# Applying trust metrics based on user interactions to recommendation in social networks

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Abstract—Recommender systems have been strongly researched within the last decade. With the arising and popularization of digital social networks a new field has been opened for social recommendations. Considering the network topology, users interactions, or estimating trust between users are some of the new strategies that recommender systems can take into account in order to adapt their techniques to these new scenarios. We introduce MarkovTrust, a way to infer trust from Twitter interactions and to compute trust between distant users. MarkovTrust is based on Markov chains, which makes it simple to be implemented and computationally efficient. We study the properties of this trust metric and study its application in a recommender system of tweets. \(^1\)

#### I. Introduction

Recommender systems have emerged as an effective response to the so-called information overload problem in which users are finding it increasingly difficult to filter the huge amount of information they are exposed to. Finding useful information in the web is another challenge that recommender systems help to solve. With the popularization of social networks, recommender systems had a new scenario with its own particularities that had to be taken into account. Network structure and users interactions can give extra information to be considered by recommender systems. Trustbased recommenders usually combine trust between users with traditional recommender techniques to improve the quality of the recommendations. Computing trust between users is here a necessary step, and several proposals have been made [1] [2]. However, what trust is and how trust propagates across a social network is a problem that does not have a one-forall solution. As network topology and user behavior change among networks, every network requires particular analysis.

Twitter (www.twitter.com) is a social network that allows users to post 140-character text messages (or tweets). Users subscribe (or follow) to other users' publications. Twitter then shows a personalized live feed (or timeline) to every user by aggregating the tweets of people they follow (followees) by time of publication. Also, Twitter users can interact between them by means of forwarding a friend's tweet to their respective followers (retweet) or by mentioning other user to chat. The more people a user follows, the more her

<sup>1</sup>A more complete version of this work can be obtained from the authors' homepages or as technical report LSI-12-9-R from http://www.lsi.upc.edu/dept/techreps/ timeline shows more tweets and it becomes harder to read them all. This is an interesting problem for a recommender system, that might help users to filter, order or discover really interesting tweets.

We propose a method to compute trust on Twitter. This method estimates trust from user interactions and computes its propagation through a simple algorithm that we call MarkovTrust. MarkovTrust is similar to other trust propagation algorithms proposed in the literature. Our contribution is evaluating how this family of trusts performs on Twitter, and whether it can improve the quality of recommendations.

We also propose an architecture for social recommendations and their evaluation. We explore different techniques at three different levels: crawling, trust propagation and text mining. Crawling aims to get the optimum set of neighbors for every user, in such a way that the value of items published in this neighborhood is maximized. Trust and trust propagation aim to compute trust between pairs of users and use this information to enhance recommendations with social information rather than just using content-based recommendations. Text mining focuses on how to encode tweets and how to compute similarities to use in a content-based recommendation of tweets.

# II. RELATED WORK

There have been some proposals to compute trust on the web. EigenTrust [3] considers trust as a function of successful interactions (e.g. a file download from a node) in a peer-to-peer network. A direct trust matrix is created with this information from every pair of nodes. Trust propagation is computed by calculating its eigenvector matrix. This gives a local metric of trust from every pair of nodes.

Advocato (http://advogato.org) is based on Levien's trust metrics [4]. Within Advocato, each user has a single rating calculated from the perspective of a group of *seed* nodes. Trust has three levels (apprentice, journeyer and master) and its propagation is computed using a network flow model. The computed trust is global, thus assigning a single trust value to every node which is trusted similarly from every node in the network. Advocato is designed to make public key certification more attack-resistant.

In [5], a method similar to Advocato is proposed, but using spreading activation strategies instead of maximum flow to compute a local trust value instead of a global one. Appleseed



is also a group trust metric. This means that trust is computed from a set of seed nodes and therefore, for a given node, its trust is shared within a group. Like EigenTrust, Appleseed is based on finding the principal eigenvector of a trust matrix. So it provides a ranking of nodes according to their trust, rather than absolute trust values.

Richardson et al. [6] aim to compute the belief a user may have in another user's statement. They propagate trust by finding paths from the source to every node which holds an opinion on the statement. They concatenate trust along the paths and finally aggregate trusts along the found paths.

All these methods normalize trust before computing trust propagation. This make trusts from different users incomparable, as a user with more trusted nodes will assign a lower level of trust to each of them (trust is limited and shared among peers). Golbeck proposes TidalTrust [1] to avoid this problem by keeping the original trust scale while trust propagation is computed. TidalTrust proposes using FOAF meta-data to compute trust for recommendations. It extends the FOAF ontology adding a trust level that ranges from 1 to 10. Trust is explicitly annotated by users, and then propagated by the TidalTrust algorithm.

Song et al. [7] propose an information flow model based on Markov chains to predict user behavior based on early adopters behaviour. They aim to solve the following question: "If a user or multiple users access an item, who else is likely to follow these early adopters and access this item next?" They give general and topic-sensitive models and use timestamps to deal with the temporal notion of adoption.

In this paper we propose a method similar to that of EigenTrust adapting the computation of direct trust from a P2P network to the Twitter social network. As EigenTrust, we will infer direct trust analyzing the interactions between users. Inferring trust from interactions in Twitter has an additional problem of fetching these interactions. There are several types of interactions in Twitter and thus this translation from interactions into trust will have to be carefully analyzed.

In order to summarize, we address here two main questions:

- (a) how can we adapt existing trust metrics to Twitter?
- (b) does trust information help in recommending tweets?

For the first question we will adapt EigenTrust to our scenario and evaluate it in a similar way to that of TidalTrust, as it is also a recommender system scenario. For the second question, we will develop a basic recommender system framework for social networks. Once we have a set of candidate tweets for a given user, we will test whether adding trust information improves classical recommendation methods.

# III. TRUST ON TWITTER

If Twitter had an explicit feedback mechanism, that is, the possibility for users to rate other users (or their tweets), we could create a trust metric that considers the positive feedback towards other users. The more positive feedback a user u has given over a user v, the higher confidence on the assertion that user a trusts user b. If Twitter had a FOAF-like tagging like the WOT (Web Of Trust) proposed by Golbeck [1] where

users explicitly annotate trusts on other users, we could use (not considering computationally costs for this scenario) their TidalTrust algorithm to propagate trust.

But we do not have such a feedback or annotation mechanism on Twitter. Instead, we have to analyze the interactions between users to indirectly estimate how much a user trusts another one. Using the Twitter public API we can get information on this interactions. We propose using these interactions and translating them into a measure of direct measure of estimated trust.

Twitter users interact in three ways: (a) following other user tweets (b) retweeting other user's tweet (c) mentioning another user or (d) favoriting another users' tweet. See the extended version for an explanation of these interactions, and a discussion of their possible meanings in terms of trust among users. The question here is how these interactions can be cast to a measure of direct trust. Mentions and retweets express trust, but they might not express trust with the same strength. We are sure about retweets, but mentions contain more ambiguity. As we will see later, we propose weighting these interactions to fine tune the trust model.

Some Twitter users have specialized profiles on some topic (e.g. politics or machine learning) and others have general profiles and post on many topics. An ideal computation of trust would detect the topics of every tweet involved in a mention or retweet and would increase trust only on those topics. Though the problem they tackle is different, such a topic-based influence is considered for instance in [7]. For simplicity's sake, we compute trust in a global way, considering that the trust of a on b is topic-independent.

We consider users trust their friends proportionally to the number of interactions. Given a user u, she shares her total trust between every user she has interacted with (mentioned or retweeted). For instance, if user a had 10 interactions shared amongst user b (3 retweets), user b (5 retweets) and user b (2 retweets), her trust b is 0.3, trust b is 0.5, and trust b is 0.2. Note a user b can interact with a user b even if b does not follow b. For instance, if user b published a tweet b and another user which is followed by b retweets b, b will be published on b is formula:

$$t_{ij} = \frac{wN_{ij}^{(m)} + (1 - w)N_{ij}^{(rt)}}{N_i} \tag{1}$$

where  $N_{ij}$  is number of interactions from i to j,  $N_i$  is the number of total interactions originated by a, and w is the weight assigned to retweets against mentions. Our intuition is that w should have a value between 0.5 and 1. We chose w = 0.5. Superindexes denote mention interactions (m) or retweet interactions (rt).

Note that by assigning a limited amount of trust to share among friends, we are losing the real magnitude of trust. Instead, what we get is an ordered list of users by their assigned trust.

# A. Trust propagation

So far we have discussed how to infer trust strength between two users (a and b) when a has directly interacted with b. However, most users have never interacted between each other. Let c be a user followed by b and not by a. Let  $t_{uv}$  be the trust of user u on user v. The goal of a trust propagation model is to compute  $t_{ac}$  from trust  $t_{ab}$  and  $t_{bc}$ .

Note that equation 1 can be seen as transition probabilities of a Markov chain if  $t_{ij}$  is seen as the probability of an interaction from i to j. If the network is interpreted as a Markov chain, we can apply a random walk model considering trusts as probabilities and, in general, considering trust  $t_{ab}$  as the probability for a to reach b. In Markov models, the t-step distribution is the distribution after taking t steps from the starting distribution. It is denoted by  $\Pi^t = \Pi^0 P^t$  where  $\Pi^0$ denotes the initial probability distribution over states and  $P^t$ is the transition matrix P raised to the t-th power. As we are considering trust from every user, the initial probability is set to 1 for every user and P is then a vector of ones. Thus we have  $\Pi^t = P^t$ . In order to avoid confusion between steps and trust, we denote steps as s. If considering trust as transition probabilities, the probability of walking from node i to node j after s steps can be expressed as:

$$t_{ij}^{(s)} = \begin{cases} t_{ij} & \text{if } s = 1\\ \sum_{k} t_{ik} t_{k,j}^{(s-1)} & \text{if } s \ge 1 \end{cases}$$
 (2)

where the probability of i reaching j after s steps is seen as the probability of taking a single step to some vertex k and then taking s-1 steps to j. Note that the model takes into account every path from i to j and with a maximum of s steps.

However, instead of having a fixed number of steps s, we want to consider that users have an horizon of trust of one step, two steps and so on up to s steps. Moreover, we want to apply a decay probability to tune the importance of closer neighbors. In a matrix form, we can express this as:

$$T^{s} = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{n=1}^{s} \alpha_{n} \prod_{m=1}^{n} P^{m}$$
 (3)

where P is the initial transition matrix with components  $t_{ij}$  and  $\alpha$  is a decay factor which value will be discussed in section V. Our intuition is that s=3 is a good choice. Inferring trust further than this would lead to a lower accuracy on trust. To avoid dead end nodes, for those users with no outcoming interactions we artificially assign an equal amount of interactions to very other user in the network.

To reduce computing cost we truncate the transition matrix Q by deleting every trust value below a threshold. If P has  $n \times n$  dimensions, with a naive computation it takes a time of  $O(sn^3)$ .

## B. Temporal dynamics of trust

Users change their preferences over time. It can be caused by a personal shifting on their interests or because new topics appear and old ones become obsolete. In the first case, most changes occur slowly and gradually, as are more attached to the user's personal interests. In the former case, changes occur very fast (e.g. breaking news).

Another interesting aspect is temporal dynamics on the trust relationships. Over time, Twitter users start following some new users and unfollow some of their old friends. Twitter users can do so to optimize their twitter feed with information or people they are really interested on.

Ideally, these dynamics should be considered by a recommender system. But it is not the main goal of this system to deal with this kind of dynamics. However, and as the trust model drives the crawling, which is a critical part of the system, we apply a simple decay model to capture some of the trust dynamics. Our model ages the old interactions so that the newer prevail when profiling the user. We apply a forgetting factor to old interactions of a user every time she creates a new one. New retweets imply a decay on old retweets and new mentions imply a decay on old mentions. Let  $\vec{v_u}$  be the vector of interactions from user u. Let  $\vec{u_a}$  a new vector with one element set to one and the rest set to zero. The n-th element corresponds to the user that received the interaction from u. The decay can then be expressed as:

$$\vec{v_u} = \lambda \vec{u} + (1 - \lambda)\vec{v_u} \tag{4}$$

where  $\vec{b}$  is a vector with all zeros but a one in the position of user b. The more dynamic the trust is, the higher value  $\lambda$  should have to age old interactions. Our intuition is that trust does not change dramatically and a  $\lambda = 0.1$  will suffice.

Note that this decay is applied to the transitions matrix, not directly into the trust matrix. The former will be computed from the first.

Let us note also a couple of limitations of our setting due to the fact that we are doing the recommendations externatlly, i.e., we are not Twitter: 1) We do not have access to the whole network, only to the information provided by Twitter via the API, which is limited in quality and quantity. 2) We cannot test the system online in this work, only in an offline setting (so some of the information may have lost its interest at the time of examination). A more thorough discussion of these limitations and their impact on evaluation appears in the extended version.

#### IV. ARCHITECTURE

For testing MarkovTrust on Twitter we designed a system that crawls users and fetches their interactions. After a period of crawling, we will be able to see how MarkovTrust performs and whether it can serve as a basis for recommending tweets.

The system is divided in two modules: a crawler and a recommender. The crawler updates a list of most influential neighbors for every target user and fetch their tweets. It stores these tweets for the recommender to use them as its item database. The recommender learns a model for every user from the user tweets, retweets, and mentions and later makes personalized recommendations of tweets for every target user.

Figure 1 shows the architecture schematically. Unfortunately, for space limitations, we have to refer the reader to

the full version of the paper for most details, and we can only provide the basics here.

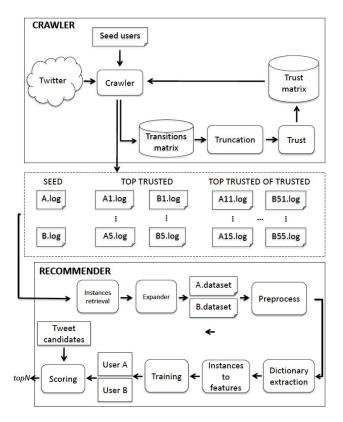


Fig. 1. Architecture of the system considering two seed users A and B

# A. Crawling

At the first cycle, the crawler has only a collection of target users. They serve as seed nodes for the crawler to start looking for trusted users in the neighborhood. In the next step, the algorithm iterates through every user to get their last published tweets. Every tweet is then parsed looking for interactions (mentions and retweets) and the interaction matrix is then updated. When there are no more users left, the interaction matrix is truncated by leaving only the n-top interacted users of every user. Using the resulting matrix as the transition matrix, trust between every pair of remaining users is recomputed. From the final trust matrix, we get a new list of m-top trusted users that will be crawled in the next cycle.

To compute this trust we only need to parse the profile of users and count the retweets and mentions to every other user. From this we can compute a trust matrix as explained in Section III. Strategies such as similarity-based or collaborative-filtering ones are discarded because they require obtaining the twitter profiles of the candidate users, which requires prohibitive amount of downloading from twitter.

To avoid the unbounded growth of the trust matrix and the associated time and memory cost, at each iteration we retain only the top-n most interacted users that we have found in the

crawling. We choose n=100 in the base implementation of our system.

#### B. Recommender

The aim of the recommender module is to periodically (e.g. every day) get a rank of m-top items for every final user. For this, it analyzes final users' publications to create a user profile. Then, for every final user, it gets a list of tweet candidates to be recommended. This list is extracted from tweets published by its neighbors. From this list, a scoring function predicts a score for every candidate tweet. The highest m-top items are then showed to the user.

In the next sections we explain this process in more detail.

- 1) Instance retrieval: First, a file is created for every target user with a set of positive and negative instances. We consider retweets are tagged as positive. To identify negative tweets we follow a similar reasoning to that of [8] in a web search scenario. In our case, we consider that given a user u and a user v and given two contiguous publications v(i-1), v(i) from user v, if user u retweets v(i) but not v(i-1) then it means that user liked v(i) and not v(i-1).
- 2) Tweet Expander: When dealing with short texts the probability of a word coincidences falls and traditional similarity methods give inaccurate results. The aim of query expansion is to add more words to the tweet so that the word occurrences between tweets increase. We follow the work on [9] and apply a similar method to expand tweets. We query Bing search engine with our tweet and append to the tweet the words contained in the description snippets of the results. The main risk of tweet expansion is getting much more noise (unrelated results) than signal (related results).
- 3) Preprocessing: Preprocessing normalizes the text and clean it from non-text artifacts (numbers, URL).
- 4) Dictionary extraction: We create a dictionary of words that act as word features. It is common to use only most frequent words, since this avoids having an excessively large set of word features that would slow down and make our classifier more inaccurate. However, as we have small logs, we add every word to the dictionary. We create two dictionaries. A bag-of-words and a term frequency weighted bag-of-words. In the second case, for every word in the dictionary we compute the log ratio between its occurrences in the positive examples and the occurrences in the negative examples:

$$tf = \log \frac{POS_w}{NEG_w} \tag{5}$$

5) Instance to features: In this step we extract the following features from tweet instances: trust, url and words.

*trust* is a real value [0,1] that indicates the trust from the target user to the user who made the original tweet (at the moment of the retweet).

*url* is a binary variable that indicates whether the tweet contains any url or not.

words can be codified in different ways. The basic form is a boolean bag of words with words taken from the previously extracted dictionary. We can also express the bag of words with their *tf* value as explained in section IV-B4. Or we can also collapse these bag of words by computing the distance from the tweet to the corpus using the *tf* dictionary. We will use the first and the third encodings denoted as *bow* and *tf*.

6) Training and scoring: Finally, the system is trained over all the past tweets and is ready to score a new tweet candidate. Candidate tweets will be those tweets in the neighborhood that have been published since the last recommendation to the target user.

#### V. EXPERIMENTS

To test the system we selected 20 seed users from our twitter network. Their interests range from politics to professional coaching. Their main language is Catalan, Spanish, or English. We crawled these users and their neighborhood for six months. After processing users' logs we got an average of 314 instances which are balanced (around 50%-50% of retweets and non-retweets).

#### A. Validation of the trust model

We have no direct way of testing the accuracy of our trust propagation model. The ideal scenario would be having a full annotated network where every user has rated every other user. As we do not have such a network, we follow a similar approach to that of Golbeck [1] to see how our trust model does on direct neighbors. Later, we will test how trust information affects the accuracy of recommendations on this network. Golbeck did the following process for every user: For each neighbor  $n_i$  of the user (source), a list of common neighbors of the user and  $n_i$  was compiled. For each of those neighbors, the difference between the source rating and  $n_i$ rating of the neighbor (i.e. computed trust) was recorded as a measure of accuracy. We call this difference  $\Delta$ . A smaller  $\Delta$  means higher accuracy. But unlike Golbeck, we are not interested on the absolute value of trust but on the resulting ranking of users ordered by their given trust. We would like to know whether a common neighbor is similarly (say, highly) trusted by both users, without caring for what "high" means for each user. For instance, let a be a user whose most trusted friend is b, Let b be a user whose most trusted friend is c, and let c be also a friend of a. We would like our trust model to place c between the most trusted users of a. A solution can be to compare rankings of a and b. However, this can only be done when a and b rank the same users. To solve this we normalized the rankings of our users following the next normalization formula for every item in the original ranking:

$$normalized\_rank(r) = \frac{r-1}{R-1}$$
 (6)

where r is the ordinal value of the item and R is the length of the rank. The normalized ranking has all its values into [0,1].

To analyze the impact of trust decay we compare behaviors of delta when no decay is used and when an exponential and a linear decay is applied. The formula for the exponential decay used is  $\alpha_n = c \frac{1}{1.5^n}$  where c is a normalizing factor to make the sum of  $\alpha$ 's to be 1. And the formula for the linear decay is  $\alpha_n = c(n_{max} - n + 1)$ .

TABLE I RELATION OF TRUST RANK AND DELTA

Ranking	Δ	Δ	Δ	
(0-10)	No decay	Linear decay	Exp.decay	
(0-1)	1.14	0.90	0.87	
(1-2)	1.10	1.22	1.09	
(2-3)	0.96	1.05	1.05	
(3-4)	1.07	1.18	1.20	
(4-5)	1.09	0.81	1.01	
(5-6)	1.13	1.11	0.92	
(6-7)	0.91	1.08	1.16	
(7-8)	0.90	1.08	0.99	
(8-9)	1.3	1.34	1.34	
(9-10)	1.26	1.11	1.16	

Table I shows the average values of  $\Delta$  at every position of the ranking of trust. The trust rank and  $\Delta$  have been normalized to a [0-10] range. We would expect a smaller  $\Delta$  in the top users, i.e. more agreement among common neighbors. However, we see no clear correlation between neighbors ratings and  $\Delta$ . This might be caused either by our model being wrong or by transitivity not holding in this scenario.

If a user a trusts a user b, this can have a double meaning: First, it can reflect a general interest on what b publishes. As direct trust is computed by analyzing the interactions between users this is, by definition, a characteristic of our model; A second characteristic is that of transitivity when endorsing other users. If a trusts b and b trusts c, a would trust c if a) transitivity holds and b) the propagation model is appropriate. The general validity of our trust model will be further discussed in the next section. As for transitivity, the lack of correlation shown in the table seems to indicate that there is no apparent trust transitivity occurring in Twitter.

It would be interesting to know whether we do not see apparent transitivity on trust because trust is not transitive on Twitter, or because our trust model does not capture it appropriately. If the original interactions are transitive (a highly interacting with b and b highly interacting with c implies a highly interacting with c) we would infer that our trust model does not keep transitivity. One could even say that a model based on transitivity, such as MarkovTrust and most of trust models, might not be appropriate in such scenario.

Table II is similar to table I but uses the stored interactions instead of the computed trust. The table shows that there is a slight correlation but that it is opposite to the correlation we expected. It seems that, in terms of interactions, users agree less about those with whom they interact more. This might be an effect of our selective crawling or due to a lack of more data to make the patterns statistically sound. Anyway, no transitivity is apparent in the interactions.

Even if there is no evidence of transitivity, we observe a low  $\Delta$  at every position of the rank. That is, either considering interactions or inferred trust, common neighbors are similarly trusted (or interacted).

TABLE II RELATION OF INTERACTIONS RANK AND DELTA

Ranking [0-10]	Δ
[0-1)	1.36
[1-2)	0.75
[2-3)	1.14
[3-4)	0.83
[4-5)	0.78
[5-6)	0.52
[6-7)	1.06
[7 - 8)	0.53
[8-9)	0.57
[9-10)	0.17

TABLE III ACCURACY OF RETWEET PREDICTION

	Cl.	Exp	Enc	Acc	Rec	Prec	F1	AUC
Trust		yes	bow	50.76	59.43	52.07	55.51	50.93
	NID		tf	52.38	58.99	52.52	55.57	52.58
	ND	no	bow	48.79	53.01	47.76	50.25	49.88
			tf	51.97	50.49	50.60	50.44	51.51
		yes	bow	45.84	61.00	30.22	40.42	50.53
	CVM		tf	47.63	51.36	46.95	49.06	47.94
	SVIVI	no	bow	46.25	68.42	32.47	44.04	50.00
			tf	47.79	46.38	48.44	47.39	47.32
Averages			48.93	56.13	45.13	49.08	50.09	
No trust No SV	MD	yes	bow	47.02	57.58	48.90	52.89	49.56
			tf	51.13	49.56	54.81	52.05	52.22
	ND	no	bow	49.28	47.98	50.76	49.33	50.54
		110	tf	46.12	45.18	45.84	45.51	46.28
		yes	bow	45.22	55.83	27.05	36.44	50.06
	SVM		tf	49.23	49.36	51.47	59.39	49.80
		no	bow	43.40	34.87	17.59	23.38	50.22
			tf	47.11	41.55	48.87	44.91	47.32
Averages		47.31	47.73	43.16	45.49	49.50		

# B. Influence of trust on recommendations

We would like to test whether our trust model is good enough to enhance the performance of a recommender system in Twitter. In order to test this, consider the recommender system explained in section IV. Given a set of retweets a user has made (positive instances) and another set not retweeted by the user (negative instances), our recommender system tries to learn a model to predict whether a non-seen tweet will be retweeted by the user. As we are applying offline experimentations and we do not have access to future tweets, we split this collection of tweets on training set (75%) and test set (25%). As these test tweets are past tweets, we know whether the user retweeted them or not. In other words, the instances are all tagged. We compared models in a search space as shown in III. We tested both SVM (RBF kernel with C=1.0 and  $\gamma$  set to the inverse of the number of features) and Naive Bayes classifiers combined with the multiple techniques explained in section IV: Trust, tweet expansion and encoding of word features. Metrics used are accuracy, recall, precision, F1. and AUC.

For intuition, table III shows the averages of the models with and without trust for different metrics. Though the small size of the dataset does not allow to draw rigorously sound conclusions, we observe that models using trust information seem to perform better, and in particular recall seems to

be most benefited without compromising precision. However, note that we are using a class-balanced set so that the baselines are all 50%. These poor results of our recommender are probably due to the difficulty of the task at hand and the simplicity of our model. Using more sophisticated attributes would probably enhance these results.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we presented MarkovTrust, a model to estimate trust between users based on users interactions. We applied this trust model to Twitter and studied some of its properties. To test the utility of MarkovTrust we developed a recommender system framework that first crawls the Twitter network following the top trusted neighbors of target users, and then makes tweet recommendations based both on past retweets and estimated trust. Though not statistically sound due to lack of data, experiments show that such a trust model does not respect the idea of transitivity of trust. However, recommendations are enhanced when using MarkovTrust which makes us think that the model has some good properties for trustbased recommender systems. We think further study of these properties, as well as the properties and patterns in microblogging social networks, can shed interesting results in the future when applied to more complete recommender systems. Likewise, further analysis should be done on the marginal contribution of mentions and retweets to the accuracy of trust.

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