Information Extraction: Beyond Named Entities

Adam Meyers
New York University
Outline

• What is Information Extraction?
• ACE Entities, Relations and Events
• Timex and TimeML
What is Information Extraction?

- The automatic extraction of information
- Input: possibly limited set of documents
- Output: usually a task-defined template to fill in
- Definitions:
  - Typically idiosyncratically defined for task
  - Can include technology (SRL, etc.) that helps IE
- Comparison with Question Answering
  - QA more opened ended – depends on questions
  - QA: paragraph output vs. IE structured output
  - Some IE techniques, e.g., if answer = short phrase
  - Some IR techniques, e.g., if answer = paragraph
  - Not covering QA in this class
Some Sample IE Tasks

• Extract instances of people starting jobs and ending jobs
  – Identify: person, start or stop time, company

• Extract instances of Entity1 attacking Entity2, where entities include people, GPEs (locs), facilities or vehicles
  – Identify: aggressor, victim, weapon, time

• Extract instances of disease outbreak
  – Identify: victims, disease, start time, time span, location

• Extract advertisements for cameras
  – Identify: seller, brand, model, price, date

• Identify family, social and business relations between individuals
Some ACE History

- Entities: English, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish
- Relations: English, Chinese, Arabic
- Events: English, Chinese, Arabic
- Documentation for various versions of tasks:
- Different years (from 2000 to 2008)
  - Different tasks and subtasks
  - Different versions of specifications
  - We discuss latest available versions of English tasks
Named Entity Review

• Tend to be phrases consisting of proper nouns
  – Capitalization, uniquely identify entity in real world, ...
  – Ex: *The Association for Computational Linguistics*

• Internal structure may differ from common NPs
  – Ex: *Adam L. Meyers, Ph.D.*

• Only certain types are marked
  – Task-specific
  – ACE task: GPE, Person, Organization, Location, Facility
    • In some versions: Vehicle and Weapon
ACE Entities

• An Entity = a list of coreferential NPs
  – Each of these NPs is a “mention” of the entity
  – Finding coreference will be part of a different lecture

• Types of mentions: names, common nouns, pronouns

• Names: what we have been calling named entities

• Nominal mentions: phrases headed by common nouns
  – same semantic classes: GPE, ORGANIZATION, ...
  – EX: that country, the government, the agency, the whimsical pediatrician, the terrorist wearing a hat

• Pronominal mentions: pronouns
  – Must refer to markable semantic class (e.g., by coreference)
  – He, she, it, they, themselves, their, her, everyone, ...
Detecting ACE Entity Mentions

• Detecting ACE name mentions
  – Sequence labeling, typically with BIO tags (Nymbol, HW6, etc.)
• Detecting ACE common noun mentions:
  – Find common nouns from training corpus
  – Generalize
    • Stemming
    • WordNet, clustering, or a list of words
      – statistical methods for semantically similarity
  – Identify non-generic cases
    • *Gardners are lousy plumbers.* [Generic]
    • *The gardner was a lousy plumber.* [Non-Generic]
      • Baseline: definite determiners plus past tense → non-generic
• Pronoun Mention – dependent on coreference techniques
• Coreference Component – described in past lecture
ACE Relations and Events

- Predicate + Arguments
- Annotation of Predicate triggers
  - Event mention triggers: words
    - Specs discuss choice of nouns/verbs: *launch an attack*
  - Relation mention triggers: grammatical constructions
    - ACE specs refer to these constructions as relation classes
    - ML must learn which words trigger which relations

- Arguments of Event and Relation Mentions
  - Usually, NPs belonging to ACE Entity classes:
    - Named Entities, common noun phrases, pronouns
  - Values – times, extents, crimes, ...
    - [https://www.ldc.upenn.edu/sites/www.ldc.upenn.edu/files/english-values-guidelines-v1.2.4.pdf](https://www.ldc.upenn.edu/sites/www.ldc.upenn.edu/files/english-values-guidelines-v1.2.4.pdf)
  - Relations always take exactly 2 arguments
  - Event arguments vary in number (and a given argument may be absent)
Ace Relations

• Relation Entity: set of coreferential relation mentions
  – Same arguments
  – Refer to same predication

• Relation types
  – Physical: Location and Near
  – Part-Whole: Geographical and Subsidiary
  – Per-Social: Business, Family, Lasting-Personal
  – Org-Affiliation: Employee, Owner, Member, ...
  – Agent-Artifact: User-Owner-Inventor-Manufacturer
  – Gen-Affiliation: Citizen-Resident-Religion-Ethnicity, Org-Location-Origin

• Relation Classes: Syntactic environments (sentence internal only)
  – Verbal, Possessive, PreMod, Coordination, Preposition, Formulaic, Participial, Other
ACE Relation Examples

- **George Bush traveled to France on Thursday for a summit.**
  - Physical.located(*George Bush, France*)
  - Class = Verbal, Modality = Asserted, Tense = Past
- **Microsoft's chief scientist**
  - Org-Aff.employment(*Microsoft's chief scientist, Microsoft*)
  - Class = Possessive, Modality = Asserted, Tense = Unspecified
- **New York police**
  - Part-Whole.Subsidiary(*New York police, New York*)
  - Class = PreMod, Modality = Asserted, Tense = Unspecified
- **Dick Cheney and a hunting partner**
  - Per-Social.Lasting(*Dick Cheney, a hunting partner*)
  - Class = Coordination, Modality = Asserted, Tense = Present
- **A linguist from New York**
  - Gen-Aff.CRRE(*A linguist from New York, New York*)
  - Class = Preposition, Modality = Asserted, Tense = Unspecified
ACE Relation Detection

• General
  – Most Systems use ML and a variety of features
  – 2 Possible Testing environments
    • Entity detection system first and use results
    • Hand-annotated ("true") entity mentions – separate entity from relation detection

• Example System: Zhou, et al. 2005 (using "true" entity mentions)
  – http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P05-1053
  – Support Vector Machines – ML algorithm, details omitted
  – Features similar to those used for semantic role labeling:
    • words in arguments, entity types, nearby words, chunking features, parsing features, dependency features, name features from gazetteers, WordNet features ...
  – Observation: Parsing (and dependency) features helped very little
    • Probably because most relations are between nearby words
  – Results: Precision = 63.1, Recall = 49.3, F-score = 55.5
    • F-scores vary by type from 36.4 (Physical.near) to 72.6 (Gen-Aff.CRRE)
ACE Events

• Event Entity: set of coreferential entity mentions
  – Nonconflicting arguments
    • A mention may include a subset of the arguments
  – Refer to same predication (event, state, etc.)

• Event types
  – Life: be-born, marry, divorce, injure, die
  – Movement: transport
  – Transaction: transfer-ownership, transfer-money
  – Business: start-org, end-org, merge-org, declare-bankruptcy
  – Conflict: attack, demonstrate
  – Contact: meet, phone-write
  – Personnel: start-position, end-position, nominate, elect
  – Justice: arrest-jail, release-parole, sue, appeal, pardon, ...
ACE Event Example

• On Thursday, Pippi sailed the ship from Sweden to the South Seas
  – ANCHOR = sailed
  – ARTIFACT-ARG = Pippi
  – VEHICLE-ARG = the ship
  – ORIGIN-ARG = Sweden
  – DESTINATION-ARG = the South Seas
  – TIME-ARG = Thursday

• Similar to Semantic Role Labeling, but limited to several Frames
  – Like FrameNet
    • fewer frames
      • annotation-based instead of lexicon based
  – Targeted towards specific tasks (unlike PropBank/NomBank)
ACE Event Detection

• Very few published system descriptions
  – Official ACE scores are hard to understand
    • Much more complex than F-score
    • Includes (subjective) weights based on utility value (e.g., names are weighted higher than common nouns because they carry more info)
      – Task is complex including entity detection, coreference, event coreference, etc.
      – Only for ACE years 2004 (English) and 2005 (Chinese also)
    – Scores tended to be low

• Best performing systems use parsing features
  – Unlike relation extraction, non-local features matter

• Task often broken down into subtasks
  – Identify event anchor, identify arguments, coreference, ...
Example System: Ahn 2006

- [http://anthology.aclweb.org/W/W06/W06-0901.pdf](http://anthology.aclweb.org/W/W06/W06-0901.pdf)
- Maximum Entropy Based System
- Detecting and Classifying Event Anchors:
  - Features: word, regularized (upper/lower, lemma, POS, depth in parse tree, WordNet features, left/right context (case, POS), dependency relations (info about words/relations above and below anchor, path features, etc.)
  - Precision = .735, Recall = .513, F-score = .601
- Argument Identification
  - Features: anchor word (with/without regularization), Event type, argument (determiner, head, POS, class, depth in parse tree, mention type, same info about sibling arguments, dependency path from anchor to argument
  - Precision = .689, Recall = .490, F-score = .573
- Other subtasks: time, +/-generic, modality, polarity
Time

• Timex
  – Identifying Absolute Time Expressions
    • Regularization
  – Relative Time Expressions
    • Regularization
    • Relation to document time

• TimeML – temporal relations between 2 args
  – Event and Time  [Event ≈ACE Event Mention]
    • Event is before/after/at/during/.... Time
  – Event1 and Event2
    • Time(Event1) is before/after/at/during/.... Time(Event2)
TIMEX (TIMEX2, TIMEX3, ...)  

- Identifies several types of time expressions in text  
  - Absolute Time (January 3, 2011 at 5:00 AM)  
  - Relative Time (last Thursday)  
  - Duration (5 days)  

- 2 Types of Markup (XML)  
  - Inline:  
    - `<TIMEX3 tid="t18" type="DATE" temporalFunction="true" functionInDocument="NONE" value="1990-01-02" anchorTimeID="t17" >Jan. 2</TIMEX3>`  
  - Offset: `<TIMEX3 .... start="2015" end="2021"/>`  
    - Other than start and end, all the same features
value in ISO 8861 Standard TIMEX3

- Fills the XML value slot
- Time values: month, day, year, hour, second, quarter, half, week, ...
- Examples:
  - December 14, 2011 at 10:49:01AM → 2011-12-14-T10:49:01
  - 3:49PM → T15:49
  - December 14 → XXXX-12-14
  - A Sunday in November → XXXX-11-SU
  - 2011, 3rd Quarter → 2011-Q3

- Values of relative times are calculated
  - Last Thursday → 2011-12-08 if the publishing date is 12/14/2011

- Values of absolute times are looked up and filled in
  - December 14 → 2011-12-14 (from context, e.g., past tense, before 12/14/2012, ...)

- Duration values: numbers and units
  - 5 months → P5M
  - 5 minutes → P5TM
• Identifying Time Expressions
  – Manual rules, HMM, etc.

• Encoding values already in the text
  – Manual rules: very small number of terms with clear values –
    simple regular expressions or patterns with look up table

• Calculating values relative to
  – Document Time: publication date (news articles)
  – Other times found in the text [not always implemented]

• Examples for article published Wed, Dec 14, 2011
  – \textit{Yesterday} $\rightarrow$ 2011-12-13
  – \textit{Last Thursday} $\rightarrow$ 2011-12-08
  – \textit{November 3} $\rightarrow$ 2011-11-03

  • may be 2012 depending on month and modifiers (next, last, ...)
Sample Times Rules from NYU Proteus

• Look at Ralph's JET file: time_rules.yaml
TimeML Relations

- There are several different TimeML Relations
  - **Tlink**: [We will focus on this one]
    - Link between time and event
    - Link between time(event1) and time(event2)
    - Overlaps with Penn Discourse Treebank Relations (PDTB)
      - PDTB
        » PDTB also covers non-temporal relations
        » But only links sentences (verbs), not temporal phrases (NPs)
  - **Slink**:
    - Link between event and event (subordination)
  - **Alink**
    - Link between aspectual marker (start, end, etc.) and event
Arguments of TLink Relations

• Event (different than in ACE):
  – Word anchoring something that has a time
  – All verbs (event those that represent states)
    • PDTB uses sentences (phrase vs. dependency representation)
    • For TimeML, coordinated verbs counted separately
  – Some nouns (though not consistently marked)
    • Not in PDTB

• Time:
  – Temporal Expression
  – Document Time
  – Time(Event) – only one used in comparable PDTB relations
Tlink Features

- **Signal**: word or phrase that anchors relation
  - Same as predicate for Penn Discourse Treebank
  - Optional
- **RelType**: Classification of temporal relation
  - BEFORE, AFTER – before or after
  - INCLUDES, IS_INCLUDED – time spans event
  - DURING – duration
  - SIMULTANEOUS – at same time
  - IBEFORE, IAFTER – Immediately Before/After
  - IDENTITY – same event
  - BEGINS, ENDS, BEGUN_BY, ENDED_BY – marks boundary
Simple Cases: Signals and Modification

- Relation **from** Event Instance (red) **to** Time/Event (white)
  - PDTB: ARG1 = **from**, ARG2 = **to** due to **Signal** (blue)
- Prepositions and subordinate conjunction signals
  - *They left the room after 5 o'clock.* (AFTER)
  - *They left the room while the mayor was announcing the new law.* (During)
- Discourse adverb signal
  - *The mayor announced the law. Simultaneously, they sang the song.* (Simultaneous)
- Modification
  - *The mayor announced it Last Thursday.* (IS_INCLUDED)
Sequences of Simple Tenses

- Two instances of simple past tense
  - *John* had a headache. *He* took two aspirin. (BEFORE)
  - *The lamp* fell. *It* shattered into a million pieces. (IBEFORE)
  - *They* ate steak. *They* drank wine. (SIMULTANEOUS)
  - *He* slept for hours. *He* dreamed about monsters. (INCLUDES)

- Two instances of simple present tense
  - *I* have a big problem. *I* have a headache. (IDENTITY)
  - *The fish* swims. *The bird* flies. (SIMULTANEOUS)

- Different Tenses
  - *Mary's head* hurts. *She* left school early. (AFTER)
  - *Mary* left school early. *Her* head hurts. (BEFORE)
+-Progressive and +/-Perfective

- Progressive: – *be* + *-ing* (continuous action)
- Perfective: *have* + *-en* (past relative to a reference point)

Examples:
- *I see a ghost. I am leaving.* (IBEFORE)
- *They are laughing. They see the ghost.* (SIMULTANEOUS)
- *He was leaving. He saw a ghost.* (IAFTER)
- *They saw a ghost. They were leaving.* (SIMULTANEOUS)
- *I am leaving. They have won the game.* (AFTER)
- *They have won the game. I am leaving.* (BEFORE)
- *She left. She had eaten a sandwich.* (AFTER)
- *She had eaten a sandwich. She left.* (BEFORE)
- *She left. She had been eating a sandwich.* (AFTER)
- *She had been eating a sandwich. She left.* (BEFORE)
Vendler's Aspectual Verb Classes

- States: *be, know, love, have, own, ..*
- Process: *run, eat, fly, …*
  - Process describes all subevents
- Accomplishment: *draw a circle, run a race, …*
  - Time period measures entire event duration
- Achievement: won, die, …
  - Time measures end point
- Interaction: aspect classes and aspect
  - Progressive: state → process, process → state, …
- Vendler, Zeno “Verbs and Times”
  - Originally published in 1957 in *The Philosophical Review*, but easier to find in Vendler (1967) *Linguistics in Philosophy*
Factors in the Ordering of Events

• Signals
• Sequence of Tenses
• Sequences of Aspect
• Sequences of Aspectual Verb Classes
  – Sense disambiguation-like problem
• Real world knowledge
  – e.g., breaking tends to occur after falling
Manual Rules

• Lexical signals
  – Most common signals (subord conj/preps) easy
  – Others (adverbs) may require a lexicon (manually or automatically created)

• Tense and Aspect Sequences
  – There is some descriptive work
  – General rules may only describe typical cases
    • (Past | Perfective) + Present → Before
    • Present + (Past | Perfective) → After
    • Past + Past-Participle → After  [reliable rule]
      – *Mary left. She had eaten her dinner.*
    • Past + Past → Before  [not reliable]
      – *Mary left. She ate dinner.*
    – Exception: *The dish broke. It fell.*
Machine Learning

- **TimeBank** – Annotation for Supervised Methods
- **Patterns to Acquire**
  - Rare signals → Relation Type
    - Lexical information
    - Ex: whence → SIMULTANEOUS, ...
  - Predicate/Predicate Pairs → Relation Type
    - Modeling real world knowledge
    - Ex: fall/break → BEFORE, …
  - Tense/Aspect Pair Probabilities
    - Past/Past → BEFORE relation with 72% probability
TimeML Systems

• 2010 shared task
  – [hyperlink](http://www.timeml.org/tempeval2/)

• Best System Performance for English:
  – Task A (recognition/regularization of timex3)
    • Recall/Precision/F-score – all about 85%
  – Task B (identifying events)
    • Best Recall: 81%, Precision: 86%, F-score: 83%
  – Best F-scores for Relation Tasks
    • Task C (relation betw timex and event in 1 sentence): 63%
    • Task D (relation betw event and document time): 82%
    • Task E (relation betw main events in adjacent sentences): 56%
    • Task F (relation betw superordinate/subordinate events): 60%
Other High Level IE-like Tasks

• Sentiment Analysis
  – Identify differing opinions
  – Detect positive/negative/other views/language
    • Application: Divide reviews into positive and negative
      – Movies, products, politicians, etc.
    • Use IR techniques

• Detect Attribution
  – Whose view does a given sentence represent
  – John said that Mary said …. [Author:John:Mary]

• Factivity
  – Is the statement reported to be true/false/other
  – According to whom
Other Types of Entities to Extract

• Terminology
  – Terms that are specific to particular genres
  – genes, chemicals, species, formulas, ..

• Numeric terms
  – Numbers, Money, Percent

• Commercial
  – Product Names, Brand Names, …
  – ID numbers, ...
Summary

• Information Extraction:
  – The automatic extraction of information from text to produce structured output that, e.g., can be put into a database

• Named Entities: classified instances of names

• ACE Relations and Events: predications with entities and other nouns as arguments

• Timex: An NE-like classification for temporal expressions, with missing information filled in.

• TLink: Temporal relation (before, after, etc.) between 2 events
Events and Relations Readings

• J & M Chapters 22.2 to 22.4 (required)
• ACE Relation Guidelines (optional):
• ACE Event Guidelines (optional):
• ACE Relation and Event System papers (read 1 paper)
  – http://www.aclweb.org/anthology/P/P05/P05-1053.pdf
Time Annotation and Documentation

- **TimeBank corpus (optional)**
  - [http://timeml.org/site/timebank/timebank.html](http://timeml.org/site/timebank/timebank.html)
  - TimeBank1.1 Corpus – I may be able to make this available if needed

- **A good resource (optional)**
    - Includes reprint
    - Vendler (1967) “Verbs and Times”

- **Trips/Trio – An Example TimeML system (read):**