

# Time-Critical Social Mobilization

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# DARPA SHREDDER CHALLENGE

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## Download Puzzle Files

Click on the links below to access the five Shredder Challenge problems.

### PUZZLE



**28.8 MB**

### PUZZLE



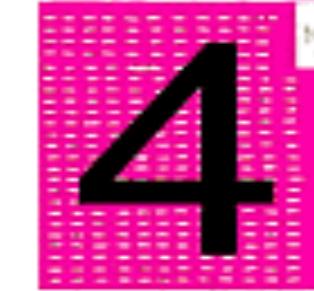
**74.6 MB**

### PUZZLE



**91.0 MB**

### PUZZLE



**146 MB**

### PUZZLE



**419 MB**

Estimated\*  
download time:  
3 minutes

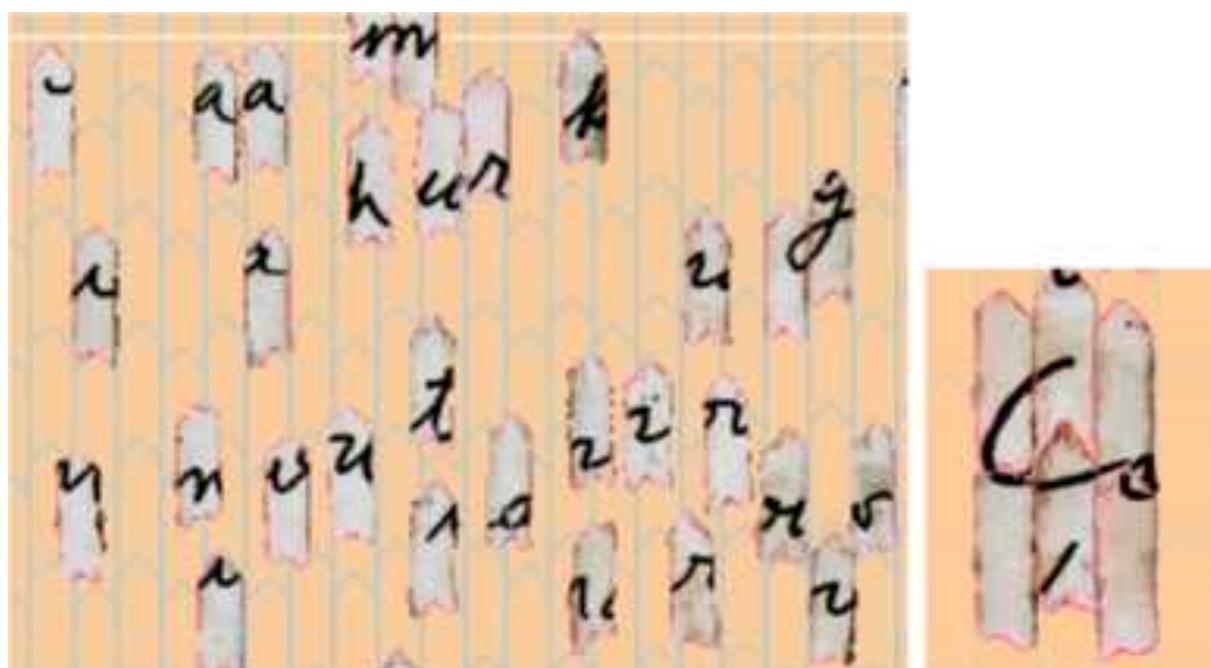
Estimated\*  
download time:  
7 minutes

Estimated\*  
download time:  
8 minutes

Estimated\*  
download time:  
13 minutes

Estimated\*  
download time:  
38 minutes

**224, 373, 1115, 2340, 6068 pieces**



(b) Query incentive networks, again.

Working on Puzzle 2!

- Up
- Left
- Down
- Right
- Rotate
- Counterclockwise
- Rotate
- Clockwise
- Zoom Out
- Zoom In
- Hide/Show Chat

THIS DNE  
MAKE SENSE!

Julius Caesar?

Despite being captured by 10 pirates, Caesar brought 83 changes to Rome before being awarded with the title dictator. A master of war, he captured the 8 Gallic tribes and fully documented his 24 exploits in a book titled "Commentarii de Bello Gallico." In this novel, he describes the creation of the first encryption method used

Caesar?

# Puzzle 1 (6 Nov)

Comrade,  
I DO NOT KNOW THE  
IDENTITY OF THAT WHICH  
YOU SEEK BUT MY SOURCES  
ASSURE ME THAT THE  
ANSWER MAY LIE IN THE  
TITLE OF A 1937 FILM  
DIRECTED BY LITVAK.  
Good luck in your  
Hunt!

Comrade,  
I DO NOT KNOW THE  
IDENTITY OF THAT WHICH  
YOU SEEK BUT MY SOURCES  
ASSURE ME THAT THE  
ANSWER MAY LIE IN THE  
TITLE OF A 1937 FILM  
DIRECTED BY LITVAK.  
Good luck in your  
Hunt!

# Puzzle 2 (6 Nov)

THIS DOESN'T  
MAKE SENSE!

Julius Caesar ?

Despite being captured by 10 pirates, Caesar brought 23 changes to Rome before being awarded with the title Consul. A master of war, he captured the 8 Gallic tribes and fully documented his 24 exploits in a book titled "Commentarii de Bella Gallico." In this novel he describes the creation of the first encryption method used to protect correspondence. After the creation of the First Triumvirate in 18BC, he was awarded the role of dictator for life, started 21 civil wars, and was murdered by as many friends as enemies.

ENCRYPTED?

IT'S "LETTERS"

STREAM  
CIPHER!

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 (10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 (23) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (8) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 8TC

THIS DOESN'T  
MAKE SENSE!

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Despite being captured by 10 pirates, Caesar brought 23 changes to Rome before being awarded with the title Consul. A master of war, he captured the 8 Gallic tribes and fully documented his 24 exploits in a book titled "Commentarii de Bella Gallico." In this novel he describes the creation of the first encryption method used to protect correspondence. After the creation of the First Triumvirate in 18BC, he was awarded the role of dictator for life, started 21 civil wars, and was murdered by as many friends as enemies.

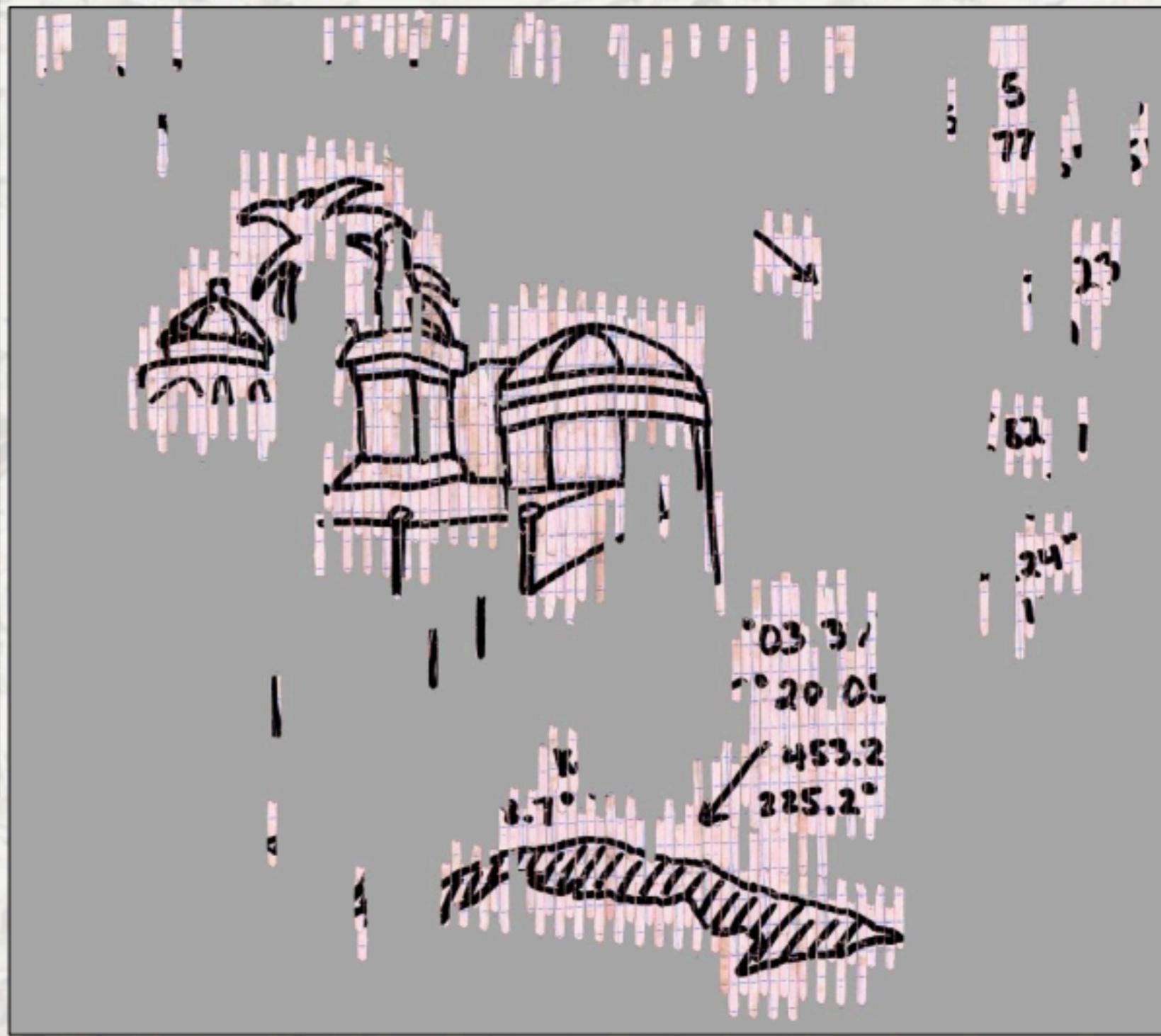
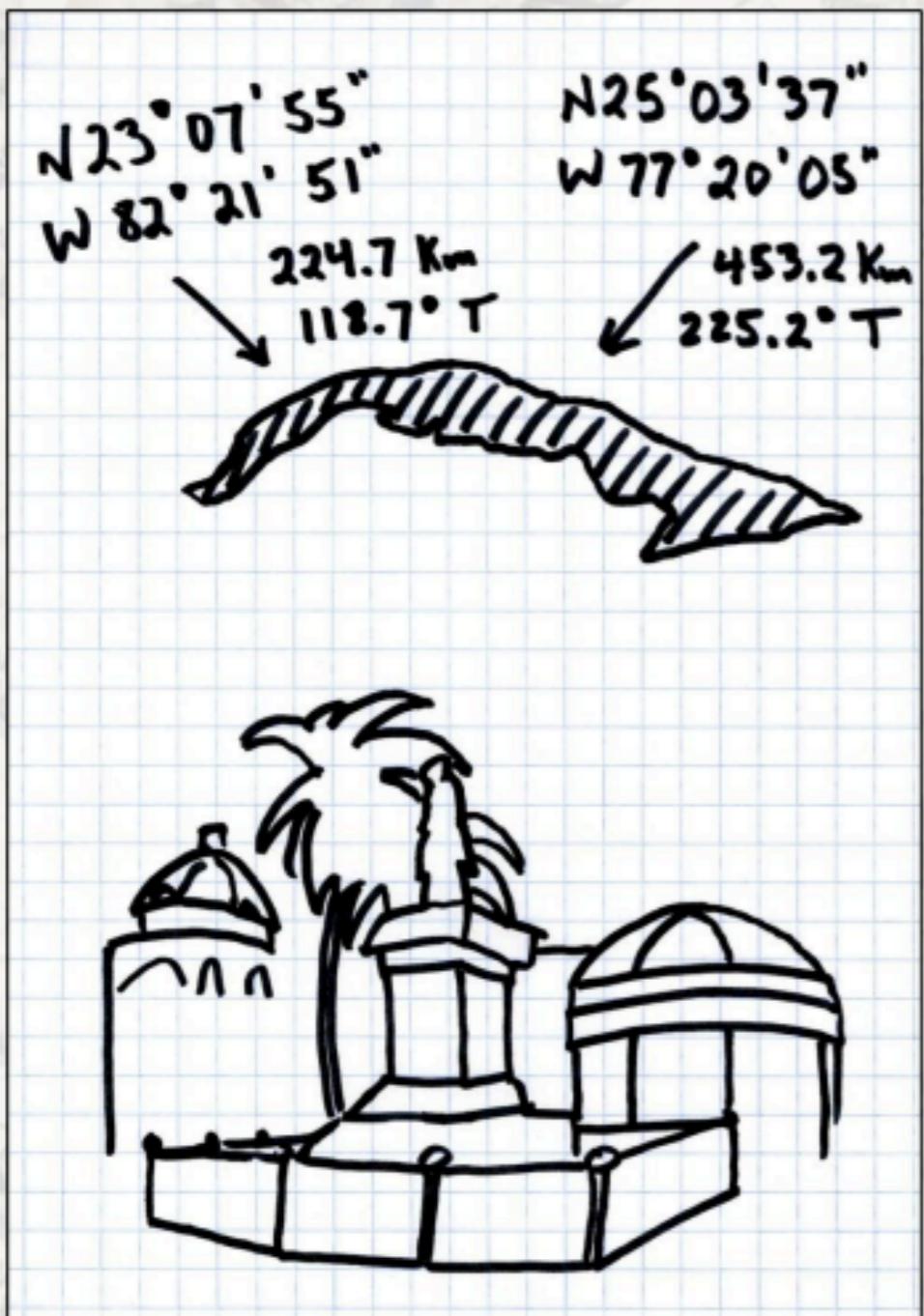
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IT'S "LETTERS"

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 (10) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16  
17 18 19 20 21 22 (23) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 (8) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 8TC

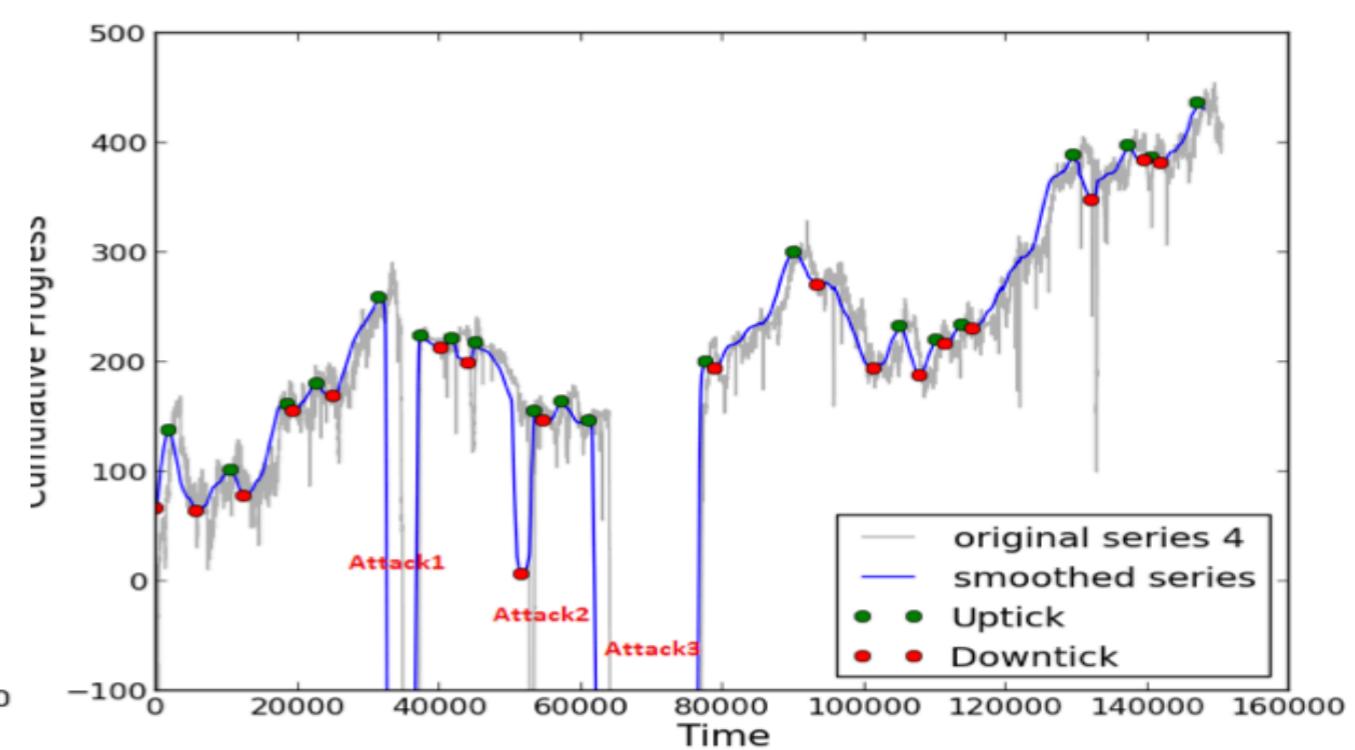
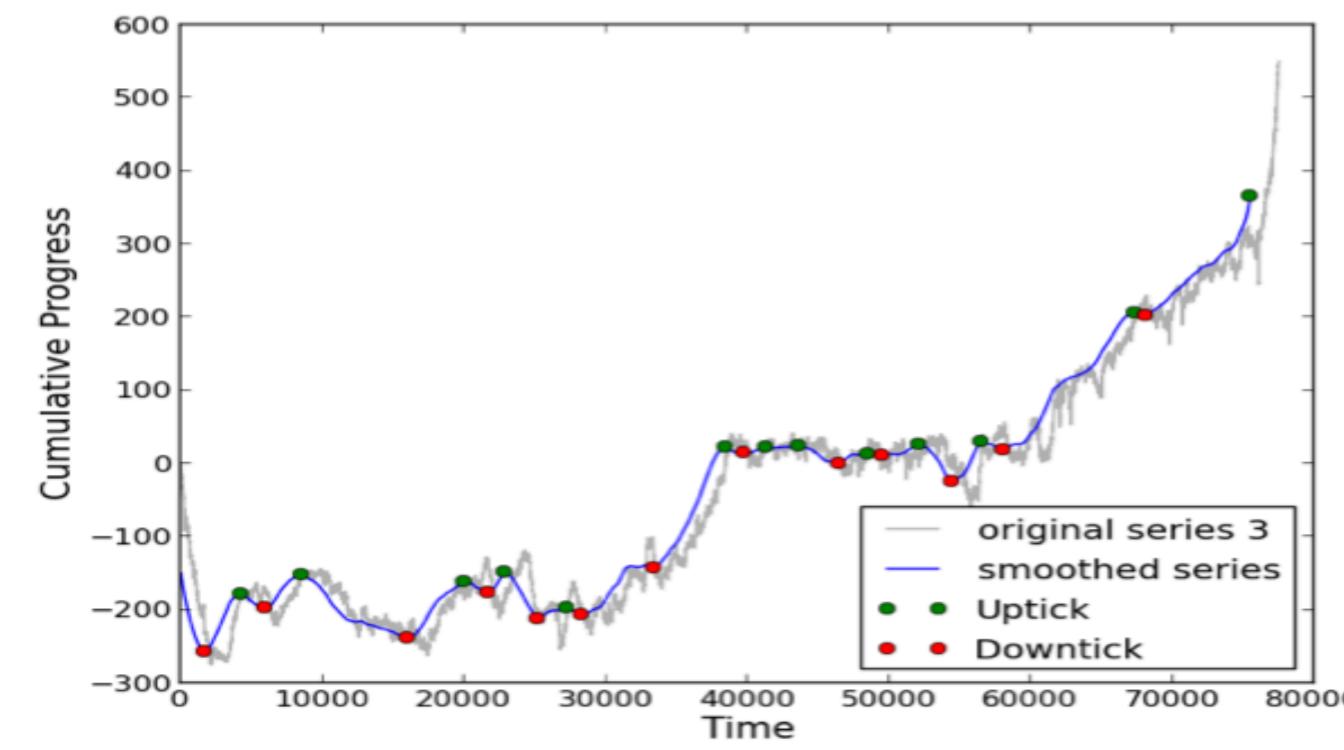
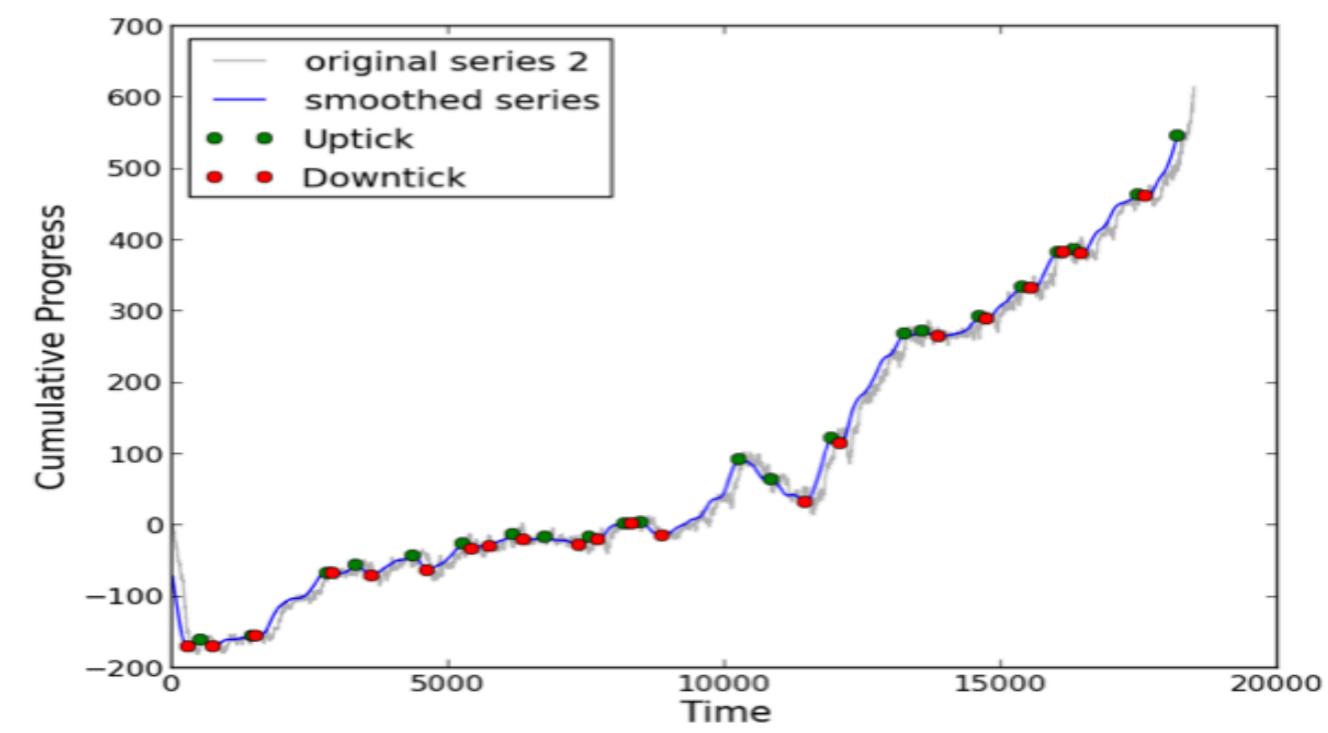
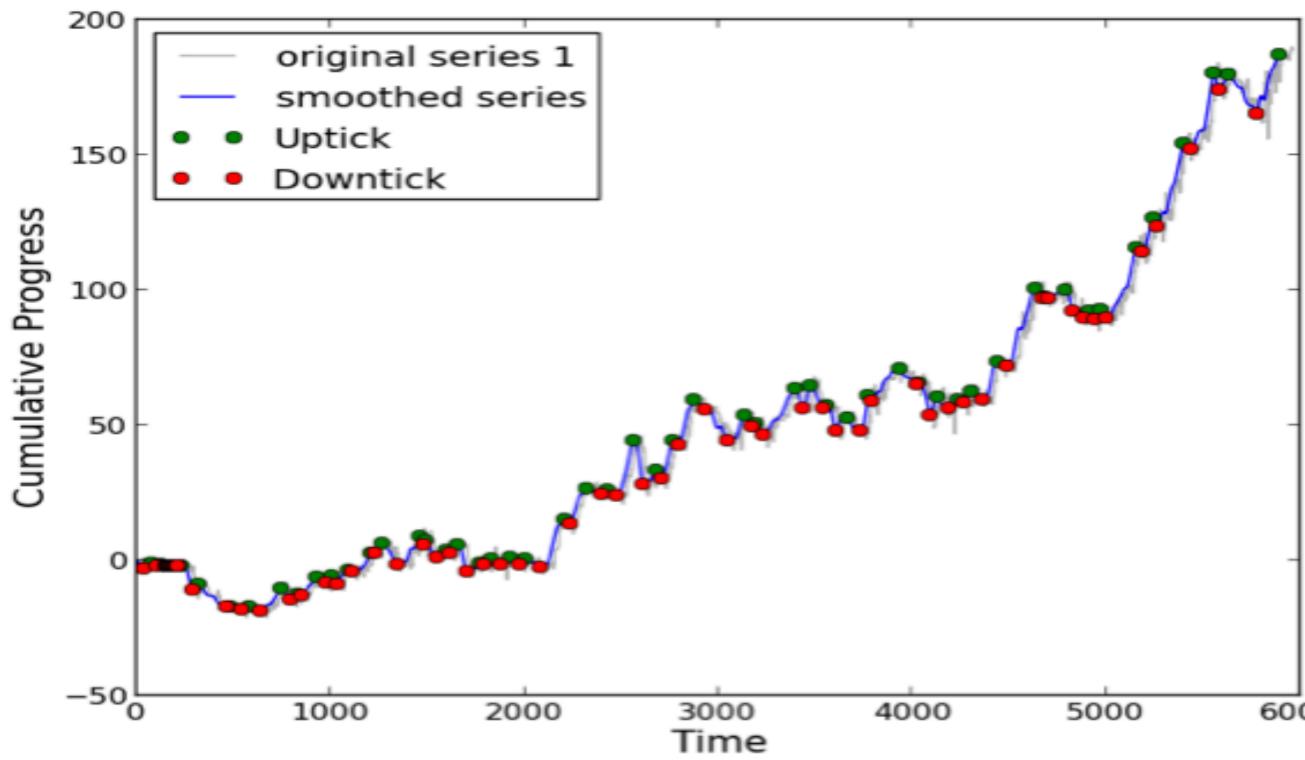
# Puzzle 3 (8 Nov)



# Puzzle 4 (21 Nov)

My time on this assignment is coming to a close. After many years, it is you who must pick up the flag and carry our cause forward. Some of you must act now <sup>together</sup> so the ~~D~~ Duck vision does not falter. I have left several <sup>ghosts - Bob C</sup> projects in progress, but be like invisible spirits, at first, if you must. Others of you may play a smaller role, only completing a <sup>Two - George</sup> ~~few~~ project. Some of you may bring a more <sup>ARTISTIC FLARE</sup> animalistic quality to our work, but never stray too far from the original intent. But remember the correct path is not always black or white. I may return briefly, from time to time, but ultimately the future of this endeavor is in your hands. <sup>PRESENT AND PK</sup>

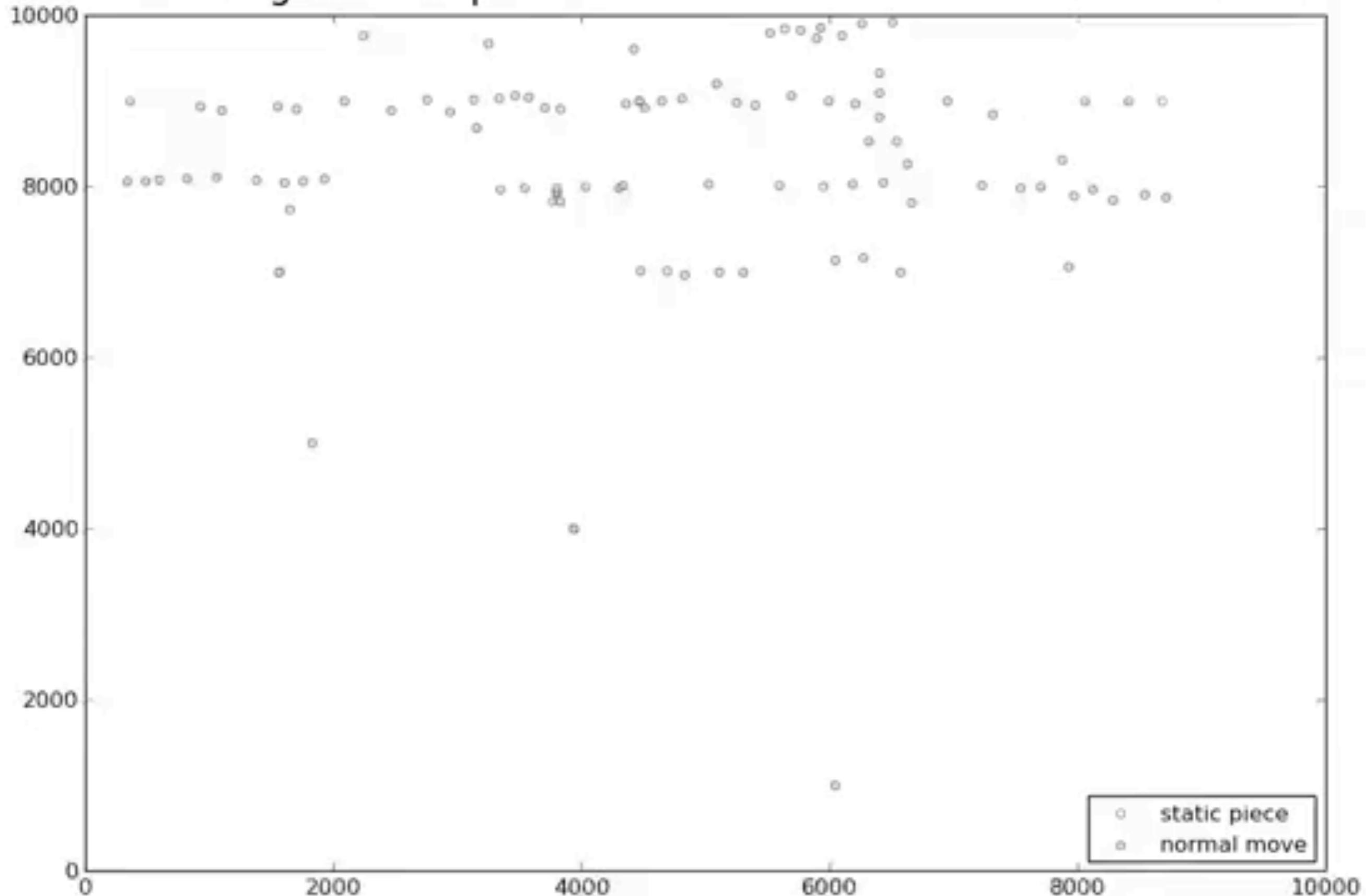
the assignment  
Some may play <sup>Two - George</sup> many years  
as ~~few~~ projects some <sup>ARTISTIC FLARE</sup> animalistic quality to  
and carry our cause together  
now so the ~~D~~ Duck  
left several <sup>ghosts - Bob C</sup> invisible  
of  
completing  
you not more  
never be fixed  
in  
stray But remember  
ways black  
After up the  
correct you you  
time fly  
My you time  
one you like  
forward others ultimately  
vision you your



# Puzzle 2

Normal regime - 30 fps

Nov 17 00:08

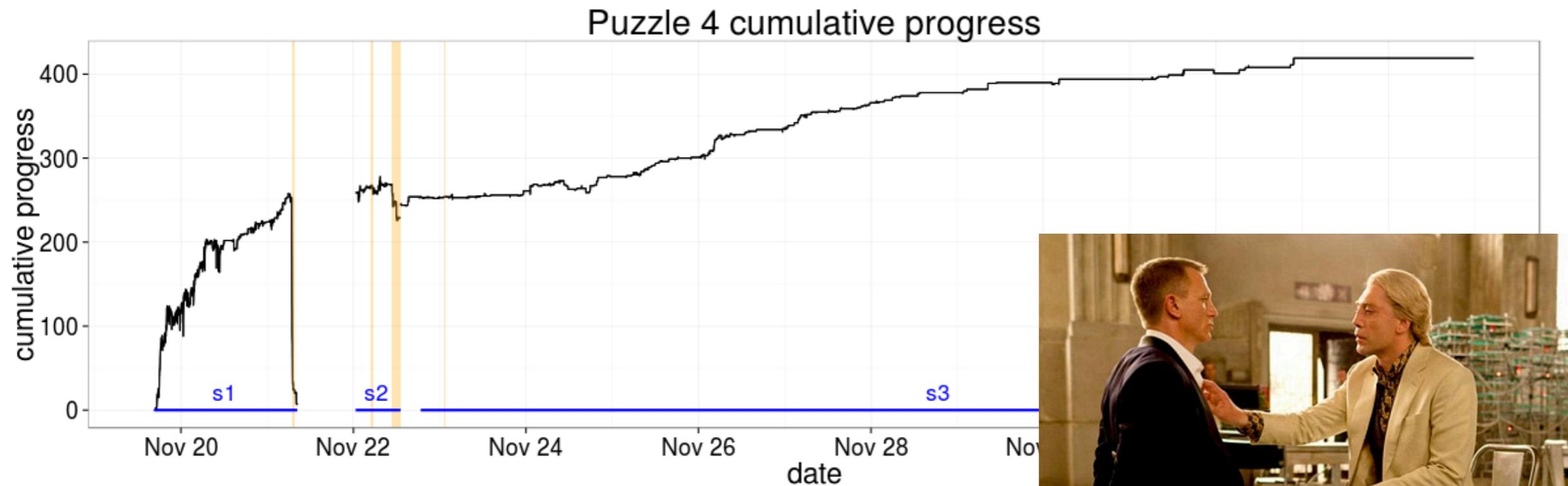


Shredder Challenge, UCSD Team

Crowdsourcing experiment

Playback of the moves on the virtual board

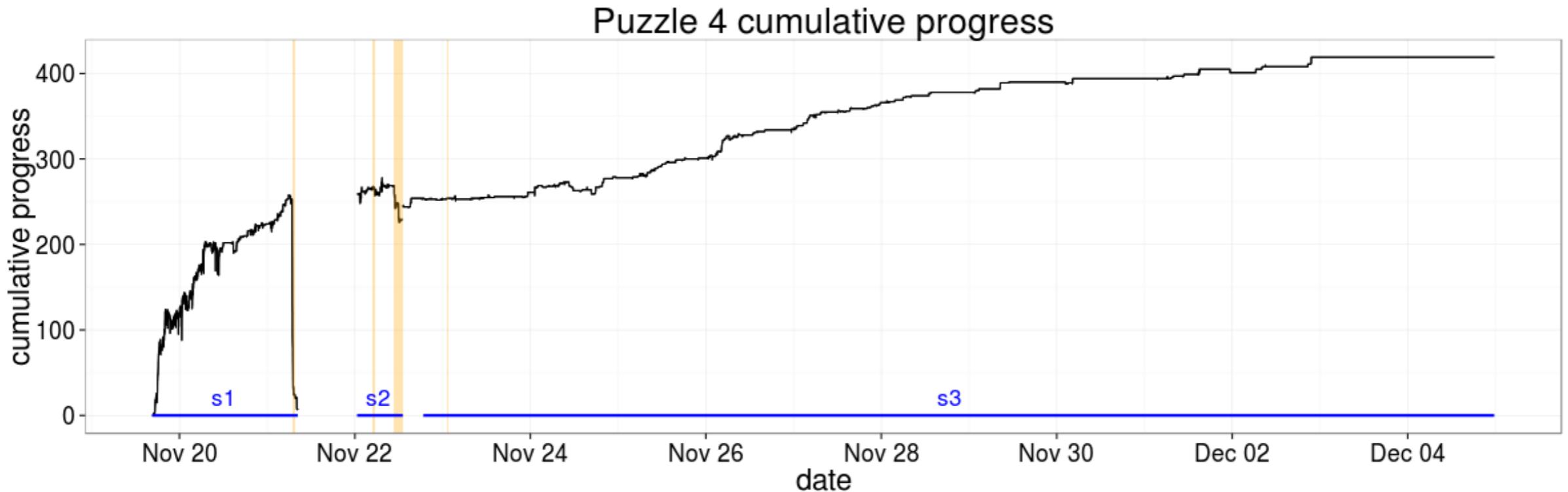
Puzzle 4



From: [ucsd saboteur@hushmail.com](mailto:ucsd saboteur@hushmail.com)  
To: mcebrian@ucsd.edu  
Date: Thu, Nov 24, 2011 at 4:20 AM  
Subject: UCSD shredder challenge sabotage

I appreciate your acknowledging the cleverness of my exploitation of the weaknesses in your shredder challenge puzzle solving implementation. But do you really think they were that smart?

For my first attack, [...] moving all the pieces into a single pile. [...] However, it seems all you did was lock the pieces together and ban my IP address.



Which led me to my **second attack**, using a VPN and a neighbors wireless for some new IP addresses

[...]

select all the pieces and place them on top of each other, but this got old soon.

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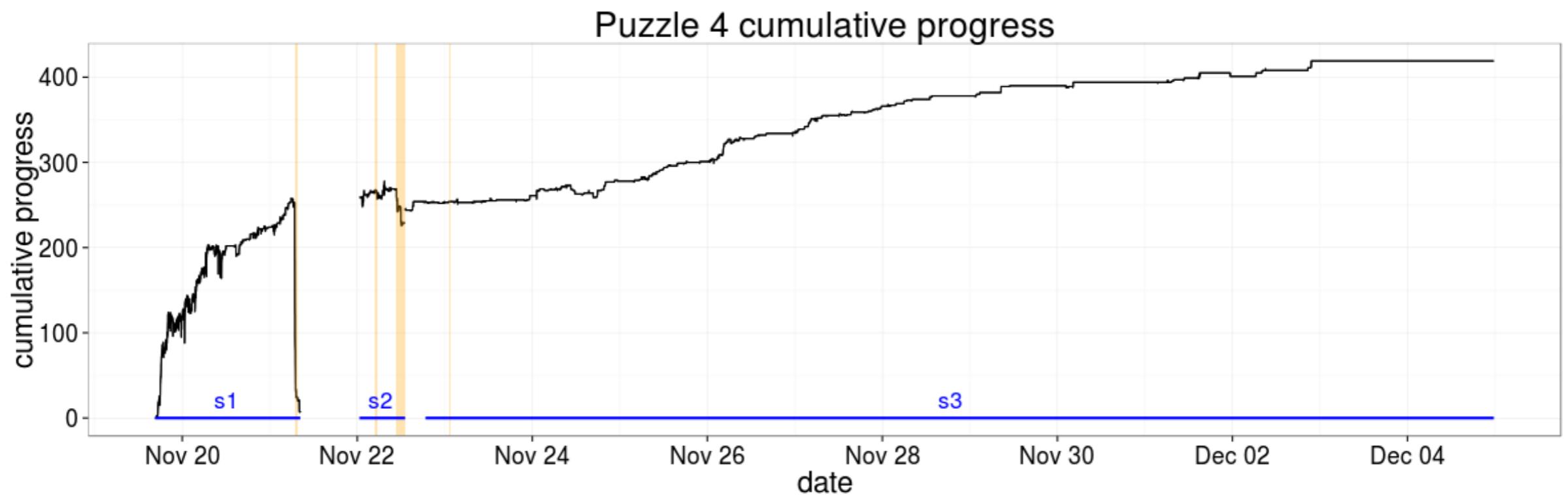
So I decided to get a bit more sneaky **[for my third attack]**

[...]

I selected a number of pieces, enough to make solving the puzzle difficult and not so much that people would immediately notice,

[...]

moved them off the top of the virtual table.

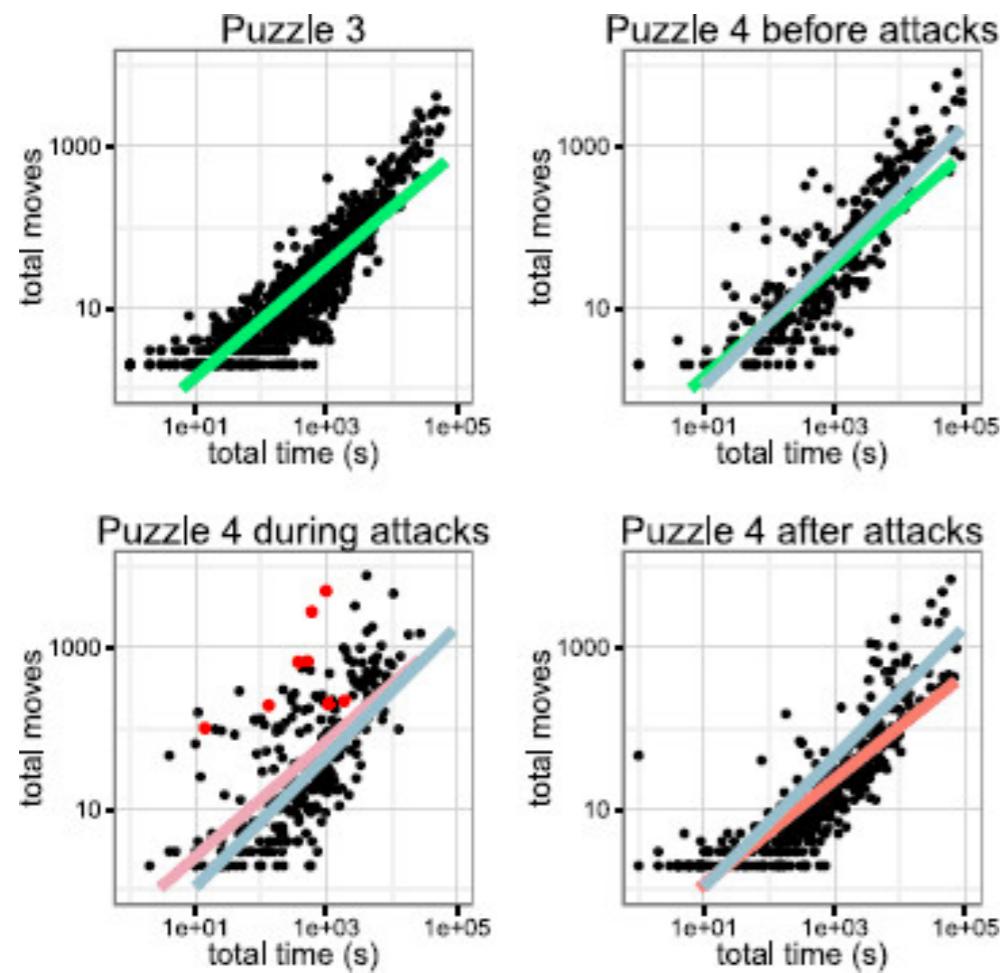


**“Where else would one go but  
4chan to recruit other people  
willing to engage in general  
internet mischief?  
[for my fourth attack]”**

I too am working on the puzzle and personally feel that crowd sourcing is basically cheating

Crowd sourcing really just seems like a brute force and ugly plan of attack, even if it is effective

With all that said, **good luck to you,  
and may all your shreds belong to us.**



## Leaderboard Summary

Final

Place	Display Name	Score
1	All Your Shreds Are Belong To U.S.	50
2	Schroddon	30
3	wasabi	26
4	MKI	22
5	mmvd	22
6	University of California, San Diego	22
7	Craig Landrum	19
8	mkelly	19
9	Icandoit	19
10	Goldsong	17

# BACKCHANNEL

## How A Lone Hacker Shredded the Myth of Crowdsourcing

High-tech analysis of a 2011 DARPA Challenge shows why we can't have nice things

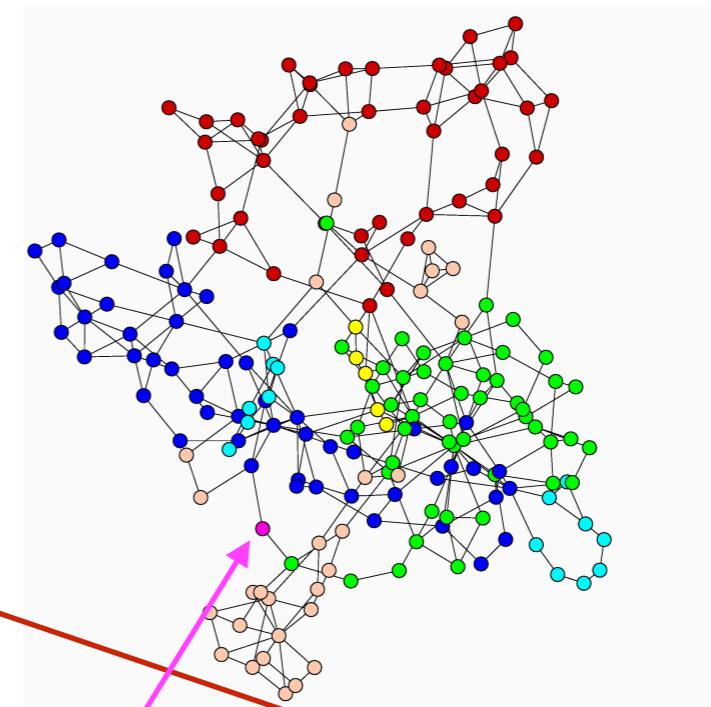
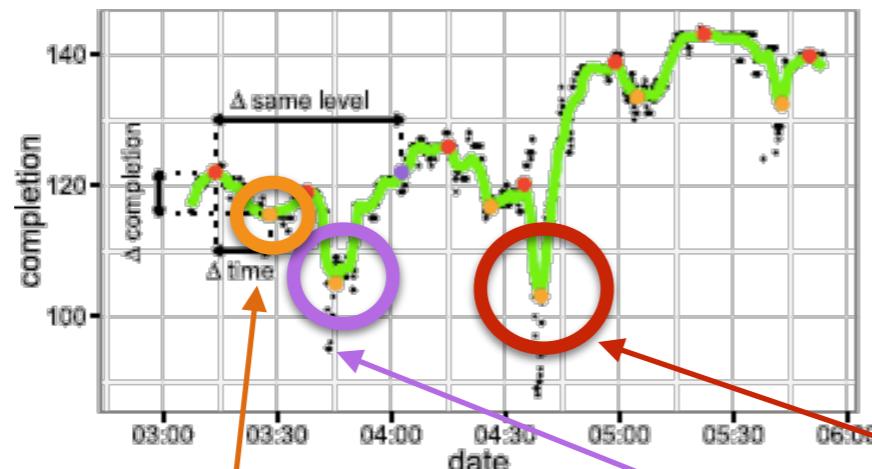


Mark Harris

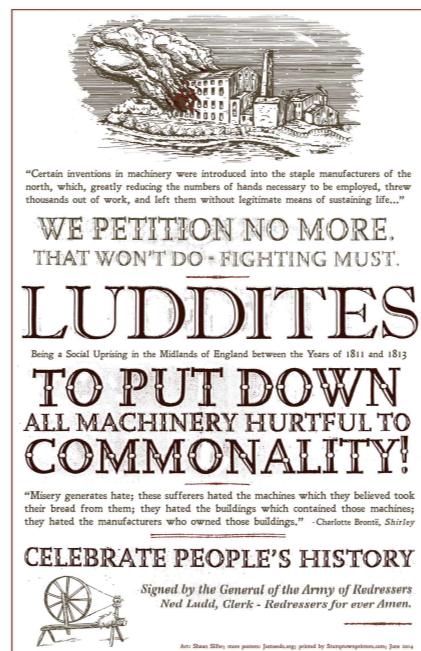
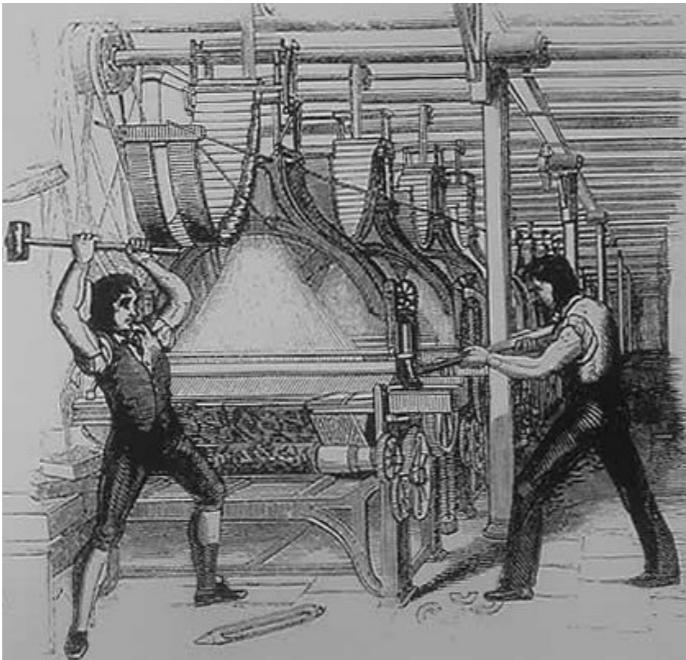
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Mostly British, mostly tech journalist reporting on the US from mostly rainy Seattle

Feb 9, 2015 · 16 min read



- We found a peak in recruitment that corresponds almost exactly to when the attacker claims he made an announcement on 4chan.
- Once we had eliminated the 4chan wave, could identify the **core attackers**.
- The initial assault was a sluggish affair, about ten times slower than subsequent hacks as though the saboteur was still feeling out the system's weaknesses.
- **Yet the attacker had left one more clue, a blunder that pointed right back to his door.**
- **During the first attack, he had logged in with an email address from his very own domain.**



“It’s only a matter of time, however for what should be a programming challenge about computer vision algorithms, crowd sourcing really just seems like a brute force and ugly plan of attack, even if it is effective.”

**ANTI-LUDDITES, PRO-MACHINES?**



Manuel Cebrian <manuelcebrianramos@gmail.com>

## Sabotage

**ucsdssaboteur@hushmail.me**  
<ucsdssaboteur@hushmail.me>  
To: mcebrian@eng.ucsd.edu

Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 11:06  
PM

So I just discovered this article

<http://calit2.net/newsroom/article.php?id=1938>

and a few others. I no longer have access to the account I sent the previous email from as the time limit has expired on it. So my apologies if you responded to my previous correspondence. I believe the only part of the previous email I can recall that doesn't seem to have been published somewhere is my asking you if you really thought the sabotage was that smart...

If you still suspect them, the winning team had nothing to do with the sabotage. My sign off was really just intended to lead you astray. Which seems to have worked. If you have contact information for Otavio Good, let him know I apologize for that part of the email as they did work hard and win fairly. I am in no way associated with Anonymous either. Where else would one go but 4chan to recruit other people willing to engage in general internet mischief?

A "new field of network science" and "the most important piece of the scientific knowledge gained from this challenge," eh? Cool. I never imagined it would be seen in that light. Good work on the reputation system by the way. If you have any questions for me, I don't mind answering.