A Knowledge-based Approach to Text Classification

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Abstract
The paper presents a simple and effective knowledge-based approach for the task of text classification. The approach uses topic identification algorithm named FIFA to text classification. In this paper the basic process of text classification task and FIFA algorithm are described in detail. At last some results of experiment and evaluations are discussed.  
Keywords: FIFA algorithm, topic identification, text classification, natural language processing

Introduction
The text automatic classification method is based on the content analysis automatically to allocate the text into pre-determined catalogue. The methods of text automatic classification mainly use information retrieval techniques. Traditional information retrieval mainly retrieves relevant documents by using keyword-based or statistic-based techniques (Salton.G1989). Generally, three famous models are used: vector space model, Boolean model and probability model, based on the three models, some researchers brought forward extended models such as John M.Picrrc(2001), Thomas Bayer, Ingrid Renz,Michael Stein(1996), Antal van den Bosch, Walter Daelemans, Ton Weijters(1996), Manuel de Buenaga Rodriguez, Jose Maria Gomez-Ildalago, Belen Diaz-agudo(1997), Ellen Riloff and Wendy Lehnert(1994).

One central step in automatic text classification is to identify the major topics of the texts. We present a simple and effective knowledge-based approach to text automatic classification. The approach uses topic identification algorithm named FIFA to text classification. In this paper the basic process of text classification task and FIFA algorithm are described in detail. At last some results of experiment and evaluations are discussed.  

1 Knowledge-based text classification
The principal process for the Knowledge-based text classification is illustrated as following:

Figure 1 The principal process for the knowledge-based text classification

From the figure 1 we can know that the crucial technique of the text classification is the topic identification parser. The topic tagging of the text is identified as its catalogue.
2 Automatic Topic Identification

2.1 Feature Dictionary

The feature dictionary is mainly used to store some terms that can illustrate the topic feature concept, and we call these terms as “feature terms”. The data structure of the feature dictionary is consist of word, POS, semantic, location and field attribute. Some examples of feature dictionary are described as following:

| Feature terms | Attributes |
|---------------|------------|
| Hui Tong County | S(), LOCATION,LOCATION(Huitong County), COUNTRY(China), PROVINCE(Hunan), CITY(HuaiHua), FIELD(geography) |
| Bank of China | N(), BANK, ORGANIZATION(bank), COUNTRY(China), FIELD(bank) |
| Battle Information Center | N(), INFORMATION-CENTER, ORGANIZATION(battle information center), FIELD(information), FIELD(military) |
| Sanxia Project | N(), PROJECT, PROJECT(Sanxia Project), COUNTRY(China), FIELD( irrigation) |

Table 1: Some examples in the feature dictionary

Since 1996 we employed a semi-automatic method to acquire feature terms from pre-categorized corpus, and developed a feature dictionary including about 300,000 feature terms. There are about 1,500 kinds of semantic features, and about 1,000 kinds of field attributes to tag feature terms in this dictionary.

2.2 Topic Feature Distribution Computing Formula

According to the field attributes, frequencies and positions of feature terms, we could compute topic feature distribution. The computing steps are described as following:

1) According to the frequency and position of a feature term \( f_t \), we could compute the weight of the term \( f_t \). The computing formula is described as following:

\[
p(f_t) = \frac{freq(f_t) + N_{title} + 0.5 \times N_{begin} + 0.5 \times N_{end}}{\sum \text{freq}(f_t)}
\]

Where \( p(f_t) \) is the weight of the feature term \( f_t \), \( freq(f_t) \) is frequency of the feature term \( f_t \), \( N_{title} \) is times of the feature term \( f_t \) occurring in the title, \( N_{begin} \) is times of the feature term \( f_t \) occurring in the first sentence of a paragraph, \( N_{end} \) is times of the feature term \( f_t \) occurring in the end sentence of a paragraph. \( \sum \text{freq}(f_t) \) is total frequency of all feature terms in the text.

In the experiment we discovered that the feature terms in different position of a text have the different influence abilities on the topic features. So we take into account of this factor and use different experience coefficient in the weight computing formula of feature terms. In the formula (1), the coefficient of \( N_{title} \) is 1.0, the coefficient of \( N_{begin} \) is 0.5, and the coefficient of \( N_{end} \) is 0.5.

2) From the attribute of a feature term in the dictionary we could acquire its field attribute, in fact this field attribute is the topic feature illustrated by the feature term. The weight of a topic feature could be gotten by adding all weights of feature terms that illustrate the same topic feature. The more the feature terms illustrates the same topic feature, the higher the weight of the topic feature. The weight of a topic feature expresses its abilities illustrating the topic of the text. The weight \( p(f_i) \) computing formula of a topic feature \( f_i \) is described as following:

\[
p(f_i) = \sum_{f_j \in f_i} p(f_t)
\]

Where \( p(f_i) \) is the weight of the topic feature \( f_i \), \( p(f_t) \) is the weight of the feature term \( f_t \), \( f_t \in f_i \) shows feature term set illustrating the same topic feature \( f_i \).
2.3 Topic Feature Aggregation Formula

The topic feature aggregation formula is described as following:

\[ \xi_i : \beta(t_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{n} p(f_j) \times \mu(f_j) \] (3)

Where \( \beta(t_i) \) is the weight of the topic \( t_i \), \( f_j \) is the topic feature illustrating the topic \( t_i \), \( p(f_j) \) is the weight of the topic feature \( f_j \), \( \mu(f_j) \) is the coefficient of the topic feature \( f_j \).

In the application system, we used automatic construction technique to construct a library, which called topic feature aggregation formula library that includes 105 topic feature aggregation formulas.

2.4 FIFA algorithm

Most of automatic text processing techniques uses topic identification as part of a specific task. The approaches to topic identification taken in these techniques can be summarized in three group: statistical, knowledge-based, and hybrid. The statistical approach (H.P.Luhn 1957, H.P.Edmundson 1969, Gerard Salton, James Allan, Chris Buckley, and Amit Singhal 1994) infers topics of texts from term frequency, term location, term co-occurrence, etc, without using external knowledge bases such as machine readable dictionaries. The knowledge-based approach (Wendy Lehnert and C. Loiselle 1989, Lin Hongfei 2000) relies on a syntactic or semantic parser, knowledge bases such as scripts or machine readable dictionaries, etc., without using any corpus statistics. The hybrid approach (Elizabeth D. Liddy and Sung H. Myaeng 1992, Marti A. Hearst 1994) combines the statistical and knowledge-based approaches to take advantage of the strengths of both approaches and thereby to improve the overall system performance.

This paper presents a simple and effective approach named FIFA (feature identification and feature aggregation) to text automatic topic identification. The core of algorithm FIFA is based on the equation:

**Topic Identification = Topic Feature Identification + Topic Feature Aggregation.**

Topic identification (TI) can be divided into two phases: topic feature identification (FI) and topic feature aggregation (FA).

1) **Topic Feature Identification (FI):** We use the term 'topic feature' to name the sub-topic in a text. In this phase algorithm FIFA identifies feature terms\(^1\) in a text by dictionary-based and rule-based methods. The distribution of a topic feature is computed by attributes, frequencies and positions of topic feature terms.

2) **Topic Feature Aggregation (FA):** According to distribution of topic features, in this phase we use topic feature aggregation formulas to compute the weights of topics of a text, then the topic of a text could be determined by the weights computed. Topic feature aggregation formula will be introduced detailedly in the following chapters. Using machine-learning method, the topic feature aggregation formulas could be acquired automatically from pre-classified training corpus.

The topic identification algorithm FIFA could be described as following:

**Step1: Text segmentation and POS tagging**

Input: a raw text

1. Preprocessing phase: One major function is to recognize sentence boundaries, paragraph breaks, abbreviations, numbers, and other special tokens.
2. Segmentation phase: Employing maximal matching algorithm to segment a sentences into some words, and setting a word’s POS set in machine readable dictionary as its POS tagging.
3. Disambiguation phase: Employing a technology based on ambiguous segmentation dictionary\(^2\) to resolve the problem of word ambiguous segmentation, and base on rules to recognize the unknown words, such as name, location, company, organization noun etc.
4. POS tagging phase: Employing tri-gram based technology to POS tagging.

Output: a text with formats, segmentation and POS tagging

**Step2: Topic feature identification**

Input: a text with formats, segmentation and POS tagging

1. Feature-dictionary-based feature terms identification and tagging

The core of the method is to use feature dictionary to realize the feature terms identification and tagging. If a term in the text is found in the dictionary, then we call this term as a feature term of the text and its

\(^1\) Perhaps is a word, phrase, string, etc. According to need of the application system to determine the type of the feature term.

\(^2\) Is a machine readable man-made dictionary which includes examples of ambiguous segmentation and its correct segmentation.
field attribute in the dictionary is tagged as the topic attribute of the feature term.

2. Rule-based feature terms identification and tagging

Because of the limitation of the feature dictionary, we could not identify all feature terms by feature-dictionary-based technique. To resolve the problem of the unknown feature terms, we use the technique of rule-based feature terms identification and tagging. There are two steps for the identification and tagging:

1) We employ statistics-based approach to acquire some high-frequency terms from the text as analysis objects which length is composed of two or more words, and the frequency in the text should exceed two times.

2) We employ rule-based technique to analyze the grammatical structure of the high frequency terms, and according to the grammatical structure of the terms and the attribute of the central word to estimate the field attribute of the term, which is tagged as the topic feature attribute of the term.

3. According to attributes, frequencies and positions of the feature terms to calculate the distribution of the topic feature of the text.

Output: topic feature set \( \{f_i, \beta_i\} \) of the text. Where \( f_i \) is the \( i \)th text topic feature; \( \beta_i \) is the weight of the \( i \)th text topic feature \( f_i \) subjected to \( \beta_i \in (0,1) \).

### Step3: Topic feature aggregation

Input: The topic feature set \( \psi \) of the text.

1. Reading a formula \( \xi_i \) from the topic feature aggregation formula library, where the formula \( \xi_i \) is the aggregation formula of the topic \( t_i \).

2. According to parameters in the topic feature set \( \psi \), the weight of the topic \( t_i \) could be computed by the formula \( \xi_i \).

3. If there are some other aggregation formulas in the library, then go to Step1, otherwise go to the next step.

4. Supposing the topic feature \( f_i \) in the set \( \psi = \{f_i, \beta_i\} \) as a topic, and \( \beta_i \) is the weight of the topic \( f_i \). We sort the topic \( t_i \) and \( f_i \) by weight.

Output: Selecting the topic with maximal weight as topic tagging of the text.

Algorithm1: Topic identification algorithm FIFA

### 3. Experiment

To test the efficiency of the FIFA-based text automatic classification, and according to the pre-determined 10 topics we constructed a test corpus, which includes 1000 articles downloaded from the Internet. The composing of the test corpus is described as following:

| Topic (abbreviation) | Number of articles |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Sex (SEX)            | 100               |
| Sex Healthy (SHE)    | 100               |
| Fa Lun Gong (FLG)    | 100               |
| Critical of Fa Lun Gong (CFLG) | 100 |
| Physical (PHY)       | 100               |
| Military affairs (MIA)| 100             |
| Finance and economics (FAE) | 100 |
| Education (EDU)      | 100               |
| Entertainment (ENT)  | 100               |
| Computer (COM)       | 100               |
| **Total**            | **1000**          |

Table 2 The composing of the test corpus

**Experiment 1**: By classifying the test corpus, we could value the effect of the FIFA-based text automatic classification. The following figure 2 shows the results of text classification. Line ◆ represents precision percent while line ■ represents recall percent.
4. Conclusion

This paper presented a simple and effective approach to topic automatic identification. We use the topic identification approach for the task of text classification. The results of experiment show that a good precise and recall percent are achieved. In fact the topic identification approach called FIFA could be used not only as a stand-alone topic identification unit, but also in other text processing tasks such as text summarization, information retrieval, information routing etc.

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