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Chapter 13 (in which case, the document logical view is *full text*). We postpone a discussion on the problem of how to generate index terms until Chapter 7, where the issue is covered in detail.

Given a set of index terms for a document, we notice that not all terms are equally useful for describing the document contents. In fact, there are index terms which are simply vaguer than others. Deciding on the importance of a term for summarizing the contents of a document is not a trivial issue. Despite this difficulty, there are properties of an index term which are easily measured and which are useful for evaluating the potential of a term as such. For instance, consider a collection with a hundred thousand documents. A word which appears in each of the one hundred thousand documents is completely useless as an index term because it does not tell us anything about which documents the user might be interested in. On the other hand, a word which appears in just five documents is quite useful because it narrows down considerably the space of documents which might be of interest to the user. Thus, it should be clear that distinct index terms have varying relevance when used to describe document contents. This effect is captured through the assignment of numerical *weights* to each index term of a document.

discuss modern retrieval techniques which are based on term correlations and which have been tested successfully with particular collections. These successes seem to be slowly shifting the current understanding towards a more favorable view of the usefulness of term correlations for information retrieval systems.

The above definitions provide support for discussing the three classic information retrieval models, namely, the Boolean, the vector, and the probabilistic models, as we now do.

2.5.2 Boolean Model

The Boolean model is a simple retrieval model based on set theory and Boolean algebra. Since the concept of a set is quite intuitive, the Boolean model provides a framework which is easy to grasp by a common user of an IR system. Furthermore, the queries are specified as Boolean expressions which have precise semantics. Given its inherent simplicity and neat formalism, the Boolean model received great attention in past years and was adopted by many of the early commercial bibliographic systems.

document. As a result, the index term weights are assumed to be all binary, i.e., $w_{i,j} \in \{0,1\}$. A query q is composed of index terms linked by three connectives: *not*, *and*, *or*. Thus, a query is essentially a conventional Boolean expression which can be represented as a disjunction of conjunctive vectors (i.e., in *disjunctive normal form* – DNF). For instance, the query $[q = k_a \wedge (k_b \vee \neg k_c)]$ can be written in disjunctive normal form as $[\vec{q}_{dnf} = (1,1,1) \vee (1,1,0) \vee (1,0,0)]$, where each of the components is a binary weighted vector associated with the tuple (k_a, k_b, k_c). These binary weighted vectors are called the conjunctive components of $\vec{q}_{dnf}$. Figure 2.3 illustrates the three conjunctive components for the query q.

Definition *For the Boolean model, the index term weight variables are all binary i.e., $w_{i,j} \in \{0,1\}$. A query q is a conventional Boolean expression. Let $\vec{q}_{dnf}$ be the disjunctive normal form for the query q. Further, let $\vec{q}_{cc}$ be any of the conjunctive components of $\vec{q}_{dnf}$. The similarity of a document d_j to the query q is defined as*

$$sim(d_j, q) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \exists \vec{q}_{cc} \mid (\vec{q}_{cc} \in \vec{q}_{dnf}) \wedge (\forall k_i,\ g_i(\vec{d_j}) = g_i(\vec{q}_{cc})) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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