

# Information Retrieval

## Lecture 2: Retrieval models

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### Today

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- Definition of the information retrieval problem
- Query languages and retrieval models
  - Boolean model
  - Vector space model
- Logical model of a document/a term
  - Term weighting
  - Term stemming

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Problem: given a query, find documents that are “relevant” to the query

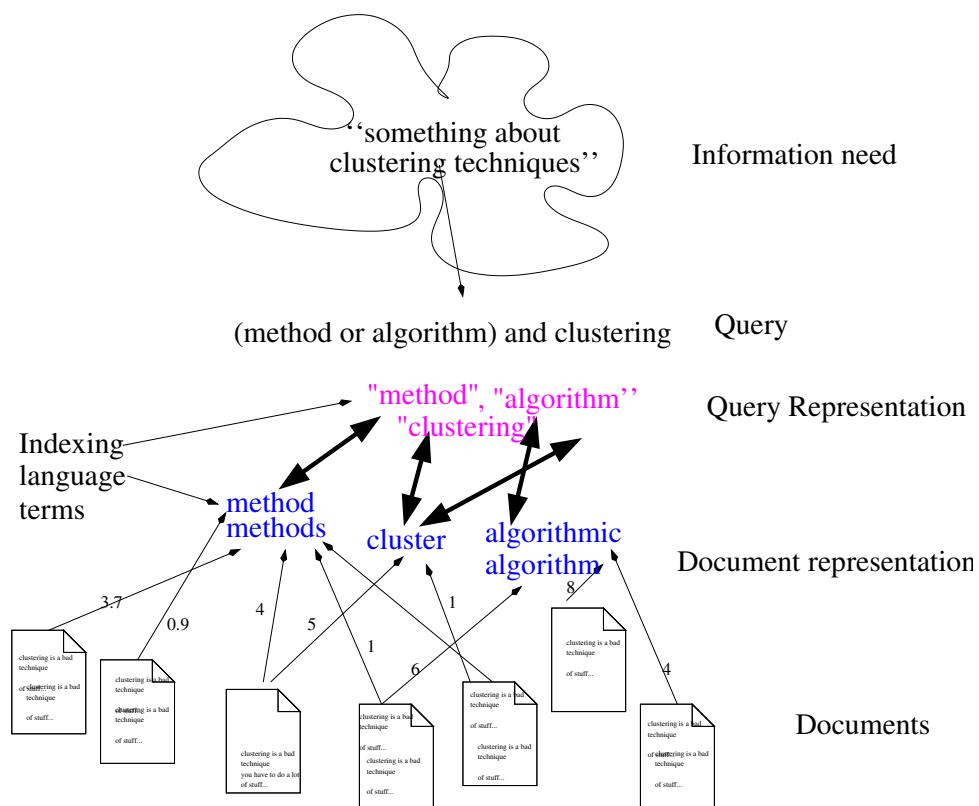
- Given: a large, static document collection
- Given: an information need (reformulated as a keyword-based query)
- Task: find all and only documents that are relevant to this query

Issues in IR:

- How can I formulate the query? (Query type, query constructs)
- How does the system find the best-matching document? (Retrieval model)
- How are the results presented to me (unsorted list, ranked list, clusters)?

## Query and document representation

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- Indexing: the task of finding terms that describe documents well
- Manual indexing by cataloguers, using fixed vocabularies (“thesauri”)
  - labour and training intensive
- Automatic indexing
  - Term manipulation (certain words count as the same term)
  - Term weighting (certain terms are more important than others)
  - Index terms can only be those words or phrases that occur in the text

## Fixed indexing languages/vocabularies (“thesauri”)

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- Large vocabularies (several thousand items)
- Examples: ACM – subfields of CS; Library of Congress Subject Headings
- Problems:
  - High effort in training in order to achieve consistency
  - Subject matters emerge → schemes change constantly
- Advantages:
  - High precision searches
  - Works well for valuable, closed collections like books in a library

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)	
...	
Eye Diseases	C11
Asthenopia	C11.93
Conjunctival Diseases	C11.187
Conjunctival Neoplasms	C11.187.169
Conjunctivitis	C11.187.183
Conjunctivitis, Allergic	C11.187.183.200
Conjunctivitis, Bacterial	C11.187.183.220
Conjunctivitis, Inclusion	C11.187.183.220.250
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	C11.187.183.220.538
Trachoma	C11.187.183.220.889
Conjunctivitis, Viral	C11.187.183.240
Conjunctivitis, Acute Hemorrhagic	C11.187.183.240.216
Keratoconjunctivitis	C11.187.183.394
Keratoconjunctivitis, Infectious	C11.187.183.394.520
Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca	C11.187.183.394.550
Reiter's Disease	C11.187.183.749
Pterygium	C11.187.781
Xerophthalmia	C11.187.810
...	

ACM Computing Classification System (1998)	
B	Hardware
B.3	Memory structures
B.3.0	General
B.3.1	Semiconductor Memories (NEW) (was B.7.1) Dynamic memory (DRAM) (NEW) Read-only memory (ROM) (NEW) Static memory (SRAM) (NEW)
B.3.2	Design Styles (was D.4.2) Associative memories Cache memories Interleaved memories Mass storage (e.g., magnetic, optical, RAID) Primary memory Sequential-access memory Shared memory Virtual memory
B.3.3	Performance Analysis and Design Aids Formal models Simulation
B.3.4	Worst-case analysis Reliability, Testing, and Fault-Tolerance Diagnostics Error-checking Redundant design Test generation
...	

## Free indexing languages

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- No predefined set of index terms
- Instead: use natural language as indexing language
- Mappings words → meanings is not 1:1
  - Synonymy (n words : 1 meaning)
  - Polysemy (1 word : n meanings)
- Do the terms get manipulated?
  - De-capitalised?
  - Stemmed?
  - Stemmed and POS-tagged?
- Use important phrases, instead of single words  
**cheque book** (rather than **cheque** and **book**)

Implementation of indexes: inverted files

Doc 1
Except Russia and Mexico no country had had the decency to come to the rescue of the government.

Doc 2
It was a dark and stormy night in the country manor. The time was past midnight.

Term	Doc no	Freq	Offset
a	2	1	2
and	1	1	2
and	2	1	4
come	1	1	11
country	1	1	5
country	2	1	9
dark	2	1	3
decency	1	1	9
except	1	1	0
government	1	1	17
had	1	2	6,7
in	2	1	7
it	2	1	0
manor	2	1	10
mexico	1	1	3
midnight	2	1	17
night	2	1	6
no	1	1	4
of	1	1	15
past	2	1	15
rescue	1	1	14
russia	1	1	1
stormy	2	1	5
the	1	2	8,13
the	2	2	8,12
time	2	1	14
to	1	2	10,12
was	2	2	16

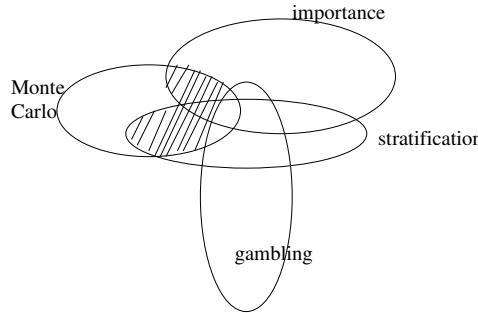
Information kept for each term:

- Document ID where this term occurs
- Frequency of occurrence of this term in each document
- Possibly: Offset of this term in document

## Information Retrieval systems: Methods

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- Boolean search
  - Binary decision: Document is relevant or not (no ranking)
  - Presence of term is necessary and sufficient for match
  - Boolean operators are set operations (AND, OR)
- Ranked algorithms
  - Ranking takes frequency of terms in document into account
  - Not all search terms necessarily present in document
  - Incarnations:
    - \* The vector space model (SMART, Salton et al, 1971)
    - \* The probabilistic model (OKAPI, Robertson/Spärck Jones, 1976)
    - \* Web search engines



- Set theoretic interpretation of connectors AND OR BUT
- Often in use for bibliographic search engines (library)
- Problem 1: Expert knowledge necessary in order to create high-precision queries
- Problem 2: Binary relevance definition → unranked result lists (frustrating, time consuming)

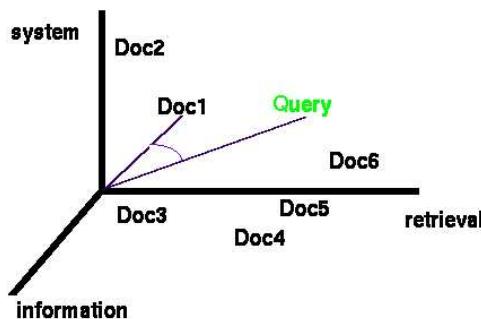
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## The Vector Space model

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- A document is represented as a point in high-dimensional vector space
- Query is also represented in vector space
- Select document(s) with highest document–query similarity
- Document–query similarity is model for relevance  $\rightarrow$  ranking



3-dimensional term vector space:

- Dimension 1: “information”
- Dimension 2: “retrieval”
- Dimension 3: “system”

	Doc <sub>1</sub>	Doc <sub>2</sub>	Doc <sub>3</sub>	...	Doc <sub>n</sub>	Q
term <sub>1</sub>	14	6	1	...	0	↔ 0
term <sub>2</sub>	0	1	3	...	1	↔ 1
term <sub>3</sub>	0	1	0	...	2	↔ 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
term <sub>N</sub>	4	7	0	...	5	↔ 1

Decisions to take:

1. Choose dimensionality of vector: what counts as a term?
2. Choose weights for each term/document mapping (cell)
  - presence or absence (binary)
  - term frequency in document
  - more complicated weight, eg. TF\*IDF (cf. later in lecture)
3. Choose a proximity measure

## Proximity measures

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A **proximity measure** can be defined either by similarity or dissimilarity. Proximity measures are

- Symmetric ( $\forall i, j : d(j, i) = d(i, j)$ )
- Maximal/minimal for identity:
  - For similarity measures:  $\forall i : d(i, i) = \max_k d(i, k)$
  - For dissimilarity measures:  $\forall i : d(i, i) = 0$
- A **distance metric** is a dissimilarity metric that satisfies the triangle inequality
 
$$\forall i, j, k : d(i, j) + d(j, k) \geq d(i, k)$$
- Distance metrics are non-negative:  $\forall i, k : d(i, k) \geq 0$

X is the set of all terms occurring in document  $D_X$ , Y is the set of all terms occurring in document  $D_Y$ .

- **Raw Overlap**:  $raw\_overlap(X, Y) = |X \cap Y|$
- **Dice's coefficient**: (normalisation by average size of the two original vectors)

$$dice(X, Y) = \frac{2|X \cap Y|}{|X| + |Y|}$$

- **Jaccard's coefficient**: (normalisation by size of combined vector – penalises small number of shared feature values)

$$jacc(X, Y) = \frac{|X \cap Y|}{|X \cup Y|}$$

- **Overlap coefficient**:

$$overlap\_coeff(X, Y) = \frac{|X \cap Y|}{\min(|X|, |Y|)}$$

- **Cosine**: (normalisation by vector lengths)

$$cosine(X, Y) = \frac{|X \cap Y|}{\sqrt{|X|} \cdot \sqrt{|Y|}}$$

## Similarity measures, weighted

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Weighted versions of Dice's and Jaccard's coefficient exist, but are used rarely for IR:

- Vectors are extremely sparse
- Vectors are of very differing length

**Cosine** (or normalised inner product) is the measure of choice for IR

Document  $i$  is represented as a vectors of terms or lemmas ( $\vec{w}_i$ );  $t$  is the total number of index terms in system,  $w_{i,j}$  is the weight associated with  $j$  th term of vector  $\vec{w}_i$ .

Vector length normalisation by the two vectors  $|\vec{w}_i|$  and  $|\vec{w}_k|$ :

$$cos(\vec{w}_i, \vec{w}_k) = \frac{\vec{w}_i \cdot \vec{w}_k}{|\vec{w}_i| \cdot |\vec{w}_k|} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^d w_{i,j} \cdot w_{k,j}}{\sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d w_{i,j}^2} \cdot \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d w_{k,j}^2}}$$

- **Euclidean distance**: (how far apart in vector space)

$$euc(\vec{w}_i, \vec{w}_k) = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^d (w_{i,j} - w_{k,j})^2}$$

- **Manhattan distance**: (how far apart, measured in 'city blocks')

$$manh(\vec{w}_i, \vec{w}_k) = \sum_{j=1}^d |w_{i,j} - w_{k,j}|$$

## Term importance and frequency

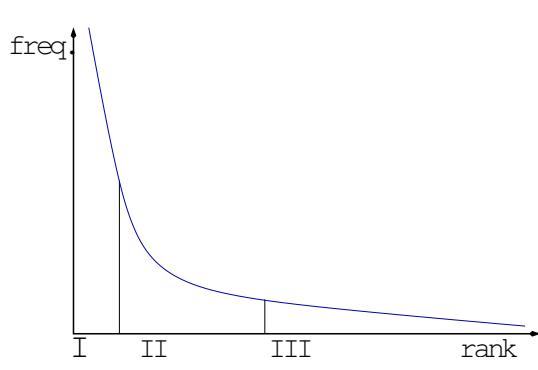
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Zipf's law: the rank of a word is reciprocally proportional to its frequency:

$$freq(word_i) = \frac{1}{i^\theta} freq(word_1)$$

(with  $1.5 < \theta < 2$  for most languages)

( $word_i$  being the  $i$ th most frequent word of the language)



- **Zone I**: High frequency words tend to be functional words ("the", "of")
- **Zone III**: Low frequency words tend to be typos, or unimportant words (too specific) ("Uni7ed", "super-noninteresting", "87-year-old", "0.07685")
- **Zone II**: Mid-frequency words are the best indicators of what the document is about

Not all terms describe a document equally well:

- Terms which are **frequent** in a document are better  $\rightarrow tf_{w,d} = freq_{w,d}$  should be high
- Terms that are **overall rare** in the document collection are better  
 $\rightarrow idf_{w,D} = \log \frac{|D|}{n_{w,D}}$  should be high  
 $\rightarrow$
- TF\*IDF formula:  $tf * idf_{w,D} = tf_{w,d} \cdot idf_{w,D}$  should be high
- Improvement: **Normalise**  $tf_{w,d}$  by term frequency of most frequent term in document:  $tf_{norm,w,d} = \frac{freq_{w,d}}{\max_{l \in d} freq_{l,d}}$ 
  - Normalised TF\*IDF:  
 $tf * idf_{norm,w,d,D} = tf_{norm,w,d} \cdot idf_{w,D}$

$tf_{w,d}$ :	Term frequency of word $w$ in document $d$
$n_{w,D}$ :	Number of documents in document collection $D$ which contain word $w$
$idf_{w,D}$ :	Inverse document frequency of word $w$ in document collection $D$
$tf * idf_{w,D}$ :	TF*IDF weight of word $w$ in document $d$ in document collection $D$
$tf * idf_{norm,w,d}$ :	Length-normalised TF*IDF weight of word $w$ in document $d$ in document collection $D$
$tf_{norm,w,d}$ :	Normalised term frequency of word $w$ in document $d$
$\max_{l \in d} freq_{l,d}$ :	Maximum term frequency of any word in document $d$

## Example: TF\*IDF

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Document set: 30,000

Term	tf	$n_{w,D}$	TF*IDF
the	312	28,799	5.55
in	179	26,452	9.78
general	136	179	302.50
fact	131	231	276.87
explosives	63	98	156.61
nations	45	142	104.62
1	44	2,435	47.99
haven	37	227	78.48
2-year-old	1	4	3.88

$$IDF(\text{"the"}) = \log \left( \frac{30,000}{28,799} \right) = 0.0178$$

$$TF*IDF(\text{"the"}) = 312 \cdot 0.0178 = 5.55$$

	Q	D <sub>7655</sub>	D <sub>454</sub>
hunter	19.2	56.4	112.2
gatherer	34.5	122.4	0
Scandinavia	13.9	0	30.9
30,000	0	457.2	0
years	0	12.4	0
BC	0	200.2	0
prehistoric	0	45.3	0
deer	0	0	23.6
rifle	0	0	452.2
Mesolithic	0	344.2	0

$$\cos(Q, D_{7655}) = \frac{19.2 \cdot 56.4 + 34.5 \cdot 122.4 + 13.9 \cdot 0}{\sqrt{19.2^2 + 34.5^2 + 13.9^2} \cdot \sqrt{56.4^2 + 122.4^2 + 457.2^2 + 12.4^2 + 200.2^2 + 45.3^2 + 344.2^2}} = .2037698341$$

$$\cos(Q, D_{454}) = \frac{19.2 \cdot 112.2 + 34.5 \cdot 0 + 13.9 \cdot 30.9}{\sqrt{19.2^2 + 34.5^2 + 13.9^2} \cdot \sqrt{112.2^2 + 30.9^2 + 23.6^2 + 452.2^2}} = .1322160530$$

→ choose document D<sub>7655</sub>

## Self test VSM/ TF\*IDF

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- Build a document-term matrix for three (very!) short documents of your choice
- Weight by presence/absence (binary) and by TF\*IDF (with estimated IDFs)
- Write a suitable query
- Calculate document–query similarity, using
  - cosine
  - inner product (i.e. cosine without normalisation)
- What effect does normalisation have?

- So far: each term is indexed and weighted only in string-equal form
- This misses many semantic similarities between morphologically related words (“whale” → “whaling”, “whales”)
- Automatic models of term identity
  - The same string between blanks or punctuation
  - The same prefix (eg. up to 6 characters)
  - The same stem (e.g. Porter stemmer)
  - The same linguistic lemma (sensitive to Parts-of-speech)
- Effect of term manipulation on retrieval result
  - changes the counts, reduces total number of terms
  - increases recall
  - might decrease precision, introduction of noise

## Stemming: the Porter stemmer

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M. Porter, “An algorithm for suffix stripping”,  
Program 14(3):130-137, 1980

- Removal of suffixes without a stem dictionary, only with a suffix dictionary
- Terms with a common stem have similar meanings:
  - Deals with inflectional and derivational morphology
  - Conflates relate — relativity — relationship
  - Conflates Sand — sander (correct), but also wand — wander (incorrect)
  - Root changes (deceive/deception, resume/resumption) aren’t dealt with, but these are rare

CONNECT  
CONNECTED  
CONNECTING  
CONNECTION  
CONNECTIONS

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[C] (VC){m}[V]

<b>C</b>	one or more adjacent consonants
<b>V</b>	one or more adjacent vowels
<b>[ ]</b>	optionality
<b>( )</b>	group operator
<b>{x}</b>	repetition x times
<b>m</b>	the “measure” of a word

shoe      [sh]<sub>C</sub>[oe]<sub>V</sub>      m=0

Mississippi    [M]<sub>C</sub>([i]<sub>V</sub>[ss]<sub>C</sub>)([i]<sub>V</sub>[ss]<sub>C</sub>)([i]<sub>V</sub>[pp]<sub>C</sub>)[i]<sub>V</sub>    m=3

ears      ([ea]<sub>V</sub>[rs]<sub>C</sub>)      m=1

## Porter stemmer: rules and conditions

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Rules in one block are run through in top-to-bottom order; when a condition is met, execute rule and jump to next block

Rules express criteria under which suffix may be removed from a word to leave a valid stem: (condition) S1 → S2

Possible conditions:

- constraining the measure:

(m > 1) EMENT → ε    (ε is the empty string)

REPLACEMENT → REPLAC

- constraining the shape of the word piece:

- \*S – the stem ends with S
- \*v\* – the stem contains a vowel
- \*d – the stem ends with a double consonant (e.g. -TT, -SS).
- \*o – the stem ends cvc, where the second c is not W, X or Y (e.g. -WIL, -HOP)

- expressions with AND, OR and NOT:

- (m>1 AND (\*S OR \*T)) – a stem with m> 1 ending in S or T

SSES → SS
IES → I
SS → SS
S →
caresses → caress
cares → care

(m>0) EED → EE
feed → feed
agreed → agree
BUT: freed, succeed

(*v*) ED →
plastered → plaster
bled → bled

## Porter stemmer: the algorithm

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### Step 1: plurals and past participles

#### Step 1a

SSES	→ SS	caresses	→ caress
IES	→ I	ponies	→ poni
		ties	→ ti
SS	→ SS	caress	→ caress
S	→ ε	cats	→ cat

#### Step 1b

(m>0) EED	→ EE	feed	→ feed
		agreed	→ agree
(*v*) ED	→ ε	plastered	→ plaster
		bled	→ bled
(*v*) ING	→ ε	motoring	→ motor
		sing	→ sing

If rule 2 or 3 in Step 1b applied, then clean up:

AT	→ ATE	conflat(ed/ing)	→ conflate
BL	→ BLE	troubl(ed/ing)	→ trouble
IZ	→ IZE	siz(ed/ing)	→ size
(*d and not (*L or *S or *Z))	→ single letter	hopp(ed/ing)	→ hop
		hiss(ed/ing)	→ hiss
(m=1 and *o)	→ E	fil(ed/ing)	→ file
		fail(ed/ing)	→ fail

#### Step 1c

(*v*) Y	→ I	happy	→ happi
		sky	→ sky

(m>0)	ATIONAL	→ ATE	relational	→ relate
(m>0)	TIONAL	→ TION	conditional	→ condition
			rational	→ rational
(m>0)	ENCI	→ ENCE	valenci	→ valence
(m>0)	ANCI	→ ANCE	hesitanci	→ hesitance
(m>0)	IZER	→ IZE	digitizer	→ digitize
(m>0)	ABLI	→ ABLE	conformabli	→ conformable
(m>0)	ALLI	→ AL	radicallli	→ radical
(m>0)	ENTLI	→ ENT	differentli	→ different
(m>0)	ELI	→ E	vileli	→ vile
(m>0)	OUSLI	→ OUS	analogousli	→ analogous
(m>0)	IZATION	→ IZE	vietnamization	→ vietnamize
(m>0)	ATION	→ ATE	predication	→ predicate
(m>0)	ATOR	→ ATE	operator	→ operate
(m>0)	ALISM	→ AL	feudalism	→ feudal
(m>0)	IVENESS	→ IVE	decisiveness	→ decisive
(m>0)	FULNESS	→ FUL	hopefulness	→ hopeful
(m>0)	OUSNESS	→ OUS	callousness	→ callous
(m>0)	ALITI	→ AL	formaliti	→ formal
(m>0)	IVITI	→ IVE	sensitiviti	→ sensitive
(m>0)	BILITI	→ BLE	sensibiliiti	→ sensible

### Step 3: more derivational morphology

(m>0)	ICATE → IC	triplicate	→ triplic
(m>0)	ATIVE → ε	formative	→ form
(m>0)	ALIZE → AL	formalize	→ formal
(m>0)	ICITI → IC	electriciti	→ electric
(m>0)	ICAL → IC	electrical	→ electric
(m>0)	FUL → ε	hopeful	→ hope
(m>0)	NESS → ε	goodness	→ good

### Step 4: even more derivational morphology

(m>1)	AL → ε	revival	→ reviv
(m>1)	ANCE → ε	allowance	→ allow
(m>1)	ENCE → ε	inference	→ infer
(m>1)	ER → ε	airliner	→ airlin
(m>1)	IC → ε	gyroscopic	→ gyroscop
(m>1)	ABLE → ε	adjustable	→ adjust
(m>1)	IBLE → ε	defensible	→ defens
(m>1)	ANT → ε	irritant	→ irrit
(m>1)	EMENT → ε	replacement	→ replac
(m>1)	MENT → ε	adjustment	→ adjust
(m>1)	ENT → ε	dependent	→ depend
(m>1 and (*S or *T))	ION → ε	adoption	→ adopt
(m>1)	OU → ε	homologou	→ homolog
(m>1)	ISM → ε	communism	→ commun
(m>1)	ATE → ε	activate	→ activ
(m>1)	ITI → ε	angulariti	→ angular
(m>1)	OUS → ε	homologous	→ homolog
(m>1)	IVE → ε	effective	→ effect
(m>1)	IZE → ε	bowdlerize	→ bowdler

### Step 5: cleaning up

#### Step 5a

(m>1)	E → ε	probate	→ probat
		rate	→ rate
(m=1 and not *o)	E → ε	cease	→ ceas

#### Step 5b

(m > 1 and *d and *L)	→ single letter	controll	→ control
		roll	→ roll

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1. Show which stems *rationalisations*, *rational*, *rationalizing* result in, and which rules they use
2. Show in which rule the incorrect *wander* → *wand* happens
3. How can this error be avoided?
4. Find five different examples of incorrect stemmings
5. Can you find a word that gets reduced in every single step?
6. Exemplify the effect that stemming (eg. with Porter) has on the Vector Space Model, using your example from before

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## Summary and literature

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- Indexing languages
- Retrieval models
- Term weighting
- Term stemming

Textbook (Baeza-Yates and Ribeiro-Neto):

- 2.5.2 Boolean model
- 6.3.3 Zipf's law
- 2.5.3 Vector space model, TF\*IDF
- 7.2 Term manipulation, stemming