

## **Similarity and Dissimilarity Measures**

- Similarity and dissimilarity are important because they are used by a number of data mining techniques, such as clustering, nearest neighbor classification, and anomaly detection.
- In many cases, the initial data set is not needed once these similarities or dissimilarities have been computed.
- Such approaches can be viewed as transforming the data to a similarity (dissimilarity) space and then performing the analysis.

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## Similarity and Dissimilarity Measures

#### · Similarity measure

- Numerical measure of how alike two data objects are.
- Is higher when objects are more alike.
- Often falls in the range [0,1]
- · Dissimilarity measure
  - Numerical measure of how different two data objects are
  - Lower when objects are more alike
  - Minimum dissimilarity is often 0, upper limit varies
  - The term distance is used as a synonym for dissimilarity
- Proximity refers to a similarity or dissimilarity

## **Transformations**

- often applied to convert a similarity to a dissimilarity, or vice versa, or to transform a proximity measure to fall within a particular range, such as [0,1].
  - For instance, we may have similarities that range from 1 to 10, but the particular algorithm or software package that we want to use may be designed to work only with dissimilarities, or it may work only with similarities in the interval [0,1]
- Frequently, proximity measures, especially similarities, are defined or transformed to have values in the interval [0,1].

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## **Transformations**

- Example:
  - If the similarities between objects range from 1 (not at all similar) to 10 (completely similar), we can make them fall within the range [0, 1] by using the transformation s'=(s-1)/9, where s and s' are the original and new similarity values, respectively.
- The transformation of similarities and dissimilarities to the interval [0, 1]
  - $s' = (s s_{\min})/(s_{\max} s_{\min})$ , where  $s_{\max}$  and  $s_{\min}$  are the maximum and minimum similarity values.
  - $d' = (d d_{\min})/(d_{\max} d_{\min})$ , where  $d_{\max}$  and  $d_{\min}$  are the maximum and minimum dissimilarity values.

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**Transformations** 

- Given dissimilarities 0, 0.5, 2, 10, 100, 1000
- Transformed dissimilarities 0, 0.33, 0.67, 0.90, 0.99, 0.999.
  Larger values on the original dissimilarity scale are
- compressed into the range of values near 1, but whether this is desirable depends on the application.

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• The Euclidean distance, *d*, between two points, *x* and *y*, in one-, two-, three-, or higher-dimensional space, is given by

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{n} (x_k - y_k)^2}$$

- where *n* is the number of dimensions (attributes) and  $x_k$  and  $y_k$  are, respectively, the  $k^{th}$  attributes (components) of data objects **x** and **y**.

• Standardization is necessary, if scales differ.





Distances - Minkowski Distance
Minkowski Distance is a generalization of

Euclidean Distance, and is given by  $\sqrt{r}$ 

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} |x_k - y_k|^r\right)^r$$

- where *r* is a parameter, *n* is the number of dimensions (attributes) and  $x_k$  and  $y_k$  are are, respectively, the  $k^{th}$  attributes (components) of data objects *x* and *y*.

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Distances - Minkowski Distance











## **Common Properties of a Similarity**

- If *s*(x, y) is the similarity between points x and y, then the typical properties of similarities are the following:
  - Positivity
    - s(x, y) = 1 only if x = y.  $(0 \le s \le 1)$
  - Symmetry
    - s(x, y) = s(y, x) for all x and y
- For similarities, the triangle inequality typically does not hold
  - However, a similarity measure can be converted to a metric distance

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## A Non-symmetric Similarity Measure Example

- Consider an experiment in which people are asked to classify a small set of characters as they flash on a screen.
  - The confusion matrix for this experiment records how often each character is classified as itself, and how often each is classified as another character.
  - Using the confusion matrix, we can define a similarity measure between a character x and a character y as the number of times that x is misclassified as y,
    - but note that this measure is not symmetric.

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#### A Non-symmetric Similarity Measure Example

- For example, suppose that "0" appeared 200 times and was classified as a "0" 160 times, but as an "0" 40 times.
- Likewise, suppose that "o" appeared 200 times and was classified as an "o" 170 times, but as "0" only 30 times.
  - Then, s(0,o) = 40, but s(o, 0) = 30.
- In such situations, the similarity measure can be made symmetric by setting
  - -s'(x, y) = s'(y, x) = (s(x, y)+s(y, x))/2,• where *s* indicates the new similarity measure.

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## Similarity Measures for Binary Data • Simple Matching Coefficient (SMC) – One commonly used similarity coefficient $SMC = \frac{\text{number of matching attribute values}}{\text{number of attributes}} = \frac{f_{11} + f_{00}}{f_{01} + f_{10} + f_{11} + f_{00}}$ – This measure counts both presences and absences equally. • Consequently, the SMC could be used to find students who had answered questions similarly on a test that consisted only of true/false questions.







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## **Extended Jaccard Coefficient**

- · Also known as Tanimoto Coefficient
- The extended Jaccard coefficient can be used for document data and that reduces to the Jaccard coefficient in the case of binary attributes.
- This coefficient, which we shall represent as EJ, is defined by the following equation:

$$EJ(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle}{\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{y}\|^2 - \langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \rangle} = \frac{\mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y}}{\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{y}\|^2 - \mathbf{x}'\mathbf{y}}$$

Correlation

- used to measure the linear relationship between two sets of values that are observed together.
  - Thus, correlation can measure the relationship between two variables (height and weight) or between two objects (a pair of temperature time series).
- Correlation is used much more frequently to measure the similarity between attributes
  - since the values in two data objects come from different attributes, which can have very different attribute types and scales.
- · There are many types of correlation





• The following two vectors x and y illustrate cases where the correlation is -1 and +1, respectively. x = (-3, 6, 0, 3, -6) x = (3, 6, 0, 3, 6)

y = (1, 2, 0, 1, 2)

corr(x, y) = -1  $x_k = -3y_k$  corr(x, y) = 1  $x_k = 3y_k$ 

y = (1, -2, 0, -1, 2)

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## **Comparison of Proximity Measures**

- Domain of application
  - Similarity measures tend to be specific to the type of
    - attribute and data
  - Record data, images, graphs, sequences, 3D-protein structure, etc. tend to have different measures
- However, one can talk about various properties that you would like a proximity measure to have
  - Symmetry is a common one
  - Tolerance to noise and outliers is another
  - Ability to find more types of patterns?
  - Many others possible
- The measure must be applicable to the data and produce results that agree with domain knowledge

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## **Information Based Measures**

- Information theory is a well-developed and fundamental disciple with broad applications
- Some similarity measures are based on information theory
  - Mutual information in various versions
  - Maximal Information Coefficient (MIC) and related measures
  - General and can handle non-linear relationships
  - Can be complicated and time intensive to compute

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- Entropy is the commonly used measure

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# **Entropy Examples**

• For a coin with probability p of heads and probability q = 1 - p of tails

$$H = -p\log_2 p - q\log_2 q$$

$$-$$
 For  $p = 0.5$ ,  $q = 0.5$  (fair coin)  $H = 1$ 

$$-$$
 For  $p = 1$  or  $q = 1, H = 0$ 

• What is the entropy of a fair four-sided die?

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1.0

1.1540

• Maximum entropy is  $\log_2 5 = 2.3219$ 

100

Total

## **Entropy for Sample Data**

- Suppose we have
  - a number of observations (m) of some attribute, X, e.g., the hair color of students in the class,
  - where there are *n* different possible values
  - And the number of observation in the  $i^{\text{th}}$  category is  $m_i$
  - Then, for this sample

$$H(X) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{m_i}{m} \log_2 \frac{m_i}{m}$$

· For continuous data, the calculation is harder

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## **Mutual Information**

• Information one variable provides about another Formally, I(X,Y) = H(X) + H(Y) - H(X,Y), where H(X,Y) is the joint entropy of *X* and *Y*,

$$H(X,Y) = -\sum_{i}\sum_{j} p_{ij}\log_2 p_{ij}$$

where  $p_{ij}$  is the probability that the *i*<sup>th</sup> value of *X* and the *j*<sup>th</sup> value of *Y* occur together

- · For discrete variables, this is easy to compute
- Maximum mutual information for discrete variables is  $\log_2(\min(n_X, n_Y))$ , where  $n_X(n_Y)$  is the number of values of X(Y)

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Mutual Information Example							
• Evaluating Nonlinear Relationships with Mutual Information – Recall Example where $y_k = x_k^2$ , but their correlation was 0.							
$\mathbf{x} = (-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3)$				y = (9, 4, 1, 0, 1, 4, 9)			
I(x, y) = H(x) + H(y) - H(x, y) =				= 1.9502 Entropy for v			
$x_i  P(\mathbf{x} = x_i)$	$-P(\mathbf{x} = x_i) \log_2 P(\mathbf{x} = x_i)$			yk	$P(\mathbf{y} = y_k)$	$-P(\mathbf{y} = y_k) \log_2(P(\mathbf{y} = y_k))$	
-3 1/7	0.4011			9	2/7	0.5164	
-2 1/7	0.4011			4	2/7	0.5164	
-1 1/7	0.4011			1	2/7	0.5164	
0 1/7	0.4011			0	1/7	0.4011	
1 1/7	0.4011				$H(\mathbf{y})$	1.9502	
2 1/7	0.4011						
3 1/7	0.4011						
$H(\mathbf{x})$	2.8074			Joint entropy for x and y			
Entropy for x	$x_i  y_k  P(\mathbf{x} = x_i, \mathbf{y} = x_i)$			$P(\mathbf{x} = x_i, \mathbf{y} = x_k) \log_2 P(\mathbf{x} = x_i, \mathbf{y} = x_k)$			
	-3 9 1/7			0.4011			
	-2 4 1/7				0.4011		
	-1	1	1/7			0.4011	
	0 0 1/7			0.4011			
	1 1 1/7				0.4011		
	2 4 1/7				0.4011		
	3 9 1/7			0.4011			
			$H(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$		2.8074		





## **Using Weights to Combine Similarities**

• May not want to treat all attributes the same. – Use non-negative weights  $\omega_k$ 

- similarity 
$$(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n} \omega_k \delta_k s_k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} \omega_k \delta_k}$$

• Can also define a weighted form of distance

$$d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n} w_k |x_k - y_k|^r\right)^{1/2}$$

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