Information Retrieval

(M&S Ch 15)

Retrieval Models

- A retrieval model specifies the details of:
  - Document representation
  - Query representation
  - Retrieval function
- Determines a notion of relevance.
- Notion of relevance can be binary or continuous (i.e. *ranked retrieval*).

Classes of Retrieval Models

- Boolean models (set theoretic)
  - Extended Boolean
- Vector space models (statistical/algebraic)
  - Generalized VS
  - Latent Semantic Indexing
- Probabilistic models

Other Model Dimensions

- Logical View of Documents
  - Index terms
  - Full text
  - Full text + Structure (e.g. hypertext)
- User Task
  - Retrieval
  - Browsing

Retrieval Tasks

- Ad hoc retrieval: Fixed document corpus, varied queries.
- Filtering: Fixed query, continuous document stream.
  – User Profile: A model of relative static preferences.
  – Binary decision of relevant/not-relevant.
- Routing: Same as filtering but continuously supply ranked lists rather than binary filtering.

Common Preprocessing Steps

- Strip unwanted characters/markup (e.g. HTML tags, punctuation, numbers, etc.).
- Break into tokens (keywords) on whitespace.
- Stem tokens to “root” words
  - computational → comput
- Remove common stopwords (e.g. a, the, it, etc.).
- Detect common phrases (possibly using a domain specific dictionary).
- Build inverted index (keyword → list of docs containing it).

Boolean Model

- A document is represented as a set of keywords.
- Queries are Boolean expressions of keywords, connected by AND, OR, and NOT, including the use of brackets to indicate scope.
  - [[Rio & Brazil] | [Hilo & Hawaii]] & hotel & !Hilton]
- Output: Document is relevant or not. No partial matches or ranking.

Boolean Retrieval Model

- Popular retrieval model because:
  - Easy to understand for simple queries.
  - Clean formalism.
- Boolean models can be extended to include ranking.
- Reasonably efficient implementations possible for normal queries.

Boolean Models – Problems

- Very rigid: AND means all; OR means any.
- Difficult to express complex user requests.
- Difficult to control the number of documents retrieved.
  - *All* matched documents will be returned.
- Difficult to rank output.
  - *All* matched documents logically satisfy the query.
- Difficult to perform relevance feedback.
  - If a document is identified by the user as relevant or irrelevant, how should the query be modified?

Statistical Models

- A document is typically represented by a *bag of words* (unordered words with frequencies).
- Bag = set that allows multiple occurrences of the same element.
- User specifies a set of desired terms with optional weights:
  - Weighted query terms:

    Q = < database 0.5; text 0.8; information 0.2 >
  - Unweighted query terms:

    Q = < database; text; information >
  - No Boolean conditions specified in the query.

Statistical Retrieval

- Retrieval based on *similarity* between query and documents.
- Output documents are ranked according to similarity to query.
- Similarity based on occurrence *frequencies* of keywords in query and document.
- Automatic relevance feedback can be supported:
  – Relevant documents "added" to query.
  – Irrelevant documents "subtracted" from query.

Issues for Vector Space Model

- How to determine important words in a document?
  - Word sense?
  - Word n-grams (and phrases, idioms,…) → terms
- How to determine the degree of importance of a term within a document and within the entire collection?
- How to determine the degree of similarity between a document and the query?
- In the case of the web, what is a collection and what are the effects of links, formatting information, etc.?

The Vector-Space Model

- Assume t distinct terms remain after preprocessing; call them index terms or the vocabulary.
- These "orthogonal" terms form a vector space.

$$\text{Dimension} = t = |\text{vocabulary}|$$

- Each term, i, in a document or query, j, is given a real-valued weight, $w_{ij.}$
- Both documents and queries are expressed as t-dimensional vectors:

$$d_j = (w_{1j}, w_{2j}, \ldots, w_{tj})$$

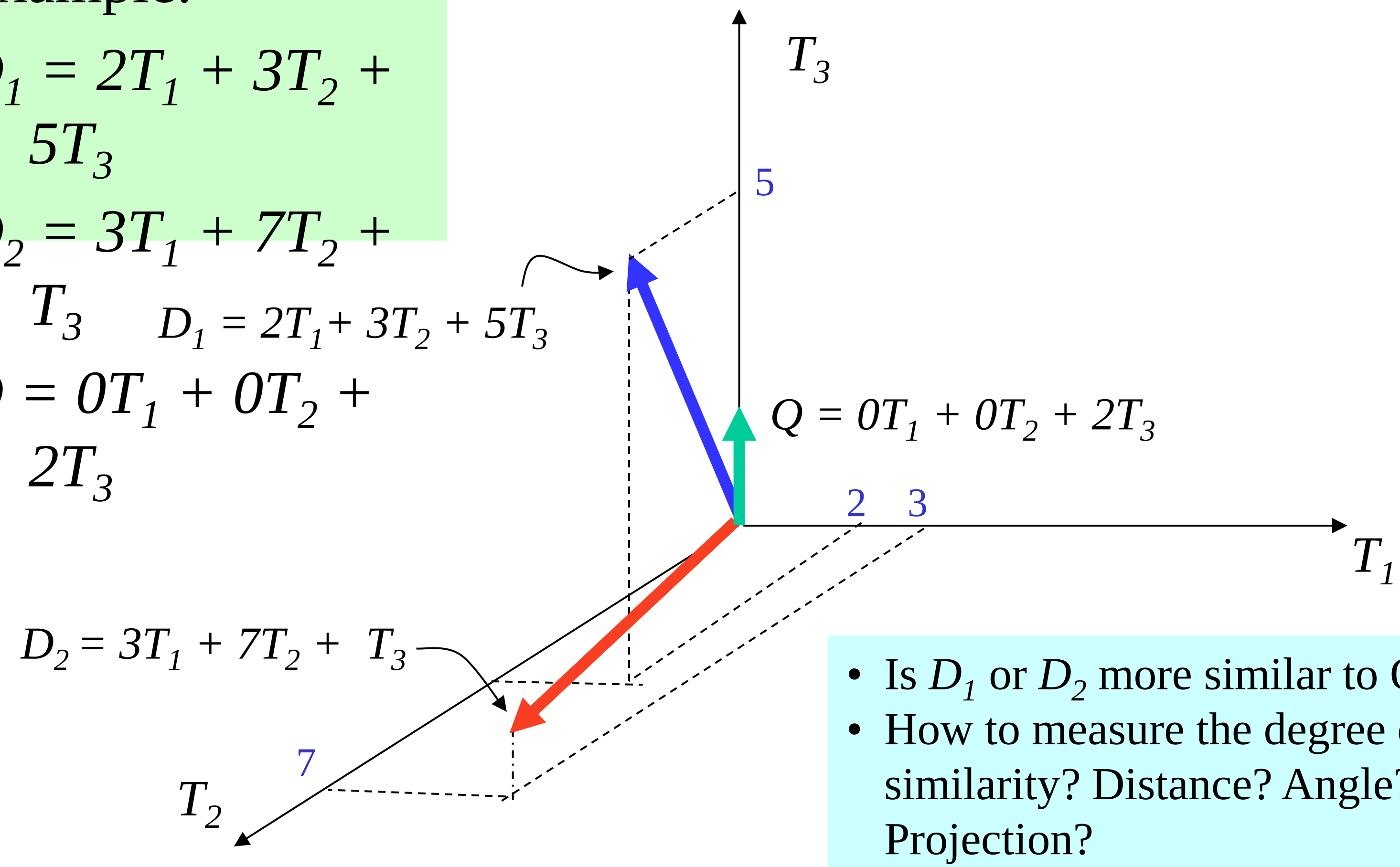
Graphic Representation

Example:

$D_1 = 2T_1 + 3T_2 + 5T_3$

$D_2 = 3T_1 + 7T_2 + T_3$

$Q = 0T_1 + 0T_2 + 2T_3$



- Is D_1 or D_2 more similar to Q?
- How to measure the degree of similarity? Distance? Angle? Projection?

Document Collection

- A collection of *n* documents can be represented in the vector space model by a term-document matrix.
- An entry in the matrix corresponds to the "weight" of a term in the document; zero means the term has no significance in the document or it simply doesn't exist in the document.

$$
\begin{array}{cc}
 & \begin{array}{cccc} T_1 & T_2 & \cdots & T_t \end{array} \\
\begin{array}{c} D_1 \\ D_2 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ D_n \end{array} & \begin{pmatrix} w_{11} & w_{21} & \cdots & w_{t1} \\ w_{12} & w_{22} & \cdots & w_{t2} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ w_{1n} & w_{2n} & \cdots & w_{tn} \end{pmatrix}
\end{array}
$$

Term Weights: Term Frequency

- More frequent terms in a document are more important, i.e. more indicative of the topic.

$$f_{ij} = \text{frequency of term } i \text{ in document } j$$

- May want to normalize *term frequency* (*tf*) across the entire corpus:

$$tf_{ij} = f_{ij} \ / \ max\{f_{ij}\}$$

Term Weights: Inverse Document Frequency

- Terms that appear in many *different* documents are *less* indicative of overall topic.

  df_i = document frequency of term i

  = number of documents containing term i

  idf_i = inverse document frequency of term i,

  $= \log_2 (N / df_i)$

  (N: total number of documents)
- An indication of a term's *discrimination* power.
- Log used to dampen the effect relative to *tf*.

TF-IDF Weighting

- A typical combined term importance indicator is *tf-idf weighting*:

$$w_{ij} = tf_{ij}\ idf_i = tf_{ij} \log_2 (N/ df_i)$$

- A term occurring frequently in the document but rarely in the rest of the collection is given high weight.
- Many other ways of determining term weights have been proposed.
- Experimentally, *tf-idf* has been found to work well.

Computing TF-IDF -- An Example

Given a document containing terms with given frequencies:

A(3), B(2), C(1)

Assume collection contains 10,000 documents and

document frequencies of these terms are:

A(50), B(1300), C(250)

Then:

A: tf = 3/3; idf = log(10000/50) = 5.3; tf-idf = 5.3

B: tf = 2/3; idf = log(10000/1300) = 2.0; tf-idf = 1.3

C: tf = 1/3; idf = log(10000/250) = 3.7; tf-idf = 1.2

Query Vector

- Query vector is typically treated as a document and also tf-idf weighted.
- Alternative is for the user to supply weights for the given query terms.

Similarity Measure

- A similarity measure is a function that computes the *degree of similarity* between two vectors.
- Using a similarity measure between the query and each document:
  - It is possible to rank the retrieved documents in the order of presumed relevance.
  - It is possible to enforce a certain threshold so that the size of the retrieved set can be controlled.

Similarity Measure - Inner Product

- Similarity between vectors for the document $\boldsymbol{d_i}$ and query $\boldsymbol{q}$ can be computed as the vector inner product:

  $$\text{sim}(\boldsymbol{d_j},\boldsymbol{q}) = \boldsymbol{d_j} \bullet \boldsymbol{q} = \sum_{i=1}^{t} w_{ij} \cdot w_{iq}$$

  where w_{ij} is the weight of term i in document j and w_{iq} is the weight of term i in the query

- For binary vectors, the inner product is the number of matched query terms in the document (size of intersection).
- For weighted term vectors, it is the sum of the products of the weights of the matched terms.

Properties of Inner Product

- The inner product is unbounded.
- Favors long documents with a large number of unique terms.
- Measures how many terms matched but not how many terms are *not* matched.

Inner Product -- Examples

Binary:

	retrieval	database	architecture	computer	text	management	information
– D =	1,	1,	1,	0,	1,	1,	0
– Q =	1,	0 ,	1,	0,	0,	1,	1

Size of vector = size of vocabulary = 7

0 means corresponding term not found in document or query

sim(D, Q) = 3

Weighted:

$D_1 = 2T_1 + 3T_2 + 5T_3 \qquad D_2 = 3T_1 + 7T_2 + 1T_3$

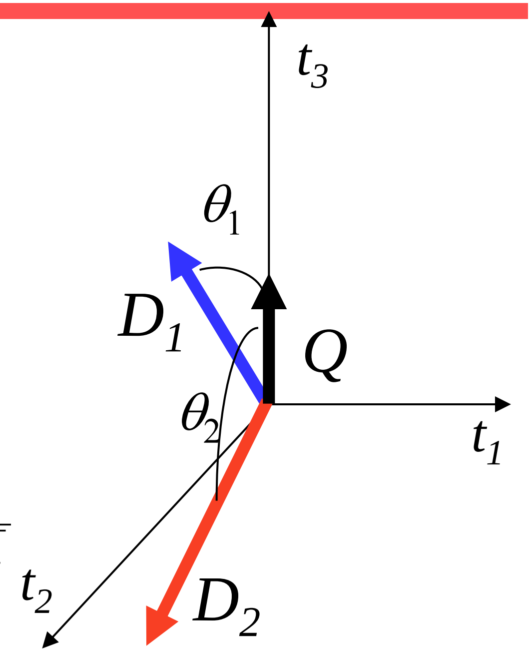
$Q = 0T_1 + 0T_2 + 2T_3$

sim(D_1 , Q) = 2*0 + 3*0 + 5*2 = 10

sim(D_2 , Q) = 3*0 + 7*0 + 1*2 = 2

Cosine Similarity Measure

- Cosine similarity measures the cosine of the angle between two vectors.
- Inner product normalized by the vector lengths.



$$\text{CosSim}(\boldsymbol{d_j}, \boldsymbol{q}) = \frac{\vec{d_j} \bullet \vec{q}}{\left|\vec{d_j}\right| \cdot \left|\vec{q}\right|} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{t}(w_{ij} \cdot w_{iq})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{t} w_{ij}^{\;2} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{t} w_{iq}^{\;2}}}$$

$D_1 = 2T_1 + 3T_2 + 5T_3$ CosSim(D_1 , Q) = $10 / \sqrt{(4+9+25)(0+0+4)} = 0.81$
$D_2 = 3T_1 + 7T_2 + 1T_3$ CosSim(D_2 , Q) = $2 / \sqrt{(9+49+1)(0+0+4)} = 0.13$
$Q = 0T_1 + 0T_2 + 2T_3$

D_1 is 6 times better than D_2 using cosine similarity but only 5 times better using inner product.

Naïve Implementation

Convert all documents in collection D to tf-idf weighted vectors, $\boldsymbol{d_j}$, for keyword vocabulary V.

Convert query to a tf-idf-weighted vector $\boldsymbol{q}$.

For each $\boldsymbol{d_j}$ in D do

Compute score $s_j = \text{cosSim}(\boldsymbol{d_j}, \boldsymbol{q})$

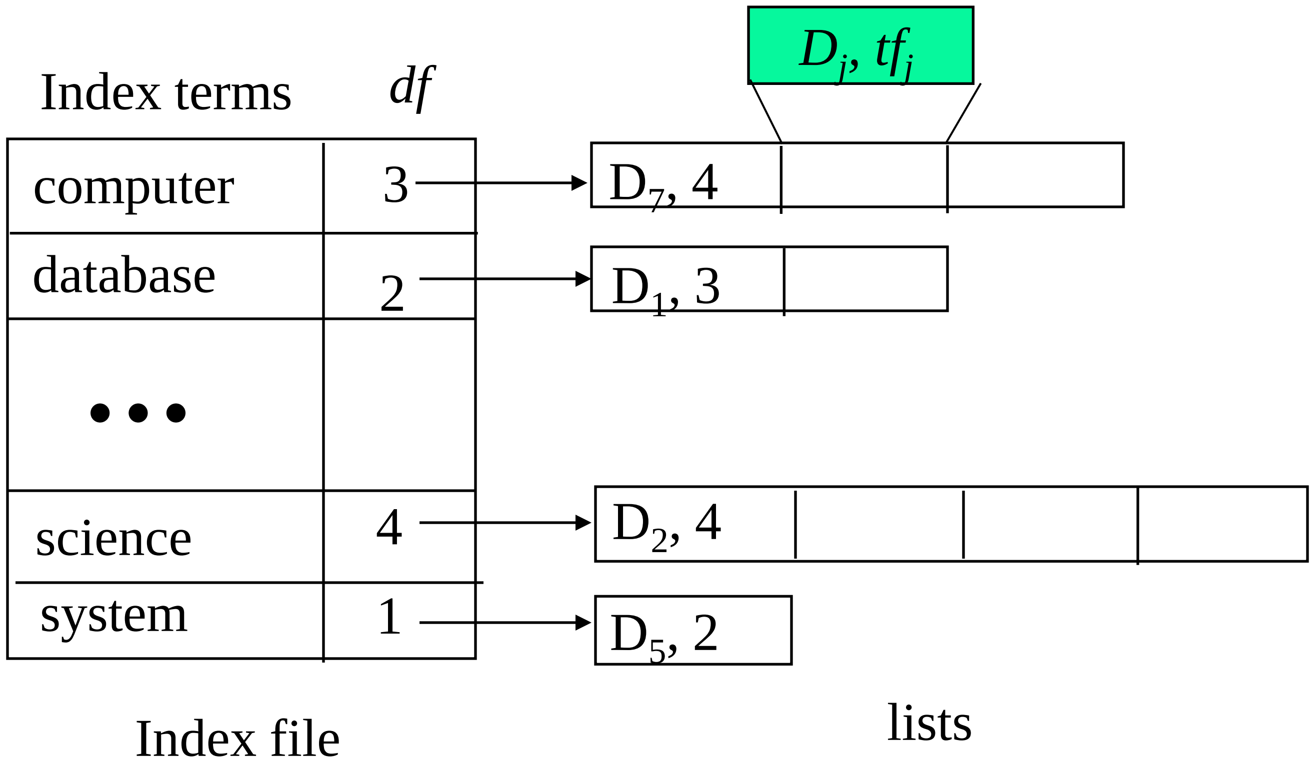
Sort documents by decreasing score.

Present top ranked documents to the user.

Time complexity: $O(|V| \cdot |D|)$ Bad for large V & D !

$|V| = 10{,}000$; $|D| = 100{,}000$; $|V| \cdot |D| = 1{,}000{,}000{,}000$

Practical implementation
Inverted index



Comments on Vector Space Models

- Simple, mathematically based approach.
- Considers both local (*tf*) and global (*idf*) word occurrence frequencies.
- Provides partial matching and ranked results.
- Tends to work quite well in practice despite obvious weaknesses.
- Allows efficient implementation for large document collections.

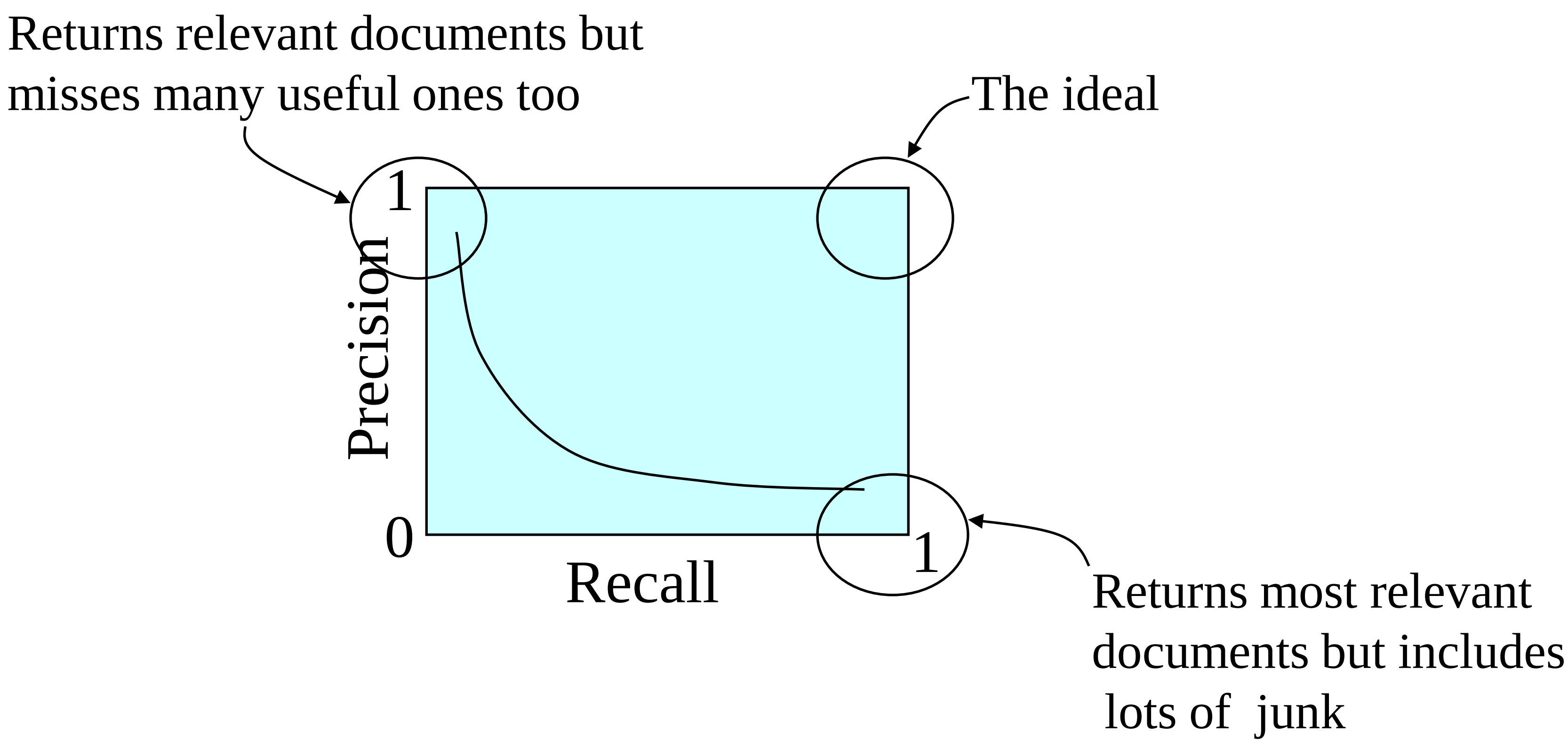
Problems with Vector Space Model

- Missing semantic information (e.g. word sense).
- Missing syntactic information (e.g. phrase structure, word order, proximity information).
- Assumption of term independence (e.g. ignores synonomy).
- Lacks the control of a Boolean model (e.g., *requiring* a term to appear in a document).
  - Given a two-term query “A B”, may prefer a document containing A frequently but not B, over a document that contains both A and B, but both less frequently.

Evaluation

- Test collections TREC, CLEF
- Relevance judgements produced by human judges
- P, R, F-measure
- Precision at 10 documents
- R-precision
- Interpolated precision
- MAP = mean average precision

Trade-off between Recall and Precision



Computing Recall/Precision Points

- For a given query, produce the ranked list of retrievals.
- Adjusting a threshold on this ranked list produces different sets of retrieved documents, and therefore different recall/precision measures.
- Mark each document in the ranked list that is relevant according to the gold standard.
- Compute a recall/precision pair for each position in the ranked list that contains a relevant document.

Computing Recall/Precision Points: An Example

n	doc #	relevant
1	588	x
2	589	x
3	576	
4	590	x
5	986	
6	592	x
7	984	
8	988	
9	578	
10	985	
11	103	
12	591	
13	772	x
14	990	

Let total # of relevant docs = 6
Check each new recall point:

R=1/6=0.167; P=1/1=1

R=2/6=0.333; P=2/2=1

R=3/6=0.5; P=3/4=0.75

R=4/6=0.667; P=4/6=0.667

R=5/6=0.833; p=5/13=0.38

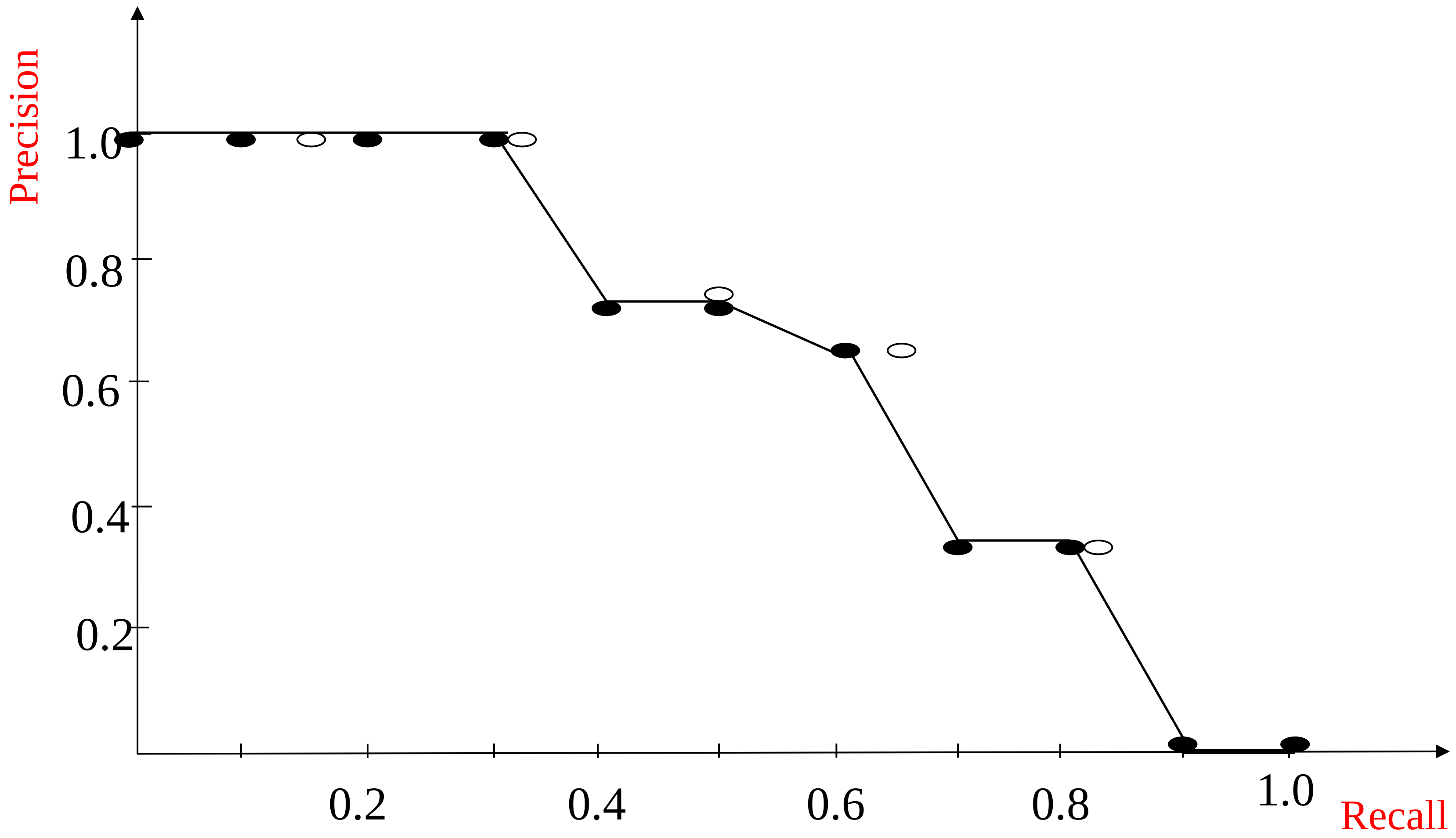
Missing one relevant document.
Never reach 100% recall

Interpolating a Recall/Precision Curve

- Interpolate a precision value for each *standard recall level*:
  - $r_j \in \{0.0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0\}$
  - $r_0 = 0.0, r_1 = 0.1, \ldots, r_{10}=1.0$
- The interpolated precision at the *j*-th standard recall level is the maximum known precision at any recall level between the *j*-th and (*j* + 1)-th level:

$$P(r_j) = \max_{r_j \le r \le r_{j+1}} P(r)$$

Interpolating a Recall/Precision Curve: An Example



Average Recall/Precision Curve

- Typically average performance over a large ***set*** of queries.
- Compute average precision at each standard recall level across all queries.
- Plot average precision/recall curves to evaluate overall system performance on a document/query corpus.

Compare Two or More Systems

- The curve closest to the upper right-hand corner of the graph indicates the best performance