Explainable Natural Language Processing

Synthesis Lectures on Human Language Technologies

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Anders Søgaard

ISBN: 978-3-031-01052-1 paperback ISBN: 978-3-031-02180-0 ebook ISBN: 978-3-031-00191-8 hardcover

DOI 10.1007/978-3-031-02180-0

A Publication in the Springer series

SYNTHESIS LECTURES ON HUMAN LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES

Lecture #51

Series Editor: Graeme Hirst, University of Toronto

Series ISSN

Print 1947-4040 Electronic 1947-4059

Explainable Natural Language Processing

Anders Søgaard University of Copenhagen

SYNTHESIS LECTURES ON HUMAN LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES #51

ABSTRACT

This book presents a taxonomy framework and survey of methods relevant to explaining the decisions and analyzing the inner workings of Natural Language Processing (NLP) models. The book is intended to provide a snapshot of Explainable NLP, though the field continues to rapidly grow. The book is intended to be both readable by first-year M.Sc. students and interesting to an expert audience. The book opens by motivating a focus on providing a consistent taxonomy, pointing out inconsistencies and redundancies in previous taxonomies. It goes on to present (i) a taxonomy or framework for thinking about how approaches to explainable NLP relate to one another; (ii) brief surveys of each of the classes in the taxonomy, with a focus on methods that are relevant for NLP; and (iii) a discussion of the inherent limitations of some classes of methods, as well as how to best evaluate them. Finally, the book closes by providing a list of resources for further research on explainability.

KEYWORDS

natural language processing, interpretability, explainability, taxonomies, resources

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Acknowledgments

The book's shortcomings are entirely my fault. I would nevertheless like to thank my editors and reviewers, as well as several of my colleagues for engaging in discussions that helped shape this book: Mostafa Abdou, Jasmijn Bastings, Katja Filippova, Ana Valeria Gonzalez, Daniel Herschcovich, Karthikeyan K, Anna Rogers, and Anna Rumshinsky. The framework presented here is probably applicable outside of NLP, but I willfully ignore all other applications of interpretability and explainable machine learning throughout the book.

Anders Søgaard September 2021