

- KeemenaPreprocessing.jl Unicode-Robust Cleaning,
- 2 Multi-Level Tokenisation & Streaming Offset Bundling
- 3 for Julia NLP
- ⁴ Alexander V. Mantzaris ¹⁰
- 1 Department of Statistics and Data Science, University of Central Florida (UCF), USA

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Software

- Review 🗗
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Summary

KeemenaPreprocessing.jl begins where raw text first enters a research workflow, applying a carefully chosen set of cleaning operations that work well for most corpora yet remain fully customisable. By default the toolkit lower-cases characters, folds accents, removes control glyphs, normalises whitespace, and replaces URLs, e-mails, and numbers by sentinel tokens; each rule may be toggled individually through an optional PreprocessConfiguration, so users can disable lower-casing for case-sensitive tasks or preserve digits for OCR evaluation without rewriting the pipeline.

After cleaning, the same configuration drives tokenisation. Keemena ships byte-, character-, and word-level tokenisers and will seamlessly wrap a user-supplied function—allowing, for instance, a spaCy segmentation pass when language-specific heuristics are required (Honnibal et al., 2020). Multiple tokenisers can operate in one sweep, so a single corpus pass can yield both sub-word pieces for a language model and whitespace tokens for classical bag-of-words features. Each token stream is accompanied by dense offset vectors: words are anchored to their byte and character positions, sentences and paragraphs are delimited explicitly, and a cross-alignment table keeps byte <-> char <-> word mappings exact. This design guarantees that every higher-level span can be traced unambiguously back to the source bytes, a property indispensable for annotation projection and reversible data augmentation.

All artefacts—clean strings, token-ids, offset vectors, vocabulary statistics, and alignment tables are consolidated into a single PreprocessBundle. The bundle can be saved or loaded with one function call using the JLD2 format, making it a drop-in dependency for downstream embedding or language-model pipelines inspired by word2vec (Mikolov, 2013). For modest datasets, the entire pipeline executes in a single statement; for web-scale corpora, KeemenaPreprocessing's streaming mode processes fixed-size token chunks in constant memory while still accumulating global frequency tables. Thus, whether invoked with default settings for a quick experiment or finely tuned for production, KeemenaPreprocessing.jl offers a cohesive, Julia-native path from raw text to analysis-ready data (Bezanson et al., 2017). Many of these principles are introduced in (Bird et al., 2009);

Statement of Need

Natural-language ML pipelines depend on reliable, reproducible preprocessing. Popular toolkits such as spaCy (Honnibal et al., 2020), Stanford CoreNLP (Manning et al., 2014), and Gensim (Rehrek & Sojka, 2010) are Python or Java-centric, require heavyweight installations, and assume the full corpus fits in memory or on a local filesystem. While WordTokenizers.jl provides basic tokenisation for Julia (Kaushal et al., 2020), Julia users still lack an integrated, streaming pipeline that:



- Scales beyond RAM through chunked streaming.
- Tracks fine-grained offsets so models can mix sub-word and sentence-level features.
- Lives entirely in Julia, avoiding Python/Java dependencies and enabling zero-copy interop
 with Julia's numerical stack.
- KeemenaPreprocessing.jl fills this gap, letting researchers preprocess billions of tokens on commodity hardware while retaining compatibility with embedding or language-model training workflows inspired by word2vec (Mikolov, 2013).

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