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**UNIVERSITÄT  
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# **Recognising structural patterns in code**

**A k-means clustering approach**

## **Bachelor Thesis**

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# Abstract

For the computer to use and understand data, it is necessary to parse it into a computer readable format. The building of a parser requires a model of the grammar and the structure of the data must be known. For many new programming language dialects and also for log files of new software, these models are normally not available. For creating a model, the structure and grammar information must therefore be inferred from the source code, which is a time consuming process. The goal of this project is, helping developers, find structure of software code automatically. We introduce in this thesis a clustering approach with k-means, for these purposes. Through different vector representations, structural information should be exploited and assigned accordingly in different clusters. This should help developers get a better overview of the data and in a perfect case, make them able to create parser rules for each cluster.

The used approach had some promising results, assigning different patterns into different clusters. We used overall 24 different possible combinations of representation. Of these 24 representation, there were four representations with good results, having a v-measure score equal or higher than 0.66, from a maximum of 1, for Java, and another 4 with satisfying results, having equal or better scores than 0.4, also for Java. The Representors with good scores in Java, also did a good job, clustering C Sharp, XML and ABACUS log files, with at least one representation scoring higher than 0.66. For C++, Python the scores were satisfying. Only for the language Brainfuck, the clustering with these Representors did not work well.

Unfortunately our approach for using the k-means implementation for calculating a precision value for how closely languages are related, did not perform well, as it classified every language with the exception of XML, a very good match.

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# 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Motivation

Writing software means reading software code [3]. For developers it is crucial to understand the state of the system in order to carry out development and software evolution tasks. As a consequence, developers often use as much time reading and understanding the written code as actually writing new code. Analysing tools for integrated development environments can help developers understanding code and reduce time for assessing software code [5]. That such tools can be created, a software model of the the language the tool is build for, must exist in form of a parser. For many dialects of programming language these models do not exists. Aside from programming languages, log files are a very important part of software applications. Many software applications do produce auxiliary text files as output. These log files are used in various ways, for example in debugging and profiling purposes. While generating log files is a very simple and straightforward process, the understanding of log files can be quite hard, as these can be very large files with complex structure [8]. If a model of the grammar and the underlying structure does not exist, it is necessary to infer these properties from the source code. The inferring of a software model and the building of a custom parser is a complex task that can take several people several months to accomplish. In this bachelors project, we tried to build a tool that can help distinguish different pattern and structures automatically from software code or log files [2].

## 1.2 Goal and Focus

The goal of this thesis is to develop a software tool that can atomically find structure in (unknown) software code or log files and generate different sets consisting of related pattern, so that a parser rule can be inferred. The process of creating the software tool manifested in three different sub-problems that had to be addressed:

1. **Statement creation.** Structure manifests itself in an ordered sequence of different tokens. For finding different patterns, the smallest statement had to be found which is able to hold structural information. In this thesis, it is assumed that carriage returns are a natural and often used way, the beginning of a new pattern is indicated. A statement is then split into tokens. A token consists of one or more symbols and in is defined through, first, the encapsulating of blank spaces and second, in a change of symbols.
2. **Representation and differentiation.** For algorithmically deciding and quantifying the difference between statements, a way for mathematically representing the statements needs to be introduced. The approaches used in these methods, differ from creating a vector out of defining features, but instead focuses on the type of symbols used in a token.
3. **Clustering.** A programming language consists of a finite number of different pattern that are used for describing software. These pattern are therefore used multiple times, only differing in the used variables and parameters. Patterns that are similar or differ only the variables they contain must be filtered. Filtering is achieved through k-means clustering. Patterns should be clustered according to their similarity.

To achieve a solution to these sub-problems, certain assumptions about the commonalities of languages and log files had to be made. We tried to keep these assumptions as minimal as possible, so that a wide variety of programming languages and log files could be analysed:

- A language consists of a finite number of patterns that differ only in used variables and parameters.
- Software code contains indents and carriage returns, as it is best practice for many programming languages amongst most developers, to make the more human readable.

# 2

## Methods

In this chapter we describe in detail the used methods for creating and tokenizing the input data and put forward the different representations used in the created tool. In our context, a method is defined as a process, which transforms the input data and if replaced, would result in a different output of the tool. For visualising our methods, we use the following simplified Java example:

```
1 if (x > 1) {return 0;}  
2 if (x <= 0) {return 1;}  
3 else {return v1;}
```

Listing 1: Simplified Java Code

### 2.1 Statements and Tokens

To be able to cluster the data, the input data first needs to be processed into smaller instances that are comparable to each other. As mentioned in the introduction, we used in this project two instances of segmentation: Statements and tokens, where a statement is consisting of one or more tokens. A statement can be created in different ways. Because the main effort of this thesis lies in the structural clustering using the k-means algorithm, the creation of statements is simplified.

**A statement is a line of code.** Carriage returns and line feeds are a very important



way to make software code readable, creating a structure the human eye can perceive more easily. The way of using carriage returns and line feeds for defining a statement, tries to exploit the way we make software code and log files more readable for humans.

In our previous example code, each new line would become a statement, creating three different statements from this code snippet:

```
1   if (x > 1) {return 0;}
2   if (x <= 0) {return 1;}
3   else {return v1;}
```

Listing 2: Statements in Java example

**A token is a single word, numeral or punctuation.** A statement is further processed into tokens. The smallest instance. Words are a sequence of at least one letter and can contain numerals.

- **Words** cannot contain punctuation.
- **Numerals** are a sequence of at least one digit. A numeral cannot contain letters or punctuation.
- **Punctuation** is one special character which cannot be a letter nor a digit.

In our example tokens would be made as follows:

```
1   if ( x > 1) {return 0;}
2   if (x <= 0) {return 1;}
3   else {return v1;}
```

Listing 3: Tokens in statements

In this example, the words are marked in orange, numerals are in green and punctuations are coloured blue. Tokens are divided by spaces. Punctuation that is not encapsulated by spaces will still be tokenized as an separate special characters. This means, as seen in the previous example that "<=" will be tokenized into two tokens: "<" and "=". Variables such as "v1" are tokenized as a word.

## 2.2 Representors

As mentioned in the introduction, vector representation is needed for clustering statements. A Representor adds or modifies representation to a statement. There are three different categories of Representors: Type Representors, Distance Representors and Weight Representors.

1. **Type Representor.** Type Representors create vector representations according to the characteristics of the tokens of the statement and assign numbers to the vector accordingly.
2. **Distance Representor.** Distance Representors calculate distance information from the given representation of a Type Representor.
3. **Weight Representor.** Weight Representors function as a noise cancelling or filtering mechanism and can weight specific parts of a representation.

Representors can be concatenated in the order shown above. A Type Representor is always needed, but can optionally be followed by a Distance Representor or a Weight Representor or both.

### 2.2.1 Type Structure Representor

The first Type Representor to be looked at, is the Type Structure Representor. It assigns a strict value according to the type of the token.

Example: In our implementation we assigned the values 0 for words, 1 for numerals and 2 for Punctuation. For our previous used Java snippet in Listing 2

```
1 if (x > 1) {return 0;}
2 if (x <= 0) {return 1;}
3 else {return v1;}
```

Listing 4: Simplified Java snippet

Type Structure Representor gives us the vector representations:

```
1 (0 2 0 2 1 2 2 0 1 2 2)
2 (0 2 0 2 2 1 2 2 0 1 2 2)
3 (0 2 0 0 2 2)
```

Listing 5: Type Structure Representation example as vectors

### 2.2.2 Type Specific Representer

The Type Specific Representer uses the same structural information for calculating the vector representation as the Type Structure Representer. But instead of assigning a single value per type, the Type Specific Representer assigns a value per encountered unique token, with the exception of bracket symbols, for which opening and closing brackets are treated as one unique token. To maintain the structural information, the assigned value of the token is then normed by the type of the token. A vector element therefore is defined as:

$$vector\_element = \frac{1}{assigned\_token\_value} + type\_value.$$

Example: Same as in the Type Structure Representer we assigned the values 0 for words, 1 for numerals and 2 for Punctuation. A punctuation token therefore is always in the interval  $(2, 3]$ .

For our previous used Java snippet in Listing 2,

```
1 if (x > 1) {return 0;}
2 if (x <= 0) {return 1;}
3 else {return v1;}
```

Listing 6: Type Specific Representation example

this gives us the vector representations:

```
1 (  $\frac{1}{1} + 0$   $\frac{1}{2} + 2$   $\frac{1}{3} + 0$   $\frac{1}{4} + 2$   $\frac{1}{5} + 1$   $\frac{1}{2} + 2$   $\frac{1}{6} + 2$   $\frac{1}{7} + 0$   $\frac{1}{8} + 1$   $\frac{1}{9} + 2$   $\frac{1}{6} + 2$  )
2 (  $\frac{1}{1} + 0$   $\frac{1}{2} + 2$   $\frac{1}{3} + 0$   $\frac{1}{4} + 2$   $\frac{1}{10} + 2$   $\frac{1}{8} + 1$   $\frac{1}{2} + 2$   $\frac{1}{6} + 2$   $\frac{1}{7} + 0$   $\frac{1}{8} + 2$   $\frac{1}{9} + 2$   $\frac{1}{6} + 2$  )
3 (  $\frac{1}{11} + 0$   $\frac{1}{6} + 2$   $\frac{1}{7} + 0$   $\frac{1}{12} + 0$   $\frac{1}{9} + 2$   $\frac{1}{6} + 2$  )
```

Listing 7: Type Specific Representation as vectors example

### 2.2.3 Distance Zero Representor

The Distance Zero Representor tries to exploit distance information of statement tokens. It measures the distances between the occurrences of the same values given by the used Type Representor. Measurement starts with zero as a new type value is first encountered. If the same type value is encountered after that, the new vector element will be the distance between the first encounter and the current position of the vector element. Example: For simplifying the example, Type Structure Representor is used for assigning type values.

```
1 (0 2 0 2 1 2 2 0 1 2 2)
2 (0 2 0 2 2 1 2 2 0 1 2 2)
3 (0 2 0 0 2 2)
```

Listing 8: Type Representation as calculated in Listing 5

Applying Distance Zero Representation to the above Java snippet gives:

```
1 (0 0 0 2 4 4 5 5 8 8 9)
2 (0 0 0 2 3 5 5 6 6 9 9 10)
3 (0 0 2 3 3 4)
```

Listing 9: Distance Zero Representation of Type Structure Representation

### 2.2.4 Distance All Representor

The Distance All Representor calculates the maximal distance between the same type values. Type values are given by a Type Representor. It then sets the maximum distance as the new value for replacing the type value.

Example: Type Structure Representor is used for assigning type values

```
1 (0 2 0 2 1 2 2 0 1 2 2)
2 (0 2 0 2 2 1 2 2 0 1 2 2)
3 (0 2 0 0 2 2)
```

Listing 10: Type Representation as calculated in Listing 5

Applying DistanceAllRepresentor gives the following representations:

```
1 (4 3 5 3 4 3 3 5 4 3 3)
2 (5 3 6 3 3 5 3 3 6 5 3 3)
3 (2 3 2 2 3 3)
```

Listing 11: Distance All Representation vector representation example

### 2.2.5 Weight Summary Representor

The Weight Summary Representor is used for reducing noise in the statements. Multiple subsequent occurrences of the same type values are summarized into one vector element of this type value. Example: In the following example benefit of this technique can be seen in reducing the difference between statement 1 and statement 2:

```
1 (0 2 0 2 1 2 2 0 1 2 2)
2 (0 2 0 2 2 1 2 2 0 1 2 2)
3 (0 2 0 0 2 2)
```

Listing 12: Type Representation as calculated in Listing 5

Applying WeightSummaryRepresentor gives the following representations:

```
1 (0 2 0 2 1 2 0 1 2)
2 (0 2 0 2 1 2 0 1 2)
3 (0 2 0 2)
```

Listing 13: Weight Summary Representation vector representation example

### 2.2.6 Weight Sum First Representor

In code, important information such as keywords can often be found in the beginning of a line of code. WeightSumFirstRepresentor adds all values type or distance values, following the current position, giving the vector elements in the beginning a higher weight.

Example: For our previously used Java snippet in Listing 5, applying Weight Sum First Representor gives the following representations.

```
1 (14 14 12 12 10 9 7 5 5 4 2)
2 (16 16 14 14 12 10 9 7 5 5 4 2)
3 (6 6 4 4 2 2)
```

Listing 14: Weight Sum Representation vector representation example

### 2.2.7 Weight Inverse Representer

The Weight Inverse Representer inverts every vector element. This reduces the variance of the data and inverts the weight of the statement representation. Example: The representation of the TypeStructureRepresenter as shown in Listing 5 inverted. A Zero value, as possible in Type Structure Representation, is ignored in the calculation:

```

1 (0 1/2 0 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 0 1/2 1/2 1/2)
2 (0 1/2 0 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2)
3 (0 1/2 0 0 1/2 1/2)

```

Listing 15: Type Specific Representation as vectors example

## 2.3 K-Means

K-means is an unsupervised clustering algorithm. It clusters the given data in  $k$  different clusters, with  $k$  being a known parameter, according to the vector representation of the data. For clustering the data,  $k$  different centroids are randomly initialized and the algorithm labels the data according to the nearest centroid. At the end of the algorithm, the centroids will have minimal distance to its assigned data points. This is achieved by moving the centroids to the euclidean mean of all the assigned data points. The mathematical expression, given the trainings set  $\{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(m)}\}$  and  $x^{(i)} \in \mathbb{R}$  of the k-means algorithm is as follows:

1. Initialize **cluster centroids**  $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$  randomly.

2. Repeat until convergence: {

For every  $i$ , set

$$c^{(i)} := \arg \min_j \|x^{(i)} - \mu_j\|^2.$$

For each  $j$ , set

$$\mu_j := \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m 1\{c^{(i)} = j\} x^{(i)}}{\sum_{i=1}^m 1\{c^{(i)} = j\}}.$$

}

Figure 2.1: Mathematical expression of k-means [4].

A practical example of the k-means algorithm:

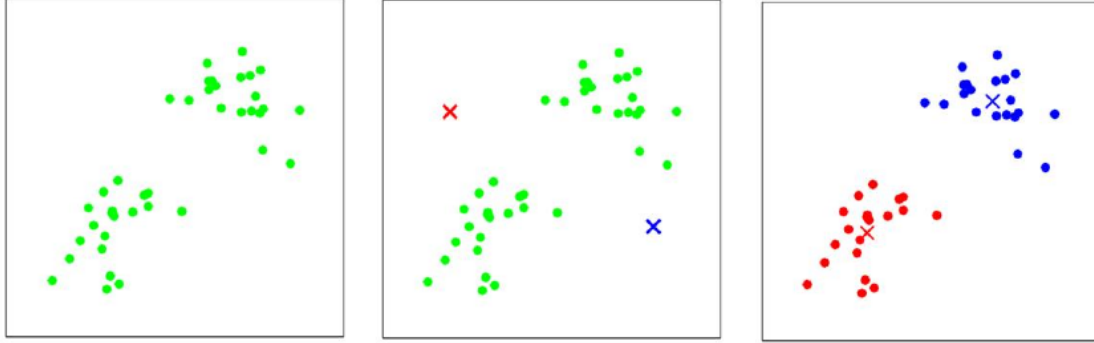


Figure 2.2: Example of k-means iteration [4].

The red and blue crosses visualize the centroids. They are initialized randomly at the start of the algorithm. The centroids will then in every iteration gradually move nearer to the mean of the final clusters, minimizing the cost of the distortion function:

$$J(c, \mu) = \sum_{i=1}^m ||x^{(i)} - \mu_{c(i)}||^2.$$

$J$  measures the sum of the squared distances between each training example  $x^{(i)}$  and the centroid of the cluster  $\mu_{c(i)}$  to which it has been assigned.

## 2.4 The Elbow Method

One problem of the k-means algorithm is that the parameter  $k$  must be known, which in our case is not known.  $K$  is dependent on the given input on which we want to limit our assumptions. Therefore, a way to algorithmically calculate  $k$  is needed. The idea behind the Elbow Method, is to find the number of centroids, so that if you add one centroid, the fit of the centroids to the data - measured by the cost function  $J$ - does not improve significantly any more. In the case of  $k$  equals one, the position of the centroid would be the mean of all data points and in the case of  $k$  equals the number of all data points, the centroids would be the points themselves. As a consequence,  $k$  equals one results in the worst fit and while  $k$  equals the number of all data points gives perfect fit. This can be illustrated by the following example where we normed  $J$  by  $k$ :

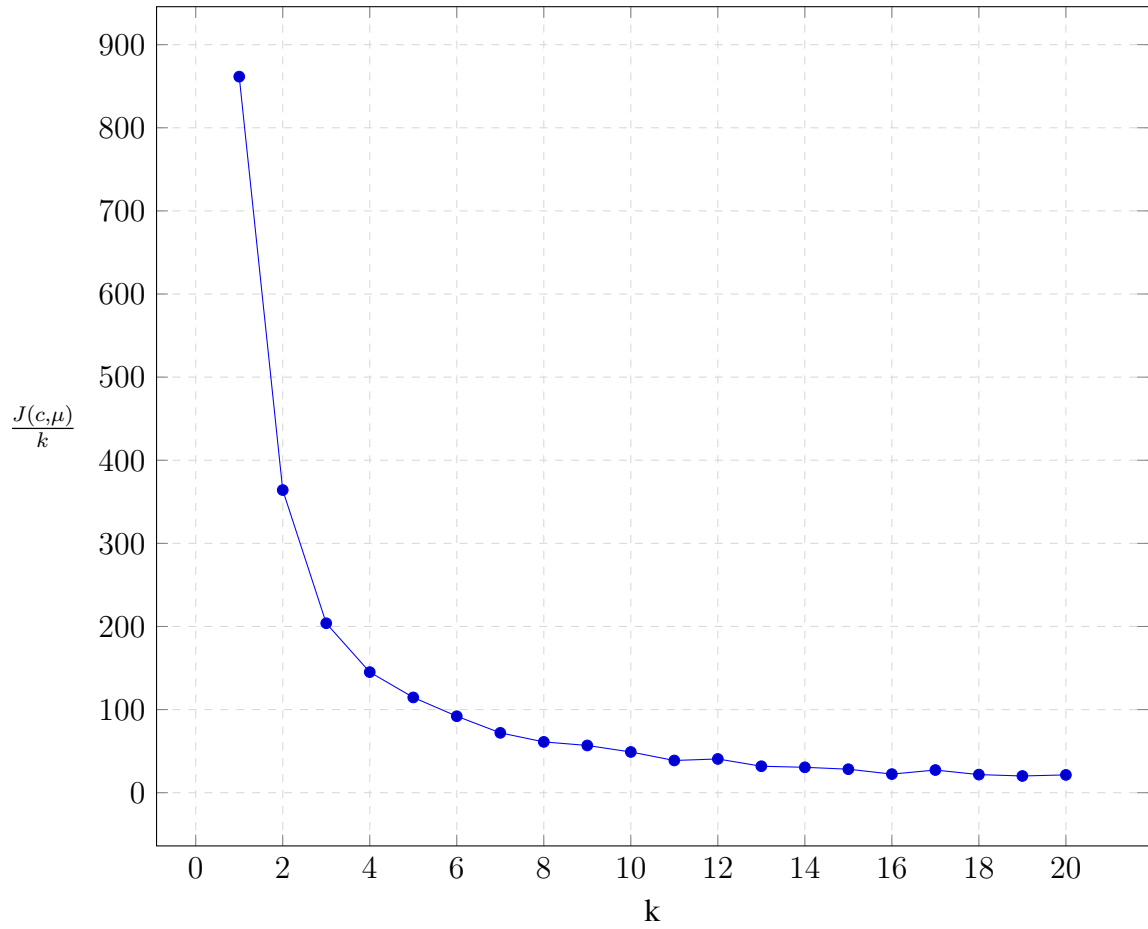


Figure 2.3: Average Fit per centroid per k, calculated using Java and TypeStructureRepresenter.

As seen in the figure above, the improvement in the data modelling decreases as k becomes larger. By calculating the partial derivative  $\frac{c_{i-1} - c_{i+1}}{k_{i-1} - k_{i+1}}$ , the decrease can be measured. The partial derivative is maximized until it reaches a threshold  $\alpha$ , with  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^-$ . This value defines our guess for k.



## 2.5 Language Differentiation

Based on the representation based k-means clustering, this thesis also provides a method to calculate a precision value of how closely related two languages are. For this, one language is clustered with the k-means algorithm. For each cluster the radius is calculated ranging from the coordinate of the centroid to the assigned data point which is the furthest away from the centroid. For comparing a second language to the first, it suffices, to only calculate the vector representation of the data as discussed in section 2.2. For each represented data point of the second language, it is then checked, if it is inside any circle spanned from the previously calculated radii. The precision value describing the relation is calculated as follows:

$$language\_relation = \frac{number\_of\_data\_points\_in\_radius}{number\_of\_data\_points}$$

This means, that for any given two languages, the result 1 indicates that the two languages are related closely and 0 indicates that the languages are completely different. The two dimensional visualisation can be found in Figure 2.4. The red and blue crosses represent the data points of the clusters of the clustered language, with the centroid as the centre and the green crosses being the data points of the second language:

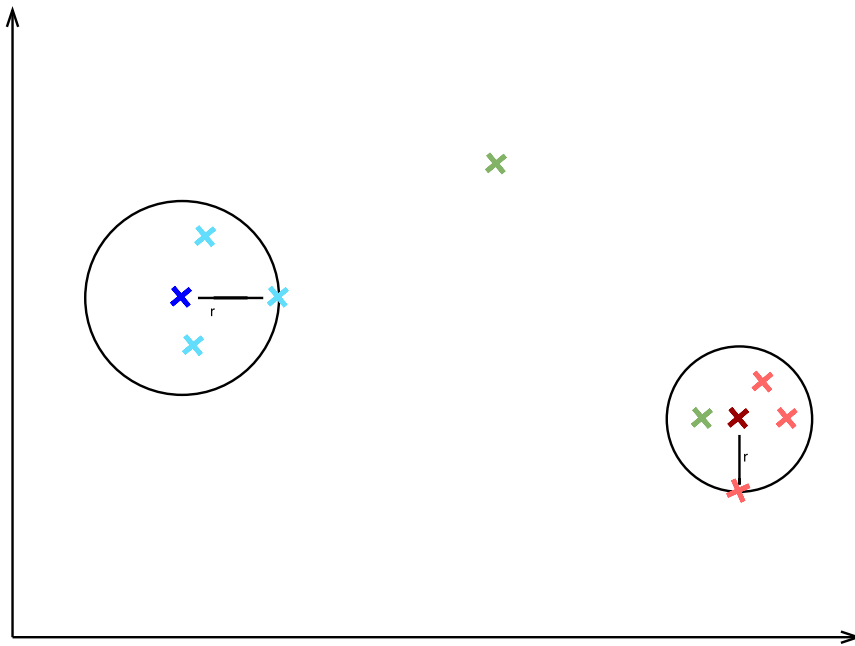


Figure 2.4: Two dimensional example of Language Differentiation

# 3

## Implementation

This chapter gives an overview of the implementation of the k-means clustering tool. First, we look at used resources. Second, that we look at the k-means and Language Differentiator pipeline and how the data is processed.

### 3.1 Technology

The k-means clustering tool is developed in Pharo 4.0. Statements and tokens are separated with Petit Parser [1], which is also used for recognizing the types of the tokens.

### 3.2 K-Means Pipeline

The first implementation to verify our ideas of clustering statements of software code was a simple k-means clustering algorithm with a single static k as a parameter.

**Known k.** The implementation of the k-means clustering tool for calculating a single cluster is quite straightforward. A code file is loaded by a File Handler object. With the help of Petit Parser the loaded code file is then split into statements and tokens by the New Line Statementmaker. A Representor Runner is responsible for handling the different representation methods and calls to the loaded Representors. The Representors then successively create the vector representation. This representations get clustered by the implemented k-means algorithm. The processed clusters are the sent back to the File

Handler, which saves each cluster in a separate file. Meaning it saves per centroid their assigned statements. To initialize the centroids in a reasonable range of values, the range is determined by the Representors used. This is done, to minimize the risk of getting centroids, without any data assigned to them, so called empty centroids. The data flow can be seen in the following figure:

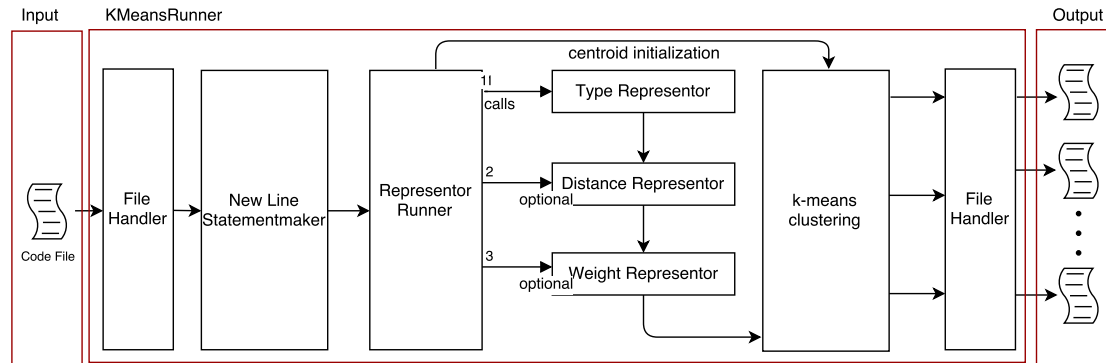


Figure 3.1: Simplified data flow chart of the single k k-means pipeline.

As discussed before, assumptions on the structure of the input, should be minimal. Therefore we don't want to make assumptions about  $k$ , but want to have an algorithm to calculate the optimal number of clusters.

**Interval.** If the optimal number of clusters is not known, it is needed to calculate different clusterings with different numbers of clusters and compare them. For this, we implemented a way to create different clusters for a given interval. For each natural number in this interval, a set of clusters is calculated and then compared according to the elbow method discussed in section 2.4. Each calculated set of clusters is given to the File Handler and output is created for each set of clusters in the same way as in the implementation shown above. All results from the distortion function, as well as the used representation and the optimal value of  $k$  is saved in a log file. The expansion results in this updated data flow:

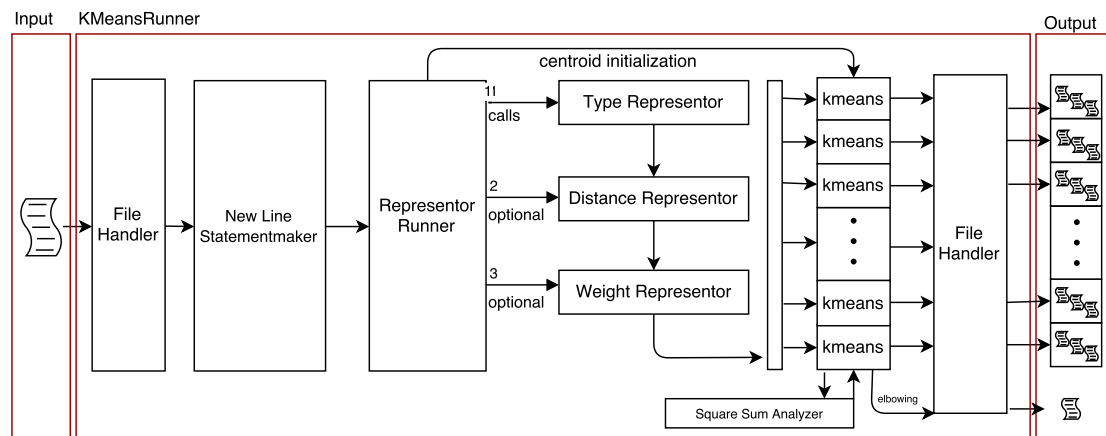


Figure 3.2: Simplified data flow chart of the expanded k-means pipeline

The Square Sum Analyser calculates the distortion function for the elbow method for guessing k for the different k-means clusterings.

### 3.3 Language Differentiation Pipeline

As discussed in section 2.5, it is possible to use the implementation of the k-means clustering to calculate a precision value, measuring how closely related different languages are. The implementation is expanded by adding a control object for the language differentiation. The data flow of the Language Differentiation looks accordingly:

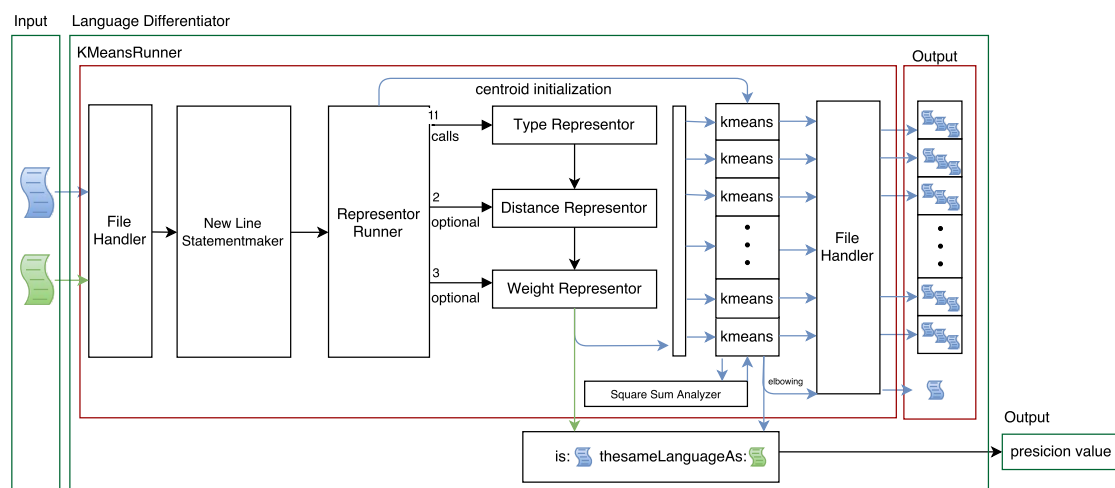


Figure 3.3: Simplified data flow chart of the Language Differentiator pipeline

### 3.4 Runtime

The runtime of the developed tool is dependent on different parameters of the input and configuration. The parameters the tool depends on, are the number of iteration, the size of the trainings data and the numbers of clusters, as well as the number of attributes, meaning the lengths of the vector representations. While running the algorithm, we experienced significant slow downs for calculating the clusterings, using the Type Structure Representor or with calculation using the Weight Inverse Representor. This two representations are the only ones using float calculation, instead of integer calculations. Because there is a lot of vector calculations involved, it leads to the conclusion that floating point calculation is the cause of the slow downs.

### 3.5 Testing

Testing is done in SUnit, which is integrated in Pharo 4.0. A test suite was implemented testing vector calculations and the correct functioning of the creation of the representation.

# 4

## Evaluation

In this chapter, we are going to evaluate, how well the ideas we implemented in this thesis work. For this, we look at how to evaluate the different methods from section 2 and use the introduced evaluation mechanics on an actual Java example, consisting of roughly 300 lines of code. Whereas this evaluation concentrates on Java, we also look at other languages in chapter 5. Evaluating an unsupervised learning algorithm does have the problem that there is no labelled data to test against. But since we know what the goal of the algorithm is supposed to be, we are able to manually cluster the Java file into a reference clustering, making the cluster assignment ourselves, to test our methods against.

## 4.1 The Elbow Method

The elbow method, as seen in Section 2.4, is a heuristic for finding a good value for the parameter  $k$ . In our manually clustered Java data, we were able to cluster it into 13 different clusters, making this our desired output of the elbow method. For the Type Structure and the Type Specific Representer we run the elbow methods with different parameter  $\alpha$  on Java the previously mentioned Java code file:

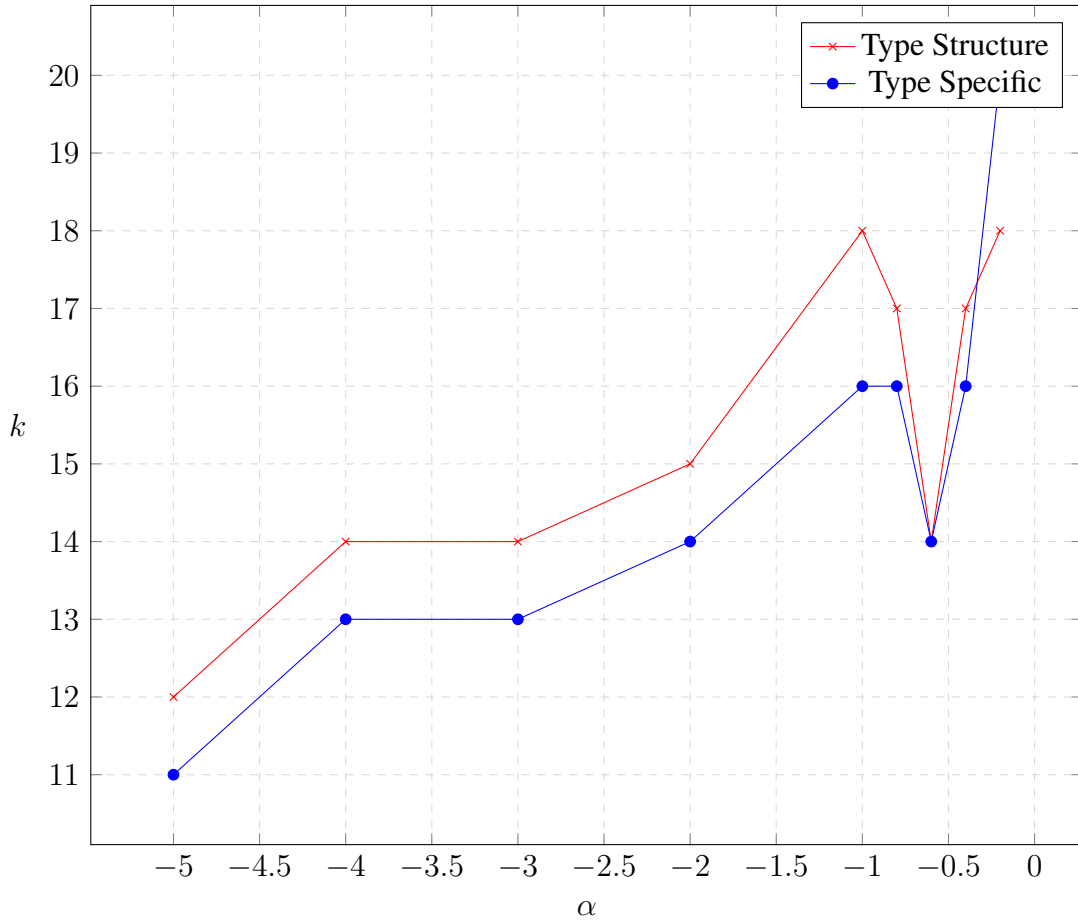


Figure 4.1: Plot of elbow method. Heuristic value of  $k$ , given  $\alpha$ .

The smaller  $\alpha$ , the smaller is  $k$ . This two plots show, that a value of  $-3$  is needed to get near the desired value for  $k$ . Therefore  $-3$  will be used for further calculations. It is important to notice that the calculated  $k$  differs for the same value of  $\alpha$  for the two different used representation methods. Also we have to address the problem of statistical outliers, as can be seen in this graph at around  $\alpha = -0.5$ . Given that the underlying

k-means algorithm is statistical, outliers are to be expected. Problems related to the k-means implementation will be discussed in section 4.2.

## 4.2 Evaluating the Representations

For evaluating the performance of the clusterings for the different representations, a distinct evaluation method, which giving us a value to compare our methods, is needed. We introduce V-Measures for measuring the performance of our tool.

### 4.2.1 V-Measures

Given the knowledge of the ground truth class assignments of the samples, which we manually created, it is possible to define a metric, using conditional entropy analysis. In particular Rosenberg and Hirschberg [7] define the following two desirable objectives for any cluster assignment:

- **homogeneity:** each cluster contains only members of a single class.
- **completeness:** all members of a given class are assigned to the same cluster.

Homogeneity and completeness scores are formally given by:

$$h = 1 - \frac{H(C|K)}{H(C)}$$

$$c = 1 - \frac{H(K|C)}{H(K)}$$

with the conditional entropy of the classes, given the cluster assignments  $H(C|K)$  being defined as:

$$H(C|K) = - \sum_{c=1}^{|C|} \sum_{k=1}^{|K|} \frac{n_{c,k}}{n} \log \left( \frac{n_{c,k}}{n_k} \right)$$

and the conditional entropy of the classes is given by:

$$H(C) = - \sum_{c=1}^{|C|} \frac{n_c}{n} \log \left( \frac{n_c}{n} \right)$$

where  $n_k$  is the number of samples in cluster k and  $n_{c,k}$  is the number of samples from class c assigned to cluster k.

The conditional entropy of clusters given class  $H(K|C)$  and the entropy of clusters  $H(K)$  are defined in a symmetric manner.



The V-Measure is defined as the harmonic mean of homogeneity and completeness:

$$v = 2 \frac{h * c}{h + c}$$

This gives us values for h, c and v ranging from [0, 1]. This values can be used as a score to compare how well our representations performed, with 1 being a perfect score and 0 being the lowest score [7].

### 4.2.2 V-Measure scores for Java

Using the v-measure scores, we can calculate two tables containing all the possible representations introduced in this thesis. The first table is clustered using the Type Structure representation, while the second table is calculated using Type Specific representation. The two tables are structured in a way, that first all the Representors are evaluated with the respective Type Representor and in an additional step, the Weight Representors are concatenated with the Distance Representors.

Table 4.1: Java v-measures of all possible representations with Type Structure Representor

| Representor      | homogeneity | completeness | v-measure | perfect k | empty centroids |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Type Structure   | 0,61        | 0,9          | 0,73      | 13        | 0               |
| Dist Zero        | 0,47        | 0,35         | 0,4       | 14        | 4               |
| Dist All         | 0,89        | 0,53         | 0,66      | 13        | 4               |
| Wheight Summary  | 0,25        | 0,23         | 0,24      | 14        | 8               |
| Weight Sum First | 0,21        | 0,27         | 0,24      | 11        | 5               |
| Weight Inverse   | 0,77        | 0,56         | 0,65      | 11        | 0               |
| Dist Zero        |             |              |           |           |                 |
| Wheight Summary  | 0,22        | 0,42         | 0,29      | 16        | 5               |
| Weight Sum First | 0,14        | 0,11         | 0,12      | 12        | 7               |
| Weight Inverse   | 0,72        | 0            | 0         | 11        | 9               |
| Dist All         |             |              |           |           |                 |
| Wheight Summary  | 0,08        | 0,29         | 0,13      | 13        | 6               |
| Weight Sum First | 0,1         | 0            | 0         | 20        | 13              |
| Weight Inverse   | 0,57        | 0            | 0         | 11        | 5               |

Table 4.2: Java v-measures of all possible representations with Type Specific Representer

| Representer      | homogeneity | completeness | v-measure | perfect k | empty centroids |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| Type Specific    | 0,68        | 0,91         | 0,77      | 11        | 0               |
| Dist Zero        | 0,56        | 0            | 0         | 13        | 6               |
| Dist All         | 0,36        | 0            | 0         | 14        | 9               |
| Wheight Summary  | 0,62        | 0,95         | 0,75      | 14        | 0               |
| Weight Sum First | 0,27        | 0            | 0         | 15        | 9               |
| Weight Inverse   | 0,47        | 0,73         | 0,58      | 20        | 6               |
| Dist Zero        |             |              |           |           |                 |
| Wheight Summary  | 0,45        | 0            | 0         | 15        | 8               |
| Weight Sum First | 0,12        | 0            | 0         | 20        | 10              |
| Weight Inverse   | 0,65        | 0,65         | 0,62      | 11        | 6               |
| Dist All         |             |              |           |           |                 |
| Wheight Summary  | 0,6         | 0            | 0         | 13        | 8               |
| Weight Sum First | 0,1         | 0            | 0         | 20        | 9               |
| Weight Inverse   | 0,87        | 0            | 0         | 11        | 9               |

All the calculations in the two tables were made with clusterings for the interval  $[10, 25]$  and with  $\alpha = -3$ . Aside from the calculations of the scores for homogeneity, completeness and v-measures, the tables also feature the elbowed value for k as "perfect k". Using k-means clustering, it is possible for centroids to not be assigned to any data points. Because of this, the number of empty centroids encountered in the clustering is featured as well. While computing the v-measure scores, there was a problem with the range of the values computed. Under the condition of empty centroids present, there was a possibility for the scores to be below zero. Fortunately this was only the case if there were many centroids without assigned data points. For simplicity, these values were rounded to zero.

### 4.2.3 Explaining the Results

The best results were achieved by using only the two Type Representors. They scored extremely well in completeness with values up to 0.91, if used without any other representation. The best scores however were achieved by adding the Weight Summary Representer, which as discussed in section 2.2, reduces noise in the type representation. With the addition of Weight Summary representation, the algorithm scores up to 0.95 in completeness and works extremely well if used with the Type Specific representation, but not as good with the Type Structure representation. Overall the v-measures scores

of the Type Structure table have a mean of 0.28, which is slightly better than the mean of all the v-measure scores of the Type Specific Representation as type representation, which is 0.2. But if we look at the highest scores, Type Structure Representation is the better choice having both the highest score with the representation that uses only Type Representation and the highest score overall with the use of Type Specific Representation and the Weight Summary Representor. A more complete overview of the Type Specific and Type Structure can be found in section 5.8

The heuristic guess for  $k$  does extremely well. As mentioned before,  $\alpha = -3$  was used for the calculations of the elbow method. Of Interest are all the combination of Representors that do not result in empty centroids. For those representations, the guessed  $k$  varies maximally by 2 from the manually created example. For the best combination, being composed of the Type Specific and the Weight Summary, it only differs by one additional cluster.

While there are pretty good results from our tool, most of them have only low scores. This section tries to find an explanation, as to why.

**Assumptions.** The main goal of this thesis was to find structural patterns in software code files or log files, while keeping the assumptions about the structure of the input files as minimal as possible. One of the problems of using a clustering algorithm is, that said algorithm does make assumptions about the data it clusters. For k-means, this assumption lies in the goal of the algorithm to minimize the squared sum of the distances from the data points to the centroids. This means that it always tries to find clusters that are circular in shape. This must not be the case for the representations we created in this theses, as the representations were created, as seen fit for representing certain characteristics of structures in a statement.

**Variance.** If we look at the scores table, it stands out, that representations do poor, that create big variance in the data. This is the case for all the Distance Representors, as well as for representations such as Weight Sum First. It is interesting to see, that the Distance Representors do better, if we lower the variance of the data, which is the case, if we additionally use the Weight Inverse Representor. This could be the case, again, because the k-means algorithm tries to minimize the squared sum distances from data points to centroids. With a big variance in the data, this can cause the k-means algorithm to give more weight to clusters that are more dense and thus neglecting smaller clusters with lower density. [6]

**Empty Centroid.** In the results, we needed to feature a column for empty centroids, as this is a big problem, that needs to be addressed. Centroids are randomly initialized

with uniform distribution over all dimensions of the vector, scaled to the highest vector element found in the data. In contrast to featurization, representations allow for vectors of different sizes. For vector calculations this means that smaller vectors need to be padded with zeros to compare them. Therefore, more relevant data lies in the lower dimensions of a vector. If the centroids are uniformly initialised in every dimension, initialized centroids can be further away from the data points as any other centroid. We can see this in Weight Sum First, where we have high values at the beginning and low values at the end. So Weight Sum First increases this phenomena. A problem in this explanation lies therein, that empty centroids are not a problem for all the representations in the same way. Hence, there needs to be another problem causing this. Another look into the scores table reveals, that empty centroids are more common for Representors, that have higher variance in the data, as discussed under variance.

**Convergence.** Scores rely on the convergence of the k-means algorithm. For the algorithm to be guaranteed to converge to the optimal result, certain assumptions of the data must be met. If these assumptions are not met, it is possible that the algorithm converges to a local instead of a global optimum. In our thesis, it is unfortunately the case that these assumptions are not always met. This can result in different results, as in the tables above. This does not necessarily mean that our calculated data is not valid. If the Representors are run multiple times, the algorithm that did well in the scores, were actually the most robust ones, having the lowest variance in the scores and the distortion function. This can be traced back to the robustness in relation to the empty centroids, meaning, that if a representation is more likely to have empty centroids, it is also expected to have higher variance of the v-measures and in the distortion function.

#### 4.2.4 Nearest statement sample

The output of the implemented clustering tool is described in section 3.2. By evaluating our tool, we wanted to know, what the nearest statements of each centroid is.

| Nearest Statments to Centroids                                       |
|--|
| public class BootReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {                |
| import ch . xonix . mensa . unibe . model . Mensa ;                  |
| *  |
| public abstract class AbstractInvitationsFragment extends Fragment { |
| return container ;   |
| import java . util . ArrayList ;                                     |
| public class CriteriaMatcher {                                       |
| / * *  |
| protected void onCreate ( Bundle savedInstanceState ) {              |
| public void onDestroy ( ) {  |
| android . R . layout . simple _ list _ item _ 1 ) ;                  |
| container = new ArrayList < Criteria > ( ) ;                         |
| crit . setCriteriaName ( criteria ) ;                                |

Figure 4.2: Nearest statements per centroids, created witch Type Structure Representor

The first thing that stands out, is the occurrence of two different lines which are related to commenting. It is clear that comments are problematic in our clustering approach, because the beginning of the statements and not the representation of the whole information defines the cluster it should be assigned to. Also, there are two almost identical statements on line 1 and line 4, with the difference being in the length. This means, that the length of the representation does play a big part in the assignments of the statements to clusters. It is to note here, that this would be the same statement, if Weight Summary Representor would have been used with the Type Structure Representor.

| Nearest Statments to Centroids  |
|---|
| import ch . xonix . mensa . unibe . model . Mensa ;   |
| Intent intent = new Intent ( this , DrawerMenuActivity . class ) ;                                  |
| public class BootReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {   |
| public abstract class AbstractInvitationsFragment extends Fragment {                                |
| container = new ArrayList < Criteria > ( ) ;  |
| import java . util . Set ;  |
| tenOClock . set ( Calendar . YEAR , Calendar . MONTH , Calendar . DAY _ OF _ MONTH , 10 , 0 , 0 ) ; |
| else {  |
| }} ;  |
| if ( LoginService . isLoggedIn ( ) )  |
| adapter = createAdapter ( ) ;   |
| public class CriteriaMatcher {  |
| * This simple abstract class has the functionality which is common for both                         |

Figure 4.3: Nearest statements per centroids, created witch Type Specific Representor

The Type Structure Representor does a better job, assigning the comments to the same clusters. We still have the problem here that we have two nearly identical patterns, starting with the import token. Although it would be desired to have them assigned to the same cluster. The only difference of those two statement, lies in the lengths of the statement, and further more only in a series of a repeating pattern. This is a huge drawback of our implemented approaches. Also we have the same problem as in figure 8.3 above, here in line 3 and 4, with statements that only differ in one word.

# 5

## Evaluating other languages

The main evaluation of the k-means algorithm was done for Java. As a result of section 4.2.2, we can now discard certain representations as not suitable. We will now take a look at the performance of the representations for other languages than Java, including an Abacus log file. All the files contain source code, randomly selected from Github. Each file contains roughly about 300 lines of code or more.

### 5.1 C Sharp / C#

Table 5.1: C Sharp v-measures

| Representor    | homogeneity | completeness | v-measure | perfect k | empty centroid |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Type Structure | 0,86        | 0,75         | 0,8       | 13        | 2              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,23        | 0,61         | 0,34      | 12        | 5              |
| Type Specific  | 0,61        | 1            | 0,75      | 15        | 2              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,9         | 0,15         | 0,26      | 11        | 4              |

If we look at the taxonomy of programming languages, we see that C Sharp is a very close descended of Java. Therefore, it is to be expected that many structural elements are the same for both languages. It does not surprise that the results of our methods

are not that different to those calculated for Java. The heuristic for  $k$  is not as good as for Java. While we manually classified C Sharp into 17 clusters, even the best guess missed two clusters. This makes for C Sharp  $\alpha = -3$  not the best choice. Nevertheless, are the scores for the single use of the Type Representors very satisfying, with the best v-measure around 0.8. But it stands out, that the Weight Summary Representor - our noise reduction - does not perform as good as in Java. This is surprising, given the close relation between Java and C Sharp. While it resulted in good scores for Java, giving the best score with Type Specific representation, the scores for C Sharp are remarkably low. Differences can lie in the composition of the used data. For this thesis around 300 lines of code for each languages were used in the clustering of the language. A big challenge in clustering is the correct assignment of comments. If a code contains lots of comments that are formatted in different ways or even software code that is commented out, this will be clustered differently as intended. This, as we want all comments to be assigned to the same cluster. The C Sharp code used for clustering shows indeed lots of different comments, that were not clustered as intended.

It is also surprising, that we have way more empty centroids than in Java. The clustering of Java resulted in neither of the used representations used for C Sharp in empty centroids. It is not clear as to why this happens. One thing that seems to be standing out, is that the use of the noise reduction, in general either improves the result, or causes it to have more empty centroids. This can be the case, because reducing noise also means that information is removed, lowering the dimension of the vectors. If too much information is removed, the clustering cannot work properly, as variance of the data may becomes to low, so that data points cannot be distinguished well enough.

## 5.2 C++

Table 5.2: C++ v-measures

| Representor    | homogeneity | completeness | v-measure | perfect k | empty centroid |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Type Structure | 0,35        | 0,84         | 0,5       | 16        | 0              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,67        | 0,27         | 0,39      | 12        | 3              |
| Type Specific  | 0,4         | 0,65         | 0,5       | 16        | 4              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,15        | 0,41         | 0,22      | 17        | 7              |

C++, like C Sharp, is very closely related to Java. So similar results are to be expected. With Type Structure and Type Specific representation, this is the case, even though



they score lower. It is suspected, that there are the same problems in clustering, as in C Sharp. C++ does also contain different ways for commenting, that are difficult to handle. The scores of C++ are more similar to C Sharp than to those calculated for Java.

Like C Sharp, the manual clustered example contained 17 clusters. The number of clusters, was guessed better than for C Sharp. With Type Structure and Type Specific only missing one cluster and Type Specific with applied Weight Summary guessing the correct k.

### 5.3 Phyton

Table 5.3: Phyton v-measures

| Representor    | homogeneity | completeness | v-measure | perfect k | empty centroid |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Type Structure | 0,47        | 0,76         | 0,58      | 13        | 0              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,66        | 0,41         | 0,5       | 13        | 3              |
| Type Specific  | 0,51        | 0,8          | 0,62      | 16        | 2              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,27        | 0,53         | 0,37      | 18        | 1              |

Python does have similar constructs as Java, but is not as closely related to it compared to C++ or C#. The evaluation of Python shows reasonable clusterings for Type Structure and Type Specific, but does also not well, if Weight Summary representation is applied. If we include the guessed value for k and the number of centroids, Type Structure does better than Type Specific representation, even though the Type Specific alone does have a higher score. But unfortunately, k is not guessed as good for Type Structure as for Type Specific. The number of clusters in our manually created clustering is 12. Elbowing does achieve a good value for the Type Structure Representor, with or without the application of Weight Summary Representor, creating only one extra cluster. For Type Specific, k is guessed with a difference of 4, respectively 6 extra centroids. If we take a look at the used code, we see lots of different statements beginning with "print" and should be assigned to the same cluster. Having just one word at the beginning of the statement characterising the whole statement works the same way as comments do. This makes it hard for the clustering algorithm to assign them properly.

## 5.4 XML

Table 5.4: XML v-measures

| Representor    | homogeneity | completeness | v-measure | perfect k | empty centroid |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Type Structure | 0,7         | 0,86         | 0,77      | 11        | 0              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,6         | 0,45         | 0,51      | 11        | 5              |
| Type Specific  | 0,58        | 0,38         | 0,46      | 13        | 5              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,83        | 0,51         | 0,63      | 11        | 2              |

All the previously evaluated programming languages have similar constructs. This cannot be said about XML, as it is a hierarchical mark-up language. The best results were scored with the Type Structure Representor, scoring high in homogeneity and completeness. The other results are not absolutely conclusive, because it cannot be determined, if noise reduction does help or not.

The manually clustered example contains 15 clusters. This means, that for XML,  $\alpha = -3$  does not seem to be the best choice, as the guess for k is too low over all the evaluated representations.

## 5.5 ABACUS log file

Table 5.5: ABACUS log v-measures

| Representor    | homogeneity | completeness | v-measure | perfect k | empty centroid |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Type Structure | 0,84        | 0,48         | 0,61      | 14        | 6              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,37        | 0,33         | 0,35      | 14        | 7              |
| Type Specific  | 0,77        | 0,41         | 0,54      | 12        | 3              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,89        | 0,65         | 0,75      | 11        | 7              |

The ABACUS log files does achieve good scores, even though there are many empty centroids in the final clusterings. Only one representation methods has a score lower than 0.5. In the scores gathered, it stands out, that Weight Summary representation only improves the score, if used with Type Specific representation. For Type Structure

Representor this does not apply. The number of clusters would have been guessed pretty good by the elbow method. But if we subtract the empty centroids from it, we get too few clusters.

It is not certain, why the clustering of the ABACUS log files results in this many empty centroids, but it could mean that there is a lot of the same types in the same part of the statements, causing problems with the initialization of the centroids, as was discussed before. The problem with this explanation is, that Type Structure with Weight Summary does not perform better, which should be expected in that case.

## 5.6 Brainfuck

Table 5.6: Brainfuck v-measures

| Representor    | homogeneity | completeness | v-measure | perfect k | empty centroid |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Type Structure | 0,5         | 0            | 0         | 12        | 5              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,2         | 0,04         | 0,07      | 11        | 8              |
| Type Specific  | 0,62        | 0,01         | 0,21      | 13        | 5              |
| WeightSummary  | 0,28        | 0            | 0         | 11        | 6              |

Brainfuck differs from any other programming language evaluated in this thesis. Brainfuck uses only eight different special characters as instructions, with everything else being treated as comments. This makes clustering the statements very hard, as there is very little difference between statements. Even though we remarked in the evaluation of Java that fewer variance can result in better scores, it is clear that too few variance cannot be clustered correctly, as all statement representation vectors gather around the same points. Because we initialize centroids uniformly over all dimensions, this results in many empty centroids for Brainfuck. Also, it is important to see, that noise reduction goes awry as well. Noise reduction reducing the dimension of the representations remarkably, because Brainfuck only uses one type of tokens for all instructions. Reducing dimensions, does also mean that we lose information. This may work well for Java, as it really reduces noise, but in Brainfuck, it loses too much information to still be clustered correctly.

## 5.7 General Problems

The approach introduced in this thesis does have a few key points that seem to cause problems in clustering:

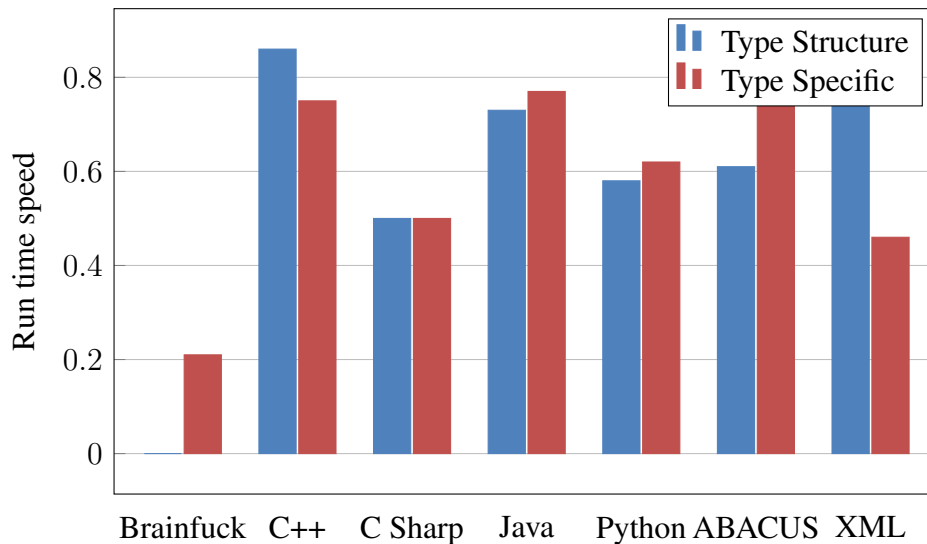
**Comments.** Comments are hard to find. In programming languages there is often, more than one way a comment can be defined, as well as the possibilities for using single-line or multi-line commenting. A comment is most of the time defined by the first few tokens in a statement, with the rest of the statement containing arbitrary structural information and sometimes even out-commented software code. This makes them very hard to cluster correctly.

**Formatting.** Our approach for creating statements (taking every new line as a statement, see section 2.1) is depended on the correct formatting of the software code. Not correctly formatted code can cause structure not being statementized correctly.

**Dimensionality.** There are different dimensions in the data that need to be looked at: vector dimension, number of clusters expected and the number of lines in the input. If one of those mentioned dimension is too low, it can result in not proper clustering by the k-means algorithm, because it does not have enough difference in the data to assign them to different clusters. More dimension can contain more information.

## 5.8 Type Structure vs. Type Specific

The two Type Representors are performing reasonably well. In this section we want to find out, which of the two, is expected to perform better.



It is hard to see, which one of the two Type Representors does overall perform better, as their performance lies heavy on the input. This also stands out if we calculate the averages of all the scores of the Type Structure and Type Specific representation. The average of all scores of the Type Structure Representor is 0.57, while the average of all the Type Specific representation lies by 0.58. But if we look at the average of the best performed representations per language, we get a score of 0.64, and if we ignore Brainfuck, which we were not good in clustering it at all, we get a score of 0.71. This makes it hard to tell, which of the two Representors is overall expected to perform better, as scores depend more on input language as on the Representor. Predictions based on the languages are very hard. As we saw in this chapter, even closely related languages can behave very differently in the clustering process.

# 6

## Evaluating Language Differentiation

After evaluation the k-means algorithm, we now take a look at the performance of our expansion for calculating a precision value for how close languages are related.

Table 6.1: Cross Language Differentiation

| languages  | Brainfuck | C Sharp | C++   | Java  | Abacus log | Python | Xml  |
|------------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|------------|--------|------|
| Brainfuck  | 0,998     | 1       | 0,998 | 1     | 0,996      | 1      | 1    |
| C Sharp    | 1         | 1       | 1     | 1     | 0,997      | 1      | 1    |
| C++        | 0,995     | 1       | 0,894 | 1     | 0,997      | 1      | 1    |
| Java       | 0,65      | 0,972   | 0,81  | 0,998 | 0,843      | 0.94   | 0.87 |
| Abacus log | 0,998     | 1       | 1     | 1     | 0,999      | 1      | 1    |
| Phyton     | 0,88      | 1       | 0,947 | 1     | 0,925      | 1      | 0.97 |
| Xml        | 0,52      | 0,957   | 0,495 | 0,89  | 0,62       | 0.89   | 0.88 |

The results of the Language Differentiator are unfortunately not as expected. It was expected that languages, like Java and C Sharp would be similar, because they both are a C type language, as are C++ and Python. But it was not expected, that nearly all values calculated, resulted near or are one. This applies also to the abacus log file, which is not even a language. It would not suffice just to reference to the problems mentioned in section 4.2.3. There must be a general flaw in the idea.

The underlying idea of the Language Differentiator was, that if we can cluster statements

in a satisfying way, clusters of different statements in a single language would need to be further apart from statements of other clusters than from statements of the same cluster. The conclusion from this was, that different languages would result in different clusterings, with different centroids.

**Overlap.** While it is not possible in k-means, that clusters overlap. But it is possible for clusters of two languages to overlap, because they are created independently. If the variance of the data is small, then all data points of the statement representation of the two different languages are located in the same space. Therefore, if this is the case, our way of calculating language differentiation would not be able to find differences between the languages, because they would count as positive findings in our calculations.

This can be visualized in a two dimensional example.

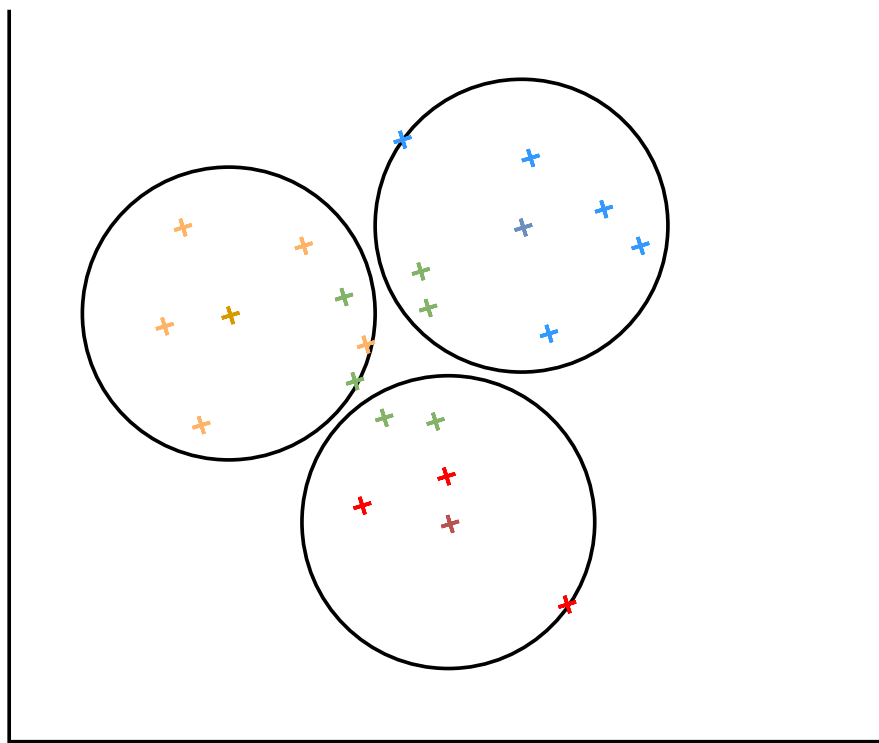


Figure 6.1: Overlap of clusters in Language Differentiator

The orange, blue and red crosses visualize the vector points of the representation of the first language and the black circles are spanned from the radii from the centroids to the point of the cluster with longest distance. The green crosses, visualize the same for the second language. They are not a match to any of the other clusters. But because the variance of the clusters is low, it is possible that all the green crosses lie in the radii of

the clusters of the first language. A better approach for language differentiation with k-means could be to calculate a precision value not based on the vector data points, but on the centroids of the clustering of the second language.



# 7

## Conclusion and Future Work

Finding structural patterns in code or log files can help infer grammar rules, as an important part of building a parser. In this thesis we introduced pattern recognition, using the unsupervised learning algorithm k-means and presented ways for representing the data for the used algorithm. Our goal was to minimize assumptions on the input, therefore allowing our tool to work on any given code or log files. We evaluated these method to see if they perform as expected.

Representations were calculated using different representation, which can be chained to gather, using one Representor of each category, categorized in Type Representors, Distance Representors and Weight Representors.

The evaluation of the representations indicate, that using Type Representations without any other representation performs best for almost all. Using Weight Summary Representation for noise reduction can further improve the results on some languages, but is not guaranteed to perform better. If we take a better look at the Type Representors, Type Specific does perform slightly better for any tested language.

Apart from the results given by the Type Representors and/or Weight Summary representation, the other representations did not well in the evaluation, having low scores and were not robust regarding their computations, having high variance in multiple runs and resulting in empty centroids.

Using k-means for clustering structural patterns in code clearly has limitations, as

k-means itself does make assumptions on the data while clustering, always trying to find circular shaped clusters.

Our introduced approach for calculating, how closely related languages are, did not perform well. It resulted almost in every case in a precision value of one. Meaning that both languages should be the same.

## 7.1 Future Work

Regarding the Problems of k-means, different unsupervised learning algorithms, using single linkage or hierarchical clustering work better for certain languages, as they make different assumptions regarding their input.

The run time of the k-means implementation is quite high for big data sets and in particular, if the vectors contain floating point numbers. Better implementation of vector computations could certainly improve the run time of our tool.

In this thesis, the main focus lies on the different representations and the implementation of the k-means pipeline. The statements were created as single lines, as we wanted to limit our assumptions. Most programming languages have block structures, allowing for encapsulating their statements. The new line approach does not allow for encapsulation. Improvement on the creation of statements could improve the quality of the output of our tool.

With the knowledge about the assumption made by the k-means algorithm, we could also try to make more representations, which could exploit those assumptions better.

It would also be interesting to see, how the results could be improved, if we add heuristics for finding keywords. Keywords are a very important construct of programming languages, that cannot be found with our representation approach. Comments or print statements can add different structure after a keyword, but should be assigned to the same cluster. Adding information about keywords, for example as a forth type for tokens, could improve the clusterings.

For language differentiation the approach could be changed to calculate the precision value based on the centroid of a cluster and not on the statements representation vector points of a language. This could reduce the problem of the general overlap of data with low variance.

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# 8

## Anleitung zu wissenschaftlichen Arbeiten

This chapter contains additional documentation for the created tool, implemented in Pharo 4.0 and does also consist of a users guide to get the data, used in this thesis.

### 8.1 Introduction

The main effort in this bachelor thesis lies in the implementation of the clustering and representation mechanics. There are three different parts in our finished tool:

- **StructureFinder.** Clusters the given input.
- **StructureAnalyzer.** Clusters the input and returns additional information about how well it performed.
- **LanguageDifferentiator.** Calculates a precision value for two input languages or can additionally be used for cross comparison of different languages.

## 8.2 Getting Started

For replicating the results of this thesis or to play around with the clustering mechanics Pharo 4.0 and the used Image File in this thesis.

Pharo 4.0 with a standard Pharo 4.0 Image can be downloaded from:

*[https://github.com/countschokula/BA\\_StructurFinder](https://github.com/countschokula/BA_StructurFinder)*

The Image you need, containing the source code of this thesis is stored on a git repository and can be cloned using the git command:

*\$ git clone [https://github.com/countschokula/BA\\_StructurFinder](https://github.com/countschokula/BA_StructurFinder)*

## 8.3 Structure Finder

The StructureFinder is the implemented k-means clustering tool. For the execution of the tool, a folder structure needs to be created, containing the input files and folders for the output files. For proper functioning of the tool, the folder structure needs to look exactly like this. This needs to be manually created. If a new language is added, folders must be created in the folders files and result. "testFiles" is the root folder. In an input Folder there can be more than one file present. If that is the case, the tool will concatenate them to one file in the clustering process.



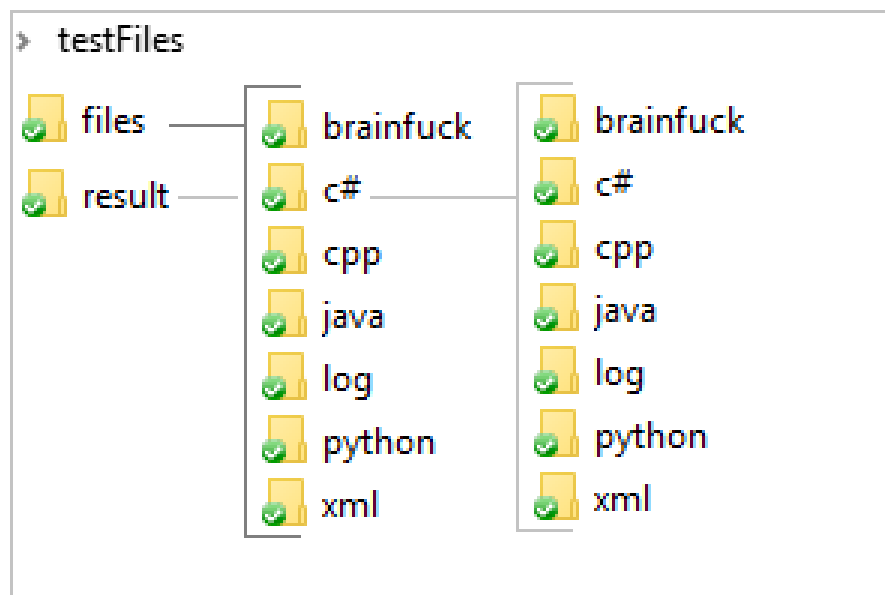


Figure 8.1: Folder structure for setting up the StructureFinder tool, testFiles is the root folder

In the uploaded Image there should be preconfigured playgrounds. If there is no playground open, one needs to be opened.

The preconfigured playground for the StructureFinder contains all necessary parameters for running the clustering algorithm:

```

|sFinder|
sFinder := StructureFinder new.
sFinder path: 'C:\your\computer\path\testFiles'."path to project root folder"
sFinder inputFolder: 'java'. "folder of files to be loaded"
sFinder k: 15. "number of max centroids"
sFinder kmin: 5. "number of min centroids, only used for mode = 2, interval"
sFinder mode: 2. "1= single k, 2 = intervall"
sFinder alpha: -3. "Threshold for elobow method"
sFinder iterations: 25. "Number of k-mean iterations"
"Add which Representations to add via instantiation of Representor Object"
sFinder typeRep: TypeStructureRepresentor new.
sFinder distRep: DistanceAllRepresentor new.
sFinder weigthRep: WeightSummaryRepresentor new.
sFinder multiline: 1. "Additional option to use more than one line in NewLineStamentmaker"
sFinder run.

```

Figure 8.2: Pharo 4.0 playground for configuring and running StructureFinder

For better understanding, the preconfigured playgrounds contains information on the parameters, that can be set. We now take a closer look at the parameters of the StructureFinder.

- **path.** This parameter is necessary for correct loading and storing of the input respectively the output files. The path should point to the root of the folder structure as defined above.
- **mode** It is possible to run two different modes of StructureFinder. Parameter "1" creates a single run of the clustering for input k, while parameter "2" runs the clustering for every natural number between k2 and k.
- **inputFolder.** It is possible to have different folders, containing different languages in your project root folder. This message "inputFolder:" makes the tool use the input of the folder. The folder is given as a string. Output is saved in the corresponding folder under results.
- **k.** Number of clusters for single clustering. If interval mode is activated, k is the higher limit of the interval.
- **kmin.** If interval mode is activated, kmin is the lower limit of the interval.
- **iterations** Gives the kMeansRunner the number of iterations it should run the k-means algorithm, 25 is a low, fast and reasonably guess for the number of iteration. If no iteration value is set, the default value is 50.

- $\alpha$ . Defines the threshold for the elbow method, the heuristic for guessing  $k$ . This parameter is only used, if the tool is run on an interval.
- **typeRep.** A Type Representor must be set. Representors are given to the StructureFinder as Instances. There are two Type Representors available. TypeStructure and TypeSpecific.
- **distRep.** A Distance Representor is optional. It can be set by giving the StructureFinder an Instance of the Distance Representor you want to use. Currently there are two Distance Representors available. DistanceZero- and DistanceAllRepresentor.
- **weightRep.** Adding a Weight Representor is optional. Currently there are tree different Weight Representors available. WeightSummary-, WeightSum- First and WeightInverseRepresentor.

**Output.** The statements of a cluster are saved to .txt files. A file per centroid is created and the files are enumerated. They are saved under results in the corresponding folder the input file is located and are put in a folder named with the timestamp of the execution of the algorithm. For interval execution, for each created clustering the result will be saved:

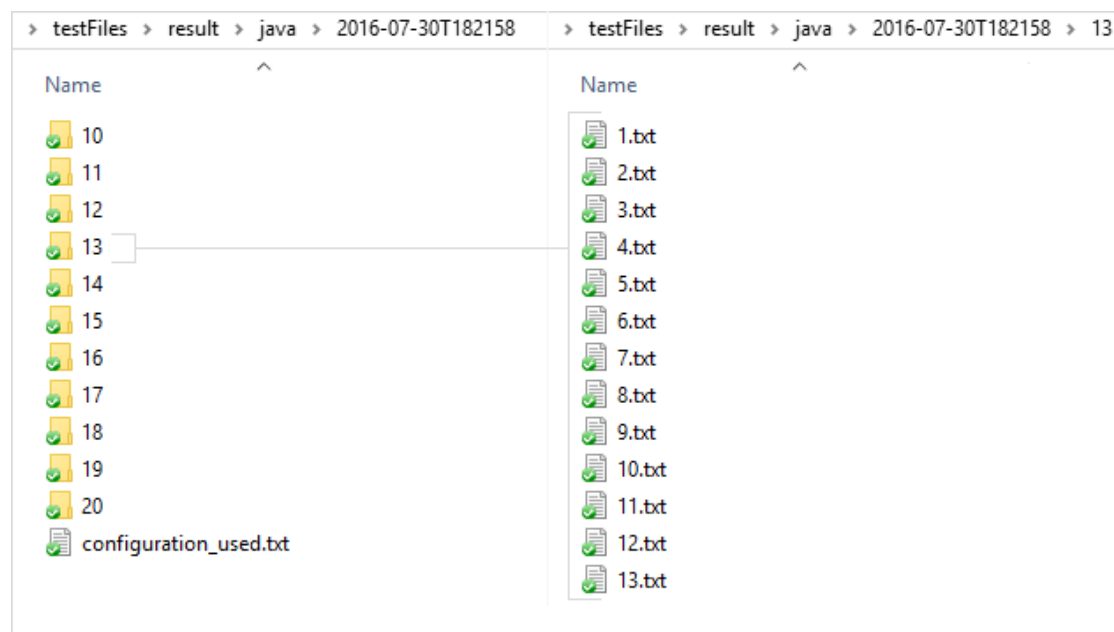


Figure 8.3: Output Folders and Files under Windows

As seen in Figure 8.4 a file named configuration\_used will be created. It contains the parameters used in calculating the clusters, as well as the value of the distortion functions

averaged over  $k$ , for all sets of clusters. Also, the nearest statements to the centroids are listed.

```

1  Folder: java
2
3  Representors:
4  Type Structure Representor
5  Distance All Small Representor
6  Weight Inverse Representor
7
8  Distortion Function values:
9  105.097198154773
10 107.85233046512776
11 73.97848952007175
12 61.20784924288378
13 51.41051669574161
14 50.22390051699675
15 40.1699284252772
16 34.6681874520477
17 31.112434434379516
18 32.90443814492816
19 26.4433594020361
20
21 Guess for K: 13
22
23 nearest Statements per centroid:
24 default :
25 PendingIntent . FLAG _ CANCEL _ CURRENT ) ;
26 if ( daily != null ) {
27 menuItem = item ;
28 public class CriteriaMatcher {
29 protected static final String MENSA _ ID _ KEY = " ch . xonix . mensa . unibe : : mensa _ ID " ;
30 showMessage . setText ( R . string . not _ logged _ in ) ;
31 public void onReceive ( Context context , Intent intent ) {
32 for ( Menu menu : daily . getMenus ( ) ) {
33 import ch . xonix . mensa . unibe . model . Mensa ;
34 * predefined values made in the Settings , if there are now settings made ,
35 crit . setCriteriaName ( criteria ) ;
36 public class BootReceiver extends BroadcastReceiver {

```

Figure 8.4: Example of "configuration\_used.txt" log file.

## 8.4 Structure Analyzer

Structure Analyzer allows for calculating the v-measure scores. V-measure is explained in detail in section 4.2.1.

For calculating v-measures, it is necessary to have a manually created clustering of your input data to test against. The input file needs to be split into the clusterings wanted to be achieved and saved into different text files. The assigned statements must be only featured once in the manually created clusters. Also, the cluster set must be stored in the correct folder. For this a folder named "perfect" needs to be created in the root folder of your project path. In the folder "perfect" a folder with the same name as the input folder

has to be created and this is where the manually assigned clusters need to be stored. The input of the files has to be on the same location used for the StructureFinder.

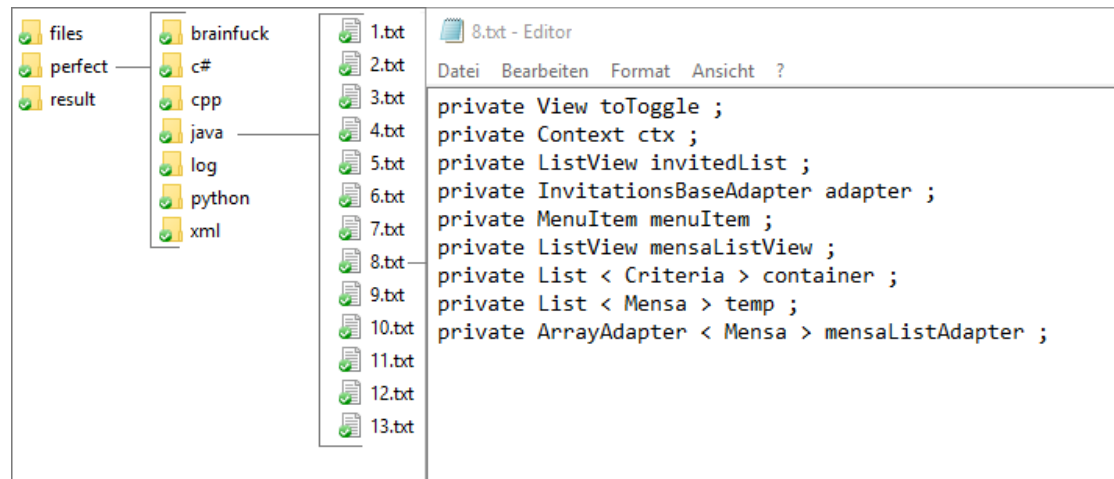


Figure 8.5: Set up of perfect example for analysing

The configuration is exactly the same as in section 8.3 for the StructureFinder.

The preconfigured playground for the StructureAnalyzer looks like this:

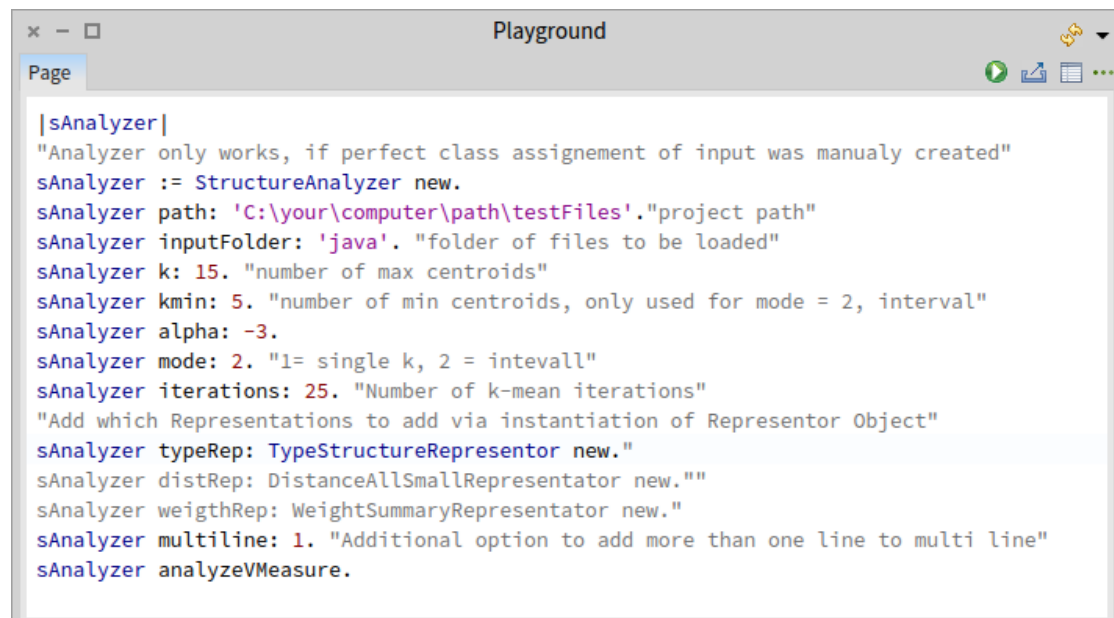


Figure 8.6: Preconfigured StructureAnalyzer Playground

**Output** The StructureAnalyzer has the same output as the StructureFinder in section 8.3. The exception is, that the additional information about the performance of the clusterings are added to the log file.

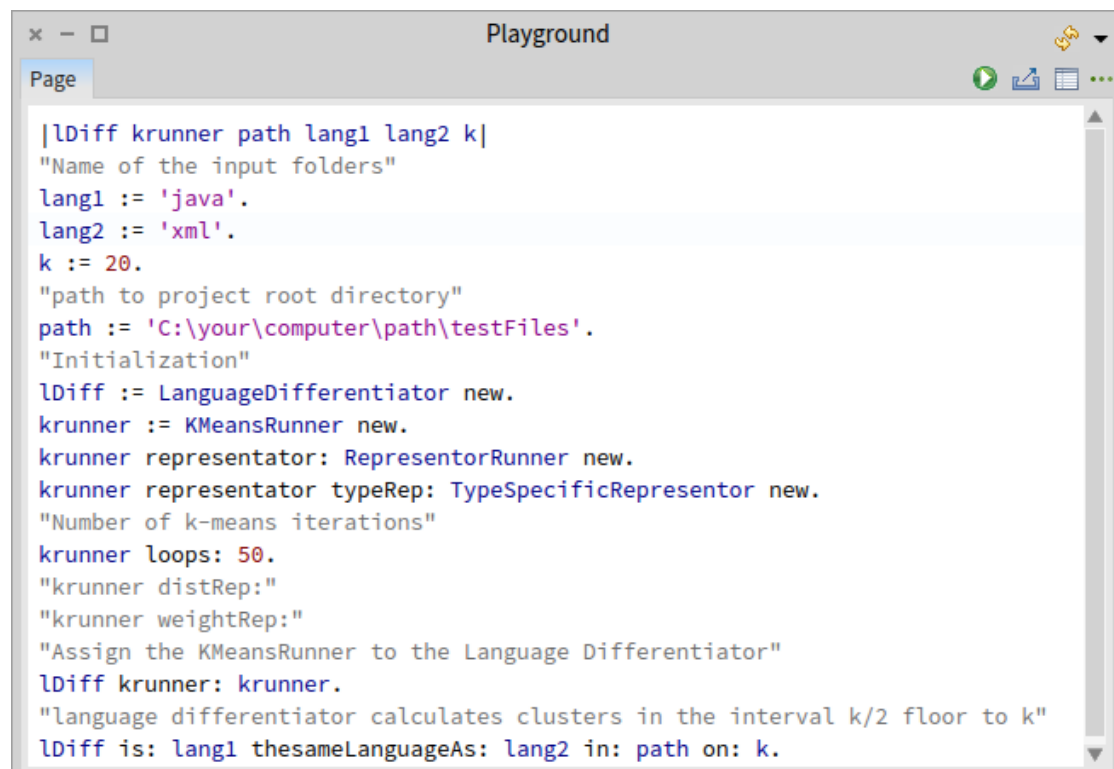
```
20 homogeneity: 0.5781070081099207
21 completeness: 0.9104945606931953
22 v-measure: 0.70719163195013
```

Figure 8.7: Log file "configuration\_used", added performance information from analysis.

## 8.5 Language Differentiator

There are two different ways for calculating the Language Differentiator values. The first way, calculates the precision value of how close two languages are related, using two normal input files from the files directory, as described in section 8.3. The second approach, which was used for calculating the results in this thesis, as can be found in section 8.3, uses a different test and trainings set per language, allowing to test the relation of two different input sets for the same language.

We now take a look at the first approach and the preconfigured Pharo playground.



```
|lDiff krunner path lang1 lang2 k|
"Name of the input folders"
lang1 := 'java'.
lang2 := 'xml'.
k := 20.
"path to project root directory"
path := 'C:\your\computer\path\testFiles'.
"Initialization"
lDiff := LanguageDifferentiator new.
krunner := KMeansRunner new.
krunner representator: RepresentorRunner new.
krunner representator typeRep: TypeSpecificRepresentor new.
"Number of k-means iterations"
krunner loops: 50.
"krunner distRep:"
"krunner weightRep:"
"Assign the KMeansRunner to the Language Differentiator"
lDiff krunner: krunner.
"language differentiator calculates clusters in the interval k/2 floor to k"
lDiff is: lang1 thesameLanguageAs: lang2 in: path on: k.
```

Figure 8.8: Language Differentiator Playground

The initialization of the LanguageDifferentiator works nearly the same as for the StructureFinder and the StructureAnalyzer. The exception is, that the kMeansRunner Object is not wrapped in the LanguageDifferentiator and must be initialised separately.

**Output.** For the playground to show the results, press Ctrl+A and Ctrl+P. The clusters are saved in the normal result folder.

The second approach needs a separate folder structure:

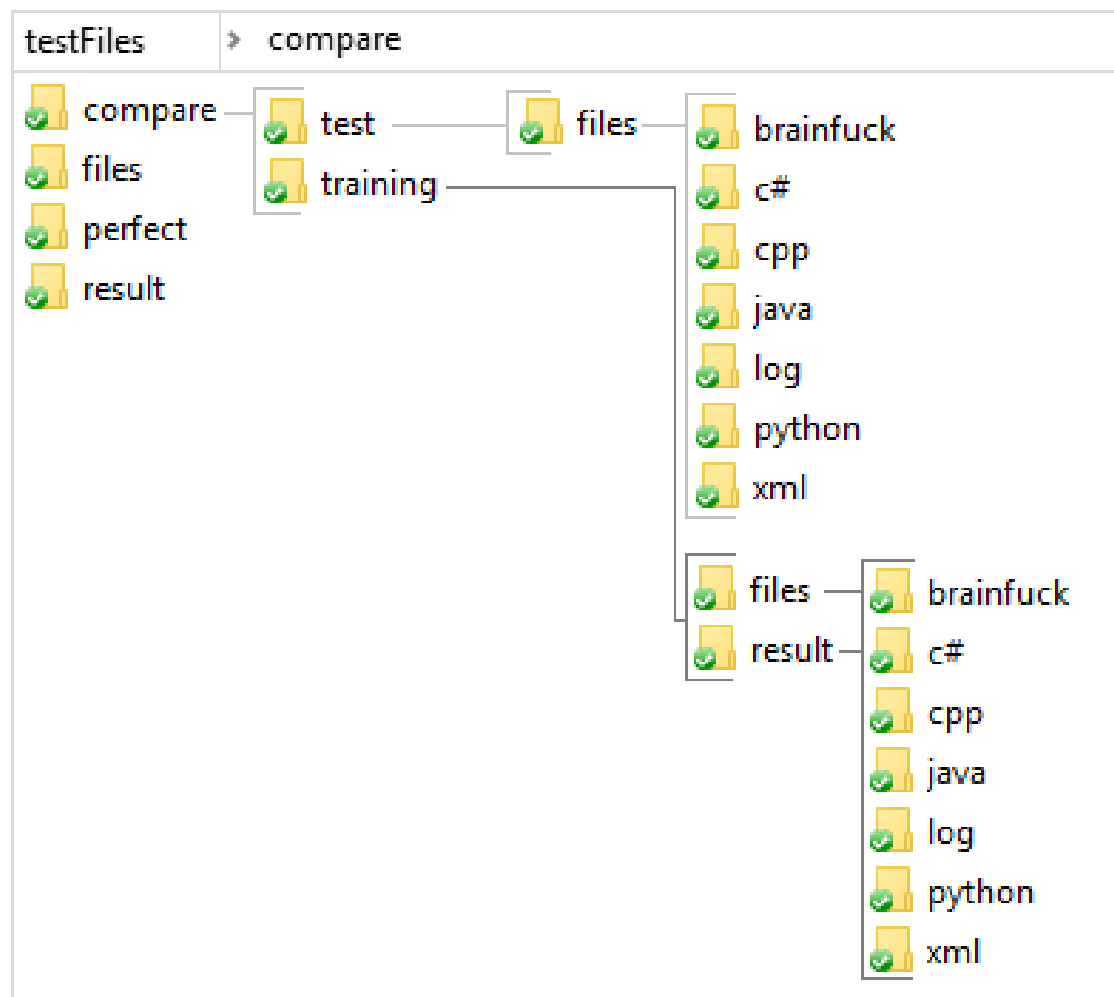
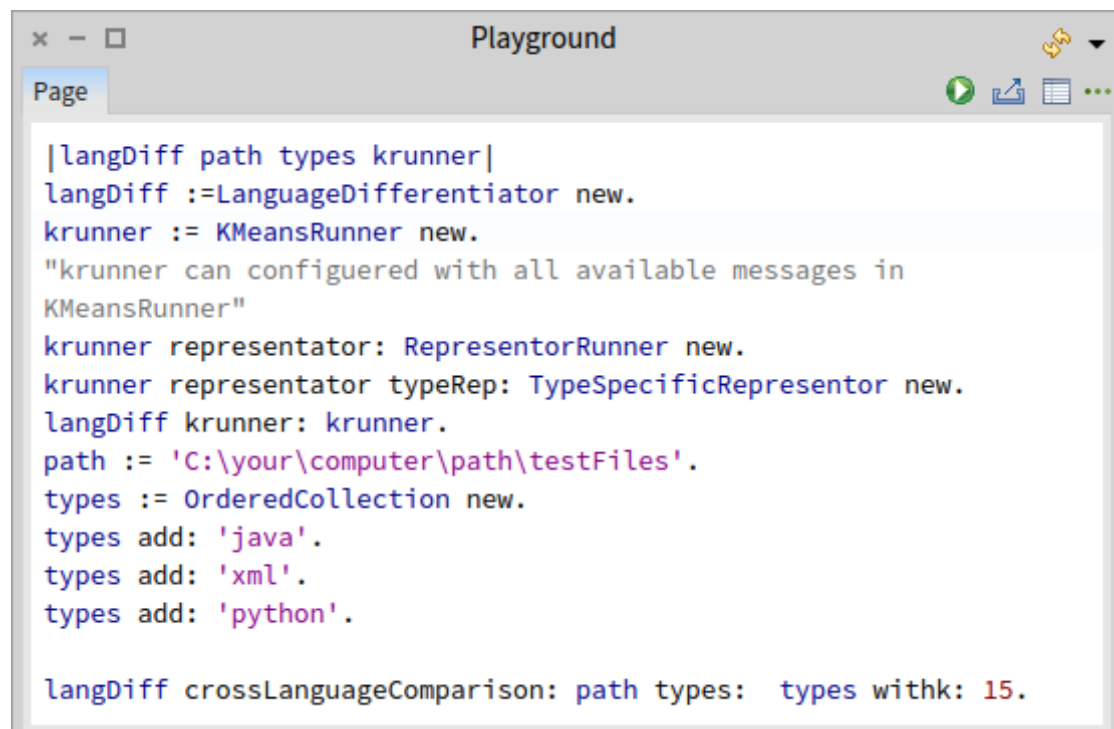


Figure 8.9: Language Differentiator compare folder structure

There is also a preconfigured playground for the "crossLanguageComparison:"



The image shows a screenshot of a software window titled "Playground". The window has a standard macOS-style title bar with a close button (X), a minimize button (-), and a maximize button (square). Below the title bar, there is a tab labeled "Page". On the right side of the window, there are several icons: a green play button, a blue document icon, a green list icon, and a green three-dot menu icon. The main area of the window contains a text editor with the following Scala code:

```
|langDiff path types krunner|
langDiff := LanguageDifferentiator new.
krunner := KMeansRunner new.
"Krunner can be configured with all available messages in
KMeansRunner"
krunner representator: RepresentorRunner new.
krunner representator typeRep: TypeSpecificRepresentor new.
langDiff krunner: krunner.
path := 'C:\your\computer\path\testFiles'.
types := OrderedCollection new.
types add: 'java'.
types add: 'xml'.
types add: 'python'.

langDiff crossLanguageComparison: path types: types withk: 15.
```

Figure 8.10: Language Differentiator cross comparison

The KMeansRunner is configured in the same way as above. All the folders that we want to compare with each other can be added in string form to the types collection with the message "add:".

**Output.** Output is generated using the playground command Ctrl+P. Results of the clusterings are saved to the results folder in compare>training>result.