
University of Texas at Dallas
CS 6322 : Information Retrieval
Spring 2015
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Issued: January 28th 2015
Due: February 23rd 2015 before midnight
Homework 1

Problem 1 (100 points)

Tokenization

A copy of the publicly available Cranfield collection is located on the UTD at:
</people/cs/s/sanda/cs6322/Cranfield>
It can be accessed from the following machines: cs1, cs2, or cs3.

Write a program to gather information about tokens in the Cranfield database. You may use any of the following programming languages : C/C++, lex/yacc, Java. In the Cranfield collection document and field boundaries are indicated with SGML tags ("document markup"). SGML tags are not considered words, so they should not be included in any of the information your program gathers. The SGML tags in this data follow the conventional style:

`<[/]?tag> | >[/]?tag (attr[=value])+>`

The attributes and the values from the SGML conventional style are optional and appear rarely or not at all in this data collection.

Use your program to generate the following information.

1. The number of tokens in the Cranfield text collection;
2. The number of unique words in the Cranfield text collection;
3. The number of words that occur only once in the Cranfield text collection;
4. The 30 most frequent words in the Cranfield text collection – list them and their respective frequency information; and
5. The average number of word tokens per document.

Turn in this information with your program description. Also make sure that you upload a separate README file describing the way your program should be run and all the additional software you attach. Your program should run on any UTD Unix machine.

HINT: Program Description

Describe the operation of your program and design decisions. Include the following information.

1. How long the program took to acquire the text characteristics.
2. How the program handles:
 - A. Upper and lower case words (e.g. "People", "people", "Apple", "apple");
 - B. Words with dashes (e.g. "1996-97", "middle-class", "30-year", "tean-ager")
 - C. Possessives (e.g. "sheriff's", "university's")
 - D. Acronyms (e.g., "U.S.", "U.N.")
3. Major algorithms and data structures.

Problem 2 (100 points)

Stemming

After you have parsed the documents from the publicly available Cranfield collection, which is located at:

/people/cs/s/sanda/cs6322/Cranfield

You are asked to apply stemming to the tokens that you have recognized. For this reasons, you need to run the Porter stemmer implementation of your choice. You can use any implementation of the Porter stemmer available in open-source (e.g. <http://chianti.ucsd.edu/svn/csplugins/trunk/soc/layla/WordCloudPlugin/trunk/WordCloud/src/cytoscape/csplugins/wordcloud/Stemmer.java>).

You will need to also report:

1. The number of distinct stems in the Cranfield text collection;
2. The number of stems that occur only once in the Cranfield text collection;
4. The 30 most frequent stems in the Cranfield text collection – list them and their respective frequency information; and
5. The average number of word stems per document.