

**AAAI-15**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**January 25-29, 2015**

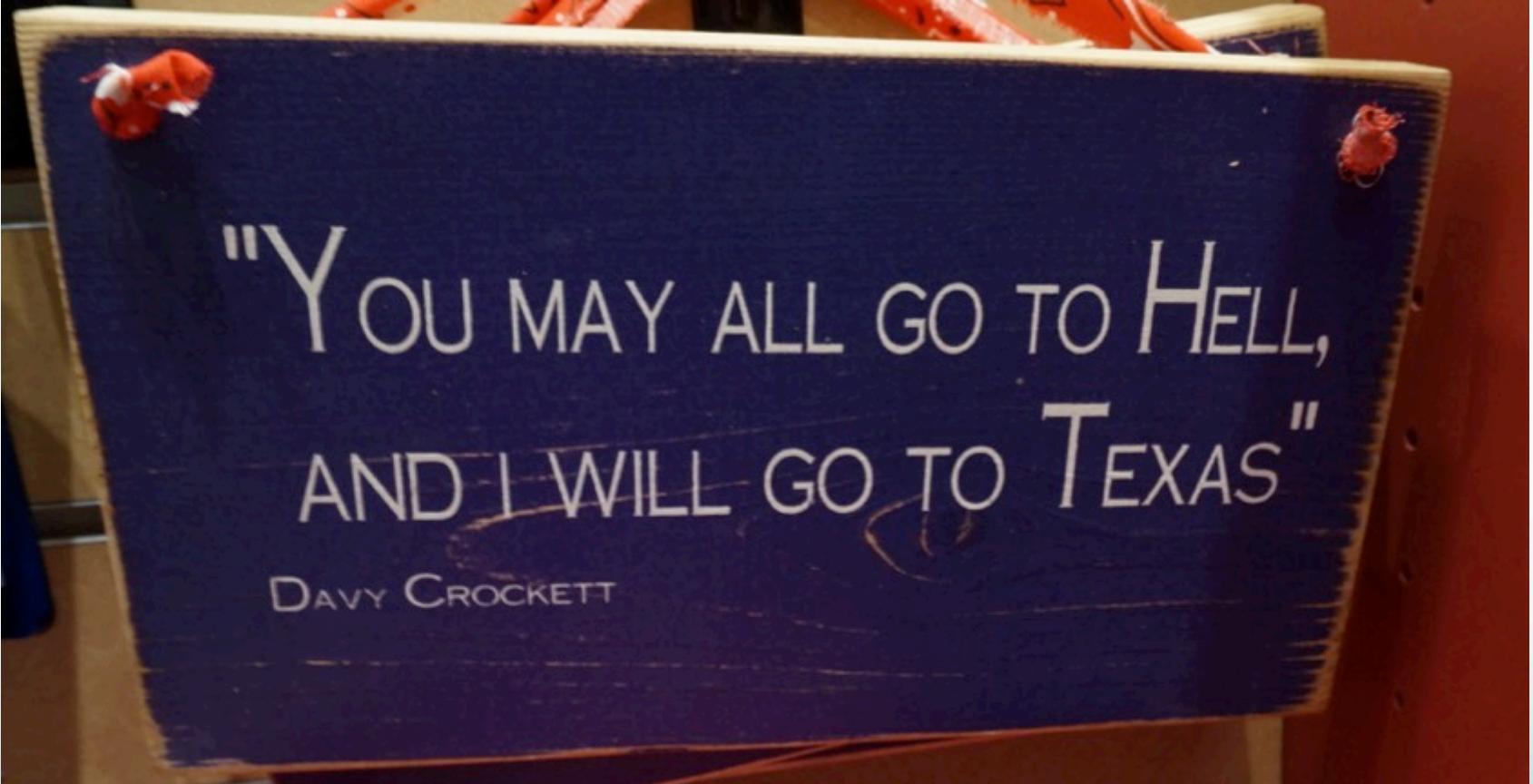
**Debrief by Tao Chen  
Feb 27, 2015**

# Austin, Texas, USA



# Texas: The Lone Star State

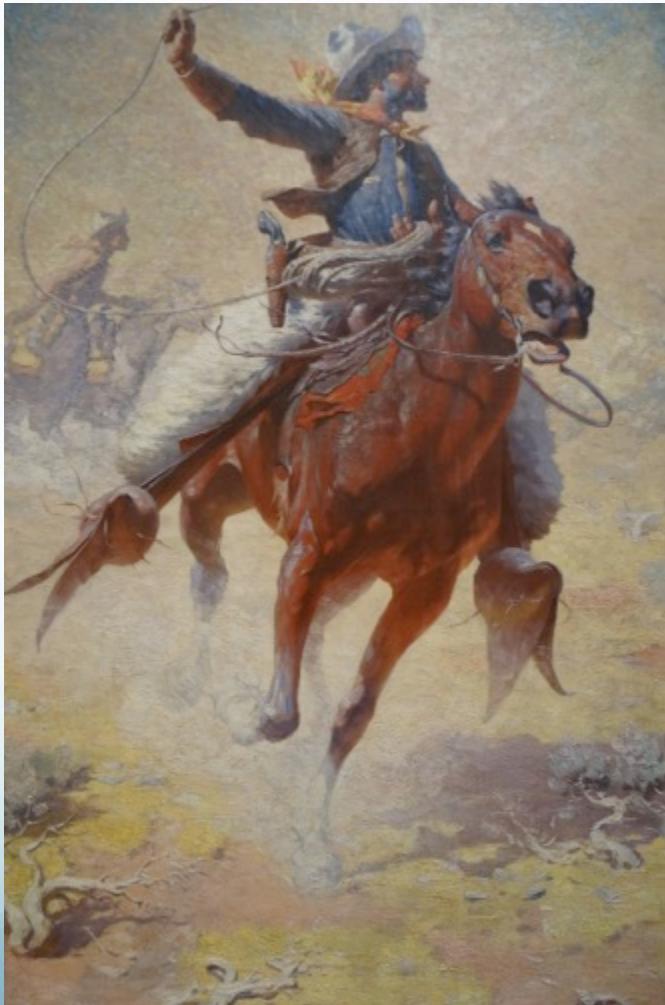




"YOU MAY ALL GO TO HELL,  
AND I WILL GO TO TEXAS"

DAVY CROCKETT

# Before I went



# When I was there





# Texas State Capitol







# Colorado River

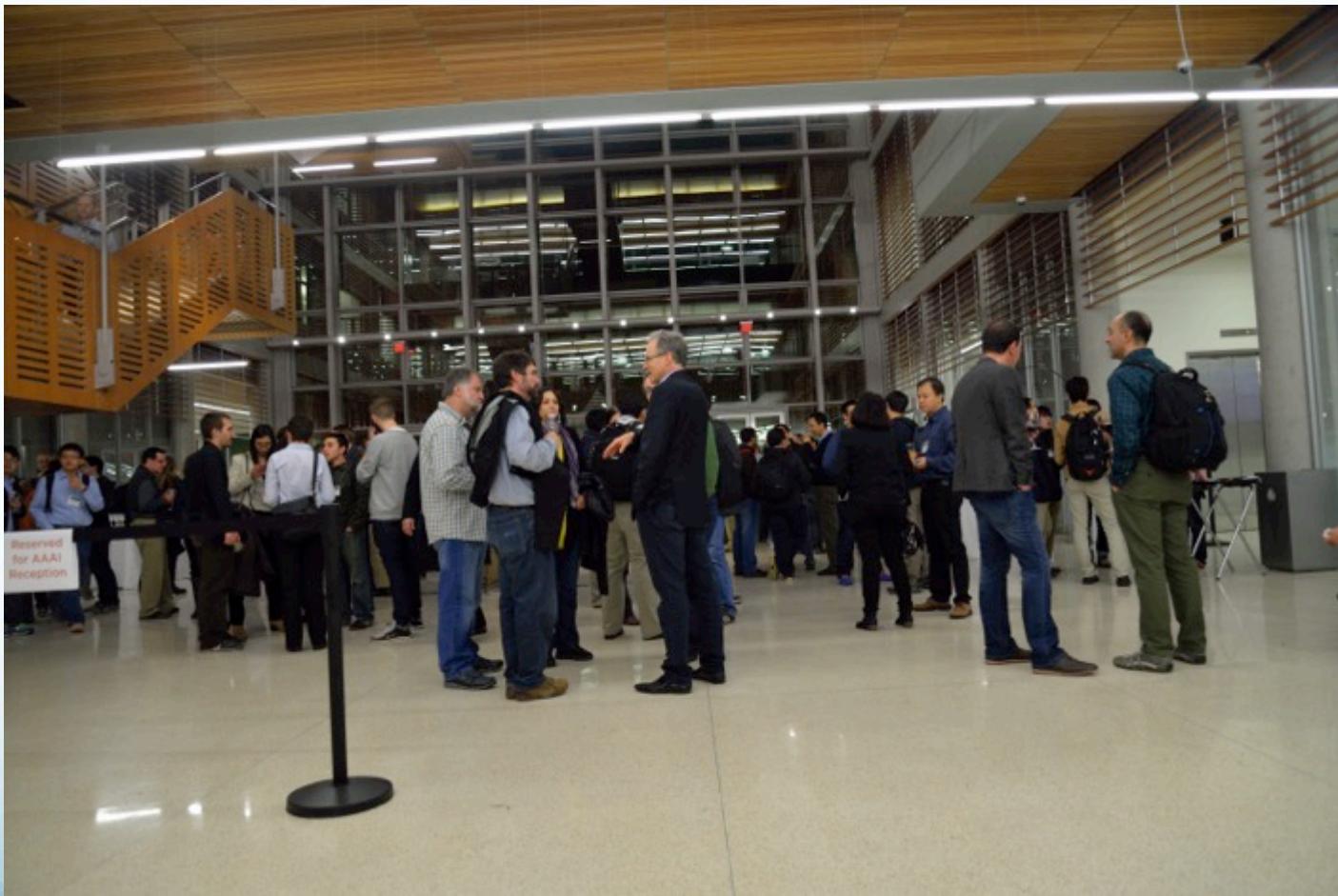




# University of Texas, Austin



# Reception at UT, Austin



# Big Picture of AAAI

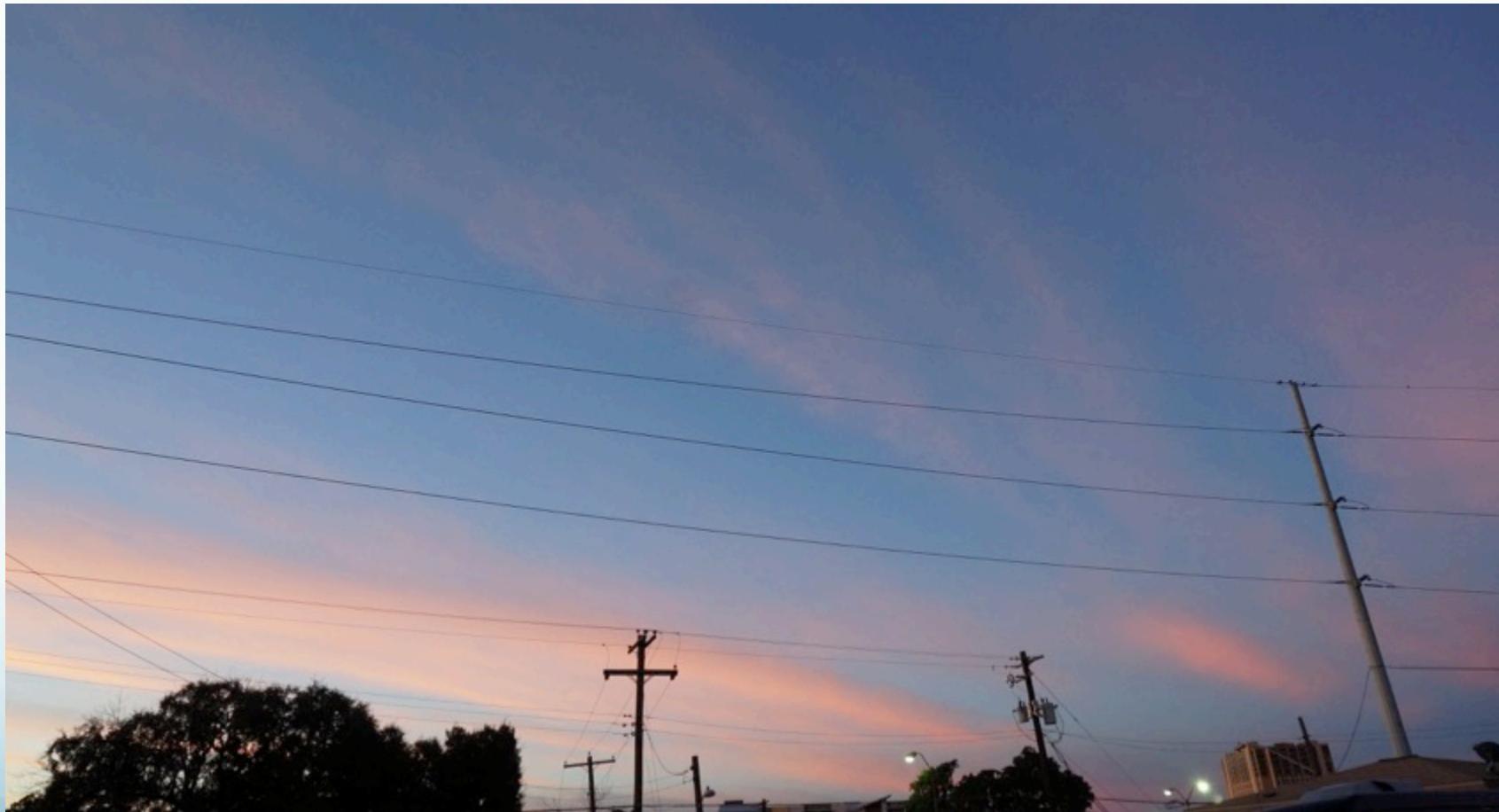


- Information about main technical track
  - 1991 submissions (1406 submission in AAAI-14)
  - 539 accepted papers (=27% acceptance rate)
  - AAAI-15 is 5.5 days (one day longer than AAAI-14)
  - First winter AI conference
- Tracks
  - AI and the Web (7 sessions)
  - Natural Language Processing (4 sessions)
  - Machine Learning (9 sessions)
  - Vision (3 sessions)
  - Traditional AI: Cognitive Systems, Computational Sustainability, Game Theory, Multiagent Systems, etc



<https://twitter.com/maidylm/status/560542250195619840>

# Tight Schedule: 8:30am – 8:30pm



# Talks Given by Senior Members



- Senior Member Blue Sky Talks
- What's Hot Talks
- Classic Paper Talk
- Panel Discussions

## Breakfast with Champions



## Lunch with an AAAI Fellow

Murray Campbell, Father of Deep Blue



# Robots are everywhere!



# Best Papers

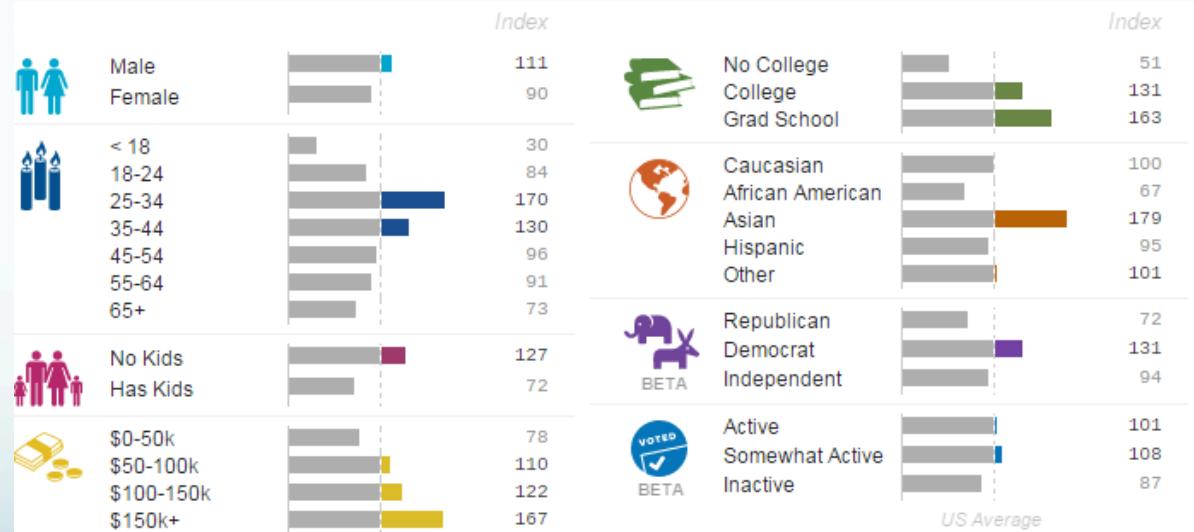
- Outstanding Paper
  - “*From Non-Negative to General Operator Cost Partitioning*”
- Outstanding Paper Honorable Mention
  - “*Predicting the Demographics of Twitter Users from Website Traffic Data*”. Aron Culotta, Nirmal Kumar Ravi and Jennifer Cutler , Illinois Institute of Technology
- Outstanding Student Paper
  - “*Surpassing Human-Level Face Verification Performance on LFW with GaussianFace*”

# Predicting the Demographics of Twitter Users from Website Traffic Data. [Aron Culotta et al.]

- Create a distantly labeled dataset, instead of using manually labeled dataset

**quantcast** Track the demographics of visitors of websites

E.g., [eater.com](http://eater.com)



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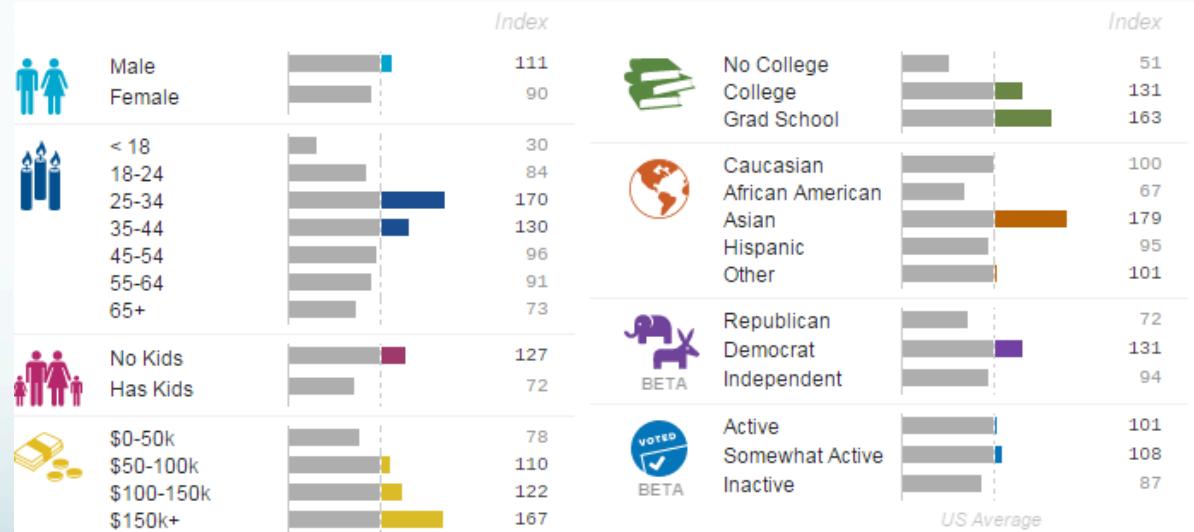
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E.g., eater.com

Search

Easter's Twitter Account



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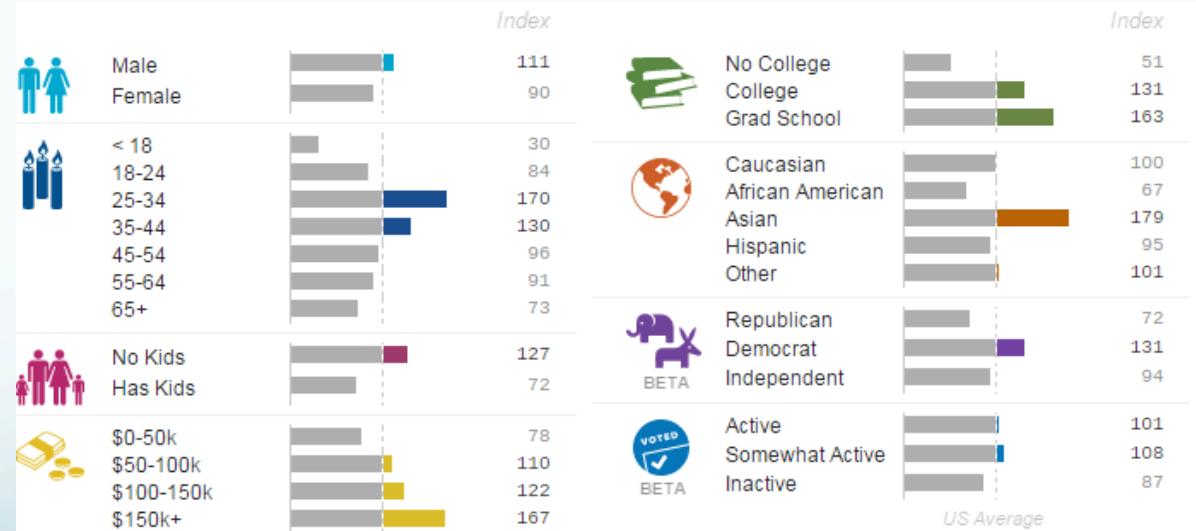
E.g., eater.com

Search

Easter's Twitter Account

Follow

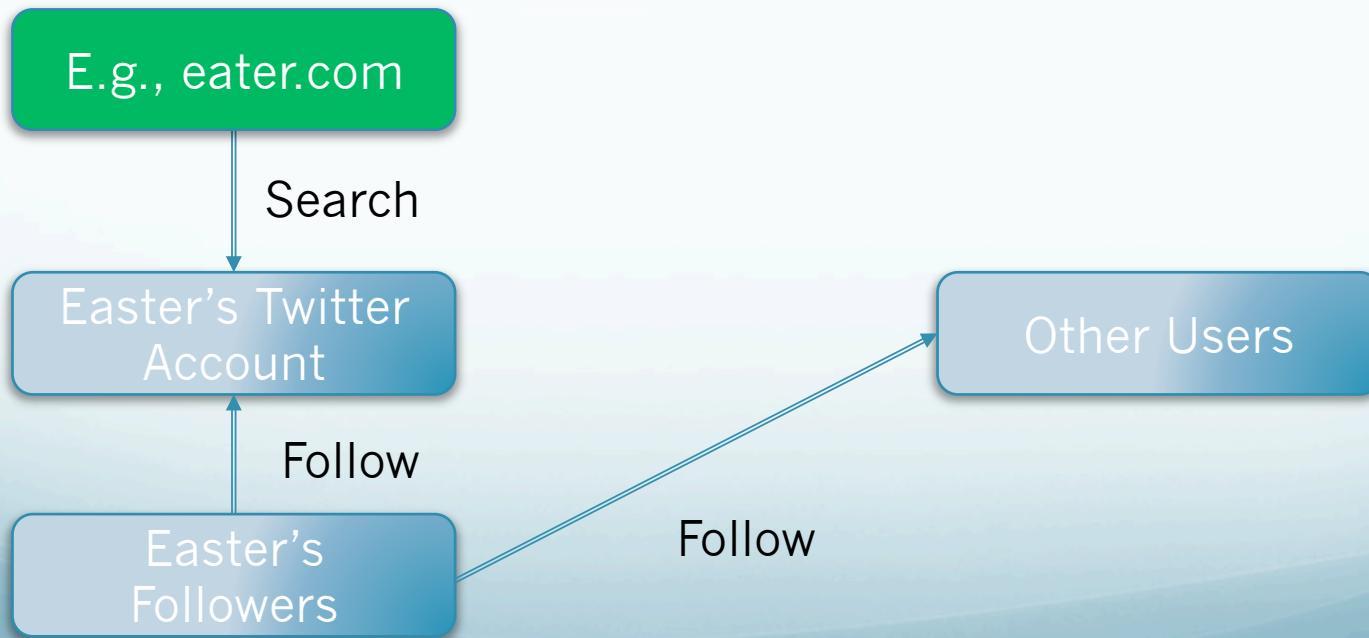
Easter's Followers



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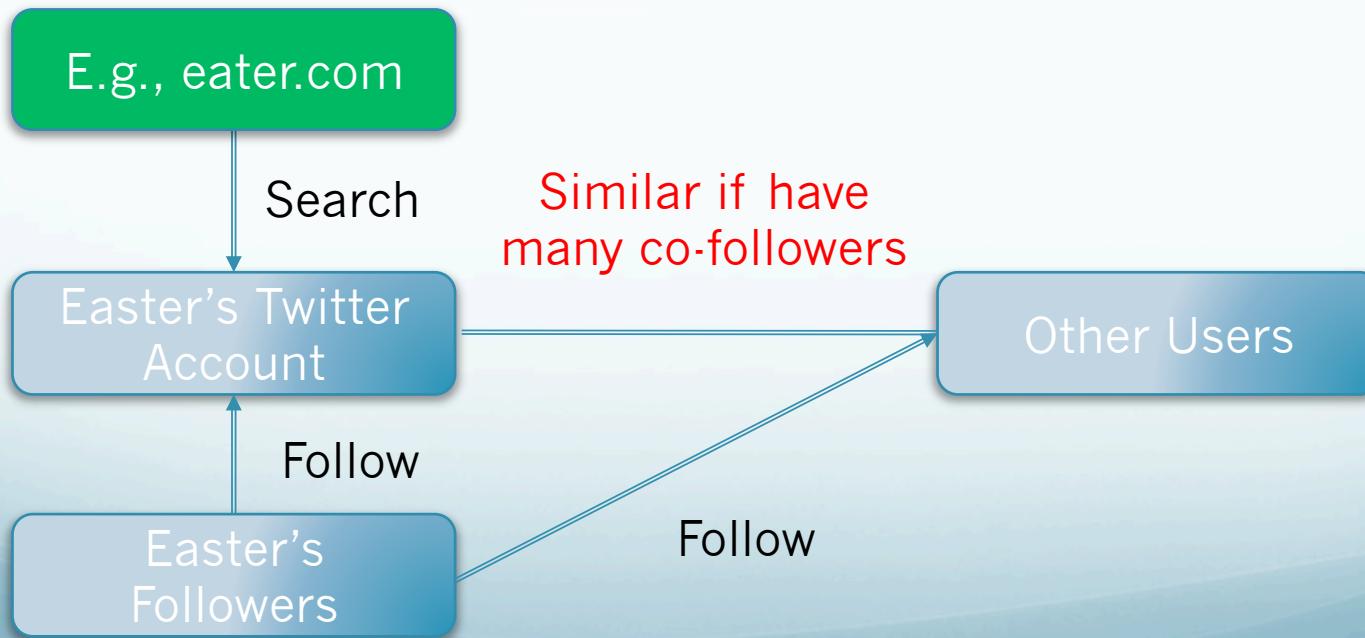
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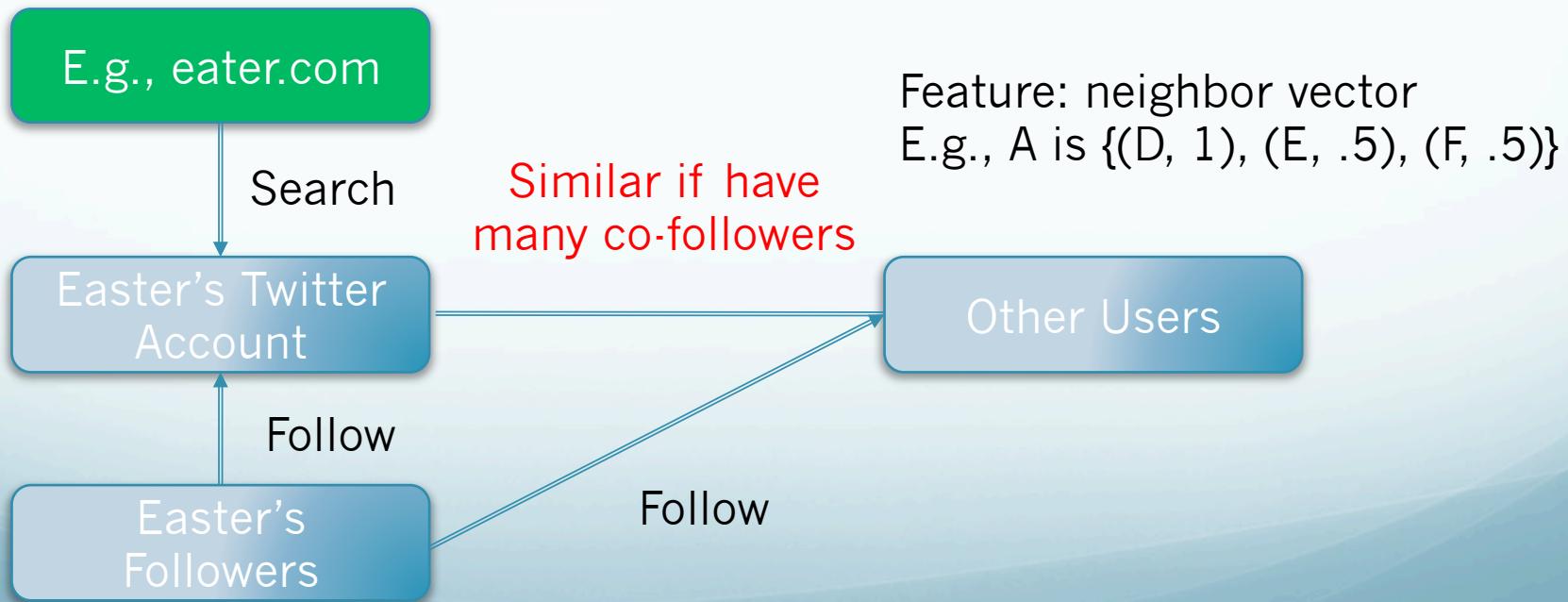
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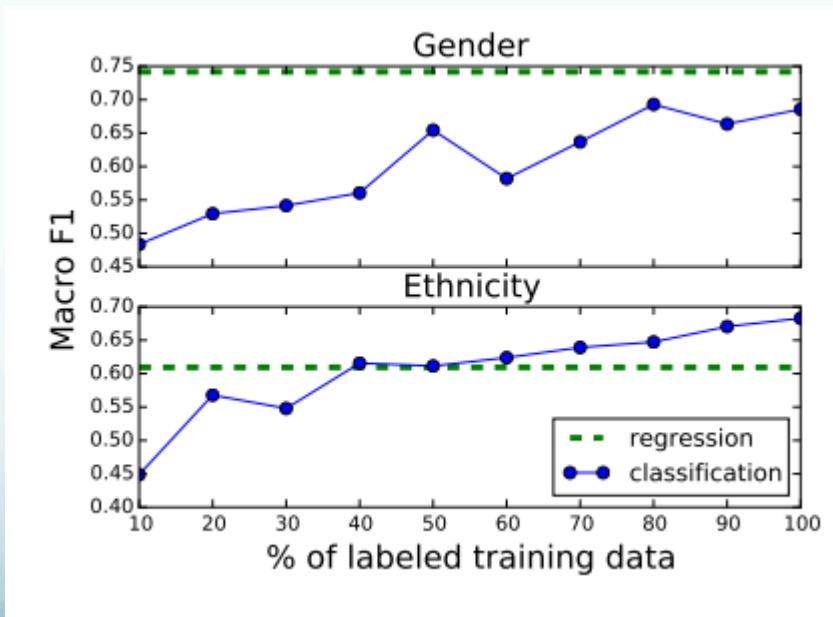
- 6 variables: gender, age, income, education, children, ethnicity
- Regression using both L1 and L2 regularizer

$$\beta^* \leftarrow \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta} \sum_{j=1}^M \frac{1}{N_j} \sum_{i=1}^{N_j} (y_i^{(j)} - \beta^{(j)T} \mathbf{x}_i^{(j)})^2 + \lambda_1 \sum_{k=1}^p \|\beta_k\|_1 + \lambda_2 \|\beta\|_2^2$$

- Evaluation 1: **correlation coefficient** between the predicted and true demographic variables
  - E.g., predict 30% is female, and quantcase says 40% is female
  - Overall correlation is very strong: 0.77 on average

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- Evaluation 2: Macro-F1 for ethnicity and gender
- Manually labeled 615 users and trained a logistic regression classifier



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