

Manual for DependencyVectors 2.3

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This is a semi-technical document on how to use the `DEPENDENCYVECTORS` software package to produce dependency-based vector spaces. The concept of dependency spaces and ideas as to their applications can be found in [1] and [2]. The installation is described in the `README` file; implementation details can be found in the `javadoc` documentation (see `README`).

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1 Licence

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2 Using `DEPENDENCYVECTORS`

2.1 Architecture

The `DEPENDENCYVECTORS` software package contains three programs, corresponding to three steps of constructing a dependency-based semantic space model.

1. `ExtractBasisElements`: Choice of basis elements. Different from traditional word-based semantic space models, which usually use the most frequent context words, `DEPENDENCYVECTORS` models can use any set of basis elements (BEs). These have to be extracted (together with their frequencies) from the corpus in the first step. Additionally, `ExtractBasisElements` extracts frequencies for the target words and the total number of paths which are necessary for step 3.
2. `ExtractSpace`: Construction of semantic space. This constructs an actual `DEPENDENCYVECTORS` semantic space model from a corpus, given targets and basis elements.
3. `LLT`: Log-likelihood transformation. This performs a log likelihood transformation on a semantic space (optional).

It is recommended to call the three programs through the shell scripts in `bin/`. They communicate through files; the flow of information can be seen in Figure 1. All files in the middle row are stored in the directory specified by the option `targetdir` and are named according to a naming convention (see Table 1) that reflects the fact that the two main parameters of the extraction are the context specification and path value functions. Currently, change of the basis mapping function is only possible by recompiling; the default is the `.`. All programs support the concurrent processing of files with different parameters (see below).

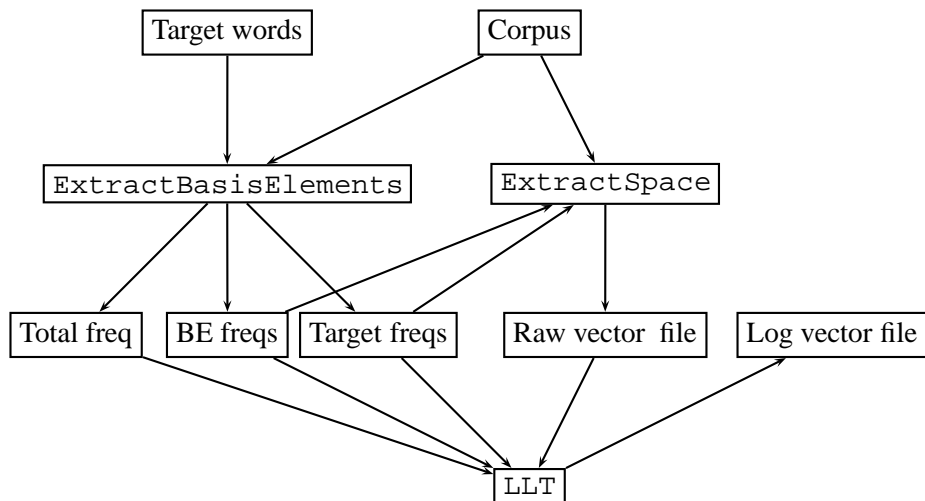


Figure 1: Flow of Information in DEPENDENCYVECTORS

File	Naming convention
Target frequencies	<code>cs_pv.targets</code>
BE frequencies	<code>cs_pv.bes</code>
Total frequency	<code>cs_pv.total</code>
Raw vectors	<code>cs_pv.vectors</code>
Log-transformed vectors	<code>cs_pv.vectors</code>

Table 1: Naming convention for files in `targetdir` (`cs` is name of context specification, `pv` name of path value function).

2.2 Using ExtractBasisElements

This program extracts basis elements. Since there may be (too) many, if a lexical basis mapping (like the default) is used, `ExtractBasisElements` supports *purging*, i.e. the regular removal of the most infrequent basis elements. This is implemented as follows: if the list contains more than `maxsize/ratio` elements, the list is shortened to `maxsize` elements. This guarantees that at every point, `maxsize` *reliable* basis elements are available.

- corpus <name>** : Location of corpus (default: `System.in`)
- cutoff <int>** : Ratio of basis elements to be deleted in each purge (default: 0.3)
- help** : Display help and exit.
- log <file>** : Destination for the log file (default: `log.txt`)
- maxsize <int>** : Desired number of basis elements (default: 10000)
- spec <file>** : Name of file with context specification (default: `all`). The standard `DEPENDENCYVECTORS` distribution comes with four specs:
 `contextspec_{minimal,medium,rich,wide}.txt`. The prefix `contextspec` is added automatically.
- targets <file>** : File containing target words
- targetdir <file>** : Data directory, used for writing output files (see Figure 1).
- plain | -length | -oblique | -obllength** : Path value functions provided by the standard `DEPENDENCYVECTORS` distribution (default: `all`)

If either `-spec` or the path value function is omitted, the extraction is run for *all* available values of that parameter, resulting in different file sets in the target directory.¹ Example call for `ExtractBasisElements`:

```
zcat bnc.parsetrees.gz | bin/ExtractBasisElements.sh
--targets targetsfile --targetdir data/bnc/
--plain --spec minimal.txt
```

Note that after `ExtractBasisElements` is a good opportunity to sort out unwanted basis elements according to frequency or any other criterion; see the definition of the frequency file format below.

¹The list of all context specifications is read from the variable `Parameters.allCSFiles`, and the list of all path value functions from `Parameters.allValuations`.

2.3 Using ExtractSpace

This program extracts semantic spaces, given sets of targets and basis elements. It supports incremental space building (to obtain learning curves) by using the `-every` option. The central data structure is implemented in two different ways. The default implementation is faster, but uses much memory. For the concurrent extraction of multiple spaces, I recommend using the `-small` option which may be slower, but saves memory².

- corpus <name>** : Location of corpus (default: System.in)
- every <num>** : Incrementally write semantic space every <num> corpus bytes to file `targetdir/cs_pv.vectors.<index>`
- help** : Display help and exit.
- log <file>** : Destination for the log file (default: log.txt)
- small** : Uses Semantic Space class with small memory footprint (recommended for concurrent extracting of multiple spaces, but possibly slower)
- spec <file>** : Name of file with context specification (default: all). The standard DEPENDENCYVECTORS distribution comes with four specs:
`contextspec_{minimal,medium,rich,wide}.txt`. The prefix `contextspec` is added automatically.
- targetdir <file>** : Data directory, used for reading input files and writing output files (see Figure 1).
- plain | -length | -oblique | -oblenght** : Path value functions provided by the standard DEPENDENCYVECTORS distribution (default: all)
- nofrequencies** : Do not complain about missing frequencies in basis element and target files (see below).

If either `-spec` or the path value function is omitted, the extraction is run for all available values of that parameter, resulting in different file sets in the target directory. Example call for ExtractSpace:

```
zcat bnc.parsetrees.gz | bin/ExtractSpace.sh
--targetdir data/bnc/ --every 10000000
--plain --spec minimal.txt
```

Having individual target and basis element files for different parametrisations may seem unnecessary. However, recall that these files also contain frequencies (computed, for example, by `ExtractBasisElements`). These typically vary between parameterisations and are necessary for computing log likelihoods.

To enable the extraction of semantic spaces with “raw counts”, `ExtractSpaces` can run without this frequency information, but this is disabled by default as a security measure. Specify `-nofrequencies` if you want to enable this mode.

²Note that the maximum size of processes on 32-bit machines is limited to about 1.8 GB

2.4 Using LLT

This program performs a log-likelihood transformation on a semantic spaces. In keeping with the arguments of the other programs, the name of the vector file is also specified by the context spec and path value functions, which again allows for concurrent processing.

-help : Display help and exit.

-log <file> : Destination for the log file (default: log.txt)

-spec <file> : Name of file with context specification (default: all). The standard DEPENDENCYVECTORS distribution comes with four specs:
contextspec_{minimal,medium,rich,wide}.txt. The prefix contextspec is added automatically.

-targetdir <file> : Data directory, used for reading input files and writing output files (see Figure 1).

-plain | -length | -oblique | -oblengh : Path value functions provided by the standard DEPENDENCYVECTORS distribution (default: all)

Example call for LLT to convert spaces for all context specifications:

```
bin/LLT.sh --targetdir data/bnc/ --plain
```

2.5 Example

The directory sample contains a “minimal” running example for creating a semantic space: a two-sentence corpus in “full” format (sample_corpus_full) and triple format (sample_corpus_triples) as well as a set of two target words (targets). Executing the script create_space.sh will run the complete pipeline and create a space in the subdirectory vectors.

2.6 Details on String Handling

MINIPAR shows a somewhat unusual behaviour for parsers in that multi-word expressions can occur as single nodes; these nodes are labelled with strings including spaces. To correctly handle these cases, spaces (and a small number of other special characters) are replaced during processing. The replacements are given in Table 2. In addition, all words are lowercased, to generalise over the capitalisation of first words in sentences. The replacements are defined (and can be altered) in the class MiniparEncoding. For technical reasons, it is not recommended that targets or basis elements contain spaces.

This replacement takes place both for corpora, and for the lists of basis elements and target words read from files. As consequence, target word lists written by DEPENDENCYVECTORS into the target data directory can differ from the original target word lists in terms of target normalisation. For example, *mull over* will be replaced by *mull_over*.

old	new
:	_COLON_
\t	_TAB_
" (double quote)	(empty string)
\s (space)	_ (underscore)
`	_BACKTICK_

Table 2: String Replacements in Corpus, Target, and BE expressions

3 File formats

This section lists the formats of the various files.

3.1 Targets file

One word (target) per line, everything else ignored. No comments allowed.

3.2 Target/BE frequency file

Every line contains two tab-separated tokens: (1), the target or basis element, and (2), its frequency. No comments allowed.

3.3 Total path frequency file

Just one line, containing the string representation of a Double.

3.4 Vectors file

The first line contains a tab-separated list of all basis elements. All following lines contain first the target that is represented by that line, then a colon, and then the vector as a space-separated list of Doubles.

3.5 Context specification file

The context specifications are stored in external files. Lines that begin with # are treated as comments and ignored, as are empty lines. Lines that specify path templates contain one or more edge templates, which are separated by =. Each edge template is a five-tuple, separated by colons (:). The first and second tokens specify the lemma and part of speech of the source node. The third token is the dependency relation label of the edge. The fourth and fifth tokens are the part of speech and lemma of the target node. For every of these tokens, users can specify the asterisk (*), which will match everything. For examples, see the provided context specification files.

4 Modifications and extensions

If you implement any modifications or extensions to the `DEPENDENCYVECTORS` package, I would be very interested in hearing from you and merging the new code into the main development branch. If you have any trouble in understanding what's going on, let me know.

Almost all modifications and extensions should be possible by modifying exactly one place in the code, since all frontends (`ExtractBasisElements`, `ExtractSpace`, and `LLT`) use the same backend libraries.

4.1 Using another parser

This should (only) require extending or replacing the `Corpus` class, which can at the moment only parse MINIPAR-analysed corpora.

4.2 Using a different basis mapping function

This requires overwriting (only) the `Parameters.basisMapping` method. For example, the following code extracts [word, grammatical relation] pairs as basis elements instead of words:

```
static public String basisMapping(Path path) {
    Edge lastEdge = (Edge) path.get(path.size()-1);
    return lastEdge.getToNode().getWord()+"_"+lastEdge.getRelation();
}
```

4.3 Adding new context specifications

This requires putting the new context specification files (format see above) into the directory `lib/contextspecs` and adding the name to the `Parameters.allCSFiles` array. The filenames of context specification files must start with `contextspec_`.

4.4 Adding new path value functions

New path value functions can be added by extending the `if valuation.equals(X)` branch in the `Parameters.pathValue` method. The names of the new path value functions also have to be recorded in the `Parameters.allValuations` array. This makes them permissible command line arguments, and they can be called with `-X`.

5 Bugs

It is entirely possible that there are still bugs in the system. If you encounter one, please let me know, and I will try to fix it. (Note that fixing bugs is easier and faster the more detailed the error report; it would be optimal if you could send me a “minimal example”).

Note that Vector Spaces computed with one parameter setting are not guaranteed to be interpretable with different settings, so if weird errors occur, first make sure that you haven't modified the parameters between two runs.

6 Version history

- Version 1.0 (September 2002): First version.
- Version 1.1 (July 2003)
 - New feature: LLT for log-likelihood transformation.
 - New feature: Support for MINIPAR “full parses” format.
 - Doc: First PS documentation.
- Version 2.0 (November 2004)
 - Doc: Thorough documentation of code.
 - Doc: Revised PS documentation.
 - Implementation: Complete refactorisation of classes.
 - Implementation: All programs use `targetdir` now.
 - Implementation: Introduction of packaging scheme and `Makefile`.
- Version 2.1 (May 2007)
 - Doc: revised documentation
 - Implementation: Administration of command line arguments centralised
 - `FrequencyList` and `SemanticSpaceArray` debugged.
 - LLT debugged.
- Version 2.1a (July 2007)
 - Minor debugging.
 - Added usage sample.
- Version 2.2 (August 2007)
 - More general recognition of the triples vs. full MINIPAR format
 - More general handling of lemmas
- Version 2.3 (January 2008)
 - Bugfixes (handling of antecedents; handling of default context specification)
- Version 2.3a (March 2008)
 - More bugfixes (handling of brittle log transformation)

References

- [1] S. Pado and M. Lapata: Constructing Semantic Space Models from Parsed Corpora. Proceedings of ACL, Sapporo, 2003.
- [2] S. Pado and M. Lapata: Dependency-based semantic space models. Computational Linguistics 33(2), 161-199. 2007.