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Ramon Ferrer-i-Cancho

The optimality of attaching unlinked labels to unlinked meanings 1 - 16

Abstract. Vocabulary learning by children can be characterized by many biases. When encountering a new word, children as well as adults, are biased towards assuming that it means something totally different from the words that they already know. To the best of our knowledge, the 1st mathematical proof of the optimality of this bias is presented here. First, it is shown that this bias is a particular case of the maximization of mutual information between words and meanings. Second, the optimality is proven within a more general information theoretic framework where mutual information maximization competes with other information theoretic principles. The bias is a prediction from modern information theory. The relationship between information theoretic principles and the principles of contrast and mutual exclusivity is also shown.

Sergey Andreev

Verbal vs. Adjectival Styles in Belkin Tales by A. S. Pushkin 17 - 21

Abstract. This study is devoted to the analysis of the first fully completed Pushkin’s prosaic work Povesti Belkina (Belkin Tales) which reflected Pushkin’s wish to change the language of Russian fiction prose. Belkin Tales have been the subject matter of numerous studies both literary and linguistic. This article studies the type of representation (static vs. dynamic) of the stories fiction world. The approach and methods suggested in the following works (Altmann 2014; Naumann et al. 2012; Popescu et al. 2007, 2013; Tuzzi at al. 2009) as well as motif structure analysis are used.

Peter Zörnig

On the arc length in quantitative linguistics: a continuous model 22 - 31

Abstract. We present a continuous model for the distribution of the arc length, using exact methods and simulation. For the sequences of word lengths of six texts we calculate the arc lengths and compare them with the expected values of the probability model. The results may be useful for text analysis.
Sergey Andreev, Ioan-Iovitz Popescu, Gabriel Altmann

Skinner’s Hypothesis Applied to Russian Adnominals 32 - 69

Abstract. The aim of the article is to study whether at a very abstract level – here distances between adnominals in Russian – one can test hypotheses holding true for lower, more concrete levels. Besides Skinner’s hypothesis concerning the repetition of adnominals in near neighborhood we show the course of distances and compute some indicators like Repeat rate, Entropy, Ord’s criteria for the given distribution. Some relationships are expressed by formulas. The distances can be captured by the exponential function.

Thomas Roelcke, Ioan-Iovitz Popescu, Gabriel Altmann

Aspects of text concentration 70 - 86

Abstract. The text can be concentrated in various ways. Here only the thematic concentration will be taken into account, i.e. it will be scrutinized how the text is related to its topic. Eight aspects of quantification are proposed but here we restrict ourselves to hrebs, a development of Hřebiček’s sentence aggregates. Some aspects of hreb processing are shown.

Karl-Heinz Best

Liste von Autoren, die womöglich für eine Geschichte der Quantitativen Linguistik zu berücksichtigen wären 87 - 119