CS6741: Structured Prediction for NLP
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Part-of-speech Tagging

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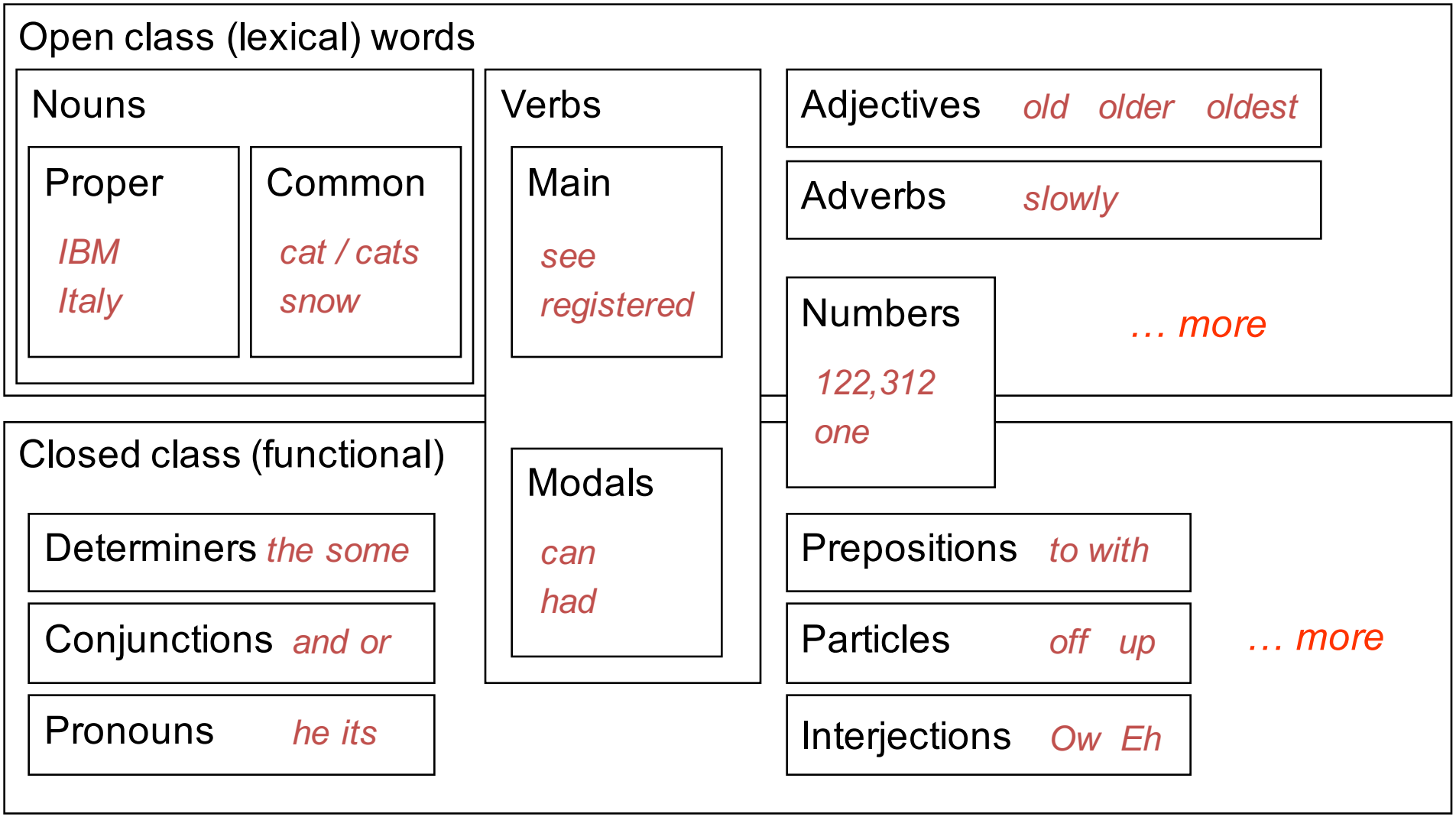
Slides adapted from Dan Klein, Luke Zettlemoyer, Chris Manning, and Dan Jurafsky

Parts of Speech

- Perhaps starting with Aristotle in the West (384–322 BCE), there was the idea of having parts of speech
  - a.k.a lexical categories, word classes, “tags”, POS
- It comes from Dionysius Thrax of Alexandria (c. 100 BCE) the idea that is still with us that there are 8 parts of speech
  - But actually his 8 aren’t exactly the ones we are taught today
    - Thrax: noun, verb, article, adverb, preposition, conjunction, participle, pronoun
    - School grammar: noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, pronoun, interjection

Parts of Speech



Open vs. Closed Classes

- Open vs. Closed classes
  - Closed:
    - determiners: ***a, an, the***
    - pronouns: ***she, he, I***
    - prepositions: ***on, under, over, near, by, …***
    - Why “closed”? Clean distinction?
  - Open:
    - Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs.

Open vs. Closed Classes

She (disambiguation)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

She is the third person singular, feminine, nominative case pronoun in modern English.

She may also refer to:

Literature and films [edit]

- *She: A History of Adventure*, an 1887 novel by H. Rider Haggard, and its film adaptations:
  - *She* (1911 film), a 1911 silent short film featuring Marguerite Snow
  - *She* (1916 film), a 1916 silent film produced in the UK
  - *She* (1917 film), a 1917 silent film starring Valeska Suratt
  - *She* (1925 film), a silent film starring Betty Blythe
  - *She* (1935 film), featuring Helen Gahagan
  - *She* (1965 film), starring Ursula Andress
  - *She* (2001 film), with Ophélie Winter
- *She* (1982 film), a 1982 post-apocalyptic film featuring Sandahl Bergman

Music [edit]

Groups [edit]

- S.H.E, a Taiwanese girl band
- SHE, or Solid HarmoniE, British pop girl group formed in 1996
- she (band), a virtual band formed in 2003 by Lain Trzaska

Albums [edit]

- *She* (Viktor Lazlo album), 1985
- *she* (Dalbello album), 1987

POS Tagging

- Words often have more than one POS: *back*
  - The *back* door = JJ
  - On my *back* = NN
  - Win the voters *back* = RB
  - Promised to *back* the bill = VB
- The POS tagging problem is to determine the POS tag for a particular instance of a word.

POS Tagging

Penn Treebank POS tags

• Input:	Plays	well	with	others
• Ambiguity:	NNS/VBZ	UH/JJ/NN/RB	IN	NNS
• Output:	Plays/VBZ	well/RB	with/IN	others/NNS

- **Uses:**
  - Text-to-speech (how do we pronounce “lead”?)
  - Can write regexps like (Det) Adj* N+ over the output for phrases, etc.
  - As input to or to speed up a full parser
  - If you know the tag, you can back off to it in other tasks

Penn TreeBank Tagset

- Possible tags: 45
- Tagging guidelines: 36 pages

Main Tags

CC	conjunction, coordinating	and both but either or
CD	numeral, cardinal	mid-1890 nine-thirty 0.5 one
DT	determiner	a all an every no that the
EX	existential there	there
FW	foreign word	gemeinschaft hund ich jeux
IN	preposition or conjunction, subordinating	among whether out on by if
JJ	adjective or numeral, ordinal	third ill-mannered regrettable
JJR	adjective, comparative	braver cheaper taller
JJS	adjective, superlative	bravest cheapest tallest
MD	modal auxiliary	can may might will would
NN	noun, common, singular or mass	cabbage thermostat investment subhumanity
NNP	noun, proper, singular	Motown Cougar Yvette Liverpool
NNPS	noun, proper, plural	Americans Materials States
NNS	noun, common, plural	undergraduates bric-a-brac averages
POS	genitive marker	' 's
PRP	pronoun, personal	hers himself it we them
PRP$	pronoun, possessive	her his mine my our ours their thy your
RB	adverb	occasionally maddeningly adventurously
RBR	adverb, comparative	further gloomier heavier less-perfectly
RBS	adverb, superlative	best biggest nearest worst
RP	particle	aboard away back by on open through
TO	"to" as preposition or infinitive marker	to
UH	interjection	huh howdy uh whammo shucks heck
VB	verb, base form	ask bring fire see take
VBD	verb, past tense	pleaded swiped registered saw
VBG	verb, present participle or gerund	stirring focusing approaching erasing
VBN	verb, past participle	dilapidated imitated reunifed unsettled
VBP	verb, present tense, not 3rd person singular	twist appear comprise mold postpone
VBZ	verb, present tense, 3rd person singular	bases reconstructs marks uses
WDT	WH-determiner	that what whatever which whichever
WP	WH-pronoun	that what whatever which who whom
WP$	WH-pronoun, possessive	whose
WRB	Wh-adverb	however whenever where why

Baselines and Upper Bound

- How many tags are correct? (Tag accuracy)
  - About 97% currently
  - But baseline is already 90%
    - Baseline is performance of stupidest possible method
      - Tag every word with its most frequent tag
      - Tag unknown words as nouns
  - Partly easy because
    - Many words are unambiguous
    - You get points for them (*the*, *a*, etc.) and for punctuation marks!
  - Upperbound: probably 2% annotation errors

Hard Cases are Hard

- Mrs/NNP Shaefer/NNP never/RB got/VBD around/RP to/TO joining/VBG
- All/DT we/PRP gotta/VBN do/VB is/VBZ go/VB around/IN the/DT corner/NN
- Chateau/NNP Petrus/NNP costs/VBZ around/RB 250/CD

How Difficult is POS Tagging?

- About 11% of the word types in the Brown corpus are ambiguous with regard to part of speech
- But they tend to be very common words. E.g., *that*
  - I know *that* he is honest = IN
  - Yes, *that* play was nice = DT
  - You can't go *that* far = RB
- 40% of the word tokens are ambiguous

The Tagset

- Wait, do we really need all these tags?
- What about other languages?
  - Each language has its own tagset

Tagsets in Different Languages

Language	Source	# Tags
Arabic	PADT/CoNLL07 (Hajič et al., 2004)	21
Basque	Basque3LB/CoNLL07 (Aduriz et al., 2003)	64
Bulgarian	BTB/CoNLL06 (Simov et al., 2002)	54
Catalan	CESS-ECE/CoNLL07 (Martí et al., 2007)	54
Chinese	Penn ChineseTreebank 6.0 (Palmer et al., 2007)	34
Chinese	Sinica/CoNLL07 (Chen et al., 2003)	294
Czech	PDT/CoNLL07 (Böhmová et al., 2003)	63
Danish	DDT/CoNLL06 (Kromann et al., 2003)	25
Dutch	Alpino/CoNLL06 (Van der Beek et al., 2002)	12
English	PennTreebank (Marcus et al., 1993)	45
French	FrenchTreebank (Abeillé et al., 2003)	30
German	Tiger/CoNLL06 (Brants et al., 2002)	54
German	Negra (Skut et al., 1997)	54
Greek	GDT/CoNLL07 (Prokopidis et al., 2005)	38
Hungarian	Szeged/CoNLL07 (Csendes et al., 2005)	43
Italian	ISST/CoNLL07 (Montemagni et al., 2003)	28
Japanese	Verbmobil/CoNLL06 (Kawata and Bartels, 2000)	80
Japanese	Kyoto4.0 (Kurohashi and Nagao, 1997)	42
Korean	Sejong (http://www.sejong.or.kr)	187
Portuguese	Floresta Sintá(c)tica/CoNLL06 (Afonso et al., 2002)	22
Russian	SynTagRus-RNC (Boguslavsky et al., 2002)	11
Slovene	SDT/CoNLL06 (Džeroski et al., 2006)	29
Spanish	Ancora-Cast3LB/CoNLL06 (Civit and Martí, 2004)	47
Swedish	Talbanken05/CoNLL06 (Nivre et al., 2006)	41
Turkish	METU-Sabanci/CoNLL07 (Oflazer et al., 2003)	31

[Petrov et al. 2012]

The Tagset

- Wait, do we really need all these tags?
- What about other languages?
  - Each language has its own tagset
    - But why is this bad?
    - Differences in downstream tasks
    - Harder to do language transfer

Alternative: The Universal Tagset

- 12 tags:
  - NOUN, VERB, ADJ, ADV, PRON, DET, ADP, NUM, CONJ, PRT, '.', and X.
- Deterministic conversion from tagsets in 22 languages.
- Better unsupervised parsing results
- Was used to transfer parsers

[Petrov et al. 2012]

Sources of Information

- What are the main sources of information for POS tagging?
  - Knowledge of neighboring words
    - Bill saw that man yesterday
    - NNP NN DT NN NN
    - VB VB(D) IN VB NN
  - Knowledge of word probabilities
    - *man* is rarely used as a verb….
- The latter proves the most useful, but the former also helps

Word-level Features

- Can do surprisingly well just looking at a word by itself:
  - Word the: the → DT
  - Lowercased word Importantly: importantly → RB
  - Prefixes unfathomable: un- → JJ
  - Suffixes Importantly: -ly → RB
  - Capitalization Meridian: CAP → NNP
  - Word shapes 35-year: d-x → JJ

Language	Source	# Tags	O/O	U/U	O/U
Arabic	PADT/CoNLL07 (Hajič et al., 2004)	21	96.1	96.9	97.0
Basque	Basque3LB/CoNLL07 (Aduriz et al., 2003)	64	89.3	93.7	93.7
Bulgarian	BTB/CoNLL06 (Simov et al., 2002)	54	95.7	97.5	97.8
Catalan	CESS-ECE/CoNLL07 (Martí et al., 2007)	54	98.5	98.2	98.8
Chinese	Penn ChineseTreebank 6.0 (Palmer et al., 2007)	34	91.7	93.4	94.1
Chinese	Sinica/CoNLL07 (Chen et al., 2003)	294	87.5	91.8	92.6
Czech	PDT/CoNLL07 (Böhmová et al., 2003)	63	99.1	99.1	99.1
Danish	DDT/CoNLL06 (Kromann et al., 2003)	25	96.2	96.4	96.9
Dutch	Alpino/CoNLL06 (Van der Beek et al., 2002)	12	93.0	95.0	95.0
English	PennTreebank (Marcus et al., 1993)	45	96.7	96.8	97.7
French	FrenchTreebank (Abeillé et al., 2003)	30	96.6	96.7	97.3
German	Tiger/CoNLL06 (Brants et al., 2002)	54	97.9	98.1	98.8
German	Negra (Skut et al., 1997)	54	96.9	97.9	98.6
Greek	GDT/CoNLL07 (Prokopidis et al., 2005)	38	97.2	97.5	97.8
Hungarian	Szeged/CoNLL07 (Csendes et al., 2005)	43	94.5	95.6	95.8
Italian	ISST/CoNLL07 (Montemagni et al., 2003)	28	94.9	95.8	95.8
Japanese	Verbmobil/CoNLL06 (Kawata and Bartels, 2000)	80	98.3	98.0	99.1
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Korean	Sejong (http://www.sejong.or.kr)	187	96.5	97.5	98.4
Portuguese	Floresta Sintá(c)tica/CoNLL06 (Afonso et al., 2002)	22	96.9	96.8	97.4
Russian	SynTagRus-RNC (Boguslavsky et al., 2002)	11	96.8	96.8	96.8
Slovene	SDT/CoNLL06 (Džeroski et al., 2006)	29	94.7	94.6	95.3
Spanish	Ancora-Cast3LB/CoNLL06 (Civit and Martí, 2004)	47	96.3	96.3	96.9
Swedish	Talbanken05/CoNLL06 (Nivre et al., 2006)	41	93.6	94.7	95.1
Turkish	METU-Sabanci/CoNLL07 (Oflazer et al., 2003)	31	87.5	89.1	90.2