Semantic Computing Group

Statistical Natural Language Processing

Exercise Sheet 1

Due Date: November 7, 8 pm

Note on Submission

All solutions have to be uploaded together as a single zip file to Lernraum-Plus. Provide some information about how to execute your Python code.

Exercise 1 [3+6+1 points]

Download the file corpus.zip from LernraumPlus. The file corpus.txt contains the corpus we will use in this worksheet, there is exactly one sentence in each line of this file. A sentence is a sequence w_1,\ldots,w_N of words, where w_1 is the first word in the sentence, w_N is the last word and N is the number of words in the sentence. Now we define some distributions of words for the provided corpus:

- P(w) is the distribution of all words in the corpus
- $P(w_i|w_{i-1})$ is the distribution of words given the previous word in a word sequence is w_{i-1}
- $P(w_i|w_{i-1},w_{i-2})$ is the distribution of words at position i in a word sequence given the word at position i-1 is w_{i-1} and the word at position i-2 is w_{i-2}
- a) First of all you need to preprocess the corpus. Therefore implement a Python function which takes a single string as input (representing a sentence) and returns a sequence of words. You may ignore commas, semicolons and colons. Do not use any NLP related libraries!
- b) Provide Python code for representing and learning the distributions P(w), $P(w_i|w_{i-1})$ and $P(w_i|w_{i-1},w_{i-2})$.
- c) How does the number of parameters of these distributions scale with the number of different words in the corpus? Explain your answer!

Hint: Introduce special words to model the beginning and the end of a sentence!



Exercise 2 [3+6+1 points]

- a) Implement Python functions for drawing samples from the distributions P(w), $P(w_i|w_{i-1})$ and $P(w_i|w_{i-1},w_{i-2})$ according to the algorithm presented in the lecture. Make use of your solution of Exercise 1.
- b) Use the statistical information of the provided corpus to implement three different sentence generators, i.e., use the distributions P(w), $P(w_i|w_{i-1})$, $P(w_i|w_{i-1},w_{i-2})$ and your code of a) to generate single words. In other words, your first sentence generator should use the distribution P(w), the second one $P(w_i|w_{i-1})$ and the third one $P(w_i|w_{i-1},w_{i-2})$.
- c) Describe the results of the three sentence generators you implemented. Try to explain the results.