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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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COMP6714

Information Retrieval and Web Search

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- Time allowed: **10 minutes** reading time + **3 hours**
  - Total number of questions: **10+1**
  - Total number of marks: **100+5**
  - Only UNSW approved calculators are allowed in this exam.
  - Answer **all** questions.
  - You can answer the questions in any order.
  - Start each question on a **new page**.
  - Answers must be written in ink.
  - Answer these questions in the script book provided.
  - Do **not** write your answer in this exam paper.
  - If you use more than one script book, fill in your details on the front of **each** book.
  - You may **not** take this question paper out of the exam.
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## Question 1

(20 marks)

Briefly answer the following questions (1-4 sentences) in your script book. Lengthy but irrelevant answers will be *penalized*.

- (a) How does stemming typically affect recall? Why?
- (b) Given at least two reasons why *language identification* is important when indexing documents.
- (c) Why specialized algorithms are needed to construct inverted index for large document collections?
- (d) What are the largest gaps in the current state of the art? You also need to show how you can fill them.
- (e) Why is cosine a better similarity metric than the inverse of Euclidean distance in vector space model?
- (f) Why is vector space model generally considered a better retrieval model than the boolean model?
- (g) List the advantage(s) of using DFG to evaluate web search engines such as MAP.
- (h) List one problem.
- (i) In the early days of the following technologies, explain why this worked.
- (j) What is a “shingle” and describe briefly the shingling technique to duplicate documents.
- (k) List at least three requirements that complicate the design and implementation of an industrial strength crawler.
- (l) Define the terms “hub” and “authority” in the context of the HITS algorithm. Can a page be both a hub and authority page at the same time?

## Question 2

(5 marks)

Consider the algorithm (from the textbook) to intersect two postings lists  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ .

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**Algorithm 1:** Intersect( $p_1, p_2$ )

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```
1  $answer \leftarrow \emptyset$ ;  
2 while  $p_1 \neq \text{nil}$  and  $p_2 \neq \text{nil}$  do  
3   if  $\text{docID}(p_1) = \text{docID}(p_2)$  then  
4      $\text{Add}(answer, \text{docID}(p_1))$ ;  
5      $p_1 \leftarrow \text{next}(p_1)$ ;  
6      $p_2 \leftarrow \text{next}(p_2)$ ;  
7   else if  $\text{docID}(p_1) < \text{docID}(p_2)$  then  
8      $p_1 \leftarrow \text{next}(p_1)$ ;  
9   else  
10     $p_2 \leftarrow \text{next}(p_2)$ ;  
11 return  $answer$ ;
```

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(a) What is the time complexity of the algorithm?

(b) Modify the algorithm to

$A$  AND NOT  $B$  in time

$O(|p_1| + |p_2|)$

(c) Is it possible to modify the algorithm to

$A$  OR NOT

$B$  in time  $O(|p_1| + |p_2|)$ ? If not, what complexity?

### Question 3

(10 marks)

Consider a casual user who input the boolean query “A OR B AND C”. Our system deems the query as ambiguous, as either the OR or the AND operator can be executed first. To be on the safe side, the system decides to retrieve those results that belong to both interpretations only (i.e., no matter which interpretation the user intended, it will include our system’s result). Describe how to support such query efficiently by accessing the inverted lists of tokens A, B, and C at most once.

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#### Question 4

(10 marks)

From the following sequence of  $\gamma$ -coded gaps, reconstruct first the gap sequence and then the postings sequence (assume that *docid* starts from 1). Note that spaces were deliberately added for clarity purpose only. You need to illustrate your steps.

1110 1101 1111 1001 0111 1111 1110 1000 1111 1001

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## Question 5

(10 marks)

The figure below shows the output of two information retrieval systems on the same two queries in a competitive evaluation. The top 15 ranks are shown. Crosses correspond to a document which has been judged relevant by a human judge; dashes correspond to irrelevant documents. There are no relevant documents in lower ranks.

System 1:			System 2:		
Rank	Q1	Q2	Rank	Q1	Q2
1	-				
2	X				
3	X				
4	X				
5	-	-	5	X	X
6	-	-	6	X	
7	-	-	7	-	-
8	X	-			
9	X				
10	X		11		
11	X	-	1		
12					
13					
14					
15	X	-	15	X	-

- (a) Explain the following evaluation metrics and give results for both systems.
1. Precision at rank 10.
  2. Recall at precision 0.5.
- (b) The metrics in part (a) above are not adequate measures of system performance for arbitrary queries. Why not? What other disadvantages do these metrics have?
- (c) Give the formula for mean average precision (MAP), and calculating MAP for both systems.
- (d) For each system, draw a precision-recall curve. Explain how you arrived at your result.

### Question 6

(10 marks)

Determine the new query vector determined by the Rocchio relevant feedback algorithm ( $\alpha = \beta = \gamma = 1.0$ ), given that the initial query is " $t_1 t_3$ " and we have the following documents and user feedback.

<i>docid</i>	$t_1$	$t_2$	$t_3$	$t_4$	feedback
1	2	1	0	0	R
2	3	2	1	0	NR

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Note: "R" stands for relevant and "NR" stands for non-relevant.

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## Question 7

(10 marks)

- State and *justify briefly* the assumptions made to derive Equations (3) from (2) and Equation (6) from (5) in the Binary Independence Model.
- State which values need to be estimated for a document collection in the final Equation (8) (i.e., other parts can be discarded safely without affecting the ranking).

Let  $\vec{x}$  be the binary term incidence vector representing document  $D$ ,  $O(p)$  be the odd ratio of probability  $p$ ,  $Q$  be the query,  $R$  and  $NR$  stand for “relevant” and “non-relevant”, respectively,  $V$  is the

In addition, we use the shorthand  $r_i = p(x_i = 1|R, Q)$  and  $r_i = p(x_i = 1|NR, Q)$ .

$$O(R|Q, \vec{x}) = \frac{p(R|Q, \vec{x})}{p(NR|Q, \vec{x})} \quad (1)$$

$$= \frac{p(R|Q)}{p(NR|Q)} \cdot \frac{p(\vec{x}|R, Q)}{p(\vec{x}|NR, Q)} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{p(R|Q)}{p(NR|Q)} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^{|V|} \frac{p(x_i|R, Q)}{p(x_i|NR, Q)} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{p(R|Q)}{p(NR|Q)} \cdot \prod_{x_i=1} \frac{p_i}{r_i} \cdot \prod_{x_i=0} \frac{1-p_i}{1-r_i} \quad (4)$$

$$= O(p(R|Q)) \cdot \prod_{x_i=1} \frac{p_i}{r_i} \cdot \prod_{x_i=0} \frac{1-p_i}{1-r_i} \quad (5)$$

$$= O(p(R|Q)) \cdot \prod_{x_i=1, x_i \in Q} \frac{p_i}{r_i} \cdot \prod_{x_i=0, x_i \in Q} \frac{1-p_i}{1-r_i} \quad (6)$$

$$= O(p(R|Q)) \cdot \prod_{x_i=1, x_i \in Q} \frac{p_i}{r_i} \cdot \left( \frac{\prod_{x_i \in Q} \frac{1-p_i}{1-r_i}}{\prod_{x_i=1, x_i \in Q} \frac{1-p_i}{1-r_i}} \right) \quad (7)$$

$$= O(p(R|Q)) \cdot \prod_{x_i=1, x_i \in Q} \frac{p_i(1-r_i)}{r_i(1-p_i)} \cdot \prod_{x_i \in Q} \frac{1-p_i}{1-r_i} \quad (8)$$



## Question 8

(5 marks)

Suppose we have a document collection with an extremely small vocabulary with only 6 words  $w_1, w_2, \dots, w_6$ . The following table shows the estimated background language model  $p(w|C)$  using the whole collection of documents (2nd column) and the word counts for document  $d_1$  (3rd column) and  $d_2$  (4th column), where  $c(w, d_i)$  is the count of word  $w$  in document  $d_i$ . Let  $Q = \{w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4\}$  be a query.

Word	$p(w C)$	$c(w, d_1)$	$c(w, d_2)$
$w_4$	0.025	2	1
$w_5$	0.025	2	0
$w_6$	0.025	0	6

- (a) Suppose we do not smooth the language model for the likelihood of the query for both  $d_1$  and  $d_2$ , i.e.  $p(Q|d_i) = \prod_{w \in Q} p(w|d_i)$ . (Do *not* compute the log-likelihood. You should use scientific notation (e.g. 0.001 should be  $1 \times 10^{-3}$ ). Which document would be ranked higher?
- (b) Suppose we now smooth the language model using the Jelinek-Mercer smoothing in  $p(w|C) = \lambda p(w|C) + (1-\lambda) p(w|M_c)$ . Recompute the log-likelihoods for  $d_1$  and  $d_2$ , i.e.  $p(Q|d_1)$  and  $p(Q|d_2)$ . (Do *not* compute the log-likelihood. You should use scientific notation (e.g. 0.001 should be  $1 \times 10^{-3}$ ). Which document would be ranked higher?

## Question 9

(10 marks)

Consider the following web graph:

Page A points to page B, C, and D.

Page B points to C and D.

Page C points to A and E.

Page D points to E and F.

Page E points to G.

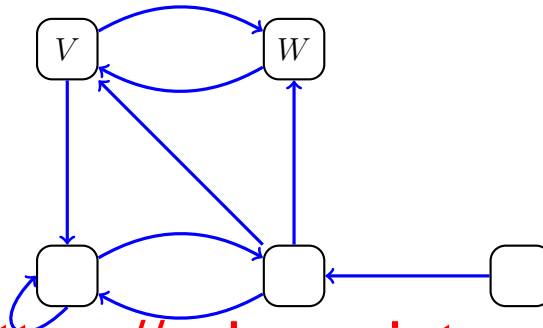
Page F points to G and H.

Consider a crawler that

- (a) Give the order of the indexing, assuming the crawler uses a URL frontier with duplicate detection, and all the pages are at different web sites.
- (b) Assume pages B, C, F, H are on web site  $\alpha$ , pages D, E, G are on web site  $\beta$ , and page A is on web site  $\gamma$ . The politeness policies on the crawler require that the crawler wait at least 3 seconds between each visit (i.e., if the crawler visit a web site  $i$  at time  $t$ , the earliest time it can visit the web site is  $t + 3$ ). We assume that (1) the crawler can only fetch a page every one second, and (2) the crawler can be complete at any time. Give the order of the pages visited by the crawler (including pages that are not visited) and the time taken to complete the crawling (in seconds). (c.)
- The crawler still uses a URL frontier with duplicate detection and queues to adhere to the politeness policies. Give the order of the pages visited by the crawler (including pages that are not visited) and the time taken to complete the crawling (in seconds). (d.)
- (e) Assume that the crawler can visit multiple pages at the same time (we always choose to the alphabetical order)

## Question 10

(10 marks)



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- (a) Explain the concept of PageRank, and how it is calculated in practice.
- (b) Why is it relevant for Web search?
- (c) Give, and briefly explain, the corresponding matrix notation of the PageRank computation.
- (d) Show the final matrix that will be used for the PageRank calculation on the graph, if the random teleporting probability is 0.2.
- (e) Perform two iterations of the power method, starting with the vector  $(0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.2)$  or of  $(0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.2, 0.2)$ .

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## BONUS

### Question 11

(5 marks)

Explain analytically why galloping search (aka. double binary search) is preferred to the normal binary search when implementing the `skipTo(docid)` method on a sorted list of `docids`. Make sure you state clearly the meaning of variables and any assumption you use.

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