Solr's Place in an Al World



#### What spurred me on to give this talk...

This may get a bit personal.....

### So how did we get here?

Back in the dawn of time, when boolean ruled the planet!

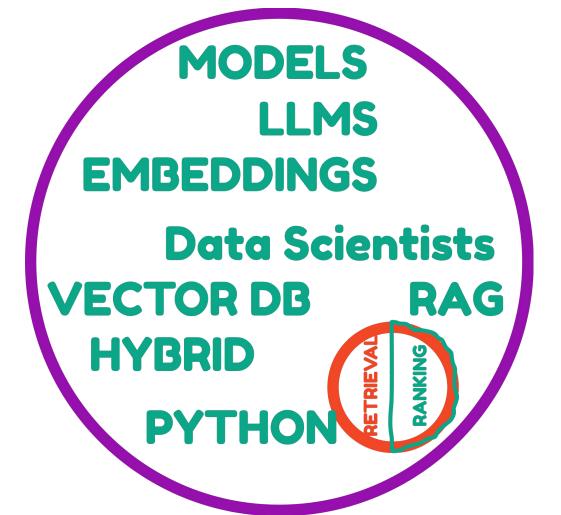


Then 10 blue links on a web page wasn't enough.....



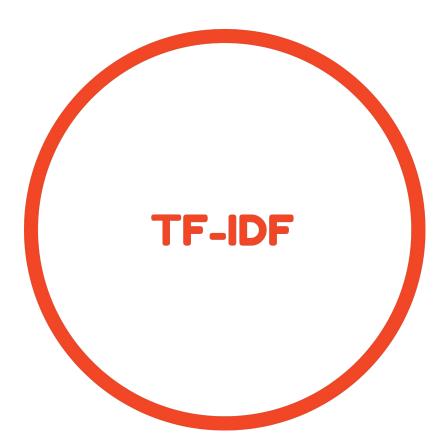
Meanwhile......

Everything changed......



### What is the scope of Solr?

We as a community really focus on....



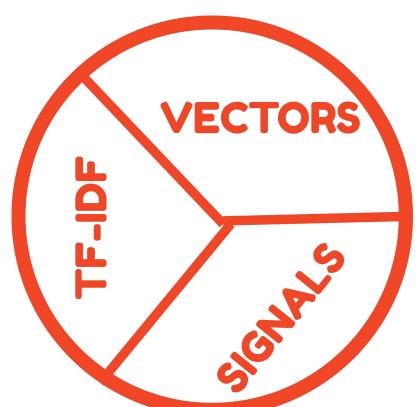
This is what a modern algorithm needs to do "the magic"......



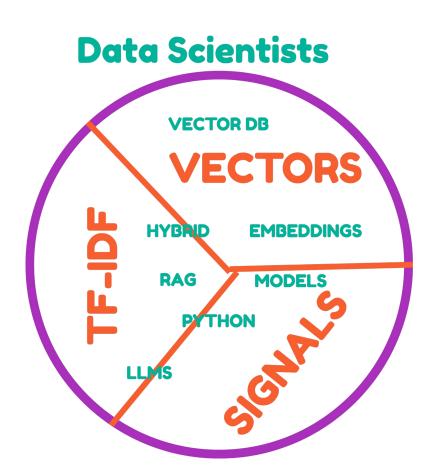
# Maybe it's time to thank TF/IDF for it's service....?

# And dethrone it from it's centrality in our lives...

And think about focusing on what makes Solr the **best** platform for:



That attracts folks who care about:



### We aren't starting from zero....

#### KNN.. Vector Story...

- Lucene introduced native HNWS
- Idea was to introduce in Solr both A field type and Query Parser
- -> huge enabler for semantic search on Solr!
- Support for pre/post filtering (also lexical)
- Support for high dimensional vectors
- Vector similarity can be used as a feature in Learning To Rank
- [In Progress] Development of a Embedding

Model resource store +
Update Request Processor +
Query parser to automatically infer

```
Doc #1
Doc #2
Doc #3 |≣i
                                                          Ε
                                                          R
                          k-Nearest Neighbors
                          Doc #1
                                               Doc #3
                          Doc #2
                                                 Query
                                             Doc #4
```

```
q={!knn f=vector topK=10}[1.0, 2.0, 3.0,
4.0]
```

```
<fieldType name="knn_vector"
class="solr.DenseVectorField"
vectorDimension="4"
similarityFunction="cosine"/>
<field name="vector" type="knn_vector"
indexed="true" stored="true"/>
```

#### Hybrid Search...

- Combine traditional keyword-based (lexical) search with vector-based (neural) search
- Retrieval of two sets of candidates:
  - one set of results coming from lexical matches with the query keywords
  - a set of results coming from the K-Nearest Neighbours search with the query vector
  - Union/Intersection of result sets
- Ranking of the candidates
  - Learning To Rank
  - Sum/Multiplication of normalised scores
- Reciprocal Rank Fusion
  - <a href="https://github.com/apache/solr/pull/2489">https://github.com/apache/solr/pull/2489</a> work in progress paused, waiting for funding/time

#### LLMS!

- Vocabulary mismatch problem -> LLMs are great in solving it
- From natural language -> structured Solr query
- We want to identify the ebay field for each entity in the query and use terms in the index that are close semantically
- Given this JSON structure (Solr document) ask the LLM to model the natural language query in the same way
- We need to match the index -> from the Solr index collect the term dictionaries for each field
- TO DO: Idea to build a new Query Parser that does this internally
- Some ref:

https://sease.io/2024/08/from-natural-language-to-structured-solr-queries-using-llms.html

#### Model Based Enrichment

curl --data-binary vocab.txt -X PUT
http://localhost:8983/api/cluster/files/models/sentiment/ vocab.txt





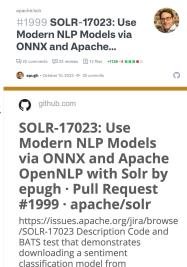
SOLR-17023: Use Modern NLP Models via ONNX and Apache OpenNLP with Solr by epugh · Pull Request #1999 · apache/solr

https://issues.apache.org/jira/browse /SOLR-17023 Description Code and BATS test that demonstrates downloading a sentiment classification model from Huggingface, converting it to Onnx model, uploadi...

#### Model Based Enrichment

```
curl --data-binary vocab.txt -X PUT
http://localhost:8983/api/cluster/files/models/sentiment/vocab.txt

curl --data-binary model.txt -X PUT
http://localhost:8983/api/cluster/files/models/sentiment/ model.onnx
```



Huggingface, converting it to Onnx

model, uploadi...

#### Model Based Enrichment

```
curl --data-binary vocab.txt -X PUT
http://localhost:8983/api/cluster/files/models/sentiment/vocab.txt
curl --data-binary vocab.txt -X PUT
http://localhost:8983/api/cluster/files/models/sentiment/model.onnx
curl -X POST -H 'Content-type:application/json' -d '{
    "add-updateprocessor": {
    "name": "sentimentClassifier",
    "class":
"solr.processor.DocumentCategorizerUpdateProcessorFactory",
    "modelFile": "models/sentiment/model.onnx",
    "vocabFile": "models/sentiment/vocab.txt",
    "source": "name",
    "dest": "name sentiment"
    "http://localhost:8983/solr/techproducts/config"
```

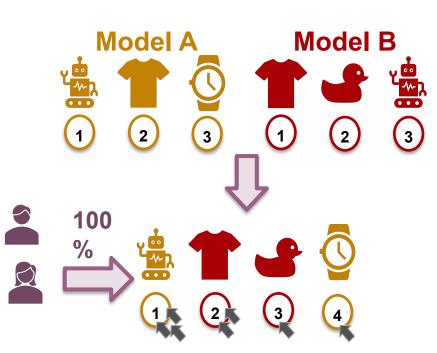
#1999 SOLR-17023: Use Modern NLP Models via ONNX and Apache... 22 comments 23 reviews 2 12 files +1126 -4 = = = = Page epugh • October 10, 2023 -0- 30 commits github.com SOLR-17023: Use Modern NLP Models via ONNX and Apache OpenNLP with Solr by epugh · Pull Request #1999 · apache/solr https://issues.apache.org/jira/browse /SOLR-17023 Description Code and BATS test that demonstrates downloading a sentiment

classification model from Huggingface, converting it to Onnx

model, uploadi...

#### **Interleaving Story**

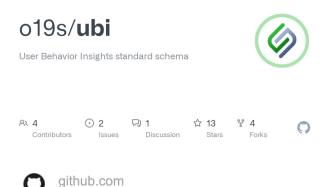
- Alternative to A/B testing
- Originated by internal Sease research in the field (<a href="https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.10094">https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.10094</a>)
- Sponsored and then applied to a client project
- Allows to combine search results from two different Learning To Rank models
- Limitation: doesn't work distributed



http://localhost:8983/solr/techproducts/query?q=test&rq={!ltr model=myModelA model=myModelB reRankDocs=100}&fl=id,score

#### **User Behavior Insights**

- Holistic view of the users search journey
- Standard schema for tracking queries and events for Search
- Calculate Implicit Judgements
- Optimize hybrid search??
- Track interleaving???
- Implementations for OS, ES, and Solr



### GitHub - o19s/ubi: User Behavior Insights standard schema

User Behavior Insights standard schema. Contribute to o19s/ubi development by creating an account on GitHub.

#### **User Behavior Insights**

```
curl -X POST -d '{
    "query" : "ram OR memory",
    "filter": [
    "inStock:true"
    "limit":2,
    "params": {
    "ubi": "true",
    "query id": "c3d22be7-6bdc-4250-91e1",
    "user query": {
        "query": "RAM memory",
        "experiment": "supersecret",
        "page": 1,
        "filter": "productStatus:available"
"http://localhost:8983/solr/techproducts/query"
```

apache/solr

#### #2452 User Behavior Insights implementation for Apache Solr







User Behavior Insights implementation for Apache Solr by epugh · Pull Request #2452 · apache/solr

Description I am working with other folks, especially Stavros Macrakis (macrakis@gmail.com), to come up with a solution for understanding what users are doing in response to search results. We have

## Where do we go from here?

- Neural Search is very different access patterns from Keyword Search --> lets deal with it!
- We need more Al and ML People as Committers --> We <u>said this in 2023 in Halifax</u>, and it hasn't changed.
- We need to stick to Lucene's cutting edge like glue --> Lucene is key to vector story
- Let's hope Java continues to innovate to compete with Rust
- Support new workloads that aren't just TF/IDF

## Or... We become just a retrieval engine.

### So let's make sure...



