3-1: Scoring, Term Weighting and the Vector Space Model

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This lecture; IIR Sections 6.2

- Ranked retrieval
- Scoring documents
- Term frequency
- Collection statistics
- Weighting schemes

Ranked retrieval

- Thus far, our queries have all been Boolean.
- Documents either match or don’t.
- Good for expert users with precise understanding of their needs and the collection.
- Also good for applications: Applications can easily consume 1000s of results.
- Not good for the majority of users.
- Most users incapable of writing Boolean queries (or they are, but they think it’s too much work).
- Most users don’t want to wade through 1000s of results.
- This is particularly true of web search.

Problem with Boolean search: feast or famine

- Boolean queries often result in either too few (=0) or too many (1000s) results.
- Query 1: “standard user dlink 650” → 200,000 hits
- Query 2: “standard user dlink 650 no card found”: 0 hits
- It takes a lot of skill to come up with a query that produces a manageable number of hits.
- AND gives too few; OR gives too many

Ranked retrieval models

- Rather than a set of documents satisfying a query expression, in ranked retrieval, the system returns an ordering over the (top) documents in the collection for a query
- Free text queries: Rather than a query language of operators and expressions, the user's query is just one or more words in a human language
- In principle, there are two separate choices here, but in practice, ranked retrieval has normally been associated with free text queries and vice versa

Feast or famine: not a problem in ranked retrieval

- When a system produces a ranked result set, large result sets are not an issue
  - Indeed, the size of the result set is not an issue
  - We just show the top *k* (≈ 10) results
  - We don’t overwhelm the user

  - Premise: the ranking algorithm works

Feast or famine: not a problem in ranked retrieval

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Scoring as the basis of ranked retrieval

- We wish to return in order the documents most likely to be useful to the searcher
- How can we rank-order the documents in the collection with respect to a query?
- Assign a score – say in [0, 1] – to each document
- This score measures how well document and query "match".

Query-document matching scores

- We need a way of assigning a score to a query/document pair
- Let's start with a one-term query
- If the query term does not occur in the document: score should be 0
- The more frequent the query term in the document, the higher the score (should be)
- We will look at a number of alternatives for this.

Take 1: Jaccard coefficient

- A commonly used measure of overlap of two sets A and B
- jaccard(A,B) = $|A \cap B| \ / \ |A \cup B|$
- jaccard$(A,A) = 1$
- jaccard$(A,B) = 0$ if $A \cap B = 0$
- A and B don't have to be the same size.
- Always assigns a number between 0 and 1.

Jaccard coefficient: Scoring example

- What is the query-document match score that the Jaccard coefficient computes for each of the two documents below?
- Query: *ides of march*
- Document 1: *caesar died in march*
- Document 2: *the long march*

Issues with Jaccard for scoring

- It doesn't consider *term frequency* (how many times a term occurs in a document)
- Rare terms in a collection are more informative than frequent terms. Jaccard doesn't consider this information
- We need a more sophisticated way of normalizing for length
- Later in this lecture, we'll use $|A \cap B| / \sqrt{|A \cup B|}$
- . . . instead of $|A \cap B| / |A \cup B|$ (Jaccard) for length normalization.

Recall (Lecture 1): Binary term-document incidence matrix

	Antony and Cleopatra	Julius Caesar	The Tempest	Hamlet	Othello	Macbeth
Antony	1	1	0	0	0	1
Brutus	1	1	0	1	0	0
Caesar	1	1	0	1	1	1
Calpurnia	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cleopatra	1	0	0	0	0	0
mercy	1	0	1	1	1	1
worser	1	0	1	1	1	0

Each document is represented by a binary vector $\in \{0,1\}^{|V|}$

Term-document count matrices

- Consider the number of occurrences of a term in a document:
  - Each document is a count vector in $\mathbb{N}^{v}$: a column below

	Antony and Cleopatra	Julius Caesar	The Tempest	Hamlet	Othello	Macbeth
Antony	157	73	0	0	0	0
Brutus	4	157	0	1	0	0
Caesar	232	227	0	2	1	1
Calpurnia	0	10	0	0	0	0
Cleopatra	57	0	0	0	0	0
mercy	2	0	3	5	5	1
worser	2	0	1	1	1	0

Bag of words model

- Vector representation doesn't consider the ordering of words in a document
- *John is quicker than Mary* and *Mary is quicker than John* have the same vectors
- This is called the bag of words model.
- In a sense, this is a step back: The positional index was able to distinguish these two documents.
- We will look at "recovering" positional information later in this course.
- For now: bag of words model

Coordination level matching

- Coordination level matching (CLM) is a straightforward approach to bag-of-words queries
  – Idea: Documents whose index records have n different terms

  in common with the query are more relevant than documents

  with n − 1 different terms held in common

• The coordination level (also called “size of overlap”) between a query Q and a document D is the number of terms they have in common

• How to answer a query?

1. Sort the document collection by coordination level
2. Return the head of this sorted list to the user (say, the best 20 documents)

Example

- Document1 = {step, man, mankind}
- Document2 = {step, man, China}
- Document3 = {step, mankind}

  - Query1 = {man, mankind}
  - Result: 1. Document1 (2) 2. Document2 , Document3 (1)
  - Query2 = {China, man, mankind}
  - Result: 1. Document1 , Document2 (2) 2. Document3(1)

Term frequency tf

- The term frequency $\mathrm{tf}_{t,d}$ of term t in document d is defined as the number of times that t occurs in d.
- We want to use tf when computing query-document match scores. But how?
- Raw term frequency is not what we want:
  - A document with 10 occurrences of the term is more relevant than a document with 1 occurrence of the term.
  - But not 10 times more relevant.
- Relevance does not increase proportionally with term frequency.

NB: frequency = count in IR

TF Weighting

- Idea: A term is more important if it occurs more frequently in a document
- Formulas: Let f(t,d) be the frequency count of term t in doc d
  - Raw TF: TF(t,d) = f(t,d)
  - Log TF: TF(t,d)=log f(t,d)
  - Maximum frequency normalization:

    TF(t,d) = 0.5 +0.5*f(t,d)/MaxFreq(d)
- Normalization of TF is very important!

Log-frequency weighting

- The log frequency weight of term t in d is

$$w_{t,d} = \begin{cases} 1 + \log_{10} \mathrm{tf}_{t,d}, & \text{if } \mathrm{tf}_{t,d} > 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- 0 → 0, 1 → 1, 2 → 1.3, 10 → 2, 1000 → 4, etc.
- Score for a document-query pair: sum over terms *t* in both *q* and *d*:
- score

$$= \sum_{t \in q \cap d} (1 + \log \mathrm{tf}_{t,d})$$

- The score is 0 if none of the query terms is present in the document.

Document frequency

- Rare terms are more informative than frequent terms
  - Recall stop words
- Consider a term in the query that is rare in the collection (e.g., *arachnocentric*)
- A document containing this term is very likely to be relevant to the query *arachnocentric*
- → We want a high weight for rare terms like *arachnocentric*.

Document frequency, continued

- Frequent terms are less informative than rare terms
- Consider a query term that is frequent in the collection (e.g., *high, increase, line*)
- A document containing such a term is more likely to be relevant than a document that doesn't
- But it's not a sure indicator of relevance.
- → For frequent terms, we want high positive weights for words like *high, increase, and line*
- But lower weights than for rare terms.
- We will use document frequency (df) to capture this.

TF Normalization

- Why?
  - Document length variation
  - “Repeated occurrences” are less informative than the “first occurrence”
- Two views of document length
  - A doc is long because it uses more words
  - A doc is long because it has more contents
- Generally penalize long doc, but avoid over-penalizing

idf weight

- df_t is the document frequency of t: the number of documents that contain t
  - df_t is an inverse measure of the informativeness of t
  - $\mathrm{df}_t \leq N$
- We define the idf (inverse document frequency) of t by

$$\mathrm{idf}_t = \log_{10}(N/\mathrm{df}_t)$$

  - N : total number of docs
  - We use log (N/df_t) instead of N/df_t to "dampen" the effect of idf.

Idea: A term is more discriminative if it occurs only in fewer documents

idf example, suppose N = 1 million

term	df_t	idf_t
calpurnia	1	
animal	100	
sunday	1,000	
fly	10,000	
under	100,000	
the	1,000,000	

$$\mathrm{idf}_t = \log_{10}(N/\mathrm{df}_t)$$

There is one idf value for each term t in a collection.

Collection vs. Document frequency

- The collection frequency of t is the number of occurrences of t in the collection, counting multiple occurrences.
- Example:

Word	Collection frequency	Document frequency
insurance	10440	3997
try	10422	8760

tf-idf weighting

- The tf-idf weight of a term is the product of its tf weight and its idf weight.

$$w_{t,d} = \log(1 + \mathrm{tf}_{t,d}) \times \log_{10}(N / \mathrm{df}_t)$$

- Best known weighting scheme in information retrieval
  - Note: the “-” in tf-idf is a hyphen, not a minus sign!
  - Alternative names: tf.idf, tf x idf
- Increases with the number of occurrences within a document
- Increases with the rarity of the term in the collection

Score for a document given a query

$$\text{Score}(q,d) = \sum_{t \in q \cap d} \text{tf.idf}_{t,d}$$

- There are many variants
  - How “tf” is computed (with/without logs)
  - Whether the terms in the query are also weighted
  - …

Binary → count → weight matrix

	Antony and Cleopatra	Julius Caesar	The Tempest	Hamlet	Othello	Macbeth
Antony	5.25	3.18	0	0	0	0.35
Brutus	1.21	6.1	0	1	0	0
Caesar	8.59	2.54	0	1.51	0.25	0
Calpurnia	0	1.54	0	0	0	0
Cleopatra	2.85	0	0	0	0	0
mercy	1.51	0	1.9	0.12	5.25	0.88
worser	1.37	0	0.11	4.15	0.25	1.95

Each document is now represented by a real-valued vector of tf-idf weights $\in \mathbb{R}^{|V|}$

The Notion of Relevance