

# Learning Influence Propagation on Personal Blogs

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# In this presentation, I will talk about

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- how to measure a blog's influence to readers
- how to predict the potential influence of a new blog post well


# Blog Influence

Yohan Jo is daily alive!  
One thing I've asked from You

[Home](#) [CV](#) [Profile](#)

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계룡산 Posted on 2010/04/30 by zukjimote



어제는 권혁 형님과 바람 쐬러 계룡산에 다녀왔다.  
날도 맑고 기온도 선선하니 등산하기 좋은 날씨였다.  
전날 비가 와서 깨끗한 계곡물이 팔팔 흐르는 게 마음까지 상쾌해진다!

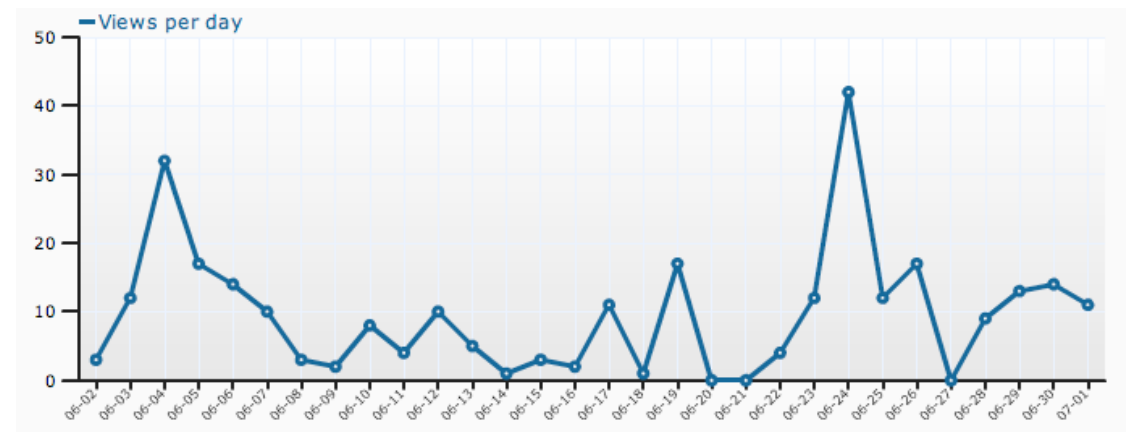
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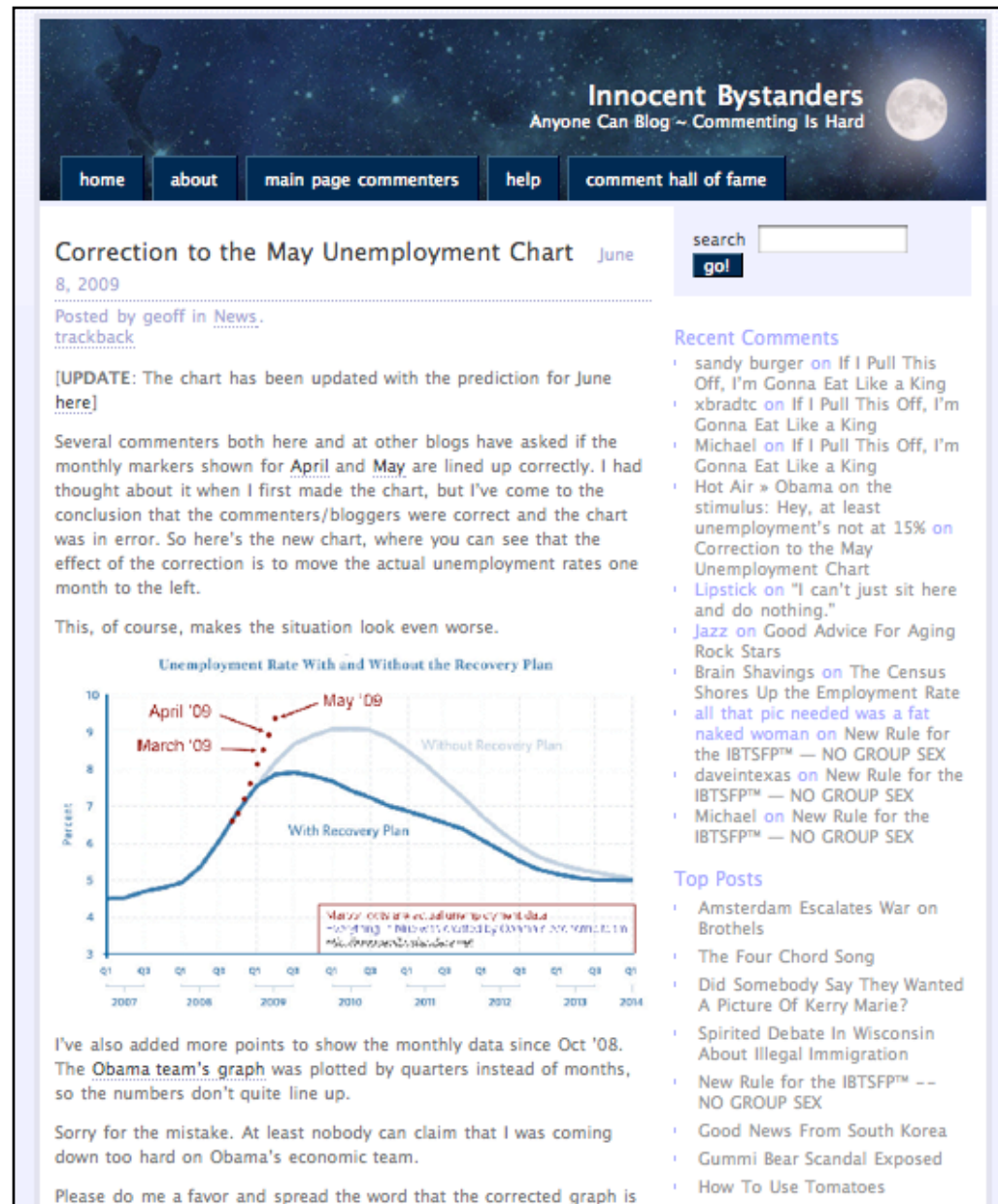
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# Blog Influence



## Hits Measured by WordPress

■ 3,783,718 hits since April 1, 2006

2,500 visits / day

### Comments»

#### 1. The May Unemployment Numbers are Here, and Worse Than Predicted « Innocent Bystanders – June 8, 2009

[...] The May Unemployment Numbers are Here, and Worse Than Predicted June 5, 2009 Posted by geoff in News. [trackback](#)  
UPDATE: Corrected graph available here. [...]

#### 2. The April Numbers Are In – It's Official « Innocent Bystanders – June 8, 2009


[...] Correction to the May Unemployment Chart [...]

#### 188. Hot Air » Obama on the stimulus: Hey, at least unemployment's not at 15% – June 30, 2010

[...] back before he was sworn in, when his economic team was pushing that chart that showed unemployment topping out at eight percent or so if we gave him whatever moneybomb he asked for? Those days are loooooong gone; now, instead of [...]


# Blog Influence

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49. Vmaximus – June 8, 2009 

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vmaximus/3609704160/sizes/l/in/photost>  
Zeke and Tony Llamas



58. Lipstick – June 8, 2009 

The first pic of Zeke, ahhh, he even has some straw in his mouth to go with the boots.

# Blog Influence

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Power of stimulating the readers to express their thoughts in response

The influence is reflected,

- quantitatively, by the **network position**  
e.g. number of people influenced
- qualitatively, in the **content**  
e.g. similarity of the topics

# Content Analysis

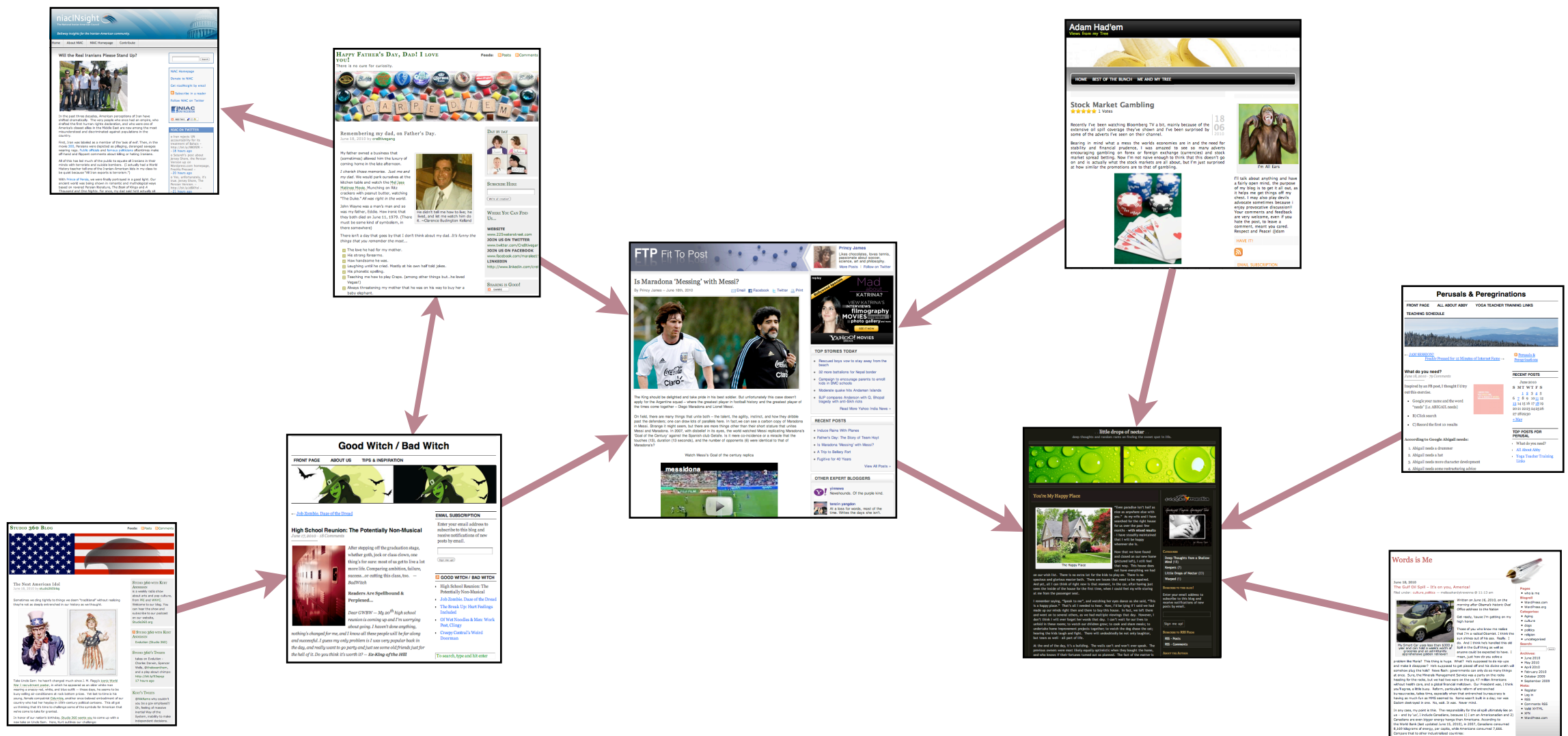
Apply the author-topic model to the blogs [Rosen-Zvi, 2004]

Topic	Highly Related Words
1	gold, wave, market, term, short, cycle
2	money, tax, government, fund, pay, financial
...	
50	school, student, university, education, class

Blog	Topic					
	1	2	3	4	...	50
1	0.011	0.324	0.003	0.008		0.003
2	0.250	0.007	0.012	0.009		0.011
...						
4,165	0.009	0.015	0.003	0.010		0.363



# Network Analysis





# Network Analysis



In-degree Centrality = 3

# Network Analysis



Out-degree Centrality = 1

# Network Analysis



Total-degree Centrality = 4

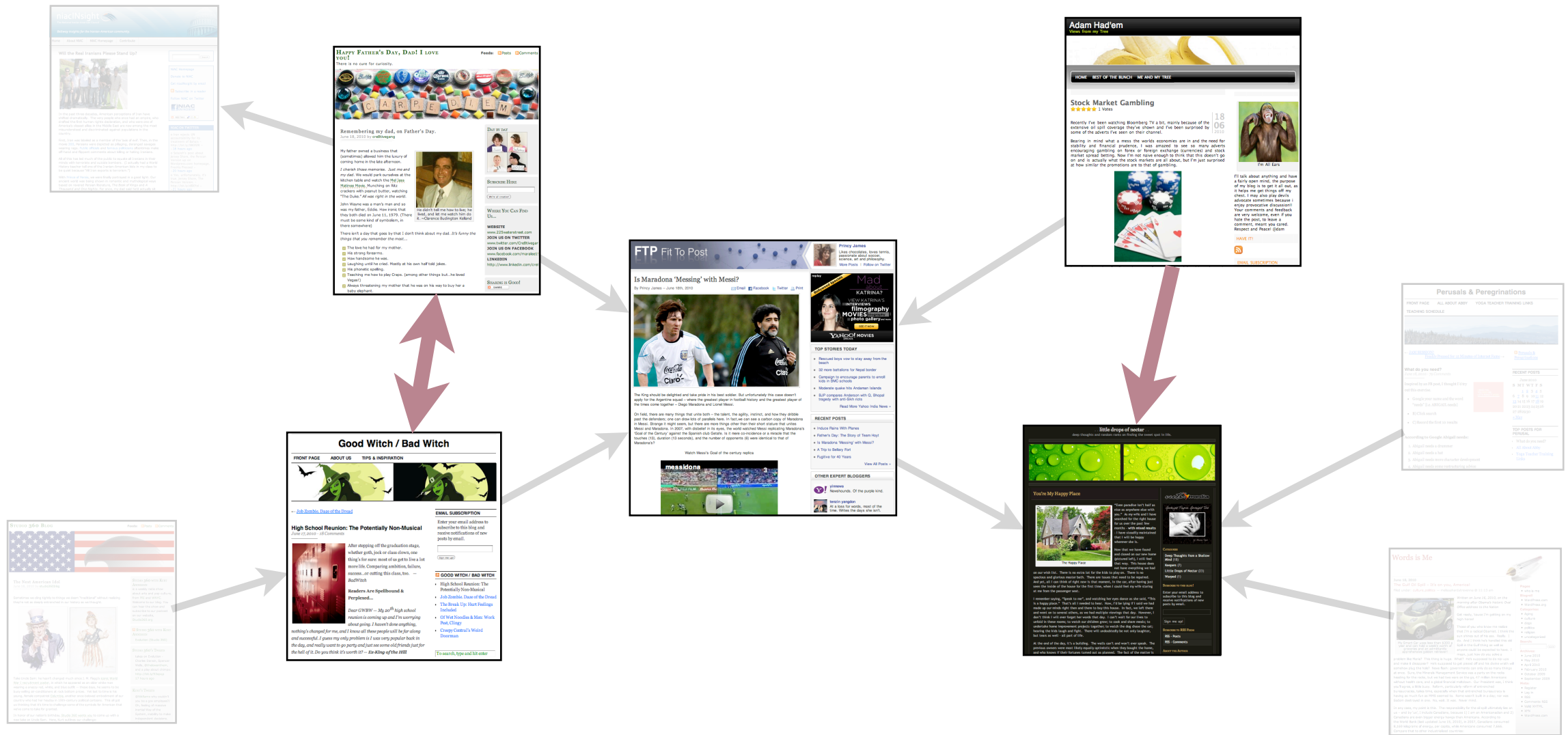
# Network Analysis



Betweenness Centrality = 16



# Network Analysis



Clustering Coefficient =  $1/3$

# “Influence Size”

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Takes into account

- how many readers write posts in response
- how similar their topics are

$$S_i = \{B_j : B_j \text{ can reach } B_i \text{ by following links}\}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{InfluenceSize}(B_i) &= \sum_{B_j \in S_i} \text{TopicSimilarity}(B_i, B_j) \\ &= \sum_{B_j \in S_i} \frac{\mathbf{t}_i \cdot \mathbf{t}_j}{\|\mathbf{t}_i\| \|\mathbf{t}_j\|}\end{aligned}$$



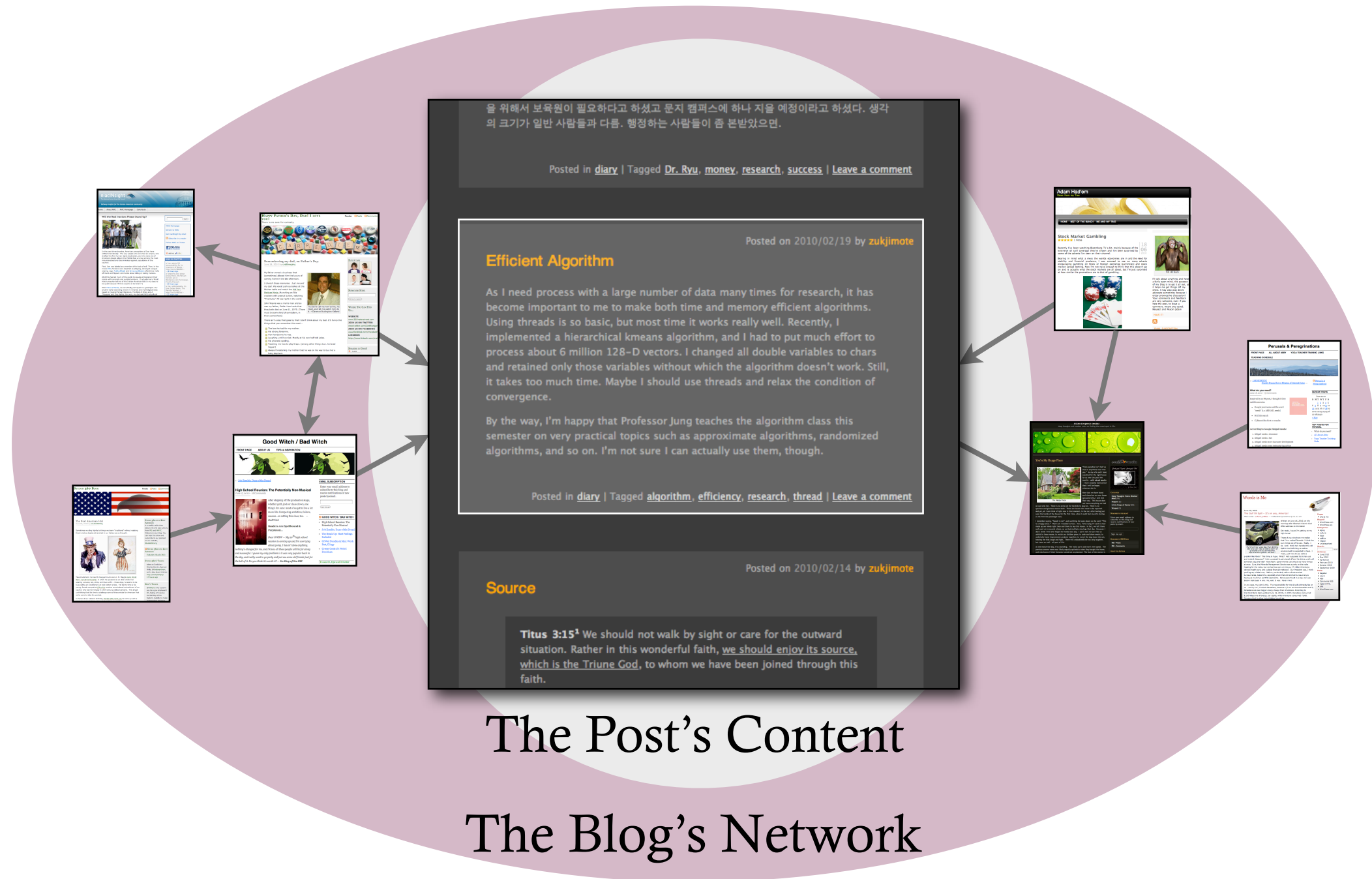
# Existing Measures of Blog Influence

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- Number of Comments
  - Quantitative
- Digg Score (Digg.com)
  - Quantitative, partly qualitative

“ How can we predict  
the potential influence of  
a new blog post? ”

# Prediction of Blog Influence



# Experiments

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1. Content information and network information capture different aspects of blog influence
2. It is important to use both content information and network information for finding influential blogs

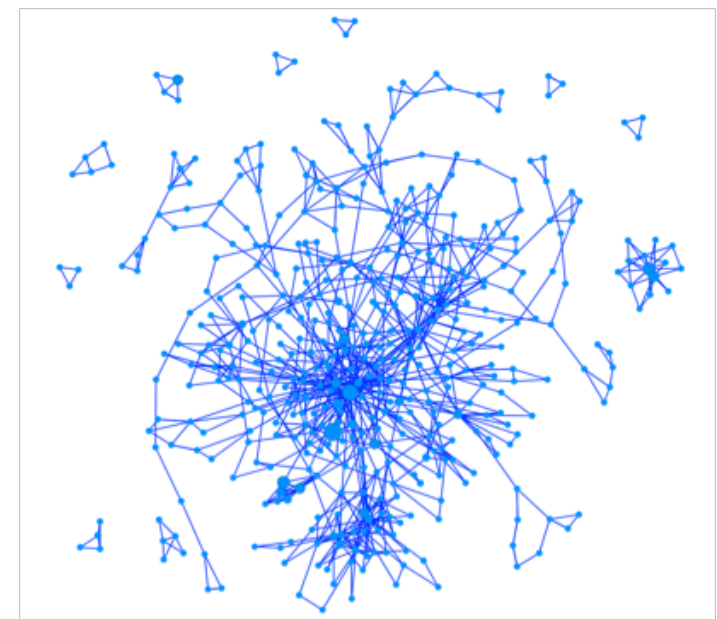
# Dataset

- Selected from TREC Blog08

[http://ir.dcs.gla.ac.uk/test\\_collections/blogs08info.html](http://ir.dcs.gla.ac.uk/test_collections/blogs08info.html)

# of Blogs	# of Posts	# of Unique Words	Average # of Words/Post
4,165	72,143	53,257	225.24

- ✓ Blogspot, LiveJournal
- ✓ Contains >50 words
- ✓ Has at least one link to another post
- ✓ Written in 2008
- ✓ Written in English



# Experiment I

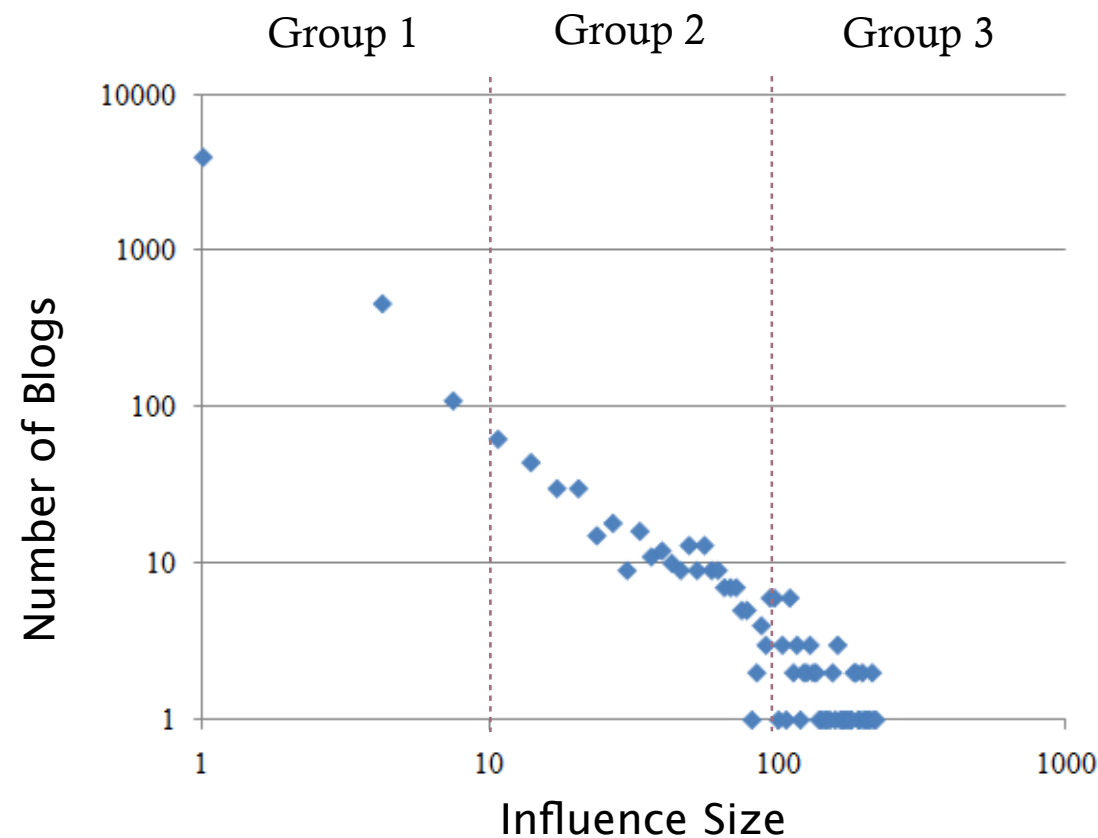
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“ Do content information and network information play different roles in predicting blog influence? ”



# Design

- **Task**  
Classify the blogs into three groups  
(non-influential, influential, and very-influential)
- **Ground Truth**  
Sort the blogs in the order of *influence size* and group them into three



# Classification

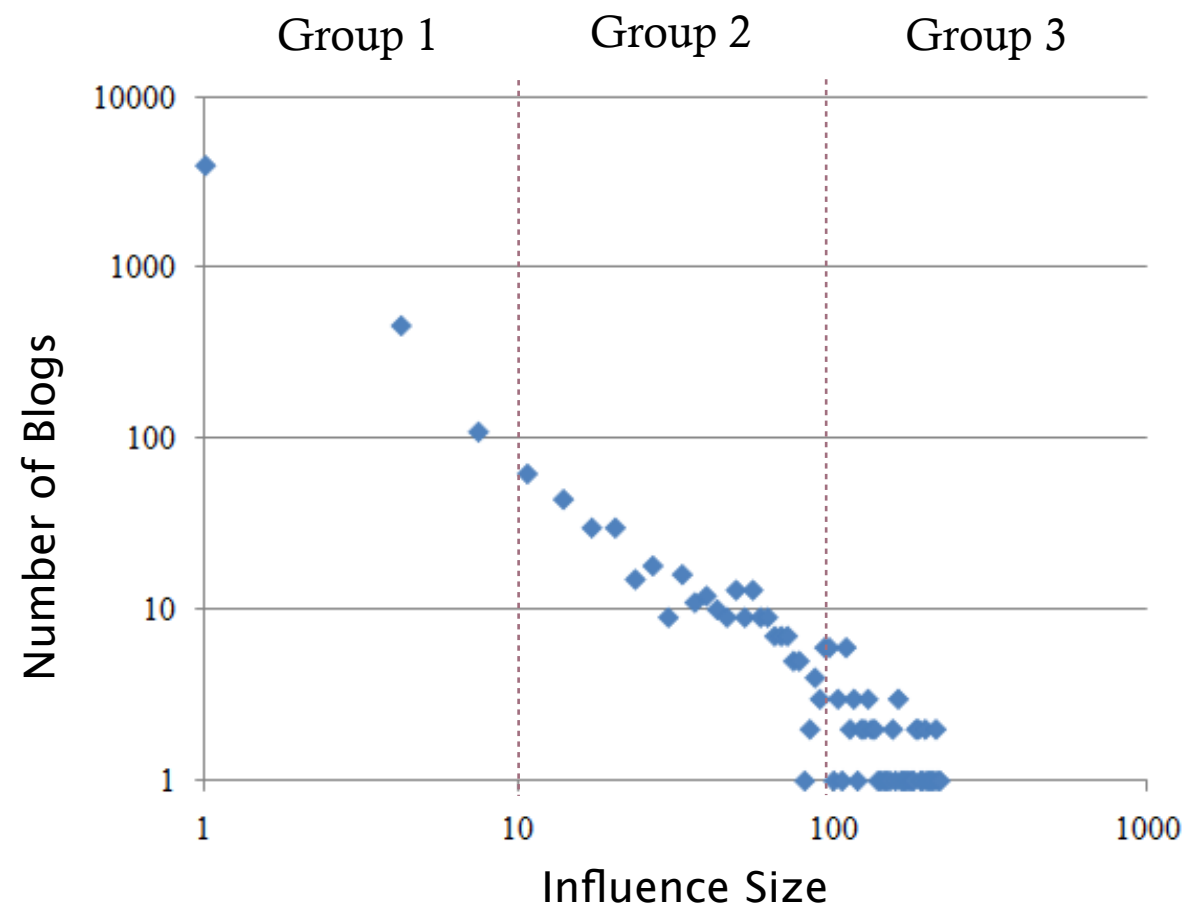
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- **Linear SVM**
- **Features**
  - Content: Topic proportions (50)
  - Network: In-degree, out-degree, total-degree, betweenness, clustering coefficient (5)
- **Training**

Train a classifier using 30% of the data blogs
- **Testing**

Test with the rest of the data

# Feature Importance



Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
OutDegree	OutDegree	Topic 47
TotalDegree	TotalDegree	Topic 14
Betweenness	Topic 9	Topic 15
Clustering Coefficient	Topic 35	Topic 43
Topic 8	Topic 13	Topic 41
Topic 28	Topic 0	Topic 38
Topic 19	Topic 24	Topic 42
InDegree	Topic 27	Topic 24
Topic 43	Topic 16	Topic 12
Topic 23	Topic 19	Topic 22

Most Important Features

# Experiment II

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“ If we use both content information and network information, can we find potentially influential blogs better than when using only one of them? ”

# Design

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- **Task**

Classify each blog whether it belongs to the top 10% influential blogs or not

- **Ground Truth**

Top 10% influential blogs are obtained with regard to each influence measure (influence size, number of comments, and Digg score)

# Classification

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- **Linear SVM**
- **Features**
  - Content: Topic proportions (50)
  - Network: In-degree, out-degree, total-degree, betweenness, clustering coefficient (5)
  - Content-Network: All (55)
- **Training**

Train a classifier using 30% of the data blogs
- **Testing**

Test with the rest of the data



# Prediction Result

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Features	Influence Size	Number of Comments	Digg Score
Content	0.360	0.275	0.295
Network	0.726	0.308	0.239
Content- Network	<b>0.727</b>	<b>0.322</b>	<b>0.308</b>

**F1-Measure**  
(Harmonic mean of precision and recall)

# Prediction Result

Features	Influence Size				Number of Comments				Digg Score			
	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Measure	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Measure	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Measure
Content	0.841	0.303	0.445	0.360	0.631	0.172	0.691	0.275	0.688	0.197	0.583	0.295
Network	0.934	0.683	0.775	0.726	0.857	0.307	0.309	0.308	0.851	0.283	0.207	0.239
Content-Network	0.943	0.699	0.759	0.727	0.716	0.213	0.664	0.322	0.714	0.211	0.571	0.308

# Contributions

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- We proposed a new measure of blog influence, *Influence Size*, which considers both content and network
- We showed that content information and network information play different roles in predicting blog influence
- We showed that it is important to use both content information and network information for finding influential blogs

# Future Work

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- Evaluation of the influence measures
- Exploration of various methods for content analysis

# Thank You

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