DAT630 **Search Engines**

Search Engine Architecture and Indexing

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Information Retrieval

Information Retrieval (IR)

"Information retrieval is a field concerned with the structure, analysis, organization, storage, searching, and retrieval of information."

(Salton, 1968)

Modern definition

"Making the right information available to the right person at the right time."



Searching in Databases

- Query: records with balance > \$50,000 in branches located in Amherst, MA.

Name	Branch	Balance
Sam I. Am	Amherst, MA	\$95,342.11
Patty MacPatty	Amherst, MA	\$23,023.23
Bobby de West	Amherst, NY	\$78,000.00
Xing O'Boston	Boston, MA	\$50,000.01

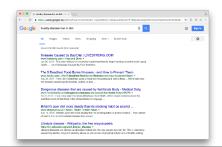
Searching in Text

- Query: deadly disease due to diet
- Which are relevant?



Searching in Text

- Query: deadly disease due to diet
- Which are relevant?



Comparing Text

- Comparing the query text to the document text and determining what is a good match is the core issue of information retrieval
- Exact matching of words is not enough
 - Many different ways to write the same thing in a "natural language" like English
 - E.g., does a news story containing the text "fatal illnesses caused by your menu" match the query?
 - Some documents will be better matches than others

Dimensions of IR

- IR is more than just text, and more than just web search
 - Although these are central

- Content

- Text
- Images
- Video
- Audio
- Scanned documents

Dimensions of IR

- Applications

- Web search
- Vertical search
- Enterprise search
- Mobile search
- Social search
- Desktop search
- Patent search
- _

Dimensions of IR

- Tasks

- Ad-hoc search
- Filtering
- Question answering

Core issues in IR

- Relevance

- Simple (and simplistic) definition: A relevant document contains the information that a person was looking for when they submitted a query to the search engine
- Many factors influence a person's decision about what is relevant: e.g., task, context, novelty
- Topical relevance (same topic) vs. user relevance (everything else)

Core issues in IR

- Relevance

- Retrieval models define a view of relevance
- Ranking algorithms used in search engines are based on retrieval models
- Most models based on statistical properties of text rather than linguistic
 - I.e., counting simple text features such as words instead of parsing and analyzing the sentences

Core issues in IR

- Evaluation

- Experimental procedures and measures for comparing system output with user expectations
- Typically use test collection of documents, queries, and relevance judgments
- Recall and precision are two examples of effectiveness measures

Core issues in IR

- Information needs

- Keyword queries are often poor descriptions of actual information needs
- Interaction and context are important for understanding user intent
- Query refinement techniques such as query expansion, query suggestion, relevance feedback improve ranking

Search Engines in Operational Environments

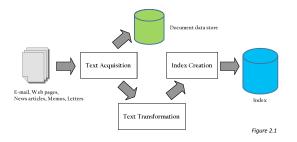
- Performance
 - Response time, indexing speed, etc.
- Incorporating new data
 - Coverage and freshness
- Scalability
 - Growing with data and users
- Adaptibility
 - Tuning for specific applications

Search Engine Architecture

Search Engine Architecture

- A software architecture consists of software components, the interfaces provided by those components, and the relationships between them
 - Describes a system at a particular level of abstraction
- Architecture of a search engine determined by 2 requirements
 - Effectiveness (quality of results)
 - Efficiency (response time and throughput)

Indexing Process



Indexing Process



Text Acquisition

- Crawler

- Identifies and acquires documents for search engine
- Many types: web, enterprise, desktop, etc.
- Web crawlers follow links to find documents
 - Must efficiently find huge numbers of web pages (coverage) and keep them up-to-date (freshness)
 - Single site crawlers for site search
 - Topical or focused crawlers for vertical search
- Document crawlers for enterprise and desktop search
 - Follow links and scan directories

Text Acquisition

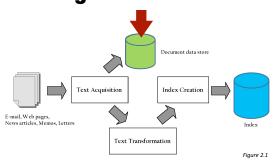
- Feeds

- Real-time streams of documents
- E.g., web feeds for news, blogs, video, radio, TV
- RSS is common standard
- RSS "reader" can provide new XML documents to search engine

Text Acquisition

- Documents need to be **converted** into a consistent text plus metadata format
 - E.g. HTML, XML, Word, PDF, etc. → XML
- Convert text encoding for different languages
 - Using a Unicode standard like UTF-8

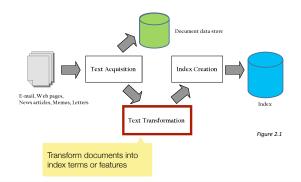
Indexing Process



Document Data Store

- Stores text, metadata, and other related content for documents
 - Metadata is information about document such as type and creation date
 - Other content includes links, anchor text
- Provides fast access to document contents for search engine components
 - E.g. result list generation
- Could use relational database system
 - More typically, a simpler, more efficient storage system is used due to huge numbers of documents

Indexing Process



Text Transformation

- Tokenization
- Stopword removal
- Stemming
- Information extraction
 - Identify index terms that more complex than single words
 - E.g., named entity recognizers identify classes such as people, locations, companies, dates, etc
 - Important for some applications

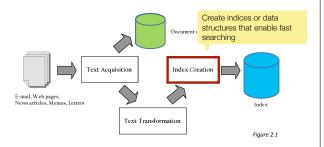
Text Transformation

- Link Analysis
 - Makes use of links and anchor text in web pages
 - Link analysis identifies popularity and community information
 - E.g., PageRank
 - Anchor text can significantly enhance the representation of pages pointed to by links
 - Significant impact on web search
 - Less importance in other applications

Text Transformation

- Classification
 - Identifies class-related metadata for documents or part of documents
 - Topics, reading levels, sentiment, genre
 - Spam vs. non-spam
 - Non-content parts of documents, e.g., advertisements
 - Use depends on application

Indexing Process



Index Creation

- Document Statistics
 - Gathers counts and positions of words and other features
 - Used in ranking algorithm
- Weighting
 - Computes weights for index terms
 - Usually reflect "importance" of term in the document
 - Used in ranking algorithm

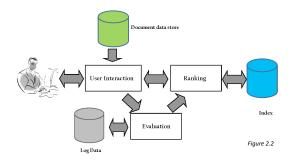
Index Creation

- Inversion
 - Core of indexing process
 - Converts document-term information to termdocument for indexing
 - Difficult for very large numbers of documents
 - Format of inverted file is designed for fast query processing
 - Must also handle updates
 - Compression used for efficiency

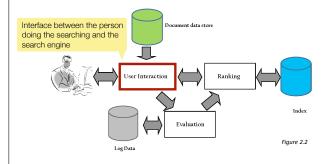
Index Creation

- Index Distribution
 - Distributes indexes across multiple computers and/ or multiple sites
 - Essential for fast query processing with large numbers of documents
 - Many variations
 - Document distribution, term distribution, replication
 - P2P and distributed IR involve search across multiple sites

Query Process



Query Process



User Interaction

- Accepting the user's query and transforming it into index terms
- Taking the ranked list of documents from the search engine and organizing it into the results shown to the user
 - E.g., generating snippets to summarize documents
- Range of techniques for refining the query (so that it better represents the information need)

User Interaction

- Query input
 - Provides interface and parser for query language
 - Query language used to describe complex queries
 - Operators indicate special treatment for query text
 - Most web search query languages are very simple
 - Small number of operators
 - There are more complicated query languages
 - E.g., Boolean queries, proximity operators
 - IR query languages also allow content and structure specifications, but focus on content

User Interaction

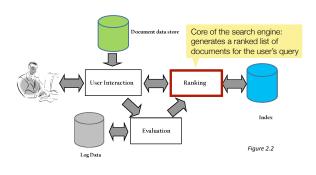
- Query transformation
 - Improves initial query, both before and after initial search
 - Includes text transformation techniques used for documents
 - Spell checking and query suggestion provide alternatives to original query
 - Techniques often leverage query logs in web search
 - Query expansion and relevance feedback modify the original query with additional terms

User Interaction

- Results output

- Constructs the display of ranked documents for a
- Generates *snippets* to show how queries match documents
- Highlights important words and passages
- Retrieves appropriate *advertising* in many applications ("related" things)
- May provide clustering and other visualization tools

Query Process



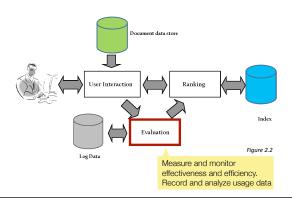
Ranking

- Scoring
 - Calculates scores for documents using a ranking algorithm, which is based on a retrieval model
 - Core component of search engine
 - Basic form of score is $\sum_i q_i a_i$
 - qi and di are query and document term weights for term i
 - Many variations of ranking algorithms and retrieval models

Ranking

- Performance optimization
 - Designing ranking algorithms for efficient processing
 - Term-at-a time vs. document-at-a-time processing
 - Safe vs. unsafe optimizations
- Distribution
 - Processing queries in a distributed environment
 - Query broker distributes queries and assembles results
 - Caching is a form of distributed searching

Query Process



Evaluation

- Logging
 - Logging user queries and interaction is crucial for improving search effectiveness and efficiency
 - Query logs and clickthrough data used for query suggestion, spell checking, query caching, ranking, advertising search, and other components
- Ranking analysis
 - Measuring and tuning ranking effectiveness
- Performance analysis
 - Measuring and tuning system efficiency

Indexing

Indices

- Indices are data structures designed to make search faster
- Text search has unique requirements, which leads to unique data structures
- Most common data structure is the inverted index
 - General name for a class of structures
 - "Inverted" because documents are associated with words, rather than words with documents
 - Similar to a concordance

Index

Note: Halic page numbers indicate specific methods, whilst bold page numbers indicate major sections on the subject.

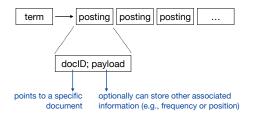
acceptance138, 228, 22	
accepting2	7
action132, 26	
active care18	8
active listening17	6
adv ocate24	2
affirmation24	6
agreeableness5	7
aha8	
aim inhibition20	9
alignment 18, 61, 92, 18	7
alliteration11	8
alternatives104, 106, 11	1
amplification21	D
anadiplosis11	8
analogy11	8
anaphora11	8
anger23, 9	7
answering23.	5
anticipation23, 97, 23	0
antithesis11	8
appeal21	7

argument 110
Aristolle 250
Aristolle 250
Aristolle 257,114,131, 210
as if 233
Asch Solomon 73
Aschey, Ross 38
asking 235
aspirations 192
assertion 217
association 72
assonance 118
assumption 217
assumptions 233
attention 128
attention 152
attention 158
a

Inverted Index

- Each index term is associated with a postings list (or inverted list)
 - Contains lists of documents, or lists of word occurrences in documents, and other information
 - Each entry is called a posting
 - The part of the posting that refers to a specific document or location is called a *pointer*
 - Each document in the collection is given a unique number (docID)
 - The posting can store additional information, called the *payload*
 - Lists are usually document-ordered (sorted by docID)

Inverted Index



Example

- S_1 Tropical fish include fish found in tropical environments around the world, including both freshwater and salt water species.
- S_2 Fishkeepers often use the term tropical fish to refer only those requiring fresh water, with saltwater tropical fish referred to as marine fish.
- S_3 Tropical fish are popular aquarium fish, due to their often bright coloration.
- S_4 In freshwater fish, this coloration typically derives from iridescence, while salt water fish are generally pigmented.

Four sentences from the Wikipedia entry for $tropical\ fish$

Simple Inverted Index

docID

Each document that contains the term is a posting.

No additional payload.

and	1	only	2
aquarium	3	pigmented	4
are	3 4	popular	3
around	1	refer	2
as	2	referred	2
both	1	requiring	2
bright	3	salt	1 4
coloration	3 4	saltwater	2
derives	4	species	1
due	3	term	2
environments	1	the	1 2
fish	1 2 3 4	their	3
fishkeepers	2	this	4
found	1	those	2
fresh	2	to	2 3
freshwater	1 4	tropical	1 2 3
from	4	typically	4
generally	4	use	2
in	1 4	water	1 2 4
include	1	while	4
including	1	with	2
iridescence	4	world	1
marine	2		
often	2 3		

Inverted Index with Counts

docID: freq

The payload is the frequency of the term in the document.

Supports better ranking algorithms.

and	1:1
aquarium	3:1
are	3:1 4:1
around	1:1
as	2:1
both	1:1
bright	3:1
coloration	3:1 4:1
derives	4:1
due	3:1
environments	1:1
fish	1:2 2:3 3:2 4:2
fishkeepers	2:1
found	1:1
fresh	2:1
freshwater	1:1 4:1
from	4:1
generally	4:1
in	1:1 4:1
include	1:1
including	1:1
iridescence	4:1

pigmented popular refer referred requiring 1:1 4:1 2:1 salt saltwater species term the 1:1 2:1 their 4:1 2:1 this those 3:1 2:2 3:1 tropicaltypically 2:1 1:1 2:1 4:1 water 4:1 2:1 1:1 while world

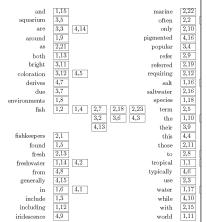
Inverted Index with Positions

docID, position

There is a separate posting for each term occurrence in the document. The payload is the term position.

Supports proximity matches.

E.g., find "tropical" within 5 words of "fish"



Issues

- Compression
 - Inverted lists are very large
 - Compression of indexes saves disk and/or memory space
- Optimization techniques to speed up search
 - Read less data from inverted lists
 - "Skipping" ahead
 - Calculate scores for fewer documents
 - Store highest-scoring documents at the beginning of each inverted list
- Distributed indexing

Exercise

Draw the inverted index for the following document collection

Doc 1	new home sales top forecasts
Doc 2	home sales rise in july
Doc 3	increase in home sales in july
Doc 4	july new home sales rise

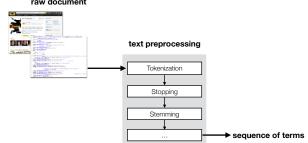
Solution

new	1	4		
home	1	2	3	4
sales	1	2	3	4
top	1			
forecasts	1			
rise	2	4		
in	2	3		
july	2	3	4	
increase	3			

Text Preprocessing

Preprocessing Pipeline

raw document



Tokenization

- Parsing a string into individual words (tokens)
- Splitting is usually done along white spaces, punctuation marks, or other types of content delimiters (e.g., HTML markup)
- Sounds easy, but can be surprisingly complex, even for English
 - Even worse for many other languages

Tokenization Issues

- Apostrophes can be a part of a word, a part of a possessive, or just a mistake
 - rosie o'donnell, can't, 80's, 1890's, men's straw hats, master's degree, ...
- Capitalized words can have different meaning from lower case words
 - Bush, Apple
- Special characters are an important part of tags, URLs, email addresses, etc.
 - C++, C#, ...

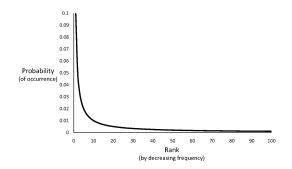
Tokenization Issues

- Numbers can be important, including decimals
 - nokia 3250, top 10 courses, united 93, quicktime 6.5 pro, 92.3 the beat, 288358
- Periods can occur in numbers, abbreviations, URLs, ends of sentences, and other situations
 - I.B.M., Ph.D., www.uis.no, F.E.A.R.

Common Practice

- First pass is focused on identifying markup or tags; second pass is done on the appropriate parts of the document structure
- Treat hyphens, apostrophes, periods, etc. like spaces
- Ignore capitalization
- Index even single characters
 - o'connor => o connor

Text Statistics



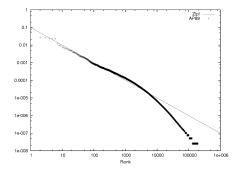
Top-50 words from AP89

Word	Freq.	r	$P_r(\%)$	$r.P_r$	Word	Freq	,	$P_r(\%)$	$r.P_r$
the	2,420,778	1	6.49	0.065	has	136,007	26	0.37	0.095
of	1,045,733	2	2.80	0.056	are	130,322	27	0.35	0.094
to	968,882	3	2.60	0.078	not	127,493	28	0.34	0.096
a	892,429	4	2.39	0.096	who	116,364	29	0.31	0.090
and	865,644	5	2.32	0.120	they	111,024	30	0.30	0.089
in	847,825	6	2.27	0.140	its	111,021	31	0.30	0.092
said	504,593	7	1.35	0.095	had	103,943	32	0.28	0.089
for	363,865	8	0.98	0.078	will	102,949	33	0.28	0.091
that	347,072	9	0.93	0.084	would	99,503	34	0.27	0.091
was	293,027	10	0.79	0.079	about	92,983	35	0.25	0.087
on	291,947	11	0.78	0.086	i	92,005	36	0.25	0.089
he	250,919	12	0.67	0.081	been	88,786	37	0.24	0.088
is	245,843	13	0.65	0.086	this	87,286	38	0.23	0.089
with	223,846	14	0.60	0.084	their	84,638	39	0.23	0.089
at	210,064	15	0.56	0.085	new	83,449	40	0.22	0.090
by	209,586	16	0.56	0.090	or	81,796	41	0.22	0.090
it	195,621	17	0.52	0.089	which	80,385	42	0.22	0.091
from	189,451	18	0.51	0.091	we	80,245	43	0.22	0.093
as	181,714	19	0.49	0.093	more	76,388	44	0.21	0.090
be	157,300	20	0.42	0.084	after	75,165	45	0.20	0.091
were	153,913	21	0.41	0.087	us	72,045	46	0.19	0.089
an	152,576	22	0.41	0.090	percent	71,956	47	0.19	0.091
have	149,749	23	0.40	0.092	up	71,082	48	0.19	0.092
his	142,285	24	0.38	0.092	one	70,266	49	0.19	0.092
but	140,880	25	0.38	0.094	people	68,988	50	0.19	0.093

Zipf's Law

- Distribution of word frequencies is very skewed
 - A few words occur very often, many words hardly ever
 - E.g., two most common words ("the", "of") make up about 10% of all word occurrences in text documents
- Zipf's law:
 - Frequency of an item or event is inversely proportional to its frequency rank
 - Rank (r) of a word times its frequency (f) is approximately a constant (k): r*f~k

Zip's law for AP89



Stopword Removal

- Function words that have little meaning apart from other words: the, a, an, that, those, ...
- These are considered stopwords and are removed
- A stopwords list can be constructed by taking the top n (e.g., 50) most common words in a collection
 - May be customized for certain domains or applications

Stopword Removal

a	as	by	into	not	such	then	this	with
an	$\mathbf{a}t$	for	is	of	that	there	to	
and	be	if	it	on	the	these	was	
are	but	in	no	or	their	they	will	

Table 2: Standard English stopwords list.

- There are problematic cases...

"to be or not to be"

Stemming

- Reduce the different forms of a word that occur to a common stem
 - inflectional (plurals, tenses)
 - derivational (making verbs nouns etc.)
- In most cases, these have the same or very similar meanings
- Two basic types of stemmers
 - Algorithmic
 - Dictionary-based

Stemming

- Suffix-s stemmer
 - Assumes that any word ending with an s is plural - cakes => cake, dogs =>dog
 - Cannot detect many plural relationships (false
 - centuries => century
 - In rare cases it detects a relationship where it does not exist (false positive)
 - is => i

Stemming

- Porter stemmer

- Most popular algorithmic stemmer
- Consists of 5 steps, each step containing a set of rules for removing suffixes
- Produces stems not words
- Makes a number of errors and difficult to modify

Porter Stemmer

- Example step (1 of 5)

- Replace \boldsymbol{sses} by \boldsymbol{ss} (e.g., stresses \rightarrow stress).
 - Delete s if the preceding word part contains a vowel not immediately before the s (e.g., gaps \to gap but gas \to gas).
 - Replace ied or ies by i if preceded by more than one letter, otherwise by ie (e.g., ties \rightarrow tie, cries \rightarrow cri).
 - If suffix is ${\it us}$ or ${\it ss}$ do nothing (e.g., stress \rightarrow stress)

- Replace eed,~eedly by ee if it is in the part of the word after the first non-vowel following a vowel (e.g., $\mathsf{agreed} \to \mathsf{agree}, \, \mathsf{feed} \to \mathsf{feed}).$
- Delete ed. edly, ing, ingly if the preceding word part contains a vowel, and then if the word ends in at, bl, or iz add e (e.g., fished → fish, pirating → pirate), or if the word ends with a double letter that is not ll, ss or zz, remove the last letter (e.g., falling → fall, dripping → drip), or if the word is short, add e (e.g., hoping → hope).

Porter Stemmer

should not have the same stem

False positives
organization/organ
generalization/generic
numerical/numerous
policy/police
university/universe
addition/additive
negligible/negligent
execute/executive
past/paste
ignore/ignorant
special/specialized

head/heading

should have the same stem



False negatives

european/europe
cylinder/cylindrical
matrices/matrix
urgency/urgent
create/creation
analysis/analyses
useful/usefully
noise/noisy
decompose/decomposition
sparse/sparsity
resolve/resolution
triangle/triangular

Stemming

- Krovetz stemmer

- Hybrid algorithmic-dictionary
- Word checked in dictionary
 - If present, either left alone or replaced with exception stems
 - If not present, word is checked for suffixes that could be removed
- After removal, dictionary is checked again
- Produces words not stems

Stemmer Comparison

Original text

Document will describe marketing strategies carried out by U.S. companies for their agricultural chemicals, report predictions for market share of such chemicals, or report market statistics for agrochemicals, pesticide, herbicide, fungicide, insecticide, fertilizer, predicted sales, market share, stimulate demand, price cut, volume of sales

Porter stemmer

market strateg carr compan agricultur chemic report predict market share chemic report market statist agrochem pesticid herbicid fungicid insecticid fertil predict sale stimul demand price cut volum sale

Krovetz stemmer

marketing strategy carry company agriculture chemical report prediction market share chemical report market statistic agrochemic pesticide herbicide fungicide insecticide fertilizer predict sale stimulate demand price cut volume sale

Stemming

- Generally a small (but significant) effectiveness improvement for English
- Can be crucial for some languages (e.g., Arabic, Russian)

Example





First pass extraction

 $\label{eq:continuous} The Transporter~(2002) $$PG-I3~92 min~Action, Crime, Thriller~II~October~2002~(USA)$$

Frank is hired to "transport" packages for unknown clients and has made a very good living doing so. But when asked to move a package that begins moving, complications arise.

Tokenization

the transporter 2002 pg I3 92 min action crime thriller II october 2002 usa

frank is hired to transport packages for unknown clients and has made a very good living doing so but when asked to move a package that begins moving complications arise

Stopwords removal

the transporter 2002
pg 13 92 min action crime thriller 11 october 2002 usa

frank is hired to transport packages for unknown clients and has made a very good living doing so but when asked to move a package that begins moving complications arise

transporter 2002

pg 13 92 min action crime thriller 11 october 2002 usa

frank hired transport packages unknown clients has made very good living doing so when asked move package begins moving complications arise

Stemming (Porter stemmer) transporter 2002 pg 13 92 min action crime thriller 11 october 2002 usa frank hired transport packages unknown clients has made very good living doing so when asked move package begins moving complications arise transport 2002 pg 13 92 min action crime thriller 11 octob 2002 usa frank hire transport packag unknown client ha made veri good live do so when ask move packag begin move complic aris