## Single and Multi-objective Optimization for Feature Selection in Anaphora Resolution

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#### Abstract

There is no generally accepted metric for measuring the performance of anaphora resolution systems, and the existing metrics-MUC, B<sup>3</sup>, CEAF, Blanc, among others-tend to reward significantly different behaviors. Systems optimized according to one metric tend to perform poorly with respect to other ones, making it very difficult to compare anaphora resolution systems, as clearly shown by the results of the SEMEVAL 2010 Multilingual Coreference task. One solution would be to find a single completely satisfactory metric, but it's not clear whether this is possible and at any rate it is not going to happen any time soon. An alternative is to optimize models according to multiple metrics simultaneously. In this paper, we show, first of all, that this is possible to develop such models using Multi-objective Optimization (MOO) techniques based on Genetic Algorithms. Secondly, we show that optimizing according to multiple metrics simultaneously may result in better results with respect to each individual metric than optimizing according to that metric only.

#### 1 Introduction

In anaphora resolution,<sup>1</sup> as in other HLT tasks, optimization to a metric is essential to achieve good performance (Hoste, 2005; Uryupina, 2010). However, many evaluation metrics have been proposed for anaphora resolution, each capturing what seems to be a key intuition about the task: from MUC (Vilain et al., 1995) to  $B^3$  (Bagga and

Baldwin, 1998), from the ACE metric (Doddington et al., 2004) to CEAF (Luo, 2005) to BLANC (Recasens and Hovy, 2011). And unlike in other areas of HLT, none has really taken over. This would not matter so much if those metrics were to reward the same systems; but in fact, as dramatically demonstrated by the results of the Coreference Task at SEMEVAL 2010 (Recasens et al., 2010), the opposite is true—almost every system could come on top depending on which metric was chosen.

It seems unlikely that the field will converge on a single metric any time soon. Given that many of the proposed metrics do capture what would seem to be plausible intuitions, it would seem desirable to develop methods to optimize systems according to more than one metric at once—in particular, according to at least one metric of what we might call the 'link-based' cluster of metrics (e.g., MUC) and at least one of what we will call the 'entity-based' cluster (e.g., CEAF).

As it happens, techniques for doing just that have been developed in the area of Genetic Algorithms: so-called multi-objective optimization (MOO) (Deb, 2001) techniques. In this paper, we will show how these techniques can be used to optimize anaphora resolution models (we focused for the time being on feature selection) by looking for a solution in the space defined by a multiplicity of metrics (we used MUC and CEAF (in two variants) as the optimization functions). Perhaps the most interesting result of this work is the finding that by working in such a multi-metric space it is possible to find solutions that are better with respect to an individual metric than when trying to optimize for that metric alone-which arguably suggests that indeed both families of metrics capture some fundamental intuition about anaphora, and taking into account both intuitions we avoid local optima.

The structure of the paper is as follows. We first review the literature on using genetic algorithms for both single function and multi function opti-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>We use the term 'anaphora resolution' to refer to the task perhaps most commonly referred to as 'coreference resolution,' which many including us find a misnomer. For the purposes of the present paper the two terms could be seen as interchangeable.

mization. Next, we discuss the particular method of multi-objective optimization we used in this paper, Non-Dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm II (Deb et al., 2002). After that we discuss how the method was used, and present our results. We then compare our work with other approaches to optimization for anaphora found in the literature.

## 2 Background: Optimizing for Anaphora Resolution

A great number of statistical approaches to anaphora resolution have been proposed in the past ten years. These approaches differ with respect to their underlying models (e.g., mention pair model (Soon et al., 2001) vs. tournament model (Iida et al., 2003; Yang et al., 2005), vs. entity-model (Luo et al., 2004)), machine learners (e.g., decision trees vs. maximum entropy vs. SVMs vs. TiMBL) and their parameters, and with respect to feature sets used. There have been, however, only few attempts at explicit optimization of these aspects, and in those few cases, optimization tends to be done by hand.

An early step in this direction was the work by Ng and Cardie (2002), who developed a rich feature set including 53 features, but reported no significant improvement over their baseline when all these features were used with the MUC6 and MUC7 corpora. They then proceeded to manually select a subset of features that did yield better results for the MUC-6/7 datasets. A much larger scale and very systematic effort of manual feature selection over the same dataset was carried out by Uryupina (2007), who evaluated over 600 features.

The first systematic attempt at automatic optimization of anaphora resolution we are aware of was carried out by Hoste (2005), who investigated the possibility of using genetic algorithms for automatic optimization of both feature selection and of learning parameters, also considering two different machine learners, TiMBL and Ripper. Her results suggest that such techniques yield improvements on the MUC-6/7 datasets. Recasens and Hovy (2009) carried out an investigation of feature selection for Spanish using the ANCORA corpus.

These approaches focused on a single metric only; the one proposal simultaneously to consider multiple metrics, Zhao and Ng (2010) still optimized for each metric individually.

The effect of optimization on anaphora resolution was dramatically demonstrated by Uryupina's contribution to SEMEVAL 2010 Multilingual Coreference Task (Uryupina, 2010). Uryupina directly optimizes two parameters of her system: the choice of a model (mention-pair vs. ILP with various constraints) and the definition of mention types for training separate classifiers. The optimization is done on the development data in a brute-force fashion, in order to maximize the performance according to a pre-defined metric (MUC, CEAF or BLANC). The results on the SEMEVAL-10 dataset clearly show that existing metrics of coreference rely on different intuitions and therefore a system, optimized for a particular metric, might show inferior results for the other ones. For example, the reported BLANC difference between the runs optimized for BLANC and CEAF is around 10 percentage points.

This highlights the importance of the multiobjective optimization (MOO) for coreference, that suggests a family of systems, showing reliable performance according to all the desired metrics. A form of MOO was applied to coreference by Munson et al. (2005). Their general conclusion was negative, stating that "ensemble selection seems too unreliable for use in NLP", but they did see some improvements for coreference.

## **3** Optimization with Genetic Algorithms

In this section, we review optimization techniques using genetic algorithms (GAs) (Goldberg, 1989). We first discuss single objective optimization, that can optimize according to a single objective function, and then multi-objective optimization (MOO), that can optimize more than one objective function, in particular, a popular MOO technique named Non-dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm (NSGA)-II (Deb et al., 2002).

## 3.1 Genetic Algorithms

Genetic algorithms (GAs) (Goldberg, 1989) are randomized search and optimization techniques guided by the principles of evolution and natural genetics. In GAs the parameters of the search space are encoded in the form of strings (called *chromosomes*). A collection of such strings is called a *population*. Initially, a random population is created, which represents different points in the search space. An *objective* or *fitness* function is associated with each string that represents the degree of *goodness* of the string. Based on the principle of survival of the fittest, a few of the strings are selected and each is assigned a number of copies that go into the mating pool. Biologically inspired operators like *crossover* and *mutation* are applied on these strings to yield a new generation of strings. The processes of selection, crossover and mutation continues for a fixed number of generations or till a termination condition is satisfied.

#### 3.2 Multi-objective Optimization

Multi-objective optimization (MOO) can be formally stated as follows (Deb, 2001). Find the vectors  $\overline{x}^* = [x_1^*, x_2^*, \dots, x_n^*]^T$  of decision variables that simultaneously optimize the *M* objective values

 $\{f_1(\overline{x}), f_2(\overline{x}), \ldots, f_M(\overline{x})\}$ 

while satisfying the constraints, if any.

An important concept in MOO is that of **dom**ination. In the context of a maximization problem, a solution  $\overline{x_i}$  is said to dominate  $\overline{x_j}$  if  $\forall k \in 1, 2, ..., M, f_k(\overline{x_i}) \ge f_k(\overline{x_j})$  and  $\exists k \in$ 1, 2, ..., M, such that  $f_k(\overline{x_i}) > f_k(\overline{x_j})$ .

Among a set of solutions P, the nondominated set of solutions P' are those that are not dominated by any member of the set P. The nondominated set of the entire search space S is called the **globally Pareto-optimal set**. In general, a MOO algorithm usually admits a set of solutions not dominated by any solution encountered by it.

#### 3.3 Nondominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm-II (NSGA-II)

Genetic algorithms (GAs) are known to be more effective than classical methods such as weighted metrics, goal programming (Deb, 2001), for solving MOO primarily because of their populationbased nature. A particularly popular GA of this type is NSGA-II (Deb et al., 2002).

In NSGA-II, initially a random parent population  $P_0$  is created and the population is sorted based on the partial order defined by the non-domination relation. This results in a sequence of nondominated fronts. Each solution is assigned a fitness value which is equal to its non-domination level in the partial order. A child population  $Q_0$  of size N is then created from the parent population  $P_0$ by using binary tournament selection, recombination, and mutation operators. In general, in the  $t^{th}$  iteration, a combined population  $R_t = P_t + Q_t$ is formed. The size of  $R_t$  is 2N, as the size of both  $P_t$  and  $Q_t$  is N. All the solutions of  $R_t$  are sorted according to non-domination. If the total number of solutions belonging to the best nondominated set  $F_1$  is smaller than N, then  $F_1$  is to-



Figure 1: Chromosome representation for GA based feature selection

tally included in  $P_{(t+1)}$ . The remaining members of the population  $P_{(t+1)}$  are chosen from the subsequent nondominated fronts in the order of their ranking. To choose exactly N solutions, the solutions of the last included front are sorted using the crowded comparison operator (Deb et al., 2002) and the best among them (i.e., those with lower crowding distance) are selected to fill in the available slots in  $P_{(t+1)}$ . The new population  $P_{(t+1)}$  is then used for selection, crossover and mutation to create a population  $Q_{(t+1)}$  of size N.

### 4 Two Algorithms for Feature Selection in Anaphora Resolution

Below we discuss how single and multi-objective optimization techniques can be used feature selection in the anaphora resolution task.

# 4.1 Chromosome Representation and Population Initialization

If the total number of features is F, then the length of the chromosome is F. As an example, the encoding of a particular chromosome is represented in Figure 1. Here F = 12 (i.e., total 12 different features are available). The chromosome represents the use of 7 features for constructing a classifier (first, third, fourth, seventh, tenth, eleventh and twelfth features). The entries of each chromosome are randomly initialized to either 0 or 1. Here, if the  $i^{th}$  position of a chromosome is 0 then it represents that  $i^{th}$  feature does not participate in constructing the classifier. Else if it is 1 then the  $i^{th}$  feature participates in constructing the classifier.

#### 4.2 Fitness Computation

For fitness computation, the following procedure is executed:

1. Suppose there are N number of features present in a particular chromosome (i.e., there are total N number of 1's in that chromosome).

- 2. Construct the coreference resolution system (i.e., BART) with only these N features.
- 3. This coreference system is evaluated on the development data. The recall, precision and F-measure values of three metrics are calculated.

In case of single objective optimization (SOO), the objective function corresponding to a particular chromosome is the F-measure value of a single metric. This objective function is optimized using the search capability of GA. For MOO, the objective functions corresponding to a particular chromosome are  $F_{MUC}$  (for the MUC metric),  $F_{\phi_3}$ (for CEAF using the  $\phi_3$  entity alignment function (Luo, 2005)) and  $F_{\phi_4}$  (for CEAF using the  $\phi_4$  entity alignment function). These three objective functions are simultaneously optimized using the search capability of NSGA-II.

#### 4.3 Genetic Operators

In case of SOO, a single point crossover operation is used with a user defined crossover probability,  $\mu_c$ . A mutation operator is applied to each entry of the chromosome with a mutation probability,  $\mu_m$ , where the entry is randomly replaced by either 0 or 1. In this approach, the processes of fitness computation, selection, crossover, and mutation are executed for a maximum number of generations. The best string seen up to the last generation provides the solution to the above feature selection problem. Elitism has been implemented at each generation by preserving the best string seen upto that generation in a location outside the population. Thus on termination, this location contains the best feature combination.

We use crowded binary tournament selection as in NSGA-II, followed by conventional crossover and mutation for the MOO based feature selection. The most characteristic part of NSGA-II is its elitism operation, where the non-dominated solutions (Deb, 2001) among the parent and child populations are propagated to the next generation. The near-Pareto-optimal strings of the last generation provide the different solutions to the feature selection problem.

#### 5 Methods

#### 5.1 The BART System

For our experiments, we use BART (Versley et al., 2008), a modular toolkit for anaphora reso-

lution that supports state-of-the-art statistical approaches to the task and enables efficient feature engineering. BART implements different models of anaphora resolution (mention-pair and entity-mention; best-first vs. ranking), has interfaces to different machine learners (MaxEnt, SVM, decision trees) and provides a large set of linguistically motivated features, along with the possibility to design new ones. It is thus ideally suited for experimenting with optimization and feature selection.

In this study, we specifically focus on feature selection.<sup>2</sup> The complete list of features currently implemented in BART is listed in Table 1; all were considered in the present experiments. We used a simple mention-pair model without ranking as in (Soon et al., 2001). In the mention-pair model, anaphora resolution is recast as a binary classification problem. Each classification instance consists of two mentions, i.e. an anaphor  $M_j$  and its potential antecedent  $M_i$  (i < j). Instances are modeled as feature vectors (cf. Table 1) and are handed over to a binary classifier that decides, whether the anaphor and its candidate antecedent are mentions of the same entity or not. All the feature values are computed automatically.

We train a maximum entropy classifier and follow the approach of (Soon et al., 2001) to partition mentions into coreference sets given the classifier's decisions.

#### 5.2 The Data Sets

We evaluated our approach on the ACE-02 dataset, which is divided in three subsets: bnews, npaper, and nwire. We provide results for both gold (handannotated) versions of the datasets (gbnews, gnpaper, gnwire) and system mentions extracted with CARAFE<sup>3</sup> (cbnews, cnpaper, cnwire).

Table 2 compares the performance level obtained using all the features in Table 1 with that of a loose re-implementation of the system proposed by Soon et al. (2001), commonly used as baseline and relying only on very shallow information. Our reimplementation of the Soon et al. model uses only a subset of features: those marked with an asterisk in Table 1. We also provide in Table 2 typical state-of-the-art figures on the ACE-02 dataset, as presented in an overview by Poon and Domin-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The choice of the best model and the best machine learner, along with its parameters, is the main direction of our future work.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>http://sourceforge.net/projects/ carafe

Table 1: Features used by BART: each feature describes a pair of mentions  $\{M_i, M_j\}$ , i < j, where  $M_i$  is a candidate antecedent and  $M_j$  is a candidate anaphor

	Mention types and subtypes					
MentionType*	Mention types and subtypes relevant types of $M_i$ and $M_j$ , as identified in Soon et al.					
MentionType_Ante_Salient MentionType_Ante_Extra	$M_i$ is demonstrative; $M_i$ is an NE $M_i$ is a pronoun					
MentionType_Ana	$M_j$ is a definite, demonstrative or indefinite NP, or pronoun of a specific type					
MentionType2	relevant types of $M_i$ and $M_j$ , as identified in Soon et al.					
MentionType_Salience	combination of $MentionType$ and $MentionType$ . Ana					
FirstSecondPerson	$M_i$ is a pronoun of the 1st/second person, same for $M_j$					
PronounLeftRight	4 possible values for $< M_i$ is a pronoun $> < M_j$ is a pronoun $>$					
PronounWordForm	lemma for $M_i$ if it's a pronoun; same for $M_j$					
SemClassValue	semantic class of $M_i$ , and $M_j$ and the pair					
BothLocation	both $M_i$ and $M_j$ are locations or geo-political					
Condon A groot	Agreement M and M agree in gander					
GenderAgree*	$M_i$ and $M_j$ agree in gender					
NumberAgree*	$M_i$ and $M_j$ agree in number					
AnimacyAgree*	$M_i$ and $M_j$ agree in animacy					
Alias*	Aliasing houristical NE matching					
BetterNames	heuristical NE-matching heuristical matching for personal names					
Betterivanies	Syntax					
Appositive*	$M_i$ and $M_j$ are in an apposition					
Appositive2	$M_i$ and $M_j$ are in an apposition $M_i$ and $M_j$ are adjacent					
Coordination	$M_i$ is a coordination; same for $M_j$					
HeadPartOfSpeech	POS of $M_i$ 's head; same for $M_j$ and the pair					
SynPos	depth of $M_i$ 's node in the parse tree					
Attributes	$M_i$ and $M_j$ have incompatible premodifiers					
Relations	$M_i$ and $M_j$ have incompatible premodifiers $M_i$ and $M_j$ have incompatible postmodifiers					
Relations	Matching					
StringMatch*	$M_i$ and $M_j$ have the same surface form after stripping off the determiners					
NonPro_StringMatch	both $M_i$ and $M_j$ have the same surface form after surpring on the detriminers both $M_i$ and $M_j$ are non-pronominal and $Stringmatch(M_i, M_j) == 1$					
Pro_StringMatch	both $M_i$ and $M_j$ are pronominal and $Stringmatch(M_i, M_j) = 1$ both $M_i$ and $M_j$ are pronominal and $Stringmatch(M_i, M_j) = 1$					
NE_StringMatch	both $M_i$ and $M_j$ are pronormal and $Stringmatch(M_i, M_j) = 1$ both $M_i$ and $M_j$ are NE and $Stringmatch(M_i, M_j) = 1$					
HeadMatch						
MinSame	$M_i$ and $M_j$ have the same head $M_j$ and $M_j$ have the same minimal span					
	$M_i$ and $M_j$ have the same minimal span $M_i$ is a profix or suffix substring of $M_i$ or vice verse					
LeftRightMatch StringMatchExtra	$M_j$ is a prefix or suffix substring of $M_i$ or vice versa					
StringMatchExtra StringKernel	extra string-macthing for bare plurals					
Sungkenier	approximate matching Salience					
First_Mention	$M_i$ is the first mention in its sentence					
CorefChain	Size of the coreference chain suggested for $M_i$ so far (with a threshold)					
NonProSalience	for non-pronominal $M_i$ , number of preceding mentions with the same head lemma					
Nom rosanenee	Web					
Wiki	$M_i$ and $M_j$ have the same wikipedia entry					
Yago	$M_i$ and $M_j$ are linked in Yago via means or typeof relation					
WebPatterns	specific contexts for co-reference extracted from the web					
	Proximity					
DistanceMarkable	distance in mentions between $M_i$ and $M_j$					
DistanceSentenceInt*	distance in mentions between $M_i$ and $M_j$ distance in sentences between $M_i$ and $M_j$					
DistanceSentence	log-distance in sentences between $M_i$ and $M_j$					
DistanceSentence2	log-distance in sentences between $M_i$ and $M_j$ , different formula					
DistDiscrete	distance in sentences between $M_i$ and $M_j$ , discretized into $\{0,1,>=2\}$					
DISIDISCIEIC	Miscellaneous $M_i$ and $M_j$ discretized into $\{0,1, \ge 2\}$					
Speech	$M_i$ is in quoted speech; same for $M_j$ and the pair					
Specch	$1_{11}$ is in quoted speech, same for $1_{11}$ and the pair					

	gold mentions								
	gbnews			gnpaper			gnwire		
	$F_{MUC}$	$F_{\phi_3}$	$F_{\phi_4}$	$F_{MUC}$	$F_{\phi_3}$	$F_{\phi_4}$	$F_{MUC}$	$F_{\phi_3}$	$F_{\phi_4}$
following Soon et al. (2001)	71.6	67.2	69.6	67.8	62.6	67.5	66.7	67.9	69.7
All features (Table 1)	75.8	70.6	74.4	72.5	64.7	67.0	71.2	70.3	72.2
state-of-the-art	65-69	-	-	70-72	-	-	54-67	-	-
	system mentions								
	cbnews			cnpaper			cnwire		
	$F_{MUC}$	$F_{\phi_3}$	$F_{\phi_4}$	$F_{MUC}$	$F_{\phi_3}$	$F_{\phi_4}$	$F_{MUC}$	$F_{\phi_3}$	$F_{\phi_4}$
following Soon et al. (2001)	61.3	56.7	55.9	63.3	57.6	54.0	60.8	58.2	57.0
All features (Table 1)	62.3	57.9	57.5	65.5	55.9	52.7	60.6	56.8	55.6

Table 2: Baseline performance on the ACE-02 dataset

Table 3: Feature vectors identified via single-objective optimization.

DataSet	Metric	Features Selected	$F_{MUC}$	$F_{\phi_3}$	$F_{\phi_4}$
	opt.				
gbnews	MUC	0010011011011110011111100011100100111111	76.8	71.5	74.5
	$\phi_3,\phi_4$	100110001110101100001011010011011011010000	76.7	71.8†	74.9†
gnpaper	MUC	1000000100111111010101110111000010101010	74.6	67.1	70.1†
	$\phi_3$	10101001100100110100100000010100010001101100	72.2	67.6	69.1
	$\phi_4$	111010011001001101001110001001011110010001100	71.4	65.2	70.3
gnwire	MUC	101110110111111100101010100110100110110	74.0 <sup>†</sup>	70.3 <sup>†</sup>	73.1 <sup>†</sup>
	$\phi_3$	11011011100001000011110110101111011110001101	71.4	72.3	73.6
	$\phi_4$	111010011001001101001110001001011100100	71.7	72.1	74.4
cbnews	MUC, $\phi_3$	11111001100101000011011100101101101111001100	64.6	59.7	58.4
	$\phi_4$	11111001100001000011110100101111101110001101	63.6	59.6	58.8
cnpaper	MUC, $\phi_3$	0100010010010101100100001011110010110000	66.5	59.7 <sup>†</sup>	54.7 <sup>†</sup>
	$\phi_4$	101001011010111000111111100101001001001	66.2	59.1	55.6 <sup>†</sup>
cnwire	MUC	00101111101110101001100000010101001011001001	63.8	60.0	58.1
	$\phi_3,\phi_4$	00011000101110100010000010011000100110000	63.4	61.2	58.4

gos (2008). The results clearly show that although even larger sets of features have been proposed (Uryupina, 2007; Bengtson and Roth, 2008), the set of features already included in BART is sufficient to achieve results well above the state of the art on the dataset we used.

The results in Table 2 also confirm the intuition that, contrary to what is suggested by some of the early papers (Soon et al., 2001; Ng and Cardie, 2002) working on smaller datasets, linguistic factors do play a crucial role in anaphora resolution and therefore rich feature sets may lead to performance improvements once larger datasets are considered (a similar result was also obtained by Bengtson and Roth (2008)). Such improvements, however, come at high costs, as both using larger datasets and larger sets of features learning a model becomes slower and requires much more memory.

This suggests that automatic feature selection may be essential not just to improve performance but also to be able to train a model—i.e., that an efficient coreference resolution system should combine rich linguistic feature sets with automatic feature selection mechanisms.

#### 5.3 Genetic Algorithm Parameter Setting

We set the following parameter values for both single (i.e., GA) and MOO (i.e., NSGA-II): population size=20, number of generations=30, probability of mutation  $\mu_m = 0.2$  and probability of crossover  $\mu_c = 0.9$ . Both approaches are executed on development data to determine the optimal feature vector(s). Final results are reported on the test data. It is to be noted that GA is a stochastic approach and outputs different results for trials with different seeds and initial populations. Initial seeds and population are chosen randomly. Thus for each data set we executed the proposed single and multi objective based approaches 3 times. Finally, we report the maximum values of these 3 runs.

#### 6 Results

#### 6.1 Single Objective Optimization

Single objective GA based feature selection was executed on the six data sets to determine the appropriate set of features. For each data set three sets of experiments were carried out by optimizing the F-measure values of the three different evaluation metrics. The binary-valued feature vectors identified by the single objective GA based feature selection technique for the six data sets and the corresponding F-measure values are shown in Table 3. The order of the features in the vector corresponds to their order in Table 1; the values of 0's and 1's represent the absence and presence of the corresponding features. Significant improvements over the classifier based on all the features are indicated with <sup>†</sup> (sign test, p < 0.05).

These results show that for all the datasets, the proposed single objective GA-based feature selection technique performs better than the baseline approach of using all features. Moreover, the results show that the technique based on SOO (i.e., conventional GA-based method) with different objective functions provides different evaluation figures. Thus, it is meaningful to optimize each objective function separately.

It is also evident from Table 3 that the optimal feature set obtained by optimizing a single objective function may not be optimal with respect to another objective function. Thus, it is not possible to come up with common patterns in the set of optimal features. For example, in case of *gbnews*, the F-measure value of the first metric, i.e. of *MUC* corresponding to the optimal feature vector optimizing second metric, i.e.  $\phi_3$  is 76.7. This is obviously less than the evaluation figure obtained by optimizing the first metric.

#### 6.2 Multi-objective Optimization

Thereafter we apply our proposed MOO based feature selection technique on the six data sets. The MOO approach provides a set of non-dominated solutions on the final Pareto optimal front. All the solutions are equally important from the algorithmic point of view. In Table 4, we show the final solutions obtained by the MOO based approach for all the data sets. Significant improvements over the classifier based on all the features are indicated with <sup>†</sup> (sign test, p < 0.05).

The results in Table 4 indicate that the MOO based technique achieves higher performance than the single objective GA based approach. For the *gbnews* data set, MOO achieves 0.6, 0.3 and 0.8 F-measure points increments for three metrics over the single objective GA based technique. For the *gnpaper* data set, there are increments of 2.5 F-measure points on second metric and 1.0 F-measure point on third metric over the corresponding single objective GA based technique. Similarly, for all other datasets the MOO based approach attains superior performance over the SOO-based approach.

#### 7 Comparison with Related Work

As discussed in Section 2 most work on optimization in anaphora resolution relies on manual optimization; the one significant exception is the work of Hoste (2005).

There are two major differences between the approach of Hoste (2005) and that followed in our study. First, the scope of (Hoste, 2005) is restricted to *single-objective* optimization. As we saw above, this might provide unstable solutions, that are too tailored to a particular scoring metric. Second, the feature set of Hoste (2005) is relatively small and therefore does not provide an efficient test-bed for a feature selection approach. Not surprising, parameter optimization shows a more consistent effect on the overall performance than feature selection in (Hoste, 2005)'s experiments.

#### 8 Discussion and Conclusions

In this paper we showed that it may not be necessary to choose one among the existing metrics for anaphora resolution—in fact, that developing systems attempting to optimize according to a combination of them may lead to better results.

In subsequent work, we plan to expand the optimization technique to consider also learning parameters optimization, classifier selection, and learning model selection.

DataSet	Features	$F_{MUC}$	$F_{\phi_3}$	$F_{\phi_4}$
gbnews	000111101101111100111011010111111011100101	77.20	71.50	75.70
	0011010011011111001010110101111111001100101	77.20	72.00	75.50 <sup>†</sup>
	00111110111111100111011010111111001100101	77.00	72.10	75.10
	00111010110111110011101101011111100110000	77.30	71.50	74.40
	0011110010011111001010110101111111011000101	77.40	71.30	74.70†
gnpaper	0100101110101011011111100001001010101010	73.90	70.10†	71.10 <sup>†</sup>
	1000000100111111010101110111000010101010	74.60	67.10	70.10
	0100101010101011011111100011011010101010	73.80	70.10	71.30
	11011111100011110011110011110100111000010	74.30	67.90	70.00
	1100101010101110011111100011001010101010	74.10	69.30	70.70
	100111101010111100111100001101111010110000	74.40	67.20	69.60
	1100111010101110011111101011111101000110000	74.40	67.50	69.10
	10001110101011100111111000110111101011100010	74.50 <sup>†</sup>	66.90	69.40
	010011101010101101111110100111001000110000	74.20	68.80	70.90
gnwire	10101100111011100110101001011011100110000	74.90 <sup>†</sup>	72.30 <sup>†</sup>	73.80
	10101100101011100110101011101010100110000	73.80	73.10 <sup>†</sup>	74.70
	10101100101011100100101001011011100010000	74.80 <sup>†</sup>	73.40 <sup>†</sup>	$74.00^{\dagger}$
	10001100111011100110101011101010100110000	74.30 <sup>†</sup>	72.80†	74.60 <sup>†</sup>
	10001100101011100110101001011011100010000	74.80 <sup>†</sup>	73.30 <sup>†</sup>	74.10
cbnews	0101101001111100111110011001111000111000101	64.80 <sup>†</sup>	60.30	59.10 <sup>†</sup>
	00111010111111001111100100011010000110011011	65.10	60.60	58.90
cnpaper	10011010110111110001111000110110001111001000	67.40	$60.00^{\dagger}$	55.00
	1101100011001111000011000011111000101111	66.40	58.20 <sup>†</sup>	56.10 <sup>†</sup>
	000111111100100100010111110110111000011001001	66.20	59.60	55.20†
	10011011010011110001110010110110000011011000	66.60	58.30 <sup>†</sup>	55.90 <sup>†</sup>
	1101100011001111001011000011111010101111	66.70	59.40 <sup>†</sup>	55.70 <sup>†</sup>
cnwire	1111000011101101011110100011111100110000	63.90	60.90	58.50
	110111001110110101111011000101111101110000	64.30	61.40	58.10
	01011100101011110000101000100110001111100010	63.70	60.70	59.20
	01011110101010110001101000100111001111100010	63.00	61.00	58.70
	01011111101011110001101111100110000111100010	64.50	60.20	58.40
	1101110010101111100001000001001100011111	63.80	60.30	58.90
	0100110110101111000010100010011000111111	63.90	60.60	58.80

Table 4: Feature vectors identified by the MOO based approach.

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