

Example session for Weight-based deduplication

Andreas Borg, Murat Sariyar

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This document shows an example session using the package *RecordLinkage*. A single data set is deduplicated using an EM algorithm for weight calculation. Conducting linkage of two data sets differs only in the step of generating record pairs.

1 Generating record pairs

The data to be deduplicated is expected to reside in a data frame or matrix, each row containing one record. Example data sets of 500 and 10000 records are included in the package as `RLData500` and `RLData10000`.

```
> data(RLdata500)
> RLdata500[1:5,]
```

	fname_c1	fname_c2	lname_c1	lname_c2	by	bm	bd
1	CARSTEN	<NA>	MEIER	<NA>	1949	7	22
2	GERD	<NA>	BAUER	<NA>	1968	7	27
3	ROBERT	<NA>	HARTMANN	<NA>	1930	4	30
4	STEFAN	<NA>	WOLFF	<NA>	1957	9	2
5	RALF	<NA>	KRUEGER	<NA>	1966	1	13

For deduplication, `compare.dedup` is to be used. In this example, blocking is set to return only record pairs which agree in at least two components of the subdivided date of birth, resulting in 810 pairs. The argument `identity` preserves the true matching status for later evaluation.

```
> pairs=compare.dedup(RLdata500,identity=identity.RLdata500,blockfld=list(c(5,6),c(6,7),c(
> summary(pairs)
```

Deduplication Data Set

500 records

571 record pairs

49 matches

522 non-matches

0 pairs with unknown status

2 Weight calculation

Weights are calculated by means of an EM algorithm. This step is computationally intensive and might take a while. The histogram shows the resulting weight distribution.

```
> pairs=emWeights(pairs)

> hist(pairs$Wdata, plot=FALSE)

$breaks
  [1] -15 -10  -5   0   5  10  15  20  25  30  35
 [12]  40  45

$counts
  [1] 352  13   0   0   5  26  42 123   9   0   0
 [12]   1

$density
  [1] 0.1232924694 0.0045534151 0.0000000000
  [4] 0.0000000000 0.0017513135 0.0091068301
  [7] 0.0147110333 0.0430823117 0.0031523643
 [10] 0.0000000000 0.0000000000 0.0003502627

$mids
  [1] -12.5  -7.5  -2.5   2.5   7.5  12.5  17.5
  [8]  22.5  27.5  32.5  37.5  42.5

$xname
 [1] "pairs$Wdata"

$equidist
 [1] TRUE

attr(,"class")
 [1] "histogram"
```

3 Classification

For determining thresholds, record pairs within a given range of weights can be printed using `getPairs`¹. In this case, 24 is set as upper and -7 as lower threshold, dividing links, possible links and non-links. The summary shows the resulting contingency table and error measures.

```
> getPairs(pairs,30,20)

      id fname_c1 fname_c2 lname_c1 lname_c2   by
23 457   URSULA   BIRGIT   MUELLER    <NA> 1940
```

¹The output of `getPairs` is shortened in this document.

```

24
25 467    ULRIKE    NICOLE    BECKRR    <NA> 1982
26 472    ULRIKE    NICOLE    BECKER    <NA> 1982
27
28 183    ULRICH      <NA>    MUELLER    <NA> 1962
29 444    SILKE      <NA>    MUELLER    <NA> 1962
30
31 25 MATTHIAS      <NA>      HAAS      <NA> 1955
32 107 MATTHIAS      <NA>      HAAS      <NA> 1955
33
34 106    ANDRE      <NA>    MUELLER    <NA> 1976
35 175    ANDRE      <NA>    MUELLER    <NA> 1976
36

```

```

      bm bd  Weight
23  6 15 25.14137
24
25  8  4
26  8  4 25.14137
27
28  6 19
29  6 14 24.20333
30
31  7  8
32  8  8 24.11923
33
34  2 25
35  1 25 24.11923
36

```

```

> pairs=emClassify(pairs, threshold.upper=24, threshold.lower=-7)
> summary(pairs)

```

Deduplication Data Set

500 records

571 record pairs

49 matches

522 non-matches

0 pairs with unknown status

Weight distribution:

[-15,-10]	(-10,-5]	(-5,0]	(0,5]	(5,10]
352	13	0	0	5
(10,15]	(15,20]	(20,25]	(25,30]	(30,35]
26	42	123	9	0
(35,40]	(40,45]			
0	1			

```

15 links detected
198 possible links detected
358 non-links detected

```

```

alpha error: 0.000000
beta error: 0.002786
accuracy: 0.997319

```

Classification table:

	classification		
true status	N	P	L
FALSE	358	163	1
TRUE	0	35	14

Review of the record pairs denoted as possible links is facilitated by `getPairs`, which can be forced to show only possible links via argument `show`. A list with the ids of linked pairs can be extracted from the output of `getPairs` with argument `single.rows` set to `TRUE`.

```

> possibles <- getPairs(pairs, show="possible")
> possibles[1:6,]

  id  fname_c1 fname_c2 lname_c1 lname_c2  by
1  17 ALEXANDER      <NA>  MUELLER      <NA> 1974
2 193 CHRISTIAN      <NA>  MUELLER      <NA> 1974
3
4  61      ANDRE      <NA>  FISCHER      <NA> 1943
5 254 STEFANIE      <NA>  FISCHER      <NA> 1943
6

  bm bd  Weight
1  9  9
2  8  9 21.691086
3
4  6 25
5 11 25 21.691086
6

> links=getPairs(pairs,show="links", single.rows=TRUE)
> link_ids <- links[, c("id1", "id2")]
> link_ids

  id1 id2
290 290 466
50   50 234
87   87 117
145 145 240
286 286 383
289 289 399

```

297 297 388
357 357 414
313 313 457
467 467 472
183 183 444
25 25 107
106 106 175
370 370 478
127 127 142

>