



# HOLOSCOPE: TOPOLOGY-AND-SPIKE AWARE FRAUD DETECTION

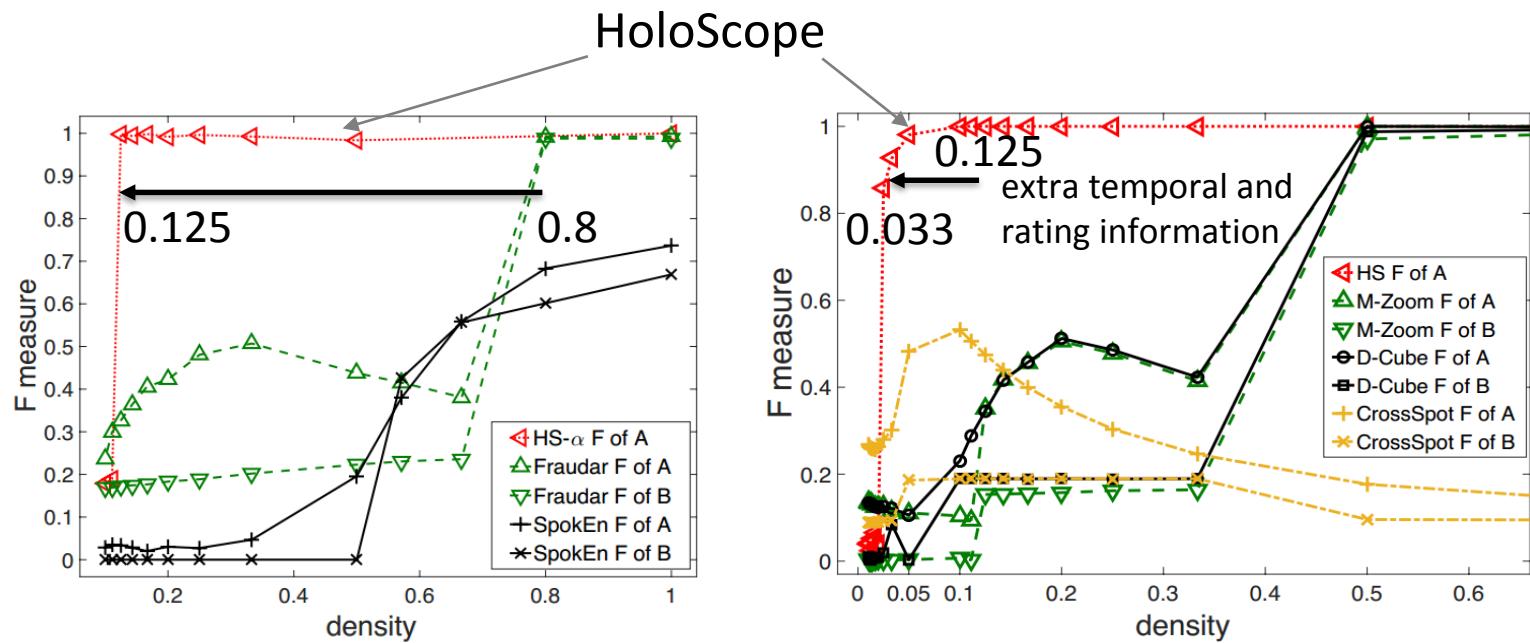
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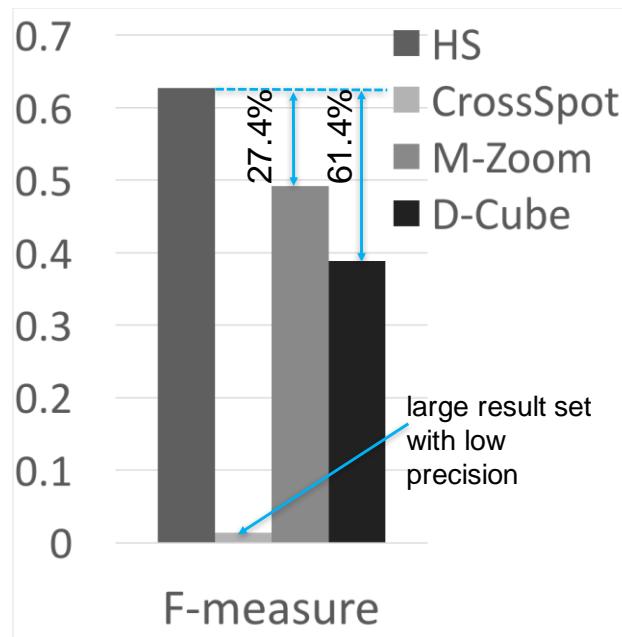
# HoloScope: Topology-and-Spike Aware Fraud Detection

- Our HoloScope: HS- $\alpha$  and HS detect injected fraudsters with **higher accuracy** (F measure), even when the injection density become lower.



# HoloScope: Topology-and-Spike Aware Fraud Detection

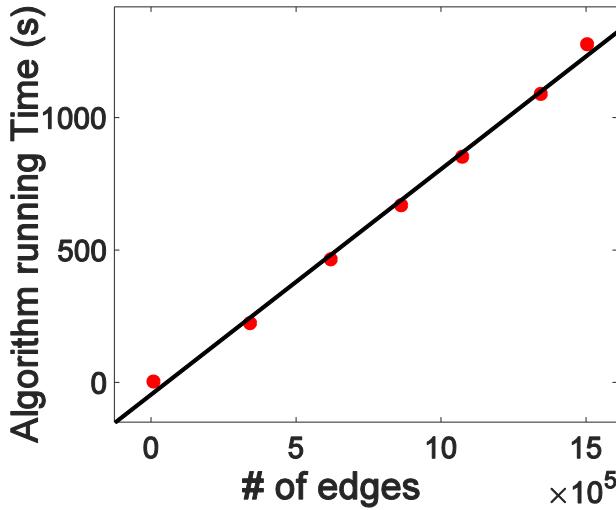
- Our HoloScope: HS detects suspicious users in online system data (Microblog: Sina Weibo).



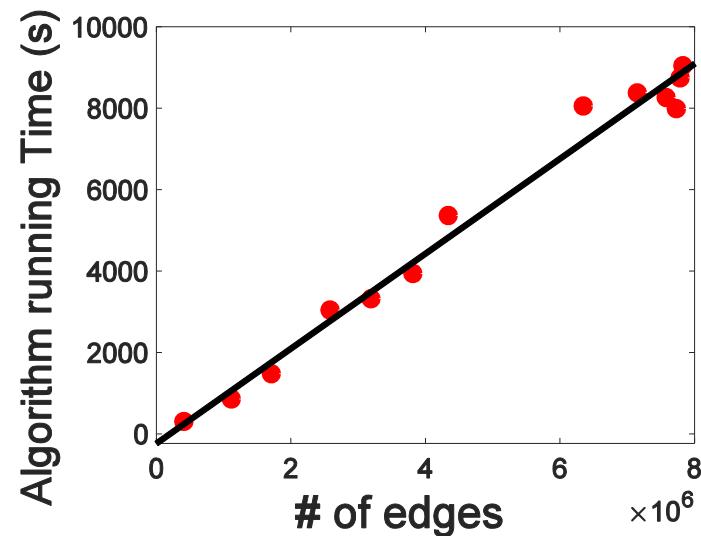
2.75 M users, 8.08 M messages, and 50.1 M edges in our data of Dec 2013

# HoloScope: Topology-and-Spike Aware Fraud Detection

- Our HoloScope: runs near-linear time in # of edges.



BeerAdvocate dataset



Amazon Electronics dataset

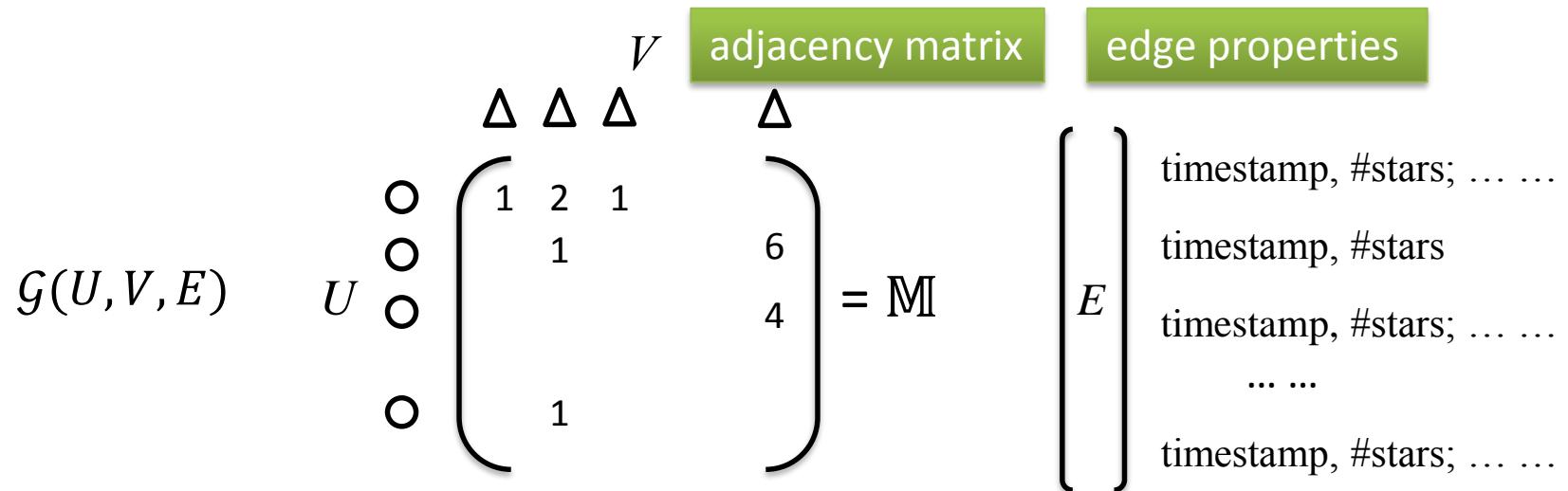
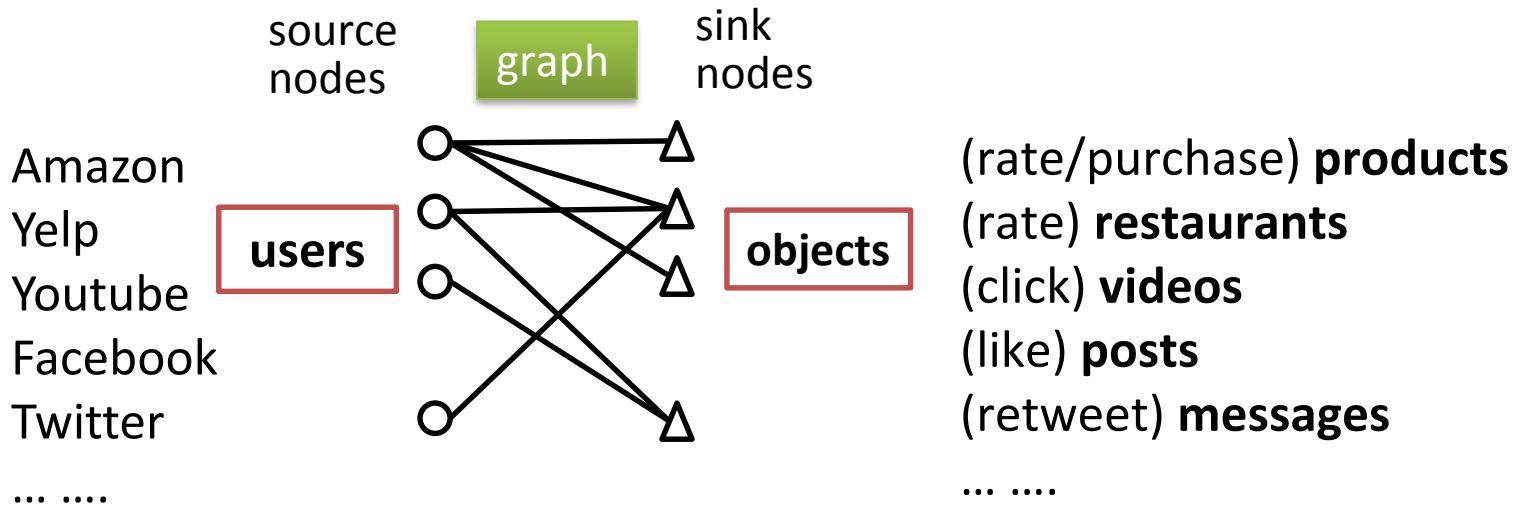
# Outline

- Background and Problem
- Graph-based fraud detection
- HoloScope Algorithm
- Experiments
- Conclusion

# Online activities affects the business

- Users make decisions about
  - which to buy, where to eat and live
- Recommendation of
  - news (Facebook newsfeed), videos (Youtube)
- Merchants pay for advertisement and commission
- All rely on: # of sales, # of clicks and likes, and # of stars

# Abstract activities into bipartite Graph



# Problem of fraud detection

## ■ Given:

- (user, object, timestamp, #stars)

(user, object, timestamp, #stars)

## ■ Find:

- a group of suspicious users, and objects,

(user, object, timestamp, #stars)

## ■ To optimize:

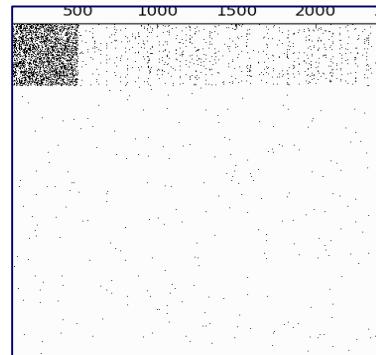
- the metric of suspiciousness from topology, rating time and scores.

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# Why using graph to detect fraud?

- Content can be cheated by NLP technology
- Content is not available
- Graph is a good representation of
  - users reviewing/giving scores to objects
  - a user clicking a link, and watching a video
- Dense blocks in such a graph are usually suspicious



# Average degree density works better than volume density for fraud detection

## ■ Volume density

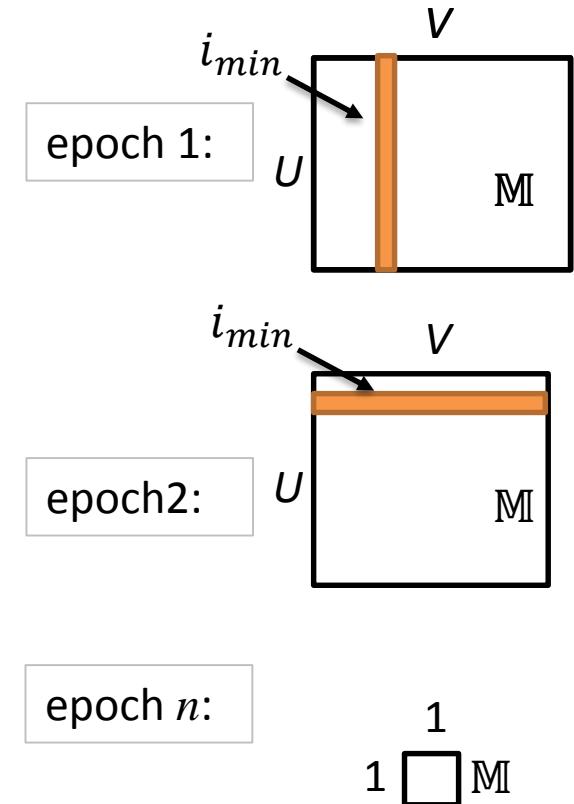
- Suppose
  - ✓ a fraudster has # of accounts:  $a$
  - ✓ his goal is click  $b$  objects 200 times
- Density:  $(b \cdot 200)/(a \cdot b) = 200/a$
- unlimited  $b$  does not increase density

## ■ Average degree: arithmetic / geometric

- Arithmetic avg:  $(b \cdot 200)/(a + b)$
- Geometric avg:  $(b \cdot 200)/(\sqrt{ab})$

# A near-linear heuristic algorithm to detect dense block

- **Given:** adjacency matrix  $\mathbb{M}$
- $X \leftarrow \{U, V\}$
- **While**  $X$  is not empty
  - $i_{min} \leftarrow \arg \min_{i \in X} \deg(i, X)$
  - $X \leftarrow X \setminus \{i_{min}\}$
  - Keep  $X_{best}$  that has the best arithmetic avg degree  $g(X_{best})$
- **Return**  $X_{best}$
- Theoretical boundary:  $g(X_{best}) > \frac{1}{2}g(X_{opt})$
- Time complexity with Priority Tree:  $O(|E| \log(|V| + |U|))$
- Optimal algorithm needs  $O(|V|^2 \log^2 |V|)$



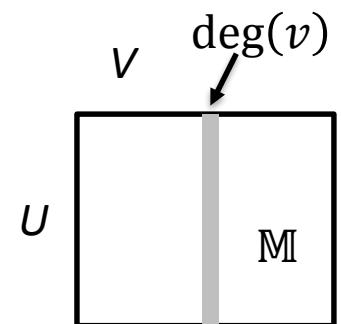
[A.V. Goldberg, Technical report, 1984]

2017/10/25 [Asahiro et al, SWAT'96] [M Charikar, 2000] [B Hooi et al, KDD'16]

# Very popular products are less suspicious

## ■ Fraudar penalizes the weight of each edge in $\mathbb{M}$

- preprocess:  $e_{uv} \leftarrow 1/\log(\deg(v) + c) \cdot e_{uv}$ ,  
✓ where  $e_{uv} = \mathbb{M}(u,v)$ ,  $c=5$
- avg degree:  $g_{log}(X) = \frac{1}{|X|} \sum_{u,v \in X} e_{uv}$



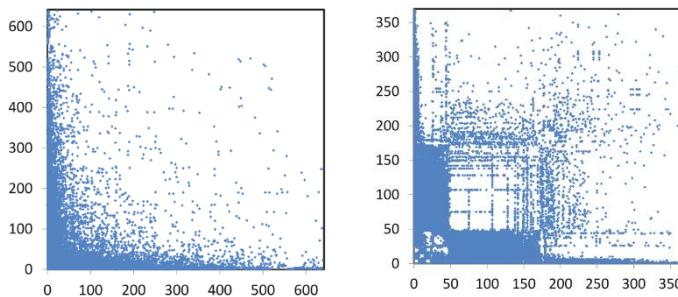
## ■ Bounding Fraud

- Upper bound of fake edges that  $m_0$  fraudsters can create for  $n_0$  products:

$$2(m_0 + n_0) \cdot g_{log}(X_{best}) \cdot \log\left(\frac{m_0}{\lambda} + c\right)$$

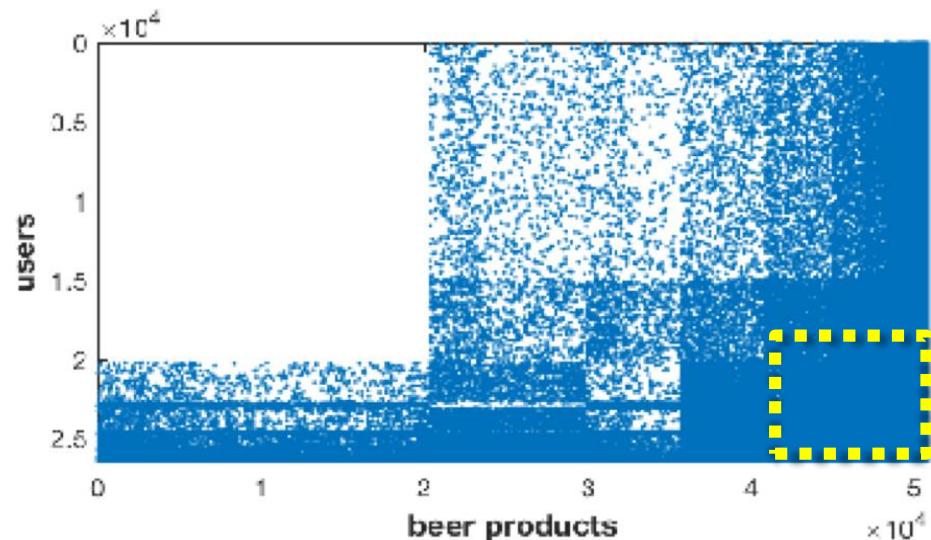
- ✓ where  $\lambda$  is the fraction of edges that an object has from fraudsters.

# Challenge I: Hyperbolic community exists in real graphs



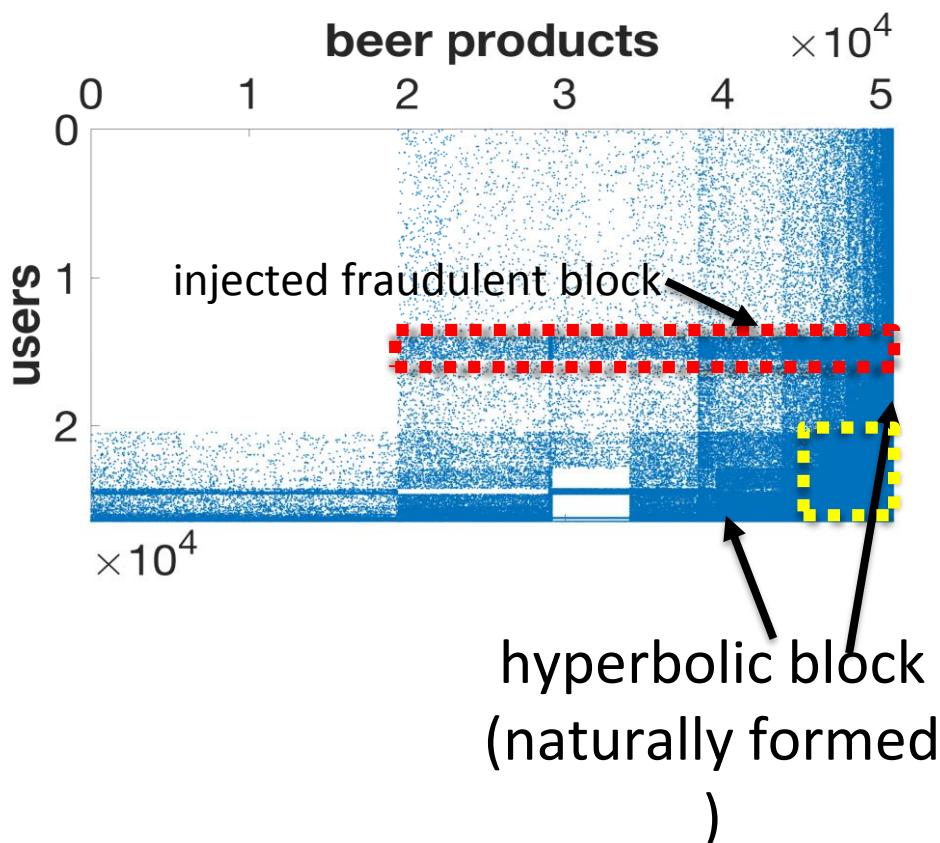
Communities found in YouTube  
friendship and Wikipedia articles  
[SNAP datasets]

HyCoM Model:  $i^\alpha \cdot j^\alpha > \tau$ ,  
 $0 < \tau < 1$  and  $\alpha = -0.6 \sim -1.5$

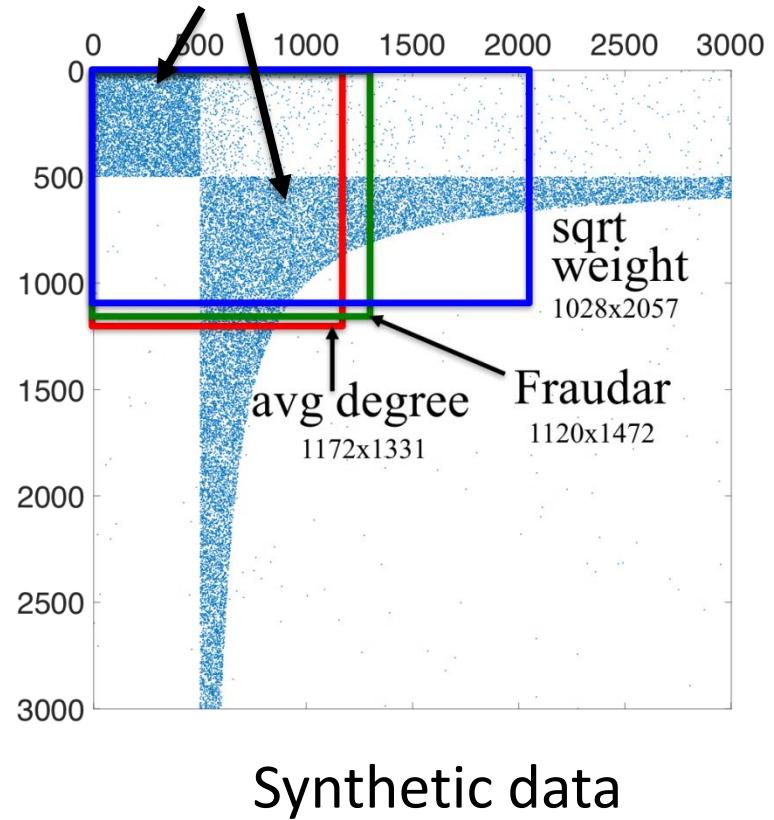


Visualization of BeerAdvocate data

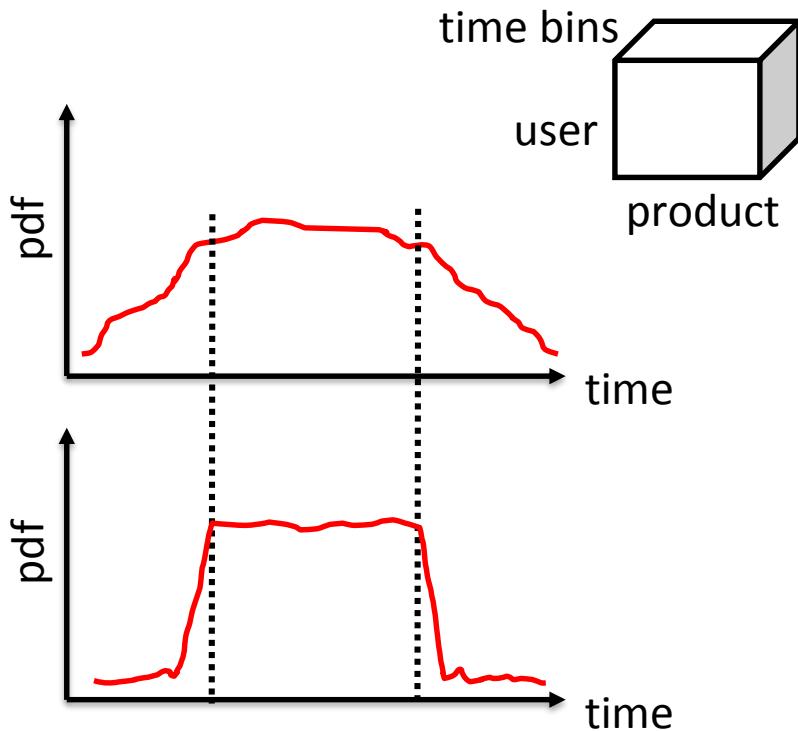
# How can we avoid detecting the false positive hyperbolic block?



Penalize sink nodes  
in both blocks



# Challenge II: Consider temporal information in fraud detection



Tensor-based methods (M-Zoom, D-Cube, CrossSpot) detect the two cases as the same density level in temporal dim.

Comparison with existing methods

	Fraudar	SpokEn	CopyCatch	CrossSpot	BP-based methods	M-Zoom/D-Cube	HoloScope
scalability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
camouflage	✓	?	?	✓	?	✓	✓
hy-community		?	?	?		✓	✓
spike-aware		?	?				✓

"hy-community" : avoid detecting the naturally-formed hyperbolic topology

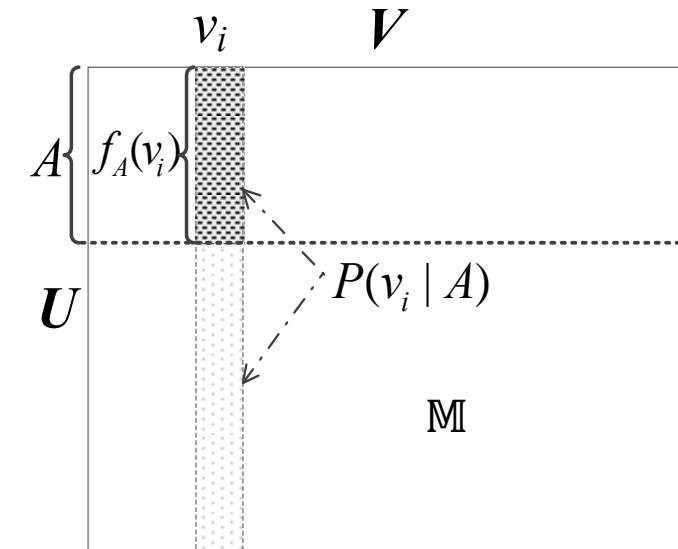
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# Contrast suspiciousness in HoloScope

- $D(A, B) = \frac{\sum_{v_i \in B} f_A(v_i)}{|A|+|B|}$ 
  - $A \subset U, B \subset V$
  - $f_A(v_i) = \sum_{(u_j, v_i) \in E \wedge u_j \in A} \sigma_{ji} \cdot e_{ji}$ ,  $\sigma_{ji}$  is edge weight

- Contrast susp:  $P(v_i \in B | A)$ 
  - the conditional likelihood



- Objective:  $\max_A HS(A) := \mathbb{E} [D(A, B)]$

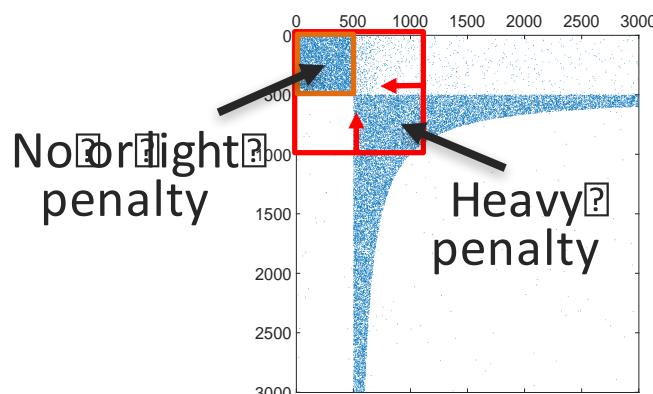
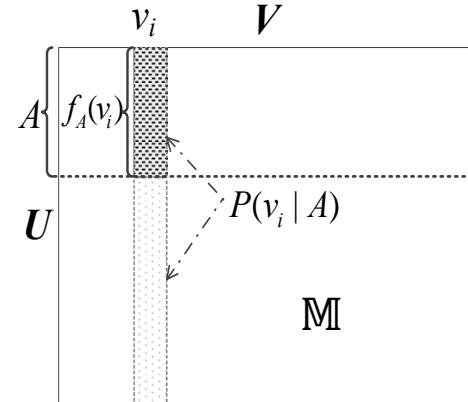
$$= \frac{1}{|A| + \sum_{k \in V} P(v_k | A)} \sum_{i \in V} f_A(v_i) P(v_i | A)$$

# Detailed Outline

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  - **Topology-aware HS- $\alpha$**
  - Temporal-spike aware
  - HS: make holistic use of signals
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# Topology-aware (dense block) HS- $\alpha$

- $P(v_i|A) = q(\alpha_i), \alpha_i = \frac{f_A(v_i)}{f_U(v_i)}$ 
  - Scaling fun:  $q(x) = b^{x-1}, 0 \leq x \leq 1$  and constant  $b > 1$
- users' susp score:
  - $S(u_j \in A) = \sum_{u_j v_i \in E} \sigma_{ji} e_{ji} \cdot P(v_i|A)$



# Algorithm HS- $\alpha$ considers topology

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## Algorithm 1 HS- $\alpha$ Algorithm.

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Given adjacency matrix  $M$

Initialize:

$$A = U$$

$\mathcal{P}$  = calculate contrast susp of all sink nodes given  $A$

$S$  = calculate susp scores of source nodes  $A$ .

$MT$  = build priority tree of  $A$  with scores  $S$ .

**while**  $A$  is not empty **do**

$u$  = pop the source node of the minimum score from  $MT$ .

$A = A \setminus u$ , delete  $u$  from  $A$ .

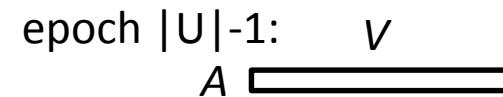
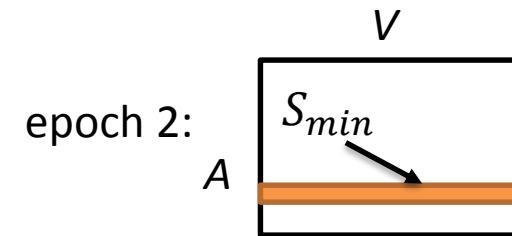
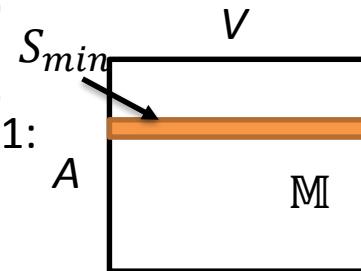
Update  $\mathcal{P}$  with respect to new source nodes  $A$ .

Update  $MT$  with respect to new  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Keep  $A^*$  that has the largest objective  $HS(A^*)$

**end while**

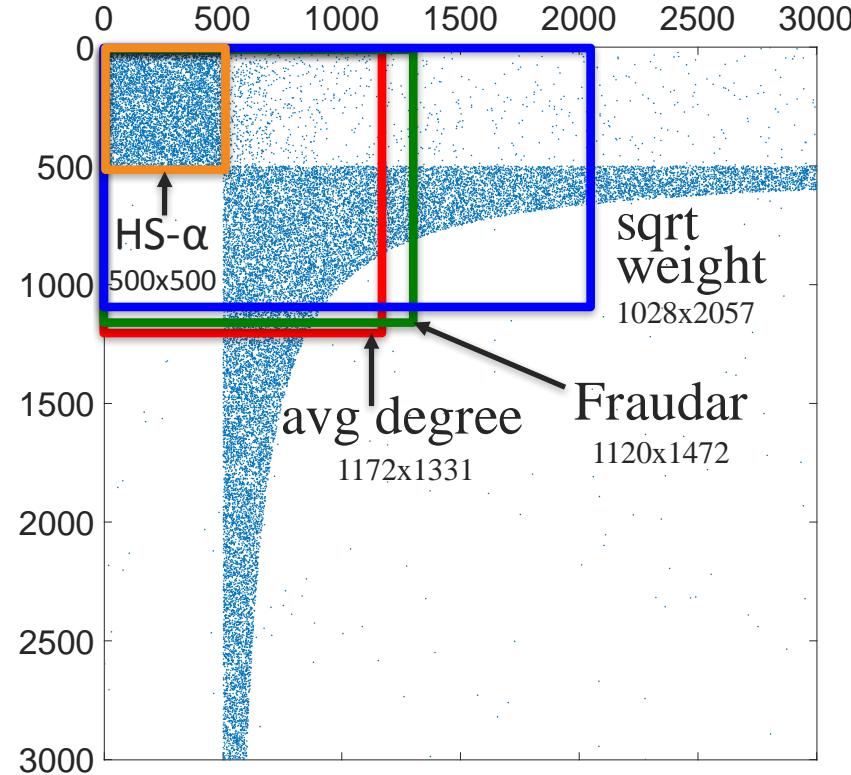
**return**  $A^*$  and  $P(v|A^*)$ ,  $v \in V$ .



# HS- $\alpha$ can shrink the detection box over hyperbolic community

## ■ Synthetic data

- Scaling fun:  $q(\alpha_i) = 128^{\alpha_i-1}$
- $b = 128$

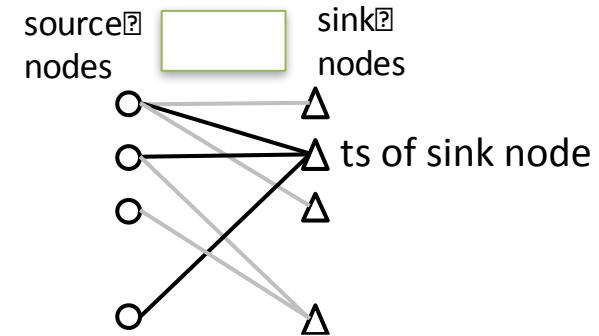
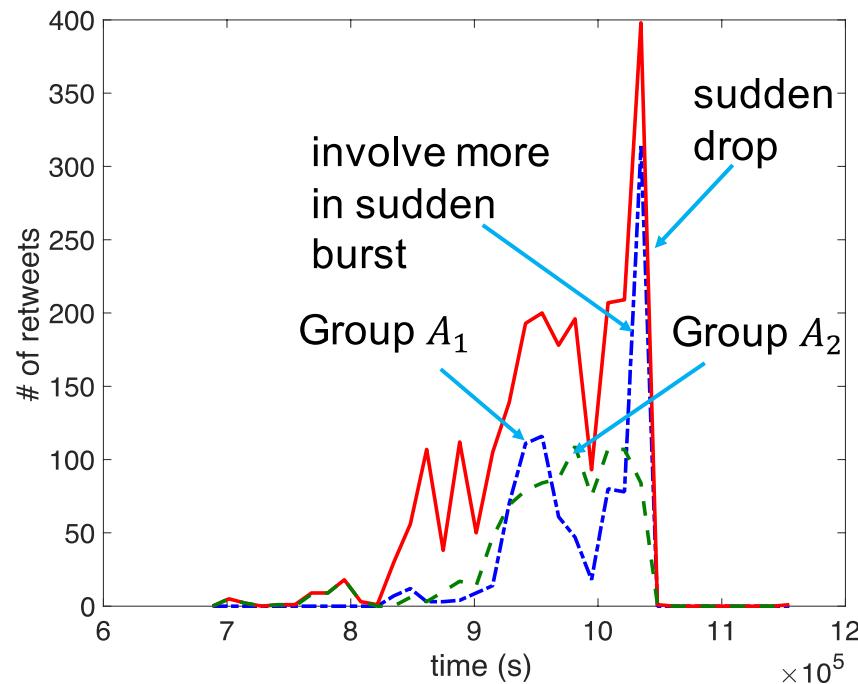


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  - **Temporal-spike aware**
  - HS: make holistic use of signals
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# Temporal spike: burst and drop are suspicious

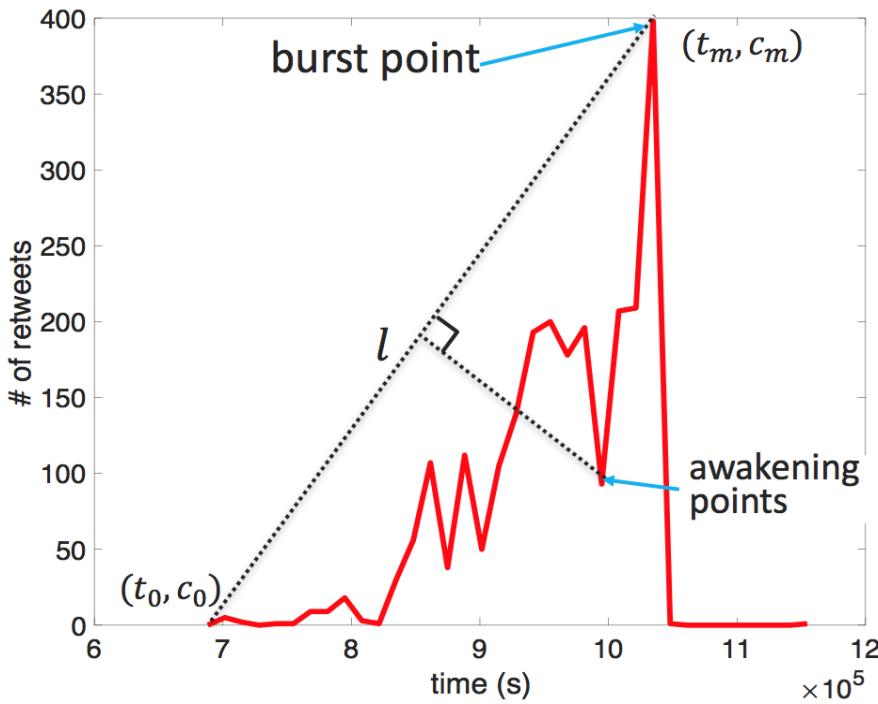
- The histogram (time series) of a sink node
  - users retweet a message in Sina Weibo data.



Group  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  has the same total # of retweets  
 $A_1$  is more suspicious than  $A_2$

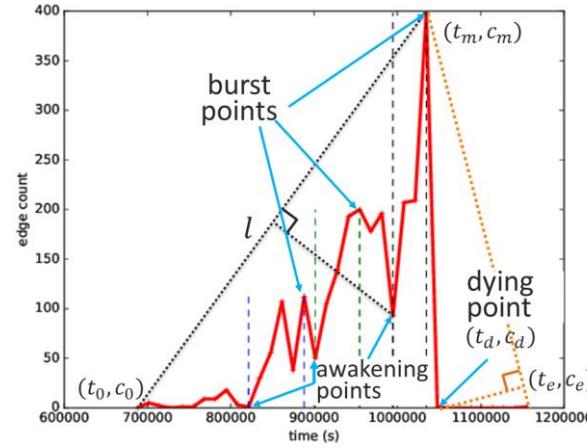
# Detect spikes in time series of a sink node

- SB (Sleeping Beauty) defines burst and awakening point
- drop and dying points



awakening point: the point has the largest distance to  $l$

$$t_a = \arg \max_{(c, t) \in \mathcal{T}, t < t_m} \frac{|(c_m - c_0)t - (t_m - t_0)c + t_m c_0 - c_m t_0|}{\sqrt{(c_m - c_0)^2 + (t_m - t_0)^2}}$$



# Multiburst algorithm

## ■ Recursively detect burst and awakening points

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### Algorithm 2 *MultiBurst* algorithm.

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**Input** Time series  $\mathcal{T}$  of sink node  $v$ , beginning index  $i$ , end index  $j$

**Output** A list of awakening-burst point pairs,

$s_{am}$ : slope of the line passing through each point pair,

$\Delta c$ : altitude difference of each point pair.

**If**  $j - i < 2$  **then return**

$(t_m, c_m)$  = point of maximum altitude between  $i$  and  $j$ .

$(t_a, c_a)$  = the awakening point between  $i$  and  $j$ .

$\Delta c_{am} = c_m - c_a$ , and  $s_{am} = \Delta c_{am} / (t_m - t_a)$

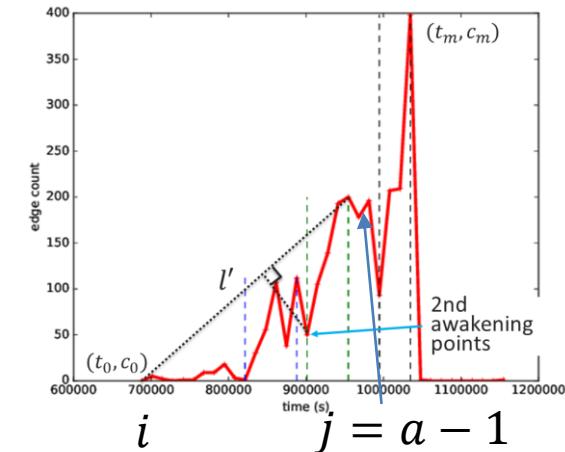
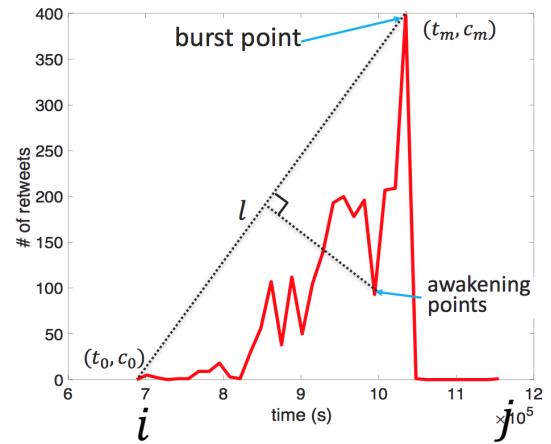
Append  $\{(t_a, c_a), (t_m, c_m)\}$ ,  $s_{am}$ , and  $\Delta c_{am}$  into the output.

$MultiBurst(\mathcal{T}, i, a - 1)$

$k$  = Find the first local min position from indices  $m + 1$  to  $j$

$MultiBurst(\mathcal{T}, k, j)$

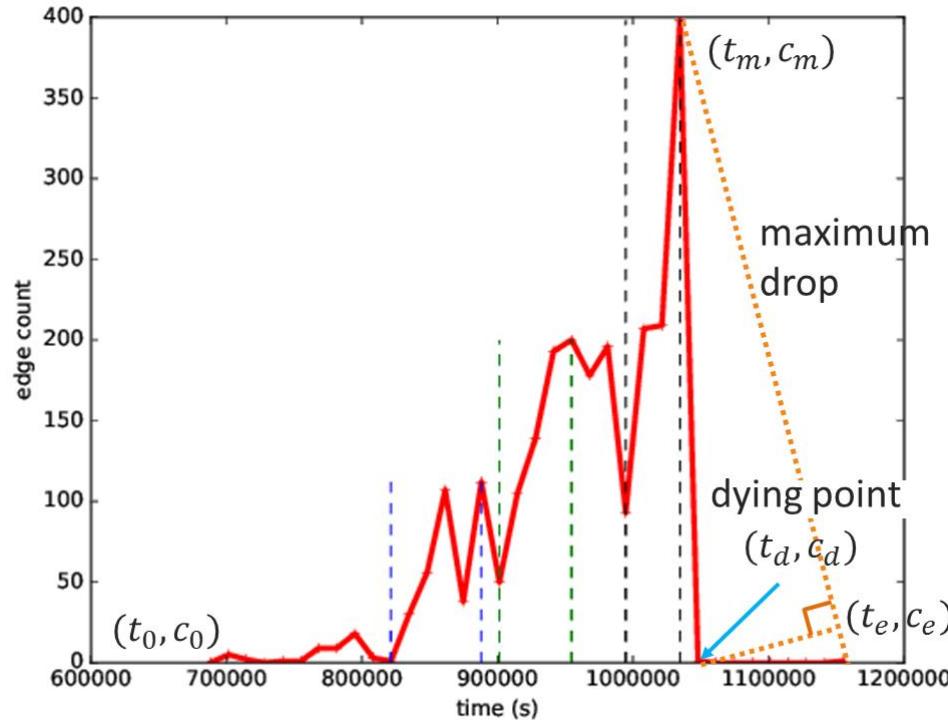
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# Find the maximum drop

- Recursively find the drop and return the maximum

skip detail

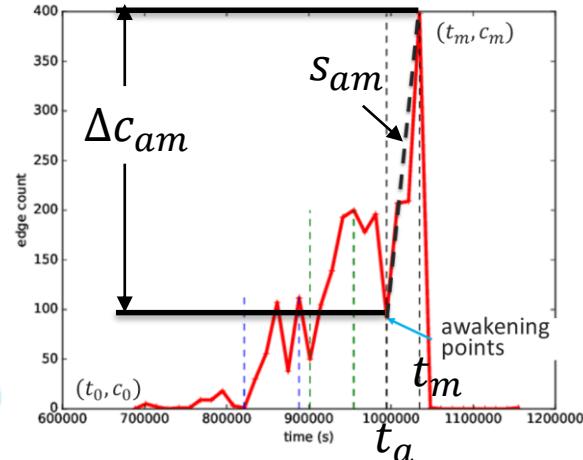


# HoloScope considers time spikes

## ■ multibust

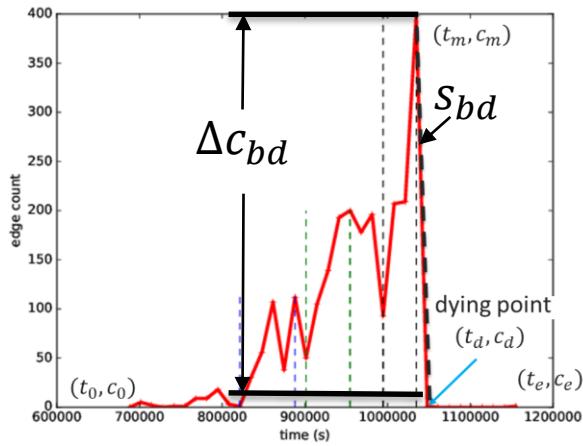
- $P(v_i|A) = q(\varphi_i), \varphi_i = \frac{\Phi(T_A)}{\Phi(T_U)}$

$$\Phi(T) = \sum_{(t_a, t_m)} \Delta c_{am} \cdot s_{am} \sum_{t \in T} \mathbf{1}(t \in [t_a, t_m])$$



## ■ sudden drop

- $f_A(v_i) = \sum_j \sigma_{ji} e_{ji}$
- $\sigma_{ji} = \Delta c_{bd} \cdot s_{bd}$

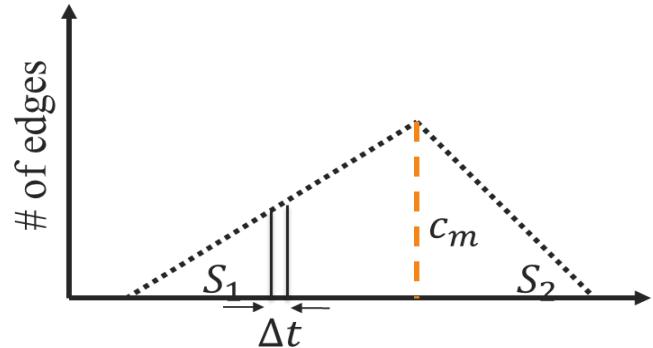


$$\max_A HS(A) := \mathbb{E}[D(A, B)]$$

$$= \frac{1}{|A| + \sum_{k \in V} P(v_k|A)} \sum_{i \in V} f_A(v_i) P(v_i|A)$$

# Time obstruction for fraudsters

## ■ Theorem 1



Let  $N$  be the number of edges that fraudsters want to create for an object.

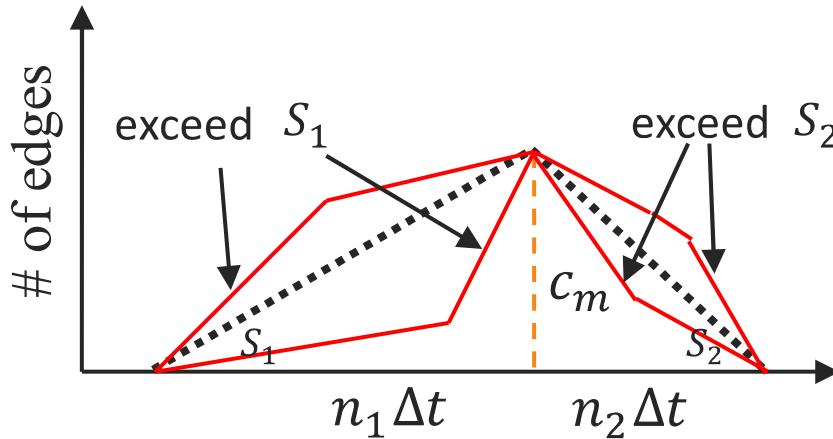
If the fraudsters use time less than

$$\tau \geq \sqrt{\frac{2N\Delta t \cdot (S_1 + S_2)}{S_1 \cdot S_2}}$$

then they will be tracked by a suspicious burst or drop.

- $\Delta t$  is the size of time bins,
- $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are the slopes of normal rise and decline respectively

## Proof



$$\frac{c_m}{n_1 \Delta t} = S_1, \quad \frac{c_m}{n_2 \Delta t} = S_2, \quad (n_1 + n_2) \cdot c_m = 2N'.$$

- $n_1$  and  $n_2$  are # of time bins before and after the burst.
- $N'$  is the total # of rating edges, and  $N' \geq N$

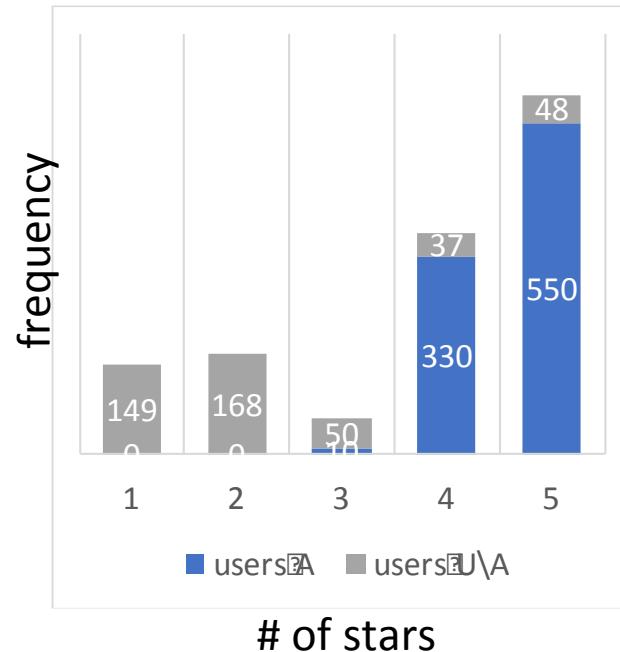
$$\tau = (n_1 + n_2)\Delta t = \sqrt{\frac{2N'\Delta t(S_1 + S_2)}{S_1 \cdot S_2}} \geq \sqrt{\frac{2N\Delta t(S_1 + S_2)}{S_1 \cdot S_2}}$$

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# HS: make holistic use of signals

- Topology awareness:  $\alpha_i = \frac{f_A(v_i)}{f_U(v_i)}$
- Temporal-spike awareness:  $\varphi_i = \frac{\Phi(T_A)}{\Phi(T_U)}$
- Rating deviation:  $\kappa_i$ 
  - $\kappa_i = \text{KL-divergence}(A, U \setminus A)$
  - $\kappa_i \leftarrow \kappa_i \cdot \min\left\{\frac{f_A(v_i)}{f_{U \setminus A}(v_i)}, \frac{f_{U \setminus A}(v_i)}{f_A(v_i)}\right\}$
- Contrast susp of HS
  - $P(v_i|A) = q(\alpha_i)q(\varphi_i)q(\kappa_i) = b^{\alpha_i + \varphi_i + \kappa_i - 3}$
  - “joint probability”



$$\begin{aligned} \max_A HS(A) &:= \mathbb{E}[D(A, B)] \\ &= \frac{1}{|A| + \sum_{k \in V} P(v_k|A)} \sum_{i \in V} f_A(v_i) P(v_i|A) \end{aligned}$$

# Using the same algorithm framework

- Find burst and drop points of each sink node
  - cost  $O(d_v)$ , total cost  $O(|E|)$
- Use framework of HS- $\alpha$  algorithm

---

**Algorithm 3** HS algorithm (unscalable).

---

**Given** bipartite multigraph  $\mathcal{G}(U, V, E)$ ,

initial source nodes  $A_0 \subset U$ .

Initialize:

$$A = A_0$$

$\mathcal{P}$  = calculate contrast suspiciousness given  $A_0$

$\mathcal{S}$  = calculate suspiciousness scores of source nodes  $A$ .

$MT$  = build priority tree of  $A$  with scores  $\mathcal{S}$ .  $\longleftarrow O(m_0 \log m_0), m_0 = |A_0|$

**while**  $A$  is not empty **do**

$u$  = pop the source node of the minimum score from  $MT$ .

$A = A \setminus u$ , delete  $u$  from  $A$ .

Update  $\mathcal{P}$  with respect to new source nodes  $A$ .  $\longleftarrow O(d_u \cdot |A|)$

Update  $MT$  with respect to new  $\mathcal{P}$ .  $\longleftarrow O(d_u \cdot |A| \cdot \log m_0)$

Keep  $A^*$  that has the largest objective  $HS(A^*)$

**end while**

**return**  $A^*$  and  $P(v|A^*), v \in V$ .

# Time complexity

---

**Algorithm 3** HS algorithm (unscalable).

---

Given bipartite multigraph  $\mathcal{G}(U, V, E)$ ,  
initial source nodes  $A_0 \subset U$ .

Initialize:

$A = A_0$   
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 $\mathcal{S}$  = calculate suspiciousness scores of source nodes  $A$ .  
 $MT$  = build priority tree of  $A$  with scores  $\mathcal{S}$ .  $\leftarrow O(m_0 \log m_0), m_0 = |A_0|$

**while**  $A$  is not empty **do**

$u$  = pop the source node of the minimum score from  $MT$ .  
 $A = A \setminus u$ , delete  $u$  from  $A$ .  
Update  $\mathcal{P}$  with respect to new source nodes  $A$ .  $\leftarrow O(d_u \cdot |A|)$   
Update  $MT$  with respect to new  $\mathcal{P}$ .  $\leftarrow O(d_u \cdot |A| \cdot \log m_0)$   
Keep  $A^*$  that has the largest objective  $HS(A^*)$

**end while**

**return**  $A^*$  and  $P(v|A^*), v \in V$ .

---

## ■ The time complexity is

- $\sum_{j=2, \dots, m_0} O(d_j \cdot (j - 1) \cdot \log m_0) = O(m_0 |E_0| \log m_0)$
- When  $A_0 = U$ , it is  $O(|U||E| \log |U|)$

Slow! Super quadratic # of nodes

# Scalable HS algorithm

- Main idea: feed small groups of users  $\tilde{U}$  into *GreedyShaving* Procedure (previous HS alg. )

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## Algorithm 4 *FastGreedy* Algorithm for Fraud detection.

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**Given** bipartite multigraph  $\mathcal{G}(U, V, E)$ .

$\mathbb{L}$  = get first several left singular vectors

**for all**  $L^{(k)} \in \mathbb{L}$  **do**

Rank source nodes  $U$  decreasingly on  $L^{(k)}$

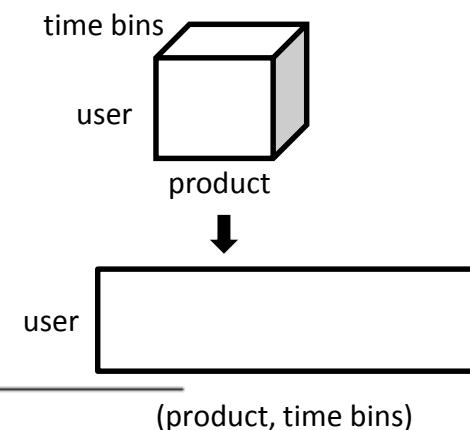
$\tilde{U}^{(k)} = \text{truncate } u \in U \text{ when } L_u^{(k)} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{|U|}}$

*GreedyShaving* with initial  $\tilde{U}^{(k)}$ .

**end for**

**return** the best  $A^*$  with maximized objective  $HS(A^*)$ ,  
and the rank of  $v \in V$  by  $f_{A^*}(v) \cdot P(v|A^*)$ .

To consider temporal and  
#star information, we  
matricize tenor into a matrix

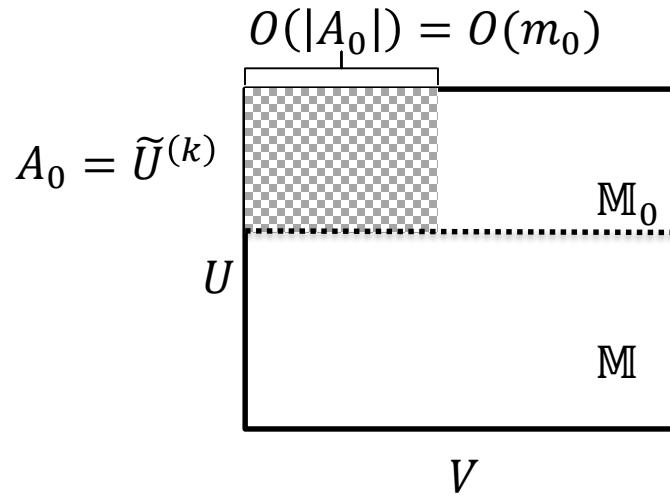


# Scalable HS alg is sub-quadratic # of nodes

- Theorem 2 (algorithm complexity)

Given  $|V| = O(|U|)$  and  $|E| = O(|U|^{\epsilon_0})$ ,  
the time complexity of *FastGreedy* is subquadratic,  
 $o(|U|^2)$  in little- $o$  notation,  
if  $|\tilde{U}^{(k)}| \leq |U|^{1/\epsilon}$ , where  $\epsilon > \max\{1.5, \frac{2}{3-\epsilon_0}\}$

## Proof



- The total number of edges in  $M_0$  is

$$O(|E_0|) = O(m_0^2 + \frac{m_0 \cdot |E|}{|U|}) = O(|U|^{2/\epsilon} + |U|^{1/\epsilon-1}|E|)$$

- So the HS algorithm complexity is

$$O(m_0|E_0|\log m_0) = O((|U|^{3/\epsilon} + |U|^{2/\epsilon-1+\epsilon_0}) \log |U|)$$

$|\tilde{U}^{(k)}| \leq |U|^{1/\epsilon}$

- Therefore, if  $\epsilon > \max\{1.5, \frac{2}{3-\epsilon_0}\}$ , the complexity is subquadratic  $o(|U|^2)$ . ( $\epsilon \leq 2$ ?)
- In real life graph, if  $\epsilon_0 \leq 1.6$ , so we can limit  $|\tilde{U}^{(k)}| \leq |U|^{1/1.6}$

# Outline

- Background and Problem
- Graph-based fraud detection
- HoloScope Algorithm
- Experiments
- Conclusion

# Data sets

**Table 1: Data Statistics**

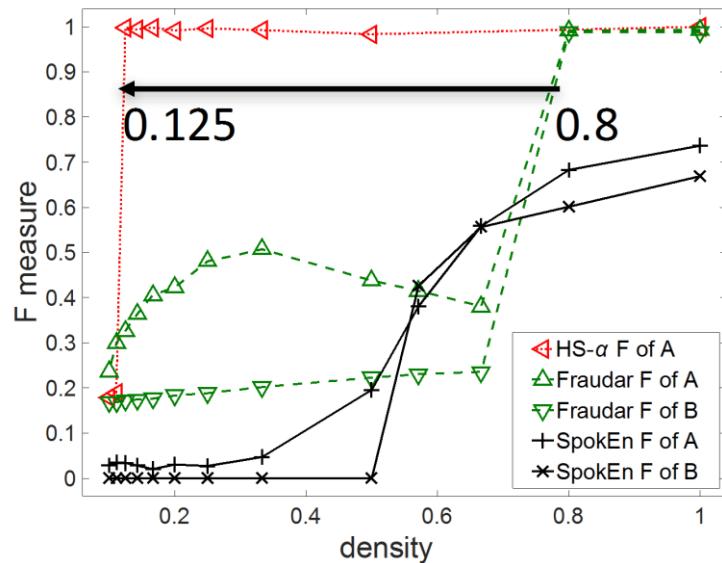
Data Name	#nodes	#edges	time span
BeerAdvocate	26.5K x 50.8K	1.07M	Jan 08 - Nov 11
Yelp	686K x 85.3K	2.68M	Oct 04 - Jul 16
Amazon Phone & Acc	2.26M x 329K	3.45M	Jan 07 - Jul 14
Amazon Electronics	4.20M x 476K	7.82M	Dec 98 - Jul 14
Amazon Grocery	763K x 165K	1.29M	Jan 07 - Jul 14
Amazon mix category	1.08M x 726K	2.72M	Jan 04 - Jun 06

Data sets are published by [J McAuley and J Leskovec, RecSys'13] [J McAuley and J Leskovec, WWW'13] [A Mukherjee et al, WWW'12]

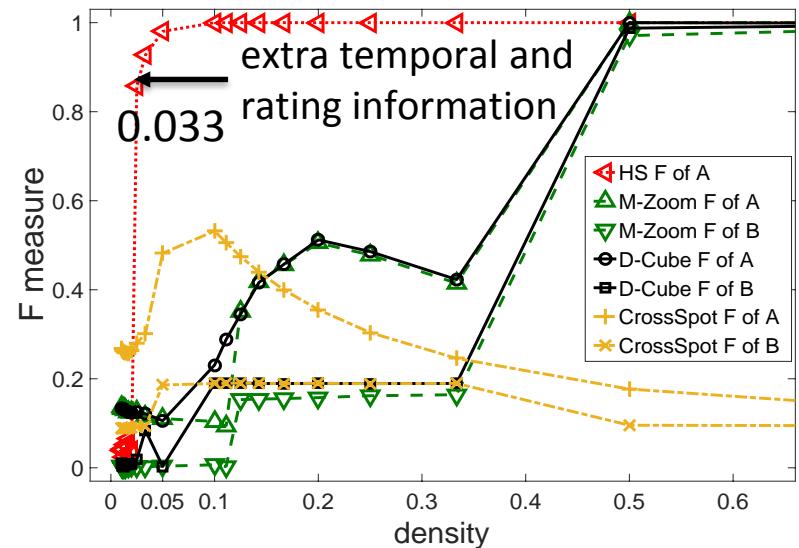
# Performance on injected labels

- Mimic fraudsters to inject edges, time stamps and #stars, with different fraudulent density

BeerAdvocate Data



HS- $\alpha$  consider only topology (density)

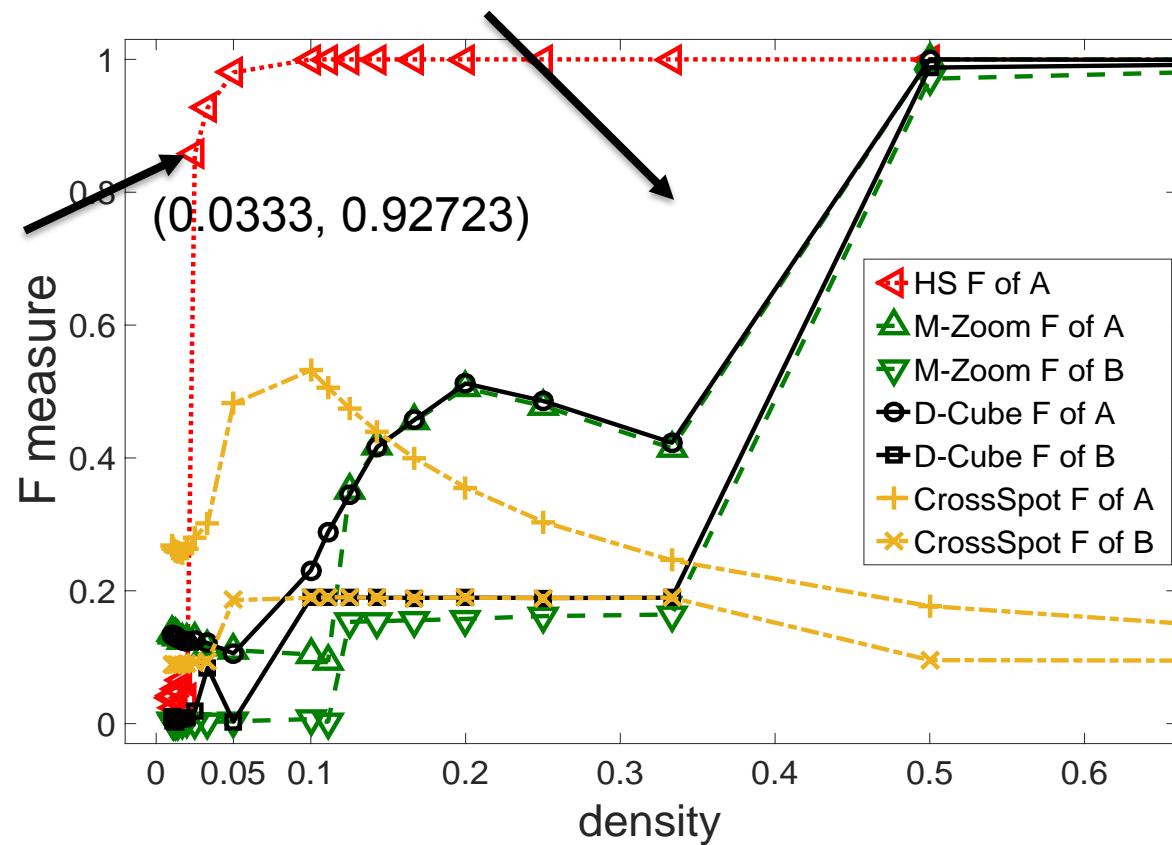


HS consider all signals

# We use two quantitative metrics for comparison

1. “auc”: the area under the curve of the accuracy curve

2. **lowest detection density (L.D.D.)**: the density that a method can detect in high accuracy (“ $\geq 90\%$ ”).



# Performance on injected labels by mimicking

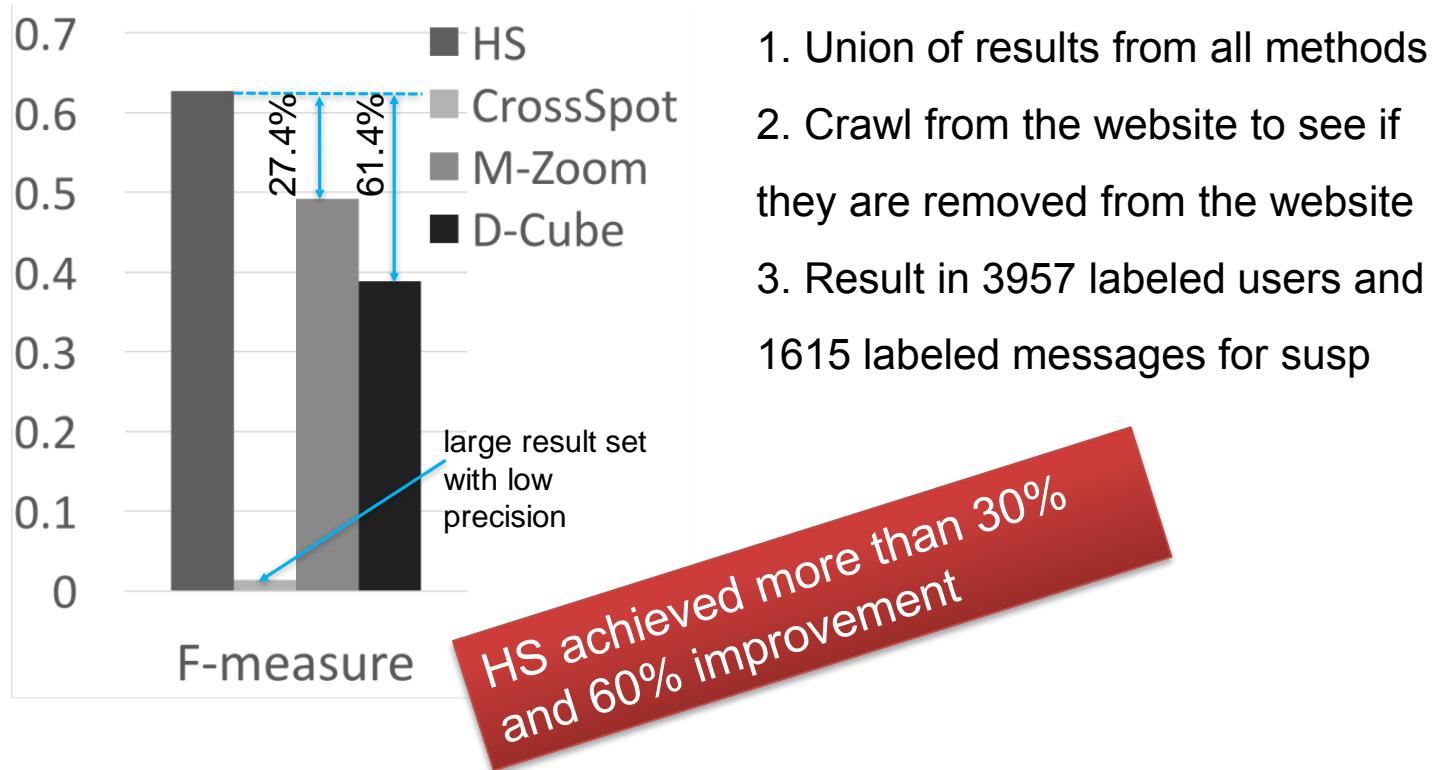
Data Name	metrics*	source nodes				sink nodes			
		M-Zoom	D-Cube	CrossSpot	HS	M-Zoom	D-Cube	CrossSpot	HS
BeerAdvocate	auc	0.7280	0.7353	0.2259	<b>0.9758</b>	0.6221	0.6454	0.1295	<b>0.9945</b>
	F $\geq$ 90%	0.5000	0.5000	–	<b>0.0333</b>	0.5000	0.5000	–	<b>0.0333</b>
Yelp	auc	0.9019	0.9137	0.9916	<b>0.9925</b>	0.9709	0.8863	0.0415	<b>0.9950</b>
	F $\geq$ 90%	0.2500	0.2000	0.0200	<b>0.0143</b>	0.0250	1.0000	–	<b>0.0100</b>
Amazon Phone & Acc	auc	0.9246	0.8042	0.0169	<b>0.9691</b>	0.9279	0.8810	0.0515	<b>0.9823</b>
	F $\geq$ 90%	0.1667	0.5000	–	<b>0.0200</b> <sup>†</sup>	0.1429	0.1000	–	<b>0.0200</b> <sup>†</sup>
Amazon Electronics	auc	0.9141	0.9117	0.0009	<b>0.9250</b>	0.9142	0.7868	0.0301	<b>0.9385</b>
	F $\geq$ 90%	0.2000	0.1250	–	<b>0.1000</b>	<b>0.1000</b>	0.5000	–	0.1250
Amazon Grocery	auc	0.8998	0.8428	0.0058	<b>0.9250</b>	0.8756	0.8241	0.0200	<b>0.9621</b>
	F $\geq$ 90%	0.1667	0.5000	–	<b>0.1000</b>	0.1250	0.2500	–	<b>0.1000</b>
Amazon mix category	auc	0.9001	0.8490	0.5747	<b>0.9922</b>	0.9937	0.9346	0.0157	<b>0.9950</b>
	F $\geq$ 90%	0.2500	0.5000	0.2000 <sup>†</sup>	<b>0.0167</b>	<b>0.0100</b>	0.2000	–	<b>0.0100</b>

\* the performance is very stable when  $b$  larger than 32.

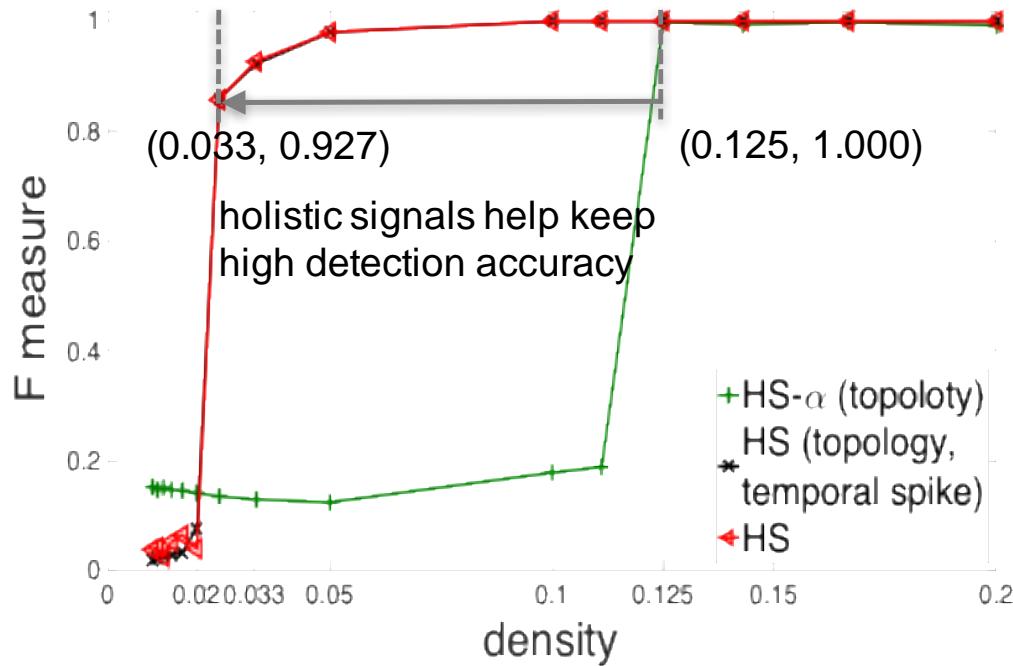
- HS achieved the best auc, and even reached the testing *upper bound* (0.9950) in two cases
- HS has L.D.D. as small as  $200/14000=0.0143$  on source nodes, the minimum test density 0.01 on sink nodes.

# Performance on real labels from online system

- Sina Weibo is a microblog and Twitter-like website
  - 2.75 M users, 8.08 M messages, and 50.1 M edges in our data of Dec 2013

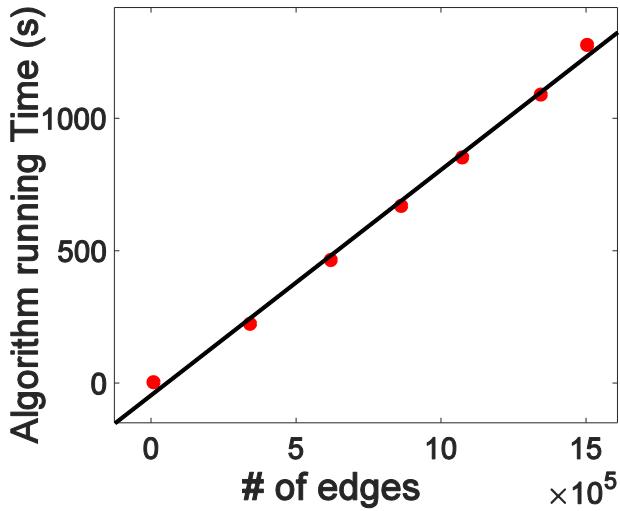


# Effective to combine multiple signals

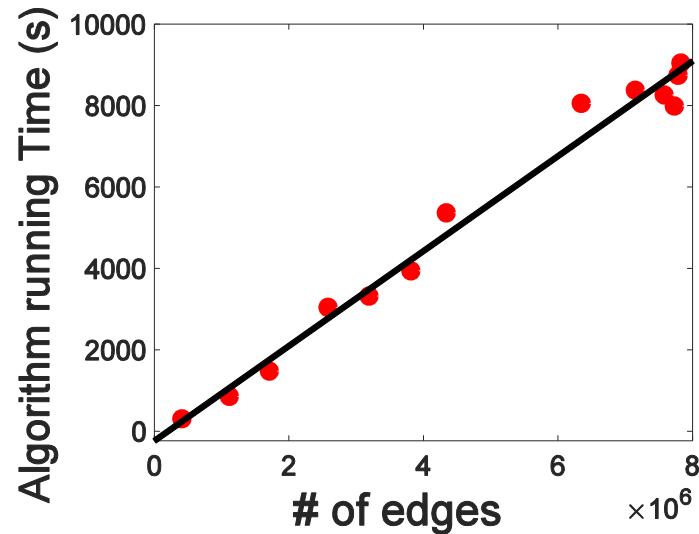


HS (topology, temporal spike) is close to the best,  
missing 30 of 6,000 fraudsters to recall

# Scalability



BeerAdvocate dataset



Amazon Electronics dataset

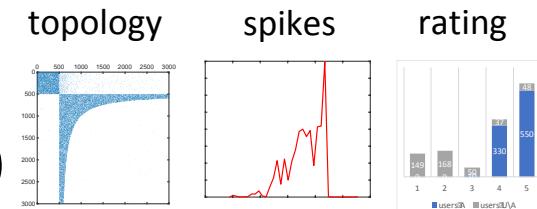
HoloScope runs in near-linear time of # of edges

# Outline

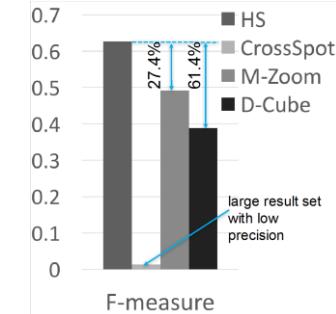
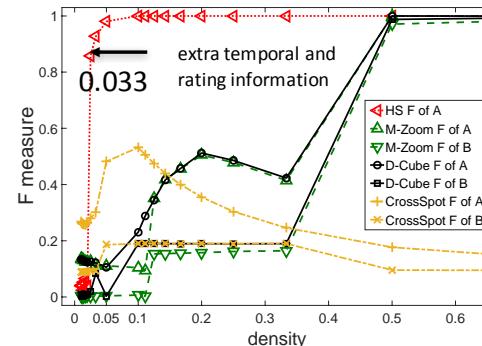
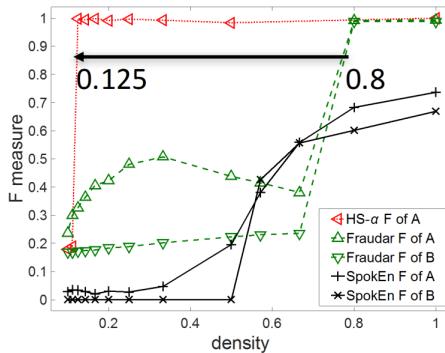
- Background and Problem
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# Conclusion and taking away

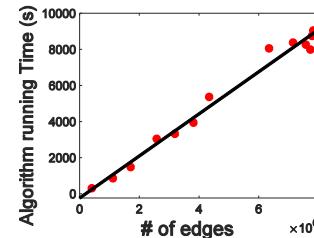
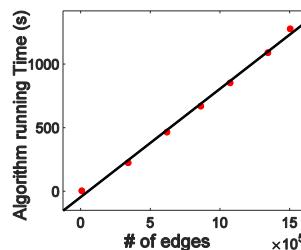
- HoloScope:
  - Fraud detection on (user, object, timestamp, #stars)
- Unification of signals
  - topology, temporal spikes, and rating deviation
- Theoretical analysis of fraudsters' obstruction
- Effectiveness



$$\tau \geq \sqrt{\frac{2N\Delta t \cdot (s_1 + s_2)}{s_1 \cdot s_2}}$$



- Scalability

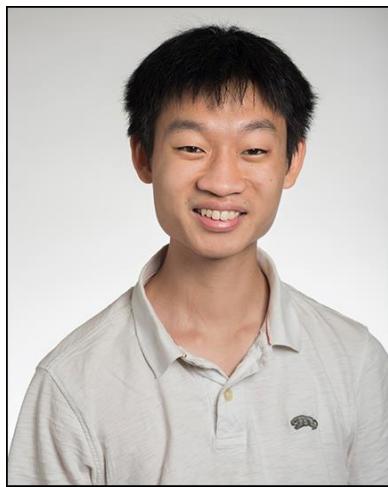


# More information about HoloScope

- CIKM 2017
- KDD MLG workshop version:
  - [http://www.mlgworkshop.org/2017/paper/MLG2017\\_paper\\_3.pdf](http://www.mlgworkshop.org/2017/paper/MLG2017_paper_3.pdf)
- Source code
  - <https://github.com/shenghua-liu/HoloScope>

# Reference

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## Questions and Answers

# THANK YOU