1 Conventions

This document describes statistics used in the Sketch Engine system. Following conventions apply unless specified otherwise:

$N$ – corpus size,

$f_A$ – number of occurrences of the keyword in the whole corpus (the size of the concordance),

$f_B$ – number of occurrences of the collocate in the whole corpus,

$f_{AB}$ – number of occurrences of the collocate in the concordance (number of co-occurrences)

1.1 With grammatical relations


We count frequencies for triples of a first word connected by a specific grammatical relation to a second word, written $(word_1, gramrel, word_2)$

$||w_1, R, w_2||$ – number of occurrences of the triple,

$||w_1, R, *||$ – number of occurrences of the first word in the grammatical relation with any second word

$||*, *, w_2||$ – number of occurrences of the second word in any grammatical relation with any first word

$||*, *, *||$ – number of occurrences of any first word in any grammatical relation with any second word: that is, the total number of triples found in the corpus.
2 Word Sketches

Until September 2006 we used a version of MI-Score modified to give greater weight to the frequency of the collocation defined as:

**MI-Score**

\[
\log_2 \frac{f_{AB}N}{f_Af_B}
\]

**Association score**

\[
A\text{Score}(w_1, R, w_2) = \log \frac{||w_1, R, w_2|| \cdot ||*, *, ||}{||w_1, R, *|| \cdot ||*, *, w_2||} \cdot \log(||w_1, R, w_2|| + 1)
\]

Since September 2006, noting the scale-dependency of AScore and recent relevant research including Curran 2004 “From Distributional to Semantic Similarity” (PhD Thesis, Edinburgh Univ) we changed the statistic to logDice, based on the Dice coefficient:

**Dice**

\[
\frac{2f_{AB}}{f_A + f_B}
\]

**logDice**

\[
14 + \log_2 \frac{2 \cdot ||w_1, R, w_2||}{||w_1, R, *|| + ||*,*, w_2||}
\]


3 Thesaurus

To compute a similarity score between word \(w_1\) and word \(w_2\), we compare \(w_1\) and \(w_2\)’s word sketches in this way:

- find all the overlaps, i.e. where \(w_1\) and \(w_2\) share a collocation in the same grammatical relation, e.g.: \((\text{beer}/\text{wine}, \text{OBJECT}_\text{OF}, \text{drink})\), where the association score > 0,
- let \(w_{s\ w_1}\) and \(w_{s\ w_2}\) be the set of all word sketch triples \((\text{headword}, \text{relation}, \text{collocation})\) for \(w_1\) and \(w_2\), respectively, where the association score > 0,
- let \(\text{ctx}(w_1) = \{(r, c) | (w_1, r, c) \in w_{s\ w_1}\}\),
- let \(A\text{S}_i\) be the association score of a word sketch triple (since September 2006, logDice is used),
- then the distance between \(w_1\) and \(w_2\) is computed as:

\[
\text{Dist}(w_1, w_2) = \frac{\sum_{(r,c)\in\text{ctx}(w_1)\cap\text{ctx}(w_2)} A\text{S}_{(w_1,r,c)} + A\text{S}_{(w_2,r,c)} - (A\text{S}_{(w_1,r,c)} - A\text{S}_{(w_2,r,c)})^2/50}{\sum_{i\in w_{s\ w_1}} A\text{S}_i + \sum_{i\in w_{s\ w_2}} A\text{S}_i}
\]

The term \((A\text{S}_i - A\text{S}_j)^2/50\) is subtracted in order to give less weight to shared triples, where the triple is far more salient with \(w_1\) than \(w_2\) or vice versa. We find that this contributes to more readily interpretable results, where words of similar frequency are more often identified as near neighbours of each other.

The constant 50 can be changed using the \(-\mathbf{k}\) option of the \text{mkthes} command.
4 Key words, key terms, comparing corpora

Key words are words typical of a focus corpus (a corpus we are interested in) in contrast to a reference corpus (usually a general corpus in the same language as the focus corpus).

The keyness score of a word is calculated according to the following formula:

\[ \frac{f_{pm\_focus}}{f_{pm\_ref}} + n \]

where \( f_{pm\_focus} \) is the normalized (per million) frequency of the word in the focus corpus, \( f_{pm\_ref} \) is the normalized (per million) frequency of the word in the reference corpus, \( n \) is the simple Maths (smoothing) parameter (\( n = 1 \) is the default value).

The top key words reflect the domain of the focus corpus very well and can be used to explore differences between corpora in Sketch Engine as shown in Kilgarriff: “Getting to know your corpus”. Proceedings of Text, Speech and Dialogue 2012, Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Springer, 2012.

Key terms are multi word noun phrases typical of a corpus. They are defined using term definition rules (similarly to word sketch relations). The keyness score for terms is the same as for words, corpus frequencies of whole term phrases are taken into account in this case.

5 Other statistics

These are the statistics offered under the “collocations” function accessible from the concordance window; these statistics do not involve grammatical relations.

\( T\)-Score

\[ \frac{f_{AB} - f_A f_B}{\sqrt{f_{AB}}} \]

\( MI\)-Score

\[ \log_2 \frac{f_{AB}N}{f_A f_B} \]


\( MF^3\)-Score

\[ \log_2 \frac{f_{AB}^3 N}{f_A f_B} \]

Oakes, Statistics for Corpus Linguistics, 1998

\( \text{log-likelihood} \)

\[ 2 \cdot (xlx(f_{AB}) + xlx(f_A - f_{AB}) + xlx(f_B - f_{AB}) + xlx(N) + xlx(N + f_{AB} - f_A - f_B) - xlx(f_A) - xlx(f_B) - xlx(N - f_A) - xlx(N - f_B)) \]

where \( xlx(f) \) is \( f \ln(f) \)

minimum sensitivity

\[ \min \left( \frac{f_{AB}}{f_B}, \frac{f_{AB}}{f_A} \right) \]

Pedersen, Dependent Bigram Identification, in Proc. Fifteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence, 1998

**MI.log-f** (formerly called **salience**)

\[ \text{MI-Score} \cdot \ln(f_{AB} + 1) \]


**Dice**

\[ \frac{2 \cdot f_{AB}}{f_A + f_B} \]

**relative freq**

\[ \frac{f_{AB}}{f_A} \cdot 100 \]