

Information Retrieval II

David Hawking

30 Sep 2010

Machine Learning Summer School, ANU

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Session Outline

Ranking documents in response to a query

- Measuring the quality of such rankings
- Case Study: Tuning 40 parameters at the London School of Economics
- Coffee Break
- Web SearchEngineering
- Field Work: how do Web search engines really work?
- Stretch Break
- Discussion: Other IR problems for machine learning
- Historical context

The Web Search Scene (Sep 10)

- 1. Google
- 2. Yahoo!
- 3. BING Bing Is Not Google

These have the vast majority of the market in the USA but they're not alone.

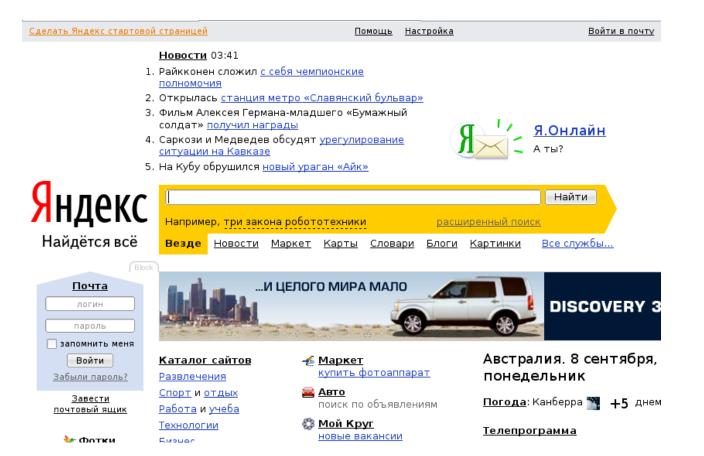
Baidu - leader in China

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Naver - leader in Korea

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Yandex - leader in Russia



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Google revenue: US\$23.65B in 2009!

Let's get a share of all this money! Let's build a Search Engine.

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*** IMAGE ***

My design parameters for new Web SE

► 500 million queries/day - say peak of 10000 per second.

Average page revisit frequency - once per month

- ► 50 billion Web pages
 - Average page size is 25KB (2008)
 - Average URL length is approx 100 characters (5 terabytes!)
- ▶ 1.25 petabyte of data (Plus, at least 100% network overhead)
 - 2.5 million gigabytes of network traffic per crawl.
- hundreds of millions of distinct words
- 25 trillion word occurrences

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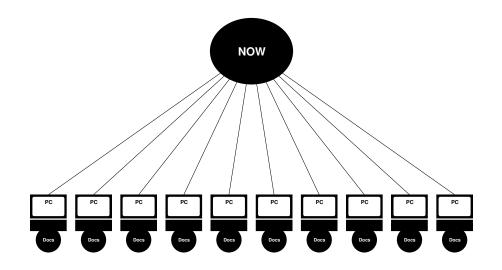
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Design issues for the spider

- Data bandwidth = 9.6 gigabits/sec.
 - better not focus the spider on one server (or one country)!
 - need a huge degree of parallelism
 - a major load balancing problem
- Cache needs 5 terabytes to store just URLs!
 - need very efficient lookup methods

Parallel approach to Indexing and Query Processing

- Divide the data across a cluster of PCs
- Node = 2.8 GHz i7 PC, 8 gB RAM, 2×1 tB disk,
 - \$2k per year to lease and operate
- Replicate clusters and use load-balancing network front-end



Query processing

► Each node is responsible for 50 million documents (1 tB)

- Therefore need 1000 nodes to handle full collection,
- If each node can process 10 queries/sec
 - ▶ Need 10000 queries/sec, therefore 1000 clusters.
 - Need 1000 × 1000 = 1,000,000 PCs
 - ► \$2.0B/year lease cost.

- Say query result page is 25kB long
 - 10000 queries/sec 2.5 gigabits/sec

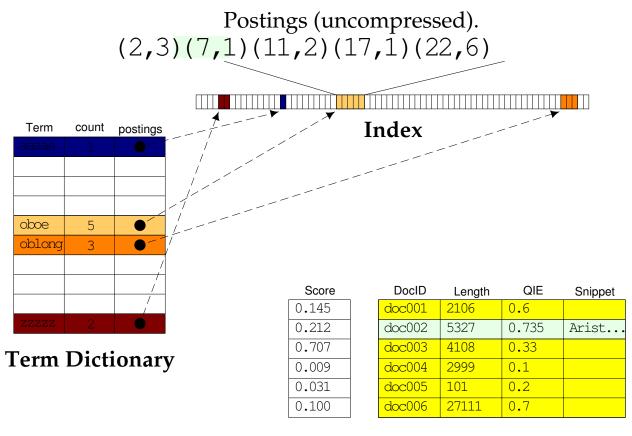
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(Thanks to Wei-Ying Ma (MSRA) and Mark Sanderson, Sheffield University)

Electricity

- Say each node consumes 250Watts of electricity.
- Total power draw for 1,001,000 machines = 250 megaWatts
- Plus airconditioning at 1:3 = 83 megaWatts
- Total power = 333 megaWatts

Index structure



Acc.s

Document Table

Data structure sizes (per node)

- Term Dictionary each entry: 12 byte string, 4 byte count, 4 byte offset
 - ► total size: 10M × 20 = 200 MB
- Doc Table each entry: 50 byte string (name), 4 byte length, 4 byte score, 100 byte string (snippet)
 - ▶ total size: 50M × 158 = 8.0 gB
- Inverted File each entry: 4-byte docno, 4-byte count
 - total size: 6.5B × 8 = 53 gB
- Compressed text for document summaries
 - ▶ 100GB?
- It fits easily.
- What about link, anchor text and user behaviour indexes?
- UK-2007 (115M pages) has 4.1 billion links!

Indexing - Use one cluster

- ► Index 50M pages in about 2.5 days.
- Dirt cheap

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Two ways of query processing: TAAT and DAAT

Query: Ipg vehicle subsidy

- 1. [**lpg**; 27,000] (2,7) (2,9) (2,100) (173,5) (2005, 19) (2005,178) (9999, 1) ...
- 2. [vehicle; 112,000] (13,31) (18,25) (173,6) (5006,88) (9999, 18)
- **3.** [**subsidy**; 11,000] (99,108) (173,7) (173,99) (7798,13) (9999,205) ...

- ► TAAT (Term at a time)
 - Process all postings for lpg, then all for vehicle, then subsidy.
 - Non-zero scores for every doc containing one or more of the terms
- DAAT (Document at a time)
 - Scan three postings lists in 'parallel'
 - Only count matches which meet a criterion. e.g. AND or WAND (Broder et al, CIKM, 2003)

(Use skipping)

DAAT Ranking

- Fewer results to sort (full matches only)
 - Can stop when we have required number of matches (or so)
- Assign document numbers in order of descending static score.
 - Compression techniques relying on doc-number diffs still work
 - Ensure that unscanned matches are not likely to be good.
 - Use limited document accumulators (better memory residency)
- Can apply local ranking heuristics to candidate set.
 - Terms in proximity, terms in headings etc.

ClueWeb09 Demo

Cutting costs

- Answer Caching
 - Pre-compute answers to popular queries (manually if nec.)
 - ► Top X queries account for 30% of query load
 - One PC can serve answers for all X queries.
 - Save 300 clusters, \$600M per year!
- Process Queries on Partial Data, eg. document titles, anchor text.
- Shorten results page
- Make spidering adaptive, continuous
- Avoid crawling spam and low value content
- Make query processing more efficient
 - more data per node
 - less time per query
 - (but 10 queries/sec is already good going)

General Efficiency Observations

Two types of efficiency technique:

- A. No loss of effectiveness
 - fast algorithms
- B. Trade-off efficiency/effectiveness
 - use heuristics to reduce work
- Memory management is critical Can reduce memory demand by
 - careful design/layout of data structures
 - compression
- Disk accesses very slow = 5M instructions
 - Avoid as much as possible
- Disk transfers negligible except for very common terms
 - compression pays off in reduced transfer costs

Hardware Issues

- 1. Choose cheap, low-heat-output, reliable servers
- 2. Build in fault tolerance. Can't allow a whole cluster to be down because one node has failed!
- 3. Efficient fault diagnosis and repair procedures.

- 1. Use a limited number of score accumulators
- 2. Process term lists in parallel, not sequentially
- 3. Assign document numbers according to descending "value"
- 4. Stop early
- 5. Seek perfect load balance across clusters. The cluster is as slow as the slowest node.

Result Presentation

- For each top-ranked doc, print DOCID, snippet etc.
- ► How to generate summaries
 - Canned summaries query independent
 - Query biased summaries quite a computational challenge

Other Issues

Privacy

- David Hawking
- ▶ 687 897 255
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- 5163 9999 9999 9999
- ▶ 85 Smith St, Nowhere 2586
- Masses of query and click data what can we use it for?

- Search quality tuning machine learning
- Ranking evidence
- Spelling corrections.
- Query suggestions
- Legal issues with advertisers, copyright owners, ...

Doing More with Queries

Web Images Videos Maps News Shopping Gmail more 🗸



Maintaining Quality - Are we really Better?

Side-by-side comparisons

ipod GC Generalised I prefer: because no reason				
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Summary of this Section

The Web search engine business model is very risky

- Starting a new Web search engine requires:
 - Lots of hardware (intelligently chosen and operated.)
 - Huge capital
 - Very large bandwidth network connections
 - Clever engineering (CE)
 - save huge amounts of network traffic during spidering
 - save vast amounts of query processing hardware
- CE during QP relies on
 - caching / pre-computation
 - clever parallelism
 - memory residency / avoidance of disk accesses
 - smart algorithms

BTW - What's the role of a Chief Scientist?

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