



Processamento
e Recuperação
de Informação

Generic
Document
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The Boolean
Model

The Vector
Space Model

The
Probabilistic
Model

Comparison of
the Classic
Models

Processamento e Recuperação de Informação

Information Retrieval Models

Departamento de Engenharia Informática
Instituto Superior Técnico

1º Semestre
2018/2019



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Bibliography

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Retrieval Models

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Index Terms

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In the classic IR models, documents are represented by **index terms**

- full text/selected keywords
- structure/no structure

Not all terms are equally useful

- index terms can be **weighted**

We assume that terms are **mutually independent**

- this is, of course, a simplification



Definition of a Document Model

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Definition

Let t be the number of index terms in the collection of documents, and let k_i be a generic index term.

- $K = \{k_1, \dots, k_t\}$ is the set of all index terms.
- A weight $w_{i,j} \geq 0$ is associated with each index term k_i of a document d_j .
- For an index term which does not appear in the document text, $w_{i,j} = 0$.
- Each document d_j is associated a term vector \vec{d}_j , represented by $\vec{d}_j = (w_{1,j}, w_{2,j}, \dots, w_{t,j})$.
- Function $g_i(\vec{d}_j)$ returns the weight of index term k_i in vector \vec{d}_j .



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Boolean Model Queries

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- Follows Boolean algebra syntax and semantics
- Term weights are binary
 - $w_{i,j} \in \{0, 1\}$
 - $w_{i,j} = 1$ — term present,
 - $w_{i,j} = 0$ — term not present
- Queries are Boolean expressions
 - E.g., $q = k_a \wedge (k_b \vee \neg k_c)$
- Documents are considered **relevant** if the query evaluates to 1 (true)



An Example

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d_1

That government is best which
governs least

d_2

That government is best which
governs not at all

d_3

When men are prepared for it,
that will be the kind of
government which they will have



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That government is best which
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When men are prepared for it,
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government which they will have

$q = \text{government} \wedge \text{best}$

answer: d_1, d_2



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$q = \text{government} \wedge \text{best}$

answer: d_1, d_2

d_2

That government is best which
governs not at all

$q = \text{government} \wedge \text{best} \wedge \neg \text{all}$

answer: d_1

d_3

When men are prepared for it,
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d_1

That government is best which
governs least

$q = \text{government} \wedge \text{best}$

answer: d_1, d_2

d_2

That government is best which
governs not at all

$q = \text{government} \wedge \text{best} \wedge \neg \text{all}$

answer: d_1

d_3

When men are prepared for it,
that will be the kind of
government which they will have

$q = \text{government} \vee \text{best} \wedge \neg \text{all}$

answer: d_1, d_2, d_3



Document-Query Similarity

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- Queries can be translated to a disjunction of conjunctive vectors

$$\vec{q} = k_a \wedge (k_b \vee \neg k_c) \Leftrightarrow (1, 1, 1) \vee (1, 1, 0) \vee (1, 0, 0)$$

each tuple corresponds to a vector (k_a, k_b, k_c)

- Similarity of a document to a query is defined as:

$$\text{sim}(d_j, q) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \exists \vec{q}_c \in \vec{q} | \forall_i, g_i(\vec{d}_j) = g_i(\vec{q}_c) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



The Boolean Model

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Why is it good?

- Simple model based on Boolean algebra
- Intuitive concept
- Precise semantics
- Clear formal basis
- Widely adopted by early information systems



Boolean Model

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Limitations:

- Retrieval based only on binary decisions
 - More similar to *data retrieval* than *information retrieval*
 - Can retrieve too many, or too little documents
 - Some documents may be more relevant than others
- How do you translate a query to a Boolean expression?
 - Non-expert users may not be able to represent their information needs using Boolean expressions
- Terms are all equally important
 - Index term weighting can bring great improvements in performance



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Documents as Vectors

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- Documents are represented as vectors
 - $\vec{d}_j = (w_{1,j}, w_{2,j}, \dots, w_{t,j})$
 - $w_{i,j}$ is the weight of term i in document j
- Queries are also vectors
 - $\vec{q} = (w_{1,q}, w_{2,q}, \dots, w_{t,q})$
- Vector operations can be used to compare queries×documents (or documents×documents)



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Defining Document Vectors

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Two questions are still unanswered:

- 1 How do we define term weights?
- 2 How do we compare documents to queries?



Defining Term Weights — TF

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Term frequency

Term frequency is a measure of term importance **within a document**

Definition

Let N be the total number of documents in the system and n_i be the number of documents in which term k_i appears. The **normalized frequency** of a term k_i in document d_j is given by:

$$f_{i,j} = \frac{freq_{i,j}}{\max_l freq_{l,j}}$$

where $freq_{i,j}$ is the number of occurrences of term k_i in document d_j .



Defining Term Weights — IDF

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(Inverse) Document frequency

Document frequency is a measure of term importance **within a collection**

Definition

The **inverse document frequency** of a term k_i is given by:

$$idf_i = \log \left(\frac{N}{n_i} \right)$$



Defining Term Weights — TF-IDF

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Definition

The weight of a term k_i in document d_j for the vector space model is given by the **tf-idf** formula:

$$w_{i,j} = f_{i,j} \times \log \left(\frac{N}{n_i} \right)$$



Document Similarity

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- Similarity between documents and queries is a measure of the correlation between their vectors
- Documents/queries that share the same terms, with similar weights, should be more similar
- Thus, as similarity measure, we use the **cosine of the angle between the vectors**

$$\text{sim}(d_j, q) = \frac{\vec{d}_j \cdot \vec{q}}{|\vec{d}_j| \times |\vec{q}|} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^t w_{i,j} \times w_{i,q}}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^t w_{i,j}^2} \times \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^t w_{i,q}^2}}$$



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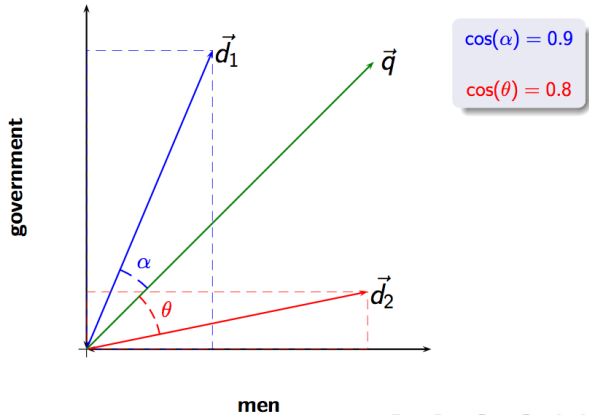
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The Vector Space Model

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Why is it so good?

- Simple model, based on linear algebra
- Term weights are not binary
- Allows computing a continuous **degree of similarity** between queries and documents
- Thus, allows **ranking** documents according to their possible relevance



Improving the VSM (1)

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The BM25 Model

Consider not only the term frequency and inverse document frequency heuristics, but also the **document length** as a **normalization factor** for the term frequency.

$$TF_{i,j} = \frac{f_{i,j} \times (k_1 + 1)}{f_{i,j} + k_1 \times \left(1 - b + b \frac{|d_j|}{avgdl}\right)}$$

$$IDF_i = \log \frac{N - n_i + 0.5}{n_i + 0.5}$$

$$sim(d_j, q) = \sum_{i \in q} IDF_i \times TF_{i,j}$$

To be detailed in the next lecture



Improving the VSM (2)

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Latent Semantic Indexing

- Find a low-rank approximation of the matrix which describes the occurrences of terms in documents
 - Singular Value Decomposition
 - Compare the documents in the low-dimensional space
- The consequence of the rank lowering is that some dimensions are combined (e.g., **mitigates the problem of identifying synonymy**)
- To be detailed latter in the course



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The Probabilistic Model

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- Models the IR problem in a probabilistic framework
- Estimates the probability of document d_j being relevant to the user
- A simple probabilistic model can assume that:
 - 1 the probability depends only on the query and the document
 - 2 there is a subset R of relevant documents
 - 3 index terms are independent
- A simple probabilistic model can use binary term weights



Document Query Similarity

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- As a similarity measure, we use the ratio between the probability of finding the relevant documents and the probability of finding the non-relevant documents

$$\text{sim}(d_j, q) = \frac{P(R|\vec{d}_j)}{P(\bar{R}|\vec{d}_j)}$$



Similarity Probabilities (1)

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Initial Equation

$$\text{sim}(d_j, q) = \frac{P(R|\vec{d}_j)}{P(\bar{R}|\vec{d}_j)} = \frac{P(\vec{d}_j|R) \times P(R)}{P(\vec{d}_j|\bar{R}) \times P(\bar{R})} \sim \frac{P(\vec{d}_j|R)}{P(\vec{d}_j|\bar{R})}$$

Assuming term independence...

$$\text{sim}(d_j, q) \sim \frac{(\prod_{g_i(\vec{d}_j)=1} P(k_i|R)) \times (\prod_{g_i(\vec{d}_j)=0} P(\bar{k}_i|R))}{(\prod_{g_i(\vec{d}_j)=1} P(k_i|\bar{R})) \times (\prod_{g_i(\vec{d}_j)=0} P(\bar{k}_i|\bar{R}))}$$

Tanking logs and removing constant factors...

$$\text{sim}(d_j, q) = \sum_{i=1}^t w_{i,q} \times w_{i,j} \times \left(\log \frac{P(k_i|R)}{1 - P(k_i|R)} + \log \frac{1 - P(k_i|\bar{R})}{P(k_i|\bar{R})} \right)$$



Similarity Probabilities (2)

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Blind assumptions

$$\begin{aligned}P(k_i|R) &= 0.5 \\P(k_i|\overline{R}) &= \frac{n_i}{N}\end{aligned}$$

After document retrieval...

Let V be the number of returned documents; let V_i be the number of returned documents containing term k_i .

$$\begin{aligned}P(k_i|R) &= \frac{V_i}{V} \\P(k_i|\overline{R}) &= \frac{n_i - V_i}{N - V}\end{aligned}$$



Similarity Probabilities (3)

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Avoiding small values...

$$P(k_i|R) = \frac{V_i + \frac{n_i}{N}}{V+1}$$
$$P(k_i|\bar{R}) = \frac{n_i - V_i + \frac{n_i}{N}}{N - V + 1}$$



Problems of this Simple Probabilistic Model

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- There is no accurate estimate for the first run probabilities
 - Index terms are not weighted
 - Terms are assumed mutually independent
-
- In fact, many different probabilistic retrieval models have been proposed!



Probabilistic Language Models

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- Another simple probabilistic retrieval model
- Each document d is treated as (the basis for) a **probabilistic language model**
- Given a query q rank documents based on $P(d|q)$

$$P(d|q) = \frac{P(d) \times P(q|d)}{P(q)}$$

- The evidence $P(q)$ is the same for all documents, so ignore
- $P(d)$ is the prior
 - often treated as the same for all d
 - we can give a higher prior to “high-quality” documents (e.g., those with high PageRank – to be seen latter)
- $P(q|d)$ is likelihood, i.e. the probability of q given d



How to compute $P(q|d)$

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- Conditional independence assumption

$$P(q|d) = P(\{t_1, \dots, t_{|q|}\}|d) = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq |q|} P(t_i|d)$$

- $|q|$ is length of q
- t_k is the token occurring at position k in q

- The above multinomial model is equivalent to:

$$P(q|d) = \prod_{\text{distinct term } t \in q} P(t_k|d)^{TF_{t,q}}$$

- Component $TF_{t,q}$ is the term frequency of t in q
- Parameters $P(t_k|d)$ computed through maximum likelihood estimates

$$P(t_k|d) = \frac{TF_{t_k,d}}{|d|}$$



LM Retrieval and Naïve Bayes

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The next class will introduce a simple probabilistic document classifier, known as the **Naïve Bayes** approach

- We want to classify document d .
We want to classify a query q
- Human-defined classes: e.g., politics, economics, sports.
Each document in the collection is a different class
- Assume that d was produced by the generative model.
Assume that q was generated by a generative model
- Which of the classes (= class models) is most likely to have generated the document d ?
Which document (=class) is most likely to have generated the query q ?
- For which class do we have the most evidence?
For which document (as source for query) do we have the most evidence?



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What makes these Models Work?

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Three main term weighting normalization driving features:

- TF - Term Frequency
- IDF - Inverse Document Frequency
- DL - Document Length



Comparison of the Classic Models

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- Boolean model is considered the weakest
- There is some controversy over which shows better performance: vector space or probabilistic
- However, nowadays, the vector space model is the most widely used



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Questions?