

Assignment 4: Word Length

You may use any programming language to do this assignment. Please submit the following:

1. A report answering the questions mentioned below
2. Your code in a tarball archive

Submission deadline: 11:55pm, 24 April

First download English data via the links provided below:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/10/pg10.txt>

<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/35997/pg35997.txt>

Combine these 2 datasets and convert all words in the above datasets into lower case. For each non-punctuation word in these datasets, calculate the following:

- * Measure word length in terms of number of letters.
- * Calculate the number of words at different word lengths
- * What are the shortest words in your dataset? Comment on these words.
- * Plot a graph with length on the X-axis and Frequency on the Y-axis.
- * Plot a graph with $\log_{10}(\text{word length})$ on the X-axis and $\log_{10}(\text{Frequency})$ on the Y-axis.
- * What is the Pearson's coefficient of correlation between length and frequency?

* Write a short note on the question: “Are word lengths optimized for efficient communication?”

Please connect your answer to the paper “Word lengths are optimized for efficient communication” by Steven T. Piantadosi¹, Harry Tily, and Edward Gibson