Apache Lucene and Solr 8: What's coming next?

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My Background

- **Committer** and **PMC member** of **Apache Lucene and Solr** main focus is on development of Lucene Core.
- Elasticsearch lover.
- Working as consultant and software architect at **SD DataSolutions GmbH** in Bremen, Germany.
- Maintaining PANGAEA (Data Publisher for Earth & Environmental Science) where I implemented the portal's geo-spatial retrieval functions with Apache Lucene Core and Elasticsearch.

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• Expected release date:

As always: no comment! (but few weeks is likely)

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 Release branch (branch_8x) was cut mid-January



10 times faster queries...

New features and changes in Apache Lucene 8

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"The" Change

- New result collection engine
 - Allows short circuit if total count is not needed
- Works for combinations of many query types:

- TermQuery
- BooleanQuery: disjunctions
- PhraseQuery
- ConstantScoreQuery



How does it work?

- Add some information about maximum TF and norm to posting list blocks (e.g., 64 postings or larger)
- Multi-Level: same stats for block of blocks!
- Stored in already existing "Skip List"



How does it work?

Faster top-k document retrieval using block-max indexes. SIGIR '11 Proceedings of the 34th international ACM SIGIR conference on Research and development in Information Retrieval, Pages 993-1002, https://doi.org/10.1145/2009916.2010048



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What's a skip list?

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What's a skip list?





What's a skip list?





"Super-speedy scoring in Lucene 8"

Talk by "@romseygeek" (Alan Woodward) after this one!



New Field and Query Types

- FeatureField
 - Encodes scoring value in TF
 - Allows to use **BlockMax** algorithms!
- LongPoint#newDistanceFeatureQuery
- LatLonPoint#newDistanceFeatureQuery

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New



LongPoir LatLonPc

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New IntervalQuery aka "Spans"

- Complete reimplementation of SpanQuery hierarchy of classes
- Single Query: An IntervalQuery takes a field name and an IntervalsSource, and matches all documents that contain intervals defined by the source in that field.



Possible IntervalSources provided by Intervals factory

- **term** Represents a single term
- phrase Represents a phrase
- **ordered** Represents an interval over an ordered set of terms or intervals
- **unordered** Represents an interval over an unordered set of terms or intervals
- or Represents the disjunction of a set of terms or intervals
- maxwidth Filters out intervals that are larger than a set width
- **containedBy** Returns intervals that are contained by another interval
- notContainedBy Returns intervals that are not contained by another interval
- **containing** Returns intervals that contain another interval
- **notContaining** Returns intervals that do *not* contain another interval
- nonOverlapping Returns intervals that do not overlap with another interval
- notWithin Returns intervals that do not appear within a set number of positions of another iv.

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Possible IntervalSources provided by Intervals factory

- term Represents a single term
- phrase Represents a phrase

Query q = new IntervalQuery(field,

Intervals.ordered(

Intervals.term("lucene"),

Intervals.maxwidth(3, Intervals.ordered(Intervals.term("foo"), Intervals.term("bar"))));

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contained by intervals that are contained by another interval

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ByteBuffersDirectory

- **Replacement** for non-scaleable **RAMDirectory**
 - Broken concurrency
 - Millions of small byte [8192] arrays
- Shares backing infrastructure with MMapDirectory
 - Allocates ByteBuffers (possibly off-heap!)



Index Format Improvements

- **BlockMax** statistics in Skip Lists
 - Speeds up disjunctions
- Jump tables for DocValues
 - DocValues based queries now allow to jump do later doc ids with O(1)

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HOW TO MIGRATE ?

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Lucene 7: Index Version Enforcement

Lucene stores version that created index

- Each segment records lowest version that contributed to it during merge
- Preserved during merges or index upgrades



Lucene 7: Index Version Enforcement (2)

- Better detection of no longer supported features
 - Broken offset detection by default enabled for new indexes

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• New norms data type!



Lucene 8: "Anti-Feature"

Removal of Lucene 6 index support!

- Get rid of old index segments?!: IndexUpgrader no longer helps!
- Elasticsearch supports reindexing old indexes during migration!





Lucene 8: "Anti-Feature"

If you need a hack when updating ancient indexes:

Contact me!

(there are ways to do this, but you will loose correct scoring)





Going forward...

New features and changes in Apache Solr 8

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- Solr nodes can now listen and serve HTTP/2 requests. Most of internal requests use Http2SolrClient.
- Internal requests are sent by using HTTP/2, Solr 8.0 nodes can't talk to old nodes (7.x).



W3C[®] HTTP/2: How to migrate

- Do rolling updates as normally, but the Solr 8.0 nodes must start with -Dsolr.httpl=true as startup parameter. By using this parameter internal requests are sent by using HTTP/1.1
- When all nodes are upgraded to 8.0, restart them, this time -Dsolr.httpl parameter should be removed.





HTTP/2: TLS

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Support for HTTP/2 with TLS enabled:

- Requirement: Java 9+
- Solr on Java 8 automatically *disables* HTTP/2 support if TLS is enabled!





BM25 changes

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- Lucene 8 has simplified BM25F compatible scoring
- Absolute scores are *lower!*
- Sort order will not change in normal cases
- Solr: If schema match version < 8, legacy scoring is used





Performance

Lucene/Solr: Minimum Java Version

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Current state

- Requirement: Java 8 as minimum version
- Apache Lucene works flawless with Java 9, 10, 11 => Faster!

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- Apache Solr has minor problems:
 - Hadoop integration (fix coming)
 - Kerberos Authentication (*fix coming*)
 - HTTP/2 with TLS requires Java 9+



Support for Java 9+

- Performance improvements in compression
 LZ4 (stored fields)
- More bounds checks in API
 - No slowdown with Java 9+ due to intrinsics

Lucene's JAR files are MR-JARs!

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- Performance imp – LZ4 (stored field
- More bounds ch
 - No slowdown w

Lucene's JA



Java 8 / 9 / 10 / 11

- No more Java 9 or 10 releases (EOL)
- Oracle Java 8 had LTS support till 3 days ago, now EOL!
- **Ubuntu** has LTS support for Java 8 and 11
- AdoptOpenJDK has LTS releases for 8 and 11



Future

- Lucene Master branch (9.0) likely to switch to Java 11 in near future!
- Lucene / Solr 8 stays on Java 8, but full support for later versions with MR-JAR feature!
- *Recommendation:* Use Java 11 LTS (AdoptOpenJDK) in production!



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THANK YOU!

Questions?







