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CS410 Text Information Systems
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Documentation: Natural Language Processing Extension for Firefox and Chrome

#1 Overview of Project

This browser extension for Firefox and Chrome enables students to get hands-on experience with natural language processing (NLP) packages that perform the tasks of stemming, part-of-speech tagging, entity recognition, and sentiment classification on inputted text (maximum of 500 characters) that a user enters into the designated text area. The demonstration of these NLP tasks on inputted text helps reinforce to students the state of NLP in terms of how accurate/inaccurate modern NLP techniques that run in a browser on the client side currently are.

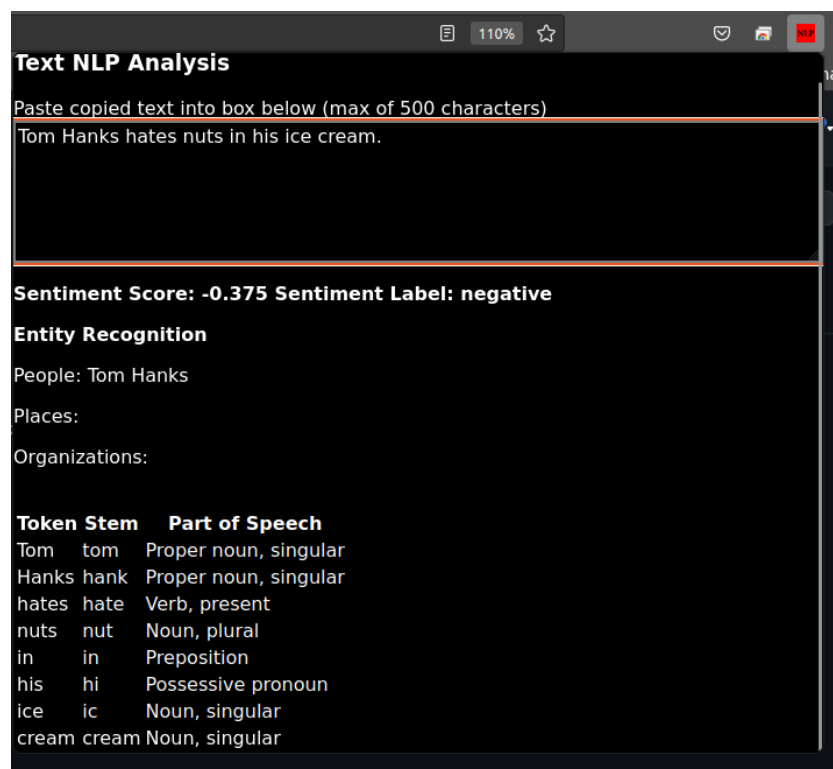


Figure 1: Example image of the extension analyzing the text “Tom Hanks hates nuts in his ice cream.”

#2 Software Implementation

All code for the project is contained in the NLP_extension folder. The NLP_extension folder has the following structure which follows the typical structure needed for a Firefox or Chrome extension that has a popup window. The Firefox provided Bestify extension example was used as the skeleton for the extension and was then modified accordingly [1].

- NLP_extension
 - manifest.json
 - icons
 - NLP-32.png
 - NLP-48.png
 - popup
 - compendium.minimal.js
 - compromise.min.js
 - NLP.css
 - NLP.HTML
 - NLP.js

Manifest.json File Description

Like with other manifest.json files used for browser extensions, the manifest file is a mandatory file that contains metadata about the extension (e.g. name, description, version, images, icons, scripts).

Icons Folder Description

The icons folder contains images that are used as the icons for the extension. For this project, there are two icon images, one is 32 by 32 pixels (NLP-32.png) and the other icon image is 48 by 48 pixels (NLP-48.png). The 32 by 32 pixels icon is used as the icon in the browser toolbar while the 48 by 48 pixels icon is used as the extension's icon in the extensions manager.



Figure 2: Picture of NLP-48.png

Popup Folder Description

The popup folder contains the necessary HTML, CSS, and Javascript files for the extension. The descriptions of each file are below.

- NLP.css
 - Sets the styling for the popup window and associated text.
- NLP.html
 - Creates the basic HTML elements for the popup window such as title, head, and body. Within the body there are child elements such as a text area (where the user enters the text they want to analyze), text for sentiment score, and a table with the columns of token, stem, and part of speech. NLP.html also has the Javascripts needed that are used to modify and add HTML elements to the DOM (i.e. compromise.min.js, compendium.minimal.js, and NLP.js).
- compromise.min.js
 - Client side version of compromise.js, a NLP library coded in Javascript, whose functionality and lexicon have been reduced in order to work on the client side of a browser. For this extension, the functions used from the library were nlp(), topics(), places(), people(), and organizations(). These functions were used in NLP.js for entity recognition [2, 3].
- compendium.minimal.js
 - Client side version of compendium.js, another NLP library coded in Javascript, whose functionality and lexicon have been reduced in order to work on the client side of a browser. For this extension, the function used from the library was analyse() which returns an object with values such as sentiment score and the part of speech and stem for each token of the inputted text. [4].
- NLP.js
 - Uses the functions present in compendium.minimal.js (e.g. analyse()) and compromise.min.js (e.g. nlp()) to perform NLP tasks on the text that was inputted by the user into the extension's text area. After the NLP tasks have been completed on the text, user defined functions in NLP.js are used to modify and add HTML elements in order to present the results to the user. These user defined functions are analyseText, getEntities, and createTable with analyseText being the primary function.
 - getEntities(type, input_text)
 - Performs entity recognition on the inputted text (input_text) using the compromise functions nlp(), topics(), places(), people(), and organizations(). The input parameter *type* can have the values *people*, *places*, or *organizations*, and it determines what type of

entity recognition is performed on the text. The function returns a string that lists the recognized entities of the specified type.

- `createTable(tokens_array, tags_array)`
 - Creates a table with the three columns of token, stem, and part of speech using the `tokens_array` and `tags_array` created previously in `analyseText()`. Adds a row to the table for each token. Each row is a token of the text (e.g. running), the token's stem (e.g. run), and the token's part of speech (e.g. verb).
- `analyseText()`
 - Contains both `createTable()` and `getEntities()`. Takes the text that is inputted into the text area and analyzes it using the compendium function `analyse(text)`. The `analyse()` function returns a Javascript object that has many properties such as tags (i.e. part of speech tags), tokens (contains the token itself and its stem), sentiment (the text's sentiment score such as 0.63), and label (the text's sentiment label such as positive or negative). The calculated sentiment and label are used to modify the HTML so those values are shown to the user. Meanwhile, the tokens and tags arrays are used as input parameters into the `createTable()` function which updates the table with each token's stem and part of speech. The function `getEntities()` is executed three times : once with *type people*, once with *type places*, and once with *type organizations*. Each execution produces a string that lists the entities of that type. The string are then used in the modification of the `.innerHTML` of the corresponding paragraph elements.
 - An event listener in `NLP.js` makes it such that whenever the value of the text area element is altered, `analyseText()` is rerun for the new value.

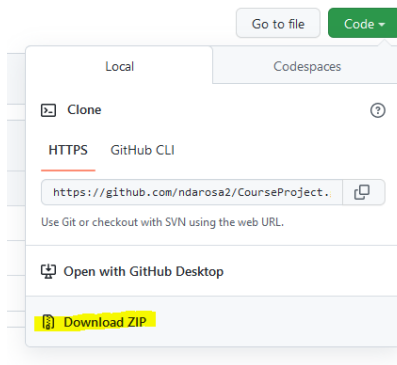
#3 How to Install the Extension

The extension can be tested using Firefox or Chrome. Installation instructions for both browsers are provided below.

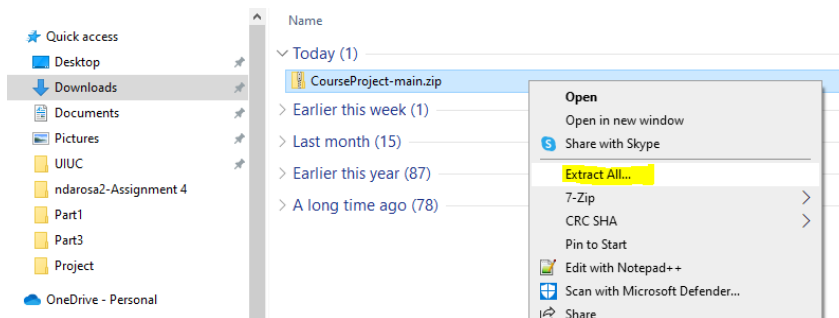
Firefox Installation

1. Navigate to this project's Github repository (<https://github.com/ndarosa2/CourseProject>)

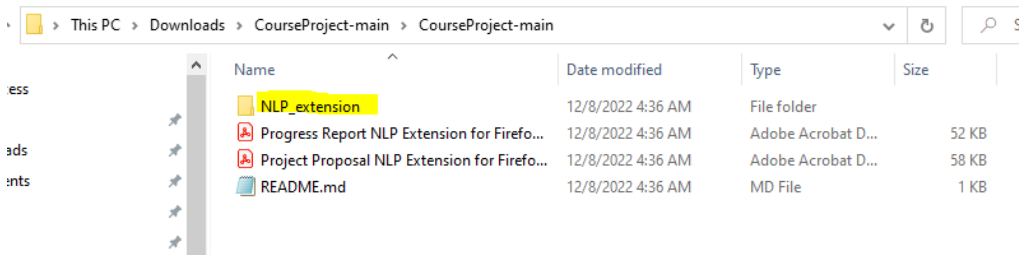
- From the Code dropdown, select *Download Zip*



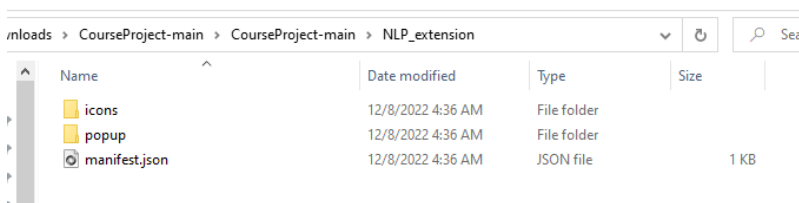
- Navigate to the folder the zip file resides in (e.g. the *Downloads* folder) and unzip the file (*CourseProject-main.zip*) using *Extract All* or an equivalent program.



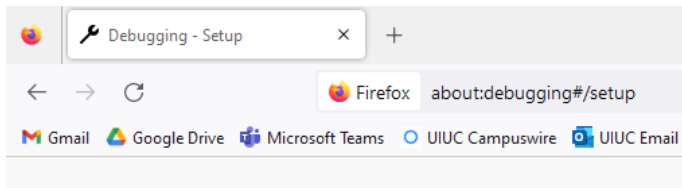
- In the unzipped folder, navigate such that the *NLP_extension* folder is visible.



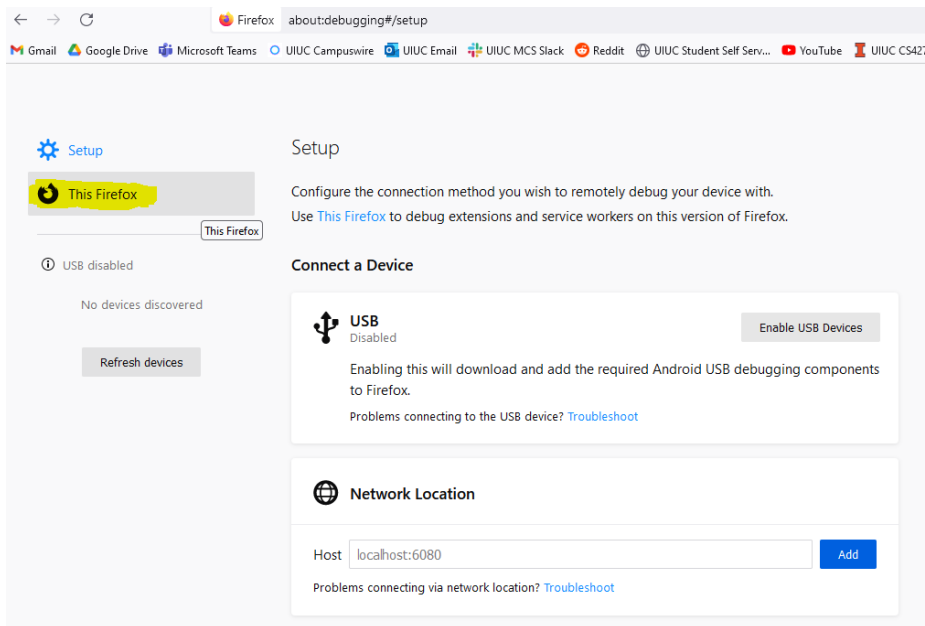
- Check that the *NLP_extension* folder has *manifest.json*, a *popup* folder, and an *icons* folder.



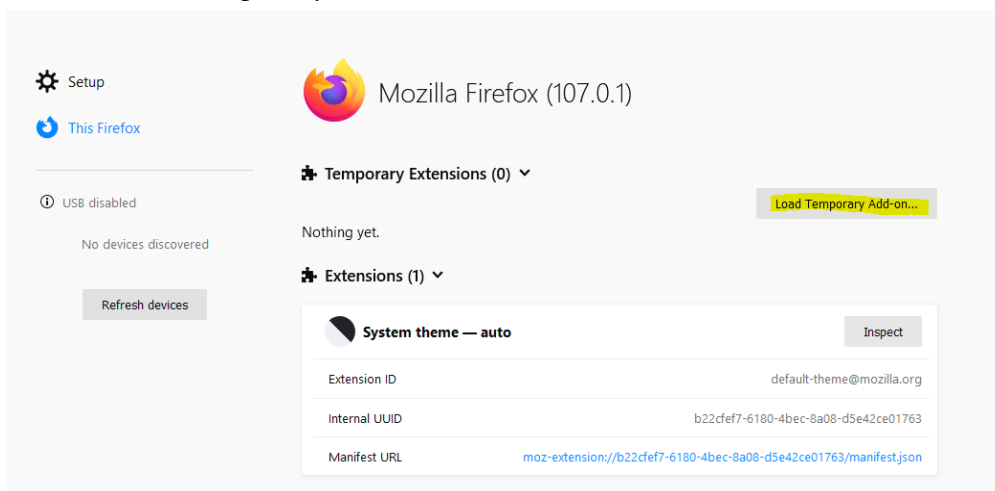
- Open up a new instance of Mozilla Firefox and in the top bar, type *about:debugging* and hit enter. This will bring you to *about:debugging#/setup* which is used to install the extension.



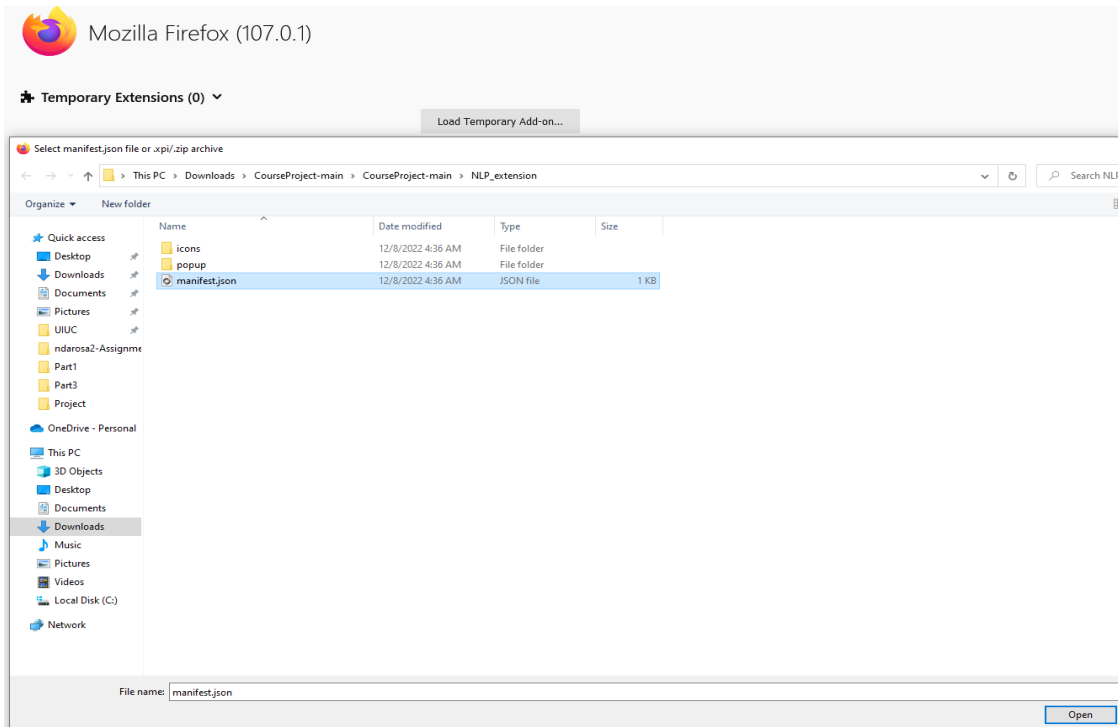
- Click on *This Firefox* on the left side of the page



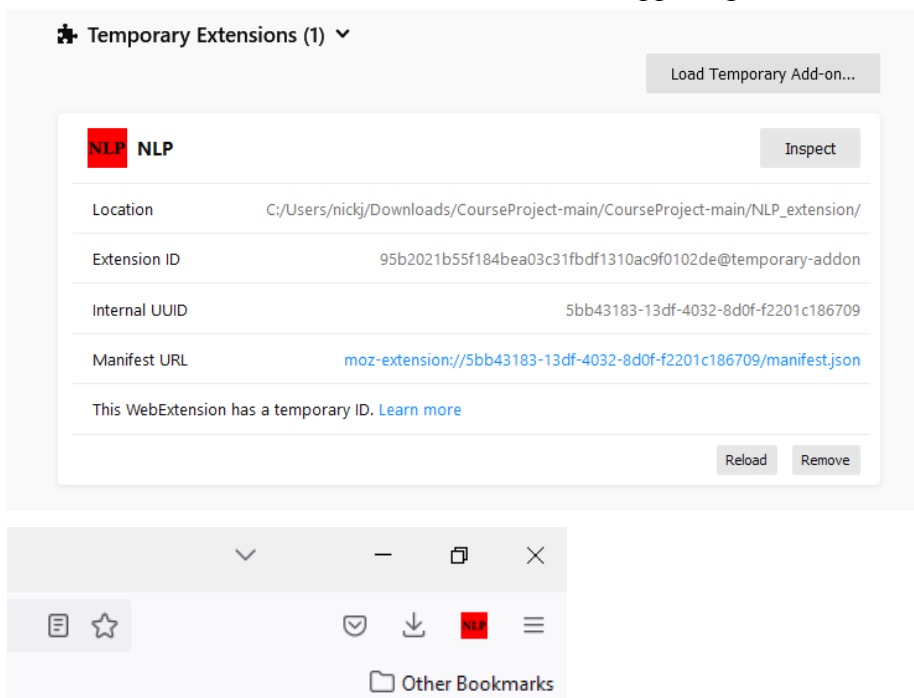
- Click on *Load Temporary Add-on...*



9. In the popup window, select the *manifest.json* file in the *NLP_extension* folder.



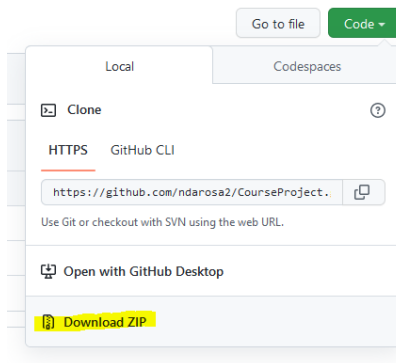
10. After the extension loads, the extension should be visible under *Temporary Extensions* and the extension's icon should be visible in the upper right hand corner of the page.



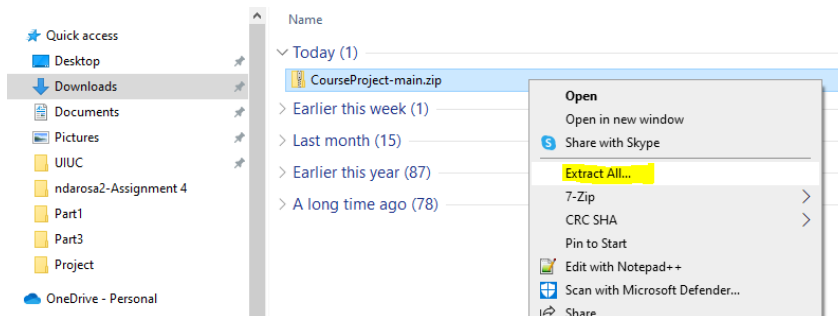
11. Installation of the extension is now complete and is ready for use.

Chrome Installation

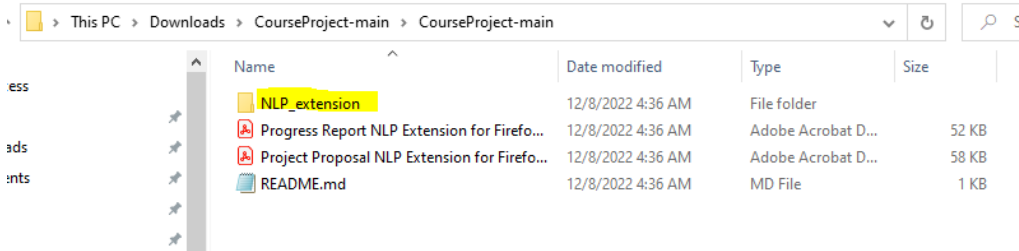
1. Navigate to this project's Github repository (<https://github.com/ndarosa2/CourseProject>)
2. From the Code dropdown, select *Download Zip*



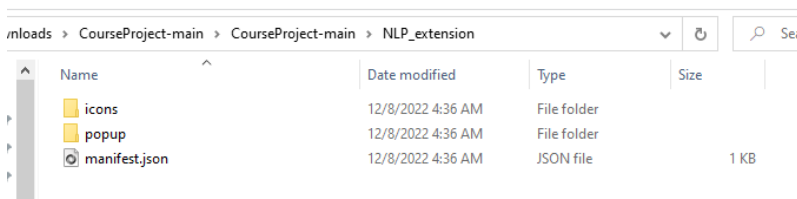
3. Navigate to the folder the zip file resides in (e.g. the *Downloads* folder) and unzip the file (*CourseProject-main.zip*) using *Extract All* or an equivalent program.



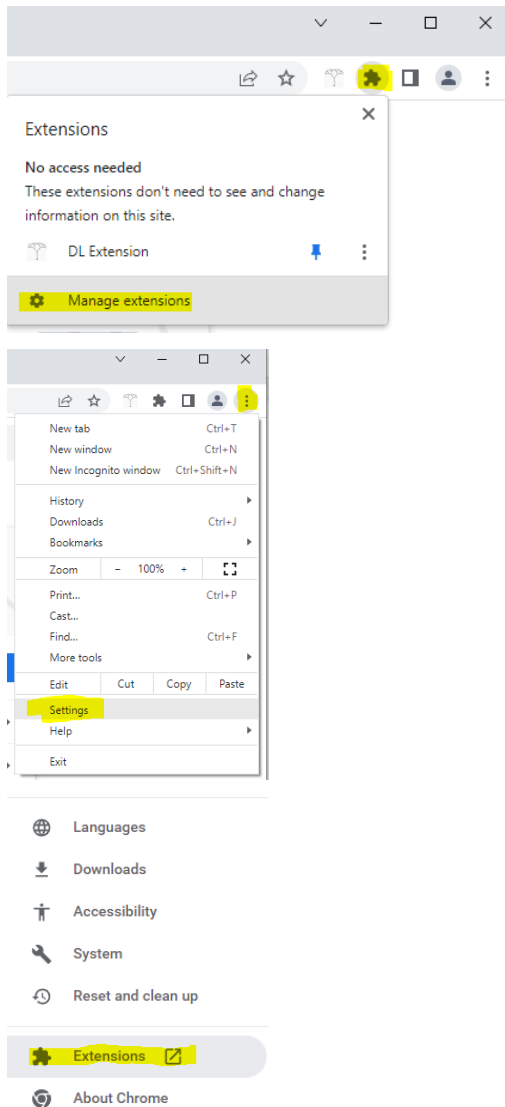
4. In the unzipped folder, navigate such that the *NLP_extension* folder is visible.



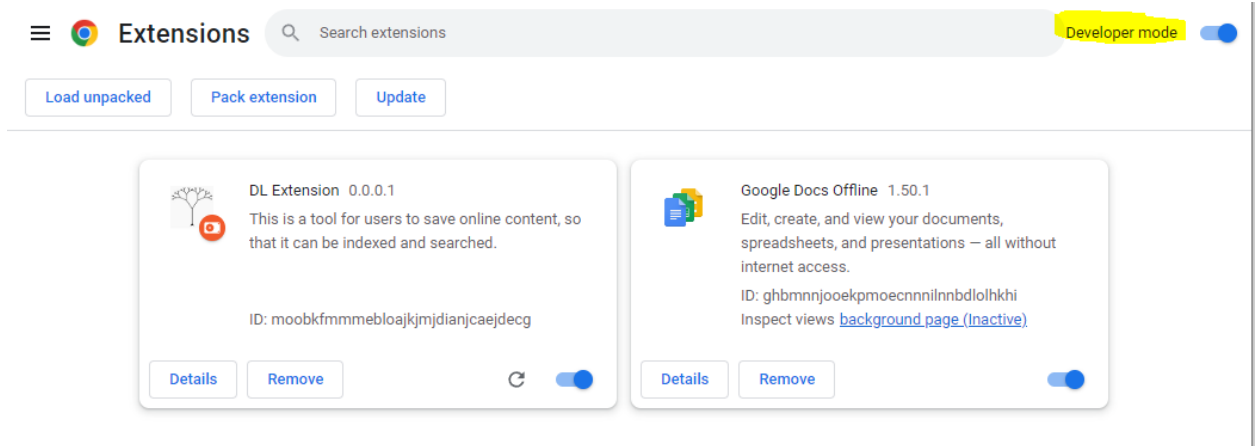
5. Check that the *NLP_extension* folder has *manifest.json*, a *popup* folder, and an *icons* folder.



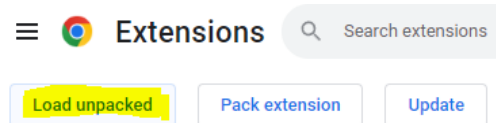
- Open up a new instance of Chrome and in the upper right hand corner of the page, click the puzzle piece icon and then from the dropdown click *Manage Extensions* to bring up the extensions menu. Alternatively, click the three vertical dots and select the *Settings* option. In the *Settings* menu, then click the *Extensions* option. Either method will bring you to the *Extensions* menu.



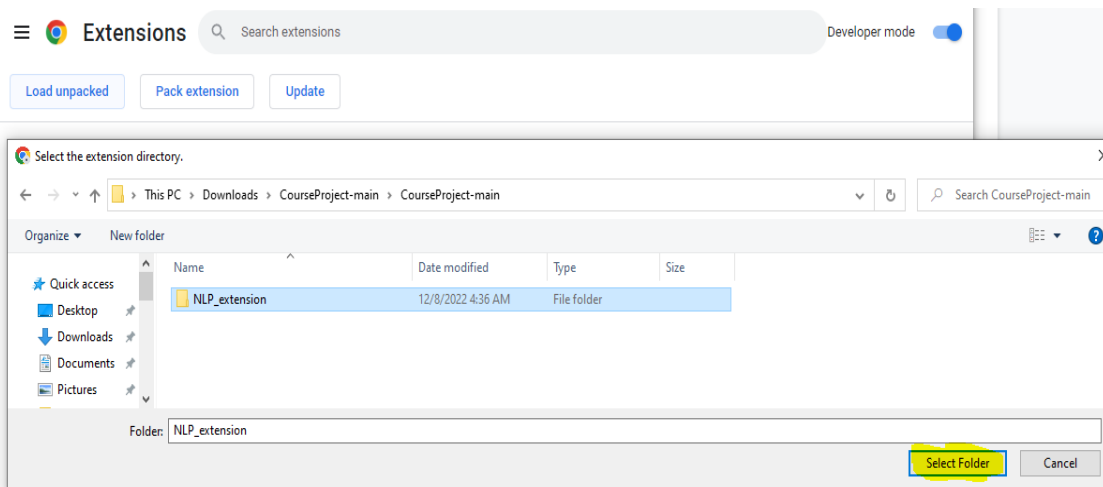
- Toggle on *Developer Mode* on the right side of the *Extensions* settings page.



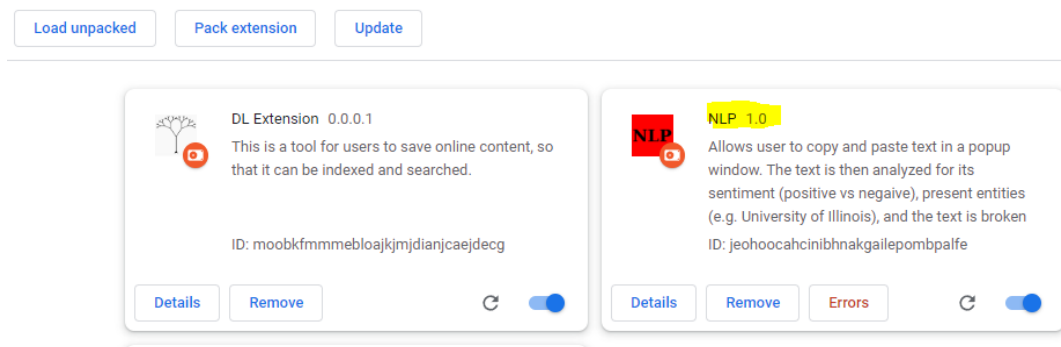
8. Click on *Load unpacked*.



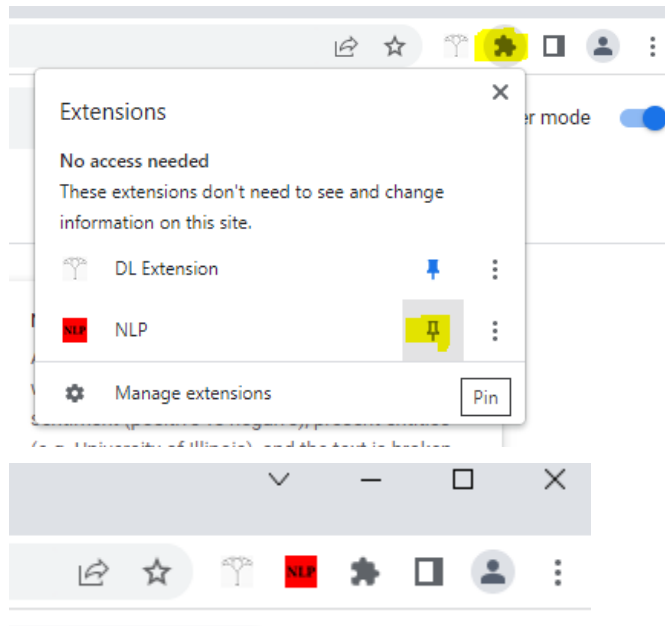
9. In the popup window, select the *NLP_extension* folder.



10. After the extension loads, the extension should be listed along with any other installed extensions.



11. To make the extension always visible in the toolbar, click the puzzle piece icon and click the pin icon. The extension's icon should be now visible in the upper right hand corner of the page.



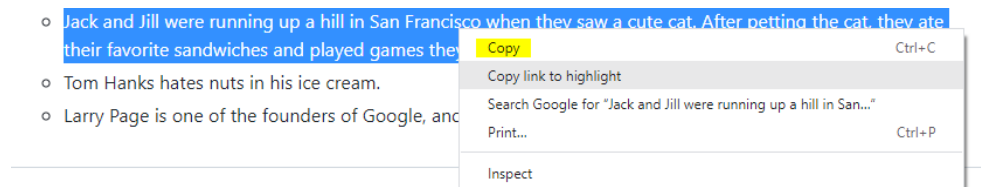
12. Installation of the extension is now complete and is ready for use.

#4 How to Use the Extension

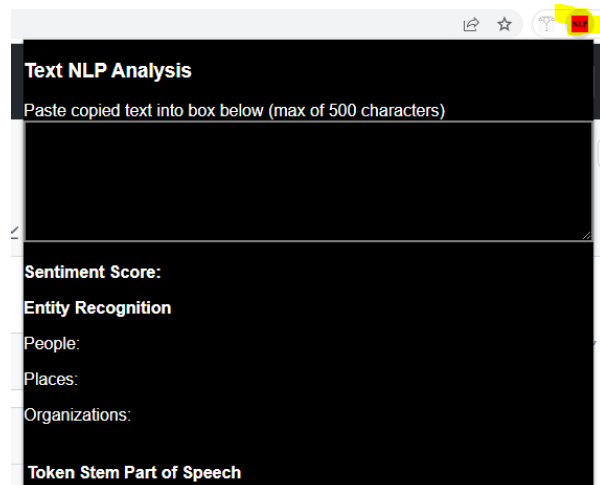
After the extension has been installed in Firefox or Chrome, it is ready for use on text that is inputted by the user. The user can either click the extension icon and manually enter text into the text box to be analyzed, or the user can copy text from a web page or document, click the extension icon, and paste the copied text into the text box (maximum of 500 characters).

Example of using the extension:

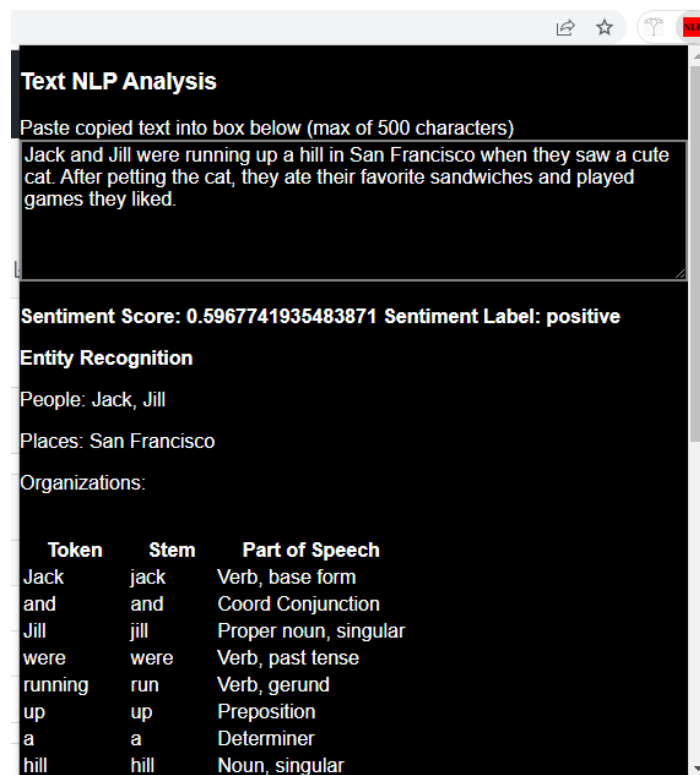
1. If it is desired to copy and paste text instead of manually entering text, copy the desired text.



- Click the extension icon



- Manually enter text into the text box, or paste the previously copied text into the text box. The entered text will be analyzed for its sentiment, entities (people, places, and organizations), stem for each token, and part of speech for each token. The user can scroll down as needed to see all rows in the table. Note that when the user clicks away from the popup, the popup will disappear and the text previously entered into the text box will be gone.



- The user should inspect the results for accuracy. Due to the limitations of the NLP libraries used (e.g the lexicon used for entities and word sentiment values) and the fact

that a cut down client side compatible version of those NLP libraries is used for this extension, the results of the extension are typically not perfectly accurate (e.g. not all entities recognized).

#5 Contributions

Since this was an individual project, all tasks were completed by me, Nicholas DaRosa.

References

1. https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Mozilla/Add-ons/WebExtensions/Your_second_WebExtension
2. <https://unpkg.com/browse/compromise@13.11.4/builds/compromise.min.js>
3. <https://github.com/spencermountain/compromise/>
4. <https://github.com/Ulflander/compendium-js>