

Duplicate recognition for restaurant dataset*

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Abstract—This document describes the analysis and removal of duplicates from the restaurants dataset. The aim is to remove as many duplicates as possible from the dataset and store the data without duplicates in a cloud hosted mongodb instance. A problem when finding duplicates of restaurants (or nearly any other dataset) is the format and the different writing of the entries in the data. This problem was already researched by several IEEE members (quelle). Within my research there were made different approaches to remove the duplicates which are described below. The accuracy of the results is measured with precision, recall and F-score. After removing the duplicates the cleared dataset is stored into a mongodb cluster so that it can be accessed any time. In this paper I will also describe some techniques which I haven't used in my project but are also very useful.

Index Terms—component, formatting, style, styling, insert

I. INTRODUCTION

In times where big data gets more and more attraction from the industry it is very important to learn how to deal with it. Especially when it comes to the structure and format of the data. When looking at big data, it is most of the time a problem that there are duplicates and unclean entries in a dataset. This gives inaccurate results when analyzing or working with this data. That happens because most of the time there isn't that much preprocessing happening and there aren't even checks for a standard data format. To learn how to deal with duplicate data, the restaurants dataset is used. This isn't actually big data, but to understand the importance of the preprocessing task it is pretty good because it's considered as a well researched dataset to play with and compare to the gold standard.

In my research I've looked into different approaches to detect duplicates and remove them from the dataset. The first approach was to just remove all duplicates that are in the data, this wasn't successful because most of the duplicates have different writings or completely different values in some of the fields. So I started to analyze the data and look for potential duplicates and how to prepare them so that the program can match them. The first step was to remove all special characters and some other unnecessary contents in the different columns. After that I investigated which columns are the most useful when it comes to duplicate detection.

After researching and removing potential duplicates, I calculated the count for true positives, false positives, true negatives and false negatives of my prediction with the help of the gold standard duplicate dataset which was evaluated by hand. With the help of these metrics I calculated the recall and precision

for my result to get a better understanding, how good my evaluations were. As a conclusion the values I got were:

- All entries in original dataset: 864
- Detected duplicates (all): 111
- Real duplicates (from gold standard): 112
- True positives: 103
- True negatives: 744
- False positives: 8
- False negatives: 9
- Precision: 0.93
- Recall: 0.92

After the methods are applied and the duplicates are removed it is necessary to store the new dataset somewhere. For this I have chosen mongodb because of its great compatibility with many programming languages and the low expenses when you want to store data in it. Mongodb could also be used for many preprocessing tasks because of the great aggregation framework that it offers.

II. WHY DUPLICATE DETECTION IS IMPORTANT

Duplicate detection is an important task in data science for several reasons. Often when a data scientist gets data to research it's a problem that it isn't preprocessed and contains wrong or duplicate entries. Detecting and removing these is a hard but important task. When working with unclean data mistakes can happen. For example let's look at the restaurant dataset which is described in *section III The restaurants dataset*. This dataset could be used to recommend restaurants to a user from an application. When the recommendation contains duplicates with even different writing for the same restaurants the user could be confused and stop using our application. Duplicate detection is also important when solving machine learning tasks because most machine learning algorithms can't handle duplicates and give higher priority to duplicated records which would result in a less accurate machine learning model.

III. THE RESTAURANTS DATASET

The restaurants dataset which is researched in this paper is a .tsv dataset which contains 864 rows of data with six columns. The columns of the dataset are:

- id: The unique id of each row
- name: The name of the restaurant
- address: The address where the restaurant is located

- city: The city of the restaurant
- phone: The phone number of the restaurant
- type: The kind of the restaurant (i.e. french or american)

In the data there are 122 duplicated restaurants. These duplicates were picked by hand from some researchers to define a gold standard which would be the best possible result after removing all duplicates. The duplicates that occur in the dataset have different deviations from each other. For example some duplicates have a different order of the words in their name field like "the palm" and "palm the". Others have different separators for the phone number like "310/659-9639" and "310-659-9639". Sometimes the city field of the duplicates is a district from a bigger city and sometimes it's the city name itself like "los angeles" and "hollywood". There are even more different deviations in the dataset as well whose solution to detect them will be discussed later in *section V Methods used to detect duplicates* section.

In my research I focused mostly on the columns name, city, address and phone because they have the most useful information when it comes to duplicate detection. The id column was left out because it's only a unique identifier which wouldn't bring a benefit for duplicate recognition. The type column was left out because there are too much restaurants with the same type which would result in an unclear target data record.

Besides of the plain restaurants dataset there is also a dataset given which contains all the duplicates in the data by id. In this duplicate set, there are only two columns, "id1" and "id2" which define the original id and the duplicate id. A dataset without all these duplicates is considered as gold standard. The reached results will be measured to this gold standard.

IV. METRICS USED TO MEASURE THE RESULTS

To measure the accuracy of results when it comes to duplicate detection there are different metrics that are commonly used. For all these metrics it's important to pre calculate four values with the help of the gold standard data and the archived results:

- True positives (TP): The correct classified true entries
- True negatives (TN): The correct classified false entries
- False positives (FP): Incorrect classified true entries
- False negatives (FN): Incorrect classified false entries

In a gold standard dataset there are no false positives and false negatives.

A first metric that is important is the well known accuracy.

$$accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \quad (1)$$

Only calculating the accuracy isn't enough in this task because the it only gives reliable results when a dataset is balanced. In this case it means that there are as many duplicated entries as non duplicates. As an addition for the accuracy I use two other metrics, precision and recall.

Precision measures the exactness for the minority class by only considering the positive classified entries of the result set. Because of this it is a good measurement for unbalanced data.

$$Precision = \frac{TruePositives}{TruePositives + FalsePositives} \quad (2)$$

Recall instead gives the accuracy for the fraction of relevant data.

$$Recall = \frac{TruePositives}{TruePositives + FalseNegatives} \quad (3)$$

V. METHODS USED TO DETECT DUPLICATES

The research was written in python, a programming language, which is widely used in data science tasks. For my research I mostly used the Python pandas library, which has good data analysis features.

As a whole there are 112 duplicates in the dataset which were selected by hand.

At first I only looked into the first 100 entries and tried to understand the difference and connections between the different rows and columns. I found out that many noise in the data came from special characters. So I removed every special character except spaces from the four columns that I looked into. Large and lower case letters didn't have to be considered because the whole data was in lower case letters. The received metrics after the first step of the data cleaning pipeline were:

- Detected duplicates (all): 86
- True positives: 80
- True negatives: 746
- False positives: 6
- False negatives: 32
- Accuracy 0.96
- Precision: 0.9302325581395349
- Recall: 0.7142857142857143

This is quite good for simply removing special characters, but the results can be optimized more.

The next step of my data cleaning pipeline was to map multiple occurrences of the same city with different writing to as single key. For example there were entries which had "la" as a value and others had "los angeles". After applying this, the metrics were:

- Detected duplicates (all): 104
- True positives: 98
- True negatives: 746
- False positives: 6
- False negatives: 14
- Accuracy: 0.98
- Precision: 0.94
- Recall: 0.88

It's noticeable that the results have improved slightly after mapping the citynames. As a next step I removed appendixes from the address column. For this I have chosen to remove everything which occurs after "between", "off", "near", "at" or "in" from the address string because many addresses had more precise descriptions for the address after the real address. Following up, I decided to remove appendixes of the street

number like "1st" to "1" or "2nd" to 2. Then I looked again on the dataset and found out that the columns "address", as well as "name" both sometimes have a direction (like "north" or in short "n") added and sometimes don't, which is very inconsistent. So I removed every occurrence of a direction from this two columns. Neither of these three actions affected the metrics.

So I researched the dataset again and found out that there are more inconsistencies in the address field. At first I discovered that some numbers in the address were written as string and others as numbers. So I mapped these to only represent numbers (i.e. "first" to 1). I also noticed that some words sometimes were written in short in the address column. These were:

- los angeles: la
- avenue: ave
- road: rd
- boulevard: blv, blvd
- street: st

After remapping these, the metrics had a big improvement to:

- Detected duplicates (all): 111
- True positives: 103
- True negatives: 744
- False positives: 8
- False negatives: 9
- Accuracy: 0.98
- Precision: 0.93
- Recall: 0.92

These were the final metrics for my research which I could archive with a three out of four combination from the columns "name", "address", "city" and "phone". This isn't that bad because they are near the gold standard. But there are also some drawbacks when viewing at these results. The eight false positives that were found are responsible that eight restaurants which aren't duplicates would be considered as such and removed from the data, which isn't good. This issue can be resolved by viewing on the false positives values and change the duplicate selection task so that no false positives emerge. The corresponding values that were matched as false positives have the common ground that the duplicate groups all have the same values for city, name and phone. This issue can be resolved by choosing other combinations of columns which are considered.

When removing the combination of "address", "city" and "phone" for the duplicate detection, the outcome metrics are:

- Detected duplicates (all): 82
- True positives: 82
- True negatives: 752
- False positives: 0
- False negatives: 30
- Accuracy: 0.97
- Precision: 1.0
- Recall: 0.73

After applying the new column combination the recall got much more bad but there are no more false positives which

could break the whole sense of duplicate detection.

VI. POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER RESEARCHES

VII. CONCLUSION

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TABLE TYPE STYLES

Table Head	Table Column Head		
	Table column subhead	Subhead	Subhead
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^aSample of a Table footnote.



Fig. 1. Example of a figure caption.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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