

# War Stories from the *billiger.de* Trenches

Ihre Suche nach "panzer" liefert 5.792 Treffer (1 - 24 von 5.792)

Sortieren nach:

Relevanz (relevantestes oben) ▾

Ansicht:



Siku 1872 - Schwertransport mit Panzer 1:87  
in Modellautos

☆☆☆☆☆ 0 Meinungen

Farbe

grün

➔ Produkt vergleichen

ab **15,50 €\***

14 Preise vergleichen



Siku 1867 - Panzer sortiert 1:87  
in Modellautos

☆☆☆☆☆ 0 Meinungen

Produkttyp  
Funktionen  
Farbe

Militärfahrzeug  
Räder beweglich  
blau, grün

➔ Produkt vergleichen

ab **7,99 €\***

10 Preise vergleichen



ES-TOYS RC Mini Panzer mit LiPo Akku - 10cm -  
in RC-Modelle

☆☆☆☆☆ 0 Meinungen

➔ Produkt vergleichen

ab **21,38 €\***

# Search War Stories

- Taking Shops Offline  
or: 500k Docs: Now You See Them – Now You Don't
- Stemming Pitfalls
- Stopwords Traps
- Using the Users: Implicit Feedback
- Painful (but proper) Quality Control
- Of Products and Offers

# Architectural Overview

- Portal billiger.de & Syndication API
- Separate Loadbalancers for Portal, API
- Search Service (Python, Pyramid) talks to localhost
- localhost: SOLRCloud (→ see prev. talk)
- Indices: main index, brands, categories, shops
- Identical indices for portal, API → can reassign servers
- Updater for each index, fed JSON files (deltas for main index, full for the others)

# Taking Shops Offline

- Problem: Shops can go “offline”, i.e. *all* their offers must disappear from the site
- Deleting them is easy:  
`{"delete": {"filter_shops": 123}}`
- Taking them back online can be expensive & slow for large shops:  $O(100k+)$  offers
- Can we avoid deleting/re-indexing them?
- Cannot use one index per shop (because IDF)

# Taking Shops Offline: Solr

- Sounds like an SQL JOIN (and we have a shop ID field in the index) → *Solr Cross Core Join*
- Shop index w/ shop IDs JOINed against Main index <field name="filter\_shops"> field:

```
<requestHandler name="/search" ...
```

```
...
```

```
<lst name="append">
```

```
  <str name="fq">{!join fromIndex=shops_online from=id  
to=filter_shops}*:*</str>
```

```
</lst>
```

```
</requestHandler>
```

- Allows for taking individual shops offline for a partner

# Taking Shops Offline: SolrCloud

- Cross Core Join does not work in cloud mode!
- New way:
  1. get all shop Ids from shops\_online index (\*:\* query)
  2. huuuuge terms filter with 2500+ terms:

```
fq=+{!terms f=filter_shops}1,2,3,...
```

Not so elegant, but performance is similar

# Stemming

- What is Stemming:

## Reducing words to their base form

coins → coin, had → have

- Why we do it? **Recall problems**: (singular v. plural mostly)  
“T-Shirts” → “T-Shirt”  
“Schuhe” → “Schuh”  
“Hemden” → “Hemd”
- German stemming: *really* nasty! 8 forms of plural, strong v. weak flexion...  
gehabt → haben, Häuser → Haus,  
=> Gehäuse → Haus?
- Four (five) German stemmers available:  
GermanStemFilter, GermanLightStemFilter, GermanMinimalStemFilter,  
SnowballPorterFilter(“German”, “German2”)

# Stemming

- Danger of Overstemming!



Deuter Gigant black  
in Laptop-Rucksäcke

★★★★★ 1 Meinung

Max. Notebook-Größe	17.0"
Fassungsvermögen	32.0 l
Farbe	schwarz

Produkt vergleichen

ab 76,46 €\*  
19 Preise vergleichen



Deuter Giga black  
in Laptop-Rucksäcke

★★★★★ 17 Meinungen

Max. Notebook-Größe	15.4"
Fassungsvermögen	28.0 l
Farbe	schwarz

Produkt vergleichen

ab 67,45 €\*  
20 Preise vergleichen



# Stemming



# Stemming

- Endless room for experimentation...
- “This website no verbs”
- Minimal stemming only (GermanMinimalStemFilter)
- Long list of stemming exclusions (KeywordMarkerFilter + protwords\_de.txt)
- Reactive: find & add new exclusion, must re-index
- Understemming → synonyms

<https://wiki.apache.org/solr/LanguageAnalysis>

# Stopwords

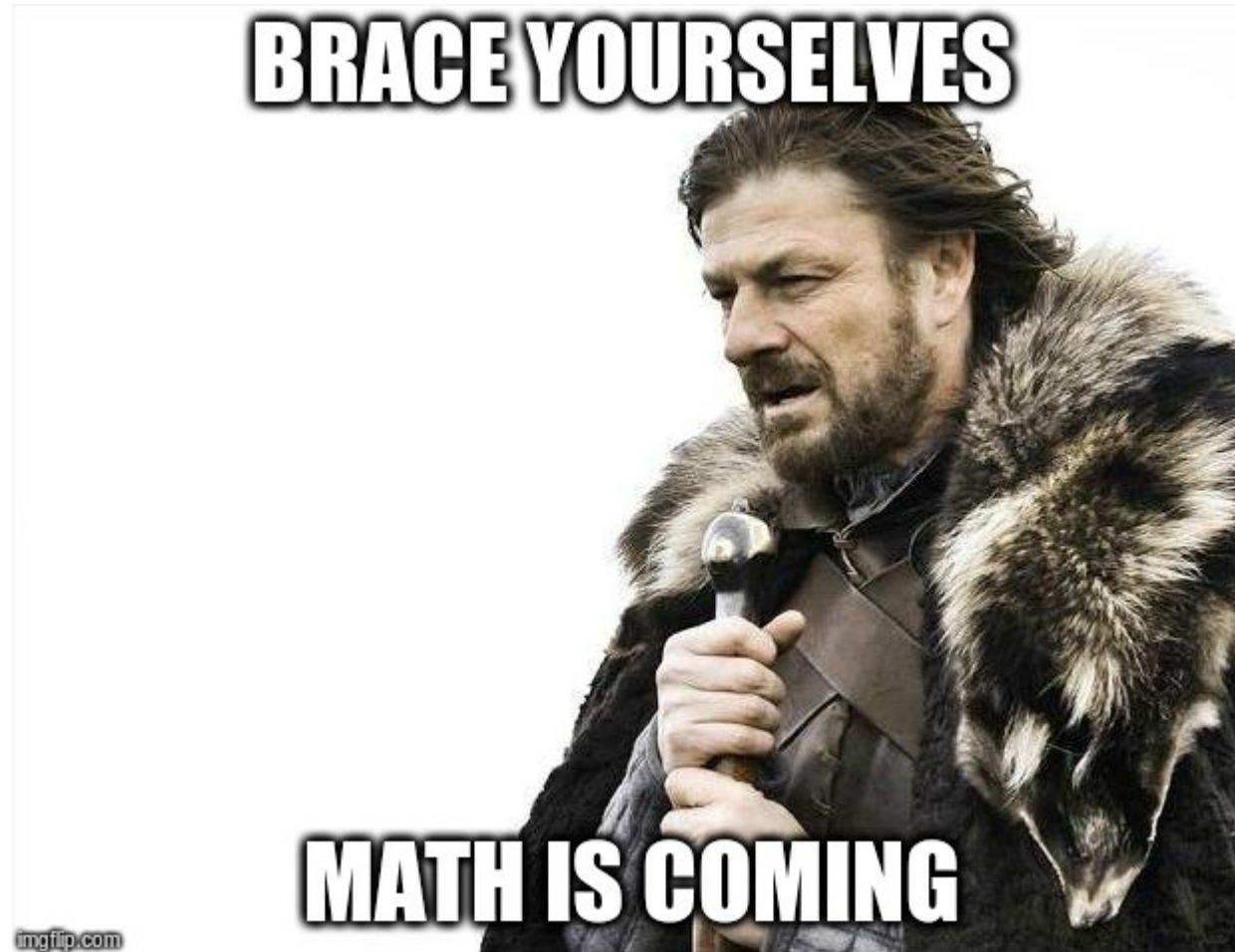
- Stopwords are words we strip from both docs and queries
- Smaller index
- More precise document length norm, good when users rarely include stopwords
- Controls recall on fuzzy queries:  
“**asdfghjk** is all **qwertzu**”
- “to be or not to be” → empty query, no hits
- Stopwords stripped from index and query:

```
<filter class="solr.StopFilterFactory" ignoreCase="true"  
        words="lang/stopwords_de.txt" format="snowball" />
```

# Intermission: **Thoughts on Scoring**

- If a term occurs often in a doc, it must be really important for that doc!
- If a term occurs in only a few docs, these docs must be really special (w.r.t. this term)
- Corollary: If a term occurs in virtually every doc, it doesn't tell us much.
- Some fields are inherently more important than others (knowledge of doc structure).
- Some terms are inherently more important than others (knowledge/semantics of terms)
- One term in a long doc is less significant than one term in a short doc  
Case in point: a doc consisting of a single term.

# Scoring



# Lucene Scoring

- Score proportional to

$$\sum_{t \text{ in doc}} (tf_{t \text{ in doc}} \cdot idf_t \cdot t.boost \cdot f.boost \cdot fieldnorm_f)$$

- Term frequency: how often a term occurs in doc  
terms that occur often in the doc are more important
- Inverse doc frequency: in how many docs the term occurs

# Incorporating User Feedback

- Explicit user feedback:

$$\sum_{i \in q} i \cdot (tf \cdot idf^2) \cdot i$$



- Implicit user feedback? ...

Patrick Schemitz, solute GmbH



# Incorporating Implicit User Feedback

- “Implicit Feedback” = user clicking on results (products, offers, categories & other filters)

The screenshot shows the billiger.de website interface. At the top, the logo 'billiger.de' is on the left, and a search bar contains the text 'oneplus 3'. Below the search bar, a message states 'Ihre Suche nach "oneplus 3" liefert 2 Ergebnisse'. On the left side, there are filter sections: 'Kategorie' with a checked box for 'Handys ohne Vertrag (2)', 'Preis' with a range from 629,00 € to 629,00 €, and 'Marke' with a search input. On the right, two product listings are shown. The first listing is for 'ONEPLUS 3 64GB gold' and the second is for 'ONEPLUS 3 64GB grau'. Red circles and arrows highlight the search bar, the 'Handys ohne Vertrag' filter, and the 'ONEPLUS 3 64GB grau' product listing.

billiger.de

Kategorien

oneplus 3

Startseite > Suche nach "oneplus 3"

Ihre Suche nach "oneplus 3" liefert 2 Ergebnisse

Ergebnisse einschränken

Sortieren nach: R

Kategorie 1

☒ Handys ohne Vertrag (2)

☐ Handytaschen (228)

Alle anzeigen

Filter zurücksetzen

Preis

629,00 € 629,00 € >

Marke

Marke durchsuchen

Handys ohne Vertrag X

ONEPLUS 3 64GB gold  
in Handys ohne Vertrag

★★★★★ 3 Meinungen

Display-Diagonale 5.5"  
Integrierter Speicher 64.0 GB  
Akkukapazität 3000 mAh

ONEPLUS 3 64GB grau  
in Handys ohne Vertrag

★★★★★ 5 Meinungen

Display-Diagonale 5.5"  
Integrierter Speicher 64.0 GB  
Akkukapazität 3000 mAh



# Incorporating Implicit User Feedback

- Harvested from frontend logs (docs)...

```
{"ts": 1496212351, "query_id":  
"8118d1c33b1141268e5fa0a4e65392f3", "query_string":  
"emser halspastillen", "results": ["1:82706493",  
"1:82262858", "1:515286705", "1:82268643", "1:81028376",  
"1:132832088", "1:82349225", "1:82271347", "1:82281586",  
"1:324484307", "1:324485523", "1:82358049", "1:82247198",  
"1:82236122", "1:286990644", "1:745607317",  
"1:324485504", "1:553963013", "1:746122391",  
"1:82414054", "1:887951887", "1:82465108", "1:745762420",  
"1:887951018"], "offset": 0}
```

```
{"ts": 1496212362, "query_id":  
"8118d1c33b1141268e5fa0a4e65392f3", "clicked_offset": 0}
```

# Incorporating Implicit User Feedback

- ... and from search service logs (filters):

```
{
  "query": "sat receiver",
  "filters": {
    "type": [1, 0], "f_2308": [124784], "f_18": [16463, 23704],
    "categories": [106886]},
  "page_no": 0, "page_size": 24,
  "boosts": {"has_image": [[1], 10.0]},
  "sort_mode": ["score, desc", "clickout_relevance, desc", "id, desc"],
  "options": {
    "fuzzy": true, "facet_mode": "multiselect", "client_tag": "search"
  },
  "_duration": 0.208976984, "_total_hits": 75}
}
```

# Incorporating Implicit User Feedback

- Map/Reduce jobs to distill boosts from logs (using Nokia Disco)
- Web interface for product managers to tune boosts (for new docs)
- *Query-Local Term Boosts* (QLTB): qltb.xml contains the resulting boosts:

```
<query text="zelte">
  <term boost="1.9" field="filter_brands" value="3778545"/>
    <!--Mc Kinley-->
  <term boost="1.1" field="filter_brands" value="1027815"/>
    <!--High Peak-->
  <term boost="300.0" field="filter_categories"
    value="103377"/> <!--Zelte-->
</query>
<query text="zerkleinerer">
  <term boost="1.1" field="filter_brands" value="7621"/>
    <!--Moulinex-->
</query>
<query text="zimmerantenne">
  <term boost="100.0" field="filter_categories"
    value="103145"/> <!--DVB-T2 Antennen-->
</query>
```

# Incorporating Implicit User Feedback

- Open Source: QltbComponent for Solr  
<https://github.com/solute/qltb>
- SolrCloud: re-written in Python b/c ZooKeeper
- Threshold: at least  $n$  clicks to be included in QLTB.xml
- ca. 7000 queries with boost terms  
→ major quality improvement for more frequent queries

# Intermission: **On Quality**

- How do we measure quality?
- Doc can be good, mediocre, or bad w.r.t. query
- Assume enough good docs for page 1
- Bad docs on pos 1 are *really* bad
- Bad docs on pos 24 are not as bad as pos 1
- Position of bad or mediocre docs matters

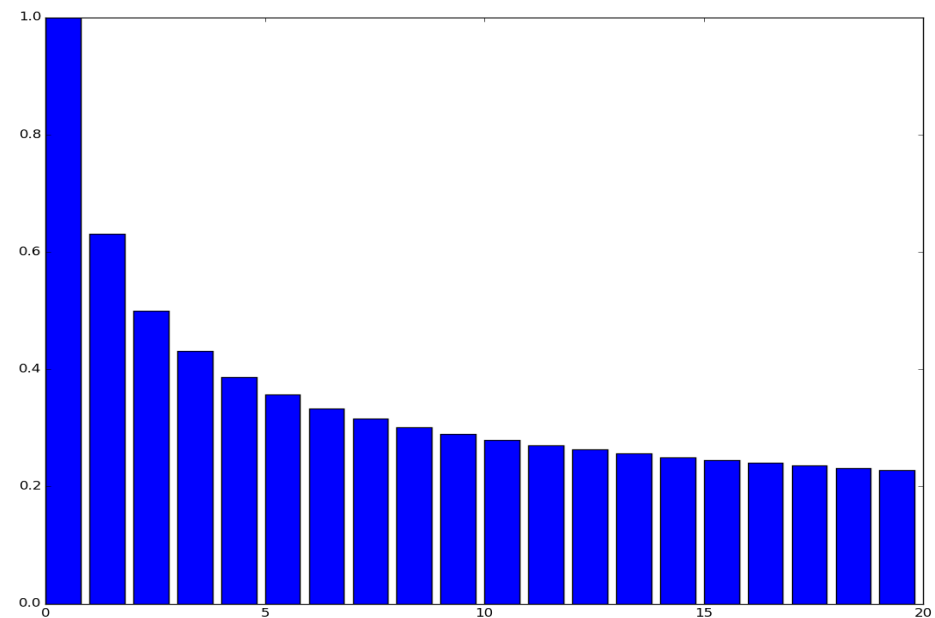
# On Quality: nDCG

- Normalized Distributed Cumulative Gain nDCG

$$DCG_P = \sum_{i=1}^P \frac{2^{rel_i} - 1}{\log_2(i+1)}$$

hit relevance

pos. weight



- Great: re-run queries, re-compute nDCG, get algorithm improvement factor! Fully automatic!

# On Quality: nDCG

- Not so great: Need someone to rate all result docs on page 1 as good, bad, or mediocre w.r.t. query
- Changes in algo → new docs on first page.
- Even worse: at billiger.de, docs fluctuate wildly!
- If you can't automate, make it easy to do by hand
- New tool: automate just the process (running query sets against different searchers), and support human “visual diff” against baseline

# Products and Offers

- How should we treat products v. offers w.r.t. search?  
Slight preference for products.
- “Proper” way:
  - Offer: use offer title
  - Product: use *product* title (manually edited!)
  - *Boosting*: `filter_type:product^2.0`
- Surprise: Recall problems ☹



# Products and Offers, tf and idf

- Problem: User Typos.  
Solution: Shop Typos.
  - Offer: use offer title
  - Product: use product title (manually edited)  
**+ offer titles**
  - “Boosting” via **tf**/idf: Deuter Gigant Black →  
Deuter Deuter Gigant Black - Laptoprucksack Deuter Deuter Rucksack  
Gigant, black, 47 x 35 x 27 cm, 32 Liter, 8042470000 Deuter Deuter  
Daypack Gigant Rucksack mit Laptopfach 47 cm - black Deuter Deuter Gigant  
Laptoprucksack schwarz Gr. Deuter Deuter School/Uni Gigant  
Laptoprucksack 47 cm - black Deuter Deuter Gigant black - Laptoprucksack  
schwarz Deuter Deuter Gigant black Deuter Deuter Rucksack Gigant black  
Deuter Deuter Daypack Gigant Rucksack 47 cm Laptopfach black Deuter  
Deuter Rucksack Gigant black Deuter Deuter Gigant Laptoprucksack Schwarz  
Deuter deuter Rucksack "Gigant", 32 l Deuter Deuter: Tagesrucksack  
Gigant, Schwarz, verfügbar in Größe 0 Deuter Deuter Rucksack Gigant Black  
Deuter Deuter Backpack Laptop-Rucksack Gigant Black Farbe 7000 black  
Deuter Deuter Laptoprucksack Gigant 47 cm black Deuter Deuter GIGANT  
Rucksack School & Daypack 17,3" black Deuter Deuter Gigant  
Damen/Herren Gigant

# Products and Offers, tf and idf

- Drawbacks:
  - tf depends on number of offers in product...
  - Short, concise offer might beat product if a product offer does SEO (bloating the product, → doc length norm)
  - Sweet spot similarity: tf
- **Sweet spot similarity**: plateau of lengths that should all have a norm of 1.0
- As always: work in progress!

# More Topics...

- Suggestions
- (Term-) Fuzzy Search
- Filters and Filter Alternatives
- EAN/ISBN/PZN Handling
- Model Identifier Handling
- Degrading Performance/Progressive Index Growth
- ...