Winter 2018 LIGN 199 Writeup

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In Winter Quarter of 2018, I was enrolled in LIGN 199, a special independent undergraduate research course. I assisted Matthew Zaslansky, a graduate student at UCSD, with research in Azerbaijani, chiefly data compilation from an online corpus, SketchEngine, and processing of that data, in Python. All code from the project can be found in my GitHub repository, https://github.com/variablehair/199wi18. The course is graded as P/NP and is worth four credits.

1 Introduction

A relatively small number of external packages and modules were used in this project; they will be briefly introduced here.

1.1 json

The json package is used widely throughout the project as one of the two primary data management formats. Primarily, it is used to save and load data to disk in a machine-friendly format.

In the above snippet from data_fetch.py, data is retrieved from SketchEngine in JSON format, and after processing, is then stored in a .json file.

```
with open('data/dative_pruned.json') as f:
    j_dat = json.load(f)

for token in j_dat:
    ...
```

In the above snippet from xlsx_writer_task2.py, stored JSON data is loaded into the program. This approach, while simple, ran into a problem of magnitude; specifically, json.load was found to have significant overhead on memory (RAM) which seemed to scale exponentially with file size, rendering this approach untenable when the data set became large, as ours did.

1.2 sqlite3

As a solution to this problem, the dataset was transposed to a SQLite database using the sqlite3 package. sqlite3 was chosen because of its minimal setup and upkeep, making it ideal for our task. Its primary drawback is its relatively slower speed, but as our total and average throughput of database access was extremely low, this was not a concern.

In the above snippet from compile_data100.py, tables are created in our database and populated with data using database connection and cursor objects.

In the above snippet from counter_task2_dict.py, a query which fetches

every row from a particular table is executed. By using c.fetchone(), we only load a single row of data at a time into memory, bypassing the JSON problem (wherein the entire dataset had to be loaded into memory).

1.3 xlsxwriter

The xlsxwriter package is used several times throughout the project to generate human-readable .xlsx files once data had been processed. It was chosen from several options because it was the most lightweight due to lacking the functionality to open existing .xlsx files. However, this functionality was not required in this project.

In the above snippet from xlsx_writer_task2.py, xlsxwriter is used to create a file (Workbook), sheets (worksheets), and then write particular results iteratively to each row.

1.4 string

The string package is used to access various built-in constants, such as a list of all the punctuation.

In the above snippet from simple_get_dict_entry.py, string.punctuation and string.digits are used as arguments to strip() in order to remove trailing punctuation marks and numerals from dictionary entries as part of the process to convert them to clean, machine-readable format.

1.5 re

The regular expression package **re** is used to perform more advanced trimming operations on the dictionary entries.

```
try:
    if line[0].isupper():
        curr = re.sub(r'\([^()]*\)', '', line[0])
        ...
```

In the above snippet from syntactic_category_fetch.py, a regular expression is used to remove all strings between parentheses within words, as such strings were commonly found in the dictionary.

1.6 requests and urllib.parse

The requests package and urllib.parse module are used only in the data fetching process to interface with SketchEngine's API.

```
s = requests.Session()
s.auth = (tom_username, tom_password)
s.get(login_url)
url = base_url + 'view'
...
r = s.post(login_url,data=logindata)
encoded_attrs=urllib.parse.urlencode(attrs)
r = s.get(url, params = attrs)
```

requests is used in the above snippet from data_fetch.py to create an interface with SketchEngine via a Session object, which sends and receives data with post and get. urllib.parse is used to encode the data sent to the server into the appropriate format.

1.7 time

The time package is used only in the data fetching process to delay execution of the code in order to comply with SketchEngine's rate limits.

```
while pagenum < MAX_SAMPLES:
pagenum += 1
attrs['fromp'] = pagenum
r = s.get(url, params=attrs)
curr_res_dict = r.json()
...
time.sleep(10)
if pagenum % 25 == 0:
time.sleep(60)</pre>
```

In the above snippet from data_fetch.py, time.sleep is used to pause execution of the loop on every iteration for 10 seconds with an additional pause on every 25th iteration for 60 seconds. This was found to be within the limits allowed by SketchEngine despite being less than their prescribed pause (44 seconds per query), which is prohibitively long for our task.

1.8 os and ast

os and ast used only in compile_data100.py and are used to work with the filesystem and raw data respectively

```
datapath = 'data/temp/'
datadir = os.fsencode(datapath)
...
for file in os.listdir(datadir):
    filename = os.fsdecode(file)
    tokenname = filename[0:-8]
    process_raw_json(datapath+filename, tokenname, conn)
```

In the above snippet from compile_data100.py, os.fsencode and os.fsdecode are used to allow Python to iterate through a folder containing raw data in JSON format.

In the above (somewhat hacky) snippet from <code>compile_data100.py</code>, <code>ast.literal_eval()</code> is used to convert a string to a Python data structure, in this case a dictionary. This approach was necessary because the files in question were too large to load directly despite being in JSON format, so they had to be loaded as strings before being converted.

1.9 operator.itemgetter()

The module operator.itemgetter() was used as an efficient alternative to the built-in dict.get() for efficiency reasons. Though it probably would not have made a tangible difference, our data sets could sometimes be very large, and so itemgetter() was used as a safeguard.

itemgetter() was used exclusively in sorted(), which produced a sorted list of tuples from a dictionary.

2 Structure and non-code files

A number of non-Python files (e.g. .txt, etc.) are found in the repository. They, along with the structure of the repository, will be very briefly detailed here

2.1 Structure

The repository's structure is very simple. Most files are found at the top level. The directory azer_dictionary_cleanup contains files relevant to our work converting and working with an Azerbaijani dictionary, and the directory data contains data in various forms. However, note that the data directory is not actually available in the repository due to size constraints (e.g. the database is 267MB) despite being frequently used in the code. This means that trying to run the code directly after cloning the repository will result in errors; the data can, of course, be provided upon request. Lastly, unless otherwise noted, all files use UTF-8 encoding.

2.2 dict.txt, dict_entries.txt, and dict_entries_noparens.txt

These three files contain the Azerbaijani dictionary and information from it in text format. dict.txt contains a plaintext version of the dictionary itself. dict_entries.txt contains a roughly parsed and unpruned list of entries from the dictionary, and dict_entries_noparens.txt contains the same list, but with word-internal parenthesized blocks removed.

2.3 task1clean.txt

This probably poorly named file contains a list of all query strings (e.g. "dir", "ar", etc.) used in our project. It is called 'clean' because it contains only the raw search strings without either artifacts from when this list was sent (e.g. preceding hyphens) or when these strings are used as actual search queries in the corpus (i.e. asterisks/regex formatting). The results from these queries comprised all of the data used, and this file is used in several places, e.g. to name the tables in the database.

3 Individual Python script overviews

In this section, the individual Python modules will be described in rough chronological order. Note that some will be deprecated (and marked as such), mostly due to the change from JSON to SQLite.

3.1 data_fetch.py

data_fetch.py interfaces with the SketchEngine API, sends queries, receives data, and then saves it to disk.

```
from login import tom_username, tom_password
import requests
import json
import urllib.parse
import time
MAX_SAMPLES = 100
root_url = 'https://the.sketchengine.co.uk'
base_url='%s/bonito/run.cgi/' % root_url
login_url = 'https://the.sketchengine.co.uk/login/'
logindata = {'username' : tom_username, 'password' :

    tom_password, 'submit' : 'ok'}

qlist = []
with open('task1clean.txt', encoding='utf-8') as queries:
   for line in queries:
        qlist.append(line.replace('\n', ''))
s = requests.Session()
s.auth = (tom_username, tom_password)
s.get(login_url)
url = base_url + 'view'
api_log = open('api_log.txt', encoding='utf-8', mode='w')
```

Some general definitions and imports, part of which comes directly from SketchEngine's example script. MAX_SAMPLES is probably poorly named, but is the maximum number of pages per query; there are 1,000 results per page, so this sets the limit for maximum number of results per query at 100,000. qlist is a list of queries that we are interested in. api_log is a log file for debugging purposes. The remaining variables are various API-related operators, e.g. logindata is imported and then used to authorize the session, allowing us to make further requests.

```
for query in qlist:
    pagenum = 1
    fquery = str('q[word=".*' + query + '.*"]')
    attrs = dict(corpname = 'preloaded/turkic_az', q =

    fquery, pagesize = '1000', format = 'json',

    fromp=pagenum, r='r1000')

    curr_results = list()
    r = s.post(login_url,data=logindata)
    encoded_attrs=urllib.parse.urlencode(attrs)
    r = s.get(url, params = attrs)
    curr_res_dict = r.json()
    try:
        e = (curr_res_dict['error'])
        api_log.write('ERROR on ' + str(query) + ':\t' +
        \rightarrow str(e) + '\n')
        continue
    except KeyError:
        pass
    curr_results = curr_res_dict['Lines']
    try:
        total_pages = curr_res_dict['numofpages']
    except KeyError:
        total_pages = 1
    api_log.write(query + ' page ' + str(pagenum) + 'done,

    len = ' + str(len(curr_results)) + '\n')
```

This section sets up the for loop which encapsulates the rest of the file (keep in mind that the following sections are within the loop). A request is first constructed in the attrs object; note that pagesize is 1000, the maximum allowed. r is supposed to return a random sample of results according to the documentation, but it seems to not do this (or perhaps is incompatible with another option, but is not documented). fromp is the page that is returned, starting with 1, and in our case increasing to a maximum of 100.

This request is then sent to the corpus with requests.get(), and the result is converted to a dictionary using the json library. The first thing that is checked is whether there is an error, either a rate limit or an empty result; if so, we move on to the next iteration (i.e. the next query) with continue. Finally, if there is no error, we save the current page of results (the data itself is found in Lines) and then count the total number of pages.

```
if total_pages > 1:
       while pagenum < MAX_SAMPLES:
           pagenum += 1
           attrs['fromp'] = pagenum
           r = s.get(url, params=attrs)
           curr_res_dict = r.json()
           curr_results = curr_results +

    curr_res_dict['Lines']

           api_log.write(query + ' page ' + str(pagenum) +
            \rightarrow '\n')
           time.sleep(10)
           if pagenum % 25 == 0:
           time.sleep(60)
           print(str(pagenum))
   with open('data/temp/' + query + '100.json', mode='w',

    encoding='utf=8') as f:

   json.dump(curr_results, f)
   curr_results = []
   time.sleep(120)
api_log.close()
```

In this section, we essentially repeat the loop if there are multiple pages of results, up to our defined maximum. Note that there are multiple time.sleep() calls in order to avoid rate limits from SketchEngine. Finally, after all the data has been compiled, it is unceremoniously dumped to a JSON file in its raw form.

3.2 counter_task1.py

Deprecated.

This module was created for the first task, which was simply an ordered token count of words which contained query strings. It has not been updated with the new database. It also does not contain optimizations and improvements found in later scripts.

```
import json
import xlsxwriter

f = open('data/task1.json')
d = json.load(f)
k = list(d.keys())
```

```
workbook = xlsxwriter.Workbook('data.xlsx')
for key in k:
   try:
        1 = d[key]['Lines']
   except KeyError:
        continue
results = dict()
for r in 1:
   try:
        word = r['Kwic'][0]['str']
       results[word] = results.get(word, 0) + 1
   except KeyError:
        continue
worksheet = workbook.add_worksheet(key)
row = 0
for result in results.keys():
   row += 1
   worksheet.write(row, 0, result)
   worksheet.write(row, 1, results[result])
workbook.close()
```

This module tries to access the Lines object of the result JSON file, which contains a page of results. After that, it tries to access r['Kwic'][0]['str'], which contains the word which contains the query string. A results dictionary then counts the number of occurrences of such words.

3.3 char_replace.py

This module replaces characters from the custom encoding found in the Azerbaijani dictionary to the more common UTF-8.

```
except KeyError:
    outfile.write(char)
```

Not included due to space is the dictionary which maps the replacement characters. This module iterates through the file and simply replaces all characters found in the dict; if the character is not found, it simply writes it with no changes.

3.4 simple_get_dict_entry.py

This module attempts to extract a list of dictionary entries from the converted dictionary in text form.

Each line is split at whitespace, and the first word is examined. If it is entirely in uppercase, and longer than 2 characters after punctuation or numerals have been removed, then it is added to the list of entries. Finer pruning was certainly possible but perhaps not needed for this task.

3.5 compile_data100.py

This module takes the JSON data from data_fetch.py and puts it into a SQLite database. Because the JSON data already existed, it was written to work with that specifically; a much better approach for any future implementation would be to have the data fetch module work directly with the database, eliminating this middle man.

```
def process_raw_json(filename, tokenname, dbconn):
    c = dbconn.cursor()
    try:
```

```
c.execute('''CREATE TABLE {} (token TEXT, left TEXT,
    → right TEXT)'''.format(tokenname))
except sqlite3.OperationalError:
    print(tokenname)
    return
with open(filename, encoding='utf-8') as data:
    raw_string = data.readline()
    split_string = '{\"rightsize'
    string_list = [split_string + s[:-2] for s in
    → raw_string.split(split_string) if len(s) >= 2]
    for string_dict in string_list:
        try:
            result_dict = ast.literal_eval(string_dict)
        except SyntaxError:
            result_dict = ast.literal_eval(string_dict +
             → '}')
        left_str = [ldict['str'].split(' ') for ldict in
        → result_dict['Left']]
        left_str = [string for sublist in left_str for
        \hookrightarrow string in sublist]
        left_str = ' '.join(left_str)
        right_str = [rdict['str'].split(' ') for rdict

→ in result_dict['Right']]
        right_str = [string for sublist in right_str for

    string in sublist]

        right_str = ' '.join(right_str)
        query = '''INSERT INTO {0} VALUES
        \rightarrow ('{1}','{2}','{3}')'''.format(tokenname,

→ result_dict['Kwic'][0]['str'],

→ left_str.replace("\'", "\'\"),

    right_str.replace("\'", "\'\'"))

        try:
            c.execute(query)
        except sqlite3.OperationalError:
            print(query)
conn.commit()
print(tokenname)
```

This function makes up the bulk of the module. It takes a file, a token, and a database connection. It attempts to create a table with the token (e.g. 'ar'), and then reads the entire file as a string (because it cannot be loaded as an object due to size). It then splits this raw string at '\{\bar{rightsize'}, which precedes each unique entry in the data. It then evaluates each individual entry as a literal Python object rather than a string before concatenating them (as they are in one or two layers of lists) into a string, which is finally inserted into

the database.

```
import os
import json
import sqlite3
import ast

datapath = 'data/temp/'
datadir = os.fsencode(datapath)
conn = sqlite3.connect('data/data100.db')

def process_raw_json(filename, tokenname, dbconn):
    ...

for file in os.listdir(datadir):
    filename = os.fsdecode(file)
    tokenname = filename[0:-8]
    process_raw_json(datapath+filename, tokenname, conn)

conn.close()
```

The remainder of the file simply iterates through the folder containing all the JSON objects and calls the previously defined function on each of them.

3.6 counter_task2_dict.py

This module contains task 2, which attempted to extract dative and accusative marked nouns from the sentence.

Some definitions, such as case markers, are given. Pruning-related constants, such as the a set of dictionary entries, are created, and a list of all tables to be iterated through are also created. Finally, some log files to track pruning are created.

```
def EOS_prune(word_list, kept_words, position):
    if position == len(word_list) - 1:
        return word_list
    elif len(word_list[position]) > 0 and
        word_list[position][-1] in END_OF_SENTENCE:
        return kept_words
    else:
        kept_words.append(word_list[position])
        return EOS_prune(word_list, kept_words, position+1)
```

This function takes a list of words and returns the same list of words with all words after the sentence boundary removed by recursively iterating until a end of sentence marker, such as a period or an HTML tag (all tags found in a quick sample were paragraph break tags, so we assumed they marked a sentence boundary).

This function takes a list of word and extracts nouns marked by the provided case markings according to our pruning rules, and also keeps track of the previous word for this purpose. Pruning rules include being a dictionary entry and the marking of the previous word.

```
results_dat = dict()
results_acc = dict()
for token in tokens:
token_dat_results = dict()
token_acc_results = dict()
c.execute('''SELECT token, left, right FROM
while True:
   r = c.fetchone()
   if r is None:
       break
   word, left, right = r
   try:
       if word.endswith(token):
           #exclude word-final appearance
           continue
       left = left.split(' ')
       right = right.split(' ')
```

```
for left_word in left:
            if any(x in left_word for x in EXCLUDE_LEFT):
                #exclude specific left-occuring words
                raise ValueError
       left.reverse()
        #remove words outside of sentence
       left = EOS_prune(left, [], 0)
       left.reverse()
       right = EOS_prune(right, [], 0)
       pulled_dat_list = pull_cased_nouns(left, DAT_CASE,
        → 0, []) + pull_cased_nouns(right, DAT_CASE, 0,
        pulled_acc_list = pull_cased_nouns(left, ACC_CASE,
        → 0, []) + pull_cased_nouns(right, ACC_CASE, 0,
        → [])
        curr_dat_results = token_dat_results.get(word, {})
        curr_acc_results = token_acc_results.get(word, {})
       for pulled_dat in pulled_dat_list:
            curr_dat_results[pulled_dat] =

    curr_dat_results.get(pulled_dat, 0) + 1

       token_dat_results[word] = curr_dat_results
       for pulled_acc in pulled_acc_list:
            curr_acc_results[pulled_acc] =

    curr_acc_results.get(pulled_acc, 0) + 1

        token_acc_results[word] = curr_acc_results
    except ValueError:
       continue
results_dat[token] = token_dat_results
results_acc[token] = token_acc_results
with open('data/dative_pruned.json', mode='w') as f:
    json.dump(results_dat, f)
with open('data/accusative_pruned.json', mode='w') as f:
    json.dump(results_acc, f)
pruned_dict_entries.close()
```

```
all_results_pruned.close()
no_results_found.close()
```

This remainder of the module iterates through every table in the database, and for each one, tests one row at a time, extracting appropriately marked nouns. Some basic pruning, such as word-final appearance of the verb marking, is done here. Note that the left-occurring word pruning is incorrect and should be changed if we return to this task in the future. The left and right strings are then passed through the two previously defined functions – note that the left string is first reversed, as we want to remove the words outside rather than inside of the sentence. The dative and accusative results are separately recorded before being saved in JSON form.

3.7 xlsx_writer_task2.py

This module takes the JSON files generated by the previous module and writes them to human-readable xlsx format. The reason for this two-step process is that it is much more difficult to work directly with xlsx files than with JSON data, and so it is useful to keep the intermediate JSON representation around.

```
import xlsxwriter
import json
from operator import itemgetter
workbook_dat =

    xlsxwriter.Workbook('dict_pruned_dative.xlsx')

with open('data/dative_pruned.json') as f:
    j_dat = json.load(f)
for token in j_dat:
    worksheet = workbook_dat.add_worksheet(token)
    row = 0
    word_dict = j_dat[token]
    for word in word_dict:
        tup_results = sorted(word_dict[word].items(),

    key=itemgetter(1), reverse=True)

        for tup in tup_results:
        worksheet.write(row, 0, word)
        worksheet.write(row, 1, tup[0])
        worksheet.write(row, 2, tup[1])
        row += 1
workbook_dat.close()
```

This module contains the same process for both dative and accusative case (and really should use a function instead of copy-pasting code), so only one of

the two is provided due to space. The JSON file is loaded and a sheet is created for each original search query; then, the module iterates through the verbs, sorts their results, then writes them in descending order.

3.8 xlsx_pruned_dict_writer.py

This module should really be called 'dict_pruned_writer', but oh well. This module simply takes the text file of pruned entries, concatenates them by number of occurences, and writes them into an xlsx file for readability.

```
import xlsxwriter
with open('pruned_dict_entries.txt', encoding='utf-8') as f:
   lines = f.readlines()
   tuple_list = []
   for line in lines:
   sl = line.split('\t')
   tuple_list.append((sl[0], sl[-1]))
results = {}
for tup in tuple_list:
   tup_results = results.get(tup[0], {})
   tup_results[tup[1]] = tup_results.get(tup[1], 0) + 1
   results[tup[0]] = tup_results
workbook = xlsxwriter.Workbook('pruned_dict_entries.xlsx')
worksheet = workbook.add_worksheet('Pruned Entries')
row = 0
for r in results:
   curr_dict = results[r]
   for key in curr_dict:
        worksheet.write(row, 0, r)
        worksheet.write(row, 1, key)
        worksheet.write(row, 2, curr_dict[key])
        row += 1
workbook.close()
```

The text file of pruned entries is read in. Because of the formatting of that file, we split each line at tabs, resulting in a tuple, from which we take the first and last members. Then, we simply group results and count occurrences before writing the results to an xlsx file.

3.9 task3_hapax.py

This module counts the number of hapax legomena occurring within our data set for each causative.

```
import sqlite3
import xlsxwriter
from operator import itemgetter

with open('task1clean.txt', encoding='utf-8') as f:
    token_list = f.readlines()

conn = sqlite3.connect('data/data100.db')

workbook = xlsxwriter.Workbook('task3_hapax.xlsx')
```

As with previously covered modules, some basic definitions and imports, such as a database connection, are created.

```
for token in token_list:
    c = conn.cursor()
   query = '''SELECT token FROM {0}'''.format(token)
    c.execute(query)
   total = 0
   hapax = 0
   found_words = dict()
   while True:
        row = c.fetchone()
        if row == None:
            break
        found_words[row[0]] = found_words.get(row[0], 0) + 1
   for word in found_words:
        num = found_words[word]
        total += num
        if num == 1:
            hapax += 1
   results_list = sorted(found_words.items(),
       key=itemgetter(1), reverse=True)
```

The module then iterates through all tables in the database, and fetches the verb ('word') from each row, keeping count of the number of times each verb occurs. Afterward, it iterates through these results and calculates both the total number of verbs as well as the number of hapaxes.

```
worksheet = workbook.add_worksheet(token)

row = 0
worksheet.write(row, 0, 'Total hapax')
worksheet.write(row, 1, 'Total tokens')

row += 1
worksheet.write(row, 0, hapax)
worksheet.write(row, 1, total)
worksheet.write(row, 2, str(hapax/total))

row += 2
for result in results_list:
    worksheet.write(row, 0, result[0])
    worksheet.write(row, 1, result[1])
    row += 1
```

It then writes this into an xlsx file; no intermediate representation is used as currently the intermediate data is not expected to be needed in the immediate future.

3.10 syntactic_category_fetch.py

This module goes back into the dictionary to try to extract the syntactic category of each entry.

This module takes much the same approach as simple_get_dict_entry.py. It looks for strings resembling abbreviations for parts of speech, which in the dictionary seemed to take the form of lowercase letters with at least one period. For each of these potential syntactic category markers, all entries found with it are kept track of. This method produces a lot of chaff, but has the advantage of being simple and fairly likely to be complete.

The data is then stored in a JSON file as well as written to an xlsx file.