

Sixth Dutch National Symposium on Software Engineering

Signals in Social Coding Environments: What Do They Mean and How Much Can You Trust Them?

Bogdan Vasilescu
@b_vasilescu

w/ Asher Trockman, Shurui Zhou, Christian Kästner

First: Some bad news



Social Coding: Code is meant to be shared



I started my PhD

https://github.com/ashleygwilliams

Contributions | Repositories | Public activity | Follow | !

Popular repositories

- breakfast-repo** a collection of videos, recordings, and podcast... 208 ★
- x86-kernel** a simple x86 kernel, extended with Rust 48 ★
- ashleygwilliams.github.io** hi, i'm ashley. nice to meet you. 37 ★
- jsconf-2015-deck** deck for jsconf2015 talk, "if you wish to learn e... 32 ★
- ratpack** sinatra boilerplate using activerecord, sqlite, a... 32 ★

Repositories contributed to

- npm/docs** The place where all the npm docs live. 44 ★
- mozilla/publish.webmaker.org** The teach.org publishing service for goggles a... 2 ★
- npm/marky-markdown** npm's markdown parser 104 ★
- artisan-tattoo/assistant-frontend** ember client for assistant-API 5 ★
- npm/npm-camp** a community conference for all things npm 1 ★

Public contributions

Summary of pull requests, issues opened, and commits. [Learn how we count contributions.](#)

Less More

| Month | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan |
|-------|-----|--------|------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| M | Low | Medium | High | Very High | Extremely High | Extremely High |
| W | Low | Medium | High | Very High | Extremely High | Extremely High |
| F | Low | Medium | High | Very High | Extremely High | Extremely High |

Contributions in the last year
1,886 total
Jan 24, 2015 – Jan 24, 2016

Longest streak
37 days
October 7 – November 12

Current streak
7 days
January 18 – January 24

- Programming in a socially networked world: the evolution of the social programmer
C Treude, F Figueira Filho, B Cleary, MA Storey.
FutureCSD-CSCW 2012

- Social coding in GitHub: transparency and collaboration in an open software repository
L Dabbish, C Stuart, J Tsay, J Herbsleb.
CSCW 2012

- Social networking meets software development: Perspectives from GitHub, MSDN, Stack Exchange, and TopCoder
A Begel, J Bosch, MA Storey.
IEEE Software 2013

Knowledge about Social Coding: Code is meant to be shared



Jon Skeet top 0.01% overall

Author of [C# in Depth](#).
Currently a software engineer at Google, London.
Usually a Microsoft MVP (C#, 2003-2010, 2011-)

Sites:

- [C# in Depth](#)
- [Coding blog](#)
- [C# articles](#)
- [Twitter updates \(@jonskeet\)](#)
- [Google+ profile](#)

Email: skeet@pobox.com (but please read my blog post on Stack Overflow-related emails first)

784,785 REPUTATION

360 5367 6604

Communities (15)

| | |
|--|--------|
|  Stack Overflow | 784.8k |
|  Meta Stack Exchange | 70.5k |
|  Super User | 4.1k |
|  Programmers | 3k |
|  Server Fault | 2.8k |

[View network profile →](#)

Top Meta Posts

1 9

 320 Stack Overflow question checklist

 6272 Why is subtracting these two times (in 1927) giving a strange result?

Top Tags (4,445)

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
|  C# | SCORE 145,166 POSTS 17,262 POSTS % 54 |
|  java | SCORE 85,729 POSTS 9,627 .net |
|  .net | SCORE 50,165 POSTS 5,145 |
|  linq | SCORE 20,239 POSTS 2,717 string |
|  string | SCORE 11,990 POSTS 916 generics |
|  generics | SCORE 11,511 POSTS 1,161 |

[View all tags](#)

Top Posts (31,831)

All Questions Answers | **Votes** News

jul 27 '12

Stack Overflow
Q&A for professional and enthusiast programmers
(4,368,896 total users)

Type to find users:

All Time

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
|  | Jon Skeet | #1 | 784,585 |
| | | all time rank | all time reputation |
|  | Darin Dimitrov | #2 | 595,006 |
| | | all time rank | all time reputation |
|  | BalusC | #3 | 573,150 |
| | | all time rank | all time reputation |
|  | Hans Passant | #4 | 553,678 |
| | | all time rank | all time reputation |

STRUDEL
Carnegie Mellon University

- Programming in a socially networked world: the evolution of the social programmer
C Treude, F Figueira Filho, B Cleary, MA Storey.
FutureCSD-CSCW 2012
- Social coding in GitHub: transparency and collaboration in an open software repository
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• 360 • 5367 • 6604

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Top Tags (4,445)

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[View all tags →](#)

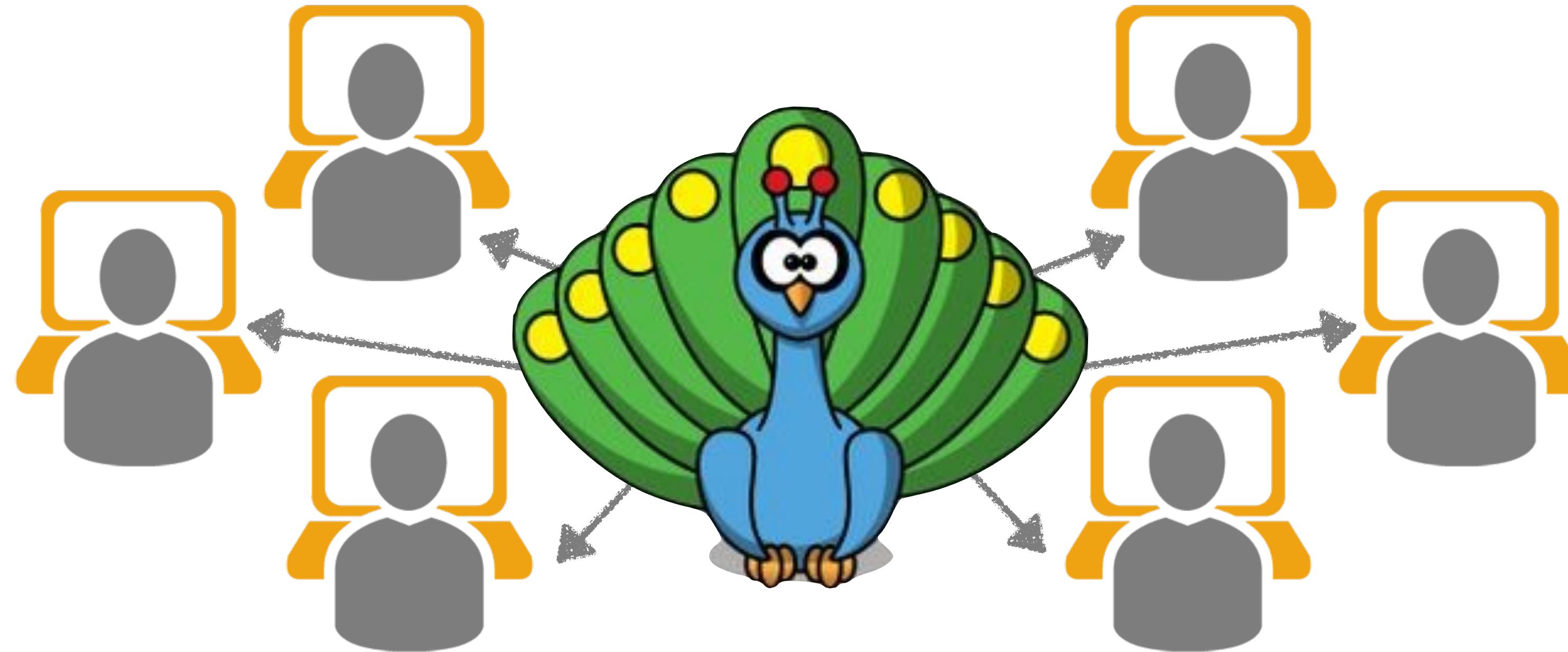
Top Posts (31,831)

All Questions Answers | **Votes** Newest

6272 Why is subtracting these two times (in 1927) giving a strange result? jul 27 '11

- “Jon Skeet can divide by zero.”
- “When Jon Skeet's code fails to compile the compiler apologises.”
- “Jon Skeet does not use revision control software. None of his code has ever needed revision.”

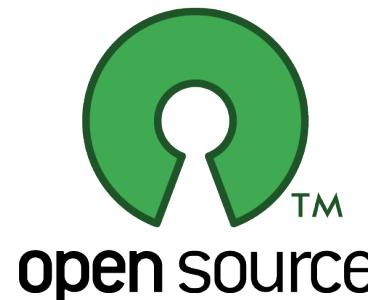
The “social programmer” ... signals



- Assessing technical candidates on the social web
A Capiluppi, A Serebrenik, L Singer. *IEEE Software 2013*
- Mutual assessment in the social programmer ecosystem: an empirical investigation of developer profile aggregators
L Singer, F Figueira Filho, B Cleary, C Treude, MA Storey, K Schneider. *CSCW 2013*
- Impression formation in online peer production: activity traces and personal profiles in GitHub
J Marlow, L Dabbish, J Herbsleb. *CSCW 2013*
- Activity traces and signals in software developer recruitment and hiring
J Marlow, L Dabbish. *CSCW 2013*

OPEN-SOURCE IS GROWING

BlackDuck 2015 survey
<https://goo.gl/LtaqqS>



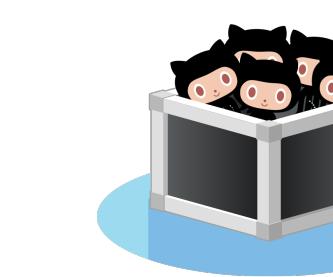
- Companies:
▶ 78% run OSS
▶ 66% build on OSS
"Digital dark matter"

Apache httpd server: \$7-10b

SOCIAL CODING IS GROWING



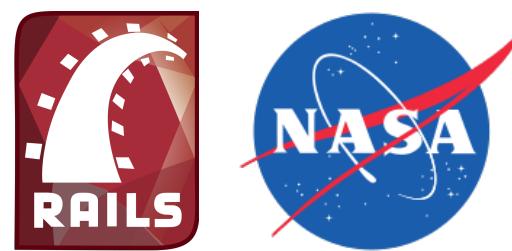
27 million people



76 million repositories



22 million software dev's (2017)



15,000+ people

CULTURE CHANGE



"it's just so uncool not sharing the code in the age of social coding"

HIRING



- **\$100+ /hour:**
▶ owns popular OSS products;
▶ stack**overflow** score > 20K; ...
- **\$50+ /hour:**
▶ active OSS contributor;
▶ stack**overflow** score > 5K; ...

INDUSTRIAL INVOLVEMENT & ADOPTION



Microsoft

Open source, from Microsoft with love

Redmond, WA

<http://www.microsoft.com...>



Google

<https://developers.google.com/>



Facebook

We work hard to contribute our work back to the web, mobile, big data, & infrastructure communities.

Menlo Park, California

<https://code.facebook.com/projects/>

Transparency

Projects

request / request

Watch 417 Star 18,384 Fork 2,196

Code Issues 578 Pull requests 52 Projects 0 Wiki Insights

Simplified HTTP request client.

2,199 commits 17 branches 134 releases 270 contributors Apache-2.0

Branch: master New pull request Create new file Upload files Find file Clone or download ▾

mikeal committed on Sep 27, 2017 2.83.1 Latest commit 253c5e5 on Sep 27, 2017

| File | Description | Time |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| .github | small change to template wording | a year ago |
| examples | Adds example for Tor proxy | 2 years ago |
| lib | refactor(lint): replace eslint with standard (#2579) | 11 months ago |
| tests | lint fix, PR from pre-standard was merged with passing tests | 10 months ago |
| .gitignore | Updating deps. | 5 months ago |
| .travis.yml | Add Node.js v8 to Travis CI | 7 months ago |
| CHANGELOG.md | Update changelog | 11 months ago |
| CONTRIBUTING.md | Update contributing guidelines | 2 years ago |
| LICENSE | Adding license information. | 7 years ago |
| README.md | Fixed some text in README.md (#2658) | 7 months ago |
| codecov.yml | Add codecov.yml and disable PR comments | 2 years ago |

People

Contributions Repositories Public activity Follow

Popular repositories

| Repository | Contributors |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| breakfast-repo | 208 ★ |
| x86-kernel | 48 ★ |
| ashleywilliams.github.io | 37 ★ |
| jsconf-2015-deck | 32 ★ |
| ratpack | 32 ★ |

Repositories contributed to

| Repository | Contributors |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| npm/docs | 44 ★ |
| mozilla/publish.webmaker.org | 2 ★ |
| npm/marky-markdown | 104 ★ |
| artisan-tattoo/assistant-frontend | 5 ★ |
| npm/npm-camp | 1 ★ |

Public contributions

Summary of pull requests, issues opened, and commits. Learn how we count contributions.

Contributions in the last year 1,886 total Jan 24, 2015 – Jan 24, 2016

Longest streak 37 days October 7 – November 12

Current streak 7 days January 18 – January 24

Yet . . . despite transparency

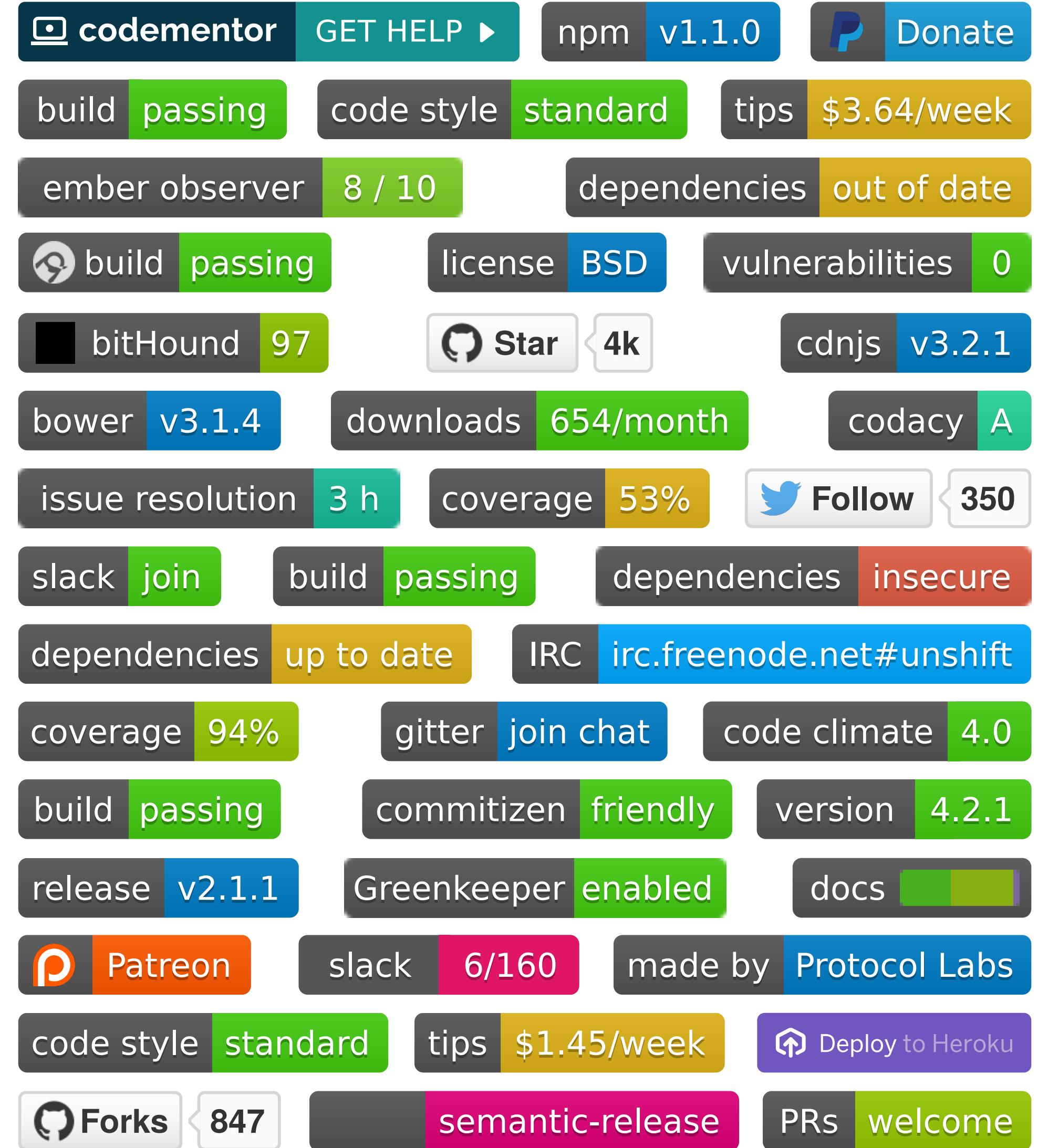
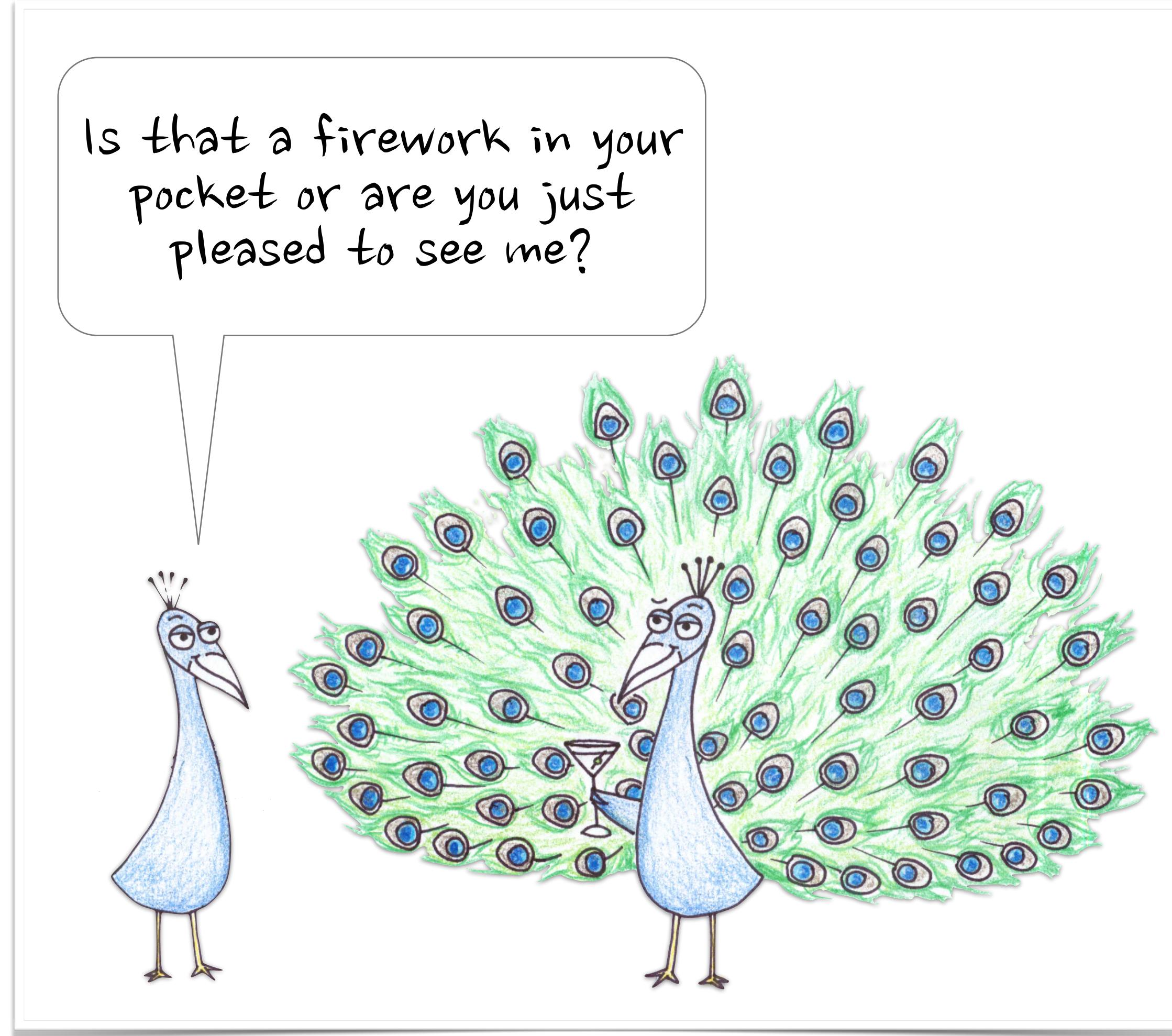
- Neglected infrastructure
 - “heartbleed” security bug in OpenSSL
 - leftpad incident
- In open source ecosystems, no signal (yet) to help **balance supply and demand for labor**
 - Similar to price in market-based production
 - Could badges help?

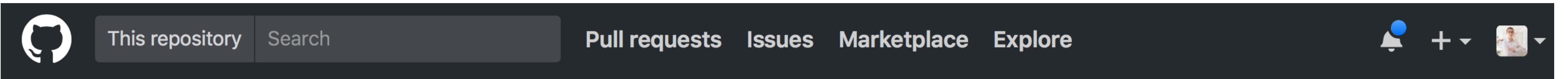
Roads and Bridges:

The Unseen Labor Behind
Our Digital Infrastructure

WRITTEN BY
Nadia Eghbal

Today: Signaling with badges





Built-in (GitHub)

request / request

Code

Issues 523

Pull requests 40

Projects 0

Wiki

Insights ▾

Watch ▾

395

Star

16,836

Fork

2,023

Simplified HTTP request client.

2,190 commits

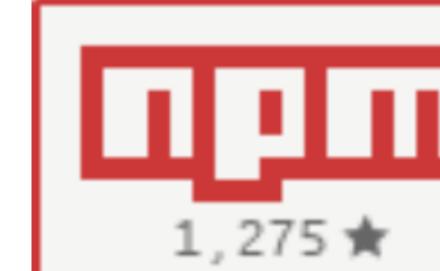
17 branches

130 releases

273 contributors

Apache-2.0

README.md



npm install request

22 dependencies version 2.81.0
22,431 dependents updated 6 months ago

build

passing

coverage

92%

coverage

93%

dependencies

up to date

vulnerabilities

0

gitter

join chat

Types of badges



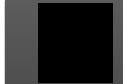
Types of badges

- Quality assurance
 - Build status, test coverage, static analysis, ...

build passing

ember observer 8 / 10

 build passing

 bitHound 97

 codacy A

coverage 53%

build passing

coverage 94%

code climate 4.0

build passing

 docs

Types of badges

- Quality assurance
 - Build status, test coverage, static analysis, ...
- Dependency management
 - Version tracking, vulnerability tracking, ...

dependencies out of date

vulnerabilities 0

dependencies insecure

dependencies up to date

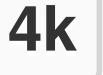
Greenkeeper enabled

Types of badges

- Quality assurance
 - Build status, test coverage, static analysis, ...
 - Dependency management
 - Version tracking, vulnerability tracking, ...
 - Information
 - *npm* version, license, coding style, release strategy, commit message conventions, ...
- npm v1.1.0**
- code style standard**
- license BSD**
- cdnjs v3.2.1**
- bower v3.1.4**
- IRC irc.freenode.net#unshift**
- commitizen friendly**
- version 4.2.1**
- release v2.1.1**
- made by Protocol Labs**
- code style standard**
- semantic-release**
- PRs welcome**

Types of badges

- Quality assurance
 - Build status, test coverage, static analysis, ...
- Dependency management
 - Version tracking, vulnerability tracking, ...
- Information
 - *npm* version, license, coding style, release strategy, commit message conventions, ...
- Popularity
 - *npm* downloads, GitHub stats, Twitter, ...

 Star  4k

cdnjs v3.2.1

 downloads 654/month

 Follow  350

 Forks  847

Types of badges

- Quality assurance
 - Build status, test coverage, static analysis, ...
- Dependency management
 - Version tracking, vulnerability tracking, ...
- Information
 - *npm* version, license, coding style, release strategy, commit message conventions, ...
- Popularity
 - *npm* downloads, GitHub stats, Twitter, ...
- Support
 - chat & collaboration, issue stats, ...

 codementor [GET HELP ▶](#)

issue resolution 3 h

slack [join](#)

IRC <irc.freenode.net#unshift>

gitter [join chat](#)

commitizen [friendly](#)

slack 6/160

PRs [welcome](#)

Types of badges

- Quality assurance
 - Build status, test coverage, static analysis, ...
- Dependency management
 - Version tracking, vulnerability tracking, ...
- Information
 - *npm* version, license, coding style, release strategy, commit message conventions, ...
- Popularity
 - *npm* downloads, GitHub stats, Twitter, ...
- Support
 - chat & collaboration, issue stats, ...
- Misc:
 - Paypal, donations, Gittip, ...

ember observer 8 / 10



tips \$3.64/week



made by Protocol Labs

tips \$1.45/week



Signaling theory (Spence, 1973)

- Badges are signals:
 - reduce information asymmetry
- Conventional signals vs assessment signals
 - assessment signals: more costly to produce —> more reliable
- Badges vary widely in production cost
 - Expensive: coverage 94% vulnerabilities 0 dependencies up to date build passing
 - Cheap: release v2.1.1 npm v1.1.0 license BSD
 - No cost: code style standard PRs welcome
- No cost: made by Protocol Labs

Can you trust them?

seanmonstar / intel

Watch ▾ 10 Star 191 Fork 29

Code Issues 11 Pull requests 0 Projects 0 Wiki Insights

I need more intel! <http://seanmonstar.github.io/intel/>

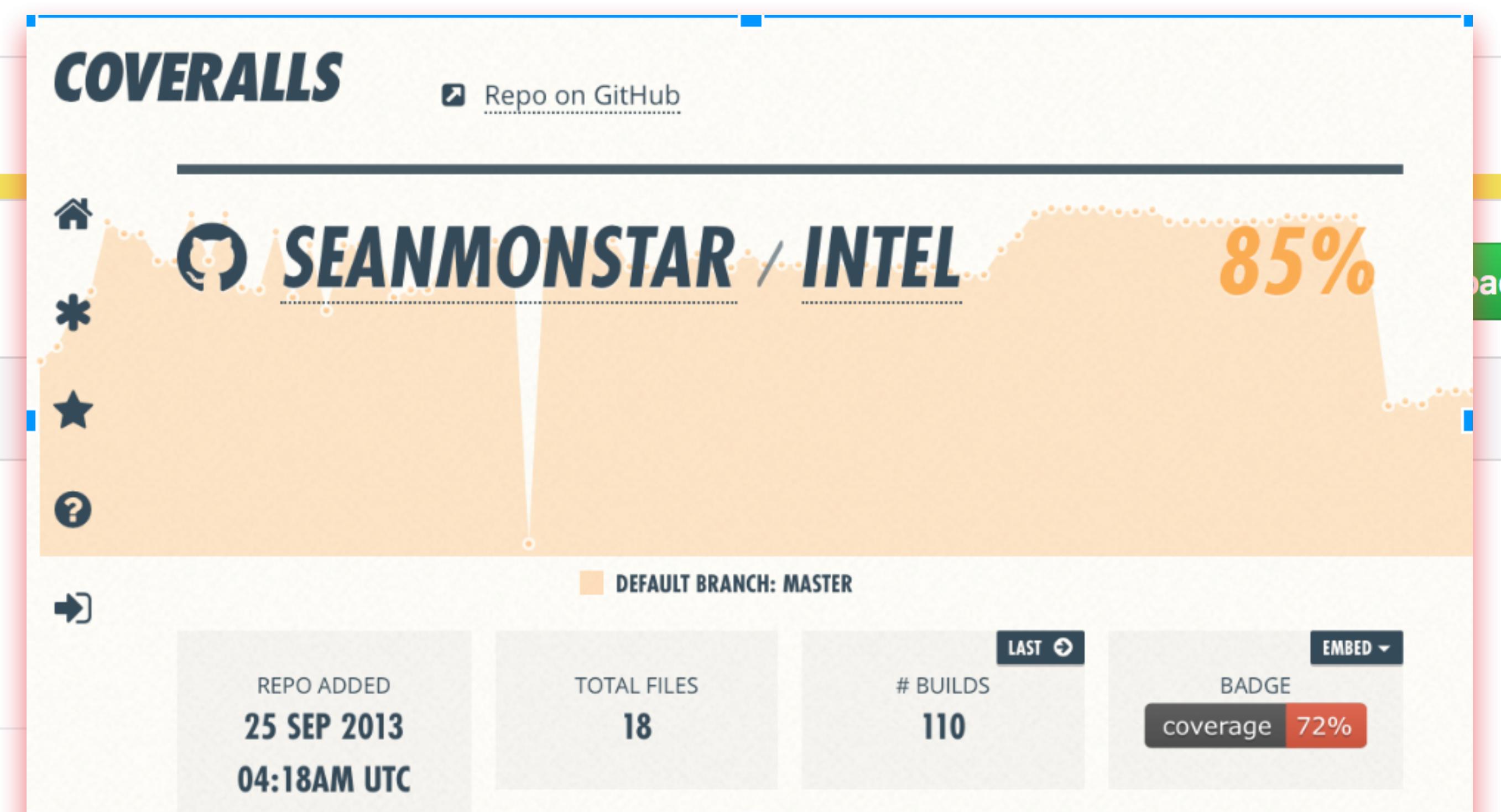
224 commits 3 branches

Branch: master New pull request

README.md

intel

build passing coverage 100% npm package 1.2.0



The image shows a GitHub repository page for 'seanmonstar/intel' with a red box highlighting the 'coverage 100%' badge. To the right, a Coveralls coverage report is displayed, also showing 100% coverage. The Coveralls report includes details like 'Repo on GitHub', 'SEANMONSTAR / INTEL', '85%', 'DEFAULT BRANCH: MASTER', 'REPO ADDED 25 SEP 2013 04:18AM UTC', 'TOTAL FILES 18', '# BUILDS 110', and a 'coverage 72%' badge.

An abbreviation of intelligence. In this case, the acquirement of information.

Research questions

- How are badges used?
- What do they tell about a project?
- How much can you trust them?

Adding Sparkle to Social Coding: An Empirical Study of Repository Badges in the *npm* Ecosystem

Asher Trockman,^{†‡} Shurui Zhou,[‡] Christian Kästner,[‡] Bogdan Vasilescu[‡]

[†]University of Evansville, USA

[‡]Carnegie Mellon University, USA

atrockma@andrew.cmu.edu, shuruiz@cs.cmu.edu, {kaestner, vasilescu}@cmu.edu

ABSTRACT

In fast-paced, reuse-heavy software development, the transparency provided by social coding platforms like GitHub is essential to decision making. Developers infer the quality of projects using visible cues, known as signals, collected from personal profile and repository pages. We report on a large-scale, mixed-methods empirical study of *npm* packages that explores the emerging phenomenon of repository badges, with which maintainers signal underlying qualities about the project to contributors and users. We investigate which qualities maintainers intend to signal and how well badges correlate with those qualities. After surveying developers, mining 294,941 repositories, and applying statistical modeling and time series analysis techniques, we find that non-trivial badges, which display the build status, test coverage, and up-to-dateness of dependencies, are mostly reliable signals, correlating with more tests, better pull requests, and fresher dependencies. Displaying such badges correlates with best practices, but the effects do not always persist. In short, *signals mostly reliable*.

1 INTRODUCTION

Contemporary software development is characterized by increased reuse and speed. Open-source software forges like GitHub host millions of repositories of libraries and tools, which developers reuse liberally [25], creating complex, often fragile networks of interdependencies [11]. This has earned GitHub a reputation as a one-stop shop for software development [38], an influencer of practices in both open-source and industry [32]. Furthermore, the widely-adopted DevOps culture [30, 45] also contributes to this acceleration, with its emphasis on automation and rapid deployment. As a result, developers are expected to make more decisions at higher speed, finding which libraries to depend on and which projects to contribute to.

A key enabler of this decision making process is the *transparency* provided by social coding platforms like GitHub [20, 21]. The development history of open-source GitHub projects is archived and publicly accessible in a standardized format; and GitHub user profile pages display aggregate information about one's contributions and social standing in the community (e.g., through repository *stars* and *watchers*). This unprecedented level of transparency in social coding can enhance collaboration and coordination [21]. Using visible cues—known in the literature as *signals*—collected from personal profile and repository pages, developers can better manage their projects and their dependencies, communicate more efficiently, become informed about action items requiring their attention, learn,

socialize, and form impressions about each other's coding ability, personal characteristics, and interpersonal skills [21, 37, 39, 56].

However, open-source ecosystems are also competitive. In order to survive and thrive, projects must successfully attract and retain contributors, and fend off competitors [16, 35, 40, 44]. In a social coding environment, the visible signals enabled by transparency can, therefore, be seen as a survival mechanism, with high profile signifiers benefiting the most. For example, more popular and famous projects attract more contributors [61], coding "rock stars" collect thousands of followers [20], and visible traces of developer actions and interactions are used in recruitment and hiring [13, 36].

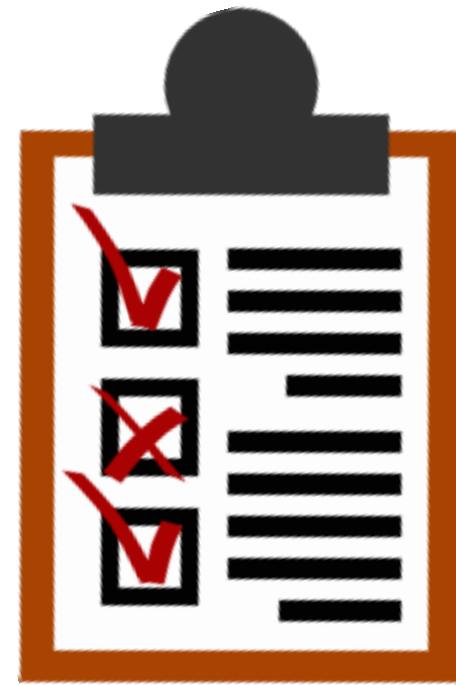
Here we focus on *repository badges*, images such as `build passing`, embedded into a project's README, often generated on-demand, reflecting the current status of online services the project is using, e.g., continuous integration and dependency management. From a *signaling theory* [51] perspective (Section 2), badges can be seen as easily observable signals used by maintainers to convey underlying qualities of their projects to users and contributors, e.g., code quality, adherence to best practices; this increases transparency (hard to observe qualities become salient), hence may impact users' and contributors' decision making process and the project's chances of survival. Badges can also be seen as a *gamification mechanism* [23], i.e., a game-like incentive designed to engage participants (Section 2); e.g., a badge with real-time code coverage information may act as an incentive for contributors to improve the quality of the project's test suite. In summary, badges are a potentially impactful feature in transparent, social coding environments. However, the value and effects of badges are not well understood.

In this paper, we explore two main research questions regarding badges. First, we explore the phenomenon of badges quantitatively and qualitatively, and ask *What are the most common badges and what does displaying them intend to signal?* (RQ₁). Second, we analyze whether badges indeed signal what developers expect, and ask *To what degree do badges correlate with qualities that developers expect?* (RQ₂). To answer these questions, we perform a large-scale mixed-methods empirical study of the badges in the *npm* ecosystem, a large and vibrant open-source ecosystem for JavaScript with documented interdependency-related coordination challenges [11], wherein many badges originated. We observe the frequency and historical adoption of badges in practice among 294,941 *npm* packages, we survey maintainers and contributors about their intentions and perceptions, and we build regression models to check hypotheses regarding developer perceptions (collected when exploring RQ₁), such as, "coverage badges signal the importance of tests and therefore attract more pull requests with tests."

Our investigation reveals that badges are popular in *npm*, adopted in 46 % of all packages. The most frequent show the build status or version of the latest release, but dependency managers, code

Conference'17, July 2017, Washington, DC, USA
2017. ACM ISBN 978-x-xxxx-xxxx-x/YY/MM...\$15.00
<https://doi.org/10.1145/nmnnnn.nmnnnn>

Mixed methods study



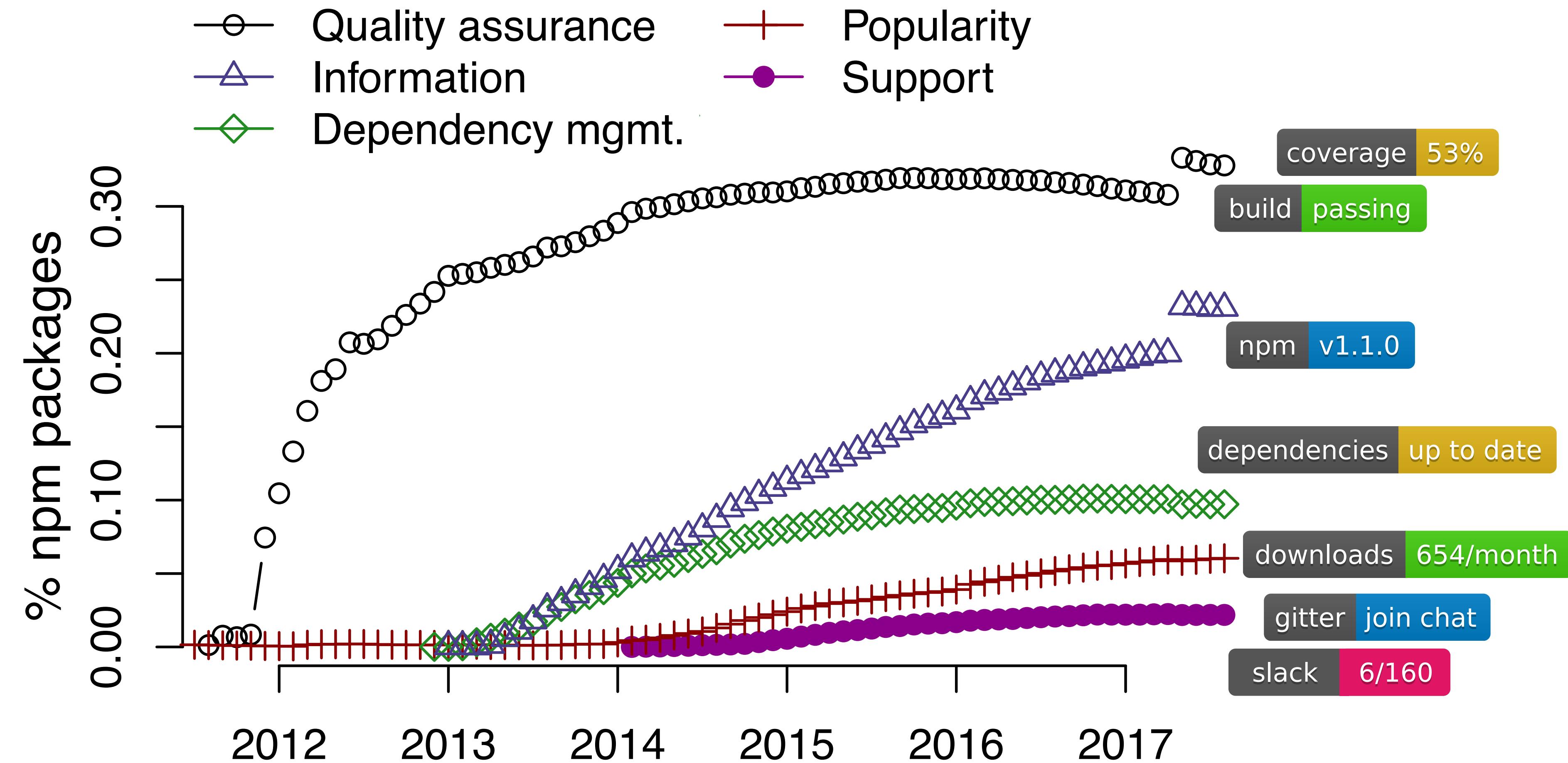
+



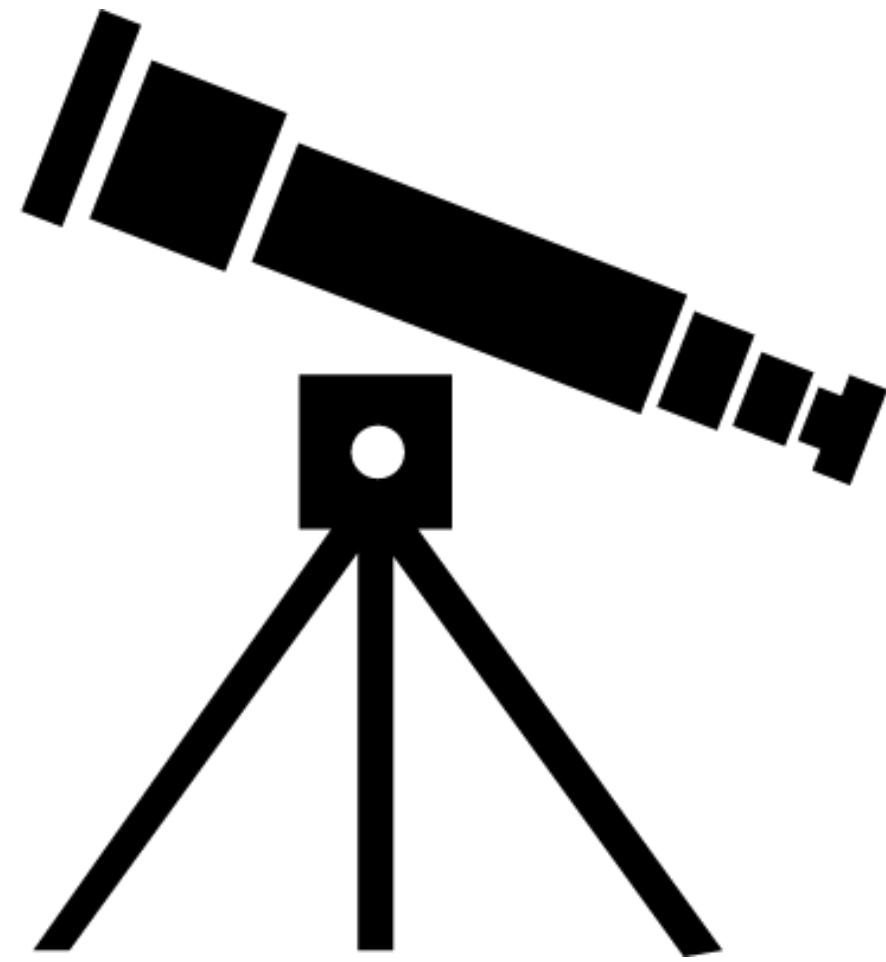
- 32 maintainers, 57 contributors (15% resp. rate)
- Maintainers:
 - What do you intend to signal?
 - What effects do you expect?
- Contributors:
 - What do badges tell you?
- 294,941 *npm* packages
- Mined badge adoptions/removals from README files
- Measured proxies for code quality, test suite quality, popularity, dependency freshness, ...

Popular badges

- Only few badges are broadly adopted
- Badges tend to be adopted in groups and hardly ever change



Analysis



If all you saw was the badge, how much would that tell you?

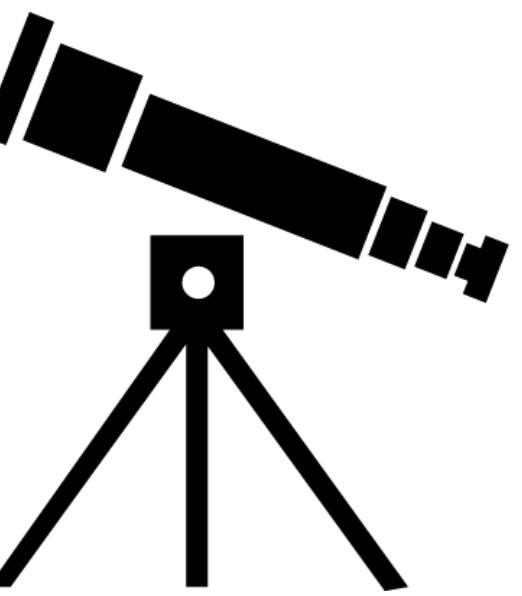


How much more does the badge tell you, relative to existing signals?

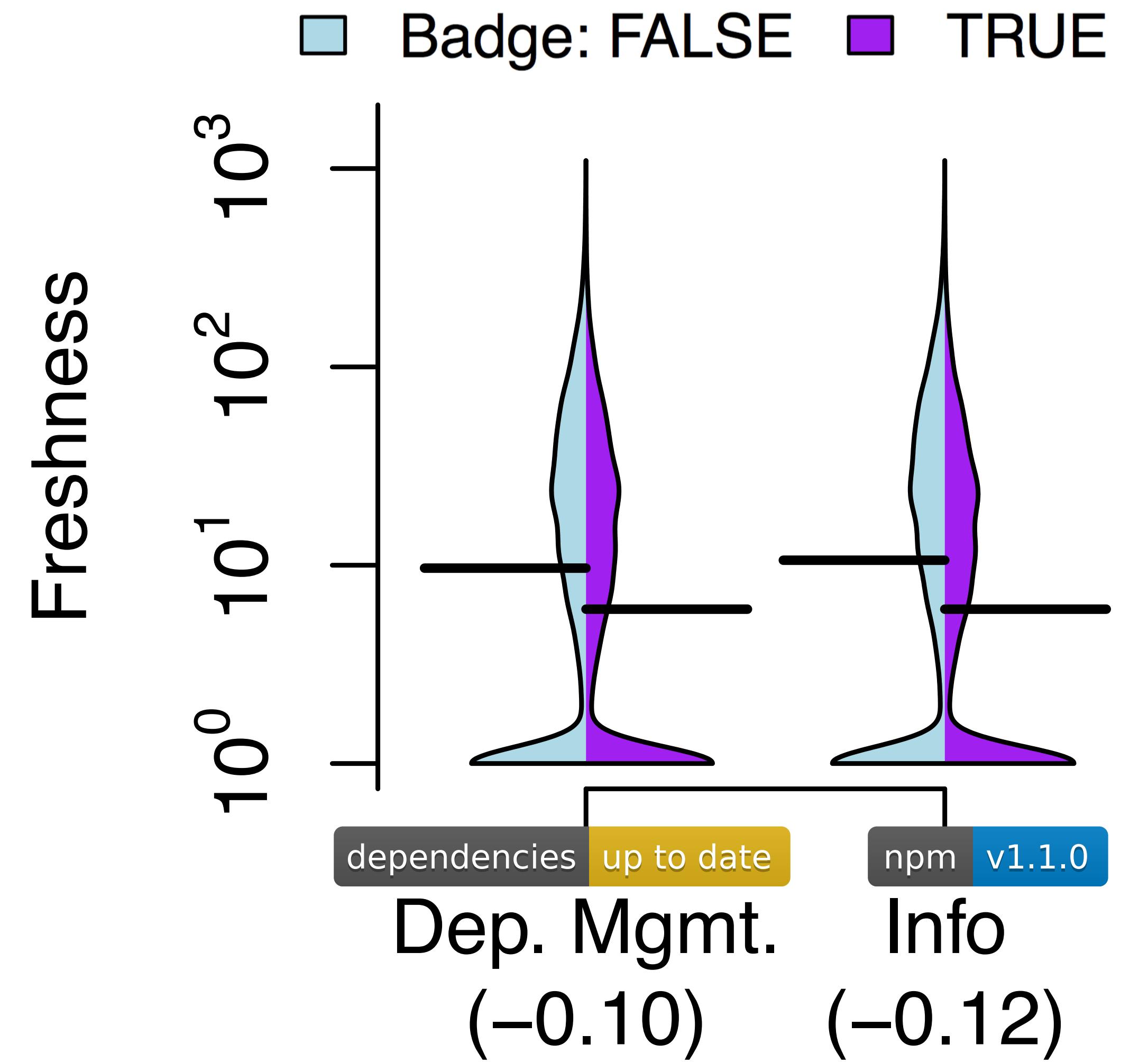


How do things change after adding the badge?

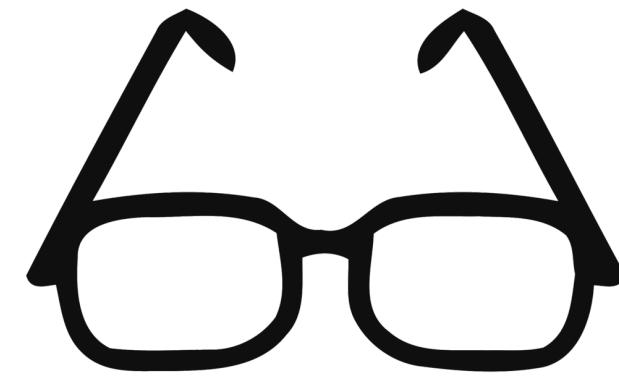
Signals of fresh dependencies



- Hyp: The adoption of dependency-management badges correlates with fresher dependencies
- Hyp: Information badges have no effect
- In aggregate: both badges correlate with having the quality



Signals of fresh dependencies



- Hyp: The adoption of dependency-management badges correlates with fresher dependencies
- Hyp: Information badges have no effect
- Both badges add information beyond other readily observable signals

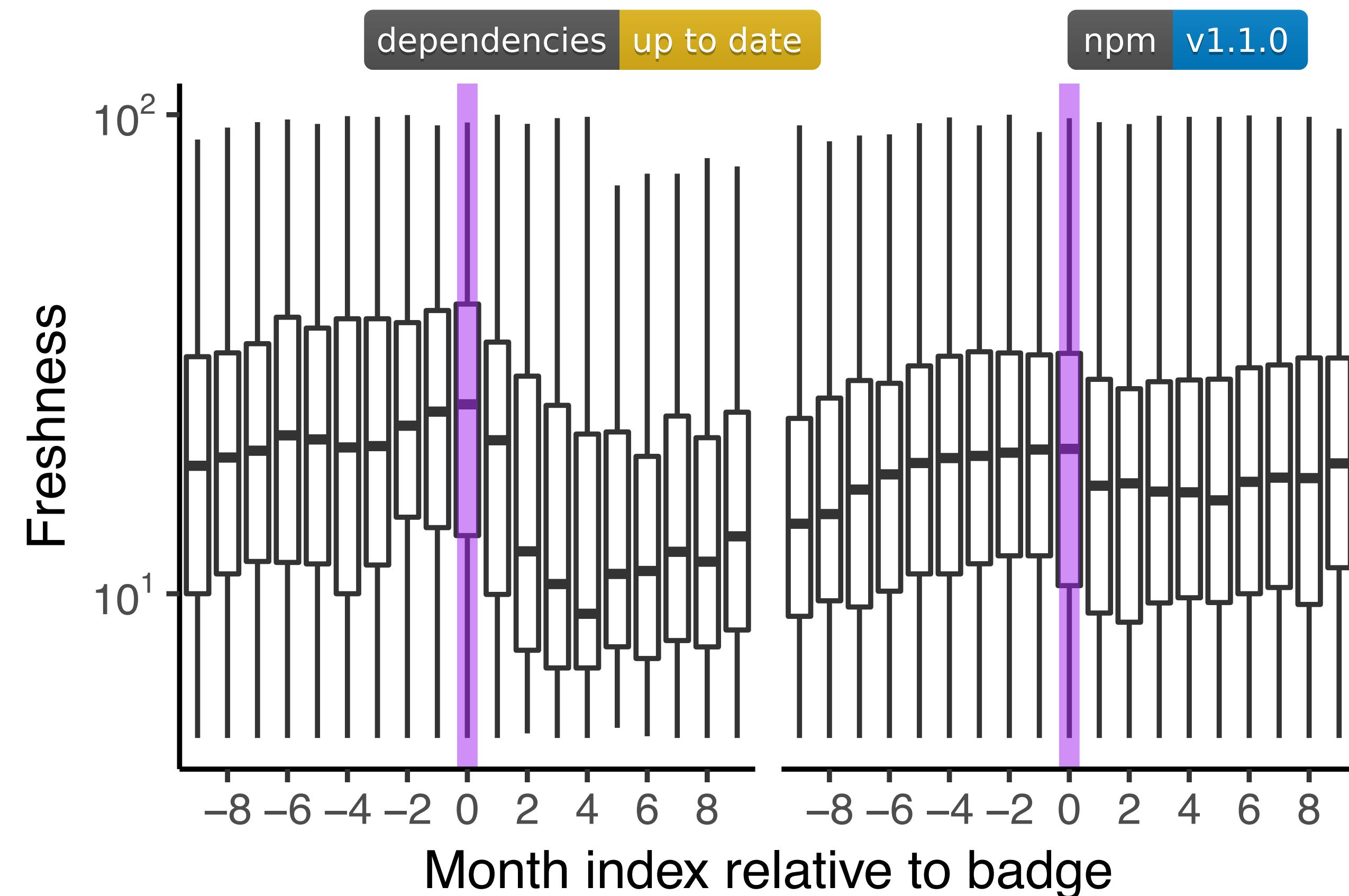
| | | Basic Model | | Full Model | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|------------|
| | | response: <i>freshness</i> = 0 | | response: <i>freshness</i> = 0 | |
| | | Coeffs (Err.) | LR Chisq | Coeffs (Err.) | LR Chisq |
| (Inter.) | 3.54 (0.03)*** | | | 3.50 (0.03)*** | |
| Dep. | -1.78 (0.01)*** | 32077.8*** | | -1.79 (0.01)*** | 32292.8*** |
| RDep. | 0.22 (0.01)*** | 610.3*** | | 0.21 (0.01)*** | 560.6*** |
| Stars | -0.08 (0.00)*** | 301.4*** | | -0.09 (0.00)*** | 311.2*** |
| Contr. | -0.24 (0.01)*** | 500.5*** | | -0.25 (0.01)*** | 548.7*** |
| lastU | -0.65 (0.01)*** | 12080.9*** | | -0.64 (0.01)*** | 11537.9*** |
| dependencies up to date | | | | 0.24 (0.03)*** | 116.1*** |
| npm v1.1.0 | | | | 0.11 (0.02)*** | 48.3*** |
| dependencies up to date : npm v1.1.0 | | | | -0.05 (0.04) | 1.9 |
| hasOther | | | | 0.01 (0.01) | |

*** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$

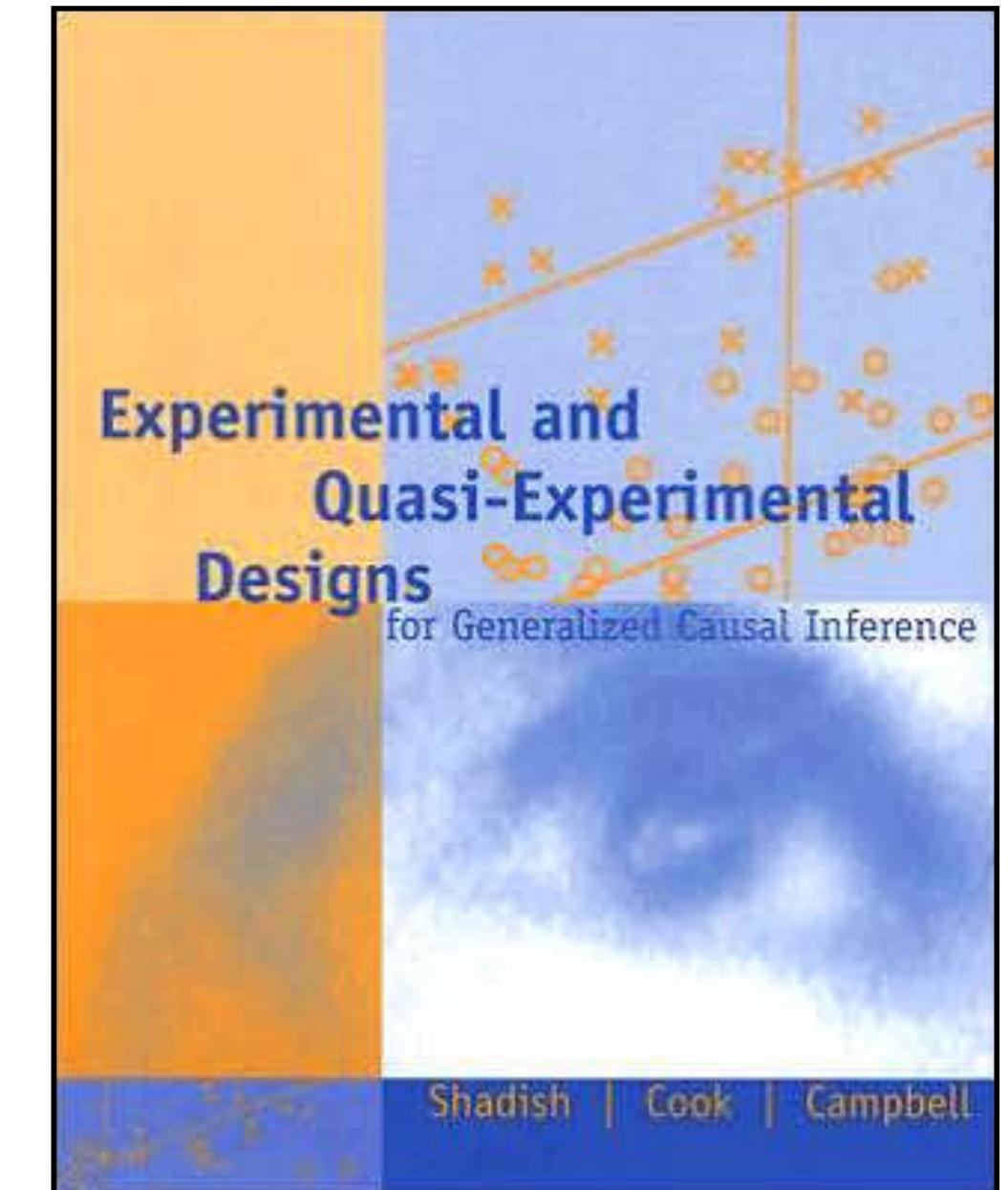
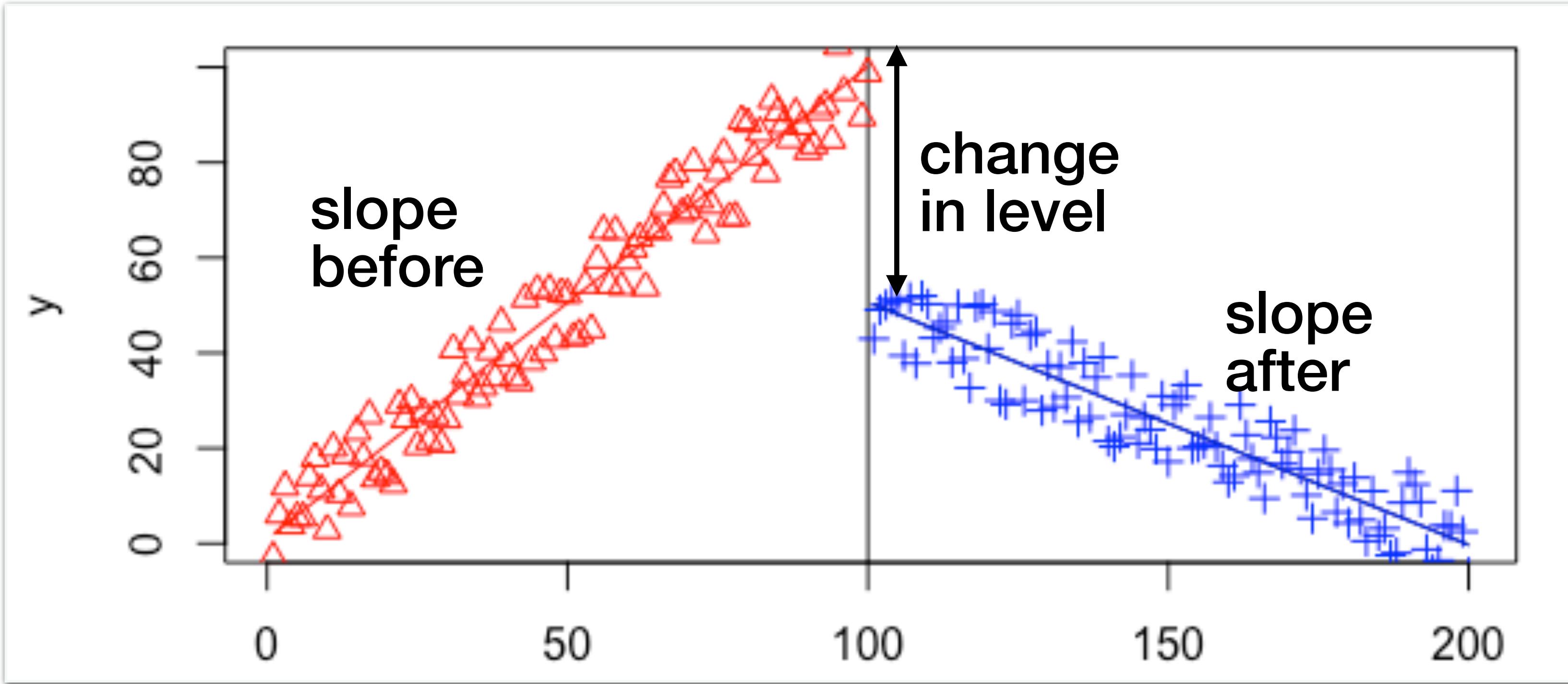
Signals of fresh dependencies



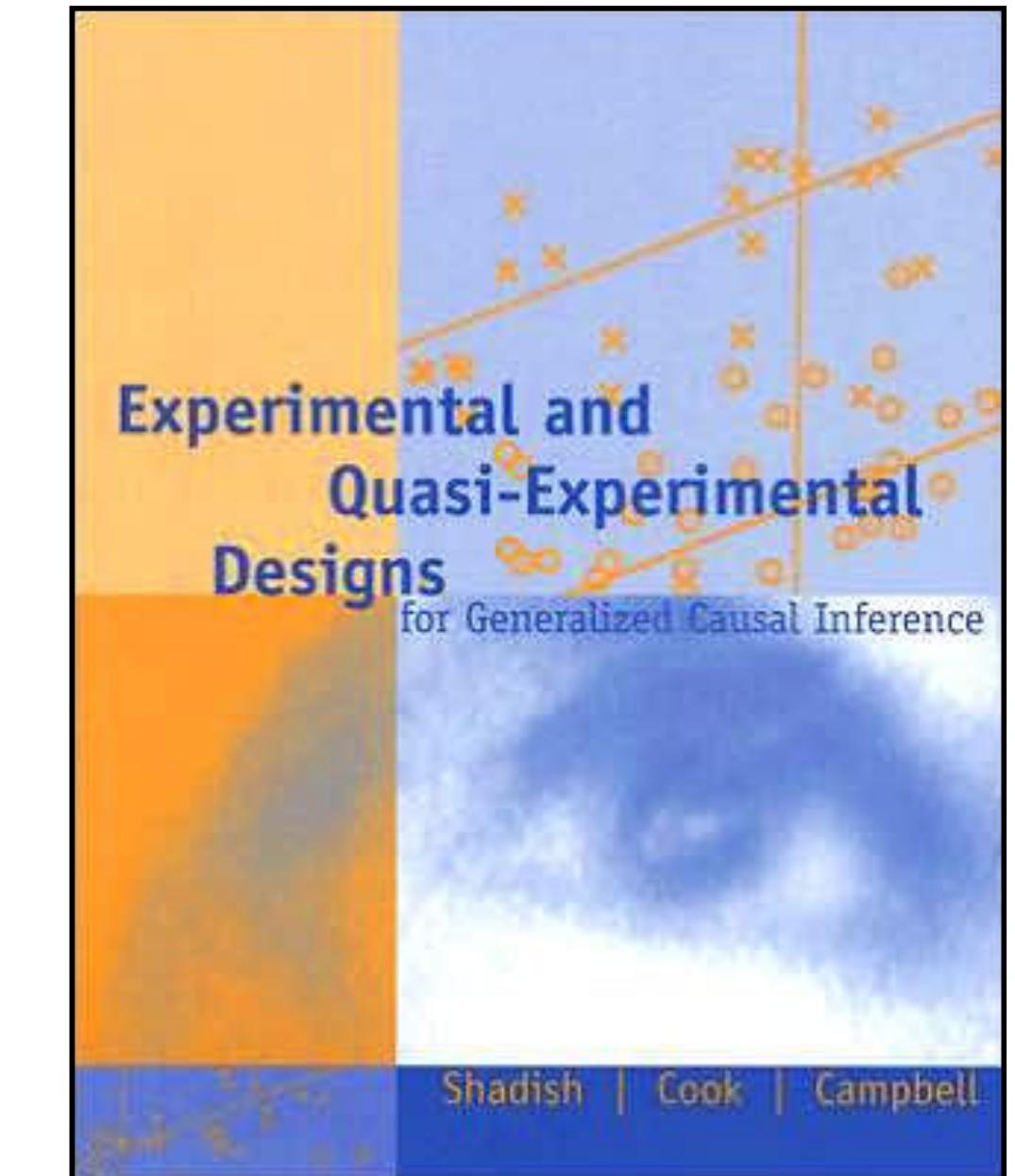
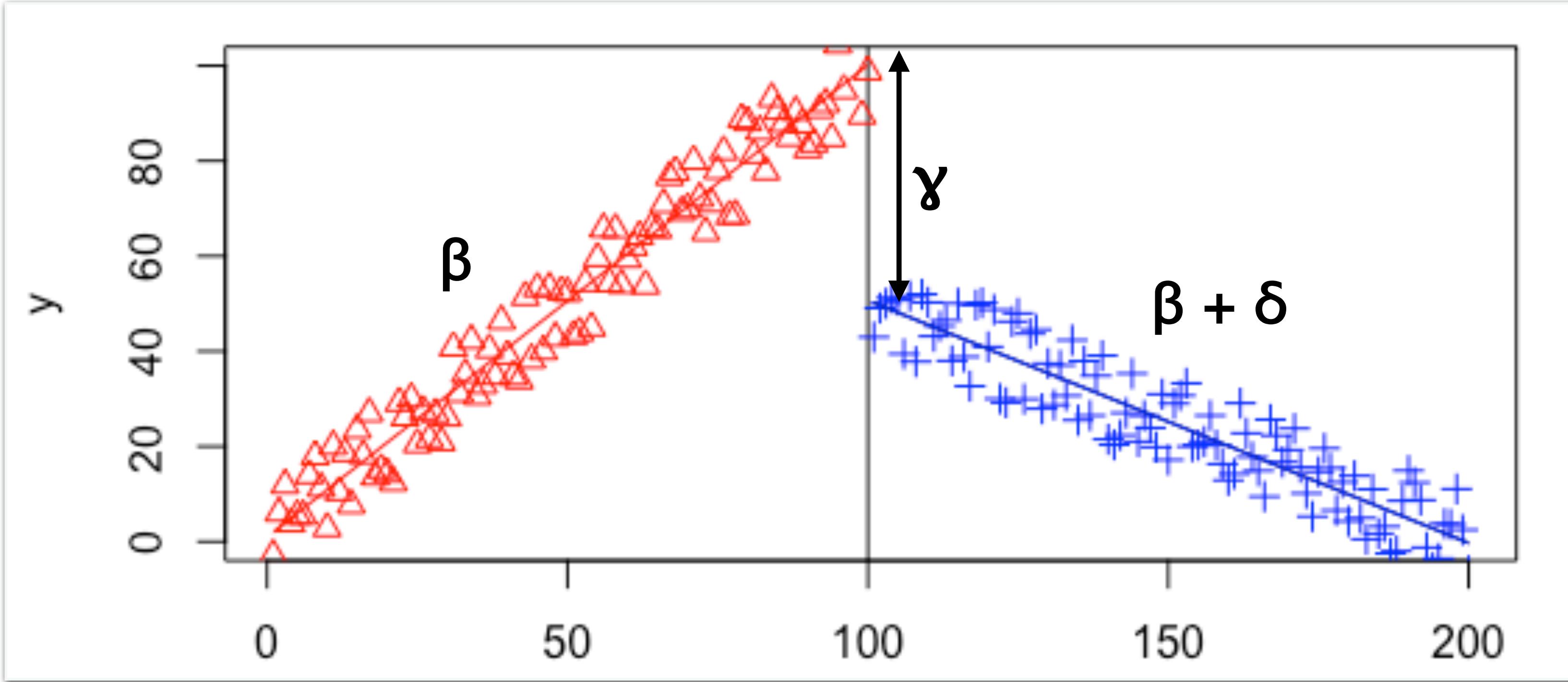
- Hyp: The adoption of dependency-management badges correlates with fresher dependencies
- Hyp: Information badges have no effect
- The adoption of DM badges is associated with a longer lasting effect



Interrupted time series



Interrupted time series



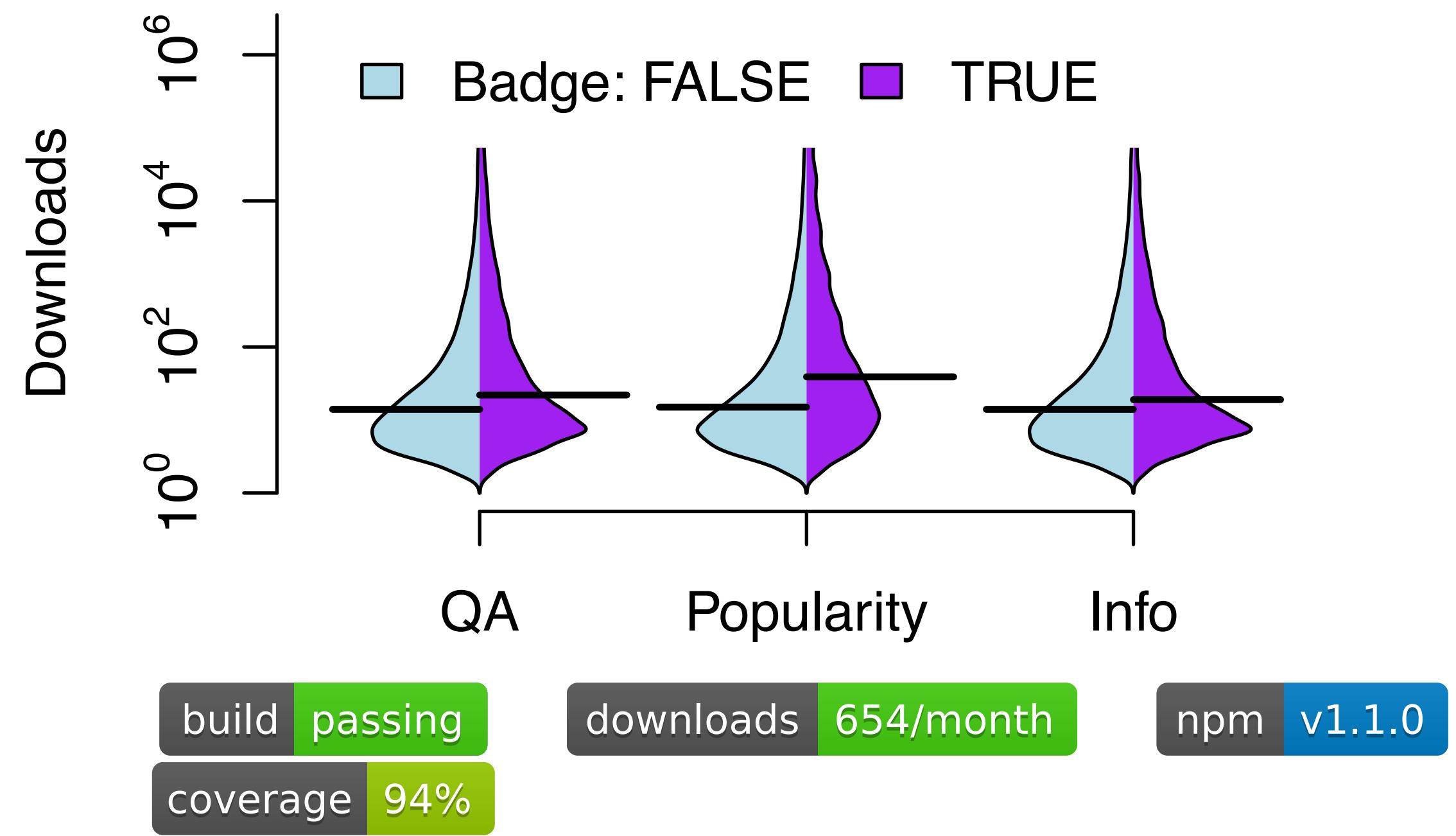
$$y_i = \alpha + \beta \cdot \text{time}_i + \gamma \cdot \text{intervention}_i + \delta \cdot \text{time_after_intervention}_i + \varepsilon_i$$

| time: | 1 | 2 | 3 | ... | 100 | 101 | 102 | ... | 200 |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| time after intervention: | 0 | 0 | 0 | ... | 0 | 1 | 2 | ... | 100 |
| intervention: | F | F | F | ... | T | T | T | ... | T |

Signals of popularity



- Hyp: The adoption of quality-assurance badges makes users more confident in a package and attracts more users
- Hyp: The adoption of popularity-related badges in popular packages correlates with more future downloads
- Packages with a badge tend to skew toward more downloads than packages without.

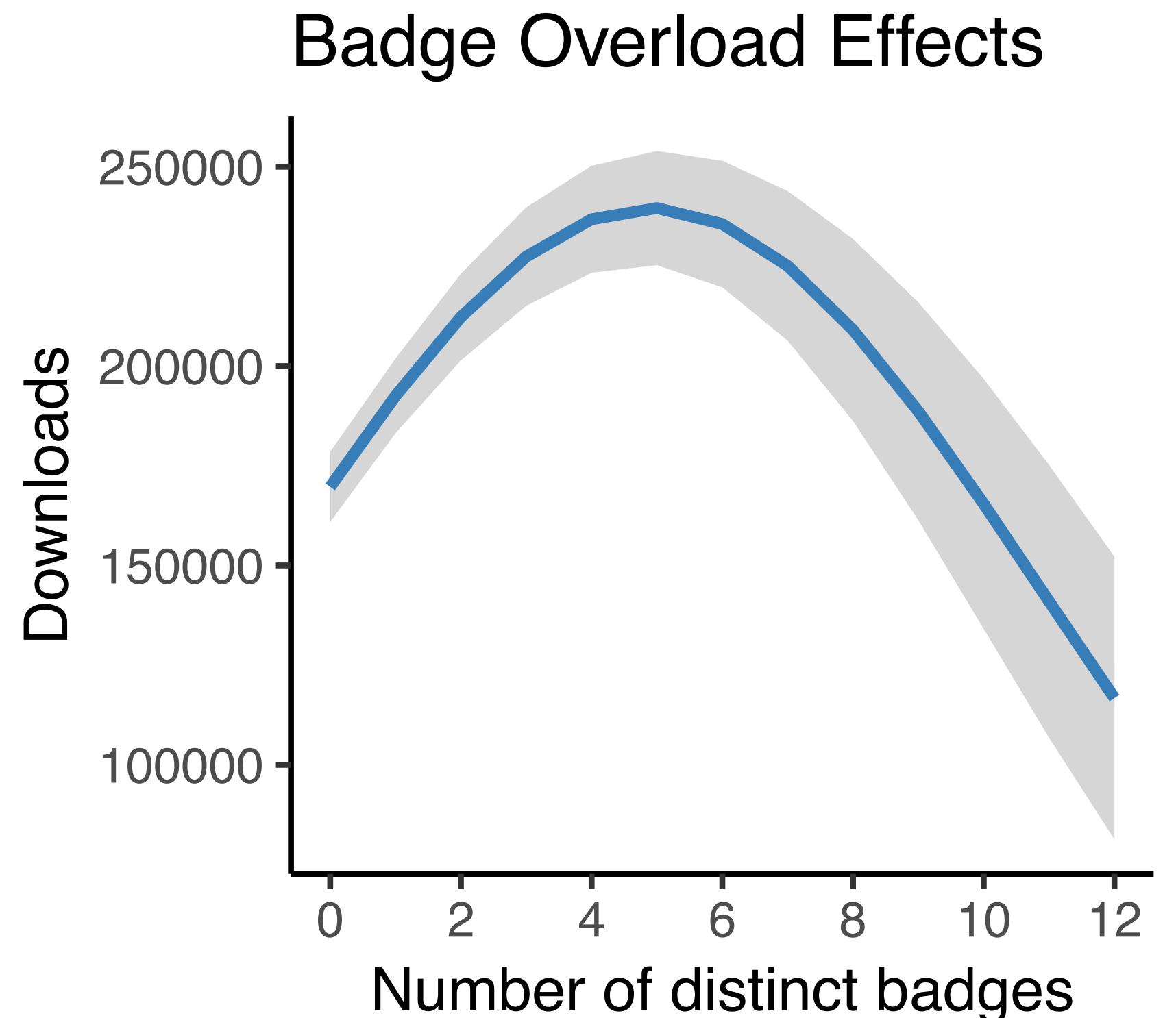


Code was “built with love” or “well written” by an “experienced developer” who pays “attention to quality”

Signals of popularity



- Hyp: The adoption of quality-assurance badges makes users more confident in a package and attracts more users
- Hyp: The adoption of popularity-related badges in popular packages correlates with more future downloads
- **Attractiveness wears off beyond five badges**

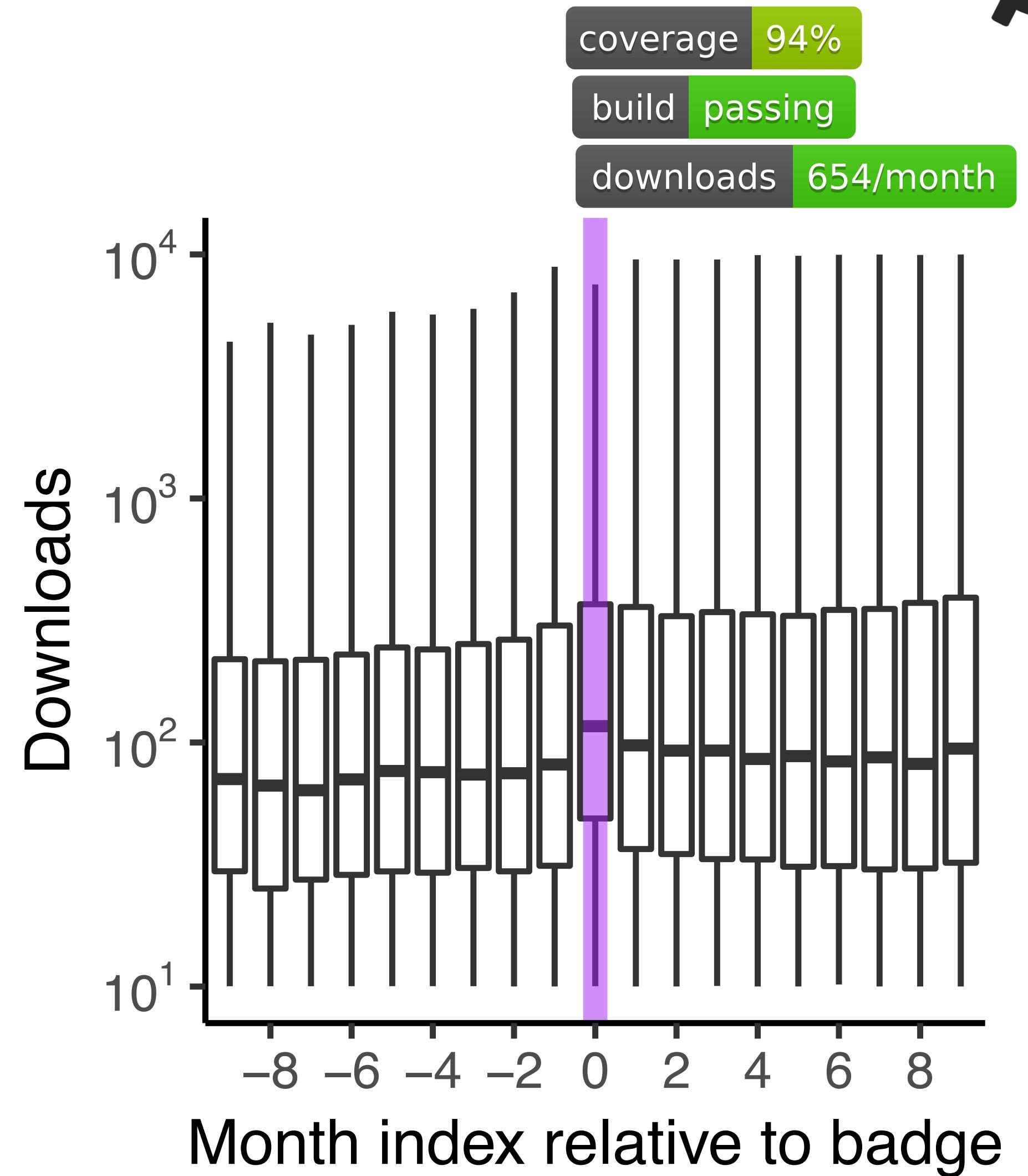


“People tend to overwhelm visitors with too many (useless) badges, thus creating a contra effect and loosing the initial purpose of having useful information.”

Signals of popularity



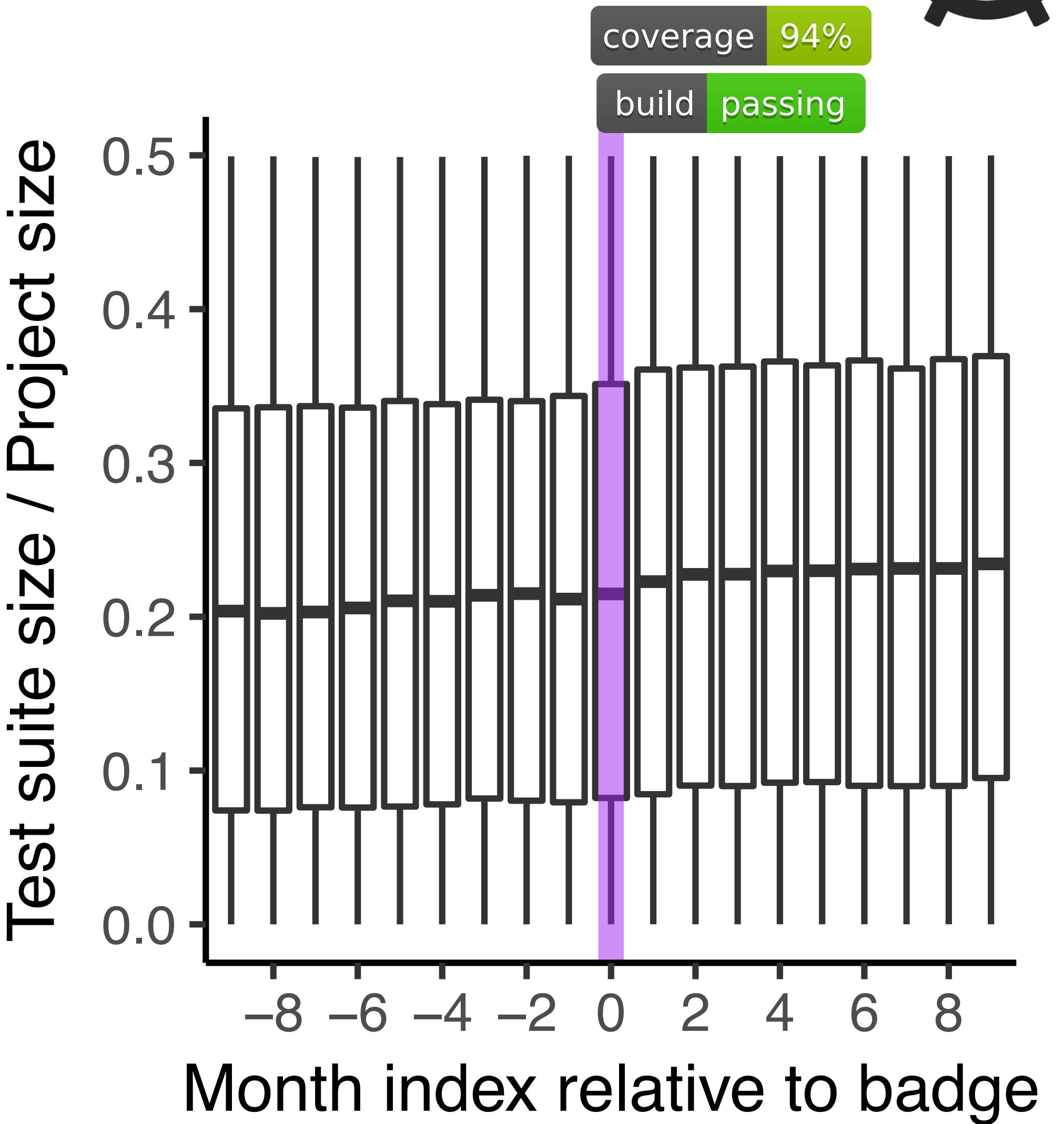
- Hyp: The adoption of quality-assurance badges makes users more confident in a package and attracts more users
- Hyp: The adoption of popularity-related badges in popular packages correlates with more future downloads
- Badge adoption correlates with a sudden popularity boost, but the acceleration is not sustained over time.



Signals of test suite quality



- Hyp: The adoption of quality-assurance badges correlates with other indicators of code quality (metric: test suite size).
Code was “built with love” or “well written” by an “experienced developer” who pays “attention to quality”
- 18x higher odds of having any tests with QA badge; among those with tests, 18.3% larger test suite with QA badge.
- But, no change in trend



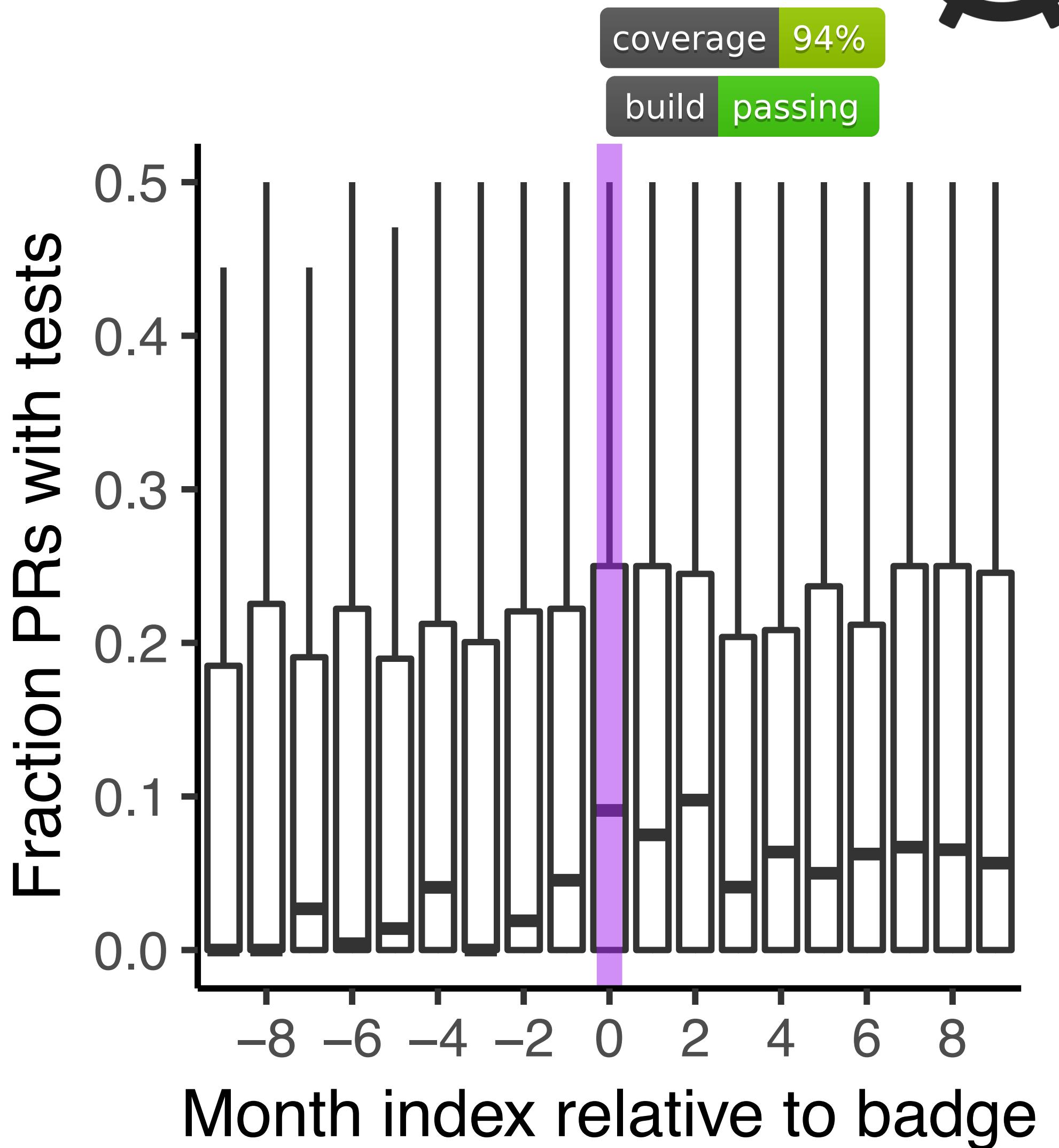
Signals of PR quality



- Hyp: The adoption of a quality-assurance badge, and even more so of a coverage badge, encourages more external contributors to include tests.

"PRs with new functionality tend to include new tests, as not to decrease coverage."

- Increase in the monthly fraction of PRs containing tests after adopting QA badge



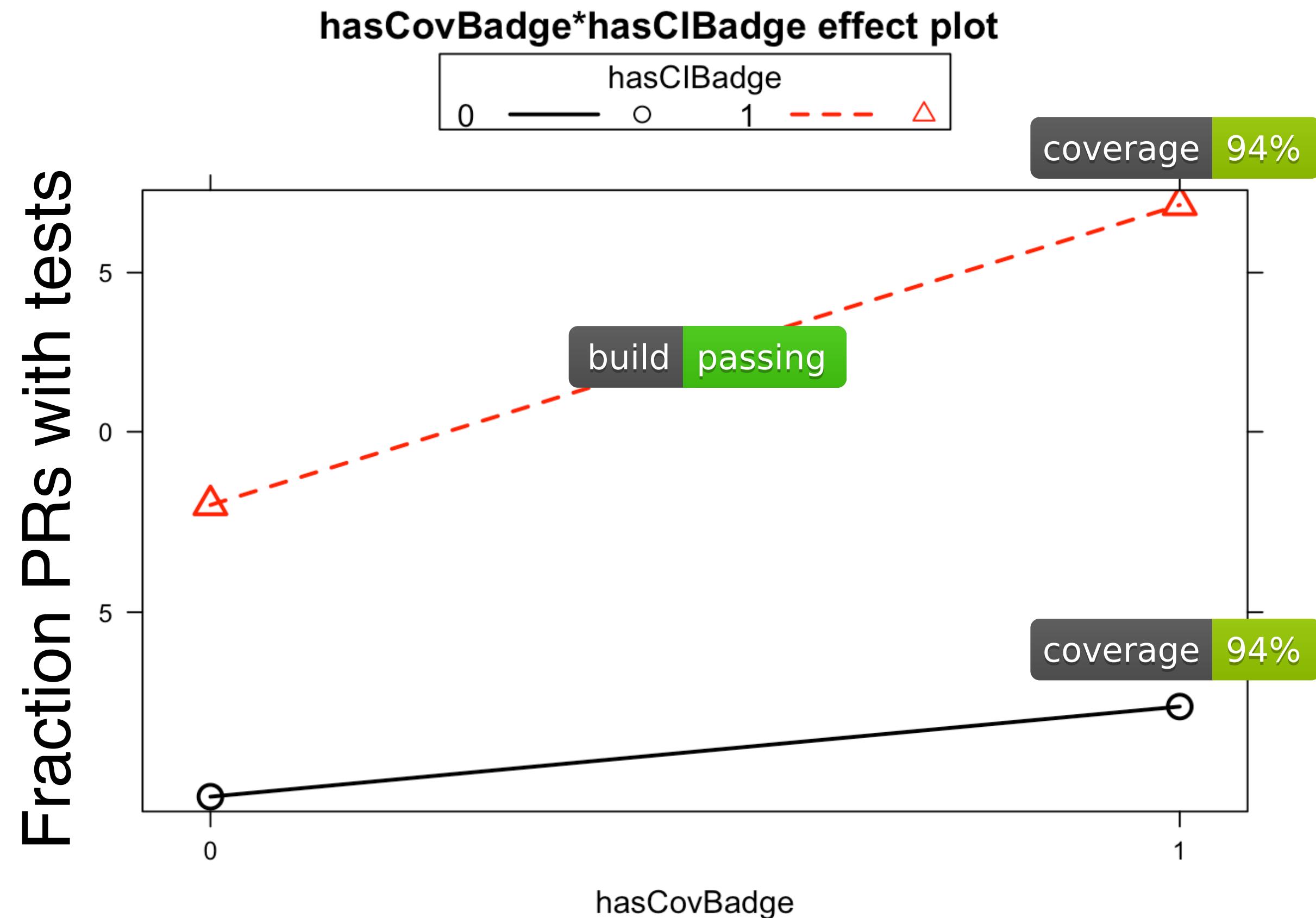
Signals of PR quality



- Hyp: The adoption of a quality-assurance badge, and even more so of a coverage badge, encourages more external contributors to include tests.

"PRs with new functionality tend to include new tests, as not to decrease coverage."

- Coverage and CI badges interact, amplifying each other's effects.



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intel

[build passing](#)[coverage 100%](#)[npm package 1.2.0](#)

An abbreviation of intelligence. In this case, the acquirement of information.

Mixed methods study



+



- 32 maintainers, 57 contributors (15% resp. rate)
 - Maintainers:
 - What do you intend to signal?
 - What effects do you expect?
 - Contributors:
 - What do badges tell you?
- 294,941 *npm* packages
 - Mined badge from README
 - Measured test suite coverage dependence

Recap

Analysis



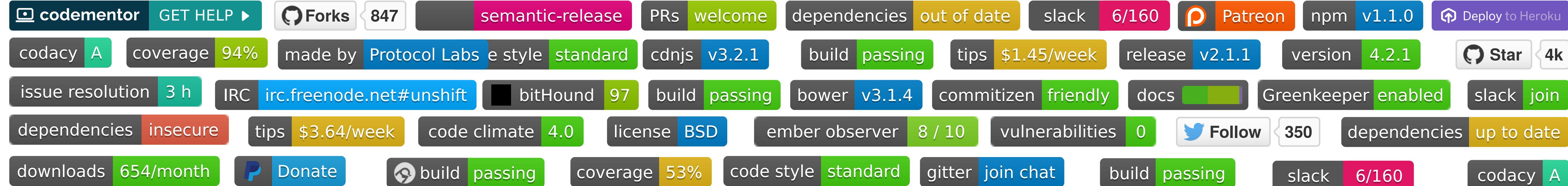
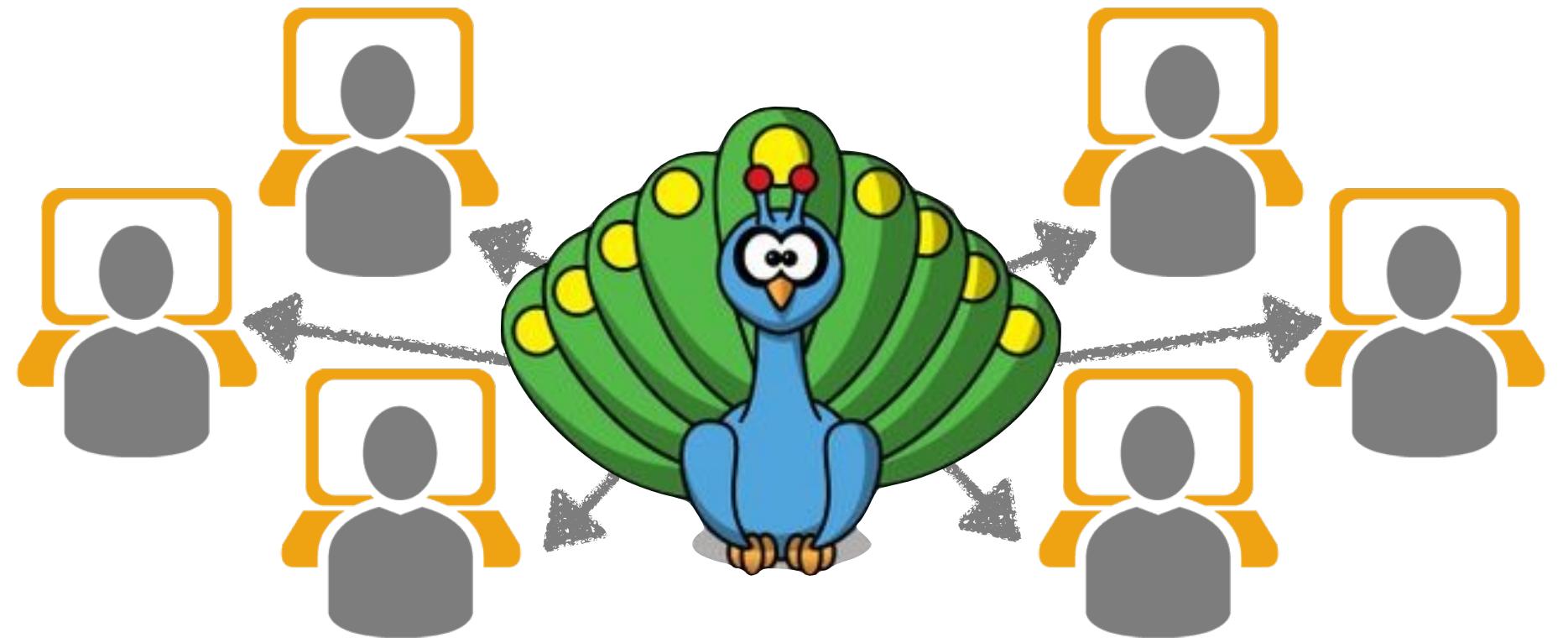
If all you saw was the badge, how much would that tell you?

How much more does the badge tell you, relative to existing signals?

How do things change after adding the badge?

Take-aways (1)

- Open source developers rely on, and respond to, signals
- We add both qualitative and quantitative evidence for badges



Take-aways (2)

- Harder to fake badges provide more reliable signals
 - As signaling theory predicts

build passing

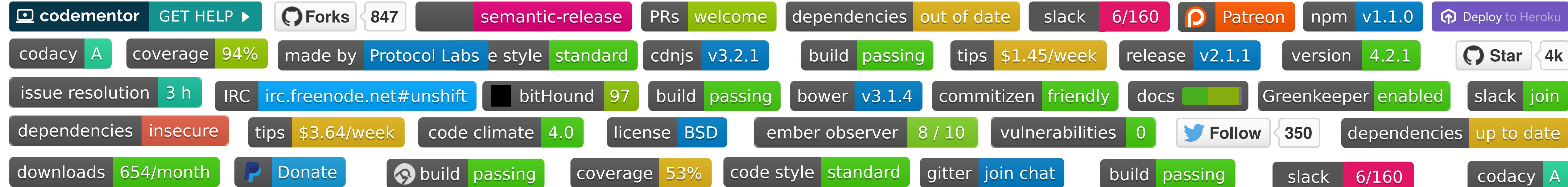
downloads 654/month

dependencies up to date

VS

npm v1.1.0

slack join



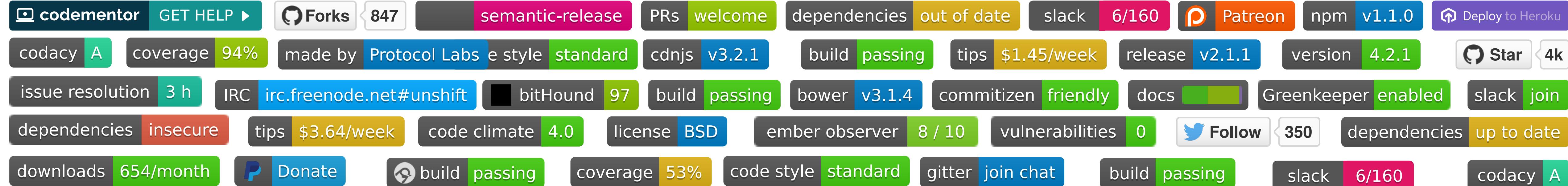
Take-aways (2)

- Harder to fake badges provide more reliable signals
 - As signaling theory predicts
 - Redesign badges as assessment signals

code style standard

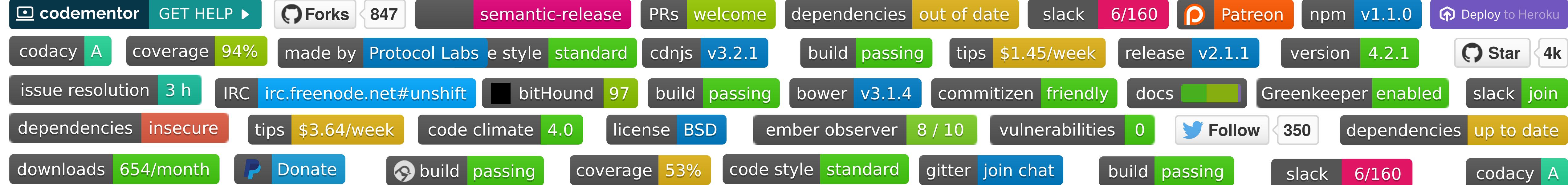
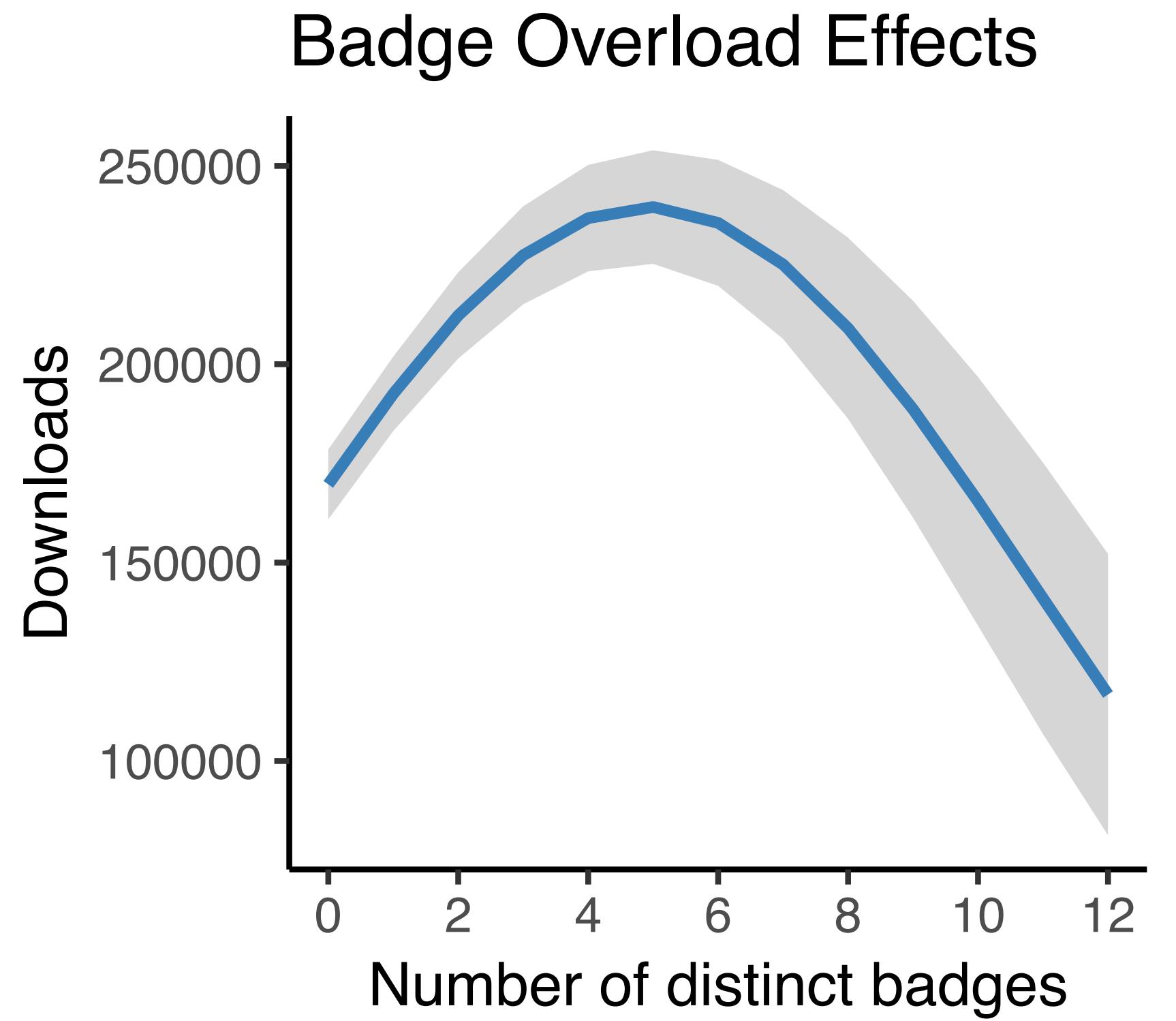
gitter join chat

slack join



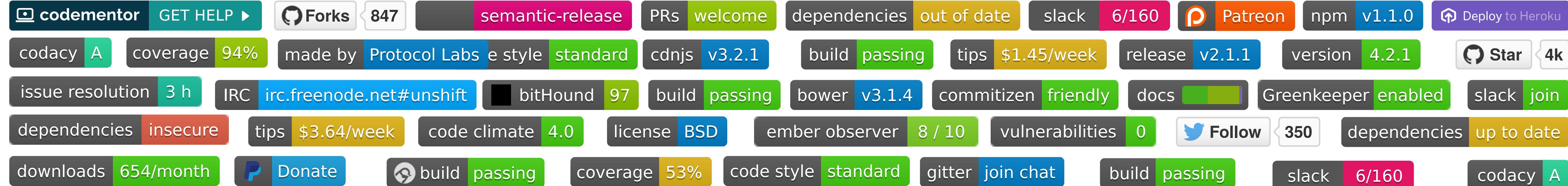
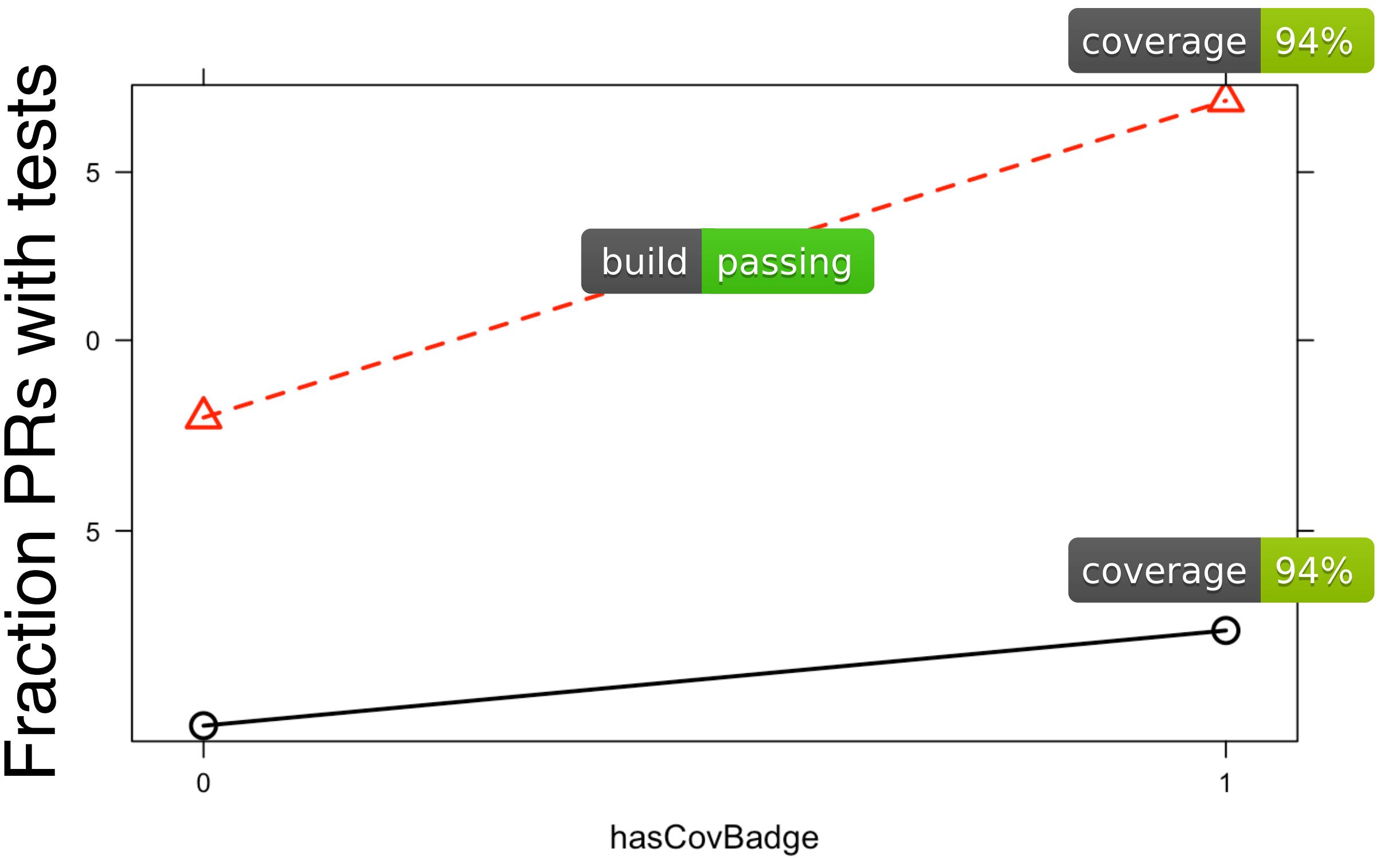
Take-aways (3)

- Too much of a good thing



Take-aways (4)

- Gamification effects

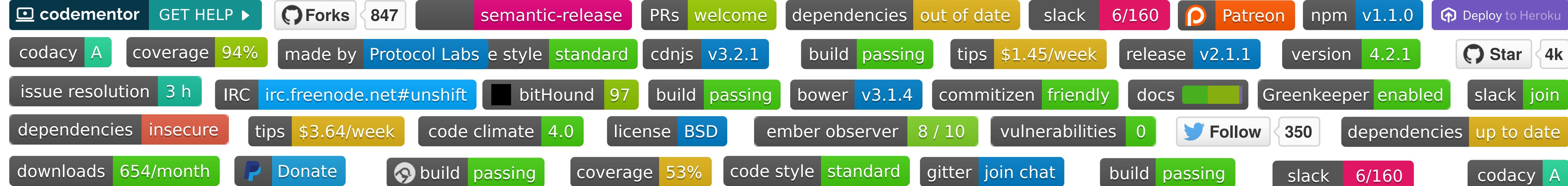


Take-aways (5)

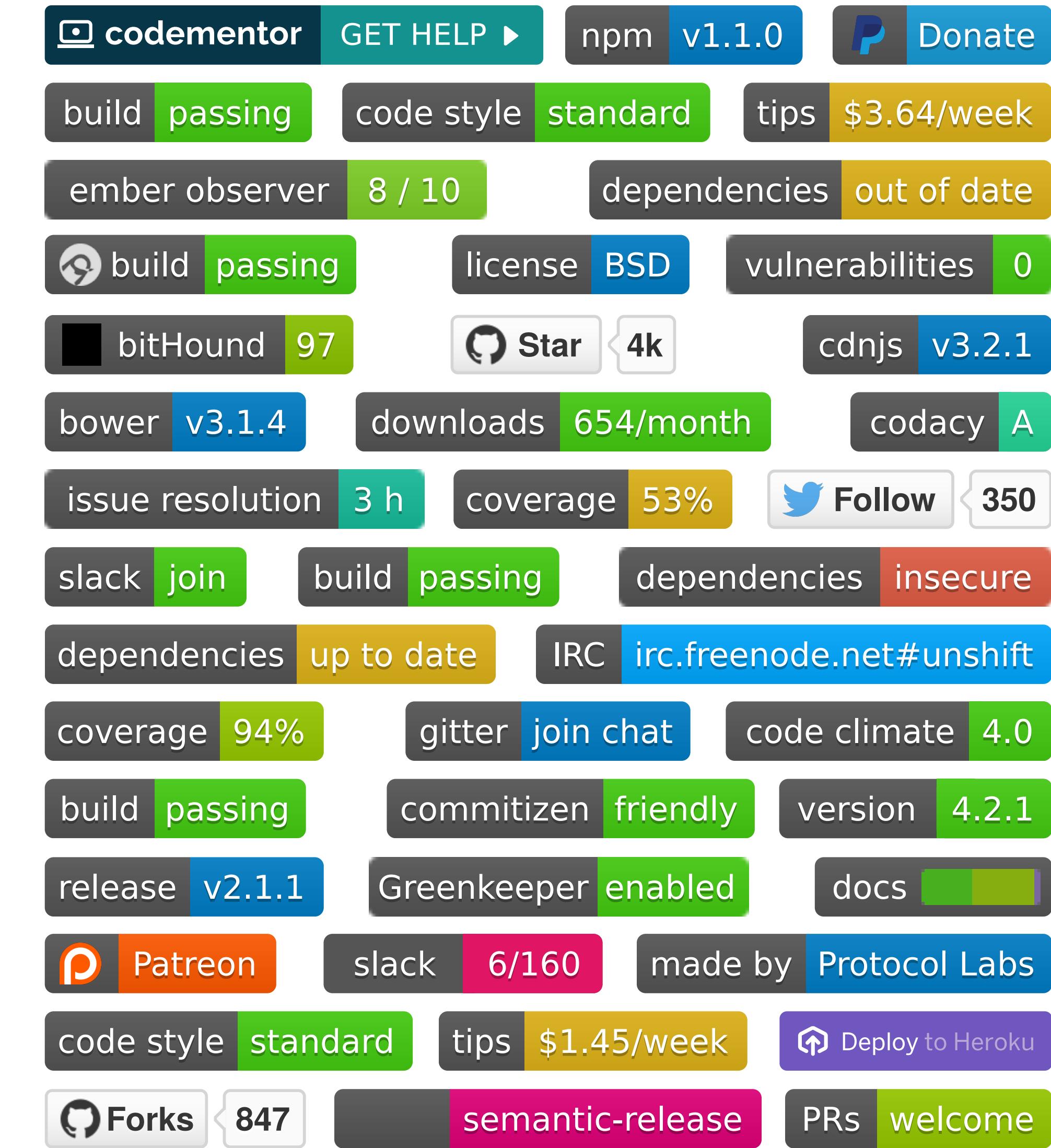
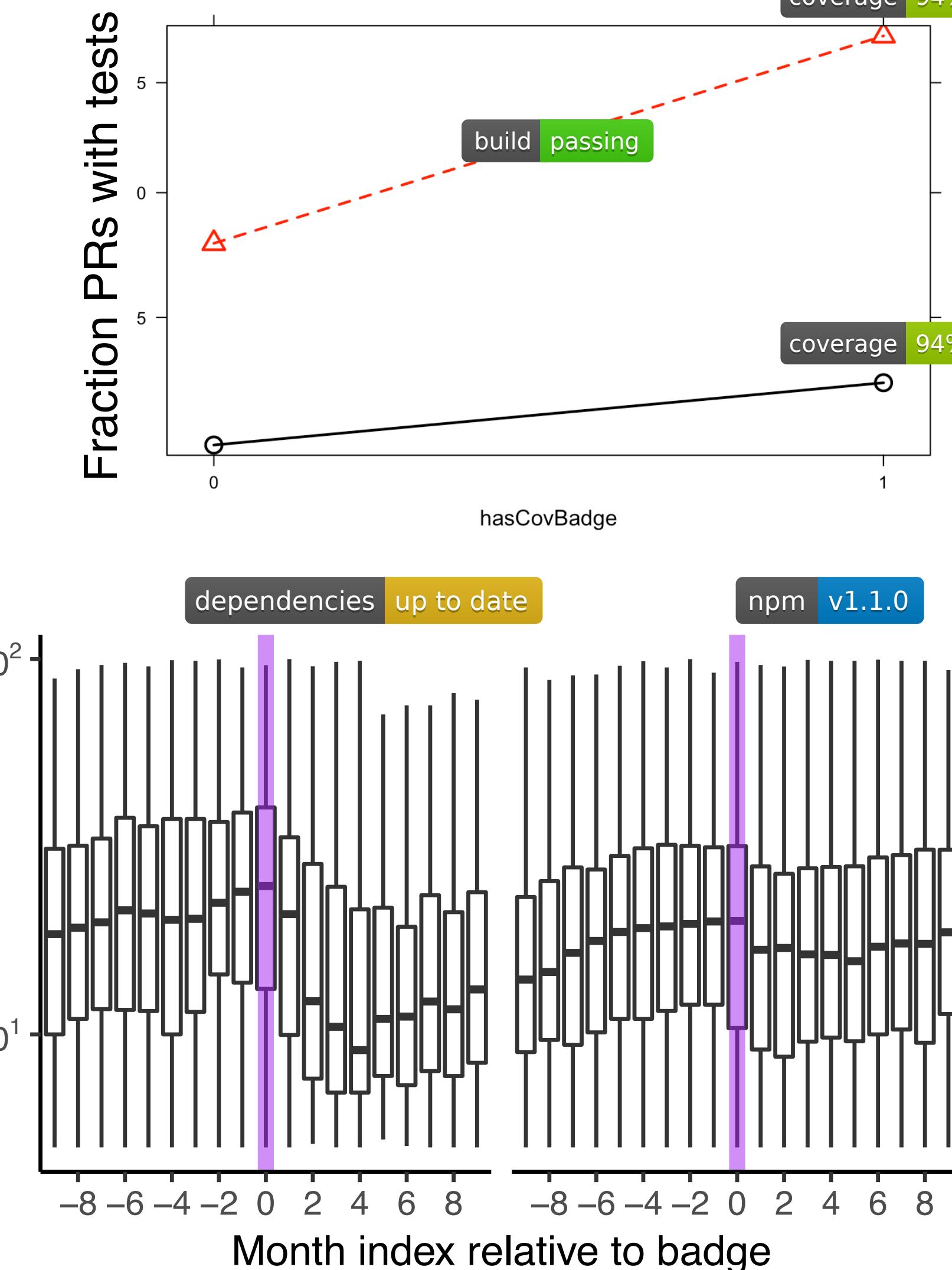
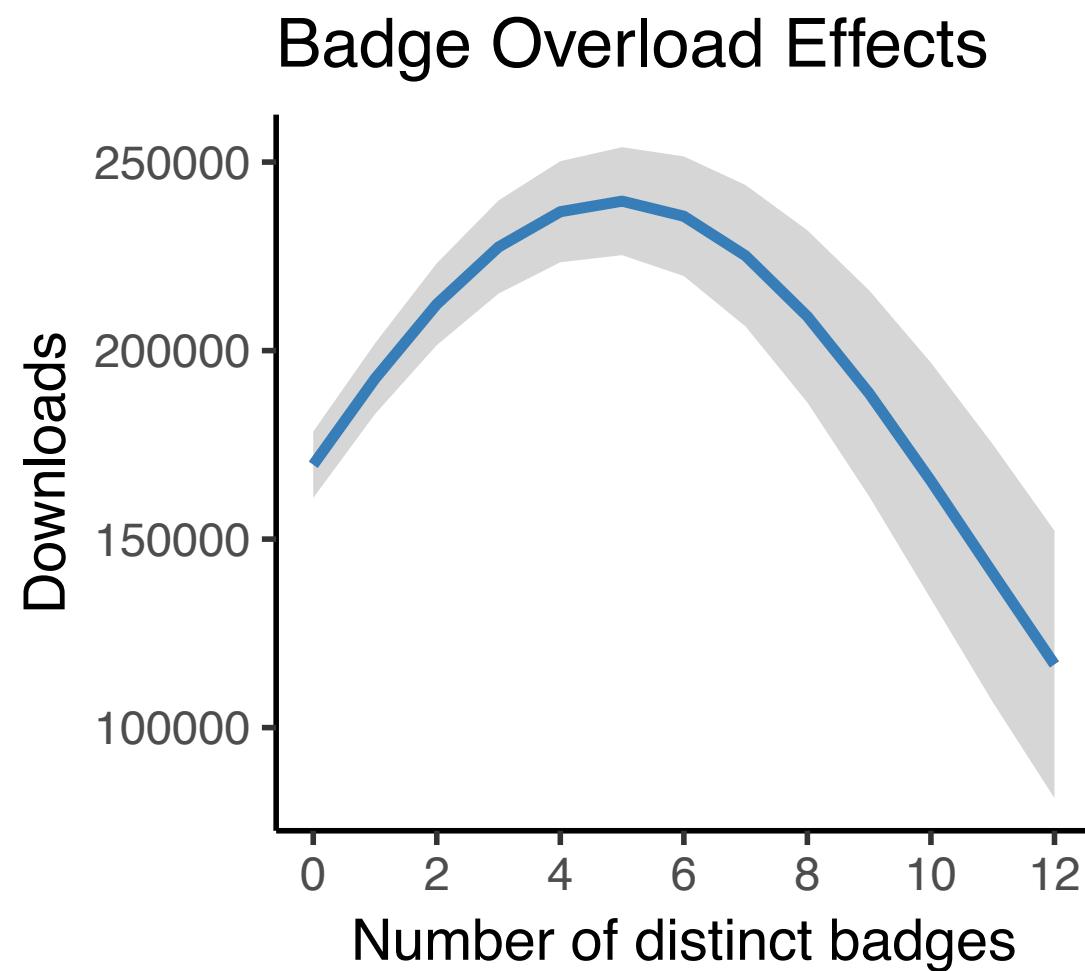
- Could we design signals (badges?) to help balance supply and demand for labor in open source ecosystems?
- Maybe

Roads and Bridges:

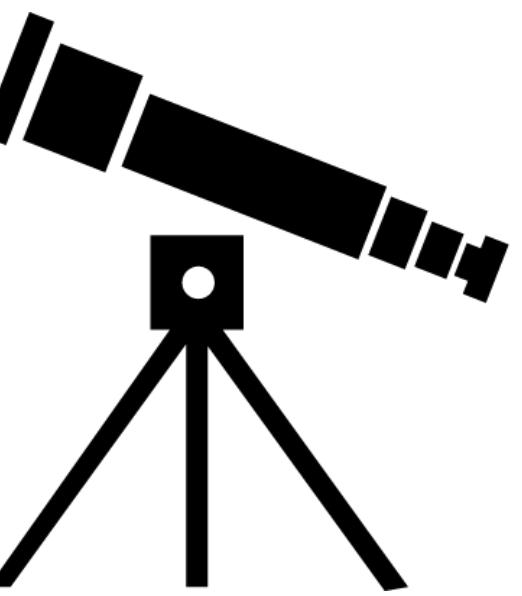
The Unseen Labor Behind
Our Digital Infrastructure



Adding Sparkle to Social Coding

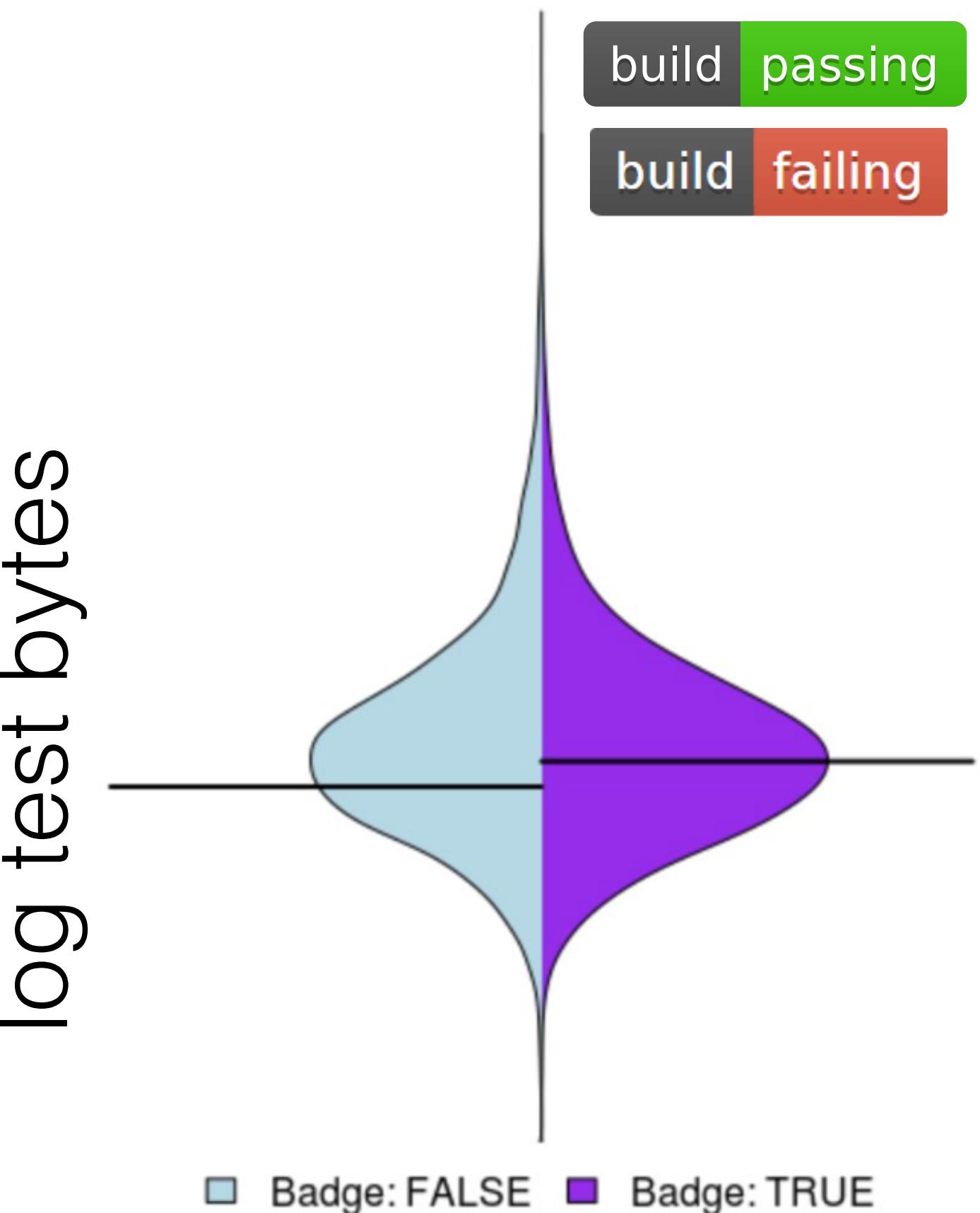


Badge vs. tool (1)



- 83.6% of projects using Travis also use the badge
- Projects with the badge tend to have more tests vs. those with just Travis

Travis Badge vs. Not



Badge vs. tool (2)

- 83.6% of projects using Travis also use the badge
- Logistic regression to predict current build status (pass/fail):

Coefficients:

| | Estimate | Std. Error | z value | Pr(> z) | |
|------------------------------|----------|------------|---------|----------|-----|
| (Intercept) | -0.52484 | 0.03236 | -16.219 | < 2e-16 | *** |
| scale(log(downloads + 1)) | -0.05058 | 0.01288 | -3.927 | 8.61e-05 | *** |
| scale(log(active_age + 1)) | 0.06748 | 0.01307 | 5.165 | 2.41e-07 | *** |
| scale(log(commits + 1)) | 0.27668 | 0.01633 | 16.941 | < 2e-16 | *** |
| scale(log(dependencies + 1)) | 0.14626 | 0.01052 | 13.909 | < 2e-16 | *** |
| factor(has_tests)1 | -0.30313 | 0.03295 | -9.199 | < 2e-16 | *** |
| scale(log(build_num + 1)) | -0.03652 | 0.01607 | -2.273 | 0.023 | * |
| has_badge | -1.12270 | 0.02432 | -46.156 | < 2e-16 | *** |

If you show the badge,
it's more likely  build passing
than  build failing

Has_badge implies
0.3 multiplicative diff
in odds of failing

