UIMA/U-Compare OpenNLP Sentence Detector

1. BASIC INFORMATION

Tool name

U-Compare Sentence Detector

Overview and purpose of the tool

This is a UIMA[1] (Ferrucci et al., 2006) wrapper for the OpenNLP Sentence Detector tool. It splits English text into individual sentences.

The tool forms part of the in-built library of components provided with the U-Compare platform (Kano et al., 2009; Kano et al., 2011; see separate META-SHARE record)[2] for building and evaluating text mining workflows. The U-Compare Workbench (see separate META-SHARE record), which provides a graphical drag-and drop interface for the rapid creation of workflows.

A short description of the algorithm

OpenNLP tools[3] are trained using machine-learning methods. The tool provided uses the pre-trained tagging model for English, available on the OpenNLP SourceForge website: http://opennlp.sourceforge.net/models-1.5/

2. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Software dependencies and system requirements

In order to run U-Compare, Java 6 must be installed.

The UIMA component calls a web service. Hence, internet access is required.

Installation

There is no specific installation for U-Compare. The file UCLoader.class should be downloaded from http://u-compare.org/downloads/UCLoader.class

Execution instructions

U-Compare is started by running UCLoader.class from the command line. Since U-Compare can consume a large amount of memory, it is suggested to specify minimum and maximum memory usage when running U-Compare, as in the following example:

[1] http://uima.apache.org/

[2] http://nactem.ac.uk/ucompare/

[3] http://opennlp.apache.org/

```
java -jar  -Xms700m -Xmx 1000m UCLoader
```

The memory usage can be adjusted, but note that a minimum memory usage of 256 MB is recommended. Please also note that when U-compare is first started for the first, a large number of files will be downloaded, and so it will take some time to start. Subsequent launches will be quicker.

Once U-Compare has been started, the sentence detector tool can be executed through inclusion in workflow. This can be done simply by dragging and dropping it onto the workflow canvas using the graphical user interface of the U-Compare workbench. See the META-SHARE record "U-Compare Workbench" for more details.

Input/Output data formats

Input data formats

The tool operates on plain, unannotated text. Thus, the UIMA Common Analysis Structure (CAS) should contain the text to be analysed prior to the tool being executed. In a UIMA workflow, this could be achieved by reading in a single text or corpus of text. For example, U-Compare provides collection readers that can read in text from an input box, or otherwise read a directory of texts.

Output data format

The purpose of the tool is to detect sentences in the text. An annotation is thus added to the CAS corresponding to each sentence in a document. Different CAS consumers (such as those provided in U-Compare) can be used to write the contents of the CAS to a file or database format.

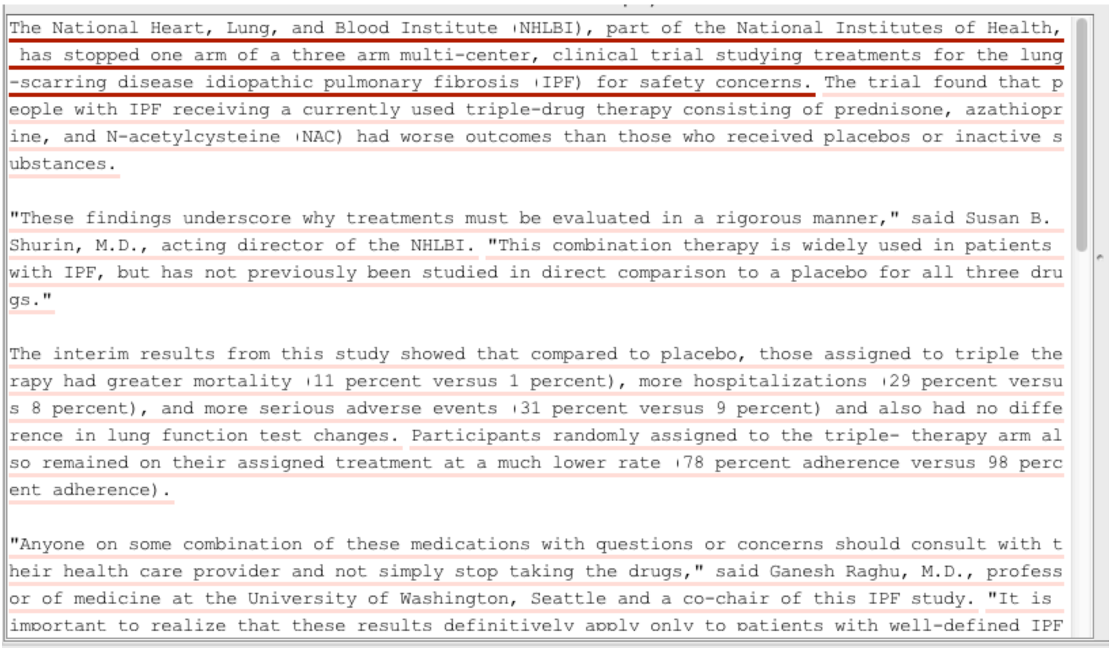
Integration with external tools

The tool can be run as part of a UIMA workflow, either using U-Compare or otherwise. For instructions of how to include components in UIMA workflows outside of U-Compare, see:

http://nactem.ac.uk/ucompare/developerguide/Using_U_Compare_Components_.html

3. CONTENT INFORMATION

Figure 1 shows the part of the output of the tool that is produced in in the U-Compare workbench. Each sentence detected is separately underlined The sample text is taken the US National Library of Medicine website (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/alerts/2011_nhlbi_ifp.html)



The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health, has stopped one arm of a three arm multi-center, clinical trial studying treatments for the lung-scarring disease idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) for safety concerns. The trial found that people with IPF receiving a currently used triple-drug therapy consisting of prednisone, azathioprine, and N-acetylcysteine (NAC) had worse outcomes than those who received placebos or inactive substances.

"These findings underscore why treatments must be evaluated in a rigorous manner," said Susan B. Shurin, M.D., acting director of the NHLBI. "This combination therapy is widely used in patients with IPF, but has not previously been studied in direct comparison to a placebo for all three drugs."

The interim results from this study showed that compared to placebo, those assigned to triple therapy had greater mortality (11 percent versus 1 percent), more hospitalizations (29 percent versus 8 percent), and more serious adverse events (31 percent versus 9 percent) and also had no difference in lung function test changes. Participants randomly assigned to the triple- therapy arm also remained on their assigned treatment at a much lower rate (78 percent adherence versus 98 percent adherence).

"Anyone on some combination of these medications with questions or concerns should consult with their health care provider and not simply stop taking the drugs," said Ganesh Raghu, M.D., professor of medicine at the University of Washington, Seattle and a co-chair of this IPF study. "It is important to realize that these results definitively apply only to patients with well-defined IPF

Figure 1: Output of the U-Compare OpenNLP Sentence Detector in the U-Compare workbench

Running the tool on the 4 KB text on a single core machine with 8 GB RAM takes around 0.7 seconds.

4. LICENCES

The UIMA wrapper code, the underlying OpenNLP Sentence Detector tool and the UIMA framework are all licensed using the Apache licence. See “Apache-licence.txt” in the “Licences” directory within the distribution.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Contact

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Copyright statement and information on IPR

The OpenNLP Sentence Detector must be used in compliance with the Apache Licence: http://www.apache.org/licenses/

6. REFERENCES

Ferrucci, D., Lally, A., Gruhl, D., Epstein, E., Schor, M., Murdock, J. W., Frenkiel, A., Brown, E.W. , Hampp T., Doganata, Y., Welty, C., Amini, L., Kofman, G., Kozakov, L. and Mass, Y. (2006). Towards an Interoperability Standard for Text and Multi-Modal Analytics. IBM Research Report RC24122.

Kano, Y., Baumgartner Jr., W. A, McCrochon, L., Ananiadou, S., Cohen, K. B., Hunter, L. and Tsujii, J. (2009). U-Compare: share and compare text mining tools with UIMA. *Bioinfomatics*, 25(15), 1997-1998.

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