

BRIEF ARTICLE

THE AUTHOR

1. REPORT

In the previous chapter, we have seen that using a MFCC representation of utterances with regions of silence removed leads to a large improvement in accuracy, time and computational complexity in the performance of DTW algorithm augmented with a euclidean metric.. From the experiments conducted it is clear that the main contributing factor behind the large time and computational complexity experienced by the base line DTW is the dimensionality of the time series sequences. The computational cost of a DTW algorithm is (mn) where m and n denote the length of the two time series sequences currently being compared. Using longer sequences increases the size of the DTW cost matrix hence resulting into a greater number of computations.

The base-line DTW algorithm is a domain independent algorithm that uses a similarity metric to compare any two sequences through comparison of their global trends. The algorithm employs dynamic programming to search a space of mapping between the time axis of the two respective sequences to determine the optimum alignment between them. The only difference between MFCC-augmented DTW and baseline DTW is the feature extraction stage. In machine learning, feature extraction refers to the pre-processing stage that involves the extraction of new features from a set of raw attributes through a suitable functional mapping. The extraction phase of MFCC features involves a segmentation of the time series followed by a functional mapping on the segmented windows. The resultant sequence of extracted feature vectors has a much smaller length compared to the length of the original sequence. Evident from the experiments done in the previous chapters, the use mel-cepstrum features extracted on ‘cleaned’ signals not only increases the accuracy of DTW but also reduces the time and computational cost through reduction of dimensionality of the original sequence.

Time series sequences are embedded with local and global trends. Unsupervised methods using DTW focus on exploiting the information of either these trends for pattern extraction and mining. From the work conducted by Xie and Wiltgen on the time series datasets[], it has been shown that using DTW equipped with features that incorporate information of **both** local trends and global shapes in the clustering /classification process greatly improves the performance of DTW . Unlike the MFCC, the features constructed from local and global trends are domain independent and thus can be applied to any time of data. However, when working high-dimensional time-series data, the accuracy of

the DTW algorithm using a window constraint suffers greatly even if it's equipped with domain dependent/independent features. Hence from a scientific point of view, it is of great interest to research methods to improve the DTW algorithm so it can constraint the time and computational complexity associated with high-dimensional data without degrading the accuracy by too much. In this chapter, I investigate an unsupervised methodology that:

- incorporates information about local and global trends in the feature extraction process
- employs an adaptive DTW that tackles the issue of the large time and computational complexity by moving from working on time series sequences to sequences of segmented time-slices. To counter the tradeoff in the decrease in accuracy, the algorithm is equipped with a kernel function(self-proposed) that is designed to measure the similarity of sub-sequences more accurately than standard euclidean metric by being invariant toward time-dilation and scale.

2. FEATURE EXTRACTION

The fundamental problem of baseline DTW is that the numerical value of a data point in a time series sequence is not a complete picture of the data point in relation to the rest of the sequence. The context such as the position of the points in relation to their neighbours is ignored. To fix this issue, an alternative form of DTW know as *Derivative* DTW is proposed but the fundamental problem with this DTW is that it fails to detect significant common sub-patterns between two sequences(mainly global trends). Ideally we need to use features that contains information about the overall shapes of the sequences plus the local trend around the points. This allows the DTW to built a complete picture of the data point in relation to the rest of the sequence and hence achieve a better optimal alignment between the two sequences.

For feature extraction, the methodology that I have used for this setup is based on Xie and Wiltgen's paper[1]. Each point in the time series sequence is replaced by a 4 dimensional vector where the first two features correspond to information regarding the local trends around a point and the last two features reflect the position of that point in the global shape of the sequence.

Definition of local feature given in [1] is as follows:

$$f_{\text{local}}(r_i) = (r_i - r_{i-1}, r_i - r_{i+1})$$

The extraction of global features is constrained by two factors: the features that reflect information about global trends and the features must be in the same scaling order as the local features. Being in the same scale allows them to be combined with local features. In [1] the authors used the following method to extract global features from the time series

sequence:

$$f_{\text{global}}(r_i) = (r_i - \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} \frac{r_k}{i-1}, r_i - \sum_{k=i+1}^M \frac{r_k}{M-i})$$

Note : The local and global features have no definition for the first and last points in a sequence.

3. ADAPTION OF DTW

The feature extraction methodology discussed above maps the time series sequence to a time series sequence of vectors whose length is $\|X_n\| - 2$. (where $\|X_n\|$ denotes the length of the original time series sequence). The DTW augmented with these features will still suffer from large time and computational complexity if the dimensionality of the data is high. In the MFCC feature extraction process, the time series sequence is first segmented into series of frames of length 20ms. Through appropriate functional mapping, each frame is then mapped to a vector. Because the length of the resultant sequence of vectors is much smaller than the length of the original time series, the size of the DTW cost matrix is reduced resulting in lower time and computational cost associated with each comparison.

Similar to the MFCC extraction process, the time series of 4d vectors extracted in the feature extraction stage are segmented using windows of width 5ms. The original time series is reduced to series of matrices where the length of the new series is 5 times smaller than before. Now if we adapt the cost function of DTW to work on series of matrices rather than series of vectors we can achieve a large improvement in the time and computational cost associated in the testing phase without imposing a **window** constraint.

The problem now can be shifted to finding an appropriate kernel that can be used to compute the similarity between matrices composed of feature vectors. Ideally, we want a metric that takes into account the variation of speed and time when comparing two similar subsequences. We will want to compare the global and local properties associated with a point in one subsequence with the global and local properties of points at different regions in the second sub-sequence illustrated by figure 2. Using a euclidean metric in this scenario is inappropriate. The euclidean metric in this context is identical to linear time warping where the two subsequences will be matched based on a linear match of the two temporal dimensions. In our context, we need a kernel that computes the similarity between two sub-sequences by warping the time axis.

The motivation behind the kernel that I propose for aiding DTW to tackle high-dimensional data comes from the polynomial kernel.

Let x and z be two dimensional vectors. Consider the simple polynomial kernel of degree

2 : $k(x, z) = (x^T z)^2$. This kernel can be expressed as :

$$\begin{aligned}
 k(x, z) &= (x^T z)^2 \\
 &= (x_1 z_1 + x_2 z_2)^2 \\
 &= x_1^2 z_1^2 + 2x_1 z_1 x_2 z_2 + x_2^2 z_2^2 \\
 &= (x_1^2, 2x_1 x_2, x_2^2)(z_1^2, 2z_1 z_2, z_2^2)^T \\
 &= \phi(x)^T \phi(z)
 \end{aligned}$$

The 2nd order polynomial kernel is equivalent to a corresponding feature mapping ϕ that contains terms of order 2. Now, if we generalise this notion then $k(x, z) = (x^T z)^M$ contains all monomials of order M. If we imagine x and z to be two images, then the polynomial kernel represents a particular weighted sum of all possible products of M pixels in the first image with M pixels in the second image.

Using this as motivation I propose the following kernel:.

$$k(x, z) = \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n x_i, \sum_{j=1}^n z_j \right\rangle$$

where n denotes the length of the window and x_i and z_j represents the 4-dimensional features indexed by the points in two sub-sequences.

To motivate the reasoning behind the construction of this particular kernel let's consider the following signals:

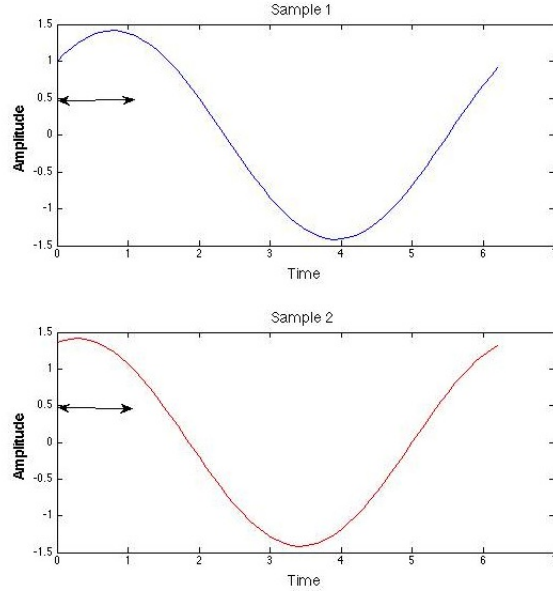


FIGURE 1. Two signals separated by translation

The signal denoted by the ‘red’ color is a ‘slower’ version of the signal denoted by the ‘blue’ color. In the above example, if we are comparing the similarity between the time slices spanned by the arrows, an ideal kernel must be invariant to the time offsets of the signals and thus should consider all possible pairings between the vectors in the subsequences. Intuitively speaking, the kernel must behave like a DTW algorithm..

For time slices of width n , the kernel metric can be expanded and expressed as :

$$\begin{aligned}
 k(x, z) &= \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^n x_i, \sum_{j=1}^n z_j \right\rangle \\
 &= \langle (x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \dots), (z_1 + z_2 + z_3 + \dots) \rangle \\
 &= \langle x_1, z_1 \rangle + \langle x_1, z_2 \rangle + \langle x_1, z_3 \rangle + \dots + \langle x_2, z_1 \rangle + \langle x_2, z_2 \rangle + \langle x_2, z_3 \rangle + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

From above expression, we can see that the proposed kernel corresponds to a sum of all possible dot products of pairs belonging to the set $\{(x_i z_i) | x_i \in \text{seq1}, z_i \in \text{seq2}\}$. Similar to the polynomial kernel, the proposed kernel allows us to match all possible pairs of vectors belonging to the two sub-sequences given by the matrices. It is easy to check that this proposed kernel is in fact a valid kernel:

- $K(x, z) = K(z, x) \Rightarrow$ the function is symmetric.
- The kernel satisfies Mercer’s theorem : $K(x, z) = \phi(x)^T \phi(z)$ where the feature mapping corresponds to a finite summation of vectors $\phi(y) = \sum_{i=1}^n y_i$.

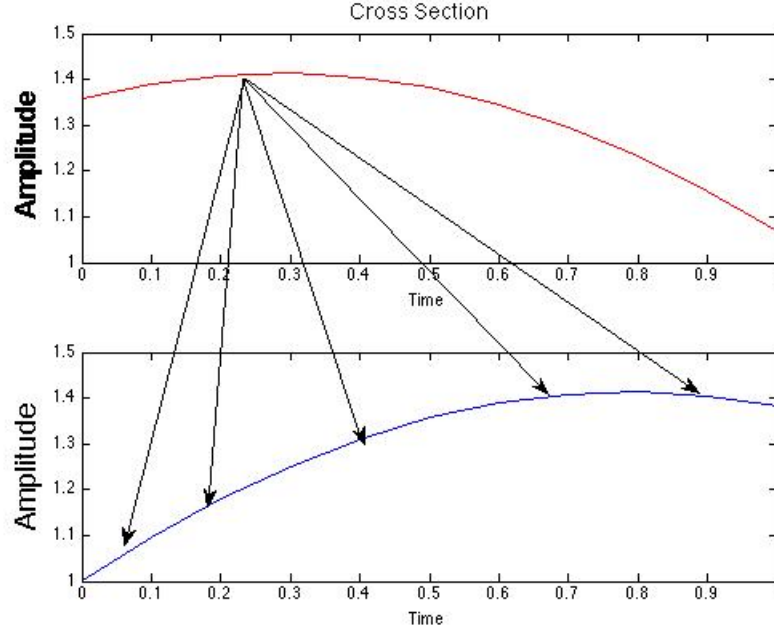


FIGURE 2. Two identical subsequences varying in time

Augmenting the kernel to the DTW algorithm allows DTW to work on high-dimensional time sequences with using a window constraint. However the accuracy and computational cost of the DTW is now dependent on the size of the time slices used to segment the original sequences:

- The accuracy of DTW increases as the width of the windows decrease. Using subsequence allows the similarity measure to be dominated by the dot products of points whose local and global features are most alike. However using smaller windows achieve lesser dimensionality reduction. Thus the time and computational complexity suffers.

To use this kernel as an appropriate cost function in the DTW algorithm, we need a functional mapping that:

- (1) constraints the codomain to be in the range from 0 to ∞ .
- (2) ensures larger values given by the function signify great degree of dissimilarity and smaller values signify a high degree of similitude.

An ideal cost function that make use of dot product sis the *arc-cosine*. Hence I embedded the kernel function in the cosine distance:

$$\theta = \frac{\langle X, Z \rangle}{|X||Z|}$$

where $X = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$ and $Z = \sum_{j=1}^n z_j$

A formal outline of the algorithm is as follows:

Data: seq1, seq2

Result: cost

Segment the sequences using a window of size n

seq_1 ← segment(seq1, n)

seq_2 ← segment(seq2, n)

Augment a matrix of 0 vectors to the front seq1' and seq2'

Initialise the DTW cost matrix

for $i=1$ to $length(seq_1)$ **do**

 | DTW(i,0) = ∞

end

for $i=1$ to $length(seq_2)$ **do**

 | DTW(0,i) = ∞

end

for $i=2$ to $length(seq_1)$ **do**

 | **for** $j=2$ to $length(seq_2)$ **do**

 | DTW(i,j) =

 | $\theta = \frac{\langle X, Z \rangle}{|X||Z|} + \min\{DTW(i-1, j) + DTW(i, j-1) + DTW(i-1, j-1)$

 | where $X = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$ and $Z = \sum_{j=1}^n z_j$

 | **end**

end

cost = DTW(length(seq_1), length(seq_2))

Algorithm 1: Adapted DTW algorithm

4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The main aim behind the design of the proposed DTW(discussed in the last section) is to improve the accuracy of the DTW algorithm while restricting time and computational cost to a minimum when applied to high-dimensional time-series data. I have tested the algorithm on the test data set that I have constructed using TIDIGITS test corpus and compared the performances against the methodologies that I have investigated so far:

- Methodology 1
 - Apply feature selection process to remove segments of silence and down sample the remaining segment to improve the quality.
 - Apply value-based DTW(which we denote as baseline) using the most constrained window size and a euclidean metric.
- Methodology 2
 - Apply feature selection process to remove segment of utterance and down sample the remaining segment to improve the quality.
 - Apply the feature extraction process discussed in [] to extract local and global features.
 - Apply DTW using the most constrained window size and a euclidean metric.
- Methodology 3
 - Apply no feature selection
 - Perform feature extraction by extracting MFCC features
 - Apply DTW using the most constrained window size and a euclidean metric.
- Methodology 4
 - Apply feature selection process that only removes segments of silence
 - Extract MFCC features
 - Apply DTW augmented with the euclidean metric.

I ran this algorithm on 3 different sets of data sets:

- The test and training sets that I have created from the Tidigits samples
- To data sets from the UCR time-series testbed:
 - The ECG torso datasets
 - The Inline Skating datasets.

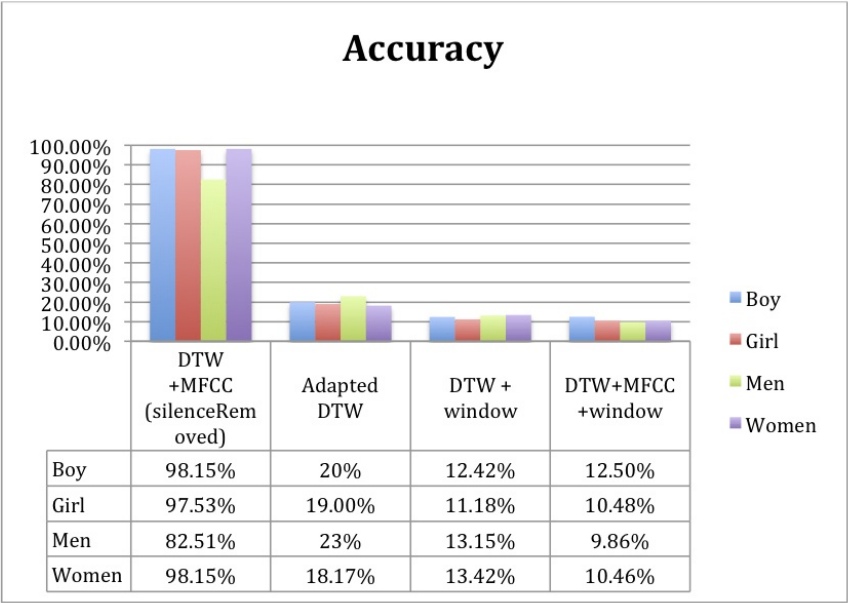


FIGURE 3. Accuracy

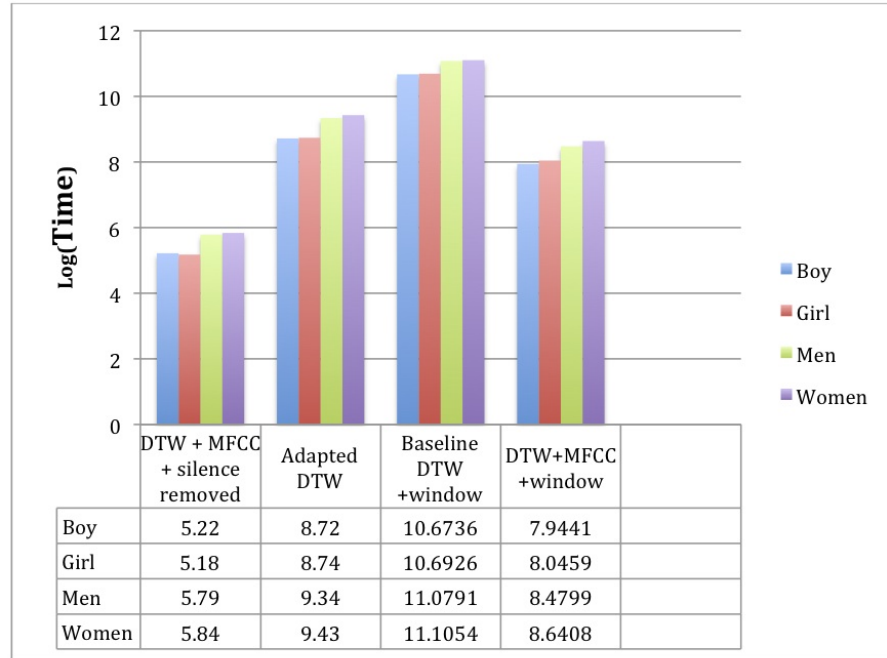


FIGURE 4. Time complexity