

# Type-based Idiom Extraction

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based on

A Measure of Syntactic Flexibility for Automatically Identifying  
Multiword Expressions in Corpora

by Colin Barnard

and

Automatically Constructing a Lexicon of Verb Phrase Idiomatic  
Combinations

by Afshan Farzad and Suzanne Stevenson

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# Outline

- 1) competition
- 2) object of interests
- 3) main goal
- 4) fixed ness
- 5) results I
- 6) mutual information
- 7) results II
- 8) conclusion
- 9) evaluation of competition

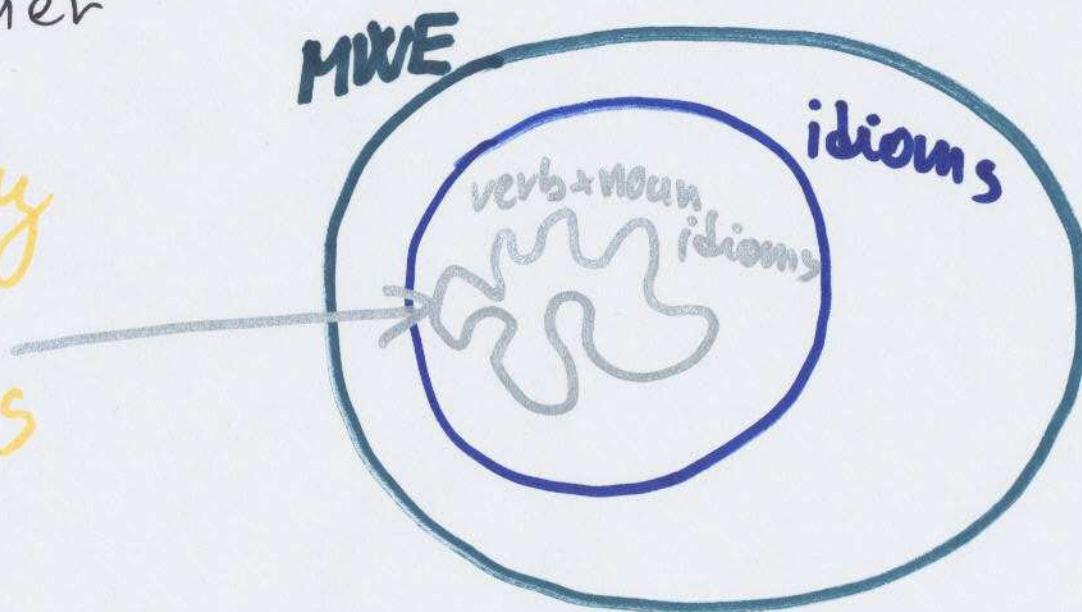
# Objects of interests

Idiomatic phrases in form of

verb + noun

- transitive verbs (needs an object)
- nouns (with determiner)

We will deal only  
with this type  
(verb+noun) in this  
presentation



Main goal

Is the phrase an idiom?

- determining fixedness  
→ level of idiomacity
- computing mutual information

# Fixedness

(non) morphological variation of the phrase

- determiner

run the show → run their show

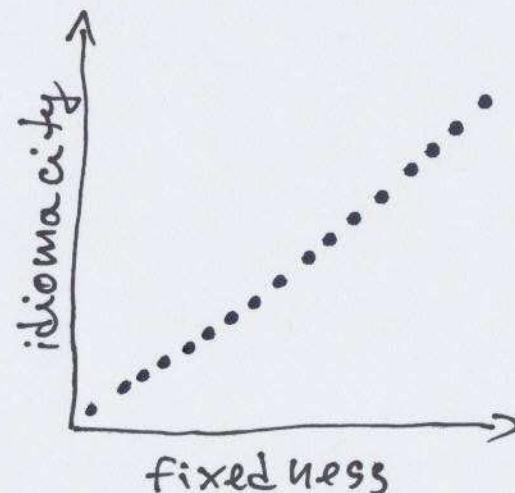
- internal modification

break the ice → break the diplomatic ice

- passivisation

call the shots → the shots were called by ...

- pluralisation



## Fixedness II

- lexical

$$F_{lex}^{(v,w)} = \frac{PMI(v,w) - \overline{PMI}}{s}$$

the mean  
the standard deviation

$$PMI(v, w_j) = \log \frac{P(v, w_j)}{P(v) \cdot P(w_j)}$$

$w_j$  is a synonym  
for  $w$

- syntactic

$$F_{syn}^{(v,w)} = D\left(\overbrace{P(pt|v,w)}^{\text{probability of pattern pt given v and w}} \parallel \overbrace{P(pt)}^{\text{probability of pattern pt}}\right)$$

Kullback Lieber divergence

- hybrid

$$F_{hyb}^{(v,w)} = \alpha F_{syn}^{(v,w)} + (1-\alpha) F_{lex}^{(v,w)}$$

preference of  $F_{syn}$  and  $F_{lex}$

# Results I

Measure	Accuracy	Relative error reduction
Random	50%	-
PMI	64%	28%
$F_{lex}$	65%	30%
$F_{sgn}$	70%	40%
$F_{phys}$	74%	48%

- canonical form

- by set up threshold border
- determining from patterns set

$$Cf_k(v, w) = \frac{f(v, w, pt_k) - \bar{f}}{s}$$

$pt_k \in$  set of patterns for the phase  $v, w$

## Mutual information

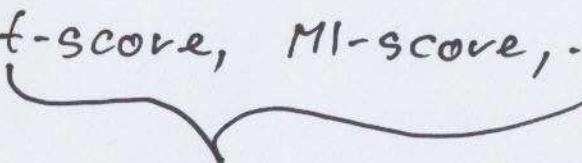
- amount of information in bits that provides about  $x$  given  $y$  (and vice versa)

$$I(x; y | z) = \text{black box} = \log_2 \frac{p(x|y,z)}{p(x|z)}$$

- syntactic variation

$$\text{SgwVar}(w) = \sum_i I(\text{VerbVar}_i; \text{Obj} | \text{Verb}) + \\ \sum_j I(\text{Obj}; \text{Var}_j; \text{Verb} | \text{Obj})$$

## Results II

- using mutual information (with frequency) is better than f-score, MI-score, ...  


they are based on frequency
- combining determiner variation, internal modification and passivisation goes to best results than frequency based scores, but combining freq. with P,I,D is the best

## Conclusion

### Advantages

- both techniques are robust
- they work independent on dictionary

### Disadvantages

- bigger corpus  $\Rightarrow$  better results
- verb + noun phrases ONLY!

## Evaluation of competition

- play the second violin
- sleep on laurel
- have a chicken brain
- have a handle/have a window
- have big eyes
- finish with his own hand
- ask for hand
- draw the same rope
- spit to the water well
- pull at hair
- go to the dog-rose
- have a juice
- be behind the water
- have bare's pants
- admit of color

And the winner is...

Any questions ?

:-)

Thank you for  
your attention.

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