

# Predicting next word

Guillaume date: 2015-08-23



# Introduction

For this capstone project, we were asked to create a shiny app for predicting the next word.

- Presentation of the algorithms
- Application presentation
- Futur of the app



# N-grams Algorithms

- The simple, unsmooth, n-grams.  
The general equation for the N-gram approximation to the conditional probability of the next word is:

$$P(\mathcal{W}_n \mid \mathcal{W}_1^{n-1}) \approx P(\mathcal{W}_n \mid \mathcal{W}_{n-N+1}^{n-1})$$

This method while simple and effective, is limited when facing unknown but valid sequence or low probabilities. Smoothing alleviate this limitation.

- Laplace smoothing (add one count), Good-Turing smoothing to name 2 of the most known.
- Interpolation and backoff are two additional technics to enhance the algorithms.



# Algorithm used - Kneser-Ney Algorithm

The best explanation of the algo is from the book Speech and Language Processing.

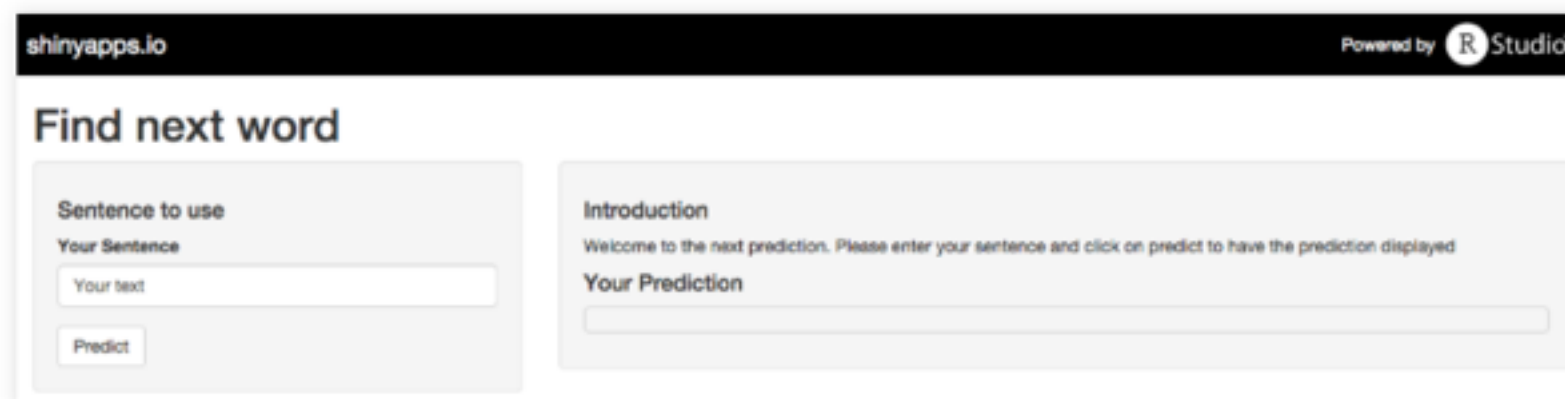
The KN intuition is to base our estimate on the number of different contexts word  $w$  has appeared in. Words that have appeared in more contexts are more likely to appear in some new context as well. We can express this new backoff probability, the “continuation probability”, as follows

$$P_{KN}(w_i \mid w_{i-1}) = \begin{cases} \frac{C(w_{i-1}w_i) - D}{C(w_{i-1})}, & \text{if } C(w_{i-1}w_i) > 0 \\ \alpha(w_i) \frac{|\{w_{i-1} : C(w_{i-1}w_i) > 0\}|}{\sum w_i |\{w_{i-1} : C(w_{i-1}w_i) > 0\}|}, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



# How to use the app

- The application is pretty straightforward



The screenshot shows a web application titled "Find next word" running on shinyapps.io, powered by R Studio. The interface is divided into two main sections. On the left, under the heading "Sentence to use", there is a sub-label "Your Sentence" followed by a text input field containing "Your text" and a "Predict" button below it. On the right, under the heading "Introduction", there is a paragraph of text: "Welcome to the next prediction. Please enter your sentence and click on predict to have the prediction displayed". Below this text is a label "Your Prediction" followed by an empty text input field.

- enter a sentence and click predict button to predict the next word
- It's using a 3-grams Kneser-Ney algorithm
- Migrate the algorithm to a programming language that can be compiled to use in an app
- Tune the algorithm with larger corpus