Aggregation in Evaluation of Computer–Assisted Assessment

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A necessary component of computer-based learning environments is an assessment part, where learners can test themselves in order to get feedback about their learning progress. Most of these assessment parts tend to contain a database of different questions which are designed in a way that the evaluation of given input and the corresponding feedback can be computed automatically (for examples, see e.g. [6, 7, 8, 9]).

Since Multiple-Choice-Questions (MCQ) ("choose the correct option") and Multiple-Response-Questions (MRQ) ("choose all correct options") seem to be easy to handle from a computational point of view, much effort has been spent for designing and implementing good MCQs and MRQs (for hints how to write objective questions see e.g. [1]). Usually, the questions' feedback is restricted to an assignment whether the question is solved correctly or incorrectly or whether it has been answered at all. Sometimes, each option corresponds to a certain amount of points and the "value" of a given answer is reported by the sum of points achieved by a certain answering behavior [5].

In this contribution, we investigate how the correctness and value of a given answer can be approached from a logical, instead of a statistical, point of view. Therefore, we will define a set of necessary conditions for the evaluation of an answer and will examine how suitable different kinds of aggregation are for fulfilling these conditions [2, 3, 4]. We will investigate if the correctness of an answer can be aggregated from the selected options' correctness and if cardinality-based similarity measures can be used for the interpretation of correctness as similarity between given and correct answer.

References

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