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Language Technology

Homework 2 Write Up

This homework was a lot less challenging for me than Homework 1. (Unless I failed miserably in which case it was so difficult that I didn't understand it at all.) My primary challenge was installing FairSeq to begin with. I tried installing it (both via pip and conda), but got some strange errors in the lines of the module files. I spoke with a classmate who asked me what OS I was running on my Mac, and then proceeded to inform me that I was running ancient software and needed to update my OS immediately. Updating my operating system turned into a days-long, extremely frustrating process - at first I downloaded the new software but received numerous errors. It took a long time to finally find the right link, and downloading it took all night. (Seriously, my operating system was that outdated.) Once I upgraded my machine, I installed FairSeq with no issues.

Other than that initial roadblock, I didn't face any other real challenges with this assignment. I was a little confused by the Fairseq documentation provided, as it seemed like a lot of the parameters we needed were missing. With some internet digging, however, I eventually found everything I needed.

My favorite part of this assignment was calculating the WER - I really enjoyed figuring out how to parse reading.txt. (Again, assuming I did it correctly.) I think I ended up with a reasonable result of WER 16.

Overall this was a very clear assignment and pretty fun!