
pyTLEX: A Python Library for TimeLine EXtraction

User's Guide

Version 1.1

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1 Purpose of the Software

pyTLEX is a Python library for implementing the TLEX (TimeLine EXtraction) algorithm which is a formally correct method for extracting a set of exact timelines using all the information available in a TimeML graph. pyTLEX accepts three types of input: a '.tml' file, a JSON-TimeML output, and a text of TimeML annotations. pyTLEX contains classes that can parse TimeML annotated files into TimeML objects and build TimeML graphs where nodes are events and times, and edges are TimeML links. It also contains classes to perform temporal analysis on TimeML annotated texts: (1) partitioning TimeML graphs into temporally connected graphs, (2) transforming the TimeML graphs into Temporal Constraint Satisfaction Problems (TCSPs), (3) checking consistency of TCSPs and extracting a set of exact timelines of TCSPs, (4) detecting inconsistent subgraphs in the graph that cause temporal inconsistency, (5) identifying time points that lack uniquely specify the full ordering (temporal indeterminacy), (6) detecting disconnectivity in the TimeML graph, and (7) checking eight different TimeML validation rules in the annotations. Furthermore, pyTLEX can return any event attribute values (polarity, aspect, POS, tense, etc.), any time expression values (type, temporalFunction, freq, etc.), and any link values (nodes, types, signalIDs, etc.). Finally, using pyTLEX, users can strip the TimeML annotation from the file and obtain the raw text.

pyTLEX is freely available for all purposes, as long as proper acknowledgement is made. Details can be found in the license, which is included at the end of this document.

2 Getting Started

pyTLEX is currently set to run on files inside the TimeBank Corpus, or those which follow the same structure. These files can be downloaded for free at: <https://catalog.ldc.upenn.edu/LDC2006T08>. Keep in mind that users will be asked to register and read the user agreement at the aforementioned address before downloading the corpus. In the future, adapters will be built to handle more corpora.

2.1 pyTLEX Input

In this section we'll cover the accepted input types and give a few use cases.

pyTLEX accepts four types of arguments:

- a Python str object representing the filepath of a TimeML annotated file
- a Python str object representing the body of a TimeML annotated file
- a set of Node objects and a set of Link objects
- no parameters

If constructed using valid TimeML annotated data, the library will automatically partition the graph on subordinate links, calculate the smallest timeline for each partition, and find the indeterminant time pairs. If constructed with the empty constructor, nodes and links must be added manually.

Each of these arguments must be equated to the TimeBank Corpus TimeML binary string input, shown as follows:

2.1.1 Building a Graph from a '.tml' File

Users can generate a TimeML graph from a '.tml' file as follows:

```
1 #filepath input
2 filepath = r"../pytlex_data/TimeBankCorpus/ws_j_0555.tml"
3 graph = Graph.Graph(filepath)
```

Listing 1: File input with pyTLEX1.1

2.1.2 Building Custom Graphs

Next, we'll look at how to build a custom graph, using the built-in data types.

```
1
2 if __name__ == '__main__':
3
4     event1 = Event(1, "REPORTING", "Test Stem")
5     node2 = Instance(2, event1, "PAST", "NONE", "NOUN", "POS")
6     node3 = TimeX(3, "Test Value", True, "Test Phrase")
7
8     Link1 = Link(1, "ALINK", "INITIATES", node2, node3)
9
10    node_set = {node2, node3}
11    link_set = {link1}
12
13    graph = Graph.Graph(nodes=node_set, links=link_set)
```

Listing 2: Building of custom pyTLEX1.1 graph

In this case, we create two "nodes", an event (Event -> Instance) and a Time expression (Timex), and tie them to a temporal link of type A-Link INITIATES. We then add both nodes and the link to the graph.

3 Usage and Output

Here, we will cover the many functions that are available to the end user.

3.1 Partitioning

It is possible to iterate through the set of main partitions, subordination partitions, or all partitions, as follows:

```
1 graph = Graph.Graph(filepath=filepath)
2 tlex = TLEX(graph=graph)
3 print(tlex.partitions)
```

Listing 3: Iterating Through Partitions

3.2 Timelines

If given a valid TimeML annotated file, pyTLEX will attempt to generate timelines for all consistent partitions these are held as str:list[str] dictionaries; e.g. {'1':['eiid52_minus', 't5_minus'], '2':['eiid52_plus'], '3':['t5_plus']}

To access these timelines we can use the following syntax. We will use wsj_0006.tml as an example:

```
1 graph = Graph.Graph(filepath=CORPUS_DIRECTORY + '/wsj_0006.tml')
2 tlex = TLEX(graph=graph)
3 print(tlex.timeline)
4 print(tlex.timeline.get_total_time_points())
```

Listing 4: Accessing Timelines

When pointing pyTLEX towards wsj_0006.tml in the TimeBank Corpus, this is the expected result:

```
1 Main Timeline: {'1': ['eiid75_minus'], '2': ['eiid75_plus'], '3': ['eiid74_minus'], '4': ['eiid74_plus'], '5': ['eiid73_minus', 'eiid76_minus'], '6': ['eiid73_plus', 'eiid76_plus'], '7': ['t9_minus'], '8': ['t9_plus']}
2
3 Subordinate Timelines:
4 {'1': ['eiid81_minus'], '2': ['eiid80_minus'], '3': ['eiid81_plus', 'eiid80_plus'], '4': ['t10_minus'], '5': ['t10_plus']}
5 {'1': ['eiid79_minus'], '2': ['eiid79_plus']}
6 {'1': ['eiid77_minus'], '2': ['eiid77_plus']}
7 {'1': ['eiid78_minus'], '2': ['eiid78_plus']}
```

Listing 5: Output of Listing 4

3.3 Graph Methods

3.3.1 Check Consistency

To check consistency, 'get_inconsistent_partitions()' method has to be called. If this method returns empty set, then it means the graph is consistent. And the graph is inconsistent, the method will return links that cause inconsistency. This may be run on the overall graph, or any of the partitions, as follows:

```
1 graph = Graph.Graph(filepath=filepath)
2 tlex = TLEX(graph=graph)
3 print("Consistent Partitions:")
4 print(tlex.get_consistent_partitions())
5 print("Inconsistent Partitions:")
6 print(tlex.get_inconsistent_partitions())
```

Listing 6: Checking Consistency

3.3.2 Check Indeterminacy

The user may check the indeterminacy of the entire graph, retrieve a set of indeterminate time pairs, or retrieve the set of indeterminate timeline sections. To receive the indeterminacy score, we can use the following code:

```
1 graph = Graph.Graph(filepath=TimeML_file_path)
2 score = graph.indeterminacy_score
3 print("The indeterminacy score of the graph is: {}".format(score))
4 tlex = TLEX(graph=graph)
```

```
5 tlex.get_indeterminacy_score
```

Listing 7: Checking Indeterminacy

3.3.3 Access Graph Components

The user may use the following functions to access the raw text, the temporal links, and the set of Timex and Instance nodes.

```
1 file_text = TimeMLParser.read_file_data(filepath)
2 # Raw Text
3 print(TimeMLParser.read_file_data(file_text))
4 # Links
5 print(TimeMLParser.parse_links(file_text))
6 # TIMEX
7 print(TimeMLParser.parse_timex(file_text))
8 #Events
9 print(TimeMLParser.parse_events(file_text))
```

Listing 8: Accessing Graph Components

3.3.4 Check Suggested Links

The user may check for any suggested links for the graph. These links connect the Document Creation Time (DCT) acting as a temporal anchor with other time expressions in the graph, in order to increase the connectivity of the partitions. Users can retrieve a list of these suggested links by directly accessing the links as a graph component or via a method:

```
1 graph = Graph.Graph(filepath=TimeML_file_path)
2 sug_links = graph.get_suggested_links()
3 print("The suggested links for this graph are:")
4 for sug_link in sug_links:
5     print(sug_link)
```

Listing 9: Checking Suggested Links

3.4 JSON Output

Given any valid input, the user may call the '.toJSON()' function on the Graph object, which yields the JSON output of a graph analysis. This output is meant to be used by a web server and is an untabulated, "Ugly", JSON format, which can be interpreted for human reading with many tools which can be found online, but is much easier for web servers to parse. Listing 11 shows a "prettified", human-readable template for how the structures are built.

```
1 graph = Graph.Graph(filepath=TimeML_file_path)
2 print(graph.toJSON())
```

Listing 10: Basic use of pyTLEX1.1

```
1 {
2   "nodes": [
3     {
4       "id": <node_id>,
5       "type": <node_type>,
6       "value": <node_value>,
7       "temporalFunction": <temporalFunction>,

```

```
8         "anchorID":<anchorID>,
9         "beginPoint":<beginPointID>,
10        "endPoint":<endPointID>,
11        "quantity":<quantity_or_null>,
12        "frequency":<frequency_or_null>,
13        "signal":<signal_or_null>,
14        "event":{
15            "id":<event_id>,
16            "eventClass":<event_class>,
17            "stem":<event_stem>
18        }
19        "partOfSpeech":<partOfSpeech>,
20        "polarity":<polarity>
21    },
22    ...
23 ],
24 "links":[
25     {
26         "id":<link_id>,
27         "linkTag":{"TLINK", "ALINK", "SLINK"},
28         "syntax":<link_syntax>,
29         "temporalRelation":<temporalRelation>,
30         "signal":<signal_or_{}>,
31         "relatedToNode":<node_id>,
32         "eventInstance":<node_id>
33     },
34     ...
35 ],
36 "partitions":[
37     {
38         "nodeIDs":[
39             <node_id1>,
40             <node_id2>,
41             ...
42         ],
43         "linkIDs":[
44             <link_id1>,
45             <link_id2>,
46             ...
47         ],
48         "Timeline":[
49             {
50                 "id":<node_id>
51                 "eventBoundary":{"-", "+"},
52                 "position":"1.."
53             },
54             ...
55         ],
56         "isConsistent":{"true", "false"},
57         "indeterminantTimePairs":[
58             <node_id1>,
59             <node_id2>,
60             ...
61         ]
62     }
```

```
62     },
63     {
64         <partition_2>
65     },
66     ...
67 }
68 ],
69 "inconsistentSubgraphs":[
70     {
71         nodes: {<nodes>},
72         links: {<links>}
73     },
74     ...
75 ]
76 }
```

Listing 11: Template output of the `Graph.toJSON()` method in Listing 10 (for pyTLEX1.1)

3.5 Validation (Sanity Check)

The user has access to a set of sanity check algorithms, meant to check for possible faults and broken rules that may compromise the accuracy of the graph. These include checking for certain missing links, checking that specific links contain the correct elements, checking that no node pairs exceed the 2 in-between links limit, check for orphaned nodes, and check for repeating links. Each of these algorithms may be accessed by calling specific methods from the sanity check file, and providing a TimeML filepath as a parameter:

```
1 filepath = TimeML_file_path;
2
3 Sanity_Check.sco_identity_rule(filepath)
4 Sanity_Check.orphaned_node_rule(filepath)
5 Sanity_Check.node_to_node(filepath)
6 Sanity_Check.perception_rule(filepath)
7 Sanity_Check.repeating_links(filepath)
8 Sanity_Check.conditional_slink_rule(filepath)
9 Sanity_Check.ALINK_rule(filepath)
```

Listing 12: Calling the Sanity Check Methods

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