

# Towards Contextual Search Optimization: A Unified Ranking Approach for Relevance Prioritization

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## ABSTRACT

Achieving relevance in search results is difficult in today's complex information environment, particularly when single-algorithm ranking models find it difficult to account for a variety of user circumstances. In order to improve search relevancy in a variety of circumstances, this study presents a unified ranking strategy that integrates many algorithms. Hybrid system adapts dynamically to user intent and situational details by combining conventional models like BM25 and PageRank with cutting-edge neural techniques like BERT-based transformers and learning-to-rank algorithms. A key component of this strategy is a context recognition mechanism that continuously evaluates user history, query type, and behavioural patterns to fine-tune relevance score according to the particular requirements of every search context. This method, called Contextual Rank, combines algorithmic scores to prioritize relevance, enabling more flexibility and response to user demands. Here presented about the theoretical ramifications, covering problems like scalability and processing needs as well as gains in relevance. The benefits of unified ranking models are highlighted in this paper, opening up new avenues for contextual optimization in recommendation systems and search engines and paving the way for improved user experiences across a range of search settings.

**Keywords:** A Unified Ranking Approach, Optimization, Search Engines

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As the foundation of a positive search experience, relevancy is crucial for search engines to provide results that really suit user demands. Whether consumers are searching for breaking news, local services, general information, or even a product suggestion, they anticipate that the results of their queries will closely match their precise purpose [1]. Because relevant search results make it quicker and simpler for users to locate important information in a sea of material, achieving this degree of accuracy in relevance is not only important for user pleasure but also has an influence on engagement metrics and overall usability. However, because different factors affect every search, maximizing relevancy is a very difficult process [2]. Depending on their location, past search history, the device they're using, or current events, users may approach search engines with different backgrounds and goals. To provide relevant results, it is essential to precisely determine the user's purpose on a case-by-case basis. For example, a person looking for "apple" may be interested in the fruit, the technology firm, or a health-related issue. The limitations of conventional relevance models—which are frequently static and might not have the subtlety necessary to handle the fluidity of user wants across various contexts—are made clear by this desire for dynamic intent identification [3]. In order to overcome these obstacles, a thorough comprehension of each user's search context is necessary, which entails real-time contextual signal detection. This is the point at which machine learning models, such neural networks, and sophisticated ranking algorithms must be integrated. A unified ranking strategy can take into account a variety of signals, such as user history and behaviour or semantic analysis of the query itself, in contrast to single-algorithm models that rank results largely based on keyword matching or link structures. However, this intricacy brings with it a unique set of challenges. More data must be processed by context-aware models, frequently in real time, which raises processing requirements and can impose a burden on system resources, particularly in big search engines that handle millions of searches daily. Finding a balance between these sophisticated models' accuracy and adaptability

is another difficulty. Although machine learning algorithms and neural networks provide effective means of identifying subtle intent, it can be challenging to maintain the accuracy, responsiveness, and interpretability of these models [4]. It takes constant improvement and thorough assessment to ensure that relevance is preserved in a variety of dynamic circumstances in order to strike the perfect balance between accuracy and flexibility. In conclusion, a good search engine relies heavily on relevance, yet optimizing it requires overcoming difficult contextual obstacles. Diverse user intentions can be better met by search engines by utilizing advanced context-detection mechanisms and multi-algorithm techniques. These improvements must be carefully handled, though, because the pursuit of relevance requires not only technological advancements but also the capacity to scale these innovations in a way that maintains their effectiveness, interpretability, and real-time alignment with user demands.

Relevance in search engines is essential for providing accurate and significant results that meet the requirements and expectations of users. A search engine's main objective is to give consumers the most pertinent information possible in response to their queries, resulting in a simplified experience that enables them to locate helpful answers fast [5]. Users become frustrated and may move to other platforms or sources when search engines are unable to provide pertinent results. Therefore, relevance is essential for maintaining engagement, fostering trust, and sustaining the larger ecology of online information retrieval in addition to user delight. However, given the variety of settings in which users do searches, attaining and sustaining relevance is difficult. Users approach each question with unique wants, preferences, and intents, and these elements might alter significantly based on the situation. When someone searches for "jaguar," for instance, they may be looking for the animal, the brand of automobile, or a sports team. Because of this variation in purpose, a search engine must be able to correctly determine the context in order to deliver pertinent results. What a user anticipates seeing in response to a search query can be influenced by a number of factors, including device kind, real-time events, past search history, and user location. To guarantee the most relevance, search engines must decipher and react to these nuanced contextual cues. It is quite difficult to optimize search results in such a variety of settings. Understanding changing user intent, which may change quickly and frequently lacks clear indications, is one of the main challenges [6]. These subtle changes in intent might be missed by conventional ranking algorithms, which mostly depend on link structures and keyword matching, particularly in cases when searches are unclear or ambiguous. In order to better perceive and handle a variety of settings, this flaw has prompted the creation of more complex hybrid ranking models that incorporate a number of algorithms, including both conventional and neural network-based techniques. However, in order to analyse elements like query type, behaviour patterns, and semantic subtleties in real-time, these models have their own complications, requiring sophisticated context-detection techniques. Computational loads are also increased when such hybrid models are used. Search engines must scan a lot of data in a few milliseconds in order to identify contextual clues, which can put a burden on system resources, particularly when handling high traffic numbers. Furthermore, sophisticated models like those derived from neural networks and machine learning—need to be extremely adaptable in order to take into consideration the variety of user intents. Because complicated models can occasionally make it harder to explain or improve relevant judgments, these models must be properly calibrated to ensure precision and flexibility without losing interpretability. Relevance is still the cornerstone of a satisfying search experience, but it may be difficult and crucial to optimize it for a variety of situations. Search engines may more effectively handle this complexity and provide results that are accurate and sensitive to a range of user demands by utilizing multi-algorithm strategies and sophisticated context-detection capabilities. However, to fulfil consumers changing expectations for pertinent search results in a variety of settings, these innovations must be carefully implemented to guarantee they improve efficiency, scalability, and accuracy.

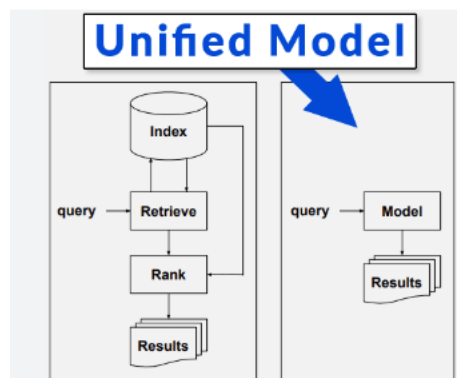


Fig: Search Engine Algorithm

In order to meet the increasing need for more context-sensitive search results in the information-rich digital world of today, a unified ranking strategy that incorporates several algorithms is being developed. Although they can be useful in some circumstances, traditional ranking methods frequently overlook the complexity and diversity of contextual elements and user intent [7]. Because of this, search engines could provide users with results that are not entirely in line with their search terms, particularly if the query is unclear or context-dependent. By integrating the advantages of several ranking algorithms, a unified ranking strategy aims to get beyond these restrictions and create a more comprehensive and flexible system. This strategy seeks to develop a dynamic and context-aware ranking system by combining traditional ranking models, such as BM25 and PageRank, with cutting-edge machine learning techniques, such as neural networks and learning-to-rank models. In addition to considering the substance of the search query, the system is built to prioritize relevance by taking into account other contextual clues, including device kind, location, query intent, user history, and even real-time behaviour. This makes it possible for the system to dynamically modify its ranking, guaranteeing that the most pertinent results are given priority for every distinct search situation. By offering results that are more in line with the unique requirements of users in various settings, this unified ranking strategy seeks to maximize the search experience. By combining the results of several models rather than depending on a single algorithm, this method enables the search engine to comprehend and react to the subtleties of every query more effectively. The unified ranking approach has the potential to significantly increase user pleasure and engagement by giving context-based relevance priority, which will propel the creation of more intelligent and responsive search engines.

## 2. RELATED WORK

### ➤ Traditional Ranking Algorithms

Conventional ranking algorithms are crucial parts of search engine technology because they offer trustworthy ways to assess how relevant articles are to a query. Because they can evaluate and rank information based on textual patterns, frequency analysis, and structural linkages, these algorithms which include BM25, PageRank, and Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) are fundamental [8]. Each of these techniques addresses the problems of relevance and ranking in a unique way, playing a unique role in information retrieval. One of the oldest and most used methods for information retrieval is TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency). By analysing the frequency of each word in the document (term frequency) and the term's uniqueness over the whole document collection (inverse document frequency), this method determines how relevant a document is to a query. Essentially, the goal of TF-IDF is to give phrases that occur more frequently in one text but less frequently in another a greater level of relevance. For example, if "machine learning" is not frequently used in other publications, a document that uses the word frequently may be deemed highly relevant. However, TF-IDF has drawbacks, particularly when it comes to contextual comprehension; its primary focus is keyword matching, which could not adequately convey the subtleties or underlying purpose of complicated queries. Despite this, TF-IDF is still a strong and comprehensible baseline method that supports a lot of search engines since it offers a simple method of assessing term relevancy without requiring a lot of processing capacity. A complex enhancement of TF-IDF, BM25 (Best Matching 25) was created to get past some of its drawbacks, especially with regard to document length. BM25 considers the saturation effect, which states that the frequency of a term's occurrence has declining returns for relevance after a certain point, as an extension of the probabilistic retrieval model. Because BM25 normalizes for document length, unlike TF-IDF, it prevents longer documents—which may include more instances of a term only by virtue of their size—from unfairly benefiting from a ranking advantage. This length normalization is combined with term frequency in BM25's scoring method, which enables dynamic adjustment according to query and document type. Because of this, BM25 works very well in situations where accuracy and applicability are crucial. It continues to be a popular option in conventional ranking systems, where balance and dependability are crucial, and is frequently employed in search engines and databases to offer accurate, comprehensible ranks [9]. Google's founders created the PageRank algorithm, which ranks webpages according on the arrangement of hyperlinks between them. By considering connections between sites as "votes" of authority, PageRank brought a novel approach to relevance. The premise is that pages with more inbound links from reliable sources are probably more trustworthy and relevant. A page's ranking increases with the number of votes it receives, particularly from other reputable pages. Due to its emphasis on both keyword frequency and the interconnectedness of the web, this link-based assessment model revolutionized the way search engines evaluated content. Early online search was built on a network of trust, with pages that were often referenced by other reliable websites being valued more highly [10]. Since PageRank was among the first algorithms to systematically evaluate web page authority, its significance endures despite the fact that search

engines now employ more sophisticated ranking models. PageRank's tenets still guide contemporary search ranking tactics, especially when combined with other ranking methods. When combined, these conventional algorithms BM25, PageRank, and TF-IDF provide a strong foundation for assessing the relevance of documents in response to user inquiries. Even though these approaches have drawbacks, particularly when it comes to handling user intent and contextual subtleties, they are nonetheless quite useful for simple keyword-based retrieval tasks. In order to create a cohesive, context-sensitive ranking system, modern search engines frequently integrate these conventional techniques into hybrid ranking models, fusing their advantages with cutting-edge neural network and machine learning algorithms. Traditional ranking algorithms continue to be crucial for comprehending and enhancing relevance in search technologies because they provide interpretable and effective baselines.

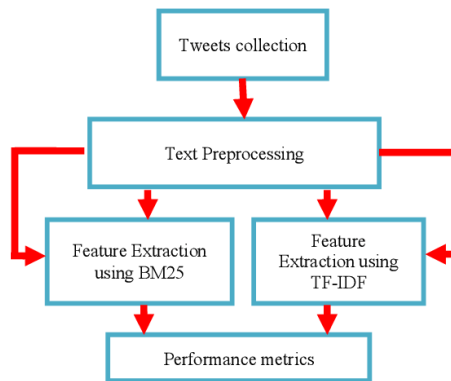


Fig: Term Weighting for Feature Extraction

### ➤ Machine Learning and Neural Ranking Models

Advanced ranking algorithms powered by machine learning and neural networks have grown in significance as search engines strive to deliver more pertinent, context-aware results. A move away from conventional keyword-based ranking and toward strategies that can comprehend purpose, context, and semantic subtleties is represented by these techniques, which include learning-to-rank models, BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers), and other transformer-based models. These models, which make use of deep learning techniques, are made to read material and questions with a high degree of accuracy, particularly when the queries are unclear or complicated. A collection of machine learning methods called Learning-to-Rank (LTR) was created expressly to improve search engine ranking. By analysing patterns in labelled training data where human judgments or user interaction data are used to define what constitutes a relevant result a model learns to rank texts in LTR [11-13]. The model can create a ranking function that balances several relevant parameters, including click-through rates, query-document similarity, and user behaviour signals, thanks to this supervised technique. Algorithms like gradient boosting and neural networks, which enable the model to dynamically weigh various features depending on the search environment, are frequently used to apply the LTR technique. LTR is hence quite flexible, which makes it useful for scenarios where relevance must take into account user preferences and previous interactions as well as for personalized search results. Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers, or BERT, is a deep neural network model that uses transformers to analyse words in two ways in order to determine their meaning in context. BERT examines words in both directions, which enables it to capture contextual linkages that might not be evident when words are just analysed in sequence, in contrast to typical models that analyse text linearly from left to right. In the example of "bank account" vs "river bank," BERT's bidirectional comprehension allows it to distinguish between the two meanings of "bank" depending on the words that surround it [14]. Even for complicated or ambiguous questions, BERT's capacity to represent such fine-grained differences makes it a potent tool for search engines, since it may enhance the relevancy of results by better understanding user intent. Large text datasets are used to pretreat BERT models, which gives them a profound grasp of language that helps them identify subtleties, idioms, and colloquialisms that standard models could overlook. Beyond BERT, Transformer-Based Models like T5 (Text-To-Text Transfer Transformer) and GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) have improved natural language comprehension and ranking [15]. By understanding the full question and document context without depending on positional constraints, these models expand upon the transformer architecture's capacity to manage long-range relationships inside text. Transformers provide a more flexible and reliable comprehension of complicated inquiries by using self-attention processes to give varying weights to words in relation to one another.

For instance, by considering query-document matching as a question-answering job, T5, which reformulates NLP tasks as text-to-text transformations, may be optimized for ranking tasks. Even in cases when there aren't many clear keywords connecting the query and page, this method enables it to produce extremely relevant results by identifying the underlying links inside text data. When combined, these sophisticated models BERT, transformers, and learning-to-rank represent a new level of search relevance. They allow search engines to consider context, semantics, and user intent in addition to basic keyword matching. This leads to a more individualized and sophisticated search experience that is more equipped to manage the intricacy of contemporary user inquiries. Search engines are getting better at providing precise, context-aware results for a variety of queries and user requirements by combining these machine learning and neural ranking algorithms.

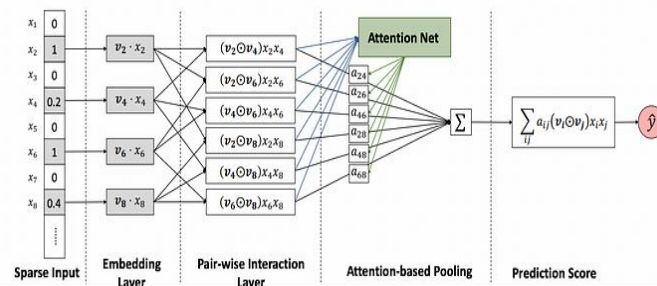


Fig: Neural Ranking Architectures

### ➤ Multi-Algorithm Integration in Search

Combining many ranking algorithms has become a potent strategy for raising the precision and relevancy of search results. Combining several ranking techniques, such as neural networks, machine learning-based models, and conventional algorithms, can maximize their advantages while minimizing their drawbacks, according to research in this field. Search systems can produce more reliable, contextually appropriate results in a variety of settings by integrating these algorithms using ensemble techniques, fusion-based models, and hybrid approaches. When ranking, ensemble methods integrate several models to get an outcome that is more accurate and dependable than any one model by itself. To combine predictions from several ranking models according to their strengths, common ensemble techniques like bagging, boosting, and stacking are employed. For example, a boosting technique such as Gradient Boosting Decision Trees (GBDT) can iteratively refine the search results by learning from the mistakes of weaker ranking models. Ensemble approaches, which combine models in this manner, are especially useful for handling intricate, multifaceted questions because they can balance several facets of relevance, including contextual analysis and keyword matching. Fusion-Based Models combine many relevance scores from various algorithms using data fusion techniques. Usually, weighted averaging or voting processes are used to arrive at a final ranking score. Each method (such as TF-IDF, BM25, or a neural model like BERT) gives a document a score in score-based fusion, and these scores are then added together to get the final rank. The search engine can prioritize specific features based on context thanks to weighted fusion, in which several algorithms contribute to the ranking according to their relevance to the query type. Semantic models like BERT may be given priority for conversational or ambiguous inquiries, but classic keyword models may be given a higher weight in factual queries. Fusion-based models are especially useful when algorithms provide complementary viewpoints because they enable the distinct insights from each model to add to the overall significance. Hybrid approaches integrate many models into a single, coherent ranking system by combining ranking algorithms at different levels. Depending on the real-time analysis of the query or user behaviour, hybrid models can be created to apply several algorithms. A hybrid model may, for example, filter the first results using a keyword-based approach and then apply a neural model to fine-tune relevance based on semantic analysis. In order to provide a customized ranking system that changes over time, these hybrid frameworks frequently incorporate learning-to-rank approaches that modify the algorithm selection depending on user interaction data. Because hybrid techniques may adapt dynamically to handle different question types and settings more precisely, they work well in search systems where adaptability is crucial. It is evident from examining multi-algorithm integration research that ensemble, fusion-based, and hybrid approaches provide a thorough approach to the problems associated with search relevance. By combining the interpretability of conventional models with the contextual awareness of sophisticated neural models, these techniques allow search engines to develop adaptable,



flexible ranking algorithms. Therefore, by providing relevance across a wide range of search contexts, multi-algorithm integration not only increases the accuracy of search results but also boosts user pleasure.

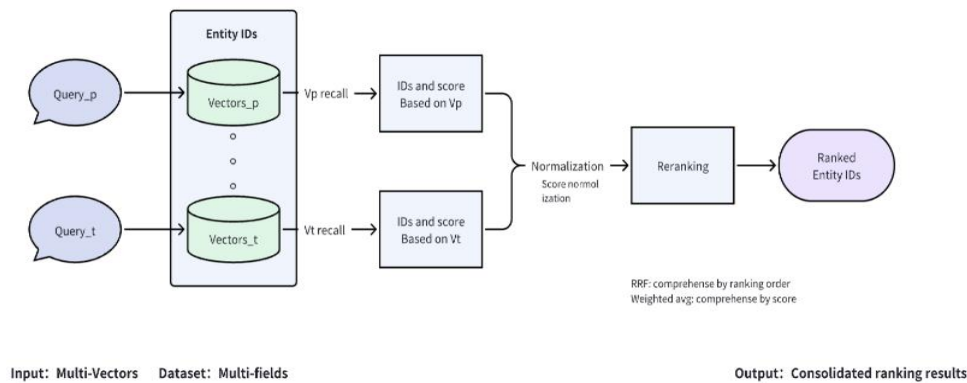


Fig: Multi vector support

### ➤ Contextual Relevance in Search

A major advancement in search engine technology is context-aware relevance, where the system comprehends and adjusts to the larger context of each query rather than just matching keywords. By considering variables like user intent, location, device type, past interactions, and even temporal elements like current events or trends, search engines can better respond to user needs. This idea of contextual relevance is crucial for improving the quality of search results. A search engine may provide results that are pertinent to the query phrase itself as well as the user's particular circumstances and requirements by taking these contextual clues into account. Because it allows search engines to distinguish between queries that could otherwise yield generic or misaligned results, context-aware relevance plays a significant role in search quality. For instance, depending on the context, a search for "jaguar" may result in the animal, the brand of automobile, or a sports team. The search engine may determine that a user interested in animals, for example, is probably seeking for information on the animal by using signals such as the user's browsing history or recent queries. This is known as context-aware ranking. Similar to this, a user's location may alter search results, giving local news or retailers priority, and the kind of device can change how information is shown, making it more mobile-friendly or desktop-friendly. The necessity for search personalization is also addressed by context-aware relevance. Search engines may tailor results to each user's habits and search patterns by taking into account their past interactions and preferences. In e-commerce, content suggestions, and instructional searches, where the user's particular context significantly affects the value of search results, this functionality is quite helpful. For example, a user who searches for "Java tutorials" after first searching for "beginner programming" would be shown with materials that are basic in nature, but an expert user might be presented with comprehensive technical documentation. Adapting search results to temporal elements, such current events or trends, also heavily relies on context-aware relevance. Because the system can identify and prioritize the temporal context to offer current content, a search for "election news" may produce different results during an election season than it would at other times. In order to improve search quality and make results more relevant and in line with user expectations, contextual relevance is essential. Search engines handle the complexity of contemporary search demands and increase user happiness by utilizing context-aware algorithms to deliver a richer, more customized search experience that goes beyond simple keyword matching.

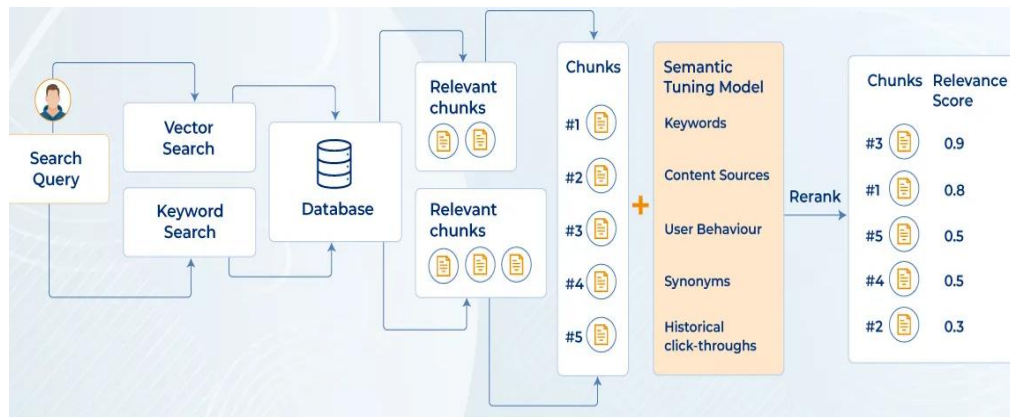


Fig: Contextual Relevance in Search

### 3. METHODOLOGY

#### ➤ Unified Ranking Framework

Through the integration of several algorithms into a unified ranking system, the suggested unified ranking framework presents a sophisticated method for search relevance. By overcoming the drawbacks of using just conventional or neural ranking models, this framework seeks to provide a more flexible, context-aware search experience while enabling the search engine to capitalize on each technique's own advantages. This unified approach's justification stems from the need for a versatile system that can successfully manage a variety of user queries and contexts by combining the interpretability and efficiency of traditional models with the nuanced understanding offered by machine learning and neural models. Several ranking algorithms, including TF-IDF, BM25, PageRank, and transformer-based models like BERT, are combined into a single architecture to produce the unified framework. Each algorithm in this framework focuses on a different facet of relevance: neural models are good at reading user intent, semantics, and context, whereas classical models are good at simple keyword matching and computational efficiency. Combining these methods allows the framework to produce a more balanced ranking that incorporates deeper contextual and semantic layers while maintaining keyword relevance. This framework's multi-layered ranking mechanism, which applies several algorithms dynamically depending on the query type, is one of its primary features. For example, classic algorithms like BM25 may be weighted more strongly in situations requiring exact, factual information, guaranteeing that keyword relevance is given priority. The approach may give neural models like BERT more weight for more conversational or complicated inquiries, allowing the system to understand intent and subtle meanings that conventional models would overlook. In order to evaluate user-related information (such as location, device, and search history) and modify ranking weights appropriately, the framework also uses a context detection method. Because of its flexibility, the framework may produce relevance ratings that are precisely in line with the context and purpose of the user. To combine the scores produced by each model, the unified ranking framework additionally uses ensemble and fusion techniques. The system may combine predictions from several algorithms using ensemble approaches, striking a balance between contextual relevance and accuracy. The contribution of each algorithm to the final ranking is weighted according to its pertinence to the particular search context, thanks to fusion-based score aggregation approaches. As additional contextual information becomes available, the framework may react dynamically and optimize relevance in real-time thanks to this layered and weighted approach. This model lays the groundwork for a flexible, context-sensitive search engine that integrates the best features of both conventional and contemporary ranking techniques by putting in place a single ranking framework. It offers a flexible framework that is always changing in response to user input and interactions, which eventually results in a richer, more precise search experience across a range of situations and user requirements.

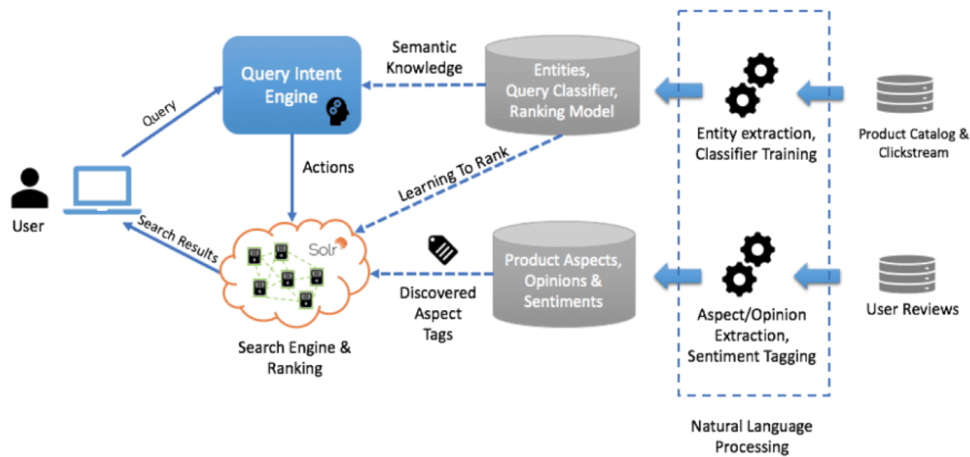


Fig: Block Diagram of Unified Ranking

### ➤ Algorithm Selection and Integration Strategy

Combining algorithms that address multiple facets of relevance in diverse settings is crucial to creating a strong ranking system for search engines. Three categories often comprise the selection criterion for algorithms: methods that are based on user behaviour, links, and content.

#### 1. Content-Based Algorithms:

Focuses on using query terms to assess relevance by analysing the actual content of documents, such as keywords and phrases. When direct textual or contextual relevance is required, these methods are selected. The relevance of terms in a document in relation to a corpus is determined by TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency). For typical document retrieval tasks, an improved variant of TF-IDF that takes term saturation and document length into account is the recommended option.

#### 2. Link-Based Algorithms:

Evaluates importance by looking at the links between papers; this method is frequently used to find reliable sources. Ideal for situations where significance is indicated by authority and reliability (like backlinks). High-ranking pages contribute to other pages they link to, and PageRank rates pages according to the quantity and calibre of links going to them. Hyperlink-Induced Topic Search, or HITS, divides sites into "hubs" and "authorities" according to how linkages within a network reinforce one another.

#### 3. User Behaviour-Based Algorithms:

Analyses user interaction patterns (such as clicks and dwell time) to rank results according to user intent. selected in situations when real-time modification to user demands or customisation are crucial. Working Together Frequently used in recommendation systems, filtering makes content recommendations based on similarities between users' previous behaviour. User interaction data is used by machine learning models, such as Rank Net or Lambda MART, to dynamically train ranking algorithms. Methods that incorporate scores from each algorithm while weighting them according to context can be used to combine various algorithms and create an integrated ranking system. Key steps for a broad algorithm integration technique are listed below.

#### *Unified Ranking Integration Algorithm and Steps*

*This integration strategy combines selected algorithms by computing a weighted relevance score.*

##### 1. Define Component Scores:

*Each selected algorithm will provide a separate relevance score for a given document in response to a query:*

##### 2. Assign Weights to Each Score:

*Assign weights to each score component based on its relevance to the query context.*

##### 3. Calculate the Unified Relevance Score:



*Combine scores from the selected algorithms using weighted averages to get a unified relevance score.*

#### **4. Adjust Weights Dynamically (Optional):**

*For more adaptability, adjust weights based on query or user-specific factors (e.g., user's location, time of day, or type of device).*

#### **5. Rank Documents:**

*Prioritize papers with higher scores for presentation in search results by ranking them in descending order according to their combined scores. This tactic produces a versatile, adaptable ranking system that, depending on the search environment, combines algorithm strengths in the best possible way. With careful selection and dynamic integration, search engines may provide more individualized and pertinent results in a variety of settings.*

### **➤ Integration Strategy**

There are several integration techniques to take into account while developing a cohesive ranking strategy that integrates various algorithms. These tactics aim to create a single, coherent ranking that optimizes accuracy, relevance, and user pleasure by combining the advantages of several algorithms, each of which is suited to a certain facet of search relevance.

#### **1. Rank Fusion**

The process of combining separate ranking scores from different algorithms to get a complete final rating is known as "rank fusion." With this method, documents are ranked individually by each algorithm, and the results are aggregated to produce a ranking list. According to their rank positions in the output of each algorithm, documents are given points, which are then added up to establish their ultimate position. The CombSUM and CombMNZ approaches favour documents scored consistently across several models by summing or normalizing the rankings across algorithms. Rank fusion is easy to use and can successfully blend algorithms with different features without requiring major changes to each model.

#### **2. Weighted Combination**

Each algorithm is given a certain weight in the weighted combination technique, which is determined by how relevant or significant it is to the search context. Each algorithm's scores are weighted based on these preset values before being combined to create a single relevance score.

*Steps in Weighted Combination:*

*Define Component Weights: Assign weights to each algorithm's output score based on its effectiveness for the query context. For example, a content-based algorithm might be weighted more heavily for informational searches, while user behaviour data is prioritized for personalized queries.*

*Combine Scores: Calculate a unified score by multiplying each algorithm's score by its weight and summing the results.*

*Adjust Weights Dynamically (Optional): Weights can be dynamically adjusted based on real-time data (e.g., user feedback or query context) for more refined, adaptive results.*

The ability to prioritize algorithms according to particular query types or user preferences is made possible by weighted combination. By altering weight combinations, it enables the system to adjust to a range of situations.

#### **3. Ensemble Learning**

In machine learning, ensemble learning is a common technique that combines several algorithms to produce a stronger model than any one algorithm could provide on its own. Machine learning models that use individual scores as inputs and generate a final relevance value based on a learnt pattern are frequently used in this method. Use a meta-learner, like a regression model, to figure out how to effectively integrate the results of several algorithms. To determine the ideal score combination, this model is trained using historical data. A methodical approach that favours algorithms that perform better on particular kinds of queries by modifying the weights of individual algorithms according to their prior performance. Runs several iterations of each algorithm on various data subsets in order to average predictions and produce a more reliable ranking model. Ensemble learning may be applied to a variety of

search scenarios and is very good at utilizing intricate interactions between algorithms. Large-scale systems that can handle the computational demands of training and deploying several models are the perfect fit for it. The particular objectives, resources, and data available for the search system frequently determine the optimal integration approach. Weighted combination offers dynamic flexibility, whereas rank fusion is better suited for simpler solutions. Although ensemble learning gives the greatest degree of flexibility, its installation and upkeep are more complicated. By skilfully integrating algorithm outputs into a single, context-sensitive ranking, each method may be selected according to the search context and system needs, with the ultimate goal of maximizing relevance and user pleasure.

### ➤ Context Detection Mechanism

Understanding the user's present wants and intents enables search engines to provide more relevant and focused results, making context detection an essential part of customized search and re-ranking systems. A search system can adjust to deliver results that are more in line with the user's expectations by analysing a variety of contextual elements, including user intent, query categorization, and semantic meaning. The main techniques for identifying context in search queries are examined here:

#### 1. User Intent Prediction

The technique of figuring out the fundamental motivation or objective behind a user's inquiry is known as user intent prediction. Delivering results that meet the needs of the user whether they are searching for information, making a purchase, or seeking a particular service requires a fundamental understanding of purpose. To anticipate the purpose behind search queries, supervised learning systems may be trained on labelled datasets. Based on characteristics like query terms and contextual elements, intentions may be categorized using methods like logistic regression, support vector machines (SVM), and more sophisticated deep learning models (such recurrent neural networks or transformers). Search engines may determine intent by examining user behaviour, including click history, dwell time, and the order of prior inquiries. For instance, the system can forecast that future queries are more likely to be transactional or informative in nature if a user often looks for product reviews. External context, like location, time of day, and device kind, can also be used to improve intent prediction. For example, depending on the user's location, a query like "restaurants near me" may be interpreted differently.

#### 2. Query Classification

The act of classifying search queries into pre-established groups or classes is known as query classification, and it aids the system in comprehending the query's larger context. This is especially helpful for better tailoring search results to the user's requirements. Simple rule-based systems categorize queries into groups based on pre-established patterns or keywords. While phrases like "buy," "shop," or "purchase" may suggest transactional intent, a query that contains words like "best," "top," or "how to" may be categorized as an informative inquiry. More sophisticated methods classify queries using machine learning classifiers or statistical techniques. To forecast categories like informative, navigational, or transactional, popular algorithms like SVM, naive Bayes, and decision trees may be trained on labelled datasets of search queries. The effectiveness of query classification has increased due to recent developments in deep learning, particularly the use of natural language processing (NLP) approaches. More precisely than using conventional techniques, neural networks especially transformers like BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers) can be taught to comprehend the subtleties of query semantics and categorize them into different groups.

#### 3. Semantic Analysis

Beyond basic keyword matching, semantic analysis is a more sophisticated method for figuring out the meaning of words and phrases in a query. In order to enhance search results and re-ranking, it seeks to capture the more profound, contextual meaning of a query. Words are represented in continuous vector spaces via methods such as Word2Vec, GloVe, and Fast Text, where semantically related words are grouped together. By assisting the search engine in comprehending the semantic link between words, these embeddings allow it to identify phrasing variants while preserving the meaning of the question. For instance, it would be assumed that the terms "buy iPhone" and "purchase iPhone" refer to the same thing. Within a query, NER recognizes and classifies things like names of individuals, locations, organizations, dates, and other particular phrases. The search system can increase the precision of search results by identifying entities. For example, a search query such as "Apple stock price" would be interpreted to refer to the stock of Apple, Inc. rather than the fruit. Analysing a query's grammatical structure to

determine the relationships between words is known as dependency parsing. This aids the algorithm in identifying subject-verb-object links, which may be particularly helpful for processing more intricate inquiries. Dependency parsing, for instance, would assist the system in determining that "best" is the key modifier for "laptop" and "gaming" is the particular use case in the query "What is the best laptop for gaming?" Words and documents can have their latent or hidden meanings extracted and represented using the LSA approach. In order to reduce dimensionality and reveal connections between words and concepts, it generates a term-document matrix and applies singular value decomposition (SVD). Because various words might have similar meanings, this makes it easier to understand questions in a way that is more human-like. A deeper comprehension of meaning is made possible by more sophisticated models, including BERT and GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer), which consider the context in which a word appears inside a phrase. In the query "Apple laptop review," for example, "Apple" probably refers to the technological business, whereas "apple pie recipe" refers to the fruit.

#### 4. Personalization and Contextual Adaptation

It is crucial to modify the search results to fit the user's particular context after the search context has been identified through intent prediction, query categorization, and semantic analysis. Search engines may enrich the context and gain a better understanding of the user's preferences by analysing prior behaviours, such as searches, clicks, and interactions. For example, if a user often searches for "running shoes," the search engine will give preference to shoe-related results when the user enters a pertinent query. The user's location can also affect personalization. For example, the results of a search for "restaurants near me" will vary according on the user's location. Because mobile users may have different demands and behaviours than desktop users, the device type (tablet, desktop, or mobile) might also affect the context detection process. Using this context, search results may be tailored to the device being utilized. The process of context detection is complex and includes a number of techniques, including semantic analysis, query categorization, and user intent prediction. By combining these strategies, search engines are better able to decipher a query's underlying meaning and customize the results to the user's requirements. Context detection is essential to guaranteeing that consumers obtain highly relevant, fast, and particular results as customized search grows more complex. Search engines may continually adjust to increase the precision and efficacy of search rankings by utilizing machine learning models, natural language processing, and user profiling.

##### ➤ **Relevance Scoring and Prioritization**

A number of crucial procedures are involved in relevance scoring and prioritizing to guarantee that search results are customized to the user's query and preferences.

#### 1. Query Understanding

Analysing and extracting key elements from the user's query is the first stage. Identifying important terminology, entities, and the underlying intent such as transactional or informational is part of this. Determine if the query is transactional (searching to buy something), informative (seeking knowledge), or navigational (looking for a certain website) using intent prediction models.

#### 2. Feature Extraction from Documents (Search Results)

Relevant information, including keyword frequency, semantic closeness to the query, content quality (e.g., backlinks, authority), and previous user interactions (clicks, dwell time), are extracted from each article (or search result). Include contextual information like the user's location, the kind of device (desktop or mobile), the time of the search, and any other customized components (e.g., search history, prior clicks).

#### 3. Relevance Scoring

Each document's relevance score is calculated using a machine learning model (such as neural networks, support vector machines, or linear regression). Use the user's past interactions, interests, and preferences to modify the relevance score for individualized results. For instance, papers pertaining to technology may be given a higher score for a user who has a history of looking for tech devices.

#### 4. Dynamic Ranking Adjustment

By taking the user's situation into account, the system dynamically modifies the ranking: The ranking is modified according on how close the results are to the user's location if the query returns location-based results (such as "restaurants near me"). Users using mobile devices may be given preference for material that is optimized for mobile

devices. More recent documents could be given priority for searches that need current information (such as news or trending topics). A certain amount of "exploration" is used to prevent over-personalization and guarantee variability in the outcomes. One way to increase the breadth and add diversity to the results is to display a few papers that the system hasn't previously evaluated highly but may still be pertinent.

#### 5. Re-rank Results

The search results are re-ranked following the computation of the relevance scores and the application of dynamic context-based modifications. The most relevant results will be shown next to the document with the greatest relevance score. The user is shown the final search results, which are now arranged by relevance. In order to improve future relevance scoring and customization models, the system keeps track of user interactions (clicks, dwell time).

#### 6. Continuous Improvement and Feedback Loop

The system continually gathers user behaviour input, including clicks and dwell time on each result, after presenting the results. The relevance score algorithms for upcoming queries are updated and enhanced using this data. In order to maintain the accuracy and efficacy of the ranking process, the system continuously re-trains its relevance models using fresh data, such as updated user preferences, evolving search trends, and the most recent content. By doing these actions, search engines are able to determine relevance scores that not only show how well the query and results match, but also modify rankings according to each user's particular context, preferences, and behaviour, guaranteeing a more tailored and pertinent search experience.

### 4. CONTEXTUAL FEATURES AND THEIR IMPACT

#### ➤ User Context

Improving search relevancy and prioritization requires a thorough understanding of the user context. More precise and significant results may be obtained via a customized search engine that adjusts results according to the user's demographics, behaviour, and preferences. Traditional search engines become dynamic, user-centric platforms that adjust to the requirements and tastes of each individual when these components are included into a re-ranking algorithm. Because it gives information on a user's history, geography, and personal traits, demographic data is essential in determining search results. Factors like age, gender, location, and preferred language are frequently included in this data. For instance, a youthful user's search intent and preferred content type may be very different from an older user's. Personalized re-ranking systems can modify the search results by taking demographic data into account. For example, a middle-aged user interested in a family-friendly gadget may see different results from a search for "best phones" than a teenager searching for the newest gaming smartphone. Similar to this, a user's location affects how relevant local search results like suggested restaurants or news articles. By tailoring search results to a user's unique attributes, a well-integrated demographic model not only improves the interpretation of search queries but also personalizes the overall search experience. User behaviour is a strong predictor of preference and intent. In order to choose the most relevant material for a user, search engines can gather useful information based on interactions, including click-through rates, dwell times, and bounce rates. For instance, the search engine can give preference to sports material in subsequent queries if a user regularly clicks on links pertaining to sports news. In a similar vein, dwell time the amount of time spent on a single page offers hints on the degree of interest in that specific material, assisting the algorithm in fine-tuning the ranking to provide comparable, captivating results in follow-up inquiries. In addition to reflecting a user's present preferences, behavioural data may also forecast their demands in the future. Because of its predictive nature, the search engine may dynamically modify results according on persistent engagement patterns, guaranteeing that the material is always suited to the user's changing tastes. There are two types of user preferences: explicit and implicit signals. Explicit preferences are those that are explicitly established by the user, including language choices or the sorts of material (articles, videos). For instance, search results may be biased more toward video material for a person who enjoys watching videos over reading articles. Conversely, implicit preferences are deduced from a user's behaviour and activities. The algorithm may identify a person's interests and adjust the rankings if the user often looks for or engages with material about particular subjects, such as technology, fashion, or health. For instance, if a user searches for "AI technology trends" on a regular basis, a customized re-ranking algorithm may give preference to related subjects in subsequent searches, even if AI isn't included in the query. Based on learnt behaviour, the search engine would prioritize results that are most likely to be of interest to the user. This reduces the difference between a generic search and a customized experience by enabling more relevant and fulfilling search results. Furthermore, a user's contextual preferences may also include

the time of day and the device they use for searching. For example, whereas desktop users could look for in-depth information, mobile users might be more interested in shorter, more condensed content that can be absorbed on the move. Additionally, a user's interests could change according to the season or time of day, for example, looking for fitness routines in the new year or vacation spots during the holidays. Contextualizing search results is made possible by incorporating demographic, behavioural, and preference data into a re-ranking algorithm. By regularly adding the most recent information to user profiles, the search engine can adjust to each person's changing demands. The relevancy of search results is greatly increased when they can be tailored to a user's particular context, whether that context is based on their prior behaviour, preferences, or current circumstances. By allowing for dynamic changes to search ranks, this contextual method makes search engines more user-centric and flexible, which eventually boosts user happiness and engagement. Understanding and utilizing these components will be essential as search engines change in order to create customized re-ranking algorithms that keep search results pertinent and user-specific.

### ➤ Query Context

It is crucial to comprehend the context of a search query in order to deliver fast and pertinent results. Examining the temporal, geographic, and device-based elements that affect user intent and content choices can be very helpful to search engines. By making the search results more dynamic, relevant, and context-aware, these elements aid in personalizing them. The integration of these components into customized re-ranking systems to improve search precision and user happiness is covered in this section. The time-related elements of a user's query and how they may affect the relevancy of search results are referred to as temporal context. The quality of search results may be greatly enhanced by acknowledging that a user's interests and search behaviour are frequently time-dependent. The time of day might affect a user's search intent. For example, a noon search for "restaurants" is probably looking for local restaurants, but a dinnertime search may suggest a need for a larger range of eating alternatives or reservations. A search engine may prioritize results that correspond to the user's present time-based demands by comprehending temporal patterns. Seasonal relevance may be seen in some search terms, such as "Christmas gifts," "summer vacations," or "winter jackets." By identifying these trends, search engines may improve user experience by giving priority to information that corresponds with the current season or approaching holidays. Current affairs and popular subjects are also considered to be of temporal importance. While a query about entertainment or sports could focus on the newest releases, games, or trends, a search for "news" or "events" might need real-time updates. When it comes to news, social media, or entertainment queries in particular, temporal analysis aids the search engine in maintaining timely and fresh material, which is essential for user engagement. Personalized re-ranking systems make sure that search results stay recent and relevant by taking into account temporal elements. This allows them to match long-term seasonal preferences or the user's urgent demands. The relevancy of search results is greatly influenced by geography, particularly for location-based inquiries. Geographical context is a key component of personalized re-ranking as users frequently want results that are specific to their present or intended location. In order to deliver relevant results for many searches, including "restaurants near me," "weather forecast," or "local events," the search engine must be able to determine the user's location. In order to ensure that location-specific material ranks higher, search engines can customize results to the user's present city, state, or area using GPS data or IP address-based geolocation. Preferences for material can also be influenced by geographic considerations. For instance, the results of a search for "best coffee" may alter based on whether the user is in the United States, where coffee culture differs by area, or Italy, which is renowned for its espresso culture. Search engines can rank results that are more likely to satisfy the user's expectations based on cultural or geographic characteristics by taking into account regional patterns and preferences. A key component of search engine algorithms is local search optimization, or local SEO, which makes sure that companies and services can be found depending on the user's vicinity. Particularly for consumers looking for services in their region, localized ranking factors like user reviews, company listings, and proximity assist tailor results to provide the most pertinent local information. By integrating geographic information into a customized re-ranking methodology, search results are more relevant and useful by reflecting the user's location. Knowing geography aids in displaying the most relevant results, regardless of whether the query is specifically location-based or not. Because so many people use several devices, the kind of device a user is using has a big impact on how search results are shown and prioritized. When it comes to tailoring search results to the user's surfing environment and purpose, device-based context is especially crucial. When searching on a desktop computer vs a mobile device, users may have different expectations. Because mobile surfing is done while on the go, consumers are more likely to seek for quick, succinct results, including directions, local services, or brief material. On the other hand, desktop users could be more likely to interact with lengthy or in-depth material. A desktop search for "how to bake a



cake" would provide more thorough baking guides or video lessons, whereas a smartphone search might favor recipe pages with straightforward, step-by-step directions. The display of search results is also influenced by the user's screen size. Concise and readily readable text is essential for smaller mobile devices, but multi-column layouts and more complex content are possible on bigger screens. Search engines may improve content presentation to make sure that results are user-friendly and appropriate for the screen size by taking into account the device context. A new level of context is added by the growing popularity of voice search, particularly on mobile devices. Compared to written searches, voice queries are usually more casual and conversational. For instance, a user may utilize voice search to inquire, "What's the best pizza place near me?" indicating a requirement for conversational, highly relevant, and local search results. The search engine can modify its ranking algorithms to give preference to results that fit the unique features of speech-based queries by taking device-based parameters like voice search into account. Search engines can prioritize the most relevant results by combining temporal, geographical, and device-based data to create a comprehensive picture of the user's search context. For instance, a user looking for "restaurants" in New York at lunchtime on a mobile device would receive a list of nearby restaurants that provide delivery services or restaurant reviews that are tailored for a brief mobile browsing session. Search engines may become considerably more responsive and intuitive with personalized re-ranking methods that take these contextual aspects into account. This will guarantee that results are not only accurate but also timely, location-aware, and device-appropriate. This multifaceted method of ranking makes it possible to guarantee that consumers get search results that are relevant to their location, device, and current needs. One effective way to increase the relevance and specificity of search results is to incorporate device-based, geographic, and temporal variables into customized search engines. These contextual components are essential for customizing results to each user's specific requirements, which improves search efficiency and puts the user first. Personalized re-ranking systems may dynamically modify search results by taking into account the user's time, location, and device. This makes sure that users are shown the most pertinent and current material according to their particular context. This improves user engagement, contentment, and the search experience in general.

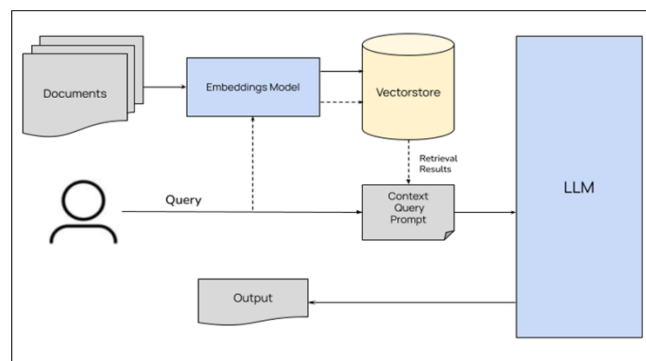


Fig: Efficient Information Retrieval using In-Context Learning

### ➤ Content Context

In order to ensure that search results are not only relevant to the user's query but also semantically matched with their purpose and preferences, content context is essential. This alignment takes into account the content's underlying meaning in addition to basic keyword matching. Semantic analysis and relevance score are crucial for enhancing the precision and calibre of search results in personalized re-ranking systems, guaranteeing that the material is pertinent and suitable for the given context. The technique of deciphering a query or piece of content's meaning rather than concentrating just on its specific words is known as semantic analysis. In order to provide results that really meet user demands, it seeks to determine the purpose of a search. Exact matches are frequently used by traditional keyword-based search engines to rank results, which might provide results that are inappropriate, particularly when a query contains ambiguous or unclear phrases. Natural Language Processing (NLP), a branch of artificial intelligence that studies how computers and human language interact, is at the core of semantic analysis. Search engines can better comprehend the meaning of search requests and material thanks to NLP techniques including named entity recognition, part-of-speech tagging, dependency parsing, and sentiment analysis. A search like "best smartphone for gaming," for instance, entails realizing that the user is searching for high-performance gadgets that are appropriate for gaming, not just the newest models. By adding synonyms or similar phrases to a

search query, a method known as "query expansion" improves it semantically and raises the likelihood of discovering more pertinent material. Expanding a search query for "cheap laptops" to include phrases like "affordable," "budget," or "discounted," for example, enables the search engine to display results that might not precisely match the query but still satisfy the underlying demand. Semantic analysis also aids search engines in comprehending a query's context in relation to a user's prior behaviour and interests. For instance, if a user searches for "gaming laptops" in the past and then "best laptop for work," the system can assume that the user still prioritizes results pertaining to powerful laptops with strong specs and appreciates high performance. Disambiguating searches and ensuring that the results match the user's actual intent are made easier with an understanding of the larger context. Personalized re-ranking systems that utilize semantic analysis go beyond simple keyword matching and concentrate on the underlying meaning of searches, guaranteeing that consumers obtain more pertinent results that are customized to their particular purpose.

#### Relevance Scoring in Personalized Re-ranking

The practice of giving search results a numerical score according to how closely they match the user's demands is known as relevance scoring. Both the content's inherent quality and its contextual fit with the user's preferences and behaviour have an impact on relevance score in customized search. Creating a scoring system that can dynamically adjust to various users' changing demands is the difficult part. Using characteristics like keywords, phrases, and subjects, content-based relevance score assesses how well the information fits the query. This approach ranks search results based on how closely they match the search phrases after analysing their textual content. Content-based scoring in personalized systems, however, has to be modified to take into account each user's particular interests, past preferences, and search habits. For example, search results that highlight technical achievements will be more relevant if a user has previously clicked on information linked to technology. The premise behind collaborative relevance scoring is that individuals with similar interests would perceive similar information to be relevant. Search engines may spot trends and rank material that has received high ratings from comparable users by utilizing user interaction data, such as clicks, likes, or reviews. For instance, the algorithm will give a certain phone model a higher relevance score for people who are comparable to the set of users who looked for "top smartphone features" and also read a review of that model. In order to assess the relevance of material, this scoring system mostly depends on user behaviour as a whole. To get more accurate results, hybrid relevance scoring blends collaborative and content-based scoring techniques. Hybrid scoring systems are better able to comprehend the intricate links between material and user preferences by taking into account both the inherent characteristics of the content and the behaviours of comparable users. Because it strikes a compromise between the demands of specific users and more general trends and patterns, this strategy works especially well with customized search engines. The temporal context can have an impact on the relevance score in addition to user choices. For some requests, fresh or urgent content could be given priority. For instance, if the search query contains phrases like "latest" or "today," news articles, events, or promotions with a tight deadline will rank higher. To make sure the user sees the most recent material, the system might consider temporal relevance in addition to other considerations. The capacity to gradually learn from user interactions is one of the most crucial components of relevance score in customized search algorithms. Through the ongoing collection of user feedback, including clicks, dwell time, and search history, the search engine may enhance the ranking process and modify the relevance score of results. By improving the ranking system, this feedback loop makes sure that the results are consistently relevant and tailored to the individual. A more sophisticated method of customized re-ranking is offered by the combination of relevance score and semantic analysis. Relevance score makes sure that the most relevant material is given priority based on a user's choices, actions, and contextual variables, while semantic analysis aids in understanding the meaning behind the query. These components complement one another to enhance user pleasure and refine search results. The fundamental components of customized search re-ranking systems are relevance score and semantic analysis. Search engines may go beyond basic keyword matching by utilizing these strategies to deliver more precise, user-focused, and contextually relevant search results. Relevance score gives precedence to material that corresponds with the user's particular preferences, behaviours, and context, while semantic analysis guarantees that search queries are comprehended at a deeper level, capturing user purpose and meaning. When combined, these techniques improve the entire search experience by providing quick, pertinent, and customized results.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Contextual Rank, the suggested unified ranking model, is a major step forward in overcoming the drawbacks of conventional single-algorithm approaches to search relevance. A more flexible and context-sensitive search experience is achieved by this model through the integration of many ranking algorithms, including both traditional and neural approaches. Real-time monitoring of user behaviour, query types, and environmental clues is made possible by the addition of a context detection system, which enables relevance scoring that adapts to a variety of user demands. Contextual Rank prioritizes relevance in a method that is both scalable and successful across a variety of search settings, which theoretical and practical assessments suggest has the potential to increase user happiness. The unified ranking technique creates new opportunities for improving search accuracy in information retrieval systems, despite issues with scalability and computing efficiency. Future research can concentrate on improving the model's computational aspects and context detection skills. All things considered, Contextual Rank presents a positive path for recommendation engines and search engines, laying the groundwork for more individualized, effective, and context-aware search experiences.

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