# Web Dynamics

### Part 7 – Human Behaviour on the Web

## **7.1 Recommendation** 7.2 Personalized Search

# **High-Level View of Recommendation**

Input: Collected data on *behavior of users* 

- Items (books, dvds, cds,...) purchased
- Items (books, movies, hotels, ...) rated
- Web sites browsed or bookmarked
- Searches and clicked search results
- Sequence of activities (browsing, searching, ...)
- Mails, Documents read and written
- Profile in social networks (contacts)
- $\Rightarrow$  build extensive *user models*

# **High-Level View of Recommendation**

### Output: Items of *potential interest* to user

- Items (books, movies, hotels,...) to purchase/view/visit/...
- Web sites to visit
- Improved search results
- Potential query expansions/refinements
- People to meet in social networks

## Three orthogonal approaches

User-centric approach ("nearest neighbors"):

User A likes/buys/visits item X ) user B may like (model of ) user B similar to { item X as well (model of) user A

### *Item-centric approach:*

User A likes/buys/visits item X user A may like Item X similar to item Y item Y as well

```
Static approach: Many people buy X
```

## **Example 1: Web site suggestion**

Set Up Windows Internet Explorer 8	×
Turn on Suggested Sites	
Do you want to discover websites you might like based on websites you've visited? • Yes, turn on Suggested Sites • No, don't turn on	
Suggested Sites is an online service that uses your browsing history to make personalized website suggestions. You can turn off Suggested Sites at any time.	
Read the Internet Explorer Privacy Statement online     Back     Next     Cancel	

## **Example 1: Web site suggestion**



#### $\Rightarrow$ item-centric approach, (seemingly) no user model used

## **Example 2: Product Recommendations**



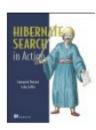


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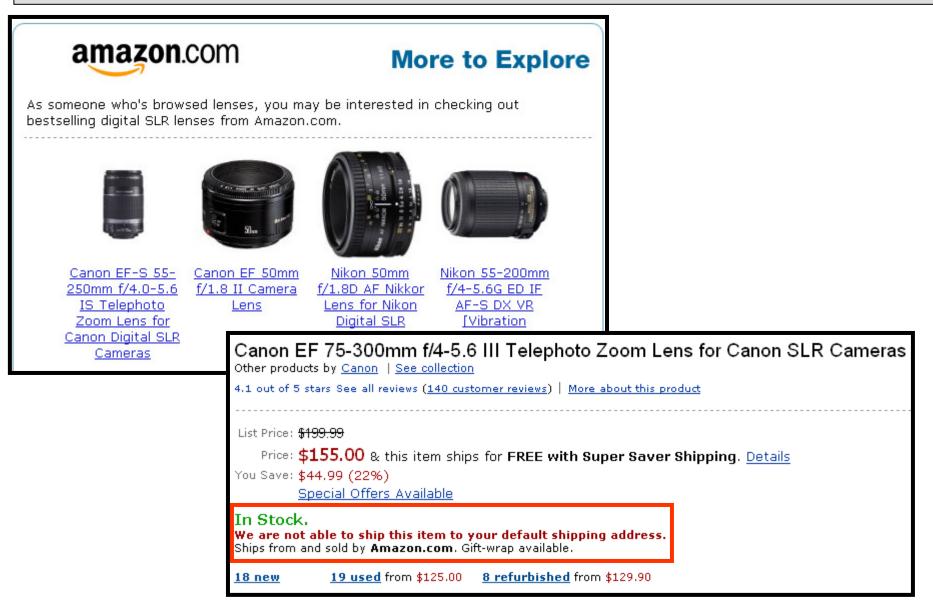


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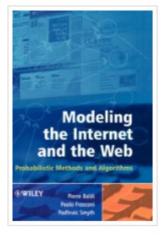
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#### $\Rightarrow$ static and item-centric approach

## **Example 2: Product Recommendation**



# **Example 3: Book Recommendations**



#### Modeling the Internet and the Web: Probabilistic Methods and Algo

#### by Pierre Baldi

Members	Reviews	Popularity	Ave
10	None	439,588	
▼ Book information			

Modeling the Internet and the Web: Probabilistic Methods and Algorithms by Pierre Baldi

by Fierre baiai

Wiley (2003), Hardcover, 285 pages

LibraryThing recommendations

- 1. Web Metrics: Proven Methods for Measuring Web Site Success by Jim Sterne
- 2. Differentiated services for the Internet by Kalevi Kilkki
- 3. Internet Measurement: Infrastructure, Traffic and Applications by Mark Crovella
- 4. Designing Campus Networks by Terri Quinn-Andry
- 5. True Names: And the Opening of the Cyberspace Frontier by Vernor Vinge

- 6. Me++: The Cyborg Self and the Networked City by Wil
- 7. What Just Happened: A Chronicle from the Informatior Gleick
- 8. The Digital Sublime: Myth, Power, and Cyberspace by 1
- 24 Hours in Cyberspace: Painting on the Walls of the I Photographed on One Day by 150 of the World's Lead
- 10. Crypto Anarchy, Cyberstates, and Pirate Utopias by Pe

#### LibraryThing Recommendations

#### 304 recommendations - page [1] | 2 | 3 | 4

#### 1. Machine Learning by Thomas Mitchell

169 copies. 1 reviews. Average rating 4.08.

No thanks! | Why? (close why) Recommendation based on:

Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach by Stuart J. Russell

Data Mining: Practical Machine Learning Tools and Techniques, Second Edition (Morgan Kaufmann Series in Data Management by Ian H. Witten

An Introduction to Support Vector Machines and Other Kernel-based Learning Methods by Nello Cristianini

All of Statistics: A Concise Course in Statistical Inference (Springer Texts in Statistics) by Larry Wasserman

## **Towards user-centric recommendations**

Assume n users U, m items I.

Model *user-item relation* as n x m – matrix V:

- V={0,1}<sup>nxm</sup>: binary *purchase matrix*
- V=[min,max]<sup>nxm</sup>: quantified preference matrix

Both are very sparse!

(Librarything: 1,000,000 users, 52 mio books, less than 200 books for most users ⇒0,0004% non-zero entries)

"semantics": v<sub>ii</sub> seen as "vote" of user i for item j

## **Recommendation Problem**

#### Inputs:

- Set of votes of user u with items I<sub>u</sub>
- Set of votes of other users
- **Goal**: predict votes of u for items in I\I<sub>u</sub> (to identify the items with highest votes)

 $\Rightarrow$  yields scalability problem (||| is large!)

## **Vote Prediction**

Initial vote calibration (to remove bias):

$$v_i = \frac{1}{|I_i|} \sum_{j \in I_i} v_{ij}$$
  $v_{ij}^* = v_{ij} - v_i$ 

Predict vote of user u for item j as weighted average over

the votes of all other users:

$$\hat{v}_{uj} = v_u + \frac{1}{C} \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_{ui} \cdot v_{ij}^*$$
  $C = \sum_{i=1}^{n} |w_{ui}|$ 

similarity of users u and i

## **Estimating User-User Similarity**

• Correlation-Based similarity:

$$w_{ai} = \frac{1}{C_2} \sum_{j \in I_a \cap I_i} (v_{aj} - v_a) (v_{ij} - v_i)$$
$$C_2 = \left( \sum_{j \in I_a \cap I_i} (v_{aj} - v_a)^2 \sum_{j \in I_a \cap I_i} (v_{ij} - v_i)^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

Unreliable results if overlap between users is small

• Vector similarity (cosine):

$$w_{ai} = \sum_{j \in I} \frac{v_{aj}}{\sqrt{\sum_{k \in I_a} v_{ak}^2}} \frac{v_{ij}}{\sqrt{\sum_{k \in I_i} v_{ik}^2}}$$

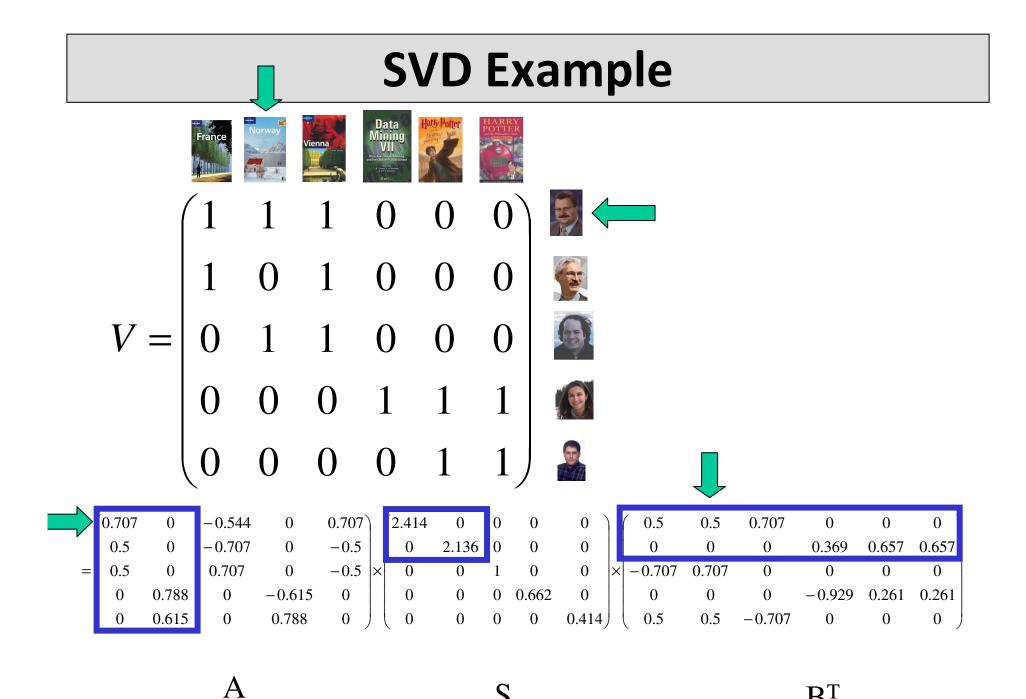
#### Remaining problem: high dimensionality (number of users and items)

# **Reducing Dimensionality: SVD**

Replace V by *rank-k approximation* of V using SVD:

- $V = A \times S \times B^{T}$
- A: **user-concept** similarity matrix (n×r)
- S: diagonal matrix of **singular values** (with r nonzero entries, where r=rank(V)), corresponding to **topics**
- B<sup>T</sup>: **concept-item** similarity (r×m)

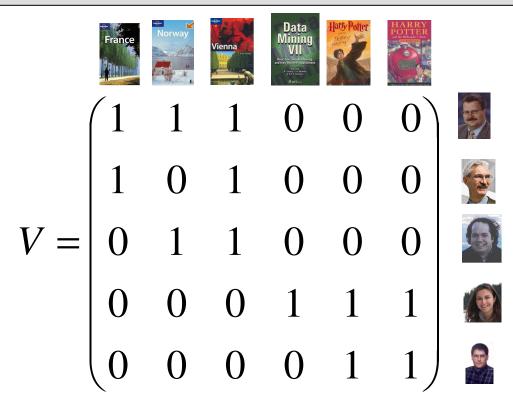
Additionally *restrict to k largest singular values* to further reduce dimensionality

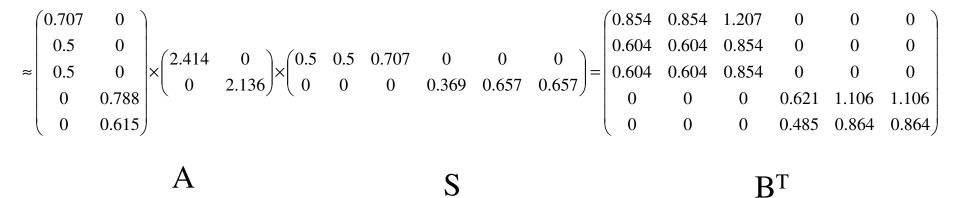


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 $\mathbf{B}^{\mathrm{T}}$ 

## **SVD** Example





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## **Recommendations with SVD**

- Predict votes on A, not on V
   ⇒ compute estimate v<sup>'</sup><sub>uj</sub> for each topic j
- Extend the vote estimate from topics to items

$$v_{ui} = \sum_{j=1}^{k} \left( v'_{uj} \cdot S_{jj} \cdot B_{ji} \right)$$

New issue: Maintaining the SVD when data changes

## SVD generates implicit clustering of items

# **Reducing Dimensionality: Clustering**

- Reduce number of users by precomputing *K clusters of similar users*
- Represent each cluster P by its *centroid* c(P):

$$c(P)_i = \frac{1}{|P|} \sum_{u \in P} v_{ui}$$

- For prediction:
  - Assign user to one of the clusters
  - Compute "nearest neighbor"-prediction for clusters instead of users
- Potential problem:

users may belong to multiple clusters

# **User-Centric is Expensive**

- User actions are highly dynamic
  - difficult to precompute and maintain similarities
  - best recommendations based on items just bought
- One recommendation takes time O(n+m):
  - needs to scan all users and their items
  - most users have ≤C1 items
  - few users (≤C2) have >C1 items
  - cost bounded by  $(n-C2)\cdot C1 + C2\cdot m=O(n+m)$
  - n,m large
- Recommendations need to be computed in real time (≤200ms)

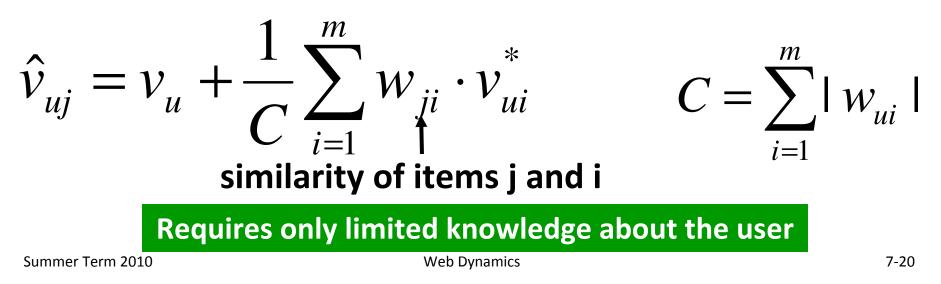
# **Item-centric Recommendations**

#### **Observation:**

Relationships of items (i.e., correlation in purchases) a lot less dynamic than relationships of users

- information from yesterday still reasonably accurate today
- not recommending new items tolerable

Predict vote of user u for item j as weighted average over the votes of user u for other items:



# **Estimating Item-Item Similarity**

using correlation-based or cosine similarity (similar to user-user similarity)

Example: cosine similarity

$$w_{ji} = \sum_{u \in U} \frac{v_{uj}}{\sqrt{\sum_{k \in U} v_{kj}^2}} \frac{v_{ui}}{\sqrt{\sum_{k \in U} v_{ki}^2}}$$

Computing similarities expensive (O(m<sup>2</sup>n)), but offline Computing predictions is cheap (O(m) if only constant number of items considered) Web Dynamics 7-21

## **Using Search to Recommend**

Assume we can identify *features* of items (genre, actors, director, keywords, ...)

- Identify *frequent/characteristic features* for the user's items
- Submit *search* for those features and recommend the results

### **Problems:**

- Does not scale well for many owned items
- Does not provide good recommendations

## **Probabilistic Models for Recommendation**

Consider *joint probability distribution* for m-dimensional set of items (binary preferences):  $P[v_1...v_m]$ : probability that random user has

vote vector  $(v_1, ..., v_m)$ 

**Predict** unknown value  $v_{ui}$  as  $P[v_i=1|v_j=1 \text{ for } j \in I_u]$ Impossible to maintain explicitly (2<sup>m</sup> parameters!)  $\Rightarrow$ approximate through *finite mixture*:  $P[v_1...v_m] \approx \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} P[v_1...v_m | c = k] \cdot P[c = k]$ assume independence within each component:  $P[v_1...v_m | c = k] = \prod P[v_i | c = k]$ Web Dynamics

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## **Evaluating Recommender Systems**

### Goal:

Out of several recommendation algorithms, determine which gives best recommendations. Required components of such a *benchmark*:

- set of (user,item,rating) tuples for *training* (known to the algorithm in advance)
- set of (user,item,rating) tuples for *testing* (where the algorithm needs to predict *rating*)
  - Can be offline (part of the data) or live user experiment
- metrics for *quantifying result quality*

## **Properties of Data Sets for Evaluation**

- can be *synthetic* vs. *real-life*
- features of the application domain
  - novelty vs. quality focus of recommendations
  - *cost/benefit ratio* of true/false positive/negatives
  - granularity of true user preferences (vs. ratings)
- inherent features of the data set (and ratings)
  - Implicit or explicit ratings
  - scale & dimensions of ratings
  - history of ratings (timestamps) and recommendations
- sample features
  - *density* of rating set (overall & for test users)
  - size of data set

## **Offline Evaluation vs. User Experiments**

- Offline evaluation: compare predicted votes to actual votes made by the user
  - low effort, can be done automatically
  - can be used to evaluate series of ratings (timestamps)
  - But: limited choice of predictions to evaluate
- Live user experiments: ask user for opinion or observe user behavior
  - understand if and why people like (or dislike) recommendations, interfaces, systems

## **Evaluation metrics**

Widely used: measure *accuracy* of predictions by measuring the *error* of prediction and actual rating

mean absolute error (MAE)

$$|\overline{E}_{MAE}| = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} |p_i - r_i|}{N}$$

 $p_i$ : prediction

*r<sub>i</sub>*: recommendation

N: # recommendations

- Root mean square error (RMSE; emphasises large errors)

$$|\overline{E}_{RMSE}| = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (p_i - r_i)^2}{N}}$$

precision/recall, rank accuracy metrics, ...

# **Additional Evaluation Dimensions**

#### • Coverage:

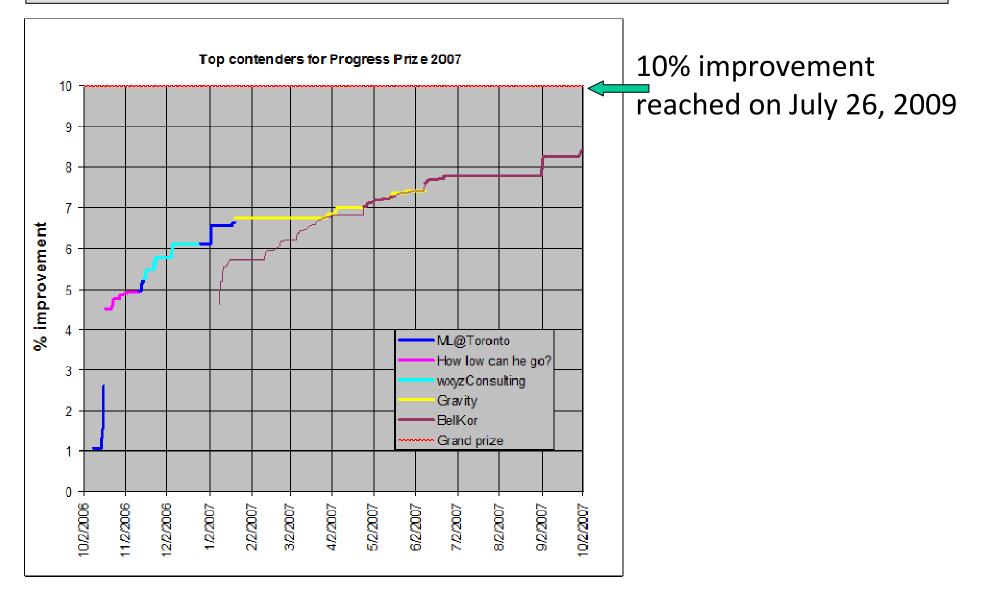
- Recommendations for how many items
- How many items are actually recommended
- Learning rate:
  - How fast recommendation quality increases with increased amount of training data
- Novelty:
  - Focus on items unknown to the user, but within its scope (e.g., new movie of favourite director)
- Serendepity:
  - Surprising recommendations (e.g., new movie of new director that fits the user's taste)

• Confidence

# **Benchmarks: Netflix Prize**

- http://www.netflixprize.com
- set up by online movie portal
- provides (anonymized) training data (480,000 users, 18,000 movies, 10<sup>6</sup> ratings on a 1..5 scale)
- Goal: improve over portal's own recommender (RMSE: 0.9514)
- High reward to make the benchmark attractive: 1,000,000\$ for the first 10% improvement in RMSE on test data (1.4 million user-movie pairs), 50,000\$ intermediate progress award per year

## **Netflix: Result Improvements over Time**



# Web Dynamics

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7.1 Recommendation7.2 Personalized Search

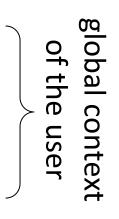
## **Goal: Resolve inherent disambiguity of search**

**Example 1**: Search for "IR" may return

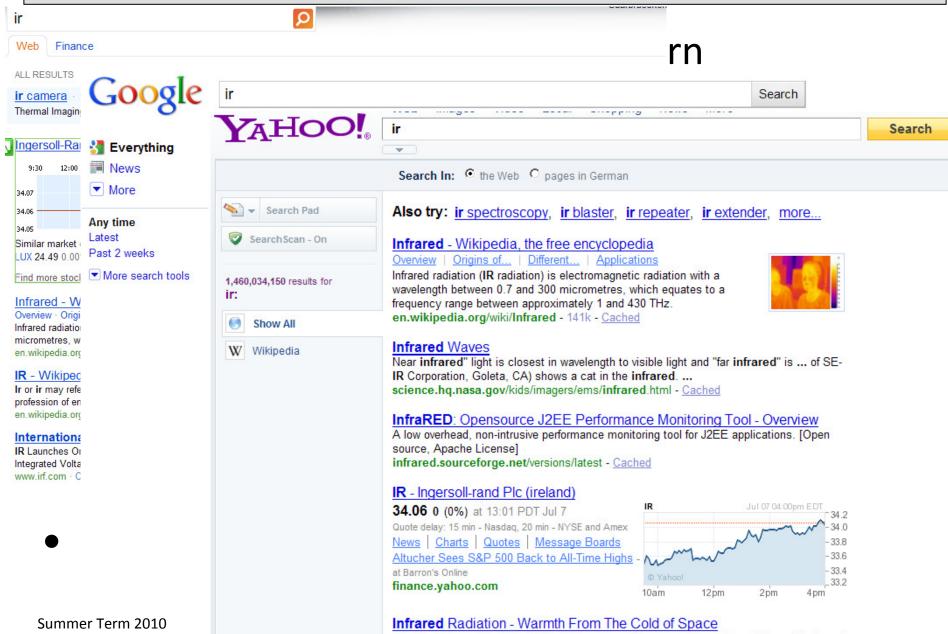
- Ingersoll-Rand Company
- Web pages in Arabic from Iran (\*.ir)
- Infrared Light
- Information Retrieval

Example 2: Search for "Java" should return

- Programming tools for a programmer
- Tutorials for a teacher
- FAQ lists for a novice user



## **Goal: Resolve inherent disambiguity of search**



What is Infrared Radiation? The light we see with our eyes is really Although infrared

## **Goal: Resolve inherent disambiguity of search**

**Example 3**: Search for "restaurant" should return

- places in Geneva while planning for SIGIR 10
- places in Singapore while planning for VLDB 10
- places in Saarbrücken otherwise

Example 4: Search for "Saarbrücken" should return

- Restaurants (when I've been searching for them)
- Computer shops, dentists, hospitals, ...

Search results may depend on current context (that is not constant and may change over time)

# **Dimensions of Personalized Search**

- Different *kinds of user contexts*:
  - global: background of the user, long-term profile
  - session: set of queries following similar needs
  - query: use last query & actions

each only for searches, for all browser actions, or for (more/all) actions

- Different *places* to collect & use context info:
  - Service provider vs. Web server vs. local client
- Different *actions* to use context info:
  - modify query vs. rerank results

## Simple Personalization: Relevance Feedback

- collect *feedback from user* for query results
  - explicit feedback (buttons in the interface)
  - implicit feedback (clicks of the user)
- generate *improved query* 
  - add new terms
  - drop some old terms
  - change weights of terms

# **Example: Simple Feedback on iGoogle**

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### **Example: Simple Feedback on iGoogle**

#### Web

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#### IR-Spektroskopie

Auf dieser privaten Seite werden die Grundlagen der IR-Spektroskopie und die Technik der FTIR-Spektrometer erklärt. www.ir-spektroskopie.de/ - Im Cache - Ähnlich - 💬 🕌 💌

#### Infrared - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - [ Diese Seite übersetzen ]

Infrared (IR) radiation is electromagnetic radiation whose wavelength is longer than that of visible light (400-700 nm), but shorter than that of terahertz ... en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infrared - Im Cache - Ähnlich - P 🐨 🛪

#### AIM INFRAROT-MODULE GmbH

Die AIM INFRAROT-MODULE GmbH entwickelt und fertigt Infrarot-Detektoren und –Module für Thermografiesysteme. Das Hightech-Unternehmen ist weltweit als ein ... www.aim-ir.de/ - Im Cache - Ähnlich - 💬

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## Feedback in the current Google interface

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### **iGoogle: Collaborative Feedback**

### Google Alle Such-Wiki-Einträge



19 Einträge gespeichert für: ir

IR Japan | 株式会社アイ・アールジャパン - [Diese Seite übersetzen] IR活動支援のパイオニア、アイ・アールジャパンは委任状争奪戦などの有事においてはプロキ シーアドバイザー(PA)として、また、平時においては買収防衛策導入支援、 ... www.irjapan.net/ - vor 6 Stunden gefunden - Im Cache - Ähnlich - 💬 🗟 🔀 

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زوروا موقع اذاعة طهران العربية على الانترنت للاطلاع على أخر الاخبار والانباء والتقارير واهم عناوين الصحف العربية والايرانية واحداث العالم عبر الصور. arabic.irib.ir/ - vor 3 Stunden gefunden - Im Cache - Ähnlich - 💬 🖡 🗙 1 0 🛛 1🔂 Kommentar

#### Internal Revenue Service - [ Diese Seite übersetzen ]

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US government agency responsible for tax collection and tax law enforcement. Provides downloadable income tax forms instructions agency publications

# **Implicit Feedback from Clicks**

General rules to collect implicit feedback:

- *Clicked results* are relevant for the query
  - unless the user left that page immediately
- Non-clicked results don't really help
  - User may immediately rate them as nonrelevant (from the snippet)
  - User may already know the result (which may be relevant or nonrelevant)
  - User may not have looked at the result (was satisfied by other results)

# **Advanced Implicit Feedback**

Modify browser to collect *behavior data*:

- dwelling time on a page
- scrolling
- mouse movements
- mouse clicks
- followed links
- $\Rightarrow$  Yields better estimate of "relevance"

# iGoogle: Logging Searches and Clicks

Webprotokoll für ralf.	schenkel@gmail.com

Gesamtes Protokoll	Heute	
Web	11:12	Gesucht nach google search personalization - 🖃 <u>3 Ergebnisse angezeigt</u>
<u>Bilder</u>		C Google Ramps Up Personalized Search - searchengineland.com
News		The Future of Google's Search Personalization - Search searchenginewatch.com
Produkte		Coogle Web History and Search Personalization - googletutor.com
Anzeigen		

### **Context-based Search on Google**

### GOOGIC Personalisierte Suche: ir

Wenn möglich, passt Google Ihre Suchergebnisse anhand des Standortes und/oder Ihrer aktuellen Suchvorgänge an. Wenn Sie in Ihrem Google-Konto angemeldet sind, erhalten Sie außerdem bil eierend auf Ihrem Suchvorlauf meist noch relevantere und pützlichere Ergebnisse.

Die folgenden Informationen wurden verwendet, um Ihre Suchergebnisse für ir zu verbessern:

 Webprotokoll
 Ein oder mehrere Elemente in Ihrem Webprotokoll wurden zur Verbesserung der Suchergebnisse verwendet.

 Webprotokoll verwalten
 Webprotokoll aus meinem Google-Konto entfernen

Wenn Sie neugierig sind, können Sie sich anschauen, wie eine Suche nach ir ohne Anpassungen aussieht.

Der Link 'Weitere Details' auf der Suchergebnisseite kann verwendet werden, um diese Seite für etwa 30 Minuten anzuzeigen. Danach wird diese Seite nicht länger angezeigt.

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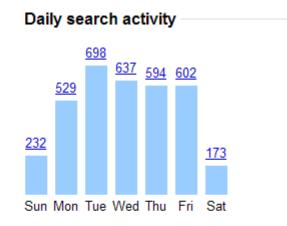
# **Personal Google Web history**

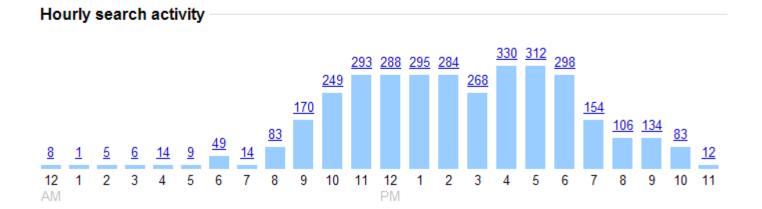
#### Web History for ralf.schenkel@gmail.com



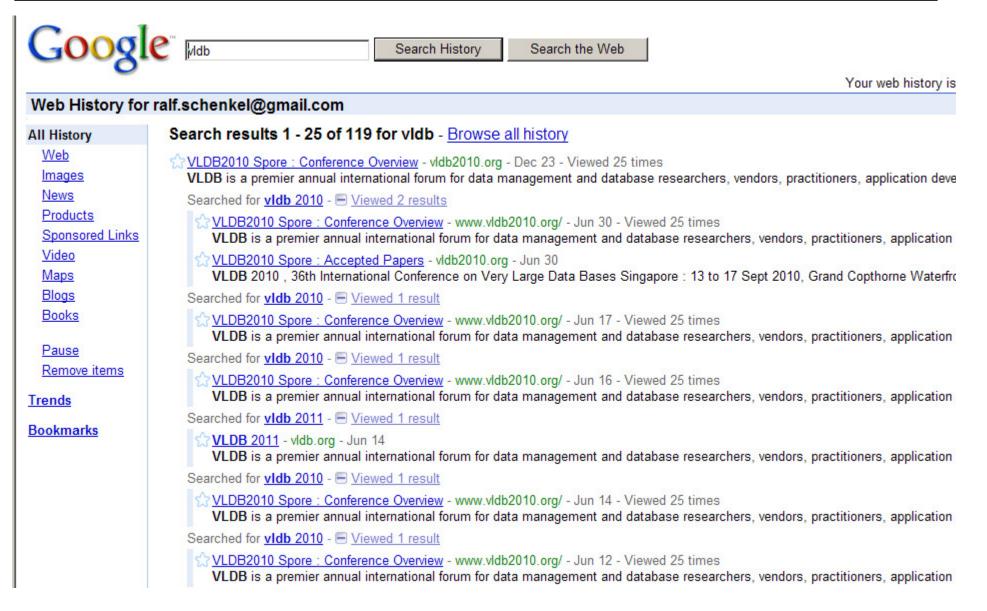
### **Personal Google Web history**







## Searching personal histories



# Standard RF: Rocchio's Method (1971)

- •Goal: Find query that is close to relevant documents
- •Compute *Rocchio weights [1971]* for each term (also used as weight in query):

$$w(t) = \alpha \cdot q(t) + \beta \frac{r_t}{R} - \gamma \frac{n_t}{N}$$

where

- q(t) weight of term t in the query
- $r_t$  number of relevant results with term t
- *R* number of relevant results
- $n_t$  number of nonrelevant results with term t
- *N* number of nonrelevant results
- Select *n* terms with highest weight to expand query

# Simple Use of Feedback: Promoting

Idea: Push results with positive feedback up

- *Locally* for each user:
  - remember feedback for each user
  - promote results with feedback when query returns (approximately 30% of queries [Dou, WWW07])
- *Globally* for all users:
  - collect feedback for (frequent) queries
  - promote results with feedback from "most" users
  - does not work well for ambigous queries
- $\Rightarrow$  pure reranking approach

### **User Profiles**

**Goal**: Construct *summary* of the user's interests

- from the pages she accessed
- from her documents, her mails, ... (optional)

### General approach:

- For each page p, consider term vector t(p)
- For set of browsed pages B, compute average term vector t(B):

$$t(B) = \frac{1}{|B|} \sum_{p \in B} t(p)$$

### **Persistent vs. Session Profile**

*Long-term* interests of user may differ from interest in *current search session* 

- $\Rightarrow$  maintain two profiles: persistent & session
- Session profile:
  - consider pages accessed in the current session only
  - Session boundaries by time or page coherence

### • Persistent profile:

- consider all pages ever visited by the user
- lower weight for older pages (exponential decay)

### Profile is mixture of session & persistent profiles

# **Personalization with User Profiles**

*Reranking* of search result based on profile match:

- compute set of results R for query
- for each result p, measure *similarity* of p with profile vector (e.g., cosine)
- rank results in descending order of similarity

### **Improving Profiles by Collaborative Filtering**

### Problem:

User profile often sparse (based on few pages)

### Approach:

Predict missing term weights analogously to user-centric recommendation

- Find similar users based on similarity of their profiles
- Compute predictions for term weights based on weighted average over neighborhood

# **Reranking Problem: Similar Results**

Reranking cannot work when all results are similar

(and nonrelevant to the query)

Example:

- Query: windows (as built into houses)
- Results: only about the operating system

Microsoft Corporation Microsoft Virtualization: Download a free trial of Windows Server 2008 Hyper-	bing	windows 🔎
trial, tools, and downloads that work with Windows Essential www.microsoft.com/ - Cached - Similar	Web	Web Wikipedia
Microsoft Download Center       Windows Vista         Windows XP       Windows 7         Microsoft Help and Support       Templates         Windows Update       Internet Explorer         More results from microsoft.com .»       Microsoft Windows: software and services as unique as you are         With Windows on your mobile phone, PC, or the Web, you have access to a software, services, and devices to choose from.       Downloads - Windows XP - Windows 7 - Windows Vista         www.microsoft.com/windows/ - Cached - Similar       Microsoft Windows Update         Latest bug fixes for Microsoft Windows, including fixes for some possible Do windowsupdate.microsoft.com/ - Similar	RELATED SEARCHES House Windows Home Windows Replacement Windows Residential Windows Windows Update Windows Live Messenger Windows Media Player 11 SEARCH HISTORY windows See all	ALL RESULTS 1-20 of 460,000,000 results · Official Windows Home Page Microsoft Windows family of operating systems home page with product information, edition comparison charts, feature descriptions, downloads and more. www.microsoft.com/windows · Cached page Microsoft Corporation Is your PC ready for Windows 7? Download the free Upgrade Advisor to find out if you can run Windows 7 on your PC. Learn more about Windows 7 www.microsoft.com · Cached page Microsoft Windows - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Versions · History · Timeline of releases · Security Microsoft Windows is a series of software operating systems and graphical user interfaces produced by Microsoft. Microsoft first introduced an operating environment named Windows in envikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_windows · Cached page
Summer Term 2010	Clear all · Turn off	Microsoft Windows Update The Microsoft Windows Update Consumer site provides critical updates, security fixes, software downloads, and Microsoft Windows Hardware Quality Lab (WHQL) device drivers for your windowsupdate.microsoft.com · Cached page

# **Reranking diversified results**

Exploit information about query sequences **Example:** 

windows  $\rightarrow$  house windows  $\rightarrow$  vinyl windows  $\rightarrow$  windows xp  $\rightarrow$  windows vista

### Approach:

To get K results for reranking for query q, submit top-K/(k+1)-queries for k most

frequent/diverse following queries of q in the log

Searches related to: windows

windows azure

house windows windows 7 windows live

home windows

windows vista windows media player

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windows xp

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