Information Retrieval 1
Course Organization

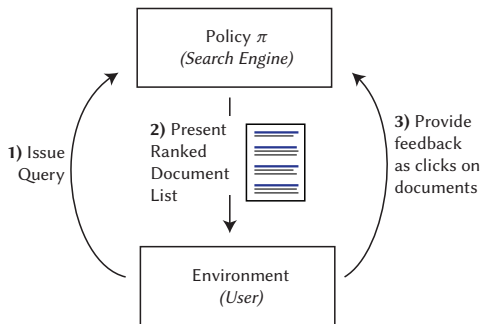**Ilya Markov**
i.markov@uva.nl

University of Amsterdam

Outline

1. The team

2. The course

3. Expectations and feedback

4. Ethics and well-being

The lecturer

- 2018–now Assistant professor at UvA, IRLab
- 2014–2018 Postdoctoral researcher at UvA
- 2016–2018 Invited lecturer and researcher at Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 2008–2014 PhD at University of Lugano, Switzerland

Research interests: learning from users

Rolf Jagerman, Ilya Markov, Maarten de Rijke. Safe Exploration for Optimizing Contextual Bandits.
ACM Transactions on Information Systems, 2020.

Teaching

- MSc courses on IR and Web Search
- BSc courses on IR and Bayesian Statistics
- Tutorials at conferences and summer schools
  - Distributed IR
  - Click models for web search
- 20+ BSc and MSc students graduated under my supervision

Invited lecturers

- Evangelos Kanoulas
  - Full professor at UvA, head of IRLab
  - Evaluation
- Harrie Oosterhuis
  - Assistant Professor at Radboud University
  - Offline/online/counterfactual learning to rank
- Mohammad Aliannejadi
  - Postdoc at IRLab
  - Conversational search

TAs

- Senior TA
    - Christos Athanasiadis, c.athanasiadis@uva.nl
- Prepare assignments
    - Ali Vardasbi
    - Sam Bhargav
- Meet you
    - Tom Lotze
    - Mozhdeh Ariannezhad
    - Daan Le
    - Shaojie Jiang
    - Pooya Khandel
    - Justine Winkler
    - Ivan Bardarov
    - Arezoo Sarvi

Outline

1. The team

2. The course

3. Expectations and feedback

4. Ethics and well-being

Resources

- Canvas: `https://canvas.uva.nl/courses/22817/pages/information-retrieval-1`
- Datanose: `https://datanose.nl/#course[88747]`
- Piazza: `http://piazza.com/university_of_amsterdam/spring2021/52041inr6y`

Classes and schedule

1. Lectures
   - Pre-recorded, available on Canvas
2. Q&A
   - Fridays, 11.00-13.00
   - `https://uva-live.zoom.us/j/82315160019`, use UvAnetID
   - Not recorded
3. Laptopcollege
   - Mons, 15.00-17.00, and Weds, 9.00-11.00/15.00-17.00
   - Contact your TA to book a slot
   - Participation is not mandatory
4. Werkcollege
   - Fridays, 15.00-17.00
   - Contact Christos Athanasiadis to participate
5. Open office hours
   - Fridays, 13.00-15.00
   - Non-content matters
   - Contact me to book a slot

Assignments

- Assignment 1
    - Build a basic search engine from scratch and use unsupervised ranking methods
    - Deadline: Feb 19, 23:59
    - 25% of the final grade
- Assignment 2
    - Use offline and online learning to rank
    - Deadline: Mar 12, 23:59
    - 25% of the final grade
- Teams of 3 people, contact Christos Athanasiadis in case of problems/questions
- Q&A during Laptopcolleges, contact your TA

Final exam

- Online open-book individual exam
- Participate via Zoom, camera on, student ID required
- 50% of the final grade

Grading

- 50% – assignments
- 50% – final exam
- At least 5.5 each!

Basic materials

- B. Croft, D. Metzler, T. Strohman
  Search Engines, Information Retrieval in Practice
  https://ciir.cs.umass.edu/irbook

- C. Manning, P. Raghavan, H. Schütze
  Introduction to Information Retrieval
  http://nlp.stanford.edu/IR-book

- I. Markov, M. de Rijke
  What should we teach in Information Retrieval?
  http:
  //sigir.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/p019.pdf

Outline

Course as collaboration

A university course is a collaboration
between teachers and students

- Common goal
- Two parties

Response to students' feedback 2020

1. Check assignment instructions
   - Revised and improved assignments
   - ipython notebooks with extensive instructions
2. Make sure TAs know what is expected of them
   - Two TAs' meetings before the course
   - Weekly TAs' meetings during the course
3. Find a good balance between asking questions and providing explanation
   - Pre-recorded lectures
   - Q&A sessions
4. Provide extensive reference material
   - Videos
   - Slides
   - References to textbooks, surveys and scientific papers

Response to COVID-19

1. Lectures
   - Pre-recorded videos
   - Online Q&A sessions
2. Assignments
   - ipython notebooks
   - Two assignments (instead of three)
   - Two meetings with TAs per week (instead of one)
3. Other
   - Open office hours for non-content questions

Your feedback

1. Feel free to send us feedback during the course
   (to Ilya and Christos)
2. Do not wait, speak up if something does not work for you
3. Be constructive: actionable items instead of agression
4. Be ready to one of the following responses:
   - Your feedback is implemented during this course
   - Your feedback is implemented in the next edition of the course
     (IR1 2022)
   - An explanation is provided why your feedback cannot be
     implemented

Program committee (OC)

- If you encounter any problems during program related events or a course and you want to file a complaint or submit separate feedback, please do not hesitate to contact the program committee at ocai-science@uva.nl.
- For more information, please see this page: `https://student.uva.nl/ai/content/az/programme-committee/programme-committee.html`

Our expectations

Preparing a (online) course is hard

We appreciate it if you appreciate this work

- Be a good citizen
- Send us likes

Our expectations

- Honesty, no plagiarism
- Study is prioritized over job
- Follow course guidelines and instructions
- Value our time: first check materials, then ask questions
- Timely communication
- Constructive feedback

Outline

Ethical issues and stress

- Team work
- Thesis
- TAing

If you experience ethical issues/stress

- Immediate communication
- Contact course coordinator
- Contact FNWI study adviser:
  https://student.uva.nl/is/shared/studentensites/
  fnwi/esc-gedeelde-content/en/az/
  study-adviser-esc/study-adviser-esc.html

Responsible communication

- Always two parties, always two-way communication
- Ask for communication, be open to communication
- Talk about yourself only, do not give judgements
- Be explicit, ask for help