

Cross-Lingual Morphological Tagging for Low-Resource Languages

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Abstract

Morphologically rich languages often lack the annotated linguistic resources required to develop accurate natural language processing tools. We propose models suitable for training morphological taggers with rich tagsets for low-resource languages without using direct supervision. Our approach extends existing approaches of projecting part-of-speech tags across languages, using bitext to infer constraints on the possible tags for a given word type or token. We propose a tagging model using Wsabie, a discriminative embedding-based model with rank-based learning. In our evaluation on 11 languages, on average this model performs on par with a baseline weakly-supervised HMM, while being more scalable. Multilingual experiments show that the method performs best when projecting between related language pairs. Despite the inherently lossy projection, we show that the morphological tags predicted by our models improve the downstream performance of a parser by +0.6 LAS on average.

1 Introduction

Morphologically rich languages pose significant challenges for Natural Language Processing (NLP) due to data-sparseness caused by large vocabularies. Intermediate processing is often required to address the limitations of only using surface forms, especially for small datasets. Common morphological processing tasks include segmentation (Creutz and Lagus, 2007; Snyder and Barzilay, 2008), paradigm learning (Durrett and DeNero, 2013; Ahlberg et al., 2015) and morphological tagging (Müller and Schuetze, 2015). In this

paper we focus on the latter.

Parts-of-speech (POS) tagging is the most common form of syntactic annotation. However, the granularity of POS varies across languages and annotation-schemas, and tagsets have often been extended to include tags for morphologically-marked properties such as number, case or degree. To enable cross-lingual learning, a small set of universal (coarse-grained) POS tags have been proposed (Petrov et al., 2012). For morphological processing this can be complemented with a set of attribute-feature values that makes the annotation more fine-grained (Zeman, 2008; Sylak-Glassman et al., 2015b).

Tagging text with morphologically-enriched labels has been shown to benefit downstream tasks such as parsing (Tsarfaty et al., 2010) and semantic role labelling (Hajič et al., 2009). In generation tasks such as machine translation these tags can help to generate the right form of a word and to model agreement (Toutanova et al., 2008). Morphological information can also benefit automatic speech recognition for low-resource languages (Besacier et al., 2014).

However, annotating sufficient data to learn accurate morphological taggers is expensive and relies on linguistic expertise, and is therefore currently only feasible for the world’s most widely-used languages. In this paper we are interested in learning morphological taggers without the availability of supervised data. A successful paradigm for learning without direct supervision is to make use of word-aligned parallel text, with a resource-rich language on one side and a resource-poor language on the other side (Yarowsky et al., 2001; Fossum and Abney, 2005; Das and Petrov, 2011; Täckström et al., 2013).

In this paper we extend these methods, that have mostly been proposed for universal POS-taggers, to learn weakly-supervised morphological taggers.

Our approach is based on projecting token and type constraints across parallel text, learning a tagger in a weakly-supervised manner from the projected constraints (Täckström et al., 2013). We propose an embedding-based model trained with the Wsabie algorithm (Weston et al., 2011), and compare this approach against a baseline HMM model.

We evaluate the projected tags for a set of languages for which morphological tags are available in the Universal Dependency corpora. To show the feasibility of our approach, and to compare the performance of different models, we use English as source language. Then we perform an evaluation on all language pairs in the set of target languages which shows that the best performance is obtained when projecting between genealogically related languages.

As an extrinsic evaluation of our approach, we show that NLP models can benefit from using these induced tags even if they are not as accurate as tags produced by supervised models, by evaluating the effect of features obtained from tags predicted by the induced morphological taggers in dependency parsing.

2 Universal Morphological Tags

In order to do cross-lingual learning we require a common morphological tagset. To evaluate these models we require datasets in multiple languages which have been annotated with such a consistent schema. The treebanks annotated in the Universal Dependencies (UD) project (de Marneffe et al., 2014) are suitable for this purpose.

All the data is annotated with universal POS tags, a set of 17 tags¹. We use UD v1.2 (Nivre et al., 2015), which contain 25 languages annotated with morphological attributes (called features). In addition to POS, there are 17 universal *attributes*, which each takes one of a set of *values* when annotated. The morphological tag of a token denotes the union of its morphological attribute-value pairs, including its POS.

Although the schema is consistent across languages, there are language-specific phenomena and considerations that result in some mismatches for a given pair of languages. One source of this is that the UD treebanks were mostly constructed by fully or semi-automatic conversion of exist-

¹This extends, but is not fully consistent with, the set of 12 tags proposed by Petrov et al. (2012).

ing treebanks which had used different annotation schemes. Furthermore, not all the attributes and values appear in all languages (e.g. additional cases in morphologically-rich languages such as Finnish), and there are still a number of language-specific tags not in the universal schema. Finally, in some instances properties that are not realised in the surface word form are absent from the annotation (e.g. in English the person and number of verbs are only annotated for third-person singular, as there are no distinct morphological forms for their other values).

An example of the morphological annotation employed is given in Figure 1. Note that the annotations for aligned word-pairs are not fully consistent. Some attributes appear only in the English treebank (e.g. Voice), while others appear only in the Dutch treebank (e.g. Aspect, Subcat).

3 Tag Projection across Bitext

Our approach to train morphological taggers is based on the paradigm of projecting token and type constraints as proposed by Täckström et al. (2013). The training data consist of parallel text with the resource-rich language on the source-side and the low-resource language on the target side. The source-side text is tagged with a supervised morphological tagger. For every target-side sentence, the type and token constraints are used to construct a set of permitted tags for each token in the sentence. These constraints will then be used to train morphological taggers.

3.1 Type and token constraints

To extract constraints from the parallel text, we first obtain bidirectional word alignments. To ensure high quality alignments, alignment pairs with a confidence below a fixed threshold α are removed. The motivation for using only high-confidence alignments is that incorrect alignments will hurt the performance of the model, while it is easier to use more parallel text to obtain a sufficient number of alignments for training.

The first class of constraints that we extract from the parallel text is type constraints. For each word type, we construct a distribution over tags for the word by accumulating counts of the morphological tags of source-side tokens that are aligned to instances of the word type. The set of tags with probability above some threshold β is taken as the tag dictionary entry for that word type. To

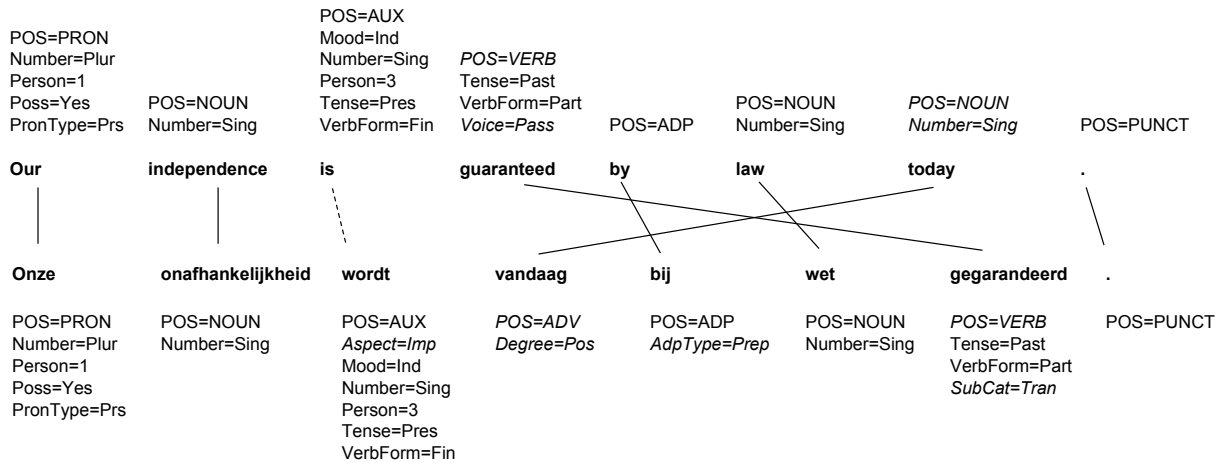


Figure 1: A parallel sentence in English and Dutch annotated with universal morphological tags, showing high-confidence automatic word-alignments. Attribute-value pairs that occur only on one side of an aligned pair of tokens are indicated in *italics*. The dashed line indicates a low-confidence alignment point, which is ignored in our projection method.

construct the training examples, each token whose type occurs in the tag dictionary is restricted to the set of tags in the dictionary entry. For tokens for which the dictionary entry is empty, all the tags are included in the set of permitted tags (this happens when the tag distribution is too flat and all the probabilities are below the threshold). In principle, type constraints can also be obtained from an external dictionary, but in this paper we assume we do not have such a resource.

The second class of constraints places restrictions on word tokens. Every target token is constrained to the tag of its aligned source token, while unaligned tokens can take any tag.

Token constraints are combined with type constraints as proposed by Täckström et al. (2013): If a token is unaligned, its type constraints are used. If the token is aligned, and there is no dictionary entry for the token type, the token constraint is used. If there is a dictionary entry for the token type, and the token constraint tag is in the dictionary, the token constraint is used. If the token constraint tag is not in the dictionary entry, the type constraints are used.

4 Learning from Projected Tags

Next we propose models to learn a morphological tagger from cross-lingually projected constraints.

4.1 Related work

HMMs have previously been used for weakly-supervised learning from token or type con-

straints (Das and Petrov, 2011; Li et al., 2012; Täckström et al., 2013). HMMs are generative models, and in this setting the words in the target sentence form the observed sequence and the morphological tags the hidden sequence. The projected constraints are used as partially observed training data for the hidden sequence.

Täckström et al. (2013) proposed a discriminative CRF model that relies on incorporating two sets of constraints, of which one is a subset of the other. Ganchev and Das (2013) used a similar CRF model, but instead of using the projected tags as hard constraints, they were employed as soft constraints with posterior regularization.

The model of Wisniewski et al. (2014) makes greedy predictions with a history-based model, that includes previously predicted tags in the sequence, during training and testing. The model is trained with a variant of the perceptron algorithm that allows a set of positive labels. When an incorrect prediction is made during training, the parameters are updated in the direction of all the positive labels.

4.2 HMM model

As a baseline model we use an HMM where the transition and emission distributions are parameterized by log-linear models (a feature-HMM). Training is performed with L-BFGS rather than with the EM algorithm. This parameterization was proposed by Berg-Kirkpatrick et al. (2010) and applied to cross-lingual POS induction by Das and

Petrov (2011) and Täckström et al. (2013).

Let \mathbf{w} be the target sentence and \mathbf{t} the sequence of tags for the sentence. The marginal probability of a sequence during training is

$$p(\mathbf{w}_{1:n}) = \sum_{\mathbf{t}_{1:n} \in \mathcal{T}} \prod_{i=1}^n p(t_i | t_{i-1}) p(w_i | t_i),$$

where \mathcal{T} is the set of tag sequences allowed by the type and token constraints. The probability of all other tag sequences are assumed to be 0.

The features in our model are similar to those used by Täckström et al. (2013), including features based on word and tag identity, suffixes up to length 3, punctuation and word clusters. Word clusters are obtained by clustering frequent words into 256 clusters with the Exchange algorithm (Uszkoreit and Brants, 2008), using the data and methodology detailed in Täckström et al. (2012).

4.3 Wsabee model

We propose a discriminative model based on Wsabee (Weston et al., 2011), a shallow neural network that learns to optimize precision at the top of a ranked list of labels. In our application, the goal is to learn to rank the set of tags allowed by the projected constraints in the training data above all other tags. In contrast to the HMM, which performs inference over the entire sequence, Wsabee makes the predictions at each token independently, based on a large context-size. Therefore, Wsabee inference is linear in the number of tags, while for an HMM it is quadratic, making the Wsabee model much faster during training and decoding.

Wsabee maps the input features and output labels into a low-dimensional joint space. The input vector x for a word w consists of the concatenation of word embeddings and sparse features extracted from w and the surrounding context. A mapping

$$\Theta_I(x) = Vx$$

maps $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ into \mathbb{R}^D , with matrix $V \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times d}$ of parameters. The output tag t is mapped into the same space by

$$\Theta_O(t) = W_t,$$

where $W \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times L}$ is a matrix of output tag embeddings and W_t selects the column embedding of tag t . The model score for tag t given input token with feature vector x is the dot product

$$f_t(x) = \Theta_O(t)^T \Theta_I(x),$$

where the tags are ranked by the magnitude of $f_t(x)$. The norms of the columns of V and W are constrained, which acts as a regularizer.

The loss function is a margin-based hinge loss based on the rank of a tag given by $f_t(x)$. The rank is estimated by sampling an incorrect tag uniformly with replacement until the sampled tag violates the margin with a correct tag. Training is performed with stochastic gradient descent by performing a gradient step against the violating tag.

The word embedding features for the Wsabee models consist of 64-dimensional word vectors of the 5 words on either side of a token and of the token itself. The embeddings are trained with word2vec (Mikolov et al., 2013) on large corpora of newswire text.

Sparse features are based on prefixes and suffixes up to length 3 as well as word cluster features for a window size 3 around the token, using the clusters described in the previous section.

5 Experiments

We evaluate our model in two settings. The first evaluation measures the accuracy of the cross-lingual taggers on language pairs where annotated data is available for both languages. The annotated target language data is used only during evaluation and not for training. Second, we perform a downstream evaluation by including the morphological attributes predicted by the tagger as features in a dependency parser to gauge the effectiveness of our approach in a setting where one does not have access to gold morphological annotations.

5.1 Experimental setup

As source of parallel training data we use Europarl² (Koehn, 2005) version 7. Sentences are tokenized but not lower-cased, and sentences longer than 80 words are excluded. In our experiments we learn taggers for a set of 11 European languages that have both UD training data with morphological features, and parallel data in Europarl: Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Slovene, Spanish and Swedish. We train cross-lingual models in two setups: The first uses English as source language; in the second we train models with different source languages for each target language.

Word alignments over the parallel data are obtained using FastAlign (Dyer et al., 2013). High-

²<http://www.statmt.org/europarl/>

confidence bidirectional word alignments are constructed by intersecting the alignments in the two directions and including alignment points only if the posterior probabilities in both directions are above the alignment threshold α . For each language pair all the word-aligned parallel data available (between 10 and 50 million target-side tokens per language) are used to extract the type constraints, and the models are trained on a subset of 2 million target-side tokens (optionally with their token constraints).

The number of distinct attribute-value pairs appearing in the tagsets depends on the language pair and ranges between 35 and 79, with 54 on average (including POS tags). The number of distinct composite morphological tags is 423 on average, with a much larger range, between 81 and 1483. The English UD data has 116 tags composed out of 51 distinct attribute-value pairs. Therefore, we can project a reasonable number of morpho-syntactic attributes from English, although the number of attribute combinations that occur in the data is less than for morphologically richer languages.

The source text is tagged with supervised taggers, trained with Wsabie on the UD training data for each of the source languages used. For each language pair, we train a distinct source-side model covering only the attribute types appearing in both languages. This is meant to obtain a maximally accurate source-side tagger, while accepting that our approach cannot predict target-side attributes that are absent from the source language. The average accuracy of the English taggers on the UD test data is 94.96%. The source-side taggers over all the language pairs we experiment on have an average accuracy of 95.75%, with a minimum of 89.14% and a maximum of 98.59%.

5.2 Tuning

The hyperparameters of the Wsabie taggers are tuned on the English development set, and the same parameters are used for the Wsabie target-side models trained on the projected tags. The optimal setting is a learning rate of 0.01, embedding dimension size $D = 50$, margin 0.1, and 25 training iterations.

Hyperparameters for the projection models are set by tuning on the UD dev set accuracy for English to Danish. English was chosen as it is the language with the most available data and the most

likely to be used when projecting to other languages; Danish simply because its corpus size is typical of the larger languages in Europarl. Using a small grid search, we choose the parameters that give the best average accuracy across all four projection model instances we consider. This allows using the same hyperparameters for all these models, an important factor in making them comparable in the evaluation, since the hyperparameters determine the effective training data. The parameters tuned in this manner are the alignment threshold α , which is set to 0.8, and the type distribution threshold β , set to 0.3.

5.3 Tagging evaluation setup

In order to evaluate the induced taggers on the annotated UD data for the target languages, we define two settings that circumvent mismatches between source and target language annotations to different degrees.

The STANDARD setting involves first making minor corrections to certain predicted POS values to account for inconsistencies in the original annotated data. When predicted by the model, the POS tag values absent from the target language training corpus are deterministically mapped to the most-related value present in the target language in the following way: PROP to NOUN; SYM and INTJ to X; SYM and X to PUNCT. Besides POS, the evaluation considers only those attribute *types* that appear in both languages' training corpora, i.e., the set of attributes for which the model was trained. Note that this leaves cases intact where the model predicts certain attribute *values* that appear only in one of the two languages; it is thus penalised for making mistakes on values that it cannot learn under our projection approach.

The second evaluation setting, INTERSECTED, relaxes the latter aspect: it only considers attribute-value pairs appearing in the training corpora of both languages. The motivation for this is to get a better measurement of the accuracy of our method, assuming that the tagsets are consistent.

In both settings we report macro-averaged F1 scores over all the considered attribute types. Results for Wsabie are averaged over 3 random restarts because it uses stochastic optimization during training.

5.4 Tagging results projecting from English

Following previous work on projecting POS tags and the assumption that it is easier to obtain paral-

Model	STANDARD		INTERSECTED		POS	
HMM projected type	53.86	(-)	58.67	(-)	79.45	(-)
HMM projected type and token	48.49	(-)	52.40	(-)	73.61	(-)
unambiguous type	51.72	(0.33)	56.22	(0.36)	79.58	(0.22)
projected type	53.60	(0.16)	58.11	(0.18)	80.09	(0.12)
projected type and token	53.36	(0.19)	57.77	(0.21)	79.94	(0.11)
supervised 1K	62.44	(1.52)	61.74	(1.55)	72.51	(0.82)
supervised type	75.55	(1.88)	74.72	(1.95)	75.91	(1.16)

Table 1: Cross-lingual morphological tagging from English: Macro F1 scores averaged across 11 languages. All the results except for the first two rows are for Wsabie models. The standard deviation over 3 runs is given in brackets.

lel data between a low-resource language and English than with another language, we start by training cross-lingual taggers using English as source language.

The overall tagging results are given in Table 1. In addition to evaluating the morphological tags in the two settings described above, we also report accuracies for POS tags only, projected jointly with the morphological attributes.

We find that for both the HMM and Wsabie models the performance with type and token constraints is worse than when only using type constraints. Täckström et al. (2013) similarly found that for HMMs for POS projection, models with joint constraints do not perform better than those using only type constraints. They postulated that this is due to the type dictionaries having the same biases as token projections, and therefore the model with joint constraints not being able to filter out systematic errors in the projections.

For both sets of constraints the performance of the Wsabie model is close to that of the corresponding HMM, despite the Wsabie model having a linear runtime against the quadratic runtime of the HMM.

As another baseline we train a Wsabie model on unambiguous type constraints, i.e., we only extract training examples for words which only have a single tag in the tag dictionary. Including ambiguous type constraints gives an average improvement of 2.2%.

As a target ceiling on performance we train a Wsabie model with supervised type constraints. This model uses type constraints based on an oracle morphological tag dictionary extracted from the gold training data of the target language. It is trained on the same training data as the projected models (without token constraints). The

model scores higher on STANDARD than on INTERSECTED, as it has access to annotations for the full set of tags used in the target language, not just the restricted set that can be projected. This oracle performs on average 17% better than the projected type constraints model on INTERSECTED. Therefore, despite the promising results of our approach, there is still a considerable amount of noise in the type constraints extracted from the aligned data.

We also compare the performance of the model to that of a supervised model trained on a small annotated corpus. Average performance when training on 1000 annotated tokens is only a few points higher than that of the best projected model for INTERSECTED. Given that it is expensive to let annotators learn to annotate a large set of attributes, even for a small corpus, it shows that our model can bring considerable benefits in practice to the development of NLP models for low-resource languages. It is possible to obtain further improvements in performance by learning jointly from a small annotated dataset and parallel data (Duong et al., 2014), but we leave that for future work.

The results when evaluating only the POS tags follow the same pattern, except that the overall level of accuracy is much higher than when considering all morphological attributes. For POS, the models with projected constraints actually perform better than those with supervised type constraints. In this case the benefits from learning constraints from a larger set of word types seem to outweigh the noise in the projections. The projected models are also more accurate than the supervised model trained on 1000 tokens.

5.5 Multilingual tagging results

Results for cross-lingual experiments on all pairs of the target languages under consideration are

	bg	cs	da	es	fi	it	nl	pl	pt	sl	sv	Avg.
en	46.7	49.7	58.0	55.7	54.0	59.6	64.1	45.0	57.8	51.0	47.9	53.6
bg	-	58.3	59.2	51.2	52.6	43.2	38.7	52.8	41.1	49.2	53.6	50.0
cs	55.2	-	54.5	42.3	48.4	51.3	45.0	56.8	33.6	67.5	53.2	50.8
da	61.9	61.6	-	41.8	49.1	45.5	49.6	53.7	44.0	49.3	72.1	52.9
es	54.3	58.8	41.3	-	53.0	74.4	52.1	52.2	69.2	53.8	46.9	55.6
fi	46.6	48.7	45.3	39.5	-	50.9	36.8	37.4	30.1	55.5	57.8	44.9
it	43.6	59.4	44.0	74.0	53.3	-	54.3	46.5	69.2	55.9	47.0	54.7
nl	44.7	59.5	56.2	54.8	54.0	60.3	-	55.9	58.6	48.6	51.6	54.4
pl	52.7	58.6	46.3	37.5	42.1	47.9	42.1	-	40.7	56.0	42.6	46.6
pt	45.4	45.0	49.6	66.2	42.6	69.5	50.1	43.5	-	47.8	43.9	50.3
sl	46.6	60.7	35.2	40.9	49.2	49.8	36.0	54.1	35.0	-	40.4	44.8
sv	50.1	54.6	70.7	47.7	57.2	49.7	46.9	41.6	46.3	43.5	-	50.8
Avg	49.8	55.9	50.9	50.1	50.5	54.7	46.9	49.0	47.8	52.6	50.6	

Table 2: Cross-lingual morphological tagging results (STANDARD F1 scores) per source and target language, Wsabee projected model with type constraints. Rows indicate source language and columns target language.

given in Table 2, using the STANDARD evaluation setup. We make use of Wsabee for these experiments, as it is a more efficient model, which is especially significant when training models with large tagsets.

We see that there is large variance in the morphological tagging accuracies across language pairs. In most cases the source language for which we learn the most accurate model for morphological tagging on the target language is a related language. The Romance languages we consider (Spanish, Italian and Portuguese) seem to transfer particularly well across each other. Swedish and Danish also transfer well to each other, while English transfers best to Dutch, which the former is most closely related to among the languages compared here. However, there are also some cases of unrelated source languages performing best: Using Danish as source language gives the highest performing models for both Bulgarian and Czech. When comparing these results, however, one should keep in mind that the attribute type sets used to train taggers from different source languages for the same target language is not always the same (due to our definition of the STANDARD evaluation), therefore these results should not be interpreted directly as indicating which source language gives the best target language performance on a particular tagset.

We compare the results of the STANDARD and INTERSECTED evaluations, both when using English as source language, and when using the source language which gives the highest accuracy on STANDARD for each target language (Table 3). We see that the gap in performance between the two evaluations tends to be larger when project-

	STANDARD		INTERSECTED	
	en-	best-	en-	best-
bg	46.7	61.88	51.6	64.97
cs	49.7	61.57	55.7	63.97
da	58.0	70.74	65.4	73.14
es	55.7	74.01	60.7	74.62
fi	54.0	57.23	59.1	59.11
it	59.6	74.42	66.1	75.32
nl	64.1	64.12	64.7	64.66
pl	45.0	56.83	47.3	60.39
pt	57.8	69.22	60.2	73.10
sl	51.0	67.48	53.4	69.86
sv	47.9	72.07	55.1	74.60

Table 3: Comparison of the performance of the most accurate cross-lingual taggers for each target language, compared to having English as source language.

ing from English than when projecting from the source language which performs best for each target language.

One of the main causes of variation in performance is annotation differences. Languages that are morphologically rich tend to have lower performance, but we also see variation between similar languages: There is a 10% performance gap between Danish and Swedish when projecting from English, even though they are closely related.

We also investigate the effect of the choice of source language on the accuracy of the projected POS tags (Table 4). Again, we compare the performance with English as source (which is standard for previous work on POS projection) to that of the best source language for each target. Although the gap in performance is smaller than for

Target	en-	best-
bg	81.84	81.84 (en)
cs	80.41	86.29 (sl)
da	80.69	84.85 (sv)
es	86.02	89.04 (it)
fi	77.07	77.48 (cs)
it	83.46	86.91 (es)
nl	73.05	76.02 (da)
pl	79.38	82.66 (cs)
pt	84.30	87.98 (es)
sl	74.71	83.21 (cs)
sv	80.37	86.47 (da)

Table 4: Wsabie projected model with type constraints, POS accuracy with English and the best language for each target as source.

the full evaluation, we see that for most target languages we can still do better by projecting from a language other than English.

Detailed per attribute results for the STANDARD evaluation are given in Table 5, again comparing the results of projecting from English to that of the most accurate model for each target language. We see that there are large differences in accuracy across attributes and across languages. In some cases, the transfer is unsuccessful. For example, degree accuracy in Italian is 2% F1 when projecting from English and 14% F1 projecting from Portuguese. Some of the cases can be explained by differences in where an attribute is marked: For example, for definiteness the performance is 1% from English to Bulgarian, as Bulgarian marks definiteness on nouns and adjectives rather than on determiners. Other attributes are very language-dependent. Gender transfers well between Romance languages, but poorly when transferring from English.

5.6 Parsing evaluation

To evaluate the effect of our models on a downstream task, we apply the cross-lingual taggers induced using English as source language to dependency parsing. This is applicable to a scenario where a language might have a corpus annotated with dependency trees and universal POS, but not morphological attributes. We want to determine how much of the performance gain from features based on supervised morphological tags we can recover with the tags predicted by our model.

As baseline we use a reimplementaion of

	no morph	projected type	supervised
bg	79.14	78.99	79.62
cs	76.88	77.25	79.03
da	69.73	70.04	71.51
es	77.66	78.08	78.64
fi	61.78	62.68	70.42
it	81.51	81.49	82.24
nl	64.76	65.80	65.92
pl	70.83	71.89	74.03
pt	75.92	76.71	77.98
sl	77.17	77.46	79.25
sv	72.92	74.09	74.58
Avg.	73.48	74.04	75.75

Table 6: Dependency parsing results (LAS) with no, projected and supervised morphological tags.

Zhang and Nivre (2011), an arc-eager transition-based dependency parser with a rich feature-set, with beam-size 8, trained for 10 epochs with a structured perceptron. We assume that universal POS tags are available, using a supervised SVM POS tagger for training and evaluation.

To include the morphology, we add features based on the predicted tags of the word on top of the stack and the first two words on the buffer.

Parsing results are given in Table 6. We report labelled attachment scores (LAS) for the baseline with no morphological tags, the model with features predicted by Wsabie with projected type constraints, and the model with features predicted by the supervised morphological tagger.

We obtain improvements in parsing accuracies for all languages except Bulgarian when adding the induced morphological tags. Using the projected tags as features recovers 24.67% (0.6 LAS absolute) of the average gain that supervised morphology features delivers over the baseline parser. The parser with features from the supervised tagger trained on 1000 tokens obtains 73.63 LAS on average. This improvement of +0.15 LAS over the baseline versus the +0.6 of our method shows that the tags predicted by our projected models are more useful as features than those predicted by a small supervised model.

To investigate the effect of source language choice for the projected models in this evaluation, we trained a model for Swedish using Danish as source language. The parsing performance is insignificantly different from using English as source, despite the accuracy of the tags projected

Target	bg		cs		da		es		fi		it		nl		pl		pt		sl		sv	
Source	en	da	en	it	en	sv	en	it	en	sv	en	pt	en	en	en	nl	en	it	en	cs	en	da
Case	40	62	2	-	62	18	4	-	5	26	-	-	16	16	4	4	50	-	2	68	10	14
Definite	1	68	-	-	0	64	97	97	-	-	89	91	89	89	-	-	93	93	2	-	19	66
Degree	67	63	69	2	72	77	5	26	50	47	2	14	56	56	57	47	2	18	63	74	70	81
Gender	1	6	2	46	7	78	0	85	-	-	2	80	0	0	3	0	1	77	2	61	7	81
Mood	61	66	55	83	81	94	72	80	69	79	76	83	69	69	58	63	74	75	68	91	73	94
Number	69	71	67	75	60	82	54	92	67	68	57	90	78	78	69	63	62	75	68	91	64	94
NumType	64	62	91	86	84	-	82	85	86	-	89	66	78	78	-	-	63	65	86	73	-	-
Person	54	28	63	68	56	-	58	79	51	-	57	80	82	82	55	59	61	74	67	91	-	-
Poss	76	77	90	84	97	98	94	93	-	-	87	88	64	64	-	-	96	98	67	62	99	97
PronType	72	71	41	38	46	2	82	74	42	0	76	71	81	81	38	50	81	79	43	73	0	3
Reflex	0	85	0	0	62	-	0	0	61	-	0	0	60	60	0	97	0	0	-	-	-	-
Tense	60	63	68	70	81	85	69	81	67	77	75	75	74	74	66	66	64	72	62	74	65	86
VerbForm	43	49	59	78	75	79	79	81	64	65	82	81	78	78	56	66	79	72	59	74	73	86
Voice	9	75	9	-	6	89	-	-	10	76	-	-	-	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	15	90

Table 5: Cross-lingual tagging results (F1 scores) per language and per attribute (not showing POS and a small number of attribute types that only appear with 1 or 2 language pairs), for Wsabie projected with type constraints. English and best source language.

from Danish being higher.

Faruqui et al. (2016) show that features from induced morpho-syntactic lexicons can also improve dependency parsing accuracy. However, their method relies on having a seed lexicon of 1000 annotated word types, while our method does not require any morphological annotations in the target language.

6 Future Work

A big challenge in cross-lingual morphology is that of relatedness between source and target languages. Although we evaluate our models on multiple source-target language pairs, more work is required to investigate strategies for choosing which source language to use for a low-resource target language. A related direction is to constructing models from multiple source languages, as our results show that the overall best-performing source language for a given target language may not always have the best performance on all attributes.

Another direction is to make use of dictionaries such as Wiktionary to obtain type constraints, similar to previous work on weakly-supervised POS tagging (Li et al., 2012; Täckström et al., 2013). Sylak-Glassman et al. (2015b) and Sylak-Glassman et al. (2015a) proposed a morphological schema and method to extract annotations in that schema from Wiktionary. Although different from the schema used in this paper, their method can be used to extract type dictionaries for morphological tags that can be used to complement constraints extracted from parallel data.

Finally, greater use can be made of syntactic in-

formation: There is a close relation between the syntactic structure expressed in dependency parses and inflections in morphologically rich languages; by including this syntactic structure in our models we can induce morphological tags, e.g. related to case, that is also expressed in dependency parses.

7 Conclusion

In this paper we proposed a method that can successfully induce morphological taggers for resource-scarce languages using tags projected across bitext. It relies on access to a morphological tagger for a source-language and a moderate amount of bitext. The method obtains strong performance on a range of language pairs. We showed that downstream tasks such as dependency parsing can be improved by using the predictions from the tagger as features. Our results provide a strong baseline for future work in weakly-supervised morphological tagging.

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