

Bringing Modern Spell Checking Approaches to Ancient Texts

Automatized Suggestions for Incomplete/Damaged Words

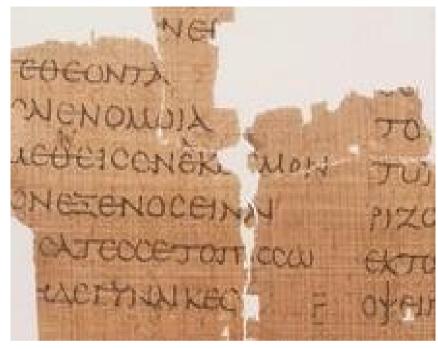
2011 Digital Classicists Seminar Leipzig, 2011/07/29

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- What can you do with automatic suggestions of words for filling gaps?
- Comparison of different strategies for gap reconstruction
- 2 tasks of gap reconstruction
 - Identification of damaged words
 - Generation of suggestions
- Explanation by way of example
- Some problems / further steps







Textcorrection

Possible passage in the text:

Platon Timaios, 38c7 bis 38d4 (from TLG-Online): σώματα δὲ αὐτῶν ἑκάστων ποιήσας ὁ θεὸς ἔθηκεν εἰς τὰς @1 περιφορὰς ὰς ἡ θατέρου περίοδος ἤειν, ἑπτὰ οὕσας ὄντα (d.) ἑπτά, σελήνην μὲν εἰς τὸν περὶ γῆν πρῶτον, ἥλιον δὲ εἰς τὸν δεύτερον ὑπὲρ γῆς, ἑωσφόρον δὲ καὶ τὸν ἱερὸν Ἑρμοῦ



λεγόμενον εἰς [τὸν] τάχει μὲν ἰσόδρομον ἡλίφ κύκλον ἰόντας,τὴν δὲ ἐναντίαν εἰληχότας αὐτῷ δύναμιν·



Unsupervised Supervised Bootstrapping Pattern Manual



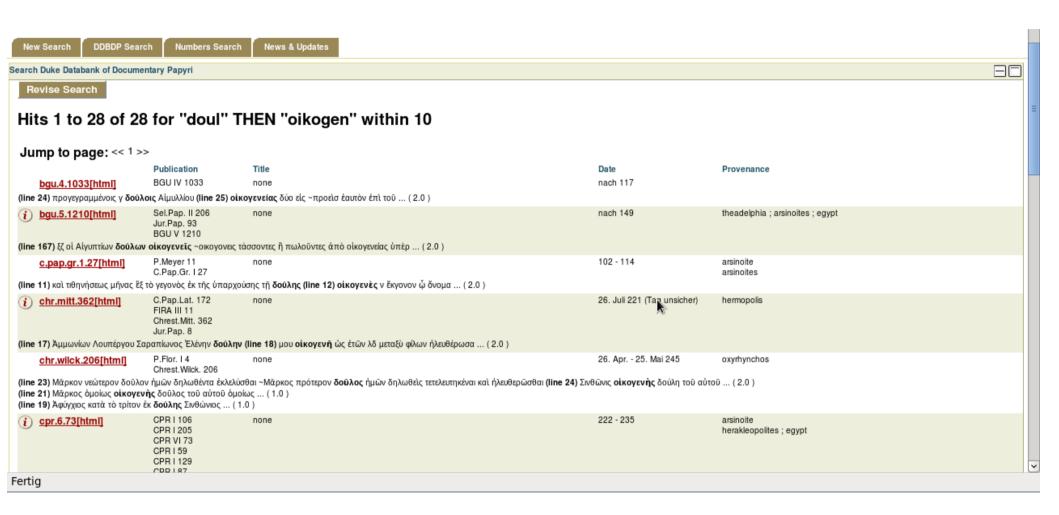
Text Completion By (information) retrieval



New Search D	DBDP Search Numbers Search News & Updates	
Search Duke Databank	of Documentary Papyri	
Text Search	Search for:word or phrase: doul THEN word or phrase: oikogen within: 10 words THEN word or phrase: within: 10 words Use ^ [SHIFT-6] to anchor a substring to a word boundary. Example: ^kai to search words beginning with kai input is in beta code input is not in beta code lemmatized search	
Limit by	Publication series: [Select Publication Series] APIS collection [Select APIS Collection] Date On or after: CE On or before: CE On or befo	
Options	respect capitalization Show records with: respect diacritics/accents images first hide highlighted fragments (faster) translations first	*

Source: papyri.info

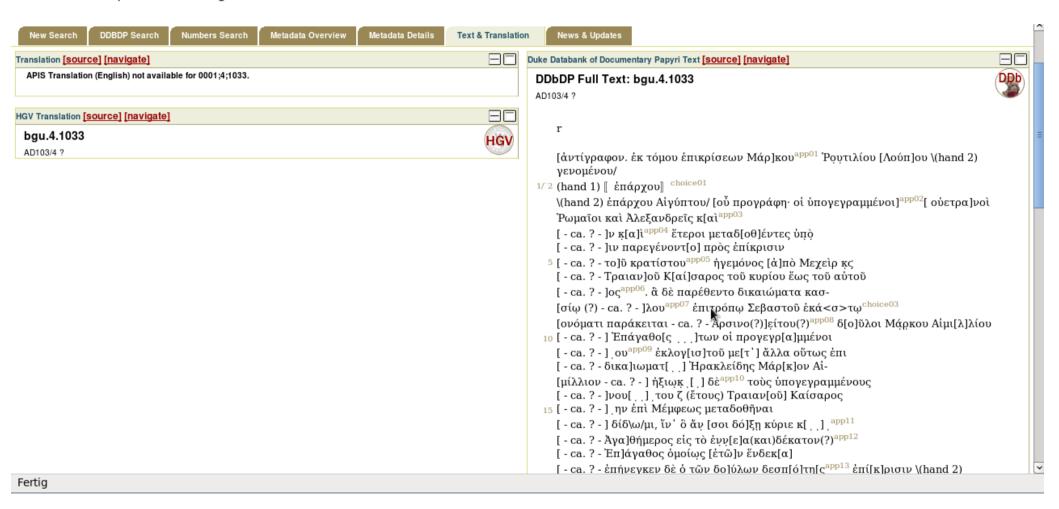




<u>Problem 1:</u> Lots of texts needs to be read. Do you read the first hit in the same unbiased way as the last one?

Source: papyri.info



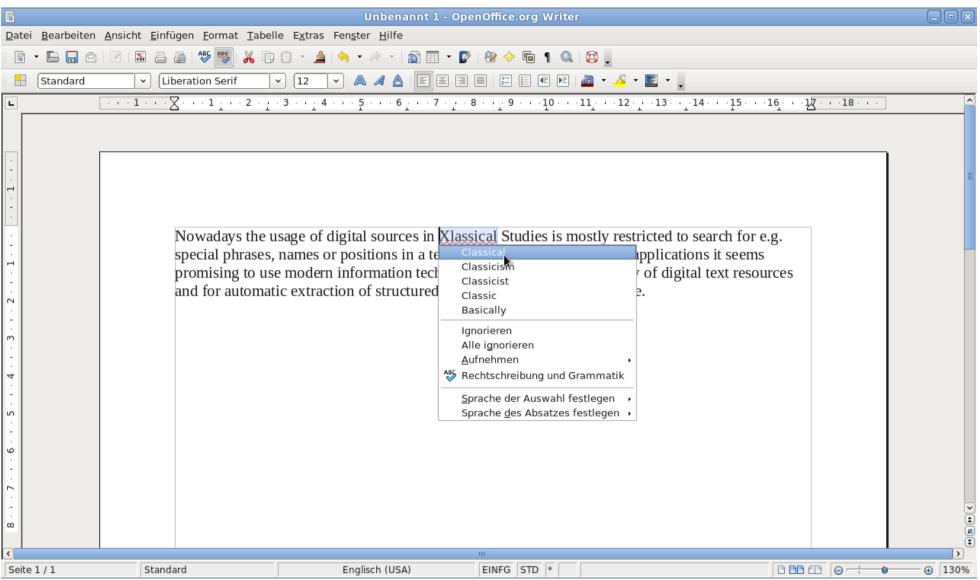


<u>Problem 2:</u> Finding the right "signal words". Which words are good indicators for text completion?

Source: papyri.info









Can we bring ancient texts and modern spell checking approaches together?

OR

Language models meet Classical Studies



Text Completion By (text) mining



- Finding words that contain an error (Detection of candidates)
 - Ancient texts: Leiden conventions
 - Modern texts:
 - Trust of correctness by likelihood ration
 - Redundancy: " negative information" for misspelled or fragmentary words

Correcting candidate words (features are pre-computed on different corpora)

- By semantic approaches
- By syntactical approaches
- Word properties
- String similarity
- Named Entities
- Morphological knowledge



Currently processed corpora: TLG, PHI7, PHI7_INS, PHI_DDP, epiDuke

Pre-processing:

- All texts are segmented into sentences.
- Meta information such as dating or classification are extracted.
- Tokenisation

• Training:

- Features (e. g. "signal words") for every word are pre-computed in the background (up to 100s of millions datasets)
- Features are classified by different approaches

Scoring the overall list:

- Main idea/assumption: Every known word in a corpus is a potential candidate for text completion.
- That means: TLG about 1.7M words, epiDuke avout 550T words
- Every approach delivers an independent list of candidates having a score between 0 and 1.
- Overall candidate list is scored by the sum of a word's individual score by a selected algorithm





Textcorrection

Possible passage in the text:
Platon Timaios, 38c7 bis 38d4 (from TLG-Online):
σώματα δὲ αὐτῶν ἑκάστων ποιήσας ὁ θεὸς ἔθηκεν εἰς τὰς
@1 περιφορὰς ὰς ἡ θατέρου περίοδος ἤειν, ἑπτὰ οὔσας ὄντα
(d.) ἑπτά, σελήνην μὲν εἰς τὸν περὶ γῆν πρῶτον, ἥλιον δὲ εἰς
τὸν δεύτερον ὑπὲρ γῆς, ἑωσφόρον δὲ καὶ τὸν ἱερὸν Ἑρμοῦ
λεγόμενον εἰς [τὸν] τάχει μὲν ἰσόδρομον ἡλίω κύκλον ἰόντας,τὴν δὲ ἐναντίαν εἰληχότας αὐτῶ δύναμιν·

- Detection of words by Leiden Conventions (Source: Wikipedia):
 - [abc]: letters missing from the original text due to lacuna, but restored by the editor
 - <ab>: characters erroneously omitted by the ancient scribe, restored by the editor
 - [[abc]]: deleted letters
 - ...



Finding candidates

Automatis	che Sprachverarbeitung		
V.3	Erased and lost		<del rend="erasure"><gap quantity="3" reason="lost"></gap>
V.3	Erased and lost	[[c.5]]	<del rend="erasure"><gap quantity="5" reason="lost"></gap>
V.3	Erased and lost	[[]]	<del rend="erasure"><gap extent="unknown" reason="lost"></gap>
VI.1	Text struck over erasure	《 abc 》	<add place="overstrike">$\alpha\beta\gamma$</add>
VI.1	Overstruck text, incomprehensible	《 ABC 》	<add place="overstrike"><orig>αβγ</orig></add>
VI.1	Overstruck text ambiguous	《 aḥç 》	<add place="overstrike"><unclear>$\alpha\beta\gamma$</unclear></add>
VI.2	Overstruck text, lost but restored	《 [abc] 》	<add place="overstrike"><supplied reason="lost">$\alpha\beta\gamma$</supplied></add>
VI.3	Overstruck text, completely lost	《 [] 》	<add place="overstrike"><gap quantity="3" reason="lost" unit="character"></gap></add>
VI.3	Overstruck text, lost, extent approximate	⟨ [c⋅5] ⟩	<add place="overstrike"><gap precision="low" quantity="5" reason="lost" unit="character"></gap></add>

Gabriel Bodard (et al.), (2006-2009), _EpiDoc Cheat Sheet: Krummrey-Panciera sigla & EpiDoc tags_, version 1085, accessed: 2010-07-04. available http://epidoc.svn.sourceforge.net/viewvc/epidoc/trunk/guidelines/msword/cheatsheet.doc



- **Semantically** best word (co-occurrences)
- Syntactically best word (N-gram)
- String similar best word (Levenshtein, FastSS)
- Word length (Stoichedon texts)
- Best word by domain classification by
 - Mathematics and mechanics
 - Centuries
 - Cities
 - Jurisdiction
 - Slave trading



• Toy sample: A b C d <E> G h.

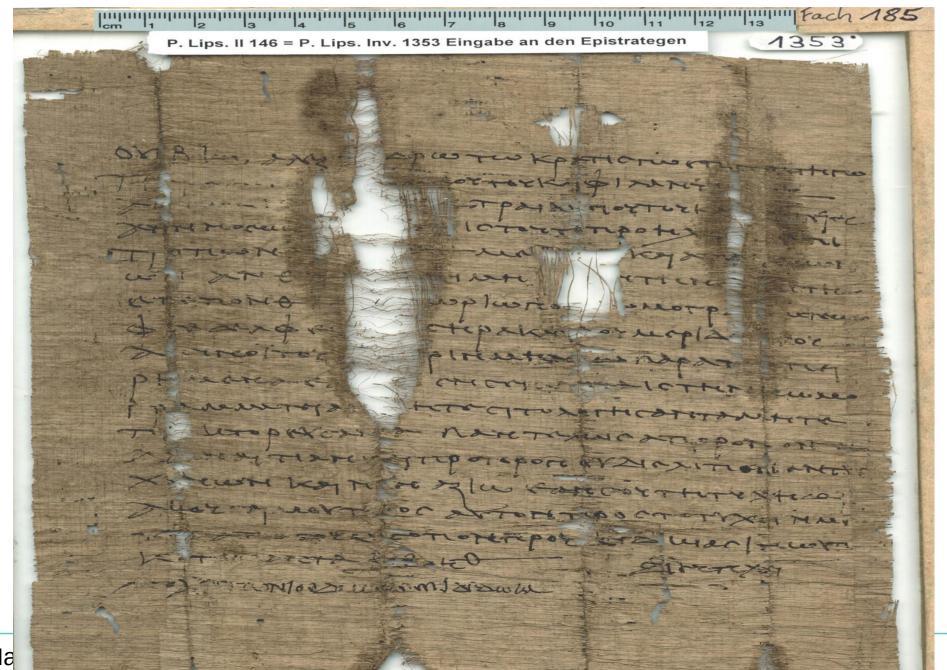
- Semantic approach:
 - Features: sentences based co-occurrences (function words filtered)
 - Toy sample: A, C, G are selected as semantic profile
 - Looking for words that have the best overlap with the semantic profile (all permutations are possible)
 - Real world example: <Ε>=Τροία: Τροίας, Τρωΐα, Τροία, Τροίαν,
 Τροίη, Ίλιος, Ίλιος, Ίλου
- Syntactical approach:
 - Method: Looking for immediately neighboured words (bi-gram level)
 - Toy sample: d, G are selected as features
- Word similarity:
 - Method: letter bi-gram overlapping (word)
 - Real word examples: γίγνηται and γίνηται or συναγαγόντες and ξυναγαγόντες
- Named Entity list and word length



- Semantic approach:
 - If a word occurs typically in static semantic context
 - If a word occurs in a context that has a significant amount of content words
- Syntactical approach:
 - If a word occurs in a quite static syntactic pattern
 - If a word is part of a multi word expressions like King Alexander the Great
- Word similarity:
 - If a misspelled or fragmentary word still has enough recovered letters
 - Free of any sense: words with e.g. 2 letters. NO RESTRICTION
- Word length
 - If word length is known
- Named Entity list
 - If it makes sense to restrict the candidate list to person names (e.g. deletion).



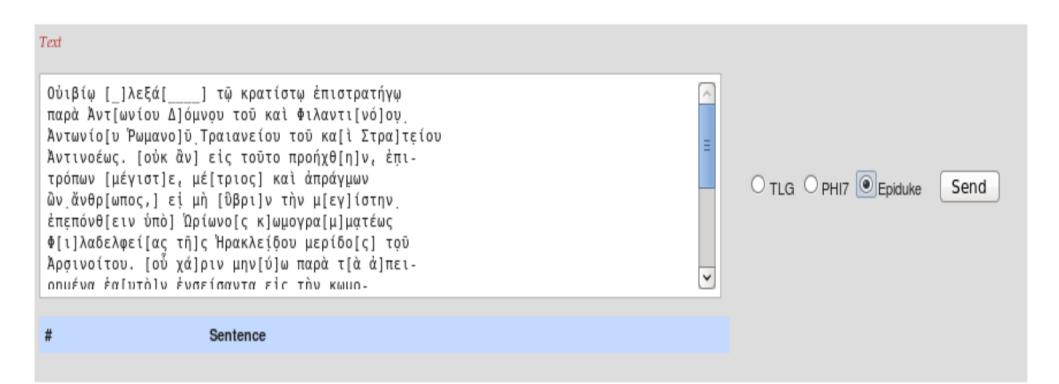
What is the ORIGINAL missing word?





Οὐιβίω **Άλεξά[ν] δρω** τῷ κρατίστω ἐπιστρατήγω. παρὰ Άντ[ωνίου Δ]όμνου τοῦ καὶ Φιλαντι[νό]ου Άντωνίο[υ Ῥωμανο]ῦ Τραιανείου τοῦ κα[ὶ Στρα]τείου Άντινοέως. [οὐκ ἂν] εἰς τοῦτο προήχθ[η]ν, ἐπιτρόπων [μέγιστ]ε, μέ[τριος] καὶ ἀπράγμων ων ἄνθρ[ωπος,] εί μὴ [ὑβρι]ν τὴν μ[εγ]ίστην έπεπόνθ[ειν ὑπὸ] Ώρίωνο[ς κ]ωμογρα[μ]ματέως Φ[ι]λαδελφεί[ας τῆ]ς Ἡρακλείδου μερίδο[ς] τοῦ <u>Άρσινοίτου. [οὖ χά]ριν μην[ύ]ω παρὰ τ[ὰ ἀ]πει-</u> ρημένα έα[υτὸ]ν ένσείσαντα είς τὴν κωμογραμματείαν [μ]ήτε σιτολογήσαντα μήτε πρ[α]κτορεύσαντα παντελῶς ἄπορον ὄν[τ]α. δι' ἣν αἰτίαν καὶ πρότερον οὐ διέλιπον ἐντυγχάνων καὶ νῦν ἀξιῶ, ἐάν σου τῆ τύχη δόξ[η], άκοῦσαί μου π[ρ]ὸς αὐτὸν πρὸς τὸ τυχεῖν με τῆς ἀπὸ σοῦ [μι]σοπονήρου ἐγδ[ι]κίας, ἵν' ὧ ὑπὸ [σ]οῦ κατὰ πάντα βεβοηθ(ημένος). διευτύχει Άντώνιος Δόμνος ἐ*π*ιδέδωκα.







Text Οὐιβίω []λεξά[] τῷ κρατίστω ἐπιστρατήγω παρὰ Άντ[ωνίου Δ]όμνου τοῦ καὶ Φιλαντι[νό]ου Άντωνίο[υ Ῥωμανο]ῦ Τραιανείου τοῦ κα[ὶ Στρα]τείου OTIG Άντινοέως. [ούκ ἂν] είς τοῦτο προήχθ[η]ν, ἐπι-O PHI7 τρόπων [μέγιστ]ε, μέ[τριος] καὶ ἀπράγμων Send ὢν ἄνθρ[ωπος,] εἰ μὴ [ΰβρι]ν τὴν μ[εγ]ίστην ἐπεπόνθ[ειν ὑπὸ] Ὠρίωνο[ς κ]ωμογρα[μ]ματέως Epiduke Φ[ι]λαδελφεί[ας τῆ]ς Ἡρακλείδου μερίδο[ς] τοῦ Άρσινοίτου. [οὖ χά]ριν μην[ύ]ω παρὰ τ[ὰ ἀ]πειοπμένα έα[υτὸ]ν ένσείσαντα είς τὴν κωμο-Sentence] τῷ κρατίστῳ ἐπιστρατήγῳ παρὰ Ἀντ[ωνίου] [Δ]όμνου τοῦ καὶ Φιλαντι[νό]ου Ἀντωνίο[υ] [Ῥωμανο]ῦ Τραιανείου τοῦ καίτι [Στρα]τείου Άντινοέως [οὐκ] [ἂν] εἰς τοῦτο προήχθ[η]ν ἐπι- τρόπων [μέγιστ]ε μέ[τριος] καὶ ἀπράγμων ὢν ἄνθρ[ωπος] εἰ μὴ [ὓβρι]ν τὴν μ[εγ]ίστην ἐπεπόνθ[ειν] [ὑπὸ] Ώρίωνο[ς] [κ]ωμογρα[μ]ματέως Φ[ι]λαδελφεί[ας] [τῆ]ς Ήρακλείδου μερίδο[ς] τοῦ Άρσινοίτου [οὖ] [χά]ριν μην[ύ]ω παρὰ τ[ὰ] [ἀ]πει- ρημένα ἑα[υτὸ]ν ἐνσείσαντα εἰς τὴν κωμο- γραμματείαν [μ]ήτε σπολογήσαντα μήτε πρ[α]κτορεύσαντα παντελώς ἄπορον ὄν[τ]α δι ἣν αίτίαν καὶ πρότερον οὐ διέλιπον ἐντυγ- χάνων καὶ νῦν ἀξιῶ ἐάν σου τῆ τύχη δόξ[η] ἀκοῦσαί μου π[ρ]ὸς αὐτὸν πρὸς τὸ τυχεῖν με τῆς ἀπὸ σοῦ [μι]σοπονήρου ἐγδ[ι]κίας ἵν ὧ ὑπὸ [σ]οῦ κατὰ πάντα βεβοηθ(ημένος) διευτύχει Άντώνιος Δόμνος ἐπιδέδωκα



Strategy 1 Only use of information about the damaged word



	_		
	0.3	CV	
1.2	LCC	w	

Interpreted word : _λεξά____

Length: 9

Candidate	Score		Neighboured letter bigrams	Word similarity (letters)	Named Entity	☐ Word bigram	Semantic context	Classification	Show
Άλεξάνδρα	2	1.0		1.0					
Άλεξάνρου	2	1.0		1.0					
Άλεξάνδρα	2	1.0		1.0					
Άλεξάνδρω	2	1.0		1.0					
Άλεξάρχου	2	1.0		1.0					
Άλεξάνδου	2	1.0		1.0					
ἐνεχάραξα	1	1.0							
όμολογει"	1	1.0							
όλοκλήρον	1	1.0							



Strategy 2 Only use of any kind of context information



[_]λεξά[]
Interpreted word : _λεξά

Length: 9

Score		Neighboured letter bigrams	Word similarity (letters)	Named Entity	☐ Word bigram	Semantic context	Classification	Show
3					0.5	0.4	0.000	
3					1.0	0.8	0.003	
2					0.5		0.001	
2						0.8	0.040	
2						0.2	0.025	
2						0.4	0.000	
2					0.5	0.2		
2						0.2	0.010	
2						0.2	0.250	
2					0.5	0.2		
2						0.4	0.001	
2						0.2	0.001	
2						0.2	0.200	
	3 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	length 3 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	Score length bigrams	length bigrams (letters)	length bigrams (letters) Entity	length bigrams (letters) Entity bigram	Ingth bigrams (letters) Entity bigram context	Score length bigrams (letters) Entity bigram context Classification



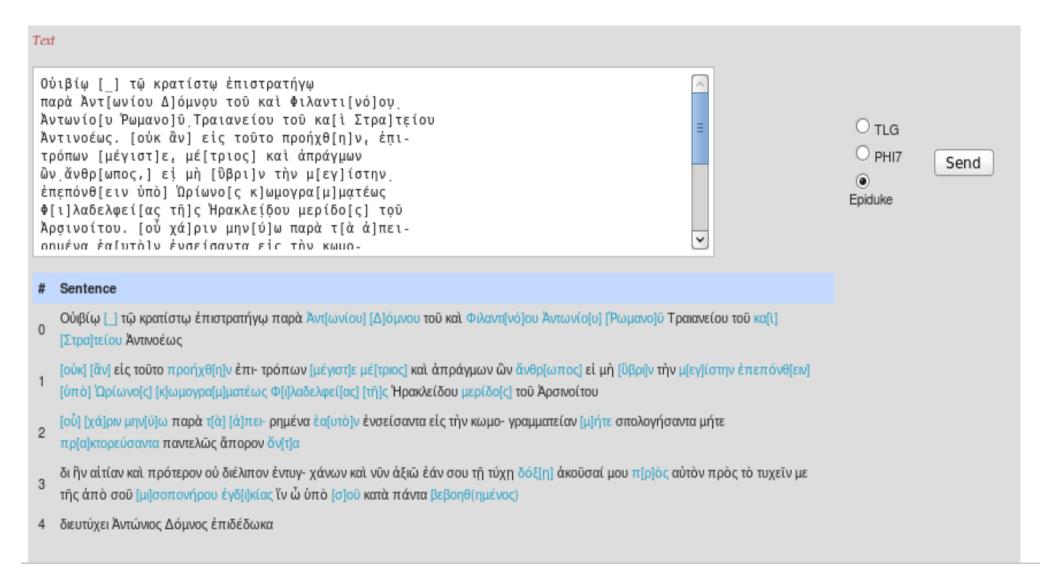
The 'Real' Strategy 2 (remove everthing that you know about the damaged word)

Only use of any kind of context information



Step 1&2: Changing text and choosing damaged word

Automatische Sprachverarbeitung





I-4	_	
Interpreted word	i	_

Length: 1

Candidate	Score	Word length	Neighboured letter bigrams	Word similarity (letters)	Named Entity	Word bigram	Semantic context	Classification	Show
νομοῦ	3					0.5	0.4	0.000	
Άλεξάνδρω	3					1.0	0.8	0.003	
ἀπόδος	2					0.5		0.001	
Δόμνου	2						0.8	0.040	
ἀνέτεινα	2						0.2	0.025	
Αὐρηλίου	2						0.4	0.000	
Άχιλλεῖ	2					0.5	0.2		
Έπτὰ	2						0.2	0.010	
διαδεχομένω	2						0.2	0.250	
Σεουηριανῷ	2					0.5	0.2		
Αἰγύπτου	2						0.4	0.001	
ἡγεμόνι	2						0.2	0.001	
Λικιννιανῷ	2						0.2	0.200	



Strategy 3 The Full Strategy - choosing whatever makes sense



			_			
	ra.	0	ъ.	ev.		л
	11	ε_{i}		ш		
_		_	Э.	,	_	 •

Interpreted word : _λεξά_

Length: 9

Candidate	Score		Neighboured letter bigrams	Word similarity (letters)	Named Entity	☐ Word bigram	Semantic context	Classification	Show
Άλεξάνδρω	5	1.0		1.0		1.0	0.8	0.003	
γενομένην	3	1.0				0.5	0.2		
διοίκησιν	3	1.0					0.2	0.008	
νομοῦ	3					0.5	0.4	0.000	
Άντινοέως	3	1.0					0.8	0.011	
βιβλιδίου	3	1.0					0.4	0.003	
ἐππρόπων	3	1.0					0.2	0.005	
Άντινοέων	3	1.0					0.4	0.002	
Δημητρίωι	3	1.0					0.2	0.002	
βιβλιδίων	3	1.0					0.2	0.002	
Στρατείου	3	1.0					0.6	0.214	
στρατηγὸς	3	1.0					0.2	0.001	
Άλεξάρχου	2	1.0		1.0					



- Apparatus criticus
- Post selection of word list
- More approaches (up to 30 (automatic) approaches are planned/possible)
 - Separation of left hand side and right hand side signal words
 - Semantics:
 - Semantics by Wittgenstein: Co-occurrences
 - Semantics by Firth (here HGV classification): You shall know a word by the company it keeps.
 - Different semantic spaces
- Does any cluster of algorithms fit to different annotations of the Leiden conventions?
- What are good training data for suggesting words?
- What is of interest for correction? (If no Leiden Convention exists)
 - Technically it is difficult to make distinction between spelling errors, OCR errors, or just variants, loan words, person names



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