DAVE Framework Learning Analytics Algorithms

Yet Analytics

July 26, 2018

Introduction

This document introduces the initial learning analytics algorithms, **timeline of learner success** and **which assessment questions are the most difficult** of the DAVE framework. This document will be updated to include the remaining 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 refinment 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 the data standard 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) any issues with the 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
 - (i) 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 it 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 the results of querying an LRS

[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 : a_0...a_n \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

```
Verb\_\_Id\\display, verb: \mathbb{F}_1\\verb = \{id, display\} \lor \{id\}
```

• 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

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

```
\begin{tabular}{l} $-Definition $\_$ \\ $Interaction Activity \\ Extensions \\ $definition, name, description: $\mathbb{F}_1$ \\ $type, more Info: $\mathbb{F}_1$ $\#1$ \\ \hline $definition = \mathbb{P}_1 \{name, description, type, more Info, extensions, interaction Activity\}$ \\ \hline \end{tabular}
```

• 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 nonempty finite set of either *id*, *id* and *objectType*, *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
grouping T = grouping \\
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 nonempty powerset of registration, instructor, team, contextActivities, revision, platform, language, statement and extensions

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

```
Statement \\ Id \\ Actor \\ Verb \\ Object \\ Result \\ Context \\ Timestamp \\ Stored \\ Attachements \\ statement : STATEMENT \\ \\ statement = \{actor, verb, object, stored\} \cup \\ \mathbb{P}\{\mathrm{id}, result, context, timestamp, attachments\}
```

- 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 \_
Statement
statements : \mathbb{F}_1
statements = \{s : statement\}
```

• The schema *Statements* introduces the component *statements* which is a non-empty finite set of components *statement*

2 Timeline Of Learner Success

As learners engage in a blended eLearning ecosystem, they will build up a history of learning experiences. When that eLearning ecosystem adheres to a framework dedicated to supporting and understanding the learner, such as the Total Learning Architecture (TLA), it becomes possible to retell their story through data. One important aspect of that story is the learner's history of success.

2.1 Ideal Statements

In order to accurately portray a learner's timeline of success, there are a few 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 $^{\rm 1\ 2}$

 $^{^1}$ 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

² Querying an LRS will not be defined within the following Z specifications but the results of the query will be

```
Base = "https://example.endpoint/statements?"

endpoint = Base + Agent + "&" + Since + "&" + Until

Auth = Hash generated from basic auth

S = curl -X GET -H "Authorization: Auth"
-H "Content-Type: application/json"
-H "X-Experience-API-Version: 1.0.3"
Endpoint
```

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

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

2.4 2018 Pilot TLA Statement Problems

The data collected at the TLA pilot run supports the following algorithm.

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
 - \bullet \$.result.success is true
- 3. process the filtered data

- extract the timestamp
- \bullet extract the score values from the statement and convert them to a scale of 0..100
- create a pair of [timestamp, scaled-score]

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}\#1)\}
```

- 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}
- the set $S_{success}$ is a subset of $S_{completion}$
- 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
- The sets $S_{completion}, S_{success}$ and $S_{processed}$ are all initially empty

2.6.4 Filter for Completion

- 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

```
FilterForCompletion \Delta TimelineLearnerSuccess Completion completions: \mathbb{F} completions = S_{all} completions' = \{s: STATEMENT \mid completion(s) \neq \emptyset\} S'_{completion} = S_{completion} \cup completions'
```

- the set completions is the set 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

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

- the set successes is the set $S_{completion}$
- 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

- The operation ProcessStatements introduces the variable processed which is equalivant to the set $S_{success}$ which is the result of the operation FilterStatements
- The operation defines the variable processed' which is a set of objects p which are each an ordered pair 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

 $Filter Statements \stackrel{\frown}{=} Filter For Completion \ \S \ Filter For Success$

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

 $ProcessedStatements \stackrel{\frown}{=} FilterStatements \stackrel{\frown}{:} ProcessStatements$

- The schema ProcessedStatements is the sequential composition of operation schemas FilterStatements and ProcessStatements
- \bullet FilterStatements happens before ProcessStatements

2.6.8 Return

```
Return \equiv \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
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}
   \mathbf{else}
   | noop
   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}
   else
    | noop
   end
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]
\mathbf{end}
```

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

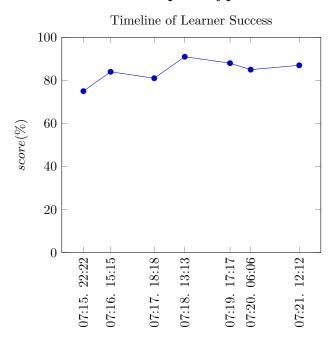
2.8 JSON Schema

```
{"type":"array",
    "items":{"type":"array",
        "items":[{"type":"string"}, {"type":"number"}]}
}
```

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 array within the array returned by the algorithm 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

Aditional features may be implemented on top of this base specification but would require adding aditional values to each sub-array returned by the algorithm. These values would only be limited by the fields contained within the xAPI statements being used to populate the visualization. Examples of fields which could be used to populate the visualization include but are not limited to:

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

3 Which Assessment Questions are the Most Difficult

As learners engage in a blended eLearning ecosystem, they will experience teaching content as well as assessment content. Assessments are designed to measure the effectiveness of learning content and help measure learning. It is possible that certain assessment questions do not accurately represent the concepts contained within teaching material 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 just hard. The following algorithm will identify these questions but will not be able to deduce the 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
- 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
- 3.2 Input Data Retrieval
- 3.3 Statement Parameters to Utilize
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