

# Using Context Features for Morphological Analysis of Russian

Alexey Sorokin<sup>1,2</sup>, Ekaterina Yankovskaya<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Moscow State University, <sup>2</sup>Moscow Institute of Science and Technology

“Dialogue”, International Conference  
on Computational Linguistics,  
Moscow, June, 1st, 2017

# POS-tagging for Russian and English

- POS-tagging for English
  - Plenty of systems and approaches: HMM, CRF, dependency networks, neural networks, combinations of approaches...
  - High results due to relatively simple morphology ( $\approx 97.5\%$  on WSJ).

# POS-tagging for Russian and English

- POS-tagging for English
  - Plenty of systems and approaches: HMM, CRF, dependency networks, neural networks, combinations of approaches...
  - High results due to relatively simple morphology ( $\approx 97.5\%$  on WSJ).
- POS-tagging for Russian: problems with traditional approaches
  - HMM do not decompose tags and uses only 2 previous words. Though simple to implement and fast.

# POS-tagging for Russian and English

- POS-tagging for English
  - Plenty of systems and approaches: HMM, CRF, dependency networks, neural networks, combinations of approaches...
  - High results due to relatively simple morphology ( $\approx 97.5\%$  on WSJ).
- POS-tagging for Russian: problems with traditional approaches
  - HMM do not decompose tags and uses only 2 previous words. Though simple to implement and fast.
  - CRF do decompose tags but creates too much features. History of length 2 is already problematic to handle.
  
- Even if neural networks work well we do not know why. Let's do some linguistics instead.

# POS-tagging for Russian and English

- POS-tagging for English
  - Plenty of systems and approaches: HMM, CRF, dependency networks, neural networks, combinations of approaches...
  - High results due to relatively simple morphology ( $\approx 97.5\%$  on WSJ).
- POS-tagging for Russian: problems with traditional approaches
  - HMM do not decompose tags and uses only 2 previous words. Though simple to implement and fast.
  - CRF do decompose tags but creates too much features. History of length 2 is already problematic to handle.
  - **And in Russian we need history of arbitrary length.**
  
- Even if neural networks work well we do not know why. Let's do some linguistics instead.

# POS-tagging for Russian and English

- POS-tagging for English
  - Plenty of systems and approaches: HMM, CRF, dependency networks, neural networks, combinations of approaches...
  - High results due to relatively simple morphology ( $\approx 97.5\%$  on WSJ).
- POS-tagging for Russian: problems with traditional approaches
  - HMM do not decompose tags and uses only 2 previous words. Though simple to implement and fast.
  - CRF do decompose tags but creates too much features. History of length 2 is already problematic to handle.
  - **And in Russian we need history of arbitrary length.**
  - Constraint-based approach do not handle complex cases or require too much labour.
- Even if neural networks work well we do not know why. Let's do some linguistics instead.

# POS-tagging for Russian and English

- POS-tagging for English
  - Plenty of systems and approaches: HMM, CRF, dependency networks, neural networks, combinations of approaches...
  - High results due to relatively simple morphology ( $\approx 97.5\%$  on WSJ).
- POS-tagging for Russian: problems with traditional approaches
  - HMM do not decompose tags and uses only 2 previous words. Though simple to implement and fast.
  - CRF do decompose tags but creates too much features. History of length 2 is already problematic to handle.
  - **And in Russian we need history of arbitrary length.**
  - Constraint-based approach do not handle complex cases or require too much labour.
  - Neural networks.. Hmm, they were not tested.
- Even if neural networks work well we do not know why. Let's do some linguistics instead.

# Linguistics for computational morphology

- Common ambiguities in Russian:
  - Nominative vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Genitive vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.



# Linguistics for computational morphology

- Common ambiguities in Russian:
  - Nominative vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Genitive vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Short adjectives vs adverbs.
  - “что” — a pronoun or a conjunction?

# Linguistics for computational morphology

- Common ambiguities in Russian:
  - Nominative vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Genitive vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Short adjectives vs adverbs.
  - “что” — a pronoun or a conjunction?
- How we may process it:
  - A nominative is usually a subject.
  - Accusative often follows a transitive verb being its direct object.
  - Adjectives and nouns agree in case, gender and number.

# Linguistics for computational morphology

- Common ambiguities in Russian:
  - Nominative vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Genitive vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Short adjectives vs adverbs.
  - “что” — a pronoun or a conjunction?
- How we may process it:
  - A nominative is usually a subject.
  - Accusative often follows a transitive verb being its direct object.
  - Adjectives and nouns agree in case, gender and number.
  - Short adjective is usually a predicate etc.

# Linguistics for computational morphology

- Common ambiguities in Russian:
  - Nominative vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Genitive vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Short adjectives vs adverbs.
  - “что” — a pronoun or a conjunction?
- How we may process it:
  - A nominative is usually a subject.
  - Accusative often follows a transitive verb being its direct object.
  - Adjectives and nouns agree in case, gender and number.
  - Short adjective is usually a predicate etc.
- Let's extract features reflecting whether these constraints are satisfied.

# Linguistics for computational morphology

- Common ambiguities in Russian:
  - Nominative vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Genitive vs accusative for nouns and adjectives.
  - Short adjectives vs adverbs.
  - “что” — a pronoun or a conjunction?
- How we may process it:
  - A nominative is usually a subject.
  - Accusative often follows a transitive verb being its direct object.
  - Adjectives and nouns agree in case, gender and number.
  - Short adjective is usually a predicate etc.
- Let's extract features reflecting whether these constraints are satisfied.
- These features are “soft constraints”.

## Soft constraints

- Hard constraint: a full adjective must be coordinated with some noun. These two words agree in case, gender and number.
- Hard constraint: a transitive verb must be followed or preceded by a direct object.

## Soft constraints

- Hard constraint: a full adjective must be coordinated with some noun. These two words agree in case, gender and number.
- Hard constraint: a transitive verb must be followed or preceded by a direct object.
- Hard constraint often fail:
  - *Рассказал сказку vs рассказал друзьям о себе.*
  - *Думал уйти vs Думал о погоде.*

## Soft constraints

- Hard constraint: a full adjective must be coordinated with some noun. These two words agree in case, gender and number.
- Hard constraint: a transitive verb must be followed or preceded by a direct object.
- Hard constraint often fail:
  - *Рассказал сказку vs рассказал друзьям о себе.*
  - *Думал уйти vs Думал о погоде.*
- Soft constraint: let us count a number of transitive verbs followed by a direct object.



## Soft constraints

- Hard constraint: a full adjective must be coordinated with some noun. These two words agree in case, gender and number.
- Hard constraint: a transitive verb must be followed or preceded by a direct object.
- Hard constraint often fail:
  - *Рассказал сказку vs рассказал друзьям о себе.*
  - *Думал уйти vs Думал о погоде.*
- Soft constraint: let us count a number of transitive verbs followed by a direct object.
- That would be a strong positive feature.

# Feature inventory

9 groups of features:

- Adjective coordination.
- Determiner coordination.
- Preposition government.

# Feature inventory

9 groups of features:

- Adjective coordination.
- Determiner coordination.
- Preposition government.
- Verb government.
- Nominative features.
- Accusative features.

# Feature inventory

9 groups of features:

- Adjective coordination.
- Determiner coordination.
- Preposition government.
- Verb government.
- Nominative features.
- Accusative features.
- Noun-noun features.
- Noun-and-noun features.
- Noun-comma-noun features.

## Examples of features: adjectives.

- Adjectives:
  - Number of adjectives.
  - Number of adjectives, coordinated with nouns to the right side.
  - Number of adjectives, coordinated with nouns to the left side.
  - Indicator for non-coordinated adjectives presence.

## Examples of features: adjectives.

- Adjectives:
  - Number of adjectives.
  - Number of adjectives, coordinated with nouns to the right side.
  - Number of adjectives, coordinated with nouns to the left side.
  - Indicator for non-coordinated adjectives presence.
- Determiners: the same as adjectives.

## Examples of features: adjectives.

- Adjectives:
  - Number of adjectives.
  - Number of adjectives, coordinated with nouns to the right side.
  - Number of adjectives, coordinated with nouns to the left side.
  - Indicator for non-coordinated adjectives presence.
- Determiners: the same as adjectives.
- Prepositions:
  - Number of prepositions.
  - Number of prepositions, coordinated with nouns in case.
  - Indicator of non-coordinated prepositions presence.

## Examples of features: verb government

- For every verb lemma we collect the counts of following noun group cases.
- For every verb lemma we collect the counts of following preposition group cases.



## Examples of features: verb government

- For every verb lemma we collect the counts of following noun group cases.
- For every verb lemma we collect the counts of following preposition group cases.
- Extracted features:
  - Sum of log-probabilities of verb objects over all verbs in the sentence.
  - Sum of log-probabilities of preposition verb objects over all verbs in the sentence.

## Examples of features: verb government

- For every verb lemma we collect the counts of following noun group cases.
- For every verb lemma we collect the counts of following preposition group cases.
- Extracted features:
  - Sum of log-probabilities of verb objects over all verbs in the sentence.
  - Sum of log-probabilities of preposition verb objects over all verbs in the sentence.
  - Number of reflexive verbs followed by nominative (strong positive feature).
  - Number of reflexive verbs followed by instrumental case.
  - Total number of verbs in the sentence.

## Examples of features: nominatives

- Nominatives: about 20 features.
  - Number of nominatives coordinated with verbs to the right.
  - Number of nominatives coordinated with verbs to the left.

## Examples of features: nominatives

- Nominatives: about 20 features.
  - Number of nominatives coordinated with verbs to the right.
  - Number of nominatives coordinated with verbs to the left.
  - Number of nominative-nominative clauses.
  - Number of  $\text{}\text{}\text{}$ -nominative clauses.
  - Number of noun-adjective clauses etc.

## Examples of features: nominatives

- Nominatives: about 20 features.
  - Number of nominatives coordinated with verbs to the right.
  - Number of nominatives coordinated with verbs to the left.
  - Number of nominative-nominative clauses.
  - Number of *эго*-nominative clauses.
  - Number of noun-adjective clauses etc.
- Accusatives: about 20 features.
  - Number of transitive verbs.
  - Number of transitive verbs followed by accusative/genitive.
  - Number of transitive verbs preceded by *he* and followed by accusative/genitive.
  - Number of transitive verbs with direct objects to the left etc.

# The learning algorithm

- The main idea: train a linear classifier to rank correct hypotheses higher.

# The learning algorithm

- The main idea: train a linear classifier to rank correct hypotheses higher.
- Training procedure:
  - Generate  $n$ -best hypotheses for each sentence in the training set using the baseline classifier.
  - For each hypothesis extract a feature vector.

# The learning algorithm

- The main idea: train a linear classifier to rank correct hypotheses higher.
- Training procedure:
  - Generate  $n$ -best hypotheses for each sentence in the training set using the baseline classifier.
  - For each hypothesis extract a feature vector.
  - On each sentence  $s_i$ , train the classifier to score the feature vector  $x_{i,0}$  higher than vectors  $x_{i,j}$  for other hypotheses  $s_j$ :

$$(w; x_{i,0}) > (w; x_{i,j}).$$



# The learning algorithm

- The main idea: train a linear classifier to rank correct hypotheses higher.
- Training procedure:
  - Generate  $n$ -best hypotheses for each sentence in the training set using the baseline classifier.
  - For each hypothesis extract a feature vector.
  - On each sentence  $s_i$ , train the classifier to score the feature vector  $x_{i,0}$  higher than vectors  $x_{i,j}$  for other hypotheses  $s_j$ :

$$(w; x_{i,0}) > (w; x_{i,j}).$$

- Equivalently,

$$(w; x_{i,0} - x_{i,j}) > 0.$$

# The learning algorithm

- The main idea: train a linear classifier to rank correct hypotheses higher.
- Training procedure:
  - Generate  $n$ -best hypotheses for each sentence in the training set using the baseline classifier.
  - For each hypothesis extract a feature vector.
  - On each sentence  $s_i$ , train the classifier to score the feature vector  $x_{i,0}$  higher than vectors  $x_{i,j}$  for other hypotheses  $s_j$ :

$$(w; x_{i,0}) > (w; x_{i,j}).$$

- Equivalently,

$$(w; x_{i,0} - x_{i,j}) > 0.$$

- Standard classification task: arrange  $x_{i,0} - x_{i,j}$  to the positive class and the opposite vector to the negative one.

# The tagging algorithm

- The prediction procedure:
  - Generate  $n$ -best hypotheses for each sentence in the test set using baseline classifier.

# The tagging algorithm

- The prediction procedure:
  - Generate  $n$ -best hypotheses for each sentence in the test set using baseline classifier.
  - Using the trained vector  $\mathbf{w}$  of weights, select the hypothesis  $x_{i,j}$  with the highest score  $(\mathbf{w}, x_{i,j})$ .

# The tagging algorithm

- The prediction procedure:
  - Generate  $n$ -best hypotheses for each sentence in the test set using baseline classifier.
  - Using the trained vector  $\mathbf{w}$  of weights, select the hypothesis  $x_{i,j}$  with the highest score  $(\mathbf{w}, x_{i,j})$ .
- Algorithm: logistic regression. Averaged margin perceptron gives slightly worse results.

## Performance evaluation

№	Model	Development set		Test set	
		Tag acc.	Sent acc.	Tag acc.	Sent acc.
1	HMM+prep+trans	95.0	74.1	93.77	65.15
2	1+adj+det+prep	95.3	74.3	94.05	66.14
3	2+verbs	95.5	75.2	94.22	66.77
4	3+nom+acc	96.2	78.1	94.75	68.79
5	4+conj+noun-noun	96.3	78.5	94.82	69.32

Таблица: Results on development and test set of MorphoRuEval-2017

# Conclusions

- Positive:
  - Linguistic features and reranking actually work.

# Conclusions

- Positive:
  - Linguistic features and reranking actually work.
- Problems:
  - Careful and labour-intensive feature engineering (otherwise only a marginal gain is achieved).
  - Basic classifier probability receives too much weight.



# Conclusions

- Positive:
  - Linguistic features and reranking actually work.
- Problems:
  - Careful and labour-intensive feature engineering (otherwise only a marginal gain is achieved).
  - Basic classifier probability receives too much weight.
  - Reranking against lower hypotheses: basic classifier probability already does well.
  - Reranking against higher hypotheses: not all linguistic constraints are violated in such hypotheses.

## Future work

- Partial solutions:
  - Rerank only against hypotheses whose basic loss is lower than some threshold.
  - Subtract a margin from basic classifier gain (small positive gains become negative forcing the classifier to use other features).

## Future work

- Partial solutions:
  - Rerank only against hypotheses whose basic loss is lower than some threshold.
  - Subtract a margin from basic classifier gain (small positive gains become negative forcing the classifier to use other features).
- Future work:
  - Integrate a stronger basic classifier (CRF or neural nets).
  - Use more complex reranking procedure.

## Future work

- Partial solutions:
  - Rerank only against hypotheses whose basic loss is lower than some threshold.
  - Subtract a margin from basic classifier gain (small positive gains become negative forcing the classifier to use other features).
- Future work:
  - Integrate a stronger basic classifier (CRF or neural nets).
  - Use more complex reranking procedure.
  - Automatic feature selection from patterns.
  - Use more lexically-oriented features.

Спасибо за внимание!  
Thank you for your attention!