# Synthesizing Union Tables from the Web 

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Overview

| http://www.publicschoolreview.com/county_schools/stateid/AR/county/5007 Benton County Public Schools |  |  |  | http://www.publicschoolreview.com/county_schools/stateid/MA/county/25003 Home $>$ Massachusetts $>$ Berkshire County Public Schools Berkshire County Public Schools |  |  |  | http://publicschoolreview.com/state_special_education_schools/stateid/MN Home $>$ Minnesota $>$ Minnesota Special Education Schools Minnesota Special Education Schools |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| There are 57 public schools in Benton County, Arkansas, serving 37,224 students. You can narrow this list by selecting school levels above the table below, or specifying additional search criteria |  |  |  | There are 46 public schools in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, serving 17,581 students. You can narrow this list by selecting school levels above the table below, or specifying additional search criteria. |  |  |  | There are 276 special education schools in Minnesota, serving 15,100 students. You can narrow this list by selecting school levels above the table below, or specifying additional search criteria. |  |  |  |
| Benton County High Schools - Arkansas <br> Show, All schools, High Schools, Middle Schools, Ilementary Schools 1 Private Schools |  |  |  | Berkshire County High Schools - Massachusetts Show. All schools, High Schools, Middle Schools, Elementary Schools I Private Schools |  |  |  | Minnesota Special Education High Schools: Show. All Schools, High Schools, Middle Schools, Elementary Schools |  |  |  |
| Town | School | \#Students | Grades | Town | School | \# Students | Grades | Town | School | \# Students | Grades |
| Bentonville | I- Bentonville High School | 3333 | 9-12 | Adams | Berkshire Arts And Technology Charter <br> Public School (Chatersctioon) | 216 | 6-12 | Alexandria | Northside Adolescent School | 6 | 7-12 |
| Decatur | Decatur High School | 120 | 9-12 |  |  |  |  | Andover | Bridges High School | 91 | 12 |
| Gentry | Gentry High School | 417 | 9-12 | CheshireDalton | Hoosac Valley High School | 692 | 7-12 | Anoka | Iransition Plus High School | 206 | 12 |
| Gravette | Gravette High School | 526 | 9-12 |  | Wahconah Regional High School | 628 | 9-12 | Apple Valley | 917 Intra-dakota Educational Alternative | 85 | KG-12 |



## Summary

- Goal: structurally organizing individual tables with necessary context
- Method: a segment-based multiple sequence alignment algorithm for extracting hidden table attributes from the table context in the form of word sequences. Given candidate segments from different heuristics as input, the algorithm seeks an optimal alignment of multiple sequences and determines the proper segmentations.


## Key Ideas

- No direct supervision
- Jointly predicts segmentation and alignment
- The same candidate segment from multiple sources more likely to be useful


## Candidate Segments

- (SEP) Punctuation/Tag Separators
- (LCS) Longest Common Subsequences
- (WK) Wikification Entities


## Table Context

- Web page titles
- Surrounding text of the tables


## Segment-based Multiple Sequence Alignment

$\square$ Let $\operatorname{score}\left(s_{1}, s_{2}\right) \in\left\{\lambda_{h_{1}}, \ldots, \lambda_{h_{n}}, \lambda_{g a p}, 0\right\}$ where $\boldsymbol{h}_{i}$ is the $\boldsymbol{i}$ th heuristic.
$\square$ Pair-wise Alignment:
Input: Two sequences of tokens $T_{1}$ and $T_{2}$ of size $n_{1}$ and $n_{2}$
and two sets of candidate segments $S_{1}$ and $S_{2}$ respectively.
Output: The best alignment of segments in $T_{1}$ and $T_{2}$.
Initialization: A chart $C$ of size $\left(n_{1}+1\right) \cdot\left(n_{2}+1\right)$ where
$\forall i, C(i, 0)=i \cdot \lambda_{g a p}, \forall j, C(0, j)=j \cdot \lambda_{g a p}$
for $i \leftarrow 1$ to $n_{1}, j \leftarrow 1$ to $n_{2}$ do
for $s_{1} \in S_{1}^{i}, s_{2} \in S_{2}^{i}$ where $S_{l \in\{1,2\}}^{i}=\left\{\right.$ candidate segments ending at $\left.T_{l}^{i}\right\}$ do
Update the chart at

$$
C(i, j) \leftarrow \max \left(C(i, j), \operatorname{score}\left(s_{1}, s_{2}\right)+C\left(i-\left|s_{1}\right|, j-\left|s_{2}\right|\right)\right) ;
$$

end
end
$\square$ For multiple sequences, we keep a profile of existing results and iteratively compute the best alignment between the profile and the rest.

## Experiments

Data Set: In a corpus of 130M WebTables grouped by their headers, we sampled 20 groups across 10 different websites ( 10 tables/group).
Hidden Attribute Extraction: We carry out leave-one-out experiments and evaluate on both cell and column levels.

Cell-level performance
Candidate Segments Precision Recall F1

| SEP | 0.458 | 0.260 | 0.332 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| LCS | 0.630 | 0.478 | 0.543 |
| SEP+LCS | 0.551 | 0.484 | 0.516 |
| LCS+WK | 0.650 | 0.516 | 0.575 |
| SEP+LCS+WK | 0.627 | 0.703 | 0.663 |
| Column-level performance |  |  |  |
| SEP+LCS+WK | 0.387 | 0.436 | 0.410 |

$\square$ A combination of syntactic (LCS,SEP) and semantic (WK) candidates yields the best results.

Hidden Attribute Types: We match the values in the extracted cells to an existing database of isA relations. If a significant number ( $\boldsymbol{t} \%$ ) of values in a column get mapped to a common class in the isA database, we use the class name as the attribute name. The value of $t$ is varied to get the following curve.


