

Feature Reduction in Document Clustering with Natural Language Processing

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Abstract— The bag of words representation used for clustering methods is often unsatisfactory as it ignores relationships between important terms that do not co-occur literally. In order to deal with the problem, we provide Text clustering techniques usually used to structure the text documents into topic related groups which can facilitate users to get a comprehensive understanding on corpus or results from information retrieval system. Most of existing text clustering algorithm which derived from traditional formatted data clustering heavily rely on term analysis methods and adopted Vector Space Model (VSM) as their document representation. But because of the essential characteristic underlying text such as high dimensionality features vector space, the problem of sparseness has a strong impact on the clustering algorithm. So feature reduction is an important preprocess step for improving the efficiency and accuracy of clustering algorithm by removing redundant and irrelevant terms from corpus. Even the clustering is considered as an unsupervised learning method, but in text, there is still some prior knowledge we can use from NLP analysis based approach. In this article, we propose a semantic analysis based feature reduction method which used in text clustering. Our method bases on a dedicated Part-of-Speech tags selection and Chunking reduce the feature space of documents more effectively compared with traditional feature reduction method tiff and stop words removal; meanwhile it preserves or sometimes even improves the accuracy of clustering algorithm. In our experiment, we tested our feature reduction method using bisecting k-means algorithm which was proved be efficient in text clustering. The results show that our method can reduce the feature space significantly, and meanwhile have a better clustering accuracy in terms of the purity.

Keywords— Text clustering, feature selection, part-of-speech, chunking, Bisecting K-means.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the increasing prevalence of Web technologies, the amount of information which can be accessed by people has grown exponentially till now. How to find the useful information from the huge amount of data according to users intends at an effective and efficient way becomes more and more important. So, Web search engine has been an essential part in people's everyday life who suffering on the web. Based

on the user's query, major commercial Web search engine usually return a huge list of related results which ranked by a sophisticated ranking algorithm [1-3] but usually the results are not all the user actually wants. A generally acknowledged issue in information retrieval systems, particularly in Web search engines, is that users queries are usually very short, sometimes even very ambiguous, so if the right results which user needed are not at the first several result pages, the searching will become a time consuming and annoying process, in which the user have to browse the result pages one by one.

Text clustering is suitable method to solve this kind of problem. As one of the most important text mining techniques, text clustering is developed to help users effectively navigate, summarize, and organize the results returned from search engine, and this lead to a significantly improvement on the precision and recall in information retrieval system [4]. Text clustering consists of four components, which are data representation model, similarity measure, clustering model and clustering algorithm. From all of these parts, the document representation is most important, because it determines the way that the other three parts choose. Most of the existing texts clustering methods are based on Vector Space Model [5], which represents documents as a feature vector of the words, a.k.a "bag of words", and statistical based word-weights, like *tfidf*, also accompany with it. Similarity between documents is measured by their distance or association coefficient like *Euclidean* distance or *cosine* measure, which mainly based on VSM. But due to the essential characteristic of text documents, the dimensionality of the feature vector is very huge, which imposes a big challenge to the performance of clustering algorithm. The clustering algorithm based on VSM could not work efficiently in high dimensional feature spaces due to the inherent sparseness of the data [6]. Not all features are useful for document clustering, and some of the features may be redundant or irrelevant. This situation gets worse especially in web documents for their incompact in content compared with formal text, and some of the features may even misguide the clustering results. In such cases, selecting a subset of original features often leads to a better performance. And also, feature

selection not only reduces the high dimensionality of the feature space, but also provides a better data understanding, which can improve the accuracy of clustering results. The selected feature set should contain sufficient or more reliable information about the original data set.

The motivation behind the work in this article is that even text clustering is commonly treated as a unsupervised learning method, some kind of prior knowledge about nature language should helpful in text based feature selection process, which beyond the single word analysis. In this article, we proposed a novel feature selection method document clustering which based on semantic analysis, including a dedicated Part-of-Speech (PoS) tags selection and chunking.

II. RELATED WORKS

The idea of text clustering derived from the traditional data clustering algorithm, so they share many same concepts. There are kinds of applications which can incorporate the text clustering technique to help users better organize their documents, such as clustering the results returned from search engine based on users' queries, like [7] clustering documents in a collection for automated construct the document taxonomies, like Yahoo directory1 and Open Directory Styles2; efficient information retrieval by focusing the query on relevant clusters rather than whole collections [8]. There are two general categories clustering algorithm used in text: one is agglomerative hierarchical algorithm, such as Hierarchical Agglomerative Clustering (HAC) [9], and the other is partitioning based methods, such as k-means algorithm [9-10]. Paper [11] compared these two kinds of clustering algorithm, and also proposed that Bisecting k-means is outperform both of these two categories algorithm in terms of accuracy and efficiency. Bisecting k-means is different from general k-means approach, and it splits a selected cluster abides by some criterion into two clusters until the number of clusters equal to the designated value.

Those clustering algorithm mentioned above are adopted from the traditional data clustering algorithm, which designed for clustering formatted data sets. So the special characteristics exist in text are not take care of well, such like the high dimensionally. To achieve a better result, a more informative feature unit – phrase has been considered in recent research. Paper [12] proposed a phrase-based document index model, named Document Index Graph, which allows the incremental construction of a phrase-based index for a document clustering. And the Suffix Tree Clustering (STC) algorithm [13-14] was proposed to be used in meta-searching engine to real-time cluster the document snippets returned from search engine. Compared with the traditional single-words based similarity computation, phrase-based document clustering approach achieved better accuracy.

Feature selection has been widely used in supervised learning, such as text categorization, and the class label information play a very important role to conduct the process of feature selection. For text clustering, there are just some unsupervised feature selection methods such as document frequency and term strength. Because there is no prior

knowledge on the category structure can be used, so little research has been reported about the unsupervised feature selection in text clustering. Paper [15] proposed an Iterative Feature Selection (IF) method which utilizes the supervised feature selection to iteratively select features and perform text clustering. Paper [16] proposed a semi-supervised text clustering algorithm based on EM together with a feature selection technique based on Information Gain. Feature selections in both methods are semi-supervised. Latent Semantic Indexing [17] and Random Projection [18] can yield a considerable reduction in the dimension of the document representation, but their performance of clustering is not always remarkable [19].

Different with the statistics based feature selection method, there are kinds of approaches using the background knowledge underlying behind language to conduct feature selection, such as [20-22], which mainly depend on WordNet, and the results are encouraged. The relevant works similar with us were carried by Hotho et al. in [20-21], where they proposed background knowledge based feature standardization in text clustering using WordNet which can grasp the relationships between important terms that do not co-occur literally. But the works that have been reported in literature about using semantic feature selection to facilitate text clustering is limited. Part of speech (POS) tagging for English is often considered a solved problem. There are well established approaches such as Markov model trigram taggers [22], maximum entropy taggers [23], or Support Vector Machine based taggers (Gimenez and M'arquez, 2004), and accuracy reaches approximately 97%. However, most experiments in POS tagging for English have concentrated on data from the Penn Treebank [24]. If POS taggers trained on the Penn Treebank are used to tag data from other domains, accuracy deteriorates significantly.

Traditional approaches rely on preprocessing by an accurate POS tagger. Most work on shallow parsing is based on the English CoNLL'2000 shared task, which provided reference datasets for training and testing [25]. A number of approaches have been evaluated on these datasets, for general shallow parsing as well as for the simpler noun phrase chunking task: support vector machines (SVM) with polynomial kernel [26-27] and linear kernels [28], conditional random fields[29], maximum likelihood trigram models [30], probabilistic finite-state automata [31]. So far, SVM have achieved the best state of-the-art performances. The supervised English shallow parsing task and compare systems relying either on POS induction, on POS tagging, or on lexical features only as a baseline [32]. Michael Collins propose a unified neural network architecture and learning algorithm that can be applied to various natural language processing tasks including part-of-speech tagging, chunking, named entity recognition, and semantic role labeling [33]. The encouraging results in tasks of classification make our approach appear promising for text clustering. Part-of-Speech also used in words meaning disambiguation and chunking parts of speech and short phrases and clustering the documents

in topic related groups is similar to find the different meaning of words in documents in some sense.

III. PROPOSED METHOD

A. Part of Speech Selection

In our approach, we use Part-of-Speech selection. Using Part-of-speech, we can solve the problem of semantic ambiguity to some extent, so it is a very common tool in word sense disambiguation. The tags generated in our program are compatible with the Specification of Corpus Processing proposed by Peking University. This specification includes 35 Part-of-Speech categories with lots of related minor categories. For example the phrase in English need to be find with effort can be automatically labeled in our Part-of-Speech tagger and the tag related to phrase are divided into some Noun related minor categories. The tag set is listed in Table I.

TABLE I
PART OF SPEECH TAG SET

SN	Tags	Explanation
1	CC	Coordinating conjunction
2	CD	Cardinal number
3	DT	Determiner
4	EX	Existential there
5	FW	Foreign word
6	IN	Preposition or subordinating conjunction
7	JJ	Adjective
8	JJR	Adjective, comparative
9	JJS	Adjective, superlative
10	LS	List item marker
11	MD	Modal
12	NN	Noun, singular or mass
13	NNS	Noun, plural
14	NNP	Proper noun, singular
15	NNPS	Proper noun, plural
16	PDT	Predeterminer
17	POS	Possessive ending
18	PRP	Personal pronoun
19	PRP\$	Possessive pronoun
20	RB	Adverb
21	RBR	Adverb, comparative
22	RBS	Adverb, superlative
23	RP	Particle
24	SYM	Symbol
25	TO	to
26	UH	Interjection
27	VB	Verb, base form
28	VBD	Verb, past tense
29	VBG	Verb, gerund or present participle
30	VBN	Verb, past participle
31	VBP	Verb, non-3rd person singular present
32	WDT	Wh-determiner
33	WP	Wh-pronoun
34	WP\$	Possessive wh-pronoun
35	WRB	Wh-adverb

Our experimental show that, after the Part-of-Speech based feature selection process, almost 98% of words in documents. The Part-of-Speech tagging in our system is not very time consuming.

B. Chunking

It is basically the identification of parts of speech and short phrases (like noun phrases). Part of speech tagging tells you whether words are nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc, but it doesn't give you any clue about the structure of the sentence or phrases in the sentence. Sometimes it's useful to have more information than just the parts of speech of words, but you don't need the full parse tree that you would get from parsing. Chunking fetch the action words that is usefull in searching and removed unimportant words.

C. Clustering by Bisecting K-means

Combination with PoS selection and chunking performs well in almost all datasets compared with each single one alone, and features are just half of them. So for unsupervised text clustering task, our unsupervised feature reduction based on PoS selection, chunking and combination of them two is very efficient, which can not only reduced the feature spaces, accelerate the speed of clustering algorithm (this is very important in online information retrieval.). The clustering algorithm used is bisecting k-means which is proven to be best clustering method gives better results.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this article, we proposed a semantic based feature reduction method for text clustering which include a dedicated Part-of-Speech tagging and chunking. Experimental results will show its efficiency in reduction of features in text clustering task compared with traditional tfidf and stopwords removal based methods. Moreover the feature selection method we proposed can well preserves or sometimes even improves the accuracy of clustering algorithm by selecting the most meaningful words and proper phrases . This is very useful for online based clustering approach.

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