MediaMeter: A Global Monitor for Online News Coverage

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What we are aiming at

Finding novel topics in news streams

So far not much success in the literature (extraction, machine learning)

Problem

Frequencies of (manually assigned) topic descriptors that appeared in the New York Times from June to December, 2013.



Statistics



Frequency > 10 : 12.6%

SVM cannot handle a huge taxonomy (Liu, 2005)

The number of unique topics in NYT over 6 months exceeds 8,000.

Approach

Memory Based Topic Label Generation

WikiLabel

How it works: Overview

- 1. Look up Wikipedia to find pages most relevant to a news story
- 2. Generate label candidates from page titles
- 3. Pick those that are deemed most fit to represent the content

WikiLabel: Concept Generation with Wikipedia



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Mechanics



$$Prox(p[l], \vec{\theta}|_N) = \lambda Sr(p[l], \vec{\theta}|_N) + (1 - \lambda)Lo(l, \vec{\theta})$$

content similarity

relevance of label

$$Sr(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{q}) = \left(1 + \sum_{t}^{N} (\mathbf{q}(t) - \mathbf{r}(t))^2\right)^{-1}$$

$$Lo(l, \mathbf{v}) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{|l|} I(l[i], \mathbf{v})}{|l|} - 1$$

$$I(w, v) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } w \in v \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

What if Wikipedia does not know the event

Use sentence compression to generalize

Example

2009 detention of American hikers by Iran

detention detention by Iran detention of hikers detention of hikers by Iran detention of American hikers by Iran 2009 detention 2009 detention by Iran 2009 detention of hikers 2009 detention of hikers 2009 detention of hikers by Iran 2009 detention of American hikers by Iran

Making it shorter makes it more general

Dependency pruning



Use every NP in the title as a resource



What you get with extension



Testing it out in the field

COUNTRY	MEDIA OUTLETS	#outlets	#stories
US/UK	THE NEW YORK TIMES, YAHOO, CNN,	9	2,230(239,844)
	MSNBC, FOX, WASHINGTON POST, ABC,		
	BBC, REUTERS		
SOUTH-KOREA	JOONGANG ILBO (English edition),	2	$2,\!271(19,\!008)$
	CHOSUN ILBO (English edition)		
JAPAN	ASAHI, JCAST, JIJI.COM, MAINICHI,	11	$2,815\ (259,364)$
	NHK, NIKKEI, SANKEI, TBS, TOKYO, TV-		
	ASAHI, YOMIURI		

North-Korean Agenda	North-Korea relations North-Korea nuclear program North-Korean defectors North-Korea Russia relations	0.144 0.09 0.069 0.035
	North-Korea South-Korea relations	
North-Korean nuclear issue 0.585		
Workers' Party of Korea 0.073		
North-Korean defectors 0.071		
North-Korean abductions of Japanese citizens 0.049		
Korean War 🗖 0.033		
Yeonpyeongdo>>bombardment 📕 0.024		
North-Korean missile test 📕 0.023		
North-Korea United-States relations 📕 0.022		
North-Korean nuclear test 📕 0.015		
Human rights in North-Korea 📕 0.014		
North-Korean abductions 0.013		
North-Korea sponsored schools in Japan 📕 0.01		
First Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea 0.008	North-Korean abductions of Japanese citizens	0.001
Prisons in North-Korea 0.005		0 0.1 0.2
North-South Summit 0.005		Topic Popularity (South Korea)
North Korean abductions of Japanese 0.003		
Mount Kumgang>>Tourist Region 0.003		
0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8		
Topic Popularity (Japan)	North-Korea nuclear program	0.18
	North-Korea relations	0.143
	North-Korea Russia relations	0.039
	North-Korea United-States relations	0.032
Abductions of Japanese 0.025	North-Korean test	0.028
0.025		
North-Korean nuclear issues 0.31		
North-Korean nuclear issues 0.216		
Ryongchon disaster 0.071		
Ryongchon disaster 0.317		
Kim Jong-il's visit to China 0.06		
Kim Jong-11's visit to China 0.079		
Culture in North Korea 0.039		
North South relations 0.011 Japan		
North-South relations 0.21 South-Korea		

News Coverage Ratio

0.4

0.6

0.2

0

0

People's Republic North-Korea relations [0.001

0.1 **Topic Popularity (US)** 0.2

Human Evaluation

RATING	EXPLANATION
5	Title is one of major topics in Article. Article gives a particular
	attention to Title.
4	Part of Article deals with Title. Article makes a clear reference
	to Title.
3	Part of Title has some relevance to a dominant theme of Article.
	Example: Title 'European Tax System' is partially relevant to
	an article discussing US Tax System.
2	Article makes a reference to part of Title.
$\parallel 1$	Title has no relevance to Article, in whatever way.

LANGUAGE	RATING	#instances
ENGLISH	4.63	97
JAPANESE	4.41	92



Trending Topics in the US Online News Media



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Evaluation Metric: ROUGE-W

s_1	s_2	ROUGE-W
The United States of	The United States of America	1
America		
The United States	The United States of America	0.529
States	The United States of America	0.077

$$\mathcal{S}(\mathcal{C}|_k, l) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}|_k} \text{ROUGE-W}(c, l)$$

Results

Text Rank vs. WikiLabel

	TRANK	RM0	RM_1	RM_1/X
NYT	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.069
TDT	0.030	0.042	0.048	0.051
FOX*	0.231	0.264	0.264	0.298

New York Times (2013) : 19,952 TDT (1994) : 15,863 FOX (2015) :11,014 Wikipedia (2012)

Summary

- Talked about topic detection using WikiLabel
- Leveraging Wikipedia
- Generalizing concept with sentence compression
- Use of sentence compression led to a huge improvement, producing performance twice as good as that of TextRank
- Online topic learning seems promising

Solution to Problem

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