Processing of large document collections

Part 1b (text representation, text categorization) Helena Ahonen-Myka Spring 2006

2. Text representation

- selection of terms
- vector model
- weighting (TF*IDF)



- text cannot be directly interpreted by the many document processing applications
- we need a compact representation of the content
- which are the meaningful units of text?

Terms

- words
 - typical choice
 - $\mbox{ set of words}, \mbox{ bag of words}$
- phrases
 - syntactical phrases (e.g. noun phrases)
 - statistical phrases (e.g. frequent pairs of
 - words)
 - usefulness not yet known?



- part of the text may not be considered as terms: these words can be removed
 - very common words (function words):
 articles (a, the) prepositions (of in)
 - articles (a, the) , prepositions (of, in), conjunctions (and, or), adverbs (here, then)
 numerals (30.9.2002, 2547)
- other preprocessing possible
- stemming (recognization -> recogn), base words (skies -> sky)
- preprocessing depends on the application

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Vector model

- a document is often represented as a vector
- the vector has as many dimensions as there are terms in the whole collection of documents

Vector model

- in our sample document collection, there are 118 words (terms)
- in alphabetical order, the list of terms starts with:
 - absorption
 - agriculture
 - anaemia
 - analyse
 - application
 - ...

Vector model

- each document can be represented by a vector of 118 dimensions
- we can think a document vector as an array of 118 elements, one for each term, indexed, e.g. 0-117





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Text categorization

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• let

- D: a collection of documents
- $-C = \{c_1, ..., c_{|C|}\}$: a set of predefined categories -T = true, F = false
- the task is to approximate the unknown target function Φ' : D x C -> {T,F} by means of a function Φ : D x C -> {T,F}, such that the functions "coincide as much as possible"
- function Φ' : how documents should be classified
- function Φ : classifier (hypothesis, model₁₈.)









- "Bullfighting as we know it today, started in the village squares, and became formalised, with the building of the bullring in Ronda in the late 18th century. From that time,..."
- · class:
 - Arts, culture and entertainment
 - Bullfighting
 - or both?

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- another example: filtering spam
- "Subject: Congratulation! You are selected!
 - It's Totally FREE! EMAIL LIST MANAGING SOFTWARE! EMAIL ADDRESSES RETRIEVER from web! GREATEST FREE STUFF!"

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• two classes only: Spam and Not-spam

Text categorization

two major approaches:

- knowledge engineering -> end of 80's manually defined set of rules encoding expert knowledge on how to classify documents under the given gategories
 - If the document contains word 'wheat', then it is about agriculture
- machine learning, 90's ->
- an automatic text classifier is built by learning, from a set of preclassified documents, the characteristics of the categories

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