# Predicting Web 2.0 Thread Updates Progress Update

Shawn Tan

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#### Motivation

- Many sites with thread-based discussion features
- Users post product reviews, feedback

Obtaining such up-to-date information may be vital to companies.



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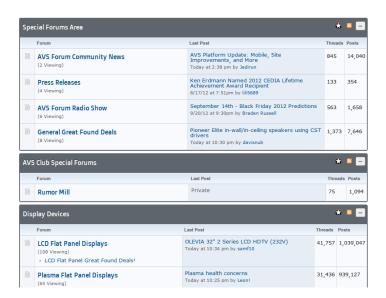
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#### avsforum.com





#### User-centric threads







## Questions

#### What's wrong with my LG LCD?





Start a New Thread

9/1/12 at 2:20pm THREAD STARTER

post #1



DlacmaD700LL

I noticed this issue today when I powered on my 2011 LG LCD. The set has about 2,100 hrs on and was working fine yesterday. The issue is that the picture looks blurry and low res with distorted text and jagged vertical and diagonal lines in what should be solid sharp and clear text lines, pictures, and other shapes. The issue occurs with all sources/inputs and on the TV menu itself. Is this a panel issue or a main board issue or something else? Anything I can try to resolthis issue? I reset the picture settings and tried various pic modes, but to no avail.

9/1/12 at 2:46pm



Is it a 3D model?

Did you try unplugging it for about 20 minutes in order to make sure it had a complete reboot v

#### **Mentions**

10/1/10 at 6:12pm



#### Elkhunter **▼**

Senior Member

offline

315 Posts. Joined 7/2008

#### rdjam:

Wouldn't a 1.4a AVR with 2 simultaneous HDMI outpu

I have an Yamaha RX-A3000 on order (due next Thu

TIA

10/1/10 at 6:24pm THREAD STARTER



#### rdjam ▼ New toy The Darblet!

offline

9,716 Posts. Joined 3/2005 Location: Miami, FL

#### Quote:

Originally Posted by Elkhunter 📂

#### rdjam:

Wouldn't a 1.4a AVR with 2 simultaneous HDMI or

I have an Yamaha RX-A3000 on order (due next

TΤΔ

That should be do-able. Don't have one yet but can't

However, I was planning to have one output for my projectors.

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# Requirements

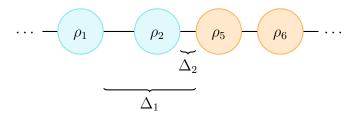
- Balance of freshness and bandwidth usage.
- ► Penalise when using too much bandwidth (visiting the site too much).
- ► Penalise when "database" not fresh (visiting the site too little).

## **Events**





## T-score



$$T = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \in posts} \Delta_i$$

From Yang et. al. 2009



#### Visit/Post ratio

Number of visits per post, keep the *T*-score in check.



# **Pr**<sub>error</sub>



- 1.  $Pr_{fa}$  More visits than posts, false alarm.
- 2.  $Pr_{miss}$  More posts than visits, miss.

Weighted average use as error metric.

$$Pr_{error} = \alpha Pr_{fa} + (1 - \alpha) Pr_{miss}$$

Georgescul et. al. 2006

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#### Baseline

Take the average  $\Delta_t$  from training set, and use that as the revisit time.

	Pr <sub>error</sub>	T-score	Visit/Post
Average	$0.501 \pm 0.001$	$1764.474 \pm 267.227$	$18.117 \pm 7.290$



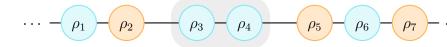
# Windowing

Use features from windows of posts. Number of posts in window given by w.



# Windowing

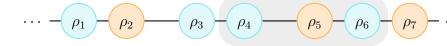
Use features from windows of posts. Number of posts in window given by *w*.





# Windowing

Use features from windows of posts. Number of posts in window given by *w*.





# Window-based average

Take the average  $\Delta_t$  from training set the previous window, and use that as the revisit time.

	Pr <sub>error</sub>	T-score	Visit/Post
W = 1	$0.504 \pm 0.003$	$18862.320 \pm 4267.812$	$16.142 \pm 7.049$
w = 5	$0.502 \pm 0.003$	$6418.208 \pm 962.716$	$16.464 \pm 7.386$
w=10	$0.504 \pm 0.003$	$4598.955 \pm 682.458$	$17.291 \pm 7.872$
w = 15	$0.504 \pm 0.003$	$3833.605 \pm 600.824$	$18.337 \pm 8.727$
W = 20	$0.504 \pm 0.003$	$3340.929 \pm 444.908$	$18.102 \pm 8.541$

Performs worse than the simple average baseline.

# Support Vector Regression

Using only the window's  $\Delta_t$  as features.

	Pr <sub>error</sub>	T-score	Visit/Post	
W = 1	$0.498 \pm 0.002$	$1576.082 \pm 253.300$	$18.267 \pm 7.290$	
W = 5	$0.498 \pm 0.002$	$1541.595 \pm 232.272$	$17.907 \pm 7.508$	
w=10	$0.499 \pm 0.002$	$1488.688 \pm 196.648$	$18.371 \pm 7.947$	
W = 15	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.138 \pm 183.408$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$	
W = 20	$0.499 \pm 0.001$	$1584.171 \pm 227.209$	$18.880 \pm 8.602$	

Performs better than baseline, but, what happens if we use content?

#### Content-based features

#### Count of individual tokens used:

- 1. Text is stemmed, stopwords removed
- 2. Occurences of usernames are replaced with '#USER#'
- 3. Occurences of tokens with mixtures of alphabets and numbers are replaced with '#MODEL#'
- 4. Univariate regression tests used to select features

#### Time-context

- 1. Hour of the day
- 2. Day of the week

Represented as bit vectors

# Content features only

Using only the content features (stemmed word frequency counts).

	Pr <sub>error</sub>	T-score	Visit/Post	
W = 1	$0.496 \pm 0.002$	$1649.606 \pm 262.578$	$18.255 \pm 7.292$	
W = 5	$0.495 \pm 0.001$	$1596.220 \pm 234.643$	$17.859 \pm 7.508$	
w = 10	$0.498 \pm 0.001$	$1554.391 \pm 196.343$	$18.341 \pm 7.949$	
		$1500.391 \pm 185.857$		
W = 20	$0.494 \pm 0.002$	$1653.162 \pm 230.106$	$18.859 \pm 8.606$	

Worse than the time difference approach, would using both sets of features help?

## Content features $+\Delta_t$ + time-context

	Pr <sub>error</sub>	T-score	Visit/Post	
		$1537.992 \pm 251.250$		
W = 5	$0.498 \pm 0.002$	$1541.587 \pm 232.271$	$17.907 \pm 7.508$	
w=10	$0.499 \pm 0.002$	$1488.669 \pm 196.646$	$18.371 \pm 7.947$	
W = 15	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.130 \pm 183.407$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$	
W = 20	$0.499 \pm 0.001$	$1584.171 \pm 227.209$	$18.880 \pm 8.602$	

Improved performance by an hour on average, still nothing significant.

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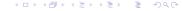
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#### **Discounted Sum**

Discounted sum of feature vectors from previous windows.

$$\mathbf{X}_t = \mathbf{v}_t + \gamma \mathbf{X}_{t-1}$$

Where  $0 \ge \gamma > 1$ . Here we use only the word count as before.

	Pr <sub>error</sub>	T-score	Visit/Post
$\alpha = 0.1$	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.129 \pm 183.407$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$
$\alpha = 0.2$	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.127 \pm 183.407$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$
$\alpha = 0.3$	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.126 \pm 183.407$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$
$\alpha = 0.4$	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.124 \pm 183.406$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$
$\alpha = 0.5$	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.121 \pm 183.406$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$
$\alpha = 0.6$	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.119 \pm 183.406$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$
$\alpha = 0.7$	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.116 \pm 183.405$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$
$\alpha = 0.8$	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.112 \pm 183.405$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$
$\alpha = 0.9$	$0.500 \pm 0.002$	$1443.107 \pm 183.404$	$19.234 \pm 8.805$

#### Stochastic Gradient Descent

Function to be fitted:

$$f(\mathbf{X}) = \frac{\Lambda - \lambda}{1 + e^{\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{X}}} + \lambda$$

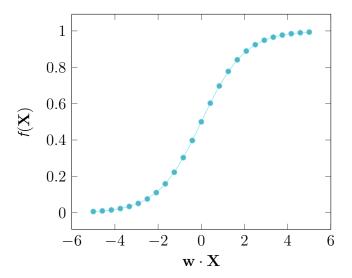
Update rule:

$$\Delta \mathbf{w}_i = \eta \underbrace{\left(\widehat{\Delta}_t - \Delta_t\right)}_{\text{error term}} \underbrace{\left(f(\mathbf{X})(1 - f(\mathbf{X}))\right)}_{\text{gradient}} \mathbf{X}_i$$

Update rule is used everytime a new post and time interval is observed.



# Scaled Sigmoid Function





#### SGD results

With the right  $\eta$  it did comparably well against previous methods, but nothing significantly better.

I also tried  $\eta=5\cdot 10^{-1}$  to  $\eta=5\cdot 10^{-4}$  but resulted in buffer overflow when calculating the exponent.

	Prerror	T-score	Visit/Post
$\eta = 5 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.499	1595.563	19.097
$\eta = 5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.501	1525.705	19.122
	0.502	1440.440	19.121
$\eta = 5 \cdot 10^{-8}$		1407.172	19.108
$\eta = 5 \cdot 10^{-9}$	0.502	1416.182	19.110
$\eta = 5 \cdot 10^{-10}$	0.501	1451.729	19.106
$\eta = 5 \cdot 10^{-11}$		1482.868	19.104
$\eta = 5 \cdot 10^{-12}$	0.501	1487.555	19.104

Is there a name for this?



# Work in progress...

- 1. Another (better) metric for prediction models.
- 2. Better way to present *T*-scores and Post/Visit ratios.
- 3. Types of discussion (topic modeling?) and relationships with time intervals
- 4. Full-scale evaluation for entire forum
- More datasets!

