

Module X: Bayesian Graphical Entity Resolution

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Reading

- ▶ Binette and Steorts (2020)
- ▶ Steorts, Hall, Fienberg (2016)
- ▶ Steorts (2015)

What is “Bayesian”?

1. Setting up a *full probability model* – a joint probability distribution for all observable and unobservable quantities

$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})$ – likelihood

$p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ – prior

2. Conditioning on observed data – calculating and interpreting the appropriate *posterior distribution*

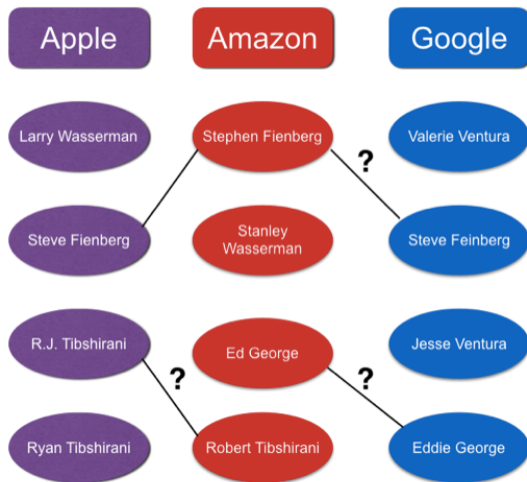
$$p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\theta})}{p(\mathbf{x})} = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{p(\mathbf{x})} \propto p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\theta})p(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Why Bayesian Entity Resolution

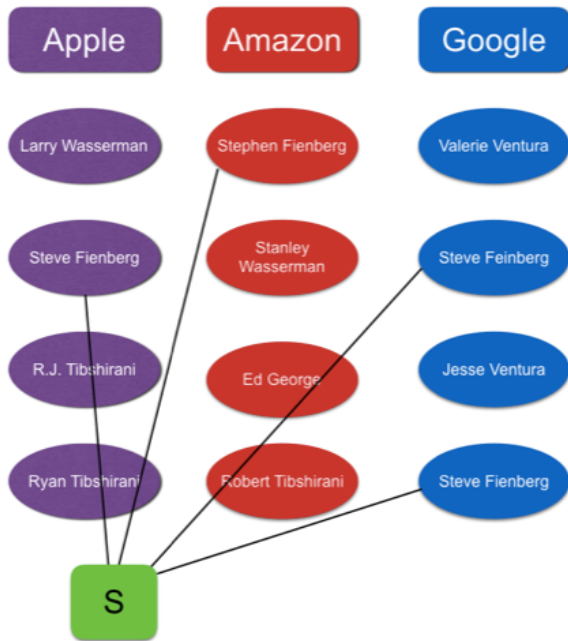
1. Entity resolution can be treated as a clustering problem.
2. Records are clustering to a latent entity.
3. This results in the model becoming a bipartite graph, which allows one to estimate latent individuals across multiple high dimensional databases.
4. The Bayesian paradigm naturally allows uncertainty quantification of the entity resolution process, a full posterior distribution, credible intervals, etc.
5. Theoretical properties have recently been explored for latent variable models, supporting the above approach.

[Copas and Hilton (1990), Tancredi and Liseo (2011), Steorts, Barnes, Neiswanger (2017), Zanella et al. (2016)]

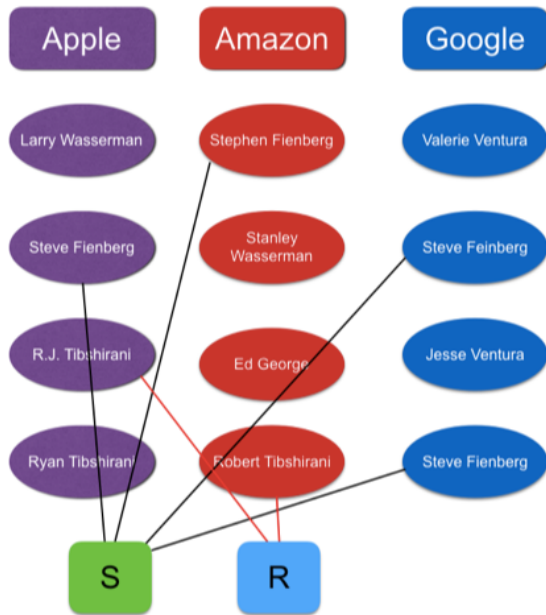
The entity resolution graph



The latent variable approach



The latent variable approach

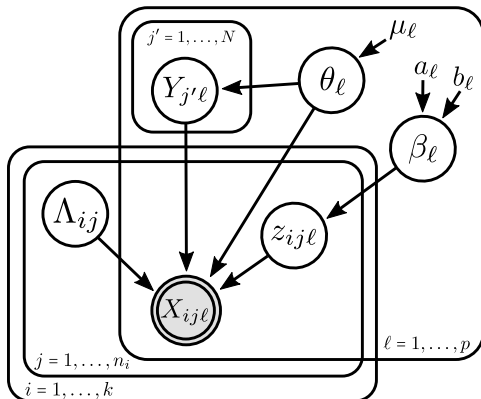


Notation

- ▶ $X_{ij\ell}$: observed value of the ℓ th field for the j th record in the i th data set, $1 \leq i \leq k$ and $1 \leq j \leq n_i$.
- ▶ $Y_{j'\ell}$: true value of the ℓ th field for the j' th latent individual.
- ▶ λ_{ij} : latent individual to which the j th record in the i th list corresponds. Λ is the collection of these values..
 - ▶ e.g. Five records in one list $\Lambda = \{1, 1, 2, 3, 3\} \rightarrow 3$ latent entities or clusters.
- ▶ $z_{ij\ell}$: indicator of whether a distortion has occurred for record field value $X_{ij\ell}$

Graphical Record Linkage

Graphical model representation of [Steorts et al. \(2016\)](#):



- ▶ Λ_{ij} represents the linkage structure \rightarrow **uniform prior**.
- ▶ Requires information about the number of latent entities a priori and it is very informative.

Bayesian Entity Resolution

Previous literature: not balanced regarding modeling, handling high-dimensional data, and uncertainty of multiple databases.

- ▶ Bayesian model: simultaneously links and de-duplicates.
- ▶ Assume records are noisy, distorted.
- ▶ We have a novel representation (Λ): linkage structure.
- ▶ The **strength** of a Bayesian approach is that transitivity of the linked records is nearly automatic.
- ▶ Our data structure provides uncertainty estimates of linked records that can be propagated into later analyses.

[**Steorts**, Hall, and Fienberg (2014), **Steorts**, Hall, and Fienberg (2016)]

Empirically Motivated Priors

- ▶ The major weakness of [Steorts, Hall, and Fienberg \(2016\)](#) is the fact that it did not handle text (string) data.
- ▶ [Steorts \(2015\)](#) overcomes this issue by taking an empirical Bayesian approach, and making extensive comparisons to supervised methods.

Model Specification: String model

- ▶ The distortion of string-valued variables is modeled using a probabilistic mechanism based on some measure of distance between the true and distorted strings.

$$P(X_{ij\ell} = w | \lambda_{ij}, Y_{\lambda_{ij}\ell}, z_{ij\ell}) = \frac{\alpha_{\ell} \exp[-cd(w, Y_{\lambda_{ij}\ell})]}{\sum_{w \in S_l} \alpha_{\ell} \exp[-cd(w, Y_{\lambda_{ij}\ell})]}$$

where c is a parameter that needs to be specified and d represents a string metric distance e.g. [Levenshtein](#) or [Jaro-Winkler](#).

Model Specification: Likelihood Function

$$X_{ij\ell} = w | \lambda_{ij}, Y_{\lambda_{ij\ell}}, z_{ij\ell} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \begin{cases} \delta(Y_{\lambda_{ij\ell}}), & \text{if } z_{ij\ell} = 0 \\ F_{\ell}(Y_{\lambda_{ij\ell}}), & \text{if } z_{ij\ell} = 1 \text{ and } \ell \leq p_s \\ G_{\ell}, & \text{if } z_{ij\ell} = 1 \text{ and } \ell > p_s \end{cases}$$

- ▶ $z_{ij\ell} = 0$, then $X_{ij\ell} = Y_{\lambda_{ij\ell}}$
- ▶ F_{ℓ} is the string model in the last slide.
- ▶ G_{ℓ} is the empirical distribution function of the categorical data.

Model Specification: Hierarchical Model

$$Y_{\lambda_{ij}\ell} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} G_{\ell}$$

$$z_{ij\ell} | \beta_{i\ell} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(\beta_{i\ell})$$

$$\beta_{i\ell} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Beta}(a, b)$$

$$\lambda_{ij} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{DiscreteUniform}(1, \dots, N)$$

where a, b, N are unknown parameters that must be estimated or fixed.

- ▶ $\beta_{i\ell}$ represent the distortion probabilities of the fields.
- ▶ The parameters a and b for the Beta prior need to be specified.
- ▶ The number of latent entities or clusters needs to be specified in advance.

blink package

R package that removes duplicate entries from multiple databases using the empirical Bayes graphical method:

```
install.packages("blink")
```

- ▶ Formatting data for use with blink
- ▶ Tuning parameters
- ▶ Running the Gibbs sampler (estimate model parameters)
- ▶ Output

RLdata500 data

We will continue with the RLdata500 dataset in the blink package consisting of 500 records with 10% duplication.

```
library("blink")
```

```
## Loading required package: stringdist
```

```
## Loading required package: plyr
```

```
data("RLdata500") # load data
```

```
head(RLdata500) # take a look
```

##	fname_c1	fname_c2	lname_c1	lname_c2	by	bm	bd
## 1	CARSTEN	<NA>	MEIER	<NA>	1949	7	22
## 2	GERD	<NA>	BAUER	<NA>	1968	7	27
## 3	ROBERT	<NA>	HARTMANN	<NA>	1930	4	30
## 4	STEFAN	<NA>	WOLFF	<NA>	1957	9	2
## 5	RALF	<NA>	KRUEGER	<NA>	1966	1	13
## 6	JUERGEN	<NA>	FRANKE	<NA>	1929	7	4

Formatting the data

```
# categorical variables
```

```
X.c <- as.matrix(RLdata500[, c("by", "bm", "bd")])
```

```
# string variables
```

```
X.s <- as.matrix(RLdata500[, c("fname_c1", "lname_c1")])
```

X.c and X.s include all files stacked on top of each other, for categorical and string variables respectively

```
# keep track of which rows of are in which files
```

```
file.num <- rep(c(1, 2, 3), c(200, 150, 150))
```

Tuning parameters

Hyperparameters

```
# Subjective choices for distortion probability prior  
# parameters of a Beta(a,b)  
a <- 1  
b <- 999
```

Distortion

```
# string distance function example  
d <- function(s1, s2) {  
  adist(s1, s2) # approximate string distance  
}  
  
# steepness parameter  
c <- 1
```

Running the Gibbs sampler

```
lam.gs <- rl.gibbs(file.num = file.num, # file  
                  X.s = X.s, X.c = X.c, # data  
                  num.gs = 10, # iterations  
                  a = a, b = b, # prior params  
                  c = c, d = d, # distortion  
                  M = 500) # max # latents
```