# Natural Language Processing and Information Retrieval

# **Course Description**

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# **Course Schedule**

#### Lectures

- Tuesday, 8:30 10:30
- Thursday, 10:30 12:30
- Room 107
- Some lectures in lab
- Consulting hours:
  - My office at third floor
  - Monday since14:00 to 15:30
  - Sending email is recommended



# Syllabus

Introduction to Information Retrieval (IR)

- Boolean retrieval, Vector Space Model, Feature Vectors, Document/Passage Retrieval, Search Engines, Relevance Feedback & Query Expansion, Document Filtering and Categorization, flat and hierarchical clustering, Latent Semantic Analysis, Web Crawling and the Google algorithm.
- Statistical Machine Learning:
  - Kernel Methods, Classification, Clustering, Ranking, Re-Ranking and Regression and hints to practical machine learning.



# Syllabus

- Performance Evaluation:
  - Performance Measures, Performance Estimation, Cross validation, Held Out and n-Fold Cross validation
- Statistical Natural Language Processing:
  - Sequence Labeling: POS-tagging, Named Entity Recognition and Normalization.
  - Syntactic Parsing: shallow and deep Constituency Parsing, Dependency Syntactic Parsing.
  - Shallow Semantic Parsing: Predicate Argument Structures, SRL of FrameNet and ProbBank, Relation Extraction (supervised and semi-supervised).
  - Discourse Parsing: Coreference Resolution and discourse connective classification



# Syllabus

- Joint NLP and IR applications:
  - Deep Linguistic Analysis for Question Answering: QA tasks (open, restricted, factoid, non-factoid), NLP Representation, Question Answering Workflow, QA Pipeline, Question Classification and QA reranking.
  - Fine-Grained Opinion Mining: automatic review classification, deep opinion analysis, automatic product extraction and review, reputation/social media analysis



## Lab

- Search Engines
- Automated Text Categorization
- Syntactic Parsing and Named Entity Recognition
- Question Classification (Question Answering)



# Where to study?

- Course Slides at http://disi.unitn.it/moschitti/ teaching.html
  - NLP-IR section
- Book IR:
  - Modern Information Retrieval Authors:Ricardo A. Baeza-Yates. Addison-Wesley Longman Publishing Co., Inc. Boston, MA, USA ©1999 ISBN:020139829X
  - IIR: Introduction to Information Retrieval. Christopher D. Manning, Prabhakar Raghavan and Hinrich Schütze. Cambridge University Press, 2008.



# Where to study?

#### Book – NLP:

- Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing. Chris Manning and Hinrich Schütze, Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing, MIT Press. Cambridge, MA: May 1999
- SPEECH and LANGUAGE PROCESSING.An Introduction to Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, and Speech Recognition Second Edition by Daniel Jurafsky and James H. Martin



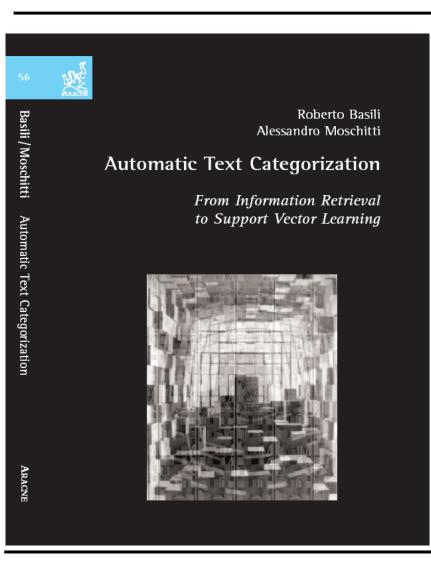
# Where to study?

- Course Slides at http://disi.unitn.it/moschitti/ teaching.html
- NLP-IR section:
  - Slides of IIR available at: http://informationretrieval.org



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		- Presentatione del corso	
		- Introduzione all'Informatica	
		 Materiale aggiuntivo	
		- <u>Slides del corso (Prof. Bianchini)</u>	
		- <u>Altre slides recenti della Prof Bianchini</u>	
		- <u>Overflow</u>	
		- <u>Stack e Record di Attivazione</u>	
		- <u>Complessità Computazionale</u>	
		Link alle lezioni di laboratorio	
		Natural Language Processing and Information Retrieval	

## **Reference Book**





# Motivation

- Why NLP and IR?
- IR studies methods to search and retrieve information
  - Basic models based on words
  - Pretty much statistical-based
- NLP studies automatic approach to understand and language geneation
  - Use complex structures: syntax and semantics
  - Logic-based but nowadays pretty much statistical too



# Motivation

- IR very successful
  - Google Inc.
  - Altavista born in 1995
- NLP pretty much unsuccessful for company purposes
- Why using NLP?



## Motivations

#### Let us ask

- Who is the President of the United States?
- (Yes) The president of the United States is Barack Obama
- (no) Glenn F. Tilton is President of the United Airlines



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+Alessandro Sea	arch Images Maps YouTube Gmail Documents Calendar Translate More -				
Google	Who is the President of the United States?	Alessa			
Search	About 3,220,000,000 results (1.09 seconds)				
Everything	Best guess for United States of America President is Barack				
Images	Obama				
Maps	Mentioned on at least 3 websites including wikipedia.org, whitehouse.gov and youtube.com - Show sources - Feedback				
Videos					
News	President of the United States - Wikipedia, the free encyclo en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States				
Shopping	Incumbent Barack Obama since January 20, 2009. Style, Mr.				
More	President (informal) The Honorable (formal) His Excellency (diplomatic, outside the U.S.)				
Tanata	Origin - Powers and duties - Selection process - Compensation				
Trento	List of <b>Presidents of the United States</b> Wikipedia, the free				
Change location	List of Presidents of the United States - Wikipedia, the free en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_the_United_States				
Show search tools	John F. Kennedy was the first <b>president</b> of Roman Catholic faith, and the current <b>president</b> , <b>Barack Obama</b> , is the first <b>president</b> of African- American descent;				

The Presidents | The White House

## Motivations

- TREC has taught that this model is too weak
- Consider a more complex task, i.e., a Jeopardy! Quiz show question
- When hit by electrons, a phosphor gives off electromagnetic energy in this form
  - Solutions: *photons/light*
- What are the most similar fragments retrieved by a search engine?





When hit by electrons, a phosphor gives off electromagnetic energy



About 194,000 results (0.22 seconds)

Advan

#### Cathode-Ray Tube - body, used, chemical, characteristics, form ... 2 2

Sep 6, 2010 ... In order to form the electron beam into the correct shape, ... The actual conversion of electrical energy to light energy takes place on the ... For example, the phosphor known as yttrium oxide gives off a red glow ... complete explanation of electrostatic and electromagnetic focusing in the crt ...

www.scienceclarified.com > Ca-Ch - Cached - Similar

#### Beta particle - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia 😭 🔍

Beta particles are high-energy, high-speed electrons or positrons emitted by certain ... The beta particles emitted are a form of ionizing radiation also known as beta rays. ... by electromagnetic interactions and may give off bremsstrahlung x-rays. ... The well-known 'betalight' contains tritium and a phosphor. ...

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beta\_particle - Cached - Similar

#### luminescence: Definition from Answers.com 😭 🔍

Included on the **electromagnetic** spectrum are radio waves and microwaves; ... Though the Sun sends its **energy** to Earth in the **form** of light and heat from the .... Thanks to the **phosphor**, a fluorescent lamp **gives off** much more light than an ... The tube itself is coated

## Motivations

- This shows that:
  - Word matching is not enough
  - Structure is required
- What kind of structures do we need?
- How to carry out structural similarity?
  - Still not complete solved problem but...



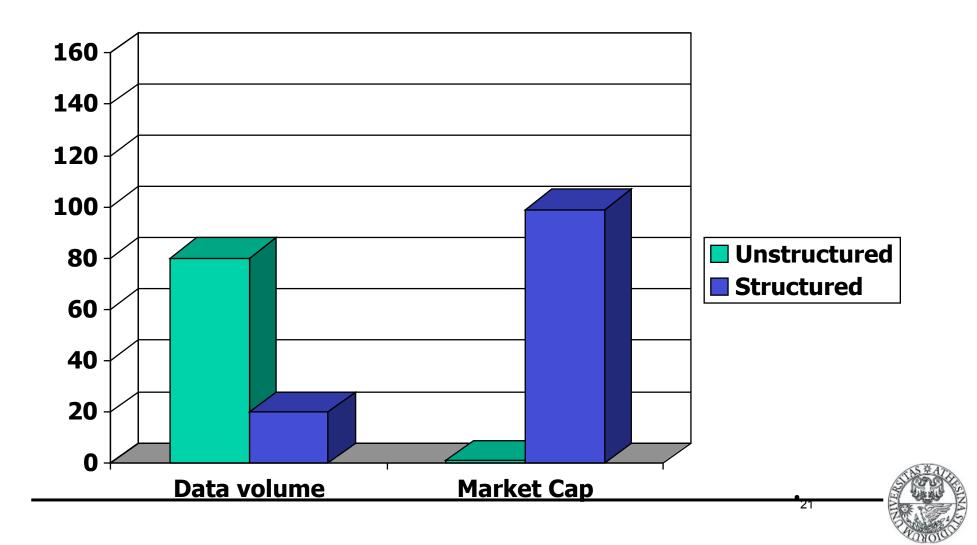




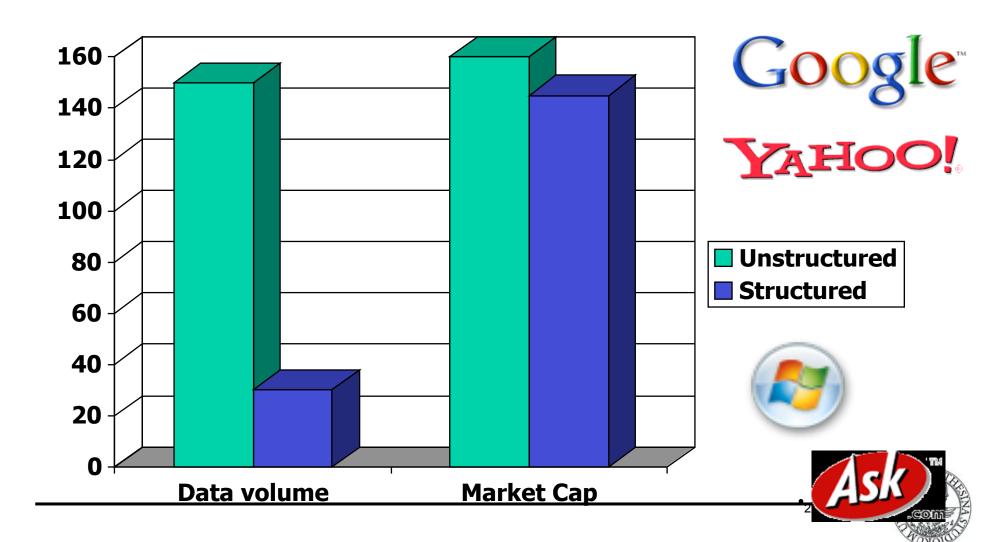
#### Basic Concept of Search Engines



# Unstructured (text) vs. structured (database) data in 1996



# Unstructured (text) vs. structured (database) data in 2006

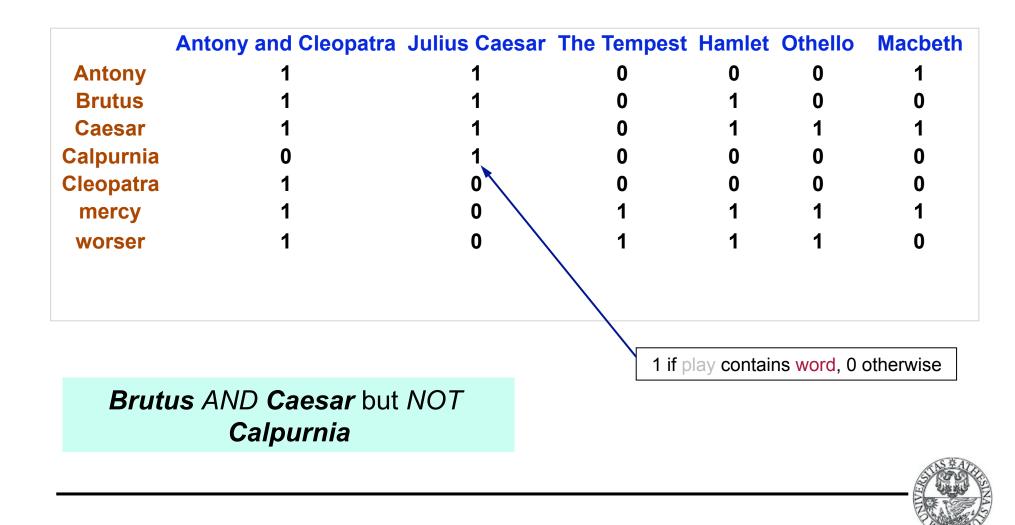


# **Unstructured data in 1650**

- Which plays of Shakespeare contain the words Brutus AND Caesar but NOT Calpurnia?
- One could grep all of Shakespeare's plays for Brutus and Caesar, then strip out lines containing Calpurnia?
  - Slow (for large corpora)
  - <u>NOT</u> Calpurnia is non-trivial
  - Other operations (e.g., find the word *Romans* near *countrymen*) not feasible
  - Ranked retrieval (best documents to return)



## **Term-document incidence**



- So we have a 0/1 vector for each term.
- To answer query: take the vectors for *Brutus, Caesar* and *Calpurnia* (complemented) → bitwise
  *AND*.
- 110100 AND 110111 AND 101111 = 100100.



## Antony and Cleopatra, Act III, Scene ii

Agrippa [Aside to DOMITIUS ENOBARBUS]: Why, Enobarbus,

When Antony found Julius *Caesar* dead,

He cried almost to roaring; and he wept

When at Philippi he found *Brutus* slain.

## Hamlet, Act III, Scene ii

Lord Polonius: I did enact Julius **Caesar** I was killed i' the Capitol; **Brutus** killed me.





# **Bigger corpora**

- Consider N = 1M documents, each with about 1K terms.
- Avg 6 bytes/term incl spaces/punctuation
  6GB of data in the documents.
- Say there are m = 500K <u>distinct</u> terms among these.



# Can't build the matrix

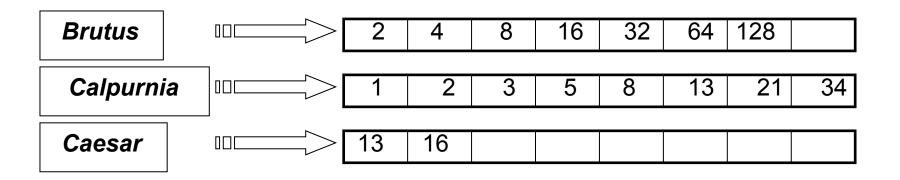
- 500K x 1M matrix has half-a-trillion 0's and 1's.
- But it has no more than one billion 1's.
  - matrix is extremely sparse.
- What's a better representation?
  - We only record the 1 positions.





For each term T, we must store a list of all documents that contain T.

Do we use an array or a list for this?



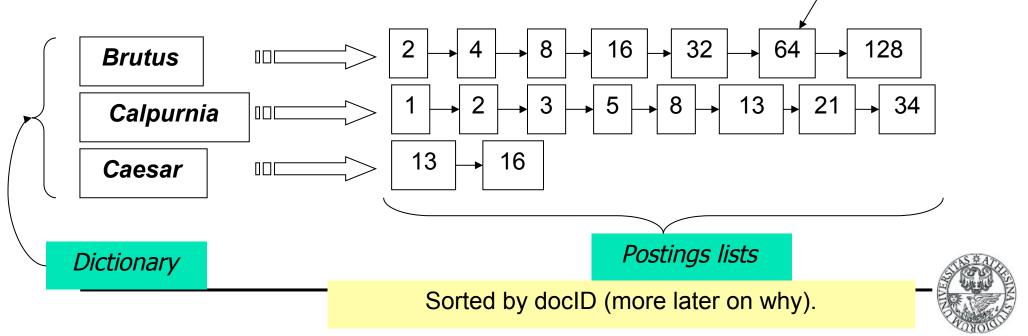
What happens if the word *Caesar* is added to document 14?



## **Inverted** index

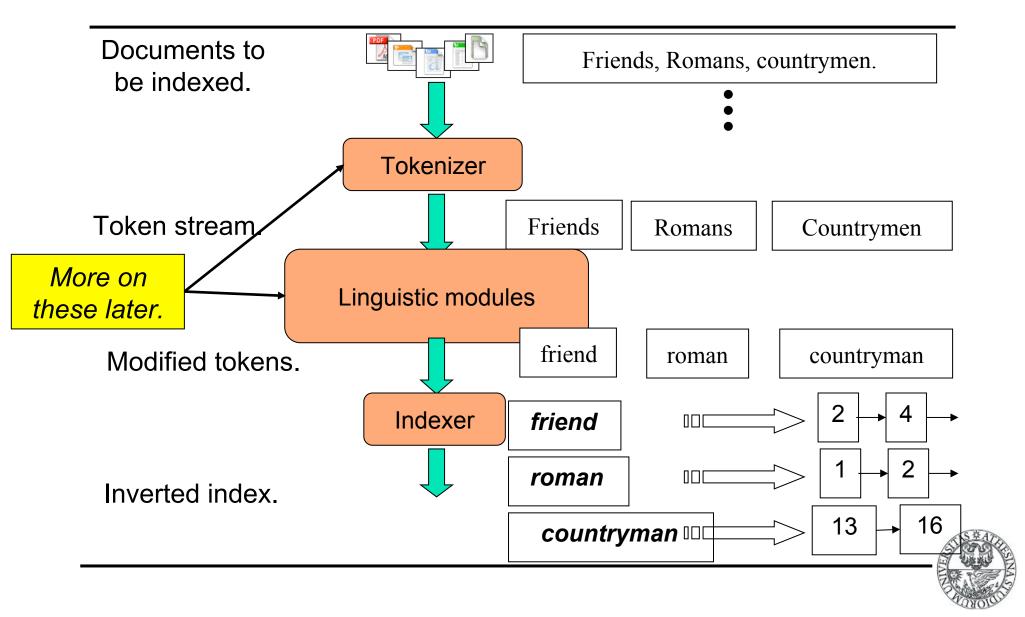
Linked lists generally preferred to arrays

- Dynamic space allocation
- Insertion of terms into documents easy
- Space overhead of pointers

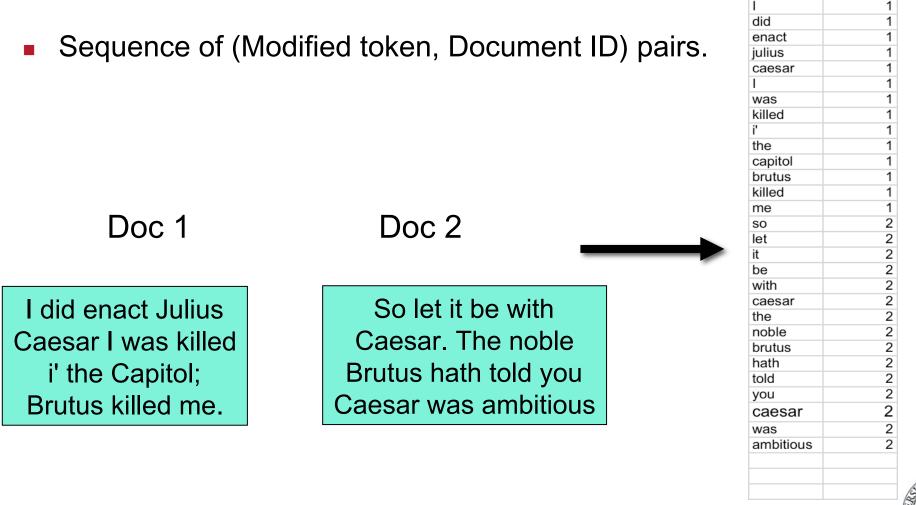


Posting

## **Inverted index construction**



## **Indexer steps**





Term

docID

## Sort by terms.

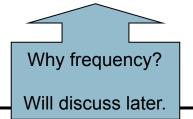


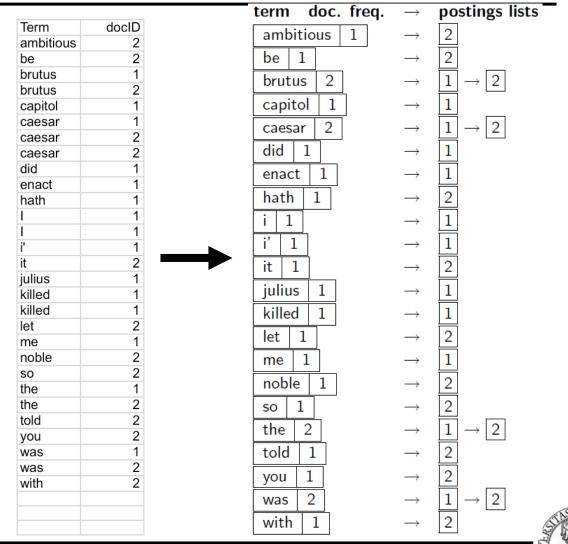
Torm	docID		
Term		Term	docID
1	1	ambitious	2
did	1	be	2 1
enact	1	brutus	
julius	1	brutus	2
caesar	1	capitol	1
1	1	caesar	1
was	1	caesar	2
killed	1	caesar	2
ľ	1	did	1
the	1	enact	1
capitol	1	hath	1
brutus	1	1	1
killed	1		1
me	1	i'	1
SO	2	it	2
let	2	julius	1
it	2	killed	1
be	2	killed	1
with	2	let	2
caesar	2	me	1
the	2	noble	2
noble	2	SO	2 2 1
brutus	2	the	
hath	2	the	2 2 2 1
told	2	told	2
you	2	you	2
caesar	2	was	1
was	2	was	2
ambitious	2	with	2



## **Indexer steps: Dictionary & Postings**

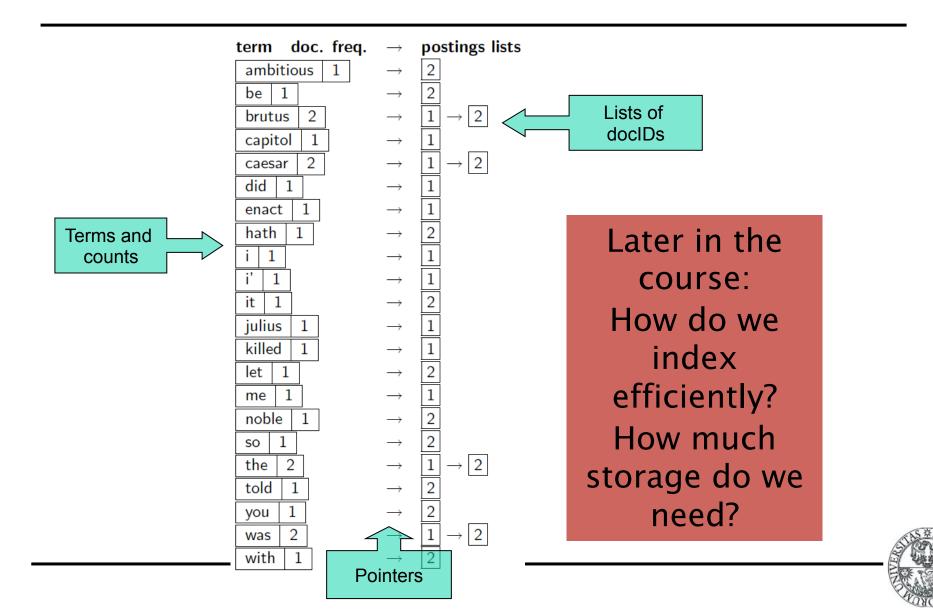
- Multiple term entries in a single document are merged.
- Split into Dictionary and Postings
- Doc. frequency information is added.







## Where do we pay in storage?



# The index we just built

How do we process a query?



Later - what kinds of queries can we process?



## **Query processing: AND**

Consider processing the query:

#### Brutus AND Caesar

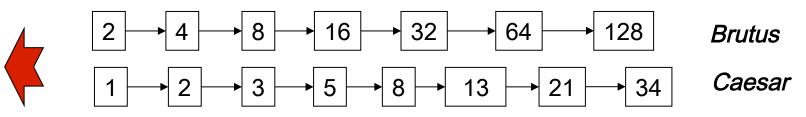
#### Locate Brutus in the Dictionary;

Retrieve its postings.

Locate Caesar in the Dictionary;

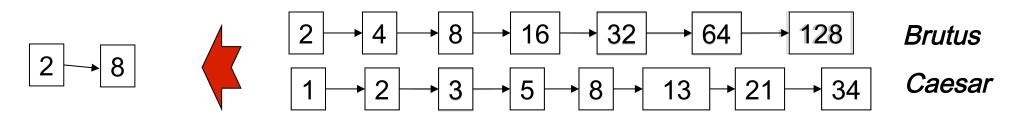
Retrieve its postings.

"Merge" the two postings:





Walk through the two postings simultaneously, in time linear in the total number of postings entries



If the list lengths are x and y, the merge takes O(x+y)

operations.

Crucial: postings sorted by docID.



#### Intersecting two postings lists (a "merge" algorithm)

INTERSECT $(p_1, p_2)$ 1 answer  $\leftarrow \langle \rangle$ 2 while  $p_1 \neq \text{NIL}$  and  $p_2 \neq \text{NIL}$ 3 do if  $docID(p_1) = docID(p_2)$ then ADD(answer,  $docID(p_1)$ ) 4 5  $p_1 \leftarrow next(p_1)$ 6  $p_2 \leftarrow next(p_2)$ else if  $docID(p_1) < docID(p_2)$ 7 then  $p_1 \leftarrow next(p_1)$ 8 9 else  $p_2 \leftarrow next(p_2)$ 10 return answer



## **Boolean queries: Exact match**

- The Boolean Retrieval model is being able to ask a query that is a Boolean expression:
  - Boolean Queries are queries using AND, OR and NOT to join query terms
    - Views each document as a <u>set</u> of words
    - Is precise: document matches condition or not.
- Primary commercial retrieval tool for 3 decades.
- Professional searchers (e.g., lawyers) still like Boolean queries:
  - You know exactly what you' re getting.



### Example: WestLaw http://www.westlaw.com/

- Largest commercial (paying subscribers) legal search service (started 1975; ranking added 1992)
- Tens of terabytes of data; 700,000 users
- Majority of users still use boolean queries
- Example query:
  - What is the statute of limitations in cases involving the federal tort claims act?
  - LIMIT! /3 STATUTE ACTION /S FEDERAL /2 TORT /3 CLAIM
- /3 = within 3 words, /S = in same sentence



### Example: WestLaw http://www.westlaw.com/

- Another example query:
  - Requirements for disabled people to be able to access a workplace
  - disabl! /p access! /s work-site work-place (employment /3 place
- Note that SPACE is disjunction, not conjunction!
- Long, precise queries; proximity operators; incrementally developed; not like web search
- Professional searchers often like Boolean search:
  - Precision, transparency and control
- But that doesn't mean they actually work better...



## Boolean queries: More general merges

Exercise: Adapt the merge for the queries:
 Brutus AND NOT Caesar
 Brutus OR NOT Caesar

Can we still run through the merge in time O(x+y) or what can we achieve?





What about an arbitrary Boolean formula?

(Brutus OR Caesar) AND NOT

(Antony OR Cleopatra)

Can we always merge in "linear" time?

Linear in what?

Can we do better?

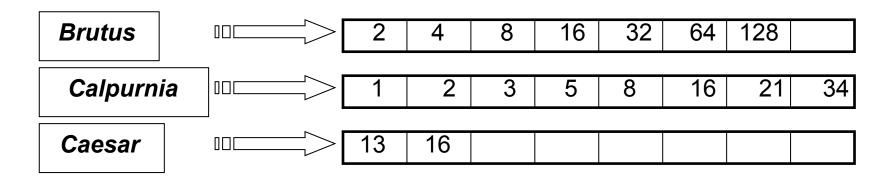


## **Query optimization**

What is the best order for query processing?

Consider a query that is an AND of *t* terms.

For each of the *t* terms, get its postings, then *AND* them together.

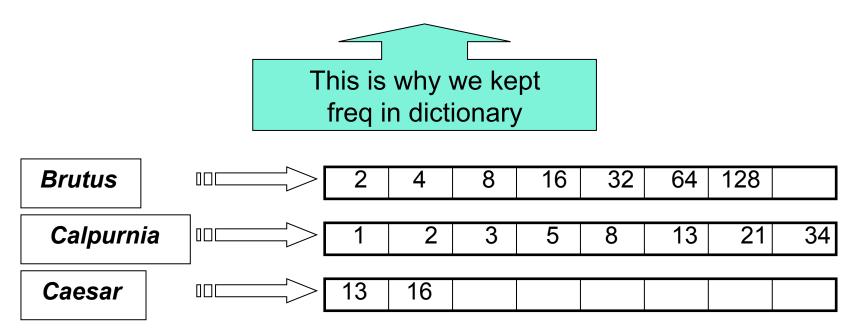


Query: Brutus AND Calpurnia AND Caesar



# **Query optimization example**

- Process in order of increasing freq:
  - start with smallest set, then keep cutting further.



Execute the query as (Caesar AND Brutus) AND Calpurnia.



### **More general optimization**

- e.g., (madding OR crowd) AND (ignoble OR strife)
- Get freq's for all terms.
- Estimate the size of each OR by the sum of its freq's (conservative).
- Process in increasing order of OR sizes.



#### Exercise

Recommend a query processing order for

(tangerine OR trees) AND

(marmalade OR skies) AND

(kaleidoscope OR eyes)

Term	Freq
eyes	213312
kaleidoscope	87009
marmalade	107913
skies	271658
tangerine	46653
trees	316812



### **Query processing exercises**

- If the query is *friends* AND *romans* AND (NOT countrymen), how could we use the freq of countrymen?
- Exercise: Extend the merge to an arbitrary Boolean query. Can we always guarantee execution in time linear in the total postings size?
- Hint: Begin with the case of a Boolean formula query: in this, each query term appears only once in the query.



#### Exercise

Try the search feature at

http://www.rhymezone.com/shakespeare/

 Write down five search features you think it could do better



# What's ahead in IR? Beyond term search

- What about phrases?
  - Stanford University
- Proximity: Find *Gates* NEAR *Microsoft*.
  - Need index to capture position information in docs.
- Zones in documents: Find documents with (*author = Ullman*) AND (text contains *automata*).



#### **Evidence accumulation**

- 1 vs. 0 occurrence of a search term
  - 2 vs. 1 occurrence
  - 3 vs. 2 occurrences, etc.
  - Usually more seems better
- Need term frequency information in docs



#### **Ranking search results**

- Boolean queries give inclusion or exclusion of docs.
- Often we want to rank/group results
  - Need to measure proximity from query to each doc.
  - Need to decide whether docs presented to user are singletons, or a group of docs covering various aspects of the query.



## IR vs. databases: Structured vs unstructured data

Structured data tends to refer to information in "tables"

Employee	Manager	Salary
Smith	Jones	50000
Chang	Smith	60000
lvy	Smith	50000

Typically allows numerical range and exact match

(for text) queries, e.g.,



Salary < 60000 AND Manager = Smith.

#### **Unstructured data**

- Typically refers to free-form text
- Allows
  - Keyword queries including operators
  - More sophisticated "concept" queries, e.g.,
    - find all web pages dealing with drug abuse
- Classic model for searching text documents



- In fact almost no data is "unstructured"
- E.g., this slide has distinctly identified zones such as the *Title* and *Bullets*
- Facilitates "semi-structured" search such as
  - Title contains data AND Bullets contain search

... to say nothing of linguistic structure



#### More sophisticated semi-structured search

- Title is about <u>Object Oriented Programming</u> AND Author something like <u>stro\*rup</u>
- where \* is the wild-card operator
- Issues:
  - how do you process "about"?
  - how do you rank results?
- The focus of XML search (IIR chapter 10)



#### **Clustering, classification and ranking**

- Clustering: Given a set of docs, group them into clusters based on their contents.
- Classification: Given a set of topics, plus a new doc D, decide which topic(s) D belongs to.

 Ranking: Can we learn how to best order a set of documents, e.g., a set of search results



#### The web and its challenges

- Unusual and diverse documents
- Unusual and diverse users, queries, information needs
- Beyond terms, exploit ideas from social networks

link analysis, clickstreams ...

How do search engines work?
 And how can we make them better?



#### More sophisticated information retrieval

- Cross-language information retrieval
- Question answering
- Summarization
- Text mining





# **Vector Spaces**



## **Definition (1)**

- A set V is a vector space over a field F (for example, the field of real or of complex numbers) if, given
- an operation vector addition defined in V, denoted v + w (where v, w ∈ V), and
- an operation, scalar multiplication in V, denoted a \* v (where v ∈ V and a ∈ F),
- the following properties hold for all  $a, b \in F$  and u, v, and  $w \in V$ :
- v + w belongs to V.
  (Closure of V under vector addition)
- u + (v + w) = (u + v) + w
  (Associativity of vector addition in V)
- There exists a neutral element 0 in V, such that for all elements v in V,
  v + 0 = v

(Existence of an additive identity element in V)



# **Definition (2)**

- For all v in V, there exists an element w in V, such that v + w = 0 (Existence of additive inverses in V)
- v + w = w + v
  (Commutativity of vector addition in V)
- a \* v belongs to V (Closure of V under scalar multiplication)
- a \* (b \* v) = (ab) \* v
  (Associativity of scalar multiplication in V)
- If 1 denotes the multiplicative identity of the field F, then 1 \* v = v (Neutrality of one)
- a \* (v + w) = a \* v + a \* w
  (Distributivity with respect to vector addition.)
- (a + b) \* v = a \* v + b \* v
  (Distributivity with respect to field addition.)



#### An example of Vector Space

- For all n, R<sup>n</sup> forms a vector space over R, with component-wise operations.
- Let V be the set of all n-tuples, [v<sub>1</sub>,v<sub>2</sub>,v<sub>3</sub>,...,v<sub>n</sub>] where v<sub>i</sub> is a member of R={real numbers}
- Let the field be **R**, as well
- Define Vector Addition:

For all v, w, in **V**, define  $v+w=[v_1+w_1,v_2+w_2,v_3+w_3,...,v_n+w_n]$ 

- Define Scalar Multiplication:
  For all a in F and v in V, a\*v=[a\*v<sub>1</sub>,a\*v<sub>2</sub>,a\*v<sub>3</sub>,...,a\*v<sub>n</sub>]
- Then V is a Vector Space over R.



### Linear dependency

- Linear combination:
- $\alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \ldots + \alpha_n \mathbf{v}_n = 0$  for some  $\alpha_1 \ldots \alpha_n$  not all zero
  - $\Rightarrow$  y =  $\alpha_1$  v<sub>1</sub> + ...+  $\alpha_n$  v<sub>n</sub> has a unique expression
- In case  $\alpha_i > 0$  and the sum is 1 it is called convex combination



### **Normed Vector Spaces**

- Given a vector space V over a field K, a norm on V is a function from V to R,
- it associates each vector **v** in *V* with a real number, ||**v**||
- The norm must satisfy the following conditions:
  - For all *a* in *K* and all **u** and **v** in *V*,
    - 1.  $||\mathbf{v}|| \ge 0$  with equality if and only if  $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$
    - 2.  $||a\mathbf{v}|| = |a| ||\mathbf{v}||$
    - 3.  $||\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}|| \le ||\mathbf{u}|| + ||\mathbf{v}||$
- A useful consequence of the norm axioms is the inequality
  - ||u ± v|| ≥ | ||u|| ||v|| |
- for all vectors u and v



### **Inner Product Spaces**

- Let V be a vector space and u, v, and w be vectors in V and c be a constant.
- Then, an inner product (,) on V is
  - a function with domain consisting of pairs of vectors and
  - range real numbers satisfying
  - the following properties:
    - 1.  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}) \ge 0$  with equality if and only if  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$ .

2. 
$$(u, v) = (v, u)$$

3. 
$$(u + v, w) = (u, w) + (v, w)$$

4. (cu, v) = (u, cv) = c(u, v)



#### Example

- Let V be the vector space consisting of all continuous functions with the standard + and \*. Then define an inner product by  $(f,g) = \int_{0}^{1} f(t)g(t)dt$ For example:  $(x,x^2) = \int_{0}^{1} (x)(x^2)dx = \frac{1}{4}$
- The four properties follow immediately from the analogous property of the definite integral:

 $(f+g,h) = \int_{h}^{1} (f+g)(t)h(t) dt$ 

$$= \int_{0}^{1} \left( f(t)h(t) + g(t)h(t) \right) dt = \int_{0}^{1} f(t)h(t) dt + \int_{0}^{1} g(t)h(t) dt$$



= (f,h) + (g,h)

#### **Inner Product Properties**

$$\bullet || v || = \sqrt{(v, v)}$$

- If (v, u) = 0, v, u are called orthogonal
- Schwarz Inequality:

 $[(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{u})]^2 \leq (\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{v}) (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u})$ 

The classical scalar product is the component-wise product

• 
$$(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) = x_1 y_1 + x_2 y_2 + \dots + x_n y_n$$

• 
$$\cos(u, v) = \frac{(u, v)}{\|u\| \cdot \|v\|}$$



#### Projection

From 
$$\cos(\vec{x}, \vec{w}) = \frac{\vec{x} \cdot \vec{w}}{\|\vec{x}\| \cdot \|\vec{w}\|}$$

It follows that

$$\|\vec{x}\|\cos(\vec{x},\vec{w}) = \frac{\vec{x}\cdot\vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|} = \vec{x}\cdot\frac{\vec{w}}{\|\vec{w}\|}$$

Norm of  $\vec{x}$  times the cosine between  $\vec{x}$  and  $\vec{w}$ , i.e. the projection of  $\vec{x}$  on  $\vec{w}$ 

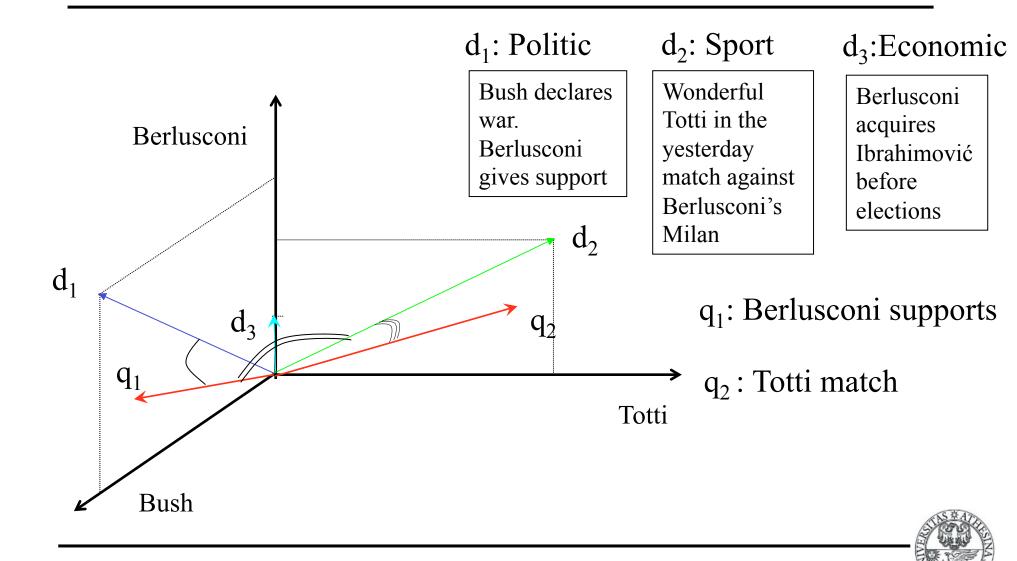


## **Similarity Metrics**

- The simplest distance for continuous *m*dimensional instance space is *Euclidian distance*.
- The simplest distance for *m*-dimensional binary instance space is *Hamming distance* (number of feature values that differ).
- Cosine similarity is typically the most effective



### The Vector Space Model (VSM)



# Summary of VSM

#### VSM (Salton89')

Features are dimensions of a Vector Space Linear Kernel

- Documents and Queries are vectors of feature weights.
- *d* is retrirved for q if  $\vec{d} \cdot \vec{q} > th$

