

Jan Pedersen 22 July 2010



# Outline

- Problem Statement
  - Best effort retrieval vs automated reformulation
- Query Evaluation Architecture
- Query Understanding Models
  - Data Sources



### Standard IR Assumptions

- Queries are well-formed expressions of intent
  - Best effort response to the query as given
- Users will reformulate
  - If results do not meet information need

- Actually, queries often contain errors
  - Misspelling
  - Incorrect terms
- Users can't reformulate if they don't understand what's wrong
  - Miss good content
  - Dead ends

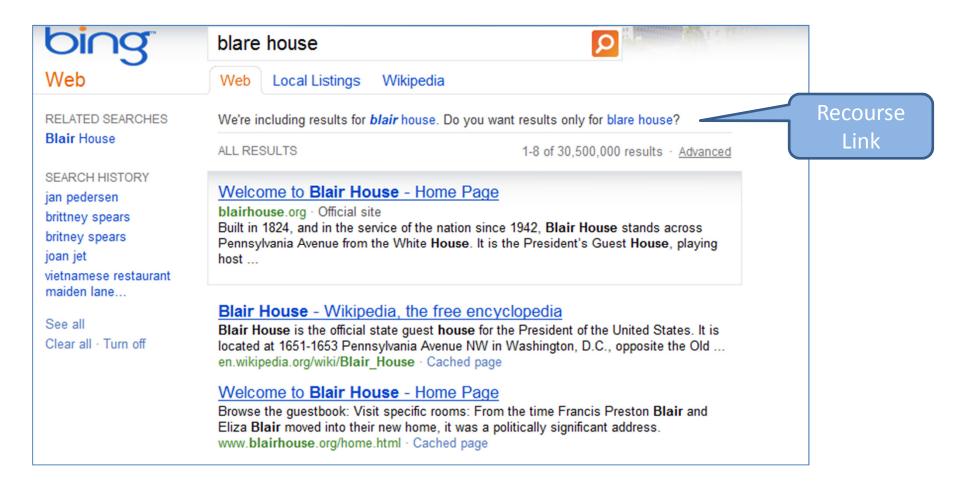


# **Problem Definitions**

- Best Effort Retrieval
  - Find the most relevant results for the user query
    - Segmentation
    - Stemming/Synonym expansion
    - Term deletion
- Automated Query Reformulation
  - Modify the user query to produce more relevant results for the inferred intent
    - Spell correction
    - Term deletion

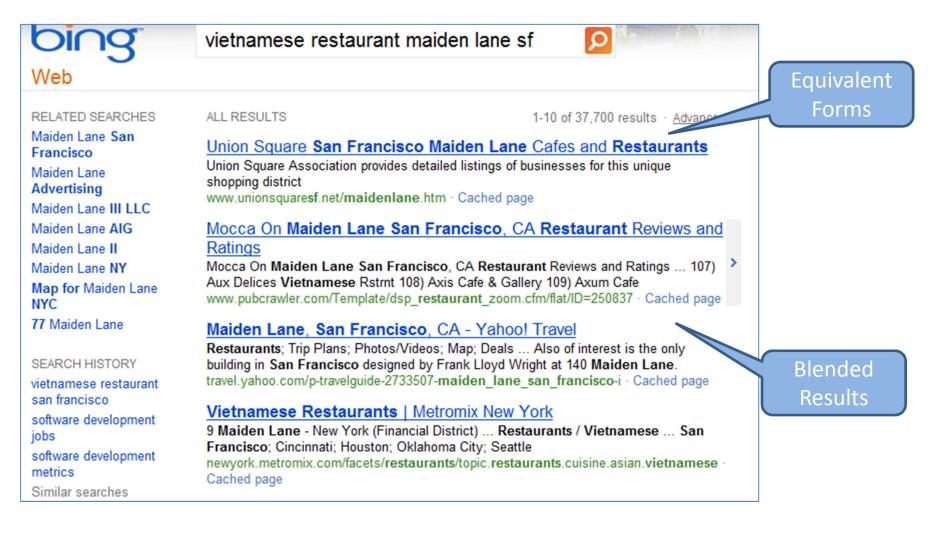


# **Spelling Correction**

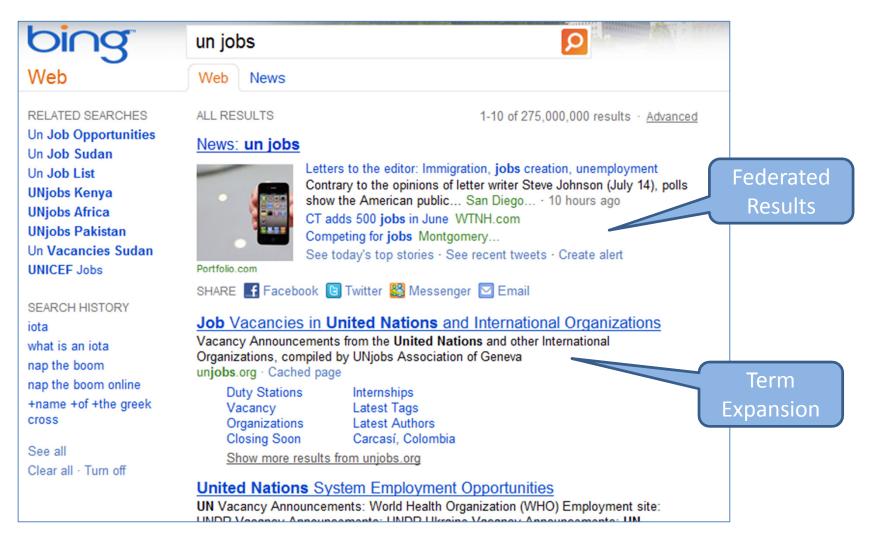




# Stemming



### Abbreviations



bing

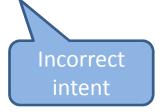
### **Term Relaxation**

bing	what is a diploid chromosome	bing
Web		Web
RELATED SEARCHES 46 Chromosomes Diploid Cell Diploid Organisms Female Chromosomes Chromosome Number Organisms Chromosome Number of Animals Chromosome Number by Species SEARCH HISTORY what is a diploid where can i get an iphone 4 +where can i get an iphone 4 where can i get an iphone or and and gates See all	ALL RESULTS 1-10 of 306,000 results · Advanced Ploidy - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Haploid and monoploid · Diploid · Haploidisation · Polyploidy Ploidy refers to the number of sets of chromosomes in a biological cell. Human germ cells (sperm and egg) have one complete set of chromosomes from the male or female parent	RELATED SEARCHES Can Get MySpace School Can Get Pregnant M Period Can Get Pregnant M Period Can Get Free Music Download Can Get Music Code Can Get Rich You Can Get Healthy Who Can Get Medic: Days You Can Get Pregnant SEARCH HISTORY +where can i get an iphone 4 where can i get an iphone 4 where can i get an iphone 4 where can i get an iphone 5 Similar searches +where +to +oet +an

Key term

extraction

bing	where can i get an iphone 4		
Web	Web News		
RELATED SEARCHES	ALL RESULTS	1-10 of 685,000 results · Advanced	
Can Get MySpace School	News: where can i get an iphone 4		
Can Get Pregnant My Period		iPhone 4 Overview the iPhone 4 relies on 3rd party Camera applications to get the job	
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iphone 4	iPhone 4 FAQ: What exactly did Apple do?		
where can i get an iphone 4	Three, if you're still not happy, you <b>can</b> bring your <b>iPhone 4</b> back, <b>get</b> a full refund, and apparently <b>get</b> released from your AT&T contract. Four, and not directly related to the		
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recessor can achieve 1CHz but it's actually clower than the iDad which suggest

bing

### **Term Relaxation**

### bing

bowker's test of change tutorial

jira.openga.org/browse/OQA-43 · Cached page

Tutorial for Flowol 3 software

Activity 7: Changing the speed .

OQA-43] Link to SeleniumRC Python tutorial is broken: http

Change History; Activity Stream [ ... Caroline Bowker added a comment - 16/Dec/08

... Programming: Anthony Bowker (K.I.T.E.) Tutorial: Rod Bowker (K ... Outputs (1 to

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### Web

chromosome

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1-10 of 8,480 results · Advanced

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### Gale - HTML File Page

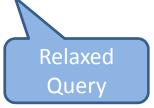
Incorrect

Terminology

ALL RESULTS

Guided Tutorials; MARC Records; Navigation Guides; Product Reviews ... duplication is partly due to sloppy work, partly to Bowker's ... The test search for verifying the completeness of the ... www.gale.cengage.com/.../archive/200007/bowker.html · Cached page

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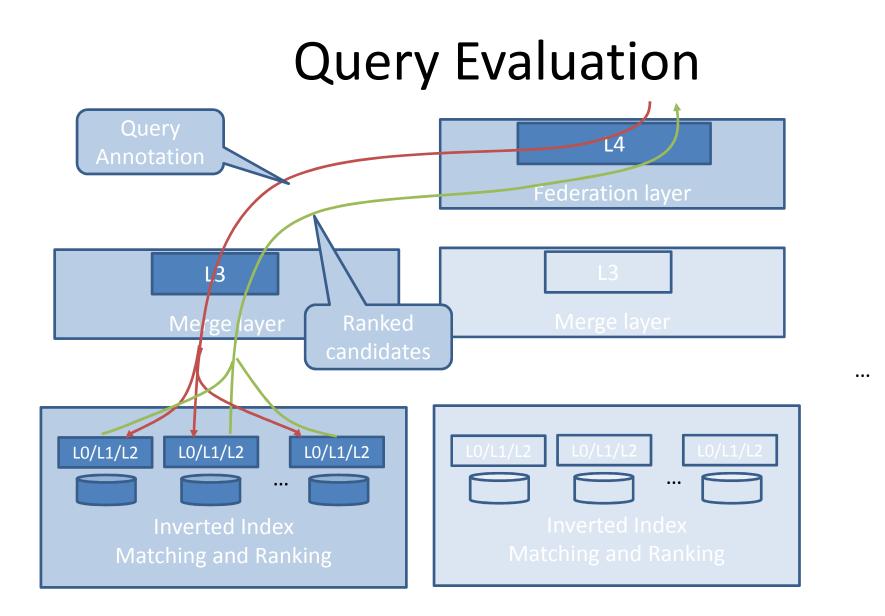




# Key Concepts

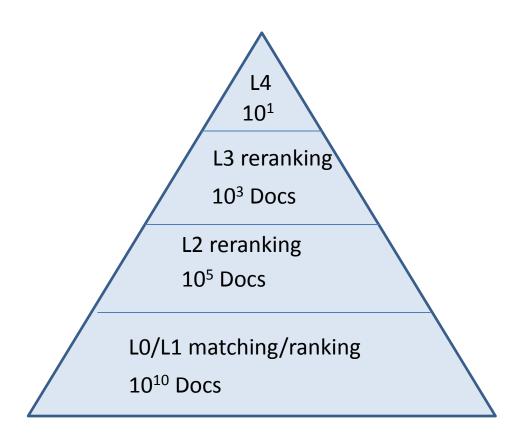
- Win/Loss ratios
  - Automated reformulations are errorful
    - Wins are queries whose results improve
    - Losses are queries whose results degrade
  - Related to precision
    - But not all valid reformulations change results
- Pre vs Post result analysis
  - Query alternatives generated pre-results
  - Blending decisions are post results







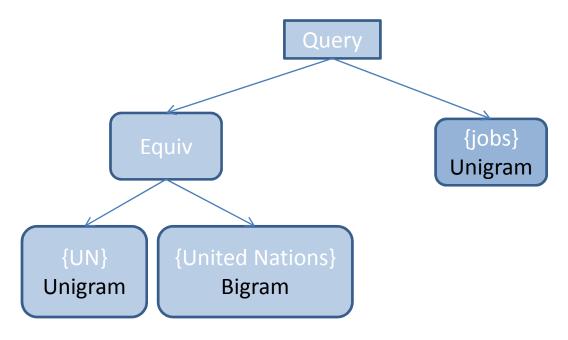
### Matching and Ranking



- Sequence of select, rank, prune steps
- LO: Boolean logic
- L1: IR score
- L2/L3/L4: Machine learned

Learning to Rank Using Gradient Descent, Burges et al., ICML 2005

### **Query Annotation**



- NLP query annotation
  - Offline analysis
- Ambiguity preserving
  - Multiple interpretations
- Backend Independent
  - Shared
- Structure and Attributes
  - Syntax and semantics



# **Query Planning**

[{un | "united nations"} jobs] → L3-merge(L2-rank([un jobs]), L2-rank(["united nations" jobs])

or

[{un | "united nations"} jobs] → L3-cascade(threshold, L2-rank([un jobs]), L2-rank(["united nations" jobs])

bing

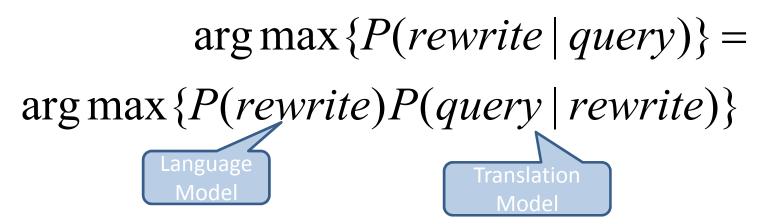
# **Design Considerations**

- Efficiency
  - Query plan can generate multiple backend queries
    - Merged in L3
  - Some queries are cheaper than others
    - Query reduction can improve performance
- Relevance
  - L3 merging has maximal information
    - But is costly
- Multiple query plan strategies
  - Depending on query analysis confidence



## **Query Analysis Models**

Noisy Channel Model



- Example: Spelling
  - Language Model: Likelihood of the correction
  - Translation Model: Likelihood of the error occurring



## Language Models

- Based on Large-Scale Text Mining
  - Unigrams and N-grams
  - Probability of query term sequence
    - Favor queries seen before
    - Avoid nonsensical combinations
- 1T n-gram resource
  - Multi-Style Language Model for Web Scale Information Retrieval
     Wang et al., SIGIR 2010
  - SCOPE: Easy and Efficient Parallel Processing of Massive Data Sets
     Chaiken et al., PVLDB 2008



## **Translation Models**

- Training set of aligned pairs
  - E.g. misspelling/correction; surface/stemmed
- Query log analysis
  - Session reformulation  $\rightarrow$  associated queries
  - Co-click  $\rightarrow$  associated queries
  - Manual Annotation
- Many application-specific models
  - Random Walks on the Click Graph Craswell et al., SIGIR 2007
  - Context sensitive synonym discovery for web search queries
     Wei et al., CIKM 2009
  - Context sensitive stemming for web search Peng et al, SIGIR 2007



# Summary

- Query Understanding is critical to Web Search
  - Affects most queries
  - Can radically improve results
- Trade-off between relevance and efficiency
  - Rewrites can be costly
  - Win/loss ratio is the key metric
- Especially important for tail queries
  - No meta-data to guide matching and ranking

