

IBM @ TREC Clinical Trials Track 2021

Laura Biester

Venkata Joopudi

Bharath Dandala



Topics

Free Text

75

Trials

- Inclusion criteria
- Exclusion criteria
- Conditions
- Treatments
- Keywords
- MeSH terms

375K



Top 1K trials per
topic

Topics

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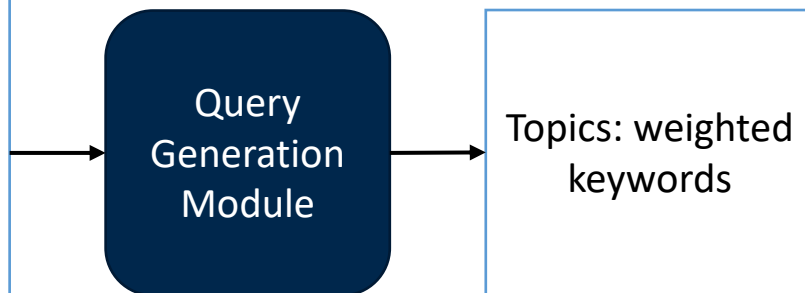
375K

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Topics

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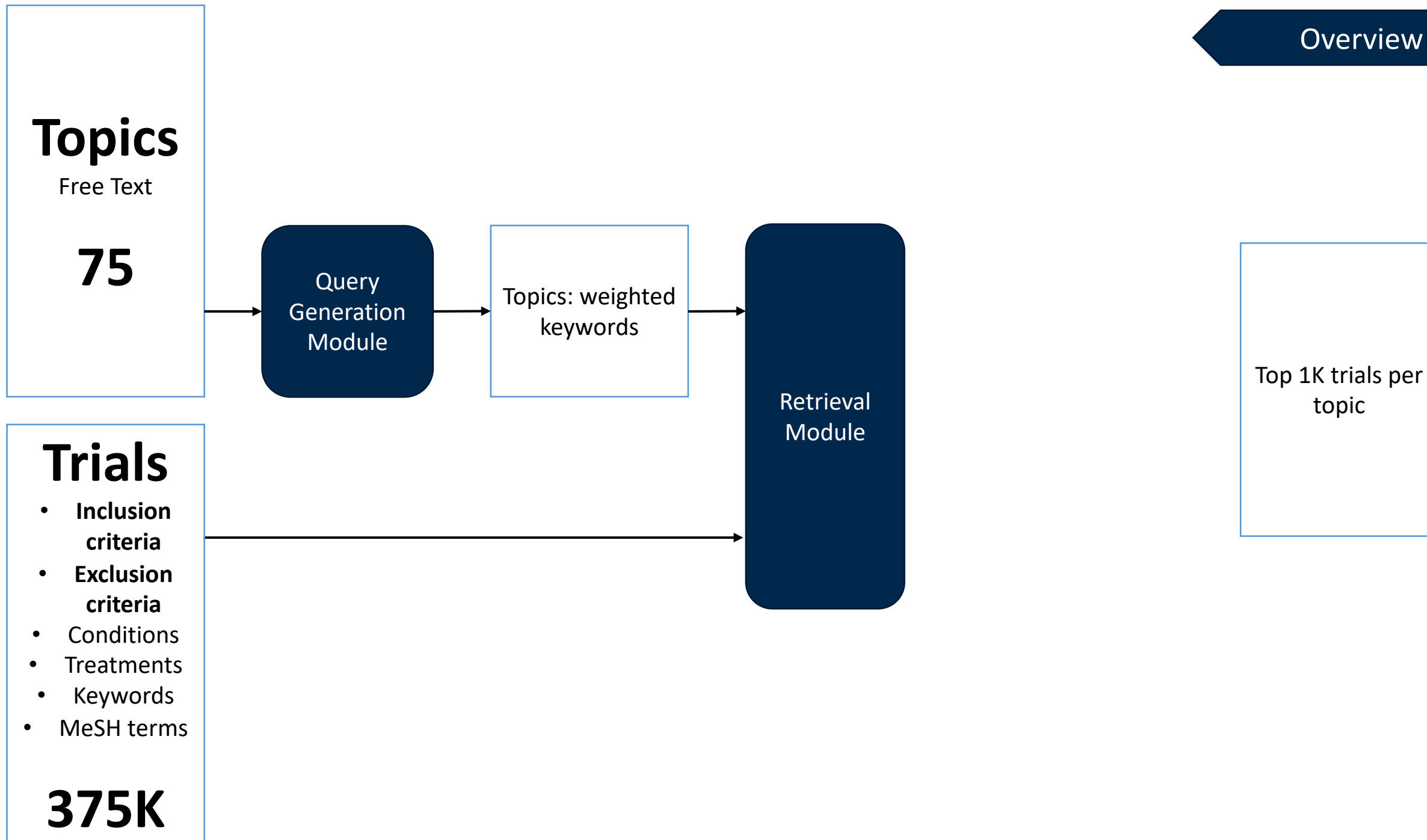
Topics: weighted keywords

Top 1K trials per topic

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Topics

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Query
Generation
Module

Topics: weighted
keywords

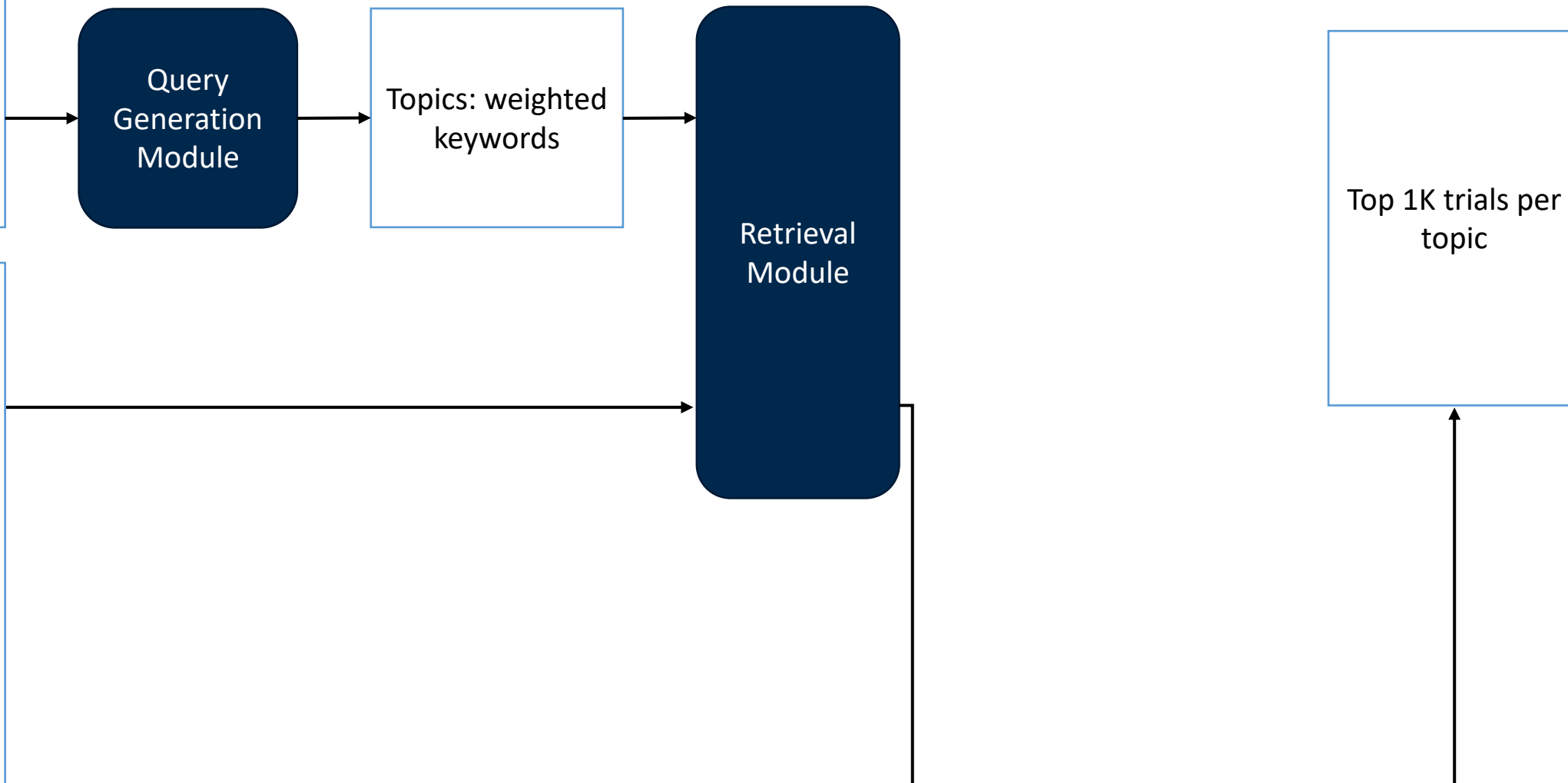
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Top 1K trials per
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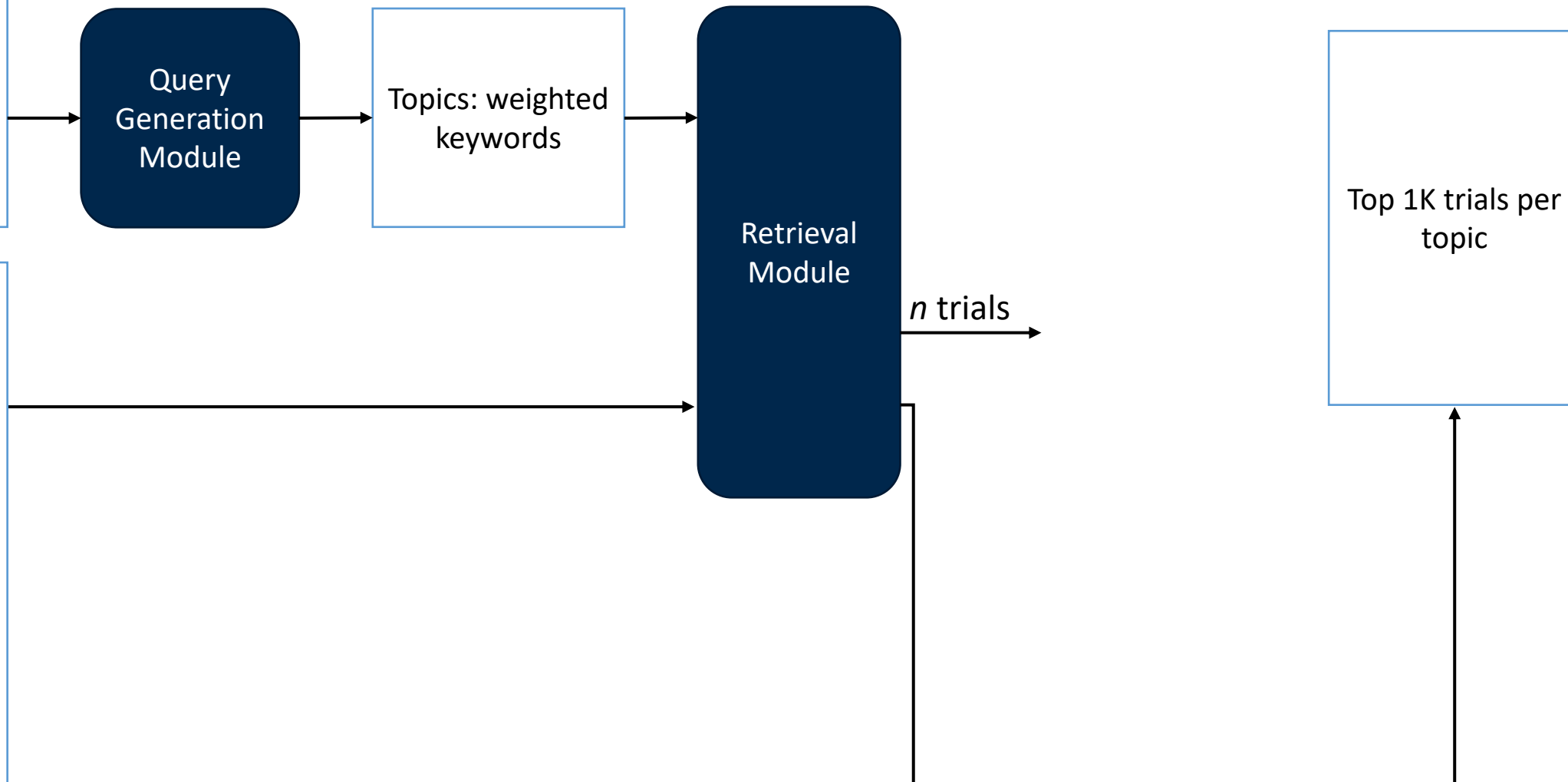
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Topics

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Query
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Module

Topics: weighted
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Retrieval
Module

Neural
Reranker

Top 1K trials per
topic

Trials

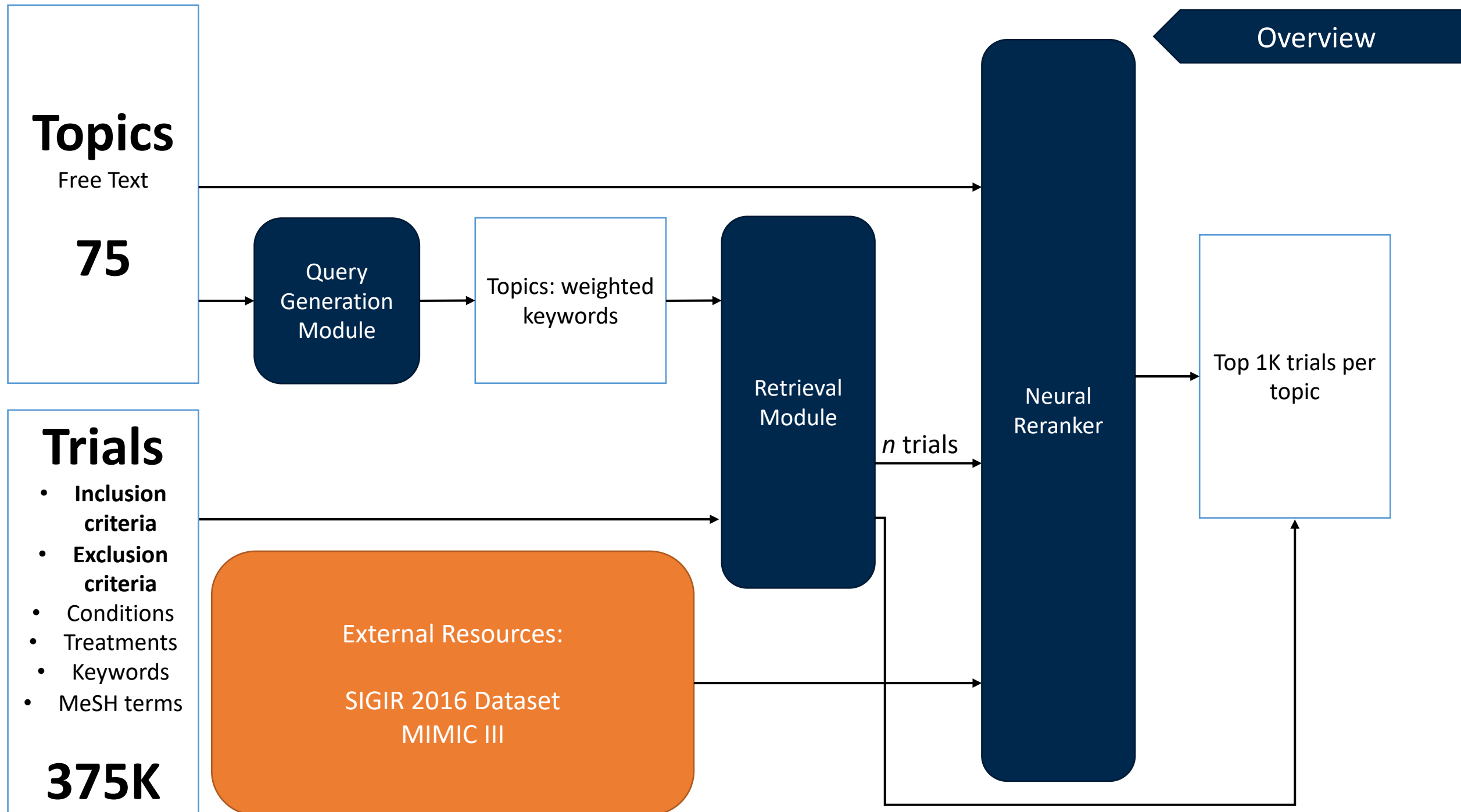
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External Resources:

SIGIR 2016 Dataset
MIMIC III

n trials

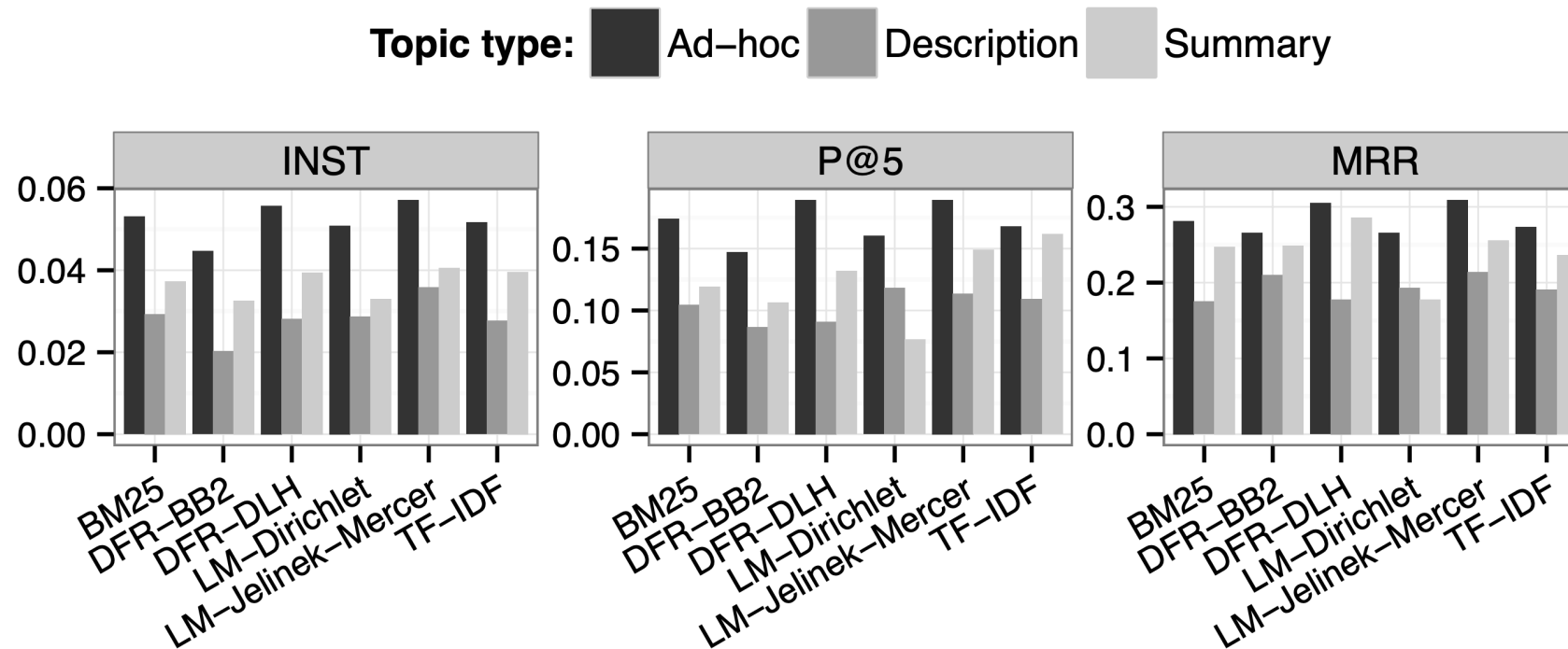


Ad-hoc Query Inspiration

Koopman and Zuccon (2016) use **ad-hoc queries** for retrieval

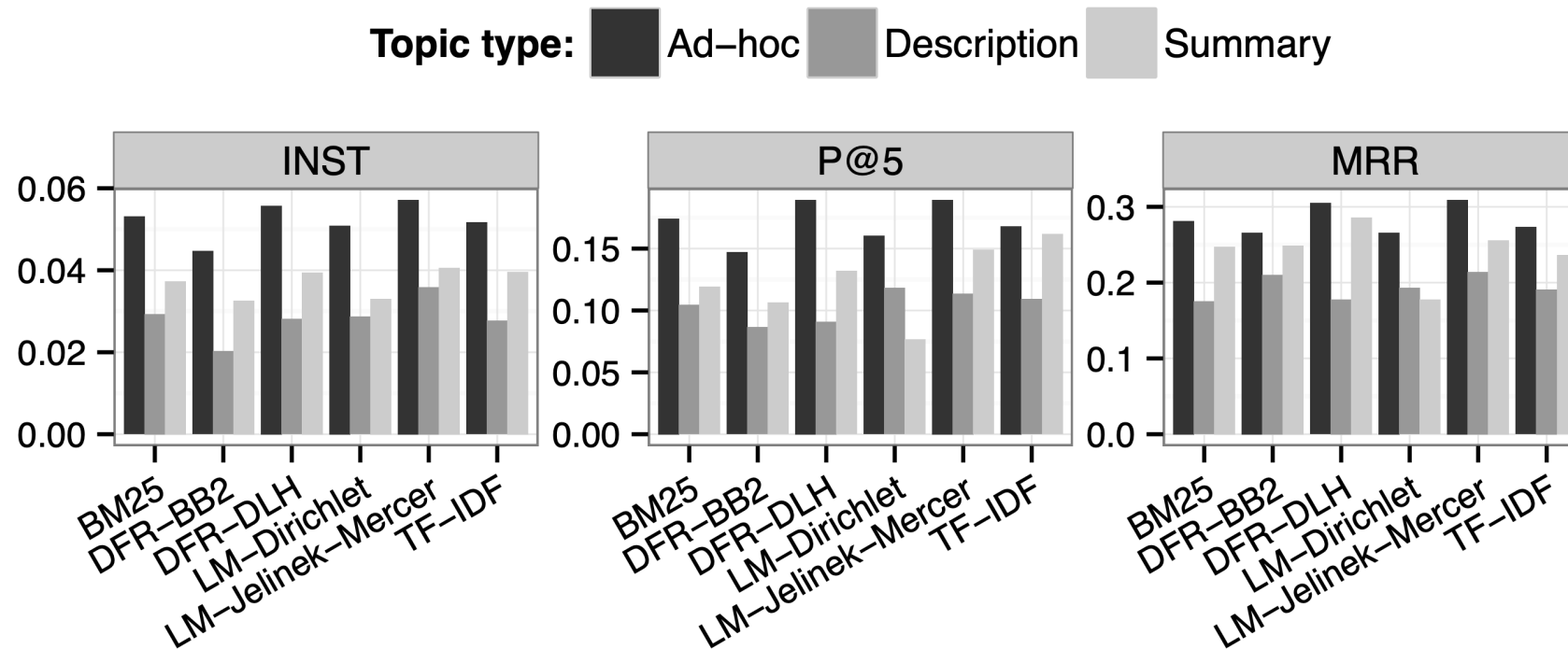
Ad-hoc Query Inspiration

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Can we mimic this process with automated methods?

Overview

Step 1

- Extract pertinent information using IBM Watson's Annotator for Clinical Data (ACD)

Overview

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Step 2

- Using *external resources*, identify unique diseases

Overview

Step 1

- Extract pertinent information using IBM Watson's Annotator for Clinical Data (ACD)

Step 2

- Using *external resources*, identify unique diseases

Step 3

- Normalize and standardize features, using the resulting sum as query weight

Query Example

PreviewJSON OutputReset Sample Text↻Edit Text✎

A 35-year-old woman presents with history of **acne^D** and mild **hirsutism^D**. The primary evaluation revealed elevated testosterone. She recently noticed gradual **enlargement^P** of her hands and feet and recognized that her ring is getting small for her finger. The irregularity in her menstrual cycle as well as some **nipple discharge^D**. She also has positive history for **snoring^D** and **headache^D**. Physical examination revealed subtle facial features of **acromegaly^D** and **prognathism^D**. Visual fields are normal by confrontation. **Hirsutism^D** tissue **thickening^D** and **diaphoresis^D** of the hands and feet are noted. Laboratory evaluation in the fasting state reveals IGF-1 c and random GH of 19.7 ng/mL. MRI reveals a macroadenoma with no invasion. She is on stable doses of octreotide LAR. The diagnosis was confirmed. She is married and has 2 children. She is using IUD as her contraceptive method.

Insights ⓘ

Show/hide all

☐ ● AbnormalFinding (A) ⓘ5 ▾

☒ ● Diagnosis (D) ⓘ10 ▲

☒ acne vulgaris1 ▾

☒ acromegaly1 ▲

Usage:

Explicit	<div></div>	94.4%
Discussed	<div></div>	5.5%
Patient reported	<div></div>	0.1%

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extracted entities

acromegaly
congenital prognathism
nipple discharge
hirsutism
acne vulgaris
snoring
excessive sweating
increased thickness
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headache



feature	sign	snoring	acromegaly
IsPotentialDiagnosis	+	0	1
IsDiagnosis	+	0	1
IsPatientReportedCondition	+	0	0
IsSymptom	-	1	0
IsRareDisease	+	0	1
IsPMH	-	1	0
IDF_MIMIC	-	-.5	-.000001
IDF_PUBMED	-	-.5	-.000002

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Preview | JSON Output | Reset Sample Text | Edit Text

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Standardization
and normalization

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<https://acd-try-it-out.mybluemix.net/preview>

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IDF_MIMIC	-	-.5	-.000001
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Standardization
and normalization

weighted ad-hoc query list

acromegaly **0.8165**
congenital prognathism **0.54**
nipple discharge 0.24
hirsutism 0.24
acne vulgaris 0.09
snoring 0.00
excessive sweating 0.00
increased thickness 0.00
headache 0.00

Retrieval Modules

Lucene

- Using our ad-hoc queries, we search a **Lucene Index** with **BM25**
- Index includes trial *conditions* and *treatment* fields
- Query-level boosting used to boost terms according to our query weights

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Semantic Textual Similarity (STS)

- Transformer-based model used to encode text
- Measure weight-normalized **pairwise cosine similarity** between topic queries and trial condition/intervention fields

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Semantic Textual Similarity (STS)

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As input to neural rerankers, use a weighted average of Lucene and STS ranks to compute top 2k trials

Data

Two obvious data sources: TREC and Koopman and Zuccon's dataset from SIGIR

Dataset	Patient Descriptions	Clinical Trials	Labeled Pairs
TREC	75	375K	0
SIGIR	60	204K	3870

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Neural Reranker : Data Generation

Patient is a 50-year-old left-handed man who is here for a follow up of his left sphenoid meningioma. He presented electively for left sided craniotomy for mass resection. His neurological problem began last year when he became confused and disoriented in a hotel bathroom. At that time, he was visiting his daughter for a wedding. His wife found him slumped over in the bath tube. According to her, his eyes looked funny. He could not stand up. His verbal output did not make sense. He was brought to Hospital in Placentia, CA. He woke up 7 to 8 hours later in the emergency room. He felt very tired after the event. He was hospitalized from **[**2142-6-22**]** to **[**2142-6-25**]**. He had a cardiac pacemaker placement due to irregular heart rate and bradycardia. He also had a head MRI that showed a less than 1 cm diameter sphenoid meningioma.

DIAGNOSIS CODES

388887,42130,114236,1,"2252", meningioma
388888,42130,114236,2,"4019", hypertension
388889,42130,114236,3,"42731",atrial fibrillation

PROCEDURE CODES

238000,42130,114236,1,"0151",craniotomy

Showing: 1-100 of **180** studies 100 studies per page

Show/Hide Columns

Row	Saved	Status	Study Title	Conditions	Interventions	Locations
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not yet recruiting	The Use of Eye Patches and Earplugs in Intensive Care in Cases of Craniotomy.	• Craniotomy	• Device: eye patch and earplug	

Showing: 1-100 of **214** studies 100 studies per page

Show/Hide Columns

Row	Saved	Status	Study Title	Conditions	Interventions	Locations
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed	Meningiomas and Treatment With CYPROTERONE ACETATE or Progestin	• Meningioma		• Département de Nutrition - CHRU de Brest Brest, France

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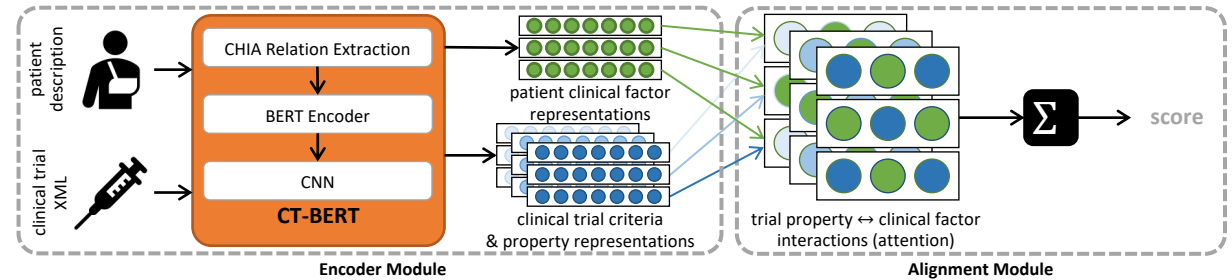
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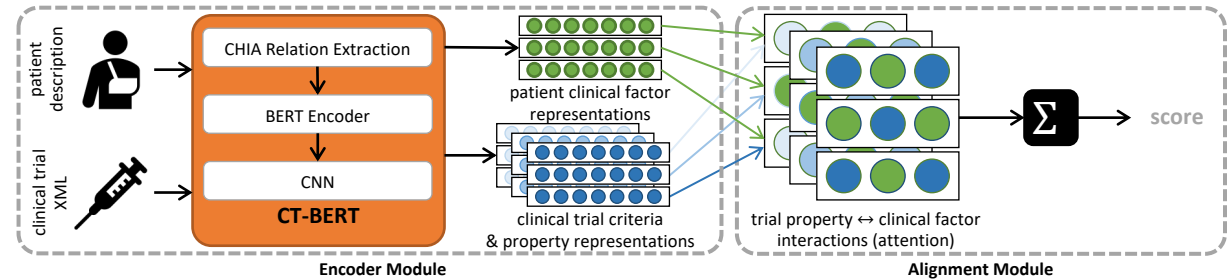
Use MIMIC III to generate **more than 700K** silver-standard training pairs

Overview and Inspiration



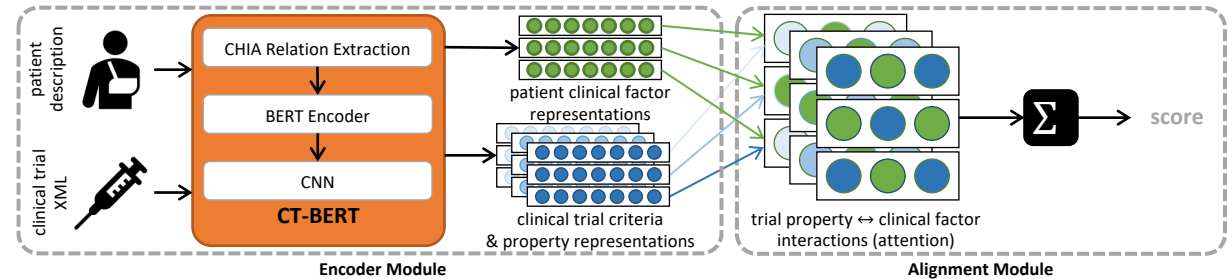
Overview and Inspiration

1. The model identifies + encodes meaningful topic/trial information



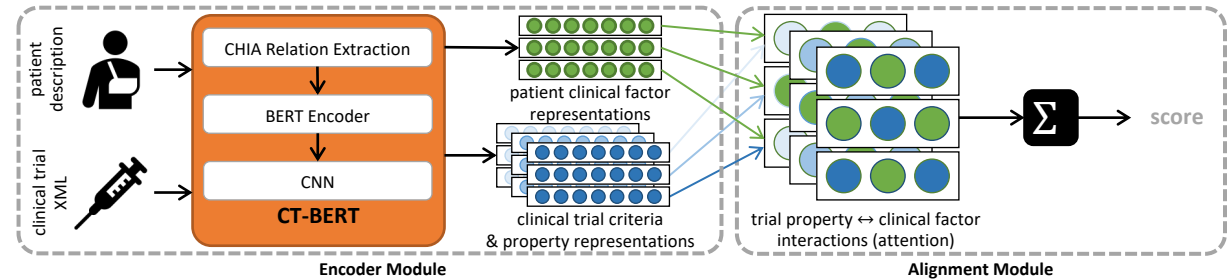
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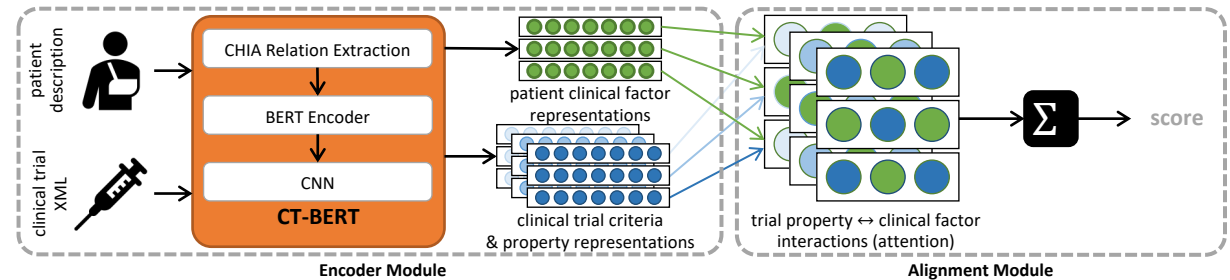
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Inspired by DeepEnroll; uses natural language inference model to determine if trials match patients.

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1. The model identifies + encodes meaningful topic/trial information
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Inspired by DeepEnroll; uses natural language inference model to determine if trials match patients.

Differs from us in that they use structured EHR!

Encoding

Topic
Free-Text

Trial

Inclusion Criteria

Exclusion Criteria

Conditions

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MeSH Terms

Encoding

Topic
Free-Text

Trial

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Free-Text

Keyword Lists

Encoding

Topic
Free-Text

Trial

Inclusion Criteria

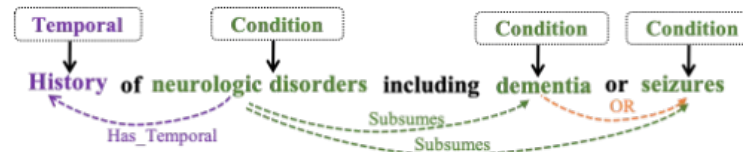
Exclusion Criteria

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CHIA relation extraction

Extract entities with joint entity-relation extraction model (Wang and Lu, 2020) trained on CHIA annotations (Kury et al., 2020)

Free-Text

Keyword Lists

Encoding

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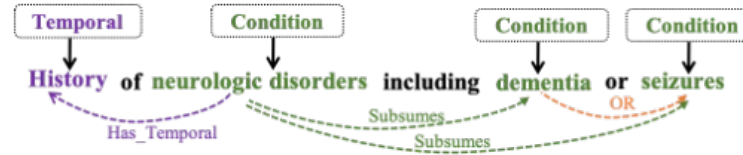
Interventions

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BERT-Based Encoder

Full text encoded using BERT model (Clinical BERT, BlueBERT)
Embeddings extracted for spans from CHIA

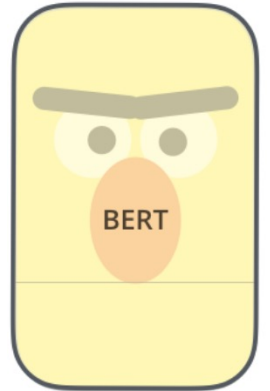
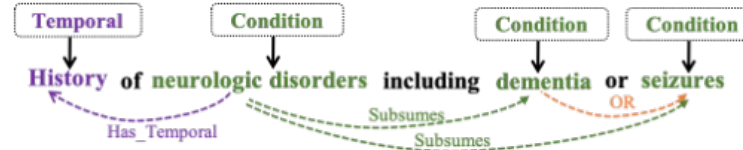


Image Source: <https://jalammar.github.io/illustrated-bert/>

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Topic
Free-Text



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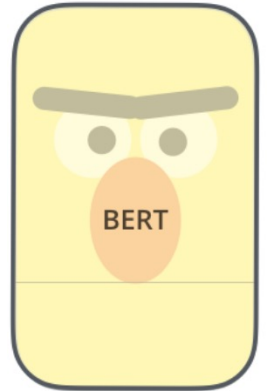


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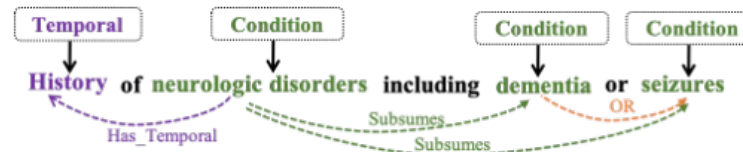
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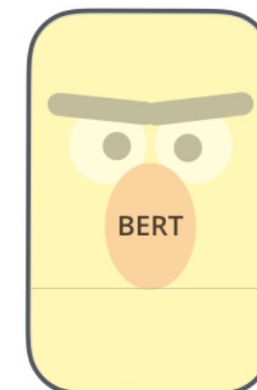


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CNN

We use a CNN to handle spans with have multiple tokens

Free-Text

Keyword Lists

Encoding

Topic
Free-Text

Trial

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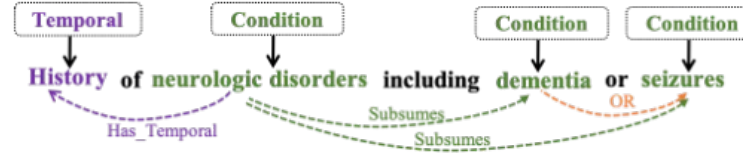
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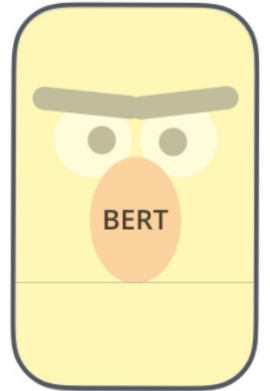
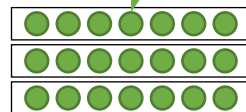


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patient representation

CNN

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Topic
Free-Text

Trial

Inclusion Criteria

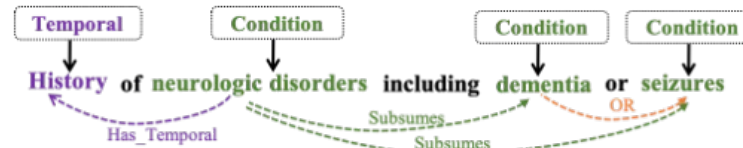
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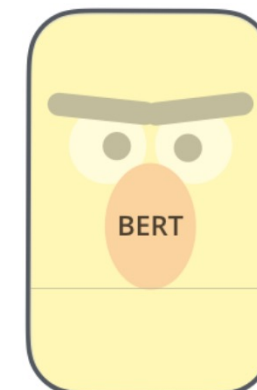
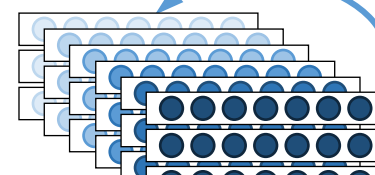
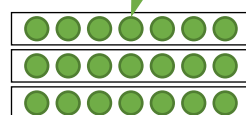


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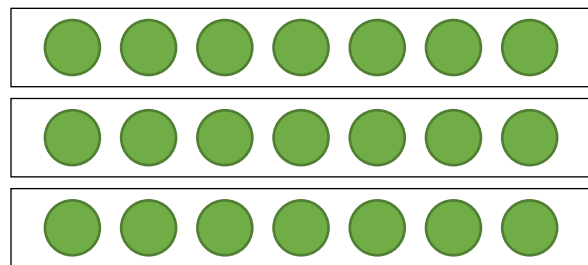
CNN

We use a CNN to handle spans with have multiple tokens

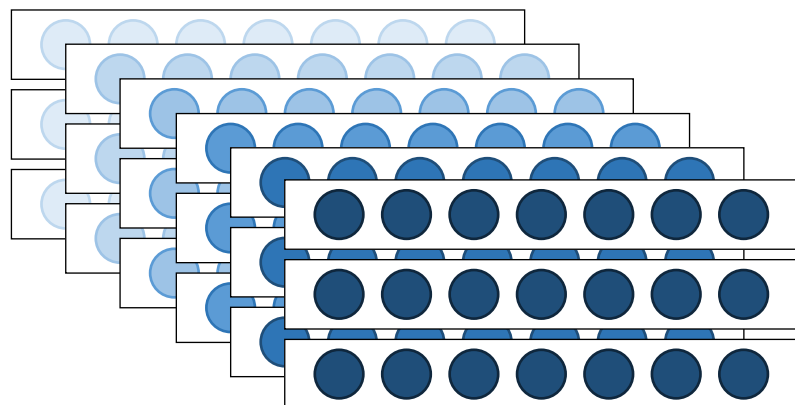
patient representation trial representations



Alignment

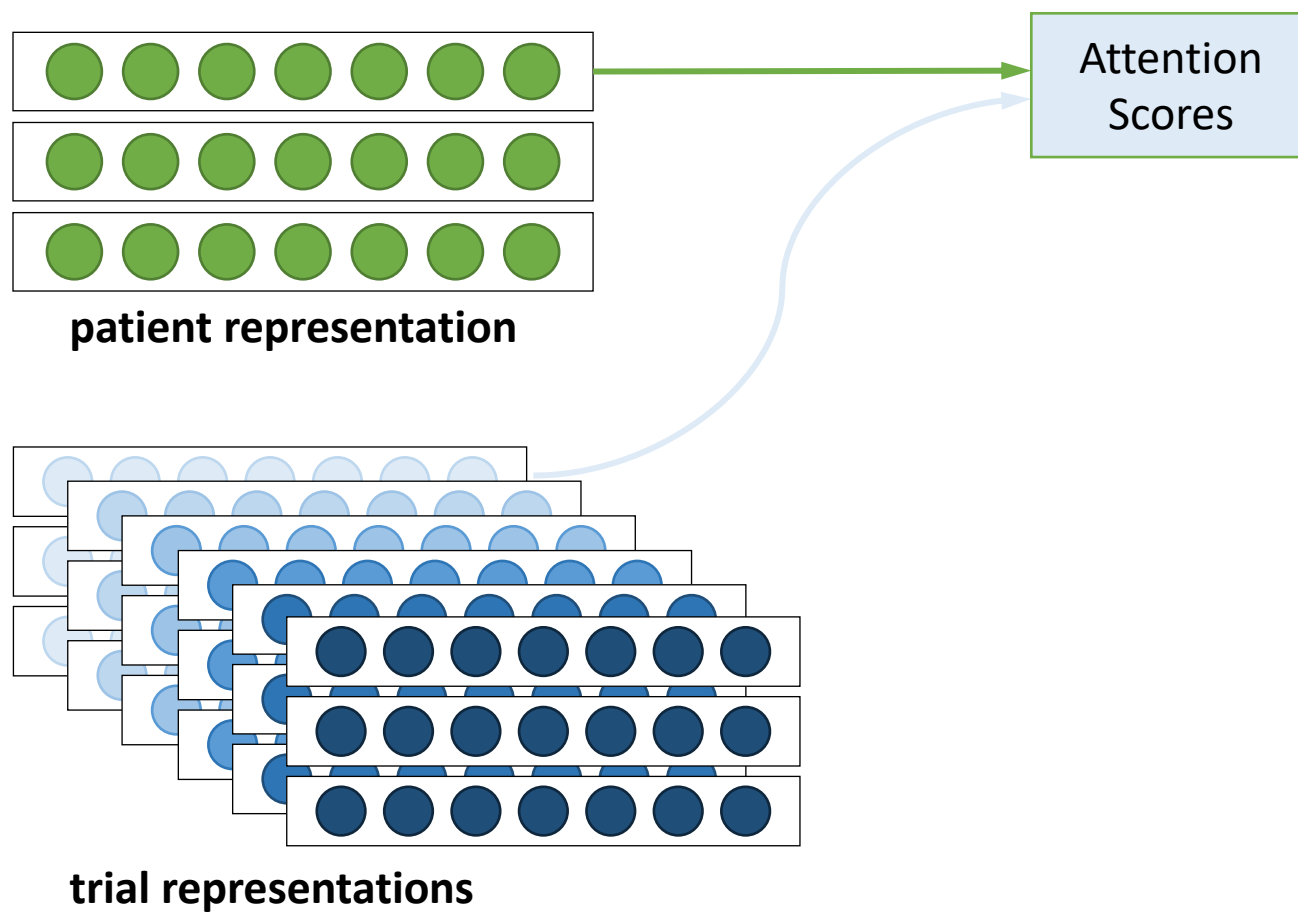


patient representation

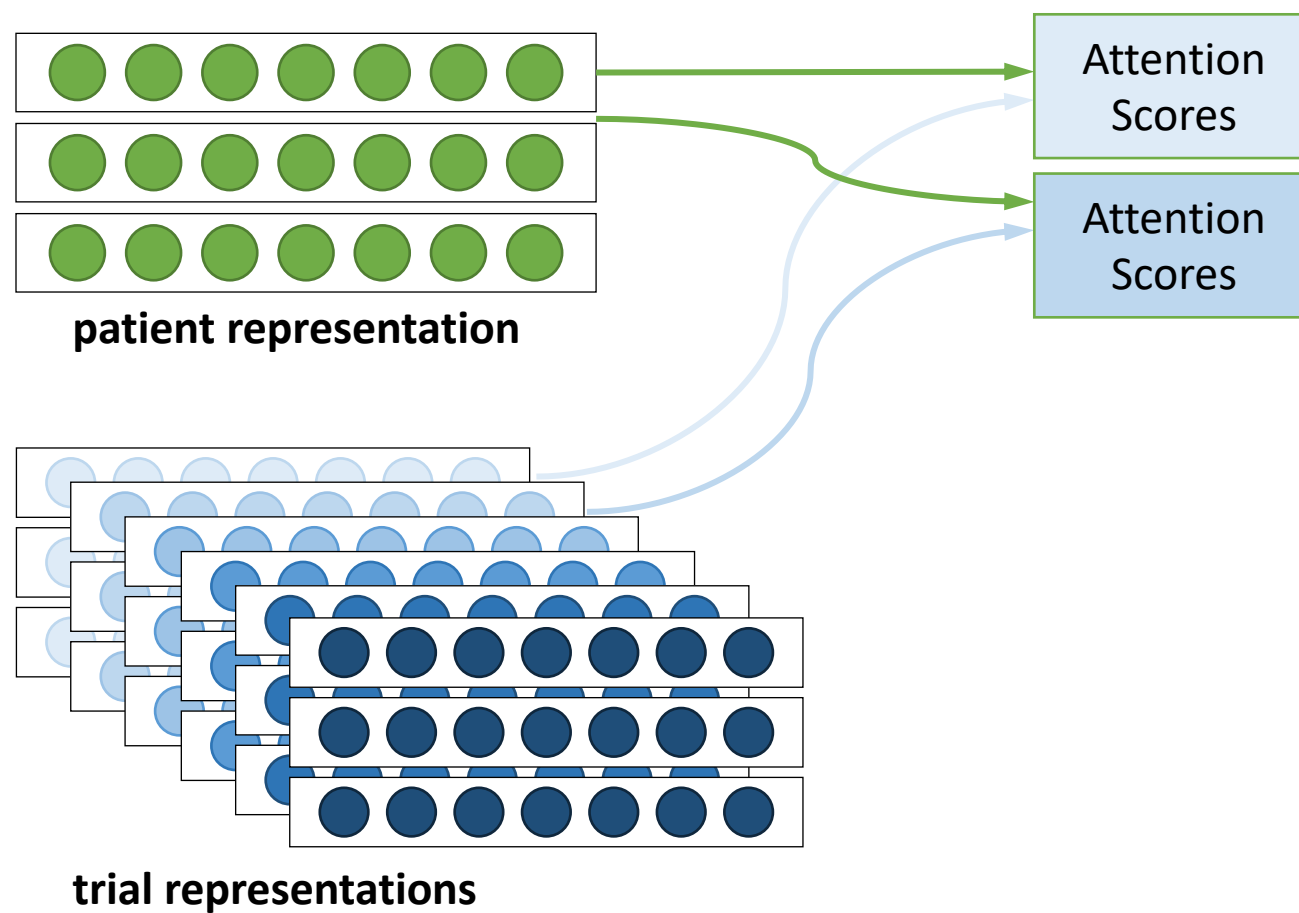


trial representations

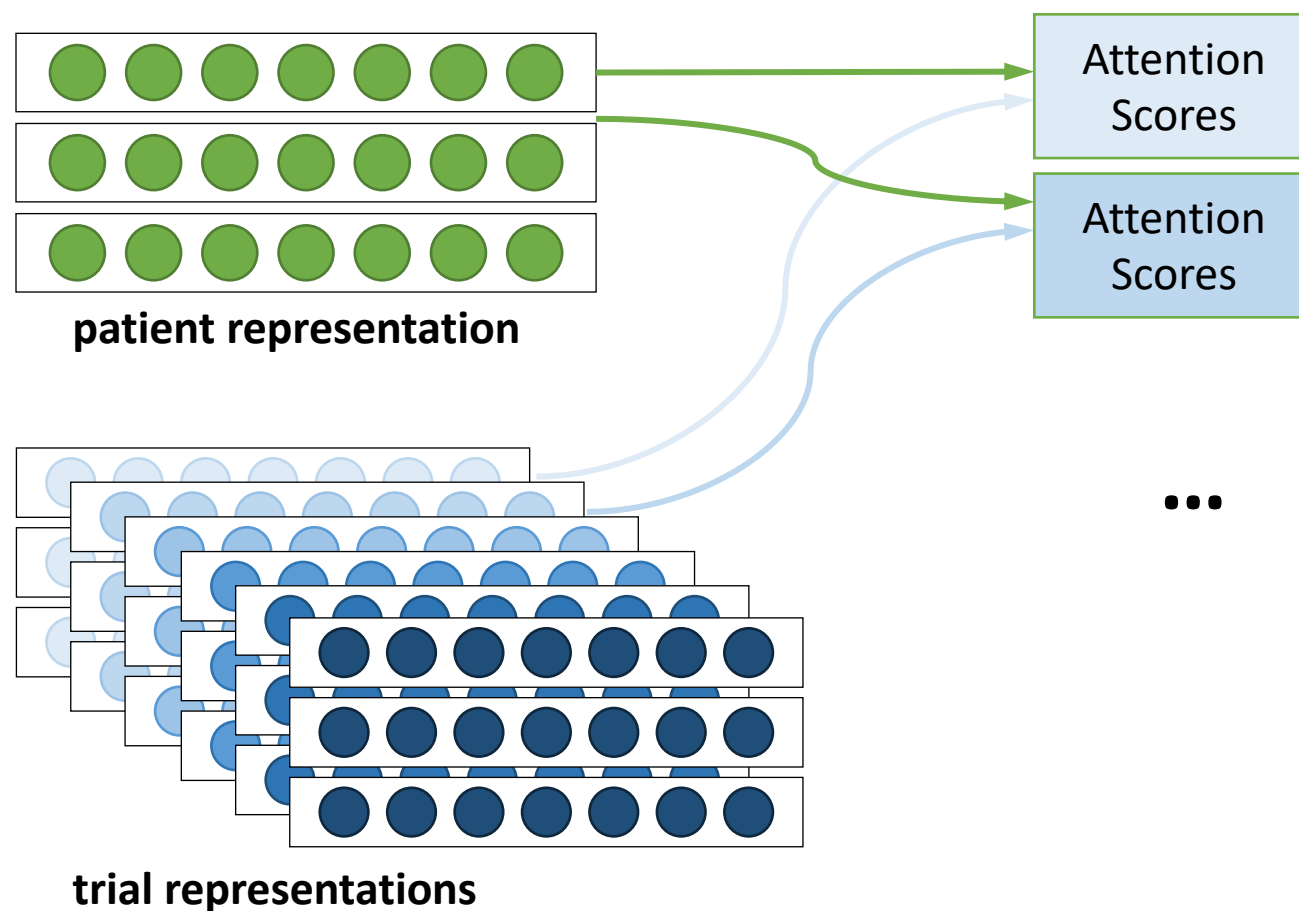
Alignment



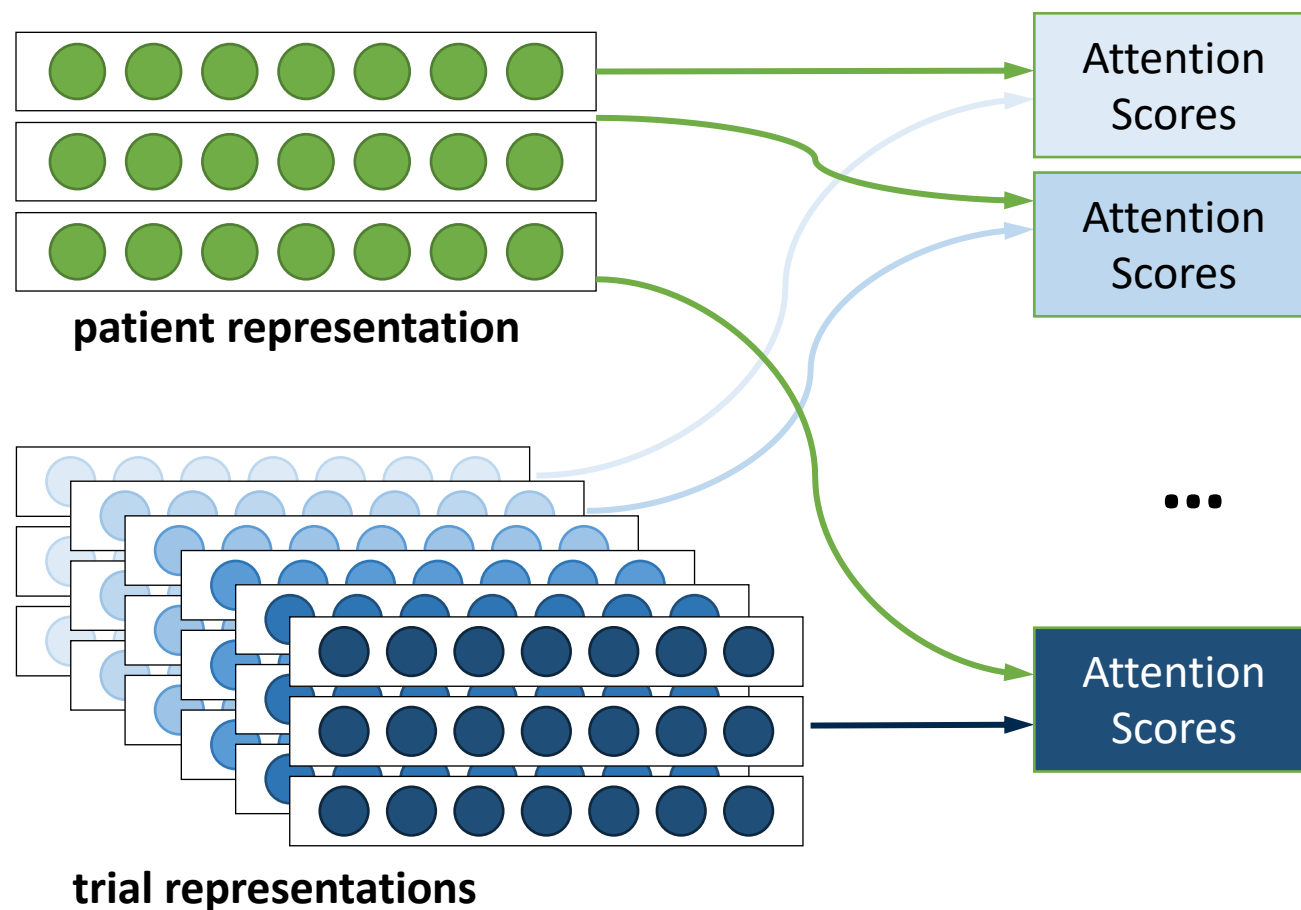
Alignment



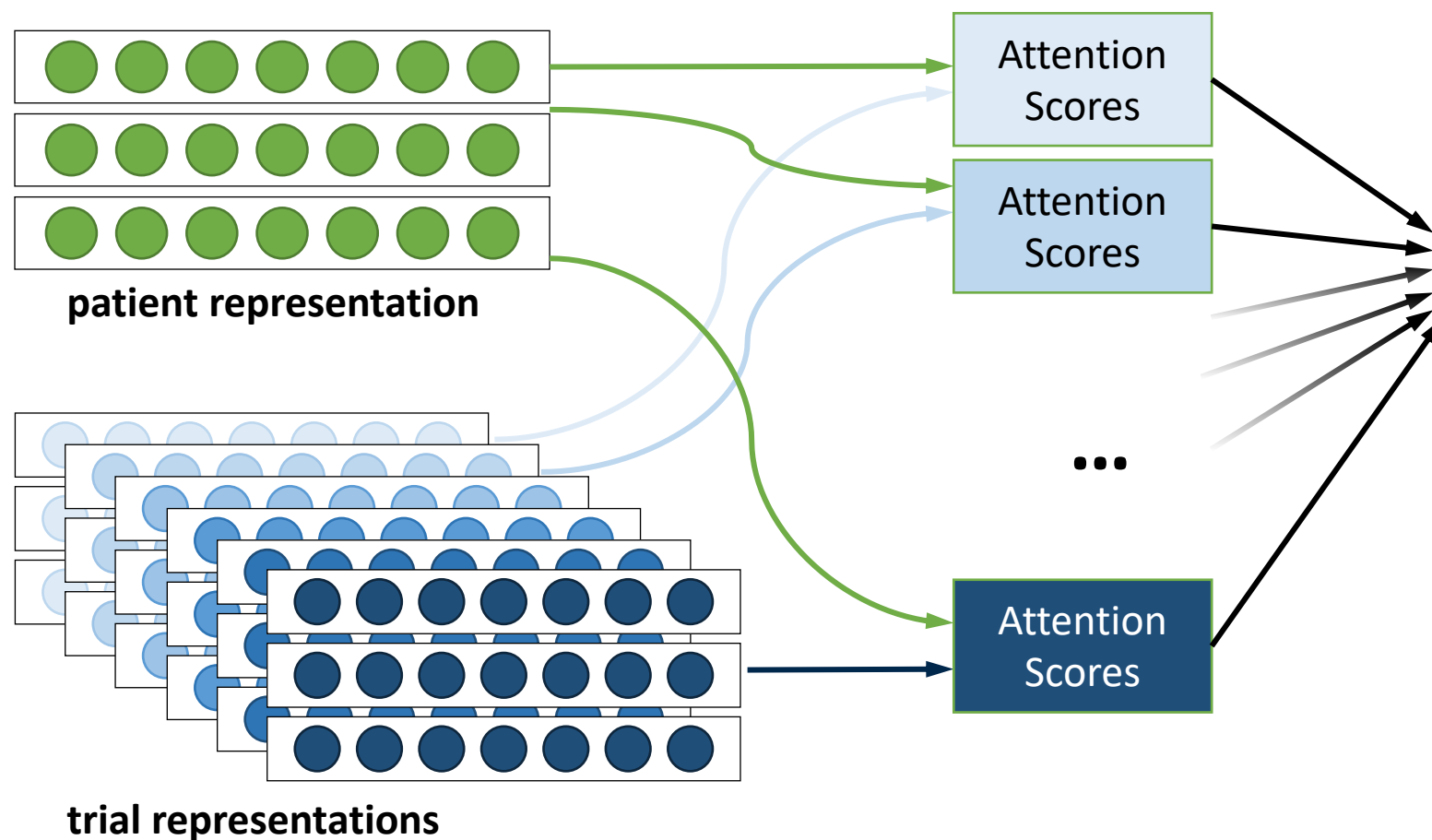
Alignment



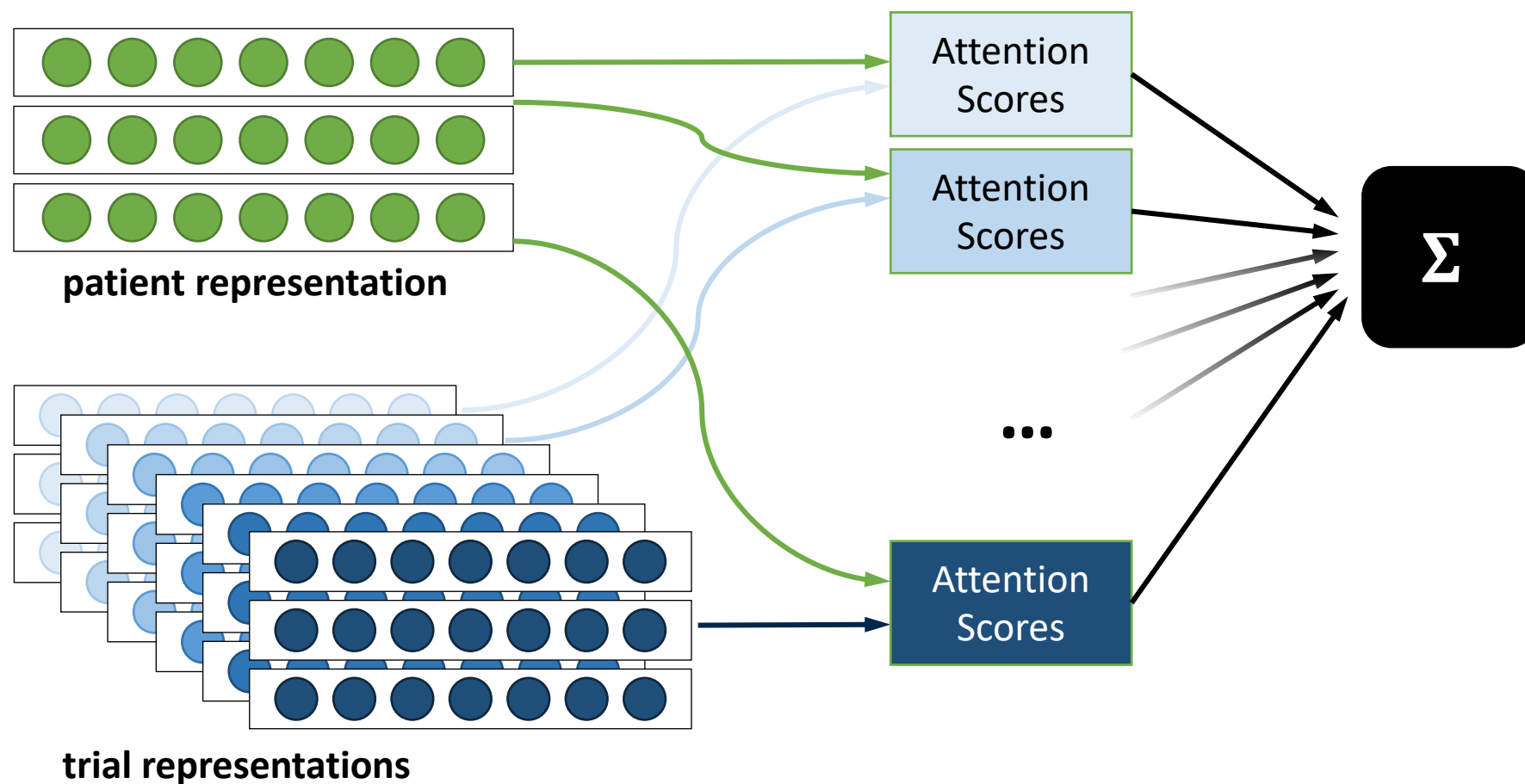
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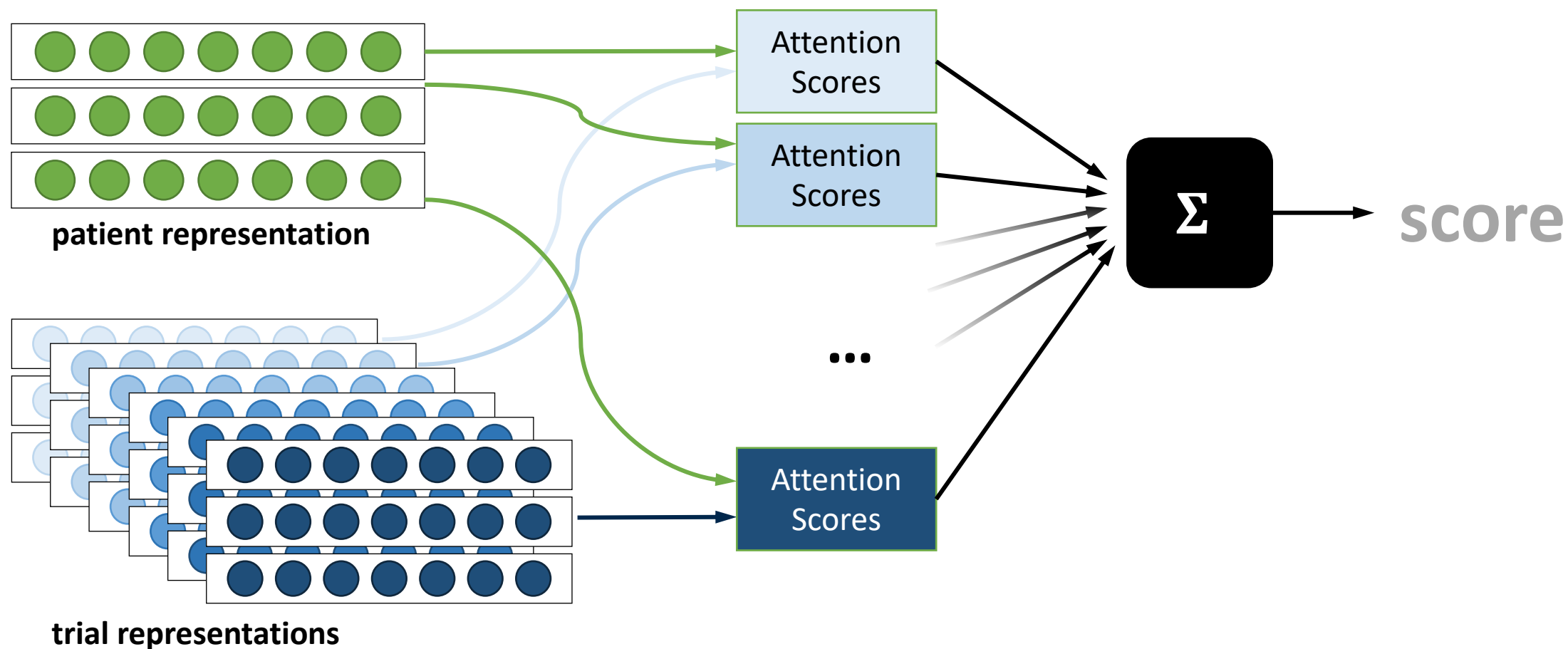
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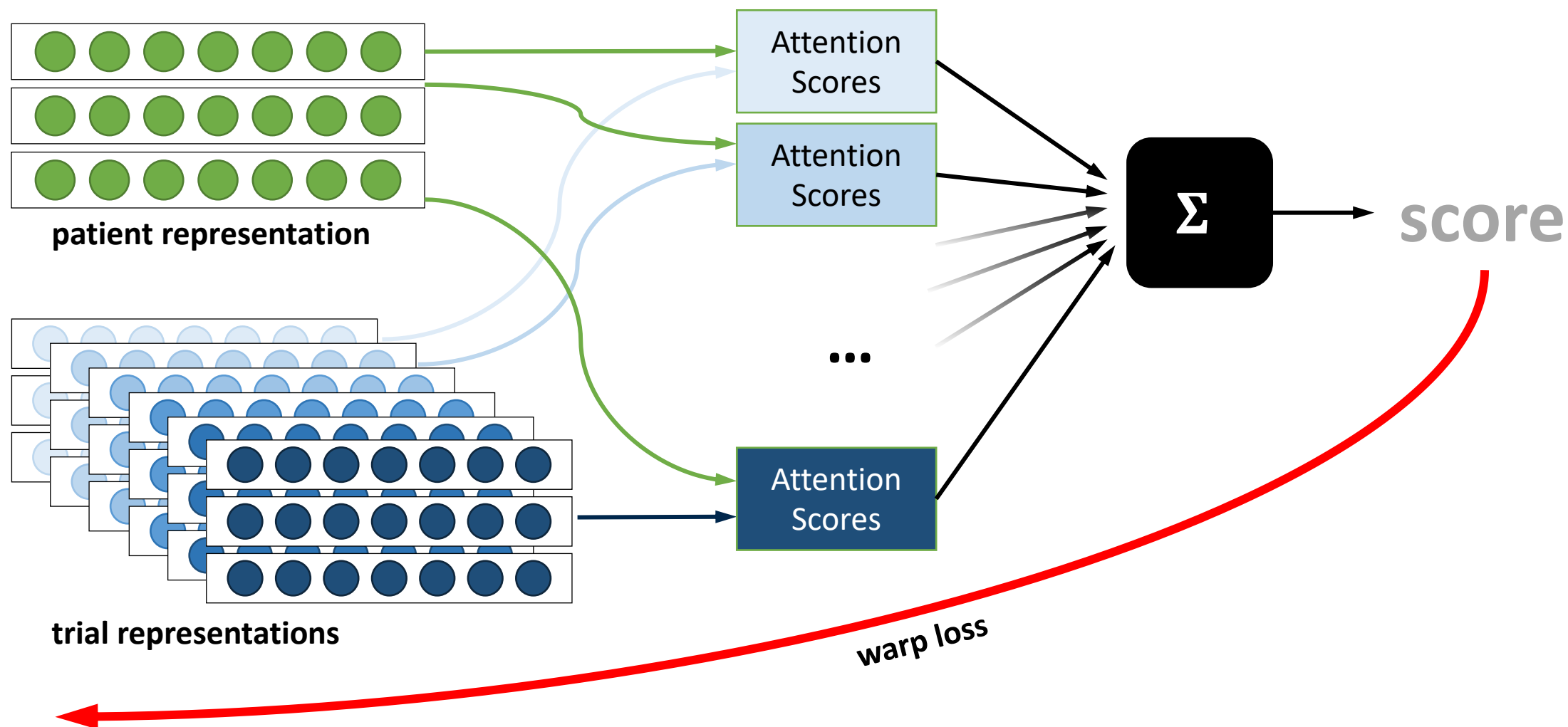
Alignment



Alignment



Alignment



Topics

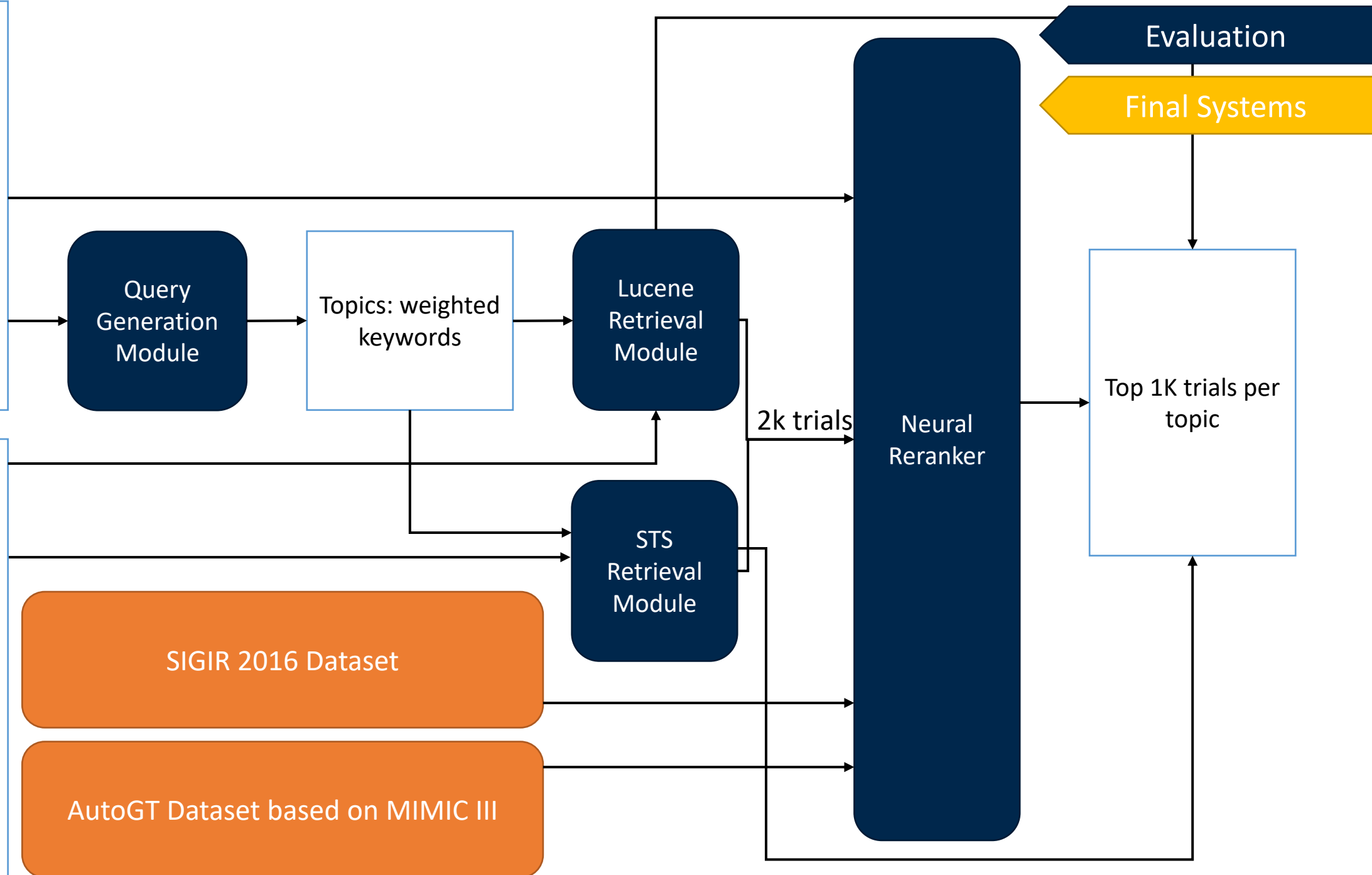
Free Text

75

Trials

- Inclusion criteria
- Exclusion criteria
- Conditions
- Treatments
- Keywords
- MeSH terms

375K



Topics

Free Text

75

Query
Generation
Module

Topics: weighted
keywords

Lucene
Retrieval
Module

Evaluation

Final Systems

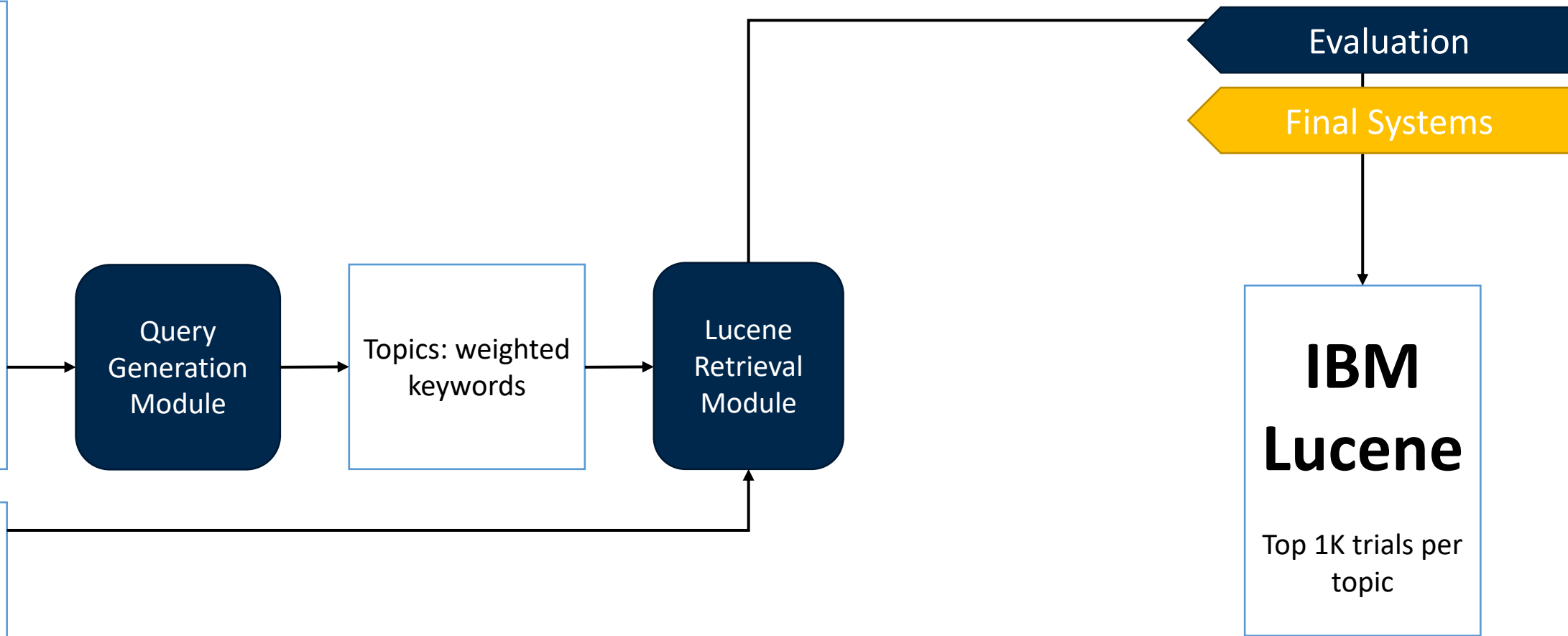
**IBM
Lucene**

Top 1K trials per
topic

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Topics

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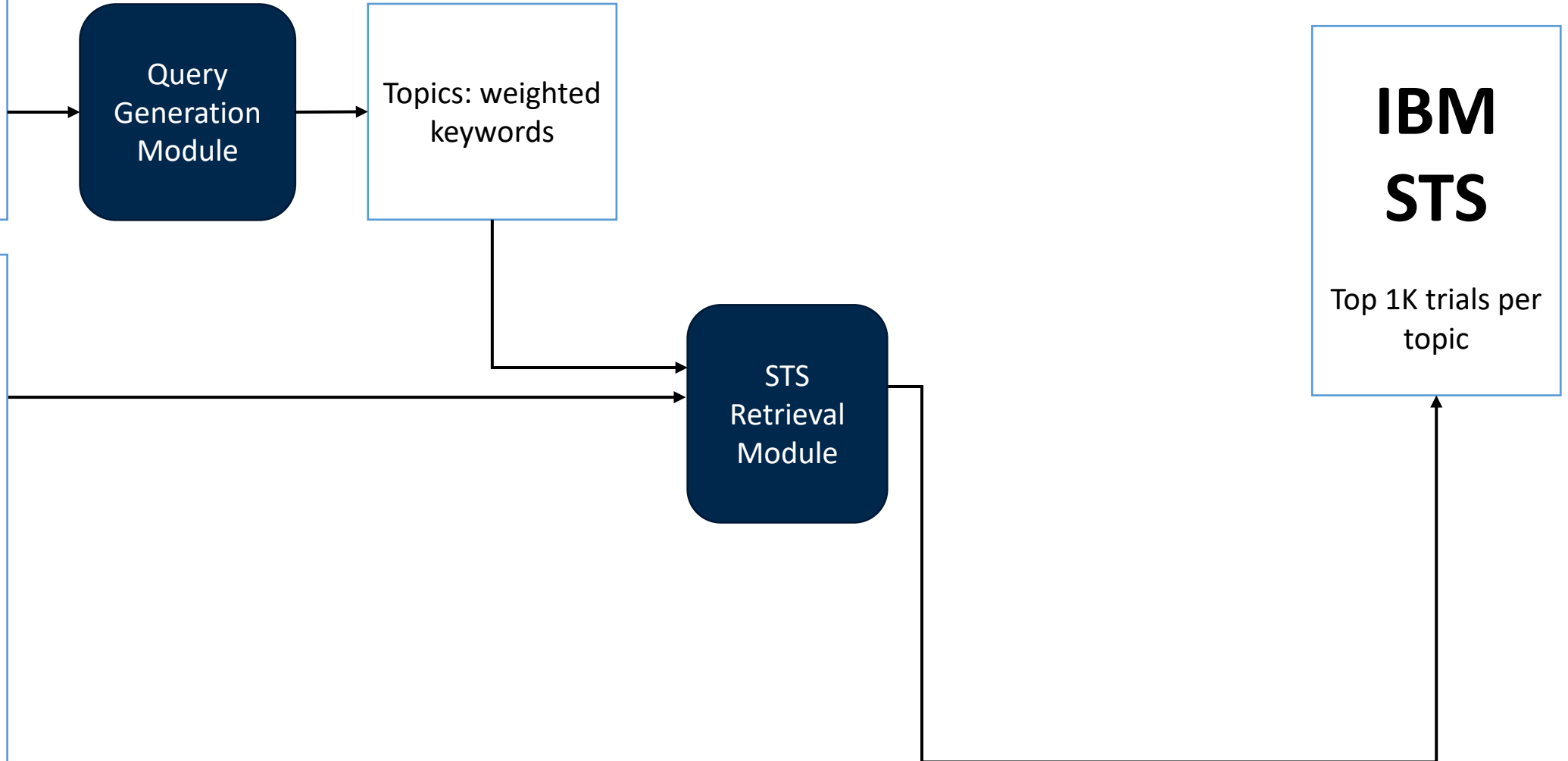
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IBM
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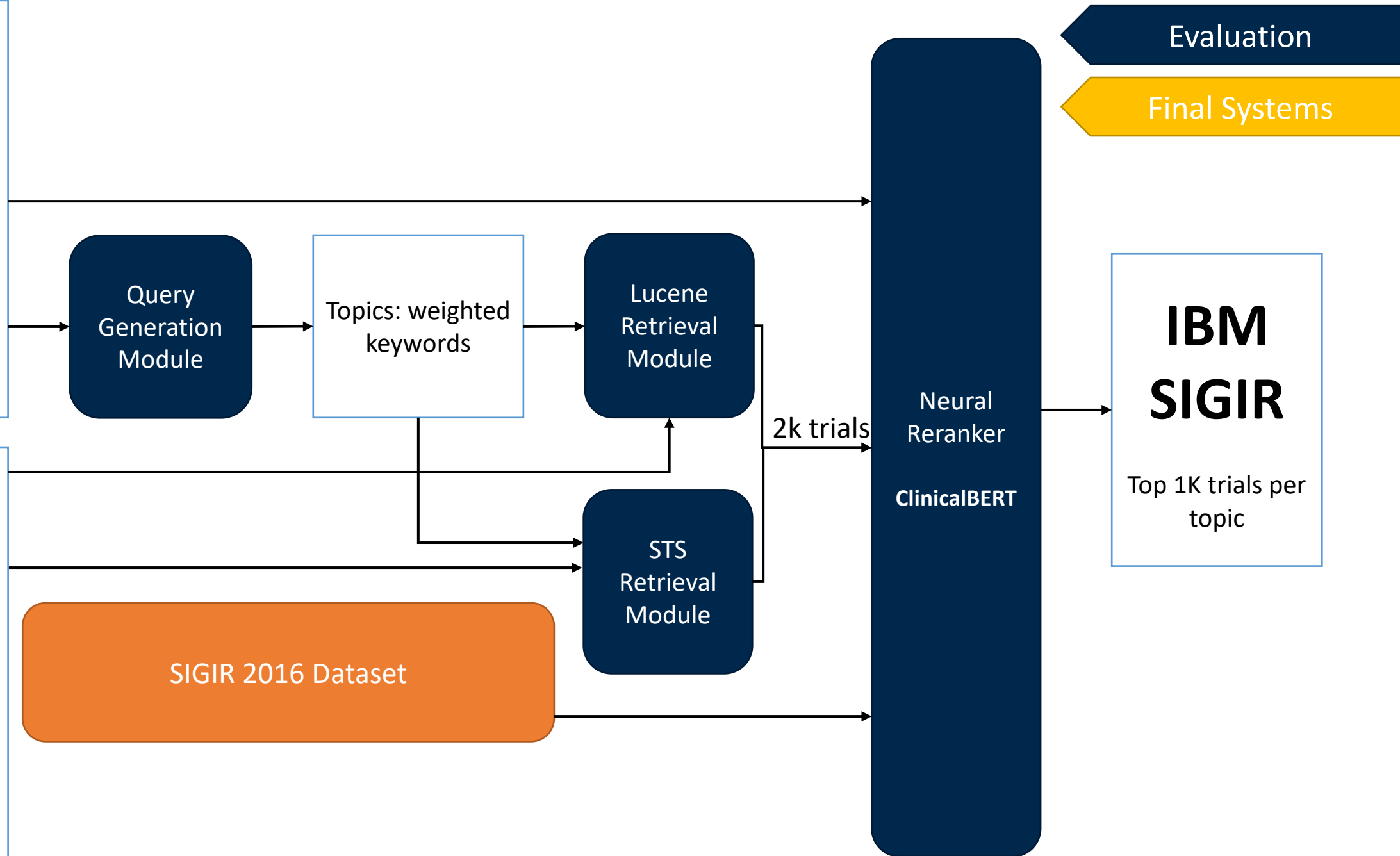
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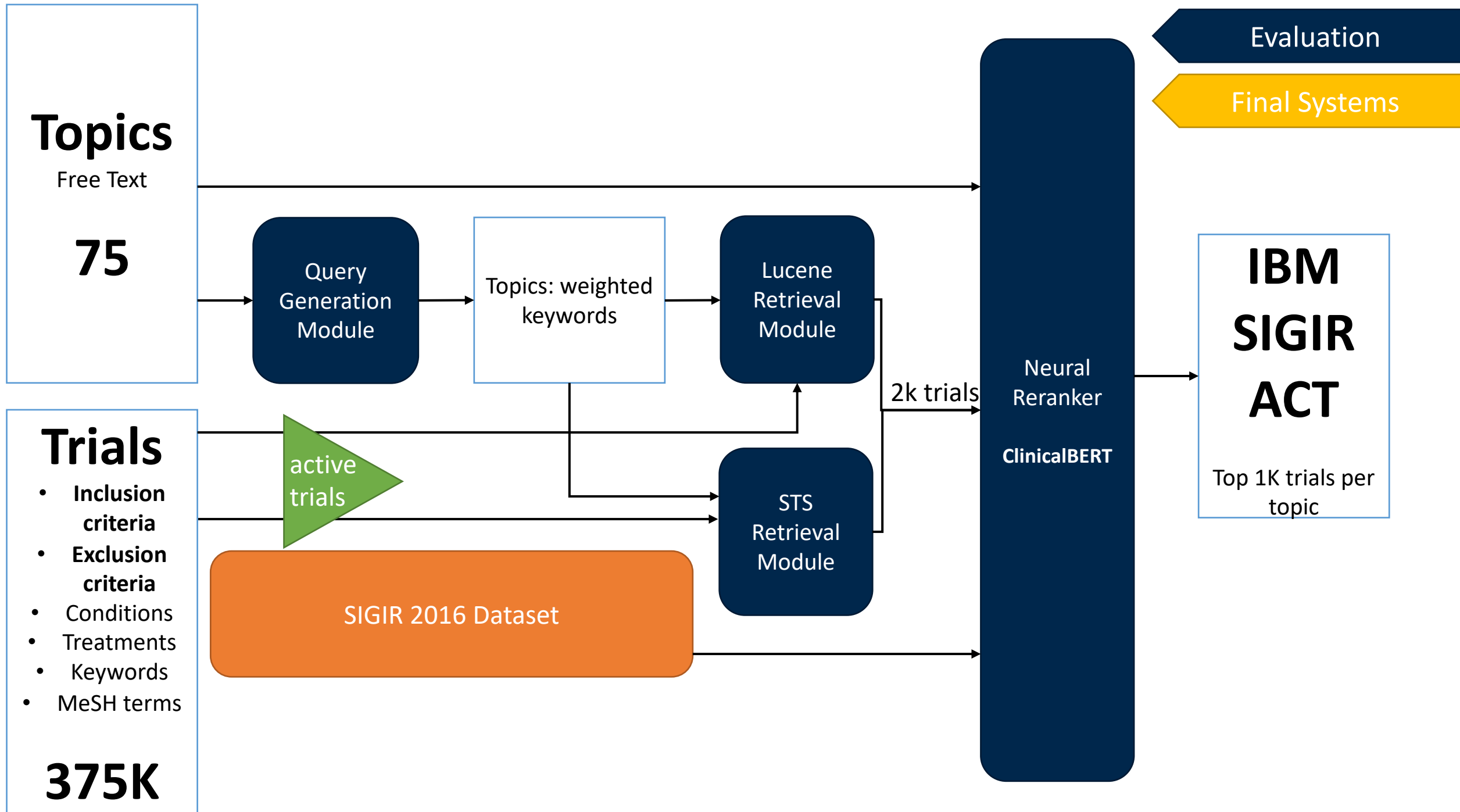
75

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375K

Query
Generation
Module

Topics: weighted
keywords

Lucene
Retrieval
Module

STS
Retrieval
Module

2k trials

Neural
Reranker

BlueBERT

Excludes:
Conditions
Exclusion
Criteria

Evaluation

Final Systems

IBM
AutoGT

Top 1K trials per
topic

AutoGT Dataset based on MIMIC III

Results

System	NDCG@10	PREC@10	Reciprocal Rank
IBMLucene	.32	.20	.39
IBMSTS	.22	.15	.27
IBM SIGIR	.14	.09	.19
IBMAUTOGT	.13	.09	.14
IBMSIGIRACT		.06	.13

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- **Evaluation was challenging** without gold standard data