

Wikinflection:

Massive semi-supervised generation of multilingual inflectional corpus from Wiktionary

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Breaking down the title

- · Massive: large-scale
- Semi-supervised generation: generation with minimal human interference/labour
- Multilingual inflectional corpus: a corpus of the inflectional paradigms of nouns, adjectives, verbs from 140+ languages
- from Wiktionary: using the English version of Wiktionary (5k source languages, target language is English)

Introduction

A dictionary named Wiktionary

WIKTIONARY is a multilingual dictionary, where every lemma has:

- Sections per source language
- Pronunciation
- Etymology
- Definition
- Inflection
- Derivatives
- Translations
- Semantic information
- · etc.



Page for lemma 'architecture'.

The two sides of the same dictionary

WEB VERSION:

- human-readable information
- for human access
- static
- generated by XML files and server
- accessible online



This web page for 'falar'...

XML DUMP VERSION:

- machine-readable information
- for server and experts
- dynamic
- can generate web pages
- accessible offline

...Fis generated by this XML page.

Wiktionary and NLP

- Wiktionary is a widely used resource for NLP/NLG/NLU applications
- Advisable by Wiktionary to use XML files to avoid server load
- Many available tools to parse the XML file [5, 1, 7, 4]
- Easy to access some info, e.g. phonology...
- ... but what about inflection?[6]

```
===Alternative forms===
* {{l|pt|fallar}} {{qualifier|obsolete}}
* {{l|pt|falá}} {{qualifier|apocopic or eve dialect}}
===Etymology===
From {{etvliroa-optipt}} {{miroa-optifalar}}, from {{etvlilaipt}}
infinitive of {{m|la|fābulor||chat, converse}}.
===Pronunciation===
 {{a|PT}} {{IPA|/fe'lar/|lang=pt}}
* {{a|BR}} {{IPA|/fa'la(r)/|lang=pt}}
 : {{a|Nordestino}} {{IPA|/fa'la(h)/|lang=pt}}
 {{a|Sul}} {{IPA|/fa'lau/|/fa'lau/|lang=pt}}
===Verb===
{{pt-verb|fal|ar}}
# {{lb|pt|intransitive}} to {{l|en|speak}}; to {{l|en|talk}} {{qlc
#: {{ux|pt|Para de '''falar'''.|Stop '''talking'''.|inline=1}}
#: {{ux|pt|'''Fala'''!|'''Talk'''!|inline=1}}
#: {{ux|pt|'''Fale'''!|'''Talk'''!|inline=1}}
# {{lb|pt|by extension}} to {{l|en|communicate}} by any means
#: {{ux|pt|'''Falamo'''-nos por correio.|We '''communicate''' by m
# {{lb|pt|transitive}} to {{len|sav}} something
#: {{ux|pt|Para de '''falar''' bobagens.|Stop '''talking''' nonser
#: {{ux|pt|'''Fala''' bobagens.|'''Talk''' nonsense.|inline=1}}
# {{indtr|pt|com}} to {{l|en|talk}} {{l|en|to}}
#: {{ux|pt|Estou '''falando''' com você|I'm '''talking''' to you.|
# {{indtr|pt|para}} to {{l|en|tell}} {{gloss|to convey by speech}}
#: {{ux|pt|Vou '''falar''' para você,|I'm going to '''tell''' vou.
# {{indtr|pt|de|sobre}} to {{l|en|talk}} about
# {{indtr|pt|de}} to {{l|en|speak ill of}}
# {{lb|pt|transitive}} to {{l|en|speak}} {{gloss|to be able to com
```

#: {{ux|pt|Em Portugal se '''fala''' português.|In Portugal they '

==Portuguese==

====Conjugation==== {{pt-conj|fal|ar}}

Previous work: IWNLP

Liebeck and Conrad (2015) [3]: IWNLP

- Parser for German Wiktionary
- · Re-implement templates from Lua to C#
- · Inflection for some classes of nouns, adjectives, verbs

PROS:

- · Very high quality
- Able to generate inflectional paradigms
- Uses only offline XML dump file

CONS:

- Only for German language and Wiktionary
- A lot of manual labour, hard to extend
- Not all templates are adapted

Previous work: UniMorph

Kirov et al. (2016) [2]: UniMorph

- Multilingual corpus of inflected wordforms
- · Pulling information from en.wiktionary.org, no XML dump file
- \cdot (2016) \sim 1M inflected forms, (2018) \sim 9M inflected forms
- · Tagging with UniMorph schema

PROS:

- · Very large, multilingual
- · Includes tags
- Biggest open-source inflectional resource available, still growing

CONS:

- Pulling from online is bad practice
- Tagged wordforms but not organized in paradigms
- Non-reproducible

Our research questions

- Can we reverse-engineer the Wiktionary like Liebeck and Conrad
- · ... but in a large-scale and multilingually like Kirov et al. ...
- · ... and in a reproducible, extendable, unsupervised way?

Reverse-engineering the (English) Wiktionary

Web page generation

This part of the XML file...



... generates this conjugational table on the web page.



Templates

{{pt-conj|fal|ar}} is a dynamic link to a template with its required parameters.

- pt-conj: template for verb conjugation in Portuguese
- · fal: stem of the word
- ar: conjugation class

A **template** has its own XML page. But where is the conjugational information in the page?

```
<page>
   <title>Template:pt-conj</title>
   <ns>10</ns>
    <id>1294753</id>
    <revision>
      <id>32142499</id>
      <parentid>13609370</parentid>
      <timestamp>2015-01-28T14:10:20Z</timestamp>
      <contributor>
        <username>lberkel</username>
        <id>1580588</id>
      </contributor>
      <comment>use module</comment>
      <model>wikitext</model>
      <format>text/x-wiki</format>
      <text xml:space="preserve">&lt;includeonly&gt;
      {{#invoke:pt-conilshow}}&lt:/includeonlv&at:&l
--&qt;&lt:noinclude&qt;{{documentation}}&lt:/noinclu
```

<snal>3nly5upt3gm5lwns5dynnkyxgtqwJos</snal>
</revision>

Modules

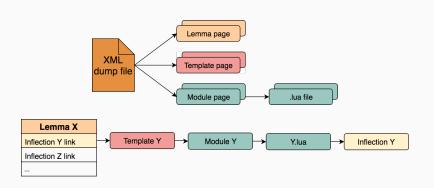
{{#invoke:pt-conj|show}} is a dynamic link to a module. The required parameters are passed by the template parameters. The module also requires additional info (other conjugational classes, table templates etc).

Language: Lua

```
local exports = {}
local function verbData(ending)
   local group
   if ending == 'pôr' or ending == 'por' then
     group = 'er'
   elseif ending == 'erir-defective' then
     group = 'ir'
   else
     group. = string.gsub(ending, "%d+$", "")
     group = string.sub(group, #group-1)
   if group == "" then
        return nil
   local success, m verb data = pcall(require, "Module:pt-coni/data/-"..group)
   if success and m verb data[ending] then
      return mw.clone(m_verb_data[ending])
      return nil
   and
end
local function applyFuncToTableValues(tbl, func)
   for k,v in pairs(thl) do
      if type(v) == 'table' then
         applyFuncToTableValues(v. func)
         tbl[k] = func(v)
      end
   end
end
-- stem (required if applicable); beginning of the verb. All characters of the
-- ending (required): Ending of the verb. The last characters chosen specifica
-- compound (required if applicable): Compound words. Text to be added after t
function exports, inflect(stem, ending, compound)
```

local data = verbData(ending)

Reverse-engineering the Wiktionary: Attempt 1



Unsupervised generation is **not possible**. Missing information to run **.lua** script successfully.

Back to the drawing block...

How do generated templates look like online?

en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Template:pt-conj

This template generates a navigation box for Portuguese verb conjugation entries. The actual work is done by Module:pt-conj.

en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Template:pl-decl-adj-owy

case		sing	jular		plural		
	m pers, m anim	m inan	n	f	m pers	other	
nominative, vocative	{{{1}}}	}owy	{{{1}}}owe	{{{1}}}owa	{{{1}}}owi	{{{1}}}owe	
genitive		{{{1}}}owego		{{{1}}}owej	{{{1}}}owych		
dative		{{{1}}}owemu			{{{1}}}}	owym	
accusative	{{{1}}}owego	{{{1}}}owy	{{{1}}}owe	(((4))) ee	{{{1}}}owych	{{{1}}}owe	
nstrumental		(((1)))		{{{1}}}ową	{{{1}}}owymi		
locative		{{{1}}}owym		{{{1}}}owej	{{{1}}}owych		

Generated templates

declension of różowy [hide a							
		sing	plural				
case	m pers, m anim m inan n f				m pers	other	
nominative, vocative	róże	owy	różowe	różowa	różowi	różowe	
genitive	różowego				różowych		
dative	różowemu			różowej	różowym		
accusative	różowego	różowy	różowe	-44	różowych	różowe	
instrumental				różową	różowymi		
locative	rôżowym			różowej	różowych		

0: template name, 1: stem

Generated templates

en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Template:lt-conj-1

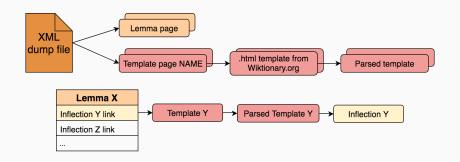
conjugati	ion of It-conj-1							[hide ▲]		
		singular (vienaskaita)				plural (daugiskaita)				
		1 st person 2 nd person 3 rd person (pirmasis asmuo) (antrasis asmuo) (trečiasis asmuo)				1 st person 2 nd person 3 rd per (pirmasis asmuo) (antrasis asmuo) (trečiasis a				
		aš	tu	jis/ji		mes	jūs	jie/jos		
indicative (tiesioginė nuosaka)	present (esamasis laikas)	{ <u>{{1}}}</u> u	{{{1}}}i	{{{1}}}a	{{{1}}}ame, {{{1}}}am		{{{1}}}ate, {{{1}}}at	{{{1}}}a		
	past (būtasis kartinis laikas)	{ <u>{{2}}</u> }au	{{{2}}}ai	{{{2}}}o	{{{2}}}ome, {{{2}}}om		{{{2}}}ote, {{{2}}}ot	{{{2}}}o		
	past frequentative (būtasis dažninis laikas)	{ <u>{{3}}</u> }davau	{{{3}}}davai	{{{3}}}davo		{{{3}}}davome, {{{3}}}davom	{{{3}}}davote, {{{3}}}davot	{{{3}}}davo		
	future (būsimasis laikas)	{{{3}}}siu	{{{3}}}si	{{{3}}}s		{{{3}}}sime, {{{3}}}sim	{{{3}}}site, {{{3}}}sit	{{{3}}}s		
subjunctive (tariamoji nuosaka)		{{{3}}}čiau	{{{3}}}tum, {{{3}}}tumei	{{{3}}}tų		{{{3}}}tumėme, {{{3}}}tumėm, {{{3}}}tumėm,	{{{3}}}tuméte, {{{3}}}tumét	{{{3}}}tų		
	nperative amoji nuosaka)	-	{{{3}}}k, {{(3)}}ki	te{{{1}}}a, te{{{1}}}ie		{{{3}}}kime, {{{3}}}kim	{{{3}}}kite, {{(3)}}kit	te{{{1}}}a, te{{{1}}}ie		

Generated templates

conjugati	on of gauti						[hide A		
			singular (vienaskaita)		plural (daugiskaita)				
		1 st person (pirmasis asmuo)	2 nd person 3 rd person o) (antrasis asmuo) (trečiasis asmuo)		1 st person (pirmasis asmu	1 st person 2 nd person (pirmasis asmuo) (antrasis asmuo)			
		aš	tu	jis/ji	mes	jūs	jie/jos		
indicative (tiesioginė nuosaka)	present (esamasis laikas)	gaunu	gauni	gauna	gauname, gaunam	gaunate, gaunat	gauna		
	past (būtasis kartinis laikas)	gavau	gavai	gavo	gavome, gavom gaudavome, gaudavom	gavote, gavot	gavo		
	past frequentative (būtasis dažninis laikas)	gaudavau	gaudavai	gaudavo		gaudavote,	gaudavo		
	future (būsimasis laikas)	gausiu	gausi	gaus	gausime, gausim	gausite,	gaus		
subjunctive (tariamoji nuosaka)		gaučiau	gautum, gautumei	gautų	gautumėme, gautumėm, gautume	gautumėte, gautumėt	gautų		
	nperative amoji nuosaka)	-	gauk, gauki	tegauna, tegaunie	gaukime, gaukim	gaukite, gaukit	tegauna, tegaunie		

0: template name, 1-3: stem allomorphs

Reverse-engineering the Wiktionary: Attempt 2



Reverse-engineering the Wiktionary: Attempt 2

Goal: create an annotated corpus with:

- · morphological information: stem allomorphs, prefixes, suffixes
- morphosyntactic information: UD tags

```
gauti
Lithuanian:
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Sing|Person=1|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
gaunu
            gaun
aauni
                    i
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Sing|Person=2|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
        Ø
            gaun
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Sing|Person=3|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
gauna
            gaun
                    ame Mood=Ind|Number=Plur|Person=1|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
gauname ø
            gaun
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Plur|Person=1|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
gaunam
            gaun
                    am
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Plur|Person=2|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
gaunate ø
            gaun
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Plur|Person=2|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
gaunat
            gaun
                    at
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Plur|Person=3|Tense=Pres|VerbForm=Fin
            gaun
gauna
                    а
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Sing|Person=1|Tense=Past|VerbForm=Fin
gavau
            gav
                    au
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Sing|Person=2|Tense=Past|VerbForm=Fin
gavai
            gav
                    аi
                        Mood=Ind|Number=Sing|Person=3|Tense=Past|VerbForm=Fin
gavo
            gav
                    ome Mood=Ind|Number=Plur|Person=1|Tense=Past|VerbForm=Fin
gavome
            gav
                        Mood=IndiNumber=PluriPerson=1|Tense=PastiVerbForm=Fin
gavom
            gav
[...]
```

Inflection Generation

Extracting the lemmata

- 1. Find pages in XML dump file where:
 - there is content (e.g. not template pages)
 - · content is a lemma and not an inflected word (e.g. 'houses')
 - · content is a lemma and at least one dynamic link to a template
- 2. **Process** the XML code to extract lemma and its dynamic link(s) to templates
 - 5.740.594 word pages ightarrow 454.470 lemmata with inflection

Extracting the templates

- 1. Find pages in XML dump file where:
 - · there is a template
 - related to inflection and not other linguistic information (e.g. phonology) or utilities (e.g. table generation)
- 2. Collect the template titles
- 3. Pull the html page for en.wiktionary.org/wiki/<template_name>
- 4. Process <template_name>.html with Python

Template processing

- BeautifulSoup, pandas etc. to parse HTML table
- \cdot Custom table tags o UD tags conversion
- · Only significant and correctly parsed templates are kept

7.068 downloaded templates \rightarrow 2.927 parsed templates

```
indicative
<br /><small>(<a href="/wiki/tiesiogin%C4%97 nuosaka"</pre>
title="tiesioginė nuosaka">tiesioginė <br />nuosaka</
a>)</small>
e/th>
present <br /><small>(<a</pre>
href="/wiki/esamasis laikas" title="esamasis
laikas">esamasis laikas</a>)</small>
<span class="Latn" lang="lt">{{{1}}}u</span>
<span class="Latn" lang="lt">{{{1}}}i</span>
<span class="Latn" lang="lt">{{{1}}}a</span>
<span class="Latn" lang="lt">{{{1}}}ame</span>.
<br /><small>{{{1}}}am</small>
<span class="Latn" lang="lt">{{{1}}}ate</span>,
<br /><small>{{{1}}}at</small>
<span class="Latn" lang="lt">{{{1}}}a</span>
```

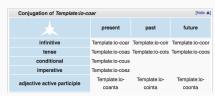
```
{'lt-conj-1': [['{{{1}}}u', 'Mood=Ind'],
  ['{{{1}}}i'. 'Mood=Ind'],
               'Mood=Ind'l.
  ['{{{1}}}ame'. 'Mood=Ind'].
  ['{{{1}}}am', 'Mood=Ind'],
   '{{{1}}}ate', 'Mood=Ind'l.
                'Mood=Ind'l.
  ['{{{1}}}a', 'Mood=Ind'],
  ['{{{2}}}au', 'Tense=Past'],
  ['{{{2}}}ai', 'Tense=Past'],
  ['{{{2}}}o', 'Tense=Past'],
  ['{{{2}}}ome', 'Tense=Past'],
  ['{{{2}}}om', 'Tense=Past'],
  ['{{{2}}}ote', 'Tense=Past'],
  ['{{{2}}}ot', 'Tense=Past'],
  ['{{{2}}}o'. 'Tense=Past'],
```

Templates that didn't make the cut...

Some examples:

- pt-conj: does not contain template tables
- de-decl-noun-m: not well-written
- io-conj: requires external information





Time to generate the inflection!

- 1. **Use lemma's dynamic link(s)** to find the appropriate template, the stem allomorphs, other parameters
- 2. **Generate** inflected forms, with UD tags, prefixes, suffixes and infixes (null if none), and stem (allomorph)

Results

⇒ 225.453 lemmata, matched with 1.708 templates to generate 8.426.480 inflected forms, in 199 languages

```
'gauti': [[['gaunu', 'lt-conj-1', ['Mood=Ind'], 'VERB', ['', 'u', ''], 'gaun'], 
['gauni', 'lt-conj-1', ['Mood=Ind'], 'VERB', ['', 'i', ''], 'gaun'], 
['gauna', 'lt-conj-1', ['Mood=Ind'], 'VERB', ['', 'a', ''], 'gaun'], 
['gauname', 'lt-conj-1', ['Mood=Ind'], 'VERB', ['', 'ame', ''], 'gaun'], 
['gauname', 'lt-conj-1', ['Mood=Ind'], 'VERB', ['', 'ate', ''], 'gaun'], 
['gaunat', 'lt-conj-1', ['Mood=Ind'], 'VERB', ['', 'at', ''], 'gaun'], 
['gaunat', 'lt-conj-1', ['Mood=Ind'], 'VERB', ['', 'at', ''], 'gaun'], 
['gavau', 'lt-conj-1', ['Tense=Past'], 'VERB', ['', 'au', ''], 'gav'],
```

Evaluation

Evaluation

- Human evaluation was not possible (or desired), because of volume and non-reproducibility
- Using corpora was not possible, because inflected forms are rare/low-frequency
- · Our choice: use the English Wiktionary!

Process

- 1. Random selection of one lemma/template ightarrow
- 2. **Generate** inflection \rightarrow
- 3. **Pull lemma page** from Wiktionary, check if forms exist ightarrow
- 4. **Delete** incorrect forms from template or entire template

Evaluation Results

- · Every evaluation run is randomized and unique
- · Results after Random Evaluation 1 and 2:

	Random evaluation No. 1				Random evaluation No. 2			
Template	Word	All	Correct	False	Word	All	Correct	False
la-decl-2nd	campus	12	12	0	Herostratus	12	8	4
de-decl-adj	großbürgerlich	48	48	0	unmöglich	48	48	0
ga-decl-m1	gob	16	12	4	baneachlach	16	12	4
ang-decl-noun-a-n	bispell	8	4	4	gedal	8	4	4
osx-decl-noun-a-n	baluwerk	8	8	0	god	8	8	0
pl-decl-noun-masc-ani	palant	15	15	0	torbacz	15	14	1

Results after Random Evaluation No. 1

⇒ 216.378 lemmata, matched with 1.537 templates to generate 5.970.799 inflected forms

Full tables for 3 random evaluations can be found here.

Comparison to UniMorph

- UniMorph is larger (+ high-frequency languages)
- Wikinflection covers more low-frequency languages
- Wikinflection has more morphological information
- UniMorph uses own tags, Wikinflection uses UD

Language	UniMorph	Wikinflection (after eval. 3)		
Adyghe	n/a	440		
Albanian	33.483	8.767		
Alemannic German	0	232		
Ancient Greek	0	3.312		
Arabic	140.003	36		
Aragonese	0	448		
Armenian	338.461	59		
Assamese	0	13.790		
Asturian	n/a	23.329		
Avestan	0	6		
SUM	8.850.395	6.024.077		

Full table of comparison can be found here.

Conclusion

Discussion

Wikinflection is an approach to tap into information previously unexploited, and to generate an inflectional corpus with as little human supervision as possible (so that it can be replicated and extended).

Succesful? Yes... but still not perfect.

- Non-unified style and syntax among contributors/languages
- Still missing information in inflection (cs, rfinfl, grc etc.)
- · Wiktionary grows, evolves and revises all the time

Future Work

- Try other Wiktionary target languages
- Improvement of template table parsing (missing tags)
- · (Some) Human evaluation?
- Re-attempt to use modules for high-frequency languages

Frame Title

Code available at:
github.com/lenakmeth/Wikinflection
Just add XML file!

Questions?

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