COM3110/4115/6115: Text Processing

Information Retrieval: Evaluating IR systems

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Overview

- Definition of the information retrieval problem
- Approaches to document indexing
  - manual approaches
  - automatic approaches
- Automated retrieval models
  - boolean model
  - ranked retrieval methods (e.g. vector space model)
- Term manipulation:
  - stemming, stopwords, term weighting
- Web Search Ranking
- **Evaluation**

Evaluation of IR systems – Why?

- There are various retrieval models/algorithms/IR systems
  - How determine which is the best?
- What is the best component/technique for:
  - Ranking? (cosine, dot-product, . . .)
  - Term selection? (stopword removal, stemming, . . .)
  - Term weighting? (binary, TF, TF.IDF, . . .)
- How far down the ranked list will a user need to look to find some/all relevant items?

Evaluation – Relevance

- Evaluation of effectiveness in relation to the relevance of the documents retrieved
- Relevance is judged in a binary way, even if it is in fact a continuous judgement
  - Impossible when the task is to rank thousands or millions of options: too subjective, too difficult
- Other factors could also be evaluated:
  - User effort/ease of use
  - Response time
  - Form of presentation

Evaluation – Relevance (Benchmarking)

- In IR research/development scenarios, one cannot afford humans looking at results of every system/variant of system
- Instead, performance measured/compared using a pre-created benchmarking corpus, a.k.a. gold-standard dataset, which provides:
  - a standard set of documents, and queries
  - a list of documents judged relevant for each query, by human subjects
  - relevance scores, usually treated as binary
- Example: TREC IR evaluation corpora (`http://trec.nist.gov/`)
  - TREC has run annually since 1991

Evaluation of IR systems – Metrics

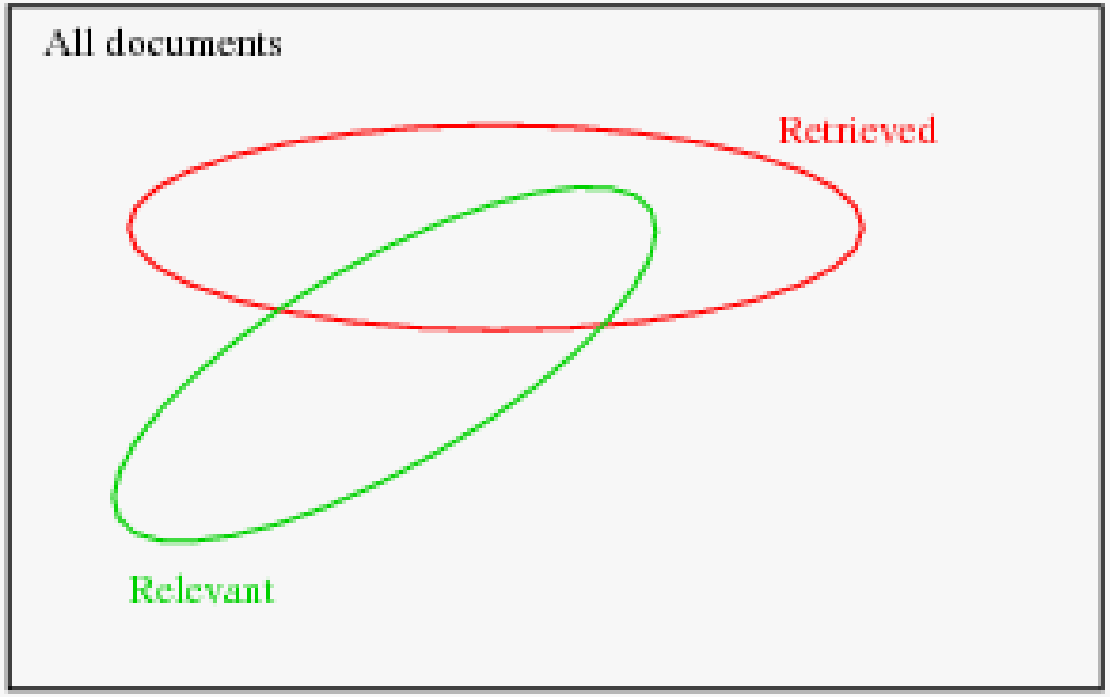
- **AIM**:
  1. get as much good stuff as possible
  2. get as little junk as possible
- The two aspects of this aim are addressed by two separate measures — recall and precision

	Relevant	Non-relevant	Total
Retrieved	A	B	A+B
Not retrieved	C	D	C+D
Total	A+C	B+D	A+B+C+D

- Recall: $\frac{A}{A+C}$ = proportion of relevant documents returned
- Precision: $\frac{A}{A+B}$ = proportion of retrieved documents that are relevant
  - ◇ Both measures have range: $[0 \ldots 1]$

Retrieved vs. Relevant Documents

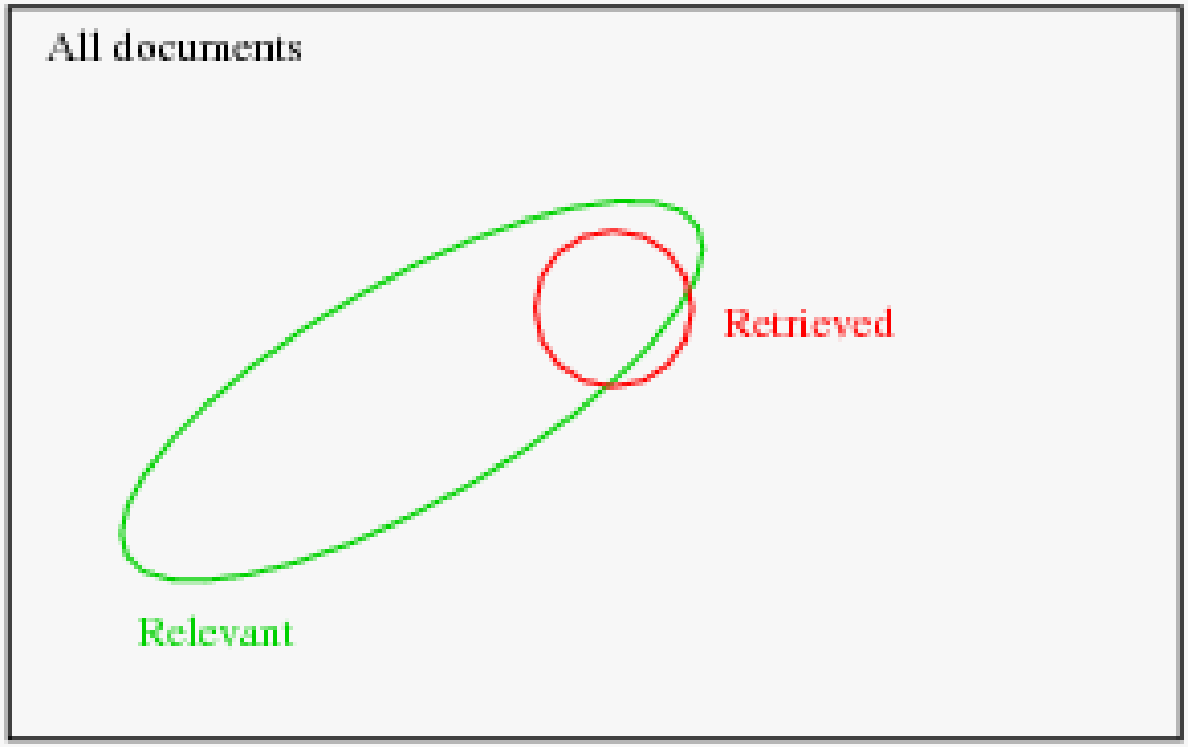
- Precision and Recall address the relation between the *retrieved* and *relevant* sets of documents



- Various situations that arise can be pictorially represented in these terms

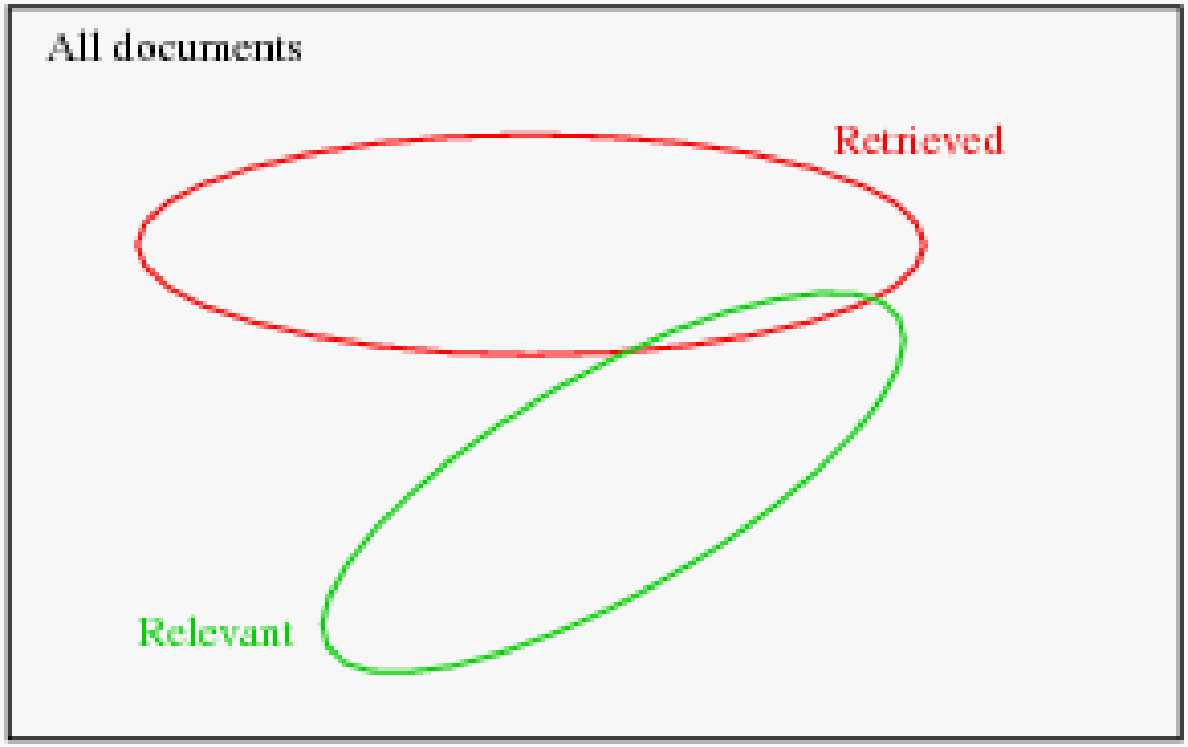
Retrieved vs. Relevant Documents (contd)

- High precision, low recall:



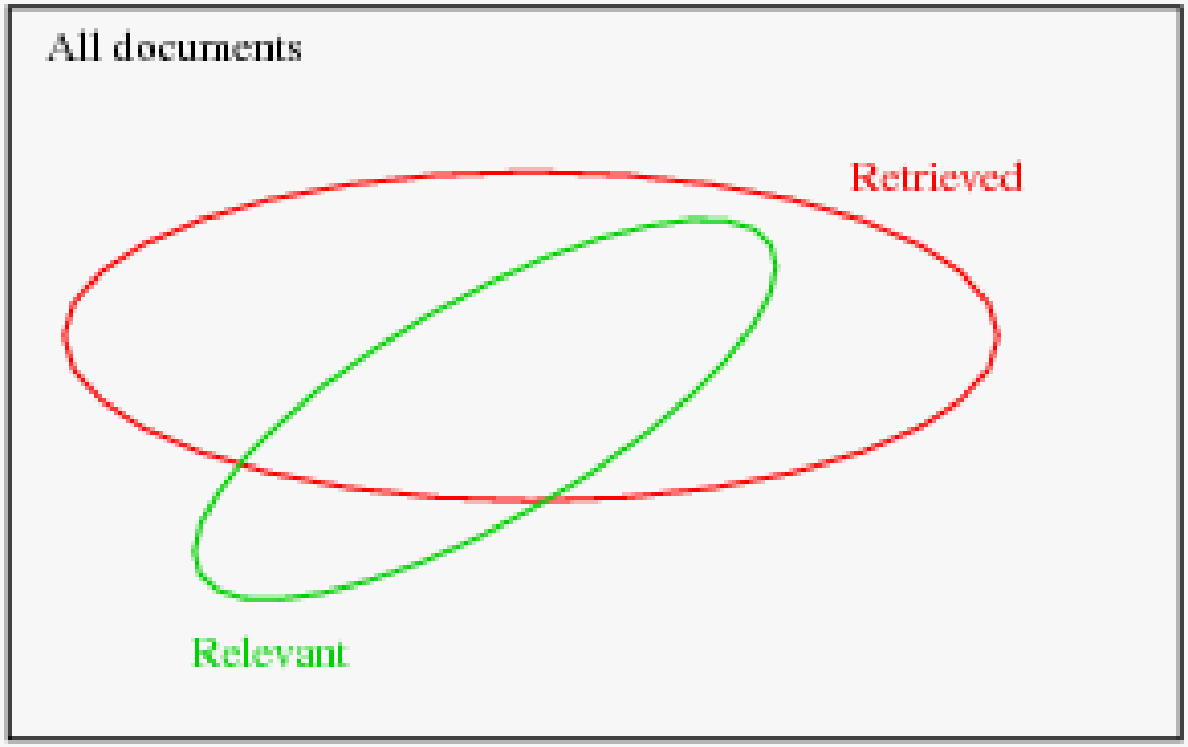
Retrieved vs. Relevant Documents (contd)

- Low precision, low recall:



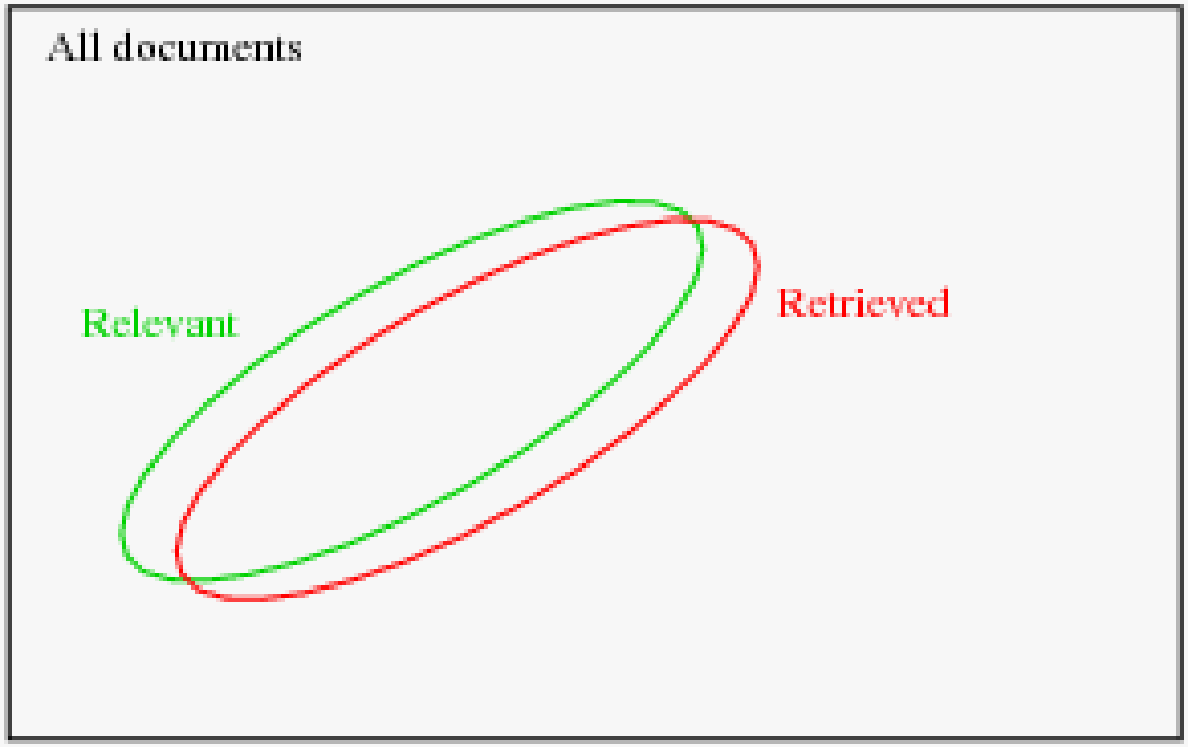
Retrieved vs. Relevant Documents (contd)

- Low precision, high recall:



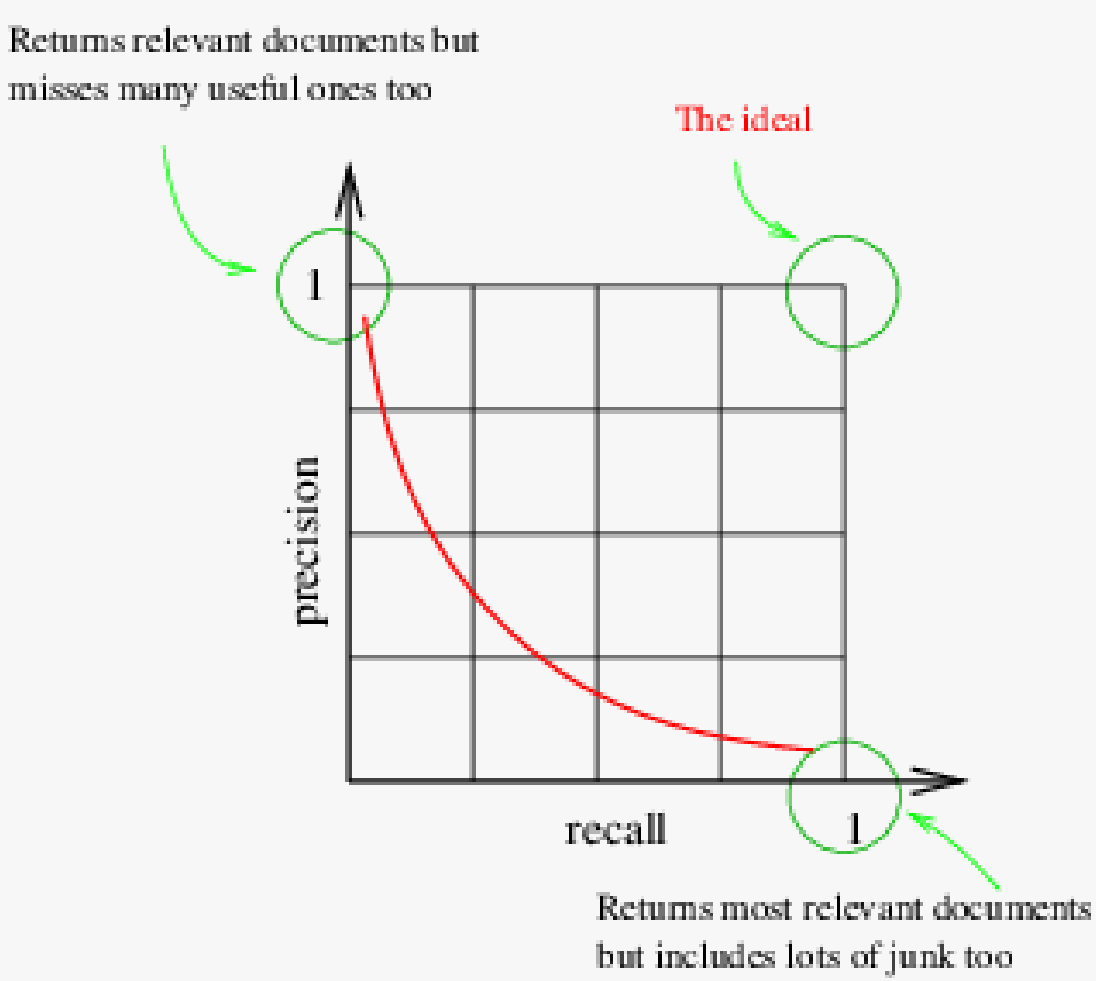
Retrieved vs. Relevant Documents (contd)

- High precision, high recall:



Trade-off Between Recall and Precision

- There is always a trade-off between precision and recall
  - For IR: as more results are considered down the list, precision generally drops, while recall generally increases

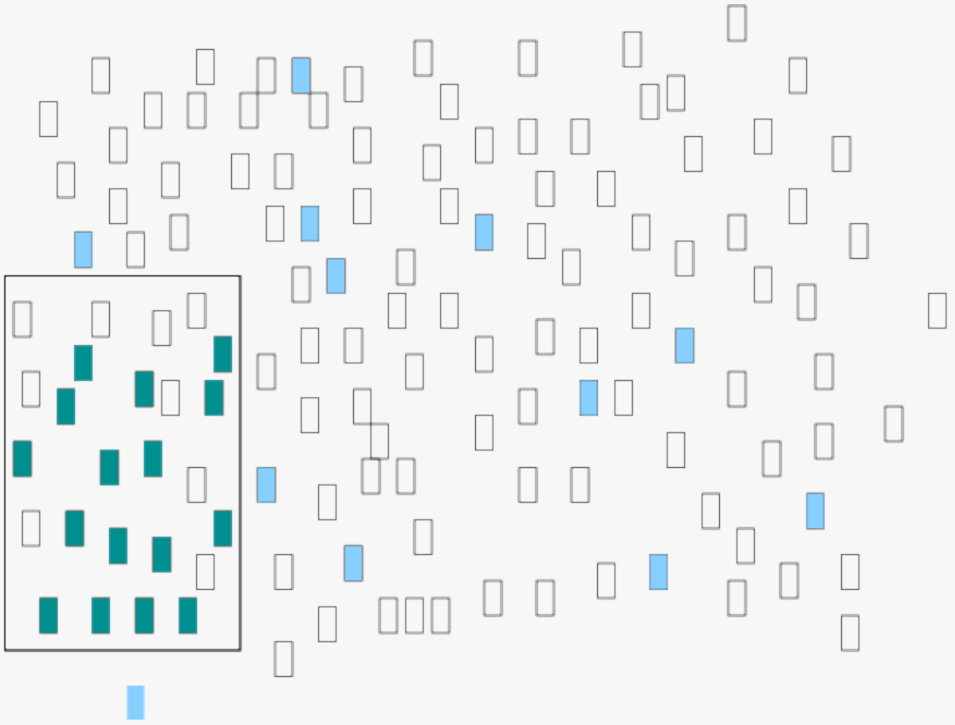


Recall and Precision: Example

	Rel	Non-rel
Ret	A	B
Not ret	C	D

- All documents: A+B+C+D = 130
- Relevant documents for query: A+C = 28

Recall and Precision: System 1



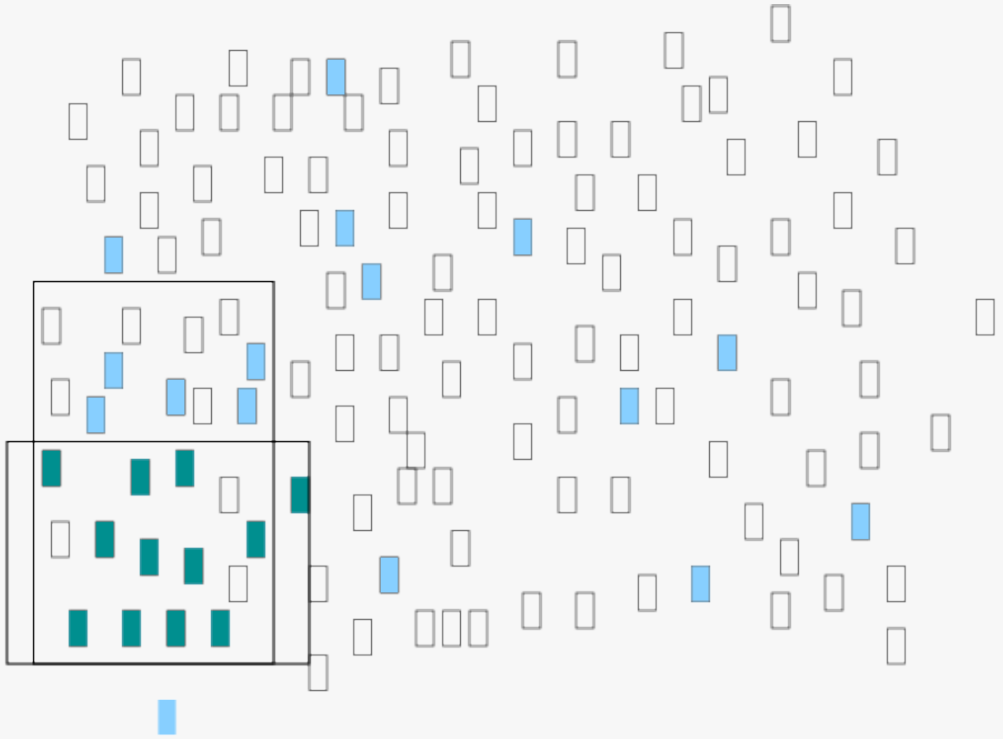
	Rel	Non-rel
Ret	A	B
Not ret	C	D

$$R_1 = \frac{A_1}{A_1+C_1} = \frac{16}{28} = .57$$

$$P_1 = \frac{A_1}{A_1+B_1} = \frac{16}{25} = .64$$

- System 1 retrieves 25 items: $A_1+B_1 = 25$
- Relevant and retrieved items: $A_1 = 16$
- Relevant documents for query: $A_1+C_1 = 28$

Recall and Precision: System 2



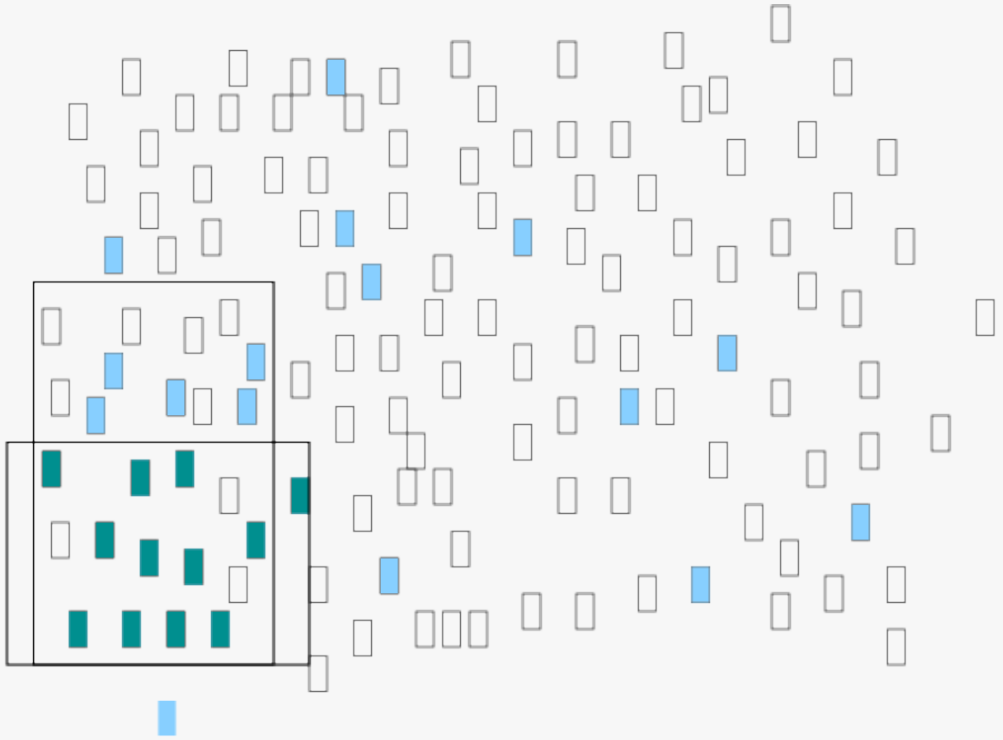
	Rel	Non-rel
Ret	A	B
Not ret	C	D

$$R_2 = \frac{A_2}{A_2+C_2} = \frac{12}{28} = .43$$

$$P_2 = \frac{A_2}{A_2+B_2} = \frac{12}{15} = .8$$

- System 2 retrieves 15 items: $A_2+B_2 = 15$
- Relevant and retrieved items: $A_2 = 12$
- Relevant documents for query: $A_2+C_2 = 28$

Recall and Precision: Which is the better system?



$$R_1 = \frac{A_1}{A_1+C_1} = \frac{16}{28} = .57$$
$$P_1 = \frac{A_1}{A_1+B_1} = \frac{16}{25} = .64$$

$$R_2 = \frac{A_2}{A_2+C_2} = \frac{12}{28} = .43$$
$$P_2 = \frac{A_2}{A_2+B_2} = \frac{12}{15} = .8$$

- Which did better: System 1 or System 2?

F-measure

- *F* measure (also called *F1*):
  - combines precision and recall into a single figure
  - gives equal weight to both:

$$F = \frac{2PR}{P+R}$$

- *F* is a harmonic mean:
  - penalises low performance in one value more than *arithmethic* mean:

e.g.

values	mean	*F*
P=0.5, R=0.5	0.5	0.5
P=0.1, R=0.9	0.5	0.18

  - Previous example:

	R	*P*	*F*
System 1	.57	.64	0.603
System 2	.43	.8	0.559

- Related measure F_β:
  - allows user to determine relative importance of *P* vs. *R*, by *varying* β
  - *F1* is a *special case* of F_β (where $\beta = 1$)

Precision at a cutoff

- Measures how well a method ranks relevant documents before non-relevant documents
- E.g. there are **5 relevant documents = d1,d2,d3,d4,d5** – compute precision at top 5

	System 1		System 2		System 3	
	d1:	√	d10:	×	d6:	×
	d2:	√	d9:	×	d1:	√
	d3:	√	d8:	×	d2:	√
	d4:	√	d7:	×	d10:	×
rank 5:	d5:	√	d6:	×	d9:	×
	d6:	×	d1:	√	d3:	√
	d7:	×	d2:	√	d5:	√
	d8:	×	d3:	√	d4:	√
	d9:	×	d4:	√	d7:	×
rank 10:	d10:	×	d5:	√	d8:	×
precision at rank 5:	1.0		0.0		0.4	
precision at rank 10:	0.5		0.5		0.5	

Precision at a cutoff (ctd)

- Note precision at top 5 for System 1: inner order of relevant documents doesn't matter as long as they are all relevant

	System 1		System 2		System 3	
	d5:	√	d10:	×	d6:	×
	d4:	√	d9:	×	d1:	√
	d3:	√	d8:	×	d2:	√
	d1:	√	d7:	×	d10:	×
rank 5:	d2:	√	d6:	×	d9:	×
	d6:	×	d1:	√	d3:	√
	d7:	×	d2:	√	d5:	√
	d8:	×	d3:	√	d4:	√
	d9:	×	d4:	√	d7:	×
rank 10:	d10:	×	d5:	√	d8:	×
precision at rank 5:	1.0		0.0		0.4	
precision at rank 10:	0.5		0.5		0.5	

Average Precision

- Aggregates many precision numbers into one evaluation figure
- Precision computed for each point a relevant document is found, and figures averaged

System 1			System 2			System 3		
d1:	√	(1/1)	d10:	×		d6:	×	
d2:	√	(2/2)	d9:	×		d1:	√	(1/2)
d3:	√	(3/3)	d8:	×		d2:	√	(2/3)
d4:	√	(4/4)	d7:	×		d10:	×	
d5:	√	(5/5)	d6:	×		d9:	×	
d6:	×		d1:	√	(1/6)	d3:	√	(3/6)
d7:	×		d2:	√	(2/7)	d5:	√	(4/7)
d8:	×		d3:	√	(3/8)	d4:	√	(5/8)
d9:	×		d4:	√	(4/9)	d7:	×	
d10:	×		d5:	√	(5/10)	d8:	×	
precision at rank 5:		1.0			0.0			0.4
precision at rank 10:		0.5			0.5			0.5
avg. prec:		1.0			0.354			0.573