Abstract

In this paper the author presents a new context independent method for bilingual term mapping using maximised character alignment maps. The method tries to particularly address mapping of multi-word terms and compound terms that are extracted from comparable corpora. The method allows integrating linguistic resources (e.g., probabilistic dictionaries and character based transliteration systems) that significantly increase the mapping recall while maintaining a stable precision. The term mapping method has been automatically evaluated using the EuroVoc thesaurus with varying availability of linguistic resources and on terms extracted from Latvian-English medical domain comparable corpus collected from the Web. The paper shows that the results significantly outperform previously reported results on the same evaluation corpus.

1 Introduction

Multi-lingual terminology is a valuable resource not only in human and machine translation (MT), but also in many other application domains, for instance, information retrieval, semantic analysis, question answering and others. Multi-lingual term glossaries can be automatically acquired from existing resources (monolingual lists of terms, parallel or comparable corpora, etc.) with the help of term mapping. Term mapping methods according to previous research in the field can be divided in two categories – context dependent methods and context independent methods.

The context dependent methods are applicable in situations when there is enough context from which to draw statistics. The necessary amount of context can differ depending on the methods. For instance, for term mapping in parallel data it can be enough to simply have one parallel docu-
Following previous work in context independent term mapping, this paper presents a new context independent term mapping method using maximised character alignment maps that has been created for term and term phrase mapping in term-tagged comparable corpora. The method allows mapping of multi-word terms and terms with different numbers of tokens in the source and target language parts – two term mapping scenarios that have not been sufficiently addressed by previous research. The mapper has been specifically designed to address term mapping between European languages (including languages with different alphabets based on Latin, Cyrillic and Greek) and it allows integrating linguistic resources to increase recall (while maintaining the same level of precision) of the mapped terms.

The mapper has been evaluated on the EuroVoc thesaurus (Steinberger et al., 2002) for 23 language pairs and for the Latvian-English language pair on a medical domain comparable corpus that was collected from the Web. The evaluation also shows benefits of having additional linguistic resources (e.g., probabilistic dictionaries, and transliteration support) with respect to having only some of the resources (or none at all) available.

The paper is structured so that section 2 describes the design of the term mapping system, section 3 describes the evaluation process and provides evaluation results with space constrained analysis, and the paper is concluded in section 4.

2 The Term Mapping Method

Given two lists of terms (in two different languages) the task of the term mapping system is to identify which terms from the source language contain translation equivalents in the target language. The system (as shown in Figure 1) consists of two main components – monolingual term pre-processing and term mapping. A possible third module that is not discussed in this paper is term pair consolidation – a language specific process that allows increasing term mapping precision by identifying morphological variability between term pairs and filtering out possible invalid mappings.

2.1 Term Pre-processing

Before mapping, all source and target language terms are tokenized and pre-processed using linguistic resources (if such are available). For each token the pre-processing module:

- Rewrites the token using lower-case letters;
- Rewrites the token with letters from the English alphabet (simple transliteration); letters that cannot be rewritten (e.g., the Russian softening and hardening marks “ь” and “ь”) are removed and letters that correspond to multiple letters in the English alphabet are expanded (e.g., the Russian “у” and Latvian “с” are rewritten as “sh” in English);
- Finds top $N$ translation equivalents using a probabilistic dictionary, e.g., in Giza++ format (Och and Ney, 2003);
- Finds top $M$ transliteration equivalents in the other language using a Moses (Koehn et al., 2007) character-based SMT system.

Figure 1: The overall design

Table 1 gives an example of a term in Latvian and English languages ("extensive farming") that has been pre-processed with direct source-to-target and target-to-source linguistic resources. If direct resources are not available, English can be used as an Interlingua for the dictionary-based look-up and the SMT-based transliteration.

The system allows limiting the retrieved candidates with confidence score thresholds, therefore, for the Latvian-to-English direction the example shows less than three transliteration candidates. For translation a limiting factor is also the available number of entries in the dictionary.

If for a language pair direct linguistic resources are not available, but there exist re-
of an example – the mapping of the English term “dose of chemotherapy” and its German translation “chemotherapiedosis”. The mapping is performed in three steps.

2.2.1 Identification of Content Overlaps

At first, for every pre-processed token’s constituent, we identify the longest common substring in all other term’s pre-processed constituents that are in the same language (in Figure 2 comparison sets of the same language are connected with a bi-directional arrow). For the German-English example, the pre-processing module produced “chemotherapiedosis” as a simple transliteration of the German term. As the English lowercased term and the simple transliteration of the German term are within valid comparison sets, the mapper will analyse content overlaps between these constituents.

When identifying the longest common substring the positions of the substring within the constituents are preserved. If the length difference between the substring and the full source or target constituents exceeds a threshold (defined in a configuration file), the substring information is kept for the next step.

The results of the first step on the example are given in Figure 3. Two of the three English constituents (“dose” and “chemotherapy”) can be nested within the German constituent. The third constituent’s (“of”) character overlap does not exceed the threshold (0.75 has been empirically selected as an appropriate default value), therefore, the substring information is ignored.

Figure 3: Longest common substring overlaps in German and English candidates

If the longest common substring overlap does not exceed the threshold, the mapper uses a fall-back method based on the Levenshtein distance as applied by Ştefănescu (2012). The distance metric is transformed to a similarity metric:

$$\text{Sim}(s_i, s_j) = \frac{\text{max}(\text{len}(s_i), \text{len}(s_j)) \cdot \text{LD}(s_i, s_j)}{\text{max}(\text{len}(s_i), \text{len}(s_j))}$$ (1)
where \( LD \) is the Levenshtein distance between two strings, and \( len \) is a string length function. Each deletion, insertion and substitution is equally penalised with one point as in the first version of the Levenshtein distance (Levenshtein, 1966).

The motivation behind application of the alternative metric is that the SMT transliteration may introduce additional or different letters in a string and thus the longest common substring-based method can fail. However, this method has a limitation – it does not allow sub-word level mapping and if the similarity between two strings exceeds a predefined threshold, it is assumed that there is a complete overlap between the two strings. Assuming that the first comparison did not produce satisfactory results, Figure 4 shows the alternative comparison results for the example, however, none of the candidate pairs achieves a sufficient content overlap.

The example above contained two content overlaps (remember – the overlaps of the constituent “of” did not exceed thresholds). The overlap maximisation process in two iterations is shown in Figure 5.

![Figure 4: Levenshtein distance-based overlaps in German and English candidates](image)

The result of this step is a list of binary alignment maps for constituent pairs. For instance, the binary alignment map for “chemotherapiedosis” and “dose” is “000000000000011100” (and “1110” for the target constituent).

### 2.2.2 Maximisation of content overlaps

In the next step the binary alignment lists are used to identify the mapping sequence that maximises the content overlap between the two terms. At first, the system iterates through the source term’s tokens and tries to find for each token the constituent that has the highest overlap in a target term’s constituent. At the same time the system maintains for each target term’s token a binary one-dimensional alignment map that defines what part of the token has been already mapped in order not to allow conflicting and overlapping alignments. The length of the alignment map is determined by the longest constituent of the source and target terms. To find similar mappings from the target language, the iterative process is performed also for each token of the target term.

![Figure 5: An example of the alignment map generation process for the German-English term pair](image)

The goal of the mapper is to find term mappings that have a content overlap between terms in a way that restricts non-aligned segments (tokens or parts of tokens), but still allows a certain degree of imperfect mappings. For instance, we want the system to be able to decide that “cost of treatment” in English can be mapped to “ārstēšanas izmaksas” in Latvian (which is a direct translation) although it is evident that the token “of” does not have a mapping. However, we do not want the system to decide that “β particles” in English can be mapped to “daļņas” in Latvian (transl. “particles”) as well as we would not want “electromagnetic field” in English to be mapped to “magnētiskais lauks” in Latvian (transl. “magnetic field”). There is no perfect recipe that allows identifying all good and sufficient mappings from all bad and incomplete mappings in a language independent fashion, however, the mapper allows users to decide whether non-mapped segments at the beginning or the end of terms should be allowed or prohibited. Consequently the mapper can be executed in order to allow trimmed mappings, but not to limit non-mappings in-between of mapped segments. When trimmed mappings are allowed, it is important to disallow terms starting or ending with stopwords. Stopwords have shown to be very noisy in the probabilistic dictionaries (containing many false translations or context dependent translations). The mapper allows filtering out trimmed term mappings that start or end with stopwords if stopword lists are available.

### 2.2.3 Scoring of consolidated overlaps

In the final step the aligned constituents that produced character alignment map with the maximum content overlap are enrolled in two strings (source and target) in order to score the total
overlap. The non-aligned source and target tokens (if there are any) are attached at the end of each string. At the same time, spaces are added to the other string to simulate non-aligned tokens.

As both the probabilistic dictionaries and the SMT-based transliteration systems provide confidence scores for each candidate, these scores are used as negative multipliers to filter out term pairs that may potentially result in invalid mappings.

The enrolled strings are scored using the *Levenshtein distance*-based similarity metric (described in section 2.2.1) multiplied by the negative multipliers. In the example the *Levenshtein distance* between “chemotherapydosis” (representing the English term) and “chemotherapiedosis$$” (representing the German term; “$$” represents two space symbols) is $6$; the *Levenshtein distance*-based similarity is $0.7$. The simple transliteration does not have a negative multiplier, therefore, the term pair is considered to be mapped if the $0.7$ is higher than a threshold.

2.3 How to Acquire Linguistic Resources?

The mapper is able to use four types of optional linguistic resources (probabilistic dictionaries, external *Moses* SMT-based transliteration modules, invalid mapping dictionaries, and stopword lists).

The resources integrated in the mapper have been built using *Giza++* probabilistic dictionaries extracted from the DGT-TM parallel corpus (Steinberger, 2012):

- The dictionaries have been filtered by removing translation entries below a certain threshold and entries that contain symbols that are not allowed in the source and target language alphabets (out-of-the-box support is provided for all official European languages).
- Dictionary entries with the *Levenshtein distance*-based similarity measure higher than a threshold are assumed to be transliterations. These entries are used as the training data for the character-based *Moses* transliteration module. The mapper has out-of-the-box support for transliteration of terms in 22 languages (see automatic evaluation) into English (and vice versa).
- Word pairs that have a high *Levenshtein distance*-based similarity, but are not defined as translation entries within the dictionary (i.e., the index of the line where the words are found in the dictionary differs), are extracted for the invalid mapping dictionary. For instance, “pants” in English has a similarity measure of $1.0$ with “pants” in Latvian (transl. as “article” or “paragraph”). The invalid mapping dictionary is used to filter possible invalid source and target token pairs before the first step of the mapping module.

3 Evaluation

The mapper has been evaluated using two evaluation methods – automated evaluation and manual evaluation. The automated evaluation was performed for language pairs included in the *EuroVoc* thesaurus. It shows the applicability of the method for European languages and allows estimation of the upper level of recall that can be expected on comparable Web corpora. The manual evaluation was performed on terms mapped in a Latvian-English comparable Web corpora in the medical domain. This evaluation allows estimating the expected performance of the method in terms of precision on noisy data.

3.1 Automatic Evaluation

The automatic evaluation has three goals: 1) to show how additional linguistic resources influence term mapping, 2) to evaluate the performance on European language pairs, and 3) to compare results with previous research using the same evaluation corpus. The *EuroVoc* thesaurus was selected as a suitable test corpus for the automated evaluation because it covers 24 European languages, it contains a relatively large number of terms (at the time of evaluation – 6,797 terms for all languages except Hungarian with 6,790, Italian with 6,643, and Maltese with 987 terms), and in average 65.5% of terms across all languages are multi-word terms.

For each evaluated language pair two monolingual lists of terms were created. Because the mapper sees only two independent lists of terms, the search space for mapping is not 6,797 term pairs, but rather 46.2 million term pairs (e.g., 6,797*6,797 for English-Latvian). In this evaluation the highest matching target term is retrieved for each source term. For the language pairs for which additional resources are available, for every token a maximum of five transliterations and 10 dictionary translations are retrieved.

At first, the mapping performance when using direct (source-to-target and target-to-source) linguistic resources, Interlingua-based (source-to-English and target-to-English) resources, and no resources was analysed. Figure 6 shows results (in terms of precision “$P$” and recall “$R$”)
for the Latvian-Lithuanian language pair. It is evident that direct resources allow achieving significantly higher recall than having Interlingua or no resources.

The results also suggest that the precision is stable at higher thresholds, however, it drops faster when using Interlingua-based resources. This can be explained by the noise that is introduced by the Interlingua-based resources. E.g., the term “plakne” (a type of a geometric figure) in Latvian can be wrongly be mapped to “самолёт” (a type of an aircraft) because both translate into English as “plane”.

Further, the benefits of having the probabilistic dictionaries and SMT-based transliteration modules were analysed. Figure 7 gives evaluation results for the Latvian-English language pair. The results show that without linguistic resources the recall is limited. This is due to the small number of terms that can be transliterated with the simple transliteration method. An analysis of 100 randomly selected unigram term pairs from the EuroVoc thesaurus revealed that 57 pairs were transliterations. 47 out of the 57 pairs were mapped using the character-based transliteration module. However, only 24 out of the 57 pairs were mapped using the simple transliteration method.

Evidently, adding resources allows significantly increasing the mapped term amount. It is also visible that the best results are achieved by using all linguistic resources.

Finally, term mapping was performed for 22 language pairs of the EuroVoc thesaurus with English as the source language. The results are shown in Table 2. The evaluation was performed using direct source-to-target and target-to-source linguistic resources. The resources were built using Giza++ probabilistic dictionaries extracted from the DGT-TM parallel corpus (Steinberger et al., 2012).

The evaluation results show that the author’s method significantly outperforms results reported earlier by Ştefănescu (2012) – an F1 score of 46.3 and 51.1 for English-Latvian and English-Lithuanian when using the same probabilistic dictionaries. The term mapping method proposed by Ştefănescu (2012) differs from the author’s method in that it maps terms either with the Levenshtein distance based similarity metric or dictionary based exact match look-up. The author’s proposed method, however, maps term tokens in sub-word level using maximised character alignment maps and applies Levenshtein distance just as a fallback method and for scoring of the mapped term pairs.

| Language pair | P   | R   | F1  |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|
| en-mt         | 83.4| 71.5| 77.0|
| en-fr         | 90.2| 66.6| 76.6|
| en-ro         | 89.3| 64.4| 74.8|
| en-es         | 91.1| 63.2| 74.6|
| en-pt         | 88.7| 61.9| 72.9|
| en-sk         | 90.8| 58.8| 71.4|
| en-lv         | 88.5| 57.5| 69.7|
| en-sl         | 88.4| 55.9| 68.5|
| en-bg         | 88.0| 55.2| 67.9|
| en-hr         | 87.5| 53.6| 66.5|
| en-cs         | 85.9| 53.4| 65.8|
| en-lt         | 86.1| 52.6| 65.3|
| en-pl         | 86.0| 52.1| 64.9|
| en-el         | 86.0| 49.6| 62.9|
| en-nl         | 82.0| 50.7| 62.7|
| en-sv         | 81.6| 46.6| 59.3|
| en-da         | 81.4| 45.3| 58.2|
| en-hu         | 78.5| 45.7| 57.8|
| en-de         | 78.1| 41.9| 54.5|
| en-et         | 74.5| 39.0| 51.2|
| en-fi         | 72.3| 33.7| 46.0|

The results suggest that the highest performance is achieved for the English-Maltese language pair, however, it is not comparable to the remaining results as they are based on only 987 term pairs from the EuroVoc thesaurus (covering...
mostly location and organisation named entities, which explains the relatively high recall).

An important aspect taken into account when designing the mapper was the mapping speed. For the evaluation in Table 2 the mapper required in average 86.8 minutes (which is a speed of 8,868 term pairs per second) for one language pair on an 8 thread (4 core) Windows machine. The speed can be significantly improved by limiting the number of translation and transliteration candidates retrieved from the probabilistic dictionary and the character-based SMT module. The mapper requires in average less than 7 minutes for a language pair if no linguistic resources are used.

### 3.2 Manual Evaluation

The automatic evaluation was performed using terms in their base forms. The manual evaluation, therefore, has three goals: 1) to show the methods applicability on Web crawled comparable corpora 2) to show the methods performance in under-resourced conditions (the medical domain is out-of-domain for the DGT-TM corpus), 3) to show that the method can be applied for morphologically rich languages. The manual evaluation was performed for the Latvian-English language pair and for terms in the medical domain. Latvian was selected as one of the languages for this evaluation as it is a morphologically rich language and it is important to show that the method can be easily applicable to languages where terms are not always in their base forms.

Following the term mapping workflow proposed by Pinnis et al. (2012), two monolingual corpora were collected from the Web using the Focussed Monolingual Crawler (Mastropavlos and Papavassiliou, 2011). The acquired corpora (12,697 Latvian and 21,900 English documents) were then aligned in document level with the DictMetric (Su and Babych, 2012) comparability metric (59,600 document pairs were produced). The terms were tagged in the monolingual documents with TWSC (Pinnis et al., 2012). The term tagging step produced a total of 198,401 unique Latvian and 352,934 unique English terms. The reason why document alignment is a necessary step before mapping can be easily explained with the large number of monolingual terms. If the terms would be mapped between the two monolingual lists, the mapper would have to handle a search space of 70 billion term pairs and require over 91 days to complete (using direct linguistic resources). With document alignments the required time can be reduced to less than 2 days.

Finally, terms were bilingually mapped in the 59,600 document pairs. A maximum of three transliteration and translation candidates were retrieved for each token of a term. A total of 24,804 term pairs were produced above a threshold of 0.6 (for each source term only the target language term with the highest confidence score was returned). 1000 randomly selected term pairs were manually evaluated and the results are given in Table 3. The results are also compared with the method proposed by Ştefănescu (2012) using the same probabilistic dictionary.

The results suggest that the author’s method performs significantly better for multi-word term mapping, which is the main goal of this method. It is also evident that the majority of true positives are scored with a mapping score of over 0.8. The results, however, require deeper analysis of why the unigram mapping score of the proposed method drops so fast.

![Table 3: Manual evaluation results on the medical domain Latvian-English comparable corpus](image-url)

Another important question left to answer is whether the mapper finds term pairs that are unknown to the linguistic resources integrated in the mapper. The mapping method is only useful if it is able to identify out-of-vocabulary (OOV) term pairs. Therefore, the 1000 randomly selected term pairs from the manual evaluation were looked up in the probabilistic dictionary (for the 733 single-word terms) and in a translation model of an SMT system (for the 267 multi-word terms) that was trained on the same parallel corpus from which the probabilistic dictionary was created. The results of the analysis in comparison with the method proposed by Ştefănescu (2012) are given in Table 4.
Table 4 shows that 76.3% of all multi-word term pairs, which were evaluated as “correct” during the manual evaluation, could not be found in the translation model of the SMT system. The results also suggest that the probabilistic dictionary introduces mapping errors as 24.75% of the wrongly mapped single-word term pairs were present in the dictionary.

| Evaluation: | Single-word term pairs in the probabilistic dictionary | Multi-word term pairs in the Moses phrase table |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Author’s method: | Correct | Wrong | Correct | Wrong |
| Source term OOV rate | 13.94% | 75.25% | 76.30% | 97.73% |
| Target term OOV rate | 14.50% | 75.66% | 75.19% | 97.73% |
| Term pair OOV rate | 13.94% | 75.25% | 76.30% | 97.73% |
| Ştefănescu (2012): | Source term OOV rate | 9.72% | 76.00% | 63.58% | 99.58% |
| Target term OOV rate | 12.09% | 80.00% | 62.86% | 99.62% |
| Term pair OOV rate | 12.09% | 80.00% | 62.86% | 99.62% |

Table 4: OOV analysis of randomly selected Latvian-English term pairs

4 Conclusion and Future Work

In this paper the author presented a new bilingual term mapping method using maximised character alignment maps. The method has been designed to address multi-word term pair as well as compound term pair mapping for European Languages that are based on Latin, Greek and Cyrillic alphabets.

The method has been automatically evaluated using the EuroVoc thesaurus for 23 language pairs. The paper discussed the impact of different linguistic resources on the term mapping performance. The method was also manually evaluated on terms mapped in a comparable corpus in the medical domain for the Latvian-English language pair, showing that the mapping method is suitable for handling noisy data collected from the Web. The evaluation also shows that up to 76.3% of the correctly mapped multi-word term pairs are out-of-vocabulary term pairs. The proposed term mapping method is able to find multi-word term alignments with a relatively high precision of up to 85.6%. It should, however, be noted that the scores depend on the corpus processed and may differ between language pairs as seen in the automatic evaluation.

The term mapping toolkit together with configuration and evaluation recipes is released under a non-commercial (free to use for scientific purposes) license. The toolkit can be downloaded from https://github.com/pmarcis/mp-aligner. The linguistic resources for the above-mentioned language pairs are also included in the release.

The future work on the term mapping method will involve a more in-depth error analysis of the mapped term pairs. Preliminary analysis suggests that simple filtering techniques could be applied to increase precision even further. For comparable corpora evaluation scenarios comparison with context-dependent methods is also necessary. The application of machine learning methods needs to be investigated in order to fine-tune the system’s parameters for specific language pairs in order to achieve higher recall and precision. As the produced bilingual term pairs can be beneficial for MT systems, it is also necessary to evaluate the applicability of the method for MT system adaptation purposes to narrow domains. An important future step in order to improve the precision of term mapping and in order to provide term pairs for automated integration into terminology data bases in bilingual term extraction (of which term mapping is an integral component) is also term pair consolidation with knowledge rich term normalisation methods or language independent statistical methods that require presence of a large reference corpus.

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