

# Utilizing Query Facets for Search Result Navigation

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# Examples I: Microsoft Academic Search

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Academic Search profile for Christoph Lindemann. The page is organized into several facets:

- Co-authors (95):** Lists authors such as Oliver P. Waldhorst, Axel Thummier (Axel Thümmler), Marco Lohmann, Alexander Klemm, and Sherif M. ElRakabawy.
- Conferences (37):** Lists venues like MMB, MASCOTS, KVS, and Dagstuhl Seminars.
- Journals (20):** Lists journals like PE, SIGMETRICS, COMPUT NETW, MONET, and WINET.
- Keywords (341):** Lists terms like Analytical Model, Markov, Chain, and Mobile Ad Hoc.

The main content area shows the author's profile for Christoph Lindemann, TU Dortmund University, with 98 publications and 1360 citations. It lists fields of interest: Networks & Communications, Software Engineering, and Operating Systems. A list of publications is shown, including:

- Analyzing the effective throughput in multi-hop IEEE 802.11n networks** (Citations: 1) by Simon Frohn, Sascha Gübner, and Christoph Lindemann. Journal: Computer Communications - COMCOM, vol. 34, no. 16, pp. 1912-1921, 2011.
- Female Wistar rats obtained from different breeders vary in anxiety-like behavior and epileptogenesis** (Citations: 2) by Stefanie Honndorf, Christoph Lindemann, Kathrin Töllner, and Manuela Gernert. Journal: Epilepsy Research - EPILEPSY RES, vol. 94, no. 1, pp. 26-38, 2011.
- Topology of intraatrial dopaminergic grafts determines functional and emotional outcome in neurotoxin-lesioned rats**

Navigation options include 'Embed', 'Subscribe', and 'Sort by: Year'.

Figure: Example of facets on Microsoft Academic Search

# Examples II: Amazon.com

### Narrow your choices

- Any Category
- Electronics
- Wearable Technology
- Smart Watches**

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### International Shipping

Ship to Germany

---

### Eligible for Free Shipping

Free Shipping by Amazon

---

### Wearable Device Department

- Men (807)
- Women (734)
- Boys (95)
- Girls (52)

---

### Wearable Device Features


- Camera (1,152)
- Email (55)
- Manual Heart Rate Monitor (365)
- Activity Tracker (1,477)
- Text Messaging (458)
- Pedometer (1,148)
- Calendar (89)
- Phone Call (65)
- Time Display (82)
- Social Media Notifications (81)
- Music Player (138)
- Fitness Tracker (579)
- GPS (317)
- Alarm Clock (56)
- Voice Control (56)

---


### Brand

- Samsung
- Motorola
- LG
- Sony
- Pebble

Related Searches: [apple watch](#), [fitbit](#), [smartwatch](#).




See Color Options



Long standby

See Color Options



See more choices

**UB Bluetooth Smart Watch WristWatch Phone with Camera Touch Screen for Android OS and IOS Smartphone Samsung Smartphone...**

by UDCU

**\$15.96** ~~\$400.00~~

More Buying Choices  
**\$13.99** new (35 offers)

FREE Shipping

**#1 Best Seller** in Smart Watches

★★★★☆ • 582

**AB POWER U8 Bluetooth Watch Smart WristWatch Phone Male for Smartphones IOS Apple iphone Android Samsung S2/S3...**

by AB POWER

**\$19.99** ~~\$200.00~~ ✓Prime

In stock on September 3, 2015

More Buying Choices  
**\$19.99** new (2 offers)

FREE Shipping on orders over \$35

**#1 New Release** in Smart Watches

★★★★☆ • 34

**Motorola Moto 360 - Black Leather Smart Watch**

by Motorola

**\$149.00** ~~\$249.00~~ ✓Prime

Get it by **Tuesday, Sep 1**

More Buying Choices  
**\$130.00** new (92 offers)

**\$115.00** used (31 offers)


Trade-in eligible for an Amazon gift card  
FREE Shipping on orders over \$35

**#3 Best Seller** in Men's Wrist Watches


★★★★☆ • 1,430

---

**Long battery life**



See Color Options




Padgene Bluetooth 4.0 Smart Watch Bracelet for Samsung S5 / S6 / S8 Edge / Note 2 / 3 / 4, Nexus 6, Htc, Sony...

by Padgene

**\$17.99** ~~\$40.00~~ ✓Prime

Get it by **Tuesday, Sep 1**

More Buying Choices  
**\$13.00** new (14 offers)



See Color Options

**Veeyo Gear Bluetooth Smart Watch WristWatch Phone Male Black**

by Veeyo

**\$59.99** ~~\$249.00~~ ✓Prime

Get it by **Tuesday, Sep 1**

More Buying Choices

Figure: Example of facets on Amazon.com

# Examples III: Implemented Results

[Home](#) [Hilfe](#) [Test](#)

hip fractures

Suche

Antwortzeit: 6.199 Sek

## Navigation

+ [hip replacement surgery](#)

+ [osteoporosis](#)

+ [what is a fracture](#)

+ [femoral shaft fracture](#)

+ [intertrochanteric fracture](#)

+ [subtrochanteric fracture](#)

+ [books](#)

+ [magazines](#)

+ [video](#)

### [Musculoskeletal Radiology of Fractures](#)

<http://www.gentili.net/fracturemain1.asp>

**Hip fractures.**

### [fracture - avulsion fracture of 5th metatarsal - kyphoplasty fracture in l1](#)

<http://viptashkent.com/clmbb/eiars/fracture/fracture.htm>

fracture in l1. avulsion fracture of 5th metatarsal - calcaneal fracture prevention - avulsion fracture fragment - frontal fracture of cervical disc - kyphoplasty fracture in l1 - **hip** fracture wound care heel - bowing plastic fracture - treatment for open fracture - knee fracture and numbness following...

### [Hip Fracture Homepage](#)

[http://www.emedx.com/emedx/diagnosis\\_information/hip\\_pelvis\\_disorders/hip\\_fracture\\_outline.htm](http://www.emedx.com/emedx/diagnosis_information/hip_pelvis_disorders/hip_fracture_outline.htm)

intertrochanteric **fractures**, a **hip** screw and side plate is most

### [Fracture](#)

<http://www.similarbase.com/fracture.html>

289 Results for: fracture (0.093 seconds). wheelless. bone scan. palatinus. osteochondral fracture. metatarsal fracture. salter. smiths fracture. nonunion. intra articular. comminuted. femoral. internal fixation. pelvic fracture. healing. tibia stress fracture. shoulder fracture. fibia. seinsheimer. trimalar...

Figure: Facets generated for the query "hip fractures"

# Introduction to Facets

- ▶ A facet is a flat set of terms
- ▶ Facets provide selectors / filters for, mostly nominal, object attributes
- ▶ Displayed facets traditionally represent existing attributes of the listed objects
- ▶ Facets show aspects that help to easily distinguish objects on the level of one attribute → it is of no use to show a specific facet if all relevant objects match one and the same value of the corresponding attribute
- ▶ Facets provide insight and help to **navigate the search result space**

# Faceted Web Search Characteristics

- ▶ Semi-structured documents
- ▶ Some explicit document attributes like in document reference systems (e.g. author, title, publication date, keywords) → however, not useful in the context of general web search
- ▶ Useful facets are not connected to predefined document attributes (e.g. search results for "IFA Berlin" might benefit from the facets "vendors" or "exhibition hall" → this information is hidden in the text)
- ▶ Huge number of possible facets and facet terms → every existing taxonomy provides many sets of related terms

# Requirements of Faceted Web Search Systems

- ▶ Behave similar to Boolean filters → learned behavior from other faceted applications
- ▶ Terms of one and the same facet should be mutual exclusive → only few terms match the same document
- ▶ Small number of facets and terms per facet → facets distract the user
- ▶ Proposal: Use ranking features that characterize the partition properties of the candidate facets



# Faceted Web Search Problems

1. Generation of facets and assignment of facet terms to documents
2. Ranking and selection of relevant facets for the user and query
3. Utilization of user-selected facet terms (user feedback)

# First Work on Facet Generation

- ▶ Facetedpedia: Wikipedia provides categories and hyperlinks between articles [5]
- ▶ Blogs provide keywords and categories
- ▶ External resources like WordNet's hypernym information [1] and other taxonomies
- ▶ Above methods not applicable to the general web or require expensive offline computations
- ▶ Topic discovery, search result clustering → search for labels that fit subsets of the result documents → facet generation searches for one-level hierarchies that are representative for the search results

# Facet Extraction from Lists

- ▶ Dou et al. [2] introduced the idea to exclusively utilize lists of terms that can be found in the search result documents → no external resources required
- ▶ Types of lists:
  - ▶ Lists in free text
  - ▶ Fixed HTML patterns (e.g. ol, ul and tables)
  - ▶ Visual repeat regions to extract lists that use CSS and other HTML structures than the fixed patterns above
- ▶ Above lists (list candidates) are post-processed, clustered and then ranked to generate the final facets

# HTML Meta Patterns

- ▶ Modern web design sometimes utilizes Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) to generate visual lists from general HTML tags like span or p
- ▶ Observation I: fixed HTML patterns are not able to extract these lists
- ▶ Observation II: visual information is not required to extract most of these lists
- ▶ Proposal: HTML Meta Pattern, that finds elements whose children are mostly structurally identical (i.e. same HTML subtree based on the element names)
- ▶ ignore comments, script, ...

# HTML Meta Pattern Example

The screenshot displays a web browser interface. At the top, a search bar contains the text "WINE:1". Below it, a search result is shown with a title "...ology of intrastriatal dopaminergic grafts determines functional and emotional outcome in n... lesioned rats". The snippet below the title lists authors: Julia Jungnickel, Ieva Kalve, Linda Reimers, André Nobre, Maïke Wesemann, Andreas Ratzka, Nina Haller, **Lindemann**, Kerstin Schwabe, Kathrin Töllner, Manuela Gerner, Claudia Grothe. The journal information is: Journal: Behavioural Brain Research - BEHAV BRAIN RES, vol. 216, no. 1, pp. 129-135, 2011.

Below this, another search result is visible with the title "A Practical Adaptive Pacing Scheme for TCP in Multihop Wireless Networks". The snippet lists the author: Sherif M. ElRakabawy, **Christoph Lindemann**. The journal information is: Journal: IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking - TON, vol. 19, no. 4, pp. 975-988, 2011.

On the left side of the browser, a blue overlay box titled "Analytical Model Markov Chain" lists related terms: "Analytical Model", "Markov Chain", "Mobile Ad Hoc Network", "Numerical Algorithm", "Numerical Solution", "P2P", "Peer To Peer Performance Evaluation", "Quality of Service", "Simulation Study".

The bottom portion of the image shows the browser's developer console. The breadcrumb path is: < pper > div#ctl00\_divLeftWrapper.left-wrapper > div.section-wrapper > div#divKeywordCloud.NormalTagCloud. The HTML tree shows a list of links generated by a meta-pattern:

```
<ul></ul>
<div class="clear"></div>
<div id="divKeywordCloud" class="NormalTagCloud">
  <span id="_tagCloudItemNew0" style="font-size: 12px; font-weight: normal">
    <a title="7 publication(s) related to this keyword" target="_self" href="/Keyword/1535/analytical-model">
      Analytical Model</a>
    </span>
  <span id="_tagCloudItemNew1" style="font-size: 15px; font-weight: bold">
    <a title="10 publication(s) related to this keyword" target="_self" href="/Keyword/60967/markov-chain">
      Markov Chain</a>
    </span>
  <span id="_tagCloudItemNew2" style="font-size: 14px; font-weight: normal">
    <a title="9 publication(s) related to this keyword" target="_self" href="/Keyword/25581/mobile-ad-hoc-network">Mobile Ad Hoc Network</a>
    </span>
  <span id="_tagCloudItemNew3" style="font-size: 12px; font-weight: normal">
    <a title="7 publication(s) related to this keyword" target="_self" href="/Keyword/28572/numerical-algorithm">Numerical Algorithms</a>
    </span>
</div>
```

Figure: Example of the requirement of the HTML Meta Pattern

# Candidate List Ranking

- ▶ Dou et al. [2] clusters similar lists together and ranks lists high if many result documents contain many terms of the list; they also require lists to appear on different websites
- ▶ Kong et al. [3] clusters terms of candidate lists into clusters based on their text and list context; afterwards he uses multiple TF and IDF measures to rank the facets
- ▶ Both do not penalize facets whose terms often appear together on each document
- ▶ Both do not differentiate between terms in lists and terms occurring on their own

# Navigation Focused Idea

- ▶ Binary relevance assessment to decide if a specific facet term  $t$  is relevant for a specific search result document  $d$ :  $t$  is relevant for  $d$  if  $d$  contains  $t$  outside of lists  $\rightarrow$  in this case  $t$  is a valid value for  $d$  in each facet that contains  $t$
- ▶ Each facet term  $t$  induces a subset of the search results  $D'_t$  where  $t$  is relevant
- ▶ Idea: Measure the quality of the partition properties of the set of subsets  $\{D'_{t1}, D'_{t2}, \dots, D'_{tn}\}$  of facet  $F = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n\} \rightarrow$  facet extraction algorithm **NAV**

# Search Result Pre-Processing

- ▶ Each search result document  $d$  is transformed into the bag of words representation  $d' = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n\}$ , containing only the terms not contained in lists  $\rightarrow$  **condensed document representation**
- ▶  $d'$  is generated at no cost: the candidate list extraction phase removes sub-trees / text snippets that contain the extracted list

$$D'_t = \{d' \mid d' \cap \{t\} \neq \emptyset\}$$

- ▶ We further define  $D'_F = \bigcap_{t \in F} D'_t$  as the **condensed search result**



# Facet Ranking Function

$$R_F = \alpha C_F + \beta S_F + \gamma P_F + \delta T_F$$

## Partition Features I: Subtopic Coverage

- ▶ Subtopic coverage  $C_F$  recognizes the fact that the original query might have numerous interpretations, but each facet is only relevant for one of these possible search intents
- ▶ We approximate the number of sub-intents  $\#I$  and calculate a distance measure to the expected number of documents matching at least one of the facet terms of  $F$

$$\#I(D) = \log(|D|)$$

$$C_F = \exp\left(-\frac{\left|\frac{|D|}{\#I(D)} - |D'_F|\right|}{10}\right)$$

## Partition Features II: Size Equality

- ▶  $S_F$  is a measure of the equality of the  $D'_t$  document set sizes with  $\mu_F^S$  being the mean set size

$$\mu_F^S = \frac{\sum_{t \in F} |D'_t|}{|F|}$$

$$S_F = 1 - \frac{\sum_{t \in F} (\mu_F^S - |D'_t|)^2}{\sum_{t \in F} |D'_t|^2}$$

## Partition Features III: Mean Number Facets

- ▶ The reciprocal of the mean number of facet terms per page  $P_F$  is used to prefer facets whose facet terms' co-occurrence rate is very low

$$\mu_F^C = \frac{\sum_{d' \in D'_F} |d' \cap F|}{|D'_F|}$$

$$P_F = \frac{1}{\mu_F^C}$$

## Partition Features IV: Facet Size

- ▶  $T_F$  is used to prioritize larger facets

$$T_F = \log |F|$$

# Feedback Theory

- ▶ The feedback model defines how user selected facet terms are used to improve the web search result in terms of matching the user intent
- ▶  $t^u$  represents a user-selected terms (feedback terms)
- ▶  $F^u = \{t_1^u, t_2^u, \dots, t_o^u\}$  is the set of feedback terms of facet F (feedback facet)
- ▶  $\mathcal{F}^u = \{F_1^u, F_2^u, \dots, F_p^u\}$  is the set of non-empty feedback facets

# Feedback Model

- ▶ Kong et al. [4] found Boolean filtering not useful
- ▶ They proposed soft ranking  $\rightarrow$  original document score is combined with a score that depends on the feedback terms

$$S'_E(d, q, \mathcal{F}^u) = \lambda S(d, q) + (1 - \lambda) S_E(d, \mathcal{F}^u)$$

- ▶ Two implementations of  $S_E$

$$S_{ST}(d, \mathcal{F}^u) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{F^u \in \mathcal{F}^u} \sum_{t^u \in F^u} S(d, t^u)$$

$$S_{TT}(d, \mathcal{F}^u) = \sum_{F^u \in \mathcal{F}^u} \sum_{t^u \in F^u} S(d, t^u)$$

# Evaluation Model

- ▶ Extrinsic evaluation → impact on the search quality (NDCG)
- ▶ ClueWeb09 Category B corpus and TREC 2011 relevance measurements of the diversity task
  - ▶ Queries with sub-intents → relevance judgments for the sub-intents
  - ▶ Macro-Averaging: first average over the sub-intents per query, then over the queries
- ▶ Per sub-intent, incrementally add the remaining best facet term to the feedback terms
- ▶ BM25F ranking function



# Single-Term Feedback I: Top-1 Facet

Facet Ranking	Candidate List Extraction	Parsed Docs	nDCG @10	nDCG @20
No facets			0.0672	0.0759
QF-I	HTML	20	0.0699	0.0805
QF-I	HTML	50	0.0662	0.0798
QF-I	HTML + Meta	20	0.0673	0.0788
QF-I	HTML + Meta	50	0.0649	0.0763
NAV	HTML	20	0.0736	0.0877
NAV	HTML	50	0.0704	0.0839
NAV	HTML + Meta	20	0.0721	0.0858
NAV	HTML + Meta	50	0.0705	0.0778

Figure: Single term feedback performance using top-1 facet

- ▶ NAV considerable higher scores than QF-I
- ▶ Meta Pattern impairs search quality

## Single-Term Feedback II: Top-3 Facets

Facet Ranking	Candidate List Extraction	Parsed Docs	nDCG @10	nDCG @20
No facets			0.0672	0.0759
QF-I	HTML	20	0.0824	0.0919
QF-I	HTML	50	0.0737	0.0915
QF-I	HTML + Meta	20	0.0919	0.0954
QF-I	HTML + Meta	50	0.0780	0.0911
NAV	HTML	20	0.0808	0.0929
NAV	HTML	50	0.0857	0.0932
NAV	HTML + Meta	20	0.0800	0.0915
NAV	HTML + Meta	50	0.0911	0.0960

Figure: Single term feedback performance using top-3 facets

- ▶ NAV and QF-I achieve similar quality
- ▶ NAV requires top-50 documents to be effective
- ▶ Meta Pattern is beneficial

## Single-Term Feedback III: Mean Number Facet Terms

Facet Ranking	Candidate List Extraction	Parsed Docs	# Terms per Facet
QF-I	HTML	20	6.29
QF-I	HTML	50	7.69
QF-I	HTML + Meta	20	6.63
QF-I	HTML + Meta	50	8.26
NAV	HTML	20	7.51
NAV	HTML	50	6.94
NAV	HTML + Meta	20	7.62
NAV	HTML + Meta	50	7.27

Figure: Mean number of facet terms of the top-3 facets

- ▶ Increasing number of documents is required to assess the NAV features correctly

# Multi Term Feedback

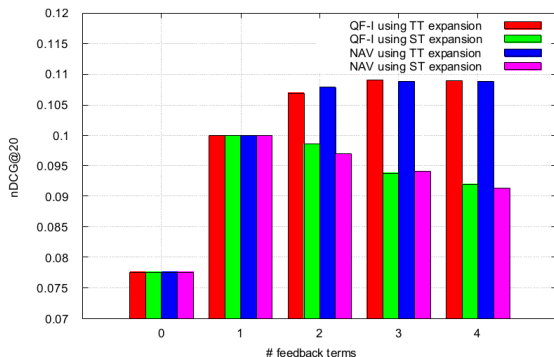


Figure: Results for multi term feedback using top-5 facets

- ▶ ST is not capable of utilizing more than one feedback term

# Conclusion

- ▶ Facets generated by NAV, compared to QF-I facets, provide at least the same extrinsic utility
- ▶ Each baseline retrieval model might require its specific soft ranking expansion model
- ▶ Meta pattern HTML extraction algorithm yields lists that improve facet extraction significantly

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