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Speech and Language Processing: An Introduction to Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, and Speech Recognition

Daniel Jurafsky and James H. Martin
(University of Colorado,

Quarterly (March, June, September, December)

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Virginia Teller

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Book Reviews

Speech and Language Processing: An Introduction to Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, and Speech Recognition

Daniel Jurafsky and James H. Martin
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Reviewed by
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1. Introduction

Jurafsky and Martin's long-awaited text sets a new gold standard that will be hard to surpass, as attested by the flurry of glowing reviews that accompanied its publication early this year.¹ In a nutshell, J&M have successfully integrated knowledge of linguistic and statistical methods with linguistic foundations and computational models into a book that is at once balanced, comprehensive, and, above all, eminently readable. This review will focus primarily on the format and content of *Speech and Language Processing* (SLP) as well as its use in a course.

2. Format

The 21 chapters are grouped into an introduction followed by four parts starting at the level of Words (six chapters), then proceeding to Syntax (six chapters), Semantics (four chapters), and finally Pragmatics (four chapters). Several other writers contribute to the book, principally Andrew Kehler (Chapter 18, "Discourse"), Keith Van Dine (Chapter 20, "Natural Language Generation") and Nigel Ward (Chapter 21, "Natural Language Translation"). Supplementary material in four appendices covers regular expressions, the Porter stemming algorithm, the CLAWS C5 and C7 tagsets, and the forward-backward algorithm.


Instructional aids abound. Margin notes are used liberally, and a series of "Example Boxes" explains techniques for evaluating natural language systems, including such measures as perplexity for *n*-gram models, the kappa statistic for n-gram agreement, and precision and recall for parsing and information extraction.


¹ See, for example, the book's page at amazon.com or the book's home page at www.cs.colorado.edu/~martin/slp.html.


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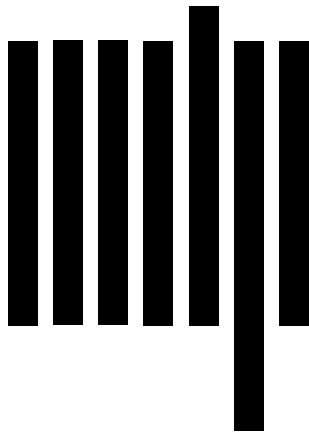
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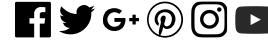
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