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The DOP Estimation Method Is Biased and Inconsistent

Mark Johnson

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A data-oriented parsing or DOP model for statistical parsing associates fragments of linguistic representations with numerical weights, where these weights are estimated by normalizing the empirical frequency of each fragment in a training corpus (see Bod [1998] and references cited therein). This note observes that this estimation method is biased and inconsistent that is, the estimated distribution does not in general converge on the true [distribution] as the size of the training corpus increases.

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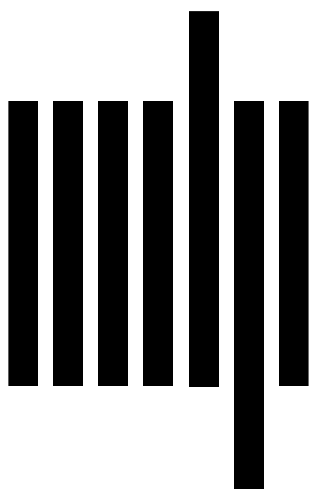
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