Chair for Algorithms and Data Structures Prof. Dr. Hannah Bast Robin Textor-Falconi

# Databases and Information Systems WS 2025/2026

http://ad-wiki.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/teaching



## Exercise Sheet 2

Submit until Tuesday, October 28 at 12:00 noon.

### Exercise 1 (8 points)

Extend *inverted\_index.py* from the code template on the Wiki to incorporate BM25 scores, as explained in the lecture and as detailed in the following. You can also continue from your code for ES1; in that case make sure to follow the structure from the code template and include the new unit tests from there.

- 1. In the method build\_from\_file, add BM25 scores to the inverted lists. Pay attention to the implementation advice given in the lecture, and avoid unnecessary complexity. (4 points)
- 2. Implement the method *merge* for merging two lists. That is, the resulting list should contain all elements from the input lists in sorted order. Note that this can be done with a relatively minor change to the *intersect* method from the last exercise sheet. The function should still run in time linear in the total number of elements in the two lists. (2 points)
- 3. In your method *process\_query*, sort the results by the aggregated BM25 scores. You don't have to implement the sorting algorithm yourself, you can use one of the built-in sorting functions. Your *main* function should still ask the user for keyword queries and output the title and description of up to three matching records, in the order returned by *process\_query*. (2 points)

### Exercise 2 (8 points)

Extend *evaluate.py* from the code template on the Wiki to automatically evaluate the quality of your system on a given benchmark as detailed in the following:

- 1. Write a function *read\_benchmark* that reads each query with the associated set of relevant document ids from a file; see the code template regarding the format. (2 points)
- 2. Write two functions  $precision\_at\_k$  and  $average\_precision$  that take as arguments a list of result ids as it was returned by your inverted index for a single query, and a given set of ids of all documents relevant for the query, and compute the measures P@k and AP. (2 points)

- 3. Write a function *evaluate* that evaluates a given inverted index against a given benchmark and computes the measures MP@3, MP@R, and MAP by aggregating P@3, P@R and AP for each query in the benchmark. (2 points)
- 4. Write a main function that takes the following arguments: the path to a dataset (like movies.tsv, required argument), the path to a benchmark file (like movies-benchmark.train.tsv, required argument), and the BM25 parameters b and k (optional arguments, if not specified use the default values b = 0.75 and k = 1.75). If you want, you can allow more arguments for other parameters that influence the ranking. The function should then construct an inverted index from the dataset and evaluate the inverted index against the benchmark using the methods above. (2 points)

### Exercise 3 (4 points)

Use the queries from *movies-benchmark.train.tsv* to improve search result quality in the following three ways. First, play around with the BM25 parameters b and k. Second, add or subtract keywords from the queries. Third, anything else to improve the ranking, for example using the three additional columns from *movies.tsv* (number of IMDb votes, IMDb rating and number of Wikimedia pages about the movie). Do not look at *movies-benchmark.test.tsv* at this point, that is, while you are still tuning your system.

Write a short paragraph about your main insights from this step (successful improvements as well as unsuccessful ideas) in your *experiences.md*.

Run the final version of your code on *movies-benchmark.test.tsv*. Feel free to add or subtract keywords from the queries, but you should do it only once. You should not tune your system to the test benchmark. Enter your results in a row in the table linked from the Wiki. Concerning the format, just follow the format of the rows which are already there.

Commit your code to our SVN, in a new subfolder *sheet-02*. The dataset and the benchmark file should not be committed.

As usual, in your *experiences.md*, provide a brief account of your experience with this sheet and the corresponding lecture. Make sure to add a statement asking for feedback. In this statement specify to which degree and on which parts of the sheet you want feedback. In addition, say how much time you invested and if you had major problems, and if yes, where.

What is one of your favorite movie quotes or scenes?