

**CS-AD 220 – Spring 2016**

# **Natural Language Processing**

**Session 1: 28-Jan-16**

**Prof. Nizar Habash**

Some slides are adapted from Jurafsky and Martin's course  
slides on Speech and Language Processing

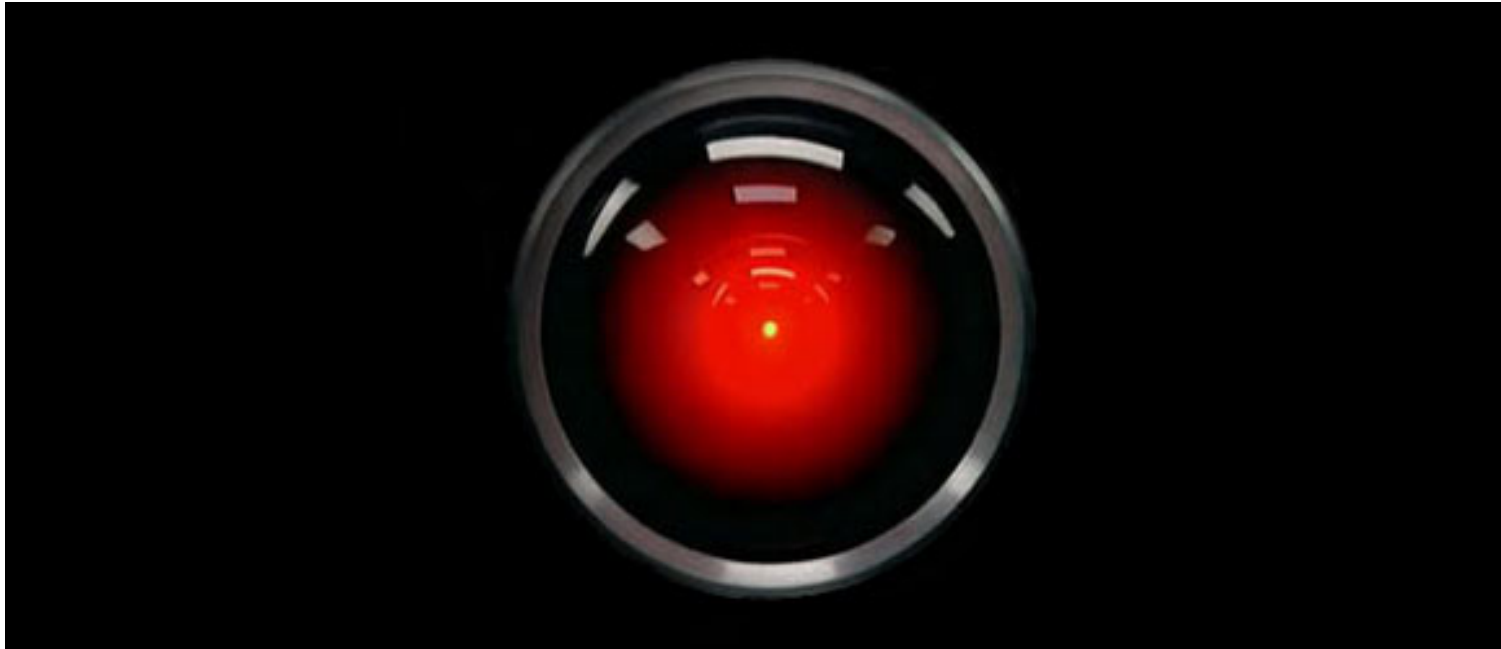
# Roadmap

- Introduction
  - **Professor & Students**
  - Topics
  - Syllabus discussion
  - Books and Resources
- Lecture 1

# Roadmap

- Introduction
  - Professor & Students
  - **Topics**
  - Syllabus discussion
  - Books and Resources
- Lecture 1

# Sci-Fi: HAL 9000



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwBmPiOmEGQ>
- Discussion:
  - What are the challenges in developing a system like HAL 9000?

# Natural Language Processing

- Also known as
  - Computational Linguistics
  - Human Language Technology
- NLP is an interdisciplinary field
  - Computer science
  - Linguistics
  - Cognitive science, psychology, pedagogy, mathematics, etc.
- Applied natural language processing
  - Develop practical applications modeling human languages
- Theoretical computational linguistics
  - Focus on theoretical linguistics and cognitive science

# Natural Language Processing

- Applications
  - Machine Translation (MT)
  - Information Retrieval (IR)
  - Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR)
  - Optical Character Recognition (OCR)
  - Automatic Summarization, Speech Synthesis, etc.
- Enabling Technologies
  - Tokenization
  - Part-of-Speech Tagging
  - Syntactic Parsing
  - Lemmatization
  - Word Sense Disambiguation, etc.

# Natural Language Processing

- Rule-based/Symbolic Approaches
  - Linguists write rules that are applied by the machines
- Corpus-based/Statistical Approaches
  - Machines learn the “rules” from training data
    - Annotated data – supervised methods
      - Parallel Corpora: translated text collections
      - Treebanks: manually syntactically analyzed texts
      - Speech Corpora with transcripts
    - Unannotated data – unsupervised methods
    - Semi-supervised methods
  - Machine learning approaches are dominant in the field
- Hybrid Approaches
  - The best of **Smart**/Slow Humans and Dumb/**Fast** Machines

# Class Topics

- Basic text processing
- Finite state machines and word morphology modeling
- N-gram language modeling
- Part-of-speech tagging
- Syntactic parsing
- Machine translation
- A review of sentiment analysis, information retrieval, and question answering



# Assignments

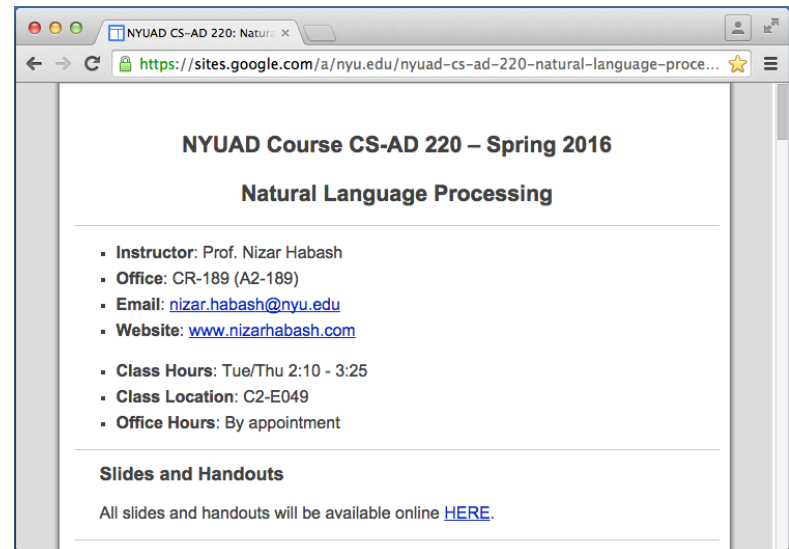
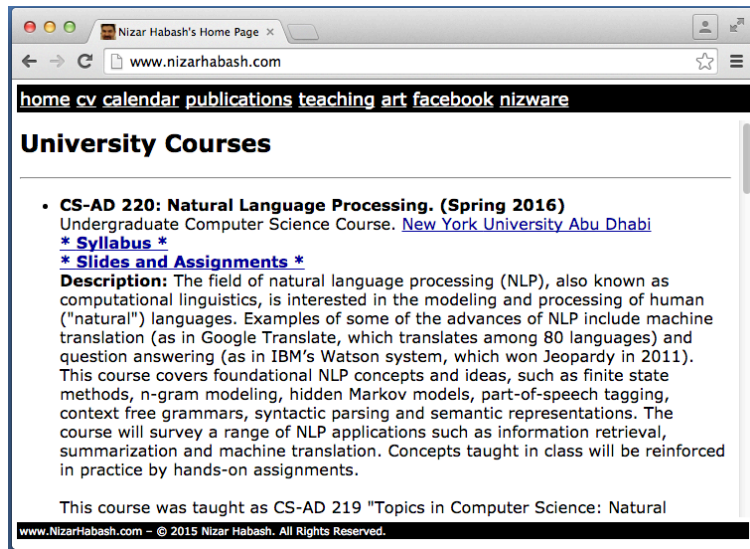
1. Basic text processing
2. Finite state machines
3. Part-of-speech tagging and parsing
4. Machine translation

# Roadmap

- Introduction
  - Professor & Students
  - Topics
  - **Syllabus discussion**
  - Books and Resources
- Lecture 1

# Syllabus

- Online:
  - <https://sites.google.com/a/nyu.edu/nyuad-cs-ad-220-natural-language-processing-spring-2016/>
  - Go to my website: <http://www.nizarhabash.com/>
    - Then click on **teaching**



# Roadmap

- Introduction
  - Teacher & students
  - Topics
  - Syllabus discussion
  - **Books and Resources**
- Lecture 1

# Books and Resources

- **JM:** Daniel Jurafsky and James H. Martin. "Speech and Language Processing: An Introduction to Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, and Speech Recognition." (2nd Edition). Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008.  
**The book is available at the bookstore.**
- **NH:** Nizar Habash. "Introduction to Arabic Natural Language Processing." Synthesis Lectures on Human Language Technologies. Morgan & Claypool Publishers, 2010.  
**This book is available online.**  
URL:  
<http://www.morganclaypool.com/doi/abs/10.2200/S00277ED1V01Y201008HLT010>

# Roadmap

- Introduction
  - Teacher & students
  - Topics
  - Syllabus discussion
  - Books and Resources
- **Lecture 1**

# Natural Language Processing

- We're going to study what goes into getting computers to perform useful and interesting tasks involving human languages.
- We are also concerned with the insights that such computational work gives us into human processing of language.

# Why Should You Care?

## Important trends

1. An enormous amount of knowledge is now available in machine readable form as natural language text
2. Conversational agents are becoming an important form of human-computer communication
3. Much of human-human communication is now mediated by computers

Very cool stuff! And with lots of commercial interest.



# Google Translate



# Google Translate

## **Killing Palestinians and wounding nine in the raids Sector**

Nine Palestinians were wounded among civilians in an Israeli air raid in the neighborhood result in the Gaza Strip. This comes immediately after the killing of two prominent Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades in the Israeli occupying forces carried out air and infantry forces in the Balata camp in the West Bank.



## **Bashir meets Fraser, the Security Council will not impose forces Darfur**

Is scheduled to meet with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir Jenday Fraser Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of the American attempt to persuade officials in Khartoum, Sudanese Darfur deployment of the nationalities. For his part, US Ambassador to the United Nations that it has no intention of the Security Council to impose its forces in the province.



## **Rmsfield and Cheney insist on keeping the American forces in Iraq**

Called American Defense Minister Donald Rmsfield Americans to show patience on Iraq. I take Vice President Dick Cheney calls Democrats withdrawal of American forces from Iraq link and the possibility of early withdrawal of attacks inside the United States.



## **Killing civilians and wounding officer suicide attack in Afghanistan**

The international force to help establish security (ISAF) killed civilians and the wounding of an officer in an attack against Afghan forces convoy south Atlantic Afghanistan. In the capital Kabul, a hand grenade exploded at the passage of manufacture French patrol was not reported injuries or damage.



# Web Q/A



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Live Search interface. At the top left is the Live Search logo. To its right is a search bar containing the text "what's the population of boulder" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a navigation bar with tabs for "Web", "Images", "News", "Maps", "QnA <sup>Beta</sup>", and "More ▾". Below the navigation bar, the search results are displayed. The first result is "Boulder, Colorado Population, total: 92,196" with a checkmark icon to its left. Below this result is the text "2004 estimate · US Census Bureau". To the right of the result title is a link that says "Is this useful?".

Live Search

what's the population of boulder

Web Images News Maps QnA <sup>Beta</sup> More ▾

what's the population of boulder Page 1 of 112,364 results · [Options](#)

✓ [Boulder, Colorado](#) Population, total: 92,196 [Is this useful?](#)

2004 estimate · US Census Bureau

# Weblog Analytics

- Data-mining of Weblogs, discussion forums, message boards, user groups, and other forms of user generated media
  - Product marketing information
  - Political opinion tracking
  - Social network analysis
  - Buzz analysis (what's hot, what topics are people talking about right now).

# Information Extraction & Sentiment Analysis



Attributes:

zoom

affordability

size and weight

flash

ease of use

Size and weight

- ✓ • nice and compact to carry!
- ✓ • since the camera is small and to carry around those heavy, cameras either!
- ✗ • the camera feels flimsy, is plastic and very light in weight you have to be very delicate in the handling of this camera



# Major Topics

1. Words
2. Syntax
3. Meaning
4. Discourse

5. Applications exploiting each

# Applications

- First, what makes an application a *language processing application* (as opposed to any other piece of software)?
  - An application that requires the use of knowledge about human languages
    - Example: Is Unix wc (word count) an example of a language processing application?

# Applications

- Word count?
  - When it counts words: Yes
    - To count words you need to know what a word is. That's knowledge of language.
  - When it counts lines and bytes: No
    - Lines and bytes are computer artifacts, not linguistic entities



# Big Applications

- Question answering
- Conversational agents
- Summarization
- Machine translation

# Big Applications

- These kinds of applications require a tremendous amount of knowledge of language.
- Consider the interaction with HAL the computer from 2001: A Space Odyssey
  - Dave: *Open the pod bay doors, Hal.*
  - HAL: *I 'm sorry Dave, I 'm afraid I can 't do that.*