ANLP 2014
Review and exam discussion

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Today

• Types of questions/topics for exam
• Suggestions for how to prepare
• Exam strategies
• NB demo
What kinds of questions? (1)

• Give an analysis (tags, parse, semantics and/or discourse) for some piece of text, possibly using a provided grammar or specified algorithm.
• Write down the formula for X and compute its value based on a given small set of data (normally you will only need to plug in the correct numbers and not necessarily reduce everything to a single value)
• Give an example of linguistic phenomenon Y and/or explain why this phenomenon is challenging for NLP.
• Discuss the pros and cons of method M for task T and/or give examples illustrating the pros/cons.
What kinds of questions? (2)

• Explain the similarities and differences between methods P and Q.

• Given some new task related to one we have discussed in class (or some new aspect of a task we have discussed), discuss the problems you might expect to face in approaching this task and/or how you could apply methods we have seen to try to address these problems.

• Other questions: this list is not guaranteed to be exhaustive.
Topics we may cover

• Please see the list of examinable topics: http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/anlp/review/review_ay14.html

• Some topics discussed in lectures are not on the list
  – E.g., material at the end of some lectures about current practices and trends which are not covered in the textbook.
Preparing for the exam

• Consider constructing examples for yourself to work through.
  – Both the process of constructing the example and working through it can be helpful.

• Consider forming groups and creating questions for each other to answer.

• We will try to answer any content questions we receive up until 48 hours before the exam.
  – We will not respond to questions received after that.
Past exam papers

• Past papers are available:
  http://www.exampapers.lib.ed.ac.uk.ezproxy.is.ed.ac.uk/Informatics0405.shtml

• This year:
  – Format similar to 2009-2012: answer two of three questions, each with multiple short parts.
  – We have NOT covered the following topics/terms:
    slash categories, TAG, CCG, syntactic language models, unsupervised methods for morphology and WSD, "surface compositional semantics"
During the exam (1)

• Read through all the questions first and decide which ones to answer (you must answer two out of three).
• You do not need to answer the sub-parts in order, but you **must** be clear which question you are answering when.
• Read the question carefully.
  – Make sure you answer the question that is being asked, and that you have fully answered it. Tick off each part as you answer it.
  – Don't go overboard and spend lots of time writing everything you know about X if the question only asks about a specific aspect of X.
During the exam (2)

• Ideally, write *something* for every question sub-part.
  – even if you are not sure it's right or complete.
  – But: don’t waste time writing everything you know about X just in case you happen to stumble on the right answer. It is usually obvious you don't know what you're talking about (and see correct+incorrect below).

• You can make notes on scrap paper or in the exam book, *but*:
  – clearly cross out any work in the exam book that you do not want to count towards your mark.
  – If both correct and incorrect answers are there (and not crossed out), you may not get credit for the correct answer.