# Exercise 1

## Part a

*How is the result compared to using the full brown tagset in the introduction?  
Why do you think one of the tagsets yields higher scores than the other one?*

Result from the run, using the Universal Tagset instead of the Brown Tagset: **0.8689**

Result from the previous run with the given Brown Tagset: 0.7915

The large difference in the scores achieved by using two different tagsets might be a result of the different tags applied and their number, too. The Brown tagset uses 87 different tags to classify the parts of speech it encounters and therefore it is a very elaborate tagset. On the other hand, the Universal Tagset only applies 12 tags, which makes it a more reduced tool to use. However, this reduction to 12 “core” tags for classifying parts of speech might lead to higher accuracies in classification tasks, since the tagger is then less prone to wrong tagging of words, or – to put it differently – the probability that the tagger tags a word correctly is higher when there are only 12 tags then when there are 87 tags to choose from.

## Part b

# Exercise 2

## Part a

*Train the ScikitConsecutivePosTagger on the \*news\_train\* set and test on the \*news\_dev\_test\* set with the \*pos\_features\*. Do you get the same result as with the same data and features and the NLTK code in exercise 1a?*

Results from running the code on the ScikitConsecutivePosTagger: 0.857

The result when running the same data and features with the ScikitConsecutivePosTagger differ slightly from the ones achieved with the NLTK code. To be more precise, the tagger implemented in exercise 2a achieves a slightly lower accuracy than the one implemented in exercise 1a.

## Part b

With the best choice of alpha, do you get the same results as with the NLTK code in exercise 1a, worse results or better results?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Value of alpha-parameter with BernoulliNB** | **Result** |
| 1 | 0.857 |
| 0.5 | 0.8749 |
| 0.1 | 0.8695 |
| 0.01 | 0.8683 |
| 0.001 | 0.8651 |
| 0.0001 | 0.8631 |

The best choice of the alpha-parameter is alpha=0.5, which yields an accuracy of 0.8749. This is slightly better than what the NLTK-code gives as a result. Moreover, the parameter alpha=0.1 yields a better result as well, while all the other parameters fall behind the NLTK-result from exercise 1a.

## Part c

Did the extended feature selector beat the baseline?

The extended feature selector should intuitively beat the baseline because for the baseline calculation a very rudimental method was used by assigning the word’s most common POS-tag to the respective word. Therefore, the feature selector doesn’t take a word’s context into account. However, the context can be a very helpful indicator when it comes to POS-tagging as it might help to decide which POS is the correct one.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Value of alpha-parameter with BernoulliNB** | **Feature extractor from Part b: Results** | **Results from extended feature extractor** | **Improvement of accuracy from Part b to Part c?** |
| 1 | 0.857 | 0.8874 |  |
| 0.5 | 0.8749 | 0.9166 |  |
| 0.1 | 0.8695 | 0.9244 |  |
| 0.01 | 0.8683 | 0.9303 |  |
| 0.001 | 0.8651 | 0.933 |  |
| 0.0001 | 0.8631 | 0.934 |  |

Running this experiment with the extended feature extractor and various alpha-values, the best results are achieved when using alpha=0.0001. In general, the extended feature extractor performs better than the not-extended one which only looks at the previous word instead of the previous and current word.

# Exercise 3

## Part a

Result of running with the extended feature extractor from the previous Exercise 2 in combination with Logistic Regression as classification algorithm: 0.9514

This result is even better than the best result with the Naïve Bayes classifier (best one here: 0.934).

## Part b

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Value of C-parameter for smoothing in Logistic Regression (regularization)** | **Result** |
| 0.01 | 0.8499 |
| 0.1 | 0.9265 |
| 1.0 | 0.9514 |
| 10.0 | 0.9545 |
| 100.0 | 0.9531 |
| 1000.0 | 0.954 |

The classification with the logistic regression and various parameters for regularization yields the best results when using C=10.0. As smaller C values stand for stronger regularization, the best results are achieved with medium regularization in this case here. With the smallest C-value, the worst result is obtained with only 85% of accuracy in the POS-tags.

# Exercise 4

## Part a

Result with added feature in feature extractor – the next word in the sentence – and the best C from Exercise 3: 0.9651, which is a further improvement in accuracy

## Part b

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Features observed by feature extractor** | **Accuracy** |
| Including all previous features plus checking whether word is a number | 0.9658 |
| Including all previous features plus checking whether word is capitalized | 0.9646 |
| Combining the previous two settings | 0.9646 |
| Checking whether all letters in word are capitalized, or only the first or none | 0.9644 |
| Previous setting + checking if string is a number | 0.9644 |

The best results can be obtained by checking whether the string is a number and also considering the following, the previous and the word itself.