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Clustering of Similar Values, in Spanish, for the Improvement of Search Systems

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Contents

- **Introduction**
- Taxonomy of different values
- The solution
- The clustering algorithm
- Results
- Conclusions

Introduction

- Information systems ➔ Rapid and precise access
- Databases ➔ Find information
- Inconsistency: a term represented by different values

Introduction

- Term
  - *Universidad de Alicante*
- Different values found in databases:
  - *Universidad Alicante*
  - *Unibersidad de Alicante*
  - *Universitat d'Alacant*
  - *University of Alicante*

Introduction

- The problem:
  - Data redundancy ➔ Inconsistency
  - Integration of different databases into a common repository (e.g. data warehouses):
    - different criteria ➔ data redundancy ➔ Inconsistency

Introduction

- We use clustering within an automatic method for reducing on inconsistency
  1. Values that refer to a same term are clustered
  2. All values are replaced by the cluster sample

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Taxonomy of different values

- Omission or inclusion of the written accent:

  Asociación Astronómica

  Asociacion Astronomica

- Lower-case / upper-case:

  Departamento de Lenguajes y Sistemas

  Departamento de lenguajes y sistemas

Taxonomy of different values

- Abbreviations and acronyms:

  Dpto. de Derecho Civil

  Departamento de Derecho Civil

- Word order:

  Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

  Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de

Taxonomy of different values

- Different denominations:

  Unidad de Registro Sismológico

  Unidad de Registro Sísmico

- Punctuation marks:

  Laboratorio Multimedia (mmlab)

  Laboratorio Multimedia - mmlab

Taxonomy of different values

- Errors (misspelling, typing or printing errors):

  Gabinete de imagen

  Gavinete de imagen

- Different languages:

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The solution

1. Preparation
2. Reading
3. Sorting
4. Clustering
5. Checking
6. Updating

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The clustering algorithm

- Similarity:
  - Edit distance or Levenshtein distance (LD)
  - Invariant distance from word position (IDWP)

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The clustering algorithm

- Filtering:
  - Length distance (LEND)
  - Transposition-invariant distance (TID)

The clustering algorithm

Input:

C: Sorted strings in descending order by frequency ($\mathbf{c_1}$…$\mathbf{c_m}$)

Output:

G: Set of clusters ($\mathbf{g_1}$…$\mathbf{g_n}$)

STEPS

1 Select $\mathbf{c_i}$, the first string in **C**, and insert it into the new cluster $\mathbf{g_k}$

2 Remove $\mathbf{c_i}$ from **C**

The clustering algorithm

3. For each string $\mathbf{c_j}$ in **C**

If $\mathbf{LEND}(\mathbf{c_i}, \mathbf{c_j}) < \alpha_{\mathbf{LEND}}(\mathbf{c_i}, \mathbf{c_j})$ then

If $\mathbf{TID}(\mathbf{c_i}, \mathbf{c_j}) < \alpha_{\mathbf{TID}}(\mathbf{c_i}, \mathbf{c_j})$ then

If $\mathbf{LD}(\mathbf{c_i}, \mathbf{c_j}) < \alpha_{\mathbf{LD}}(\mathbf{c_i}, \mathbf{c_j})$ then

Insert $\mathbf{c_j}$ into cluster $\mathbf{g_k}$

Remove $\mathbf{c_j}$ from **C**

Else If $\mathbf{IDWP}(\mathbf{c_i}, \mathbf{c_j}) < \alpha_{\mathbf{IDWP}}(\mathbf{c_i}, \mathbf{c_j})$ then

Insert $\mathbf{c_j}$ into cluster $\mathbf{g_k}$

Remove $\mathbf{c_j}$ from **C**

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Results

Indexes for measuring the cluster complexity

CI: Consistency Index

FCI: File Consistency Index

$$CI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}\sum_{j=1}^{n} LD(x_i, x_j)}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} |x_i|}$$

$$FCI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} CI_i}{m}$$

Results

- File A
  - Without
    - FCI: **0.31**
  - With
    - FCI: **0.12**
- File B
  - Without
    - FCI: **1.72**
  - With
    - FCI: **1.11**

Results

- Evaluation measures:
  - ONC: optimal number of clusters
  - NC: number of clusters generated
  - NCC: number of completely correct clusters
  - NIC: number of incorrect clusters
  - NES: number of erroneous strings

Results

- Precision: NCC / ONC
- Error: NIC / ONC

Results

- File A
  - Without
    - Precision: **70.7%**
    - Error: **7.6%**
  - With
    - Precision: **84.8%**
    - Error: **0%**
- File B
  - Without
    - Precision: **67.4%**
    - Error: **8.7%**
  - With
    - Precision: **72.8%**
    - Error: **6.5%**

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Conclusions

- Achieves good results: improves on data quality
- Review obtained clusters
- Expansion of abbreviations
- Parameters