

TEXTUAL PREDICTION OF PROSODIC PROMINENCE IN SPONTANEOUS SPEECH WITH SEQUENCE CLASSIFIERS

Shiran Dudy and Kyle Gorman

Center for Spoken Language Understanding, Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR, USA

dudy@ohsu.edu

ABSTRACT

Speakers produce words with differing degrees of prosodic prominence, as do naturalistic text-to-speech systems. Prominence also marks contrasts in information structure. We describe models for predicting word prominence using textual features (such as part of speech). We employ sequence classification techniques so as to encode the tendency for prominent and non-prominent words to alternate. In experiments with the spontaneous speech from the Switchboard database, we show that these models produce a significant improvement in classification above the baseline. Our results suggest that word-level prominences can be accurately inferred from relatively shallow textual features.

1. INTRODUCTION

2. PRIOR WORK

3. METHODS

4. RESULTS

5. CONCLUSION