

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

Forschungseminar CSS – Text as Data I

NSG SR 423, 12.11.2024 Felix Lennert, M.Sc.



OUTLINE

- How do we measure things with text?
 - Thoughts and principles
 - How does it look in practice Bag of Words
- Preprocessing
- Sentiment Analysis
- TF-IDF
- POS, NER, Dependency Parsing

DISTANT READING

"The extraction of implicit, previously unknown and potentially useful information from large amounts of textual resources." (Bizer 2019: 4)

- Text analysis methods distill generalizations from language
 new data is produced
- (Potential) end goals:
 - Numeric representation of your text (e.g., labels)
 - Extract and count terms you are interested in

TAD | intro

STOLTZ & TAYLOR 2024: TEXT MAPPING

- Identification of patterns in text (theory-driven)
- Map texts systematically according to these patterns
 - Which topic are they dealing with
 - What narratives can be found in there
 - What's their tone
- Later, connect these patterns to context variables
 - Who wrote the text
 - When was it written
 - What are the consequences?

A NEW THING?

1910: Max Weber's "Universal Press Project" – systematic analysis of the media and the values the texts contain

1934: Lasswell produces first "keyword count" – "exact" quantitative science as opposed to qualitative "impressionism"

~1950: Turing foresees developments in AI

1950s: Gottschalk connects psychoanalysis with content analysis – quantitative, systematic coding of patients' responses

1952: first book about content analysis (Berelson 1952)

1954: "Georgetown-IBM Experiment" – automated text translation

1963: Mosteller and Wallace (1963) analyze federalist papers – harness a **Bayesian approach using "marker words"** to

determine authorship

1966: General Inquirer (Stone, Bales, Namenwirth, and Ogilvie 1962) – combination of dictionaries

1981: Weintraub counts "parts of speech" (Weintraub 1981)

1986: Pennebaker develops LIWC (Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count) (Tausczik and Pennebaker 2010)

2003: Blei, Ng, and Jordan (2003) develop LDA - unsupervised topic modeling

2010: Hopkins and King (2010) bring **supervised ML** into the "social science mainstream" (ReadMe)

2013: word2vec (Mikolov et al. 2013) - distributive hypothesis

2017: "attention is all you need" (Vaswani et al. 2017) – new way of processing text

2022: ChatGPT launches for public

GRIMMER, ROBERTS, AND STEWART (2022)

Six Principles:

- Theory still matters for research design
- Text analysis augments humans
- Text analysis methods distill generalizations from language
- Choose the method based on the task
- Validation is essential and theory- and task-dependent
- Building, refining, and testing social science theories requires iteration and cumulation

THEORY MATTERS

when designing your research, ask yourself the following questions:

- what data are relevant?
- how do I measure the concept? (see also principle #5!)
- which results do I expect?
- how do they matter?
- ⇒ theory-dependent

TEXT ANALYSIS AUGMENTS HUMANS



TEXT ANALYSIS AUGMENTS HUMANS

humans are still decisive part of the research process:

- supervised methods: they need to "instruct" the computer, validate the results
- unsupervised methods: they need to make sense of the outcome
- ⇒ computers offer a "different way of reading"

⇒ both the "instruction" in supervised ML and the "sense making" in unsupervised methods is **qualitative work**

 "For example, manually coding topics from 40 million scientific abstracts could take a thousand researcher-years, but automatic coding by a trained model might require only a few computer-days." (Evans & Aceves 2016: 5)

TEXT ANALYSIS METHODS DISTILL GENERALIZATIONS FROM LANGUAGE

"all models are wrong - but some are useful"

text is high-dimensional – even beyond words

 \Rightarrow we need to reduce dimensionality in order to get...

- interpretability e.g., use topic models to reduce the number of documents to use/read
- analyzability remove uninformative noise (i.e., words), e.g., for predictions using text – overfitting!
- back to theory usually low-dimensional, e.g., left-right scale of parties

TEXT ANALYSIS METHODS DISTILL GENERALIZATIONS FROM LANGUAGE

"all models are wrong - but some are useful"

How does it look in practice?

- supervised methods: classifying documents into distinct categories (positive/ negative, containing concept A/B/C/D...), giving documents a value on a continuous scale (e.g., ideology) based on similarity to pre-selected texts, etc.
- unsupervised methods: organizing documents into groups based on their content

BEST METHOD DEPENDS ON THE TASK

no silver bullets





BEST METHOD DEPENDS ON THE TASK

no silver bullets

examples:

- topic detection in newspaper articles topic model, e.g., LDA
- sentiment classification dictionary based, multitude of ML classifiers
- measurement of ideology supervised (wordscores), unsupervised (wordfish), semisupervised (LSS)
- All these things can also be achieved using LLMs TAD IV

→ depends on data characteristics (topic detection in tweets vs. newspapers), goal/ task, and performance and validity of analysis

VALIDATE VALIDATE VALIDATE

humans need to make sure that they measure what they want to measure

 \Rightarrow for the first step, this usually requires reading a set of documents and then

checking the results

- supervised methods: annotating a full set and subsequently split into training vs. held out test set
- unsupervised methods: check the documents in the respective clusters, read them – does the classification "make sense"?; also: measures of model fit

VALIDATE VALIDATE VALIDATE

humans need to make sure that they measure what they want to measure → next step: how are measures aggregated across documents? – is there systematic bias?

example: spam filter

- goal is to send few important mails to spam folder (avoid false positives)
- therefore, the classifier might become less sensitive higher threshold to send email to spam folder to not upset the user
- number of spam emails might be underestimated

BUILDING, REFINING, AND TESTING SOCIAL SCIENCE THEORIES REQUIRES ITERATION AND CUMULATION



Bundeswehr

Die fliegenden Spione

18. April 2024, 17:14 Uhr | Lesezeit: 4 min | 💭 8 Kommentare

n <u>Georg Ismar</u> und <u>Faul-Anton Krüger</u> Berlin

author

feature/token/word -

Die Lundeswehr weiß nicht erst seit dem Lauschangriff auf ein Gespräch hochrangiger Offiziere, dass sie im Fokus russischer Operationen steht. Vor allem im Bereich Drohnen ist der Aufholbedarf so groß, dass man kaum weiß, wo man anfangen soll und das betrifft neben dem militärischen Einsatz auch die Abwehr von Spionage.

document

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corpus

Silvier Augenheilikunde

Was tun gegen Kurzsichtigkeit?

ja schiechter jemand siert, dests höher ist sissikisiko für schwere Augenschüten bissenürbindeng, Worsef-Betraffere achten sollten.

Ver Orline Children

SZmo Bezelvien

Echt oder unecht? Wenn die Kreditkarte im Ausland zum Problem wird

Wermit seiner koster fielen Belärkante in die Ferre mist, stält schneil at Sectorn. Mieter genabheien oder ins mitel einstresien konnzern Protein er dansen de teker verden. Miest hitterne fehter dverbeite. Ver Berti Keiser

Ktyptzwährung

Wie das Halving bei Bitcoin funktioniert

Am Sanatagmorgen halbiert eich der Machechub an neuen Britsein, die ingroßen Rechnerfahmen geschlicht wenden Gaußverst die für einige Answickungen bahen - auch auf den Preis der Millerung

Ver Max Plank

П

TAD I | some terms

What is:

- author
- document
- feature/token/word

What could a corpus look like?



before starting the PhD

beginning of 3rd year



....

TAD I | some terms

What is:

- author ME
- document the tweet
- feature/token/word the text; perhaps a description of the picture; split up into words

What could a corpus look like?

 some sample of tweets (e.g., timeline)



Felix Lennert @FelixLennert

before starting the PhD

beginning of 3rd year



HOW TO REPRESENT TEXT

How does a computer see text?

- Collections of characters (letters, numbers, special characters, etc.)
- Possible operations: comparisons

Our goal:

- We want to perform math on this text
- We need to transform text to numbers

HOW TO REPRESENT TEXT

One way to introduce numbers:

- Count features/tokens/words ("featurization")
- Represent each document as the counts of its *unique* words
- "Bag of Words"

NO RIGHT WAY TO REPRESENT TEXT

From Wikipedia:

"The bag-of-words model is a simplifying representation used in natural language processing and information retrieval (IR). In this model, a text (such as a sentence or a document) is represented as the bag (multiset) of its words, disregarding grammar and even word order but keeping multiplicity." TAD I | BOW

I love this movie! It's sweet. but with satirical humor. The dialogue is great and the adventure scenes are fun... It manages to be whimsical and romantic while laughing at the conventions of the fairy tale genre. I would recommend it to just about anyone. I've seen it several times, and I'm always happy to see it again whenever I have a friend who hasn't seen it yet!



REPRESENTATION – DTM

dtm <- movie_review |>
 enframe(name = "sentence", value = "text") |>
 unnest_tokens("words", "text") |>
 count(sentence, words) |>
 cast_dtm(doc, words, n)

> as	. mo	atrix((dtm)[;	, 1:1(0]					
1	Гer	rms								
Docs	i	love	movie	this	but	humor	it's	satirical	sweet	with
1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- Each document is represented by its words 6 points in a 54 dim space
- Problem: dimensionality \Rightarrow this is easily a lot more for bigger corpora
 - A lot of the words is just noise
- The next slides will introduce you how to remove complexity
- We will get rid of:
- Word order ("bag of words")
- 🔨 Special characters
 - Inflections ("lemmatization", "stemming")
 - Too frequent words ("stopwords")
 - Infrequent words

- Stemming and lemmatization
- Goal: bring the words into their basic forms stem or lemma (– basic form)
- stemming is rule-based and "stupid" but fast and efficient
- lemmatization is more sophisticated and model-based, hence reliable but slow





PREPROCESSING – STEMMING

	studies	buried	study	buries	studied
doc 1	1	2	0	1	2
doc 2	1	0	0	3	0
doc 3	2	1	3	0	1
doc 4	0	0	2	0	1

```
> tictoc::tic()
> wordStem(rep(special_cases, 10000)) l> head()
[1] "studi" "buri" "studi" "buri" "studi" "buri"
> tictoc::toc()
```

0.013 sec elapsed



	studies	buried	study	buries	studied			study/ studi	bury/ buri
doc 1	1	2	0	1	2		doc 1	3	3
doc 2	1	0	0	3	0	\equiv >	doc 2	1	3
doc 3	2	1	3	0	1		doc 3	6	1
doc 4	0	0	2	0	1		doc 4	3	0

- Stemming and lemmatization
- Goal: bring the words into their basic forms

> dt	m_:	stemm	ed I>	dim	0					
[1]	6	53								
> as	. m	atrix	(dtm_s	stem	ned)	[, 1:10	9]			
	Te	rms								
Docs	i	love	movi	thi	but	humor	it'	satir	sweet	with
1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- Word order ("bag of words")
- Special characters
 - Inflections ("lemmatization", "stemming")
 - Too frequent words ("stopwords")
 - Infrequent words

 One of the oldest mysteries in linguistics: Zipf's law – the most common term appears (roughly) twice as often as the second-most common term which appears twice as often as the third-most, etc.

```
> zipf_example <- sotu_text |>
+ enframe(name = NULL, value = "text") |>
```

```
+ unnest_tokens(token, text) |>
```

```
+ count(token) l>
```

```
+ arrange(-n) |>
```

```
rowid_to_column("rank")
```

> Z	ipf_e	<pre>cmple</pre>	
# A	tibbi	le: 30,	585 × 3
	nank	token	n
	<int></int>	<chr></chr>	<int></int>
1		the	<u>165</u> 601
2	2	of	106402
- 3	3	and	<u>68</u> 963
4	- 4	to	<u>68</u> 037
	5	in	43429
- 6	6	a	<u>31</u> 342
7	7	that	<u>24</u> 113
8	8	for	<u>21</u> 701
9	9	be	<u>20</u> 449
10	10	our	19598
	with	30,575	more rows

 One of the oldest mysteries in linguistics: Zipf's law – the most common term appears (roughly) twice as often as the second-most common term which appears twice as often as the third-most, etc. > gqplot(zipf_example) +







- Reason: mix of syntax and semantics (Lestrade 2017)
- What this also implies: a bunch of words occur in almost every document they bear no particular meaning, and can hence be safely removed
 "Stopwords"
- BUT BEWARE: they might carry meaning (e.g., gender)

> sto	pwords::stop	words()	> head(21)				
[1]	"i"	"me"	"my"	"myself"	"we"	"our"	"ours"
[8]	"ourselves"	"you"	"your"	"yours"	"yourself"	"yourselves"	"he"
[15]	"him"	"his"	"himself"	"she"	"her"	"hers"	"herself"



- Word order ("bag of words")
- Special characters
- Inflections ("lemmatization", "stemming")
- Too frequent words ("stopwords")
 - Infrequent words

- Vice versa: there are incredibly many infrequent words
- These may also not bear any particular meaning/value but induce plenty of noise
- Hence, you may consider removing them, too
- \Rightarrow Not in our example

- Same holds for special characters
- However, some may bear value:
 - Identify questions
 - Identify sentences/paragraphs
 - Identify sentiment (emojis ;-))
 - etc.

FINALLY: WHAT CAN WE DO WITH THE BOW/DTM?

(1) Use columns as inputs for different algorithms
 → e.g., each word (count) constitutes a variable to predict an outcome

(2) Use linear algebra to determine similarity of documents and words
 → *documents*: embedded in space based on word overlap – the more words they share, the closer

→ words: embedded in space based on document overlap – the more they appear in same documents, the closer // alternatively: the other words they co-appear with (context-cooccurrence matrix – CCM; wait for embeddings session)

(3) use it as input for networks

⇒ documents connected based on word overlap (not part of the course)

SO WHAT NOW?

- We have a mathematical representation of a document
- But, remember, we need something even more low-dimensional
 - A numeric value, e.g., indicating sentiment (positive, negative)
 - "Special" terms:
 - Words that describe it well \Rightarrow distinct terms
 - Words that matter for $us \Rightarrow$ named entities
 - Words that take a particular role in the text ⇒ Parts-of-Speech,
 Dependency-parsing

DICTIONARY-BASED ANALYSIS

- A numeric value/label, e.g., indicating sentiment (positive, negative)
- Most basic approach: pre-define terms that stand for the sentiment
 - → Positive or negative terms

SENTIMENT

 Example: which terms say something about whether the person liked or disliked the movie?

I love this movie! It's sweet, but with satirical humor. The dialogue is great and the adventure scenes are fun... It manages to be whimsical and romantic, while laughing at the conventions of the fairytale genre. I would recommend it to just about anyone. I've seen it several times, and I'm always happy to see it again whenever I have a friend who hasn't seen it yet!

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS

Idea: sentiment of document can be measured by counting positive and negative terms

I love this movie! It's **sweet**, but with satirical **humor**. The dialogue is **great** and the adventure scenes are **fun**... It manages to be whimsical and **romantic**, while laughing at the conventions of the fairytale genre. I would **recommend** it to just about anyone. I've seen it several times, and I'm always **happy** to see it again whenever I have a friend who hasn't seen it yet!

				ti
	i	am	happy	
S	0	0	1	0.33
	i	am	sad	
S	0	0	-1	-0.33

$$t_i = \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{s_m W_{im}}{N_i}$$

 t_i = tone of document i

m = term

 s_m = Sentiment value

 W_{im} = number of appearances of m in i N_i = number of terms in i; sometimes also operationalized as number of terms bearing sentiment

LENNERT (2023): ANALYZING THE TWITTER DISCOURSE OF BAVARIAN POLITICIANS

- "Wahlkampf in Sozialen Medien Eine Inhaltsanalyse der Twitter-Kommunikation politischer Eliten zur Landtagswahl in Bayern 2018"
- Descriptive study of the elite discourse during the election campaigns in Bavaria
- Sample: all candidates of different parties
- What are politicians discussing on Twitter?
 - \Rightarrow Strategy: look at terms that are exclusive for documents

TAD I | TF-IDF

LENNERT (2023): ANALYZING THE TWITTER DISCOURSE OF BAVARIAN POLITICIANS



TFIDF

→ Strategy: look at terms that are exclusive for documents

$$\mathsf{TF}\mathsf{-}\mathsf{IDF}(t,d) = \mathsf{TF}(t,d) \times \mathsf{IDF}(t)$$

 $TF(t, d) = \frac{\text{frequency of term } t \text{ in document } d}{\text{total number of terms in document } d}$

 $\mathsf{IDF}(t) = \log\left(\frac{\mathsf{total number of documents}}{\mathsf{number of documents containing term }t}\right)$

TAD I | TF-IDF

LENNERT (2023): ANALYZING THE TWITTER DISCOURSE OF BAVARIAN POLITICIANS



TAD I | TF-IDF

LENNERT (2023): ANALYZING THE TWITTER DISCOURSE OF BAVARIAN POLITICIANS



POS-TAGGING

- In language, certain kinds of terms have certain functions
 - noun, verb, pronoun, preposition, adverb, conjunction, participle, and article
 - For extensive descriptions of particular functions, read Jurafsky & Martin (forthcoming), chapter 8
- These terms are different parts-of-speech (POS)

TAD I | POS

POS-TAGGING

Part of Speach Tagging



POS-TAGGING

 Is performed model-based (for description, see Jurafsky & Martin (forthcoming), chapter 8)

Why is it good for us?

- Language is far too complex
- Knowing terms' POS-label allows us to filter unnecessary noise
- Example: Bail (2016) only focuses on nouns
 - → assumption: nouns capture the substantial things that are talked about

(e.g., people, issues, etc.)

Decision has to be theoretically motivated

Tag	Description	Example	Tag	Description	Example	Tag	Description	Example
CC	coordinating	and, but, or	PDT	predeterminer	all, both	VBP	verb non-3sg	eat
	conjunction						present	
CD	cardinal number	one, two	POS	possessive ending	's	VBZ	verb 3sg pres	eats
DT	determiner	a, the	PRP	personal pronoun	I, you, he	WDT	wh-determ.	which, that
EX	existential 'there'	there	PRP\$	possess. pronoun	your, one's	WP	wh-pronoun	what, who
FW	foreign word	mea culpa	RB	adverb	quickly	WP\$	wh-possess.	whose
IN	preposition/	of, in, by	RBR	comparative	faster	WRB	wh-adverb	how, where
	subordin-conj			adverb				
JJ	adjective	yellow	RBS	superlaty. adverb	fastest	\$	dollar sign	\$
JJR	comparative adj	bigger	RP	particle	up, off	#	pound sign	#
JJS	superlative adj	wildest	SYM	symbol	+,%, &	**	left quote	' or "
LS	list item marker	1, 2, One	то	"to"	to	"	right quote	' or "
MD	modal	can, should	UH	interjection	ah, oops	(left paren	[, (, {, <
NN	sing or mass noun	llama	VB	verb base form	eat)	right paren],), }, >
NNS	noun, plural	llamas	VBD	verb past tense	ate	,	comma	1
NNP	proper noun, sing.	IBM	VBG	verb gerund	eating		sent-end punc	.1?
NNPS	proper noun, plu.	Carolinas	VBN	verb past part.	eaten	:	sent-mid punc	:;
Figure 8	3.1 Penn Treeba	nk part-of-sp	eech tag	gs (including pund	ctuation).			

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NAMED ENTITY RECOGNITION

- Named Entity Recognition (NER): identifying and classifying named entities
 names of persons, organizations, locations, dates, etc.
- NER can be used to automatically extract structured information from unstructured text data

Туре	Tag	Sample Categories
People	PER	Individuals, fictional characters, small groups
Organization	ORG	Companies, agencies, political parties, religious groups, sports teams
Location	LOC	Physical extents, mountains, lakes, seas
Geo-Political Entity	GPE	Countries, states, provinces, counties
Facility	FAC	Bridges, buildings, airports
Vehicles	VEH	Planes, trains and automobiles
Figure 22.1 A list of gen	neric name	d entity types with the kinds of entities they refer to.

Туре	Example
People	Turing is often considered to be the father of modern computer science.
Organization	The <i>IPCC</i> said it is likely that future tropical cyclones will become more intense.
Location	The Mt. Sanitas loop hike begins at the base of Sunshine Canyon.
Geo-Political Entity	Palo Alto is looking at raising the fees for parking in the University Avenue district
Facility	Drivers were advised to consider either the Tappan Zee Bridge or the Lincoln
	Tunnel.
Vehicles	The updated Mini Cooper retains its charm and agility.
Figure 22.2 Named e	antity types with examples.

DEPENDENCY PARSING

- What's the relationship between different words/actors in sentences



DEPENDENCY PARSING

- Dependency parsing uncovers the relationships of entities
- Can help with
 - Sentiment analysis (who is described as what also: by whom)
 this approach may arguably bear more validity than topic models or

word embeddings which are rather based on co-occurrence

- interactions: "who does what to whom"

- Dependency parsing as valuable but underused tool for sociologists
- Provides framework to use it:
 - entity-centered he has at least one entity of interest
 - components: "actions of an entity, treatments of an entity, agents acting upon an entity, patients acted upon by an entity, characterizations of an entity, and possessions of an entity" (p. 15)
- Goal: systematic extraction of relevant terms that are readily interpretable (e.g., "what men do to women")

- Example: "what men do to women"
- Data: U.S. Novel Corpus (USNC); 9,088 American novels published between 1880 and 1990
- Identification of male and female agents based on first name and "Mr.,"
 "Mrs.," "Miss," and "Madame" and the pronouns "he," "him," "his," "she," and "her"
- Determines instances where a male/female person acted upon another male/ female person







- Significant effect of author's gender on female-female interactions
- Men are described as "actionable" when it comes to sexual actions, women rather defensive
- However, over time acting agents' gender given a particular action become less predictable – independent of author's gender



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