

Introduction to Information Retrieval

<http://informationretrieval.org>

IIR 19: Web Search

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Overview

- 1 Recap
- 2 Big picture
- 3 Ads
- 4 Duplicate detection
- 5 Spam
- 6 Web IR
 - Queries
 - Links
 - Context
 - Users
 - Documents
 - Size
- 7 Size of the web

Outline

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Indexing anchor text

- Anchor text is often a better description of a page's content than the page itself.
- Anchor text can be weighted more highly than the text on the page.
- A Google bomb is a search with “bad” results due to maliciously manipulated anchor text.
 - [dangerous cult] on Google, Bing, Yahoo □

PageRank

- Model: a web surfer doing a random walk on the web
- Formalization: Markov chain
- PageRank is the **long-term visit rate** of the random surfer or the **steady-state distribution**.
- Need **teleportation** to ensure well-defined PageRank
- Power method to compute PageRank
 - PageRank is the principal left eigenvector of the transition probability matrix.

Computing PageRank: Power method

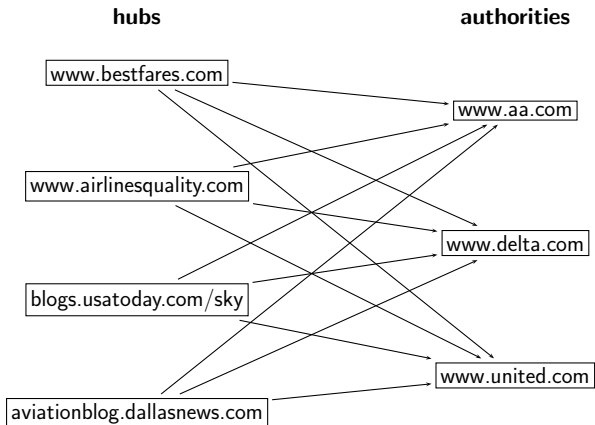
	x_1	x_2			
	$P_t(d_1)$	$P_t(d_2)$			
			$P_{11} = 0.1$	$P_{12} = 0.9$	
			$P_{21} = 0.3$	$P_{22} = 0.7$	
t_0	0	1	0.3	0.7	$= \vec{x}P$
t_1	0.3	0.7	0.24	0.76	$= \vec{x}P^2$
t_2	0.24	0.76	0.252	0.748	$= \vec{x}P^3$
t_3	0.252	0.748	0.2496	0.7504	$= \vec{x}P^4$
				...	
t_∞	0.25	0.75	0.25	0.75	$= \vec{x}P^\infty$

PageRank vector $= \vec{\pi} = (\pi_1, \pi_2) = (0.25, 0.75)$

$$P_t(d_1) = P_{t-1}(d_1) * P_{11} + P_{t-1}(d_2) * P_{21}$$

$$P_t(d_2) = P_{t-1}(d_1) * P_{12} + P_{t-1}(d_2) * P_{22}$$

HITS: Hubs and authorities



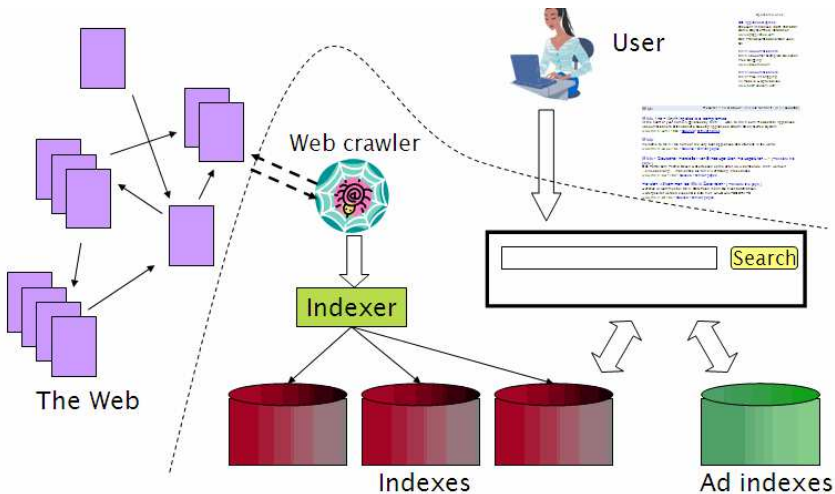
HITS update rules

- A : link matrix
- \vec{h} : vector of hub scores
- \vec{a} : vector of authority scores
- HITS algorithm:
 - Compute $\vec{h} = A\vec{a}$
 - Compute $\vec{a} = A^T\vec{h}$
 - Iterate until convergence
 - Output (i) list of hubs ranked according to hub score and (ii) list of authorities ranked according to authority score

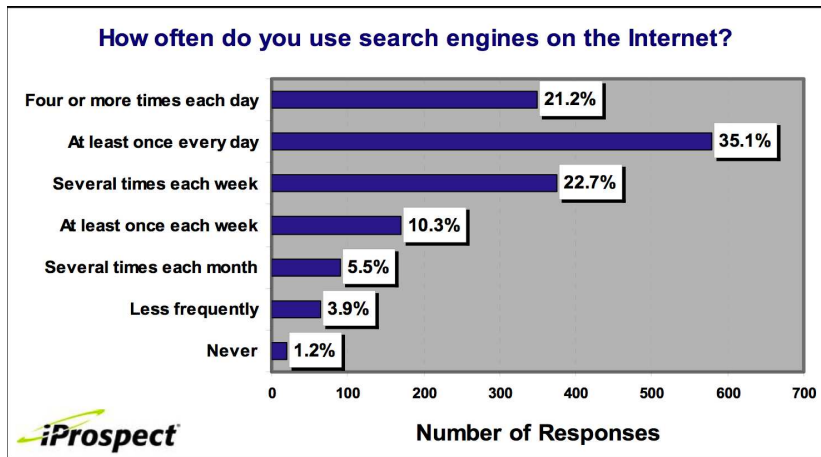
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Web search overview



Search is a top activity on the web



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 - **Search pays for the web.**



Interest aggregation

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 - Elementary school kids with hemophilia
 - People interested in translating R5R5 Scheme into relatively portable C (open source project)
 - Search engines are a key enabler for interest aggregation.

IR on the web vs. IR in general

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- The web is very large. → need to know how big it is □

Take-away today

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 - Ads – they pay for the web
 - Duplicate detection – addresses one aspect of chaotic content creation
 - Spam detection – addresses one aspect of lack of central access control
 - Probably won't get to today
 - Web information retrieval
 - Size of the web
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First generation of search ads: Goto (1996)

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www.goto.com/d/search;?sessionid\$AQ42T4AAAHO95QFTEF3QPUQ?type=home&tm=1&Keywords=Wilmington+

Wilmington real estate.

Access 75% of all users now!
Premium Listings reach 75% of all
Internet users. [Sign up](#) for Premium
Listings today!

1. [Wilmington Real Estate - Buddy Blake](#)
Wilmington's information and real estate guide. This is your on
anything to do with Wilmington.
www.buddyblake.com (Cost to advertiser: **\$0.28**)
2. [Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Realty](#)
Wilmington's number one real estate company.
www.cbseacoast.com (Cost to advertiser: **\$0.37**)
3. [Wilmington, NC Real Estate Becky Bullard](#)
Everything you need to know about buying or selling a home c
on my Web site!
www.iwwc.net (Cost to advertiser: **\$0.25**)

First generation of search ads: Goto (1996)



The screenshot shows a search results page from Goto.com. The search query is "Wilmington real estate". The results are listed in a numbered order:

- 1. Wilmington Real Estate - Buddy Blake**
Wilmington's information and real estate guide. This is your on anything to do with Wilmington.
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- 2. Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Realty**
Wilmington's number one real estate company.
www.cbseacoast.com (Cost to advertiser: **\$0.22**)
- 3. Wilmington, NC Real Estate Becky Bullard**
Everything you need to know about buying or selling a home c on my Web site!
www.nwcc.net (Cost to advertiser: **\$0.25**)

A yellow box at the top of the results area contains the text: "Access 75% of all users now! Premium Listings reach 75% of all Internet users. Sign up for Premium Listings today!"

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www.goto.com/dsearch/?posrand=440714AAAAN6P5Q4EF30P00?type=home&bid=1&keyword=wilmington

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- . . . but Goto did not pretend there was any.



Second generation of search ads: Google (2000/2001)

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- Strict separation of search results and search ads



Two ranked lists: web pages (left) and ads (right)

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discount broker

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Advanced Search
Preferences

Web

Results 1 - 10 of about 807,000 for **discount broker** [definition]. (0.12 seconds)

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Information on online **discount brokers** emphasizing rates, charges, and customer comments and complaints.

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Discount Broker

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Stock trades \$1.50 - \$3

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for transfer costs, \$500 minimum

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INGDIRECT | ShareBuilder

Robo-Advisor

SogoTrade appears in search results.

SogoTrade appears in ads.

Do search engines rank advertisers higher than non-advertisers?

Two ranked lists: web pages (left) and ads (right)

Web Images Maps News Shopping Gmail more [Sign in](#)

Google Search [Advanced Search](#) [Preferences](#)

Web Results 1 - 10 of about 807,000 for discount broker [definition]. (0.12 seconds)

Discount Broker Reviews

Information on online **discount brokers** emphasizing rates, charges, and customer comments and complaints.
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Discount Broker Rankings (2008 Broker Survey) at SmartMoney.com

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All major search engines claim no.

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- No known case of this happening with search engines yet?

How are the ads on the right ranked?

Web Images Maps News Shopping Gmail more

Sign in



discount broker

Search

Advanced Search
Preferences

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- The main ranking factor: the query □

Google AdWords demo

Google's second price auction

advertiser	bid	CTR	ad rank	rank	paid
A	\$4.00	0.01	0.04	4	(minimum)
B	\$3.00	0.03	0.09	2	\$2.68
C	\$2.00	0.06	0.12	1	\$1.51
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- **bid**: maximum bid for a click by advertiser
- **CTR**: click-through rate: when an ad is displayed, what percentage of time do users click on it? **CTR is a measure of relevance.**
- **ad rank**: $\text{bid} \times \text{CTR}$: this trades off (i) how much money the advertiser is willing to pay against (ii) how relevant the ad is
- **rank**: rank in auction
- **paid**: second price auction price paid by advertiser

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Second price auction: The advertiser pays the minimum amount necessary to maintain their position in the auction (plus 1 cent).

$\text{price}_1 \times \text{CTR}_1 = \text{bid}_2 \times \text{CTR}_2$ (this will result in $\text{rank}_1 = \text{rank}_2$)

$\text{price}_1 = \text{bid}_2 \times \text{CTR}_2 / \text{CTR}_1$

$p_1 = \text{bid}_2 \times \text{CTR}_2 / \text{CTR}_1 = 3.00 \times 0.03 / 0.06 = 1.50$

$p_2 = \text{bid}_3 \times \text{CTR}_3 / \text{CTR}_2 = 1.00 \times 0.08 / 0.03 = 2.67$

$p_3 = \text{bid}_4 \times \text{CTR}_4 / \text{CTR}_3 = 4.00 \times 0.01 / 0.08 = 0.50$



Keywords with high bids

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According to <http://www.cwire.org/highest-paying-search-terms/>

- \$69.1 mesothelioma treatment options
- \$65.9 personal injury lawyer michigan
- \$62.6 student loans consolidation
- \$61.4 car accident attorney los angeles
- \$59.4 online car insurance quotes
- \$59.4 arizona dui lawyer
- \$46.4 asbestos cancer
- \$40.1 home equity line of credit
- \$39.8 life insurance quotes
- \$39.2 refinancing
- \$38.7 equity line of credit
- \$38.0 lasik eye surgery new york city
- \$37.0 2nd mortgage
- \$35.9 free car insurance quote

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- The **advertiser** finds new customers in a cost-effective way. □

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- The search engines need time to catch up with them. □

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- See http://google.com/tm_complaint.html
- It's potentially misleading to users to trigger an ad off of a trademark if the user can't buy the product on the site. □

Outline

- 1 Recap
- 2 Big picture
- 3 Ads
- 4 Duplicate detection**
- 5 Spam
- 6 Web IR
 - Queries
 - Links
 - Context
 - Users
 - Documents
 - Size
- 7 Size of the web

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- We need to eliminate near-duplicates. □

Near-duplicates: Example

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Google M... Google C... Flight div... latex tim... W Micha...

Michael Jackson

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other persons named Michael Jackson, see [Michael Jackson \(disambiguation\)](#).

Michael Joseph Jackson (August 29, 1958 – June 25, 2009) was an American recording artist, entertainer and businessman. The seventh child of the [Jackson family](#), he made his debut as an entertainer in 1968 as a member of [The](#)

Michael Jackson

Find: Highlight all Match case

wapedia.

Wiki: Michael Jackson (1/6)

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Find: Hig

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How would you eliminate near-duplicates on the web?

Detecting near-duplicates

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- E.g., two documents are near-duplicates if similarity $> \theta = 80\%$.



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- We define the similarity of two documents as the **Jaccard coefficient of their shingle sets**. □

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- Always assigns a number between 0 and 1. □

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- Each π_i is a random permutation on $1..2^m$
- The **sketch** of d is defined as:
 $\langle \min_{s \in d} \pi_1(s), \min_{s \in d} \pi_2(s), \dots, \min_{s \in d} \pi_{200}(s) \rangle$
(a vector of 200 numbers). □

Permutation and minimum: Example

document 1: $\{s_k\}$

1 \longrightarrow 2^m

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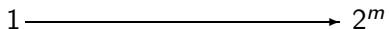
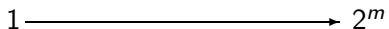
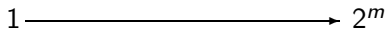
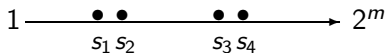
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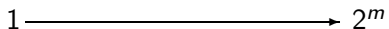
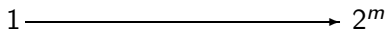
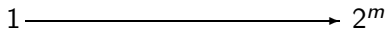
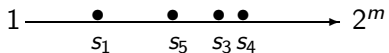


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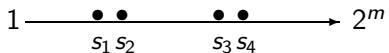
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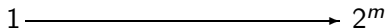
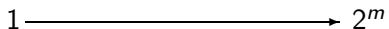
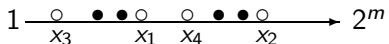
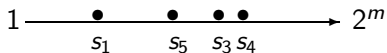
document 2: $\{s_k\}$



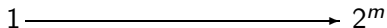
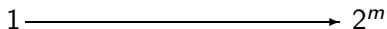
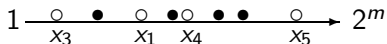
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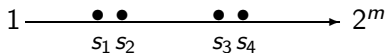
$$x_k = \pi(s_k)$$

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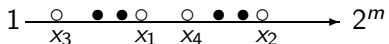
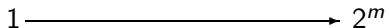
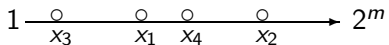
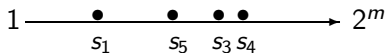
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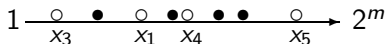
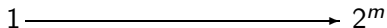
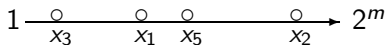
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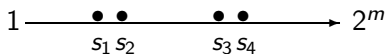
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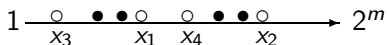
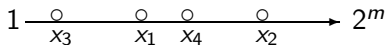
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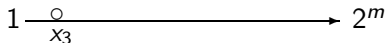
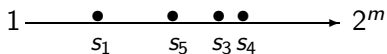
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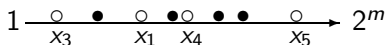
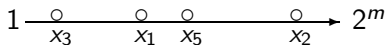
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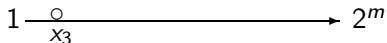
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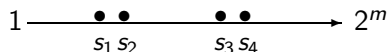

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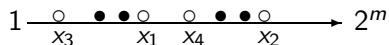


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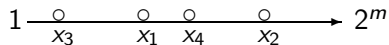
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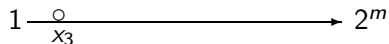
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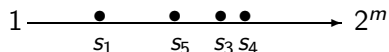
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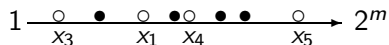
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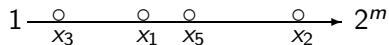
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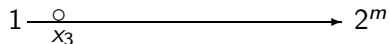
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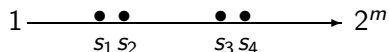


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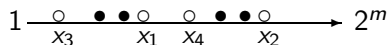


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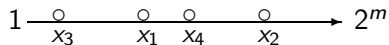
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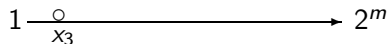
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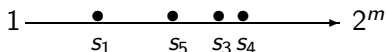
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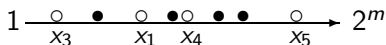
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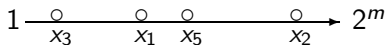
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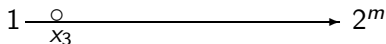
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- Thus, the proportion of permutations that make $\min_{s \in d_1} \pi(s) = \min_{s \in d_2} \pi(s)$ true is:

$$\frac{|I|(|U| - 1)!}{|U|!}$$



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- There are $|U|!$ permutations on U .
- For $s' \in I$, for how many permutations π do we have $\arg \min_{s \in d_1} \pi(s) = s' = \arg \min_{s \in d_2} \pi(s)$?
- Answer: $(|U| - 1)!$
- There is a set of $(|U| - 1)!$ different permutations for each s in I . $\Rightarrow |I|(|U| - 1)!$ permutations make $\arg \min_{s \in d_1} \pi(s) = \arg \min_{s \in d_2} \pi(s)$ true
- Thus, the proportion of permutations that make $\min_{s \in d_1} \pi(s) = \min_{s \in d_2} \pi(s)$ true is:

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Computing Jaccard for sketches (2)

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Estimating Jaccard

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- Our sketch is based on a random selection of permutations.
- Thus, to compute Jaccard, count the number k of successful permutations for $\langle d_1, d_2 \rangle$ and divide by $n = 200$.
- $k/n = k/200$ estimates $J(d_1, d_2)$. □

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$$h_i : \{1..2^m\} \rightarrow \{1..2^m\}$$

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- If $h_i(s_k)$ is lower than minimum found so far: update slot □

Example

Example

	d_1	d_2
s_1	1	0
s_2	0	1
s_3	1	1
s_4	1	0
s_5	0	1

$h(x) = x \bmod 5$
 $g(x) = (2x + 1) \bmod 5$

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	d_1 slot	d_2 slot
h		
g		
$h(1) = 1$ $g(1) = 3$		
$h(2) = 2$ $g(2) = 0$		
$h(3) = 3$ $g(3) = 2$		
$h(4) = 4$ $g(4) = 4$		
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	d_1 slot	d_2 slot
h	∞	∞
g	∞	∞
$h(1) = 1$ $g(1) = 3$		
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	d_1 slot	d_2 slot
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g	∞	∞
$h(1) = 1$	1	
$g(1) = 3$	3	
$h(2) = 2$		
$g(2) = 0$		
$h(3) = 3$		
$g(3) = 2$		
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$h(1) = 1$ $g(1) = 3$	1 3	- -
$h(2) = 2$ $g(2) = 0$		
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h	∞	∞
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$h(1) = 1$	1	$-\infty$
$g(1) = 3$	3	$-\infty$
$h(2) = 2$	$-$	2
$g(2) = 0$	$-$	0
$h(3) = 3$		
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$h(3) = 3$	3	
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$h(2) = 2$	- 1	2 2
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$g(3) = 2$	2 2	2 0
$h(4) = 4$	4 1	- 2
$g(4) = 4$	4 2	- 0
$h(5) = 0$	- 1	0
$g(5) = 1$	- 2	1

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	d_1 slot		d_2 slot	
h		∞		∞
g		∞		∞
$h(1) = 1$	1	1	-	∞
$g(1) = 3$	3	3	-	∞
$h(2) = 2$	-	1	2	2
$g(2) = 0$	-	3	0	0
$h(3) = 3$	3	1	3	2
$g(3) = 2$	2	2	2	0
$h(4) = 4$	4	1	-	2
$g(4) = 4$	4	2	-	0
$h(5) = 0$	-	1	0	0
$g(5) = 1$	-	2	1	0

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g	∞	∞
$h(1) = 1$	1 1	- ∞
$g(1) = 3$	3 3	- ∞
$h(2) = 2$	- 1	2 2
$g(2) = 0$	- 3	0 0
$h(3) = 3$	3 1	3 2
$g(3) = 2$	2 2	2 0
$h(4) = 4$	4 1	- 2
$g(4) = 4$	4 2	- 0
$h(5) = 0$	- 1	0 0
$g(5) = 1$	- 2	1 0

final sketches

Example

$$d_1 \quad d_2$$

$$s_1 \quad 1 \quad 0$$

$$s_2 \quad 0 \quad 1$$

$$s_3 \quad 1 \quad 1$$

$$s_4 \quad 1 \quad 0$$

$$s_5 \quad 0 \quad 1$$

$$h(x) = x \bmod 5$$

$$g(x) = (2x + 1) \bmod 5$$

$$\min(h(d_1)) = 1 \neq 0 =$$

$$\min(h(d_2))$$

	d_1 slot	d_2 slot
h	∞	∞
g	∞	∞
$h(1) = 1$	1 1	- ∞
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	d_1 slot	d_2 slot
h	∞	∞
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$h(1) = 1$	1 1	- ∞
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final sketches

Exercise

Exercise

	d_1	d_2	d_3
s_1	0	1	1
s_2	1	0	1
s_3	0	1	0
s_4	1	0	0

$$h(x) = 5x + 5 \pmod{4}$$

$$g(x) = (3x + 1) \pmod{4}$$

Estimate $\hat{J}(d_1, d_2)$, $\hat{J}(d_1, d_3)$, $\hat{J}(d_2, d_3)$

Solution (1)

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$h(3) = 0$	- 3	0 0	- 2
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$h(4) = 1$	1 1	- 0	- 2
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final sketches

Solution (2)

Solution (2)

$$\hat{J}(d_1, d_2) = \frac{0 + 0}{2} = 0$$

$$\hat{J}(d_1, d_3) = \frac{0 + 0}{2} = 0$$

$$\hat{J}(d_2, d_3) = \frac{0 + 1}{2} = 1/2$$

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- Transitive closure of documents with similarity $> \theta$
- Index only one document from each equivalence class □

Efficient near-duplicate detection

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- Still intractable
- One solution: locality sensitive hashing (LSH)
- Another solution: sorting (Henzinger 2006) □

Take-away today

- Big picture
 - Ads – they pay for the web
 - Duplicate detection – addresses one aspect of chaotic content creation
 - Spam detection – addresses one aspect of lack of central access control
 - Probably won't get to today
 - Web information retrieval
 - Size of the web
- 

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- One way of doing this: get your page ranked highly in search results.
- Exercise: How can I get my page ranked highly?

Spam technique: Keyword stuffing / Hidden text

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- Misleading meta-tags, excessive repetition
- Hidden text with colors, style sheet tricks etc.
- Used to be very effective, most search engines now catch these

Keyword stuffing

Spam technique: Doorway and lander pages

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- Doorway page: optimized for a single keyword, redirects to the real target page

Spam technique: Doorway and lander pages

- Doorway page: optimized for a single keyword, redirects to the real target page
- Lander page: optimized for a single keyword or a misspelled domain name, designed to attract surfers who will then click on ads

Lander page

Lander page

Weitere Links: [Wild Yam Root](#) | [Mexican Appetizers](#) | [Yam](#) | [Gambar Skodeng Ulu Yam](#) | [Wild Eyes](#) | [The Yam Yams](#) | [Amica Cream](#) | [Chickweed Cream](#) | [Colloidal Silver Cream](#) | [Witch Hazel Cream](#) |

COMPOSITA.COM

 Sprachauswahl: Deutsch ▾

Sponsored Links

[Wild Russian Girls](#)

Plenty of Russian Girls interested in building a Happy Marriage.
uk.anastasia-international.com

[Wild Yam 10%](#)

By HPLC , Supply 500Kg/mon from 100% natural herb
www.honsonbio.com

[Suche dir eine Frau aus](#)

Sofort Kontakte zu Frauen Ohne Anmeldung, kostenlos starten!
www.SMS-Contacts.de/Sexy

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- Number one hit on Google for the search “composita”

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- Number one hit on Google for the search “composita”
- The only purpose of this page: get people to click on the ads and make money for the page owner

Spam technique: Duplication

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- Get good content from somewhere (steal it or produce it yourself)

Spam technique: Duplication

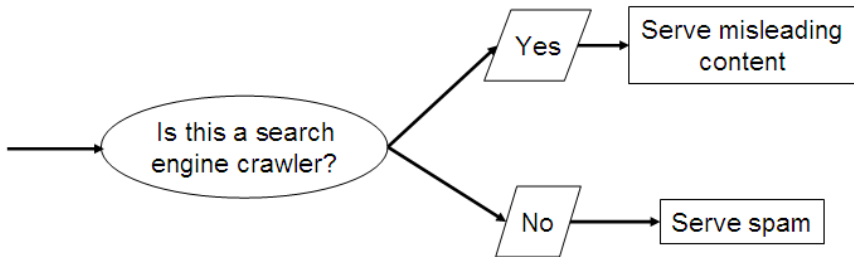
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- Publish a large number of slight variations of it

Spam technique: Duplication

- Get good content from somewhere (steal it or produce it yourself)
- Publish a large number of slight variations of it
- For example, publish the answer to a tax question with the spelling variations of “tax deferred” on the previous slide

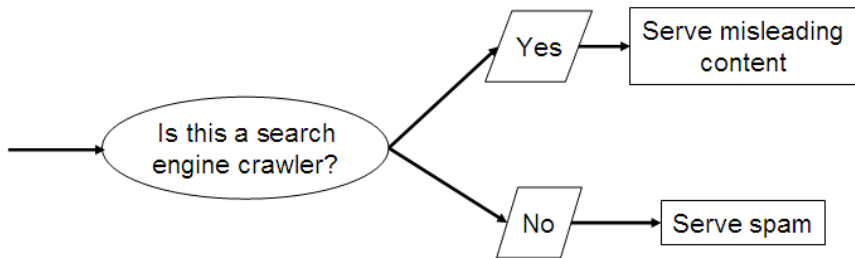
Spam technique: Cloaking

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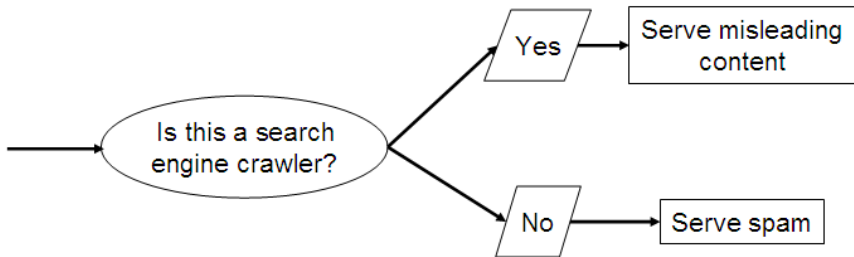
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- So do we just penalize this always?

Spam technique: Cloaking



- Serve fake content to search engine spider
- So do we just penalize this always?
- No: legitimate uses (e.g., different content to US vs. European users)

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 - Leave comments that include the link on blogs

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 - Add more interesting and original content

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 - Suspect patterns detected

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- Scientific study of fighting spam on the web: *adversarial information retrieval*

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- Documents: Documents are different, more varied and there are a lot of them. How many? $\approx 10^{11}$
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Query distribution (1)

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Most frequent queries on a large search engine on 2002.10.26.

1	sex	16	crack	31	juegos	46	Caramail
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3	(artifact)	18	pussy	33	music	48	jennifer lopez
4	porno	19	cracks	34	musica	49	tits
5	mp3	20	lolita	35	anal	50	free porn
6	Halloween	21	britney spears	36	free6	51	cheats
7	sexo	22	ebay	37	avril lavigne	52	yahoo.com
8	chat	23	sexe	38	hotmail.com	53	eminem
9	porn	24	Pamela Anderson	39	winzip	54	Christina Aguilera
10	yahoo	25	warez	40	fuck	55	incest
11	KaZaA	26	divx	41	wallpaper	56	letras de canciones
12	xxx	27	gay	42	hotmail.com	57	hardcore
13	Hentai	28	harry potter	43	postales	58	weather
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More than 1/3 of these are queries for adult content.

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More than 1/3 of these are queries for adult content. Exercise: Does this mean that most people are looking for adult content?

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- Examples of rare queries: search for names, towns, books etc
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- Difficult problem: How can the search engine tell what the user need or intent for a particular query is?

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Search in a hyperlinked collection

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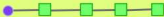
- Web search in most cases is interleaved with navigation ...
- ... i.e., with following links.
- Different from most other IR collections

Kinds of behaviors we see in the data

Short / Nav



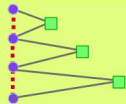
Topic exploration



Topic switch



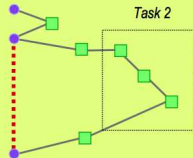
Methodical results exploration



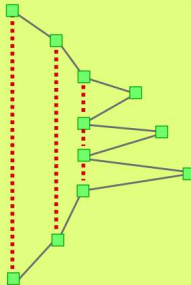
Query reform



Multitasking

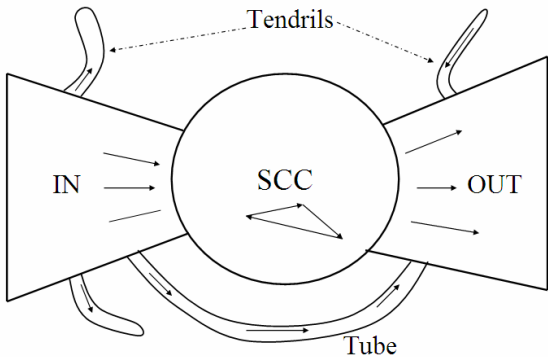


Stacking behavior



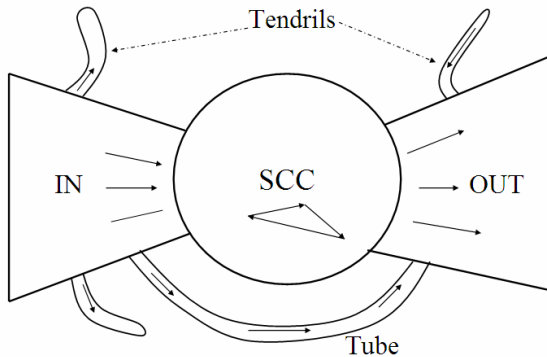
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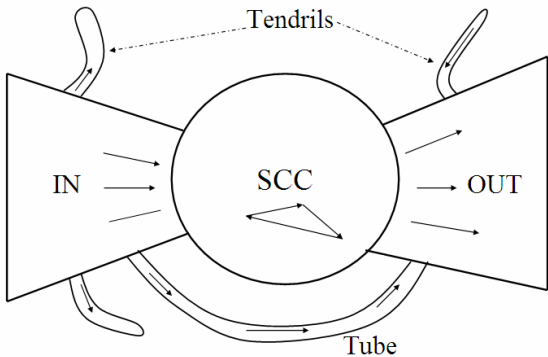
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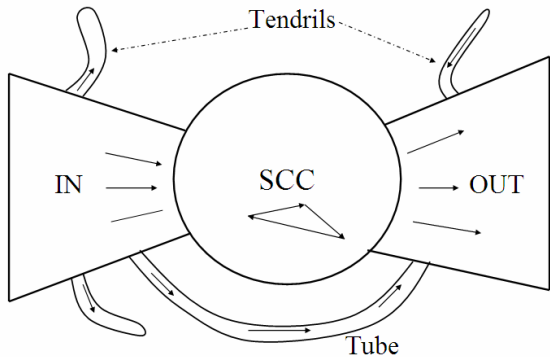
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- Tendrils, tubes, islands

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- Contextualization / personalization is an area of search with a lot of potential for improvement.

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 - But there is a subset of queries where recall matters.

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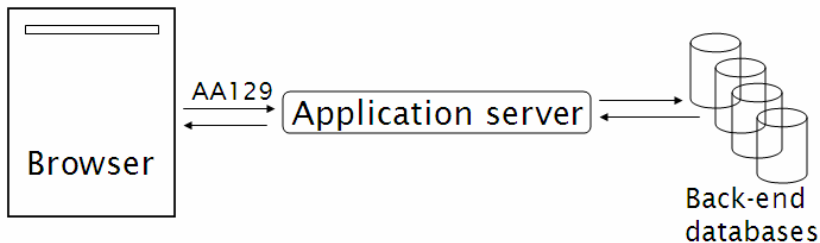
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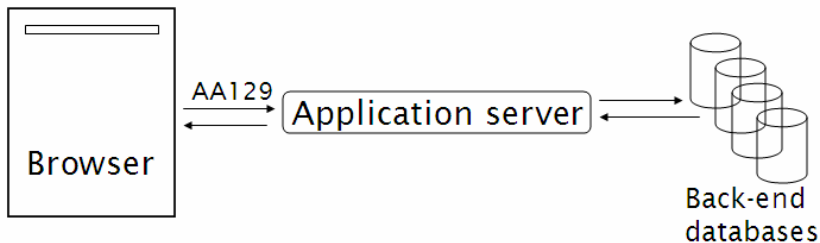
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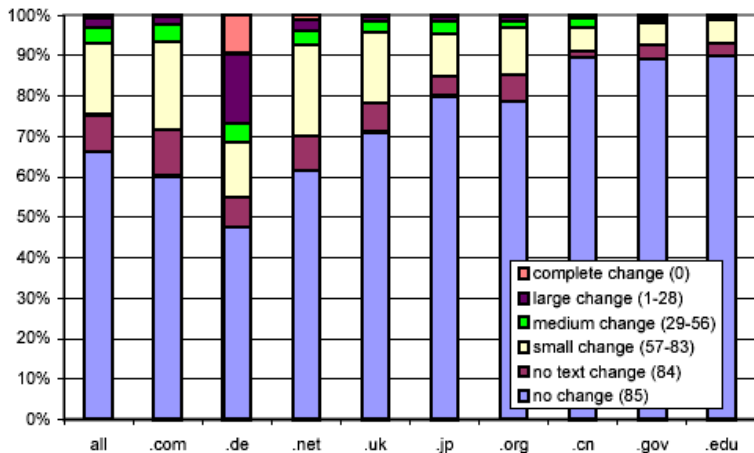
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- Most (truly) dynamic content is ignored by web spiders.
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- Actually, a lot of “static” content is also assembled on the fly (asp, php etc.: headers, date, ads etc)

Web pages change frequently (Fetterly 1997)

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- Google example: "Beaujolais Nouveau -wine"

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- Key for high user satisfaction

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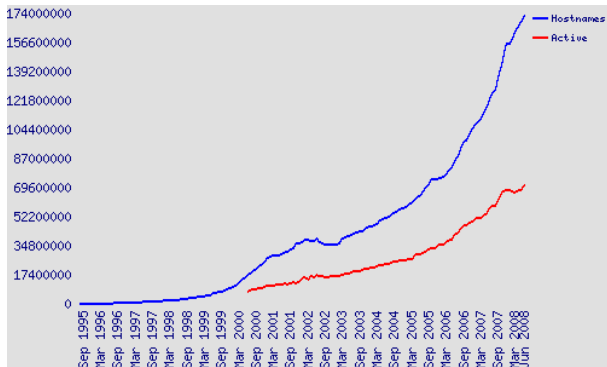
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- Hoaxes abound.

Outline

- 1 Recap
- 2 Big picture
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- 4 Duplicate detection
- 5 Spam
- 6 Web IR**
 - Queries
 - Links
 - Context
 - Users
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 - Size**
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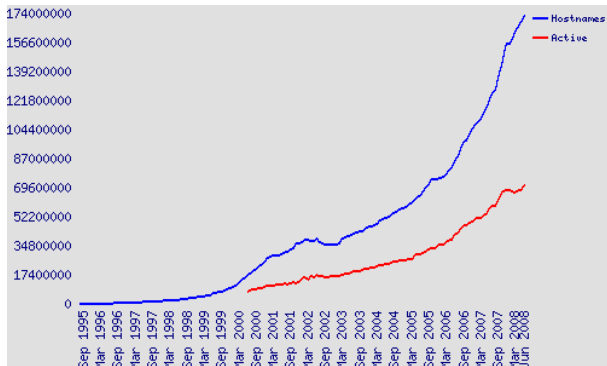
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- But growth is no longer exponential?

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- Crawler designers (which policy will crawl close to N pages?)

What is the size of the web? Any guesses?

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- How can we do better?

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How can we estimate the size of the web?

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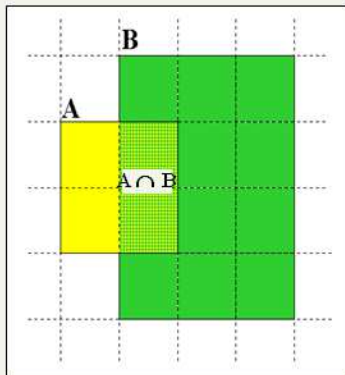
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 - anchor text, frames, meta-keywords, size of prefix etc.

Relative Size from Overlap

[Bharat & Broder, 98]



Sample URLs randomly from A

Check if contained in B

and vice versa

$$A \cap B = (1/2) * \text{Size A}$$

$$A \cap B = (1/6) * \text{Size B}$$

$$(1/2) * \text{Size A} = (1/6) * \text{Size B}$$

$$\therefore \text{Size A} / \text{Size B} =$$

$$(1/6) / (1/2) = 1/3$$

Each test involves: (i) Sampling (ii) Checking

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- Method was used by Bharat and Broder (1998).

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 - Engine time-outs

Computing Relative Sizes and Total Coverage [BB98]

a = AltaVista, **e** = Excite, **h** = HotBot, **i** = Infoseek

f_{xy} = fraction of **x** in **y**

- Six pair-wise overlaps

$$f_{ah} * a - f_{ha} * h = \epsilon_1$$

$$f_{ai} * a - f_{ia} * i = \epsilon_2$$

$$f_{ae} * a - f_{ea} * e = \epsilon_3$$

$$f_{hi} * h - f_{ih} * i = \epsilon_4$$

$$f_{he} * h - f_{eh} * e = \epsilon_5$$

$$f_{ei} * e - f_{ie} * i = \epsilon_6$$

- Arbitrarily, let **a** = 1.

- We have 6 equations and 3 unknowns.
- Solve for **e**, **h** and **i** to minimize $\sum \epsilon_i^2$
- Compute engine overlaps.
- Re-normalize so that the total joint coverage is 100%

Advantages & disadvantages

- Statistically sound under the induced weight.
- Biases induced by random query
 - Query Bias: Favors content-rich pages in the language(s) of the lexicon
 - Ranking Bias: *Solution*: Use conjunctive queries & fetch all
 - Checking Bias: Duplicates, impoverished pages omitted
 - Document or query restriction bias: engine might not deal properly with 8 words conjunctive query
 - Malicious Bias: Sabotage by engine
 - Operational Problems: Time-outs, failures, engine inconsistencies, index modification.

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 - Duplicates
 - Technical statistical problems (must have non-zero results, ratio average not statistically sound)

Random searches [Lawr98, Lawr99]

- 575 & 1050 queries from the NEC RI employee logs
- 6 Engines in 1998, 11 in 1999
- Implementation:
 - Restricted to queries with < 600 results in total
 - Counted URLs from each engine after verifying query match
 - Computed size ratio & overlap for individual queries
 - Estimated index size ratio & overlap by averaging over all queries

Queries from Lawrence and Giles study

- adaptive access control
- neighborhood preservation topographic
- hamiltonian structures
- right linear grammar
- pulse width modulation neural
- unbalanced prior probabilities
- ranked assignment method
- internet explorer favourites importing
- karvel thornber
- zili liu
- softmax activation function
- bose multidimensional system theory
- gamma mlp
- dvi2pdf
- john oliensis
- rieke spikes exploring neural
- video watermarking
- counterpropagation network
- fat shattering dimension
- abelson amorphous computing

Random IP addresses [Lawrence & Giles '99]

- Generate random IP addresses
- Find a web server at the given address
 - If there's one
- Collect all pages from server.
- Method first used by O'Neill, McClain, & Lavoie, **“A Methodology for Sampling the World Wide Web”, 1997.**

<http://digitalarchive.oclc.org/da/ViewObject.jsp?objid=0000003447>

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 - Again, duplicates

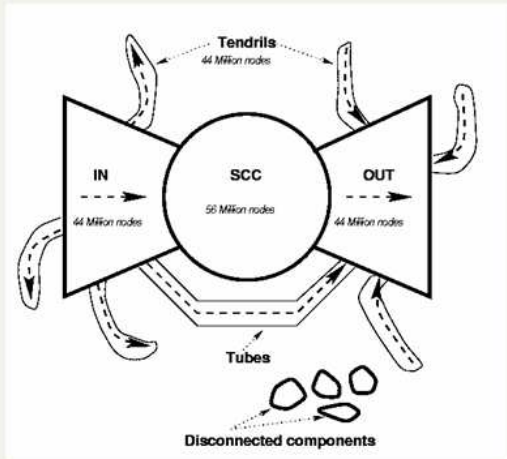
Random walks

[Henzinger *et al* WWW9]

- View the Web as a directed graph
- Build a random walk on this graph
 - Includes various “jump” rules back to visited sites
 - Does not get stuck in spider traps!
 - Can follow all links!
 - Converges to a stationary distribution
 - Must assume graph is finite and independent of the walk.
 - Conditions are not satisfied (cookie crumbs, flooding)
 - Time to convergence not really known
 - Sample from stationary distribution of walk
 - Use the “strong query” method to check coverage by SE

Dependence on seed list

- How well connected is the graph? [Broder et al., WWW9]



Advantages & disadvantages

- Advantages
 - “Statistically clean” method at least in theory!
 - Could work even for infinite web (assuming convergence) under certain metrics.
- Disadvantages
 - List of seeds is a problem.
 - Practical approximation might not be valid.
 - Non-uniform distribution
 - Subject to link spamming

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 - Hal Varian explains Google second price auction:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7l0a2PVhPQ>
 - Size of the web queries
 - Trademark issues (Geico and Vuitton cases)
 - How ads are priced
 - Henzinger, Finding near-duplicate web pages: A large-scale evaluation of algorithms, ACM SIGIR 2006.