# Manuscript drafts

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# Introduction

Methods A convenience sample of 5 existing systematic reviews on varying topics was collected.

Results

Discussion

# Introduction

Systematic Reviews (SR's) are booming - but they are a lot of work Various machine learning tools have been proposed to reduce workload in abstract screening.

- objectives to demonstrate effectiveness of ml algorithm in reducing abstract classification for systematic reviews
- justification -
- background
- guidance to reader
- summary/conclusion

This study is about how machine learning algorithms can increase efficiency in systematic reviews. I will write about what SRs are, and how workload can be reduced.

Systematic reviews are top of the bill in research. As more and more papers are published and reproducibility crisis has emerged, science calls for more meta. It is important reflect on research by giving an overview of research areas which is typically done by a systematic review [...]. Performing a systematic review is a tedious and time-consuming task. To review a specific research area, one starts out with an initial search of thousands of academic papers. All these papers abstracts need to be screened to find an initial batch of possibly relevant papers. With now hopefully only a couple of hundred papers left, the researcher needs to read these papers full-text to arrive at a final selection of papers that are relevant for the final systematic review [this is prisma process?]. This whole processes costs this and this much time [shelmilt].

The stage of abstract screening where abstracts are systematically screened is where a lot is to be gained. This stage is the target of possible learning algorithms that can assist the reviewer in selecting the relevant papers. Together with the reviewer /human machine interaction. The algorithm aims to compute which papers in the pool need to be excluded and which need to be included, based on the reviewers decisions. It learns from the reviewers decisions and asks the reviewer to provide more labels, incrementally improving its class predictions.

The goal of the algorithm defined in the current study is to reduce to number of abstracts needed to screen (maybe not right term, bit biomedical). To be more specific, the algorithm aims to present the reader with the primary studies as soon as possible. This means that at some point you probably have seen all relevant abstracts and are only viewing excluded papers, which means you can stop reviewing much earlier (theoretically spoken). Also reviewing is now much more fun. As compared to when you have to review all abstracts and you perhaps see only one relevant abstract every other week/day.

So you might wonder, how does such an algorithm actually work? Active learning strategy, starting with a pool of unlabeled abstracts (U). The reviewer starts labeling some instances in U, creating L. The algorithm utilizes L to predict labels for all abstracts (classifier), by using a set of features from the papers called X, for example the text in the abstract (feature extraction method). Now, it made an initial classification. The algorithm now aims to improve its classification by which paper from U will be presented to the reviewer next. By labeling the next paper, the reviewer provides the algorithm with new information which the algorithm uses to update its prediction.

We approach as a classification problem: All papers obtained in the systematic search form a pool of instances x. All instances x need to be classified, e.g. we want to give them a label y. all x are now part of y. Binary classification, either inclusion or exclusion. We want to classify based on some features from the instances x, feature vector  $\mathbf{X}$ .

By starting of with L, the algorithm utilizes characteristics of X to predict labels in U.

We want to classify the papers in Where the whole collection of papers in the systematic search form a pool of instances x, with unknown label y.  $\langle x,y \rangle$ .

### input:

```
a pool of unlabeled abstracts $\mathcal{U}$
  oracle labels a few initial papers, from $\mathcal{U}$, $\mathcal{L}$,

M = train($\mathcal{L}$)
Query x \isin \mathcal{U} (<x, y=?)
  oracle <x, y>
```

- pool unlabeled abstracts  $\mathcal{U}$
- labeled data set  $\mathcal{L}$ ,
- instance x, label y
- utility measure  $\phi_A(\cdot)$
- $x_A^*$  best query instance according to  $\phi_A(\cdot)$

Now there are a few technical details. Many different versions of such algorithms exist. Many of such algorithms have been described in the active learning literature and have been applied in the systematic reviewing process. Not exhaustive, but the algorithm can apply many different strategies to arrive at its predictions, which can be divided in following parameters: classifier, feature extraction strategy, balancing, query strategy.

Most often the SVM classifier is used, popular and very good results. Also lots of other configurations. However, other classifiers have not been tested a lot (polygon thing by cohe, naïve bayes and random forest by ...), but mostly SVM still. Also, most research in the medical sciences (well there are some exceptions of course [conversation between cohen and matwill]

In the current study, we aim at exploring the performance of several classifiers on reducing workload while maintaining performance in abstract screening process. This is done by performing simulations on existing systematic reviews. Performance is evaluated by how much time can be saved . . . while maintaining accuracy.

Present research questions. RQ1 – which classifiers perform best? - RQ1a – does classifier performance vary over different research areas? (in what terms does it perform best)

RQ2 different hyperparameter optimizations? Classifiers come with hyperparameters. We have to make a choice on how to set these hyperparameters. What we do is create 3 sets, optimizing in three ways, aggregate results obtained.

The goal is to gain insight in classifiers other than the widely applied SVM, overall various research areas. So not only medical sciences.

To perform all these computations the research was carried out using the ASReview software by Utrecht University, which has a simulation mode that you can just input your labelled review file into and perform a simulation study with it. To be found on GitHub. It has many adjustable components/is very versatile.

Then if we still have time left we explore the effect of another feature extraction method, namely doc2vec. This might possibly increase performance as it performs better at grasping structure/hidden relations/hierarchy between words in the texts. So, it could be interesting in more 'fuzzy' research areas. A downside is that it takes more computing time.

Then if there's even more time we might want to compare a different balance strategy.

A SR can be divided into phases. Everything starts with a **systematic search**, leading to then citation screening is performed, then full-text screening [16]

What must be the objective of our tool?: It is the tedious task citation screening part where loads of time can be saved.

models are designed in a 'realistic' way (you have some inclusions)

Selecting papers is a two-step process: abstract & fulltext screening

Binary classification problem. predict whether a paper in the pool is an inclusion or exclusion, based on labeled instances from  $\mathcal{L}$  and use training data to understand how input variables are related to class.

We're building active learning model who takes X as an input an predicts class using labels from training set. Model improves by deciding asking more information from the reviewer (oracle), accounting for imbalance.

### Assumptions

1) decisions of the original SR are **ground truth** (benchmark) (oracle)

The inclusion rate is ... data is imbalanced. what is the philosophy False negatives must be avoided ... The cost of a false negative outweighs the cost of a false positive. Note that we assume the oracle/original user to hold the truth. This is of course not always the case.

There are two classes in the data: exlusions and inclusions. The inclusions are clearly the minority class.

Datasets from the medical and social sciences, software engineering and public administration. Medical sciences SRs are viewed as more 'strict'/'structured' and social sciences more messy.

### active learning for systematic reviews

corpus = all the text:

Active learning = increasing classification performance with every query. The query strategy determines the way unlabeled papers are queried to the researcher.

[6]

RQ1 - what are good classifiers RQ2 - what are good optimization strategies

### Background

[14] literature review

[23], [24] simulated 32 sym classifiers, on software engineering. A popular classifier is SVM. succes with HUTM (fastread), uncertainty, mix of weighting and agressive undersampling, In terms of Yu et al, we adopt .CT.

SVM - tf-idf on medical data, uncertainty sampling, agressive undersampling. [22]

abstrackr

SVM + Weighting + uncertainty (bow) produced good methods [11] Also include social sciences data besides medical data.

[4] perceptron-based classifier (neural network)

SVM on legal documents (no balancing, certainty ) [5] in limitations section mentions that LR yields about same results, nb inferior results.

[8] - SVM, naive bayes, boosting and combinations. future work should optimize parameters. "Regarding the base classifiers used in identifying method- ologically rigorous studies, boosting consistently strikes the best balance between precision and recall, whereas naive Bayes in general performs well on recall (demonstrating a tradeoff between recall and precision), as does polynomial SVM on precision. The AUC results are mixed, although boosting has a slight edge overall. These results demonstrate that different classifiers can be used to satisfy different information needs (SVM for specificity, naive Bayes for sensitivity, and boosting for balance between the two, for example)."

Our extensions is that we try different classifiers, on more datasets.

This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences of Utrecht University, filed as an amendement under study 20-104.

All simulations were run using through cartesius EINF-156

# Methods

Goal: evaluate performance of different models of the ASReview tool. The screening process is simulated using ASReview, seeing if the original inclusions replicate. What would happen if the citation screening would have been performed using asreview? All datasets accompanying the systematic reviews are openly published.

### Models

Five different active learning models were build. Every model m was used to perform an automated systematic review on SR dataset d. The models all apply a different classifier c with its own set of (hyper)parameters h.

Classifiers The classifier predicts the class of all papers, given the training dataset/labeled data set  $\mathcal{L}$ . Given the labels and some features from all abstracts in the pool, the classifier To predict whether a paper should be an exclusion or an inclusion, different classifiers

Logistic Regression (L) -

Naive Bayes (B) - predicts the class of an instance given input features X. Naive Bayes assumes all features are independent given the class value. This is obviously not the case but still the algorithm performs impressively [25]. Especially at ... tasks.

Random Forests (R) is where a large number of decision trees are fit on bootstrapped samples of the original data. All trees cast a vote on the class, which are aggregated into a class prediction for each input **X** [3].

Support Vecor Machine (S) - finds a multidimensional hyperplane to separate classes. [21]

Dense Neural Network (N) -

Besides c, components of m are fea

To summarize, every model m consists of the following key components: classifier, feature extraction strategy, query strategy, balance strategy.

For example  $M_1$  BCTD (naive bayes, certainty sampling, tf-idf, dynamic supersampling) STMD

Word representation To predict the class of a publication class (e.g. whether a publication should be included or excluded), the classifier uses information from the publications in the dataset. Examples of such information are titles and abstracts. However, the classifier cannot predict the publication class from titles and abstracts as they are. Their textual content to needs to be mapped to feature vectors. This process of numerically representing textual content is called 'word embeddings'.

A classical example of word embeddings a 'bag of words' representation. For each text in the data set, the number of occurrences of each word is stored. This leads to n features, where n is the number of distinct words in the texts [15]. The bag-of-words method is simplistic and will highly value often occurring but otherwise meaningless words such as "and". Term-frequency Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) [17] circumvents this problem by adjusting a term frequency in a text with the inverse document frequency, the frequency of a given word in the entire data set.

The model expedits features of previously labeled publications and Based on features of the previously labeled inclusions and exclusions, the model

The features used are title and abstract from every publication. - this is what is prescribed by prisma, (check!)

(T) (D)

The next abstract to be queried The model has various ways of deciding which instance should be queried next. (C) but other methods, here only C

**Rebalancing the training set** To account for class imbalance in the data, the model can apply several strategies to rebalance the training set.

A reweighting strategy is applied where inclusions (the minority class) are weighted more heavily than the exclusions.

When no balancing is applied, the training data set = labeled data set  $\mathcal{L}$ 

Dynamic Supersampling (D) -

### **Simulations**

A simulation is of one model on one dataset. The simulation is repeated for 15 trials t.

The starting point of the active learning model in the simulation is one prior included publication and one prior excluded publication. The training set is randomly sampled from the data. Every simulation study consists of 15 trials, to account for the randomness of prior inclusions and exclusions. So every trial the prior inclusions and exclusions are randomly selected. Results are aggregated (?)

Controlled Variables Starting point The initial training set consists of 1 inclusion and 1 exclusion, randomly sampled from the dataset. Demonstrate 'worst case scenario' where reviewer has minimal prior knowledge on publications in the data. The researcher has some prior knowledge about the pool, some papers ought to be included in the SR.

Retraining We can choose to retrain the model after labeling n instances. - n\_instances=1 (number of papers each query)

### **Datasets**

Six Systematic Reviews from various research areas were used to simulate the automated systematic review process. Data from the original source were preprocessed into a test dataset, containing all publications obtained in the systematic search. with labels indicating the publications included in the systematic review.

The test datasets contain title information on all publications obtained in the search strategy. The instances in the data consist of a title, an abstract and were labeled to indicate which publications were included in the systematic review. Instances with missing abstracts were removed. Duplicate instances were removed. Preprocessing scripts can be found on the GitHub<sup>1</sup>

test datasets serve as systematic search results, then perform active learning to detect inclusions.

Cohen et al. collected systematic review datasets from the medical sciences [4]. All systematic reviews in this database are on drug efficacy. The *ace* dataset used in the current study comes from a systematic review on the efficacy of Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors.

a machine learning-based citation classification tool to reduce workload in systematic reviews of drug class efficacy. Using a perceptron classifier, WSS@95% = 56.61 in [4]. (5x2 crossvalidation). Can we beat this? The data

The *software* dataset is retrieved from [23], who collected datasets on literature reviews from the software engineering field. This dataset is on fault prediction in software engineering by [7].

The *nudging* dataset comes from a review from the behavioural public administration area. The SR includes studies on nudging healthcare professionals [13]. The data was stored on the Harvard Dataverse [12].

 $<sup>^{1}</sup> https://github.com/GerbrichFerdinands/as review-thesis$ 

A literature review from field of psychology, ptsd. The SR is on studies applying latent trajectory analyses on posttraumatic stress after exposure to trauma [20]. The corresponding data can be found on the Open Science Framework [...].

wilson, a dataset from the medical sciences [1]. TA review on effectiveness treatments of Wilson disease [2].

All datasets started with an initial pool of thousands of papers. A fraction of these papers where deemed relevant for the SR, with inclusion rates around 1-2 percent with one outlier of about 5 percent (Table 1).

Table 1: Statistics on datasets from original systematic reviews.

	(	Original study		7	Test collection	
Dataset	Candidate studies	Final inclusions	Inclusion rate (%)	Candidate studies	Final inclusions	Inclusion rate (%)
ace	2544	41	1.61	2235	41	1.83
nudging	2006	100	4.99	1847	100	5.41
ptsd	6185	38	0.61	5031	38	0.76
software	8911	104	1.17	8896	104	1.17
wilson	3453	26	0.75	2333	23	0.99

### Optimizing hyperparameters

For every model\*data combination, 3 sets of hyperparameters are generated to ... parallel Every model has its own hyperparameters. For every model, the hyperparameters are optimized three times, arriving at three versions of the model:

We now have 75 combinations. for every for every model (5), for every dataset (5) and for every set of optimized hyperparameters (3), a simulation study consisting trials is performed. From these 5\*5\*3=75 simulation studies, performance of the different models is evaluated.

# Statistical analysis

measures

comparison over conditions

# The software

ASReview takes the following parameters/arguments:

	Configurations
Models	2-Layer Neural Network, Naive Bayes, Random
	Forest, Support Vector Machine, Logistic
Query Strategies	Regression Cluster Sampling, Maximum Sampling, Cluster *
• •	Maximum Sampling, Maximum * Uncertainty
	Sampling, Maximum * Random Sampling, Cluster
	* Uncertainty Sampling, Cluster * Random
	Sampling
Feature extraction strategies	Doc2Vec, TF-IDF, sbert, embeddingIdf

Use these inputs to predict relevance of papers.

Stage 1: hyperparameter optimization

Or, more specific:

Models	Feature extraction strategies
dense_nn nb rf svm lr	doc2vec tfidf tfidf doc2vec tfidf

# Hyperparameters

Every model has its own set of hyperparameters:

## Optimization

The hyperparameters are optimized on the 5 datasets in three different ways:

• 1 on 1: maximum performance

$$d = D$$

- 4 on 1: cross-validation

$$d \not\in D$$

$$D = 1, 2, 3, 4$$

• 5 on 1: more data = more better?

$$d \in D$$

This results (5+5+1)\*5 sets of hyperparameters.

**Performance metrics** For each model, Several metrics are used to compare performance of different models over datasets,

Dataset	Naive Bayes	Random Forests	Support Vector Machine	Logistic Regression	Dense Neural Network
ptsd	?				
ace	?				
hall	?				
nagtegaal	?				
	?				

The goal is twofold: we want to identify all relevant papers, as fast as we can. Tradeoff: identifying all

relevant papers and reducing workload. A good metric to evaluate this is..

What is more important: recall or precision?

Recall more highly valued than precision.

What about class imbalance?

**RRF** Amount of relevant references found after having screened a certain percentage of the total number of abstracts.

Work saved over sampling (WSS) Indicates how much time can be saved, at a given level of recall. WSS is in terms of the percentage of abstracts that don't have to be screened by the researcher. Typically, WSS is measured at a recall of 0.95. Reasonable because..

$$\text{WSS} = \frac{TN + FN}{N} - (1 - recall)$$

Raoul

Utility?

F-measure

ROC/AUC Is performance related to some characteristic (n, inclusion rate, ...)

? How to compare outcomes of 3 different optimization strategies?

# Results

# Discussion

# Appendix A - list of definitions

### Feature Extraction Strategies

split\_ta = overall hyperparameter

#### **TF-IDF**

### hyperparameters

```
ngram_max: int

Can use up to ngrams up to ngram_max. For example in the case of ngram_max=2, monograms and bigrams could be used.
```

**Doc2Vec** Predicts words from context. Aims at capturing the relations between word (man-woman, kingqueen). [9]. Using a neural network.

using Continuous Bag-of-Words (CBOW), Skip-Gram model,  $\dots$  Word vector W and extra: document vector D, trained to predict words in the text.

From gensim [18].

```
Arguments
vector size: int
   Output size of the vector.
epochs: int
   Number of epochs to train the doc2vec model.
min_count: int
    Minimum number of occurences for a word in the corpus for it to
    be included in the model.
workers: int
   Number of threads to train the model with.
window: int
   Maximum distance over which word vectors influence each other.
dm concat: int
    Whether to concatenate word vectors or not.
    See paper for more detail.
dm: int
   Model to use.
    0: Use distribute bag of words (DBOW).
    1: Use distributed memory (DM).
    2: Use both of the above with half the vector size and concatenate
    them.
dbow_words: int
    Whether to train the word vectors using the skipgram metho
```

**SBERT** BERT-base model with mean-tokens pooling [19]

**embeddingIdf** This model averages the weighted word vectors of all the words in the text, in order to get a single feature vector for each text. The weights are provided by the inverse document frequencies

### Models

Naive Bayes Naive Bayes assumes all features are independent given the class value. [25]

ASReview uses the MultinomialNB from the scikit-learn package [15], that implements the naive Bayes algorithm for multinomially distributed data. nb

Hyperparameters

 alpha - accounts for features not present in learning samples and prevents zero probabilities in further computations.

Random Forests A number of decision trees are fit on bootstrapped samples of the original data, [3] RandomForestClassifier from sklearn

Arguments — n\_estimators: int Number of estimators. max\_features: int Number of features in the model. class\_weight: float Class weight of the inclusions. random\_state: int, RandomState Set the random state of the RNG. """

Support Vector Machine Arguments ——— gamma: str Gamma parameter of the SVM model. class\_weight: class\_weight of the inclusions. C: C parameter of the SVM model. kernel: SVM kernel type. random\_state: State of the RNG.

### Logistic Regression

### Dense Neural Network

### **Query Strategies**

- Max Choose the most likely samples to be included according to the model
- Uncertainty choose the most uncertain samples according to the model (i.e. closest to 0.5 probability) [10]
- Random randomly selects abstracts with no regard to model assigned probabilities.
- Cluster Use clustering after feature extraction on the dataset. Then the highest probabilities within random clusters are sampled

The following combinations are simulated:

- cluster
- max
- cluster \* random
- cluster \* uncertainty
- max \* cluster
- $\max * random$
- max \* uncertainty

### **Balance Strategies**

# amount of training data

- n\_instances = number of papers queried each query
- $n\_queries = number of queries$
- n\_prior\_included: 5
- n\_prior\_excluded:

# Combinations

This leads to 119 combinations of configurations.

- Naive bayes only goes with tfidf feature extraction.
- For the feature extraction strategies we will focus on doc2vec and tfidf. (but will compute all 4)
- This leads to 3 \* 7 \* 4 \* 3 + 1 \* 7 \* 1 \* 3 = 273 combinations.

See appendix A for a table containing all 273 combinations.

# **Cross-validation**

Should give an accurate estimate of maximum performance / future systematic reviews to be performed.

# Appendix B - combinations

Model	Query Strategy	Feature extraction strategy
	cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random	doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec
dense_nn dense_nn dense_nn	cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max max * cluster	doc2vec doc2vec tfidf tfidf tfidf
dense_nn dense_nn dense_nn dense_nn	max * uncertainty max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster	tfidf tfidf tfidf tfidf sbert
dense_nn dense_nn dense_nn dense_nn	max * uncertainty	sbert sbert sbert sbert

Query Strategy	Feature extraction strategy
cluster * random cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random	sbert embeddingIdf embeddingIdf embeddingIdf embeddingIdf embeddingIdf
cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max	embeddingIdf embeddingIdf tfidf tfidf
max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random	tfidf tfidf tfidf tfidf
cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random	doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec
cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max max * cluster	doc2vec doc2vec tfidf tfidf tfidf
max * uncertainty max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster	tfidf tfidf tfidf tfidf sbert
max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random cluster * uncertainty	sbert sbert sbert sbert
cluster * random cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty	sbert embeddingIdf embeddingIdf embeddingIdf embeddingIdf
max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max	embeddingIdf embeddingIdf embeddingIdf doc2vec doc2vec
max * cluster	doc2vec
	cluster * random cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random cluster * random cluster * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max max * cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty cluster * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max max * cluster max max * cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty cluster * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster * random cluster cluster max max * random cluster * random cluster cluster * random cluster cluster * random cluster max max * random cluster max

(continuea)		
Model	Query Strategy	Feature extraction strategy
svm svm svm	max * uncertainty max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random	doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec
svm svm svm svm	cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random	tfidf tfidf tfidf tfidf
svm svm svm svm	cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max max * cluster	tfidf tfidf sbert sbert sbert
svm svm svm svm	max * uncertainty max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster	sbert sbert sbert sbert embeddingIdf
svm svm svm svm	max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random cluster * uncertainty	embeddingIdf embeddingIdf embeddingIdf embeddingIdf embeddingIdf
svm lr lr lr	cluster * random cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty	embeddingIdf doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec
lr lr lr lr	max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster max	doc2vec doc2vec doc2vec tfidf tfidf
lr lr lr lr lr	max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random cluster * uncertainty cluster * random	tfidf tfidf tfidf tfidf
lr lr lr lr lr	cluster max max * cluster max * uncertainty max * random	sbert sbert sbert sbert
lr lr lr	cluster * uncertainty cluster * random cluster	sbert sbert embeddingIdf

#### (continued)

Model	Query Strategy	Feature extraction strategy
lr	max	embeddingIdf
lr	max * cluster	embeddingIdf
lr	max * uncertainty	embeddingIdf
lr	max * random	embeddingIdf
lr	cluster * uncertainty	embeddingIdf
lr	cluster * random	embeddingIdf

# Appendix C - supercomputer Cartesius

#### 500,000 SBU

Running on Cartesius is charged in System Billing Units (SBUs), and charging is based on the wall clock time of a job. On fat and thin nodes, an SBU is equal to using 1 core for 1 hour (a core hour), or 1 core for 20 minutes on a GPU node. Since compute nodes are allocated exclusively to a single job at a time, you will be charged for all cores on that node - even if you are using less.

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