
ANT – R&D Platform for Entity-Oriented Search

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José Devezas

MAP-i 2016/2017 INESC TEC & FEUP InfoLab

Supervisor:

External advisor:

Sérgio Nunes

Bruno Martins

U.Porto

U.Lisboa



Universidade do Minho



U.PORTO

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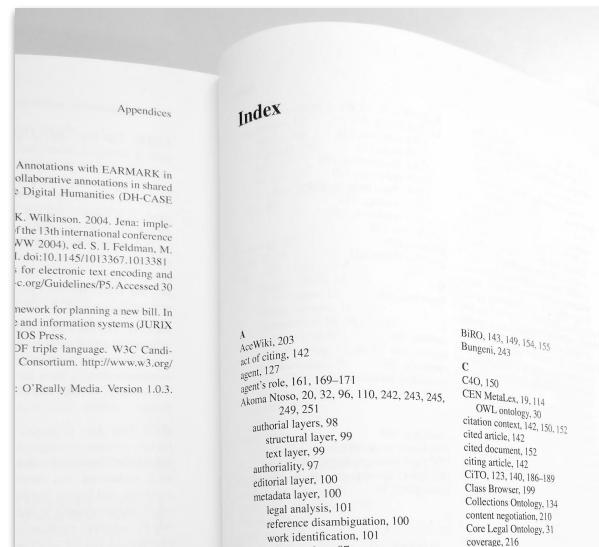
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Introduction

What is entity-oriented search and why does it matter?

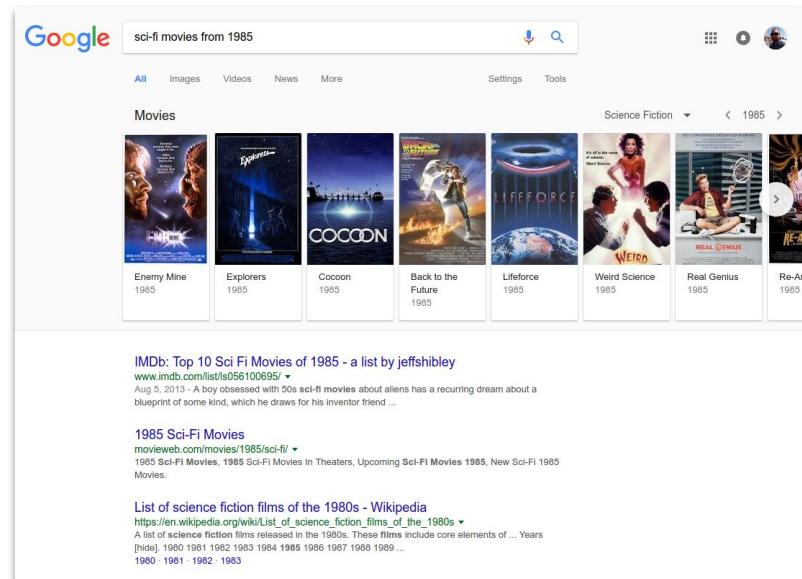
Keyword-based vs entity-oriented search

- Keyword-based search was modeled after the back-of-the-book index.
- Finding relevant content involved:
 1. Selecting one or several keywords;
 2. Jumping to the indicated pages;
 3. Reading passages and using knowledge, either internal or external to the book, to assess the relevance.



Keyword-based vs entity-oriented search

- Entity-oriented search makes use of:
 - Natural language understanding:
 - For queries;
 - And documents.
 - Structured data from knowledge bases.
- Making it possible to answer queries like:
 - [sci-fi movies from 1985]
- By returning a combination of:
 - Text documents;
 - And entities (e.g., movies).



The relevance of entities in search

- In queries:
 - A study of the AOL Query Log showed that:
 - 18-39% queries directly reference entities;
 - 73-87% queries contain at least one entity.
- In documents:
 - The annotated CoNLL 2003 English training set contained:
 - 14,987 sentences;
 - 23,499 entities;
 - Resulting in 1.6 entities per sentence.

ANT

Searching for information at the University of
Porto.



ANT



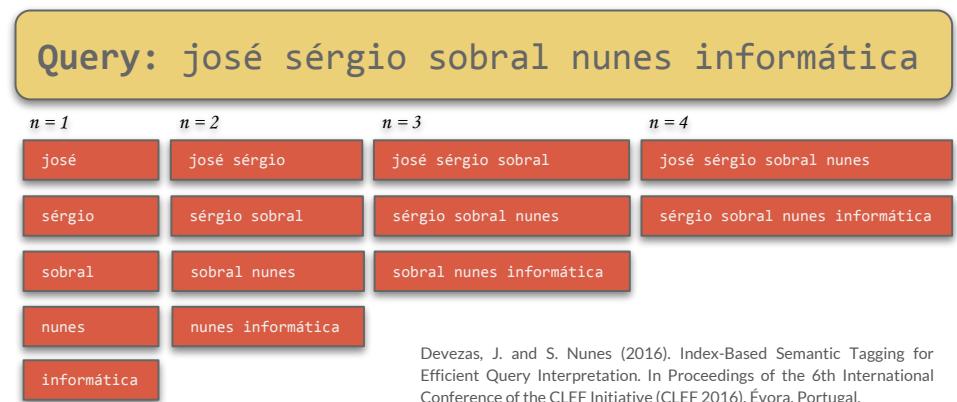
The screenshot shows a search results page for 'departamento de engenharia informática'. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Todos, Estudantes, Notícias, Funcionários, Cadeiras, Salas, Cursos, Departamentos, and Ferramentas de Pesquisa. A search bar contains the query 'departamento de engenharia informática'. Below the search bar, it says '91049 resultados (0.17 segundos)'. The results are displayed in two sections: 'Departamento de Engenharia Informática' and 'Programa Doutoral em Engenharia Informática'. Each section has a link to its respective detail page.

Ad hoc search of eNtities and Text.

- ANT is an entity-oriented search engine, built to support the five query categories defined by Pound et al. (2010):
 - Entity query;
 - Type query;
 - Attribute query;
 - Relation query;
 - Keyword query.
- It is supported by two Lucene indexes:
 - Query analysis index;
 - Entity index.
- And a Virtuoso RDF triplestore:
 - Useful for relation queries.

How does ANT understand queries?

- Query segmentation based on the retrieval of matching entities for all query n -grams up to a maximum value of n .
- Semantic tagging of query segments based on the probability of associating a given type of entity to an n -gram.



How does ANT understand queries?

- The actual method we ended up using is a variation of this that we called “**Score Hypergraph**”.
 - TF-IDF scores instead of probabilities.
 - Dedicated query analysis index to search for entities matching n -grams.
 - Hypergraph* of n -grams to resolve query segment overlaps and to fix bugs with the previous approach.

* A hypergraph is a generalization of a graph, where edges can have an arbitrary number of nodes.

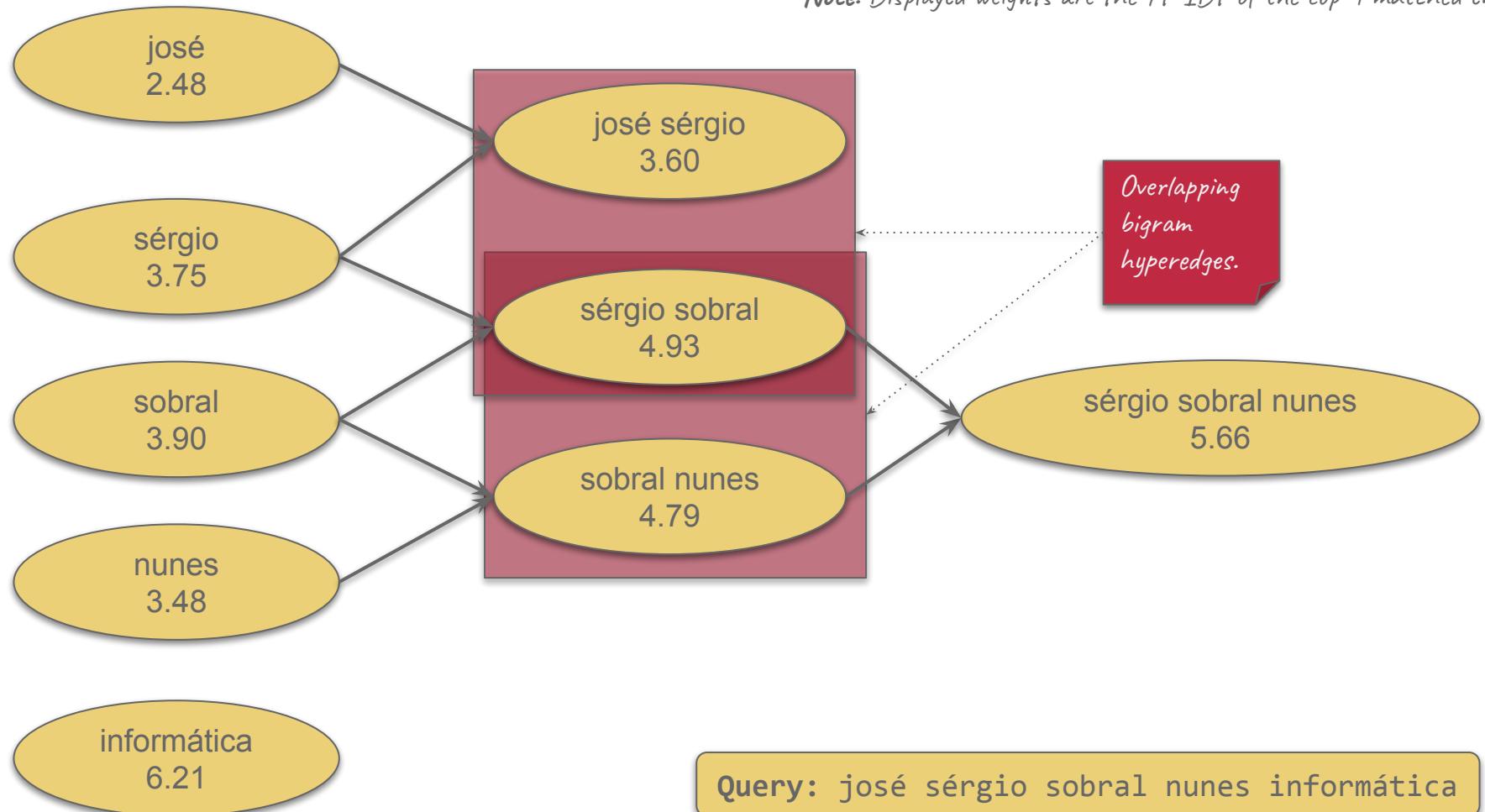
Think of a social network modeling binary friendship relations (a social graph).

And then think of a social network that also models groups of multiple friends (a social hypergraph).

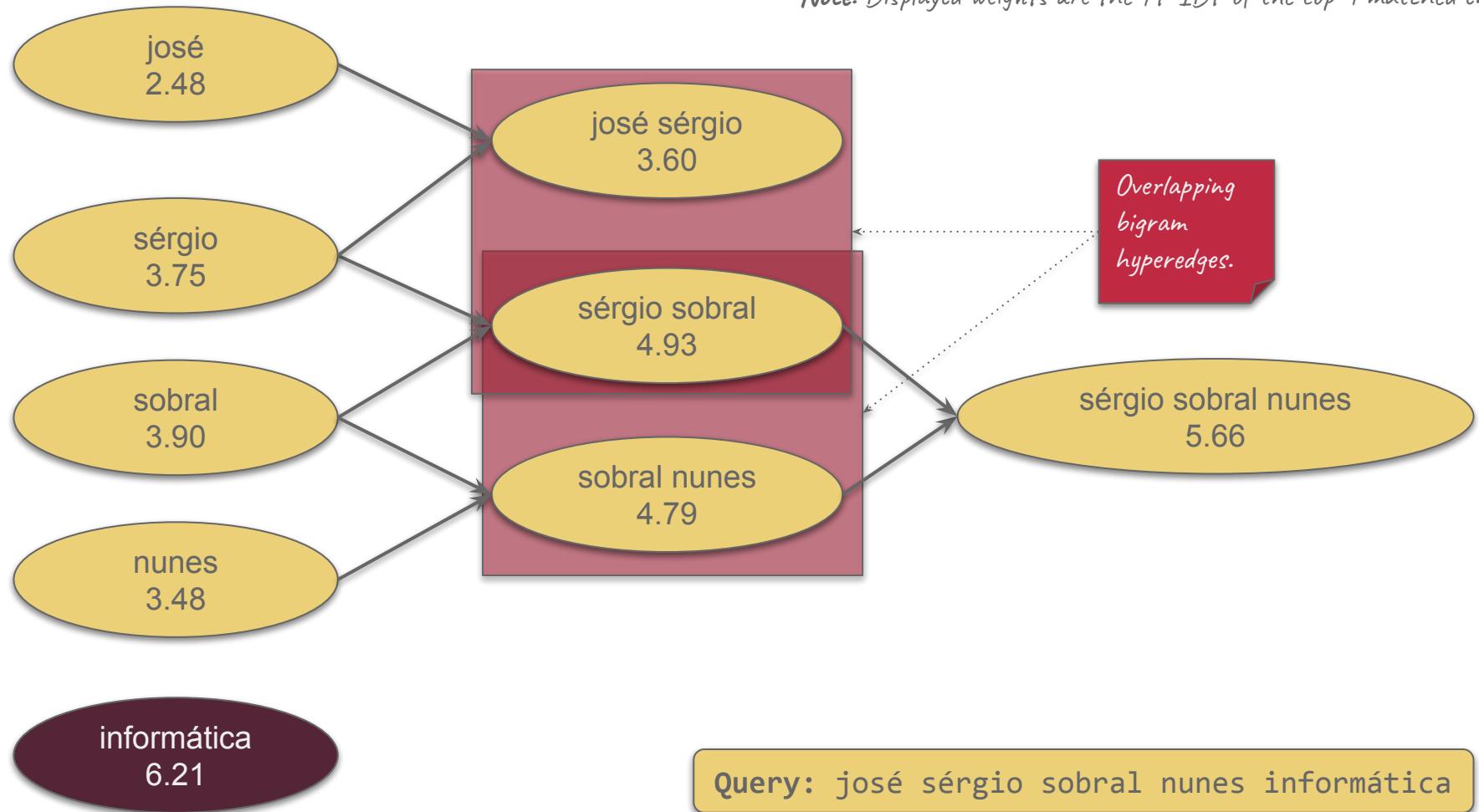
Score Hypergraph

Query segmentation and semantic tagging in ANT.

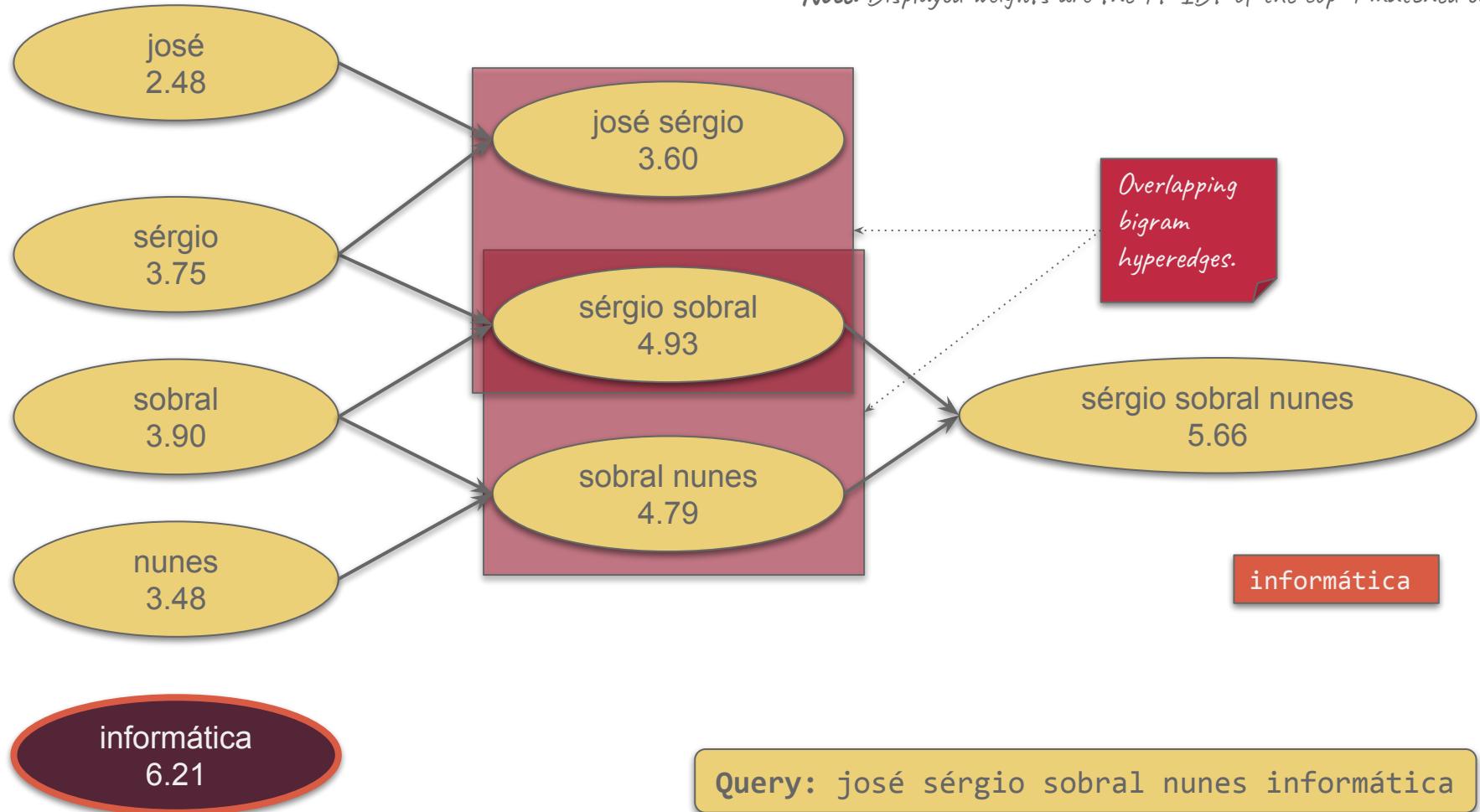
Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.



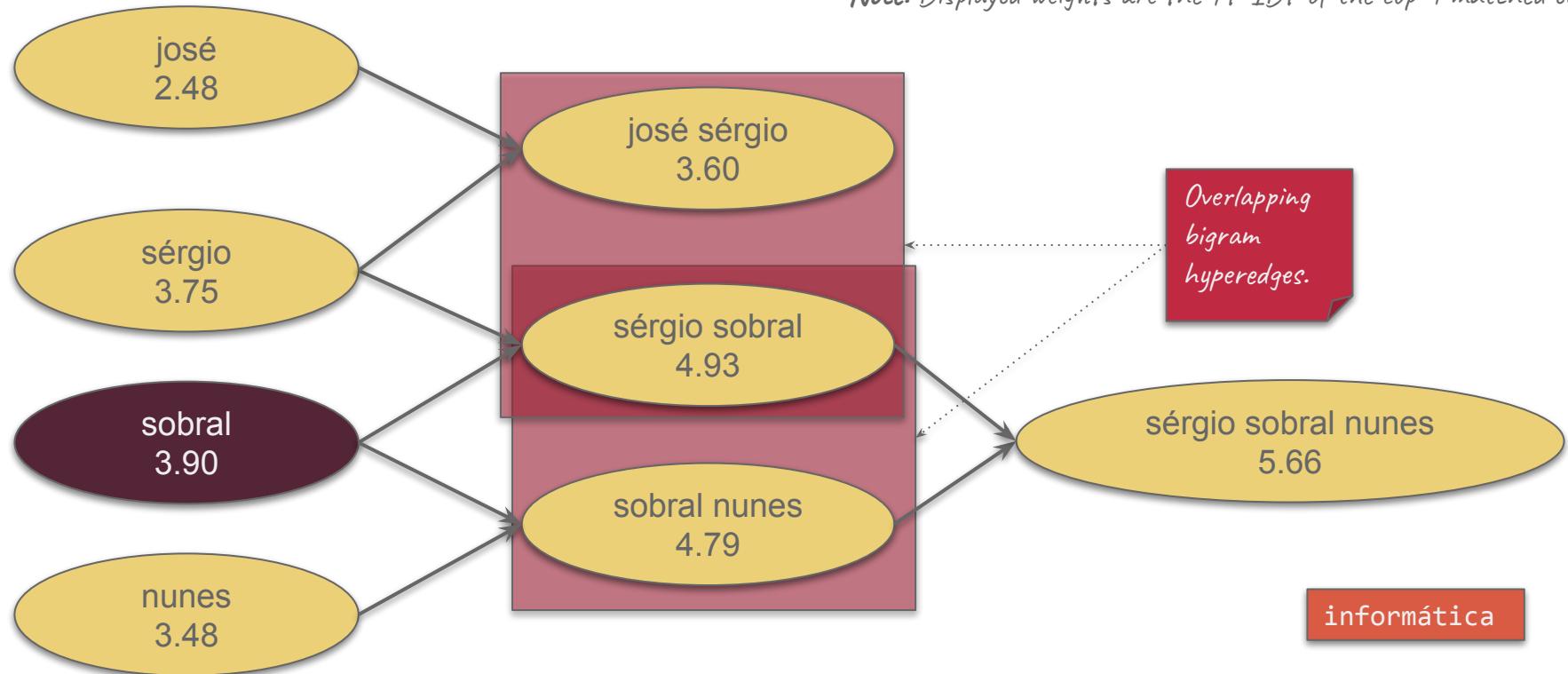
Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.



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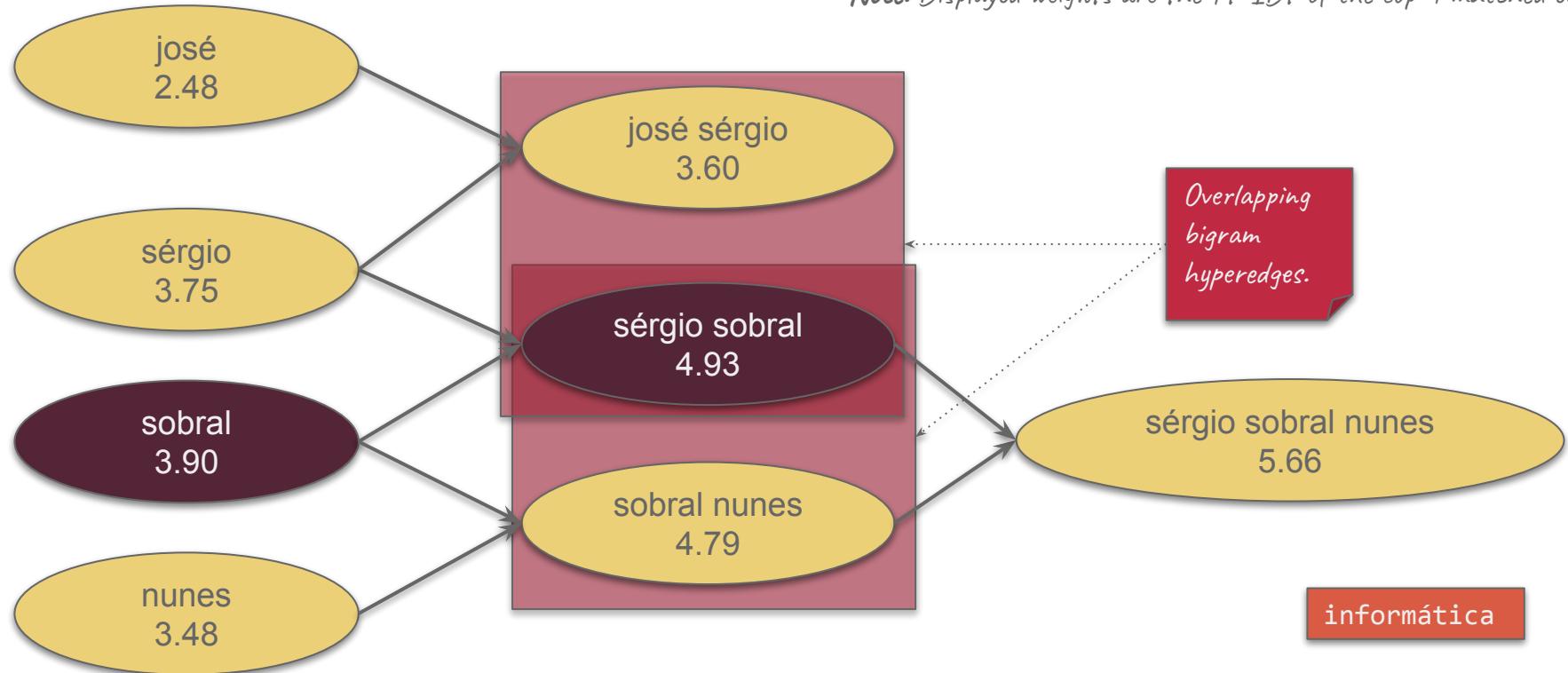


Overlapping
bigram
hyperedges.

informática

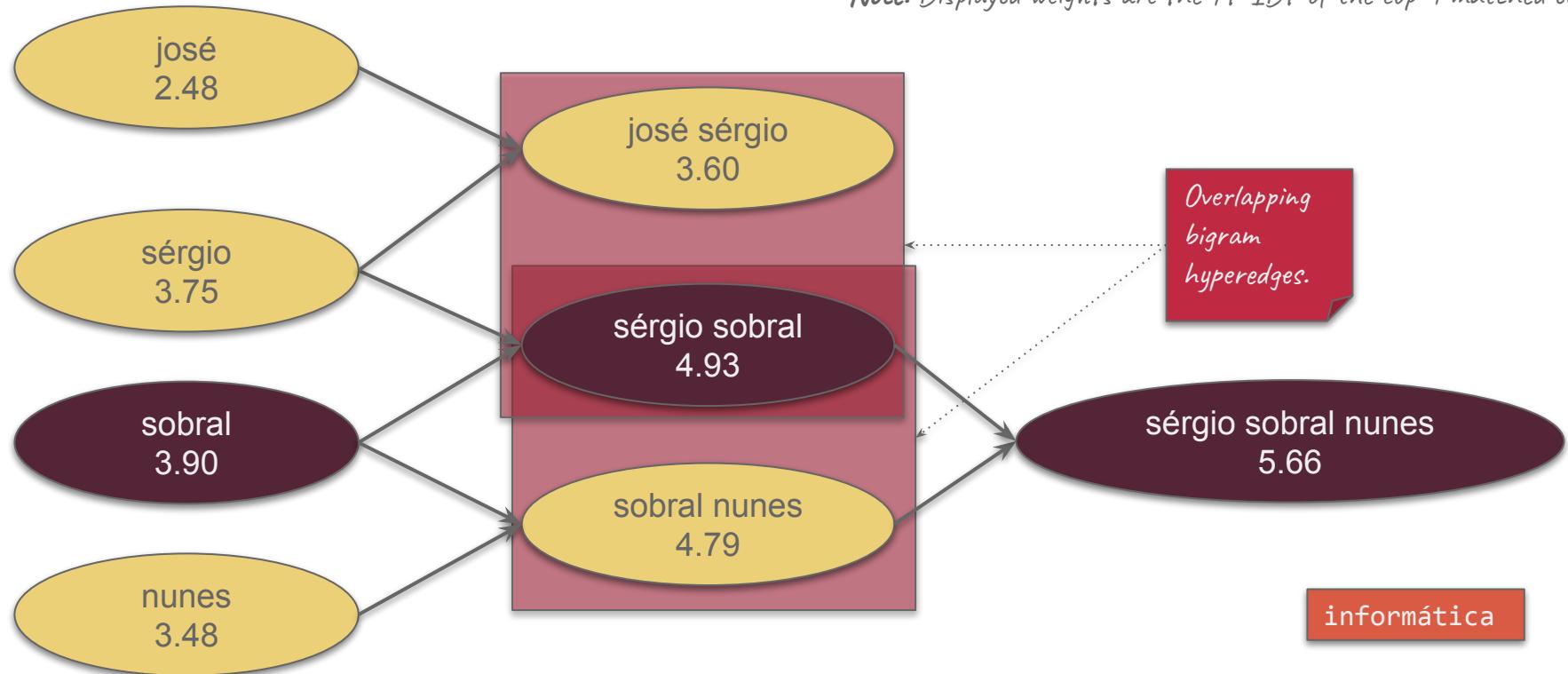
Query: José Sérgio Sobral Nunes informática

Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.



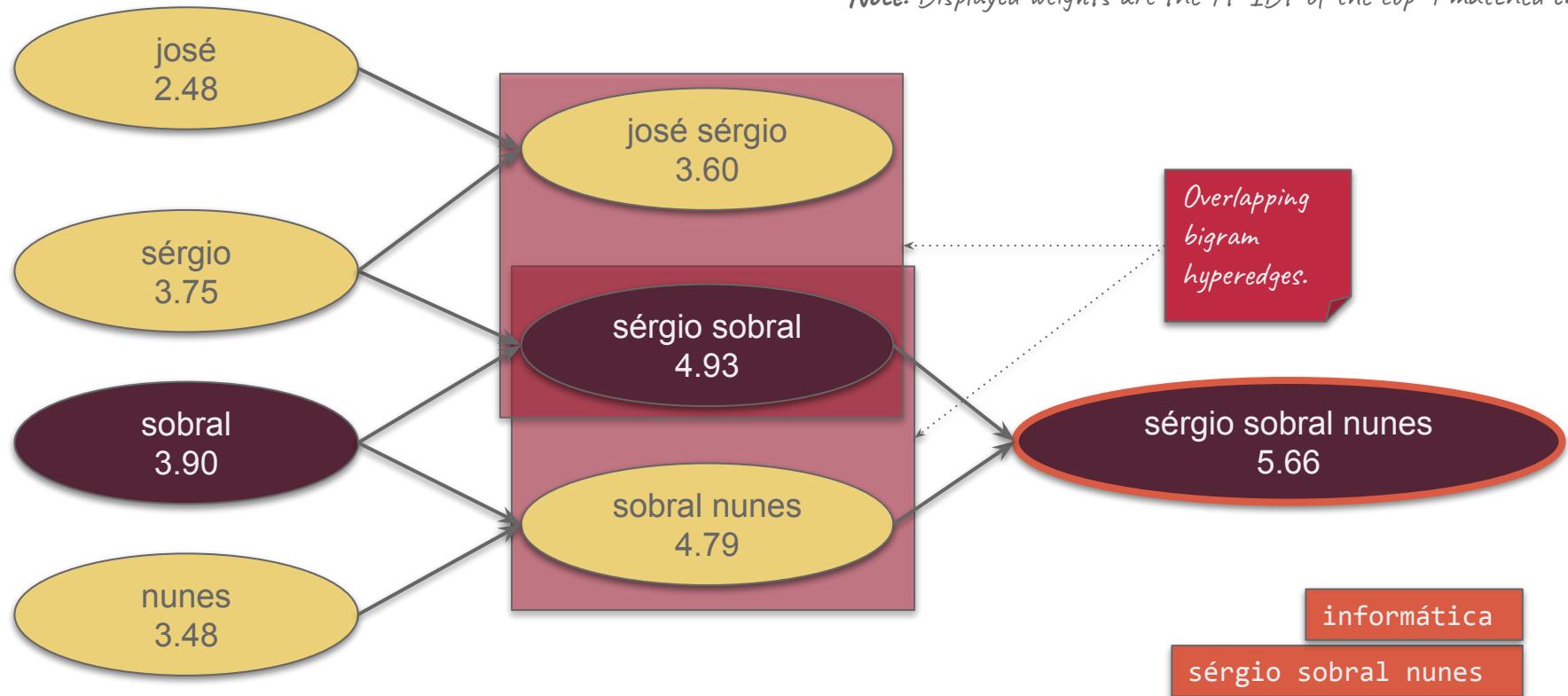
Query: jose sérgio sobral nunes informática

Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.

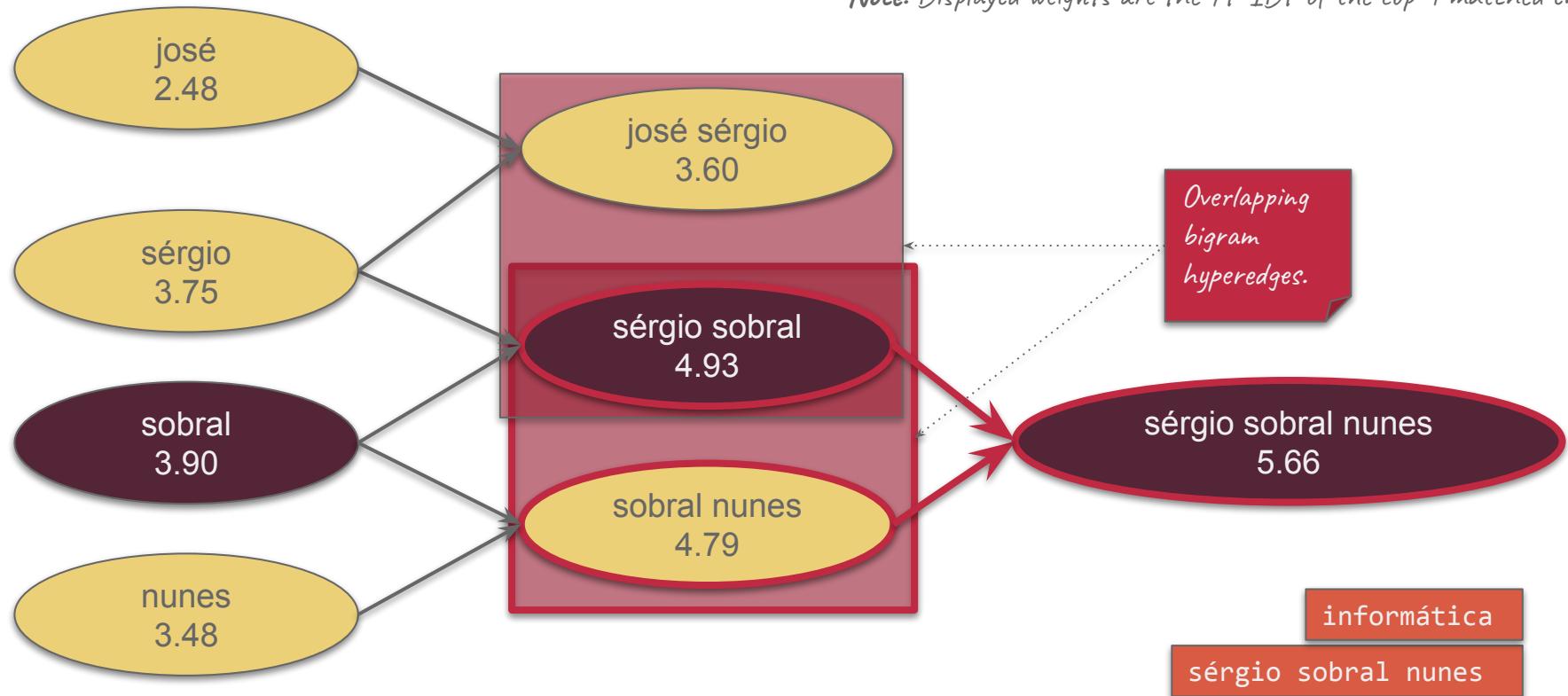


Query: jose sérgio sobral nunes informática

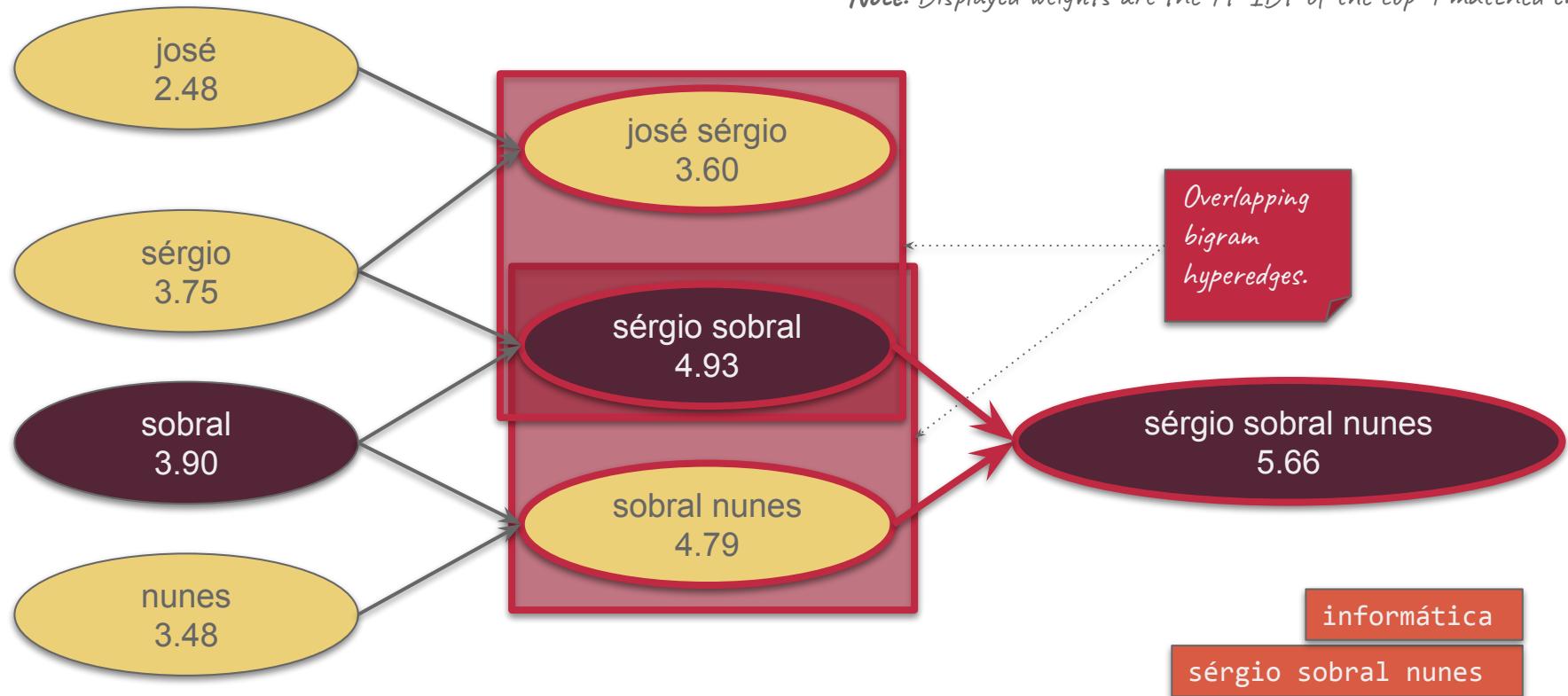
Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.



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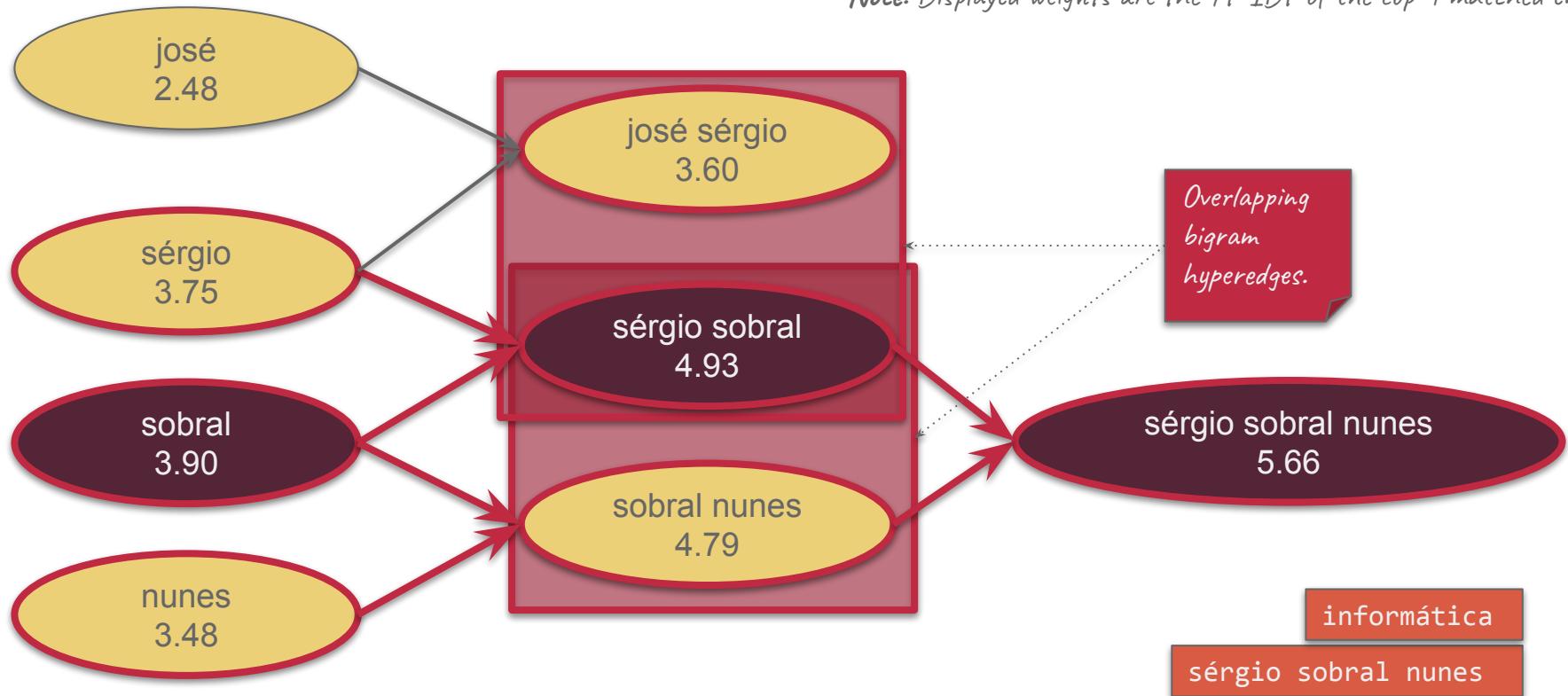


Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.



Query: jose sérgio sobral nunes informática

Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.



Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.

josé
2.48

informática

sérgio sobral nunes

Query: josé sérgio sobral nunes informática

Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.

josé
2.48

informática

sérgio sobral nunes

Query: josé sérgio sobral nunes informática

Note: Displayed weights are the TF-IDF of the top-1 matched entity.

josé
2.48

informática

sérgio sobral nunes

josé

Query: josé sérgio sobral nunes informática

informática

sérgio sobral nunes

josé

Query: josé sérgio sobral nunes informática

Query: josé sérgio sobral nunes informática

1. The query was segmented based on the n -grams with the highest-scoring entities.

Query: **josé** **sérgio sobral nunes** **informática**

Staff

Staff

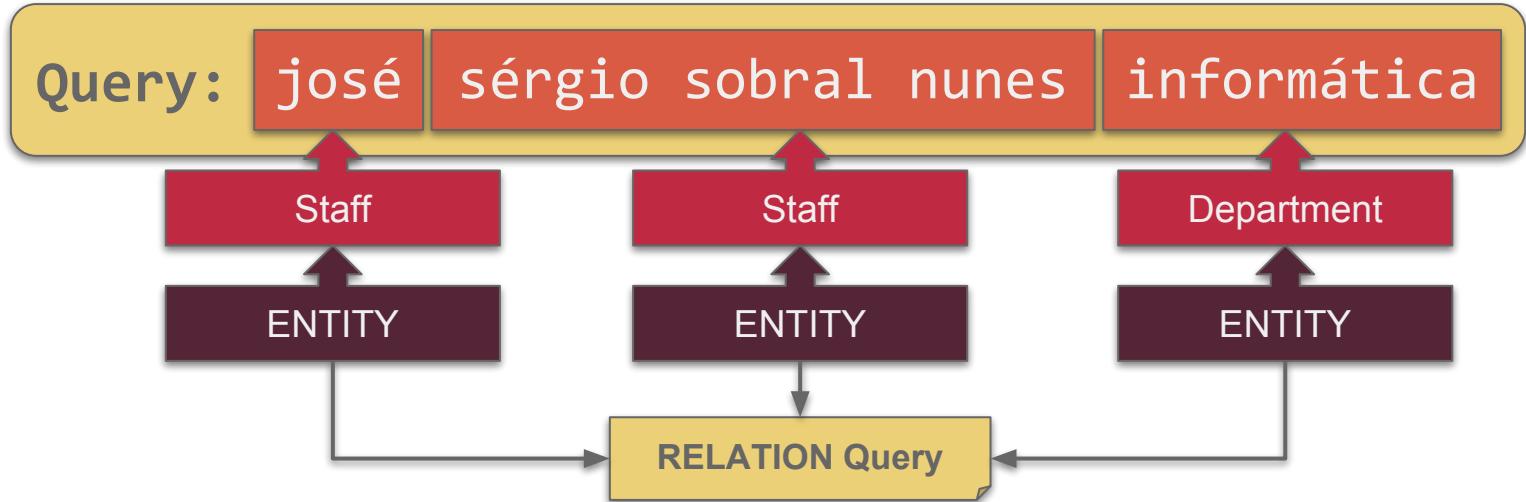
Department

2. The query was assigned semantic tags based on the type of the highest-scoring entity.

Query: josé sérgio sobral nunes informática



3. From the semantic tag, we directly derived a higher level tag that could either be ENTITY (e.g., instance of Staff class), ATTRIBUTE (e.g., property) or TYPE (e.g., Staff class).



4. Based on the combination of higher level tags, we conditionally obtained the query category.

Army ANT

Researching entity-oriented search.



Army ANT



The screenshot shows the Army ANT search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Search', 'Evaluation', and 'About'. Below the navigation is a search bar containing the query 'musician'. To the right of the search bar are buttons for 'Search', 'Learn mode', and dropdown menus for 'INEX 3T-NL - Hypergraph-0', 'Random Walk Score', 'l', '3', 'r', and '10'. Below the search bar, a message indicates '3 results (0.25 seconds)'. The results list two items: 'Henry Kaiser (musician)' with a small profile picture of a person in a red jacket, and 'Warren Smith (jazz musician)' with a similar profile picture.

A workbench for innovation in entity-oriented search.

- Indexing unit: documents with *doc_id*, *text* and *triples*.
- Able to define **readers** that work as iterators of documents.
- Able to implement retrieval models (**engines**) by implementing *index()* and *search()* methods.

Army ANT



The screenshot shows the Army ANT search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Search', 'Evaluation', and 'About'. Below the navigation bar is a search input field containing the query 'musician'. To the right of the search input is a 'Search' button and a 'Learn mode' toggle switch. Below the search input are several dropdown menus and sliders for specifying search parameters: 'INEX 3T-NL - Hypergraph-o', 'Random Walk Score', 'l', '3', 'r', and '10'. A message indicates '3 results (0.25 seconds)'. The search results list two entries: 'Henry Kaiser (musician)' and 'Warren Smith (jazz musician)', each accompanied by a small profile picture.

A workbench for innovation in entity-oriented search.

Front-end provides:

- Standard **search interface**, where you can select an index and a ranking function.
- **Learn mode interface with:**
 - Results without metadata;
 - Score component visualization;
 - Trace for the active query;
 - Ranking function details;
 - Collection description.
- **Evaluation interface supporting:**
 - Topics+Assessments (INEX Ad Hoc and INEX XML Entity Ranking);
 - Topics (TREC Common Core);
 - Living Labs API (TREC OpenSearch).

Command Line Interface

[index](#) | [search](#) | [inspect](#) | [analysis](#) | [sampling](#) | [features](#) |
[extras](#) | [evaluation](#) | [server](#)

./army-ant.py

→ index

- ◆ Index a supported collection (i.e., based on an implemented reader), using one of the available engines.

→ search

- ◆ Search one of the supported indexes (has an interactive mode to avoid preload latency).

→ inspect

- ◆ Extract several features from a particular index (supported features depend on the engine).

→ analysis

- ◆ rws-rank-concordance
 - Analyze rank concordance for Random Walk Score (Hypergraph-of-Entity).

→ sampling

- ◆ Create a subset of one of the supported collections.

→ features

- ◆ Extract features (usually from a collection), such as word embeddings and similarities.

./army-ant.py

→ extras

- ◆ fetch-wikipedia-images
 - Obtain the Wikipedia image URL for documents stored in the database.
- ◆ word2vec-knn
 - Return a ranked list of the k -nearest neighbors for a given word.
- ◆ word2vec-sim
 - Measure the similarity between the embeddings for two words.

→ evaluation

- ◆ Queue and run an evaluation task using a supported evaluator (for now, it supports INEX and Living Labs API; soon it will support TREC qrels).

→ server

- ◆ Launch the web server with a search interface, a learn mode and an evaluation panel.

Configuration

Based on YAML and mostly used by the web interface.

Example file

Global settings for metadata storage, evaluation metrics and location, and reserved heap space for Java-based engines.

```
defaults:  
db:  
  location: mongo  
  name: army_ant  
  type: mongo  
eval:  
  metrics:  
    favorite:  
      - GMAP  
      - MAP  
      - NDCG@10  
      - P@10  
    location: /home/army-ant/data/eval  
service:  
ner:  
  entity_list: /home/army-ant/data/people.txt  
depend:  
  stanford-ner: /opt/stanford-ner-2015-12-09  
jvm:  
  memory: 5120  
  other_args: -XX:+UseConcMarkSweepGC
```

Example file

Lucene index and ranking functions configuration.

```
engines:  
  lucene-inex-3t-nl:  
    name: INEX 3T-NL - Lucene  
    db:  
      name: inex  
    index:  
      type: lucene  
      location: /home/army-ant/data/indexes/lucene  
    ranking:  
      default:  
        id: tf_idf  
    functions:  
      tf_idf:  
        name: TF-IDF  
      bm25:  
        name: BM25  
        params:  
          k1: [1.2, 1, 1.8]  
          b: [0.75, 0.5, 1]  
    dfr:  
      name: DFR  
      params:  
        BM: [BE, G, P, D, In, Ine, IF]  
        AE: [L, B, Disabled]  
        N: [H1, H2, H3, Z, Disabled]
```

Example file

Hypergraph-of-entity index and ranking functions configuration.

```
engines:  
  hgoe-inex-3t-nl:  
    name: INEX 3T-NL - Hypergraph-of-Entity  
    db:  
      name: inex  
    index:  
      type: hgoe  
      location: /home/army-ant/data/indexes/hgoe  
      preload: true  
    ranking:  
      default:  
        id: random_walk  
        params:  
          l: 2  
          r: 10  
    functions:  
      jaccard:  
        name: Jaccard Score  
      random_walk:  
        name: Random Walk Score  
        params:  
          l: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]  
          r: [10, 25, 50, 100, 1000]
```

Web Interface

Searching, learning and evaluating.

Army ANT The altruistic ant

Search Evaluation About

musician

INEX 3T-NL - Hypergraph-o | Random Walk Score | 3 | r | 10

3 results (0.25 seconds)

 Henry Kaiser (musician)

 Warren Smith (jazz musician)

 Expression (album)

1. **Search interface**, showing a query over an hypergraph-of-entity index, using the random walk score as the ranking function, with $\ell = 3$ and $r = 10$.

There's something new over here, that we will show in the demo.

The screenshot shows the Army ANT search interface. At the top, there is a logo and the text "Army ANT The altruistic ant". To the right are links for "Search", "Evaluation", and "About". Below this is a search bar containing the query "musician", a "Search" button, and a "Learn mode" toggle switch. Underneath the search bar are dropdown menus for "INEX 3T-NL - Hypergraph-o", "Random Walk Score", and two numerical inputs, "l" and "r", both set to 3 and 10 respectively. The text "3 results (0.25 seconds)" is displayed. The results are listed in three cards: 1) Henry Kaiser (musician) with a photo of a man in a red jacket playing a guitar; 2) Warren Smith (jazz musician) with a photo of a man in a dark shirt; 3) Expression (album) with a photo of a CD cover featuring a person playing a saxophone.

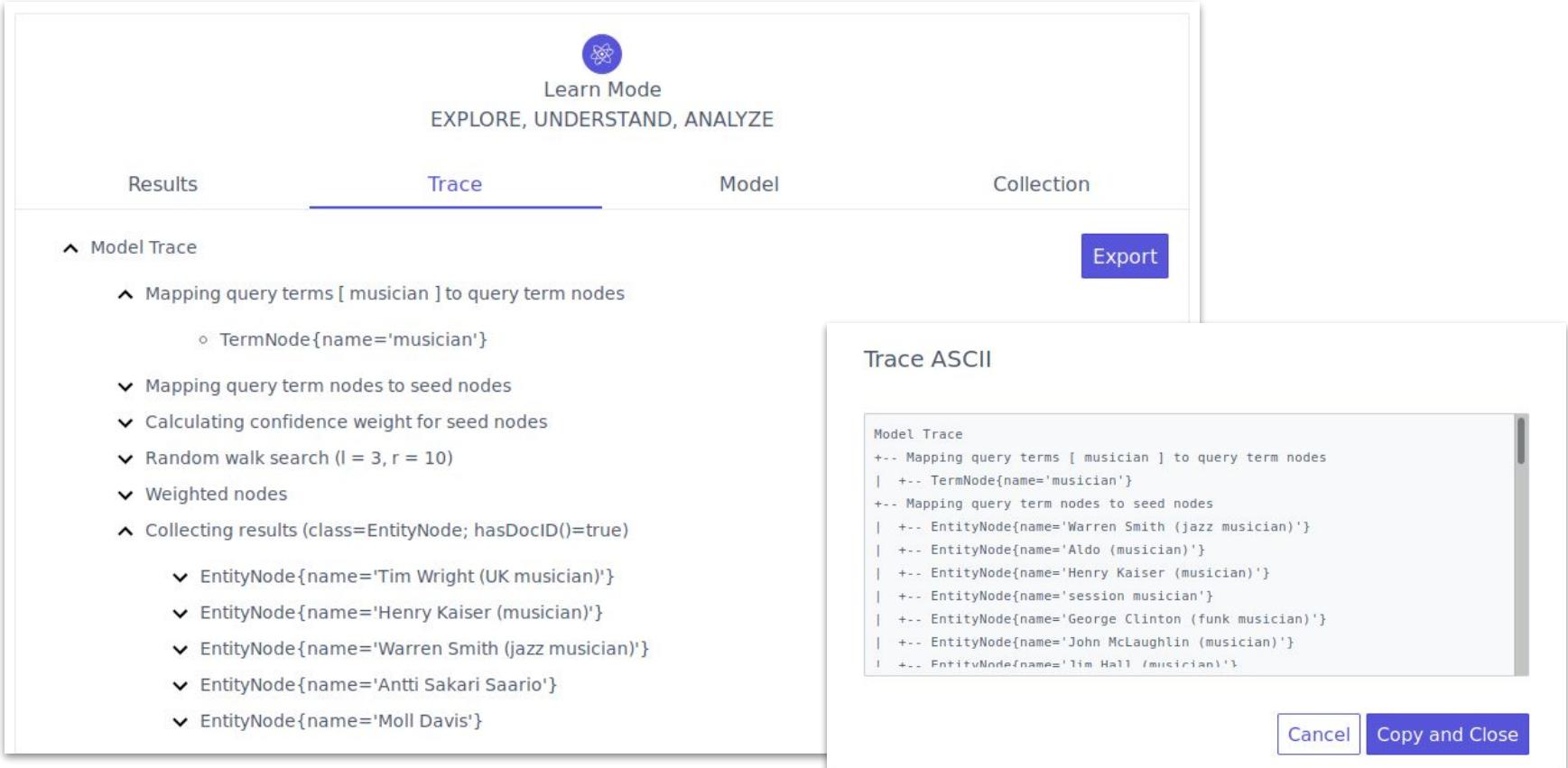
1. **Search interface**, showing a query over an hypergraph-of-entity index, using the random walk score as the ranking function, with $\ell = 3$ and $r = 10$.



Learn Mode
EXPLORE, UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE

Results	Trace	Model	Collection
Rank	Score(q, d)		Doc ID
1	0.244444	9934261	
2	0.111111	1193582	
3	0.083333	16265226	
4	0.033333	19127472	
5	0.011111	3764544	

2. Learn mode, showing the results with the ranking, score and document ID.



The screenshot shows the Neo4j Learn Mode interface. At the top, there's a logo and the text "Learn Mode" followed by "EXPLORE, UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE". Below this is a navigation bar with four tabs: "Results", "Trace" (which is selected and underlined), "Model", and "Collection". On the left, a tree view shows the trace structure:

- Model Trace
 - Mapping query terms [musician] to query term nodes
 - TermNode{name='musician'}
 - Mapping query term nodes to seed nodes
 - Calculating confidence weight for seed nodes
 - Random walk search (l = 3, r = 10)
 - Weighted nodes
 - Collecting results (class=EntityNode; hasDocID()=true)
 - EntityNode{name='Tim Wright (UK musician)'}
 - EntityNode{name='Henry Kaiser (musician)'}
 - EntityNode{name='Warren Smith (jazz musician)'}
 - EntityNode{name='Antti Sakari Saario'}
 - EntityNode{name='Moll Davis'}

On the right, there's a blue "Export" button. A modal window titled "Trace ASCII" is open, displaying the trace steps in ASCII format:

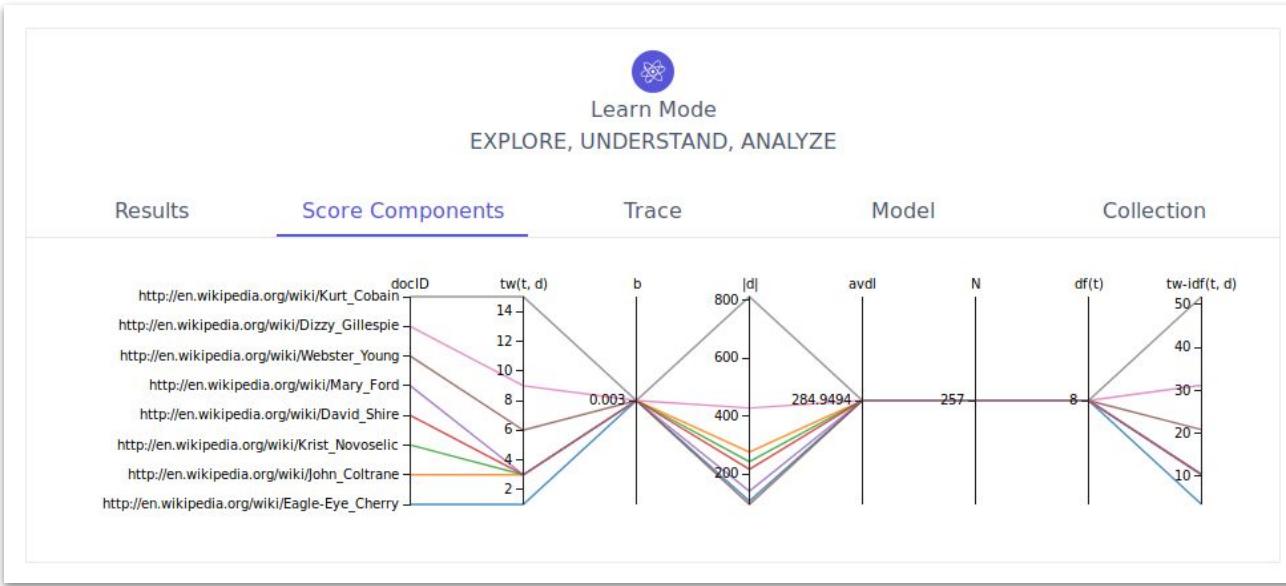
```

Model Trace
+-- Mapping query terms [ musician ] to query term nodes
|   +-- TermNode{name='musician'}
+-- Mapping query term nodes to seed nodes
|   +-- EntityNode{name='Warren Smith (jazz musician)'}
|   +-- EntityNode{name='Aldo (musician)'}
|   +-- EntityNode{name='Henry Kaiser (musician)'}
|   +-- EntityNode{name='session musician'}
|   +-- EntityNode{name='George Clinton (funk musician)'}
|   +-- EntityNode{name='John McLaughlin (musician)'}
|   +-- EntityNode{name='Tim Hall (musician)'}

```

At the bottom right of the modal are "Cancel" and "Copy and Close" buttons.

3. Learn mode, showing a trace (“instanced explain”) and respective ASCII export for the hypergraph-of-entity engine.



4. **Learn mode**, showing the score components visualization based on the parallel coordinates system. Displayed score components are based on the graph-of-entity and the entity weight ranking function.

5. Learn mode: model

Illustrated with the description of the hypergraph-of-entity, dynamically showing which index extensions are enabled and which parameter values were used in the active query.

The data is represted using a hypergraph with three types of nodes — [document node](#); [term node](#); [entity node](#) — and three types of hyperedges — [document edge](#) (directed), linking the document to all terms and entities mentioned in a document; [contained_in edge](#) (directed), linking a set of term nodes to an entity node; [related_to edge](#) (undirected), linking an entity node to a set of related entity nodes.

Optionally, the index can be expanded with several features, including:

Synonyms [Disabled](#)

The synsets from WordNet are used to expand terms that are part of the corpus vocabulary, by adding an undirected hyperedge [synonym edge](#), linking sets of synonyms.

Context [Disabled](#)

We consider word context by extracting a word2vec simnet. We first obtain word embeddings of size 100 based on sliding windows of length 5, using word2vec. We then use a k -NN approach to find the two nearest neighbors based on the embeddings. We only create an edge between two neighboring words when the cosine similarity is over 0.5. We integrate the word2vec simnet (an unweighted, undirected graph) into the hypergraph-of-entity by adding an undirected hyperedge [context edge](#), linking each word to all of its neighbors.

Under revision: When Context is enabled with Synonyms, any word that is a synonym is also considered for establishing links to its contextually similar words. We should test which is best: to create context edges only for vocabulary terms or also for synonym terms.

Ranking Model

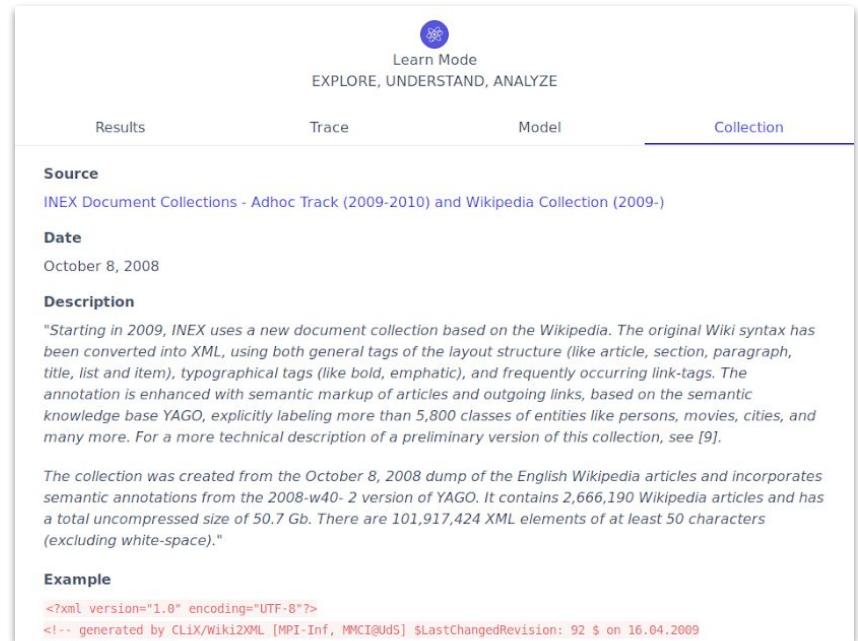
The ranking approach consists of mapping the query terms into the corresponding term nodes, when they exist. Then, we expand to adjacent entities, with a given confidence weight of it being a good representative of the query; whenever no linked entities exist, the term node is used instead, with maximal confidence weight. These nodes that represent the query in the hypergraph are called seed nodes. Several strategies are then implemented based on these seed nodes.

Random Walk Score

Assuming a random walk of a given length ℓ and a given number of repeats r , we issue $r = 10$ random walks of length $\ell = 3$ from each seed node. The visits to each traversed node are accumulated per seed node, multiplied by the seed node confidence weight, and summed. This results in a non-determinist search process that improves effectiveness for higher values of r and needs to tune ℓ based on the diameter of the hypergraph — for low values of ℓ , there is not enough information, while values of ℓ that are too high will account for irrelevant information.

6. Learn mode: collection

Shows the description of the indexed collection, including the source of the data, the temporal coverage, a free text description, an example of the data and a reference paper.



The screenshot shows the INEX Learn Mode interface. At the top, there's a blue circular icon with a white gear-like symbol, followed by the text "Learn Mode" and "EXPLORE, UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE". Below this, there are four tabs: "Results", "Trace", "Model", and "Collection", with "Collection" being the active tab. Under the "Collection" tab, there are several sections: "Source" (INEX Document Collections - Adhoc Track (2009-2010) and Wikipedia Collection (2009-)), "Date" (October 8, 2008), "Description" (a detailed paragraph about the collection's creation from the English Wikipedia dump and its semantic annotations using YAGO), and "Example" (an XML snippet showing a country element with a link to a specific XML file). The XML code is as follows:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!-- generated by CLix/Wiki2XML [MPI-Inf, MMCI@UdS] $LastChangedRevision: 92 $ on 16.04.2009 -->
```



Below the XML example, there's a "Paper" section containing a reference to a paper by Geva S., Kamps J., Lethonen M., Schenkel R., Thom J.A., and Trotman A. (2010) Overview of the INEX 2009 Ad Hoc Track. The paper is listed in the "Lecture Notes in Computer Science" series, volume 6203, published by Springer in Berlin, Heidelberg. There is also a "Springer Link" button.

Johnny Burke (1851 - 1930) was a <country wordnetid="108544813" confidence="0.9508927676800064"><link xlink:type="simple" xlink:href="..../561/697561.xml">Newfoundland</link></country>
songwriter and musician. He was nicknamed the 'Bard of Prescott Street'. He wrote many popular songs that artists in the 1930s and 1940s released.</p>

 Army ANT The altruistic ant 

Search Evaluation About

Evaluation

Evaluator: INEX Run ID: Dataset - retrieval model - ranking function

Topics: No file selected. Qrels: No file selected.

Engine: INEX 3T-NL - Hypergr Random Walk Score

	r	
1		10
2		100
3		250
4		500
5		750

7. Evaluation module, showing the task launching form.



8. Evaluation module, showing a finished task and its expanded results.

Configure output

 CSV LaTeX Toggle all

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GMAP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MAP | <input type="checkbox"/> Macro Avg F0_5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Macro Avg F1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Macro Avg F2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Macro Avg Prec | <input type="checkbox"/> Macro Avg Rec | <input type="checkbox"/> Micro Avg F0_5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Micro Avg F1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Micro Avg F2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Micro Avg Prec | <input type="checkbox"/> Micro Avg Rec |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NDCG@10 | <input type="checkbox"/> NDCG@100 | <input type="checkbox"/> NDCG@1000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P@10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> P@100 | <input type="checkbox"/> P@1000 | | |

Decimals

4

Columns

 Run ID Type Parameters Location**Type Parameters GMAP MAP NDCG@10 P@10**

hgoe (l=2, r=10)	0.1790	0.2512	0.0706	0.3000
hgoe (l=2, r=100)	0.1622	0.2444	0.0619	0.2333
hgoe (l=2, r=500)	0.1537	0.2462	0.0522	0.2000
hgoe (l=3, r=10)	0.1794	0.2734	0.0817	0.2667
hgoe (l=3, r=100)	0.1510	0.2193	0.0458	0.2000
hgoe (l=3, r=500)	0.1583	0.2380	0.0487	0.2000



9. Evaluation module, showing the global evaluation export, for comparing the results of multiple parameter configurations among different tasks.

Conclusions

Final remarks and interactive demo.





Final remarks

- The ANT search engine is serving the local academic community and giving us a test platform.
- Army ANT is serving the research needs in the area and supporting my PhD.
- By the way, my thesis topic is “Graph-Based Entity-Oriented Search”:
 - If you’re interested on the topic, feel free to look me up on [ANT](#) and contact me.
 - I’m also exploring hypergraphs as an alternative, higher-level, representation model.
 - The goal is to integrate text and knowledge in a joint model.
 - And to provide a generalized model to support entity-oriented search tasks.

This work has been developed at FEUP InfoLab and INESC TEC and I have been supported by research grant PD/BD/128160/2016, provided by the Portuguese funding agency, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT).



Installing Army ANT demo using Docker

- First install Docker Compose:
 - <https://docs.docker.com/compose/install/>
- And then get Army ANT install repository:
 - <https://github.com/feup-infolab/army-ant-install>
- Follow the instructions to launch Army ANT and explore the included Lucene and hypergraph-of-entity indexes:
 - `git clone git@github.com:feup-infolab/army-ant-install.git`
 - `cd army-ant-install`
 - `git checkout ieee-syp-2018`
 - `docker-compose up`

Thank you!

<https://ant.fe.up.pt>

<https://github.com/feup-infolab/army-ant>

