

Unsupervised Language Model Adaptation Based on Topic and Role Information in Multiparty Meetings

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Abstract

We continue our previous work on the modeling of topic and role information from multiparty meetings using a hierarchical Dirichlet process (HDP), in the context of language model adaptation. In this paper we focus on three problems: 1) an empirical analysis of the HDP as a nonparametric topic model; 2) the mismatch problem of vocabularies of the baseline n -gram model and the HDP; and 3) an automatic speech recognition experiment to further verify the effectiveness of our adaptation framework. Experiments on a large meeting corpus of more than 70 hours speech data show consistent and significant improvements in terms of word error rate for language model adaptation based on the topic and role information.

Index Terms: language model, adaptation, topic model, hierarchical Dirichlet process, participant role

1. Introduction

In recent years there has been growing research interest in automatic speech recognition (ASR) for multiparty meetings, which is of essential importance for the subsequent meeting processing such as content analysis, summarisation, discourse analysis, and information retrieval. Meetings are spontaneous, conversational, and multimodal by nature. This makes the automatic transcription of speech in meetings a more challenging task than for read speech. State-of-the-art meeting ASR systems currently use the standard n -gram language model (LM), which approximates the history as the immediately preceding $n-1$ words. The n -gram LMs for meetings are typically trained on a large amount of background (out-of-domain) data, together with a small amount of meeting (in-domain) data.

In meeting ASR systems, the in-domain data for the LM is relatively sparse with the comparison to the background data, and it is infeasible or time-consuming to collect sufficient in-domain data by transcribing the meeting archives. LM adaptation, which aims to alleviate the domain mismatch problem, therefore becomes increasingly important in ASR for meetings. In past years, various LM adaptation techniques have been proposed and studied. There are broadly two types of approaches: *supervised* or *unsupervised*. More recently, some work has been done in the area of adapting n -gram LMs based on topic knowledge for ASR on different domains, for example, broadcast news [1, 2], lecture recordings [3], and meetings [4]. All these work used probabilistic latent semantic analysis (pLSA) or latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA) for topic modeling, from which the unigram marginals were estimated and further used to scale the background LMs [5]. However, many conversational ASR systems currently still favour the standard LM adaptation approaches, such as model and count interpolation, [6, 7]. One

reason for this is because in conversational meetings there is no obvious single linear stream of words, much less a well-defined document, for topic modeling.

We consider in this paper an unsupervised LM adaptation for ASR using a domain-specific meeting corpus — the AMI Meeting Corpus¹ [8] collected by the AMI project, which consists of 100 hours of multimodal meeting recordings with comprehensive annotations at a number of different levels. About 70% of the corpus was elicited using a design scenario, in which the participants play the roles of employees—project manager (PM), marketing expert (ME), user interface designer (UI), and industrial designer (ID), in an electronics company that decides to develop a new type of television remote control. The information we use for the LM adaptation comes from two multimodal cues in meetings: the *topic* and the participant *role*.

In our previous work [9], we have introduced the modeling framework for the topic and role information in meetings using a hierarchical Dirichlet process (HDP) [10], and demonstrated its effectiveness on a subset of the AMI Meeting Corpus in terms of perplexity and word error rate (WER). That work featured the use of the HDP for topic modeling in meetings, and the exploitation of a moving window over the word streams to dynamically extract topics from sequential meeting data using the HDP. This paper continues that work, by further addressing the following questions in the context of LM adaptation. First, an empirical analysis was carried out for the HDP — a nonparametric topic model — to see the modeling behaviors compared to LDA [11], another popular topic model often used for LM adaptation. Second, we investigated the vocabulary mismatch problem between the large-vocabulary ASR system and the topic model, due to the fact that normally only those content words are included for topic modeling. Third, we conducted a comprehensive 5-fold ASR experiment on the whole AMI scenario meeting corpus to further verify the consistence and scalability of the improvements.

2. Modeling Framework

2.1. Topic Modeling using HDP

In topic models, each document $d = 1, \dots, D$ in the corpus is represented as a mixture over latent topics (let θ_d be the mixing proportions over topics), and each topic $k = 1, \dots, K$ in turn is a multinomial distribution over words in the vocabulary (let ϕ_k be the vector of probabilities for words in topic k). LDA pioneered the use of Dirichlet distribution as the prior for topic distribution θ_d . Figure 1(A) depicts the graphical model for LDA. The generative process for words in each document is as

¹<http://corpus.amiproject.org>

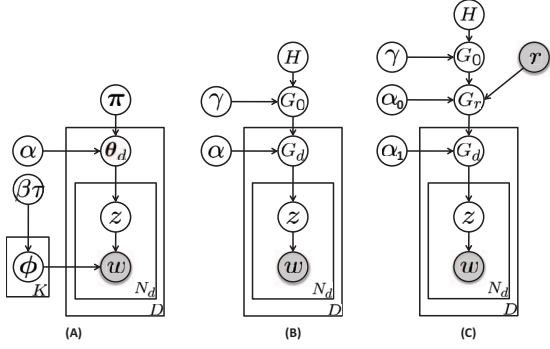


Figure 1: Graphical model depictions for (A) latent Dirichlet allocation (finite mixture model), (B) 2-level hierarchical Dirichlet process model, and (C) the role-HDP where G_r denotes the DP for one of the four roles (PM, ME, UI, and ID).

follows: first draw a topic k with probability θ_{dk} , then draw a word w with probability ϕ_{kw} . Let w_{id} be the i th word token in document d , z_{id} the corresponding drawn topic, and Dirichlet priors are placed over the parameters θ_d and ϕ_k , then

$$\begin{aligned} z_{id}|\theta_d &\sim \text{Mult}(\theta_d) & w_{id}|z_{id}, \phi_{z_{id}} &\sim \text{Mult}(\phi_{z_{id}}) \\ \theta_d|\pi &\sim \text{Dir}(\alpha\pi) & \phi_k|\tau &\sim \text{Dir}(\beta\tau) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where π and τ are the corpus-wide distributions over topics and words respectively, and α and β are called the concentration parameters, controlling the amount of variability from θ_d/ϕ_k to their prior means π/τ .

In LDA, the number of topics K is determined in advance, i.e., π and θ_d are finite-dimensional vectors. The HDP, on the other hand, is a nonparametric extension to LDA, by using the stick-breaking construction [10] for π to accommodate a countably infinite number of topics, i.e., π and θ_d are now both infinite-dimensional vectors:

$$\pi'_k \sim \text{Beta}(1, \gamma) \quad \pi_k = \pi'_k \prod_{l=1}^{k-1} (1 - \pi'_l) \quad (2)$$

A random measure defined as $G = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \pi_k \delta_{\phi_k}$ is then called a Dirichlet process (DP), with point masses located at ϕ_k . We write $G \sim \text{DP}(\gamma, H)$, with concentration parameter γ , base probability measure H , and $\phi_k|H \sim \text{Dir}(\beta\tau)$. Reformulating topic modeling using the HDP according to [10], we have

$$G_0|\gamma, H \sim \text{DP}(\gamma, H) \quad G_d|\alpha, G_0 \sim \text{DP}(\alpha, G_0) \quad (3)$$

Figure 1(B) shows the corresponding 2-level HDP, which can be readily extended to as many levels as required.

The way we define a *document* in topic models is important, since it affects the scope of word co-occurrences to be considered for topic modeling. We used a moving window to define documents for the HDP: first align all words in a meeting along a common timeline; then for each sentence/segment, backtrack and collect those non-stop words belonging to a window of length L beginning from the end time of the sentence/segment.

2.2. Incorporate Role Information

We incorporate the participant role by extending the 2-level HDP in Figure 1(B) to a third level, as shown in Figure 1(C). An DP G_r is assigned for each of the four roles, which then served

as the parent DP (the base probability measure) in the HDP hierarchy for all those DPs corresponding to documents belonging to that role. Formally speaking, we used the following 3-level HDP, rHDP, to model topic and role information:

$$G_0 \sim \text{DP}(\gamma, H), G_r \sim \text{DP}(\alpha_0, G_0), G_d \sim \text{DP}(\alpha_1, G_r) \quad (4)$$

2.3. Combine with n -gram LMs

As in [5], we use the dynamic unigram marginal from the HDP, $P_{\text{hdp}}(w|d)$, for LM adaptation:

$$P_{\text{adapt}}(w|h) = P_{\text{back}}(w|h) \cdot \left(\frac{P_{\text{hdp}}(w|d)}{P_{\text{back}}(w)} \right)^\mu / z(h) \quad (5)$$

where $P_{\text{back}}(w|h)$ is the baseline n -gram, $P_{\text{adapt}}(w|h)$ the adapted n -gram, $z(h)$ a normalisation factor, and $P_{\text{hdp}}(w|d) \approx \sum_{k=1}^K \phi_{kw} \cdot \theta_{dk}$ with ϕ_k estimated during training and remaining fixed in testing, while θ_d are document-dependent and thus are calculated dynamically for each test document.

2.4. Vocabulary Mismatch

There are 50k words in the vocabulary V_{asr} of our baseline LMs. After removing stop words in the AMI meeting corpus, we fix the size of vocabulary V_{hdp} as 7,910 words for our HDP/rHDP models. We get zero probabilities for $P_{\text{hdp}}(w|d)$ in (5) for those $w \notin V_{\text{asr}}$, which will be problematic for N-best rescoring. Therefore, we deal with this vocabulary mismatch problem in two ways: 1) *model interpolation*, in which for those $w \notin V_{\text{asr}}$ we directly assign the unigram probabilities from the background LMs to $P_{\text{hdp}}(w|d)$; and 2) *count interpolation*, in which $P_{\text{hdp}}(w|d) = \frac{C_{\text{back}}(w) + C_{\text{hdp}}(w)}{\sum_{w'} (C_{\text{back}}(w') + C_{\text{hdp}}(w'))}$ for each $w \in V_{\text{asr}}$.

The second method corresponds to the MAP adaptation from the background unigram LMs for each topic by interpolating the count statistics from the background unigram $C_{\text{back}}(w)$ and the HDP $C_{\text{hdp}}(w)$ (normally boosted by some weights).

3. Experiment

3.1. Empirical Analysis

To empirically analyse the properties and behaviors of nonparametric models, we trained a set of HDP/rHDP models using various different parameters, for example, the initial number of topics ($k = 1, \dots, 100$), the prior Dirichlet parameter for topics ($\beta = 0.5, 1.0$ in (1), and $\tau_w = 1/W$), and the length of document window ($L = 10, 20$ seconds). For LDA, the symmetric Dirichlet with parameters α_0/K was used for topic distribution θ_d . All models were trained using folds 2–4 of the AMI scenario meetings, with a fixed size vocabulary of 7,910 words, with the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampling method. The concentration parameters were sampled using the auxiliary variable sample scheme in [10]. We ran 3,000 iterations to burn-in, then collected 10 samples from the posteriors to calculate the unigram perplexity on the fold-1 testing data, with a sample step of 5. Figure 2 shows the results, in which some random effects exist because they were based on only one run. We are interested in the following questions:

The comparison to LDA. The best number of topics K for LDA is around 10~20. With appropriate values of k (i.e., $k = 5 - 50$), the HDP/rHDP can roughly converge to the best perplexity performance. However, for some extreme values of k (i.e., $k = 1, 100$), the HDP/rHDP failed to converge. This issue was caused by some local optima effects: from Figure 2 we can

Table 1: The %WER results of rHDP-adapted LMs, where V1 and V2 denote the model and count interpolations respectively for dealing with the vocabulary mismatch.

FOLD	LM	SUB	DEL	INS	WER
1	baseline	20.7	11.1	5.2	37.0
	rHDP-V1-adapt	20.5	11.1	5.2	36.7
	rHDP-V2-adapt	20.2	11.8	4.6	36.6
2	baseline	19.6	11.0	4.9	35.5
	rHDP-V1-adapt	19.4	11.0	4.9	35.3
	rHDP-V2-adapt	19.1	11.7	4.4	35.2
3	baseline	20.7	11.1	4.8	36.6
	rHDP-V1-adapt	20.5	11.1	4.7	36.3
	rHDP-V2-adapt	20.2	11.8	4.2	36.3
4	baseline	19.3	10.9	5.3	35.5
	rHDP-V1-adapt	19.2	10.9	5.2	35.3
	rHDP-V2-adapt	18.9	11.6	4.7	35.2
5	baseline	23.1	12.4	6.1	41.6
	rHDP-V1-adapt	22.9	12.5	6.0	41.3
	rHDP-V2-adapt	22.5	13.1	5.3	41.0
all	baseline	20.6	11.3	5.2	37.1
	rHDP-V1-adapt	20.4	11.3	5.2	36.8
	rHDP-V2-adapt	20.1	12.0	4.6	36.7

role via the rHDP. First, the meeting corpus we worked on is a domain-specific corpus with limited vocabulary, especially for those scenario meetings, with some words quite dominant during the meeting. So if we could roughly estimate the ‘topic’, and scale those dominant words correctly, then it is promising to improve the performance for LMs. Second, HDP/rHDP models can reasonably extract topics, particularly on this domain-specific AMI Meeting Corpus. Third, the sentence-by-sentence style LM adaption further contributes to the improvements. Language models are dynamically adapted according to the changes of topics detected based on the previous recognized results. This can be intuitively understood as a situation where there are K unigram LMs, based on which we dynamically estimate one interpolated unigram LM to adapt the baseline LMs according to the context (topic). In this paper, however, both the number of unigram models K and the unigram selected for one certain time are automatically determined by the rHDP.

4. Conclusion

The conclusions we made in this paper are as follows: 1) from the empirical analysis, we believe the HDP overall is a powerful and flexible framework for topic modeling, attributed by its nonparametric property and hierarchical structure; 2) the HDP is sensitive to the initialization of k , because of the local optima effect. The local optima effect is partly affected by the way we define a document; 3) we are convinced that the unsupervised LM adaptation framework using the HDP for meeting ASR, as presented here, is effective, at least on the AMI Meeting Corpus; 4) for ASR, a HDP/rHDP model with lower empirical perplexity does not necessarily imply a lower WER. We observed WER results did not make much difference if we used a different HDP/rHDP model for LM adaptation; 5) it is important to define an appropriate document for the HDP in topic-based LM adaptation for meeting ASR; 6) a combination of LM adaptation approaches seems promising.

In future work, we will investigate the explicit use of participant role in meetings within the HDP for LM adaptation.

(A)	DOC	AGENDA TODAY DEFINE TALKED ENERGY KINETIC STUFF OPENING BATTERY COMPACT MINUTE PARTS MINUTES FUNCTIONAL DESIGN MEETING SIMPLE CHIP PRESENTATIONS DASH						
	REF	<<< OUR AGENDA WE'RE GOING TO DO AN OPENING />>> GOING TO REVIEW THE MINUTES OF </>						
	BASE	<<< RIGHT AND THEY WERE GONNA DO THE OPENING A MINUTE OR IF YOU THE MINUTES OF </>						
(B)	ADAPT	<<< OUR AGENDA WE'RE GONNA DO THE OPENING A MINUTE OR IF YOU THE MINUTES OF </>						
	DOC	TEN TELETEXT BUTTONS NUMBERS BOSS AHEAD PAST PRETTY EASY AGES BUTTONS RECOGNITION FUNCTION REMOTE FINDING SCROLL CONTROL WHEEL REMOTE						
	REF	<<< YOU CAN INTRODUCE VOICE RECOGNITION BY UH FINDING BACK YOUR REMOTE </>						
(C)	BASE	<<< YOU CAN AND USE THE VOICE RECOGNITION BY UH FINDING BACK YOUR REMOTE </>						
	ADAPT	<<< YOU CAN AND USE THE VOICE RECOGNITION BY UH FINDING BACK YOUR REMOTE </>						
	DOC	ACTIVATE LIGHT LEADING CONSOLE STRONG BATTERY POWER KIND TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION FOCUSING CRITERIA L_DUNNO C_D_INSTRUCTIONS PANEL REQUIRES FEATURES HOUR L_C_D_FORM LIGHT						
(D)	REF	<<< WE COULD BECAUSE THE L_C_D_PANEL REQUIRES POWER AND THE L_C_D_IS A FORM OF LIGHT </>						
	BASE	<<< WE COULD BECAUSE THE L_C_D_PANEL REQUIRES AN HOUR AND THE L_C_D_IS A FORM OF LIGHT </>						
	ADAPT	<<< WE COULD BECAUSE THE L_C_D_PANEL REQUIRES POWER AND THE L_C_D_IS A FORM OF LIGHT </>						
	DOC	NUMBERS CUSTOMISABLE CORNERS TABLE CHANNEL VOLUME FORTY VOLUME INTERESTED BRIGHTNESS CONTRAST READ SURE SHAPE REMOTE FRUIT BOWL IDEA STABLE CAT FEATURES						
	REF	<<< HAVE AN REMOTE IN THE SHAPE OF THE FRUIT OR A VEGETABLE OR WHAT EVER THEY LIKE </>						
	BASE	<<< READ MORE IN THE SHAPE OF THE FRUIT BOWL OF A STABLE OR WHATEVER THEY LIKE </>						
ADAPT	<<< READ MORE IN THE SHAPE OF THE FRUIT BOWL OR VEGETABLE OR WHATEVER THEY LIKE </>							
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)				
	0.53	0.38	0.43	0.16	0.37	0.35	0.41	
CHIP	MEETING	REMOTE	RECOGNITION	CHIP	REMOTE	BUTTON	FRUIT	
BATTERY	DESIGN	CONTROL	SPEECH	BATTERY	SIGNAL	BUTTONS	BANANA	
BATTERIES	MINUTES	LOOK	VOICE	BATTERIES	INFRARED	CHANNEL	SHAPE	
ENERGY	PROJECT	FANCY	REMOTE	ENERGY	T_V	SCREEN	COLORS	
SOLAR	USER	IMPORTANT	SAMPLE	SOLAR	BUTTON	SCROLL	SPONGY	
KINETIC	INTERFACE	PERCENT	L_C_D	KINETIC	CHIP	VOLUME	REMOTE	
ADVANCED	PRESENTATION	USERS	SPEAKER	ADVANCED	BEEP	MENU	LOOK	
SIMPLE	DESIGNER	CONTROLS	CONTROL	SIMPLE	LIGHT	L_C_D	FEEL	
STATION	THANK	EASY	SCREEN	STATION	CIRCUIT	WHEEL	VEGETABLES	
REGULAR	START	TRUE	FIND	REGULAR	BOARD	PRESS	MEAN	
L_C_D	MARKETING	POINT	SENSOR	L_C_D	INTERFACE	CHANNELS	VEGETABLE	
POWER	INDUSTRIAL	FEEL	TECHNOLOGY	POWER	ACTUALLY	PUSH	FASHION	
DOCKING	WORKING	BUTTONS	FEATURE	DOCKING	PRESS	FUNCTIONS	FRUITS	
PRINT	THIRTY	INNOVATIVE	SIMPLE	PRINT	SEND	POWER	KIND	
CELL	SURE	FIND	EASY	CELLS	USER	MEAN	CONTROL	

Figure 4: Four ASR examples showing the rHDP-adapted LM works better than the baseline LM. DOC is the document formed from the previous ASR output and used to extract topics, with the top 2 showing at the bottom accordingly, REF is the reference, and BASE and ADAPT are the ASR hypotheses of the baseline LM and rHDP-adapted LM respectively.

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