

How to count words?

In this lecture we want to count words and for this we have to ask ourselves what a word actually is? We will learn different methods to compare words and get an insight into the linguistic sub-discipline of lexicography and morphology. We will put this knowledge into a transducer that will enable us to normalize texts and gather statistics about words. Finally, we discuss how our solution is transferable to other languages, such as Chinese.

Text:

In this lecture **we** want to count words and for this **we** have to ask ourselves: what **are** words actually? **We** will learn different methods to compare words and get an insight into the linguistic sub-discipline of lexicography and morphology. **We** will put this knowledge into a transducer that will enable us to normalize texts and gather statistics about words. Finally, **we** discuss how our solution **is** transferable to other languages, such as Chinese.

- Should „**We**“ and „**we**“ count as the same word?
- Should „**is**“ and „**are**“ be considered equal?
- ...

Language:

„I do uh **main-** mainly business data processing.“

„Seuss’s **cat** in the hat is different from other **cats!**“

- „uh“: should we also count speech disfluencies?
- „**main-**“ How to count fragments?
- What about plural –s?

Fuzzy String Matching

Technique of finding strings that match a pattern approximately

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Approximate_string_matching

- **Optical Character Recognition (OCR) errors:**

- **Spelling Errors:**

- upper / lower casing,
- Typing errors,
- ...

- **Phonetically ambiguous words: e.g. “to”, “too”, “two”**

- **Pronunciation complicated or transcription unclear:**

- “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious”

Pronunciation (IPA): /,su:pər,kæli,frædʒɪ,lɪstɪk,ɛkspi,æli'douʃəs/

- Proper names: „Maier“, „Meier“, „Mayr“

Wä, g'il'mēsē 'wīlg'
laē äx'ēdxēs gālay

↓ OCR

ITä, g'il_mēsē \$wīlg_
laē ä_r_ēdvēs gālay

Example: Spelling Errors



Gierafe

Gieraffe

Girafe

Girafhe



Which version is „close“ to the correct *german* version (Giraffe)?

Example: Spelling Errors



Giraffe

Correct spelling with 7 characters

Gierafe

Error?

Example: Spelling Errors



Giraffe

Gierafe

Correct spelling with 7 characters

1 insertion („e“)

1 deletion („f“)

2 errors $2/7 = 0.286$

Example: Spelling Errors



Giraffe

Correct spelling with 7 characters

Gierafe

1 insertion („e“)

1 deletion („f“)

2 errors $2/7 = 0.286$

Gieraffe

1 insertion („e“)

1 error $1/7 = 0.143$

Example: Spelling Errors



Giraffe

Correct spelling with 7 characters

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1 insertion („e“)

1 deletion („f“)

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Gieraffe

1 insertion („e“)

1 error $1/7 = 0.143$

Girafe

1 too few („f“)

1 error $1/7 = 0.143$

Example: Spelling Errors



Giraffe

Correct spelling with 7 characters

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Gieraffe

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Girafe

1 too few („f“)

1 error $1/7 = 0.143$

Girafhe

1 substitution
(„h“ instead of „f“)

1 error $1/7 = 0.143$

Example: Spelling Errors



Giraffe

Gierafe

Gieraffe

Girafe

Girafhe

Correct spelling with 7 characters

1 insertion („e“)

1 deletion („f“)

2 errors

$$2/7 = 0.286$$

1 insertion („e“)

1 error

$$1/7 = 0.143$$

1 too few („f“)

1 error

$$1/7 = 0.143$$

1 substitution

(„h“ instead of „f“)

1 error

$$1/7 = 0.143$$

„Edit distance“

or

„Levenshtein-Distance“

WER

How to search for similar strings?



Let (U, d) be a metric space, i.e. U be our „universe of objects“ and $d: U \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ a distance metric satisfying

- $d(x, y) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = y$
- $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$
- $d(x, z) \leq d(x, y) + d(y, z)$

Let (U, d) be a metric space, i.e. U be our „universe of objects“ and $d: U \times U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ a distance metric satisfying

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Idea

Given a new query $q \in U$ and a maximum distance k , retrieve all strings in our vocabulary $V \subset U$ with a distance at most k from q , i.e.

output all $x^* \in V: d(x^*, q) \leq k$

- There are different edit distances for string sequences
- Not all edit distances satisfy the symmetry relation $d(x, y) = d(y, x)$ of a distance metric

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edit_distance

- **Three types of errors:**

- $I := \# \text{Insertions}$ („too much“)
- $D := \# \text{Deletions}$ („too few“)
- $S := \# \text{Substitutions}$ („confusion“)
- $N := \# \text{SymbolsOfCorrectString}$

- **Above metrics on word level => Word Error Rate**

$$WER = \frac{S + D + I}{N}$$

Input

```
X[1..M], Y[1..N]
```

```
// 1-indexed, of length m and n respectively
```

Initialization

```
d[0..M, 0..N] := zeros()
```

```
For all i: d[i,0] := i
```

```
For all j: d[0,j] := j
```



```
// set all elements in 0-indexed array to zero
```

Recurrence Relation

```
For j from 1 to N:
```

```
  For i from 1 to M:
```

$$d[i, j] := \min \begin{cases} d[i-1, j] + 1 & \text{// deletion} \\ d[i, j-1] + 1 & \text{// insertion} \\ d[i-1, j-1] + \begin{cases} 2; & \text{if } X[i] \neq Y[j] \\ 0; & \text{if } X[i] = Y[j] \end{cases} & \text{// substitution} \end{cases}$$

Termination:

```
d[N,M] is the distance
```

■ Fuzzy String Match:

Grapheme Sequence

TO
TOO
TWO

Phoneme Sequence

T UW1
T UW1
T UW1

} works.

Robert
Rupert

R AA1 B ER0 T
R UW1 P ER0 T } Does not work

Robert => Hash: R163
Rupert => Hash: R163

} Wie findet man diesen Hash?

■ Robert C. Russell and Margaret King Odell

■ Patented in 1918:

1. Retain the first letter of the name drop all other occurrences of a, e, i, o, u, y, h, w.
2. Replace consonants with digits as follows (after the first letter):
 1. b, f, p, v \rightarrow 1
 2. c, g, j, k, q, s, x, z \rightarrow 2
 3. d, t \rightarrow 3
 4. l \rightarrow 4
 5. m, n \rightarrow 5
 6. r \rightarrow 6
3. If two or more letters with the same number are adjacent in the original name (before step 1), only retain the first letter; also two letters with the same number separated by 'h' or 'w' are coded as a single number, whereas such letters separated by a vowel are coded twice. This rule also applies to the first letter.
4. If you have too few letters in your word that you can't assign three numbers, append with zeros until there are three numbers. If you have four or more numbers, retain only the first three.

1. **Text translated in tokens: Word segmentation**
2. **Normalisation: gather comparability**
 - Normalizing
 - Upper- and lower-casing
 - Morphology
 - Lemmatization/stemming
3. **Sentence Segmentation**

Tokens vs. Types

Distinguish two ways of talking about words

Token vs. Typen?



1 Kranich/Type



10 Kraniche/Tokens



1 Individuum or
„identity“



Token vs. Typen?



Beispiel: „HELLO“

#Tokens: 5

#Types: 4 (here: E, O, H, L,)

1 Kranich/Type



10 Kraniche/Tokens



1 Individuum or
„identity“



Token vs. Typen?



Beispiel: „HELLO“

#Tokens: 5

#Types: 4 (hier: E, O, H, L,)

Beispiel: „There are cars.“

#Tokens: 3

#Types: 3 (there, are, cars)



cars = car?
are = were = be = is?

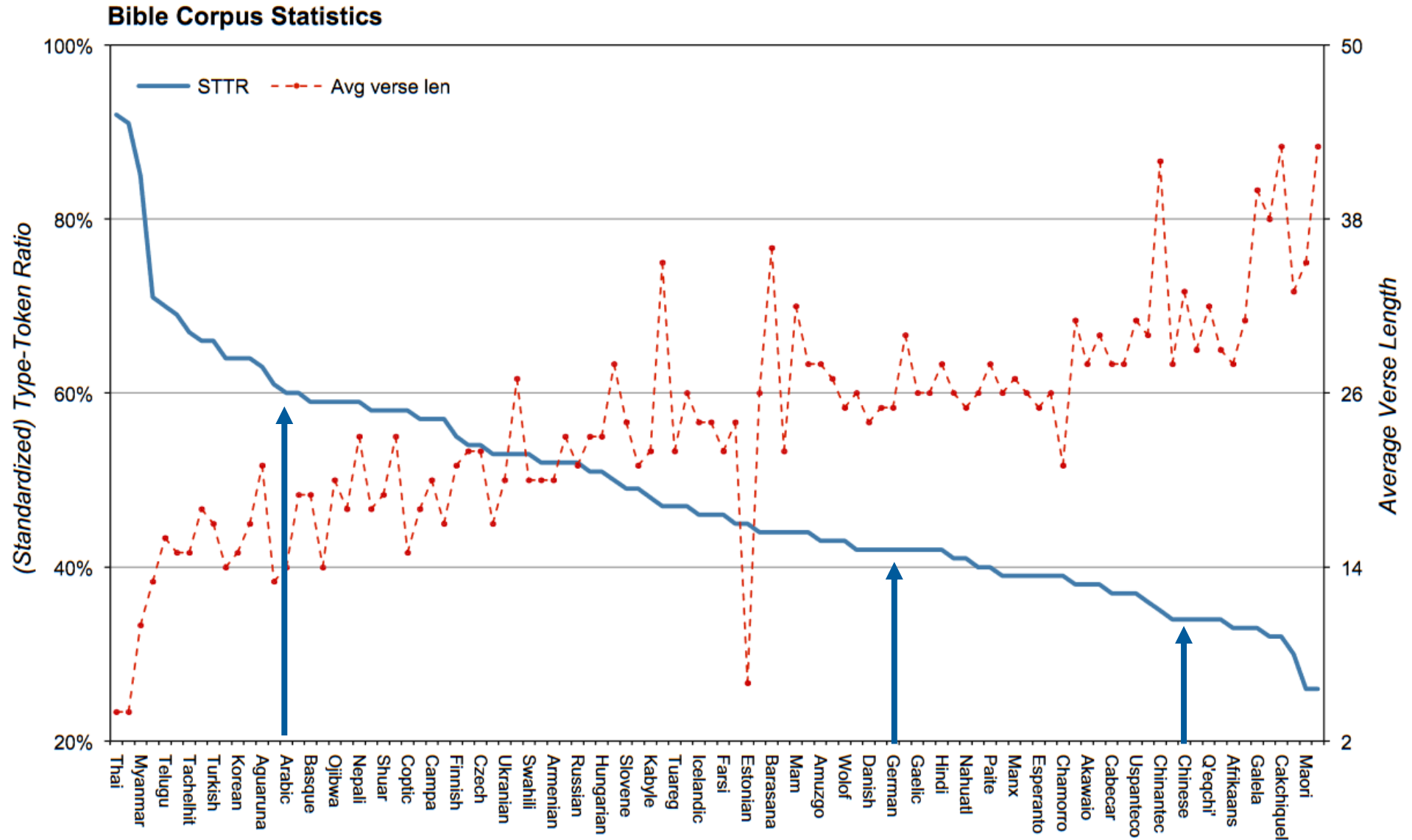
Type: an element of the vocabulary

Token: an instance of that type in running text

■ Church & Gale (1990): $|\text{Typen}| > O(|\text{Tokens}|^{0.5})$

	$ \text{Tokens} $	$ \text{Typen} := \text{Vokabular Größe}$
Switchboard phone conversations	2 400 000	20 000
Shakespeare	884 000	31 000
Google n-gram	1 Trillionen	13 000 000

Typen-Token-Ration in verschiedenen Sprachen



Tokenization

Defining words

**Segmentation of a text into units on a word level,
aka „words“**

- **For German, English etc: ususally simply words
separated by whitespaces**
- **But there are special cases**

„Finland’s capital“

What’re

I’m

isn’t

Hewlett-Packard

State-of-the-art

Lowercase

San Francisco

m.p.h., PhD

Finland, Finlands, Finland’s?

What are

i am

is not

HP, Hewlett Packard

state of the art

lower-case, lowercase, lower case

one token or two?

?

L'ensemble

L, L', Le?

L'ensemble

un ensemble

Lebensversicherungsgesellschaftsangesteller

⇒ Compound splitter required:

- Leben s
- versicherung s
- gesellschaft s
- angesteller

Slang in Japanese:

フォーチュン500社は情報不足のため時間あた\$500K(約6,000万円)
Katakana Hànzì Hiragana Kanji Romaji

Slang in Japanese:

フォーチュン 500社は情報不足のため時間あた\$500K(約6,000万円)
Katakana Hànzì Hiragana Kanji Romaji

那是一句话。	(Chinese)
それは一文です。	(Japanese)
นั่นคือประโยค	(Thai)
그것은 문장입니다.	(Korean)
This is a sentence.	(English)

Segmentation into
words?

„Most common“: Max-Match Segmentation
Research: Neural nets for word segmentation

Max-Match Segmentation

Languages without „obvious“ word boundaries in grapheme sequences

莎拉波娃现在居住在美国东南部的佛罗里达

English: „Sharapova now lives in Florida in the southeast of the United States “

莎拉波娃现在居住在美国东南部的佛罗里达

Longest word in vocabulary? – no.

Vocabulary:

现在的
国东
在美
莎拉波娃
居住
南部
佛罗里达
佛罗里达
居住南部
...

莎拉波娃现在居住在美国东南部的佛罗里达



Longest word in vocabulary? – no.

Vokabular:

现在的
国的
在美国
莎拉波娃
居住
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佛罗里达
居住南部
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Vocabulary:

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莎拉波娃

Longest word in vocabulary? – yes.

莎拉波娃

Vocabulary:

现在的

的

国东

在美

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居住

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Vocabulary:

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...

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莎拉波娃 现在 居住

Vocabulary:

现在的
国东
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南部
佛罗里达
佛罗里达居住南部
...

莎拉波娃现在居住在美国东南部的佛罗里达
└.....

Longest word in vocabulary? – no.

莎拉波娃 现在 居住

Vocabulary:

现在的
国东
在美
莎拉波娃
居住
南部
佛罗里达
佛罗里达居住南部
...

莎拉波娃现在居住在美国东南部的佛罗里达

莎拉波娃 现在 居住 在美 国东 南部 的 佛罗里达

Pinyin: Shā lā bō wá xiànzài jūzhù zài měiguó dōngnán bù de fóluólidá

Thecatinthehat => the cat in the hat

Thetabledownthere => theta bled own there

(correct: the table down there)



Funktioniert nicht für Englisch, Deutsch, ...
Wir häufig mit Grammatiken gelöst.

Segmentierung ist aktives Forschungsfeld in allen Sprachen!

Normalization

Remove noise and other superfluous information, establish comparability.

U.S.A. vs. USA

GM vs. General Motors vs. general motors

Fed vs. fed

US vs. us <= context

Define equivalence classes of terms

Examples: Internet Slang



Input	Output
2moro	tomorrow
2mrrw	tomorrow
2morrow	tomorrow
2mrw	tomorrow
tomrw	tomorrow
b4	before
otw	On the way

Examples: Noise



Input	Output	word stem
..trouble..	trouble	troubl
trouble<	trouble	troubl
trouble!	trouble	troubl
<a>trouble	trouble	troubl
1.trouble	trouble	troubl



We'll get to that in a minute!

- `[!"#$%&'()*+,-./:;<=>?@[\\]^_`{|}~]`
- **Space, line break**
- `<tr>`, `<a>`, `<p>`, ...

Capitalization

iS uPPeR AnD LoWEr CAsiNg ReaLLy IMportant FoR uNDeRStandAbilTY?

Sentence start/Sentence case	General syntactic agreements
Munich, Audi, United States	Proper names
BMW, ICE, US	Abbreviations
easyJet A319, WikiWord, WikiCase, PhD, BSc., StGB, GmbH, TzBfG, macOS iPhone, BahnCard, RegionalExpress, InterCityExpress	„Marketing“
I (in English)	Peculiarities of the language
...	



Morphology

The study of the way words are built up from smaller meaning-bearing units

- A *morpheme* is the smallest meaning-bearing unit of a language
- A *stem* is the central morpheme of the word, supplying the main meaning
- **Affixes:** Bits and pieces that adhere the stems (often with grammatical functions)

- Words arise
- A new word „**un**happy“ can be derived by left-concatenation of the prefix „**un**“ to the word „happy“
- „**un**happy“ and „happy“ are two different words

- Expresses grammatical functions of words in the sentence
- We can create the word „cats“ via inflection of the word „cat“ using the plural „-s“
- „cat“ and „cats“ are two forms of the same word

noun
verb
{affix}

{prefix-}	: „con-“ in „confirm“
{-infix}	: „bloody“ in „absobloodylutely“ – not present in German
{-suffix}	: „-ing“ in „studying“
{circumfix}	: „ex-“ and „-ed“ in „extended“

Interfix, duplifix, transfix, simulfix, suprafix, disfix, ...

Morphology Tree: Example 1



Morphology

unbelievable

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT_A-7usiel&feature=emb_rel_end
<https://all-about-linguistics.group.shef.ac.uk/branches-of-linguistics/morphology/what-is-morphology/>

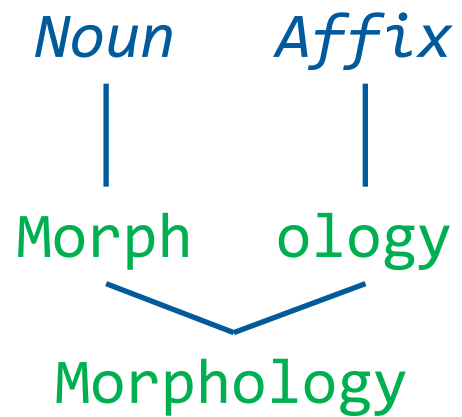
Morphology Tree: Example 1



Morph ology
└───┬───
Morphology

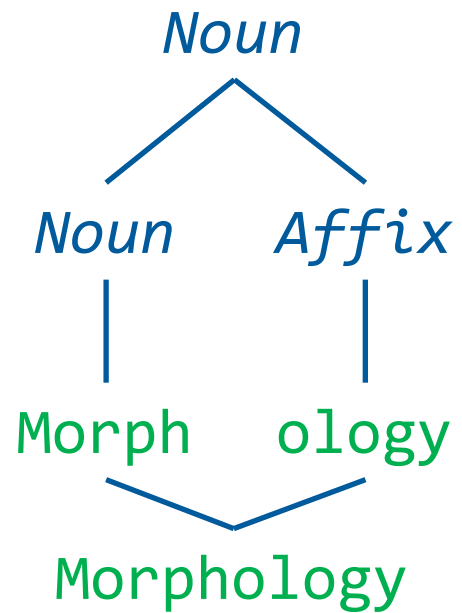
unbelievable

Morphology Tree: Example 1



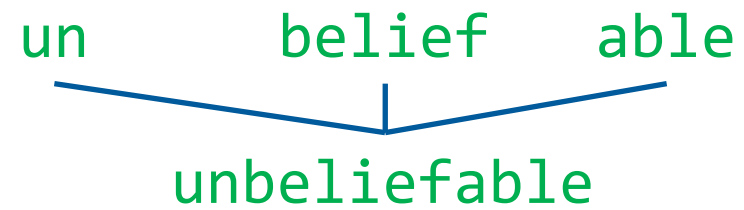
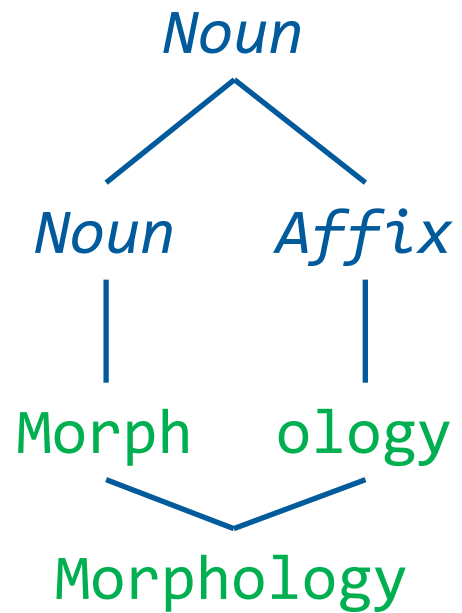
unbelievable

Morphology Tree: Example 1

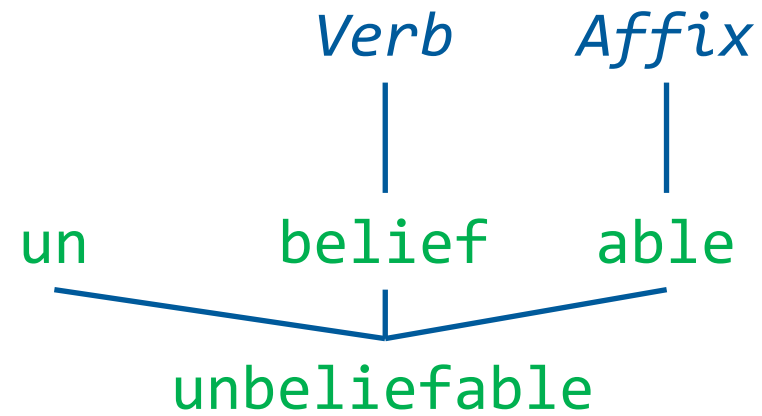
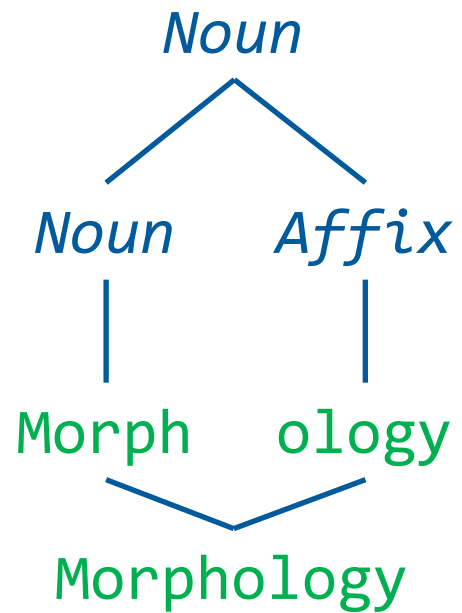


unbelievable

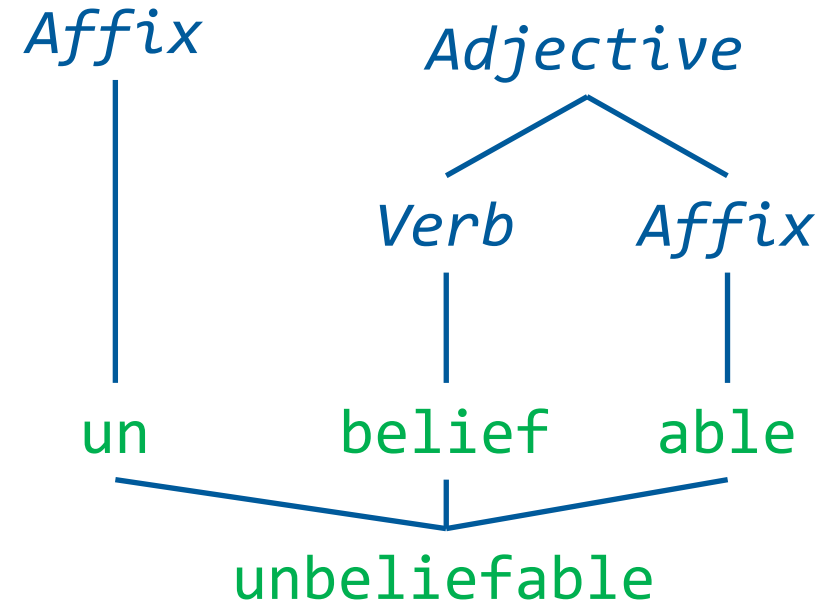
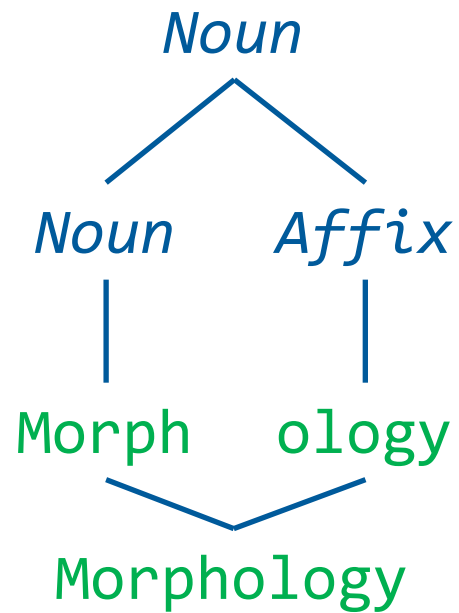
Morphology Tree: Example 1



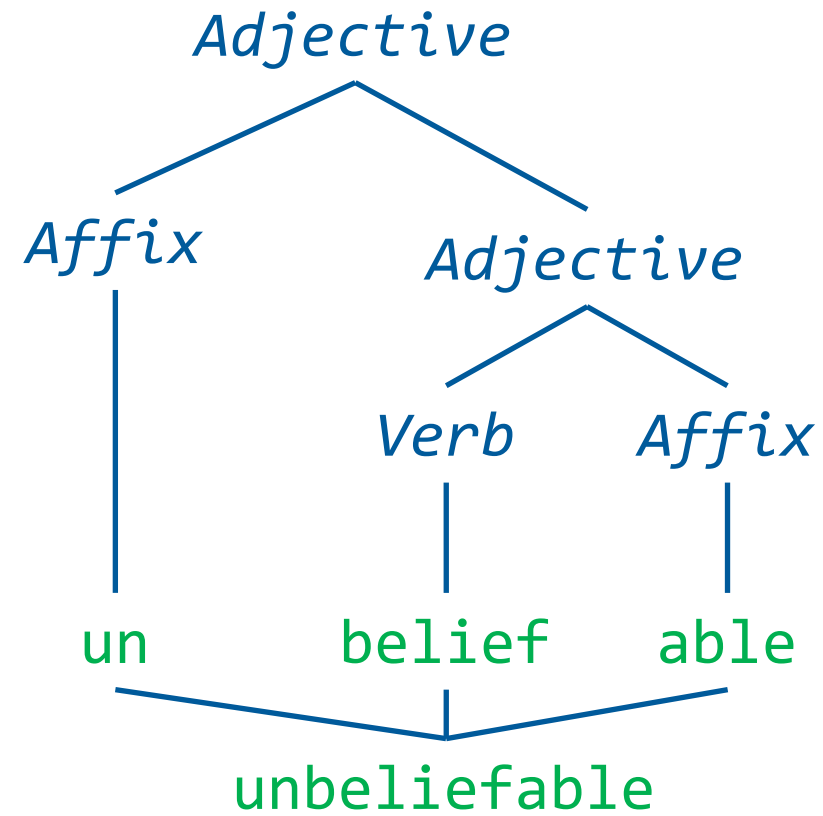
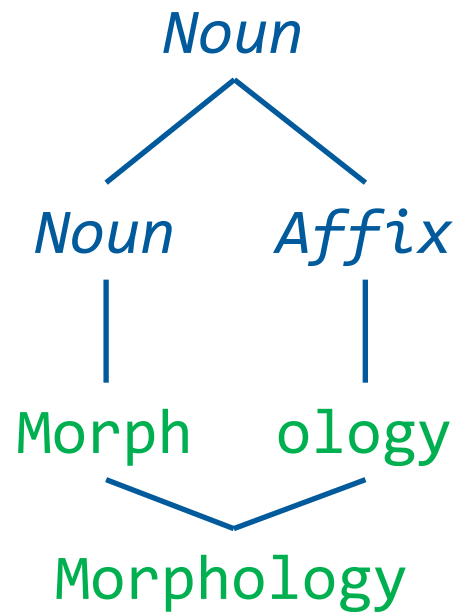
Morphology Tree: Example 1



Morphology Tree: Example 1



Morphology Tree: Example 1



Antidisestablishmentarianism



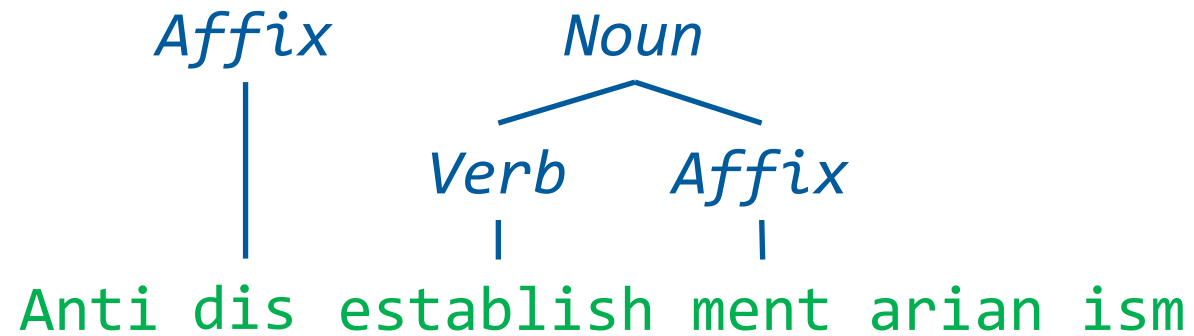
Anti dis establish ment arian ism

Morphology Tree: Example 2

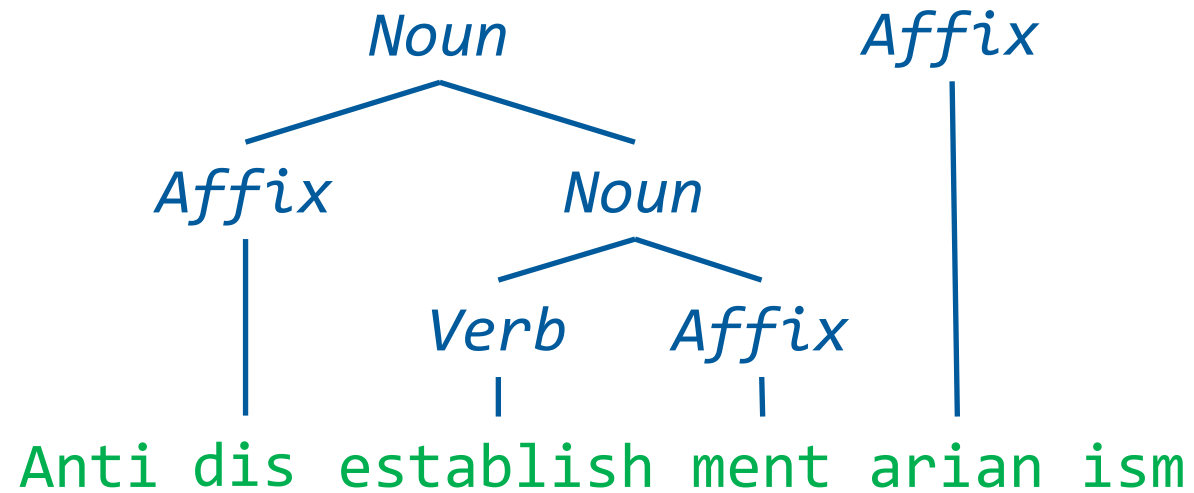


Verb *Affix*
| |
Anti dis establish ment arian ism

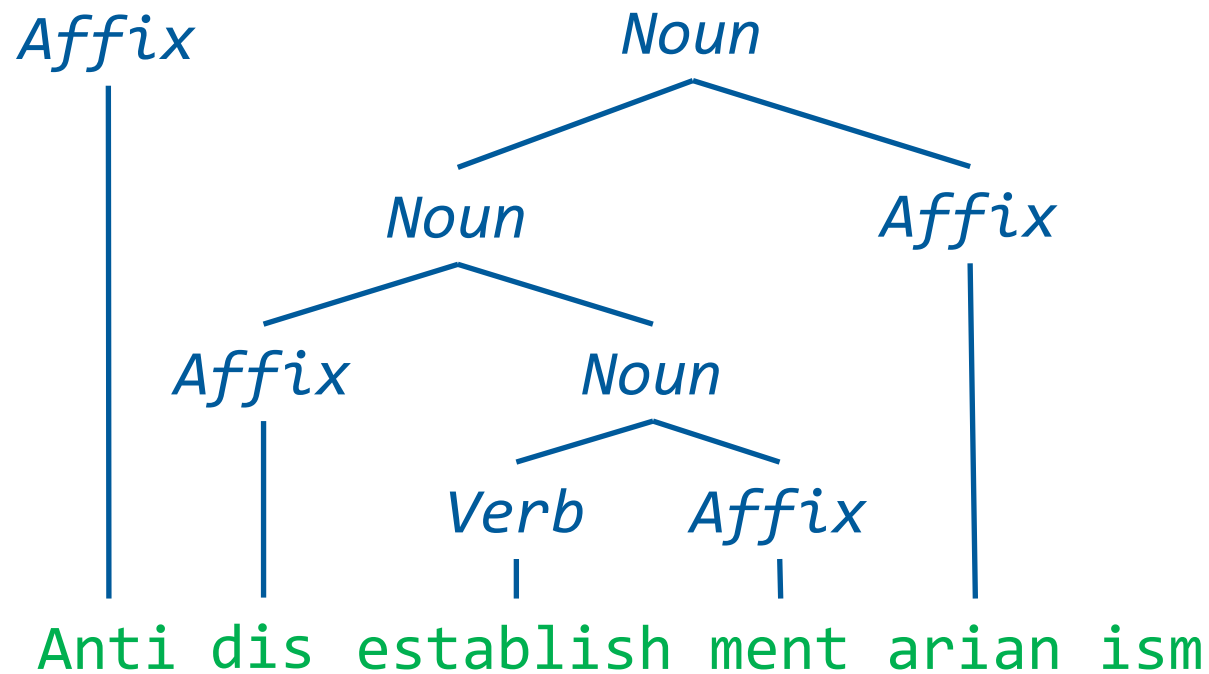
Morphology Tree: Example 2



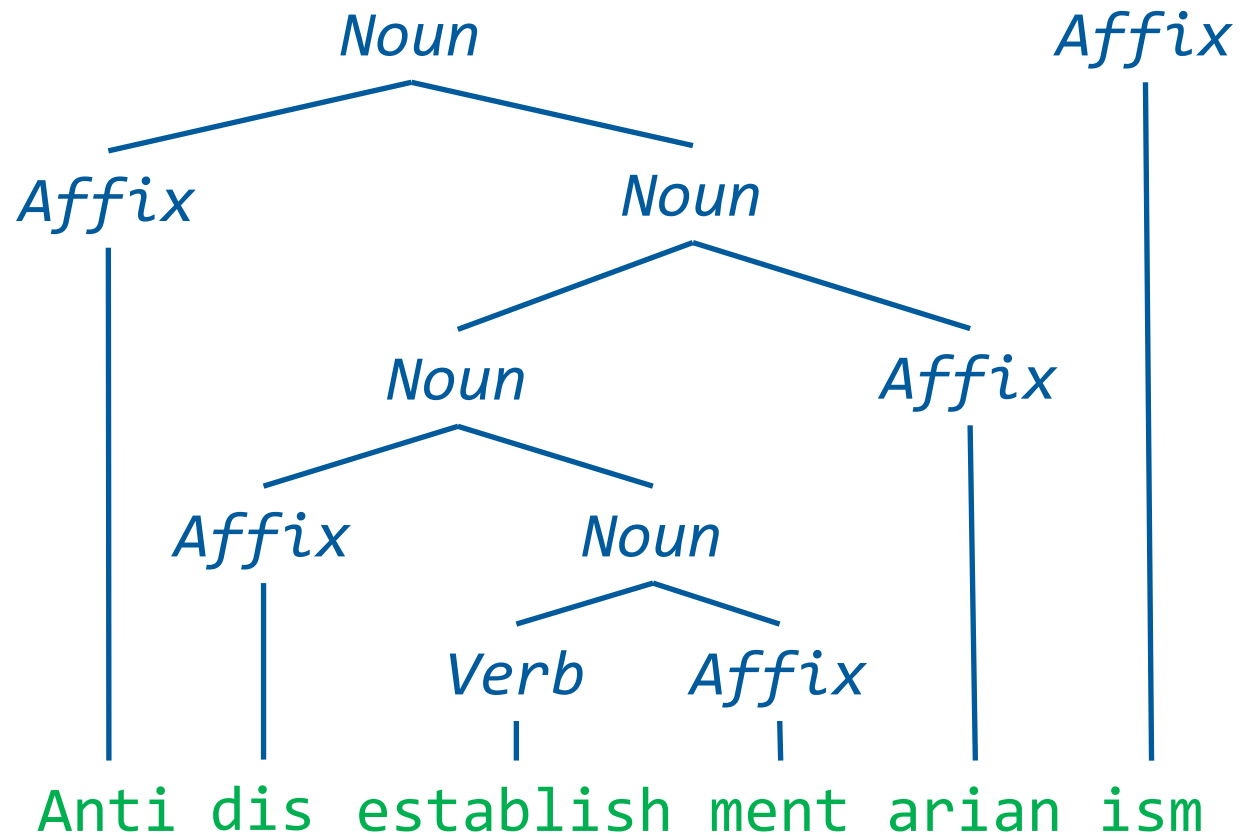
Morphology Tree: Example 2



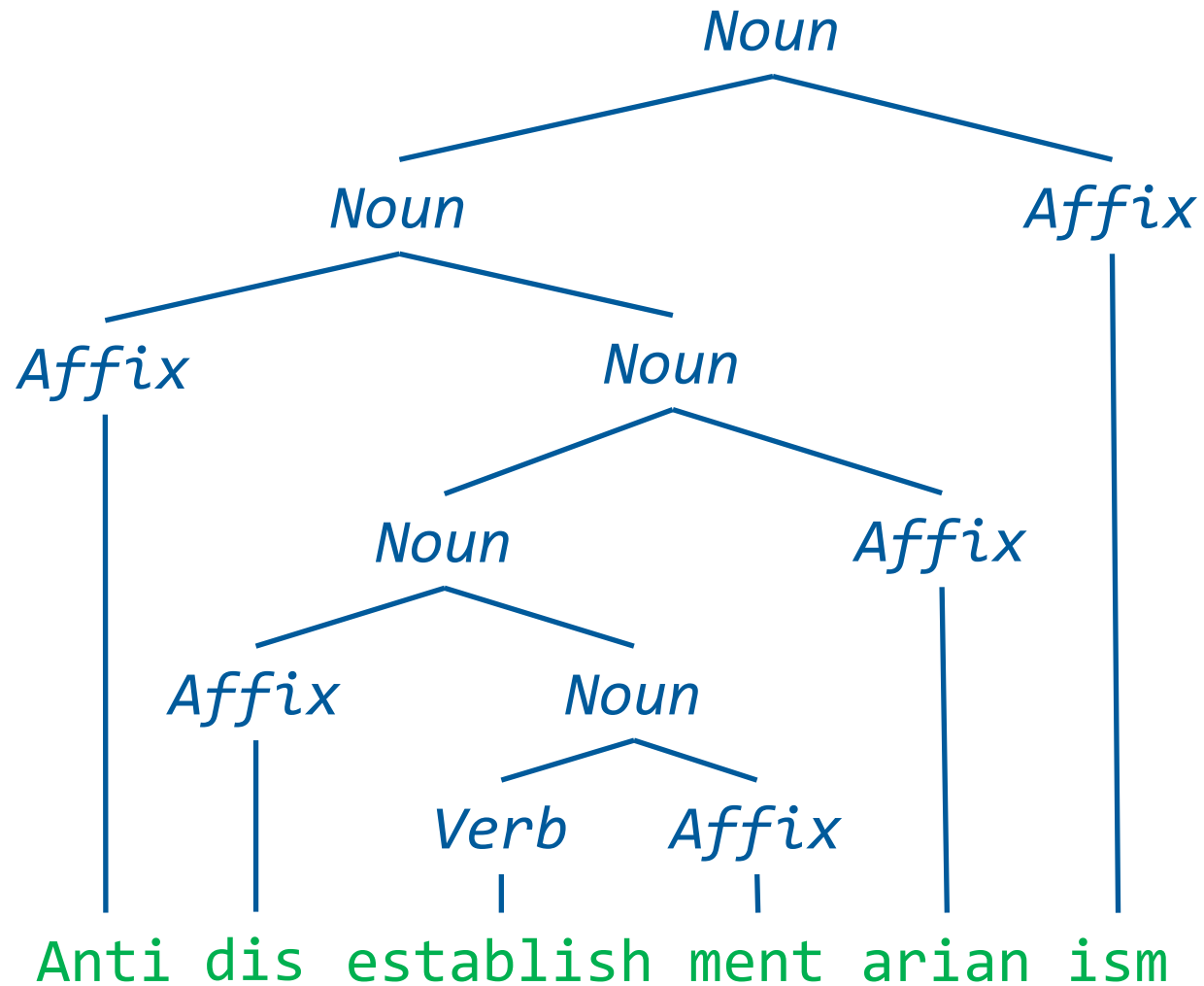
Morphology Tree: Example 2

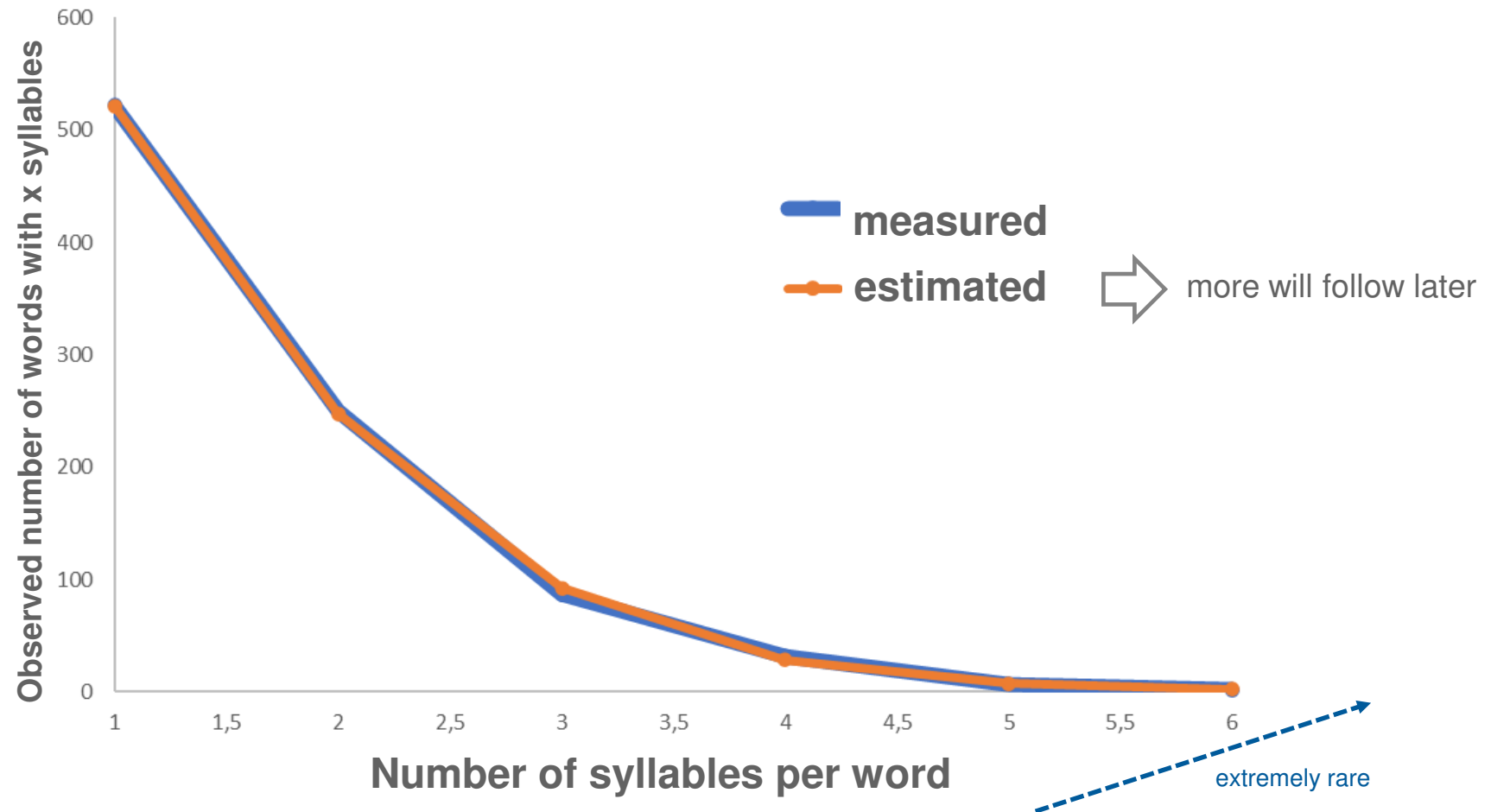


Morphology Tree: Example 2



Morphology Tree: Example 2





Lebensversicherungsgesellschaftsangestellter

Example: “Uygarlastiramadiklarimizdanmissinizcasina”

(behaving) as if you are among those whom we could not civilize

Uygar	las	tir	ama	dik	lar	imiz	dan	mis	siniz	casina
Civilized	become	cause	not able	past	plural	p1pl	abl	past	2pl	as if

Do you know a
better
example?

Example: “**legeslegmegszentségtelenítettetlenebbjeitekként**”
like the most of most undesecratable ones of you or as your most unsanctifiable

<https://github.com/oroszgy/awesome-hungarian-nlp#2-datasets>

Do you know a
better
example?

- Example cases of inflections:

我(I) -> 我们(we)

他(he) -> 他们(them, plural)

哥(friend) -> 哥们(friends)

- **Adverbial adjective:**

小心地做事 (do things carefully)

- **Adjective form of nouns:**

可能 (can)

可能性 (the possibility)

- **Adverbialized noun :**

历史 (history)

历史上 (in the history)

Lemmatization

Task of determining that two words have the same root, despite their surface differences

What is the basic form of the word?



Before Lemmatization	After Lemmatization
goose	goose
geese	goose
connects	connect
trouble	trouble
troubling	trouble
troubled	trouble
troubles	trouble

am, are, is, be, were, was => be
car, cars, car's, cars' => car

⇒ Complex rule-based systems

Stemming

Simpler version of lemmatization in which we mainly just strip suffixes from the end of the word

- Martin Porter, 1980, An algorithm for suffix stripping, *Program*, 14(3) pp 130–137.

„trace related words to one and the same string“

- Rule-based: <https://tartarus.org/martin/PorterStemmer/def.txt>
- Tony Kent Strix award in 2000

Input	Output
connect	connect
connect ed	connect
connecti ons	connect
connect s	connect
trouble e	troubl
troubled ed	troubl
troubles es	troubl
troublesome e	troublesom

Stemming is crude chopping of affixes. It is language dependent
Example: automate(s), automatic – it is reduced to automat.

Porter's algorithm

forexample compressed and
compression are both accepted
as equivalent to compress



for *exampl compress* and
compress ar both *accept* as
equival to *compress*

12 words

10 words

Over-stemming or „false positive“

universal -> *univers*

university -> *univers*

universe -> *univers*

to „univers“

etymologically related but
modern meanings are in
widely different domains

These are not synonyms,
search engine will likely
reduce the relevance of the
search results.

Under-stemming or „false negative“

alumnus -> *alumni*

alumni -> *alumni*

alumna/alumnae -> *alumna*

Stemming algorithms
To minimize both errors

This English word
keeps Latin
morphology, and
so these near-
synonyms are not
conflated.

Porter's algorithm



Determining vocal-consonant-sequences

C := sequence of consonants

V := sequence of vocals

(.)^m := m repetitions of "." with $m \geq 0$

$[C](VC)^m[V]$

tr ee
CC VV

t o
C V

w eb
C (VC)¹

an t
(VC)¹ C

tr oubl e
CC VVCC V
C (VC)¹ V

b etw een
C VCC VVC
C (VC)²

tr oubl es
CC VVCC VC
C (VC)²

pr iv at e
CC VC VC V
C (VC)² V

w ik ip ed ia
C VC VC VC VV
C (VC)³ V

<https://iq.opengenus.org/porter-stemmer/>

Porter's algorithm

Shortening rules

(condition) S1 -> S2 if <stem>S1 and <stem> satisfies (condition) then
<stem>S2

1 of > 50 rules:

(m > 1) EMENT -> ''

<stem>S1 = REPLACEMENT
<stem> = REPLAC
S1 = EMENT

m of <stem>:

REPLAC

C VCC VC

C (VC)²

⇒ m=2 > 1

Shorten with (m > 1) EMENT -> ''

⇒ REPLACEMENT wird REPLAC

Porter's algorithm

Shortening rules

(condition) S1 -> S2 if **<stem>S1** and **<stem>** satisfies **(condition)** then
<stem>S2

Example conditions:

*S - the stem ends with S (and similarly for the other letters).

v - the stem contains a vowel.

m=2 TROUBLES, PRIVATE, OATEN, ORRERY.

*d - the stem ends with a double consonant (e.g. -TT, -SS).

*o - the stem ends cvc, where the second c is not W, X or Y (e.g. -WIL, -HOP).

Stemming vs. Lemmatization

- **Stemming always shortens the word!**
- **When we apply lemmatization, the word stem does not even need to be the same: (to be, is, was, were)**

Stemming is used most often.