

# Information Extraction

Lecture 7 – Linear Models (Basic Machine Learning)

CIS, LMU München

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# Decision Trees vs. Linear Models

- Decision Trees are an intuitive way to learn classifiers from data
  - They fit the training data well
  - With heavy pruning, you can control overfitting
- NLP practitioners often use linear models instead
- Most of the models discussed in Sarawagi Chapter 3 are linear models

# Decision Trees for NER

- So far we have seen:
  - How to learn rules for NER
  - A basic idea of how to formulate NER as a classification problem
  - Decision trees
    - Including the basic idea of **overfitting** the training data
- How can we use decision trees for NER?

# Rule Sets as Decision Trees

- Decision trees are quite powerful
- It is easy to see that complex rules can be encoded as decision trees
- For instance, let's go back to border detection in CMU seminars...



# Example

the seminar at **<time>** 4 pm will

Condition	Additional Knowledge				Action
Word	Lemma	LexCat	case	SemCat	Tag
	at				<b>stime</b>
		Digit			
				timeid	

# A Path in the Decision Tree

- The tree will check if the token to the left of the possible start position has "at" as a lemma
- Then check if the token after the possible start position is a Digit
- Then check the second token after the start position is a timeid ("am", "pm", etc)
- If you follow this path at a particular location in the text, then the decision should be to insert a <stime>

# Linear Models

- However, in practice decision trees are not used so often in NLP
- Instead, linear models are used
- Let me first present linear models
- Then I will compare linear models and decision trees

# Binary Classification

- I'm going to first discuss linear models for binary classification, using binary features
- We'll take the same scenario as before
- Our classifier is trying to decide whether we have a <stime> tag or not at the current position (between two words in an email)
- The first thing we will do is encode the context at this position into a feature vector



# Feature Vector

- Each feature is true or false, and has a position in the feature vector
- The feature vector is typically sparse, meaning it is mostly zeros (i.e., false)
- The feature vector represents the full feature space. For instance, consider...



# Example

the seminar at **<time>** 4 pm will

Condition	Additional Knowledge				Action
Word	Lemma	LexCat	case	SemCat	Tag
the	the	Art	low		
seminar	Seminar	Noun	low		
at	at	Prep	low		<b>stime</b>
4	4	Digit	low		
pm	pm	Other	low	timeid	
will	will	Verb	low		



# Example

the seminar at **<time>** 4 pm will

Condition	Additional Knowledge				Action
	Word	Lemma	LexCat	case	
the	the	Art	low		
seminar	Seminar	Noun	low		
at	at	Prep	low		<b>stime</b>
4	4	Digit	low		
pm	pm	Other	low	timeid	
will	will	Verb	low		

- Our features represent this table using binary variables
- For instance, consider the lemma column
- Most features will be false (false = off = 0)
- The lemma features that will be on (true = on = 1) are:
  - 3\_lemma\_the
  - 2\_lemma\_Seminar
  - 1\_lemma\_at
  - +1\_lemma\_4
  - +2\_lemma\_pm
  - +3\_lemma\_will

# Classification

- To classify we will take the dot product of the feature vector with a learned weight vector
- We will say that the class is true (i.e., we should insert a `<stime>` here) if the dot product is  $> 0$ , and false otherwise
- Because we might want to shift the decision boundary, we add a feature that is always true
  - This is called the bias
  - By weighting the bias, we can shift where we make the decision (see next slide)

# Feature Vector

- We might use a feature vector like this:  
(this example is simplified – really we'd have all features for all positions)

1	Bias term
0	... (say, -3_lemma_giraffe)
1	-3_lemma_the
0	...
1	-2_lemma_Seminar
0	...
0	...
1	-1_lemma_at
1	+1_lemma_4
0	...
1	+1_Digit
1	+2_timeid

# Weight Vector

- Now we'd like the dot product to be  $> 0$  if we should insert a `<stime>` tag
- To encode the rule we looked at before we have three features that we want to have a positive weight
  - `-1_lemma_at`
  - `+1_Digit`
  - `+2_timeid`
- We can give them weights of 1
- Their sum will be three
- To make sure that we only classify if all three weights are on, let's set the weight on the bias term to `-2`

# Dot Product - I

1	Bias term
0	
1	-3_lemma_the
0	
1	-2_lemma_Seminar
0	
0	
1	-1_lemma_at
1	+1_lemma_4
0	
1	+1_Digit
1	+2_timeid

-2	To compute
0	the dot
0	product first
0	take the
0	product of
0	each row, and
0	then sum these
1	
0	
0	
1	
1	

# Dot Product - II

1	Bias term	-2	$1 * -2$	$1 * -2$
0		0	$0 * 0$	
1	-3_lemma_the	0	$0 * 0$	
0		0	$0 * 0$	
1	-2_lemma_Seminar	0	$1 * 0$	
0		0	$0 * 0$	
0		0	$0 * 0$	
1	-1_lemma_at	1	$1 * 1$	$1 * 1$
1	+1_lemma_4	0	$1 * 0$	
0		0	$0 * 0$	
1	+1_Digit	1	$1 * 1$	$1 * 1$
1	+2_timeid	1	$1 * 1$	$1 * 1$
				-----
				1



# Learning the Weight Vector

- The general learning task is simply to find a good weight vector!
  - This is sometimes also called "training"
- Basic intuition: you can check weight vector candidates to see how well they classify the training data
  - Better weights vectors get more of the training data right
- So we need some way to make (smart) changes to the weight vector
  - The goal is to make better decisions on the training data
- I will talk more about this later

# Feature Extraction

- We run **feature extraction** to get the feature vectors for each position in the text
- We typically use a text representation to represent true values (which are sparse)
- Often we define **feature templates** which describe the feature to be extracted and give the name of the feature (i.e., -1\_lemma\_XXX)

-3\_lemma\_the -2\_lemma\_Seminar -1\_lemma\_at +1\_lemma\_4 +1\_Digit +2\_timeid STIME

-3\_lemma\_Seminar -2\_lemma\_at -1\_lemma\_4 -1\_Digit +1\_timeid +2\_lemma\_will NONE

...

# Training vs. Testing

- When training the system, we have gold standard labels (see previous slide)
- When testing the system on new data, we have no gold standard
  - We run the same feature extraction first
  - Then we take the dot product with the weight vector to get a classification decision
- Finally, we have to go back to the original text to write the `<stime>` tags into the correct positions

# Summary so far

- So we've seen training and testing
- We have an idea about train error and test error (key concepts!)
- We are aware of the problem of overfitting
  - And we know what overfitting means in terms of train error and test error!
- Now let's compare decision trees and linear models

# Linear models are weaker

- Linear models are weaker than decision trees
  - This means they can't express the same richness of decisions as decision trees can (if both have access to the same features)
- It is easy to see this by extending our example
- Recall that we have a weight vector encoding our rule (see next slide)
- Let's take another reasonable rule



# Example

the seminar at **<time>** 4 pm will

Condition	Additional Knowledge				Action
Word	Lemma	LexCat	case	SemCat	Tag
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		Digit			
				timeid	



# Example

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4	4	Digit	low		
pm	pm	Other	low	timeid	
will	will	Verb	low		

- The rule we'd like to learn is that if we have the features:
  - 2\_lemma\_Seminar
  - 1\_lemma\_at
  - +1\_Digit
- We should insert a <stime>
- This is quite a reasonable rule, it lets us correctly cover the new sentence:  
"The Seminar at 3 will be given by ..."  
(there is no timeid like "pm" here!)
- Let's modify the weight vector



# Adding the second rule

1	Bias term	-2
0		0
1	-3_lemma_the	0
0		0
1	-2_lemma_Seminar	1
0		0
0		0
1	-1_lemma_at	1
1	+1_lemma_4	0
0		0
1	+1_Digit	1
1	+2_timeid	1



- Let's first verify that both rules work with this weight vector
- But does anyone see any issues here?

# How many rules?

- If we look back at the vector, we see that we have actually encoded quite a number of rules
  - Any combination of three features with ones will be sufficient so that we have a `<stime>`
  - This might be good (i.e., it might generalize well to other examples). Or it might not.
- But what is definitely true is that it would be easy to create a decision tree that only encodes exactly our two rules!
- This should give you an intuition as to how linear models are weaker than decision trees

# How can we get this power in linear models?

- Change the features!
- For instance, we can create combinations of our old features as new features
- For instance, clearly if we have:
  - One feature to encode our first rule
  - Another feature to encode our second rule
  - And we set the bias to 0
- We get the same as the decision tree
- Sometimes these new compound features would be referred to as trigrams (they each combine three basic features)

# Feature Selection

- A task which includes automatically finding such new compound features is called **feature selection**
  - This is built into some machine learning toolkits
  - Or you can implement it yourself by trying out feature combinations and checking the training error
    - Use human intuition to check a small number of combinations
    - Or do it automatically, using a script

# Training

Training is **automatically adjusting** the feature vector so as to better fit the training corpus! **Intuition: make small adjustments** to get a better score on the training data (these all fit our example!)

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2.01 \\ 0.04 \\ 0.0004 \\ 0 \\ 1.1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.9001 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.89 \\ 0.91 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1.99 \\ 0.04 \\ 0.002 \\ 0 \\ 1.101 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.9111 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.892 \\ 0.91 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2.01 \\ 0.043 \\ 0.0003 \\ 0 \\ 1.1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.9144 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0.93 \\ 1.01 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Two classes

- So far we discussed how to deal with a single label
  - At each position between two words we are asking whether there is a `<stime>` tag
- However, we are interested in `<stime>` and `</stime>` tags
- How can we deal with this?
- We can simply train one classifier on the `<stime>` prediction task
  - Here we are treating `</stime>` positions like every other non `<stime>` position
- And train another classifier on the `</stime>` prediction task
  - Likewise, treating `<stime>` positions like every other non `</stime>` position
- If both classifiers predict "true" for a single position, take the one that has the highest dot product

# More than two labels

- What we have had up until now is called **binary classification**
- But we can generalize this idea to many possible labels
- This is called **multiclass classification**
  - We are picking one label (class) from a set of classes
- For instance, maybe we are also interested in the `<etime>` and `</etime>` labels
  - These labels indicate seminar end times, which are also often in the announcement emails (see next slide)



# CMU Seminars - Example

<0.24.4.93.20.59.10.jgc+@NL.CS.CMU.EDU (Jaime Carbonell).0>

Type: cmu.cs.proj.mt

Topic: <speaker>Nagao</speaker> Talk

Dates: 26-Apr-93

Time: <stime>10:00</stime> - <etime>11:00 AM</etime>

PostedBy: jgc+ on 24-Apr-93 at 20:59 from NL.CS.CMU.EDU (Jaime Carbonell)

Abstract:

<paragraph><sentence>This Monday, 4/26, <speaker>Prof. Makoto Nagao</speaker> will give a seminar in the <location>CMT red conference room</location> <stime>10</stime>-<etime>11 am</etime> on recent MT research results</sentence>.</paragraph>

# One against all

- We can generalize the way we handled two binary classification decisions to many labels
- Let's add the `<etime>` and `</etime>` labels
- We can train a classifier for each tag
  - Just as before, every position that is not an `<etime>` is a negative example for the `<etime>` classifier, and likewise for `</etime>`
- If multiple classifiers say "true", take the classifier with the highest dot product
- This is called **one-against-all**
- It is a quite reasonable way to use binary classification to predict one of multiple classes
  - It is not the only option, but it is easy to understand (and to implement too!)

# Optional: "notag" classifier

- Actually, not inserting a tag is also a decision
- When working with multiple classifiers, we could train a classifier for "no tag here" too
- This is trained using all positions that do not have a tag as positive examples
  - And all positions that have tags as negative examples
- And again, we take the highest activation as the winning class
  - What happens if all of the classifications are negative?
  - We still take the highest activation!
- This is usually not done in domains with a heavy imbalance of "notag" like decisions, but it is an interesting possibility
- Question: what would happen to the weight vector if we did this in the binary classification (<stime> or no <stime>) case?

# Summary: Multiclass classification

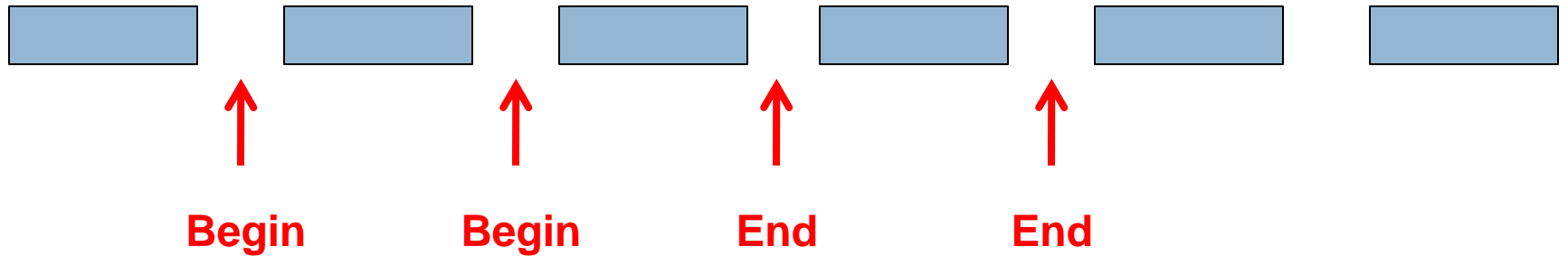
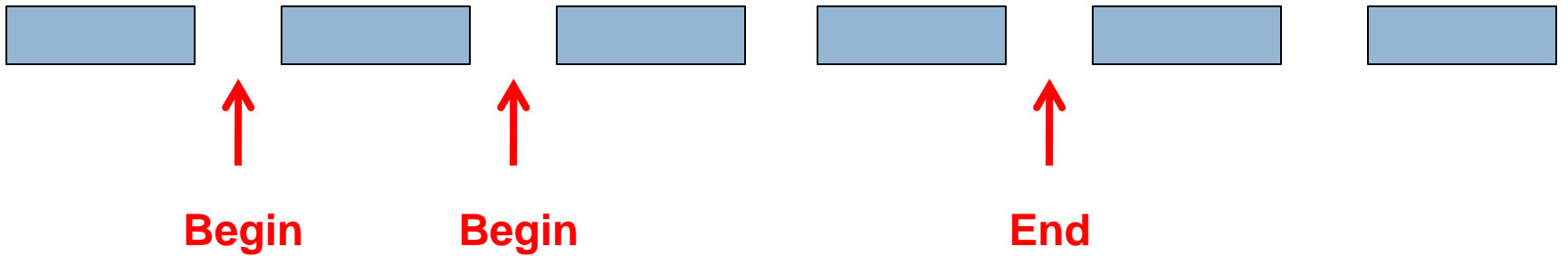
- We discussed **one-against-all**, a framework for combining binary classifiers
- It is not the only way to do this, but it often works pretty well
  - There are also techniques involving building classifiers on different subsets of the data and voting for classes
  - And other techniques can involve, e.g., a sequence of classification decisions (for instance, a tree-like structure of classifications)

# Binary classifiers and sequences

- As we saw a few lectures ago, we can detect seminar start times by using two binary classifiers:
  - One for `<stime>`
  - One for `</stime>`
- And recall that if they both say "true" to the same position, take the highest dot product

- Then we need to actually annotate the document
- But as we have already seen this is problematic...

# Some concerns



# A basic approach

- One way to deal with this is to use a greedy algorithm
- Loop:
  - Scan the document until the `<stime>` classifier says true
  - Then scan the document until the `</stime>` classifier says true
- If the last tag inserted was `<stime>` then insert a `</stime>` at the end of the document
- Naturally, there are smarter algorithms than this that will do a little better
- But relying on these two independent classifiers is not optimal



# How can we deal better with sequences?

- We can make our classification decisions dependent on previous classification decisions
- For instance, think of the Hidden Markov Model as used in POS-tagging
- The probability of a verb increases after a noun

# Basic Sequence Classification

- We will do the following
  - We will add a feature template into each classification decision representing the **previous classification decision**
  - And we will change the labels we are predicting, so that in the span between a start and end boundary we are predicting a different label than outside

# Basic idea

Seminar          at          4          pm  
                         <stime>          in-stime          </stime>

- The basic idea is that we want to use the previous classification decision
- We add a special feature template `-1_label_XXX`
- For instance, between 4 and pm, we have:  
`-1_label_<stime>`
- Suppose we have learned reasonable classifiers
- How often should we get a `<stime>` classification here? (Think about the training data in this sort of position)

# -1\_label\_<stime>

- This should be an extremely strong indicator not to annotate a <stime>
- What else should it indicate?
  - It should indicate that there must be either a in-stime or a </stime> here!

# Changing the problem slightly

- We'll now change the problem to a problem of annotating tokens (rather than annotating boundaries)
- This is traditional in IE, and you'll see that it is slightly more powerful than the boundary style of annotation
- We also make less decisions (see next slide)

# IOB markup

Seminar	at	4	pm	will	be	on	...
O	O	B-stime	I-stime	O	O	O	

- This is called IOB markup (or BIO = begin-in-out)
- This is a standardly used markup when modeling IE problems as sequence classification problems
- We can use a variety of models to solve this problem
- One popular model is the Hidden Markov Model, which you have seen in Statistical Methods
  - There, the label is the state
- However, in this course we will (mostly) stay more general and talk about binary classifiers and one-against-all

# (Greedy) classification with IOB

Seminar	at	4	pm	will	be	on	...
O	O	B-stime	I-stime	O	O	O	

- To perform greedy classification, first run your classifier on "Seminar"
- You can use a label feature here like -1\_Label\_StartOfSentence
- Suppose you correctly choose "O"
- Then when classifying "at", use the feature: -1\_Label\_O
- Suppose you correctly choose "O"
- Then when classifying "4", use the feature: -1\_Label\_O
- Suppose you correctly choose "B-stime"
- Then when classifying "pm", use the feature: -1\_Label\_B-stime
- Etc...

# Training

- How to create the training data (do feature extraction) should be obvious
  - We can just use the gold standard label of the previous position as our feature



# BIEWO Markup

- A popular alternative to IOB markup is BIEWO markup
- E stands for "end"
- W stands for "whole", meaning we have a one-word entity (i.e., this position is both the begin and end)

Seminar	at	4	pm	will	be	on	...
○	○	B-stime	E-stime	○	○	○	

Seminar	at	4	will	be	on	...
○	○	W-stime	○	○	○	

# BIEWO vs IOB

- BIEWO fragments the training data
  - Recall that we are learning a binary classifier for each label
  - In our two examples on the previous slide, this means we are not using the same classifiers!
- Use BIEWO when single-word mentions require different features to be active than the first word of a multi-word mention

# Conclusion

- I've taught you the basics of:
  - Binary classification using features
  - Multiclass classification (using one-against-all)
  - Sequence classification (using a feature that uses the previous decision)
    - And IOB or BIEWO labels
- I've skipped a lot of details
  - I haven't told you how to actually learn the weight vector in the binary classifier
  - I also haven't talked about non-greedy ways to do sequence classification
  - And I didn't talk about probabilities, which are used directly, or at least approximated, in many kinds of commonly used linear models!
- Hopefully what I did tell you is fairly intuitive and helps you understand classification, that is the goal

- Further reading (optional):
  - Tom Mitchell “Machine Learning” (text book)

# Seminar next week - I

- In the Seminar next week, we will work with **Wapiti**
- **Wapiti** is an open source machine learning package from LIMSI (Paris)
- Wapiti implements Maximum Entropy classification for multiclass classification
- We will use this to locate <location> tags in the CMU seminars data sets
- We tell Wapiti what features to use, it learns the required weight vectors from the training set and stores them
- You can then use Wapiti to classify new data (e.g., a test set)
- **Please download Wapiti, install it in your linux/Mac laptop, and try it out on a toy binary classification problem before the Seminar**

# Seminar next week - II

- Wapiti also implements two sequence versions of Maximum Entropy classification
  - The more popular solution is: Bigram Linear-chain **Conditional Random Field** (or often CRF for short)
  - The less popular solution is **MEMM** (Maximum Entropy Markov Model), we will not use this (it often performs worse than CRF, but is much faster to train)
  - Both of these sequence solutions do maximum entropy classification using the previous decision in a sequence of classifications
  - In the Seminar we will look at CRFs (in a separate Übung towards the end of the semester)
- Hopefully you will leave the seminar with an idea of how to solve IE problems with a classifier (or a sequence classifier)

# Morphologie @CIS

- Since we are ending early, I'd like to ask those students who took **Morphologie** a few quick questions – please come forward

- Thank you for your attention!