CSE535: Information Retrieval (Fall'18)

Project 3: Evaluation of IR models

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Abstract

The goal of this project is to implement various IR models, evaluate the IR system and improve the search result based on understanding of the models, the implementation and the evaluation.

1. Implementing IR models

We have given three IR models to evaluate. First, we are going to use tree evaluation on default setting of these IR models. Together with our training queries, query results, ground truth judgements and the TREC_eval result, we gain an intuition on the performance of our IR system. We choose the measure **MAP** as main objective to improve. For our evaluation we are going to consider **top 20** results. We will be going to use below techniques to improve our models and evaluation score.

- 1. Tuning parameters of different models to see if it improves the MAP value.
- 2. Using SynonymGraphFilterFactory on fields
- 3. Using different tokenizer and analyzer on fields to check if it improves the results.
- 4. Trying query expansion by converting query into different languages, which might help to improve evaluation score.
- 5. Boosting the query based on different fields
- 6. Implementing different query parsers and check whether it helps to improve score.

2. Models with default setting

First, let's create three cores for three different models. If we just use <similarity> tag in schema.xml file and mention similarity class name as BM25/VSM/DFR, all of them have their different model parameters set to some default value. We are going to compare the results of these default setting.



Figure 1: Cores in Solr

We have created modified query for each given query. For example, given below,

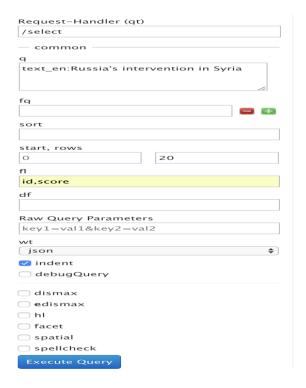


Figure 2: Querying in Solr

2.1 Vector Space Model (VSM)

Schema.xml-

Figure 3: Schema.xml for default VSM

Let's run all the queries on our model and execute json to trec python script to get top 20 results. Below is the screenshot of first query's top 20 result.

```
001 Q0 654266183605063680 1 0.6274246 VSM
001 Q0 653941482882134016 2 0.39189237 VSM
001 Q0 653278466788487168 3 0.29482386 VSM
001 Q0 653941285045276672 4 0.2691989 VSM
001 Q0 654268898083254272 5 0.26405197 VSM
001 Q0 653278355677184000 6 0.25270617 VSM
001 Q0 653278331278913536
                           7 0.25270617 VSM
001 Q0 653278024876576768 8 0.23339117 VSM
001 Q0 653275762678743040 9 0.2302975 VSM
001 Q0 654268899165372416 10 0.2302975 VSM
001 Q0 654276097811566592 11 0.21469462 VSM
001 00 654276021919838208 12 0.21469462
001 Q0 654275700166410240 13 0.21469462 VSM
001 Q0 654270208929058816 14 0.21469462
                                          VSM
001 Q0 653935275261980672 15 0.19803898 VSM
001 Q0 653927254888718337 16 0.19803898 VSM
001 Q0 653272979074322432 17 0.1926561 VSM
001 Q0 653270880588574725 18 0.1926561 VSM
001 Q0 653278536707506176 19 0.1833275 VSM
001 Q0 653941510665338880 20 0.18305814 VSM
```

Figure 4: json to trec result for query 001 in default VSM

Now we will store all 15 queries top 20 results in txt file.

We are going to run trec_eval command to compare our results with trec's qrel.txt

```
runid
                                           all
all
all
                                                          15
281
225
114
num_q
num_ret
num_rel
num_rel_ret
map
                                                          0.6599
0.5756
0.6662
                                           all
gm_map
Rprec
bpref
                                           all
                                                          0.6688
recip
                                           all
                                                          1.0000
iprec at recall
iprec at recall
                                                          1.0000
                            0.10
0.20
0.30
                                           all
all
all
  prec at reca
                                                          0.9333
0.9155
iprec at recal
                                                          0.7325
0.6641
iprec at recal
                                           all
all
                                                          0.5673
0.5100
iprec at recal
iprec at recal
iprec at recal
                                                          0.3600
                                           all
                                           all
                                                         0.3600
0.2933
iprec_at_recall
P_5
P_10
P_15
P_20
                                           all
                                                         0.8400
0.6400
                                                          0.4756
0.3800
P_30
P_30
P_100
P_200
                                                          0.2533
0.0760
                                                          0.0380
   1000
                                                          0.0076
```

Figure 5: trec_eval for default VSM

2.2 Divergence from Randomness Model (DFR)

Schema.xml-

```
<p
```

Figure 6: Schema.xml for default DFR

Let's run all the queries on our model and execute json to trec python script to get top 20 results. Below is the screenshot of first query's top 20 result.

```
001 Q0
       654266183605063680 1
                             16.774292 DFR
001 00
       653941482882134016
                              12.550833
                                         DFR
                              11.821917
       653278024876576768
                            3
                                         DFR
001 00
       654268898083254272
001 00
                              11.739952
                            4
                                         DFR
001
    QØ
       653278466788487168
                              11.609203
                                         DFR
001
    QØ
       653941285045276672
                              11.397218
                                         DFR
       653275762678743040
                              11.387619
001
001
    QØ
       654268899165372416
                              11.387619
001
    QØ
       654276097811566592
                            9
                              10.736669
                                         DFR
       654276021919838208
654275700166410240
                            10 10.736669 DFR
001
    00
001
                               10.736669
                                          DFR
    00
                            11
    00
       654270208929058816
                               10.736669
001
                            12
                                          DFR
001
    QØ
       653278355677184000
                            13
                               10.529008
                                          DFR
       653278331278913536
001
    QØ
                               10.529008 DFR
001
    QØ
       653272979074322432
                            15
                               10.370556 DFR
001
    00
       653270880588574725
                            16
                               10.370556 DFR
001
    00
       653935275261980672
                            17
                               9.927791 DFR
       653927254888718337
                               9.927791
001 00
                            18
                                         DFR
       653278536707506176
    00
                            19
                               9.667354
001
   Q0
       654279454278197248
                            20
                               9.463333 DFR
001
```

Figure 7: json to trec result for query 001 in default DFR

We are going to run tree eval command to compare our results with tree's qrel.txt

```
runid
num_q
num_ret
num_rel
                                                                        DFR
                                                     all
all
all
all
                                                                        15
281
                                                                        225
117
num rel
                  ret
                                                                        0.6572
map
map
gm_map
Rprec
bpref
                                                                        0.5628
                                                      all
                                                                        0.6700
0.6798
                                                      all
phrei
recip_rank
iprec_at_recall
iprec_at_recall
                                                                        1.0000
                                                      all
all
                                                                        0.9692
0.9028
 iprec at recal
iprec at recal
                                                      all
                                                                        0.8736
0.7592
                                                      all
all
all
 iprec_at
                                                                        0.6658
0.5993
 iprec_at
                   recal
iprec at recal
iprec at recal
                                                                        0.5167
0.3600
iprec_at_recall
iprec_at_recall
iprec_at_recall
P_5
P_10
P_15
                                                                        0.3452
0.2933
0.8267
                                                      all
all
all
                                                                        0.6133
0.4756
                                                      all
P_20
P_30
                                                      all
                                                                        0.3900
0.2600
   _100
_200
                                                                        0.0780
0.0390
                                                      all
                                                                        0.0156
0.0078
    500
P_1000
```

Figure 8: trec_eval for default DFR

2.3 BM25

Schema.xml-

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!-- Solr managed schema - automatically generated - DO NOT EDIT -->
<schema name="example-data-driven-schema" version="1.6">
<uniqueKey>id</uniqueKey>
<similarity class="org.apache.solr.search.similarities.BM25SimilarityFactory">

str name="b">0.75
str name="k1">1.2

<str name="k1">1.2
```

Figure 9: Schema.xml for default BM25

Let's run all the queries on our model and execute json to trec python script to get top 20 results. Below is the screenshot of first query's top 20 result.

```
001 Q0
       654266183605063680
                           1
                             16.81431 BM25
001 Q0
       653941482882134016
                             13.494686 BM25
                           2
       653278466788487168
001 Q0
                           3
                             12.358061
                                        BM25
001 00
       653941285045276672
                           4
                             12.000957
                                       BM25
001 Q0
       654268898083254272
                           5
                             11.96763 BM25
001 Q0
       653278024876576768
                           6
                             11.934417 BM25
                             11.405806 BM25
001 Q0
       653275762678743040
001 Q0
       654268899165372416
                           8
                             11.405806 BM25
       653278355677184000
                             10.9446 BM25
001 Q0
001 Q0
       653278331278913536
                           10
                              10.9446 BM25
001 Q0
       654276097811566592
                           11
                              10.619978 BM25
001 00
       654276021919838208
                              10.619978
                                         BM25
                           12
001 00
       654275700166410240
                              10.619978
                           13
                                         BM25
001 00
       654270208929058816
                              10.619978
                                         BM25
                           14
001 00
       653272979074322432
                           15
                              10.114389
                                         BM25
001 00
       653270880588574725
                           16
                              10.114389 BM25
001 00
       653278536707506176
                           17
                              9.89045 BM25
001 Q0
       653935275261980672
                           18
                              9.710419 BM25
001 Q0
       653927254888718337
                           19
                              9.710419
                                        BM25
       654279454278197248 20
                              9.597064 BM25
```

Figure 10: json to trec result for query 001 in default BM25

Now we will store all 15 queries top 20 results in txt file.

We are going to run trec_eval command to compare our results with trec's qrel.txt

runid	all	BM25
num_q	all	15
num_ret	all	281
num_rel	all	225
num_rel_ret	all	114
map	all	0.6557
gm_map	all	0.5631
Rprec	all	0.6525
bpref	all	0.6706
recip rank	all	1.0000
iprec at recall 0.00	all	1.0000
iprec at recall 0.10	all	0.9644
iprec at recall 0.20	all	0.9333
iprec at recall 0.30	all	0.9067
iprec at recall 0.40	all	0.7568
iprec at recall 0.50	all	0.6597
iprec at recall 0.60	all	0.5836
iprec at recall 0.70	all	0.5159
iprec at recall 0.80	all	0.3600
iprec at recall 0.90	all	0.3452
iprec at recall 1.00	all	0.2933
P_5	all	0.8400
P_10	all	0.6200
P_15	all	0.4711
P_20	all	0.3800
P_30	all	0.2533
P_100	all	0.0760
P_200	all	0.0380
P_500	all	0.0152
P_1000	all	0.0076

Figure 11: trec_eval for default BM25

3. Model Improvements

We tweaked the model as mentioned in the topic 1

3.1 Model parameter tuning

A) BM25

Let's see map value by keeping k1=2 as a constant.

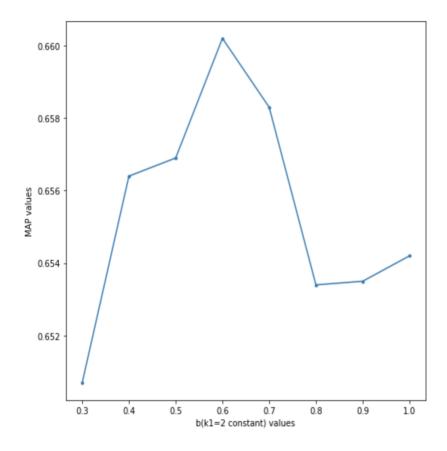


Figure 12: b vs MAP for BM25

As we can see if we keep increasing value of b from 0.3 to 1 we get max map value at b=0.6 From now onwards for other tweaking's we are going to use b=0.6 for all BM25 improvement.

Now let's keep b=0.6 constant and increase k1's value.

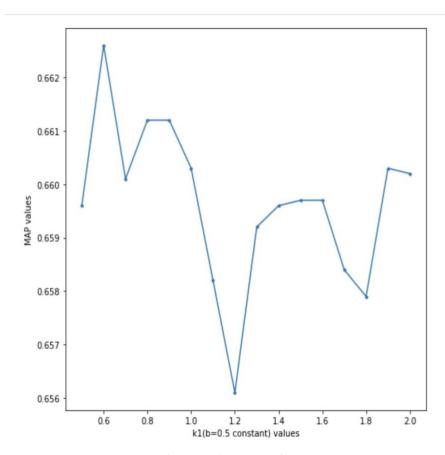


Figure 13: k1 vs Map for BM25

As we can see if we keep increasing value of k1 from 0.5 to 2 we get max map value at k1=0.6 From now onwards for other tweaking's we are going to use k1=1.2 and b=0.6 for all BM25 improvements

B) DFR

There are main for parameters to tweak. Let's keep c=7.0 (it's default value) and change other fields and let see how map value gets affected.

Basic Model	After Effect	Normalization	Map
G	В	H2	0.6572
I(F)	В	H2	0.6561
I(ne)	В	H2	0.6521
I(n)`	L	H2	0.6553
P	L	H2	0.6568
G	В	Z	0.6473
G	В	H3	0.6538
G	В	H1	0.6459

Table 1: Parameter tuning results for DFR

As we can see we are getting maximum value for default model of DFR.

Therefore, from now on we are going to use "BasicModelG" plus "Bernoulli" first normalization plus "H2" second normalization for DFR model. Changing C's value to 1.0 gives best result with above combination.

C) VSM

Using SweetSpotSimilarityFactory-

SweetSpotSimilarityFactory similarity is subclass of ClassicSimilarityFactory. If we use SweetSpotSimilarityFactory instead of ClassicSimilarityFactory we don't see any improvements in result.

Table 2: Parameter tuning results for VSM

Similarity Factory name	MAP
ClassicSimilarityFactory	0.6599
SweetSpotSimilarityFactory	0.6577

Therefore, from now onwards we are going to stick with ClassicSimilarityFactory for model improvement.

3.2 Using SynonymGraphFilterFactory on fields

I added SynonymGraphFilterFactory to schema.xml file for text_en, text_ru and text_de.

Figure 14: Schema.xml for SynonymGraphFilterFactory

Also created customized synonyms txt files for different languages. But it did not help in increasing the map value and relevancy. Also, this synonym mapping caused to get more false positives in our results. That's why instead of it help in increasing our score value it decreased it. Therefore, I am going to use query expansion instead of SynonymGraphFilterFactory.

```
launch, fire, barrage, bombard, bung, fling, dispatch, set in motion, propel, drive, project Intervention, interventions, intrusion, interruption, obtrusion, invasion, attack, Intervention, Interventionen, Intrusion, Unterbrechung, Aufdringung, Invasion, Angriff, Bmewarenbetrs, Bombarenbetrs, Bombardiert, Bombard
```

Figure 15: synonyms_en.txt snippet

I tried NGramTokenizerFactory tokenizer for Russian and German tweets but it did not perform better than our previous implementation. Also, I tried UAX29URLEmailTokenizerFactory for text_en, text_ru, text_de fields but it did not help.

3.3 Adding tokenizer and analyzer and query expansion

Let's add type of fields text_en, text_ru and text_de as shown in below schema.xml snippet.

We are using standard field types text_en, text_ru and text_de present in schema.xml without any modification.

```
<field name="text_de" type="text_de" indexed="true" stored="true"/>
<field name="text_en" type="text_en" indexed="true" stored="true"/>
<field name="text_ru" type="text_ru" indexed="true" stored="true"/>
<field name="timestamp_ms" type="tlongs"/>
```

Figure 16: Schema.xml snippet

We expanded query by translating each query in German, English and Russian and then performing query operation. For example, let's look at below expansion of query 001 Query- 001 Russia's intervention in Syria

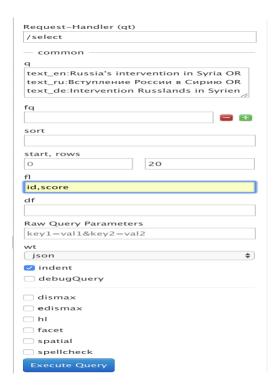


Figure 17: Query expansion in Solr

Expanded query-

http://localhost:8983/solr/BM25/select?q=Russia%27s%5C%20intervention%5C%20in%5C%20Syria%20OR%20Intervention%5C%20Russlands%5C%20in%5C%20Syrien%20OR%20%D0%92%D1%81%D1%82%D1%83%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5%5C%20%D0%A0%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%81%D0%B8%D0%B8%5C%20%D0%B2%5C%20%D0%A1%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%8E&fl=id%2Cscore&wt=json&indent=true&rows=20

In above link just replace BM25 by VSM/DFR for those models Now we will see how each model get affected by this change,

Table 3: Model comparison after query expansion

Model	Total number of relevant docs	Number of relevant docs retrieved		MAP	
		Before this step	After this step	Before this step	After this step
BM25	225	114	115	0.6557	0.6661

DFR	225	117	119	0.6572	0.6636
VSM	225	114	117	0.6599	0.6711

As we can see in each model, number of retrieved relevant tweets are more than before applying tokenizer, analyzer and query expansion. Also map value also gets increased because of number of relevant tweets. This advanced query processing helped to increase map value because previously we are just searching tweet in their respective language. But now we expanded our scope to tweets which are present in other languages also. Tokenizer and analyzer helped to remove stop words and stemmed the query. If we compare all the models from above table we see that VSM model took most of the advantage of this step because of its tf-idf evaluation.

3.4 Boosting the query based on different fields

Previous Expanded query 001 -

http://localhost:8983/solr/BM25/select?q=Russia%27s%5C%20intervention%5C%20in%5C%20Syria%20OR%20Intervention%5C%20Russlands%5C%20in%5C%20Syrien%20OR%20%D0%92%D1%81%D1%82%D1%83%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5%5C%20%D0%A0%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%81%D0%B8%D0%B8%5C%20%D0%B2%5C%20%D0%A1%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%8E&fl=id%2Cscore&wt=json&indent=true&rows=20

After adding term boost for 001 query-

 $\frac{\text{http://localhost:}8983/\text{solr/DFR/select?}q=Russia^{1}.2\%278\%5C\%20\text{intervention}^{0}.7\%5C\%20\text{in}\%5C\%20\text{Syria}\%20\text{OR}\%20\text{Intervention}^{0}.7\%5C\%20$

In above link just replace DFR by VSM/BM25 for those models Below table is for query 001 only.

Table 4: Parameter tuning results for query 001

Model	Total number of relevant docs	Number of relevant docs retrieved		MAP value of 001	
	in 001	Before this step	After this step	Before this step	After this step
BM25	20	8	6	0.3723	0.2620
DFR	20	8	6	0.3652	0.3000
VSM	20	8	6	0. 3656	0. 3000

For query 001 after adding term boost for Russia^1.2 and Intervention^0.7 words we don't see any improvement in our model. Our map score decreases if we implement term boost. I tried adding term boost for other queries but it did not help in improving map value. Therefore, we are not adding term boost for our implementation.

3.5 Using DisMax query parser

Till now we were using Standard query parser for our queries. The DisMax query parser is designed to process simple phrases entered by users and to search for individual terms across several fields using different weighting (boosts) based on the significance of each field. Additional options enable users to influence the score based on rules specific to each use case independent of user input.

I used qf parameter of dismax parser which queries the specifies fields in the index on which to perform the query. $qf=text_en^2.8\%20text_de^1.8\%20text_ru^1.4\%20tweet_hashtags$

Previous query 001-

http://localhost:8983/solr/BM25/select?q=Russia%27s%5C%20intervention%5C%20in%5C%20Syria%20OR%20Intervention%5C%20Russlands%5C%20in%5C%20Syrien%20OR%20%D0%92%D1%81%D1%82%D1%83%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B5%5C%20%D0%A0%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%81%D0%B8%D0%B8%5C%20%D0%B2%5C%20%D0%A1%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%8E&fl=id%2Cscore&wt=json&indent=true&rows=20

After adding dismax parser and using qf parameter with boost-

http://localhost:8983/solr/BM25/select?defType=dismax&q=Russia%27s%5C%20intervention%5C%20in%5C%20Syria%20OR%20 Intervention%5C%20Russlands%5C%20in%5C%20Syrien%20OR%20%D0%92%D1%81%D1%82%D1%83%D0%BF%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B5%D0%B8%D0%B5%5C%20%D0%A0%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%81%D0%B8%D0%B8%5C%20%D0%B2%5C%20%D0%A1%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%8E&qf=text_en^2.8%20text_de^1.8%20text_ru^1.4%20tweet_hashtags&fl=id%2 Cscore&wt=json&indent=true&rows=20

In above link just replace BM25 by VSM/DFR for those models

Now let's see how this parser and query field boost affects our result.

Table 5: Model comparison after adding dismax parser

Model	Total number of relevant docs	Number of relevant docs retrieved		MAP	
		Before this step	After this step	Before this step	After this step
BM25	225	115	132	0. 6661	0.6910
DFR	225	119	130	0. 6636	0.6840
VSM	225	117	132	0. 6711	0.7140

As we can see number of relevant tweets got increased after applying dismax parser. We see improvement for all the models. In dismax parser it creates disjunction max queries from each term from the user input which helped us to increase map value. I tried different combination of boost. If we change the boost value like below,

qf=text en^1.8%20text de^1.2%20text ru^1.4%20tweet hashtags

It does help in increasing score, but above implemented combination gave max result. Finally, we come to conclusion, for our dataset above combination works the best.

If we compare all three models with each other we see VSM again takes the lead. So, we can say that on default setting VSM performed best after applying dismax parser. Also gain in increment of map value for VSM is more compare to other two models since VSM takes advantage of tf-idf evaluation while scoring.BM25 is probabilistic model, its probabilistic approach did help when we apply dismax parser but map score improvement is not significant as of VSM model. Also, in DFR model term weights are computed by measuring the divergence between a term distribution produced by a random process and the actual term distribution, which helped in increasing map value but VSM have an advantage of tf-idf scoring for our implementation.

4. Model's result comparison

Table 6: Model comparison after improvements

Model name	MAP (Default setting)	MAP (After tuning)	% increase in MAP
BM25	0.6572	0.6910	5.14 %
DFR	0.6557	0.6840	4.32 %
VSM	0.6599	0.7140	8.20 %

5. Conclusion

For given dataset **VSM** performs better than other two models when we implement above improvements in Solr and query expansion for respective models. VSM increased map value by 8.2 %.

We learnt how different IR models work and how they differ from each other in calculating relevancy of tweets(documents). We understood how Solr works and indexes the data. We used different techniques like model tuning, query parsers, query expansion and checked how it affects the relevancy score of tweets (documents). We understood how different tokenizers, analyzers work and affect the query and its results. We also learnt how to tune our model for multilingual search support with optimum performance.

References

- [1] https://lucene.apache.org/solr/4 0 0/solr-core/org/apache/solr/schema/SimilarityFactory.html
- [2 https://wiki.apache.org/solr/SolrRelevancyFAQ#How_can_I_make_exact-%20case_matches_score_higher