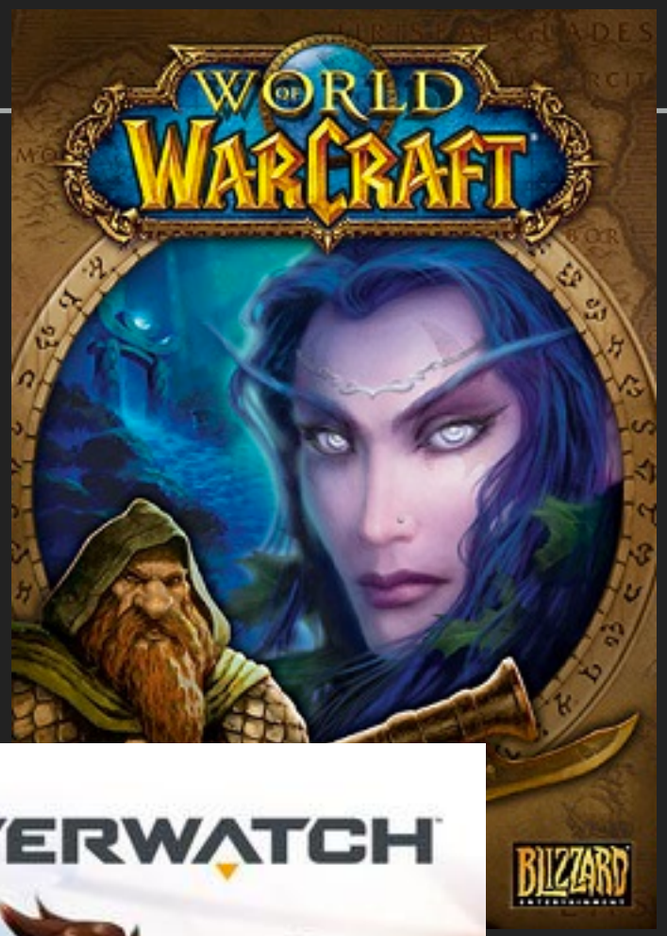
ANALYZING THE OVERWATCH SUBREDDIT FOR HERO BALANCING

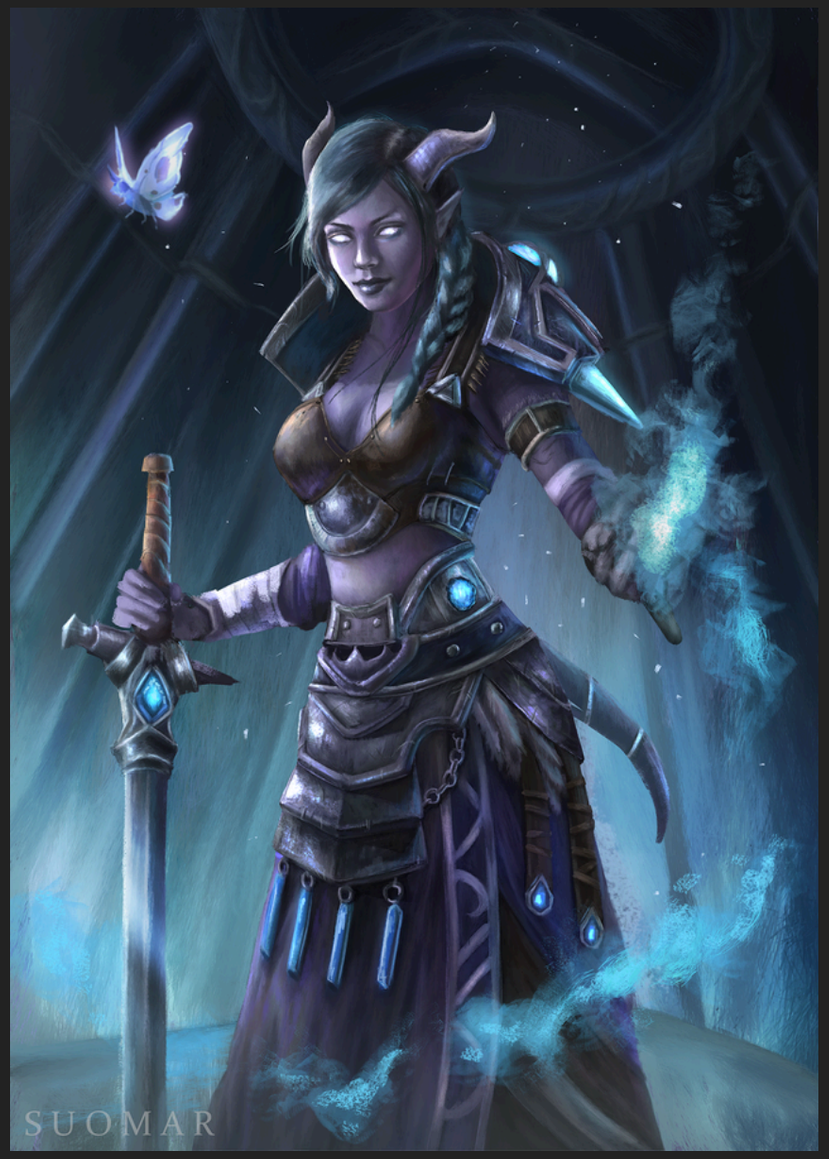
BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT

- World of Warcraft (2004)
  - MMO
  - Grossed 9 Billion $ by 2017!
- Overwatch (2016)
  - Team - based “Hero” shooter
  - Characters w/ unique abilities



I'VE PLAYED BOTH GAMES, BUT OVERWATCH IS MY FAVORITE

Mage from WOW



Brigitte, who broke Overwatch

Brigitte, the anti-fun police

OVERWATCH OVERVIEW

- 6 v. 6
- Timed objectives:
  - point capture
- If you die, you respawn
- 30+ heroes to choose from, each with unique abilities
  - Flying, deflecting bullets, teleporting, shielding, etc.

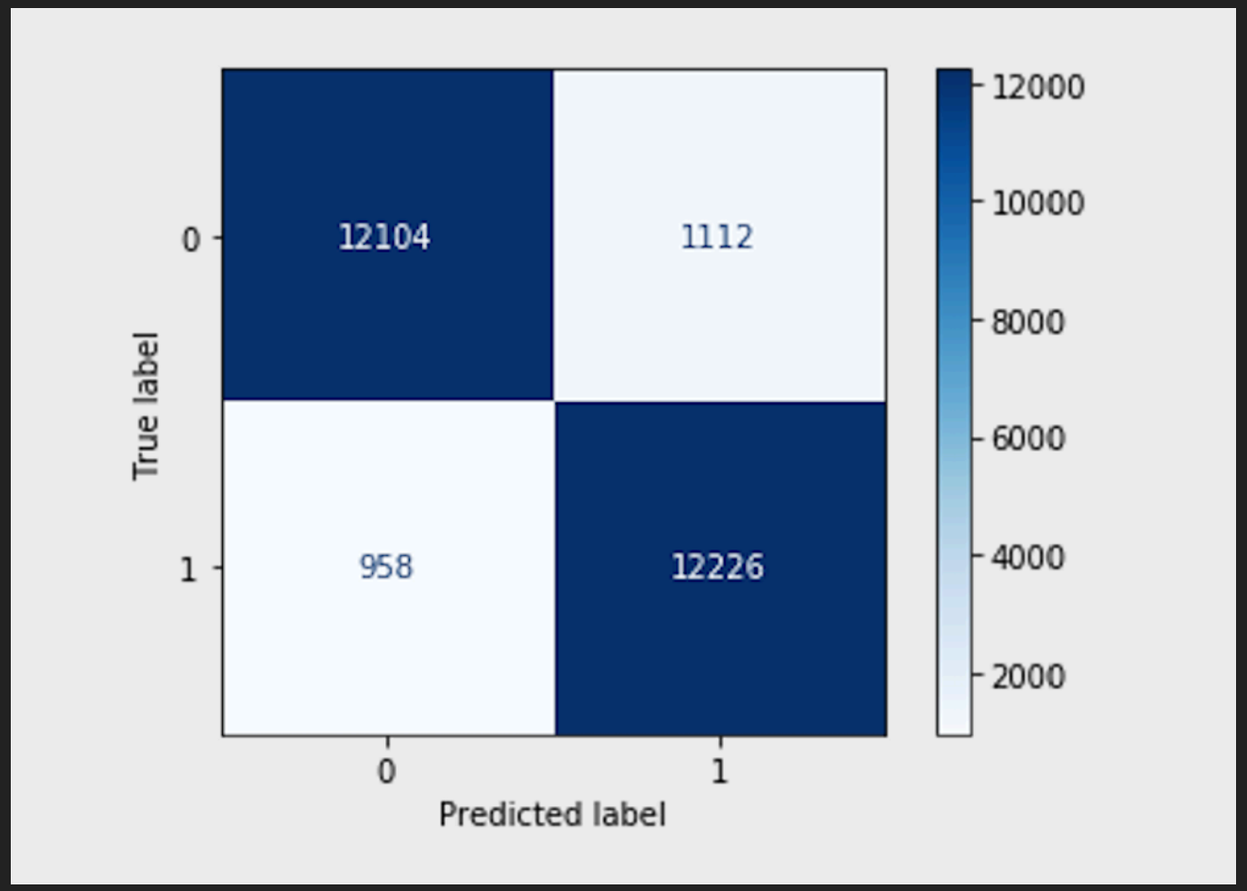
CURRENT HERO ROSTER

HERO BALANCE

- Very hard or nearly impossible. But we try anyway.
  - Buff: make a hero stronger
  - Nerf: make a hero weaker
- Need community feedback for balance
  - Does hero X need a nerf? a buff?
  - Is hero X unfun to play against?
  - The goal is to make the game more enjoyable for more people.

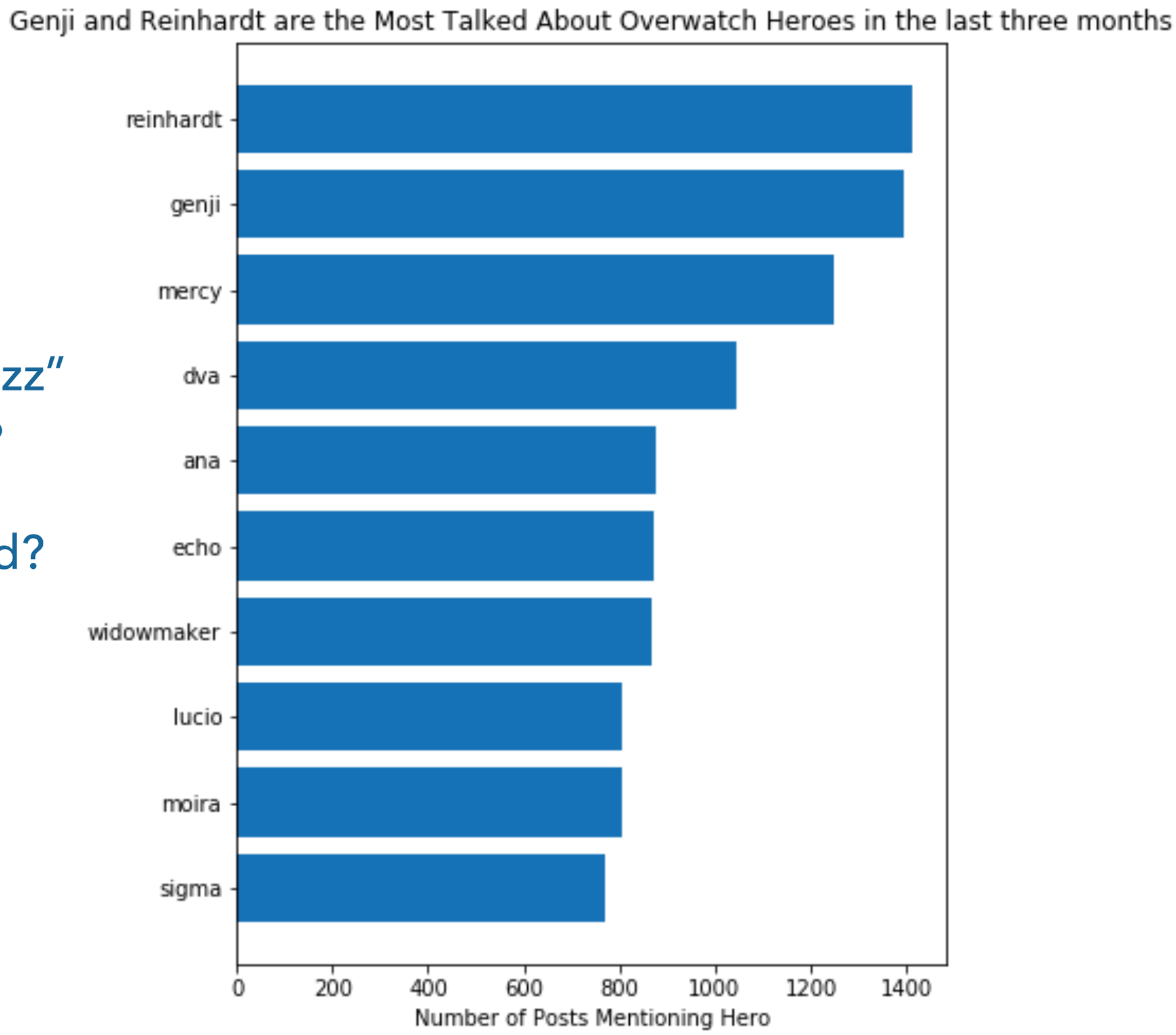
CLASSIFICATION

- 40,000 posts each for WOW and OW
- Combined title and self-text, count vectorized.
- Naive Bayes:
  - Accuracy: 92%
- Random Forest:
  - Accuracy: 84%
  - Much longer

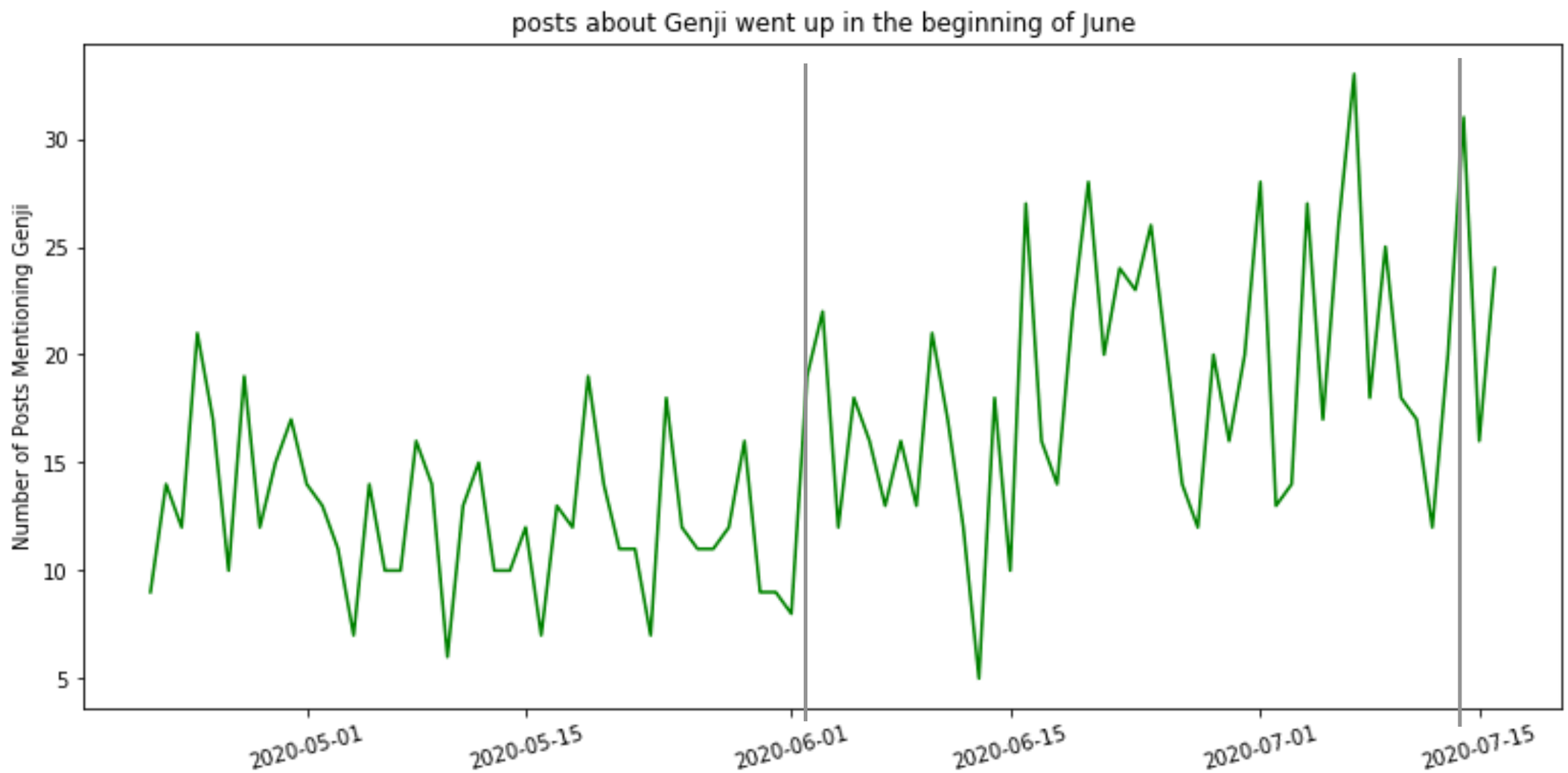


MOST TALKED ABOUT HEROES ON REDDIT

- How has hero "buzz" changed w/ time?
- Is this good or bad?



POST FREQUENCY W.R.T. TIME



- Developers made some changes to Genji recently
- Developers release new Genji in experimental mode on June 2.
- Genji changes go to live on June 16th.

JUNE 16TH PATCH NOTES FOR GENJI

GENJI

> *We're looking to strengthen Genji's close-range combat effectiveness to help solidify his viability as a mobile burst-damage hero. We'll keep a close eye on his overall power as we're increasing both the flexibility of Deflect and improving the shuriken damage consistency at the same time.*

Shuriken

General

- Damage increased from 28 to 30

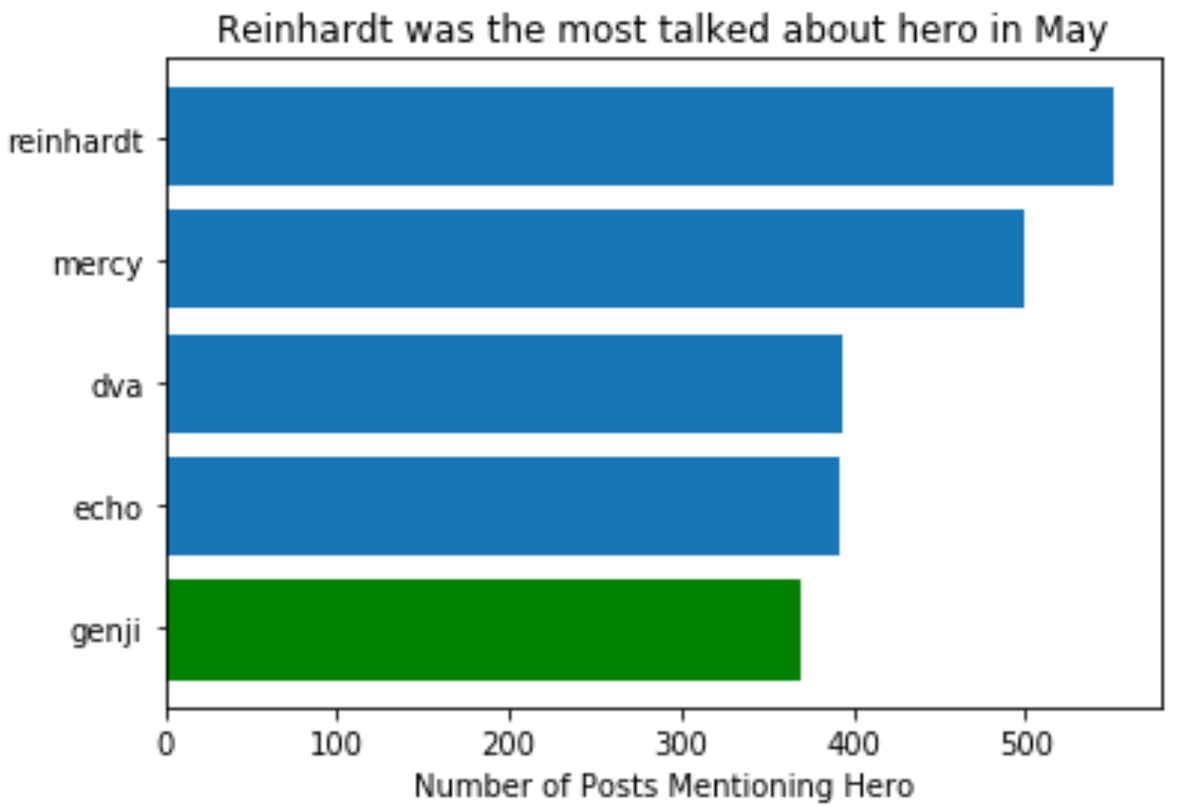
Secondary Fire

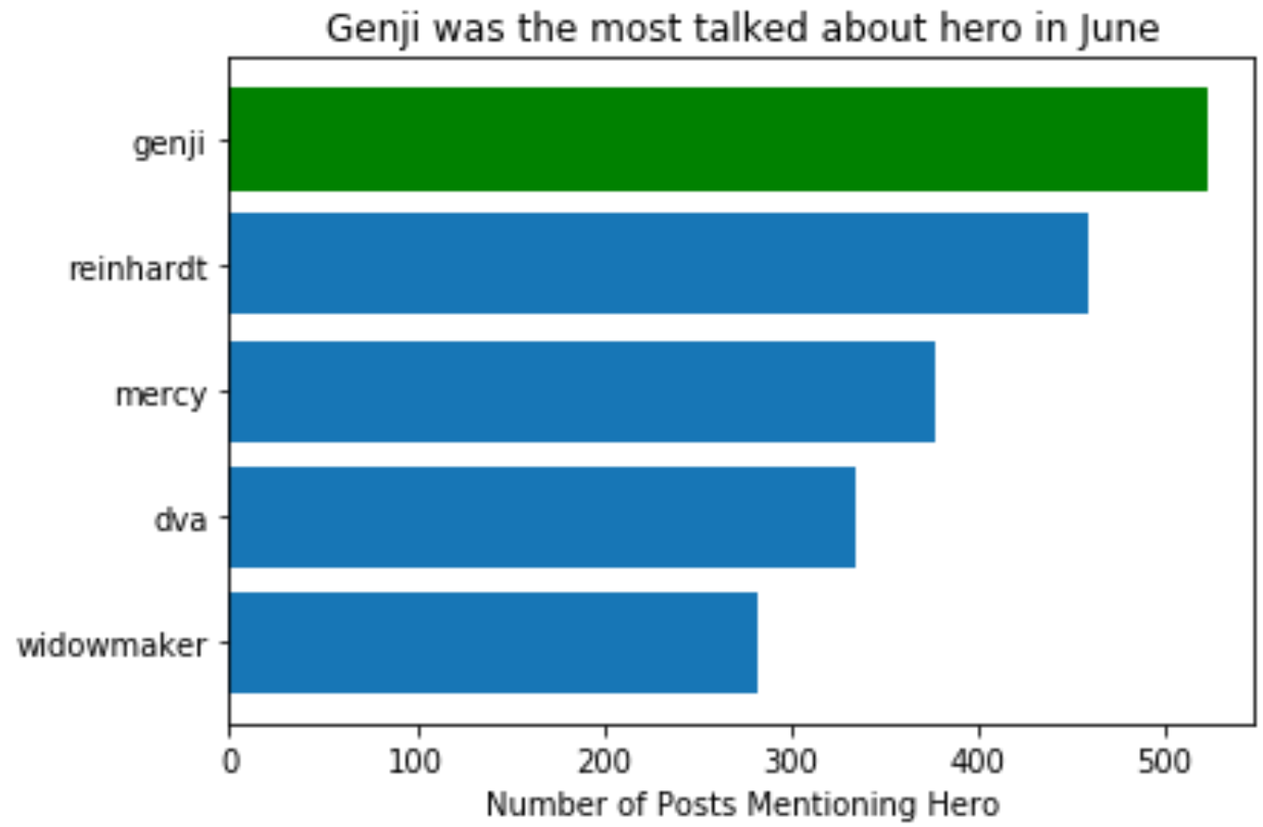
- Spread reduced from 12 to 9

Deflect

- Duration increased from 1.5 to 2 seconds
- Can now be cancelled manually

MOST TALKED ABOUT HEROES IN MAY AND JUNE



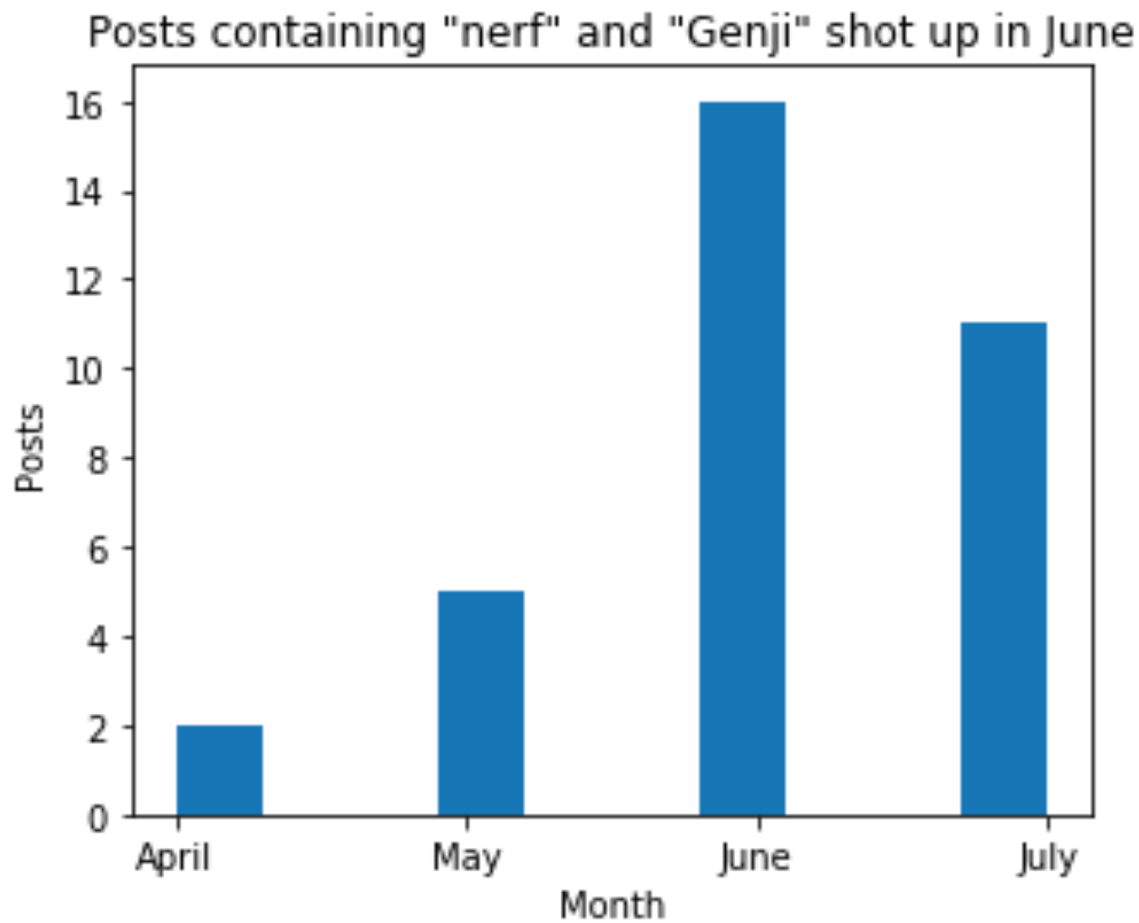


Reinhardt

Genji

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- searched for posts with the word “Genji” and “nerf”.



- July data doesn’t only covers about half the month.
- “Nerf Genji” picking up steam
- Recommendation: nerf Genji slightly or revert some of the recent changes. (Reduce ultimate charge rate, decrease fire rate, damage)