Package 'sbo'

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Type Package Title Text Prediction via Stupid Back-Off N-Gram Models Version 0.5.0 Author Valerio Gherardi Maintainer Valerio Gherardi <vgherard@sissa.it> Description Utilities for training and evaluating text predictors based on Stupid Back-Off Ngram models (Brants et al., 2007, <https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/D07-1090/>). License GPL-3 **Encoding** UTF-8 LazyData true **RoxygenNote** 7.1.1.9000 **Depends** R (>= 3.5.0) LinkingTo Rcpp, testthat Imports Rcpp, rlang, tidyr, dplyr, utils, stats, graphics Suggests ggplot2, knitr, rmarkdown, cli, testthat, covr SystemRequirements C++11 URL https://vgherard.github.io/sbo/, https://github.com/vgherard/sbo BugReports https://github.com/vgherard/sbo/issues VignetteBuilder knitr NeedsCompilation yes **Repository** CRAN

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as_sbo_dictionary Coerce to dictionary

Description

Coerce objects to sbo_dictionary class.

Usage

```
as_sbo_dictionary(x, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'character'
as_sbo_dictionary(x, .preprocess = identity, EOS = "", ...)
```

Arguments

Х	object to be coerced.
	further arguments passed to or from other methods.
.preprocess	a function for corpus preprocessing.
EOS	a length one character vector listing all (single character) end-of-sentence to- kens.

Details

This function is an S3 generic for coercing existing objects to sbo_dictionary class objects. Currently, only a method for character vectors is implemented, and this will be described below.

Character vector input: Calling as_sbo_dictionary(x) simply decorates the character vector x with the class sbo_dictionary attribute, and with customizable .preprocess and EOS attributes.

babble

Value

A sbo_dictionary object.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

Examples

```
dict <- as_sbo_dictionary(c("a","b","c"), .preprocess = tolower, EOS = ".")</pre>
```

babble Babble!

Description

Generate random text based on Stupid Back-off language model.

Usage

```
babble(model, input = NA, n_max = 100L, L = attr(model, "L"))
```

Arguments

model	a sbo_predictor object.
input	a length one character vector. Starting point for babbling! If NA, as by default, a random word is sampled from the model's dictionary.
n_max	a length one integer. Maximum number of words to generate.
L	a length one integer. Number of next-word suggestions from which to sample (see details).

Details

This function generates random text from a Stupid Back-off language model. babble randomly samples one of the top L next word predictions. Text generation stops when an End-Of-Sentence token is encountered, or when the number of generated words exceeds n_max .

Value

A character vector of length one.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

Examples

```
# Babble!
p <- sbo_predictor(twitter_predtable)
set.seed(840) # Set seed for reproducibility
babble(p)
```

eval_sbo_predictor Evaluate Stupid Back-off next-word predictions

Description

Evaluate next-word predictions based on Stupid Back-off N-gram model on a test corpus.

Usage

```
eval_sbo_predictor(model, test, L = attr(model, "L"))
```

Arguments

model	a sbo_predictor object.
test	a character vector. Perform a single prediction on each entry of this vector (see details).
L	Maximum number of predictions for each input sentence (maximum allowed is attr(model, "L"))

Details

This function allows to obtain information on the quality of Stupid Back-off model predictions, such as next-word prediction accuracy, or the word-rank distribution of correct prediction, by direct test against a test set corpus. For a reasonable estimate of prediction accuracy, the different entries of the test vector should be uncorrelated documents (e.g. separate tweets, as in the twitter_test example dataset).

More in detail, eval_sbo_predictor performs the following operations:

- 1. Sample a single sentence from each entry of the character vector test.
- 2. Sample a single \$N\$-gram from each sentence obtained in the previous step.
- 3. Predict next words from the \$(N-1)\$-gram prefix.
- 4. Return all predictions, together with the true word completions.

Value

A tibble, containing the input \$(N-1)\$-grams, the true completions, the predicted completions and a column indicating whether one of the predictions were correct or not.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

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kgram_freqs

Examples

```
# Evaluating next-word predictions from a Stupid Back-off N-gram model
if (suppressMessages(require(dplyr) && require(ggplot2))) {
        p <- sbo_predictor(twitter_predtable)</pre>
        set.seed(840) # Set seed for reproducibility
        test <- sample(twitter_test, 500)</pre>
        eval <- eval_sbo_predictor(p, test)</pre>
        ## Compute three-word accuracies
        eval %>% summarise(accuracy = sum(correct)/n()) # Overall accuracy
        eval %>% # Accuracy for in-sentence predictions
                filter(true != "<EOS>") %>%
                summarise(accuracy = sum(correct) / n())
        ## Make histogram of word-rank distribution for correct predictions
        dict <- attr(twitter_predtable, "dict")</pre>
        eval %>%
                filter(correct, true != "<EOS>") %>%
                transmute(rank = match(true, table = dict)) %>%
                ggplot(aes(x = rank)) + geom_histogram(binwidth = 30)
}
```

kgram_freqs k-gram frequency tables

Description

Get k-gram frequency tables from a training corpus.

Usage

```
kgram_freqs(corpus, N, dict, .preprocess = identity, EOS = "")
sbo_kgram_freqs(corpus, N, dict, .preprocess = identity, EOS = "")
kgram_freqs_fast(corpus, N, dict, erase = "", lower_case = FALSE, EOS = "")
sbo_kgram_freqs_fast(corpus, N, dict, erase = "", lower_case = FALSE, EOS = "")
```

Arguments

corpus	a character vector. The training corpus from which to extract k-gram frequencies.
Ν	a length one integer. The maximum order of k-grams for which frequencies are to be extracted.

dict	either a sbo_dictionary object, a character vector, or a formula (see details). The language model dictionary.
.preprocess	a function to apply before k-gram tokenization.
EOS	a length one character vector listing all (single character) end-of-sentence to- kens.
erase	a length one character vector. Regular expression matching parts of text to be erased from input. The default removes anything not alphanumeric, white space, apostrophes or punctuation characters (i.e. ".?!:;").
lower_case	a length one logical vector. If TRUE, puts everything to lower case.

Details

These functions extract all k-gram frequency tables from a text corpus up to a specified k-gram order N. These are the building blocks to train any N-gram model. The functions sbo_kgram_freqs() and sbo_kgram_freqs_fast() are aliases for kgram_freqs() and kgram_freqs_fast(), respectively.

The optimized version kgram_freqs_fast(erase = x, lower_case = y) is equivalent to kgram_freqs(.preprocess = preprocess(erase = x, lower_case = y)), but more efficient (both from the speed and memory point of view).

Both kgram_freqs() and kgram_freqs_fast() employ a fixed (user specified) dictionary: any out-of-vocabulary word gets effectively replaced by an "unknown word" token. This is specified through the argument dict, which accepts three types of arguments: a sbo_dictionary object, a character vector (containing the words of the dictionary) or a formula. In this last case, valid formulas can be either max_size ~ V or target ~ f, where V and f represent a dictionary size and a corpus word coverage fraction (of corpus), respectively. This usage of the dict argument allows to build the model dictionary 'on the fly'.

The return value is a "sbo_kgram_freqs" object, i.e. a list of N tibbles, storing frequency counts for each k-gram observed in the training corpus, for k = 1, 2, ..., N. In these tables, words are represented by integer numbers corresponding to their position in the reference dictionary. The special codes 0, length(dictionary)+1 and length(dictionary)+2 correspond to the "Begin-Of-Sentence", "End-Of-Sentence" and "Unknown word" tokens, respectively.

Furthermore, the returned objected has the following attributes:

- N: The highest order of N-grams.
- dict: The reference dictionary, sorted by word frequency.
- .preprocess: The function used for text preprocessing.
- EOS: A length one character vector listing all (single character) end-of-sentence tokens employed in k-gram tokenization.

The .preprocess argument of kgram_freqs allows the user to apply a custom transformation to the training corpus, before kgram tokenization takes place.

The algorithm for k-gram tokenization considers anything separated by (any number of) white spaces (i.e. "") as a single word. Sentences are split according to end-of-sentence (single character) tokens, as specified by the EOS argument. Additionally text belonging to different entries of the preprocessed input vector which are understood to belong to different sentences.

plot.word_coverage

Nota Bene: It is useful to keep in mind that the function passed through the .preprocess argument also captures its enclosing environment, which is by default the environment in which the former was defined. If, for instance, .preprocess was defined in the global environment, and the latter binds heavy objects, the resulting sbo_kgram_freqs will contain bindings to the same objects. If sbo_kgram_freqs is stored out of memory and recalled in another R session, these objects will also be reloaded in memory. For this reason, for non interactive use, it is advisable to avoid using pre-processing functions defined in the global environment (for instance, base::identity is preferred to function(x) x).

Value

A sbo_kgram_freqs object, containing the k-gram frequency tables for k = 1, 2, ..., N.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

Examples

```
# Obtain k-gram frequency table from corpus
## Get k-gram frequencies, for k \le N = 3.
## The dictionary is built on the fly, using the most frequent 1000 words.
freqs <- kgram_freqs(corpus = twitter_train, N = 3, dict = max_size ~ 1000,
                     .preprocess = preprocess, EOS = ".?!:;")
freqs
## Using a predefined dictionary
freqs <- kgram_freqs_fast(twitter_train, N = 3, dict = twitter_dict,</pre>
                          erase = "[^.?!:;'\\w\\s]", lower_case = TRUE,
                          EOS = ".?!:;")
freqs
## 2-grams, no preprocessing, use a dictionary covering 50% of corpus
freqs <- kgram_freqs(corpus = twitter_train, N = 2, dict = target ~ 0.5,</pre>
                     EOS = ".?!:;")
freqs
# Obtain k-gram frequency table from corpus
```

```
freqs <- kgram_freqs_fast(twitter_train, N = 3, dict = twitter_dict)
## Print result
freqs</pre>
```

plot.word_coverage Plot method for word_coverage objects

Description

Plot cumulative corpus coverage fraction of a dictionary.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'word_coverage'
plot(
  х,
  include_EOS = FALSE,
  show_limit = TRUE,
  type = "1",
  xlim = c(0, length(x)),
 ylim = c(0, 1),
 xticks = seq(from = 0, to = length(x), by = length(x)/5),
 yticks = seq(from = 0, to = 1, by = 0.25),
  xlab = "Rank",
 ylab = "Covered fraction",
  title = "Cumulative corpus coverage fraction of dictionary",
  subtitle = "_default_",
  . . .
)
```

Arguments

х	a word_coverage object.
include_EOS	length one logical. Should End-Of-Sentence tokens be considered in the com- putation of coverage fraction?
show_limit	length one logical. If TRUE, plots an horizontal line corresponding to the total coverage fraction.
type	what type of plot should be drawn, as detailed in ?plot.
xlim	length two numeric. Extremes of the x-range.
ylim	length two numeric. Extremes of the y-range.
xticks	numeric vector. position of the x-axis ticks.
yticks	numeric vector. position of the y-axis ticks.
xlab	length one character. The x-axis label.
ylab	length one character. The y-axis label.
title	length one character. Plot title.
subtitle	length one character. Plot subtitle; if " <i>default</i> ", prints dictionary length and total covered fraction.
	further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Details

This function generates nice plots of cumulative corpus coverage fractions. The x coordinate in the resulting plot is the word rank in the underlying dictionary; the y coordinate at x is the cumulative coverage fraction for rank <= x.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

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predict.sbo_kgram_freqs

Examples

```
c <- word_coverage(twitter_dict, twitter_test)
plot(c)</pre>
```

predict.sbo_kgram_freqs

Predict method for k-gram frequency tables

Description

Predictive text based on Stupid Back-off N-gram model.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'sbo_kgram_freqs'
predict(object, input, lambda = 0.4, ...)
```

Arguments

object	a sbo_kgram_freqs object.
input	a length one character vector, containing the input for next-word prediction.
lambda	a numeric vector of length one. The back-off penalization in Stupid Back-off algorithm.
	further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Value

A tibble containing the next-word probabilities for all words in the dictionary.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

Examples

predict(twitter_freqs, "i love")

predict.sbo_predictor Predict method for Stupid Back-off text predictor

Description

Predictive text based on Stupid Back-off N-gram model.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'sbo_predictor'
predict(object, input, ...)
```

Arguments

object	a sbo_predictor object.
input	a character vector, containing the input for next-word prediction.
	further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Details

This method returns the top L next-word predictions from a text predictor trained with Stupid Back-Off.

Trying to predict from a sbo_predtable results into an error. Instead, one should load a sbo_predictor object and use this one to predict(), as shown in the example below.

Value

A character vector if length(input) == 1, otherwise a character matrix.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

Examples

```
p <- sbo_predictor(twitter_predtable)
x <- predict(p, "i love")
x
x <- predict(p, "you love")
x
#N.B. the top predictions here are x[1], followed by x[2] and x[3].
predict(p, c("i love", "you love")) # Behaviour with length()>1 input.
```

preprocess

Description

A simple text preprocessing utility.

Usage

```
preprocess(input, erase = "[^.?!:;'\\w\\s]", lower_case = TRUE)
```

Arguments

input	a character vector.
erase	a length one character vector. Regular expression matching parts of text to be erased from input. The default removes anything not alphanumeric, white space, apostrophes or punctuation characters (i.e. ".?!;;").
lower_case	a length one logical vector. If TRUE, puts everything to lower case.

Value

a character vector containing the processed output.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

Examples

```
preprocess("Hi @ there! I'm using `sbo`.")
```

prune

Prune k-gram objects

Description

Prune M-gram frequency tables or Stupid Back-Off prediction tables for an M-gram model to a smaller order N.

Usage

```
prune(object, N, ...)
## S3 method for class 'sbo_kgram_freqs'
prune(object, N, ...)
## S3 method for class 'sbo_predtable'
prune(object, N, ...)
```

Arguments

object	A kgram_freqs or a sbo_predtable class object.
Ν	a length one positive integer. N-gram order of the new object.
	further arguments passed to or from other methods.

Details

This generic function provides a helper to prune M-gram frequency tables or M-gram models, represented by bo_kgram_freqs and $bo_predtable$ objects respectively, to objects of a smaller N-gram order, N < M. For k-gram frequency objects, frequency tables for k > N are simply dropped. For $bo_predtable$'s, the predictions coming from the nested N-gram model are instead retained. In both cases, all other other attributes besides k-gram order (such as the corpus preprocessing function, or the lambda penalty in Stupid Back-Off training) are left unchanged.

Value

an object of the same class of the input object.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

Examples

```
# Drop k-gram frequencies for k > 2
freqs <- twitter_freqs
summary(freqs)
freqs <- prune(freqs, N = 2)
summary(freqs)
# Extract a 2-gram model from a larger 3-gram model
pt <- twitter_predtable
summary(pt)
pt <- prune(pt, N = 2)
summary(pt)</pre>
```

sbo_dictionary Dictionaries

Description

Build dictionary from training corpus.

sbo_dictionary

Usage

```
sbo_dictionary(
    corpus,
    max_size = Inf,
    target = 1,
    .preprocess = identity,
    EOS = ""
)
dictionary(
    corpus,
    max_size = Inf,
    target = 1,
    .preprocess = identity,
    EOS = ""
)
```

Arguments

corpus	a character vector. The training corpus from which to extract the dictionary.
max_size	a length one numeric. If less than Inf, only the most frequent max_size words are retained in the dictionary.
target	a length one numeric between 0 and 1. If less than one, retains only as many words as needed to cover a fraction target of the training corpus.
.preprocess	a function for corpus preprocessing. Takes a character vector as input and returns a character vector.
EOS	a length one character vector listing all (single character) end-of-sentence to- kens.

Details

The function dictionary() is an alias for sbo_dictionary().

This function builds a dictionary using the most frequent words in a training corpus. Two pruning criterions can be applied:

- 1. Dictionary size, as implemented by the max_size argument.
- 2. Target coverage fraction, as implemented by the target argument.

If both these criterions imply non-trivial cuts, the most restrictive critierion applies.

The .preprocess argument allows the user to apply a custom transformation to the training corpus, before word tokenization. The EOS argument allows to specify a set of characters to be identified as End-Of-Sentence tokens (and thus not part of words).

The returned object is a sbo_dictionary object, which is a character vector containing words sorted by decreasing corpus frequency. Furthermore, the object stores as attributes the original values of .preprocess and EOS (i.e. the function used in corpus preprocessing and the End-Of-Sentence characters for sentence tokenization).

Value

A sbo_dictionary object.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

Examples

```
# Extract dictionary from `twitter_train` corpus (all words)
dict <- sbo_dictionary(twitter_train)
# Extract dictionary from `twitter_train` corpus (top 1000 words)
dict <- sbo_dictionary(twitter_train, max_size = 1000)
# Extract dictionary from `twitter_train` corpus (coverage target = 50%)
dict <- sbo_dictionary(twitter_train, target = 0.5)</pre>
```

sbo_predictions Stupid Back-off text predictions

Description

Train a text predictor via Stupid Back-off

Usage

```
sbo_predictor(object, ...)
predictor(object, ...)
## S3 method for class 'character'
sbo_predictor(
  object,
 Ν,
  dict,
  .preprocess = identity,
 EOS = "",
  lambda = 0.4,
  L = 3L,
  filtered = "<UNK>",
  . . .
)
## S3 method for class 'sbo_kgram_freqs'
sbo_predictor(object, lambda = 0.4, L = 3L, filtered = "<UNK>", ...)
```

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```
## S3 method for class 'sbo_predtable'
sbo_predictor(object, ...)
sbo_predtable(object, lambda = 0.4, L = 3L, filtered = "<UNK>", ...)
predtable(object, lambda = 0.4, L = 3L, filtered = "<UNK>", ...)
## S3 method for class 'character'
sbo_predtable(
 object,
 lambda = 0.4,
 L = 3L,
 filtered = "<UNK>",
 Ν,
 dict,
  .preprocess = identity,
 EOS = "",
  . . .
)
## S3 method for class 'sbo_kgram_freqs'
```

```
sbo_predtable(object, lambda = 0.4, L = 3L, filtered = "<UNK>", ...)
```

Arguments

object	either a character vector or an object inheriting from classes sbo_kgram_freqs or sbo_predtable. Defines the method to use for training.
	further arguments passed to or from other methods.
Ν	a length one integer. Order 'N' of the N-gram model.
dict	a sbo_dictionary, a character vector or a formula. For more details see kgram_freqs.
.preprocess	a function for corpus preprocessing. For more details see kgram_freqs.
EOS	a length one character vector. String listing End-Of-Sentence characters. For more details see kgram_freqs.
lambda	a length one numeric. Penalization in the Stupid Back-off algorithm.
L	a length one integer. Maximum number of next-word predictions for a given input (top scoring predictions are retained).
filtered	a character vector. Words to exclude from next-word predictions. The strings ' <unk>' and '<eos>' are reserved keywords referring to the Unknown-Word and End-Of-Sentence tokens, respectively.</eos></unk>

Details

These functions are generics used to train a text predictor with Stupid Back-Off. The functions predictor() and predtable() are aliases for sbo_predictor() and sbo_predtable(), respectively.

The sbo_predictor data structure carries all information required for prediction in a compact and efficient (upon retrieval) way, by directly storing the top L next-word predictions for each k-gram prefix observed in the training corpus.

The sbo_predictor objects are for interactive use. If the training process is computationally heavy, one can store a "raw" version of the text predictor in a sbo_predtable class object, which can be safely saved out of memory (with e.g. save()). The resulting object can be restored in another R session, and the corresponding sbo_predictor object can be loaded rapidly using again the generic constructor sbo_predictor() (see example below).

The returned objects are a sbo_predictor and a sbo_predtable objects. The latter contains Stupid Back-Off prediction tables, storing next-word prediction for each k-gram prefix observed in the text, whereas the former is an external pointer to an equivalent (but processed) C++ structure.

Both objects have the following attributes:

- N: The order of the underlying N-gram model, "N".
- dict: The model dictionary.
- lambda: The penalization used in the Stupid Back-Off algorithm.
- L: The maximum number of next-word predictions for a given text input.
- .preprocess: The function used for text preprocessing.
- EOS: A length one character vector listing all (single character) end-of-sentence tokens.

Value

A sbo_predictor object for sbo_predictor(), a sbo_predtable object for sbo_predtable().

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

See Also

predict.sbo_predictor

Examples

```
# Train a text predictor from previously computed 'kgram_freqs' object
p <- sbo_predictor(twitter_freqs)</pre>
```

```
# Load a text predictor from a Stupid Back-Off prediction table
```

```
p <- sbo_predictor(twitter_predtable)</pre>
```

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tokenize_sentences Sentence tokenizer

Description

Get sentence tokens from text

Usage

```
tokenize_sentences(input, EOS = ".?!:;")
```

Arguments

input	a character vector.
EOS	a length one character vector listing all (single character) end-of-sentence to- kens.

Value

a character vector, each entry of which corresponds to a single sentence.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

Examples

```
tokenize_sentences("Hi there! I'm using `sbo`.")
```

twitter_dict

Description

Top 1000 dictionary from Twitter training set

Usage

twitter_dict

Format

A character vector. Contains the 1000 most frequent words from the example training set twitter_train, sorted by word rank.

See Also

twitter_train

Examples

head(twitter_dict, 10)

twitter_freqs k-gram frequencies from Twitter training set

Description

k-gram frequencies from Twitter training set

Usage

twitter_freqs

Format

A sbo_kgram_freqs object. Contains k-gram frequencies from the example training set twitter_train.

See Also

twitter_train

twitter_predtable

Description

Next-word prediction tables from 3-gram model trained on Twitter training set

Usage

twitter_predtable

Format

A sbo_predtable object. Contains prediction tables of a 3-gram Stupid Back-off model trained on the example training set twitter_train.

See Also

twitter_train

twitter_test Twitter test set

Description

Twitter test set

Usage

twitter_test

Format

A collection of 10'000 Twitter posts in English.

Source

https://www.kaggle.com/crmercado/tweets-blogs-news-swiftkey-dataset-4million

See Also

twitter_train

Examples

head(twitter_test)

twitter_train Twitter t

Description

Twitter training set

Usage

twitter_train

Format

A collection of 50'000 Twitter posts in English.

Source

https://www.kaggle.com/crmercado/tweets-blogs-news-swiftkey-dataset-4million

See Also

twitter_test, twitter_dict, twitter_freqs, twitter_predtable

Examples

head(twitter_train)

word_coverage Word coverage fraction

Description

Compute total and cumulative corpus coverage fraction of a dictionary.

Usage

```
word_coverage(object, corpus, ...)
## S3 method for class 'sbo_dictionary'
word_coverage(object, corpus, ...)
## S3 method for class 'character'
word_coverage(object, corpus, .preprocess = identity, EOS = "", ...)
## S3 method for class 'sbo_kgram_freqs'
word_coverage(object, corpus, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'sbo_predictions'
word_coverage(object, corpus, ...)
```

Arguments

object	either a character vector, or an object inheriting from one of the classes sbo_dictionary, sbo_kgram_freqs, sbo_predtable or sbo_predictor. The object storing the dictionary for which corpus coverage is to be computed.
corpus	a character vector.
	further arguments passed to or from other methods.
.preprocess	preprocessing function for training corpus. See kgram_freqs and sbo_dictionary for further details.
EOS	a length one character vector. String containing End-Of-Sentence characters, see kgram_freqs and sbo_dictionary for further details.

Details

This function computes the corpus coverage fraction of a dictionary, that is the fraction of words appearing in corpus which are contained in the original dictionary.

This function is a generic, accepting as object argument any object storing a dictionary, along with a preprocessing function and a list of End-Of-Sentence characters. This includes all sbo main classes: sbo_dictionary, sbo_kgram_freqs, sbo_predtable and sbo_predictor. When object is a character vector, the preprocessing function and the End-Of-Sentence characters must be specified explicitly.

The coverage fraction is computed cumulatively, and the dependence of coverage with respect to maximal rank can be explored through plot() (see examples below)

Value

a word_coverage object.

Author(s)

Valerio Gherardi

See Also

predict.sbo_predictor

Examples

```
c <- word_coverage(twitter_dict, twitter_train)
print(c)
summary(c)
# Plot coverage fraction, including the End-Of-Sentence in word counts.
plot(c, include_EOS = TRUE)</pre>
```

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