
Unsupervised Morphological Learning for Bangla

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Morphological Analysis / Word Segmentation

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§ **English:**

“unforgettable”

= “un” (Prefix) + “forget” (Root) + “able” (Suffix)

§ **Bangla:**

“অনাধুনিকতার” (anAdhUnIkTAr)

= “an” (Prefix) + “@dhUnIk” (Root) + “TA” (Suffix) +
“r” (Inflectional Suffix)

Why Morphological Analysis?

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- § POS tagging
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§ Unsupervised approaches

- ▶ Induce morphemes from a large, unannotated corpus
- ▶ Successfully applied to many **European** languages such as English, German, and Dutch (e.g., Goldsmith (2001), Schone and Jurafsky (2001), Freitag (2005))
- ▶ Not so successful for **agglutinative** languages such as Finnish and Turkish (see [2006 PASCAL Challenge on Unsupervised Segmentation of Words into Morphemes](#))

Goal

Unsupervised morphological analysis for Bangla

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How difficult is morphological parsing of Bangla?

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Unsupervised morphological analysis for Bangla

How difficult is morphological parsing of Bangla?

- § Bangla is highly inflectional but not agglutinative
- § More difficult than English
- § Less difficult than Turkish and Finnish

Our Unsupervised Word Segmentation Algorithm

1. Morpheme induction

- ▶ Induce morphemes from a **vocabulary** V (a list of words taken from a large, unannotated corpus)

2. Segmentation

- ▶ Segment a word based on the induced morphemes

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- § Let A and B be two character sequences. Assume:
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 - n "preset" and "set" \Rightarrow "pre" is a prefix

Basic Prefix and Suffix Induction Method (Cont')

Problem: Assumption does not always hold

- ▶ “diverge” and “diver” are in V “ge” is a suffix **Wrong!**

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Many of the induced prefixes and suffixes are erroneous

Solution: **score** each induced affix and retain only those whose scores are above a pre-defined threshold

- ▶ $\text{Score}(a) = \text{affix-frequency}(a) * \text{length}(a)$

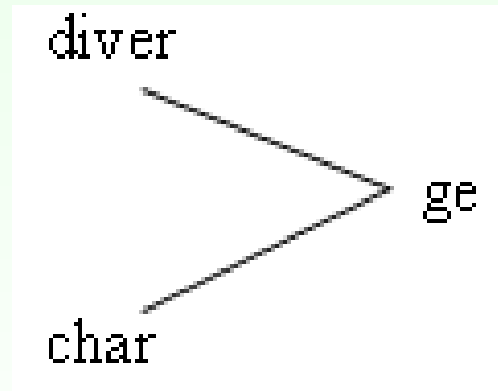
Affix Frequency

§ Number of distinct words in V to which an affix attaches

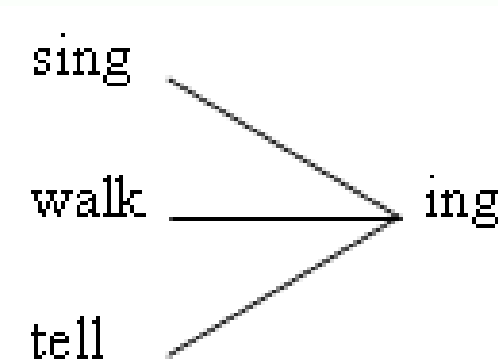
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§ Number of distinct words in V to which an affix attaches

§ Affix frequency of “ge” = 2



§ Affix frequency of “ing” = 3



Why Should the Score of an Affix Depend on its Affix Frequency?

- § The higher the affix frequency
 - The more words to which the affix attaches
 - The more likely the affix is correct

Why Should the Score of an Affix Depend on its Length?

- § Shorter affixes are more likely to be incorrect than longer affixes (Goldsmith (2001))
 - ▶ A higher score should be given to a longer affix

Top Scoring Affixes According to the Metric

Top-scoring affixes according to metric 1			
Prefix List		Suffix List	
Prefix	Score	Suffix	Score
bI (বি)	1054	Er (ের)	19634
a (অ)	770	kE (কে)	13456
p~rTI (প্রতি)	664	r (র)	12747
mhA (মহা)	651	o (ও)	8213
p~r (প্র)	640	I (ি)	7872
SU (সু)	636	Sh (সহ)	6502
@ (আ)	626	E (ে)	6218
bIs~b (বিশ্ব)	580	dEr (দের)	5874
bA (বা)	544	TE (তে)	4296
sIk~FA (শিক্ষা)	500	gUlo (গুলো)	3440
gN (গণ)	496	rA (রা)	3262
prI (পরি)	486	tA (টা)	2592

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Scoring an Affix

- § We retain an affix in the induced list if and only if its score **exceeds the pre-defined threshold**
 - ▶ 60 for prefixes and 40 for suffixes

The Morpheme Induction Algorithm

- § Basic morpheme induction method
 - ▶ Prefix and suffix induction
 - ▶ **Root induction**

- § Three improvements to the basic induction method
 - ▶ Employing length-dependent thresholds
 - ▶ Detecting composite suffixes
 - ▶ Detecting incorrect attachments

Basic Root Induction Method

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 - ▶ If not, then we add w to the list of candidate roots.

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Employing Length-Dependent Thresholds

- § Recall that we retain an induced affix in our list if and only if its score exceeds some threshold
 - ▶ 60 for prefixes and 40 for suffixes
 - ▶ Threshold is **independent** of the length of an affix

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 - ▶ If affix length < 2 , multiply threshold by $(4 - \text{affix length})$
 - ▶ E.g., for candidate suffix “j” to remain in the list, it has to attain a score of at least $40 \cdot (4-1) = 120$.

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- § Many suffixes in the induced suffix list are **composite**

- § Need to **remove composite suffixes** from the list, because their presence could lead to **under-segmentation**.
 - ▶ E.g., “singers” should be segmented as “sing+er+s”. Without composite suffix detection, it will be segmented as “sing+ers”

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- § Same is true for Bangla
 - ▶ “TE” \neq “T” + “E”
 - ▶ “Er” \neq “E” + “r”
 - ▶ “Tr” \neq “T” + “r”

How to Detect Composite Suffixes?

- § Employ two criteria
 - ▶ Suffix strength
 - ▶ Word-level similarity

Suffix Strength

§ **Observation:**

Let C and S be two suffixes.

If CS is a composite suffix formed from C and S then

affix freq (CS) < affix freq (C)

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Suffix Strength

Affix frequency: Number of distinct words to which an affix attaches

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E.g., “ments” is a composite suffix composed of “ment” + “s”

If we count the affix freqs of “ments”, “ment”, “s” in a large corpus,

affix freq (“ments”) < affix freq (“ment”)

affix freq (“ments”) < affix freq (“s”)

Suffix Strength

- § Suffix strength alone can be used to determine that a suffix is **non-composite**

Consider the Bangla suffix “Er”.

affix freq (“Er”) = 9817

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- § But suffix strength alone is **not** sufficient for determining that a suffix is **composite**.

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Our Composite Suffix Detection Algorithm

- § Combines these two conditions to determine whether a suffix is composite

- § We posit suffix AB as composite if and only if
 1. the suffix strength condition is not violated:
 $\text{affix freq}(AB) < \text{affix freq}(A)$ and $\text{affix freq}(AB) < \text{affix freq}(B)$
 2. the word-level similarity between A and AB is sufficiently high (> 0.6)

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a word in V

an induced suffix

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§ Goal

- ▶ To automatically detect that the attachment of the affix “ate” to “candid” to form “candidate” is incorrect

The Incorrect Attachment Detection Problem

§ "affectionate" = "affection" + "ate" correct

§ "candidate" = "candid" + "ate" incorrect

How to Detect Incorrect Attachments?

§ A **simple** algorithm

§ Hypothesis

$$w=p+r \text{ or } w=r+s \Rightarrow \text{freq}(w) < \text{freq}(r)$$

where $\text{freq}(x)$ is the corpus frequency of word x

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§ Some examples

- ▶ “reopen” = “re” + “open” $\Rightarrow \text{freq}(\text{reopen}) < \text{freq}(\text{open})$
- ▶ “opening” = “open” + “ing” $\Rightarrow \text{freq}(\text{opening}) < \text{freq}(\text{open})$
- ▶ “unhealthy” = “un” + “healthy” $\Rightarrow \text{freq}(\text{unhealthy}) < \text{freq}(\text{healthy})$

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- § When evaluated on 286 words randomly chosen from V , the hypothesis is true in 83.56% of the cases.

Applying the Hypothesis to Detect Incorrect Attachments

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§ Solution: relax the hypothesis

$$\text{freq}(w) > c * \text{freq}(r) \Rightarrow w \neq p+r \text{ or } w \neq r+s$$

- ▶ $c=4$ for prefixal attachments and 15 for suffixal attachments

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Segmentation

- § Algorithm adopts a **generate-and-remove** strategy.

- § Given a word to be segmented
 1. Generate all possible segmentations of the word
 2. Apply a sequence of **tests** to remove candidate segmentations until only one candidate remains

Test 1

- § Remove any candidate segmentations $m_1 m_2 \dots m_n$ that violate any of the following linguistic constraints
- ▶ At least one of m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n is a root
 - ▶ If m_i is a prefix, then m_{i+1} must be a root or a prefix
 - ▶ If m_i is a suffix, then m_{i-1} must be a root or a suffix

Test 2

- § Retain only those candidate segmentations that have the smallest number of morphemes.

Test 3

- § Score each of the remaining candidate segmentations by summing up the **score** of each morpheme, where
 - ▶ The score of a prefix/suffix is its affix frequency, multiplied by the length of the affix
 - ▶ The score of a root is the number of morphemes that attach to it, multiplied by the length of the root

- § Select the highest-scoring candidate to be the final segmentation

Evaluation

Experimental Setup: Vocabulary Creation

1. Extract vocabulary from a corpus that contains one year of news articles taken from Prothom Alo
 2. Pre-process each article by tokenizing it, removing punctuations and other unwanted character sequences
- § ~143k distinct words in resulting vocabulary

Experimental Setup: Test Set Preparation

1. Randomly choose 3000 words from V that are at least 3-character long
 2. Manually remove proper nouns and words with spelling mistakes
 3. Ask two native speakers of Bengali to label the test cases
 4. Remove those test cases for which the two annotators produce non-identical segmentations
- § 2511 words in resulting test set

Experimental Setup: Evaluation Metrics

§ Exact accuracy

- ▶ Percentage of test cases whose proposed segmentation is identical to the correct segmentation

§ F-score

- ▶ Harmonic mean of recall and precision

$$\mathbf{Recall} = \frac{\text{Number of correctly placed boundaries}}{\text{Number of true morpheme boundaries}}$$

$$\mathbf{Precision} = \frac{\text{Number of correctly placed boundaries}}{\text{Number of proposed morpheme boundaries}}$$

Results

System Variation	Exact Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F-score
Baseline (Linguistica)	37.08	58.25	65.15	61.48
Basic induction	46.67	76.66	66.20	71.04
Composite suffix detection	55.99	79.07	80.61	79.83
Length dependent thresholds	58.38	81.97	79.75	80.85
Incorrect attachment detection	65.83	89.10	80.22	84.43

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Conclusions

- § A new unsupervised algorithm for Bangla word segmentation
 - ▶ Outperforms Linguistica when evaluated on 2511 hand-segmented words
 - ▶ Composite suffix detection and incorrect attachment detection contribute significantly to overall performance