COMP7630 – Web Intelligence and its Applications

Natural Language Processing pipelines

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Outline

- NLP and NLP pipelines
- The Spacy library
- Pretrained LLM

Natural Language Processing (NLP)

- NLP involves using computational techniques to understand, analyze, and generate human language.
- Some NLP tasks: text classification, sentiment analysis, topic modeling, machine translation, text generation, text summarization, ...
- NLP techniques are used in WI for tasks such as:
 - Extracting structured data from unstructured text found on web pages
 - Identifying named entities and extracting information about them
 - Analyzing the sentiment and emotion expressed in web content
 - Understanding the intent behind user queries and search phrases
 - Summarizing web pages and articles

• ...

NLP pipeline

- It is possible to identify some basic processing steps which are required by many complex NLP and WI tasks
- These basic steps form a NLP pipeline and they can vary depending on the task at hand, but generally a NLP pipeline includes some combination of the following steps:
 - Tokenization
 - Sentence Segmentation
 - Part-of-Speech Tagging
 - Lemmatization
 - Stemming
 - Morphological Analysis
 - Dependency Parsing
 - Named Entity Recognition
 - Token Vectorization
 - ...

Tokenization

- Divide a text into tokens, i.e., words, punctuation marks, etc.
- This is done by applying rules specific to each language.
 - For example, punctuation at the end of a sentence should be split off whereas "U.K." should remain one token.

• Example

"Apple is looking at buying U.K. startup for \$1 billion"

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Apple	is	looking	at	buying	U.K.	startup	for	\$	1	billion

Sentence Segmentation

Segment a text into sentences

• Example

"Alan Mathison Turing (23 June 1912 – 7 June 1954) was an English mathematician, computer scientist, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist. Turing was highly influential in the development of theoretical computer science, providing a formalisation of the concepts of algorithm and computation with the Turing machine, which can be considered a model of a general-purpose computer. He is widely considered to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence."

Sentence #1

"Alan Mathison Turing (23 June 1912 – 7 June 1954) was an English mathematician, computer scientist, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist."

Sentence #2

"Turing was highly influential in the development of theoretical computer science, providing a formalisation of the concepts of algorithm and computation with the Turing machine, which can be considered a model of a general-purpose computer."

Sentence #3

"He is widely considered to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence."

Part-of-speech Tagging

• The process of marking up a token in a text as corresponding to a particular part of speech, based on both its definition and its context



Text Normalization

 Text normalization is the process of transforming text into a consistent and standardized format. It involves various techniques to reduce words to their base or root form, enhancing the efficiency of text analysis.

- Two possibilities:
 - Lemmatization
 - Stemming
- ... plus their combination which is sometimes useful:
 - analyze the text where every *word* is replaced with *stem(lemma(word))*

Lemmatization

- Extract the lemma of a word, i.e. the base form of a word
- Base form = dictionary form
- Useful in order to group up together tokens with the same "meaning"

TEXT	LEMMA				
Apple	apple				
is	be				
looking	look				
at	at				
buying	buy				
U.K.	u.k.				
startup	startup				
for	for				
\$	\$				
1	1				
billion	billion				

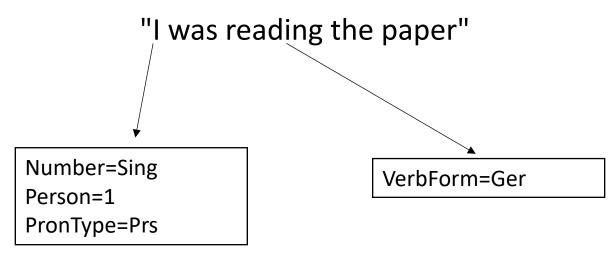
Stemming

- The process of reducing a word to its root form
- Considering the stems or the lemmas of the words allows to group together words which have the same semantic meaning
- Example: stem("runs") = stem("running") = "run"
- Stemming is a crude heuristic process that chops off the end of a word using a set of predefined rules. It does not consider the context of the word and often results in non-real words, known as stemmed words. The Porter stemmer is an example of an algorithm used for stemming.
- Lemmatization, on the other hand, is a more sophisticated process that involves understanding the context of a word and reducing it to its base form using a dictionary or morphological analysis. This results in real words, known as lemmas. Lemmatization is more accurate than stemming but also more computationally expensive.
- Example:
 - Word = *composition*
 - Lemma(composition) = compose
 - Stem(composition) = compos
 - Stem(Lemma(composition)) = compos

Morphological Analysis

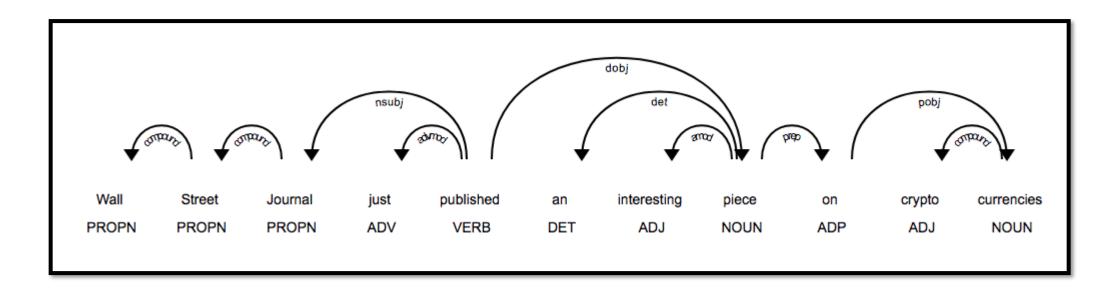
• Inflectional morphology is the process by which a root form of a word is modified by adding prefixes or suffixes that specify its grammatical function but do not change its part-of-speech.

Example



Dependency Parsing

- Extract the dependency parse tree of a sentence
- Any sentence is represented by a tree where:
 - the nodes are the token in the sentence,
 - the edges represent relationships among the tokens.



Named Entity Recognition (NER)

 NER is a subtask of information extraction that seeks to locate and classify named entities mentioned in unstructured text into predefined categories such as person names, organizations, locations, medical codes, time expressions, quantities, monetary values,

percentages, etc.

```
In fact, the Chinese NORP market has the three CARDINAL most influential names of the retail and tech space — Alibaba OPE , Baidu ORO , and Tencent PERSON (collectively touted as BAT ORO ), and is betting big in the global Al OPE in retail industry space . The three CARDINAL giants which are claimed to have a cut-throat competition with the U.S. OPE (in terms of resources and capital) are positioning themselves to become the 'future Al PERSON platforms'. The trio is also expanding in other Asian NORP countries and investing heavily in the U.S. OPE based Al OPE startups to leverage the power of Al OPE .

Backed by such powerful initiatives and presence of these conglomerates, the market in APAC Al is forecast to be the fastest-growing One CARDINAL , with an anticipated CAGR PERSON of 45% PERCENT over 2018 - 2024 DATE .

To further elaborate on the geographical trends, North America Loc has procured more than 50% PERCENT of the global share in 2017 DATE and has been leading the regional landscape of Al OPE in the retail market. The U.S. OPE has a significant credit in the regional trends with Over 65% PERCENT of investments (including M&As, private equity, and venture capital) in artificial intelligence technology. Additionally, the region is a huge hub for startups in tandem with the presence of tech titans, such as Google ORO , IBM ORO , and Microsoft ORO .
```

Token Vectorization

- Extract the word vector (or word embedding) of every token
- A word vector is a multi-dimensional mathematical representation of a word
- Semantically similar words have vectors located close to each other (cosine distance or similarity is usually adopted)
- Word vectors are computed by training a neural network to predict a word given its surrounding context (such as the words that appear before or after it in a sentence), and then using the weights of the neural network's hidden layers as the word's embedding
- Usually, it is better to use pretrained word vectors (transfer learning) such as Word2Vec, FastText, Glove, ...
- Generally, word vectors are high dimensional (usually \mathbb{R}^{100} or \mathbb{R}^{300})

How NLP pipeline steps work?

 Usually, the NLP steps seen before are implemented by using some form of Neural Network

 We will use them out-of-the-box by exploiting a Python's library called Spacy

Outline

- NLP and NLP pipelines
- The Spacy library
- Pretrained LLM

Install Spacy and NLTK

• If you have created a Conda environment for our scripts, activate it with the following command:

conda activate webintelligence

Install Spacy and NLTK:

pip install spacy nltk

Download a prebuilt NLP English pipeline for Spacy

python -m spacy download en_core_web_md

There are also:

- en_core_web_sm (but it misses some processing steps)
- en_core_web_lg (but it is quite slow)

The pipeline of the Spacy model en_core_web_md

```
In [1]: import spacy
In [2]: nlp = spacy.load('en_core_web_md')
In [3]: nlp.pipe_names
Out[3]: ['tok2vec', 'tagger', 'parser', 'attribute_ruler', 'lemmatizer', 'ner']
```

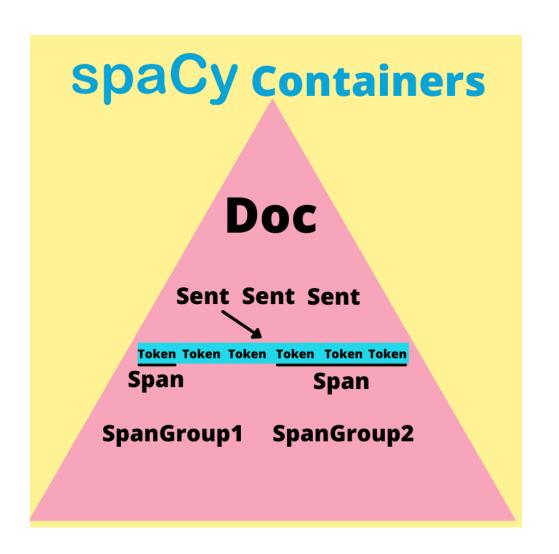
Sentence Segmentantion with Spacy

```
In [5]: import spacy
In [6]: #define a text to be analyzed
In [7]: txt = 'Alan Mathison Turing (23 June 1912 - 7 June 1954) was an English mathematician, computer scientist, logi
   ...: cian, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist. Turing was highly influential in the development of
   ...: theoretical computer science, providing a formalisation of the concepts of algorithm and computation with the
   ...: Turing machine, which can be considered a model of a general-purpose computer. He is widely considered to be th
   ...: e father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.'
In [8]: #create a pipeline object to use with English texts
In [9]: nlp = spacy.load('en_core_web_md')
In [10]: #apply the pipeline to the text and collect the results in the doc object
In [11]: doc = nlp(txt)
In [12]: #print all the sentences in the text
In [13]: i = 0
In [14]: for sent in doc.sents:
            i += 1
    ...: print(f'Sentence #{i}:')
    ...: print(sent)
Sentence #1:
Alan Mathison Turing (23 June 1912 – 7 June 1954) was an English mathematician, computer scientist, logician, cryptanaly
st, philosopher, and theoretical biologist.
Sentence #2:
Turing was highly influential in the development of theoretical computer science, providing a formalisation of the conce
pts of algorithm and computation with the Turing machine, which can be considered a model of a general-purpose computer.
Sentence #3:
He is widely considered to be the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.
```

Tokenization in Spacy

```
In [16]: import spacy
In [17]: nlp = spacy.load('en_core_web_md')
In [18]: txt = 'Hong Kong is a beautiful city!'
In [19]: doc = nlp(txt)
In [20]: for token in doc:
    ...: print(token.text)
Hong
Kong
is
beautiful
city
```

Spacy container objects: Doc, Token, Span



```
doc
        Hong Kong is a beautiful city!
Out[37]:
In [38]: type(doc)
        spacy.tokens.doc.Doc
In [39]: doc[0]
Out[39]:
        Hong
In [40]: type(doc[0])
        spacy.tokens.token.Token
In [41]: doc[0:2]
        Hong Kong
In [42]: type(doc[0:2])
        spacy.tokens.span.Span
In [43]: sent = list(doc.sents)[0]
In [44]: sent
        Hong Kong is a beautiful city!
In [45]: type(sent)
         spacy.tokens.span.Span
```

Token basic properties in Spacy

- is alpha is True if the token is a proper word
- is stop is True if the token is among the English stopwords, i.e. those words that usually do not bring any semantic meaning and can be removed for semantic analyses
- shape shows orthographic features of the token. Alphabetic characters are replaced by x or X, and numeric characters are replaced by d, and sequences of the same character are truncated after length 4.

Lemma vs Stem of a Token

- Spacy has lemmatization but not stemming, so we use NLTK for stemming
- Lemmas are clearly more useful than stems!

POS tag of a Token with Spacy

```
In [57]: doc
Out[57]: Hong Kong is a beautiful city!
In [58]: for token in doc:
    ...: print(token.text, token.pos_)
Hong PROPN
Kong PROPN
is AUX
a DET
beautiful ADJ
city NOUN
! PUNCT
```

Morphological features of a Token with Spacy

Dependency Parse Tree with Spacy

- Any single sentence is formed by exactly one parse tree
- A node of a tree has only one parent (or zero if it is the root), so Spacy defines two attributes for each token:
 - head which points to the parent token,
 - dep_ which provides the label of the edge (i.e. the type of dependency)

Noun Chunks with Spacy

• Noun chunks are "base noun phrases" – flat phrases that have a noun as their head. You can think of noun chunks as a noun plus the words describing the noun – for example, "the lavish green grass" or "the world's largest tech fund".

Named Entities with Spacy

Common transformation of a text

- For further semantic processing of a text, sometimes it is useful to:
 - remove stop words and non-alphabetical tokens
 - replace token text with its lemma
 - merge the words of a compound named entity

```
In [122]: doc
   t[122]: Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China and Bruce Lee was from Hong Kong!!!
In [123]: lst = []
In [124]: for i in range(len(doc)):
              token = doc[i]
              if token.is_alpha and not token.is_stop:
                  if token.ent_iob_ == '0': #outside, i.e. not belonging to a named entity
                      lst.append(token.lemma_)
                 elif token.ent_iob_ == 'B': #begin, i.e. initial token of a named entity
                      lst.append(token.text)
                 else: #token.ent_iob_ == 'I' #inside, i.e. token inside a compound named entity
                      lst[-1] = lst[-1] + '_' + token.text
In [125]: new_text = ' '.join(lst)
In [126]: new_text
          'Hong_Kong special administrative region China Bruce_Lee Hong_Kong'
```

Find the most common lemmas in a corpus

• Corpus is synonym of "set of texts"... we may also call "dataset"

```
In [58]: import spacy
In [59]: from collections import Counter
In [60]: texts = [ 'Hong Kong is a beautiful city!',
                 'Bruce Lee was from Hong Kong',
            'Hong Kong and Macau are two Chinese special administrative regions',
                 'Macau has a very beatiful historical center!',
           'Hong Kong and Macau are two cities',
                 'Perugia is a city as well' ]
In [61]: docs = [ nlp(text) for text in texts ]
In [62]: lemmas = [ token.lemma_ for doc in docs
                                     for token in doc
                                         if token.is_alpha and not token.is_stop ]
In [63]: lemmas[:5]
 ut[63]: ['Hong', 'Kong', 'beautiful', 'city', 'Bruce']
In [64]: lemmas_counter = Counter(lemmas)
In [65]: lemmas_counter.most_common(10)
[('Hong', 4),
 ('Kong', 4),
 ('city', 3),
 ('Macau', 3),
 ('beautiful', 1),
 ('Bruce', 1),
 ('Lee', 1),
 ('chinese', 1),
 ('special', 1),
 ('administrative', 1)]
```

Spell Checking

- We need another Python library: pip install pyspellchecker
- It uses a classical spellchecking method that uses a Levenshtein Distance algorithm to find permutations within an edit distance of 2 from the original word. It then compares all permutations (insertions, deletions, replacements, and transpositions) to known words in a word frequency list. Those words that are found more often in the frequency list are more likely the correct results.
- Just for reference, have a look to https://norvig.com/spell-correct.html

```
In [7]: import spacy
In [8]: from spellchecker import SpellChecker
In [9]: nlp = spacy.load('en_core_web_md')
In [10]: doc = nlp('Tuday is beutiful dya')
In [11]: spell = SpellChecker()
In [12]: newtokens = [ spell.correction(tok.text) for tok in doc ]
In [13]: newtext = ' '.join(newtokens)
In [14]: newtext
Out[14]: 'today is beautiful day'
```

Word Vectors in Spacy

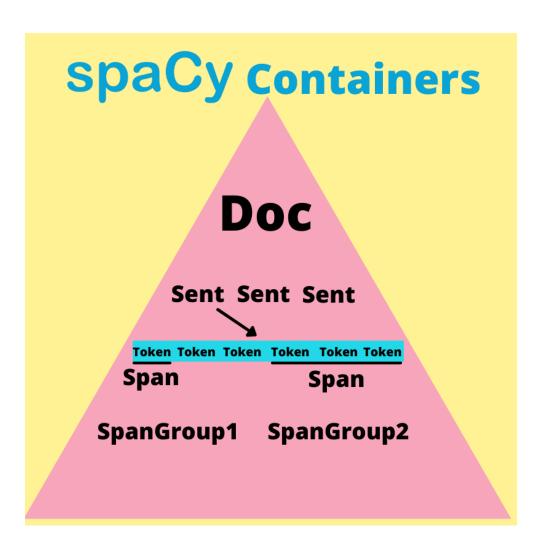
- The attribute vector of every token is a numpy array of dimensionality 300
- The word embeddings have been pretrained on a large corpus using Word2Vec

```
[138]: doc[0].vector
array([ 1.2330e+00, 4.2963e+00, -7.9738e+00, -1.0121e+01, 1.8207e+00
       1.4098e+00, -4.5180e+00, -5.2261e+00, -2.9157e-01,
                   5.0637e+00, -5.5726e-03, 3.3395e+00,
      -6.3742e+00, 3.9045e-02, -3.9855e+00, 1.2085e+00,
                   3.7066e+00, -2.8281e+00, -3.5447e+00,
       1.5016e+00, -4.3632e+00,
                                 8.6480e+00, -5.9286e+00,
                    8.0413e-01,
                                 7.4880e+00, 6.1078e+00,
                   3.2218e+00, −5.8777e+00,
                                             6.1359e-01
                   1.3461e+01, 4.3236e+00, 2.4266e+00,
                    5.0848e+00, -1.7058e+00,
                                              3.3824e+00
       1.0969e+00, -8.3711e+00, -1.5554e+00, 2.0296e+00,
      -6.9195e+00, -2.3386e+00, -1.9916e+00, -3.0450e+00,
                   1.3364e+00,
                                2.3828e-01, 8.4388e-02,
      -1.1128e+00, -3.5598e+00, -1.2115e-01, -2.0357e+00,
                                 6.1779e+00, -1.0352e+01, -2.2268e+00
                                 5.5564e+00, -5.2735e+00
                                 5.1985e+00, -1.3153e+00,
       4.0113e-01, -1.2583e+01,
                                 3.6534e+00, -2.0961e+00,
                   3.3589e-01, -4.4178e+00, 5.0584e+00,
                    3.4170e+00, -1.1574e+01, -2.6568e+00,
                                 6.5249e+00,
```

Other vector-related attributes

Similarity between tokens with Spacy

Vectorized form also for Doc, Sent, Span



- Word2vec vectors are attributes of the tokens
- Doc, Sent and Span are objects containing several tokens
- Spacy introduces a vector
 attribute for all the container in such
 a way that its value is the average of
 the tokens' vectors (where
 has_token is True)

Vectorization and Similarity for Containers

```
In [151]: doc = nlp('dog cat mango papaya')
In [152]: doc
ut[152]:
         dog cat mango papaya
In [153]: doc[0:2]
ut[153]:
         dog cat
[n [154]: doc.has_vector
ut[154]:
         True
         doc.vector_norm
[n [155]:
         40.07046503460941
   [155]:
         doc.vector.size
[n [156]:
 t[156]:
         300
[n [157]: doc[0:2].has_vector
ut[157]: True
[n [158]: doc[0:2].vector_norm
ut[158]: 66.09522
         doc[0:2].vector.size
[n [159]:
 t[159]:
         300
In [160]: doc.similarity(doc[0:2])
ut[160]: 0.887249661864046
In [161]: doc[0:2].similarity(doc)
         0.887249661864046
```

```
In [163]: doc1 = nlp('dog cat mango papaya')
In [164]: doc2 = nlp('cat papaya mango dog')
In [165]: doc1.similarity(doc2)
Out[165]: 1.0000000281837924
```

Since the vector of a container is the average of the vectors of its tokens, then two containers which are a permutation of each other tokens have the same vectorization, so their similarity is 1.

For practical purposes this is not a significant issue.

Anyway, to avoid this problem, it is possible to use modern Large Language Model, such as the Transformed-based models available from the HuggingFace repository, like BERT.

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Pretrained encoder-based LLM

 To obtain proper embedding for entire sentences, let's use a pretrained Sentence Transformer

(https://www.sbert.net/docs/usage/semantic_textual_similarity.html)

pip install sentence-transformers

 As for word embeddings, the principle is: "sentences with similar meanings have vectors/embeddings which are close under cosine similarity"

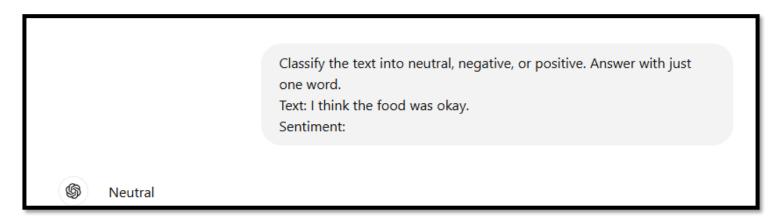
Pretrained encoder-based LLM

```
In [123]: from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer, util
                                                                                                             First time you run this instruction, a
         model = SentenceTransformer('all-MiniLM-L6-v2')
                                                                                                             pretrained model (of some megabytes) is
                                                                                                             downloaded from the web.
          # Two lists of sentences
          sentences1 = ['The cat sits outside',
                      'A man is playing guitar',
                      'The new movie is awesome']
          sentences2 = ['The dog plays in the garden',
                       'A woman watches TV',
                       'The new movie is so great']
         #Compute embedding for both lists
         embeddings1 = model.encode(sentences1)
         embeddings2 = model.encode(sentences2)
                                                                                                             Contain the vectors/embeddings of the
                                                                                                             sentences.
         #Compute cosine-similarities
         cosine_scores = util.cos_sim(embeddings1, embeddings2)
          #Output the pairs with their score
          for i in range(len(sentences1)):
              print(f'{sentences1[i]} \t {sentences2[i]} \t Score: {cosine_scores[i][i]:.3f}')
The cat sits outside
                         The dog plays in the garden
                                                         Score: 0.284
A man is playing guitar
                                 A woman watches TV
                                                         Score: -0.033
The new movie is awesome
                                The new movie is so great
                                                                 Score: 0.894
```

Not shown in the example, but you can use the Sentence Tokenizer in Spacy and then calculate the embeddings of any sentence using a Sentence Transformer. If you additionally want the embedding for a longer text, averaging the sentence embeddings of the text is usually a good solution.

Pretrained decoder-based LLM

- Modern decoder-based LLMs (such as GPT, Gemma, LLAMA, etc.) can be used for a wide range of WI applications:
 - Classify texts in a zero or few shots way (without a proper classifier)
 - Give labels to cluster of documents
 - Mixed with information retrieval for question answering
 - ...
- What is required for that? A good prompt, which is formed by, not necessarily all, the following parts:
 - Instruction a specific task or instruction you want the model to perform
 - Context external information or additional context that can steer the model to better responses
 - Input Data the input or question that we are interested to find a response for
 - Output Indicator the type or format of the output.



References

Spacy website contains manuals, tutorials and examples https://spacy.io/

• Introduction to Spacy 3 (online tutorial): http://spacy.pythonhumanities.com/intro.html

- Sentence Transformers website contains tutorials and examples https://www.sbert.net/
- Prompt Engineering Guide https://www.promptingguide.ai/