CMSC 325
Computational Linguistics

Fall 2022

Deepak Kumar

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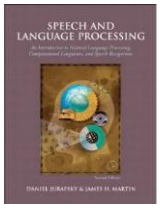
Administrivia

- **CMSC325** Computational Linguistics (see course web page)
- **Instructor:** Deepak Kumar (dkumar@brynmawr.edu)
- **Lectures:** MW 10:10 to 11:30a
- **Weekly Lab (optional):** M 11:40a to 1:00p in Park 231
- **Text:** *Speech and Language Processing*, 3rd Edition
  Daniel Jurafsky & James Martin

  Natural Language processing with Python – Analyzing Text with the Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK)
  Steven Bird, Ewan Klein, and Edward Loper.
- **Software:** Python 3.0 + NLTK



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Computational Linguistics

- Study what goes into getting computers to perform useful and interesting tasks involving human languages
- Also concerned with the insights that such computational work gives us into human processing of language

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Why care?

- Enormous amount of knowledge is now available in machine readable form as natural language text.
- Conversational agents are becoming common: Siri, Google Voice, Alexa, etc.
- Much of human communication is now mediated by computers.

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Some Common Applications

- Google Search
- Machine Translation
  - Google Translate
  - Phone apps – iTranslate (Demo)
  - Real-time language/voice translation (Demo)
- Q & A
- Web Analytics
  Data mining of blogs, discussion forums, message boards, user groups, social media, etc. for…
  - Product marketing information
  - Political opinion tracking
  - Social network analysis
  - Buzz analysis
  - Etc.

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Google Translate: Buying Lentils in Italy!

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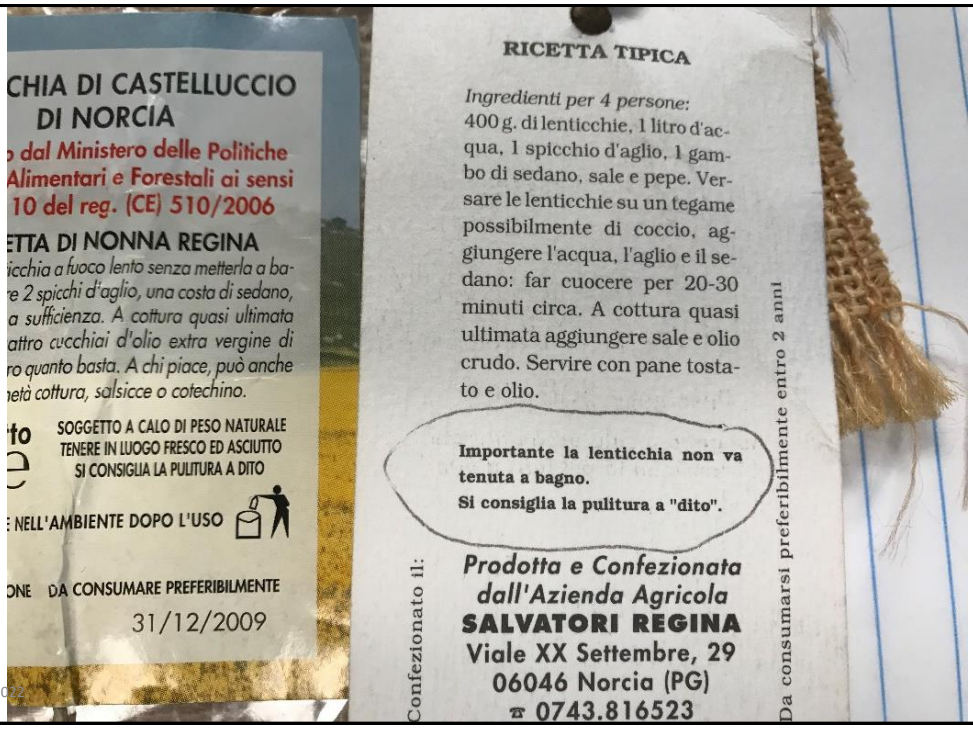

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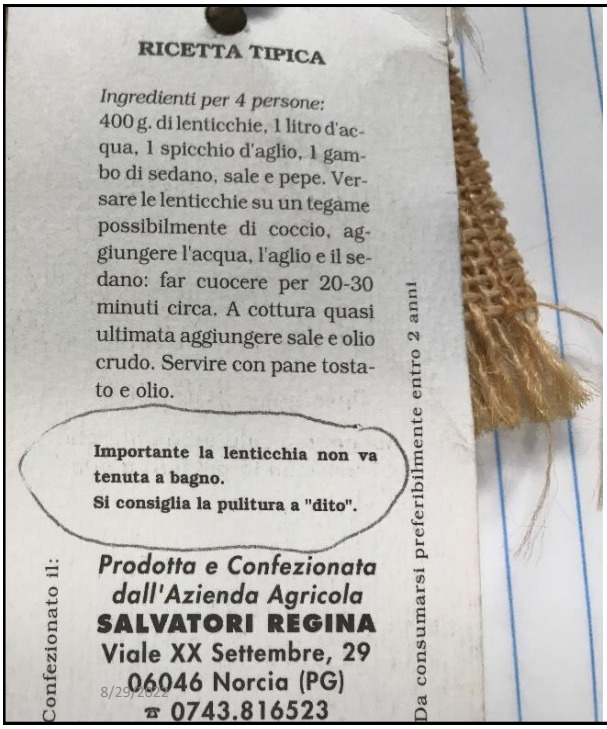

Important lentils should not be kept in the water. Finger cleaning is recommended.

Send feedback

August 2022

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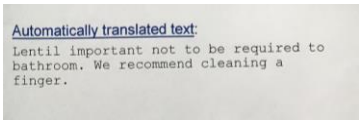
Machine Translation: Progress



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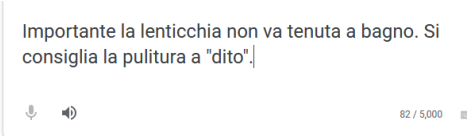

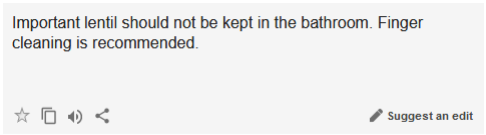

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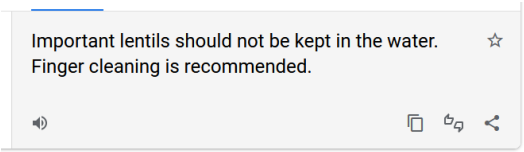

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Some Common Applications

- Google Search
- Machine Translation
  - Google Translate (Demo)
  - Phone apps – iTranslate (Demo – Deepak's phone)
  - Real-time language/voice translation – Microsoft Research English to Chinese (Demo start at 5:25)
- Q & A (IBM Watson Jeopardy!, 2011) – Demo (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P18EdAKuC1U)
- Web Analytics
  Data mining of blogs, discussion forums, message boards, user groups, social media, etc. for…
  - Product marketing information
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  - Buzz analysis
  - Etc.

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More Applications

- Text/Document Classification
- Document Summarization
- Question/Answering
- Language Modeling
- Speech Recognition
- Caption Generation
- Text generation from a prompt
- Image Generation from a caption/description

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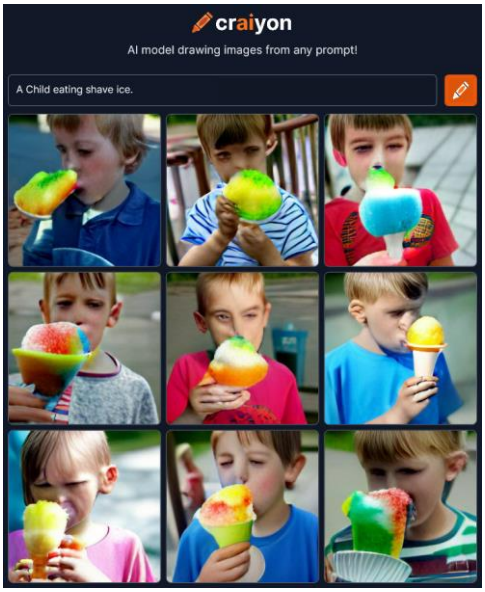

Topics

- Words
- Syntax
- Meaning
- Discourse

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- Syntax
- Meaning
- Discourse

Applications exploiting each

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Applications – Language Processing versus Data Processing?

- An application that requires the use of **knowledge about human languages**

  Example: Is Linux/Unix wc (word count) an example of a language processing application?

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Applications – Language Processing versus Data Processing?

- An application that requires the use of **knowledge about human languages**

  Example: Is Linux/Unix **wc** (word count) an example of a language processing application?

  - When it counts words:
  - When it counts lines and bytes:

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Applications – Language Processing versus Data Processing?

- An application that requires the use of **knowledge about human languages**

  Example: Is Linux/Unix **wc** (word count) an example of a language processing application?

  - When it counts words: Yes
    - To count words you need to know what a word is.
      That is knowledge of language.
  - When it counts lines and bytes: No
    - Lines and bytes are computer artifacts, not linguistic entities.

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Some big applications requiring knowledge of language

- Question answering
- Conversation agents
- Summarization
- Machine Translation

These require a tremendous amount of knowledge of language.

Example

- Siri:

  What is the population of Bryn Mawr?

  What should I eat today?

  Tell me a joke.

What knowledge is needed?

- Speech recognition & synthesis

  Knowledge of English words (e.g. what they mean,…)

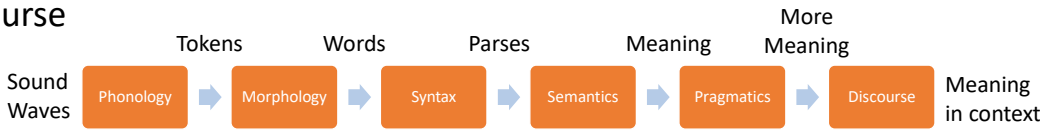
- How groups of words “clump”
  - What the clumps mean?

Course Content

- Linguistic topics
  - Phonology, morphology, syntax, discourse structure
- Formal Systems
  - Regular languages, context-free grammars, logic
- Applications

The Pipeline

- Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Semantics
- Pragmatics
- Discourse



Ambiguity

- Computational Linguists are obsessed with ambiguity
- It is a fundamental problem of computational linguistics
- Resolving ambiguity is a crucial goal

Ambiguity

- Find at least five meanings of this sentence:

  I made her duck.

Ambiguity

- Find at least five meanings of this sentence:

  I made her duck.

  - I cooked duck for her (to eat)
  - I cooked the duck she owned
  - I created the (plaster?) duck she owns
  - I caused her to quickly lower her head or body
  - I waved my magic wand and turned her into a duck
  - …

Ambiguity is Pervasive

I made her duck.

- I caused her to quickly lower her head or body
  - Lexical category: "duck" can be a N or V
- I cooked the duck she owned
  - Lexical category: "her" can be a possessive ("of her") or a dative ("for her")
- I created the (plaster?) duck she owns
  - Lexical semantics: "make" can mean "create" or "cook"

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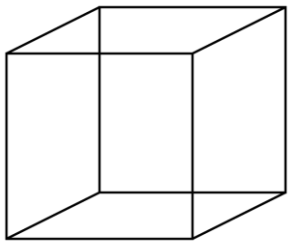
Ambiguity is Pervasive

- **Phonology**
  - I mate or duck
  - I'm eight or duck
  - Eye maid; her duck
  - Aye mate, her duck
  - I maid her duck
  - I'm aid her duck
  - I mate her duck
  - I'm ate her duck
  - I'm ate or duck
  - I mate or duck



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Dealing with ambiguity

- **Tightly coupled** interaction among processing levels; Knowledge from other levels can help resolve ambiguity.
- Ignore ambiguity as it occurs and hope that other levels can help resolve it – Pipeline processing
- Make the most likely choices – probabilistic approaches
- Don't do anything, maybe it won't matter

Models & Algorithms

- Models – formalisms that are used to capture the various kinds of linguistic knowledge that we need.

  State machines, Rule-based approaches, Logical formalisms, Probabilistic models, etc.

- Algorithms – used to manipulate the knowledge representations

  Transducers/filters, state-space search, dynamic programming, classifiers, etc.

The Pipeline

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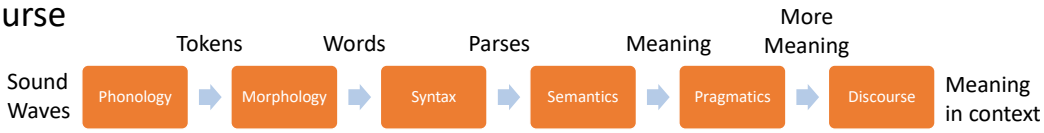

References

- Much of this material extracted from Chapter 1 of Speech & Language Processing by Jurafsky and Martin, 3rd Edition. Pearson, 2009.