

Technical Report: Description-Similarity Rules

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ABSTRACT

1 DESIGN CHOICE OF DESCRIPTIONS

In this section, we conducted an analysis to examine the relationship between attribute description and similarities. We present four statistical measures for attribute descriptions, including: (1) average length: length (2) number of text segments AWN, (3) entropy, and (4) index of coincidence IC. These descriptions have covered all six mainstream similarity functions [1]. Based on similarity function libraries established on [7] and mentioned in AutoEM [2], we show all similarity functions used in our experiment, which are sampled from each category as follows. The input attribute pairs are presented as s_1 and s_2 .

Levenshtein Distance. Levenshtein Distance [8] tends to increase with the length of the strings. This is because longer strings offer more possibilities for editing operations, making it more challenging to find the best matching edit sequence between two strings. Levenshtein Distance can be defined as

$$D[i, j] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i = 0 \& j = 0 \\ i & \text{if } j = 0 \& i > 0 \\ j & \text{if } i = 0 \& j > 0 \\ \min \begin{cases} D[i-1, j] + 1 \\ D[i, j-1] + 1 \\ D[i-1, j-1] + \text{cost}(s_1[i], s_2[j]) \end{cases} & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where the function $\text{cost}(s_1[i], s_2[j])$ represents the editing cost required to transform character s_1 into character s_2 . If s_1 is equal to s_2 , then the cost of transformation $\text{cost}(s_1[i], s_2[j])$ is 0; otherwise, it is 1.

Mmcwpa Similarity. Modified MinCost With Prefix and Approximate Similarity, which abbreviated as mmcwpa, is the regularized version of Levenshtein similarity. It is also associated with length

Affine. Affine [10] assigns scores to the following four operations between characters defined by Levenshtein: the match/mismatch, insert, and delete. By comparing these scores, affine selects the path that maximizes the score as the optimization target to calculate the final score. The Affine formula is shown below.

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$$\text{Affine}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{\text{Levenshtein}(\text{match}, \text{mismatch}, \text{insert}, \text{delete})}{\max(\text{length}(s_1), \text{length}(s_2))} \quad (2)$$

Clearly, there is a strong correlation between length, as the denominator in equation (2) is the length of attribute pairs.

Needleman-Wensch As a sequence-based similarity, Needleman-Wensch [11] is related to sequence statistics AWN and has similar definition as Affine Similarity on the scoring for characters operation between two sequences. The goal of Needleman-Wensch is to maintain as many corresponding characters in the same position throughout the calculation process.

Needleman's potential optimization goal is to have the same length for both strings after multiple operations, which indicates that length is related to the calculation of Needleman-Wensch.

Smith-Waterman. Smith-Waterman and the Needleman-Wensch algorithms are both dynamic programming-based sequence alignment algorithms. However, Smith-Waterman algorithm [12] allows for faster backtracking without requiring reaching the end of either sequence. Despite this difference, both algorithms use the same fundamental calculation method for scoring sequence similarity, making them both related in terms of length and AWN.

Birnbaum Similarity. Birnbaum similarity [13] calculation is based on the co-occurrence matrix. Given a co-occurrence matrix A , where A_{ij} represents the frequency of character j co-occurring with attribute value i . It is worth noting that IC can be derived from matrix A . Birnbaum similarity can be defined as Equation 3.

$$\text{Birnbaum}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{\sum_i \min(A_i, B_i)}{\sum_i \max(A_i, B_i)} \quad (3)$$

where A and B present the co-occurrence matrix of s_1 and s_2 .

BulkDelete Similarity. BulkDelete similarity [14] is based on LCS distance [3] and the length of attribute pairs, which is defined as follows.

$$\text{BulkDelete}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{\text{LCS}(s_1, s_2)}{\min(\text{length}(s_1), \text{length}(s_2))} \quad (4)$$

BulkDelete similarity is widely used especially when two strings have a significant amount of similar content but are not entirely identical.

Euclidean Distance. Euclidean Distance is a vector-based similarity, which calculate the distance between two points in the

given space. As we can see, given the attribute A_1, A_2 and its corresponding vocabulary, entropy can describe them in vector form. Euclidean Distance is defined as follows.

$$\text{Euclidean distance} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (v_{2,i} - v_{1,i})^2} \quad (5)$$

where v_1, v_2 are the entropy vector of attribute pairs.

Exact Match. Exact Match is used to determine whether two strings are completely identical, returning a boolean variable. During the calculation process, it first checks if the length of the input strings are equal, hence it can be considered as being related to length.

Jaccard. Jaccard similarity [15] is individual-based similarity, which is defined as the size of the intersection of two sets divided by the size of their union, indicating the degree of overlap between the sets. Given attribute pairs (s_1, s_2) , their Jaccard similarity can be calculated using Equation 6

$$\text{Jaccard}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{|s_1 \cap s_2|}{|s_1 \cup s_2|} \quad (6)$$

It is worth noting that by using different tokenizers, the inputs of the Jaccard Similarity also differ. For example, without any segmentation processing, sets A and B are simply vocabulary sets that appear in strings s_1 and s_2 respectively, making Jaccard related to description length. However, if space/3-gram segmentation is applied, AWN becomes more relevant than length. In our experiment, we provide five different tokenizer including: space, 3-gram and index-split, nlp-split, base-split, which are recommended in HANLP [19].

Dice. Similar to Jaccard, Dice similarity coefficient [16] performs better when dealing with binary data or when focusing on the presence or absence of elements in sets. Given attribute pairs (s_1, s_2) , Dice is calculated using Equation 7:

$$\text{Dice}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{2 \times |s_1 \cap s_2|}{\text{length}(s_1) + \text{length}(s_2)} \quad (7)$$

As we can see, the denominator in Equation 7 calculates the size of the set. Similar to the above conclusion, there is a potential correlation between Dice and length or AWN.

Simpson. As an extension of Jaccard similarity, Simpson similarity [17] is calculated based on the ratio of the number of members that are common to both sets to the number of members in the smaller set. Simpson similarity can be defined as Equation 8

$$\text{Simpson Similarity}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{|s_1 \cap s_2|}{\min(\text{length}(s_1), \text{length}(s_2))} \quad (8)$$

As we can see, the denominator of Simpson calculates the minimum value of (s_1, s_2) length, hence it is related to the description length.

Overlap-Coefficient. By applying tokenizer on Simpson similarity, we have Overlap-coefficient [4], a set-based and sequences-based similarity, where AWN is used to calculate the minimal set size as follows.

$$\text{overlap-coefficient} = \frac{\text{bag1} \cap \text{bag2}}{\min(d_2(\text{bag1}), d_2(\text{bag2}))}$$

where bag1 and bag2 denotes the wordBag for s_1 and s_2 after tokenization, respectively.

Jaro As an individual-based similarity, Jaro [5] defines a tolerance range R as the half of $\max(\text{len}(s_1), \text{len}(s_2))$. Then, the Jaro similarity can be defined as Equation 9.

$$\text{Jaro}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{m}{d_1(s_1)} + \frac{m}{d_1(s_2)} + \frac{m-n}{m} \right) \quad (9)$$

where m denotes the number of matched characters inside R , and n denotes that of identical characters at the different positions. Obviously, length has an impact on the Jaro similarity.

Jaro Winkler. As an extension of the Jaro similarity metric, Jaro-Winkler similarity [18] metric considers length and the position of matching characters, making it suitable for comparing strings of different lengths and identifying similarities even in the presence of minor discrepancies or variations. The Jaro-Winkler similarity is calculated using Equation 10:

$$\text{JaroWinkler}(s_1, s_2) = J(s_1, s_2) + \frac{lp(1 - J(s_1, s_2))}{3} \quad (10)$$

where $J(s_1, s_2)$ represents the Jaro similarity between the strings (s_1, s_2) and lp is the prefix scaling factor, which increases the similarity score for strings with a common prefix. Typically, lp is set to 0.1.

KendallTau Similarity. KendallTau similarity [20] is a sequence-based and vector-based similarity. It maintains a vocabulary that includes all characters appearing in s_1 and s_2 . KendallTau assigns a vector to each input string, where each dimension corresponds to a character in the vocabulary. The function then counts the occurrences of each character in the two input strings separately, resulting in Kendall vectors v_1 and v_2 . KendallTau can be defined as Equation 11.

$$\text{KendallTau}(s_1, s_2) = \frac{2}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i < j} \text{sgn}(v_{1i} - v_{1j}) \text{sgn}(v_{2i} - v_{2j}) \quad (11)$$

where sgn is defined as

$$\text{sgn}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

The way KendallTau generates vectors is similar to the entropy vector used in our attribute description. Kendall Tau correlation coefficient can be used to measure the similarity of permutation order between time series. Therefore, when analyzing permutation entropy, there may exist a certain correlation with Kendall Tau similarity.

SimHash. SimHash [22] is a locality-sensitive hashing algorithm. It utilizes existing hash functions to represent strings as hash values, and then applies the Hamming distance [21] to calculate their similarity. SimHash similarity can be formulated as follows:

$$\text{Simhash}(s_1, s_2) = 1 - \frac{\text{Hamming}(hf(s_1), hf(s_2))}{n} \quad (13)$$

where hf is the customizable hash function, n represents the length of the SimHash value (usually 64 or 128 bits, in our experiment,

$n=64$). In certain cases, shorter strings may increase the likelihood of SimHash collisions, thereby reducing the reliability of SimHash. Therefore, we usually recommend using Simhash to calculate similarities between long-text attributes.

cosine-Doc. • entropy: entropy is related to vector-based and taxonomies-based similarities [6]. Cosine is considered to be a commonly used similarity function for calculating numerical attributes [9]. However, we can invert attribute pairs into entropy vectors, and calculate cosine-Doc similarity as follows.

$$\text{cosine} - \text{Doc} = \text{cosineSimilarity}(d_3(s_1), d_3(s_2)) \quad (14)$$

where d_3 is the entropy vector for the given attribute. For more details, please refer our Equation (3) in the origin paper.

2 FULL PROOF OF PROPOSITION

Proof for Theorem 1 Consider the event ξ defined by

$$\xi = \{j \in \{1, \dots, K\}, |\frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} X_s - f_j| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{K+1-k}\} \quad (15)$$

By Hoeffding's Inequality and an union bound, the probability of the complementary event $\bar{\xi}$ can be bounded as follows

$$\begin{aligned} P(\bar{\xi}) &\leq \sum_{j=1}^K \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} P(|\frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} X_s - f_j| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{K+1-k}) \\ &\leq \sum_{j=1}^K \sum_{k=1}^{K-1} 2 \exp(2n_k (\Delta_{K+1-k}/2)^2) \\ &\leq 2K^2 \exp(-\frac{n-K}{2 \log K * H}) \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where the last inequality comes from the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{n_k (\Delta_{K+1-k})^2}{\log(K)(K+1-H)(\Delta_{K+1-k})^{-2}} \\ &\geq \frac{n-K}{\log(K) * H} \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Thus, it suffices to show that on the event ξ , the algorithm does not make any error. We prove this by induction on k . Let $k \geq 1$. Assume the algorithm makes no error in all previous $k-1$ stages, that is no bad arm $\mu_i < \theta$ has been accepted and no good arm $\mu_i \geq \theta$ has been rejected. Note that event ξ implies that at the end of stage k , all empirical means are within $\frac{1}{2}(\Delta_{K+1-k})^{-2}$ of the respective true means.

Let $A_k = \{a_1, \dots, a_{K+1-k}\}$ be the set of active arms during phase k . We order the a_i 's such that $\mu_{a_1} > \mu_{a_2} > \dots > \mu_{a_{K+1-k}}$. Denote $m' = m(k)$ for the number of arms that are left to find in phase k . The assumption that no error occurs in the first $k-1$ stages implies that

$$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{m'} \in \{1, \dots, m\} \quad (18)$$

and

$$a_{m'+1}, \dots, a_{K+1-k} \in \{m+1, \dots, K\} \quad (19)$$

If an error is made at stage k , it can be one of the following two types:

1. The algorithm accepts a_j at stage k for some $k \geq m' + 1$
2. The algorithm rejects a_j at stage k for some $j \leq m'$

Denote $\sigma = \sigma_k$ for the bijection (from $\{1, \dots, K+1-k\}$ to A_k) such that $\bar{\mu}_{\sigma(1), n_k} \geq \bar{\mu}_{\sigma(2), n_k} \geq \dots \geq \bar{\mu}_{\sigma(K+1-k), n_k}$. Suppose Type 1 error occurs. Then $a_j = \sigma(1)$ since if algorithm accepts, it must accept the empirical best arm. Furthermore we also have

$$\bar{\mu}_{a_j, n_k} - \theta \geq \theta - \bar{\mu}_{\sigma(K+1-k), n_k} \quad (20)$$

since otherwise the algorithm would rather reject arm $\sigma(K+1-k)$. The condition $a_j = \sigma(1)$ and the event ξ implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mu}_{a_j, n_k} &\geq \bar{\mu}_{a_j, n_k}, \\ \mu_{a_j} + \frac{1}{2}(\Delta_{K+1-k}) &\geq \mu_{a_1} - \frac{1}{2}(\Delta_{K+1-k}), \\ (\Delta_{K+1-k}) &\geq \mu_{a_1} - \mu_{a_j} \geq \mu_{a_1} - \theta \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

We then look at the condition (16). In the event of ξ , for all $i \leq m'$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mu}_{a_j, n_k} &\geq \mu_{a_j} - \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{(K+1-k)} \\ &\geq \mu_{a_{m'}} - \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{(K+1-k)} \\ &\geq \theta - \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{(K+1-k)} \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

On the other hand, $\bar{\mu}_{\sigma(K+1-k), n_k} \leq \bar{\mu}_{a_{K+1-k}, n_k} \leq \bar{\mu}_{a_{K+1-k}, n_k} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{(K+1-k)}$. Therefore, using those two observations and (16) we deduce

$$\begin{aligned} (\mu_{a_j} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{(K+1-k)}) - \theta &\geq \theta - (\mu_{a_{K+1-k}} + \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{(K+1-k)}), \\ \Delta_{(K+1-k)} &\geq 2\theta - \mu_{a_j} - \mu_{a_{K+1-k}} > \theta - \mu_{a_{K+1-k}} \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Thus so far we proved that if there is a Type 1 error, then

$$\Delta_{(K+1-k)} > \max(\mu_{a_1} - \theta, \theta - \mu_{a_{K+1-k}}) \quad (24)$$

But at stage k , only $k-1$ arms have been accepted or rejected, thus $\Delta_{(K+1-k)} \leq \max(\mu_{a_1} - \theta, \theta - \mu_{a_{K+1-k}})$. By contradiction, we conclude that Type 1 error does not occur.

Suppose Type 2 error occurs. The reasoning is symmetric to Type 1. This completes the induction and consequently the proof of the theorem. \square

Proof for Theorem 2 Consider the events ξ_d for each pre-trained MAB defined by

$$\xi_{d_1} = \{j \in \{1, \dots, K\}, \left| \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} X_{s,d_1} - f_{j,d_1} \right| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{K+1-k}\}$$

$$\xi_{d_2} = \{j \in \{1, \dots, K\}, \left| \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} X_{s,d_2} - f_{j,d_2} \right| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{K+1-k}\} \quad (25)$$

...

$$\xi_{d_{|D|}} = \{j \in \{1, \dots, K\}, \left| \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} X_{s,d_{|D|}} - f_{j,d_{|D|}} \right| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{K+1-k}\}$$

Also, consider the event ξ defined by

$$\xi = \{j \in \{1, \dots, K\}, \left| \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} X_s - f_j \right| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{K+1-k}\} \quad (26)$$

where f_j is defined as:

$$f_j = \frac{\sum_{\text{sim}_j \in t, A' \in D} \cos < \vec{D}, \vec{D}' > * p(t, A')}{\sum_{\text{sim}_j \in t, A' \in D} \cos < \vec{D}, \vec{D}' >}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_d \cos < \vec{D}, \vec{d} > * p(t, d)}{\sum_d \cos < \vec{D}, \vec{d} >}$$

$$= \frac{\sum_d \cos < \vec{D}, \vec{d} > * f_{j,d}}{\sum_d \cos < \vec{D}, \vec{d} >} \quad (27)$$

Setting $w_d = \cos < \vec{D}, \vec{d} >$, we can rewrite (26) as:

$$\xi = \{1 \leq j \leq K, \left| \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} \frac{\sum_d w_d * X_{s,d}}{\sum_{d \in D} w_d} - \frac{\sum_d w_d * f_{j,d}}{\sum_{d \in D} w_d} \right| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Delta_{K+1-k}\}$$

$$= \{1 \leq j \leq K, \left| \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} \sum_d w_d * X_{s,d} - \sum_d w_d * f_{j,d} \right| \leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{d \in D} w_d \Delta_{K+1-k}\} \quad (28)$$

Suppose (25) is true. Using the absolute value inequality, for any $1 \leq j \leq K$, we have:

$$\left| \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} \sum_d w_d * X_{s,d} - \sum_d w_d * f_{j,d} \right|$$

$$= \left| \sum_d \left(\frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} w_d * X_{s,d} - w_d * f_{j,d} \right) \right| \quad (29)$$

$$\leq \sum_d w_d * \left| \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{s=1}^{n_k} X_{s,d} - f_{j,d} \right|$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2} \sum_{d \in D} w_d \Delta_{K+1-k}$$

This means when $\xi_{d_1} \cap \dots \cap \xi_{d_{|D|}}$ is true, ξ has to hold true regardless of w_d . Its contrapositive implies that when $\bar{\xi}$ is true, $\bar{\xi}_{d_1} \cup \dots \cup \bar{\xi}_{d_{|D|}}$ has to hold true regardless of w_d . By full probability law, we have

$$P(\bar{\xi}_{d_1} \cup \dots \cup \bar{\xi}_{d_{|D|}}) = P(\bar{\xi}_{d_1} \cup \dots \cup \bar{\xi}_{d_{|D|}} | \bar{\xi}) * P(\bar{\xi}) +$$

$$P(\bar{\xi}_{d_1} \cup \dots \cup \bar{\xi}_{d_{|D|}} | \xi) * P(\xi) \quad (30)$$

$$\geq P(\bar{\xi}_{d_1} \cup \dots \cup \bar{\xi}_{d_{|D|}} | \bar{\xi}) * P(\bar{\xi}) = P(\bar{\xi})$$

In algorithm 2, for each $MAB_i \in \{MAB_1, \dots, MAB_n\}$ we have

$$P(\bar{\xi}_d) \leq 2K^2 \exp\left(-\frac{\frac{n}{a} - K}{2 \log K * H(i)}\right) \quad (31)$$

By union bound, we come to the conclusion that

$$P(\bar{\xi}) \leq P(\bar{\xi}_{d_1} \cup \dots \cup \bar{\xi}_{d_{|D|}}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^a 2K^2 \exp\left(-\frac{\frac{n}{a} - K}{2 \log K * H(i)}\right)$$

$$\leq 2aK^2 \exp\left(-\frac{\frac{n}{a} - K}{2 \log K * H(a)}\right) \quad (32)$$

Thus, it suffices to show that, by probability of $2aK^2 \exp\left(-\frac{\frac{n}{a} - K}{2 \log K * H(a)}\right)$, the algorithm does not make any error. \square

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