

# Medical Information Retrieval

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# OUTLINE

## 1. Introduction

Presenters and learners

About the tutorial

## 2. IR and its Potential in the Medical Domain

Introduction to Information Retrieval (IR)

Challenges

## 3. Medical IR: Basics

Medical Information Access

Medical Knowledge Sources

## 4. Techniques and Models

Overview of state-of-the-art approaches

Structured Knowledge-Resource driven Semantic

Data-Driven Semantic

## 5. Evaluation

Challenges in Evaluating Medical Information Retrieval

Benchmarking Activities and Lessons Learned

## 6. Conclusion

# INTRODUCTION

## WHO ARE WE?



**Prof. Lynda Tamine**

Department of Computing Science, University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse (France)

Research interests: modelling and evaluation of medical, contextual, collaborative and deep information retrieval.

Works on the characterization of medical queries according to diverse facets such as users expertise, task and difficulty and on semantic search models within medical settings, designing semantic models for health search.



**Dr. Lorraine Goeuriot**

LIG - Universit Grenoble Alpes

Research interest: modelling and evaluation of medical information retrieval, natural language processing.

Organised the Medical Information Retrieval Workshop in SIGIR. Since 2013, involved in the CLEF eHealth evaluation lab.

# INTRODUCTION

## WHO ARE YOU?

- Introduce yourself: name, organization, profession
- What is your motivation behind attending the tutorial?
- What do you mainly expect to learn about?

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# INFORMATION RETRIEVAL IN THE MEDICAL DOMAIN

## Sessions in recent conferences

- Every year papers on medical/health applications in the main IR conferences: ECIR, CIKM, SIGIR
- Every year papers on data and knowledge management in the main Medical informatics conference: AMIA, AIME
- Special tracks on the topic of "Health": the Web Conference in 2018, ECIR'18
- Special tracks on the topic of "Ontologies and knowledge representation and access": AIME'19, AIME'18

## Special issues in journals

- 2018: journal of Informatics in Medicine special issue on "*Information Retrieval: A Health Care Perspective*"
- 2017: JASIST special issue on "*Biomedical Information Retrieval*"
- 2016: Journal of Information Retrieval special issue on "*Medical Information Retrieval*"

## Workshops (Related to the topic)

- Workshop on Health Search and Discovery at SIGIR 2013
- Workshop Medical Information Retrieval (MedIR) at SIGIR 2014 and 2016
- Workshop Knowledge Representation for Health at AIME 2019
- Workshop Semantic extraction from Medical Texts at AIME 2017

## Evaluation challenges

- TREC is running at least one medical task per year: in 2019 TREC Precision Medicine track
- CLEF is running two medical tasks per year: eHealth and imageCLEF medical task
- NTCIR is running the Medical NLP task

# OBJECTIVES

- 1 Summarize fundamentals in information retrieval
- 2 Present a review of tasks, users and resources in the medical domain
- 3 Present state-of-the art models and techniques in medical information retrieval
- 4 Present the major medical search evaluation benchmarks and report the key result trends
- 5 Summarize challenges and research opportunities

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# WHAT IS IR?

## THE IR VIEW

### Information Retrieval (Mooers:1951)

"Information retrieval is the name for the process or method whereby a prospective user of information is able to convert his **need for information** into an actual list of citations to **documents** in storage containing information **useful** to him... Information retrieval is crucial to documentation and organization of knowledge"

### Information Retrieval [Salton and McGill, 1986]

"Information retrieval systems are designed to help analyze and describe the **items** stored in a file, to organize them and search among them, and finally to retrieve them in **response** to a **user's query**. Designing and using a retrieval system involves four major activities: information analysis, information organization and **search, query formulation, and information retrieval** and dissemination"

- Main keywords, phrases: naïve definitions
  - ▶ *Information item*: a single unit of (textual) information (document, blog, tweet, e-mail, medical visit report, etc.)
  - ▶ *Information need*: what the users' seek for
  - ▶ *Query*: explicit formulation of the user's information need
  - ▶ *Retrieve useful information*: select information items that are relevant to the query

# WHAT IS IR?

## THE WELL KNOWN SEARCH ENGINES

- When we talk about information retrieval, we think about web search engines...



# WHAT IS IR?

## THE WELL KNOWN SEARCH ENGINES

- When we talk about information retrieval, we think about web search engines...

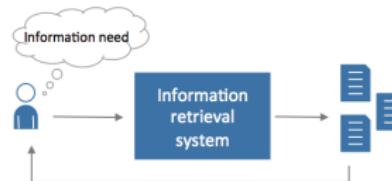


- ...but there also a plenty of other search systems
  - ▶ Search in digital libraries
  - ▶ Search in entreprise corpora
  - ▶ Search for medical patient records
  - ▶ Search for legal texts

# WHAT IS IR?

## THE ANATOMY OF AN IR PROCESS

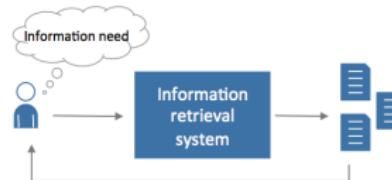
- Look at the IR process from the user side



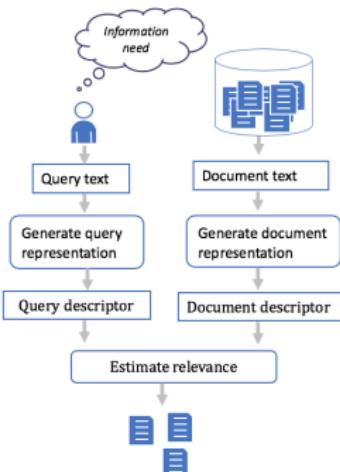
# WHAT IS IR?

## THE ANATOMY OF AN IR PROCESS

- Look at the IR process from the user side



- Look at the IR process from the system side



# WHAT IS IR?

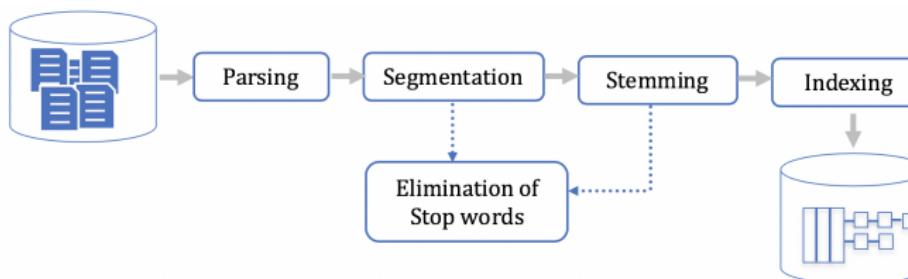
## DOCUMENT REPRESENTATION

- The document
  - ▶ Refers to a unit of information searchable by the user
  - ▶ Has a syntax and a semantics, specified by the author

# WHAT IS IR?

## DOCUMENT REPRESENTATION

- The document
  - ▶ Refers to a unit of information searchable by the user
  - ▶ Has a syntax and a semantics, specified by the author
- Document preprocessing: logical view of a document from full text to a set of index terms
  - ▶ Lexical analysis of the text (parsing and segmentation): converting stream of chars into stream of words
  - ▶ Elimination of stopwords: words that appear too frequently
  - ▶ Stemming of the remaining words: reduce to stems after removing prefixes/suffixes, plural, gerund forms, ...
  - ▶ Selection of index terms or keywords: use useful words as index terms (all words, nouns, ...)
  - ▶ (Construction of term categorization structures like thesaurus, terminologies, ontologies): list of important words or concepts in a domain, related words, concepts...



# WHAT IS IR?

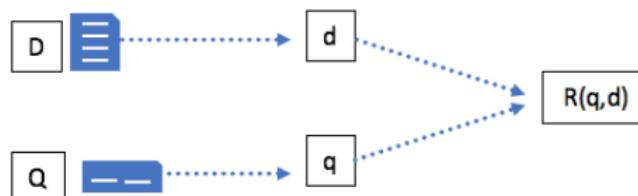
## RELEVANCE ESTIMATION: HOW?

- Relevance is a core concept in IR [Borlund, 2003]
  - ▶ Relevance is subjective (user's dependent): adequacy of the document to answer the query
  - ▶ Multiple dimensions lead to multiple types of relevance: aboutness, novelty, understandability, reliability
    - ▶ Topical relevance: the major type of relevance addressed in IR based on the "aboutness" criteria
  - ▶ Dynamic: user's perception of relevance evolves through the search episodes

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- IR models: a framework for relevance estimation
  - ▶ Algorithmic relevance: assign scores to documents with regard to a given query based on content matching
  - ▶ Process in two main stages
    - 1 Design a logical (formal) framework for representing documents and queries
    - 2 Define a ranking function that measures the topical similarities between queries and documents and orders the documents according to this measure



# WHAT IS IR?

## THE SEMANTIC GAP ISSUE

She takes just like a woman, yeah she does. She makes love just like a woman, yeah she does. And she aches just like a woman. But she breaks just like a little girl.

Just like a woman 

One of many Dylan songs with an unclear subject. It's often thought to be about fellow folk-singer Joan Baez, with whom Dylan had a relationship. Edie Sedgwick, an actress affiliated with Andy Warhol, is also thought to have inspired the song.

- Representing documents and queries:
  - ▶ Understand broad language: what's behind the surface of strings, bag of words?
  - ▶ **Semantic representation rather than string/lexical representation**
    - ▶ Disambiguation of **entities, concepts** and roles
    - ▶ Reasoning and inference of relations
- Relevance ranking:
  - ▶ Understand broad relevance: what's behind the surface of matching?
  - ▶ Semantic matching rather than string matching
  - ▶ Relevance matching vs. semantic matching [Guo et al., 2016]

# WHAT IS IR?

## IR MODELS

- Design retrieval models: a long standing research in IR
- Major IR models: vectorial model [Salton et al., 1975], probabilistic model [Jones et al., 2000], language model [Ponte and Croft, 1998]



# WHAT IS IR?

## IR MODELS: THE VECTORIAL SPACE MODEL (VSM)

- Still one of the prominent IR frameworks
- A term space is a vector space where each dimension represents one term in the corpora vocabulary
- Each document  $d_j$  is represented by a vector of document term weights in the term space
- Each query  $q$  is represented by a vector of document term weights in the term space
- Document term weights can be computed, e.g., using tf-idf schema

$$\mathbf{d}_j = \begin{pmatrix} d_{j_1} \\ d_{j_2} \\ \dots \\ d_{j_n} \end{pmatrix}$$

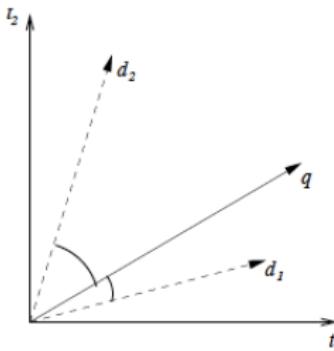
Weight of term  
in document  
 $d_j$

$$\vec{q} = \begin{pmatrix} q_1 \\ q_2 \\ \dots \\ q_n \end{pmatrix}$$

# WHAT IS IR?

## IR MODELS: THE VECTORIAL SPACE MODEL (VSM)

- The ranking function computes a retrieval status value (RSV) using a vectorial similarity measure
  - ▶ Scalar product
  - ▶ Jaccard similarity
  - ▶ Dice similarity
  - ▶ ...
- Documents are ranked according to decreasing RSV



# WHAT IS IR?

## IR TECHNIQUES: THE WIDELY USED

- Query reformulation
  - ▶ Enhance query representation at the retrieval stage by reweighting terms, adding useful terms
  - ▶ Use evidence from the user (eg., clicks, search history,...), external resources (eg., thesaurus, corpora, ...), ...
- Document expansion
  - ▶ Enhance document representation at the indexing stage by reweighting the terms, adding useful terms
  - ▶ Use evidence from external resources (eg., thesaurus, corpora)
- Document re-ranking
  - ▶ Update the initial RSV scores of documents
  - ▶ Use evidence from the user, external resources, ...

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# WHY IS MEDICAL IR IMPORTANT?

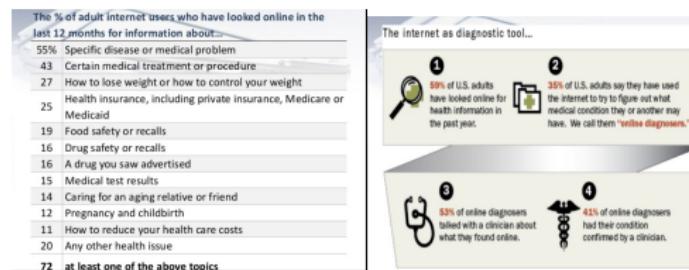
## IR AND SOCIETY

- Significant societal impact on health care, well being
- Myriad of medical repositories: health records, blogs, guidelines, scientific publications, ...
- Myriad of health search tasks: diagnosis, seek for health advice, patient search (clinical trial), understand conditions and treatments, find health provider,
- Myriad of users' profiles: consumers, clinicians, institutions, ...

# WHY IS MEDICAL IR IMPORTANT?

## A LARGELY WEB-DRIVEN ACTIVITY

- Search engines and social media are popular tools for seeking and sharing information about a range of health conditions PewInternet, October 2013; [De Choudhury et al., 2014, White and Horvitz, 2014]



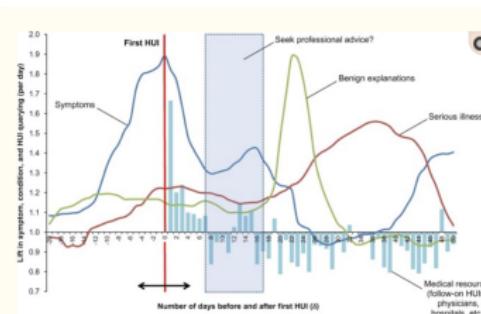
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Existence of behavioral patterns suggesting a strong relationship between search behavior and health care [White and Horvitz, 2010, White and Horvitz, 2014]



# WHAT MAKES MEDICAL SEARCH CHALLENGING?

## OVERVIEW

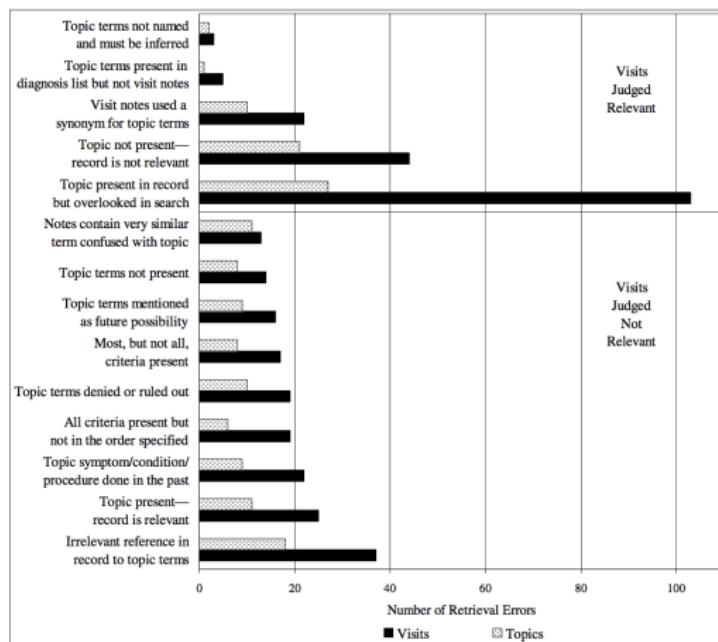
- Lexical representation [Tamine et al., 2015, Stanton et al., 2014, Limsopatham et al., 2013, Edinger et al., 2012, Chapman et al., 2001]
- Lexical matching [Edinger et al., 2012, Dinh and Tamine, 2012]
- Result appraisal [Koopman and Zucccon, 2014, Tamine and Chouquet, 2017, Roberts et al., 2015a, W. White and Horvitz, 2009, White and Horvitz, 2013, Cartright et al., 2011a, Palotti et al., 2016]

	Lexical representation	Lexical Matching	Result appraisal
Text (Queries/Documents)	High occurrence of lexical variants Ambiguity of language Significant presence of negation Time factors	■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■
Search task	Domain-specific task	□	■ ■
User	Variability in levels of expertise Difficulty of understanding medical language Cognitive bias	■ □ □	□ □ ■ ■ □

# WHAT MAKES MEDICAL SEARCH CHALLENGING?

## LEXICAL REPRESENTATION AND MATCHING ISSUES

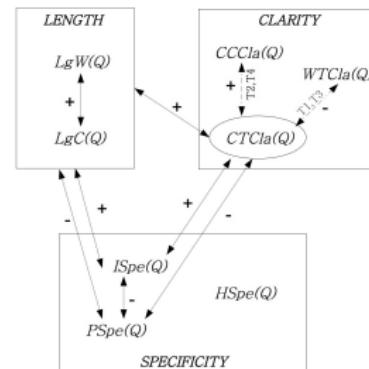
- Failure analysis from the TREC Medical Records Track [Edinger et al., 2012]
  - Same task across queries: retrieve cohorts of patients fitting criteria similar to those specified for participation in clinical studies
  - Same user's profile: domain-expert (physician)
  - Main results: **both precision errors and recall errors were due to bad lexical representations and lexical mismatches**



# WHAT MAKES MEDICAL SEARCH CHALLENGING?

## DOMAIN-SPECIFIC TASKS: NEED OF TASK-DEPENDENT MATCHING?

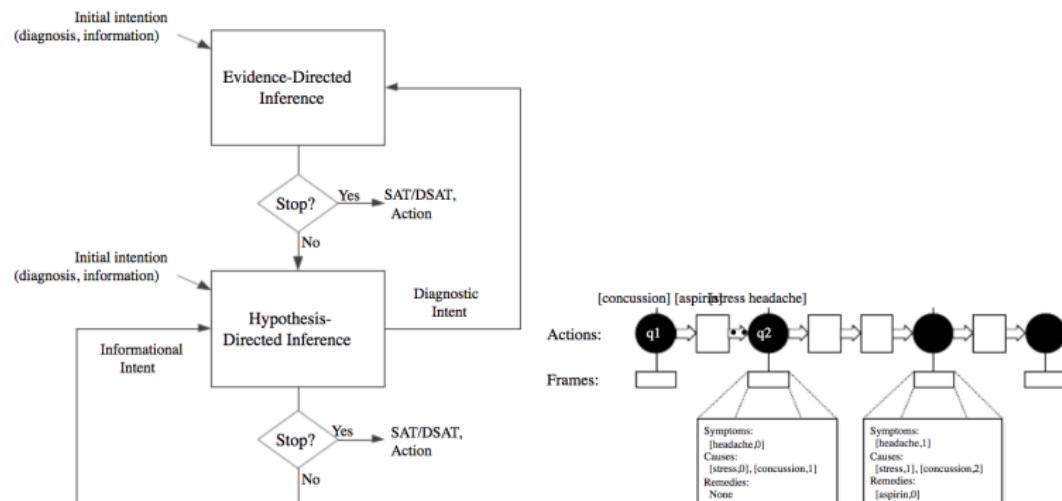
- Study of the peculiarities of queries across medical tasks [Tamine et al., 2015]
  - ▶ Study of 4 search tasks:
    - ▶ (T1) Retrieve from biomedical scientific literature relevant references that address biology or related protein products (eg., '*Arginin vassopressin*')
    - ▶ (T2) Retrieve from medical scientific literature, relevant documents that fit with a patient profile (eg., '*Adult respiratory distress syndroms*')
    - ▶ (T3) Identify cohorts in clinical studies for comparative effectiveness research (eg., *Retrieve relevant medical cases including images for differential diagnosis* )
    - ▶ (T4) Identify relevant references that deal with typical relations between an entity and a medical process (eg., *What is the role of gene gamma-aminobutyric acid receptors in the process of inhibitory synaptic transmission?* )
  - ▶ Same user's profile: domain-expert (physician)
  - ▶ Main results:
    - ▶ Queries vary significantly across tasks:  
have multiple topical facets expressed using different levels of specificity w.r.t. medical terminology
    - ▶ Query performance significantly vary across tasks:  
however, the shorter and less specific the query is,  
the more difficult it is regardless of the task



# WHAT MAKES MEDICAL SEARCH CHALLENGING?

DOMAIN-SPECIFIC TASKS: NEED OF TASK-DEPENDENT MATCHING?

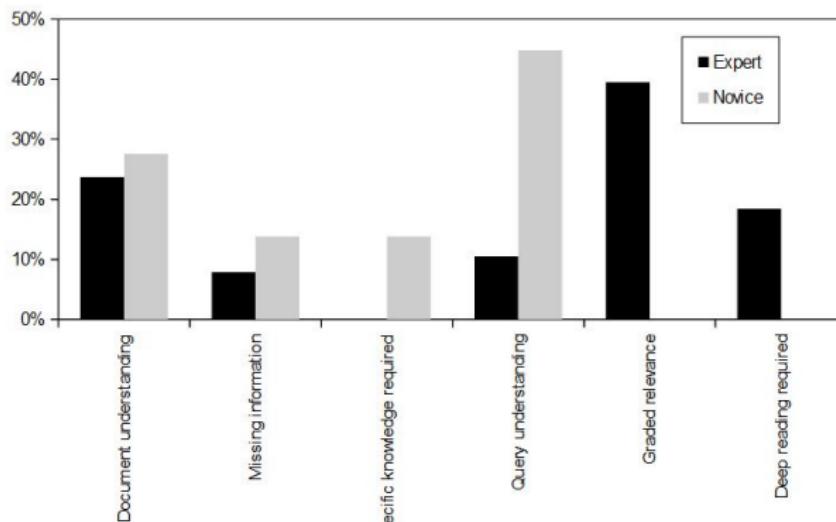
- Diagnosis, a common medical search setting, is a highly complex task [Cartright et al., 2011a]
- Identifying two medical foci in search sessions corresponding to two iterative and interactive phases:
  - ▶ Evidence-directed: findings are merged to build a list of potential explanatory diagnoses ranked by likelihood
  - ▶ Hypothesis-directed: list of diagnoses used to guide collection of additional evidence to validate candidate hypotheses



# WHAT MAKES MEDICAL SEARCH CHALLENGING?

## RESULT APPRAISAL: WHAT DOES MAKE IT DIFFICULT WITH RESPECT TO USER'S EXPERTISE?

- Study the factors of the relevance assessment task difficulty [Tamine and Chouquet, 2017, Koopman and Zucccon, 2014, Roberts et al., 2015a, Voorhees and Hersh, 2012]
  - ▶ Qualitative analysis of relevance assessments for equivalent information needs
  - ▶ Different user's profiles: domain-expert (physician), domain-novice (laypeople)
  - ▶ Main results:
    - ▶ Levels of relevance agreement are low for both experts and novices
    - ▶ Better level of relevance agreement among experts than novices
    - ▶ More than third of the assessors found the relevance assessment task difficult but the underlying reasons different among experts vs. novices



# WHAT MAKES MEDICAL SEARCH CHALLENGING?

## USER COGNITIVE BIAS

- *Study the potential of web search to escalate user's medical concerns*  
[White and Horvitz, 2013, W. White and Horvitz, 2009]
  - ▶ Qualitative and quantitative analysis of users' medical search logs and surveys
  - ▶ Observe the escalation within session: severity increase in the search terms of evolving medical search sessions
  - ▶ Main results:
    - ▶ Using Web search to perform diagnosis is a common user activity (more than 24%) while general-purpose ranking functions are based on the presence of lexical query symptoms, not designed for diagnosis inference
    - ▶ Common users consider that the system ranks the potential explanatory diagnoses by likelihood

Table I. Probability of Mention of Cause Given Symptom

Symptom	Cause	Web Crawl	Web Search	Domain Search
headache	caffeine withdrawal	.29	.26	.25
	tension	.68	.48	.75
	<b>brain tumor</b>	.03	.26	.00
muscle twitches	benign fasciculation	.53	.12	.34
	muscle strain	.40	.38	.66
	<b>ALS</b>	.07	.50	.00
chest pain	indigestion	.28	.35	.38
	heartburn	.57	.28	.52
	<b>heart attack</b>	.15	.37	.10

## SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- Semantic gap
  - ▶ Vocabulary mismatch between experts and novices
  - ▶ Vocabulary mismatch between the query and documents
  - ▶ Interpretation of vocabulary in context: negation, lexical variants, time, task peculiarities
- Result appraisal
  - ▶ Understand medical language
  - ▶ Ability to interpret the results, make accurate inference, assess the credibility
  - ▶ Cognitive bias

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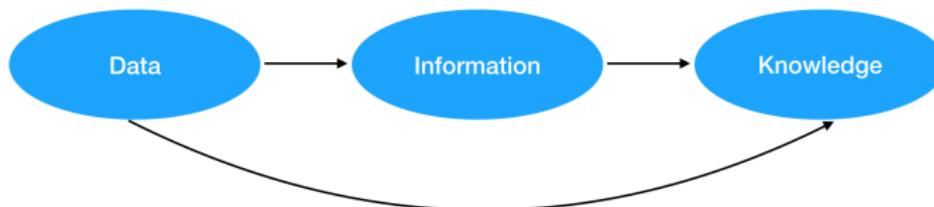
# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## WHAT IS INFORMATION?

Information  $\neq$  data  $\neq$  knowledge

- Data: observations and measurements made about the world
- Information: data brought together in aggregate to demonstrate facts
- Knowledge: what is learned from the data and information, that can be applied in new situations to understand the world

[Blum, 1984] cited in [Hersh, 2010]



# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION PROPERTIES

Properties of scientific texts [Hersh, 2010]:

- **Growth:** The amount of scientific publications is growing exponentially
- **Obsolescence:** scientific advances, constant update of the state-of-the-art and changes in society make information quickly obsolete
- **Fragmentation:** text published often reflects only one part of a problem or situation
- **Links and citations:** strong property of scientific text, links and references allow to generate networks among works and communities
- **Propagation:** simplicity of information flow

# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## A CLASSIFICATION OF TEXTUAL HEALTH INFORMATION

[Hersh, 2010] distinguishes two main categories of textual health documents:

- **Patient-specific information:** applies to individual patients. Tells healthcare providers, administrators and researchers about the health and disease of a patient.
  - ▶ Structured: laboratory results, vital signs
  - ▶ Narrative: history and physical, progress notes, radiology report
- **Knowledge-based information:** has been derived and organized from observational or experimental research. Usually provided in books, journals or *computerized media*.
  - ▶ Primary: original research (in journals, books, reports, etc.)
  - ▶ Secondary: summaries of research (in review articles, books, practice guidelines, etc.)

With the emergence of Web2.0, one could also consider **User-generated Content** as another category:

- Collaborative writing: wikipedia, blogs
- Social media: discussion forums, Facebook, Twitter, PatientsLikeMe

# MEDICAL INFORMATION

GRH Solidarité Hospital  
Autour du Hôpital Léonard  
Les Relais de Générations  
Japon

Patient ID: PAC001  
Name: Ana Beta  
Date: 2011-08-25 08:32  
Doctor: Camille Conforto  
Age: 25m 20s 20d Sex: Female  
Test id: 8185MAPI

## COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT

Test Name	Result	Normal Range	Units
Hemoglobin	12	11.0 - 16.0	g/dL
Hct	37	34 - 48	%
Hct	30	37.0-50.0	%
MCV	83	82-95	fL
MCH	26	27-31	pg
MCHC	33	32.0-37.0	g/dL
RDW-CV	12	11.5-14.5	%
RDW-SD	46	35-58	%
WBC	8.7	4.5-11	10 <sup>3</sup> /μL
NEUT%	60	40-70	%
Lymph%	30	20-45	%
MON%	8	2-33	%
EO%	2	1-6	%
Baso%	0	0-2	%
LYMPH	2	1.5-4.0	10 <sup>3</sup> /μL
GRAN	4.7	2.0-7.5	10 <sup>3</sup> /μL
PLT	294	150-450	10 <sup>3</sup> /μL
ESR	2	0-90 mm/h	mm/h

Digitaly signed by

Dr. Camille Conforto  
GMI Patient Key: 544311P  
Rec'd At: 8185MAPI

**Paramètres cliniques**

Date et heure : 2015-03-31 09:30 Visite : Générale : 1

Phase de soins :  Admission  Initiale  Pré  Intra  Post  Congé  Routine Statut : Complété

Signes vitaux Autres paramètres

Température	1425 Maintenant	* °C	Site:
Pression artérielle (mmHg)	156 / 89	f	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appareil multiparamétrique
pression artérielle moyenne	105		<input type="checkbox"/> Spymogomaniomètre
Pouls (minute)			<input type="checkbox"/> Spymogomaniomètre et palpation
Respiration (minute)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rég. <input type="checkbox"/> Irrig.
Saturation en oxygène (%)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rég. <input type="checkbox"/> Irrig. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Respirations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oxygène			<input type="checkbox"/> % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Litres par minute <input type="checkbox"/> Air ambiant
Échelle de douleur	1 / 10 NIPS	Type: END	Site: <input type="checkbox"/> Généralisée
Échelle de sédation	3 / 4 POSS	Type: Échelle de Pasero-McCaffrey	Admi... <input type="checkbox"/> Sédation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Activité: Attention: Notes cliniques:



HEMATOLOGIE	
Nombre de leucocytes totaux	
RÉTICULÉS	5.320.000 /mm3
ERYTHROCYTÉS	14.5 g/100 mL
MONOCYTES	44.7 %
LEUCOCYTES	6.000/mm3
PLAQUETTES	224.000 /mm3
VITRINE DE REFRIGÉRATION	
idée heure :	8:00
CHIMIE DU SANG	
Aspect du sérum	normal
GLYCÉRINE	1.94 g/L
(contrôle immédiat à l'admission)	0.99 mmol/L
URÉE	0.21 g/L
(contrôle immédiat à l'admission)	0.22 mmol/L
CREATININÉMIE	19 mg/L
(contrôle de urine complète sans imprégnation)	88 μmol/L
REFRACTION LIPIDE	
CHOLESTÉROL TOTAL	2.86 g/L
(contrôle immédiat à l'admission)	147.0 mmol/L
H.D.L.	0.53 g/L
(contrôle immédiat à l'admission)	13.0 mmol/L
TRIGLYCÉRIDES	1.54 g/L
(contrôle immédiat à l'admission)	17.4 mmol/L
LDL CHOLESTÉROL	1.22 g/L
(contrôle immédiat à l'admission)	127.0 mmol/L
PROTEINE C-RÉACTIVE	inf & 3 ng/L
(contrôle immédiat à l'admission)	147.0 μg/L

# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## NARRATIVE PATIENT SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Admission Date: [\*\*2015-03-17\*\*] Discharge Date: [\*\*2015-03-24\*\*]

Date of Birth: [\*\*1974-10-03\*\*] Sex: F

Service: Neurosurgery

HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS: The patient is a 40-year-old female with complaints of headache and dizziness. In [\*\*2015-01-14\*\*], the patient had headache with neck stiffness and was unable to walk for 45 minutes. [...]

PAST MEDICAL HISTORY: Hypothyroidism.

ALLERGIES: Penicillin and Bactrim which causes a rash.

MEDICATIONS: Levoxyl 1.75 mg.  
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: On physical examination, her blood pressure was 104/73, pulse 79. In general, she was a woman in no acute distress. HEENT: Nonicteric. Pupils are equal, round, and reactive to light. Extraocular movements are full. [...]

On postoperative day #1, the patient was taken to arteriogram, where she underwent a cerebral angiogram to evaluate clipping of the aneurysm. [ ]

DISCHARGE MEDICATIONS:

1. Hydromorphone 2-6 mg po q4h prn.
2. Synthroid 175 mcg po q day. [...]

CONDITION ON DISCHARGE: Stable.

FOLLOW-UP INSTRUCTIONS: She will follow up in 10 days for staple removal with Dr. [\*\*Last Name (STitle) 570\*\*].

(End of Report)

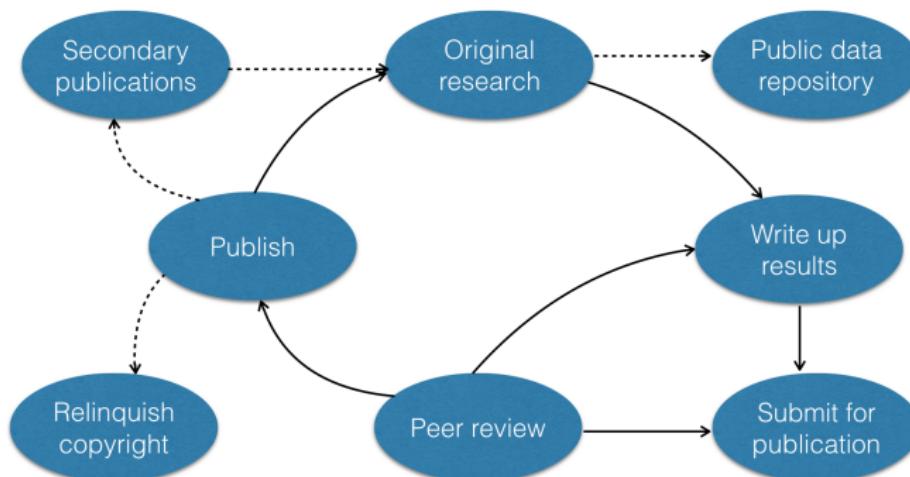
Discharge summary extracted from the MIMIC II dataset

<https://physionet.org/mimic2/>.

# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## PRIMARY KNOWLEDGE-BASED DOCUMENTS

- Contain reports of research results: discoveries, observations, description of related work and position of the report, conclusions.
- Has never been published before
- Published in books, journals or conference proceedings
- Usually a small number of documents have the highest impact



# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## PRIMARY KNOWLEDGE-BASED DOCUMENTS

### Cyberchondria: Studies of the Escalation of Medical Concerns in Web Search

RYEN W. WHITE and ERIC HORVITZ  
Microsoft Research

The World Wide Web provides an abundant source of medical information. This information can assist people who are not healthcare professionals to better understand health and illness, and to provide them with feasible explanations for symptoms. However, the Web has the potential to increase the anxieties of people who have little or no medical training, especially when Web search is employed as a diagnostic procedure. We use the term *cyberchondria* to refer to the unfounded suspicion about one's own health that arises from repeated, heightened levels of concern over one's own health on the Web. We performed a large-scale, longitudinal, log-based study of how people search for medical information online, supported by a survey of 515 individuals' health-related search experiences. We focused on the extent to which common, likely innocuous symptoms can escalate into the review of context on sections, relationships that are linked to the common symptoms. Our results show that cyberchondria has the potential to escalate into serious concerns. We find that escalation is associated with the amount and distribution of medical content viewed by users, the presence of escalatory terminology in pages visited, and a user's predisposition to escalate versus to seek more reassuring explanations for ailments. We also demonstrate the persistence of passes-away following escalation and the effects that such occurrences can have on an individual's activities during a search session. Our findings underscore the need for more research and design of cyberchondria and suggest actionable design implications that hold opportunity for improving the search and navigation experience for people turning to the Web to interpret common symptoms.

**Categories and Subject Descriptors:** H.3.3 [Information Storage and Retrieval]: Information Search and Retrieval—Search process; query formulation

**General Terms:** Human Factors, Experimentation  
Additional Key Words and Phrases: Cyberchondria

#### ACM Reference Format:

White, R. W. and Horvitz, E. 2009. Cyberchondria: Studies of the escalation of medical concerns in Web search. *ACM Trans. Inf. Syst.* 27, 4, Article 23 (November 2009), 37  
DOI: 10.1145/1626996.1629101 <http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/1626996.1629101>

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The World Wide Web has the potential to provide valuable medical information to people, where Web sites such as WebMD (<http://www.webmd.com>) and MSN

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ACM Transactions on Information Systems, Vol. 27, No. 4, Article 23, Publication date: November 2009.

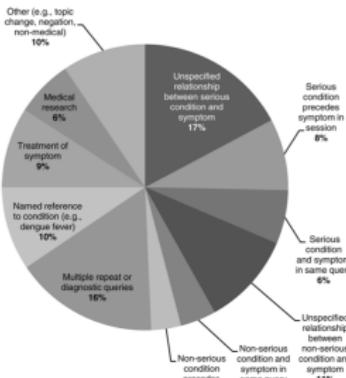


Fig. 1. Distribution of labels assigned to set of hand-labeled no-change sessions.

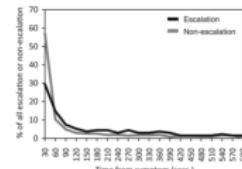


Fig. 2. Temporal distance from initial input of symptom (within session)

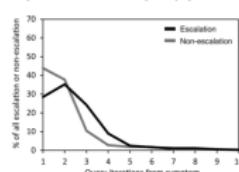


Fig. 3. Query distance from initial input of symptom (within session).

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# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## SECONDARY KNOWLEDGE-BASED DOCUMENTS

- All medical professionals are not researchers: primary resources need to be rephrased, summarized, synthetized
- Summary and reviews of primary resources are published in scientific journals
- Quality issue: the editorial process is not the same for secondary than primary resources
- Other category: clinical practice guidelines (many publications, very little control)

### Specific case: Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis

- Fragmentation of the scientific literature → difficult to identify all the relevant papers on a topic
- In particular with clinical trials, large amount of publications on a similar condition or treatment
- Systematic reviews tackle a precise question, and describe the complete set of related work and factual approaches
- Meta-analysis compare results at the systematic review scale
- Topics: treatment (63%), causality and security (29%), diagnosis (4,4%), prognosis (2.1%) [Montori et al., 2004]
- Cochrane is a non-profit, non-governmental organization formed to organize medical research findings so as to facilitate evidence-based choices about health interventions  
<http://www.cochranelibrary.com/>

# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## USER GENERATED CONTENT

Collaborative writing websites allow users to edit collaboratively documents. It can have some sort of editorial control. It includes:

- **Wikis** such as wikipedia (collective writing and control of the content)

[Blackman, 2006] showed that information contained on wikipedia wasn't erroneous (comparison on 42 topics with the Britannica Encyclopaedia)

- **Blogs**: discussion or informational website published on the Web consisting of discrete, often informal diary-style text entries ("posts").



**WIKIPEDIA**  
The Free Encyclopedia

Main page  
Contents  
Featured content  
Current events  
Random article  
Donate to Wikipedia  
Wikipedia store  
  
Interaction  
Help  
About Wikipedia  
Community portal  
Recent changes  
Contact page

Tools  
What links here  
Related changes  
Upload file  
Special pages  
Permanent link  
Page information  
Wikidata item

Article [Talk](#)

## Liver

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see [Liver \(disambiguation\)](#).

The liver, an organ only found in vertebrates, detoxifies various metabolites, synthesizes proteins, and produces biochemicals necessary for digestion.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup> In humans, it is located in the right upper quadrant of the abdomen, below the diaphragm. Its other roles in metabolism include the regulation of glycogen storage, decomposition of red blood cells and the production of hormones.<sup>[4]</sup>

The liver is an accessory digestive gland that produces bile, an alkaline compound which helps the breakdown of fat. Bile aids in digestion via the emulsification of lipids. The gallbladder, a small pouch that sits just under the liver, stores bile produced by the liver.<sup>[5]</sup> The liver's highly specialized tissue consisting of mostly hepatocytes regulates a wide variety of high-volume biochemical reactions, including the synthesis and breakdown of small and complex molecules, many of which are necessary for normal vital functions.<sup>[6]</sup> Estimates regarding the organ's total number of functions vary, but textbooks generally cite it being around 500.<sup>[7]</sup>

Terminology related to the liver often starts in *hepat-* from ἡπατός, the Greek word for liver.<sup>[8]</sup>

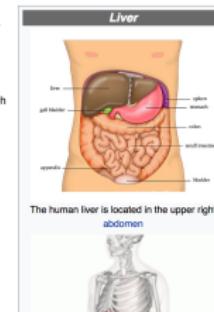
There is currently no way to compensate for the absence of liver function in the long term, although *liver dialysis* techniques can be used in the short term. Artificial livers are yet to be developed to promote long-term replacement in the absence of the liver. As of 2017,<sup>[9]</sup> liver transplantation is the only option for complete liver failure.

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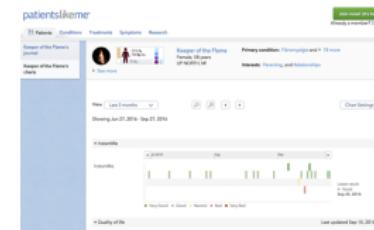
The human liver is located in the upper right abdomen

# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## USER GENERATED CONTENT

Health topics can be covered on all types of social media:

- General social media such as facebook, twitter:
- Medical social media such as PatientsLikeMe:



- Discussion forums: where all kinds of users (patients, doctors, students, nurses...) can discuss health topics



# MEDICAL INFORMATION

## CERTIFICATION

### How can the quality of health information online be guaranteed?

The organization Health On the Net (HON) certifies the quality and validity of medical websites.

HON manually certifies website according to the following principles:

- Principle 1 : Authority - Give qualifications of authors
- Principle 2 : Complementarity - Information to support, not replace
- Principle 3 : Confidentiality - Respect the privacy of site users
- Principle 4 : Attribution - Cite the sources and dates of medical information
- Principle 5 : Justifiability - Justification of claims / balanced and objective claims
- Principle 6 : Transparency - Accessibility, provide valid contact details
- Principle 7 : Financial disclosure - Provide details of funding
- Principle 8 : Advertising - Clearly distinguish advertising from editorial content

<https://www.hon.ch/HONcode/Guidelines/guidelines.html>

# MEDICAL SEARCH TASKS

## INFORMATION NEED

### Information needs [Hersh, 2010]:

- *Retrospective information needs:*
  - ▶ The need for help in solving a certain problem or making a decision
  - ▶ The need for background information on a topic
- *Current awareness information needs:*
  - ▶ The need to keep up with information in a given subject area

### Amount of information needed [Lancaster and Warner, 1993]

- A single fact
- One or more documents
- A comprehensive search of the literature

### Types of information needs [Wilkinson and Fuller, 1996]

- Fact-finding
- Learning
- Gathering
- Exploring

### States of information need [Gorman, 1995]

- Unrecognized need
- Recognized need
- Pursued need
- Satisfied need

# MEDICAL SEARCH QUERIES

## TYPОLOGY

The types of queries that are the most widely studied are:

- Classical keyword-based queries (physician vs patients)
- Boolean queries (systematic reviews)
- Structured queries (PICO)
- Multimodal queries (text + concepts e.g. pubmed search tools)

General classification of search queries from [Broder, 2002]:

- Navigational
- Transactional
- Informational

Classification of search queries for semantic search [Bast et al., 2016]:

- Structured
- Keyword-based
- Natural language-based

# MEDICAL SEARCH QUERIES

## PHYSICIAN QUERIES

- Study by [Ely et al., 1999] on family doctors questions in their daily practise.
- Observation of 100 doctors from Iowa (US)

Taxonomy of generic questions:

- What is the cause of symptom X?
- What is the dose of drug Y?
- How should I manage disease or finding X?
- How should I treat finding or disease X?
- What is the cause of physical finding X?
- What is the cause of test finding X?
- Could this patient have disease or condition X?
- Is test X indicated in situation Y?
- What is the drug of choice for condition X?
- Is drug X indicated in situation Y?

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- What is the drug of choice for condition X?
- Is drug X indicated in situation Y?

- These are questions and not queries - 64% were not pursued
- In 1999 Internet was not the primary source of information

# MEDICAL SEARCH QUERIES

## CLINICAL QUERIES

Analysis of search queries in an EHR search utility [Natarajan et al., 2010]

- **Navigational queries (14.5%)**: were mostly aiming at retrieving a specific EHR (e.g. using the record number)
- **Transactional queries (0.4%)**: were representing an action (e.g. adding a new note)
- **Information queries (85.1%)**: the most frequent, especially among clinicians and researchers.

Top 5 semantic types of searches

Semantic type	%	Semantic type	%
Laboratory or test result	29.2	Pharmacologic substance	7.5
Disease or syndrome	21.7	Diagnostic procedure	6.2
Body part, organ or organ component	8.1		

Top 10 most frequent queries

Query	%	Query	%
class	9.8	nephrogenic	1.8
nyha	4.5	hysterectomy	1.5
hodgkins	2.9	cva	1.1
iii	2.4	ef	1.0
iv	2.3	hf	0.9

- Very short queries (1.2 term(s) on average in the corpus)
- Many acronyms (NYHA) and abbreviations (*tach* for tachycardia)
- Ambiguous (*class*)

# MEDICAL SEARCH QUERIES

## LAYPERSON QUERIES

Particularities and challenges [Zhang et al., 2012]

- *Conceptual level*: layperson have their own understandings and hypotheses about a particular condition.
- *Terminological level*: layperson's vocabulary doesn't match medical terminologies
- *Lexical level*: queries contain misspelling, partial words, etc.
- Short text (on average less than 3 words), ambiguous

[Broder, 2002]

Web search categories:

- Navigational
- Transactional
- Informational

[Cartright et al., 2011b]

Topics covered:

- Symptom
- Cause
- Remedy

Types of queries:

- Evidence-directed
- Hypothesis-directed:
  - ▶ Diagnosis intent
  - ▶ Informational intent

# MEDICAL SEARCH QUERIES

## PICO QUERIES

Designed to answer Evidence-based Medicine problems, PICO stands for:

- Patient / Problem / Population
- Intervention
- Comparison / Control
- Outcome

The formulation of a focused clinical question containing well-articulated PICO elements is widely believed to be **the key to efficiently finding high-quality evidence** and also **the key to evidence-based decisions** [Huang et al., 2006].

Example (from [Boudin et al., 2010]):

"children with pain and fever  
how does paracetamol compared  
with ibuprofen affect levels  
of pain and fever?



*Patient/Problem:* children/pain and fever  
*Intervention:* paracetamol  
*Comparison:* ibuprofen  
*Outcome:* levels of pain and fever

# MEDICAL SEARCH QUERIES

## CLINICAL SEARCH QUERIES (GENOMICS)

[Hersh and Voorhees, 2009] categorized clinical queries into several Generic Topic Types:

Generic Topic Type	Example Topic
Find articles describing standard methods or protocols for doing some sort of experiment or procedure	Method or protocol: GST fusion protein expression in Sf9 insect cells
Find articles describing the role of a gene involved in a given disease	Gene: DRD4 Disease: alcoholism
Find articles describing the role of a gene in a specific biological process	Gene: Insulin receptor gene Biological process: Signaling tumorigenesis
Find articles describing interactions (e.g. promote, suppress, inhibit, etc.) between two or more genes in the function of an organ or in a disease	Genes: HMG and HMGB1 Disease: Hepatitis
Find articles describing one or more mutations of a given gene and its biological impact	Gene with mutation: Ret Biological impact: Thyroid function

# MEDICAL SEARCH QUERIES

## SYSTEMATIC REVIEW QUERIES

- Systematic reviews use boolean queries on specific databases such as the Cochrane library to retrieve all the possible relevant documents on a topic.
- Example (topic extracted from CLEF eHealth Technologically assisted reviews task [Kanoulas et al., 2017]):

```
Topic: CD009551
Title: Polymerase chain reaction blood tests for the diagnosis of
       invasive aspergillosis in immunocompromised people

Query:
exp Aspergillosis/
exp Pulmonary Aspergillosis/
exp Aspergillus/
(aspergillosis or aspergillus or aspergilloma or "A.fumigatus" or
"A. flavus" or "A. clavatus" or "A. terreus" or "A. niger").ti,ab.
or/1-4
exp Nucleic Acid Amplification Techniques/
pcr.ti,ab.
"polymerase chain reaction*".ti,ab.
or/6-8
5 and 9
exp Animals/ not Humans/
10 not 11

Pmid's:
      25815649
      26065322
      ...
```

# OUTLINE

## 1. Introduction

Presenters and learners  
About the tutorial

## 2. IR and its Potential in the Medical Domain

Introduction to Information Retrieval (IR)  
Challenges

## 3. Medical IR: Basics

Medical Information Access  
Medical Knowledge Sources

## 4. Techniques and Models

Overview of state-of-the-art approaches  
Structured Knowledge-Resource driven Semantic  
Data-Driven Semantic

## 5. Evaluation

Challenges in Evaluating Medical Information Retrieval  
Benchmarking Activities and Lessons Learned

## 6. Conclusion

# SEMANTIC RESOURCES

## DEFINITIONS

- Lexical and semantic resources are used **in many domains**
- Definitions are extracted from [Hersh, 2010] and [Bast et al., 2016]

### A concept

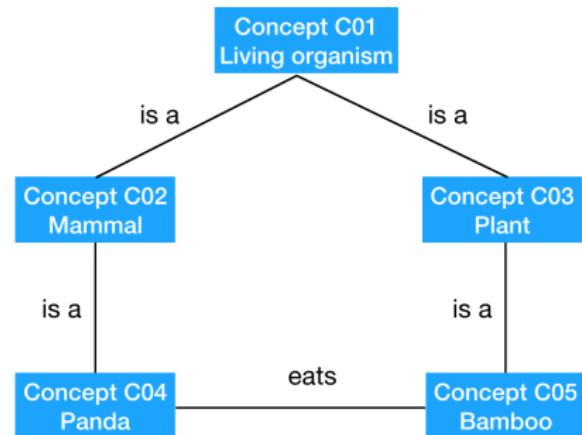
Idea or object that occurs in the world (e.g. *the condition under which human blood pressure is elevated*)

### A term

String of one or more words that represents a concept (e.g. *hypertension* or *high blood pressure*)

### A relationship

Link between 2 concepts (e.g. the *liver* is an *organ*) or terms (e.g. *hypertension* and *high blood pressure* are synonyms)



# SEMANTIC RESOURCES

## DEFINITIONS

A controlled vocabulary or Terminology

Contains a list of terms that are the canonical representation of the concepts.

An ontology

Is a formal description of the concepts in a domain of discourse. Contains a *hierarchy of concepts* with various *relationships* between them. Concepts have *attributes* and *facets*.

A thesaurus

Contains concepts, terms, and relationships between them:

- *Hierarchical* links between broader and narrower concepts
- *Synonymy* and antonymy
- *Related* somehow otherwise related

**A Knowledge Base** is a collection of records in a database, which typically refers to some kind of knowledge about the world. Records are triples (subject, predicate, object).

- [Bast et al., 2016] calls a knowledge every collection of entities following an ontology.
- A *knowledge-base can be thought as a graph* where entities are the nodes and the relationships are the edges.

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### 1 Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

- Created by the National Library of Medicine *to index medical documents*
- 28,000 descriptors (concepts) with over 90,000 entry terms
- 3 types of relationships: hierarchical, synonymous, related

**Hypertension** MeSH Descriptor Data 2018

Details Qualifiers MeSH Tree Structures Concepts

#### MeSH Heading

Hypertension

#### Tree Number(s)

C14.907.489

#### Unique ID

D006973

#### Annotation

not for intracranial or intraocular pressure; relation to BLOOD PRESSURE: Manual 23.27; Goldblatt kidney is HYPERTENSION, GOLDBLATT see HYPERTENSION, RENOVASCULAR; hypertension with kidney disease is probably HYPERTENSION, RENAL, not HYPERTENSION; venous hypertension: index under VENOUS PRESSURE (IM) & do not coordinate with HYPERTENSION; PREHYPERTENSION is also available

#### Scope Note

Persistently high systemic arterial BLOOD PRESSURE. Based on multiple readings (BLOOD PRESSURE DETERMINATION), hypertension is currently defined as when SYSTOLIC PRESSURE is consistently greater than 140 mm Hg or when DIASTOLIC PRESSURE is consistently 90 mm Hg or more.

#### Entry Term(s)

Blood Pressure, High

#### NLM Classification #

WG-340

#### See Also

Antihypertensive Agents

Vascular Resistance

#### Date Established

1966/01/01

#### Date of Entry

1999/01/01

#### Revision Date

2010/06/25

### The 16 trees in MeSH

- 1 Anatomy
- 2 Organisms
- 3 Diseases
- 4 Chemicals and Drugs
- 5 Analytical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques and Equipment
- 6 Psychiatry and Psychology
- 7 Biological Sciences
- 8 Natural Sciences
- 9 Anthropology, Education, Sociology and Social Phenomena
- 10 Technology, Industry, Agriculture
- 11 Humanities
- 12 Information Science
- 13 Named Groups
- 14 Health care
- 15 Publication Characteristics
- 16 Geographicals

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### 2 International Classification of Medicine (ICD)

- International statistical classification of diseases and health problems
- Coded medical classification including a wide variety of signs, symptoms, trauma, etc.
- Published by the WHO
- Internationally used to register morbidity and causes and morbidity

#### ICD-10 Version:2016

- > I Certain infectious and parasitic diseases
- > II Neoplasms
- > III Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism
- > IV Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases
- > E00-E07 Disorders of thyroid gland
- > E10-E14 Diabetes mellitus
  - > E10 Type 1 diabetes mellitus
  - > E11 Type 2 diabetes mellitus
  - > E12 Malnutrition-related diabetes mellitus
  - > E13 Other specified diabetes mellitus
  - > E14 Unspecified diabetes mellitus
- > E15-E16 Other disorders of glucose regulation and pancreatic internal secretion
- > E20-E35 Disorders of other endocrine glands
- > E40-E46 Malnutrition
- > E50-E64 Other nutritional deficiencies
- > E65-E68 Obesity and other hyperalimentation
- > E70-E90 Metabolic disorders
- > V Mental and behavioural disorders
- > VI Diseases of the nervous system
- > VII Diseases of the eye and adnexa
- > VIII Diseases of the ear and mastoid process
- > IX Diseases of the circulatory system
- > X Diseases of the respiratory system
- > XI Diseases of the digestive system
- > XII Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue
- > XIII Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective

#### .9 Without complications

##### E10 Type 1 diabetes mellitus

*[See before E10 for subdivisions]*

**Incl.:** diabetes (mellitus):

- brittle
- juvenile-onset
- ketosis-prone

**Excl.:** diabetes mellitus (n):

- malnutrition-related (E12.0-)
- neonatal (F70.2)
- pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (O24.-)

glycosuria:

- NOS (B81.1)

• renal (E24.8)

impaired glucose tolerance (B73.0)

postsurgical hypoglycaemia (E95.1)

##### E11 Type 2 diabetes mellitus

*[See before E10 for subdivisions]*

**Incl.:** diabetes mellitus (n)(nonobese)(obese):

- adult-onset
- maturity-onset
- nonketotic
- stable

non-insulin-dependent diabetes of the young

**Excl.:** diabetes mellitus (n):

- malnutrition-related (E12.0-)
- neonatal (F70.2)
- pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (O24.-)

glycosuria:

- NOS (B81.1)

• renal (E24.8)

impaired glucose tolerance (B73.0)

## ICD Classification

- 1 Certain infectious and parasitic diseases
- 2 Neoplasms
- 3 Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism
- 4 Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases
- 5 Mental and behavioural disorders
- 6 Diseases of the nervous system
- 7 Diseases of the eye and adnexa
- 8 Diseases of the ear and mastoid process
- 9 Diseases of the circulatory system
- 10 Diseases of the respiratory system
- 11 Diseases of the digestive system
- 12 Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue
- 13 Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue
- 14 Diseases of the genitourinary system
- 15 Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium
- 16 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period
- 17 Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities
- 18 Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified
- 19 ...

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

- ③ Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED): thesaurus designed to process clinical data
- ④ Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL): classical medical concepts + domain-specific ones
- ⑤ EMTREE: European MeSH, used to index EMBASE
- ⑥ PsycINFO: psychology and psychiatry thesaurus
- ⑦ Gene Ontology: description of biomolecular biology (molecular functions, biological processes, cellular components) - designed to structure the knowledge rather than index content
- ⑧ National Cancer Institute (NCI) thesaurus: knowledge model enabling cross-disciplinary communication and collaboration

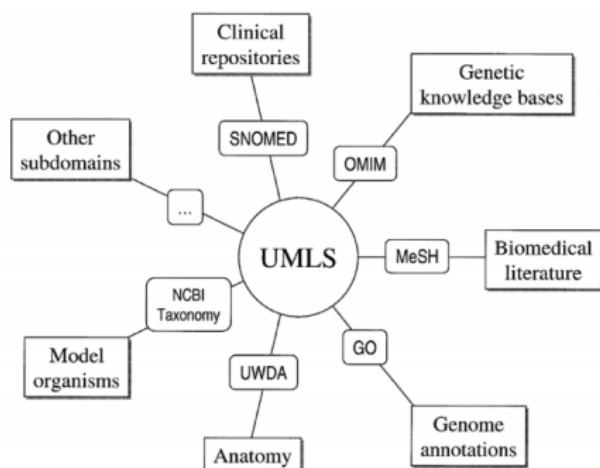
Many thesauri are also available in many well-endowed languages.

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### The Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)

- Purpose: provide a mechanism to link existing medical thesaurus and controlled vocabularies
- Initiated in 1986 and maintained by the National Library of Medicine
- Contains: a metathesaurus, a semantic network, NLP tools
- Gathers more than 100 thesauri/vocabulary



Bodenreider, O. (2004) The Unified Medical Language System (UMLS): integrating biomedical terminology. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 32, D267-D270.

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### The Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)

- All the entries corresponding to the same thing are registered as a single concept
- To each concept correspond several terms that represent an expression of the concept (not lexical variants)
- For each term are listed the lexical variants, and each string is linked to the atom matching the concept entry
- For each concept, a preferred term and string are given
- Each concept, term, string and atom have a unique identifier: CUI, LUI, SUI, AUI

Concept (CUI)	Term (LUI)	String (SUI)	Atom (AUI)
<b>C0004238</b> Atrial fibrillation (preferred) Atrial fibrillations Auricular fibrillation Auricular fibrillations	<b>L0004238</b> Atrial fibrillation (preferred) Atrial fibrillations	<b>S0016668</b> Atrial fibrillation (preferred)	<b>A0027665</b> Atrial fibrillation (from MSH)
			<b>A0027667</b> Atrial fibrillation (from PSY)
		<b>S0016669</b> Atrial fibrillations (plural variant)	<b>A0027668</b> Atrial fibrillations (from MSH)
	<b>L0004327</b> Auricular fibrillation Auricular fibrillations (synonyms)	<b>S0016899</b> Auricular fibrillation (preferred)	<b>A0027930</b> Auricular fibrillation (from PSY)
		<b>S0016900</b> Auricular fibrillations (plural variant)	<b>A0027932</b> Auricular fibrillations (from MSH)

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### The Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)

Basic View Report View Raw View



- ⊕ Concept: [C0004238] Atrial Fibrillation
- ⊕ Semantic Type
- ⊕ Definition
- ⊕ Synonyms (96)
- ⊕ Relations (1672) REL | RELA | RSAB| String | CUI

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### The Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)

Basic View Report View Raw View

?

DA Date 1990-09-30 05:00:00.0000000000  
MR Major Revision Date 2017-09-14 06:00:00.0000000000  
ST Status R

S Semantic Type  
[Disease or Syndrome \[T047\]](#)

D Definition  
S Synonyms (96)  
R Relations (1672) REL | RELA | RSAB| String | CUI

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### The Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)

Basic View Report View Raw View



Concept: [C0004238] Atrial Fibrillation

Semantic Type

Definition

CHV/null - rapid tremor and shake of upper chambers of the heart

CSP/null - disorder of cardiac rhythm characterized by rapid, irregular atrial impulses and ineffective atrial contractions.

HPO/null - An atrial arrhythmia characterized by disorganized atrial activity without discrete P waves on the surface EKG, but instead by an undulating baseline or more sharply circumscribed atrial deflections of varying amplitude and frequency ranging from 350 to 600 per minute. [HPO:probinson]

MEDLINEPLUS/null -

An arrhythmia is a problem with the speed or rhythm of the heartbeat. Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common type of [arrhythmia](#). The cause is a disorder in the heart's electrical system.

Often, people who have AF may not even feel symptoms. But you may feel

- Palpitations -- an abnormal rapid heartbeat
- Shortness of breath
- Weakness or difficulty exercising
- Chest pain
- Dizziness or fainting
- Fatigue
- Confusion

AF can lead to an increased risk of [stroke](#). In many patients, it can also cause chest pain, [heart attack](#), or [heart failure](#).

Doctors diagnose AF using family and medical history, a physical exam, and a test called an electrocardiogram (EKG), which looks at the electrical waves your heart makes. Treatments include medicines and procedures to restore normal rhythm.

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### The Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)

Basic View Report View Raw View



- ⊕ Concept: [C0004238] Atrial Fibrillation
- ⊕ Semantic Type
- ⊕ Definition
- ⊖ **Synonyms (96)**
  - ⊕ ACFA (arythmie complète par fibrillation auriculaire)
  - ⊕ AF
  - ⊕ AF - Atrial fibrillation
  - ⊕ AFib
  - ⊕ ATRIAL FIBRILLATION
  - ⊕ ATRIJ, FIBRILACIJA
  - ⊕ AURICULAR FIBRILLATION
  - ⊕ AURICULAR, FIBRILACION
  - ⊕ Afib
  - ⊕ Atrial Fibrillation
  - ⊕ Atrial Fibrillation [Disease/Finding]
  - ⊕ Atrial Fibrillations
  - ⊕ Atrial fibrillation
  - ⊕ Atrial fibrillation (disorder)
  - ⊕ Atrieflimmer
  - ⊕ Atriumfibrillatio
  - ⊕ Auricular Fibrillation
  - ⊕ Auricular Fibrillations

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### The Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)

Basic View Report View Raw View



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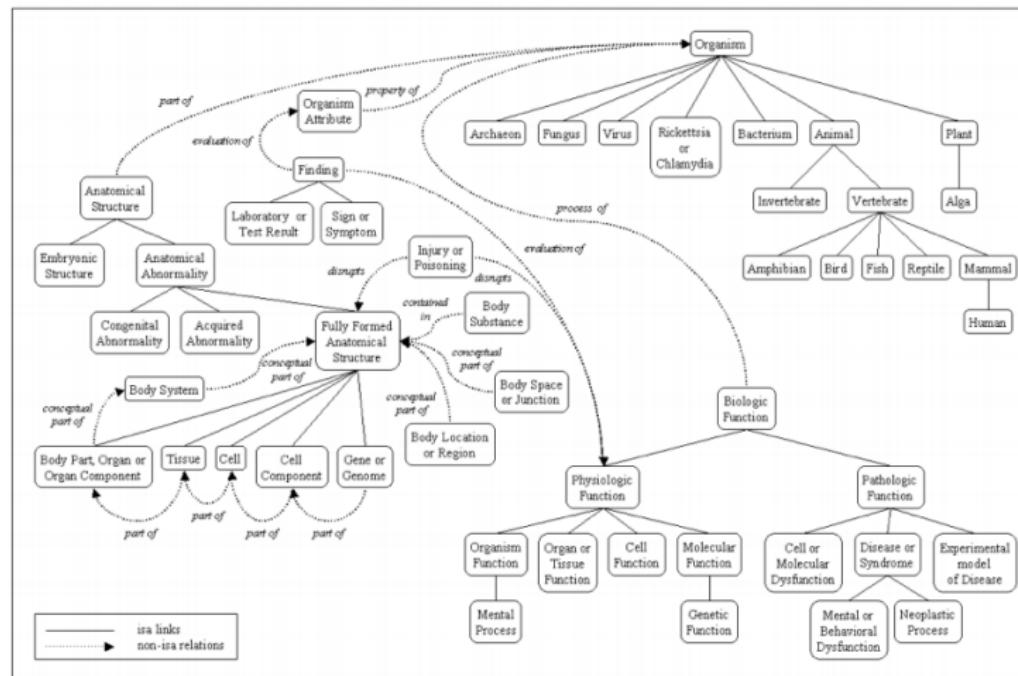
[ : 1 - 10 : ]

- AQ | MSH | In Blood | [C0005768](#)
- AQ | MSH | In Cerebrospinal Fluid | [C0007807](#)
- AQ | MSH | chemically induced | [C0007994](#)
- AQ | MSH | Taxonomic | [C0008903](#)
- AQ | MSH | Congenital MeSH qualifier | [C0009678](#)
- AQ | MSH | nutritional management | [C0012160](#)
- AQ | MSH | pharmacotherapeutic | [C0013217](#)
- AQ | MSH | Economic | [C0013557](#)
- AQ | MSH | embryologic | [C0013943](#)
- AQ | MSH | enzymology | [C0014445](#)

# MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

## EXISTING MEDICAL THESAURI (IN ENGLISH)

### The Unified Medical Language System (UMLS)



[http://genome.tugraz.at/MedicalInformatics/WinterSemester2011Holzinger/3\\_LV444\\_152\\_STRUCTURED\\_DATA\\_HOLZINGER\\_2011.pdf](http://genome.tugraz.at/MedicalInformatics/WinterSemester2011Holzinger/3_LV444_152_STRUCTURED_DATA_HOLZINGER_2011.pdf)

## SEMANTIC ANNOTATION

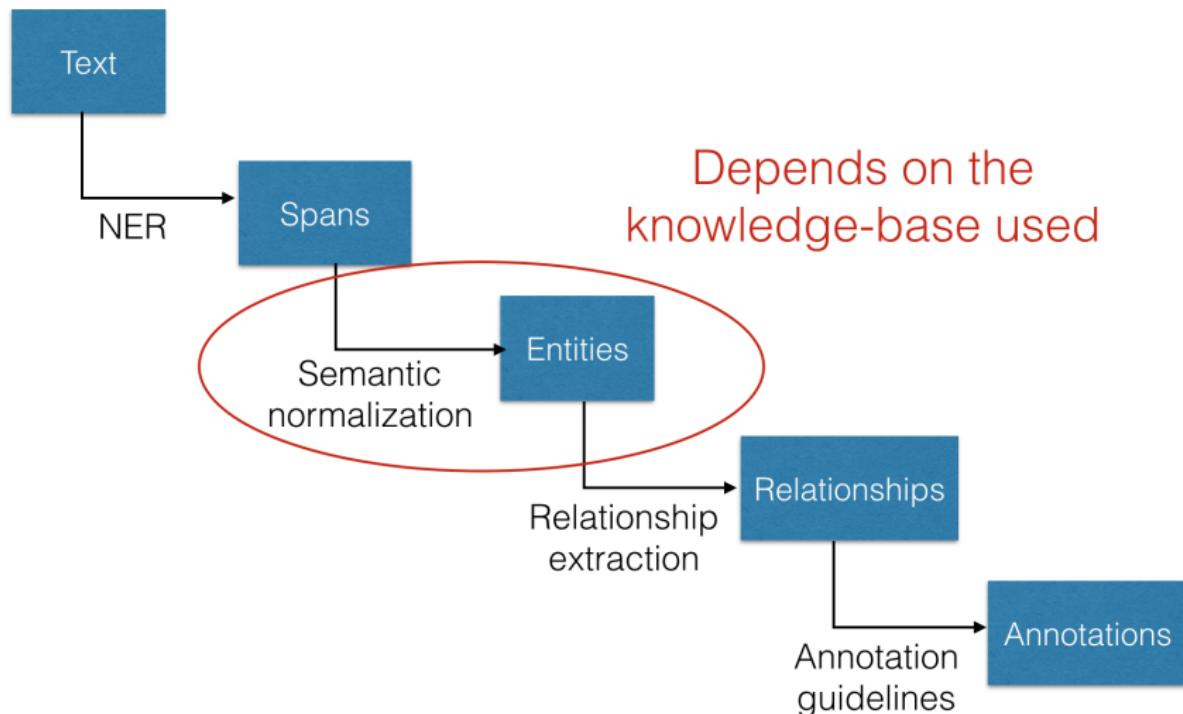
Semantic annotation consists in linking documents to knowledge bases by identifying:

- Entities/concepts (in the document)
- Relationships (implicit or explicit):
  - ▶ Between entities: *HK1 involved in glycolytic process*
  - ▶ Between an entity and the document:
    - ▶ MeSH entities for indexing documents on MEDLINE: *PMID:3207429 is indexed with Glucose/metabolism and Hexokinase/genetics*
    - ▶ The ICD code in a medical report

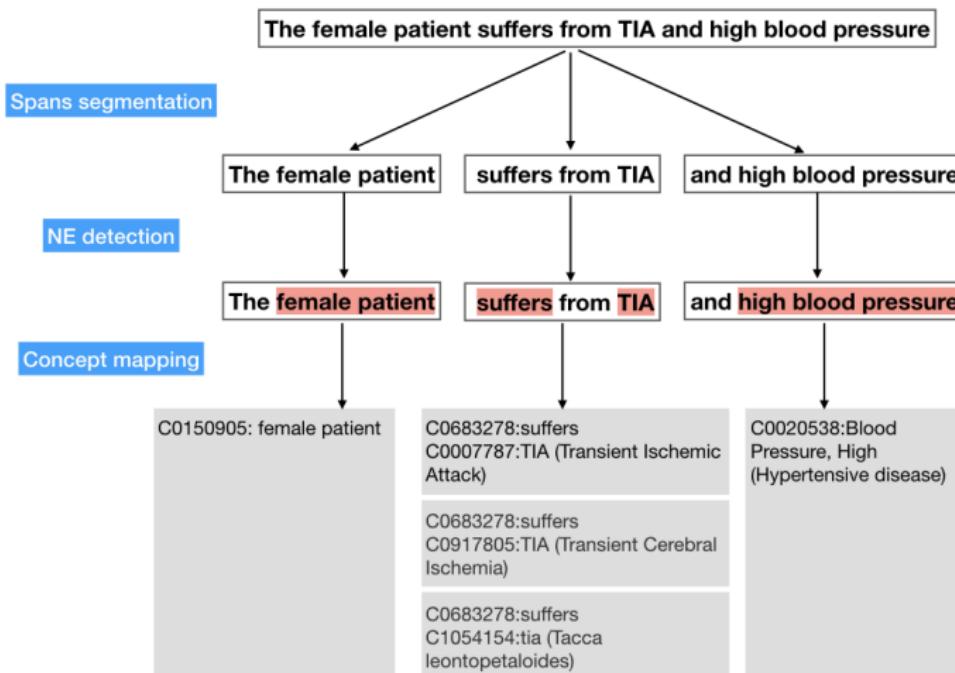
Semantic annotation can be done:

- Automatically
  - ▶ Named Entity Recognition and normalization
  - ▶ Automatic indexing
- Manually
  - ▶ Data curation, manual labelling
  - ▶ Manual indexing (majority on MEDLINE)
  - ▶ Codes added to patients reports when billing
- Derived from other annotations
  - ▶ Using links between concepts and entities

# SEMANTIC ANNOTATION



# SEMANTIC ANNOTATION



# EXISTING TOOLS

## Metamap [Aronson and Lang, 2010]

- Semantic annotation tool created by the National Library of Medicine
- Designed to annotate medical literature
- Requires a UMLS license
- Interactive, Web API or batch versions available
- <https://metamap.nlm.nih.gov/>

## QuickUMLS [Soldaini and Goharian, 2016]

- Semantic annotation tool (written in Python)
- Fast, unsupervised biomedical concept extraction from medical text
- Requires a UMLS license
- <https://github.com/Georgetown-IR-Lab/QuickUMLS>

## cTakes [Savova et al., 2010]

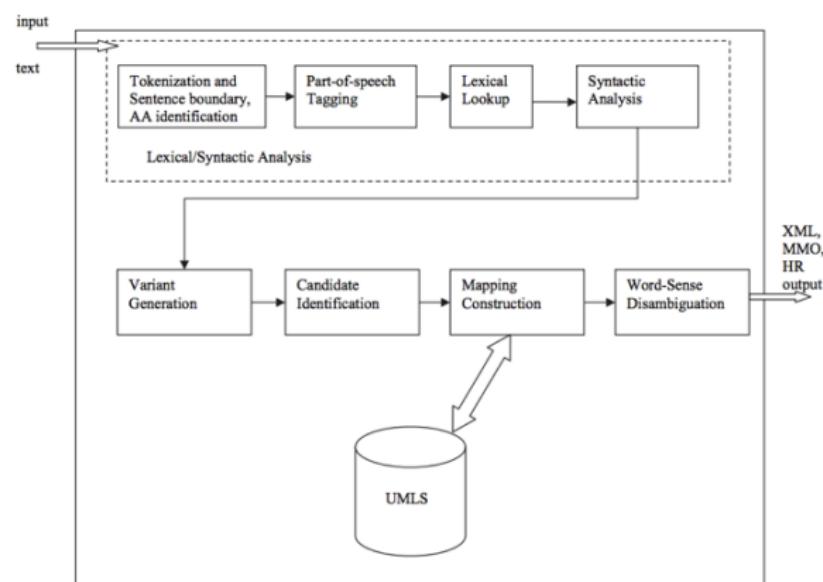
- UIMA-based NLP system for extraction of information from EHR
- Java based library of NLP and information extraction components
- Requires a UMLS license
- <https://ctakes.apache.org/>

## SemRep [Rindflesch and Fiszman, 2003]

- Semantic relations extractor from biomedical text
- UMLS-based program extracting three-part propositions (semantic predications)
- Requires a UMLS license
- Batch or interactive mode
- <https://semrep.nlm.nih.gov/>

# METAMAP

**Figure 1** MetaMap system diagram.  
HR, human readable; MMO, MetaMap machine output; UMLS, unified medical language system.



Extracted from [Aronson and Lang, 2010]

# SEMANTIC ANNOTATION

## METAMAP

### Input Text:

```
The female patient suffers from TIA and high blood pressure
```

### Results:

```
Processing 00000000.tx.1: The female patient suffers from TIA and high blood pressure

Phrase: The female patient
>>>> Phrase
female patient
<<<< Phrase
>>>> Mappings
Meta Mapping (1000):
 1000 C0150905:female patient (patient is female) [Organism Attribute]
<<<< Mappings

Phrase: suffers from TIA
>>>> Phrase
suffers from tia
<<<< Phrase
>>>> Mappings
Meta Mapping (746):
 790 C0683278:suffers (Mental Suffering) [Mental or Behavioral Dysfunction]
 790 C0007787:TIA (Transient Ischemic Attack) [Disease or Syndrome]
Meta Mapping (746):
 790 C0683278:suffers (Mental Suffering) [Mental or Behavioral Dysfunction]
 790 C0917805:TIA (Transient Cerebral Ischemia) [Disease or Syndrome]
Meta Mapping (746):
 790 C0683278:suffers (Mental Suffering) [Mental or Behavioral Dysfunction]
 790 C1054154:tia (Fagopyrum esculentum) [Plant]
<<<< Mappings

Phrase: and
>>>> Phrase
<<<< Phrase

Phrase: high blood pressure
>>>> Phrase
high blood pressure
<<<< Phrase
>>>> Mappings
Meta Mapping (1000):
 1000 C0020538:Blood Pressure, High (Hypertensive disease) [Disease or Syndrome]
Meta Mapping (1000):
 1000 C2926615:High blood pressure (Ever told by doctor or nurse that you have high blood pressure:Finding:Point in time:"Patient:Ordinal) [Clinical Attribute]
<<<< Mappings
```

Screenshot from the MetaMap interactive tool

# CTAKES

Apache cTAKES is a UIMA-based natural language processing system for extraction of information from electronic medical record clinical free-text:

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

\* Mock Clinical Note

ENT: Examined and normal.  
Skin: Psoriasis over the kneecaps and elbows, and within his hair.  
Lymph: Examined and normal.  
Thyroid: Not enlarged.  
Heart: Core S1, S2, no murmur.  
Lungs: Examined and normal.  
Abdomen: Soft and nontender. No obvious masses.  
Extremities: No signs of joint damage due to his psoriatic arthritis. Ankle scar on left from surgery. Right knee arthroscopy scar.  
Pulses: Normal.  
Neuro: Reflexes are normal.  
Rect: Normal prostate, no masses palpable.

**IMPRESSION/REPORT/PLAN**

#1 Colorectal cancer of the cecum, biopsy proven. No evidence for metastatic disease  
#2 Thyroid insufficiency, on treatment  
#3 Psoriatic arthritis, adequately treated with methotrexate and topical steroid creams

**PLANS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. A surgical consultation for possible right hemicolectomy in the next 1-2 weeks.
2. Complete pre-anesthetic medical evaluation, and obtain electrocardiogram.
3. Obtain the outside CT scan and have it formally reviewed by Clinic radiologist.
4. Obtain the outside colorectal biopsies and have these formally reviewed by Clinic pathologist.

**Event Discovery**

**UMLS Classification**

- Sign / Symptom
- Test / Procedure
- Disease / Diagnosis
- Medication
- Anatomy / General

**Negation Detection**

**Uncertainty Detection**

**Time Expression Discovery**

Extracted from <https://ctakes.apache.org/>

# QUICKUMLS

- A faster option to identify UMLS concepts from unstructured documents
- Gives comparable accuracy on several datasets

Method		Prec	Rec	F-1	ms/doc
MetaMap		0.49*	0.48*	0.48*	19,295*
cTAKES		<b>0.71</b>	0.53*	0.61	3,852*
QuickUMLS	$\alpha = 0.6$	0.50*	<b>0.75</b>	0.60	1,594*
	$\alpha = 0.7$	0.60*	<b>0.66*</b>	<b>0.63</b>	680*
	$\alpha = 0.8$	0.63*	0.60*	0.61	332*
	$\alpha = 0.9$	0.64*	0.56*	0.60	193*
	$\alpha = 1.0$	0.67*	0.54*	0.60	<b>143</b>

Table 1: Results for the i2b2 dataset. cTAKES outperforms QuickUMLS in precision, but QuickUMLS has better recall. QuickUMLS is 2.5 to 135 times faster than MetaMap or cTAKES. \* indicates statistically significant differences from best value (Welch's  $t$ -test,  $p < 0.05$ ).

Method		Prec	Rec	F-1	ms/doc
MetaMap		0.71*	0.53*	0.61*	15,935
cTAKES		<b>0.89</b>	0.55*	0.68*	3,765*
QuickUMLS	$\alpha = 0.6$	0.68*	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.72</b>	1,536*
	$\alpha = 0.7$	0.78*	0.67*	<b>0.72</b>	646*
	$\alpha = 0.8$	0.83*	0.61*	0.70†	340*
	$\alpha = 0.9$	0.85*	0.57*	0.68*	174*
	$\alpha = 1.0$	0.87*	0.55*	0.67*	<b>141</b>

Table 2: Results for the THYME corpus. cTAKES achieves the best precision, QuickUMLS the best recall and substantially better throughput than MetaMap or cTAKES. \* indicates statistically significant differences from best value (Welch's  $t$ -test,  $p < 0.05$ ). † indicates statistical significance from  $\alpha = 0.6$  but not  $\alpha = 0.7$ .

## SUMMARY

- Many types of data :
  - ▶ Patient-specific data
  - ▶ Knowledge-based data
  - ▶ User-generated data
- Various information needs: search for information, for cohorts, for evidence...
- On the solution side:
  - ▶ Some structured knowledge bases: UMLS and all its constituents (and their versions in languages other than English)
  - ▶ Several concept annotation tools: MetaMap, cTakes, QuickUMLS...
  - ▶ And IR models

## SUMMARY OF ISSUES

- Semantic gap
  - ▶ Vocabulary mismatch between experts and novices
  - ▶ Vocabulary mismatch between the query and documents
  - ▶ Interpretation of vocabulary in context: negation, lexical variants, time, task peculiarities
- Result appraisal
  - ▶ Understand medical language
  - ▶ Ability to interpret the results, make accurate inference, assess the credibility
  - ▶ Cognitive bias

# OUTLINE

## 1. Introduction

Presenters and learners  
About the tutorial

## 2. IR and its Potential in the Medical Domain

Introduction to Information Retrieval (IR)  
Challenges

## 3. Medical IR: Basics

Medical Information Access  
Medical Knowledge Sources

## 4. Techniques and Models

**Overview of state-of-the-art approaches**  
Structured Knowledge-Resource driven Semantic  
Data-Driven Semantic

## 5. Evaluation

Challenges in Evaluating Medical Information Retrieval  
Benchmarking Activities and Lessons Learned

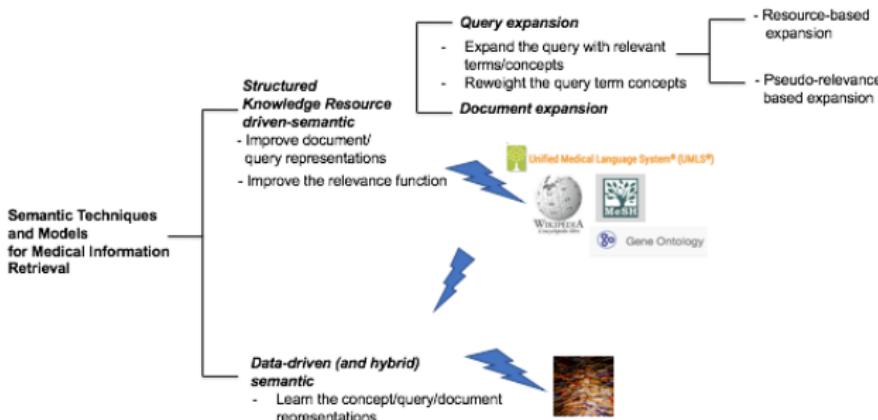
## 6. Conclusion

## ROADMAP

- Traditional IR
  - ▶ Q: bag of words
  - ▶ D: bag of words
  - ▶ RSV(Q,D): Alignment of Q and D
- Semantic (medical) IR
  - ▶ Q:
    - ▶ Bag of words
    - ▶ Bag of words **and concepts/entities**
    - ▶ **Embeddings**
  - ▶ D:
    - ▶ Bag of words
    - ▶ Bag of words **and concepts/entities**
    - ▶ **Embeddings**
  - ▶ RSV(Q,D): **Semantic inference**

# ROADMAP

- Traditional IR
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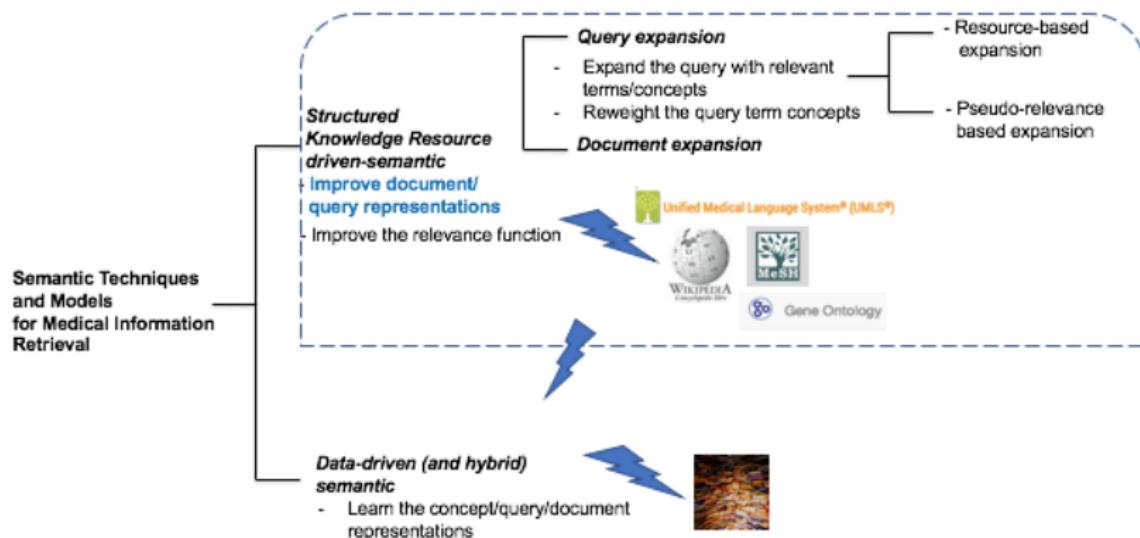
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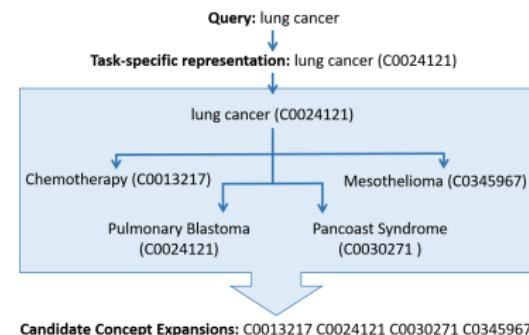
# ROADMAP



## QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

- Query/document expansion

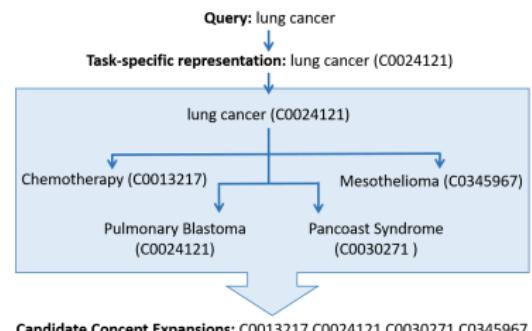
- ▶ Enhance the Query/Document using:
  - ▶ evidence from related words/terms in semantic resources;
  - ▶ relevance feedback signals



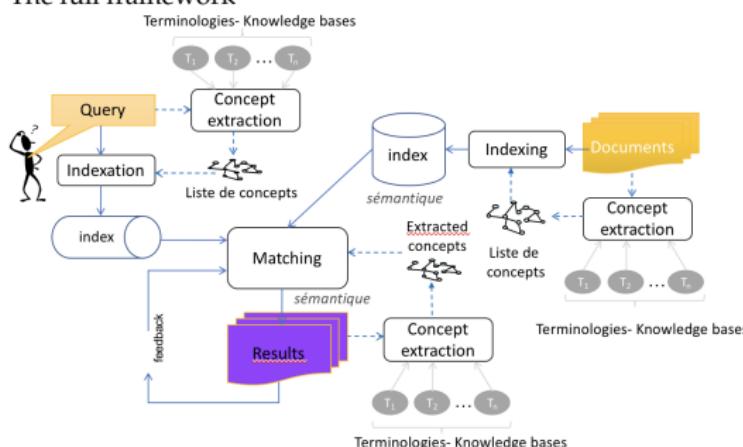
# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

- Query/document expansion

- Enhance the Query/Document using:
  - evidence from related words/terms in semantic resources;
  - relevance feedback signals



- The full framework



## QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

- Main impacting factors: [Dinh et al., 2013, Zuccon and Koopman, 2018]
  - ▶ Which knowledge-base to use (specialized vs. generic) and how many?
  - ▶ Which context to use (global vs. local)?
  - ▶ How to select candidate expansion terms and (how to inject them in a retrieval model) ?

## QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

- Main impacting factors: [Dinh et al., 2013, Zucccon and Koopman, 2018]
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  - ▶ Which context to use (global vs. local)?
  - ▶ How to select candidate expansion terms and (how to inject them in a retrieval model) ?
- Resulting techniques
  - ▶ LSMo: Local context, Specialized Mono-Resource [Soldaini et al., 2017, Sondhi et al., 2012]
  - ▶ GSMo: Global context, Specialized Mono-Resource [Martinez et al., 2014, Znaidi et al., 2016]
  - ▶ LGSMo: Local and Global contexts, Specialized Mono-Resource [Wang and Akella, 2015, Znaidi et al., 2015, Znaidi et al., 2016]
  - ▶ GSGMu: Global context, Specialized General Multiple-Resources [Soldaini et al., 2016]
  - ▶ LGSM : Local and Global contexts, Specialized Multiple-Resources [Limsopatham et al., 2013, Dinh and Tamine, 2012, Oh and Jung, 2015, Zhu and Carterette, 2012]

	LSMo	GSMo	LGSMo	GSGMu	LGSM
Context	■	□	■	□	■
Knowledge Base	■	■	■	■	■
Local (Pseudo-relevance)	■	□	■	□	■
Global (Resource)	□	■	■	■	■
Specialized	■	■	■	■	■
General	□	□	□	■	□
Mono-resource	■	■	■	□	□
Multiple-resources	□	□	□	■	■

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

LOCAL CONTEXT, ONE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE [SONDHI ET AL., 2012]

- **Context:** Top N retrieved documents
- **Knowledge-Base:** MeSH thesaurus
- **Key steps**
  - ▶ Map query words to UMLS semantic types and assign weights  $c'(w, Q) = c(w, Q)$  if w belong to a relevant type eg., disease, syndrome, body, etc.
  - ▶ **Top-N based MeSH feedback:** identify a list of potential diagnoses from N top documents and then rerank the documents w.r.t absence of potential diseases
  - ▶ **Distribution-based MeSH feedback:** For each MeSH term, identify all the documents indexed with it, pick the M highest scoring MeSH terms as candidate term expansion
  - ▶ Expand the query and then perform a pseudo-relevance feedback based model (PRF) [Zhai and Lafferty, 2001]
$$D(\hat{\theta}_q \parallel \hat{\theta}_d) = - \sum_w p(w \mid \hat{\theta}_q) \log p(w \mid \hat{\theta}_d) + cons(q)$$

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

LOCAL CONTEXT, ONE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE [SONDHI ET AL., 2012]

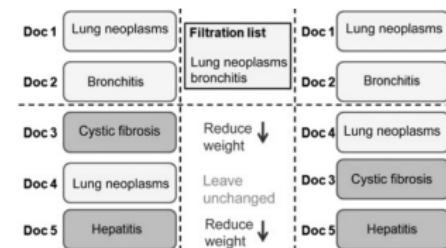
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- **Main results/findings**

- ▶ Slight improvements (more than 6%) over the baseline for the Distribution-based MeSH feedback while the top N based Mesh feedback is worse than the baseline using small datasets (19 queries, 5585 documents)
- ▶ Difficulty in recovering new treatments and rare alternative diseases
- ▶ Confusion between similar conditions/diseases



# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

LOCAL CONTEXT, ONE GENERAL RESOURCE [SOLDAINI ET AL., 2017]

- **Context:** Top N retrieved documents
- **Knowledge-Base:** Wikipedia
- **Key steps: Health Terms Pseudo Relevance Feedback HTPRF**
  - ▶ Retrieve the N Top documents w.r.t query Q
  - ▶ For each term from the top N documents, compute a score
$$s_j = \log_{10}(10 + w_j) w_j = \alpha * tf(t_j, Q) + \frac{\beta}{N} \sum_1^N (tf(t_j, D_i) * idf(t_j))$$
  - ▶ Select the top M terms with the highest score as the candidate expansion terms
  - ▶ For each candidate term expansion, compute the likelihood of being health-related. Compute the odds ratio as the proportion of health-related Wikipdia ( $W_H$ ) documents including term  $t_i$ 
$$OR(t_i) = \frac{n(t_i, W_H)}{n(t_i, W)}$$
  - ▶ Consider the top M ranked terms with score  $OR(t_j) > \sigma$
  - ▶ Expand the query and perform a pseudo-relevance feedback based model

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

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  - ▶ Expand the query and perform a pseudo-relevance feedback based model
- **Main results/findings**
  - ▶ Mapping the wikipedia terms to UMLS semantic types revealed that 75% are present in the UMLS: 32% are symptoms, 20,3% are treatments, 18% are a diagnosis procedure or test, 17,1% are diseases
  - ▶ The HTPRF parameters do not significantly impact the results
  - ▶ Precision oriented with slight improvement (+3,6%) over state-of the best systems in TREC CDS 2014-TREC CDS 2015

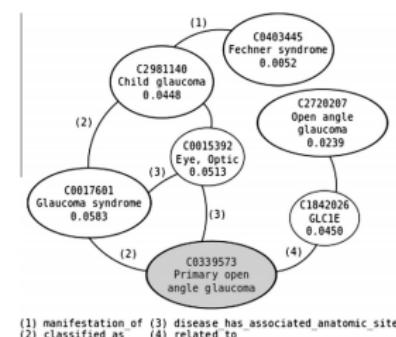
# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

GLOBAL CONTEXT, ONE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE [MARTINEZ ET AL., 2014]

- **Context:** Concepts and relations between concepts
- **Knowledge-Base:** UMLS thesaurus

## • Key steps

- ▶ Map query words to UMLS semantic types
- ▶ Identify the initial sub-graph based concept including query concepts and related UMLS concepts
- ▶ Assign an uniform probability to the concepts in the sub-graph and then run the Page Rank algorithm
- ▶ Rank the concepts using the Page Rank score
- ▶ Expand the query with the N concepts having the highest PageRank Score
- ▶ Perform a basic retrieval model (eg., TF-IDF, BM25)



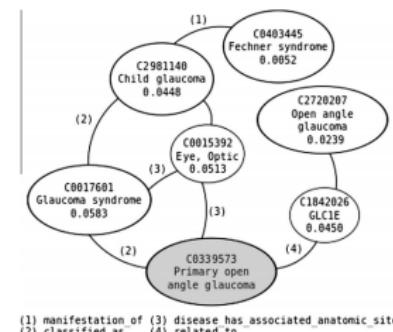
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## • Main results/findings

- ▶ Experiments on TREC medical records 2011-2012 show significant improvements (+30% in average)
- ▶ Expansion terms are those related to the query with either taxonomic (eg., synonyms) and not taxonomic (eg., disease has associated anatomic site).
- ▶ Useful expansion in the case of a cohort retrieval task.

Queries with highest improvement for PageRank, together with the learnt expansion terms and the Bpref increase.

Query	TREC version	Expansion terms	Bpref increase
Hospitalized patients treated for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) endocarditis	2011	MRSA elsewhere/NOS	0.931
Patients with Primary Open Angle Glaucoma (POAG)	2012	Eye, Eyeball, Globe, Ocular... Glaucoma syndrome Open cleft glaucoma GLC1E	0.742
Patients with adult...	2012	Intraocular...	0.732

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXTS, ONE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE [WANG AND AKELLA, 2015]

- Key steps

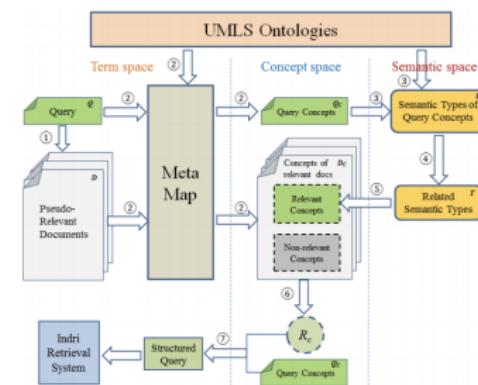
- ▶ Map query  $Q$  and pseudo-relevant document words to UMLS semantic types
- ▶ Build the document model using the distribution of semantic type  $s$  in the set of relevant document  $D_C$ :  

$$p(c | D_C) = \sum_s p(s | D_C)P(c | s, D_C)$$
- ▶ Compute  $P(c | s, D_C)$  by the maximum likelihood estimation of  $c$  in this semantic type, and then smoothed by the collection background model
- ▶ Computed  $p(c | R_c)$  with  $R_c$  the unknown concept relevance model by estimating the joint probability of observing the concept  $c$  together with query concepts

$$p(c | R_c) = p(c | q_{C1} \dots q_{Ck}) = \frac{p(c, q_{C1} \dots q_{Ck})}{(q_{C1} \dots q_{Ck})}$$

- ▶ Rank the concepts using the  $p(c | R_c)$  score
- ▶ Expand the query with the  $N$  concepts having the highest score

$$p(c | Q'_c) = (1 - \lambda) * p(c | D_c) + \lambda * p(c | R_c)$$



# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXTS, ONE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE [WANG AND AKELLA, 2015]

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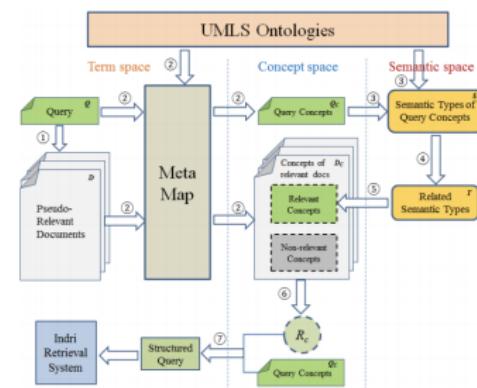
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- Main results/findings

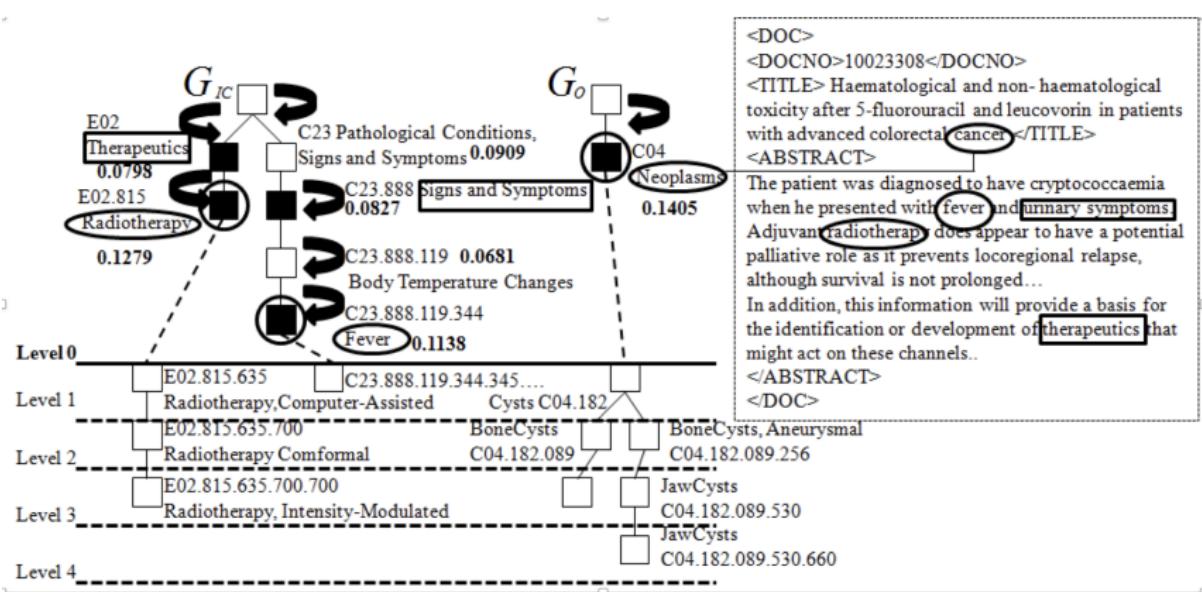
- ▶ Working on concepts leads in a dense space for relevance estimation which is expected to produce better estimates
- ▶ Significant improvement particularly for long documents containing sufficient evidence to infer concept relevance estimates.



# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXTS, ONE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE [ZNAIDI ET AL., 2016]

- Context: Concepts and relations between concepts, Top N retrieved documents
- Knowledge-Base: UMLS thesaurus



# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXTS, ONE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE [ZNAIDI ET AL., 2016]

- **Context:** Concepts and relations between concepts, Top N retrieved documents
- **Knowledge-Base:** UMLS thesaurus

- **Key steps: tailored for PICO queries**

- ▶ Map each PICO facet of query Q to UMLS
- ▶ Identify the UMLS query concepts for each facet
- ▶ Build a concept-based tree for each facet
- ▶ Build the candidate query expansion terms using a recursive propagation algorithm from active concept  $c$  through sub-concepts  $csub$ 
  - ▶ Compute  $score(c) = +level(csub) * score(s)$
- ▶ Expand the query with the N concepts having the highest score
- ▶ Apply a prioritized-scoring based retrieval

$$RSV_{PICO}(Q, d) = \lambda_P * RSV_P(Q_P, d) + \\ \lambda_{IC} * RSV_{IC}(Q_{IC}, d) + \\ + \lambda_O * RSV_O(Q_O, d) \quad l$$

$$\lambda_{IC} = 1\lambda_P = \lambda_{IC} * RSV(Q_{IC}^c, d), \lambda_O = \\ \lambda_P * RSV(Q_P^c, d)$$

- ▶ Combine the PICO score with a classic score (eg., BM25)

Algorithm 1: Main

```

Require:  $Q, Q_{PICO}, T, N_d, N_c, MaxLevel$ 
Ensure:  $Q_P^c, Q_{IC}^c, Q_O^c$ 
1: BEGIN
2: {Initial search}
3:  $D_N^* \leftarrow Top_D(Q, N_d, C)$ ;
4: {Query Graph Building}
5:  $Q_P \leftarrow Substr(Q, P)$ ;
6:  $Q_{IC} \leftarrow Substr(Q, IC)$ ;
7:  $Q_O \leftarrow Substr(Q, O)$ ;
8:  $Concepts(Q_P) \leftarrow Extract(Q_P, T)$ ;
9:  $Concepts(Q_{IC}) \leftarrow Extract(Q_{IC}, T)$ ;
10:  $Concepts(Q_O) \leftarrow Extract(Q_O, T)$ ;
11:  $G_P \leftarrow HypG(Concepts(Q_P), T)$ ;
12:  $G_{IC} \leftarrow HypG(Concepts(Q_{IC}), T)$ ;
13:  $G_O \leftarrow HypG(Concepts(Q_O), T)$ ;
14:  $Q_P^c \leftarrow CSelect(G_P)$ ;
15:  $Q_{IC}^c \leftarrow CSelect(G_{IC})$ ;
16:  $Q_O^c \leftarrow CSelect(G_O)$ ;
17: END

```

Algorithm 2: Function:  $CSelect$

```

Require:  $G_x$ 
Ensure:  $TopConcepts$ 
1: BEGIN
2: {Process the top ranked documents}
3: for all  $d \in D_N^*$  do
4: {Extraction of document concepts}
5:  $TopConcepts \leftarrow Extract(d, G_x)$ ;
6:  $level \leftarrow 0$ ;
7: {Score Propagation}
8: for all  $c \in TopConcepts$  AND  $level < Maxlevel$  do
9:   for all  $csub \in Hypo(c, G_x)$  do
10:      $Score(csub) \leftarrow (Score(csub) + Lev(csub) * Score(c))$ ;
11:      $Score(csub) \leftarrow Normalized(Score(csub))$ ;
12:      $level \leftarrow level + 1$ ;
13:   end for
14: end for
15: end for
16:  $TopConcepts \leftarrow Top_C(G_x, N_c)$ ;
17: return  $TopConcepts$ ;
18: END

```

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXTS, ONE SPECIALIZED RESOURCES [ZNAIDI ET AL., 2016]

- **Context:** Concepts and relations between concepts, Top N retrieved documents
- **Knowledge-Base:** UMLS thesaurus

## • Mains findings

- ▶ Significant improvements (+30%) on a standard PICO collection
- ▶ Slight but non significant improvement in comparison to PICO tailored models
- ▶ The model performs better for relatively short queries (still be long in comparison to classic queries)
- ▶ For long queries, it is more likely that the document matches the query according to different facets but with misleading interpretations of the search intent.

Model	Precision			% Change	# RR
	MAP	P@5	P@10		
<i>BM25</i>	0.112	0.1561	0.127	+51.42%**	4574
<i>LM</i>	0.111	0.156	0.130	+52.36%***	4491
<i>PSBM25</i>	0.123	0.151	0.139	+37.94%**	4904
<i>AGM</i>	0.121	0.148	0.135	+40.09%***	4835
<i>PLM</i>	0.163	0.240	—	+4.60%	5770
<b>PSM</b>	<b>0.170</b>	<b>0.254</b>	<b>0.198</b>	—	<b>5894</b>

Q	Id	Desc	% Change	#W	#C
<i>R<sup>+</sup></i>	M6.2	(P) In obese patients diabetes(/P)(IC) orlistat Placebo(/IC) (O)Weight loss(/O)	+78.08%	7	4
	Q37.2	(P) Adults 18 years or more migraine(/P)(IC)aspirin plus an antiemetic placebo (/IC) O/pain free(/O).	+74.60%	8	5
<i>R<sup>-</sup></i>	C21.1	(P) Adults 14 years and older GORD (/P)(IC)Medical management: proton pump inhibitors/histamine receptor antagonists Laparoscopic fundoplication surgery(/IC)(O) Health-related quality of life (/O)	-45.07%	18	7
	Q48.3	(P) Adults 18 years or older rheumatoid arthritis (/P)(IC) methotrexate combined with other non-biologic disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) methotrexate alone(/IC)(O)ACR response of non-MTX DMARDs inadequate response(/O).	-83.21%	26	6

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXTS, MULTIPLE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE [DINH AND TAMINE, 2012]

- **Context:** Concepts and relations between concepts, Top N retrieved documents
- **Knowledge-Base:** MeSH, SNOMED, GO, ICD10 thesaurus,
- **Key steps**
  - ▶ Document expansion (indexing level)
    - ▶ Map each document to N resources and extract N lists of M top ranked candidate concepts
    - ▶ Apply a fusion strategy to select the best expansion concepts C
    - ▶ Expand the document with concepts in C

## Stage 1 Conceptual Document Indexing

**Input:** Collection C, Terminologies T

**Output:** Index I

```

1: for all document D in C do
2:   # Mono-terminology extraction
3:   for all terminology Ti in T do
4:     R(D, Ti) ← extract(D, Ti);
5:   end for
6:   # Concept fusion
7:   R(D, T) ← ∪i=1n R(D, Ti);
8:   # Document expansion
9:   D' ← expand(D, R(D, T));
10:  # Document indexing
11:  I ← addIndex(D');
12: end for
13: return I;
```

Category	Technique	score(c <sub>j</sub> , D)
Rank-based	CombRank CombRCP	$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\ R(D, T_i)\  - r_{ji}^D)}{\sum_{i=1}^n 1/r_{ji}^D}$
Score-based	CombSUM CombMIN CombMAX CombMED CombANZ CombMNZ	$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji}^D}{\min\{w_{ji}^D, \forall i = 1..n\}}$ $\max\{w_{ji}^D, \forall i = 1..n\}$ $\text{median}\{w_{ji}^D, \forall i = 1..n\}$ $\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji}^D \div \ \{c_j \in R(D, T)\}\ $ $\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji}^D \times \ \{c_j \in R(D, T)\}\ $

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    - ▶ Apply a fusion strategy to select the best expansion concepts  $C$
    - ▶ Expand the document with concepts in  $C$
  - ▶ Query expansion
    - ▶ Perform an initial search with query
    - ▶ Build a document relevance model; use the Bose-Einstein statistics [Amati, 2003] to weight terms in the expanded query  $q^e$  derived from the original query  $Q$ :  

$$weight(t \in Q^e) = tf_{qn} + \beta * \frac{Info_{Bo1}}{MaxInfo}$$
  - ▶ Perform a post-retrieval with the expanded query

Stage 1 Conceptual Document Indexing

**Input:** Collection  $C$ , Terminologies  $T$

**Output:** Index  $I$

```

1: for all document  $D$  in  $C$  do
2:   # Mono-terminology extraction
3:   for all terminology  $T_i$  in  $T$  do
4:      $R(D, T_i) \leftarrow extract(D, T_i);$ 
5:   end for
6:   # Concept fusion
7:    $R(D, T) \leftarrow \cup_{i=1}^n R(D, T_i);$ 
8:   # Document expansion
9:    $D' \leftarrow expand(D, R(D, T));$ 
10:  # Document indexing
11:   $I \leftarrow addIndex(D');$ 
12: end for
13: return  $I;$ 
```

Category	Technique	$score(c_j, D)$
Rank-based	CombRank CombRCP	$\sum_{i=1}^n (\ R(D, T_i)\  - r_{ji}^D) / \sum_{i=1}^n 1/r_{ji}^D$
Score-based	CombSUM CombMIN CombMAX CombMED CombANZ CombMNZ	$\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji}^D / n$ $\min\{w_{ji}^D, \forall i = 1..n\}$ $\max\{w_{ji}^D, \forall i = 1..n\}$ $median\{w_{ji}^D, \forall i = 1..n\}$ $\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji}^D / \ \{c_j \in R(D, T)\}\ $ $\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ji}^D \times \ \{c_j \in R(D, T)\}\ $

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXTS, MULTIPLE SPECIALIZED RESOURCE [DINH AND TAMINE, 2012]

- **Context:** Concepts and relations between concepts, Top N retrieved documents
- **Knowledge-Base:** MeSH, SNOMED, GO, ICD10 thesaurus
- **Main results/findings**
  - ▶ Multi-terminology based retrieval significantly better than mono-terminology-based retrieval but with varying and moderate improvement rates according to the fusion strategy
  - ▶ Need raises toward the weighting of each terminology according to query specificities

Run	TREC Genomics 2004		TREC Genomics 2005	
	MAP	Δ (%)	MAP	Δ (%)
Median	0.2074		0.2173	
<b>Mono-terminology indexing and retrieval</b>				
MeSH	0.4412 <sup>†††</sup>	(+112.73)	0.2639	(+21.45)
SNOMED	0.4222 <sup>†††</sup>	(+103.57)	0.2630	(+21.03)
ICD-10	0.4138 <sup>†††</sup>	(+99.52)	0.2592	(+19.28)
GO	0.4408 <sup>†††</sup>	(+112.54)	0.2536	(+16.71)
<b>Multi-terminology indexing and retrieval</b>				
CombANZ	0.4435 <sup>†††</sup>	(+113.84)	0.2647	(+20.89)
CombMAX	0.4387 <sup>†††</sup>	(+111.52)	0.2684 <sup>†</sup>	(+23.52)
CombMED	0.4459 <sup>†††</sup>	(+115.00)	0.2683 <sup>†</sup>	(+23.47)
CombMIN	0.4440 <sup>†††</sup>	(+114.08)	<b>0.2685<sup>†</sup></b>	(+23.56)
CombMNZ	<b>0.4529<sup>†††</sup></b>	(+118.37)	0.2593	(+19.33)
CombRank	0.4407 <sup>†††</sup>	(+112.49)	0.2594	(+19.37)
CombRCP	0.4371 <sup>†††</sup>	(+110.75)	0.2601	(+19.70)
CombSUM	0.4470 <sup>†††</sup>	(+115.53)	0.2601	(+19.70)

Significant changes at  $p \leq 0.05, 0.01$  and  $0.001$  are denoted  $^†$ ,  $^{††}$  and  $^{†††}$ .

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS, MULTIPLE SPECIALIZED AND GENERAL RESOURCES [ZHU AND CARTERETTE, 2012]

- **Context:** Medical collections
- **Knowledge-Base:** MeSH thesaurus
- **Key steps**

- ▶ Apply a mixture of relevance model  $p(w \mid \theta_Q) = \lambda_Q \frac{c(w, Q)}{|Q|} + (1 - \lambda_Q) \sum_C \lambda_C p(w \mid \hat{\theta}_{Q,C})$

Perform two main steps:

- ▶ Identify relevant candidate expansion terms: MeSH-based terms and collection-based terms
  - Map the query to MeSH thesaurus and select the entry terms of active concepts and descendants  $e_i$ ;
  - Estimate concept weight  $p_i$  as concept popularity using PubMed query log  $p_i = \frac{\log N_{e_i, G}}{\sum_j \log N_{e_i, G}}$
  - For collections C containing full-text articles, compute:  

$$p_i = p(e_i \mid \hat{\theta}_{Q,C}) = \sum_j^k \exp \frac{tf(e_i, D_j)}{|D_j|} + \log \frac{|C|}{df_{e_i, C}} + score(D_j, Q)$$
- ▶ Rank the lists  $E_{c_k}$  (from MeSH thesaurus and each collection) of candidate expansion terms w.r.t. score  $p_i$
- ▶ Compute collection weight: query-adaptive collection weighting strategy by computing  

$$\lambda_{c_k} = \frac{J_i^{-1}}{\sum_j J_i^{-1}}$$
 where  $J(\theta_E \parallel \theta_Q) = \frac{1}{2}((K(\theta_E \parallel \theta_M) + K(\theta_Q \parallel \theta_M))$  where E is the expanded query provided by collection  $c_k$ .

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- **Main results/findings**

- ▶ Significant improvement (+20%) over the baselines using ImageCLEF and Clue Web collections
- ▶ Good balance between expansion terms provided by relations in MeSH thesaurus and term relations provided by the local relevance feedback corpus.
- ▶ Using multiple collections is always better than using just a single collection.

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS, MULTIPLE SPECIALIZED AND GENERAL RESOURCES [OH AND JUNG, 2015]

- **Context:** Top N retrieved documents and collections
- **Knowledge-Base:** Wikipedia
- **Key steps**
  - ▶ Build a feedback model from a set of external collections by combining the expand External Expansion Model (EEM) [Weerkamp et al., 2012] and the concept of the cluster-based model (CCBM) [Liu and Croft, 2004]. Compute five components:
    - ▶ Prior collection probability  $p(\theta_C)$  estimated using collection type (eg., expert-based)
    - ▶ Document relevance  $p(Q | \theta_D)$  estimated using a retrieval model (eg., BM25)
    - ▶ Collection relevance  $p(Q | \theta_C) = \sum_{D \in C} p(Q | \theta_D)p(\theta_D | C) \propto \frac{1}{|R_C|} \sum_{D \in R_C} p(Q | \theta_D)$
    - ▶ Document importance  $p(D || \theta_C)$ : importance of document D in collection C (eg., using PageRank, recency, etc.)
    - ▶ Word probability  $p(w | \theta_D)$ : use evidence from a document model smoothed with cluster and collection models
 
$$p(w | \theta_D) = (1 - \lambda_E) \frac{c(w,D) + \mu p(w|C)}{|D| + \mu} + \lambda_E p(w | E)p(w || \theta_D)p(Q | \theta_C)p(D | \theta_C)$$
  - ▶ Compute the expanded query model based on a feedback model built upon target and external collections
 
$$p_{EEM}(w | Q) \propto \sum_{C \in E} p(Q | \theta_C)p(\theta_C) \sum_{D \in C} p(w | \theta_D)p(Q | \theta_D)p(D | \theta_C)$$

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS, MULTIPLE SPECIALIZED AND GENERAL RESOURCES [OH AND JUNG, 2015]

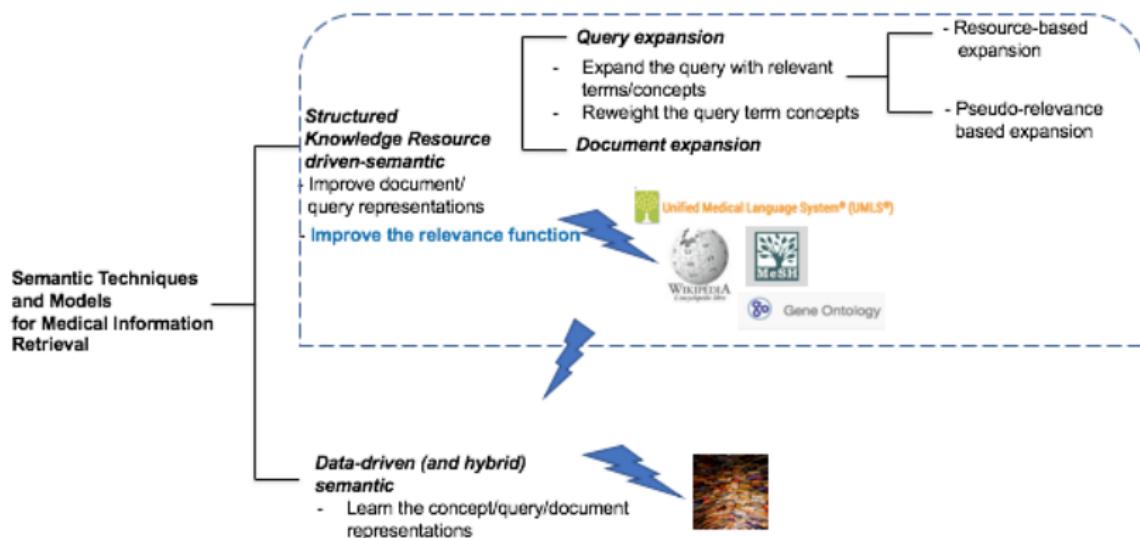
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$$p(w | \theta_D) = (1 - \lambda_E) \frac{c(w, D) + \mu p(w | C)}{|D| + \mu} + \lambda_E p(w | E)p(w || \theta_D)p(Q | \theta_C)p(D | \theta_C)$$
  - ▶ Compute the expanded query model based on a feedback model built upon target and external collections
 
$$p_{EEM}(w | Q) \propto \sum_{C \in E} p(Q | \theta_C)p(\theta_C) \sum_{D \in C} p(w | \theta_D)p(Q | \theta_D)p(D | \theta_C)$$
- **Main results/findings**
  - ▶ Significant improvement using TREC CDS, Clef E-Health datasets
  - ▶ The model is not very sensitive to the size of the initial feedback results
  - ▶ Small improvements using a general collection such as Wikipedia.

# QUERY/DOCUMENT EXPANSION

LET US DISCUSS

- A large body of state-of-the art work in medical IR rely on query expansion techniques
  - ▶ Combine statistical concepts and semantic concepts
  - ▶ Exploit generally evidence from multiple resources according to the polyrepresentation view
  - ▶ Use generally a local relevance model
- Robustness of query expansion techniques in the medical domain is questionable
  - ▶ They do not systematically lead to significant and important improvements over baselines
  - ▶ Several impacting factors on performance:
    - ▶ The knowledge bases used: general vs. specific
    - ▶ The semantic relations exploited: taxonomic vs. non taxonomic
    - ▶ The task at hand (collection): searching for cases, scientific literature, etc.
    - ▶ Learn more at ECIR'18: '*Jimmy Jimmy, Guido Zuccon and Bevan Koopman. Choices in Knowledge-Base Retrieval for Consumer Health Search*'

# ROADMAP



## RELEVANCE RANKING

- How to incorporate semantic in the document relevance estimation?
  - ▶ Ranking as a semantic inference  
[Goodwin and Harabagiu, 2016, Koopman et al., 2016, Cao et al., 2011]
  - ▶ Ranking as learning the discriminant relevant (semantic) features  
[Balaneshin-kordan and Kotov, 2016, Xiong and Callan, 2015, Soldaini and Goharian, 2017]

# RELEVANCE RANKING

RANKING AS A SEMANTIC INFERENCE: A GRAPH-BASED APPROACH [KOOPMAN ET AL., 2016]

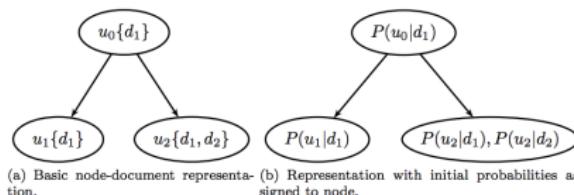
- Key model components

- ▶ Graph-based representation of the documents
- ▶ Document ranking as an inference process over related concepts in the graph
- ▶ Knowledge resources with directed relationships between concepts
- ▶ Different types of relationships

- Key inference rationale: tune the inference mechanism according to semantic gap issues: lexical mismatch, granularity mismatch, conceptual mismatch

- ▶ Lexical mismatch (eg., *hypertension* vs. *high blood pressure*): association and deductive inference
- ▶ Granularity mismatch (eg., *antipsychotic* and *Diazepam*): introduce uncertainty in the taxonomic (hierarchical eg., IS A) relationships
- ▶ Conceptual mismatch (eg., *treatments* → *disease*): deductive inference and logical deduction

- The Graph-based corpus representation



# RELEVANCE RANKING

RANKING AS A SEMANTIC INFERENCE: A GRAPH-BASED APPROACH [KOOPMAN ET AL., 2016]

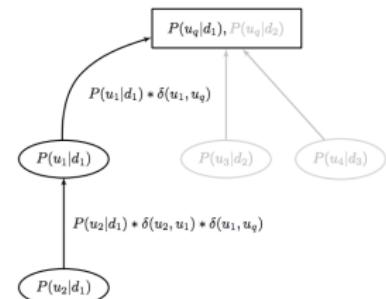
- The retrieval model

- Strength of the association between two information nodes: compute recursively over the graph:  
 $\sigma_0(u, u') = \alpha * sim(u, u') + (1 - \alpha) * rel(u, u')$

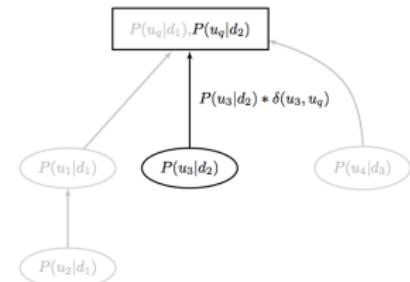
$$\sigma(u, u') = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } u = u' \\ \sigma_0(u, u') & \text{if } uRu' \\ argmax_{u_i \in U: uRu_i} \sigma(u, u_i) \times \sigma(u_i, u'), \text{ otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

- Relevance of document-query

$$RSV(d, q) = \prod_{u_q \in q} \prod_{u_d \in d} p(u_d | d) \sigma(u_d, u_q)$$



(a) Retrieval process for document  $d_1$ .



(b) Retrieval process for document  $d_2$ .

# RELEVANCE RANKING

RANKING AS A SEMANTIC INFERENCE: A GRAPH-BASED APPROACH [KOOPMAN ET AL., 2016]

- The retrieval model

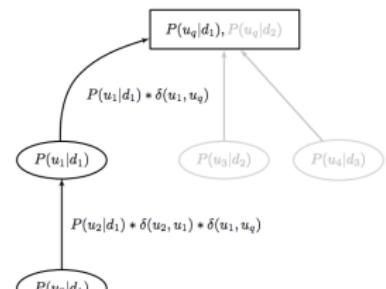
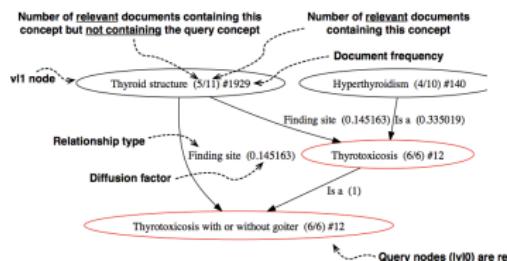
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$$\sigma(u, u') = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } u = u' \\ \sigma_0(u, u') & \text{if } uRu' \\ argmax_{u_i \in U: uRu_i} \sigma(u, u_i) \times \sigma(u_i, u'), \text{ otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

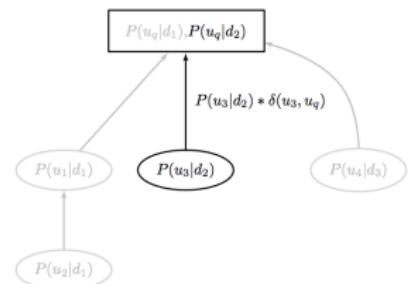
- Relevance of document-query  
 $RSV(d, q) = \prod_{u_q \in q} \prod_{u_d \in d} p(u_d | d) \sigma(u_d, u_q)$

- Main results/findings

- Effective improvement of queries suffering from the conceptual implication problem
- Degradation for 'simple' queries do not requiring inference. Inference highlighted general irrelevant concepts



(a) Retrieval process for document  $d_1$ .

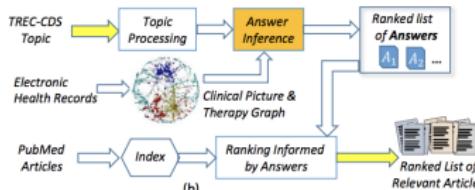


(b) Retrieval process for document  $d_2$ .

# RELEVANCE RANKING

RANKING AS A SEMANTIC INFERENCE: A PROBABILISTIC-BASED APPROACH [GOODWIN AND HARABAGIU, 2016]

- Key model components
  - ▶ Clinical decision support task through question-answering
  - ▶ Document ranking as an inference process over a bayesian graph
  - ▶ Medical knowledge-bases for document annotation
  - ▶ Full-text documents (EHRs, scientific articles) for background knowledge in the retrieval phase
- Key inference rationale: Consider the physician's belief value (eg., hypothetical, present, absent) in the inference process
  - ▶ Build the medical knowledge graph as a probabilistic graphical model: compute the probability distribution over all the possible clinical pictures and therapies of patients CPTG
  - ▶ Given a question topic  $t$ , the set of medical concepts and their assertions derived from the question is viewed as a hidden sketch of the clinical picture and therapy described in the question  $Z(t)$  through concepts  $A$  with the same type
  - ▶ Answering a medical question associated with topic  $t$  consists in performing an inference process in the CPTG to determine the medical concepts having the highest likelihood given  $Z(t)$
- The architecture of medical question-answering system for clinical decision-support



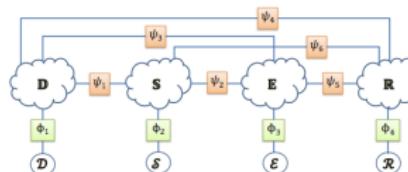
# RELEVANCE RANKING

RANKING AS A SEMANTIC INFERENCE: A PROBABILISTIC-BASED APPROACH [GOODWIN AND HARABAGIU, 2016]

- The retrieval model
  - ▶ Combine the medical sketch  $Z(t)$  with medical concepts from relevant scientific articles  $EZ(t, l)$  to provide a complete view of clinical and therapy of a patient:  

$$\hat{a} = \operatorname{argmax}_{a \in A} p(\{a\} \cup z \mid z) = \frac{p(\{a\} \cup z)}{p(z)}$$
  - ▶ Ranking answers given concepts in the extended sketch from an article  $EZ(t, l)$  and the relevance rank of the article  $RRCS(a) = \sum_{r=1}^{|D|} D \mid \frac{1}{r} p(\{a\} \cup EZ(t, l_r) \mid EZ(t, l_r)) \rangle$
  - ▶ Ranking scientific articles that contain at least one of the answers of the medical question  $Re(L_i) = p(y_i \mid Z(t))$
  - ▶ Generating the clinical picture and therapy graph by modeling six possible types of relations: (1) signs/symptoms S and diagnoses D; (2) signs/symptoms S and tests E; (3) signs/symptoms S and treatments R; (4) diagnoses D and tests E; (5) tests E and treatments R; (6) diagnoses D and treatments R:  

$$R: p(z) \propto \prod_{i=1}^6 \omega_i(z) \prod_{j=1}^4 \phi_j(z)$$
  - ▶ Optimizing the inference process using Bethe Free-Energy Approximation, pair-wise variational inference, interpolated smoothing

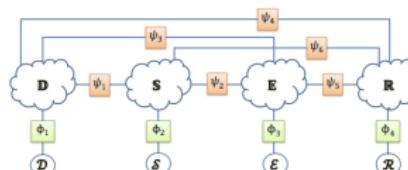


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  - ▶ Optimizing the inference process using Bethe Free-Energy Approximation, pair-wise variational inference, interpolated smoothing



- Main results/findings
  - ▶ Using the medical knowledge from relevant scientific articles yields significant performance: identifies less common concepts
  - ▶ Presence of highly general tests that are not so relevant for the medical expert
  - ▶ Issues with negated assertions

# RELEVANCE RANKING

RANKING AS LEARNING THE CONCEPT-DOCUMENT WEIGHTING FEATURES [BALANESHIN-KORDAN AND KOTOV, 2016]

- **Key model components**

- ▶ Document ranking as learning the optimal query concept weighting based on the intuition that different concept types have different importance
- ▶ A set of features characterizing query concept computed on the basis of knowledge-bases (Wikipedia, UMLS) as global context and top retrieved documents as local context of the query

- **The learning process:** A multivariate optimization method to train the weights of all features as contributions to fix the concept weight w.r.t. a document

- **The retrieval model**

- ▶ Relevance status value based on the Markov Random Field retrieval framework [Metzler and Croft, 2005]: weighted linear combination of matching scores of concepts types in a query:  $sc(Q, D) = \sum_{c \in C_T} \lambda_T(c) * f_T(c, D)$
- ▶ Importance weight of concept  $c$  computed as a linear combination of importance features:  $\lambda_T(c) \sum_{n=1}^N w_\phi^n \phi^n$
- ▶ Consider global features (eg., popularity concept node in the UMLS graph) and local features (eg., Number of top retrieved documents containing concept  $c$ )
- ▶ Learn  $\lambda_T(c)$  using a multivariate optimization solving problem.

- **Main results/findings**

- ▶ Reasonable performance improvement (5-9%) over the baselines according to search accuracy
- ▶ Exploiting evidence from multiple resources (Wikipedia and UMLS) positively affects performance

# RELEVANCE RANKING

RANKING AS LEARNING THE FEATURES THAT BRIDGE BETWEEN QUERIES AND DOCUMENTS THROUGH CONCEPTS  
[XIONG AND CALLAN, 2015]

- Key model components
  - ▶ A learning to rank model with input features describing connections from queries to objects and from objects to documents
  - ▶ Extends ListMLE [Xia et al., 2008] by adding an object layer in the ranking generation process
  - ▶ Use features connecting queries to objects (eg., ontology overlap) and features connecting objects to documents (eg., graph connection)

- The retrieval model
  - ▶ A generative process where the object layer is sampled from objects  $o$  belonging to  $q$  and the document ranking probability sampled from objects  $o$  related to documents  $d$
  - ▶ Probability of ranking  $d$  given  $q$ :  $p(d \mid q; w; \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m p(d_i \mid o_j, S_i) p(o_j \mid q)$
  - ▶ Maximize  $w_*$ ,  $\theta_*$  using the EM algorithm

- Main results/findings
  - ▶ Significant improvements over the baselines for medical and non medical collections
  - ▶ The model is sensitive but is still robust to quality of annotation

# RELEVANCE RANKING

LET US DISCUSS

- A few work addressed the semantic search at the relevance function level
  - ▶ Identify logical matching between words and concepts
  - ▶ Identify relevant semantic features that connect words to concepts, queries to documents
  
- Findings: the general trend
  - ▶ High-level inference yields to high computational complexity
  - ▶ The good balance between lexical matching and semantic matching is difficult to tune
  - ▶ Robustness to concept annotation quality is important

# OUTLINE

## 1. Introduction

Presenters and learners  
About the tutorial

## 2. IR and its Potential in the Medical Domain

Introduction to Information Retrieval (IR)  
Challenges

## 3. Medical IR: Basics

Medical Information Access  
Medical Knowledge Sources

## 4. Techniques and Models

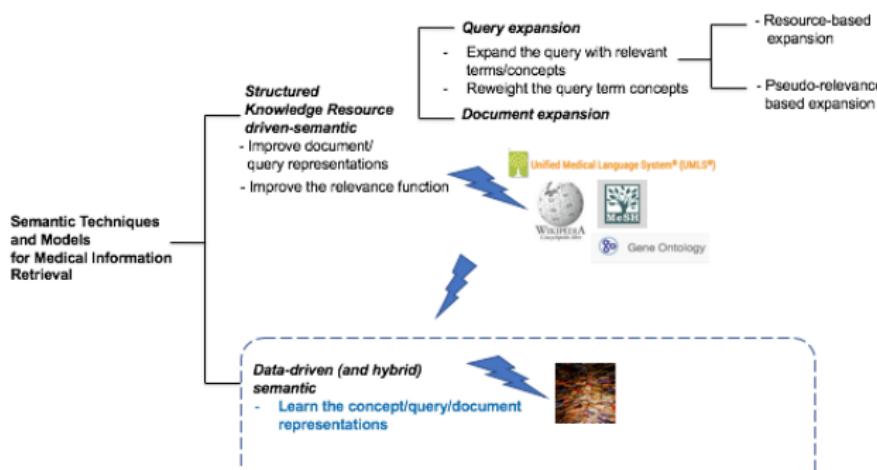
Overview of state-of-the-art approaches  
Structured Knowledge-Resource driven Semantic  
**Data-Driven Semantic**

## 5. Evaluation

Challenges in Evaluating Medical Information Retrieval  
Benchmarking Activities and Lessons Learned

## 6. Conclusion

# LEARNING



## FUNDAMENTALS

### DISTRIBUTIONAL SEMANTICS

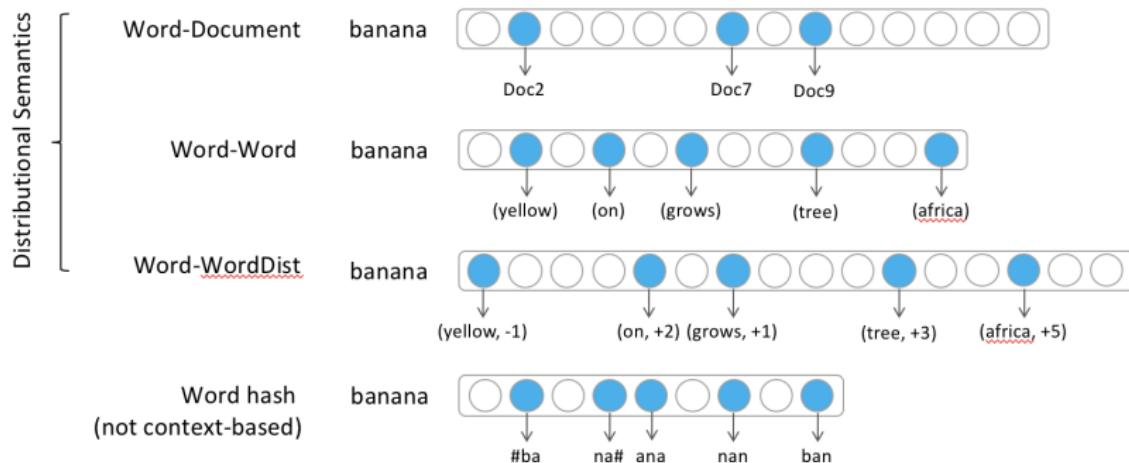
You shall know a word by the company it keeps

# STUDIES IN LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

# FUNDAMENTALS

## DISTRIBUTED REPRESENTATIONS OF WORDS

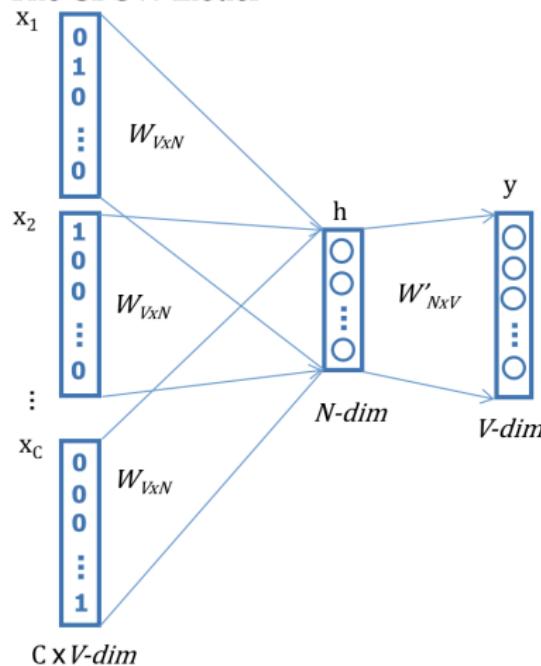
© Tutorial WSDM 2017: Neural Text Embeddings for IR. B. Mitra and N. Craswell



# FUNDAMENTALS

DISTRIBUTED REPRESENTATIONS OF WORDS: SEMINAL WORK [MIKOLOV ET AL., 2013]

- The CBOW model



$$h = \frac{1}{C} W^T \cdot \left( \sum_{i=1}^C x_i \right)$$

$$y = W'^T \cdot h$$

$$P(y_j | \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_C\}) = \frac{\exp(y_j)}{\sum_{j'=1}^V \exp(y_{j'})}$$

Objective function:

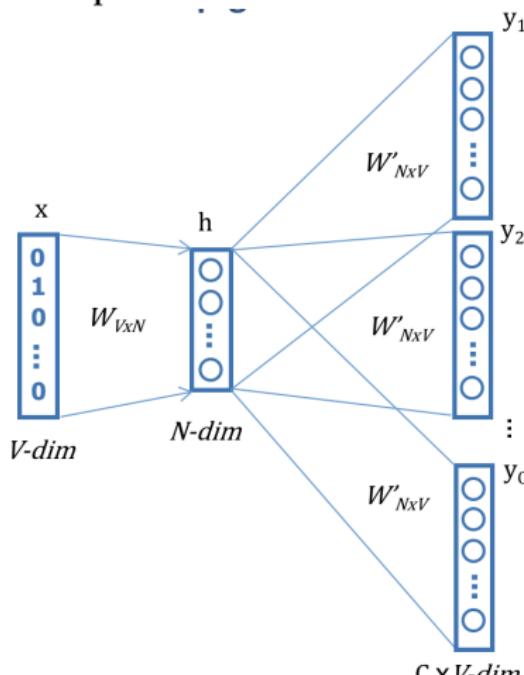
$$E = -\log P(y_j | \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_C\})$$

$$E = -y_j + \log \sum_{j'=1}^V \exp(y_{j'})$$

# FUNDAMENTALS

DISTRIBUTED REPRESENTATIONS OF WORDS: SEMINAL WORK [MIKOLOV ET AL., 2013]

- The Skip-Gram model



$$h = W^T \cdot x$$

$$y_c = W'^T \cdot h$$

$$P(y_{c,j}|x) = \frac{\exp(y_{c,j})}{\sum_{j'=1}^V \exp(y_{j'})}$$

Objective function:

$$E = -\log P(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_c|x)$$

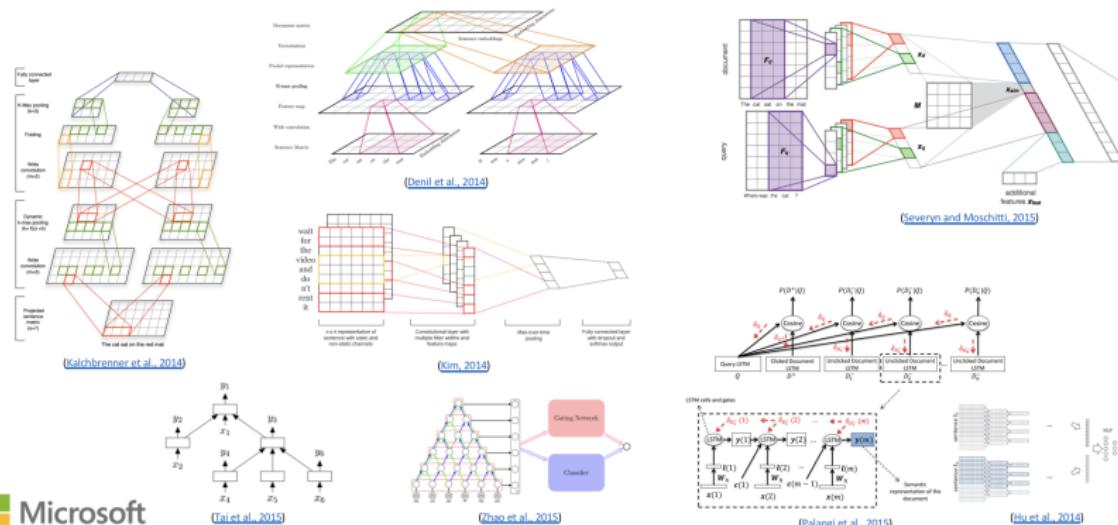
$$= -\log \prod_{c=1}^C \frac{\exp(y_{c,j})}{\sum_{j'=1}^V \exp(y_{j'})}$$

$$= -\sum_{j=1}^C y_j + C \cdot \log \sum_{j'=1}^V \exp(y_{j'})$$

# FUNDAMENTALS

## DEEP NEURAL NETWORKS FOR IR

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# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

## OVERVIEW OF EARLY RESEARCH

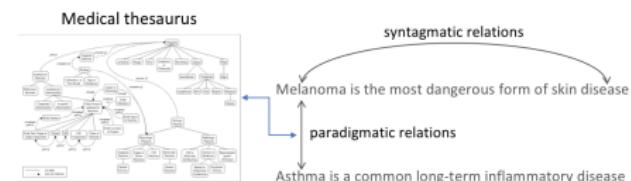
- What do the models learn?
  - ▶ *Word, CUI, entity, phrase embeddings*: to learn high-level similarity between information units [De Vine et al., 2014, Limsopatham and Collier, 2016, Liu et al., 2016, Ghosh et al., 2017, Jagannatha and Yu, 2016, Cai et al., 2018, Henry et al., 2018]
  - ▶ *Document embeddings*: to improve semantic representations of texts that bridge the gap between data-driven semantic and knowledge resource driven semantic [Minarro-Gimnez et al., 2014, Nguyen et al., 2017, Loza Mencía et al., 2016, Peng et al., 2016, Banerjee et al., 2017, Nguyen et al., 2018a]
  - ▶ *Medical objects embeddings*: care events/episodes, disease embeddings [Ghosh et al., 2016, Moen et al., 2015, Choi et al., 2016], patient embeddings [Baytas et al., 2017, Ni et al., 2017, Zhu et al., 2016, Stojanovic et al., 2017, Sushil et al., 2018]
- For which search tasks?
  - ▶ Relevance matching RM (eg., document retrieval, care-episode retrieval)
  - ▶ Semantic matching (eg., patient similarity)

	Concept - Word	■	■	□	□
	Document	□	■	□	□
Representation learning focus	Care episode	□	□	■	□
	Disease - Disease code	□	□	■	□
	Patient	□	□	□	■
Medical search task	IR task	■	■	□	□
	Concept classification/mapping	■	■	□	□
	Care episode retrieval	□	□	■	□
	Patient search/similarity	□	□	□	■

# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

## LEARNING WORD, CUI, ENTITY, PHRASE EMBEDDINGS

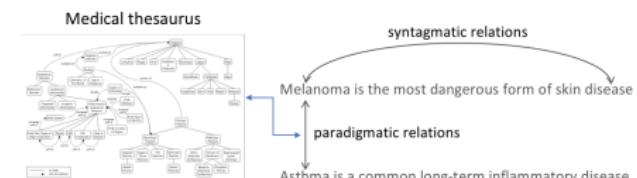
- Different purposes yield to different objective functions
  - ▶ Learn readable concept/CUI/entity representations from raw texts: driven by paradigmatic relations provided in knowledge-bases
  - ▶ Learn concept and associated poly-senses: learn one vector representation per sense



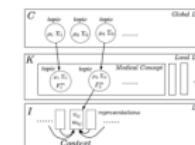
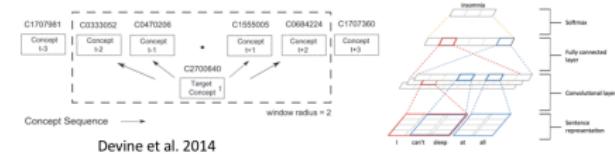
# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

## LEARNING WORD, CUI, ENTITY, PHRASE EMBEDDINGS

- Different purposes yield to different objective functions
  - ▶ Learn readable concept/CUI/entity representations from raw texts: driven by paradigmatic relations provided in knowledge-bases
  - ▶ Learn concept and associated poly-senses: learn one vector representation per sense



- Different neural architectures
  - ▶ Extension of the CBOW and Skip-Gram models
  - ▶ Deep architectures (CNN, RNN, ...)



# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LEARNING WORD, CUI, ENTITY, PHRASE EMBEDDINGS [DE VINE ET AL., 2014, LIU ET AL., 2016]

- Extension of the Skip-Gram model [De Vine et al., 2014]
  - ▶ Learn UMLS concept representations from sequences of concepts in annotated texts
  - ▶ Maximize the average log probability of the objective function
$$\frac{1}{2w} \sum_{i=1}^{2w} \sum_{-w \leq j \leq w} \log(c_{t+j} | c_t)$$
  - ▶ Valid representations when compared to human-assessments within a concept similarity task (eg., Ped and Cav datasets)
  - ▶ Requires huge amount of annotated data.
  - ▶ Sensitivity to concept annotation quality?

# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

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  - ▶ Valid representations when compared to human-assessments within a concept similarity task (eg., Ped and Cav datasets)
  - ▶ Requires huge amount of annotated data.
  - ▶ Sensitivity to concept annotation quality?
- Extension of the CBOW model [Liu et al., 2016]
  - ▶ Learn concept representations constrained by relations established in a knowledge base
  - ▶ Maximize the log probability of the objective function  

$$L = \sum_{i=1}^T (\log(p(w_t | w_{t+k}) + \alpha \sum_{ws: (w_t, ws) \in R} wt(ws | w_t)(\log(p(w_t | w_{t \pm k}) - \log(p(ws | w_{s \pm k}))))^2)$$

$$wt(ws | w_t) = \frac{f(ws)}{\sum_{(w_t, w) \in R} f(w)}$$
  - ▶ Experimental evaluation on IR tasks (query expansion) show:  
 1) sensitivity to model parameters and collections; 2) ability to select related words in the UMLS thesaurus; 3) slight improvement on a medical document search task

The most similar words to « heart »

CBOW	Online	
Cardiac	0.4891	Cardiac
Synergist	0.4494	Hearts
Hearts	0.4276	Cor
Cardiovascular	0.4096	Synergist
Acyanotic	0.3987	Cardiovascular
Ouvrier	0.3934	Cerebrovascular
Multiorgan	0.3931	Acyanotic
Ventricular	0.3837	Ventricular
Cardiorespiratory	0.3829	Cardiorespiratory
Thrive	0.3766	Biventricular

# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LEARNING DOCUMENT EMBEDDINGS [MINARRO-GIMNEZ ET AL., 2014, NGUYEN ET AL., 2017, LOZA MENCÍA ET AL., 2016, PENG ET AL., 2016, BANERJEE ET AL., 2017, NGUYEN ET AL., 2018A]

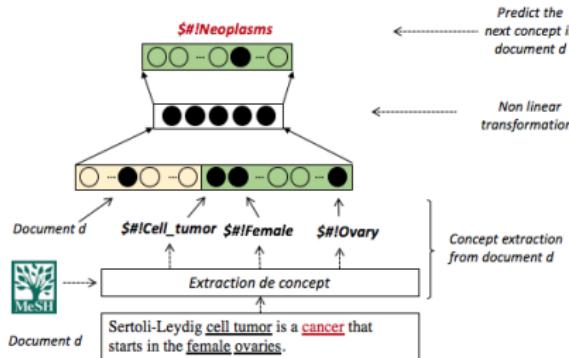
- Extension of the Doc2Vec model based on an **offline learning** approach  
[Nguyen et al., 2017]

- Build the optimal real-valued representation  $\hat{d}$  of document  $d$  such that the knowledge-based embedding  $\hat{d}_i^{(cd2vec)}$  and the corpus-based embedding  $\hat{d}^{(PV-DM)}$  are nearby in the latent space. Formally through the minimization problem:

$$\Psi(D) = \sum_{d \in D} \psi(d) = \sum_{d \in D} \left[ (1 - \beta) \times \|d - \hat{d}^{(cd2vec)}\|^2 + \beta \times \|d - \hat{d}^{(PV-DM)}\|^2 \right]$$

- Concept-based latent representation of document  $d$  is obtained using and extension of the  $cd2vec$  model. Document vectors  $\hat{d}^{(cd2vec)}$  are learned so they allow predicting concepts in their context by maximizing the log-likelihood:

$$\varphi = \sum_{d \in D} \log P(d \mid c_1, \dots, c_m) + \sum_{c_j \in \mathcal{C}_A} \log P(c_j \mid c_{j-W} : c_{j+W}, d)$$



# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LEARNING DOCUMENT EMBEDDINGS [MINARRO-GIMNEZ ET AL., 2014, NGUYEN ET AL., 2017, LOZA MENCÍA ET AL., 2016, PENG ET AL., 2016, BANERJEE ET AL., 2017, NGUYEN ET AL., 2018A]

- Evaluation in a retrieval task [Nguyen et al., 2017]
  - ▶ Significant but slight improvement using a query expansion task
  - ▶ The model is sensitive to the quality of concept annotation
  - ▶ The model allows identifying relevant related concepts

Table: Example of terms/concepts expanded for query 131 in TREC Med

<b>Query text</b>	patients underwent minimally invasive abdominal surgery
<b>Extracted Concepts</b>	Patients; General Surgery;
<b>Added by <math>\hat{Exp}_d^{PV-DM}</math></b>	myofascia; ultrasonix; overtube
<b>Added by <math>\hat{Exp}_d^{cd2vec}</math></b>	Mesna; Esophageal Sphincter, Upper; Ganglioglioma
<b>Added by <math>\hat{Exp}_d</math></b>	<i>umbilical; ventral; biliary-dilatation</i>

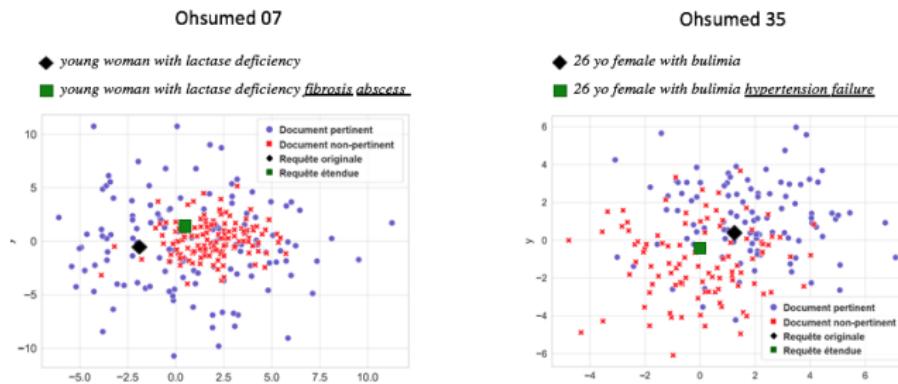
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<b>Query text</b>	patients underwent minimally invasive abdominal surgery
<b>Extracted Concepts</b>	Patients; General Surgery;
<b>Added by <math>Exp_d^{PV-DM}</math></b>	myofascia; ultrasonix; overtube
<b>Added by <math>Exp_d^{cd2vec}</math></b>	Mesna; Esophageal Sphincter, Upper; Ganglioglioma
<b>Added by <math>Exp_d</math></b>	umbilical; ventral; biliary-dilatation

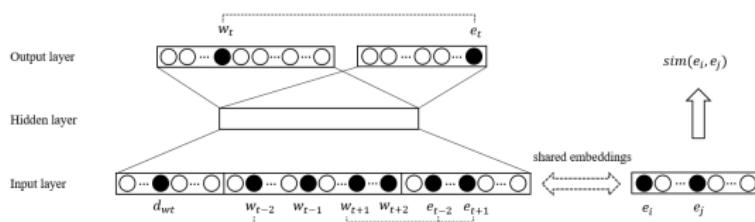


# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LEARNING DOCUMENT EMBEDDINGS [MINARRO-GIMNEZ ET AL., 2014, NGUYEN ET AL., 2017, LOZA MENCÍA ET AL., 2016, PENG ET AL., 2016, BANERJEE ET AL., 2017, NGUYEN ET AL., 2018A]

- Model improvement by considering knowledge-base constraints using an **online learning** approach [Nguyen et al., 2018b]

$$L_C = \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{w_t \in \mathcal{W}s_d} [\log p(w_t|w_{t \pm k}, c_{t \pm k}, d) + \log p(c_t|w_{t \pm k}, c_{t \pm k}, d) - \frac{\gamma}{|d|} ||v_d||^2]$$

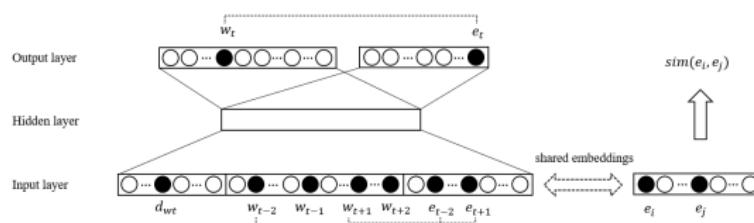


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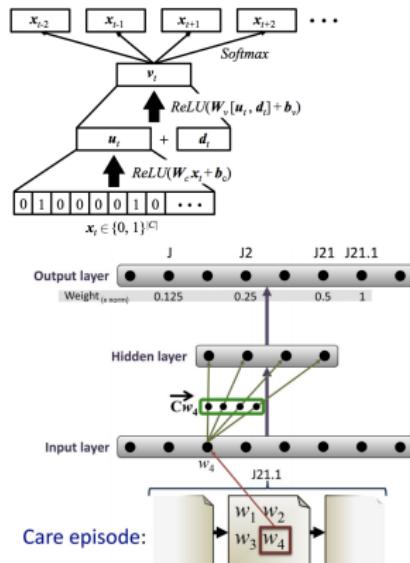


- Evaluation in a retrieval task [Nguyen et al., 2018b]
  - Both offline and online models are more effective in medical IR tasks than in general domain-search tasks. This is reversed in the case of NLP tasks
  - Constraining the learning with relational knowledge is effective in both NLP and IR tasks. The learning leverage from both word-word relations and concept-concept relations

# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LEARNING CARE EPISODES, DISEASE CODES [GHOSH ET AL., 2016, MOEN ET AL., 2015, CHOI ET AL., 2016]

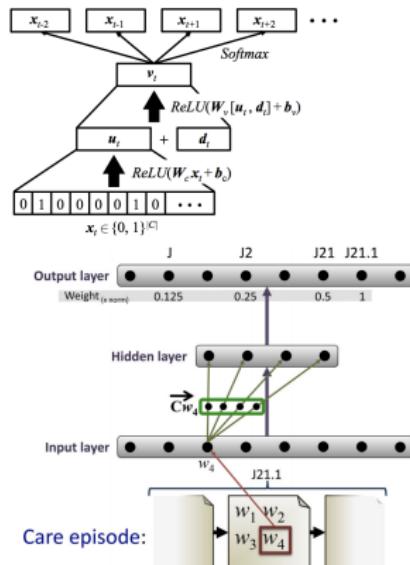
- Learning care episodes  
[Moen et al., 2015, Choi et al., 2016]
  - ▶ Introduce a longitudinal temporal view of medical documents (eg., care episode as successive clinical notes related to patient visits). Two types of relations:
    - ▶ Cooccurrence of words: basic relation addressed in neural models
    - ▶ Sequential order of visits, codes
  - ▶ Inputs are high-level data (eg., EHR): computational complexity is questionable
  - ▶ Interpretability of the learned representations are highly required



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  - ▶ Interpretability of the learned representations are highly required
- ▶ Evaluation in a retrieval task [Moen et al., 2015]
  - ▶ Single care episod vectors: one vector representation per care episode based on average word vectors ; compute vector similarity between care episodes embeddings (eg., cosinus)
  - ▶ Average note vector similarity: one vector representation per care episode based on average note vectors; compute average pairwise (note) similarities, optimal pairing, sequence alignment



# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LEARNING CARE EVENTS/EPIISODES, DISEASE REPRESENTATIONS

[GHOSH ET AL., 2016, MOEN ET AL., 2015, CHOI ET AL., 2016]

- Learning disease: identify taxonomic and interpretable representations of diseases from raw data
- Extension of the Skip-Gram model [Choi et al., 2016]
  - ▶ **Input:** ordered sequence of medical codes extracted from patient visits (raw data of the patient visits)
  - ▶ **Output:** medical code representation, visit representation
  - ▶ **Learning objective:** two levels of learning functions unified in the same framework (yield to representations learned in a shared space)
    - ▶ Predict the medical codes given a visit: what happened in the past, what could happen in the future?

$$\min_{W_s, b_s} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{-w \leq i \leq w} -x_{t+1}^T \log \hat{y}_t - (1 - x_{t+1}^T) \log(1 - \hat{y}_t)$$

- ▶ Predict the medical codes given the code representations in the same visit

$$\min_{W'_c} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i: c_i \in V_t} \sum_{j: c_j \in V_t, j \neq i} \log(c_j | c_i)$$

# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

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$$\min_{W'_c} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i: c_i \in V_t} \sum_{j: c_j \in V_t, j \neq i} \log(c_j \mid c_i)$$

## ► Qualitative evaluation

- ▶ Interpretable visit representations validated by medical experts

Coordinate 112	Coordinate 152	Coordinate 141
Kidney replaced by transplant (V42.0) Hb-SS disease without crisis (282.01) Heart replaced by transplant (P) RBC antibody screening (P) Complications of transplanted bone marrow (996.85) Sickle-cell disease (282.60) Liver replaced by transplant (V42.7) Hb-SS disease with crisis (282.62) Prograf PO (R) Complications of transplanted heart (996.83)	X-ray, knee (P) X-ray, thoracolumbar (P) Accidents in public building (E849.6) Activities involving gymnastics (E005.2) Struck by or against object in sport (E917.0) Entangled by or pinned in object (V58.32) Struck by object in sports (E917.3) Unspecified fracture of ankle (824.8) Accidents occurring in place for recreation and sport (E849.4) Activities involving basketball (E007.6)	Cystic fibrosis (277.02) Intracranial injury (864.00) Persistent mental disorders (294.9) Subdural hemorrhage (432.1) Neuroleptosis (237.7) Other conditions (348.89) Conductive hearing loss (389.05) Unspecified causes of encephalitis, myelitis, encephalomyelitis (323.9) Sensorineural hearing loss (389.15) Intracerebral hemorrhage (431)
Sickle-cell disease and organ transplant	Sport-related injuries	Brain injuries and hearing loss

# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LEARNING PATIENT PROFILES, PATIENT SIMILARITY

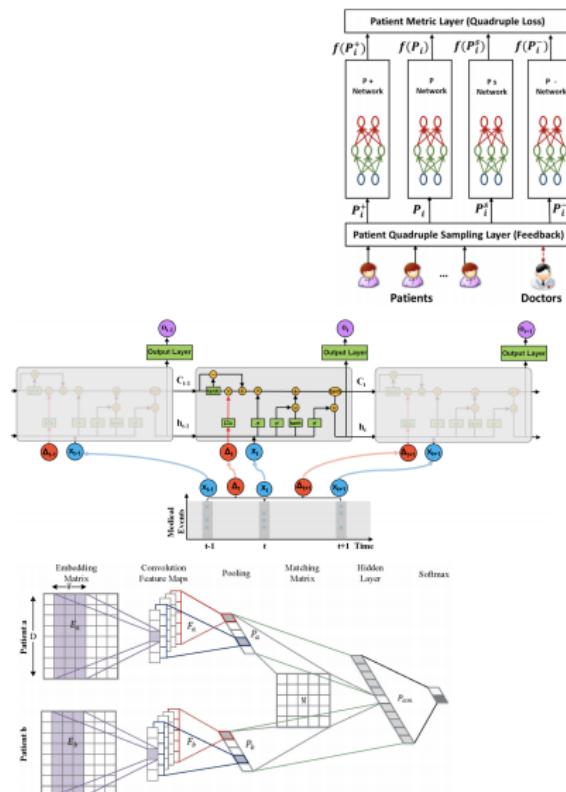
[BAYTAS ET AL., 2017, NI ET AL., 2017, ZHU ET AL., 2016, STOJANOVIC ET AL., 2017, SUSHIL ET AL., 2018]

- Two main objectives

- Learn patient profile: input (EHR) - output (patient vector)  
[Baytas et al., 2017, Stojanovic et al., 2017, Sushil et al., 2018]
- Learn end-to-end patient-patient similarity:
  - Input: EHR patient A, EHR patient B
  - Output: similarity class[Zhu et al., 2016, Ni et al., 2017]

- Input data

- Heterogeneous patient data: demographic, medication, diagnosis codes etc.
- Historical data: considering the sequence of medical events with irregular intervals



# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LEARNING PATIENT PROFILES, PATIENT SIMILARITY

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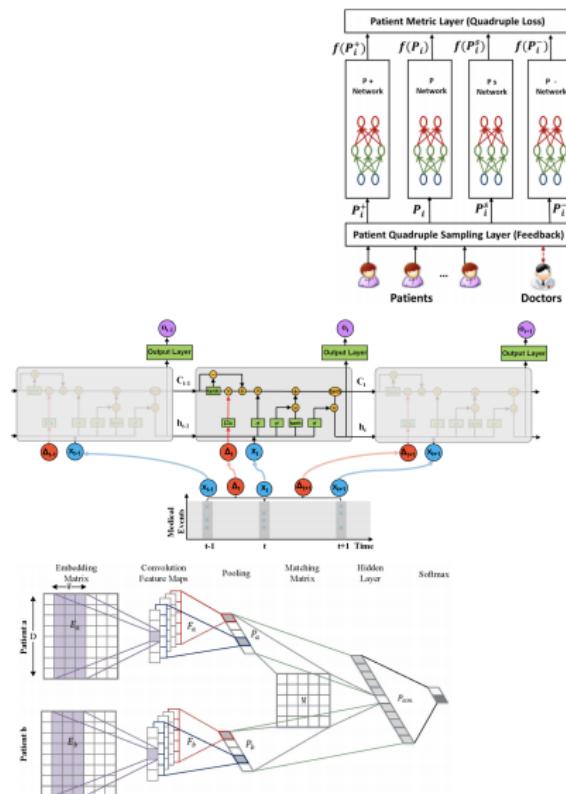
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- Input data

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- Historical data: considering the sequence of medical events with irregular intervals

- Tasks

- Predict patient mortality, primary diagnosis, length of stay, total incurred charges, ...



# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LEARNING PATIENT PROFILES, PATIENT SIMILARITY

[BAYTAS ET AL., 2017, NI ET AL., 2017, ZHU ET AL., 2016, STOJANOVIC ET AL., 2017, SUSHIL ET AL., 2018]

- Learning patient vector from patient disease and procedure descriptions  
[Stojanovic et al., 2017]

- ▶ Learn the representations of diseases and procedures (dp2vec): extend the w2vec model by considering patient record as a "sentence" and diseases/procedures as "words"
- ▶ Build patient vector: sum the vector representations of in-patient diseases and procedures

Neighbors of <i>respiratory failure</i>	Neighbors of <i>congestive heart failure</i>
Insertion of endotracheal tube	Insertion of implantable heart assist system
Tracheotomy toilette	Implantation of cardiac resynchronization defibrillator total system (CRT-D)
Other lavage of bronchus and trachea	Implantation of cardiac resynchronization defibrillator pulse generator (CRT-D)
Bronchoscopy through artificial stoma	Insertion of percutaneous external heart assist device
Other oxygen enrichment	Heart transplantation
Other repair and plastic operations on trachea	Excision destruction or exclusion of left atrial appendage (LAA)
Fiber-optic bronchoscopy	Aquapheresis
Infusion of vasoactive agent	Automatic implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (AICD) check
Replacement of tracheostomy tube	Non-sustained programmed electrical stimulation (NIPS)
Replacement of gastrostomy tube	Removal of lead(s) (electrode) without replacement
Complete glossectomy	Endovascular removal of obstruction from head and neck vessel(s)
Other intubation of respiratory tract	Replacement of automatic cardioverter-defibrillator lead(s) only

# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

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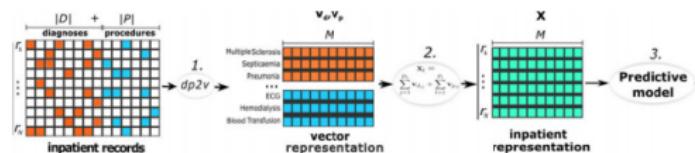
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- Build patient vector: sum the vector representations of in-patient diseases and procedures

- Task evaluation

- Predict length of patient stay and total charges as a regression problem (vector representations used as features)
- Predict mortality as a classification problem

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# REPRESENTATION LEARNING FOR MEDICAL SEARCH

LET US DISCUSS

- In summary
  - ▶ Recent trend toward the use of neural models in medical search: early stage, not yet mature work but seems promising
  - ▶ Learned representations reusable in a wide range of search tasks and prediction tasks
  - ▶ Background knowledge (eg., Knowledge-base, expert's assessments) driven learning increases the readability of the representations and the explicability of the learning outcomes
  
- Pending issues
  - ▶ What are the impacting factors? What works vs. fails in the black box?
  - ▶ Lack of sufficient amount of labeled data to learn accurate representations (eg., patient similarity, IR tasks)
  - ▶ Performance sensitivity to a large size of network parameters, hyper-parameters and models parameters
  - ▶ Performance variability across medical tasks

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**Challenges in Evaluating Medical Information Retrieval**  
Benchmarking Activities and Lessons Learned

## 6. Conclusion

# CHALLENGES IN EVALUATING MEDICAL INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

## HOW IS INFORMATION RETRIEVAL EVALUATED

Evaluating an IR system consists in checking how it satisfies an information need

*What satisfies a human is different from what satisfies a system!*

Two levels of evaluation can be distinguished:

- Evaluation at the document level: does this document satisfy the information need?
- Evaluation at the system level: does this system helped in satisfying the information need? I.e. does it retrieve one or more document(s) satisfying the information need?

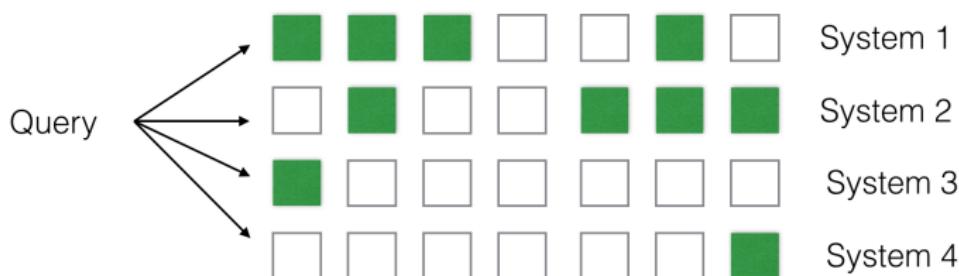
### Efficient and effective system

- Efficiency: time and space
  - ▶ Pre-development specifications
  - ▶ Easy to measure
- Effectiveness: good results
  - ▶ What is a good result?



# CHALLENGES IN EVALUATING MEDICAL INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

## EVALUATION AT THE SYSTEM LEVEL



Which system is the best one?

- Looking for the highest number of relevant documents? → Systems 1 and 2
- Looking for a single document giving the answer? → Systems 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Looking at the ranking of the documents? → Systems 1 and 3

# EVALUATION PARADIGMS

## Laboratory-based: the Cranfield paradigm

- Testing and comparing search systems requires a laboratory environment that doesn't change
- Initiated by Cyril Cleverdon in the Cranfield College of Aeronautics called *the Cranfield Tests*
- Retrieval experiments conducted on test databases in a controlled setting

## User studies

- Measuring user satisfaction with feedback from *real users*
- Also allows to measure a system's usability
- Mostly done in Interactive Information Retrieval
- [Kelly et al., 2009]

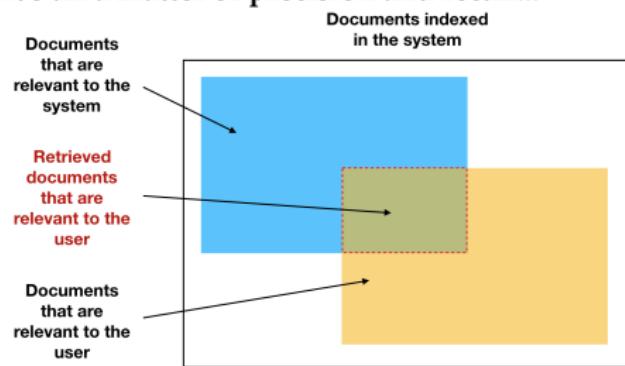
## Log-based/click based

- When there is no space/time for laboratory evaluation, e.g. online systems
- A/B testing: redirecting n% of the traffic on a new version of the system
- Click analysis: inference on document relevance/usefulness

# CHALLENGES IN EVALUATING MEDICAL INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

## EVALUATION AT THE SYSTEM LEVEL

It's all a matter of precision and recall...

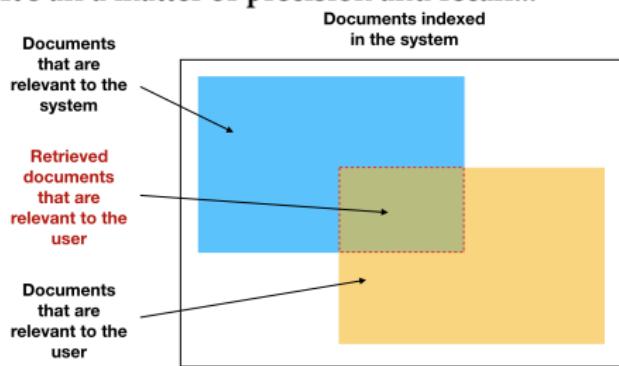


$$Precision = \frac{|P \cap R|}{|R|}, Recall = \frac{|P \cap R|}{|P|}$$

# CHALLENGES IN EVALUATING MEDICAL INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

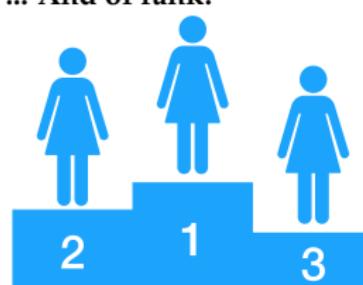
## EVALUATION AT THE SYSTEM LEVEL

It's all a matter of precision and recall...



$$\text{Precision} = \frac{|P \cap R|}{|R|}, \text{Recall} = \frac{|P \cap R|}{|P|}$$

... And of rank!

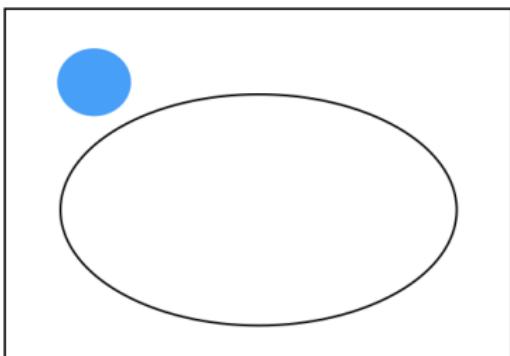


Unless they are looking for the entire set of documents, nobody goes through the entire set of results.

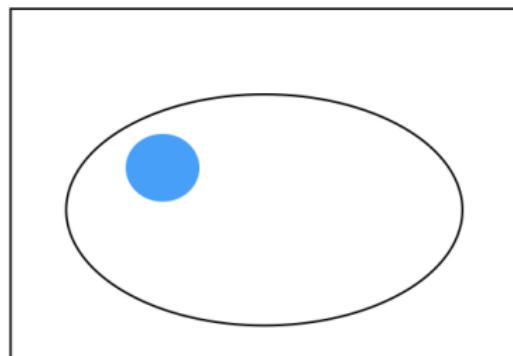
Ranked metrics:

- P@N
- Mean Average Precision (MAP) [Voorhees, 1998]
- Normative Discounted Cumulation Gain [Jarvelin and Kekalainen, 2000]

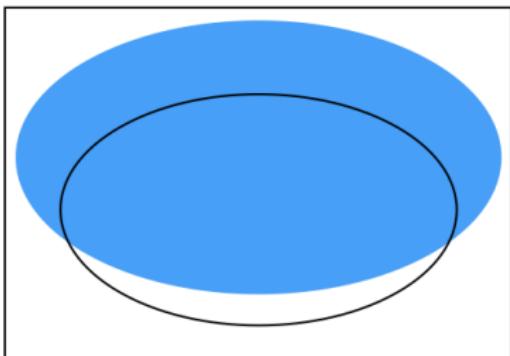
## BALANCING PRECISION AND RECALL



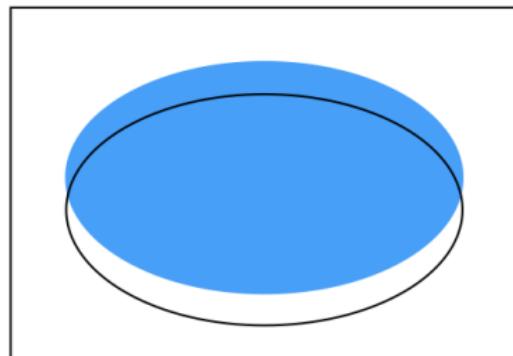
Low precision, low recall



High precision, low recall



Low precision, high recall

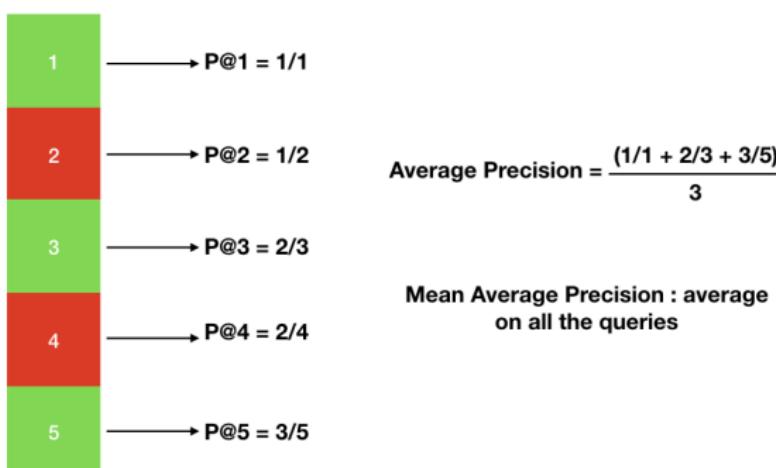


High precision, high recall

## P@N AND MEAN AVERAGE PRECISION

- Precision @r: computes the precision at a certain rank
- Mean Average Precision:
  - ▶ Average precision over all relevant documents
  - ▶ Rewards systems retrieving relevant documents quickly

Results for query  $i$



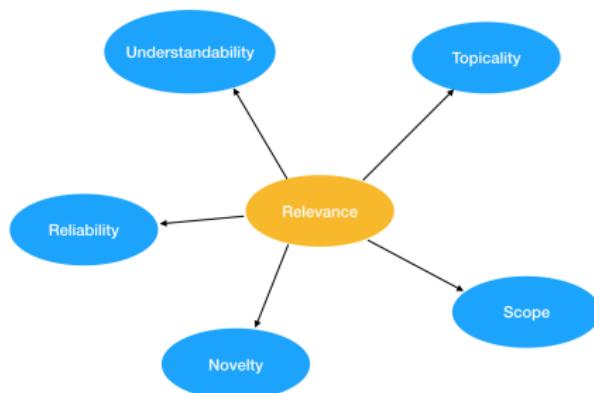
# CHALLENGES IN EVALUATING MEDICAL INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

## EVALUATION AT THE DOCUMENT LEVEL

In classical IR

- From the user point-of-view: a relevant document answer the initial information need
- From the system point-of-view: A relevant document covers the same topic as the query, i.e. contains the query's terms

Relevance has many other dimensions [Zhang et al., 2014]



In the medical domain:

- For patients:
  - ▶ Documents must be readable and understandable for a given user
  - ▶ The information contained in the documents should be trustworthy
- For medical professionals:
  - ▶ Documents must contain up-to-date information
  - ▶ Documents must properly cover the topic searched

# CHALLENGES IN EVALUATING MEDICAL INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Each search task has its proper objectives:

- How should the retrieval and the ranking be implemented?
- How should the system be evaluated?

Examples:

- Physician adhoc search: priority given to the rank, P@10, the topicality, scope...
- Patient adhoc search: priority given to the rank, P@10, the topicality, understandability, readability...
- Clinical trials: priority given to the rank, the topicality, the scope, the novelty...
- Systematic reviews: priority given to the recall, the topicality, the scope...

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### Benchmarking Activities and Lessons Learned

Introduction  
TREC Medical Evaluation Challenges  
CLEF Medical Evaluation Challenges  
Summary

## 6. Conclusion

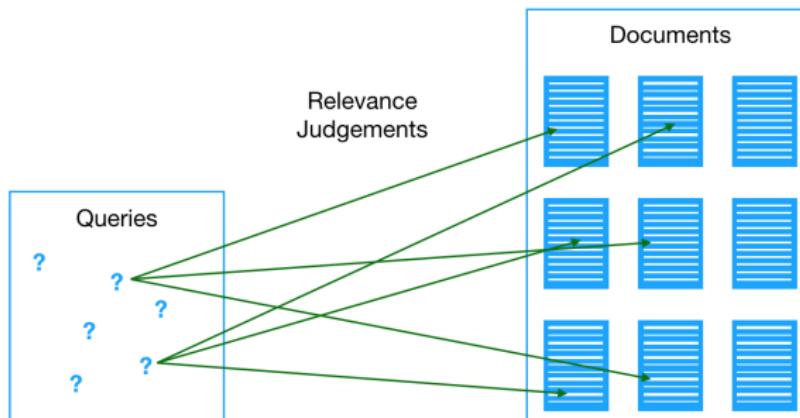
# EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## WHAT IS A BENCHMARK?

- Comparing 2 search systems results on a common dataset allows to compare their effectiveness.
- These common datasets are called *benchmarks*.

An IR benchmark contains:

- A document collection that can be indexed
- A set of topics (enriched queries)
- Relevance judgements (linking queries to the relevant documents in the collection)



# EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## THE CRANFIELD PARADIGM

Given:

- 1 A test collection  $(T, D, R)$
- 2 A retrieval run for the test collection : a doc-list  $L_t$  for each topic  $t$  in  $T$

For each topic  $t$  in  $T$

- Use a measure (e.g. P@10) to compute the quality of  $L_t$

Combine scores:

- Mean average precision

Relevance judgement:

- For a given topic  $t \in T$ , a given document  $d \in D$ ,  $R(d, t)$  is the relevance score of  $d$  for topic  $t$ .
- $R(d, t)$  can be:
  - ▶ a discrete value: e.g.  $\in \{0, 1\}$  for binary assessment or  $\in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  for graded assessment
  - ▶ a continuous value: e.g.  $\in [0, 1]$
- Assumption: if  $R(d, t, u_1)$  is the judgement of assessor  $u_1$  on topic  $t$  and document  $d$  and  $R(d, t, u_2)$  the judgement of assessor  $u_2$  on topic  $t$  and document  $d$ ,  
 $R(d, t, u_1) = R(d, t, u_2)$

# EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## MAIN ORGANIZERS

There are many forums organizing challenges and benchmarking activities, and most of them have some medical tracks:

- **Text REtrieval Conference (TREC)**: organized by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Provides since 1992 numerous evaluation challenges and a forum to discuss the results.
  - ▶ <http://trec.nist.gov>
- **Conference and Labs of the Evaluation Forum (CLEF)**: European (smaller) version of TREC, organized by the CLEF initiative. Organizes since 2000 evaluation challenges along with a conference.
  - ▶ <http://www.clef-initiative.eu/>
- **NTCIR**: organized by the Japanese National Institute of Informatics (NII). Provides since 1998 numerous evaluation challenges and a forum to discuss the results.
  - ▶ <http://ntcir.nii.ac.jp/>
- **Forum for Information Retrieval Evaluation (FIRE)**: South Asian counterpart, organized in India. Provides since 2008 numerous evaluation challenges and a forum to discuss the results.
  - ▶ <http://fire.irsri.res.in/>

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

TREC GENOMICS

Ran from 2003-2007 (<https://trec.nist.gov/data/genomics.html>)

Tasks organized:

- **Adhoc retrieval** (2003, 2004, 2005)
  - ▶ *Documents*: subset of MEDLINE
  - ▶ *Topics*: gene names (2003), information need statement - GTT (2004, 2005)
- **Passage retrieval** (2006):
  - ▶ *Documents*: collection of biomedical articles
  - ▶ *Topics*: GTTs
- **Entity-based Question-Answering** (2007):
  - ▶ *Documents*: collection of biomedical articles
  - ▶ *Topics*: questions based on the entities
- **Text annotation** (2003)
  - ▶ *Documents*: collection of biomedical articles
  - ▶ *Annotation*: title and abstract annotation using geneRIFs (annotation mechanism for genes)
- **Text categorization** (2004-2005)
  - ▶ *Documents*: collection of biomedical articles
  - ▶ *Categorization* of documents containing data about gene function suitable for "triage" to annotators assigning Gene Ontology (GO) codes for Mouse Genome Informatics database

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC GENOMICS ADHOC RETRIEVAL TRACK

[Hersh and Bhupatiraju, 2003, Hersh et al., 2004, Hersh et al., 2005]:

### Documents:

- The subset of MEDLINE used for the track consisted of 10 years of completed citations from the database inclusive from 1994 to 2003.
- Records were extracted using the Date Completed (DCOM) field for all references in the range of 19940101 - 20031231.
- This provided a total of 4,591,008 records.

### Topics:

- developed from the information needs of real biologists
- 43 interviews with 12 volunteers yielded 74 information needs
- Topics built manually from these information needs
- 50 topics selected

### Examples of topic:

```
<TOPIC>
<ID>4</ID>
<TITLE>Gene expression profiles for kidney in mice</TITLE>
<NEED>What mouse genes are specific to the kidney?</NEED>
<CONTEXT> What genes are expressed only in the mouse kidney and not in other tissues?</CONTEXT>
</TOPIC>
<TOPIC>
<ID>5</ID>
<TITLE>Protocols for isolating cell nuclei</TITLE>
<NEED> Articles are relevant if they describe methods for subcellular fractionation of nuclei.</NEED>
<CONTEXT> Laboratory preparations can be enriched for certain kinds of proteins if the cellular compartment in which they reside is purified away from the rest of the cell contents.</CONTEXT>
</TOPIC>
```

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC GENOMICS ADHOC RETRIEVAL TRACK

### Pooling:

- Each participating team designated a top-precedence run that would be used for relevance judgement
- They used on average the top 75 documents for each topic from 27 selected runs (removed duplicates)
- average pool size: 976, with a range of 476-1450

### Relevance Judgement:

- For each topic, documents are judged as definitely relevant (DR), possibly relevant (PR), or not relevant (NR)
- subset of documents were also judged in duplicate to assess interjudge reliability using the kappa measure: score was 0.51, indicating a fair level of agreement

### Evaluation measures:

- The primary evaluation measure for the task was mean average precision (MAP).
- As well as the binary preference (B-Pref), precision at the point of the number of relevant documents retrieved (R-Prec), and precision at varying numbers of documents retrieved (e.g., 5, 10, 30, etc. documents up to 1,000)

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC GENOMICS PASSAGE RETRIEVAL TRACK

Details on the passage retrieval task [Hersh et al., 2006]:

### Documents:

- new full-text biomedical corpus from Highwire Press
- full text in HTML format, which preserved formatting, structure, table and figure legends, etc.
- full collection contained 162,259 documents

### Topics:

- Questions derived from the set of questions based on the GTTs developed in 2005
- 50 topics selected

### Examples of topic:

```
<TOPIC>
<ID>4</ID>
<TITLE>Gene expression profiles for kidney in mice</TITLE>
<NEED>What mouse genes are specific to the kidney?</NEED>
<CONTEXT> What genes are expressed only in the mouse kidney and not in other tissues
</TOPIC>
<TOPIC>
<ID>5</ID>
<TITLE>Protocols for isolating cell nuclei</TITLE>
<NEED> Articles are relevant if they describe methods for subcellular fractionation
<CONTEXT> Laboratory preparations can be enriched for certain kinds of proteins if
</TOPIC>
```

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC GENOMICS PASSAGE RETRIEVAL TRACK

### Results submission:

- Retrieved passages could contain any span of text that did not include any part of an HTML paragraph tag
- Submitted runs could contain up to 1000 passages per topic that were predicted to be relevant to answering the topic question.
- There were 92 submitted runs, with each nominating up to 1000 passages over 28 topics.

### Pooling:

- for each topic, pooling was done by taking the top ranked maximal legal span from each submitted run in a round-robin fashion (up to 1000 unique spans)

### Relevance Judgement:

- judges were instructed to break down the question into required elements and isolate the minimum contiguous substring that answered the question
- definitely relevant, possibly relevant, not relevant

### Evaluation measures:

- Multidimensional evaluation: passage retrieval, aspect retrieval, and document retrieval
- MAP measure for all dimensions

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

TREC GENOMICS

Lessons learned:

- **TREC Genomics adhoc retrieval track:**
  - ▶ Symbols and acronym expansion using knowledge bases
  - ▶ Domain-specific query expansion
- **TREC Genomics passage retrieval task:**
  - ▶ Tricks on improving the results were mostly related to the way passages were extracted and ranked

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC MEDICAL RECORDS TRACK

Organized in 2011 and 2012 [Voorhees and Hersh, 2012].

- **Purpose:** search in a set of EHR to identify patient cohorts for (possible) clinical studies
- **Dataset:**
  - ▶ Topics: description of the criteria for inclusion in a study
  - ▶ Documents: The document set used in the track is a set of de-identified clinical reports made available to TREC participants through the University of Pittsburgh NLP Repository<sup>1</sup>. EHR are grouped as "visits".
  - ▶ Relevance judgement: conducted by physicians
- **Runs:** systems must return a list of visits ordered by the likelihood that the inclusion criteria are satisfied
- <https://trec.nist.gov/data/medical.html>

---

<sup>1</sup> Use of this dataset is now restricted to people having a license with Pittsburg NLP.

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC MEDICAL RECORDS TRACK

### Documents:

- 9 types of documents: Radiology Reports, History and Physicals, Consultation Reports, etc.
- Semi-structured reports with ICD coding, chief complaint
- De-identified and grouped as visits
- 93,551 reports mapped into 17,264 visits

### Topics:

- Created by physicians (graduate students in OHSU)
- From a list of research areas the U.S. Institute of Medicine (IOM) has deemed priorities for clinical comparative effectiveness research
- 35 topics in 2011, 50 in 2012

### Examples of topics:

136	Children with dental caries
137	Patients with inflammatory disorders receiving TNF-inhibitor treatment
160	Adults under age 60 undergoing alcohol withdrawal
167	Patients with AIDS who develop pancytopenia
169	Elderly patients with subdural hematoma
179	Patients taking atypical antipsychotics without a diagnosis schizophrenia or bipolar depression

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC MEDICAL RECORDS TRACK

### Results submission:

- Several runs were allowed (manual or automatic runs) with ranked list of visits

### Pooling:

- Each topic was completely judged (i.e., had all the visits in its judgment set judged)
- All submitted runs contributed to the judgment sets: all visits retrieved in ranks 1-15 by any run in union with a 25% sample of visits not retrieved in the first set that were retrieved in ranks 16-100 by some run
- 25,596 visits were judged (average size of a judgment set: 512 visits)

### Relevance Judgement:

- 25 physicians, judged between 19 topics
- rate each visit to determine whether such a patient would be a candidate for a clinical study on the topic
- definitely relevant, possibly relevant / not relevant

### Evaluation measures:

- infNDCG, infAP, P@10

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC MEDICAL RECORDS TRACK

Many errors were due to incorrect lexical representations and mismatches

- Non relevant documents contain the query terms
- Relevant documents containing lexical variants
- Document and query processing requires to take into account negation or uncertainty
- Time factors can also generate errors

It is crucial to use proper baselines (very hard to beat BM25) [Leveling et al., 2012].

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT / PRECISION MEDICINE TRACK

TREC CDS/PM task evolved over the years, this is a description of the first edition:

- Organized since 2014, started as the Clinical Decision Supports (CDS) track, since 2017 named Precision Medicine (PM) track.
- **Purpose:** the retrieval of biomedical articles relevant for answering generic clinical questions about medical records.
- Given a case report, find full-text biomedical articles that answer questions related to several types of clinical information needs:
  - ▶ **Topics:** case reports and one of three generic clinical question types, such as "What is the patient's diagnosis?". Created by expert topic developers at the U.S. National Library of Medicine
  - ▶ **Documents:** Full biomedical articles: open access subset1 of PubMed Central (PMC), snapshot of 733,138 articles.
- A case report typically describes a challenging medical case, and it is often organized as a well-formed narrative summarizing the portions of a patient's medical record that are pertinent to the case.

[Simpson et al., 2014, Roberts et al., 2015b, Roberts et al., 2016, Roberts et al., 2017]

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT / PRECISION MEDICINE TRACK

Example of topics descriptions and summaries (extracted from [Simpson et al., 2014]):

Topic	Type	Description
1	Diagnosis	A 58-year-old African-American woman presents to the ER with episodic pressing/burning anterior chest pain that began two days earlier for the first time in her life. The pain started while she was walking, radiates to the back, and is accompanied by nausea, diaphoresis and mild dyspnea, but is not increased on inspiration. The latest episode of pain ended half an hour prior to her arrival. She is known to have hypertension and obesity. She denies smoking, diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, or a family history of heart disease. She currently takes no medications. Physical examination is normal. The EKG shows nonspecific changes.

11	Test	A 40-year-old woman with no past medical history presents to the ER with excruciating pain in her right arm that had started 1 hour prior to her admission. She denies trauma. On examination she is pale and in moderate discomfort, as well as tachypneic and tachycardic. Her body temperature is normal and her blood pressure is 80/60. Her right arm has no discoloration or movement limitation.
----	------	---

21	Treatment	A 21-year-old female is evaluated for progressive arthralgias and malaise. On examination she is found to have alopecia, a rash mainly distributed on the bridge of her nose and her cheeks, a delicate non-palpable purpura on her calves, and swelling and tenderness of her wrists and ankles. Her lab shows normocytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, a 4/4 positive ANA and anti-dsDNA. Her urine is positive for protein and RBC casts.
----	-----------	--

Topic	Type	Summary
1	Diagnosis	58-year-old woman with hypertension and obesity presents with exercise-related episodic chest pain radiating to the back.
11	Test	40-year-old woman with severe right arm pain and hypotension. She has no history of trauma and right arm exam reveals no significant findings.
21	Treatment	21-year-old female with progressive arthralgias, fatigue, and butterfly-shaped facial rash. Labs are significant for positive ANA and anti-double-stranded DNA, as well as proteinuria and RBC casts.

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

TREC CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT / PRECISION MEDICINE TRACK

Evolution of the dataset over the years:

	Topics	Documents
2014	30 topics (10 per category: diagnosis, treatment, test) based on made-up case reports	733,138 articles from PubMed Central
2015	30 new topics	No change
2016	30 nursing admission notes from the MIMIC-III database	Extension: 1.5M articles from PubMed Central
2017	30 topics describing oncology patient cases: disease, genetic variants, demographic information, other factors	27M MEDLINE abstracts + 250,000 clinical trials

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

TREC CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT / PRECISION MEDICINE TRACK

## Results submission:

- Up to 5 runs per participants, containing a ranked list of up to 1000 docids.

## Pooling:

- all documents retrieved in ranks 120 by any run
- in union with a 20% sample of documents not retrieved in the first set that were retrieved in ranks 21100 by some runs

## Relevance Judgement:

- 0: not relevant, 1: possibly relevant, and 2: definitely relevant.
- Assessors: physicians, graduate biomedical students at OHSU
- 34,949 documents were judged across the topics, with a mean of 1265.0 documents judged per topic

## Evaluation measures:

- infNDCG and P@10

# TREC MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## TREC CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT / PRECISION MEDICINE TRACK

Lessons learned:

- 2014:
  - ▶ topic-type-specific processing in their runs, for example by emphasizing particular MeSH terms related to the topic type when those terms were found in documents
- 2015:
  - ▶ Markov Random Fields built from concepts in the description and top retrieved documents
  - ▶ combine different information retrieval models along with semantic annotations from DBpedia
  - ▶ customized term extraction based on MetaMap (Aronson and Lang, 2010) concept semantic types
- 2016:
  - ▶ Query expansion with selected concepts from UMLS
  - ▶ Document Distances from Unsupervised Word Embeddings
  - ▶ Clinical Causal Relationships Using UMLS and Wikipedia
- 2017:
  - ▶ Ontology-based filtering and retrieval
  - ▶ Topic analysis and expansion using a medical knowledge graph

# CLEF MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

IMAGECLEF

ImageCLEF is one of the oldest CLEF tasks and has been running for 15 years [Mueller et al., 2010]. More information can be found at <http://www.imageclef.org/>

Year	Tasks involving text	Tasks not involving text
2003-2013	Medical retrieval: - subtask adhoc retrieval Topics: images Documents: images with multilingual textual case notes - subtask case-based retrieval (2010-2013) Topics: medical cases description + images Documents: full-text biomedical articles	Medical image annotation (2004-2009) Medical retrieval (2010-2013): - subtask modality detection - subtask compound figure separation (2013) Medical user-oriented image retrieval (2011)
2014-2015		Medical image annotation Medical image clustering Liver CT annotation
2016		Compound figure detection Medical image classification Caption prediction
2017-2018		ImageCLEF tuberculosis

# CLEF MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

IMAGECLEF

Here we focus on adhoc and case-based retrieval task [Kalpathy-Cramer et al., 2014].

### Results submission:

- Participants could submit results using only the images, only the text, or both

### Evaluation measures:

- MAP, BPref, P@5, 10, 30

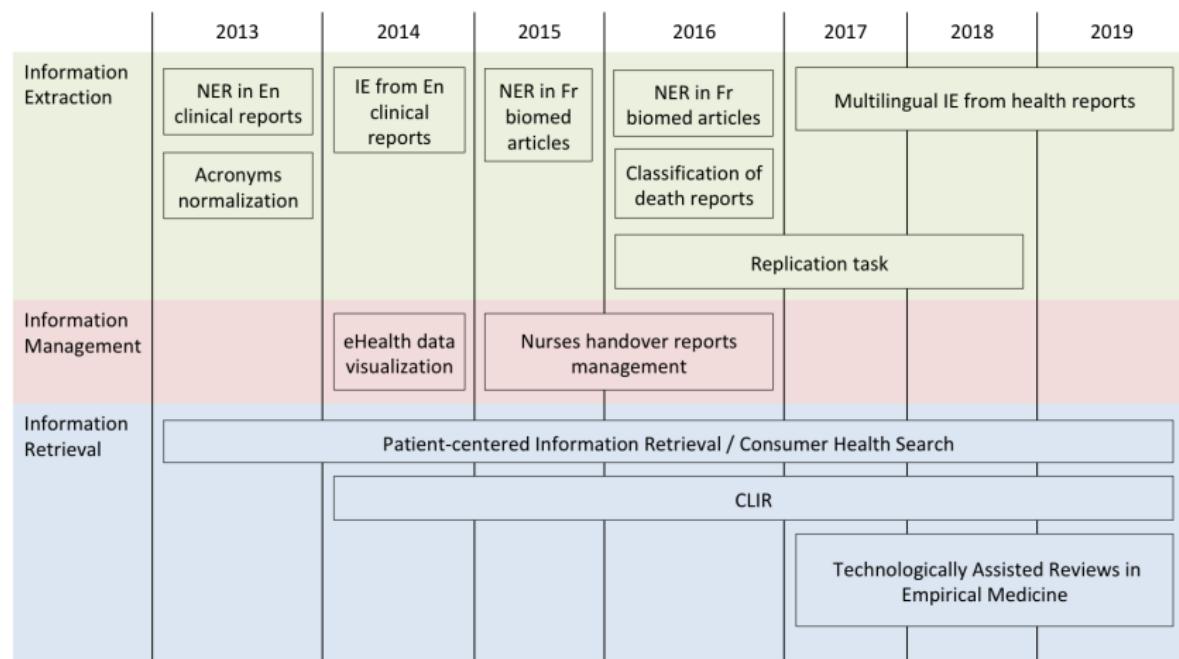
### What worked well?

- Using medical knowledge to enrich case reports or expand the queries
- Manually annotated collections have been used to utilize medical knowledge in connection with the original text
- MetaMap used to map biomedical text to the Unified Medical Language System Metathesaurus (UMLS)
- WordNet and EuroWordNet used for term expansion

# CLEF MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

## CLEF eHEALTH

Running since 2013 and proposed a variety of tasks focusing on health-related information extraction and retrieval:



# CLEF MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

CLEF eHEALTH

## The patient-centered information retrieval task (2013-2018)

- **Purpose:** retrieval of relevant documents for consumer health search:
- **Datasets:**
  - ▶ **Documents:**
    - ▶ Set of medical articles and certified documents (2013-2015)
    - ▶ Large web crawl (2016-2017)
  - ▶ **Topics:** expression of a patient information need

Year	Topics	Example
2013-2014	Disorder extracted from a discharge summary Topic contains: query, description, narrative, patient profile	Asystolic arrest
2015	Description of an image Topic contains: query, image	Weird brown patches on skin
2016-2017	Manually built query from a discussion forum	What causes strong headaches at base of skull, stops with blood donation

# CLEF MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

CLEF eHEALTH

The patient-centered information retrieval task (2013-2018)

	2013	2014	2015	2016, 2017
<b>Goal</b>	Help laypersons better understand medical reports		Layperson checking their symptoms	
<b>Topics</b>	55 EN topics built from discharge summaries	55 EN topics + translation in CZ, DE, FR	67 EN topics built from images + AR, CZ, DE, FA, FR, IT, PT	300 EN topics built from forum posts + CZ, FR, HU, DE, PO, SW
<b>Docs</b>	Medical document collection provided by Khresmoi project			ClueWeb 12 B13
<b>Relevance judgement</b>	Manual evaluation of relevance of documents	Manual evaluation of relevance and readability of documents		Manual evaluation of relevance, readability and trustworthiness

# CLEF MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

CLEF eHEALTH

## Results submission:

- Participants can submit several ranked runs, including a baseline

## Pooling:

- Top priority runs are pooled

## Relevance Judgement:

- In 2013-2014: only topical relevance was judged
- In 2015: topicality + readability
- In 2016-2017: topicality + readability + reliability

## Evaluation measures:

- In 2013-2017: P@10, MAP, NDCG
- In 2015-2017: rank-biased precision, including readability and reliability

## What worked well?

- Query expansion methods to close the lexical gap
- Hybrid indexing (terms and concepts)
- Acronym expansion and normalization

# CLEF MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

CLEF eHEALTH

## The Technologically Assisted Reviews in Empirical Medicine Task (2017-2018)

[Kanoulas et al., 2017]

- **Purpose:** develop methods to retrieve relevant studies with high precision and high recall
- **Dataset:**
  - ▶ **Topics:** 20+30 topics for Diagnostic Test Accuracy (DTA) systematic reviews (training + test sets)
  - ▶ **Documents:** MEDLINE database documents

```
Topic: CD009551
Title: Polymerase chain reaction blood tests for the diagnosis of
       invasive aspergillosis in immunocompromised people

Query:
exp Aspergillosis/
exp Pulmonary Aspergillosis/
exp Aspergillus/
(aspergillosis or aspergillus or aspergilloma or "A.fumigatus" or
"A. flavus" or "A. clavatus" or "A. terreus" or "A. niger").ti,ab.
or/1-4
exp Nucleic Acid Amplification Techniques/
pcr.ti,ab.
"polymerase chain reaction*".ti,ab.
or/6-8
5 and 9
exp Animals/ not Humans/
10 not 11

Pmid's:
25815649
26065322
...
```

# CLEF MEDICAL EVALUATION CHALLENGES

CLEF EHEALTH

**The Technologically Assisted Reviews in Empirical Medicine Task (2017-2018) Results submission:**

- Runs with ranked MEDLINE abstracts

**Relevance Judgement:**

- Assessment was made based on systematic reviews provided by Cochrane Library

**Evaluation measures:**

- AP, NDCG, recall

**What worked well?**

- Expansion using implicit (MeSH, UMLS) or explicit semantics (Word Embeddings)

# BIOASQ EVALUATION CHALLENGE

- BioASQ is challenge tackling large-scale biomedical semantic indexing and question answering.
- Running since 2013, in CLEF and then in other venues (BioNLP/ACL, EMNLP)
- In 2019, 3 tasks:
  - ▶ Large-Scale Online Biomedical Semantic Indexing (running every year)
  - ▶ Biomedical semantic QA (running every year)
  - ▶ Medical Semantic Indexing In Spanish

## Semantic indexing

**Goal:** Assign MeSH concepts to biomedical abstracts (to be included in PubMed), i.e. multi-label classification

**Data:** annotated PubMed abstract (training dataset), non-annotated PubMed abstracts (test dataset)

**Metrics:** F-measure and variations

### What works well:

- ▶ Incorporating deep semantic representations into classical approaches works well (doc2vec, word2vec)
- ▶ Neural networks approaches facing big data/small data issue (multiclasses problem)

## Biomedical QA

**Goal:** Find the relevant answer to a question  
**Two steps:** find relevant articles (IR), find the answer (QA + summarization)

**Data:** Questions, document set

**Metrics:** MAP, F-measure, accuracy, ROUGE

### What works well:

- ▶ Neural networks are giving best results for answer generation (LSTM, reinforcement learning...)
- ▶ Performance strongly relies on the type of question (Yes/no, factoid...)
- ▶ Task has to evolve in parallel with the community

## SUMMARY OF THE BENCHMARKING ACTIVITIES

Venue	Task	Dataset	Activity
TREC	Genomics adhoc retrieval	Clinical information need Biomedical articles	Terminated
	Genomics passage retrieval	Clinical information need Biomedical articles	Terminated
	Medical records	Patient cohort search	Terminated
	Clinical decision support / Precision medicine	Case reports Biomedical articles	Ongoing
CLEF	ImageCLEF medical retrieval	Image and medical reports Collection of medical images	Terminated
	CLEF eHealth consumer search	Health information need Large web crawl	Ongoing
	CLEF eHealth technological assisted reviews	Boolean queries Biomedical articles	Ongoing
* *	BioASQ	Annotated biomedical abstracts and QA dataset	Ongoing

The majority of these datasets are still available and can be used for research!

# CONCLUSION

- *A large and growing body of work on Information Retrieval in the medical domain*
  - ▶ Focus on task, user profile, information need elicitation in context (time, task, user's expertise, etc.)
  - ▶ Model semantic w.r.t. polyrepresentation view: document collections, knowledge bases, users, etc.
  - ▶ Shift from lexical matching to semantic matching by considering domain-specific peculiarities
  - ▶ Understand relevance assessment facets according to task, user (laypeople vs.expert )
  - ▶ Increasing amount of tasks due to a higher collaboration with the medical community
- *Challenges ahead*
  - ▶ IR at the service of the medical community:
    - ▶ Domain-driven IR models for medical search: Are IR heuristics similar to medical search heuristics?
    - ▶ Complex tasks not solved yet
    - ▶ Effort in structuring knowledge: dynamic terminologies, languages other than English...
    - ▶ Conceptualization of medical search tasks: eg., model hypothetico-deductive approach of medical experts?
  - ▶ Neural networks for all
    - ▶ Need for big data
    - ▶ Black-box: towards explainability
  - ▶ Large-scale evaluation under privacy-constraints

## DISCUSSION



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