TrendMachine: A Temporal Webpage Resilience Portal

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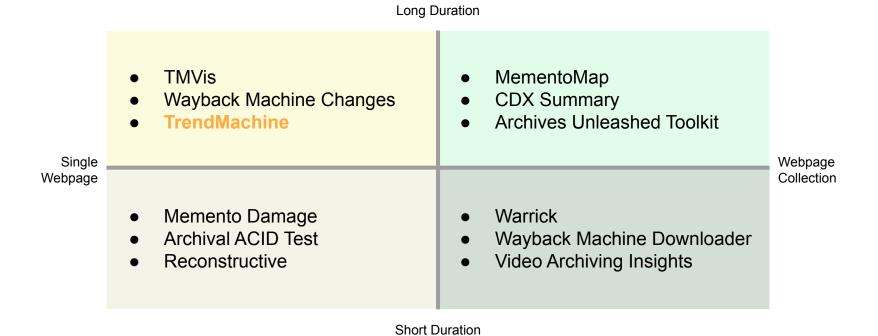


Research Question

How healthy has a web page been throughout its lifetime?

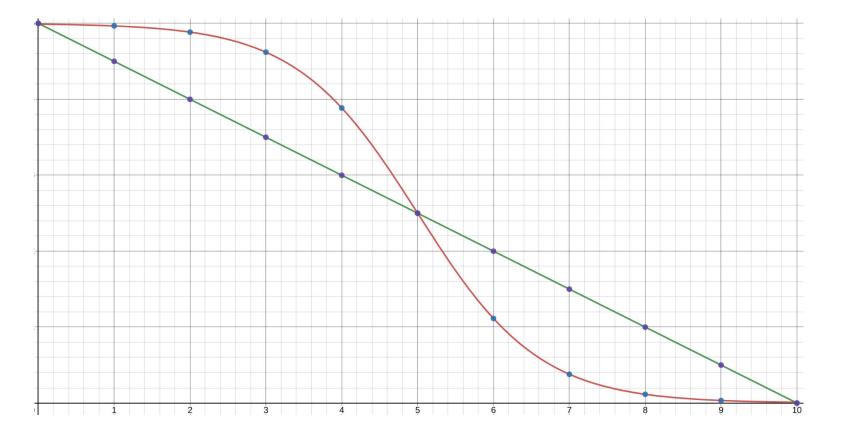


Temporal and Spatial Landscape of Archival Analysis





Modeling Web Page Health: Linear vs. S-Curve





Sigmoid Function for Web Page Resilience

$$Resilience_t = rac{Spread}{1 + e^{Shift - rac{t}{Slope}}}$$

Spread: How far up or down the value can go from its starting position?

Shift: How soon any significant change in the value can begin?

Slope: How quickly the value reaches close to the maximum change?

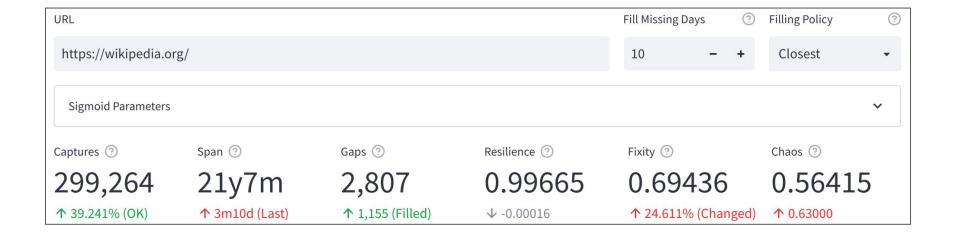


TrendMachine: Composite Sigmoid Parameters of Resilience





TrendMachine: Overview

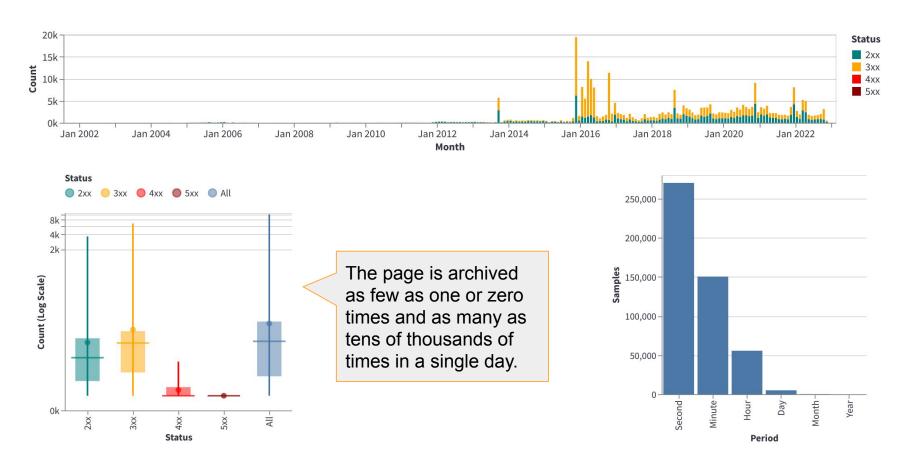


Code: https://github.com/internetarchive/trendmachine

Demo: https://trendmachine.sawood-dev.us.archive.org/



TrendMachine: Temporal Distribution of Archiving Activities





Specimen Selection Algorithm

```
PRIORITY = ["2xx", "4xx", "5xx", "3xx"]

FOREACH st OF PRIORITY
   IF st IN statuses(day)
       specimen = statuses(day).match(st)[0]
       BREAK
```

A **3xx** specimen usually suggests that the URL is redirecting to somewhere other than a variation of the same URL.

DAY1	DAY2	DAY3	DAY4	
4xx	3xx	5xx	3xx	
3xx	3xx	3xx	5xx	
2xx	3xx	5xx	3xx	
5xx		4xx	5xx	
2xx		4xx		

Filling Missing Observations

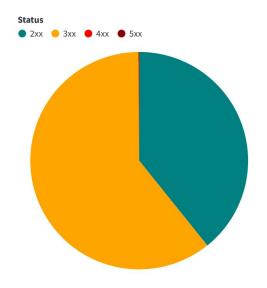
Policy	DAY1	DAY2	DAY3	DAY4	DAY5	DAY6
Identical	2xx	2xx	2xx	4xx		2xx
Closest	2xx	2xx	2xx	4xx	4xx	2xx
Forward	2xx	2xx	2xx	2xx	4xx	2xx
Backward	2xx	2xx	4xx	4xx	4xx	2xx
ANY	2xx					2xx

Do not fill the gap if the status codes before and after are not identical.

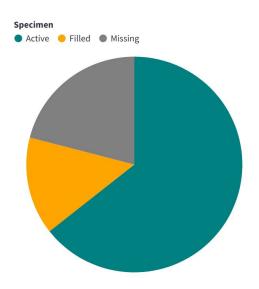
Do not fill the gap if it is larger than a configured threshold.



TrendMachine: TimeMap Status Codes vs. Daily Specimens

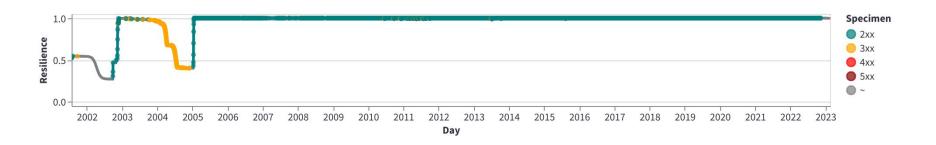


Most of the self-redirect 3xx observations (HTTP/HTTPS or WWW/Apex domain) are eliminated in daily specimens.



About one third of the days since the first observation have no captures, of which some are filled using a filling policy.

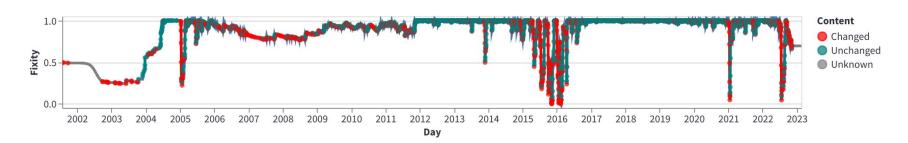
TrendMachine: Resilience

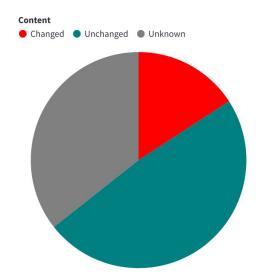


- Resilience score is calculated using Sigmoid function on status codes of daily specimens
- Initial value of 0.5 and normalized between 0 and 1
- After the first few observations, Wayback Machine did not archive it for several months in 2002
- Towards the end of 2002, Resilience score went up slowly due to infrequent archiving
- In 2003 "wikipedia.org" started to redirect to "en.wikipedia.org"
- After 2005, Resilience of the Wikipedia home page has mostly been stable and high



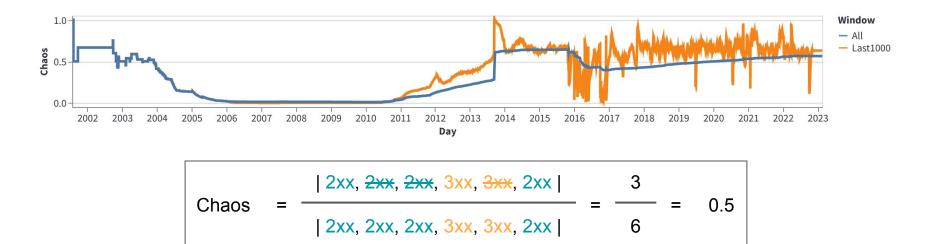
TrendMachine: Fixity





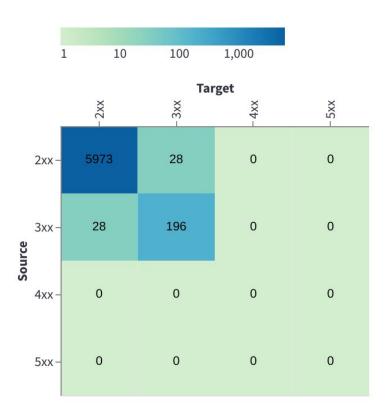
- Fixity score (normalized) is calculated using Sigmoid function on content digests of daily specimens
- Content digest reported in CDX can be sensitive to Content-Encoding, resulting in false alarms, even when the underlying content remains unchanged

TrendMachine: Chaos



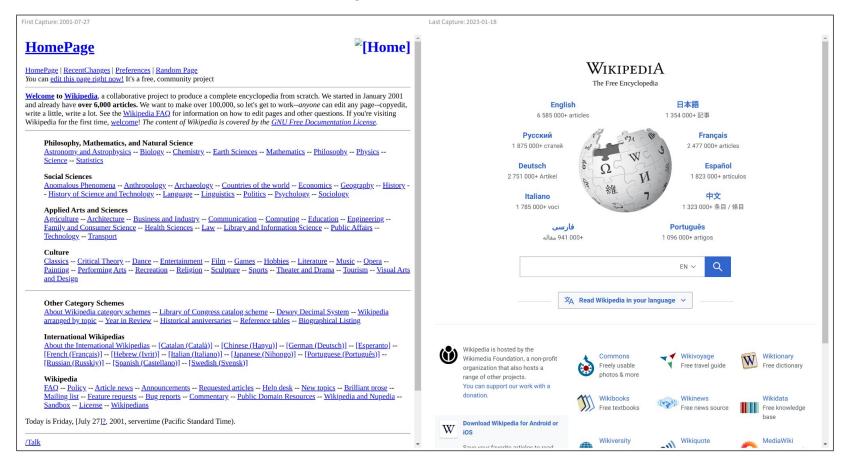
- Chaos score (normalized) is calculated using a Run-Length Encoding inspired technique on all status codes of the CDX data in which consecutive duplicates are removed in the numerator
- An alternate sliding-window calculation is performed on the last N observations as the score becomes insensitive to recent changes on large TimeMaps
- A high Chaos along with a high Resilience is often an indication of canonical redirects (e.g., adoption of HTTPS and/or consolidation of WWW and Apex domain)

TrendMachine: Status Code Transitions



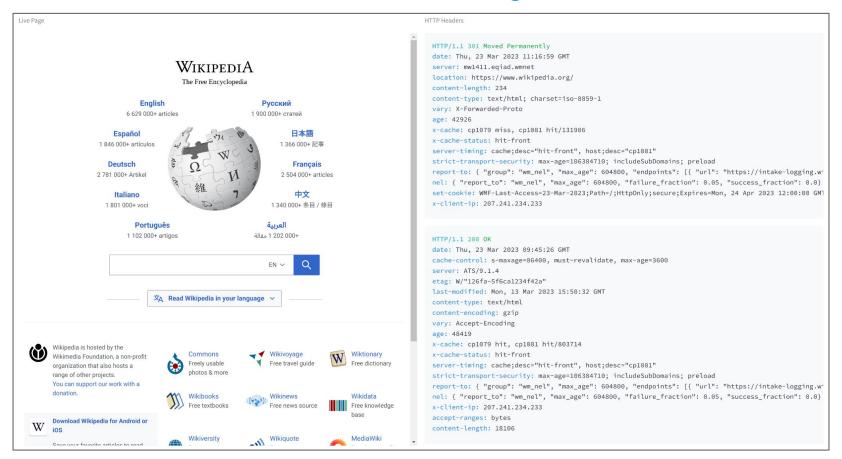
- Large numbers along the major diagonal indicate status code stability for extended periods of time
- Large numbers in non-diagonal cells suggest frequent changes in Resilience curve
- Web pages with high Resilience score for extended periods usually exhibit large numbers in the top-left cell (2xx -> 2xx)
- A large number in the 3xx -> 3xx cell usually indicates extended periods of redirection to other URLs (e.g., URL restructuring, login wall, domain change, and parked domain)

TrendMachine: Compare First and Last Mementos





TrendMachine: Live Web Page With Headers



Potential Use Cases

- Detect points of interest in a large TimeMap
- Sample captures/mementos from TimeMaps for visual summarization
- Detect archival sinks (like login pages, paywalls, and misconfigured redirects)
- Detect poor-quality pages like Soft-404 and parked domains
- Detect potential link-rot (and fix them when possible, like in a wiki page)
- Optimize crawl jobs by minimizing wasteful downloads and maximizing coverage
- Archival quality assurance
- Cluster pages of a large archival collection in different categories



Future Work

- Report heuristics-based archival summary by combining various scores
- Report/embed captures/mementos that can be points of interest
- Calculate Fixity using less-sensitive digests (e.g., SimHash)
- Calculate Chaos after applying convolutions to smooth out alternate changes
- Allow alternate web page health models (not just Sigmoid functions)
- Deploy in production by integrating with Wayback Machine



Summary

A mathematical model to quantify temporal health of a web page

An interactive portal with configuration options for experiments

Resilience, Fixity, Chaos, Distributions, Transitions, etc. reports An evolving open-source codebase and demo deployment

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