Appendix A REUTERS-21578

A.1 Introduction

This chapter is a condensed version of the information available about the Reuters-21578 collection.

Reuters-21578 text categorization test collection is a resource for research in information retrieval, machine learning, and other corpus-based research.

The copyright for the text of newswire articles and Reuters annotations in the Reuters-21578 collection resides with Reuters Ltd. and Carnegie Group, Inc. that have agreed to allow the free distribution of this data for research purposes only.

The Reuters-21578, Distribution 1.0 test collection is available from http://www.daviddlewis.com/resources/testcollections/reuters21578

A.2 History

The documents in the Reuters-21578 collection appeared on the Reuters newswire in 1987. The documents were assembled and indexed with categories by personnel from Reuters Ltd. (Sam Dobbins, Mike Topliss, Steve Weinstein) and Carnegie Group, Inc. (Peggy Andersen, Monica Cellio, Phil Hayes, Laura Knecht, Irene Nirenburg) in 1987.

In 1990, the documents were made available by Reuters and CGI for research purposes to the Information Retrieval Laboratory (W. Bruce Croft, Director) of the Computer and Information Science Department at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Formatting of the documents and production of associated data files was done in 1990 by David D. Lewis and Stephen Harding at the Information Retrieval Laboratory.

Further formatting and data file production was done in 1991 and 1992 by David D. Lewis and Peter Shoemaker at the Center for Information and Language Studies, University of Chicago. This version of the data was made available for anonymous FTP as "Reuters-22173, Distribution 1.0" in January 1993. From 1993 through 1996, Distribution 1.0 was hosted at a succession of FTP sites maintained by the

Center for Intelligent Information Retrieval (W. Bruce Croft, Director) of the Computer Science Department at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

At the ACM SIGIR '96 conference in August, 1996, a group of text categorization researchers discussed how published results on Reuters-22173 could be made more comparable across studies. It was decided that a new version of collection should be produced with less ambiguous formatting, and including documentation carefully spelling out standard methods of using the collection. The opportunity would also be used to correct a variety of typographical and other errors in the categorization and formatting of the collection.

Steve Finch and David D. Lewis did this cleanup of the collection September through November of 1996, relying heavily on Finch's SGML-tagged version of the collection from an earlier study. One result of the re-examination of the collection was the removal of 595 documents which were exact duplicates (based on identity of timestamps down to the second) of other documents in the collection. The new collection therefore has only 21,578 documents, and thus is called the Reuters-21578 collection.

A.3 Formatting

The Reuters-21578 collection is distributed in 22 files. Each of the first 21 files (reut2-000.sgm through reut2-020.sgm) contain 1000 documents, while the last (reut2-021.sgm) contains 578 documents.

The files are in SGML format. Rather than going into the details of the SGML language, it is described how the SGML tags are used to divide each file, and each document, into sections.

Each of the 22 files begins with a document type declaration line:

<!DOCTYPE lewis SYSTEM "lewis.DTD">

A.4 The REUTERS Tag

Each article starts with an "open tag" of the form:

<REUTERS TOPICS=?? LEWISSPLIT=?? CGISPLIT=?? OLDID=??
NEWID=??>

where the ?? are filled in an appropriate fashion. Each article ends with a "close tag" of the form:</REUTERS>

In all cases the <REUTERS> and </REUTERS> tags are the only items on their line

Each REUTERS tag contains explicit specifications of the values of five attributes, TOPICS, LEWISSPLIT, CGISPLIT, OLDID, and NEWID. These attributes are meant to identify documents and groups of documents, and have the following meanings:

- 1. TOPICS: The possible values are YES, NO and BYPASS:
 - a. YES: indicates that in the original data there was at least one entry in the TOPICS fields;
 - NO: indicates that in the original data the story had no entries in the TOPICS field;
 - c. BYPASS: indicates that in the original data the story was marked with the string BYPASS (or a typographical variant on that string).

This poorly-named attribute unfortunately is the subject of much confusion. It is meant to indicate whether or not the document had TOPICS categories in the raw Reuters-22173 dataset. The sole use of this attribute is to defining training set splits similar to those used in previous research. (See the section on training set splits.) The TOPICS attribute does not indicate anything about whether or not the Reuters-21578 document has any TOPICS categories. That can be determined by actually looking at the TOPICS field. A story with TOPICS="YES" can have no TOPICS categories, and a story with TOPICS="NO" can have TOPICS categories.

A reasonable (though not certain) assumption is that for all TOPICS="YES" stories the indexer at least thought about whether the story belonged to a valid TOPICS category. Thus, the TOPICS="YES" stories with no topics can reasonably be considered negative examples for all 135 valid TOPICS categories.

TOPICS="NO" stories are more problematic in their interpretation. Some of them presumedly result because the indexer made an explicit decision that they did not belong to any of the 135 valid TOPICS categories. However, there are many cases where it is clear that a story should belong to one or more TOPICS categories, but for some reason the category was not assigned. There appear to be certain time intervals where large numbers of such stories are concentrated, suggesting that some parts of the data set were simply not indexed, or not indexed for some categories or category sets. Also, in a few cases, the indexer clearly meant to assign TOPICS categories, but put them in the wrong field. These cases have been corrected in the Reuters-21578 data, yielding stories that have TOPICS categories, but where TOPICS="NO", because the the category was not assigned in the raw version of the data.

"BYPASS" stories clearly were not indexed, and so are useful only for general distributional information on the language used in the documents.

- 2. LEWISSPLIT: The possible values are TRAINING, TEST, and NOT-USED. TRAINING indicates it was used in the training set in the experiments reported in [66, 67, 68, 71]. TEST indicates it was used in the test set for those experiments, and NOT-USED means it was not used in those experiments.
- 3. CGISPLIT: The possible values are TRAINING-SET and PUBLISHED-TESTSET indicating whether the document was in the training set or the test set for the experiments reported in [42, 43].
- 4. OLDID: The identification number (ID) the story had in the Reuters-22173 collection.

NEWID: The identification number (ID) the story has in the Reuters-21578, Distribution 1.0 collection. These IDs are assigned to the stories in chronological order.

In addition, some REUTERS tags have a sixth attribute, CSECS, which can be ignored.

The use of these attributes is critical to allowing comparability between different studies with the collection.

A.5 Document-Internal Tags

Just as the <REUTERS> and </REUTERS> tags serve to delimit documents within a file, other tags are used to delimit elements within a document. These are discussed in the order in which they typically appear, though the exact order should not be relied upon in processing. In some cases, additional tags occur within an element delimited by these top level document-internal tags. These are discussed in this section as well.

It is specified below whether each open/close tag pair is used exactly once (ONCE) per a story, or a variable (VARIABLE) number of times (possibly zero). In many cases the start tag of a pair appears only at the beginning of a line, with the corresponding end tag always appearing at the end of the same line. When this is the case, it is indicated it with the notation "SAMELINE" below, as an aid to those processing the files without SGML tools.

- 1. <DATE>, </DATE> [ONCE, SAMELINE]: Encloses the date and time of the document, possibly followed by some non-date noise material.
- 2. <MKNOTE>, </MKNOTE> [VARIABLE]: Notes on certain hand corrections that were done to the original Reuters corpus by Steve Finch.
- 3. <TOPICS>, </TOPICS> [ONCE, SAMELINE]: Encloses the list of TOPICS categories, if any, for the document. If TOPICS categories are present, each will be delimited by the tags <D> and </D>.
- 4. <PLACES>, </PLACES> [ONCE, SAMELINE]: Same as <TOPICS> but for PLACES categories.
- 5. <PEOPLE>, </PEOPLE> [ONCE, SAMELINE]: Same as <TOPICS> but for PEOPLE categories.
- <ORGS>, </ORGS> [ONCE, SAMELINE]: Same as <TOPICS> but for ORGS categories.
- 7. <EXCHANGES>, </EXCHANGES> [ONCE, SAMELINE]: Same as <TOPICS> but for EXCHANGES categories.
- 8. <COMPANIES>, </COMPANIES> [ONCE, SAMELINE]: These tags always appear adjacent to each other, since there are no COMPANIES categories assigned in the collection.
- 9. <UNKNOWN>, </UNKNOWN> [VARIABLE]: These tags bracket control characters and other noisy and/or somewhat mysterious material in the Reuters stories.

A.6 Categories 133

10. <TEXT>, </TEXT> [ONCE]: There was an attempt to delimit all the textual material of each story between a pair of these tags. Some control characters and other "junk" material may also be included. The whitespace structure of the text has been preserved. The <TEXT> tag has the following attributes:

a. TYPE: This has one of three values: NORM, BRIEF, and UNPROC. NORM is the default value and indicates that the text of the story had a normal structure. In this case the TEXT tag appears simply as <TEXT>. The tag appears as <TEXT TYPE="BRIEF"> when the story is a short one or two line note. The tags appears as <TEXT TYPE="UNPROC"> when the format of the story is unusual in some fashion that limited our ability to further structure it.

The following tags optionally delimit elements inside the TEXT element. Not all stories will have these tags:

- b. <AUTHOR>, </AUTHOR>: Author of the story.
- c. <DATELINE>; </DATELINE>: Location the story originated from, and day of the year.
- d. <TITLE>, </TITLE>: Title of the story. An attempt to capture the text of stories with TYPE="BRIEF" within a <TITLE> element.
- e. <BODY>, </BODY>: The main text of the story.

A.6 Categories

A test collection for text categorization contains, at minimum, a set of texts and, for each text, a specification of what categories that text belongs to. For the Reuters-21578 collection the documents are Reuters newswire stories, and the categories are five different sets of content related categories, as shown in table A.1. For each document, a human indexer decided which categories from which sets that document belonged to.

The TOPICS categories are economic subject categories. Examples include "coconut", "gold", "inventories", and "money-supply". This set of categories is the one that has been used in almost all previous research with the Reuters data.

The EXCHANGES, ORGS, PEOPLE, and PLACES categories correspond to named entities of the specified type. Examples include "nasdaq" (EXCHANGES),

Туре	Number	+ 1 occurrence	+20 occurrences
EXCHANGES	39	32	7
ORGS	56	32	9
PEOPLE	267	114	15
PLACES	175	147	60
TOPICS	135	120	57

Table A.1 Category types in Reuters-21578.

"gatt" (ORGS), "perez-de-cuellar" (PEOPLE), and "australia" (PLACES). Typically a document assigned to a category from one of these sets explicitly includes some form of the category name in the document's text. (Something which is usually not true for TOPICS categories.)

Reuters-21578, Distribution 1.0 includes five files (all-exchanges-strings. lc.txt, all-orgs-strings.lc.txt, all-people-strings.lc.txt, all-places-strings.lc.txt, and all-topics-strings.lc.txt) which list the names of all legal categories in each set. A sixth file, cat-descriptions_120396.txt gives some additional information on the category sets.

Note that a sixth category field, COMPANIES, was present in the original Reuters materials distributed by Carnegie Group, but no company information was actually included in these fields. In the Reuters-21578 collection this field is always empty.

In the table above it can be seen how many categories appear in at least 1 of the 21,578 documents in the collection, and how many appear at least 20 of the documents. Many categories appear in no documents, but researchers are encouraged to include these categories when evaluating the effectiveness of their categorization system.

Additional details of the documents, categories, and corpus preparation process appear in [67], and at greater length in [66].

A.7 Using Reuters-21578 for Text Categorization Research

In testing a method for text categorization it is important that knowledge of the nature of the test data not unduly influence the development of the system, or the performance obtained will be unrealistically high. One way of dealing with this is to divide a set of data into two subsets: a training set and a test set. An experimenter then develops a categorization system by automated training on the training set only, and/or by human knowledge engineering based on examination of the training set only. The categorization system is then tested on the previously unexamined test set.

Effectiveness results can only be compared between studies that the same training and test set (or that use cross-validation procedures). One problem with the Reuters-22173 collection was that the ambiguity of formatting and annotation led different researchers to use different training/test divisions. This was particularly problematic when researchers attempted to remove documents that "had no TOPICS", as there were several definitions of what this meant.

To eliminate these ambiguities from the Reuters-21578 collection, it is defined exactly which articles are in each of the recommended training sets and test sets by specifying the values those articles will have on the TOPICS, LEWISSPLIT, and CGISPLIT attributes of the REUTERS tags. It is strongly encouraged that all studies on Reuters-21578 use one of the following training test divisions (or use multiple random splits, e.g. cross-validation).

A.7.1 The Modified Lewis ("ModLewis") Split

This split replaces the 14704/6746 split (723 unused) of the Reuters-22173 collection, which was used in [66, 67, 68, 71].

Table A.2 presents the splitting procedure. If LEWISSPLIT is NOT-USED or TOPICS is BYPASS, a document is not used.

The duplicate documents removed in forming Reuters-21578 are of course not present. The documents with TOPICS="BYPASS" are not used, since subsequent analysis strongly indicates that they were not categorized by the indexers. The 1,765 unused documents should not be tested on and should not be used for supervised learning. However, they may useful as additional information on the statistical distribution of words, phrases, and other features that might used to predict categories.

This split assigns documents from April 7, 1987 and before to the training set, and documents from April 8, 1987 and after to the test set. Table A.3 presents the number of documents used on ModLewis split.

Given the many changes in going from Reuters-22173 to Reuters-21578, including correction of many typographical errors in category labels, results on the Mod-Lewis split cannot be compared with any published results on the Reuters-22173 collection.

Set	LEWISSPLIT	TOPICS
Train	TRAIN	YES ou NO
Test	TEST	Yes ou NO
Not Used	NOT-USED	-
Not Used	-	BYPASS

Table A.2 ModLewis split.

Table A.3 Used documents on ModLewis split.

Set	Documents
Train	13625
Test	6188
Nou used	1765

A.8 The Modified Apte ("ModApte") Split

This replaces the 10645/3672 split (7,856 not used) of the Reuters-22173 collection. It is an approximation to the training and test splits used in [6] and [7].

Table A.4 presents the split. As with the ModLewis, those documents removed in forming Reuters-21578 are not present, and BYPASS documents are not used.

The intent in [6] and [7] to use the Lewis split, but restrict it to documents with at least one TOPICS categories. However, but it was not clear exactly what

		monraa
Set	LEWISSPLIT	TOPICS
Train	TRAIN	YES
Test	TEST	YES
Not Used	NOT-USED	YES
Not Used	-	NO
Not Used	-	BYPASS

Table A.4 ModApte split.

Apte, et al meant by having at least one TOPICS category (e.g. how was "bypass" treated, whether this was before or after any fixing of typographical errors, etc.). This interpretation is encoded in the TOPICS attribute.

As discussed above, some TOPICS="YES" stories have no TOPICS categories, and a few TOPICS="NO" stories have TOPICS categories. These facts are irrelevant to the definition of the split.

If you are using a learning algorithm that requires each training document to have at least TOPICS category, you can screen out the training documents with no TOPICS categories.

Please do NOT screen out any of the 3,299 documents - that will make your results incomparable with other studies.

As with ModLewis, it may be desirable to use the 8,676 unused documents for gathering statistical information about feature distribution.

As with ModLewis, this split assigns documents from April 7, 1987 and before to the training set, and documents from April 8, 1987 and after to the test set. The difference is that only documents with at least one TOPICS category are used. The rationale for this restriction is that while some documents lack TOPICS categories because no TOPICS apply (i.e. the document is a true negative example for all TOPICS categories), it appears that others simply were never assigned TOPICS categories by the indexers. (Unfortunately, the amount of time that has passed since the collection was created has made it difficult to establish exactly what went on during the indexing.)

Table A.5 presents the number of documents used on ModApte split.

Given the many changes in going from Reuters-22173 to Reuters-21578, including correction of many typographical errors in category labels, results on the ModApte split cannot be compared with any published results on the Reuters-22173 collection.

Table A.5 Used documents on ModApte split.

Set	Documents
Train	9603
Test	3299
Not used	8676

A.9 Stopwords

```
<REUTERS TOPICS="YES" LEWISSPLIT="TRAIN" CGISPLIT="TRAINING-SET"</pre>
OLDID="5552" NEWID="9">
<DATE>26-FEB-1987 15:17:11.20</DATE>
<TOPICS><D>earn</D></TOPICS>
<PLACES><D>usa</D></PLACES>
<PEOPLE></PEOPLE>
<ORGS></ORGS>
<EXCHANGES></EXCHANGES>
<COMPANIES></COMPANIES>
<UNKNOWN>
F
   f0762 reute
                                 02-26 0067</UNKNOWN>
r f BC-CHAMPION-PRODUCTS-<CH
<TEXT>&#2;
<TITLE>CHAMPION PRODUCTS &1t; CH> APPROVES STOCK SPLIT</TITLE>
<DATELINE> ROCHESTER, N.Y., Feb 26 - </DATELINE><BODY>Champion
Products Inc said its
board of directors approved a two-for-one stock split of its
common shares for shareholders of record as of April 1, 1987.
   The company also said its board voted to recommend to
shareholders at the annual meeting April 23 an increase in the
authorized capital stock from five mln to 25 mln shares.
 Reuter
</BODY></TEXT>
</REUTERS>
```

Fig. A.1 Example of a Reuters-21578 document.

A.9 Stopwords

a; about; above; across; after; afterwards; again; against; all; almost; alone; along; already; also; although; always; am; among; amongst; amoungst; amount; an; and; another; any; anyhow; anyone; anything; anyway; anywhere; are; around; as; at; back; be; became; become; becomes; becoming; been; before; beforehand; behind; being; below; beside; besides; between; beyond; bill; both; bottom; but; by; call; can; cannot; cant; co; computer; con; could; couldnt; cry; de; describe; detail; do; done; down; due; during; each; eg; eight; either; eleven; else; elsewhere; empty; enough; etc; even; ever; every; everyone; everything; everywhere; except; few; fifteen; fify; fill; find; fire; first; five; for; former; formerly; forty; found; four; from; front; full; further; get; give; go; had; has; hasnt; have; he; hence; her; here; hereafter; hereby; herein; hereupon; hers; herself; him; himself; his; how; however; hundred; i; ie; if; in; inc; indeed; interest; into; is; it; its; itself; keep; last; latter; latterly; least; less; ltd; made; many; may; me; meanwhile; might; mill; mine; more; moreover; most; mostly; move; much; must; my; myself; name; namely; neither; never; nevertheless; next; nine; no; nobody; none; noone; nor; not; nothing; now; nowhere; of; off; often; on; once; one; only; onto; or; other; others; otherwise; our; ours; ourselves; out; over; own; part; per; perhaps; please; put; rather; re; same; see; seem; seemed; seeming; seems; serious; several; she; should; show; side; since; sincere; six; sixty; so; some; somehow; someone; something; sometime; sometimes; somewhere; still; such; system; take; ten; than; that; the; their; them; themselves;

then; thence; there; thereafter; thereby; therefore; therein; thereupon; these; they; thick; thin; third; this; those; though; three; through; throughout; thru; thus; to; together; too; top; toward; towards; twelve; twenty; two; un; under; until; up; upon; us; very; via; was; we; well; were; what; whatever; when; whence; whenever; where; whereafter; whereas; whereby; wherein; whereupon; wherever; whether; which; while; whither; who; whoever; whole; whom; whose; why; will; with; within; without; would; yet; you; your; yours; yourself; yourselves;

Appendix B

RCV1 - Reuters Corpus Volume I

B.1 Introduction

This chapter is a rather condensed version of the information available about the Reuters Corpus Volume I (RCV1) collection. RCV1 is an archive of over 800,000 manually categorized newswire stories using three category sets, that was recently made available by Reuters Ltd. for research purposes. Use of this data for research on text categorization requires a detailed understanding of the real world constraints under which the data was produced. RCV1 as distributed is simply a collection of newswire stories, not a test collection. It includes known errors in category assignment, provides lists of category descriptions that are not consistent with the categories assigned to articles, and lacks essential documentation on the intended semantics of category assignment [107]. Nevertheless it constitutes a valuable research tool for text, namely for categorization.

Reuters Ltd. has gone through significant restructuring since RCV1 was produced, and information that in a research setting would have been retained was therefore not recorded. In particular, no formal specification remains of the coding practices at the time the RCV1 data was produced. Fortunately, several researchers [107, 73] have examined the available information and, by combining related documentation and interviews with Reuters personnel, have largely reconstructed those aspects of coding relevant to text categorization research.

B.2 The Documents

Reuters Ltd. is the largest international text and television news agency. Its editorial division produces some 11,000 stories a day in 23 languages [73]. Stories are both distributed in real time and made available via online databases and other archival products.

The RCV1 dataset was created from one of those online databases. It consists of the English language stories produced by Reuters journalists between August 20, 1996, and August 19, 1997. A researcher can obtain the data on two CD-ROMs,

formatted in XML, by submiting a request to the National Institute of Science and Technology¹. Figure B.1 shows an example story with some simplification of the markup for brevity, taken from [73].

RCV1 contains 35 times as many documents (806,791) as the popular Reuters-21578 collection (see Appendix A), making it one of the largest available text categorization test collection. Moreover, RCV1 is also more organized than previous collections. Each document is in a separate file and has a unique ID, ranging from 2286 to 810597 with some gaps. The ID order does not correspond to chronological order of the stories, but they have time stamps that give only the day, not the time, since the stories were taken from an archival database, not from the original stream sent out over the newswire.

Both text and metadata are formatted with XML, simplifying their use. As RCV1 was produced from an archival database, it has fewer alerts, corrections to previous stories, and other peculiarities.

RCV1 contains all or almost all stories of a particular type from an interval of one year. For temporal studies, this is a major advantage over Reuters-21578, which had uneven coverage of a fraction of a year.

The corpus has a limited number of duplicates, foreign language documents, and other similar issues, which can be problematic depending on the application at hand, but are comparable to to levels seen in operational settings.

B.3 The Categories

To aid retrieval from database products category codes from three sets (Topics, Industries, and Regions) were assigned to stories.

B.3.1 Topic Codes

In the experiments carried out in this thesis categories were taken from the topic codes, which were assigned to capture the major subjects of a story. They were organized in four hierarchical groups: CCAT (Corporate/Industrial), ECAT (Economics), GCAT (Government/Social), and MCAT(Markets).

There are 103 categories actually assigned to the data. In the second column of Table B.1 (Documents) the total number of positive documents for the ten most populated classes of RCV1 is given. For training, RCV1 defines 22,370 documents that should be used. For testing we selected the first 50,000 documents not used for training. Table B.1 also presents the effective number of positive documents used for training and testing.

One can see that this code set shows particular perspective on a data set. The RCV1 articles span a broad range of content, but the code set only emphasizes distinctions relevant to Reuters customers. For instance, there are three different Topic codes for corporate ownership changes, but all of science and technology is a single category (GSCI) [72].

¹ http://trec.nist.gov/data/reuters/reuters.html

B.3 The Categories 141

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1" ?>
<newsitem itemid="2330" id="root" date="1996-08-20" xml:lang="en">
<title>USA: Tylan stock jumps; weighs sale of company.</title>
<headline>Tylan stock jumps; weighs sale of company.</headline>
<dateline>SAN DIEGO</dateline>
<text>
The stock of Tylan General Inc. jumped Tuesday after the maker of
process-management equipment said it is exploring the sale of the
company and added that it has already received some inquiries from
potential buyers.
Tylan was up $2.50 to $12.75 in early trading on the Nasdaq market.
The company said it has set up a committee of directors to oversee
the sale and that Goldman, Sachs & Do. has been retained as its
financial adviser.
</text>
<copyright>(c) Reuters Limited 1996</copyright>
<metadata>
<codes class="bip:countries:1.0">
<code code="USA"> </code>
</codes>
<codes class="bip:industries:1.0">
<code code="I34420"> </code>
</codes>
<codes class="bip:topics:1.0">
<code code="C15"> </code>
<code code="C152"> </code>
<code code="C18"> </code>
<code code="C181"> </code>
<code code="CCAT"> </code>
</codes>
<dc element="dc.publisher" value="Reuters Holdings Plc"/>
<dc element="dc.date.published" value="1996-08-20"/>
<dc element="dc.source" value="Reuters"/>
<dc element="dc.creator.location" value="SAN DIEGO"/>
<dc element="dc.creator.location.country.name" value="USA"/>
<dc element="dc.source" value="Reuters"/>
</metadata>
</newsitem>
```

Fig. B.1 Example of a RCV1 document.

Category	Documents	Training	Testing
CCAT	381327	10416	23077
GCAT	239267	2050	5180
MCAT	204820	5154	11110
C15	151785	3122	7454
ECAT	119920	3162	7539
M14	85440	1799	4887
C151	81890	515	698
C152	73092	1088	435
GPOL	56878	1627	3756
M13	53634	1095	2613

Table B.1 Positive documents for RCV1 categories.

B.3.1.1 Industry Codes

Industry codes were assigned based on types of businesses discussed in the story. They were grouped in 10 subhierarchies, such as I2(METALSANDMINERALS) and I5(CONSTRUCTION). The Industry codes make up the largest of the three code sets, supporting many fine distinctions.

B.3.1.2 Region Codes

Region codes included both geographic locations and economic/political groupings. No hierarchical taxonomy was defined.

B.3.2 Coding Policy

Explicit policies on code assignment presumedly increase consistency and usefulness of coding, though coming up with precise policies is difficult. Reuters guidance for coding included two broad policies, among others. In [73], these policies are described as:

- 1. Minimum Code Policy: Each story was required to have at least one Topic code and one Region code;
- 2. Hierarchy Policy: Coding was to assign the most specific appropriate codes from the Topic and Industry sets, as well as (usually automatically) all ancestors of those codes. In contrast to some coding systems, there was no limit on the number of codes with the same parent that could be applied.

B.4 Stopwords

For comparison purposes, the same set of stopwords used for Reuters-21578 (see Appendix A) was filtered out from RCV1.

- Aas, K., Eikvil, L.: Text categorisation: A survey. Technical report, Norwegian Computing Center (1999)
- 2. Abdalhaq, B., Cortés, A., Margalef, T., Bianchini, G., Luque, E.: Between classical and ideal: Enhancing wildland fire prediction using cluster computing. Cluster Computing 9(3), 329–343 (2006)
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- Al-Ani, A., Deriche, M.: Feature selection using a mutual information based measure.
 In: International Conference on Pattern Recognition ICPR 2002, vol. 4, pp. 82–85 (2002)
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 In: International Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval ACM SIGIR 1998, pp. 96–103 (1998)
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Index

Active learning, 12, 52, 55, 60, 71, 73, 119 Δ_2 , 55 Certainty-based, 72 Committee-based, 72 Selected documents, 56 Supervisor, 55 Applications, 5, 119	Formatting, 130 ModApte split, 56, 62, 135 ModLewis split, 135 Small split, 56 Reuters corpus volume I, 25, 94, 102, 139 Categories, 140 Cross-validation, 21
Microarray data, 93	
News wires, 93	Decision rules, 12, 13
Sentiment classification, 52	Decision trees, 12, 13, 65
Web pages, 93	Decomposition methods, 71
	Dimensionality reduction, 8, 125
Background knowledge, 54, 60	Manifold learning, 119
Δ_1 , 54	Principal component analysis, 32
Confidence threshold, 54	Discriminative Classifiers, 12
Incremental background knowledge, 54	Distributed environments, 121, 126
Δ_1 , 54	ADaM, 94
Algorithm, 55	Alchemi, 95, 100
Bag-of-words, 6, 10	Cluster environment, 96
Bagging, 20	Condor, 95, 100
Batch learning, 42	Deployment, 97
Bayes classifier, 11, 12, 15, 20, 52, 64	Direct acyclic graphs, 97, 115
Boosting, 19, 80, 85	Agglomeration, 97
AdaBoost, 12, 19, 65, 81	Bottlenecks, 98, 100, 104
Weak classifier, 81	Communication, 97
BoosTexter, 65	Mapping, 97
	Partitioning, 97, 100
Classifiers, 11	Distributed applications, 95
Community mining, 123	GRIDMINER, 96
Computational time, 63, 75, 77	JBOWL, 96
Corpora, 24, 43	Efficiency, 112
Reuters, 5	Ensembles, 107
Reuters-21578, 24, 71, 94, 102, 129	Globus, 95
Categories, 133	Grid environments, 93

High throughput computing, 95	Relevance vector machines, 12, 31, 38,
Middleware platforms, 96	106, 119
Model of the environment, 100, 105	Active learning, 73
NaCTeM, 95	Automatic relevance determination, 40,
Relevance vector machines, 106	41
SETI@home, 95	Boosting, 80
Speedup, 111, 114	Divide-and-conquer, 78
Support vector machines, 104	Hessian matrix, 41
Task scheduling, 97, 102	Incremental learning, 79
Communication, 97	Likelihood, 40, 42
Dataflow, 102, 103	Posterior probability, 39
Dependencies, 97	Prior probability, 40
Execution, 97	Probabilistic framework, 39
Optimization, 104	Relevance vectors, 40, 43, 73
TeraGrid, 94	RVM Boosting, 82
Divide-and-conquer, 14, 18, 72, 78, 89, 120	RVM Ensemble, 83
Document representation, 3, 6	Sparsity, 40
Document frequency, 9	Training set, 71
Stemming, 10, 26, 102	Spectral clustering, 17
Stopwords, 9, 26, 102	Support vector machines, 12, 31, 104,
5topwords, 7, 20, 102	119
Expectation-Maximization, 72	Dual problem, 37
Expectation-maximization, 53	Empirical risk minimization, 32
	Hessian matrix, 36
Feature extraction, 3, 8, 10	Kernel functions, 37, 65
Feature selection, 8	Lagrange multipliers, 35
Framework for text classification, 117	Nonlinear, 37
Fuzzy, 21	Optimal separating hyperplane, 33, 53 Primal problem, 37
Generative classifiers, 12	Separating margin, 33, 53, 65, 69
Genetic algorithms, 21	Slack variables, 36
Graphical visualization, 119	Soft margin, 36
Graphs, 53	Structural risk minimization, 32, 48
Graphis, 55	Support vectors, 33, 43, 53
Hataraganagus data 125	SVM ensembles, 65
Heterogeneous data, 125	Transductive support vector machines,
High-dimensional data, 71, 114, 119, 126	53
Homonymy, 10	VC-dimension, 32, 35
Hybrid approaches, 52, 121	knowledge integration, 121
Hybrid RVM-SVM, 86	
Confidence intervals, 87	Large volumes of data, 18
Hybrid text classifier, 53	Latent dirichlet allocation, 12
I.C	Latent semantic indexing, 10, 11, 119
Information gain, 9	Learning, 3
V 10 15 20 64	Training/testing splits, 21
K-nearest neighbor, 12, 15, 20, 64	Logistic function, 87
Kernel-based machines, 12, 17, 96	Logistic regression, 12, 20
Kernel principal components analysis, 17, 32	Low frequency word, 26
Kernel ridge regression, 17	Manifold learning, 119

Index 155

Markov models, 53 Multi-label, 4 Multiclass, 4	Speedup, 111 True negatives, 22 True positives, 22
Multimedia data, 125	Personalization, 124
Multiple classifiers, 18, 63, 79, 80, 83, 107,	Polysemy, 10
120	Pre-processing, 3, 8, 119
Majority voting, 65, 84, 107 no free lunch, 64, 85	Principal component analysis, 32
SVM ensembles, 65	Radial basis functions, 38
Diversity, 69	Relevance sampling, 72
Individual performance, 69	Rocchio, 12, 64
Largest margin, 66	
Learning parameters, 65	Scaling, 71, 72, 91, 108, 126
Patterns of errors, 65	Semantic web, 123
Positive classifications, 66	Social Networks, 123
Natural language processing, 10	Space reduction, 3
Neural networks, 12, 16, 38	Dimensionality reduction, 8, 125
Novel trends, 122	Spam, 5, 51
Trover delias, 122	Sparsity, 71
Outliers, 74	Spectral clustering, 53
Overfitting, 32	Stemming, 10, 26, 102
	Stopwords, 9, 26, 102
Page rank, 124	Structured data, 125
Partially supervised learning, 51, 52	Supervised learning, 12, 51, 96
Pattern recognition, 31	SVM light, 65
Performance, 22, 63, 74 Accuracy, 22	Synonymy, 10
Area under the curve, 78	Term frequency, 7
Efficiency, 112	TFIDF, 7
Error rate, 22	11 151, /
F-measure, 23	Uncertainty compline 72
False negatives, 22	Uncertainty sampling, 72 Unlabeled data, 51, 69, 72, 73
False positives, 22	User interaction, 62
Precision, 23	OSEI IIITEI ACTION, UZ
Recall, 23	77. 1 70
Receiver operating characteristic, 23, 28,	Winnow learners, 72
62, 77, 84, 119	Wrapper methods, 9