CS190 Part 3: The Social Web

Online Social Network Analysis

Recap

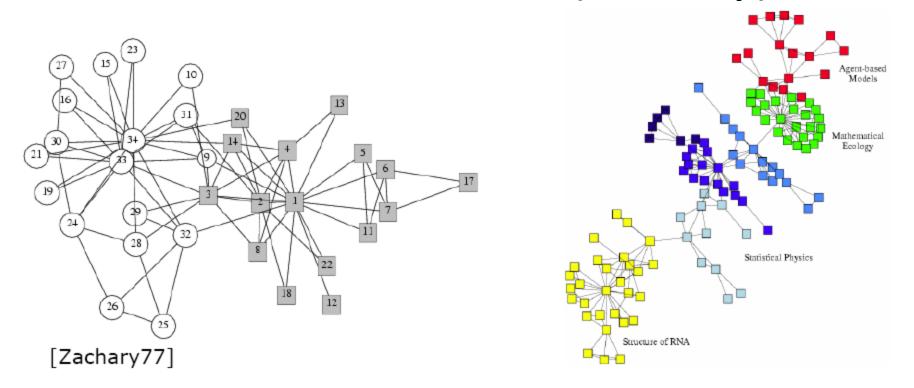
- All should have a working "Hello World" Facebook App
- Assignment 4 (due tomorrow/Wed/ night):
 - Extend to display interesting information using the Facebook Graph API:

https://developers.facebook.com/tools/explorer?

– Silly example:

http://dutch.mathcs.emory.edu/~eugene/facebook2/

Social Networks (History)



- Individuals and relationships between them
 - E.g., karate club friendships, paper co-authors
- Density and patterns of connectedness as relate to behavior

Social Networks (History, Cont'd)

- Network models of social interactions have 50 year history in academia
 - Been difficult to study except on small scale
 - Now have large-scale data, but often asking simple questions
- Social networking web sites date back several years (e.g., Classmates '99)
 - Varying levels of popularity, boom-bust
 - Recently become mass phenomenon
 - MySpace surpassed Google page views in 2005
 - Lots of visibility, sometimes negative

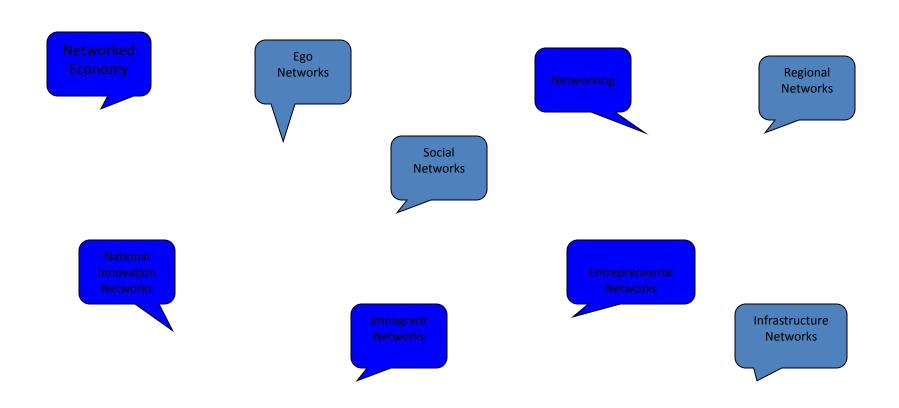
Online Social Networks

- Enables people to connect, rendezvous, collaborate, form communities
 - Content: blogs, wikis, media sharing (video, photo, audio)
 - E.g., Blogger, Wikipedia, YouTube, Flickr
 - Connections: job networking, friend networking
 - E.g., LinkedIn, Facebook
 - Hybrids
 - E.g., MySpace, LiveJournal, Orkut, Xanga
- Replacing other forms? Enhancing?

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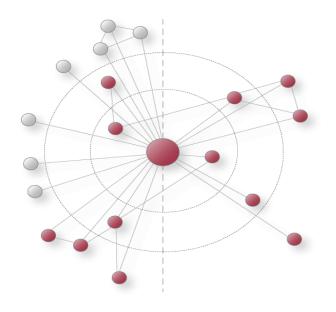
- Introduction to Social Network
- Social Network and KMS
- Social Network Analysis
- Application of Social Network Analysis
- Technology LinkedIn
- Future of Social Networks.
- References

Everybody talks about Networks?



Social Networks

 How do you explain to say somebody what Social Network is? What Social Network Analysis is?

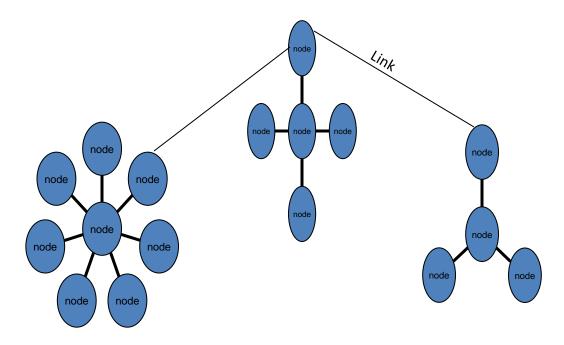


Network Analysis is the keyword For the 21st Century

Researchers, Politicians, People talk about Networks around you.

How do you explain what network is?

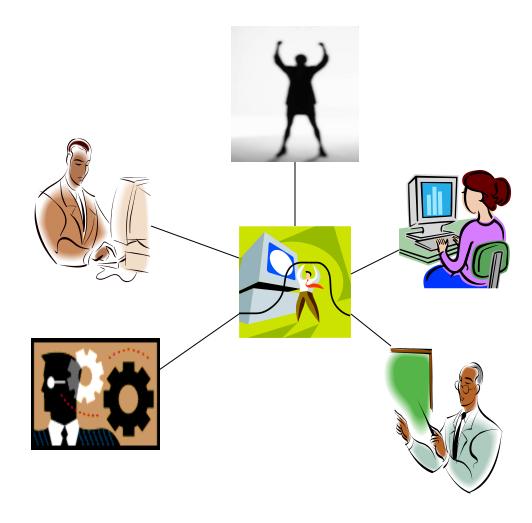
What is a Network?



Web Definition: A set of nodes, points, or locations connected by means of data, voice, and video communications for the purpose of exchange.

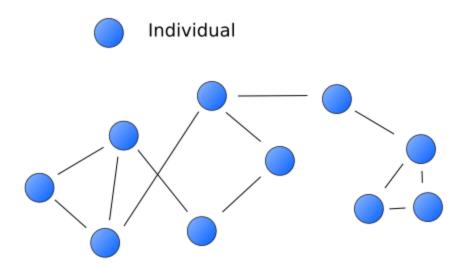
Social Networks

A **social network** is a description of the social structure between actors, mostly individuals or organizations. It indicates the ways in which they are connected through various social familiarities ranging from casual acquaintance to close familiar bonds.



Social Network Analysis

- Social network analysis [SNA] is the mapping and measuring of relationships and flows between people, groups, organizations, computers or other information/knowledge processing entities.
- The nodes in the network are the people and groups while the links show relationships or flows between the nodes.



Social Network Analysis

We measure Social Network in terms of:

1. Degree Centrality:

The number of direct connections a node has. What really matters is where those connections lead to and how they connect the otherwise unconnected.

2. Betweenness Centrality:

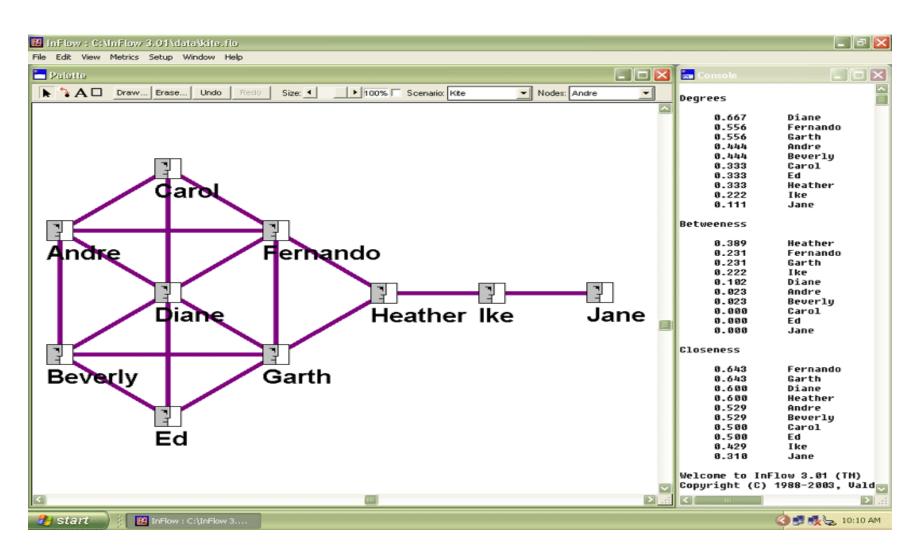
A node with high betweenness has great influence over what flows in the network indicating important links and single point of failure.

3. Closeness Centrality:

The measure of closeness of a node which are close to everyone else.

The pattern of the direct and indirect ties allows the nodes any other node in the network more quickly than anyone else. They have the shortest paths to all others.

Exercise on SNA: Kite Network



Exercise on SNA: Kite Network

- Who is the Connecter or Hub in the Network?
- Who has control over what flows in the Network?
- Who has best visibility of what is happening in the Network?
- Who are peripheral players? Are they Important?

SNA and KMS:

SNA helps in analyzing the following facts in a KMS:

- Bottlenecks Central nodes that provide the only connection between different parts of the network.
- Number of links Insufficient or excessive links between departments that must coordinate effectively.
- Average distance Degrees of separation connecting all pairs of nodes in the group.

SNA and KMS (2)

- Short distances transmit information accurately and in a timely way, while long distances transmit slowly and can distort the information.
- Isolation People that are not integrated well into a group and therefore, represent both untapped skills and a high likelihood of turnover.
- Highly expert people Not being utilized appropriately.
- Organizational subgroups or cliques Can develop their own subcultures and negative attitudes toward other groups.

Application of SNA:

- Realizing 9/11 Al- Qaeda Network.
- Build a grass roots political campaign.
- Determine influential journalists and analysts in the IT industry.
- Map executive's personal network based on email flows.
- Discover the network of Innovators in a regional economy.
- Analyze book selling patterns to position a new book and many more......

6-degrees of Bacon

http://oracleofbacon.org/

- Searching a social network
 - (breadth-first, depth-first, etc)

Technology

Various technologies that help in creating Social Networks are:

- 1) Email
- 2) Blogs
- 3) Social Networking Software like Orkut, LinkedIn etc.

Technology: LinkedIn

What is Your Network?

When your connections invite **their** connections, your Network starts to grow.

Your Network is your connections, their connections, and so on out from you at the center.

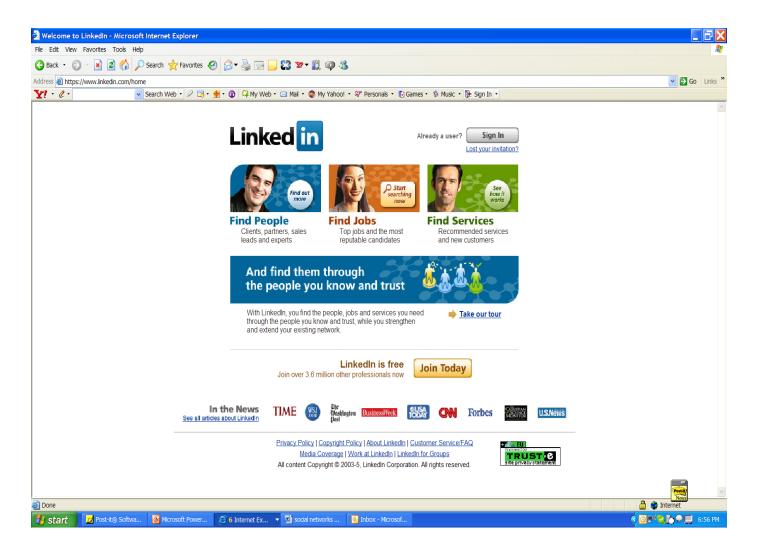
How do you classify users?

Your Network contains professionals out to "three degrees" — that is, friends-of-friends-of-friends. If each person had 10 connections (and some have many more) then your network would contain 10,000 professionals.

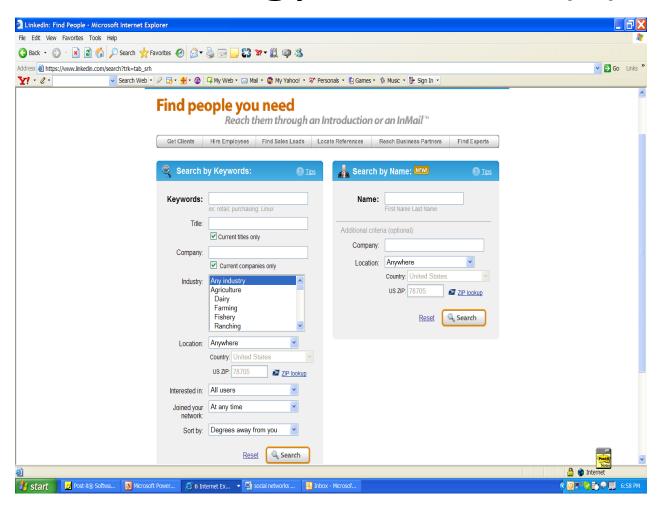
How do you see who is in your Network?

 LinkedIn lets you see your network as one large group of searchable professional profiles.

Technology: LinkedIn (1)



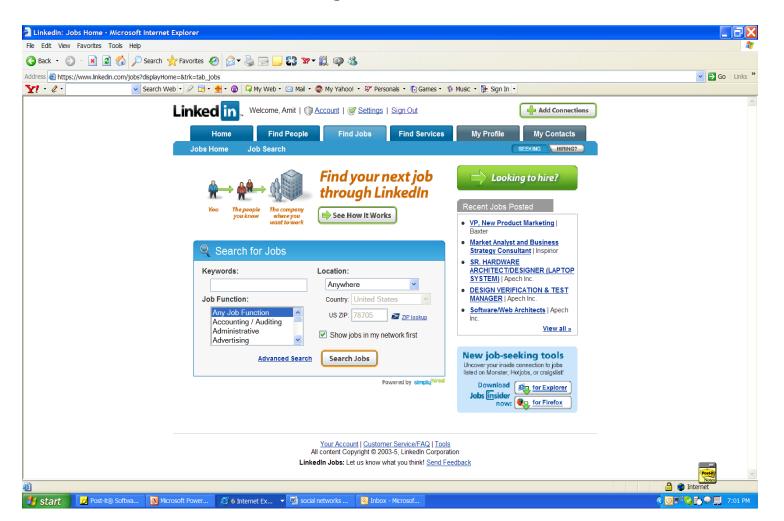
Technology: LinkedIn (2)



How to find people you need?

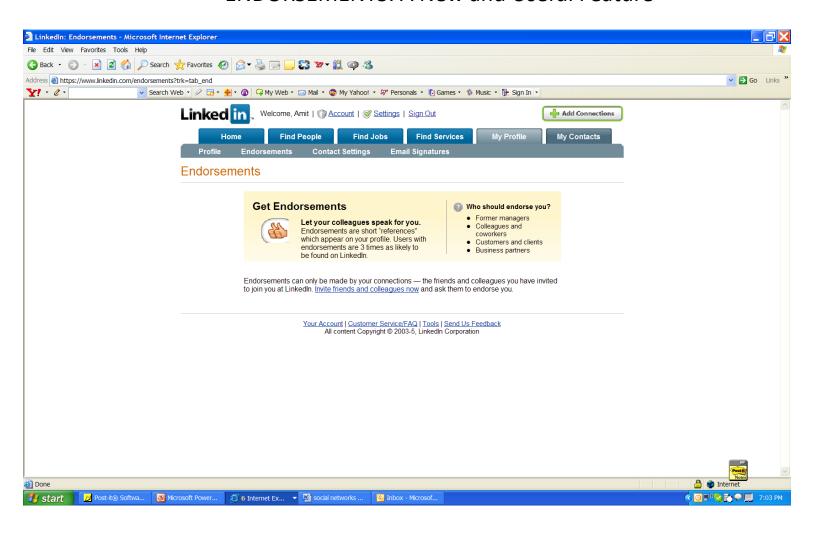
Technology: LinkedIn (3)

Finding Jobs



Technology: LinkedIn (4)

ENDORSEMENTS: A New and Useful Feature



Future of SNA

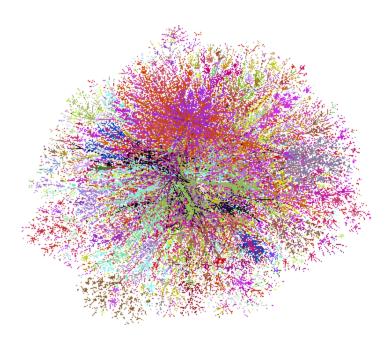
SNA could help us in following ways in future:

1) Reducing Complexity

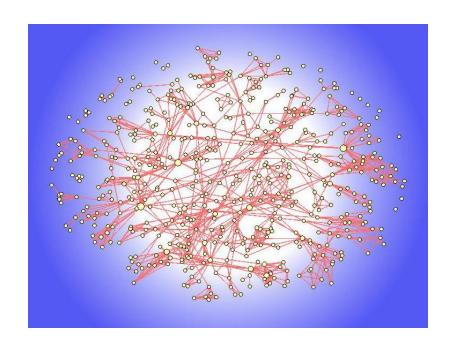
2) Visualizing using Geographic Information Modeling

Reducing Complexity

Our Social Networks can be understood at one glance

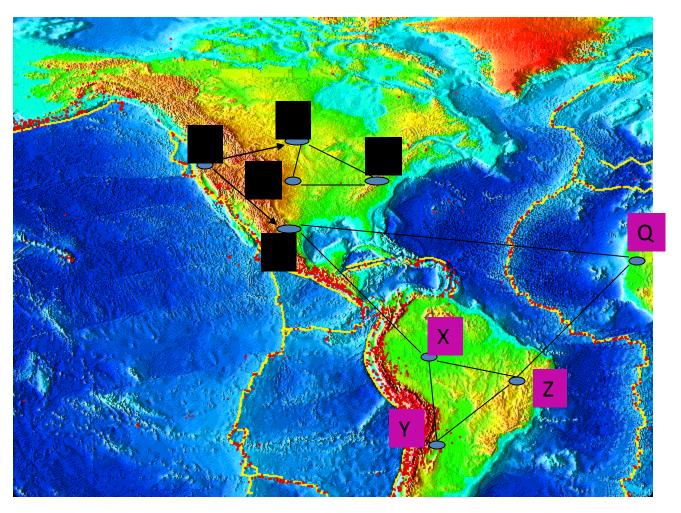


Organization on Web



Reduced Complexity through Simulation Analysis and Complex Theory for solving graphs

Geographic Information Modeling



Social influence and correlation

Role of social ties in shaping the behavior of users

Examples:

- Joining LiveJournal communities [Backstrom et al.]
- Publishing in conferences [Backstrom et al.]
- Tagging vocabulary on flickr [Marlow et al.]
- Adoption of paid VOIP service in IM

— ...

Social influence

- Focus on a particular "action" A.
 - E.g.: buying a product, joining a community,
 publishing in a confernence, using a particular tag,
 using the VOIP service, ...
- An agent who performs A is called "active".
- x has influence over y if x performing A causes/increases the likelihood that y performs A.
- Distinguishing factor: causality relationship

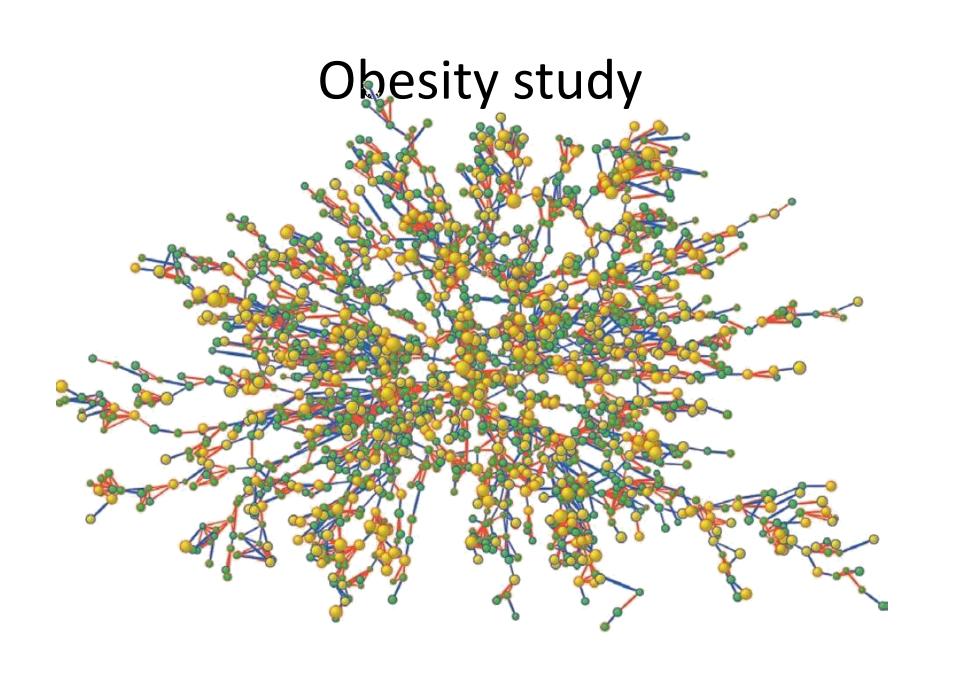
Identifying social influence

- Why is it important?
- Analysis: predicting the dynamics of the system. Whether a new norm of behavior, technology, or idea can diffuse like an epidemic.
- Design: for designing a system to induce a particular behavior, e.g.:
 - vaccination strategies (random, targeting a demographic group, random acquaintances, etc.)
 - viral marketing campaigns

Example: obesity study

Christakis and Fowler, "The Spread of Obesity in a Large Social Network over 32 Years", New England Journal of Medicine, 2007.

 Data set of 12,067 people from 1971 to 2003 as part of Framingham Heart Study



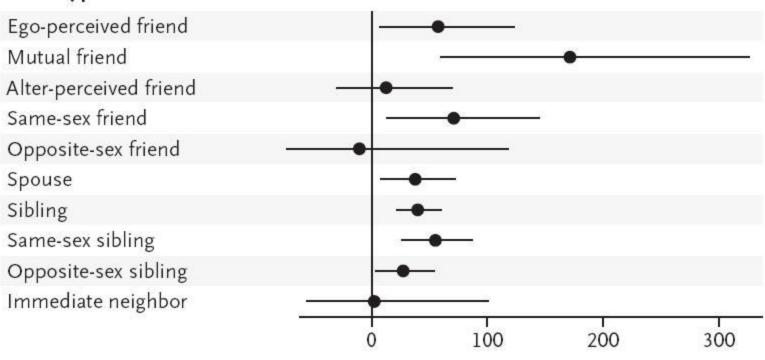
Example: obesity study

Christakis and Fowler, "The Spread of Obesity in a Large Social Network over 32 Years", New England Journal of Medicine, 2007.

- Data set of 12,067 people from 1971 to 2003 as part of Framingham Heart Study
- Results
 - Having an obese friend increases chance of obesity by 57%.
 - obese sibling ! 40%, obese spouse ! 37%
- Methodology
 - Logistic regression, taking many attributes into account (e.g., age, sex, education level, smoking cessation)
 - Taking advantage of data that is available over time
 - "edge reversal test"

Obesity study

Alter Type



Increase in Risk of Obesity in Ego (%)

Flickr data set

- Photo sharing website
- 16 month period
- Growing # of users, final number ~800K
- ~340K users who have used the tagging feature
- Social network:
 - Users can specify "contacts".
 - 2.8M directed edges, 28.5% of edges not mutual.
 - Size of giant component ~160K



Online Social Networking Sites

Preferences listed and easily accessible

Personal Info

Interests: Cycling, Scuba diving, Skiing, Travelling, Modern Art,

Architecture, Films, Cosmology, Particle Physics

Favorite Music: House, trance, techno. Pink Floyd, Velvet

Underground, David Bowie, Vaya Con Dios, This Mortal Coil, Depeche Mode, Kraftwerk, Malcolm McLaren, The KLF, Leonard Cohen. Nina Simone, Ella

Fitzerald, Miles Davis. Erik Satie.

Favorite TV Shows: I don't watch TV, but I've seen most episodes of West

Wing, Sex and the City and Six Feet Under on DVD

Favorite Movies: Pulp Fiction, Casablanca, Godfather I, II and III, The

Usual Suspects, Memento, The Name of the Rose (Sean Connery rocks!), All Connery Bonds, Rear Window, Vertigo, Cidade de Deus, Citizen Kane, Silence of the Lambs, Sunset Boulevard, The Matrix, Mulholland Drive, Seven, Memento, The Third Man, The Fourth Man, Being John Malkovitch, Requiem for a Dream, LA Confidential, A Clockwork Orange, Donnie Darko, Fargo, Blade Runner, Kill Bill Vol 1 and 2, Amores Perros, Run Lola Run, Manhattan, Stardust

Memories, Crimes and Misdemeanors, 8 1/2 ...

Favorite Books: Bill Bryson's 'A Brief History of Nearly Everything';

Franz Kafka's 'Metamorphosis' and 'The Castle'; Arthur

Clarke's 'Childhood's End'

Favorite Quotes: It always surprises me when people leave New York. I

mean, where do they go?

-- Samantha Jones, Sex and the City

Customer-generated Reviews

Amazon.com started with books

Today there are review sites for almost everything

 In contrast to "favorites" we can get information for less popular products



Helpfulness of review

(by other customers)

Rating

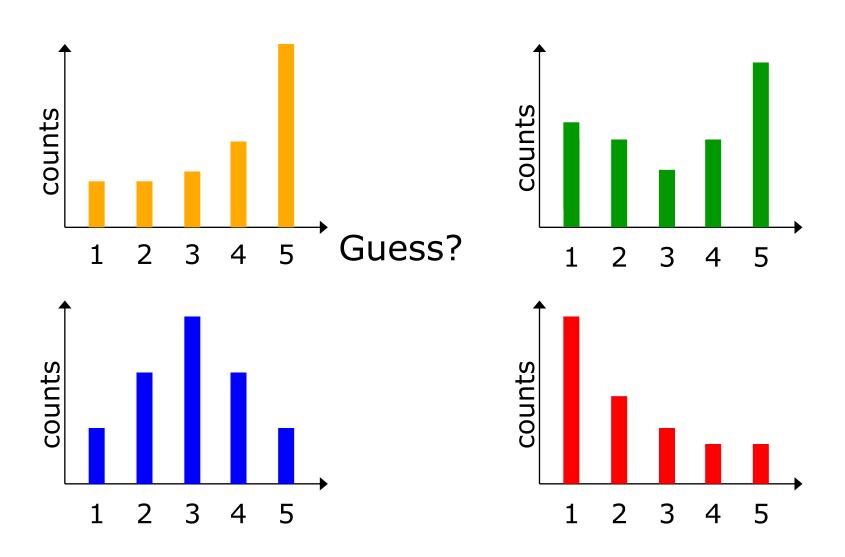
(1 ... 5 stars)

Do People Trust Reviews?

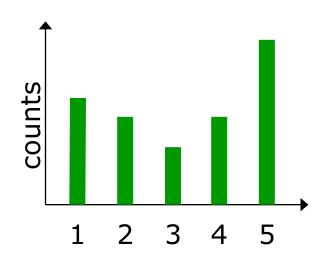
- Law of large numbers: single review no, multiple ones, yes
- Peer feedback: number of useful votes
- Perceived usefulness is affected by:
 - Identity disclosure: Users trust real people
 - Mixture of objective and subjective elements
 - Readability, grammaticality
- Negative reviews that are useful may increase sales! (Why?)

Are Reviews Representative?

What is the Shape of the Distribution of Number of Stars?



Observation 1: Reporting Bias



Why?

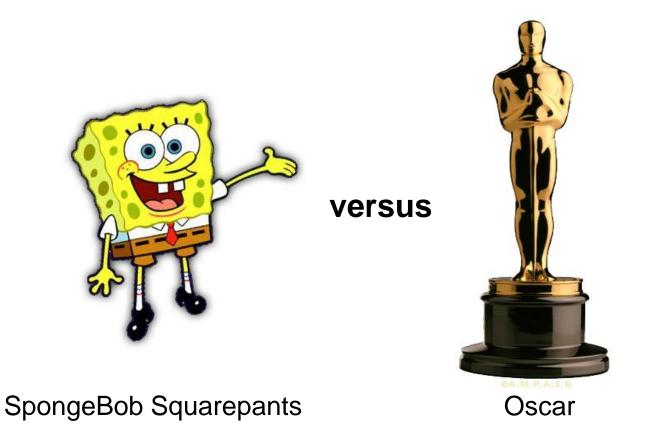
Implications for WOM strategy?

Possible Reasons for Biases

People don't like to be critical

 People do not post if they do not feel strongly about the product (positively or negatively)

Observation 2: The SpongeBob Effect



Oscar Winners 2000-2005



Crash (2005) R Top



A 36-hour period in the diverse metropolis of post-Sept. 11 Los Angeles is the theme of this unflinching drama that challenges viewers to confront their prejudices. Lives combust when a Brentwood ... Read More



Million Dollar Baby

0 + + + +

(2004) PG-13 Top

This multiple Oscar winner follows a determined young athlete who, through her sheer determination, awakens a long-lost fire within two aging boxers. Despondent over a painful estrangement from his ... Read More



Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King



(2003) PG-13

The third of the trilogy. As the shadow of Mordor grows, Aragorn (Viggo Mortensen) is revealed as the hidden heir to the ancient kings. As he, Gandalf (lan McKellen) and the other members of the ... Read More



Chicago



(2002) PG-13

Roxie Hart (Renee Zellweger) hungers for stardom, but instead ends up in the slammer in 2002's Best Picture winner. Velma Kelly (Catherine Zeta-Jones) is a superstar whose fame flares -- then dims ... Read More



A Beautiful Mind

(2001) PG-13



John Forbes Nash Jr. (Russell Crowe) was a brilliant economist -- when his mind was clear. But life changed forever with the revelation that he was a schizophrenic. Nash's brilliance persisted ... Read More



Gladiator

(2000) R



Oscar winner Russell Crowe is Maximus, whom Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius (Richard Harris) had picked to succeed him. But Marcus's son Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix) snatches the throne, ordering ... Read More



Average Rating 3.7 Stars

SpongeBob DVDs



Average Rating 4.1 Stars



SpongeBob SquarePants: Tide and Seek



(1999) NR

Add

How does one explain the charm of a wacky sponge who lives under the sea and works in a burger joint? It's impossible. To understand why this Nickelodeon cartoon series is such a runaway hit, watch ... Read More



SpongeBob SquarePants: Fear of a Krabby Patty



(2005) NR

Add

Join the lovable yellow sponge and his undersea pals for another series of crazy adventures. In "Fear of a Krabby Patty," when SpongeBob's boss, Mr. Krabs, arranges for the Krusty Krab restaurant to ... Read More



SpongeBob SquarePants: Season 4: Vol. 1 (2-Disc Series)



(2002) NR

Add

This popular Nickelodeon 'toon follows the zany adventures of SpongeBob SquarePants, a bright-yellow filter feeder who lives in a pineapple under the sea. In the show's fourth season, Mr. Krabs ... Read More



SpongeBob SquarePants: Tales From the Deep



(2002) NR

Add

Nickelodeon's popular animated series chronicles the wacky adventures of everyone's favorite good-hearted, enthusiastic sea sponge and his undersea pals, Squidward, Patrick the Starfish and Sandy ... Read More



SpongeBob SquarePants: Lost at Sea



(1999) NR



Get ready for another zany underwater adventure with SpongeBob Squarepants and his friends, Squidward, Patrick the Starfish and Sandy the Squirrel. This DVD features nine episodes — including "The ... Read More

And the Winner is... SpongeBob!





If SpongeBob effect is common, then ratings do not accurately signal the quality of the resource

What is Happening Here?

- People choose movies they think they will like, and often they are right
 - Ratings only tell us that "fans of SpongeBob like SpongeBob"
 - Self-selection
- Oscar winners draw a wider audience
 - Rating is much more representative of the general population
- When SpongeBob gets a wider audience, his ratings drop

| Title | # Ratings | Ave |
|------------------------|-----------|------|
| SpongeBob Season 2 | 3047 | 4.12 |
| Tide and Seek | 3114 | 4.05 |
| SpongeBob the Movie | 21,918 | 3.49 |
| Home Sweet Pineapple | 2007 | 4.10 |
| Fear of a Krabby Patty | 1641 | 4.06 |

Effect of Self-Selection: Example

- 10 people see SpongeBob's 4-star ratings
 - 3 are already SpongeBob fans, rent movie, award 5 stars
 - 6 already know they don't like SpongeBob, do not see movie
 - Last person doesn't know SpongeBob, impressed by high ratings, rents movie, rates it 1-star

Result:

- Average rating remains unchanged: (5+5+5+1)/4 = 4 stars
- 9 of 10 consumers did not really need rating system
- Only consumer who actually used the rating system was misled