# Data Analytics and Visualization Efficiency Framework for xAPI and the Total Learning Architecture: DAVE Learning Analytics Algorithms

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# Introduction

This report introduces the initial learning analytics algorithms, **timeline of learner success**, which assessment questions are the most difficult and rate of completions of the DAVE Framework. In doing so, it establishes a set of style guidelines for the reporting of algorithms and associated visualization templates necessary to work with the DAVE Framework. This document will be updated to include the learning analytics questions defined within the 2018 TLA Data Requirements document in addition to other learning analytics algorithms which have yet to be defined. Updates may also address refinement of these algorithms and this document should be understood to be an example of algorithm presentation and not the final state of any defined algorithm.

The structure of this documents is as follows:

- 1. A formal specification for xAPI written in Z and referenced within the formal specifications of learning analytics algorithms
- 2. An algorithm definition which will consist of:
  - (a) an introduction for the algorithm
  - (b) the structure of the ideal input data
  - (c) how to retrieve input data from an LRS
  - (d) the statement parameters which the algorithm will utilize
  - (e) notices regarding data collected during the 2018 pilot test of the TLA
  - (f) a summary of the algorithm
  - (g) the formal specification of the algorithm
  - (h) pseudocode representation of the algorithm
  - (i) JSONSchema for the output of the algorithm
  - (j) a description of the associated visualization
  - (k) a prototype of the visualization
  - (l) a collection of suggestions describing how the algorithm could be adapted to improve the quality of the visualization prototype

# 1 xAPI Formal Specification

The current formal specification only defines xAPI statements abstractly within the context of Z. A concrete definition for xAPI statements is outside the scope of this document.

# 1.1 Basic Types

 $IFI ::= mbox \mid mbox\_sha1sum \mid openid \mid account$ 

• Type unique to Agents and Groups, The concrete definition of the listed values is outside the scope of this specification

 $OBJECTTYPE ::= Agent \mid Group \mid SubStatement \mid StatementRef \mid Activity$ 

A type which can be present in all activities as defined by the xAPI specification

 $INTERACTIONTYPE ::= true-false \mid choice \mid fill-in \mid long-fill-in \mid matching \mid performance \mid sequencing \mid likert \mid numeric \mid other$ 

• A type which represents the possible interaction Types as defined within the xAPI specification

 $INTERACTIONCOMPONENT ::= choices \mid scale \mid source \mid target \mid steps$ 

- A type which represents the possible interaction components as defined within the xAPI specification
- the concrete definition of the listed values is outside the scope of this specification

 $CONTEXTTYPES ::= parent \mid grouping \mid category \mid other$ 

• A type which represents the possible context types as defined within the xAPI specification

[STATEMENT]

• Basic type for an xAPI data point

[AGENT, GROUP]

• Basic types for Agents and collections of Agents

# 1.2 Id Schema

```
 \begin{array}{c} Id \\ id : \mathbb{F}_1 \# 1 \end{array}
```

• the schema *Id* introduces the component *id* which is a non-empty, finite set of 1 value

# 1.3 Schemas for Agents, Groups and Actors

```
\begin{array}{c} Agent \\ agent : AGENT \\ objectType : OBJECTTYPE \\ name : \mathbb{F}_1 \# 1 \\ ifi : IFI \\ \\ objectType = Agent \\ agent = \{ifi\} \cup \mathbb{P}\{name, objectType\} \end{array}
```

• The schema *Agent* introduces the component *agent* which is a set consisting of an *ifi* and optionally an *objectType* and/or *name* 

```
Member \_\_\_\_
Agent
member : \mathbb{F}_1
member = \{a : AGENT \mid \forall a_n : a_i...a_j \bullet i \leq n \leq j \bullet a = agent\}
```

• The schema Member introduces the component member which is a set of objects a, where for every a within  $a_0...a_n$ , a is an agent

```
Group = Group = Group : GROUP \\ objectType : OBJECTTYPE \\ if i : IFI \\ name : \mathbb{F}_1 \# 1 \\ \hline objectType = Group \\ group = \{objectType, name, member\} \lor \{objectType, member\} \lor \\ \{objectType, if i\} \cup \mathbb{P}\{name, member\}
```

• The schema *Group* introduces the component *group* which is of type *GROUP* and is a set of either *objectType* and *member* with optionaly *name* or *objectType* and *ifi* with optionally *name* and/or *member* 

```
Actor \_\_\_\_
Agent
Group
actor : AGENT \lor GROUP
actor = agent \lor group
```

• The schema *Actor* introduces the component *actor* which is either an *agent* or *group* 

### 1.4 Verb Schema

```
 \begin{array}{c} \_Verb \_ \\ Id \\ display, verb : \mathbb{F}_1 \\ \hline \\ verb = \{id, display\} \lor \{id\} \end{array}
```

• The schema *Verb* introduces the component *verb* which is a set that consists of either *id* and the non-empty, finite set *display* or just *id* 

# 1.5 Object Schema

```
Extensions \\ = extensions, extensionVal : \mathbb{F}_1 \\ extensionId : \mathbb{F}_1 \#1 \\ \hline extensionS = \{e : (extensionId, extensionVal) \mid \forall e_n : e_i..e_j \bullet i \leq n \leq j \bullet \\ (extensionId_i, extensionVal_i) \lor (extensionId_i, extensionVal_j) \land \\ (extensionId_j, extensionVal_i) \lor (extensionId_j, extensionVal_j) \land \\ extensionId_i \neq extensionId_j \}
```

- The schema *Extensions* introduces the component *extensions* which is a non-empty, finite set that consists of ordered pairs of *extensionId* and *extensionVal*. Different *extensionId*s can have the same *extensionVal* but there can not be two identical *extensionId* values
- extension Id is a non-empty, finite set with one value
- $\bullet$  extensionVal is a non-empty, finite set

```
\label{eq:linear_constraint} $\_InteractionActivity $\_\_interactionType: INTERACTIONTYPE$$ correctResponsePattern: seq_1 $ interactionComponent: INTERACTIONCOMPONENT$$ interactionActivity = \{interactionType, correctReponsePattern, interactionComponent\} $$ \{interactionType, correctResponsePattern\}$$
```

• The schema InteractionActivity introduces the component interactionActivity which is a set of either interactionType and correctResponsePattern or interactionType and correctResponsePattern and interactionComponent

• The schema *Definition* introduces the component *definition* which is the non-empty, finite power set of *name*, *description*, *type*, *moreInfo* and *extensions* 

```
Object
Id
Definition \\
Agent
Group
Statement
objectTypeA, objectTypeS, objectTypeSub, objectType:OBJECTTYPE
substatement: STATEMENT \\
object: \mathbb{F}_1
substatement = statement \\
objectTypeA = Activity
objectTypeS = StatementRef
objectTypeSub = SubStatement
objectType = objectTypeA \lor objectTypeS
object = \{id\} \lor \{id, objectType\} \lor \{id, objectTypeA, definition\}
         \vee \{id, definition\} \vee \{agent\} \vee \{group\} \vee \{objectTypeSub, substatement\}
         \vee \{id, objectTypeA\}
```

- The schema Object introduces the component object which is a non-empty, finite set of either id, id and objectType, id and objectTypeA, id and objectTypeA and definition, agent, group, or substatement
- The schema *Statement* and the corresponding component *statement* will be defined later on in this specification

# 1.6 Result Schema

```
Score = Score : \mathbb{F}_1
scaled, min, max, raw : \mathbb{Z}
scaled = \{n : \mathbb{Z} \mid -1.0 \le n \le 1.0\}
min = n < max
max = n > min
raw = \{n : \mathbb{Z} \mid min \le n \le max\}
score = \mathbb{P}_1 \{scaled, raw, min, max\}
```

• The schema *Score* introduces the component *score* which is the non-empty powerset of min, max, raw and scaled

• The schema Result introduces the component result which is the nonempty power set of score, success, completion, response, duration and extensions

# 1.7 Context Schema

• The schema *Instructor* introduces the component *instructor* which can be ether an *agent* or a *group* 

```
Team
Group
team: GROUP
team = group
```

• The schema Team introduces the component team which is a group

```
Context_{-}
Instructor
Team
Object
Extensions \\
registration, revision, platform, language : \mathbb{F}_1 \# 1
parentT, groupingT, categoryT, otherT: CONTEXTTYPES
contextActivities, statement: \mathbb{F}_1
statement = object \setminus (id, objectType, agent, group, definition)
parentT = parent
qroupingT = qrouping
categoryT = category
otherT = other
contextActivity = \{ca: object \setminus (agent, group, objectType, objectTypeSub, substatement)\}
contextActivityParent = (parentT, contextActivity)
contextActivityCategory = (categoryT, contextActivity)
contextActivityGrouping = (groupingT, contextActivity)
contextActivityOther = (otherT, contextActivity)
contextActivities = \mathbb{P}_1\{contextActivityParent, contextActivityCategory,
                        contextActivityGrouping, contextActivityOther\}
context = \mathbb{P}_1\{registration, instructor, team, contextActivities, revision, \}
              platform, language, statement, extensions}
```

- The schema Context introduces the component context which is the non-empty powerset of registration, instructor, team, contextActivities, revision, platform, language, statement and extensions
- The notation  $object \setminus agent$  represents the component object except for its subcomponent agent

# 1.8 Timestamp and Stored Schema

```
Timestamp \\ timestamp : \mathbb{F}_1 \# 1 Stored \\ stored : \mathbb{F}_1 \# 1
```

• The schema *Timestamp* and *stored* introduce the components *timestamp* and *stored* respectively. Each are non-empty, finite sets containing one value

#### 1.9 Attachements Schema

- The schema Attachements introduces the component attachements which is a non-empty, finite set of the component attachement
- The component attachment is a non-empty, finite set of the components usageType, display, contentType, length, sha2 with optionally description and/or fileUrl

### 1.10 Statement and Statements Schema

- The schema *Statement* introduces the component *statement* which consists of the components *actor*, *verb*, *object* and *stored* and the optional components *id*, *result*, *context*, *timestamp*, and/or *attachments*
- $\bullet$  The schema Statement allows for subcomponent of statement to refrenced via the . (selection) operator

```
Statements \\ IsoToUnix \\ statements : \mathbb{F}_1 \\ statements = \{s : statement | \forall s_n : s_i...s_j \bullet i \leq n \leq j \\ \bullet convert(s_i.timestamp) \leq convert(s_j.timestamp) \}
```

• The schema *Statements* introduces the component *statements* which is a non-empty, finite set of the component *statement* which are in chronological order.

# 2 Timeline Of Learner Success

As learners engage in activities supported by a learning ecosystem, they will build up a history of learning experiences. When the digital resources of that learning ecosystem adhere to a framework dedicated to supporting and understanding the learner, such as the Total Learning Architecture (TLA), it becomes possible to retell their learning story through data and data visualization. One important aspect of that story is the learners history of success.

#### 2.1 Ideal Statements

In order to accurately portray a learner's timeline of success, there are a few base requirements of the data produced by a Learning Record Provider (LRP). They are as follows:

- the learner must be uniquely and consistently identified across all statements
- learning activities which evaluate a learner's understanding of material must report if the learner was successful or not
  - the grade earned by the learner must be reported
  - the minimum and maximum possible grade must be reported
- The learning activities must be uniquely and consistently identified across all statements
- The time at which a learner completed a learning activity must be recorded
  - The timestamp should contain an appropriate level of specificity.
  - ie. Year, Month, Day, Hour, Minute, Second, Timezone

# 2.2 Input Data Retrieval

How to query an LRS via a GET request to the Statements Resource via curl. The following section contains the appropriate parameters with example values as well as the curl command necessary for making the request.<sup>123</sup>

# 2.3 Statement Parameters to Utilize

The statement parameter locations here are written in JSONPath. This notation is also compatable with the xAPI Z notation due to the defined hierarchy of components. Within the Z specifications, a variable name will be used instead of the \$

- \$.timestamp
- $\bullet$  \$.result.success
- \$.result.score.raw
- $\bullet$  \$.result.score.min
- $\bullet$  \$.result.score.max

 $<sup>^1</sup>$  S is the set of all statements parsed from the statements array within the HTTP response to the Curl request. It may be possible that multiple Curl requests are needed to retrieve all query results. If multiple requests are necessary, S is the result of concatenating the result of each request into a single set

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Querying an LRS will not be defined within the following Z specifications but the results of the query will be utilized

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> If you want to query across the entire history of a LRS, omit Since and Until from the endpoint and remove the associated & symbols.

 $\bullet$  \$.verb.id

#### 2.4 2018 Pilot TLA Statement Problems

The initial pilot test data supports this algorithm. This section may require updates pending future data review following iterations of the TLA testing.

# 2.5 Summary

- 1. Query an LRS via a GET request to the statements endpoint using the parameters agent, since and until
- 2. Filter the results to the set of statements where:
  - \$.verb.id is one of:
    - http://adlnet.gov/expapi/verbs/passed
    - https://w3id.org/xapi/dod-isd/verbs/answered
    - $-\ http://adlnet.gov/expapi/verbs/completed$
  - \$.result.success is true
- 3. process the filtered data
  - extract \$.timestamp
  - extract the score values from \$.result.score.raw, \$.result.score.min and \$.result.score.max and convert them to the scale 0..100
  - create a pair of [\$.timestamp, #]

# 2.6 Formal Specification

### 2.6.1 Basic Types

```
\begin{split} &COMPLETION :== \\ &\{ http: //adlnet.gov/expapi/verbs/passed \} \mid \\ &\{ https: //w3id.org/xapi/dod-isd/verbs/answered \} \mid \\ &\{ http: //adlnet.gov/expapi/verbs/completed \} \\ &SUCCESS :== \{ true \} \end{split}
```

# 2.6.2 System State

```
Timeline Learner Success \\ Statements \\ S_{all}: \mathbb{F}_1 \\ S_{completion}, S_{success}, S_{processed}: \mathbb{F} \\ \\ S_{all} = statements \\ S_{completion} \subseteq S_{all} \\ S_{success} \subseteq S_{completion} \\ S_{processed} = \{pair: (statement.timestamp, \mathbb{N})\}
```

- The set  $S_{all}$  is a non-empty, finite set and is the component statements
- The sets  $S_{completion}$  and  $S_{success}$  are both finite sets
- the set  $S_{completion}$  is a subset of  $S_{all}$  which may contain every value within  $S_{all}$
- the set  $S_{success}$  is a subset of  $S_{completion}$  which may contain every value within  $S_{completion}$
- the set  $S_{processed}$  is a finite set of pairs where each contains a statement.timestamp and a natural number

# 2.6.3 Initial System State

```
InitTimelineLearnerSuccess TimelineLearnerSuccess S_{all} \neq \emptyset S_{completion} = \emptyset S_{success} = \emptyset S_{processed} = \emptyset
```

- The set  $S_{all}$  is a non-empty set
- ullet The sets  $S_{completion}, S_{success}$  and  $S_{processed}$  are all initially empty

#### 2.6.4 Filter for Completion

```
Completion \_
Statement
completion : STATEMENT \rightarrow \mathbb{F}
s? : STATEMENT
s! : \mathbb{F}
s? = statement
s! = completion(s?)
completion(s?) = \mathbf{if} \ s? .verb.id : COMPLETION
\mathbf{then} \ s! = s?
\mathbf{else} \ s! = \emptyset
```

- The schema *Completion* inroduces the function *completion* which takes in the variable s? and returns the variable s!
- The variable s? is the component statement
- s! is equal to s? if \$.verb.id is of the type COMPLETION otherwise s! is an empty set

```
Filter For Completion \\ \Delta Timeline Learner Success \\ Completion \\ completions: \mathbb{F} \\ \hline completions \subseteq S_{all} \\ completions' = \{s: STATEMENT \mid completion(s) \neq \emptyset\} \\ S'_{completion} = S_{completion} \cup completions' \\ \hline \end{cases}
```

- $\bullet$  the set completions is a subset of  $S_{all}$  which may contain every value within  $S_{all}$
- The set completions' is the set of all statements s where the result of completion(s) is not an empty set
- the updated set  $S'_{completion}$  is the union of the previous state of set  $S_{completion}$  and the set completions'

### 2.6.5 Filter for Success

```
Success = Statement
success : STATEMENT \rightarrow \mathbb{F}
s? : STATEMENT
s! : \mathbb{F}
s? = statement
s! = success(s?)
success(s?) = \mathbf{if} \ s? .result.success : SUCCESS
\mathbf{then} \ s! = s?
\mathbf{else} \ s! = \emptyset
```

- the schema *Success* introduces the function *success* which takes in the variable s? and returns the variable s!
- the variable s? is the component statement
- s! is equal to s? if \$.result.success is of the type SUCCESS otherwise s! is an empty set

```
FilterForSuccess \\ \Delta TimelineLearnerSuccess \\ Success \\ successes : \mathbb{F} \\ \hline successes \subseteq S_{completion} \\ successes' = \{s: STATEMENT \mid success(s) \neq \emptyset\} \\ S'_{success} = S_{success} \cup successes' \\ \hline
```

- $\bullet$  the set successes is a subset of  $S_{completion}$  which may contain every value within  $S_{completion}$
- The set successes' contains elements s of type STATEMENT where success(s) is not an empty set
- The updated set  $S'_{success}$  is the union of the previous state of  $S_{success}$  and successes'

#### 2.6.6 Processes Results

```
Scale \\ scaled!: \mathbb{N} \\ raw?, min?, max?: \mathbb{Z} \\ scale: \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{N} \\ \\ scaled! = scale(raw?, min?, max?) \\ scale(raw?, min?, max?) = \\ (raw?*((0.0 - 100.0) div(min? - max?))) + \\ (0.0 - (min?*((0.0 - 100.0) div(min? - max?))))) \\ \\ \end{cases}
```

• The schema *Scale* introduces the function *scale* which takes 3 arguments, raw?, min? and max?. The function converts raw? from the range min?..max? to 0.0..100.0

```
 \begin{array}{l} ProcessStatements \\ \Delta TimelineLearnerSuccess \\ Scale \\ FilterStatements \\ processed : \mathbb{F} \\ \\ \hline processed \subseteq S_{success} \\ processed' = \{p: (\mathbb{F}_1 \# 1, \mathbb{N}) \mid \\ & \quad \text{let } \{processed_i.processed_j\} == \{s_i..s_j\} \bullet \\ & \quad i \leq n \leq j \bullet \forall s_n: s_i..s_j \bullet \exists \ p_n: p_i..p_j \bullet \\ & \quad first \ p_n = s_n.timestamp \land \\ & \quad second \ p_n = scale(s_n.result.score.raw, \\ & \quad s_n.result.score.min, \\ & \quad s_n.result.score.max) \} \\ S'_{processed} = S_{processed} \cup processed' \\ \end{array}
```

- The operation ProcessStatements introduces the variable processed which is a subset of  $S_{success}$  which may contain every value within  $S_{success}$
- $S_{success}$  is the result of the operation FilterStatements
- The operation defines the variable processed' which is a set of objects p which are ordered pairs of (1) a finite set containing one value and (2) a single positive number.
- The first component of every object p, is the timestamp from the associated statement within processed ie. s.timestamp
- The second component of every object p is the result of the function scale. The score values contained within the associated  $statement\ s$  are the arugments passed to scale. ie scale(s.result.score.raw, s.result.score.min, s.result.score.max)
- The result of the operation ProcessStatements is to updated the set  $S_{processed}$  with the values contained within processed'

# 2.6.7 Sequence of Operations

 $Filter Statements \stackrel{\frown}{=} Filter For Completion \, {}^\circ_{\mathbb{S}} \, Filter For Success$ 

- $\bullet$  The schema FilterStatements is the sequential composition of operation schemas FilterForCompletion and FilterForSuccess
- $\bullet$  FilterForCompletion happens before FilterForSuccess

 $ProcessedStatements \triangleq FilterStatements \approx ProcessStatements$ 

- ullet The schema ProcessedStatements is the sequential composition of operation schemas FilterStatements and ProcessStatements
- $\bullet$  Filter Statements happens before Process Statements

#### 2.6.8 Return

```
Return \subseteq \Xi Timeline Learner Success Processed Statements S_{processed}!: \mathbb{F} S_{processed}! = S_{processed}
```

• The returned variable  $S_{processed}$ ! is equal to the current state of variable  $S_{processed}$  after the operations FilterForCompletion, FilterForSuccess and ProcessStatements

# 2.7 Pseudocode

# Algorithm 1: Timeline of Learner Success

```
Input: S_{all}
Result: coll
init coll := []
while S_{all} is not empty do
   for each statement s in S_{all}
   if s.verb.id = COMPLETION then
       add s to S_{completion}
       remove s from S_{all}
       recur
   else
       remove s from S_{all}
       recur
   end
end
while S_{completion} is not empty do
   for each statement sc in S_{completion}
   if \ sc.result.success = SUCCESS \ then
       add sc to S_{success}
       remove sc from S_{completion}
       recur
   else
       remove sc from S_{completion}
       recur
   end
while S_{success} is not empty do
   for each statement ss in S_{success}
        let ss.result.score.raw = raw?
            ss.result.score.max = max?
            ss.result.score.min = min?
           scaled = scale(raw?, min?, max?)
         concat coll [ss.timestamp, scaled]
         remove ss from S_{success}
         recur
end
```

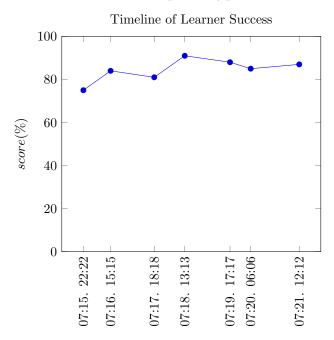
- The Z schemas are used within this pseudocode
- The return value coll is an array of arrays, each containing a *statement.timestamp* and a scaled score.

### 2.8 JSON Schema

# 2.9 Visualization Description

The **Timeline of Learner Success** visualization will be a line chart where the domain is time and the range is score on a scale of 0.0 to 100.0. Every subarray will be a point on the chart. The domain of the graph should be in chronological order.

# 2.10 Visualization prototype



# 2.11 Prototype Improvement Suggestions

Additional features may be implemented on top of this base specification but they would require adding aditional values to each subarray returned by the algorithm. These additional values can be retrieved via (1) performing metadata lookup within or independently of the algorithm (2) by utilizing additional xAPI statement paramters and/or (3) by performing additional computations. The following examples assume the metadata is contained within each statement available to the algorithm.

- A tooltip containing the name of an activity when hovering over a specific point on the chart
  - this would require utilizing \$.object.definition.name
- A tooltip containing the device on which the activity was experienced
  - this would require utilizing \$.context.platform
- A tooltip containing the instructor associated with a particular data point
  - this would require utilizing \$.context.instructor

# 3 Which Assessment Questions are the Most Difficult

As learners engage in activities supported by a learning ecosystem, they will experience learning content as well as assessment content. Assessments are designed to measure the effectiveness of learning content and help assess knowledge gained. It is possible that certain assessment questions do not accurately represent the concepts contained within learning content and this may be indicated by a majority of learners getting the question wrong. It is also possible that the question accurately represents the learning content but is very difficult. The following algorithm will identify these types of questions but will not be able to deduce why learners answer them incorrectly.

### 3.1 Ideal Statements

In order to accurately determine which assessment questions are the most dificult, there are a few requirements of the data produced by a LRP. They are as follows:

- statements describing a learner answering a question must report if the learner got the question correct or incorrect via \$.result.success
- if it is possible to get partial credit on a question, the amount of credit should be reported within the statement
  - the credit earned by the learner should be reported within \$.result.score.raw
  - the minimum and maximum possible credit amount should be reported within \$.result.score.min and \$.result.score.max respectively
- If it is possible to get partial credit on a question, it must still be reported if the learner reached the threshold of success via \$.result.success
- Statements describing a learner answering a question should contain activities of the type *cmi.interaction*

- activities must be uniquely and consistently identified across all statements
- Statements describing a learner answering a question should<sup>4</sup> use the verb http://adlnet.gov/expapi/verbs/answered

# 3.2 Input Data Retrieval

How to query an LRS via a GET request to the Statements Resource via curl. The following section contains the appropriate parameters with example values as well as the curl command necessary for making the request.  $^{567}$ 

#### 3.3 Statement Parameters to Utilize

The statement parameter locations here are written in JSONPath. This notation is also compatable with the xAPI Z notation due to the defined hierarchy of components. Within the Z specifications, a variable name will be used instead of the \$

- $\bullet$  \$.result.success
- \$.object.id

 $<sup>^4</sup>$  it is possible to use another verb but if another is used, that will need to be accounted for in data retrieval

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See footnote 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See footnote 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See footnote 3.

### 3.4 2018 Pilot TLA Statement Problems

The initial pilot test data supports this algorithm. Given that the offical 2018 pilot test is scheduled to take place on July 27th, 2018, this section may require updates pending future data review.

# 3.5 Summary

- 1. Query an LRS via a GET request to the statements endpoint using the parameters verb, since and until
- 2. Filter the results to the set of statements where:
  - \$.result.success is false
- 3. process the filtered data
  - group by \$.object.id
  - determine the count of each group
  - create a collection of pairs = [\$.object.id, #]

# 3.6 Formal Specification

#### 3.6.1 Basic Types

```
INCORRECT :== \{false\}
```

#### 3.6.2 System State

```
MostDifficultAssessmentQuestions
Statements
S_{all}: \mathbb{F}_1
S_{incorrect}, S_{grouped}, S_{processed}: \mathbb{F}

S_{all} = statements
S_{incorrect} \subseteq S_{all}
S_{grouped} = \{groups : seq_1 \ statement\}
S_{processed} = \{pair : (id, \mathbb{N})\}
```

- The set  $S_{all}$  is a non-empty, finite set and is the component statements
- The sets  $S_{incorrect}$ ,  $S_{grouped}$  and  $S_{processed}$  are all finite sets
- the set  $S_{incorrect}$  is a subset of  $S_{all}$  which may contain every value within  $S_{all}$
- the set  $S_{grouped}$  is a finite set of objects groups which are non-empty, finite sequences of the component statement
- the set  $S_{processed}$  is a finite set of pairs where each contains the component id and a natural number

### 3.6.3 Initial System State

```
InitMostDifficultAssessmentQuestions \\ MostDifficultAssessmentQuestions \\ \hline S_{all} \neq \emptyset \\ S_{incorrect} = \emptyset \\ S_{grouped} = \emptyset \\ S_{processed} = \emptyset
```

- The set  $S_{all}$  is a non-empty set
- The sets  $S_{incorrect}$ ,  $S_{grouped}$  and  $S_{processed}$  are all initially empty

#### 3.6.4 Filter for Incorrect

```
Incorrect \\ Statement \\ incorrect: STATEMENT \rightarrow \mathbb{F} \\ s?: STATEMENT \\ s!: \mathbb{F} \\ \\ \hline s? = statement \\ s! = incorrect(s?) \\ incorrect(s?) = \mathbf{if} \ s? .result.success: INCORRECT \\ \mathbf{then} \ s! = s? \\ \mathbf{else} \ s! = \emptyset \\ \\ \hline
```

- the schema *Incorrect* introduces the function *incorrect* which takes in the variable s? and returns the variable s!
- $\bullet$  the variable s? is the component statement
- s! is equal to s? if \$.result.success is of the type INCORRECT otherwise s! is an empty set

```
Filter For Incorrect \\ \Delta Most Difficult Assessment Questions \\ Incorrect \\ incorrects: \mathbb{F} \\ incorrects \subseteq S_{all} \\ incorrects' = \{s: STATEMENT | incorrect(s) \neq \emptyset\} \\ S'_{incorrect} = S_{incorrect} \cup incorrects'
```

 $\bullet$  the set incorrects is a subset of  $S_{all}$  which may contain every value within  $S_{all}$ 

- The set incorrects' contains elements s of type STATEMENT where incorrect(s) is not an empty set
- The updated set  $S'_{incorrect}$  is the union of the previous state of  $S_{incorrect}$  and incorrects'

#### 3.6.5 Processes Results

- The schema GroupByActivityId introduces the function group which has the input of g? and the output of g!
- The input variable g? is the component statements which implies its a set of objects g which are each a statement
- the output variable g! is a set of objects groups which are each a nonempty, finite sequence of statement where each member of the sequence  $s_i...s_j$  has the same \$.object.id

```
CountPerGroup \\ Statement \\ c?: seq_1 statement \\ c!: \mathbb{N} \\ count: seq_1 statement \to \mathbb{N} \\ \hline c! = count(c?) \\ c! \ge 1 \\ count(c?) = \forall c_n?: \langle c?_i ...c?_j \rangle \bullet i \le n \le j \land i = 0 \bullet \\ \exists_1 c!: \mathbb{N} \bullet \text{ if } n = i \text{ then } c! = n+1 \text{ else } c! = n \\ \hline \end{cases}
```

- The schema CountPerGroup introduces the function count which has the input of c? and the output of c!
- ullet The input variable c? is a non-empty, finite sequence in which each element is a statement

• The function count reads: for all elements  $c?_n$  within the sequence  $\langle c?_i ... c?_j \rangle$ , such that n is greater than or equal to i and less than or equal to j, i is equal to zero and there exits a number c! which is equal to n+1 (when  $n=i \Rightarrow n=0$ ) or equal to n

```
 \Delta MostDifficultAssessmentQuestions \\ FilterForIncorrect \\ GroupByActivityId \\ CountPerGroup \\ grouped, processed: \mathbb{F} \\ \hline \\ grouped = \emptyset \\ grouped' = group(S_{incorrect}) \\ S'_{grouped} = S_{grouped} \cup grouped' \\ processed \subseteq S'_{grouped} \\ processed' = \{p:(id,\mathbb{N}) \mid \\ & \text{let } \{\langle processed_i \rangle ... \langle processed_j \rangle\} == \{g_i..g_j\} \bullet \\ & i \leq n \leq j \bullet \forall g_n: g_i..g_j \bullet \exists p_n: p_i..p_j \bullet \\ & first p_n = head g_n.object.id \land second p_n = count(g_n) \\ S'_{processed} = S_{processed} \cup processed' \\ \hline \end{aligned}
```

- The schema AggregateQuestionStatements introduces the variables grouped and processed
- grouped starts as an empty set but then becomes grouped which is the output of applying the function group to the set of statements  $S_{incorrect}$  created by the opperation FilterForIncorrect
- grouped' is a set of sequences. The elements of those sequences are statements which all have the same statement.object.id
- The set  $S_{grouped}$  is updated to the set  $S'_{grouped}$  which is the union of  $S_{grouped}$  and grouped'
- $\bullet$  the variable processed is a subset of  $S'_{grouped}$  which can contain every value within  $S'_{grouped}$
- the variable *processed* is updated to be the variable *processed'* which is a set of objects p which are ordered pairs of the component id and a natural number. p is defined as:
  - for all sequences  $g_i..g_j$  within the set processed, there exists an ordered pair  $p_n$  such that:
    - \* the first element of  $p_n$  is equal to the *object.id* of the first statement within the sequence  $q_n$ .

- \* The second element of  $p_n$  is equal to the value returned when  $g_n$  is passed to the function count.
- The set  $S'_{processed}$  is the union of the sets  $S_{processed}$  and processed'

# 3.6.6 Sequence of Operations

 $Processed Questions \; \widehat{=} \; Filter For Incorrect \; \S \; Aggregate Question Statements$ 

- $\bullet$  The schema ProcessedQuestions is the sequential composition of operation schemas FilterForIncorrect and AggregateQuestionStatements
- $\bullet \ \ Filter For Incorrect \ happens \ before \ Aggregate Question Statements$

#### 3.6.7 Return

```
Return Aggregate \_
\Xi Most Difficult Assessment Questions
Processed Questions
S_{processed}!: \mathbb{F}
S_{processed}! = S_{processed}
```

• The returned variable  $S_{processed}$ ! is equal to the current state of variable  $S_{processed}$  after the operations FilterForIncorrect and AggregateQuestionStatements

### 3.7 Pseudocode

# Algorithm 2: Most Difficult Assessment Questions

```
\overline{\textbf{Input: } S_{all}, \, displayN}
Result: display"
context = \{\};
display = [];
while S_{all} \neq \emptyset do
     for
each s \in S_{all} do
          if s.result.success = INCORRECT then
               S'_{incorrect} \leftarrow s \cup S_{incorrect}; \\ S'_{all} \leftarrow S_{all} \setminus s;
               recur S'_{all}, S'_{incorrect};
          \mathbf{else}
             S'_{all} \leftarrow S_{all} \setminus s;
recur S'_{all}
          end
     end
end
while S'_{incorrect} \neq \emptyset do
     foreach si \in S'_{incorrect} do
          id \leftarrow si.object.id;
          if id \notin context then
               do
               count = 1;
               context' \leftarrow \{id : count\};
               S'_{incorrect} \leftarrow S_{incorrect} \setminus si;
               recur context', S'_{incorrect};
          else
               count' \leftarrow inc(context.id);
               context' \leftarrow \{id: count'\};
               S'_{incorrect} \leftarrow S_{incorrect} \setminus si;
               recur context', S'_{incorrect};
          end
     end
\mathbf{end}
foreach id \in context' do
     IdToCount \leftarrow [id, context.id];
     display' \leftarrow display \cap IdToCount;
    recur display'
end
return display'' \leftarrow take(sortByCount(display'), displayN)
```

- The Z schemas are used within this pseudocode
- The return value display is an array of length display-n, where each element of display is an array of [statement.object.id, #] where # representing the number of times statement.object.id appeared within S'\_incorrect

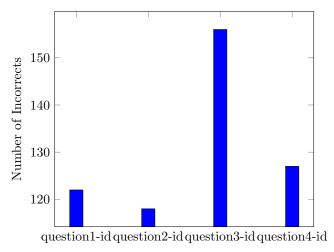
### 3.8 JSON Schema

# 3.9 Visualization Description

The Most Difficult Assessment Questions visualization will be a bar chart where the domain consists of *statement.object.id* and the range is a number greater than or equal to 1. Every subarray within the array display will be a grouping within the bar chart. The pseudocode specifies an input paramter display-n which controls the length of the array display and therefor the number of groups contained within the visualization.

# 3.10 Visualization prototype





### 3.11 Prototype Improvement Suggestions

Additional features may be implemented on top of this base specification but they would require adding additional values to each subarray returned by the algorithm. These additional values can be retrieved via (1) performing metadata lookup within or independently of the algorithm (2) by utilizing additional xAPI statement paramters and/or (3) by performing additional computations. The following examples assume the metadata is contained within each statement available to the algorithm.

- Use the name of the activity for the x-axis label instead of its id.
  - \$.object.definition.name
  - grouping of statements should still happen by \$.object.id to ensure an accurate count
- a tooltip containing contextual information about the question such as:
  - The question text
    - \* \$.object.definition.description
  - Interaction Type
    - \* \$.object.definition which contains interaction properties
  - Answer choices
    - \* \$.object.definition which contains interaction properties
  - Correct answer
    - \* \$.object.definition which contains interaction properties
  - Most popular incorrect answer
    - \* This would require an extra step of processing and all statements would need to utilize interaction properties within \$.object.definition
  - average partial credit earned (if applicable)
    - \*~\$.result.score.scaled
    - \* The one potential issue with using scaled score is the calculation of scaled is not stricly defined by the xAPI specification but is instead up to the authors of the LRP. This results in the inability to reliably compare scaled scores across LRPs.
    - \* if \$.result.score.raw , \$.result.score.min and \$.result.score.max are reported for all questions, it becomes possible to reliably compare scores across questions and LRPs.
  - average number of re-attempts
    - \* this would require additional steps of processing so that \$.actor is considered as well
    - \* due to the problem of actor unification, ie the same person being identified differently across statements, this metric may not be accurate.
  - average time spent on the question
    - \* \$.result.duration
    - \* this would require additional steps of processing to extract the duration and average it.

- a tooltip containing contextual information about the course and/or assessment the question was within
  - the instructor for the course
    - \* \$.context.instructor
  - competency associated with the question and/or course
    - \* \$.context.contextActivities
  - metadata about the learning content associated with the question such as average time spent engaging with associated content before attempting the question.
  - this would require additional steps of processing to retrieve metadata about the content and its usage.
    - \* \$.context.contextActivities

# 4 Rate of Completions

As learners engage in activities supported by a learning ecosystem, they will build up a history of learning experiences. When the digital resources of that learning ecosystem adhere to a framework dedicated to supporting and understanding the learner, such as the Total Learning Architecture (TLA), it becomes possible to retell their learning story through data and data visualization. One important aspect of that story is the rate of completion<sup>8</sup> of the various digital resources within the learning ecosystem.

#### 4.1 Ideal Statements

In order to accurately portray the rates of completion, there are a few base requirements of the data produced by a Learning Record Provider (LRP). They are as follows:

- statements describing a learner completing an activity should use the verb http://adlnet.gov/expapi/verbs/completed
- statements describing a learner completing an activity should report if the learner was successful or not via \$.result.success
- statement describing a learner completing a scored activity should report the learners score via \$.result.score.raw, \$.result.score.min and \$.result.score.max

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Completion can be defined by the presence of the verb completed or by the presence of \$.result.completion set equal to true. In this algorithm, completion is defined by the presence of the verb completed regardless of \$.result.completion. This decision affects how statements are retrieved and filtered. In the case where completion is defined by \$.result.completion, the query to the LRS would not include the verb parameter and there would need to be a filtering process which looks for the presence of \$.result.completion = true

 $<sup>^{9}</sup>$  it is possible to use another verb but if another is used, that will need to be accounted for in data retrieval

- activites must be uniquely and consistently identified across all statements
- The time at which a learner completed a learning activity must be recorded
  - The timestamp should contain an appropriate level of specificity.
  - ie. Year, Month, Day, Hour, Minute, Second, Timezone
- statements describing a learner completing an activity should report the amount of time taken to complete the activity via \$.result.duration

# 4.2 Input Data Retrieval

How to query an LRS via a GET request to the Statements Resource via curl. The following section contains the appropriate parameters with example values as well as the curl command necessary for making the request. <sup>101112</sup>

#### 4.3 Statement Parameters to Utilize

The statement parameter locations here are written in JSONPath. This notation is also compatable with the xAPI Z notation due to the defined hierarchy of components. Within the Z specifications, a variable name will be used instead of the \$

- $\bullet$  \$.timestamp
- \$.object.id

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See footnote 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See footnote 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> See footnote 3.

#### 4.4 2018 Pilot TLA Statement Problems

The initial pilot test data supports the core requirements of this algorithm but completion statements only reports completion scores via \$.result.scaled instead of \$.result.score.raw, \$.result.score.min and \$.result.score.max.<sup>13</sup> Given that the offical 2018 pilot test is scheduled to take place on July 27th, 2018, this section may require updates pending future data review.

# 4.5 Summary

- 1. Query an LRS via a GET request to the statemetrs endpoint using the paramters verb, since and until.
- 2. group statements by their \$.object.id
- 3. select time range unit for use within rate calculation. Will default to day.
- 4. determine the amount of time between the first and last instance of a \$.object.id (in seconds) and divide it by the time unit. ie if the unit is minute, you would divide by 60.
- 5. calculate the rate by dividing the count of a group (2) by the number of time units covered by the statements (4) so that the rate is the number of completions per activity per time unit.

### 4.6 Formal Specification

#### 4.6.1 Basic Types

 $TIMEUNIT :== \{second\} | \{minute\} | \{hour\} | \{day\} | \{week\} | \{month\} | \{year\} \}$ 

#### 4.6.2 System State

```
RateOfCompletion \\ Statements \\ S_{completions}: \mathbb{F}_1 \\ S_{grouped}, S_{timeunit}, S_{processed}: \mathbb{F} \\ \\ S_{completions} = statements \\ S_{grouped} = \{byId: seq_1 \ statement\} \\ S_{withRate} = \{byGroup: (seq_1 \ statement, \mathbb{N})\} \\ S_{processed} = \{rate: (id, \mathbb{N}, TIMEUNIT)\} \\ \\
```

 $<sup>^{13}</sup>$  The one potential issue with using scaled score is the calculation of scaled is not stricly defined by the xAPI specification but is instead up to the authors of the LRP. This results in the inability to reliably compare scaled scores across LRPs. if \$.result.score.raw, \$.result.score.min and \$.result.score.max are reported for all questions, it becomes possible to reliably compare scores across LRPs by generating a scaled score in a consistent way.

- The set  $S_{completions}$  is a non-empty, finite set and is the component statements which contains the results of the query to the LRS.
- The sets  $S_{grouped}$ ,  $S_{withRate}$  and  $S_{processed}$  are all finite sets
- the set  $S_{grouped}$  is a finite set of objects byId which are non-empty, finite sequences of the component statement
- the set  $S_{withRate}$  is a finite set of objects byGroup which are ordered pairs of non-empty, finite sequences of the component statement and a natural number
- the set  $S_{processed}$  is a finite set of objects rate where each contains the component id, a natural number and the type TIMEUNIT

#### 4.6.3 Initial System State

```
InitRateOfCompletion RateOfCompletion T:TIMEUNIT S_{completions} \neq \emptyset S_{grouped} = \emptyset S_{withRate} = \emptyset S_{processed} = \emptyset T = \{day\}
```

- The set  $S_{completions}$  is a non-empty set which contains the results of the GET request(s) to the LRS
- The sets  $S_{grouped}$ ,  $S_{withRate}$  and  $S_{processed}$  are all initially empty
- the variable T has the type TIMEUNIT and the value  $\{day\}$

#### 4.6.4 Calculate Rate

- The schema *IsoToUnix* introduces the function *convert* which takes in a finit set of one thing (a timestamp) and converts it to a single natural number.
- the purpose of this function is to convert an ISO 8601 timestamp to the Unix epoch. The concrete definition of the conversion is outside the scope of this document

- The Unix epoch is the number of seconds that have elapsed since January 1, 1970 (midnight UTC/GMT), not counting leap seconds.

- The schema CalcRateByUnit introduces the function rate where the input s? is a set of objects g which are each a non-empty, finite sequence of statements and the input unit? represents a unit of time.
- for every  $g_n$  within the range  $g_i...g_j$ , there exists an associated object  $s_n$  which is an orderd pair of  $(g_n, r_n)$  where  $r_n$  is equal to the number of items within  $g_n$  divided by the number of unit?s within the time range of  $last\ g_n.timestamp head\ g_n.timestamp$
- the output of the function rate is s!, the set of all  $s_n$

#### 4.6.5 Processes Results

```
AggergateCompletionStatements\_
\Delta RateOfCompletion
Group By Activity Id
CalcRateByUnit
grouped, processed, with Rate: \mathbb{F}
r:\mathbb{N}
T?:TIMEUNIT
T? = \{day\}
grouped = \emptyset
grouped' = group(S_{completions})
S'_{grouped} = S_{grouped} \cup grouped'
withRate \subseteq S'_{grouped}
withRate' = rate(withRate, T?)
S'_{withRate} = withRate' \cup S_{withRate}
processed \subseteq S'_{withRate}
processed' = \{p: (id, r, T?) \mid
                 let \{processed_i..processed_i\} == \{b_i..b_i\} \bullet
                 \forall b_n : b_i ... b_j \bullet i \le n \le j \bullet \exists p_n : (id_n, r_n, T?) \bullet
                 id_n = (head (first b_n)).object.id \land
                 r_n = (second b_n)
S'_{processed} = processed' \cup S_{processed}
```

- The schema AggergateCompletionStatements outlines how to calculate the rate of completion per \$.object.id per second|minute|hour|day|week|month|year
  - 1.  $S'_{grouped}$  is the result of grouping the statements within  $S_{completions}$  by their \$.object.id
  - 2. The groups from (1) are passed to the function *rate* with the variable T?
    - T? controls the unit of time, ie per day vs per week
  - 3. the result of (2) is then processed to create a triplet of \$.object.id, rate, unit of time for all unique \$.object.id within  $S_{completions}$

# 4.6.6 Return

```
Return Aggergate Completion Statements \Xi Rate Of Completion Aggergate Completion Statements S_{processed}!: \mathbb{F} S_{processed}! = S_{processed}
```

 $\bullet$  The return value  $S_{processed}!$  is equal to  $S_{processed}$  after the operation described by AggergateCompletionStatements

#### 4.7 Pseudocode

# Algorithm 3: Rate of Completions

```
Input: S_{completed}, timeUnit
Result: ratePerObjTu'
context = \{\};
ratePerObjTu = [];
while S_{completion} \neq \emptyset do
    foreach s \in S_{completion} do
        id \leftarrow s.object.id;
        ts \leftarrow convert(s.timestamp);
        if id \notin context then
             times = [ts];
             context' \leftarrow \{id: times\};
             S'_{completion} \leftarrow S_{completion} \setminus s;
             recur context', S'_{completion};
        else
             do
             times' \leftarrow context.id \cap ts;
             context' \leftarrow \{id: times'\};
             S'_{completion} \leftarrow S_{completion} \setminus s;
             recur context', S'_{completion};
        end
    end
end
while context \neq \emptyset do
    foreach k \in context do
        allTs \leftarrow context.k;
        totalDuration \leftarrow max(allTs) - min(allTs);
        totalCount \leftarrow count(allTs);
        rate \leftarrow totalCount \div (totalDuration \div timeUnit);
         subVec = [k, rate, timeUnit];
        ratePerObjTu' \leftarrow ratePerObjTu \cap subVec;
        context' \leftarrow context \setminus k;
        recur context', ratePerObjTu';
    end
end
return ratePerObjTu'
```

- Values from Z schemas are used within this pseudocode
- the result of the algorithm is an array of arrays where each subarray contains a *statement.object.id*, the *rate* and the *timeUnit* used to calculate *rate*.

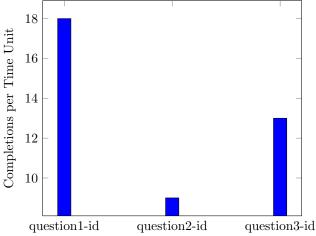
### 4.8 JSON Schema

# 4.9 Visualization Description

The Rate of Completions visualization will be a bar chart where the domain consists of statement.object.id and the range is a number greater than 0 (the rate of completions for that statement.object.id). Every subarray within the array ratePerObjTu will be a grouping within the bar chart. The pseudocode specifies an input paramter timeUnit which controls the calculation of the rate (range of the visualization). timeUnit could be per minute, per day, per week, etc.

# 4.10 Visualization prototype





# 4.11 Prototype Improvement Suggestions

Additional features may be implemented on top of this base specification but they would require adding aditional values to each subarray returned by the algorithm. These additional values can be retrieved via (1) performing metadata lookup within or independently of the algorithm (2) by utilizing additional xAPI statement paramters and/or (3) by performing additional computations. The following examples assume the metadata is contained within each statement available to the algorithm.

• use statement.object.definition.name instead of statement.object.id for x axis label

- populate a tooltip with the people who have completed the activity. This could also include the number of times they have completed it.
- populate a tooltip with the breakdown of which devices or platforms the activity was completed on. This would require the device type or platform to be reported within *statement.context.platform*
- populate a tooltip with the breakdown of percentage successful for all completions of the activity. This would require statement.result.success
- populate a tooltip with the breakdown of scores earned (if appliciable) for the completions. This would require statement.result.score.raw, statement.result.score.min and statement.result.score.max
- populate a tooltip with the competency assocaited with the completed activities. The competency should be reported via *statement.context.contextActivities*
- populate a tooltip with the average duration spent to reach completions. This would require *statement.result.duration* to be reported.