

Retrieval

- It is becoming increasingly difficult to find relevant studies [37]
- PubMed (one of the most popular medical databases) now contains **approximately 26 million studies**
- It is not uncommon for queries to retrieve millions of studies, where only a small number are relevant
- Shemilt et al. [70] found one study in particular that **retrieved 1.8 million studies where only 4,000 were included** in the review

Beyond Boolean

- Boudin et al. [11], Schardt et al. [69], and Hoogendam et al. [31] incorporate clinical labels (PICO) into query formulation, with mixed results
 - The test collection they use is **limited to a small number of topics**
- Karimi et al. [37] finds that non-Boolean queries can outperform Boolean queries
 - However, **Boolean queries are engrained in the systematic review process**