

# Boolean model

- Boolean model
- Vector space model
- Probabilistic model

# Boolean model

- The Boolean model is a simple retrieval model based on
  - set theory, Boolean algebra
- Index term's significance is represented by binary weights
  - $w_{i,j} \in \{0,1\}$
- The set of index terms for a document  $d_j$  is denoted as  $R_{d_j}$
- The set of documents for an index term  $t_i$  is denoted as  $R_{t_i}$
- Queries are defined as Boolean expressions over index terms
  - Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT
- The relevance is modelled as a binary property of the documents
  - $SC(q, d_j) = 0$  or  $SC(q, d_j) = 1$

# Boolean model: example

- Given a set of index terms  $\{t_1, t_2, t_3\}$
- Given a set of documents
  - $d_1 = [1, 1, 1]^T$
  - $d_2 = [1, 0, 0]^T$
  - $d_3 = [0, 1, 0]^T$
- Calculate the set of documents for each index term
  - $R_{t_1} = \{d_1, d_2\}$
  - $R_{t_2} = \{d_1, d_3\}$
  - $R_{t_3} = \{d_1\}$

## Boolean model: example

- Each query can be expressed in terms of  $R_{t_i}$
- $q = t_1 \rightarrow R_{t_1} = \{d_1, d_2\}$
- $q = t_1 \wedge t_2 \rightarrow R_{t_1} \cap R_{t_2} = \{d_1, d_2\} \cap \{d_1, d_3\} = \{d_1\}$
- $q = t_1 \vee t_2 \rightarrow R_{t_1} \cup R_{t_2} = \{d_1, d_2\} \cup \{d_1, d_3\} = \{d_1, d_2, d_3\}$
- $q = \neg t_3 \rightarrow R_{t_3}^C = \{d_1\}^C = \{d_2, d_3\}$

# Boolean model: queries in DNF

- Each query can be also expressed in a Disjunctive Normal Form

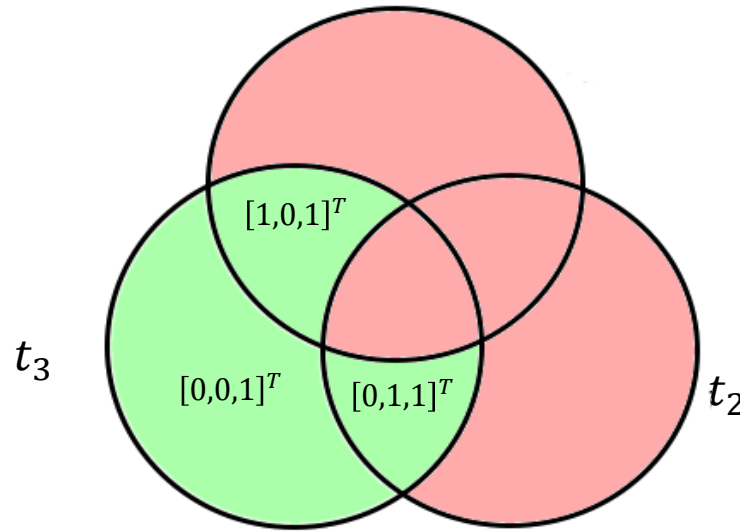
- $q = t_3 \wedge \neg(t_1 \wedge t_2) \rightarrow R_{t_3} \cap (R_{t_1} \cap R_{t_2})^c$

$t_1$	$t_2$	$t_3$
0	0	0
0	0	1
0	1	0
0	1	1
1	0	0
1	0	1
1	1	0
1	1	1

- $q_{dnf} = (\neg t_1 \wedge \neg t_2 \wedge t_3) \vee (\neg t_1 \wedge t_2 \wedge t_3) \vee (t_1 \wedge \neg t_2 \wedge t_3)$

# Boolean model: queries in DNF

- $q = t_3 \wedge \neg(t_1 \wedge t_2)$
- $q_{dnf} = (\neg t_1 \wedge \neg t_2 \wedge t_3) \vee (\neg t_1 \wedge t_2 \wedge t_3) \vee (t_1 \wedge \neg t_2 \wedge t_3)$



- Each disjunction represents an ideal set of documents
- The query is satisfied by a document if such document is contained in a disjunction term

# Boolean model: conclusions

- Pros
  - Precise semantics
  - Structured queries
  - Intuitive for experts
  - Simple and neat formalism
    - Adopted by many of early commercial bibliographic systems
  
- Cons
  - No ranking
    - Retrieval strategy is based on a binary decision criterion
  - Not simple to translate an information need into a Boolean expression

# Vector space model

- Boolean model
- **Vector space model**
- Probabilistic model

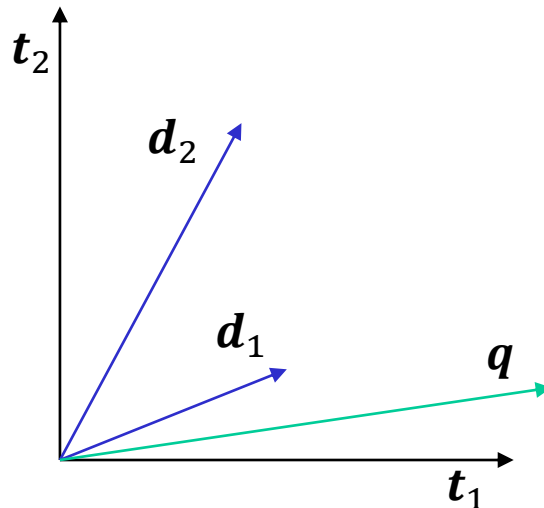


# Vector space model

- Documents and queries are represented as vectors in the index terms space
- $M$  = number of index terms = index terms space dimensionality = dictionary size
- Index term's significance is represented by real valued weights
  - $w_{i,j} \geq 0$  is associated to the pair  $(t_i, d_j)$
- Index terms are represented by unit vectors and form a canonical basis for the vector space
  - Index term vector for term  $t_i$ 
    - $\mathbf{t}_i = [0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0]^T$

# Vector space model

- Document  $d_j$  is represented by a vector  $\mathbf{d}_j$  which is a linear combination of index term vectors weighted by the index term significance for the document
  - $\mathbf{d}_j = \sum_{i=1}^M w_{i,j} \cdot \mathbf{t}_i$
- Query  $q$  is represented by a vector  $\mathbf{q}$  in the index terms space
  - $\mathbf{q} = [w_{1,q}, w_{2,q}, \dots, w_{M,q}]^T$



## Vector space model: similarity

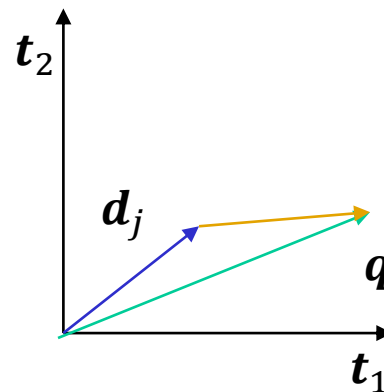
- The Similarity Coefficient between a query and each document is real valued, thus producing a ranked list of documents
  - It takes into consideration documents which match the query terms only partially
  - **Ranked document answer set** is more effective than document answer set retrieved by the Boolean model
    - Better match of user information need
- There are various *measures* that can be used to assess the similarity between documents/query
- A measure of **similarity** between documents shall fulfil the following
  - If  $d_1$  is near  $d_2$ , then  $d_2$  is near  $d_1$
  - If  $d_1$  is near  $d_2$ , and  $d_2$  is near  $d_3$ , then  $d_1$  is not far from  $d_3$
  - No document is closer to  $d$  than  $d$  itself

# Vector space model: similarity

- Euclidean distance

- Length of difference vector

$$d_{L_2}(q, d_j) = \|q - d_j\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^M (w_{i,q} - w_{i,j})^2}$$



- Can be converted in a similarity coefficient in different ways

- $SC(q, d_j) = e^{-\|q - d_j\|_2}$

- $SC(q, d_j) = \frac{1}{1 + \|q - d_j\|_2}$

- Issue of normalization

- Euclidian distance applied to un-normalized vectors tend to make any large document to be not relevant to most queries, which are typically short

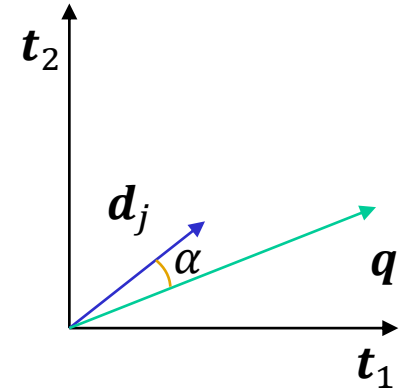
# Vector space model: similarity

- Cosine similarity

- Cosine of the angle between two vectors

$$SC(q, d_j) = \cos(\alpha) = \frac{\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{d}_j}{\|\mathbf{q}\| \|\mathbf{d}_j\|} =$$

$$= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^M w_{i,q} w_{i,j}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^M (w_{i,q})^2 \sum_{i=1}^M (w_{i,j})^2}}$$



- *It's a similarity, not a distance!*
  - Triangle inequality holds for distances but not for similarities
- The cosine measure **normalizes** the results by considering the length of the document vector
- Given two vectors, their similarity is determined by their directions
- For normalized vectors, the cosine similarity is equal to the *inner product*

# Vector space model: similarity

- Jaccard's similarity

$$\begin{aligned} SC(q, d_j) &= \frac{\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{d}_j}{\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{d}_j^T \mathbf{d}_j - \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{d}_j} = \\ &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^M w_{i,q} w_{i,j}}{\sum_{i=1}^M (w_{i,q})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^M (w_{i,j})^2 - \sum_{i=1}^M w_{i,q} w_{i,j}} \end{aligned}$$

- Extension of Jaccard's similarity coefficient for binary vectors
- Other similarity measures
    - Dice's similarity coefficient
    - Overlap coefficient

# Vector space model: index term weighting

- Boolean model used binary weights for index terms in a document
  - terms with different discriminative power have the same weight
  - normalization might not be enough to compensate for differences in documents lengths. A longer document has more opportunity to have some components that are relevant to a query
- In Vector Space Model index terms weights are non-negative real-valued
  - Index term weights should be made proportional to its importance, both in the document and in the document collection

# Vector space model: index term weighting

- In Vector Space Model the index term weighting is defined as

$$w_{i,j} = tf_{i,j} \cdot idf_i$$

- $tf_{i,j} \rightarrow$  **frequency** of term  $t_i$  **in document**  $d_j$ 
  - provides one measure of how well term  $t_i$  describes the document contents
- $idf_i \rightarrow$  **inverse** document **frequency** of term  $t_i$  for the whole document **collection**
  - terms which appear in many documents are not very useful for distinguishing a relevant document from a non-relevant one
- $w_{i,j}$ 
  - increases with the *number of occurrences* of term  $t_i$  within document  $d_j$
  - Increases with the *rarity* of term  $t_i$  across the whole document collection



# Vector space model: index term weighting

- $tf_{i,j} \rightarrow$  frequency of term  $t_i$  in document  $d_j$
- Define  $freq_{i,j}$  = number of occurrences of term  $t_i$  in document  $d_j$
- Three possible models for  $tf_{i,j}$ 
  - $tf_{i,j} = freq_{i,j}$ 
    - simplest model
  - $tf_{i,j} = \frac{freq_{i,j}}{\max_i freq_{i,j}}$ 
    - normalized model
  - $tf_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 1 + \log_2(freq_{i,j}) & \text{if } freq_{i,j} \geq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ 
    - prevents bias toward longer documents

# Vector space model: index term weighting

- $idf_i \rightarrow$  inverse document frequency of term  $t_i$  for the whole documents collection
- Define  $N$  = number of documents in the collection
- Define  $n_i$  = number of documents containing term  $t_i$

$$idf_i = \log_2 \frac{N}{n_i}$$

# Vector space model: example

- *Given*
  - Query
    - $q = \text{"gold silver truck"}$
  - Documents collection
    - $d_1 = \text{"shipment of gold damaged in a fire"}$
    - $d_2 = \text{"delivery of silver arrived in a silver truck"}$
    - $d_3 = \text{"shipment of gold arrived in a truck"}$
  - The term frequency model
    - $tf_{i,j} = freq_{i,j}$
- *Determine the ranking of the documents collection with respect to the given query using a Vector Space Model with the following similarity measures*
  - Euclidean distance
  - Cosine similarity

## Vector space model: example

- Dictionary = {"shipment", "of", "gold", "damaged", "in", "a", "fire", "delivery", "silver", "arrived", "truck"}
- $N = 3 \rightarrow$  number of documents in the collection
- $idf_i$  for each term  $t_i$

$t_i$	shipment	of	gold	damaged	in	a	fire	delivery	silver	arrived	truck
$n_i$	2	3	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	2	2
$idf_i$	0.58	0	0.58	1.58	0	0	1.58	1.58	1.58	0.58	0.58

- Purge dictionary removing terms with  $idf_i = 0$ 
  - Dictionary = {"shipment", "gold", "damaged", "fire", "delivery", "silver", "arrived", "truck"}

## Vector space model: example

- $tf_{i,j}$  for each couple  $(t_i, d_j)$

$t_i$	shipment	gold	damaged	fire	delivery	silver	arrived	truck
$tf_{i,1}$	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
$tf_{i,2}$	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1
$tf_{i,3}$	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1

- $w_{i,j}$  for each couple  $(t_i, d_j)$

$t_i$	shipment	gold	damaged	fire	delivery	silver	arrived	truck
$w_{i,1}$	0.58	0.58	1.58	1.58	0	0	0	0
$w_{i,2}$	0	0	0	0	1.58	3.16	0.58	0.58
$w_{i,3}$	0.58	0.58	0	0	0	0	0.58	0.58

## Vector space model: example

- $tf_{i,q}$  and  $w_{i,q}$  for each term  $t_i$

$t_i$	shipment	gold	damaged	fire	delivery	silver	arrived	truck
$tf_{i,q}$	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
$w_{i,q}$	0	0.58	0	0	0	1.58	0	0.58

- Let's write the documents and the query as vectors
  - $\mathbf{d}_1 = [0.58, 0.58, 1.58, 1.58, 0, 0, 0, 0]$
  - $\mathbf{d}_2 = [0, 0, 0, 0, 1.58, 3.16, 0.58, 0.58]$
  - $\mathbf{d}_3 = [0.58, 0.58, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.58, 0.58]$
  - $\mathbf{q} = [0, 0.58, 0, 0, 0, 1.58, 0, 0.58]$

## Vector space model: example

- Euclidean distance as Similarity Coefficient

- $d_{L_2}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_1) = \sqrt{0.58^2 + 1.58^2 + 1.58^2 + 1.58^2 + 0.58^2} = 2.86$

- $d_{L_2}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_2) = \sqrt{0.58^2 + 1.58^2 + 1.58^2 + 0.58^2} = 2.38$

- $d_{L_2}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_3) = \sqrt{0.58^2 + 1.58^2 + 0.58^2} = 1.78$

- $SC(q, d_1) = \frac{1}{1+d_{L_2}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_1)} = 0.26$

- $SC(q, d_2) = \frac{1}{1+d_{L_2}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_2)} = 0.30$

- $SC(q, d_3) = \frac{1}{1+d_{L_2}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_3)} = 0.36$

- Rank:  $d_3 > d_2 > d_1$

## Vector space model: example

- Cosine similarity as Similarity Coefficient

- $SC(q, d_1) = \frac{\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{d}_1}{\|\mathbf{q}\| \|\mathbf{d}_1\|} = \frac{0.34}{1.79 \cdot 2.39} = 0.08$

- $SC(q, d_2) = \frac{\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{d}_2}{\|\mathbf{q}\| \|\mathbf{d}_2\|} = \frac{5.37}{1.79 \cdot 3.64} = 0.82$

- $SC(q, d_3) = \frac{\mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{d}_3}{\|\mathbf{q}\| \|\mathbf{d}_3\|} = \frac{0.68}{1.79 \cdot 1.17} = 0.33$

- Rank:  $d_2 > d_3 > d_1$



# Vector space model: conclusions

- Pros

- Term-weighting scheme improves retrieval performance w.r.t. Boolean model
- Partial matching strategy allows retrieval of documents that approximate the query conditions
- Ranked output and output magnitude control
- Flexibility and intuitive geometric interpretation

- Cons

- Assumption of independency between terms
- Impossibility of formulating “structured” queries (No operator (OR, AND, NOT, etc..))
- Terms are axes of a vector space (Even with stemming, may have 20.000+ dimensions)

# Probabilistic model

- Boolean model
- Vector space model
- **Probabilistic model**

# Probabilistic model

- The **probabilistic model** computes the Similarity Coefficient between queries and documents as the *probability that a document will be relevant to a query*

$$P(\text{relevant}|q, d_j)$$

- Given a query  $q$ , let  $R_q$  denote the set of documents relevant to the query  $q$  (the ideal answer set)
- The set  $R_q$  is **unknown**

# Probabilistic model

- First, generate a preliminary probabilistic description of the ideal answer set  $R_q$  which is used to retrieve a first set of documents.
  - From relevant documents if some are known
    - relevance feedback
  - Prior domain knowledge

# Probabilistic model

- The probabilistic model can be used together with **relevance feedback**
- An interaction with the user is then initiated with the purpose of improving the probabilistic description of the ideal answer set.
  - The *user* takes a look at the retrieved documents and *decides which ones are relevant* and which ones are not (in truth, only the first top documents need to be examined).
  - The *system* then uses this information to *refine the description* of the ideal answer set.
  - By repeating this process many times, it is expected that such a description will evolve and become closer to the real description of the ideal answer set.

# Probabilistic model: probability basics

- Complementary events

$$p(a) + p(\bar{a}) = 1$$

- Joint probability

$$p(a, b) = p(a \cap b)$$

- Conditional probability

$$p(a|b) = \frac{p(a \cap b)}{p(b)} = \frac{p(a, b)}{p(b)}$$

- Marginal probability

$$p(a) = \sum_{x \in \{b, \bar{b}\}} p(a|x) \cdot p(x)$$

- Bayes' theorem

$$p(a|b) \cdot p(b) = p(b|a) \cdot p(a)$$

- Odds

$$O(a) = \frac{p(a)}{p(\bar{a})} = \frac{p(a)}{1-p(a)}$$

# Probabilistic model: Prob. Ranking Principle

- Probabilistic model captures IR problem in a probabilistic framework
- The **probability ranking principle** (PRP)
  - “If a reference retrieval system's response to each request is a ranking of the documents in the collection in order of decreasing probability of relevance to the user who submitted the request, ..., *the overall effectiveness of the system to its user will be the best that is obtainable...*”  
[Robertson and Jones, 1976]
- Classic probabilistic models are also known as binary independence retrieval (BIR) models

# Probabilistic model: Prob. Ranking Principle

- Let  $d$  be a document in the collection
- Let  $R$  represent relevance of a document w.r.t a given (fixed) query  $q$  and let  $NR$  represent non-relevance
- Need to find  $p(R|q, d_j)$ : probability that a document  $d_j$  is relevant given the query  $q$
- According to PRP, rank documents in descending order of  $p(R|q, d_j)$



# Probabilistic model: BIM

- Model hypothesis: **Binary Independence Model**
  - Distribution of terms in relevant documents is different from of terms in non relevant documents
  - Terms that occur in many relevant documents, and are absent in many irrelevant documents, should be given greater importance
- **Binary** = Boolean: documents are represented as binary incidence vectors of terms (remember the Boolean model?)
  - $w_{i,j} \in \{0,1\}$ 
    - $w_{i,j} = 1$  if term  $t_i$  is present in document  $d_j$
    - otherwise  $w_{i,j} = 0$
- **Independence**: terms occur in documents independently one from each other
- Remark: different documents can be modelled by same vector

# Probabilistic model: BIM

- Documents are **binary incidence vectors** (as for Boolean model)
  - $d_j \rightarrow \mathbf{d}_j$
- Also queries are binary incidence vectors (remember that in Boolean models queries were logical expressions)
  - $q \rightarrow \mathbf{q}$
- Given a query  $q$ 
  - For each document  $d_j$  need to compute  $p(R|q, d_j)$
  - Replace with computing  $p(R|\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_j)$ , where  $\mathbf{d}_i$  is the binary incidence vector representing  $d_j$  and  $\mathbf{q}$  is the binary incidence vector representing  $q$

# Probabilistic model: BIM

- **Prior probabilities** (independent from a specific document)
  - $p(R|q)$  probability of retrieving a relevant document
  - $p(NR|q)$  probability of retrieving a non-relevant document
- $p(d_j|q, R)$  probability that if a relevant document is retrieved, it is document  $d_j$ .
- $p(d_j|q, NR)$  probability that if a non-relevant document is retrieved, it is document  $d_j$ .

# Probabilistic model: BIM

- Need to find the **posterior probability for a specific document**.  
By Bayes' theorem:
  - $p(R|q, d_j) = p(d_j|q, R) \cdot \frac{p(R|q)}{p(d_j|q)}$
  - $p(NR|q, d_j) = p(d_j|q, NR) \cdot \frac{p(NR|q)}{p(d_j|q)}$
  - $p(R|q, d_j) + p(NR|q, d_j) = 1$
- Given a query  $q$ 
  - Estimate how terms contribute to relevance
  - Compute the probability of each document  $d_j$  to be relevant with respect to the query  $q \rightarrow p(R|q, d_j)$
  - Order documents by decreasing probability  $p(R|q, d_j)$

# Probabilistic model: BIM

- Starting from the odds

$$\begin{aligned} O(R|q, d_j) &= \frac{p(R|q, d_j)}{p(NR|q, d_j)} = \frac{\frac{p(d_j|q, R)p(R|q)}{p(d_j|q)}}{\frac{p(d_j|q, NR)p(NR|q)}{p(d_j|q)}} \\ &= \frac{p(d_j|q, R)p(R|q)}{p(d_j|q, NR)p(NR|q)} = \boxed{\frac{p(R|q)}{p(NR|q)}} \boxed{\frac{p(d_j|q, R)}{p(d_j|q, NR)}} \end{aligned}$$

- constant for a given query

$$- O(R|q) = \frac{p(R|q)}{p(NR|q)}$$

- needs to be estimated for each document

# Probabilistic model: BIM

- Using the **independence** assumption
  - Consider a dictionary of  $M$  terms

$$p(\mathbf{d}_j | \mathbf{q}, R) = \prod_{i=1}^M p(w_{i,j} | \mathbf{q}, R)$$

$$p(\mathbf{d}_j | \mathbf{q}, NR) = \prod_{i=1}^M p(w_{i,j} | \mathbf{q}, NR)$$

$$\frac{p(\mathbf{d}_j | \mathbf{q}, R)}{p(\mathbf{d}_j | \mathbf{q}, NR)} = \prod_{i=1}^M \frac{p(w_{i,j} | \mathbf{q}, R)}{p(w_{i,j} | \mathbf{q}, NR)}$$

$$O(R | \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_j) = O(R | \mathbf{q}) \prod_{i=1}^M \frac{p(w_{i,j} | \mathbf{q}, R)}{p(w_{i,j} | \mathbf{q}, NR)}$$

# Probabilistic model: BIM

$$O(R|\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_j) = O(R|\mathbf{q}) \prod_{i=1}^M \frac{p(w_{i,j}|\mathbf{q}, R)}{p(w_{i,j}|\mathbf{q}, NR)}$$

- Given that  $w_{i,j} \in \{0,1\}$

$$\prod_{i=1}^M p(w_{i,j}|\mathbf{q}, R) = \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=1} p(w_i = 1|\mathbf{q}, R) \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=0} p(w_i = 0|\mathbf{q}, R)$$

$$\prod_{i=1}^M p(w_{i,j}|\mathbf{q}, NR) = \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=1} p(w_i = 1|\mathbf{q}, NR) \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=0} p(w_i = 0|\mathbf{q}, NR)$$

- $p_i \triangleq p(w_i = 1|\mathbf{q}, R) \rightarrow$  probability of term  $t_i$  appearing in a document relevant to the query
- $u_i \triangleq p(w_i = 1|\mathbf{q}, NR) \rightarrow$  probability of term  $t_i$  appearing in a document non relevant to the query
- Assuming that for all the terms **not occurring in the query**

$$p_i = u_i$$

# Probabilistic model: BIM

- Continues...

$$\begin{aligned} O(R|\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_j) &= O(R|\mathbf{q}) \prod_{i=1}^M \frac{p(w_{i,j}|\mathbf{q}, R)}{p(w_{i,j}|\mathbf{q}, NR)} \\ &= O(R|\mathbf{q}) \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=1} \frac{p(w_i = 1|\mathbf{q}, R)}{p(w_i = 1|\mathbf{q}, NR)} \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=0} \frac{p(w_i = 0|\mathbf{q}, R)}{p(w_i = 0|\mathbf{q}, NR)} \\ &= O(R|\mathbf{q}) \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=1} \frac{p_i}{u_i} \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=0} \frac{1 - p_i}{1 - u_i} \end{aligned}$$

- Since for the terms not occurring in the query  $p_i = u_i$  we consider only the terms  $t_i$  occurring in the query ( $w_{i,q} = 1$ )

$$O(R|\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{d}_j) = O(R|\mathbf{q}) \prod_{\substack{i|w_{i,j}=1 \\ w_{i,q}=1}} \frac{p_i}{u_i} \prod_{\substack{i|w_{i,j}=0 \\ w_{i,q}=1}} \frac{1 - p_i}{1 - u_i}$$

- Terms occurring both in the query and in the document
- Terms occurring only in the query



# Probabilistic model: BIM

- Continues...

$$\prod_{i|w_{i,j}=0 \atop w_{i,q}=1} \frac{1-p_i}{1-u_i} = \frac{\prod_{i|w_{i,q}=1} \frac{1-p_i}{1-u_i}}{\prod_{i|w_{i,j}=1 \atop w_{i,q}=1} \frac{1-p_i}{1-u_i}} = \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=1 \atop w_{i,q}=1} \frac{1-u_i}{1-p_i} \prod_{i|w_{i,q}=1} \frac{1-p_i}{1-u_i}$$

- Terms occurring both in the query and in the document
- All the terms occurring in the query: document independent

$$O(R|q, d_j) = O(R|q) \prod_{i|w_{i,j}=1 \atop w_{i,q}=1} \frac{p_i}{u_i} \frac{(1-u_i)}{(1-p_i)} \prod_{i|w_{i,q}=1} \frac{1-p_i}{1-u_i}$$

## Probabilistic model: BIM

$$O(R|q, d_j) = O(R|q) \prod_{i \left| \begin{smallmatrix} w_{i,j}=1 \\ w_{i,q}=1 \end{smallmatrix} \right.} \frac{p_i (1 - u_i)}{u_i (1 - p_i)} \prod_{i \left| w_{i,q}=1 \right.} \frac{1 - p_i}{1 - u_i}$$

- Constant for each query
- Only quantity to be estimated for ranking

$$SC(q, d_j) \triangleq \log_2 \prod_{i \left| \begin{smallmatrix} w_{i,j}=1 \\ w_{i,q}=1 \end{smallmatrix} \right.} \frac{p_i (1 - u_i)}{u_i (1 - p_i)} = \sum_{i \left| \begin{smallmatrix} w_{i,j}=1 \\ w_{i,q}=1 \end{smallmatrix} \right.} \log_2 \frac{p_i (1 - u_i)}{u_i (1 - p_i)}$$

- How do we estimate  $p_i$  and  $u_i$  from data?

## Probabilistic model: BIM

- For each term  $t_i$  consider the following table of document counts

	Relevant	Non-Relevant	Total
documents containing $t_i$	$s_i$	$n_i - s_i$	$n_i$
documents not containing $t_i$	$S - s_i$	$(N - S) - (n_i - s_i)$	$N - n_i$
Total	$S$	$N - S$	$N$

- Estimates

- $p_i = p(w_i = 1|\mathbf{q}, R) = \frac{s_i}{S}$
- $u_i = p(w_i = 1|\mathbf{q}, NR) = \frac{n_i - s_i}{N - S}$

# Probabilistic model: BIM

- $u_i$  is initialized as  $\frac{n_i}{N}$ , as non relevant documents are approximated by the whole documents collection
- $p_i$  can be initialized in various ways
  - From relevant documents if known some (e.g. relevance feedback, prior knowledge)
  - Constant (e.g.  $p_i = 0.5$  (even odds) for any given document)
  - Proportional to probability of occurrence in collection
- An iterative procedure is used to refine  $p_i$  and  $u_i$ 
  1. Determine a guess of relevant document set
    - Top- $S$  ranked documents or user's relevance feedback
  2. Update the estimates for  $p_i$  and  $u_i$ 
    - $p_i = \frac{s_i}{S}$      $u_i = \frac{n_i - s_i}{N - S}$
  - Go to 1 until convergence then return ranking

# Probabilistic model: example

- *Given*
  - Query incidence vector
    - $\mathbf{q} = [0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1]$
  - Documents incidence vectors
    - $\mathbf{d}_1 = [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1]$
    - $\mathbf{d}_2 = [1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0]$
    - $\mathbf{d}_3 = [0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0]$
    - $\mathbf{d}_4 = [1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0]$
  - Initialize
    - $p_i = 0.5$
  - Consider as relevant the top-2 documents ( $S = 2$ )

## Probabilistic model: example

- *Determine the ranking of the documents collection with respect to the given query using a Probabilistic Model under the Binary Independence assumption.*
- $N = 4 \rightarrow$  number of documents in the collection
- Reduce the documents incidence vectors considering only the terms that appear in the query
  - $\mathbf{d}_1 = [0 \ 0 \ 1]$
  - $\mathbf{d}_2 = [0 \ 0 \ 0]$
  - $\mathbf{d}_3 = [0 \ 1 \ 0]$
  - $\mathbf{d}_4 = [1 \ 1 \ 0]$
- Initialize  $u_i$  for each term  $t_i$

	$t_1$	$t_2$	$t_3$
$n_i$	1	2	1
$u_i$	0.25	0.50	0.25

- Recall that  $p_i = 0.5 \ \forall \ t_i$

# Probabilistic model: example

- 1<sup>st</sup> iteration
  - Determine the  $SC$  for each document
    - $SC(d_1, q) = \log_2 \frac{p_3}{1-p_3} + \log_2 \frac{1-u_3}{u_3} = 1.59$
    - $SC(d_2, q) = -\infty$  ( $d_2$  contains no query terms)
    - $SC(d_3, q) = \log_2 \frac{p_2}{1-p_2} + \log_2 \frac{1-u_2}{u_2} = 0$
    - $SC(d_4, q) = \log_2 \frac{p_1}{1-p_1} + \log_2 \frac{1-u_1}{u_1} + \log_2 \frac{p_2}{1-p_2} + \log_2 \frac{1-u_2}{u_2} = 1.59$
  - Rank the documents and consider the first top-k as relevant (in case of tie keep documents ordering)
    - $d_1 > d_4 > d_3 > d_2$
    - Relevant documents =  $\{d_1, d_4\}$

# Probabilistic model: example

- 1<sup>st</sup> iteration (continues...)
  - Calculate  $s_i$  and update  $p_i$  and  $u_i$ 
    - $s_1 = 1$
    - $s_2 = 1$
    - $s_3 = 1$
  
    - $p_1 = \frac{s_1}{S} = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$
    - $p_2 = \frac{s_2}{S} = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$
    - $p_3 = \frac{s_3}{S} = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$
  
    - $u_1 = \frac{n_1 - s_1}{N - S} = \frac{0}{2} = 0$
    - $u_2 = \frac{n_2 - s_2}{N - S} = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$
    - $u_3 = \frac{n_3 - s_3}{N - S} = \frac{0}{2} = 0$



# Probabilistic model: example

- 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration

- Determine the  $SC$  for each document

- $SC(d_1, q) = \log_2 \frac{p_3}{1-p_3} + \log_2 \frac{1-u_3}{u_3} = \log_2 \frac{1-\epsilon}{\epsilon}$

- $SC(d_2, q) = -\infty$

- $SC(d_3, q) = \log_2 \frac{p_2}{1-p_2} + \log_2 \frac{1-u_2}{u_2} = 0$

- $SC(d_4, q) = \log_2 \frac{p_1}{1-p_1} + \log_2 \frac{1-u_1}{u_1} + \log_2 \frac{p_2}{1-p_2} + \log_2 \frac{1-u_2}{u_2} = \log_2 \frac{1-\epsilon}{\epsilon}$

- Rank the documents and consider the first top-k as relevant (in case of tie keep documents ordering)

- $d_1 > d_4 > d_3 > d_2$

- Relevant documents =  $\{d_1, d_4\} \rightarrow$  Convergence reached

# Probabilistic model: conclusions

- Pros
  - Documents are **ranked** in decreasing order of probability of being relevant
  - It includes a mechanism for **relevance feedback**
- Cons
  - The **need to guess** the initial separation of documents into relevant and irrelevant
  - It does not take into account the **frequency** with which a **term** occurs inside a document
  - The assumption of **independence** of index terms