



The Self-Organization of Mass Political Protests in the Absence of Media Freedom

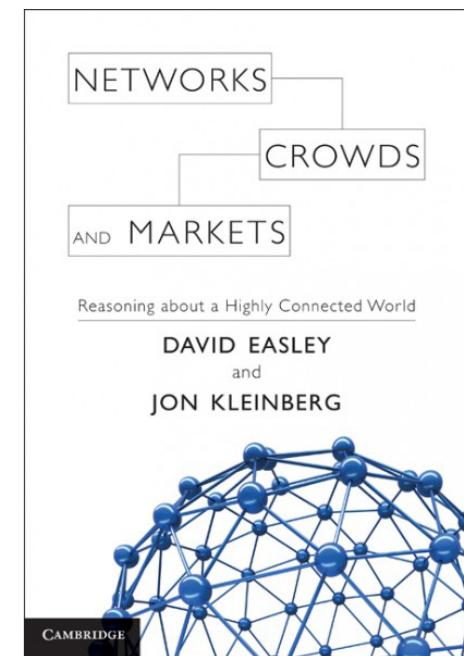
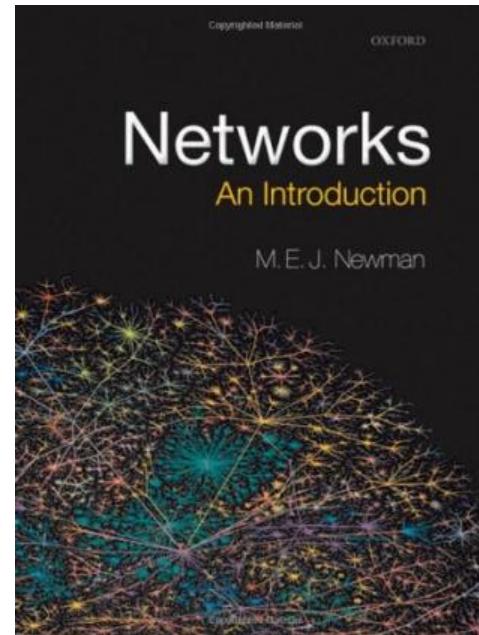
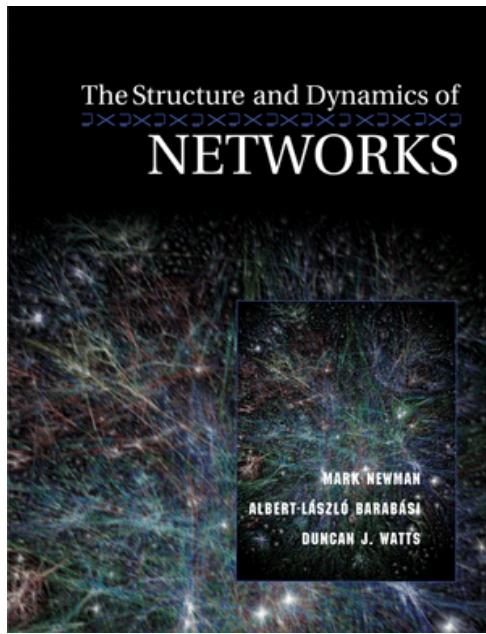
**Pablo Barberá (NYU)
Sandra González-Bailón (UPenn)**

Social Media Workshop

October 4 2013

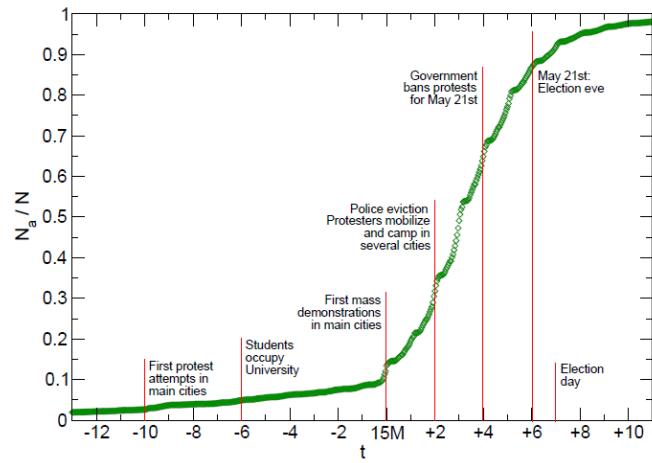
Networks and Information Diffusion

(Or how the structure relates to dynamics)

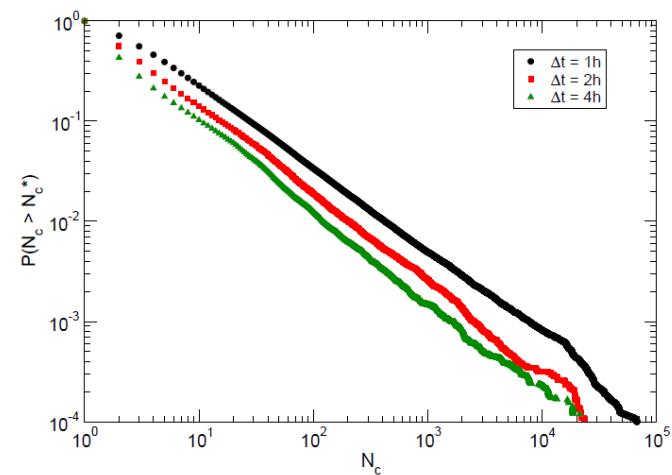


Previous Work – 15M in Spain

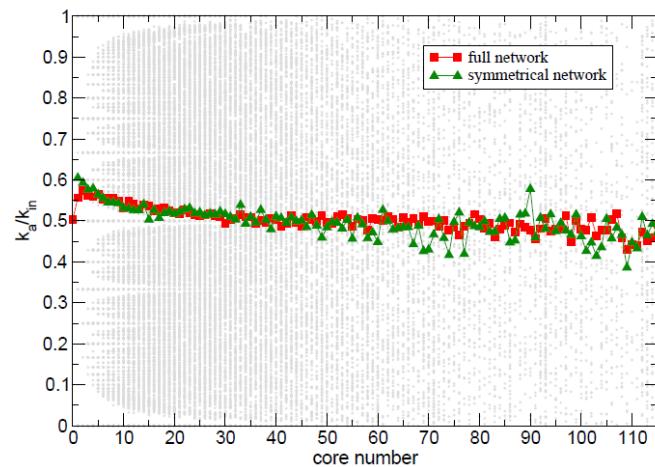
Recruitment over time



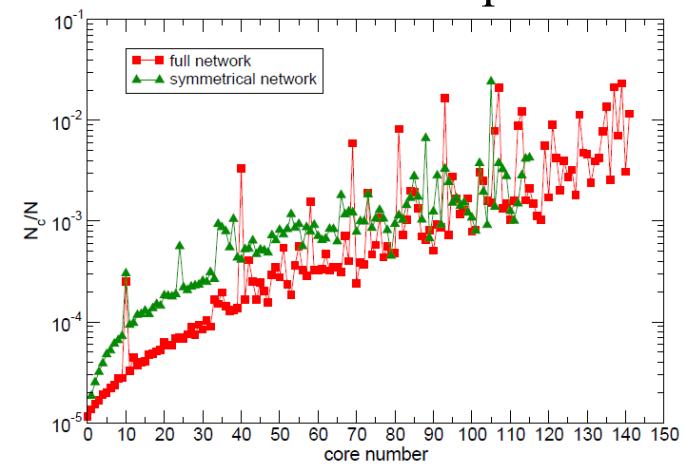
Size of information cascades



Position of Recruiters

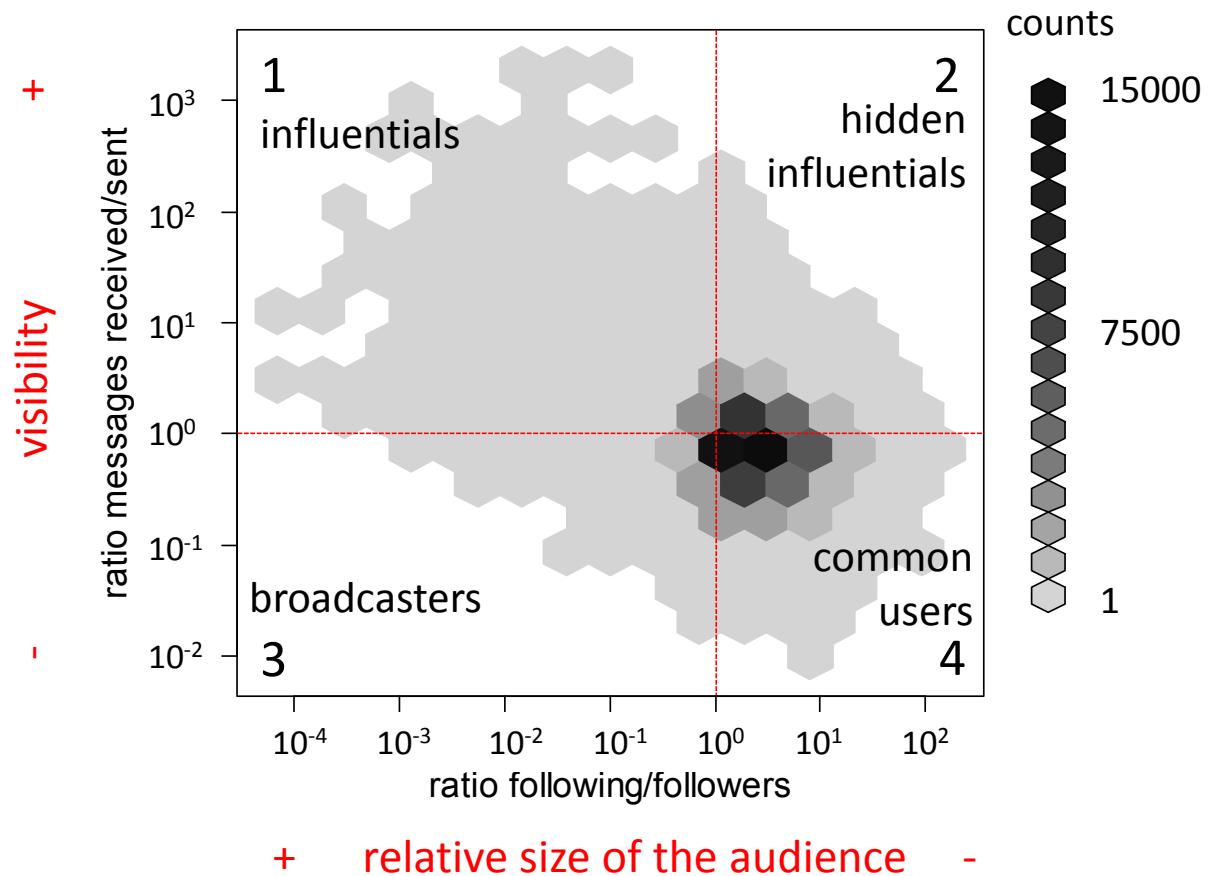


Position of Spreaders



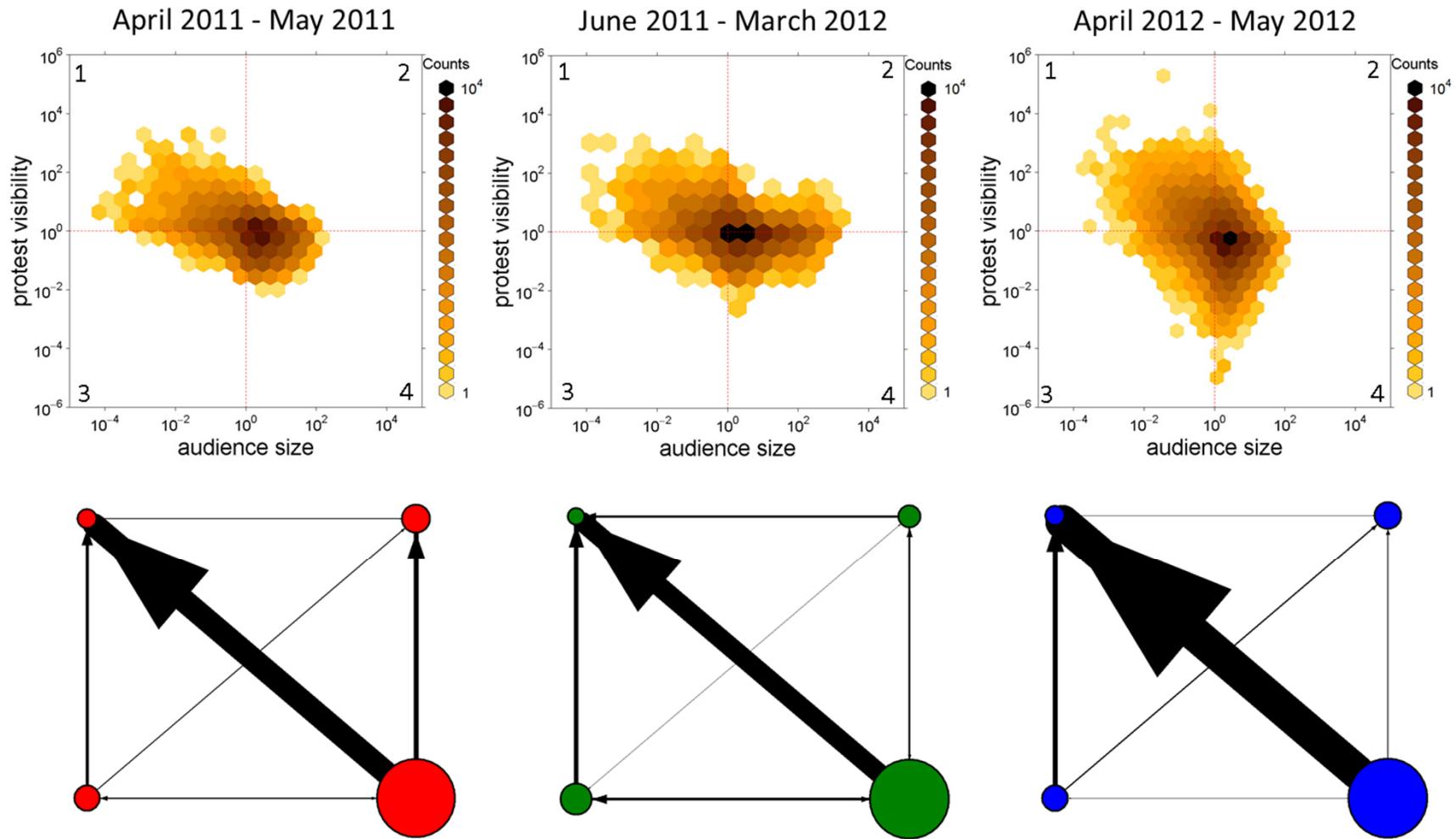
González-Bailón et al. (2011). The Dynamics of Protest Recruitment through an Online Network, *SciRep*

Previous Work – Typology of Users



González-Bailón et al. (2013). Broadcasters and Hidden Influentials in Online Protest Diffusion. *American Behavioral Scientist*

Previous Work – Changes over Time



Baños et al. (2013). Diffusion Dynamics with Changing Network Composition, *Entropy*

The Turkish Case

DAILY NEWS LEADING NEWS SOURCE FOR TURKEY AND THE REGION

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29 detained for tweets about Gezi protest in Turkey

IZMIR - Doğan News Agency

Like Send 29 people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like. Send to friend »

Tweet 30 +1 0 in

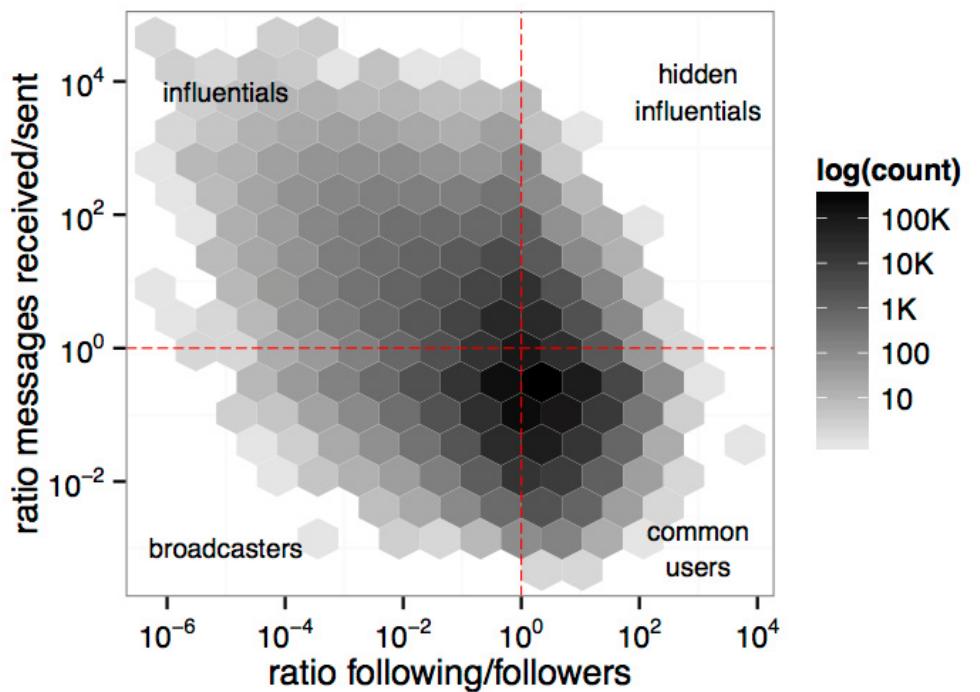


Twenty-nine people were detained overnight in İzmir for "inciting riots and conducting propaganda" on the social media network Twitter, with police forces still searching for 9 more.

Republican People's Party (CHP) provincial head Ali Engin, accompanied by party members and relatives of detainees, visited

“Twenty-nine people were detained overnight for ‘inciting riots and conducting propaganda’ on the social media network Twitter”

Our First Take...



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Democracy is the art of running the circus from the monkey cage -- H.L. Mencken

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Post Polls 7 Jun Americans and their odd

The Dynamics of Information Diffusion in the Turkish Protests by HENRY FARRELL on JUNE 9, 2013 - 0 COMMENTS in BLOGS

Below is a guest-post from Sandra González-Bailón at the Oxford Internet Institute and Pablo Barberá at NYU's Social Media and Political Participation (SMaPP) laboratory.

Social networking sites, such as Twitter, Facebook or Tumblr, appear to be playing a prominent role in the coordination of the still ongoing protests in Turkey. There is abundant evidence suggesting that social media have been pivotal in the spread of information, especially in the absence of coverage by traditional media [1]; to recruit and mobilize protesters [2]; to coordinate the movement without the infrastructure of formal organizations [3]; and to draw the attention and support of the international community [4]. That social media is at the heart of these protests was defiantly acknowledged by the Turkish Prime Minister himself when he described them as "the worst menace to society" [5]. There are also reports that 25 people were arrested because of their use of Twitter to spread information about the protest [6]. [click to continue...](#)

Like 59 Tweet 34 0 comments

Search To search, type and hit enter

About The mission of this blog is described in our [inaugural post](#). And, technically, an orangutan is an ape, not a monkey.

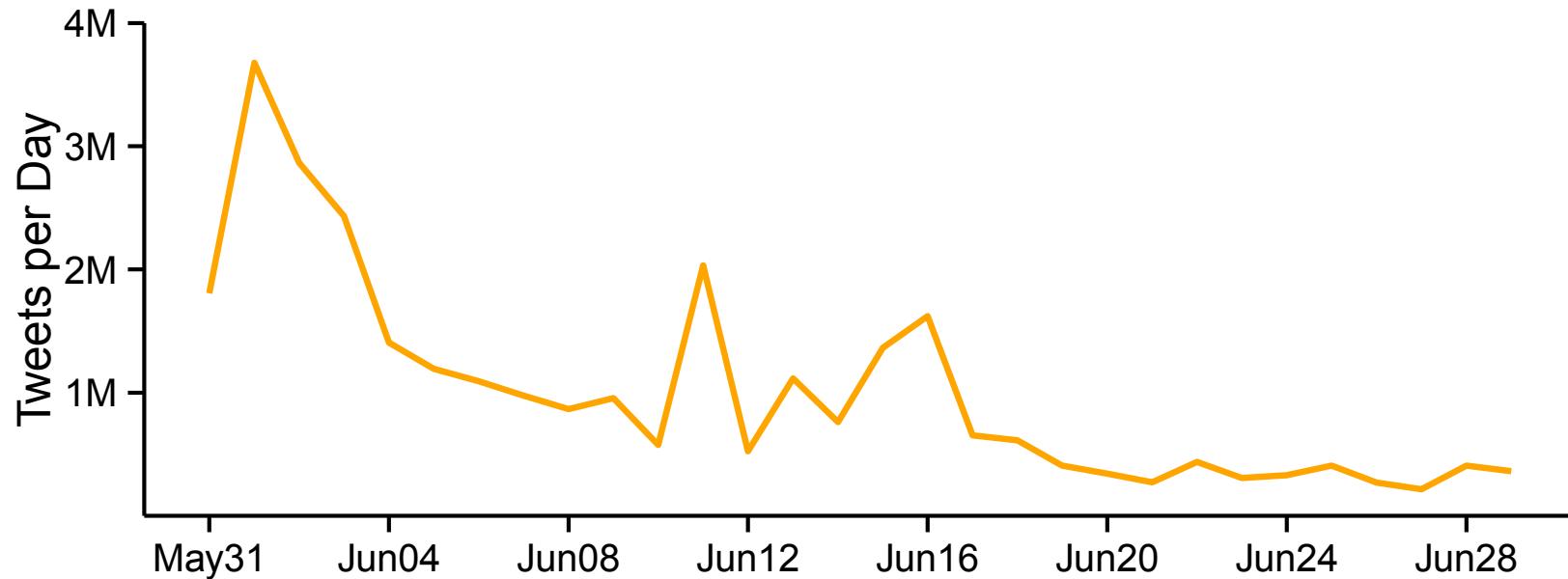
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Named a 2012 Best Blog by **TIME**

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Data (31 May – 29 June 2013)

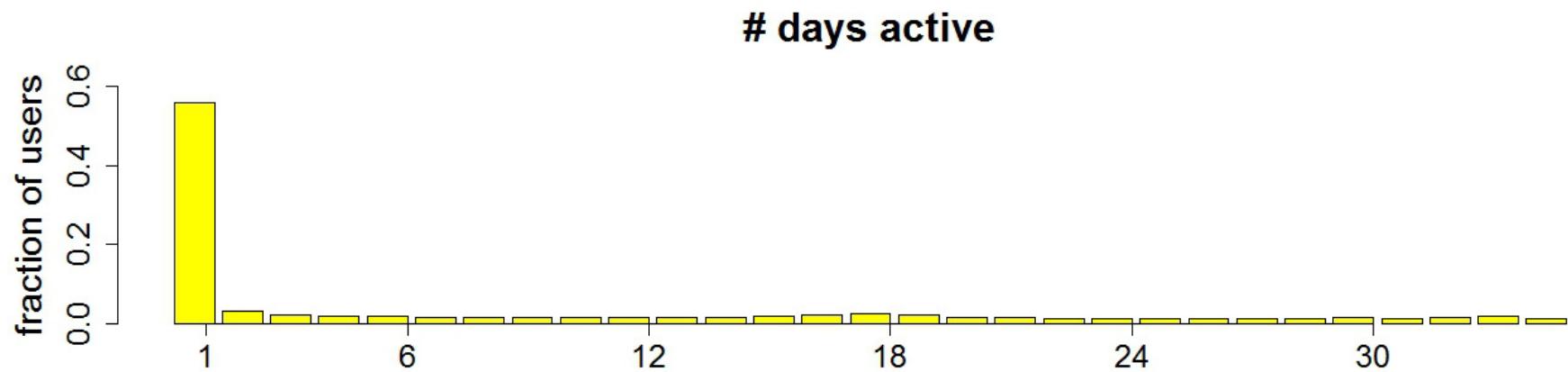
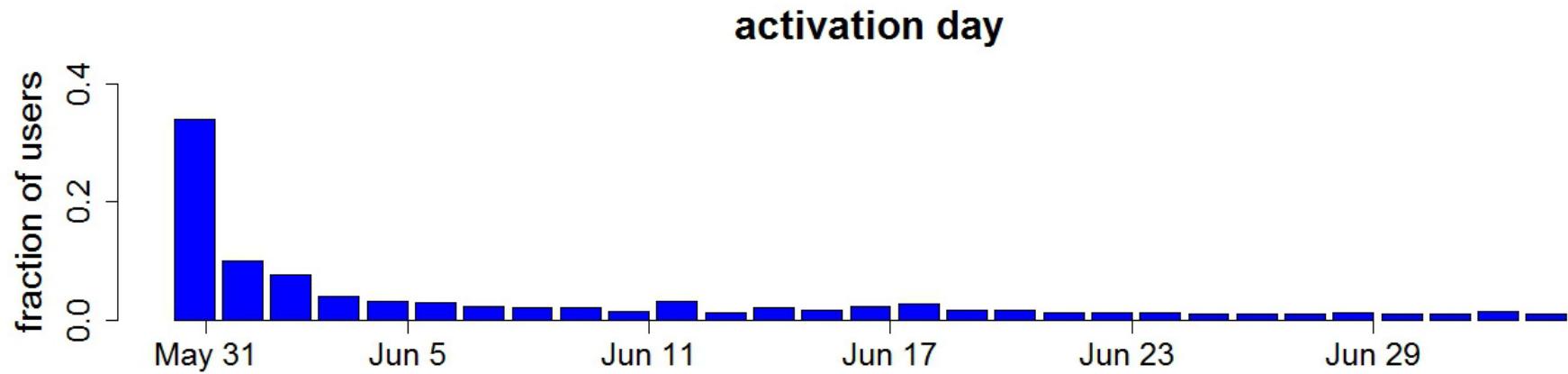
30 million tweets using hashtags related to protests



Collected by the Social Media and Political Participation Lab (SMaPP), using R package streamR (Barberá, 2013)

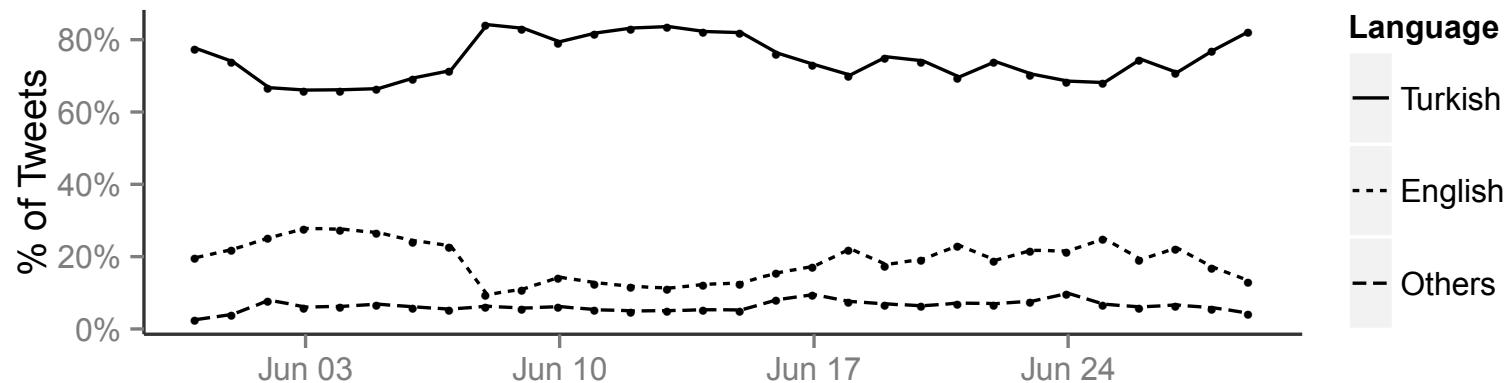
Data (31 May – 29 June 2013)

2.5 million users sent at least one retweet or mention

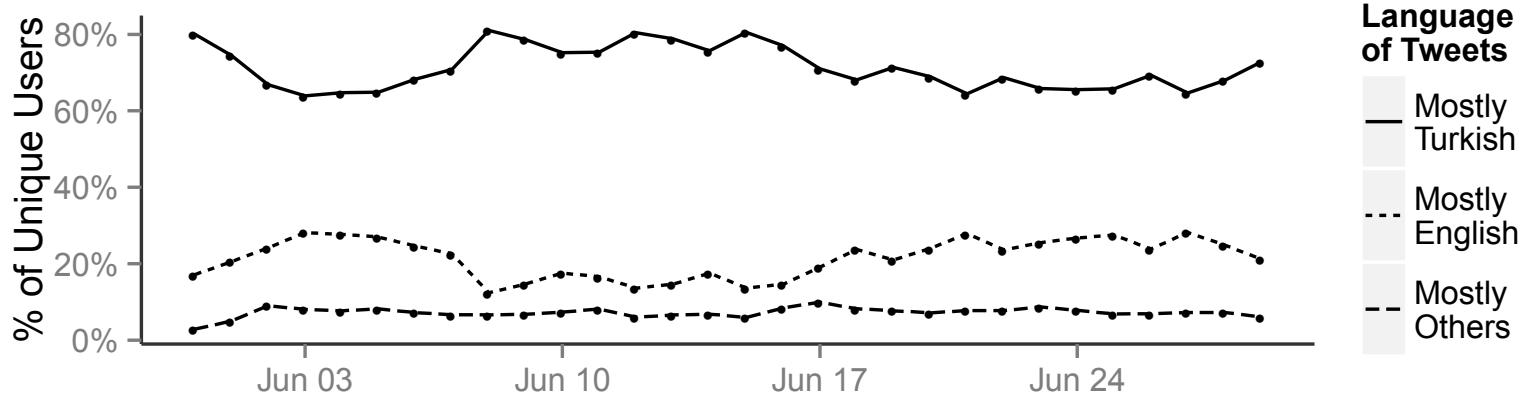


Data (31 May – 29 June 2013)

74% of all tweets were in Turkish

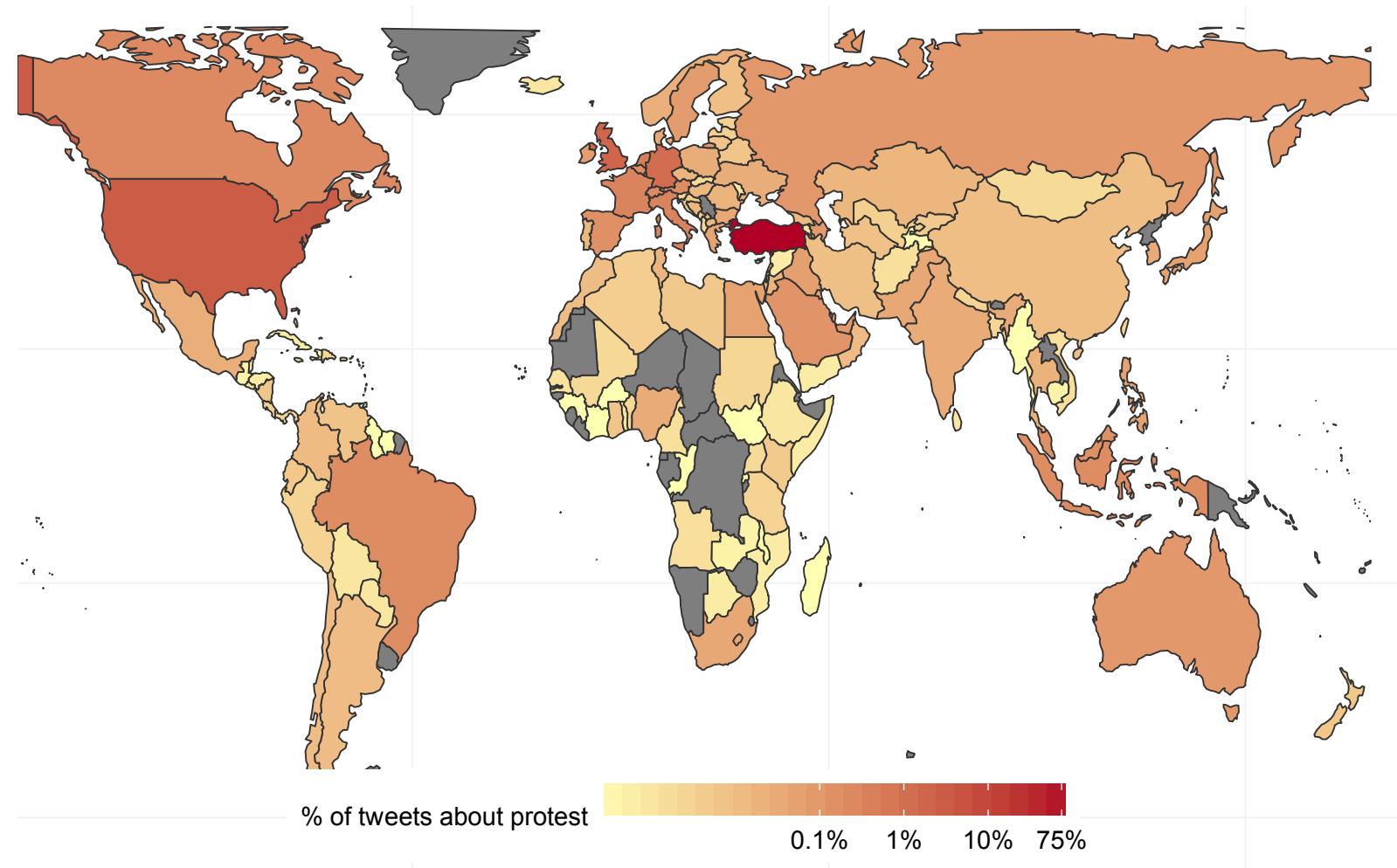


Average of 71.4% of users tweeting mostly in Turkish



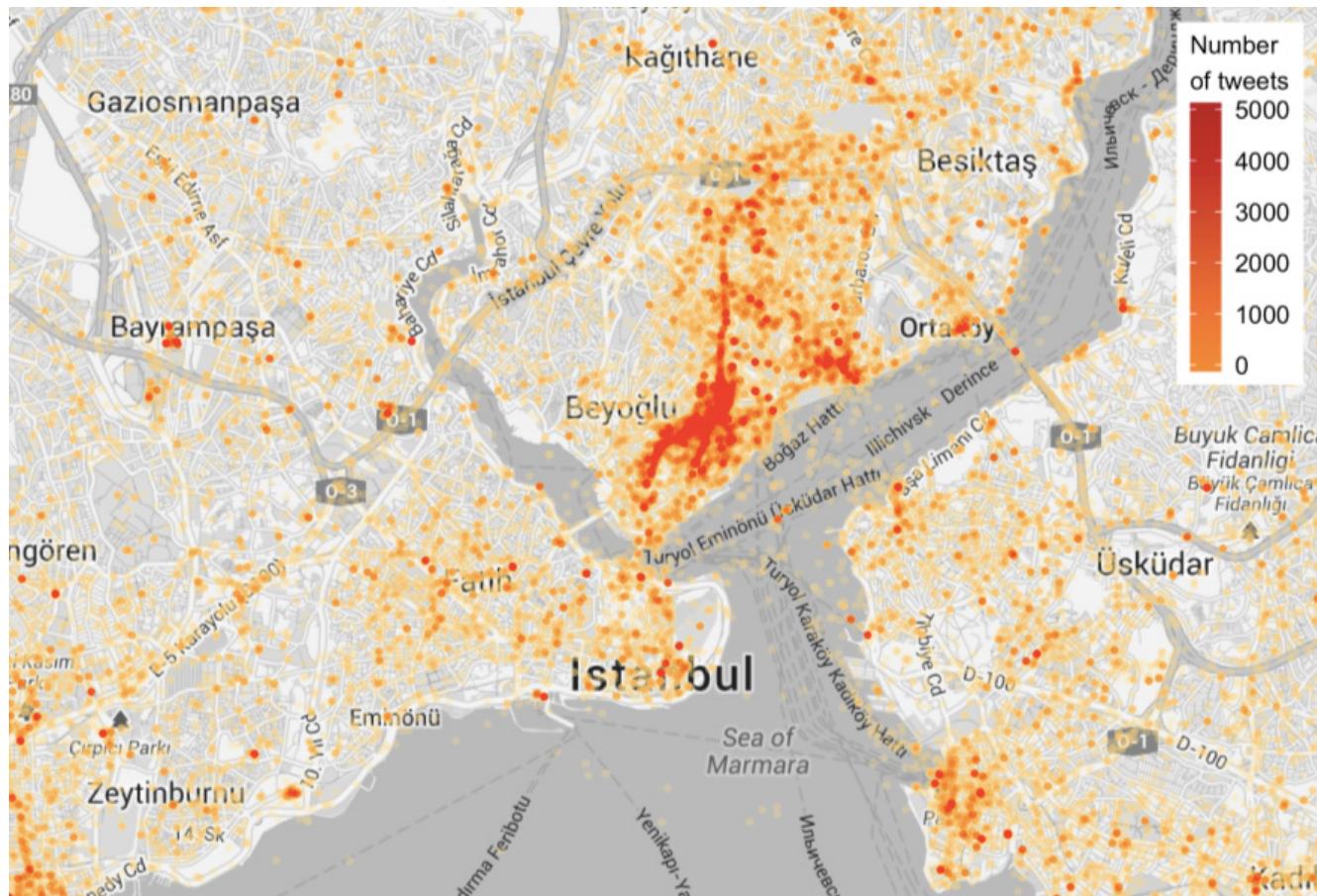
Data (31 May – 29 June 2013)

88% of all geo-located tweets were sent from inside Turkey



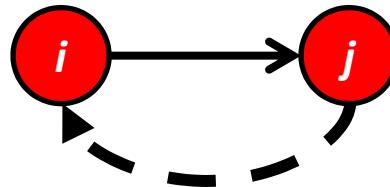
Data (31 May – 29 June 2013)

18% of geo-located tweets from Turkey were sent from the area surrounding Taksim Square by 30,000 unique users

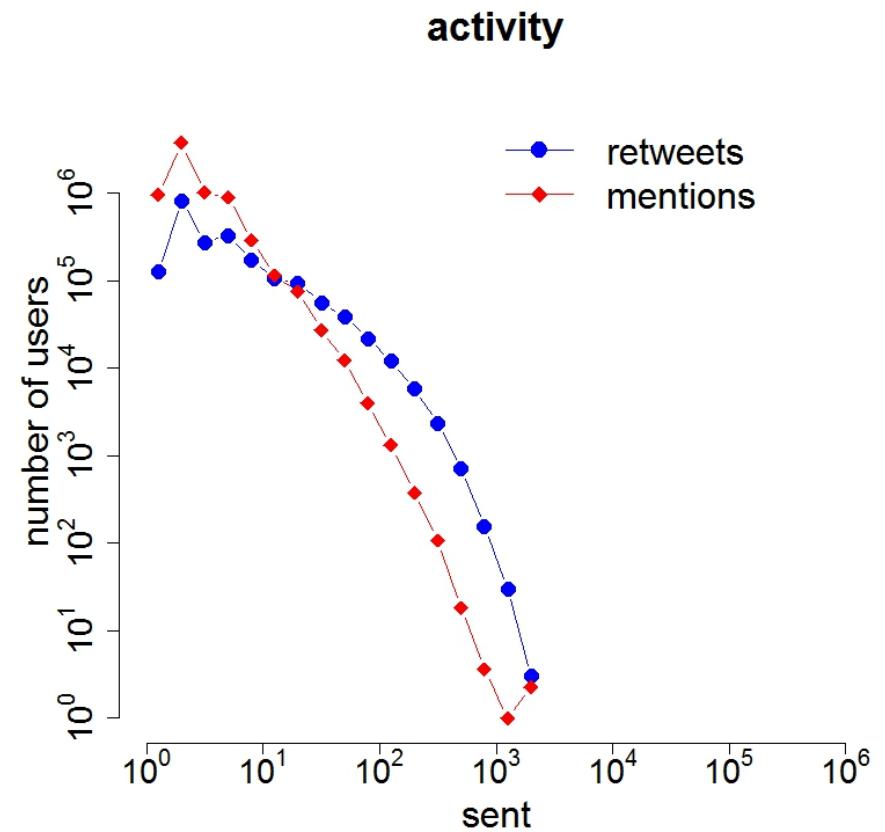
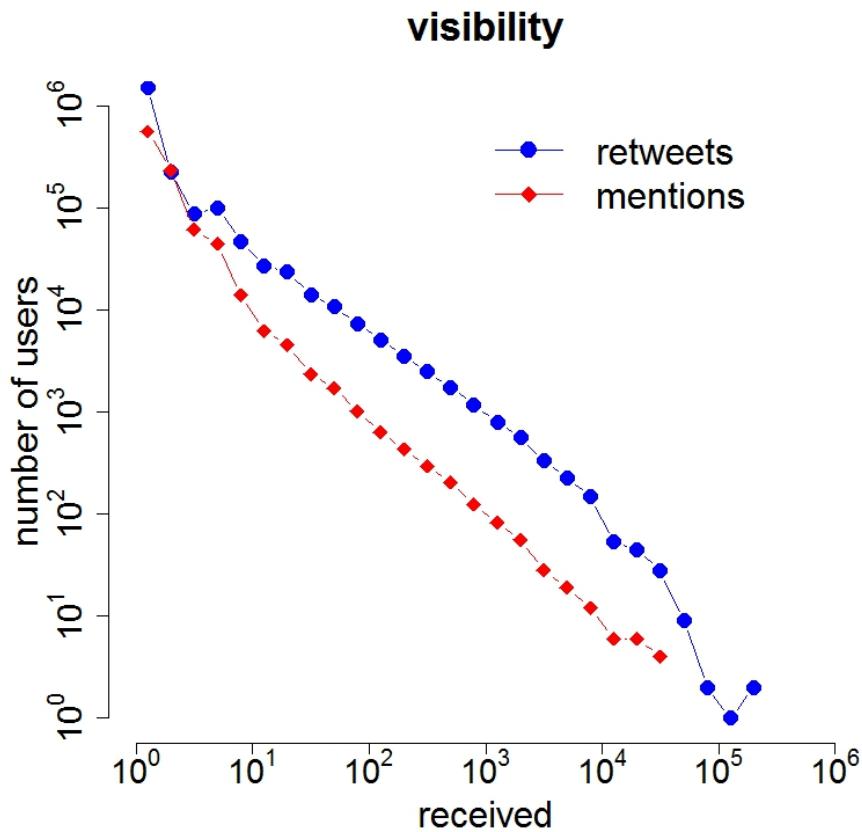


The Networks

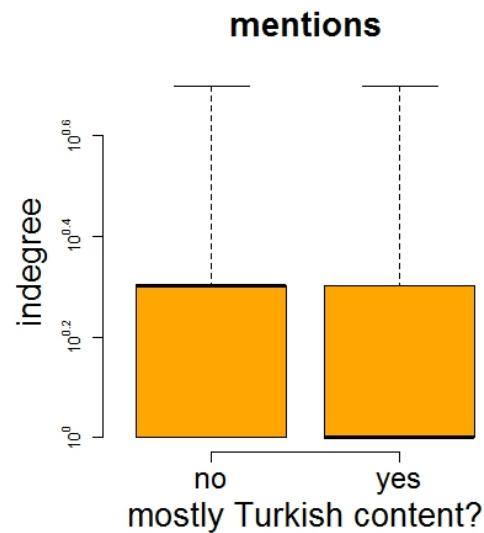
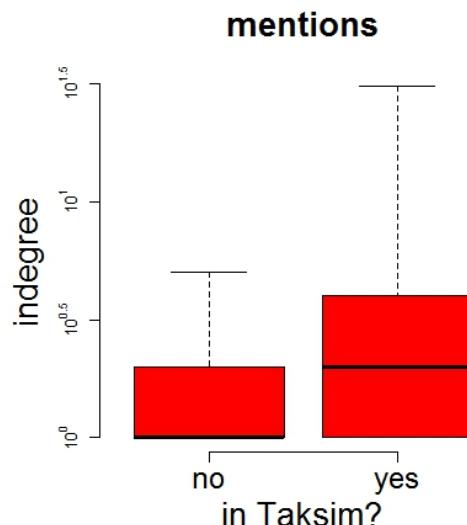
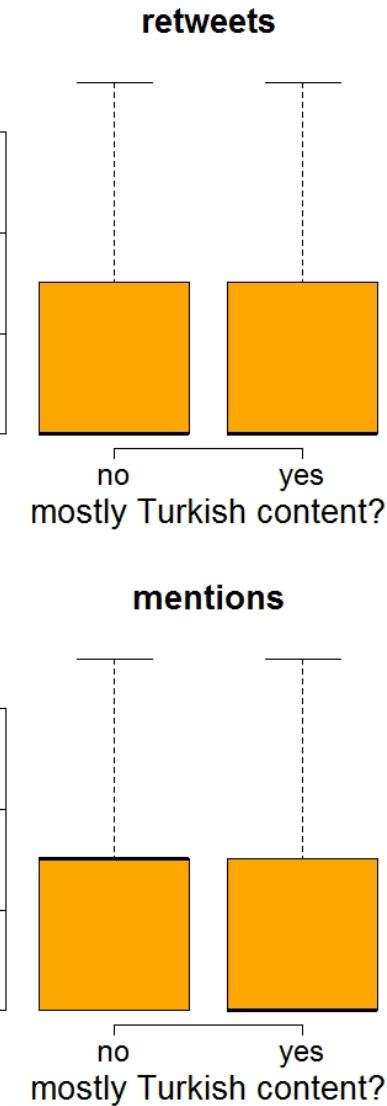
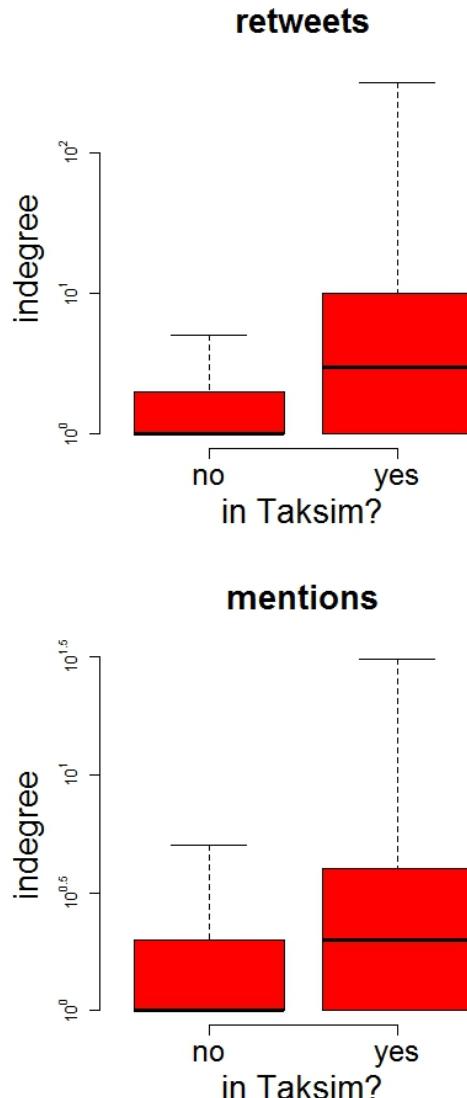
→ → information flow

	retweets	mentions
		
N (size)	2,073,925	1,105,959

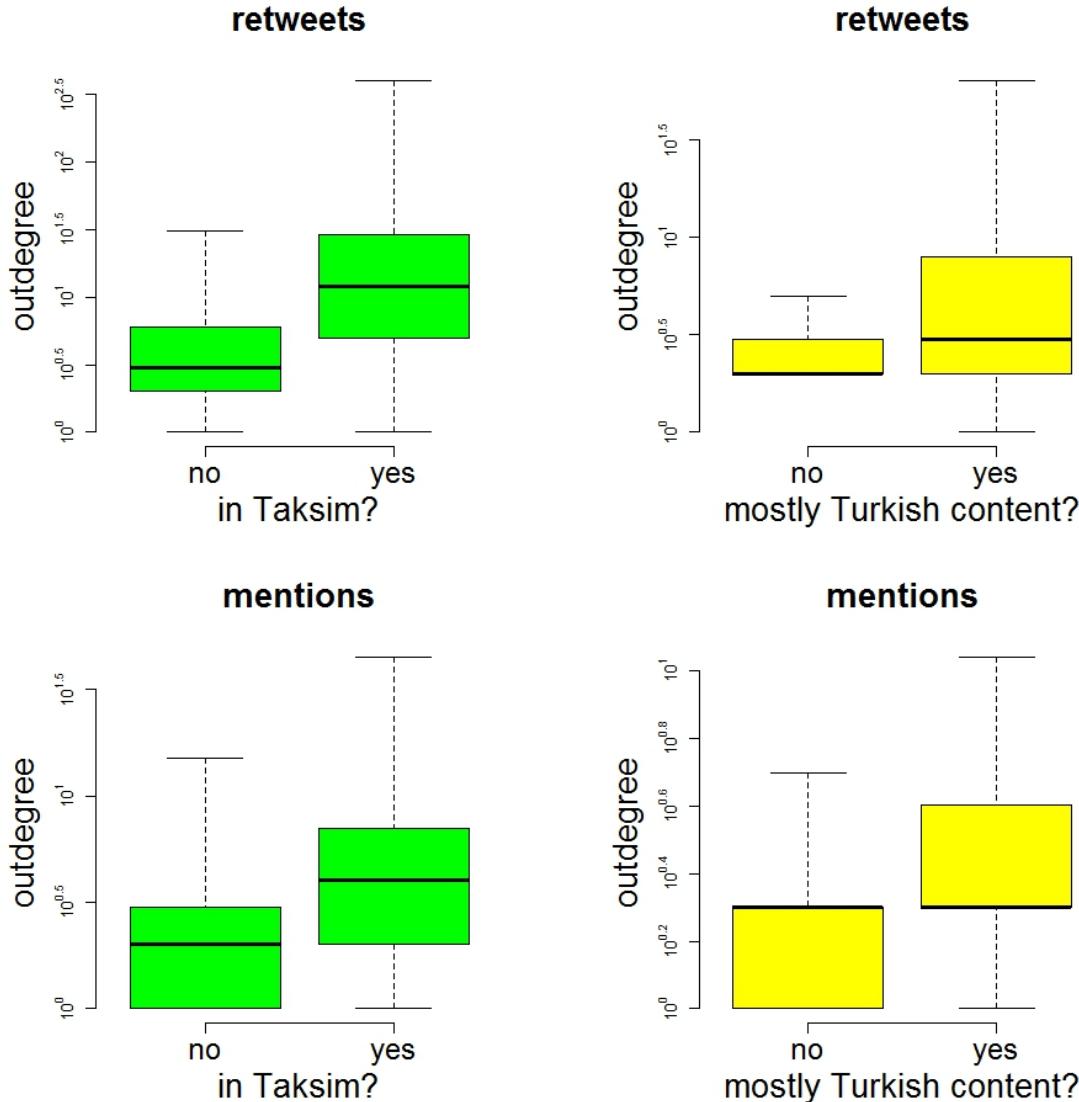
Distribution of Centrality (in-out degree)



Distribution of Visibility (in-degree)

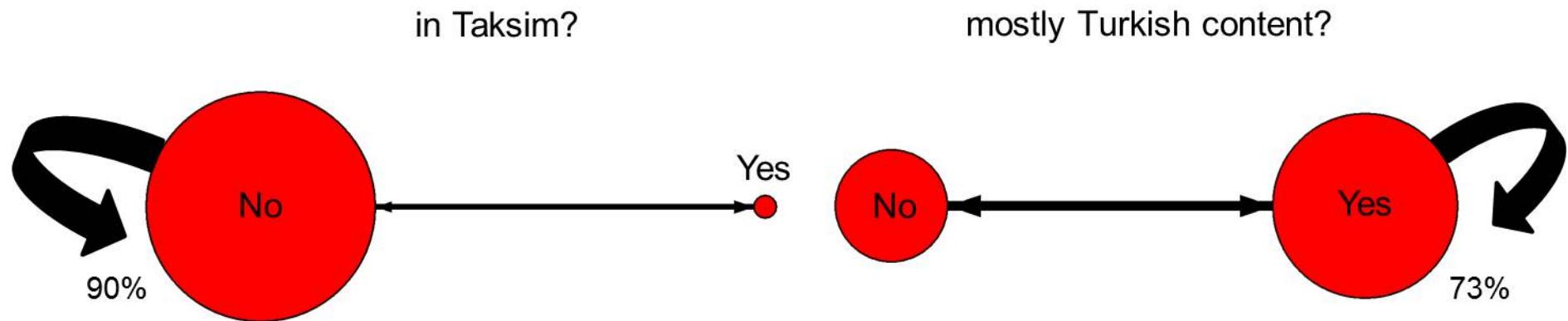


Distribution of Activity (out-degree)

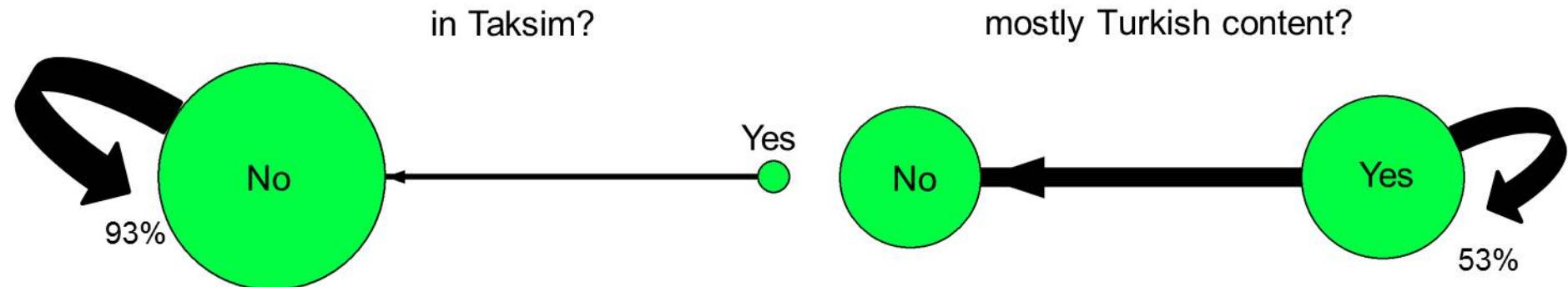


Information Flows

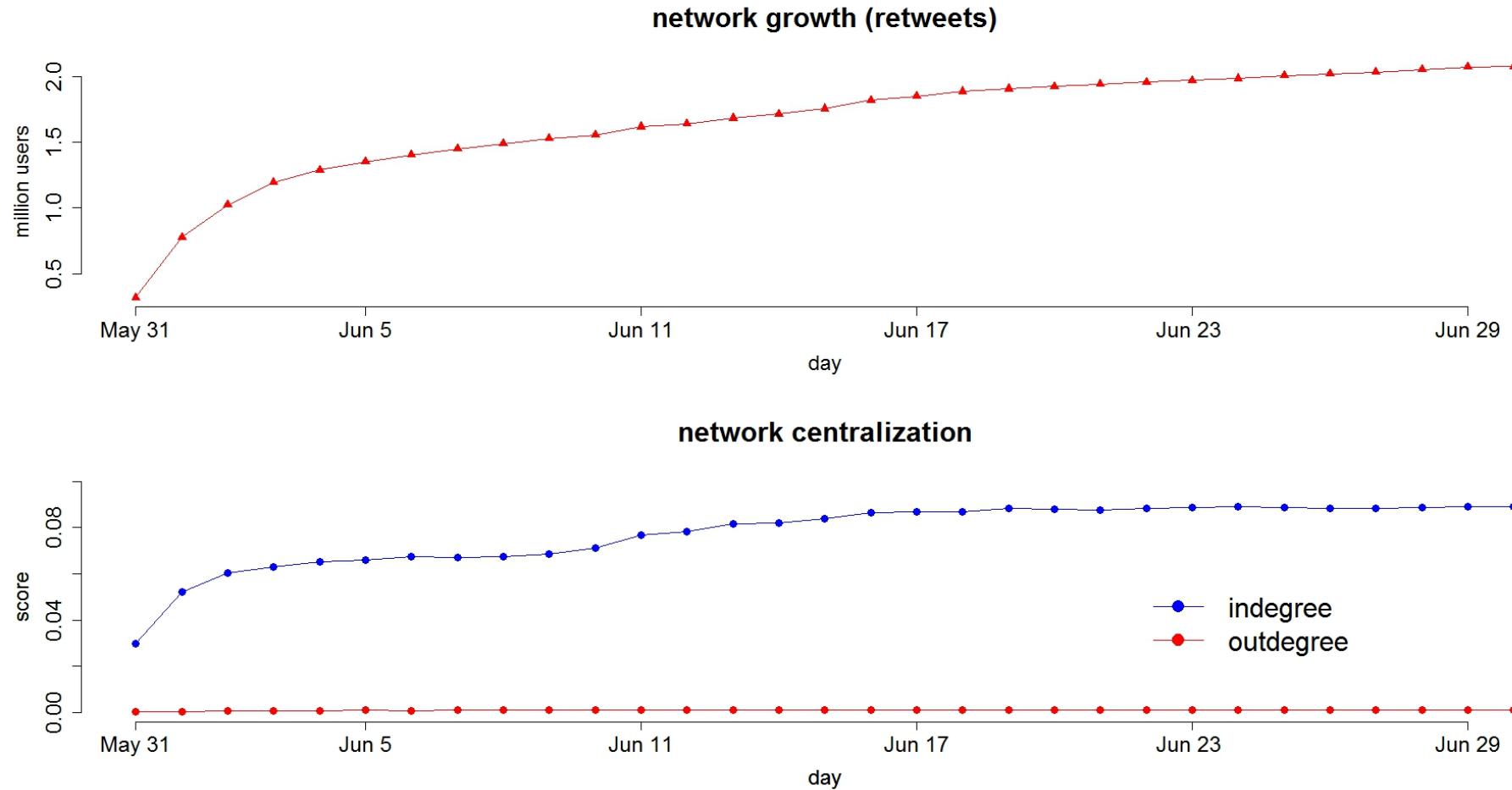
flow of retweets



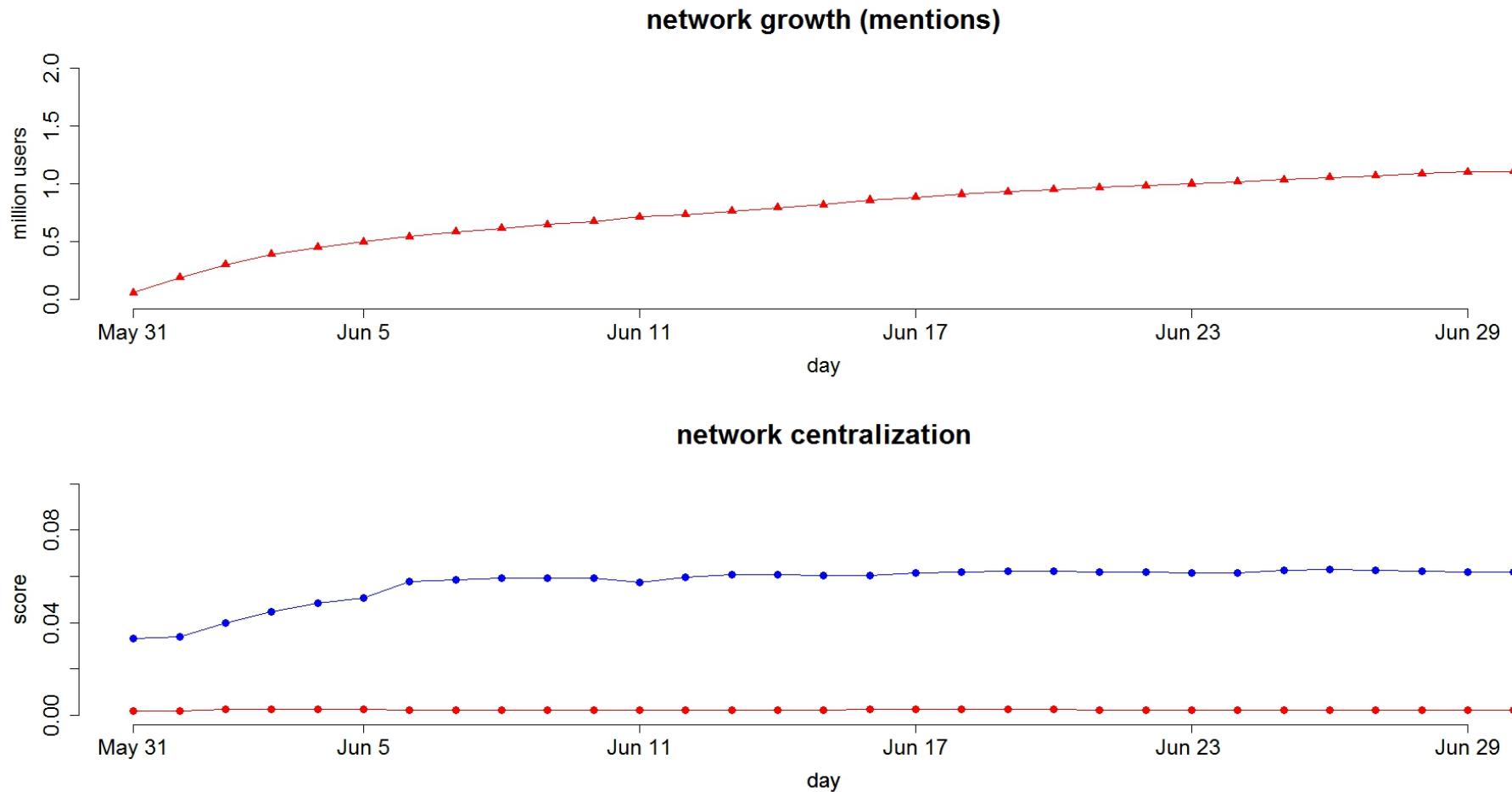
flow of mentions



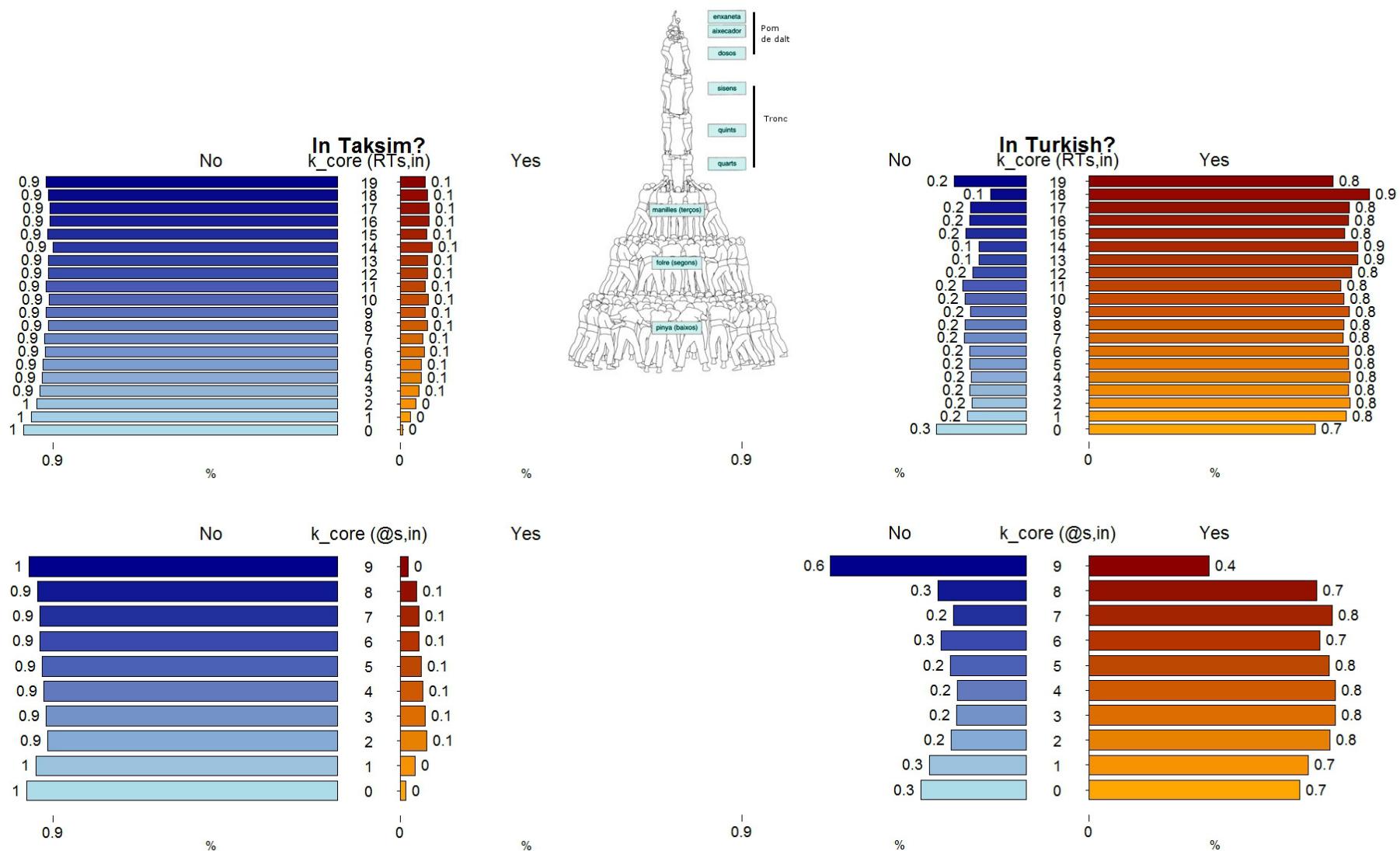
Network Growth & Increasing Hierarchy



Network Growth & Increasing Hierarchy



Who is on Top of the Network Hierarchy?

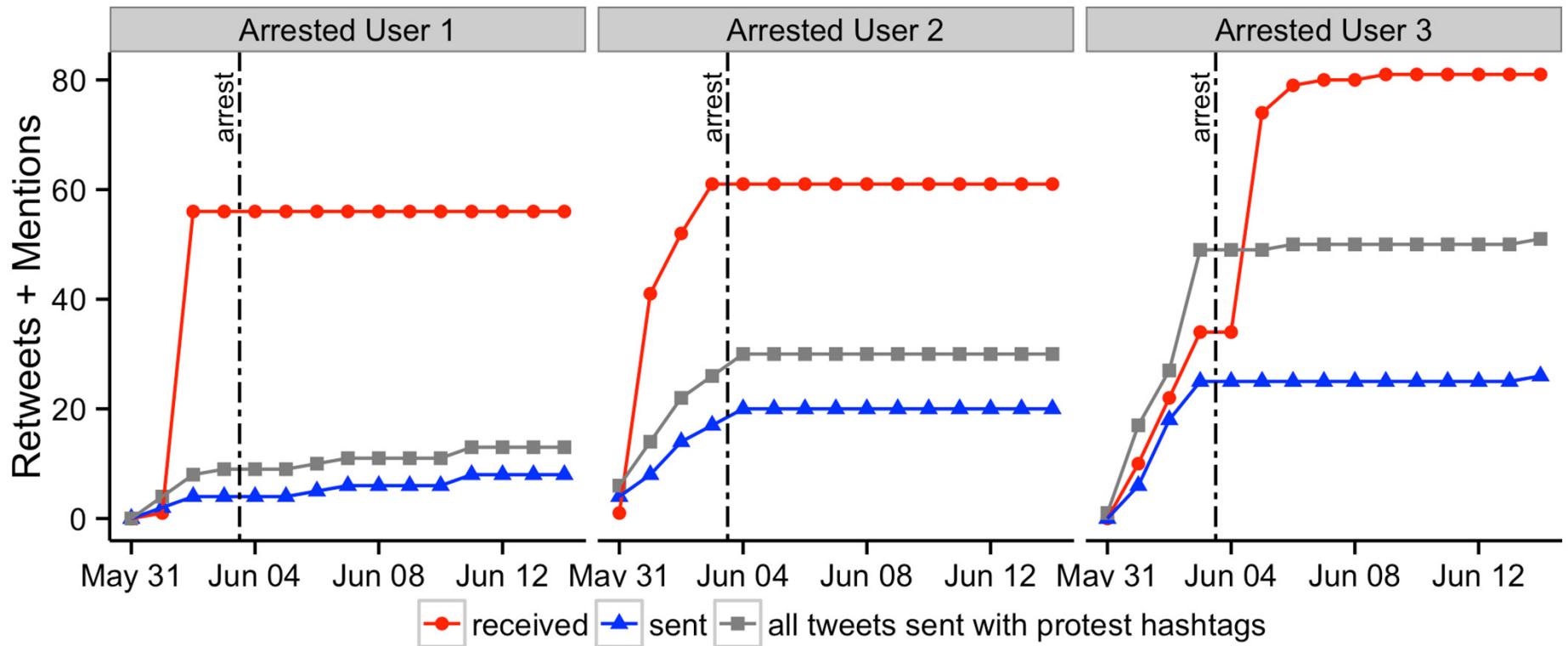


**SOME QUALITATIVE
INSIGHTS...**

Analysis of arrested users

- Reports of citizens being arrested for social media use
- Identities of three of them were matched with our dataset
- What position did they occupy in the network before getting arrested? How were they using Twitter?
- N=3! But relevant qualitative evidence (and possibly best we can get given that most arrested citizens were underage)

Analysis of arrested users



All three users were influential (more visibility than activity).
Arrest was effective at deterring their public activity.

Analysis of arrested users

ARRESTED USER 1

Erdogan: "Ihr könnt machen, was immer ihr wollt. Wir haben unsere Entscheidung getroffen und ziehen sie durch." #occupygezi
#direngeziparki

0505 335 88 83 metin, 0530 569 84 93 emre, 0505 661 81 36 umut, 0533 779 68 84 dolmabahce onu, besiktas doktor numaralari.
#direngeziparki [retweeted 49 times]

wifi sifrelerini degistirmeyin, kaldirin! #direnbesiktas #direngeziparki #occupygezi #direngezi #direnankara #direnizmir [retweeted 6 times]

ARRESTED USER 2

BASMANE TARAFINA ACİL DOKTOR YARDIMI!!! İZMİRLİLER RT LÜTFEEEN!! #izmirdegezi #direngeziparki #tayyipistifa [retweeted 30 times]

Akp yandaşları İzmir'de polisin yanında insanlara saldırıyor!! #direnizmir [retweeted 12 times]

Siyah GIYMEYİN polisin işini kolaylaştırmayın! #direnizmir #direnalsancak

ARRESTED USER 3

Besiktasta zor durumda olanlar Bahcesehir universitesi'ne gelebilir.Kapilar ve revir acik #direngaziparki #occupygezi

Ypmyn,yaptırmayın;1-Her türlü ırkçı söylem 2-PartiYandaşlığı 3-Yanlış bilgilendirme 4-KışkırtmaProvokasyon 5-Küfürlü slogan"#direngeziparki

gonullu doktorlar 0506 840 31 09 0530 923 51 20 0505 894 90 54 0532 736 40 62 0530 492 49 71 #direnankara #direngaziparki

ONE OF the young Turkish Tweeps detained today in Izmir, @ARRESTED_USER_NAME Please follow & re-tweet her tweets in solidarity! #OccupyGezi

Analysis of arrested users

ARRESTED USER 1

Erdogan: "You can do whatever you want. We have made our choice and will pull it through" #occupygezi #direngeziparki

0505 335 88 83 metin, 0530 569 84 93 emre, 0505 661 81 36 umut, 0533 779 68 84 in front of Dolmabahce, Besiktas doctors' numbers #direngeziparki [retweeted 49 times]

Do not change the wi-fi codes, revoke them completely! #direnbesiktas #direngeziparki #occupygezi #direngezi #direnankara #direnizmir [retweeted 6 times]

ARRESTED USER 2

WE NEED DOCTORS TO BASEMANE, THIS IS URGENT!! TWEEPS FROM IZMIR PLEASE RT!! #izmirdegezi #direngeziparkı #tayyipistifa [retweeted 30 times]

Pro-AKP people are attacking us when police is present!! #direnizmir [retweeted 12 times]

Do not wear black, do not make it easy for police! #direnizmir #direnalsancak #resistizmir #resistsancak

ARRESTED USER 3

Anyone in Besiktas, who needs help can come to University of Bahcesehir. The doors of the university and the infirmary is open. #direngaziparki #occupygezi

Do not do those, do not let people do those 1-Any racist rhetoric 2-Partisanship 3-Misinformation 4-Provocation Inflammation 6-Defamatory slogans #direngeziparkı

Ankara Doctors that are volunteering 0506 840 31 09 0530 923 51 20 0505 894 90 54 0532 736 40 62 0530 492 49 71
#direnankara #direngaziparki #resistankara #resistgaziparki

ONE OF the young Turkish Tweeps detained today in Izmir, @ARRESTED_USER_NAME Please follow & re-tweet her tweets in solidarity! #OccupyGezi

CONCLUSIONS (DISCUSSION, REALLY)

In hindsight, this is the story...

- Protesters use different strategies:
 - RTs to disseminate information and help logistics;
 - @mentions to gain the attention of people and project protests internationally
- The network grows more hierarchical over time (especially for RTs) – this generates an increasingly small elite of ‘authorities’
- Most protesters are active for just one day – but there are many. The power of numbers supplants commitment (successfully?)

END

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