

# *Models and Algorithms for Information Diffusion*

*Jayesh Choudhari*

Under the guidance of: *Prof. Anirban Dasgupta*  
Mentor: *Dr. Indrajit Bhattacharya (TCS Research)*

DSC Committee:  
*Prof. Neeldhara Misra, Prof. Chetan Pahlajani*

# Overview

## Part-I Modeling Perspective

- *Discovering topical interactions in text-based cascades using Hidden Markov Hawkes Processes (HMHP).*

*Choudhari, J., Dasgupta, A., Bhattacharya, I., & Bedathur, S. (2018, November). In 2018 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM)*

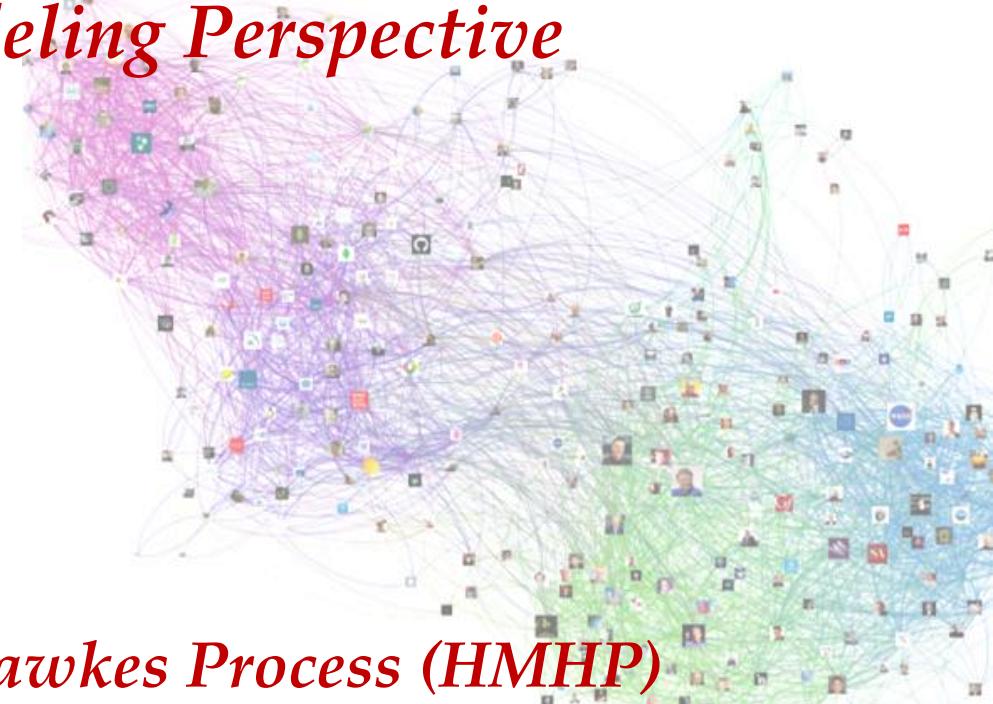
- *Unified Marked Temporal Point Process. (Dual Network Hawkes Process (DNHP))*

*Choudhari, J., Dasgupta, A., Bhattacharya, I., & Bedathur, S. In Temporal Point Process Workshop – NeurIPS 2019.*

## Part-II Algorithmic Perspective

- *Saving Critical Nodes with Firefighters is FPT. Choudhari, J., Dasgupta, A., Misra, N., & Ramanujan, M. S. (2017). In 44th International Colloquium on Automata, Languages, and Programming (ICALP 2017).*

# *Part-I: Modeling Perspective*

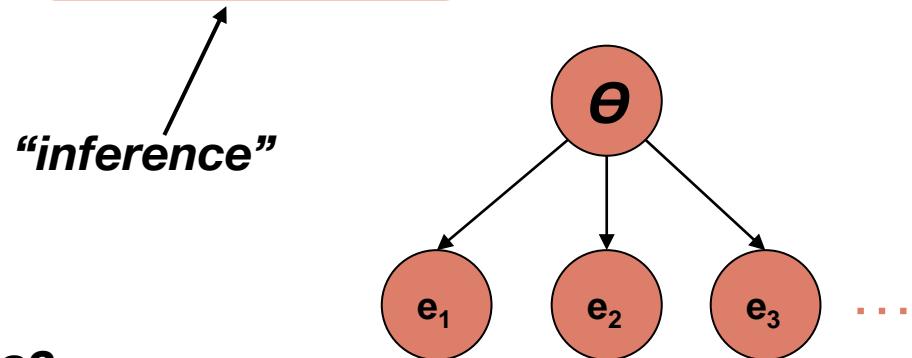


*Hidden Markov Hawkes Process (HMHP)*  
&  
*Dual Network Hawkes Process (DNHP)*

# What is a Model?

A model is an imaginary procedure that generates observed data  $e_1, e_2, \dots$

The procedure has a parameter(s)  $\Theta$ , and we use data to learn it



Why should we learn the parameter(s)  $\Theta$ ?

Lets us **make predictions** and **answer questions** about data at an abstract, high level

# Example



From the data directly, one can answer simple questions:

“How many heads/tails?”

“Was there a heads before a tails?”

“What was the longest string of heads?”

# Example



How about using a **model**?:

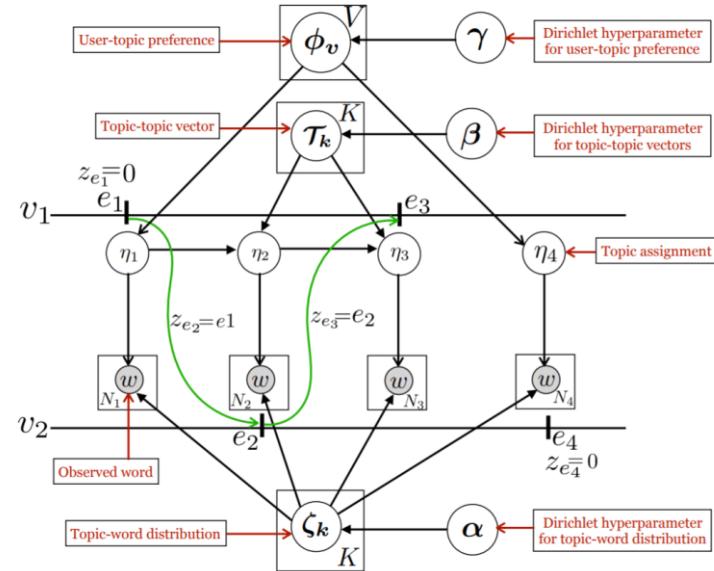
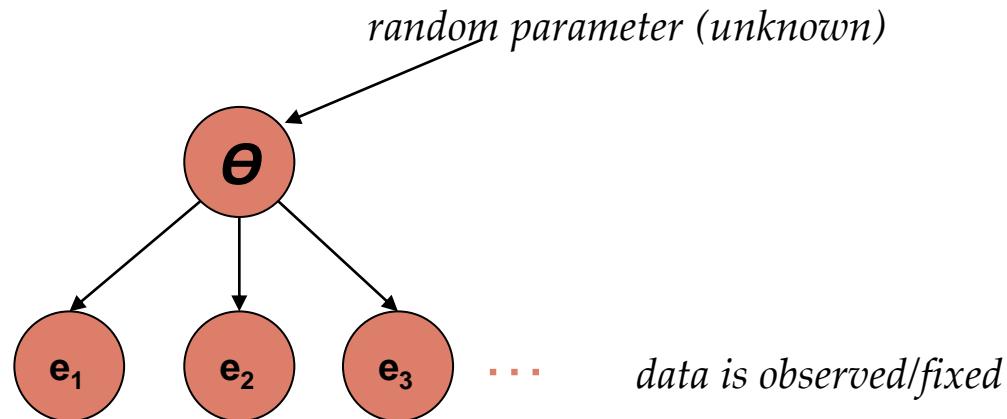
Every coin toss has a probability  $\theta$  of being heads; estimate  $\theta \approx 4/(4+2) = 2/3$

Now we can make predictions and ask abstract questions:

“How likely am I to see heads next?”

“Is this coin fair?”

# Bayesian Models



Bayesian models help in *quantifying uncertainty* in the unknown parameter(s)  $\theta$

*Learn distribution over the values that the parameter(s) can take*



probably not very certain that  $\theta = 2/3$

# Bayesian Models - Applications

suggesting  
movies



predicting  
crop yields



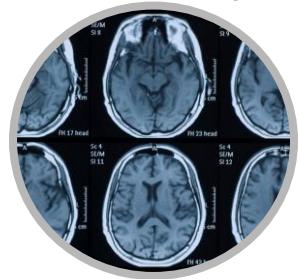
driving  
autonomously



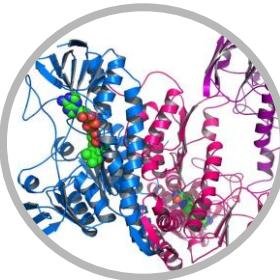
summarizing  
topics



analyzing  
medical imagery



making smart  
trades



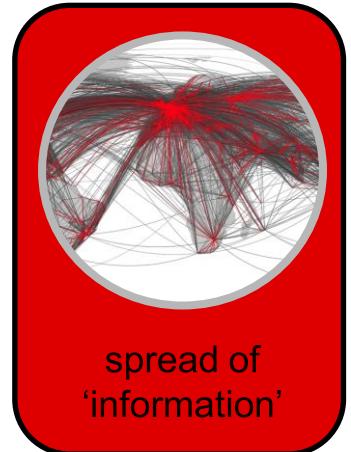
discovering  
protein structure



exploring the  
universe



reducing  
traffic



spread of  
'information'

# Data: Network + Time Series of Tweets



Syria Strike Puts U.S.  
Relationship With Russia at Risk



Trump to 'Free NASA' and  
Set Sights on Further Space  
Exploration



Zika: CDC Warns Pregnant  
Women to Avoid Travel to Miami



CDC issues historic travel warning  
over Zika in Miami



Russia and Iran Warn  
U.S. 'Crossed Red Lines  
by Attacking Syria'

*Time*



Leonardo DiCaprio: We Can't  
Elect a Candidate Who Doesn't  
Believe in Climate Change



Russia denies bombing  
U.S.-backed Syrian rebels



Watch National Geographic's stunning  
climate-change documentary starring  
Leonardo DiCaprio

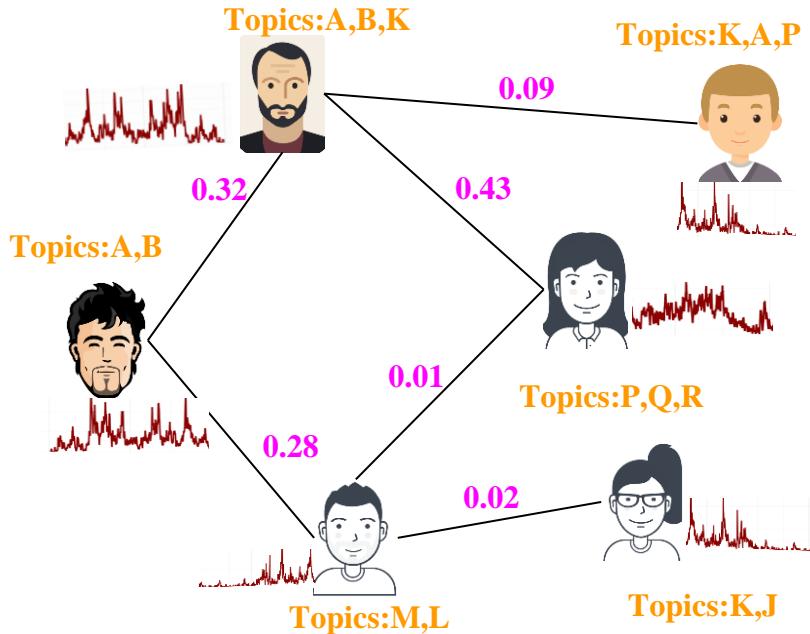


Trump Signs Bill Securing NASA  
Funding, Plans to Reach Mars



The Most Vulnerable NASA Missions  
Under Trump

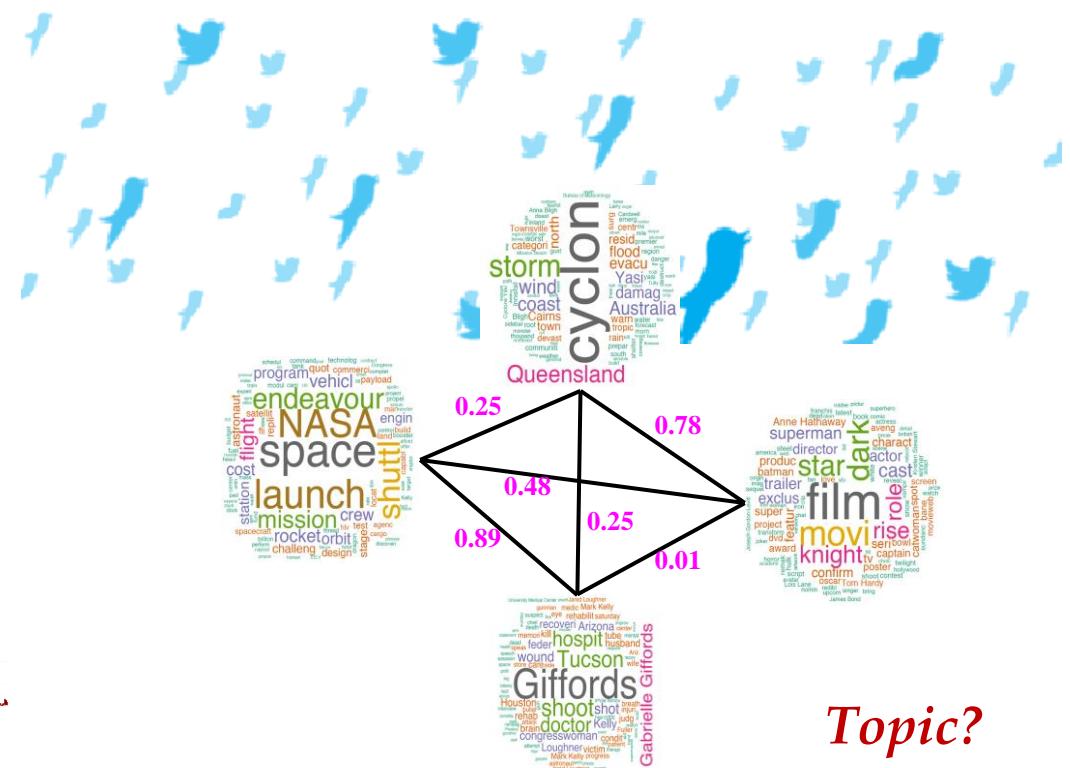
# What is there to do?



*User Temporal Dynamics*

*Preferred topics of each user*

*Topical Interactions*



*Topic?*

*Network Strengths (user-user influence)*

*Topics in the tweets/documents*

# Research Gaps + Gaps Filled

| User N/w | Time-series | Topic | Topic N/w | Topic excitations | Past Work (+ Thesis)  |
|----------|-------------|-------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| ✗        | ✓           | ✓     | ✗         | ✓                 | Du <i>et al.</i> ['15] (Dirichlet-Hawkes)   |
| ✓        | ✓           | ✗     | ✗         | ✗                 | Simma-Jordan ['10],<br>Gomez <i>et al.</i> ['11] (NetInf, NetRate)<br>Yang <i>et al.</i> ['13] (MMHP),<br>Linderman <i>et al.</i> ['14] (NetHawkes) |
| ✓        | ✓           | ✓     | ✗         | ✗                 | He <i>et al.</i> ['15] (HTM)  |
| ✓        | ✓           | ✓     | ✓         | ✗                 | <b>Choudhari <i>et al.</i> ['18] (HMHP)</b>   |
| ✓        | ✓           | ✓     | ✓         | ✓                 | <b>Choudhari <i>et al.</i> ['19] (DNHP)</b>   |

# Data: Network + Time Series of Tweets



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# Mixture of Conversations



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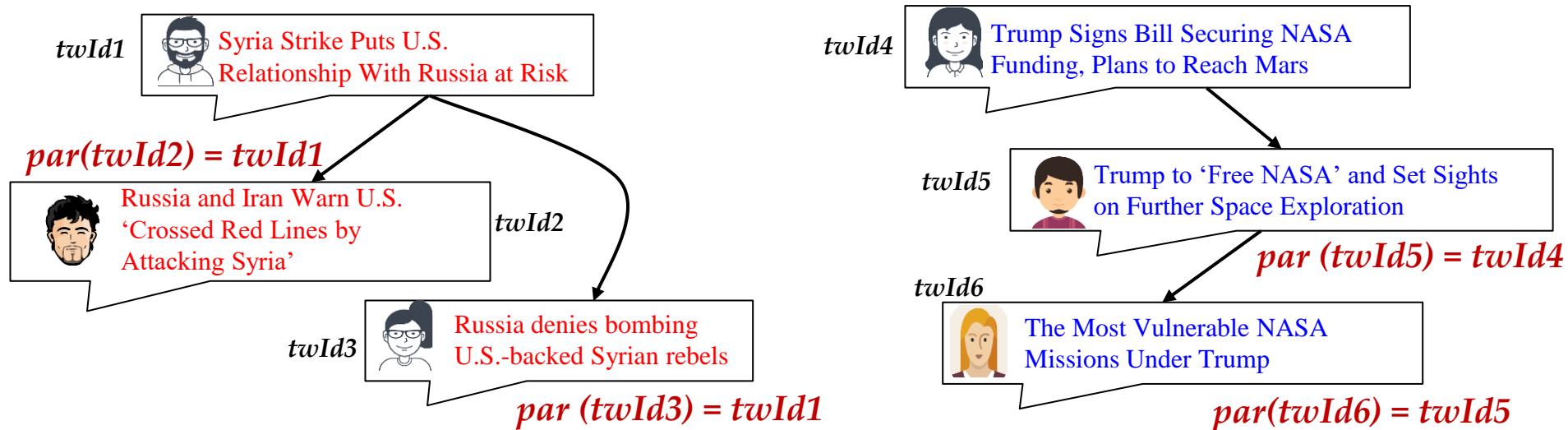


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# Cascades: Separate Conversations



*Just separate these conversations!!*

*User Temporal Dynamics*

*Preferred topics of each user*

*Topical Interactions*

*Network Strengths (user-user influence)*

*Topics in the tweets/documents*

# Why Topical Interactions in HMHP?

## *Parent-Child tweet pair*

Gellman: My definition of whistleblowing: are you shedding light on crucial decision that society should be making for itself. #snowden

Gellman we are living inside a one way mirror, they & big corporations know more and more about us and we know less about them #sxsw

Why Topical  
Interactions?

## *Hashtags from top-3 transitioned topics*

agentsofshield, arrow, tvtag, supernatural, chicagoland

**Topic-1:** idol, bbcan2, havesandhavenots, thegamebet  
**Topic-2:** tvtag, houseofcards, agentsofshield, arrow,  
**Topic-3:** soundcloud, hiphop, mastermind, nowplaying

## *Hashtags from a pair of parent-child topics*

steelers, browns, seahawks, fantasyfootball, nfl

mlb, orioles, rays, usmnt, redsox

# Generative Model : HMHP

# HMHP (*HTM*) Generative model: Overview

1. Generate time-stamps of events for each user (Hawkes Process)
2. For each event, assign topic (dependent on the topic of the influencer event i.e. parent event)
3. For each event, generate words

# Self-exciting Point Process (Hawkes Process)

*Time-stamps are characterized by an intensity function:*

$$\lambda(t)dt := \Pr(\text{event in } [t + dt) | \mathcal{H}_t)$$

## Multivariate Hawkes Process

$$\lambda_v(t) = \mu_v(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|\mathcal{H}_{t^-}|} h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n)$$

*Base Intensity*                           *Impulse Response*

*Time Kernel*

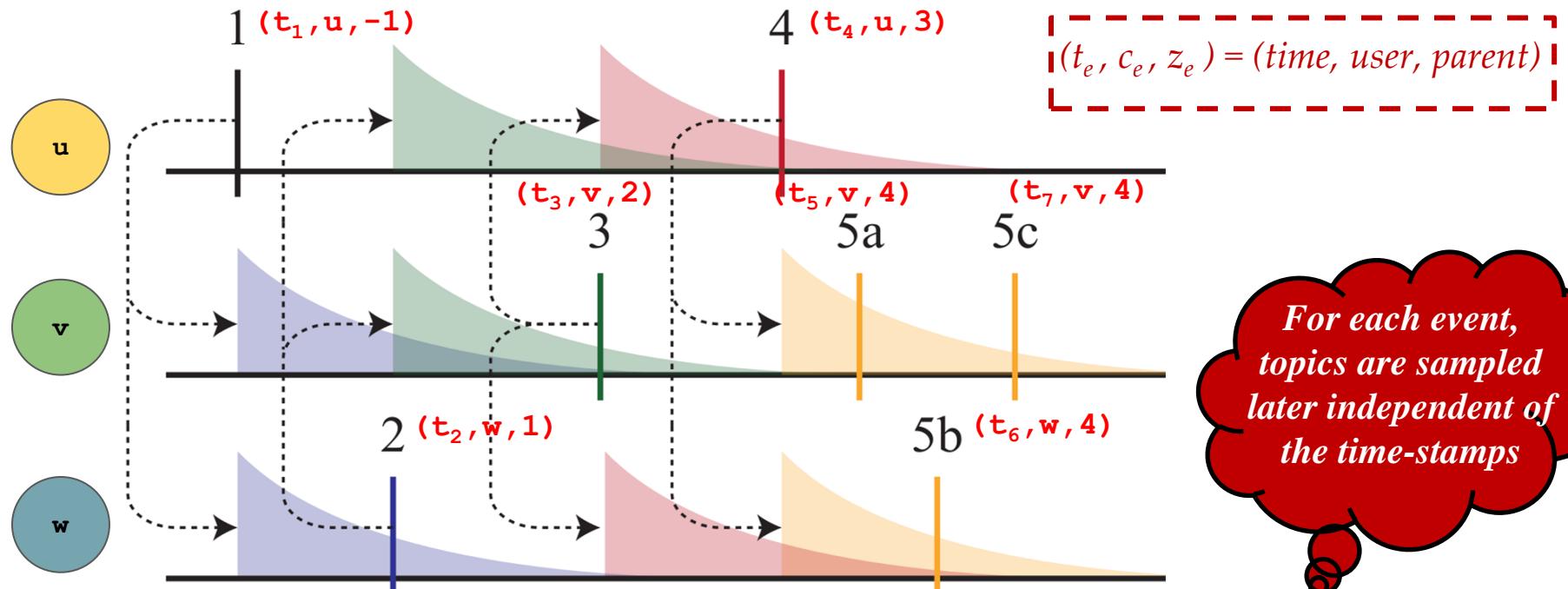
$$h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) = W_{c_n v} f(\Delta t)$$

*User-User Influence*

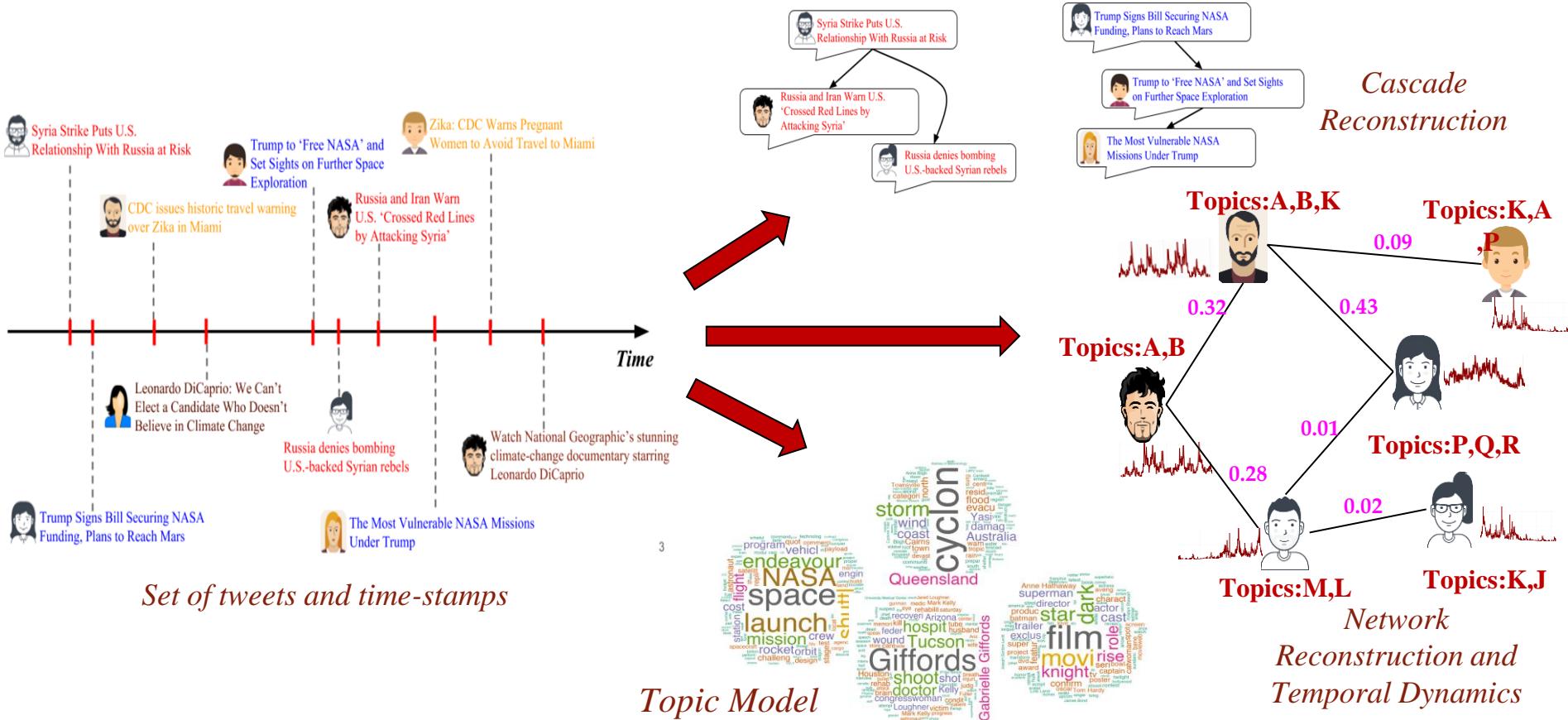
[Explain](#)

# Multivariate Hawkes Process (MHP): (HMHP, HTM, NetHawkes)

$$\lambda_v(t) = \mu_v(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|H_{t-}|} h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) \quad h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) = W_{c_n v} f(\Delta t)$$



# What HTM [He. et al., 2015] does?



# Missing Topical Interactions in HTM [He. et al., 2015]

“If an event is triggered by another event, its document should be similar to the document of the triggering event. This suggests that the content of the user’s post, influenced by the friend’s previous post should have similar content to her friend’s post.” ~HTM [He. et al., 2015]

## Parent-Child tweet pair

[#MASalert] Statement By Our Group CEO, Ahmad Jauhari Yahya on MH370 Incident. Released at 9.05am/8 Mar 2014

Missing #MalaysiaAirlines flight carrying 227 passengers (including 2 infants) of 13 nationalities and 12 crew members.

Repeating patterns in the topics of the parent and child events extracted by HMHP

**Note:** These parent-child pairs are neither retweets nor does Twitter provide any signal to know any relation about these pairs

# Missing Topical Interactions in HTM [He. et al., 2015]

## Generation of Topic of child event in HTM

If event  $e$  is not spontaneous, then

$$\text{Topic}(e) \sim \text{Normal}(\text{Topic}(\text{par}(e)), \sigma^2 I)$$

v/s

## Generation of Topic of child event in HMHP

If event  $e$  is not spontaneous, then

$$\text{Topic}(e) \sim \zeta(\text{Topic}(\text{par}(e)))$$

where,  $\zeta$  is Topical Interaction Distribution

## How HMHP does this?

- Coupling of Network MHP and the Markov Chain over topics.
- Coupled inference: Collapsed Gibbs sampling

## Parent-Child tweet pair

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# Generative Model

$t_e = \text{time}$ ,  $c_e = \text{user}$ ,  $z_e = \text{parent}$

- 1) Generate  $(t_e, c_e, z_e)$  for all events according to Multivariate Hawkes Process.
- 2) For each topic  $k$ : sample  $\zeta_k \sim Dir_W(\alpha)$
- 3) For each topic  $k$ : sample  $\mathcal{T}_k \sim Dir_K(\beta)$
- 4) For each node  $v$ : sample  $\phi_v \sim Dir_K(\gamma)$
- 5) For each event  $e$  at node  $c_e = v$ :
  - a) i) if  $z_e = 0$  (level 0 event): draw a topic  $\eta_e \sim Discrete_K(\phi_v)$
  - ii) else: Topic    Topical Interaction Matrix draw a topic  $\eta_e \sim Discrete_K(\mathcal{T}_{\eta_{z_e}})$
- b) Sample document length  $N_e \sim Poisson(\lambda)$
- c) For  $w = 1 \dots N_e$ : draw word  $x_{e,w} \sim Discrete_W(\zeta_{\eta_e})$

Temporal Dynamics & Network

Inference using MHP

Topic-word, Topic-Topic, and User-Topic distributions resp.

Cascade reconstruction and Topical Interactions coupling

MHP and Topical MCs

Topic Model

# Inference : HMHP

# Likelihood MTPP

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H}_T) := \left( \prod_{e_i \in \mathcal{H}_T} \underbrace{\lambda_{v_i}(t_i)}_{\substack{\text{Prob. of an action at } t_i \\ \text{Prob. of mark } \eta_i}} \underbrace{m^*(\eta_i)}_{\substack{\text{Prob. of no actions at } t \in [0, T] \setminus \{t_i\}}} \right) \prod_{v \in V} \overbrace{\exp \left( \int_0^T \lambda_v(\tau) d\tau \right)}^{\substack{\text{Prob. of no actions at } t \in [0, T] \setminus \{t_i\}}}$$

**Note:** The timestamps  $t_i$  and the marks (topics)  $\eta_i$  are modeled independently.

# Gibbs Sampling

- Suppose  $p(x,y)$  is a p.d.f. that is difficult to sample from directly.
- But, can sample from the conditional distributions  $p(x|y)$  and  $p(y|x)$

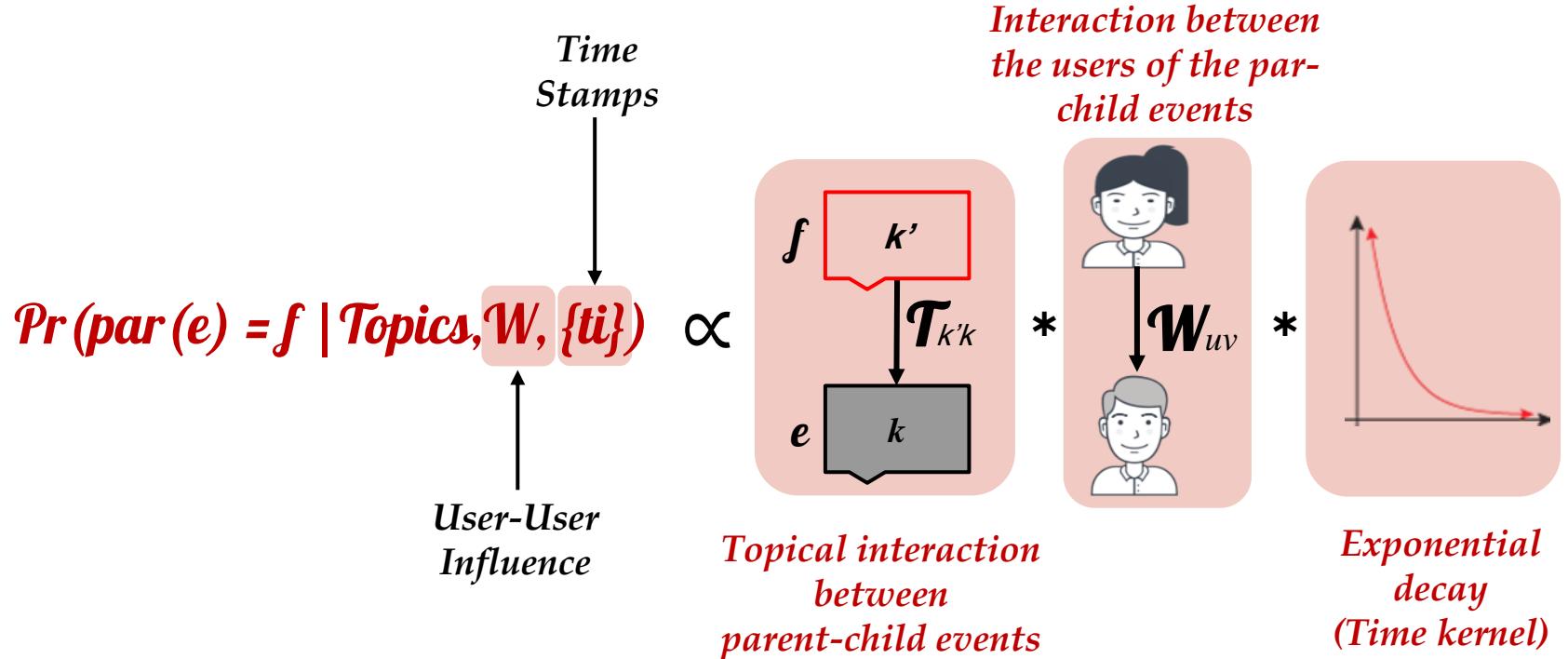
## Gibbs Sampling

- Set  $x$  and  $y$  to some initial values - say  $(x_0, y_0)$
- For  $i = 1$  to  $M$  (#iterations):
  - Sample  $x_i \sim p(x|Y_{i-1})$
  - Sample  $y_i \sim p(y|x_i)$

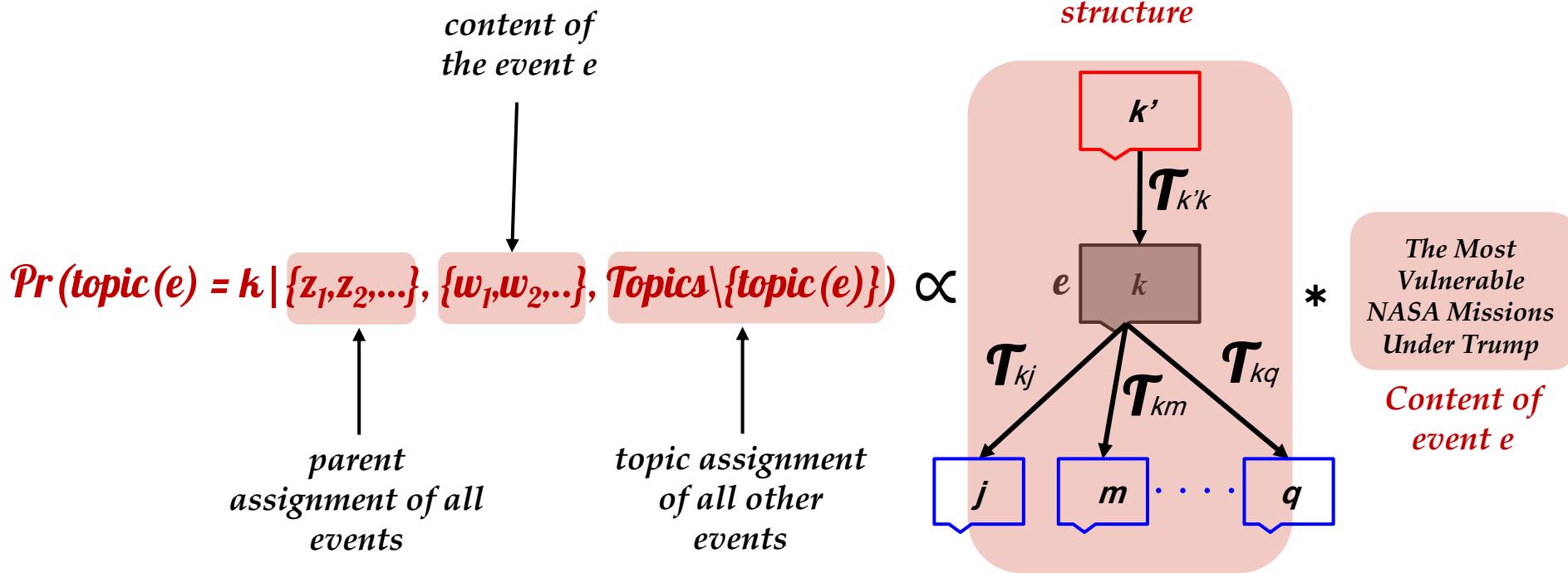
# Parameters to infer: HMHP

- Topic for each event
- Parent for each event
- User-User influence (for all pairs of users)
- ~~Topic-Topic interaction?~~ (*Integrates out due to Collapsed Gibbs Sampling*)

# Cascade Inference (Parent Assignment)



# Topic Inference



# Results : HMHP

# Datasets

## *Twitter (Real Data):*

- *500K tweets corresponding to top 5K hashtags from the most prolific 1M users generated in a contiguous part of March 2014*

## *Semi-Synthetic:*

- *Retain the underlying set of nodes and the follower graph from a sample of Twitter Data.*
- *Estimate the parameters required for our model from the data.*
- *Generate 5 different samples of 1M events using HMHP model.*

[HMHP performs better on Semi-Synthetic dataset](#)

# HMHP Anecdotal Results : *Real Dataset*

## *Parent-Child tweet pair*

Gellman: My definition of whistleblowing: are you shedding light on crucial decision that society should be making for itself. #snowden

Gellman we are living inside a one way mirror, they & big corporations know more and more about us and we know less about them #sxsw

## *Hashtags from top-3 transitioned topics*

agentsofshield, arrow, tvtag, supernatural, chicagoland

**Topic-1:** idol, bbcan2, havesandhavenots, thegamebet  
**Topic-2:** tvtag, houseofcards, agentsofshield, arrow,  
**Topic-3:** soundcloud, hiphop, mastermind, nowplaying

## *Hashtags from a pair of parent-child topics*

steelers, browns, seahawks, fantasyfootball, nfl

mlb, orioles, rays, usmnt, redsox

# Generative Model : DNHP

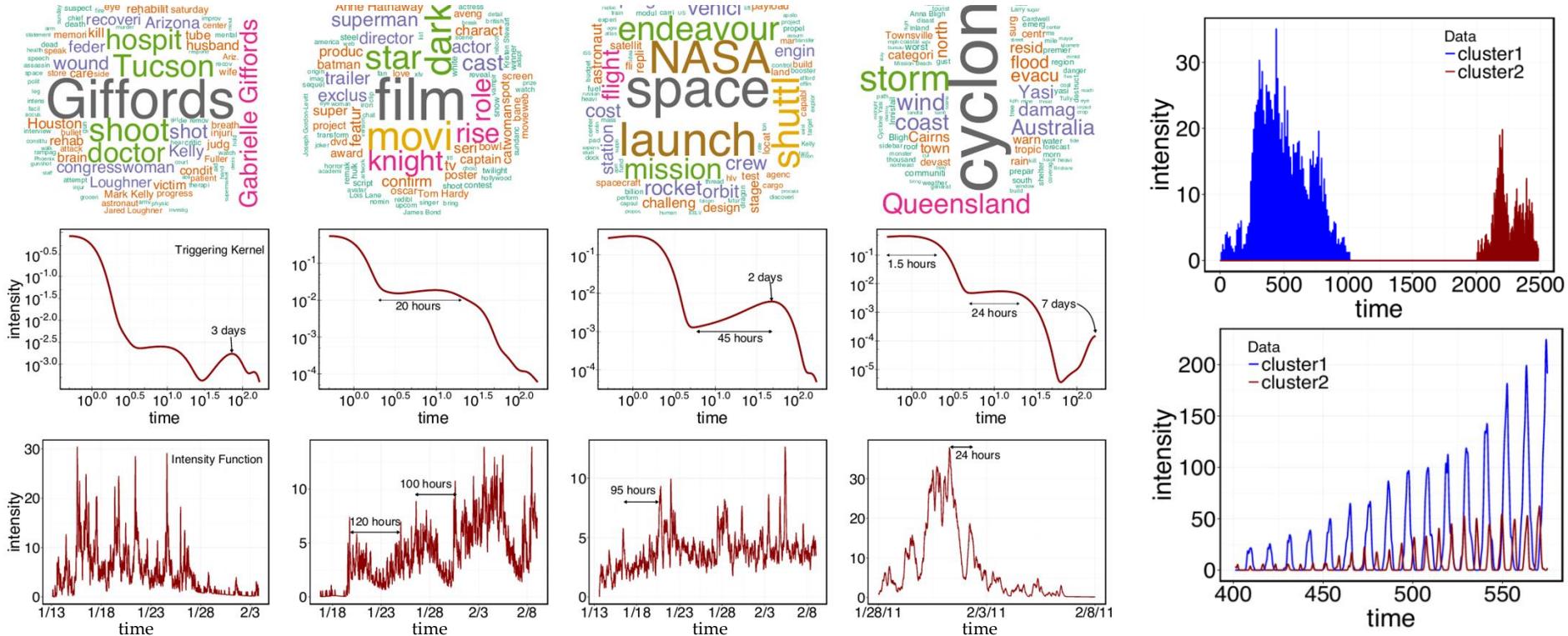
# What is missing in HMHP? (as well as in HTM, NHWKS)

$$\lambda_v(t) = \mu_v(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|\mathcal{H}_{t^-}|} h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) \quad h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) = W_{c_n v} f(\Delta t)$$

If user  $v$  likes user  $c_n$ , it would try generating a time-stamp

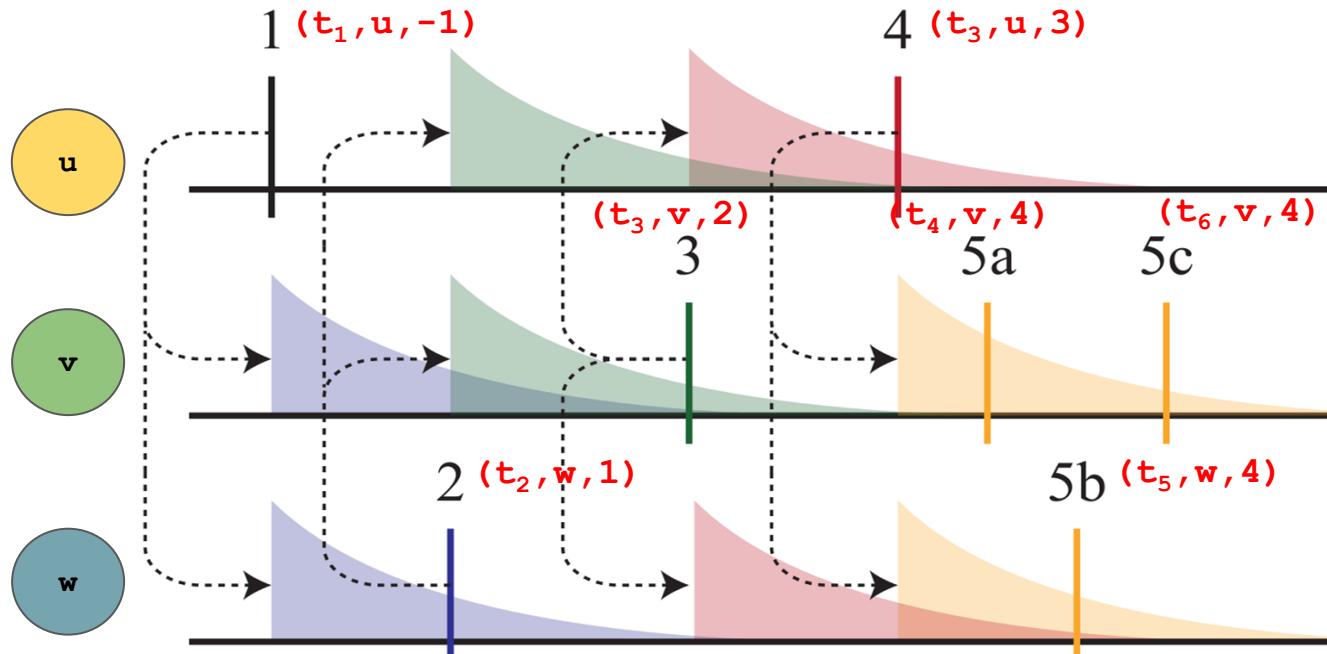
Note that this does not take into account the topic  
of the event generated by  $c_n$ .

# Time-Topic relation evidence: [DirHawkes Du et al. '15]



# Multivariate Hawkes Process (MHP): (*HMHP*, *HTM*, *NetHawkes*)

$$\lambda_v(t) = \mu_v(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|\mathcal{H}_{t-}|} h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n)$$
$$h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) = W_{c_n v} f(\Delta t)$$

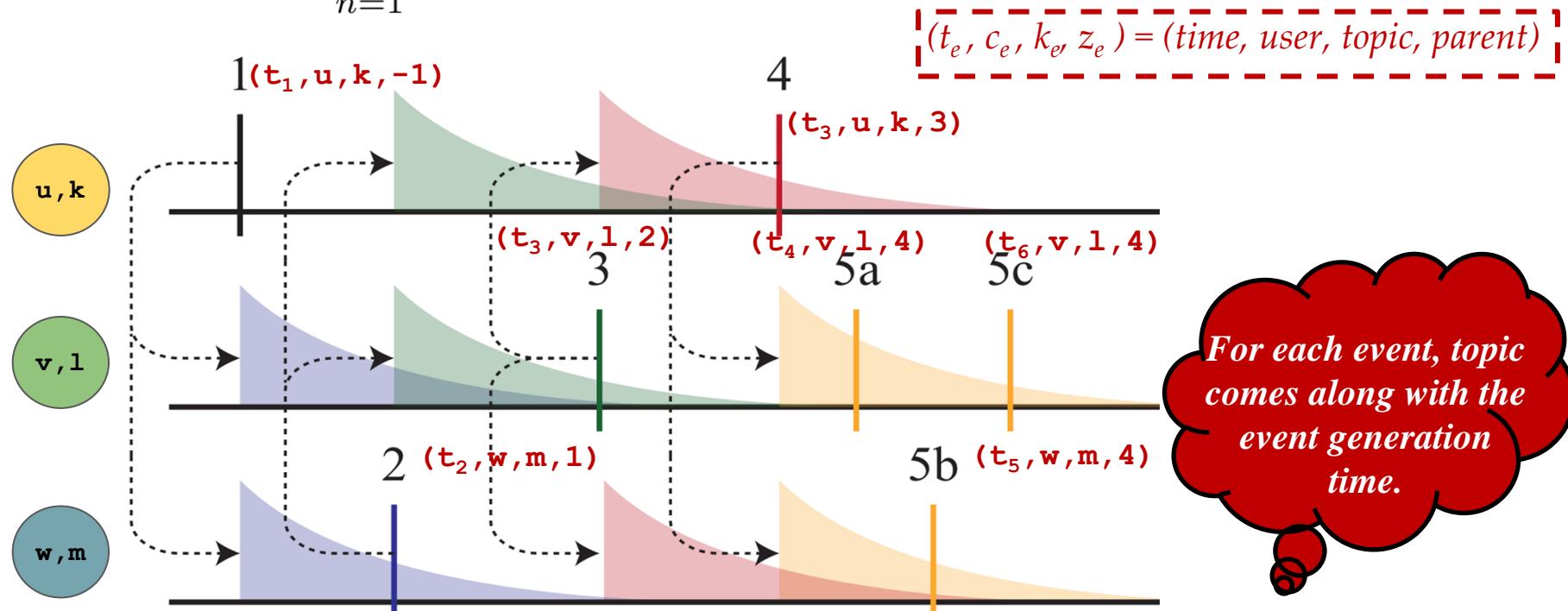


*For each event,  
topics are sampled  
later independent of  
the time-stamps*

# Marked Multivariate Hawkes Process: (DNHP)

$$\lambda_v(t) = \mu_v(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|H_{t-}|} h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n)$$

$$h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) = W_{uv} T_{kk'} f(\Delta t)$$



# What we add to HMHP → DNHP?

$$\lambda_v(t) = \mu_v(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|\mathcal{H}_{t^-}|} h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) \quad h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) = W_{c_n v} f(\Delta t)$$

*If user  $v$  likes user  $c_n$ , it would try generating a time-stamp*

*Note that this does not take the into account the topic  
of the event generated by  $c_n$ .*

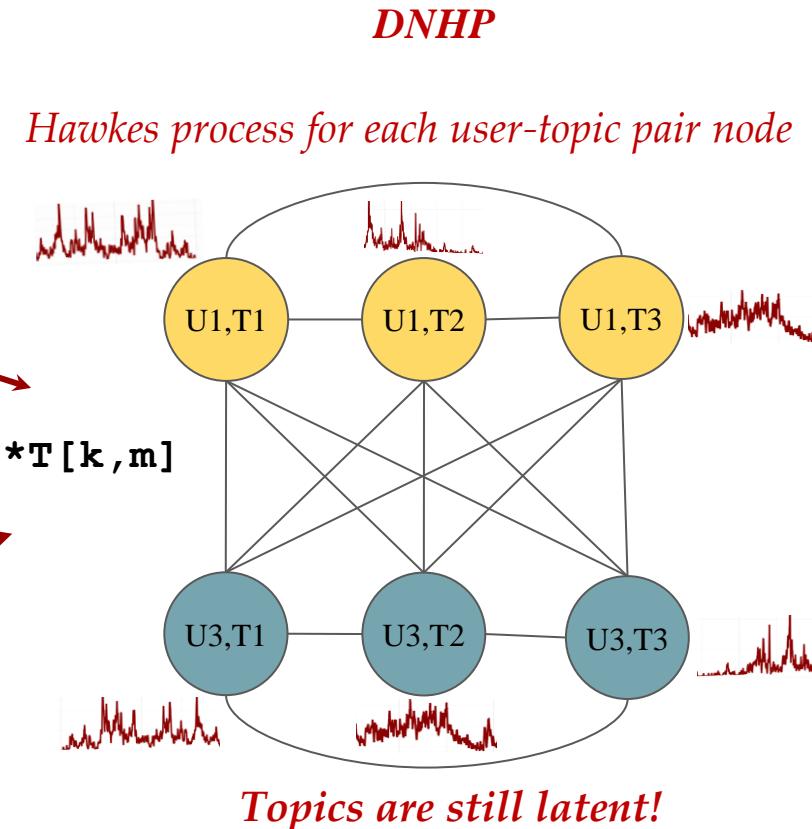
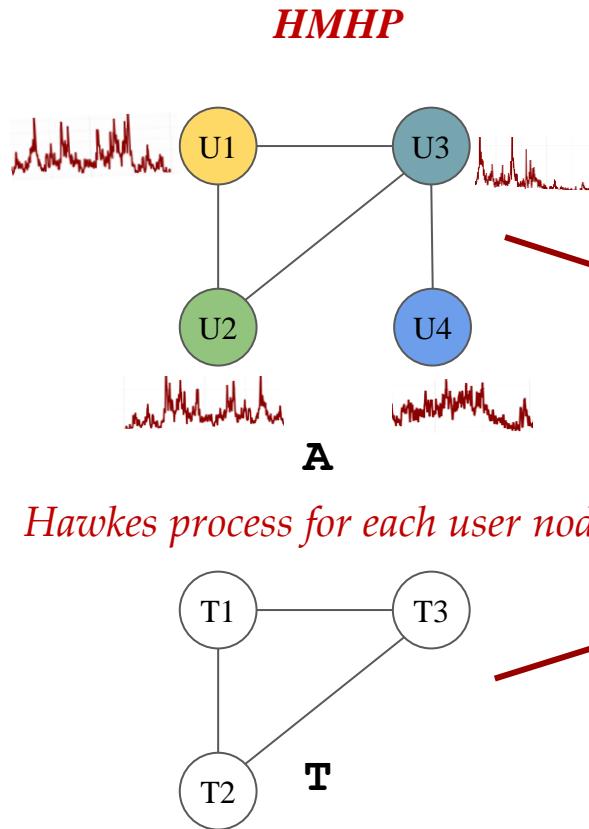
HMHP

DNHP

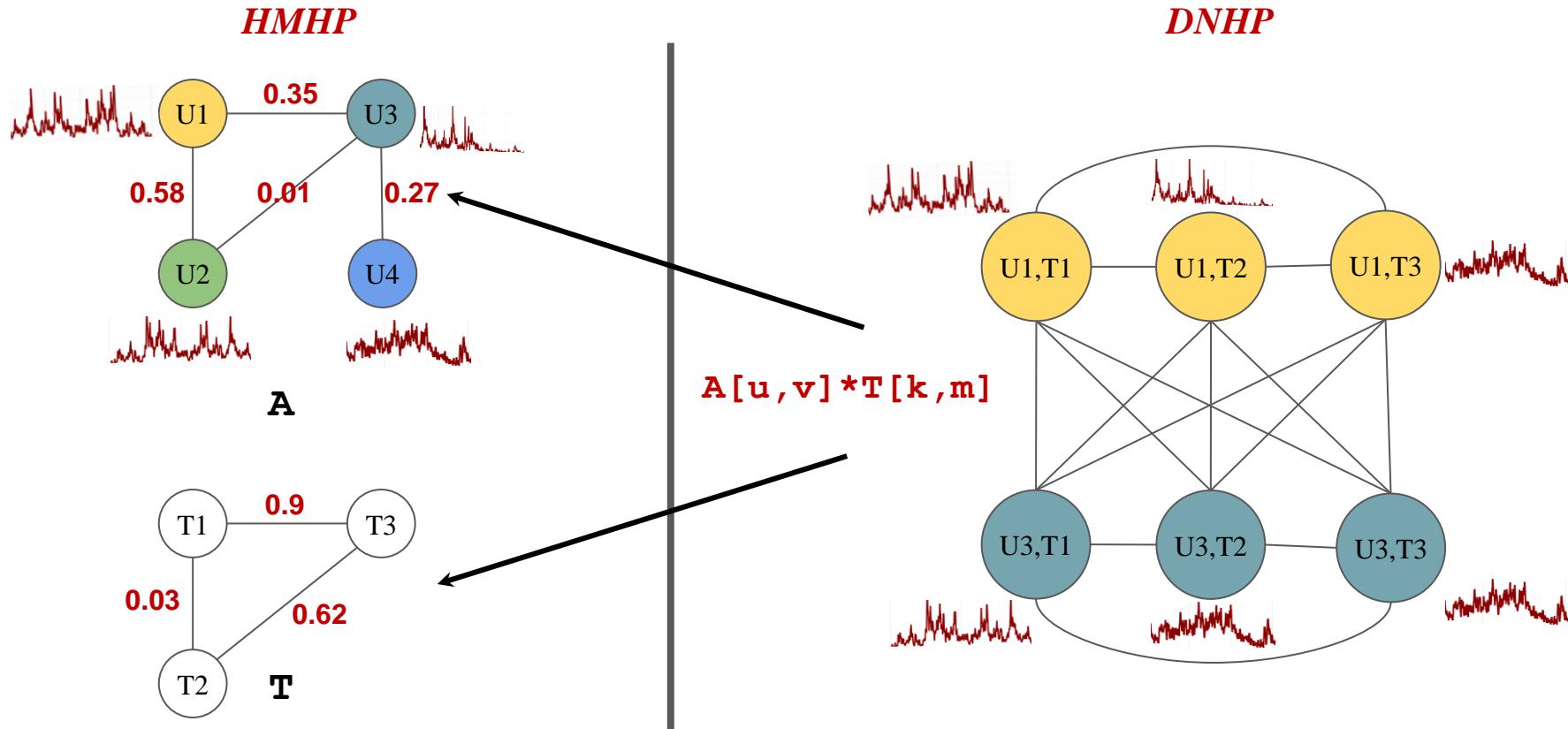
$$\lambda_v(t) = \mu_v(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|\mathcal{H}_{t^-}|} h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) \quad h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n) = W_{uv} T_{kk'} f(\Delta t)$$

*If user  $v$  likes user  $c_n$  and also the topic of event by  $c_n$ ,  
then it would try generating a time-stamp*

# HMHP v/s DNHP



# HMHP v/s DNHP



# DNHP Likelihood Form

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H}_T) := \left( \prod_{e_i \in \mathcal{H}_T} \underbrace{\lambda_{\mathbf{v}_i}(t_i)}_{\text{Prob. of an action at } t_i \text{ with mark } \eta_i} \right) \prod_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{V}} \overbrace{\exp \left( \int_0^T \lambda_{\mathbf{v}_i}(\tau) d\tau \right)}^{\text{Prob. of no actions at } t \in [0, T] \setminus \{t_i\}}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_i = (v_i, \eta_i)$$

**Recall:**  $\mathbb{P}(\mathcal{H}_T) := \left( \prod_{e_i \in \mathcal{H}_T} \underbrace{\lambda_{v_i}(t_i)}_{\text{Prob. of an action at } t_i} \underbrace{m^*(\eta_i)}_{\text{Prob. of mark } \eta_i} \right) \prod_{v \in V} \overbrace{\exp \left( \int_0^T \lambda_v(\tau) d\tau \right)}^{\text{Prob. of no actions at } t \in [0, T] \setminus \{t_i\}}$

# HMHP (HTM,NetHawkes) v/s DNHP

**HMHP (HTM, NetHawkes)**

**(each user node)**

$$\lambda_v(t) = \mu_v(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|\mathcal{H}_{t^-}|} h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n)$$



**Intensity Function**

**DNHP**

**(a user-topic pair)**



$$\lambda_{\vee}(t) = \mu_{\vee}(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|\mathcal{H}_{t^-}|} h_{c_n, \vee}(t - t_n)$$

**Base Rate**

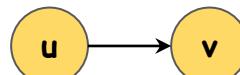


$$\mu_v(t) = \mu_v(t)$$



$$\mu_{\vee}(t) = \mu_v(t)\mu_k(t)$$

**Impulse Response**



$$h_{u,v}(\Delta t) = W_{u,v}f(\Delta t)$$



$$h_{u,v}(\Delta t) = W_{u,v}\mathcal{T}_{k,k'}f(\Delta t)$$

# HMHP (HTM,NetHawkes) v/s DNHP

**HMHP (HTM, NetHawkes)**

$$W_{u,v} \sim \text{Gamma}(N_{u,v} + \alpha_1, N_u + \beta_1)$$

**Note:** Topic-Topic interaction is integrated out in HMHP because of conjugacy

$$\mu_v = \frac{N_v^{(\text{spon})}}{T}$$

**Note:** There is no base rate associated with the topics

**Influence Inference**

**DNHP**

**Coupled/interacting parameters**

$$W_{u,v} \sim \text{Gamma}\left(N_{u,v} + \alpha_1, \sum_k \left(N_{u,k} \sum_{k'} \mathcal{T}_{k,k'}\right) + \beta_1\right)$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{k,k'} \sim \text{Gamma}\left(N_{k,k'} + \alpha_1, \sum_u \left(N_{u,k} \sum_v W_{u,v}\right) + \beta_1\right)$$

**Base Rate Inference**

$$\mu_v = \frac{N_v^{(\text{spon})}}{T \sum_{k \in K} \mu_k} \quad \mu_k = \frac{N_k^{(\text{spon})}}{T \sum_{v \in V} \mu_v}$$

# Results : DNHP

# Datasets

## **Twitter (Real Data):**

- *Tweets from 151 US Congress Members comprising of 360K tweets -- gathered using Twitter API in July 2018.*

## **Semi-Synthetic:**

- *Retain the underlying set of nodes and the follower graph from Twitter Data.*
- *Estimate the parameters required for our model from the data.*
- *Generate 5 different samples of 360K events using DNHP model.*

[DNHP performs better on Semi-Synthetic dataset](#)

# Baselines

- **HWK + DIAG:**
  - *Simplified HMHP with diagonal topical interactions*
- **HWK × LDA:**
  - *Network Hawkes model for cascade structure and time-stamps*
  - *LDA mixture model for the textual content*
- **HMHP**
- **DNHP**

# DNHP Generalization Performance: *Real Dataset*

| AVG. LL (TIME + CONTENT) |        |        |          |         | Higher the better |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|----------|---------|-------------------|
| #Topics = 25             |        |        |          |         |                   |
| TRAIN (TEST)             | DNHP   | HMHP   | HWK+DIAG | HWKxLDA |                   |
| 114K (70K)               | -80.51 | -95.71 | -100.21  | -96.53  |                   |
| 177K (100K)              | -78.09 | -86.66 | -91.06   | -87.34  |                   |
| 240K (130K)              | -76.57 | -80.14 | -83.96   | -80.18  |                   |
| #Topics = 100            |        |        |          |         |                   |
| 114K (70K)               | -80.51 | -95.71 | -102.16  | -97.46  |                   |
| 177K (100K)              | -78.09 | -86.66 | -92.99   | -88.16  |                   |
| 240K (130K)              | -76.57 | -80.14 | -85.64   | -80.88  |                   |

# DNHP Generalization Performance: *Real Dataset*

| AVG. LL (TIME) |              |        |               |        | Higher the better |
|----------------|--------------|--------|---------------|--------|-------------------|
|                | #TOPICS = 25 |        | #TOPICS = 100 |        |                   |
| TRAIN (TEST)   | DNHP         | NHWKS  | DNHP          | NHWKS  |                   |
| 114K(70K)      | -8.74        | -24.46 | -8.04         | -24.46 |                   |
| 177K(100K)     | -7.45        | -16.32 | -7.09         | -16.32 |                   |
| 240K(130K)     | -6.56        | -10.27 | -6.37         | -10.27 |                   |



|        |
|--------|
| 67.13% |
| 56.55% |
| 37.97% |

The gap between DNHP and HMHP is larger for smaller dataset size (the training size).

Parameters are learned efficiently using flow of evidence between parameters.

# Conclusion

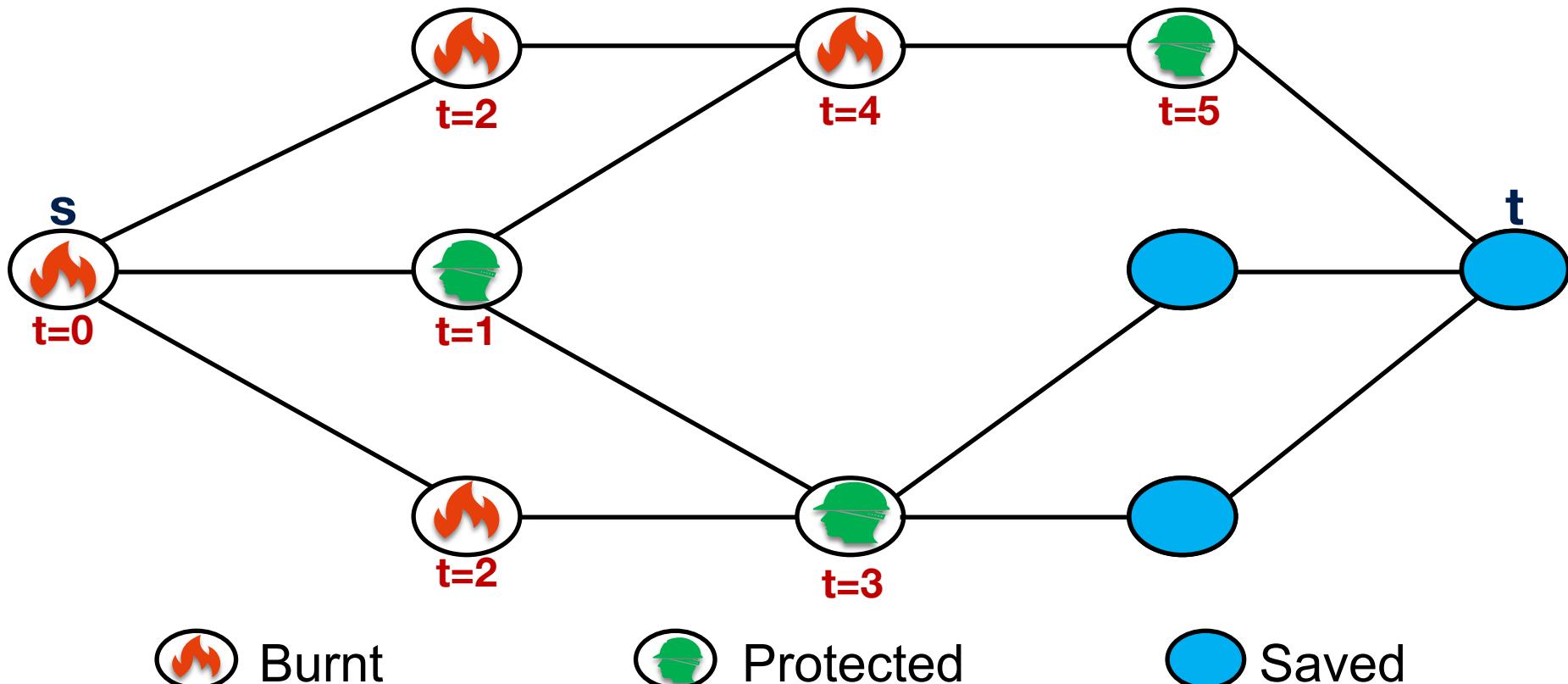
- HMHP & DNHP, account for *topical interactions, user-user influence, user-topic patterns.*
- In DNHP the *rate of generation of events is dependent not only on the users but also on the topic or mark associated with the event.*
- In DNHP, *topical interactions & user-user influence are coupled, and joint estimation of these parameters enables flow of evidence across the parameters.*
- In both HMHP & DNHP, incorporating *topical interactions and the collective inference of parameters leads to more accurate estimation latent parameters, also, fits the real Twitter conversations better* (in terms of test likelihood) as compared to other state-of-the-art models.

## Part-II: Algorithmic Perspective



### Saving a Critical Set with Firefighters

# The Firefighting Problem



# What is there to do?

- Maximizing the spread of influence [Kempe et al. '03]
  - Minimizing the fraction of infected population, minimizing the time of detection of infection [Leskovec et al. '07, Ceren et al. '11]
  - Maximising the number of saved vertices [Cai, Verbin, and Yang, '08]
  - Minimising the number of burned (infected) vertices [Cai, Verbin, and Yang, '08, Finbow, Hartnell, et. al., '09]
  - Minimising the number of rounds, minimising the number of firefighters per round [Anshelevich, Chakrabarty, et. al., '09]
  - Saving a specific set of vertices [King, MacGillivray, '09]
- ❖ *Saving a Critical Set with Firefighters is FPT [Choudhari et al. '17]*

# Saving a Critical Set

## *Saving a Critical Set (SACS)*

**Input:** An undirected  $n$ -vertex graph  $G$ , a vertex  $s$ , a subset  $C \subseteq V(G) \setminus \{s\}$ , and an integer  $k$

**Question:** Is there a valid  $k$ -step strategy that saves  $C$  when a fire breaks out at  $s$ ?

# Basic Definitions

# Fixed Parameter Tractability

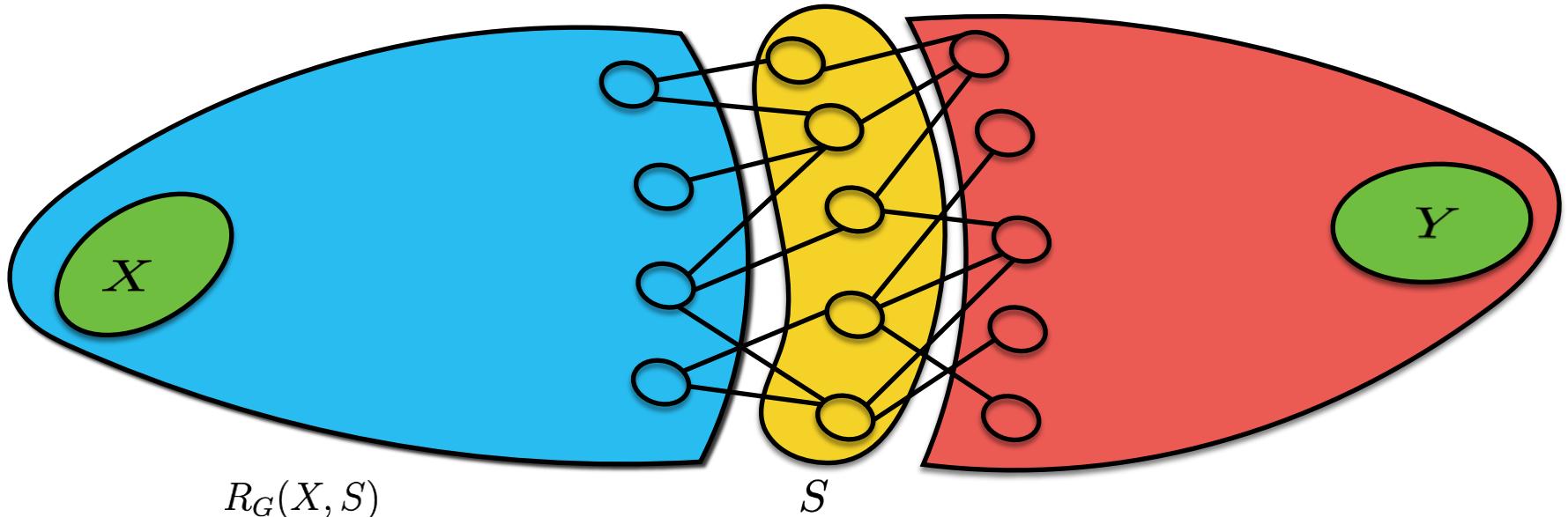
## **Definition (Parameterized Problem):**

A *parameterization* of a decision problem is a function that assigns an integer parameter  $k$  to each input instance  $I$ .

## **Definition (FPT):**

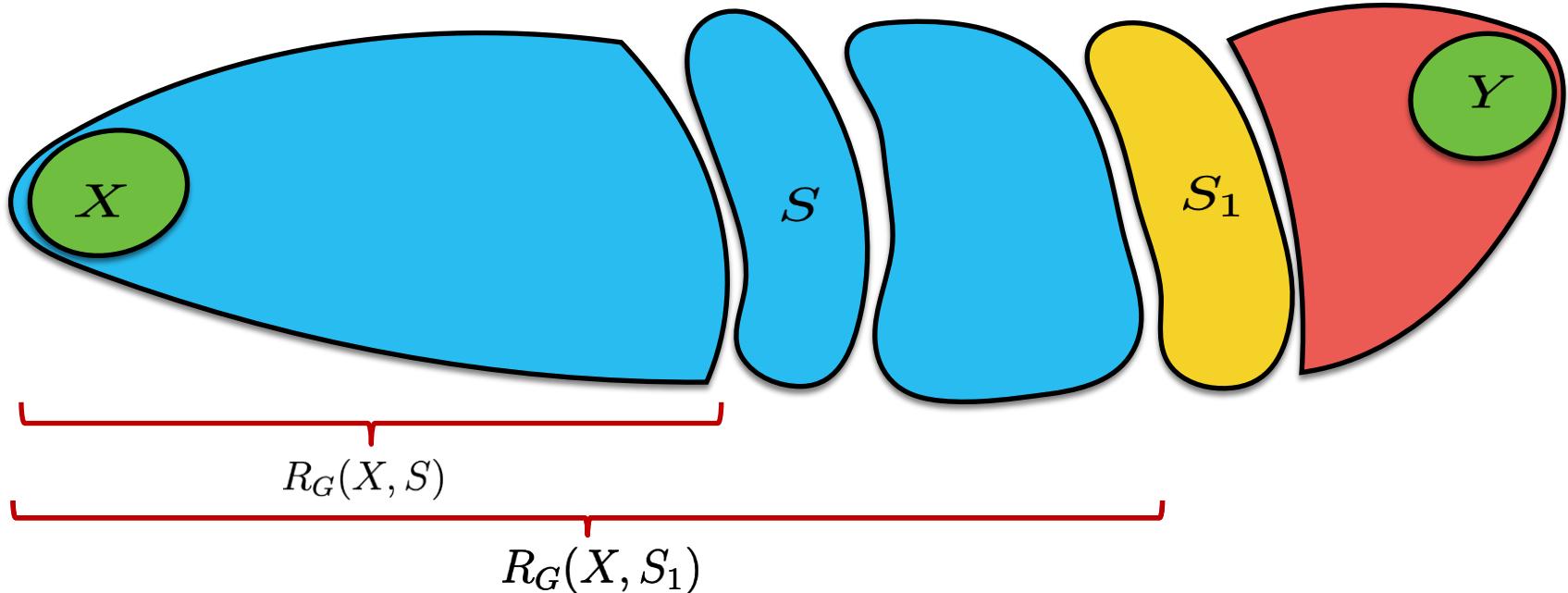
A parameterized problem is *fixed-parameter tractable (FPT)* if there is an  $f(k)n^c$  time algorithm for some *constant*  $c$ .

# Separator



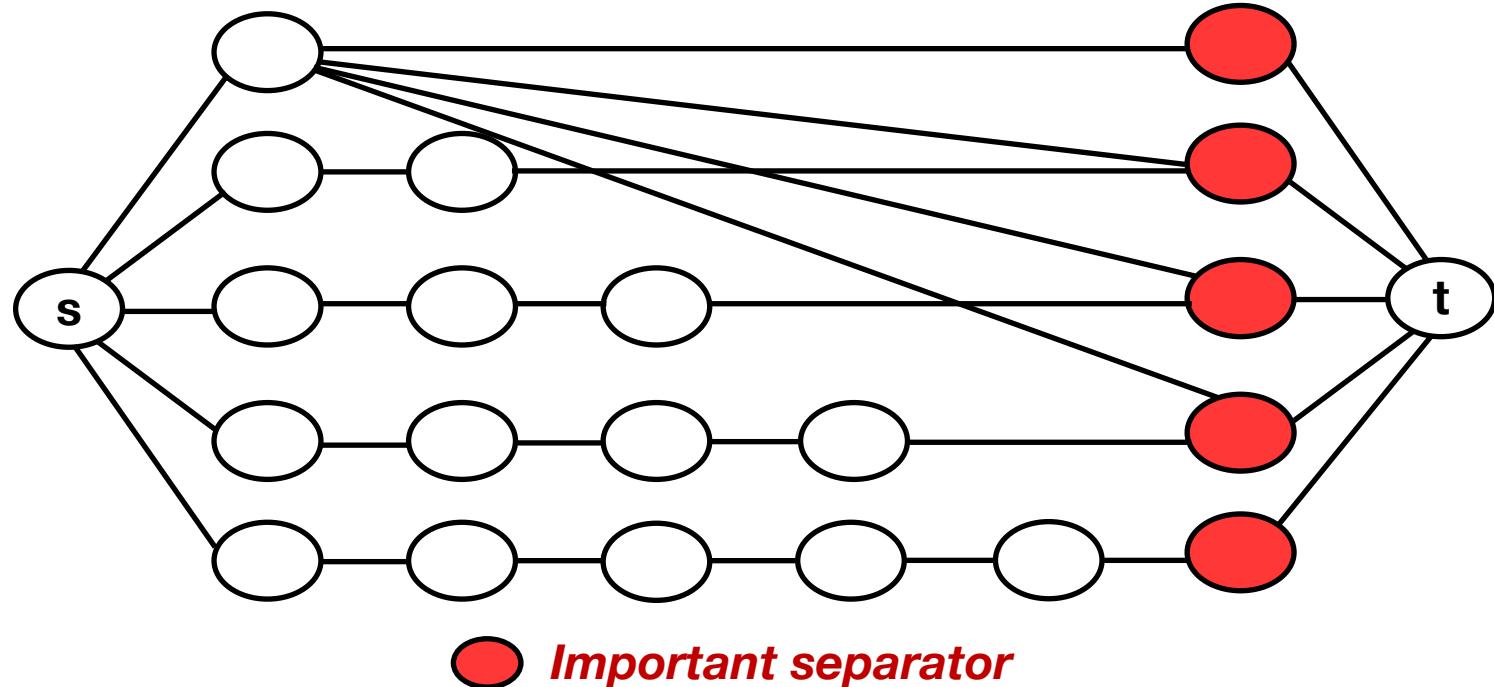
*Reachable Set of  $X$  w.r.t.  $S$*

# Dominating Separator



- $|S_1| \leq |S|$
- $R_G(X, S) \subseteq R_G(X, S_1)$

# Important Separator



*Important separators are those which are **not dominated** by any other separator*

# Firefighting on Trees

# Saving a Critical Set (SACS) on Trees

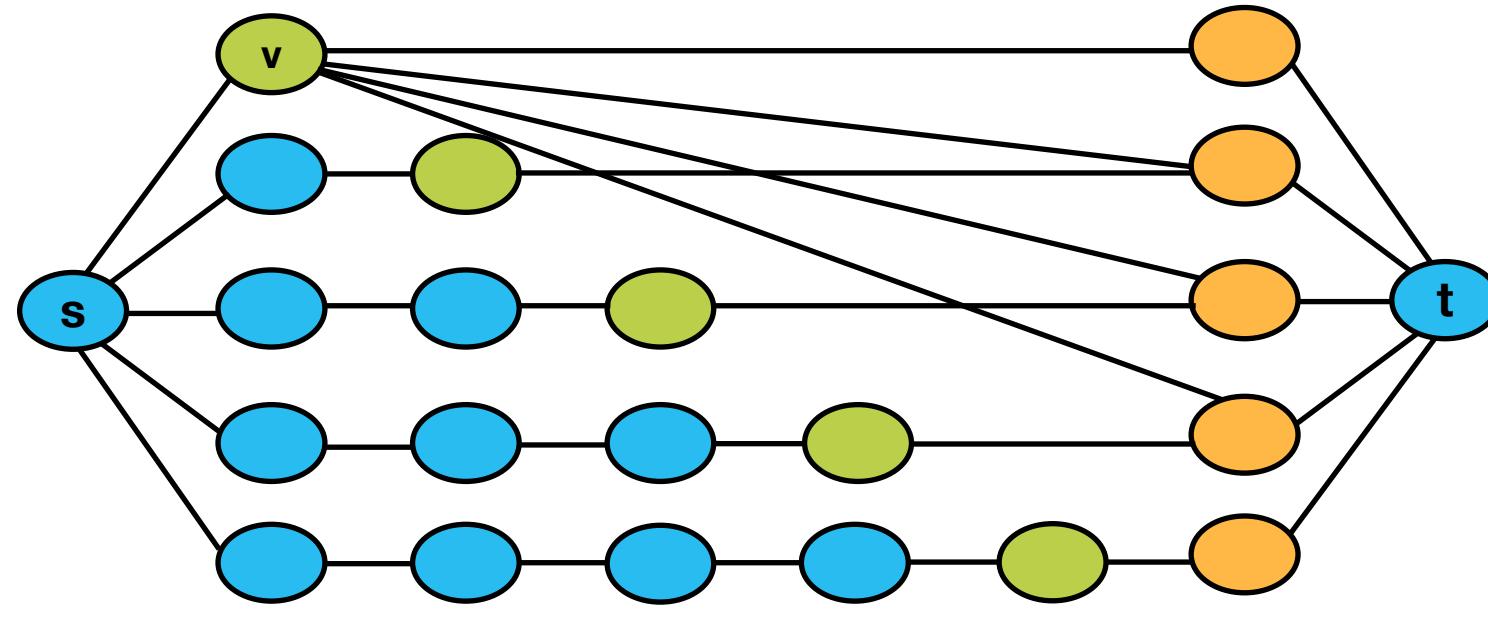
**Theorem: (Marx, '11)**

*For trees, there are at most  $4^k$  important separators of size at most  $k$ .*

*SACS on trees takes time  $O^*(4^k)$*

# Firefighting on Graphs

# Firefighting on Graphs with Important Separators



● *Firefighting Solution*

● *Important Separator*

*Important separators do not suffice !!!*

# Saving a Critical Set: Para-NPC

*Saving A Critical Set (SACS) with critical set of size 1 is a YES-instance  
if and only if  
 $k$ -CLIQUE is an YES-instance*

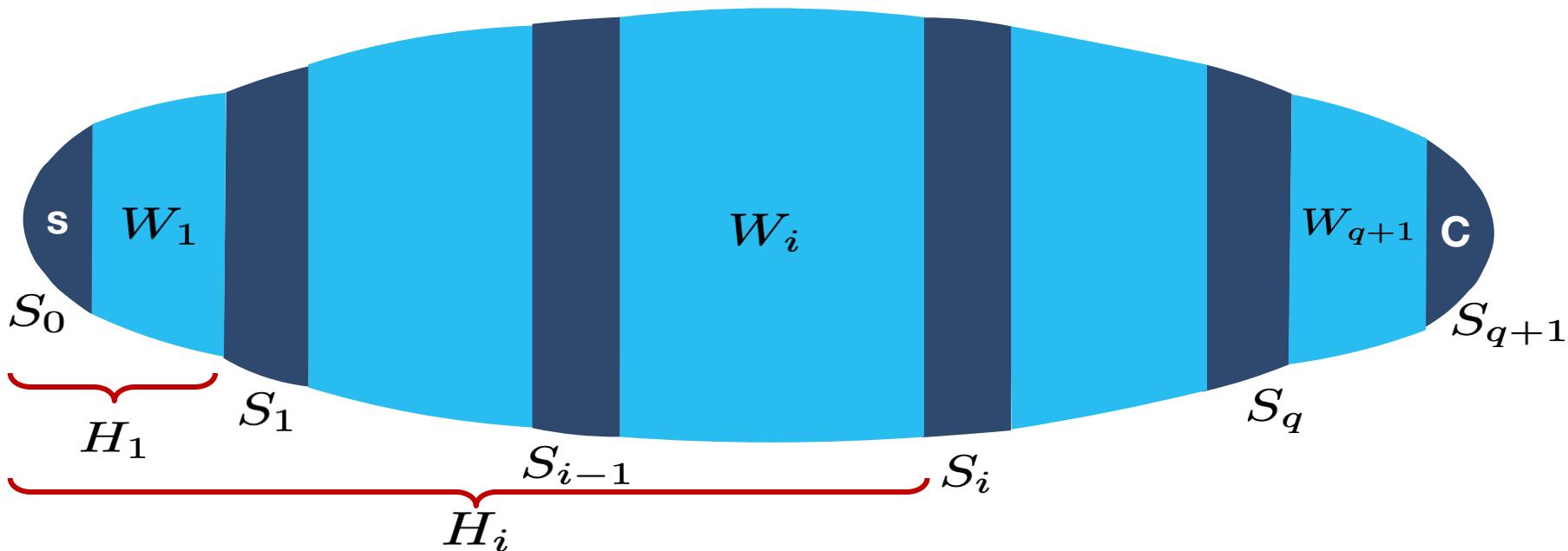
# Saving a Critical Set: Para-NPC

*SACS with critical set of size 1 has a successful strategy with  
 $(k + m - {}^k C_2)$  firefighters in this new graph  $G'$   
if and only if  
 $G$  has a clique of size  $k$*

Proof

# FPT Solution on Graphs

# Tight Separator Sequence ([Formal Definition](#))



*There is an algorithm that runs in time  $O(kmn^2)$  that either correctly concludes that there is no X-Y separator of size at most  $k$  or outputs the required sequence.*

[Lokshtanov et al. '16]

# Overview of the FPT Algorithm

1. Compute a sequence of separators (Tight Separator Sequence) (**bounded in poly n**)
2. Consider a behavior (labeling) of the firefighting solution on the nodes in these separators
3. Consider two consecutive separators and the region between them along with the labelled firefighting solution. Call it as border problem
4. Repeat for all the consecutive border problems (**bounded in k**). If all the border problems return YES, then Algo return YES. Else,
5. Go for the new behavior (labeling) i.e. Step-2 – (#behaviors are bounded in poly k).

# Case 1: $q > k$

Let

$$S = \bigcup_{i=1}^q S_i$$

$$W = \bigcup_{i=1}^{q+1} W_i$$

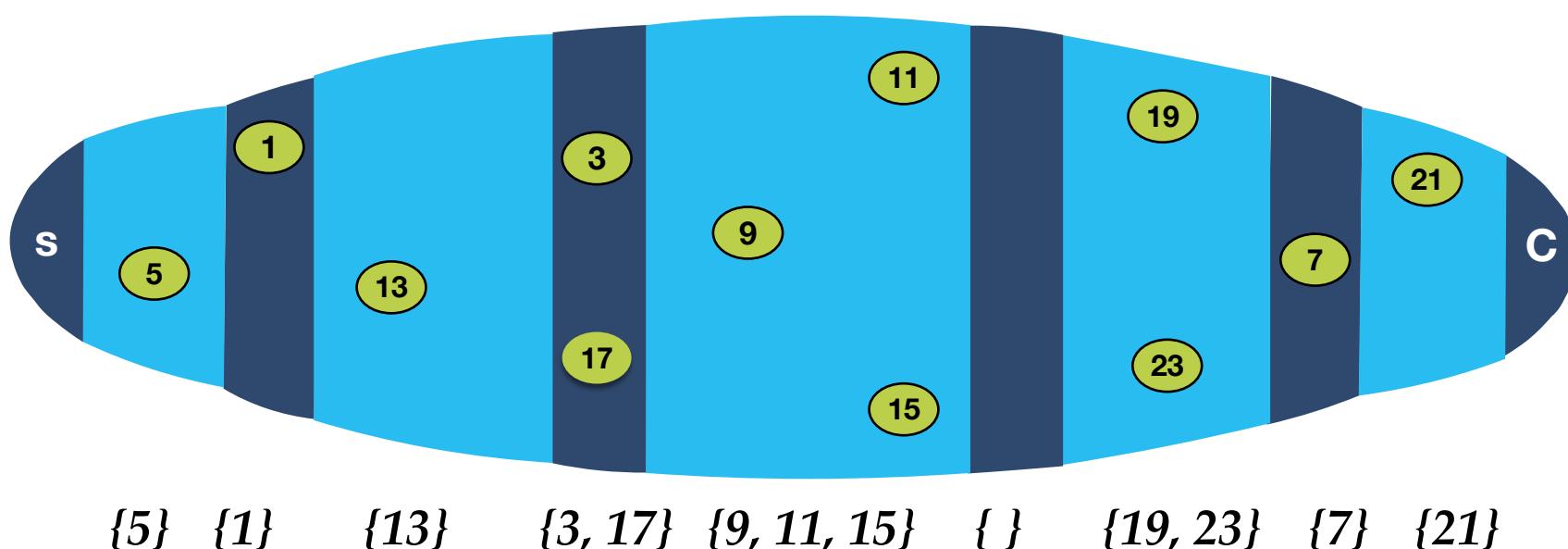
**Claim:** If  $G$  admits a tight  $(s, C)$ -separator sequence of order  $q$  in  $G \setminus Y$  where  $q > k$ , then there exists a  $k$ -step firefighting strategy.

Place the firefighters on the separator =  $S_q$

## Case 2: $q \leq k$

Guess the partition of the timestamps  $P$  for a firefighting strategy

For e.g.,  $P = \{1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23\}$



# Partition over time-stamps

Let,

- $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_q$  denote timestamps for nodes inside  $S$  and
- $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_{q+1}$  denote timestamps for nodes inside  $W$

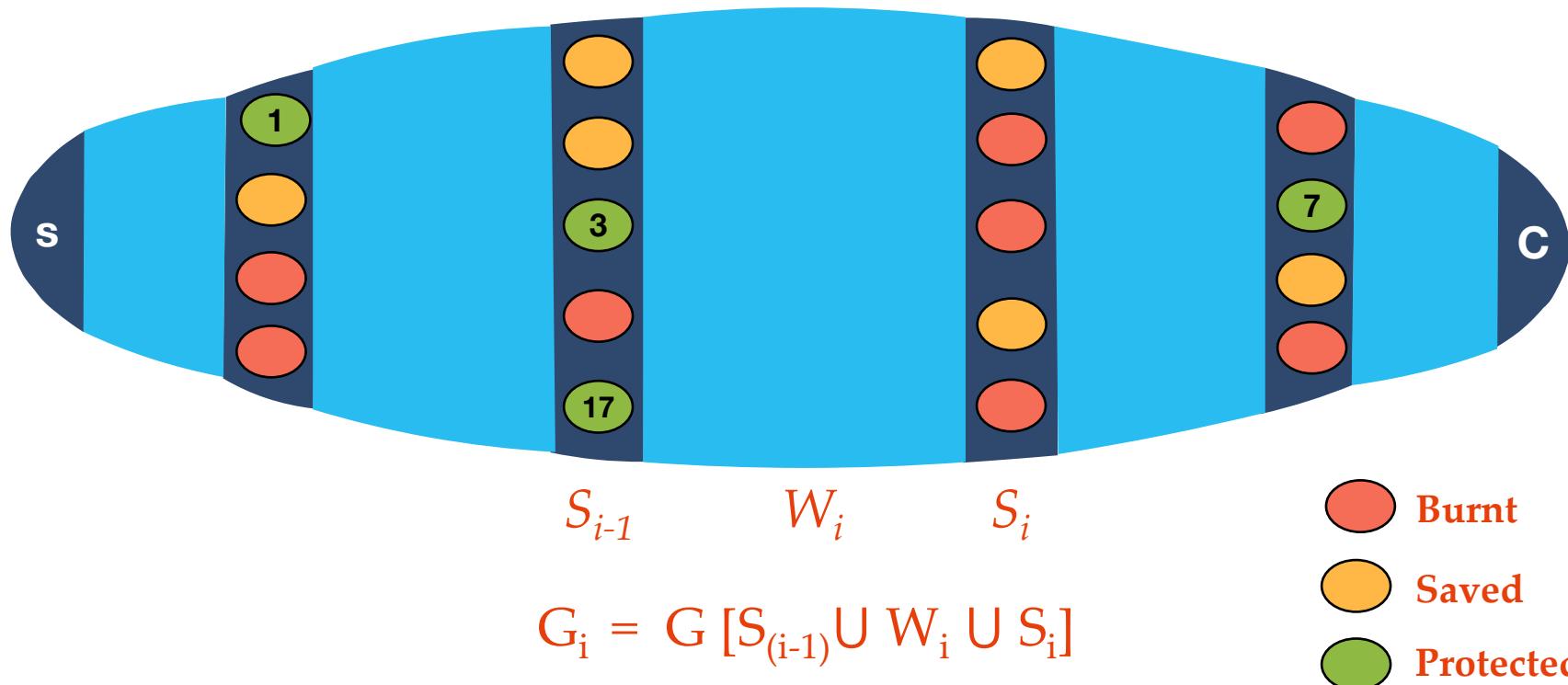
$$P = \bigcup_{i=1}^q A_i \quad \bigcup \quad \bigcup_{i=1}^{q+1} B_i$$

$$|P| = p$$

The number of possible partitions =  $(2q + 1)^p \leq (2k + 1)^k$

# Possible Labeling

Guess the behaviour of the strategy restricted to  $S = \cup_{i=1 \dots q} S_i$



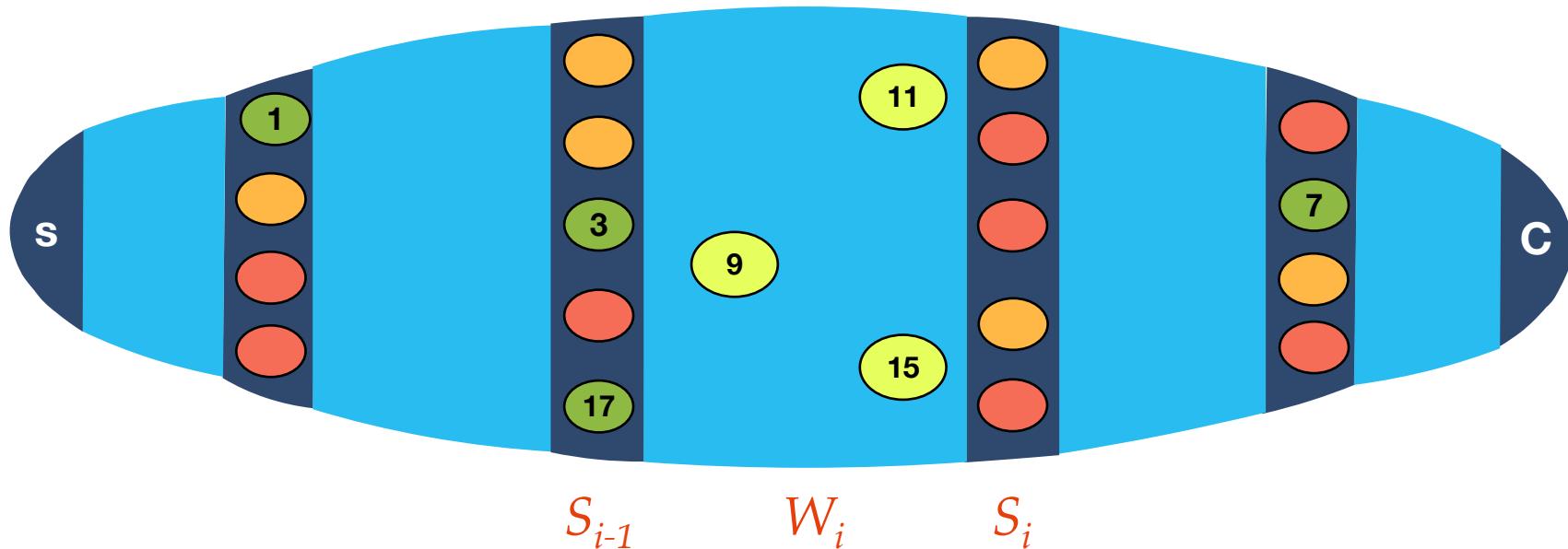
# Possible Labelings

$$\mathcal{L} = (\{\mathfrak{f}\} \times X) \cup (\{\mathfrak{b}\} \times [2k]_E) \cup \{\mathfrak{p}\}$$

$$\mathfrak{L}_{\mathfrak{h}}(v) = \begin{cases} (\mathfrak{f}, t) & \text{if } \mathfrak{h}(t) = v, \\ (\mathfrak{b}, t) & \text{if } t \text{ is the earliest timestep at which } v \text{ burns,} \\ \mathfrak{p} & \text{if } v \text{ is not reachable from } s \text{ in } G \setminus (\{\mathfrak{h}(i) \mid i \in [2k]_O\}) \end{cases}$$

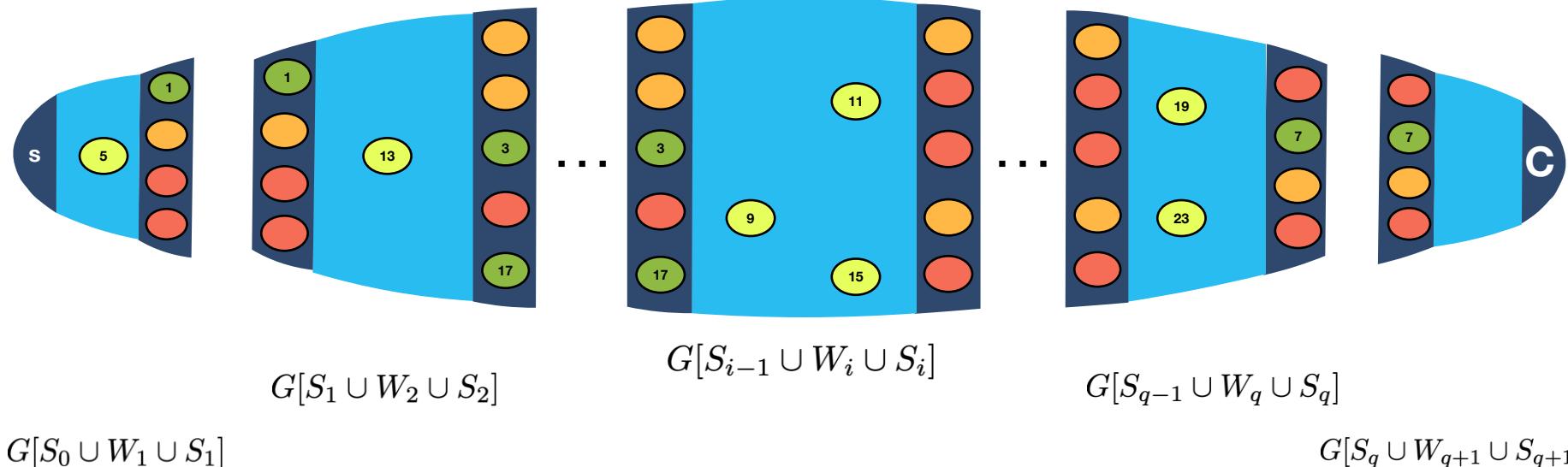
*The number of possible partitions =  $(k + k + 1)^{k*k} \leq (3k)^{k^2} \leq k^{O(k^2)}$*

# The Border Problem : Solve Recursively

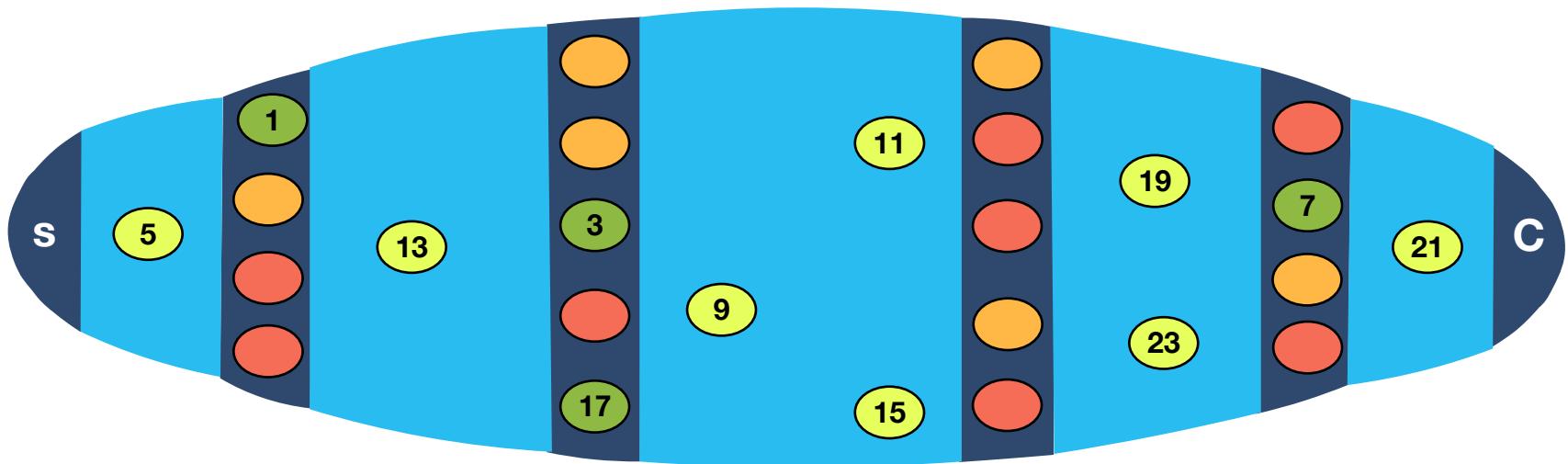


$$G_i = G [S_{(i-1)} \cup W_i \cup S_i]$$

# The Border Problem : Solve Recursively



# Combining the Solution



Patch all the Border Problems together

# Algorithm

---

**Algorithm 1:** Solve-SACS-R( $\mathcal{I}$ )

---

**Input:** An instance  $(G, s, C, k, g, P, Q, Y, \gamma)$ ,  $p := |P|$   
**Result:** YES if  $\mathcal{I}$  is a YES-instance of SACS-R, and NO otherwise.

- 1 **if**  $p = 0$  and  $s$  and  $C$  are in different components of  $G \setminus Y$  **then return** YES;
- 2 **else return** NO;
- 3 **if**  $p > 0$  and  $s$  and  $C$  are in different components of  $G \setminus Y$  **then return** YES;
- 4 **if** there is no  $s - C$  separator of size at most  $p$  **then return** NO;
- 5 Compute a tight  $s - C$  separator sequence  $\mathcal{S}$  of order  $p$ .
- 6 **if** the number of separators in  $\mathcal{S}$  is greater than  $k$  **then return** YES;
- 7 **else**
  - 8   **for** a non-trivial partition  $\mathcal{T}_1(P), \mathcal{T}_2(P)$  of  $P$  into  $2q + 1$  parts **do**
  - 9     **for** a labeling  $\mathfrak{T}$  compatible with  $\mathcal{T}_1(P)$  **do**
  - 10       **if**  $\bigwedge_{i=1}^{q+1} (\text{Solve-SACS-R}(\mathcal{I}\langle i, \mathcal{T}_1(P), \mathcal{T}_2(P), \mathfrak{T}_i \rangle))$  **then return** YES;
- 11 **return** NO

# Running Time

$$T(n, m, k, p) \leq O(n^2 mp) + (p + k + 1)^{kp} \sum_{i=1}^{q+1} T(n_i, m_i, k, p_i)$$

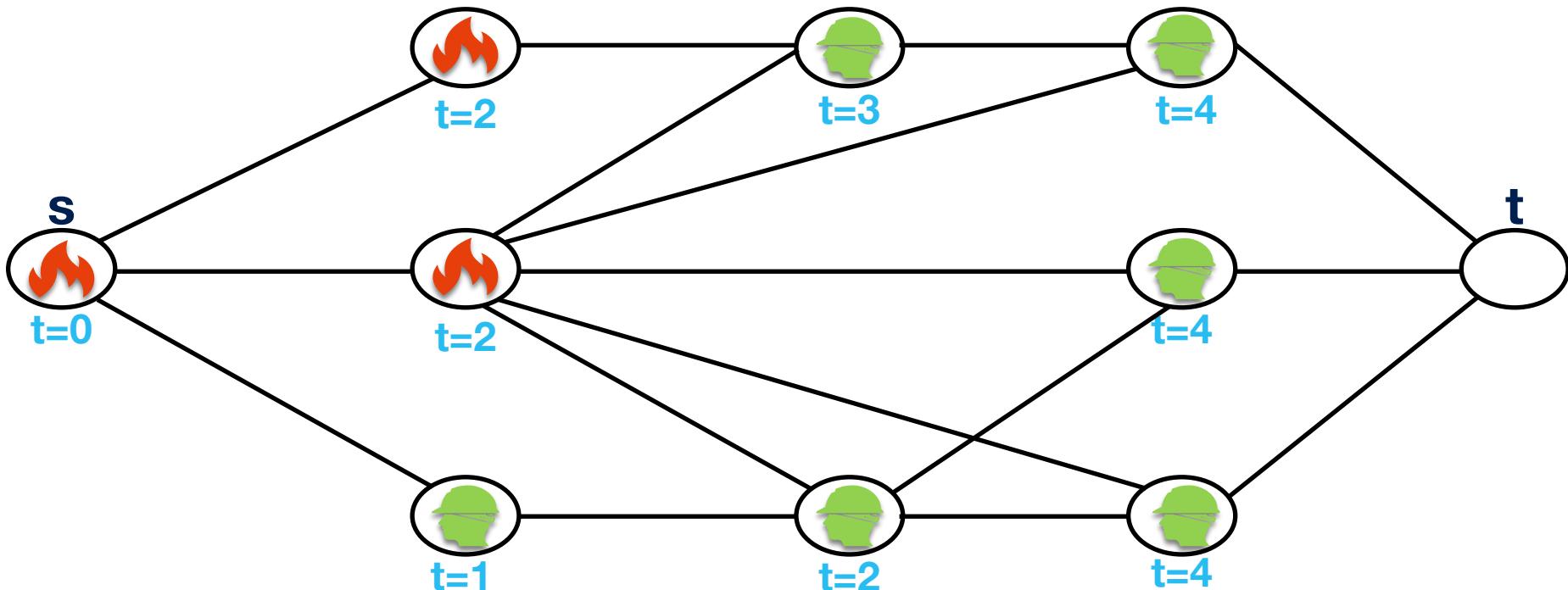
Recall that:

- each  $p_i \leq k$ ,
- the depth of recursion is bounded by  $p$ , and
- at each level, the work done is proportional to  $k^{O(kp)} n^2 m$

**SACS is FPT and has an algorithm with running time  $f(k) O(n^2 m)$**   
where,  $f(k) = k^{O(\text{poly } k)}$ .

# The Spreading Model

# Firefighting: The Spreading Model



# Spreading Vaccination Model

*In the spreading model, SACS is hard as  $k$ -DOMINATING SET*

# Kernels on Trees

# Kernelization

*A kernelization algorithm, or simply a kernel, for a parameterized problem  $Q$  is an algorithm  $A$  that, given an instance  $(I, k)$  of  $Q$ , works in polynomial time and returns an equivalent instance  $(I', k')$  of  $Q$ . Moreover, we require that  $k' \leq k$ .*

# Firefighting on Trees: No poly Kernels

*SACS when restricted to trees does not admit a polynomial kernel.*

*The unparameterized version of SACS restricted to trees cross composes to SACS restricted to trees when parameterized by the number of firefighters*

# Conclusion & Future Work

# Conclusion

- HMHP & DNHP, account for *topical interactions, user-user influence, user-topic patterns.*
- In DNHP the *rate of generation of events is dependent not only on the users but also on the topic or mark associated with the event.*
- In DNHP, *topical interactions & user-user influence are coupled, and joint estimation of these parameters enables flow of evidence across the parameters.*
- In both HMHP & DNHP, incorporating *topical interactions and the collective inference of parameters leads to more accurate estimation latent parameters, also, fits the real Twitter conversations better* (in terms of test likelihood) as compared to other state-of-the-art models.

- SACS is FPT when *parameterized by number of firefighters.*
- *No polynomial sized kernel for trees.*
- *In contrast to general Firefighting model, the spreading model is W[2]-Hard.*

# Open Questions

- Sample complexity for Single Topic Model [*Arora et al. 2012, Bhattacharya Kannan, 2020*]
- Bayesian Non-Parametric
- Scalable inference (and log-likelihood calculation) for cascade-based models. (*Can this be framed as an FPT problem?*)
- Sketches to maintain high dimensional matrices [*Tassarotti et al. 2019*]
- Priors for incorporating correlation among parameters

# Open Questions

- Probabilistic spread of fire
- Vaccination Strategies [Grauer et al., 2020]
- Maintaining separators in a streaming and/or dynamic settings
- Firefighter over insertion stream of edges and/or in a dynamic streams

# Acknowledgements (Images used)

- <https://towardsdatascience.com/how-bad-will-the-coronavirus-outbreak-get-predicting-the-outbreak-figures-f0b8e8b61991> (Outbreak Prediction)
- [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lasswell%20%99s\\_Model\\_of\\_Communication.gif](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lasswell%20%99s_Model_of_Communication.gif) (Lasswell Model of Communication)
- [https://stemlounge.com/content/images/2019/12/animated\\_algorithms.gif](https://stemlounge.com/content/images/2019/12/animated_algorithms.gif) (Animated Algorithms)
- <https://tenor.com/view/coronavirus-c%C3%B3mo-detener-al-coronavirus-how-to-stop-coronavirus-match-fire-gif-16603787> (Burning sticks)
- <https://i.stack.imgur.com/qlqty.gif> (Forest Fire Model)
- <https://digiphile.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/twitter-gid.gif?w=640> (Tweets Flying)
- [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1TeiJSdd5UjT3YajNt3XkUA0HfK\\_EOjx14wcUvbAwm9c/](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1TeiJSdd5UjT3YajNt3XkUA0HfK_EOjx14wcUvbAwm9c/) (Basics Slides)
- <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1708.06401.pdf> (Hawkes Process Demo Image)

# Summary of Research Work

1. DNHP (Full Version). *Choudhari J., Bhattacharya I., Dasgupta A., Bedathur S.* (To be Submitted to WSDM - 2021)
2. Unified MTPP. *Choudhari J., Bhattacharya I., Dasgupta A., Bedathur S.* **TPP Workshop: NeurIPS-2019**
3. Discovering Topical Interactions in Text-Based Cascades Using HMHP. *Choudhari J., Dasgupta A., Bhattacharya I., Bedathur S.* **ICDM-2018**
4. Saving Critical Nodes with Firefighters is FPT. *Misra N., Choudhari J., Dasgupta A., Ramanujan M.*, **ICALP 2017**
  
1. Efficient Hierarchical Clustering for Classification and Anomaly Detection. Doshi I., Sajjala S., Bhatt R., Dasgupta A., *Choudhari J.*, (Aug.-2020 ArXiv)
2. One Pass Sampling for Symmetric Tensor Factorization. Shit S., Chhaya R., Dasgupta A. *Choudhari J.* (ICML 2020)
3. Nearly Optimal Space Efficient Algorithm for Depth First Search. Gupta M., Sharma S. *Choudhari J.* (2019 - ArXiv)
4. On Structural Parameterizations of Happy Coloring, Empire Coloring and Boxicity. Reddy V., *Choudhari J.* **WALCOM-2018**
5. BioGen: Automated Biography Generation. Ambavi H., Garg A., Garg A., Sharma M., Sharma R., *Choudhari J.*, Singh M. **JCDL-2019**
6. Contextual Emotion Detection Using Deep Learning. Pamnani A., Goel R., Singh M., *Choudhari J.*, **SEMEVAL-2019**
7. AgriBot: Agriculture-Specific Question Answer System. Jain N., Jain P., Kayal P., Sahit J., Pachpande S., *Choudhari J.*, Singh M. **STEM-2018**
  
1. Multiple Source Fault Tolerant Approximate Shortest Path. *Gupta M., Chugh K., Choudhari J.* (TBD)
2. Eigenvector estimation in an Online setting. *Doshi I., Dasgupta A., Choudhari J.* (TBD)
3. Coresets for KL-Divergence (non-metric spaces). *Dasgupta A., Choudhari J., Chhaya R.* (TBD)
4. Approximately Counting Triangles in a graph in Random walk model. *Haddadan S., Dasgupta A., Choudhari J.* (TBD)
5. Estimating the number of nodes in a graph in Random walk model. *Haddadan S., Dasgupta A., Choudhari J.* (TBD)

# Thank You!



*Questions?*

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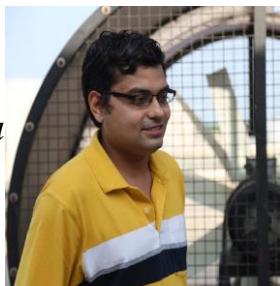


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Collaborator*



*Prof. Chetan Pahlajani  
DSC Members*

## *FDC Members*



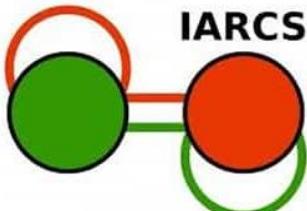
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## *Friends*



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*Friends*

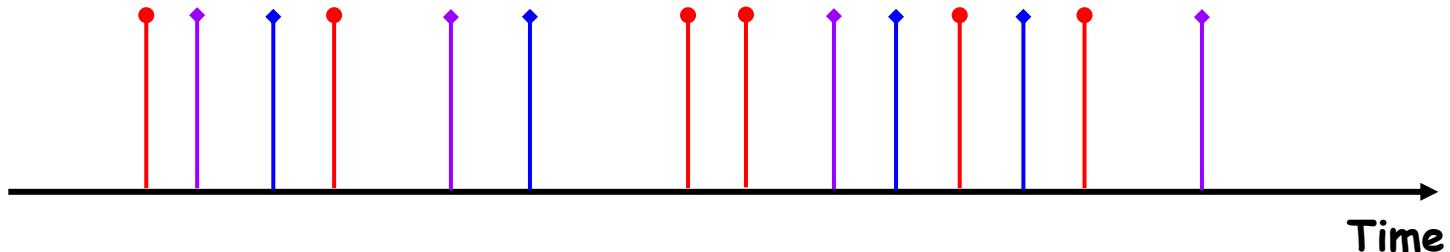


# Acknowledgements

## *Family*



# Marked Temporal Point Process (MTPP)



$$\mathcal{H} = \{e_0 = (t_0, \eta_0), e_1 = (t_1, \eta_1), \dots, e_n = (t_n, \eta_n)\}$$

$$t_i \in \mathbb{R}, \eta_i \in \mathbb{Z}$$

- Sequence of events of type  $\eta_i$  at times  $t_i$ 
  - Continuous Time
  - Discrete, continuous (or mixed) marks (could be vector of marks)

# Self-exciting Point Process (Univariate Hawkes Process)

Fig. 1

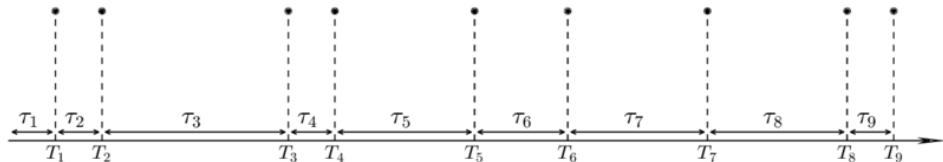
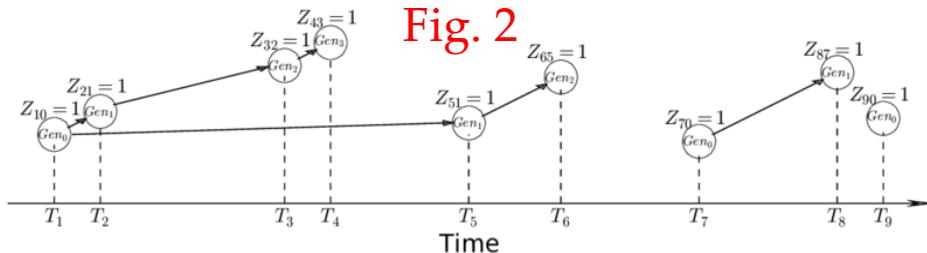


Fig. 2



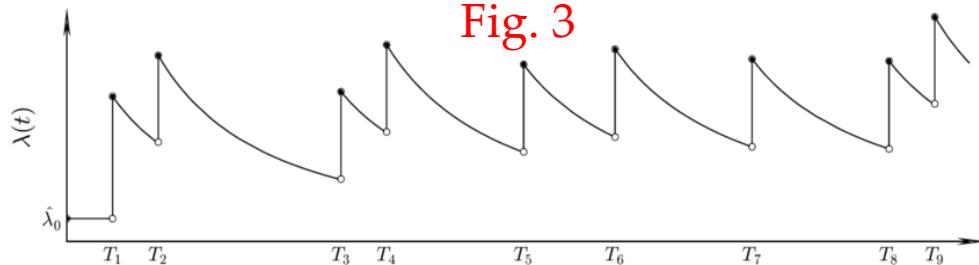
Time-stamps are characterized by an intensity function:

$$\lambda(t)dt := \Pr(\text{event in } [t + dt) | \mathcal{H}_{t-})$$

$$\text{Let } c_n = v$$

$$\lambda_v(t) = \mu_v(t) + \sum_{n=1}^{|\mathcal{H}_{t-}|} h_{c_n, v}(t - t_n)$$

Fig. 3



# Dataset + Baseline

- **HWK + DIAG:**
  - *Simplified HMHP with diagonal topical interactions*
- **HWK × LDA:**
  - *Network Hawkes model for cascade structure and time-stamps*
  - *LDA mixture model for the textual content*
- **HTM (Hawkes Topic Model)**

# HMHP Results: *Semi-Synthetic Dataset*

| PARENT IDENTIFICATION |       |          |         |
|-----------------------|-------|----------|---------|
|                       | HMHP  | HWK+DIAG | HWKxLDA |
| ACCURACY              | 0.58  | 0.36     | 0.37    |
| RECALL @1             | 0.595 | 0.373    | 0.380   |
| RECALL @3             | 0.778 | 0.584    | 0.589   |
| RECALL @5             | 0.838 | 0.674    | 0.678   |

Higher the better

HMHP performs better at both Parent Identification and Network Reconstruction tasks.

| NETWORK RECONSTRUCTION    |       |          |         |
|---------------------------|-------|----------|---------|
|                           | HMHP  | HWK+DIAG | HWKxLDA |
| MRE                       | 0.448 | 0.565    | 0.552   |
| MRE ( $N_{uv} \geq 100$ ) | 0.398 | 0.520    | 0.496   |

Lower the better

# DNHP Results: *Semi-Synthetic Dataset*

| PARENT IDENTIFICATION |      |      |
|-----------------------|------|------|
|                       | DNHP | HMHP |
| ACCURACY              | 0.45 | 0.28 |
| RECALL @1             | 0.52 | 0.29 |
| RECALL @3             | 0.73 | 0.46 |
| RECALL @5             | 0.81 | 0.56 |

Higher the better

| NETWORK RECONSTRUCTION    |      |      |
|---------------------------|------|------|
|                           | DNHP | HMHP |
| MRE                       | 0.39 | 0.69 |
| MRE ( $N_{uv} \geq 100$ ) | 0.28 | 0.66 |

Lower the better

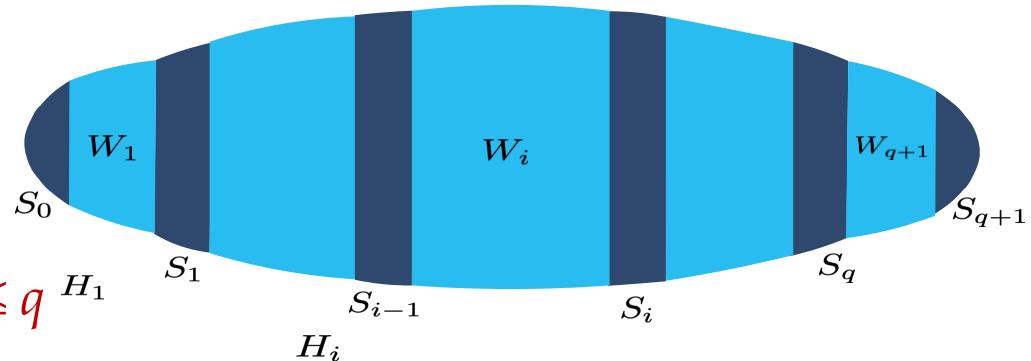
**DNHP** performs better than **HMHP** at both Parent Identification and Network Reconstruction tasks.

# Tight Separator Sequence

Let  $X, Y$  be two subset of vertices in the graph  $G$ .

Then, a **tight  $(X, Y)$ -reachability sequence of order  $k$**  is an ordered collection  $H = \{H_1, H_2, \dots, H_q\}$  of sets of  $V(G)$  satisfying the following properties

1.  $H_1 \subset H_2 \subset \dots \subset H_q$
2.  $|N(H_i)| \leq k$ , for all  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq q$
3.  $S_i = N(H_i)$ , for all  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq q$  is a minimal  $(X, Y)$ -separator in  $G$



# Saving a Critical Set: Para-NPC

