Statistical Natural Language Processing (COMP0087)

Description

Aims:
The module introduces the basics of statistical natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning techniques relevant for NLP.

Learning outcomes:
On successful completion of the module, a student will be able to understand relevant ML techniques, in particular in deep learning, what makes NLP challenging (and exciting), how to write programs that process language, and how to address the computational challenges involved.

Content:
NLP is domain-centred fields, as opposed to technique centred fields such as ML, and as such there is no "theory of NLP" which can be taught in a cumulative technique-centred way. Instead this course will focus on one or two NLP end-to-end pipelines (such as Machine Translation and Machine Reading). Through these applications the participants will learn about language itself, relevant linguistic concepts, and Machine Learning techniques. For the latter an emphasis will be on deep learning prediction. Topics will include (but are not restricted to) machine translation, sequence tagging, constituent and dependency parsing, information extraction, semantics. The course has a strong applied character, with coursework to be programmed and lectures that mix practical aspects with theory and background.

NLP Tasks:
- Language Models;
- Machine Translation;
- Text Classification;
- Sequence Tagging;
- Constituency Parsing;
- Dependency Parsing;
- Information Extraction;
- Machine Comprehension;

NLP and ML methods:

Key information

Year 2019/20
Credit value 15 (150 study hours)
Delivery PGT L7, Campus-based
Reading List View on UCL website
Tutor Prof Sebastian Riedel
Term Term 2
Timetable View on UCL website

Assessment

- Coursework: 30%
- Coursework: 40%
- Coursework: 30%

Find out more

For more information about the department, programmes, relevant open days and to browse other modules, visit ucl.ac.uk
- Encoder/Decoder Architectures;
- Feature Engineering;
- Deep Neural Networks;
- RNNs, CNNs;
- Attention;
- Word Vectors;
- Pretraining;

**Requisites:**
In order to be eligible to select this module, a student must be registered on a programme for which it is a formally-approved option or elective choice AND must have (i) an understanding of Basic Probability Theory (e.g. Bayes Rule), Linear Algebra and Multivariate Calculus; (ii) proficiency in coding in Python; and (iii) the ability to install libraries on a computer.
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Disclaimer: All information correct as of June 2019. Please note that aspects of the module may be subject to change. UCL will make best efforts to inform applicants of major changes.
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