Behavioral Data Science

UTS Data Science

UTS
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

Modeling social processes:

virality, disinformation, bots and troll in information cascades

Marian-Andrei Rizoiu

The research group

Behavioral Data Science

5 PhD students, 1 research assistant, 1 lecturer







Research grants

Behavioral Data Science

2019 – current:	Facebook Research grants, "**Mapping and countering the diffusion of hate speech across social media**", CI.
2019 – current:	Crawford School of Public Policy grants, "**Evaluating democratic equity through analysing data around public donation to presidential candidates**", CI.
2019 – current:	UTS cross-faculty collaboration scheme, "**SocialSense: Making sense of the opinions and interactions of online users**", CI.
2019	Data61 Challenge model grants, "**Adaptive skills taxonomy to enable labour market agility"**, CI.
2018	ANU Social Science Cross-College Grants, **"Advanced tools and methods for analysing the role and influence of bots in social media"**, CI.
2018	ANU Social Science Cross-College Grants, **"Identify Hate Speech and Predict Mass Atrocities"**, CI.

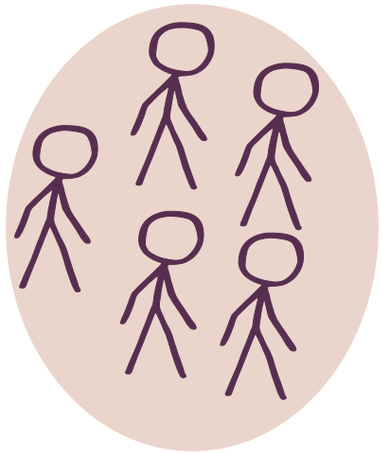
WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION

NETFLIX

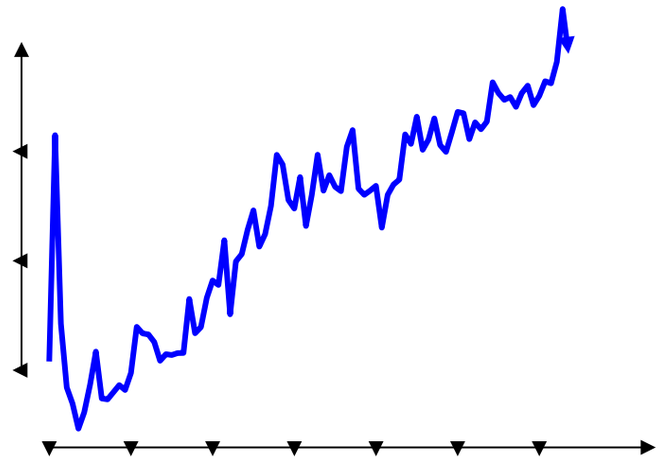
Research objectives

Behavioral Data Science

1.

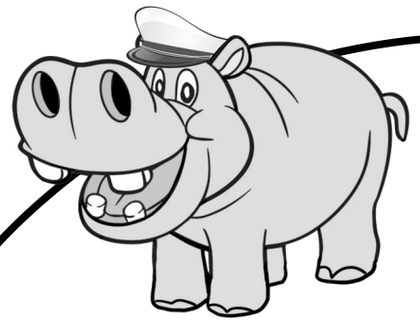


information diffusion
epidemics spreading
behavioral modeling



Behavioral Data Science

Online virality & popularity



[Rizoiu et al, WWW'17]

[Rizoiu et al, ICWSM'17]

[Wu et al, ICWSM'18]

[Wu et al, CSCW'19]

[Kong, WWW'18]

[Mishra et al, ICWSM'18]

[Mishra et al, CIKM'16]

[Rizoiu, HIPer '20]

[Kong, IJCAI '20]

[Rizoiu & Xie, ICWSM'18]

[Ram et al, Influence estimation'20]

[Rizoiu, WWW'18]

[Zhang et al, IJCAI'19]

[Zhang et al, AAAI'20]

[Kong, WSDM '20]

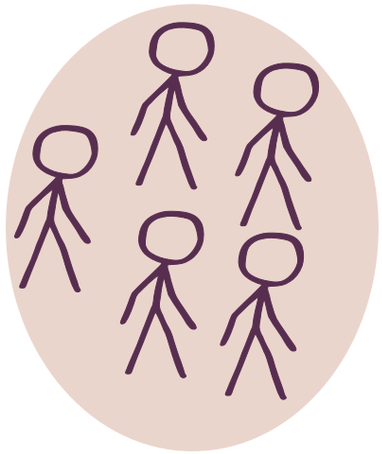
Information diffusion models

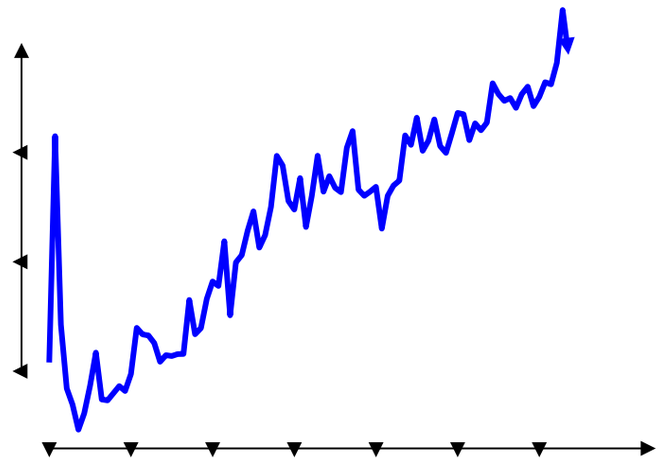
Epidemic models

Research objectives

Behavioral Data Science

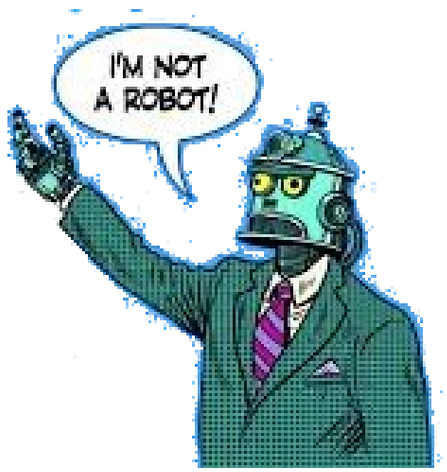
1.





information diffusion
epidemics spreading
behavioral modeling

2.



[Rizoiu et al ICWSM'18]

[Kim et al Journ.Comp.SocSci'19]

Research objectives

Behavioral Data Science

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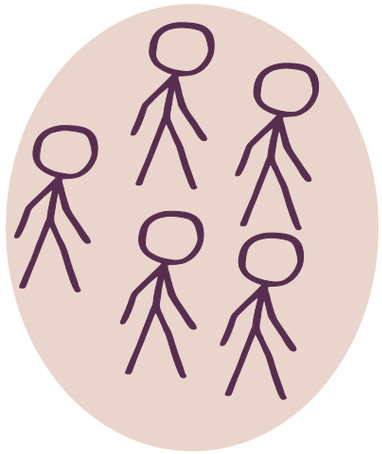

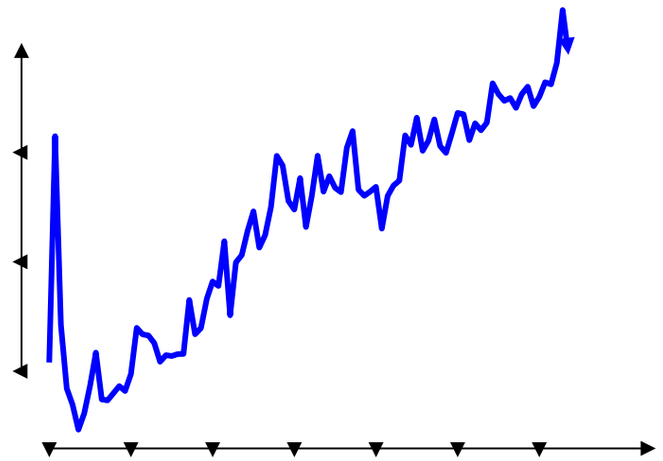

information diffusion
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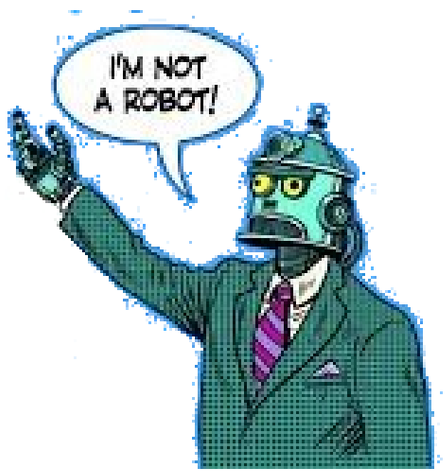


[Rizoiu et al ICWSM'18]

[Kim et al Journ.Comp.SocSci'19]

3.

[Rizoiu et al IJCAI'20]

Significant collaborations

Behavioral Data Science

Twitter Fake news & Bots

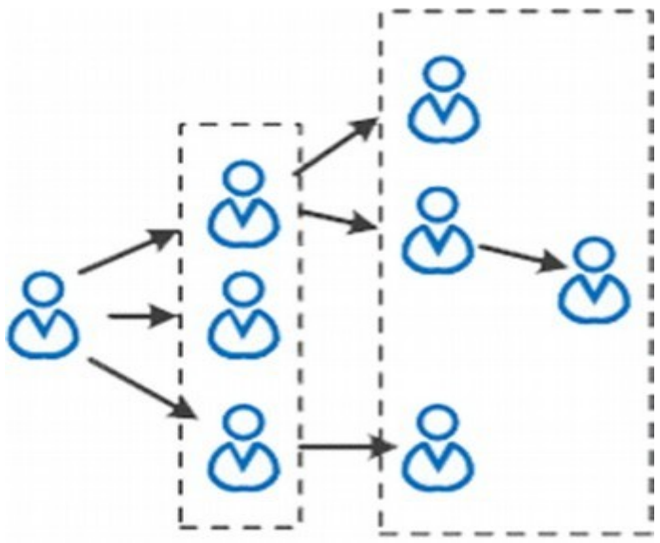
Tracking Disinformation Campaigns

Hate Speech propagation on Social Media

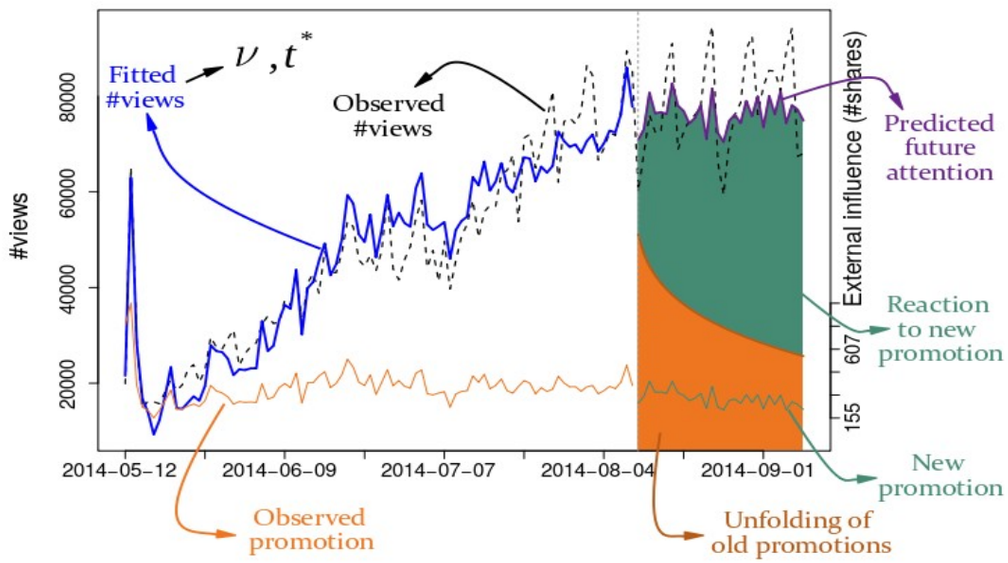
Expert roundtable for Defamation law reform

Opinion manipulation and information warfare

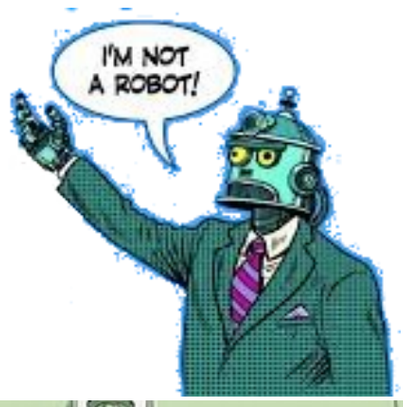
Detecting and quantifying privacy loss over time



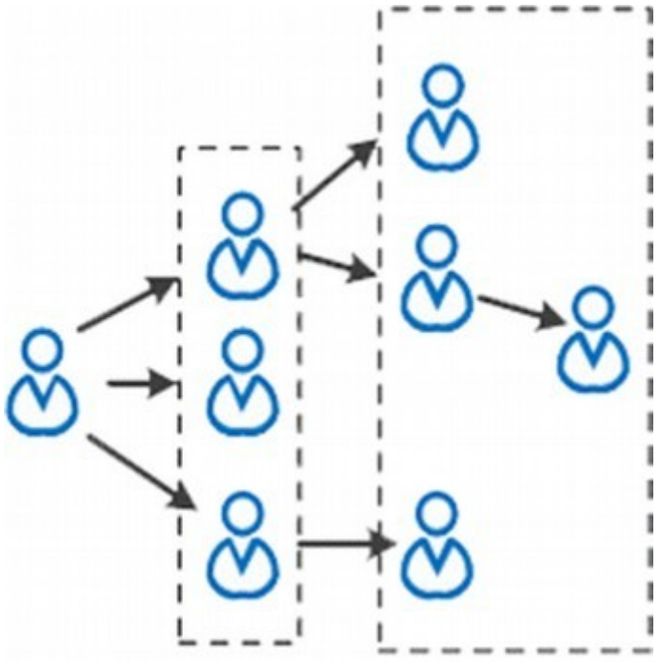
Modeling information diffusion in social networks



Modeling and predicting popularity, virality and engagement



Influencing democratic processes using social media



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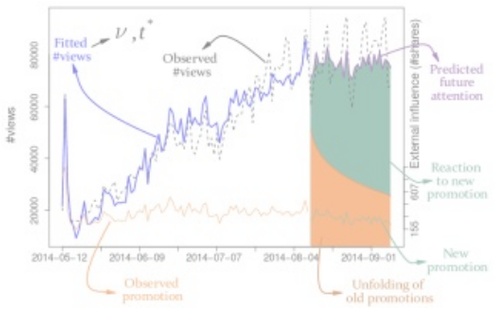


Modeling and predicting popularity, virality and engagement

Influencing democratic processes using social media

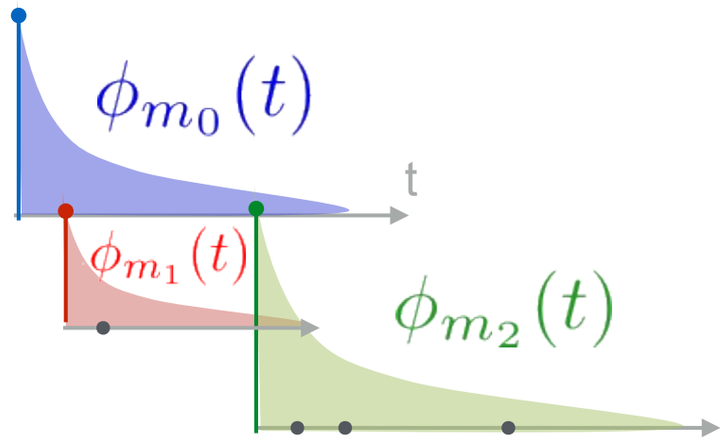
Modeling information diffusion in social networks

Behavioral Data Science

Hawkes modeling

[Mishra et al CIKM'16]

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



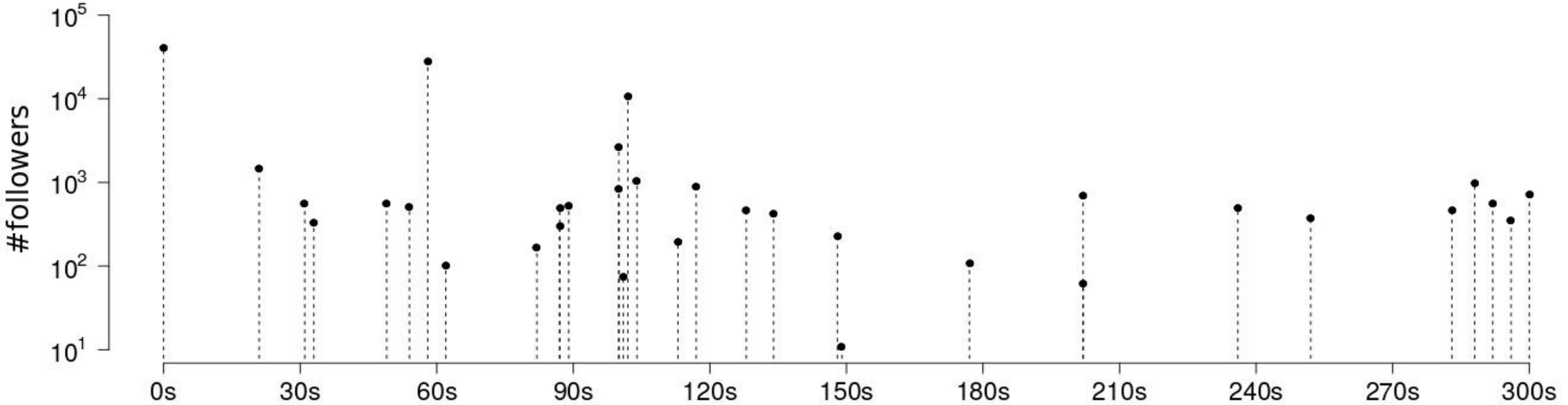
the rate of 'daughter' events | content virality | user influence | memory

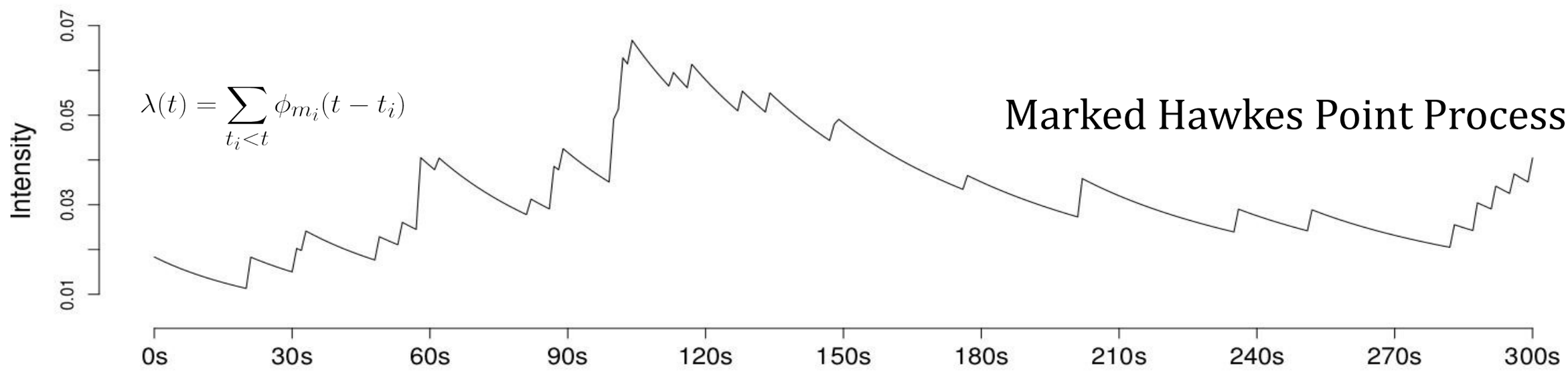
$$\phi_m(\tau) = \kappa\, m^{\beta}\, \hat{\tau}^{-(1+\theta)}$$

S. Mishra, M.-A. Rizoiu, and L. Xie, "Feature Driven and Point Process Approaches for Popularity Prediction, " in Proc. International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM '16), Indianapolis, USA, p. 1069-1078, 2016. https://arxiv.org/abs/1608.04862

Self-Exciting Point Processes

Behavioral Data Science





Kernel for Marked Hawkes

Behavioral Data Science

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

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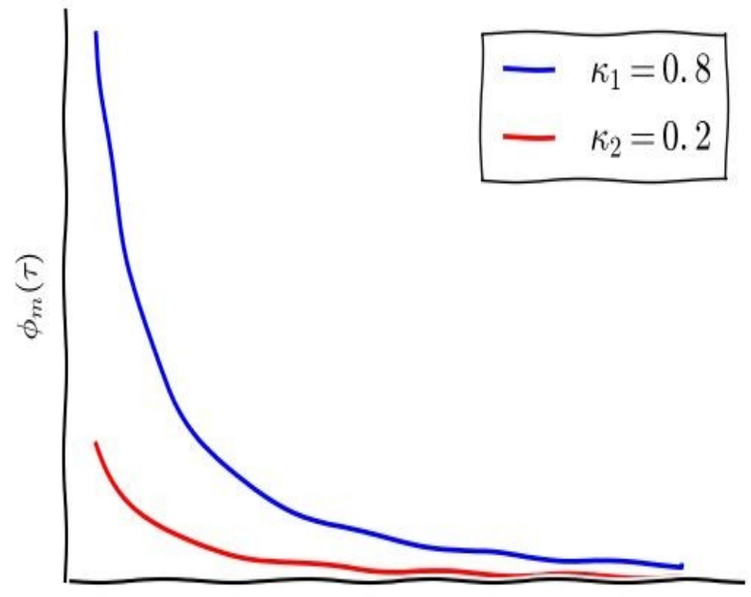
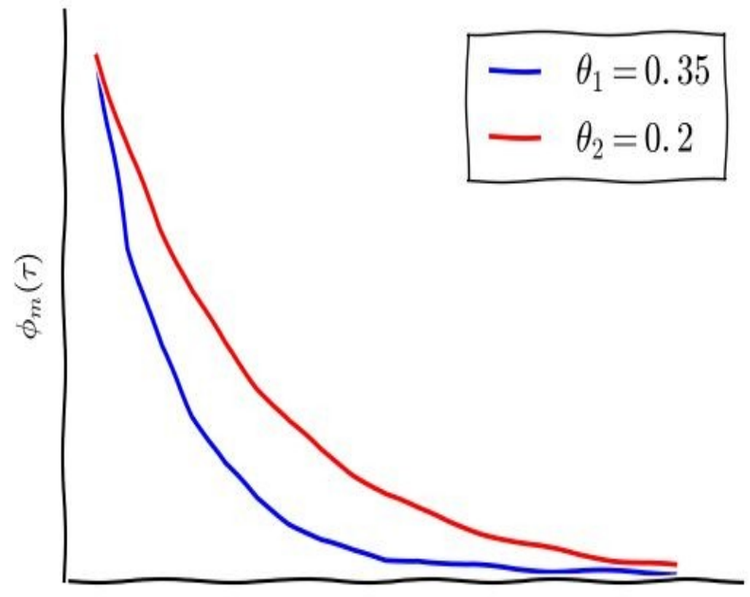
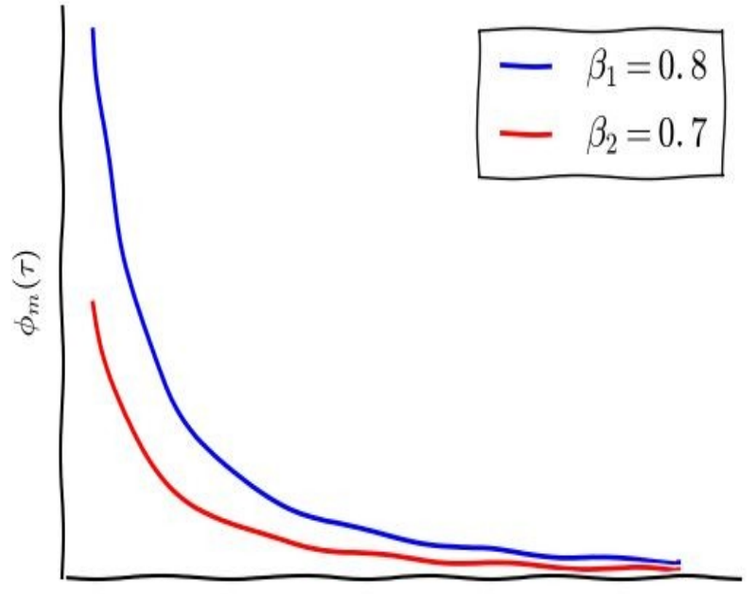
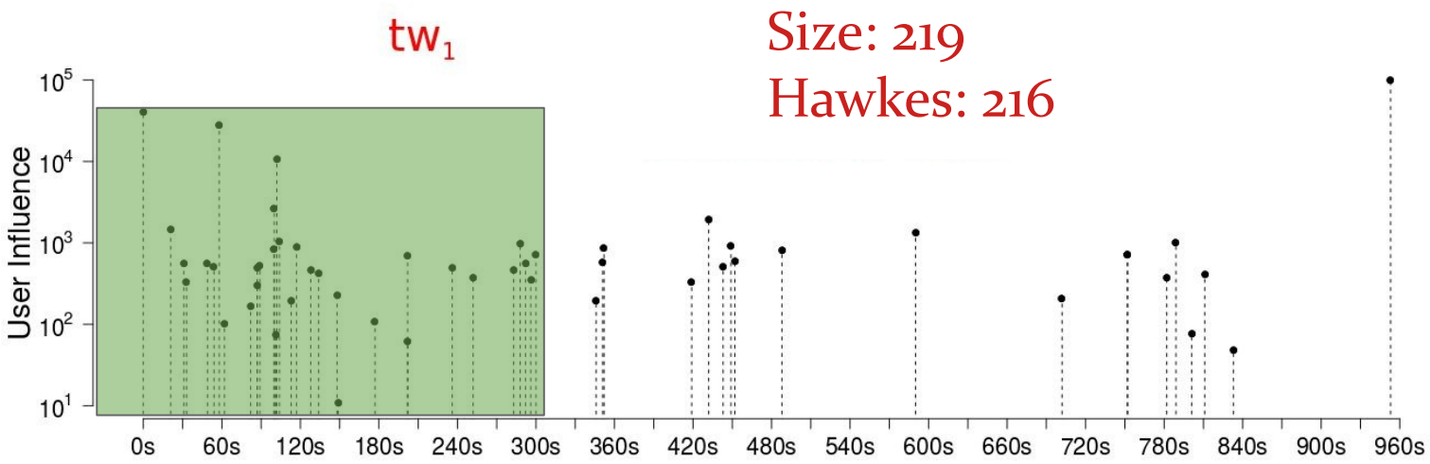


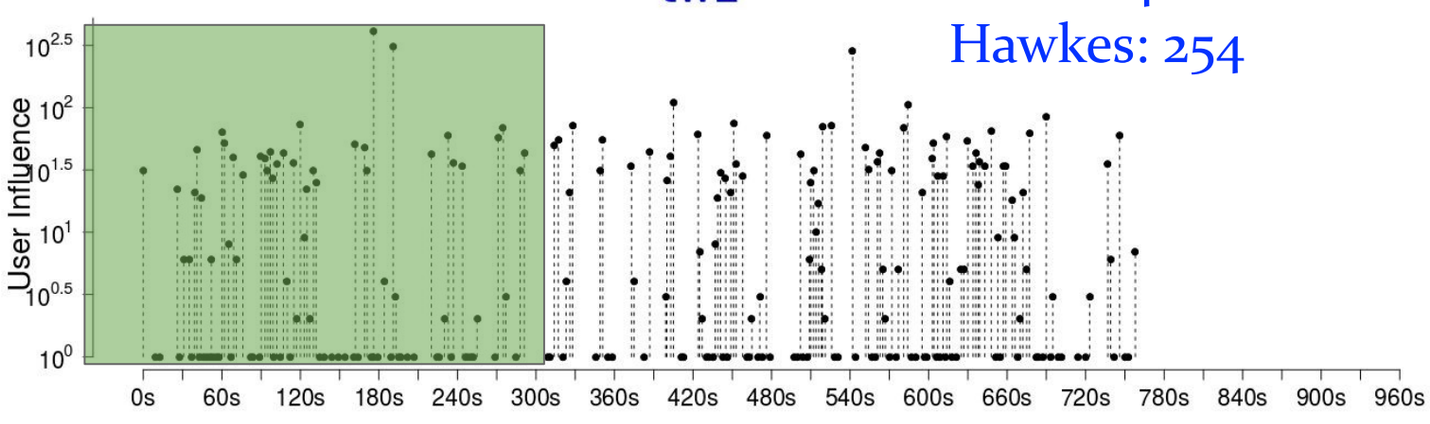


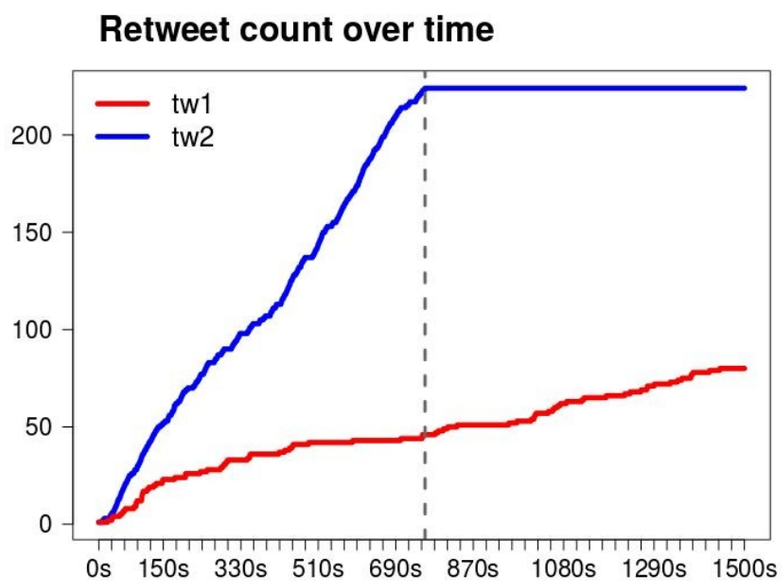


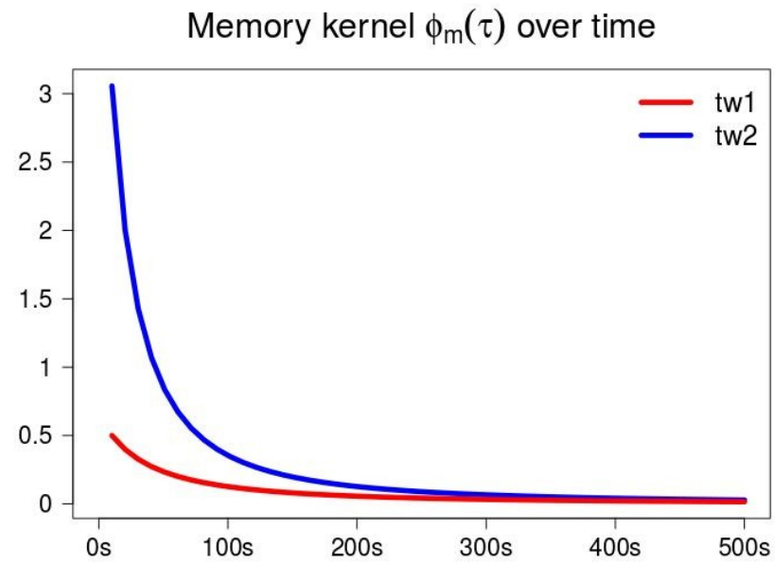
Predict total size & virality

Behavioral Data Science







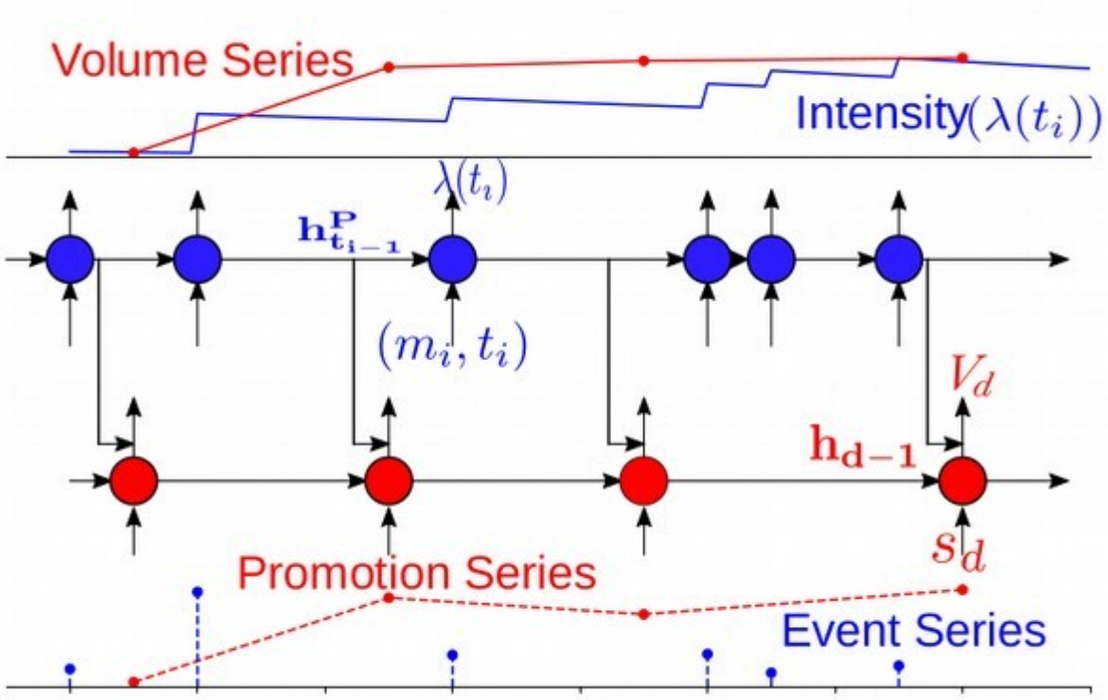


Modeling information diffusion in social networks

Behavioral Data Science

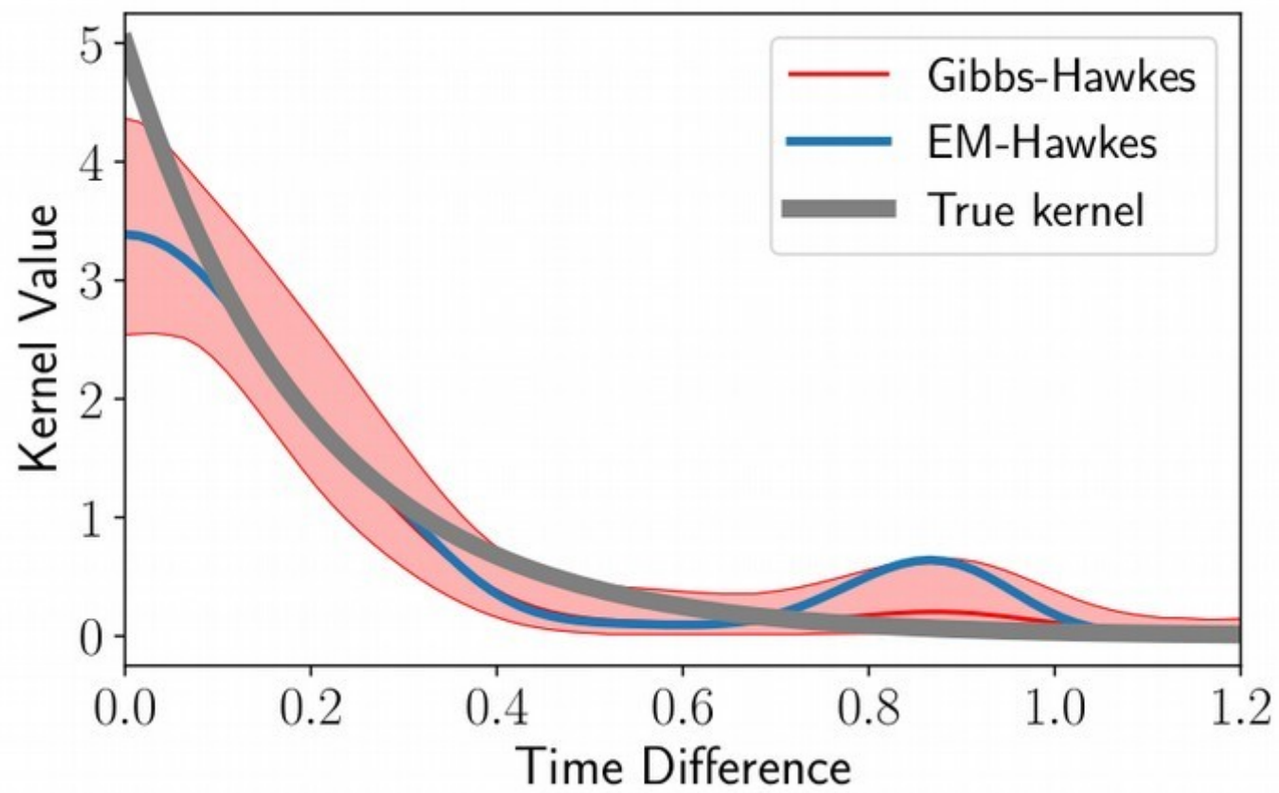
Neural Hawkes

[Mishra et al ICWSM‘18]



Bayesian Hawkes

[Zhang et al IJCAI‘19]



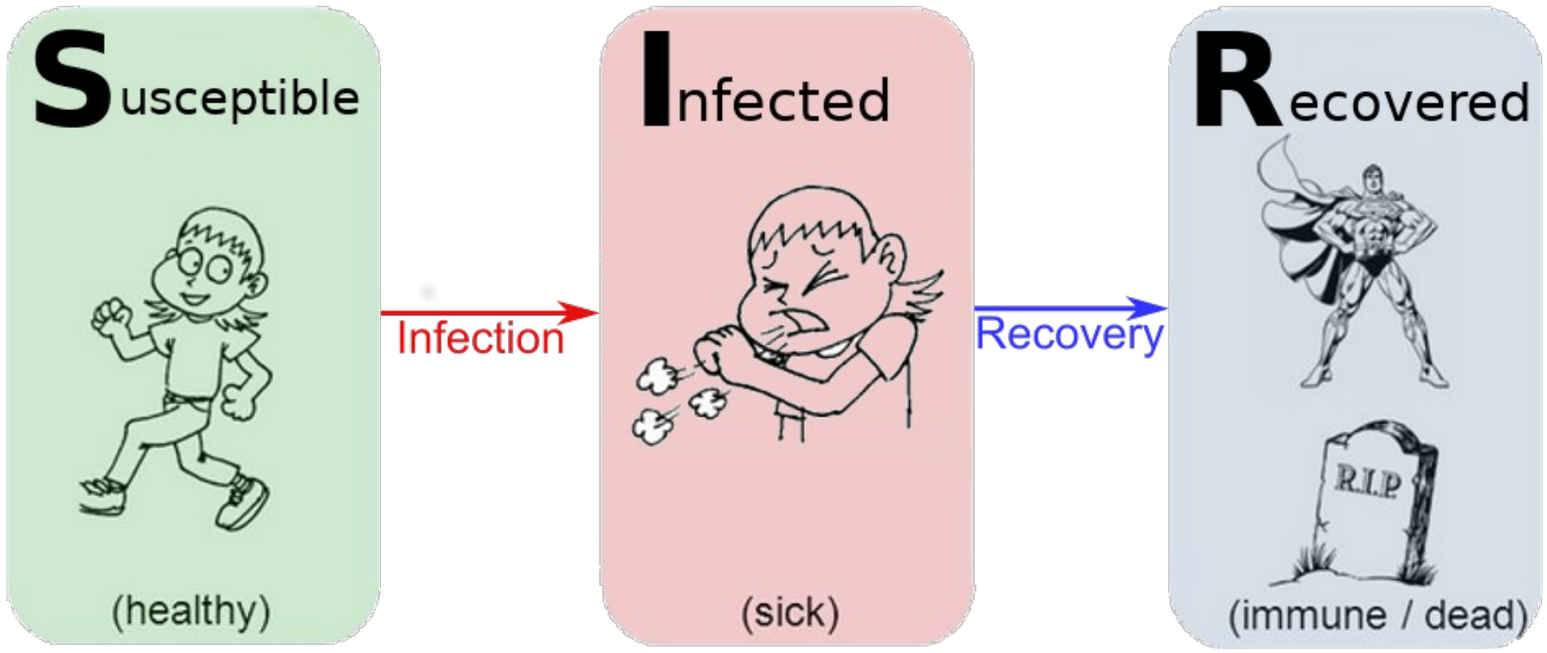
S. Mishra, M.-A. Rizoiu, & L. Xie, "Modeling Popularity in Asynchronous Social Media Streams with Recurrent Neural Networks, " in Proc. International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM ’18), Stanford, CA, USA, 2018. https://arxiv.org/abs/1804.02101

R. Zhang, C. Walder, M.-A. Rizoiu and L. Xie. "Efficient Non-parametric Bayesian Hawkes Processes, " in International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI’19), Macao, China, 2019. https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.10496

Diffusions in finite populations: **The SIR epidemic model**

Behavioral Data Science

[Rizoiu et al WWW'18]



M.-A. Rizoiu, S. Mishra, Q. Kong, M. Carman, and L. Xie, "SIR-Hawkes: Linking Epidemic Models and Hawkes Processes to Model Diffusions in Finite Populations, " in Proc. International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW '18), Lyon, France, 2018. https://arxiv.org/pdf/1711.01679.pdf

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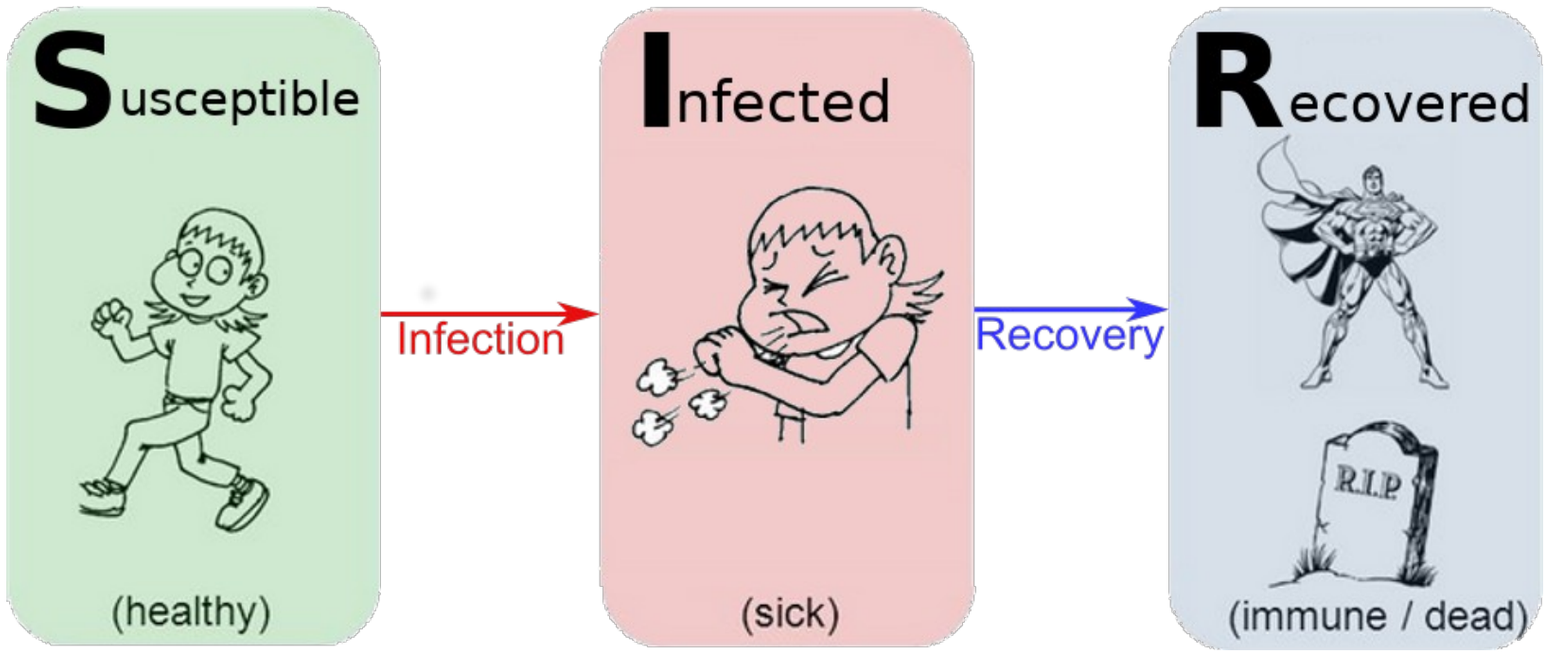

$$\frac{dS(t)}{dt} = -\beta \frac{S(t)}{N} I(t)$$

$$\frac{dI(t)}{dt} = \beta \frac{S(t)}{N} I(t) - \gamma I(t)$$

$$\frac{dR(t)}{dt} = \gamma I(t)$$

infection rate

Population size (known and fixed)

recovery rate

Deterministic SIR

M.-A. Rizoiu, S. Mishra, Q. Kong, M. Carman, and L. Xie, "SIR-Hawkes: Linking Epidemic Models and Hawkes Processes to Model Diffusions in Finite Populations, " in Proc. International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW '18), Lyon, France, 2018. https://arxiv.org/pdf/1711.01679.pdf

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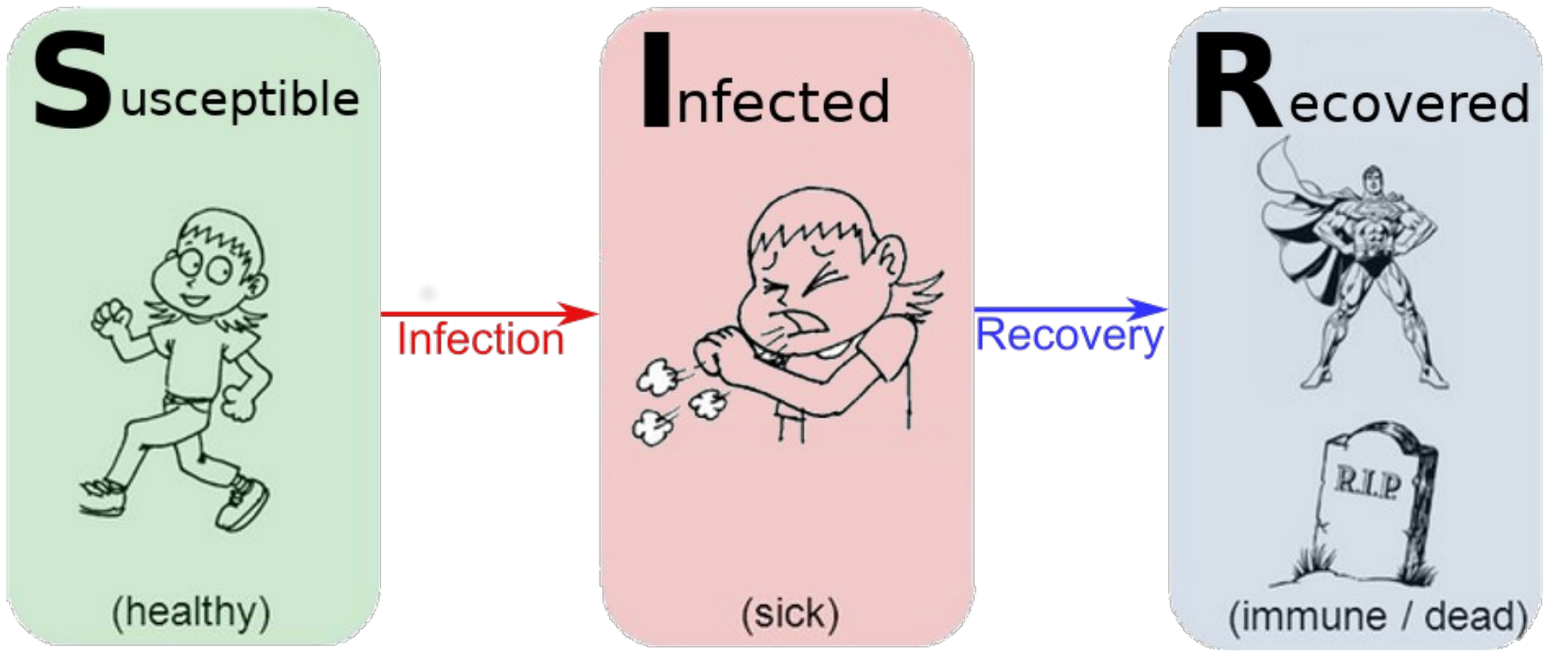
[Rizoiu et al WWW'18]

Behavioral Data Science



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infection rate

Population size (known and fixed)

recovery rate

Deterministic SIR

$$\lambda^I(t) = \beta \frac{S_t}{N} I_t$$

$$\lambda^R(t) = \gamma I_t$$

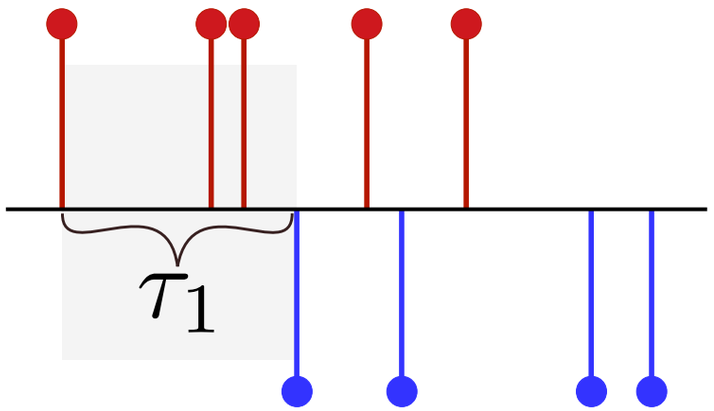
Stochastic SIR

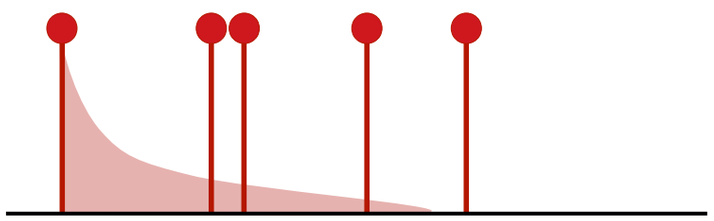
M.-A. Rizoiu, S. Mishra, Q. Kong, M. Carman, and L. Xie, "SIR-Hawkes: Linking Epidemic Models and Hawkes Processes to Model Diffusions in Finite Populations, " in Proc. International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW '18), Lyon, France, 2018. https://arxiv.org/pdf/1711.01679.pdf

Diffusions in finite populations:
Linking epidemic models and Hawkes

[Rizoiu et al WWW'18]

Behavioral Data Science



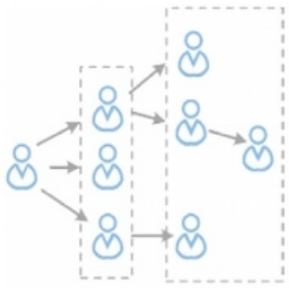


$SIR(\beta, \gamma)$ $HawkesN(\mu, \kappa, \theta)$

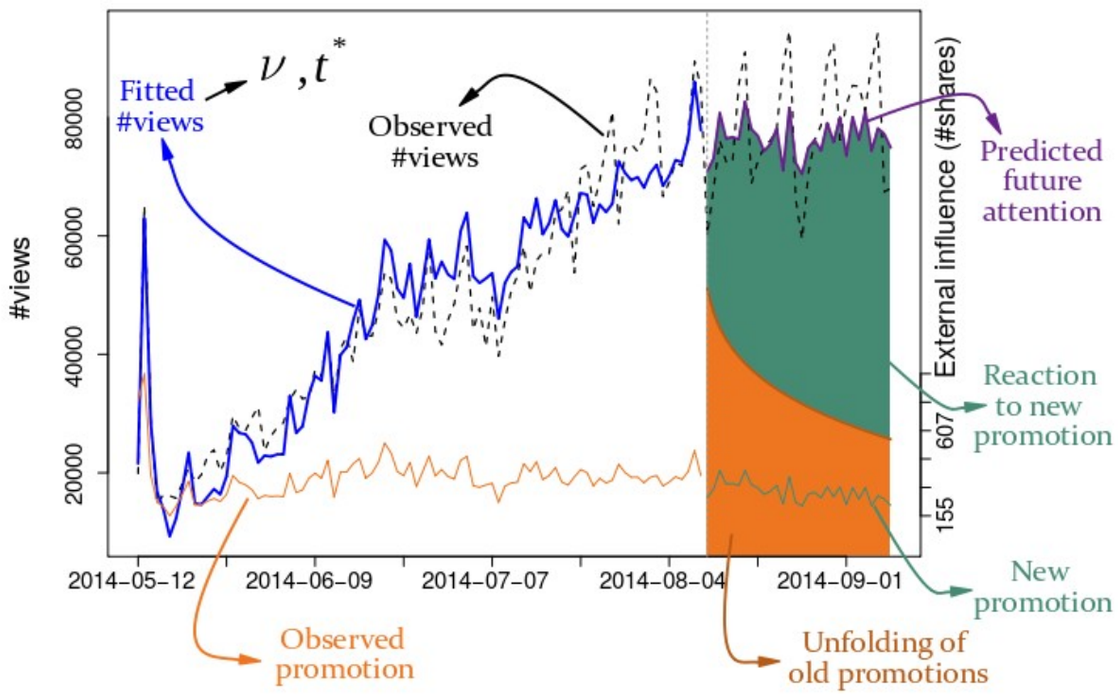
$$\mathbb{E}_{t^R}[\lambda^I(t)] = \lambda^H(t)$$

where $\mu = 0,\ \beta = \kappa\theta,\ \gamma = \theta$

M.-A. Rizoiu, S. Mishra, Q. Kong, M. Carman, and L. Xie, "SIR-Hawkes: Linking Epidemic Models and Hawkes Processes to Model Diffusions in Finite Populations, " in Proc. International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW '18), Lyon, France, 2018. https://arxiv.org/pdf/1711.01679.pdf



Modeling information diffusion in social networks



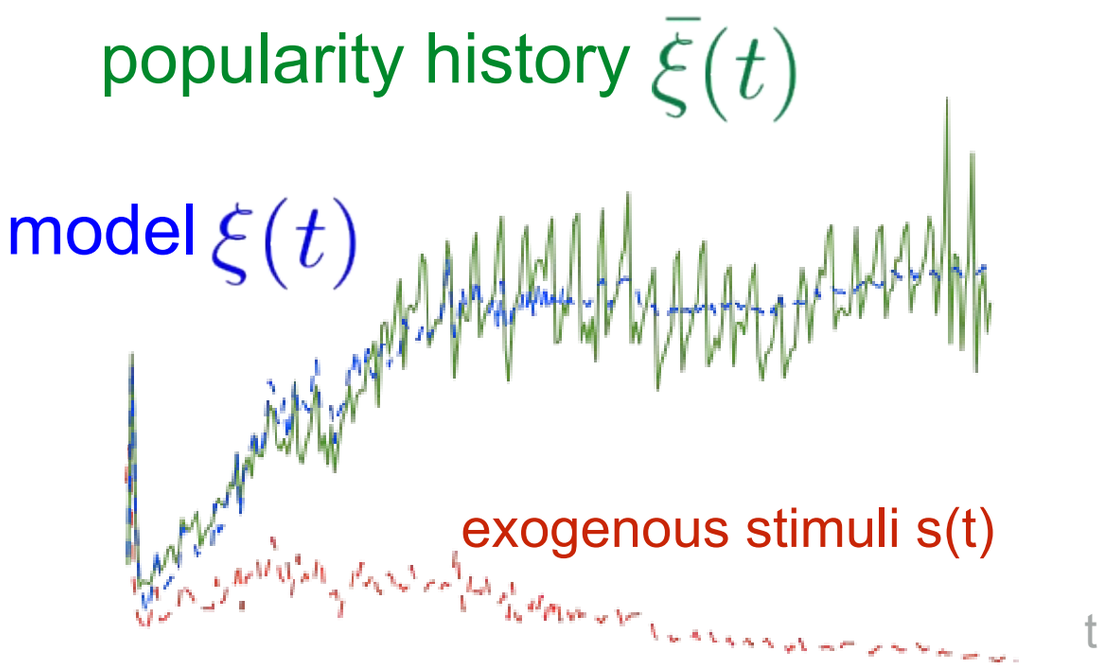
Modeling and predicting popularity, virality and engagement

Influencing democratic processes using social media

Hawkes Intensity processes for online popularity

[Rizoiu et al WWW'17]

Behavioral Data Science



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

popularity

exogenous sensitivity

exogenous stimuli

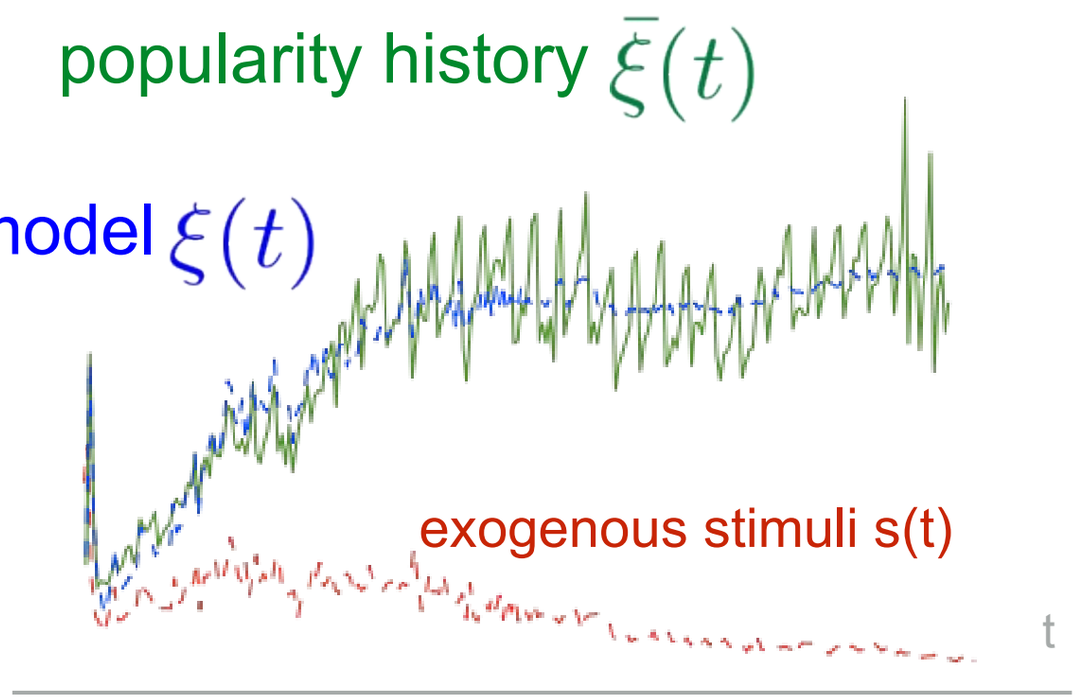
endogenous reaction

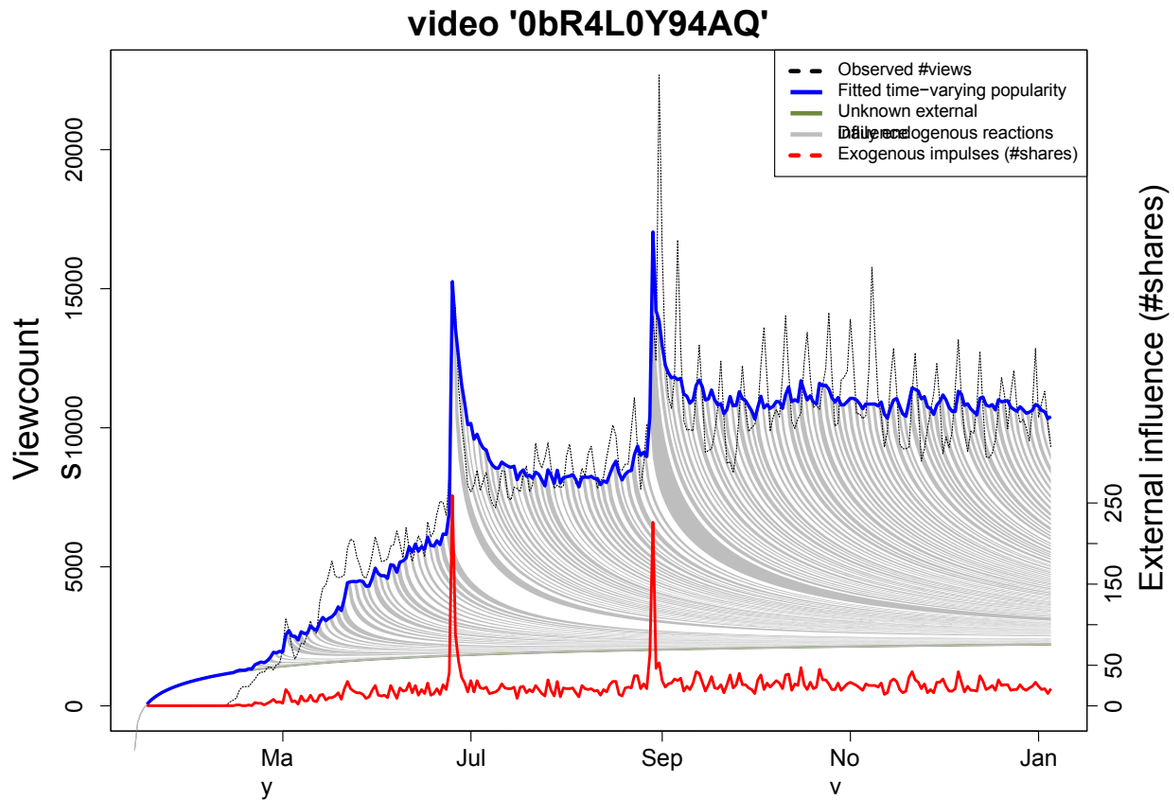
M.-A. Rizoiu, L. Xie, S. Sanner, M. Cebrian, H. Yu, and P. Van Hentenryck, "Expecting to be HIP: Hawkes Intensity Processes for Social Media Popularity, " in Proc. International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW '17), Perth, Australia, pp. 735-744, 2017. https://arxiv.org/abs/1602.06033

Hawkes Intensity processes for online popularity

[Rizoiu et al WWW'17]

Behavioral Data Science





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popularity

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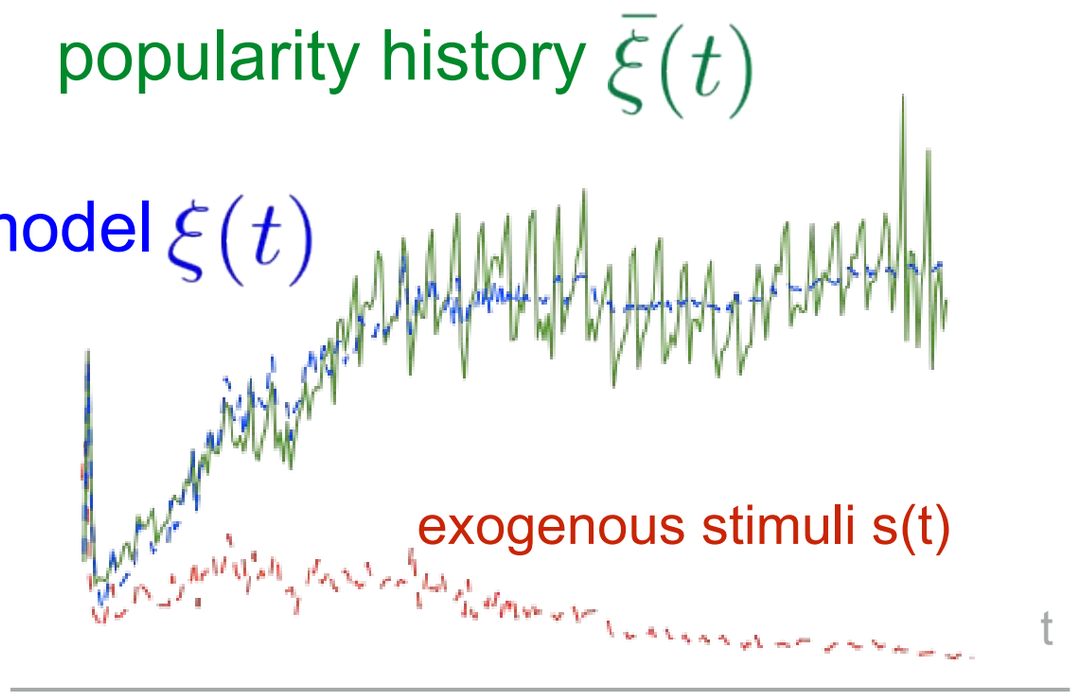

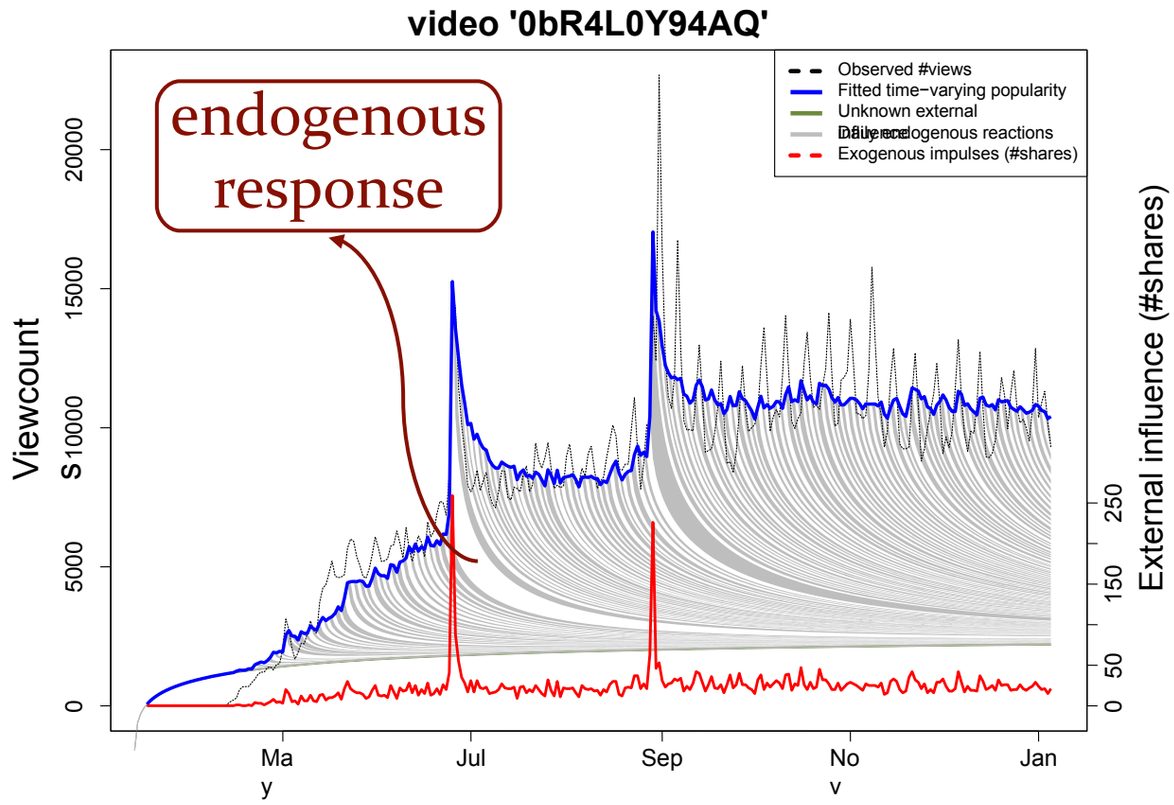

$$\xi(t) = \mu s(t) + C \int_0^t \xi(t-\tau)\hat{\tau}^{-(1+\theta)} d\tau$$

popularity

exogenous sensitivity

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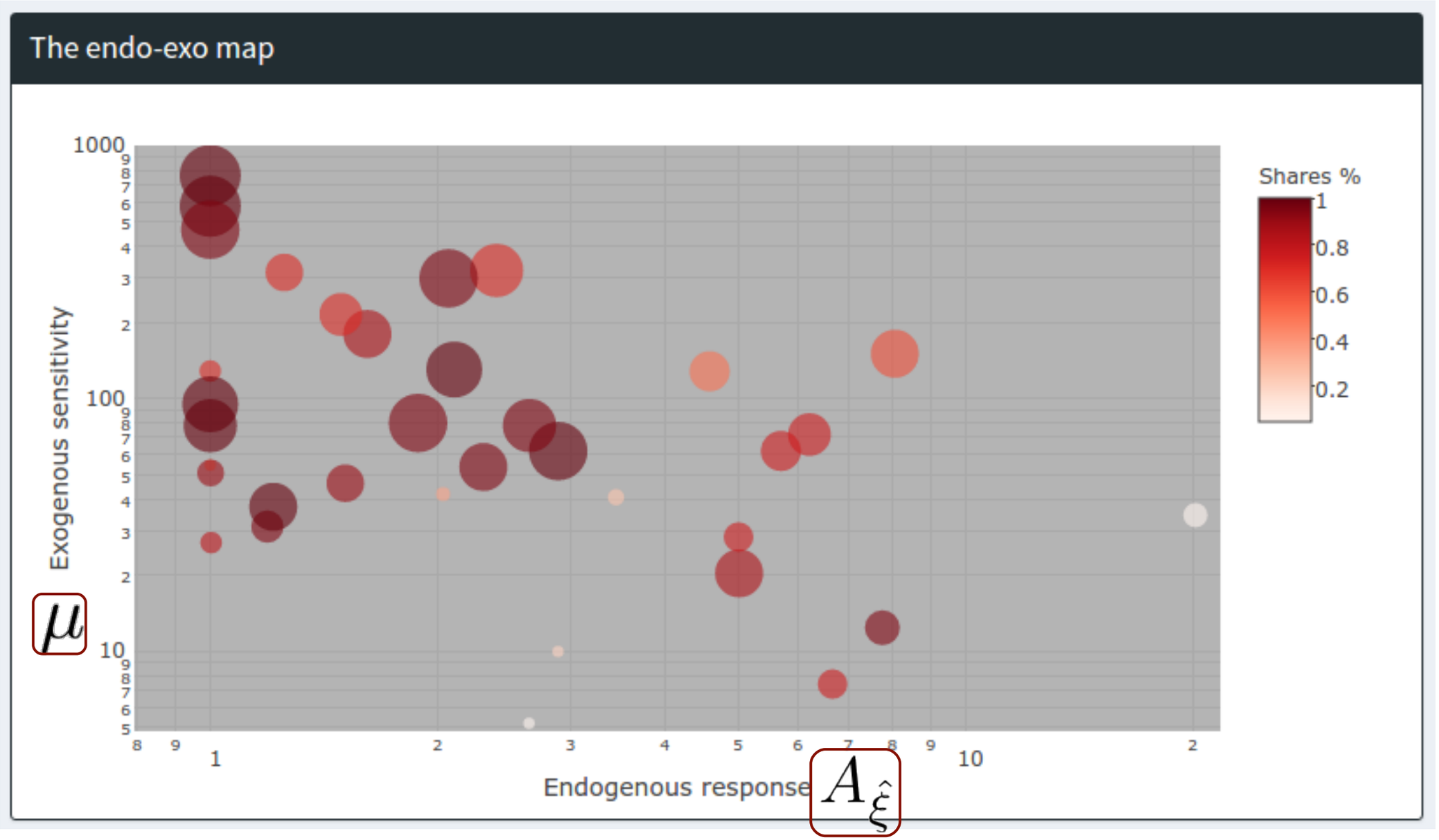
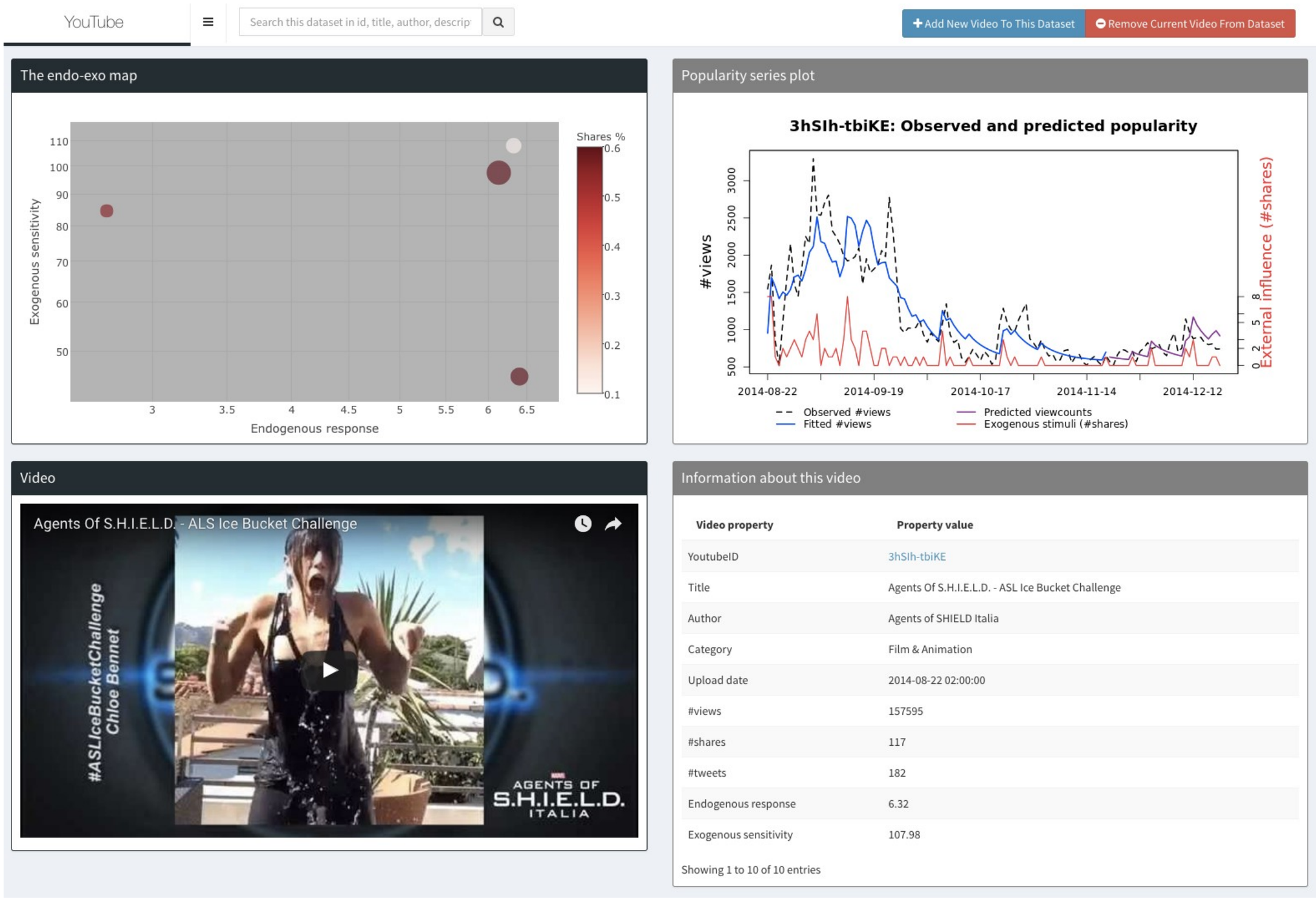
M.-A. Rizoiu, L. Xie, S. Sanner, M. Cebrian, H. Yu, and P. Van Hentenryck, "Expecting to be HIP: Hawkes Intensity Processes for Social Media Popularity, " in Proc. International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW '17), Perth, Australia, pp. 735-744, 2017. https://arxiv.org/abs/1602.06033

The “endo-exo” map



Explain popularity dynamics

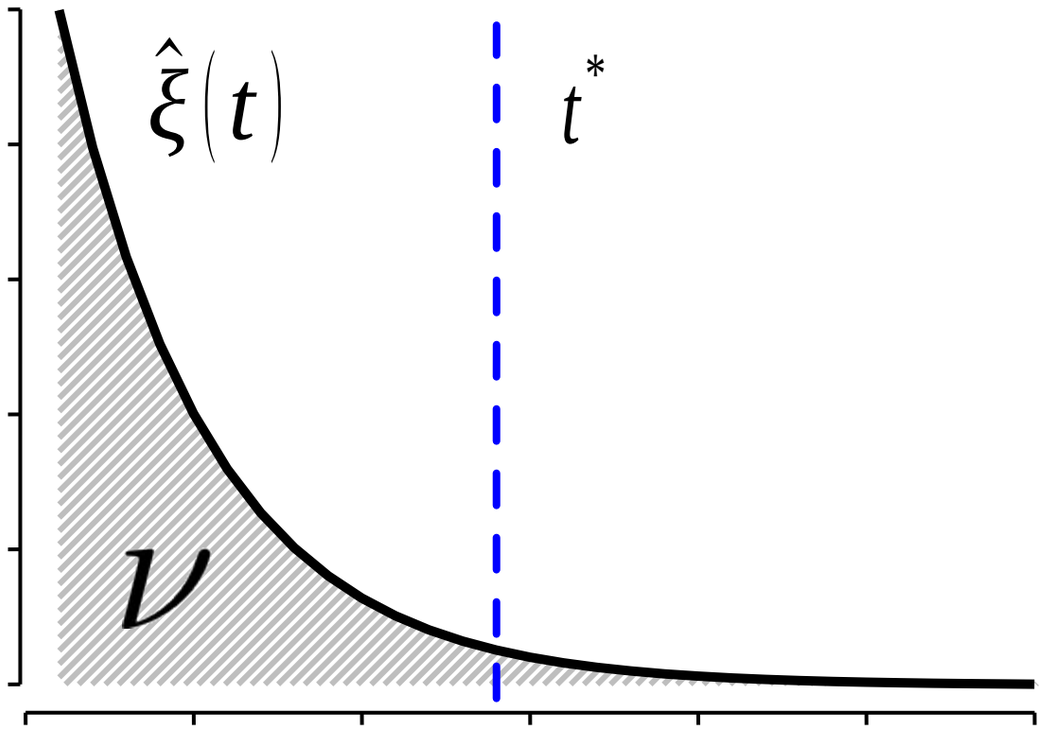
[Kong et al, WWW'18]



Viral potential and maturity time

[Rizoiu et al ICWSM'17]

Behavioral Data Science



Viral potential score: *Return on investment, total amount of views per promotion*

Maturity time: *Time required to acquire most of the return*

M.-A. Rizoiu and L. Xie, "Online Popularity under Promotion: Viral Potential, Forecasting, and the Economics of Time, " in Proc. International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '17), Montréal, Canada, pp. 182–191, 2017. https://arxiv.org/abs/1703.01012

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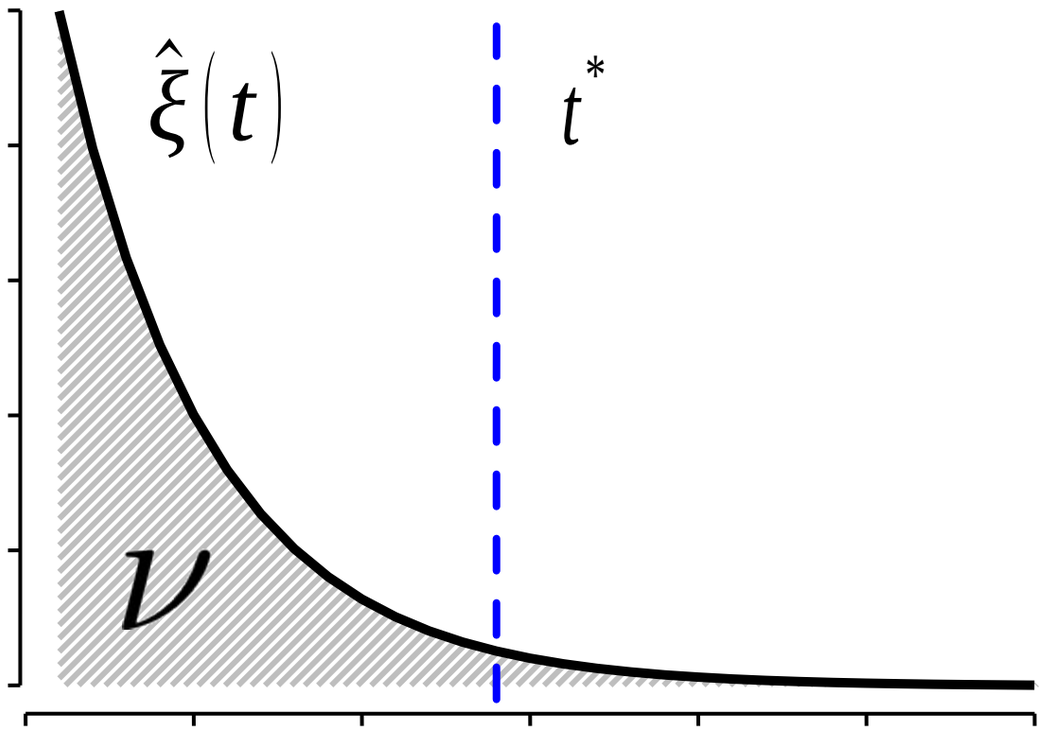

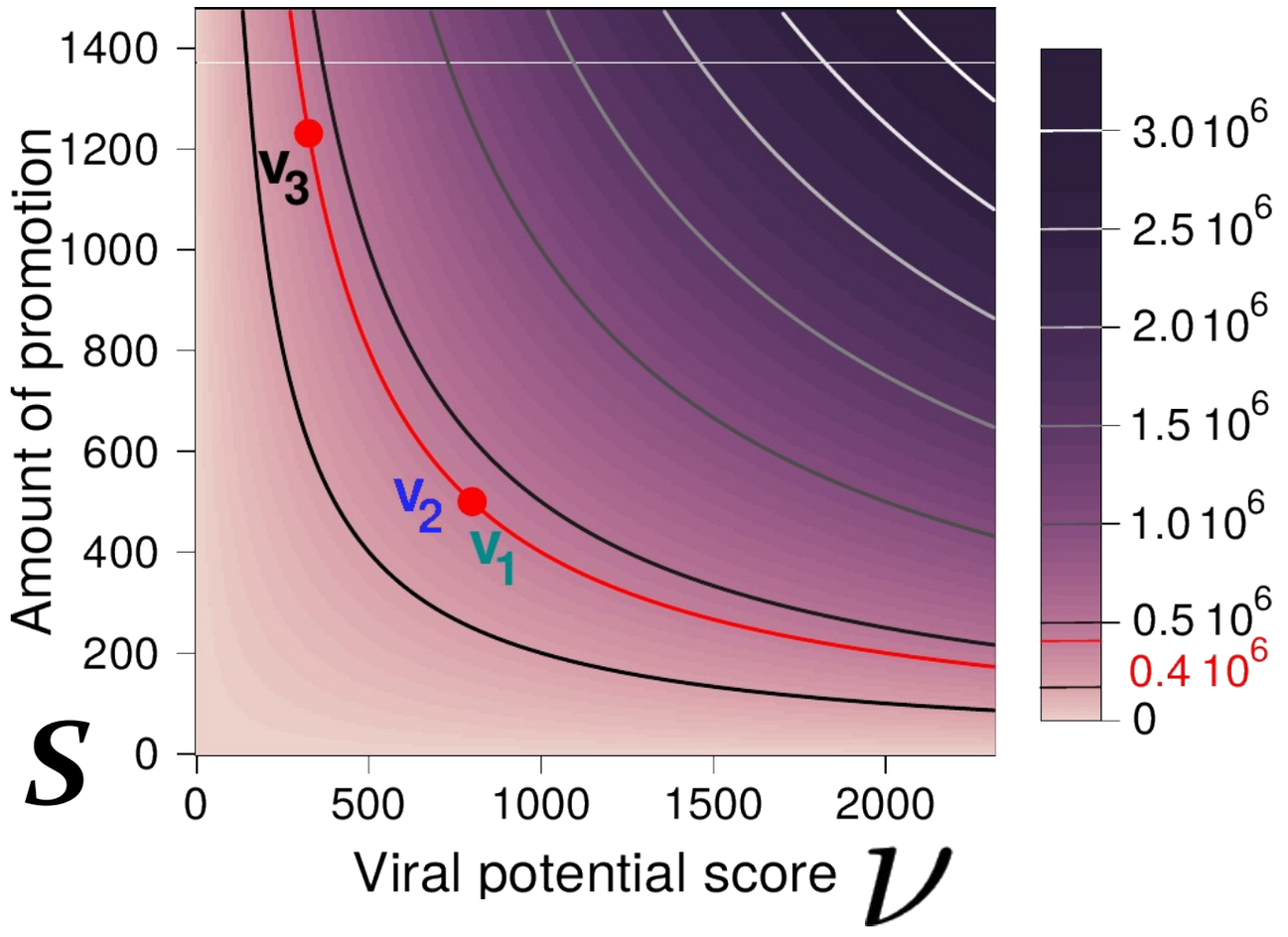

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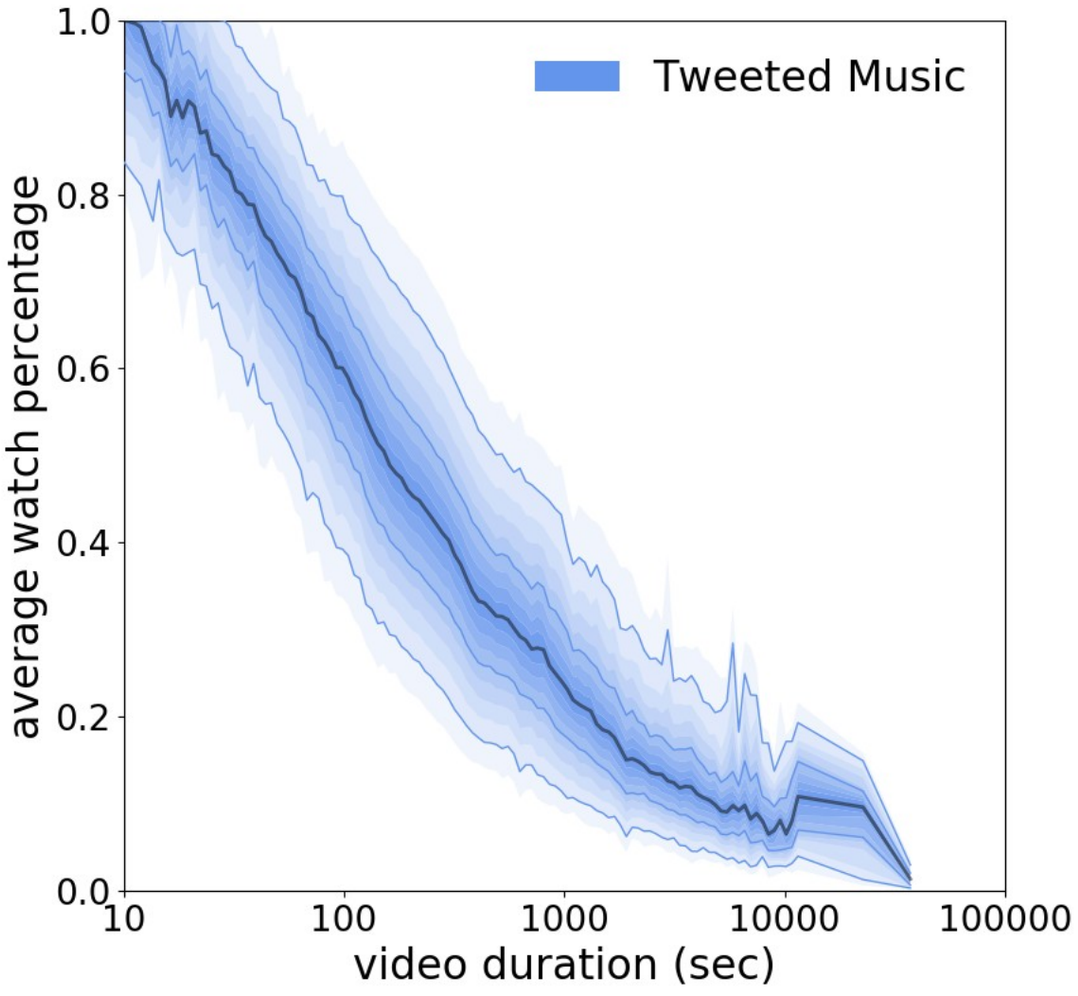
Content engagement and quality

[Wu et al ICWSM‘18]

Behavioral Data Science



S. Wu, M.-A. Rizoiu, & L. Xie, "Beyond Views: Measuring and Predicting Engagement in Online Videos, " in Proc. International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM ’18), Stanford, CA, USA, 2018. https://arxiv.org/pdf/1709.02541.pdf

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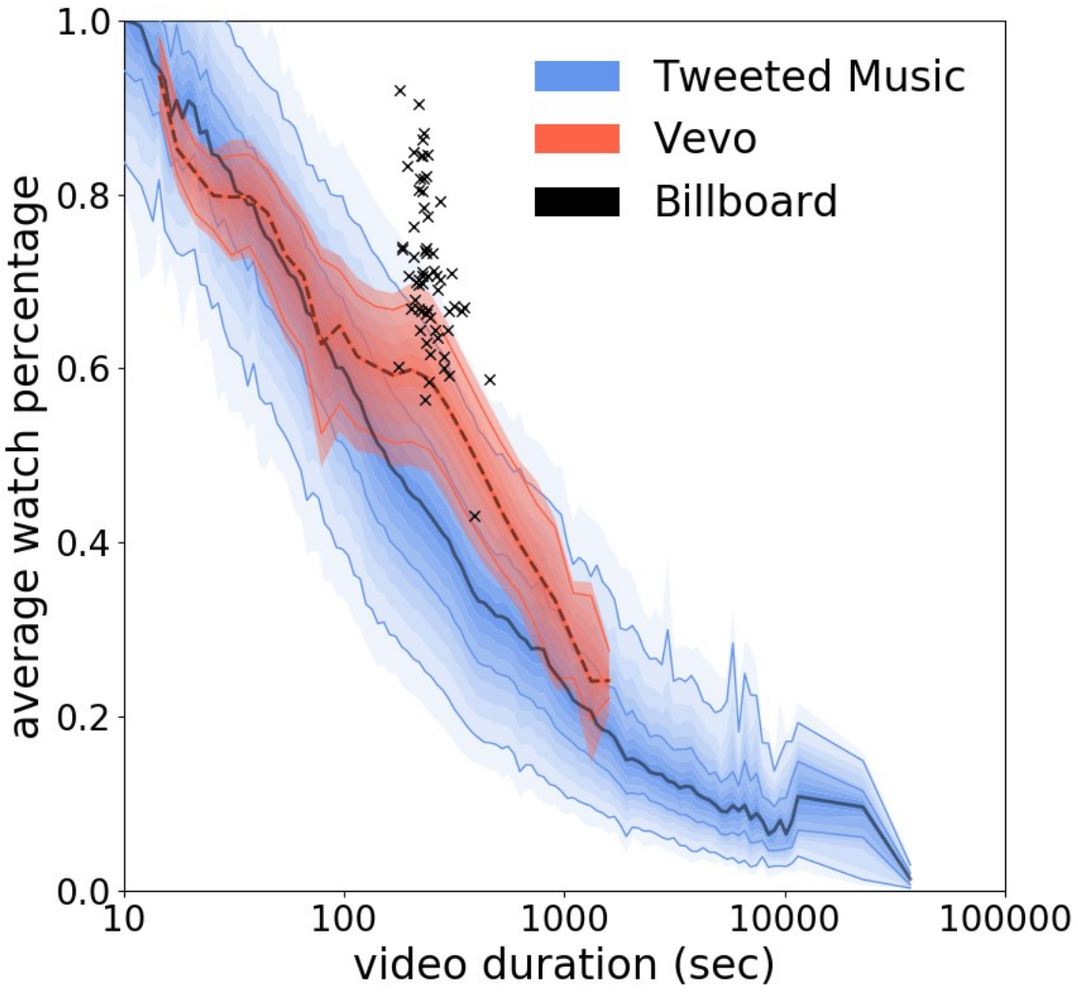
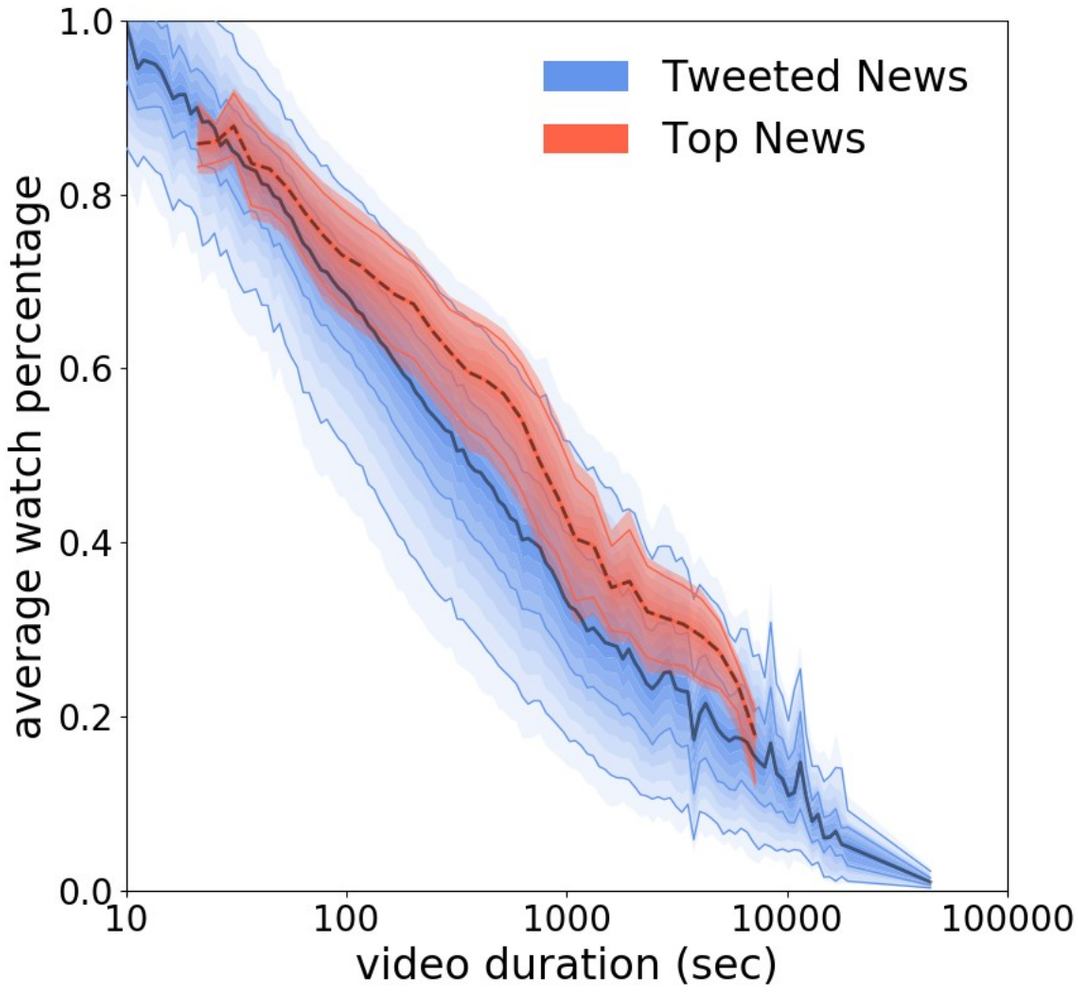
Behavioral Data Science





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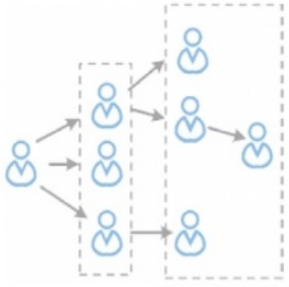
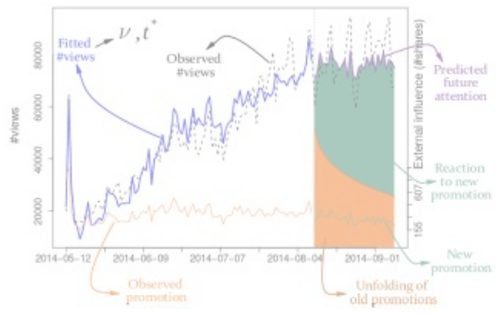
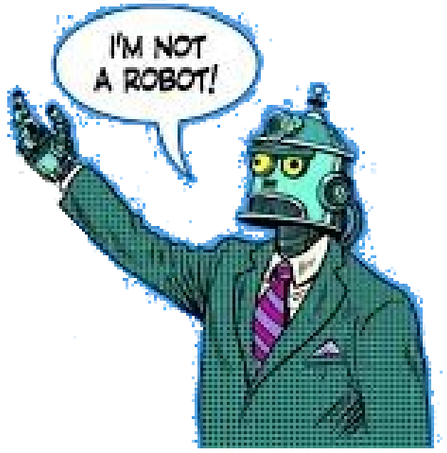


Modeling information diffusion in social networks



Modeling and predicting popularity, virality and engagement

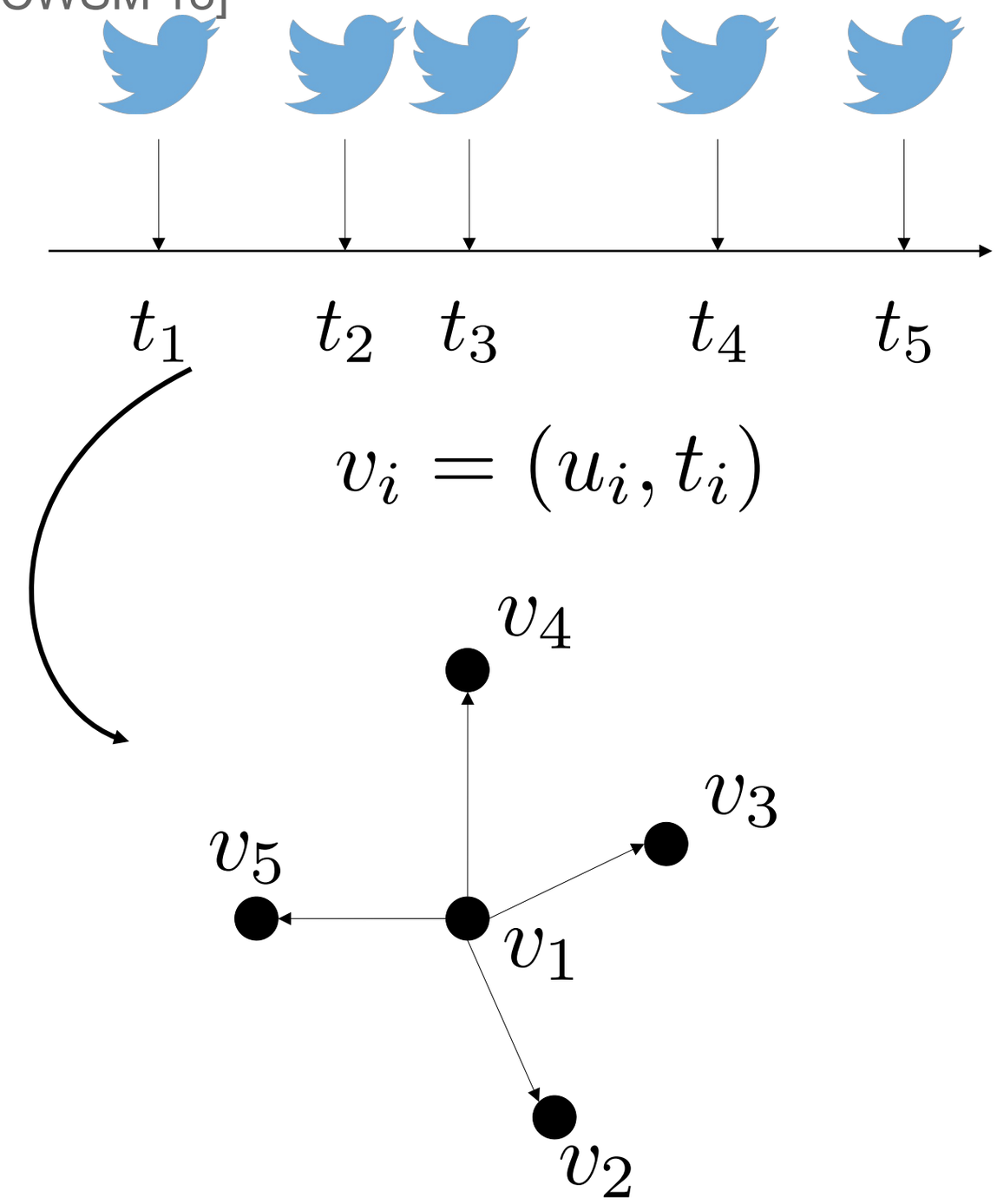


Influencing democratic processes using social media

Role and Influence of Twitter Socialbots During US Presidential Debate

Behavioral Data Science

[Rizoiu et al ICWSM'18]



M.-A. Rizoiu, T. Graham, R. Zhang, Y. Zhang, R. Ackland and L. Xie, "#DebateNight: The Role and Influence of Socialbots on Twitter During the 1st 2016 U.S. Presidential Debate, " in Proc. International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '18), Stanford, CA, USA, 2018. https://arxiv.org/abs/1802.09808

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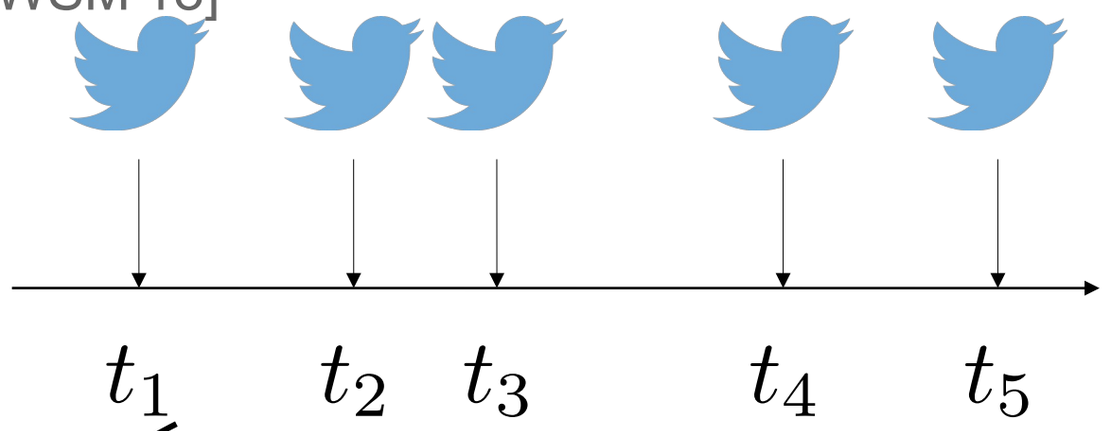
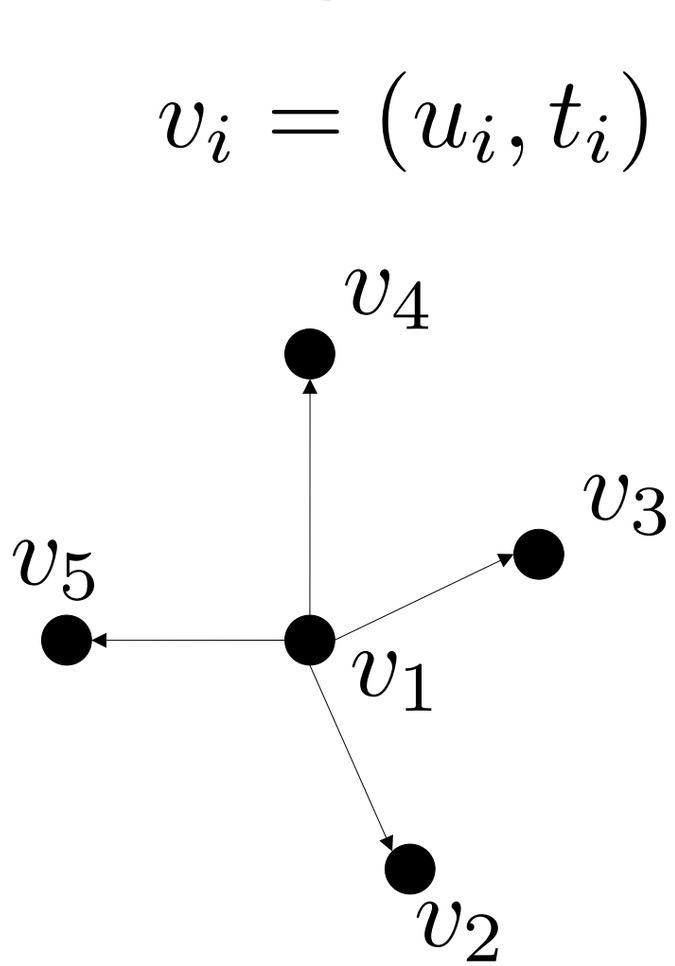
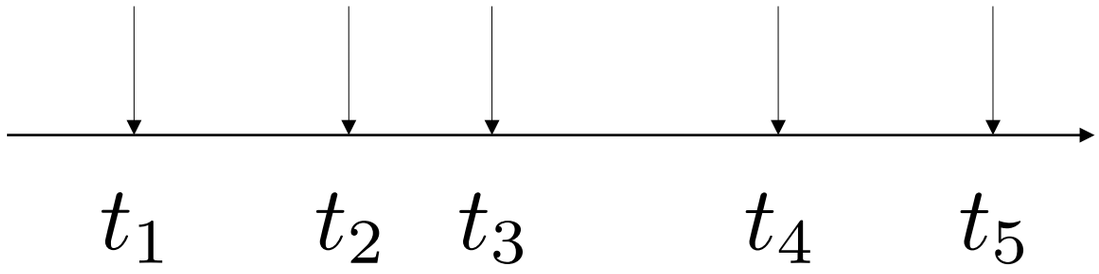
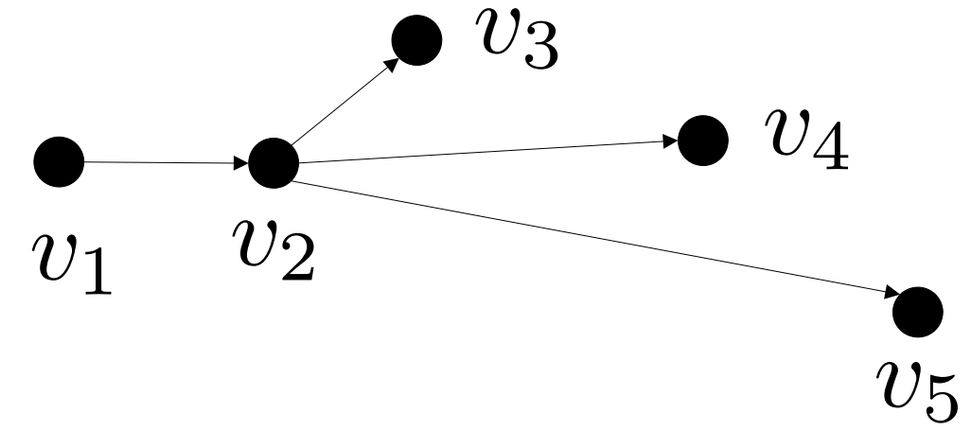


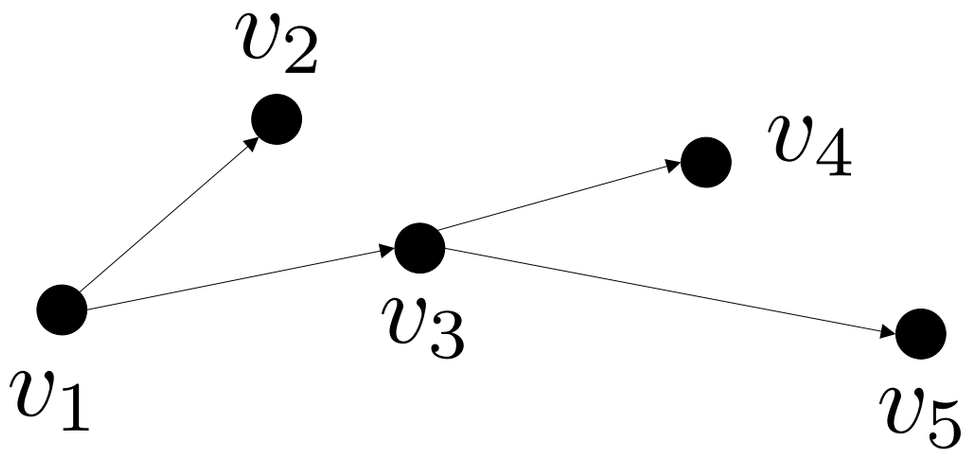
$v_i = (u_i, t_i)$



Diffusion trees and influence







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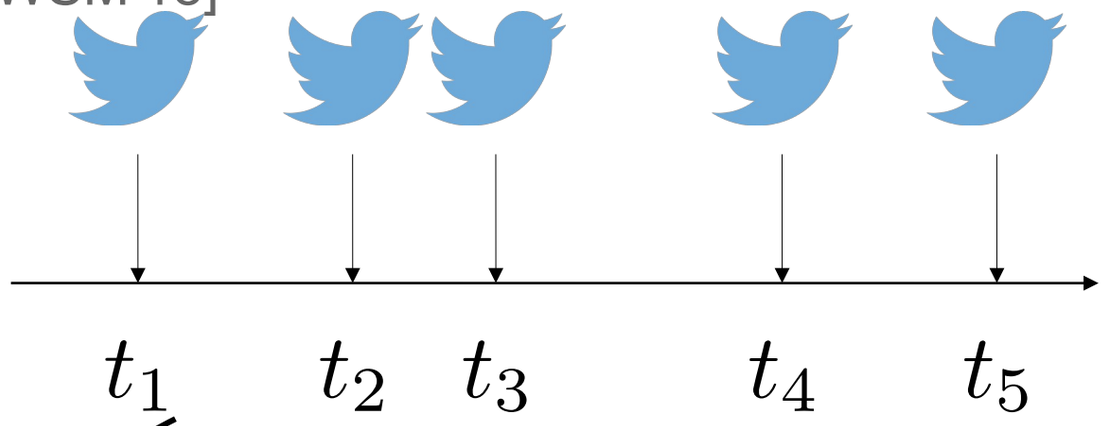

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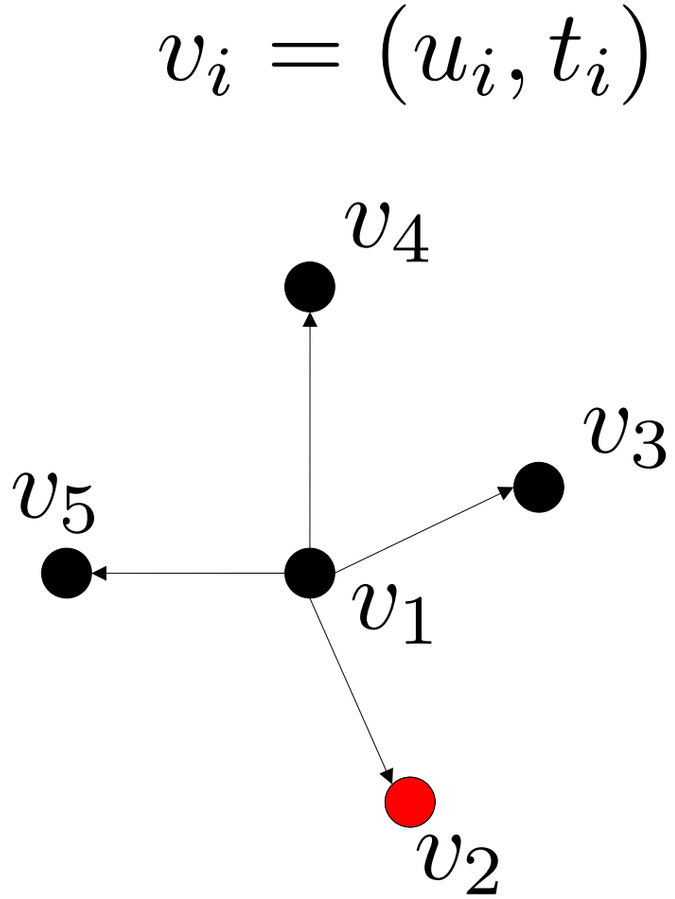

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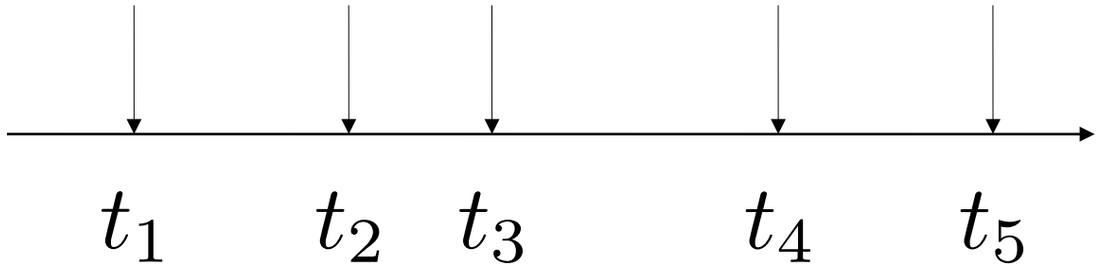

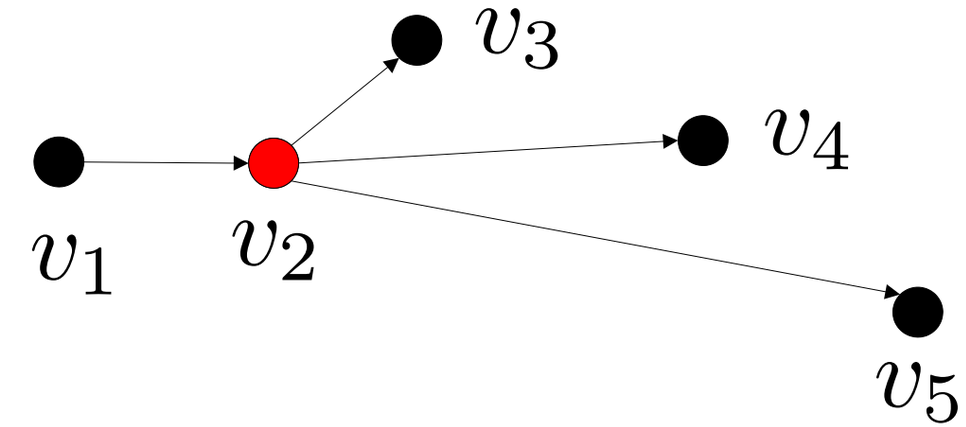

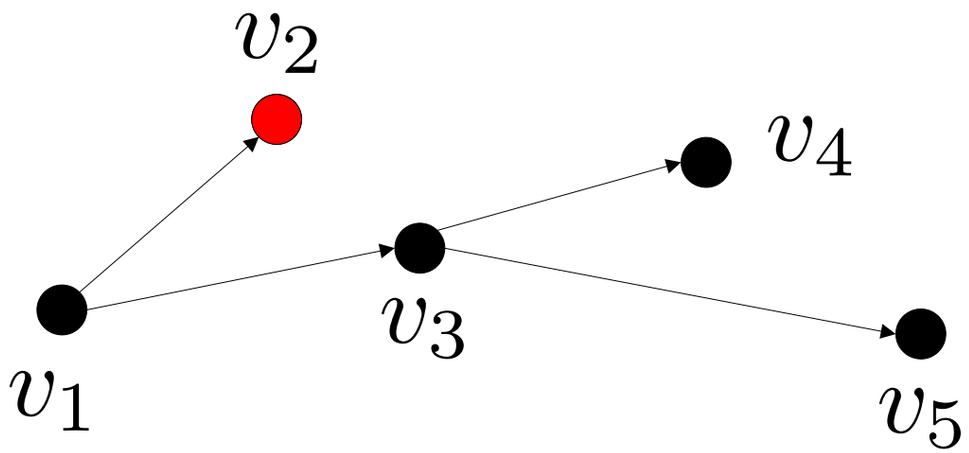

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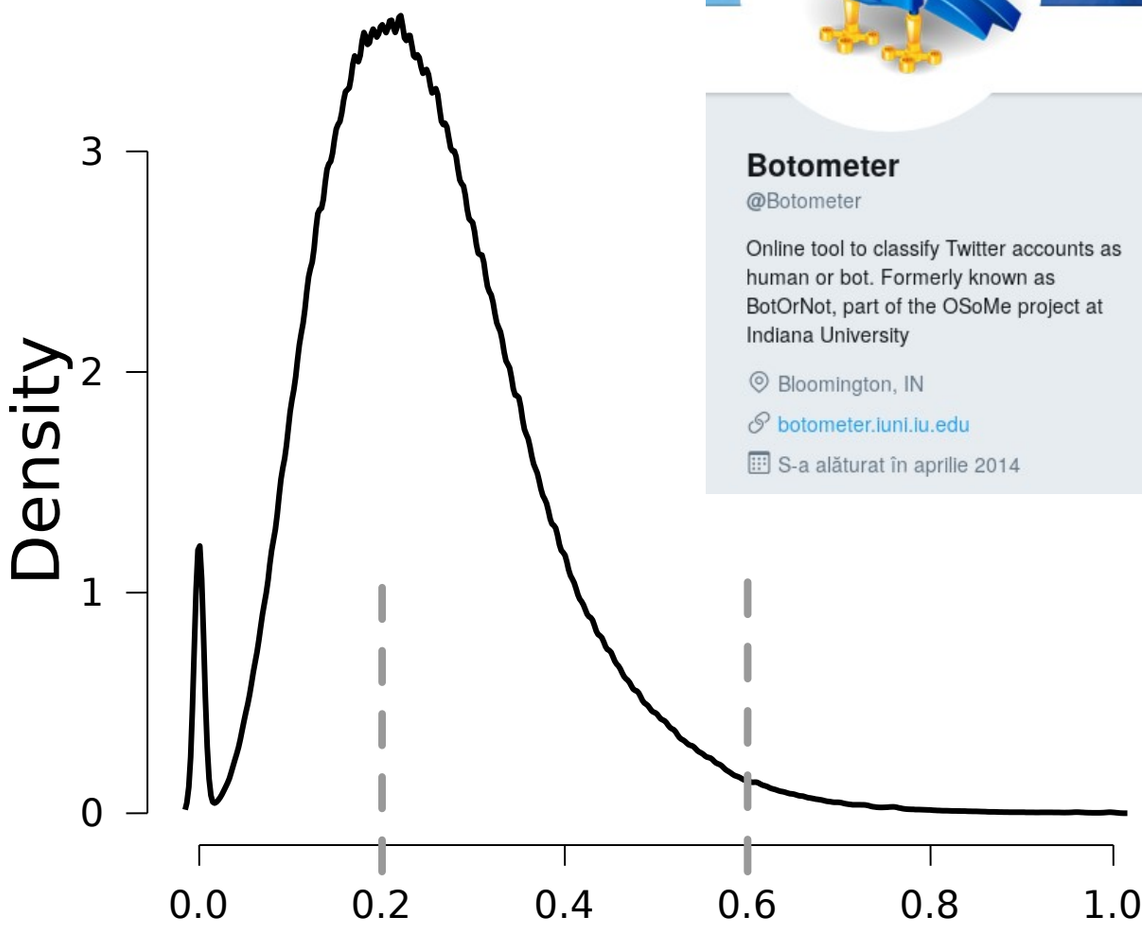

Botometer

@Botometer

Online tool to classify Twitter accounts as human or bot. Formerly known as BotOrNot, part of the OSoMe project at Indiana University

Bloomington, IN

botometer.iuni.iu.edu

S-a alăturat în aprilie 2014

499,822 Humans

17,561 Bots

Bird Spotter:
https://github.com/rohitram96/BirdSpotter

M.-A. Rizoiu, T. Graham, R. Zhang, Y. Zhang, R. Ackland and L. Xie, "#DebateNight: The Role and Influence of Socialbots on Twitter During the 1st 2016 U.S. Presidential Debate, " in Proc. International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM '18), Stanford, CA, USA, 2018. https://arxiv.org/abs/1802.09808

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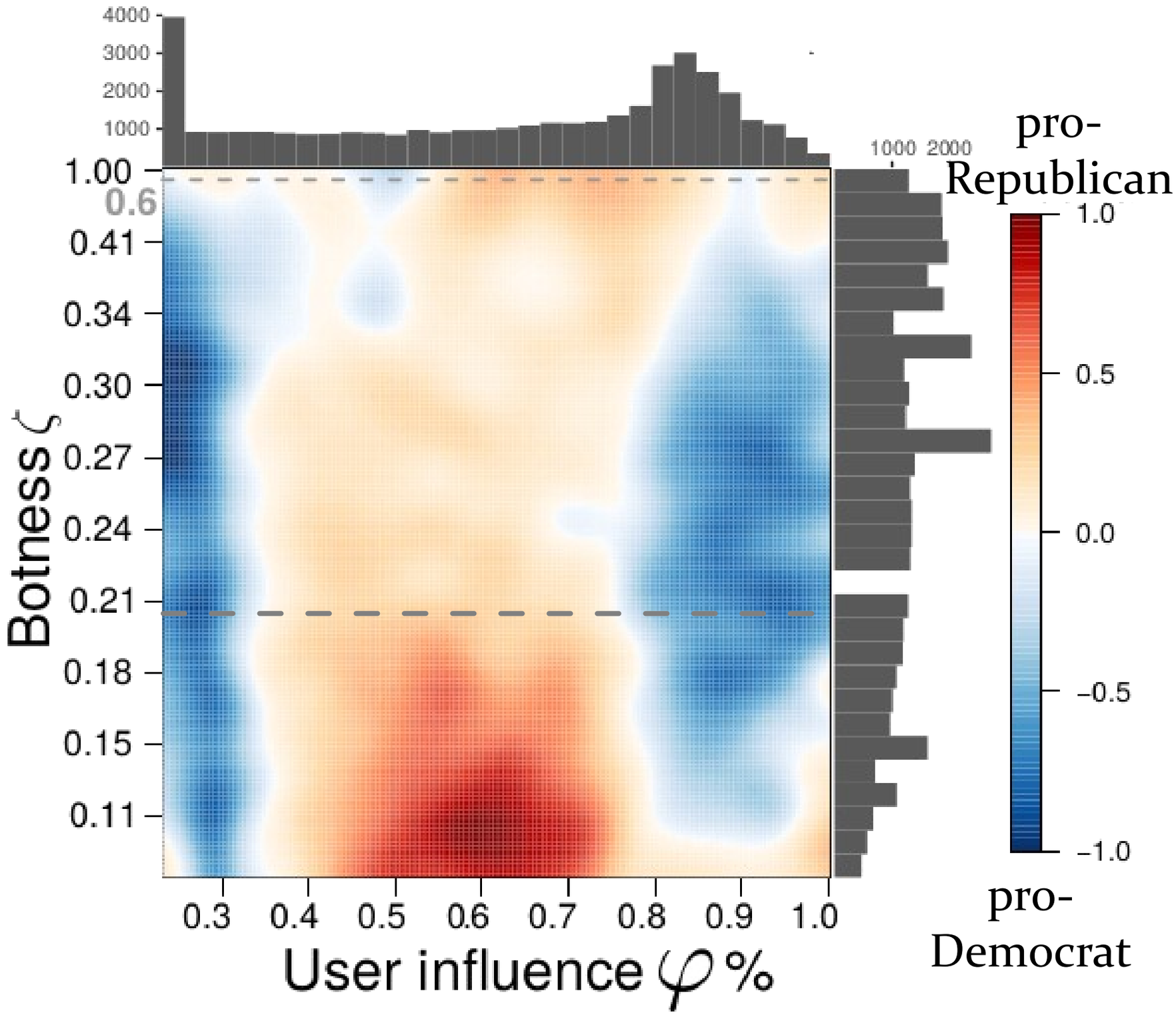

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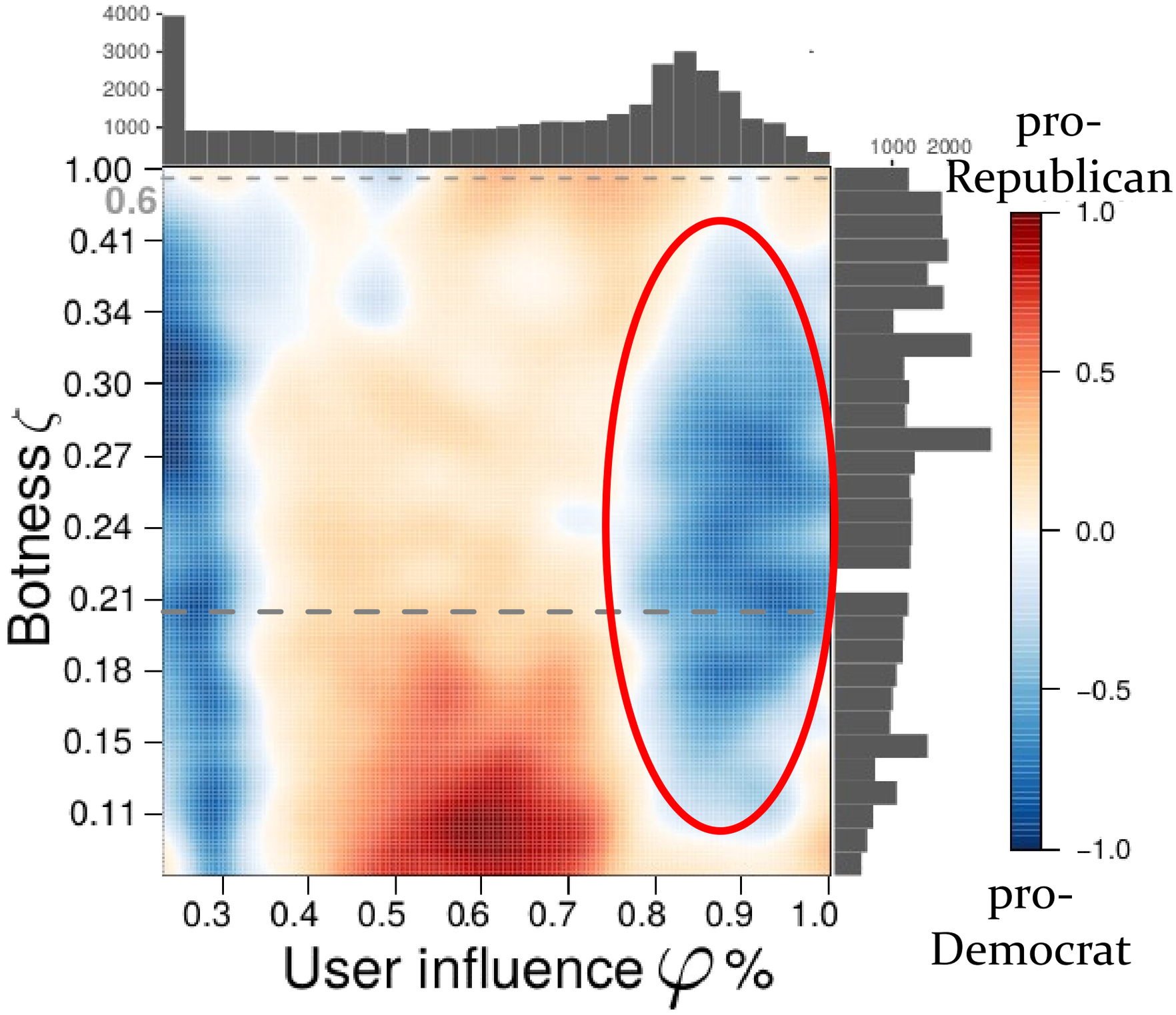

Very highly influential users are pro-Democrat (**D: 7201, R: 5736**)

Role and Influence of Twitter Socialbots During US Presidential Debat

Behavioral Data Science

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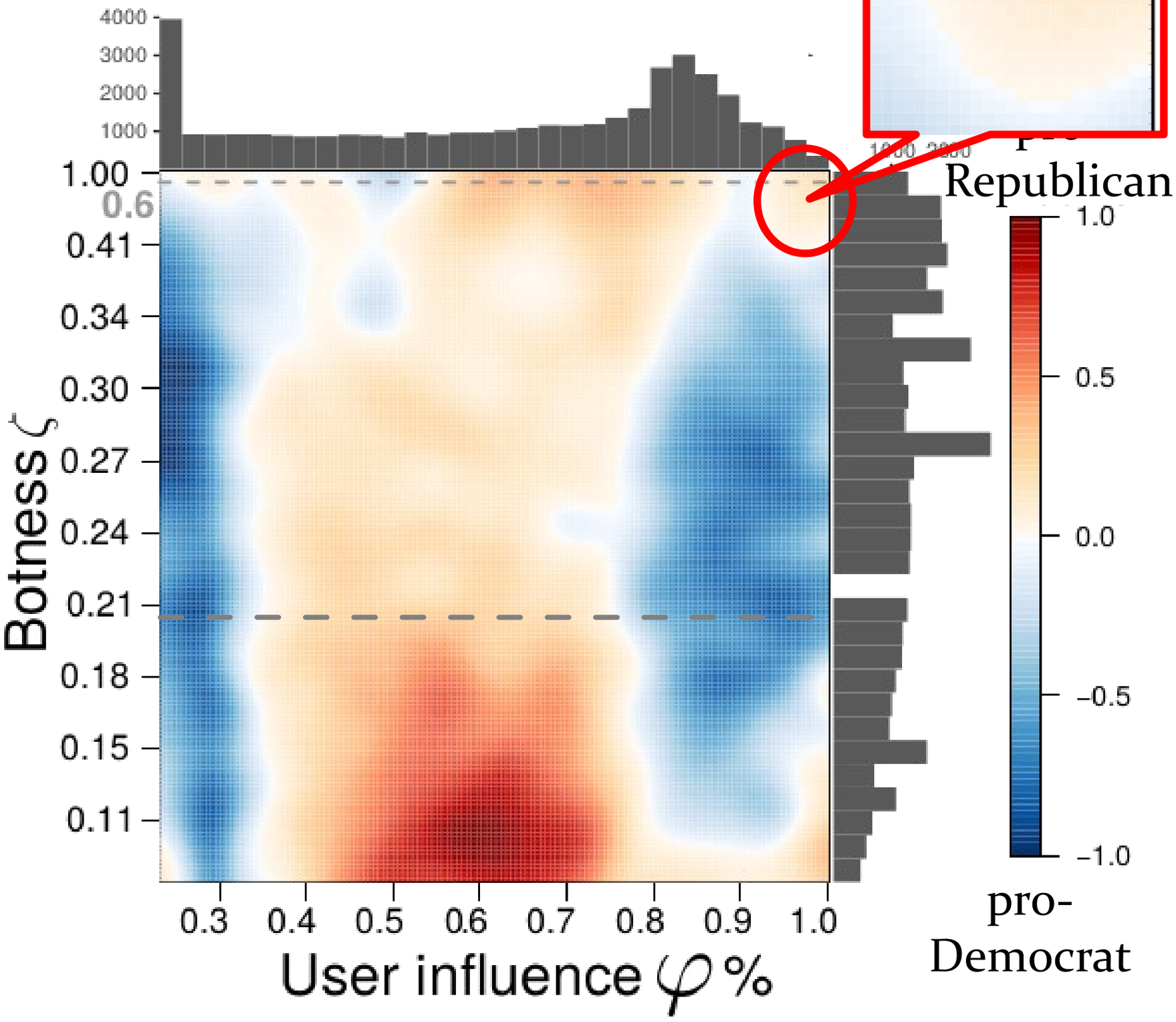


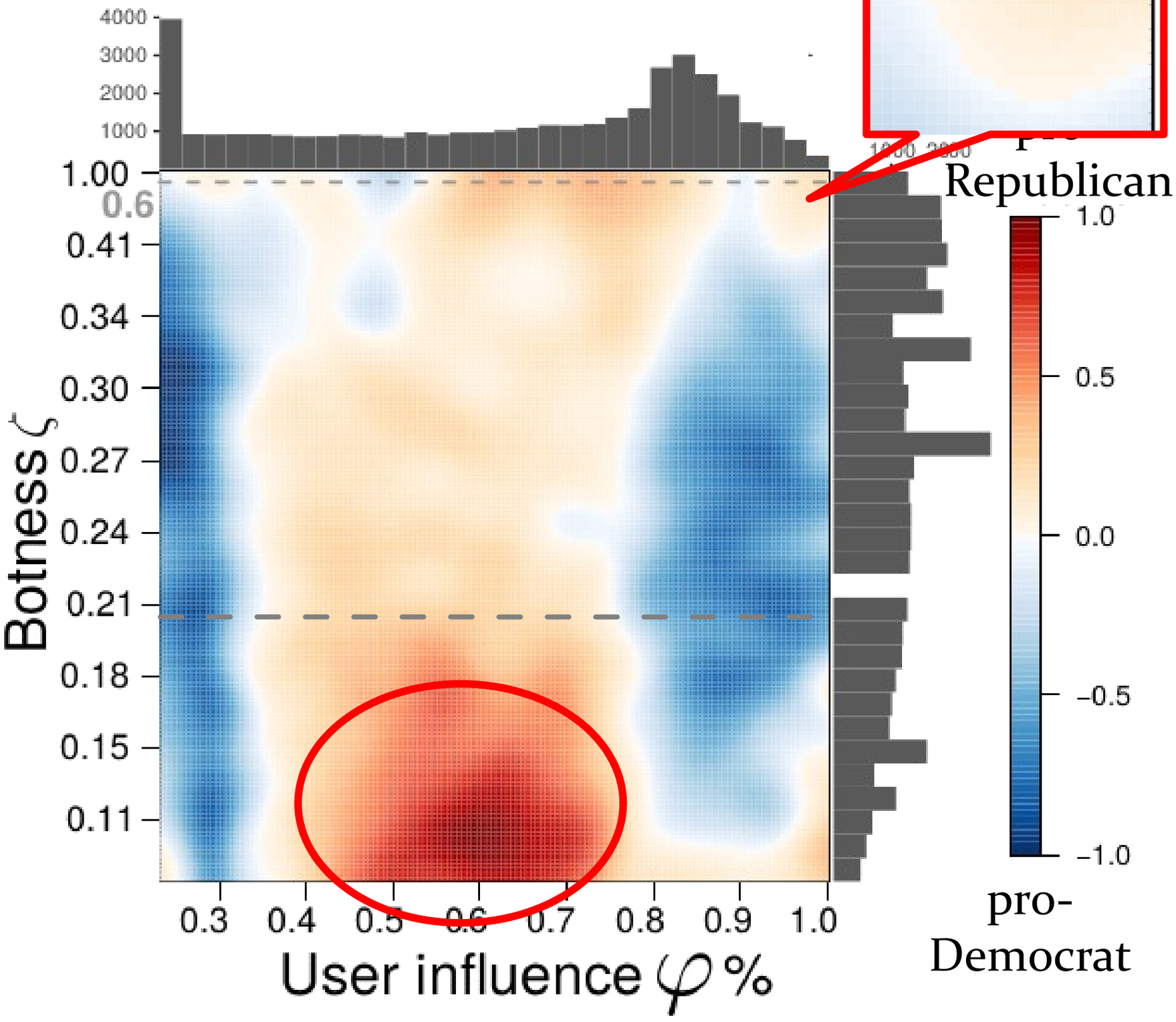
Very highly influential users are pro-Democrat (**D: 7201, R: 5736**)

Highly influential **Bots** are pro-Republican (**D: 24, R: 45**)

Role and Influence of Twitter Socialbots During US Presidential Debat

Behavioral Data Science

[Rizoiu et al ICWSM'18]



Very highly influential users are pro-Democrat (**D: 7201, R: 5736**)

Highly influential **Bots** are pro-Republican (**D: 24, R: 45**)

Mid-influential humans are pro-Republican (**D: 1530, R: 3311**)

Identify troll via their online traces

Behavioral Data Science

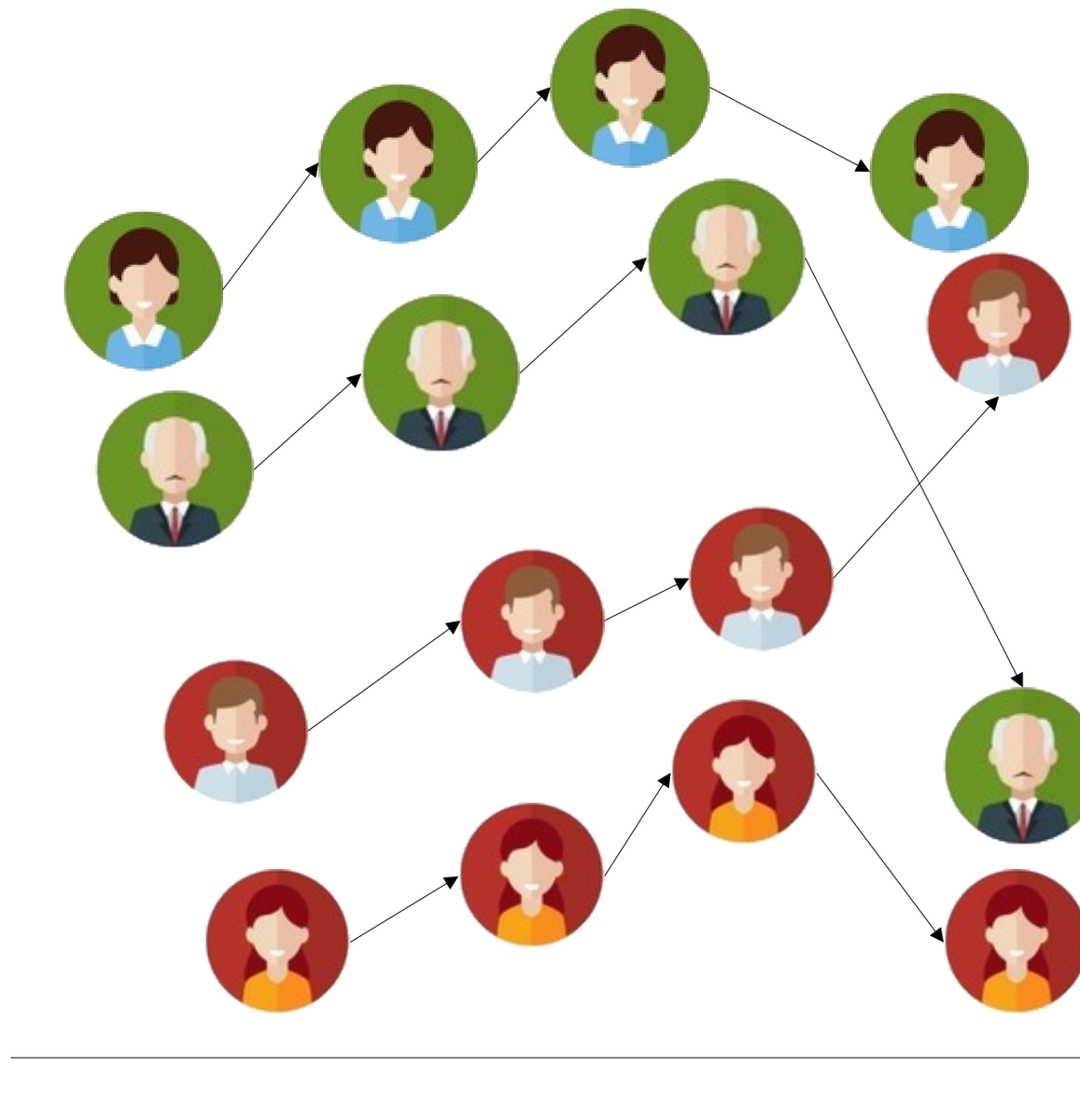
t

Identity through the digital traces that actors leave behind

Kim, D., Graham, T., Wan, Z., & Rizoiu, M.-A. (2019). Analysing user identity via time-sensitive semantic edit distance (t-SED): A case study of Russian trolls on Twitter. Journal of Computational Social Science (under review). https://arxiv.org/abs/1901.05228

Identify troll via their online traces

Behavioral Data Science



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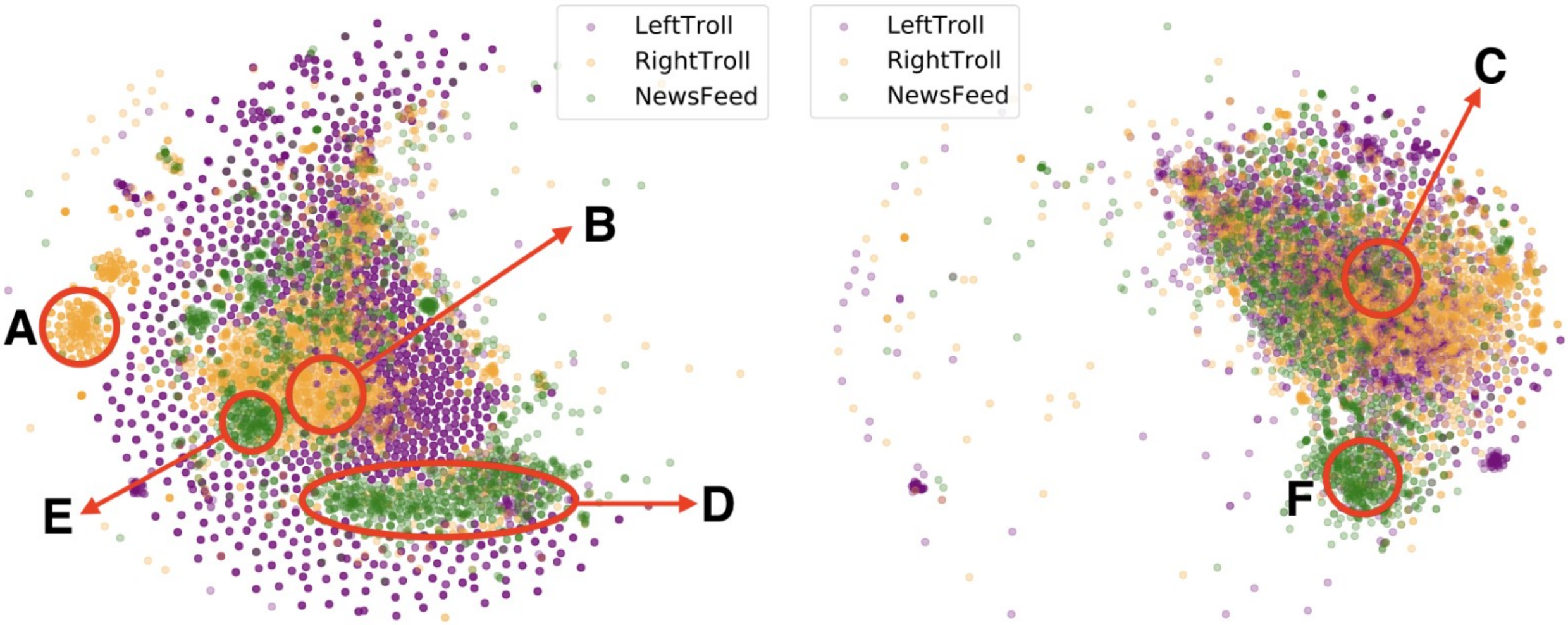
Predict and explain troll strategy

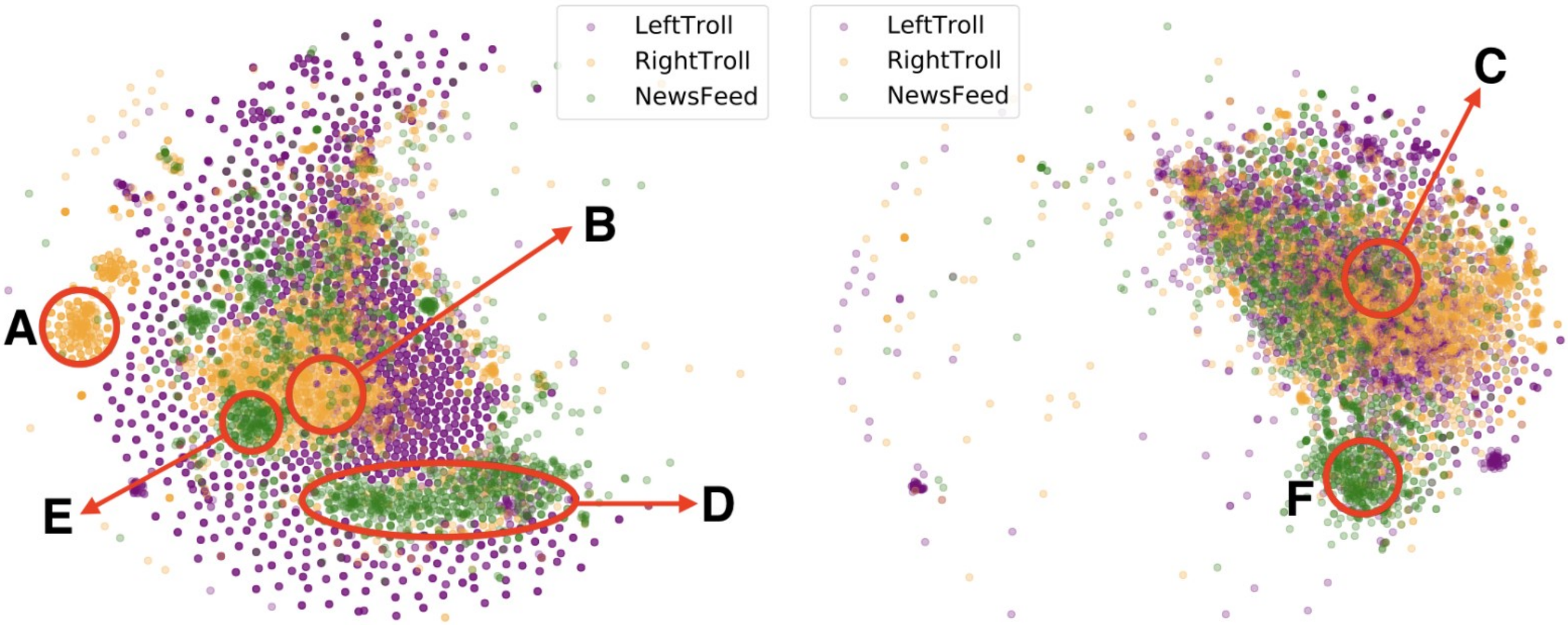
Behavioral Data Science



“Focused MAGA” right trolls, “diverse strategy” left trolls.

Predict and explain troll strategy

Behavioral Data Science



"Focused MAGA" right trolls, "diverse strategy" left trolls.

A – *(right trolls)* Hillary cannot be trusted *#ThingsMoreTrustedThanHillary*

B – *(right trolls)* Mimic black Trump supporters *#Blacks4Trump*

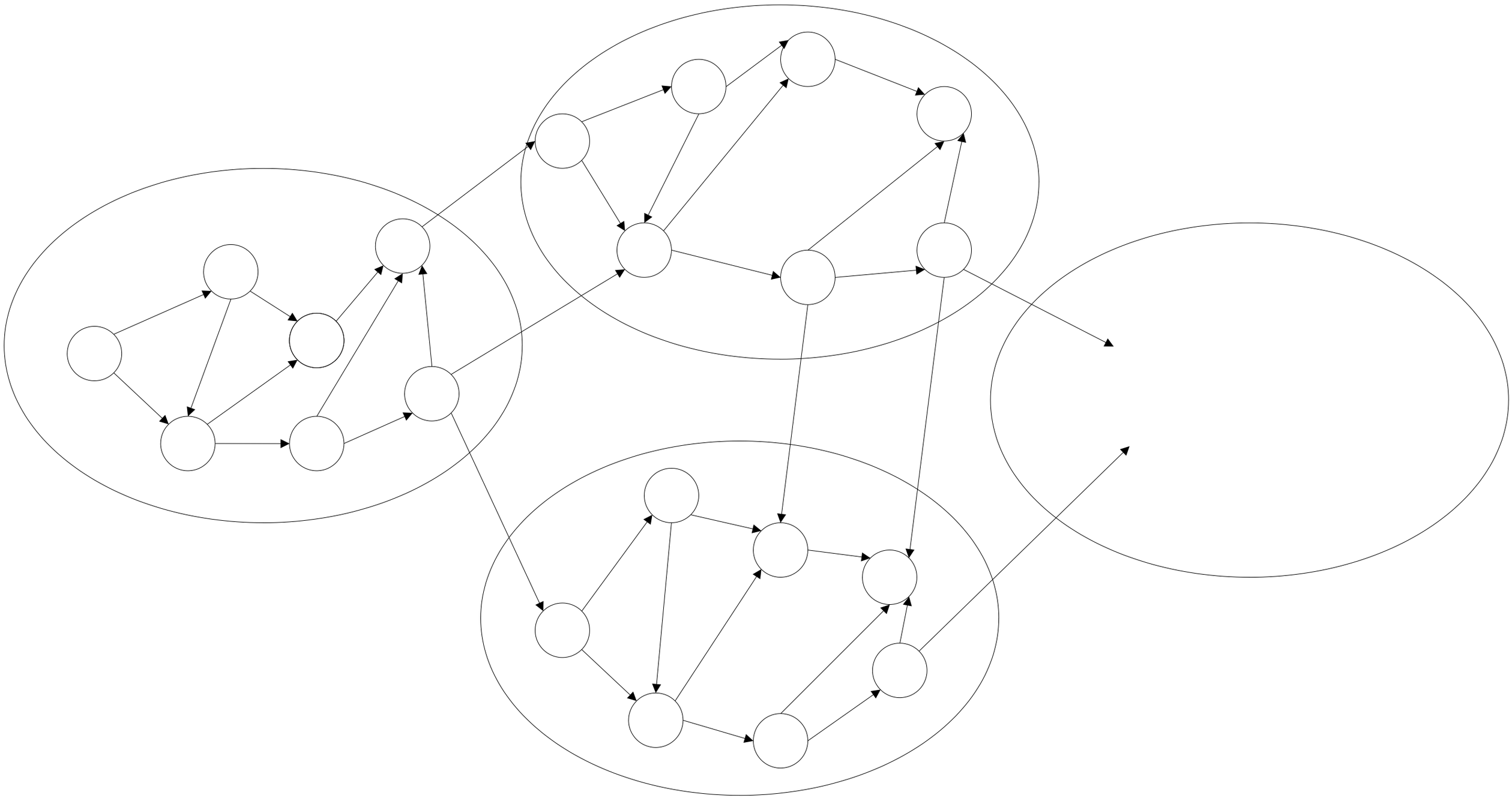
C – *(all trolls)* Religious beliefs *#God #Prolife*

D, F – (news trolls) News about violence and civil unrest *#news*

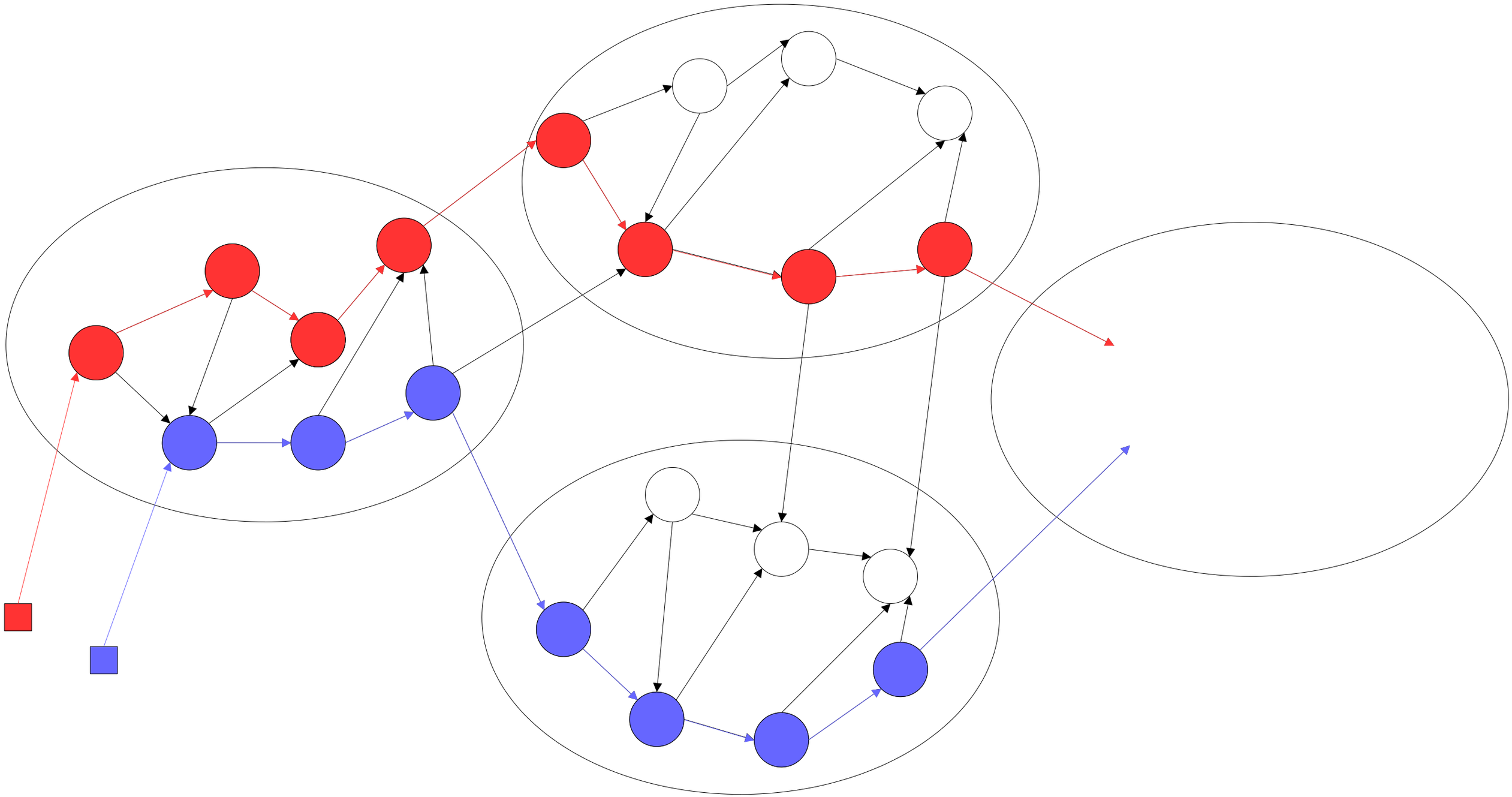
E – (news trolls) Federal politics, policy and regulation *#politics*

Next steps:

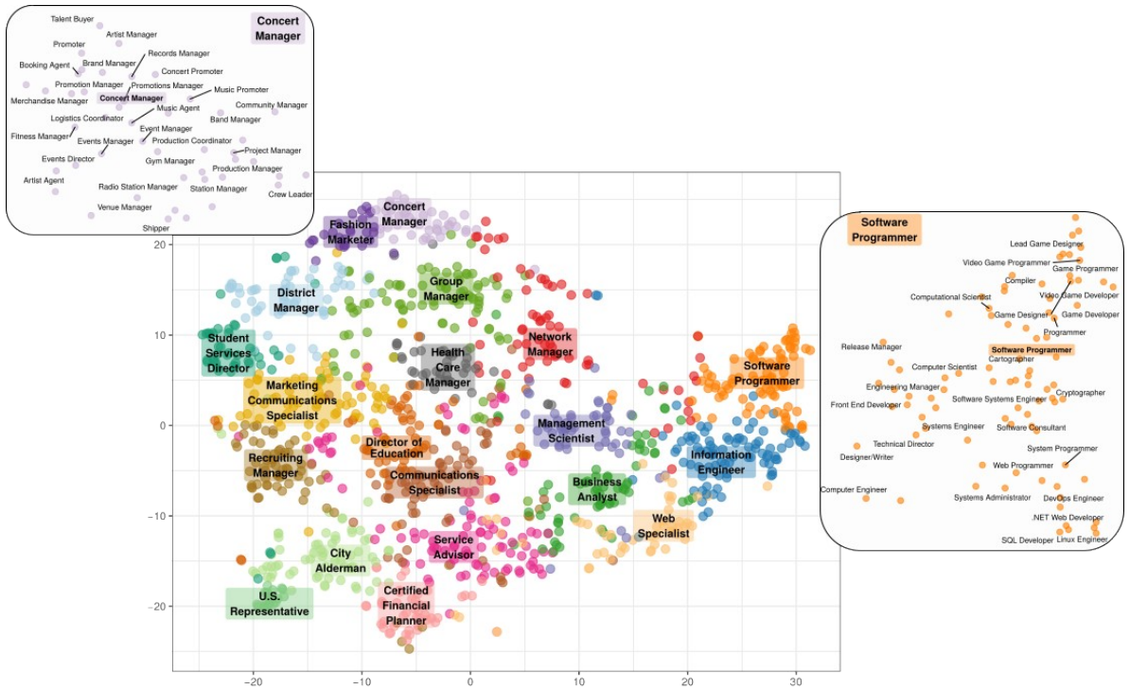
Behavioral Data Science



Next steps:



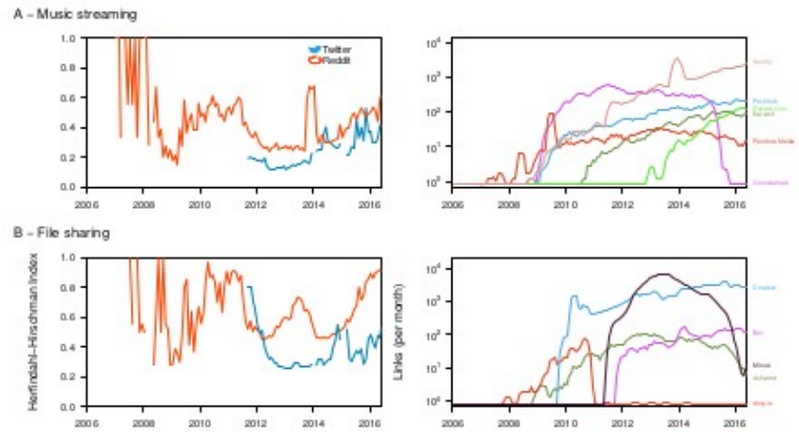
- Complex contagion diffusion models with community structure;
- Estimate impact of spread of malicious content (total popularity, virality, affected communities)

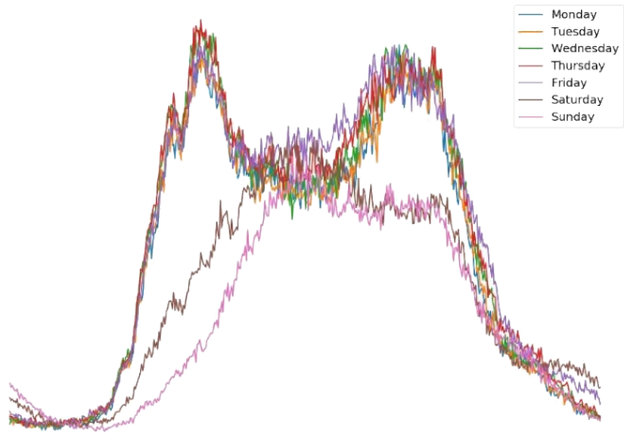


Other projects

Other projects

Behavioral Data Science





Wikipedia privacy

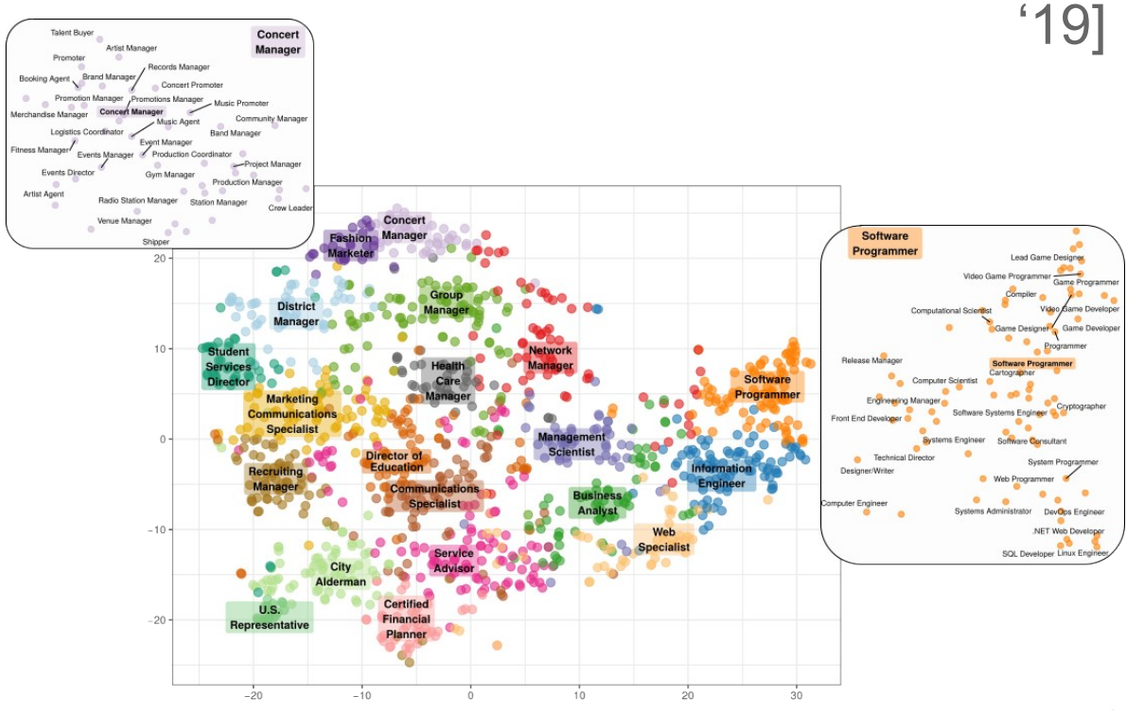
[Rizoiu et al WSDM‘16]

Online Diversity

[McCarthy et al ‘19]

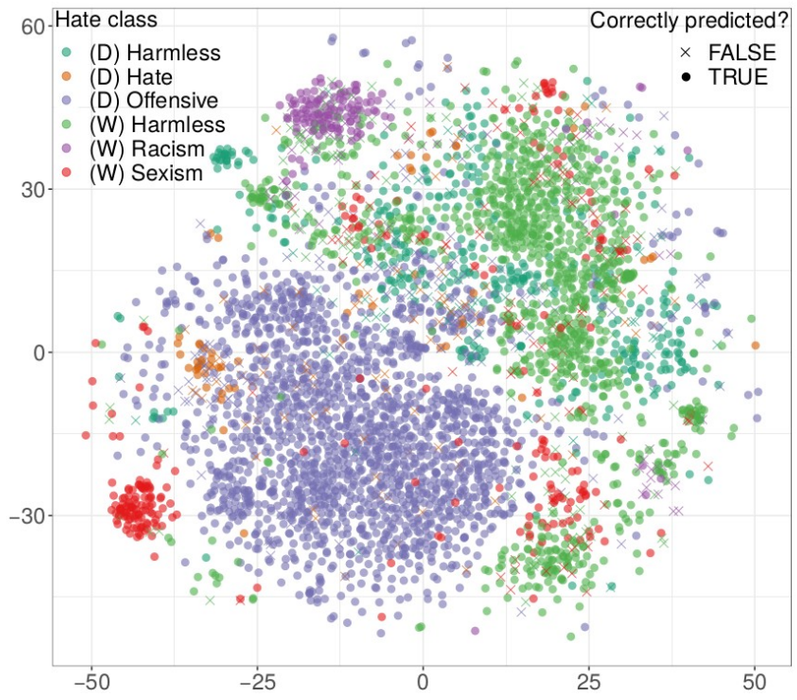
Smart traffic

[Mihaita et al ITSC‘19]



Vocation compass

[Kern et al PNAS‘19]



Transfer learning for Hate Speech detection

[Rizoiu et al ICWSM‘19]

Other projects – references

Behavioral Data Science

[Rizoiu et al WSDM‘16] Rizoiu, M.-A., Xie, L., Caetano, T., & Cebrian, M. (2016). Evolution of Privacy Loss in Wikipedia. In International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM ’16) (pp. 215–224). New York, New York, USA: ACM Press. http://arxiv.org/pdf/1512.03523.pdf

[McCarthy et al ‘19] McCarthy, P. X., Rizoiu, M.-A., Eghbal, S., & Falster, D. S. (2019). Long-term evolutionary trends of diversity online.

[Mihaita et al ITSC‘19] Mihaita, A.-S., Li, H., He, Z., & Rizoiu, M.-A. (2019). Motorway Traffic Flow Prediction using Advanced Deep Learning. In 22nd Intelligent Transportation Systems Conference (ITSC’19).

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[Rizoiu et al ICWSM‘19] Rizoiu, M.-A., Wang, T., Ferraro, G., & Suominen, H. (2019). Transfer Learning for Hate Speech Detection in Social Media. International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM’19) (under review). http://arxiv.org/abs/1906.03829