Natural Language Processing

Introduction

Yulia Tsvetkov

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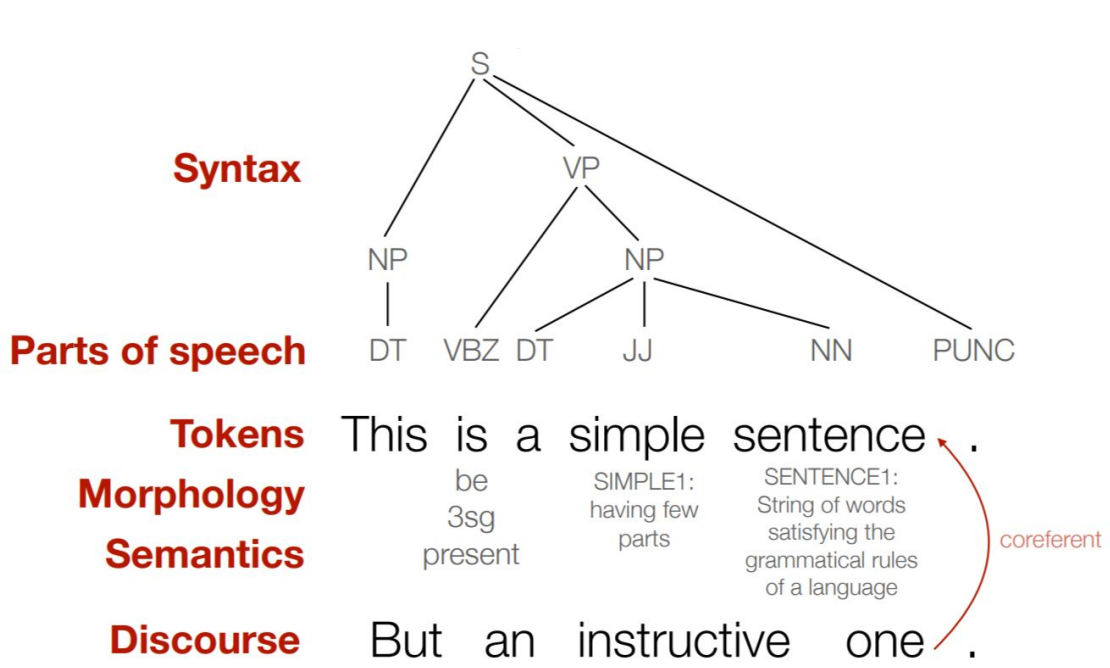
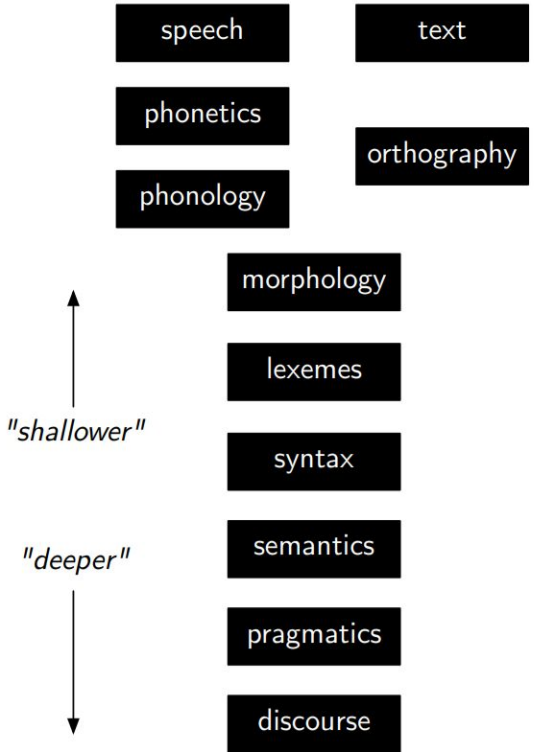
PAUL G. ALLEN SCHOOL
OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Language structure & corresponding linguistic subfields

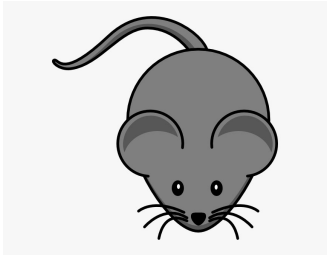


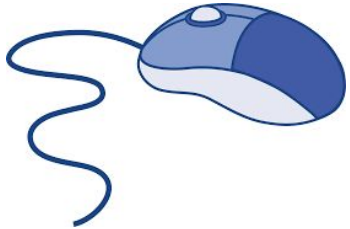


Why is language interpretation hard?

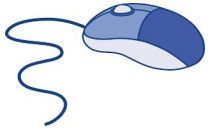
1. Ambiguity
2. Variation
3. Sparsity
4. Expressivity
5. Unmodeled variables
6. Unknown representation $\mathcal{R}$

Ambiguity: word sense disambiguation





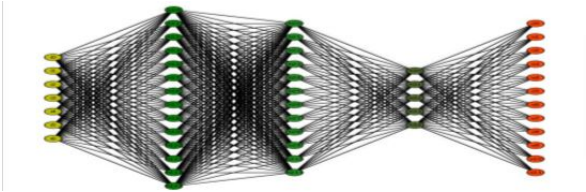
Ambiguity



- Ambiguity at multiple levels:
  - Word senses: **bank** (finance or river?)
  - Part of speech: **chair** (noun or verb?)
  - Syntactic structure: **I can see a man with a telescope**
  - Multiple: **I saw her duck**

Dealing with ambiguity

- How can we model ambiguity and choose the correct analysis in context?
  - non-probabilistic methods (FSMs for morphology, CKY parsers for syntax) return all possible analyses.
  - probabilistic models (HMMs for part-of-speech tagging, PCFGs for syntax) and algorithms (Viterbi, probabilistic CKY) return the best possible analysis, i.e., the most probable one according to the model
  - Neural networks, pretrained language models now provide end-to-end solutions



- But the “best” analysis is only good if our probabilities are accurate. Where do they come from?

Corpora

- A corpus is a collection of text
  - Often annotated in some way
  - Sometimes just lots of text
- Examples
  - Penn Treebank: 1M words of parsed WSJ
  - Canadian Hansards: 10M+ words of aligned French / English sentences
  - Yelp reviews
  - The Web: billions of words of who knows what

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Variation

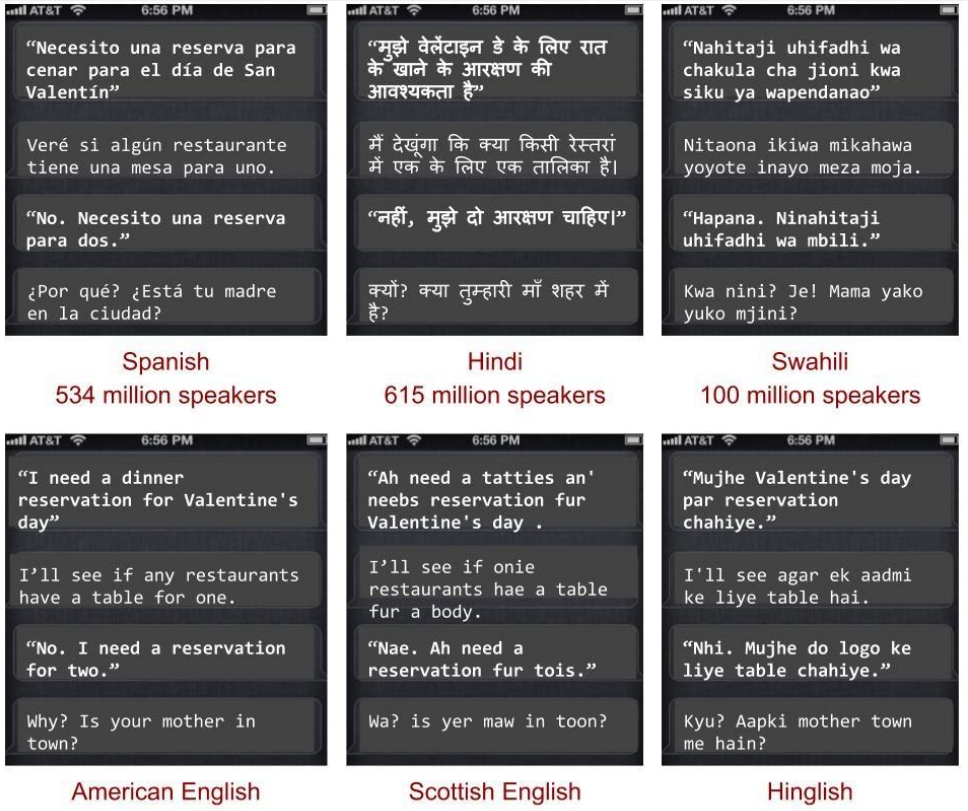
- ~7K languages
- Thousands of language varieties

Englishes

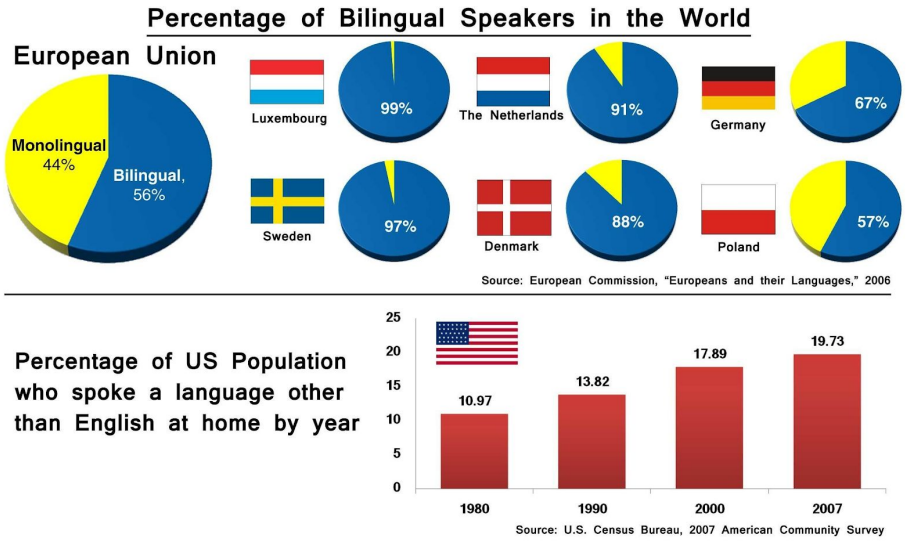
Africa is a continent with a very high linguistic diversity: there are an estimated 1.5-2K African languages from 6 language families. 1.33 billion people

NLP beyond English

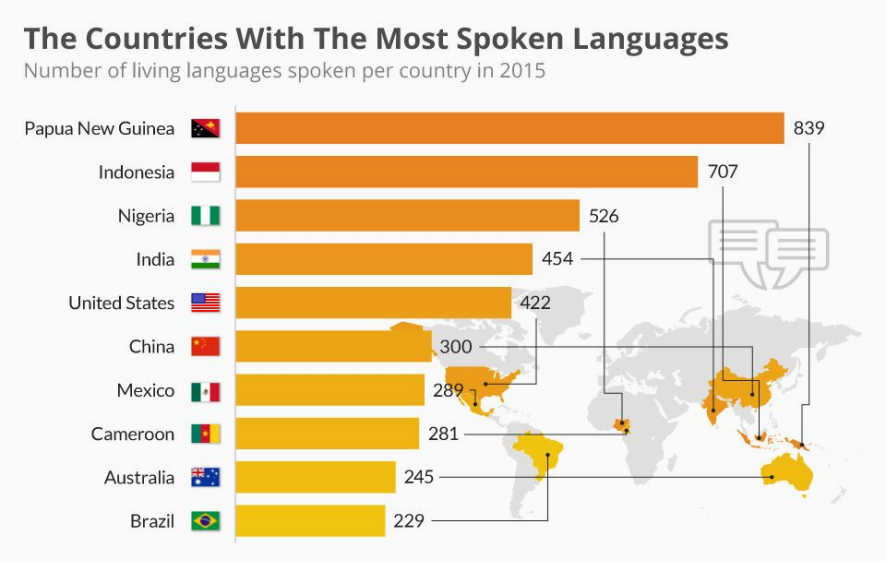
- ~7,000 languages
- thousands of language varieties



Most of the world today is multilingual



Source: US Census Bureau



Source: Ethnologue

Tokenization

这是一个简单的句子

WORDS This is a simple sentence

זה משפט פשוט

Tokenization + disambiguation

in tea	בתה
her daughter	

- most of the vowels unspecified

in tea	בתה
in the tea	בהתה
that in tea	שבתה
that in the tea	שבהתה
and that in the tea	ושבהתה
	ושבתה
and her saturday	ו+שבת+ה
and that in tea	ו+ש+ב+תה
and that her daughter	ו+ש+בת+ה

- most of the vowels unspecified
- particles, prepositions, the definite article, conjunctions attach to the words which follow them
- tokenization is highly ambiguous

Tokenization + morphological analysis

- Quechua

Much'ananayakapushasqakupuniñataqsunamá

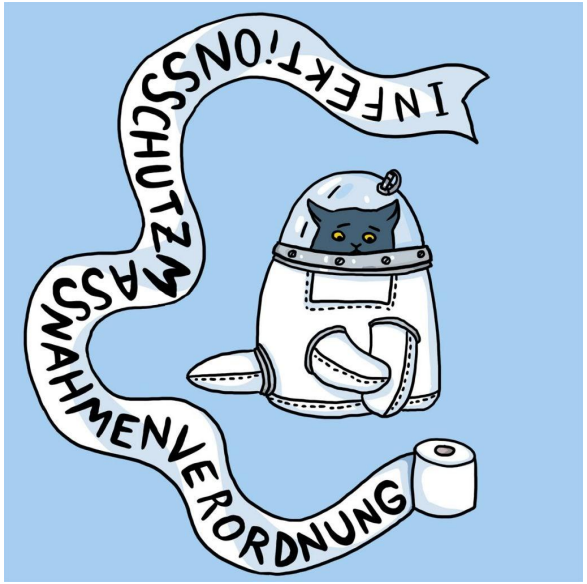
Much'a -na -naya -ka -pu -sha -sqa -ku -puni -ña -taq -suna -má

"So they really always have been kissing each other then"

Much'a	to kiss
-na	expresses obligation, lost in translation
-naya	expresses desire
-ka	diminutive
-pu	reflexive (kiss *eachother*)
-sha	progressive (kiss*ing*)
-sqa	declaring something the speaker has not personally witnessed
-ku	3rd person plural (they kiss)
-puni	definitive (really*)
-ña	always
-taq	statement of contrast (...then)
-suna	expressing uncertainty (So...)
-má	expressing that the speaker is surprised

Tokenization + morphological analysis

- German

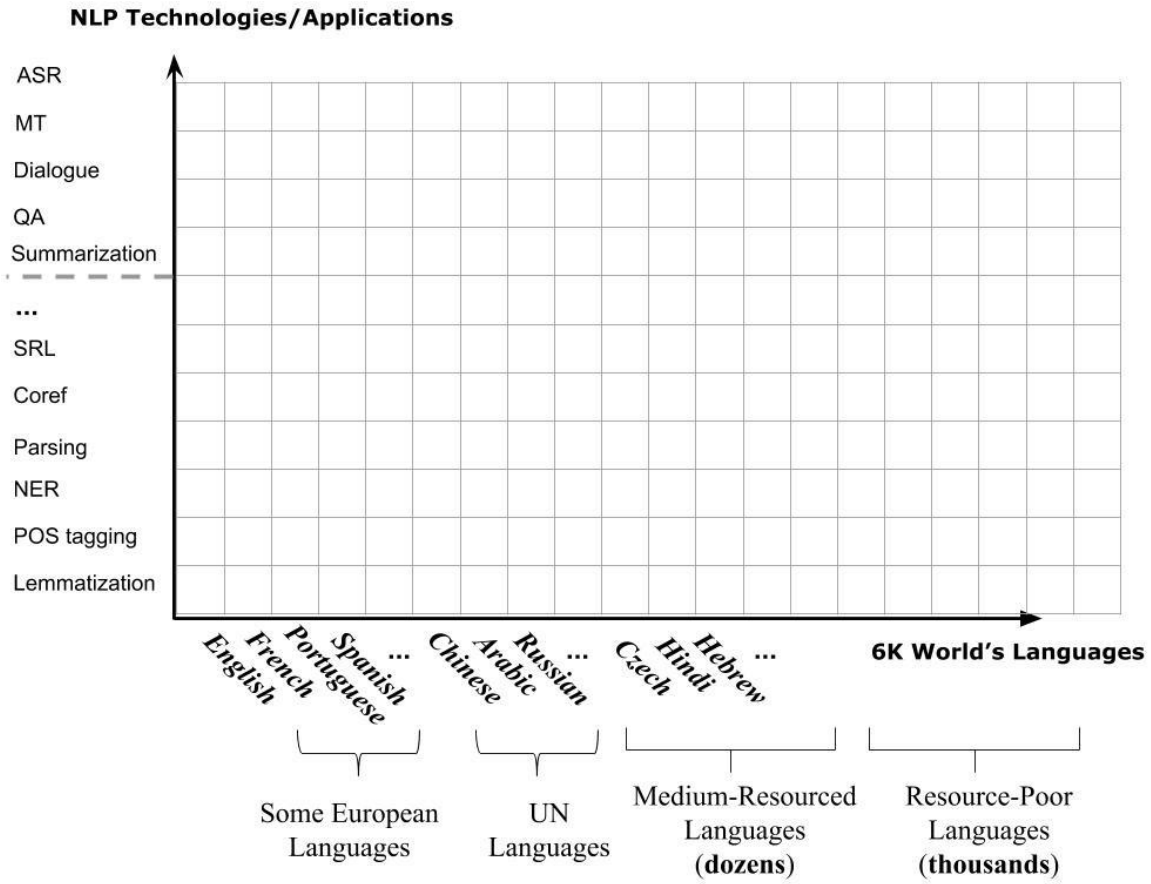


Infektionsschutzmaßnahmenverordnung

Semantic analysis

- Every language sees the world in a different way
  - For example, it could depend on cultural or historical conditions

  - Russian has very few words for colors, Japanese has hundreds
  - Multiword expressions, e.g. happy as a clam, it's raining cats and dogs or wake up and metaphors, e.g. love is a journey are very different across languages


NLP Technologies/Applications
ASR
MT
Dialogue
QA
Summarization
...
SRL
Coref
Parsing
NER
POS tagging
Lemmatization
English
French
Portuguese
Spanish
...
Chinese
Arabic
Russian
...
Czech
Hindi
Hebrew
...
6K World's Languages
Some European Languages
UN Languages
Medium-Resourced Languages (dozens)
Resource-Poor Languages (thousands)

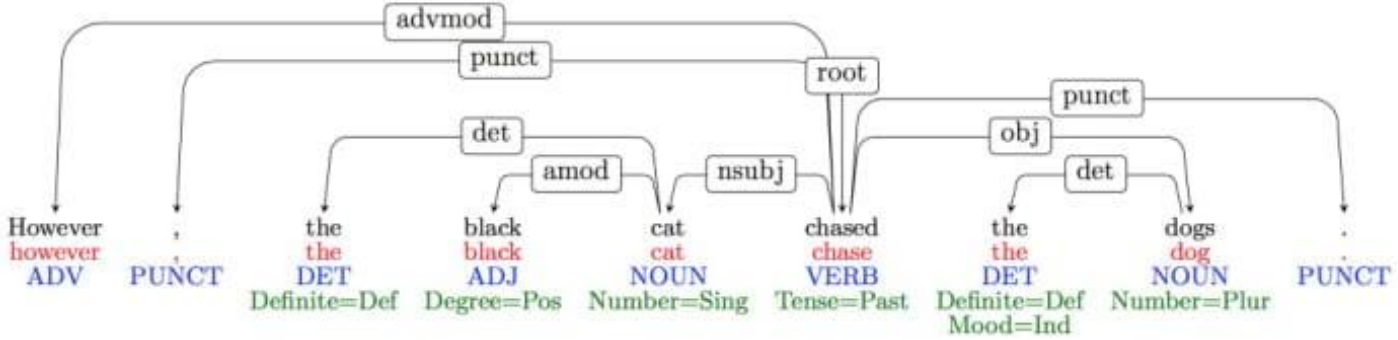
Linguistic variation

- Non-standard language, emojis, hashtags, names

chowdownwithchan #crab and #pork #xiaolongbao at @dintaifungusa... where else? 😂 🤷‍♀️ Note the cute little crab indicator in the 2nd pic 🦀 💕

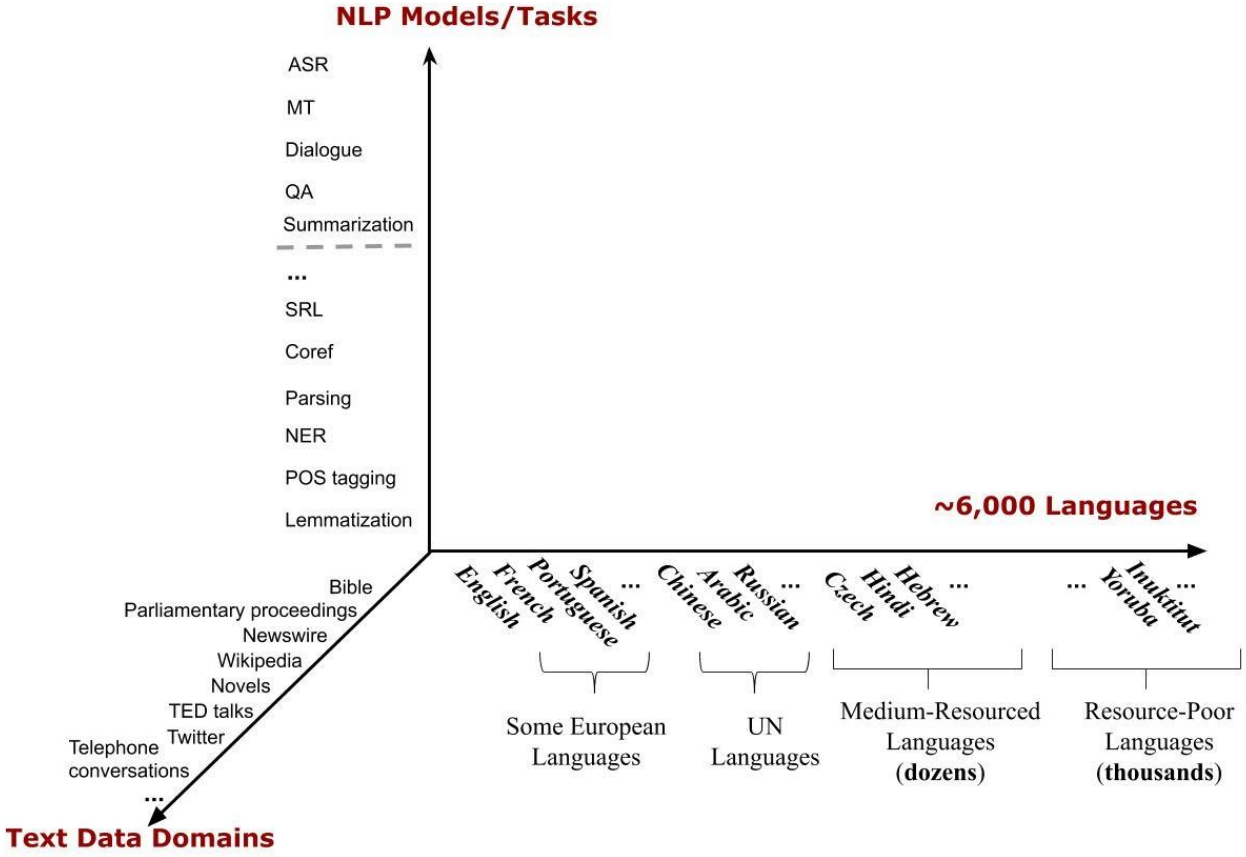
Variation

- Suppose we train a part of speech tagger or a parser on the Wall Street Journal



- What will happen if we try to use this tagger/parser for social media??

@_rkpntrnte hindi ko alam babe eh, absent ako kanina I'm sick rn hahaha 😌🙌


NLP Models/Tasks
ASR
MT
Dialogue
QA
Summarization
...
SRL
Coref
Parsing
NER
POS tagging
Lemmatization
~6,000 Languages
English
French
Portuguese
Spanish
...
Chinese
Arabic
Russian
...
Czech
Hindi
Hebrew
...
...
Yoruba
Inuktitut
...
Some European Languages
UN Languages
Medium-Resourced Languages (dozens)
Resource-Poor Languages (thousands)
Bible
Parliamentary proceedings
Newswire
Wikipedia
Novels
TED talks
Twitter
Telephone conversations
...
Text Data Domains

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Sparsity

Sparse data due to Zipf's Law

- To illustrate, let's look at the frequencies of different words in a large text corpus
- Assume "word" is a string of letters separated by spaces

Word Counts

Most frequent words in the English Europarl corpus (out of 24m word tokens)

any word		nouns	
Frequency	Token	Frequency	Token
1,698,599	the	124,598	European
849,256	of	104,325	Mr
793,731	to	92,195	Commission
640,257	and	66,781	President
508,560	in	62,867	Parliament
407,638	that	57,804	Union
400,467	is	53,683	report
394,778	a	53,547	Council
263,040	I	45,842	States

Word Counts

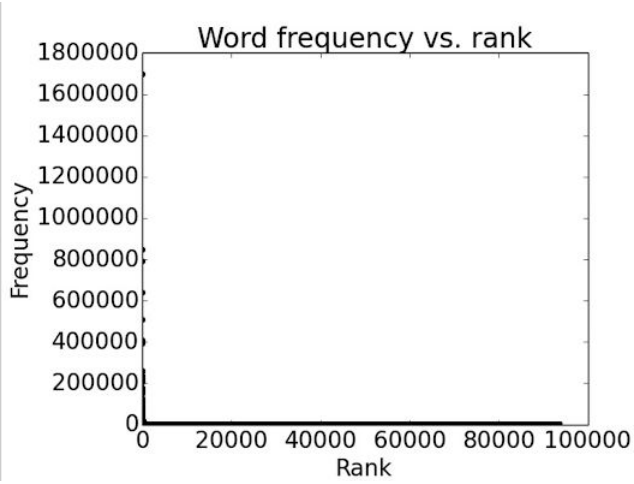
But also, out of 93,638 distinct words (word types), 36,231 occur only once.

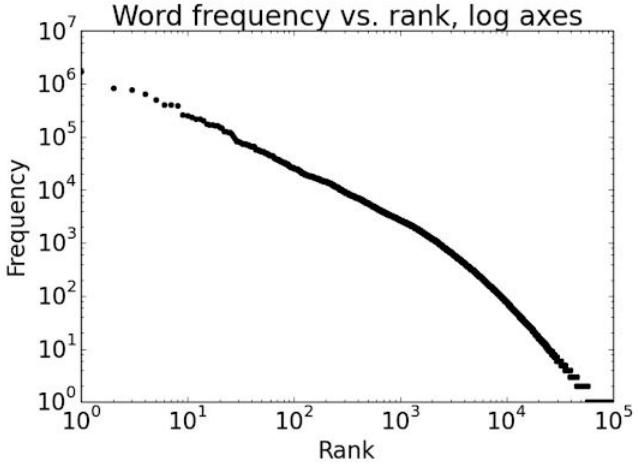
Examples:

- cornflakes, mathematicians, fuzziness, jumbling
- pseudo-rapporteur, lobby-ridden, perfunctorily,
- Lycketoft, UNCITRAL, H-0695
- policyfor, Commissioneris, 145.95, 27a

Plotting word frequencies

Order words by frequency. What is the frequency of nth ranked word?

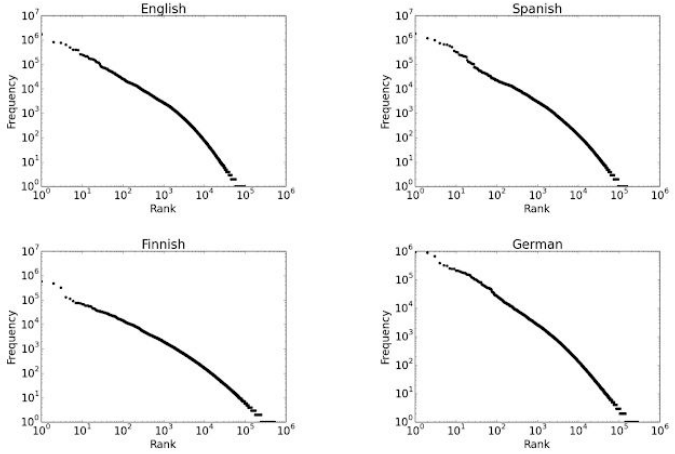




Zipf's Law

Implications

- Regardless of how large our corpus is, there will be a lot of infrequent (and zero-frequency!) words
- This means we need to find clever ways to estimate probabilities for things we have rarely or never seen



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Expressivity

Not only can one form have different meanings (ambiguity) but the same meaning can be expressed with different forms:

She gave the book to Tom vs. She gave Tom the book

Some kids popped by vs. A few children visited

Is that window still open? vs. Please close the window

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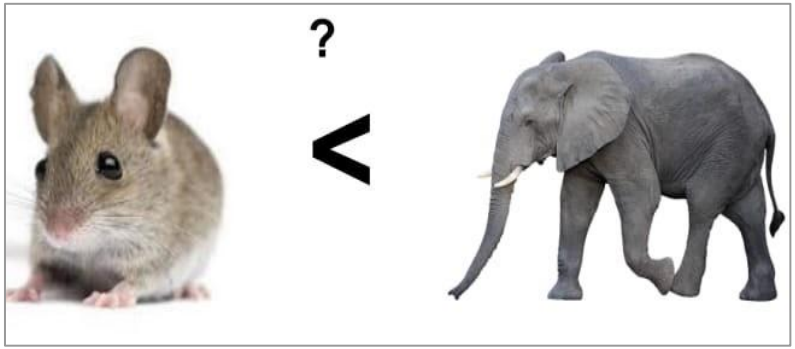
Unmodeled variables

"Drink this milk"



World knowledge

- I dropped the glass on the floor and it broke
- I dropped the hammer on the glass and it broke

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Unknown representation

- Very difficult to capture what is $\mathcal{R}$, since we don't even know how to represent the knowledge a human has/needs:
  - What is the "meaning" of a word or sentence?
  - How to model context?
  - Other general knowledge?

Desiderata for NLP models

- Sensitivity to a wide range of phenomena and constraints in human language
- Generality across languages, modalities, genres, styles
- Strong formal guarantees (e.g., convergence, statistical efficiency, consistency)
- High accuracy when judged against expert annotations or test data
- Ethical

Text Classification

Is this spam?

from: **ECRES 2022 <2022@ecres.net>** via amazonses.com
reply-to: 2022@ecres.net
to: yuliats@cs.washington.edu
date: Feb 22, 2022, 7:21 AM
subject: The Best Renewable Energy Conference (Last chance !)
signed-by: amazonses.com
security: Standard encryption (TLS) Learn more

Dear Colleague,

Account: yuliats@cs.washington.edu

Good news: Due to many requests, the submission deadline has been extended to 10 March 2022 (It is firm date).

We would like to invite you to submit a paper to 10. European Conference on Renewable Energy Systems (ECRES). **ECRES 2022 will be held hybrid mode, the participants can present their papers physically or online.** The event is going to be organized in Istanbul/Turkey under the technical sponsorship of Istanbul Medeniyet University and many international institutions. The conference is highly international with the participants from all continents and more than 40 countries.

The submission deadline and special and regular issue journals can be seen in ecres.net

There will be keynote speakers who will address specific topics of energy as you would see at ecres.net/keynotes.html

CLICK FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

All accepted papers will be published in a special Conference Proceedings under a specific ISBN. Besides, the extended versions will be delivered to reputable journals **indexed in SCI, E-SCI, SCOPUS, and EBSCO.** You can check our previous journal publications from ecres.net . **Please note that the official journal of the event, Journal of Energy Systems (dergipark.org.tr/jes) is also indexed in SCOPUS.**

Spam classification

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spam

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Invitation to present at the February 2022 Wikimedia Research Showcase

Emily Lescak <elescak@wikimedia.org> Tue, Nov 23, 2021, 11:00 AM
to yuliats@cs.washington.edu

Hi Yulia,

My name is Emily Lescak and I am a member of the Research team at the Wikimedia Foundation. On be[half] present your research on social biases on Wikipedia at our Research Showcase in February 2022. This topic fits into our theme for this showcase, which is gaps and biases on Wikipedia.

The Wikimedia Research Showcase is a monthly, public lecture series where Foundation, ac[ademic] nt work related to Wikipedia, Wikimedia, peer production, and open-source software. We focus on topics and projects that we think our audience— a global community of academic researchers, Wiki[media] n staff—would find interesting and relevant to their work.

Research Showcase presentations are generally 20 minutes long, with an additio[nal] vite two presenters to every showcase. Most presenters choose to use slides to present their work.

The February showcase takes place on the 16th at 9:15AM Pacific / 17:15 UT[C] uTube and also archived for later viewing on the Wikimedia Foundation's YouTube channel

If this date does not work for you, but you are still interested in giving a showcase[,] we can discuss other options.

I hope to get a chance to see your work presented at the Research Showcase!

Sincerely,

Emily

not spam

Language ID

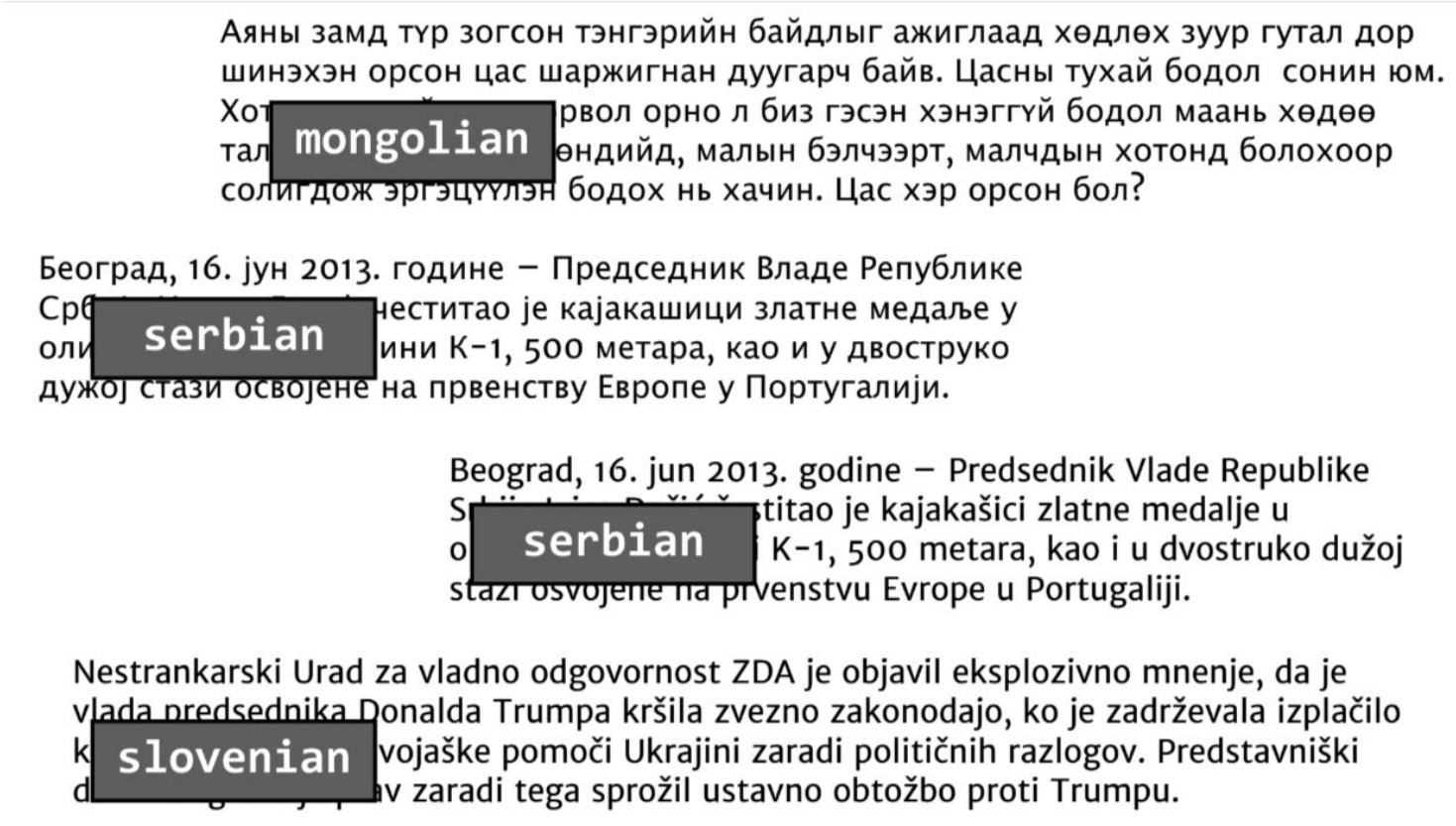
Аяны замд түр зогсон тэнгэрийн байдлыг ажиглаад хөдлөх зуур гутал дор шинэхэн орсон цас шаржигнан дуугарч байв. Цасны тухай бодол сонин юм. Хот хүрээ тийш цас орвол орно л биз гэсэн хэнэггүй бодол маань хөдөө талд, говийн ээрэм хөндийд, малын бэлчээрт, малчдын хотонд болохоор солигдож эргэцүүлэн бодох нь хачин. Цас хэр орсон бол?

Београд, 16. јун 2013. године – Председник Владе Републике Србије Ивица Дачић честитао је кајакашици златне медаље у олимпијској дисциплини К-1, 500 метара, као и у двоструко дужој стази освојене на првенству Европе у Португалији.

Beograd, 16. jun 2013. godine – Predsednik Vlade Republike Srbije Ivica Dačić čestitao je kajakašici zlatne medalje u olimpijskoj disciplini K-1, 500 metara, kao i u dvostruko dužoj stazi osvojene na prvenstvu Evrope u Portugaliji.

Nestrankarski Urad za vladno odgovornost ZDA je objavil eksplozivno mnenje, da je vlada predsednika Donalda Trumpa kršila zvezno zakonodajo, ko je zadrževala izplačilo kongresno potrjene vojaške pomoči Ukrajini zaradi političnih razlogov. Predstavniški dom kongresa je prav zaradi tega sprožil ustavno obtožbo proti Trumpu.

Language ID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шинэхэн орсон цас шаржигнан дуугарч байв. Цасны тухай бодол сонин юм.
Хот рвол орно л биз гэсэн хэнэггүй бодол маань хөдөө
тал өндийд, малын бэлчээрт, малчдын хотонд болохоор
солигдож эргэцүүлэн бодох нь хачин. Цас хэр орсон бол?
mongolian
Београд, 16. јун 2013. године – Председник Владе Републике
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serbian
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slovenian

Sentiment analysis

By **John Neal**

This review is from: Accoutrements Horse Head Mask (Toy)

When I turned State's Witness, they didn't have enough money to put me in the Witness Protection Program, so they bought me this mask and gave me a list of suggested places to move. Since then I've lived my life in peace and safety knowing that my old identity is forever obscured by this life-saving item.

By **Christine E. Torok**

Verified Purchase (What's this?)

First of all, for taste I would rate these a 5. So good. Soft, true-to-taste fruit flavors like the sugar variety...I was a happy camper.

BUT (or should I say BUTT), not long after eating about 20 of these all hell broke loose. I had a gastrointestinal experience like nothing I've ever imagined. Cramps, sweating, bloating beyond my worst nightmare. I've had food poisoning from some bad shellfish and that was almost like a skip in the park compared to what was going on inside

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Topic classification

MEDLINE Article

MeSH Subject Category Hierarchy

- Antagonists and Inhibitors
- Blood Supply
- Chemistry
- Drug Therapy
- Embryology
- Epidemiology
- …