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# **Classifying queries for people**

from a people search engine



# **People search**

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## A people search engine

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# Popularity of people search

- One can search for:
  - □ Film stars
  - Politicians
  - □ School teachers
  - $\square$  Friends
  - $\Box$  Yourself
  - □ ...
- An estimated 11-17 % of web search queries contain a person name (2004 data)



## Taxonomy

- Non-famous
- High-profile
  - Event-based

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Regular



#### **Non-famous**







University of Amsterdam

#### **Event-based: "Ell Nikki"**





# **Regular: "Geert Wilders"**





## **Motivation**

- Show different results
- Apply a different ranking algorithm
- Show results in a different way



## Data

• 4 months from a Dutch people search engine:

- □ 13 million searches
- □ 4 million clickouts
- Annotated set: 216 total
  - □ 132 non-famous
  - □ 60 event-based
  - □ 24 regular



#### **Features: Attention**



**Event-based** 

Regular

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# **Attention = Volume**

Search volume, Clickout volume, News volume
 Total

- Last week
- Burstiness



## **Other features**

- Clickout entropy
  - $\Box$  over urls
  - over top level domains
- Wikipedia presence (Dutch)

- □ Title match
- Overall frequency



## **Experiment setup**

- Two experiments:
  - □ 2-way: High vs Low
  - □ 3-way: Regular vs Event vs Low
- Stratified 10-fold cross-validation
- Classifiers:
  - □ C4.5
  - Naive Bayes



# **Results: High vs Low**

Query Type	C4.5		Naive Bayes		SVM	
	Prec.	Rec.	Prec.	Rec.	Prec.	Rec.
High Profile	0.85	0.82	0.89	0.64	0.88	0.60
Low profile	0.89	0.91	0.81	0.95	0.79	0.95



# **Results: Regular vs Event vs Low**

Query Type	C4.5		Naive Bayes		SVM	
	Prec.	Rec.	Prec.	Rec.	Prec.	Rec.
Event based	0.83	0.87	0.74	0.62	0.85	0.55
Regular	0.57	0.54	0.53	0.33	0.45	0.38
Low profile	0.92	0.90	0.81	0.92	0.80	0.96



#### **Decision tree C4.5**





# **Error analysis**

- Points misclassified 33 out of 216 (C4.5)
- Annotator agreement 0.70 (Cohen's kappa)
  - □ disagreement 40 out of 216 or 19%
- Identified reasons for error for the 15 'hard' points:
  - □ overlooking of evidence by an annotator
  - □ ambiguity
  - evidence not strong enough for classifiers
  - □ small size of annotated set



## Future work

Try to address the ambiguity problem (hard) using:

- $\hfill\square$  the document collection
- $\hfill\square$  evidence from the search logs
- $\hfill\square$  evidence from the click logs
- □ external evidence