

How does Feedback Signal Quality Impact the Effectiveness of Pseudo Relevance Feedback for Passage Retrieval?

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Strong Relevance Signal

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Moderate Relevance Signal

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Weak Relevance Signal

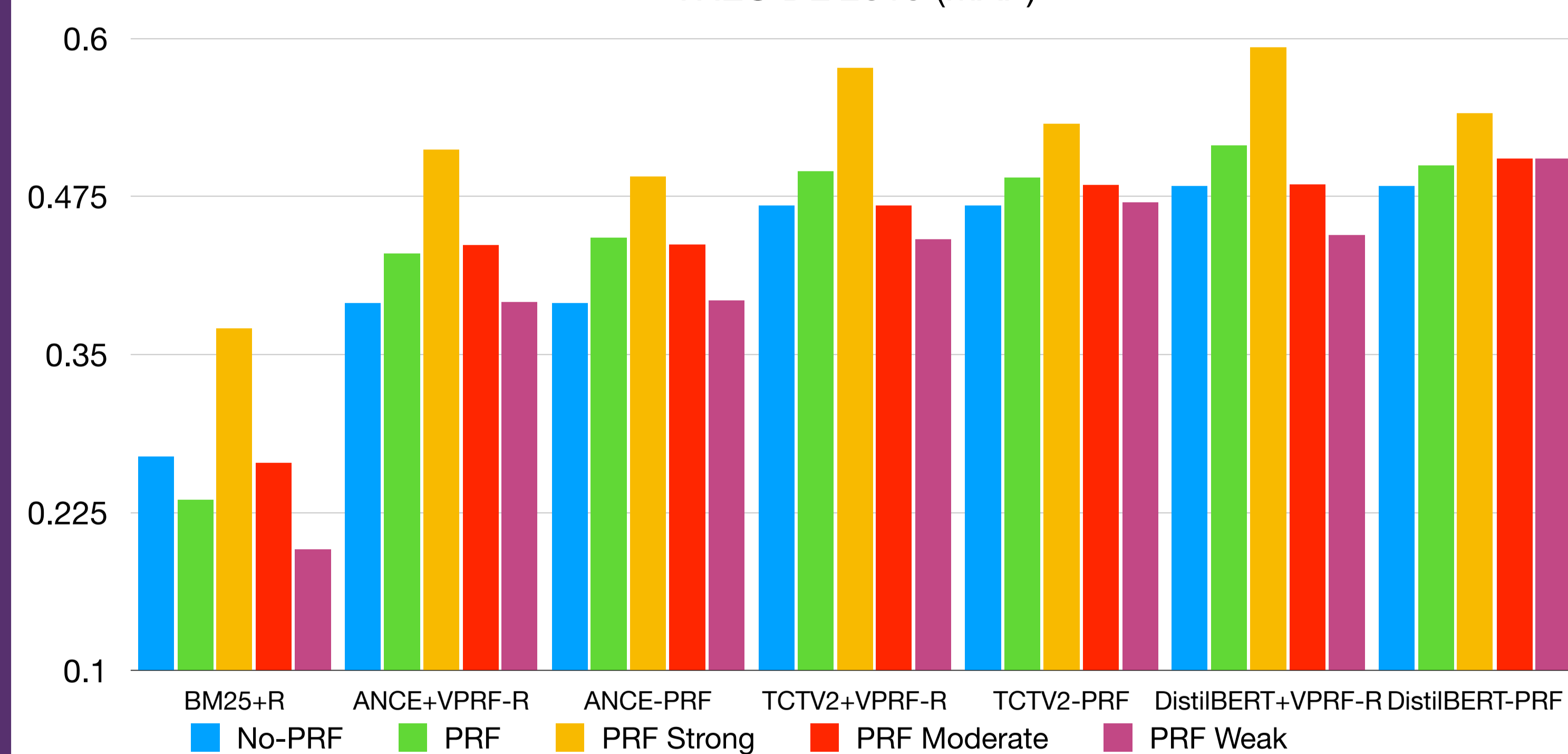
Pseudo Relevance Feedback

We control the quality of the relevance signal passed to PRF, and study:

1. How do PRF methods respond to relevance signals of differing quality?
2. What signal representation better across different signal qualities: dense or sparse?

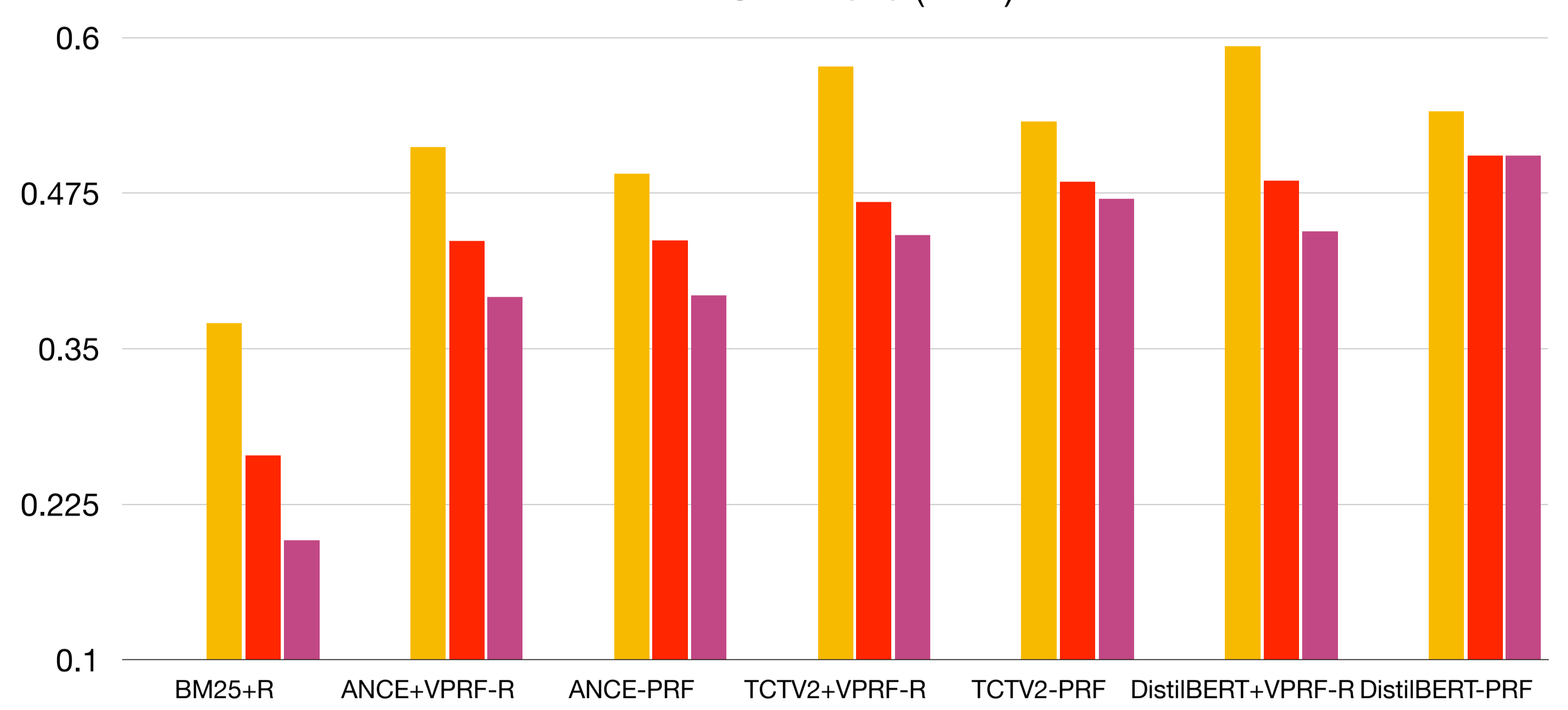
1. Signal Quality & PRF

Effectiveness for Different Models with Different Signal Qualities on TREC DL 2019 (MAP)



2. Signal Quality & Representations

Effectiveness for Different Models with Different Signal Qualities on TREC DL 2019 (MAP)



Take Aways

Stability: differs from one PRF method to another.

Learnt PRF methods more resilient to weak signals than not-learnt methods.

Representations: dense representations are better than bag-of-words representations



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