Language-Independent Features for Authorship Attribution on **Ukrainian Texts**

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Abstract

Authorship attribution is the natural language processing task of the author identification of an input text. The main goal of this task is to define the salient characteristics of documents that capture the author's writing style. In this paper, we analyze language-independent features for authorship attribution. All experiments were realized on the corpus of Ukrainian scientific papers. For the experiments we used Bayes Based Algorithms (Naive Bayes Multinomial), Support Vector Machine (SMO) and Decision Trees (LMT, J48) methods. The experimental results of the scientific text classification demonstrated that Decision Trees method in most cases outperforms other machine learning methods, and the proposed in the paper language-independent features are appropriate for the Ukrainian scientific documents authorship attribution.

Keywords

Writing Style, Language-Independent Features, Authorship Attribution, Text Classification, Machine Learning Methods

1. Introduction

The task of authorship identification is not new. The results of authorship detection studies are actively used in various spheres of human life. Authorship research can be divided into three main areas: authorship identification (author identification by analyzing the writing styles of other works of this author), authorship characterization (determination of the author's characteristics (gender, education, culture, language skills, etc.) and generation of the author's profile), similarity detection (comparison of several texts and definitions were created by one author, actually identifying the identity of the author) [1, 2, 3, 4]. Similarity detection is most often used to identify potential academic plagiarism. The advantage of this method is small value of input textual data.

The relevance of the research topic is confirmed by the dynamics of publications and citations in scientific databases. Data from the Web of Science Core Collection on the publication activity of scientists confirms this. We selected documents by the keyword "Writing Style" and received 6,679 documents for the previous 10 years (2010-2019). During this time, the number of publications has almost tripled, but the publication citation on the topic has significantly increased (Figure 1).

Methods and approaches to the author identification and the definition of writing style differ in the studies of various authors [4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10].

In the paper [7] the authors proposed to detect differences between writings on the same topic provided by a set of users and tested whether these differences are enough to use for an authentication system. They observed 74% accuracy in detecting the actual authors and concluded that with additional features the accuracy can be pushed to above 90%. Also they analyzed the impact of some data cleaning systems like removing stop words and punctuation marks, and how they affected the final results.

IT&I-2020 Information Technology and Interactions, December 02-03, 2020, KNU Taras Shevchenko, Kyiv, Ukraine

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CEUR Workshop Proceedings (CEUR-WS.org)

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In the paper [6] was proposed a new methodology for authorship attribution based on a profile of indices related to the generalized coupon collector problem, called coupon-collector-type indices.

The authors in the work [5] proposed an alternative AV approach that considers only topic-agnostic features in its classification decision. In addition, they presented a post-hoc interpretation method that allows understanding, which particular features have contributed to the prediction of the proposed AV method.

The authors [8, 10] for the Authorship verification task also allocate a subtask Author obfuscation in a situation where the author deliberately changes the writing style.

Author obfuscation is the adversarial task of preventing a successful verification by altering a text's style so that it does not resemble that of its original author anymore. The paper [8] introduces new algorithms for both tasks. They proposed an approach that models writing style difference as the Jensen-Shannon distance between the character n-gram distributions of texts, and manipulates an author's writing style in a sophisticated manner using heuristic search.

The length of text is influence on the authorship identification. In the work [9] the authors tried to identify authors of tweet messages, which are limited to 280 characters.

This paper focuses on the third direction of similarity identification. Therefore, by identification of the author, we mean the definition of a potential author of a text from a certain number of applicants. The decision is based on the group of properties that reflect the author's style measurement and comparison. By the author's style, we mean the author's own writing style, which he uses unconsciously when writing texts. Text properties that reflect the author's style are called stylometric. Stylometric properties by which the author's style can be identified make up a list of style markers.

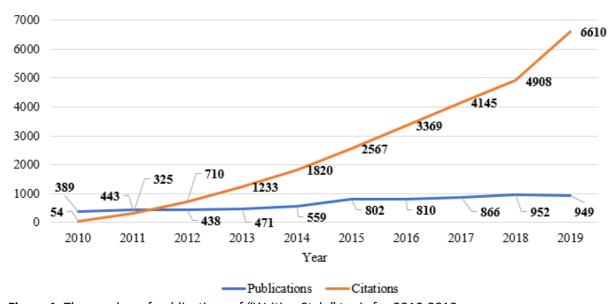


Figure 1: The number of publications of "Writing Style" topic for 2010-2019 years

The main stylometric properties include the following features: lexical, symbolic, syntactic, semantic, and application-specific [1, 2]. The author [1] highlights the following application-specific properties that can reflect a written style: Structural, Content-specific and Language-specific.

The search for symbolic properties is based on the analysis of text as a sequence of symbols. This type of information is easily identifiable for any natural language. We can easy analyze total number of characters, number of alphabetic characters, number of upper and lower case characters, number of punctuation marks, etc. On practical experiments, it was proved that the use of symbolic features, in combination with other markers, is useful for determining the style of writing [11].

All investigated structural units of the text depend on the language, general content, and have a probabilistic nature. Each language has certain lexical, syntactic, semantic, stylistic features. Therefore, the same approaches to attribution for different languages give results of different quality (accuracy). This is confirmed by previous studies of the stylometric properties of scientific texts in Ukrainian and Russian, carried out by the authors [12, 13].

Also, all style markers are equally effective when used for different languages [11]. Based on this, we distribute the stylometric characters into two groups: language-dependent features and language-independent features.

The paper [11] analyzes in detail and investigates language-independent and language-dependent features of the stylometric properties: average sentence length in the text, percentage of capital letters in relation to number of lowercase letters, percentage of lowercase letters in relation to total number of characters in the text, percentage of punctuation signs in relation to total number of spaces in the text, percentage of numeric characters in relation to total number of letter characters in the text, average word length in a sentence in the text, frequency of the most frequent stop word in the text, the most frequent starting word in a sentence in the text, the frequency of the most frequent starting letter of the starting word, the frequency of the most frequent starting letter of the stop word, the number of the words occurring just once in the text, the number of the words that occurred twice in the text, the number of words for the given word length in the text.

Some of them were used in experiments by the authors of this publication. This paper focuses on the research of the statistical characteristics of scientific texts in the Ukrainian language, which can be attributed to language-independent stylometric properties.

2. Data Description

For the experiments we used our own preprocessed text corpus. The data source is the repository of National **Technical** University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute" the (http://repository.kpi.kharkov.ua) and the portal of scientific publications of the National Technical University "Lviv Polytechnic" (http://science.lpnu.ua/uk). The text corpus consists of individual scientific publications in Ukrainian. For stylometric properties we used only the paper main text, which best reflects the author's written style. For each author, a collection of paper fragments is formed. Thus, the text corpus represents a set of data based on identical fragments (instances), all documents of which are considered individually. In this paper, we have implemented an instancebased approach to authoring style research. Two existing approaches [1, 14, 15] were used so far: profiles (profile-based approaches), instances (instance-based approaches). We concentrated on the instance-based methods, because the profile approaches defines the overall writing style of the author and does not account for style changes in individual documents. The instance-based approaches determine the writing style for each instance of the text and thus accommodate the changes in the author's writing style. In our case, stylometric properties are determined for each fragment of the paper separately. Text data statistics are shown in Table 1. However, the distribution of text volumes among the authors and the files is highly unbalanced. The smallest files contained only 150-160 words. Therefore, we cut files and are working with shortest scientific texts in our collection are around 150 words. We created two subsets for our experiments, one of them consist of 8 classes (authors), other -32 classes (authors). These classes were selected randomly but the sets are balance.

Table 1Statistics of the corpus

Characteristics	8 classes	32 classes	
Number of authors	8	32	
Number of documents	67	271	
Average number of documents per author	8	8	
Number of fragments	1019	2633	
Average number of fragments per author	127	82	
Total size (tokens)	154643	415565	
Average number of tokens per author	19330	12986	
Total number of sentences	10385	24743	
Average number of sentences per author	1298	773	

Statistical characteristics were determined using our own software "Determination of statistical characteristics of text fragments". This program helps to obtain different kind of features from text and is adapted to the processing of a wide range of character sets.

This program implements its processing of text data according to its own algorithm in order to form a wide range of text statistical parameters. The general interface consists of two areas: working with data and calculation results (Fig. 2). Calculations are carried out on the tabs for following elements: sentences, words, symbols, set (user-selectable).

The program implements the functions of calculating and saving the obtained experimental data for all elements.

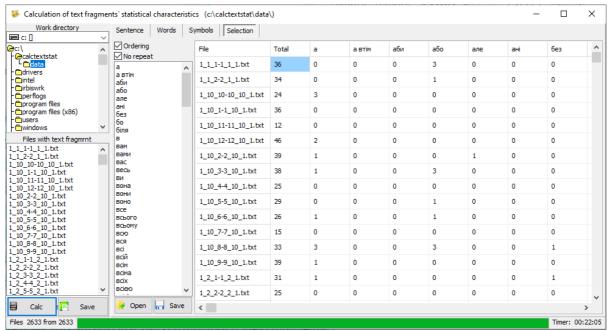


Figure 2: The interface of the "Determination of statistical characteristics of text fragments" software

3. Authorship Attribution the Base on Language-Independent Features

In this Section, we describe our language-independent features for text classification in Ukrainian and show the main results of our experiments of authorship attribution.

3.1. Identification of Language-Independent Features

Groups of properties, which refer to the text statistical parameters and allow to determine the author's style with high accuracy are described in [2, 11]. The authors of this paper created their own list of text statistical properties of Ukrainian, which are divided into 5 groups:

Group 1: average number of words in a sentence, average word length, average word frequency, punctuation (5 indicators).

Group 2: the number of words with length from 1 to 20 characters, the number of words with a word frequency from 1 to 8 times (28 indicators).

The range of up to 20 letters was selected due to the use of similar words: multifunctional (19), competitiveness (22), etc. The statistics on the words with a length of 1 to 20 characters and the number of words with a word frequency of 1 to 8 times are shown in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4.

Group 3: frequency of using letters of the Ukrainian alphabet (33 indicators).

Less commonly used letter "r"/"g" and most often used letters "o"/"o", " μ "/"n" and "a"/"a". The full information about these letters are presented in Table 2.

Table 2Frequency of less and most commonly used letters in our corpus

Letters	Frequency of 8 classes	Frequency of 32 classes
"r''/"g"	157	431
"o"/"o"	99876	276108
"н"/"n"	93057	257314
"a"/"a"	83034	222646

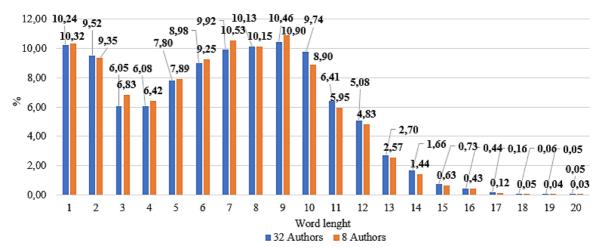


Figure 3: Percentage of words used in the corpus depending on their lengths

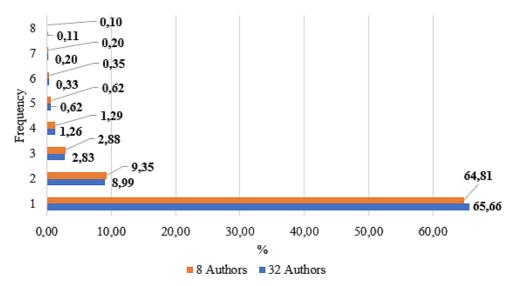


Figure 4: The number of words with a certain frequency

Group 4: frequency of using stopwords and pronouns (65 indicators). The dictionary of prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions was formed for the calculation of group 4 indicators. We used words with a frequency of 100 or more for the classification process. The stop-words and pronouns are shown in Table 3 and Table 4.

Group 5: coefficients of language diversity (5 indicators).

The author's unique vocabulary consists of specialized terms, functional words, certain linguistic constructions and influences the author's text variety. This variety is determined using the following coefficients [13, 16]:

• coefficient of text lexical diversity $K_l = \frac{W}{N}$, where W is the number of unique words, N is the total number of words;

- syntactic complexity coefficient $K_s = 1 \frac{P}{W}$, where *P* is the number of sentences, *N* is the total number of words;
- exclusivity index $I_{wt} = \frac{W_1}{W}$, where W_1 is the number of words with a frequency of 1, W is the total number of words;
- text concentration index $I_{kt} = \frac{W_{10}}{W}$, where W_{10} is the number of words with a frequency of 1, W is the total number of words;
- speech connectivity coefficient $K_Z = \frac{Z+S}{3P}$, where Z is the number of prepositions, S is the number of conjunctions, P is the number of sentences.

Table 3Stopwords and pronouns with a frequency of 20 or more (for 8 classes)

Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency	Word	Frequency
a/and	710	на/on	2357	той/that	32
або/or	672	над/over	35	тому/so	249
але/but		наприклад/for		тільки/only	
	128	example	207		87
без/without	81	не тільки/ not only	24	y/in	2155
в/in	2535	ними/them	48	це/it	363
вона/she	83	них/them	85	цей/this	85
вони/they	112	ніж/than	47	цих/these	86
все/all	35	однак/however	49	цього/this	153
всі/all	99	оскільки/because	91	цьому/this	112
всіх/all	110	при/at	593	ця/this	41
від/from	639	проте/but	61	ці/these	85
він/he	111	під/under	164	цієї/this	83
для/for	1952	та/and	2518	чи/or	135
до/to	1115	так/so	203	що/what	1365
з/with	2026	таким чином/so		щоб/in order	95
			57	to	
за/by	1034	також/also	250	як/as	663
й/and	163	те/that	49	якщо/if	293
його/his	335	ти/уои	60	i/and	2398
коли/when	90	тим/by that	59	Iз/from	343
ми/we	75	тих/then	128	ïx/their	408
мов/as	55	то/then	418	ïï/her	323
між/between	313	того/that	327		

After calculating the text diversity coefficients, we determined their average values for each author. Results were grouped by value. Thus, we found that a significant number of authors belong to each group of indicators for each coefficient of text diversity. Unfortunately, it does not allow independent use of these properties to identify the author. In Table 5 are presented the number of unique mean values for the text diversity coefficients and the maximum number of authors with the same indicators.

The analysis of the text diversity coefficients showed that these coefficients could not be a formal feature and could not be used for the author identification. Therefore, these indicators are used together with additional properties. For example, according to the Decision Trees (LMT) algorithm, with the addition of text diversity coefficients to the set of properties, the F-Measure value increased from 0.599 to 0.614.

Table 4Stopwords and pronouns with a frequency of 100 or more (for 32 classes)

Word	Freque	Word	Frequenc	Word	Frequency
	ncy		У		
a/and	1852	на/on	6815	той/that	112
або/or	1460	над/over	109	тому/so	686
але/but	479	наприклад/example	480	тільки/only	336
без/without	214	не тільки/ not only	135	y/in	5755
в/in	7088	ними/them	154	це/it	1075
вона/she	253	них/them	240	цей/this	195
вони/they	308	ніж/than	150	цих/these	268
все/all	137	однак/however	144	цього/this	404
всі/all	255	оскільки/because	267	цьому/this	438
всіх/all	293	при/at	1481	ця/this	120
від/from	1649	проте/but	216	ці/these	230
він/he	270	під/under	356	цієї/this	224
для/for	4284	та/and	7531	чи/or	456
до/to	3368	так/so	593	що/what	4157
з/with	5366	таким чином/so	265	щоб/in order	205
з/by	2622	також/also	705	як/as	2088
й/and	823	те/that	185	якщо/if	558
його/his	1075	ти/you	129	i/and	6948
коли/when	240	тим/by that	198	13/from	733
ми/we	180	тих/then	128	ïx/their	1211
мов/as	105	то/then	418	ïï/her	850
між/between	802	того/that	327		

Table 5The analysis result of the uniqueness level of the average values of the text diversity indicators by the authors

	Number of unique values (8/32 classes)	MAX number of authors with the same value of the indicator (8/32 classes)
Coefficient of text lexical diversity	15/25	11/38
Coefficient of syntactic complexity	9/13	17/97
Exclusivity index	17/32	12/28
Concentration index	7/11	38/178
Coefficient of speech connectivity	52/127	5/12

3.2. Experiments

For our experiments of text classification, we used our corpus (2 subsets) and five groups of features: for separate groups and their combination. Weka software (https://www.cs.waikato.ac.nz/ml/weka/) was used for classification task. Bayes Based Algorithms (Naive Bayes Multinomial, NBM), Support Vector Machine (SMO), Decision Trees (LMT, J48) were used as classification methods with the cross-validation parameter – 10 folds. According to the preliminary experiments of the authors using other stylometric properties for machine learning methods are shown to demonstrate good results [12].

The Figures 5 shows the classification results of 1, 2 and 3 groups separately and together. For individual groups, quality is not assessed using F-measure. F-measure cannot be calculated or has very little value for them. The result is presented in the percentage of correct classification. In the experiments, fragments of documents from 8 authors were used, that is, a classification was carried out into 8 classes. The results of 32 classes are not as good as for 8 classes. In our opinion, this is due to the fact that with an increase in the number of classes, the influence of statistical characteristics decreases.

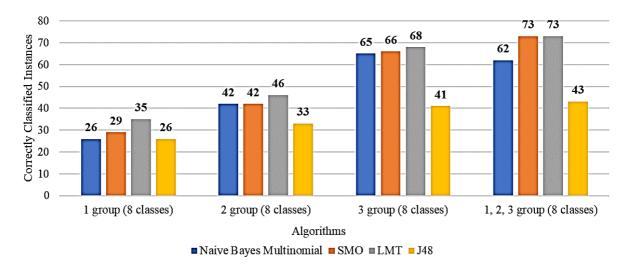


Figure 5: Comparison of the classification result for separate groups of properties and their combinations (8 classes)

Experiments have confirmed that the classification quality depends on sets of features and machine learning methods. In addition, scientific publications analyze other problems associated with the preparation of data that affect the quality of the classification [2]:

- Problem Scope The number of authors in the research, equal to the number of classes in the classification.
 - Training Size The number of documents in the training set.

Therefore, we conducted experiments for 32 authors (32 classes) and 8 authors (8 classes) and compared the results. The result of the text classification using different sets of features for a different number of classes is presented in Table 6.

According to the experiments, we obtained an average increase in the value of Correctly Classified Instances: 20%, MIN Correctly Classified Instances: 15%, MAX Correctly Classified Instances: 28%. The dynamics of changes in the classification quality for 8 authors (8 classes) using a different number of indicators is shown in Fig. 6.

4. Conclusions

In this paper we described our experiments on text authorship attribution. These experiments were run on our own text corpus of scientific publications. Bayes Based Algorithms (Naive Bayes Multinomial, NBM), Support Vector Machine (SMO) and Decision Trees (LMT, J48) from the WEKA toolkit were tested for this task. Two sets of experiments have been designed, with selections of texts written by 32 and 8 authors respectively. As a novelty, we proposed our own set of author style indicators, organizing them in 5 groups and testing these groups individually and in various combinations.

The result of the experiments demonstrated the usefulness of the proposed language-independent stylometric properties indicators for text authorship attribution. Experiments showed that for 1-3, 1-4 and 1-5 groups of properties, the classification indicators are similar, despite the increase in the number of features.

Table 6Classification quality metrics for property groups

	· · · · · ·	Number	Correctly		Correctly	F-Measure
C ******	ما مصاله	of	Classified	F-Measure (32	Classified	(8 authors/
Group number	Algorit	indicators	Instances	authors/	Instances	classes)
number	hm		(32 authors/	classes)	(8 authors/	
			classes)		classes)	
1	NBM	5	10.74 %	-	26.49 %	-
1	SMO	5	11.31 %	-	29.24 %	-
1	LMT	5	14.12 %	-	34.54 %	-
1	J48	5	10.74 %	0,100	26.30 %	0,26
1, 2	NBM	33	18.11 %	0,184	35.52 %	0,37
1, 2	SMO	33	20.96 %	-	44.35 %	0,37
1, 2	LMT	33	26.81 %	0,249	45.63 %	0,47
1, 2	J48	33	13.71 %	0,135	33.95 %	0,33
1, 2, 3	NBM	66	42.23 %	0,433	62.21 %	0,63
1, 2, 3	SMO	66	49.79 %	0,484	73.79 %	0,734
1, 2, 3	LMT	66	55.33 %	0,550	73.30 %	0,731
1, 2, 3	J48	66	18.61 %	0,182	43.27 %	0,433
1, 2, 3, 4	NBM	131	49.03 %	0,500	70.75 %	0,720
1, 2, 3, 4	SMO	131	58.71 %	0,581	79.78 %	0,79
1, 2, 3, 4	LMT	131	60.27 %	0,599	78.60 %	0,78
1, 2, 3, 4	J48	131	21.07 %	0,205	49.06 %	0,48
1, 2, 3, 4,	NBM	136	48.87 %	0,499	70.65 %	0,71
5						
1, 2, 3, 4,	SMO	136	59.286 %	0,586	79.4897 %	0,794
5						
1, 2, 3, 4,	LMT	136	61.6407 %	0,614	80.6673 %	0,806
5						
1, 2, 3, 4,	J48	136	21.0786 %	0,206	49.4603 %	0,492
5						

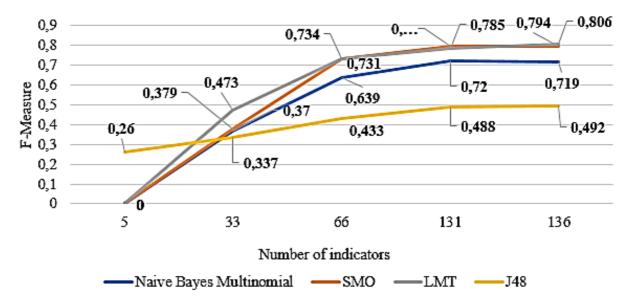


Figure 6: Dependence of the F-measure classification quality on the indicator numbers (8 classes)

The best result (F-measure) of 32 classes we received for the SMO method (0.586) and LTM (0.614) for 1-5 groups of properties. The best result (F-measure) of 8 classes we received for the SMO method (0,794) and LTM (0,806) for 1-5 groups of properties.

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