

More on Rankings

- Comparing results of Link Analysis
Ranking algorithms
- Comparing and aggregating rankings

Comparing LAR vectors


$$w_1 = [1 \quad 0.8 \quad 0.5 \quad 0.3 \quad 0]$$
$$w_2 = [0.9 \quad 1 \quad 0.7 \quad 0.6 \quad 0.8]$$

- How close are the LAR vectors w_1, w_2 ?

Distance between LAR vectors

- Geometric distance: how close are the **numerical weights** of vectors w_1, w_2 ?

$$d_1(w_1, w_2) = \sum |w_1[i] - w_2[i]|$$



$$w_1 = [1.0 \quad 0.8 \quad 0.5 \quad 0.3 \quad 0.0]$$

$$w_2 = [0.9 \quad 1.0 \quad 0.7 \quad 0.6 \quad 0.8]$$

$$d_1(w_1, w_2) = 0.1 + 0.2 + 0.2 + 0.3 + 0.8 = 1.6$$

Distance between LAR vectors

- Rank distance: how close are the **ordinal rankings** induced by the vectors w_1, w_2 ?

- Kendal's τ distance

$$d_r(w_1, w_2) = \frac{\text{pairs ranked in a different order}}{\text{total number of distinct pairs}}$$

Outline

- Rank Aggregation
 - Computing aggregate scores
 - Computing aggregate rankings – voting

Rank Aggregation

- Given a set of rankings R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m of a set of objects X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n produce a single ranking R that is in agreement with the existing rankings

Examples

- Voting
 - rankings R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m are the voters, the objects X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are the candidates.

Examples

- Combining multiple scoring functions
 - rankings R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m are the scoring functions, the objects X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are data items.
 - Combine the PageRank scores with term-weighting scores
 - Combine scores for multimedia items
 - color, shape, texture
 - Combine scores for database tuples
 - find the best hotel according to price and location

Examples

- Combining multiple sources
 - rankings R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m are the sources, the objects X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are data items.
 - meta-search engines for the Web
 - distributed databases
 - P2P sources

Variants of the problem

- Combining scores
 - we know the scores assigned to objects by each ranking, and we want to compute a single score
- Combining ordinal rankings
 - the scores are not known, only the ordering is known
 - the scores are known but we do not know how, or do not want to combine them
 - e.g. price and star rating

Combining scores

- Each object X_i has m scores $(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im})$
- The score of object X_i is computed using an aggregate scoring function $f(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im})$

	R_1	R_2	R_3
X_1	1	0.3	0.2
X_2	0.8	0.8	0
X_3	0.5	0.7	0.6
X_4	0.3	0.2	0.8
X_5	0.1	0.1	0.1

Combining scores

- Each object X_i has m scores $(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im})$
- The score of object X_i is computed using an aggregate scoring function $f(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im})$
 - $f(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im}) = \min\{r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im}\}$

	R_1	R_2	R_3	R
X_1	1	0.3	0.2	0.2
X_2	0.8	0.8	0	0
X_3	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5
X_4	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.2
X_5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Combining scores

- Each object X_i has m scores $(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im})$
- The score of object X_i is computed using an aggregate scoring function $f(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im})$
 - $f(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im}) = \max\{r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im}\}$


	R_1	R_2	R_3	R
X_1	1	0.3	0.2	1
X_2	0.8	0.8	0	0.8
X_3	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7
X_4	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.8
X_5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Combining scores

- Each object X_i has m scores
 $(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im})$
- The score of object X_i is computed using an aggregate scoring function $f(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im})$
 - $f(r_{i1}, r_{i2}, \dots, r_{im}) = r_{i1} + r_{i2} + \dots + r_{im}$

	R_1	R_2	R_3	R
X_1	1	0.3	0.2	1.5
X_2	0.8	0.8	0	1.6
X_3	0.5	0.7	0.6	1.8
X_4	0.3	0.2	0.8	1.3
X_5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3

Top-k

- Given a set of n objects and m scoring lists **sorted** in decreasing order, find the **top-k** objects according to a scoring function f
- **top-k**: a set T of k objects such that $f(r_{j1}, \dots, r_{jm}) \leq f(r_{i1}, \dots, r_{im})$ for every object X_i in T and every object X_j not in T
-  **Assumption**: The function f is monotone
 - $f(r_1, \dots, r_m) \leq f(r_1', \dots, r_m')$ if $r_i \leq r_i'$ for all i
- **Objective**: Compute top-k with the minimum cost

Cost function

- We want to minimize the number of accesses to the scoring lists
- **Sorted accesses**: sequentially access the objects in the order in which they appear in a list
 - cost C_s
- **Random accesses**: obtain the cost value for a specific object in a list
 - cost C_r
- If s sorted accesses and r random accesses minimize $s C_s + r C_r$

Example

R_1	
X_1	1
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.5
X_4	0.3
X_5	0.1

R_2	
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.7
X_1	0.3
X_4	0.2
X_5	0.1

R_3	
X_4	0.8
X_3	0.6
X_1	0.2
X_5	0.1
X_2	0

- Compute top-2 for the **sum** aggregate function

Fagin's Algorithm

1. Access sequentially all lists in parallel until there are **k** objects that have been seen in **all** lists

R_1	
X_1	1
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.5
X_4	0.3
X_5	0.1

R_2	
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.7
X_1	0.3
X_4	0.2
X_5	0.1

R_3	
X_4	0.8
X_3	0.6
X_1	0.2
X_5	0.1
X_2	0

Fagin's Algorithm

1. Access sequentially all lists in parallel until there are **k** objects that have been seen in **all** lists

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

Fagin's Algorithm

1. Access sequentially all lists in parallel until there are **k** objects that have been seen in **all** lists

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

Fagin's Algorithm

1. Access sequentially all lists in parallel until there are **k** objects that have been seen in **all** lists 

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

Fagin's Algorithm

1. Access sequentially all lists in parallel until there are **k** objects that have been seen in **all** lists

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

Fagin's Algorithm

2. Perform random accesses to obtain the scores of all seen objects

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

Fagin's Algorithm

3. Compute score for all objects and find the top-k

R_1	
X_1	1
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.5
X_4	0.3
X_5	0.1

R_2	
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.7
X_1	0.3
X_4	0.2
X_5	0.1

R_3	
X_4	0.8
X_3	0.6
X_1	0.2
X_5	0.1
X_2	0

R	
X_3	1.8
X_2	1.6
X_1	1.5
X_4	1.3

Fagin's Algorithm

- X_5 cannot be in the top-2 because of the monotonicity property
 - $f(X_5) \leq f(X_1) \leq f(X_3)$

R_1	
X_1	1
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.5
X_4	0.3
X_5	0.1

R_2	
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.7
X_1	0.3
X_4	0.2
X_5	0.1

R_3	
X_4	0.8
X_3	0.6
X_1	0.2
X_5	0.1
X_2	0

R	
X_3	1.8
X_2	1.6
X_1	1.5
X_4	1.3

Fagin's Algorithm

- The algorithm is cost optimal under some probabilistic assumptions for a restricted class of aggregate functions

Threshold algorithm

1. Access the elements sequentially

R_1	
X_1	1
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.5
X_4	0.3
X_5	0.1

R_2	
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.7
X_1	0.3
X_4	0.2
X_5	0.1

R_3	
X_4	0.8
X_3	0.6
X_1	0.2
X_5	0.1
X_2	0

Threshold algorithm

1. At each sequential access
 - a. Set the threshold t to be the aggregate of the scores seen in this access

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

$$t = 2.6$$

Threshold algorithm

1. At each sequential access
 - b. Do random accesses and compute the score of the objects seen

R_1	
X_1	1
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.5
X_4	0.3
X_5	0.1

R_2	
X_2	0.8
X_3	0.7
X_1	0.3
X_4	0.2
X_5	0.1

R_3	
X_4	0.8
X_3	0.6
X_1	0.2
X_5	0.1
X_2	0

$$t = 2.6$$

X_1	1.5
X_2	1.6
X_4	1.3

Threshold algorithm

1. At each sequential access
 - c. Maintain a list of top-k objects seen so far

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

$$t = 2.6$$

X_2	1.6
X_1	1.5

Threshold algorithm

1. At each sequential access
 - d. When the scores of the top-k are greater or equal to the threshold, stop

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

$$t = 2.1$$

X_3	1.8
X_2	1.6

Threshold algorithm

1. At each sequential access
 - d. When the scores of the top-k are greater or equal to the threshold, stop

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

$t = 1.0$

X_3	1.8
X_2	1.6

Threshold algorithm

2. Return the top-k seen so far

R_1			R_2			R_3	
X_1	1		X_2	0.8		X_4	0.8
X_2	0.8		X_3	0.7		X_3	0.6
X_3	0.5		X_1	0.3		X_1	0.2
X_4	0.3		X_4	0.2		X_5	0.1
X_5	0.1		X_5	0.1		X_2	0

$t = 1.0$

X_3	1.8
X_2	1.6

Threshold algorithm

- From the monotonicity property for any object not seen, the score of the object is less than the threshold
 - $f(X_5) \leq t \leq f(X_2)$
- The algorithm is **instance cost-optimal**
 - within a constant factor of the best algorithm on any database

Combining rankings

- In many cases the scores are not known
 - e.g. meta-search engines – scores are proprietary information
- ... or we do not know how they were obtained
 - one search engine returns score 10, the other 100. What does this mean?
- ... or the scores are incompatible
 - apples and oranges: does it make sense to combine price with distance?
- In this cases we can only work with the rankings

The problem

- Input: a set of rankings R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m of the objects X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n . Each ranking R_i is a **total ordering** of the objects
 - for every pair X_i, X_j either X_i is ranked above X_j or X_j is ranked above X_i
- Output: A total ordering R that **aggregates** rankings R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m

Voting theory

- A voting system is a rank aggregation mechanism
- Long history and literature
 - criteria and axioms for good voting systems

What is a good voting system?

- The **Condorcet criterion**
 - if object **A** defeats every other object in a pairwise majority vote, then **A** should be ranked first
- **Extended Condorcet criterion**
 - if the objects in a **set** X defeat in pairwise comparisons the objects in the set Y then the objects in X should be ranked above those in Y
- Not all voting systems satisfy the Condorcet criterion!

Pairwise majority comparisons

- Unfortunately the Condorcet winner does not always exist
 - irrational behavior of groups

	V_1	V_2	V_3
1	A	B	C
2	B	C	A
3	C	A	B

A > B B > C C > A

Pairwise majority comparisons

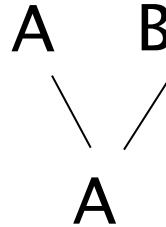
- Resolve cycles by imposing an agenda

	V_1	V_2	V_3
1	A	D	E
2	B	E	A
3	C	A	B
4	D	B	C
5	E	C	D

Pairwise majority comparisons

- Resolve cycles by imposing an agenda

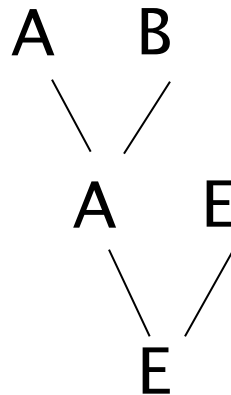
	V_1	V_2	V_3
1	A	D	E
2	B	E	A
3	C	A	B
4	D	B	C
5	E	C	D



Pairwise majority comparisons

- Resolve cycles by imposing an agenda

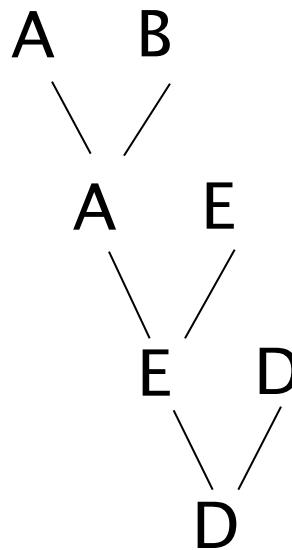
	V_1	V_2	V_3
1	A	D	E
2	B	E	A
3	C	A	B
4	D	B	C
5	E	C	D



Pairwise majority comparisons

- Resolve cycles by imposing an agenda

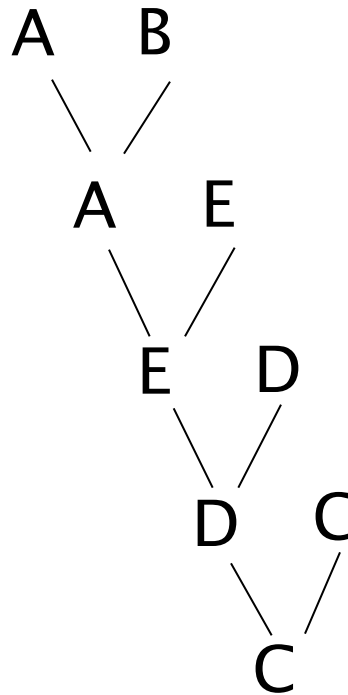
	V_1	V_2	V_3
1	A	D	E
2	B	E	A
3	C	A	B
4	D	B	C
5	E	C	D



Pairwise majority comparisons

- Resolve cycles by imposing an agenda

	V_1	V_2	V_3
1	A	D	E
2	B	E	A
3	C	A	B
4	D	B	C
5	E	C	D

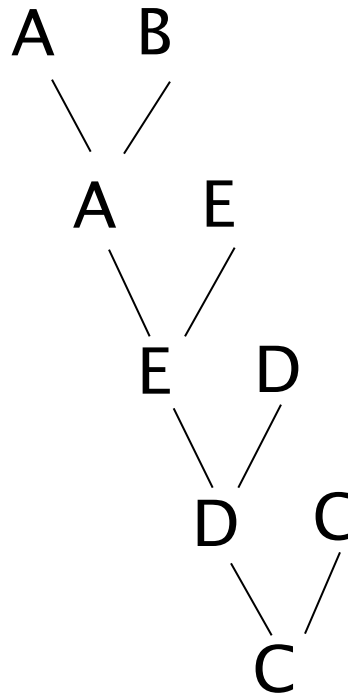


- C is the winner

Pairwise majority comparisons

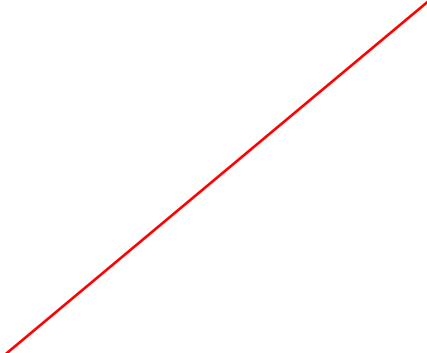
- Resolve cycles by imposing an agenda

	V_1	V_2	V_3
1	A	D	E
2	B	E	A
3	C	A	B
4	D	B	C
5	E	C	D



- But everybody prefers A or B over C

Pairwise majority comparisons

- The voting system is not **Pareto optimal**
 - there exists another ordering that everybody prefers
 - Also, it is sensitive to the order of voting
- 

Plurality vote

- Elect first whoever has more 1st position votes

voters	10	8	7
1	A	C	B
2	B	A	C
3	C	B	A

- Does not find a Condorcet winner (C in this case)

Plurality with runoff

- If no-one gets more than 50% of the 1st position votes, take the majority winner of the first two

voters	10	8	7	2
1	A	C	B	B
2	B	A	C	A
3	C	B	A	C

first round: A 10, B 9, C 8

second round: A 18, B 9

winner: A

Plurality with runoff

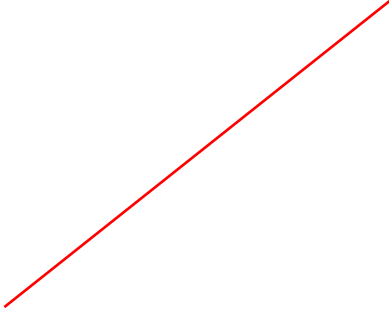
- If no-one gets more than 50% of the 1st position votes, take the majority winner of the first two

voters	10	8	7	2
1	A	C	B	A
2	B	A	C	B
3	C	B	A	C

change the order
of
A and B in the last
column

first round: A 12, B 7, C 8
second round: A 12, C 15
winner: C!

Positive Association axiom

- Plurality with runoff violates the **positive association axiom**
 - **Positive association axiom**: positive changes in preferences for an object should not cause the ranking of the object to decrease
- 

Borda Count

- For each ranking, assign to object X , number of points equal to the number of objects it defeats
 - first position gets $n-1$ points, second $n-2$, ..., last 0 points
- The total weight of X is the number of points it accumulates from all rankings

Borda Count

voters	3	2	2
1 (3p)	A	B	C
2 (2p)	B	C	D
3 (1p)	C	D	A
4 (0p)	D	A	B

A: $3*3 + 2*0 + 2*1 = 11p$
B: $3*2 + 2*3 + 2*0 = 12p$
C: $3*1 + 2*2 + 2*3 = 13p$
D: $3*0 + 2*1 + 2*2 = 6p$

BC
C
B
A
D

- Does not always produce Condorcet winner

Borda Count

- Assume that D is removed from the vote

voters	3	2	2
1 (2p)	A	B	C
2 (1p)	B	C	A
3 (0p)	C	A	B

$$A: 3*2 + 2*0 + 2*1 = 7p$$

$$B: 3*1 + 2*2 + 2*0 = 7p$$

$$C: 3*0 + 2*1 + 2*2 = 6p$$

BC
B
A
C

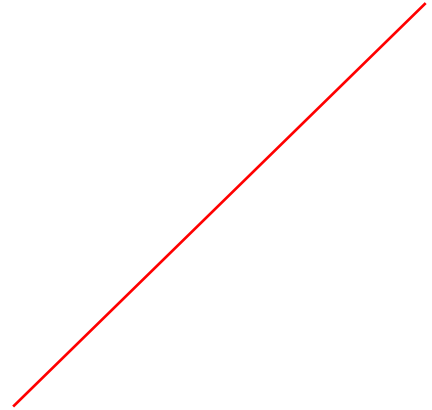
- Changing the position of D changes the order of the other elements!

Independence of Irrelevant Alternatives

- The relative ranking of X and Y should not depend on a third object Z
 - heavily debated axiom

Borda Count

- The Borda Count of an object X is the aggregate number of pairwise comparisons that the object X wins
 - follows from the fact that in one ranking X wins all the pairwise comparisons with objects that are under X in the ranking



Voting Theory

- Is there a voting system that does not suffer from the previous shortcomings?

Arrow's Impossibility Theorem

- No voting system satisfies the following axioms
 - Universality
 - all inputs are possible
 - Completeness and Transitivity
 - for each input we produce an answer and it is meaningful
 - Positive Association
 - Promotion of a certain option cannot lead to a worse ranking of this option.
 - Independence of Irrelevant Alternatives
 - Changes in individuals' rankings of irrelevant alternatives (ones outside a certain subset) should have no impact on the societal ranking of the subset.
 - Non-imposition
 - Every possible societal preference order should be achievable by some set of individual preference orders
 - Non-dictatorship
- **KENNETH J. ARROW** Social Choice and Individual Values (1951). Won Nobel Prize in 1972

Kemeny Optimal Aggregation

- Kemeny distance $K(R_1, R_2)$: The number of pairs of nodes that are ranked in a different order (Kendall–tau)
- Kemeny optimal aggregation minimizes

$$K(R, R_1, \dots, R_m) = \sum_{i=1}^m K(R, R_i)$$

- Kemeny optimal aggregation satisfies the Condorcet criterion and the extended Condorcet criterion
- ...but it is NP–hard to compute
 - easy 2–approximation by obtaining the best of the input rankings, but it is not “interesting”

Rankings as pairwise comparisons

- If element u is **before** element v , then u is preferred to v
- From input rankings output **majority tournaments** $G = (U, A)$:
 - for u, v in U , if the majority of the rankings prefer u to v , then add (u, v) to A

The KwikSort algorithm

- KwikSort($G=(U,A)$)
 - if U is empty return empty list
 - $U1 = U2 =$ empty set
 - pick random pivot u from U
 - For all v in $U \setminus \{u\}$
 - if (v,u) is in A then add v to $U1$
 - else add v to $U2$
 - $G1 = (U1,A1)$
 - $G2 = (U2,A2)$
 - Return KwikSort($G1$), u ,KwikSort($G2$)

Properties of the KwikSort algorithm

- KwikSort algorithm is a 3-approximation algorithm to the Kemeny aggregation problem

Locally Kemeny optimal aggregation

- A ranking R is **locally Kemeny optimal** if there is no bubble-sort swap of two consecutively placed objects that produces a ranking R' such that
- $K(R', R_1, \dots, R_m) \leq K(R, R_1, \dots, R_m)$
- Locally Kemeny optimal is not necessarily Kemeny optimal
-

Locally Kemeny optimal aggregation

- Locally Kemeny optimal aggregation can be computed in polynomial time
 - At the i -th iteration insert the i -th element x in the bottom of the list, and bubble it up until there is an element y such that the majority places y over x
- Locally Kemeny optimal aggregation satisfies the Condorcet and extended Condorcet criterion

Rank Aggregation algorithm [DKNS01]

- Start with an aggregated ranking and make it into a locally Kemeny optimal aggregation
- How do we select the initial aggregation?
 - Use another aggregation method
 - Create a Markov Chain where you move from an object **X**, to another object **Y** that is ranked higher by the majority

Spearman's footrule distance

- Spearman's footrule distance: The difference between the ranks $R(i)$ and $R'(i)$ assigned to object i

$$F(R, R') = \sum_{i=1}^n |R(i) - R'(i)|$$

- Relation between Spearman's footrule and Kemeny distance

$$K(R, R') \leq F(R, R') \leq 2K(R, R')$$

Spearman's footrule aggregation

- Find the ranking R , that minimizes

$$F(R, R_1, \dots, R_m) = \sum_{i=1}^m F(R, R_i)$$

- The optimal Spearman's footrule aggregation can be computed in polynomial time
 - It also gives a 2-approximation to the Kemeny optimal aggregation
- If the median ranks of the objects are unique then this ordering is optimal

Example

R_1	
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D

R_2	
1	B
2	A
3	D
4	C

R_3	
1	B
2	C
3	A
4	D

R	
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	D

A: (1 , 2 , 3)

B: (1 , 1 , 2)

C: (2 , 3 , 4)

D: (3 , 4 , 4)

The MedRank algorithm

- Access the rankings sequentially

R_1	
1	A
2	B
3	C
4	D

R_2	
1	B
2	A
3	D
4	C

R_3	
1	B
2	C
3	A
4	D

R	
1	
2	
3	
4	

The MedRank algorithm

- Access the rankings sequentially
 - when an element has appeared in more than half of the rankings, output it in the aggregated ranking

R_1			R_2			R_3			R	
1	A		1	B		1	B		1	B
2	B		2	A		2	C		2	
3	C		3	D		3	A		3	
4	D		4	C		4	D		4	

The MedRank algorithm

- Access the rankings sequentially
 - when an element has appeared in more than half of the rankings, output it in the aggregated ranking

R_1			R_2			R_3			R	
1	A		1	B		1	B		1	B
2	B		2	A		2	C		2	A
3	C		3	D		3	A		3	
4	D		4	C		4	D		4	

The MedRank algorithm

- Access the rankings sequentially
 - when an element has appeared in more than half of the rankings, output it in the aggregated ranking

R_1			R_2			R_3	
1	A		1	B		1	B
2	B		2	A		2	C
3	C		3	D		3	A
4	D		4	C		4	D

R	
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	

The MedRank algorithm

- Access the rankings sequentially
 - when an element has appeared in more than half of the rankings, output it in the aggregated ranking

R_1			R_2			R_3	
1	A		1	B		1	B
2	B		2	A		2	C
3	C		3	D		3	A
4	D		4	C		4	D

R	
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	D

The Spearman's rank correlation

- Spearman's rank correlation

$$S(R, R') = \sum_{i=1}^n (R(i) - R'(i))^2$$

- Computing the optimal rank aggregation with respect to Spearman's rank correlation is the same as computing Borda Count
 - Computable in polynomial time

Extensions and Applications

- Rank distance measures between partial orderings and top-k lists
- Similarity search
- Ranked Join Indices
- Analysis of Link Analysis Ranking algorithms
- Connections with machine learning

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