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# Tag Cloud Control by Latent Semantic Analysis

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MASTER'S THESIS

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# Declaration

I declare that:

This work has been prepared by myself, all literal or content based quotations are clearly pointed out, and no other sources or aids than the declared ones have been used.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Motivation

Information Retrieval (IR) systems become more important not only due to their use in Internet and digital libraries, but also because the majority of companies organize their activities around information and depend on digital documents. Finding the right information brings value to the business, and failing to do so usually leads to losses.

Certain factors influence the performance of search applications. On one hand, it is the constantly growing problem of information overload. On the other, it is the peculiarities of humans users which have to be taken into consideration. IR systems need to adapt to their users, and to their information need.

- **Human behavior.** Users searching for information usually submit queries composed of a few keywords only, as shown in studies [1]. The search application performs exact matching between the submitted keywords, and the document set it searches through, and often returns a long list of results. When searching with short queries, the focus of users is unclear, and the missing information contributes to long result lists containing many irrelevant hits. Users without domain expertise are not familiar with the appropriate terminology, and therefore they don't submit the right query terms with respect to relevance or specialization. Another issue is the ambiguity of words, in the cases when words have more than one meaning. When relevant documents contain words that are semantically relevant to the queries but not the same (synonyms), they will not be judged relevant. As a consequence, search results will not fit the information needs of users.



- **Manual processing of results.** When a large number of matching documents is returned as a search result, only some of the documents can be read, due to human limitations in information processing, and time constraints (users want to find information quickly). Human users need to narrow down the search iteratively by reformulating the query, since it is unclear in which context their queried words are used, and which words could be useful to focus the search. This reformulation can be a frustrating and time consuming process.
- **Information need.** Search applications that implement the keyword search paradigm (or full-text search) are broadly accepted by users; however, the challenge for the next years is the development of search solutions that reflect users' context ("what the user meant" versus "what the user entered as a query"). In other words, solutions that are able to: *a)* organize search results better than in the form of long lists, *b)* adapt to a users personal skills and experience concerning the underlying document collection, and *c)* adapt to the retrieval task a user is concerned with; in other words, to adapt to the users' information need.

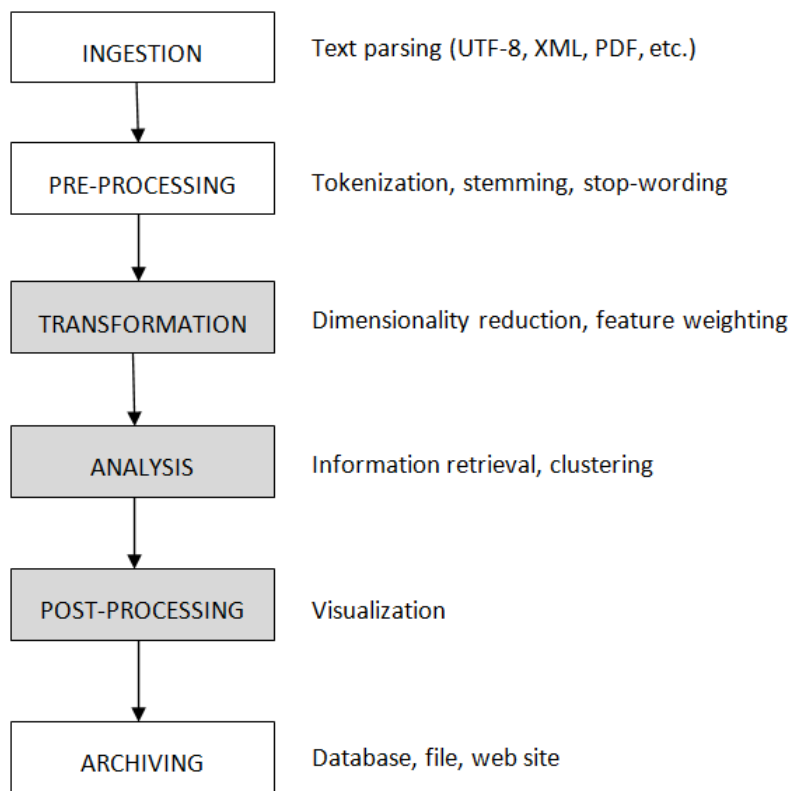
The factors listed above have lead to the development of techniques that assist users to effectively navigate and organize search results, with the goal to find the documents best matching their needs. *Document clustering* is a process of forming groups (clusters) of similar objects from a given set of inputs. When applied to search results, clustering organizes the results into a number of easily browsable thematic groups. It contributes to solving the problem of finding a meaningful ordering in a large amount of returned results. *Latent Semantic Analysis* is another method from IR that handles the problem of words having more than one meaning, or words ambiguity. It also filters out noise well, and reduced the number of irrelevant hits. Both techniques have been implemented in this work.

After documents have been clustered into categories according to their topics, they have to be presented to the users. In particular, the categories have to be labeled with characteristic terms for browsing. Which words from the cluster to choose as labels is a difficult problem to solve. This work presents a relatively new algorithm for cluster labeling, called Weighted Centroid Covering (WCC) (Stein and Meyer zu Eissen [2], [3]). It evaluates it and proposes an improvement of WCC by using external semantic knowledge for definition of the cluster labels. As a part of this work, a domain-specific ontology is developed, which is used as a source

of external knowledge.

## 1.2 Information Retrieval systems

Techniques from IR field are implemented as a part of this work. Therefore, what follows is an overview of the text analysis processes, common to most IR systems. Then, in the context of these processes, the contributions presented in this thesis will be summarized.



**Figure 1.1:** Workflow in IR systems

Most IR systems share common workflow, and follow common data processing stages. Some of the processes involved in text analysis are: lexical analysis to study word frequency distributions of words, retrieval, tagging/annotation, and visualization among the others. The workflow in IR systems usually starts with **document ingestion**, where texts from the document corpus<sup>1</sup>, which will be analyzed, are parsed or loaded into

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<sup>1</sup>Throughout this work, *document corpus* is used as a synonym to a document collection, in which IR tasks are performed.

memory. After that comes the **preprocessing** phase, responsible for text extraction, tokenization, token-filtering, text folding, etc. In this phase, documents are often represented as vectors, whose components quantify properties like how often words occur in the document. In the **transformation** phase is where a dictionary, matrix or other form of index is created from the extracted texts. In this phase all extracted terms<sup>2</sup> are assigned weights by applying a weight function. In Chapter 2.6 are given more details about the most common weight functions used in IR systems. The **analysis** phase can include a retrieval process by querying the corpus, clustering, etc. The **visualization** phase is where concepts, query results, or summarizations extracted from the text collection are presented to users. And in the final **archiving** phase, results from the text analysis process can be saved.

The workflow in fig. 1.1 doesn't show any iterations or cycles between phases for simplicity. Iterations and repetition of certain phases of analysis, however, are common, e.g. between transformation and post-processing phases, or analysis and post-processing.

The focus of the current work is on transformation, analysis and post-processing phases of IR workflow.

### 1.3 Goal and scope of work

This work contributes with the following:

1. It makes an evaluation of Weighted Centroid Covering algorithm, proposed for unsupervised topic labeling of clusters ([2] and [3].
2. It proposes an improvement in WCC algorithm, performing topic identification based on external knowledge. A light-weight domain-specific ontology has been developed for this purpose, in order to be used as a reference for external semantic knowledge during cluster labeling.
3. A software application for executing an IR process has been developed. It implements Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) for information retrieval (analysis phase from fig. 1.1), and presents the main concepts contained in a document set using a tag cloud.

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<sup>2</sup>A term in this context denotes a word after preprocessing of the texts. A term is a single unit, e.g. a word, a phrase, a number, or an abbreviation.

## 1.4 Outline

This chapter motivates the presented work, and summarizes its contributions. It also offers a general overview of the phases of text analysis, common to most IR systems. Chapter 2 gives theoretical foundations for preprocessing and transformation phases of text analysis, and reviews a specific technique for information retrieval, called Latent Semantic Analysis. In Chapter 3, WCC algorithm is evaluated, and a proposition for its improvement is made, by using a light-weight domain-specific ontology. Chapter 4 refers to the post-processing phase of text analysis, giving the visualization means to present the main concepts retrieved from a document set as a tag cloud. The software contribution, developed as a part of this work, is described in Chapter 5, where test results are also present, and an evaluation of the implementation is made. Finally, in Chapter 6 the thesis concludes with ideas for future work.

# Chapter 2

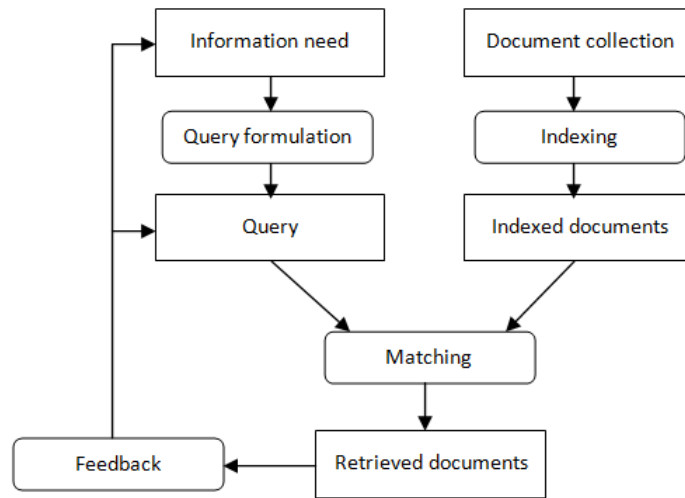
## Latent Semantic Analysis

### 2.1 Information Retrieval process

IR systems aim to satisfy user's information needs, by providing access to large collections of documents. In a search application, the IR process retrieves a set of documents which matches a given query. There are three basic processes which an IR system has to support: to represent the content of the documents, to represent the user's information need, and to compare the two representations, based on a chosen similarity measure (fig. 2.1). Therefore, the first stage of constructing an IR system is to extract information about the documents content, and implement a similarity measure, based on which documents and queries can be compared. Representing the documents is usually called the *indexing process*. The comparison of the query against the document representations based on a chosen measure is called the *matching process*.

### 2.2 Document representation

In order to find documents which are similar to a given query, both documents and query have to be comparable, or have the same representation in the IR system. Various models have been proposed for internal representation of documents and queries. The *Boolean*, *Vector space* and *Probabilistic models* are popular IR models that find wide implementation. The Boolean model represents both documents and queries as a set of terms, and compares them based on boolean functions (*AND*, *OR*, *NOT*, etc.). The probabilistic model uses probabilistic inference for document retrieval [5]. Similarities are computed as probabilities that a document is relevant for a given query. And finally, the Vector Space Model (VSM), introduced first by Salton [6],



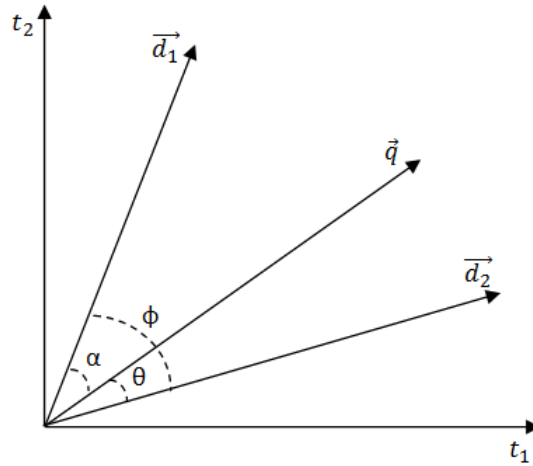
**Figure 2.1:** Information retrieval process, adapted from [4]. The information need of the user is formulated as a query, which is transformed in the chosen model of the IR system. Documents from the collection are also represented according to the chosen model. Based on the implemented similarity measure, matching documents are identified. Finally, the retrieved results are presented to the user. If the user is not satisfied with the search results, the search query can be reformulated during feedback.

represents both documents and queries as vectors in a multidimensional space, whose dimensions are the terms used to build an index to represent the documents (section 2.2.1 provides more details on VSM). Boolean model is easy to implement; however, when querying, users need to be familiar with boolean operators, which is a drawback of this model. Concerning the probabilistic model, prior knowledge is required for its implementation, as it usually includes tuning of independent probabilistic parameters. VSM and the probabilistic model both have the advantage that they rank the relevant results according to a chosen weight function, but the former is easier to implement.

### 2.2.1 Vector Space Model

During indexing (fig. 2.1), documents are presented as data structures in memory. In VSM a document is a vector, whose elements represent properties like term frequencies, or frequency of word occurrence within the document. Before documents can be represented as vectors, they have to be tokenized, or converted from a stream of characters to a stream of words. Thus parsed, words will be used in building an index of the document collection. During tokenization one can apply filtering, i.e.

removing HTML tags or other markup from text, as well as stop-words and punctuation marks removal. Stop words are such words that don't convey information specific to the text corpus, but occur frequently, such as: *a, an, and, any, some, that, this, to*.



**Figure 2.2:** The Vector Space Model. Documents  $\vec{d}_1$  and  $\vec{d}_2$ , and a query vector  $\vec{q}$  are represented in a two-dimensional vector space, formed by terms  $t_1$  and  $t_2$ .

A distinction has to be made between words or terms, and tokens. A term is the class which is used as a unit during parsing, and a token is each occurrence of this class. For example, in the sentence:

*CoreMedia CMS is shipped with an installation program for interactive graphical installation and configuration of the software.*

the term *installation* is represented by two tokens. There is no universal way to parse a text, and the parsing decisions to address depend on the application in which the text collection will be used.

After tokenization, documents are represented as vectors, where each term is a vector in the vector space, and the documents are the sum of the terms, from which they consist. Thus, all document vectors and terms form a multi-dimensional vector space, where terms are the dimensions, and documents - the corresponding sum vectors. A diagram of the vector space is given in fig. 2.2, where two document vectors  $\vec{d}_1$  and  $\vec{d}_2$ , and a query vector  $\vec{q}$  are represented in a two-dimensional space.

### 2.2.2 Weight functions

Vectors in the VSM have as elements the occurrence frequencies of words in documents. However, some documents are shorter than others, therefore one has to apply a normalization function in order to avoid representing words from longer documents as "more important" than words from shorter documents, as they would occur more often. Such normalization functions are called weight functions, and they are applied after the vector space has been constructed.

Weight functions are generally separated into two categories - local and global. They are often implemented as a pair together, because local functions measure the importance of a given word in a single document, while global functions give the importance of a word in the whole document collection. The most commonly used function pair is *term frequency* and *inverse document frequency*.

#### Term frequency - inverse document frequency

The simplest local weight is the term frequency  $tf_{t,d}$ . It assigns a weight to each term equal to the number of occurrences of the term  $t$  in a given document  $d$ . However, not all words carry the same meaning in text (therefore, stop words are removed during preprocessing, as mentioned in 2.2.1). Words that are common to all documents in the collection don't reveal much information, as compared to words which occur only in several documents. The latter are more likely to contain key information about the meaning of these documents. This is reflected by the weight function *inverse document frequency* (eq. 2.1)

$$idf_t = 1 + \log \frac{N}{df_t} \quad (2.1)$$

where  $N$  is the total number of documents in the collection,  $df_t$  is the frequency of occurrence of term  $t$  in the whole collection, and  $t$  is a specific term being weighted. Using  $idf_t$  is a way to scale down the importance of commonly used words in text. When one combines both  $tf$  and  $idf$ , a composite weight is produced for each term in each document. The *tf-idf* weighting function assigns to a term  $t$  in a document  $d$  a weight given by

$$(tf - idf)_{t,d} = tf_{t,d} \times idf_t \quad (2.2)$$

As defined by Manning et al. [7], the weight assigned to term  $t$  in document  $d$  by using a combination of local and global weight function is



1. highest when  $t$  occurs many times within a small number of documents;
2. lower when the term occurs fewer times in a document, or occurs in many documents;
3. lowest when the term occurs in virtually all documents.

### Log - entropy

Another popular pair of weight functions, frequently used in text analysis, is the *log-entropy* pair. The local function *log* takes the logarithm of the raw term frequency, thus normalizing the effect when large differences in term frequencies occur. In eq. 2.3  $L(t, d)$  denotes the log of number of occurrence of a term  $t$  in a document  $d$ .

$$L(t, d) = \log(tf(t, d) + 1) \quad (2.3)$$

The global function *entropy*  $H(t)$  reflects the local relative importance of a term  $t$  in the whole document collection (eq. 2.4)

$$H(t) = 1 + \frac{\sum_j p(t, d)}{\log n} \quad (2.4)$$

where  $n$  is the number of documents in the whole collection. In eq. 2.4,  $p(t, d)$  is defined by:

$$p(t, d) = \frac{tf_{t,d}}{gf_t} \quad (2.5)$$

where  $gf_t$  is the total number of times that term  $t$  occurred in all documents. The entropy measures the distribution of terms over all documents.

### 2.2.3 Similarity measures

Once the vector space has been built, one can find the documents which are most similar to a given query. During *query formulation* (fig. 2.1), the queries are tokenized and represented as vectors, as already described in section 2.2.1. Therefore, the similarities between documents and queries can be measured based on the angles between their respective vectors (in fig. 2.2.1, these are  $\alpha$  and  $\theta$ ). Using the angles between vector representations, one can define a similarity measure which is necessary for the matching process in IR systems. The standard way to computing the

similarity between two documents  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  is to compute the *cosine similarity* of their vector representations  $\vec{d}_1$  and  $\vec{d}_2$  (eq. 2.6).

$$\text{sim}(d_1, d_2) = \frac{\vec{V}(d_1) \cdot \vec{V}(d_2)}{|\vec{V}(d_1)| \cdot |\vec{V}(d_2)|}, \quad (2.6)$$

where the numerator represents the *dot product*<sup>1</sup> of the vectors, while the denominator is the product of their *Euclidean lengths*<sup>2</sup>. The measure from eq. 2.6 is the cosine of the angle  $\phi$  between the two vectors  $\vec{d}_1$  and  $\vec{d}_2$ .

Once we represent a collection of  $N$  documents as a collection of vectors, it is easy to obtain a natural view of the collection as a *term-document matrix*: this is a  $m \times n$  matrix whose rows represent the  $m$  terms in the document collection, and each of whose  $n$  columns corresponds to a document. And this specific matrix grouping all documents and terms from the collection is used in *Latent Semantic Analysis*, a technique which is discussed next.

## 2.3 Latent Semantic Analysis

LSA was first introduced by Dumais et al. [8] and Deerwester et al. [9] as a technique for improving information retrieval. It is based on the Vector Space Model, where as already discussed, words from users' queries are matched with the words in documents. Such IR models that depend on lexical matching have to deal with two problems: *synonymy* and *polysemy*. Due to the many meanings which the same word can have, also called polysemy, irrelevant information is retrieved when searching. And as there are different ways to describe the same concept, or synonymy, important information can be missed. LSA has been proposed to address these fundamental retrieval problems, having as a key idea dimension reduction technique, which maps documents and terms into a lower dimensional semantic space. LSA models the relationships among documents based on their constituent words, and the relationships between words based on their occurrence in documents. By using fewer dimensions than there are unique words, LSA induces similarities among

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<sup>1</sup>The dot product  $\vec{x} \cdot \vec{y}$  of two vectors is defined as  $\sum_{i=1}^M x_i y_i$ .

<sup>2</sup>Let  $\vec{d}$  is the document vector for  $d$ , with  $M$  components  $\vec{d}_1 \dots \vec{d}_M$ . The Euclidean length of  $d$  is defined to be  $\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^M d_i^2}$

words including ones that have never occurred together [10]. The basic steps in using LSA are: document representation (the same as in VSM), Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) with dimensionality reduction, and querying. Next, the theoretical basis for LSA is given, as it has been implemented as a part of this work.

As mentioned above, the first step of LSA implementation is document representation. It is similar to the representation in VSM, therefore refer to section 2.2. After tokenizing all documents in the collection, and computing the corresponding term weights, one has to construct a term-document matrix (eq. 2.7). Having as rows the terms, and as columns the documents, its elements are the occurrences of each term in a particular document, where  $a_{ij}$  denotes the frequency with which term  $i$  occurs in document  $j$ . The size of the matrix is  $\mathbf{m} \times \mathbf{n}$ , where  $\mathbf{m}$  is the number of terms, and  $\mathbf{n}$  is the number of documents in the text collection. Since every term doesn't appear in each document, the matrix is usually sparse.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2.7)$$

Local and global weightings are applied to increase or decrease the importance of terms within documents. After presenting the most popular weight functions in sections 2.2.2, we can write

$$a_{ij} = L(i, j) \times G(i), \quad (2.8)$$

where  $L(i, j)$  is the local weighting of the term  $i$  in document  $j$ , and  $G(i)$  is the global weighting for term  $i$ . As examples of local functions, the term frequency  $tf$  and  $log$  were discussed, while  $idf$  and entropy were the examples for global weightings. The choice of weight function impacts LSA performance. In section 2.6 reasons are given for the specific implementation decisions made in this work concerning LSA.

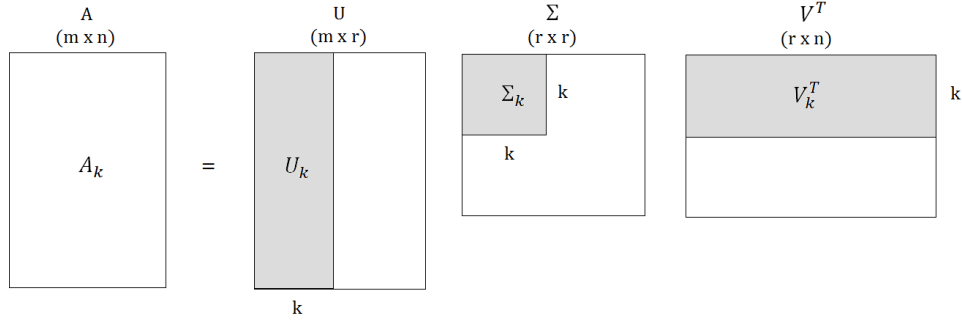
## 2.4 Singular Value Decomposition

After its generation, the term-document matrix is decomposed into three matrices (eq. 2.9) by applying SVD. It is a unique decomposition of a matrix into the product of three matrices -  $U$ ,  $V$  and  $\Sigma$ , where  $U$  and  $V$

are orthonormal matrices<sup>3</sup>, and  $\Sigma$  is a diagonal matrix<sup>4</sup> having singular values<sup>5</sup> on its diagonal.

$$A = U\Sigma V^T \quad (2.9)$$

After the initial matrix  $A$  is decomposed, all but the highest  $k$  values of its product diagonal matrix  $\Sigma$  are set to 0. When  $A$  is recomputed again following eq. 2.9, the resulting matrix  $A_k$  represents the semantic space of the text collection. A classical visual example can be used to presenting SVD (as given in [8]) into three product matrices. It can be seen here how the dimensionality reduction of matrix  $\Sigma$  affects all three product matrices.



**Figure 2.3:** Diagram of truncated SVD

$A_k$ - best rank- $k$ approximation of $A$	$m$ - number of terms
$U$ - term vectors	$n$ - number of documents
$\Sigma$ - singular values	$k$ - number of factors
$V^T$ - document vectors	$r$ - rank of $A$

In fig. 2.3,  $U$  and  $V$  contain the term and document vectors respectively, and  $\Sigma$  is constructed by the singular values of  $A$ . An important property of SVD is that the singular values placed on the diagonal of  $\Sigma$  are in decreasing order. Hence, if all but the first  $k$  singular values are set

<sup>3</sup>An orthonormal matrix is a matrix, whose columns, treated as vectors, are also orthonormal. A matrix is orthonormal, if its transpose is equal to its inverse. For more information on matrices and matrix operations, refer to [11]

<sup>4</sup>A diagonal matrix is a square matrix, in which the entries outside the main diagonal are all 0.

<sup>5</sup>For a square matrix  $A$ , the square roots of the eigenvalues of  $A^T A$ , where  $A^T$  is the conjugate transpose, are called *singular values*. Given a matrix  $A$ , a non-zero vector  $x$  is defined to be an *eigenvector* of the matrix, if it satisfies the *eigenvalue equation*:  $Ax = \lambda x$  for some scalar  $\lambda$ . The scalar  $\lambda$  is called an *eigenvalue* of  $A$  corresponding to the eigenvector  $x$ . [11]

to 0, the semantic meaning in the resulting space is preserved to some approximation  $k$ , while noise or variability in word usage, is filtered out. Noise in this case are the terms with lowest weights which carry little meaning. By using fewer dimensions  $k$ , LSA induces similarities among terms including ones that have never occurred together. Terms which occur in similar documents, for example, will be near each other in the  $k$ -dimensional vector space even if they never co-occur in the same document. This means that some documents that do not have any common words with a given query may be near it in resulting  $k$ -space.

A factor to be considered when computing SVD is the run-time complexity of the algorithm. For decomposition of very large matrices, it is  $O(n^2k^3)$ , where  $n$  is the number of terms in the text corpus, and  $k$  is the number of dimensions in semantic space after dimensionality reduction. Note that  $k$  is typically a small number between 50 and 350.

A more detailed description of SVD can be found in [12] and [11].

## 2.5 Querying the semantic space

In this work LSA is used for IR purpose. Therefore, the final step of applying the technique is to pose queries on the constructed semantic space. A query  $q$  is a set of words which must be represented as a document in the  $k$ -dimensional space, in order to be compared to other documents. The user's query can be represented by using eq. 2.10:

$$q = q^T U_k \Sigma_k^{-1} \quad (2.10)$$

where  $q$  is the set of words in the query, multiplied by the reduced term and singular values matrices. Using the transformation in eq. (2.10), the query is "mapped" onto the reduced  $k$ -space. After the mapping, the resulting query vector can be compared to the documents in the  $k$ -space, and the results ranked by their similarity or nearness to the query. A common similarity measure used to compute similarity between the query and the document vectors is the cosine (eq. 2.6). From the resulting document set, the documents closest to the query above certain threshold are returned as search results.

## 2.6 Factors which influence LSA performance

The effective usage of LSA is a process of sophisticated tuning. Several factors can influence the performance of the technique. These factors are pre-processing of texts (removal of stop-words, filtering, stemming), frequency matrix transformations, choice of dimensionality  $k$ , choice of similarity measure. Dumais et al. [13] and Nakov et al. [14] have carried out research on LSA performance depending on the choice of the above mentioned factors. They conclude that LSA performance depends on the particular text corpus, as well as on the purpose of LSA application. However, in the case of matrix transform, log-entropy (section 2.2.2) performs better as compared to other matrix transform function combinations, including the popular term frequency - inverse document frequency ( $tf - idf$ ) (section 2.2.2). Therefore, the former is implemented in this work. It has been further stated ([13],[15]) that with respect to similarity measures used, LSA performs optimal when cosine similarity measure is implemented to calculate the distance between vectors in the semantic space (eq. 2.6). It is therefore used in this work to measure the relevance between queries and documents. And finally, the dimensionality reduction parameter  $k$  is defined empirically based on the experimentation results presented in Chapter 5.

# Chapter 3

## Cluster labeling

A major problem in text analysis is to determine the topics in a text collection and identify the most important or significant relationships between them. Clustering and visualization (e.g. in the form of tag clouds) are key analysis methods in order to address this problem. In this chapter, an algorithm for cluster labeling, which is relatively new, is discussed, and in Chapter 4 tag clouds are introduced as a visualization mean used in IR systems.

### 3.1 Clustering

*Clustering* is an IR method that groups objects (documents) together based on their similarities in so called clusters. Such methods are often applied in the post processing phase of IR (fig. 1.1) for the visualization of retrieved results. For example, similar search results can be grouped together during presentation of results in search engines.

Clustering can be used to categorize resources. *Document categorization* is the process of assigning a document to one or more categories. A categorization  $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k\}$  partitions a document collection  $D$  into subsets  $c \subseteq D$ , so that  $\cup_{i=1}^k c_i = D$ .  $C$  is an exclusive categorization if  $c_i \cap c_j = \emptyset$ ,  $c_i, c_j \in C$ , and non-exclusive categorization otherwise. Clustering is an *unsupervised categorization method*, as it organizes documents into clusters without having prior knowledge about the clusters, or predefined cluster categories.

Presenting search results in groups, or categories, should help users gain a quick overview of the retrieved documents. An important part of clustering used for visualization of results, is to choose suitable labels of the categories defined, so that they are usable to human users. The process

of *cluster labeling* automatically creates labels for clustered groups of objects.

### 3.1.1 Clustering algorithms

A large variety of clustering algorithms exists, and they are usually classified according to the characteristic of their output structure. Jain et al. [16] make a classification based on the following properties:

#### Flat vs. hierarchical clustering

*Flat clustering* creates a flat set of clusters without relations between clusters due to some structure. K-means is a popular clustering algorithm, which creates as output a flat structure of document clusters. The k-means clustering algorithm is presented as an example for flat clustering in section 3.1.2. *Hierarchical clustering* on the other hand creates a hierarchy of clusters, with parents and children nodes, in a tree-like manner (Johnson [17]).

#### Hard vs. soft clustering

Another important distinction can be made between *hard* and *soft* (also called fuzzy) clustering algorithms. If each document is assigned to a single cluster only, we have hard clustering. Otherwise, clustering is soft, and it assigns a document as a distribution over all clusters. This means that each document can have a fractional membership in several clusters. LSA (Chapter 2) is a good example for a soft clustering algorithm. K-means is a popular example for hard clustering (section 3.1.2).

#### Monothetic vs. polythetic clustering

Based on how documents are assigned to different clusters, clustering can be divided into *monothetic* and *polythetic* [18]. Monothetic algorithms assign a document to a cluster based on a single feature, while polythetic algorithms classify documents by overall degree of similarity/difference calculated over many properties. This makes monothetic clustering well suited for generating hierarchies and browsing search results, since a single feature, common to all documents in the cluster, describe each cluster. Users understand easily clusters generated in this way. K-means is an example of polythetic document clustering algorithm, where each cluster is described by several words or phrases.



### 3.1.2 K-means clustering algorithm

In this work the cluster labeling algorithm Weighted Centroid Covering is evaluated. As clustering precedes cluster labeling, the k-means algorithm is used for document clustering. Two factors influence this implementation decision:

- As LSA is used to process the term-document matrix, it can be investigated which dimensionality reduction parameter  $k$  is optimal for the specific implementation in this work, so that the optimal number of topics (or soft clusters) can be obtained for the evaluation data set. Therefore, the dimensionality reduction parameter, previously defined in LSA, can be used as initial parameter for k-means, or the number of clusters inputted to the algorithm. Thus, one of k-means' weaknesses will not affect this work.
- Another reason to use k-means algorithm is its simplicity, as compared for example to Hierarchical Agglomerative Clustering (HAC) - the complexity of k-means is linear, while the complexity of HAC is exponential.

*K-means* is an example for a flat, hard and polythetic clustering algorithm, based on the classification mentioned previously. It was first introduced by Lloyd [19]. The algorithm outputs a flat unstructured set of clusters. It starts by dividing the document collection into  $k$  clusters, where  $k$  is an input parameter, and then computes the  $k$  means of these clusters. K-means defines a cluster in terms of a *centroid*, usually the *mean of a group of points*, and is applied to objects (documents) in  $n$ -dimensional space (such as vector space). After the initialization, the following two steps are iteratively repeated, until the clusters are not re-assigned any more:

1. Each document in the collection is assigned to the cluster with the closest mean.
2. For each cluster, new means are recomputed based on the documents it contains.

In algorithm 3.1a detailed step-by-step description of the k-means algorithm is given as pseudo-code.

**TODO:** Give + and - of this method.

---

**Algorithm 3.1** K-means clustering algorithm

---

**Input:**  $D = \{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n\}$  - documents to be clustered  
 $k$  - number of clusters  
**Output:**  $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k\}$  - clusters  
 $m : D \rightarrow \{1..k\}$  - cluster membership  
Set  $C$  to initial value (e.g. select  $k$  random points as initial centroids)  
{Form  $k$  clusters by assigning each document to its closest centroid}  
**for all**  $d_i \in D$  **do**  
     $m(d_i) = \text{mindistance}_{j \in \{1..n\}}(d_i, c_j)$   
**end for**  
{Recompute the centroid of each cluster until centroids do not change}  
**while**  $m$  has changed **do**  
    **for all**  $i \in \{1..n\}$  **do**  
        Recompute  $c_i$  as the centroid of  $\{d | m(d) = i\}$   
    **end for**  
    **for all**  $d_i \in D$  **do**  
         $m(d_i) = \text{mindistance}_{j \in \{1..n\}}(d_i, c_j)$   
    **end for**  
**end while**

---

## 3.2 Cluster labeling

Assume that a categorization over a document collection is determined using an unsupervised approach, such as clustering. To present this categorization to users, it is convenient to label the individual categories with characteristic terms. These terms, called *category labels*, should characterize the content of the associated category with respect to the remaining categories. This implies that cluster labeling should *summarize* a category's content and that it should *discriminate* a category from the remaining categories. This section states desired properties for category labels and presents the Weighted Centroid Covering algorithm (Stein and Meyer zu Eissen [2]) which generates such labels. It further makes a proposition for improvement of WCC (section 3.2.3). Finally, in Chapter 5 an evaluation of WCC for labeling document clusters is offered, created using k-means algorithm.

### 3.2.1 Clustering and labeling

In their paper from 2009 [20], Carpineto et al. claimed that there is a difference between clustering of data sets, and clustering of search results, returned from search engines: *"in search results clustering description*

*comes first*". Thus, in contrast to the classical categorization of clustering algorithms previously outlined, they proposed a classification based on how well the clustering algorithms can generate sensible, comprehensive and compact cluster labels, and divided the algorithms in the following three categories:

### **Data-centric algorithms**

Data-centric algorithms were the first ones to be implemented for cluster labeling. Here, clustering is done with some general clustering algorithm, and terms which are close to the cluster centroids are nominated as cluster labels. Cluster centroids are a collection of independent terms from all documents not related to each other. In order to define the terms from cluster centroid, one uses a frequency measure, such as  $tf - idf$  (eq. 2.2). WCC (see 3.2.3) is presented as an example for a data-centric clustering algorithm.

### **Description-aware algorithms**

While data-centric algorithms don't consider word order, and process documents as "a bag of words", description-aware algorithms process ordered sequence of words (phrases), instead of terms, as candidate labels, and assign labels during clustering process, not after it. Using monothetic term selection, one nominates frequent phrases containing a noun head as labels, which are interpretable to human users. Clustering and labeling are closely related, and labeling influences the clustering process. Therefore, it is not possible to combine the labeling with any clustering algorithm. Suffix Tree Clustering (STC) is an example of a description-aware algorithm, introduced by Zamir and Etzioni [21]. STC builds a tree from the most frequent phrases in documents by using the data structure *suffix tree* [21]. It group documents that have common phrases under the same nodes of the tree. Thus, all documents below a given node contain the phrase at the node.

### **Description-centric algorithms**

These algorithms operate on the principle "*description comes first*", and in this sense are the opposite of the data-centric algorithms. The goal here is to find meaningful cluster labels. If there are no suitable labels found, the cluster has no value for the users (doesn't have a proper visualization), and is therefore discarded. Description-centric algorithms are mainly applied for clustering of search results (more information can be found in [20]).

### 3.2.2 Formal framework for cluster labeling algorithms

When an unsupervised approach is used to categorize a collection of documents, such as clustering, it is also necessary to label the categories defined, in order to present them to users. The category labels should characterize the given categories - labels should summarize category content, and should discriminate a category from other categories [2]. Until now, no uniformly agreed upon formal framework exists that defines the requirements for cluster labeling algorithms. There are publications which name desired properties for cluster labels ([22], [23]), but they all give informal descriptions. Stein and Meyer Zu Eissen [2] have given their definitions for desired properties of cluster labeling algorithms as a formal framework. The definition presented below is based on this source.

If we have an unstructured collection of documents  $D$ , a clustering algorithm creates a categorization for this collection in the form  $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_k\}$ , where the sets  $c_i$  are subsets of  $D$ , and their union covers  $D$ :  $\cup_{c_i \in C} c_i = D$ . When applying a hierarchical clustering algorithm, this implies a cluster labeling hierarchy  $H_C$  over  $C$ . Then,  $H_C$  is a tree and its nodes are the categories in  $C$ , having one node as a root. Let  $c_i, c_j \in C, c_i \neq c_j$  are two categories. If  $c_j$  is a child cluster of  $c_i$ , then  $c_i$  is closer to the root of the hierarchy  $H_C$ , and we write  $c_i \succ c_j$ .

For an existing categorization  $C$ , we therefore need a cluster labeling  $L = \{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k\}$ .

Let  $T = \cup_{d \in D} T_d$  be the term set in the given document collection  $D$ . As defined by Stein and Meyer zu Eissen [2], a cluster labeling function  $\tau : C \rightarrow L$  assigns a cluster label to each cluster  $c \in C$ , where  $L_c \subset T$ .

Thus, the following properties are desired for a cluster labeling function:

1. **Unique**

Cluster labels should be unique. The same terms should not be assigned as cluster labels to more than one cluster, or no two labels should include the same terms from two different clusters.

$$\forall_{\substack{c_i, c_j \in C, \\ c_i \neq c_j}} : \tau(C_i) \cap \tau(C_j) = \emptyset \quad (3.1)$$

2. **Summarizing**

If possible, the label of a cluster  $c$  should contain at least one term

$t$  from each document  $d \in c$ . Terms occurring in all documents, which are part of the cluster, represent it better than terms that occur only in few documents.

$$\forall_{c \in C}, \forall_{d \in c} : \tau c \cap T_d \neq \emptyset \quad (3.2)$$

where  $T_d$  is the set of terms in document  $d$ .

### 3. Discriminating

Apart from summarizing, terms in labels should be discriminating. They should contribute to discriminate the cluster from other clusters, i.e. the same terms should be present in a considerably smaller set of documents in the other clusters. In cluster label  $c$  exists a term  $t$  whose frequency of occurrence is relatively higher in the documents of the cluster as compared to other clusters.

$$\forall_{c_i, c_j \in C} \exists_{t \in T_{c_i}} : \frac{tf_{c_i}(t)}{|c_i|} \ll \frac{tf_{c_j}(t)}{|c_j|} \quad (3.3)$$

Here,  $T_{c_i}$  is the term set in category  $c_i$ , and  $tf_{c_i}(t)$  is the term frequency of term  $t$  in category  $c_i$ , or the sum of  $tf(t)$  in all documents in cluster  $c_i$  :  $tf_{c_i}(t) = \sum_{d \in c_i} tf_d(t)$ .

### 4. Expressive

Terms forming a label of cluster  $c$  should have highest frequency of occurrence in the documents from  $c$ :

$$\forall_{c \in C} \forall_{d \in c} \forall_{t \in T_d} : tf_d(t) \leq tf_d(t'), t' \in \tau(c) \quad (3.4)$$

Here,  $tf_d(t)$  is the term frequency of occurrence of term  $t$  in document  $d$ .

### 5. Contiguous

This property holds for consecutive terms, for example belonging to a phrase. Such cluster labels, containing consecutive terms, are more understandable to human users.

$$\forall_{c \in C} \forall_{t, t' \in \tau(c)} \forall_{d \in c} \exists_{t_i, t_{i+1} \in T_d} : t_i = t \wedge t_{i+1} = t' \quad (3.5)$$

### 6. Hierarchically consistent

$$\forall_{c_i, c_j \in C} : c_i \succ c_j \Rightarrow P(t_i | t_j) = 1 \wedge P(t_j | t_i) < 1, \quad (3.6)$$

where  $t_i \in \tau(c_i)$  and  $t_j \in \tau(c_j)$ . This property is required only when using a hierarchical clustering algorithm (e.g. STC [21]).

### 7. Irredundant

Irredundancy complements the property *unique*. Terms which are synonyms should be avoided in cluster labels.

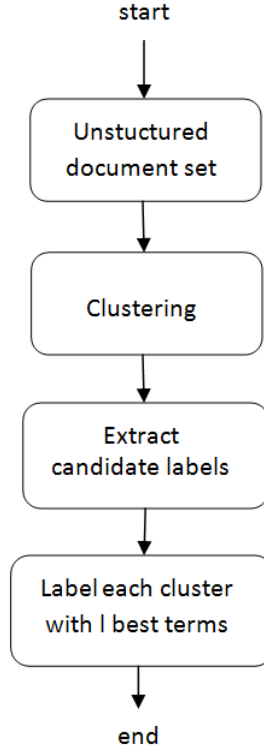
$$\forall_{c \in C}, \forall_{\substack{t, t' \in \tau_c, \\ t \neq t'}} : t \text{ and } t' \text{ are not synonyms} \quad (3.7)$$

The properties stated above describe ideal conditions and can only be approximated in the real world. One needs external knowledge (e.g. an ontology), in order to fulfill properties *hierarchical consistency* and *irredundancy*.

### 3.2.3 Weighted Centroid Covering

Weighted Centroid Covering was introduced by Stein and Meyer zu Eissen [2]. It is a data-centric algorithm for cluster labeling, in which labels are generated from sets of frequently occurring terms.

If  $D$  are all documents in a collection, which contains a set of terms  $T$ , and  $t \in T$  is a term from  $T$ , and  $C = \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{|C|}\}$  is a categorization over the set  $D$ , then we can define a function  $\kappa$  as follows: let  $\kappa : T \times \{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{|C|}\} \rightarrow C$  is a function with  $\kappa(t, i) = c$  iff  $c$  is the cluster with  $i$ th frequent occurrence of term  $t$  [2]. As an example, if  $t$  occurs most frequently in a give cluster, we can write  $\kappa(t, 1)$ , and if it occurs least frequently, we write  $\kappa(t, |C|)$ .



**Figure 3.1:** Cluster labeling using Weighted Centroid Covering algorithm

WCC algorithm consists of three stages. As input to the algorithm, a clustering  $C$  is given:

1. For all terms in the input clusters, it saves the  $k$  most frequent occurrences of each word with its term frequency, and the cluster in which it occurs, to a data structure (say a vector  $\mathbf{L}$ ).
2. It sorts vector  $\mathbf{L}$  which stores tuples  $(k, tf(term), term, cluster)$  in a descending order, based on the frequency of a term in a given cluster  $tf_c(t)$ ;
3. It assigns  $l$  number of terms to each cluster as labels. Therefore, in the end each cluster has a label of  $l$  terms, assigned to it in a Round-Robin-like manner.

The complexity of WCC is  $O(|T \log(|T|)|)$ . A pseudo code of the algorithm is given as algorithm 3.2. Additionally, the main steps of WCC can be seen graphically in fig. 3.1.

---

**Algorithm 3.2** Weighted Centroid Covering algorithm for cluster labeling

---

**Input:**  $C$  - clustering  
 $l$  - number of terms per label  
 $k$  - maximum occurrence of the same term in different labels

**Output:**  $\tau$  - labeling function

```

 $L = 0$ 
foreach  $c$  in  $C$  do
   $\tau(c) = 0$ ;
end foreach
foreach  $t$  in  $T$  do
  for  $i = 1$  to  $k$  do
    compute  $c = \kappa(t, i)$  from  $C$ ;
    add tuple  $\langle t, tf_c(t) \rangle$  to  $L$ ;
  end for
end foreach
sort  $L$  according to descending term frequencies;
for  $labelcount = 1$  to  $l$  do
   $assigned = 0$ ;
   $j = 1$ ;
  while  $assigned < |C|$  and  $j \leq |L|$  do
    let  $t_j = \langle t, tf_c(t) \rangle$  be  $j^{th}$  tuple of  $L$ ;
    if  $|\tau(c)| < labelcount$  then
       $\tau(c) = \tau(c) \cup \{t\}$ ;
      delete  $t_j$  from  $L$ ;
       $assigned = assigned + 1$ ;
    end if
     $j = j + 1$ ;
  end while
end for
foreach  $c$  in  $C$  do
  do sort  $\tau(c)$ 
end foreach
return  $\tau$ ;

```

---



### 3.3 Cluster labeling using external knowledge

WCC was previously presented as an algorithm for cluster labeling. It nominates cluster labels by selecting as candidate labels the terms with highest frequency of occurrence from the corresponding clusters. In order to improve labeling for users, noun phrases may be considered to be used for labels, as they are intuitively understood by humans, and are more descriptive than single terms. In order to improve labeling, an ontology is used as an external knowledge for the cluster labeling algorithm, and candidate labels are nominated from both the ontology and the terms, which occur most frequently in clusters. Thus, if the ontology fails to provide suitable labels, the label candidates proposed by WCC are used.

In order to present the approach, first a short overview on ontologies is given. In order to gain more detailed insight, refer to the given reference literature, as it is not the topic of this work to investigate into semantic knowledge and ontologies.

#### 3.3.1 Ontology as a source of external knowledge

Formal models of the world can be used to provide formal semantics, or machine-interpretable meaning to information, stored as documents, web pages, databases. When models are intended to represent a shared conceptualization, such as classification, they are called ontologies [24]. Or if the classical definition from Gruber [25] is used: Ontologies are specifications of the conceptualizations at a semantic level.

Formal ontologies are represented in logical formalism which allows for indexing, querying, and reference purposes over non-ontological datasets, such as documents, databases [23]. An example for a logical formalism is the ontology language Web Ontology Language (OWL)<sup>1</sup>.

An ontology is characterized by the following tuple (ordered list):

$$O = \langle C, R, I, A \rangle \quad (3.8)$$

In the equation above  $C$  is a set of classes which represent the concepts from a given domain. Examples for concepts can be databases, resources, repositories.  $R$  is a set of relations, also called properties or predicates. These relations are valid between instances of the classes from  $C$ . As an

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.w3.org/TR/owl-features/>, accessed December, 2010

example: Resource *isStoredIn* Repository. *I* is a set of instances, having as elements instances to one or more classes, which can also be linked to other instances or values. For example: *manual2* *isStoredIn* *onlineRepository1*. And finally, *A* is a set of axioms, or rules, such as for example (TODO: give a meaningful example for an axiom).

According to the formal language used for their creation, ontologies can be divided into *lightweight* and *heavyweight*. Heavyweight ontologies possess highly predictive and restrictive concept definitions; as compared to them, lightweight ontologies allow for more efficient and scalable reasoning [23]. Based on the conceptualization that they describe, the ontologies can be divided further into *upper-level*, which model general knowledge and *domain* ontologies, specific to a certain domain (e.g. the domain of CoreMedia Content Management System (CMS)).

### 3.3.2 TODO: Weighted Centroid Covering augmented by an ontology

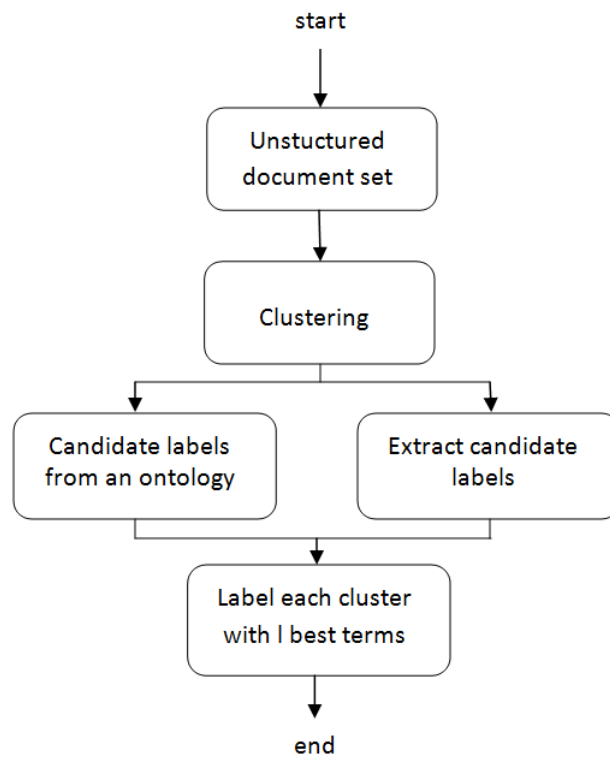
Stein and Meyer zu Eissen [2] point out that this WCC could be extended to use existing ontologies and labels, but they provide no experimental results of any kind.

Cluster labeling by using WCC has certain limitations. It has been suggested ([2]) to use external knowledge during cluster labeling generation, such as an ontology. Other sources ([26]) propose using Wikipedia in order to collect candidate labels for the clusters previously created.

- a collection of cluster label candidates can be prepared a priori (an ontology) and reused with no additional computational cost.
- candidate labels can come from a different source - a predefined ontology (to guarantee they are comprehensible). Thus, cluster label comprehensibility and cluster descriptions can be improved by using data extracted from a predefined ontology

It is proposed to use external knowledge during the phase extraction of candidate labels (fig. 3.2).

candidate labels are extracted from an ontology in addition to the important terms that are extracted directly from the cluster content. Thus, selected ontological categories "compete" with inner terms for serving as the cluster labels. In general, prepared ontological categories are a successful resource for labeling; however, inner terms should be considered



**Figure 3.2:** Cluster labeling using Weighted Centroid Covering algorithm, augmented by an ontology

for the cases when the ontology fails to cover the cluster content.

Due to time constraints, no experimental results can be provided on running WCC with external knowledge. This remains for further work.

# Chapter 4

## Tag Clouds

*Tagging* is the activity of associating one or more key words or phrases to a resource. A tag is a label or a note that makes it easier for users to find documents, web-pages, videos, images or other resources. Tag clouds are generated from a collection of tags, and one of their first uses was for annotating pictures, as a part of Flickr<sup>1</sup> website in 2004 [27]. Tags created by different users form a folksonomy, which is a flat user-generated classification of a collection of resources. Folksonomies are part of *Web 2.0*, the collection of tools for retrieval, deployment, representation and production of information. In Web 2.0 it is no longer organizations, web designers or authors who generate content - every user can do so. The heavy growth of user-generated content, a part of the so called *information flood*, increases the demand for suitable methods and facilities for the storage and retrieval of said content. In order to meet those demands, collaborative information services have been developed, like social bookmarking, photo sharing and video sharing, where users index their own information resources with own customized tags. This indirect cooperation of users creates a folksonomy for each collaborative information services comprised of each individuals user's tags. Using this folksonomy, all users may then access the resources of the information service in question.

Several concepts are defined below, which are used in this chapter:

*Folksonomies* are flat, user-generated classifications of resources [27].

*Collaborative tagging* systems, also called *social bookmarking systems*, are used to organize, browse and share personal collections of resources by introducing simple meta data about these resources (fig. 4.2).

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.flickr.com/>, accessed December, 2010

*Tag clouds* are visual interfaces for IR. They provide a global contextual view of tags assigned to resources in the system (fig. 4.1).

art australia baby beach birthday blue bw california canada canon cat chicago  
china christmas city dog england europe family festival flower flowers food  
france friends fun germany holiday india italy japan london me mexico  
music nature new newyork night nikon nyc paris park party people  
portrait sanfrancisco sky snow spain summer sunset taiwan tokyo travel trip uk usa  
vacation water wedding

## 4.1 Introduction

- Tag clouds generated over partial lists, such as search results. The size of tags depends on the frequency of occurrence of the corresponding terms, measure for example using  $tf-idf$  measure (section 2.2.2).
- *Collaborative tag clouds*, where tag frequencies (and size) are generated over all documents in the set  $D$ . Collaborative tag clouds

present the main concepts in the collection, where the size of tags is defined by some measure, such as frequency of occurrence.

- *Categorical tag clouds*, where the size of tags reflects the size of corresponding category.

Tag clouds can be further divided into *manual* and *automatic*, depending on the way they are generated. Manual tags are created in social bookmarking applications by users, while automatic tag clouds are generated based on a collection of textual resources, and a frequency measure. Clouds enhance the visualization of information, contained in a collection of resources. According to Smith [28] and Peters [27] tagging has the following main application areas:

- *Information retrieval*, e.g. in the online services Last.fm<sup>2</sup> or Engineering village<sup>3</sup>, where tag clouds enhance IR, and are used to retrieve resources. Here are also included tag clouds used in e-commerce services, such as Amazon<sup>4</sup>.
- *Online libraries* use tag clouds to present book content in the form of main concepts, for example in Library Thing<sup>5</sup>, or to save bookmarks to electronic books, as in . And these are just two examples out of many more.
- *Social bookmarking*. Delicious<sup>6</sup> offers tagging for sharing bookmarks to online resources, and the infamous Facebook<sup>7</sup> uses tagging for sharing photos, videos or music.
- As a part of *games with a purpose*, or *GWAP*<sup>8</sup>, where tagging is used for improving computer programs, such as programs performing image recognition tasks, for tagging audio or image files.

As tags and tag clouds are heavily used in collaborative tagging, an example for tag cloud use is given in the context of social bookmarking

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.lastfm.de/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>3</sup><http://www.engineeringvillage.org/>, accessed December, 2010

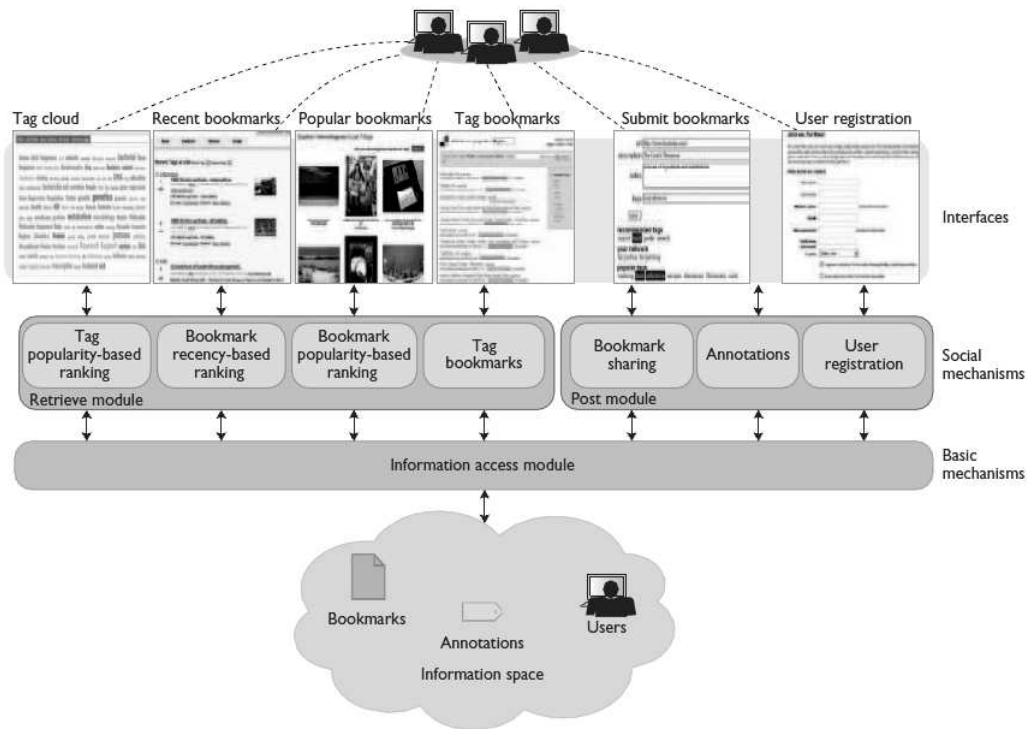
<sup>4</sup><http://www.amazon.com/gp/tagging/cloud/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>5</sup><http://www.librarything.com/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>6</sup><http://www.delicious.com/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>7</sup><http://www.facebook.com/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>8</sup><http://www.gwap.com/>, accessed December, 2010



**Figure 4.2:** Tag clouds in applications for collaborative information services. Source: Heymann, Koutrika, Garcia-Molina(2007, [29])

software (fig. 4.2). In this application users have the roles of both content creators and content consumers. As consumers, they can use tag clouds for retrieval of resources, and visualization. In fig. 4.2, the tag cloud contains the most commonly occurring tags in the system, and tag bookmarks contain for a given tag  $t$ , a list of the most recently posted URLs annotated with  $t$ .

The extensive amount of people involved in the process of resource tagging can overcome to some extent the flood of information, generated on a daily basis by users. With respect to social bookmarking, Clay Shirky<sup>9</sup>, a professor at New York University, says: *"The only group that can categorize everything is everybody."* However, social tagging has certain drawbacks. There is criticism about the quality of tagging, as it is usually done by laymen, and privacy issues arise, concerning the content tagged by users [27].

<sup>9</sup>[http://shirky.com/writings/ontology\\_overrated.html](http://shirky.com/writings/ontology_overrated.html), accessed December, 2010



## 4.2 Tag clouds generation

Tag clouds are generated from a collection of tags, and corresponding weights associated with them, which measure the "importance" or define the tag size in the cloud. The implementation usually includes a preprocessing phase, as already discussed in section 2.2, such as text parsing, filtering out of stop words, numbers, punctuation. As tag size is defined by frequency of occurrence, for small frequencies size is normalized to one. For larger values, a normalization is applied. In a linear normalization, the weight  $t_i$  of a tag is mapped to a size scale of 1 through  $f$ , where  $t_{min}$  and  $t_{max}$  are specifying the range of available weights. Thus, the displayed font size of a tag  $t_i$  is defined by:

$$f_i = \lceil \frac{f_{max} \cdot (t_i - t_{min})}{(t_{max} - t_{min})} \rceil \text{ for } t_i > t_{min}; \text{ else } f_i = 1 \quad (4.1)$$

where  $f_i$  is the displayed font-size,  $f_{max}$  is the maximum font-size,  $t_i$  is the count of tag  $t$ , and  $t_{min}$ ,  $t_{max}$  are limits for minimum and maximum count that a term  $t$  can have.

**TODO:** think over.

### 4.2.1 Tag cloud layout

The traditional tag cloud layout is alphabetical. Tag clouds provide an aggregate of tag-usage statistics. They are typically sent as in-line HTML to browsers. Since the font size of a displayed tag is usually used to show the relative importance or frequency of the tag, a typical tag cloud contains large and small text interspersed. The following kinds of layout are common:

- Sequential layout, with either a horizontal or vertical arrangement of tags, sorted alphabetically or by some other criteria (e.g., popularity, chronology, etc.).
- Circular layout, with the most popular tags in the center and tags with decreasing popularities towards the borders (or vice versa).
- Clustered layout, in which the distance between tags follows a certain clustering criteria (e.g., semantic relatedness) and related tags are positioned in close proximity [3, 6].

### 4.3 Existing implementations

In this work, a semantic space is constructed over a set of documents using LSA (Chapter 2), and a tag cloud is used to visualize the main concepts in search results, retrieved from this space. Similar implementations of tag clouds exist, used to enhance IR tasks. Examples of such applications are given below.

**Yippy**<sup>10</sup> is a tool that visualizes topics based on search queries as a tag cloud, previously known as Clusty. Created by Vivisimo<sup>11</sup>, it offers classification of search results.

Google<sup>12</sup> has developed their **Wonder wheel** search visualization tool, in order to display search results as a categorical tag cloud. The tags in Google's Wonder wheel represent categories in the set of search result documents.

**Opinion Crawl**<sup>13</sup> - web sentiment analysis application. It generates a concept cloud from daily scanned blogs, web site articles, and is developed at Semantic Engines LLC.

**SenseBot Search Results** is another tool from Semantic Engines LLC. It is a plugin for Mozilla Firefox browser that generates a tag cloud of the main concepts returned as search results from Google, included as a part of the SenseBot semantic search engine<sup>14</sup>.

These are just a few examples of tag cloud usage presented here, as they are similar to the implementation purpose of the tag cloud developed in this work.

### 4.4 Conclusion

In this chapter tag clouds were presented as visualization interfaces for enhancing IR services, and discussed the use of tag clouds in the context of social bookmarking applications, and commercial retrieval systems. In the next chapter, the tag cloud implementation is given, which was

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<sup>10</sup><http://cloud.yippy.com/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>11</sup><http://vivisimo.com/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>12</sup><http://www.google.com/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>13</sup><http://www.opinioncrawl.com/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>14</sup><http://www.sensebot.net/>, accessed December, 2010

developed as a part this work, and its function as a part of an IR process is explained.

# Chapter 5

## Implementation and evaluation

### 5.1 LSA implementation

LSA was applied to a collection of 11818 words in 4000 documents, all of which describe CoreMedia CMS 5.2. The algorithm took 63552 ms for preprocessing and indexing of the whole document collection.

For the implementation of LSA this work uses the open LSA library which is part of Semantic Spaces Project[30]. It is developed at the Natural Language Processing Group at the University of California at Berkley (UCLA)<sup>1</sup>.

The real difficulty of LSA is to find out how many dimensions to remove - the problem of dimensionality.

TODO:test if including only terms that occur in more than one document improved LSA performance with respect to generating precise tag clouds.

#### 5.1.1 Data set

It is a challenge by itself to come up with a sensible evaluation set for an IR implementation. ... Define here precision, recall, measures , how to measure LSA performance with diff. k, clusters, cluster labelling.

---

<sup>1</sup><http://code.google.com/p/airhead-research/>, accessed December, 2010

The document collection consists of guides and manuals about CoreMedia CMS 5.2.

This work has been carried out using documents from the domain of CoreMedia CMS 5.2 as an evaluation set, developed at CoreMedia AG, Hamburg.

### 5.1.2 Data preprocessing

**TODO:** give a link to Unified API manual online in DocMachine.

Stop words and punctuation are removed. The data model used in DocMachine stores the documents as XML files, and CoreMedia CMS Unified API<sup>2</sup> is used to strip the markup, in order to access the plain text. As

## 5.2 Cluster labeling

The experiments in this study conducted several objective measures to validate the performance of the described algorithm WCC.

Evaluating the quality of cluster labeling is a non-trivial task and the most suitable evaluation is judged by user's experiences.

The algorithm was implemented in Java on a 64-bit Windows 7 Ultimate workstation with an Intel Core 2 Duo P8600 @ 2,40 GHz using 4.00 GB RAM.

### 5.2.1 Document set

In order to test a cluster labeling algorithm, we need a test data set containing predefined categories. WCC is tested using the evaluation data set with three predefined categories selected from the whole collection used for evaluation of LSA implementation.

The document set used for evaluation consists of 3 categories, and 15 documents - each category has 5 documents, and the documents have different length. Table 5.2 gives an overview of the constructed data

Document set overview		
Category Id	Category	Document #
1	session, connection	5
2	server	5
3	publication, workflow	5

**Table 5.1:** Overview of the constructed document set

sets. The document preprocessing involves parsing and stop word removal according to standard stop word lists.

### Data preprocessing

The evaluation document set needs to be preprocessed before it can be used in the experiments. Analogous to the preprocessing used for the whole data set, punctuation and stop-words were removed. Terms in texts were not stemmed, as they are used as cluster labels, and stemming the terms would lead to worse user experience.

## 5.3 Measures for evaluation

Evaluation in IR is based on measures. We outline several measures used with commonly used in IR systems to measure performance.

Evaluation of IR systems:

- A document collection
- A test suite of information needs, or queries
- A set of relevance judgements, binary assessment: relevant or non-relevant for each query-document pair

In IR systems relevance is assessed relative to an information need, not a query. A document is considered relevant if it addresses the stated information need, not only if it contains all the words given in the query (Manning et al. [31]).

When short queries (composed of one word for example) are posted, it is difficult to define the information need of users. But nevertheless, the user has one, and the retrieved search results are evaluated based on his or her information need.

### 5.3.1 Evaluation of LSA

Precision:

Recall:

### 5.3.2 Evaluation of algorithms for cluster labeling

F-measure:

## 5.4 Clustering, labeling

For the ontology development, we used Protege Ontology Editor 4.1 <sup>3</sup> from Stanford University. The ontology is a light-weight domain-specific ontology developed in OWL for CoreMedia CMS domain.

## 5.5 Tag Cloud implementation

The implemented open source library used for tag cloud generation is called Opencloud<sup>4</sup>, and is provided by Marco Cavallo.

Tag clouds can be generated automatically by using the most frequent words, by removing stop words, etc. preprocessing. They can also be custom made, by using important concepts retrieved after IR task has been performed - e.g. on search results, on main concepts as in our case, based on concepts retrieved using LSA.

## 5.6 Tools used

Airhead Research<sup>5</sup> project was used as a semantic spaces Package which provides a java-based implementation of LSA.

Apache Lucene<sup>6</sup> was used as an indexing and search library.

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<sup>3</sup><http://protege.stanford.edu/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>4</sup><http://opencloud.mcavallo.org/>, accessed December, 2010

<sup>5</sup><http://code.google.com/p/airhead-research/>

<sup>6</sup>[http://lucene.apache.org/java/3\\_0\\_2/](http://lucene.apache.org/java/3_0_2/), accessed December, 2010

## 5.7 Advantages and drawbacks

why am i using lsa instead of lda for example?

1. PLSA - characteristics, advantages, disadvantages
2. LDA - characteristics, advantages, disadvantages

## 5.8 Experimental evaluation

Example for presentation and evaluation of results, IR system: [32]

- Data set
- Experimental setup
- Analysis of data matrices
- True/false positive rates
- Feature reduction

### 5.8.1 Cluster labeling evaluation

To evaluate the quality of WCC, Popescul and Ungars method, and the standard keyword extraction algorithm RSP, we downloaded 150 documents from the digital library Citeseer, each of which containing author-defined keywords.

To evaluate the WCC algorithm, we prepared a document set with author-defined keywords. The evaluation idea is to cluster the documents, label the resulting clustering, compute f1-f4, and measure to which extent the identified topic labels appear in the keyword list of at least one document of the associated cluster. To measure the extent, standard precision and recall values can be chosen. Note, however, that the precision value is more important in our scenario since usually only a few words (about one to five) are presented to a user.

The clustering was done on the results from queries used for evaluation of LSA (??).

The clustering was done on the prepared data set 5.2, used for evaluation of the IR methods implemented in this work.



Doc. Id	Cat. Id	Document
1	1	The session that is created while the connection is opened is also known as the connection session.
2	1	The sessions of the connected clients will be closed and no more content changes are possible.
3	1	The previous code fragment shows how a second session is created from an existing connection.
4	1	Multiple sessions show their greatest potential in trusted applications which receive help in restricting user views while maintaining a shared cache.
5	1	Having opened connection, all actions are executed on behalf of the single user whose credentials were provided when logging in.
6	2	The state of the Master Live Server must be younger than the state of the Slave Live Server.
7	2	The rewrite module checks the availability of the requested file and, in the negative case, passes the request on to the Active Delivery Server.
8	2	The directory layout of the Active Delivery Server has changed as well as the format of the configuration file.
9	2	The CoreMedia Content Server is a central component that manages the content repository and the user authorization.
10	2	The CoreMedia Content Management Server is the production system used to create and administrate content.
11	3	If the database does not allow to take online-backups ensure that all publications are finished and that the last publication was successful.
12	3	The third task in the workflow aims to check if the change set is empty. Then, no publication is necessary and the workflow can be finished.
13	3	This element is used to define which information should be shown in the columns of the workflow list at the left side of the workflow window.
14	3	Publication will be executed when finishing the task after all resources in the change set have been approved.
15	3	The CoreMedia Workflow installation comes with four predefined workflows which cover the publication of resources.

**Table 5.2:** Document collection used for WCC testing

Figure 3.15 shows precision and recall curves for WCC depending on the number of extracted words per label. The values are averaged over 10 retries of the experiment, each time redrawing a new set of documents. The precision curve shows that one to five cluster labels can be identified at very high precision rates. (??check with my results?)

### 5.8.2 Results

## 5.9 LSA evaluation from IR book

Dumais (1993) and Dumais (1995) conducted experiments with LSI on TREC documents and tasks, using the commonly-used Lanczos algorithm to compute the SVD. At the time of their work in the early 1990s, the LSI computation on tens of thousands of documents took approximately a day on one machine. On these experiments, they achieved precision at or above that of the median TREC participant. On about 20system was the top scorer, and reportedly slightly better on average than standard vector spaces for LSI at about 350 dimensions. Here are some conclusions on LSI first suggested by their work, and subsequently verified by many other experiments.

The computational cost of the SVD is significant; at the time of this writing, we know of no successful experiment with over one million documents. This has been the biggest obstacle to the widespread adoption to LSI. One approach to this obstacle is to build the LSI representation on a randomly sampled subset of the documents in the collection, following which the remaining documents are folded in as detailed with Equation (18.21).

As we reduce  $k$ , recall tends to increase, as expected.

Most surprisingly, a value of  $k$  in the low hundreds can actually increase precision on some query benchmarks. This appears to suggest that for a suitable value of  $k$ , LSI addresses some of the challenges of synonymy.

LSI works best in applications where there is little overlap between queries and documents.

The experiments also documented some modes where LSI failed to match the effectiveness of more traditional indexes and score computations. Most notably (and perhaps obviously), LSI shares two basic drawbacks of vector space retrieval: there is no good way of expressing negations (find documents that contain german but not shepherd), and no way of enforcing Boolean conditions.

LSI can be viewed as soft clustering by interpreting SOFT CLUSTERING each dimension of the reduced space as a cluster and the value that a document has on that dimension as its fractional membership in that

cluster.

# Chapter 6

## Conclusion and outlook

Search applications process huge amounts of information. Presenting this information to the users is an important part of these applications, and can improve their usability. We applied clustering as a method to organize search results into browsable groups of documents. In order to present these prepared groups of documents to the end users, informative and summarizing cluster labels are needed. Therefore, we evaluated the implementation of WCC cluster labeling method, and outlined a proposal for its improvement.

With respect to the problem of how to present many search results to users, a tag cloud is implemented, which summarizes the main concepts in search results, thus used as a visualization mean.

**TODO:** check pavel kazakov 2008 - nice conclusion and outlook.

### 6.1 Future Work

The goals set for this project and given in section 1.3 were reached. The project can still be developed further. Below, we outline our proposals for future work.

#### 6.1.1 Implementation

! Implement the prototype as a part of DocMachine<sup>1</sup> - the online documentation system at CoreMedia AG, Hamburg.

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<sup>1</sup><https://documentation.coremedia.com/>

## LSA

One of the major drawbacks in implementing LSA is that computing SVD for large matrices when applied to large document sets is computationally expensive. It has been stated that it is possible to compute SVD in an incremental manner, and with reduced resources via neural-network like approach [33]. However, currently there is no Java-based implementation of this algorithm. As this project is developed using Java, it remains as future work to implement the fast incremental SVD computation, proposed by Brand [33] in Java, in order to use it in this work.

## Cluster labeling

Other clustering methods can be investigated, such as STC, which preserves the word order in documents, by presenting them in the form of a tree. Cluster labeling using STC involves also using phrases as candidate labels, instead of separate terms, which improves usability, as compared to the investigated WCC algorithm.

## Cluster labeling using external knowledge

Due to time constraints, it remains for future work to evaluate and present experimental results on running WCC algorithm for cluster labeling with external knowledge from an ontology.

### 6.1.2 Testing

A larger set of document can be used for evaluation and testing of our implementation. In this work we carried out tests on a document set consisting only of 15 documents in 3 categories. Research has shown, however, that LSA perform better when applied to document collections above 3000 documents, each of which larger than  $\approx 60$  words, testing our implementation on a larger document collection remains as future work.

# Acronyms

**CMS** Content Management System.

**HAC** Hierarchical Agglomerative Clustering.

**IR** Information Retrieval.

**LSA** Latent Semantic Analysis.

**OWL** Web Ontology Language.

**STC** Suffix Tree Clustering.

**SVD** Singular Value Decomposition.

**VSM** Vector Space Model.

**WCC** Weighted Centroid Covering.

# Appendix A

## Ontology





## Appendix B

# Tag Cloud Summarizer

```
private String asPlainText(Markup markup){
    if (markup == null) return "";

    StringWriter writer = new StringWriter();
    PlaintextSerializer serializer = new PlaintextSerializer(writer);
    markup.writeOn(serializer);

    return writer.toString();
}
```

Listing B.1: Strip markup from plain text

```
private String asPlainText(Markup markup){
    if (markup == null) return "";

    StringWriter writer = new StringWriter();
    PlaintextSerializer serializer = new
        PlaintextSerializer(writer);
    markup.writeOn(serializer);

    return writer.toString();
}
```

---

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