# 7. Dynamics & Age

#### Outline

- 7.1. Dynamics & Age
- 7.2. Temporal Information
- 7.3. Search in Web Archives
- 7.4. Historical Document Collections

## 7.1. Dynamics & Age

- The Web is highly dynamic: new content is continuously added; old content is deleted and potentially lost forever
- Web archives (e.g., <u>archive.org</u>, <u>internetmemory.org</u>) have been preserving **old snapshots of web pages** since 1996
- Improved digitization (e.g., OCR) have allowed (newspaper) archives to make old documents (e.g., from 1700s) searchable
- Challenges & Opportunities:
  - How to index highly redundant document collections like web archives?
  - How to make use of temporal information such as publication dates?
  - How to search documents written in archaic language?

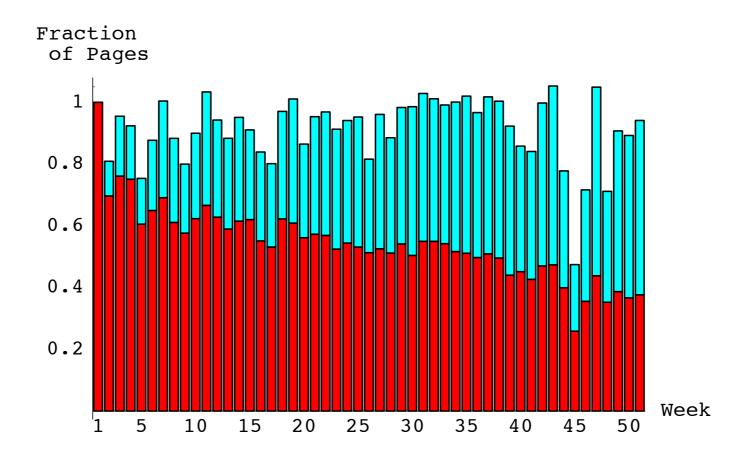
## How Dynamic is the Web?

- Ntoulas et al. [9] study the dynamics of the Web in '02-'03
- Data: Weekly crawls of **154 web sites** over one year
  - top-ranked web sites from topical categories in Google Directory (extension of DMOZ) from different top-level domains
  - at most 200K web pages per web site per weekly crawl

Domain	Fraction of pages in domain
.com	41%
.gov	18.7%
.edu	16.5%
.org	15.7%
.net	4.1%
.mil	2.9%
misc	1.1%

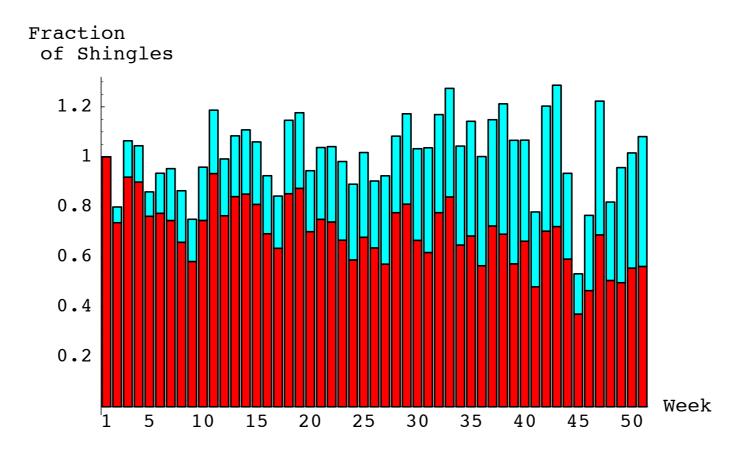
#### How Dynamic are Web Pages?

- <u>Web pages</u>:
  - on average **8% new web pages** per week
  - peek in creation of new pages at the end of each month
  - after 9 months about 50% of web pages have been deleted



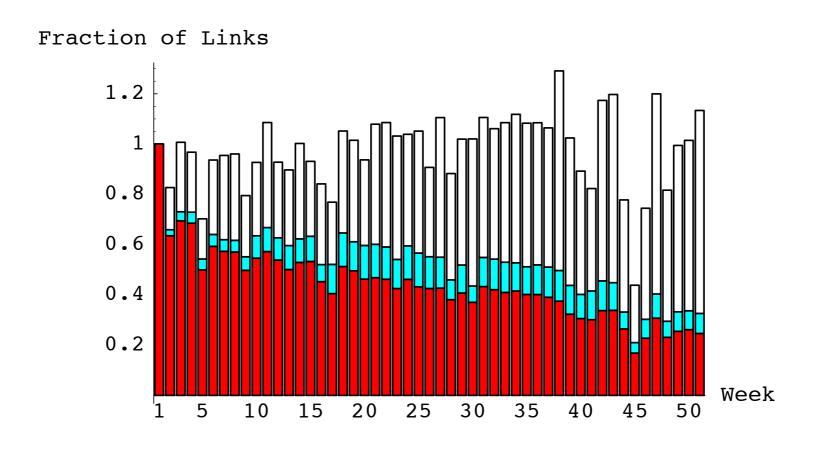
### How Dynamic is the Content?

- <u>Content</u>: Based on *w*-shingles (contiguous sequence of *w* words)
  - after one year more than 50% of shingles are still available
  - each week about **5% of new shingles** are created



#### How Dynamic is the Link Structure?

- <u>Hyperlinks</u>:
  - after one year only 24% of links are still available
  - on average **25% of new links** are created **every week**



## How Dynamic is the (Visited) Web?

- Adar et al. [1] conducted a fine-grained study of the visited Web
- Data: Hourly fetches of 55K web pages over 5 weeks
  - selected based on **access statistics** from Live Search toolbar
  - selection balances frequently visited and infrequently visited web pages
  - more fine-grained fetches for web pages with high change activity

## How Dynamic are (Visited) Web Pages?

- Change of web page measured using
  - average time between changes (Hours) determined using content checksums
  - average Dice coefficient (Dice) between adjacent versions as word sets

$$D(W_i, W_j) = \frac{2 \cdot |W_i \cap W_j|}{|W_i| + |W_j|}$$

		Inter-version means		
		Hours	Dice	
Total		123	.7940	
Visitors	2	138	.8022	
	3 - 6	125	.8268	
	7 - 38	106	.8252	
	39+	102	.8123	
Domain	.gov	169	.8358	
	.edu	161	.8753	
	.com	126	.7882	
	.net	125	.7642	
	.org	95	.8518	
URL depth	5+	199	.6782	
	4	176	.7401	
	3	167	.7363	
	2	127	.7804	
	1	104	.8200	
	0	80	.8584	
	Industry/trade	218	.6649	
ry	Music	147	.8013	
gor	Porn	137	.7649	
Catego	Personal pages	88	.8288	
	Sports/recreation	66	.8975	
	News/magazines	33	.8700	

## 7.2. Temporal Information

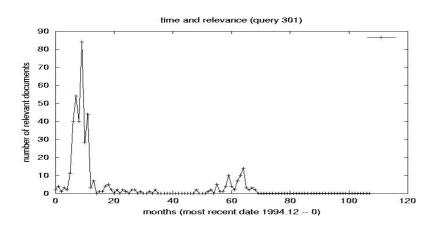
- Documents come with different kinds of temporal information
  - **publication dates** indicating when the document was published
  - **temporal expressions** (e.g., last month, January 9th 2014, in the '90s) indicating which time periods the document's content talks about
- Queries can be **temporally classified** along several dimensions
  - ...whether they can refer to a single or multiple time periods
    - **temporally unambiguous** (e.g., fifa world cup 2014, battle of waterloo)
    - **temporally ambiguous** (e.g., summer olympics, world war)

### **Temporal Information**

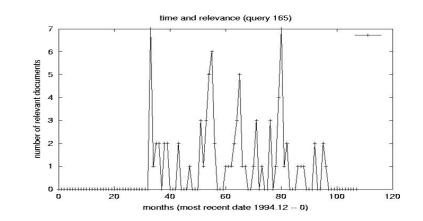
- ...whether a time period is explicitly mentioned or implicitly assumed
  - **explicitly temporal** (e.g., fifa world cup 2014, presidential election 2008)
  - implicitly temporal (e.g., superbowl, london bombing)
- ...whether they aim for information about the past, present, or future
  - **past** (e.g., historic map of rome, news reports about moon landing)
  - **recent** (e.g., paris terrorist attack, tesla stock price, lithuania euro)
  - **future** (e.g., lisa pathfinder launch, academy awards 2015)
- ...whether they can refer to any time period at all
  - **atemporal** (e.g., muffin recipe, side effects of paracetamol, muscle cramps)

## 7.2.1. Temporal Document Priors

- Li and Croft [7] develop an approach based on language models targeted at queries favoring more recent documents
- Example: Publication dates of relevant documents in TREC



**Query 301: international organized crime** 



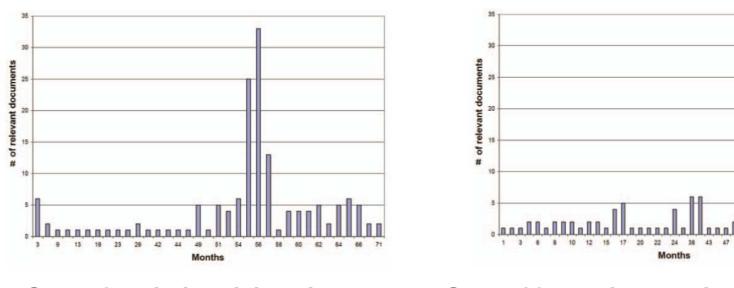
Query 165: tobacco company advertising and the young

 Query-likelihood approach with temporal document prior P[d] depending on publication date t of document and current date c

$$\mathbf{P}\left[d \mid q\right] \propto \mathbf{P}\left[d\right] \cdot \prod_{v} \mathbf{P}\left[v \mid d\right] \qquad \qquad \mathbf{P}\left[d\right] = \lambda e^{-\lambda (c-t)}$$

## 7.2.2. Temporal Query Profiles

- Dakka et al. [4] target general time-sensitive queries using an approach based on language models
- Example: Publication dates of relevant documents in TREC



Query 311: industrial espionage Qu

Query 304: endangered species (mammals)

 <u>Idea</u>: Estimate temporal document prior from publication dates of pseudo-relevant documents retrieved for the query

#### **Temporal Query Profiles**

 Let R denote the set of pseudo-relevant documents (e.g., top-50 from baseline), a temporal query profile is estimated as

$$\mathbf{P}\left[t \mid q\right] = \sum_{d \in R} \mathbf{P}\left[t \mid d\right] \frac{\mathbf{P}\left[q \mid d\right]}{\sum_{d' \in R} \mathbf{P}\left[q \mid d'\right]} \quad \mathbf{P}\left[t \mid d\right] = \mathbb{1}(d \text{ published at } t)$$

- Temporal query profile is **smoothed in two ways** 
  - using linear interpolation with the temporal collection profile to account for fluctuations in publication volume

$$\mathbf{P}\left[t \mid D\right] = \frac{1}{|D|} \sum_{d \in D} \mathbf{P}\left[t \mid d\right]$$

• using a **moving average** to account for longer lasting events

$$\overline{\mathbf{P}}[t \mid q] = \frac{1}{w} \sum_{i=0}^{w-1} \mathbf{P}[t-i \mid q]$$

## **Temporal Query Profile**

 Temporal query profile is integrated as document prior with t as the publication date of document d

$$P[q \mid d] = P[t \mid q] \cdot \prod_{v} P[v \mid d]$$

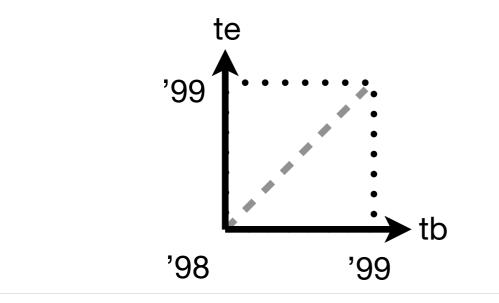
## 7.2.3. Temporal Expressions

- Berberich et al. [3] develop an approach based on language models targeted at explicitly temporal queries that mention a temporal expression (e.g., michael jordan 1990s)
- Standard retrieval models treat temporal expressions as terms and are unaware of their inherent semantics (e.g., '90s is different from 1990s and 2005 is different from March 2005)
- **Temporal expressions are vague**, i.e., the precise time interval they refer to is uncertain and this uncertainty needs to be reflected
  - in the 1990s can refer to [1992, 1995], [1990, 1999], [1992, 1993], etc.
  - in 2002 can refer to [2002/01/01, 2002/12/31], [2002/05/04, 2002/07/02], etc.

- Temporal expressions are modeled as sets of time intervals and denoted as four-tuples (tb<sub>I</sub>, tb<sub>u</sub>, te<sub>I</sub>, te<sub>u</sub>)
- Temporal expression T = (tb<sub>I</sub>, tb<sub>u</sub>, te<sub>I</sub>, te<sub>u</sub>) can refer to any time interval [tb, te] such that the following holds

 $tb_l \leq tb \leq tb_u \quad \wedge \quad tb \leq te \quad \wedge \quad te_l \leq te \leq te_u$ 

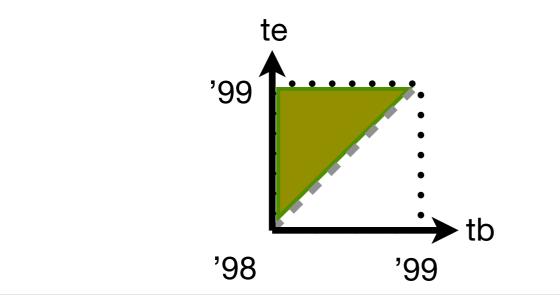
 <u>Example</u>: Temporal expression in 1998 represented as (1998/01/01, 1998/12/31, 1998/01/01, 1998/12/31)



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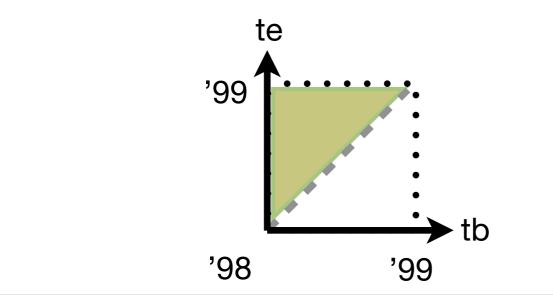
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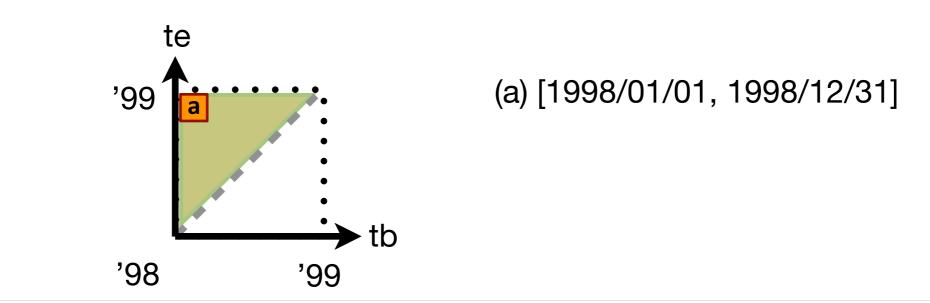
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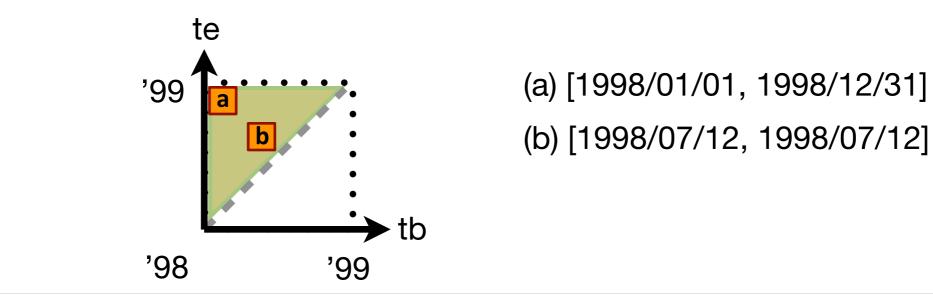
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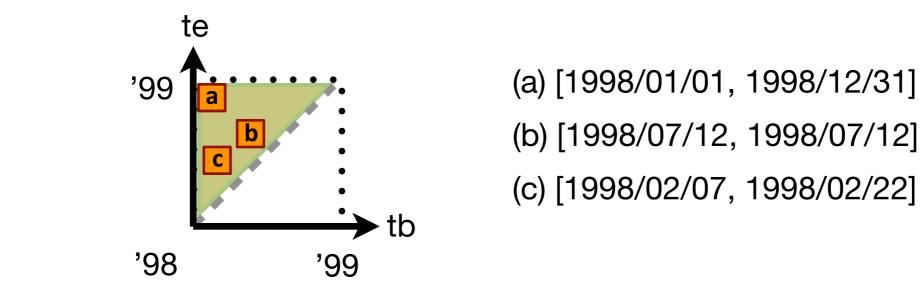
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#### **Document and Query Models**

- Documents are modeled as a set of textual terms d<sub>text</sub> and a set of temporal expressions d<sub>time</sub>
- Queries are modeled as a set of textual terms q<sub>text</sub> and a set of temporal expressions q<sub>time</sub>
- Query-likelihood approach assuming independence between textual terms and temporal expressions

 $P[q \mid d] = P[q_{text} \mid d_{text}] \times P[q_{time} \mid d_{time}]$ 

 Query likelihood of textual part P[q<sub>text</sub> | d<sub>text</sub>] is estimated using unigram language model with Jelinek-Mercer smoothing (mixing parameter: γ)

#### Language Model for Temporal Expressions

- Query likelihood of temporal part P[q<sub>time</sub> | d<sub>time</sub>] is estimated
  - assuming independence between temporal expressions

$$P[q_{time} \mid d_{time}] = \prod_{Q \in q_{time}} P[Q \mid d_{time}]$$

 $\circ$  assuming uniform probability for temporal expressions from document d

$$\mathbf{P}\left[Q \mid d_{time}\right] = \frac{1}{|d_{time}|} \sum_{T \in d_{time}} \mathbf{P}\left[Q \mid T\right]$$

• assuming uniform probability for time intervals that Q can refer to

$$\mathbf{P}\left[Q \mid T\right] = \frac{1}{|Q|} \sum_{[q_b, q_e] \in Q} \mathbf{P}\left[\left[q_b, q_e\right] \mid T\right]$$

#### Language Model for Temporal Expressions

• assuming uniform probability for time intervals that T can refer to

$$P[[q_b, q_e] | T] = \frac{1}{|T|} \mathbb{1}([q_b, q_e] \in T)$$

• P[Q|T] can be simplified as

$$\mathbf{P}\left[Q \mid T\right] = \frac{|T \cap Q|}{|T| \cdot |Q|}$$

treating temporal expressions as sets of time intervals

 P[Q|d<sub>time</sub>] is smoothed with collection model P[Q|D<sub>time</sub>] using Jelinek-Mercer smoothing (mixing parameter: λ)

#### **Experimental Evaluation**

- <u>Document Collection</u>: The New York Times Annotated Corpus (1.8 million newspaper articles published between '87 and '07)
- Queries: 40 queries in total gathered using crowdsourcing
  - related to **four topics** *sports*, *culture*, *technology*, *world affairs*
  - five temporal granularities (day, month, year, decade, century)

	Sports	Culture
Day	boston red sox [october 27, 2004]	kurt cobain [april 5, 1994]
Ū.	ac milan [may 23, 2007]	keith harring [february 16, 1990]
Month	stefan edberg [july 1990]	woodstock [august 1994]
	italian national soccer team [july 2006]	pink floyd [march 1973]
Year	babe ruth [1921]	rocky horror picture show [1975]
	chicago bulls [1991]	michael jackson [1982]
	michael jordan [1990s]	sound of music [1960s]
	new york yankees [1910s]	mickey mouse [1930s]
Century	la lakers [21st century]	academy award [21st century]
	soccer [21st century]	jazz music [21st century]
	Technology	World Affairs
Day	mac os x [march 24, 2001]	berlin [october 27, 1961]
	voyager [september 5, 1977]	george bush [january 18, 2001]
	thomas edison [december 1891]	poland [december 1970]
	microsoft halo [june 2000]	pearl harbor [december 1941]
	roentgen [1895]	nixon [1970s]
	wright brothers [1905]	iraq [2001]
	internet [1990s]	vietnam [1960s]
	sewing machine [1850s]	monica lewinsky [1990s]
Continue	musket [16th century]	queen victoria [19th century]
Century	siemens [19th century]	muhammed [7th century]

#### Queries

#### **Precision / nDCG**

	P@5	N@5	P@10	N@10
LM $(\gamma = 0.25)$ LM $(\gamma = 0.75)$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.33\\ 0.38\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.34 \\ 0.39 \end{array}$	$0.30 \\ 0.37$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.32\\ 0.38\end{array}$
LMTU-EX ( $\gamma = 0.25, \lambda = 0.75$ ) LMTU-EX ( $\gamma = 0.5, \lambda = 0.75$ )	0.53 <b>0.54</b>	0.51 <b>0.52</b>	0.49 <b>0.51</b>	0.49 <b>0.49</b>

#### 7.3. Search in Web Archives

Web archives (e.g., <u>archive.org</u>, <u>internetmemory.org</u>) preserve
 old snapshots of URLs (web pages, images, etc.)

 Internet Archive has harvested 435 billion web pages (including embedded media files) since 1996

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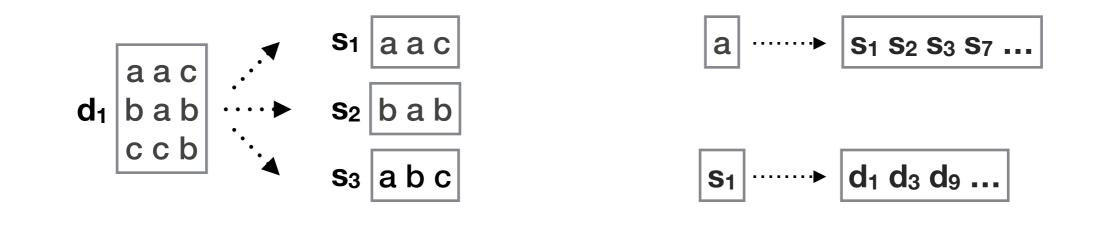
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### **Search in Web Archives**

- Challenges & Opportunities:
  - **vast volume** of web archives (Internet Archive: 435 billion snapshots)
  - **Iongitudinal coverage** of web archives (Internet Archive: 1996 now)
  - document versions (snapshots of the same document) taken at nearby times exhibit a high degree of redundancy allowing for compression
  - document versions come with a valid-time interval, indicating when the version was current, which allows for more effective search

## 7.3.1. Non-Redundant Indexing

- Zhang and Suel [11] devise an approach to index highlyredundant document collections (e.g., web archives)
- <u>Ideas</u>:
  - break up documents into shorter segments
  - segments should be shared between overlapping documents
  - use a two-level index structure to index associations between words-and-segments and segments-and-documents





- Hash breaking (as a naïve approach)
  - compute **hash code** h[i] for each term d[i] in document
  - break document at all indices i such that h[i] % w = 0



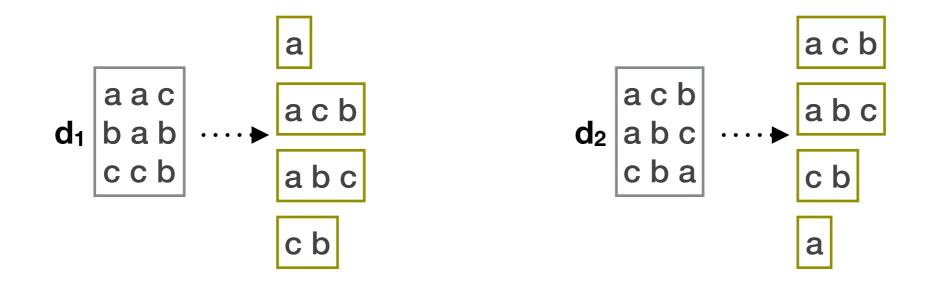
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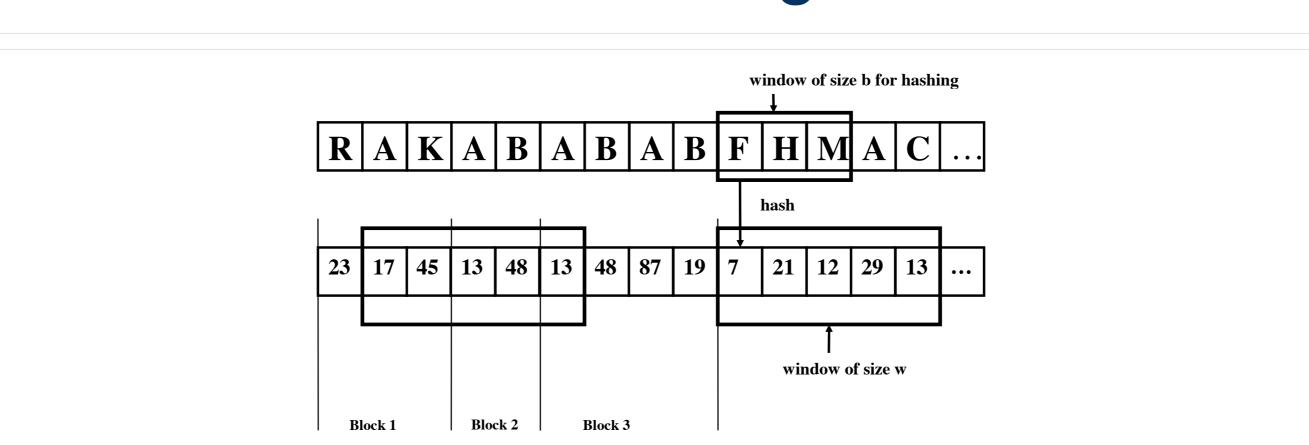


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## Winnowing

- Winnowing [10] (as a better approach with guarantees)
  - compute hash code h[i] for all subsequences d[i ... i+b-1] of length b
  - **slide window** of size **w** over the array of hash codes h[0 .. |d|-b]
    - if h[i] is strictly smaller than all other values h[j] in current window then cut the document between i and i -1
    - if there are **multiple positions** i in the current window with minimal value h[i]
      - if we have previously cut directly before one of them, then don't perform a cut
      - otherwise, cut before the rightmost position i having minimal value h[i]

# Winnowing



- Winnowing guarantees that two documents having a subsequence of length at least w+b+1 in common share at least one segment
- Maximum segment length is w
- Expected sequence length is (w+1)/2

#### **Query Processing**

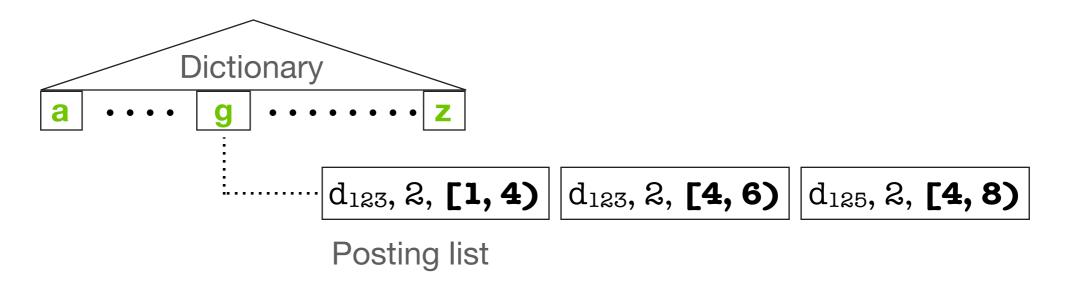
- Query processing needs to be adapted to reflect that the same segment can occur in many documents
  - when seeing a segment in a posting list of the first index,
    **look up documents containing it** in the second index
  - effectiveness of skipping for conjunctive queries is reduced
    - terms could be spread over different segments in a document
    - segments can be contained in documents with arbitrary document identifiers

# 7.3.2. Time-Travel Text Search

- Berberich et al. [2] develop an approach to support time-travel text search on version document collections
- Time-travel keyword query q@t combines keywords q with a time of interest t to search "as of" the indicated time in the past
- <u>Ideas</u>:
  - coalesce postings belonging to temporally adjacent versions if their payloads (e.g., score) are almost the same
  - partition the index along time to improve query processing performance and

#### **Time-Travel Inverted Index**

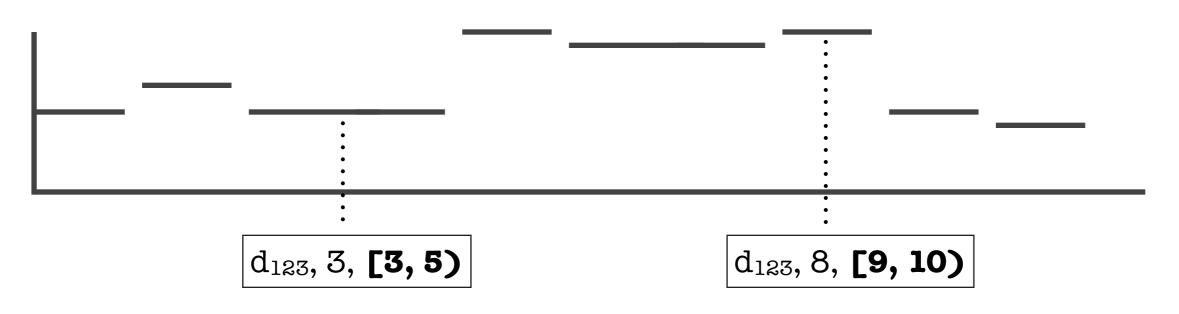
• Time-travel inverted index adds a **valid-time interval** [ $t_b$ ,  $t_e$ ) to postings indicating when the information therein was current



 Time-travel keyword query q@t is processed by reading posting lists for keywords in q and filtering out postings whose valid-time interval does not contain t, i.e.:

$$t \notin [t_b, t_e)$$

- Naïve application of time-travel inverted index results in one posting per keyword per document version
- Observation: Postings belonging to temporally adjacent versions of the same document often have similar payloads



 <u>Idea</u>: Coalesce (i.e., group together) postings having similar payloads to reduce index size

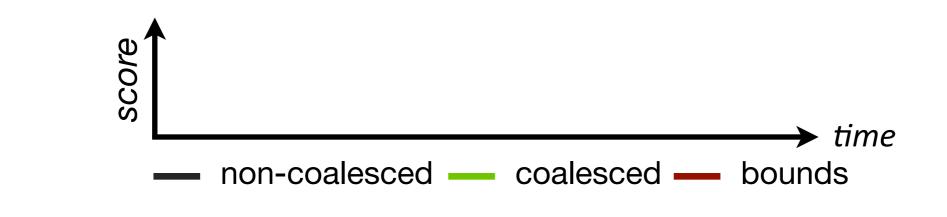
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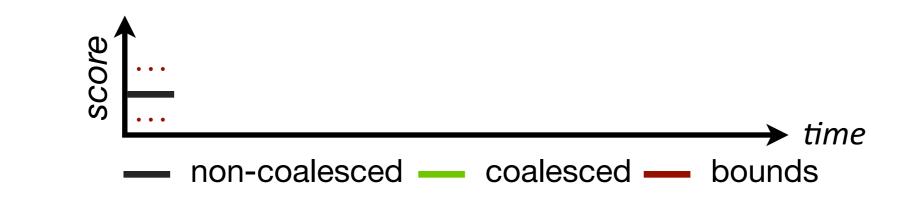
 Problem Statement: Given a sequence I of postings for term v in document d, determine a minimal-length output sequence O that keeps the relative approximation error below a threshold ε

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{p}_{2} \\ \mathbf{p}_{2} \\ \mathbf{p}_{1} \\ \mathbf{p}_{3} \end{array} \qquad \forall p_{i} \in I : \frac{|p_{i} - \hat{p}|}{p_{i}} \leq e$$



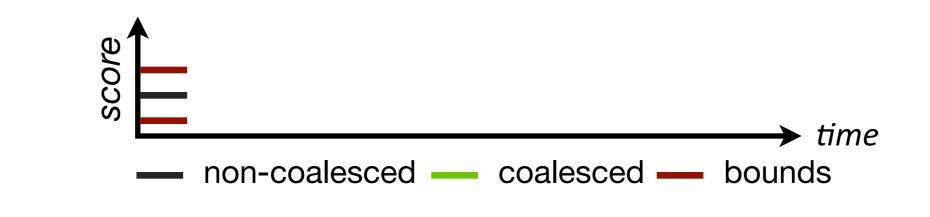
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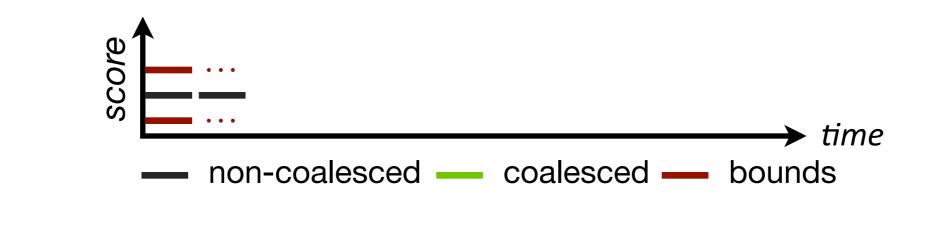
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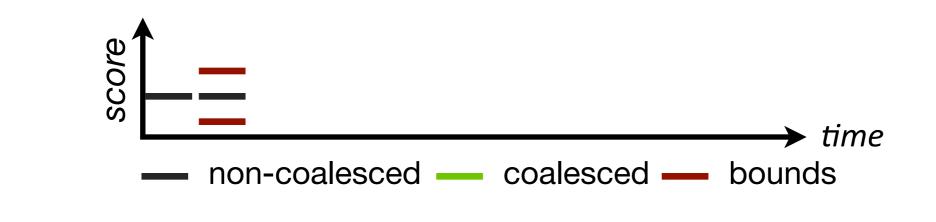
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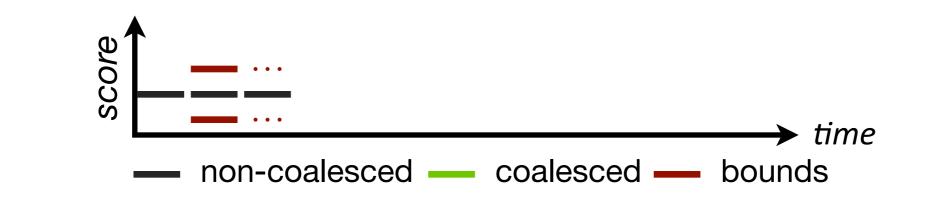
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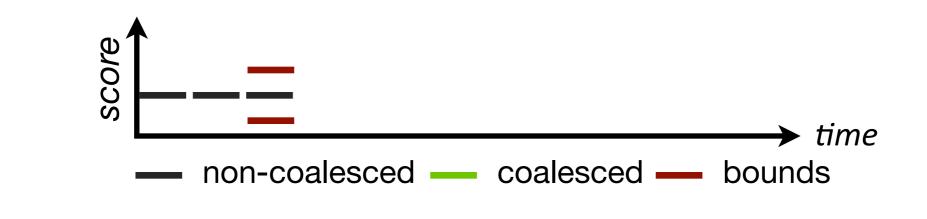
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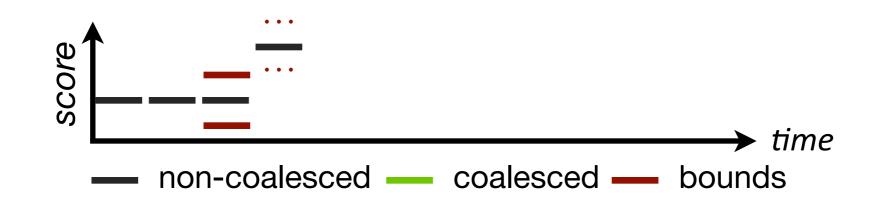
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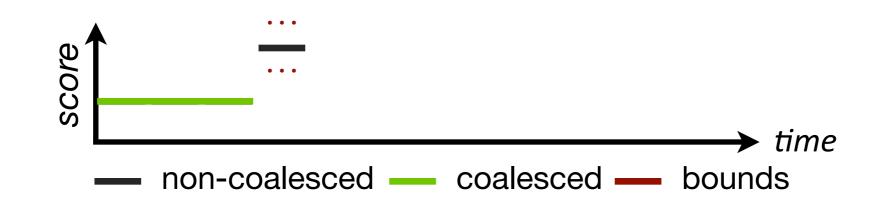
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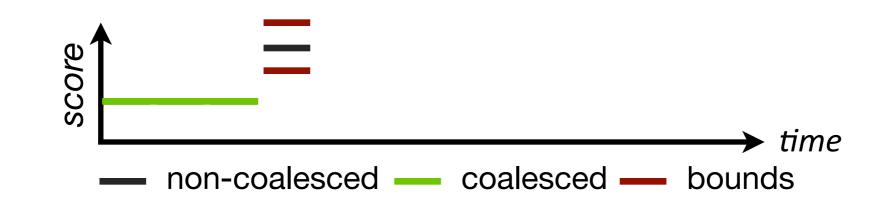
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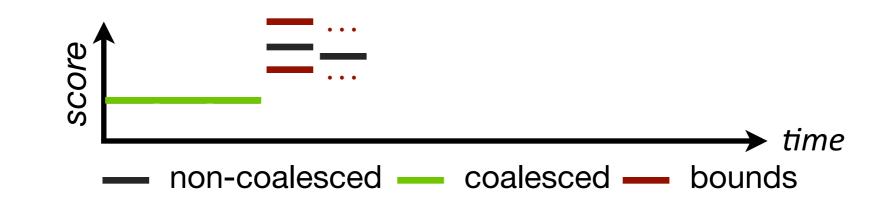
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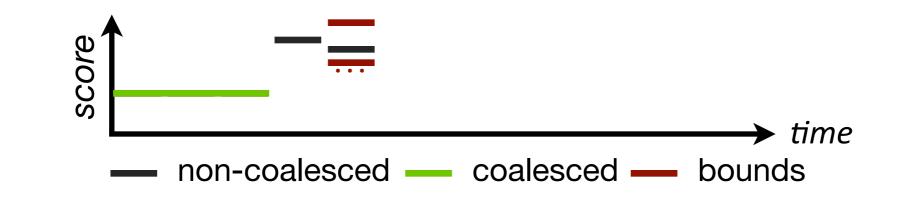
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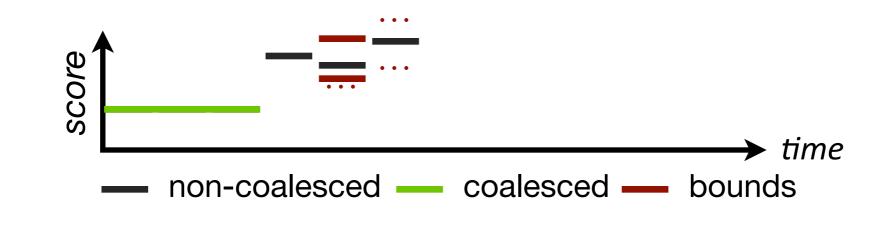
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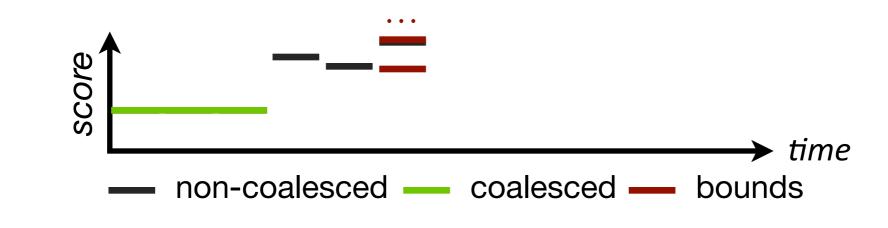
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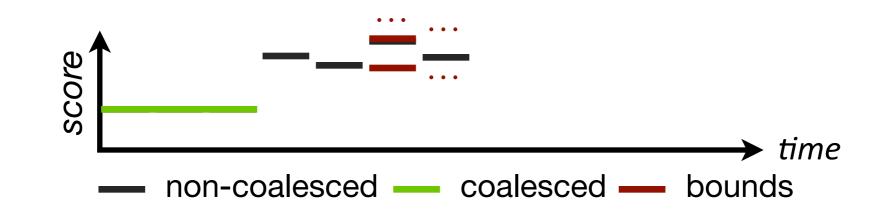
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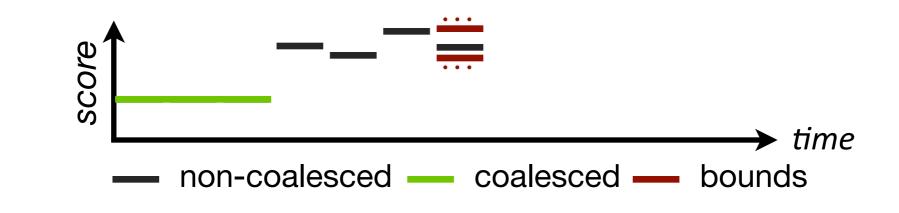
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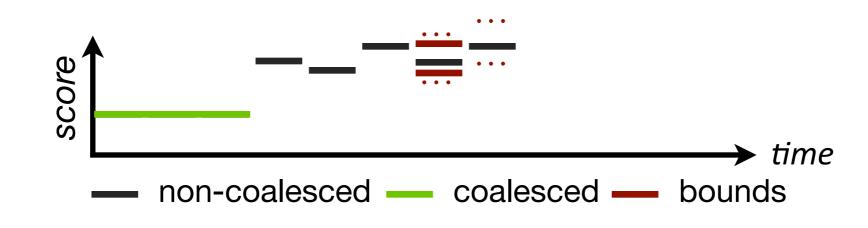
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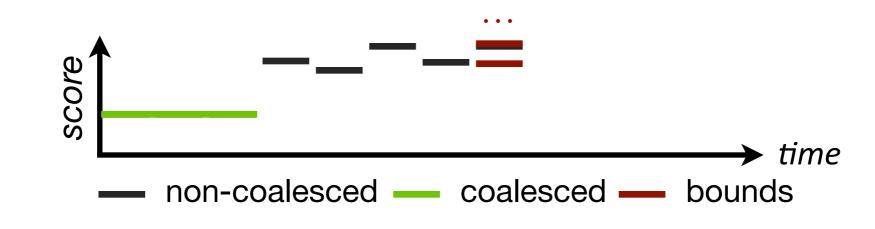
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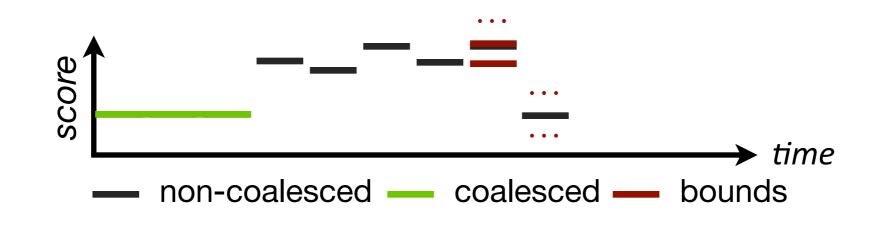
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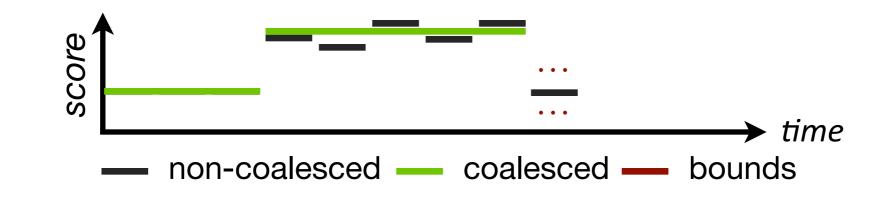
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Input: Sequence I of temporally adjacent postings ⟨ p<sub>1</sub>, ..., p<sub>n</sub> ⟩ for document d each with valid-time interval [t<sub>b</sub>, t<sub>e</sub>), and score s
 Output: Sequence O

 $O = \langle \rangle; D = d; LOW = p_1.s - p_1.s \times \epsilon; UP = p_1.s + p_1.s \times \epsilon; TB = p_1.t_b \qquad // initialize$ 

for each posting  $p_i$  from input sequence I

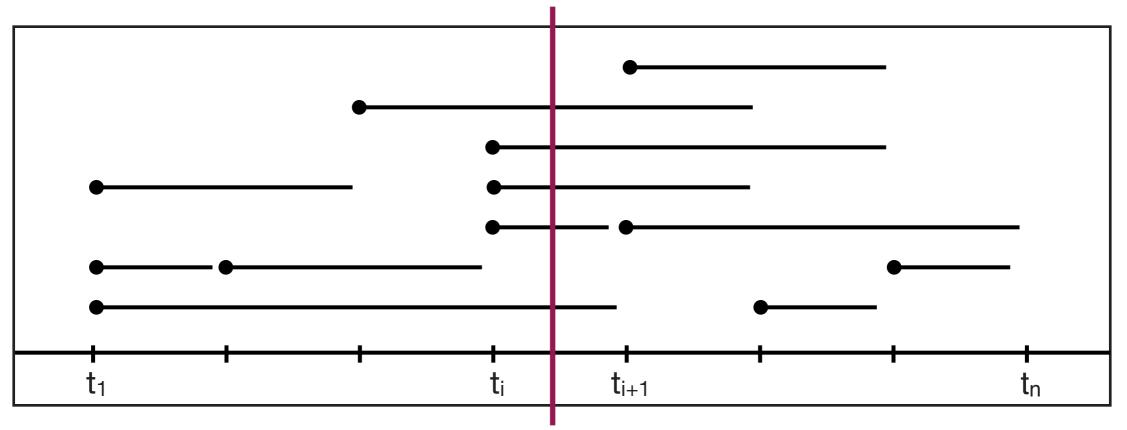
low =  $p_i.s - p_i.s \times \varepsilon$ ; up =  $p_i.s + p_i.s \times \varepsilon$ // lower and upper boundif [LOW, UP]  $\cap$  [low, up]  $\neq \emptyset$ // can  $p_i$  be coalesced?

LOW = max(low, LOW), UP = min(up, UP)

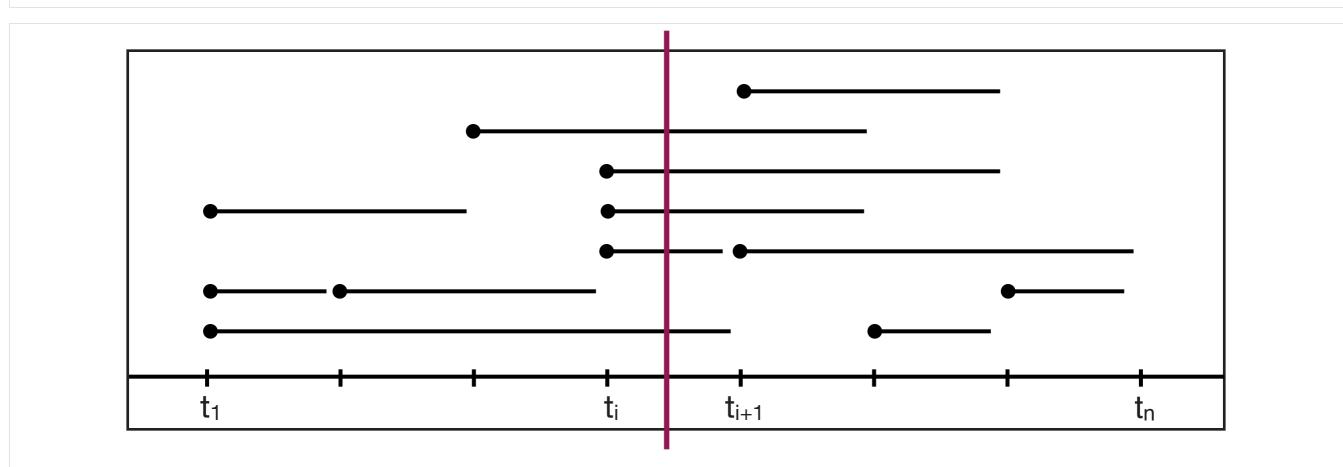
#### else

$$\begin{split} TE &= p_i.t_b; 0 = 0 \cup \{(D, [TB, TE), (LOW + UP) / 2)\} \ // \ coalesced \ posting \\ LOW &= low; UP = up; TB = p_i.t_b \ // \ re-initialize \\ \textbf{if} \ i = n \\ TE &= p_i.t_e; 0 = 0 \cup \{(D, [TB, TE), (LOW + UP) / 2)\} \ // \ last \ posting \end{split}$$

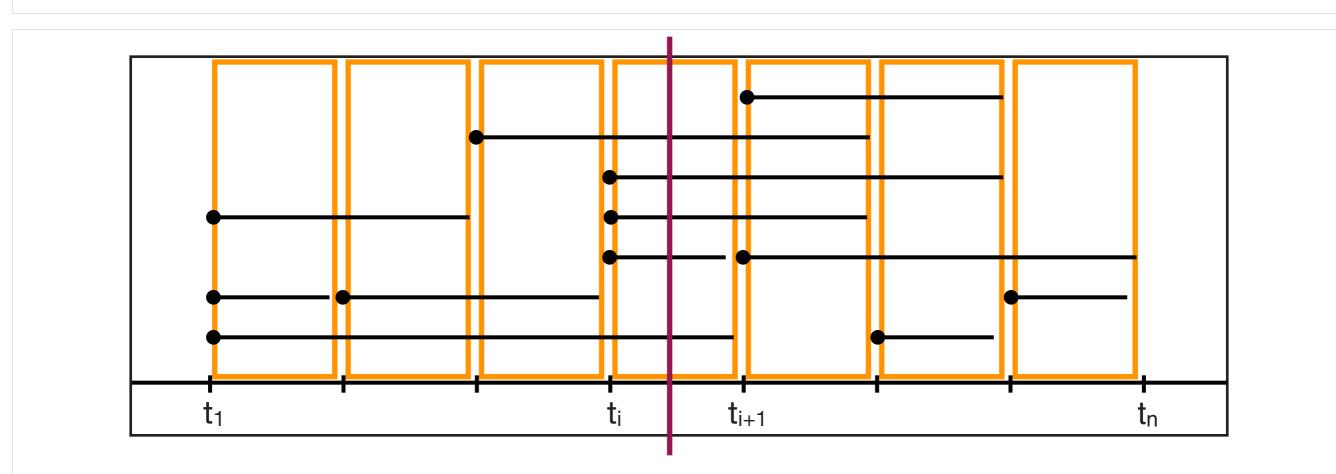
 <u>Problem</u>: Query processing needs to read entire posting lists, although many postings can be discarded for a query q@t



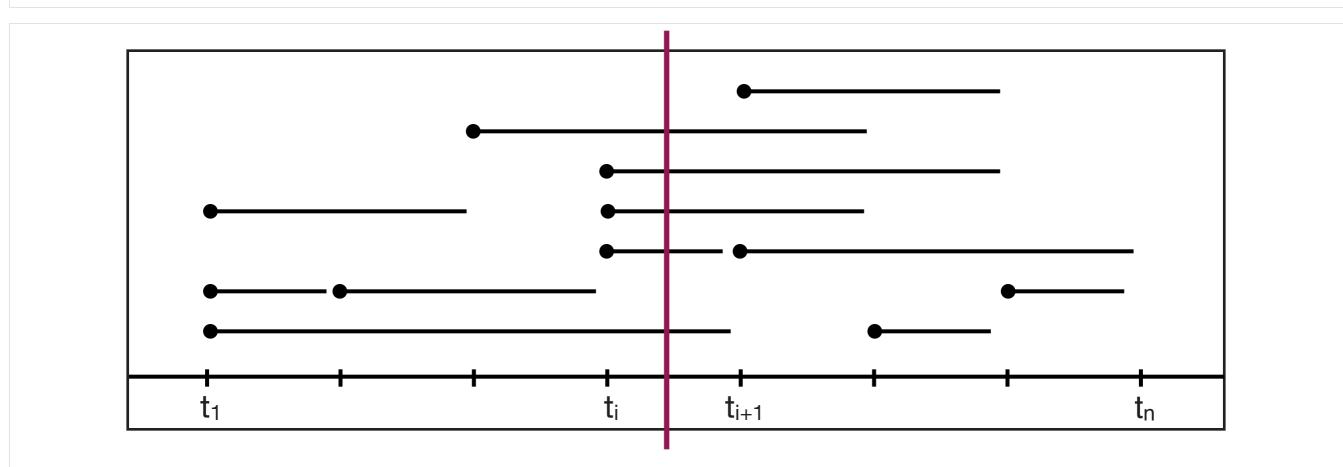
 <u>Idea</u>: Partition each posting list along the time dimension, so that the posting list for time interval [t<sub>i</sub>, t<sub>j</sub>) contains all postings whose valid-time interval overlaps with it



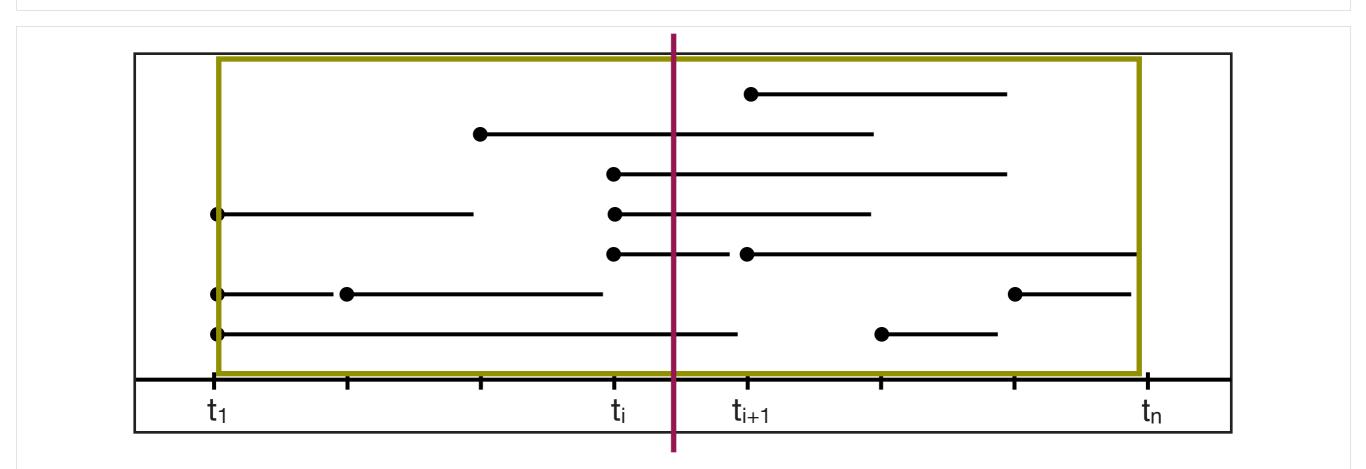
- Trade-off between index size and query-processing performance
  - **space optimal**  $S_{opt}$  (poor performance): use a single partition [ $t_1$ ,  $t_n$ )
  - performance optimal Popt (poor space): use partitions [ti, ti+1)



- **Trade-off** between index size and query-processing performance
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- **Trade-off** between index size and query-processing performance
  - **space optimal**  $S_{opt}$  (poor performance): use a single partition [ $t_1$ ,  $t_n$ )
  - performance optimal P<sub>opt</sub> (poor space): use partitions [t<sub>i</sub>, t<sub>i+1</sub>)

- <u>Idea</u>: Define optimization problem to systematically trade off index space vs. query-processing performance
  - determine a **partitioning** P of  $[t_1, t_n)$
  - s(P) : number of postings under partitioning P
  - c(t, P) : number of postings read to process time point t under P
- Performance guarantee PG ensures that cost for any time point is within a factor γ of best performance achieved by Popt

 $\underset{P}{\operatorname{arg\,min}} s(P) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \forall t \in [t_1, t_n) \, : \, c(t, P) \leq \gamma \cdot c(t, P_{opt})$ 

 Optimal solution computable using dynamic programming over prefix subproblems [t<sub>1</sub>, t<sub>i</sub>)

#### Advanced Topics in Information Retrieval / Dynamics & Age

#### 7.4. Historical Document Collections

- Improved digitization methods (e.g., OCR) have resulted in (very) old documents now being digitally available
- Examples:
  - The New York Times Archive (1851 today)
  - The Times Archive (1785 now)
  - Google Books (~1500 now)
  - HathiTrust (~1500 now)

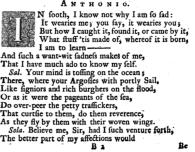




THE MERCHANT of VENICE.

ACT I.

SCENE, a Street in Venice. Enter Anthonio, Solarino, and Salanio.



Digitized by Google

37

#### **Historical Document Collections**

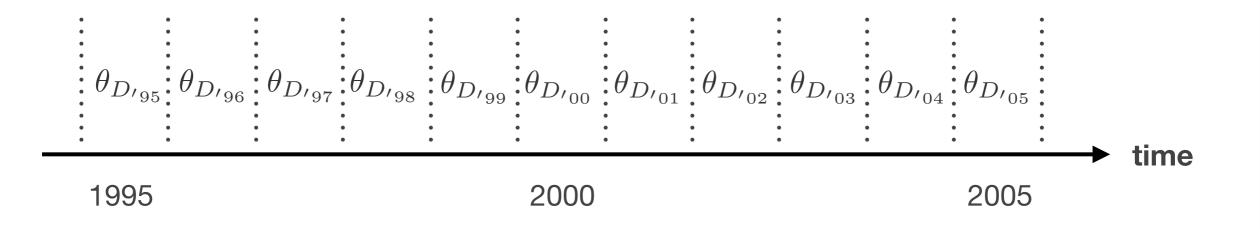
- Challenges & Opportunities:
  - unknown publication dates of documents can be estimated based on similar documents with known publication dates
  - vocabulary gap between today's queries and old documents needs to be bridged for effective information retrieval
  - Iongitudinal document collections allow analyses that give insights into, e.g., the evolution of language and historic events

# 7.4.1. Document Dating

- Problem: Publication dates of documents are unknown
  - in historical document collections due to lack of information
  - on the **Web** due to unreliable usage of the HTTP last-modified field
- de Jong et al. [5] employ **language models** to date documents
- Requirements: Document collection D with known dates which
  - is **sufficiently large** to avoid overfitting to individual documents
  - covers the **same domain** as the documents to be dated
  - covers the **period** from which documents to be dated originate

#### **Document Dating**

 Fix a temporal granularity (e.g., decade, year, month) and partition the document collection D into disjoint partitions D<sub>1</sub>,...,D<sub>n</sub> so that all documents in D<sub>i</sub> have been published during the i-th time period (e.g., decade)



• Unigram language model with Dirichlet smoothing  $\theta_{Di}$  is estimated for each partition  $D_i$ 

#### **Document Dating**

 Document with unknown publication date d is dated as having been published in time interval i\*

 $\underset{i^*}{\arg\min KL(\theta_{D_i^*} \| \theta_d)}$ 

 Approach achieves precision of ~30% in experiments on Dutch newspaper articles published between '99 and '05

# 7.4.2. Historical Document Retrieval

- Information retrieval on historical document collection suffers from a vocabulary gap between today's queries and old documents
  - **language evolution** (e.g., "and if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him")
  - terminology evolution (e.g., Leningrad/Saint Petersburg)
- Koolen et al. [6] treat the problem as a cross-language information retrieval problem by translating documents using rewriting rules mined from the document collection

#### **Historical Document Retrieval**

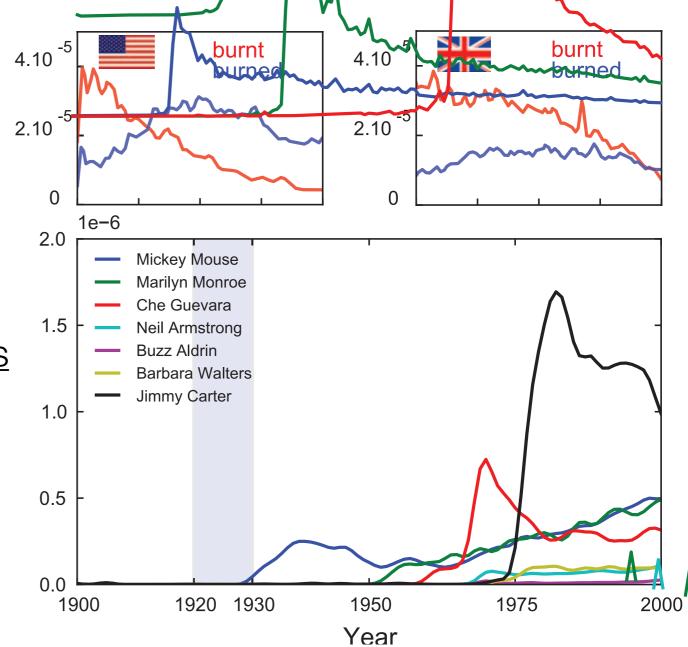
- Phonetic Sequence Similarity
  - **transcribe** historical and modern words **into phonemes** veeghen (historical)  $\rightarrow$  v e g @ n, vegen (modern)  $\rightarrow$  v e g @ n
  - find **pairs of historical and modern word** with same pronouncation
  - split words into sequences of consonants and vowels

historical: v	ee	gh	е	n
<u>modern</u> : <b>v</b>	е	g	е	n

- align sequences and spot rewritings (e.g.,  $ee \rightarrow e, gh \rightarrow g$ )
- rewritings that are **often observed** become **rewriting rules**

# 7.4.3. Culturomics

- Michel et al. [8] use n-gram statistics computed for every year in the Google Books corpus to conduct analysis, e.g., about
  - language evolution
  - popularity of celebrities
  - historic events
- Data & Demo available at: <u>https://books.google.com/ngrams</u>



#### Summary

- Web is highly dynamic, hyperlinks more than web pages more than shingles; degree of dynamics depends on characteristics of the website and/or web page
- Temporal information (e.g., publication dates and temporal expressions) can be leveraged for more effective IR
- Web archives keep often highly-similar old snapshots of web pages, allowing for efficient indexing and time-travel text search
- Historical document collections contain documents published long time ago, are challenging to search, but insightful to analyze

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