CMPE 493 INFORMATION RETRIEVAL ASSIGNMENT 4:

PageRank for Identifying Central People in News Articles

In this assignment we developed a PageRank-based method to identify the most important people occurring in news articles.

Runs with:

python3 page rank.py data.txt printing number

Interpretation of the Results

Below, you can find the top 50 people and their scores calculated by the algorithm.

When we analyze the years of the news articles, we can see that they are taken from the 1987 archives. The listed names below are mostly the politically important figures of that time. Ronald Reagen was the president of US in 1981-89 period, James Baker is the minister of treasury at the same period. When we analyze the names below, such as Thatcher and Gorbachev, we see they are the prime ministers of UK and SSCB at the same period as well.

In conclusion, we can say that the ranking of page-rank algorithm matches with the importance of the figures that we investigated.

The top 50 people with the highest PageRank scores are found as:

Person: "reagan" Score: 0.06556546567777531

Person: "nakasone" Score: 0.01632113903740932

Person: "thatcher" Score: 0.014050546940787414

Person: "stoltenberg" Score: 0.01103209303714833

Person: "lyng" Score: 0.011000912628791285

Person: "Weinberger" Score: 0.009692955113532555

Person: "volcker" Score: 0.00964024724810736

Person: "howard-baker" Score: 0.00929597870623089

Person: "yeutter" Score: 0.00875938875346318

Person: "Gorbachev" Score: 0.00815426328472267

Person: "greenspan" Score: 0.008039394047851166

Person: "miyazawa" Score: 0.007676508643099423

Person: "Gephardt" Score: 0.007116481221888682

Person: "kohl" Score: 0.007001932112701154

Person: "poehl" Score: 0.006733806347828709

Person: "Howard" Score: 0.005893298452971033

Person: "ozal" Score: 0.005543999808033283

Person: "chirac" Score: 0.0051599048240646185

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Person: "suharto" Score: 0.005081502515963764
Person: "balladur" Score: 0.00500975239768029
Person: "papandreou" Score: 0.004471853838845383
Person: "lawson" Score: 0.0044680167286993335
Person: "Fitzwater" Score: 0.0043272850377106915
Person: "Abe" Score: 0.004121318210647568
Person: "sumita" Score: 0.004076545575358795
Person: "Mulroney" Score: 0.004046301847072462
Person: "bush" Score: 0.00403225116113239
Person: "Schmidt" Score: 0.003974707047450063
Person: "Roosevelt" Score: 0.0039120184032196475
Person: "Schlesinger" Score: 0.0038092425862221043

Person: Scriesinger Score: 0.00380924258622210
Person: "Bentsen" Score: 0.0036859216097523437
Person: "Moore" Score: 0.0036365865392436877
Person: "tamura" Score: 0.00356208855482178
Person: "Ruder" Score: 0.0035398921599758457
Person: "Carter" Score: 0.0035005843419712765

Person: "honda" Score: 0.0034761398223709496
Person: "Schneider" Score: 0.003467960926974062
Person: "camdessus" Score: 0.0032828897189613707
Person: "Cochran" Score: 0.0032492622787381976
Person: "Yamamoto" Score: 0.003218252400272673
Person: "sprinkel" Score: 0.0031723375855032846
Person: "Leahy" Score: 0.0031597708417689815
Person: "Maekawa" Score: 0.003117445095391914
Person: "john-paul" Score: 0.00310802161137944
Person: "Byrd" Score: 0.0031069697075677217
Person: "Kuranari" Score: 0.0030798084788277954

Person: "keating" Score: 0.003069241412305296

Figure 1: Screenshot of the page-rank.py working. It prints the highest scored figures on the screen as well as a page rank scores.txt file.