



## COMP-8730 Natural Language Processing and Understanding Winter 2022

	<b>F</b>		
#	Title	<b>Due Date</b>	Grade Release Date
Assignment 01	Spell Correction using MED	Feb. 07, 2022, AoE	Feb. 14, 2021, AoE

The objectives of the assignments are to practice on topics covered in the lectures as well as improve the student's critical thinking and problem-solving skills in ad hoc topics that are closely related but not covered in the lectures. Lecture assignments also help students with research skills, including the ability to access, retrieve, and evaluate information (information literacy).

## **Lecture Assignment**

Given a dictionary D and a spelling error corpus C for the English language, calculate the average success at k (s@k) for the minimum edit distance (MED) algorithm for all misspelled tokens in C.

- a) Use WordNet¹ as the dictionary D. A python interface to WordNet is PyDictionary² which is available opensource³.
- b) Use Birkbeck<sup>4</sup> spelling error corpus. This corpus includes the most common misspelled tokens and the correct spell in pairs. For instance ('design').
- c) Success at k (s@k) measures whether the correct spell of the token happens to be in the top-k (most similar, least distant) list of tokens that are retrieved by the MED from the dictionary D. For instance, given 'desing' from Birkbeck corpus, the top-5 most similar (least distant) tokens to 'desing' based on MED from WordNet are ['desi', 'design', 'designer', 'designate', 'despair']. Then, s@1 is 0 since the correct spell from Birkbeck is 'design' which is not happening at the first item. However, s@k for  $k \ge 2$  is 1. Report the average s@k for  $k = \{1, 5, 10\}$  using PyTrec\_Eval<sup>5</sup>.
- d) Comparing each misspelled word with all words in a dictionary takes time. You have to come up with workarounds such as parallel runs.

## **Submission Guidelines**

- Submission must be written as a report in English, in the current ACM two-column conference format
  in LaTeX. Overleaf templates<sup>6</sup> are available from the ACM Website<sup>7</sup> (use the *sigconf* proceedings
  template).
- The report must be 1 page in length, no more no less, including figures, tables, references, and singleauthored by the student.
- The code should be available in an online repo (preferably Github) and the link should be mentioned
  as a footnote to the report's title. See the example below. The results reported in the report must be
  reproducible (multiple runs with the same setting should result in the same results.)
- o Submission must be in one single zip file named COMP8730\_Assign01\_UWindId.zip, including:
  - 1. the LaTeX files
  - 2. the pdf file

A sample submission has been attached to this manual in Blackboard, also available online8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordNet

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://pypi.org/project/PyDictionary/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://github.com/geekpradd/PyDictionary/tree/master/PyDictionary

<sup>4</sup> https://ota.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/repository/xmlui/handle/20.500.12024/0643

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://github.com/cvangysel/pytrec\_eval

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://www.overleaf.com/gallery/tagged/acm-official

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://www.acm.org/publications/proceedings-template

<sup>8</sup> https://www.overleaf.com/read/xdmhfgmfjfwk