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Benchmarking seventeen clustering methods

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BENCHMARKING SEVENTEEN CLUSTERING METHODS

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1 - Introduction

We chose to examine the main methods of clustering texts in a corpus - whether direct methods or methods based on the extraction of "communities" of words or documents derived from these texts - from the user perspective: that of researchers confronted with the delimitation of scientific domains out of bibliographic databases.

We asked ourselves a few simple questions:

- Are their results reproducible - by the same method applied with different initial conditions to the same corpus? By other methods?
- Do they reflect a real structure present in the data, which could serve as a "gold standard"?
- In the case of an unbalanced structure, i.e. coexistence of large classes (according to the terminology below) and small classes, does the method used make it possible to detect this structure?

Our choice has been to compare more than fifteen methods by benchmarking on of a real corpus, of reasonable size, but also – we insist - 1) made available to public access, 2) embedding a clear, undisputable structure, likely to make it subject to numerical distance measures to the structures revealed by the various methods.

First, let's address a point of terminology: we will call indifferently "cluster" or "topic" the grouping of elements (documents, terms, etc.) carried out by the methods of data analysis we have tested, as opposed to the word "class", which will designate the categories of items manually tagged upstream. Machine learning is the branch of data processing that seeks to generalize the attribution of these categories to documents that have not been subject to this costly human labeling. We will designate it in a condensed way by the word "learning", and won't tell much about it, this process being used only to a limited extent to solve the problem of delimitation. Hence we will mention "clustering", or "topic extraction", rather than "classification" later in this text. Note also that we will reserve the term "embedded mapping" for the only methods which intrinsically incorporate this process, namely factorial methods, and Kohonen maps (a.k.a. SOM, Self-organizing maps). The maps obtained from the other methods which provide topics are derived from a secondary process placing the topics in relation to each other in two dimensions. Their *document X topics* output tables may become the material for, e.g., a Principal Component Analysis, a bi-dimensional placement algorithm for the vertices of a graph, or a multidimensional scaling (MDS) representation of their topics columns.

2 - The test data

Our choice fell on Reuter's « 21 578 news reports » corpus [1][Lewis et al. 2004] in its refined version "ModApté Split" [2][Apté et al. 1994]. In order to make the results reproducible, and to avoid linguistic and/or statistical pre-processing, always difficult to specify at 100%, we have opted for the documents X words matrix directly available to the public on the site associated to [3][Cai et al. 2005], even if the lexical processing was very basic (no compound terms, all the numbers are considered as words ...). We chose to keep only the words of total occurrences greater than 15, to

limit the requirements for memory space and computation time. This process resulted in a *documents X words* matrix of size 6829 X 3244.

The interest and challenge posed by these data lie in the imbalance between the class sizes assigned by the Reuters indexers. To limit the difficulty, and although it is common practice in the machine learning community to select the first ten classes, we will limit to the first six, where two of them constitute 84% of the corpus in terms of number of documents, and the following four share equally the rest. Here are the sizes, concise titles and glimpses of the contents of these classes of documents (i.e. news reports):

(3713) [earn]: investment opportunities.

(2055) [acq]: corporate mergers and acquisitions.

(321) [money fix]: exchange rates.

(298) [crude]: crude oil prices.

(245) [trade]: national and international trade.

(197) [interest]: bank interest rates.

The second advantage of this data set is that this classification corresponds to a real structure, as visually suggests the cosine table between vector-documents, thresholded at 0.5 (see figure 1): a very homogeneous big class [earn], another [acq] less dense and linked to the first, 3 small classes [money fix] [crude] and [trade] homogeneous and related to [earn], but not to [acq], and a last small class [interest] related to [trade]. This corresponds to the main difficulties encountered in practice, namely the disparities in size and density between classes.

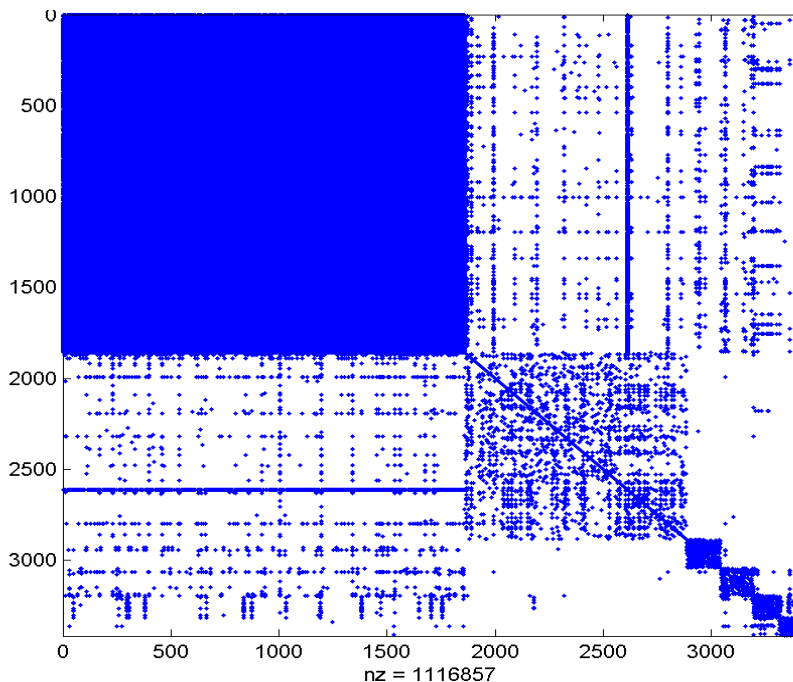


Figure 1: Cosines between Reuter's document vectors. Dark points represent cosines greater than 0.5. The order of the documents is that of the Reuter's classes. For the sake of legibility only one out of two documents has been represented.

This impression is confirmed numerically by the density table² in and out of these classes (see Table 1 below). We expect from an unsupervised method to confirm by and large this structure.

| | Cl.1 | Cl.2 | Cl.3 | Cl.4 | Cl.5 | Cl.6 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Cl.1 : earn | .35 | | | | | |
| Cl.2 : acq | .07 | .13 | | | | |
| Cl.3 : money fix | .06 | .06 | .13 | | | |
| Cl.4 : crude | .04 | .04 | .05 | .18 | | |
| Cl.5 : trade | .06 | .05 | .05 | .06 | .15 | |
| Cl.6 : interest | .04 | .06 | .05 | .05 | .11 | .25 |

Table 1: intra and inter-class densities Reuter's Mode Apté split (6 classes)

3 - Comparison criteria

To compare the extracted clusters with the classes, we chose two well-established partition comparison indicators, namely the Normalized Mutual Information (NMI)[4][Cover, Thomas 1991] and the Adjusted Rand Index (ARI) [5][Rand 1971] that do not require, like others, to provide a one-to-one correspondence between clusters and classes, nor do they require a strictly equal number of each. Their value is zero when the two partitions are independent or if one of them is the trivial partition (one class only). Their value is 1 when they are identical. The following will show us some difference in behavior between these two indicators.

4 - Overview of the methods being tested

There are many methods for aggregating clusters. For the sake of clarity we divide them into five categories: hierarchical, factorial, hybrid, probabilistic, and neighborhood methods.

4.1 - Hierarchical methods for building clusters

Clusters are groups of objects similar to each others. There are many traditional ways to build them, all of which require the choice of at least two tools: a similarity measure between two objects arising from their features, and a method of aggregating objects into groups (the clusters) starting from the matrix of their two-by-two similarities. Among the wide range of methods available in each of the two types, the choice will be guided not only by the nature of the objects and their characteristics but also by the information that one wishes to incorporate into the cluster structure.

²The density at the intersection of two classes C1 and C2, of size n1 and n2 respectively, containing the documents d_{1i} (i from 1 to n1) and d_{2j} (j from 1 to n2), is defined as $\sum_{i,j} \cos(d_{1i}, d_{2j}) / (n_1 \cdot n_2)$. The non-thresholding of cosines for computing densities may explain minor differences between the visual impression given in Figure 1 and the density table.

a) Tool 1: similarity measures between two objects described by binary – or numerical - features

For example, if the objects are the texts of a corpus and their features are the presence/absence of words out of a list of N words, the indices of similarity between two texts i and j are defined by a formula in which appear the four following counts:

- a, the number of words simultaneously present in the 2 texts
- b, the number of words present in the first text and lacking in the second
- c, the number of words present in the second text and lacking in the first
- d, the number of words simultaneously lacking in the 2 texts

We can set that $a + b + c + d = N$, $a + b = \text{occ}(i)$, $a + c = \text{occ}(j)$ where $\text{occ}(k)$ denotes the number of occurrences in k, i.e. the number of words in the text k.

In Table 2, we give the values of some of the most common similarity indices for the associations of two documents (which we will call 2-itemsets) among four E, F, G and H specified in the Annex, for which we note the presence/absence of $N = 50$ words³. The rank of the documents when ordered by decreasing values of each indicator is provided in red.

| i | j | Occ (i) | Occ (j) | a | b | c | d | Support | MaxInc | Jaccard | Ochiai | ρ | Specialization | Ochiai2 | Simple matching |
|-------------------|---|---------|---------|---|----|----|----|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| E | F | 20 | 10 | 5 | 15 | 5 | 25 | 5 ⁽³⁾ | 0.50 ⁽³⁾ | 0.20 ⁽³⁾ | 0.35 ⁽³⁾ | 1.25 ⁽³⁾ | 0.22 ⁽³⁾ | 0.26 ⁽²⁾ | 30 ⁽³⁾ |
| E | G | 20 | 30 | 9 | 11 | 21 | 9 | 9 ⁽¹⁾ | 0.45 ⁽⁴⁾ | 0.22 ⁽¹⁾ | 0.37 ⁽¹⁾ | 0.75 ⁽⁵⁾ | -0.30 ⁽⁵⁾ | 0.14 ⁽⁵⁾ | 18 ⁽⁵⁾ |
| E | H | 20 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 3 | 27 | 4 ⁽⁴⁾ | 0.57 ⁽²⁾ | 0.17 ⁽⁵⁾ | 0.34 ⁽⁵⁾ | 1.43 ⁽²⁾ | 0.34 ⁽²⁾ | 0.25 ⁽³⁾ | 31 ⁽²⁾ |
| F | G | 10 | 30 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 16 | 6 ⁽²⁾ | 0.60 ⁽¹⁾ | 0.18 ⁽⁴⁾ | 0.35 ⁽⁴⁾ | 1.00 ⁽⁴⁾ | 0 ⁽⁴⁾ | 0.20 ⁽⁴⁾ | 22 ⁽⁴⁾ |
| F | H | 10 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 36 | 3 ⁽⁵⁾ | 0.43 ⁽⁵⁾ | 0.21 ⁽²⁾ | 0.36 ⁽²⁾ | 2.14 ⁽¹⁾ | 0.64 ⁽¹⁾ | 0.31 ⁽¹⁾ | 39 ⁽¹⁾ |
| G | H | 30 | 7 | 2 | 28 | 5 | 15 | 2 ⁽⁶⁾ | 0.29 ⁽⁶⁾ | 0.06 ⁽⁶⁾ | 0.14 ⁽⁶⁾ | 0.48 ⁽⁶⁾ | -0.60 ⁽⁶⁾ | 0.07 ⁽⁶⁾ | 17 ⁽⁶⁾ |
| Rank 1 2-itemsets | | | | | | | | EG | FG | EG | EG | FH | FH | FH | FH |
| Rank 2 2-itemsets | | | | | | | | FG | EH | FH | FH | EH | EH | EF | EH |

Table 2: values of some association indices between 2 document vectors out of 4 (i.e. E, F, G, H).

- *Support*: the number a of cooccurrences of words between the 2 texts, which some authors normalize as a / N ;
- *MaxInc*: $\text{Max}(a / (a + b); a / (a + c))$, the of maximum ratio cooccurrences of the 2 texts to the occurrences of each text;
- *Jaccard*: $a / (a + b + c)$
- *Ochiai*: $a / \text{sqrt}((a + b) * (a + c))$

³ The data for documents E, F, G and H have been specified in the Annex.

- *Specialization*, used in (Zitt et al., 2000): $(p^2-1) / (p^2 + 1)$, where $p = (a * N) / ((a + b) * (a + c))$ (= ratio to assumption of independence of rows and columns)
- *Occhiai2*: $(a * d) / \sqrt{((a + b) * (a + c) * (b + d) * (c + d))}$
- *SimpleMatching*: $a + d$, or $(a + d) / N$

We can notice that the ranks differ depending from these nine indices. The last four indices (p , Specialization, Occhiai2 and SimpleMatching) are opposed to the others because of the importance they give to the number of words simultaneously lacking in the two texts. The indices p and Specialization take into account a law of probability (here the Chi2 of independence). The Support and SimpleMatching consider only raw numbers, while the other indices relativize them by a variable size. And this is just a hint of the growing list (not far from a hundred indices at the present time) of these indices whose purpose is to quantify the link between two texts according to the presence/absence of words . The reader wishing a more complete and detailed presentation can refer to [6][Choi et al. 2010].

Till now we have limited our scope to binary features (1: presence of a word versus 0: absence), whereas one could consider numerical characteristics or "weights" (e.g. number of repetitions of each word in a text, TF-IDF or BM25/Okapi weighting, etc.). However, the abundance of similarity indices is not as important as in the binary case, as it is mostly limited to variants of the Bravais-Pearson correlation coefficient (i.e. Spearman correlation, biserial correlation) or to a transformation into similarities of the dissimilarities that the classical distances (city-bloc, Euclidian, etc.) implement.

One can even have a combination of various types of features. Hence the choice for weighting the features in the formulas increases the variety of results (for example to calculate the similarity between 2 people, knowing their weight in kg, their size in cm and their age in years turns out to be a delicate task!).

In these complex cases, it often happens that one recodes the quantitative features into qualitative binary ones in order to find more easily a similarity index well adapted to the problem that one wishes to address.

b) Tool 2: aggregating method

(example of an aggregation algorithm used for building a hierarchy).

To build hierarchies, one can proceed upward or downward. In an ascending way, one starts from the similarity (or dissimilarity) matrix between the p objects taken in pairs. In step 1, we consider each object as a group, and in the next step we merge the 2 groups with the smallest dissimilarity (i.e. the greatest similarity) into a single group, giving $p-1$ groups . The dissimilarities between the merged group and the remaining $p-2$ groups are then calculated using a "link" formula combining the dissimilarities of each element of the new group with the remaining $p-2$ groups. This merging step is repeated until a desired number of groups, if specified, is reached, or else one sole group.

Updating dissimilarities at each merger can be done using one of various linkage formulas, a most common one being to take the Max dissimilarity of the elements of the group.

For example, taking as a dissimilarity index the complement to one of the Occhiai2 index, along with the Max link, and limiting to two groups,

| | | | | |
|---|---|------|------|------|
| | E | F | G | H |
| E | 0 | 0,74 | 0,87 | 0,75 |
| F | | | 0,80 | 0,69 |
| G | | | | 0,93 |
| H | | | | 0 |

| | | | |
|----------|---|------|-------------|
| | E | G | FH |
| E | 0 | 0,87 | 0,75 |
| G | | 0 | 0,93 |
| FH | | | 0 |

=Max(dis(EF),dis(EH))=Max(0,74;0,75)

=Max(dis(GF),dis(GH))=Max(0,80;0,93)

Table 3: Creating 2 clusters with the aggregation algorithm

Two clusters (EFH) and (G) result from this process.

c) Note on the limitations of distance-based methods

Clustering methods, as well as factorial and hybrid methods, explicitly use distances, defined between pairs of words or documents. It will be seen later that probabilistic methods can be expressed as matrix decompositions, i.e. as hybrid methods implicitly using distances, too. This global association between two entities erase the information of interaction brought by the sequential character of the sequences of words in a document, and more generally by the n to n associations, called n-itemsets. To illustrate this yet unheralded point, we continue here the example given previously about hierarchical methods.

These hierarchical methods are based on the similarities between objects taken by pairs to aggregate them, following the simple principle "the friend of my friend is my friend", i.e. "flattening" data in a sole table of dissimilarities between objects taken 2 by 2. The problem is the same with classical factor analyzes, which use matrices of variance/covariance or correlation. But the reality is more complex. If we consider for example the 3 objects E, F and H that have been grouped together in Table 3 above, assuming that they are documents, the strong similarities EF, EH and FH show that these documents have many common words taken by pairs, but it is not known if the words common to the 3 documents are many or not. However, the EFH group is created from the 2 groups E and FH in the previous section by assuming that the dissimilarity between EF and H cannot be greater than that between E and F and that between E and H, this "ultrametrics" distance corresponding in mathematical terms to a geometry in which all triangles are isosceles.

This allows to infer a ternary relation, here between E, F and H. Of course higher order relationships (quaternary and beyond) may be constructed as well, and so larger and larger groups are formed. Other link calculation formulas (here we chose Max, but we could have chosen Mean, etc.) will give clusters that may differ, but none will question the fact that "the friend of my friend is my friend".

A ternary relation can in no way be reconstructed from the sole matrix of binary similarity relations: the interactions - which are not necessarily positive as in the example "the friend of my friend is my friend" - have to be taken into account. In [Cadot, Lelu 2012] it has been shown that binary relations have to be complemented by interactions for reconstructing relations of all kinds. To illustrate this point, we have given in the appendix the counterexample of two *documents X words* raw tables, that is to say two distribution instances for 50 words in the 4 documents E, F, G, H producing the same indices of table 2 but different supports for the 3-itemsets EFG and EFH. Graph representations,

being sets of binary relations, are also prone to this limitation, which may be overcome using hypergraphs.

Along with the explosion of computational and computer storage capabilities, more powerful methods become tractable, making it possible to process lists of documents with their words at each step, without limiting to pairwise co-occurrences. These include the search for frequent patterns in Data Mining. Its principle is as follows: for computing the index of the 2-itemset EF, we create the list of the words common to E and F, and to compute the index of the 3-itemset EFH, we do not use the index of the 2-itemset EF (following the principle above), but its list of words that we compare to that of H. So if EF has a strong index, as well as EH, the EFH index will be strong or weak depending on whether E, F and H have a more or less important list of common words. With these algorithms the storage size or the CPU time for re-computing the word lists of k-itemsets is huge, and is an exponential function of the number of words and/or documents. To optimize the algorithms, it is common practice to apply thresholds on the index values at step k-1 in order to limit the number of extracted k-itemsets, by deleting the lists of too small common words. More statistically sophisticated methods are also possible [Cadot, Lelu 2012].

To create "relief" and to partially introduce the interaction into the distance-based methods, it is possible to code all or part of the word n-grams as new variables, n being small. A "natural" and less cumbersome solution is to take into account in full or in part the compound expressions, which amount to word n-grams selected by use.

d) The hierarchical methods we have tested

We have tested three methods corresponding to three different types of aggregation, generally considered as the most satisfactory:

- Group average link: the average link between two clusters consists in computing the average distance between individuals of each cluster
- Ward D2: Ward distance aims to maximize inter-class inertia, via $\text{dist}(C1, C2) = (n1 * n2 / (n1 + n2)) \text{dist}(G1, G2)$ where n1 and n2 are the sizes of clusters C1 and C2, G1 and G2 their respective centers of gravity.
- Mc Quitty: when examining the inter-cluster distance matrix, pairs of clusters in a reciprocal neighborhood situation (i.e. C1 is the nearest neighbor of C2, while C2 is the nearest neighbor of C1) are merged.

4.2 - The factor-oriented methods

The usual factor-oriented methods (mainly PCA : *Principal Component Analysis*, CA : *Correspondence Analysis*, LSA: *Latent Semantic Analysis*) are based on the decomposition of a matrix of r rows (documents) and c columns (terms) into three smaller matrices, respectively of size (r, k) (k, k) and (c, k), where k is the number of factors extracted, called singular value decomposition (SVD), which is a basic operation of linear algebra:

$$X \sim U \Delta V'$$

Δ is a diagonal matrix, called matrix of the eigenvalues, and the matrices U and V ("eigenvectors") have orthogonal columns, with Euclidean norm one⁴. U and V represent the projections of the documents (or terms) on the k factor axes, which give rise to a direct visualization of these elements in two-dimensional maps, usually featuring the first two factors. While the English-speaking world often uses the "nonlinear unfolding" variant of this type of maps, namely the Multidimensional Scaling (MDS⁵), in Latin Europe and the Netherlands the Correspondence Analysis (CA) continues to stimulate theoretical interest⁶ and practice since half a century. But these methods are suitable for data of small or medium size, and two dimensions are generally not enough for expressing the wealth of "Big Data". This is why the Latent Semantic Analysis (also known as Latent Semantic Indexing) [Deerwester et al. 1988], i.e. direct application of the SVD to large *texts X words* matrices, breaks with any desire for visualization or individual interpretation of factors, and merely offers a space of "reduced" dimensions (generally a few hundreds factors for data-tables of minor dimension smaller than a few thousand elements) in which more relevant distances than in the original space can be computed. In particular documents without common words but of the same semantic field are identified as close to one another.

An undeniable advantage of factorial methods is to be deterministic, i.e. to obey the principle "one data set, one method, one single result".

Independent Component Analysis (ICA) [8][Hérault, Ans 1984] is widely used in signal processing, where it solves the so-called "cocktail party" problem (unravel n conversations from n microphones dispersed in the room). It imposes on the resulting components much more than the classic non-correlation constraint (i.e. factor orthogonality) required by the usual factor methods. It starts by transforming the data space into the space of the first eigenvectors, defined by the matrix documents X topics, all the columns of whose are of variance one. It is necessary to specify initially the number of dimensions of this "spherical" space, as well as the number of independent components that one wishes to obtain. Its *FastICA* variant [9][Hyvärinen 1999] is able to process *document X word* matrices, but is still little used in this field.

4.3 - Hybrid factorial/clustering methods

Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF) [10][Lee, Seung 1999] is based on the principle of avoiding the negative projections inherent to the factor analyses, in order to characterize the descriptors and the described objects by positive or null indicators of "salience". In image analysis for example, negative coefficients have no meaning. The common practice in NMF is to perform a decomposition into two matrices only $X = HV$ where the sole columns of the matrix V are normalized, the matrix H being the equivalent to the product $U \Delta$ seen above. The non-negativity constraint of H and V is

⁴Older factor methods, mainly used by psychologists, have been somewhat forgotten in our "big data" era, some of which lead to oblique factors (see Varimax or Oblimax rotations, which maximize "simple structure", i.e. interpretability by minimizing the number of salient items for each factor). Principal Component Analysis (PCA), on the other hand, creates orthogonal factors and requires a matrix of centered-reduced variables, making it unsuitable for processing large amounts of data. More recent algorithms take advantage of the "sparse" nature of most of big data, to reduce both memory and computing power requirements.

⁵Based on a different principle: minimize "stress", which measures the global difference between the "true" distances in the multidimensional space and the distances in a 2D representation.

⁶The transformed array of which the AFC made the SVD has links with the "Laplacian" graphs we will mention below when addressing spectral clustering [7bis][Von Luxburg 2007].

respected thanks to a multiplicative update algorithm for **V** and **H**, unlike the factorial methods where the update corrections are additive. The results show a "clustering effect": the values of **V** and **H** tend to take values either close to zero or to the maximum. In fact, the axes defined by the columns of these matrices point to areas of high data density, and NMF can be considered as a clustering method producing fuzzy and overlapping clusters. The axes are usually oblique, forming angles less than or equal to 90 °.

An older method, closer to clustering strictly speaking, has been called **Axial K-Means (AKM)** [11] [Lelu 1994]. It leads to a similar result., i.e. positive "typicity" (or "centrality") coefficients in the interval 0 to 1 characterizing not only documents in a cluster (defined here explicitly), but also documents that are not part of it, which makes it possible to interpret this structure in terms of fuzzy and overlapping clusters. Each cluster axis is the principal axis, in the sense of Spherical Factor Analysis [12], of the sub-cloud representing this cluster on the surface of the unit sphere. Like all K-means-inspired algorithms, this method is fast, memory-sparing and suitable for large datasets.

But these two methods have, like many others, a major disadvantage: their sensitivity to initialization values. Their algorithms allow them to converge only towards local optima. We will return below on this problem from an experimental point of view.

Remarks on **Self Organizing Maps (SOM)** [Kohonen 1998]

In the neural-inspired model "Self-Organizing Map" (SOM), a geometric arrangement framework for the topics needs to be specified, in most of the cases in the form of a square or rectangular grid, in addition to the number of topics and to a random initialization seed. The advantage is to directly get a relevant 2D visualization of the topics in relation to each other. The disadvantage is that, depending on the initialization seed, disturbing edge effects may occur if a central topic happens to be located at the perimeter of the grid. Different initialization seeds can create very different maps, in hardly recognizable configurations.

4.4 - Probabilistic models

a) Probabilistic Latent Semantic Analysis (pLSA)

To overcome the indiscriminate nature of the LSA factors and the impossibility to interpret the extracted axes individually, while offering a statistical basis for this type of method, [14][Hoffman 1999] created the pLSA, based on the decomposition:

$$P(d,w) = \sum_z P(z) P(d/z) P(w/z)$$

where $P(d, w)$ is the joint probability of the document d and the word w which models the number of occurrence of w in d divided by the total number of word occurrences in the corpus – one specific

normalization of the data matrix P , $P(d/z)$ is the conditional probability of the document given the value of the categorical variable z (for all the documents these probabilities sum to 1); same principle for the word w . $P(z)$ is the probability of each category (or topic) z . The number Z of categories is fixed, D and W are respectively the numbers of documents and words.

This decomposition is expressed $P = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{D}\mathbf{V}^T$ in matrix notation, in accordance to the same scheme seen above, but with non-orthogonal columns for \mathbf{U} as well as \mathbf{V} . Each column of these matrices is interpreted as a "topic", in the same way as NMF.

Hoffman models $P(d/z)$ and $P(w/z)$ as multinomial laws, with a number of parameters⁷ $D \cdot Z$ for the first, $W \cdot Z$ for the second – these are considerable numbers, and we will return to this fact below when dealing with the Influence of the initialization. Starting from an initialization at random of the matrices $P(z)$, $P(d/z)$, $P(w/z)$, he uses the Expectation Maximization (EM) algorithm [15] [Dempster et al. 1977] to converge, via updating the "stack" of intermediate matrices $P(z/d, w)$, to a local optimum of the objective function optimized by this algorithm, namely the log-likelihood [16][Fisher 1912] of the data with respect to the multinomial laws obtained at each iteration step. In contrast, linear algebra-based methods such as SVD optimize another criterion, the sum of the squared differences between reconstituted and original data, based on the concept of variance, not log-likelihood.

b) Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

The LDA [Blei et al. 2003] was designed starting from a criticism made to the statistical model of pLSA: the latter is based on a mixture of multinomial laws whose number of parameters increases linearly with the number of documents, which can thus grow indefinitely, unlike the number of words; this is called "overfitting"⁸. One would prefer to model the documents by a "generative" law, with few parameters. This is why LDA drastically reduces the number of parameters by modeling the Z distributions of documents conditionally to the topics by a Dirichlet law - approximation, with Z parameters, of a set of Z multinomial distributions. The point of the $W \cdot Z$ parameters of words remains - it still is beyond state-of-the-art yet to model sets of Zipfian laws ...

An interesting aspect of the LDA is that it allows designing many variants and refinements: taking into account the word N -grams, or subdivisions of texts, even dynamic aspects, ...

c) A fuzzy clustering method: Fuzzy C-Means (FCM)

This is a historical method [18][Dunn 1973] that produces for each document a probability of belonging to each topic. These probabilities sum to 1, whereas for pLSA and LDA the probabilities of each document to be in one topic sum to one, and for NMF the squared typicality coefficients of each document belonging to one topic sum to one. For their part, the AKM produce for each document indicators of centrality in the topic, within the range 0 to 1, with no constraint on their sums or sums of squared values - hence a possible interpretation as a fuzzy and overlapping cluster structure for documents whether belonging to the topic or not.

⁷The parameters of these multinomial laws consist of the probabilities of occurrence of each of the D categories for each of the Z subpopulations, for example to die of a certain cause when one is a man or one is a woman. In this case, there are $D \cdot Z$ parameters, some of which are contrasted (breast cancer, prostate cancer, etc.), and others not. They sum to 1 (alas!) for each subpopulation.

⁸We will see below what is concretely meant by the notion of overfitting, which is quite common in the context of supervised learning.

FCM needs the number of desired topics to be specified beforehand. They optimize a criterion based on the sum of these probability values at power α , where α is greater than 1 and has also to be initialized.

We will empirically examine below whether the oblivion in which the FCM has fallen was deserved or not...

4.5 - Neighborhood methods

a) ***A density clustering method: DBSCAN [19][Ester et al. 1996]***

A radius R defines the neighborhood of a point (here a document), and the *minpts* parameter sets the minimum number of points in its neighborhood necessary for this point to be considered as the seed of a cluster (or its extension). Otherwise, it is considered as noise. The algorithm works by progressively extending the clusters. Its "naïve" implementation is very slow, but can be greatly accelerated by various data structures.

One of the characteristics of this method is its ability to detect clusters of any shape, not necessarily linearly separable, as well as isolated points ("outliers") and border points between two clusters. This is an advantage in some applications, but not in bibliometrics where it is more operational and readable by experts to delimit homogeneous aggregates than continuums between two or more poles. Note an advantage : no number of clusters has to be initialized. And its main advantage is to be deterministic: one data set, one set of parameters, one single result. But its two parameters are delicate to adjust, and do not allow to extract clusters of different densities.

b) **Graph clustering methods**

Louvain

This method [20][Blondel et al. 2008] optimizes a global "modularity" indicator for the graph, comparing to the graph with the same global distribution of the links, but whose values of the edges are computed under the assumption of the nodes being independent ("Null model"). It has the merit of having no parameter nor number of topics to adjust, but it is established since [22][Lancichinetti, Fortunato 2011] that its criterion of modularity embeds the problem of the "resolution limit": the more extended is the graph, the lesser the number of clusters - which is inappropriate in the context of Big Data in general, bibliometrics in particular.

Several algorithms inspired by Louvain attempt to overcome this limitation by introducing a "resolution parameter", for example **Smart Local Moving Algorithm** [21][van Eck et al. 2010]. But it has also been shown in [22][Lancichinetti, Fortunato 2011] that these approaches also involve difficulties in taking into account clusters of different sizes and densities.

Affinity Propagation

This method [Dueck, Frey 2007] relies on a "messages passing" principle, and successive updates of two matrices: that called "responsibility" quantifies the ability of each item to serve as an exemplary type, a "model", to each other; the one called "availability" quantifies the capacity of each item to

take as exemplary another one, taking into account all the preferences for it. It does not impose to specify a number of clusters, but has a resolution parameter, called "preference".

Spectral Clustering

This method [Meila, Shi 2000] is based on the use of K-means in a transformed space, that of the K first non trivial eigenvectors of the so-called Laplacian matrix of the graph, the one that CA also relies on, see [25] [Lelu, Cadot 2010]. In this latent semantic space of reduced dimensions clusters of any shape may emerge - which is not necessarily an advantage for bibliometric applications, as we have seen above. In addition to the need for specifying the number K of clusters, it is subject to the hazard of K-means initialization. For an answer to the question: what is the number K^* of clusters significantly present in the graph (significant in the statistical sense), and not constituted by noise, [26][Lelu, Cadot 2013] provides an answer based on Monte Carlo simulations.

InfoMap

This method [27][Rosvall, Bergstrom, 2007] is soundly grounded in information theory. It quantifies the "density landscape" of a directional (or not) graph by assigning binary codes to the nodes : the more often are they traversed by "random walkers" browsing through the graph, the shorter they are . As a result the description of the graph is compressed, and the graph is partitioned into fuzzy (or not) modules: each module is assigned a code in the same way, i.e. the more frequented by random walkers, the shorter. The shortest overall description of the graph provides the number and composition of the resulting clusters, along with the degree of centrality of each node in its cluster. The method does not require any parameterization nor specification of a desired number of clusters.

Density Peaks

The originality and interest of this method[28] [Rodriguez, Laio 2014] mainly lie, in addition to its deterministic nature, in the possibility offered to the user to choose the cluster seeds in a graph called "decision graph" giving for each entity its density and its minimum distance to a denser entity, thus resolving the problems of "rough" density landscapes in the process of detecting density peaks. Several methods for computing density are possible, and a resolution parameter called "neighbor rate" is necessary. It operates from the matrix of inter-entity distances.

5 - Experimental comparisons and conclusions: decisive influence of initialization and parameterization

5.1 - Deterministic methods

a) *Correspondence Analysis*

If we are looking for few topics, say six at most, a simple way to proceed is to perform a correspondence analysis of the *documents X words* matrix(it is a matrix of counts) limited to the first K non trivial eigenvectors, and then to deduce clusters by looking, at each document, for the axis on which its projection is of greater modulus and of the same sign as the majority⁹. It a somehow appealing approach: one single, reproducible pass, easy interpretation via the projections of the words, possibility of dealing with important corpora as long as the vocabulary size does not exceed a few tens thousand words. In this way six factors were extracted from our test set in less than one second with a Pentium 6core i7, 3.33 GHz CPU, with honorable results : ARI = .39 and NMI = .41. We checked that this latter value was maximum for K = 6.

b) *Hierarchical methods*

To our surprise, these methods proved to be among the best in our benchmark, and even the best as far as Group average link was concerned: the latter far surpasses its competitors in terms of ARI (.63, versus .46 for the best non-hierarchical methods, LDA), less clearly in terms of NMI (.52 vs. .51 for KMA). McQuitty and Ward D2 respectively rank second in terms of ARI and third in terms of NMI.

c) *DBSCAN*

The choice of the two parameters "radius of the neighborhood" and "minimal number of neighbors" led us to many tests. Many of them resulted in a "one dominant cluster plus a dust of quasi-individual cluster" structure, or in rejecting the majority of points as noise, except a few small clusters. The least bad compromise was found for R = 1.1 and minpts = 5, where 63% of the corpus is spread over 3 clusters of unbalanced sizes. The resulting ARI = .46 value has no significance since 37% of the corpus was poured into the common pot of "rejected" documents. DBSCAN's inability to take into account clusters of different sizes and densities therefore seems unacceptable.

d) *Louvain*

This method of graph partition operates on an adjacency matrix between documents, which can be defined in many ways - here we chose the inter-document euclidean cosines. The code available to us was very slow (several hours for each tested matrix). The cosine matrix between document vectors generated 3 clusters and a mediocre ARI of .22. A cosine threshold at .5 produced 4 clusters of comparable sizes, but an ARI of .15. Moreover a binary coding of cosines thresholded at .65 allowed to find the level ARI = .22. These results confirm the often pointed disadvantage [27] of the modularity criterion optimized here, namely its "resolution limit": the larger the corpus, the lower its sensitivity to the existence of clusters, hence the small number of extracted clusters. If we target only a limited number of topics, it seems that we would have better results with CA, especially since the computer efficiency of the latter is much higher (in the context of the software available to us), and that its limiting factor is the words number, and not documents number as for Louvain.

⁹The projections with largest module usually happen on the same side of the axis, either positive or negative. The Alceste method [Reinert 1986] is a more rigorous method for extracting a limited number of clusters in the same space of the first K factors of CA: it performs a greedy hierarchical descending partition on these axes.

e) **InfoMap**

Although this method introduces the hazard at the deepest and lowest level of its algorithm (when generating a large number of random walks in a graph), it can be termed as stable and reproducible, in the sense that its best results - measured by the description length of the graph decomposed into modules – in about ten passages seem very close. As far as our test corpus is concerned, it resulted in 5 clusters of unbalanced sizes. The resulting value of the ARI indicator (.2420) is only within the average range of all methods. But the value of the NMI indicator (.4359) is in the high range, a result all the more remarkable for this method as it does not need, alone with Louvain, any parameter to adjust or number of clusters to specify - and we have found that the NMI is the closest indicator to our judgment criteria, for it seems to take into account the correctness of reconstitution of small as well as large classes. Here this method individualizes well the small class 5, and even cuts in two the small class 6.

f) **Density Peaks**

This method proved insensitive to the existence of clusters of different sizes and densities, and it was necessary to look for cluster primers that were not obvious to detect on the "decision graph", as well as to parameterize a very low "neighborhood rate" (0.08%) to obtain disappointing values of ARI (.26) and NMI (.40).

5.2 - Local optima methods:

A common feature of NMF, KMA, pLSA, LDA, ICA and Spectral Clustering is to input a prerequisite number K of desired topics, and to output K vectors (values of the documents for each topic). CA does this too, in a framework of global optimization, and its vectors are orthogonal, which is not generally the case for the other methods, which could be gathered under the banner of "oblique factors methods" . Although interpretations in terms of fuzzy and overlapping clusters are still possible from this general structure, it is easier in practice - and easier to comment on - to derive crisp clusters by simply identifying the maximum factor values for each document.

Each method has its own objective function, to which state-of-the-art algorithms can only converge towards a local optimum. Hence the importance of initialization procedures for the quality of the final result. These always incorporate a random draw of initial values that directly or indirectly generate the *document X topics* output matrix. Except considering to specify the lines of code used and the seed of initialization, the results are not reproducible. It is necessary to reiterate the runs with different initialization seeds to approach the optimal values of the objective function, corresponding to partitions which may diverge a lot if the number of clusters desired is high (say, a few tens at least). Most often, one or two tens of repetitions are needed for reaching optimal values that peak at a few hundredths or thousandths near the best value of the objective function over a few thousand repetitions.

A major additional problem is that an optimum of an objective function does not necessarily correspond to a satisfactory partition according to our user criteria (or according to numerical criteria that would prove to be close). We could mention again NMI, which seems closest to our "natural" judgment criteria. We have explored this problem with the LDA and KMA methods. LDA has

provided the highest values of the ARI and NMI¹⁰ criteria measuring the similarity between the obtained partition and the reference partition, over one or two tens passes. Table 3 below shows that the maximum ARI (or NMI) is far from coinciding with that obtained when the objective function is at its best value¹¹. The chances of stumbling upon an initialization leading to a humanly satisfactory partitioning optimum are therefore minimal.

Affinity Propagation and Smart Local Moving Algorithm, for their part, can also be placed in the same category as the methods with a fixed number K of clusters because they have one or two resolution parameters whose adjustment leads to the same result. Nor are they deterministic.

Compared to other methods, LDA proved the least flawed from this point of view. It results, at its minimum of perplexity, in a partition in three clusters, in practice two of which correspond more or less to classes 1 and 2, and the third to the four small remaining classes, mixed with elements of classes 1 and 2 - which is not really the desired result. The other methods do not behave better: KMA tends to create even more balanced clusters, and is the second least bad of the lot. Beyond these two methods yielding ARIs above .4, two other methods, NMF and ICA, produce ARIs around .3. Finally pLSA brings up the rear with a .13 ARI.

5.3 - Voluntarily biased initializations and settings:

In order to provide extra means of comparisons between these performances, it is interesting to know which maximum level of ARI can be obtained¹² over one or two dozen runs which, depending on the methods, can be initialized at random, or be subject to adjustment of their parameters: here too, the Group average link method clearly stands out with remarkable ARI and NMI values (resp. .71 and .64), optimal for a 10-cluster cut, which recreates a few small classes; Smart Local Moving Algorithm also stands out with ARI and NMI values (resp. .6019 and .5484) among the best in the whole test – but also low values when we do not adjust its parameters ... Then come LDA (.55), followed by ICA (.54) in the space of the first 10 eigenvectors, KMA (.48), and Spectral Clustering (.41) in the space of the first 7 eigenvectors. Eventually NMF, Fuzzy C-means and Affinity Propagation give values lower than .4.

All these elements show that 1) apart from Group average link, most of the objective functions of the tested methods are not adapted to the proposed class structure, however not being an original one (two large classes, one dense and the other not, four small classes, two of which are well individualized), 2) only InfoMap and Louvain are approaching, with no parameters to adjust nor number of clusters to specify, the "true" structure of the data, 3) there may exist objective functions more appropriate, as suggested by Smart Local Moving Algorithm under a particular setting, and therefore a large place for new research. The researches have not stopped indeed for more than half a century, and seem to be ever increasing and becoming more complex (see the development of Deep Learning) rather than declining.

¹⁰After comparing all the methods presented here to the reference partition in Reuter's classes using the ARI criterion, we found that the NMI criterion, which varies in approximately the same direction, better reflected the similarities between clusters and small classes.

¹¹Depending on the methods, a maximum of the objective function (pLSA, ICA, KMA) or a minimum (NMF, LDA) is sought.

¹²A case which cannot happen, by definition, in the framework of non-supervision, as ARI needs class labels.

5.4 - Tentative recommendations

The experience we presented here of the main methods in the "mapping-clustering-community detection" continuum, and that we have limited to the test of a unique dataset - but this one presents most of the difficulties encountered in practical applications - shows that the current state of the art is unsatisfactory, that it even may have regressed beyond the introduction of hierarchical methods in the 1960s, and that it would be foolhardy to draw peremptory conclusions about any bibliometric delineation of scientific domains from one sole method of these, especially when it has to be accompanied with initialization and parameterization procedures. Only InfoMap and Louvain do not require any of these elements, and Infomap is likely to provide, without the need for prior expert knowledge, a partition in clusters closer to our human understanding of this notion, which is difficult to define - if only that it is related to significant density fluctuations of a cloud of points. While waiting for new methodological breakthroughs, an InfoMap partition can provide a sound basis that other methods with parameters such as Group average link, Fast Local Moving Algorithm, or LDA, together with expert knowledge of the domain, may correct and refine.

5.5 - Perspectives

We are aware that the work presented here has been realized in inevitable constraints of time and means. We will enjoy it to be continued by others, and will continue it ourselves:

- We insisted to present results obtained from publicly available data, results that anybody can verify or challenge. These data are issued from a single method of indexing the Reuters 21578 corpus. It will be interesting to examine the influence of other modes of indexing, whether more basic (stemming), or on the contrary more elaborated from a linguistic point of view - taking into account, for example, compound terms or the grammatical categories of words.
- We used public versions of the chosen algorithms, mainly written in Matlab, Octave, or Scilab code, or being published as Windows executables. It will be interesting to check if other implementations lead to the same results.
- Countless variants of the methods presented here have not been mentioned: testing the most promising ones will enhance the debate.
- We have deliberately decided to measure the quality of unsupervised algorithms against a corpus designed to test supervised learning methods: we consider that this light is necessary, though not sufficient for the task of delimiting scientific fields - a task taken in the paradoxical injunction of detecting partially or totally hidden emergences, to the actors' eyes, while confirming or marginally correcting the apprehension that these scientific actors and institutions have of their own place.

5.6 - Table of the main results

For the ARI indicator (respectively NMI) the left column displays the intrinsic performances, without knowledge of the reference partition targeted, the right one, the opposite, i.e. a voluntary biased result.

| <i>Used algorithm</i> | <i>Comments</i> | <i>Objective function</i> | <i>ARI</i> | | <i>NMI</i> |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| CA | for K=6 best ARI (for K=5) | Deterministic | .3934 .4052 | | .4082 .4072 |
| CAH / Group average link | cutoff value for 6 clusters cutoff value for 10 clusters | Deterministic | .6292 .7097 | | .5207 .6430 |
| CAH / Mc Quitty | cutoff value for 6 clusters cutoff value for 13 clusters | Deterministic | .4979 .5719 | | .4639 .5511 |
| CAH / Ward D2 | cutoff value for 6 clusters cutoff value for 12 clusters | Deterministic | .3176 .2371 | | .4759 .5158 |
| DBSCAN | ARI _{max} , for 6 clusters, $R=1.1$, $minpts=5$ | Deterministic | .4601 | | n.a. |
| NMF | best objective function (10 passes) for K=6 best ARI | .7743 .7744 | .3095 .3863 | | n.a. .4480 |
| AKM | best objective function (20 passes) for K=6 best ARI "ex-post" initialization | .2614 .2558 .2573 | .4349 .4795 [.8265] | | .5079 n.a. [.6410] |
| pLSA | random initialization for K=6 "ex-post" initialization best around "ex-post" initialization | -22 173 -14 690 -14 384 | .1344 [1.000] [.6768] | | .0673 [1.000] [.6357] |
| LDA | best objective function (=min, 20 pass.) for K=6 best ARI "ex-post" initialization | 503.80 523.50 480.63 | .4625 .5460 [.6184] | | .4052 .5345 [.7333] |
| ICA (=ACI) | best objective function (for 7 eigenvectors) best ARI (for 10 eigenvectors) | | .2818 .5390 | | n.a. n.a. |
| Fuzzy C-Means (FCM) | best ARI ($power=1.082$) for K=6 | 4300.90 | .3337 | | n.a. |
| Louvain | COS (filling ratio : 99.66%) COS threshold: 0.1 (filling ratio : 43.30%) COS threshold: 0.5 (filling ratio : 9.58%) | | .2794 .2750 .1506 | | .4212 .4230 n.a. |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------|--------------|--|--------------|
| Spectral clustering | best ARI (for 7 eigenvectors) | N.C. | .4178 | | n.a. |
| Affinity Propagation | for 6 clusters, <i>Preference</i> =-18.2 | | .1955 | | n.a. |
| Smart Local Moving Algorithm | best ARI (for <i>Resolution</i> =1000, <i>minpts</i> =30) | | .6019 | | .5484 |
| InfoMap | COS threshold: 0.1 | | .2420 | | .4359 |
| Density Peaks | best ARI (with Gaussian kernel and <i>neighbor rate</i> = 0.08%) | | .2624 | | .4018 |

Table 4 of the main results

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7 - Annex : raw data for establishing table 2 and result referred to in section 4.1.c

The following two tables display the presence of 50 words in the 4 documents E, F, G and H mentioned in table 2. The last line displays the supports of the 1-itemsets E, F, G, H, of the 2-itemsets EF, EG, ..., GH, as well as for the 3-itemsets and 4-itemset EFGH. The point is that the sole supports of EFG and EFH differ in the two tables: {4, 0} and {1, 1} respectively. The other supports are identical. This counterexample shows that the only binary relations between entities are not enough to completely establish their links.

| itemset | E | F | G | H | EF | EG | EH | FG | FH | GH | EFG | EFH | EGH | FGH | EFGH |
|---------|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----------|-----|-----|------|
| #word | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 34 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 37 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 39 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 40 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 42 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 43 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 48 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 49 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 50 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Support | 20 | 10 | 30 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

| itemset | E | F | G | H | EF | EG | EH | FG | FH | GH | EFG | EFH | EGH | FGH | EFGH |
|---------|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| #word | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 22 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 34 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 36 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 37 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 38 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 39 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 40 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 41 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 49 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Support | 20 | 10 | 30 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |