

Fast Levenshtein

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Fast Levenshtein

Calculates Levenshtein distance of < 3 in $O(n \log(n))$

In reality, only useful for words of length > 6

Example: *mein*, *Stein*, *eine*

1. step: For any word: Remove any zero, one or two characters and store the result together with the starting word.

Result: Pair (hash value, key)

mein	mein	mn	mein	ein	eine
ein	mein	mi	mein	...	...
min	mein	me	mein	ei	eine
men	mein	Stein	Stein	...	...
mei	mein	...	...	in	eine
in	mein	ein	Stein	...	...
en	mein	...	...
ei	mein	eine	eine		

Fast Levenshtein (2)

2. step: Identical hash values come from similar keys. Sort table and group by hash value. Ignore groups of size 1. The keys in a group are candidates for Levenshtein distance 1 or 2.

ei	eine
ei	mein
ein	eine
ein	mein
ein	Stein
in	eine
in	mein

3. step: Check candidate pairs with usual Levenshtein algorithm:

eine	-	mein	distance = 2
eine	-	Stein	distance = 3, dropped!
mein	-	Stein	distance = 2

Which words have most similar words?

(Please guess!)

Which words have most similar words?

1-jährige, 2-jährigen etc. have more than 600

Surnames like *Schieler, Schweier, Schieder* have more than 400:

Example: *Schieler*

Schwuler, Schöller, Scheer, Schoeller, Scheele, Schieben, Schweer, Schuller, Schaeder, Scheeßler, Schelper, Schiebler, Schieker, Schielin, Schielo, Schielt, Schicker, Schilfer, Schinkeler, Schittler, Schlegler, Schneer, Schnizler, Schoeder, Schouler, Schuhler, schiefes, scheener, scheller, schnieker, schweer, Schneier, Schnieder, Schweller, Scheerer, schienen, Schipper, Schiewe, schier, Schienen, Schmelter, schneller, Schilder, Schleyer, Schmelzer, Schielen, Schießer, Stieler, ...

Observation: These are not the interesting words

Affixe of length 1 and 2

Differences at the beginning or the end of words are candidates for affixes:

affix	freq
-n	16706
-en	12460
-s	11617
-e	9739
-er	5026
-r	4300
-es	3880

affix	freq
un-	1316
ge-	1152
ab-	917
be-	880
an-	856
er-	487
zu-	412

Levenshtein Distances

- Up to distance 3 for words of a certain minimum length
- Comparison of any word with a given list of 1M word
- i.e. for small languages: For all word pairs

Outlook:

- Weighted differences according to frequency of the observations
- Iteration for longer affixes