

# Full-text search with distributed search engines

Alexander Reelsen @spinscale alex@elastic.co



## Agenda

- Overview
- Indexing: Analysis, Tokenization, Filtering, on disk data structures
- Searching: Scoring, Algorithms & Optimization
- Aggregations
- Distributed systems and search
- Q & A



# Filtering, on disk data structures & Optimization





## Overview

Full text search introduction



# SELECT \* FROM products WHERE name LIKE = '%topf%'





## # grep "topf" my\_dataset.txt





## Problem

- Scales linearly with the data set size
- Relevancy
- Spell correction
- Synonyms
- ases









Inverted Index





The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog





The quick brown fox jumped over the laz dog









The brown dog fox jumped lazy over quick the







# Quick brown foxes leap over lazy dogs



in summer





## lazy dog



## lazy AND dog

## [1,2] AND [1] = [1]



## lazy OR dog

## [1,2] OR [1] = [1,2]



## Technologies used today

- Apache Lucene (search library)
- Elasticsearch (distributed search engine built on top of Apache Lucene)









## Indexing

Analysis, Tokenization, Filtering Data structures



## quick



## quick



## Analysis: Tokenizer & Token Filters











## quick brown fox







# quick brown fox







# quick brown fox the lazy, white dog.





# quick brown fox the lazy white dog





# quick\_brown\_fox the\_lazy\_white\_dog

### Unicode® Standard Annex #29

### UNICODE TEXT SEGMENTATION

Summary

This annex describes guidelines for determining default segmentation boundaries between certain significant text elements: grapheme clusters ("user-perceived characters"), words, and sentences. For line boundaries, see [UAX14].

### https://unicode.org/reports/tr29/





quick\_brown\_fox
the\_lazy\_white\_dog
https://www.jade-hs.de





quick\_brown\_fox
the\_lazy\_white\_dog
https\_www.jade\_hs.de













# The Quick brown fox





### Lowercase

The Quick brown fox the quick brown fox





### Lowercase Stopwords



# quick brown fox



### Lowercase

The Quick brown fox

the quick brown fox



## Stopwords

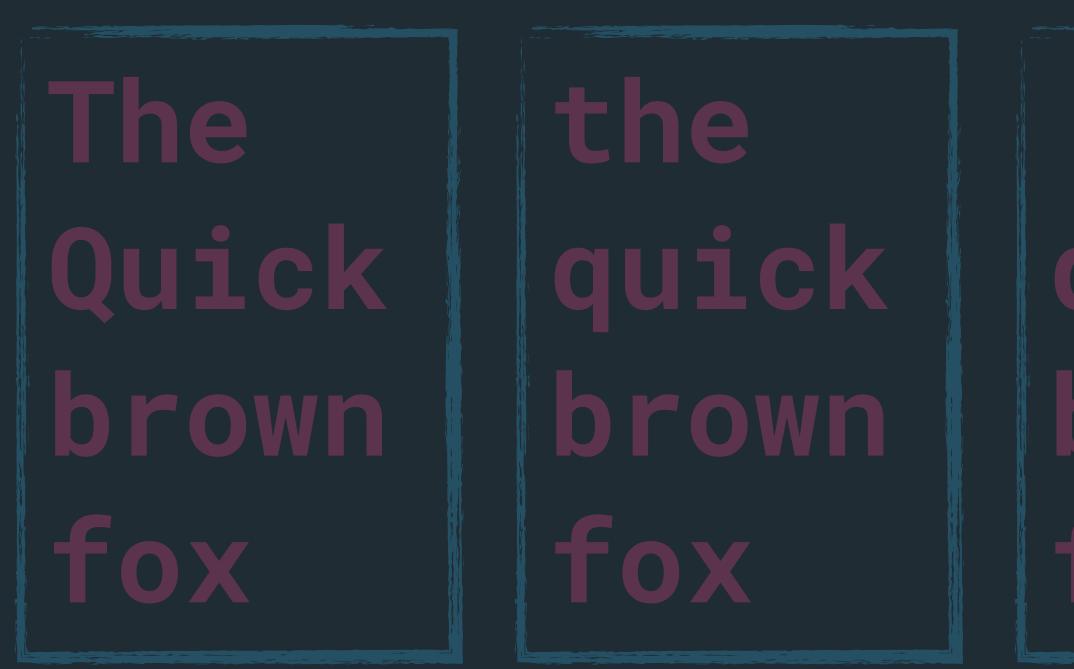


## quick orown Fox

## quick, fast brown fox



### Lowercase



## Tokens can be changed, added, removed



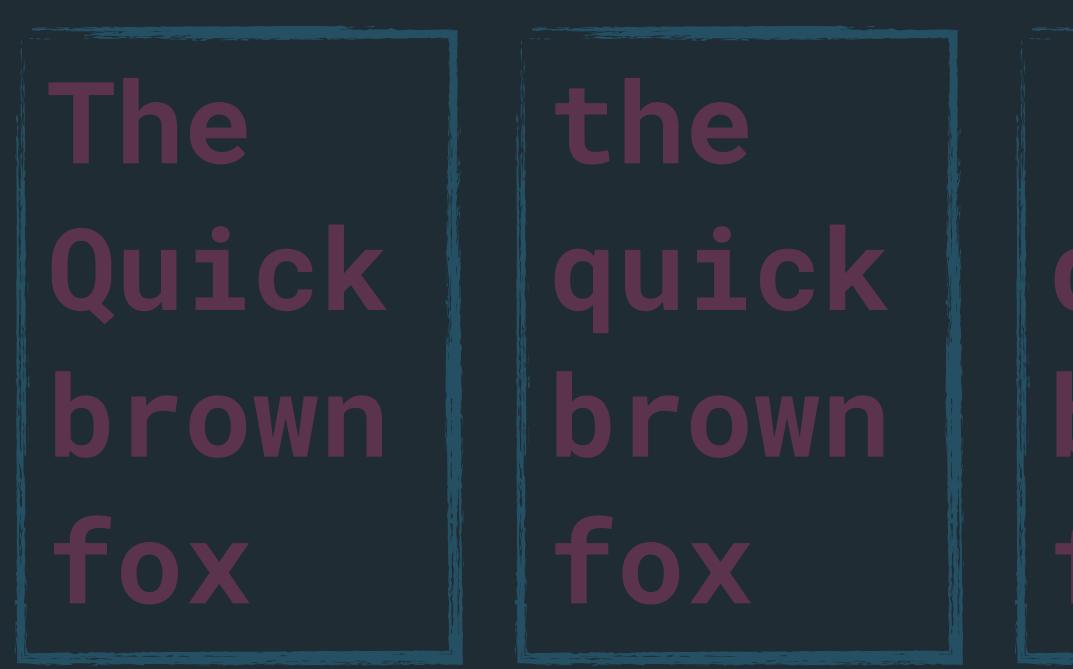
## Stopwords



## quick, fast brown fox



### Lowercase S



## Queries need to be processed as well!



## Stopwords Synonyms

## quick orown fox

## quick, fast brown fox



# More analysis strategies

- Phonetic analysis: Meyer vs. Meier
- Stemming: foxes → fox
- Compounding: Blumentopf → blumen topf
- Folding: Spaß -> Spass











# (On-Disk) Data structures



# What else is in an inverted index?

- Documents: Find documents
- Term frequencies: Relevancy
- Positions: Positional Queries
- Offsets: Highlighting
- Stored fields: The original data





# Segment: Unit of work

- A fully self sufficient inverted index
- An index consists of a number of segments
- New segments are created for newly added documents
- Segments are immutable!









# Read-only data structures

- Pro: Write-once, sequentially
- Pro: Lock-free reading
- Pro: File system cache
- Contra: in-place updates & deletes
- Contra: Housekeeping
- Contra: Transactions elastic



# Segment: Deletes

- Mark a document as deleted in a special file
- Exclude it from searches
- No space is freed!





# Segment: Merging

- Number of segments needs to be kept reasonable
- Merge multiple segments into one (smaller index)
- Delete expired documents

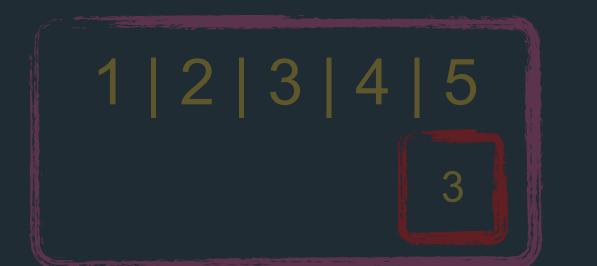






# Segment: Merging

- Number of segments needs to be kept reasonable
- Merge multiple segments into one (smaller index)
- Delete expired documents









1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8





# Searching

Precision vs. recall Scoring Algorithms and optimizations









# Relevancy

- Textbook answer: How well matches a document a query?
- Business answer: Are the top search results those that make me the most money?
  - marketplace
  - hotel booking website
  - newspaper website



# matches a document a query? It search results those that











# Scoring: lazy dog

- Naive: increase a counter if a term is matched
- "the lazy dog" => score 2
- "the lazy frog" => score 1
- "the lazy lazy lazy lazy cat" => score 4 or 1?







# Scoring: More than term frequency

- How about incorporating information about the whole document corpus in scoring?
- Are lesser common terms more relevant?
- news paper: "dieselgate news"





# Scoring: TF-IDF

- a field
- Inverse document frequency: inverse function of the number of documents in which it occurs



# Term frequency: number of times a term occurs in



# Scoring: Vector space model

- Each term is a dimension
- The length is based on tf-idf calculation
- Similarity is the angle between vectors
- Cosine similarity: best match == angle 0°





# Scoring: TF-IDF in Lucene

# score(q,d) = $\sum (tf(t in d) \cdot idf(t)^2 \cdot t.getBoost() \cdot norm(t,d))$







Lucene's Practical Scoring Function is derived from the above. The color codes demonstrate how it relates to those of the conceptual formula:

score(q,d) = 
$$\sum (tf(t \text{ in } d) \cdot idf(t)^2 \cdot t.get)$$
  
t in q

Lucene Practical Scoring Function

where

1. *tf(t in d)* correlates to the term's *frequency*, defined as the number of times term *t* appears in the currently scored document *d*. Documents that have more occurrences of a given term receive a higher score. Note that *tf(t in q)* is assumed to be *1* and therefore it does not appear in this equation, However if a query contains twice the same term, there will be two term-queries with that same term and hence the computation would still be correct (although not very efficient). The default computation for *tf(t in d)* in ClassicSimilarity is:

```
tf(t in d) = frequency^{\frac{1}{2}}
```

2. *idf(t)* stands for Inverse Document Frequency. This value correlates to the inverse of *docFreq* (the number of documents in which the term t appears). This means rarer terms give higher contribution to the total score. *idf(t)* appears for t in both the query and the document, hence it is squared in the equation. The default computation for *idf(t)* in ClassicSimilarity is:

$$doct$$
  
 $idf(t) = 1 + log( -----doct$ 

- 3. **t.getBoost()** is a search time boost of term t in the query q as specified in the query text (see query syntax), or as set by wrapping with BoostQuery. Notice that there is really no direct API for accessing a boost of one term in a multi term query, but rather multi terms are represented in a query as multi TermQuery objects, and so the boost of a term in the query is accessible by calling the sub-query getBoost().
- 4. norm(t,d) is an index-time boost factor that solely depends on the number of tokens of this field in the document, so that shorter fields contribute more to the score.



```
Count+1
_____
```

cFreq+1



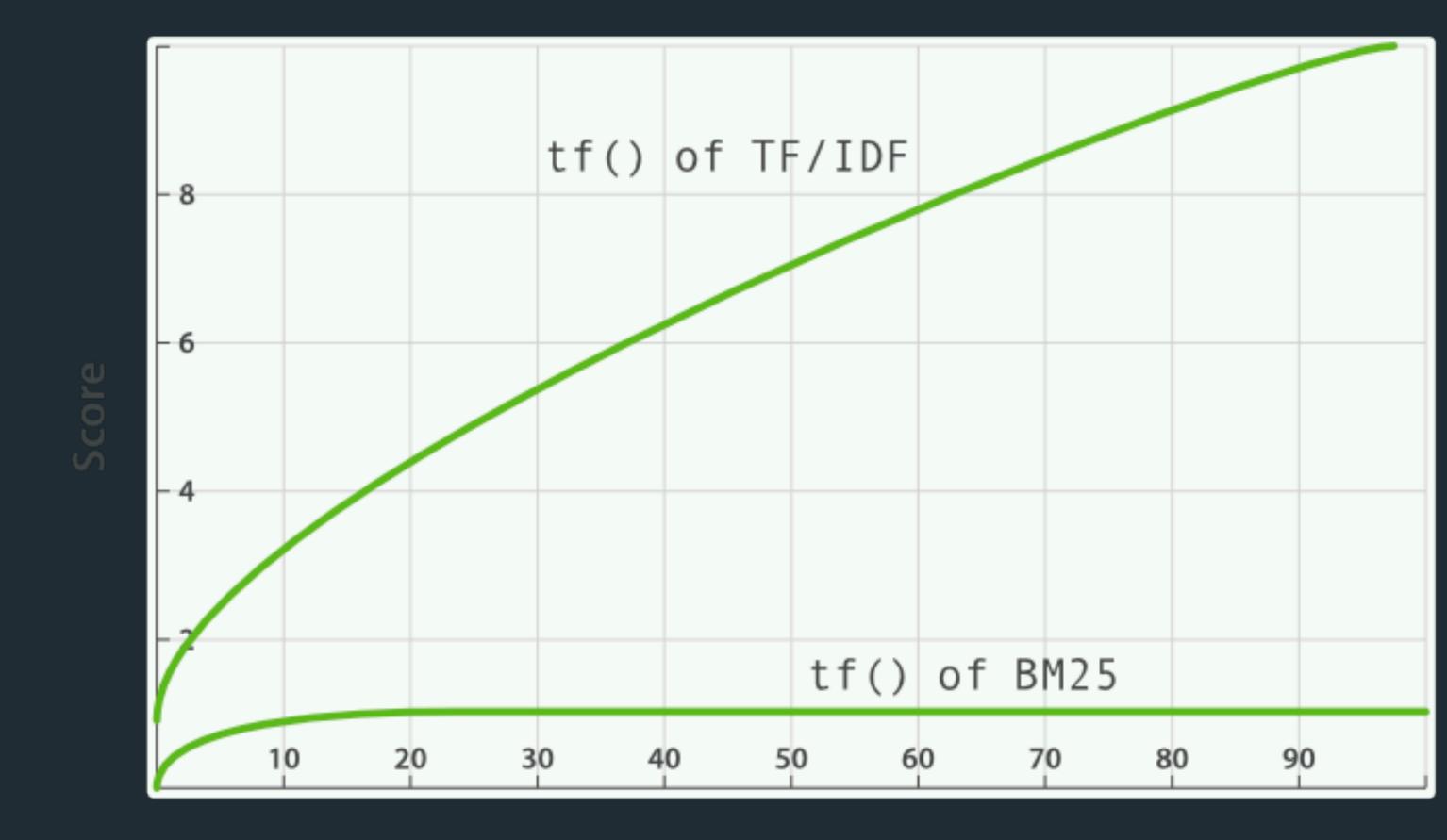


- Default in Apache Lucene/Elasticsearch
- Works better with stopwords (high TF)
- Term frequency saturation
- Improved field length normalization (per document)









https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/guide/2.x/pluggable-similarites.html



# requency



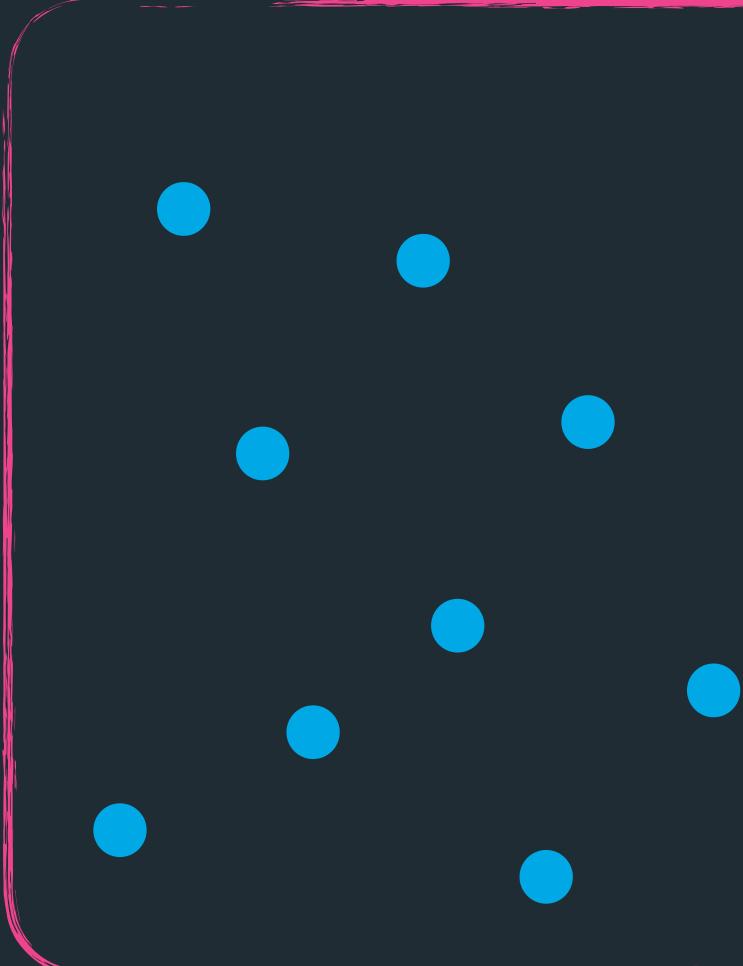




# Precision vs. recall



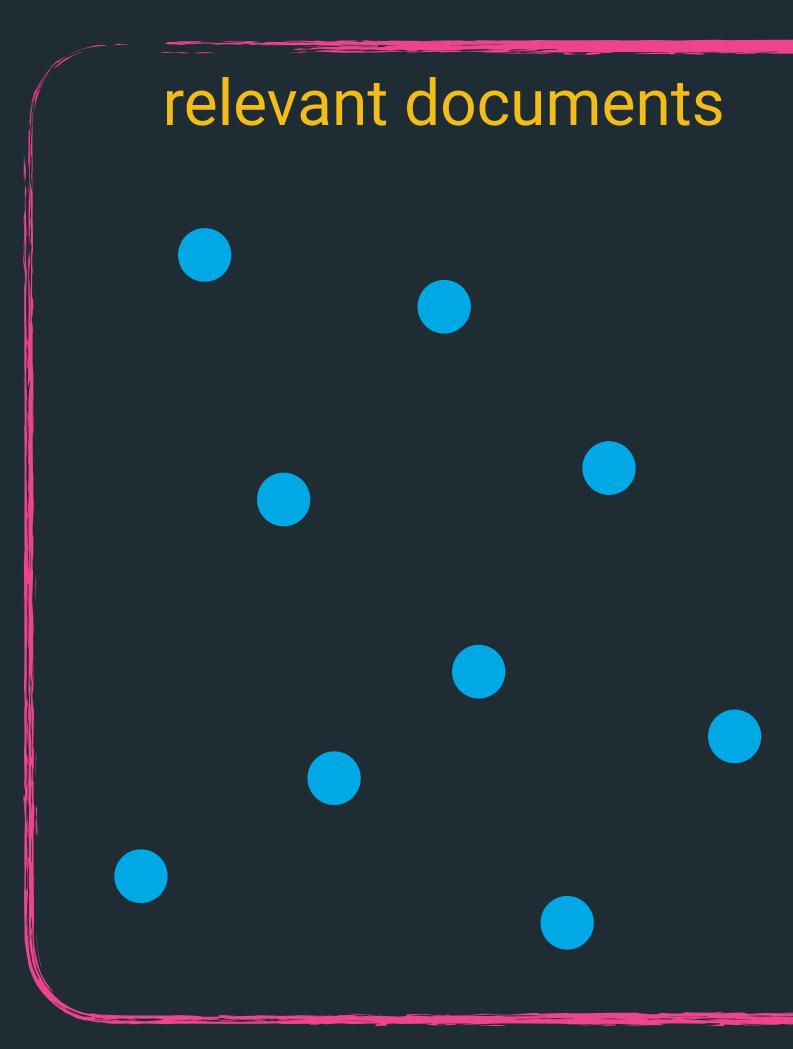
# Precision and Recall





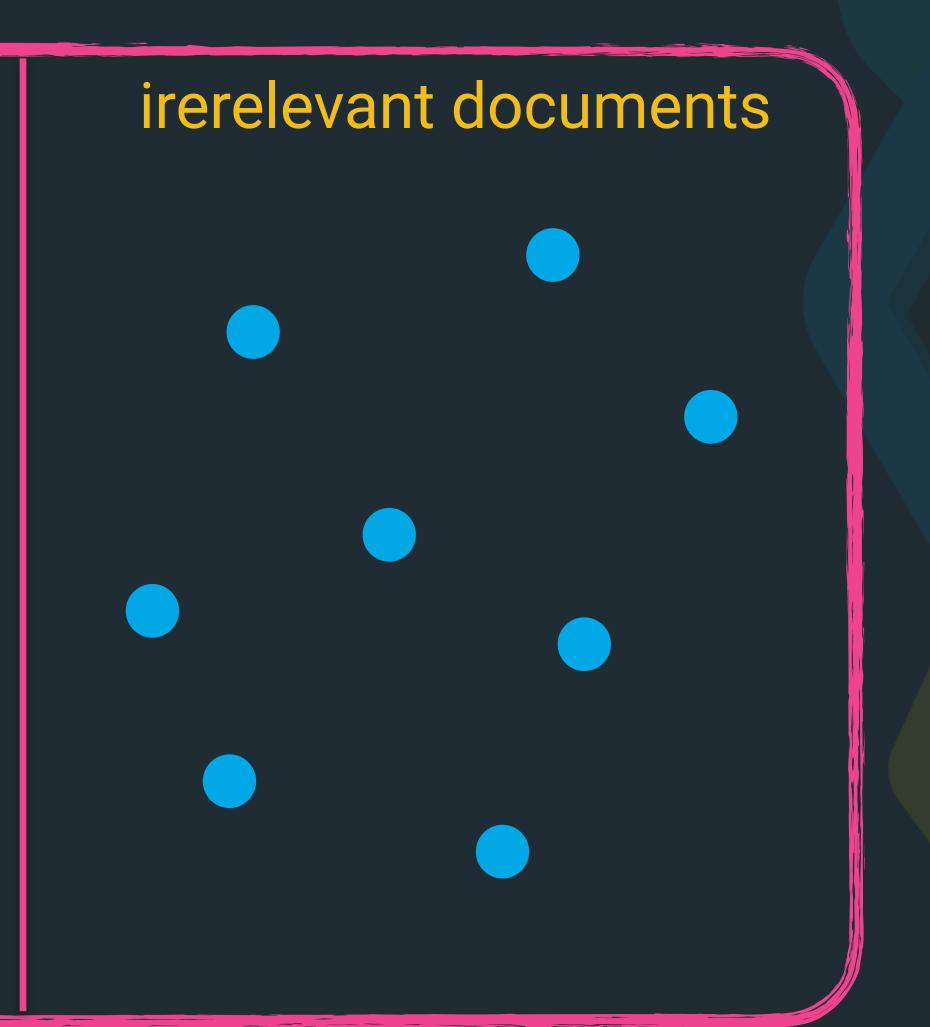


# Precision and Recall



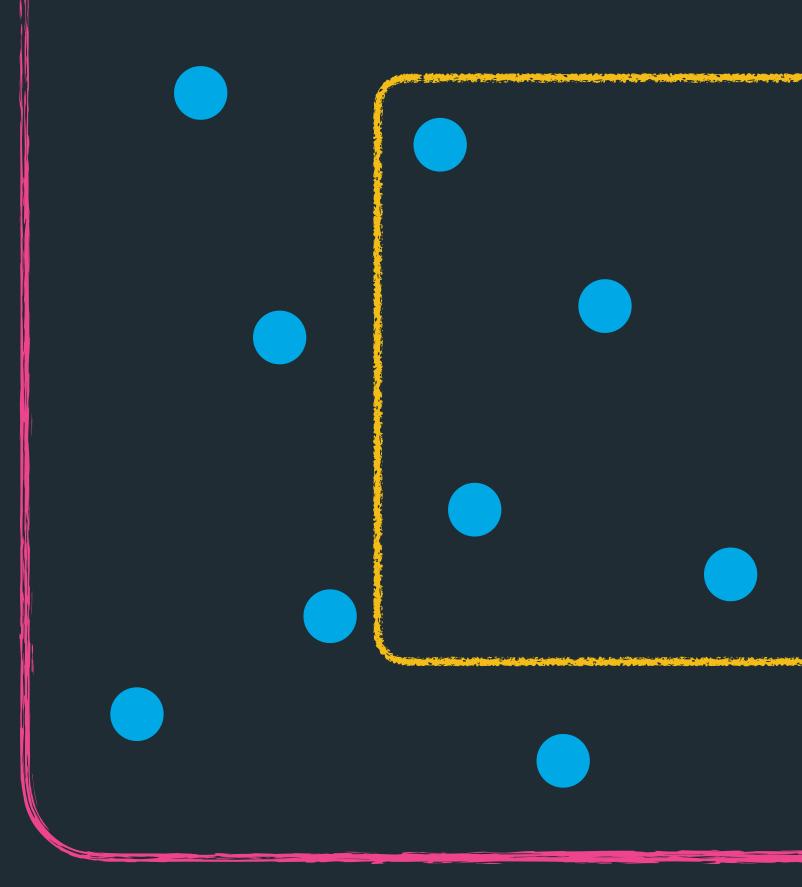






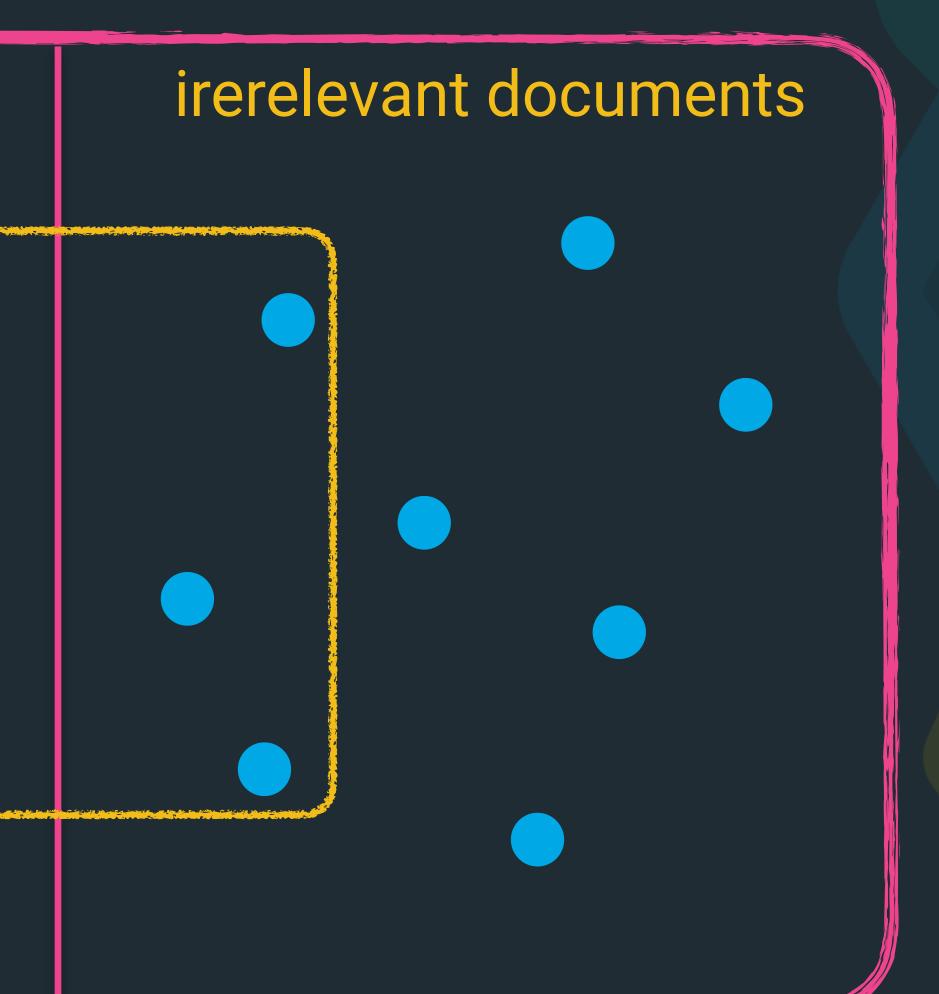


# Precision and Recall



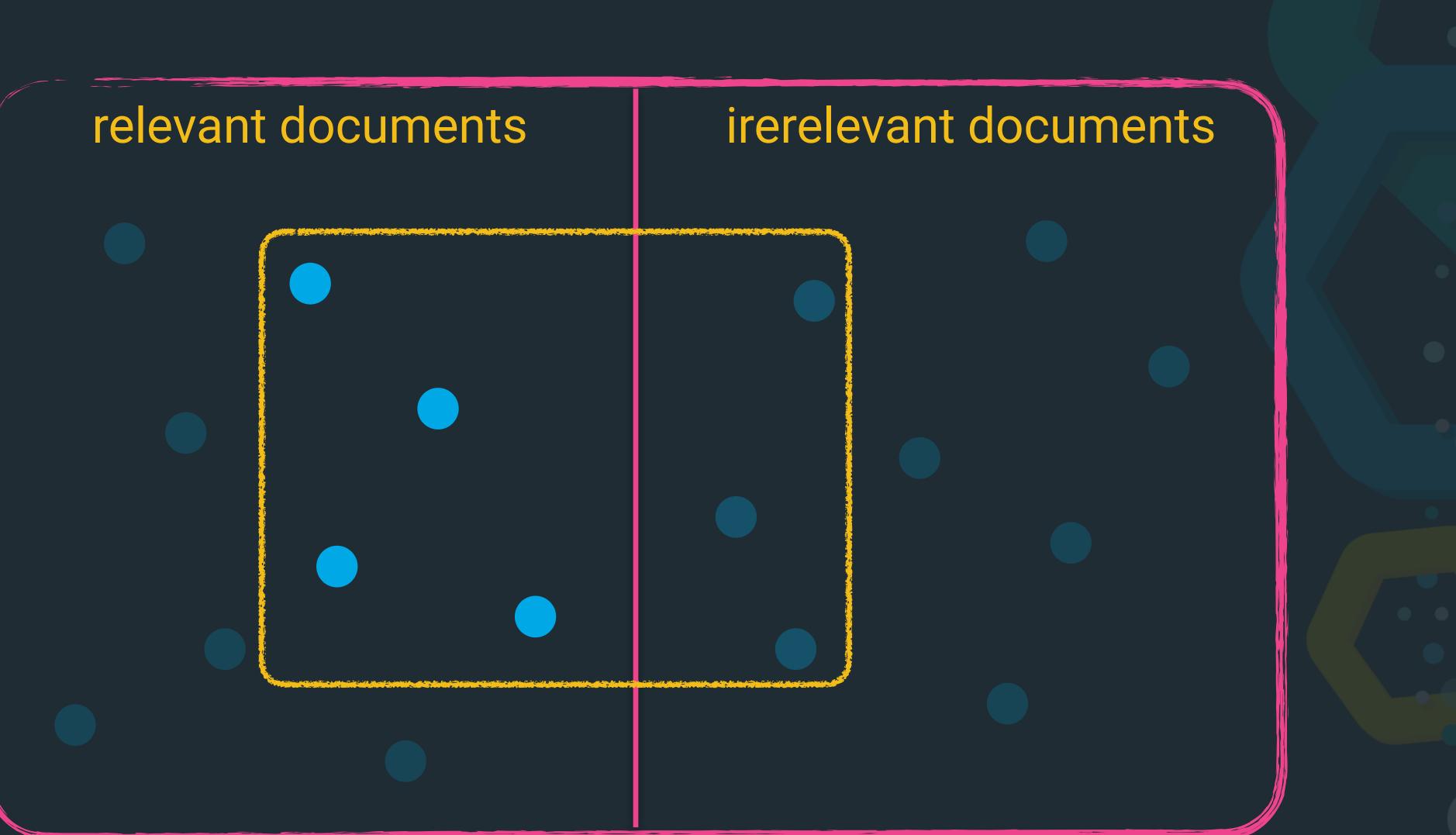








# True positives

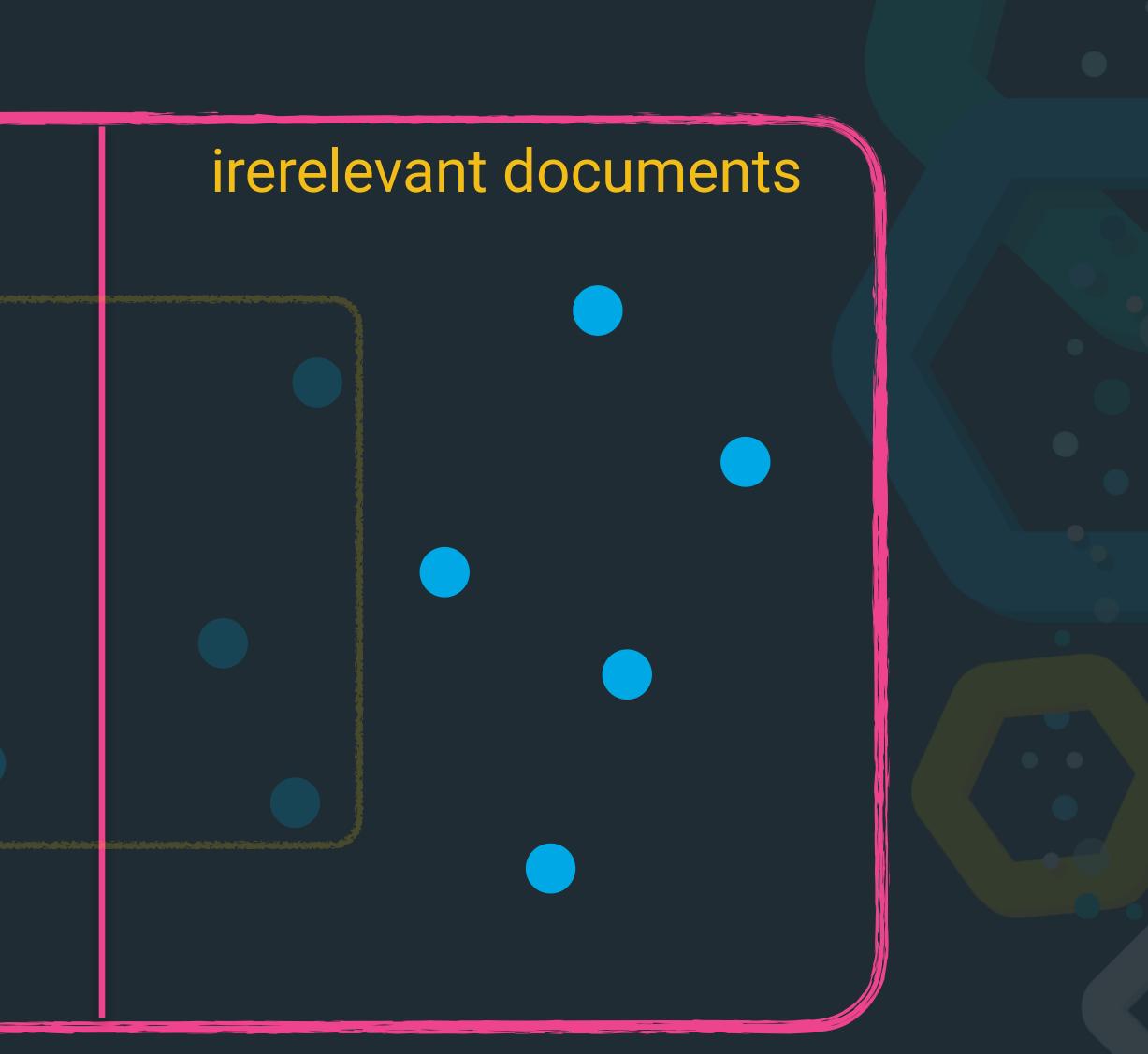






# True negatives

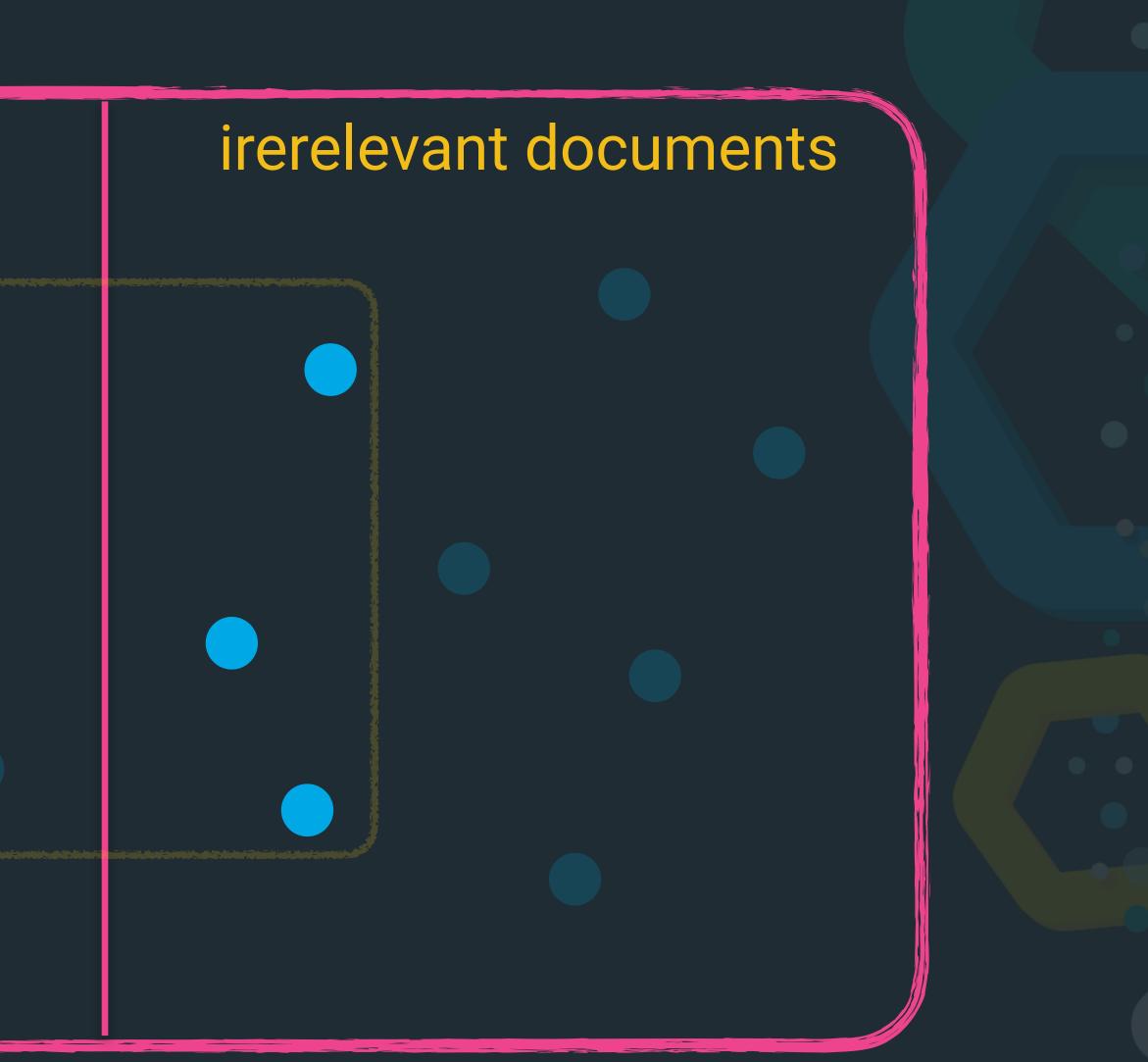






# False positives

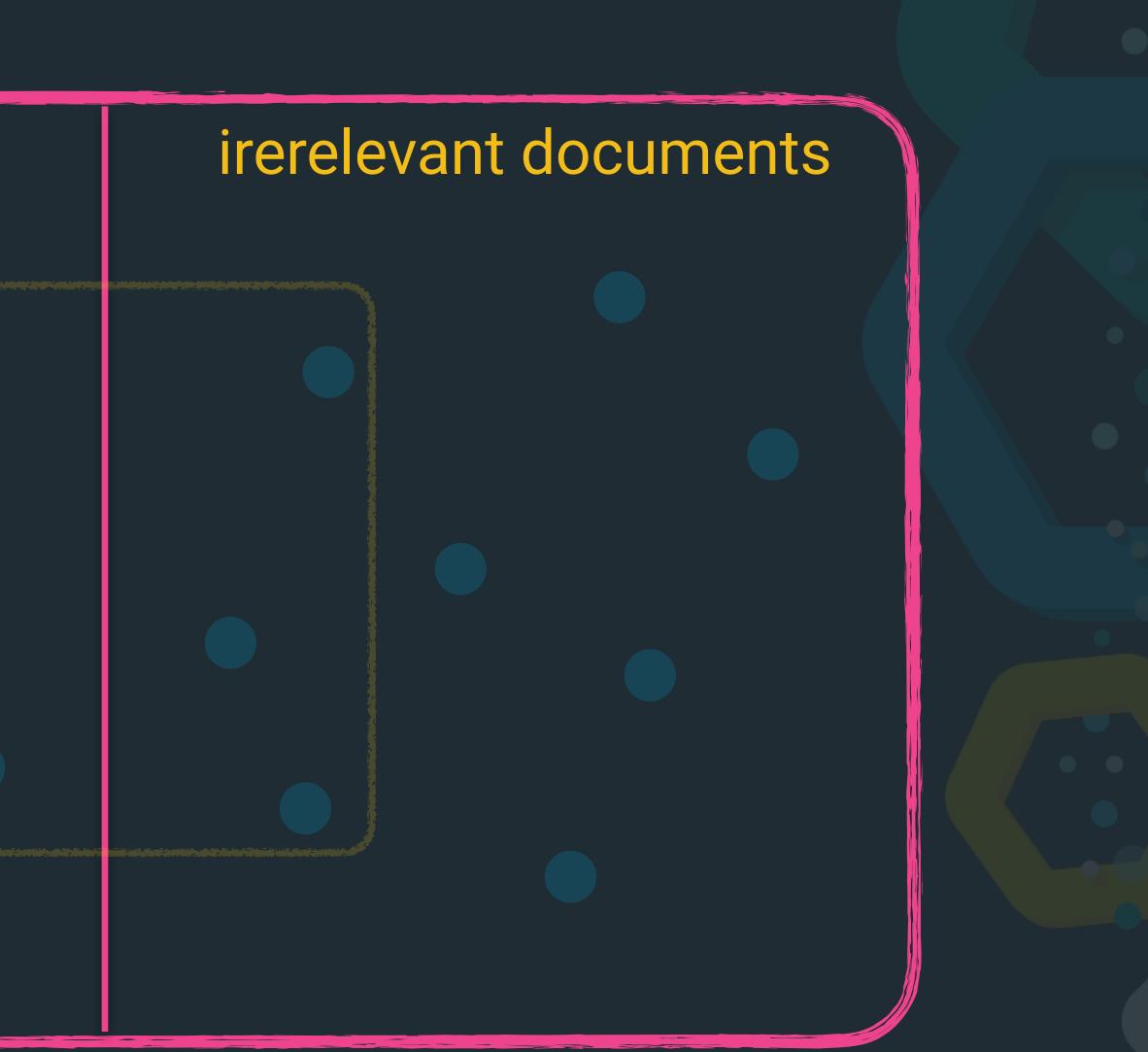






# False negatives







# Precision and recal

- Precision: How many selected documents are relevant?
- Recall: How many relevant documents are selected











Under the hood



# **Optimizations** everywhere

- leap frogging, skip lists
- top-k
- two phase iterations
- integer compression











# Query two phase iteration



# Two phase iteration: Phrase query

- Phrase query: "quick fox"
- Approximation phase: document contains terms quick and fox
- Verification phase: read positions of terms





# Two phase iteration: Geo distance query

- Geo distance query: Distance from reference point
- Approximation phase: bbox around point
- Verification phase: exact distance calculation





# **Two phase iteration: Geo distance query**

```
GET /my_locations/_search
  "query":
    "bool" :
      "filter" : ·
             "lon" : -70
```



"geo\_distance" : {
 "distance" : "200km",
 "pin.location" : {
 "lat" : 40,



# Two phase iteration: several queries

- Powerful when several queries are used
- "quick fox" AND brown
- Approximation: quick AND fox AND brown



Verification: "quick fox" position check for hits



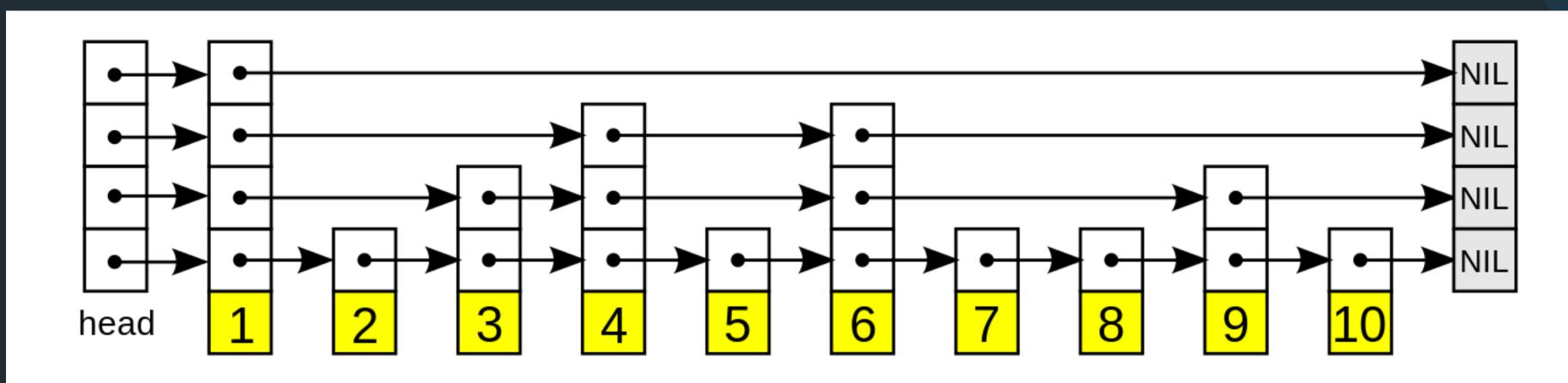
### Skip lists & leap frogging





### Skip lists

- Term dictionary is a sorted skip list
- Skip list is a linked list with 'express lanes' to leap forward





#### https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skip\_list



# Leap frogging



### elasticsearch AND kibana AND logstash



## Leap frogging elasticsearch AND



### elasticsearch AND kibana AND logstash







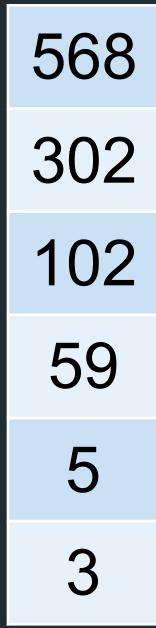
elastic

Ę.





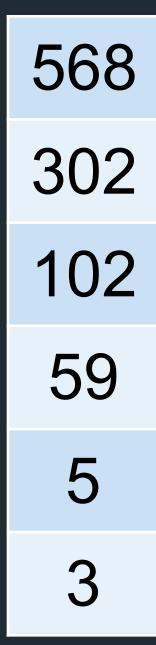
Ę-







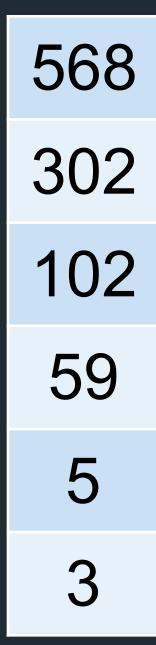
Ę.







Ę,

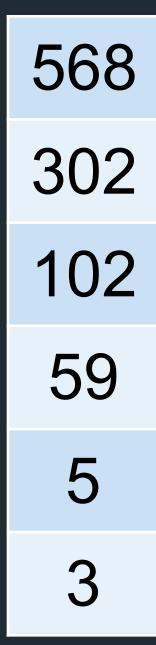


| 266 |
|-----|
| 102 |
| 98  |
| 60  |
| 18  |
| 5   |
| 1   |





Ę.

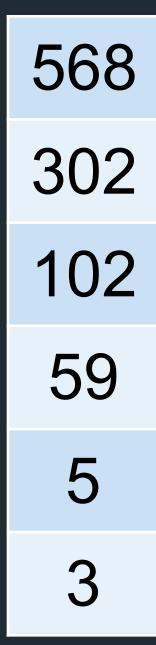


| 266 |
|-----|
| 102 |
| 98  |
| 60  |
| 18  |
| 5   |
| 1   |



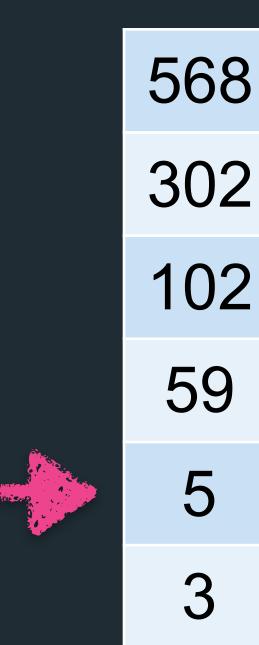


Ę-



| 266 |
|-----|
| 102 |
| 98  |
| 60  |
| 18  |
| 5   |
| 1   |

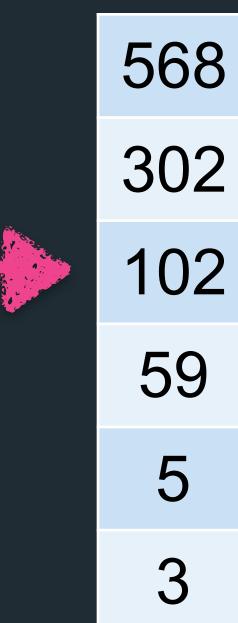






| 266 |
|-----|
| 102 |
| 98  |
| 60  |
| 18  |
| 5   |
| 1   |

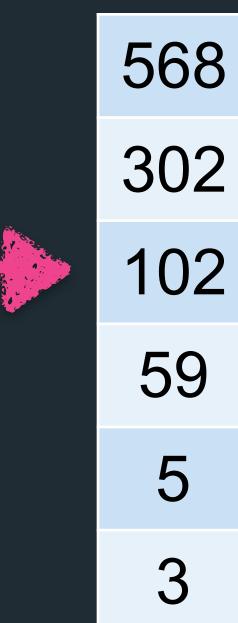






| 266 |
|-----|
| 102 |
| 98  |
| 60  |
| 18  |
| 5   |
| 1   |



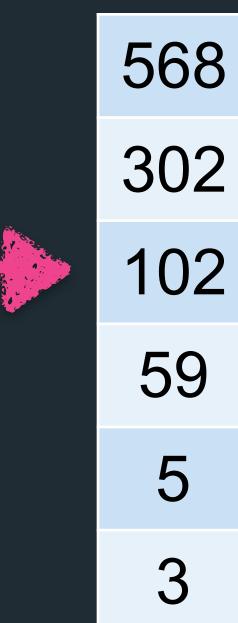




| E. S. Balling Andrews |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
|                       | <b>*</b> |

| 266 |
|-----|
| 102 |
| 98  |
| 60  |
| 18  |
| 5   |
| 1   |

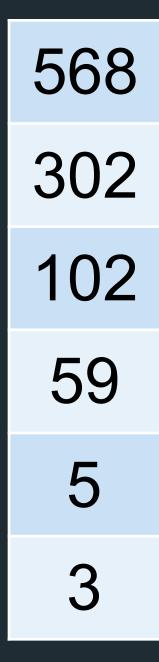






| 266 |      |
|-----|------|
| 102 | Hit! |
| 98  |      |
| 60  |      |
| 18  |      |
| 5   | Hit! |
| 1   |      |

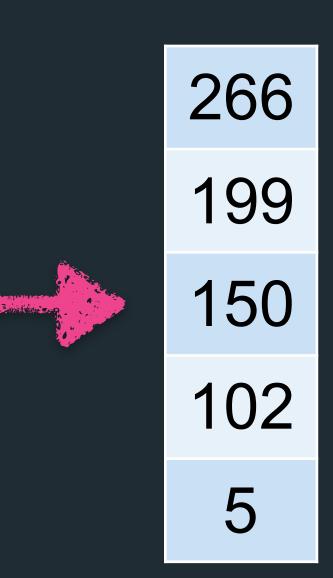


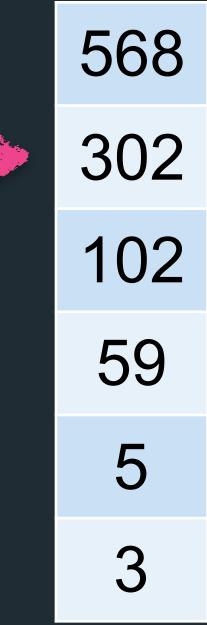




| 266 |      |
|-----|------|
| 102 | Hit! |
| 98  |      |
| 60  |      |
| 18  |      |
| 5   | Hit! |
| 1   |      |



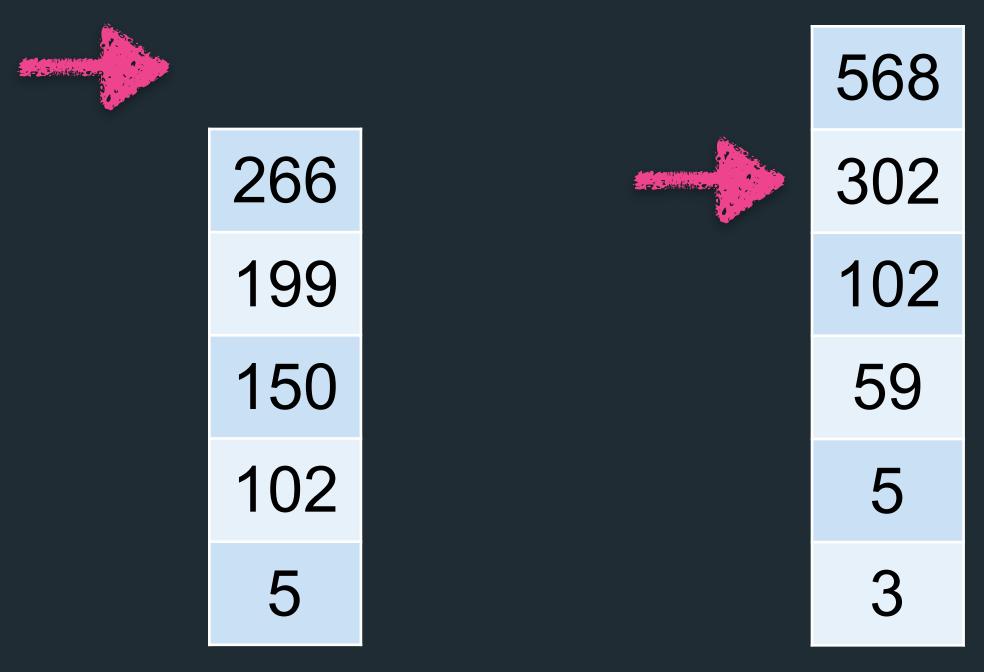






| 266 |      |
|-----|------|
| 102 | Hit! |
| 98  |      |
| 60  |      |
| 18  |      |
| 5   | Hit! |
| 1   |      |

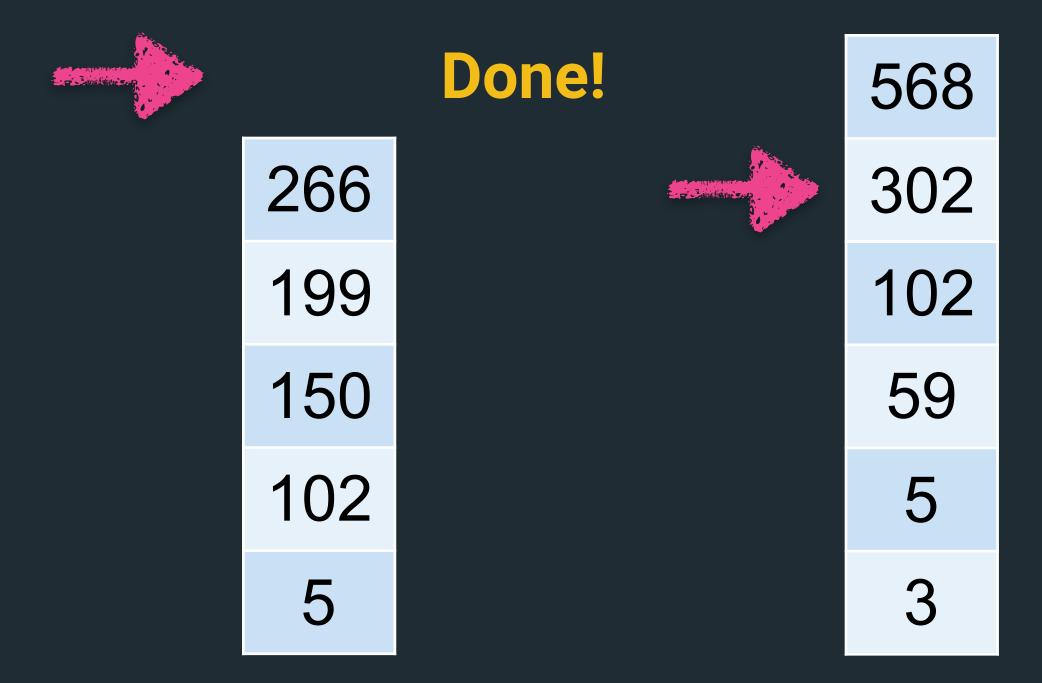






| 266 |      |
|-----|------|
| 102 | Hit! |
| 98  |      |
| 60  |      |
| 18  |      |
| 5   | Hit! |
| 1   |      |







| 266 |      |
|-----|------|
| 102 | Hit! |
| 98  |      |
| 60  |      |
| 18  |      |
| 5   | Hit! |
| 1   |      |







Top-k retrieval



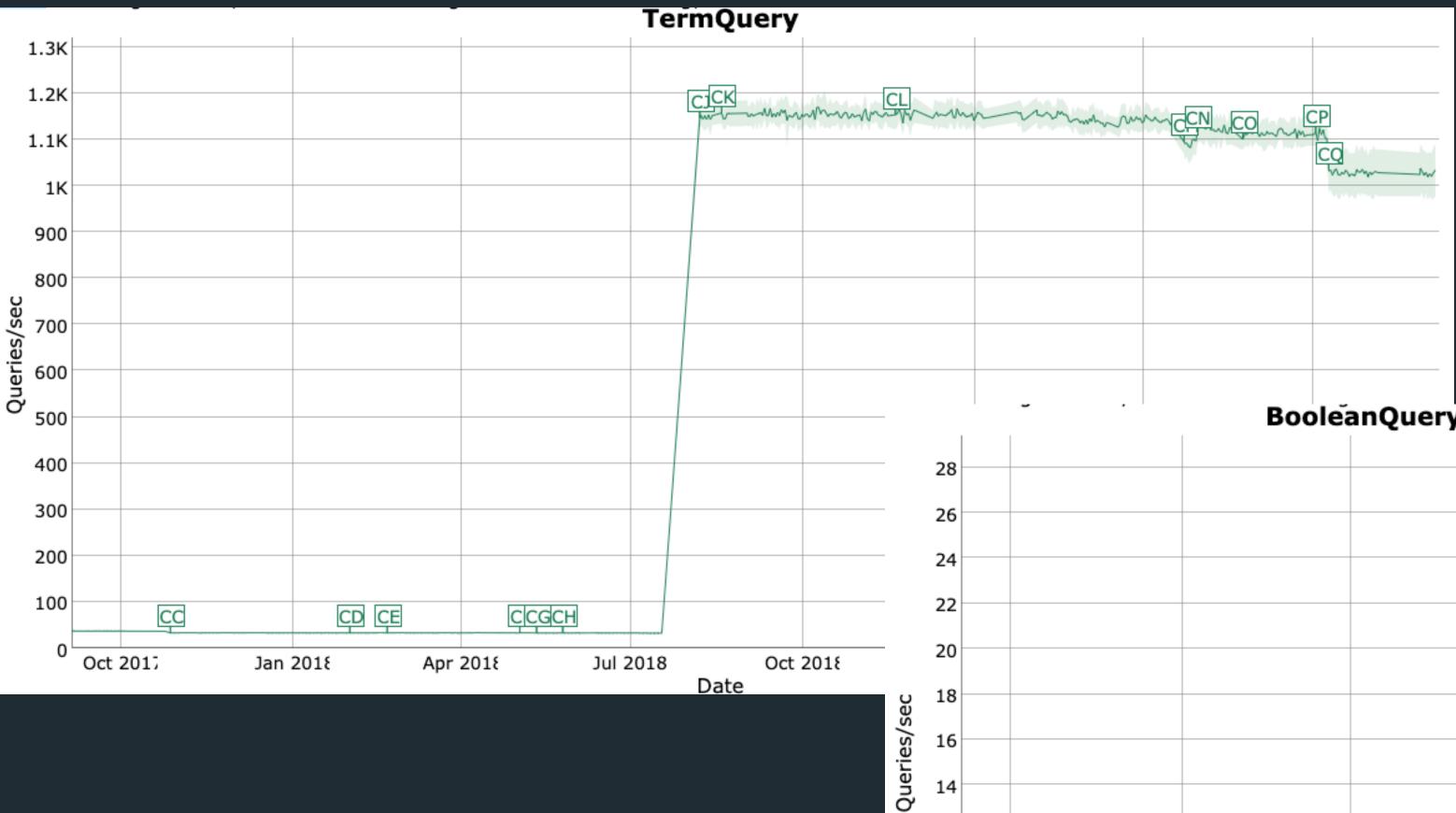
### Top-k retrieval

- elasticsearch OR kibana
- top 10 results wanted
- maximum score for kibana is 3.0
- maximum score for elasticsearch is 5.0
- collecting documents: when 10th hit has score > 3, then only documents with elasticsearch need to be collected
- total hit count is not accurate





### Top-k retrieval





Oct 2017

14

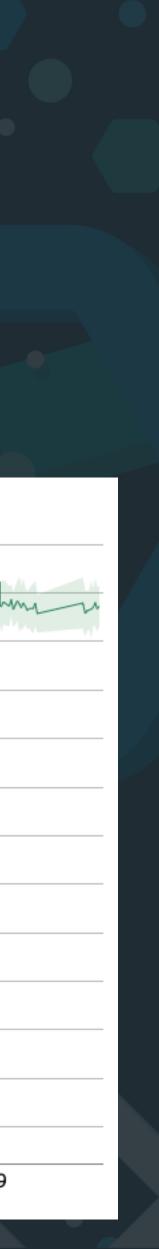
12

10

8

#### BooleanQuery (OR, high freq, medium freq term)

|       |          |                             |      |               |            | _        | 2017/12/1<br>QPS: 5.31 | 8 09:41:42: |
|-------|----------|-----------------------------|------|---------------|------------|----------|------------------------|-------------|
|       |          |                             |      | CJ            |            |          | QF3. 3.31              | CP          |
|       |          |                             |      | CK            | Martin and | www.     | many CN                | CO CO       |
|       |          |                             |      |               |            |          | CM                     |             |
|       |          |                             |      |               |            |          |                        |             |
|       |          |                             |      |               |            |          |                        |             |
|       |          |                             |      |               |            |          |                        |             |
|       |          |                             |      |               |            |          |                        |             |
|       |          |                             |      |               |            |          |                        |             |
|       |          |                             |      |               |            |          |                        |             |
|       |          |                             |      |               |            |          |                        |             |
|       | CD CE    | ССССН                       |      |               |            |          |                        |             |
| more  |          | han hand have been a second | mm   |               |            |          |                        |             |
|       |          |                             |      |               |            |          |                        |             |
| Jan 2 | 2018 Apr | 2018 Ju                     | 2018 | Oct 2<br>Date | 2018       | Jan 2019 | Apr 2019               | Jul 2019    |









### Order index by field values

- each segment is sorted before write
- criteria can be chosen by the user

5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4

retrieve 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4





#### top 2 sort 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 5 | 4



### Order index by field values

- each segment is sorted before write
- criteria can be chosen by the user

5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1

early termination 5 | 4









### Aggregations

Reducing data



### Aggregations

|   | $\boldsymbol{r}$ |   |
|---|------------------|---|
|   |                  |   |
|   |                  | , |
| - |                  |   |

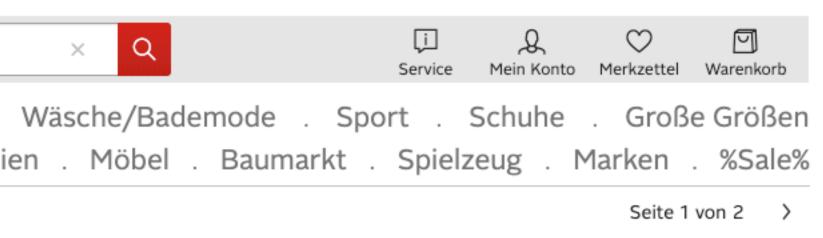
nike hoodie

| Inspiration | Damen .  | Herren | Kinder   |     |
|-------------|----------|--------|----------|-----|
| Multimedia  | Haushalt | Küche  | Heimtext | ili |

Startseite | Suchergebnis für nike hoodie (129)

| Für wen?                        | ^ |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| O Herren (59)                   |   |  |
| O Damen (43)                    |   | 000  |
| <ul> <li>Jungen (22)</li> </ul> |   | 5/6  |
| O Mädchen (13)                  |   |  |
| Sortiment                       | ^ | ANTE (   |
| Bekleidung (129)                |   | Carter VI  |
| Ausrüstung (3)                  |   |  |
| Kategorie                       | ^ |  |
| Sweatoberteile (120)            |   |  |
| Pullover (88)                   |   |  |
| Jacken (38)                     |   |  |
| Shirts (3)                      |   |  |
| Kleider (1)                     |   | NIKE SPORTSWEAR<br>Nike Sportswear Kapuzensweatshirt |
| Produkttyp                      | ^ | »M NSW CLUB HOODIE PO BB GX∢<br>€ 54,99              |
|                                 |   |  |
| Sweatshirts (88)                |   |  |
| Kapuzenpullover (76)            |   |  |
| Kapuzensweatshirt (41)          |   |  |





Sortieren nach Topseller



NIKE SPORTSWEAR Nike Sportswear Kapuzensweatshirt »M NSW CLUB HOODIE PO BB« € **49,99** 





**\$**|

NIKE SPORTSWEAR

Nike Sportswear Kapuzensweatshirt »BOYS NIKE SPORTSWEAR HOODIE CLUB FLEECE BRUSEHD«

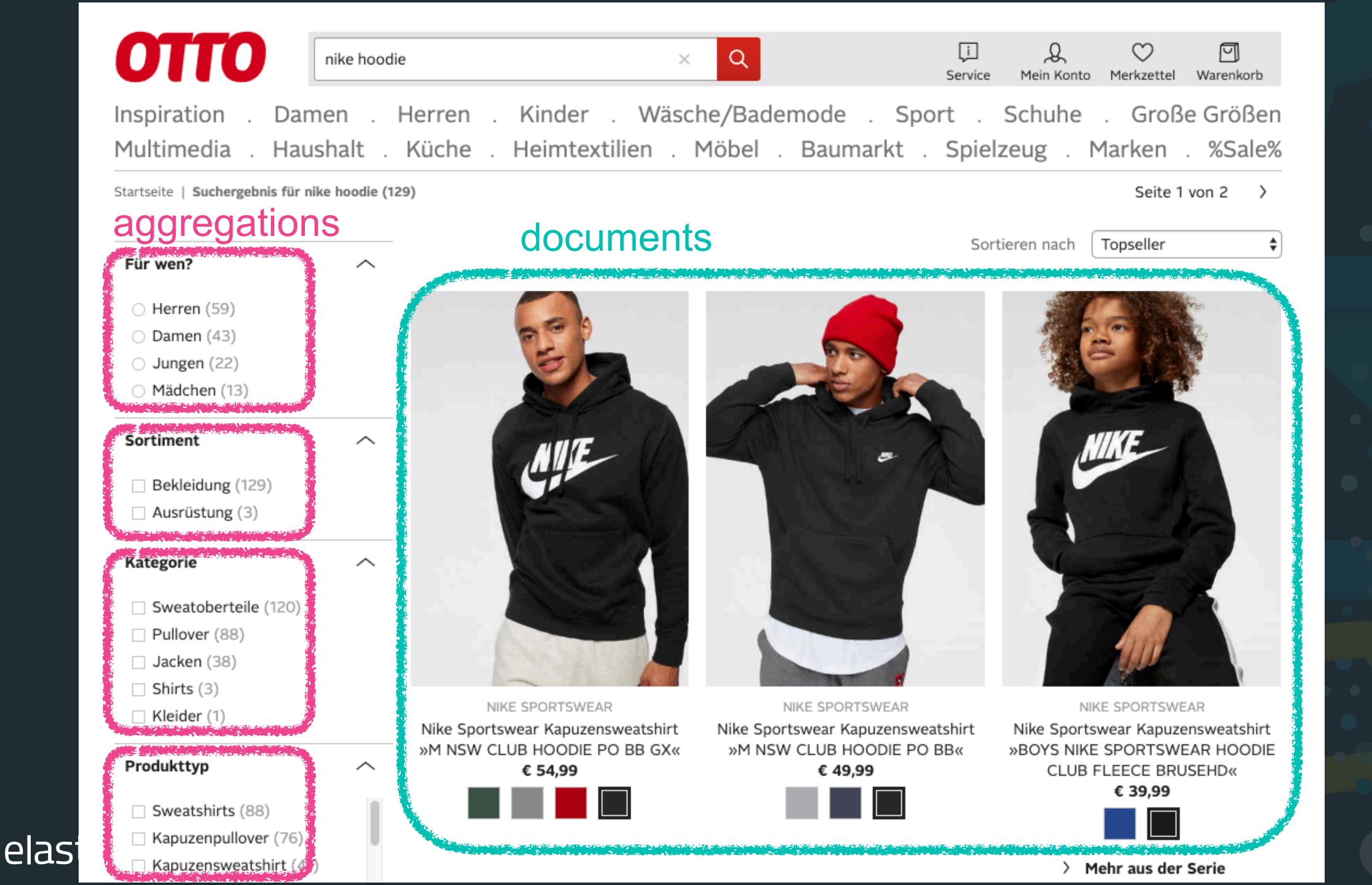
€ 39,99



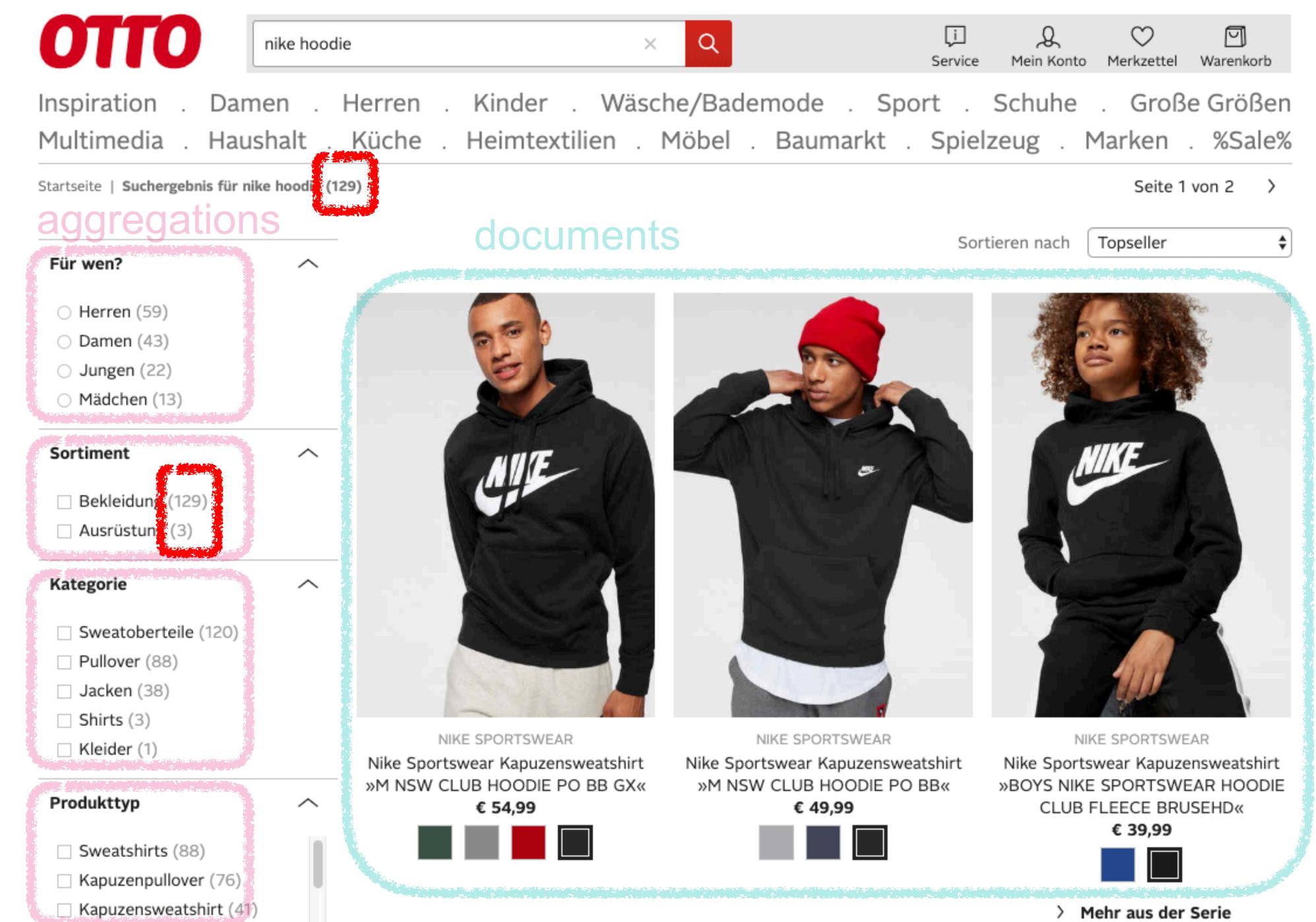
> Mehr aus der Serie

















Pumps



**Sneakers** 



Oxfords

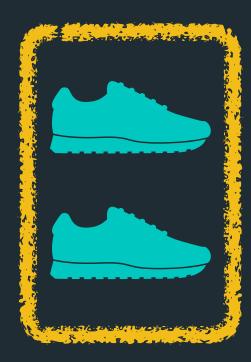


Sneakers

#### Boots



#### Sneakers











#### Pumps

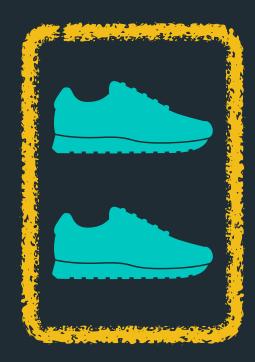


#### Oxfords





#### Sneakers













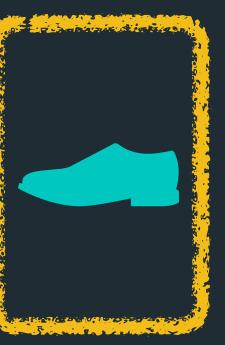


#### Pumps











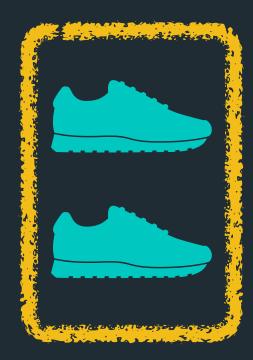


#### metric agg

#### doc\_count

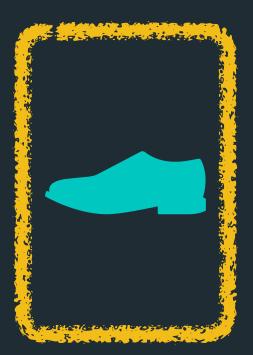


#### Sneakers

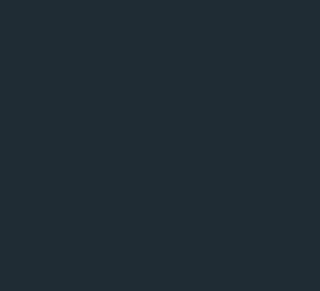


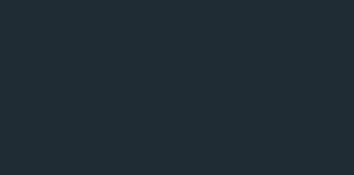


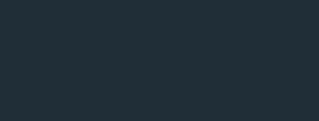


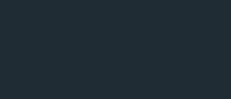
















#### Pumps









23

#### bucket agg

#### metric agg

#### avg price



### Aggregations

- bucket: terms, histogram, geo, range, sampler, significant text, nested
- metric: value\_count, avg, min, max, sum, stats, median deviation, geo, percentile, cardinality,
- differencing



 pipeline: min, max, sum, avg, derivative, stats, percentiles, cumulative sum, moving average, moving function, serial





### Distributed systems & search

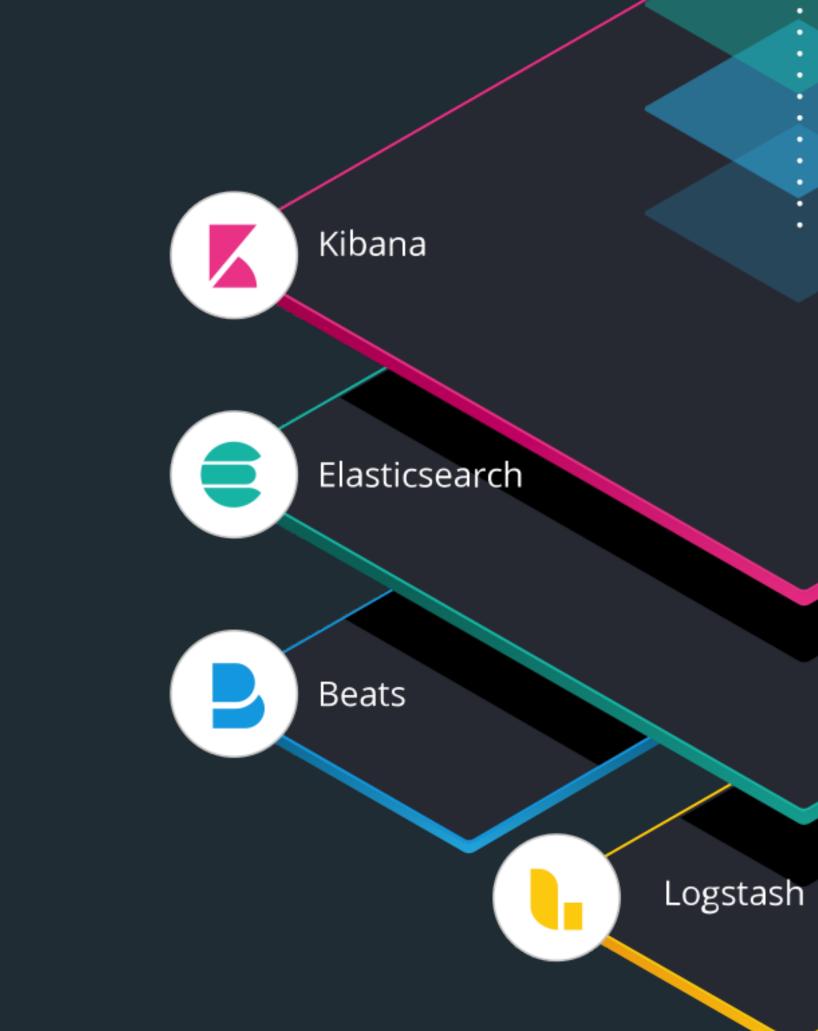
Fanning out a search, reducing the results













•



### Elasticsearch in 10 seconds

- Search Engine (FTS, Analytics, Geo), near real-time
- Distributed, scalable, highly available, resilient
- Interface: HTTP & JSON
- Centrepiece of the Elastic Stack
- Uneducated conservative guess: Tens of thousands of clusters worldwide, hundreds of thousands of instances











**Distributed systems** 



# Distributed systems

- How do nodes communicate with each other?
- Who is taking and executing decisions?
- Failure detection?
- Replication strategy?
- Consistency?
- Enter consensus algorithms... elastic







A fundamental problem in distributed computing and multi-agent systems is to achieve overall system reliability in the presence of a number of faulty processes. This often requires processes to agree on some data value that is needed during computation

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consensus\_(computer\_science)

### Consensus algorithms

- Leader based: Paxos, Raft
- Non leader based: BTC, gossip



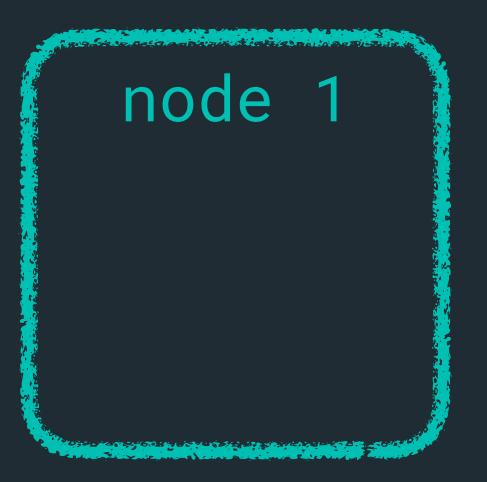


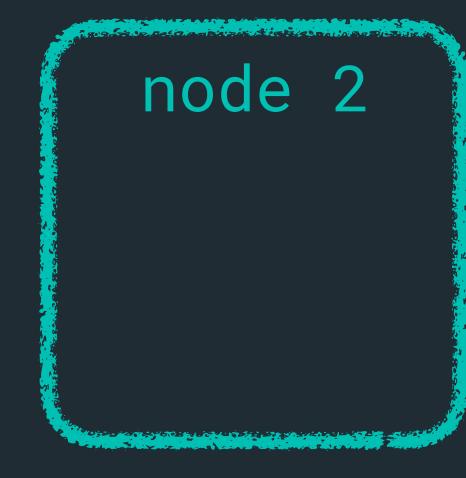
- Custom consensus algorithm, improving the existing one
- Formally verified
- Optimized for Elasticsearch use-case (rolling) restarts, growing/shrinking clusters, log-ofoperations vs. cluster state)













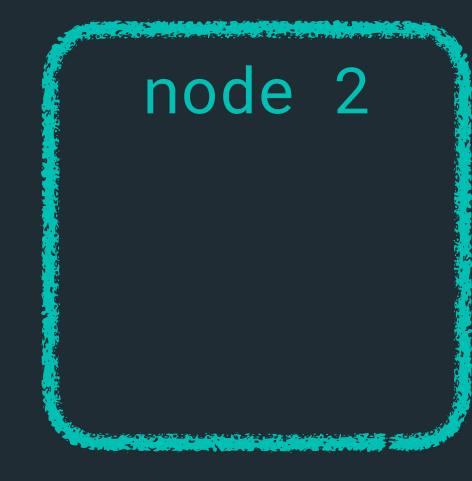














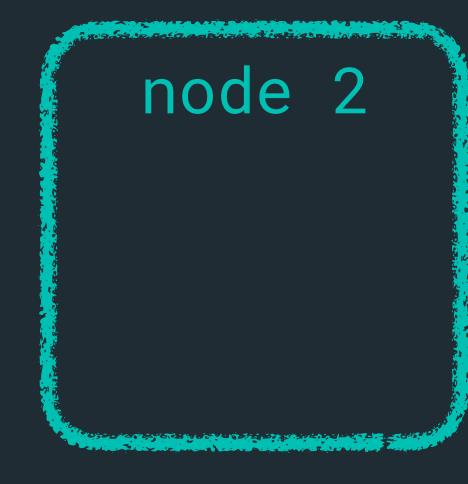














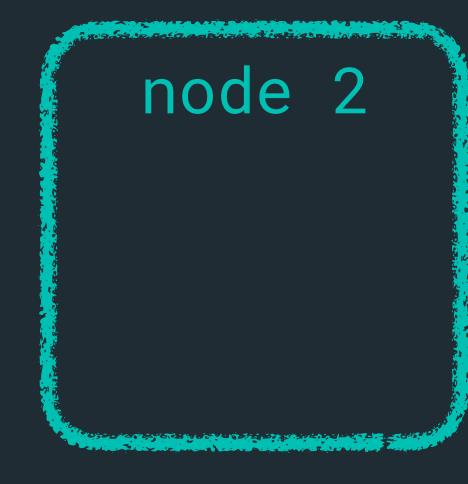








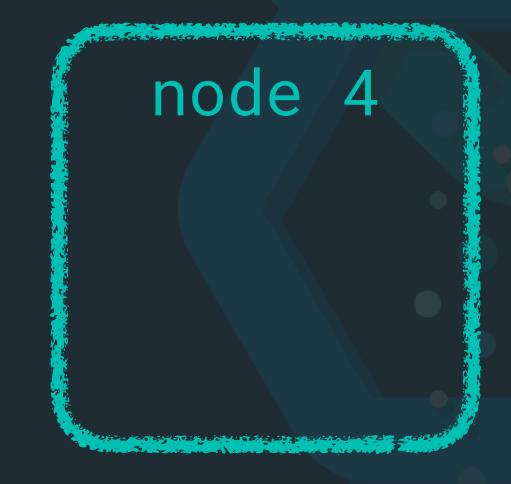














## Master node tasks

- Deciding where data should be stored
- Pinging other nodes
- Reacting on node leaves/joins
- Updating cluster state
- Distributing cluster state

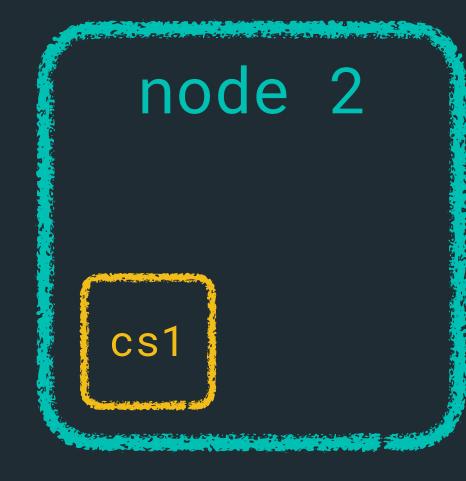














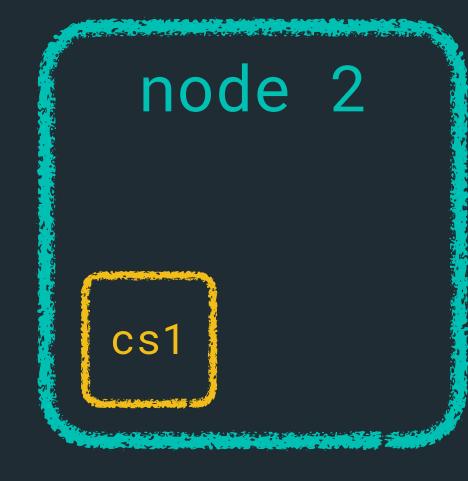














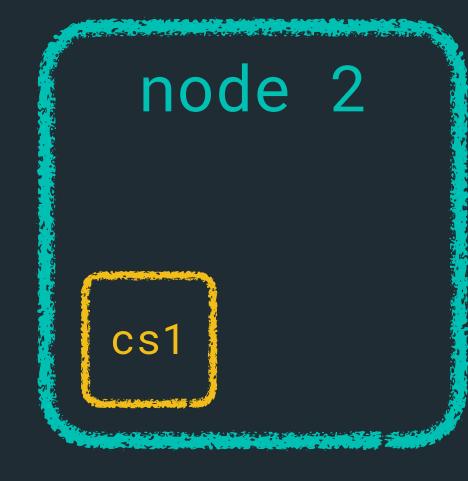














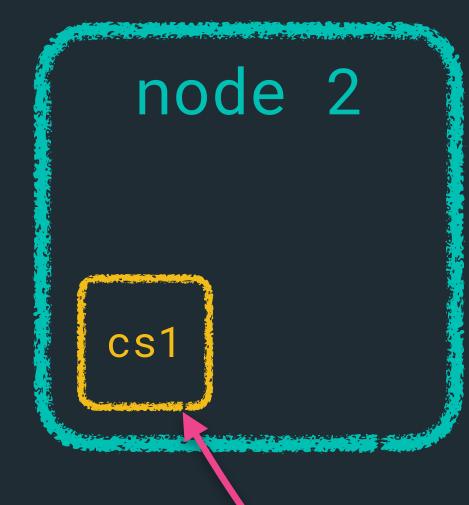






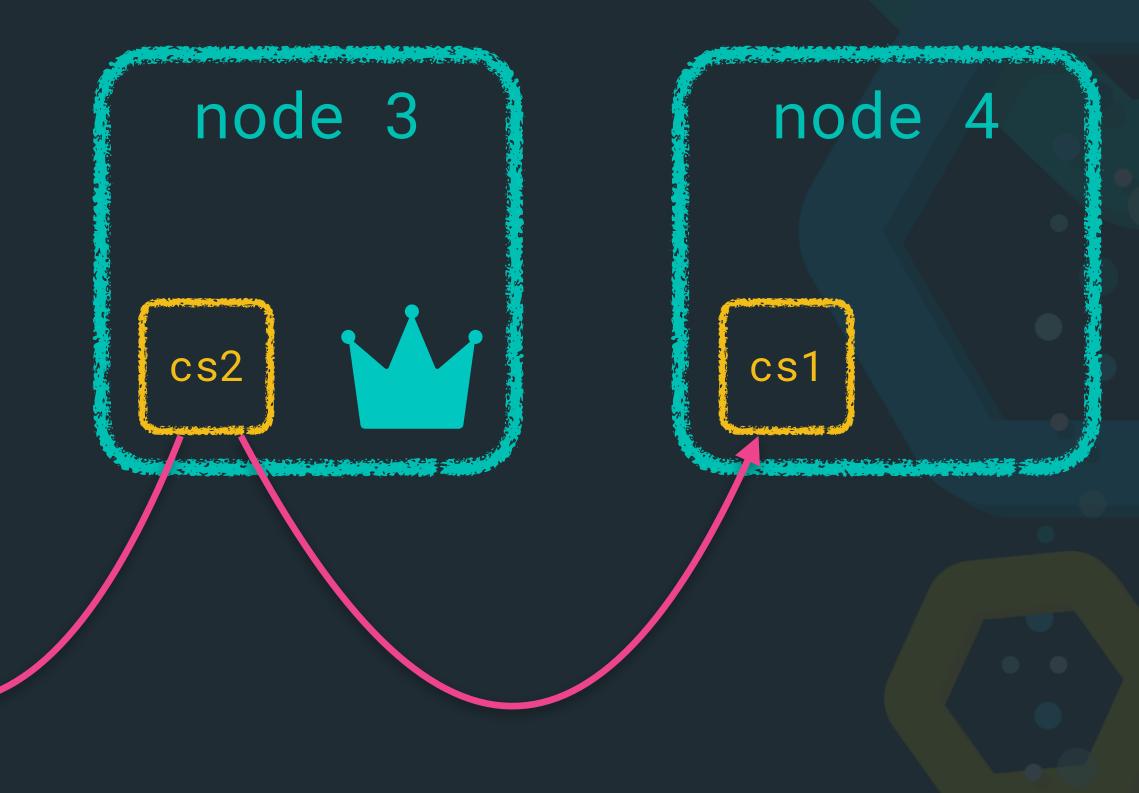






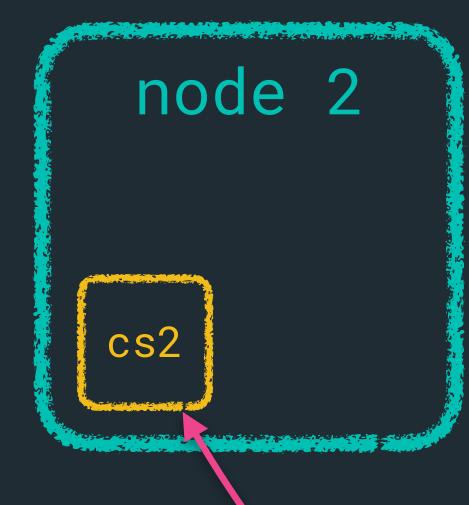






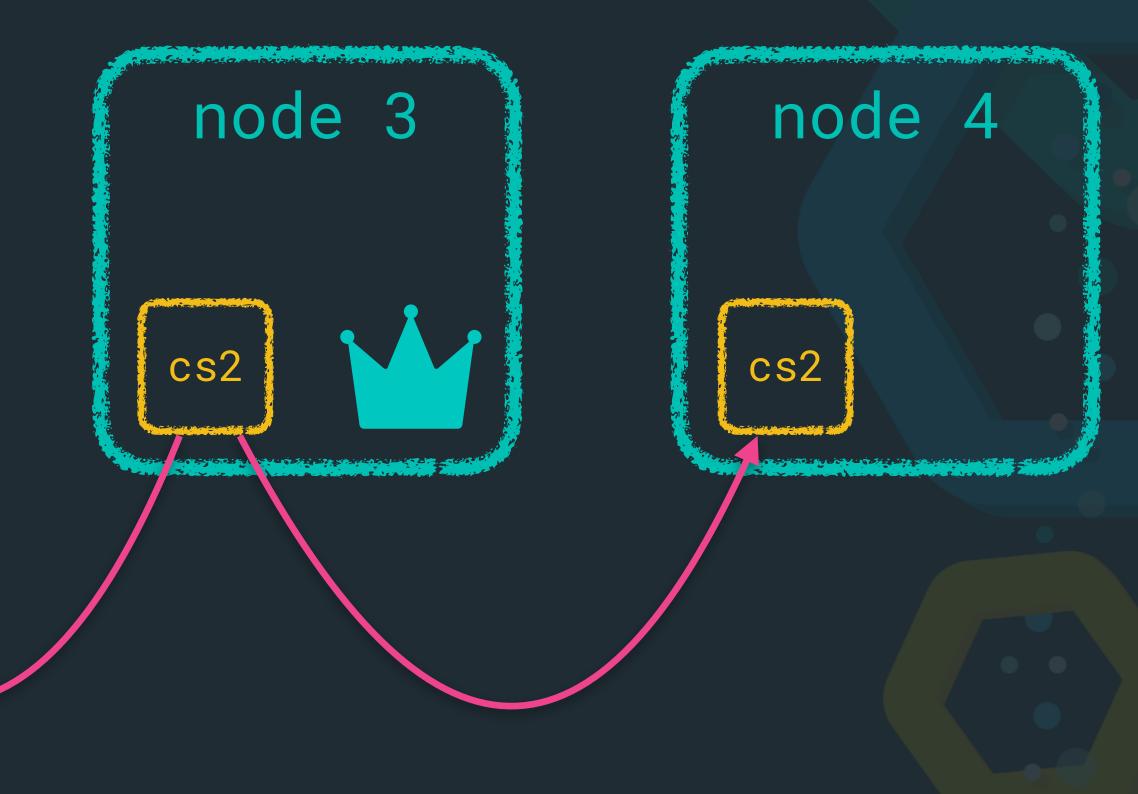












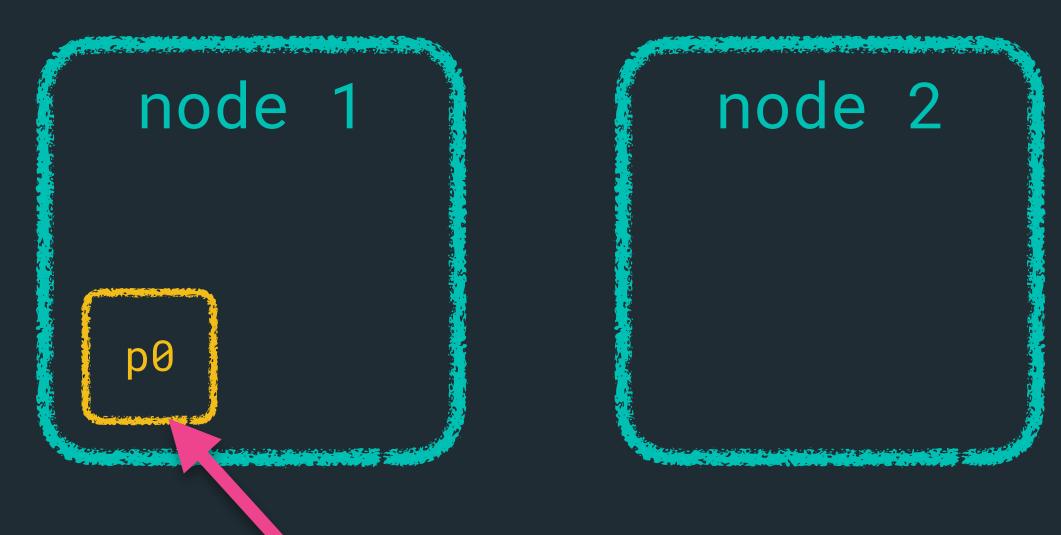






Distributed search





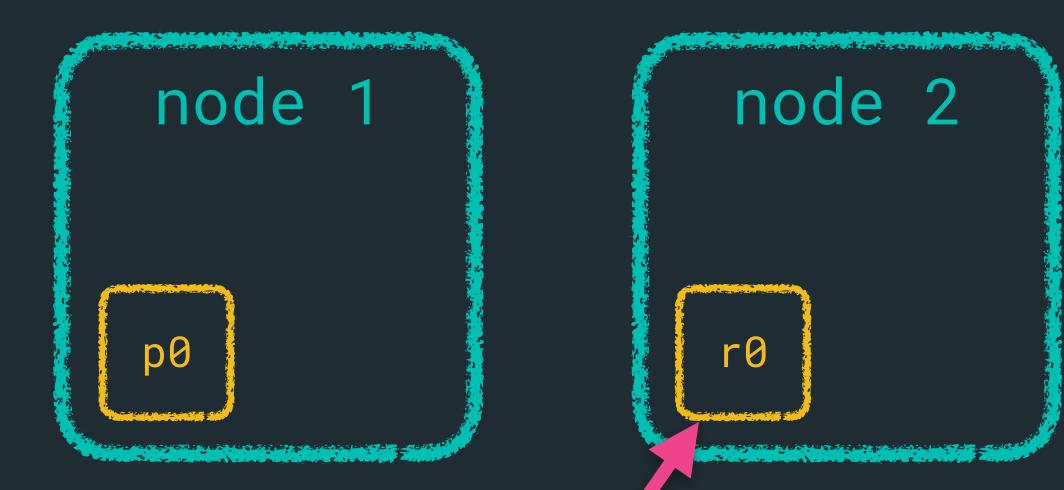
### Primary Shard (Lucene Index)











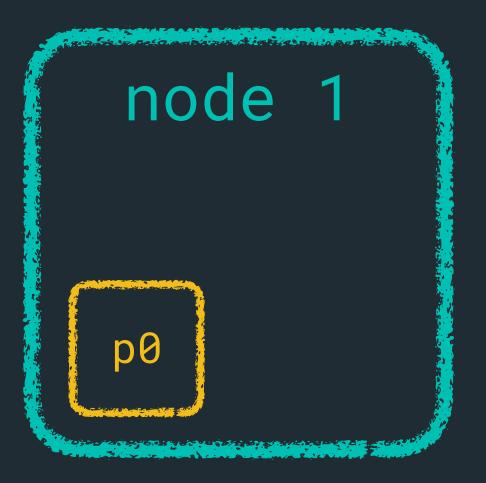
### Replica shard (copy)

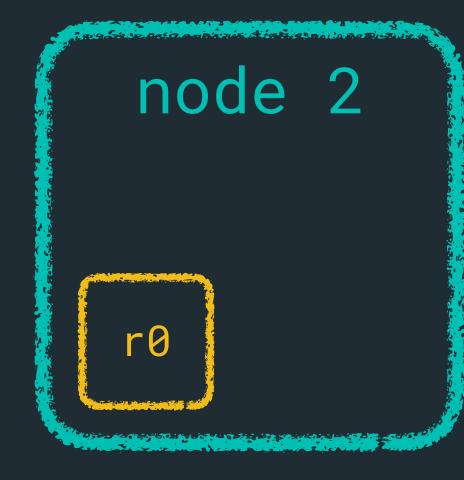
















### node 3

p1

### Replica shard (copy)

**r1** 

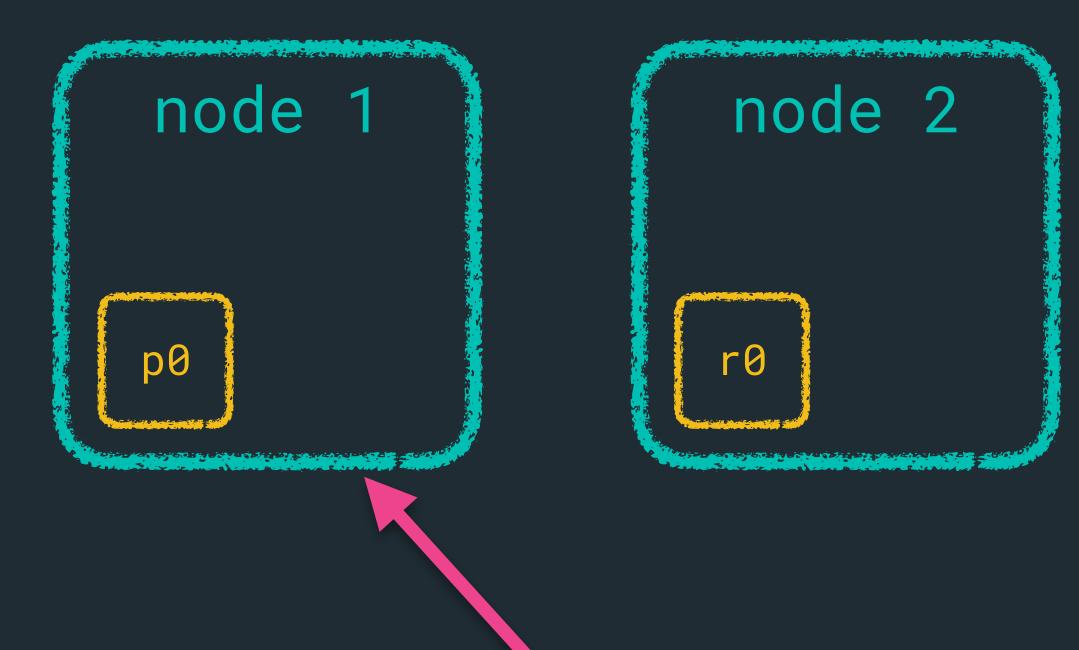
node 4



- Shard: Lucene index, unit of scale
- Primary shard: Write scalability
- Replica shard: Read scalability, availability

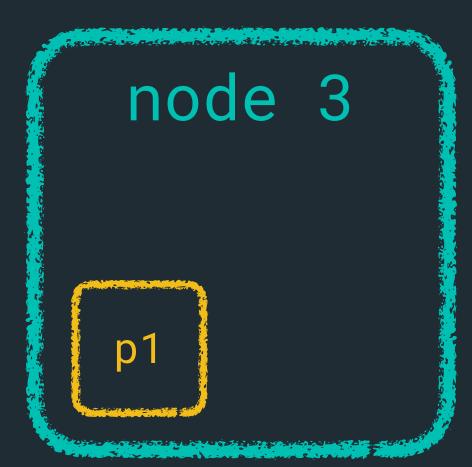










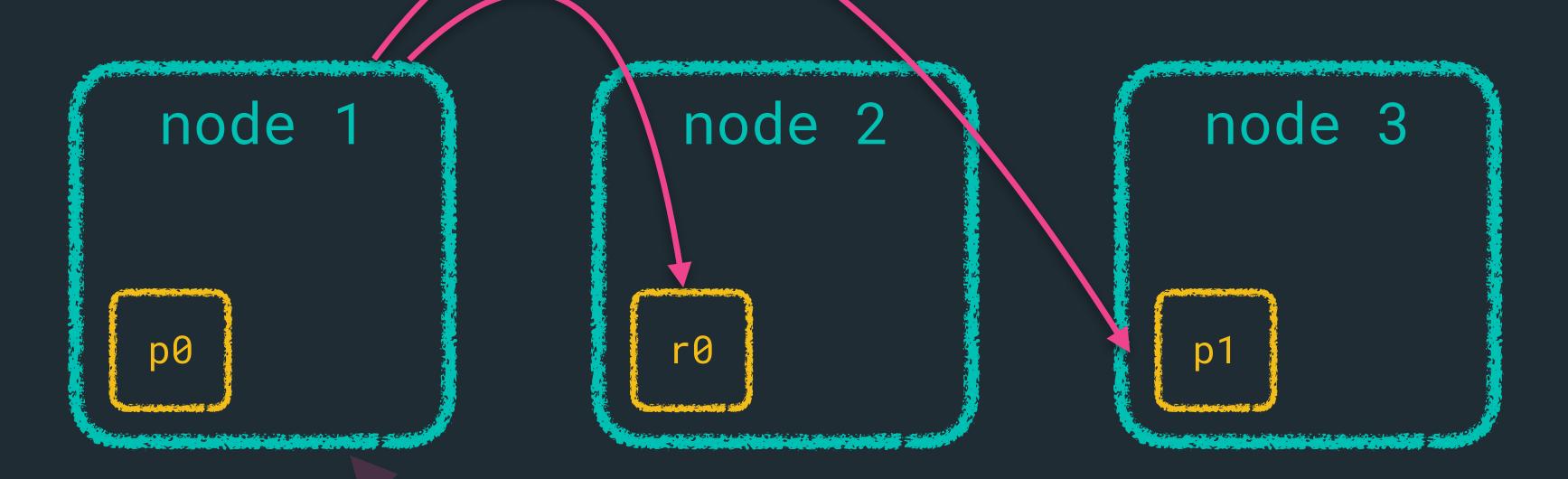




1. Client connects any node with search request



2. Execute query against shards





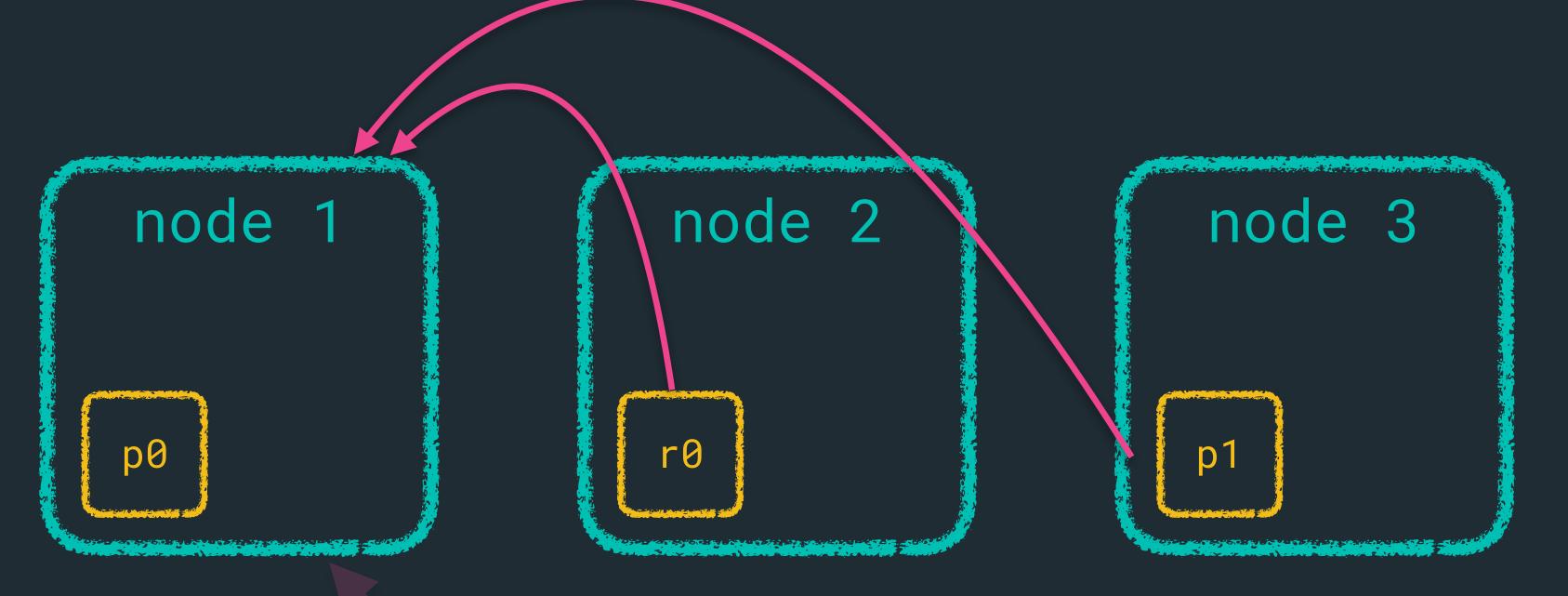




### nects any node with search request



### 3. top-k search results are returned to coordinating node





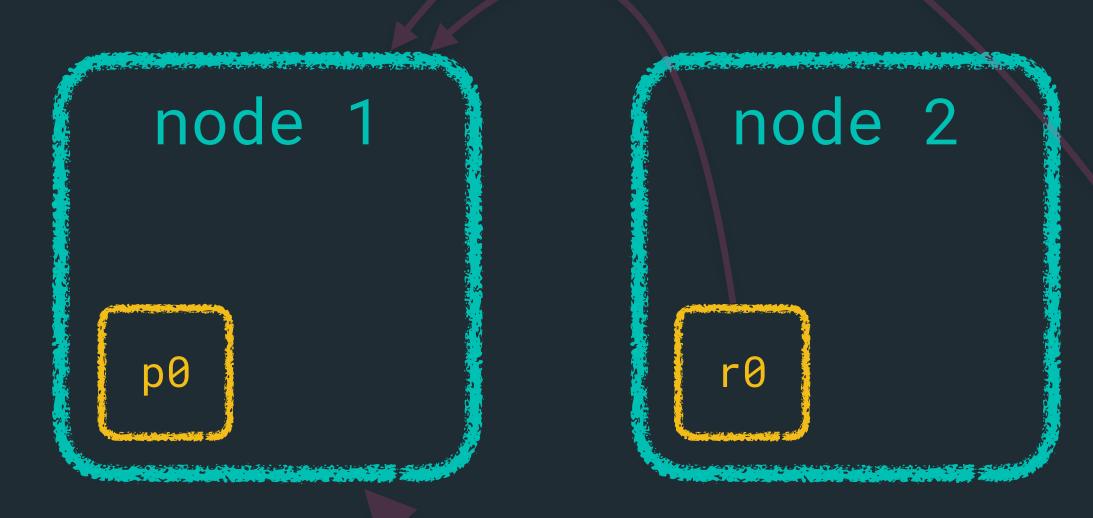




### nects any node with search request

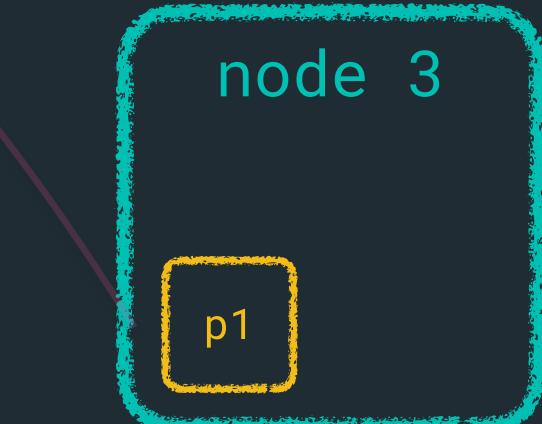


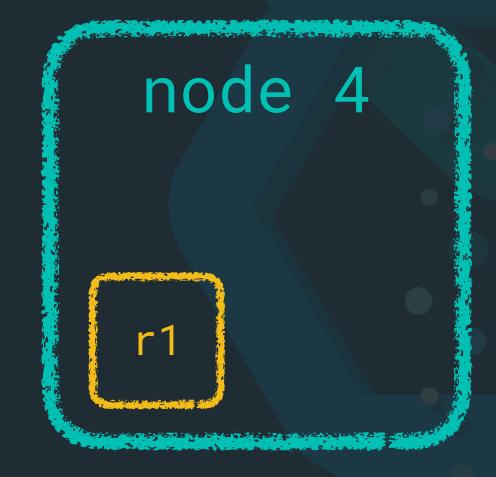
# 4. Create real top-k result list





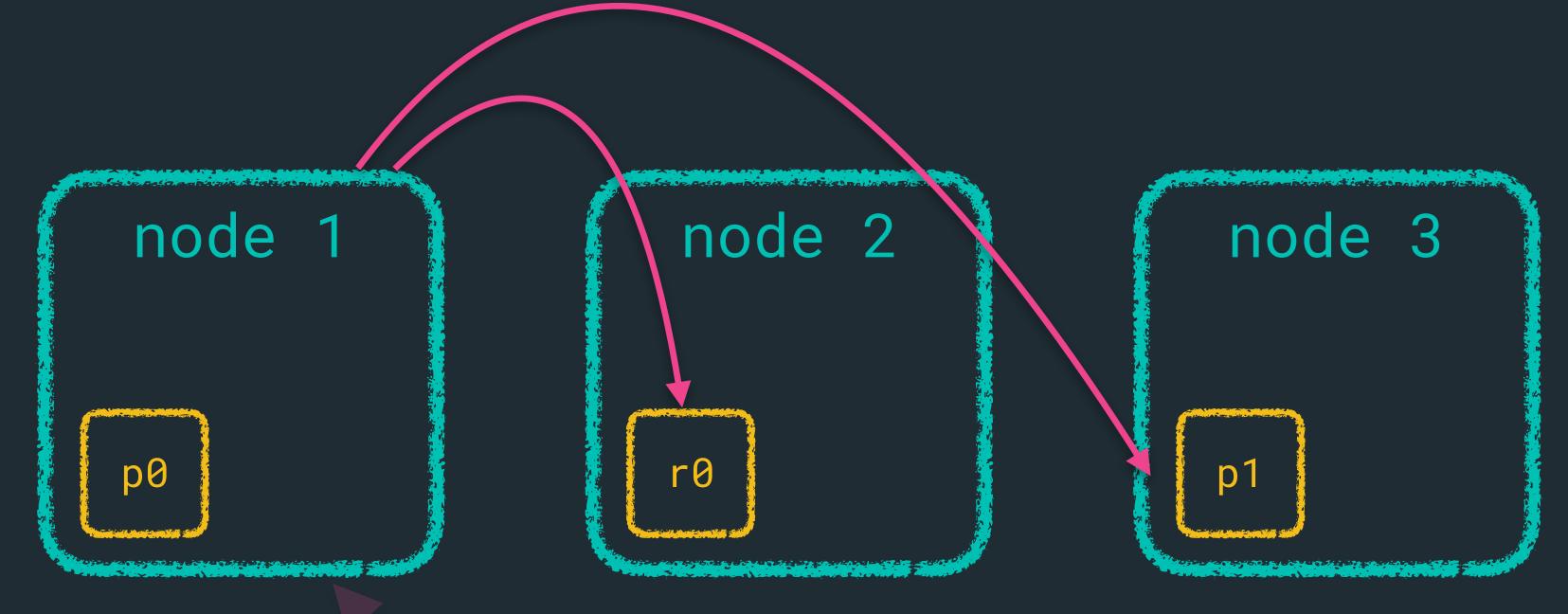








### **Distributed search in Elasticsearch** 5. Fetch original documents



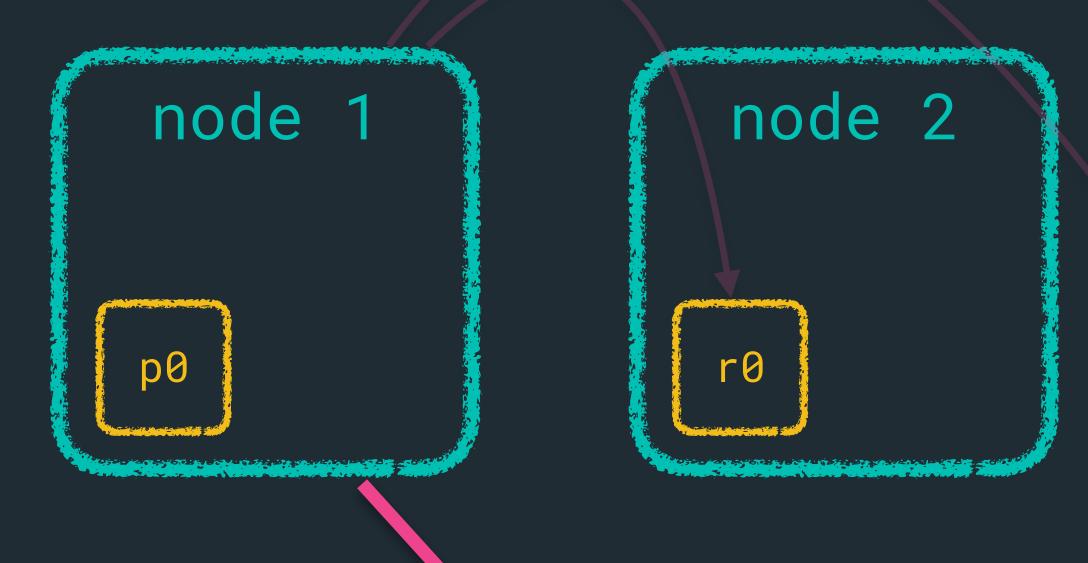






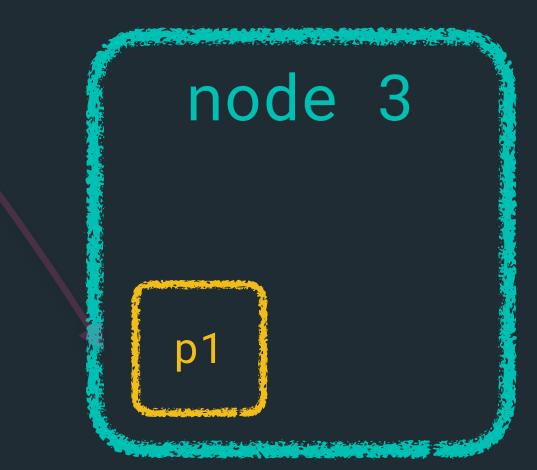


### **Distributed search in Elasticsearch** 5. Fetch original documents



### 6. Return data to the client







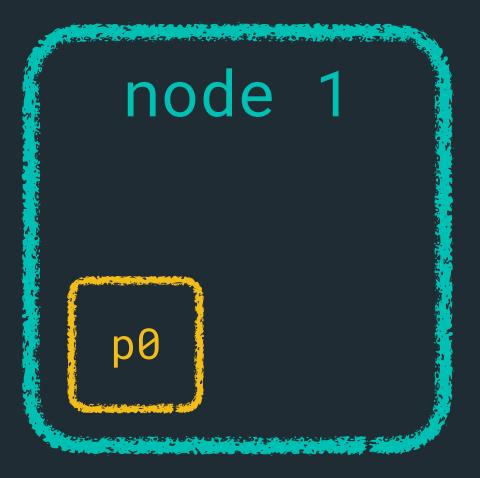


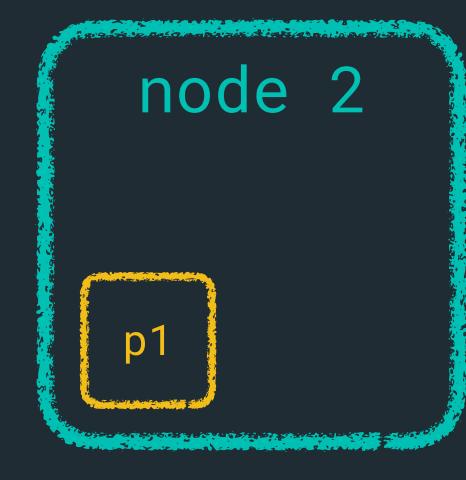






# **Aggregations - cardinality**



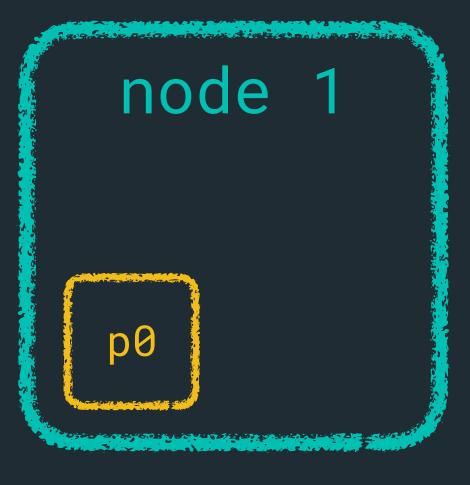




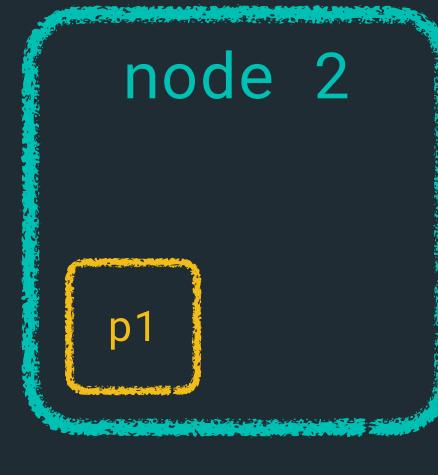
# POST /sales/\_search?size=0 "aggs" : { "type\_count" : { "cardinality" : { "field" : "type"



# **Aggregations - cardinality**



25



40





### How many distinct elements are in my index?

What is the total? 40? 65?

Naive solution: merge data to single dataset and count. Doesn't scale!

Solution: Use HyperLogLog++

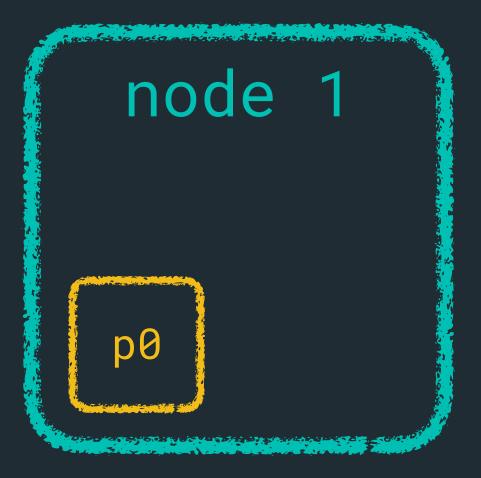


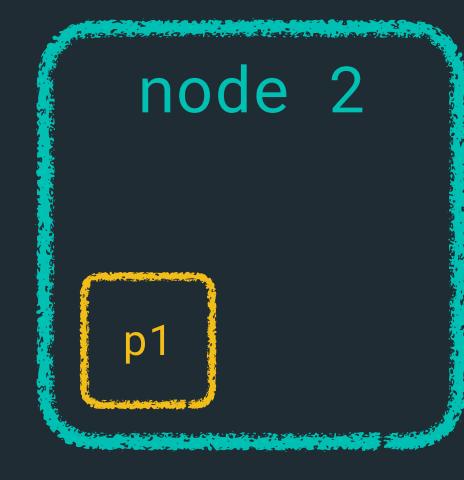
# HyperLogLog++

- Hash based counting
- Trades in memory for accuracy
- Fixed memory usage, based on configurable precision
- Result: Small mergeable data structure, can easily be sent over the network elastic



# **Aggregations - percentile**







### GET latency/\_search "size": 0, "aggs" : "load\_time\_outlier" : { "percentiles" : { "field" : "load\_time"



# **T-Digest**

- Percentiles are divided into buckets
- When buckets grow over a boundary, approximation kicks in, saving memory in the process
- The exact level of inaccuracy is difficult to generalize
- Alternative: HDR histograms



### Extreme percentiles are more accurate than the Median



## Probabilistic data structures

- bloom/cuckoo/quotient filters (membership check)
- HyperLogLog++ (cardinality)
- T-Digest, DDSketch, HDR histogram (percentile)
- Count-Min sketch (frequency, top-k)
- Hashing (similarity)







### Demo

Try it out yourself!

https://ela.st/jade-hochschule-samples





## **Elastic Cloud** Free 30 day trial

elastic 🔗

Less

We hope you learned something new -- put your knowledge to the test and try out the Elastic Stack today.

- ✓ 30-day free trial
- No credit card required
- Get the latest versions, powerful features, and

Enter your email

Start Free Trial

https://ela.st/university-wilhelmshaven

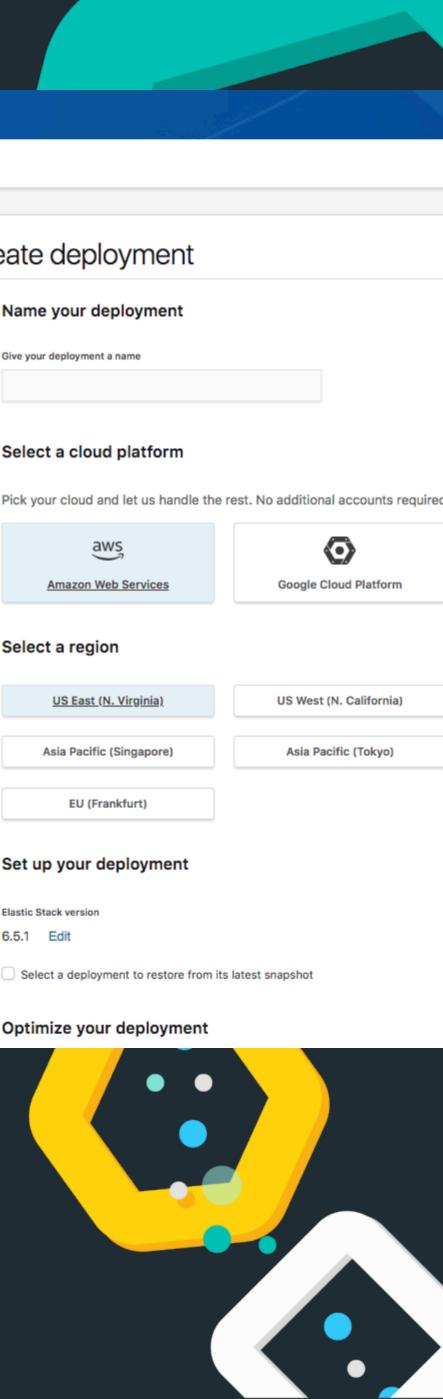
## **Deploy Elasticsearch and** Kibana in 3 Minutes or

optimized deployment templates for your use case.

Deployments Custom pluging Account Help

Create deployment Name your deployment Give your deployment a name 2 Select a cloud platform aws Amazon Web Services 3 Select a region US East (N. Virginia) Asia Pacific (Singapore) EU (Frankfurt) 4 Set up your deployment Elastic Stack version 6.5.1 Edit

Optimize your deployment





## **Upcoming trends & summary**

... or why you should take a closer look at search



# Search is not just google...

- "Just google it" does not cut it
- Enterprise search: Intranet/G-Drive/Dropbox
- Ecommerce search
- SIEM
- Observability: Logging, APM & Metrics





# Search is not 'done'

- Constant improvement
- Data structures & algorithms (BKD tree for geo shapes)
- Academic research moves to industry thanks to Apache Lucene





# Search is still tough

- Language specific analysis
- Smart query parsing (nike red hoodie x1)
- Geo based search
- Anomaly detection
- Incoporating feedback loops







# Upcoming trends

- Learning-to-Rank
- Deep Learning
- Feedback loop





## Summary

- Everything is a search problem!
- Search is hard... and interesting
- Distributed systems are hard... and interesting
- Domain knowledge required
- Data keeps exploding, good job chances!







## Literature

Books, books, books



classification Christopher D. Manning search Prabhakar Raghavan **Hinrich Schütze** recision links spam Introduction to Information

Retrieval

query

With applications for Solr and Elasticsearch

# Relevant SEARCH

John Berryma

## **O'REILLY**°



## Elasticsearch The Definitive Guide

A DISTRIBUTED REAL-TIME SEARCH AND ANALYTICS ENGINE

## INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Implementing and Evaluating Search Engines

Stefan Büttcher Charles L. A. Clarke Gordon V. Cormack Covers Apache Lucene 3.0

## Lucene **SECOND EDITION**

Michael McCandless Erik Hatcher Otis Gospodnetić FOREWORD BY DOUG CUTTING

Ian H. Witten Alistair Moffat Timothy C. Bell

## **EEP LEARNING** for Search

# Managing

Compressing and Indexing Documents and Images Gigabytes

SECOND EDITION



## Tommaso Teofili Foreword by Chris Mattmann

MANNING





## Resources

Links, links, links



## Links

- https://lucene.apache.org/core/8\_2\_0/core/org/apache/lucene/search/similarities/ **TFIDFSimilarity.html**
- https://www.elastic.co/blog/whats-new-in-lucene-8
- https://www.elastic.co/blog/faster-retrieval-of-top-hits-in-elasticsearch-with-block-max-wand
- https://speakerdeck.com/elastic/amusing-algorithms-and-data-structures
- https://www.elastic.co/blog/index-sorting-elasticsearch-6-0
- https://raft.github.io/
- https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch-formal-models https://gist.github.com/spinscale/b62c8b357fae7db3f14b7d3127758951





# Links - probabilistic data structures

https://github.com/addthis/stream-lib https://github.com/DataDog/sketches-java https://github.com/HdrHistogram/HdrHistogram https://github.com/JohnStarich/java-skip-list https://github.com/addthis/stream-lib https://static.googleusercontent.com/media/research.google.com/fr/ pubs/archive/40671.pdf







## Q & A

Alexander Reelsen alex@elastic.co @spinscale

