NLP for German CMC Data
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Data Set

EmpiriST 2015 gold standard
- Shared task on automatic linguistic annotation of computer-mediated communication (CMC) and web corpora (Beißwenger et al. 2016):
  - CMC: tweets, social and professional chats, comments, wiki talk pages
  - Web: web sites, blogs, Wikipedia articles, Wikinews
- Manually tokenized and annotated with STTS_IBK
  - STTS + 18 additional tags (Beißwenger et al. 2015)
- Manually normalized and lemmatized (Proisl et al. forthcoming)

Tokenization

Successful rule-based approaches
- Even a simple baseline (whitespace tokenizer that splits off punctuation) works surprisingly well
- Best-performing tokenizers achieve F₁ scores > 0.99
- No need for ML techniques

Part-of-Speech Tagging

Various ML techniques
- HMM (UoS, Thater 2017)
- CRF (AIPHES, LTL-UDE)
- LSTM (bot.zen)
- averaged structured perceptron (SoMeWeTa)

Further Experiments
- Aim: Compare best-performing system (SoMeWeTa) to state-of-the-art BiLSTM-CRF tagger that uses word- and character-level BiLSTMs (Riedl and Pado 2018)
- Setting:
  - Only EmpiriST training data vs. additional pretraining on TIGER
  - SoMeWeTa with and without external resources
  - BiLSTM-CRF tagger with pretrained word embeddings
- External Resources and Transfer Learning
  - SoMeWeTa: Coarse-grained word class information from Morphy (Lezius 2000), Brown clusters from DECO14
  - BiLSTM-CRF: Pretrained fastText embeddings

Lemmatization

New gold standard
- Two lemmatization strategies:
  - Surface-oriented lemmatization (based on inflectional suffixes, retains non-standard orthographical features)
    $\text{Grifge} \rightarrow \text{Griff}$
  - Normalized lemmatization (correct obvious spelling errors, standard form of non-standard tokens)
    $\text{Grifge} \rightarrow \text{Griff}$
- Four student annotators, unclear cases decided in group meetings with supervisors
- Inter-annotator agreement (Cohen’s $\kappa$): 0.93–0.97
- Baselines (accuracy, ignoring case):
  - Do-nothing: Always return the word form
  - Weak: Given word form and POS, return most frequent lemma
  - Strong: Apache OpenNLP maximum entropy lemmatizer

Results for tokenization (F₁ scores)

Results for part-of-speech tagging (accuracy)

Learning curves

- SoMeWeTa: Additional resources lead to improvements (6–12 points); graceful degradation
- BiLSTM-CRF: Steeper learning curve; probably outperforms SoMeWeTa (even with additional resources) with slightly more training data
- Transfer learning leads to better results (4–9 points)
- Web corpus very similar to TIGER → very flat learning curve
- BiLSTM-CRF outperforms SoMeWeTa (0.3–1.4 points), parallel learning curves