

# Online Popularity under Promotion

ICWSM '17  
Montréal, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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Lexing Xie

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# The problem

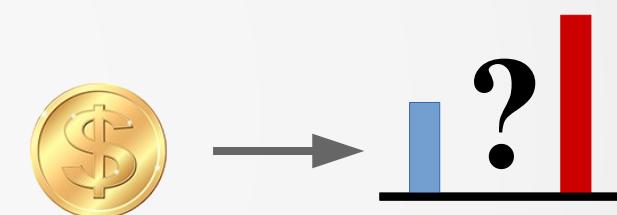
Cultural Markets seem to be unpredictable.

[Salganik et al Science'06]

1. How well do promotions work?

[D. Watts '11] [Zarezade et al WSDM '17]

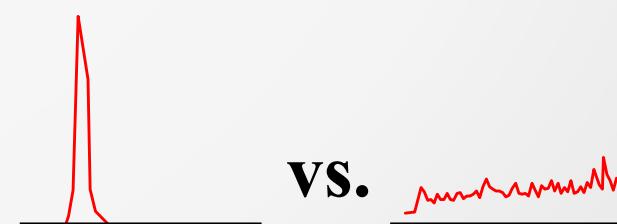
[Zhang et al. WSDM '14]



2. When should one promote?

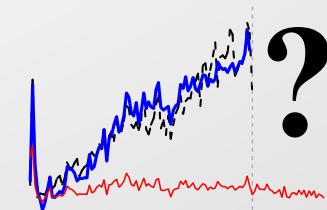
[Chierichetti et al. SIAM Jour. Comp. '14]

[BollaPragada et al. OR '04]

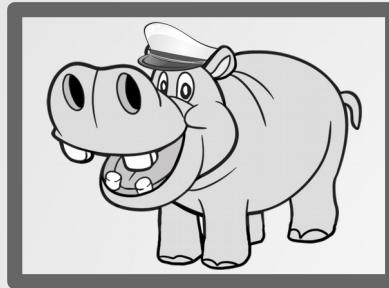


3. How to predict popularity?

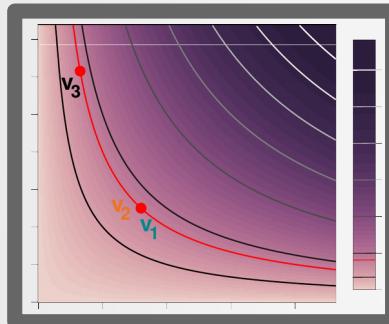
[Rizoiu et al WWW'17][Kobayashi et al ICWSM'16]



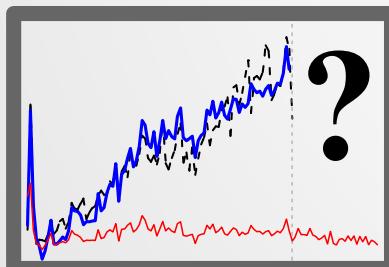
# Presentation outline



Modeling popularity with HIP



Content virality and maturity time

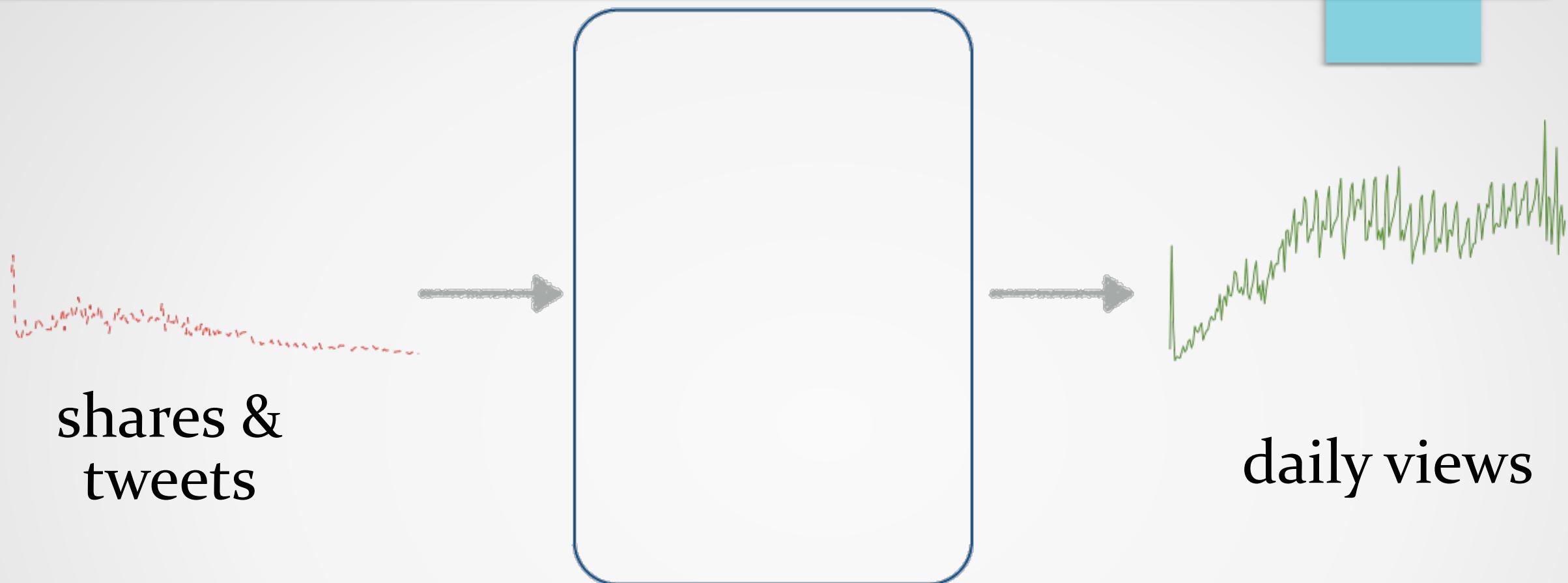


Forecasting popularity under promotion



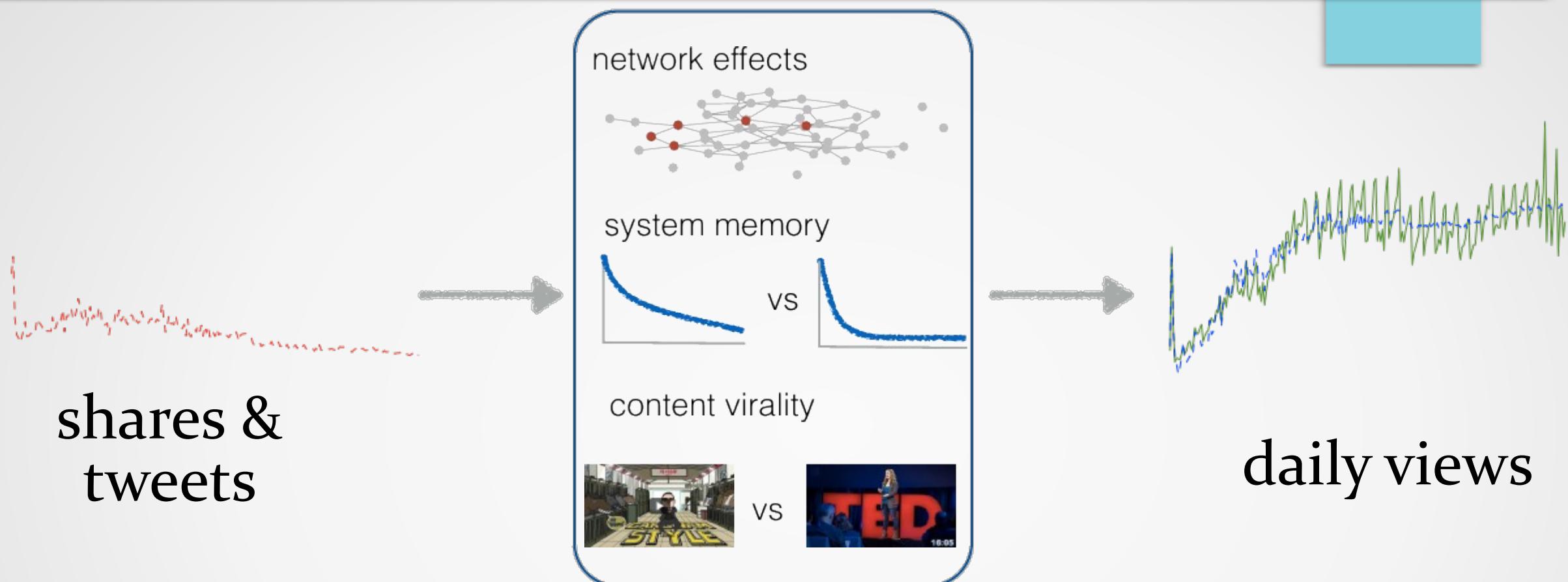
Promotions schedules and memory lengthening through promotion

# HIP: Linking promotion and popularity



M.-A. Rizoiu, L. Xie, S. Sanner, M. Cebrian, H. Yu, and P. Van Hentenryck,  
**"Expecting to be HIP: Hawkes Intensity Processes for Social Media Popularity"**,  
in Proc. International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW '17), Perth, Australia,  
pp. 735-744, 2017.

# HIP: Linking promotion and popularity

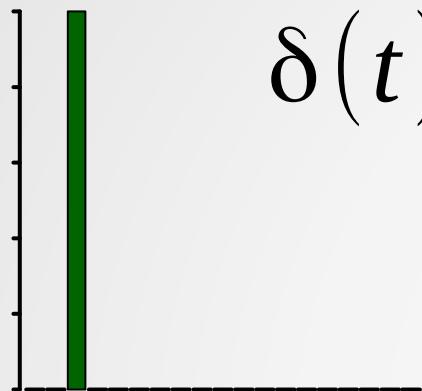


$$\xi(t) = \mu s(t) + C \int_0^t \xi(t - \tau)(\tau + c)^{-(1+\theta)} d\tau$$

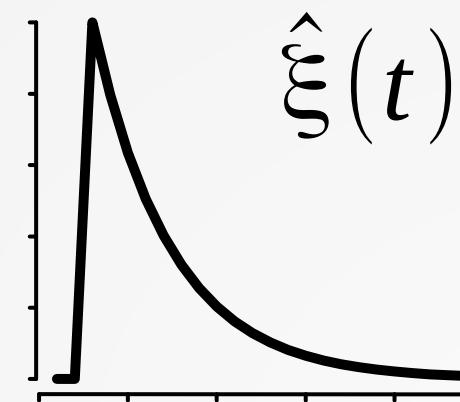
popularity  
↓  
promotion

# HIP as a Linear Time-Invariant system

promotion

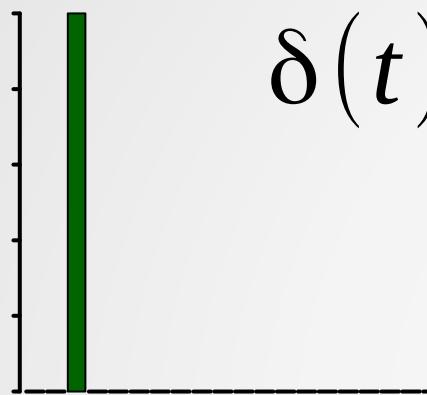


response

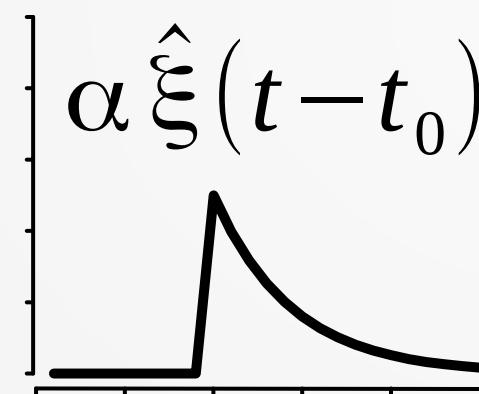
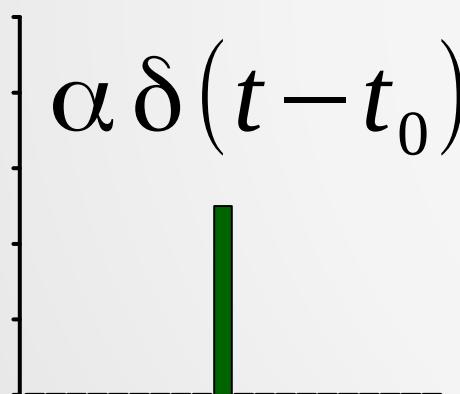
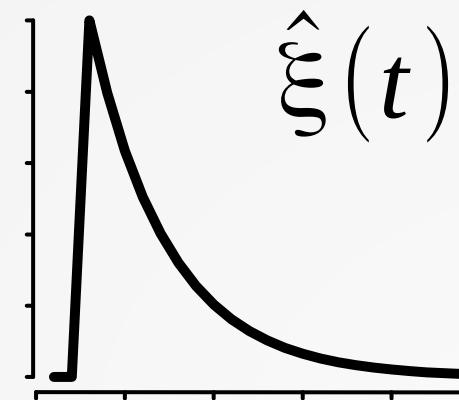


# HIP as a Linear Time-Invariant system

promotion

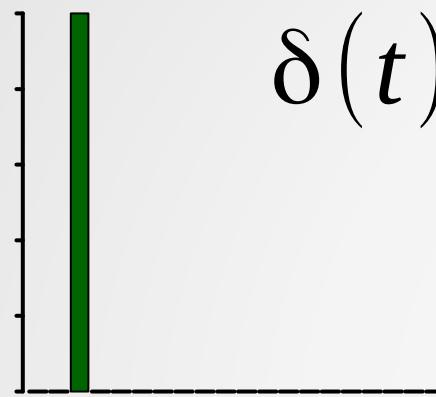


response

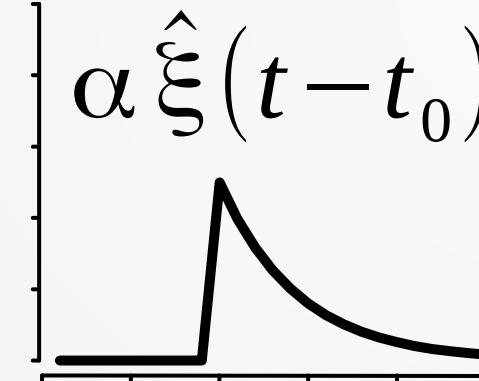
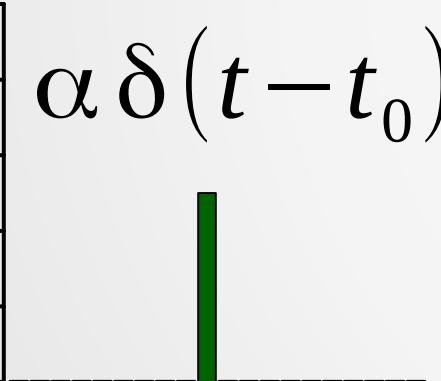
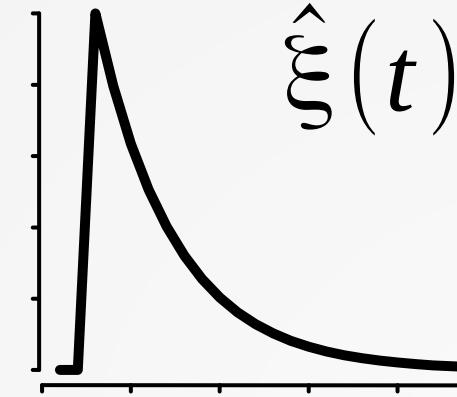


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promotion

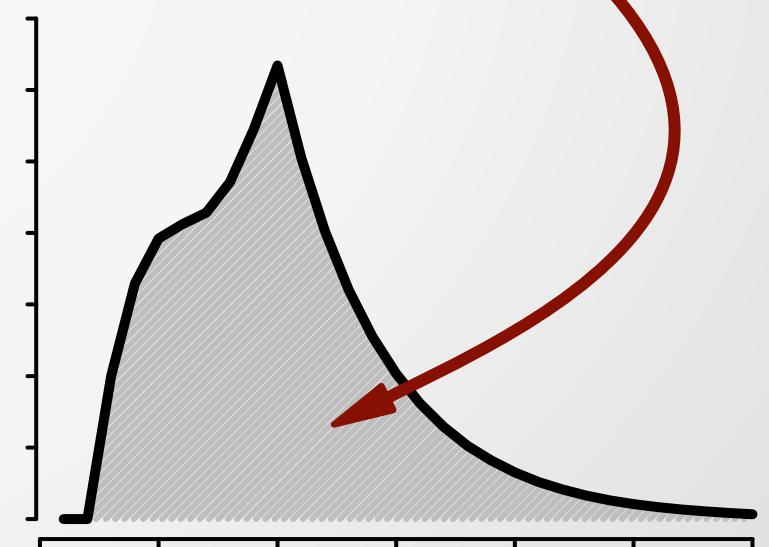
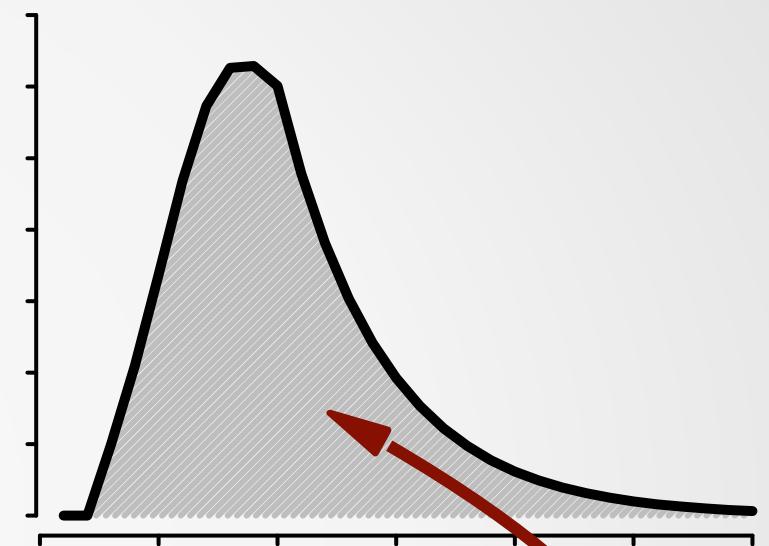
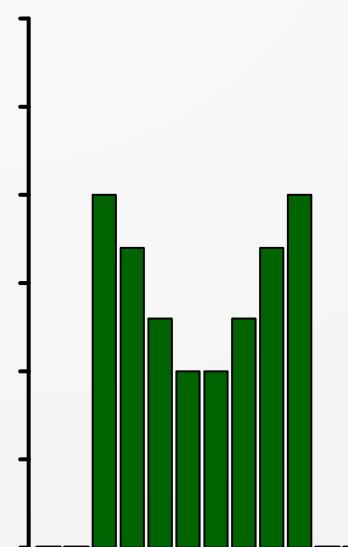
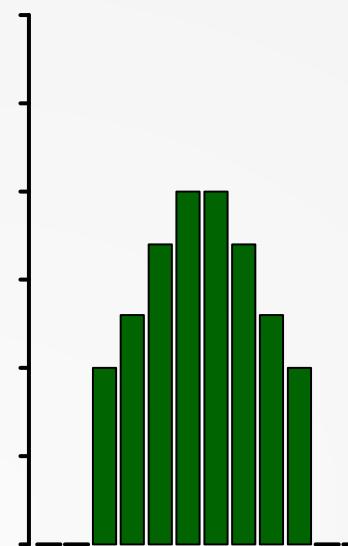


response



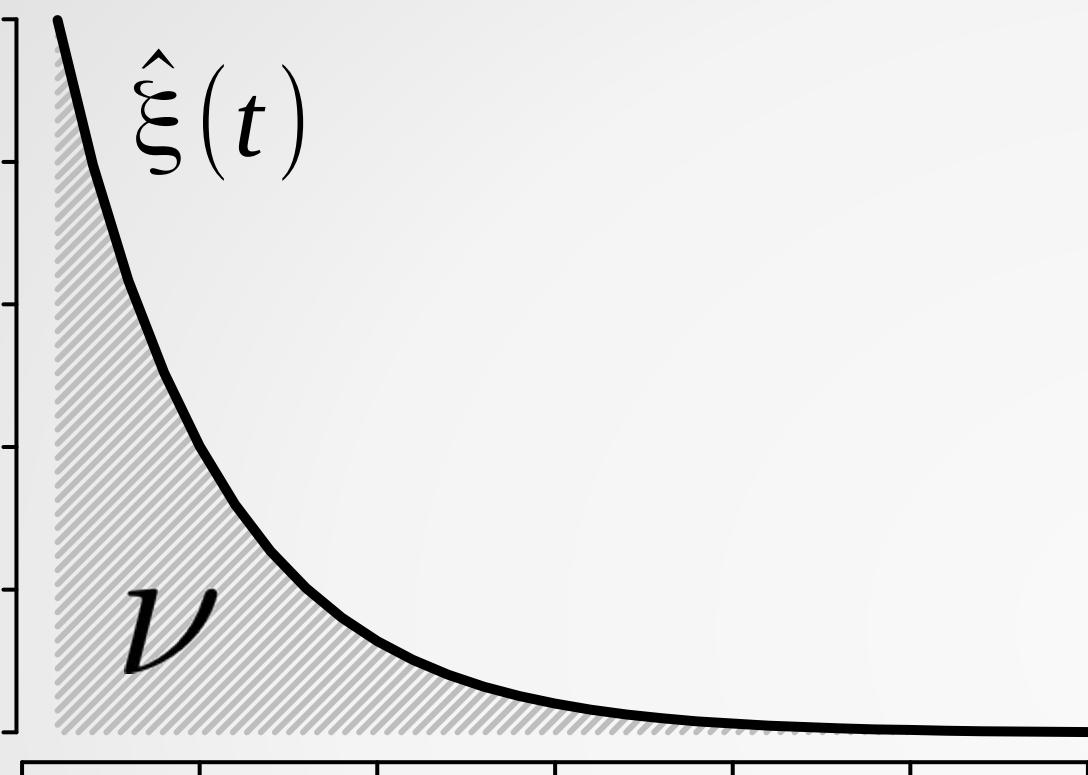
Corollary:

same  
budget



same  
return

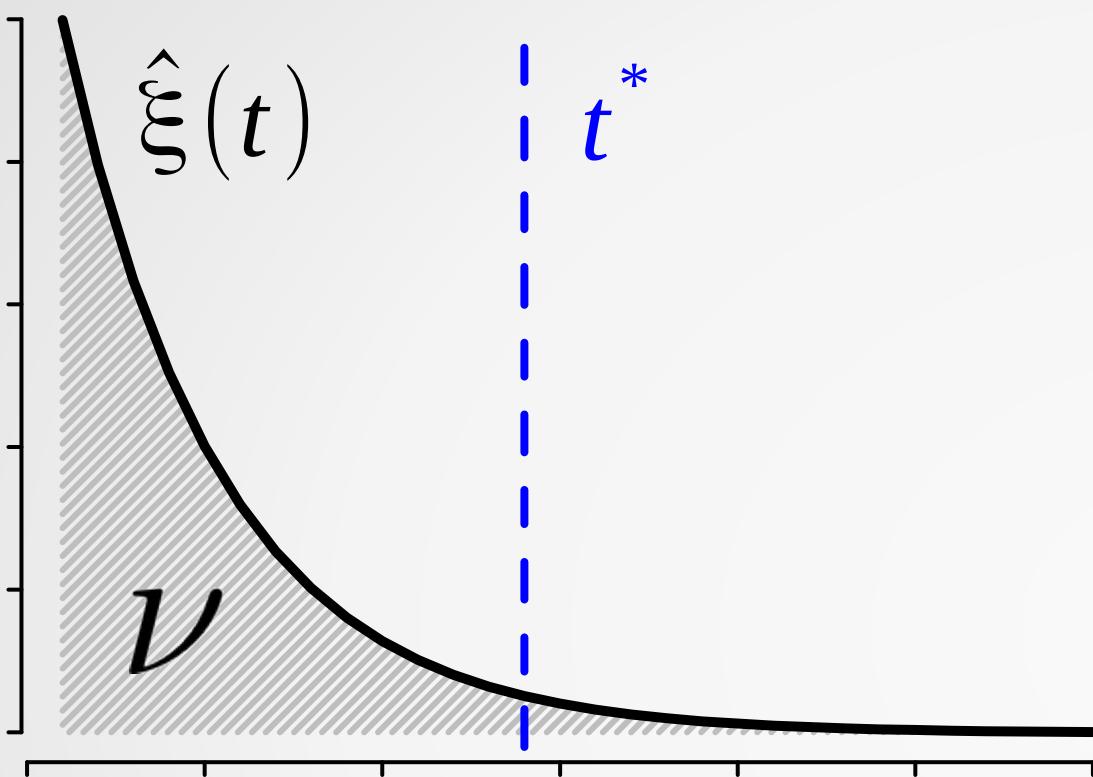
# Viral potential and maturity time



Viral potential  
score:

$$\nu = \int_0^{\infty} \hat{\xi}(t) dt$$

# Viral potential and maturity time



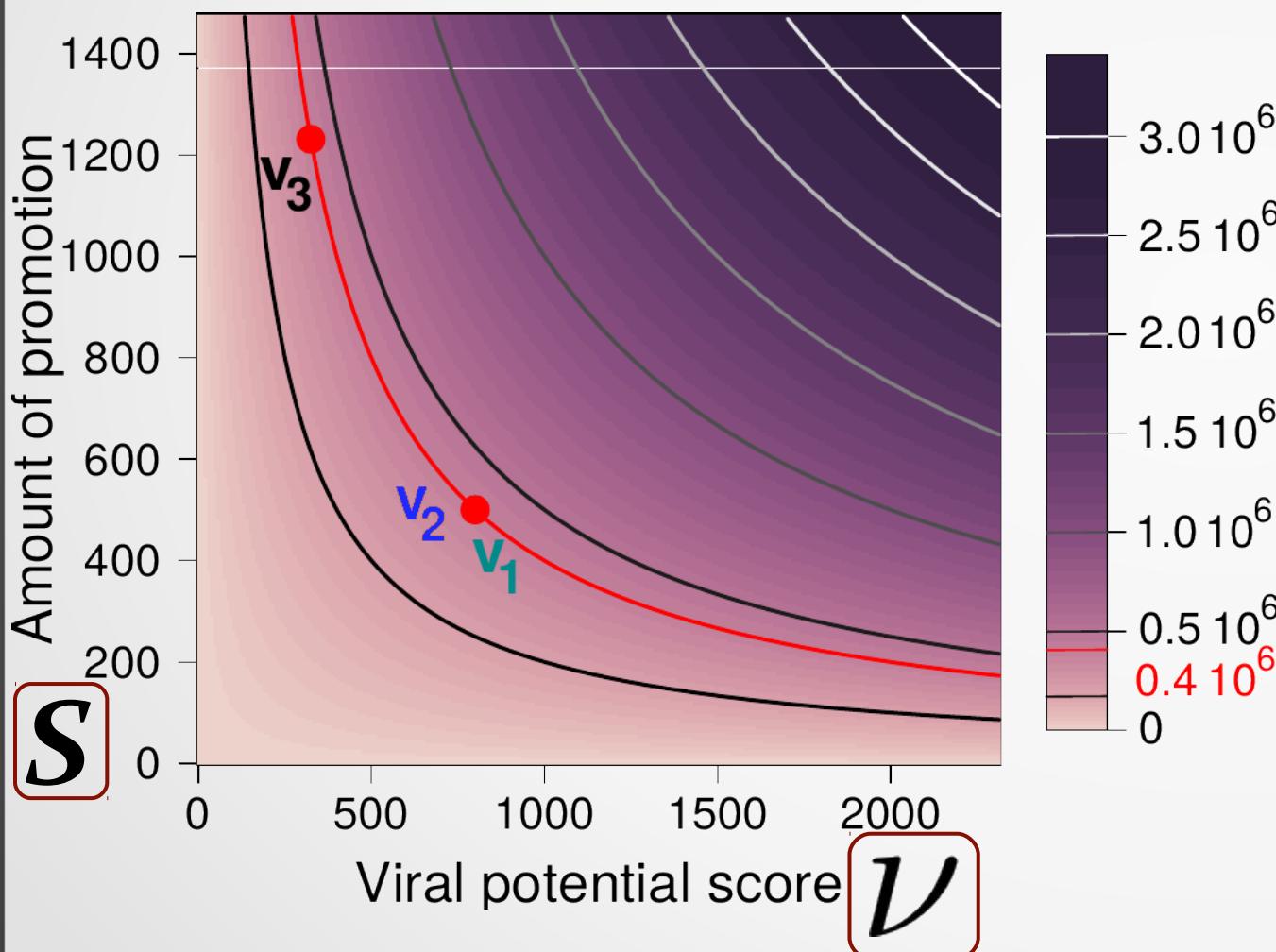
Viral potential score:

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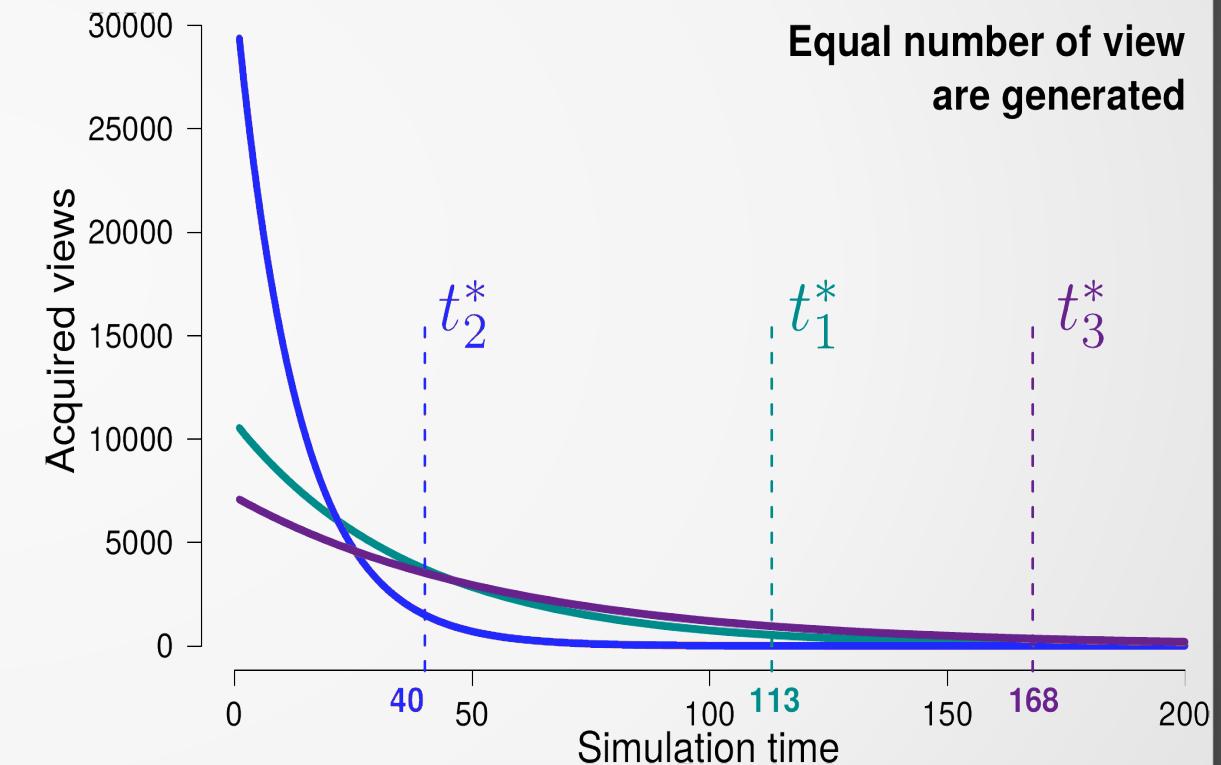
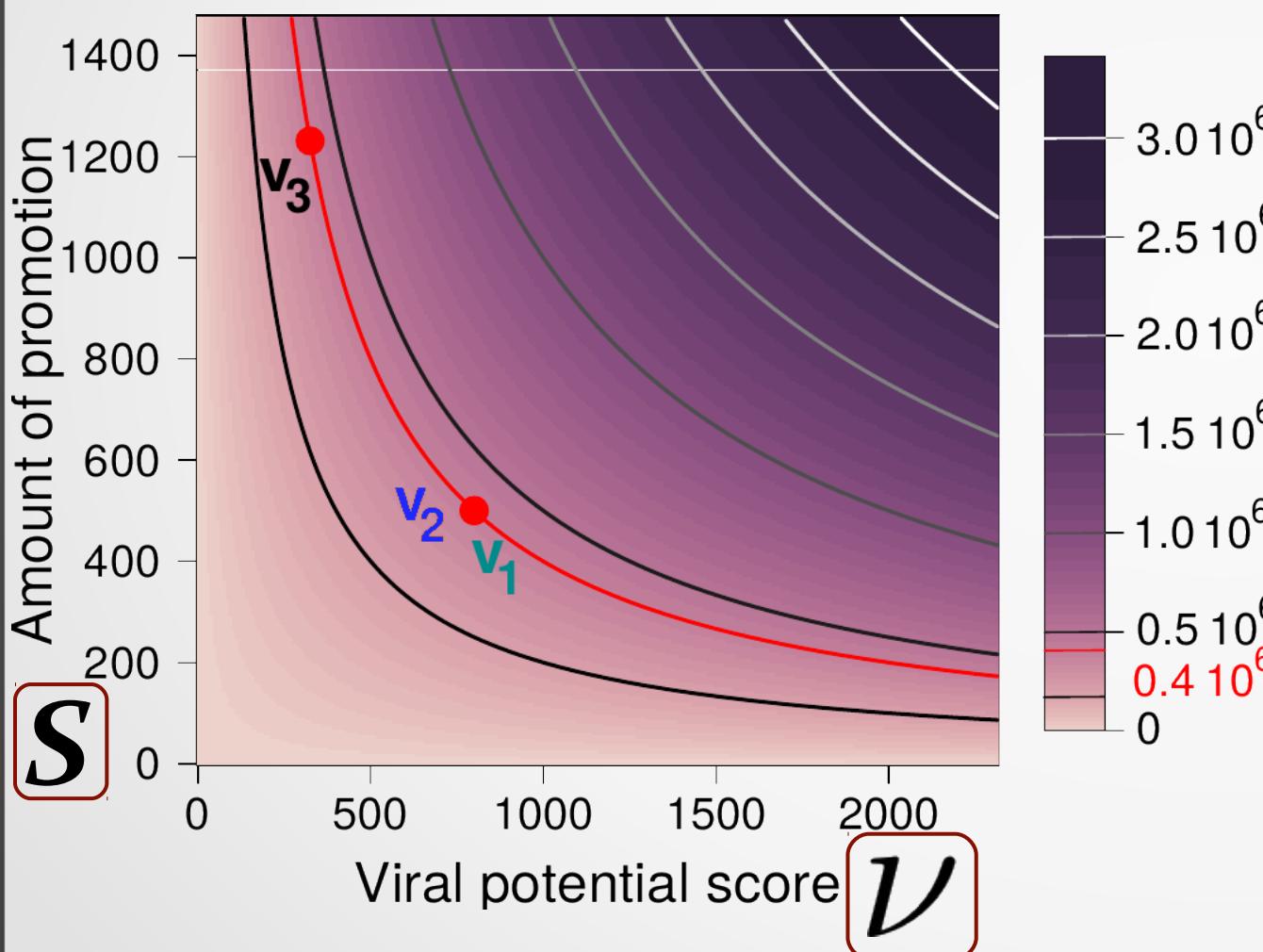
Maturity time:

$$t^* = \min \left\{ t \geq 0 \mid \int_0^t \hat{\xi}(t) dt \geq 0.95\nu \right\}$$

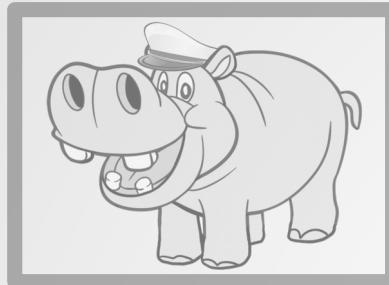
# Virality map



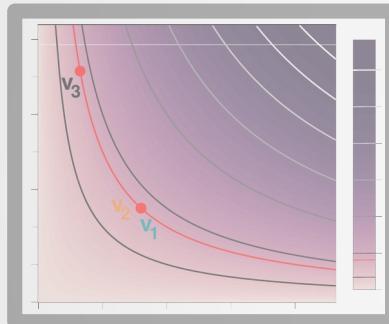
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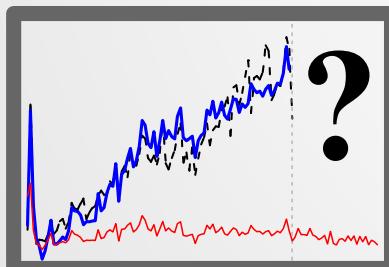
# Presentation outline



Modeling popularity with HIP



Content virality and maturity time

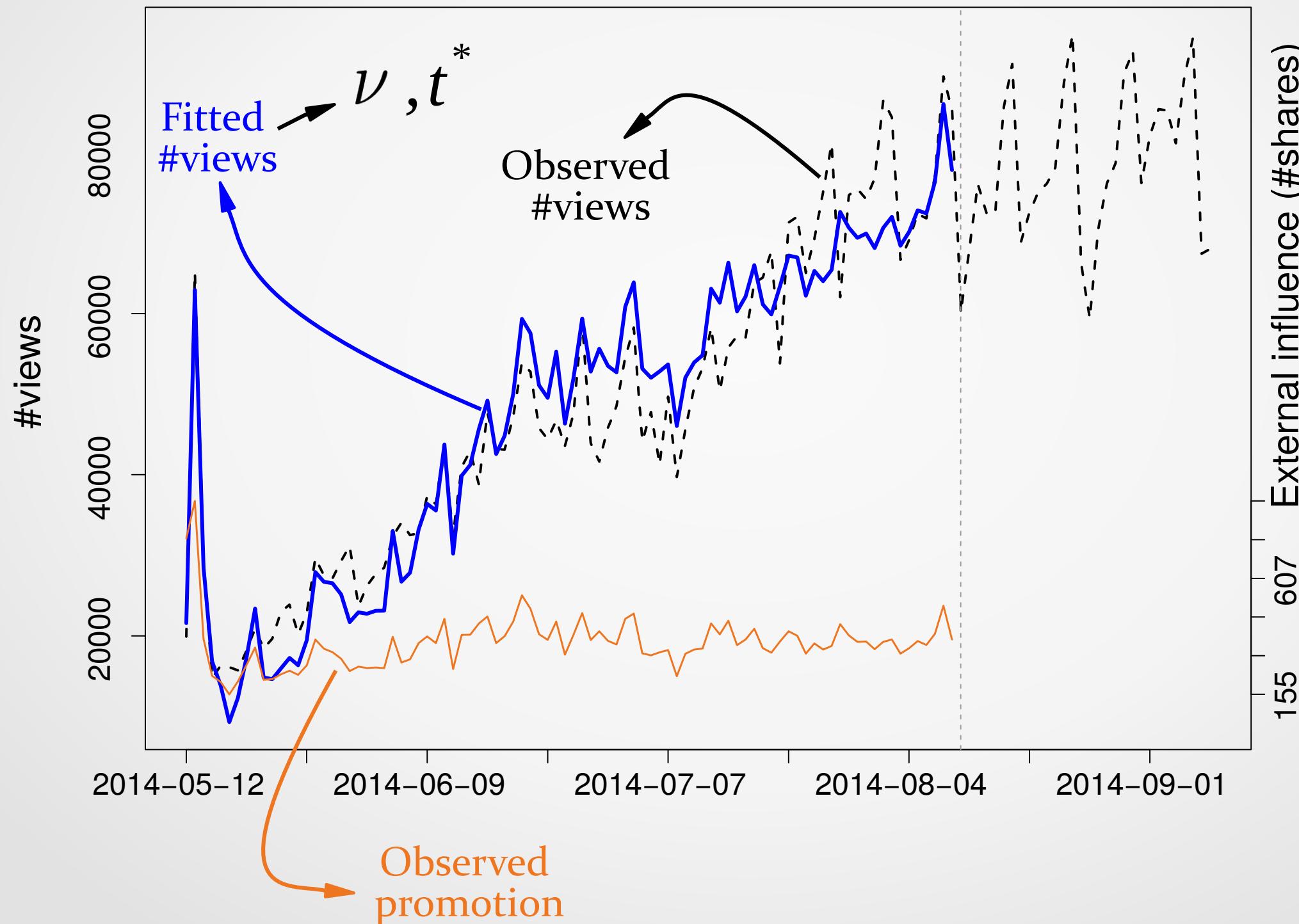


A progression of two problems relating to predicting popularity under promotion

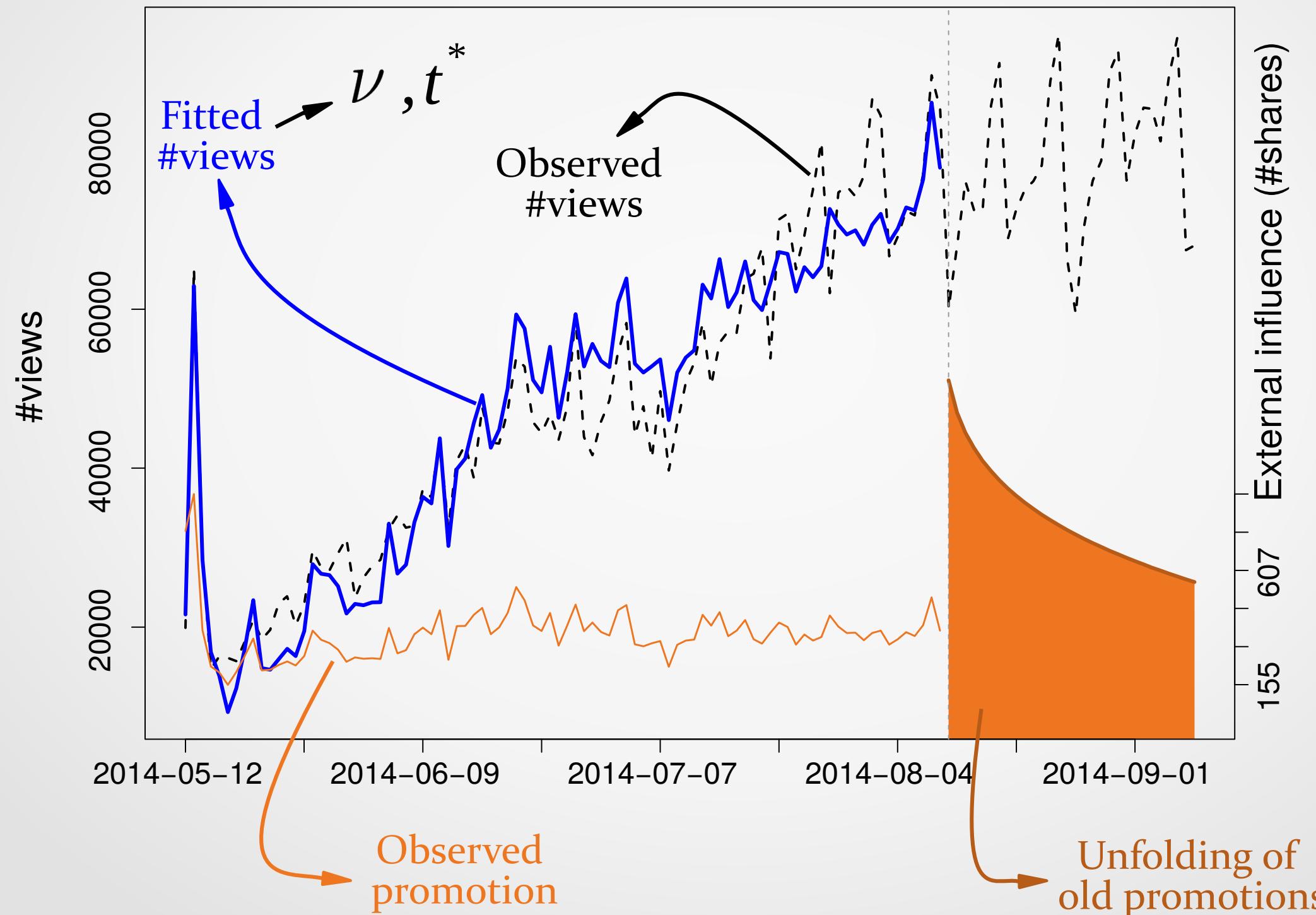


Promotions schedules and memory lengthening through promotion

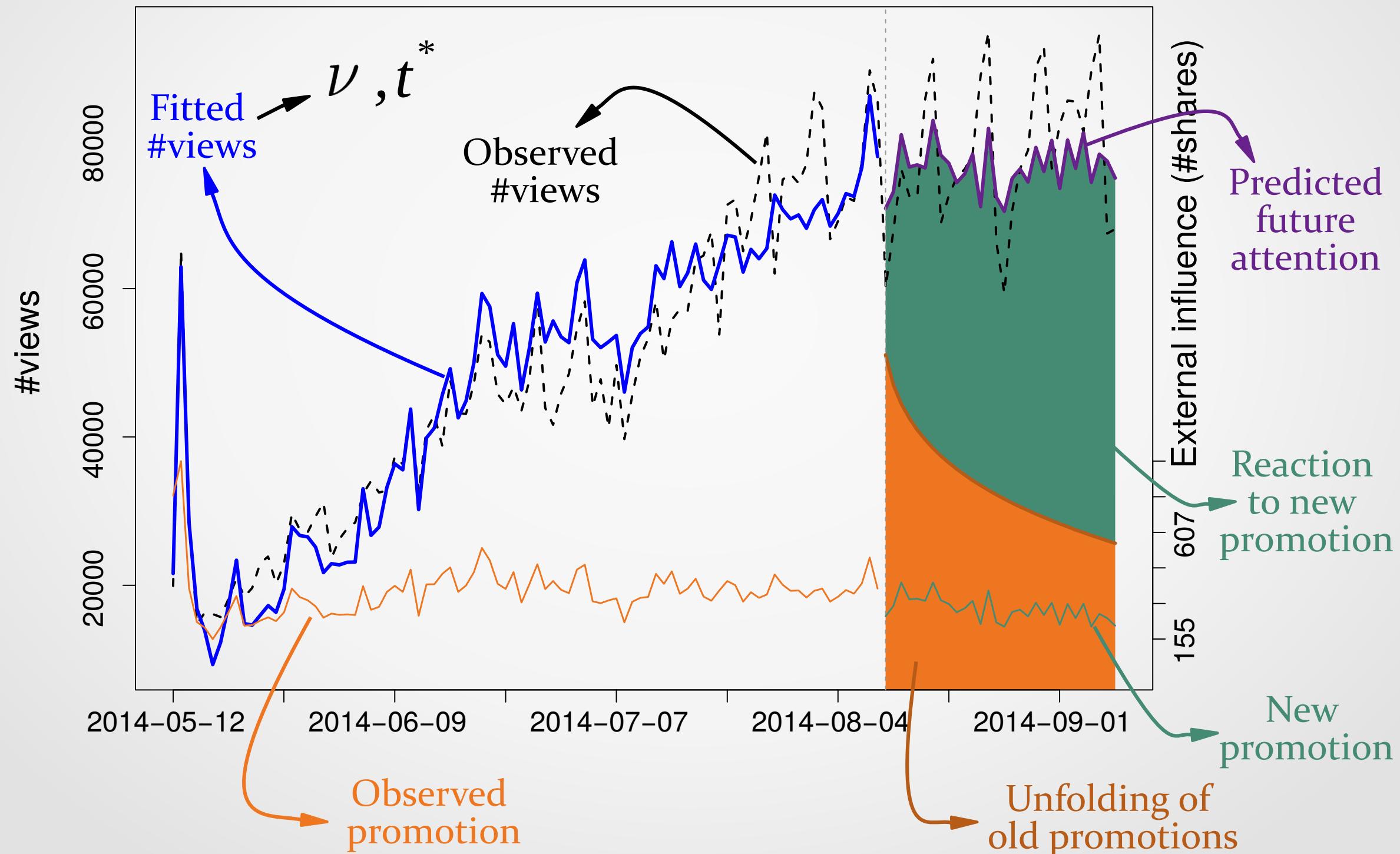
# Forecasting future views (1)



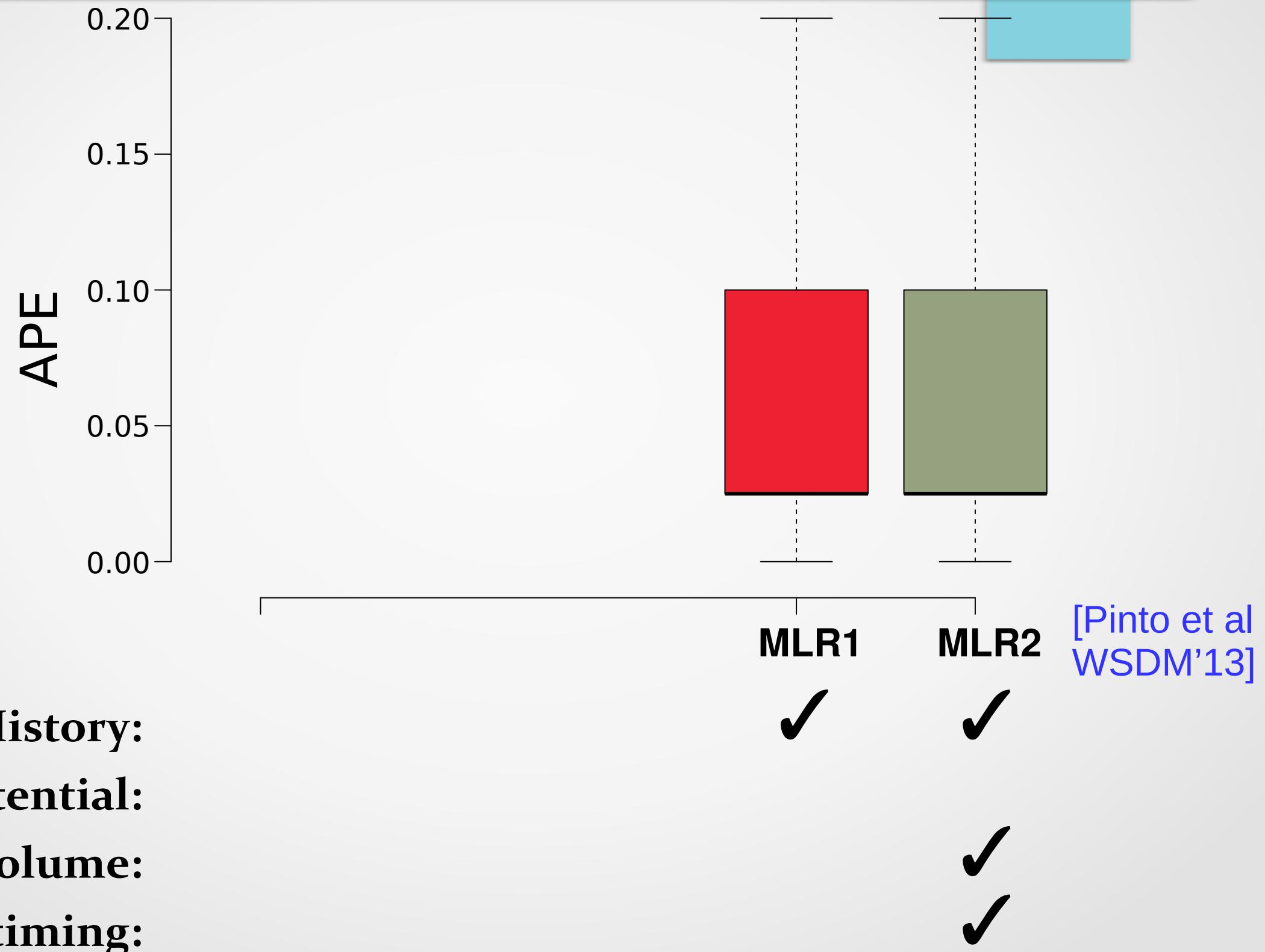
# Forecasting future views (1)



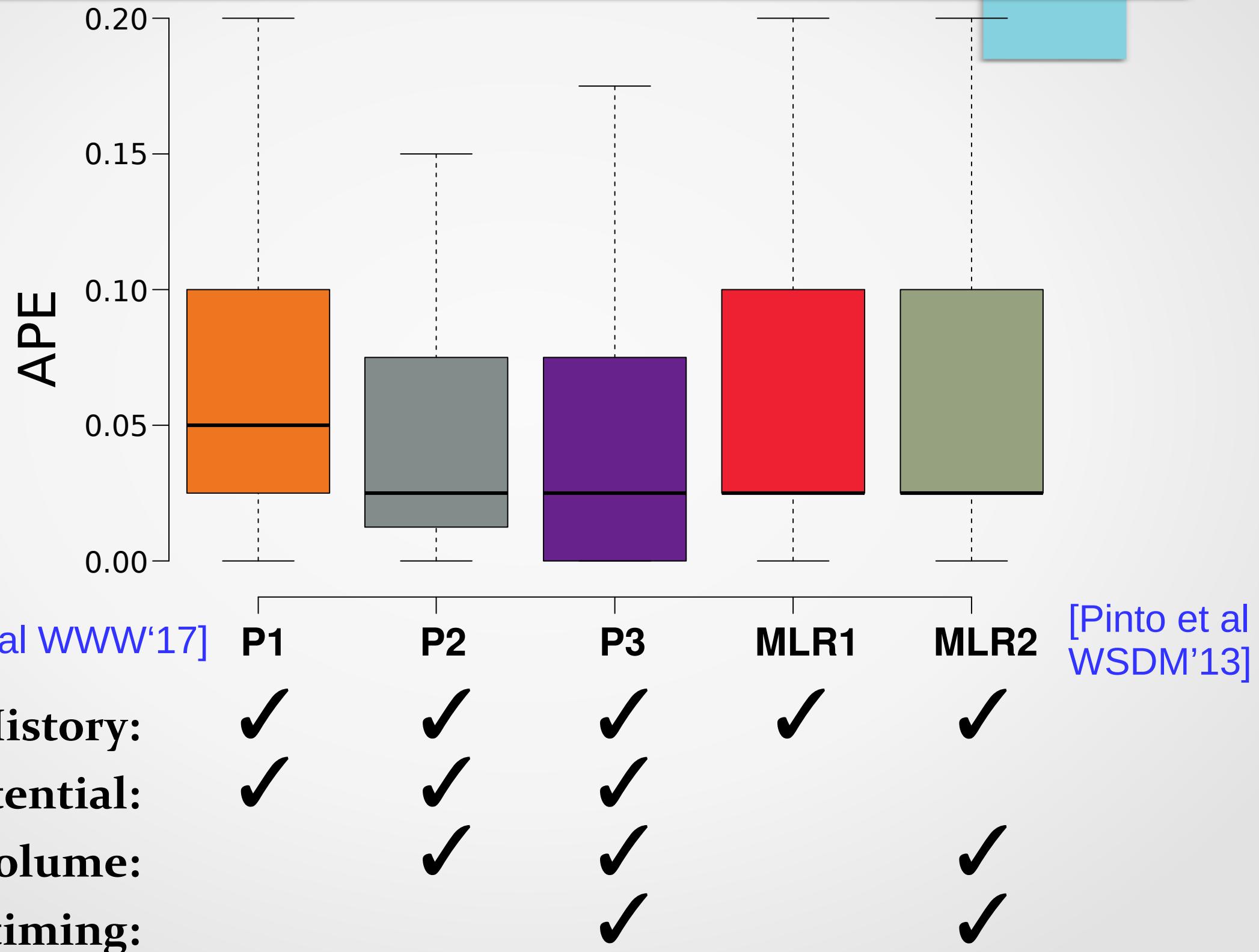
# Forecasting future views (1)



# Forecasting future views (2)

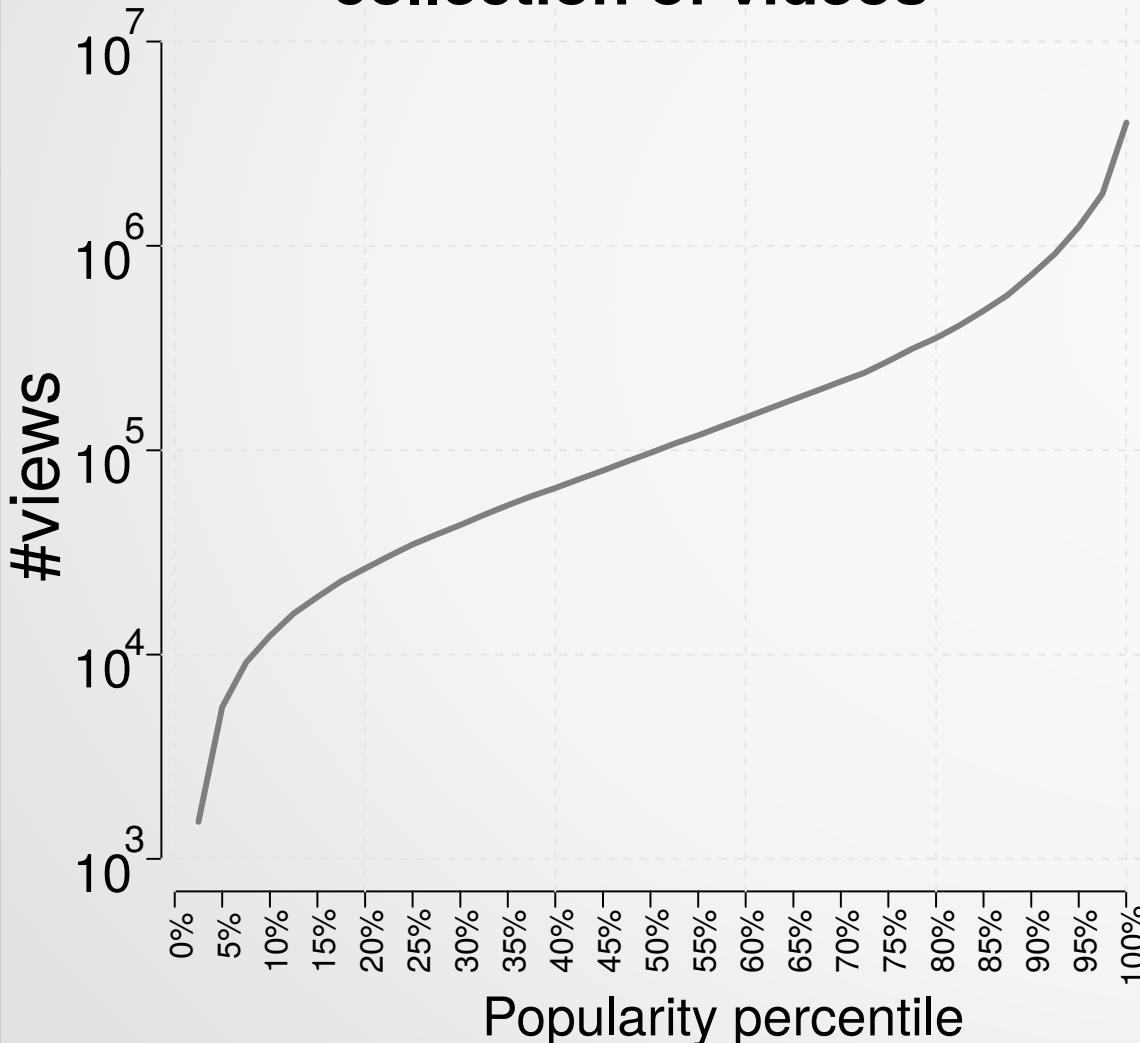


# Forecasting future views (2)



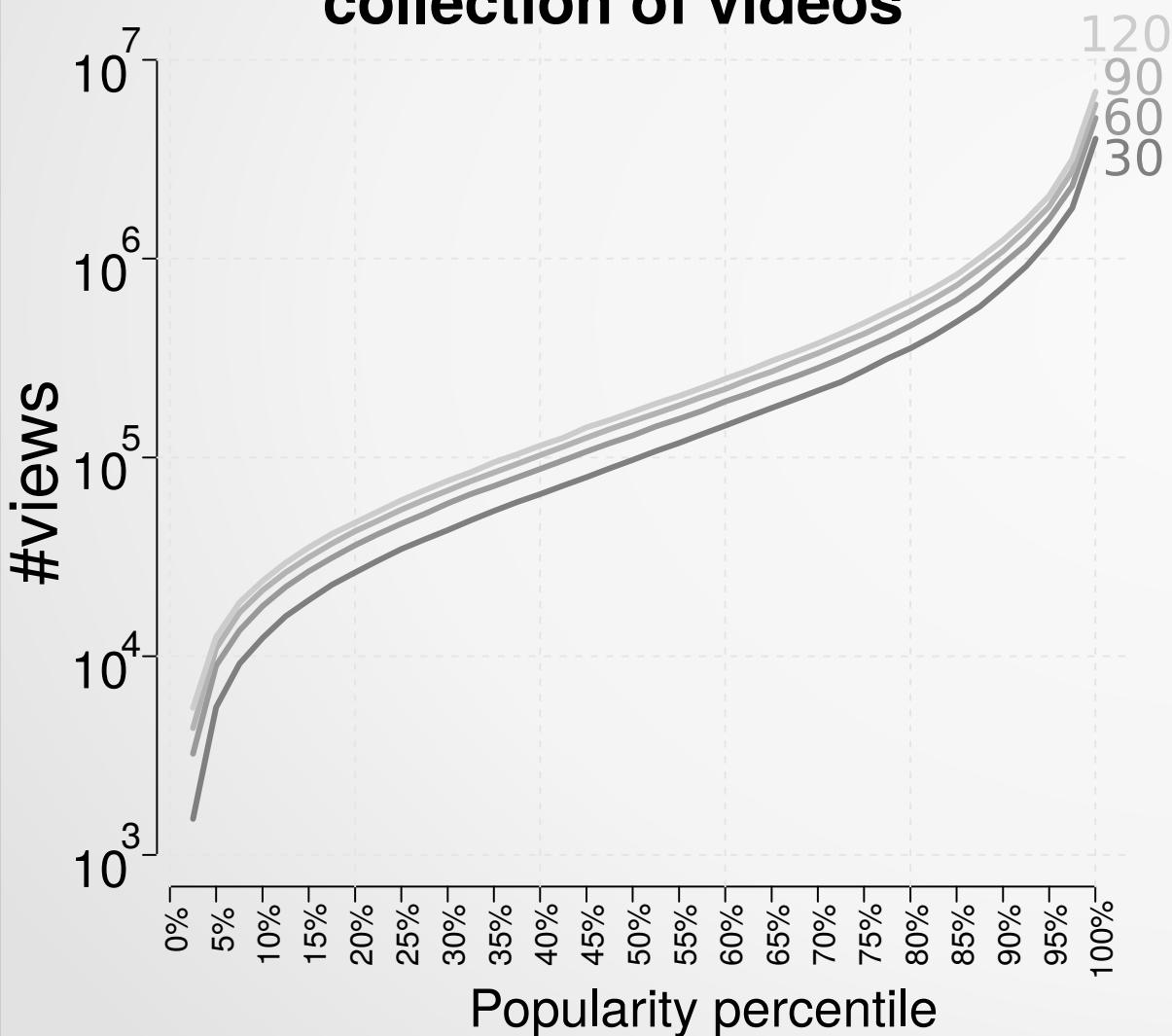
# Popularity scales over time

Popularity scales for a collection of videos



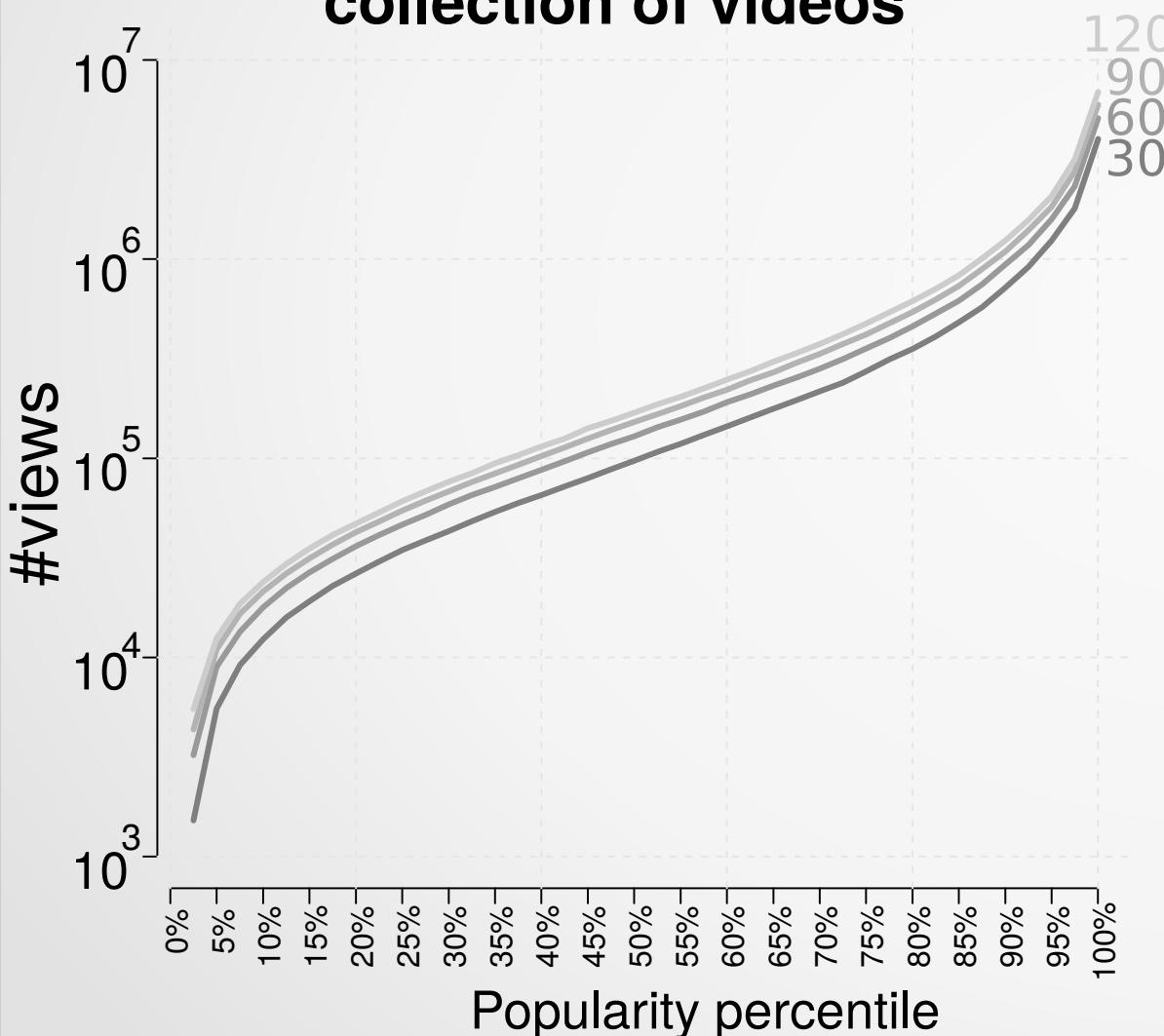
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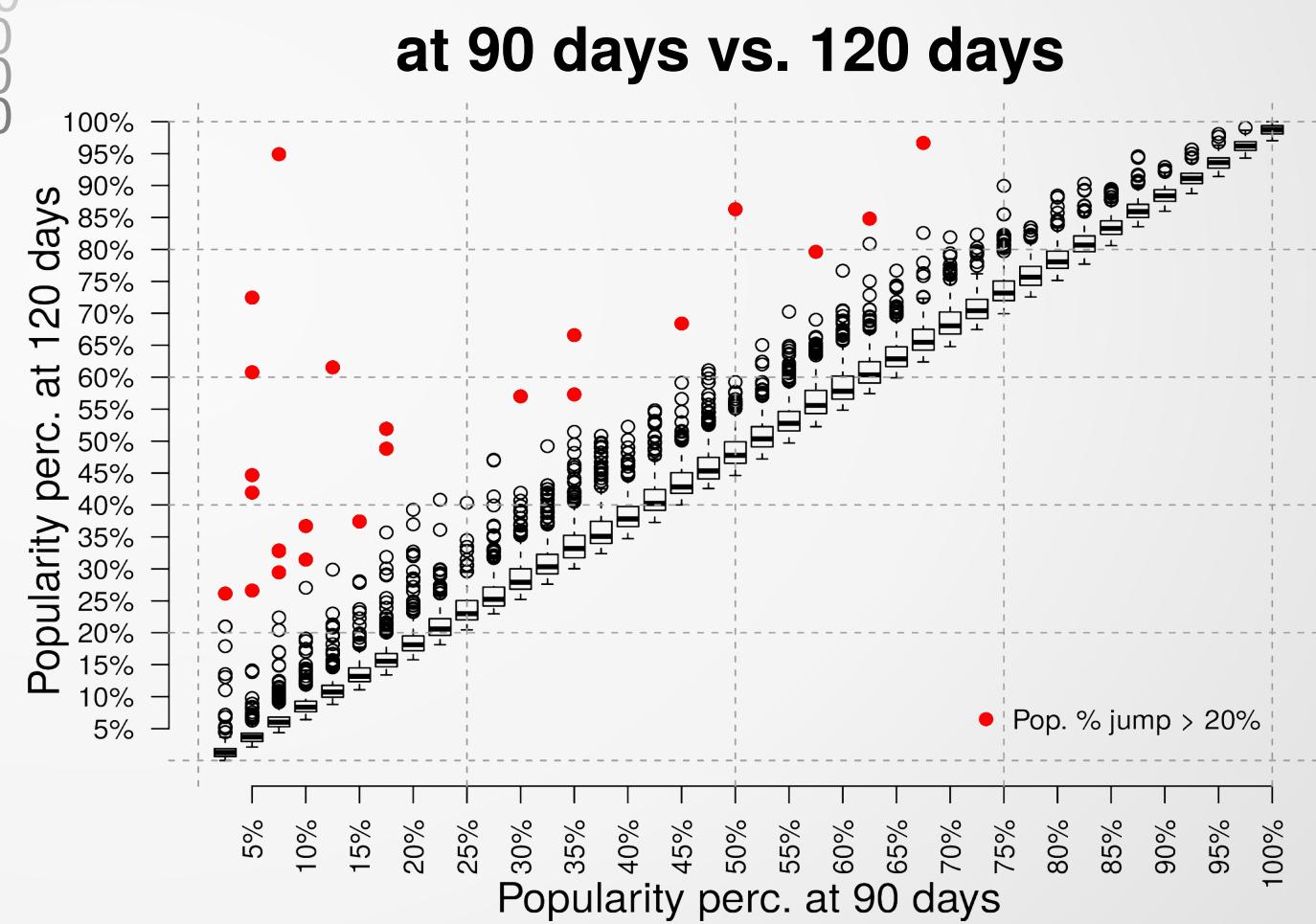


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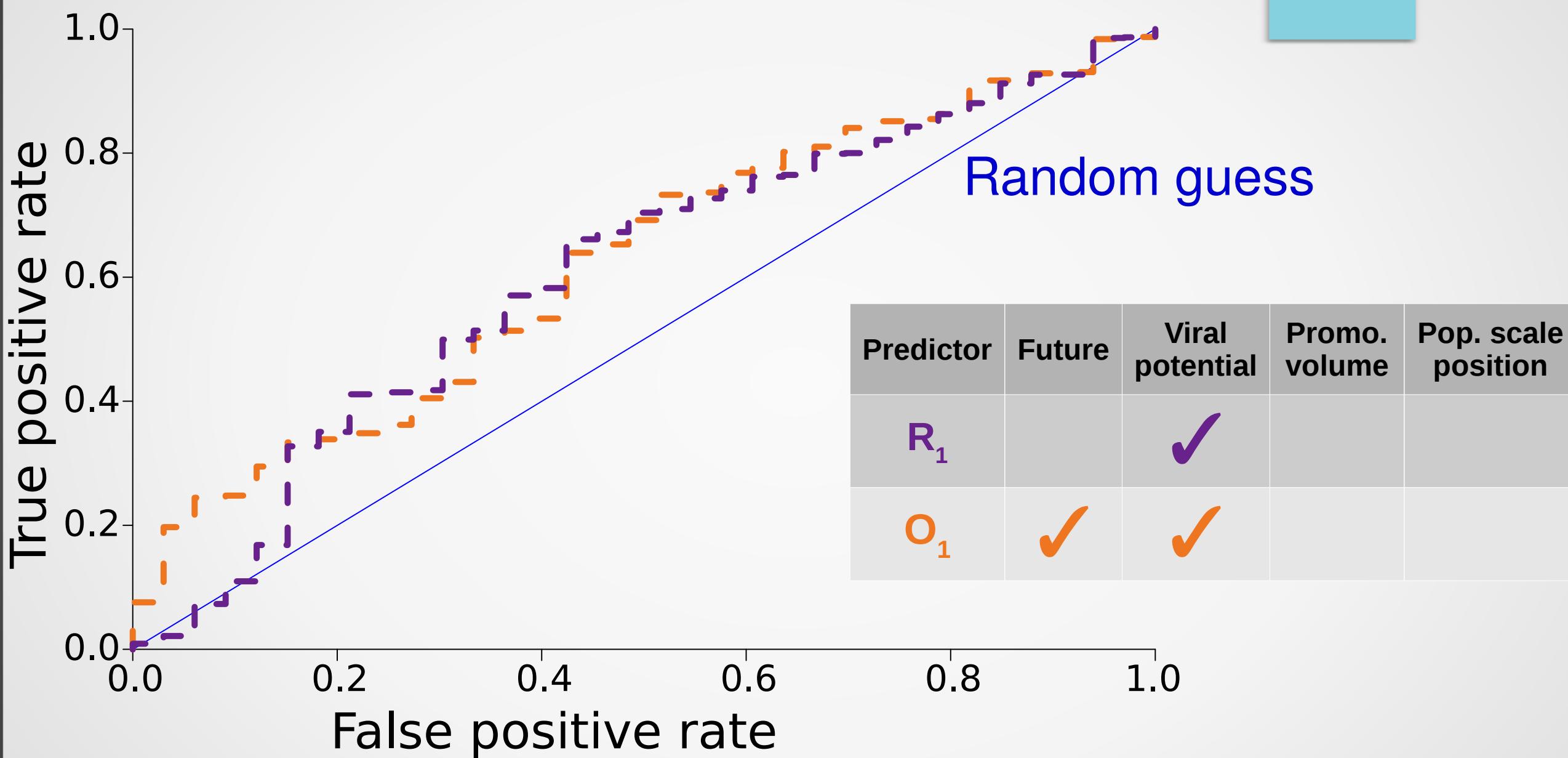
Popularity scales for a collection of videos



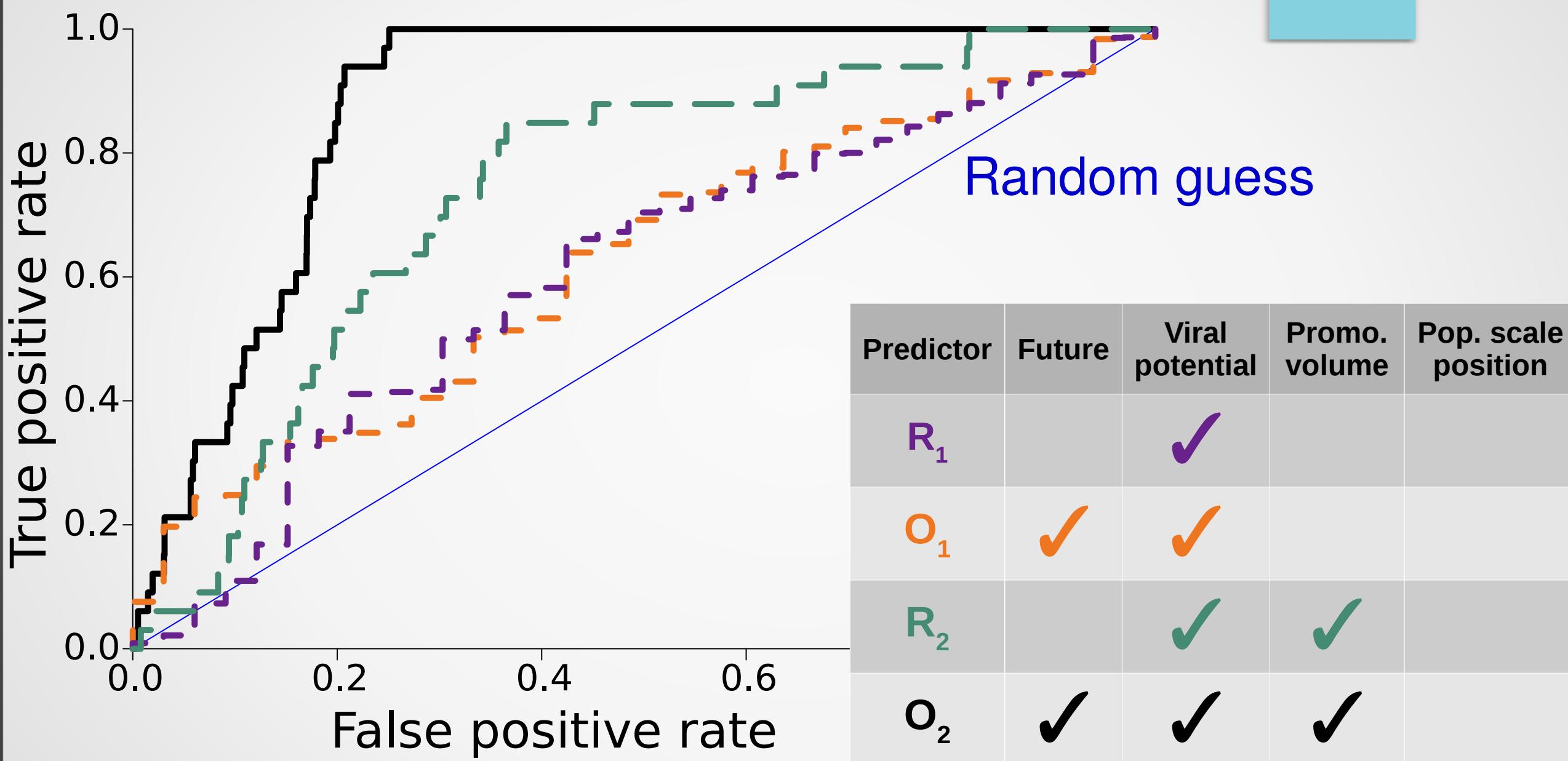
Individual video pop. % at 90 days vs. 120 days



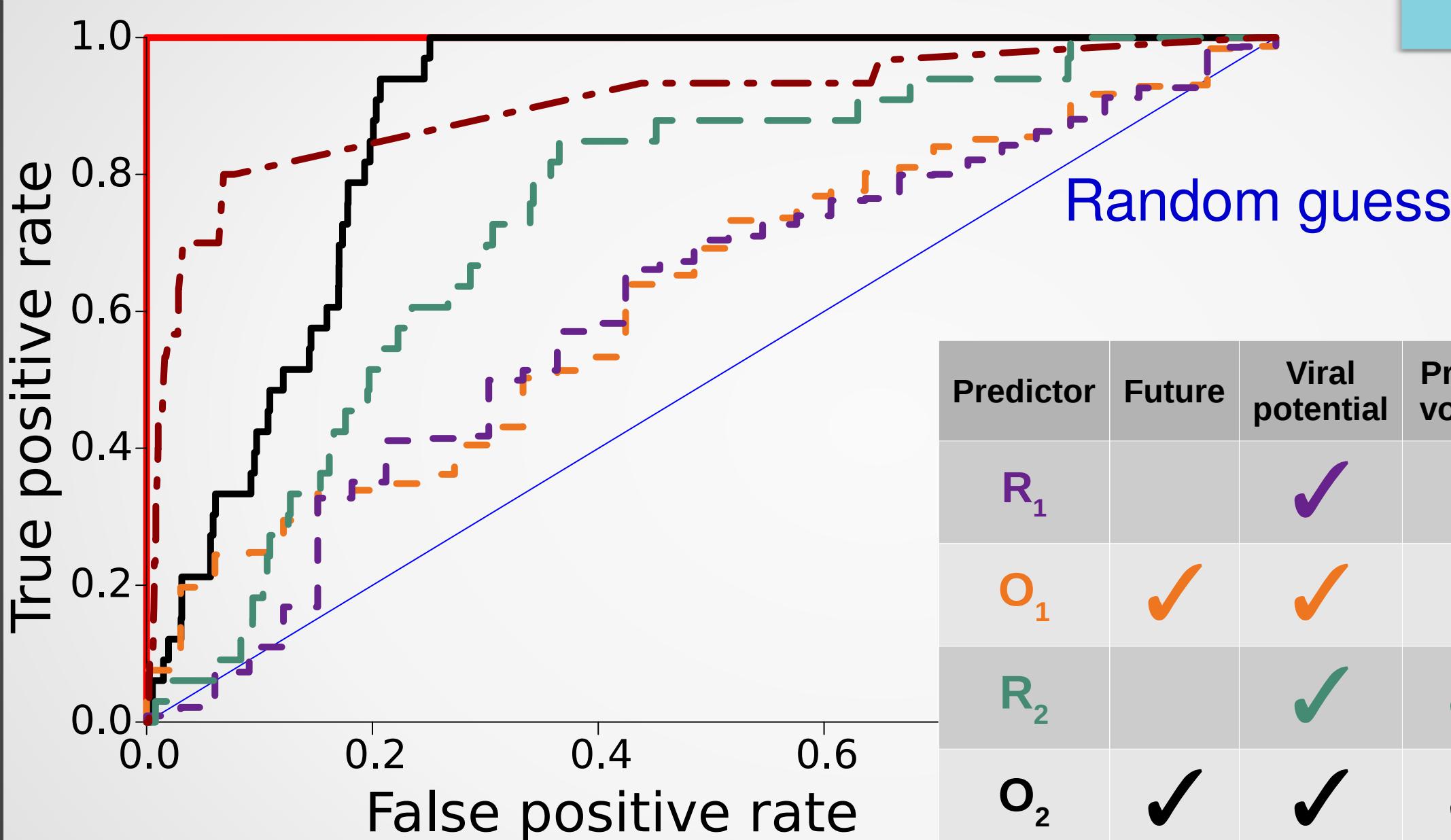
# ROC curves for videos that jump



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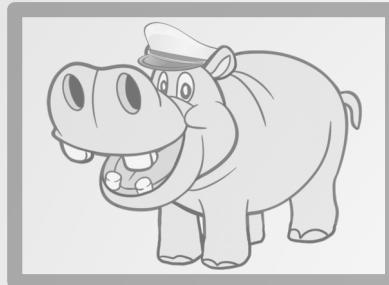


# ROC curves for videos that jump

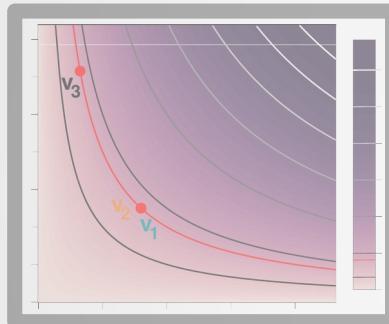


Predictor	Future	Viral potential	Promo. volume	Pop. scale position
$R_1$		✓		
$O_1$	✓	✓		
$R_2$		✓	✓	
$O_2$	✓	✓	✓	
$R_3$		✓	✓	✓
$O_3$	✓	✓	✓	✓

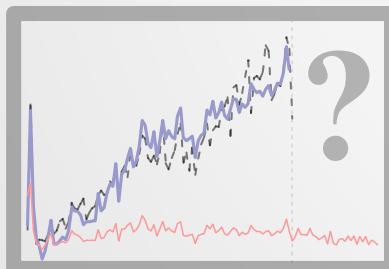
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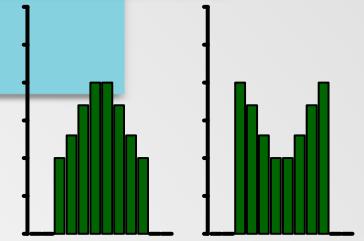
Forecasting popularity under promotion



When does promotion timing matter?  
Why do people prefer constant promotion?

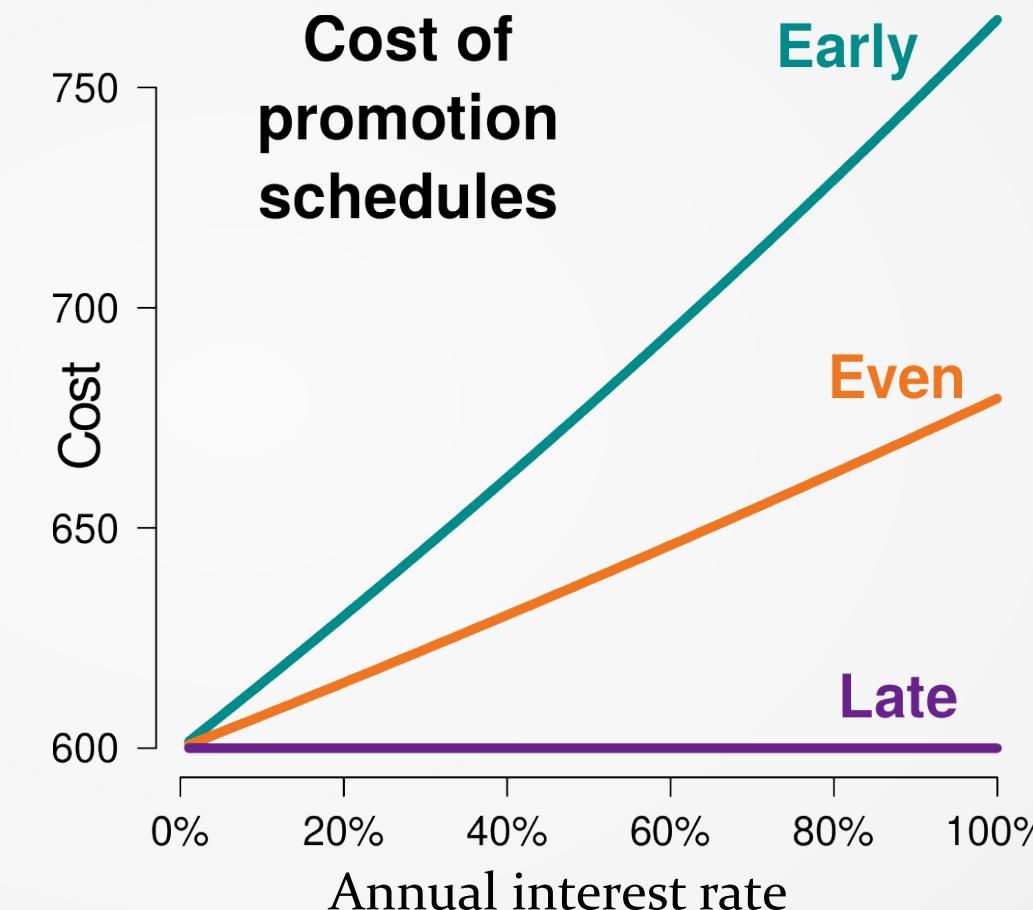
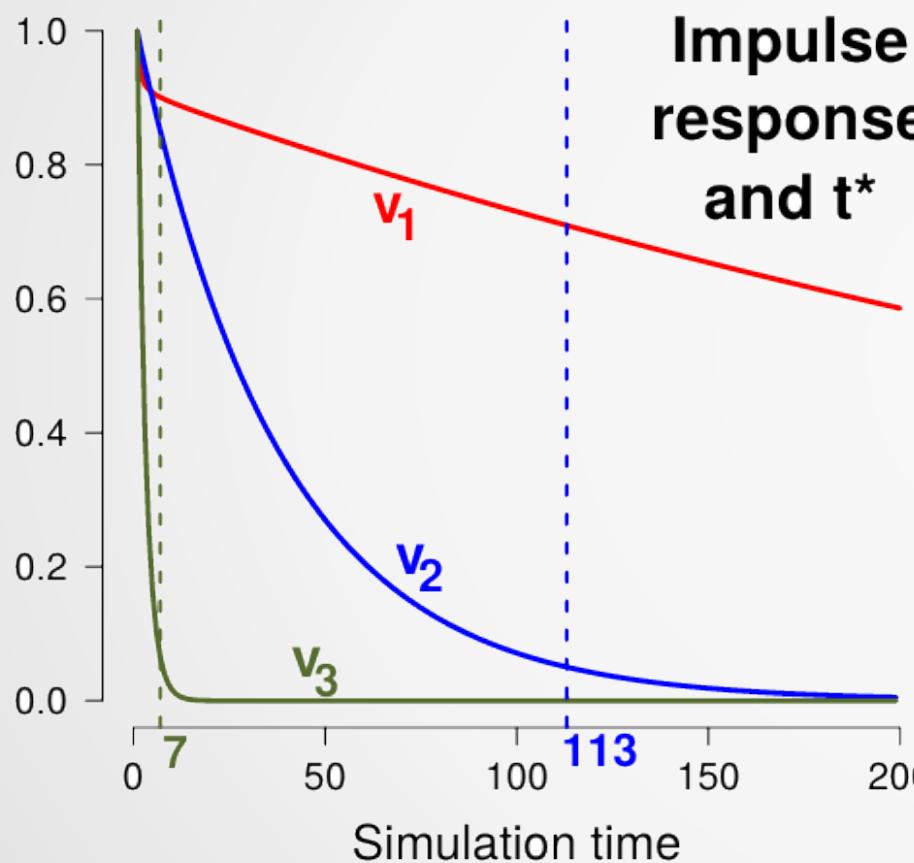
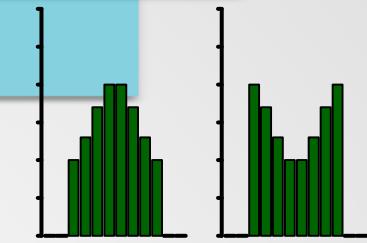
# Designing promotion schedules

LTI corollary: same budget, same return!

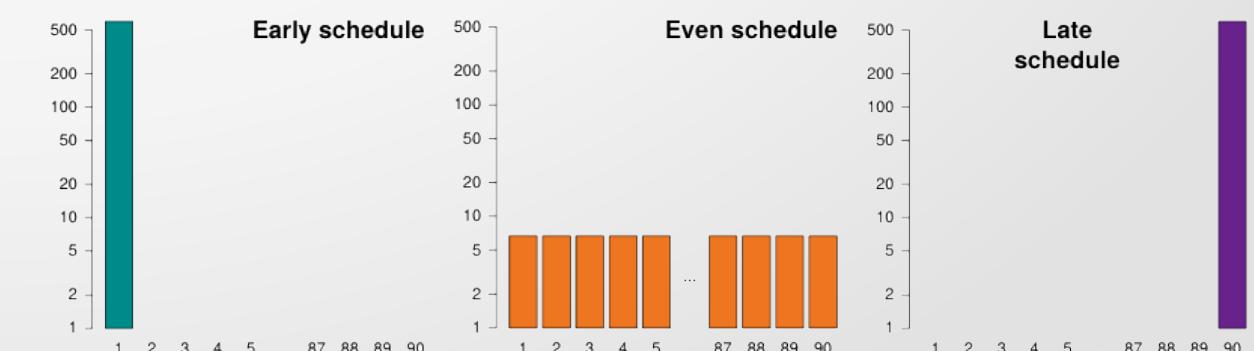


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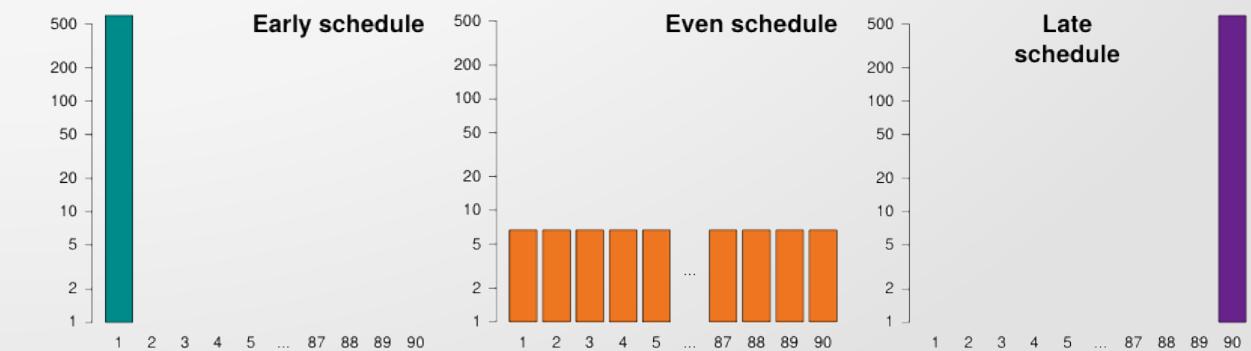
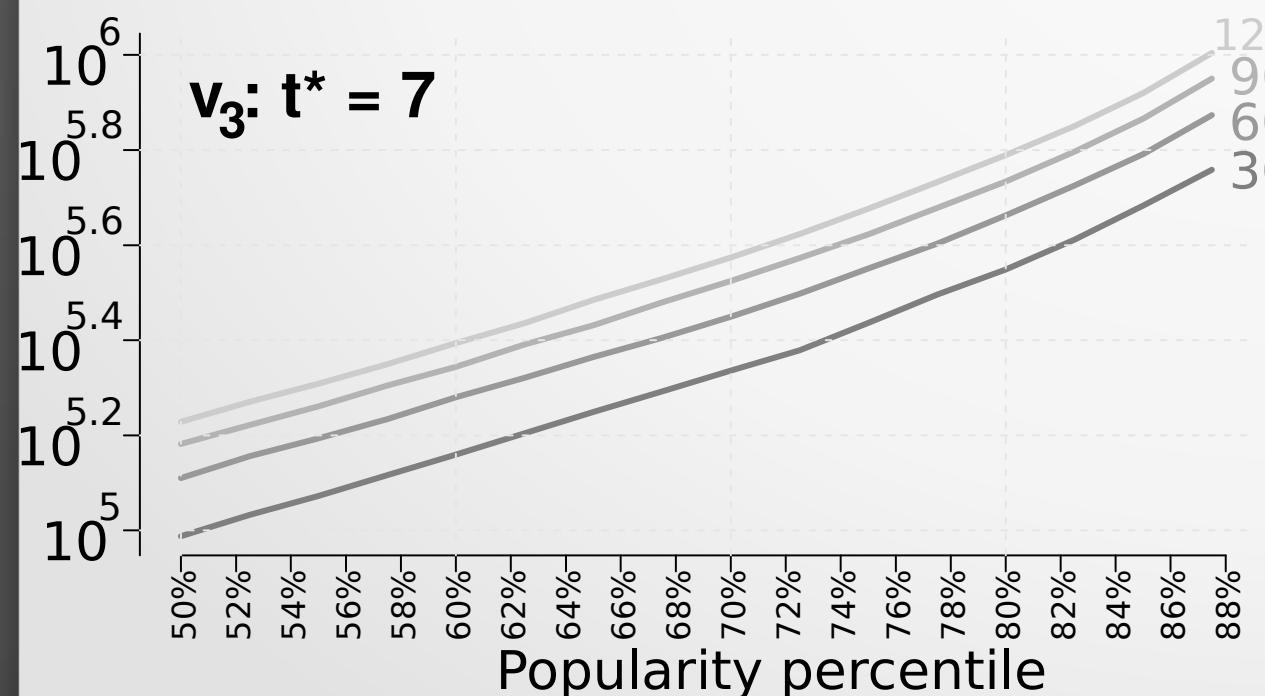
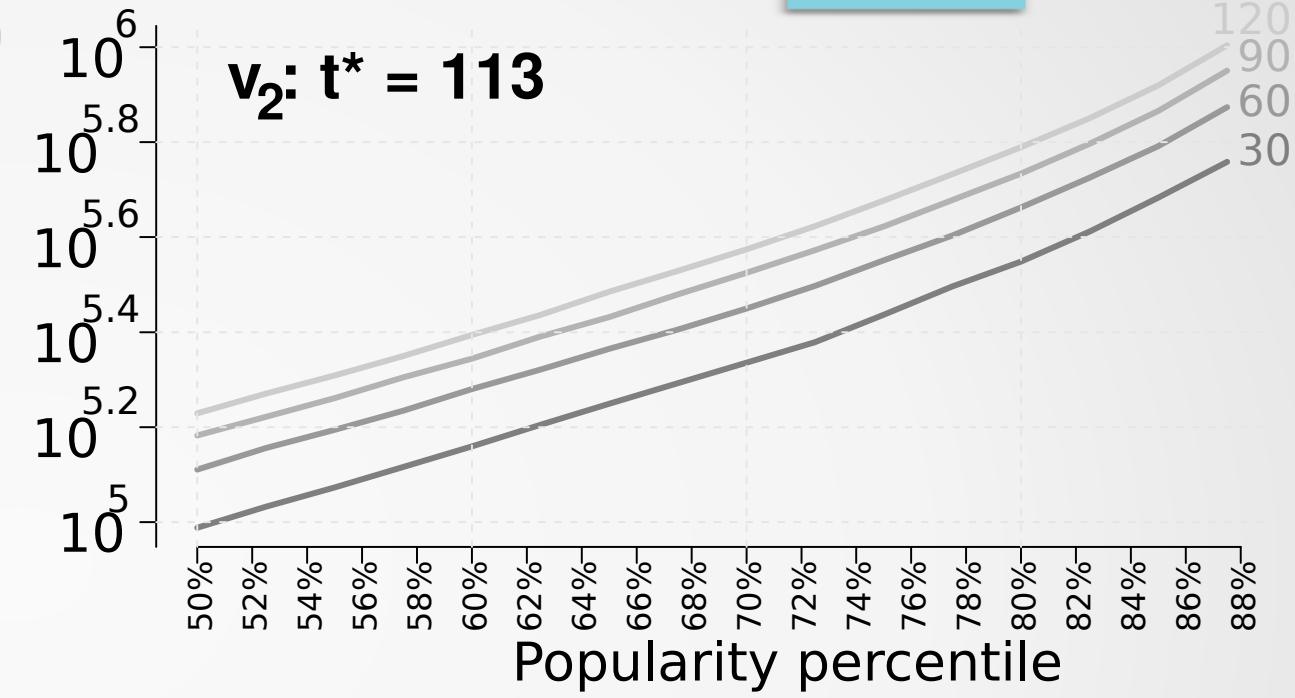
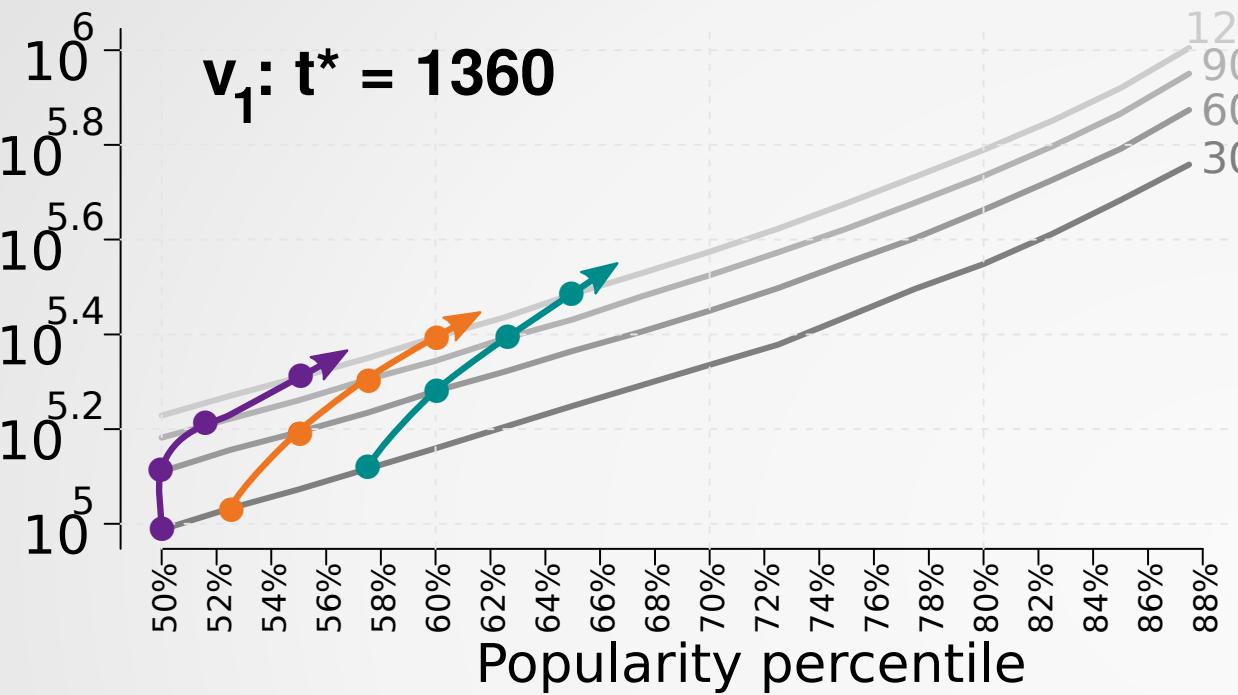
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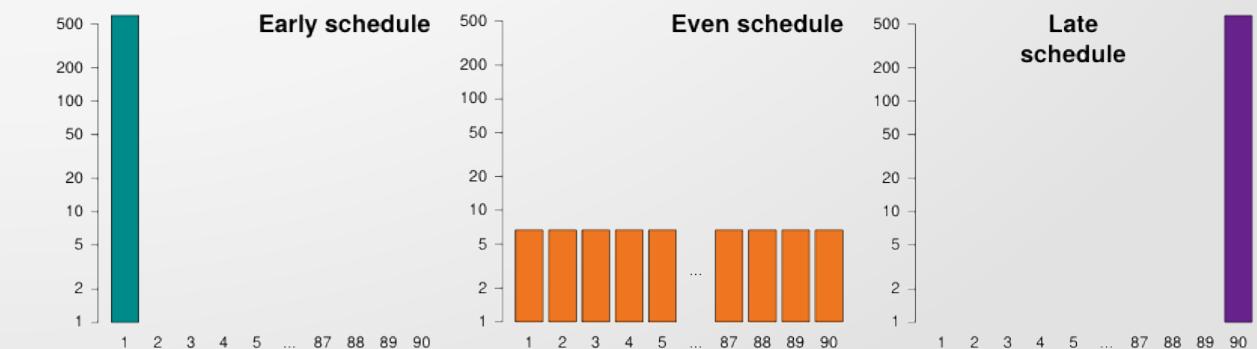
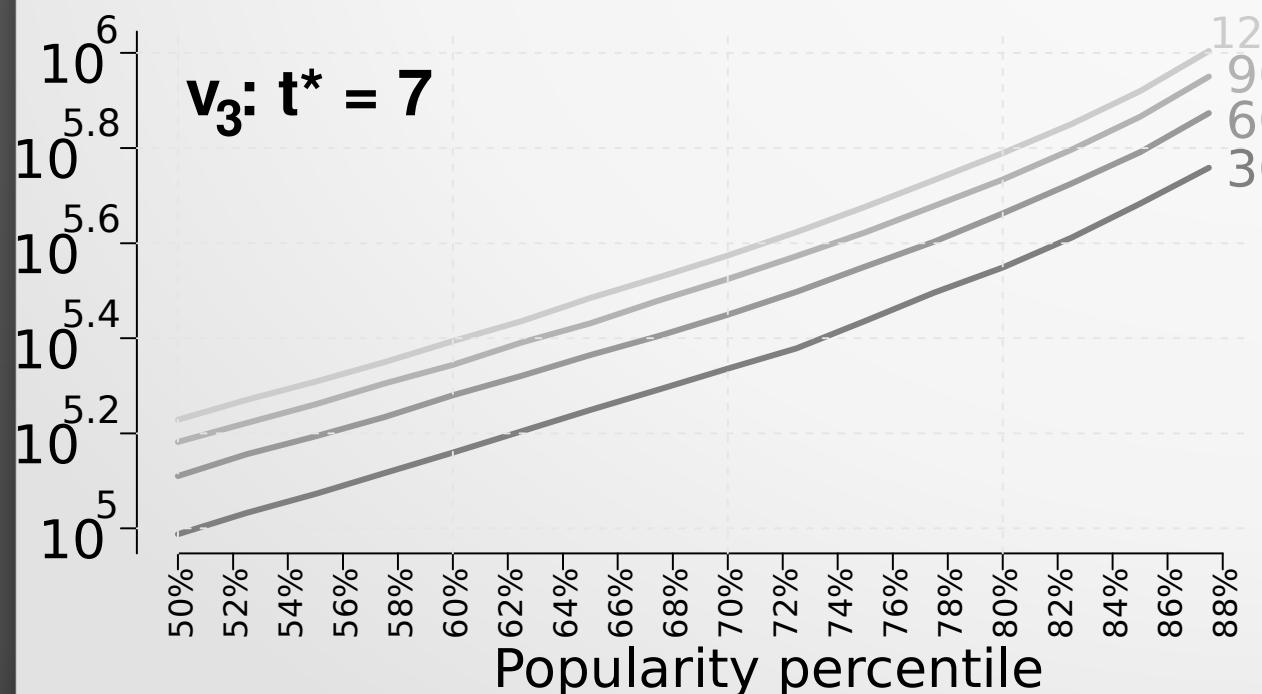
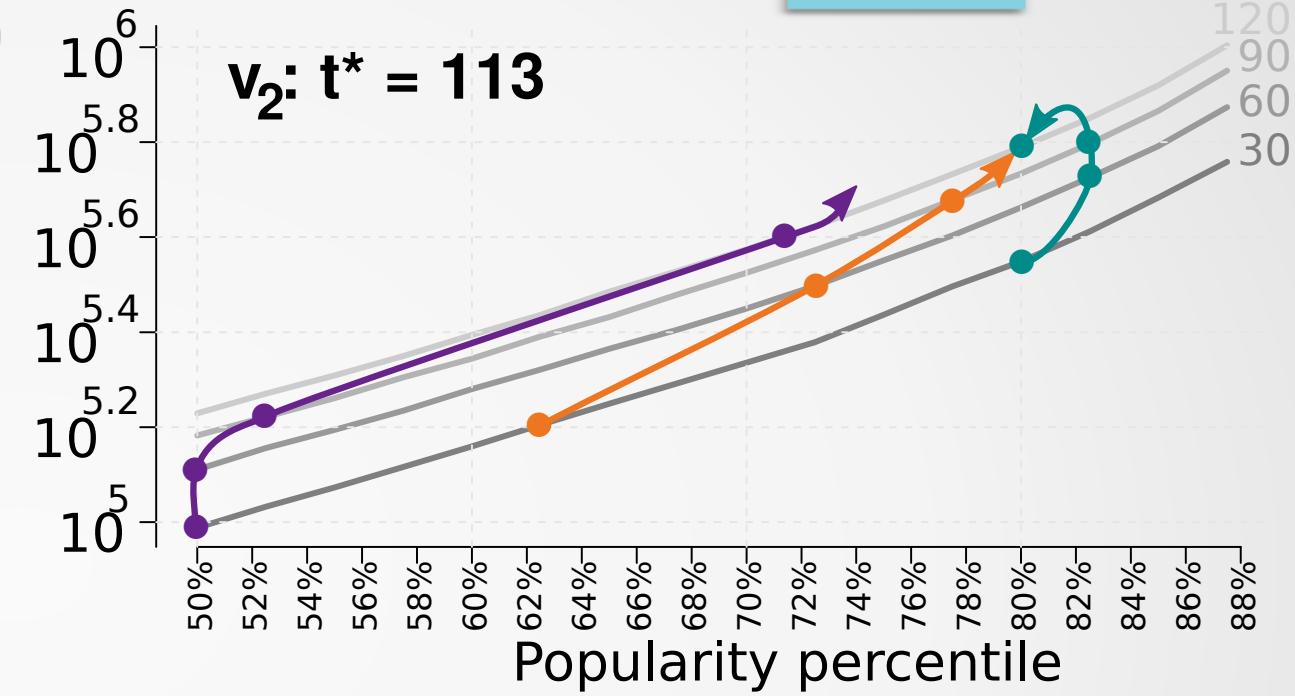
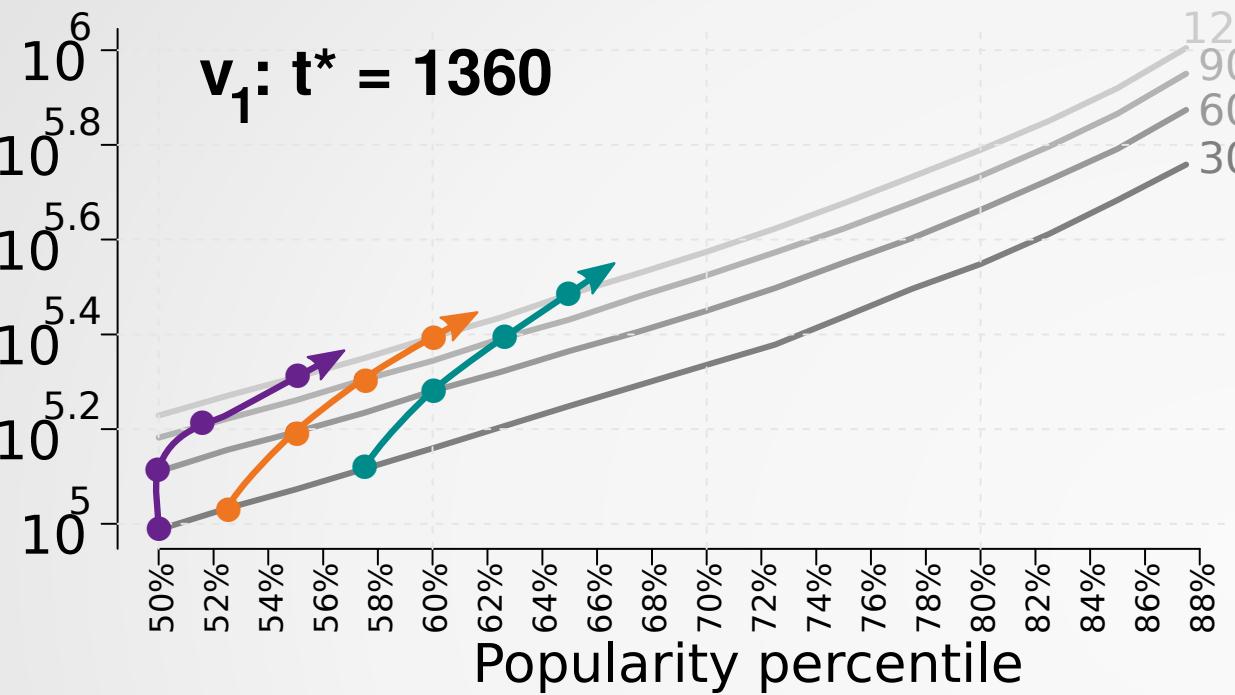
Compounding interest:  $cost = (1+a)^k$



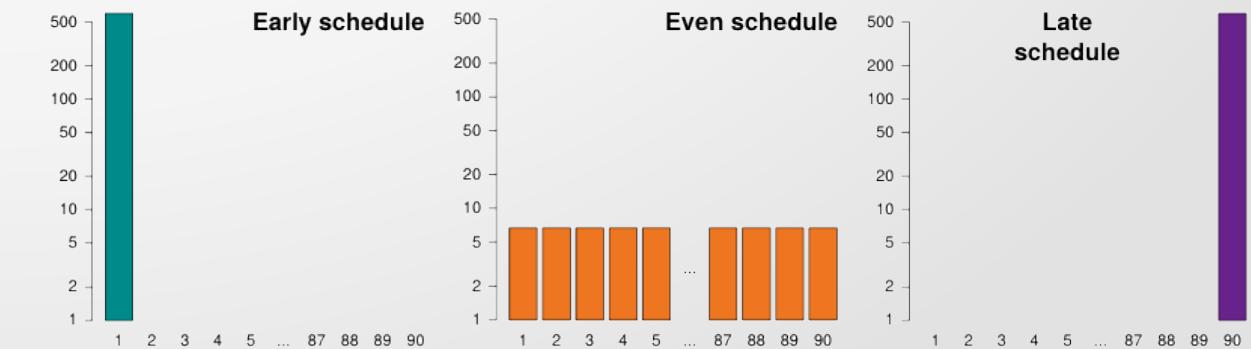
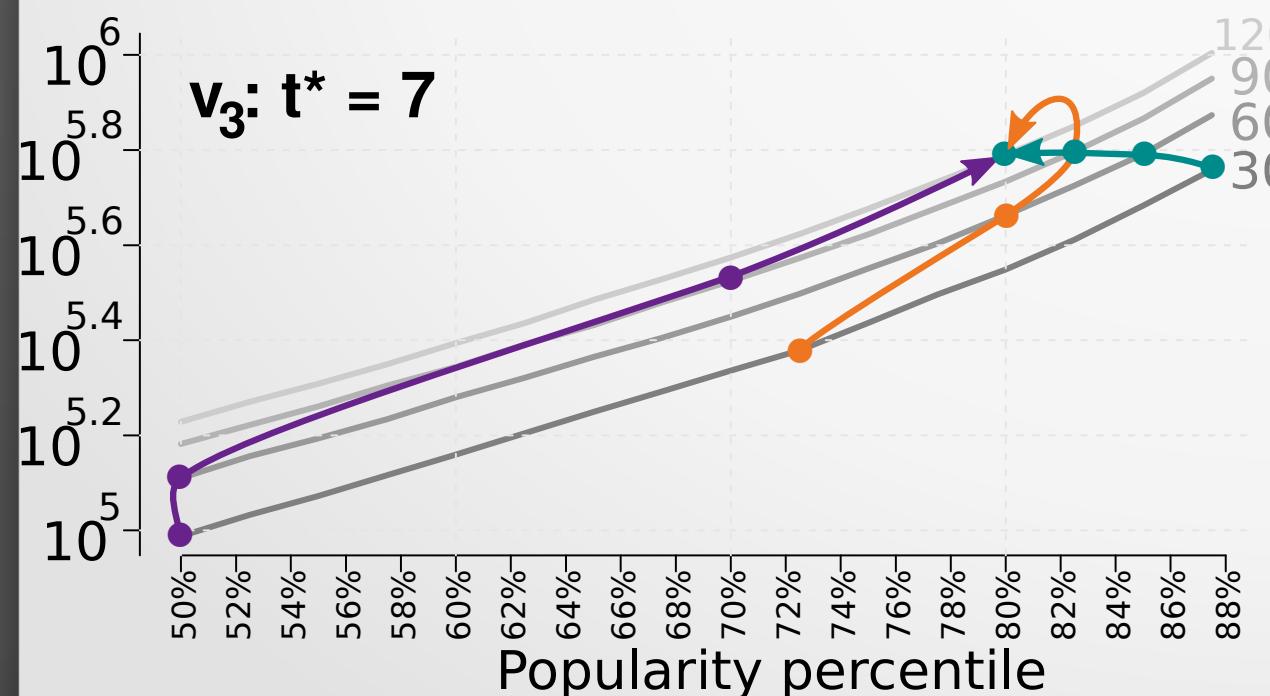
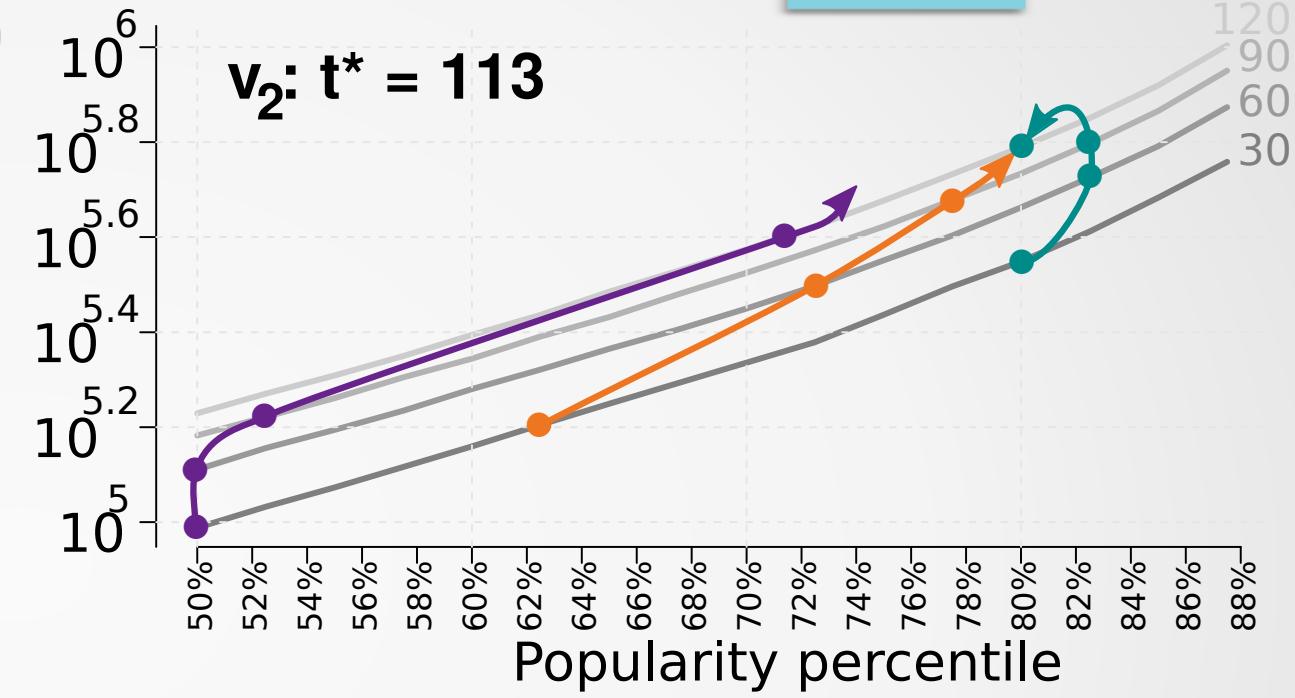
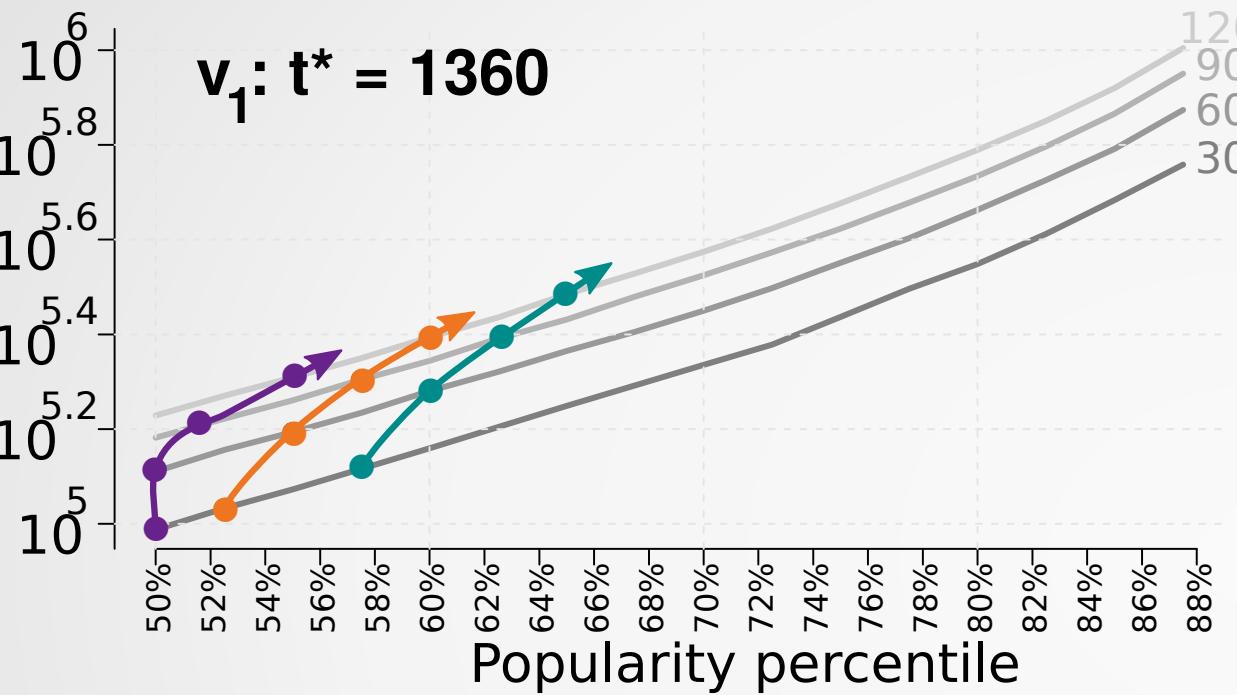
# Interplay of 2 temporal factors



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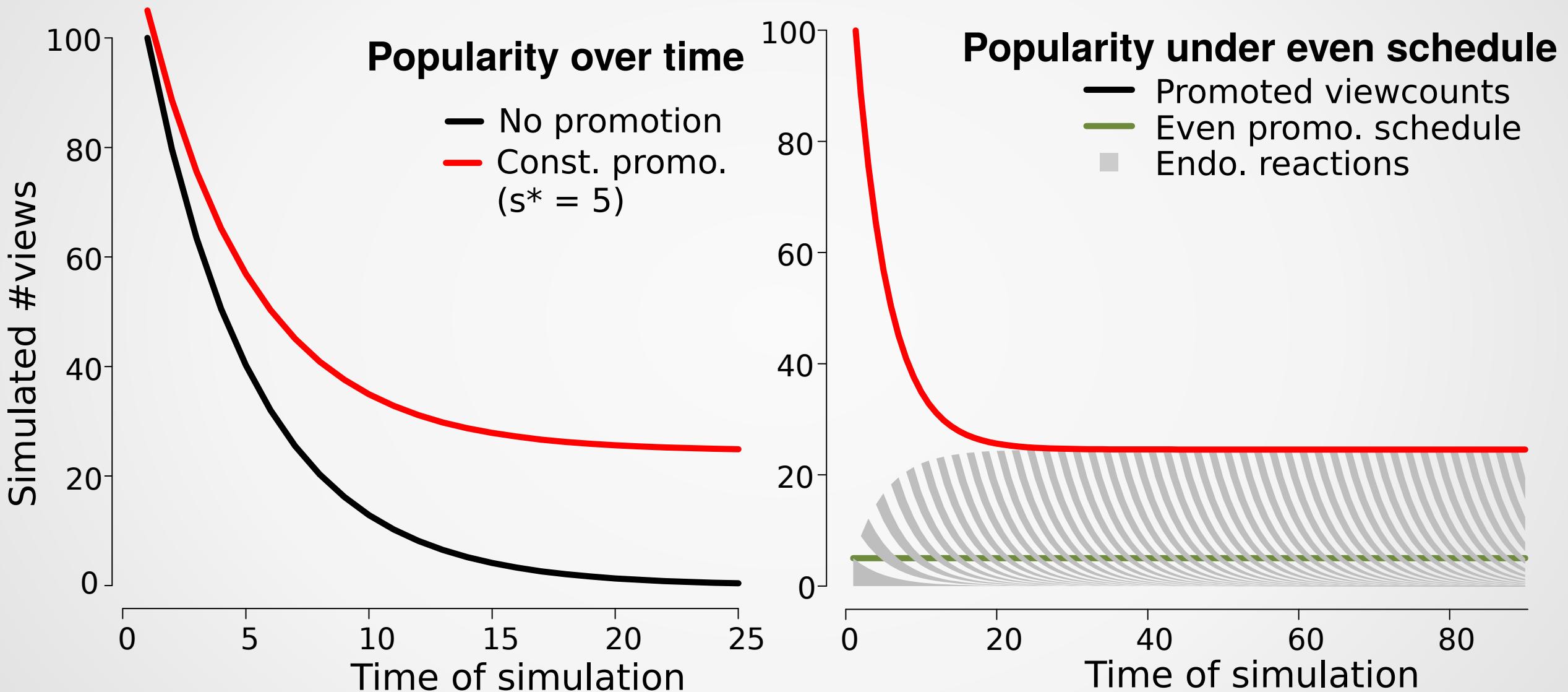
# Why is constant promotion desirable?

LTI corollary: the effects of daily promotion add up over time!

Explains why TV commercials appear at fixed intervals, every day.

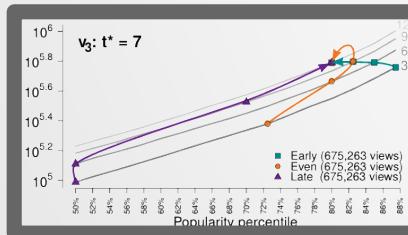
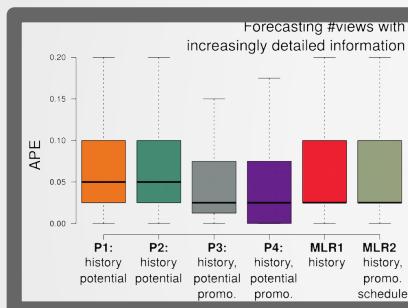
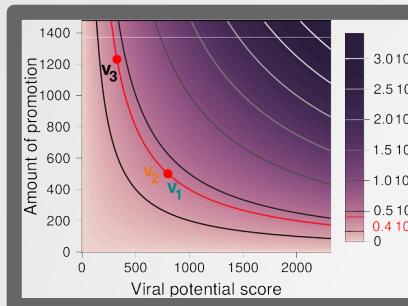


# Memory lengthening through promotion



Constant promotion leads to an apparent memory lengthening.

# Summary

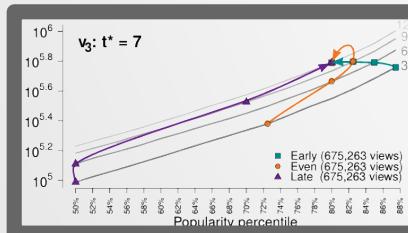
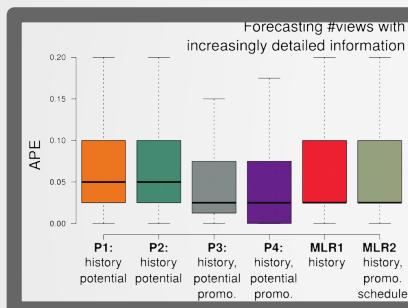
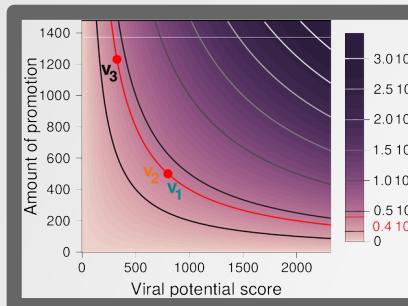


Two measures: *virality score* and *maturity time*

Important factors for forecasting popularity:  
*virality score*, *promotion volume* and *popularity scale position*

Maturity time influences the cost-effectiveness of promotion schedules

# Summary



Two measures: *virality score* and *maturity time*

Important factors for forecasting popularity:  
*virality score*, *promotion volume* and *popularity scale position*

Maturity time influences the cost-effectiveness of promotion schedules

**Limitations & future work:**

Average over network;  
Reaction to past and future promotions is the same.

# Thank you!

## Links:

Papers, code, dataset  
and interactive visualizer:

<https://github.com/andrei-rizoiu/hip-popularity>

Reference:

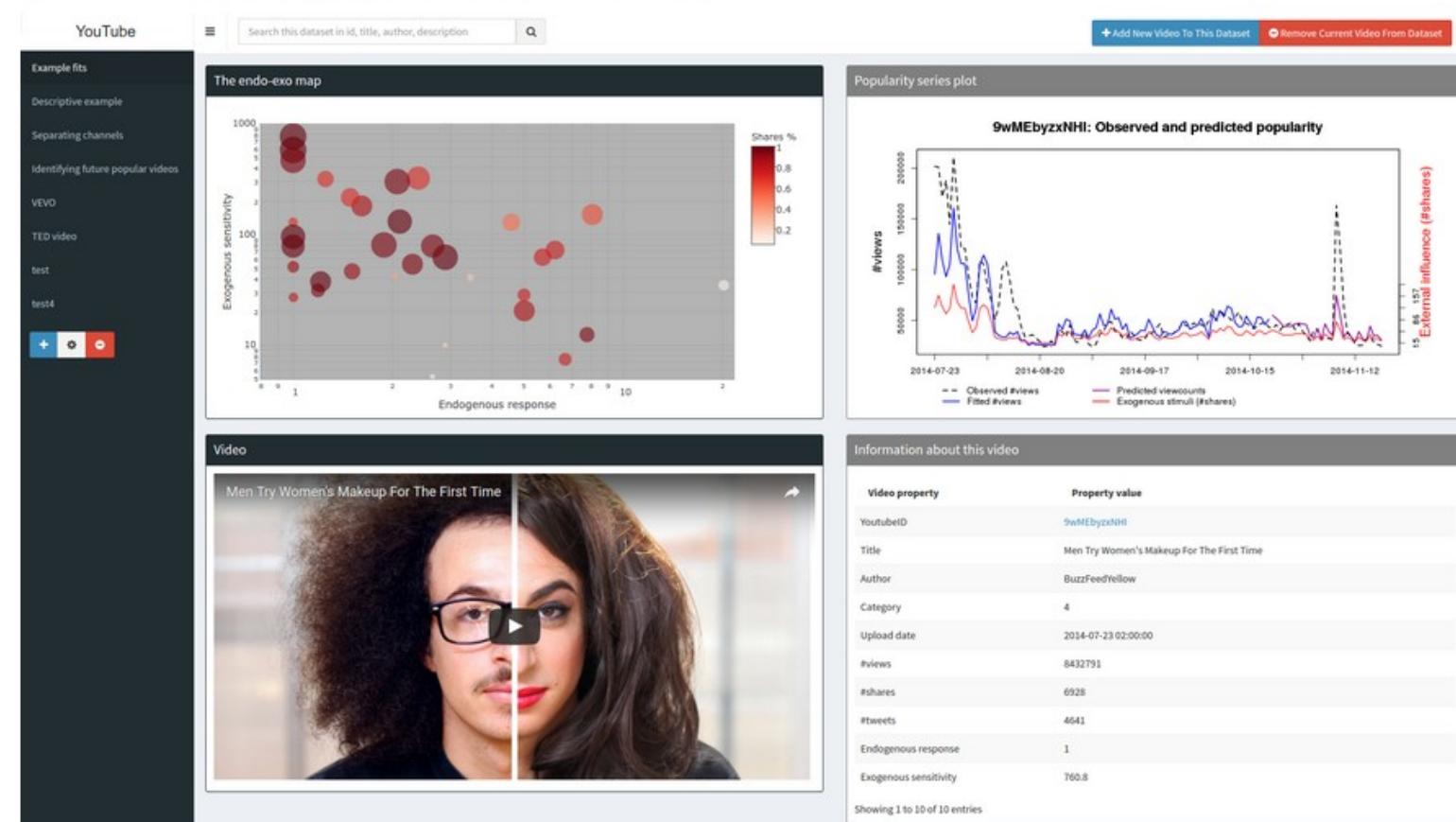
Rizoiu, M.-A., Xie, L., Sanner, S., Cebrian, M., Yu, H., & Van Hentenryck, P. (2017). **Expecting to be HIP: Hawkes Intensity Processes for Social Media Popularity**. In Proceedings of the *International Conference on World Wide Web 2017*, pp. 1-9. Perth, Australia. doi: [10.1145/3038912.3052650](https://doi.org/10.1145/3038912.3052650)

[pdf at arxiv with supplementary material](#)

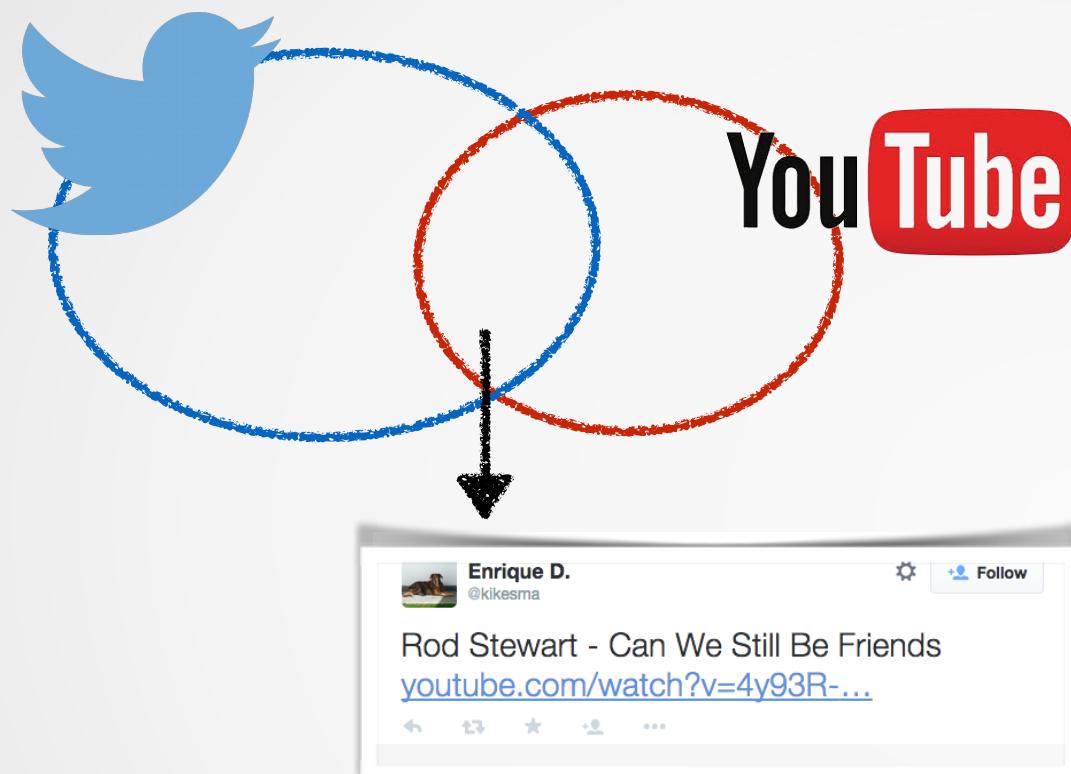
## HIP visualization system

This is an *interactive* visualization of the plots in the paper: the endo-exo map, observed and fitted popularity series and video metadata. It has additional visualizations of TED videos and VEVO musicians. Furthermore, it allows users to add and compare their own videos.

(access the visualizer by clicking on the thumbnail below)



# Supp: Twitted videos dataset

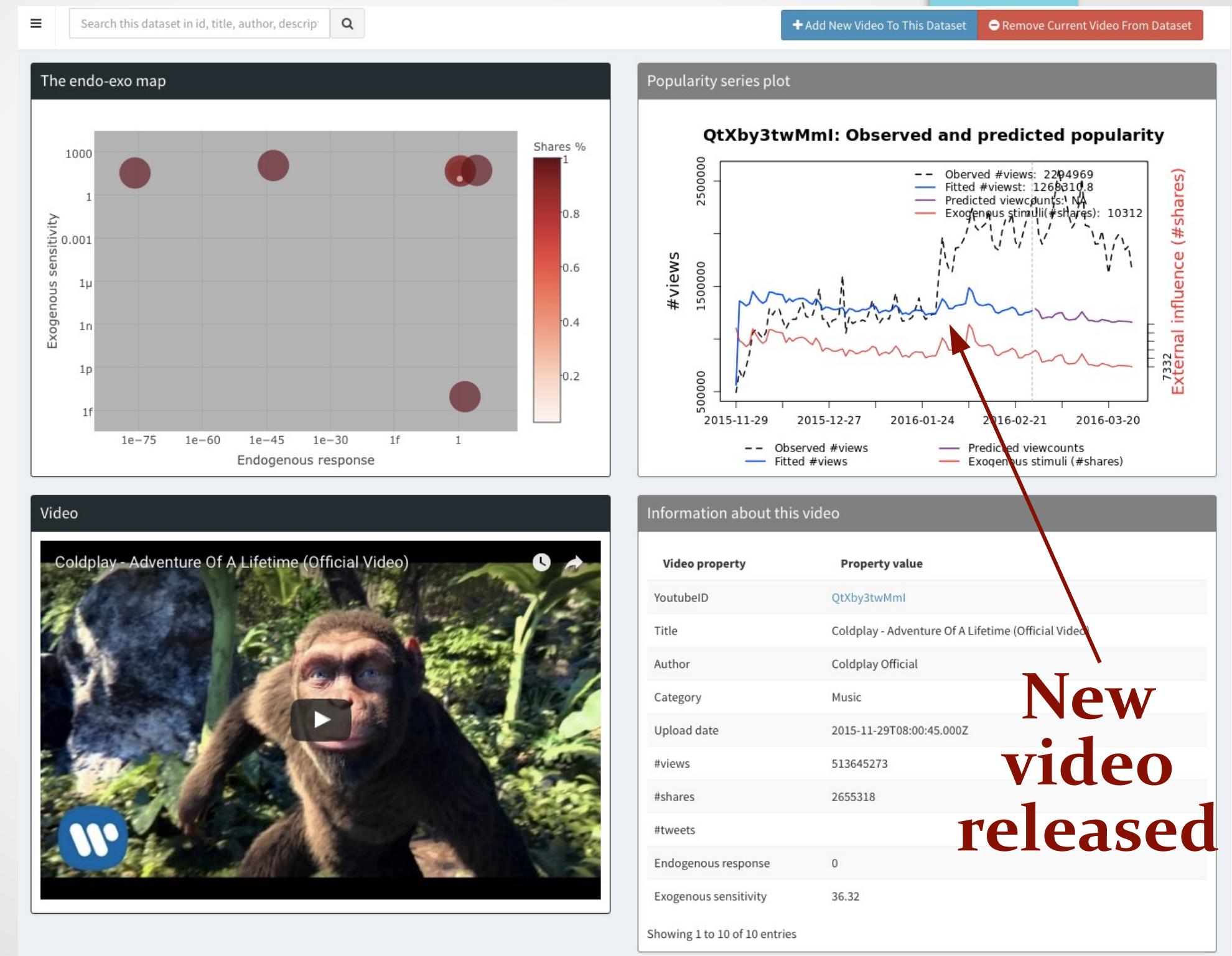


2014.06 - 2014.12  
1.061B tweets, 5.89M/day  
64.3M users;  
81.9M YouTube videos

Category	#vids	Category	#vids
Comedy	865	Music	3549
Education	298	News & Politics	1722
Entertainment	2422	Nonprofits & Activism	333
Film & Animation	664	People & Blogs	1947
Gaming	882	Science & Technology	262
Howto & Style	180	Sports	614
Total:		13,738	

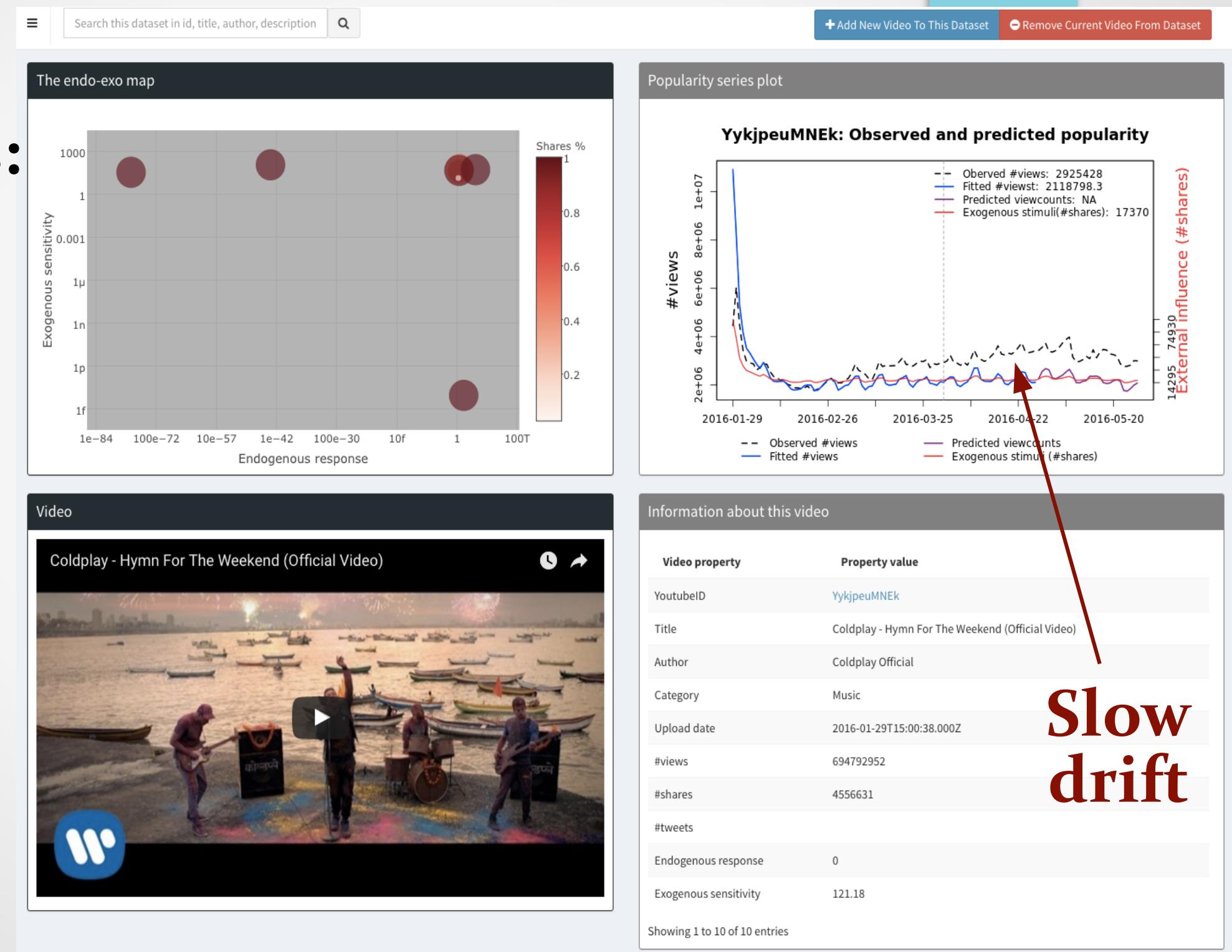
# Supp: when HIP fails the fitting (1)

Relations  
between  
videos:



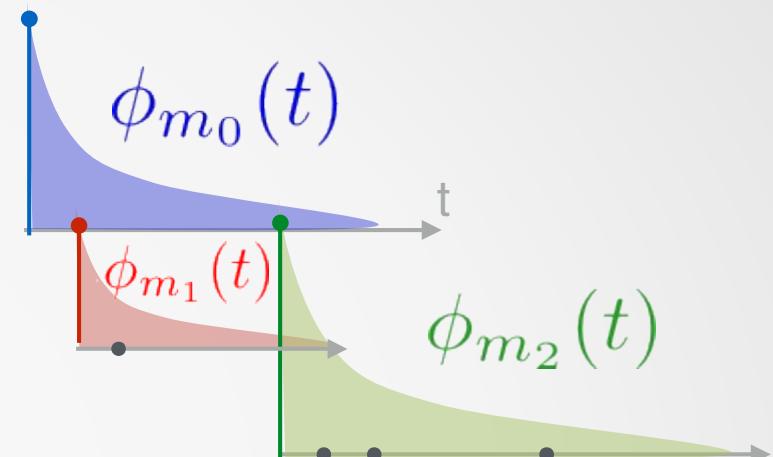
# Supp: when HIP fails the fitting (2)

Long term evolutions:



# Supp: Hawkes Process [Hawkes '71]

$$\lambda(t) = \mu(t) + \sum_{t_i < t} \phi_{m_i}(t - t_i)$$



Most state-of-the-art popularity prediction systems require observing individual events.

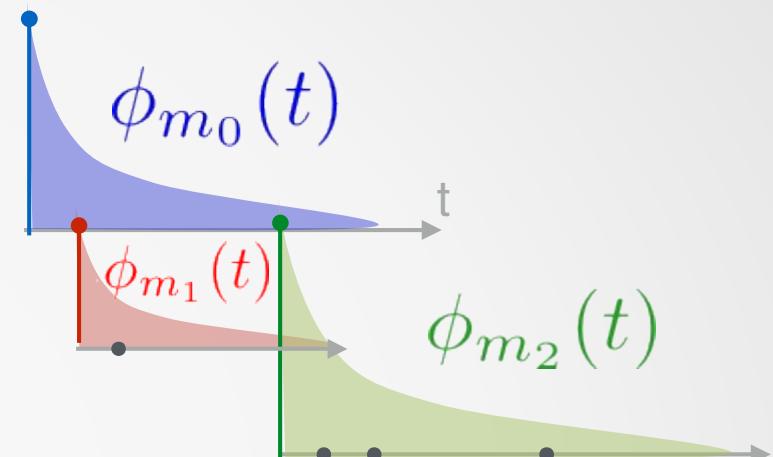
[Zhao et al KDD'15] [Shen et al AAAI'14]

[Farajtabar et al NIPS'15] [Mishra et al CIKM'16]

# Supp: Hawkes Process [Hawkes '71]

$$\lambda(t) = \mu(t) + \sum_{t_i < t} \phi_{m_i}(t - t_i)$$

the rate of  
'daughter' events    content virality    user influence    memory



$$\phi_m(\tau) = \kappa m^\beta \hat{\tau}^{-(1+\theta)}$$

Most state-of-the-art popularity prediction systems require observing individual events.

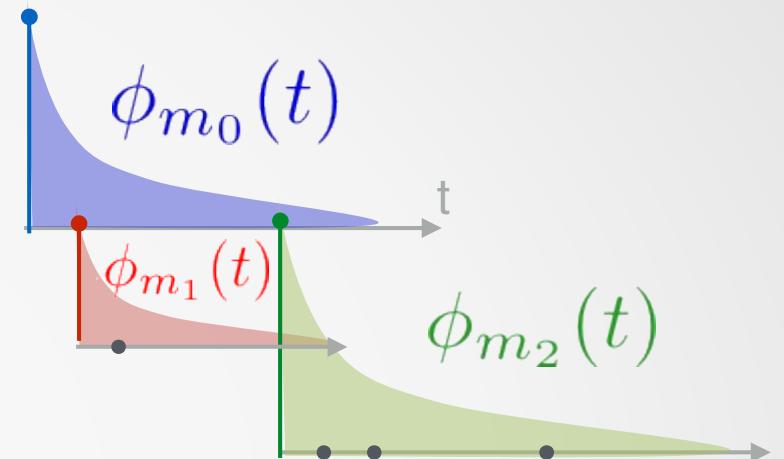
[Zhao et al KDD'15] [Shen et al AAAI'14]

[Farajtabar et al NIPS'15] [Mishra et al CIKM'16]

# Supp: Hawkes Intensity Process (HIP)

$$\lambda(t) = \mu(t) + \sum_{t_i < t} \phi_{m_i}(t - t_i)$$

the rate of ‘daughter’ events content virality user influence memory



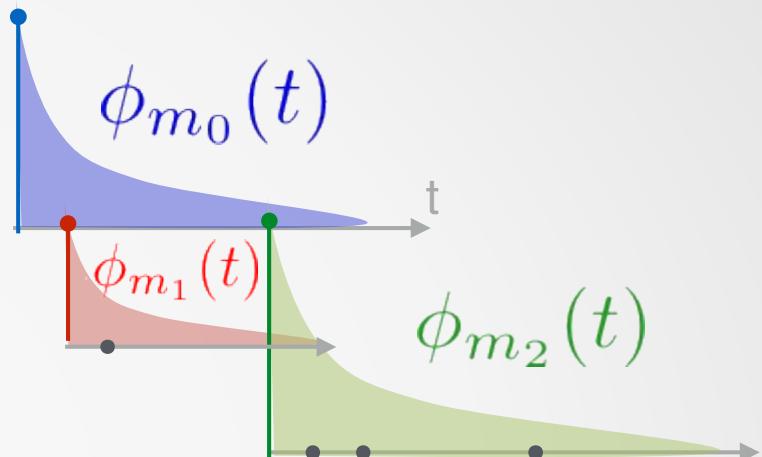
$$\phi_m(\tau) = \kappa m^\beta \hat{\tau}^{-(1+\theta)}$$

# expected number of events

# Supp: Hawkes Intensity Process (HIP)

$$\lambda(t) = \mu(t) + \sum_{t_i < t} \phi_{m_i}(t - t_i)$$

the rate of  
'daughter' events    content virality    user influence    memory



$$\phi_m(\tau) = \kappa m^\beta \hat{\tau}^{-(1+\theta)}$$

expected number of events

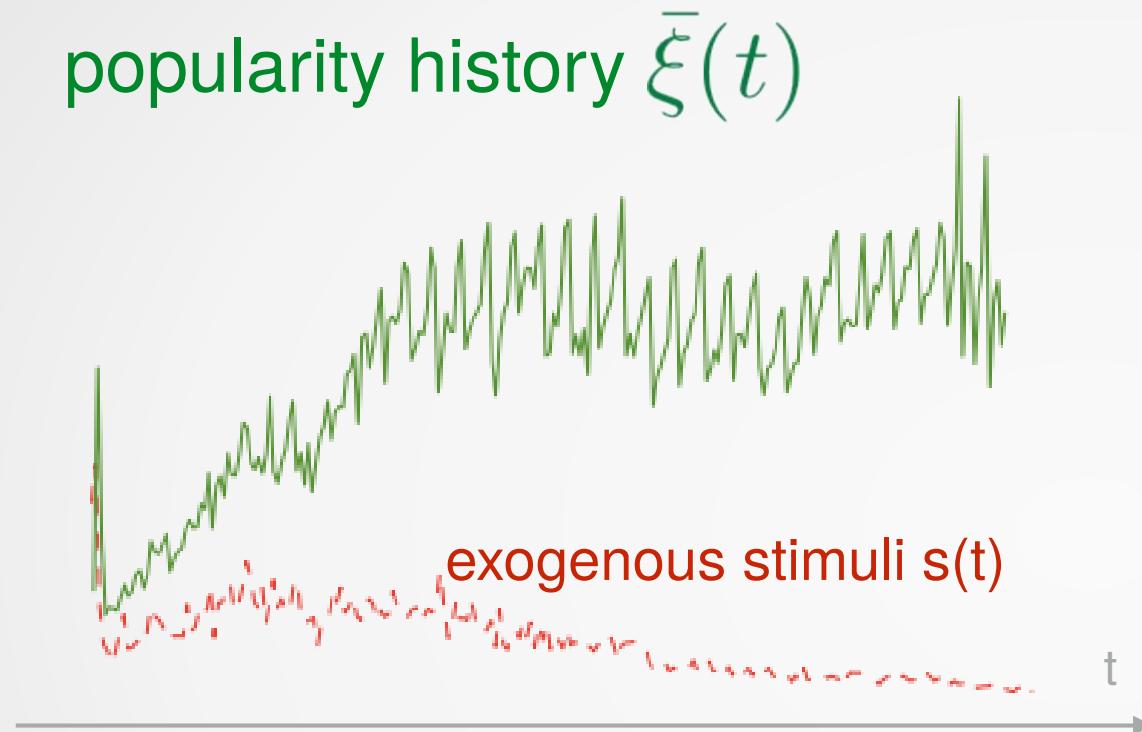
$$\xi(t) = \mu s(t) + C \int_0^t \xi(t - \tau) \hat{\tau}^{-(1+\theta)} d\tau$$

popularity

exogenous sensitivity    exogenous stimuli

endogenous reaction

# Supp: Estimating the HIP model



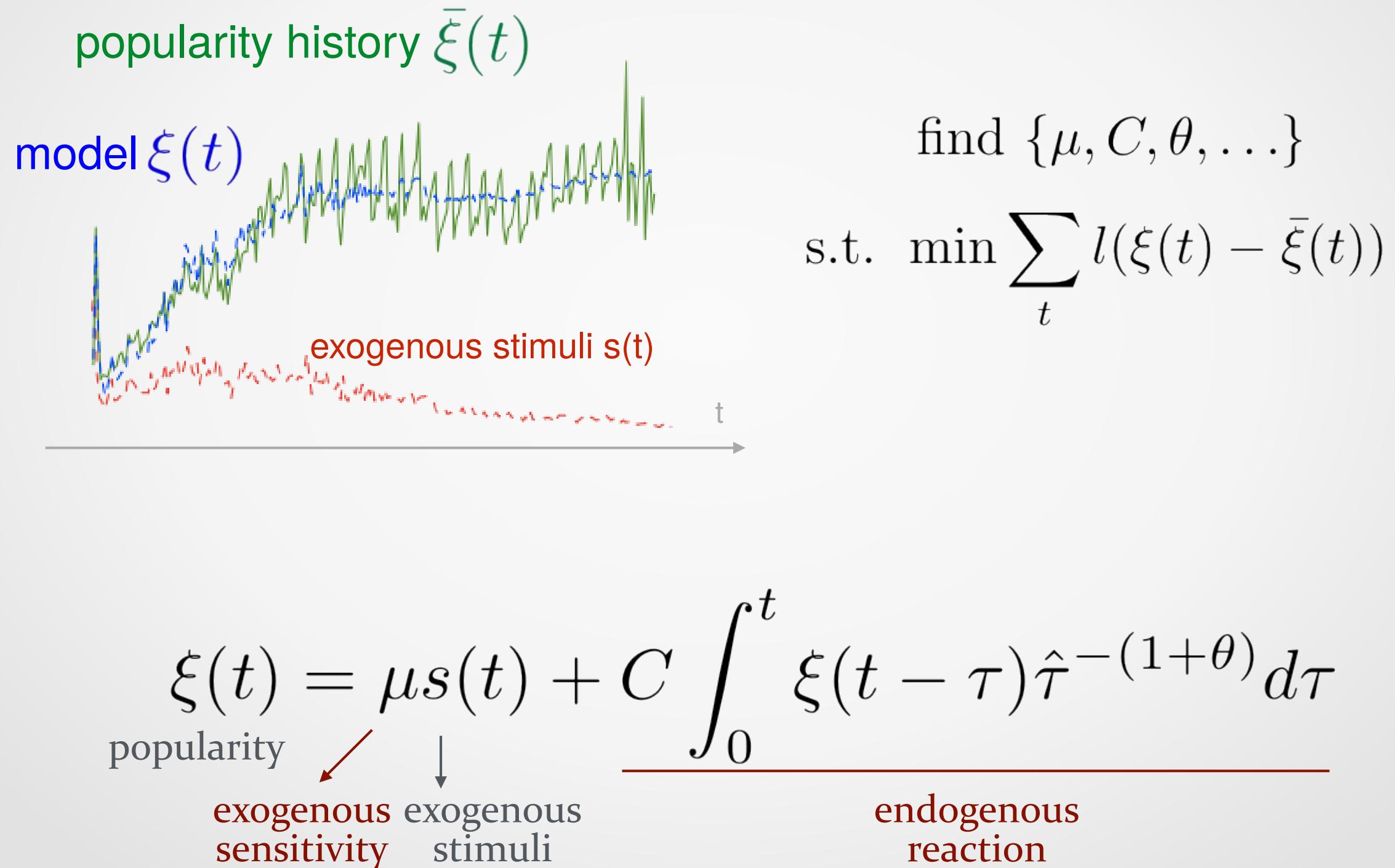
find  $\{\mu, C, \theta, \dots\}$

$$\text{s.t. } \min \sum_t l(\xi(t) - \bar{\xi}(t))$$

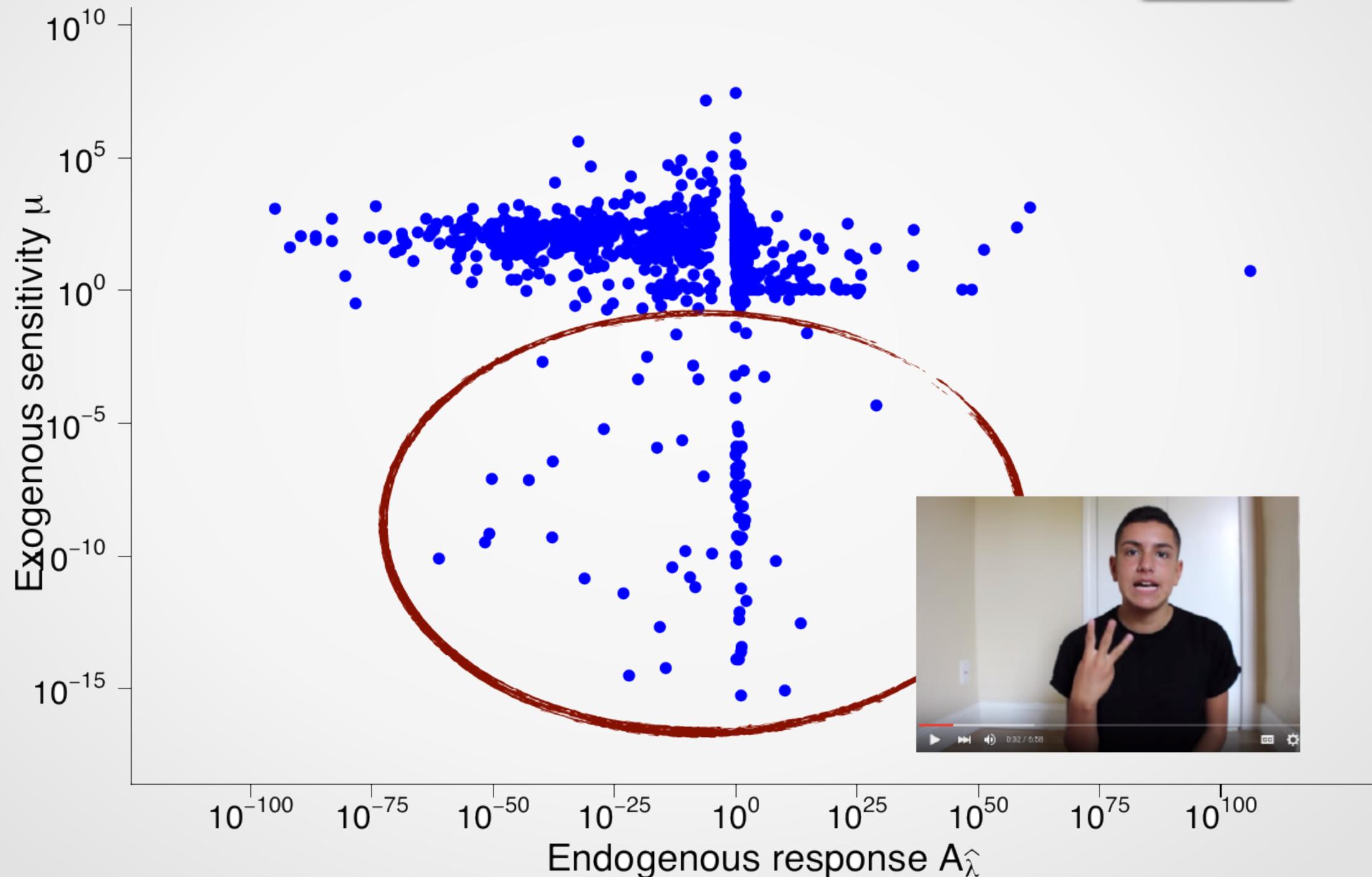
$$\xi(t) = \mu s(t) + C \int_0^t \xi(t - \tau) \hat{\tau}^{-(1+\theta)} d\tau$$

popularity      ↓  
exogenous sensitivity    exogenous stimuli      endogenous reaction

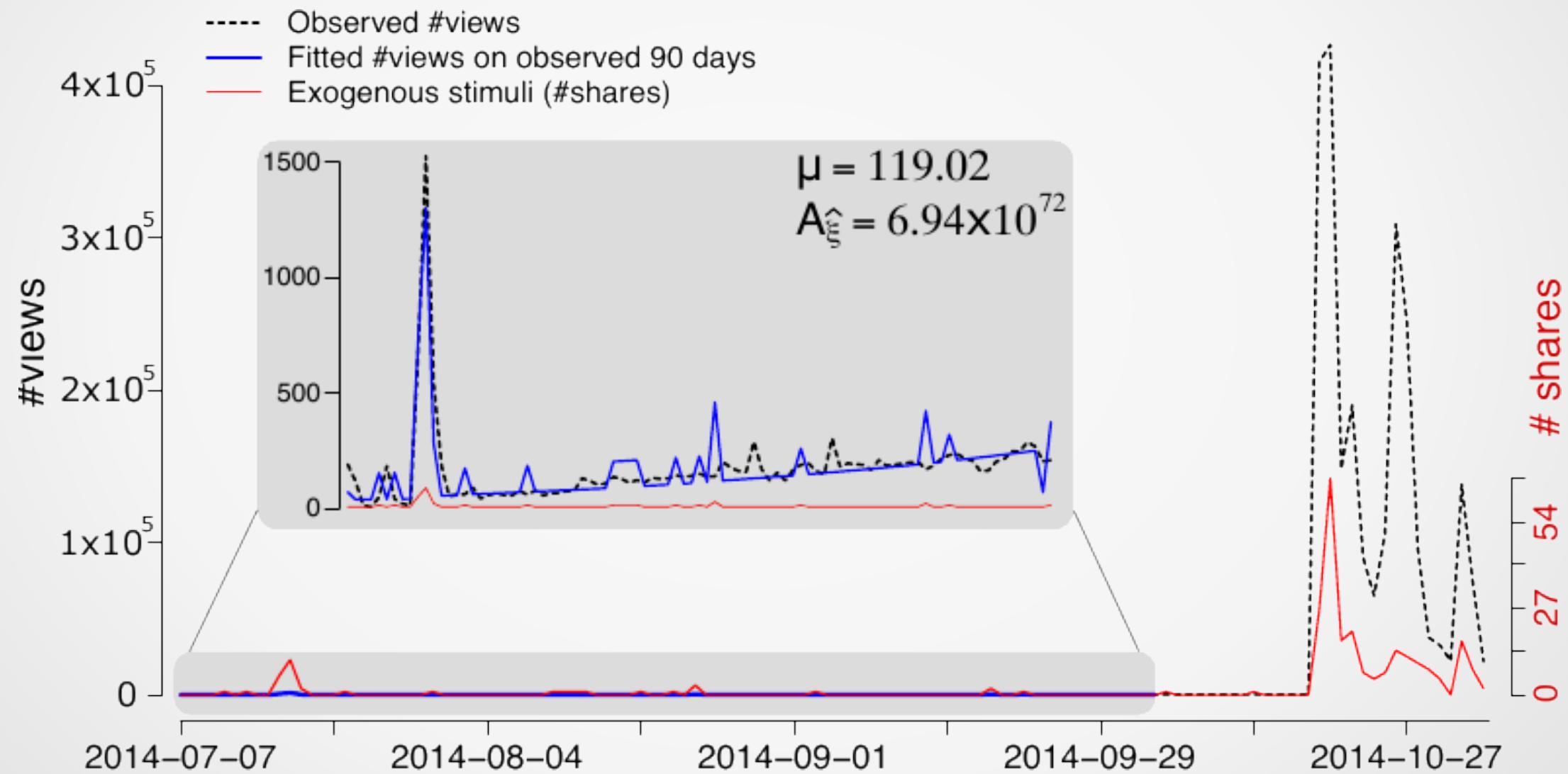
# Supp: Estimating the HIP model



# Supp: Un-promutable videos

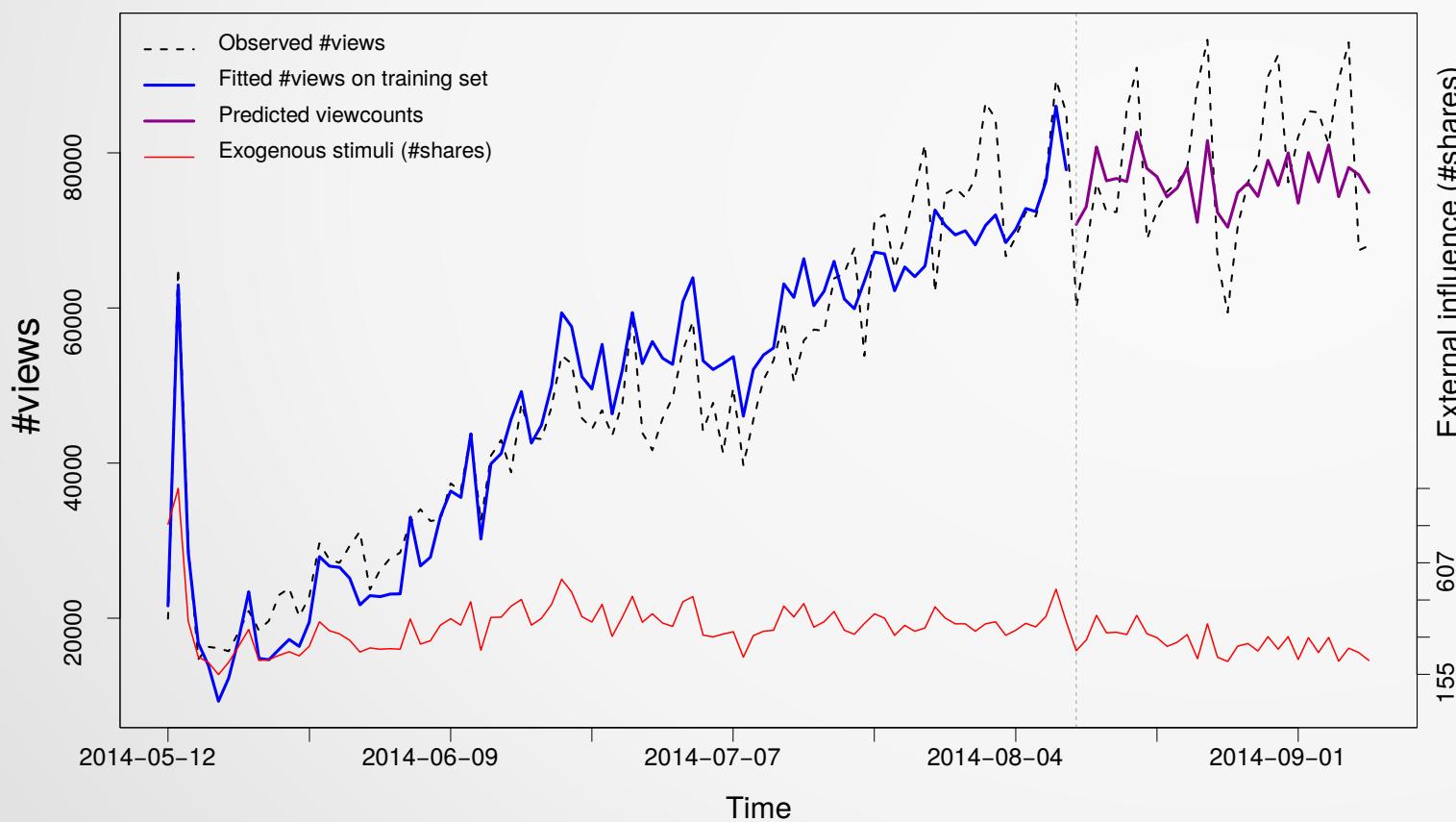


# Supp: “Potentially viral” video

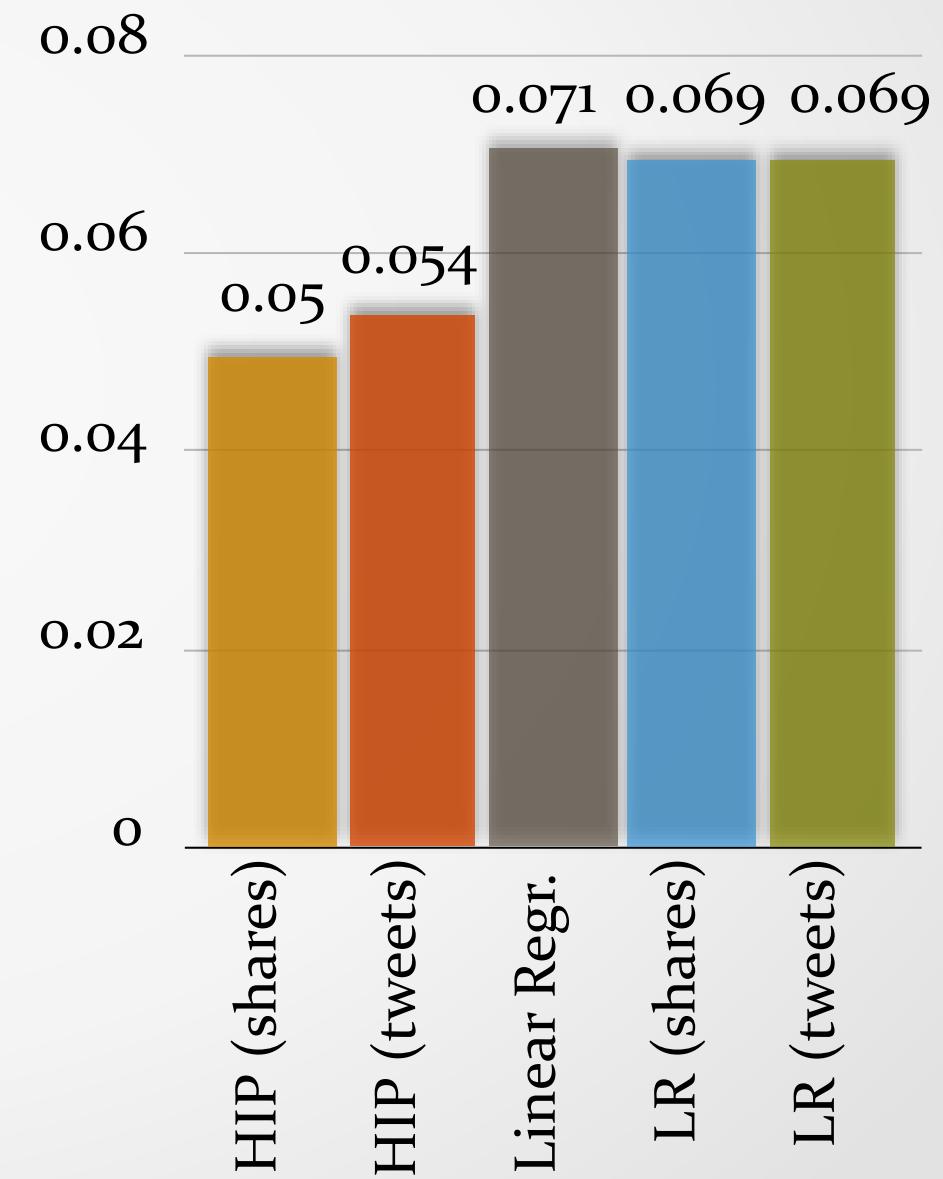


# Forecasting the effect of promotions

Observed and predicted popularity with confidence interval



average error in  
popularity percentile

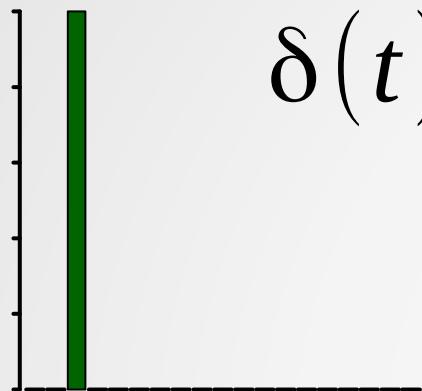


[Pinto et al WSDM'13]

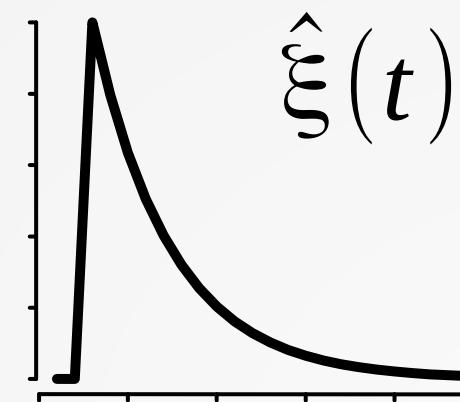
[Szabo & Huberman Comm. ACM'13] [Yu et al ICWSM'15]

# HIP as a Linear Time-Invariant system

promotion

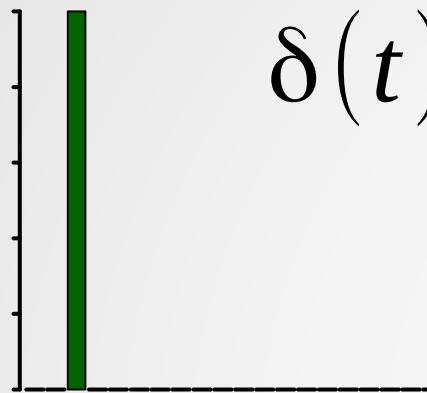


response

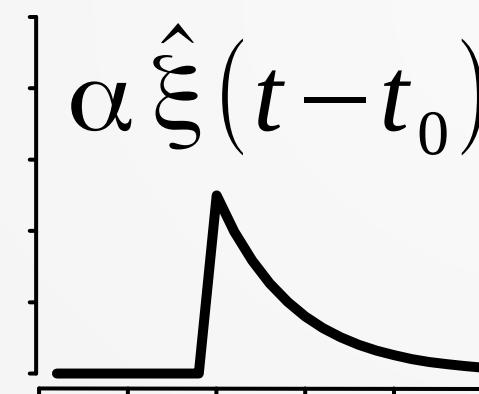
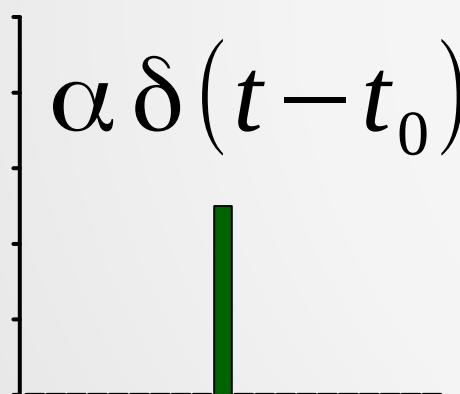
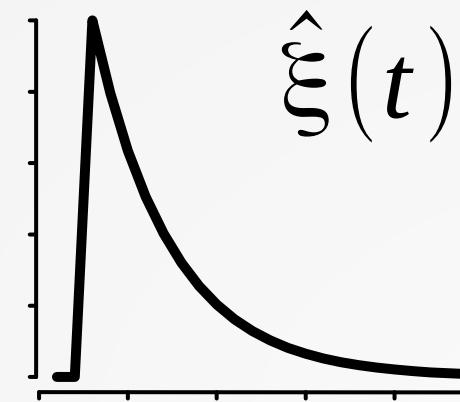


# HIP as a Linear Time-Invariant system

promotion

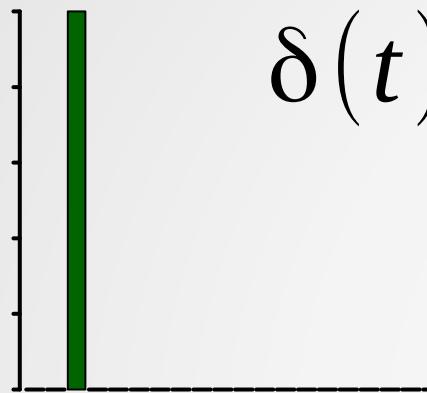


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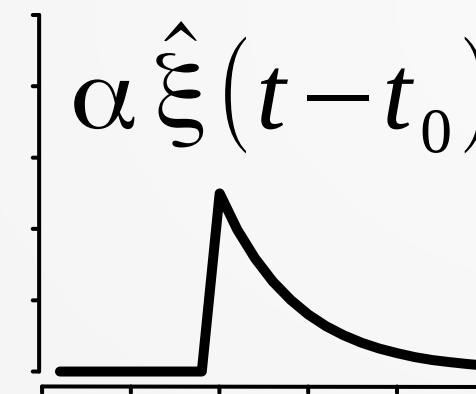
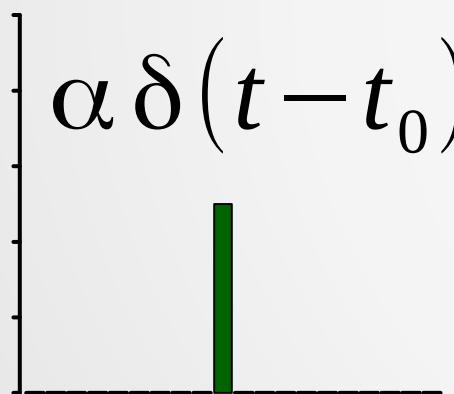
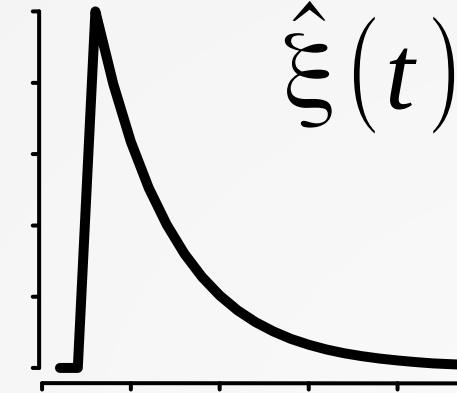


# HIP as a Linear Time-Invariant system

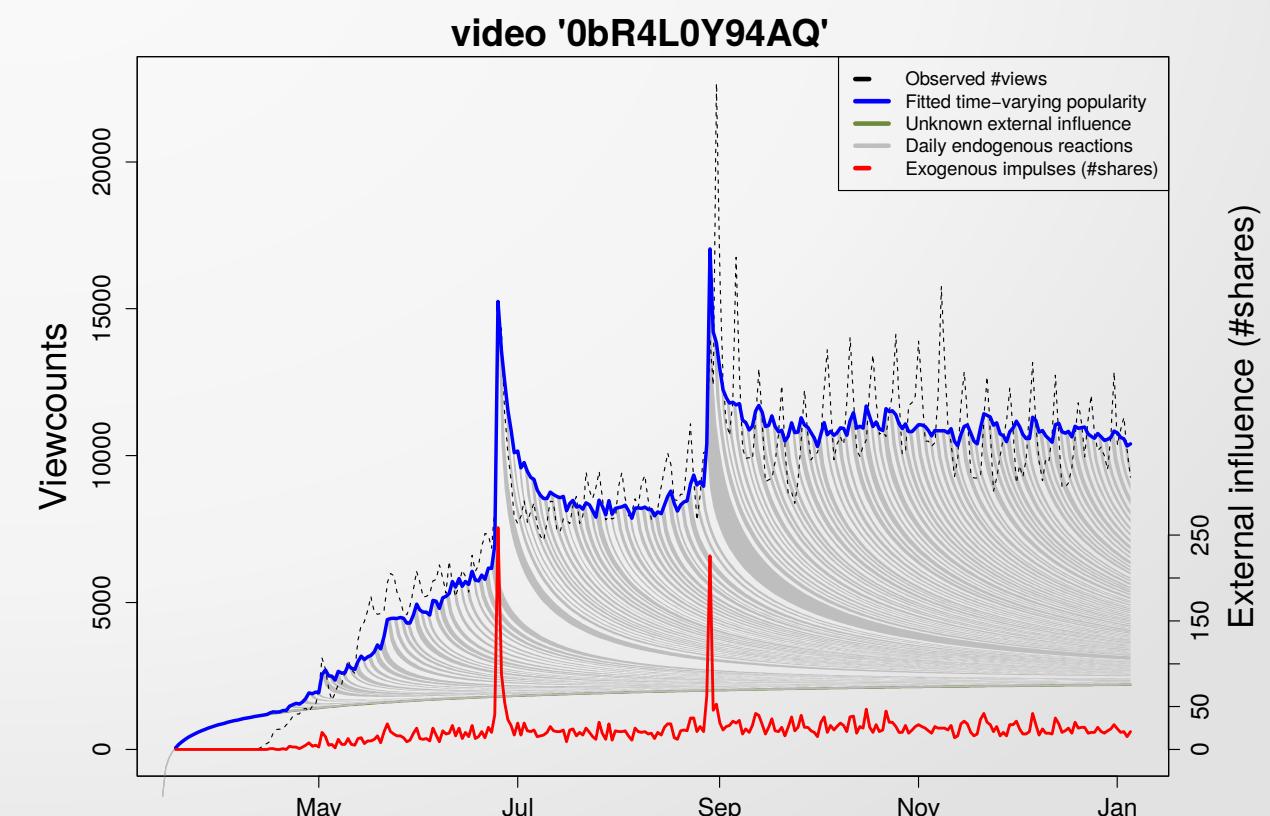
promotion



response

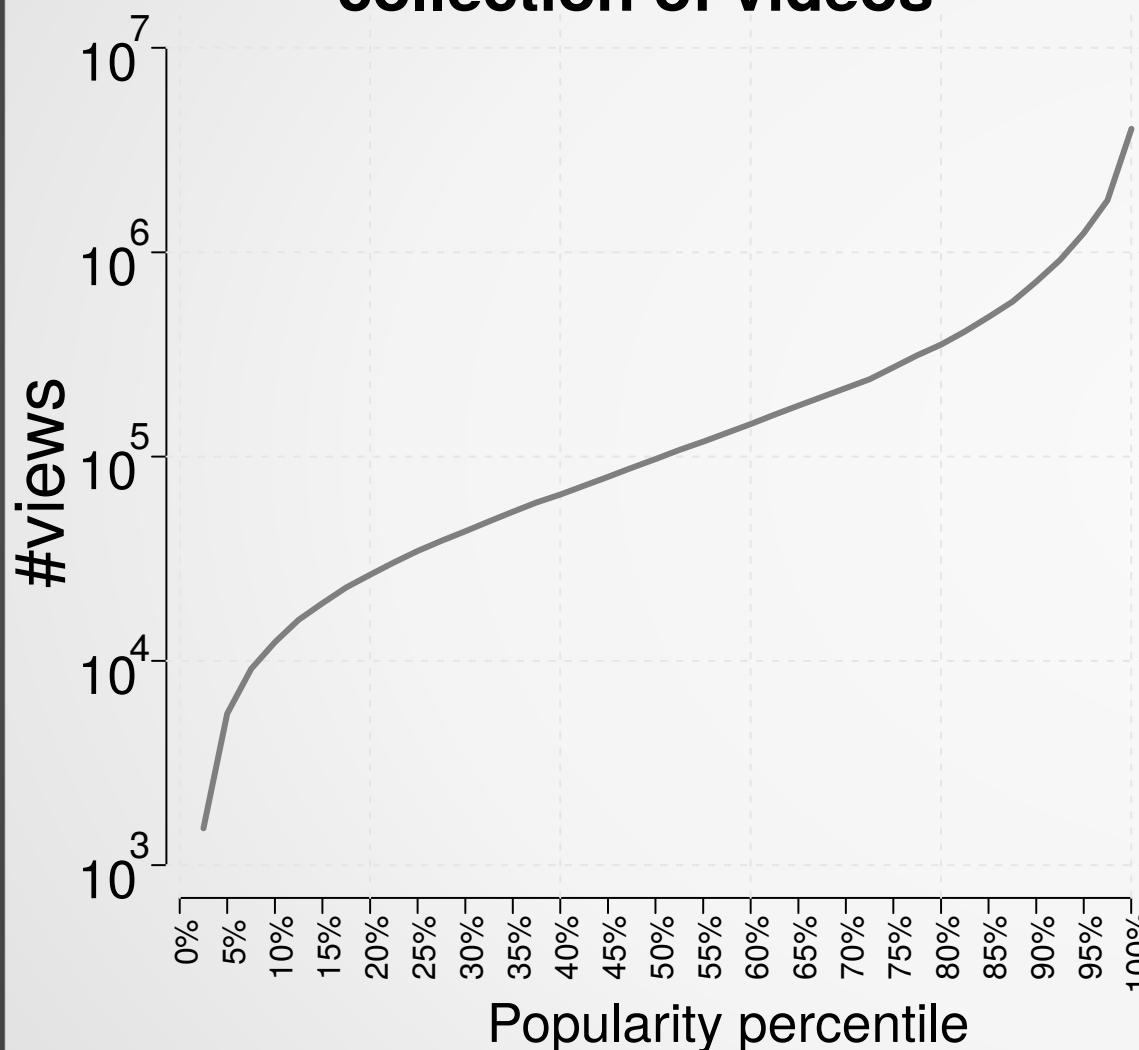


scale,  
shift, add

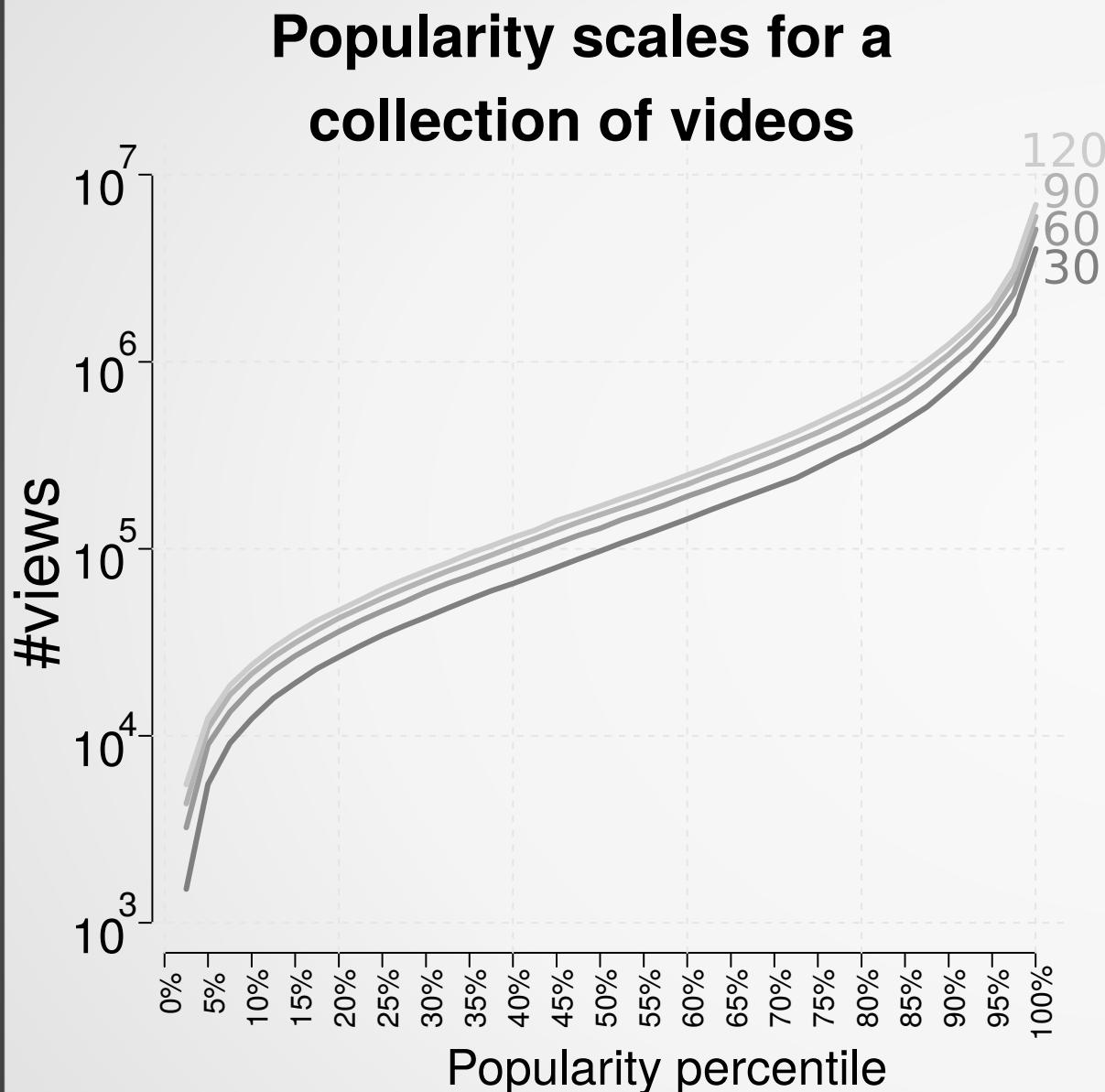


# Popularity scales over time

Popularity scales for a collection of videos

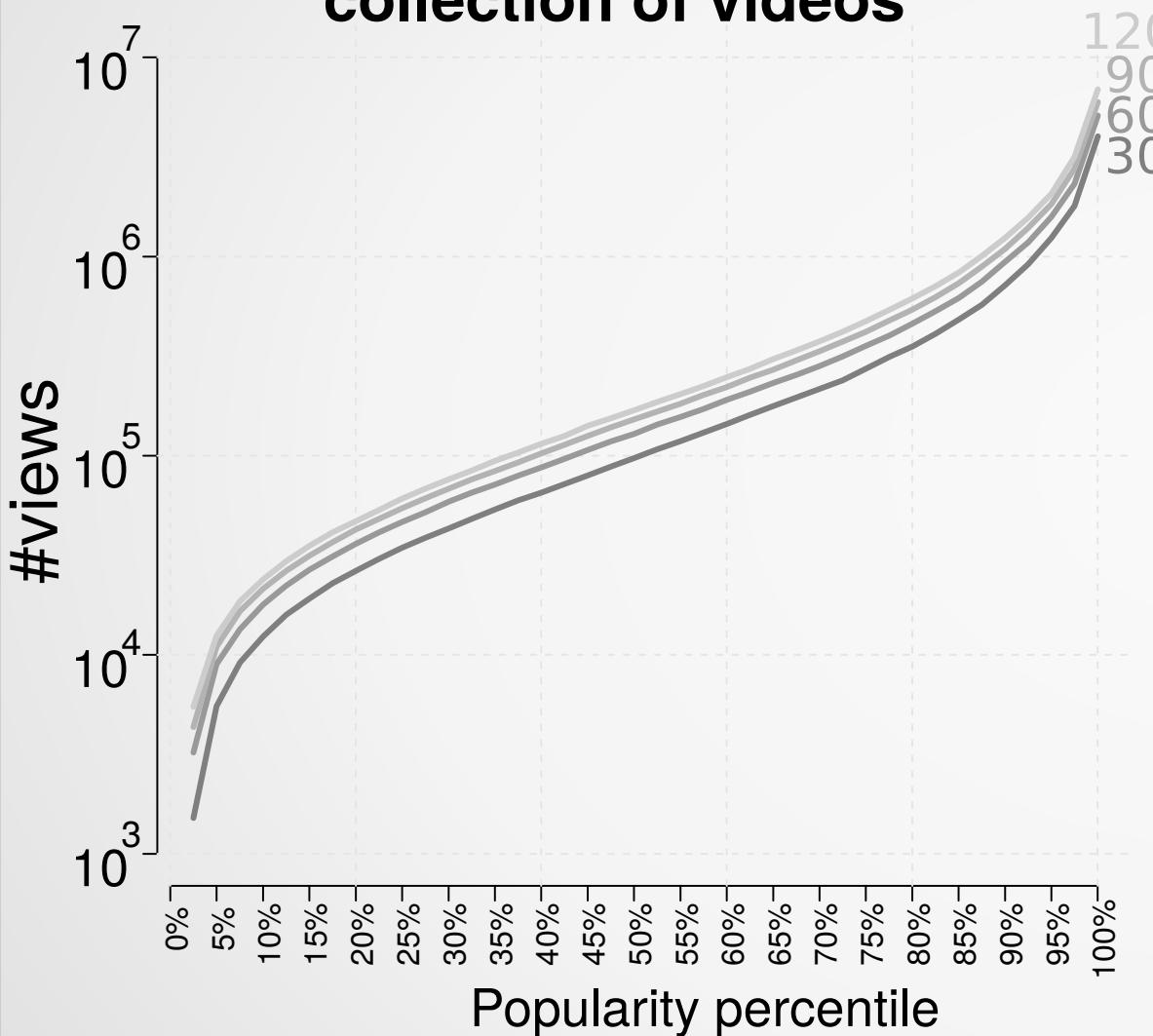


# Popularity scales over time

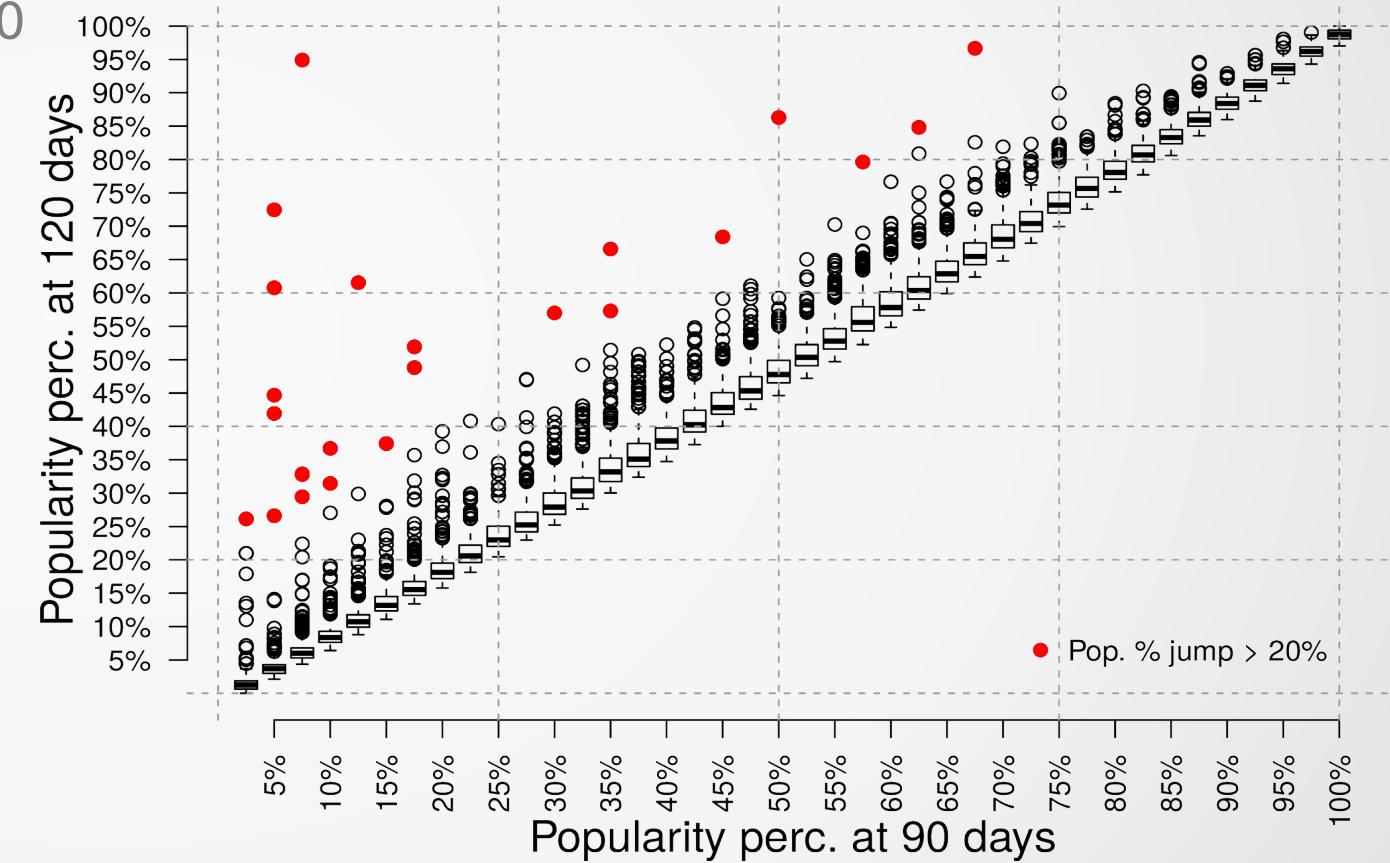


# Popularity scales over time

Popularity scales for a collection of videos

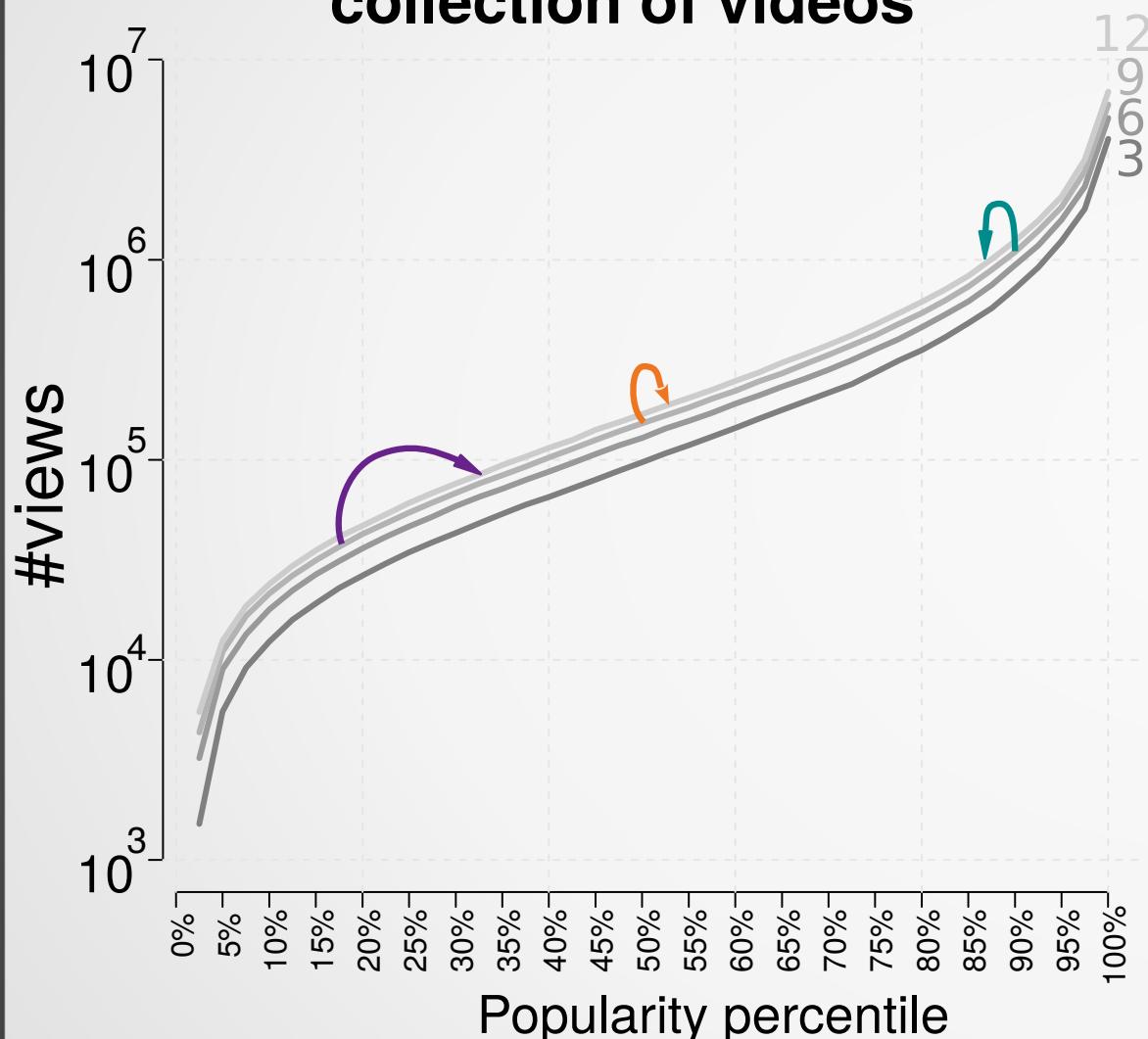


Individual video pop. % at 90 days vs. 120 days

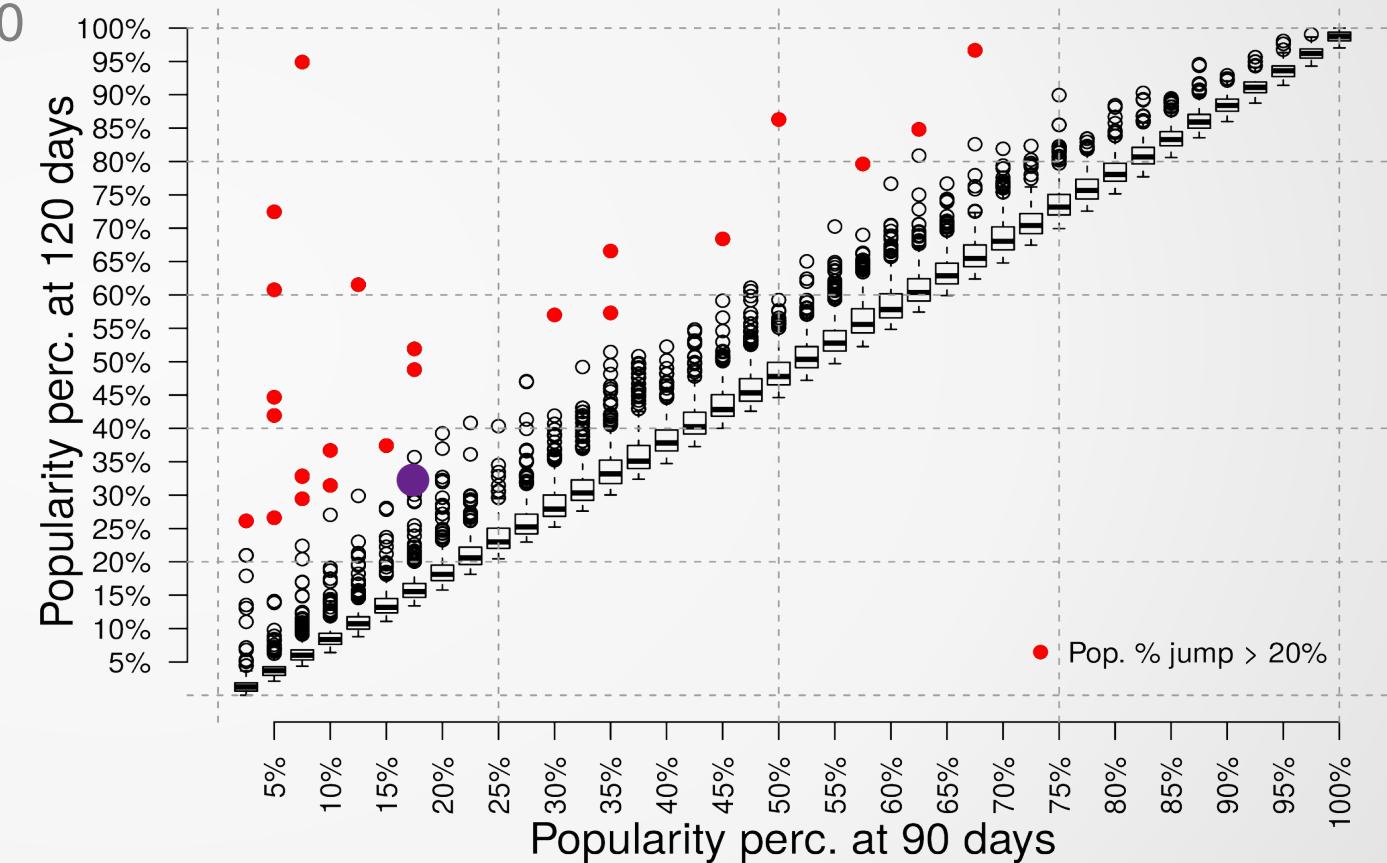


# Popularity scales over time

Popularity scales for a collection of videos



Individual video pop. % at 90 days vs. 120 days



Impact of 40k views:

start at 17.5% → +15%

start at 50% → +2.5%

start at 90% → -2.5%