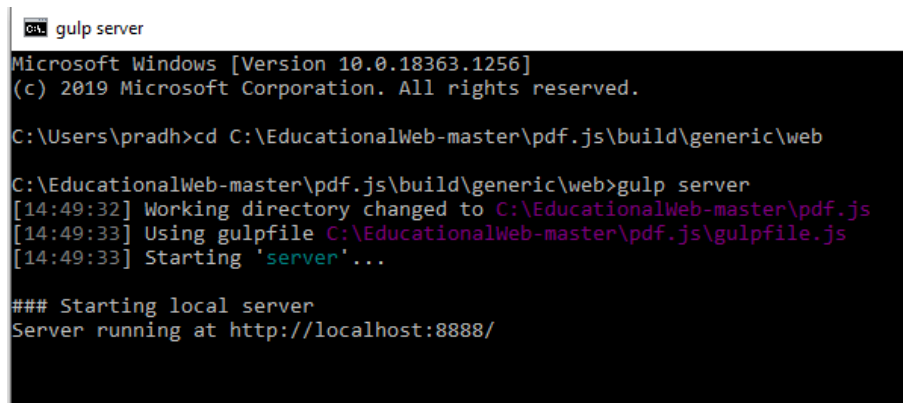
- f. **Install gulp server**

Follow the steps in this page (<https://gulpjs.com/docs/en/getting-started/quick-start/>) to install gulp server

- g. **Run Gulp Server**

Open a separate terminal window and navigate to EducationalWeb/pdf.js/build/generic/web and execute the following command to run gulp server

gulp server



```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18363.1256]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\pradh>cd C:\EducationalWeb-master\pdf.js\build\generic\web

C:\EducationalWeb-master\pdf.js\build\generic\web>gulp server
[14:49:32] Working directory changed to C:\EducationalWeb-master\pdf.js
[14:49:33] Using gulpfile C:\EducationalWeb-master\pdf.js\gulpfile.js
[14:49:33] Starting 'server'...

### Starting local server
Server running at http://localhost:8888/
```

Fig 4

h. **Run the application**

In another terminal window, navigate to the EducationalWeb folder and run the following script to start the code. Make sure that all the python libraries present in the code are installed before the script is run.

```
python app.py
```

i. **Launch the application**

The application should open in <http://localhost:8096/>

4. Modifications to the code

Our goal is to add additional courses to the existing code so that users can navigate between courses and utilize the features available to maximize the learning ability from those courses. In order to achieve that, we have made two additions to the code, namely:

- a. Created a web crawler which would take as input the url of the webpage which contains all the lecture content and create a list of urls which contains the pdf links
- b. Download the pdfs, and subsequently create a repository like the existing one for CS410, containing folders for each lecture pdfs which will contain single page pdfs split automatically by the code.
- c. These courses are then incorporated into the existing code, bringing in all the course slides into the EducationalWeb which can then be navigated like the existing CS410 course

Web Crawler

An automatic Web Crawler is essential to any web application which needs to add new content from the web. A web crawler essentially follows all the links from a starting page and then retrieves information from the pages as desired. Our web crawler recursively follows all the links which are contained from a starting page. If it finds a dead end in any of the pages, i.e. there are no additional pages to scrape from that page, it will just go one step up and then continue the scraping of the pages from there on.

The creation of the web crawler was done by using the very useful BeautifulSoup library which parses content from HTML pages using a tree structure. It is very useful in navigating, searching and modifying a parse tree of an html page, all very essential parts of web scraping.

Download the lecture content

After the web crawler scrapes through all the URLs containing lecture slides in each webpage, we need to download them and structure them in such a way so that it fits the educational web code. The existing code handles only single page PDFs which are then navigated and searched by the system. To achieve that for the newly added courses, these are the steps that were taken:

1. Download the pdfs from the URLs scraped by the web crawler.
2. Scrape the lecture title from the webpage
3. Create a folder structure like the existing 410 slides. There needs to be one folder for every Lecture pdf

4. Split the pdfs into single page pdfs and then add them to that Lecture's folder.

For our project, we have included 3 additional University of Illinois courses whose lecture slides are publicly available. Those are:

1. ECE 313 (<https://courses.engr.illinois.edu/ece313/sp2013/Slides.html>)
2. CS 425 (<https://courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs425/fa2019/lectures.html>)
3. CS 554 (<https://solomonik.cs.illinois.edu/teaching/cs554/index.html>)

Add the slides to the existing code

After the slides have been created according to the configuration of the code, modifications had to be made to add them under the drop downs under the "Courses" section. We specifically parsed texts from these webpages to add the details to that course section in the system. The details were present in various tags which needed to be extracted so that we get the relevant titles for the slides.

Running the Modified Code

The code has been integrated in the existing system in such a way that it does not need any additional input from the user.

Changes were made inside the model.py and app.py scripts with the additional functions which were defined being referenced from within the existing functions, thus reducing the need for any user input specifically.

To run the modified code, all that's required is to run the app.py function again which will start the web scraping from the webpages and then create the folder structures for each of the subject and then integrate them into the existing EducationalWeb System.

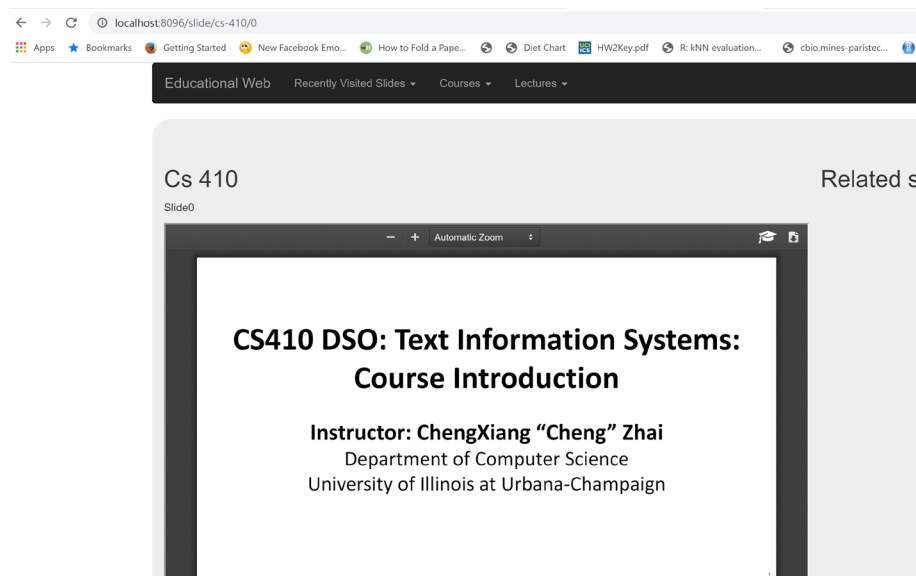


Fig 5

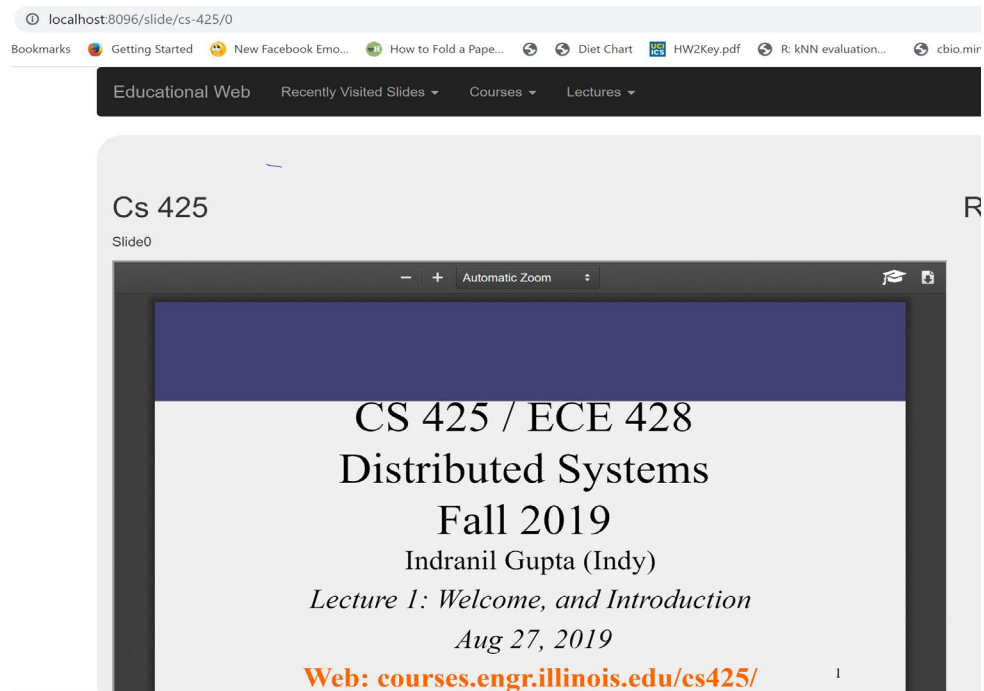


Fig 6

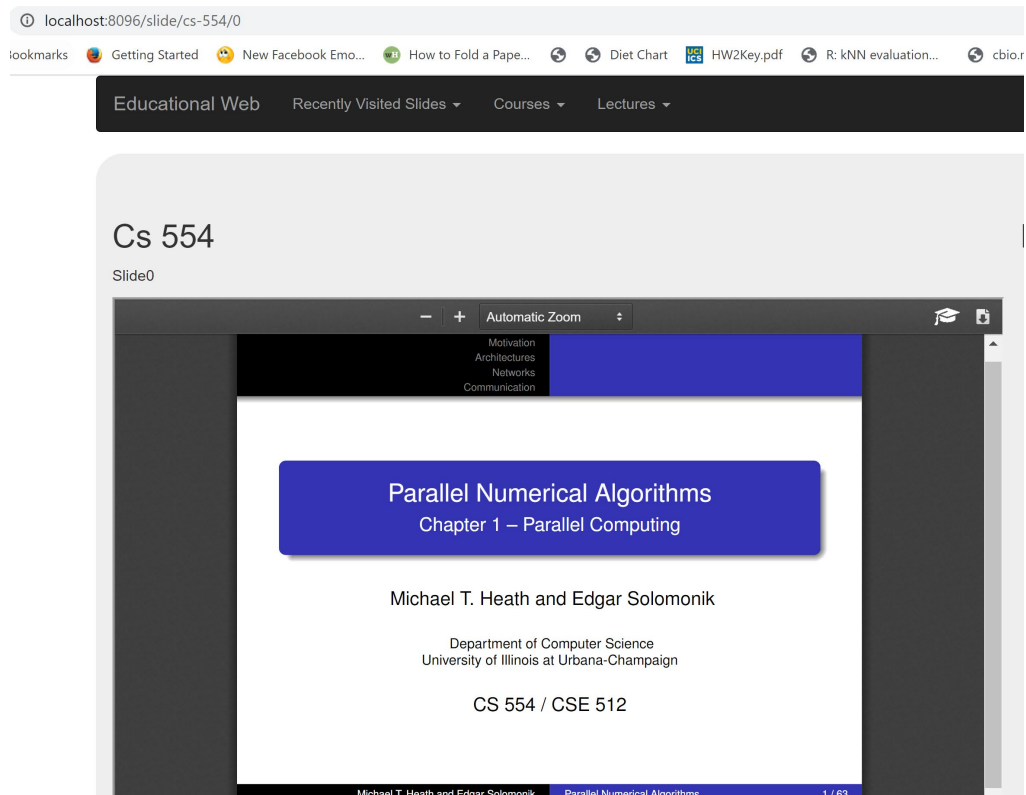


Fig 7

7. Conclusion

The EducationalWeb is a powerful tool which can assist the learners from learning in an optimized manner without spending a lot of time in searching and navigating through slides across different topics. There is tremendous potential in this application and the scope of incorporating a lot of features is immense.

The modifications which we added to the existing code paves the way for additional work which would improve the system. As stated in the scope above, creating a classification model and adding it to our web scraper would make it largely automated and be able to scrape the pdf urls from anywhere in the web