

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(
> 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)
```

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

```

      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

>