Some Preliminary Remarks on the Cenoscopic and Idioscopic aspects of Information Retrieval

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Abstract

Human-computer information retrieval (HCIR) or IR is discipline/discourse and perhaps amongst the most commonly used applications–search–enabling our ubiquitous interconnected and technology-mediated modern reality. Technical discourses of IR aim to develop algorithms to effectively join users to information (documents, images, or more generally, information experiences). It also aims to evaluate its algorithms and systems, and to understand what works and what doesn’t. This focus on discovering and analysing new phenomena pertaining to search strategies (and recommendation and ranking functions), user-interaction strategies and so on refers to the idioscopic dimension of IR. However, this discourses presumes–i.e. is founded-upon–deeper ideas pertaining for example to human-communication and psychology, problems of knowledge and about the structure of social reality, these are its cenoscopic or more philosophical aspects. This paper analyses some of these deeper ideas and how they have appeared in their corresponding idioscopic form as mathematical and cybernetic models of agent communication. This paper indicates that it is necessary to separate the idioscopic and cenoscopic aspects of such discourses to allow the respective phenomena to be analyzed
Some Preliminary Remarks on the Cenoscopic and Idioscopic aspects of Information Retrieval

according to the methodology proper to it.

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Some Preliminary Remarks on the Cenoscopic and Idioscopic aspects of Information Retrieval


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