Infrastructure and search

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Two stories

- Lifecycle of a microservice
 - To illustrate ADS development cycle
 - And little bit of architecture (more details in Sergi's presentation)
- Search algorithm adjustments
 - \circ $\,$ A problem that has been plaguing ADS for a loooong time $\,$
 - Resolved, but not with definitiveness (but good example of a challenge ADS is facing)



The retreat of Russia. Swebach Bernard Edouard (1800-1870) The retreat of Russia in 1812 (oil on canvas 1; 26 x 1; 93) 1838 Museum of Fine Arts Besancon.

https://www.gettyim ages.com/detail/ne ws-photo/swebachbernard-edouard-th e-retreat-of-russia-i n-1812-1838-newsphoto/1048362648



First story: lifecycle of a microservice

- Background
 - Multiple iterations (as many as number of devs tackling the problem)
 - 2015 zip archives (elasticbeanstalk)
 - 2016 aws api
 - 2017 kubernetes (manual, piggy-back on eb-deploy)
 - 2018 keel
 - 2019 BeeHive + tailor
 - Why is it so hard?
 - It is not an easy problem
 - But it seems un-important (logistics is not "cool")









Search

• Significant changes to relevancy computation

- This was lots of fun
- Special thanks to Kelly and Alberto
- New algorithm resembles old Classic
 - We don't know if it is good enough!
 - We like it though
 - And users may not actually care (wonderful example of too much ado about nothing)
 - Examples to illustrate the problem
 - Relevancy in ADS Classic
 - Final score computation in SOLR
 - Picking appropriate weights
 - Avoiding double counting

How Classic sees saw things

- First pass (match/no match) filters out docs
- Score is cumulative (weights of the query parts)

log(1 + norm_cites + norm_reads) Norm_cites = Age-normalized number of citations Norm_reads = (cleaned up) reads in the past 90 days

In SOLR, we have this value stored in `cite_read_boost` field (0 < cite_read_boost < 1.0)

Computing final score

score = lucene_score * (cite_read_boost + modifier)

- lucene_score = BM25
- cite_read_boost = see previous slide
- modifier = dubbed "Alberto's constant" (0.5)
 - Alternative: (1.0-modifier * norm(LS)) + (modifier * cite_read_boost)
- Little bit of arm-twisting still needed
 - Deeply nested query parsing (and hence score computation)
 - But we want this final score to be computed only once



Picking appropriate weights

q="brown 2000" Result #2: 2009ApJ...692.1582L

46.117043 = custom((+((Synonym(abstract:brown abstract:syn::brown))^1.3 | (author:brown, author: hanbury, r author: hanbury brown, r author: hanbury brown, robert author: hanbury, robert author:brown, robert author:brown, r author:brown,*)^2.0 | bibstem:brown | (first author:brown, first author:hanbury, r first author:hanbury brown, r first author: hanbury brown, robert first author: hanbury, robert first author: brown, robert first author:brown, r first author:brown,*)^5.0 | identifier:brown | (Synonym(title:brown title:syn::brown))^1.5 | (year:brown)^2.0) +((abstract:2000)^1.3 | (author:2000, author:2000,*)^2.0 | bibstem:2000 | (first author:2000, first author:2000,*)^5.0 | identifier:2000 | (title:2000)^1.5 | (year:2000)^2.0)) ((abstract:"(brown syn::brown) 2000")^1.3 | ((author:brown 2000, | author:brown 2000,* | author:2000, brown | author:2000, brown * | author:2000, b | author:2000, b * | author:2000, | author:2000,*))^2.0 | bibstem:brown 2000 | ((first author:brown 2000, | first author:brown 2000,* | first author:2000, brown | first author:2000, brown * | first author:2000, b | first author:2000, b * | first author:2000, | first author:2000,*))^5.0 identifier:brown2000 | (title:"(brown syn::brown) 2000")^1.5 | (year:brown2000)^2.0),

Score inflation

1.3 = boost

```
32.96055 = \max \text{ of:}
        32.96055 = weight(abstract:"(brown syn::brown) 2000" in 166915)
[SchemaSimilarity], result of:
```

```
32.96055 = score(doc=166915, freq=2.0 = phraseFreq=2.0
```

), product of:

```
16.437689 = idf(), sum of:
  6.004394 = idf(docFreq=25422, docCount=10301331)
  5.959437 = idf(docFreq=26591, docCount=10301331)
  4.4738584 = idf(docFreq=117468, docCount=10301331)
1.5424473 = tfNorm, computed from:
  2.0 = phraseFreq=2.0
  1.2 = parameter k1
  0.75 = parameter b
  185.30257 = avgFieldLength
  113.77778 = fieldLength
```



Summary of changes

- Final score a combination of purely synthetic measures (corpus statistics - BM25) AND paper weight (represented by citations and readership)
- Dozens (if not hundreds) of small adjustments
 - Weights
 - constant vs traditional scores
 - picking strategies for query expansion
 - rewriting author names
 - picking synonyms
- But: is that all actually needed?

"I have accomplished much only to accomplish in the end nothing."

W. Churchill



Crystal hazing (highly subjective view)

- Last mile of the CI (bring the tests to bear weight; automate everything)
- Search user tracking, time series db (but one is tempted to question the impact; are we invading Italy or France?)
- API it is handling very large number of requests, but cannot guarantee reliability...
- Kubernetization of back-office components
- Finally (Elephant in the room): new system for curation