GitHub Network Analytics



Business Problems

Two-fold:

- 1) Who should one follow in the Machine Learning (ML) & Web Development (WD) fields as a beginner?
- 2) How often do the two communities collaborate? What can GitHub do to facilitate greater collaboration?

Data Overview

Description: A large social network of GitHub ML & WD which was collected from the public API in June 2019.

Nodes: are developers who have starred at least 10 repositories

Edges: are mutual follower relationships between them.

Overview

Repositories 126

Projects 0

Stars 4.4k

Followers 5.2k

Following 63

Centrality scores for the top WD & ML members

		Degree	Betweenness	Closeness	Centrality
1	Web Developer	0.296	0.293	0.546	1.136
1	Machine Learning Engineer	0.065	0.116	0.331	0.512

Web Developers have higher centrality scores because there are more Web Developers in the dataset.



Networks for ML & WD



Web developer network



Machine Learning network

Network for WD + MLE: Nodes

- Software Developer
- Machine Learning Engineer

Software Developers engage in more diverse activities than Machine Learning Engineer

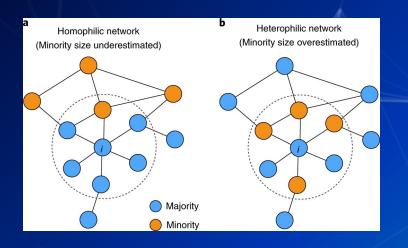


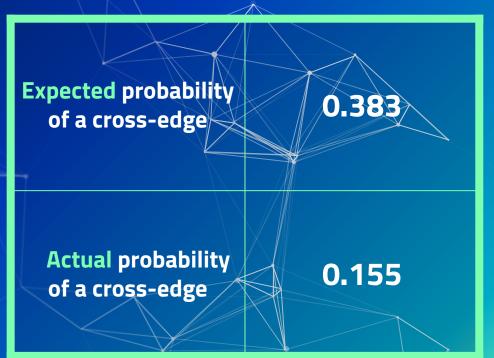
─── Within - Edge

Cross - Edge

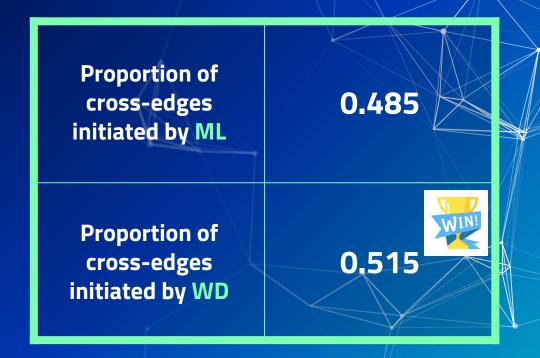
Circled part (roughly) indicates the ML community, more green within the community than WD's

Homophily Detection

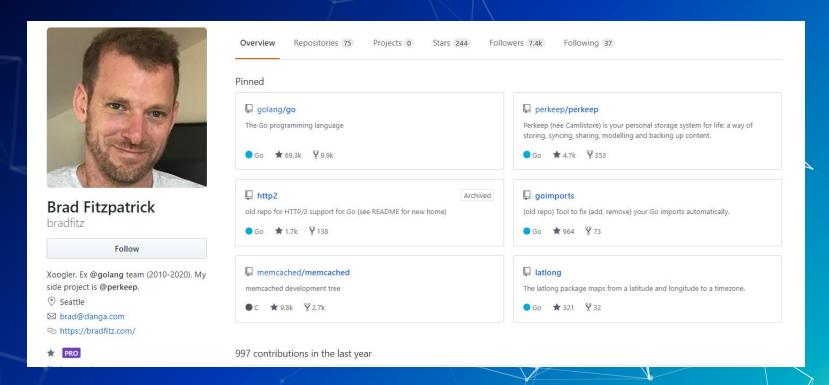




Is one group more collaborative?

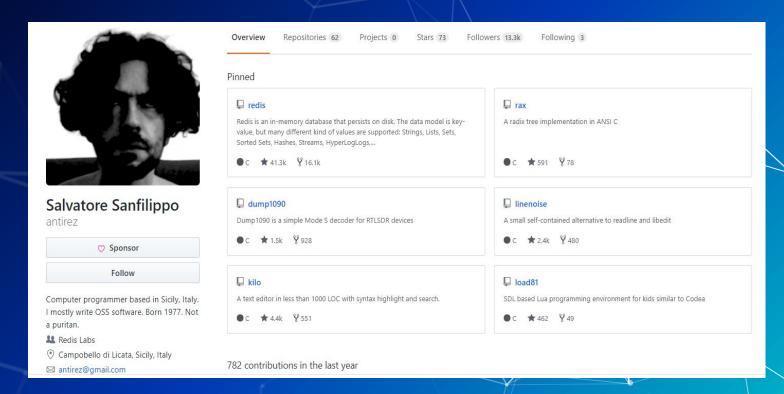


Most influential ML GitHub accounts - bradfitz



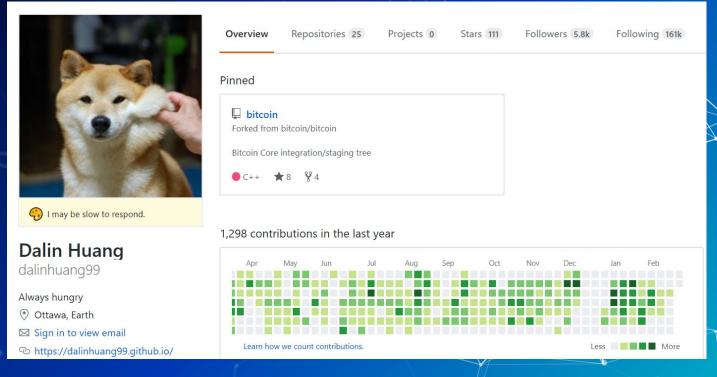
bradfitz - iOS, Android software for Smart Home Technology

Most influential ML GitHub accounts - antirez



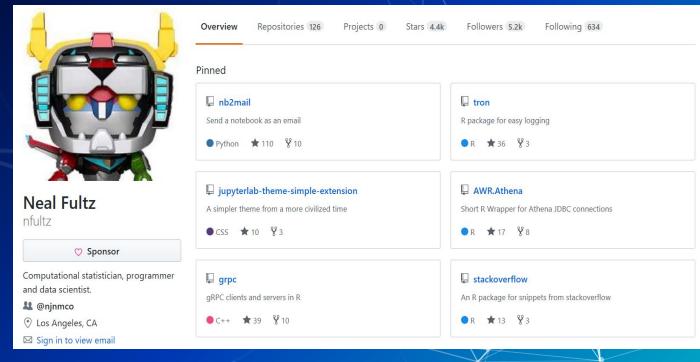
antirez - Redis DBMS

Most influential WD GitHub accounts - Dalinhuang99



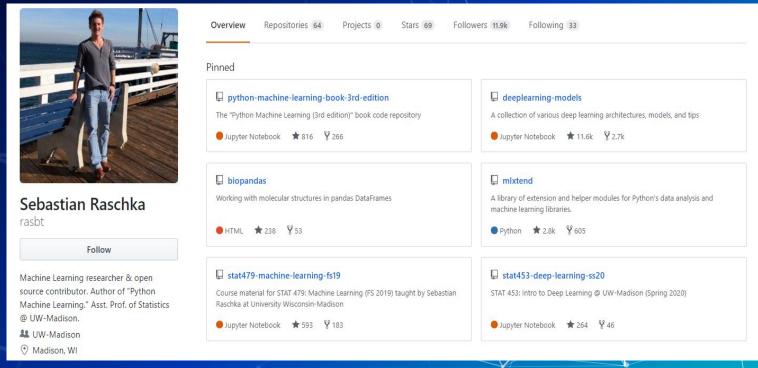
Dalinhuang99 - Tweepy, LeetCode , Blockchain & cryptocurrency Algorithms

Most influential WD GitHub accounts - nfultz



nfultz - computational statistician, R, and Python packages developer

Influential but not cross-collaborative - rasbt



Rasbt - Statistics professor and machine learning researcher

Conclusion & Insights

- Bipartite network confirmed for the two groups of gitHub users - WD and ML
- There is strong evidence of homophily in both communities
- Neither community seems to follow the other more
- Popular members within their own community are not necessarily popular between both communities

Back to the Problem

- 1) Who do we recommend to beginners in a community?
 - Consider deeper dive in community detection efforts
 - Current tag system is comprehensive & well-used
- 2) How do we encourage greater collaboration between communities?
 - Tough for GitHub; both communities look inward typically
 - Super collaborative users are often entrepreneurs; academia is less collaborative

Moving Forward

- Create a suitable recommendation engine
 - Recommend similar topics of ML and WD to encourage collaboration
 - Recommend who to follow based on user data (topic modeling based on collaborative user bios is a possibility)





Appendix

Contents

- Objective: Identify follower networks amongst GitHub developers
- Data Overview
- Network for Web Developer and Machine Learning Engineer
- Cross-Community Network and Homophily Detection
- Conclusion & Insights

Project Outline

We wanted to see how influential machine learning & web developers are with respect to their own communities & over the entire Github community

- We made two dataframes, one containing just machine learning (ML) & the other with web developers (WD)
- We calculated degreeness, betweenness, & closeness for both these dataframes
- Then we compared these metrics to the degreeness, betweenness & closeness for both dataframes combined to see how influential ML & WD are within their own communities and to the entire community (ML + WD)

WBs are more connected than MLs

