

In [information retrieval](#), **Okapi BM25** (*BM* is an abbreviation of *best matching*) is a [ranking function](#) used by [search engines](#) to estimate the [relevance](#) of documents to a given search query. It is based on the [probabilistic retrieval framework](#) developed in the 1970s and 1980s by [Stephen E. Robertson](#), [Karen Spärck Jones](#), and others.

The name of the actual ranking function is *BM25*. The fuller name, *Okapi BM25*, includes the name of the first system to use it, which was the Okapi information retrieval system, implemented at [London's City University](#) in the 1980s and 1990s. BM25 and its newer variants, e.g. BM25F (a version of BM25 that can take document structure and anchor text into account), represent state-of-the-art [TF-IDF](#)-like retrieval functions used in document retrieval.