Natural Language Processing (NLP) basics

NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING WITH SPACY



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Natural Language Processing (NLP)

- A subfield of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Helps computers to understand human language
- Helps extract insights from unstructured ${}^{\bullet}$ data
- Incorporates statistics, machine learning \bullet models and deep learning models





NLP use cases

Sentiment analysis

Use of computers to determine the underlying subjective tone of a piece of writing ٠





NLP use cases

Named entity recognition (NER)

- Locating and classifying named entities mentioned in unstructured text into pre-defined \bullet categories
- Named entities are real-world objects such as a person or location





NLP use cases

• Generate human-like responses to text input, such as **ChatGPT**



tacamp

Introduction to spaCy

spaCy is a free, open-source library for NLP in Python which:

- Is designed to build systems for **information** extraction
- Provides production-ready code for NLP use cases
- Supports 64+ languages
- Is robust and fast and has visualization libraries



Install and import spaCy

- As the first step, spaCy can be installed using the Python package manager pip
- spaCy trained models can be downloaded ${}^{\bullet}$
- Multiple trained models are available for English language at spacy.io

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import spacy nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")

spacy

_oad en_core_web_sm

Read and process text with spaCy

- Loaded spaCy model en_core_web_sm = nlp object
- nlp object converts text into a Doc object (container) to store processed text



Tokens Linguistic annotations

Relationships

spaCy in action

• **Processing** a string using spaCy

```
import spacy
nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
text = "A spaCy pipeline object is created."
doc = nlp(text)
```

Tokenization

- A Token is defined as the smallest meaningful part of the text. 0
- **Tokenization**: The process of dividing a text into a list of meaningful tokens 0

```
print([token.text for token in doc])
```

['A', 'spaCy', 'pipeline', 'object', 'is', 'created', '.']



Let's practice!



spaCy basics

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spaCy NLP pipeline

import spacy

- nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
- doc = nlp("Here's my spaCy pipeline.")

- Import spaCy
- Use spacy.load() to return nlp, a Language class
 - The Language object is the text processing pipeline
- Apply nlp() on any text to get a Doc container

spaCy NLP pipeline

spaCy applies some processing steps using its Language class:





Container objects in spaCy

• There are multiple data structures to represent text data in spaCy :

Name	Description
Doc	A container for accessing linguistic annotations of text
Span	A slice from a Doc object
Token	An individual token, i.e. a word, punctuation, whitespace, etc.



Pipeline components

• The spacy language processing pipeline always depends on the loaded model and its capabilities.

Component	Name	Description
Tokenizer	Tokenizer	Segment text into tokens and create
Tagger	Tagger	Assign part-of-speech tags
Lemmatizer	Lemmatizer	Reduce the words to their root forms
EntityRecognizer	NER	Detect and label named entities





Pipeline components

- Each component has unique features to process text
 - Language 0
 - DependencyParser 0
 - Sentencizer 0



Tokenization

- Always the first operation
- All the other operations require tokens
- Tokens can be words, numbers and punctuation

```
import spacy
nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
```

doc = nlp("Tokenization splits a sentence into its tokens.") print([token.text for token in doc])

['Tokenization', 'splits', 'a', 'sentence', 'into', 'its', 'tokens', '.']



Sentence segmentation

- More complex than tokenization
- Is a part of DependencyParser component

```
import spacy
nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
text = "We are learning NLP. This course introduces spaCy."
doc = nlp(text)
for sent in doc.sents:
    print(sent.text)
```

We are learning NLP. This course introduces spaCy.



Lemmatization

- A **lemma** is a the base form of a token
- The lemma of **eats** and **ate** is **eat**
- Improves accuracy of language models

```
import spacy
nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
doc = nlp("We are seeing her after one year.")
print([(token.text, token.lemma_) for token in doc])
```

```
[('We', 'we'), ('are', 'be'), ('seeing', 'see'), ('her', 'she'),
('after', 'after'), ('one', 'one'), ('year', 'year'), ('.', '.')]
```





Let's practice!



Linguistic features in spaCy

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POS tagging

• Categorizing words grammatically, based on function and context within a sentence

POS	Description	Example
VERB	Verb	run, eat, ate, take
NOUN	Noun	man, airplane, tree, flower
ADJ	Adjective	big, old, incompatible, conflicting
ADV	Adverb	very, down, there, tomorrow
CONJ	Conjunction	and, or, but



POS tagging with spaCy

- POS tagging confirms the meaning of a word \bullet
- Some words such as **watch** can be both noun and verb
- spacy captures POS tags in the pos_ feature of the nlp pipeline
- spacy.explain() explains a given POS tag





POS tagging with spaCy

verb_sent = "I watch TV."

print([(token.text, token.pos_, spacy.explain(token.pos_)) for token in nlp(verb_sent)])

noun_sent = "I left without my watch."

print([(token.text, token.pos_, spacy.explain(token.pos_)) for token in nlp(noun_sent)])

[('I', 'PRON', 'pronoun'), ('watch', 'VERB', 'verb'), ('TV', 'NOUN', 'noun'), ('.', 'PUNCT', 'punctuation')] [('I', 'PRON', 'pronoun'), ('left', 'VERB', 'verb'), ('without', 'ADP', 'adposition'), ('my', 'PRON', 'pronoun'), ('watch', 'NOUN', 'noun'), ('.', 'PUNCT', 'punctuation')]

Named entity recognition

- A **named entity** is a word or phrase that refers to a specific entity with a name
- Named-entity recognition (NER) classifies named entities into pre-defined categories \bullet

Entity type	Description
PERSON	Named person or family
ORG	Companies, institutions, etc.
GPE	Geo-political entity, countries, cities, etc.
LOC	Non-GPE locations, mountain ranges, etc.
DATE	Absolute or relative dates or periods
TIME	Time smaller than a day



NER and spaCy

- spaCy models extract named entities using the NER pipeline component
- Named entities are available via the doc.ents property
- spaCy will also tag each entity with its entity label (.label_)





NER and spaCy

```
import spacy
nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
text = "Albert Einstein was genius."
doc = nlp(text)
print([(ent.text, ent.start_char,
ent.end_char, ent.label_) for ent in doc.ents])
```

>>> [('Albert Einstein', 0, 15, 'PERSON')]



NER and spaCy

• We can also access entity types of each token in a **Doc** container

```
import spacy
nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
text = "Albert Einstein was genius."
doc = nlp(text)
print([(token.text, token.ent_type_) for token in doc])
```

>>> [('Albert', 'PERSON'), ('Einstein', 'PERSON'), ('was', ''), ('genius', ''), ('.', '')]



displaCy

- spaCy is equipped with a modern visualizer: displaCy
- The displaCy entity visualizer highlights named entities and their labels

```
import spacy
from spacy import displacy
text = "Albert Einstein was genius."
nlp = spacy.load("en_core_web_sm")
doc = nlp(text)
```

displacy.serve(doc, style="ent")

Albert Einstein PERSON





Let's practice!

