

Text Classification and Feature Selection

Exercise 1.1: Text Classification Tasks

a)

| Classification Task | Type |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Genre classification | Hierarchical. A genre class can have multiple sub-genres. |
| Author gender identification | Flat |
| Language identification | Flat. However, same language can be different in different regions. For example, English language has some differences in UK, US and Australia. They can be treated as sub class of the parent English or each of them can be a class itself. |
| Sentiment detection | Flat. Though a class such as 'positive' can be sub-classed into how much positive a feedback is! |
| Categorization of Wikipedia articles | Hierarchical. It is pretty obvious that an article of a certain topic can have multiple sub topics. |
| Translationese identification | Flat |

b)

| Classification Task | Category |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Genre classification | Multi-category. A novel can be a combination of mystery, drama and thriller. |
| Author gender identification | Single-category |
| Language identification | Single-category for web page, sentence and paragraph since they usually belong to same language in the whole instance. In contrast, a document might contain different languages in a single instance. Like E-mails, letters, user manuals, etc. can be in different languages in a same file. |
| Sentiment detection | Single-category. The class can be divided such as all types of sentiment can be covered. For customer review of products, the class can be positive, negative, mixed and neutral. |
| Categorization of Wikipedia articles | Multi-category. An article can cover multiple topics of multiple domains. |
| Translationese identification | Single-category |

c) **Genre classification:** For genre classification there are many features that can be considered. Frequency of common words [1] can be used for classifying genre as well as by the count of punctuation marks which are known as stylometric features. In addition, content based features [2] can also be considered in this type of classification task. One particular way to represent content in the form of word distributions are topics by the help of Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) [3] which extracts topics in the form of word distributions. Then each topic can be treated as a feature. Moreover, the most important characters and their interactions [2] in novels can be used for such kind of genre classification task.

Author gender identification: Words used by authors have some degree of dissimilarity according to their gender. For example, in a text containing sport-related words such as 'cricket', 'beat', 'champion', 'coach' and 'league', it has been found that the author of a text containing these words will most likely be male rather than a female. On the other hand, for a text containing words such as 'pink' and 'boyfriend', the probability of the writer being female may be higher than the probability of the writer being male. Some other significant difference can be noticed by their word choices. For example, females use weaker and more sweet-sounding words such as 'dear' and 'oh my goodness', while males tend to use stronger words such as 'damn' [4]. There are also significant differences in the use of different signs ('?', '!', '"'). Women tend to use more multiple question marks than men. Women also write long sentences than men. So Total number of sentences, Total number of characters, Total number of special characters, Vocabulary richness, Total number of question marks, Total number of exclamation marks, Total number of long and short words, etc, these features can be useful while designing such classifier.

Language identification: This task can be achieved by constructing and computing the language models (LM). For each features fitting the features to different LM and comparing their outcome do the job pretty well. For this purpose, we can consider tokens, characters, suffix and Parts of speech (POS) as the features. Moreover, Text length characteristics such as, the number of sentences, number of tokens, the average sentence length, and average token length might be used as features. In addition, Lexical variety like, the number of unique tokens, the ratio between a unique number of tokens and the overall number of tokens can also be used to predict the language of a text.

Sentiment detection: Word-based approach can be handy in this type of classification task where tag or tag cloud are used to link those sentiments. Sentiments then can be easily read from some counting or calculation of those tags. Parts of speech (POS) [6] can be treated as a very important feature since finding adjectives are very important while expressing opinions. Negations [7] can also be very important feature as they are often discarded in stopword list but here in the sentiment analysis these negation terms are so important. Sometimes sentiments towards a product or service are expressed through phrases as well and so phrase itself is a valuable feature in sentiment detection.

Categorization of Wikipedia articles: Collection of the headers and sub-headers of the section of different Wikipedia articles can be used as a very significant feature in this process. Summary of the entire abstract through keywords and other methods can also be useful. Moreover, a list of Wikipedia's main categorization system is also necessary in this process to group together the similar subjects.

Translationese identification: The difference of the frequency of pronouns between original and translated English is very significant according to the study of Koppel et al. [8]. They also showed that the frequency of the cohesive markers like ‘therefore’, ‘thus’, ‘however’, etc. are higher in translated text than the original text. However, according to the works of Ella et al. [9] which is basically the extension of works of Koppel et al. (2011), Functional Words(FW) such as, determiners, conjunctions, prepositions, pronouns, auxiliary verbs, modals, qualifiers can be treated as a very crucial feature as it gives around 97% accuracy in four different corpus while used as feature. According to their study, when char tri-grams are used as feature it also gives pretty high accuracy while classifying.

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