

xtitle: coherence & presuppositions observations in
:schizophrenia: threads

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Chapter 1

index

linguistics, AVL, alii pub essais extension.

```
#dataset<-7
```

```
#prelim
```

Chapter 2

15303.ha.draft

2.1 subject

Investigate reference marking, coherence and information structure in schizophrenia language by measuring distance of similar nouns within range of comment thread preceded by certain determinants.¹

2.2 background

Inspired by Zimmerer et al. (2017) we are interested in observations concerning coherence and propositional statement conditions in schizophrenia language, as these linguistic markers appear underinvestigated in that fields research whilst they seem to play a crucial role target group language features. (As such seen as asset of thinking or world building capacity which might suffer from linguistic deficits within the range of positive symptoms.)

2.3 definitions, terminology, assumptions

2.3.1 coherence

There are several preliminary affordances to a successful communication. One is the *coherence* of a text = way of communication, which accounts for the partner being able to follow the topic and relate subjects and objects referenced. There can be more or less *common* references and such, that need to be embedded in context to be understood. The underlying network of informations to create that context is what we call *information structure* of a text. The level of complexity of that network defines how simple it would be to gather the reference from the given information. We could have to go back many sentences or even infer reference from metaphors or such to be able to understand what is said or in the other case simply recall the subject of the last sentence to get the meaning (reference) of the pronoun in also {she} said thisandthat.... The capacity to imagine or have

¹snc.1:h2.pb.1000char/pg.queries.cites

in mind, what concrete information is accessible to the addressee (what he actually knows or can infer) is key to a successful communication, since factors like common knowledge, weltwissen and shared knowledge between addressant and addressee and information accessible from the text itself varies depending on topic, setting, intimacy of the partners and such. So one cannot always be sure that all information provided is sufficient, but the grade to which one can give the right estimate to this sufficiency should here be a measure for our hypothesis, that the very coherence in disturbed language is deficient such that an utterance is more difficult to understand within the frame of given information. Now one indicator of that coherence we assume is *reference distance* where according to our hypothesis a larger distance would be observed in places where the addressant overestimates² the ability of the partner to follow a reference. That would mean that we find a medium shorter distance between referent and reference in the reference corpus³ and larger distances in the target corpus. The references we are interested in are nouns that appear as anaphors i.e. here as noun analogies. The assumption is that if a noun is repeated *and* is combined with certain preceding determiners, the speaker assumes that the addressee has some knowledge of what is talked about, depending on the strength of the determination. So this, that, those, these would be rather strong determiners requiring that the noun most definitely was introduced before; these four determiners depict on of our 5 conditions listed below.

2.3.2 premises

2.3.2.1 deictic anchoring and propositional complexity

Zimmerer et al. (2017) consider “Deictic anchoring [...] an inherent part of the process by which we make references to aspects in the world including entities, events, locations, and time.” and define propositions as being “statements about the world which can be true or false.” They mention, according to (Kuperberg 2010) “that in people with schizophrenia, cortical activity to semantic abnormalities in sentences is particularly small compared to controls if interpretation requires integration of several sentences” which can mean, that patients are not realising if their utterances are somehow disturbed on the semantics level. If “Delusions and thought disorder can be considered disruptions of propositional meaning” then the patients feeling for their stated propositions (required to the addressee) and further the estimation about what he/she can assume as familiar to the addressee can be wrong. Following Klaus Konrad (Mishara 2010) who “described the onset of a delusion as the loss of ability to transcend an experience and see it with the eyes of others” Zimmerer et al. (2017) assume that “in thought disorder, the ability to express coherent propositions can be severely impaired.” We take that as premise for our research question.

2.4 questions

Measuring the referent-reference distance which we assume as an indicator for coherence we hope to find empirical evidence for disturbed or not world building capacities within

²due to lack of empathy or a general self-alignment

³where the participants may show a more realistic estimation of beforementioned ability

schizophrenia language. Premising that a large noun distance indicates a low reference-referent association we hypothesise that in a language/ToM setting where the speakers estimation of the audiences context understanding capacities is disturbed we will find higher medium scores for the distance under matching conditions. An environment which has potential to test our hypothesis is the reddit thread r/schizophrenia. As reference corpus we chose reddit r/unpopularopinion. The distance measured should give us information structural evidence of how strong the noun occurrences⁴ are connected, i.e. if a noun appears out of the blue mostly or if it somewhere before has been introduced to the audience and thus would be more or less legitimated to be determined by an antecedent. Our basic assumptions rely on the *taxonomy of given and new information* coined by Prince (1981). She develops a hierarchy of references(fn:informations in a text) with specific relations to each other, where each item is attributed in terms of *familiarity*⁵, that defines ranges of 1. givenness in the sense of predictability/recoverability, 2. givenness in the sense of saliency, 3. givenness in the sense of “shared knowledge”. (cf. Prince (1981), pp. 226) We base our hypothesis of *reference distance as indicator for coherence* on this model assuming that the reference/association strength⁶ determines the level of text coherence.

2.5 daten

We built a corpus of the reddit r/schizophrenia thread (n=755074 tokens) and a reference corpus of r/unpopularopinion (n=271563). Both were pos-tagged using the R udpipe package (Wijffels (2023)) which tags according to the universal dependencies tagset maintained by De Marneffe et al. (2021). Still the 755074 tokens can only, within the workflow of growing the corpus and devising the noun distances developed be just a starting point from where with more datapoints statistical evaluation becomes relevant first.

The dataframe used for our model (actual: MX) consists of 939879 distance datapoints (sample Tab.X) derived from the postagged corpus.

2.6 methods

To compute distances we queried the corpus for matching conditions where certain (probable) determiners appear before analogue nouns (anaphors). For each datapoint we collect variables as:

- thread url
- author (anonymised)
- thread length (tokens)
- lexical diversity (type/token ratio)
- lemma
- distance (to the preceding occurrence, e.g. for three occurrences of dog we collect 2 distance datapoints)

⁴preceded by conditioned determiners

⁵cf. Prince: speaker assumptions about hearer familiarity = assumed familiarity

⁶which should be weaker with growing distance between reference-referent

The main function to determine the distances runs on a subset of the corpus with only including all nouns and their position in the corpus. It finds all duplicated nouns per url thread and computes their distances by token position.

2.7 reflections

2.7.1 range

Evaluating with a growing corpus and (reaching up to Model12 with our methods of computing distances) we interestingly find our basic hypothesis tested again, showing an overall larger distance of analogue nouns within the range of 1 thread url for the target corpus. While until M7 we devised distances from a manually assigned url identifier we saw the necessity to define our “range of interest” according to the original http url of the thread, since with a growing corpus the old url ids - derived from the `get_thread_url()` method of the `redditExtractoR` package (Rivera (2023)) used for fetching the reddit content - there are no new url ids created since one url fetch gets each time always only around 1000 urls. To ensure unique url ranges within the corpus we as said in M11 assigned the range (within which the noun distance is calculated) to the real thread url. The corpus itself is after each fetch sorted after url and timestamp so it represents the real flow of conversation within one thread which is important since our distance model is based on the token distances within that thread, so they should follow their natural occurrence in time.

2.7.2 author trace id

Another nice new feature in M11 is the `aut_id` variable which represents the comment author and is unique to that. In the base .sqlite database the authors are already anonymised, so there should be no way from the published data back to the original author name of the comment. But, as also expected, including `aut_id` as random effect in the linear regression model, the significance level for the covariables of interest as are

1. `q` = the condition matching of the noun-preceding token
2. `det` = whether that match has postag “DET”
3. `target` = obs or reference corpus finally increases.

2.7.3 lexical diversity

We thought about some serious caveats within the latest method: If (lucky for our hypothesis) the target corpus has significantly higher distance scores over nearly all conditions, does that automatically indicate a less coherent reference-referent association within what is expressed in the comments? Couldn't we also assume that if the analogue nouns appear more distanced in general that a topic which is including these nouns is simply expanding over a wider range i.e. timeframe? What does that do to our assumptions in terms of coherence? A good way here could be to integrate (from M3) a general lexical diversity factor per url as fixed effect because we can assume that a higher type/token ratio logically decreases the probability of a noun appearing multiple times within a range and we could take that effect into account.

2.7.4 semantics, word field, embeddings

Further we created another covariable possible to integrate in the evaluation model: The semantic embedding of one specific noun appearing on its specific position in the thread range, computed with help of an open LL word embedding model (Nussbaum et al. (2024).) This is a common AI way of devising semantic relations in a corpus which exceeds a just frequency based keyword analysis. Using an LLM here allows for a distinctive identification of world field embeddings of the noun in question. In that way we get another variable linguistic feature extracted which may give general insights into the level of standardisation that applies to the corpora. So if a noun is found to be embedded with a high score into its context (the url thread) then it can be very much expected to be found there and appears less out-of-context.⁷

2.7.5 statistics

In this context we thought about what it means statistically, if a high-score embedded word also ranks high in (distance) significance i.e. generally what the relations of the covariates in the context of the linear regression evaluation express. Let us picture this:

1. a word receives a high embed score if it is highly semantically related to the context within which it appears, here the comment thread.
2. therefore the necessity to introduce/elaborate on it sinks, since it may be considered a “known” or “inferable” entity within the context given.
3. now if a person is using this word, the determined use appears less incoherent by itself.
4. the reference distance thus may increase without losing in coherence.
5. **conclusion:** if we for our linear regression use a (base) formula like `distance ~ corpus`, a continuous `embed_score` predictor between `-1` and `1` should correlate positive with the estimates for `dist` if applied correctly, nestcepas?

2.7.6 caveats

Since devising the word embed score does take much computing resources we had a script run on a server that solves the computing. But the first essay to integrate the new var into the evaluation model failed due to levels < 2 . Why? Because since we ran the script over the complete url ranges in the corpus and that is sorted after target,⁸ we did not compute any values for the reference corpus. So we learned this way again on linear regression models which require that a variable has more than one level (which would not be the case if the `lmer()` function excludes all NA rows: there would be no observations left with `target=ref` since all its `embed.score` values are NA and so all `target.ref` rows will be removed during regression.)

⁷only according to the LLM training data, which is still a blackbox

⁸where “obs” comes first

2.8 model evaluations

2.8.1 covariances

Effects of the same direction for target OBS and REF are observed in `qc`, `qd`, `range`, `qd:det` (with positive effects in `qc`, `qd:det`) while contrary effects are observed in `qb`, `qe`, `qf`, `det`, `embed.score`, `qb:det` (with negative effects in `target=obs` and `vcvs`.)

In words:

- the antecedents `the` and the determined (`det=TRUE`) antecedents `a`, `an`, `some`, `any` seem to allow a wider distance between referent and reference in both `target=OBS` and `target=REF`.
- the antecedents `this`, `that`, `these`, `those` - `my` - `your`, `their`, `his`, `her` decrease distance in `target=OBS` and increase distance values in `target=REF`.
- higher `embed.score` values (better embedded noun) decrease distance in `target=OBS` and increase distance values in `target=REF`. (cf. par 3.7.5.4, better embedding allows wider distance: thus seems only valid for the reference corpus!)

2.9 REF

```
#dataset<-7
#poster-ext
```

Chapter 3

appendix

eval output M13, normalised to obs, distance ceiling = outliers removed.

3.1 citetest, method (M13)

To compute distances we queried a corpus for matching conditions where certain (assumed) determiners appear before similar nouns. In M13 (removed)... This distance should give us information structural evidence of how strong these noun occurrences are connected, i.e. if a noun appears out of the blue mostly or if it somewhere before has been introduced to the audience. In information structure definitions this would be termed with **given and new information** (Prince 1981).

3.2 legende

```
## [1] ", normalised to obs, distance ceiling = outliers removed"
```

Table 3.1: model vars

variable	explanation	values
target	corpus	obs,ref
q	condition	a,b,c,d,e,f
det	antecedent POS==DET	TRUE,FALSE
aut_id	author	author hash
lemma	lemma	noun lemma
range	url range of distance devised	1..maxlength(urlthread)
embed.score	semantic similarity score lemma vs. thread	0..1
q:a	query condition	.*
q:b	query condition	this,that,those,these
q:c	query condition	the
q:d	query condition	a,an,any,some

variable	explanation	values
q:e	query condition	my
q:f	query condition	his,her,their,your

3.3 anova analysis

3.3.1 anova plain

formula: [dist_rel_obs ~ target*q*det]

```
##              Df      Sum Sq   Mean Sq    F value    Pr(>F)
## target          1  452303747 452303747 7336.4625 < 2.2e-16 ***
## q                5   12320667   2464133   39.9688 < 2.2e-16 ***
## det             1    1636109   1636109   26.5380 2.588e-07 ***
## target:q        5    2747371    549474    8.9126 1.786e-08 ***
## target:det      1     251297    251297    4.0761 0.043496 *
## q:det           2     905292    452646    7.3420 0.000648 ***
## target:q:det    1     717222    717222   11.6335 0.000648 ***
## Residuals    126209 7780971239    61651
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

3.3.2 anova of linear regression model

[anova(summary(lmer))]

```
## Type III Analysis of Variance Table with Satterthwaite's method
##              Sum Sq   Mean Sq NumDF   DenDF    F value    Pr(>F)
## target        2618718   2618718     1   79483   51.0005 9.313e-13 ***
## q              732070    146414     5 123324    2.8515 0.014059 *
## det           14450     14450     1 119400    0.2814 0.595768
## range        318496210 318496210     1   27290 6202.8299 < 2.2e-16 ***
## embed.score   12389668  12389668     1 125991  241.2933 < 2.2e-16 ***
## target:q       933689    186738     5 124373    3.6368 0.002726 **
## target:det     540220    540220     1 123982   10.5210 0.001181 **
## q:det          390120    195060     2 121665    3.7989 0.022399 *
## target:q:det   189268    189268     1 124039    3.6861 0.054872 .
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

3.3.3 linear regression coefficients

formula: [dist_rel_obs ~ target*q*det+(1|aut_id)+range+embed.score]

Linear mixed model fit by REML. t-tests use Satterthwaite's method [

```
## lmerModLmerTest]
## Formula: eval(expr(lmeform))
## Data: dfa
##
## REML criterion at convergence: 1733592
##
## Scaled residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -3.3198 -0.5695 -0.2131  0.2725  7.0321
##
## Random effects:
## Groups Name Variance Std.Dev.
## aut_id (Intercept) 7540 86.83
## Residual 51347 226.60
## Number of obs: 126226, groups: aut_id, 8238
##
## Fixed effects:
##              Estimate Std. Error      df t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)  3.504e+02  4.228e+00 3.672e+04 82.886 < 2e-16 ***
## targetref    -4.627e+01  2.941e+00 8.918e+03 -15.729 < 2e-16 ***
## qb           -2.402e+01  1.560e+01 1.217e+05 -1.540 0.123597
## qc           -2.131e+01  5.605e+00 1.222e+05 -3.802 0.000144 ***
## qd           -3.603e+01  2.283e+02 1.194e+05 -0.158 0.874604
## qe           2.771e+01  3.890e+00 1.236e+05 7.123 1.06e-12 ***
## qf           -1.474e+01  4.958e+00 1.232e+05 -2.973 0.002946 **
## det          1.480e+01  4.867e+00 1.225e+05 3.042 0.002354 **
## range        -2.763e-02  3.508e-04 2.729e+04 -78.758 < 2e-16 ***
## embed.score  -1.211e+02  7.796e+00 1.260e+05 -15.534 < 2e-16 ***
## targetref:qb  2.177e+01  1.760e+01 1.226e+05 1.238 0.215900
## targetref:qc  2.444e+01  1.317e+01 1.251e+05 1.856 0.063477 .
## targetref:qd -8.566e-01  1.291e+01 1.251e+05 -0.066 0.947118
## targetref:qe -2.672e+01  9.785e+00 1.250e+05 -2.730 0.006326 **
## targetref:qf  1.525e+01  1.245e+01 1.248e+05 1.225 0.220738
## targetref:det -1.664e+01  1.117e+01 1.253e+05 -1.490 0.136307
## qb:det        5.871e+01  1.714e+01 1.218e+05 3.425 0.000614 ***
## qd:det        4.094e+01  2.283e+02 1.194e+05 0.179 0.857667
## targetref:qb:det -4.828e+01  2.514e+01 1.240e+05 -1.920 0.054872 .
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## fit warnings:
## fixed-effect model matrix is rank deficient so dropping 7 columns / coefficients
## Some predictor variables are on very different scales: consider rescaling
```

3.4 plots

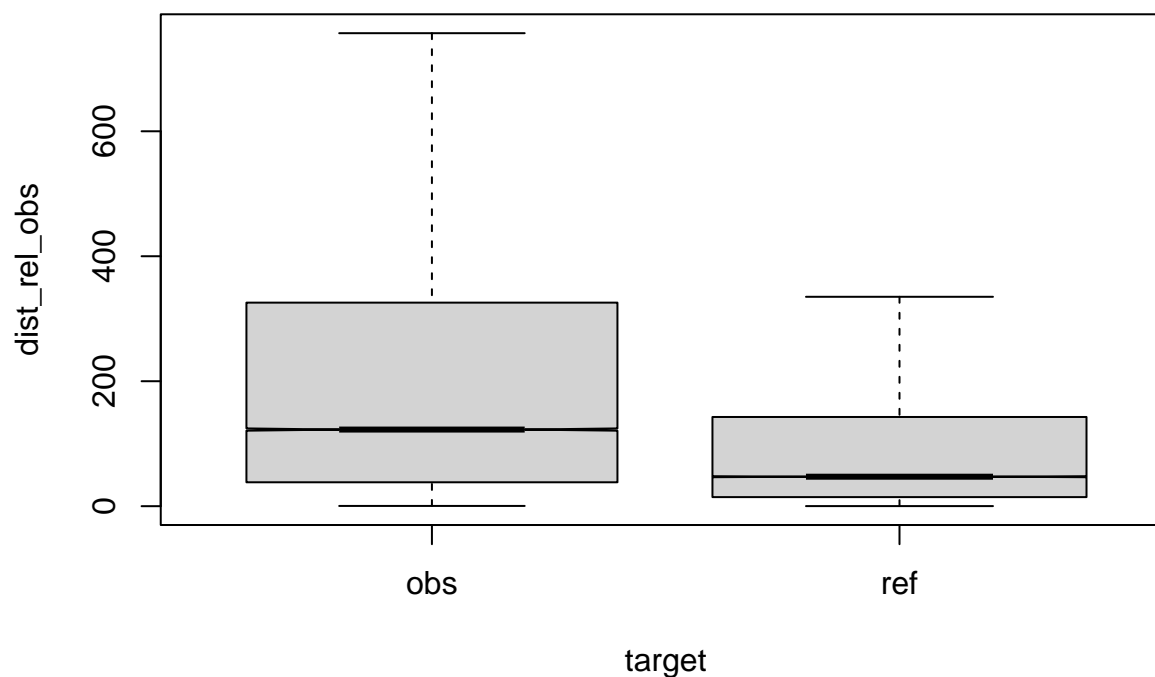


Figure 3.1: compare distances by corpus, normalised to obs, distance ceiling = outliers removed

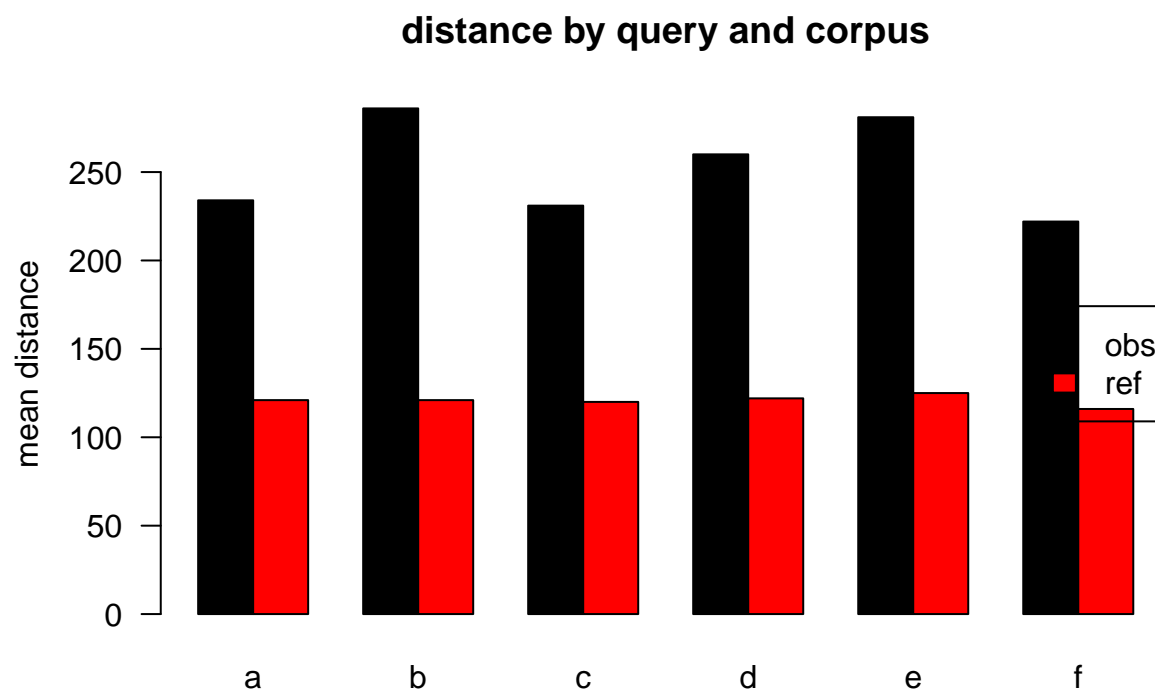


Figure 3.2: mean distances over query/corpus, normalised to obs, distance ceiling = outliers removed

Table 3.2: mean/median table for M13

target	q	n	mean	median
obs	a	42836	234	117
ref	a	58615	121	47
obs	b	2116	286	165
ref	b	1130	121	44
obs	c	5770	231	114
ref	c	1274	120	48
obs	d	5654	260	144
ref	d	1525	122	49
obs	e	3911	281	147
ref	e	671	125	45
obs	f	2311	222	133
ref	f	413	116	47

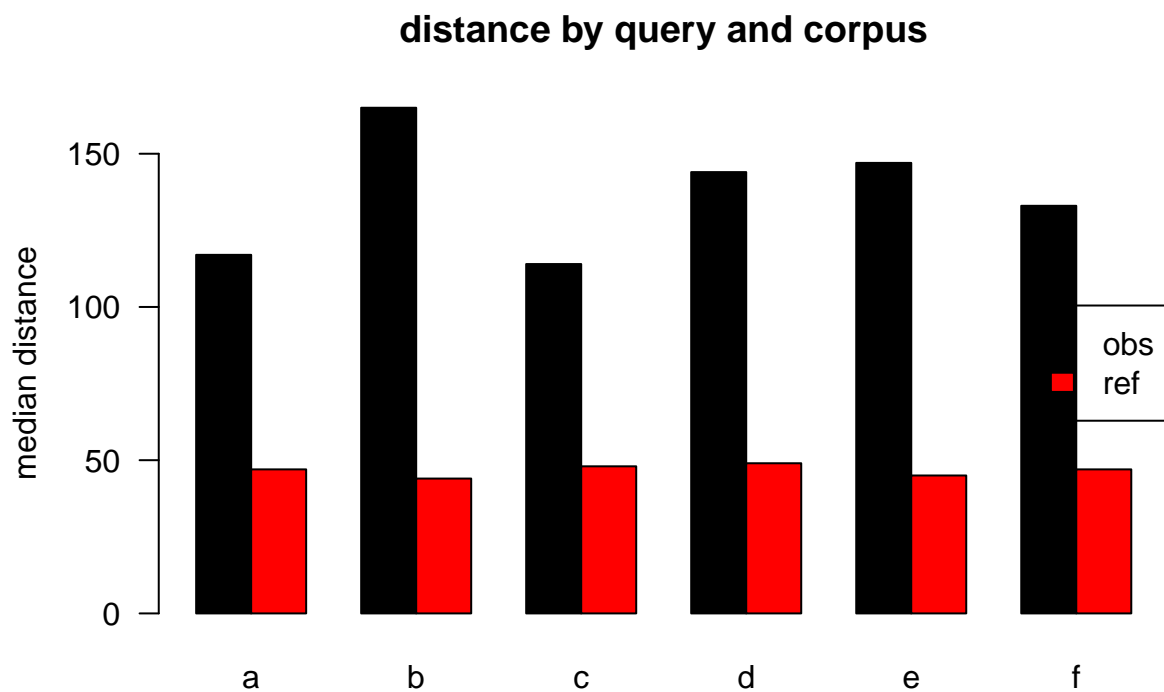


Figure 3.3: median distances over query/corpus, normalised to obs, distance ceiling = outliers removed

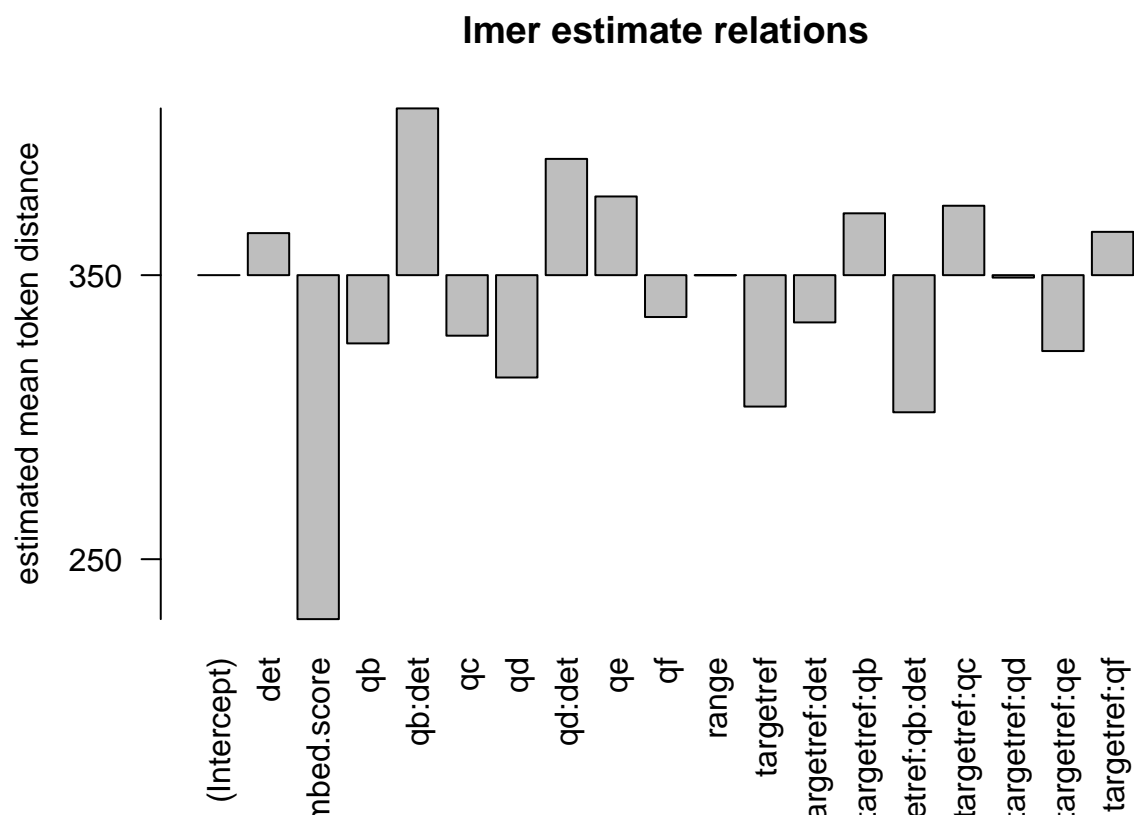


Figure 3.4: distances relation, normalised to obs, distance ceiling = outliers removed

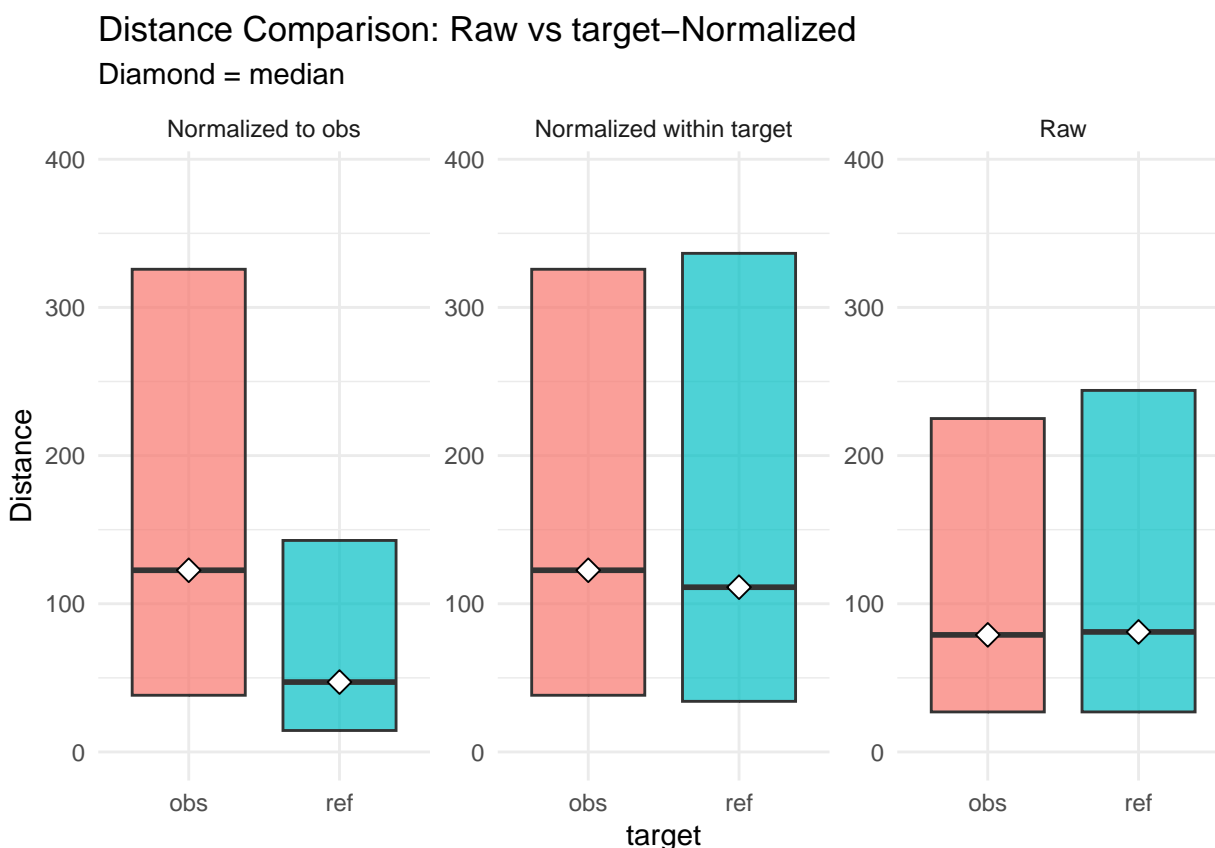


Figure 3.5: distances normalised vs. raw

3.5 REF

literature used and alii...

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