
**11-442 / 11-642 / 11-742:
Search Engines**

Diversity

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Introduction

The methods covered until now assume that each document is independent of other documents in the ranking

- This is a simple approach
- Often it is effective ... but not always

When does it produce poor results?

- A query may have multiple interpretations or user intents
- If the ranking covers just one intent
 - ... and it is the wrong intent
 - ... the user will not find any relevant documents
 - ... extremely bad case, must avoid!

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Introduction

Query: Michael Jordan

Which interpretation is intended?

- The basketball player?
- The Berkeley professor?
- The former CEO of Pepsi, CBS & EDS?
- The actor?
- The State Farm insurance agent?

The first four are well-known

- The last is important to his customers



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Introduction

Most short queries have multiple interpretations

- Jamie Callan
- java
- jaguar
- avp
- ...



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Introduction

Longer queries also have multiple interpretations

- **Query:** arizona game and fish
 - Arizona Game and Fish Department home page?
 - Regulations for hunting and fishing in Arizona?
 - The Arizona Fishing report site?
 - Guides and outfitters for hunting trips in Arizona?
- **Query:** discovery channel store
 - The Discovery Channel store homepage?
 - Discovery Channel store locations?
 - Toys and products sold by Discovery Channel stores?
 - Products based on the Animal Planet program?

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Introduction

There can be multiple tasks for the same interpretation:

- **Query:** Carnegie Mellon University
 - Find the home page of CMU (Navigational)
 - Find the location of CMU (Location)
 - Check recent news about CMU (News)
 - Find pictures of CMU (Pictures)

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Introduction: Why Diversification?

Relevance based ranking model's target:

- Maximize the expected user satisfaction in each position
- Mostly based on textual similarity with the original query

This leads to a ranking that

- Mainly focuses on the most probable intent
- Is good for some users, but bad for the other users

Diversification is a trade-off between robustness and relevance

- Reduce relevance for the most probable intent
- Increase robustness by covering multiple intents

When it is clear what this user wants, no need to diversify

- But user intent is often unclear

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Introduction: Multiple Dimensions of Diversification

There are multiple levels of diversity

- Interpretation of the original query
 - What does this query refer to?
 - What aspects of this query does the user want?
- Different tasks for each interpretation
 - What task does the user want to complete?
 - » Image, Map, Video, Navigational, etc.

We mainly focus on diversification of interpretations

- But Google may treat the two as equally important

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Introduction: Diversification of Interpretations

Query: avp

Interpretations:

- Volleyball
- Wikipedia disambiguation page
- Company (Avon Products)
- Movie (Alien vs. Predator)

Purpose: Reduce the risk of focusing on wrong interpretations

avp

AVP Beach Volleyball
[avp.com/](#) • Association of Volleyball Professionals ▾
 News, event locations and results, player profiles and contacts for the professional beach volleyball tour managed by the AVP.
[Events](#) - [Players](#) - [Tickets](#) - [About](#)

AVP - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AVP](#) • Wikipedia ▾
 AVP is an abbreviation that may refer to: Contents. [hide]. 1 Medicine; 2 Popular culture; 3 Science and technology; 4 Titles; 5 Organizations; 6 Other uses ...
[Medicine](#) - [Popular culture](#) - [Science and technology](#) - [Titles](#)

AVP - Yahoo Finance
[finance.yahoo.com/q?s=AVP](#) • Yahoo! Finance ▾
 View the basic AVP stock chart on Yahoo! Finance. Change the date range, chart type and compare Avon Products, Inc. Common Stoc against other companies.

AVP: Alien vs. Predator (2004) - IMDb
[www.imdb.com/title/tt0370263/](#) • Internet Movie Database ▾
 ★★☆☆ Rating: 5.6/10 - 126,488 votes
 During an archaeological expedition on Bouvetøya Island in Antarctica, a team of archaeologists and other scientists find themselves caught up in a battle ...
[AVP: Alien vs. Predator \(2004\) - Trivia](#) - [Plot Summary](#) - [Parents Guide](#)

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Introduction: Diversification of Interpretations

Query: mountain goats

After click on disambiguation dialog to select animal

The Mountain Goats

Available on:

- Spotify
- YouTube
- Amazon

More music services

The Mountain Goats are an American indie folk band. Their music is characterized by complex, often humorous lyrics and a mix of instruments including guitar, bass, and drums. They have released several albums and are known for their live performances.

band

animal

animal

band

animal

Did you mean animal?

Mountain goat

The mountain goat, also known as the Rocky Mountain goat, is a wild mountain ungulate native to North America. It subspecies to other species, it is a species found in the mountains of the western United States and Canada.

Scientific name: *Oreamnos notus*

Higher classification: *Oreamnos*

Family: *Caprinae*

Class: *Mammalia*

Kingdom: *Animalia*

Did you know? Mountain goats have been successfully reintroduced to several islands in the Pacific Ocean.

animal

animal

animal

animal

animal

animal

animal

animal

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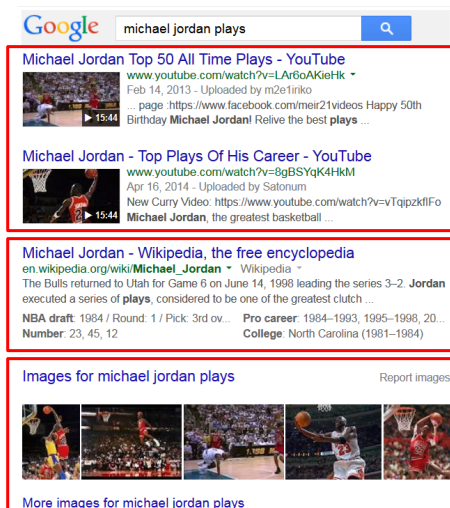
Introduction: Diversification for Tasks

Query: michael jordan plays

Tasks:

- Videos
- Information
- Images

Purpose: Make it easier to accomplish different tasks



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Introduction

Usually diversification is done by re-ranking

- Use the query to produce an initial ranking R
 - Use your favorite / most effective method
- Re-rank the top N documents to produce a diverse ranking S



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Topic Outline

- Introduction
- Diversity Evaluation Metrics
- Implicit Methods
 - Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR)
 - Learning to Rank for diversification
- Explicit Methods
 - Query intents (subtopics) discovery
 - xQuAD
 - PM-2
 - DSPApprox: Query intents (subtopics) discovery revisited

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Diversity Metrics: $P@k$

Remember Precision at rank k ($P@k$)

- Easy to compute, easy to understand
- $P@k$ ignores the diversity of the ranking

Ranking

Rel
Rel
NotRel
Rel
Rel **$P@5 = 80\%$**

:
:

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Diversity Notation Alert

Earlier lectures defined q_i as the i^{th} term of query q

- q_1 : search engines course
- q_2 : 'engines'

This lecture defines q_i as the i^{th} intent of query q

- q_1 : michael jordan
- q_2 : The Berkeley professor Michael Jordan

This is how notation is used in most of the published work

- I'm sorry – don't be confused

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Diversity Metrics: Precision-IA@k

Intent-aware Precision at rank k

- Assume a query q has n intents $\{q_1, \dots, q_n\}$
- Each intent may have a different probability $p(q_i | q)$
 - Typically in research publications $p(q_i | q)$ is uniform ($1/n$)
 - However, uniform $p(q_i | q)$ is not required
- Use some method to rank the documents for query q
- Calculate $P@k_{q_i}$ for each intent q_i
 - Use relevance of the document to query intent q_i
- Average the $P@k_{q_i}$ for each intent to produce Precision-IA@ k
$$\text{Precision-IA}@k = \sum_{q_i} p(q_i | q) P@k_{q_i}$$

(Agrawal, et al., 2009)

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Diversity Metrics: Precision-IA@k

Example: Precision-IA@5 for a query with two intents

$$\text{Precision-IA}@k = \sum_{q_i} p(q_i | q) P@k_{q_i}$$

$$p(q_i | q) = 0.5$$

Ranking 1

Rel₁
Rel₁
NotRel_{1,2}
Rel₁
Rel₁

Precision-IA@k

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \times 0.8 + \frac{1}{2} \times 0 \\ &= 0.4 + 0 \\ &= 0.4 \end{aligned}$$

Ranking 2

Rel₁
Rel₂
NotRel_{1,2}
Rel₂
Rel₁

Precision-IA@k

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \times 0.4 + \frac{1}{2} \times 0.4 \\ &= 0.2 + 0.2 \\ &= 0.4 \end{aligned}$$

Ranking 3

Rel₁
Rel_{1,2}
NotRel_{1,2}
Rel₂
Rel₁

Precision-IA@k

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \times 0.6 + \frac{1}{2} \times 0.4 \\ &= 0.3 + 0.2 \\ &= 0.5 \end{aligned}$$

← **Relevant
to intent 1**

**Uniform
intent
weights**

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Diversity Metrics: Precision-IA@k

Usually a good strategy is to give higher priority to documents that satisfy multiple intents

- That improved Precision-IA@k for Ranking 3 in the previous example
- Satisfying multiple intents with one document is an efficient way to lower risk
- We will see that idea again throughout the lecture

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Diversity Metrics: NDCG

Remember NDCG

- It considers the position of each document
- It allows multi-valued relevance assessments
- It ignores the diversity of the ranking

$$NDCG@k = Z_k \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{2^{R(i)} - 1}{\log_2(1+i)}$$

← Gain (based on relevance)
← Discount (based on rank)

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Diversity Metrics: α -NDCG

NDCG consists of two components

- Gain from a document worth $R(k)$ at rank k : $G@k = 2^{R(k)} - 1$
- Discount for selecting a document at rank k : $D@k = \frac{1}{\log_2(1+k)}$

α -NDCG uses an intent-aware gain calculation

$$G@k = \sum_{q_i} R(d_k, q_i) (1 - \alpha)^{r_{q_i, k-1}}$$

Discount for covering an intent again

$R(d_k, q_i)$: Relevance of d_k to q_i

$$r_{q_i, k-1} = \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} R(d_j, q_i)$$

**Intent redundancy of d_k :
Relevance of docs already selected for intent q_i**

$r_{q_i, 0} = 0$

(Clarke, et al., 2008)

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Diversity Metrics: α -NDCG

The gain vector for α -NDCG discounts intent redundancy

- $1-\alpha$ controls the discount
- If $\alpha=0.5$
 $\text{Value}(j+1_{\text{th}} \text{ reldoc}, q_i) = 0.5 \times \text{Value}(j_{\text{th}} \text{ reldoc}, q_i)$
 (each document is worth $\frac{1}{2}$ the previous document)

(Clarke, et al., 2008)

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Diversity Metrics: α -NDCG

The gain vector for α -NDCG discounts intent redundancy

- Assume $\alpha=0.5$ and relevance values are $\{0, 1\}$

Ranking 1	G@k	Ranking 2	G@k	Ranking 3	G@k
Rel ₁	1.000	Rel ₁	1.000	Rel ₁	1.000
Rel ₁	0.500	Rel ₂	1.000	Rel _{1,2}	1.500
NotRel _{1,2}	0.000	NotRel _{1,2}	0.000	NotRel _{1,2}	0.000
Rel ₁	0.250	Rel ₂	0.500	Rel ₂	0.500
Rel ₁	0.125	Rel ₁	0.500	Rel ₁	0.250

Rel: 1

NotRel: 0

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Diversity Metrics: α -NDCG

The gain vector for α -NDCG discounts intent redundancy

- Assume $\alpha=0.5$ and relevance values are $\{0, 1, 2\}$

Ranking 1	G@k	Ranking 2	G@k	Ranking 3	G@k
Rel ₁	1.000	Rel ₁	1.000	HRel ₁	2.000
HRel ₁	1.000	HRel ₂	2.000	Rel _{1,2}	1.250
NotRel _{1,2}	0.000	NotRel _{1,2}	0.000	NotRel _{1,2}	0.000
HRel ₁	0.250	Rel ₂	0.250	Rel ₂	0.500
Rel ₁	0.031	Rel ₁	0.500	Rel ₁	0.125

HRel: 2
Rel: 1
NotRel: 0

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Diversity Metrics

Both metrics are used

- E.g., the TREC 2009-2012 Diversity task
- E.g., All the recent diversification research papers

There are also many other evaluation metrics

- All of them have somewhat similar motivation and behavior

Which metric better matches your expectations?

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 - Learning to Rank for diversification
- **Explicit Methods**
 - Query intents (subtopics) discovery
 - xQuAD
 - PM-2
 - DSPApprox: Query intents (subtopics) discovery revisited

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Introduction: Types of Diversification Algorithms

Implicit

- Query intents are implicit in the document ranking
- Similar documents are assumed to cover similar intents

Explicit

- Query intents are specified explicitly
- Rerank documents so that all query intents are covered

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR)

Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR) was one of the first diversification algorithms

(Interesting trivia: A [SIGIR Test of Time](#) award winner)

- Use the query to retrieve a ranking R of documents
- Use MMR to rerank the top N documents (build a new ranking S)
 - Select the 1st document based on how well it satisfies the query
 - Select subsequent documents based on two criteria
 - » How well it satisfies the query
 - » How different it is from documents ranked above it

(Carbonell and Goldstein, 1998)

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR)

MMR is a greedy algorithm

- At each step, select a document to append to the ranking

$$MMR = \underset{d_i \in R \setminus S}{\overset{def}{\arg \max}} (\lambda \text{Sim}(q, d_i) - (1 - \lambda) \max_{d_j \in S} \text{Sim}(d_i, d_j))$$

Similar to
the query

Different from the
documents ranked above

R: The initial ranking

S: Documents already selected for the diverse ranking

– Documents ranked above this position

$\text{Sim}(d_i, d_j)$: Use your favorite similarity metric

– E.g., vector space model or Jensen-Shannon Divergence

(Carbonell and Goldstein, 1998)

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$

Initial Ranking

$d_1, 0.80$
 $d_2, 0.78$
 $d_3, 0.76$
 $d_4, 0.74$
 $d_5, 0.72$
 $d_6, 0.70$
:

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$

Initial Ranking

$d_1, 0.80$
 $d_2, 0.78$
 $d_3, 0.76$
 $d_4, 0.74$
 $d_5, 0.72$
 $d_6, 0.70$
:

Diversified Ranking, Step 1

d_1

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR):
Example with $\lambda=0.6$

Initial Ranking	Similarity to $\{d_1\}$	Diversified Ranking, Step 1
$d_1, 0.80$		d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	0.7	
$d_3, 0.76$	0.4	
$d_4, 0.74$	0.7	
$d_5, 0.72$	0.2	
$d_6, 0.70$	0.4	
:	:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR):
Example with $\lambda=0.6$

Initial Ranking	Similarity to $\{d_1\}$	Score of d_i	Diversified Ranking, Step 1
$d_1, 0.80$			d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	0.7	$0.6 \times 0.78 - 0.4 \times 0.7 = 0.1880$	
$d_3, 0.76$	0.4	$0.6 \times 0.76 - 0.4 \times 0.4 = 0.2960$	
$d_4, 0.74$	0.7	$0.6 \times 0.74 - 0.4 \times 0.7 = 0.1640$	
$d_5, 0.72$	0.2	$0.6 \times 0.72 - 0.4 \times 0.2 = 0.3520$	
$d_6, 0.70$	0.4	$0.6 \times 0.70 - 0.4 \times 0.4 = 0.2600$	
:	:	:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$	
Initial Ranking	Diversified Ranking, Step 2
$d_1, 0.80$	d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$	
$d_4, 0.74$	
$d_5, 0.72$	
$d_6, 0.70$	
:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$		
Initial Ranking	ArgMax Similarity to $\{d_1, d_5\}$	Diversified Ranking, Step 2
$d_1, 0.80$		d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	0.7	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$	0.5	
$d_4, 0.74$	0.7	
$d_5, 0.72$		
$d_6, 0.70$	0.6	
:	:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$			
Initial Ranking	ArgMax Similarity to $\{d_1, d_5\}$	Score of d_i	Diversified Ranking, Step 2
$d_1, 0.80$			d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	0.7	$0.6 \times 0.78 - 0.4 \times 0.7 = 0.1880$	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$	0.5	$0.6 \times 0.76 - 0.4 \times 0.5 = 0.2560$	
$d_4, 0.74$	0.7	$0.6 \times 0.74 - 0.4 \times 0.7 = 0.1640$	
$d_5, 0.72$			
$d_6, 0.70$	0.6	$0.6 \times 0.70 - 0.4 \times 0.6 = 0.1800$	
:	:	:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$	
Initial Ranking	Diversified Ranking, Step 3
$d_1, 0.80$	d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$	d_3
$d_4, 0.74$	
$d_5, 0.72$	
$d_6, 0.70$	
:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR):
Example with $\lambda=0.6$

Initial Ranking	ArgMax Similarity to $\{d_1, d_5, d_3\}$	Diversified Ranking, Step 3
$d_1, 0.80$		d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	0.8	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$		d_3
$d_4, 0.74$	0.7	
$d_5, 0.72$		
$d_6, 0.70$	0.6	
:	:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR):
Example with $\lambda=0.6$

Initial Ranking	ArgMax Similarity to $\{d_1, d_5, d_3\}$	Score of d_i	Diversified Ranking, Step 3
$d_1, 0.80$			d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	0.8	$0.6 \times 0.78 - 0.4 \times 0.8 = 0.1480$	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$			d_3
$d_4, 0.74$	0.7	$0.6 \times 0.74 - 0.4 \times 0.7 = 0.1640$	
$d_5, 0.72$			
$d_6, 0.70$	0.6	$0.6 \times 0.70 - 0.4 \times 0.6 = 0.1800$	
:	:	:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$	
Initial Ranking	Diversified Ranking, Step 4
$d_1, 0.80$	d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$	d_3
$d_4, 0.74$	d_6
$d_5, 0.72$	
$d_6, 0.70$	
:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$		
Initial Ranking	ArgMax Similarity to { d_1, d_5, d_3, d_6 }	Diversified Ranking, Step 4
$d_1, 0.80$		d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	0.8	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$		d_3
$d_4, 0.74$	0.9	d_6
$d_5, 0.72$		
$d_6, 0.70$		
:	:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$			
Initial Ranking	ArgMax Similarity to $\{d_1, d_5, d_3, d_6\}$	Score of d_i	Diversified Ranking, Step 4
$d_1, 0.80$			d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	0.8	$0.6 \times 0.78 - 0.4 \times 0.8 = 0.1480$	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$			d_3
$d_4, 0.74$	0.9	$0.6 \times 0.74 - 0.4 \times 0.9 = 0.0840$	d_6
$d_5, 0.72$			
$d_6, 0.70$			
:	:	:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$	
Initial Ranking	Diversified Ranking, Step 5
$d_1, 0.80$	d_1
$d_2, 0.78$	d_5
$d_3, 0.76$	d_3
$d_4, 0.74$	d_6
$d_5, 0.72$	d_2
$d_6, 0.70$	
:	

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Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR): Example with $\lambda=0.6$

Initial Ranking

$d_1, 0.80$
 $d_2, 0.78$
 $d_3, 0.76$
 $d_4, 0.74$
 $d_5, 0.72$
 $d_6, 0.70$
:

Repeat until all documents
in the initial ranking
are added to
the diversified ranking

Diversified Ranking, Step 5

d_1
 d_5
 d_3
 d_6
 d_2

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Anything-to-Anything Similarity

The vector space can compare the similarity of any two vectors

- E.g., Inc.ltc
- This is convenient for a wide variety of tasks, e.g., clustering

BM25 is not designed for anything-to-anything similarity

Can it be done within the language modeling framework?

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Probabilistic Similarity

There are many ways of measuring the similarity of two probability distributions

- Kullback-Leibler divergence is a popular measure

$$KL(d_1 \| d_2) = \sum_{t \in V} p(t | d_1) \ln \frac{p(t | d_1)}{p(t | d_2)}$$

$$p(t | d) = \frac{tf_{t,d}}{\text{length}(d)}$$

- But ... KL divergence isn't symmetric

$$KL(d_1 \| d_2) \neq KL(d_2 \| d_1)$$

Term	d ₁	d ₂
apple	0.00	0.00
buy	0.02	0.00
camera	0.05	0.03
dog	0.00	0.00
image	0.07	0.02
like	0.03	0.00
mode	0.04	0.00
movie	0.03	0.00
up	0.01	0.00
...
zooms	0.02	0.05
Total		

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Probabilistic Similarity

Jensen-Shannon Divergence is a symmetric and smoothed version of KL divergence

$$JS(x \| y) = \frac{1}{2} KL(x \| M) + \frac{1}{2} KL(y \| M)$$

$$M = \frac{x + y}{2}$$

This is simpler than it may look

$$JS(d_1 \| d_2) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{t \in V} p(t | d_1) \log \frac{p(t | d_1)}{p(t | d_1 \cup d_2)} +$$

$$p(t | d_2) \log \frac{p(t | d_2)}{p(t | d_1 \cup d_2)}$$

Often used for anything-to-anything similarity tasks

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 - DSPApprox: Query intents (subtopics) discovery revisited

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LeToR for Diversification

MMR is the diversified version of unsupervised retrieval

- Standard retrieval model + Similarity with previous documents
 - E.g., vector space model, language model
- Simple and intuitive
- No supervision used

Can we do it in learning to rank framework?

- Multiple sources of evidence are available
 - Relevance evidence
 - Document similarity evidence
- Many LeToR models are available for combining evidence

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LeToR for Diversification: Directly Apply LeToR Models

Approach: Directly fit a standard learning-to-rank model to optimize a diversity measure (e.g., α -NDCG)

- Use same model and features that we saw in the LeToR lecture
- Use diversification based training data
 - E.g., pointwise, pairwise, or listwise training data
- Let machine learning algorithms figure out how to produce diversified rankings

This approach does not work well

- No consistent gains on various metrics
- No consistent performances on training data vs testing data

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(Santos, et al., 2011)

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LeToR for Diversification: Directly Apply LeToR Models

Approach: Directly fit a standard learning-to-rank model to optimize a diversity measure (e.g., α -NDCG)

Why doesn't this approach work well?

- There are no diversification features
 - Nothing about document-to-document similarity
 - Nothing about sub-intents
- Relevance-based features can not produce a diverse ranking
- Thus, the diversified training data just confuses learning models

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(Santos, et al., 2011)

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LeToR for Diversification: Relational-LeToR

Diversification requires relevance and relationship features

- Traditional LeToR features to handle relevance
- Relationships among documents to handle diversity

This is implicit diversification, so the relationship is similarity

- Similarities to higher-ranked documents (as done by MMR)
- Multiple ways to measure such similarity
- Combined by LeToR Model

The relational version of LeToR can be viewed as a supervised version of MMR

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Relational-LeToR: Similarities between Documents

Similarity/relation measures between documents:

- Text similarity:
 - E.g. KL-Divergence of document language models
- Topic similarity:
 - E.g. Cosine between docs' topic distributions in topic models
- Category similarity:
 - E.g. Overlap of docs' categories in a predefined ontology
- Link similarity:
 - E.g. whether docs have hyperlinks to each other
- URL similarity:
 - E.g. whether docs are from same website or not.

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Relational-LeToR: Features from Similarities

Combine similarity with all higher-ranked documents by:

- Minimal similarity with previous documents
- Average similarity with previous documents
- Maximal similarity with previous documents

Each similarity measure is combined to one feature

- The relationship of the current doc to all higher-ranked documents
 - In one similarity dimension
- E.g. Maximum text similarity with higher-ranked docs

Each combination is one method in experiments

- Like a hyper-parameter to choose (by cross-validation)

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Relational-ListMLE: An Example Model

ListMLE can be easily modified to handle relational features

- Other LeToR models can be modified too
- ListMLE is the first one studied, perhaps also the easiest

Recall the sequential assumption of ListMLE

- Documents are picked one by one from top to bottom
 - Same with MMR's sequential assumption
- Each position is independent of previous ones
 - Relational features break this independence assumption

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Relational-ListMLE: New Generative Process

Relational-ListMLE's new generative process

- The ranking is assembled iteratively from candidate documents
- Given a set of $S_i = \{d_1, \dots, d_n\}$ of candidate documents
 - Pick the best candidate d_i from S_i to appear at rank i

$$p(d_i|S_i;w) = \frac{\exp(w_r \cdot x_i + w_d \cdot y_i)}{\sum_{x_j \in S_i} \exp(w_r \cdot x_j + w_d \cdot y_j)}$$

w_r : Relevance weights
 x_i : Relevance features for d_i
 w_d : Diversity weights
 y_i : Diversity features for d_i

- $S_{i+1} = S_i \setminus d_i$
- Repeat until all documents are reranked

$p(d_i|S_i;w)$ depends on higher-ranked documents via similarities

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Relational-ListMLE: Learning and Ranking

Learning is exactly the same as with ListMLE

- Write down likelihood, use MLE

In ranking, iteratively pick the doc with largest $p(d_i|S_i, w)$

- Cannot directly calculate ranking score as ListMLE does
 - Now documents depend on previous positions
- Complexity is $O(n^2)$
 - In each of n positions
 - » Pick the best document from remaining documents
 - » Update the similarity features of other documents ($O(n)$)
 - n isn't huge because diversification is a re-ranking method
 - » $n < 1000$ in most cases

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Relational-ListMLE: Performance

Web Track 2009, Diversity task data (similar results for 2010)

Method	ERR-IA	α -NDCG	NRBP
QL	0.1637	0.2691	0.1382
ListMLE	0.1913 (+16.86%)	0.3074 (+14.23%)	0.1681 (+21.64%)
MMR _{list}	0.2022 (+23.52%)	0.3083 (+14.57%)	0.1715 (+24.09%)
xQuAD _{list}	0.2316 (+41.48%)	0.3437 (+27.72%)	0.1956 (+41.53%)
PM-2 _{list}	0.2294 (+40.13%)	0.3369 (+25.20%)	0.1788 (+29.38%)
SVMDIV	0.2408 (+47.10%)	0.3526 (+31.03%)	0.2073 (+50.00%)
R-LTR _{min}	0.2714 (+65.79%)	0.3915 (+45.48%)	0.2339 (+69.25%)
R-LTR _{avg}	0.2671 (+63.16%)	0.3964 (+47.31%)	0.2268 (+64.11%)
R-LTR _{max}	0.2683 (+63.90%)	0.3933 (+46.15%)	0.2281 (+65.05%)
TREC-Best	0.1922	0.3081	0.1617

No diversity

Explicit diversification (given subtopics)

Relational-ListMLE

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Implicit Methods: Discussion

Implicit method characteristics

- Doesn't require prior knowledge about possible query intents
 - Thus called “implicit”
- Selects documents that match the query well
- Produces a diverse ranking
- Doesn't favor any query intent
 - Popular intents don't get more attention than rare intents
 - Is this good or bad?

MMR is a classic unsupervised method

R-LeToR is a newer supervised method

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Topic Outline

- **Introduction**
- **Diversity Evaluation Metrics**
- **Implicit Methods**
 - Maximum Marginal Relevance (MMR)
 - Learning to Rank for diversification
- **Explicit Methods**
 - Query intents (subtopics) discovery
 - xQuAD
 - PM-2
 - DSPApprox: Query intents (subtopics) discovery revisited

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