

Discourse Processing WS 21/22

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Description

A text is more than a sequence of sentences. To understand a text, one needs to recognize how sentences are connected with each other and why they appear in a particular order. To capture the particular characteristics of text, we developed a range of methods in computational linguistics: local and global coherence models, anaphora and coreference resolution algorithms, methods for recognizing the rhetorical, the temporal, the causal and the argumentative structure of texts. In the seminar we first talk about linguistically well-founded classical models. Then we continue with more recent machine learning and graph based models before we turn to current neural models for text processing and understanding. The usefulness of such models can only be determined when they are integrated into applications. Hence the module will also deal with evaluating text processing algorithms within applications such as information extraction, machine translation, question answering, readability prediction, essay scoring, etc.

References

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- Webber, Bonnie et al. (2012). *Discourse structure and language technology*, Natural Language Engineering, 18, pp 437-490.

selected chapters from:

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- Bird, Steven, Ewan Klein & Edward Loper (2009). *Natural Language Processing with Python – Analyzing Text with the Natural Language Toolkit*. O’Reilly.

Journal Papers

- Webber, Bonnie, Markus Egg & Valia Kordoni (2012). Discourse structure and language technology. In Natural Language Engineering, 18(4), pp.437-490. (http://journals.cambridge.org/repo_A86UtBSJ)
- Kehler, Andrew, Laura Kertz, Hannah Rohde, & Jeffrey Elman (2008). Coherence and coreference revisited. *Journal of Semantics*, 25:1, pp. 1-44, 2008.

Dates, Topics

27.10.2021

Introduction, historical overview ...

(Stede, 2012; Webber et al., 2012; Webber & Joshi, 2012)

Introduction into discourse structure

(Grosz & Sidner, 1986; Morris & Hirst, 1991; Passonneau & Litman, 1997)

Introduction into local coherence analysis: Coreference

(Hobbs, 1978; Lappin & Leass, 1994; Kennedy & Boguraev, 1996)

Introduction into centering

(Brennan et al., 1987; Grosz et al., 1995; Tetreault, 2001; Poesio et al., 2004)

03.11.2021

Local coherence: Information status

Linguistic background: (Daneš, 1974; Chafe, 1976; Prince, 1981; 1992; Arnold et al., 2000)

Determining and using information status: (Nissim et al., 2004; Nissim, 2006; Cahill & Riester, 2009; Riester et al., 2010; Riester & Baumann, 2011; Rahman & Ng, 2011; Cahill & Riester, 2012; Markert et al., 2012; Eckart et al., 2012; Baumann & Riester, 2013; Roesiger, 2016; Hou, 2016; 2020)

to be prepared: ((Markert et al., 2012) or (Baumann & Riester, 2013) or (Hou, 2021) – <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2109.02753>)

10.11.2021

Cancelled, MS @ EMNLP/CODI

17.11.2021

Cancelled, MS @ HITS Group Leaders' Retreat

24.11.2021

The structure of documents in different genres

Linguistic background: (Swales, 1990; Kessler et al., 1997; Webber, 2009)

Determining and using document structure: (Teufel & Moens, 2002; Power et al., 2003; Sporleder & Lapata, 2004; Graham et al., 2005; Filippova & Strube, 2006; Chung, 2009; Teufel et al., 2009; Liakata et al., 2010; 2012)

Narrative structure

(Chambers & Jurafsky, 2008; 2009; Piper et al., 2021; Jahan et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2021)

Document structure: Automatic summarization

(Liakata et al., 2012; Contractor et al., 2012; Liakata et al., 2013; Xiao & Carenini,

2019; Xing et al., 2021)

to be prepared: (Teufel & Moens, 2002, pp.409-424) or (Teufel et al., 2009)

01.12.2021

Referat: Anja Nagel – (Morris & Hirst, 1991; Hirst & St-Onge, 1998)

Topic segmentation: Lexical chains

(Morris & Hirst, 1991; Barzilay & Elhadad, 1997; Hirst & St-Onge, 1998; Barzilay & Elhadad, 1999; Silber & McCoy, 2002; Galley et al., 2003; Stokes et al., 2004; Ye & Chua, 2006; Ye et al., 2007; Medelyan, 2007; Remus & Biemann, 2013)

Hierarchical topic segmentation

(Grosz & Sidner, 1986; Hsueh et al., 2006; Eisenstein, 2009; Carroll, 2010)

Topic-Segmentation: Distributional approaches

(Hearst, 1997; Beeferman et al., 1999; Reynar, 1999; Choi, 2000; Pevzner & Hearst, 2002)

Probabilistic models for topic segmentation

(Utiyama & Isahara, 2001; Eisenstein & Barzilay, 2008; Shafiei & Milios, 2008; Chen et al., 2009; Purver, 2011; Riedl & Biemann, 2021a; 2021b; Du et al., 2013; Simon et al., 2013)

Applications of topic segmentation: Automatic summarization

(Goldstein et al., 2000; Teufel & Moens, 2002; Narayanan & Harabagiu, 2004; Stokes et al., 2004)

to be prepared: (Barzilay & Elhadad, 1997) or (Galley et al., 2003) or (Du et al., 2013)

08.12.2021

Cancelled, MS @ NeurIPS

15.12.2021

Referat: Merit Wolfsteiner – (Lapshinova-Koltunski et al., 2020)

Modeling local coherence: Centering, entity Grid with applications (information ordering, evaluating the quality of summaries)

(Poesio et al., 2004; Karamanis et al., 2004; Barzilay & Lapata, 2005; 2008; Karamanis et al., 2009)

Modeling local coherence: Entity graph with applications (information ordering, evaluating the quality of summaries)

(Guinaudeau & Strube, 2013; Petersen et al., 2015)

Applications of local coherence models: Information ordering, evaluating the quality of summaries

(Elsner et al., 2007; Filippova & Strube, 2007; Pitler et al., 2010; Elsner & Charniak, 2011; Lin et al., 2012; Li & Hovy, 2014)

Applications of local coherence models: Information retrieval

(Petersen et al., 2015)

Applications of local coherence models: Readability – (Higgins et al., 2004; Pitler & Nenkova, 2008; Feng et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2013; Mesgar & Strube, 2015; 2016; 2018)

Applications of local coherence models: Essay scoring – (Miltsakaki & Kukich, 2004; Burstein et al., 2010; Beigman Klebanov & Flor, 2013; Beigman Klebanov et al., 2014; Somasundaran et al., 2014; Mesgar & Strube, 2018)

Applications of local coherence models: Coreference and coherence for automatic translation

(Hardmeier et al., 2013; 2015; Born et al., 2017; Jean et al., 2017; Lapshinova-Koltunski et al., 2020)

to be prepared: (Barzilay & Lapata, 2005) or (Mesgar & Strube, 2018)

12.01.2022

Referat: Sandra Friebohn – (Li & Jurafsky, 2017)

Local coherence models: Neural approaches (Li & Hovy, 2014; Tien Nguyen & Joty, 2017; Li & Jurafsky, 2017; Joty et al., 2018; Mesgar & Strube, 2018; Moon et al., 2019; Jeon & Strube, 2020a; 2020b)

Applications of neural coherence models (information ordering, readability, essay scoring): (Joty et al., 2018; Mesgar & Strube, 2018; Pishdad et al., 2020; Jeon & Strube, 2020a; Laban et al., 2021; Mohiuddin et al., 2021; Lai et al., 2021)

to be prepared: ((Moon et al., 2019) or (Jeon & Strube, 2020a)) and ((Pishdad et al., 2020) or (Mohiuddin et al., 2021))

19.01.2022

Referat: Nico Schnurr – (Nguyen et al., 2021)

Referat: Stefan Werner – Global coherence: Applications (automatic summarization, sentiment analysis, coreference resolution)

(Marcu, 1997; Maslennikov & Chua, 2007; Clarke & Lapata, 2010; Zirn et al., 2011; Bhatia et al., 2015; Khosla et al., 2021a)

Introduction into global coherence analysis

(Hobbs, 1979; 1985; Mann & Thompson, 1988; Knott & Dale, 1994; Webber & Joshi,

1998; Kehler et al., 2008; Webber et al., 2012)

Global coherence: Rhetorical Structure Theory (RST)

(Marcu & Echihiabi, 2002; Carlson et al., 2003; Soricut & Marcu, 2003; duVerle & Prendinger, 2009; Subba & Di Eugenio, 2009; Hernault et al., 2012; Feng & Hirst, 2012; Ji & Eisenstein, 2014; Huber & Carenini, 2020; Nguyen et al., 2021; Huber et al., 2021; Spangher et al., 2021)

Global coherence: Penn Discourse Treebank

(Prasad et al., 2008; Pitler & Nenkova, 2009a; 2009b; Lin et al., 2009; 2010; 2011; Ghosh et al., 2012; Lin et al., 2014; Prasad et al., 2014; Ji et al., 2015; Xue et al., 2016; Mihailov & Frank, 2016; Prasad et al., 2017; Knaebel & Stede, 2020; Knaebel, 2021)

Global coherence: Applications (automatic summarization, sentiment analysis, coreference resolution)

(Marcu, 1997; Maslennikov & Chua, 2007; Clarke & Lapata, 2010; Zirn et al., 2011; Bhatia et al., 2015; Khosla et al., 2021a)

to be prepared: (Webber & Joshi, 2012)

26.01.2022

Referat: Jakob Moser – (Lee et al., 2013)

Referat: Ivo Schaper – (Durrett & Klein, 2013)

Local coherence: Rule-based system for coreference resolution: (Raghuathan et al., 2010; Lee et al., 2011; 2013)

Local coherence: Machine learning for coreference resolution: (Soon et al., 2001; Ng & Cardie, 2002; Yang et al., 2008; Ng, 2008; 2010; Fernandes et al., 2012; Durrett & Klein, 2013; Fernandes et al., 2014; Martschat & Strube, 2015)

to be prepared: (Lee et al., 2013) and (Durrett & Klein, 2013) – compare the two approaches; which one might work better in an another genre, in another domain?

02.02.2022

Referat: Lars Tapken – Local coherence: Neural coreference resolution – (Jiang & Cohn, 2021)

Referat: Anna Fischer – Local coherence: Coreference resolution in other languages, multilingual coreference resolution – (Chen & Ng, 2013)

Local coherence: Neural coreference resolution: (Clark & Manning, 2015; Wiseman et al., 2015; 2016; Clark & Manning, 2016b; 2016a; Lee et al., 2017; Kundu et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2018; Sahu et al., 2019; Yu et al., 2020; Jiang & Cohn, 2021; Khosla et al., 2021a; Kirstain et al., 2021; Dobrovolskii, 2021)

Local coherence: Critique on coreference resolution systems – (Moosavi & Strube, 2017; 2018)

Local coherence: Coreference resolution in other languages, multilingual coreference resolution – (Luo & Zitouni, 2005; Recasens & Martí, 2009; Chen & Ng, 2013; Kong & Ng, 2013; Martins, 2015; Bernard & Han, 2020; Wilkens et al., 2020; Aloraini & Poesio, 2020; Jwalapuram et al., 2020)

Local coherence: Coreference resolution in other genres and domains – (Sahu et al., 2019; Bamman et al., 2020; Pagel & Reiter, 2020; Martin et al., 2020; Khosla et al., 2021b)

Local coherence: Error analysis for coreference resolution – (Uryupina, 2008; Kummerfeld & Klein, 2013; Martschat & Strube, 2014)

Local coherence: Evaluating coreference resolution algorithms
(Vilain et al., 1995; Bagga & Baldwin, 1998; Popescu-Belis, 2003; Luo & Zitouni, 2005; Recasens & Hovy, 2011; Pradhan et al., 2014; Tuggener, 2014; Moosavi & Strube, 2016)

to be prepared: (Lee et al., 2017)

09.02.2022

Referat: Margareta Kulcsar – Bias in coreference resolution – (Rudinger et al., 2018; Webster et al., 2018; Zhao et al., 2018)

Referat: Michael Strube – Generalizability and robustness for coreference resolution (Moosavi & Strube, 2017; 2018), if time permits also Binding Theory

Local coherence: Bridging
(Clark, 1975; Hahn et al., 1996; Poesio et al., 1997; Vieira & Teufel, 1997; Vieira & Poesio, 2000; Bunescu, 2003; Fan et al., 2005; Lassalle & Denis, 2011; Hou et al., 2013b; 2013a; Rösiger & Teufel, 2014; Hou et al., 2014; Rösiger, 2018; Hou et al., 2018; Hou, 2018b; 2018a; Yu & Poesio, 2020; Kobayashi & Ng, 2021)

Local coherence: Event coreference resolution
(Bejan & Harabagiu, 2010; Chen & Ji, 2009; Chen et al., 2010b; 2010a; Goyal et al., 2013; Lu & Ng, 2021)

to be prepared: (Moosavi & Strube, 2018)

16.02.2022

Discussion about the whole term on different aspects of discourse

to be prepared: We heard about information status, discourse segmentation, discourse structure, discourse connectives and relations, local and global coherence, and coreference resolution. We did not hear about bridging resolution, temporal structure, and argumentation structure. **How do (some of) these different aspects of discourse relate to each other? Do you have an idea how three (or more) of these aspects could be combined in a computational model?**

Optional:

Global coherence: Temporal structure

(Lapata & Lascarides, 2004; 2006; Ng et al., 2013)

Global coherence: Argumentation structure: – (Reed & Long, 1998; Katzav & Reed, 2008; Stab & Gurevych, 2014; Peldszus & Stede, 2015a; 2015b; Habernal & Gurevych, 2017; Stab & Gurevych, 2017; Wachsmuth et al., 2017)

The debater:

Further Remarks:

Assessment:

1. For each class read the material marked in the schedule as *to be prepared*. Formulate two questions about the material and send them to me via email until the Tuesday before the class, 8am at the latest. If you present in class that day, you do not have to hand in questions. – Participate actively in the class (important!).
2. Choose a topic in the schedule you want to present in class. Select one or more papers from the reading list. Present this work in the class (30 minutes presentation, 15 minutes discussion).
3. Choose a second topic and present it in class (as in (3.)). Or: Write a report/an essay towards the end of the term either about the topic you presented in class or about a new topic (6LP: 8-10 pages; 8LP (if possible): 12-15 pages). Or: Implement a discourse processing algorithm, evaluate it in comparison to a baseline, and write a very short report (3-4 pages) about it.
4. **Deadline for essay/report: March 31st, 2022**

Literature: Most papers can be downloaded from the *ACL Anthology* (<http://acl.ldc.upenn.edu/>), in particular all papers presented at (*E/NA*)*ACL*, *Coling* and *EMNLP* conferences, all workshops organized during these conferences and the journals *TACL* and *Computational Linguistics*. Papers published through *AAAI* (*AAAI* conference, *AAAI* workshops, *AAAI* symposia, etc.) are available through the *AAAI Digital Library* verfügbar (<http://www.aaai.org/Library>). – Other journals are available electronically at the university library (<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/>, <http://rzblx1.uni-regensburg.de/ezeit/search.phtml?bibid=UBHE&colors=3&lang=de>).

Office hours: Right after class, or in my office at HITS (<https://www.h-its.org/en/>).

References

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