Learning goals

1. experiment with the “inoculation method” from the Liu, Schwartz, and Smith NAACL 2019 paper,
2. practice playing around with a new research idea in an open-ended way
3. gain experience with some NLP task using data meant to be challenging
4. learn from how other students in the class approaches the same task

... under the constraint that I’d like you to be able to accomplish these goals without having to build up a lot of stuff from scratch, and you should not spend more than 20-23 hours total over two weeks.

What to do

We agreed to use the Build It Break it sentiment data. The sentence training data is to be used to create the two 80-10-10 “original” train/dev/test splits, with train and test preserving the original distribution (reported to be 3310 negative, 3610 positive). The concatenation of the four test ground truth data sets Team1, Team2s and Team3’s (warning — contains some unconventional characters in four lines) ground truth is to be used as the challenge data, with a single 10-90 train-test split. (Liu et al want the challenge training to be small.) The splits and explanation of which original split you, personally should use is in the data readme.

The basic idea is to try experiment with inoculation-by-fine-tuning on this “original data”/“challenge data” pair; in your final report, you should include a training “curve” like in Figure 3 of the paper, but you should only pick 3 sizes for the fine-tuning examples. (Choose a reasonable set of sizes. An example of a bad choice would be {5, 7, 9} — you’d want your choices to cover a larger span. Would {25, 75, 100} be a good choice? {10, 100, 143 = all}?)

Choose one of the following two questions to investigate, or state your own question about the inoculation-by-fine-tuning methodology and investigate it.

**Question A:** Consider “Possible Outcome (2)” from Fig 1 of the paper, where there is what we might call a “model weakness” gap. Will a “good” algorithm yield less of a model weakness gap than a “not as good (although not completely terrible)” algorithm?

Recall that we discussed in class that one possibility you can use for an algorithm class to work with is the NLTK Naive-Bayes text classifier with a choice of top-k most-common words as features; the code we saw in lecture was from Chapter 6 “learning to classify text” from Steven Bird, Ewan Klein, and Edward Loper, Natural Language Processing with Python: Analyzing Text with the Natural Language Toolkit (for Python 3, a Python 2 version is here ).

You’ll want to install the NLTK package; instructions here.

You’ll want to massage the data to be a list of pairs (2-tuples), where each 2-tuple has a list of words as the first element and the name of the class label for the sentence as the second element. For example:

```python
train_docs = [ [ ['this', 'is', 'awesome'], 'pos' ], [ ['this', 'is', 'terrible'], 'neg' ] ]
```

To make a set of features functions corresponding to the top 345 (say) most frequent words in your training data, first, get a list `word_features_345` of the top 345 most frequent words. Then, you can define
def document_features(document):
    document_words = set(document)
    features = {}
    for word in 
        word_features_345
    features['contains({})'.format(word)] = (word in document_words)
    return features

Then, you can do (assuming you want a NaiveBayes classifier that
uses the top 345 words as features):

```python
featuresets = [(document_features(d), c) for (d, c) in train_docs]
classifier = nltk.NaiveBayesClassifier.train(train_set)

## then, assuming test_set is in the right format, too, you can do
```nltk.classify.accuracy
(classifier, test_set))

# some numerical result comes out
>>> classifier,
show_most_informative_features(5)

# 5 most informative features are printed

But we also decided you could instead use a neural classifier
against another neural classifier (taking care to think about the
pre-training issue — how does that affect the use of inoculation
as studying a challenge dataset?), or an "old-style" classifier
against a neural classifier, or what have you. The choice is up to
you, just try to pick something sensible, and justify your choices
in the writeup!

**Question B:** How much difference does it make if instead of adding new
challenge data, you added the same amount of original data (which
would need to be held out) as a "pseudo-challenge dataset"?

**Discussion and collaboration rules**

You are encouraged to discuss and ask questions or even just post fun
eamples you discovered in the data on CampusWire, but you should
do the experimental work on your own.

**Deadlines**

- Monday November 4, 11:59pm: submit an informal progress
  report on CMS. Include in it any questions you might have for
  me. The intent is just to give me something to skim before
  meeting with you, so bulleted lists and some sort of preliminary
  performance numbers would be fine. (You don't have to submit
  the "final_report.pdf" yet; I'll give extensions to allow the upload
  of it later on.)
- Tuesday November 5, in class: individual ~9-minute meetings
  with me (will be scheduled for the usual lecture time) to discuss
  your progress report.
- Thursday November 7, in class: present your findings of
  interest so far to the class (5 minutes of presentation per
  student, 5 minutes for questions). Use your judgment
  regarding "interesting", noting that negative results ("no matter
  what I tried, I didn't see a generalization gap") can be of
  interest. You can either use slides (on your own laptop, or you
can send them to me beforehand to display) or make handouts,
but I do require some visual aid (how else will you be able to
show learning "curves", for instance?).
• Friday, November 8, 11:59 pm: submit to CMS your final report of what you did, what design choices you made and why, what you learned, and what more you might have wanted to try if more time were allotted. 4-6 pages is probably a good rough length guideline.

Grading criteria

• Demonstration of understanding the concept of inoculation-by-fine-tuning as described in the Liu et al. paper.
• Thoughtfulness in designing your experiments.
• Thoughtfulness in analyzing the results of your experiments. Note that thoughtfulness can be demonstrated by explaining why something you did turned out to be a bad idea
• Demonstration of good-faith effort in running the experiments, doing the assignment, and meeting the deadlines.

I will consider granting extra credit for (thoughtful) participation on CampusWire.