

Introduction to IE and ANNIE

© The University of Sheffield, 1995-2016

This work is licenced under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike Licence.

About this tutorial



This tutorial comprises the following topics:

- Introduction to IE
- ANNIE
- Evaluation and Corpus Quality Assurance

After lunch, you'll learn how to use JAPE, the pattern matching language that many PRs use

Named Entity Recognition: the cornerstone of IE



Traditionally, NER is the identification of proper names in texts, and their classification into a set of predefined categories of interest

- Person
- Organisation (companies, government organisations, committees, etc)
- Location (cities, countries, rivers, etc)
- Date and time expressions

Various other types are frequently added, as appropriate to the application, e.g. newspapers, ships, monetary amounts, percentages.

Why is NE important?



- NE provides a foundation from which to build more complex IE systems
- Relations between NEs can provide tracking, ontological information and scenario building
- Tracking (co-reference): "Dr Smith", "John Smith", "John", "he"
- Ontologies: "Athens, Georgia" vs "Athens, Greece"

Typical NE pipeline



- Pre-processing (tokenisation, sentence splitting, morphological analysis, POS tagging)
- Entity finding (gazetteer lookup, NE grammars)
- Coreference (alias finding, orthographic coreference etc.)
- Export to database / XML / ontology

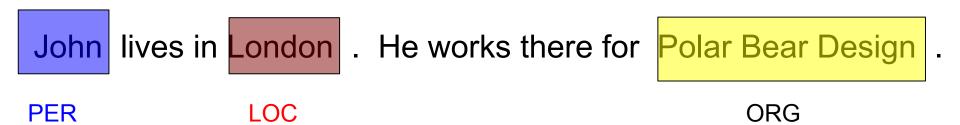
Example of IE



John lives in London . He works there for Polar Bear Design .

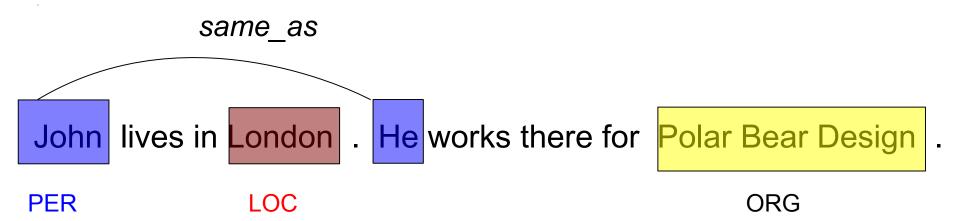






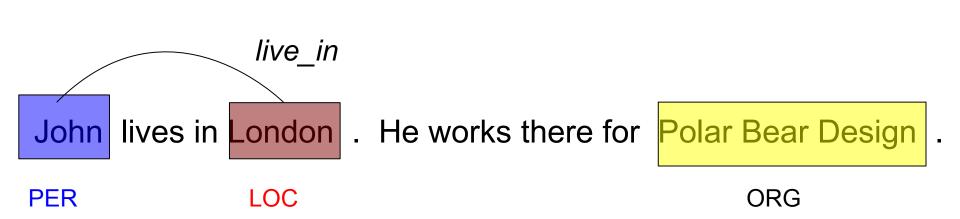
Co-reference





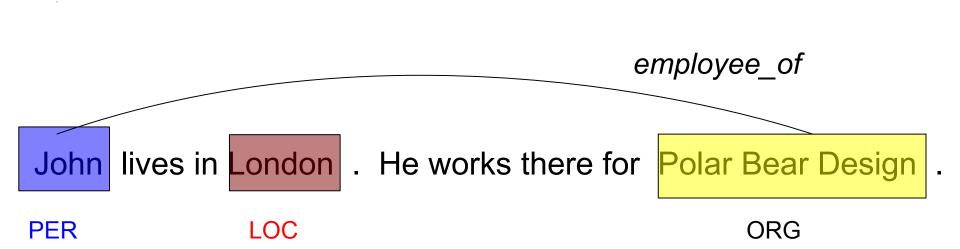
Relations





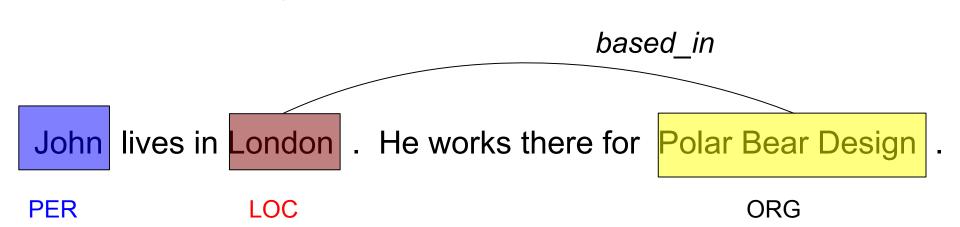
Relations (2)





Relations (3)







ANNIE: A Nearly New Information Extraction system

About this tutorial



- As before, this tutorial will be a hands on session with some explanation as you go.
- We will use a corpus of news texts in the file annie-hands-on.zip. Unzip this file if it isn't already.
- Things for you to try yourself are in red.
 - There will be instructions for you to follow for each step.
 - Each step will be demonstrated
 - Correct answers will be shown before moving on
- Start GATE on your computer now (if you haven't already)

Nearly New Information Extraction



- ANNIE is a ready made collection of PRs that performs IE on unstructured text.
- ANNIE is "nearly new" because
 - It was based on an existing IE system, LaSIE
 - We rebuilt LaSIE because we decided that people are better than dogs at IE
 - Being 14 years old, it's not really new any more

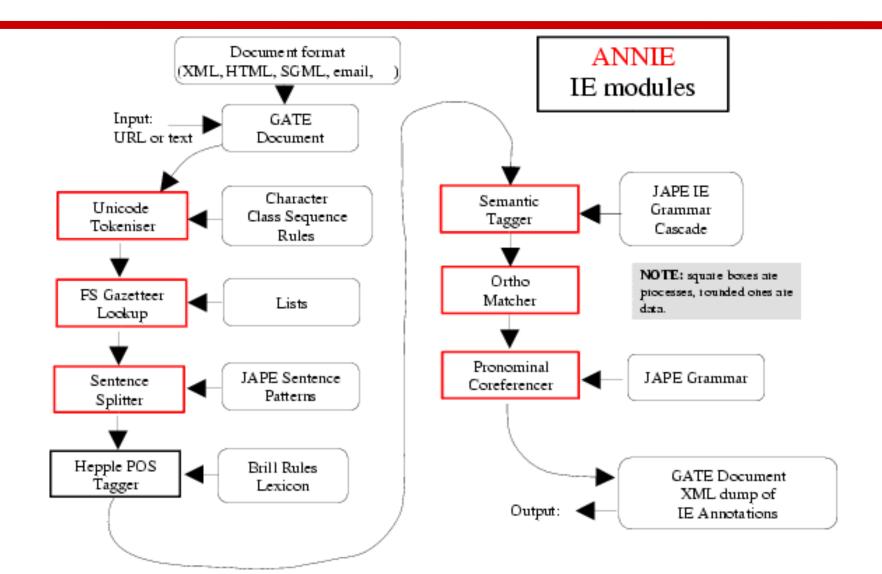
What's in ANNIE?



- The ANNIE application contains a set of core PRs:
 - Tokeniser
 - Sentence Splitter
 - POS tagger
 - Gazetteers
 - Named entity tagger (JAPE transducer)
 - Orthomatcher (orthographic coreference)
- There are also other useful PRs, which are not used in the default application, but can be added if necessary
 - NP chunker (Tagger_NP_Chunking plugin) and ANNIE
 VP Chunker (Tools plugin)

Core ANNIE components





Loading and running ANNIE



- Because ANNIE is a ready-made application, we can just load it directly from the menu
- Click the icon from the top GATE menu OR
 File →Ready Made Applications →ANNIE →ANNIE OR
 right-click Applications →Ready Made Applications →ANNIE
 →ANNIE
- Select "with defaults"
- Load the hands-on corpus from the "news-texts" directory in the zip file
- Run ANNIE and inspect the annotations
- You should see a mixture of Named Entity annotations (Person, Location etc) and some other linguistic annotations (Token, Sentence etc)

Let's look at the PRs



- Each PR in the ANNIE pipeline creates some new annotations, or modifies existing ones
- Document Reset → removes annotations
- Tokeniser → Token annotations
- Gazetteer → Lookup annotations
- Sentence Splitter → Sentence, Split annotations
- POS tagger → adds category features to Token annotations
- NE transducer → Date, Person, Location, Organisation, Money, Percent annotations
- Orthomatcher → adds match features to NE annotations

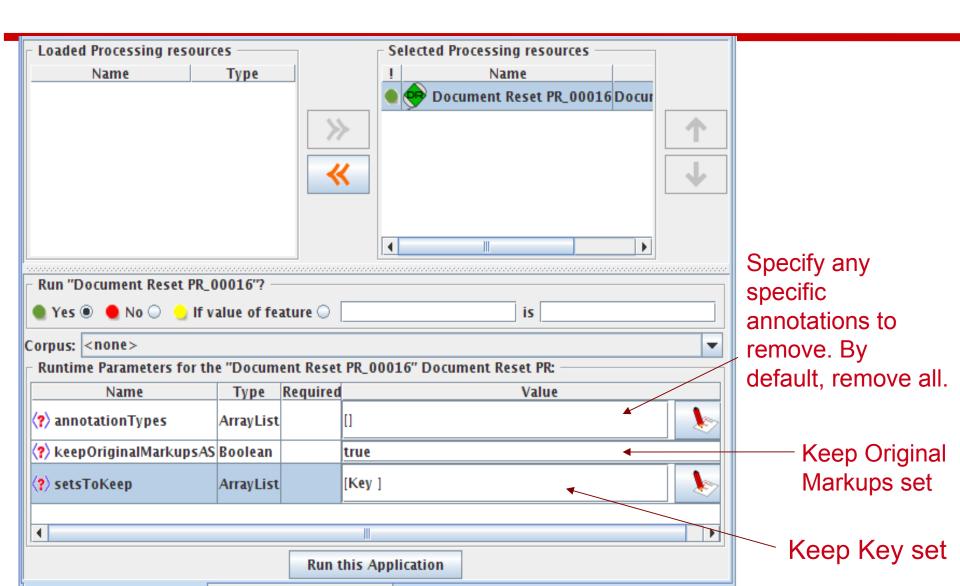
Document Reset



- This PR should go at the beginning of (almost) every application you create
- It removes annotations created previously, to prevent duplication if you run an application more than once
- It does not remove the Original Markups set, by default
- You can configure it to keep any other annotation sets you want, or to remove particular annotation types only









Tokenisation and sentence splitting

Tokeniser

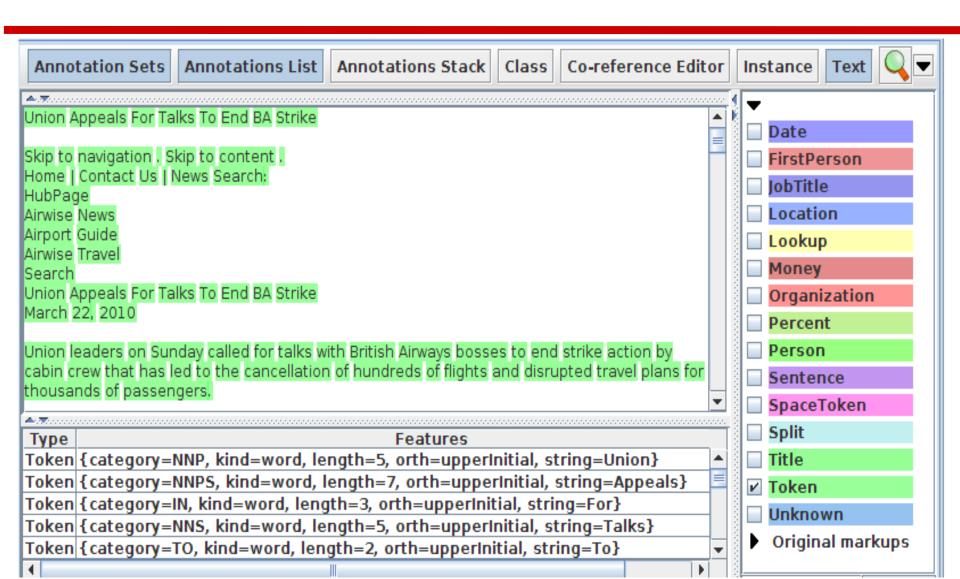


- Tokenisation based on Unicode classes
- Declarative token specification language
- Produces Token and SpaceToken annotations with features orthography and kind
- length and string features are also produced
- Rule for a lowercase word with initial uppercase letter:

```
"UPPERCASE_LETTER" LOWERCASE_LETTER"* >
Token; orthography=upperInitial; kind=word
```

Document with Tokens





ANNIE English Tokeniser



- The English Tokeniser is a slightly enhanced version of the Unicode tokeniser
- It comprises an additional JAPE transducer which adapts the generic tokeniser output for the POS tagger requirements
- It converts constructs involving apostrophes into more sensible combinations
 - don't → do + n't
 - you've → you + 've

Looking at Tokens



- Tidy up GATE by removing all resources and applications (or just restart GATE)
- Load the news text hands-on corpus
- Create a new application (corpus pipeline)
- Load a Document Reset and an ANNIE English Tokeniser
- Add them (in that order) to the application and run on the corpus
- View the Token and SpaceToken annotations
- What different values of the "kind" feature do you see?

Sentence Splitter



- The default splitter finds sentences based on Tokens
- Creates Sentence annotations and Split annotations on the sentence delimiters
- Uses a gazetteer of abbreviations etc. and a set of JAPE grammars which find sentence delimiters and then annotate sentences and splits
- Load an ANNIE Sentence Splitter PR and add it to your application (at the end)
- Run the application and view the results





Annotation Sets Annotations List Annotations Stack Class Co-reference Edit	ог	Instance Text
The opposition conservatives, anead in opinion poils, have been turning up the pressure on Labour over its links to Unite, saying the government had failed to take action quickly enough		▼
because it did not want to alienate its financial backers.		Date
		FirstPerson
"We deplore the strike, and the prime minister and the transport secretary have said that		JobTitle
absolutely clearly," Foreign Secretary David Miliband told Sky News.		Location
"The way to resolve these disputes is through negotiation, it is damaging for the company, it is		Lookup
damaging for the crews and it is damaging for the country."		Money
The dispute arose because BA, which has 12,000 cabin crew, wants to save an annual		Organization
GBP£62.5 million pounds (USD\$95 million) to help cope with a fall in demand, volatile fuel		Percent
prices and increased competition from low-cost carriers.		Person
A spokesman said there was no estimate yet as to how much the industrial action would cost		✓ Sentence
the company.	•	■ SpaceToken
Type Features		☐ Split
Sentence {}	•	☐ Title
Sentence {}		Token
Sentence {}	-	Unknown
Sentence {} Sentence {}		Original markups
Sentence {}	-	
	:	





- An alternate set of rules can be loaded with the regular sentence splitter
- To do this, reload the sentence splitter using "main-single-nl.jape" instead of "main.jape" as the value of the grammar parameter
- The main difference is the way it handles new lines
- In some cases, you might want a new line to signal a new sentence, e.g. addresses
- In other cases, you might not, e.g. in emails that have been split by the email program
- A regular expression Java-based splitter is also available, called RegEx Sentence Splitter, which is sometimes faster
- This handles new lines in the same way as the default sentence splitter



Shallow lexico-syntactic features

POS tagger



- ANNIE POS tagger is a Java implementation of Brill's transformation based tagger
- Previously known as Hepple Tagger (you may find references to this and to heptag)
- Trained on WSJ, uses Penn Treebank tagset
- Default ruleset and lexicon can be modified manually (with a little deciphering)
- Adds category feature to Token annotations
- Requires Tokeniser and Sentence Splitter to be run first

Morphological analyser



- Not an integral part of ANNIE, but can be found in the Tools plugin as an "added extra"
- Flex based rules: can be modified by the user (instructions in the User Guide)
- Generates root feature on Token annotations
- Requires Tokeniser to be run first
- Requires POS tagger to be run first if the considerPOSTag parameter is set to true

Shallow lexico-syntactic features



- Add an ANNIE POS Tagger to your app
- Add a GATE Morphological Analyser after the POS Tagger
- If this PR is not available, load the Tools plugin first
- Re-run your application
- Examine the features of the Token annotations
 - New features of category and root have been added



Gazetteers

Gazetteers



- Gazetteers are plain text files containing lists of names (e.g rivers, cities, people, ...)
- The lists are compiled into Finite State Machines
- Each gazetteer has an index file listing all the lists, plus features of each list (majorType, minorType, and language)
- Lists can be modified either internally using the Gazetteer Editor, or externally in your favourite editor
- Gazetteers generate Lookup annotations with relevant features corresponding to the list matched
- Lookup annotations are used primarily by the NE transducer

University of Sheffield NLP

Running the ANNIE Gazetteer



- Various different kinds of gazetteer are available: first we'll look at the default ANNIE gazetteer
- Add the ANNIE Gazetteer PR to the end of your pipeline
- Re-run the pipeline
- Look for "Lookup" annotations and examine their features

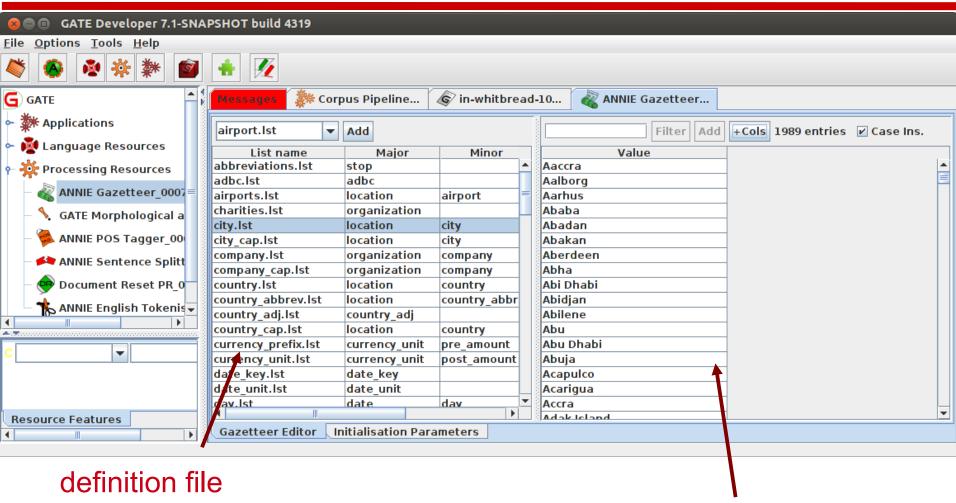


ANNIE gazetteer - contents

- Double click on the ANNIE Gazetteer PR (under Processing Resources in the left hand pane) to open it
- Select "Gazetteer Editor" from the bottom tab
- In the left hand pane (linear definition) you see the index file containing all the lists
- In the right hand pane you see the contents of the list selected in the left hand pane
- Each entry can be edited by clicking in the box and typing
- New entries can be added by typing in the "New list" or "New entry" box respectively

Gazetteer editor



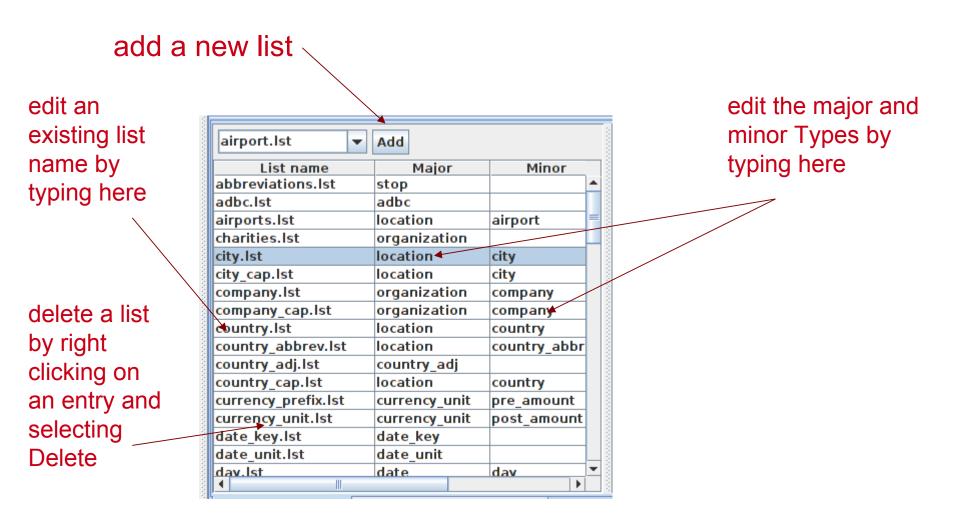


entries

entries for selected list

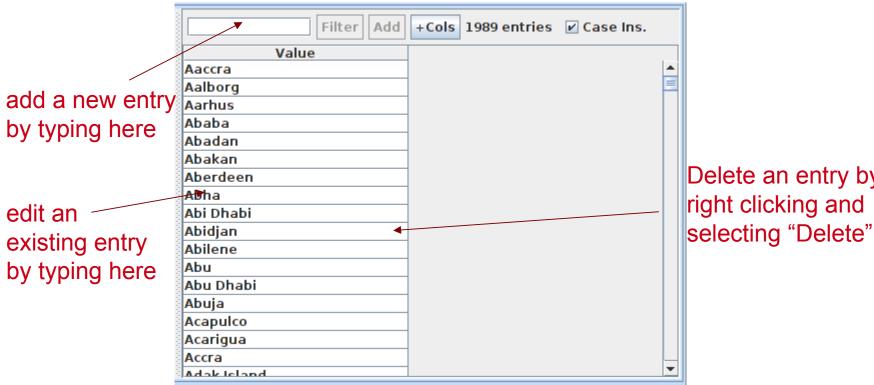


Modifying the definition file



Modifying a list





Delete an entry by

Editing gazetteer lists



- The ANNIE gazetteer has about 60,000 entries arranged in 80 lists
- Each list reflects a certain category, e.g. airports, cities, first names etc.
- List entries might be entities or parts of entities, or they may contain contextual information (e.g. job titles often indicate people)
- Click on any list to see the entries
- Note that some lists are not very complete!
- Try adding, deleting and editing existing lists, or the list definition file
- To save an edited gazetteer, right click on the gazetteer name in the tabs at the top or in the resources pane on the right, and select "Save and Reinitialise" before running the gazetteer again.
- Try adding a word from a document you have loaded (that is not currently recognised as a Lookup) into the gazetteer, re-run the gazetteer and check the results.

University of Sheffield NLP

Editing gazetteers outside GATE



- You can also edit both the definition file and the lists outside GATE, in your favourite text editor
- If you choose this option, you will need to reinitialise the gazetteer in GATE before running it again
- To reinitialise any PR, right click on its name in the Resources pane and select "Reinitialise"

List attributes



- When something in the text matches a gazetteer entry, a Lookup annotation is created, with various features and values
- The ANNIE gazetteer has the following default feature types: majorType, minorType, language
- These features are used as a kind of classification of the lists: in the definition file features are separated by ":"
- For example, the "city" list has a majorType "location" and minorType "city", while the "country" list has "location" and "country" as its types
- Later, in the JAPE grammars, we can refer to all Lookups of type location, or we can be more specific and refer just to those of type "city" or type "country"



NE transducers

NE transducer



- Gazetteers can be used to find terms that suggest entities
- However, the entries can often be ambiguous
 - "May Jones" vs "May 2010" vs "May I be excused?"
 - "Mr Parkinson" vs "Parkinson's Disease"
 - "General Motors" vs. "General Smith"
- Hand-crafted grammars can be used to define patterns over the Lookups and other annotations
- These patterns can help disambiguate, and they can combine different annotations, e.g. Dates can be comprised of day + number + month
- NE transducer consists of a number of grammars written in the JAPE language
- This afternoon will be devoted to JAPE

ANNIE NE Transducer



- Load an ANNIE NE Transducer PR
- Add it to the end of the application
- Run the application
- Look at the annotations
- You should see some new annotations such as Person, Location, Date etc.
- These will have features showing more specific information (eg what kind of location it is) and the rules that were fired (for ease of debugging)



Co-reference

Using co-reference



- Different expressions may refer to the same entity
- Orthographic co-reference module (orthomatcher) matches proper names and their variants in a document
- [Mr Smith] and [John Smith] will be matched as the same person
- [International Business Machines Ltd.] will match
 [IBM]

Orthomatcher PR



- Performs co-reference resolution based on orthographical information of entities
- Produces a list of annotation IDs that form a co-reference "chain"
- List of such lists stored as a document feature named "MatchesAnnots"
- Improves results by assigning entity type to previously unclassified names, based on relations with classified entities
- May not reclassify already classified entities
- Classification of unknown entities very useful for surnames which match a full name, or abbreviations,
 e.g. "Bonfield" <Unknown> will match "Sir Peter Bonfield" <Person>
- A pronominal PR is also available

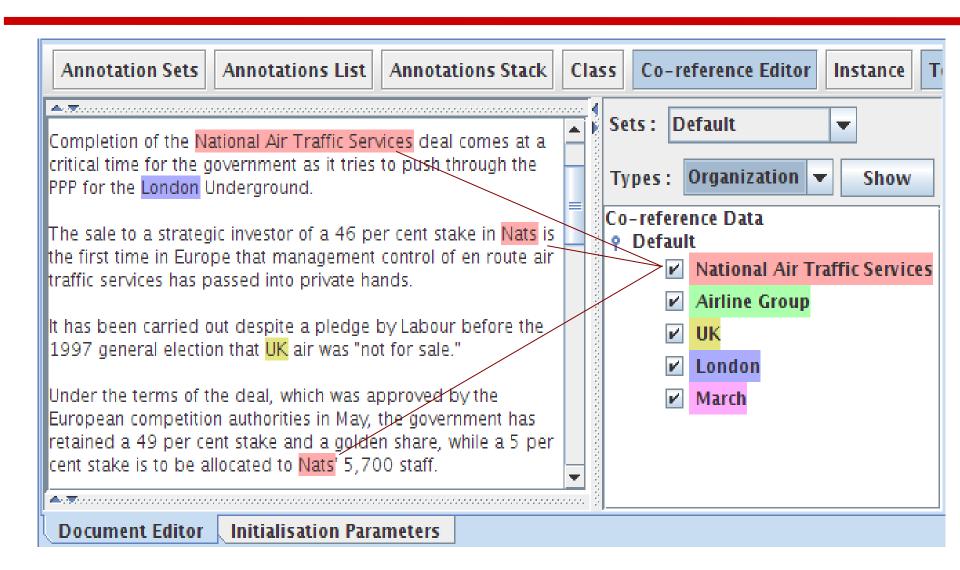
Looking at co-reference



- Add a new PR: ANNIE OrthoMatcher
- Add it to the end of the application
- Run the application
- In a document view, open the co-reference editor by clicking the button above the text
- All the documents in the corpus should have some coreference, but some may have more than others

Coreference editor





Using the co-reference editor GATE



- Select the annotation set you wish to view (Default)
- A list of all the co-reference chains that are based on annotations in the currently selected set is displayed
- Select an item in the list to highlight all the member annotations of that chain in the text (you can select more than one at once)
- Hovering over a highlighted annotation in the text enables you to Delete an item from the co-reference chain
- Try it!

Evaluation





"We didn't underperform. You overexpected."

University of Sheffield NLP

Evaluation exercises: preparation



- Restart GATE, or close all documents and PRs to tidy up
- Load the ANNIE hands on corpus
- Take a look at the annotations.
- There is a set called "Key". This is a set of annotations against wish we want to evaluate ANNIE. In practice, they could be manual annotations, or annotations from another application.
- Load the ANNIE system with defaults
- Run ANNIE: You should have annotations in the Default set from ANNIE, and in the Key set, against which we can compare them.

AnnotationDiff



- Graphical comparison of 2 sets of annotations
- Visual diff representation, like tkdiff
- Compares one document at a time, one annotation type at a time

Annotations are like squirrels... GATE



Annotation Diff helps with "spot the difference"

Annotation Diff Exercise



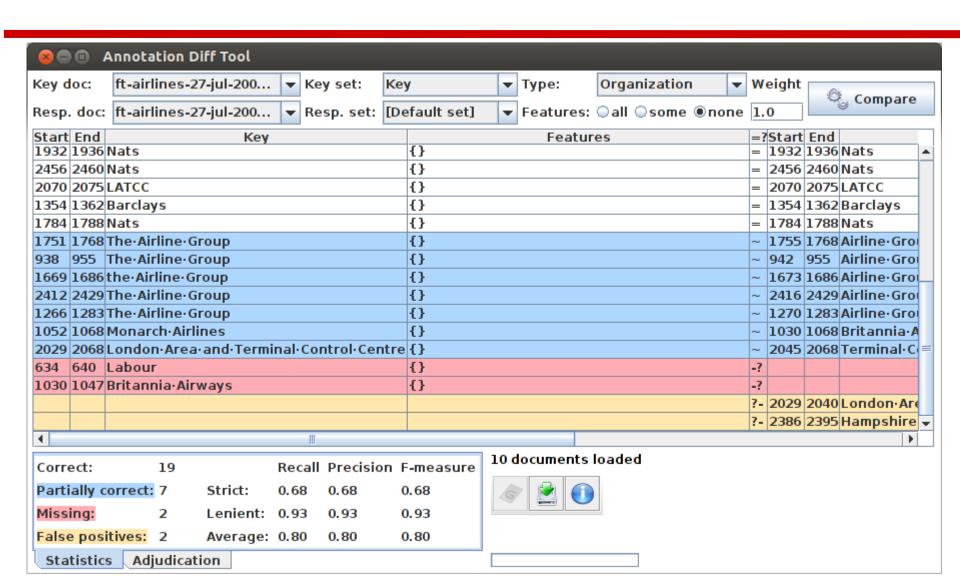
- Open the document "ft-airlines-27-jul-2001.xml"
- Open the AnnotationDiff (Tools → Annotation Diff or click the icon



- For the Key set (containing the manual annotations) select Key annotation set
- For the Response set (containing annotations from ANNIE) select
 Default annotation set
- Select the **Organization** annotation
- Click on "Compare"
- Scroll down the list, to see correct, partially correct, missing and spurious annotations

Annotation Diff





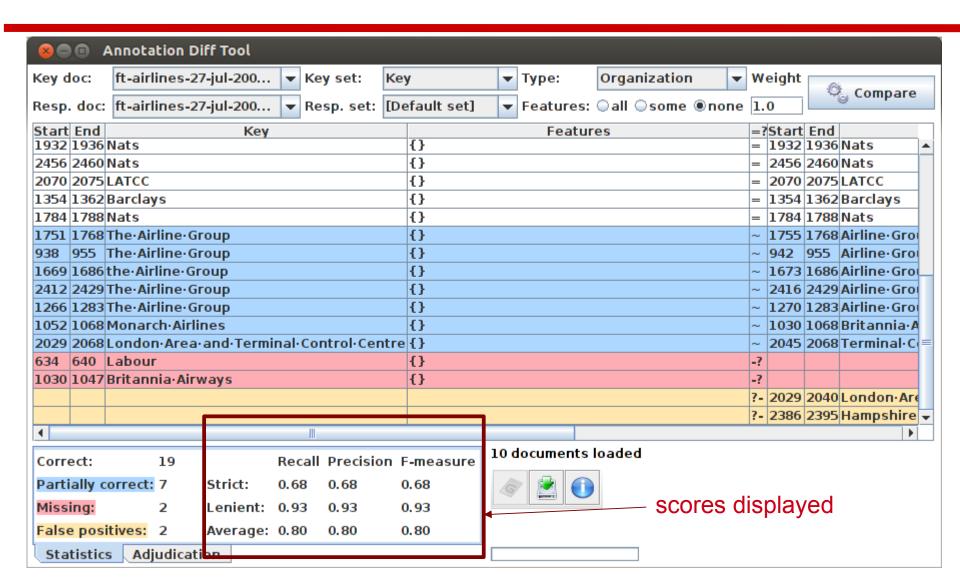
Measuring success



- In IE, we classify the annotations produced in one of 4 ways:
- Correct = things annotated correctly
- e.g. annotating "Donald Trump" as a Person
- Missing = things not annotated that should have been
- e.g. not annotating "Sheffield" as a Location
- Spurious = things annotated wrongly
- e.g. annotating "London" as a Location in "London Traffic Centre"
- Partially correct = the annotation type is correct, but the span is wrong
- e,g, annotating just "Trump" as a Person (too short) or annotating "Unfortunately Donald Trump" as a Person (too long)

Finding Precision, Recall and GATE F-measure





Precision



- How many of the entities your application found were correct?
- Sometimes precision is called accuracy

Recall



- How many of the entities that exist did your application find?
- Sometimes recall is called coverage

F-Measure



- Precision and recall tend to trade off against one another
 - If you specify your rules precisely to improve precision, you may get a lower recall
- If you make your rules very general, you get good recall, but low precision
- This makes it difficult to compare applications, or to check whether a change has improved or worsened the results overall
- F-measure combines precision and recall into one measure

F-Measure

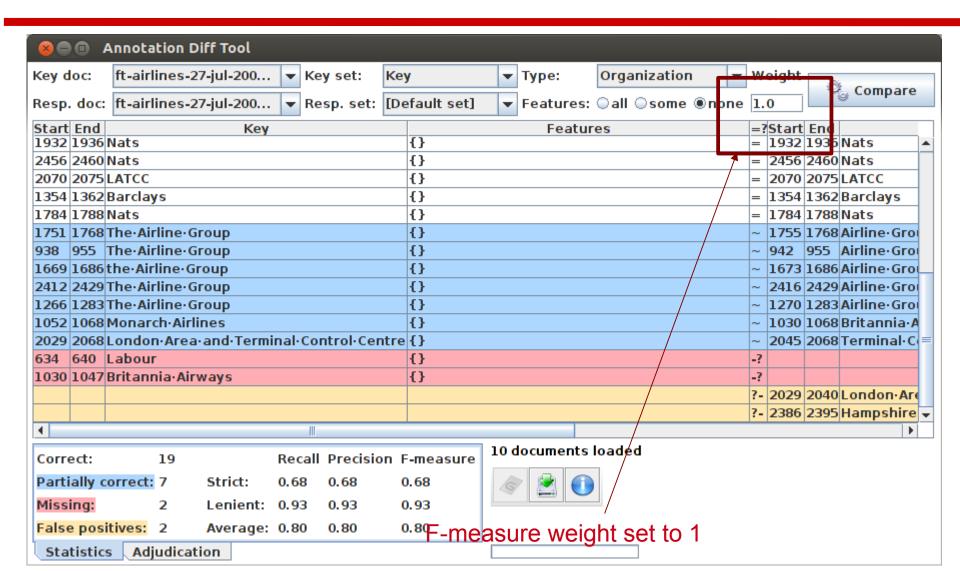


- Also known as the "harmonic mean"
- Usually, precision and recall are equally weighted
- This is known as F1
- To use F1, set the value of the F-measure weight to 1
- This is the default setting

$$F=2\cdot \left| \begin{array}{c} precision \cdot recall \\ precision+recall \end{array} \right|$$

Annotation Diff defaults to F1





University of Sheffield NLP

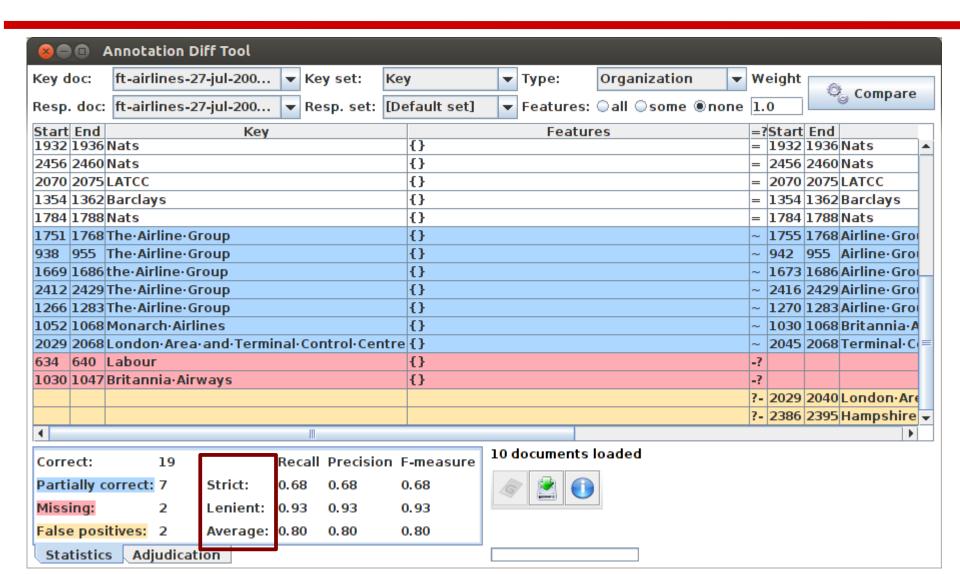
Statistics can mean what you want them to....



- How we want to measure partially correct annotations may differ, depending on our goal
- In GATE, there are 3 different ways to measure them
- The most usual way is to consider them to be "half right"
- Average: Strict and lenient scores are averaged (this is the same as counting a half weight for every partially correct annotation)
- Strict: Only perfectly matching annotations are counted as correct
- Lenient: Partially matching annotations are counted as correct.
 This makes your scores look better :-)

Strict, Lenient and Average





University of Sheffield NLP

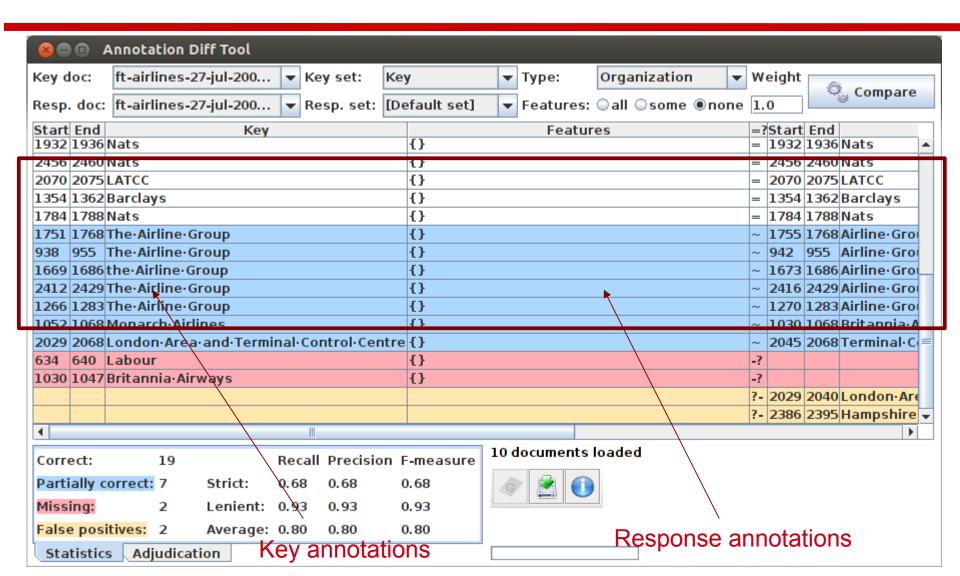
Comparing the individual annotations



- In the AnnotationDiff, colour codes indicate whether the annotation pair shown are correct, partially correct, missing (false negative) or spurious (false positive)
- You can sort the columns however you like



Comparing the annotaations

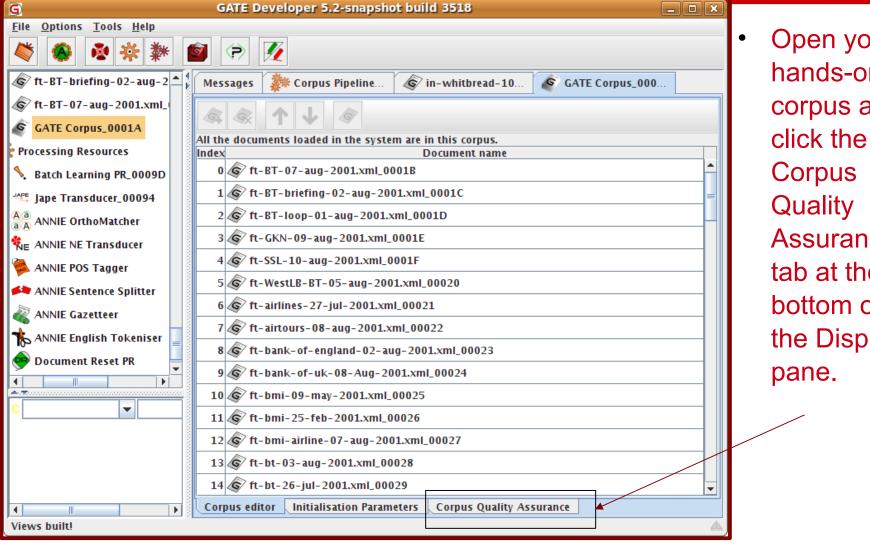


Corpus Quality Assurance



- Corpus Quality Assurance tool extends the Annotation Diff functionality to the entire corpus, rather than on a single document at a time
- It produces statistics both for the corpus as a whole (Corpus statistics tab) and for each document separately (Document statistics tab)
- It compares two annotation sets, but makes no assumptions about which (if either) set is the gold standard. It just labels them A and B.
- This is because it can be used to measure Inter Annotator Agreement (IAA) where there is no concept of "correct" set

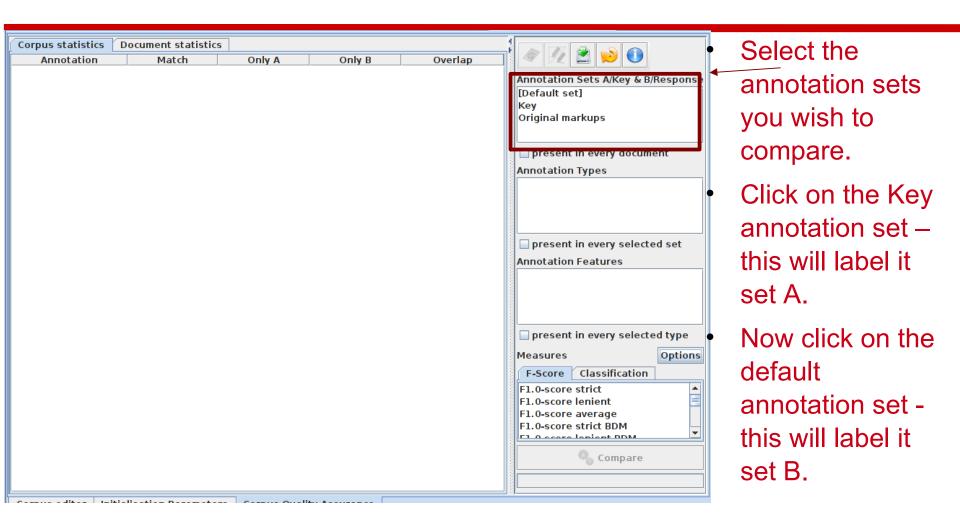
Try out Corpus Quality Assurance



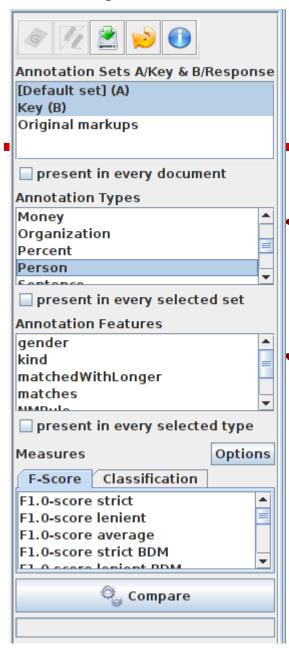
Open your hands-on corpus and **Assurance** tab at the bottom of the Display

Select Annotation Sets





University of Sheffield NLP

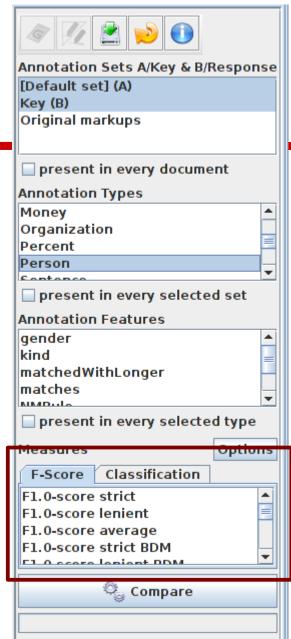


Select Type



- Select the annotation type to
 compare (suggestion: select
 Organisation, Person and
 Location for now)
- Select the features to include (if any – leave unselected for now)
- You can select as many types and features as you want.

University of Sheffield NLP



Select measure

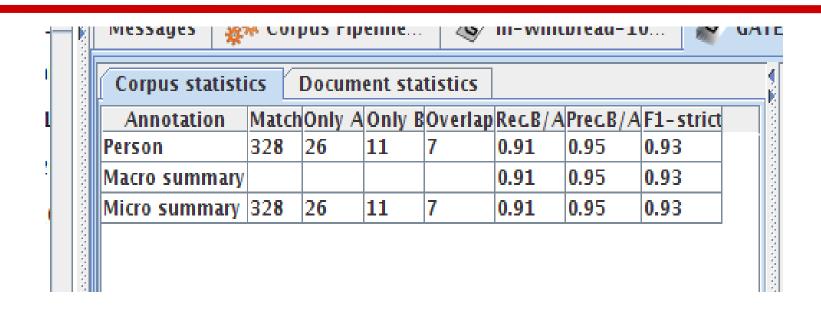


 In the "Measures" box, select the kind of F score you want "Strict, Lenient, Average" or any combination of them.
 Suggestion: try just "lenient" at first

Select Compare



Corpus Statistics Tab



- Each annotation type is listed separately
- Precision, recall and F measure are given for each
- Two summary rows provide micro and macro averages

Micro and Macro Averaging



- Micro averaging treats the entire corpus as one big document, for the purposes of calculating precision, recall and F
- Macro averaging takes the average of the rows



Document Statistics Tab

Corpus statistics Document statistics								
Document	Matc	Only	A Only	BOverl	ap Rec.B/	A Prec.B	A F1-stri	ct
in-reed-10-aug-2001.xml_00072	10	1	0	0	0.91	1.00	0.95	
in-rover-10-aug-2001.xml_00073	3	0	0	0	1.00	1.00	1.00	
in-scoot-10-aug-2001.xml_00074	1	0	0	0	1.00	1.00	1.00	
in-shell-cirywire-03-aug-2001.xml_00075	7	1	0	0	0.88	1.00	0.93	
in-tesco-citywire-07-aug-2001.xml_00076	1	0	0	0	1.00	1.00	1.00	
in-whitbread-10-aug-2001.xml_00077	1	0	0	0	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Macro summary					0.95	0.95	0.94	
Micro summary	328	26	11	7	0.91	0.95	0.93	-

- Each document is listed separately
- Precision, recall and F measure are given for each
- Two summary rows provide micro and macro averages

Summary



- This session has been devoted to IE and ANNIE
- You should now have a basic understanding of:
 - what IE is
 - how to load and run ANNIE, what each of the ANNIE components do, how to modify ANNIE components
 - Evaluation using Annotation Diff and Corpus
 QA

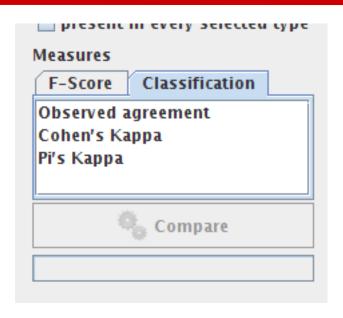
University of Sheffield NLP

Optional



Classification Measures





- By default, Corpus Quality
 Assurance presents the F-measures
- However, classification measures are also available
- These are not suitable for entity extraction tasks