# **Geo-Semantic Event-POI Matching of Large Mobility Datasets**

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Users often share data about their daily activities through social networks. These event data are very useful for Abstract: a variety of uses cases such as points of interest (POI) recommendation. However, event data often lack information about POIs. Thus, enriching event data with POI information is of upmost importance. This implies to know the POI in which an event took place before completing the data. We face the problem of aligning two types of data sources, event data and POI data, which is difficult because they do not have a common identifier or the same descriptive attributes. This work proposes and implements a complete methodology for the enrichment of a large dataset of geolocated data on user events with POI using both geographical and semantic properties. This effective methodology for matching POIs with geo-located events comprises four steps: (i) in a first step, we cross-reference the data using spatial proximity to define the geographical neighborhood of each event; (ii) in a second step, we define the semantic neighborhood of each event based on a threshold on the semantic similarity. The semantic similarity exploits events data such as their contextual description and the tags by crossing them with those of the POI. (iii) these two types of similarity are combined for each POI of the event semantic neighborhood, to evaluate a geo-semantic similarity score; (iv) subsequently, each event is matched with the POI of the semantic neighborhood which maximizes the geo-semantic similarity score. We propose a robust modeling of our methodology and evaluate the effectiveness of our approach.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PUBLICATIONS

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

In the big data era, social networks and connected objects, IoT or smart sensors generate an increasing amount of data in real time on the web in general. More and more data are produced in the form of events describing the daily life activities of users. These data are often available for analysis. The exploitation of these big data is in great demand by different actors in order to make more informed decisions in various fields. For example, on the one hand, the analysis of these data would allow to a particular user to customize his activities over time according to his interests and the possibilities that arise (Beladev et al., 2016) (Behera et al., 2020) (Zhou et al., 2022). On the other hand, for a company (through its sales or marketing services), these data would allow to adapt its service offers by anticipating the needs of potential customers according to their interests(Fayyaz et al., 2020) (Esmaeili et al., 2020). Thus, to suggest, guide or advise users, several works have been carried out as part of the recommendation of services to adapt the offers according to the activities of the user on the web (Esmaeili et al., 2020) (Hassannia et al., 2019) (Hernández-Nieves et al., 2020): as a popular example, we can cite the suggestion of articles to a user based on the articles that he has consulted recently or the most sold in his location. A point of interest (POI) is generally a spatial object or event that can attract user interest. It is characterized at least by a name, a type and geographical coordinates. Several works are being carried out within the context of POI recommendation for users (Mishra et al., 2020) (Massimo and Ricci, 2022) (Ricci, 2022). These works generally consist of recommendation models that are designed based on datasets about users activities check-in (or events) through photos, videos, posts,etc. The geo-location of these activities makes it possible to match them with the POI often used by relatives. This matching aims to complete the information of user activities with those of the POIs. In the same way that there are datasets on user activities such as YFCC100M, YELP, Foursquare. There are also datasets on POI such as Wikipedia, Geonames,

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Bame, N., Gueye, I. and Naacke, H. Geo-Semantic Event-POI Matching of Large Mobility Datasets. DOI: 10.5220/0012132700003541 In Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Data Science, Technology and Applications (DATA 2023), pages 496-503 ISBN: 978-989-758-664-4; ISSN: 2184-285X Copyright © 2023 by SCITEPRESS – Science and Technology Publications, Lda. Under CC license (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) Google Places, OpenStreetMap. These two types of datasets are independent in the sense that they have no common identifier. They only share geolocation information which is not sufficient to associate a user event with a POI. Thus, a good matching of these two types of datasets is necessary to obtain complete data allowing to design effective recommendation models. This paper aims to propose and implement a new approach for matching user events (such as photos) with POIs using both the geographical proximity and the semantic similarity of their labels. In the remainder of the paper, the research problem is posed in section 2. Then, in section 3, the different steps of our eventpoi matching approach are explained. After that, the validation of the proposal is presented in section 4 before we finish with the conclusion and future work in section 5.

# 2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

For POI recommendation studies, researchers use datasets that are made available by sources such as social networks where users share their activities (events) via publications in the form of photos, videos or textual content. These events contain data about location (GPS coordinates), time (date of the event) and also labels (title, description, keywords,...). In order to have enriched datasets, researchers complete these event data with the data about POI. This completion aims to find the POI where each event takes place and therefore to strengthen the data about event in order to have more effective recommendation systems.

Existing work on POI recommendation (Chen et al., 2023)(Wang et al., 2018)(Gottapu and Sriram Monangi, 2017)(Lim et al., 2015) completes the events data by matching them with the geographically closest POI, often ignoring the semantic links between the events and the POI. This can lead to inconsistencies, such as the user taking a photo (event) in front of the visited POI, while standing closer to another POI. Using the event labels would make it possible to better identify the POI to be matched with the event. Thus, matching must take into account the semantic features of events and POIs. Other work has matched events (Farazi and Rafiei, 2022) with the semantically closest POI, ignoring geographical proximity. Again, in some cases, the user could describe his event using the terms of a popular POI that would be in the area of the (less known) POI that is visited. For example, a tourist taking a photo in a restaurant next to the Eiffel Tower would talk more about the Eiffel Tower than the restaurant in his photo labels. However, by integrating the distance between

the event and the candidates POI, we could have a better match. The matching process must therefore also take into account the geographical proximity between POI and events. To take into account semantic characteristics, some works (Lim et al., 2015) often target specific cities and try to manually find the POI where each event takes place. A problem of this data matching approach is that only the most popular POIs are considered. As a result, many other POIs were ignored, resulting in some events in the photo dataset being ignored nearby. Another problem is that the produced datasets cannot be used for studies on other cities. Thus, these datasets are not interesting for studies in a broader context. It is important to note that in addition to these limited datasets for POI recommendation, there are larger datasets on POIs such as Gowalla, Geonames, Wikipedia, Google Places, which contain information such as type, location, etc. about POIs on a global scale. An effective matching of these POI datasets with user events datasets from social networks would make it possible to provide researchers with more complete and reliable datasets for POI recommendation in a broader context.

Several challenges appear when we want to carry out this matching work. (i) Indeed, the POIs data often come from sources which are different from the source of the users events data. (ii) In large cities, POIs (museums, monuments, restaurants, and other sites) are often concentrated on relatively small areas. Their concentration is much stronger in urban areas or large (Yannan et al., 2020), cities(Deng et al., 2019). It then becomes very difficult to match an event to a single POI. This work propose to match events data that are published on social networks with large datasets on POI to produce a larger and enriched dataset.

# 3 SPATIO-SEMANTIC MATCHING OF EVENT TO POI

# 3.1 Preliminary Definitions: POI, User, Event

We consider a set *P* of POIs:  $P = (p_1, \ldots, p_m)$ . Each POI  $p_i \in P$  is characterized by an identifier, a location (latitude, longitude), a category, and labels such as the name, alternative names and its description. We define the function terms(p) which allows us to produce a single text containing, for each POI, its name, its category and its description. This function will be useful later when we calculate the semantic similarity between POIs and events.  $terms(p) = \{\{p.name, p.category\} \cup p.AlternativeName \cup p.description\}$ 

Let *U* be a set of users:  $U = (u_1, ..., u_n)$ . Each user,  $u_i \in U$ , is defined by an identifier and a set  $E_i$  of events:  $E_i = (e_{i,1}, ..., e_{i,k})$ . Each event  $e_{i,j}$  is characterized by a date, a geo-location (latitude, longitude) and text labels assigned by the user. We define the function *terms*(*e*) which, as for *terms*(*p*), will serve us later in the calculations on the semantic similarity between POI and events.

 $terms(e) = \{ \{e.title\} \cup e.description \cup e.Usertags \} \}$ 

## 3.2 Geographical Similarity

Let  $d_{geo}(e, p)$  be the geodetic distance between an event *e* and a POI *p*.

#### 3.2.1 Geographical Neighborhood

The geographical neighborhood of the event e is denoted Ngeo(e) and contains the POI p located within a radius less than r of e:

$$N_{geo}(e) = \{ p \in P | d_{geo}(e, p) \le r \}$$

In (Gueye et al., 2020), authors proposed an efficient method to compute the geographical matching between an event and a set of POI. This matching consists in measuring the geodetic distance between the event and each POI in its surroundings based on the GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude).

#### 3.2.2 Geographical Similarity Computation

Let  $d_{Max}(e)$  be : the maximum distance of POIs which are in the neighborhood  $N_{geo}(e)$  of the event e.

$$d_{Max}(e) = \{Max(d_{geo}(e, p)) | p \in N_{geo}(e)\}$$

The geographical similarity  $s_{geo}(e, p)$  between an event *e* and a POI *p* is a bounded quantification (in [0,1]) of the distance  $d_{geo}(e, p)$  with respect to the maximum distance  $d_{Max}(e)$  between *e* and its neighborhood Ngeo(e).

$$s_{geo}(e,p) = \frac{d_{Max}(e) - d_{geo}(e,p)}{d_{Max}(e) + 0.01}$$

This similarity  $s_{geo}(e, p)$  varies inversely proportional to the distance  $d_{geo}(e, p)$ . Thus, we obtain a geographical similarity at 1 (maximum) when  $d_{geo}(e, p) = 0$  and a geographical similarity at 0 (minimum) when  $d_{geo}(e, p) = d_{Max}(e)$ .

#### **3.3** Semantic Similarity

The semantic similarity  $s_{sem}(e, p)$  is a quantification of the semantic link between a POI p and an event e. It is based on the textual similarity between the metadata of the POI p (terms(p)) and those of the event e(terms(e)).

## 3.3.1 Semantic Similarity Computation

We rely on a pre-trained language model to statistically represent the semantic information of a textual description. A language model encodes the content of a sentence by a dense vector of large dimension. Note that the dimension of the vectors is much smaller than the size of the vocabulary, hence the name of *embedding* of a sentence in a denser space. In other words, a language model *M* associates the vector  $v_p = M(p)$ with a sentence *p*.

Language models are based on machine learning methods. They are trained for classification tasks in such a way that semantically similar sentences have similar vectors. Thus, the cosine between the vectors represents a measure of similarity between two sentences. We use Bert sentence transformer (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019), called *sBert*, because its efficiency, in terms of precision for a sentence classification task, exceeds that of other language models such as ((Cer et al., 2018), (Pennington et al., 2014)). One of the advantages of the *sBert* model is that it can determine a vector representation of words on which the model has not been trained. This makes it possible to consider the textual content of events and POIs without doing linguistic pre-processing or denoising.

The semantic similarity  $s_{sem}(e, p)$  is therefore defined by :

 $S_{sem}(e, p) = cosinus(M(terms(e)), M(terms(p)))$ 

#### 3.3.2 Semantic Neighborhood

The semantic neighborhood  $N_{sem}(e)$  of an event *e* corresponds to the set of POIs (*p*) of its geographical neighborhood  $N_{geo}(e)$  which have a semantic similarity  $S_{sem}(e, p)$  with the event which is greater than or equal to a local similarity threshold of the event  $S_{min}(e)$ . This local similarity threshold is obtained from the maximum between the average of the similarities between the event and the POIs of its geographical neighborhood and a predefined global similarity threshold  $G_{sem}$ . Thus, we have:

$$S_{min}(e) = max(G_{sem}, avg(S_{sem}(e, p)|p \in N_{geo}(e)))$$
  
from where:  
$$N_{sem}(e) = \{p \in N_{geo}(e) | S_{sem}(e, p) \ge S_{min}(e)\}$$

## **3.4 Geo-Semantic Similarity**

The geo-semantic similarity is a quantification both spatial and semantic between an event and a POI by a normalized score. This score denoted  $S_{geosem}(e, p)$  for a couple (event e, POI p) is a weighted linear combination of the geographical similarity and the semantic similarity between the event and the POI.

The score  $S_{geosem}(e, p)$  is :

$$s_{geosem}(e,p) = a.s_{geo}(e,p) + (1-a).s_{sem}(e,p)$$

where the parameter a which is bounded between 0 and 1, weights the contributions of the semantic link and the geographical link. The choice of its value depends on the link (semantic or geographical) to be highlighted more in relation to the other. Thus, a zero value of a (a = 0) considers only the semantic similarity, while a maximum value of a (a = 1) considers only the geographical similarity. So, to calculate the geo-semantic similarity, a non-extreme value must be chosen.

## 3.5 Event-POI Matching Algorithm

In the rest of this section, we present the different steps needed to match each event *e* with its most geosemantically similar POI.

- 1. Filtering based on the geographical neighborhood: consists in determining the geographical neighborhood  $N_{geo}(e)$  of each event e.
- 2. Filtering based on the semantic neighborhood: consists in determining the semantic neighborhood  $N_{sem}(e)$  of each event *e*.Indeed, among the POIs in the geographical neighborhood of the event  $(N_{geo}(e))$ , only those that are in its semantic neighborhood  $N_{sem}(e)$  are considered for the rest of the matching.
- 3. Matching based on geo-semantic similarity: consists in associating the event, with the POI of its semantic neighborhood  $N_{sem}(e)$  which is closest based on the geo-semantic similarity. Let  $m_{geosem}(e)$  be the POI that matches e. The POI  $m_{geosem}(e)$  in the semantic neighborhood of the event maximizes the geo-semantic similarity between a neighbor and the event. We have:

$$m_{geosem}(e) = \arg \max_{p \in N_{sem}(e)} s_{geosem}(e, p))$$

At the end of this matching, we have a set M of eventpoi associations  $(e, m_{geosem}(e))$ .

Moreover, in order to compare the proposed matching algorithm with existing methods we define

the geographic-only matching. Let  $m_{geo}(e)$  be the geographically nearest POI to event *e*:

$$m_{geo}(e) = \arg \max_{p \in N_{geo}(e)} s_{geo}(p, e)$$

Respectively, we define the semantic-only matching. Let  $m_{sem}(e)$  be the semantically most similar POI to event e,

$$m_{sem}(e) = \arg \max_{p \in N_{sem}(e)} s_{sem}(p, e)$$

## **4 EXPERIMENTAL VALIDATION**

#### 4.1 Implementation

The proposed approach has been implemented with scalability objectives in mind, since we target a solution that can handle large datasets. To this end, we relied both on Apache spark for data preparation and SBert<sup>1</sup> python package to get POIs and events embeddings.

## 4.2 Experimental Setup

We ran our experiments on a 64 cores machine equiped with 376GB RAM running Debian 4.19 Linux.

## 4.3 Dataset Description

We used two publicly available datasets. The first dataset is Yahoo Flickr Creative Commons 100M (YFCC) (Thomee et al., 2016) that contains user events about photos they took. Each event caries information about the user id, the date at which the photo was taken, the photo geo position, user tags, a title, a description and other attributes related to the picture itself such as the camera charactetistics.

The second dataset we used is geonames (Geonames, ) that contains world wide POI data. Each POI has a name, an alternate name, a description, a category, a geo position. We preprocess the YFCC dataset to remove redundancy: we ensure that only one photo has been taken for a given user, location and date. Due to the high computional cost of our approach and since we observed that a large part of the users took all their photos in only one country, we restrict our analysis to France.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>www.sbert.net/

## 4.4 Experimental Methodology

**Computing Geographical Neigborhood.** The goal is to find the POIs geographically closest to each event, and thus the geographic neighborhood of the event. Indeed, in most cases, a given event is closely surrounded by several points of interest. We assigned to each photo event, a set of geographically close POIs located inside a fixed radius circle centered at the photo location. We set a radius equal to 500m to delimit the neighborhood of each event. To determine such geographic neighborhood for each event, we computed a spatial similarity join between the Geoname POI dataset and photos data. We used the method described in (Gueye et al., 2020) to perform this join efficiently.

**Computing Semantic Neighborhood.** After having computed the geographical neighborhoods of the events, we then evaluate the semantic similarity between each event and each POI of its geographical neighborhood. We thus obtain for each event, the semantic similarity with each POI of its geographical neighborhood. Then, the semantic neighborhood contains the subset of POIs that have a semantic similarity greater than a given threshold.

We consider a globally fixed threshold and investigate in our experiments several threshold values.

**Geo-Semantic Matching.** For each event, we considered the POIs of its semantic neighborhood and computed the geo-semantic similarity of each POI with the event from the geographic and semantic similarities and the parameter *a*. The values of the parameter *a* used for this calculation are defined according to the experiments presented in the following section. Thus, each event is associated with the POI that maximizes the geo-semantic similarity.

## 4.5 Experiments

The main goal of our experiments is to show that taking into account both geo position and content allows for better matching between photo events and POIs. The matching is rather obvious in case the closest POIs are also the closest ones semantically. However this is not always the case. Often, POIs semantically similar with a photo are not the closest ones, while they are still located in the geographic neighborhood of the photo. In order to observe the benefit of using both geographic and semantic similarities, we experiment various matching configurations depending on two parameters:

- The minimum semantic **similarity threshold** that each candidate POI must exceed. We vary its value from 0 to 100% using a 10% step.
- *a* the relative weight of the geographic similarity taken into account in the combined geo-semantic similarity. The parameter *a* is a geo-weight ratio. By varying its value from 0 to 100% using a 10% step, we can generalize geo-semantic similarity over geographic and semantic ones: when *a* equals 0, similarity is purely semantic. Reversely, when *a* equals to 1 similarity is purely geographic.

We ran the matching algorithm for each combination of the two parameters (threshold, a). Then, we report the average similarities of the matched (photo, POI) couples. We also report the number of matched events and compute the relative matching ratio compared to the total number of events to match.

In addition, to assess the benefit of the combined geo-semantic similarity strategy, we count the number of matched events that would also have been matched by either a geographic-only or a semantic-only strategy.

## 4.6 Quantitative Validation Results

**Effect of Semantic Threshold on the Number of Matched Events.** Figure 1 shows the number of matched events when the semantic threshold is varying from 0 to 100%.

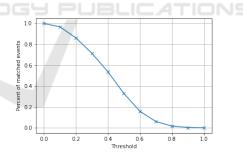


Figure 1: Matched events according to the semantic threshold.

Obviously, when the threshold is set to 0, every event is matched since the dataset has been prepared so that every event has at least one POI in its neighborhood. More interestingly, when the threshold is increased, the ratio of matched events decreases rather slowly, *i.e.*, the ratio remains higher than a linear decrease for a threshold in the range of 0% to 40%. This means that POIs located in the event neighborhood (*i.e.*, selected only based on their geo-position) do have some semantic similarity with this event. We can therefore recommend a threshold of up to 40% in order to keep matching more than half of the events.

#### 4.6.1 Effect of the Geo-Weight Ratio

We aim to assess the effect of the geo-weight ratio on the matching performance: what value of the geoweight ratio would allow to preserve both a good geographic and semantic similarities ? In other words, we highlight the compromise between semantic and geographical matching. The higher the geo-weight ratio, the closer the points will be geographically to the event, but the further they will be semantically. To this end, for several pairs (a,T) of (geo-weight, semantic threshold) values, we first consider the set  $E_T$ of events such that each  $e \in E_T$  has at least one POI, denoted *n*, in its neighborhood for which the semantic similarity between n and e is greater than T. Then, we run our geo-semantic matching algorithm on  $E_T$  and get the set  $M_T$  of (e, p) matches such that each event e is matched with p which equals to  $m_{geosem}(e)$ ) the most geo-semantic similar POI among the neighboring POIs of  $e: M_T = \{(e, m_{geosem}(e)) | \forall e \in E_T\}$  Then we report, in blue, the average geographic similarity of the matched POIs  $geoSim = \frac{\sum_{(e,p)\in M_T} s_{geo}(e,p)}{M_T}$ and respectively, in orange, their average semantic similarity semSim =  $\frac{\sum_{(e,p) \in M_T} s_{sem}(e,p)}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{i$  $M_T$ 

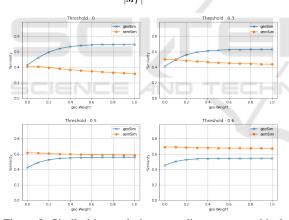


Figure 2: Similarities evolution according to geographicalweight.

Figure 2 shows four figures for different threshold values  $T \in \{0, 0.3, 0.5, 0.6\}$ . Each figure reports two plots when the geo-weight value (x-axis) varies from 0 to 100%. Let's focus on the first figure (threshold:0). As expected, the semantic similarity (orange plot) is rather low around 0.4, and gets even lower down to 0.3 when POI geolocations are taken into account *i.e.*, when the geo-weight increases along the x-axis.

One the second figure, the T threshold has been increased to 0.3 so the neighborhood of each event has been restricted to more semantically similar POIs. We can observe that the difference between the orange and blue plots is diminishing. This means that targeting more similar POIs helps to improve the overall matching quality. This trend can still be seen in the third figure (T=0.5): the orange and blue curves approach each other as soon as the geo-weight threshold exceeds 50%, reaching a similarity of around 0.6. However, for a higher threshold value (T=0.6 in the last figure) the reverse trend appears where the orange and blue curves are moving away from each other which is explained by the fact that  $E_{0.6}$  contains too few events with highly semantically similar neighbors.

Overall, observing the trend on the four figures, we can conclude that an interesting tradeoff holds for a threshold T of 0.5 (figure where curves are the closest) and a geo\_weight of 50%.

#### 4.6.2 Ability to Use Geo-Semantic Matching to Associate a Larger Number of Events

We investigate whether our proposed geo-semantic matching can match more POIs than the baseline geographic-only or semantic-only methods.

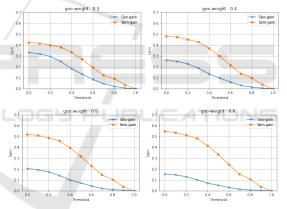


Figure 3: Relative matching capabilities (Gain in %) according to semantic threshold.

Given a semantic threshold T, we define the relative capability  $C_{geo}(T)$  (also named Geo\_gain on the Figure on Figure 3) as the number of events for which the matched POI differs from the closest one geographically, divided by the number of events.

$$C_{geo}(T) = \frac{|\{(p,e) \in M_T | p \neq m_{geo}(e)\}|}{|Match_T|}$$

Respectively,  $C_{sem}(T)$ , also named Sem\_gain on Figure 3, is the number of events for which the matched POI is not the most similar one semantically, divided by the number of events.

$$C_{sem}(T) = \frac{|\{(p,e) \in M_T | p \neq m_{sem}(e)\}|}{|Match_T|}$$

Figure 3 reports  $C_{geo}(T)$  in blue and  $C_{sem}(T)$  in orange for the semantic threshold T varying from 0 to 100%, for three different geo\_weight values  $\{0.3, 0.4, 0.6\}$ .

We observe that the capabilities decrease when the semantic threshold is increasing. This is because the set of candidate POIs becomes more and more restricted as the threshold increases, thus the matched POI is more often either the closest geographically or the most similar semantically. More significantly, theses figure show that our proposed matching finds matches that could not have been found by simpler methods. Overall, up to a threshold of 0.4, our solution yields a relative capability of at least 10% more than the geographic-only matching and 35% more that semantic-only matching.

# 4.7 Validation of the Quality of the Geo-Semantic Matching

In the previous section we measured the similarity of an event with its best matched POI, using either geopositioning or semantics or a combination of both, whereas here the main goal is different. We aim to measure the interest of our approach for the end-user: To find matches that better fit what the user would have pointed to, is it more interesting to consider only the geolocation of events and POIs or to also consider their semantic data? For this purpose, we have collected 301 events in the city of Paris. Then, using the event photo as a gold standard, we manually matched each event to one or more POIs related to the event photo. We call this database the Ground Truth Database (GTD). Then, for each event in the GTD we computed the most similar POI neighbor based on our combined geographic and semantic similarity sgeosem matching method. We then compared them with those of the GTD to obtain a precision and recall value. The precision is defined as the number of matches that were computed and are actually true with respect to the GTD, divided by the number of matches that were computed. In other words, it measures the percentage of correct matches. The recall, on the other hand, is defined as the number of matches that were computed and are actually true in the GTD, divided by the number of true matches. In other words, it measures the completeness of the matching algorithm. On Figure 4, we report the precision and recall values for several geometric weight (denoted a) values ranging from 0, meaning that only the semantic similarity is taken into account, to 1, meaning that only the geographic similarity is taken into account.

We observe that the precision is maximized for a = 20%. We can explain that the precision remains

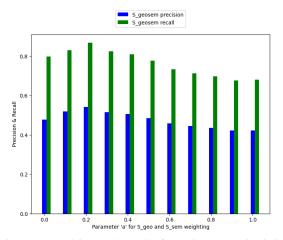


Figure 4: Precision and Recall of our Geo-semantic similarity measures.

below 60% by the fact that our matching method may assign more than one POI to an event in case of ties, whereas in most cases only one POI is actually a true match. Furthermore, we observe that semantic-only matching performs with less precision (13% drop down) than our approach. Respectively, the geographic-only matching is 28% less precise. As far as recall is concerned, it reaches a maximum value of 87% when a is 20%. More precisely, the relative increase is of 27% compared to the geographic-only approach and 8.7% compared to the semantic-only approach. This confirms the benefit of our approach. We can conclude that the combination of both geographic and semantic similarity allows for working in a more efficient way.

# 5 CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORKS

The matching of the user activity data with those of the POIs is necessary insofar as it enriches these data with information on the properties of the visited POIs. This would improve the performance of recommendation models by considering user preferences. This work proposed and implemented an approach for matching POI to events by using both geographical positioning and semantic metadata.

We defined a geo-semantic similarity function that combines geographical and semantic similarity. Then we associate with each event, the POI which maximizes that geo-semantic similarity score. We made some experimental validation using real open datasets such as Flickr's YFCC100M (Thomee et al., 2016) for user events and the Geonames (Geonames, ) dataset for points of interest. Through quantitative validation, we studied statistics on the evolution of semantics and geographical similarities and we then were able to recommend semantic similarity threshold and geographical weighting values in order to improve both geographical and semantic similarities. Moreover, we conducted qualitative validation with a Ground Truth Database which confirms the effectiveness of our proposal with satisfactory performances. In future work, we plan to address the problem related to events that have too low a semantic similarity with POI in their geographical neighborhood. We intend to define the concept of user visits by grouping successive and close events from the same user, which will allow deducing the next most likely POI to attach to an event. Another direction is to consider the trajectories of a user composed of a sequence of successively visited POI. A criterion for the consistency of a trajectory could be specified. As a perspective, we also plan to study event-POI matching in real-time mobility data streams.

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