

# evaluating information retrieval systems

kth

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Gavagai



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gavagai & kth

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language technology applied to information retrieval

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language technology applied to information retrieval  
text styles and variation in text use

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language technology applied to information retrieval

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interactive information retrieval

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interactive information retrieval

large scale text analysis

Gavagai



continuous evaluation is the most important  
vehicle for successful technology  
development



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vehicle for successful technology  
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this requires reliable and valid testing

(reliability  
and  
validity?)

we want to develop our system to be better

we want to develop our system to be better

use stoplists?

we want to develop our system to be better

use stoplists?

lemmatisation?

we want to develop our system to be better

use stoplists?

lemmatisation?

thesauri?

we want to develop our system to be better

use stoplists?

lemmatisation?

thesauri?

query expansion?

we want to develop our system to be better

use stoplists?

lemmatisation?

thesauri?

query expansion?

user modelling?



we want to develop our system to be better

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thesauri?

query expansion?

user modelling?

plan inference?

we want to develop our system to be better

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lemmatisation?

thesauri?

query expansion?

user modelling?

plan inference?

positional modelling?

we want to develop our system to be better

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thesauri?

query expansion?

user modelling?

plan inference?

positional modelling?

genre analysis?

we want to develop our system to be better

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thesauri?

query expansion?

user modelling?

plan inference?

positional modelling?

genre analysis?

measures of reliability and authority?

better information access is about making the user happy

better information access is about making the user happy

who are our users here?

better information access is about making the user happy

who are our users here?  
what makes them happy?

three-way optimisation:



three-way optimisation:

three-way optimisation:

price-quality-timeliness

here, we'll mostly discuss quality

what is quality in an information system?

what is quality in an information system?

usefulness and effectiveness for task

what is quality in an information system?

usefulness and effectiveness for task

appealing presentation

what is quality in an information system?

usefulness and effectiveness for task

appealing presentation

authority and trustworthiness and sourceability

what is quality in an information system?

usefulness and effectiveness for task

appealing presentation

authority and trustworthiness and sourceability

relevance and truthfulness



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authority and trustworthiness and sourceability

relevance and truthfulness

reusability and cost

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authority and trustworthiness and sourceability

relevance and truthfulness

reusability and cost

happiness, trust, and satisfaction!

we'll focus on relevance

the target concept of relevance

the target concept of relevance

in everyday language:

a function of task, collection characteristics, user preferences and background, situation, tool, temporal constraints, and untold other factors

the target concept of relevance

in everyday language:

a function of task, collection characteristics, user preferences and background, situation, tool, temporal constraints, and untold other factors

in information retrieval research:

a (binary) relation between query and document, disregarding everything contextual

	relevant	non-relevant
delivered	true positives	false positives
not delivered	false negatives	true negatives

	relevant	non-relevant
delivered	true positives (good)	false positives
not delivered	false negatives	true negatives



	relevant	non-relevant
delivered	true positives (good)	false positives
not delivered	false negatives	true negatives (uninteresting)

	relevant	non-relevant
delivered	true positives (good)	false positives (errors)
not delivered	false negatives	true negatives (uninteresting)

	relevant	non-relevant
delivered	true positives (good)	false positives (errors)
not delivered	false negatives (misses)	true negatives (uninteresting)

$$\text{accuracy} = (tp+tn)/(tp+tn+fp+fn)$$

$$\text{accuracy} = (tp+tn)/(tp+tn+fp+fn)$$

$$= (\text{good} + \text{uninteresting})/\text{all docs}$$

$$= \text{correct labels}/\text{all docs}$$

$$\text{precision} = \text{tp}/(\text{tp}+\text{fp})$$

$$\text{precision} = \text{tp}/(\text{tp}+\text{fp})$$
$$= \text{good}/\text{delivered}$$

$$\text{recall} = \text{tp}/(\text{tp}+\text{fn})$$

*(täckning)*

= good/relevant

= good/(good + miss)



# 5 min exercise

retrieve and assess relevance of top ten  
compare two queries and two search engines

was this easy?

the practice of evaluation

use gold standards / ground truth

lock down the notion of relevance

create test collections

define shared tasks

locking down the notion of relevance



TREC, US, 1992 -  
CLEF, EU, 1999 -  
NTCIR, Japan, 1999 -  
FIRE, India, 2008 -

plus many similar in *ML*, *NLP* etc

<top>

<num> C041 </num>

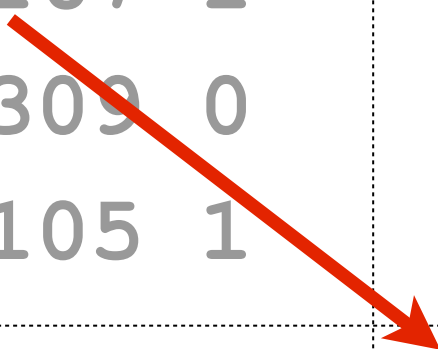
<EN-title> Pesticides in Baby Food </EN-title>

<EN-desc> Find reports on pesticides in baby food. </EN-desc>

<EN-narr> Relevant documents give information on the discovery of pesticides in baby food. They report on different brands, supermarkets, and companies selling baby food which contains pesticides. They also discuss measures against the contamination of baby food by pesticides. </EN-narr>

</top>

```
41 0 LA010594-0107 0
41 0 LA010594-0111 0
41 0 LA042794-0167 1
41 0 LA050694-0309 0
41 0 LA050894-0105 1
```



```
<DOC> <DOCNO> LA042794-0167 </DOCNO>
<SOURCE> <P> Los Angeles Times </P>
</SOURCE> <DATE> <P> April 27, 1994,
Wednesday, Home Edition </P> </DATE>
<TEXT> ...
```

```
... Concerns have risen in recent years
over the ingestion of pesticide-treated
food by children, whose smaller body
weights may make their exposure
riskier. ...
```

```
</TEXT> </DOC>
```

imposing power on any observable variable creates bias!



imposing power on any observable variable creates bias!

risky!

risk 1: blocks creativity - what happened with e.g. context?

risk 2: overtraining  
(partial remedy: crossvalidation)

risk 3: variation across queries greater than variation across  
systems

(partial remedy: more queries in test set)

example problem: sentiment polarity

And the sound quality - my God!

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Raymond left no room for error on his recordings and it shows.

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Definitely one of the better tracks on the album.



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I love the Samsung B2710 but I would not recommend it to my colleagues.

I don't know if I should call her up – I liked her when I met her last weekend.

This is true.

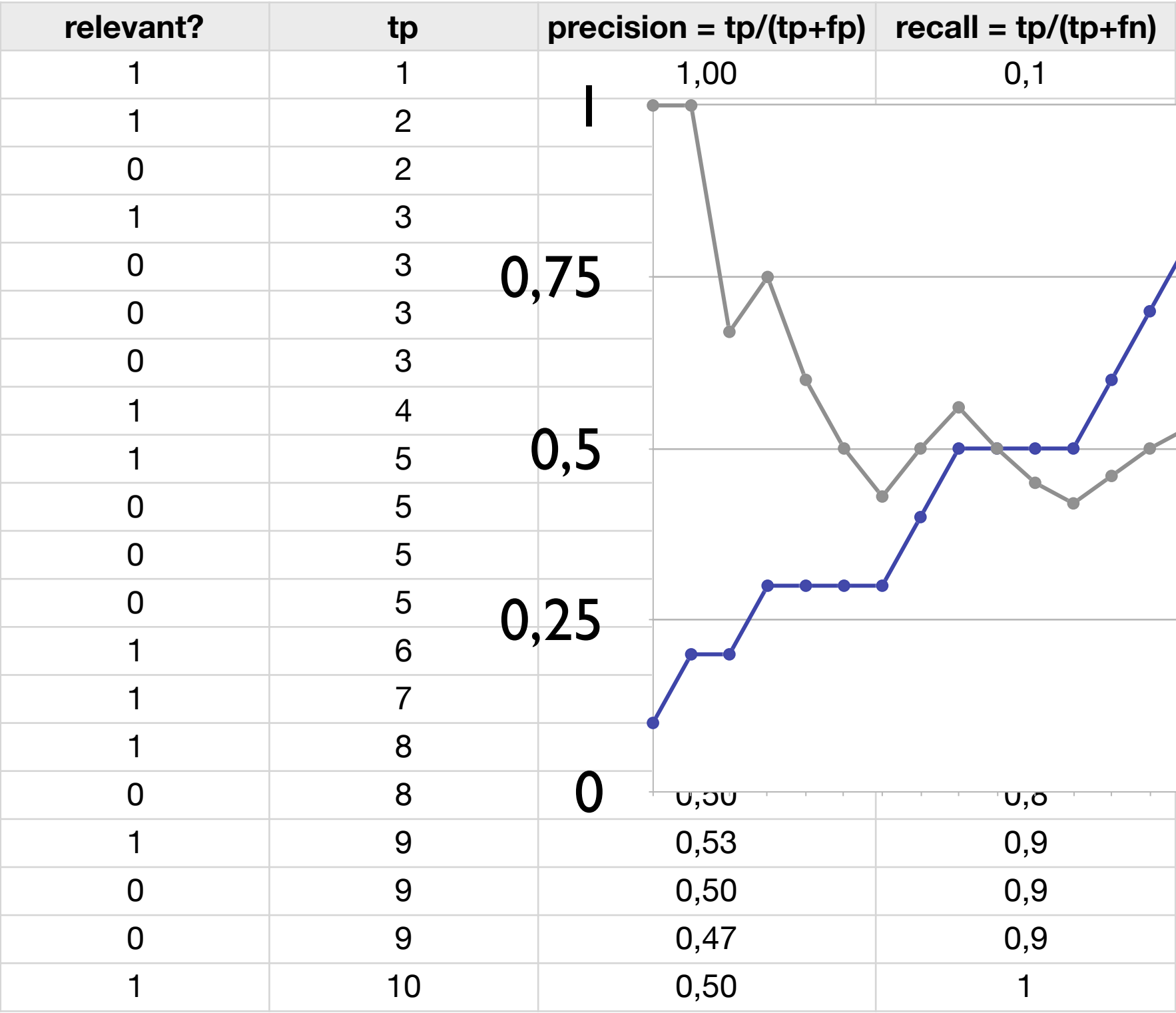
but let's assume we can swing it



first: we will now focus on ranked retrieval

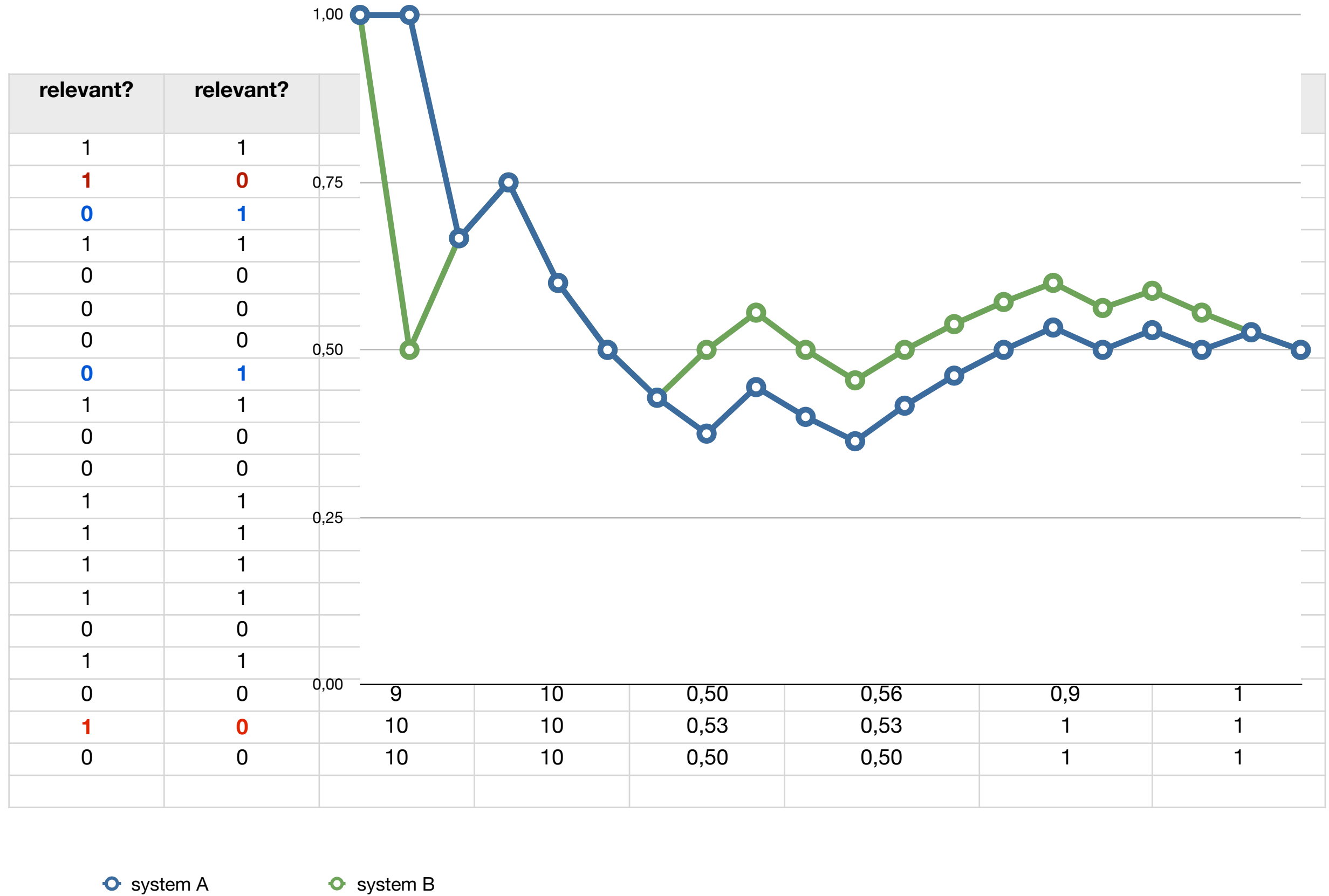
precision and recall combined

relevant?	tp	precision = $tp/(tp+fp)$	recall = $tp/(tp+fn)$
1	1	1,00	0,1
1	2	1,00	0,2
0	2	0,67	0,2
1	3	0,75	0,3
0	3	0,60	0,3
0	3	0,50	0,3
0	3	0,43	0,3
1	4	0,50	0,4
1	5	0,56	0,5
0	5	0,50	0,5
0	5	0,45	0,5
0	5	0,42	0,5
1	6	0,46	0,6
1	7	0,50	0,7
1	8	0,53	0,8
0	8	0,50	0,8
1	9	0,53	0,9
0	9	0,50	0,9
0	9	0,47	0,9
1	10	0,50	1



relevant?	relevant?	tp	tp	precision	precision	recall	recall
1	1	1	1	1,00	1,00	0,1	0,1
1	0	2	1	1,00	0,50	0,2	0,1
0	1	2	2	0,67	0,67	0,2	0,2
1	1	3	3	0,75	0,75	0,3	0,3
0	0	3	3	0,60	0,60	0,3	0,3
0	0	3	3	0,50	0,50	0,3	0,3
0	0	3	3	0,43	0,43	0,3	0,3
0	1	3	4	0,38	0,50	0,3	0,4
1	1	4	5	0,44	0,56	0,4	0,5
0	0	4	5	0,40	0,50	0,4	0,5
0	0	4	5	0,36	0,45	0,4	0,5
1	1	5	6	0,42	0,50	0,5	0,6
1	1	6	7	0,46	0,54	0,6	0,7
1	1	7	8	0,50	0,57	0,7	0,8
1	1	8	9	0,53	0,60	0,8	0,9
0	0	8	9	0,50	0,56	0,8	0,9
1	1	9	10	0,53	0,59	0,9	1
0	0	9	10	0,50	0,56	0,9	1
1	0	10	10	0,53	0,53	1	1
0	0	10	10	0,50	0,50	1	1

## Precision



a curve is fine, but a scalar would be simpler

## F-score

harmonic mean of precision and recall

$$F_1 = 2PR / (P + R)$$

you will not be able to avoid the F-score

(8.5; 8.6)



map

average precision at the rank of each  
retrieved document

(8.8)

map

relevant?	relevant?	map	map
1	1	1,000	1,000
1	0	1,000	0,500
0	1	0,567	0,567
1	1		0,750
0	0	0,600	0,600
0	0		
0	0		
0	1		
1	1		0,556
0	0	0,400	0,500
0	0		
1	1		
1	1	0,462	0,538
1	1	0,500	0,571
1	1	0,533	0,600
0	0	0,500	0,563
1	1		
0	0	0,500	0,556
1	0		
0	0	0,500	
		0,666	0,673

average precision at the rank of each  
retrieved document

(8.8)

## 11-pt interpolated precision

1. precision at recall level  $r$  is the highest precision for every recall level  $\geq r$
2. compute this for  $r = 0.0, 0.1 \dots 0.9, 1.0$
3. equivalent of smoothing recall-precision curve

(8.7)

# 11-pt interpolated precision

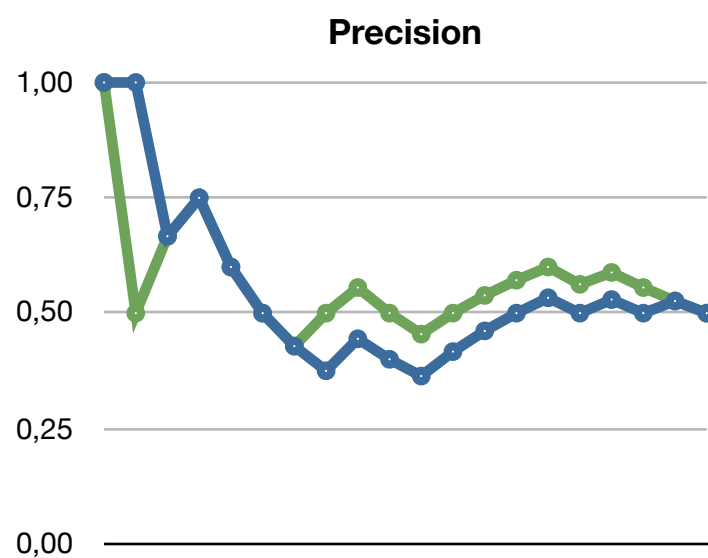
1. precision at recall level  $r$  is the highest precision for every recall level  $\geq r$
2. compute this for  $r = 0.0, 0.1 \dots 0.9, 1.0$
3. equivalent of smoothing recall-precision curve

(8.7)

	11pt	11pt
0	1	0,5
0,1	1	0,5
0,2	0,75	0,5
0,3	0,53	0,5
0,4	0,53	0,5
0,5	0,53	0,5
0,6	0,53	0,5
0,7	0,53	0,5
0,8	0,53	0,5
0,9	0,53	0,5
1	0,5	0,5

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2. compute this for  $r = 0.0, 0.1 \dots 0.9, 1.0$
3. equivalent of smoothing recall-precision curve

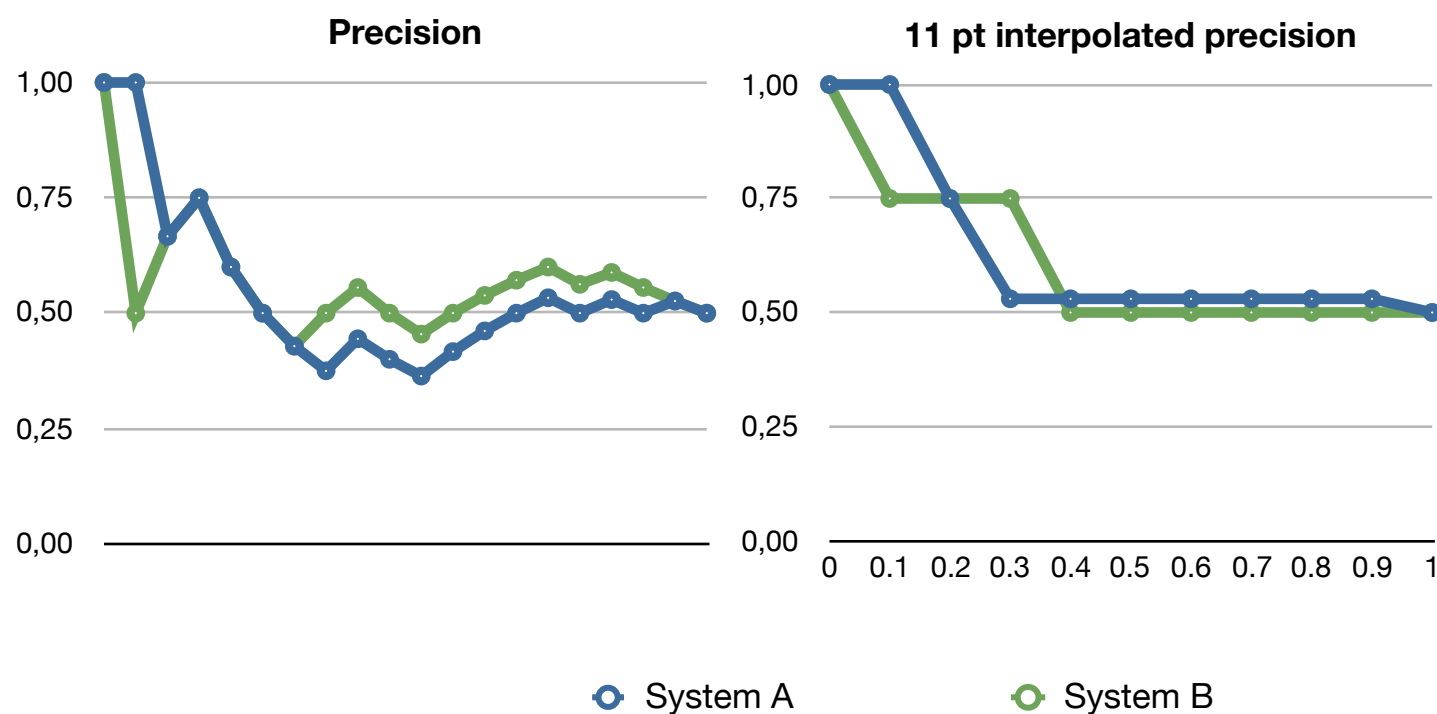


(8.7)

	11pt	11pt
0	1	0,5
0,1	1	0,5
0,2	0,75	0,5
0,3	0,53	0,5
0,4	0,53	0,5
0,5	0,53	0,5
0,6	0,53	0,5
0,7	0,53	0,5
0,8	0,53	0,5
0,9	0,53	0,5
1	0,5	0,5

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0,4	0,53	0,5
0,5	0,53	0,5
0,6	0,53	0,5
0,7	0,53	0,5
0,8	0,53	0,5
0,9	0,53	0,5
1	0,5	0,5

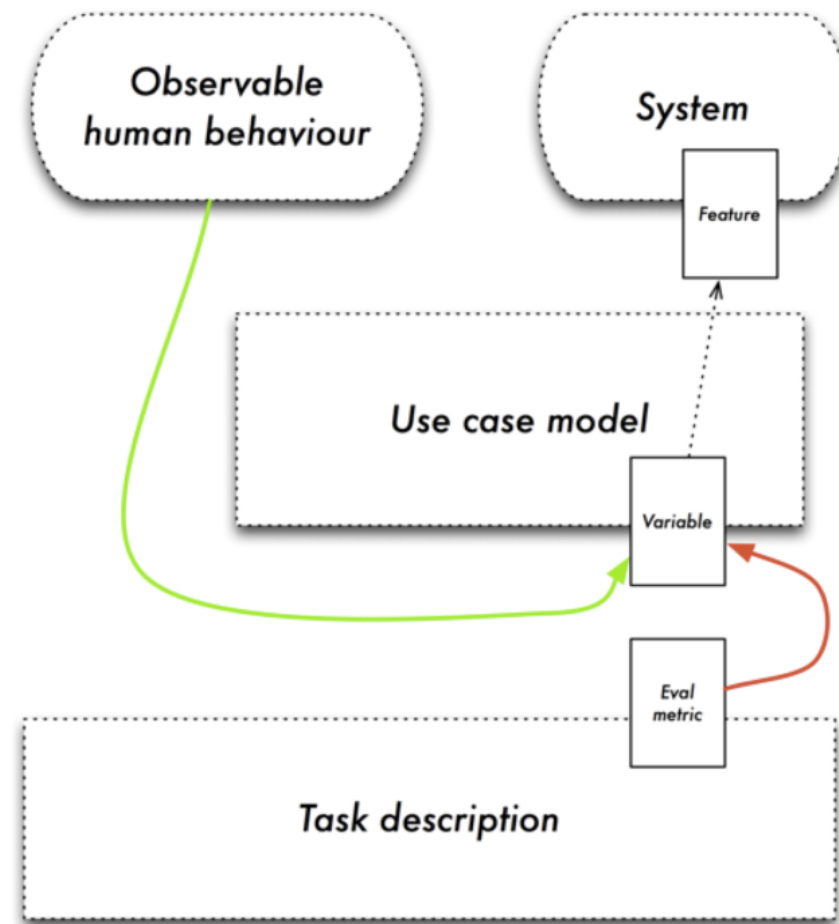
back to usefulness for task

modelling usage:

1.87 wds / q



# use case as a modelling framework



(don't worry, we'll probably return to this next time)

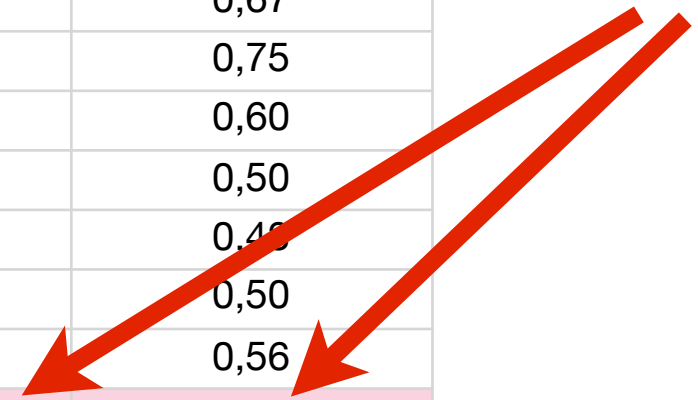
p@N

assumes that N is a sensible number

relevant?	relevant?	tp	tp	precision	precision
1	1	1	1	1,00	1,00
1	0	2	1	1,00	0,50
0	1	2	2	0,67	0,67
1	1	3	3	0,75	0,75
0	0	3	3	0,60	0,60
0	0	3	3	0,50	0,50
0	0	3	3	0,43	0,43
0	1	3	4	0,38	0,50
1	1	4	5	0,44	0,56
0	0	4	5	<b>0,40</b>	<b>0,50</b>
0	0	4	5	0,36	0,45
1	1	5	6	0,42	0,50
1	1	6	7	0,46	0,54
1	1	7	8	0,50	0,57
1	1	8	9	0,53	0,60
0	0	8	9	0,50	0,56
1	1	9	10	0,53	0,59
0	0	9	10	0,50	0,56
1	0	10	10	0,53	0,53
0	0	10	10	<b>0,50</b>	<b>0,50</b>

relevant?	relevant?	tp	tp	precision	precision
1	1	1	1	1,00	1,00
1	0	2	1	1,00	0,50
0	1	2	2	0,67	0,67
1	1	3	3	0,75	0,75
0	0	3	3	0,60	0,60
0	0	3	3	0,50	0,50
0	0	3	3	0,43	0,43
0	1	3	4	0,38	0,50
1	1	4	5	0,44	0,56
0	0	4	5	<b>0,40</b>	<b>0,50</b>
0	0	4	5	0,36	0,45
1	1	5	6	0,42	0,50
1	1	6	7	0,46	0,54
1	1	7	8	0,50	0,57
1	1	8	9	0,53	0,60
0	0	8	9	0,50	0,56
1	1	9	10	0,53	0,59
0	0	9	10	0,50	0,56
1	0	10	10	0,53	0,53
0	0	10	10	<b>0,50</b>	<b>0,50</b>

P@10



cumulative gain measures  
measure gain at rank  $p$   
introducing graded relevance values

CG: simple cumulative gain at rank  $p$

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

CG: simple cumulative gain at rank  $p$

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

# CG: simple cumulative gain at rank p

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

relevant?	relevant?	CG	CG
3	3	3	3
2	0	5	3
0	0	5	3
0	2	5	5
1	2	6	7
2	1	8	8
3	1	11	9
1	3	12	12
0	0	12	12



# CG: simple cumulative gain at rank p

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

relevant?	relevant?	CG	CG
3	3	3	3
2	0	5	3
0	0	5	3
0	2	5	5
1	2	6	7
2	1	8	8
3	1	11	9
1	3	12	12
0	0	12	12

non-binary relevance!

# CG: simple cumulative gain at rank p

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

relevant?	relevant?	CG	CG
3	3	3	3
2	0	5	3
0	0	5	3
0	2	5	5
1	2	6	7
2	1	8	8
3	1	11	9
1	3	12	12
0	0	12	12

$$CG_p = \sum_{i=1}^p rel_i$$

non-binary relevance!

CG: simple cumulative gain at rank  $p$

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

**CG: simple cumulative gain at rank  $p$**

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

**DCG: discounted cumulative gain at rank  $p$**

penalise relevant documents if delivered late

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## CG: simple cumulative gain at rank p

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

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p	relevant?	relevant?	CG	CG	DCG	DCG
1	3	3	3	3	3,00	3,00
2	2	0	5	3	5,00	3,00
3	0	0	5	3	5,00	3,00
4	0	2	5	5	5,00	3,00
5	1	2	6	7	5,43	3,43
6	2	1	8	8	6,20	4,20
7	3	1	11	9	7,27	5,27
8	1	3	12	12	7,61	5,61
9	0	0	12	12	7,61	5,61

## CG: simple cumulative gain at rank p

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

## DCG: discounted cumulative gain at rank p

penalise relevant documents if delivered late

p	relevant?	relevant?	CG	CG	DCG	DCG
1	3	3	3	3	3,00	3,00
2	2	0	5	3	5,00	3,00
3	0	0	5	3	5,00	3,00
4	0	2	5	5	5,00	3,00
5	1	2	6	7	5,43	3,43
6	2	1	8	8	6,20	4,20
7	3	1	11	9	7,27	5,27
8	1	3	12	12	7,61	5,61
9	0	0	12	12	7,61	5,61

$$DCG_p = rel_1 + \sum_{i=2}^p \frac{rel_i}{\log_2(i)}$$

CG: simple cumulative gain at rank  $p$

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$



**CG: simple cumulative gain at rank  $p$**

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

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sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

**DCG: discounted cumulative gain at rank  $p$**

penalise relevant documents if delivered late

**nDCG: normalized discounted cumulative gain  
at rank  $p$**

compared to perfect system

**CG: simple cumulative gain at rank  $p$**

sum of relevance scores for all documents with rank  $\leq p$

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## DCG: discounted cumulative gain at rank p

penalise relevant documents if delivered late

## nDCG: normalized discounted cumulative gain at rank p

compared to perfect system

p	relevant?	relevant?	CG	CG	DCG	DCG	Ideal system	IDCG	nDCG	nDCG
1	3	3	3	3	3,00	3,00	3	3,00	1,00	1,00
2	2	0	5	3	5,00	3,00	3	6,00	0,83	0,50
3	0	0	5	3	5,00	3,00	2	7,26	0,69	0,41
4	0	2	5	5	5,00	3,00	2	8,26	0,61	0,36
5	1	2	6	7	5,43	3,43	1	8,69	0,62	0,39
6	2	1	8	8	6,20	4,20	1	9,08	0,68	0,46
7	3	1	11	9	7,27	5,27	0	9,08	0,80	0,58
8	1	3	12	12	7,61	5,61	0	9,08	0,84	0,62
9	0	0	12	12	7,61	5,61	0	9,08	0,84	0,62

take home message

you should understand

# take home message

you should understand  
evaluation and systematic testing

# take home message

you should understand

evaluation and systematic testing

(the thing to do, whatever you do)

# take home message

you should understand

evaluation and systematic testing

(the thing to do, whatever you do)

precision and recall



# take home message

you should understand

evaluation and systematic testing

(the thing to do, whatever you do)

precision and recall

various measures based on p & r

# take home message

you should understand

evaluation and systematic testing

(the thing to do, whatever you do)

precision and recall

various measures based on p & r

perils of averages

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(the thing to do, whatever you do)

precision and recall

various measures based on p & r

perils of averages

crucial and central target notion of "relevance"

# take home message

you should understand

evaluation and systematic testing

(the thing to do, whatever you do)

precision and recall

various measures based on p & r

perils of averages

crucial and central target notion of "relevance"

challenges to "relevance"

