

Document Embedding for Scientific Articles: Validation of word embeddings

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Abstract

Over the last few years, word embeddings have taken a dominant position in the Information Retrieval domain. Many studies have been done concerning the quality of word embeddings on general texts, such as the Wikipedia corpus and comments on review websites. Giving promising results, the word embeddings have been studied and improved over recent years. However, these studies have been focused on, or in combination with, generic texts, which are not limited the characteristics of in-domain texts, such as rare domain specific words. This research focusses on the usefulness of word embeddings on domain specific texts, concerning 1.391.543 scientific articles which have been published in 2017.

1 Introduction

Introduction and Background

Information retrieval

Information Retrieval(IR) is the activity of gathering relevant information, given another initial piece of information. The most practical example of this is a search engine. Given one or more search words the search engine will attempt to find relevant information. For example, an online search for "Information Retrieval" (initial piece of information) will give you a list of results (relevant information). To be able to do this, the search engine must know which texts are related. This can be achieved with and without neural networks, a traditional technique which does not use a neural network is TF-IDF, shot for Term Frequency - Inverted Document Frequency. Techniques that use a neural network are newer, these are (among others) Word2Vec, Paragraph Vectors and GloVe.

Neural Network

A complete in-depth background into neural networks is beyond the scope of this thesis, therefore we will only describe the simplified basic application of the neural networks in IR. Neural Networks are multi-layered computational software, based on vector and/or matrix calculations, which tries to map input values to output values. This mapping uses a pre-defined amount of layers that modify the values through matrix calculations. Neural networks rely on training to create optimal values for these layers, these values are only changed at training time, high quality training data is therefore essential for neural networks. Neural networks can be applied to many different tasks, as long as there is sufficient training data available. This training is the process of iteratively adjusting multiplication matrices or vectors to achieve the optimal result. Which is the result that is as close as possible to the given output for different input and output sets. To create word embeddings, Neural Networks are used to either predict words that may occur around a given word, or predict a word given words that surround it. For example, given the sentence

"The search engine searches for relevant information"

the Neural Network can be trained to either predict the words around "searches" (the, search, engine, for, relevant, information) or to predict the word "searches", given the surrounding (the, search, engine, for, relevant, information). This trained matrix, a vector per word which is referred to as a word embedding, now indicates "word relatedness" which, as mentioned earlier enables association (thus retrieval) with related(relevant) texts. Neural networks are also used for other tasks such as video recommendation on Google's YouTube, as described by Covington et al. [1].

Embedding

An embedding is a distributed, numerical representation of a text in a vector space¹ which can capture both the semantic and syntactic information[2]. In the case of a word embedding, the embedding represents the word. These embeddings are created using by machine learning models. These models create the embeddings without the need for human interaction [3], they are so called *unsupervised learning algorithms*. Once trained, the embeddings can be used to construct embeddings for collections of texts. For example, a word embedding can be used to create a sentence, paragraph, document or corpus embedding. The usage of word embeddings have improved various Natural Language Processing areas such as named entity recognition, part-of-speech tagging, parsing, and semantic role labelling Luong et al. [4].

Text analysis techniques

To enable a computer to process text, for embedding creation or for tasks, the text has to be processed by an algorithm. In this research we used embeddings created by Word2Vec and TF-IDF feature vectors.

Word2Vec

Word2vec word embeddings are created using neural network, Word2vec learns word embeddings via maximizing the log conditional probability of the word given the context word(s) occurring within a fixed-sized window. Therefore the learnt embeddings contain useful knowledge about word co-occurrence[5]. There are multiple input/output possibilities for the neural network, best known are

¹The vector space of separately trained word embeddings are not shared, since the trained vector dimensions are not fixed. This means that two separately trained word embeddings which have the same dimension do not share the same vector space.

Skip-gram and the Continuous Bag-of-Words model (CBOW). The Skip-gram model takes a target word as input and outputs the predicted output words, while CBOW takes the context words as input and outputs the predicted target word [5, 6]. Mikolov et al. [2][7] presented several extensions to the word2vec model that improve the quality of vector training and its speed, such as introducing Hierarchical Softmax, Negative Sampling and the subsampling of frequent words to the Skip-gram approach. Variations to the word2vec model have also been proposed, such as the doc2vec model described by Lau and Baldwin [8] which creates document embeddings instead of word embeddings.

Paragraph vectors

Variations on the word2vec model have also been proposed, Le and Mikolov [9] introduced the paragraph vector based in their paper "Distributed representations of sentences and documents". The Paragraph Vector framework is based on the word vectors framework. The difference between the frameworks is the calculation of the probability, the Paragraph Vector framework uses an matrix D , which consists of every paragraph. This matrix is used to replace a concatenation or average of word vectors. An advantage of the paragraph vector model is that it takes the word order into consideration, atleast in a small context [9]. Dai et al. [10] state in their paper "Document embedding with paragraph vectors" that the Paragraph Vectors model performs significantly better than other models on grouping, triplet finding and related object/article finding tasks on the Wikipeida and arXiv texts.

GloVe

Pennington et al. [6] introduced the GloVe (Global Vectors) model. This model captures the global corpus statistics. The model transforms the word co-occurrences of all words in the corpus to chances, it excludes all the zero values and uses that as initial input for the neural network. This model outperforms other models on three specific tasks, word analogy, word similarity and entity recognition.

TF-IDF

TF-IDF is an abbreviation for Term Frequency times Inverted Document Frequency. This method does not rely on a neural network and therefore does not require training. The TF-IDF score is the product of the term frequency in a text and the inverted document frequency of the same term in a corpus of texts. Both of which can be calculated in a variety of ways. The feature vectors produced by TF-IDF do not capture syntactic or semantic information about words, but capture information about word occurrences. These features are created by supplying the algorithm with the text it needs to "know". This text is then analysed on word occurrences on corpus and document and level, this results in a score per-word. This score can be converted to a feature vector, in which the indexes of these vector represent the words and the value is the TF-IDF score. The size of this feature vector can optionally be controlled by hashing the words in the text, which can then be reduced to a given size. If this is not applied, the size of the feature vector is equal to the amount of unique words in the corpus, also known as the (corpus) vocabulary. Some applications of this technique limit the amount of unique words in the text supplied to the TF-IDF algorithm, they do this by taking only a certain amount of top words, ordered on their occurrence. This reduces the amount of storage needed when hashing is not applied. It furthermore reduces the amount of words which occur rarely. Due to the nature of TF-IDF these rare words have a high score, cancelling out other more frequent words, while rarely occurring in the corpus.

As Lai et al. [3] state in their paper "How to generate a good word embedding?", all embedding methods rely on the same hypothesis, words that occur in similar contexts have similar meanings. They furthermore found that larger corpus' lead to better quality embeddings, but that the domain in which the embeddings are trained is dominant over the corpus size.

Validation methods

The results produced by the techniques have to be validated to determine their quality (in usage). The quality of the results can be validated through, among others the F1 score, which combines the precision score and the recall score in a single metric, and, for classification tasks, the rank of the correct class, which is for this research a journal. The embeddings can furthermore be validated through their performance on tasks such as word analogies, word similarities, categorization and position visualization. These tasks can be designed to produce a score that gives an indication of the performance on a specific task. Schnabel et al. [11] found that a single validation metric cannot produce a representative result for other tasks. Embeddings

that perform well on one task do not have to perform well on another task. As a result, the findings about performance of an embedding method are limited to the task on which they are tested, their results cannot be generalized to state that the embedding are overall "performing well". Validation tasks use either labelled or unlabelled data. Labelled data is data that is in some way marked, so that the correct answer can be derived from it, while this is not possible with unlabelled data. Labelled data enables the usage of unsupervised learning models, since *a system or model which is not involved in the actual learning* can automatically validate the given results and use it as feedback for the next learning iteration. Unlabelled data on the other hand requires human interaction to give a score for the produced result. The validation tasks can also be divided into two groups, extrinsic evaluation, ones that use word embeddings as input for a downstream task. And Intrinsic evaluation, which directly test the relationships of the word embedding themselves. Schnabel et al. [11] note that the extrinsic evaluation may not be consistent with intrinsic evaluations, since the performance on downstream tasks is not consistent across tasks.

Word Analogy

Word analogy validation is based on a labelled validation set, containing, commonly, word pairs of four, that can be logically divided into two parts. As Table 1 shows, each last word can be derived from the three words before. The score is the fraction of correctly given fourth words, given the first three words. This validation metric is used in multiple studies[2, 6, 7, 10].

Man	Women	King	Queen
Athens	Greece	Oslo	Norway
great	greater	tough	tougher

Table 1: Word analogies examples

Both this validation technique and the Word Similarity technique use vector distance calculations to validate the embeddings, this can therefore also be written as:

$$X_{\text{Man}} - X_{\text{King}} \approx X_{\text{Women}} - X_{\text{Queen}}$$

This means that the resulting vector of embedding of "Man" minus the embedding of "King" is approximately the embedding of "Woman" minus the embedding of "Queen". This resulting vector may be close to a vector "monarch" for example.

Word Similarity

A method to test the quality of word embeddings is the word similarity test. For these test, the distance between the word embeddings (vectors) is measured and compared to similarity scores defined by humans. Multiple non domain specific validation sets are publicly available including: the Rare-word dataset introduced in the paper "Better Word Representations with Recursive Neural Networks for Morphology" by Luong et al. [4], the MEN test collection by Bruni [12] and the WordSimilarity-353 test collection by Gabrilovich [13]. These sets, among others, have been used in multiple studies of word embeddings[6, 7]. This validation metric also relies on labelled data.

Classification

A classification validation method is a simple task which assigns a label to a text. Lau and Baldwin [8] used data from StackExchange and tried to determine if a pair was a duplicate. In their setup, the text was a pair of texts, and their categories were duplicate and non-duplicate. Le and Mikolov [9] used for their research a dataset of IMDB with 100,000 movie review. They validated their proposed paragraph vector model by determining whether a review was positive or negative.

Position Visualization

Dai et al. [10] and Hinton and Roweis [14] mapped their word embeddings from a high dimensional vector to a two dimensional vector to be able to display them in a scatter plot and applied colors to various categories. These categories can be created with labelled or unlabelled data. The advantage of this is that a human can directly see the word distributions, and see if it is distributed in a way that seems logical. It gives furthermore insight in the overall spectrum of the words. However, this representation does not give a score, since it is not a evaluation of the data, but an alternative representation.

General and Domain specific

Since the word embeddings are created form a given text, these embeddings are bound to the text. All

meaning embedded in the word embedding is derived from the original text. Because of this, embeddings can be "Domain specific" meaning that it only knows words (or a specific word) in a certain context. This becomes most clear when faced with words that can have different meanings in different contexts. For this research we categorize the embedding in two categories, general embeddings and domain specific embeddings. The general embeddings are trained on a collection of texts that use common English and contains a wide variety of topics. The domain specific embeddings are trained on a collection of texts that uses uncommon English (i.e. domain specific terms) and/or is limited to a small amount of topics. Given these terms, we regard the embeddings trained on the Wikipedia corpus[3, 6, 8, 10, 11] as general, since Wikipedia uses common English and spans a wide range of topics. On the other hand we regard the embeddings created by Truong [15] as Domain specific, these embeddings were created on academic articles, which use domain-specific terms and notations and only consists of academic texts, which contains less general/generic words compared to the Wikipedia corpus. The domain specific texts can use the same word for unrelated topics, like clouds in computer science and meteorology.

Research environment

The research will be done in a python-databricks environment, which uses spark, a library that offers tools to work with big-data. Armbrust et al. [16] state that Spark SQL lets programmers leverage the benefits of relational processing and lets SQL users call complex analytix libraries in Spark. This allows for much tighter intergration between relational and procedural processing. The paper further states that Spark SQL makes it significantly simpler and more efficient to write data piplines that mix relational and procedural processing, while offering substantial speedups over previous SQL-on-Spark engines.

Text properties

Wiegand et al. [17] state that the pareto distribution offers a good fit to the word occurrences in natural language. Their models show that, due to the additional parameters in the pareto-III, the tail of the data fits better to the model than the Zipf model. This shows the relation between the word occurrences rank, and the actual occurrences. This kind of word-occurrences distribution holds for many texts, including the writings of William Shakespeare and scientific texts and novels[18].

Motivation

In-domain embeddings and validation

In earlier research concerning domain specific articles, Truong [15] found that in-domain training of the word embeddings can improve the process of document clustering. The usage of in-domain data is more important than the number of training examples and the model architecture. Lai et al. [3] found that the corpus domain is more important than the corpus size. Using an in-domain corpus significantly improves the performance for a given task, whereas using a corpus in an unsuitable domain may decrease performance. Truong et al. encountered a problem in the validation of these in-domain embeddings. The word embedding produced correct document clustering results, leading to the conclusion that these embeddings are of good quality, since they capture the document relatedness needed to create correct clusterings. However unpublished results by Truong et al. state that the embeddings show high error rates on the validation scores. This seems to indicate that the word-vectors are of good quality, but that the available validation metrics fail to confirm this. Truong [15] used multiple word similarity validations to assess the quality of the word embeddings. However, these sets are created to validate the generic embeddings, they fail to assess the quality of the domain specific embeddings.

Research

To assess the problem of the limited availability of pre-labelled validation sets for domain specific articles, we compare the embeddings to TF-IDF on a categorization task. This A) gives an indication of the embedding quality for categorization tasks and B) contrasts the performance of embeddings to the performance of the more traditional TF-IDF approach. To ensure the quality of the embeddings for our research, we reuse the embeddings created in the research of Truong [15].

RQ. 1 Have word-embeddings a higher accuracy for academic texts than TF-IDF for article classification?

RQ. 1.1 Does TF-IDF weighting increase the performance of word embedding on academic texts for article classification?

RQ. 1.2 Can the usage of alternative distance metrics improve the performance of word embedding on academic articles for article classification?

RQ. 2 Can word embeddings, combined with pca^2 -based TSNE, create a two-dimensional plot that preserves the journal relatedness?

Embedding and TF-IDF

RQ. 1 focusses on the classification results of both embedding-based techniques and TF-IDF. To measure classification task we use the rank of the class to which the item belongs. Transforming the classification task from a binary metric to a ranking metric. For this task, we will use different versions of embeddings, to answer RQ 1.1, and different TF-IDF versions to not only compare the two techniques, but also look for the optimal results of both techniques. To achieve the optimal results, we compare 20 distance metrics from the SciPy library on ranking performance on the standard embeddings. For this part of the research, we will use the following hypothesis:

H. 1 *Embedding based techniques give lower rankings than the TF-IDF based techniques.*

H. 1.1 *TF-IDF weighted document embeddings outperform standard embeddings on the classification of academic articles.*

H. 1.2 *Cosine similarity based ranking results in the best performance for the classification of academic articles.*

H. 1.3 *Word embeddings use less memory while giving better ranking results than TF-IDF on the classification of academic articles.*

By validating our invalidating these hypotheses we get an indication of the performance of the embeddings compare to older techniques, get insight into possible performance and resource trade-off's and get insight into the performance of different distance calculation metrics. RQ. 2 concerns the visualization of word embeddings and the accuracy of this visualization. To answer this research question, we will use the following hypothesis:

H. 2 *Word embeddings, combined with pca -based TSNE can preserve the journal relatedness on a two dimensional plot.*

²principal component analysis

The validation of this hypothesis will rely on visual conformation. We expect to see clustering of journals in certain areas, which indicates a research subject. We also expect that articles which are visually close together are closely related by subject.

2 Data & data-processing

Corpus

The dataset we used for this research consists of articles published in 2017 which have been published in a journal that has, in 2017, at least 150 publications. This results in a total dataset of 1.391.543 articles from 3.759 journals. Details about the corpus can be found in table 2.

	Total count	Unique count	Average length
Title words	18.822.399	939.665	13,53
Title tokens	14.742.192	230.805	10,64
Abstract words	264.653.020	5.853.077	190,19
Abstract tokens	171.474.473	738.961	123,71
Total words	283.475.419	6.209.769	203,71
Total tokens	186.962.354	763.475	134,36

Table 2: Corpus size

The word occurrences follow the pattern of a pareto distribution as described by Wiegand et al. [17]. This distribution is visualized in figure 1, which displays the occurrences of the first 500 tokens of the corpus.

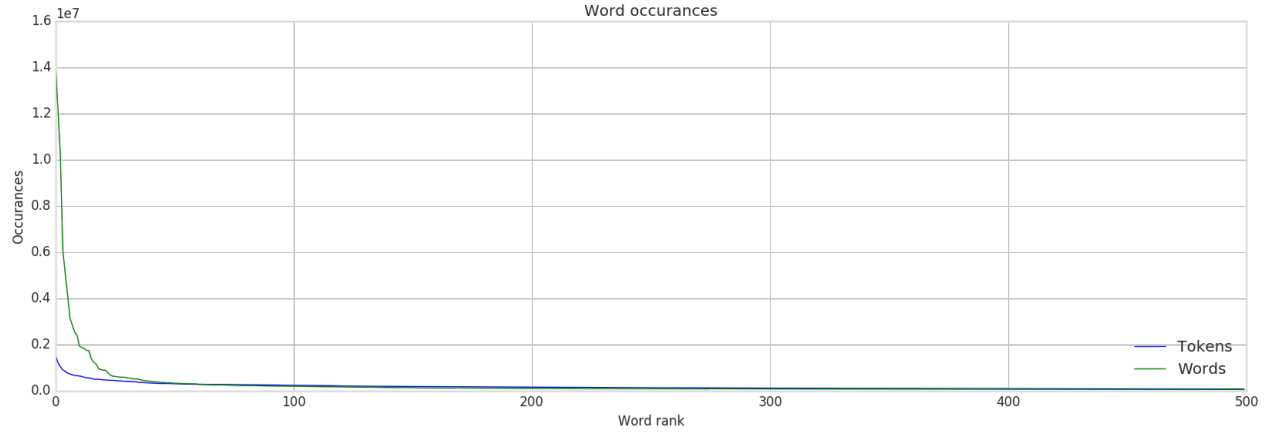


Figure 1: Word and token occurrences

Datasets

For this research we used a (pre-made) tokenized dataset, which reduces the total amount of words by 34%, from this tokenized set, we created the embeddings and the TF-IDF feature vectors.

Tokenization

The following steps have been applied to the words to create a tokenized set:

1. Removed punctuation
2. Removed all non-ascii characters
3. Transformed all characters to lower-case
4. Removed stop-words, as provided by the NLTK library
5. Removed numbers
6. Stemmed all words, using the stemmer provided by the NLTK library

These transformations reduced our dataset by 34%, resulting in a tokenized set of 186.962.354 tokens.

Embedding

For this research we reused the word embeddings created by Truong [15]. These embeddings have a vector size of 300, which is an industry default. They have been trained on the entire Elsevier corpus, not limited to the subset we used for this research. To construct article embeddings we take the average of all normalized word embeddings for that article. Journal embeddings are constructed in the same way, we averaged all the normalized article embeddings to create the journal embeddings. We have used multiple embedding configurations for this research

Default embedding

The default embedding is created from the pre-trained word embeddings, no modifications have been applied to this set.

TF-IDF embedding

The TF-IDF weighted embedding set, referred to as TF-IDF embedding, are the default word embeddings weighted with a TF-IDF score per word.

The TF-IDF is calculated with a raw token count, and a smoothed inverted document frequency, calculated as follows:

$$IDF = \log_{10} \left(\frac{|A|}{|A_t|} \right) \quad (1)$$

Where $|A|$ is the total count of articles and $|A_t|$ is the count of articles containing term t . The articles embeddings are a normalized summation of each word vector multiplied by its TF-IDF value. Since we take a sum of all words, the Term Frequency is embedded as the raw count of each word.

10K TF-IDF embedding

The 10K embedding set is generated similarly to the TF-IDF embedding, this version only uses the 10,000 most common tokens, reducing the amount of tokens it uses. This set was created to see if the limitation to 10,000 tokens reduces the amount of noise, and with that increasing the performance.

5K TF-IDF embedding

The 5K TF-IDF embedding is the TF-IDF embedding set, limited to the 5,000 most common words. This set was created to more aggressively limit the amount of tokens, and with that, cancel out more noise.

1K-6K TF-IDF embedding

The 1K-6K TF-IDF embedding is the TF-IDF embedding limited to the top 6,000 most common words, without the top 1,000 most common words. The rationale for this is that common words will occur in many articles, creating noise, by cutting off the top 1,000 and cutting off everything below 6,000 we tried to reduce the noise by filtering common words. This cut results in a set of 5,000 tokens, which allows us to compare it to the 5K TF-IDF set.

TF-IDF

To create the TF-IDF feature vectors, we used the TF-IDF model and a hasher from pyspark's MLlib library. The TF-IDF feature vectors are created by hashing the tokens with the hasher, which has a set hash bucket size. These hashed values are passed on to the TF-IDF model, resulting in a feature vector which vector dimensions equals the amount of hash buckets. To limit the computational and storage expenses and to reduce noise by rare words, we limit our vocabulary size. We denote the TF-IDF configurations as follows: *vocabularysize/hashbucketsize*. Furthermore, we denote 1,000 as 1K, since we deal with chosen values which can be exactly noted given this notation.

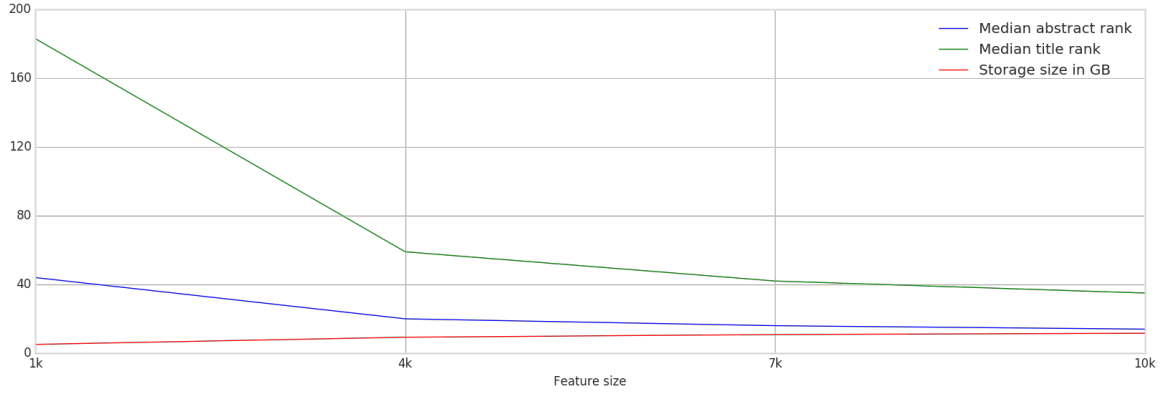


Figure 2: TF-IDF performance and memory usage

Figure 2 shows the performance, as median rank, and storage size, in gigabyte, of the 1k/1K, 4K/4K, 7K/7K and 10K/10K TF-IDF configurations. This plot shows that, while the required storage size keeps rising, the performance on title quickly stagnates, and the performance on abstract follows too. Given this information, we have chosen to use the 10K/10K, 10K/5K and 5K/5K configurations to compare our embedding results to. The TF-IDF features are created on article level. We average the set of article embeddings to create a journal embedding.

Pipeline

We processed the TF-IDF sets and the embedding sets via the same pipeline, using their common vector properties. This ensures comparable results, the pipeline is set-up as follows:

1. Create training and validation set
2. Create journal embeddings
3. Categorize validation articles
4. Calculate performance metrics

Create training and validation set

We split our initial set 80% - 20%,. We use the 80% set as the training set for the journal representations, and the 20% set as the validation set for the journal representations. This split is based on a random number given to article each record, ensuring that all set have the same (random) training and validation set.

Create journal embeddings

From our training set we create the journal embeddings, which are created for most sets³ by averaging the article embeddings or feature vectors.

Categorize validation articles

To categorize the articles, we calculate the distance between the title- and abstract embedding of each article, from the validation set, to the title- and abstract embedding of each journal, during this process we keep track of:

- Title-based-rank of the actual journal
- Abstract-based-rank of the actual journal
- Best scored journal on the abstract similarity
- Best scored journal on the title similarity
- Abstract similarity between the actual journal and the article
- Title similarity between the actual journal and the article

³see paragraph datasets

Distance metrics

To calculate the distance between vectors, cosine similarity is commonly used. We validated the quality of cosine similarity as a distance metrics by comparing it to all other similarity matrices available in the SciPy library, which we used to calculate the distances. We calculate the similarities based on the normalized embeddings, and compared the distance metrics based on the default embedding set. Table 3 shows the results of this validation.

These results show high similarity between cosine-based metrics (Cosine & Correlation) and euclidean based

Metric ⁴	Median title rank	Average title rank	Median abstract rank	Average abstract rank
Braycurtis	28	130	23	124
Canberra	33	148	26	133
Chebyshev	57	256	41	191
<i>Cityblock</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>124</i>
<i>Correlation</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>122</i>
Cosine	27	127	23	122
Dice	1995	1929	1995	1929
<i>Euclidean</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>122</i>
Hamming	1995	1929	1995	1929
Jaccard	1995	1929	1995	1929
Kulsinski	1995	1929	1995	1929
Mahalanobis	136	544	75	449
Matching	1995	1929	1995	1929
Rogerstanimoto	1995	1929	1995	1929
Russellrao	1995	1929	1995	1929
<i>Seuclidean</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>115</i>
Sokalmichener	1995	1929	1995	1929
Sokalsneath	1995	1929	1995	1929
<i>Sqeclidean</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>122</i>
Yule	1995	1929	1995	1929

Table 3: Distance metric performance for word embeddings on the categorization of academic texts

metrics (Euclidean, Seuclidean & Sqeclidean). This similarity is expected, since the cosine and euclidean distances should yield the same results on normalized sets. The results show that some enhancement on the euclidean algorithm result in slightly improved results, although not significant. Also the Cityblock metric yields results close to the Cosine metric, it has a slightly worse performance, which is also not significant. Because of this, we will use the cosine-similarity as the distance matrix, which will make our results better comparable with other work.

Performance measurement

We use multiple metrics to validate the performance of the embedding sets and TF-IDF sets on the categorization task. These metrics are:

1. F1-score
2. Median & average rank
3. Rank distribution

F1-score

We define the positive & negative metrics as follows:

TruePositive = Articles that are correctly matched to the current journal

FalsePositive = Articles that are incorrectly matched to other journals

FalseNegative = Articles that are incorrectly matched to the current journal

We used these metrics to calculate the Recall, Precision & F1 as follows:

$$Recall = \frac{TruePositive}{TruePositive + FalseNegative}$$

$$Precision = \frac{TruePositive}{TruePositive + FalsePositive}$$

$$F1 = \frac{2 * Precision * Recall}{Precision + Recall}$$

Median & average rank

We use the median rank to indicate around which rank the 'standard' article would be ranked, based on its title or abstract. We do this by taking the median of the respective rank from each article. This gives us an indication of the behaviour of most articles in our validation set. This median rank (mostly) ignores the outliers, we therefore also use the average rank, which gives a more global indication, although this rank may be over-influenced by some outliers.

Rank distribution

To further analyse the ranking results, we plot the rank distribution to get an indication of the ranking-landscape.

Two dimensional plot

To create a plot, we transformed the 300-dimensional journal vectors into 2-dimensional vectors using TSNE based on pca⁵. These 2-dimensional vectors, representing the x & y coordinate, can then be drawn in a plot. To visualize the preservation of journal-relatedness while converting the 300 dimensions to 2 dimension, we create groupings using k-means. These groupings are created on the 300-dimensional vectors, and are visualized in the plot using colors. We use the k-means groupings due to the lack of subject based grouping values in our dataset.

⁵Principal component analysis

3 Results

Research results

Ranking

The figures 3 & 4 show the result of the categorization task as ranking results. The rank indicates the position of the correct journal in the sorted list of matched journals. Figure 3 shows the ranking results for the different sets based on the title. Figure 4 displays the ranking results based on the abstract. Both graphs show both average and median ranks, based on the cosine-similarity between the article and journal embeddings or feature vectors.

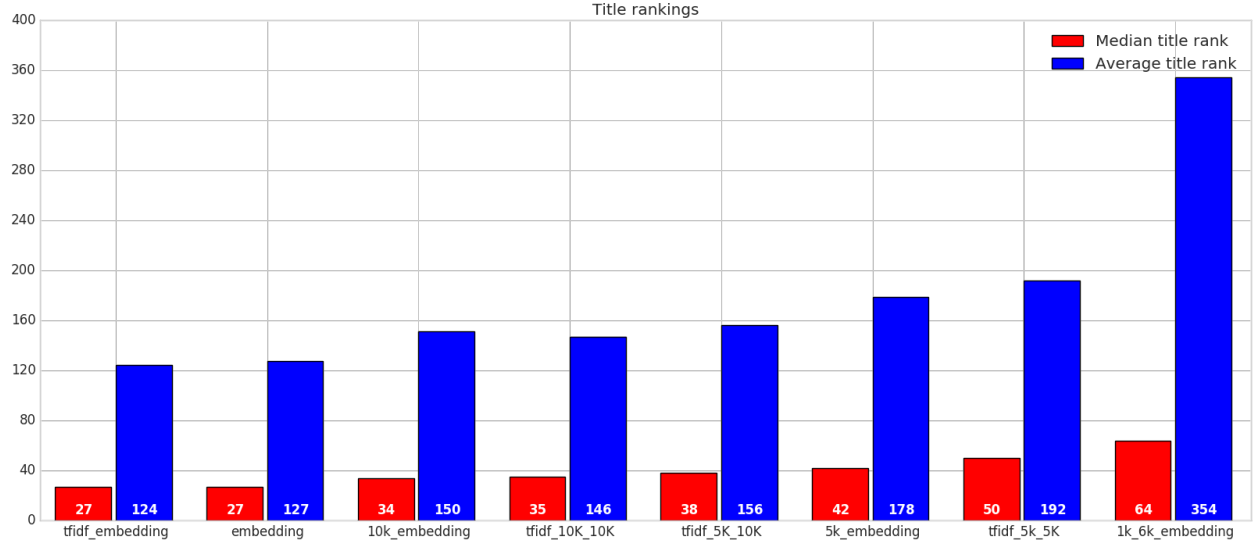


Figure 3: Median and average title rankings

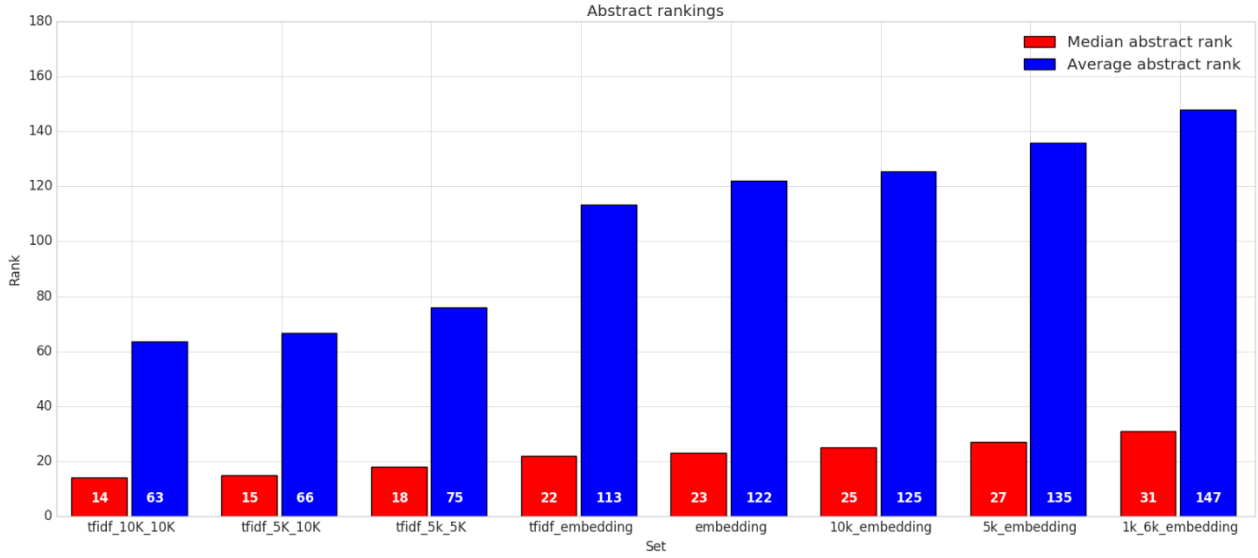


Figure 4: Median and average abstract rankings

Rank distribution

Figures 5 & 6 show the distributions of the ranks for each set. The figures plot the summed amount of articles against the ranks on a logarithmic scale. Figure 5 shows the rank distribution for the titles, figure 6 shows this for the ranks based on the abstract. These graphs give a detailed view of the ranks presented in their respective figures 3 & 4.

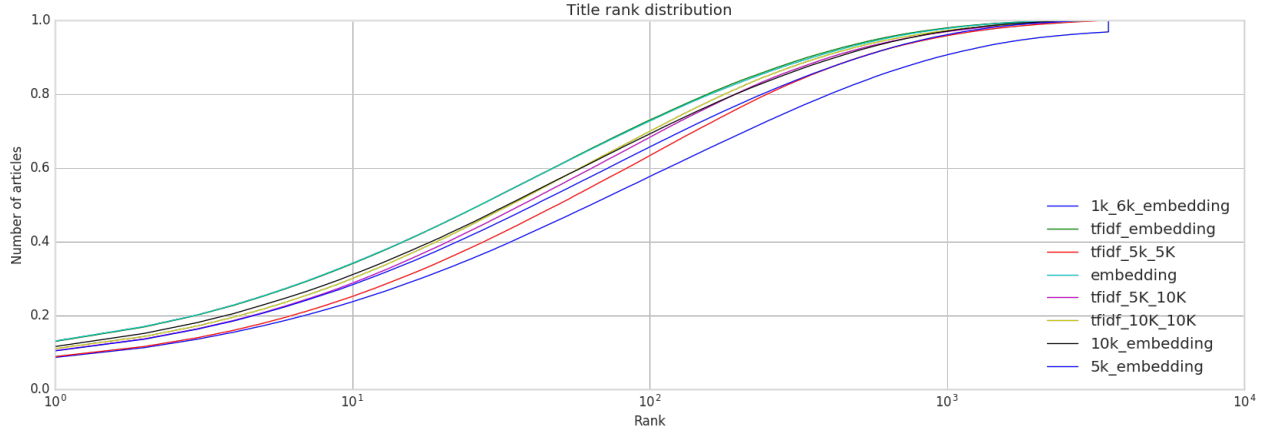


Figure 5: Title rank distribution per set

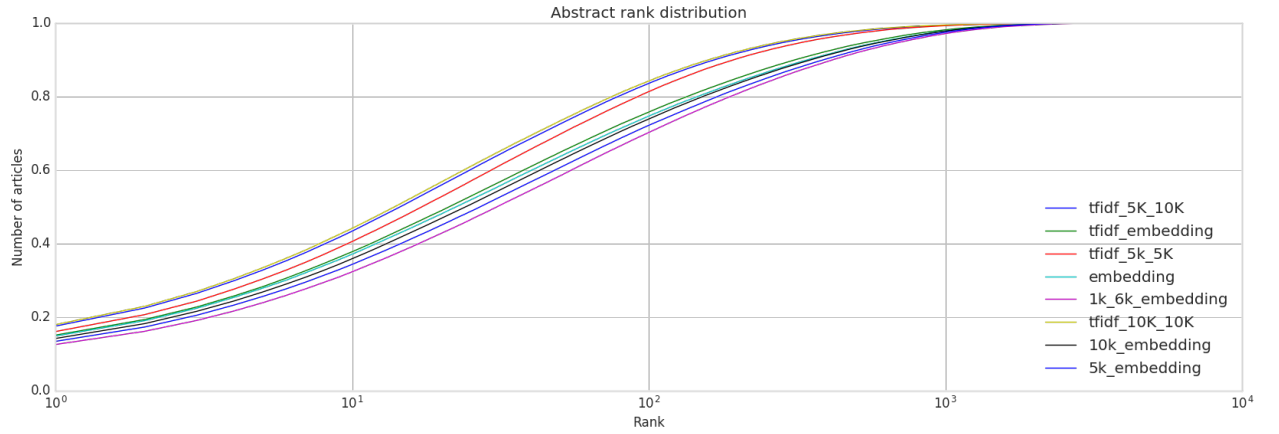


Figure 6: Abstract rank distribution per set

F1-Score

Figures 7 & 8 show the precision, recall and f1 scores. These scores are calculated on journal level, and are averaged per set. Figure 7 shows the F1 score for the title and figure 8 shows the scores for the abstract. These scores indicate the performance of the sets on absolute hits/top-1.

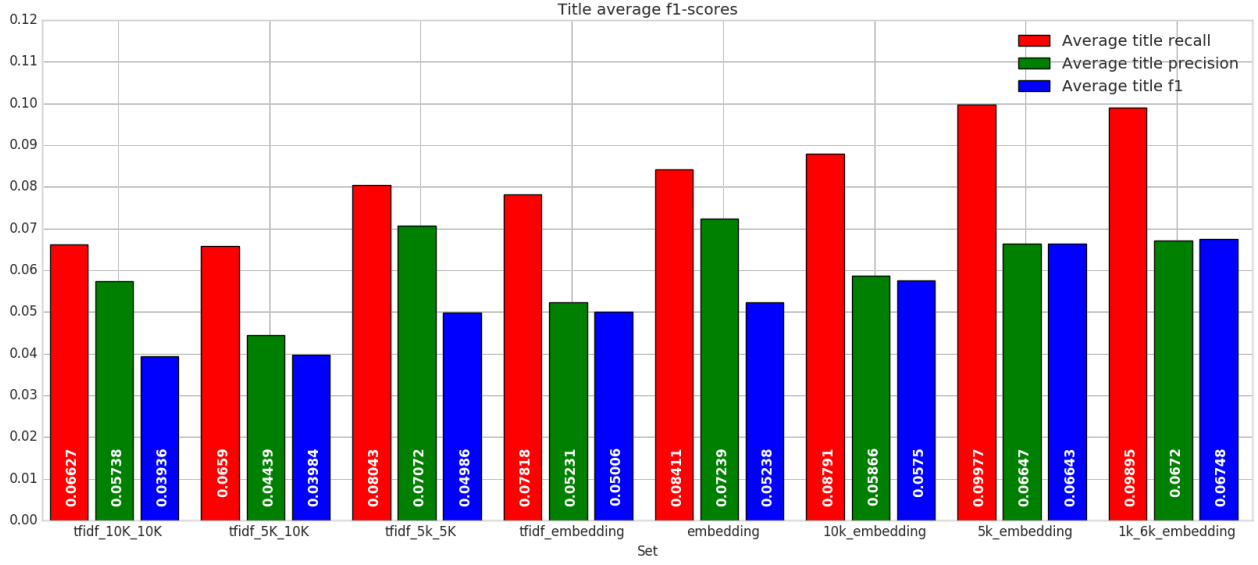


Figure 7: Precision, recall and F1 scores based on title

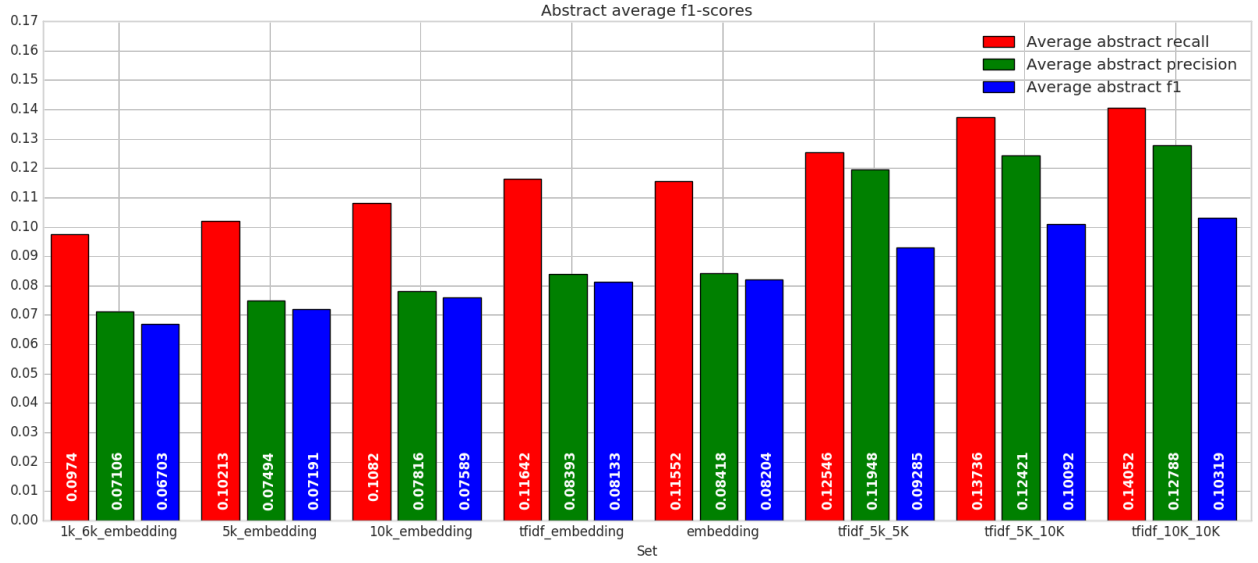


Figure 8: Precision, recall and F1 scores based on abstract

Memory usage

Table 4 shows the total memory usage of each set for the *Validation set*, indicating their storage costs in gigabytes⁶.

Set	Size in GB	Absolute hit percentage		Median title rank	Median abstract rank
		Title	Abstract		
tfidf 5k 5K	9.82	5.42%	10.18%	50	27
tfidf 5K 10K	11.47	6.49%	11.08%	38	15
tfidf 10K 10K	11.61	6.79%	11.32%	35	14
embedding	3.13	7.92%	9.24%	27	23
5k embedding	3.13	6.34%	8.36%	42	27
10k embedding	3.13	7.03%	8.76%	34	25
tfidf embedding	3.13	7.89%	9.33%	27	22
1k 6k embedding	3.06	5.16%	7.86%	64	31

Table 4: Memory usage and performance for each set

Journal relatedness plot

Figure 9 is the two dimensional plot of the journal embeddings. The journals are color-marked by publisher. Red is Wiley, lime is Elsevier and blue is Springer Nature. The grey points are other or not-specified. Figure 10 shows the journals, grouped by a k-means algorithm, creating 8 groups. The bottom right shows the names of the journals closest to the center of the group. The k-means algorithm ran on the 300-dimensional set, while the plot shows the 2-dimensional set. A digital version of this plot can be found at: <https://goo.gl/tdHGnD>.

⁶1024 based

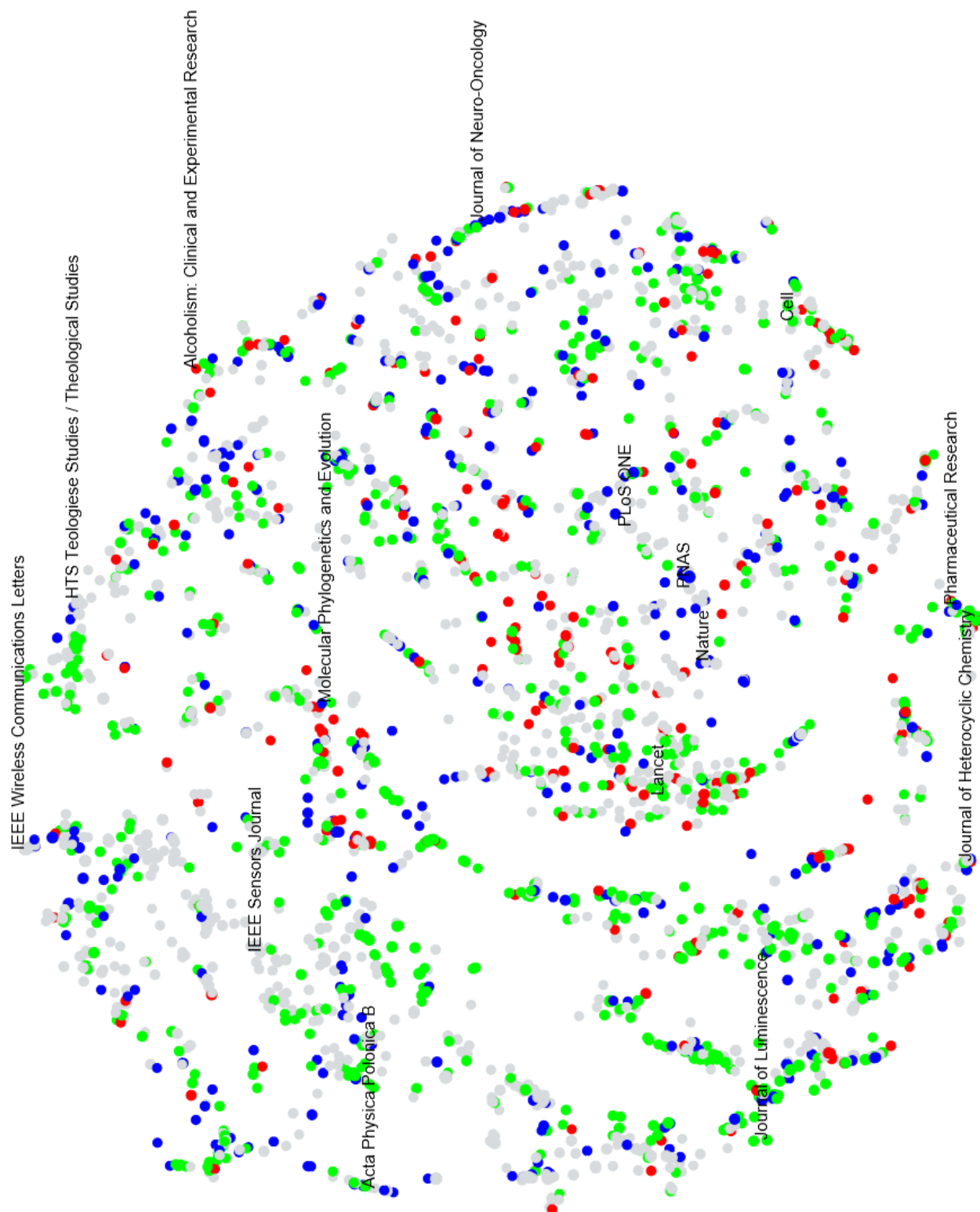


Figure 9: Journal plot grouped by publisher

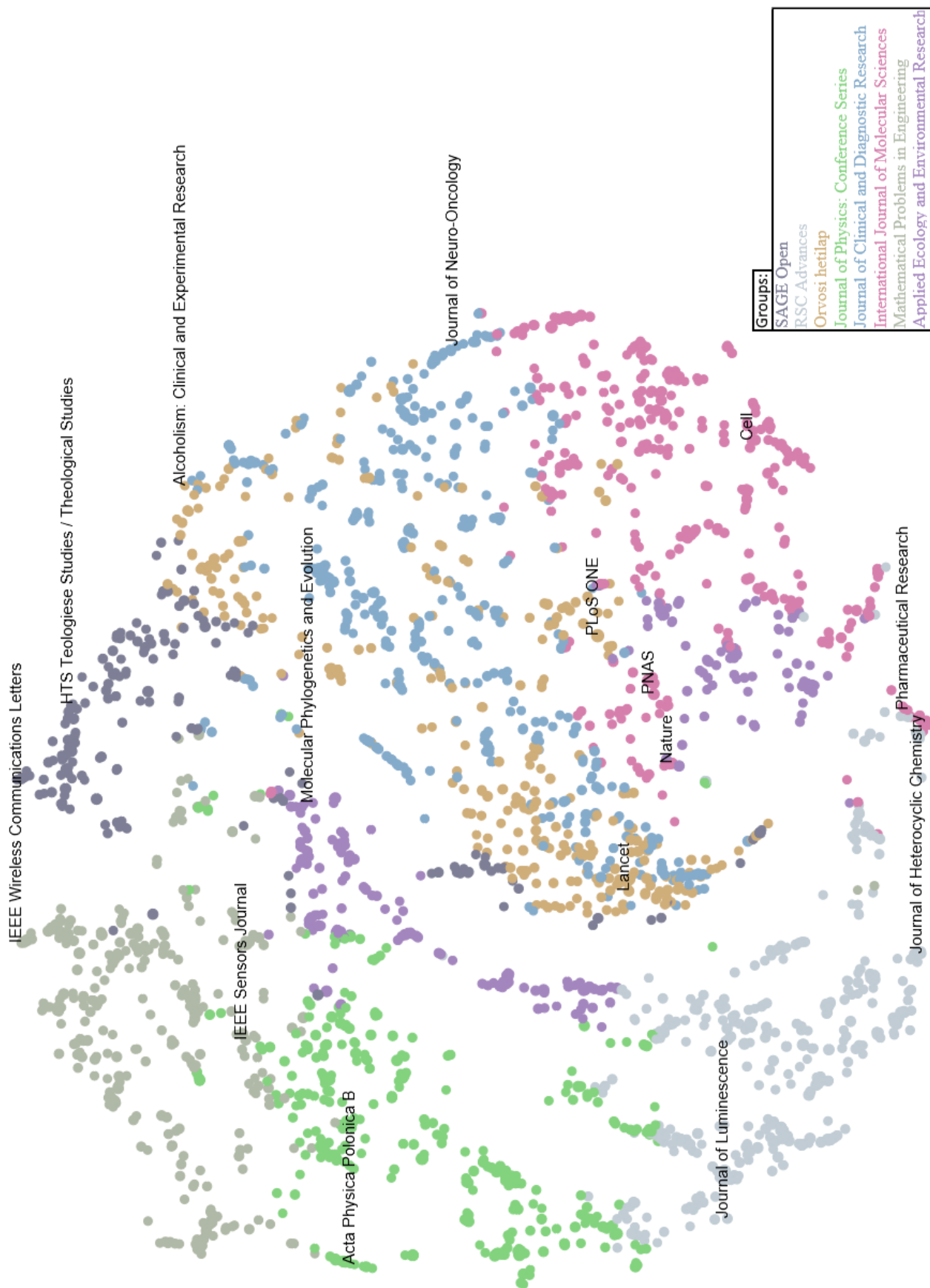


Figure 10: Journal plot grouped k-means grouped

Discussion

Result analysis

Best performers

The data, as presented in figures 3 & 4 shows that the 10k/10k set performs better than all other TF-IDF sets, although the difference with the 5k/10k is low, 1 median rank on abstract and 3 median ranks on title. For the embeddings the TF-IDF weighted embedding works better than the others, although it is has is not a significant improvement compared to the default embeddings, which 1 median rank higher on abstract, and equal on title.

TF-IDF

The TF-IDF feature vectors outperform the embeddings on the abstract, while the embeddings outperform the TF-IDF feature vectors on the title. The main difference between the abstract & title is that the title contains less tokens (see table 2), this means that the titles contain less information. Due to this, the TF-IDF method, which is purely based on word-occurrences & counts has less information on the titles. The TF-IDF method works better on the abstract, which contain more tokens, which improves the differentiating the different abstract. The data furthermore shows that increasing the vocabulary size increases the performance of the TF-IDF, this means that none of the created cut-off's resulted in cutting off noise, the increasing size of the vocabulary only improved the performance in this case. It could be possible that at higher vocabulary sizes the cut-off would result in a sharper signal, we did not looked into this further due to our findings that the TF-IDF performance stagnates (presented in figure 2).

Limited tfidf embeddings

The limited TF-IDF embeddings all under perform, compared to the non-limited TF-IDF embedding, on the median and average ranking. Indicating that the noise reduction is too much, and it removes meaningful words. If the noise reduction would be too low, we would only see a slight increase or none at all. However, the rank lowers, indicating the reduction in embedding quality due to missing words. This is in line with what we found with the TF-IDF results, higher vocabulary sizes give better performance. However, figures 5 & 6 show that their rank distribution is different from the other embeddings. Their pattern show a decent performance indicates the following pattern: a high/average performance on the top-rankings, an under performance on the middle rankings and a resulting stack-up of articles with a high-ranking. This is further supported by the TF-IDF score on titles (figure 3), on which the limited TF-IDF embeddings are the top performance. Indicating a better performance on the top-1 articles compared to the other sets.

This leads us to believe that the cut-off was effective, but that is did not suit our purpose. The cut-off moved the "middle-ranked" articles to either the high end of the rankings, or the lower end. Resulting in low median and average scores, but in (relatively) high accuracy scores. The reduction in vocabulary size did not reduce the storage size for the embeddings, except for the 1K-6K embedding. This indicates that only the 1K-6K cut actually removes entire titles and/or abstracts, since all vectors are stored as dense-vectors⁷. This results in a lower memory requirement.

TF-IDF & embeddings

Our hypothesis on the difference between the TF-IDF and the standard embedding is as follows: The embeddings seem to outperform the TF-IDF in situation when there is little information available, the titles in our case. This indicates that the embeddings store some kind of word meaning that enables them to perform relatively well on the titles. The abstracts on the other hand contain much more information. Our data seems to indicate that the amount of information available in the abstracts enable the TF-IDF to cope with the lack of embedded information. If this is the case, we could expect that there would little performance increase on the title when we compare the embeddings to the weighted TF-IDF embeddings, since the TF-IDF lacks the information to perform well. This can be

⁷Dense vectors are bigger in memory, since they store all their values, including zeros. However they can be processed more efficiently during calculations

seen in our data, only the average rank increased by 3, indicating that there is a difference between the two embeddings, but not a major one. We would also expect on the abstract an increase in performance, since the TF-IDF has more information in this context. We would expect that the weighting applied by the TF-IDF improves the performance of the embedding by indicating word importance. Our data shows a minor improvement in performance of 1 median rank and 10 average ranks while these improvements cannot be seen as significant, our data at least indicates that weighting the embeddings with TF-IDF values has a positive effect on the embeddings.

Memory usage

Although the TF-IDF outperforms the embeddings on the abstracts, the memory usage of the TF-IDF is higher than the memory usage of the embeddings. The top-performing embedding, TF-IDF weighted embedding, uses 3.13 GB, the top performing TF-IDF, 10K/10K uses 11.61 GB, which is 270.93% of the storage size needed for the embedding. The closest TF-IDF configuration we used was 1K/1K, which uses 5.13 GB (as displayed in figure 2). This TF-IDF set has a median title rank of 183 and a median abstract rank of 44. Which is significantly worse than the embedding, which also uses less memory.

Journal plots

Figure 9 show the journals in the, what we will refer to as "subject spectrum". We do this because the journal embeddings capture journal-relatedness, which leads to the clustering of related articles, which share, in varying degree, the common subject. In this figure, we can see that the publisher Wiley is more active in the right part of the spectrum than the left. We can further see that Nature is far to the center, as we would expect a generic journal to be, but it is on the biology/medicine side of the center (indicated by the position of Cell and Pharmaceutical Research).

Figure 10 shows the journals, grouped with k-means on the original 300-dimensional embedding vector. On the bottom right hand side, the journals closest to the center point of the k-means algorithm are displayed. While most journal titles clearly state the research field, some do not. SAGE opens research area is social and behavioural sciences and humanities, RSC Advances' research area is chemical sciences and Orvosi hetilaps research area is experimental and clinical medicine. In the plot we can see that the original embedding-clustering is relatively well preserved, most groups stay clustered together. The central journals belong to mainly mixed groups, which is likely caused by either their general nature, or due to a collection of articles on the opposing ends of the spectrum.

The interactive version shows that the clusterings, as seen on both figure 9 & 10 are subject based. Journals concerning the same subjects are correctly clustered together, and the journals in between topic clusters are also positioned at logical positions. It furthermore shows that the k-means groupings create an insight in research fields, although it is limited by the amount of groups the k-means algorithm creates. We found that our findings on the 2-dimensional representation of embeddings are similar to those of Dai et al. [10], who plotted 4.4 million Wikipedia articles.

Improvements

This research shows that, even though the embeddings are able to capture and preserve relatedness, TF-IDF is able outperform the embeddings. Earlier research already proposed improvements to the word embeddings. Dai et al. [10] show that the usage of paragraph vectors improve the accuracy of word embeddings with 4.4% on triplet creation with the wikipedia corpus, and a 3.9% improvement on the same task based on the arXiv articles. Furthermore, Le and Mikolov [9] show that the usage of paragraph vectors decrease the error rate (positive/negative) with 7.7% compared to averaging the word embeddings on categorizing text as either positive or negative. While this looks promising, we have to keep in mind that our task differs from earlier tasks, since we do not categorize on 2 categories, but on more than 3k. Still, we would expect an improvement by using paragraph vectors since the classification task is fundamentally the same, only on a much larger scale. Pennington et al. [6] showed that the GloVe model outperforms the CBOW model, used in this research on a word analogy task. While using other methods may look promising, Levy et al. [19] observed that there were no major differences between the various method. They state that the difference in performance is mainly caused by the global/hyper parameters. In this research, we have not looked at comparison between various models and/or (hyper) parameters. We instead used a standard configuration, to focus more on the actual performance of the embeddings, instead of the best-possible performance.

Conclusion

This research shows that the article embeddings, created with word embeddings, perform better than the reasonable TF-IDF alternatives on our categorization task, based on article titles. The TF-IDF alternatives give better results than the embeddings based on abstracts. The performance of the embeddings have been improved by weighting them with the TF-IDF values on word level, although this improvement cannot be seen as significant on our dataset. This improved embedding set results in a median rank decrease of 8 on the titles and an median rank increase of 8 on the abstract, compared to the best performing TF-IDF alternative. The embedding also results in a memory decrease of 73.04% compared to the best performing TF-IDF alternative, making it more viable to keep it in memory. The visualization of the journal embedding show that similar journals are grouped together, indicating a preservation of relatedness between the journal embeddings. We thus come to the following conclusions:

1. Article based embeddings perform better than TF-IDF on titles, small texts, which contain limited information
2. TF-IDF performs better than article based embeddings on abstracts, larger texts, which contain more information
3. Embeddings give a significant decrease in memory usage compared to TF-IDF
4. Visualization of the journal embeddings show that the embeddings capture and preserve subject relatedness when they are combined to create embeddings for larger texts

Future work

This research focussed on the quality of word embeddings on academic texts. To do this we used both a comparison to TF-IDF and a visualization of the word embeddings. Future works may seek to further improve the quality of the word embeddings.

Intelligent cutting

An interesting improvement to enhance the word embeddings with could be a smarter way to remove noise, based on word embeddings. This might be achieved by analysing the word embedding spectrum before normalization, and to then cut the center of the vector space out. This must be applied before normalization, since normalization causes all embeddings to have a distance of 1 to the center point. All words which are generic are in the center of the spectrum. Removing these words prevents the larger texts to be pulled towards the middle, where they lose the parts of their meaning which sets them apart from the other journals. We expect that this way of cutting, instead of word-occurrence cutting, will improve the quality of the word embeddings.

Text combination

To cope with the problem of articles that do have an abstract but no title, or vice versa, it would be interesting to see what the quality of the embeddings would be if both texts were combined into one text. This should be possible since title and abstract per article share a common topic. We would expect that the common text would have the quality of the abstract, which is according to our findings the part that is best usable for the embeddings and TF-IDF.

TF-IDFs performance point

In our research, TF-IDF performed better on the abstracts than on the titles, which, according to us, is caused by the text size of the two texts. This leads to the question, how do unique token count, token count and vocabulary size relate for TF-IDF? Is there a point in at which we can expect that TF-IDF will be able to rank items in the top-10? If this is the case, we can skip the TF-IDF calculations in certain situations, saving time and costs.

Reversed word pairs

At this point in time, there are no domain specific word pair sets available. However, as we demonstrated, we can still test the quality of word embeddings. Once we established that we have word vectors of high quality, could we create word pairs from the embeddings? If this is the case, we could reverse-engineer domain specific word pair sets for future use. These word pairs should most likely still be validated by humans, but the automatic generation of word pairs should already reduce the effort needed for this process.

Historical overview

We have shown that the word embeddings can be used to create a subject spectrum, in which we plotted all the articles of one year. This gives insight into the currently popular research field, indicated by dense areas on the plot. If we would create this plot over multiple years, and then show these years in chronological order, we should be able to see the evaluation of research fields in time, giving more insight in shifting interests and the development of new research areas.

TF-IDF top-cutoff

In our research we used a dataset from which we removed the top 1k words, together with everything beyond 6k. This dataset did not perform well in our research, future work could look into this by validating if the top-words cut-off decreases the TF-IDF performance. Our findings on this topic are minimal, although we can say that we would not expect that the top-cutoff improves the performance, since a set with the top 5k words performed better than the 1k till 6k words set.

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