DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Inspiring Minds

Proximity based one-class classification with Common N-Gram dissimilarity for authorship verification task

PAN 2013 Author Identification

Magdalena Jankowska, Vlado Kešelj and Evangelos Milios

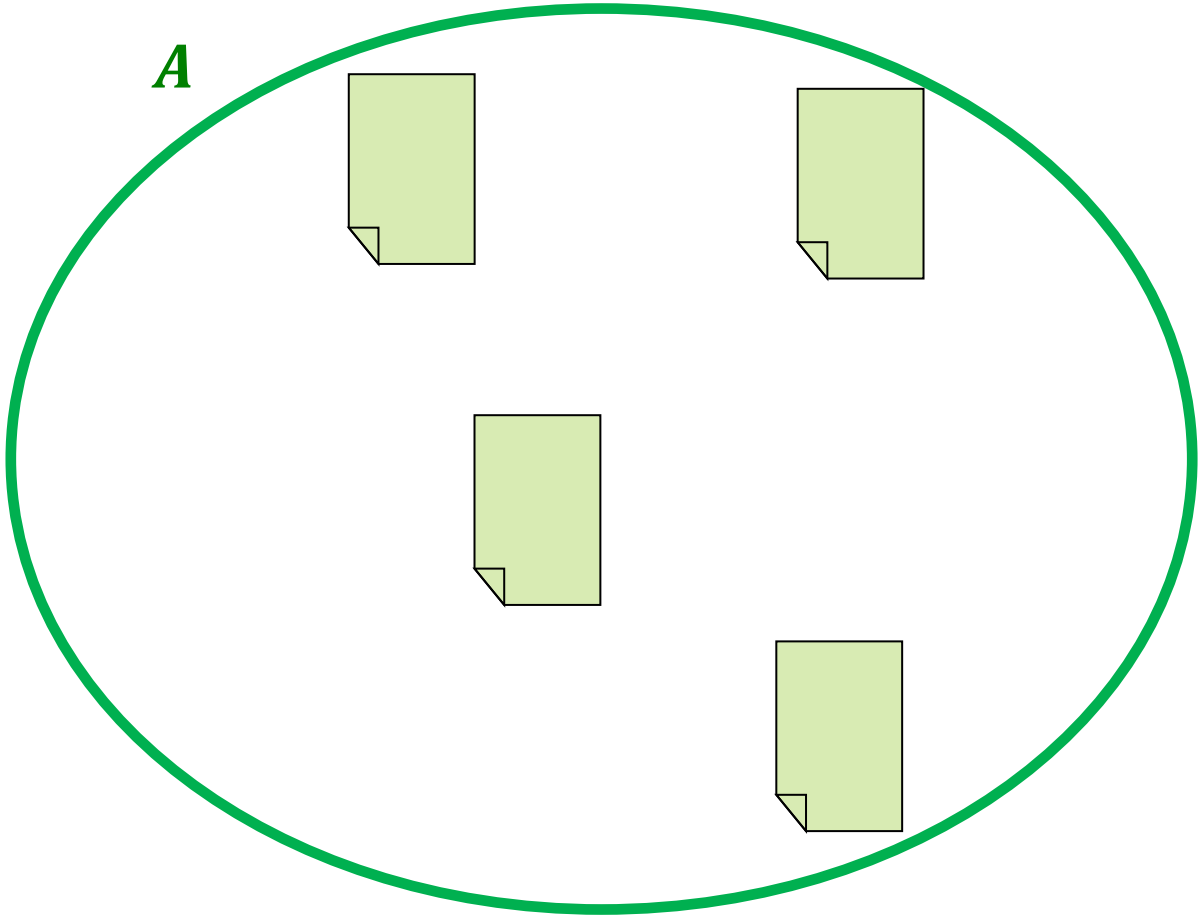
Faculty of Computer Science, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada

Authorship verification problem

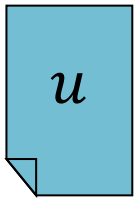
Input:

Set of "known" documents by a given author

A



document of a questioned authorship



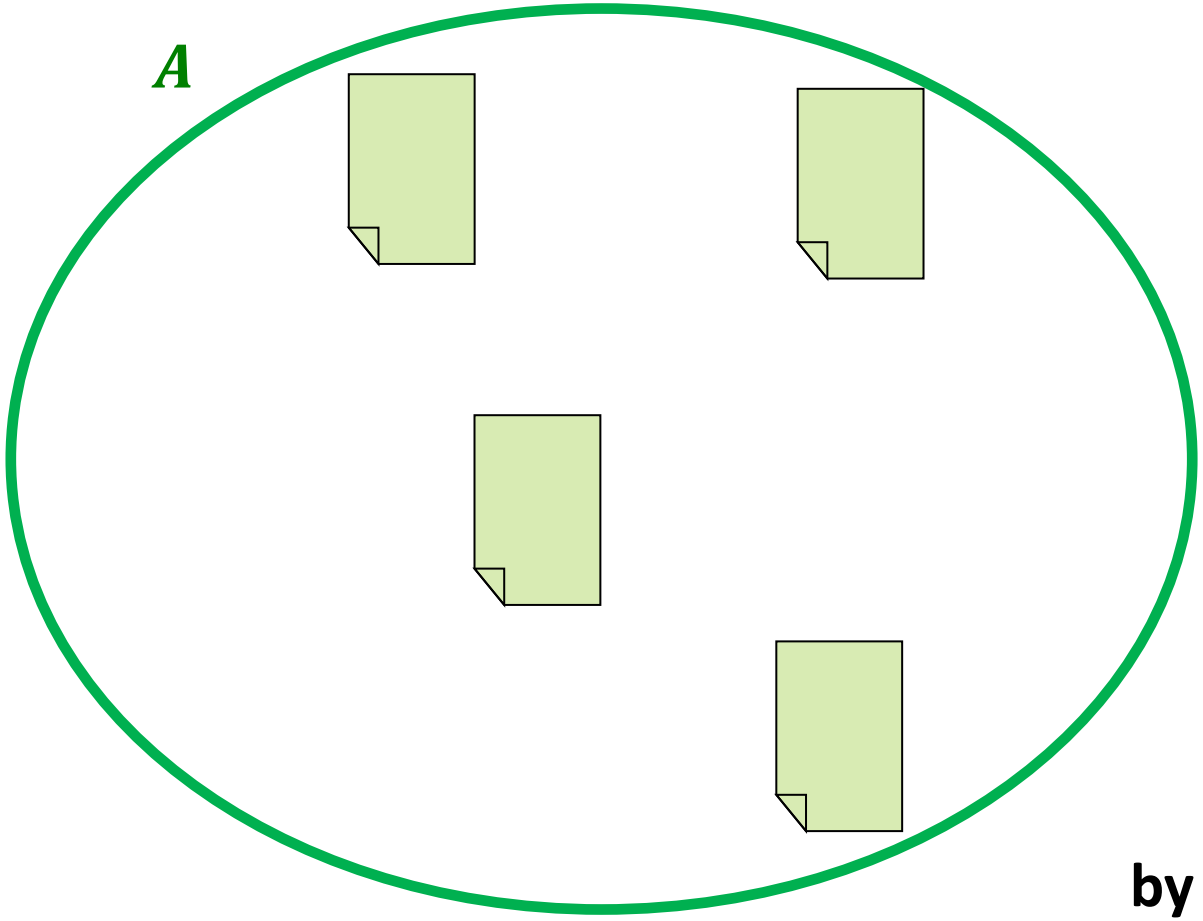
"unknown" document

Authorship verification problem

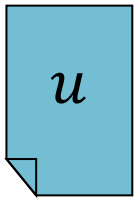
Input:

Set of "known" documents by a given author

A



document of a questioned authorship



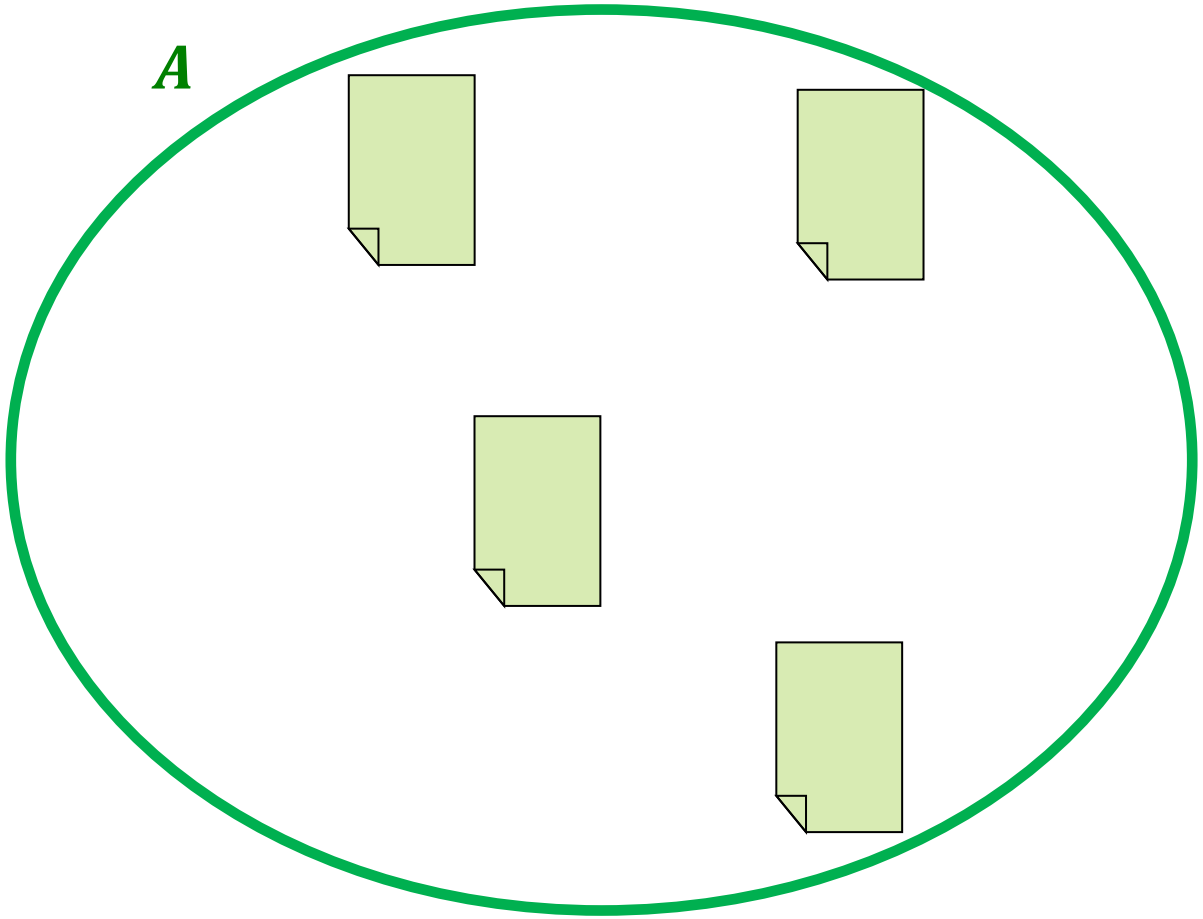
"unknown" document

Question:

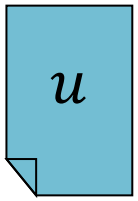
Was *u* written by the same author?

Our approach to the authorship verification problem

- **Proximity-based one-class classification**. Is ***u*** "similar enough" to ***A***?
- Idea similar to the k-centres method for one-class classification
- Applying **CNG dissimilarity** between documents



document of
a questioned authorship



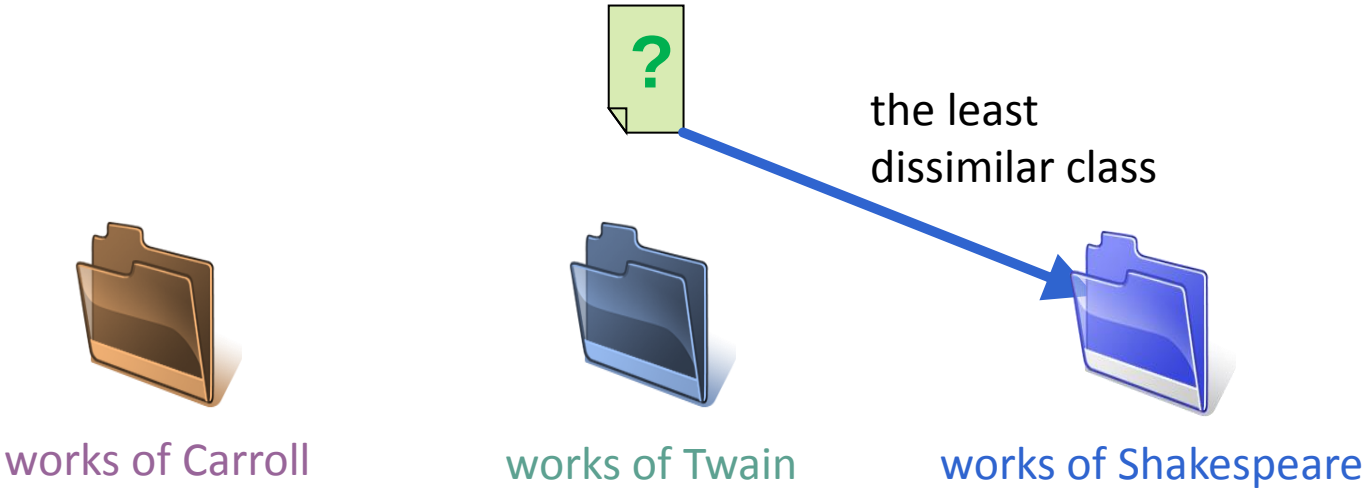
"unknown" document

Common N-Gram (CNG) dissimilarity

Proposed by

Vlado Kešelj, Fuchun Peng, Nick Cercone, and Calvin Thomas.
N-gram-based author profiles for authorship attribution.
In Proc. of the Conference Pacific Association for Computational Linguistics, 2003.

Proposed as a dissimilarity measure
of the **Common N-Gram (CNG) classifier** for multi-class classification



Successfully applied to the authorship attribution problem

CNG dissimilarity - formula

Profile

a sequence of L most common n-grams of a given length n

CNG dissimilarity - formula

Profile

a sequence of L most common n-grams of a given length n

Example for **n=4, L=6**

document 1:
Alice's Adventures in the Wonderland
by Lewis Carroll

profile P_1	
n-gram	normalized frequency f_1
_ t h e	0.0127
t h e _	0.0098
a n d _	0.0052
_ a n d	0.0049
i n g _	0.0047
_ t o _	0.0044

CNG dissimilarity - formula

Profile

a sequence of L most common n-grams of a given length n

Example for **n=4, L=6**

document 1:
Alice's Adventures in the Wonderland
by Lewis Carroll

profile P_1	
n-gram	normalized frequency f_1
_ t h e	0.0127
t h e _	0.0098
a n d _	0.0052
_ a n d	0.0049
i n g _	0.0047
_ t o _	0.0044

document 2:
Tarzan of the Apes
by Edgar Rice Burroughs

profile P_2	
n-gram	normalized frequency f_2
_ t h e	0.0148
t h e _	0.0115
a n d _	0.0053
_ o f _	0.0052
_ a n d	0.0052
i n g _	0.0040

CNG dissimilarity - formula

Profile

a sequence of L most common n-grams of a given length n

Example for **n=4, L=6**

document 1:
Alice's Adventures in the Wonderland
by Lewis Carroll

document 2:
Tarzan of the Apes
by Edgar Rice Burroughs

profile P_1	
n-gram	normalized frequency $\mathbf{f_1}$
_ t h e	0.0127
t h e _	0.0098
a n d _	0.0052
_ a n d	0.0049
i n g _	0.0047
_ t o _	0.0044

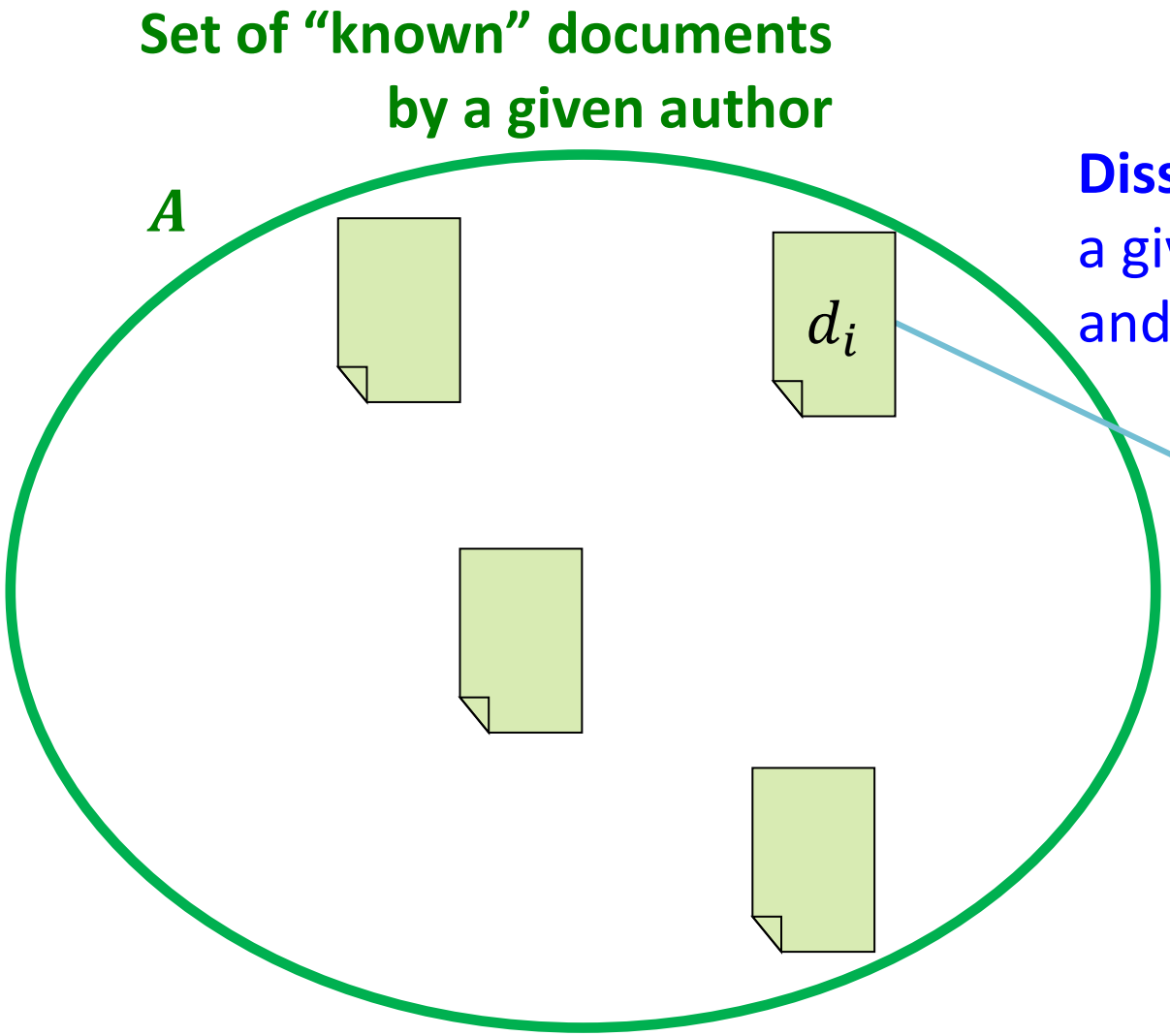
CNG dissimilarity between these documents

$$D = \sum_{x \in P_1 \cup P_2} \left(\frac{f_1(x) - f_2(x)}{\left(\frac{f_1(x) + f_2(x)}{2} \right)} \right)^2$$

where
$f_i(x) = 0$
if x does not appear in P_i

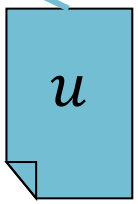
profile P_2	
n-gram	normalized frequency $\mathbf{f_2}$
_ t h e	0.0148
t h e _	0.0115
a n d _	0.0053
_ o f _	0.0052
_ a n d	0.0052
i n g _	0.0040

Proximity-based one-class classification: dissimilarity between instances



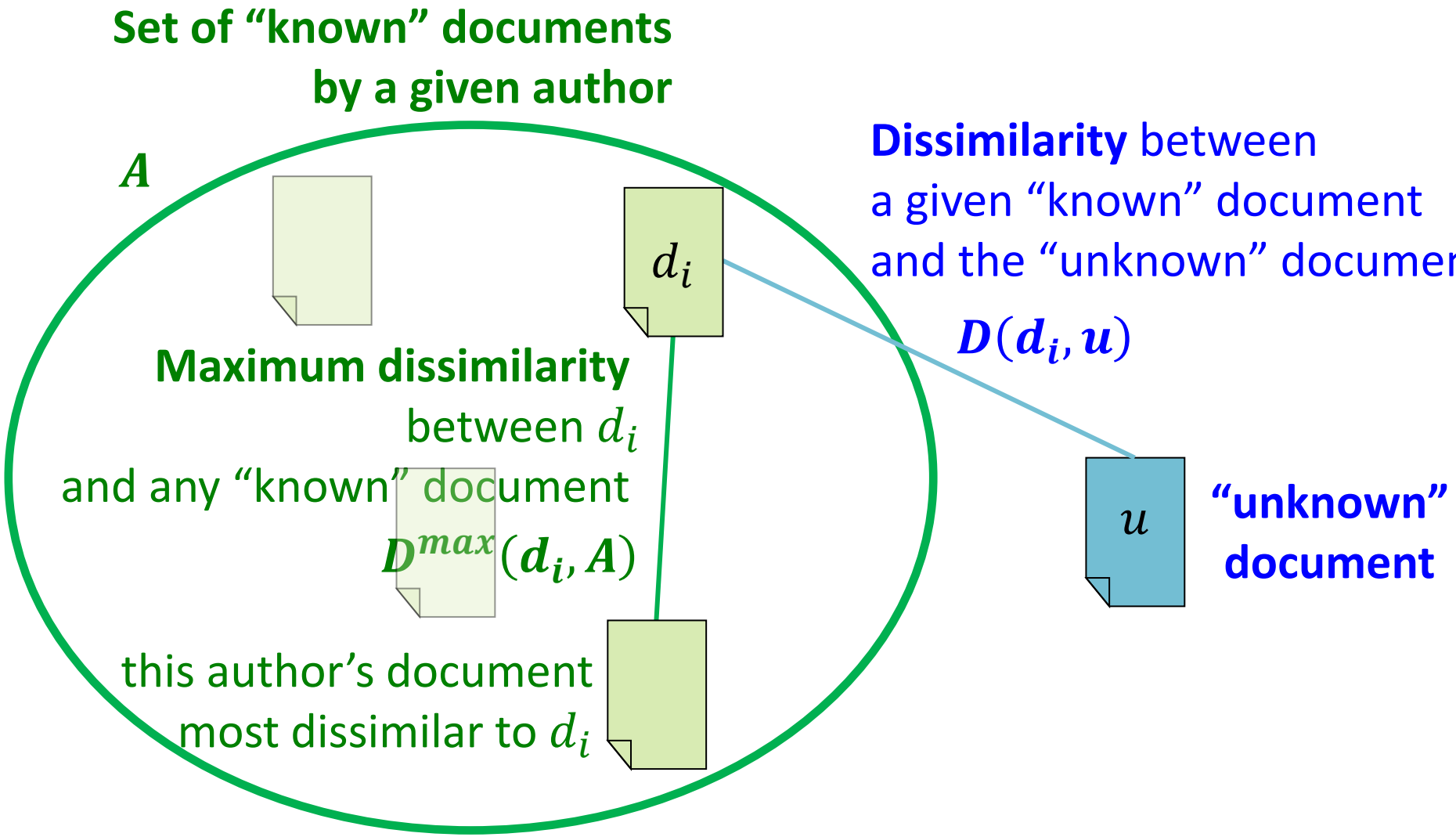
Dissimilarity between
a given “known” document
and the “unknown” document

$\boldsymbol{D(d_i, u)}$



“unknown” document

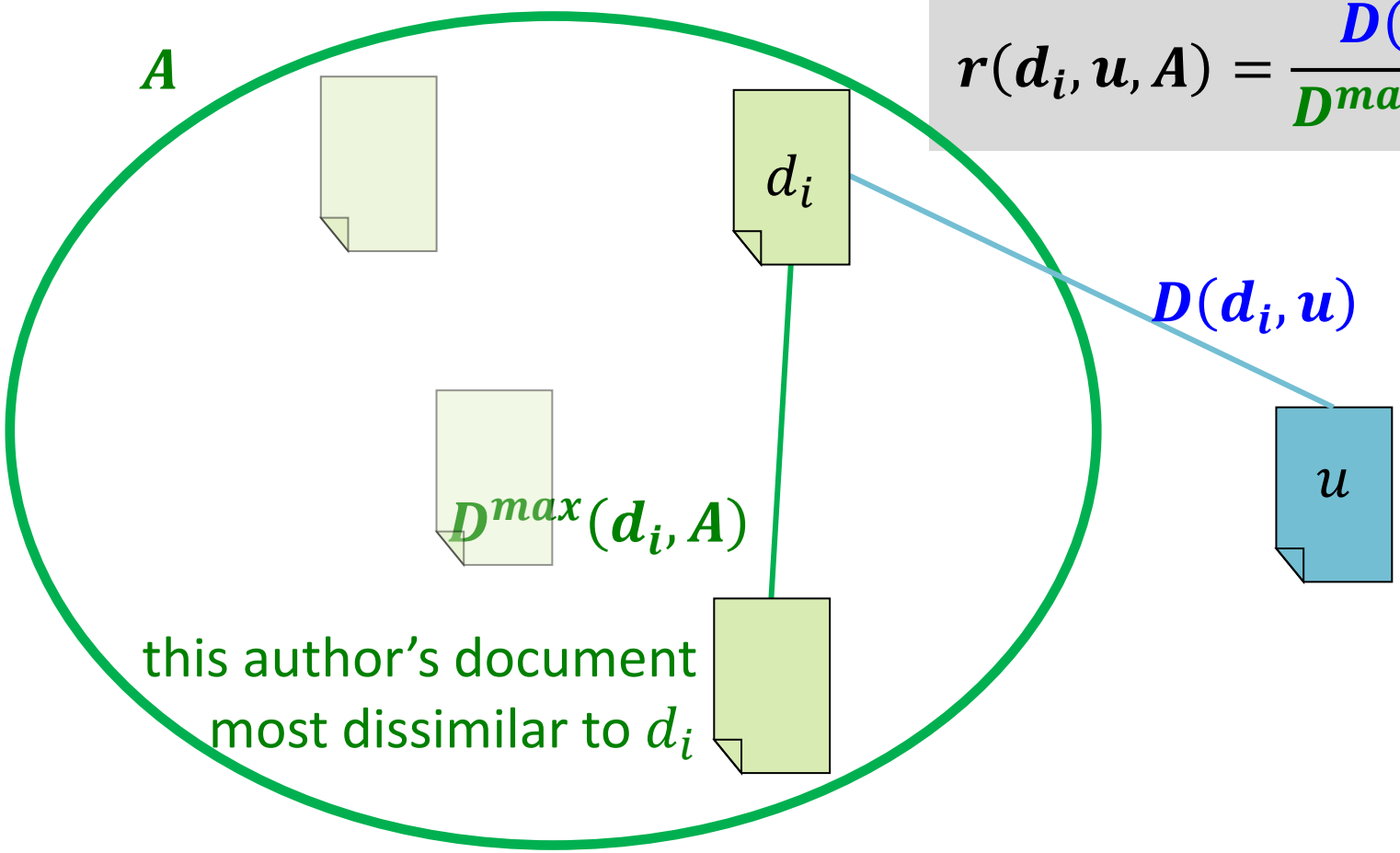
Proximity-based one-class classification: dissimilarity between instances



Proximity-based one-class classification: dissimilarity between instances

Dissimilarity ratio of d_i :
How much more/less dissimilar is the "unknown" document than the most dissimilar document by the same author.

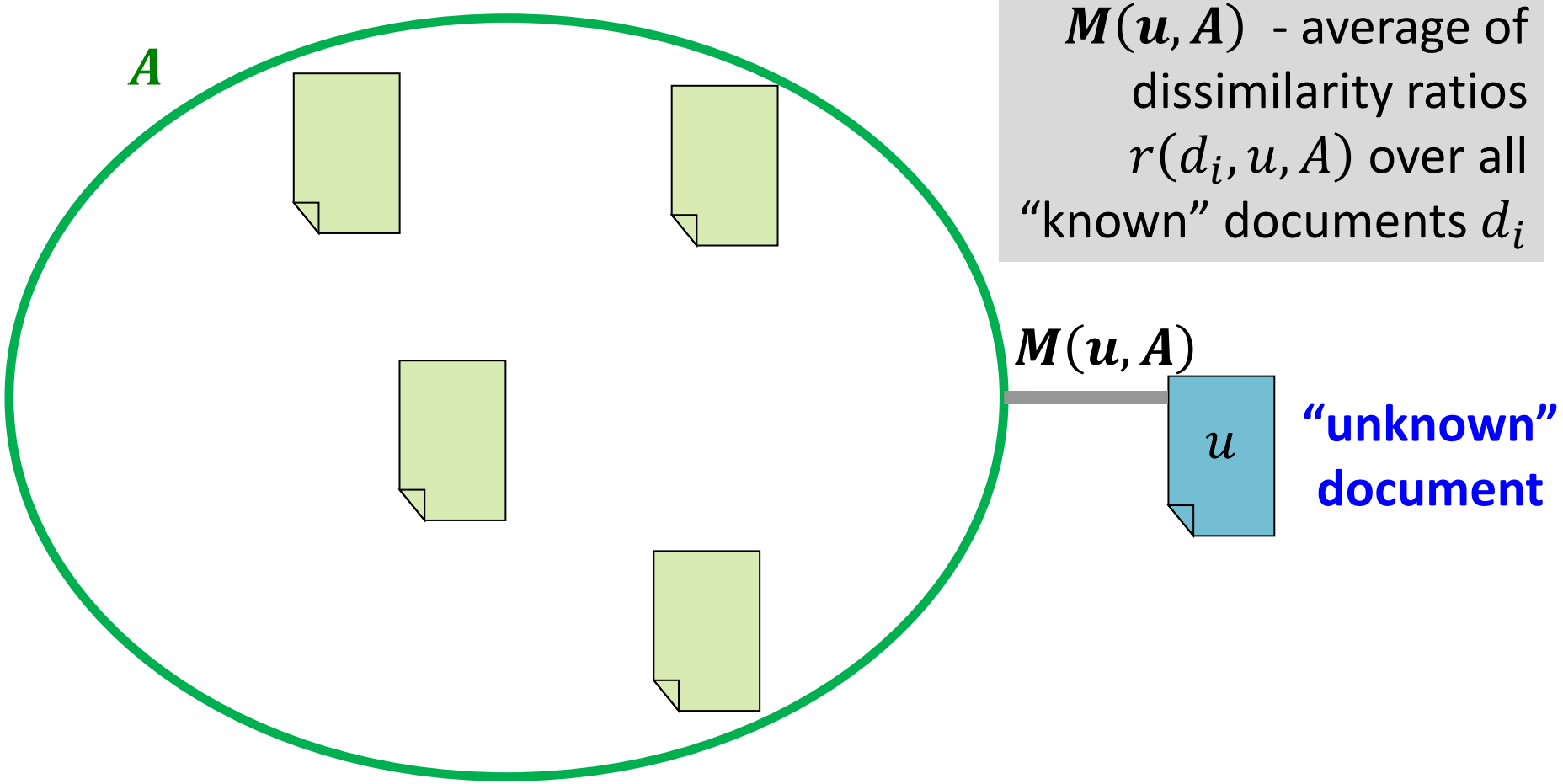
$$r(d_i, u, A) = \frac{D(d_i, u)}{D^{max}(d_i, A)}$$



Proximity-based one-class classification: proximity between a sample and the positive class instances

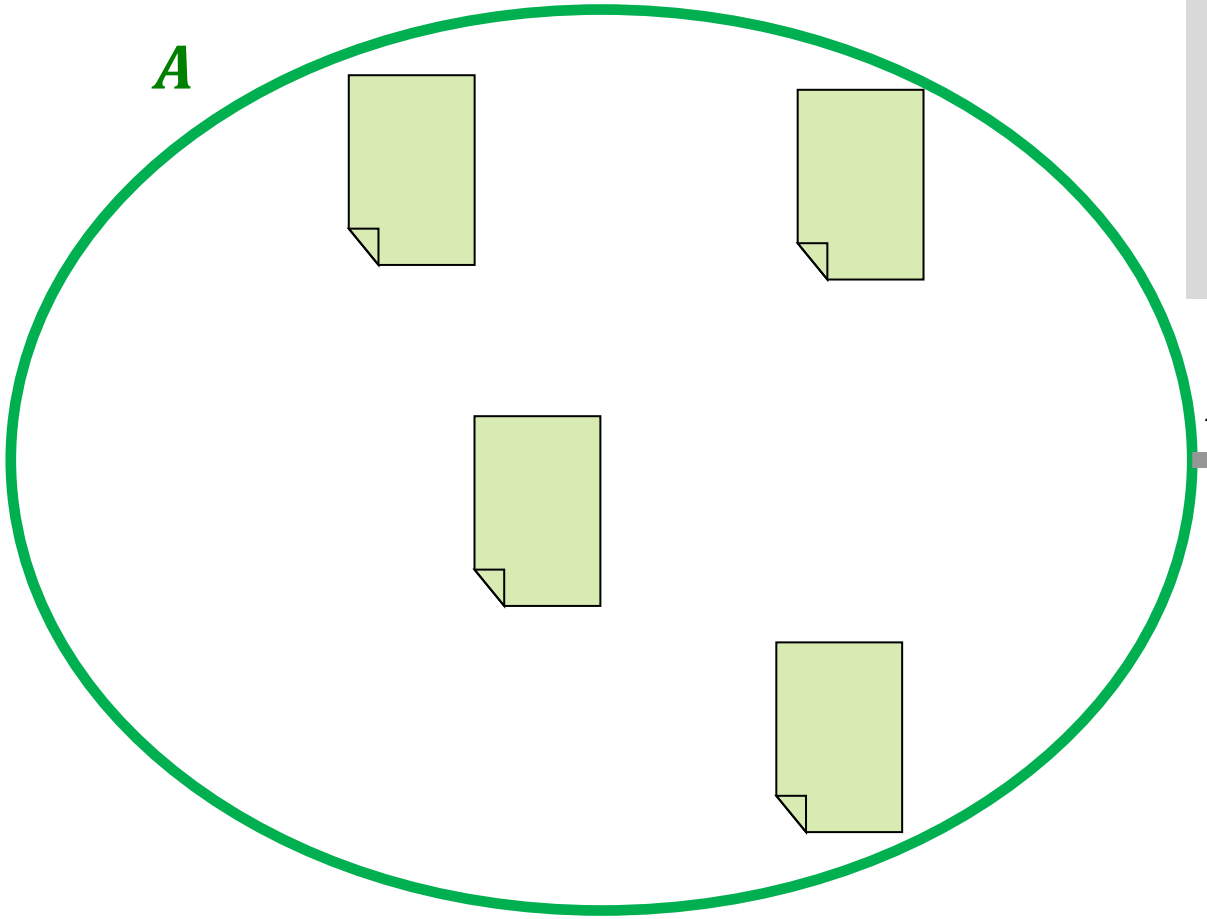
Measure of proximity between the "unknown" document and the set *A* of documents by a given author:

$\boldsymbol{M(u, A)}$ - average of dissimilarity ratios $r(d_i, u, A)$ over all "known" documents d_i



Proximity-based one-class classification: thresholding on the proximity

Iff $\boldsymbol{M(u, A)}$ less than or equal to a threshold θ :
classify *u* as belonging to *A*
i.e., written by the same author



$\boldsymbol{M(u, A)}$ - average of dissimilarity ratios $r(d_i, u, A)$ over all "known" documents d_i

$\boldsymbol{M(u, A)}$

u

"unknown" document

Real scores

Obtained by linear scaling the $M(u, A)$ measure:

the threshold θ → 0.5

with **cut-off** at $\theta \pm 0.1$:

$M(u, A) < \theta - 0.1$ → 1

$M(u, A) > \theta + 0.1$ → 0

Special conditions used

- Dealing with instances **when only 1 "known" document** by a given author is provided:
  dividing the single "known" document into two halves and treating them as two "known" documents

- Dealing with instances when some documents **do not have enough character n-grams to create a profile of a chosen length**:
  representing all documents in the instance by equal profiles of the maximum length for which it is possible

- **Additional preprocessing** (tends to increase accuracy on training data):
  cutting all documents in a given instance to an equal length in words

Parameters

Parameters of our method:

Type of tokens: we used characters

n – n-gram length
L – profile length

θ – **threshold for the proximity measure M for classification**
(biggest problem)

Parameter selection

Parameters for the final competition run selected using experiments on training data in Greek and English:

- provided by the competition organizers
- compiled by ourselves from existing datasets for other authorship attribution problems

For Spanish: the same parameters as for English

	English Spanish	Greek
n (length of character n-grams)	6	7
L (profile length)	2000	2000
θ (threshold) if at least two “known” documents given	1.02	1.008
θ (threshold) if only one “known” document given	1.06	1.04

Results on PAN 2013 competition test dataset

F_1 results

	Entire set	English subset	Greek subset	Spanish subset
F_1 of our method	0.659	0.733	0.600	0.640
competition rank	5th (shared) of 18	5th (shared) of 18	7th (shared) of 16	9th of 16
best F_1 (for each set separately) by other competitors	**0.753**	**0.800**	**0.833**	**0.840**
AOC	**0.777**	**0.842**	0.711	0.804

Results on PAN 2013 competition test dataset

AUC (area under ROC) results

	Entire set	English subset	Greek subset	Spanish subset
AOC or our method	**0.777**	**0.842**	0.711	0.804
Secondary rank with respect to AUC	1st of 10	1st of 10	2nd of 9	2nd of 9
best AUC (for each set separately) by other competitors	0.735	0.837	**0.824**	**0.926**

Conclusion

- Very encouraging results in terms of the power of our measure M for ordering the instances
- Difficult choice of the threshold, depending much on the corpus

Future work

- Further parameter analysis
- Exploration of involving a user interaction and insight through visualization
- Exploration of improvements of the method

Acknowledgement

- This research was funded by a contract from the Boeing Company, a Collaborative Research and Development grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and Killam Predoctoral Scholarship.

Thank you!