Natural Language Processing

Tagging
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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Log-linear</strong></td>
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<td>Greedy</td>
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<td>Transition-based parsing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locally normalized</td>
<td>Viterbi</td>
<td>CKY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globally normalized</td>
<td>forward-backward</td>
<td>Inside-outside</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And also deep learning methods!
The DT stuffy JJ room NN is AUX filled VBN with IN students NNS
Cross-language variations

• Some languages don’t have adjectives or adverbs (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’, הידיעה
  - Can you add possesives?

- Context
  - Appears after “the”
  - Before a verb
How to determine what it is

- Morphology
  - -ly
  - ה', העי
  - Can you add possessives?

- 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:
  • the plane took off
<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>+, %, &amp;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>cardinal number</td>
<td><em>one, two</em></td>
<td>TO</td>
<td>“to”</td>
<td>to</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>VBG</td>
<td>verb gerund</td>
<td><em>eating</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>preposition/sub-conj</td>
<td><em>of, in, by</em></td>
<td>VBD</td>
<td>verb past tense</td>
<td><em>ate</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>JJJS</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>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNPS</td>
<td>proper noun, plural</td>
<td><em>Carolinas</em></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>pound sign</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDT</td>
<td>predefiniter</td>
<td><em>all, both</em></td>
<td>“</td>
<td>left quote</td>
<td>‘ or “</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POS</td>
<td>possessive ending</td>
<td><em>’s</em></td>
<td>”</td>
<td>right quote</td>
<td>’ or ”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRP</td>
<td>personal pronoun</td>
<td><em>I, you, he</em></td>
<td>(</td>
<td>left parenthesis</td>
<td>[, (, {, &lt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRP$</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 determiner
    
    • *DT NN* is common but *DT MD* is not

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

- **Brown corpus**
- “most common tag” baseline gets ~90%
- **SOTA**: 97.8%
- one error per 45 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
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:**
Profits soared at [Boeing Co.]org, easily topping forecasts on [Wall Street]loc, as their CEO [Alan Mulally]per announced first quarter results.
Profits soared at Boeing Co., easily topping forecasts on Wall Street, as their CEO Alan Mulally announced first quarter results.
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:
\[
\begin{align*}
x^{(i)} &= \text{the dog laughs} \\
y^{(i)} &= \text{DT NN VBZ}
\end{align*}
\]
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 $p(x, y) = p(y)p(x | y)$
  
  • Generative story: generate tags, and then produce words from tags
    
    • $p(y)$: prior on tags (generate a sequence of tags)
    
    • $p(x | y)$: data conditioned on tags (generate words from tags)
  
  • Use Bayes rule to express $p(y | x)$:

\[
p(y \mid x) = \frac{p(y)p(x \mid y)}{\sum_{y'} p(y')p(x \mid y')}
\]

• 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

\[ p(\text{the, dog, laughs, DT, N, V}) = q(\text{DT} \mid *, *) \times q(\text{N} \mid *, \text{DT}) \times q(\text{V} \mid \text{DT, N}) \times q(\text{STOP} \mid \text{N, V}) \times e(\text{the} \mid \text{DT}) \times e(\text{dog} \mid \text{N}) \times e(\text{laughs} \mid \text{V}) \]
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, typos, etc. etc.
  - \( p(y \mid x) = 0 \) for all \( y \)
Common solution

• Partition the vocabulary to two sets
  • frequent: occurring more than $K(=3? =5?)$ 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>
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./l-org ,/O easily/O lowercase/O forecasts/O on/O initCap/B-loc Street/l-loc ,/O as/O their/O CEO/O Alan/B-per initCap/l-per announced/O first/O quarter/O results/O ./O
Inference/decoding
The problem

• The decoding problem is to compute
  
  • $\text{argmax}_y p(x, y) = \text{argmax}_y p(y \mid x)$

• 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 $|S| \times |S| \times \ldots = |S|^n$
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:** \( O(|S| \ast n) \) 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 $k$, $-1 \leq k \leq n$

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

• 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 $k$

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

- $\pi(7, P, D)$:

```
V V V V V V V
N N N N N N N
D D D D D D D
P P P P P P P
* * 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

Assume $\pi(t, u, v)$ is correct for all $t < k$ and show it is correct for $k$.

$$\pi(k, u, v) = \arg\max_w \left[ \pi(k-1, u, v) \cdot q(v | w, u) \cdot e(x_k | v) \right]$$

Claim: The highest probability tag sequence of length $k$ that ends with $(w,u,v)$ contains the highest probability tag sequence of length $k-1$ that ends with $(w,u)$.

Proof: Assume the highest probability tag sequence $y^*$ of length $k$ that ends with $(w,u,v)$ does not contain the highest probability tag sequence of length $k-1$ that ends with $(w,u)$. Then, we can construct a sequence $y_{new}$ that ends with $(w,u,v)$ with higher probability by adding the tag $v$ and then the first term will be higher and the others are unchanged. This contradicts the fact that $y^*$ is the highest probability sequence.

Corollary: $\pi(k, u, v)$ is the probability of highest scoring sequence as we go over all possible $w$'s.
Example

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

\[
\text{for } k \in \{1 \ldots n\}, u \in S_{k-1}, v \in S_k:
\]
\[
\pi(k, u, v) = \max_{w \in S_{k-2}} \pi(k - 1, w, u) \times q(v | w, u) \times e(x_k | v)
\]
\[
\text{bp}(k, u, v) = \arg \max_{w \in S_{k-2}} \pi(k - 1, w, u) \times q(v | w, u) \times e(x_k | v)
\]
\[
(y_{n-1}, y_n) = \arg \max_{u, v} (\pi(n, u, v) \times q(\text{STOP} | u, v))
\]

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

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