

1) Technical details (approach/technique) that you found novel/ Something specific you learned that you didn't know before

I have found nothing interesting in this paper. It uses the API provided by Weibo to do a periodic query to specific user's microblog history. With the collected data, further analysis is conducted. The result contains some interesting conclusion. However, the method they use are trivial.

2) Could I have done this work if I had the idea why or why not?

I could repeat this work if having the idea without any problem. The authors' primary work involves creating multiple accounts via a Tor-circuited network and query Weibo data through a public API. With the data gathered, further analysis is conducted. All the resource required for this work is open to public and anyone who have the same idea can do the same thing without any problems.

3) Is there anything I could do to repeat or validate?

Basically everything listed in the paper can be done. However, I have some better ideas that may be helpful to Weibo data analysis. I know that there are many data analysis software based on Weibo data provided by thirdparty software developers. With a small amount of money for registration, one can register to be such a developer. Data access control are relative loosen on these developers. This may be a better way to conduct similar research.

4) What is my best idea for follow on work that I could personally do?

One thing I think I probably can do is to research more about what one can do after registering on Weibo as a thirdparty developer. If more data access privilege can be acquired, research like what had been described in the paper can be conducted more easily.

5) What is my best idea for follow on work that I'd like to see the authors do?

I want the author to talk more about their ways of collecting data. In the paper, the authors state that they collect data from around 3000 active users with 300 different connections. 1/10 is a pretty high value, which makes it almost impossible to do a larger-scale research with the same method. I want to see whether the authors can revised their methods to be more flexible and extensible.

6) Any logistical experimental lessons I learned?

One interesting thing the authors mentioned in the paper is that to avoid weibo API invocation limitation, they use Tor-circuited to register and operate multiple accounts with different IP address. This can be used as a common mechanism when dealing with websites that have similar constraints.

**7) How does this compare to the other papers we read? Most similar? How different?
Other comparisons?**

This paper is the first one I read about censorship.

8) What is your biggest criticism of the paper?

One thing I want to say about this paper is that they choose a relative small group (around 3000) people as their research target. The small sample bring inevitable bias to the research result. Of course they have realized that themselves. However, even if they want to fix the bias and work on a more general group, they may not be able to do it. Their research method is lack of extensibility and thus prevent them from working on a bigger group and getting a more general idea. I think their method should be revised before they can step further.