Sequence modeling for product classification

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Introduction

Problem statement

We want to classify a generic product into an HS6 code and a brief description in order to determine duty rates for a given origin and destination.



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description: womens leather boot HS6: 640391



Our initial approach





Initial models

- TFIDF encoded representation of text;
- one model per organization (20-30);
- reasonably accurate.



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BUT...



Little to no generalization



...and he huffed and he puffed and he blew the house in...



Problems!!

- TFIDF encoding doesn't capture sequence relationship well!
- Many models to keep track of!
- Hard performance evaluation!
- Some organizations have very little data to work on!
- Some organizations have a very limited catalogue (1 or 2 types of items)!



Problems!!

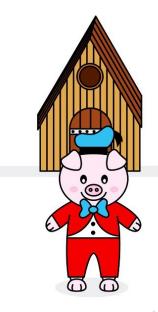
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A new approach





Sequence modeling

We want to:

- Have a single general model;
- capture information regarding patterns in sequences of words;
- be able add a new organization seamlessly (if we have seen the kind of products they sell).

These requirements suggest that we need a more sophisticated method than what we are using.



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Enter Neural Networks...



A primer on neural networks



How Neural Networks learn



Sequence learning - Recurrent Neural Networks



Short Term memory problem - vanishing gradient











The model



The data



Results and evaluation





...and he huffed and he puffed, but he hasn't blown the house in... yet...



Let's see it in action

Demo!



Conclusions and future work



