Slides based on

Jurafsky and Martin

"Speech and Language Processing"

Semantics 3/3 (Lexical semantics)

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Lexical semantics

- The linguistic study of:
 - The meaning of words
 - Relations among words and their meanings
- Tools:
 - Resources: lexical databases (e.g. WordNet)
 - Technologies: Word Sense Disambiguation

Lexical Semantics: How to represent word meanings

Some basic definitions

 Lexeme: smallest unit with orthographic form, phonological form and meaning

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Lexeme 
Orthographic form (written form)

Phonological form (spoken form)

Sense (the meaning)
```

- The orthographic form is usually given in "base form": the *lemma*
- Lexicon: a collection of lexemes (including "special forms" like compound nouns)

Lexical relations among lexemes

- Most used:
 - Polysemy / Homonymy
 - Synonymy
 - Antonymy
 - Hyponymy/hypernymy
 - Meronymy/holonymy
- Others exist

Polysemy / Homonymy

- Polysemy of a lexeme
 - A lexeme with more related senses
 - "The bank is constructed from red brick" (the building)
 - "I withdrew the money from the bank" (the financial establishment)
 - Frequent words tend to be polysemic, especially verbs
 - to get, to put, ...
- Homonymy of lexemes
 - Different lexemes with the same form, but with distinct unrelated senses
 - "bank" (a financial establishment or the building): 2 senses
 - "bank" (the land alongside or sloping down to a river or lake)
- So, we have two "bank" lexemes
- And in total we have 3 senses

Homograph and homophones

- All the polysemic senses of a lexeme share the same orthographic and phonological form
- For homonym lexemes, instead, we can have:
 - Homographs:
 - Lexemes with the same orthographic form
 - "conduct" (noun) ['kan dəkt] (NB: IPA alphabet)"conduct" (verb) [kən dəkt]
 - Homophones:
 - Lexemes with the same phonological form
 - E.g. "write" and "right"; "piece" and "peace"
 - Perfect homonym: homograph + homophone
 - "bank" (a financial establishment)
 "bank" (the land alongside or sloping down to a river or lake)

Problems related to homonymy and polysemy

- Text-To-Speech is affected by homographs with different phonological form
 - "conduct" (noun) ['kan dəkt] and "conduct" (verb) [kən dəkt]
 - "bass" (noun: a voice in the lowest range) [beis] and
 "bass" (noun: the European freshwater perch) [bæs]
- Information Retrieval is affected by homographs
 - QUERY: "bat care" →
 - "bat" as an implement with a handle and a solid surface, usually of wood, used for hitting the ball;
 - "bat" as a mainly nocturnal mammal capable of sustained flight

Problems related to homonymy and polysemy

- Spelling correction is affected by homophones
 - People tend to confound homophones while writing (malapropism): "weather" → "whether"
 - This leads to real-word spelling errors
- Speech recognition is affected by homophones
 - "to", "too", "two"

but also by *perfect* homonyms

- "bank" belong to two lexemes, that occur in different contexts
- Speech recognition is based on statistical model of word cooccurrences
- In these models, the two lexemes of "bank" are conflated
- As a result, words co-occurring with the wrong sense are considered:
 - P("bank" | "river") should be ≈ 1 for "bank" as part of rivers P("bank" | "river") should be ≈ 0 for "bank" as the institution

Metaphor and Metonymy

- Special kinds of polysemy
- Metaphor:
 - Constructs an analogy between two things or ideas, the analogy is conveyed by the use of a metaphorical word in place of some other word
 - "Germany will pull Slovenia out of its economic slump"
- Metonymy:
 - A concept is denoted by naming some other concept closely related to it
 - "The White House announced yesterday…"
 - "This chapter talks about part-of-speech tagging"

Synonymy

Different lexemes with the same meaning

youth adolescent

biglarge

automobile car

- What does it mean for two lexemes to mean the same thing?
 - Practical definition: two lexemes are considered synonyms if they can be substituted for one another in sentences without changing the meaning of the sentence (substitutability)

Synonymy

- Perfect synonyms are rare
 - Lexemes rarely share all they senses
- E.g:
 - "Big" and "large"?
 - "That's my big sister"
 - "That's my large sister"
 - Fails because "big" has, among its senses, the notion of being older, while "large" lacks it

Antonymy

- Lexemes with opposite sense
- Opposite but... related: they can appear in similar contexts
 - Dark light
 - Boy girl
 - Hot cold
 - Up down
 - In out

Hypernymy/hyponymy

- Hyponymy: a hyponym lexeme denotes a subclass of another lexeme
- Hypernymy: a hypernym lexeme denotes a superclass of another lexeme
- E.g., since dogs are canids:
 - "dog" is hyponym of "canid"
 - "canid" is hypernym of "dog"

Meronymy/holonymy

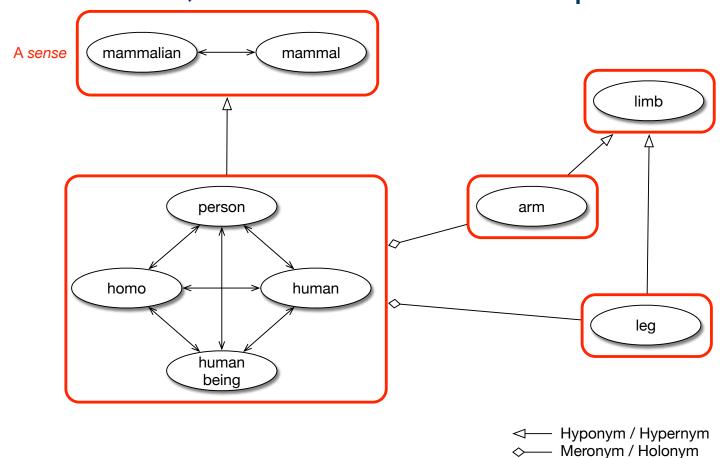
- Meronymy: a meronym lexeme denotes a constituent part of, or a member of another lexeme
- Holonymy: an holonym lemexe denotes the whole of a lexeme that denotes a part of it
- E.g., since trees have trunk and limbs:
 - "trunk" and "limb" are meronyms of "tree"
 - "tree" is holonym of both "trunk" and "limb"

Lexical Databases

- Model senses and relationship among them
- Model a language lexicon
- A sense:
 - Represents a specific meaning
 - Is represented by a collection of synonym lexemes
- Relationships are a predefined set:
 - Hyponym/hypernym: the subclass relationship
 - Meronym/holonym: the part-of relationship
 - Synonym/antonym

Lexical Databases

Node: word; arc: lexical relationship



- Synonym

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A Lexical Database: WordNet

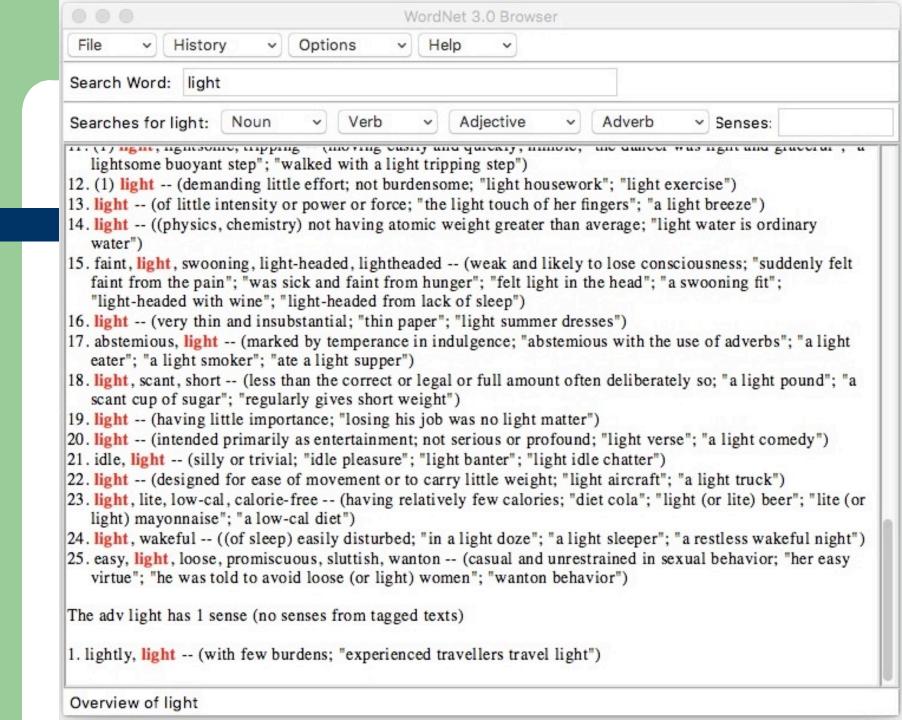
- English lexicon database
 - About 150.000 terms: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs
- Terms are organized in sets called synsets:
 - A synset contains synonym lexemes
 - A synset carries a specific sense, a meaning
 - A synset has a gloss, explaining the carried meaning
 - A lexeme can appear in several synsets
 - Due to homonymy/polysemy
- Synsets or single lexemes are connected by a set of predefined relations
 - Hyponym, hypernym, synonym, etc.

WordNet: Structure

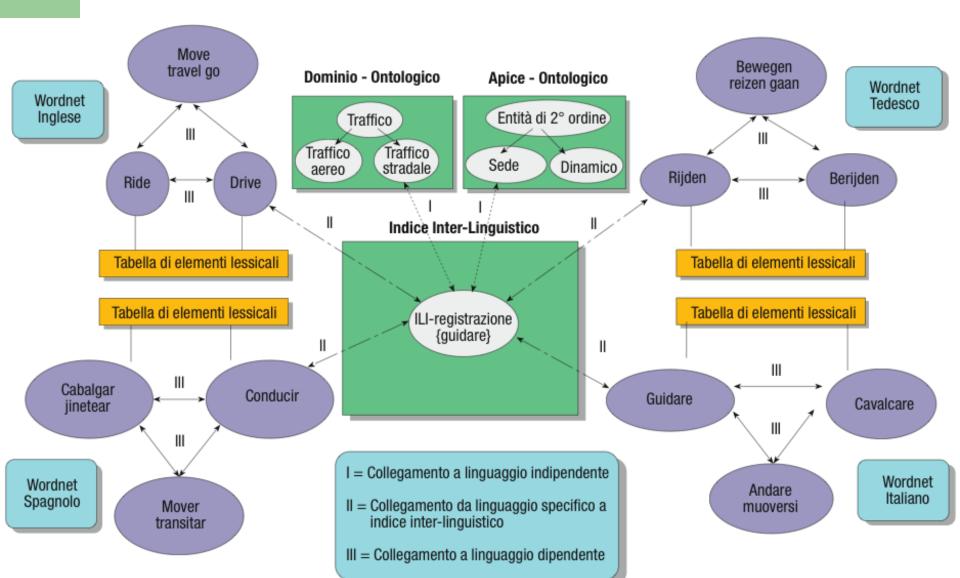
- Nouns and verbs:
 - Two taxonomies of synsets
- Adjectives:
 - Pairs of opposite lemexes form a group
 - Each adjective is connected to synonym lexemes
- Adverbs:
 - Connected to the related adjectives
- NB: WordNet is not a dictionary; it does not contain:
 - Pronouns, articles, particles (e.g. prepositions)
 - I.e., WordNet does not contain the *closed vocabulary* (the "keywords") of English...
 - WordNet contains the open vocabulary of English

	Wor	dNet 3.0 Browse	er				
File V History V	Options V	Help v					
Search Word: light							
Searches for light: Noun	v Verb v	Adjective	~	Adverb	~	Senses:	
The noun light has 15 senses (f	first 12 from tagged	texts)					
 (46) light, visible light, visible sensation; "the light was filted. (23) light, light source (and the lights") (13) light (a particular perdid not understand") (10) luminosity, brightness, luminous; emitting or reflections. (7) light (an illuminated and and and and and and and and and an	ered through a soft go by device serving as respective or aspect of brightness level, lun- ing light; "its luminorea; "he stepped into condition of spiritual sual effect of illuminate darkest dark") ed very fondly; "the abundant light or illuminate and ing as an enlight light (merriment recess; "it brought the se Vithin, Christ Within	lass window") a source of illur f a situation; "al ninance, luminou osity is measured the light") awareness; divi- nation on objects light of my life" lumination; "they ening experience expressed by a b re's a perpetual to candal to light") (a divine pres	minati Ithoug usness d relat ine illus s or so y play e; "he orighti twinkl	on; "he stop h he saw it i, light (th ive to that of umination; enes as created as long a finally saw ness or glea le in his eye believed by	in a control of our of our of our or	the car and different l ality of be r sun") ow God's l in pictures was light" ight"; "ca animation kers to en	d turned off ight, he still eing light") s; "he could ; "as long as n you shed n of
15. lighter, light, igniter, ignited light?")	_	_			_	-	
Overview of light							

File V History	Options	v Help v				
Search Word: light						
Searches for light: N	loun v Verb	 Adjective 	~	Adverb	Senses:	
The verb light has 6 sen	ses (first 4 from tagg	ed texts)				
l. (12) <mark>light</mark> , illume, illu	mine light un illun	ningte (make lighte	r or hri	ohter: "This	lamn lightens	the room a
bit")	mine, ngir up, mun	mate (make fighte	1 01 011	gitter, This	s ramp rightens	the room a
2. (10) light up, fire up,	light (begin to sm	oke; "After the meal,	some o	of the diners	lit up")	
3. (3) alight, light, perch	n (to come to rest,	settle; "Misfortune li	ighted u	apon him")	-	
. (2) ignite, light (ca	_	subject to fire or great	at heat;	"Great heat	can ignite alm	nost any dry
matter"; "Light a cigar f. fall, light (fall to so		ent or lot: "The tack	fell to r	me": "It fell	to me to notify	the narent
of the victims")	incoody by assignin	ent of lot, The task	icii to i	ne , it ien	to me to notify	y the paren
. unhorse, dismount, lig	ht, get off, get down	n (alight from (a ho	orse))			
	(0 . 10 0	•				
The adj light has 25 sens	ses (first 12 from tag	ged texts)				
. (14) light (of comp			; "a ligl	ht load"; "m	agnesium is a	light
metalhaving a specif	-	_	11	1		-he bloots
	d ((used of color)		nan am	iount of cold	oring agent; "II	ont nine
	astels": "a light-colo					giit blue,
"light colors such as p		red powder")		ıll or light a	rms or equipm	
	litary or industry; us	red powder") ing (or being) relativ		ıll or light a	rms or equipm	
"light colors such as p . (4) light (of the mil infantry"; "light caval	litary or industry; us ry"; "light industry"; in degree or quantity	red powder") ing (or being) relative "light weapons") or number; "a light	ely sma	e"; "a light	accent"; "casu	ent; "light
"light colors such as p i. (4) light (of the mil- infantry"; "light caval i. (3) light (not great light"; "light snow wa	litary or industry; us ry"; "light industry"; in degree or quantity s falling"; "light mis	red powder") ing (or being) relative "light weapons") or number; "a light ty rain"; "light smoke	ely sma sentence from t	e"; "a light the chimney	accent"; "casu	ent; "light
"light colors such as p 5. (4) light (of the mil- infantry"; "light caval 6. (3) light (not great	litary or industry; us ry"; "light industry"; in degree or quantity s falling"; "light mis gically light; especia ized by or emitting li	red powder") ing (or being) relative "light weapons") or number; "a light ty rain"; "light smoke lly free from sadness	sentence from to	e"; "a light the chimney bles; "a ligh	accent"; "casu ") ht heart")	ent; "light alties were



Multi-language lexical databases: EuroWordNet



Lexical Databases and NLP

- Semantic similarity among words W_1 and W_2
 - Distance (possibly a weighted distance) in terms of relations connecting two words
 - Using hypernym/hyponym (path in a tree)
 - Using all the relations (path in a graph)
 - WordNet is composed of synsets, then:

$$d_{SN}(W_1, W_2) = \min_{\substack{S_1 \in \text{sysetsOf}(W_1) \\ S_2 \in \text{sysetsOf}(W_2)}} d_{SYN}(S_1, S_2)$$

$$d_{SYN}(S_1, S_2) = \min path(S_1, S_2)$$

Lexical Databases and NLP

- Clustering
 - Divide similar words in clusters, using the distance
 - Divide similar documents in clusters, using distances among their words
- Advanced search engines
 - Search for a word and its synonyms, hynonyms, etc.
 - Search for an adjective and the derived adverb
 - ...

Internal structure of words

- Thematic roles: roles associated with verbal arguments
- Selectional restriction: constraints that verbs pose on their arguments

Thematic roles

"He opened a door"
"Houston's Billy Hatcher broke a bat"

 $\exists e, x, y \ Isa(e, Opening) \land Opener(e, he) \land OpenedThing(e, y) \land Isa(y, door)$ $\exists e, x, y \ Isa(e, Breaking) \land Breaker(e, BillyHatcher) \land BrokenThing(e, y) \land Isa(y, bat)$

- Semantic deep roles:
 - Opener, OpenedThing, Breaker, BrokenThing
- Opener, Breaker have something in common
 - They are both volitional actors, often animate, they cause an event to happen → AGENT
- OpenedThing, BrokenThing have something in common
 - Inanimate object affected by the action → THEME

Thematic roles

Thematic Role	Definition
AGENT	The volitional causer of an event
EXPERIENCER	The experiencer of an event
FORCE	The non-volitional causer of the event
THEME	The participant most directly affected by an event
RESULT	The end product of an event
CONTENT	The proposition or content of a propositional event
INSTRUMENT	An instrument used in an event
BENEFICIARY	The beneficiary of an event
SOURCE	The origin of the object of a transfer event
GOAL	The destination of an object of a transfer event

Commonly-used thematic roles

Thematic roles: examples

Thematic Role	Example
AGENT	The waiter spilled the soup.
EXPERIENCER	John has a headache.
FORCE	The wind blows debris from the mall into our yards.
THEME	Only after Benjamin Franklin broke the ice
RESULT	The French government has built a regulation-size baseball
	diamond
CONTENT	Mona asked "You met Mary Ann at a supermarket?"
INSTRUMENT	He turned to poaching catfish, stunning them with a shocking
	device
BENEFICIARY	Whenever Ann Callahan makes hotel reservations for her boss
SOURCE	I flew in from Boston.
GOAL	I drove to Portland.

Linking theory

- Thematic roles as an intermediate level:
 - Semantic deep roles (e.g. Breaker)
 - Thematic roles (e.g. AGENT): generalize semantic deep roles
 - Grammatical realization (e.g. subject, verb, direct obj)



FrameNet

- An English lexicon listing the syntactic and thematic combinations of each word (not only verbs...)
- Each word (Lexical Unit LU) is defined inside a frame
- Each frame has Frame Elements (FEs)...
 - The thematic roles, very specific
 - With various possible grammatical realizations
- FEs are arranged in Patterns
- Frames are connected each other by means of particular relationships
- VerbNet is another English verb lexicon

FrameNet

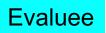
Valence Patterns (i.e., frames) of: appreciate.v (Judgment)

valence i atterns (i.e., maines					
Number Annotated	Patterns				
2 TOTAL	Cognizer	Cognizer	Evaluee	Reason	
(2)	NP	NP	NP	DNI	
(2)	Ext	Ext	Obj		
1 TOTAL	Cognizer	Degree	Evaluee	Reason	
(1)	AVP	AVP	NP	PP[for]	
(1)	Dep	Dep	Ext	Dep	
1 TOTAL	Cognizer	Evaluee			
<u>(1)</u>	NP	NP			
(1)	Ext	Obj			
22 TOTAL	Cognizer	Evaluee	Reason		
(1)	DNI	NP	Sub		
(<u>1</u>)		Obj	Dep		
(1)	NP	INI	NP		
(<u>1</u>)	Ext		Obj		
(7)	NP	NP	DNI		
(4)	Ext	Obj			
(2)	NP	NP	INI		
(<u>=</u>)	Ext	Obj			
<u>(3)</u>	NP	NP	PP[for]		
(<u>~</u>)	Ext	Obj	Dep		
(<u>5</u>)	NP	PP[in]	NP		
<u>~</u> /	Ext	Dep	Obj		
	PP[hv]	2nd	ND		

Thematic roles

Cognizer

The Cognizer makes the judgment



Evaluee is the person or thing about whom/which a judgment is made



Typically, there is a constituent expressing the reason for the Judge's judgmen

Grammatical realizations

(Phrase Type . Grammatical Function)

e.g.: NP.Obj: Noun Phrase . Object

Selectional restrictions

- A semantic constraint imposed by a lexeme on the concepts that can fill argument roles associated with it
- Remember the sentence: "I wanna eat someplace that's close to Politecnico"?
 - Try to interpret it using the transitive version of "eat"
 - Transitive version of eat has AGENT and THEME roles:
 - "I wanna eat someplace that's close to Politecnico" AGENT THEME
 - Semantic ill-formedness (unless you are Godzilla...)
 - THEME should be edible, for the transitive form of "eat"
 - Selectional restriction violation

Representing selectional restrictions

"I want to eat an hamburger"

Representation with roles

 $\exists e, y \ Eating(e) \land Agent(e, Speaker) \land Theme(e, y) \land Isa(y, Hamburger)$

Adding restrictions

```
\exists e, y \ Eating(e) \land Agent(e, Speaker) \land Theme(e, y) \land Isa(y, Hamburger)
 \land Isa(y, EdibleThing)
```

- Using WordNet it is possible to derive that a word is edible
 - Following hypernyms taxonomy

Hamburger is edible

```
Sense 1
hamburger, beefburger --
(a fried cake of minced beef served on a bun)
=> sandwich
   => snack food
      => dish
         => nutriment, nourishment, nutrition...
            => food, nutrient
               => substance
                  => matter
                     => physical entity
                         => entity
```

- Hypothesis: I must know that the word "food" means something edible...
- I must map EdibleThing to "food"
 - Actually, on the synset containing "food"

Lexical Semantics: Word Sense Disambiguation (WSD)

Machine Learning approach

- Classify words by means of a stochastic model
 - Classes: the meanings; i.e., the senses
- Input:
 - Word to classify (the so-called "target word")
 - The portion of text where it is embedded (context)
 - Usually, POS of the words (target and context)
 - Often, morphological analysis is performed on words
 - Less often, some form of parsing is used
- Output:
 - The right class (i.e., the right meaning)

Features

- Input is transformed into a set of features
- Common features for WSD:
 - The target word itself
 - The target word collocations
 - The target word co-occurrences
- Representation:
 - Per each word, a vector of feature name/value pairs is computed
 - Such vectors are used to train, test, and run the model
- First of all we need to chose the "window" that represents the context of the word to classify

Window

"An electric guitar and bass player stand off to one side not really part of the scene, just as a sort of nod to gringo expectations perhaps"

- •Window: +/- 2 words
- Target word: "bass"
 - "An electric guitar and bass player stand off to one side not really part of the scene, just as a sort of nod to gringo expectations perhaps"

Collocation

- About context words in specific positions around the target word
 - E.g. word base-form, POS
 - [..., word_{n-2}, word_{n-1}, word_{n+1}, word_{n+2}, ...]
 - [..., POS_{n-2}, POS_{n-1}, POS_{n+1}, POS_{n+1}, ...]
- Representation: a vector
 - Using the window=+/-2: "guitar and bass player stand"
 - [guitar, and, player, stand]
 - [NN, CJC, NN, VVB]

Co-occurrence

- Whether a given word (usually, the base form) appears in the context of the target word, or not
 - Previous operation: collect the n most frequent cooccurring words, according to a corpus, for each target word
 - Feature calc.: select words appearing in the window
- Representation: a vector
 - Using window=+/-2: e.g., "guitar and bass player stand"
 - E.g., collect the n=12 most frequent co-occurring words in sentences with the target word "bass" (every meaning):

[fishing, big, sound, player, fly, rod, pound, double, runs, playing, guitar, band]

Then, example of feature: [0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0]
 for the target word "bass" player guitar

Example: "bass"

The noun "bass" has 8 senses in WordNet.

- 1. bass¹ (the lowest part of the musical range)
- 2. bass², bass part¹ (the lowest part in polyphonic music)
- 3. bass³, basso¹ (an adult male singer with the lowest voice)
- 4. sea bass¹, bass⁴ (the lean flesh of a saltwater fish of the family Serranidae)
- 5. freshwater bass¹, bass⁵ (any of various North American freshwater fish with lean flesh (especially of the genus Micropterus))
- 6. bass⁶, bass voice¹, basso² (the lowest adult male singing voice)
- 7. bass⁷ (the member with the lowest range of a family of musical instruments)
- 8. bass⁸ (nontechnical name for any of numerous edible marine and freshwater spiny-finned fishes)

The adjective "bass" has 1 sense in WordNet.

- 1. bass¹, deep⁶ (having or denoting a low vocal or instrumental range)

 "a deep voice"; "a bass voice is lower than a baritone voice";

 "a bass clarinet"
- Senses $s \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$

Supervised machine learning

- Such models undergo a training phase:
 - Input: a training set
 - Output: the trained model
- Training set: a (usually huge) set of samples

```
    Each sample is a tuple: (feature<sub>1</sub>, ..., feature<sub>m</sub>, right class)
    E.g.: ( [guitar, and, player, stand], [NN, CJC, NN, VVB]
    [0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0], bass, right class: 2 )
```

- Popular models:
 - Naïve Bayes, Decision lists/trees, Neural Nets, Support Vector Machines, etc.

Naïve Bayes

- P(s): sense prior probability
- v_i: j-th feature
- $P(v_i | s)$: probability of feature v_i , given sense s
- Use a tagged corpus to calculate these values
 - Tags: the right senses

"guitar and bass player stand"

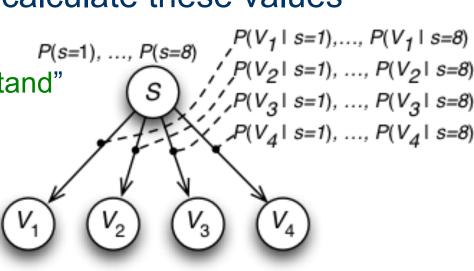
 V_1 : [guitar, and, player, stand]

v₂: [NN, CJC, NN, VVB]

 v_3 : [0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0,0,0,1,0]

v₄: bass

s: 7 (Tag: the right sense)



P(s)

A sample

Naïve Bayes

- Having n features, $\hat{s} = \underset{s \in S}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(s \mid v_1, v_2, ..., v_n)$ we want to find:
- Using Bayes: $\hat{s} = \underset{s \in S}{\operatorname{argmax}} \frac{P(v_1, v_2, ..., v_n \mid s)P(s)}{P(v_1, v_2, ..., v_n)}$
- Denominator does not depend on s → it does not modify the result of argmax → we can delete it

$$\hat{s} = \underset{s \in S}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(v_1, v_2, ..., v_n \mid s) P(s)$$

Finally, assuming independence of features:

$$\hat{s} = \underset{s \in S}{\operatorname{argmax}} P(s) \prod_{j=1}^{n} P(v_j \mid s)$$

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- VerbNet
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- PropNet
 - http://verbs.colorado.edu/~mpalmer/projects/ace.html
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Unifying lexical resources

- SemLink
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