Natural Language Processing

Tagging
How difficult is home assignment 1? (21 responses)

- 0 (0%)
- 1 (4.8%)
- 2 (4.8%)
- 3 (47.6%)
- 4 (42.9%)
- 5 (4.8%)
Plan

• What are part-of-speech tags?
• What are tagging models?
• Models for tagging
## Model zoo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tagging</th>
<th>Parsing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Generative</strong></td>
<td>HMMs</td>
<td>PCFGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Log-linear</strong></td>
<td>Greedy</td>
<td>Transition-based parsing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Locally</td>
<td>Viterbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>normalized</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Globally</td>
<td>forward-backward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>normalized</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And then also deep learning variants!
The/D T stuffy/J J room/NN is/AUX filled/VBN with/IN students/NNS
Cross-language variations

- Some languages don’t have adjectives (use verbs instead)
  - “I see well”: “eye me-clear”
- Some language have noun classifiers
  - Mandarin (“three —long and flat— knives”)
  - Thai
What is it good for

• Characterizes the behavior of a word in context

• Useful for downstream applications/tasks
  
  • Parsing
    
    • what are parse trees good for?
  
  • Question answering (if the question is “when” then the answer should contain a numeral)
  
  • Articulation (object/object)

• Punctuation (Hebrew)

• But with a lot of data can often do without it.
How to determine what it is

• Morphology
  • -ly
  • 'ה ידיעת
  • Can you add possesives?

• Context
  • Appears after “the”
  • Before a verb

*The yinkish dripner blorked quastofically into the nindin with the pidbis.*
How to determine what it is

The yinkish dripner blorked quastofically into the nindin with the pidibs.

- yinkish: adjective (or noun?)
- dripner: noun
- blorked: verb
- quastofically: adverb
- nindin: noun
- pidibs: noun
conjunction—>preposition

I study nlp because
I like science

I study nlp because
science
Nouns

• In English:
  • Take 's, ness, ment
  • Occur after "the"
  • Refer to objects and entities in the real world
  • But also "smoking is forbidden"

• Types:
  • Proper nouns: Israel, Tel-Aviv University
  • Common nouns
    • Count nouns: classroom
    • Mass nouns: sand
Verbs

• Usually describe actions, states and processes
  • *eat, talk*

• Can have rich morphology (tense, aspect, ...)
Adjectives and adverbs

• Adjectives:
  • Describe a noun, a property of some entity or object (color, texture, state, …)

• Adverbs:
  • Describe an action (direction, degree, manner, time, location)
Prepositions vs. particles

• Prepositions
  • on the table

• Particles:
  • interested in music
## Penn Treebank tag set

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Tag</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>coordin. conjunction</td>
<td><em>and, but, or</em></td>
<td>SYM</td>
<td>symbol</td>
<td><em>+,%,&amp;</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>cardinal number</td>
<td><em>one, two</em></td>
<td>TO</td>
<td>“to”</td>
<td><em>to</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DT</td>
<td>determiner</td>
<td><em>a, the</em></td>
<td>UH</td>
<td>interjection</td>
<td><em>ah, oops</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX</td>
<td>existential ‘there’</td>
<td><em>there</em></td>
<td>VB</td>
<td>verb base form</td>
<td><em>eat</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FW</td>
<td>foreign word</td>
<td><em>mea culpa</em></td>
<td>VBD</td>
<td>verb past tense</td>
<td><em>ate</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>preposition/sub-conj</td>
<td><em>of, in, by</em></td>
<td>VBG</td>
<td>verb gerund</td>
<td><em>eating</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JJ</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td><em>yellow</em></td>
<td>VBN</td>
<td>verb past participle</td>
<td><em>eaten</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JJR</td>
<td>adj., comparative</td>
<td><em>bigger</em></td>
<td>VBP</td>
<td>verb non-3sg pres</td>
<td><em>eat</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JJS</td>
<td>adj., superlative</td>
<td><em>wildest</em></td>
<td>VBZ</td>
<td>verb 3sg pres</td>
<td><em>eats</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LS</td>
<td>list item marker</td>
<td><em>1, 2, One</em></td>
<td>WDT</td>
<td>wh-determiner</td>
<td><em>which, that</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD</td>
<td>modal</td>
<td><em>can, should</em></td>
<td>WP</td>
<td>wh-pronoun</td>
<td><em>what, who</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NN</td>
<td>noun, sing. or mass</td>
<td><em>llama</em></td>
<td>WP$</td>
<td>possessive wh-</td>
<td><em>whose</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNS</td>
<td>noun, plural</td>
<td><em>llamas</em></td>
<td>WRB</td>
<td>wh-adverb</td>
<td><em>how, where</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNP</td>
<td>proper noun, sing.</td>
<td><em>IBM</em></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>dollar sign</td>
<td><em>$</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNPS</td>
<td>proper noun, plural</td>
<td><em>Carolinas</em></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>pound sign</td>
<td>#$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDT</td>
<td>predeterminer</td>
<td><em>all, both</em></td>
<td>“</td>
<td>left quote</td>
<td>‘or “</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POS</td>
<td>possessive ending</td>
<td><em>’s</em></td>
<td>”</td>
<td>right quote</td>
<td>’or ”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRP</td>
<td>personal pronoun</td>
<td><em>I, you, he</em></td>
<td>(</td>
<td>left parenthesis</td>
<td>[,( [,&lt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRP$</td>
<td>possessive pronoun</td>
<td><em>your, one’s</em></td>
<td>)</td>
<td>right parenthesis</td>
<td>], ), }, &gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB</td>
<td>adverb</td>
<td><em>quickly, never</em></td>
<td>,</td>
<td>comma</td>
<td>,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBR</td>
<td>adverb, comparative</td>
<td><em>faster</em></td>
<td>.</td>
<td>sentence-final punc</td>
<td>!?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RBS</td>
<td>adverb, superlative</td>
<td><em>fastest</em></td>
<td>:</td>
<td>mid-sentence punc</td>
<td>: ; ... --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RP</td>
<td>particle</td>
<td><em>up, off</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 10.1** Penn Treebank part-of-speech tags (including punctuation).
Universal tag set (>20 languages)

- **ADJ**: adjective
- **ADP**: adposition
- **ADV**: adverb
- **AUX**: auxiliary
- **CCONJ**: coordinating conjunction
- **DET**: determiner
- **INTJ**: interjection
- **NOUN**: noun
- **NUM**: numeral
- **PART**: particle
- **PRON**: pronoun
- **PROPN**: proper noun
- **PUNCT**: punctuation
- **SCONJ**: subordinating conjunction
- **SYM**: symbol
- **VERB**: verb
- **X**: other
Part-of-speech tagging

**Input:**
Profits soared at Boeing Co., easily topping forecasts on Wall Street, as their CEO Alan Mulally announced first quarter results.

**Output:**
Profits/N soared/V at/P Boeing/N Co./N ,/ easily/Adv topping/V forecasts/N on/P Wall/N Street/N ,/, as/P their/POSS CEO/N Alan/N Mulally/N announced/V first/Adj quarter/N results/N ./.

N: noun
V: verb
P: preposition
Adv: adverb
Adj: adjective
...

- Why is this hard?
Information sources

• Local:
  • *can* is usually a modal verb (MD) but is sometimes a noun (N)

• Contextual
  • a noun is more likely than a verb after a noun
    • DT NN is common but DT VB is not

• Conflict:
  • *The trash can is in the garage*
## Distribution of POS tags

- **Brown corpus**
- “most common tag” baseline gets ~90%
- **SOTA**: 97%
- one error per 30 words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#tags</th>
<th>#word types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>35340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transformation-based tagger

• Start with most frequent tag per word
• Then apply rules that change it based on context
  • *If VB and DT before change VB to NN*
  • ...
• Learn from data which rules work well
Input:
Profits soared at Boeing Co., easily topping forecasts on Wall Street, as their CEO Alan Mulally announced first quarter results.

Output:
Profits soared at [Boeing Co.]org, easily topping forecasts on [Wall Street]loc, as their CEO [Alan Mulally]per announced first quarter results.
NER as tagging

**Input:**
Profits soared at Boeing Co., easily topping forecasts on Wall Street, as their CEO Alan Mulally announced first quarter results.

**Output:**
Profits/O soared/O at/O Boeing/B-org Co./I-org ,/O easily/O topping/O forecasts/O on/O Wall/B-loc Street/I-loc ,/O as/O their/O CEO/O Alan/B-per Mulally/I-per announced/O first/O quarter/O results/O ./O
Chunking

- NER is an example for chunking, which is useful in general information extraction
  - Find companies
  - Diseases
  - Genes
  - ...

Training set

1. Pierre/NNP Vinken/NNP ,/, 61/CD years/NNS old/JJ ,/, will/MD join/VB the/DT board/NN as/IN a/DT nonexecutive/JJ director/NN Nov./NNP 29/CD ./

2. Mr./NNP Vinken/NNP is/VBZ chairman/NN of/IN Elsevier/NNP N.V./NNP ,/, the/DT Dutch/NNP publishing/VBG group/NN ./

3. Rudolph/NNP Agnew/NNP ,/, 55/CD years/NNS old/JJ and/CC former/JJ chairman/NN of/IN Consolidated/NNP Gold/NNP Fields/NNP PLC/NNP ,/, was/VBD named/VBN a/DT nonexecutive/JJ director/NN of/IN this/DT British/JJ industrial/JJ conglomerate/NN ./

... ...

38,219 That/DT could/MD cost/VB him/PRP the/DT chance/NN to/TO influence/VB the/DT outcome/NN and/CC perhaps/RB join/VB the/DT winning/VBG bidder/NN ./

Learn a function from sentences to tag sequences
Supervised learning

• Input: sentence-tag sequence pairs
  \[ \{x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}\}_{i=1}^{m} \]

• Output: function \( f \) from sentence \( x \) to tag sequence \( y \)

• Example:
  \[ x^{(i)} = \text{the } \text{dog} \text{ laughs} \]
  \[ y^{(i)} = \text{DT} \text{ NN} \text{ VBZ} \]
Structured prediction

- The size of the output space depends on the size of the input
  - Compare to language modeling
  - Not binary nor multi-class
- The size of the output is exponential in the size of the input
  - What is the size of the output space?
Conditional model

• Learn from data a model for $p(y \mid x)$

• *Given a sentence* $x$ return:

  $$\arg \max_y p(y \mid x)$$

But how do you define a model $p(y \mid x)$?
Generative model

- Learn a model over $p(x, y)$
  - Express $p(x, y) = p(y)p(x \mid y)$
  - Generative story: generate tags, and then produce words from tags
    - $p(y)$: prior on tags (generate a sequence of tags)
    - $p(x \mid y)$: data conditioned on tags (generate words from tags)
- Use Bayes rule to express $p(y \mid x)$:
  \[
p(y \mid x) = \frac{p(y)p(x \mid y)}{\sum_{y'} p(y')p(x \mid y')}
  \]
- **Output**: $f(x) = \arg \max_y p(y \mid x) = \arg \max_y \frac{p(y)p(x \mid y)}{\sum_{y'} p(y')p(x \mid y')} = \arg \max_y p(y)p(x \mid y)$
Hidden Markov Models

- Goal: define a tagging model $p(x, y) = p(y)p(x \mid y)$

- $p(y)$ is a trigram model over tag sequences

  - Model tag transitions

$$p(y) = \prod_{i=1}^{n+1} q(y_i \mid y_{i-2}, y_{i-1}), \ y_0 = y_{-1} = *, \ y_{n+1} = \text{STOP}$$
Hidden Markov Models

• $p(x \mid y)$ models **emissions**

• Assumption: a word depends only on its tag (is this reasonable?)

$$p(x \mid y) = p(x_1 \mid y) \times p(x_2 \mid x_1, y) \times \ldots \times p(x_n \mid x_1, \ldots, x_{n-1}, y)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} p(x_i \mid x_1, \ldots, x_{i-1}, y) \approx \prod_{i=1}^{n} e(x_i \mid y_i)$$
Hidden Markov Models

\[ p(x_1, \ldots, x_n, y_1 \ldots, y_n, \text{STOP}) = \]

\[ q(\text{STOP} \mid y_{n-1}, y_n) \times \prod_{i=1}^{n} q(y_i \mid y_{i-2}, y_{i-1}) \cdot e(x_i \mid y_i) \]

\[ y_0 = y_{-1} = * \]
Example

\[ p(\text{the, dog, laughs, DT, N, V}) = q(\text{DT} \mid *, *) \times q(\text{N} \mid *, \text{DT}) \times q(\text{V} \mid \text{DT, N}) \times q(\text{STOP} \mid \text{N, V}) \times e(\text{the} \mid \text{DT}) \times e(\text{dog} \mid \text{V}) \times e(\text{laughs} \mid \text{V}) \]

- In practice work in log space
Parameter estimation

• Transition parameters:
  
• Get Maximum likelihood (ML) from training data (like language models)

\[ q(y_i \mid y_{i-2}, y_{i-1}) = \frac{c(y_i-2, y_i-1, y_i)}{c(y_{i-2}, y_{i-1})} \]

• Smoothing to handle rare tag trigrams and bigrams

\[ q(y_i \mid y_{i-2}, y_{i-1}) = \lambda_1 \cdot \frac{c(y_i-2, y_i-1, y_i)}{c(y_{i-2}, y_{i-1})} + \lambda_2 \cdot \frac{c(y_i-1, y_i)}{c(y_{i-1})} + \lambda_3 \cdot \frac{c(y_i)}{M} \]

\[ \sum_{i} \lambda_i = 1, \lambda_i \geq 0 \]
Parameter estimation

• Emission parameters

• Again, ML estimates from training data

$$e(x \mid y) = \frac{c(x, y)}{c(y)}$$

• Can we have zero counts in the test?
Rare words problems

*Profits soared at Boeing Co., easily topping forecasts on Wall Street, as their CEO Alan *Mulally* announced first quarter results.*

- We encounter new words frequently in real text
  - Names, rare words, types, etc. etc.
  - $p(y \mid x) = 0$ for all $y$
Common solution

• Partition the vocabulary to two sets
  
  • **frequent**: occurring more than $K(=5)$ times
  
  • **rare**: other words

• Cluster rare words to a small number of clusters manually

• Preprocess the training data to replace rare words with their cluster ID.
Example (named entity recognition)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>1234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NumberAndSlash</td>
<td>29/3/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allCaps</td>
<td>NLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>initCap</td>
<td>Jonathan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>firstWord</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lowercase</td>
<td>table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bickel et al., 1999
Example (named entity recognition)

**Input:**
Profits soared at Boeing Co., easily topping forecasts on Wall Street, as their CEO Alan Mulally announced first quarter results.

**Output:**
firstWord/O soared/O at/O initCap/B-org Co./I-org ,/O easily/O lowercase/O forecasts/O on/O initCap/B-loc Street/I-loc ,/O as/O their/O CEO/O Alan/B-per initCap/I-per announced/O first/O quarter/O results/O ./O
Inference/decoding
The problem

• The decoding problem is to compute
  
  \[ \arg\max_y p(x, y) = \arg\max_y p(y \mid x) \]

• This is necessary in HMMs at test time
Brute force

- Score all possible tag sequences $y$

- With sequences of length $n$ and a tag set $S$, this takes exponential time $|S| \times |S| \times \cdots = |S|^n$
Greedy

• choose $y_1$ that maximizes $e(x_1 \mid y_1)q(y_1 \mid *, *)$

• choose $y_2$ that maximizes $e(x_2 \mid y_2)q(y_2 \mid *, y_1)$

• ...

• choose $y_n$ that maximizes $e(x_n \mid y_n)q(y_n \mid y_{n-2}, y_{n-1})$

**Complexity:** $O(|S|^n)$ but incorrect!

**Exercise:** Build an example (with $q$ and $e$ parameters) where the greedy algorithm fails
Viterbi

• Efficient and correct algorithm

• Intuition: The HMM model decomposes the probability of the full tag sequence to a product of more local probabilities
Viterbi

- Let $n$ be the length of the sentence, and $S$ be the tag set

- $S_k$ is the tag set for position $k$, $-1 \leq k \leq n$

  $$S_0 = S_{-1} = \{\star\}, S_k = S$$

- Define the probability of a tag prefix:

  $$r(y_{-1}, y_0, y_1, \ldots, y_k) = \prod_{i=1}^{k} q(y_i \mid y_{i-2}, y_{y-1}) \cdot e(x_i \mid y_i)$$
Viterbi

• Build a dynamic programming table for the highest tag sequence probability ending in a tag bigram at position $k$

$$\pi(k, u, v) = \max \left\{ r(y_{-1}, y_0, y_1, \ldots, y_k) \mid \{y_1, \ldots, y_k : y_{k-1} = u, y_k = v\} \right\}$$

• $\pi(7, P, D)$:

The man saw the dog with the telescope
Viterbi algorithm

- Base:
  \[ \pi(0, *, *) = 1 \] (all tag sequences begin with those)

- Recursively:

\[
\text{for } k \in \{1 \ldots n\}, \text{ for all } u \in S_{k-1}, v \in S_k : \\
\pi(k, u, v) = \max_{w \in S_{k-2}} \pi(k - 1, w, u) \times q(v \mid w, u) \times e(x_k \mid v)
\]
Correctness: induction on k

Claim: The highest probability tag sequence of length $k$ ending with $w,u,v$ must contain a highest probability tag sequence of length $k-1$ ending in $w,u$.

Sketch: Assume the highest probability sequence $y^*$ ending in $w,u,v$ of length $k$ does not contain a highest probability tag sequence of length $k-1$ that ends in $w,u$. Then, we can construct a sequence $y_{\text{new}}$ with higher probability (how?) contradicting the fact that $y^*$ has highest probability.
Example

the man saw the dog with the telescope

\[ \pi(7, P, DT) = \max_{w \in \{DT, P, N, V\}} \pi(6, w, P) \times q(DT \mid w, P) \times e(\text{the} \mid DT) \]
Viterbi with back pointers

Input: a sentence $x_1, \ldots, x_n$, parameters $q, e$, and tag set $S$

Base case: $\pi(0, *, *) = 1$

Definition: $S_{-1} = S_0 = \{*\}$, $S_k = S$ for $k \in \{1 \ldots n\}$

Algorithm:

for $k \in \{1 \ldots n\}, u \in S_{k-1}, v \in S_k$

\[ \pi(k, u, v) = \max_{w \in S_{k-2}} \pi(k-1, w, u) \times q(v \mid w, u) \times e(x_k \mid v) \]

\[ \text{bp}(k, u, v) = \arg \max_{w \in S_{k-2}} \pi(k-1, w, u) \times q(v \mid w, u) \times e(x_k \mid v) \]

\[ (y_{n-1}, y_n) = \arg \max_{u, v} (\pi(n, u, v) \times q(\text{STOP} \mid u, v) \]

for $k = (n - 2) \ldots 1, y_k = \text{bp}(k + 2, y_{k+1}, y_{k+2})$

return $y_1, \ldots, y_n$
Viterbi runtime and memory

- Memory:
  - Dynamic programming table: $O(n |S|^2)$

- Runtime:
  - For every position and tag pair do max over all tags: $O(n |S|^3)$
  - Linear in $n$ as opposed to exponential
  - Correct
Popping up

- Training:
  - estimate parameters $q$ and $e$ from training data

- Test:
  - Apply Viterbi
Summary

- HMMs are simple to train: count stuff
- Reasonable performance for POS tagging
  - 96.46% token accuracy on WSJ (link)
- Unknown words can be troublesome