#### Zero-shot Entity Extraction from Web Pages



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# Focus: Entity Extraction

What are the longest hiking trails near Baltimore?



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What are the longest hiking trails near Baltimore?



Applications: question answering / semantic parsing / taxonomy construction / ontology expansion / knowledge base population / ...

# Semi-Structured Data on the Web



# Challenge: Long Tail of Categories

person location organization

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airport	battleship	acid	pitcher
settlement	headgear	metaphor	haircut
poker hand	biome	enzyme	superstition

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person location organization

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	tutorials at	ACL 2014	
	dishes at Pu	Pu Hot Pot	
Stan	ford computer	science profe	SSOTS

We want to generalize to **unseen categories** 

[Wang and Cohen, 2009; Google Sets; Sarmento et al. 2007; ...]

# **Relevant Approaches**

#### Bootstrapping from Seed Examples:



Use seed examples to specify the entity category

[Wang and Cohen, 2009; Google Sets; Sarmento et al. 2007; ...]

# **Relevant Approaches**

#### Bootstrapping from Seed Examples:



Use seed examples to specify the entity category

... but we might not have seeds (e.g. in question answering)

# Our Work



Use a natural language query to specify the entity category

# Outline

#### 1. Setup

- Problem Setup
- Dataset

2. Approach

3. Results

#### Input:

• query x

#### hiking trails near Baltimore

• web page w

put Severy	Servery Trail					
HOME   EXPLORE	MOBILE APPS CREATE TRIP MY EVERYTRAIL	Search	GO			
(Update Current Location)			Login   Signu			
Hiking near E	Baltimore, Maryland					
Like 49 people like this	Tweet {1					
This list shows the most p to your mobile phone with	xopular Hiking near Baltimore, Maryland based on user reviews, votes, and mobile downloads. Plan your next trip with Every the EveryTrail iPhone or Android app.	/Trail guides by downloa	ading a guide			
Sort: Rating	Show community trips					
Filter Trails						
Do the entire Avalon P waterfalls and other and trail sign. The next leg	Avalon Super Loop - Patapsco State Park Patapsco State Park, Maryland, United States (7.5 miles away) Patapsco State Park, Maryland, United States (7.5 miles away) Difficult: 12.7 miles, Full day lots of ruins, waterfalls, trains, and river views atapsco state park in 1 day! This loop covers the majority of the Avalon area, with multiple ruins, ifacts to find along the way. Starting at the parking lot, you hike up the road a ways to the Ridge is the maintenace loop which has an old old tractor to look at and some	York a r y a n a olumbia Bethesda a ston Washington Alexandria	Philadelphia Wilm N e ore D e l a w			
Area which includes m	Popular pl Catonsville, Maryland, United States (7.7 miles away) Moderate: 7.8 miles, Half day 8 mile circuit hike including sections in the Avalon, Orange Grove and Glen Artney areas of PVSP. OVERVIEW: One of the more scenic routes in the Patapsco Valley State Park in the Hilton ultiple stream crossings, viewings and waterfalls including Cascade waterfalls, two swinging bridge	laces for Hiking and sco Valley State Park et Cliffs State Park ent River State Park				

Input	<b>Severy Trail</b>					
	HOME   EXPLORE   MOBILE APPS   CREATE TRIP   MY EVERYTRAIL	Search GO				
•	(Update Current Location)	Login   Signup				
	Hiking near Baltimore, Maryland					
	F Like 49 people like this.					
	This list shows the most popular Hiking near Baltimore, Maryland based on user reviews, votes, and mobile downloads. Plan your next trip with EveryTrail guides by downloading a g to your mobile phone with the EveryTrail iPhone or Android app.					
•	Sort: Rating 📫 🗹 show community trips					
	Filter Trails					
	Guides   Avalon Super Loop -   Data Site Det Market   Data Site Det Market   Difficult: 12.7 miles, Full day   Dis of ruins, waterfalls, trains, and river views   Do the entire Avalon Patapsco state park in 1 day! This loop covers the majority of the Avalon area, with multiple ruins, waterfalls and other artifacts to find along the way. Starting at the parking lot, you hike up the road a ways to the Ridge trail sign. The next leg is the maintenace loop which has an old old tractor to look at and some	Vork Philadelphia Hagerstown Alexandria Philadelphia Wilm Ne Wilm Ne Delaw Alexandria Coogle Pork Philadelphia Wilm Ne Delaw Terms of Use				
	Patapsco Valley State Park - Lay Iton Area 8 Miles/Moderate Lay   Lay Address: 7.8 miles, Half day   Bilton Area 8 Miles/Moderate Lay   Control of the control of the control of the more scenic routes in the Avalon, Orange Grove and Glen Artney areas of PVSP.   OVERVIEW: One of the more scenic routes in the Patapsco Valley State Park in the Hilton   Area which includes multiple stream crossings, viewings and waterfalls including Cascade waterfalls, two swinging bridge crossings, Ilchester Overlook, and Bloedes Dam. This is a moderate hike and can be hiked in either direction.	Popular places for Hiking Hiking in Maryland Hiking in Patapsco Valley State Park Hiking in Calvert Cliffs State Park Hiking in Patuxent River State Park				

#### Input:

• query x

#### hiking trails near Baltimore

• web page w

#### Output:

• list of entities y

[Avalon Super Loop, Patapsco Valley State Park, ...]

#### Dataset

We created the  $\operatorname{OPENWEB}$  dataset with diverse queries and web pages.

airlines of italy natural causes of global warming lsu football coaches bf3 submachine guns badminton tournaments foods high in dha technical colleges in south carolina songs on glee season 5 singers who use auto tune san francisco radio stations

### Dataset

We created the  $\operatorname{OPENWEB}$  dataset with diverse queries and web pages.



airlines of italy

#### 10. Greenhouse Effect



Greenbouse effect is the process in which the atmosphere of the Earth trap some of the heat coming from the sun, making the Earth warm but due to burning fuels, cutting trees, the concentration of heat on Earth is increased to abnormal levels making greenhouse effect as one of the major causes of global warming. Carbon Dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide are the greenhouse gases which helps to keep the Earth warm. It is a natural phenomenon that takes place with the adequate concentrations of the greenhouse gases. But when the concentration of these gases rises, they disturb the climatic conditions, making the Earth more warm. These gases are not able to escape, which is the cause of worldwide increase in temperature. So the balance of carbon dioxide and other gases should be maintained so that it does not become the major reason of global warming.

#### 9. Air Pollution



The harmful gases emitted from the vehicles and factories and the greenhouse gases cause pollution in the air and

natural causes of global warming



Isu football coaches

# **Query Generation**

Breadth-first search on Google Suggest



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## **Dataset Annotation**

Annotate the first, second, and last entities matching the query using Amazon Mechanical Turk.

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Annotate the first, second, and last entities matching the query using Amazon Mechanical Turk.



*airlines of italy* **Annotation** First: Air Dolomiti Second: Air Europe Last: Wind Jet

# **Dataset Statistics**

2773 examples

2269 unique queries

894 unique headwords  $\leftarrow$  long tail!

1483 unique web domains  $\leftarrow$  long tail!

( $\neq$  wrapper induction)

# Outline

- 1. Setup
- 2. Approach
  - Extraction Predicate
  - Framework
  - Modeling
  - Features
- 3. Results

## **Extraction Predicate**

How can we choose what to extract from a web page w?



number of possible entity lists  $\approx 2^{\rm number \ of \ nodes}$ 

[Sahuguet and Azavant, 1999; Liu et al., 2000; Crescenzi et al., 2001]

## Extraction Predicate

Idea: Entities usually share the same tag and tree level



z = /html[1]/body[1]/table[2]/tr/td[1]

[Sahuguet and Azavant, 1999; Liu et al., 2000; Crescenzi et al., 2001]

## Extraction Predicate

Idea: Entities usually share the same tag and tree level



z = /html[1]/body[1]/table[2]/tr/td[1]

Captures structures such as table columns, list entries, headers of the same level, ...

Each web page has  $\approx$  8500 extraction predicates z

hiking trails near Baltimore











A graphical model with latent extraction predicate z

# Modeling

Let x be a query and w be a web page.

Define a log-linear distribution over the extraction predicates  $z \in \mathbb{Z}$ :

$$p_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{z} \mid \boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{w}) \propto \exp\{\theta^{\top} \phi(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{w}, \boldsymbol{z})\}$$

- $\theta$  is a parameter vector
- $\phi(x, w, z)$  is a feature vector

# Modeling

Let x be a query and w be a web page.

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- $\theta$  is a parameter vector
- $\phi(x, w, z)$  is a feature vector
- Find  $\theta$  that maximizes the log-likelihood of the training data using AdaGrad [Duchi et al., 2010]



 $p_{\theta}(z \mid x, w) \propto \exp\{\theta^{\top} \phi(x, w, z)\}$ 

## Features

 $p_{\theta}(z \mid x, w) \propto \exp\{\theta^{\top} \phi(x, w, z)\}$ 

#### Structural Features: context



The listing below is complete for the current government of the USA. For this country, however, there were prior governments (including that under the Articles of Confederation) Prior to George Washington as first president under the current constitution, there were twelve people in leadership over the government of the United States of America who held the title of "President". Also during the Civil War, here was the position of "President of the Confederate States of America" in an entity separate from the USA, and this position was held by one person.
#### Features

 $p_{\theta}(z \mid x, w) \propto \exp\{\theta^{\top} \phi(x, w, z)\}$ 

#### **Denotation Features: content**

hiking trails near Baltimore Avalon Super Loop Patapsco Valley State Park Gunpowder Falls State Park Rachel Carson Conservation Park Union Mills Hike

. . .



George Washington John Adams Thomas Jefferson James Madison ... (39 more) ... Barack Obama John Adams John Adams John Adams John Adams John Adams John Adams ... (100 more) ... John Adams

Blog Photos and Video Briefing Room In the White House Mobile Apps Contact Us

good

bad

bad

George Washington John Adams Thomas Jefferson James Madison ... (39 more) ... Barack Obama John Adams John Adams John Adams John Adams John Adams John Adams ... (100 more) ... John Adams

Blog Photos and Video Briefing Room In the White House Mobile Apps Contact Us

good bad bad identity diverse identical diverse



Avalon Super Loop Patapsco Valley State Park Gunpowder Falls State Park Union Mills Hike Greenbury Point



#### 1. Abstraction

Map list elements into abstract tokens



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Map list elements into abstract tokens

#### 2. Aggregation

Define features using the histogram of the abstract tokens



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Map list elements into abstract tokens

#### 2. Aggregation

Define features using the histogram of the abstract tokens

Use this method for both structural and denotation features

### Outline

- 1. Setup
- 2. Approach
- 3. Results
  - Main Results
  - Error Analysis
  - Feature Analysis

#### Main Results



### Main Results



## **Error Analysis**



### **Examples of Correct Predictions**

#### Query: disney channel movies

All Disney Cha by hannersbananers created 2 In order based on date.	Annel Original Movi 23 Apr 2011   last updated - 24 Apr 20	<b>es</b> 🔊
Showing all 91 Titles		Sort by: List order 🍦 🕴
Log In to copy items to yo	(111 mins.) Director: Linda Yellen Stars: Diane Keaton, Maury Chaykin, Add to Watchilst	View: 🔝 🔝 🗐
UNDERANRAPS	• Under Wraps ( 997 TV M 5.5/10 Three kids accidentally re-animal mins.) Director: Greg Beeman Stars: Adam Wyle, Mario Yedidia, Ca	lovie) te a mummy on Halloween. (95 ara Bryant, Ken Hudson Campbell

/html[1]/body/div[2]/div/div/div[3]/div[1]/div/div/div/b

### **Examples of Correct Predictions**

#### Query: universities in canada



/html[1]/body/div/div/div/div/div/div/div/a/text

### **Examples of Correct Predictions**

#### Query: nobel prize winners



/html[1]/body/div/div[2]/div/div/div/h6/a/text

### Error Analysis



## Error Analysis



#### Coverage Errors

No extraction predicate z produces an entity list y matching the annotation

## Examples of Coverage Errors

#### Query: companies named after a person



/html/body/div[3]/div[3]/div[4]/ul/li/a

Need richer extraction predicates!

### Examples of Coverage Errors

#### Query: hedge funds in new york



/html/body/div[3]/div[3]/div[4]/.../table/tbody/tr/td[2]/a

Need compositionality!

## Error Analysis



#### Coverage Errors

No extraction predicate z produces an entity list y matching the annotation

## **Error Analysis**



#### **Coverage Errors**

No extraction predicate z produces an entity list y matching the annotation

**Ranking Errors** 

The system finds a list y matching the annotation, but it does not have the highest model score.

### **Examples of Ranking Errors**

#### Query: *doctors at emory*



/html/body/div[3]/div[4]/table/tbody/tr/td[2]

**Observation**: Entities of different categories have different linguistic properties.

mayors of Chicagouniversities in ChicagoRahm EmanuelAurora UniversityRichard M. DaleyDePaul UniversityEugene SawyerIllinois Institute of Technology

. . .

. . .

**Observation**: Entities of different categories have different linguistic properties.

mayors of Chicago universities in Chicago
Rahm Emanuel Aurora University
Richard M. Daley DePaul University
Eugene Sawyer Illinois Institute of Technology

Experiment: Augment denotation features with the query category.

POS majorityPOS majorityquery category= NNP NNP= NNP NNP= people







Hypothesis: Structural features have high influence when the web page comes from Web search result.

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#### hiking trails near Baltimore



Verify the hypothesis: Concatenate a random web page

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#### hiking trails near Baltimore



Verify the hypothesis: Concatenate a random web page

• Creates noise: entity lists with high structural feature scores might not be the correct list





A framework for extracting entities from a natural language query and a single web page



Focus on the long tail of entity categories



Focus on the long tail of entity categories



Consider both structural and denotation features



Focus on the long tail of entity categories



Consider both structural and denotation features



Handle lists of different sizes with abstraction and aggregation

## Future Work

- Model relationship between entities and category strings
- Compositionality in natural language


Download code and dataset:

http://nlp.stanford.edu/software/web-entity-extractor-ACL2014

Thank you!