

Day 1

### What is IR?

- Upon a request of a user, finding docs that helps solve problems
  - This who admits the lack of knowledge signal "SOS" -> 说明需要获取 info
  - Docs satisfy user's need is called "relevant info"
- More than one piece of partially relevant info can be as useful as a relevant one, but few attempt has been made to address
- IR aims at problem solving

### Difficulty in problem solving

- Identifying what the real problem is?
  - Hard to untangle problem and see the truth
- In counseling, counselees sometimes camouflage the real problem with a fake story (due to their self-esteem)
- In hospital, medical practice cannot begin if the cause of symptoms is unknown
- So is in IR
  - IR is not searching a database (searching database is more systematically defined)
  - Huma-computer collaborative interaction

### Hierarchy of InfoNeed

Info need is more clear as going down:

1. Visceral need: actual but unexpressed 🤔 -> recognise something wrong but have no idea what to do
2. Conscious need: within-brain description 🤔 -> some idea appeared but cannot express
3. Formalized need: formal statement 😊 -> come up with the actual question
4. Compromised need: submitted to IR system (query) 😊 -> give key words to the IR system rather than actual questions

Useful things to assist IR:

Information need to query

↓

Refining query

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Retrieving candidates documents

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Feedback to system

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Evaluating retrieved documents

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Solving the problem

### Backstage of IR

IR needs at least two elements (author and user)

