

Heterogeneous Queries for Synoptic and Phrasal Search

Notebook for PAN at CLEF 2014

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Abstract This paper describes an architecture of the source retrieval system used at PAN 2014 lab on uncovering plagiarism, authorship, and social software misuse. The system is based on the systems used in last years at PAN 13 [6] and PAN 12 [5]. Majority of features were adapted with some improvements described in this paper. The source retrieval subsystem form an integral part of a modern system for plagiarism discovery.

1 Introduction

Systems which compute similarities among documents can significantly help with plagiarism detection. They automate the tedious work such as locating possible sources of plagiarism and finding similar passages. If the suspicious passages are highlighted by the system, the supervisor only checks whether a passage is a plagiarism or not. Up to date anti-plagiarism systems evaluate document similarities in order to select suspicious passages of a source document. This evaluation is refered in PAN as the document alignment. Documents are algorithmically aligned to a corpus of known documents. However, if the corpus does not contain the original document the similarity between the original and the suspicious document can not be detected. Therefore a potential source documents should be retrieved from all documents prior to text alignment calculations. The corpus of all documents is usually very large, for example the web, and as a retrieval tool a search engine is utilized. It is ideally utilized automatically in the same manner as plagiarizing users would do manually. The global view of the system for unoriginal text detection is depicted at figure 1.

With the usage of a given search engine, the problem of source retrieval is then reduced to the problem of combining proper queries and passing them to the search engine. Selecting and downloading search engine results also influence total performance of the source retrieval system. The queries pose the most expensive piece of operation, whereas the downloads are quite cheap. In the real-world scenario, we are often limited by a number of queries executed in a given time period or by a total number of queries per document. During the operation the system should maximize recall and precision of retrieved results and also minimize the total number of executed queries as much as possible.

The follow sections describe key parts of system for source retrieval used at PAN 2014. More information about the task and the competition can be found in the task overview written by the lab organizers [2].

position within the sentence. The query was created from those six terms, only punctuation was removed. Such query was passed to the Indri search engine with proximity term number of 1 as for phrasal search.

2.3 Headers-based Queries

Headers-based queries were used in the form they appeared in the text, but maximum of six words long. Also passed to Indri as a phrasal query. Detection mechanism of a header in the text was adopted from Suchomel et al. 2012 [5] with no modification.

2.4 Chunking

Three types of text chunking were applied: sentence and word chunking for keywords extraction; headers detection; and paragraph chunking. For each kind of queries the corresponding chunking method was always applied on the whole document from the start.

3 Search Control

All prepared queries were processed according to their priority. Starting with the keywords-based, then the paragraph-based and last the header-based queries. Only all keywords-based queries – the pilot query, collocation queries and remaining keywords-combined queries – were executed for each suspicious document. After each query all its results were processed and positions of discovered similarities were stored. To each subsequent (not keywords-based) query its position is also attached, if that position collided with any of already found similarities, the query was omitted from the queue of prepared queries.

4 Downloading the Results

For each search engine result a snippet based on a given query can be obtained prior to full document download. We have generated a snippet for all documents from results based on specific query for each term in that query. Snippets from one document were concatenated together and its tuples of two terms were compared with tuples from the suspicious document. Concordance of the tuples of 20 % or more was the threshold for decision about the document download.

Downloaded results were textually aligned to the suspicious document using feature type selection for computing similarities described in Suchomel, Kasprzak et al. 2013 [6]. If any similarity were detected, the document were reported as a potential source of plagiarism. All reported documents contain some similarity with the suspicious document.

5 Conclusions

This paper described key aspects and changes from our erstwhile systems for candidate document retrieval used at PAN 14 lab on uncovering plagiarism. The architecture stems from PAN 12 and PAN 13 labs and the real-world anti-plagiarism system which is in use at Masaryk University. The results show that this approach is one of the best for a real-life adoption, since it achieved a decent recall with just a fraction of used queries. Such approach is applicable for detection of suspicious texts, which may contain plagiarism, which can then be selected for further investigation.

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