

Package ‘rbm25’

July 23, 2025

Title A Light Wrapper Around the 'BM25' 'Rust' Crate for Okapi BM25 Text Search

Version 0.0.4

Description BM25 is a ranking function used by search engines to rank matching documents according to their relevance to a user's search query.
This package provides a light wrapper around the 'BM25' 'rust' crate for Okapi BM25 text search. For more information, see Robertson et al. (1994) <https://trec.nist.gov/pubs/trec3/t3_proceedings.html>.

Encoding UTF-8

URL <https://davzim.github.io/rbm25/>, <https://github.com/DavZim/rbm25/>

BugReports <https://github.com/DavZim/rbm25/issues>

SystemRequirements Cargo (Rust's package manager), rustc >= 1.71.1

Imports R6

Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.0)

License MIT + file LICENSE

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Config/rextendr/version 0.3.1.9001

Config/testthat/edition 3

Config/rbm25/MSRV 1.71.1

Depends R (>= 4.2)

NeedsCompilation yes

Author David Zimmermann-Kollenda [aut, cre],
Michael Barlow [aut] (bm25 Rust library),
Authors of the dependency Rust crates [aut] (see AUTHORS file)

Maintainer David Zimmermann-Kollenda <david_j_zimmermann@hotmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-04-14 22:40:02 UTC

Contents

BM25	2
bm25_score	6
Index	8

BM25	<i>BM25 Object</i>
------	--------------------

Description

Class to construct the BM25 search object

Methods

Public methods:

- `BM25$new()`
- `BM25$available_languages()`
- `BM25$get_data()`
- `BM25$get_lang()`
- `BM25$print()`
- `BM25$add_data()`
- `BM25$query()`
- `BM25$clone()`

Method `new()`: Creates a new instance of a BM25 class

Usage:

```
BM25$new(data = NULL, lang = "detect", k1 = 1.2, b = 0.75, metadata = NULL)
```

Arguments:

`data` text data, a vector of strings. Note any preprocessing steps (tolower, removing stopwords etc) need to have taken place before this!

`lang` language of the data, see `self$available_languages()`, can also be "detect" to automatically detect the language, default is "detect"

`k1` k1 parameter of BM25, default is 1.2

`b` b parameter of BM25, default is 0.75

`metadata` a data.frame with metadata for each document, default is NULL must be a data.frame with the same number of rows containing arbitrary metadata for each document, e.g. a file path or a URL

Returns: BM25 object

Examples:

```
corpus <- c(
  "The rabbit munched the orange carrot.",
  "The snake hugged the green lizard.",
  "The hedgehog impaled the orange orange.",
  "The squirrel buried the brown nut."
)
bm25 <- BM25$new(data = corpus, lang = "en",
  metadata = data.frame(src = paste("file", 1:4)))
bm25
bm25$get_data()

bm25$query("orange", max_n = 2)
bm25$query("orange", max_n = 3)
bm25$query("orange") # return all, same as max_n = Inf or NULL
```

Method `available_languages()`: Returns the available languages

Usage:

```
BM25$available_languages()
```

Returns: a named character vector with language codes and their full names

Examples:

```
BM25$new()$available_languages()
```

Method `get_data()`: Returns the data

Usage:

```
BM25$get_data(add_metadata = TRUE)
```

Arguments:

`add_metadata` whether to add metadata to the data, default is TRUE

Returns: a data.frame with the data and metadata if available and selected

Examples:

```
BM25$new(data = letters, metadata = LETTERS)$get_data()
```

Method `get_lang()`: Returns the language used

Usage:

```
BM25$get_lang()
```

Returns: a character string with the language code

Examples:

```
BM25$new()$get_lang()
BM25$new(lang = "en")$get_lang()
BM25$new(lang = "detect")$get_lang()
```

Method `print()`: Prints a BM25 object

Usage:

```
BM25$print(n = 5, nchar = 20)
```

Arguments:

n number of data to print, default is 5

nchar number of characters to print for each text, default is 20

Returns: the object invisible

Examples:

```
BM25$new(data = letters, metadata = LETTERS)
```

Method `add_data()`: Adds data to the BM25 object

This can be useful to add more data later on, note this will rebuild the engine.

Usage:

```
BM25$add_data(data, metadata = NULL)
```

Arguments:

data a vector of strings

metadata a data.frame with metadata for each document, default is NULL

Returns: NULL

Examples:

```
bm25 <- BM25$new()
bm25$add_data(letters, metadata = LETTERS)
bm25
```

Method `query()`: Query the BM25 object for the N best matches

Usage:

```
BM25$query(query, max_n = NULL, return_text = TRUE, return_metadata = TRUE)
```

Arguments:

query the term to search for, note all preprocessing that was applied to the text corpus initially needs to be already performed on the term, e.g., tolower, removing stopwords etc

max_n the maximum number of results to return, default is all

return_text whether to return the text, default is TRUE

return_metadata whether to return metadata, default is TRUE

Returns: a data.frame with the results

Examples:

```
corpus <- c(
  "The rabbit munched the orange carrot.",
  "The snake hugged the green lizard.",
  "The hedgehog impaled the orange orange.",
  "The squirrel buried the brown nut."
)
bm25 <- BM25$new(data = corpus, lang = "en",
  metadata = data.frame(src = paste("file", 1:4)))

bm25$query("orange", max_n = 2)
bm25$query("orange", max_n = 3)
bm25$query("orange", return_text = FALSE, return_metadata = FALSE)
bm25$query("orange", max_n = 3)
```

Method `clone()`: The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

```
BM25$clone(deep = FALSE)
```

Arguments:

`deep` Whether to make a deep clone.

Examples

```
corpus <- c(
  "The rabbit munched the orange carrot.",
  "The snake hugged the green lizard.",
  "The hedgehog impaled the orange orange.",
  "The squirrel buried the brown nut."
)
bm25 <- BM25$new(data = corpus, lang = "en",
  metadata = data.frame(src = paste("file", 1:4)))
bm25$query("orange", max_n = 2)
bm25$query("orange")

## -----
## Method `BM25$new`
## -----

corpus <- c(
  "The rabbit munched the orange carrot.",
  "The snake hugged the green lizard.",
  "The hedgehog impaled the orange orange.",
  "The squirrel buried the brown nut."
)
bm25 <- BM25$new(data = corpus, lang = "en",
  metadata = data.frame(src = paste("file", 1:4)))
bm25
bm25$get_data()

bm25$query("orange", max_n = 2)
bm25$query("orange", max_n = 3)
bm25$query("orange") # return all, same as max_n = Inf or NULL

## -----
## Method `BM25$available_languages`
## -----

BM25$new()$available_languages()

## -----
## Method `BM25$get_data`
## -----

BM25$new(data = letters, metadata = LETTERS)$get_data()

## -----
```

```
## Method `BM25$get_lang`
## -----

BM25$new()$get_lang()
BM25$new(lang = "en")$get_lang()
BM25$new(lang = "detect")$get_lang()

## -----
## Method `BM25$print`
## -----

BM25$new(data = letters, metadata = LETTERS)

## -----
## Method `BM25$add_data`
## -----

bm25 <- BM25$new()
bm25$add_data(letters, metadata = LETTERS)
bm25

## -----
## Method `BM25$query`
## -----

corpus <- c(
  "The rabbit munched the orange carrot.",
  "The snake hugged the green lizard.",
  "The hedgehog impaled the orange orange.",
  "The squirrel buried the brown nut."
)
bm25 <- BM25$new(data = corpus, lang = "en",
  metadata = data.frame(src = paste("file", 1:4)))

bm25$query("orange", max_n = 2)
bm25$query("orange", max_n = 3)
bm25$query("orange", return_text = FALSE, return_metadata = FALSE)
bm25$query("orange", max_n = 3)
```

bm25_score

Score a text corpus based on the Okapi BM25 algorithm

Description

A simple wrapper around the [BM25](#) class.

Usage

```
bm25_score(data, query, lang = NULL, k1 = 1.2, b = 0.75)
```

Arguments

data	text data, a vector of strings. Note any preprocessing steps (tolower, removing stopwords etc) need to have taken place before this!
query	the term to search for, note all preprocessing that was applied to the text corpus initially needs to be already performed on the term, e.g., tolower, removing stopwords etc
lang	language of the data, see self\$available_languages(), can also be "detect" to automatically detect the language, default is "detect"
k1	k1 parameter of BM25, default is 1.2
b	b parameter of BM25, default is 0.75

Value

a numeric vector of the BM25 scores, note higher values are showing a higher relevance of the text to the query

See Also

[BM25](#)

Examples

```
corpus <- c(
  "The rabbit munched the orange carrot.",
  "The snake hugged the green lizard.",
  "The hedgehog impaled the orange orange.",
  "The squirrel buried the brown nut."
)
scores <- bm25_score(data = corpus, query = "orange")
data.frame(text = corpus, scores_orange = scores)
```

Index

BM25, [2](#), [6](#), [7](#)
bm25_score, [6](#)