

Example session for Weight-based deduplication

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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(5, 7)))
> 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

$intensities
[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

$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

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

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
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