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Lecture 2: Morphology and Finite State Techniques

- 1. A brief introduction to morphology
- 2. Using morphology in NLP
- 3. Aspects of morphological processing
- 4. Finite state techniques

materials mostly by Ann Copestake

Morpheme

Morphemes are the *smallest meaningful units* of language. Words are composed of morpheme(s).



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Affix: morpheme which only occurs in conjunction with other morphemes.suffix (units), prefix (*in*complete), infix, circumfix

Infix

Tagalog (Philippines)





Circumfix: occur on both sides

Dutch collectives



Source: J Hana & A Feldman. ESSLLI 2013: Computational Morphology. http://ufal.mff.cuni.cz/~hana/teaching/2013-esslli/

Productivity

Productivity: whether affix applies generally, whether it applies to new words

- sing, sang, sung
- ring, rang, rung

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- ring, rang, rung
- But, *ping*, ping*ed*, ping*ed*

This infixation pattern is not productive: sing, ring are irregular

Inflection and derivation

Inflection creates new forms of the same word

- e.g. bring, brought, brings, bringing
- generally fully productive (modulo irregular forms)
- tends to affect only its syntactic function

Derivation creates new words

- e.g. logic, logical, illogical, illogicality, logician, etc.
- generally semi-productive: e.g., escapee, textee, ?dropee, ?snoree, *cricketee (* and ?)
- tends to be more irregular; the meaning is more idiosyncratic and less compositional.
- tends to affects the *meaning* of the word, and may change part-of-speech

Root: nucleus of the word that affixes attach too.

Compounds contain more than one root.

bookshopped



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Stem: word without its inflectional affixes = root + all derivational affixes. Lexeme: the set of all forms related by inflection (but not derivation).

{bookshops, bookshopped, bookshopping, ... }

Lemma: the *canonical/base/dictionary/citation* form of a lexeme chosen by convention.

bookshop (cf. the stem—bookshopp)

Compound and multiword expression

Compound

- (1) a. beam-width
 - b. sunset

Multiword expression

Combinations of two or more words that exhibit syntactic and semantic idiosyncratic behavior.

Fixed		(Syntactically) flexible
by and large		<i>put on the clothes</i> <i>put the clothes on</i>
Non-compositional Semi-compositional		Compositional
kick the bucket	<i>spill the beans</i> (reveal the secret)	strong tea



slither, slide, slip etc have some what similar meanings; but *sl*- is not a morpheme.

slith, *slid* and *slip* are historically related.

See www.etymonline.com/word/slide

Internal structure: order

The order of morphemes matters

- talk-ed \neq *ed-talk
- re-write \neq *write-re
- un-kind-ly \neq *kind-un-ly

Suffixing is more frequent than prefixing and far more frequent than infixing/circumfixing

- Postpositional and head-final languages use suffixes and no prefixes. cf. harmonic order: $\langle VO, PO \rangle$, $\langle OV, OP \rangle$
- Prepositional and head-initial languages use not only prefixes but also suffixes.
- Many languages use exclusively suffixes and no prefixes
- Very few languages use only prefixes and no suffixes

Internal structure: ambiguity

dog



Source of photo: commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=73851814

Morpheme ambiguity: stems and affixes may be individually ambiguous.

Internal structure: ambiguity

Structural ambiguity: different combinations of morphemes



More about *unlockable*: en.wiktionary.org/wiki/unlockable

Abstraction



Surface form \rightarrow Abstraction

- Indefinite article: *an* orange, *a* building
- Negation: *un*happy, *in*complete, *im*possible, *ir*rational
- Irregular: sing, sang, sung

The same morpheme may have different variants, which are called *allomorphs*. Allomorphs have the same function but different forms.

Computational tasks



compiling a full-form lexicon, stemming for Information Retrieval, preprocessing for parsing, ...

Segmentation

antidisestablishmentarianism ⇒ anti- dis- e- stabl -ish -ment -arian -ism antidisestablishmentarianism anti dis establish ment arian ism

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antidisestablishmentarianism

www.etymonline.com/word/antidisestablishmentarianism

Bioinformatics

Text normalization

- Not using any punctuation at all *Eh speak english mi malay not tt good* (Eh, speak English! My Ma-lay is not that good.)
- Using spell-ing/punctuation for emphasis gooooood Sunday morning !!!!!! (Good Sunday morning!)
- Using phonetic spelling *dat iz enuf* (That is enough)
- Dropping vowel

i hv cm to c my luv. (I have come to see my love.)

- Introducing local flavor yar lor where u go juz now (yes, where did you go just now?)
- Dropping verb

I hv 2 go. Dinner w parents. (I have to go. Have dinner with parents.)

Examples are from Aw et al. (2005). https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P06-2005.pdf

More: noisy-text.github.io/norm-shared-task.html

Cross-lingual variants

• The phones making up a morpheme don't have to be contiguous, e.g. in Hebrew,

Root	Pattern	PoS	Phonological Form	Gloss
ktb	CaCaC	v	katav	'wrote'
ktb	hi <mark>CCiC</mark>	v	hixtiv	'dictated'
ktb	mi <mark>CC</mark> aC	n	mixtav	'a letter'
ktb	CC aC	n	ktav	'writing, alphabet'

from E. Bender's tutorial (faculty.washington.edu/ebender/papers/100things.pdf)

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• English morphology is essentially concatenative cf. duplication in Chinese, e.g.

Spelling rules

- Irregular morphology inflectional forms have to be listed
- Regular phonological and spelling changes associated with affixation, e.g.
 - -s is pronounced differently with stem ending in s, x or z
 - spelling reflects this with the addition of an *e* (*boxes* etc)

morphophonology

• In English, description is independent of particular stems/affixes

Lexical requirements for morphological processing

Knowledge

affixes, plus the associated information conveyed by the affix

- $-ed \ \mathrm{VERB}.\mathrm{PAST}$
- $-ed \ \mathrm{VERB}.\mathrm{PSP}$
- -S NOUN.PLURAL

irregular forms, with associated information similar to that for affixes

- began VERB.PAST begin
- begun VERB.PSP begin

Automata



- Circles are states of the automaton.
- Arrows are called transitions.
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- Form Transformation: agumenting transitions input-input:output

Finite state transducer

• cakes \rightarrow cake#s

• $boxes \rightarrow box \#s$



























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- Partial grammars for text preprocessing, tokenization, named entity recognition etc.

Readings

- Ann's lecture notes
- E. Bender. 100 Things You Always Wanted to Know about Linguistics But Were Afraid to Ask. NAACL-HLT 2012 tutorial. faculty.washington.edu/ebender/papers/100things.pdf
- * J. Hana & A. Feldman. Computational Morphology. ESSLLI 2013 course. ufal.mff.cuni.cz/~hana/teaching/2013-esslli/
- * M. Mohri. Finite-State Transducers in Language and Speech Processing. CL 1997 paper. www.aclweb.org/anthology/J97-2003/