

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIO-SEMANTIC NETWORKS

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ONTOLOGY ISSUES: "SOCIO"- "SEMANTIC" ?

- **"actors"**



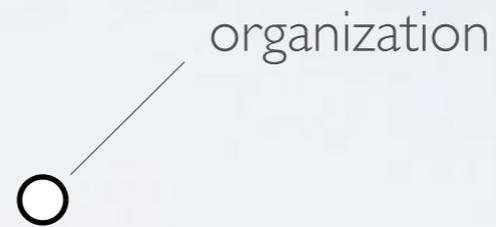
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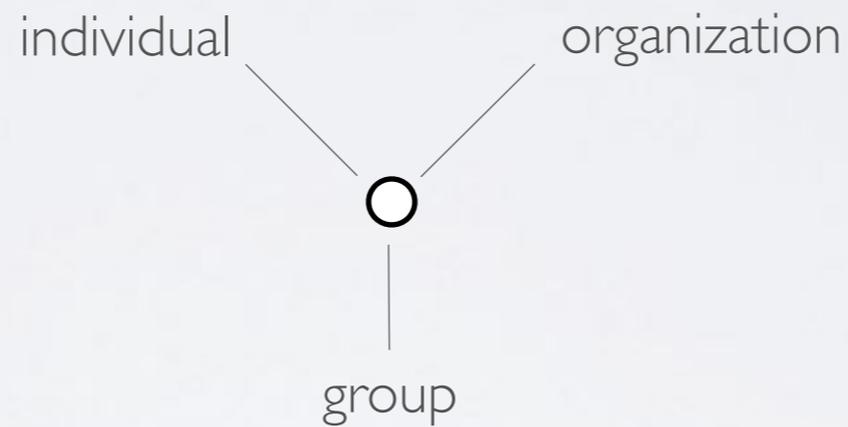
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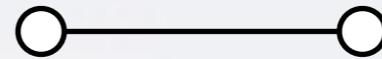
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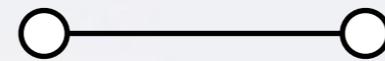
- inter-actor
relationships



ONTOLOGY ISSUES: "SOCIO"- "SEMANTIC" ?

- **"actors"**

- inter-actor relationships



"interaction"

'discussion'

'friendship'

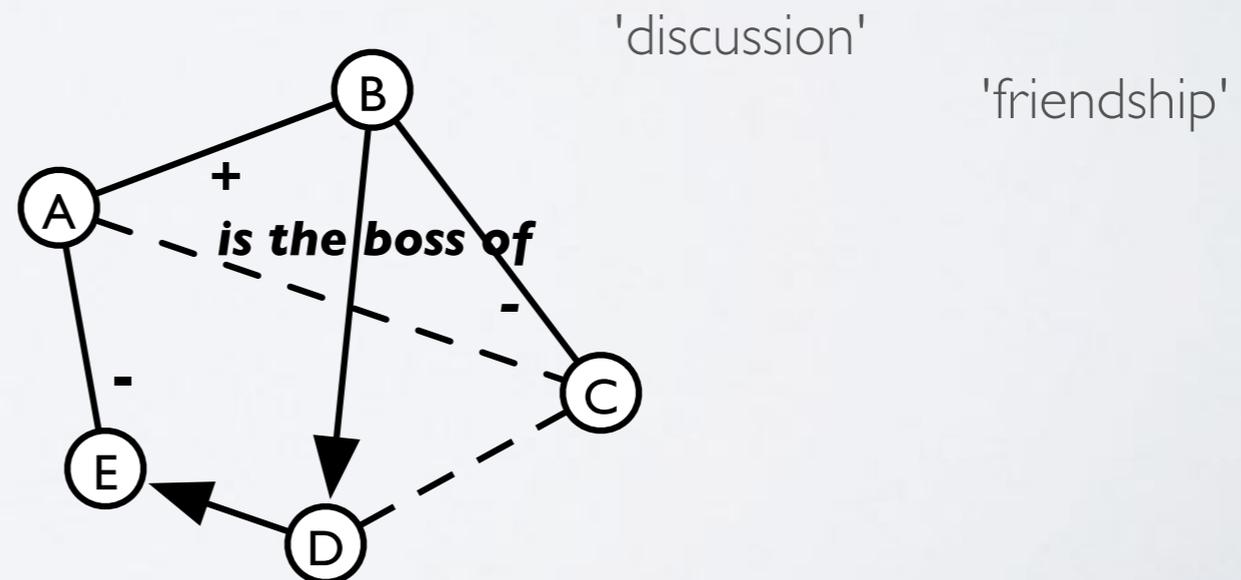
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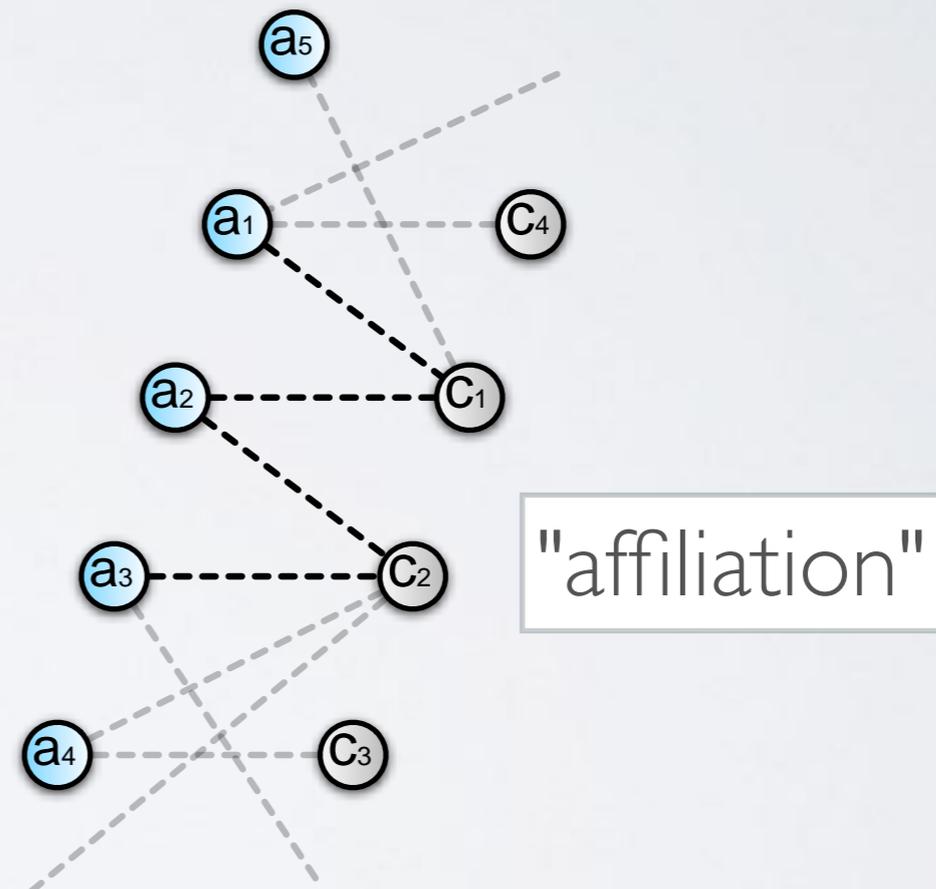
"interaction"



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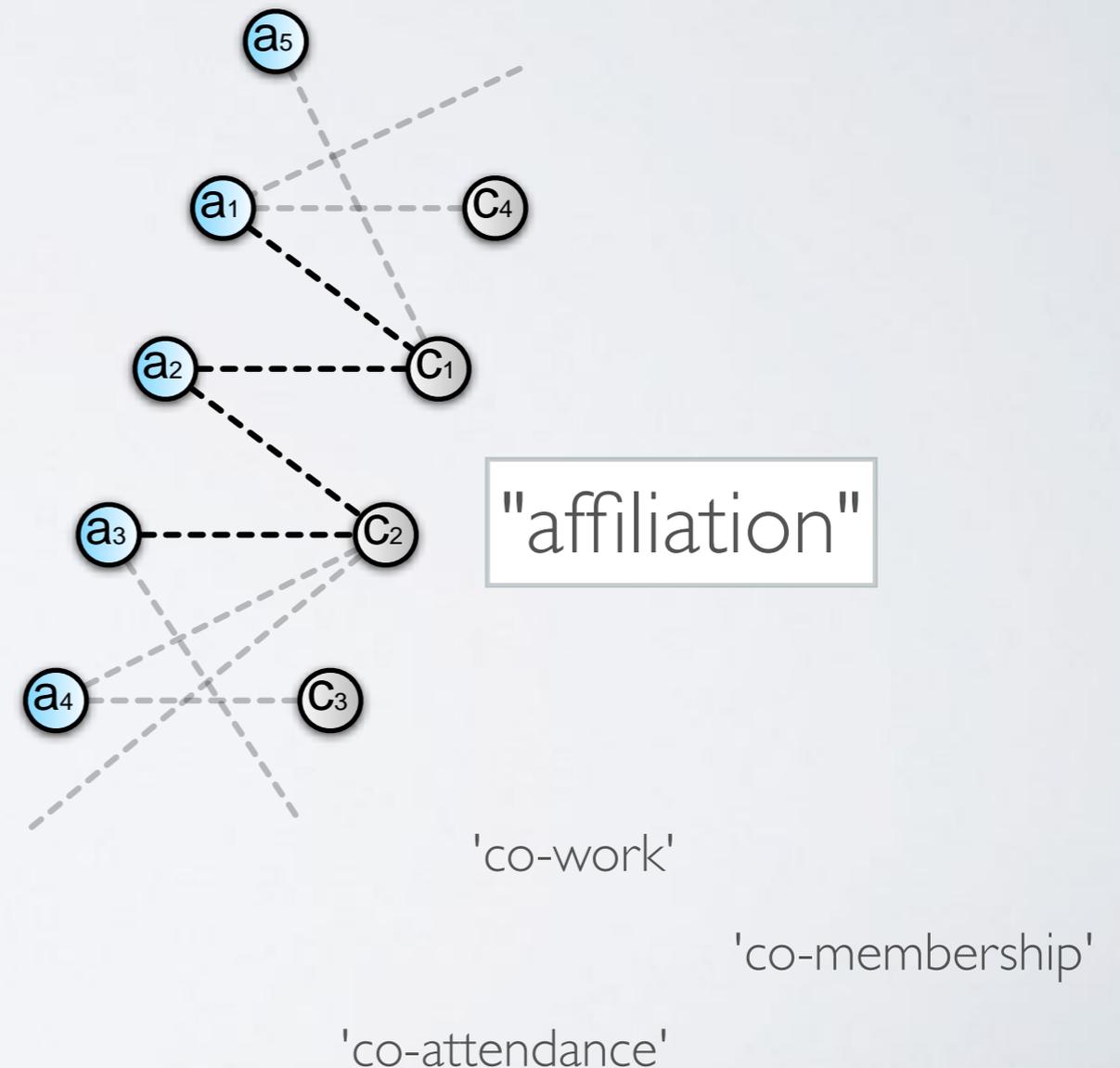
- inter-actor relationships
- joint actor affiliations



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ONTOLOGY ISSUES: "SOCIO"- "SEMANTIC" ?

- **on the
"semantic" side...**



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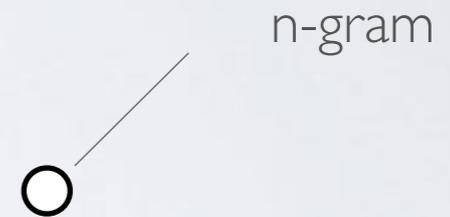
- **on the
"semantic" side...**

term



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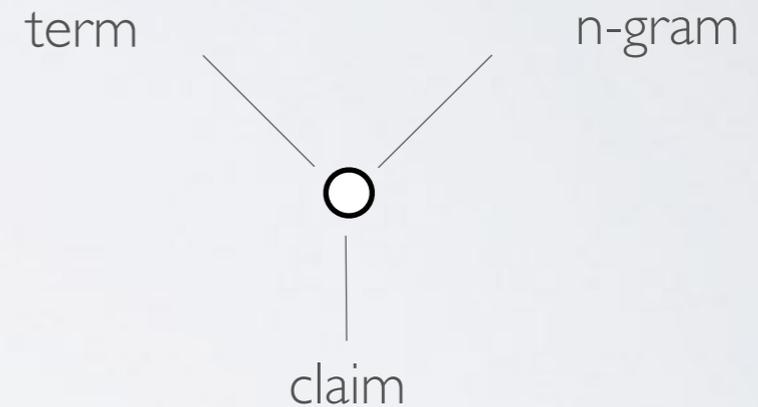
- **on the
"semantic" side...**



claim

ONTOLOGY ISSUES: "SOCIO"- "SEMANTIC" ?

- **on the
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SOCIAL NETWORK DYNAMICS

(Sampson, 1968)

- **First period of development: 40s-70s**

- social science, mathematical sociology
- focused on “small” case-studies, algebraic definitions



1 Ramunkl (W)	10 Gregory (T)
2 Bonaventure (L)	11 Hugh (U)
3 Ambrose (L)	12 Boniface (T)
4 Berthold (L)	13 Mark (T)
5 Peter (L)	14 Albert (T)
6 Louis (L)	15 Amund (W)
7 Victor (W)	16 Basil (O)
8 Winfred (T)	17 Elias (O)
9 John (T)	18 Simplicius (O)

- **Second period: the 'new science of networks', end of 90s-now**

- large-scale datasets, complex systems standpoint
- classical stylized facts: “power laws”, communities, ...

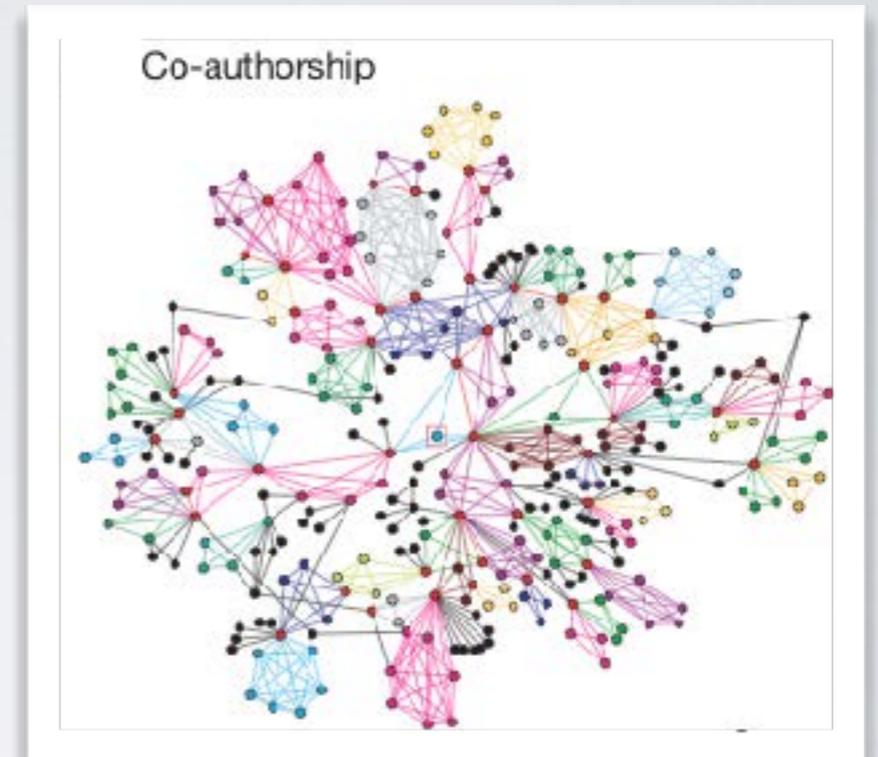
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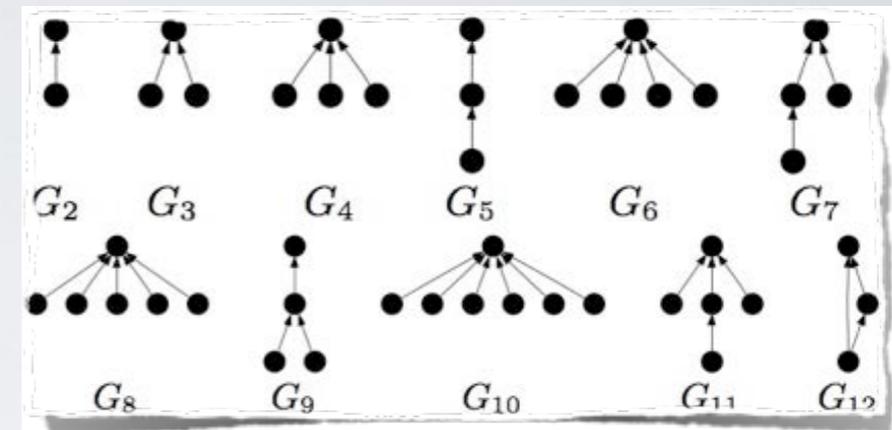
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(McGlohon, Leskovec, Faloutsos, Hurst, Glance, 2007)

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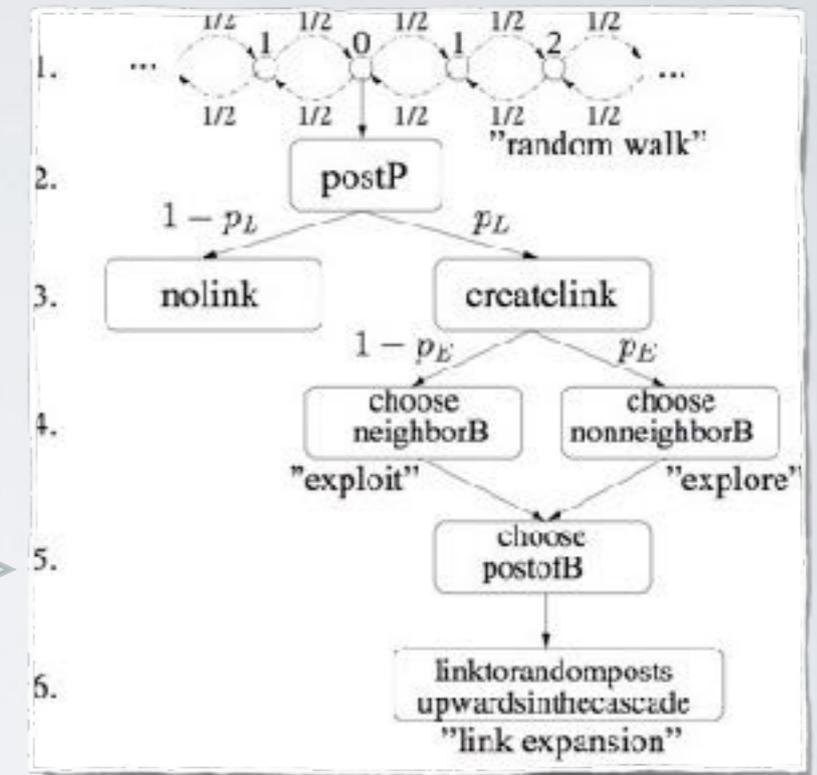
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(Gotz, Leskovec, McGlohon, Faloutsos, 2009)

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SOCIAL NETWORK MODELS

reconstructing using	dynamics	structure
dynamics	Preferential linking Scoring methods	Rewiring models Cost function optimization Agent-based models
structure	ERGMs, SAOMs Symbolic regression	Prescribed structure Subgraph-based

CONTENT DYNAMICS

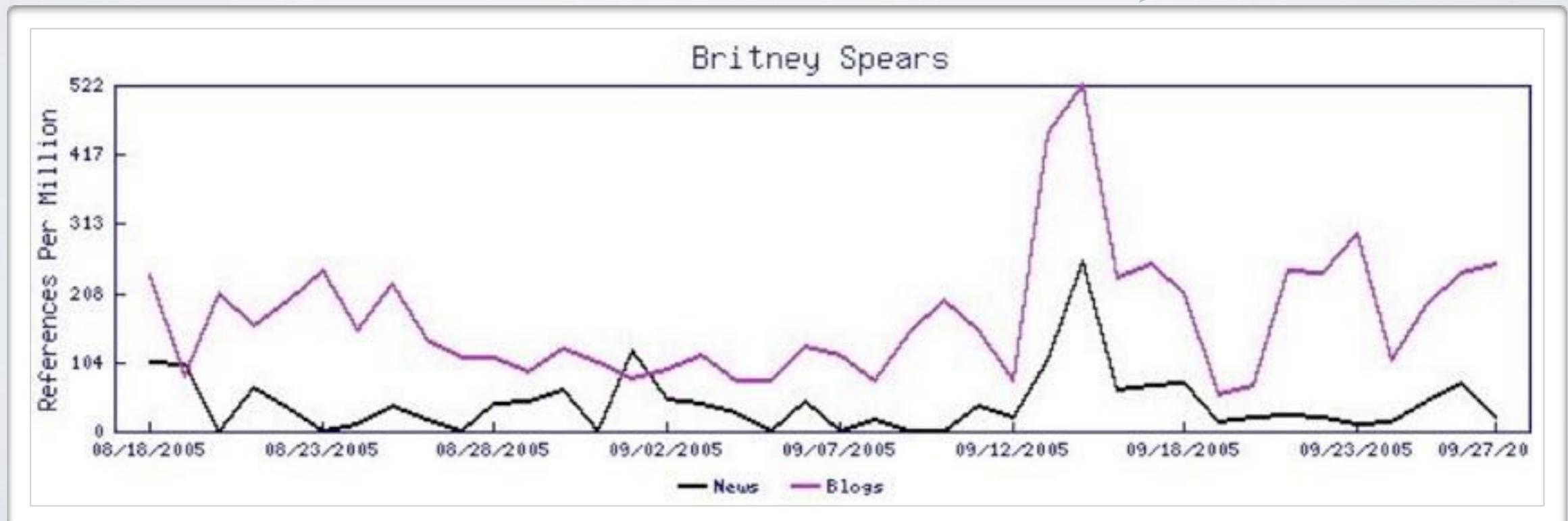
Dynamics of term usage

vs. source type

vs. location

predictive

(Lloyd, Kaulgud, Skiena, 2005)



CONTENT DYNAMICS

Dynamics of term usage

— vs. source type

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— [Dynamics of term usage

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— **predictive**

(Balog et al., 2004; Mishne et al., 2006)

CONTENT DYNAMICS

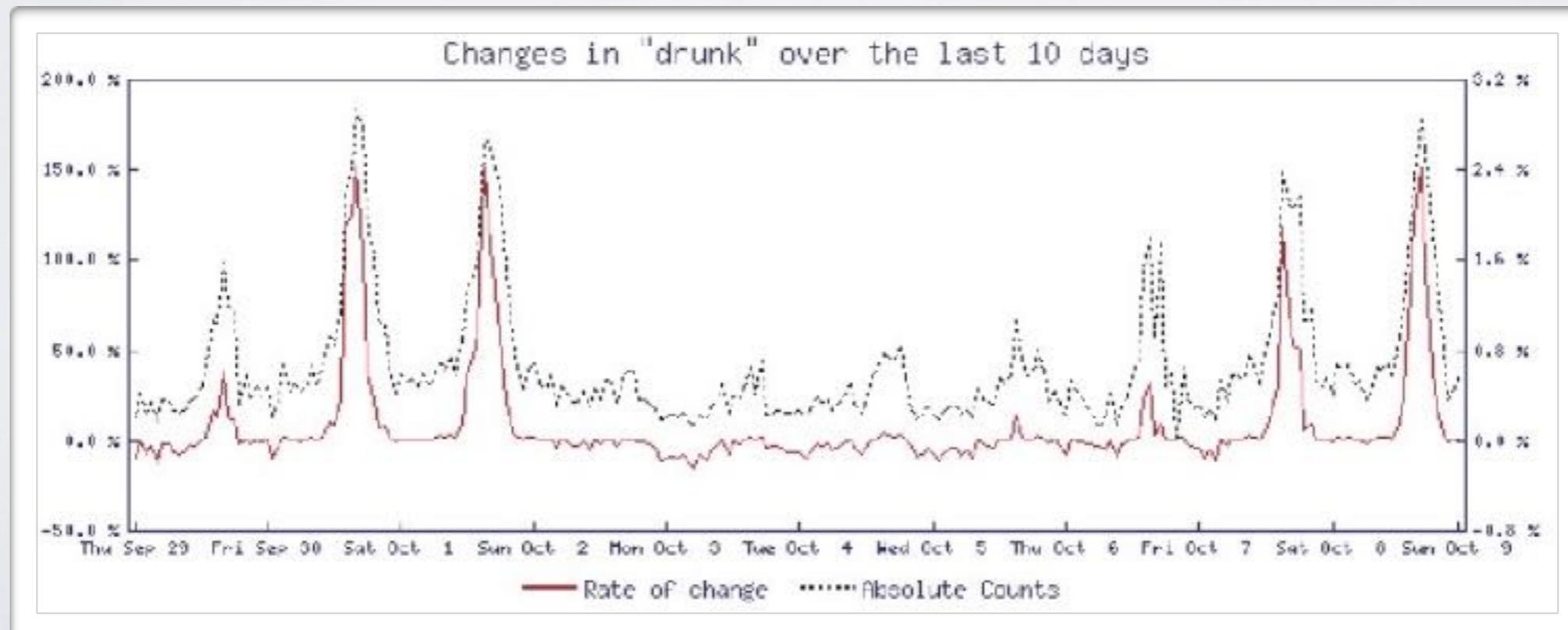
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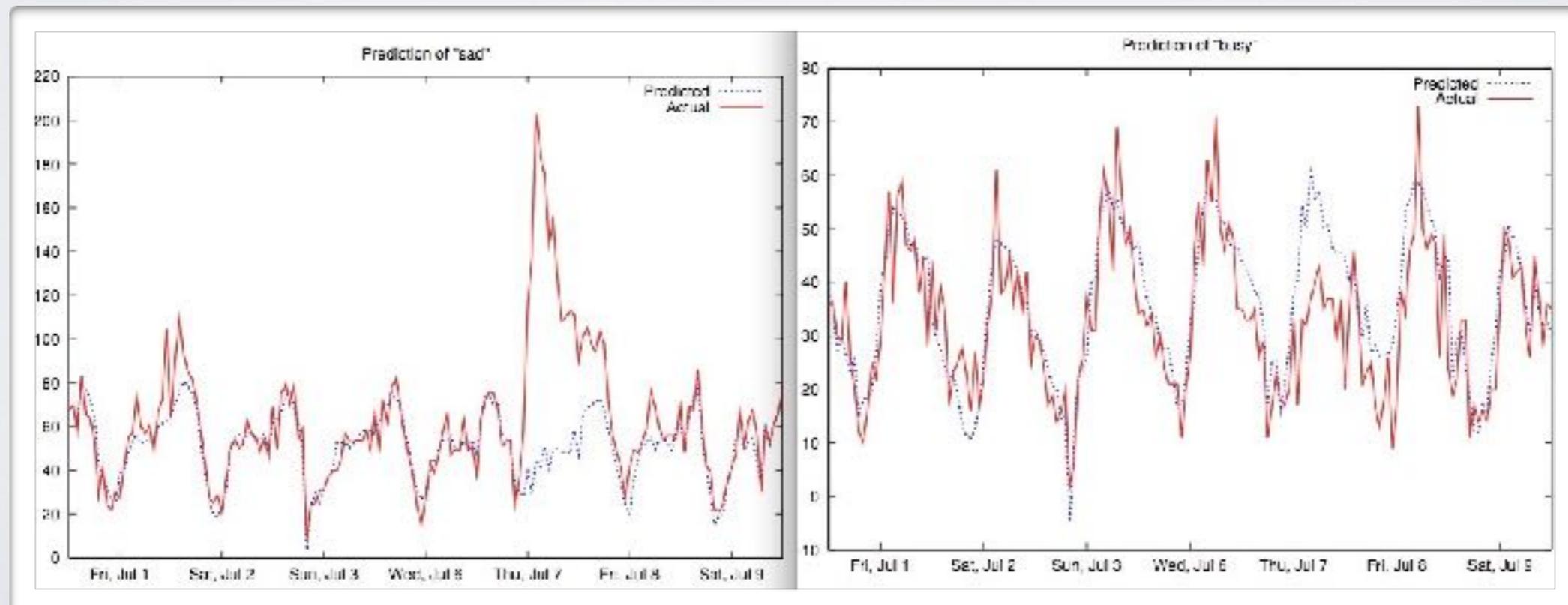
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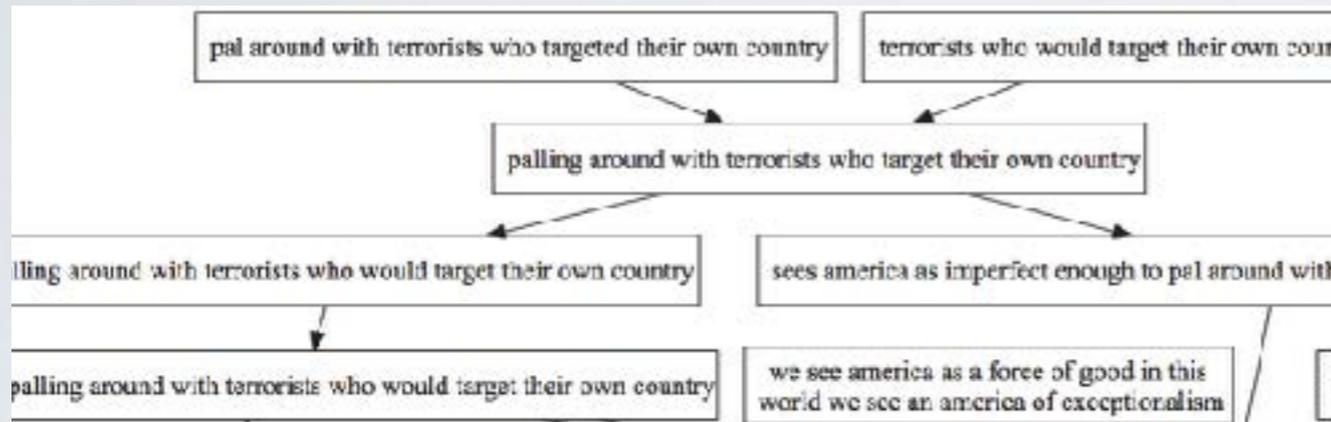
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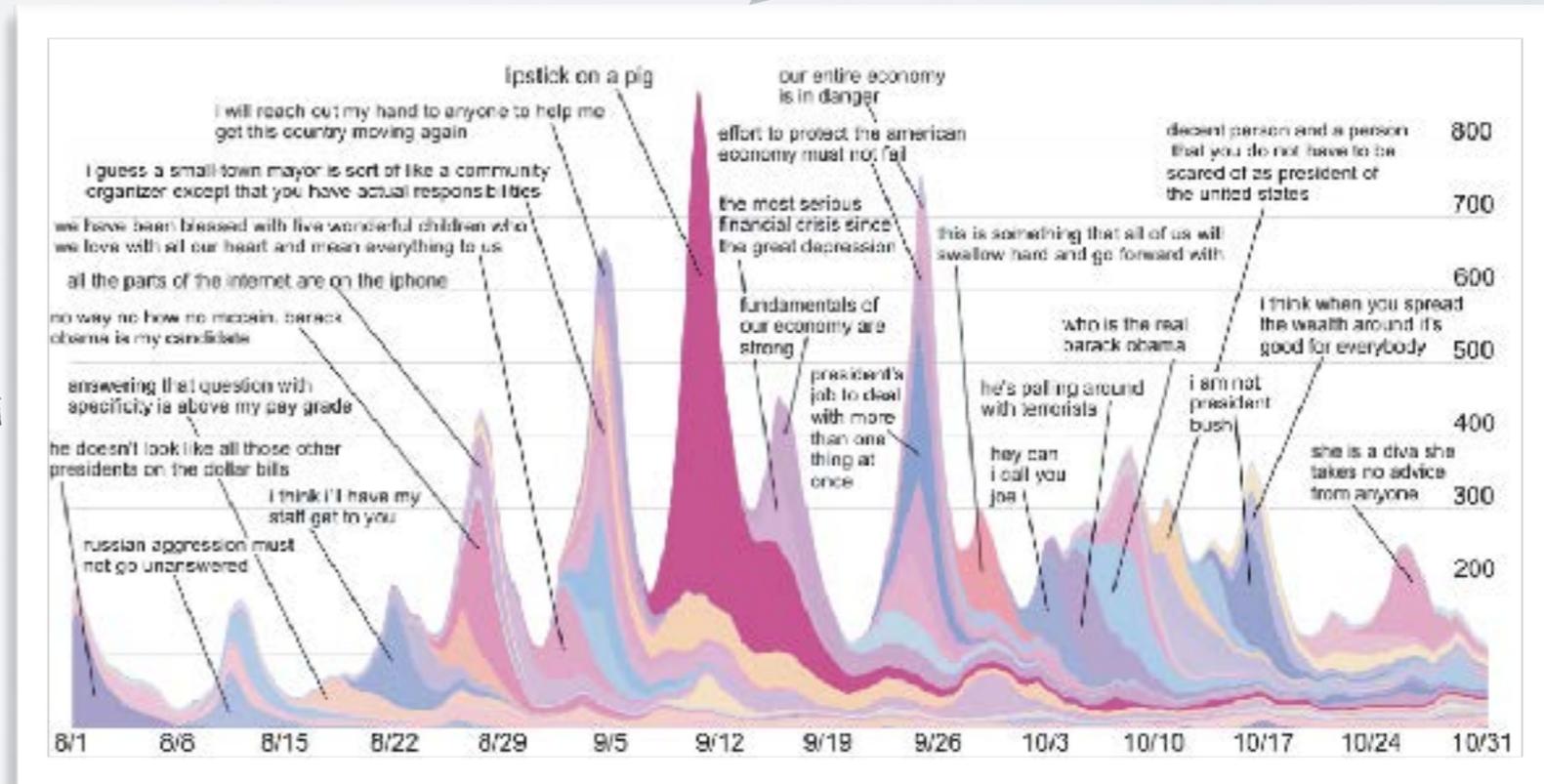


CONTENT DYNAMICS

e.g., dynamics of sentences / quotations, called “memes”



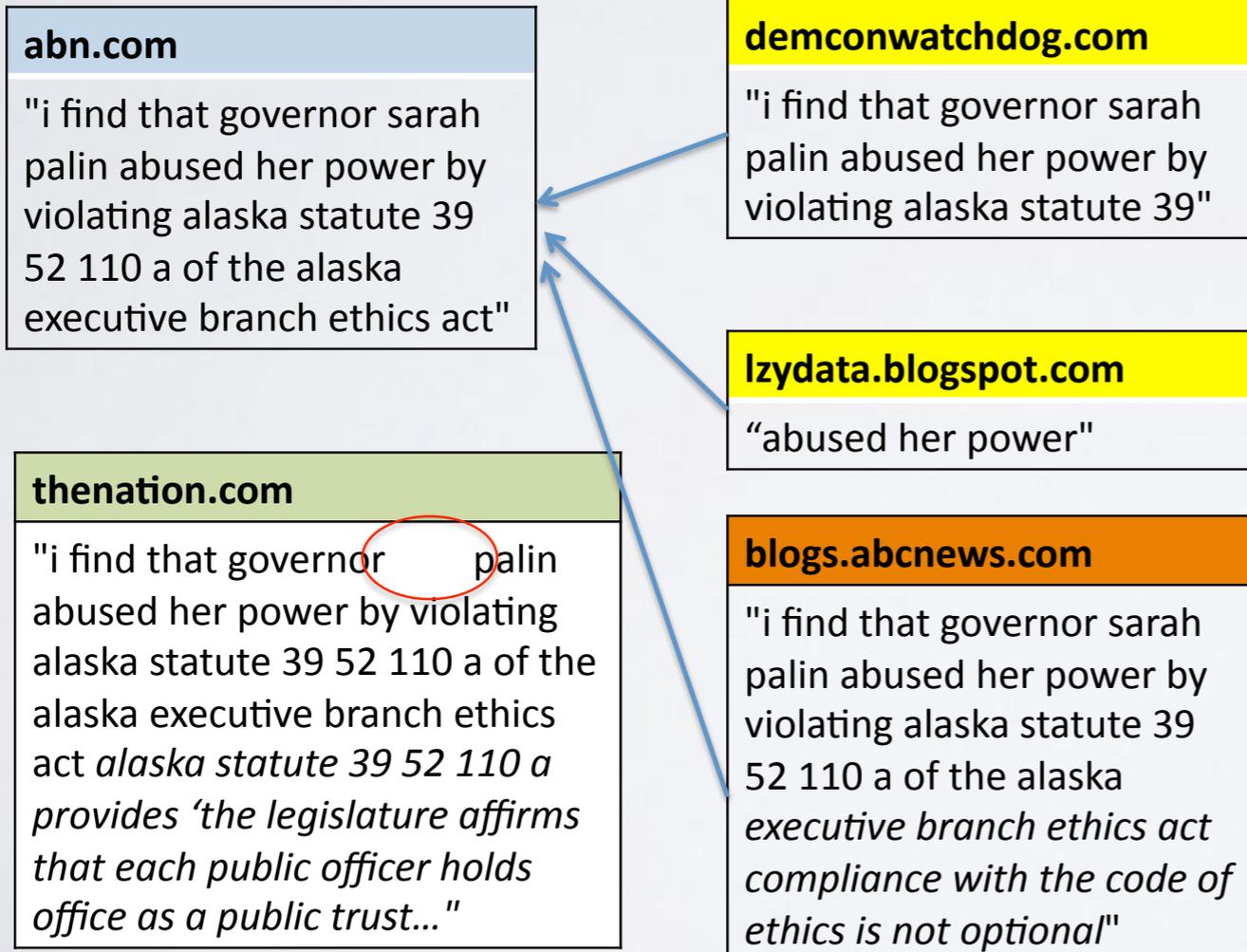
(Leskovec, Backstrom, Kleinberg, 2009)



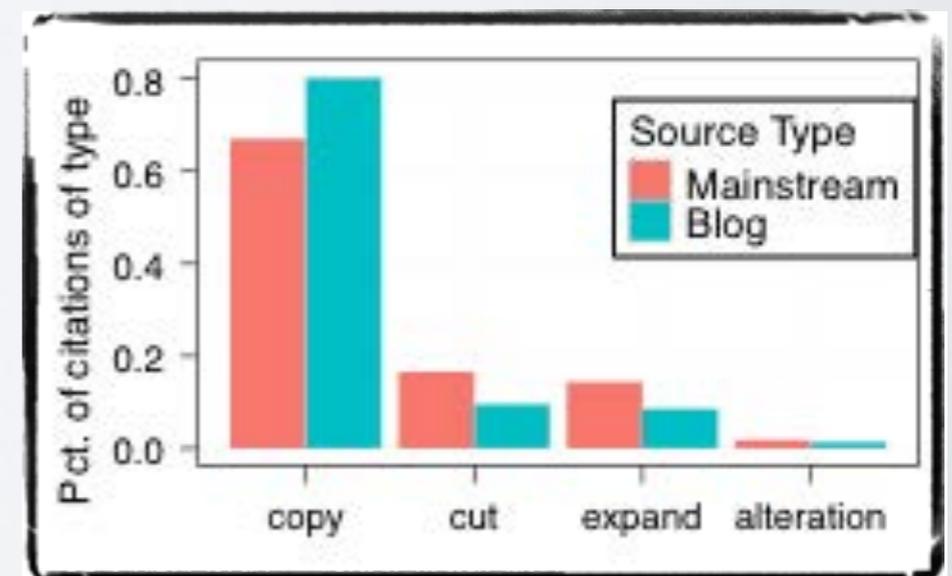
CONTENT DYNAMICS

Observing conceptual mutation

(Simmons, Adamic, Adar, 2011)



Distinguishing between various node types



The Geography of Happiness: Connecting Twitter Sentiment and Expression, Demographics, and Objective Characteristics of Place

Lewis Mitchell^{1*}, Morgan R. Frank¹, Kameron Decker Harris^{1,2}, Peter Sheridan Dodds¹, Christopher M. Danforth¹

2013

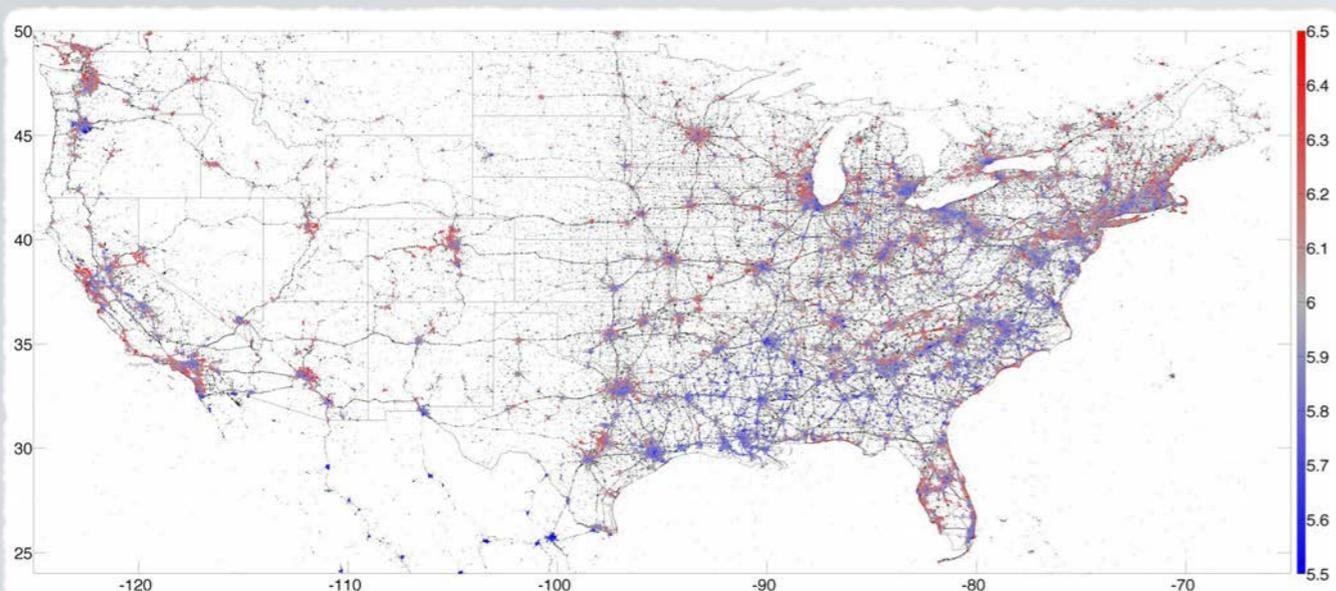


Figure 5. Map showing happiness of all tweets collected from the lower 48 US states during 2011. Points are colored as in figure 4,

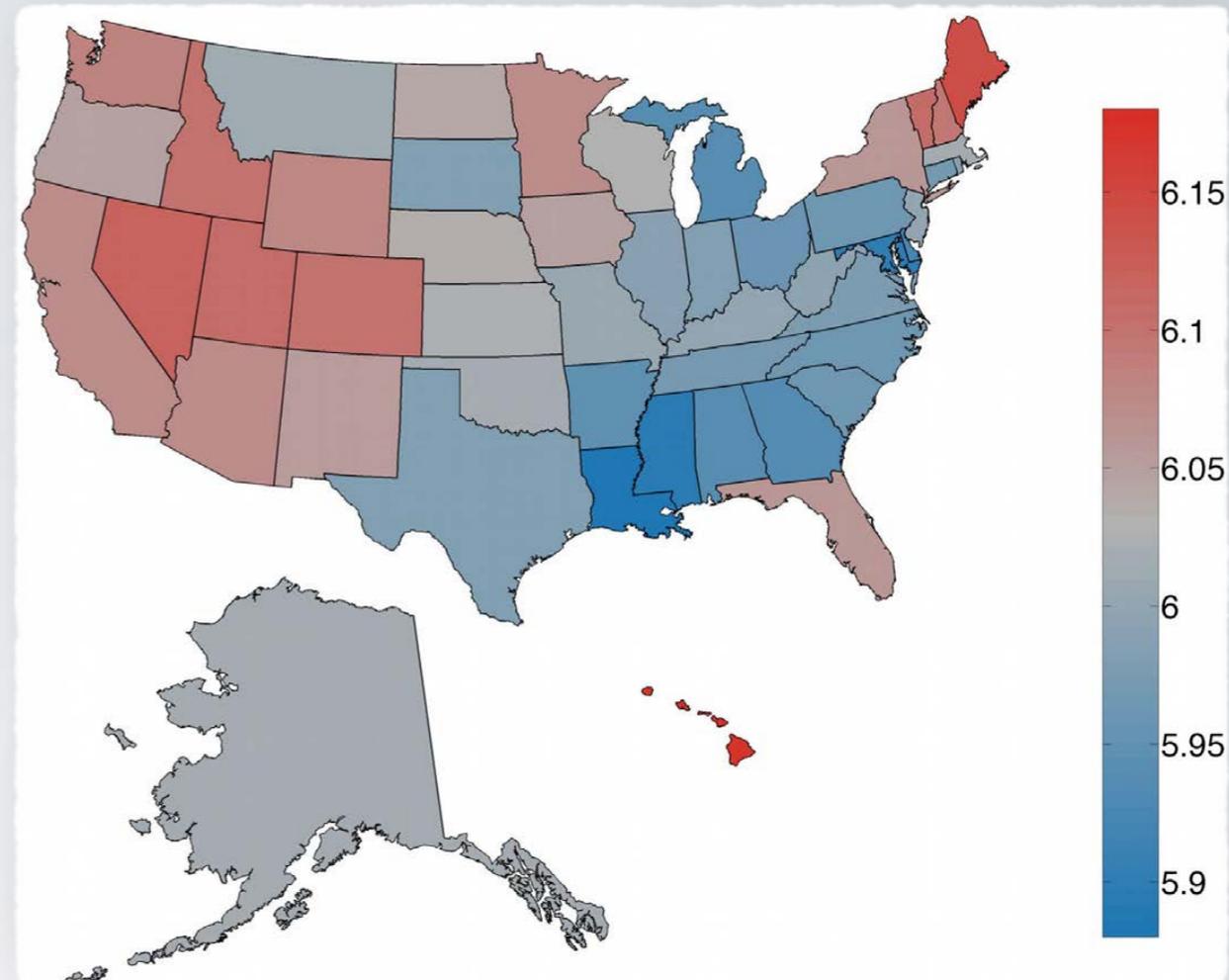
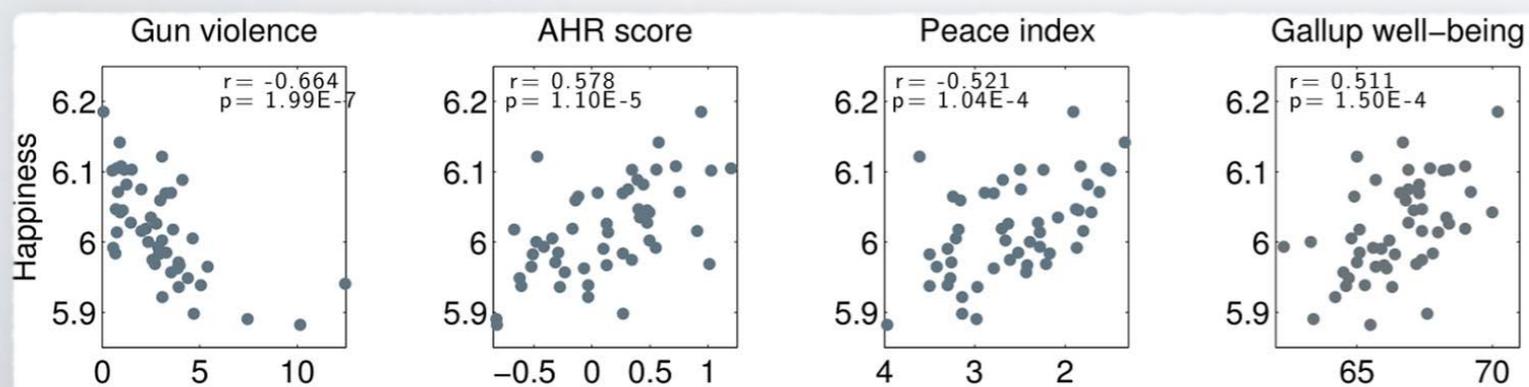


Figure 1. Average word happiness for geotagged tweets in all US states collected during calendar year 2011. The happiest 5 states, in order, are: Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Utah and Vermont. The saddest 5 states, in order, are: Louisiana, Mississippi, Maryland, Delaware and Georgia. Word shift plots describing how differences in word usage contribute to variation in happiness between states are presented in Appendix B in Appendix S1 (online) [19].



“Louisiana is revealed as the saddest state, with a significant factor being an abundance of profanity relative to the other states. This is in contrast with the findings of Oswald and Wu who determined Louisiana to be the state with highest well-being according to an alternate survey-based measure of life satisfaction”

CONTENT DYNAMICS AND DIFFUSION

sometimes content type matters...

(Leskovec, Adamic, Huberman, 2006)

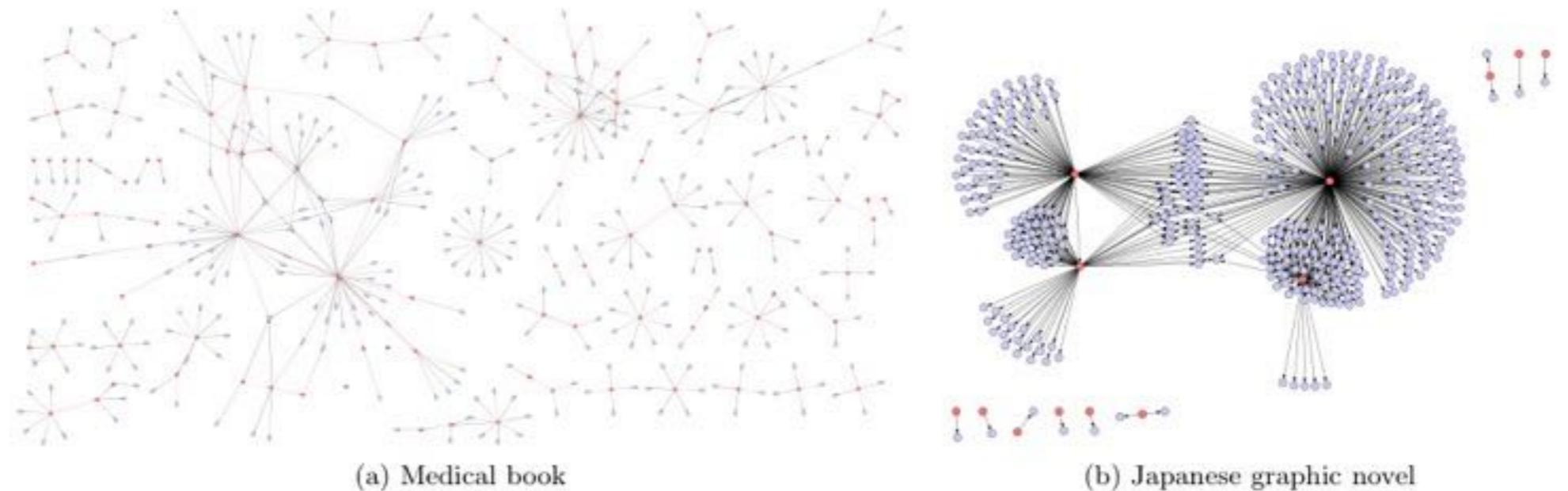


Figure 1: Examples of two product recommendation networks: (a) First aid study guide *First Aid for the USMLE Step*, (b) Japanese graphic novel (manga) *Oh My Goddess!: Mara Strikes Back*.

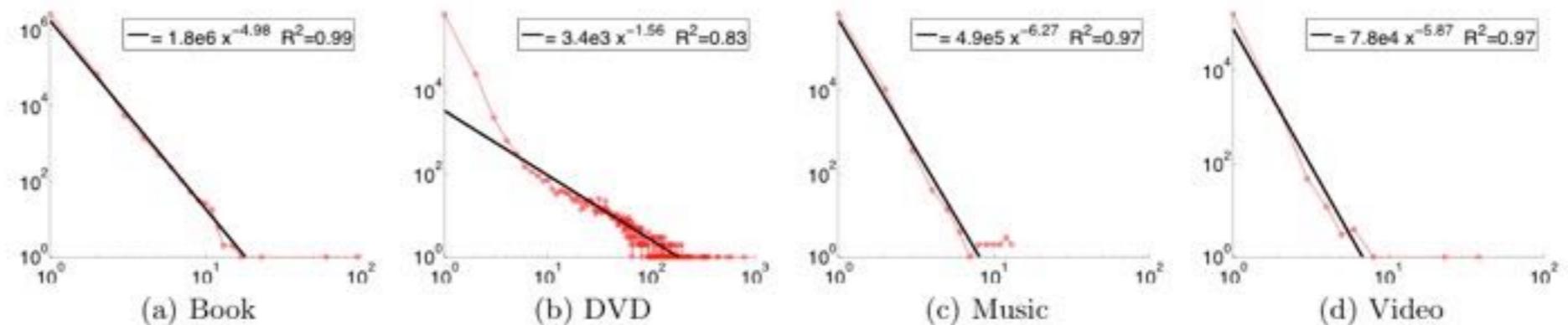


Figure 2: Size distribution of cascades (size of cascade vs. count). Bold line presents a power-fit.

The dynamics of viral marketing

CONTENT DYNAMICS AND DIFFUSION

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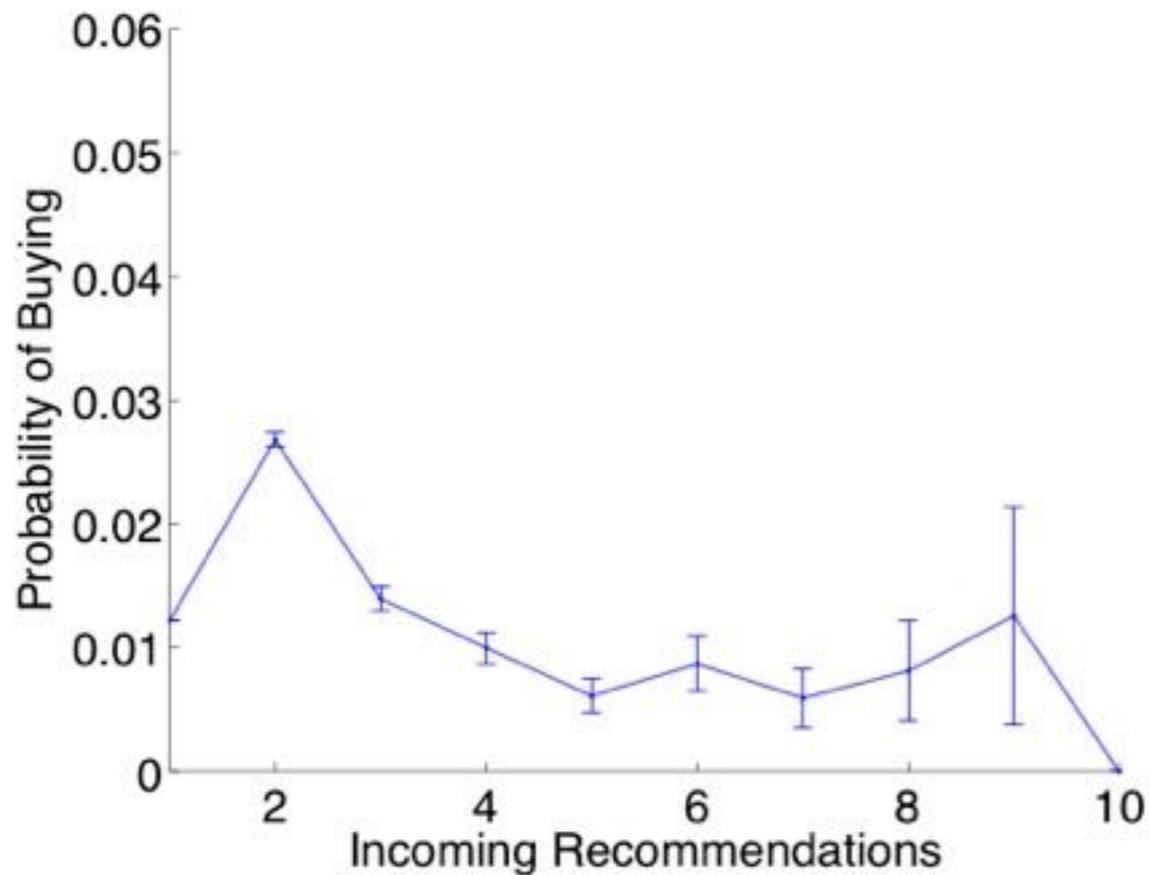


Figure 4: Probability of buying a book given a number of incoming recommendations.

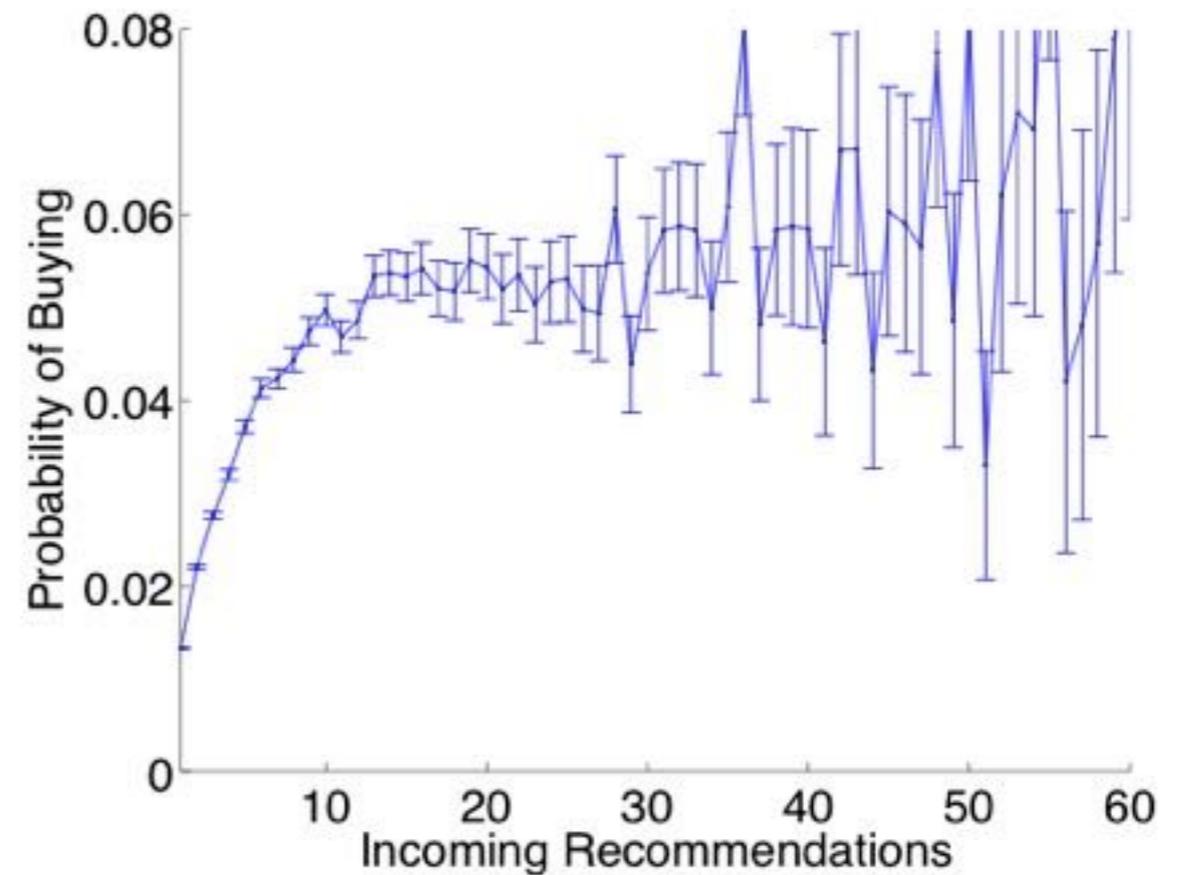


Figure 5: Probability of buying a DVD given a number of incoming recommendations.

The dynamics of viral marketing

(Leskovec, Adamic, Huberman, 2006)

Competition among memes in a world with limited attention

L. Weng¹, A. Flammini¹, A. Vespignani^{2,3,4} & F. Menczer¹

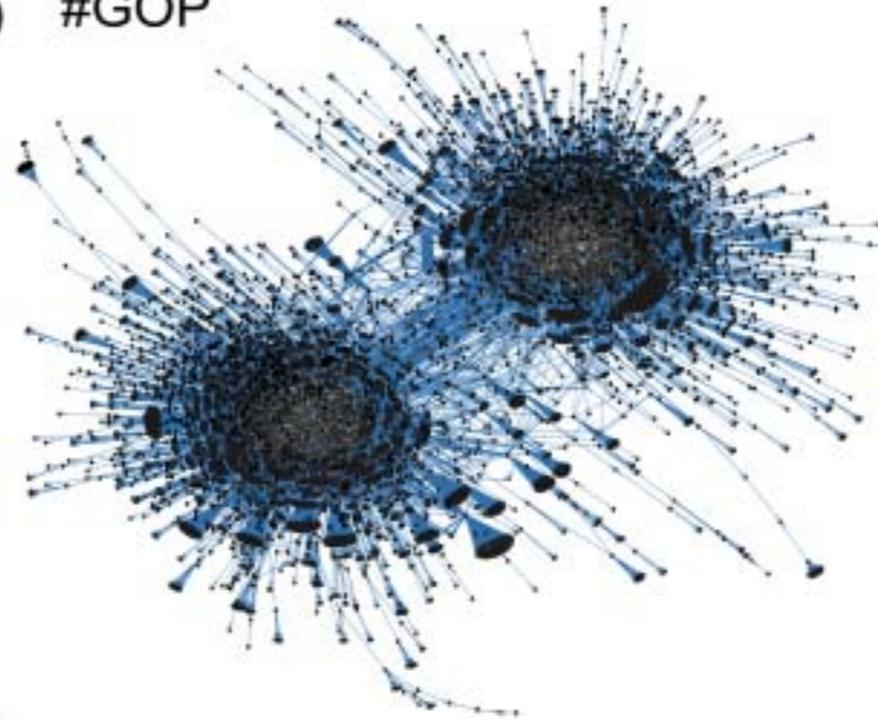


Published
29 March 2012

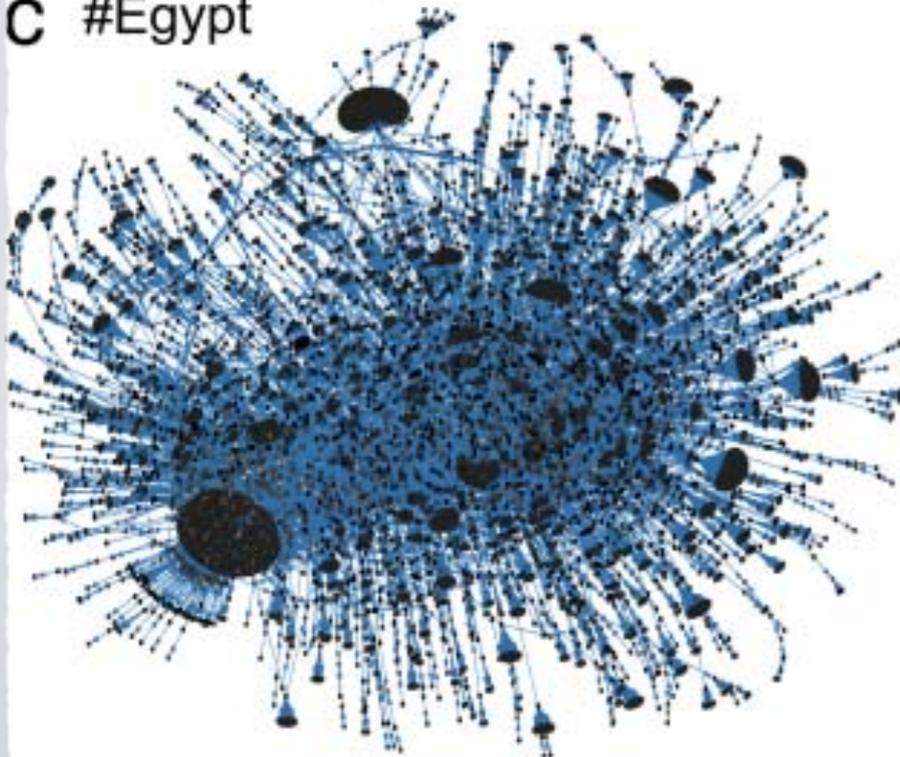
a #Japan



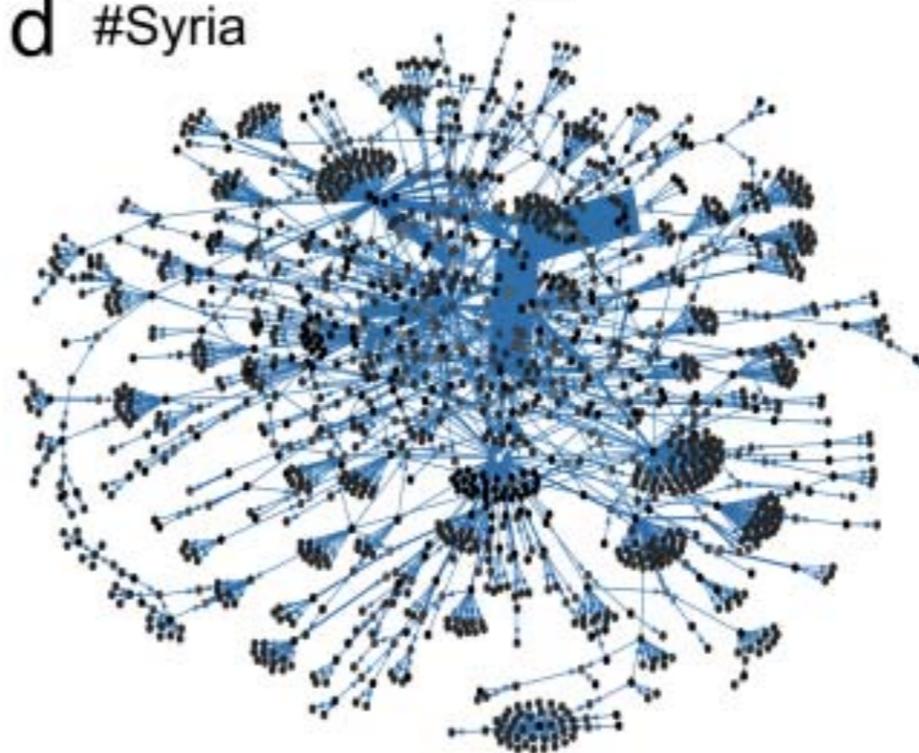
b #GOP



c #Egypt



d #Syria



- (a) The #Japan meme shows how news about the March 2011 earthquake propagated.
- (b) The #GOP tag stands for the US Republican Party and as many political memes, displays a strong polarization between people with opposing views.
- (c) Memes related to the “Arab Spring” and in particular the 2011 uprisings in #Egypt
- (d) and in #Syria These memes display characteristic hub users and strong connections, respectively.

CONTENT DYNAMICS AND DIFFUSION

same on Twitter with *hashtags*...

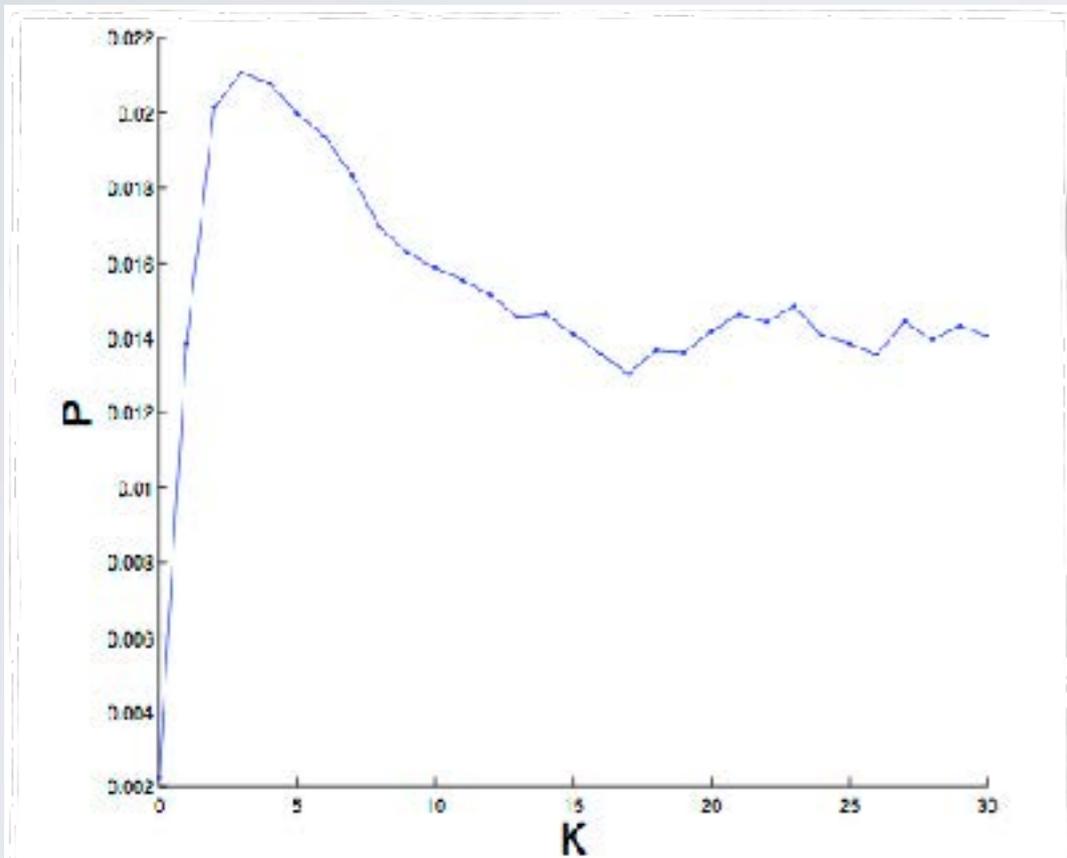


Figure 1: Average exposure curve for the top 500 hashtags. $P(K)$ is the fraction of users who adopt the hashtag directly after their k^{th} exposure to it, given that they had not yet adopted it

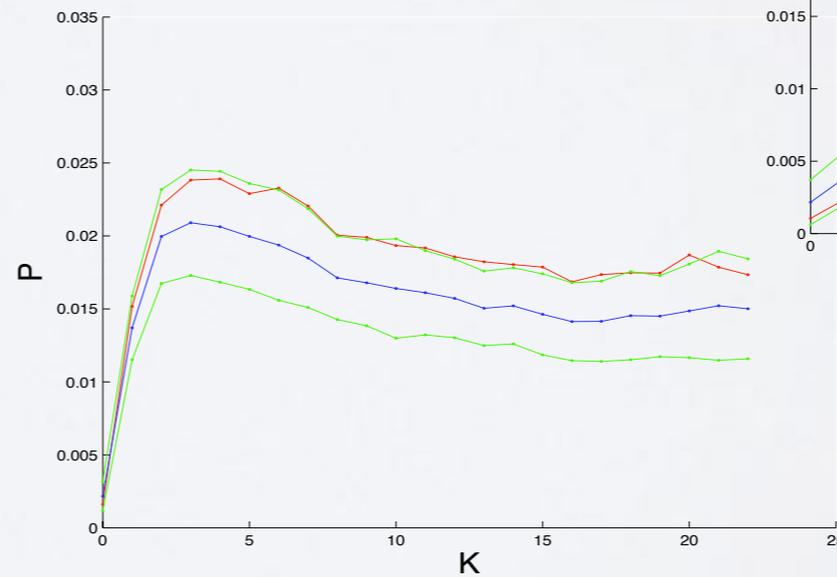
Differences in the Mechanics of Information Diffusion Across Topics: Idioms, Political Hashtags, and Complex Contagion on Twitter

WWW 2011, March 28–April 1, 2011, Hyderabad, India.

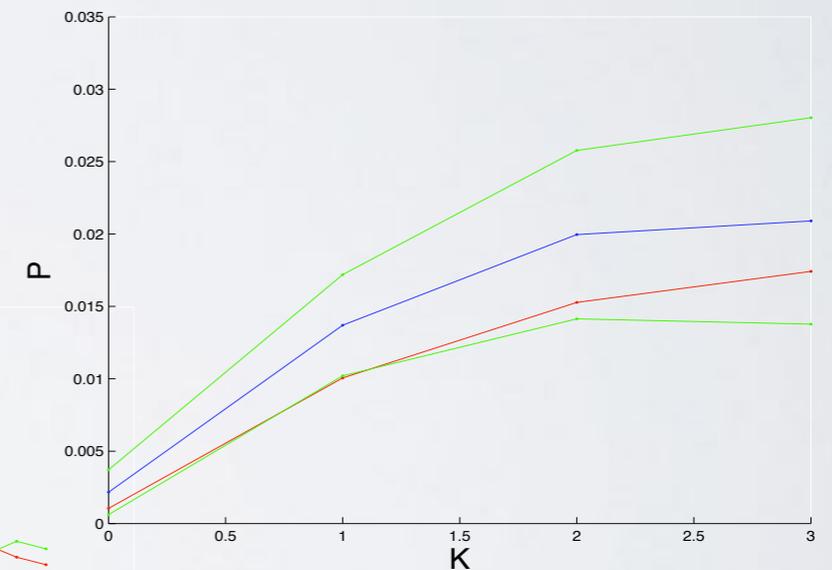
Daniel M. Romero

Brendan Meeder

Jon Kleinberg



(f) Political



(h) Games

Diffusion observation

...with respect to community structure

- effect of **clustered communities**?
 - contradictory influence of:
 - homophily (communities reinforcing contagion through multiple exposures)
 - clustering (slowing random information flows).

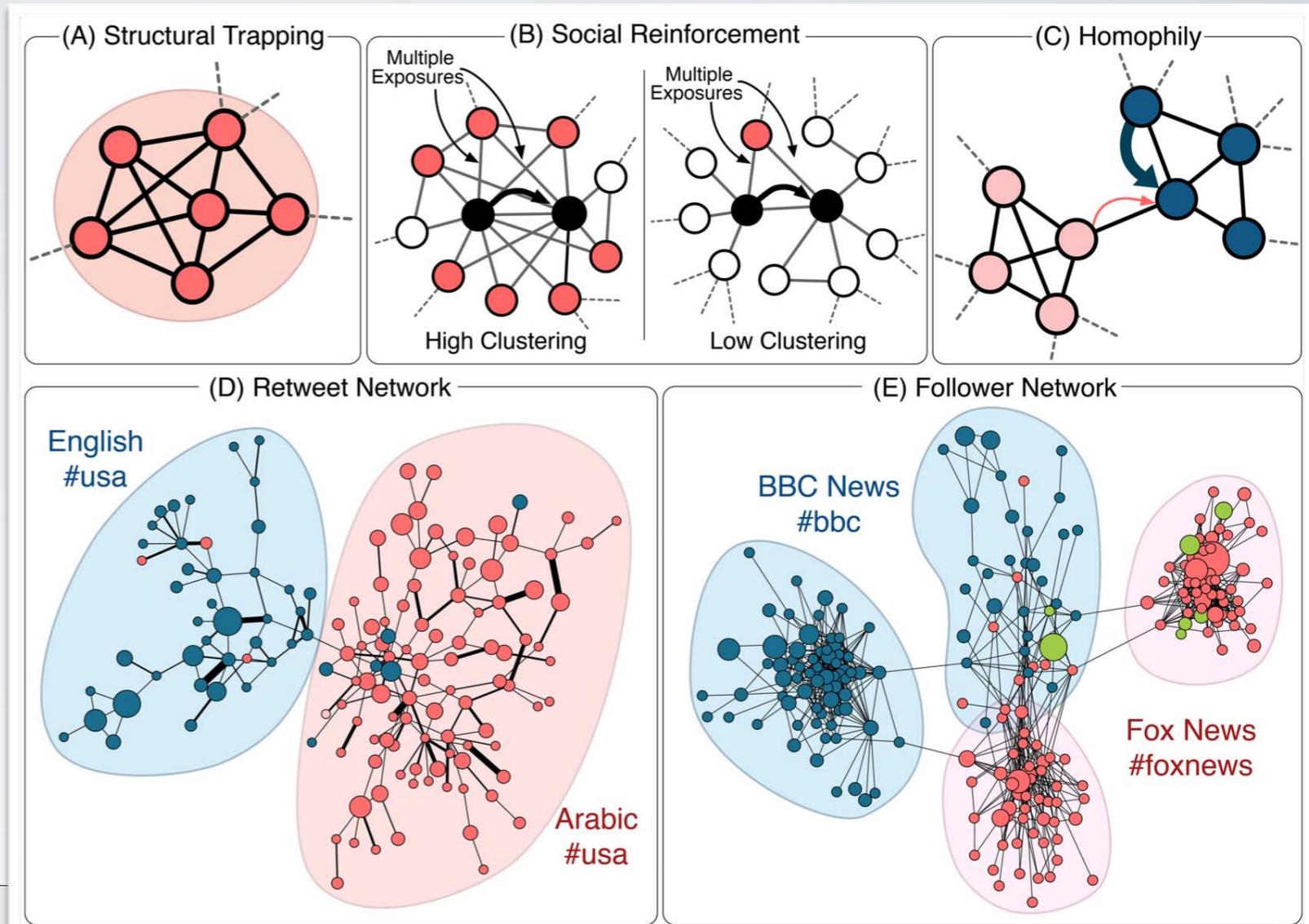


Table 1 | Baseline models for information diffusion

	Community effects			Simulation implementation
	Network	Reinforcement	Homophily	
M_1				For a given hashtag h , M_1 randomly samples the same number of tweets or users as in the real data.
M_2	✓			M_2 takes the network structure into account while neglecting social reinforcement and homophily. M_2 starts with a random seed user. At each step, with probability p , an infected node is randomly selected and one of its neighbors adopts the meme, or with probability $1 - p$, the process restarts from a new seed user ($p = 0.85$).
M_3	✓	✓		The cascade in M_3 is generated similarly to M_2 but at each step the user with the maximum number of infected neighbors adopts the meme.
M_4	✓		✓	In M_4 , the simple cascading process is simulated in the same way as in M_2 but subject to the constraint that at each step, only neighbors in the same community have a chance to adopt the meme.

- **“viral”** (irrespective of community structure, disease-like spreading: clustering slows diffusion)
- vs. **“non-viral”** (community structure-dependent, clustering facilitates diffusion)

Diffusion observation

(Weng, Menczer, Ahn, 2013)

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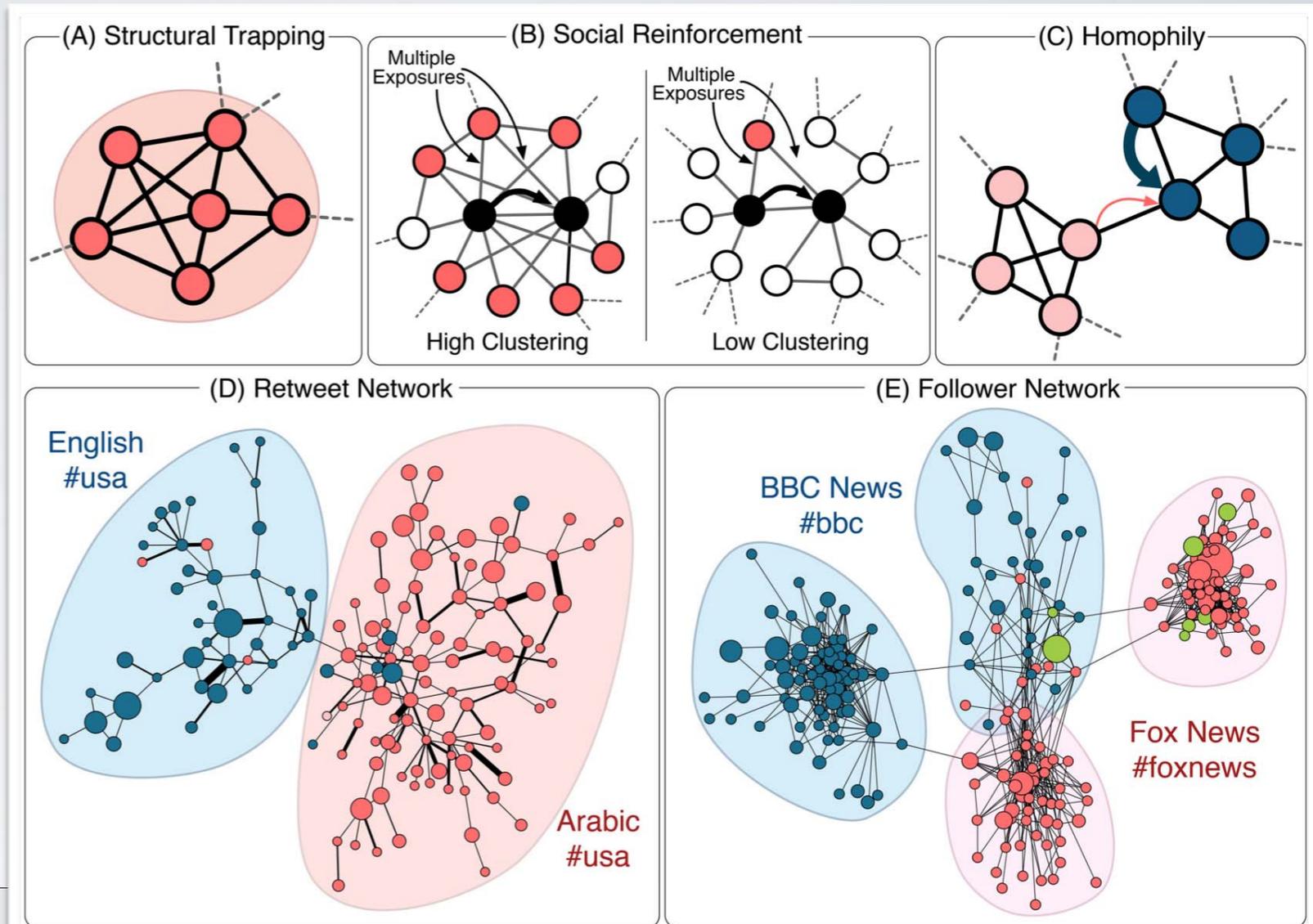


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Dynamical Classes of Collective Attention in Twitter

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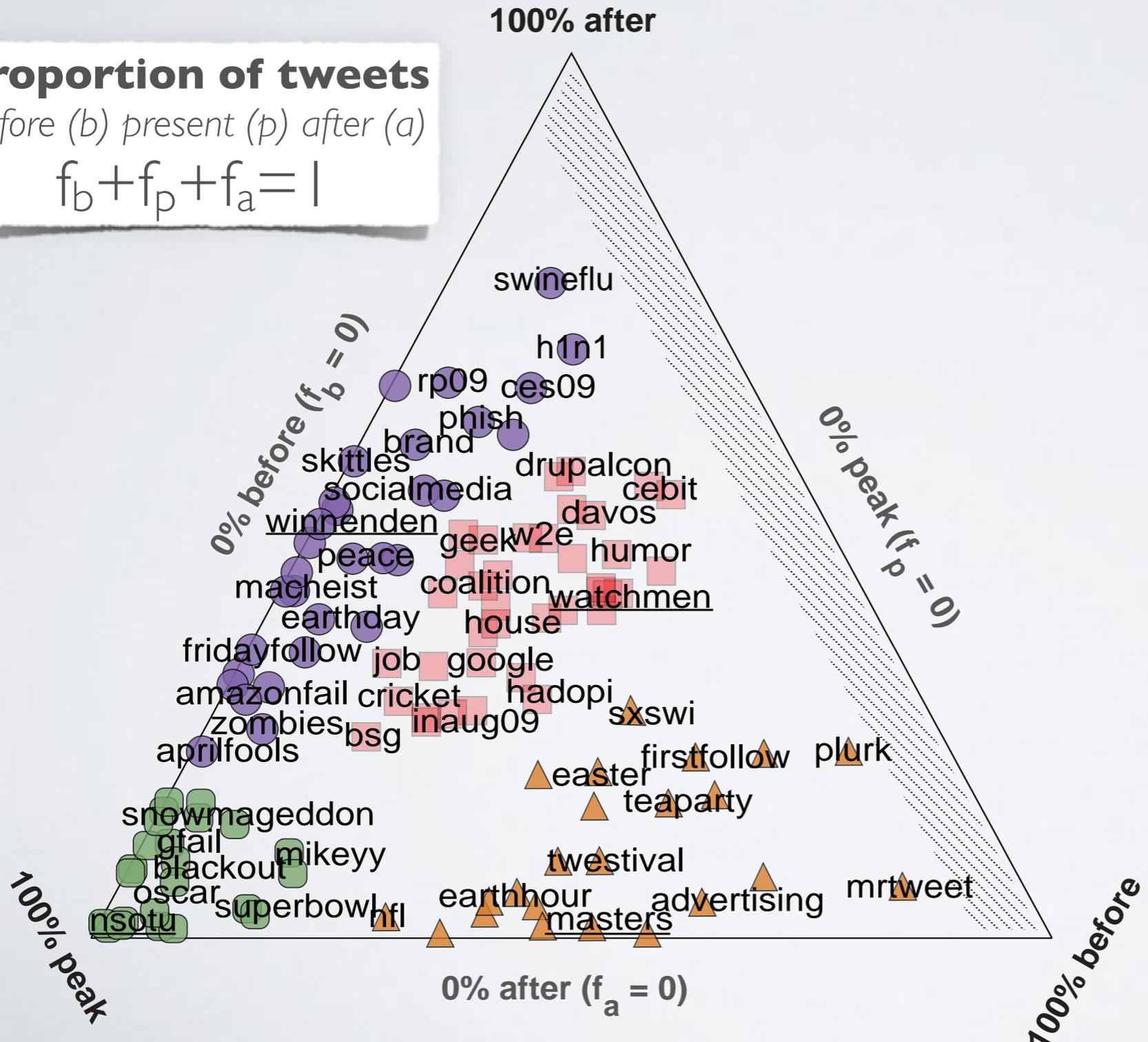
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proportion of tweets
before (b) present (p) after (a)
 $f_b + f_p + f_a = 1$



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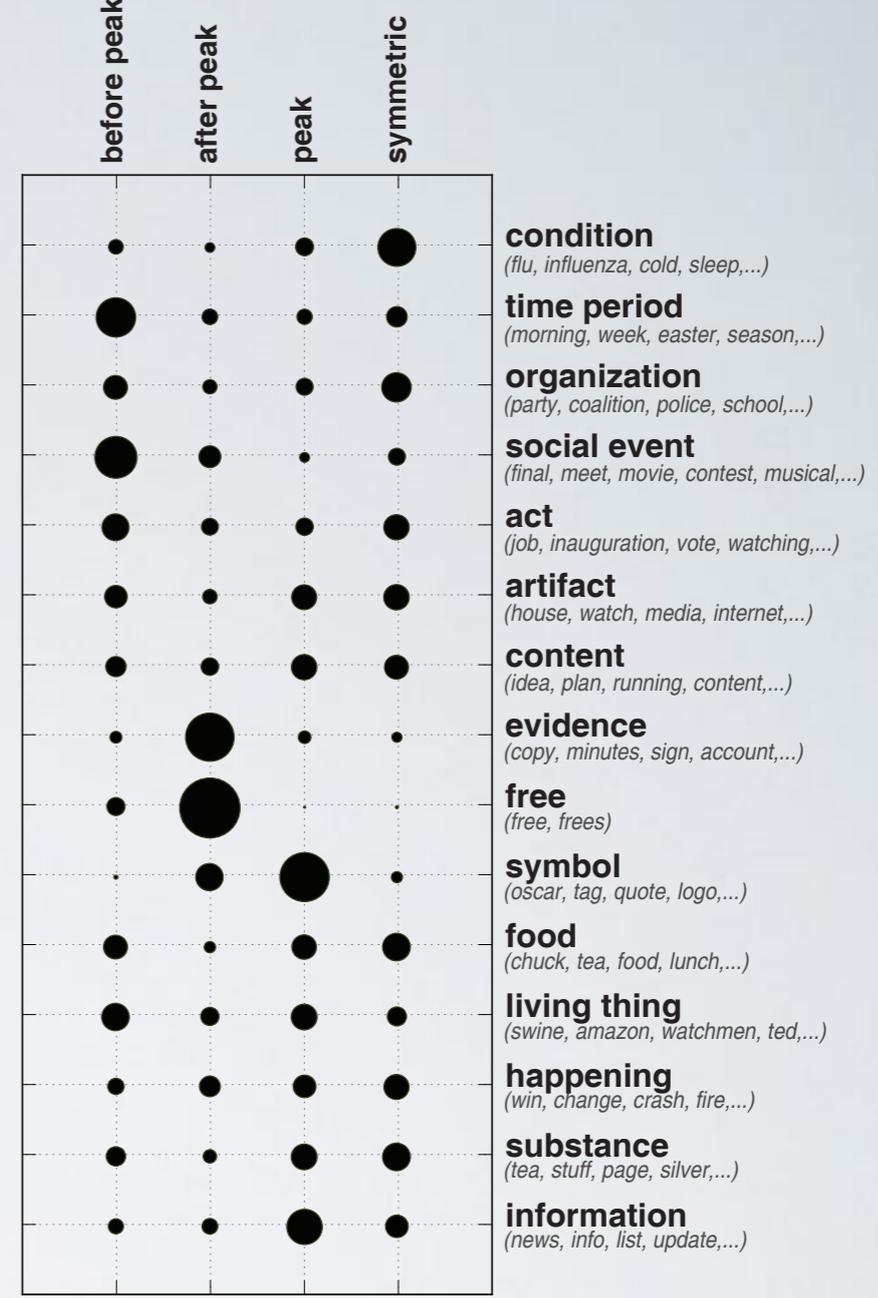
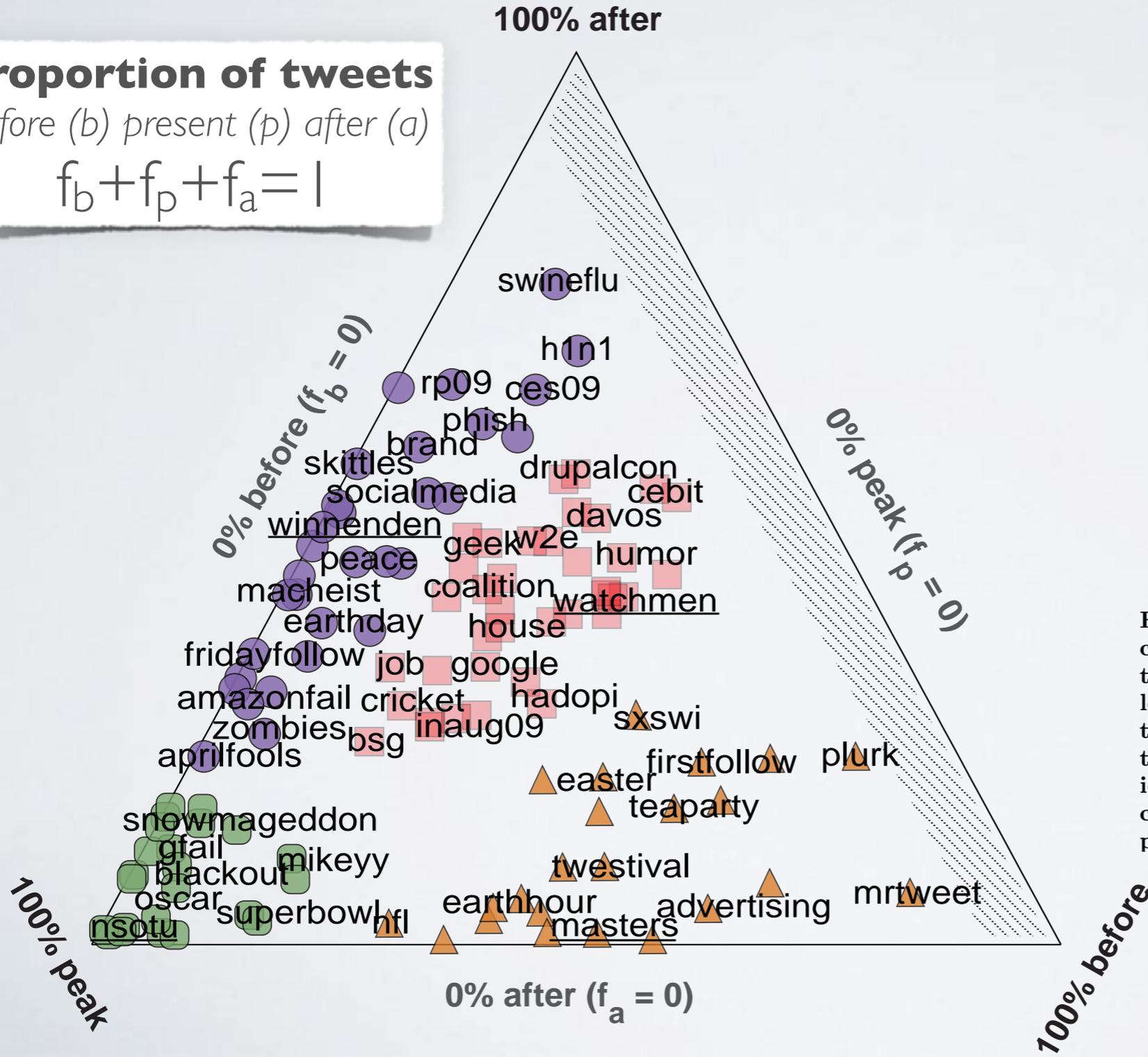


Figure 4: Semantic makeup of the hashtag classes: columns represent peak types and rows correspond to topics, i.e., concepts in the WordNet semantic lexicon. The radius of a circle is proportional to the average normalized frequency of the topic in the corresponding hashtag class. The displayed topics represent the most frequently observed generic concepts. Sample terms subsumed by them are reported in parenthesis.

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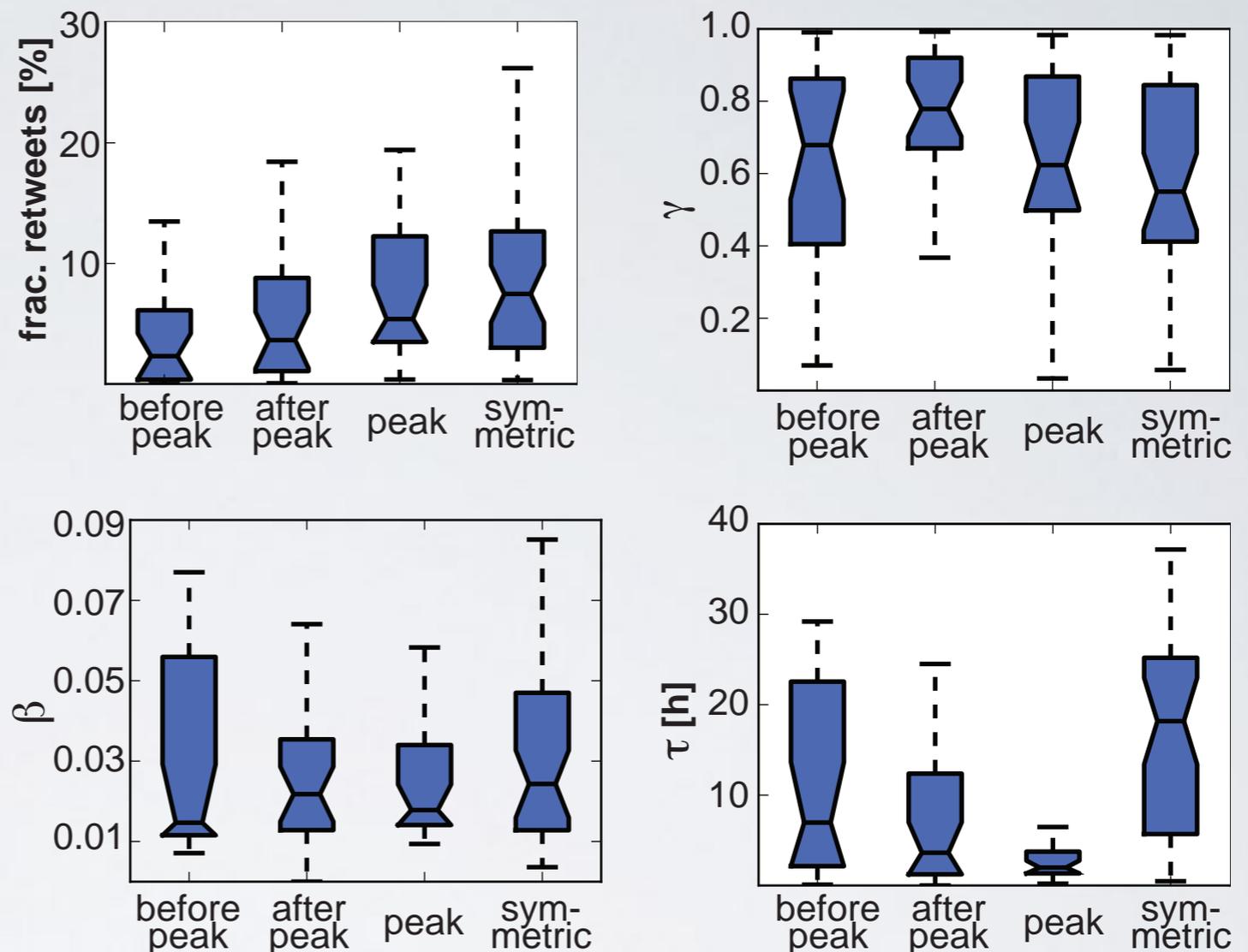


Figure 5: Parameters controlling the spreading of hashtags, broken down by hashtag class. Top left: fraction of retweets to regular tweets. Top right: fraction of seeders γ . Bottom left: fraction β of followers that adopt the hashtag after seeing it. Bottom right: average time τ between the first tweet with the hashtag and the last one.

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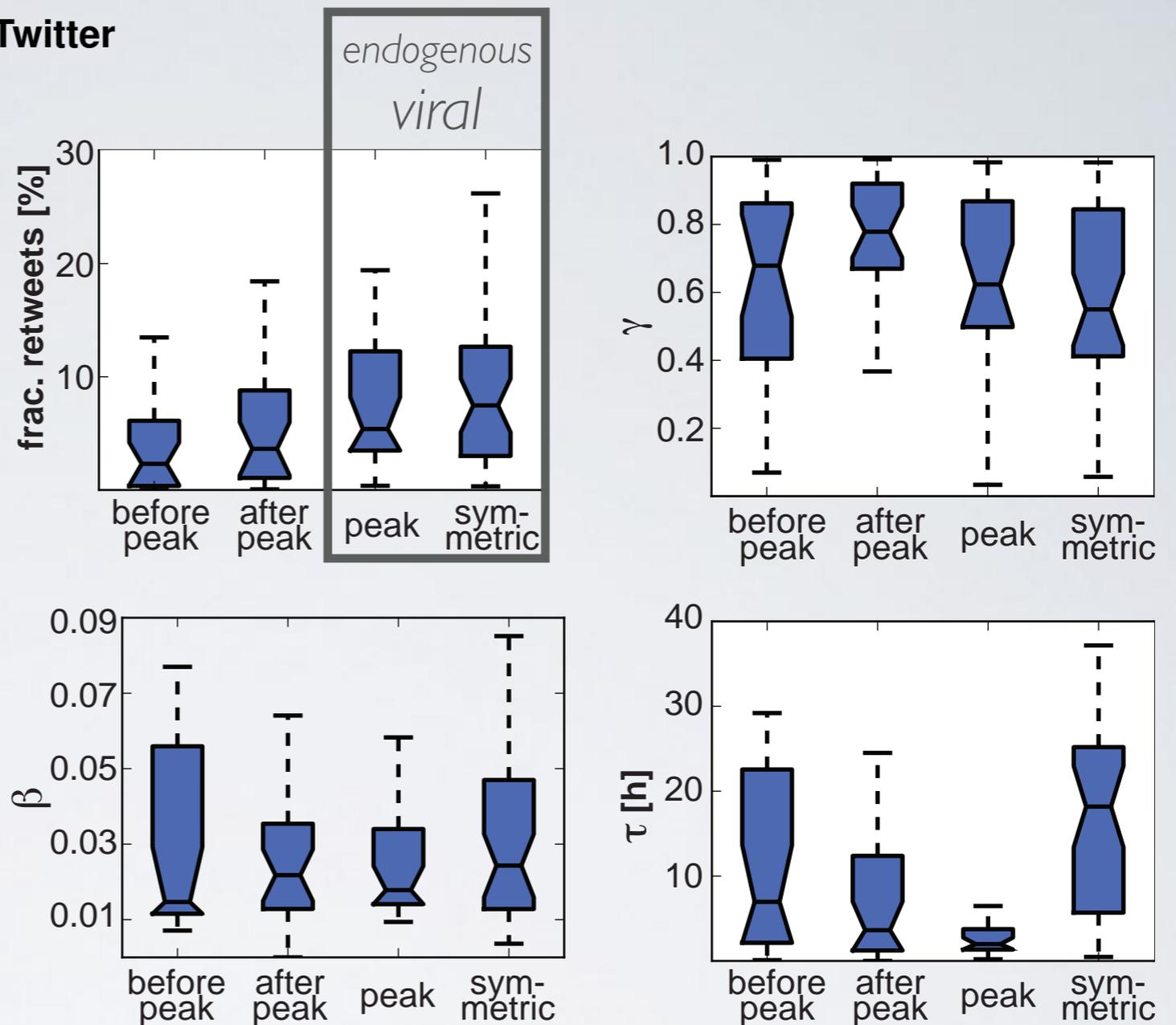


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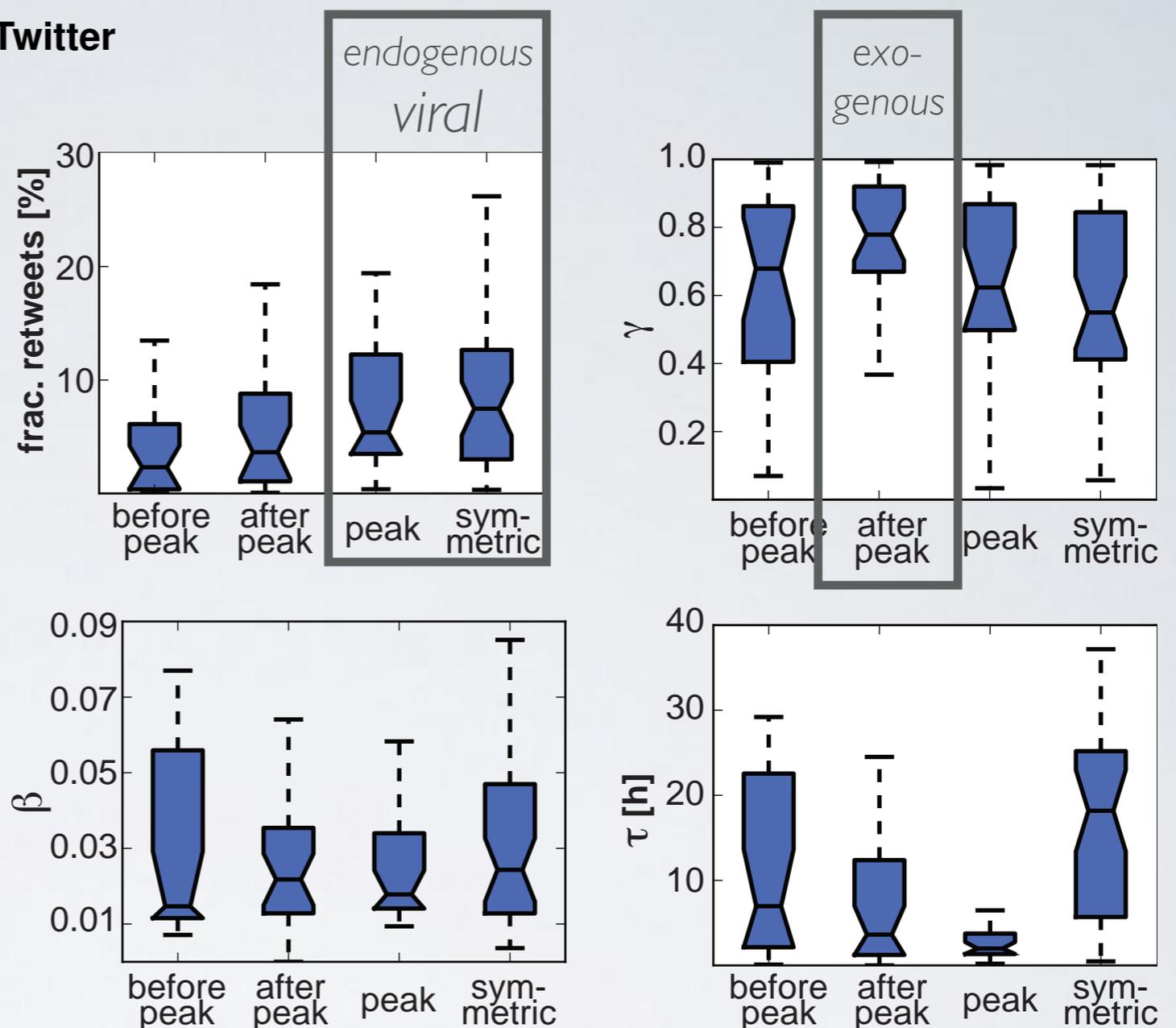


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parameter β measures contagiosity: it indicates whether a meme propagates from a user to their *followers*

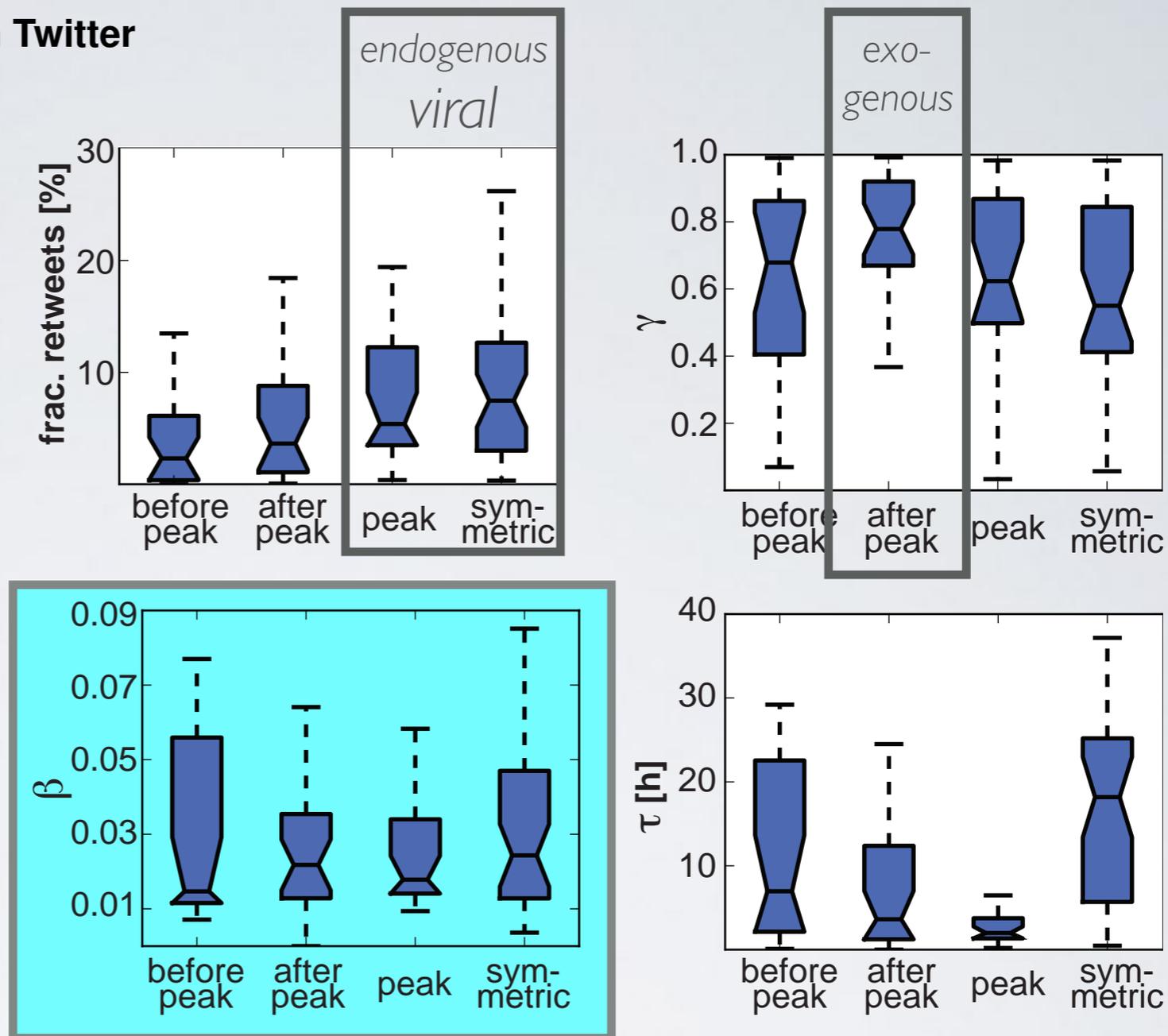


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(2012)

parameter β measures contagiosity: it indicates whether a meme propagates from a user to their *followers*

τ denotes the time during which users are susceptible to propagate hashtags to their followers.

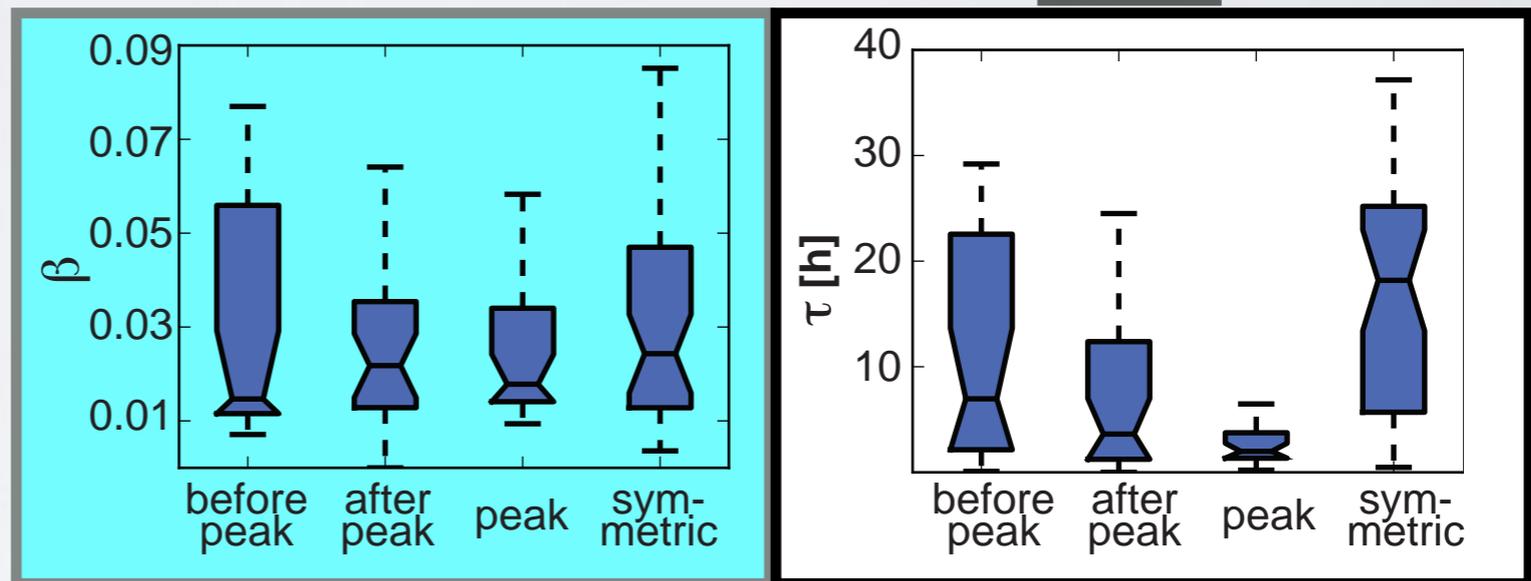
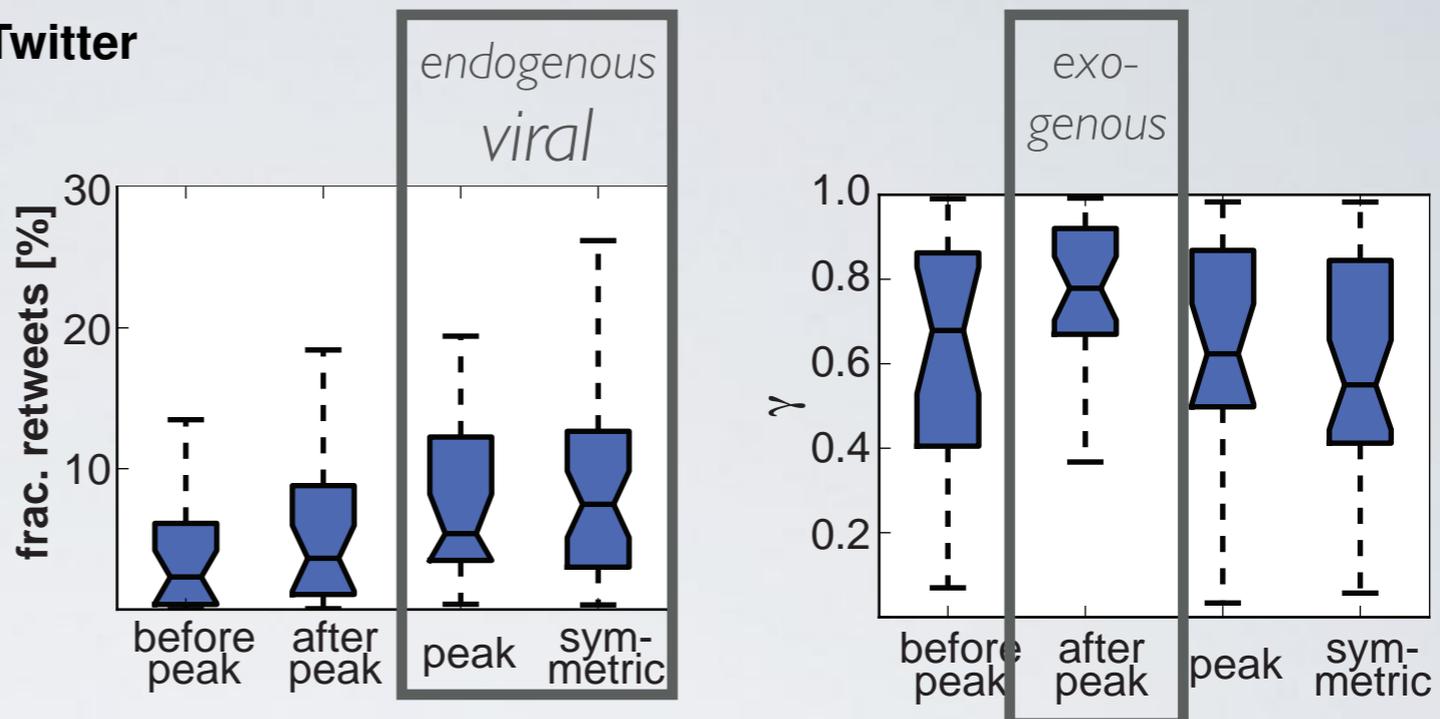
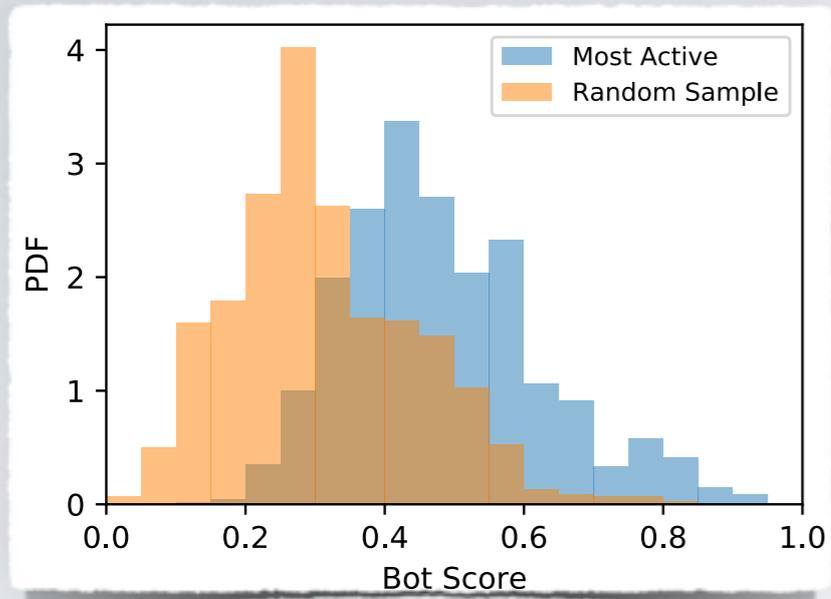


Figure 5: Parameters controlling the spreading of hashtags, broken down by hashtag class. Top left: fraction of retweets to regular tweets. Top right: fraction of seeders γ . Bottom left: fraction β of followers that adopt the hashtag after seeing it. Bottom right: average time τ between the first tweet with the hashtag and the last one.

Shao, Ciampaglia, Varol,
Flammini, Menczer, 2017

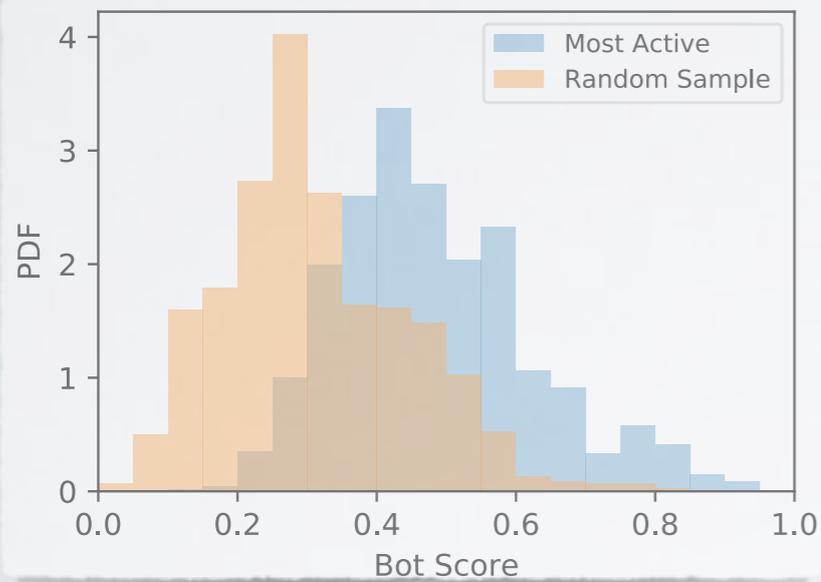
"The spread of misinformation
by social bots"



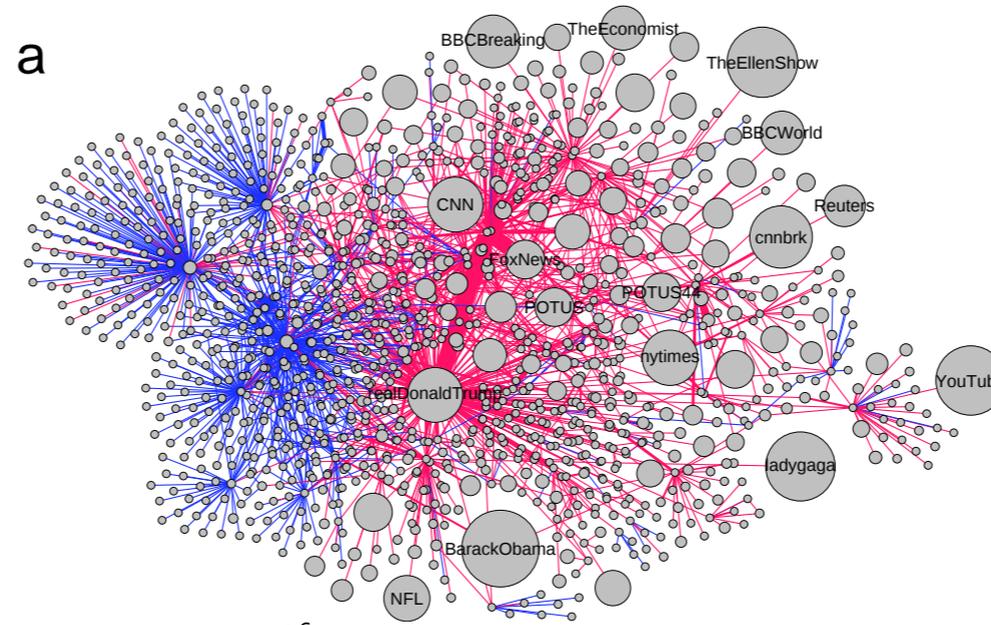
- most active users are more likely to be bots

Shao, Ciampaglia, Varol,
Flammini, Menczer, 2017

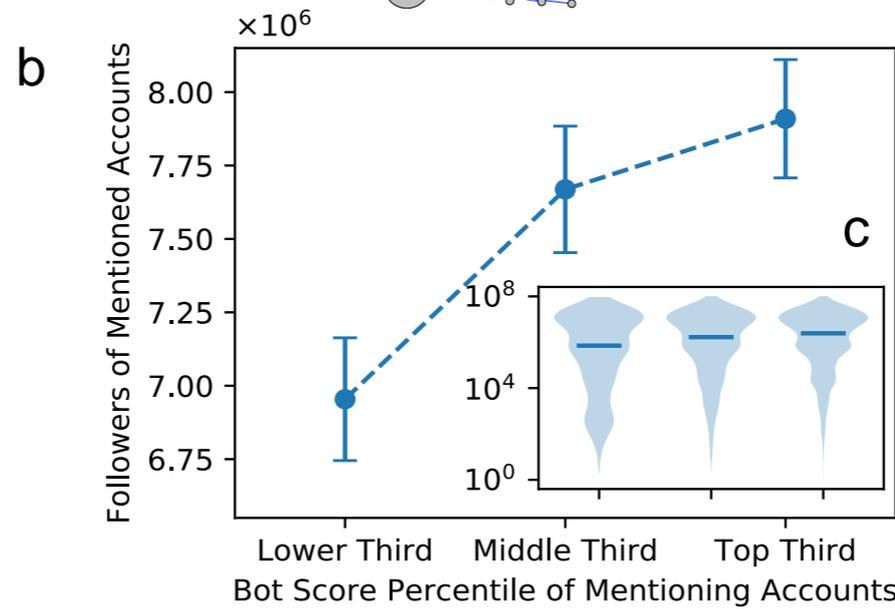
"The spread of misinformation
by social bots"



1. most active users are
more likely to be bots



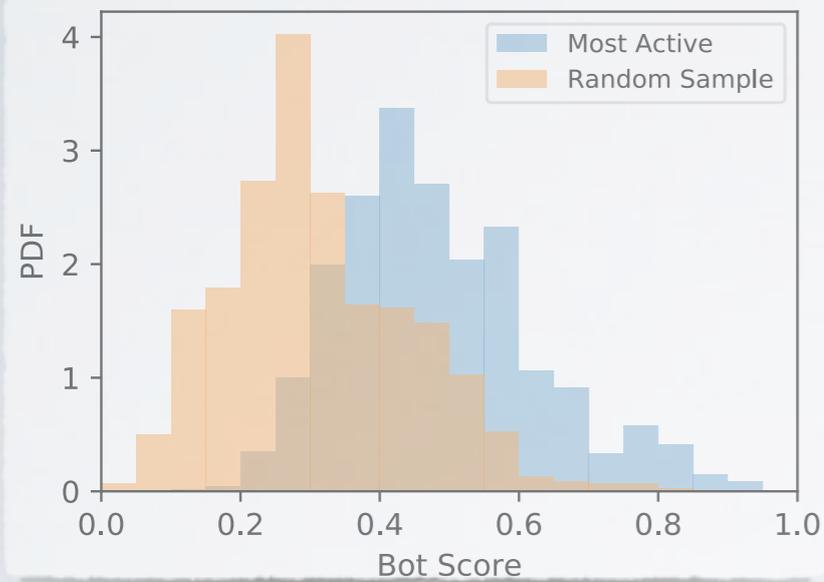
blue: retweets
red: mentions



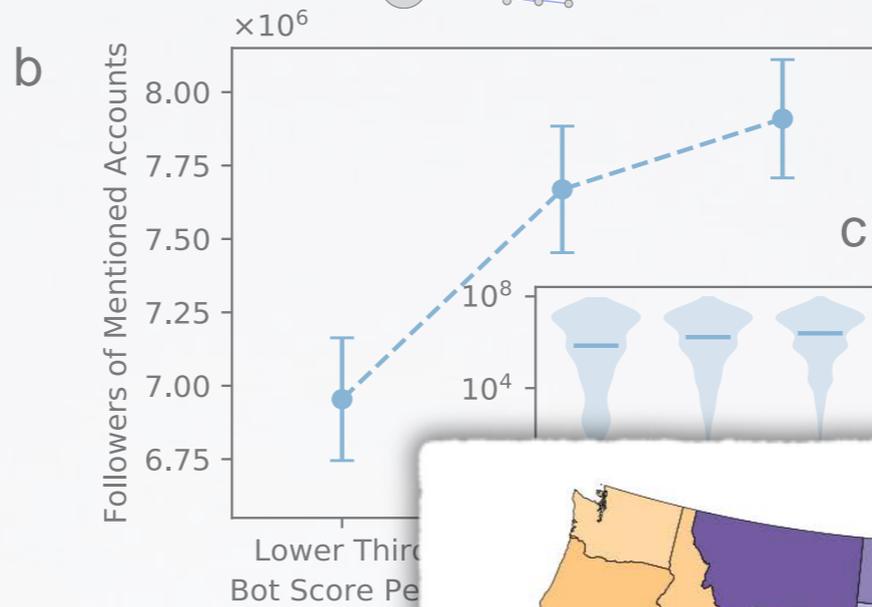
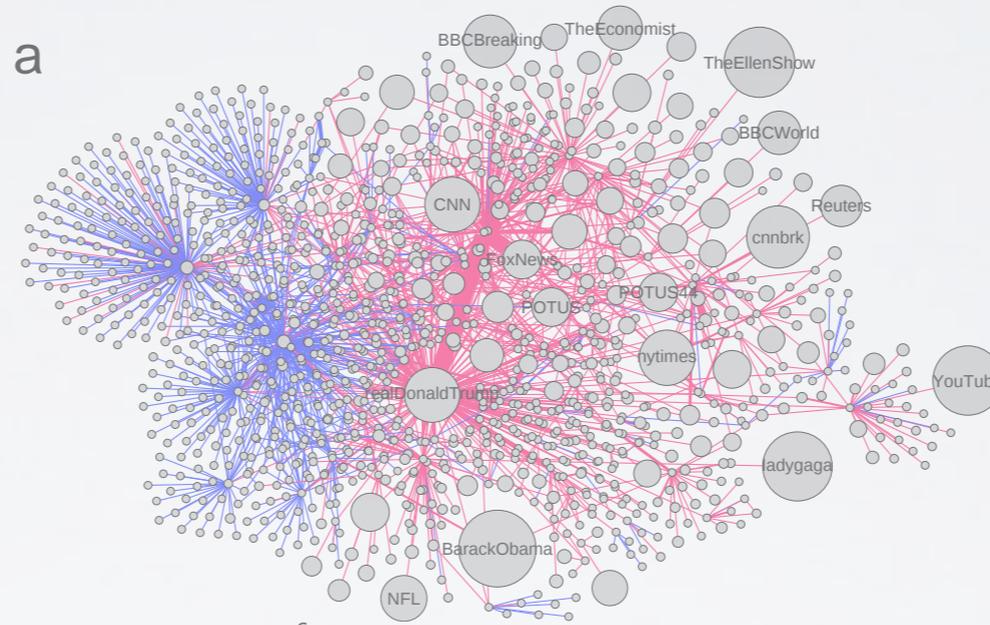
2. bots tend to *target* users with
the highest number of followers

Shao, Ciampaglia, Varol,
Flammini, Menczer, 2017

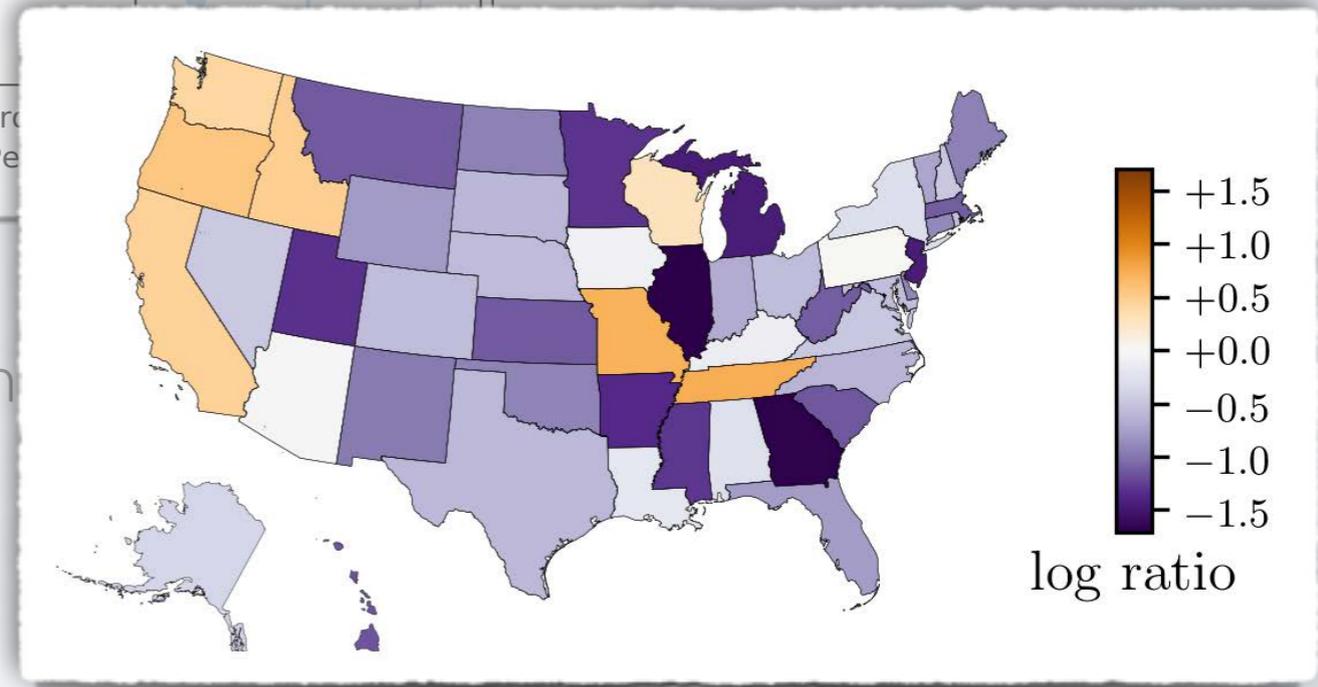
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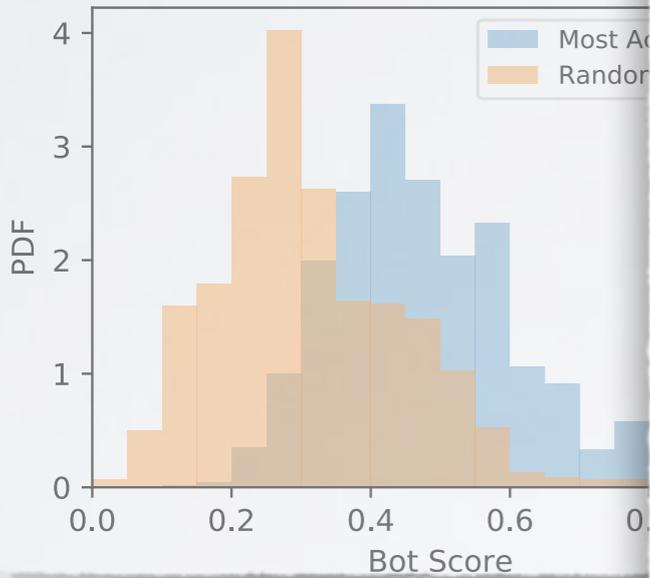
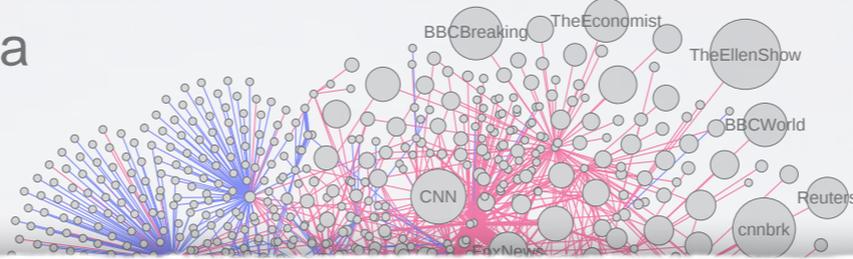


3. misinformation bots are
"overrepresented" in some states

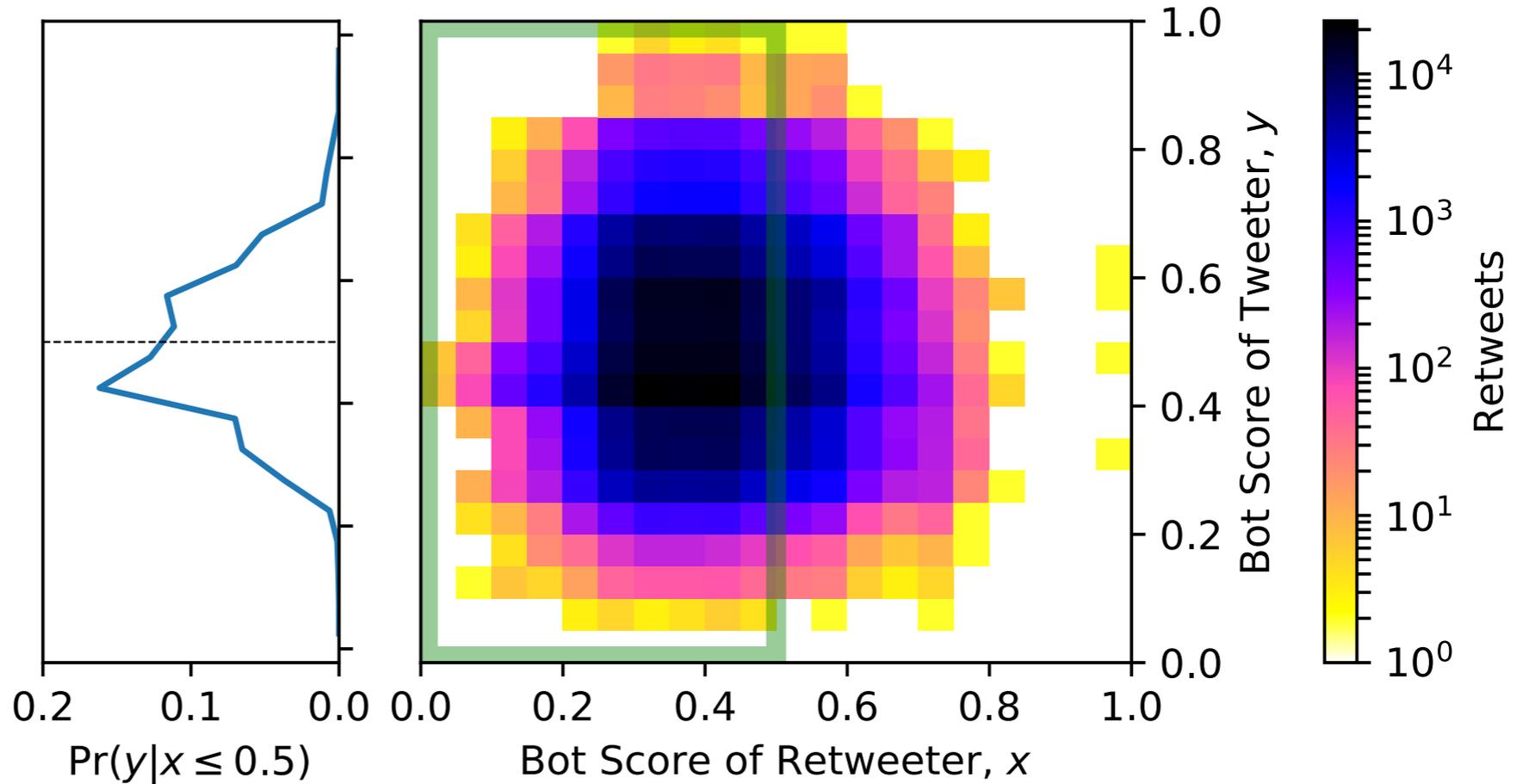
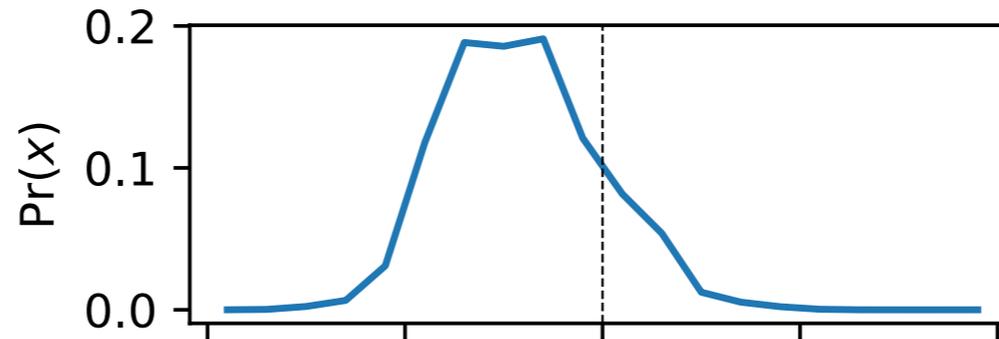
Shao, Ciampaglia, Varol,
Flammini, Menczer, 2017

"The spread of misinformation
by social bots"

a



• most active users
more likely to be bots



4. humans do most of the retweeting (*top*)
and retweet as much from humans than bots (*left*)

Mapping the Arabic Blogosphere: Politics, Culture, and Dissent

By Bruce Etling, John Kelly, Robert Faris, and John Palfrey



JUNE 2009

Berkman Center Research Publication No. 2009-06

- **links:**
citations (interactional)
- **colors:**
co-citation communities (“topical”)
- the opposite could be done:
similar topics define visual closeness,
interaction groups define colors
- regardless, strong geographic
coherence
- while national clusters aren’t on
national topics (e.g. youth, women’s
rights, bloggers’ rights, poetry)
- international clusters related to
international media and
international political topics
(including islam)

STRUCTURE OF THE NETWORK AND METHODS OVERVIEW

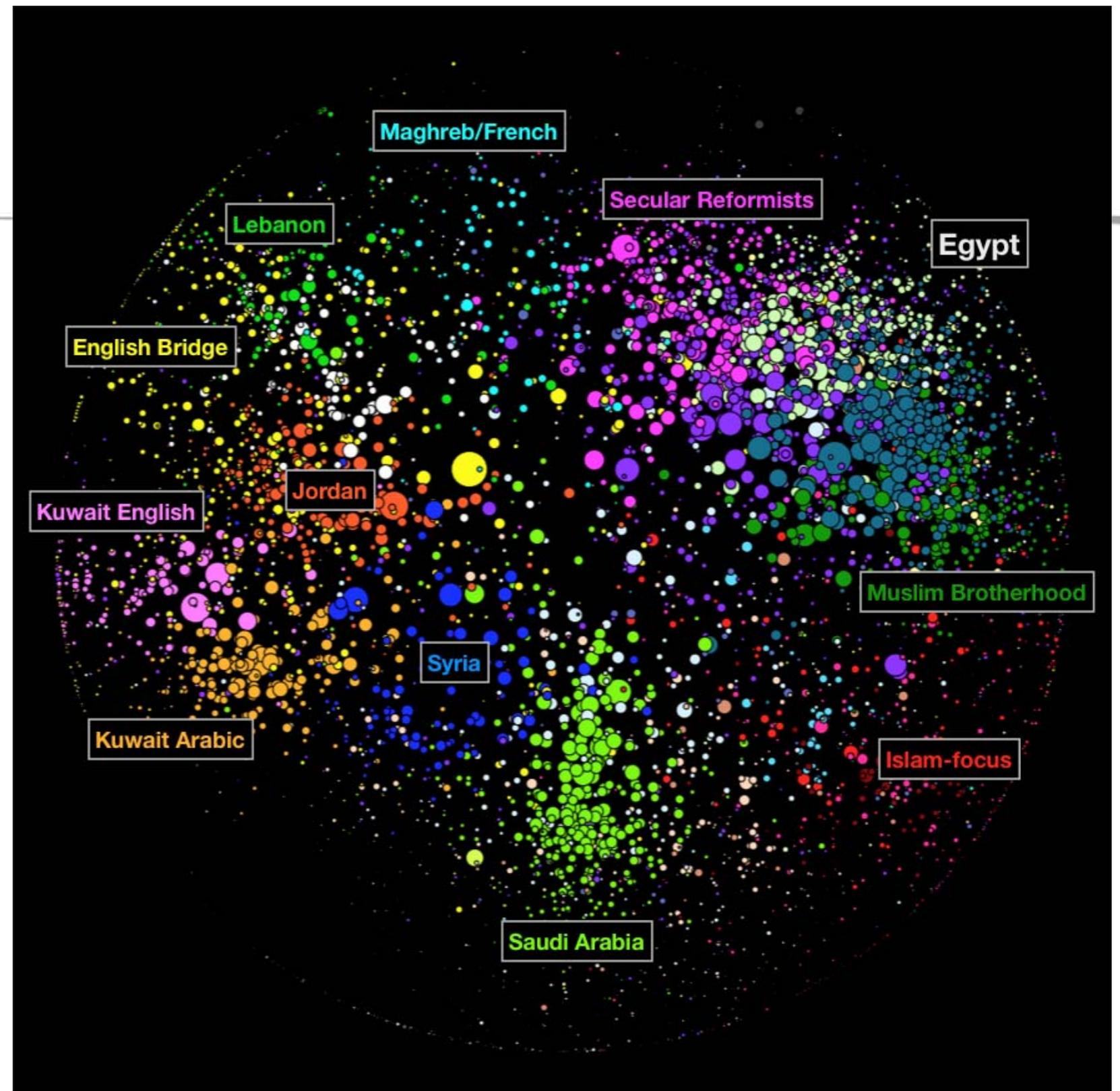


Fig. 1: Map of the Arabic Blogosphere

LEAD EXAMPLE: ONLINE FRAGMENTATION

—

BOTH INFORMATIONAL AND INTERACTIONAL

Van Alstyne & Brynjolfsson, 1996

- *"balkanization"*

Sunstein 2001, 09

- *"echo chambers"*

Pariser, 2011

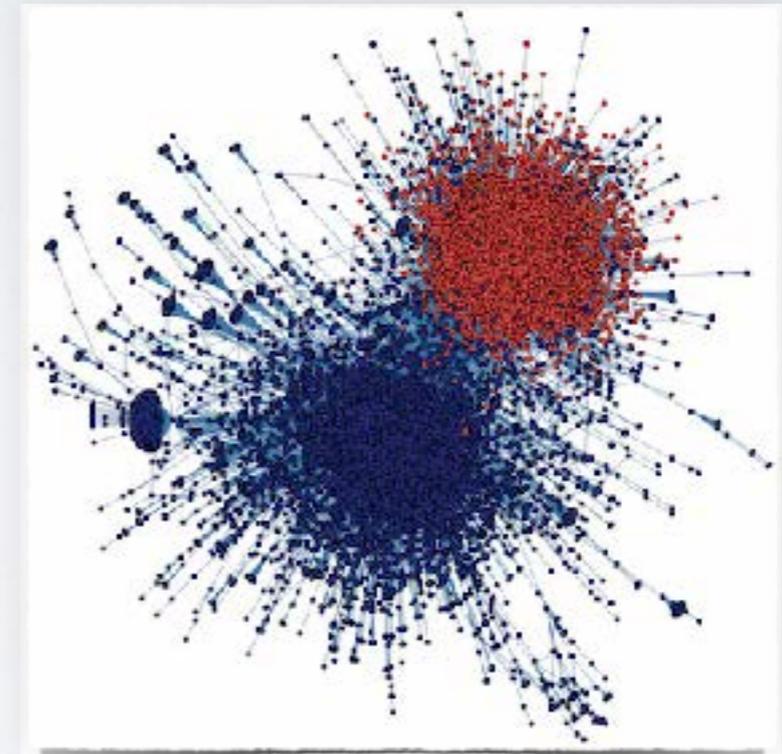
- *"filter bubbles"*

Barbera et al. 2015

- *"polarization"*

Bakshy et al. 2015

- *"selective exposure"*



blue/red network of citations on Twitter, US users

Conover et al. 2011

- *more broadly:*
peer selection and influence,
and its coevolution

e.g. Lewis et al. 2012, in a web context

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FRAGMENTATION : MICRO-LEVEL VIEWS

FlipFeed

FlipFeed is a Google Chrome Extension that enables Twitter users to replace their own feed with that of another real Twitter user. Powered by deep learning and social network analysis, feeds are selected based on inferred political ideology ("left" or "right") and served to users of the extension. For example, a right-leaning user who uses FlipFeed may load and navigate a left-leaning user's feed, observing the news stories, commentary, and other content they consume. The user can then decide to flip back to their own feed or repeat the process with another feed.

FlipFeed was built by researchers in the Laboratory for [Social Machines](#) at the [MIT Media Lab](#) to explore how social media platforms can be used to mitigate, rather than exacerbate, ideological polarization by helping people explore and empathize with different perspectives.



FRAGMENTATION : MICRO-LEVEL VIEWS

FlipFeed

How to use FlipFeed

The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter interface. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a 'FlipFeed' section. This section contains the text: 'Curious how Twitter looks to other users? Click below to see someone else's feed.' Below this text is a button labeled 'Flip my feed'. The main content area of the Twitter feed shows a tweet from Marc Lynch (@abuaardvark) about an event at Tattered Cover Books in Denver. Below this tweet is an advertisement for IBM Watson Analytics, which includes a video player showing a 'Nice to see you again!' message and the text 'Your free trial awaits'. The right sidebar shows a 'Who to follow' section with profiles for ALAgraphy, Units, and Topology Fact, along with a 'Find people you know' section.

FRAGMENTATION : MICRO-LEVEL VIEWS

FlipFeed

How to use FlipFeed

Thanks for trying out FlipFeed!

You are about to see the feed of a real Twitter user who we've inferred to have either a left or right-leaning political ideology.

OK

FlipFeed

We are showing you another user's Twitter feed. Click below to bring your feed back.

Restore my feed

Load another feed

Trends · Change

Chelsea Manning

President Obama commutes Chelsea Manning's sentence

#DeVosHearing

1,663 Tweets

Assange

37K Tweets

#CSISLive

#Zinke

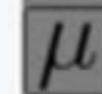
Who to follow · Refresh · View all



ALAgrAPHY @biography

Followed by Rossano Schifanella and others

Follow



Units @UnitFact

Follow



Topology Fact @TopologyFact

Follow



Find people you know

Import your contacts from Gmail

Connect other address books

© 2017 Twitter · About · Help · Terms · Privacy · Cookies · Ads info · Brand · Blog · Status · Apps · Jobs · Businesses · Media · Developers

Advertise with Twitter

FRAGMENTATION : MICRO-LEVEL VIEWS

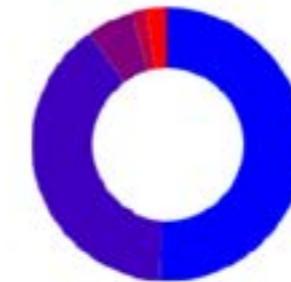
FlipFeed

How to use FlipFeed

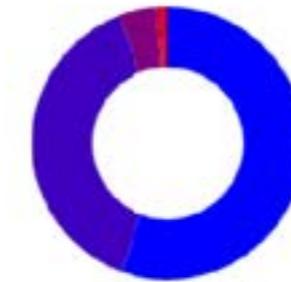
The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter profile page for Don Keko (@DonKeko1971). The profile information includes 13.9k tweets, 763 following, and 423 followers. The bio reads "Historian, Bureaucrat, International Man of Leisure." A FlipFeed overlay is present on the left side of the profile, with the text: "We are showing you another user's Twitter feed. Click below to bring your feed back." Below this text are two buttons: "Restore my feed" and "Load another feed". The main content of the profile shows a tweet from POLITICO (@politico) with a video of a man sitting on a couch. Below the video are two more tweets: one from Rasmussen Reports (@Rasmussen_Pol) and another from POLITICO 45 (@politico_45). The right sidebar contains a list of accounts followed by the user, including ALAgrApHY, Units, and Topology Fact, along with a "Find people you know" section and footer links.

My political bubble

Made from my friends list using PolitEcho.org



Friends



News Feed

What is PolitEcho?

PolitEcho shows you the political biases of your Facebook friends and news feed. The app assigns each of your friends a score based on our prediction of their political leanings then displays a graph of your friend list. Then it calculates the political bias in the content of your news feed and compares it with the bias of your friends list to highlight possible differences between the two.

How do I use it?

PolitEcho is a [Google Chrome extension](#). Click on the button above to find PolitEcho's Google Chrome store page and click the "Add to Chrome" button to install PolitEcho on your computer. Once it is installed, simply log into Facebook and click on the PolitEcho icon in your navigation bar to get started.

FRAGMENTATION : MACRO-LEVEL VIEWS

Adamic & Glance, 2004

"Divided
They Blog"

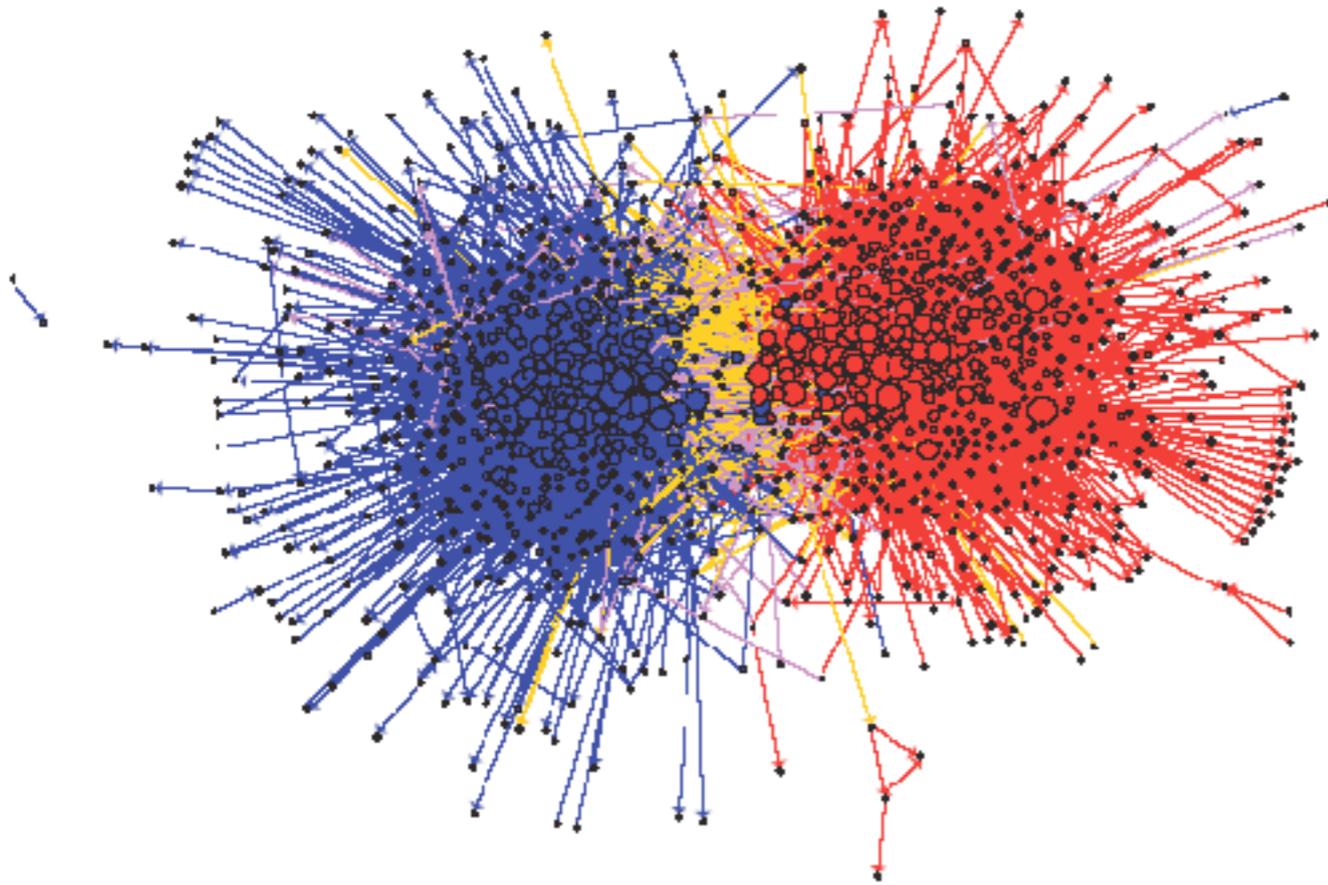


Figure 1: Community structure of political blogs (expanded set), shown using utilizing a GEM layout [11] in the GUESS[3] visualization and analysis tool. The colors reflect political orientation, red for conservative, and blue for liberal. Orange links go from liberal to conservative, and purple ones from conservative to liberal. The size of each blog reflects the number of other blogs that link to it.

~ 1.5k blogs, 50/50 blue/red

FRAGMENTATION : MACRO-LEVEL VIEWS

Adamic & Glance, 2004

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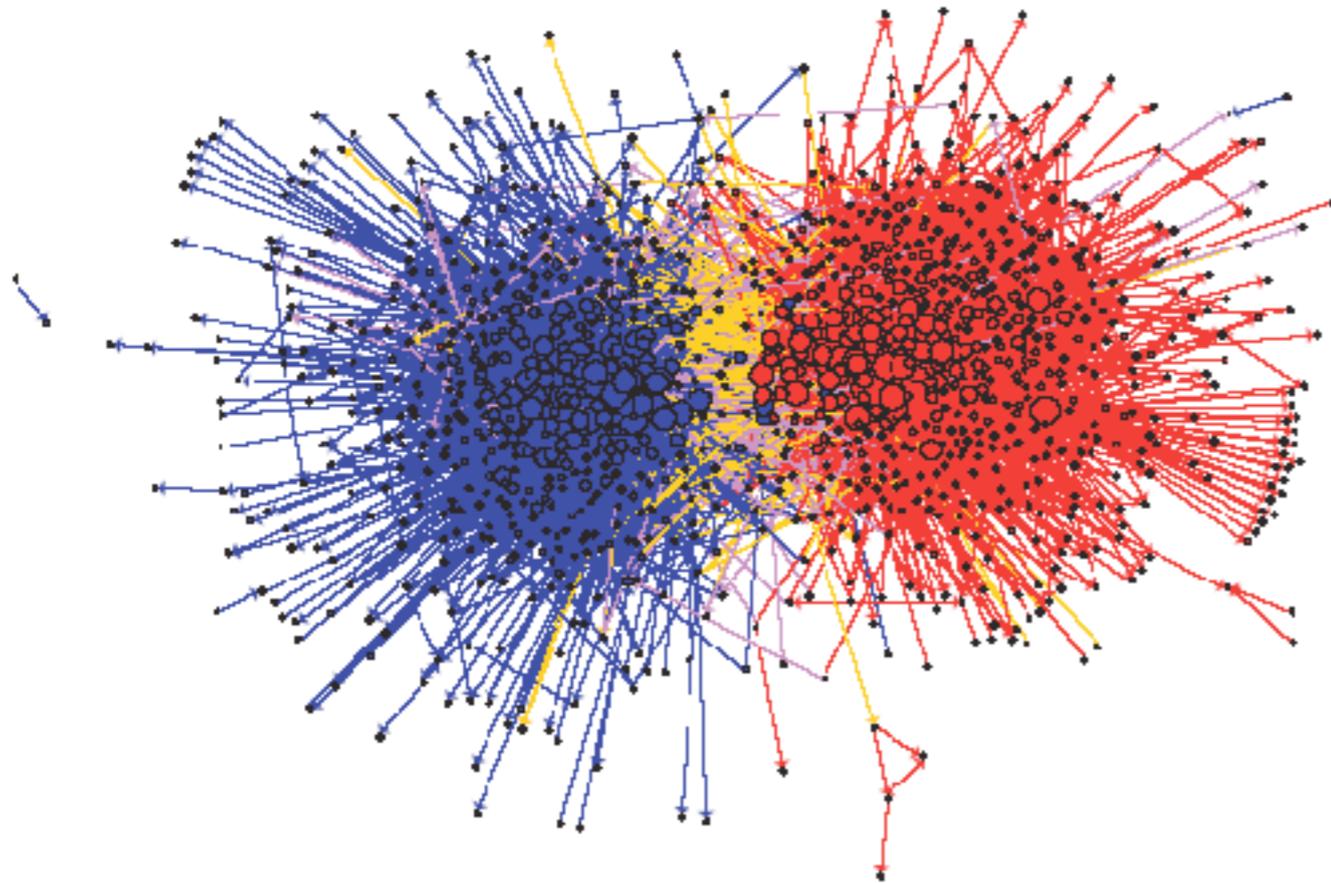


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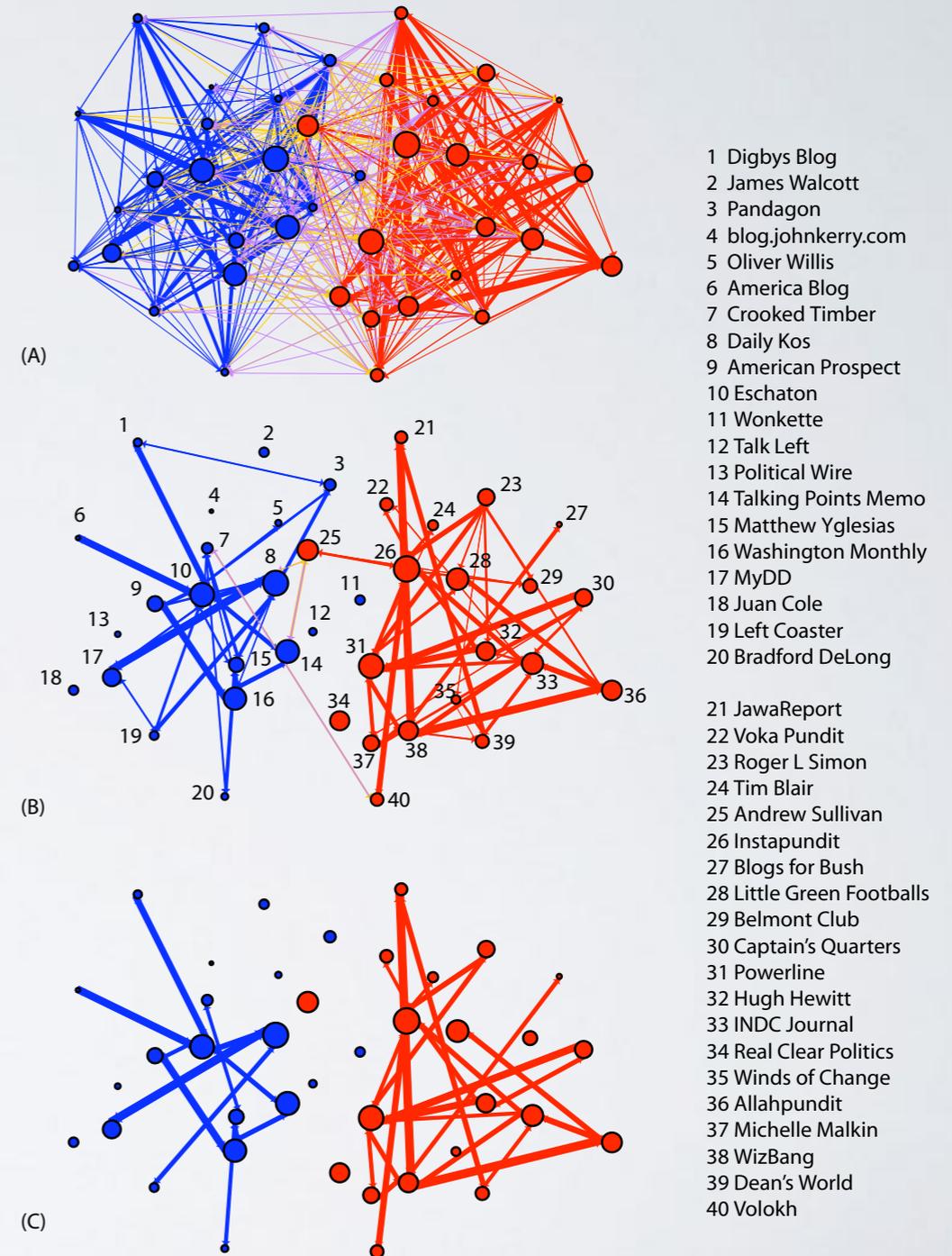


Figure 3: Aggregate citation behavior prior to the 2004 election. Blogs are colored according to political orientation, and the size of the circle reflects how many citations from the top 40 the blog has received. The thickness of the line reflects the number of citations between two blogs. (A) All directed edges are shown. (B) Edges having fewer than 5 citations in either or both directions are removed. (C) Edges having fewer than 25 combined citations are removed.

Clinton and Trump supporters live in their own Twitter worlds

- Follow only Trump
- Follow only Clinton
- Follow both
- Follow neither

Clinton Supporters

Hillary Clinton supporters in this user group are not as cohesive as Trump supporters and they interact more frequently with users who follow both or neither candidate. They have few mutual follower networks in common with the far-right conservative cluster.

This large cluster of Trump supporters on Twitter have little mutual follower overlap with other users and are a remarkably cohesive group. They exist in their own information bubble.

Trump Supporters

Source: The Electome | The Laboratory for Social Machines at the MIT Media Lab

Which issues are talked about the most on Twitter

■	Guns	10.05%
■	Racial Issues	8.65%
■	Immigration	8.65%
■	Terrorism	8.3%
■	Jobs	6.84%
■	Economy	5.44%
■	Education	3.23%
■	Combination of issues	

Clinton Supporters

Racial issues are the exclusive focus of 8 percent of the user group, more than any other issue except guns. There is also an extremely high level of connectivity among these users which suggests both solidarity and insularity.

Guns are the sole focus of over 10 percent of the user group, the most of any issue. Similar to immigration, there are clusters of "guns" users on both ends of the spectrum and they are almost completely disconnected from each other. Gun rights users and gun control users live in separate online worlds.

Less than 4 percent of the user group talk solely about education and those who do are very disconnected from most of the political conversation.

Trump Supporters

The media bubble is real

**Clinton
Supporters**



**Trump
Supporters**

Almost no verified journalists have a natural information flow with most Trump supporters on Twitter. There is little overlap between their mutual follower networks.

Source: The Electome | The Laboratory for Social Machines at the MIT Media Lab

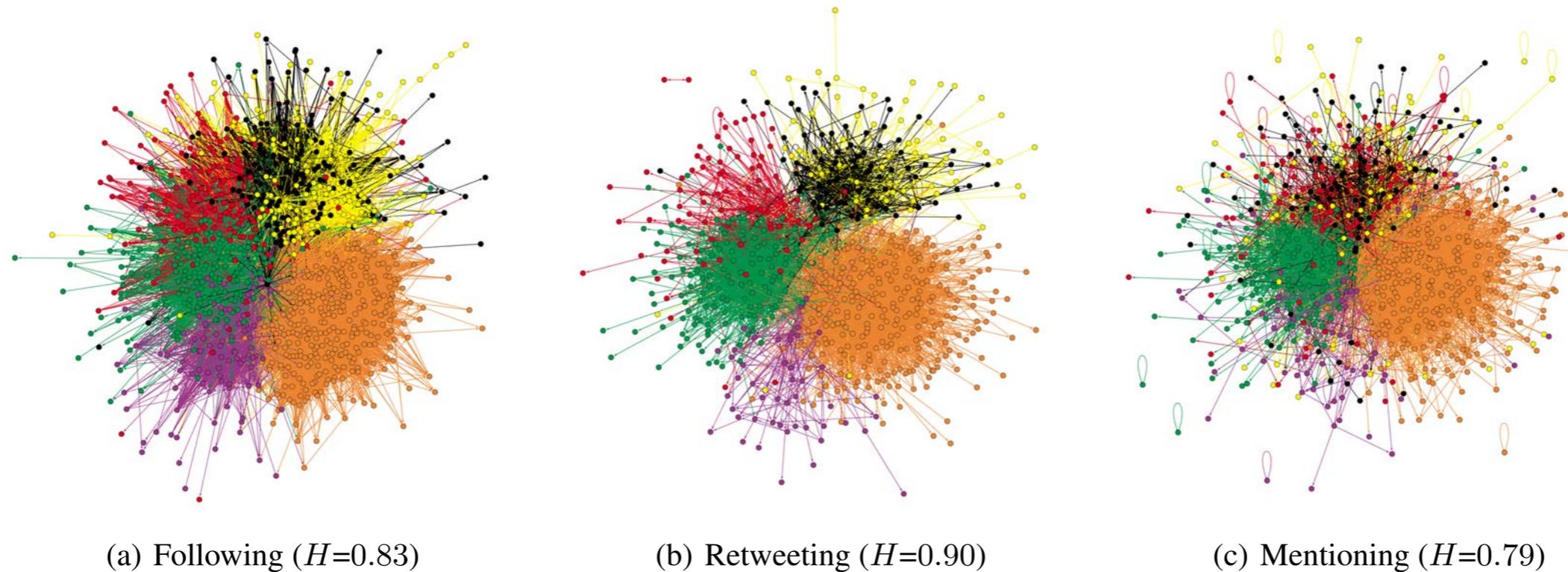
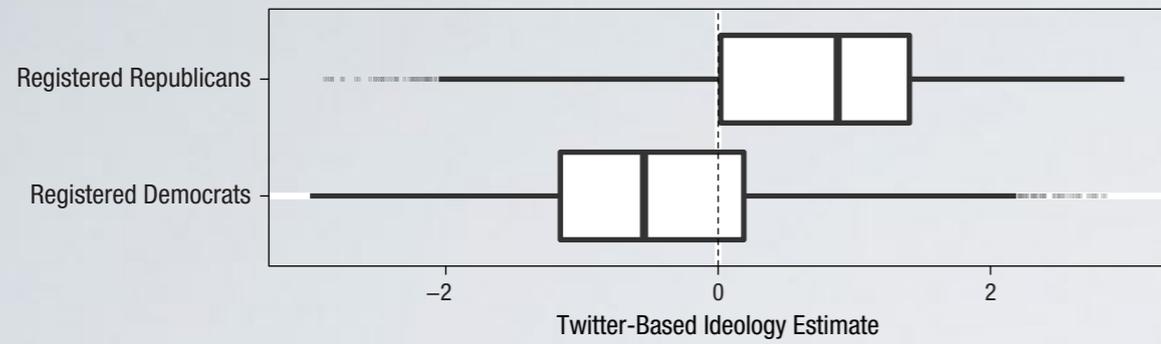


Figure 1: Examples of online conversational practices on Twitter: Structures of the aggregate following, retweeting, and mentioning networks of German politicians from 9 weeks before to 4 weeks after the federal election 2013. The vertices in the networks correspond to user handles and are color-coded by party affiliation (colors given in Table 1). Arcs correspond to following/retweeting/mentioning relationships and are colored by sender. Structural differences between different practices can be observed: For example, homophily H effects are lower in the mentioning network (0.79) than in the following (0.83) and retweeting (0.90) networks. CDU/CSU and FDP, which formed the last government coalition in Germany, are tightly knit in the follow and retweet networks. The Pirates are largely decoupled from a relatively pluralistic mentioning space where all other parties transact. The networks were laid out using the Kamada-Kawai algorithm.

homophily is stronger in retweet and follower networks than in mentions

- *references are more fragmented than conversations*

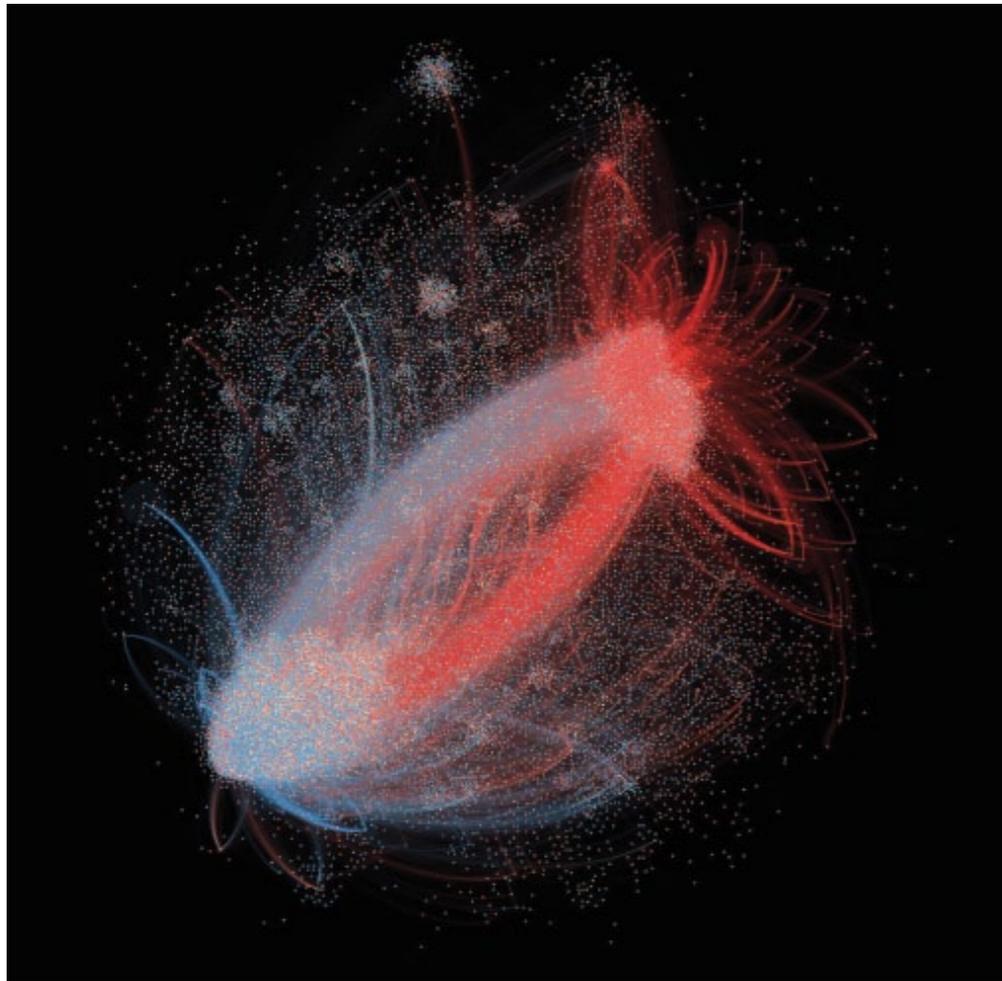
Party	Election Result	Politicians
CDU/CSU	41.5%	158
SPD	25.7%	143
FDP	4.8%	143
Greens	8.4%	178
Left	8.6%	97
Pirates	2.2%	312
Total	91.2%	1,031



Barberá, Jost, Nagler,
Tucker, Bonneau, 2015

"Tweeting From Left to
Right: Is Online Political
Communication More Than
an Echo Chamber"

a



b

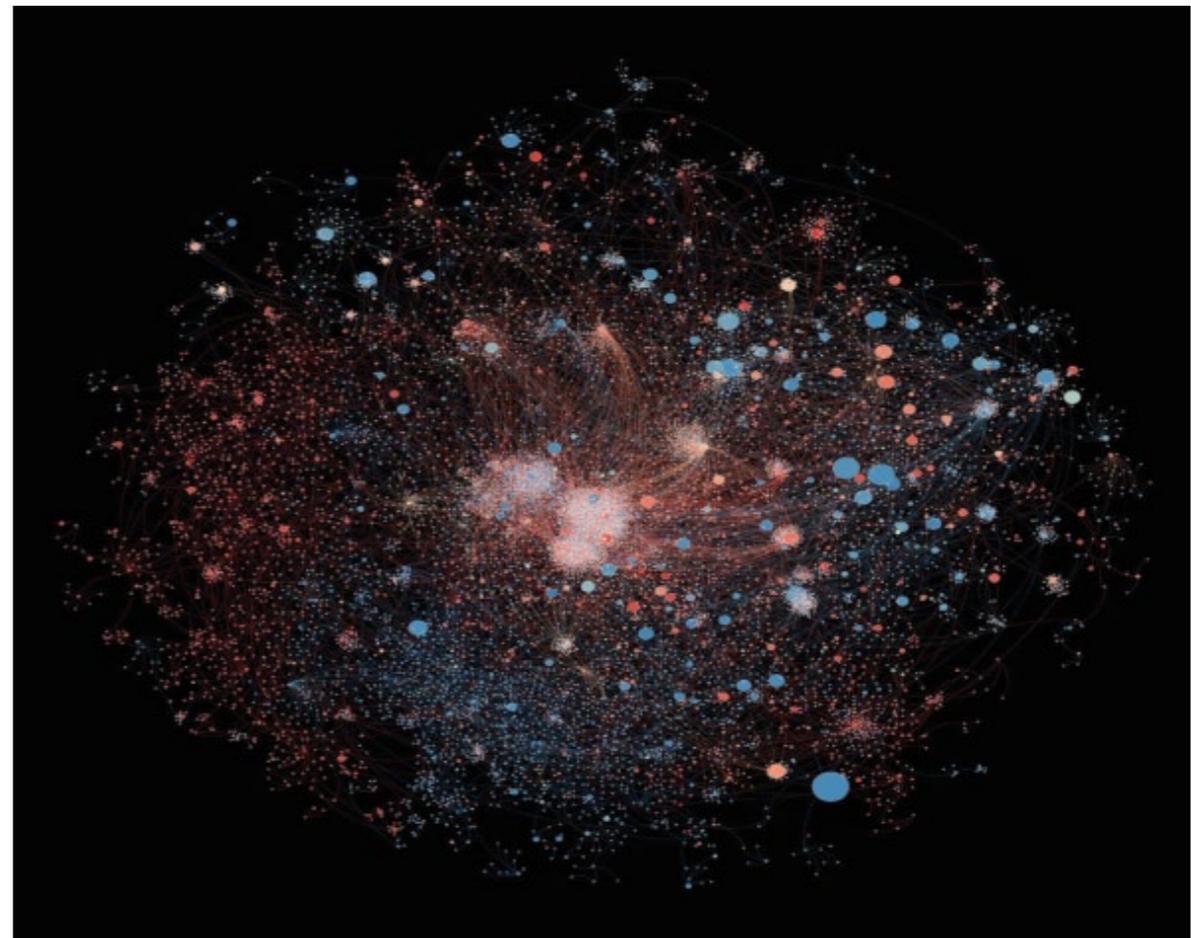
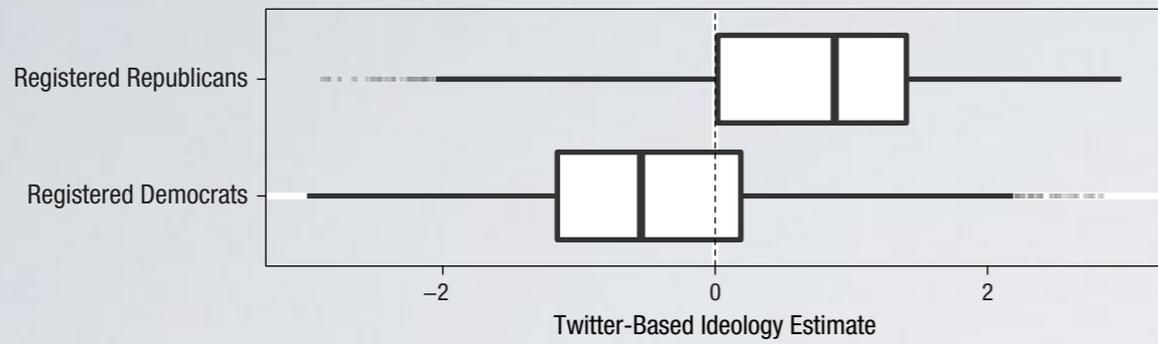
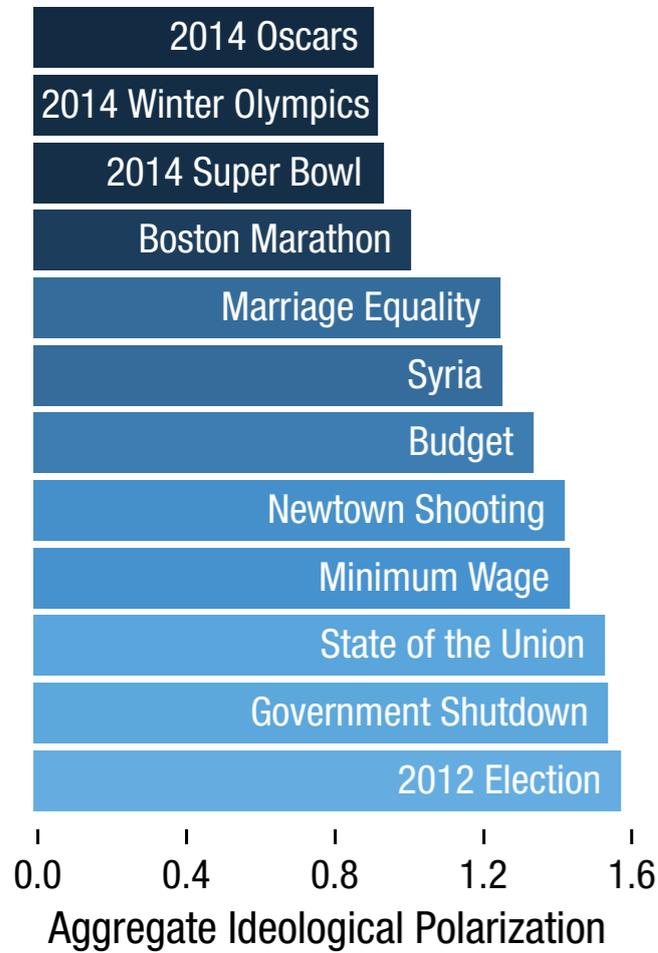


Fig. 3. Additional results on polarization in retweeting behavior. The graphics in (a) and (b), which were created using a force-directed layout algorithm, depict the retweet networks for the tweet collections on the 2012 election and the 2014 Super Bowl. Each node (dot) represents one user (from a random sample, weighted by activity), and each edge (line) represents a retweet. Nodes are colored according to the ideology estimate of the corresponding user, from very conservative (dark red) to very liberal (dark blue). Edges are colored according to the ideology estimate of the user whose tweet was retweeted. White color denotes areas with a large number of nodes whose placement in the figure overlap.



Barberá, Jost, Nagler,
Tucker, Bonneau, 2015

"Tweeting From Left to
Right: Is Online Political
Communication More Than
an Echo Chamber"



2012 Election

State of the Union

Government Shutdown

Budget

Marriage Equality

Minimum Wage

Boston Marathon

2014 Winter Olympics

Syria

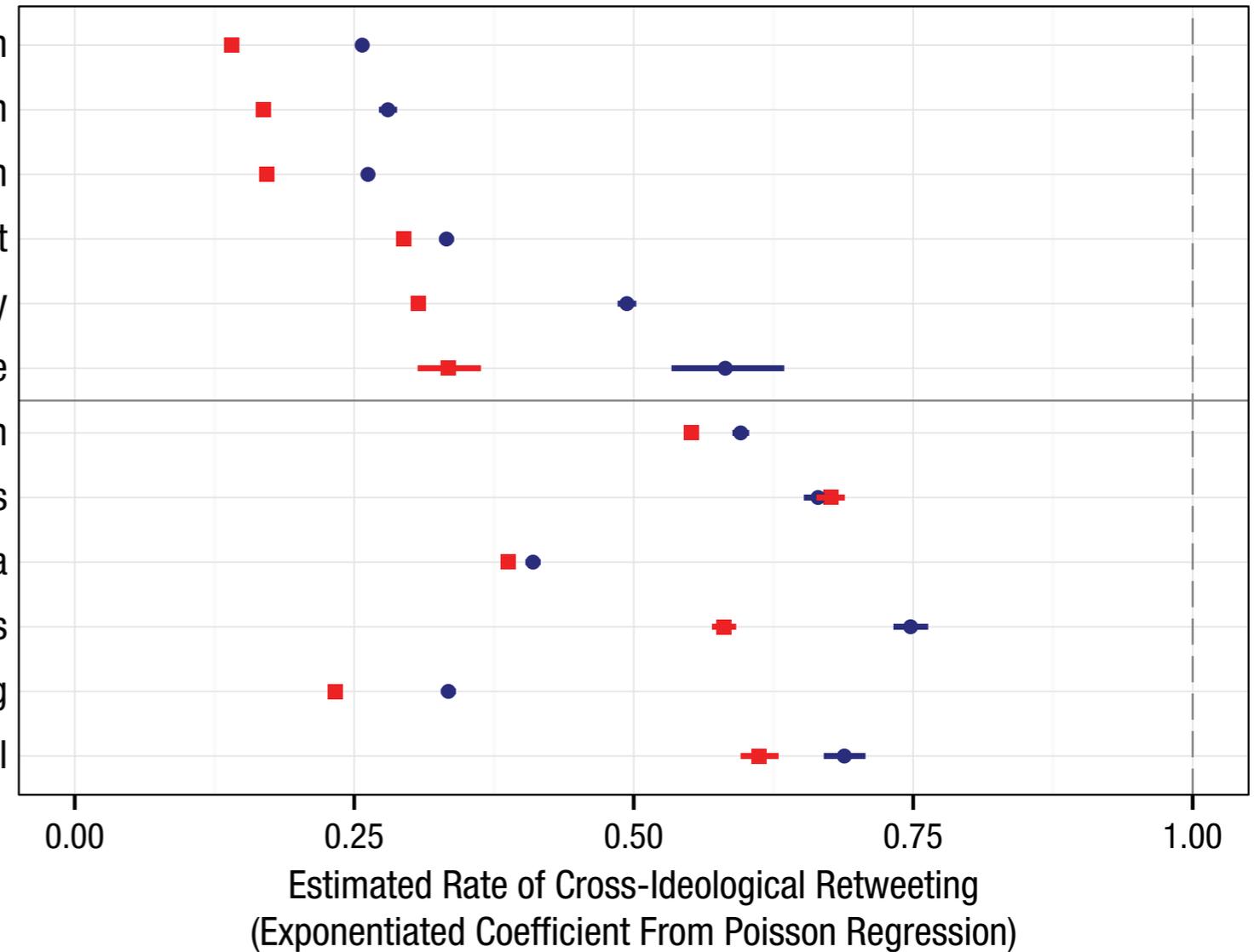
2014 Oscars

Newtown Shooting

2014 Super Bowl

● Liberals

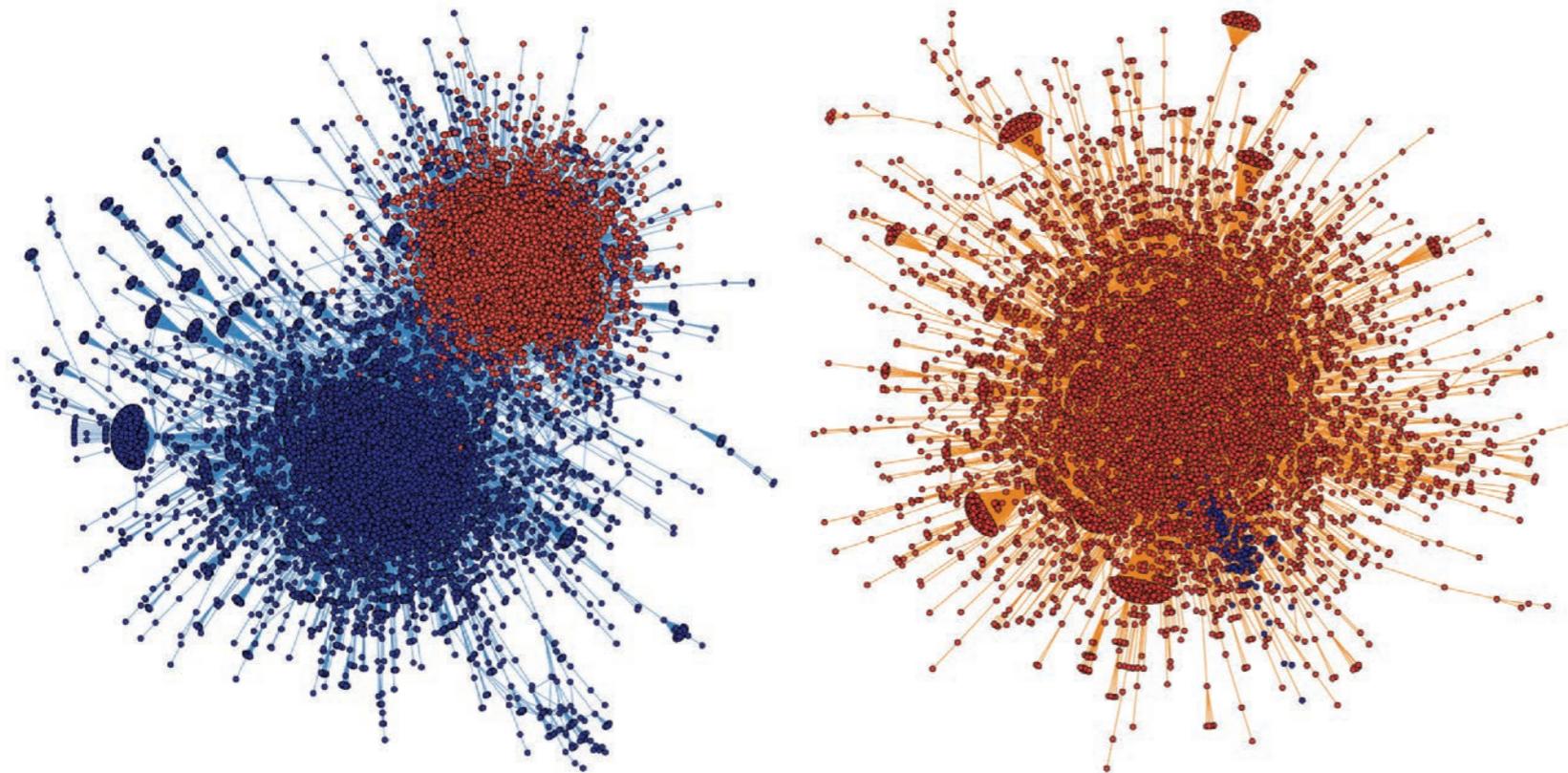
■ Conservatives



FRAGMENTATION : MACRO/MICRO

Conover, Ratkiewicz,
Francisco, Gonçalves,
Flammini, Menczer, 2011

"Political Polarization
on Twitter"



manual coding of a thousand of
users, randomly selected from #p2
("Progressives 2.0") or #tcot ("Top
Conservatives on Twitter")

Table 5: Ratios between observed and expected number of links between users of different political alignments in the mention and retweet networks.

	Mention		Retweet	
	→ Left	→ Right	→ Left	→ Right
Left	1.23	0.68	1.70	0.05
Right	0.77	1.31	0.03	2.32

Figure 1: The political retweet (left) and mention (right) networks, laid out using a force-directed algorithm. Node colors reflect cluster assignments (see § 3.1). Community structure is evident in the retweet network, but less so in the mention network. We show in § 3.3 that in the retweet network, the red cluster A is made of 93% right-leaning users, while the blue cluster B is made of 80% left-leaning users.

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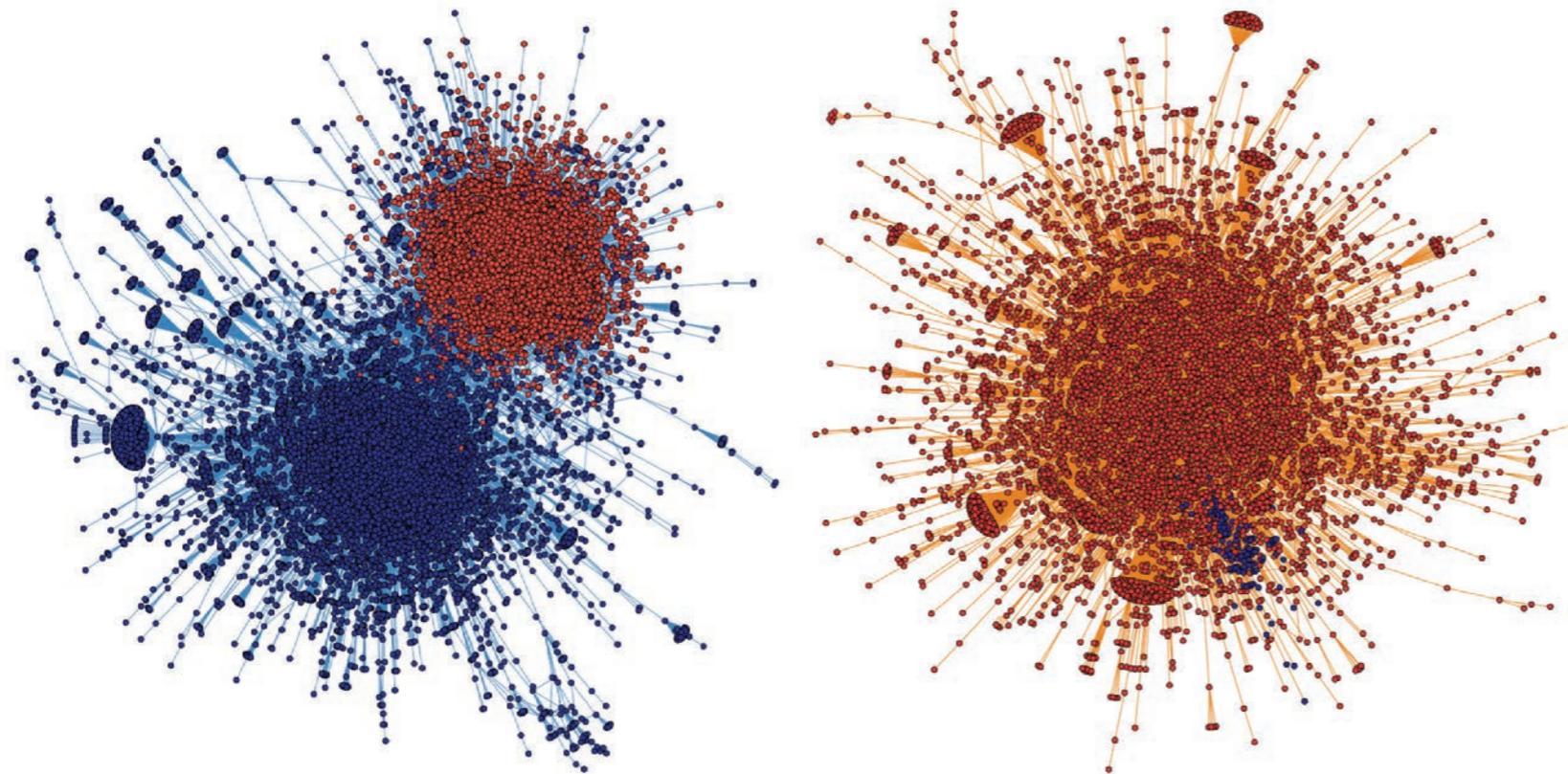


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Table 7: Hashtags in tweets by users across the political spectrum, grouped by valence quintiles.

Far Left	Moderate Left	Center	Moderate Right	Far Right
#healthcare	#aarp #women	#democrats #social	#rangel #waste	#912project #twisters
#judaism #hollywood	#citizensunited	#seniors #dnc	#saveamerica	#gop2112 #israel
#2010elections	#democratic	#budget #political	#american #gold	#foxnews #mediabias
#capitalism #recession	#banksters #energy	#goproud #christian	#repeal #mexico	#constitution
#security #dreamact	#sarahpalin	#media #nobel	#terrorism #gopleader	#patriots #rednov
#publicoption	#progressives		#palin12	#abortion
#topprogs	#stopbeck #iraq			

FRAGMENTATION : MACRO/MICRO

Conover, Ratkiewicz, Francisco, Gonçalves, Flammini, Menczer, 2011

"Political Polarization on Twitter"

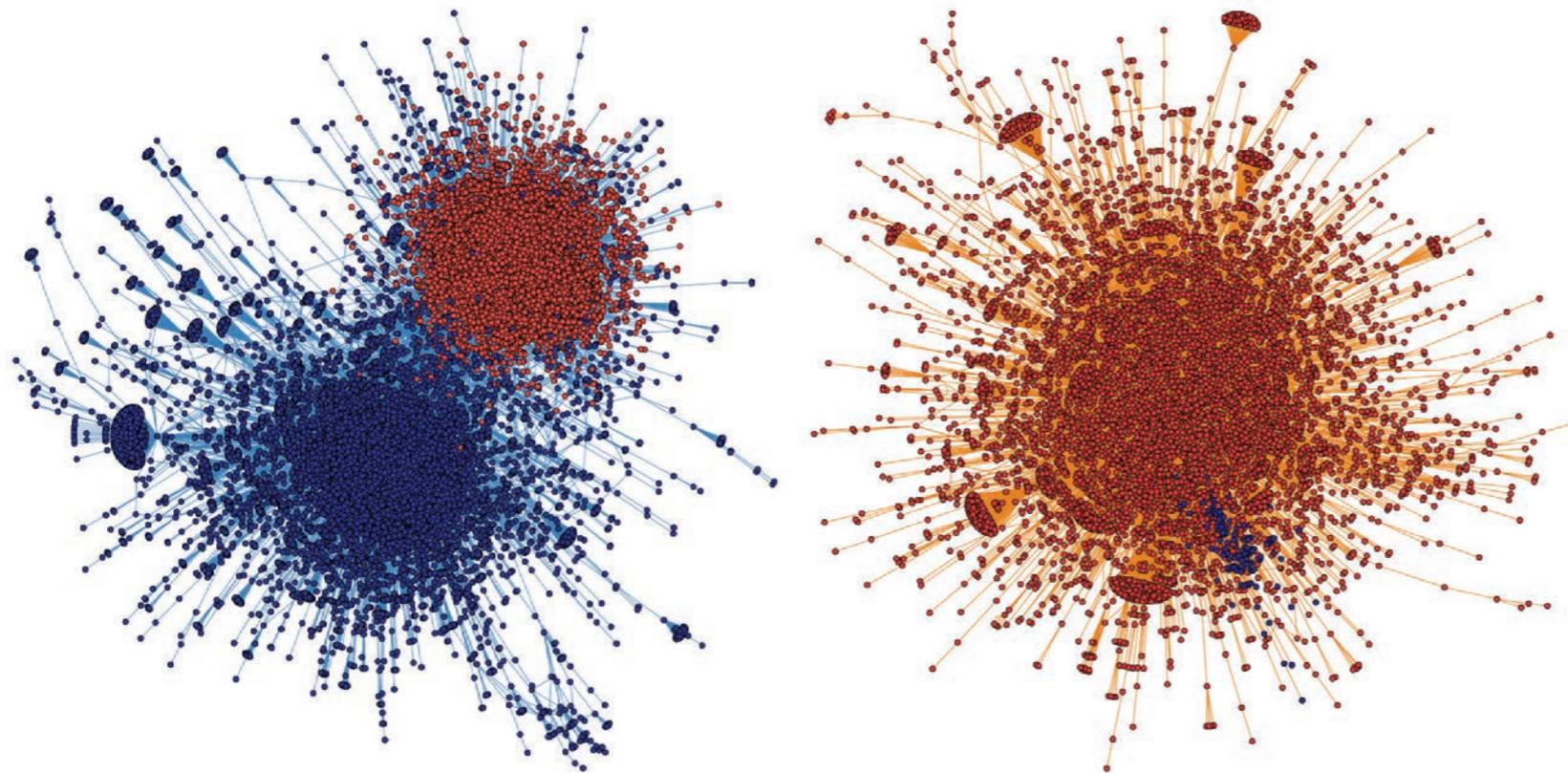


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#2010elections	#democratic	#budget #political	#american #gold	#foxnews #mediabias
#capitalism #recession	#banksters #energy	#goproud #christian	#repeal #mexico	#constitution
#security #dreamact	#sarahpalin	#media #nobel	#terrorism #gopleader	#patriots #rednov
#publicoption	#progressives	#palin12		#abortion
#topprogs	#stopbeck #iraq			

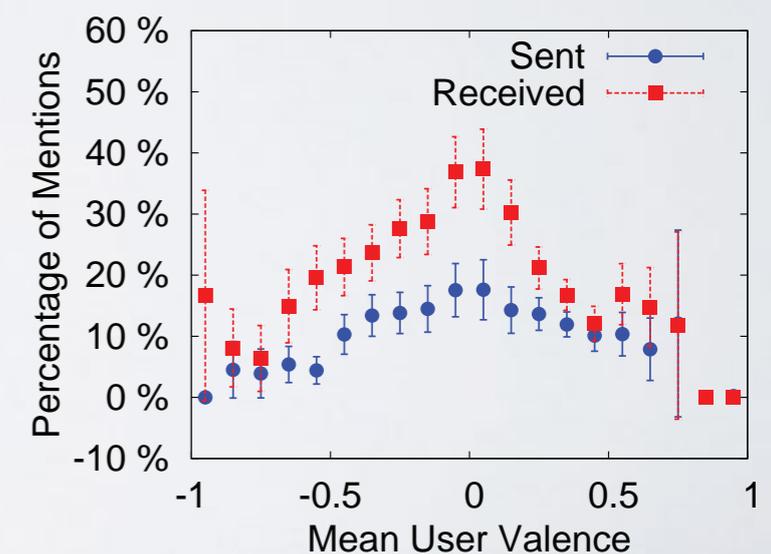


Figure 3: Proportion of mentions a user sends and receives to and from ideologically-opposed users relative to her valence. Points represent binned averages. Error bars denote 95% confidence intervals.

Hashtag	# Tweets	Retweet graph		Follow graph		Description and collection period (2015)
		V	E	V	E	
#beefban	422 908	21 590	30 180	9525	204 332	Government of India bans beef, Mar 2–5
#nemtsov	371 732	43 114	77 330	17 717	155 904	Death of Boris Nemtsov, Feb 28–Mar 2
#netanyahuspeech	1 196 215	122 884	280 375	49 081	2 009 277	Netanyahu’s speech at U.S. Congress, Mar 3–5
#russia_march	317 885	10 883	17 662	4844	42 553	Protests after death of Boris Nemtsov (“march”), Mar 1–2
#indiasdaughter	776 109	68 608	144 935	38 302	131 566	Controversial Indian documentary, Mar 1–5
#baltimoreriots	1 989 360	289 483	432 621	214 552	690 944	Riots in Baltimore after police kills a black man, Apr 28–30
#indiana	972 585	43 252	74 214	21 909	880 814	Indiana pizzeria refuses to cater gay wedding, Apr 2–5
#ukraine	514 074	50 191	91 764	31 225	286 603	Ukraine conflict, Feb 27–Mar 2
#gunsense	1 022 541	30 096	58 514	17 335	841 466	Gun violence in U.S., Jun 1–30
#leadersdebate	2 099 478	54 102	136 290	22 498	1 211 956	Debate during the U.K. national elections, May 3
#sxsxw	343 652	9304	11 003	4558	91 356	SXSW conference, Mar 13–22
#1dfamheretostay	501 960	15 292	26 819	3151	20 275	Last OneDirection concert, Mar 27–29
#germanwings	907 510	29 763	39 075	2111	7329	Germanwings flight crash, Mar 24–26
#mothersday	1 798 018	155 599	176 915	2225	14 160	Mother’s day, May 8
#nepal	1 297 995	40 579	57 544	4242	42 833	Nepal earthquake, Apr 26–29
#ultralive	364 236	9261	15 544	2113	16 070	Ultra Music Festival, Mar 18–20
#FF	408 326	5401	7646	3899	63 672	Follow Friday, Jun 19
#jurassicworld	724 782	26 407	32 515	4395	31 802	Jurassic World movie, Jun 12–15
#wcw	156 243	10 674	11 809	3264	23 414	Women crush Wednesdays, Jun 17
#nationalkissingday	165 172	4638	4816	790	5927	National kissing day, Jun 19

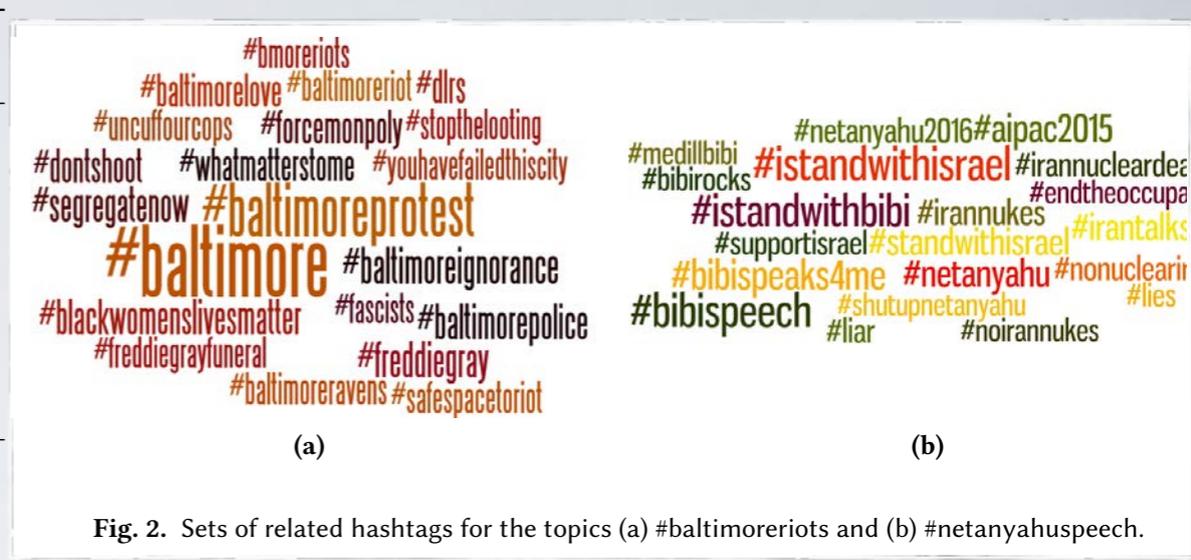


Fig. 2. Sets of related hashtags for the topics (a) #baltimoreriots and (b) #netanyahuspeech.

Hashtag	# Tweets	Retweet graph		Follow graph		Description and collection period (2015)
		V	E	V	E	
#beefban	422 908	21 590	30 180	9525	204 332	Government of India bans beef, Mar 2–5
#nemtsov	371 732	43 114	77 330	17 717	155 904	Death of Boris Nemtsov, Feb 28–Mar 2
#netanyahuspeech	1 196 215	122 884	280 375	49 081	2 009 277	Netanyahu’s speech at U.S. Congress, Mar 3–5
#russia_march	317 885	10 883	17 662	4844	42 553	Protests after death of Boris Nemtsov (“march”), Mar 1–2
#indiasdaughter	776 109	68 608	144 935	38 302	131 566	Controversial Indian documentary, Mar 1–5
#baltimoreriots	1 989 360	289 483	432 621	214 552	690 944	Riots in Baltimore after police kills a black man, Apr 28–30
#indiana	972 585	43 252	74 214	21 909	880 814	Indiana pizzeria refuses to cater gay wedding, Apr 2–5
#ukraine	514 074	50 191	91 764	31 225	286 603	Ukraine conflict, Feb 27–Mar 2
#gunsense	1 022 541	30 096	58 514	17 335	841 466	Gun violence in U.S., Jun 1–30
#leadersdebate	2 099 478	54 102	136 290	22 498	1 211 956	Debate during the U.K. national elections, May 3
#sxsxw	343 652	9304	11 003	4558	91 356	SXSW conference, Mar 13–22
#1dfamheretostay	501 960	15 292	26 819	3151	20 275	Last OneDirection concert, Mar 27–29
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Fig. 2. Sets of related hashtags for the topics (a) #baltimoreriots and (b) #netanyahuspeech.

Random Walk Controversy (RWC)

Consider two random walks, one ending in partition X and one ending in partition Y.

RWC is the difference of the probabilities of two events:

- (i) both random walks started from the partition they ended in and
- (ii) both random walks started in a partition other than the one they ended in."

The measure is quantified as:

$$RWC = P_{XX}P_{YY} - P_{YX}P_{XY}$$

$$P_{AB} = Pr[\text{start in partition } A \mid \text{end in partition } B]$$

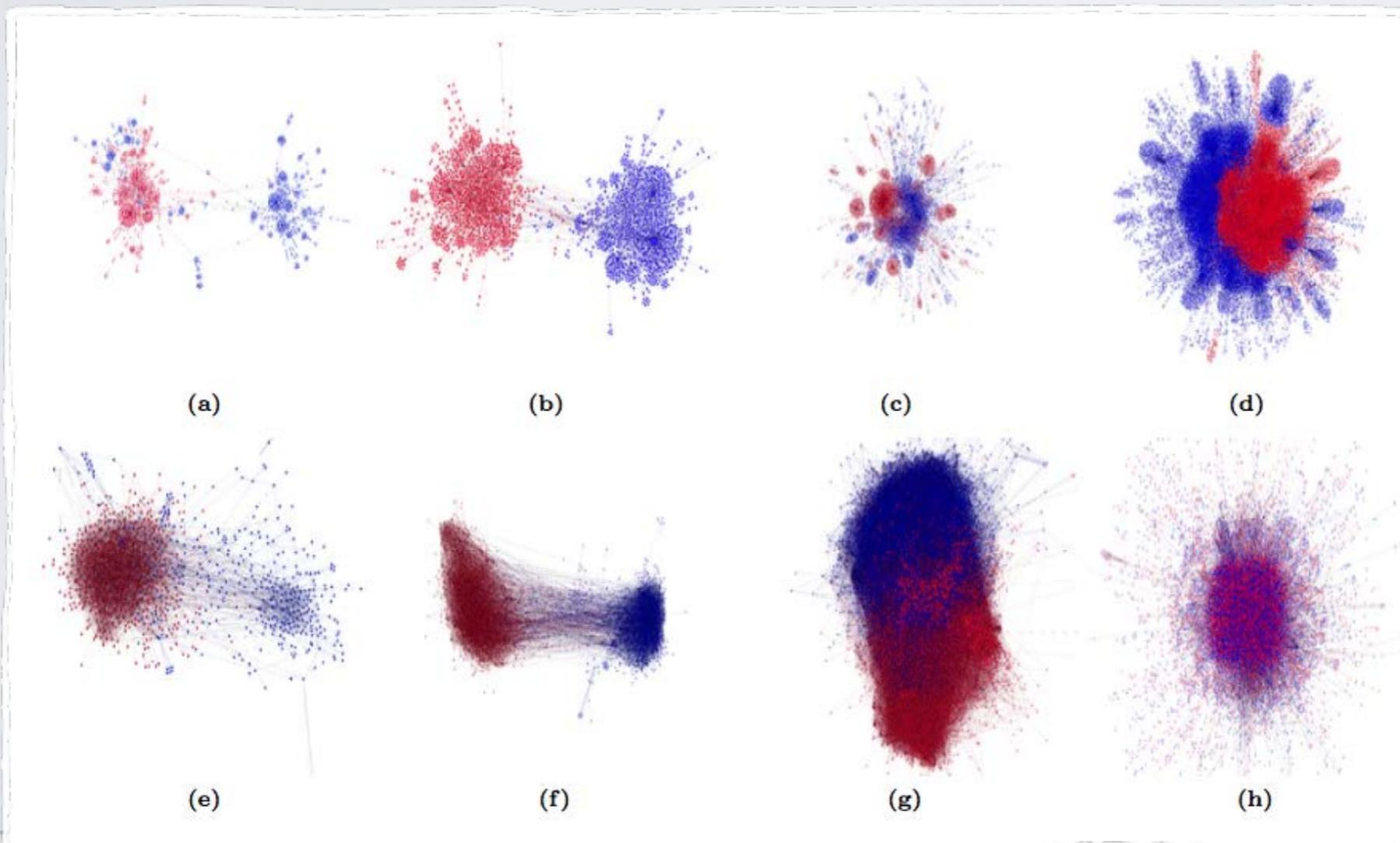
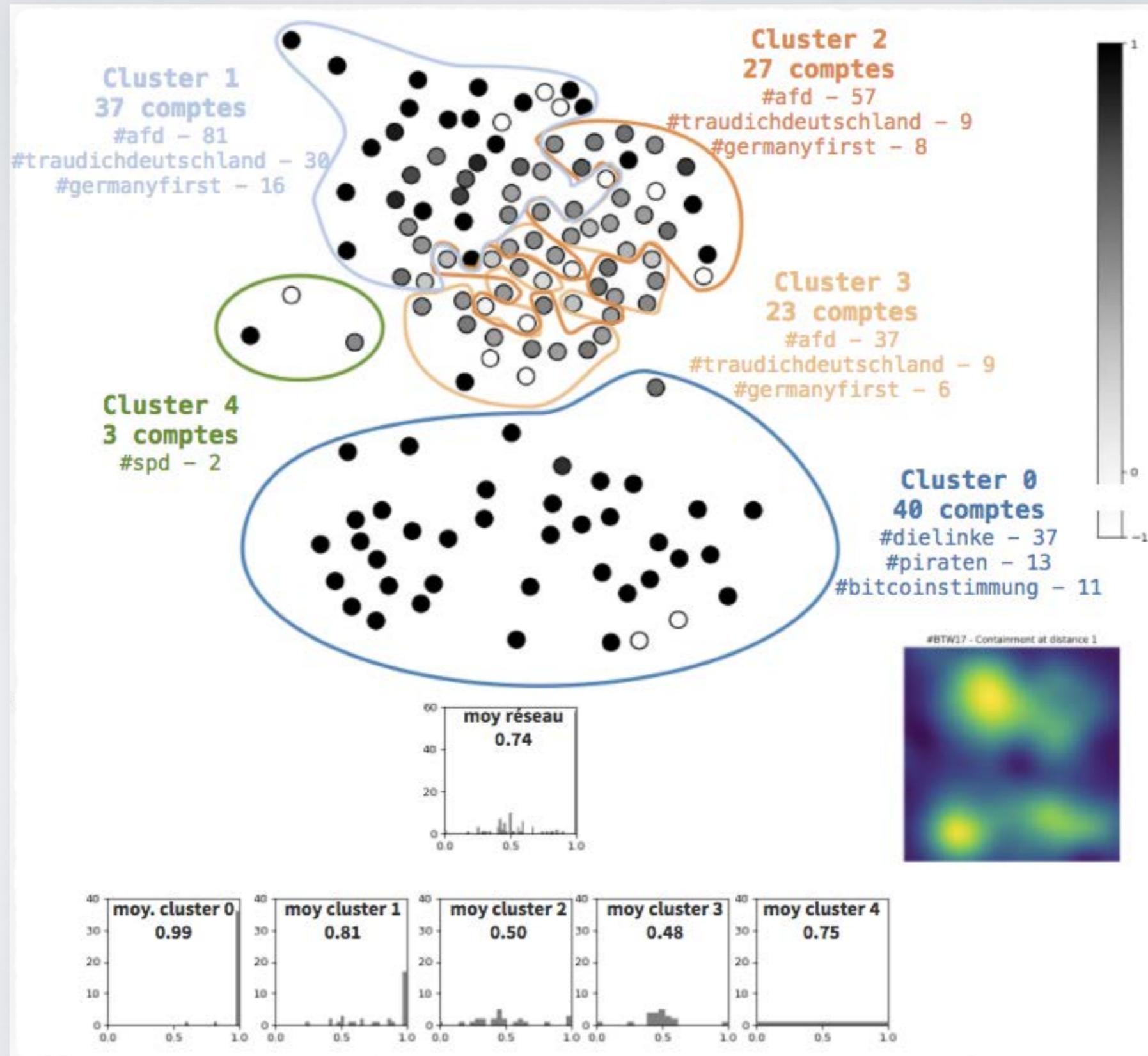


Fig. 3. Sample conversation graphs with retweet (top) and follow (bottom) aspects (visualized using the force-directed layout algorithm in Gephi). The left side is controversial, (a,e) #beefban, (b,f) #russia_march, while the right side is non-controversial, (c,g) #sxsxw, (d,h) #germanwings. Only the largest connected component is shown.

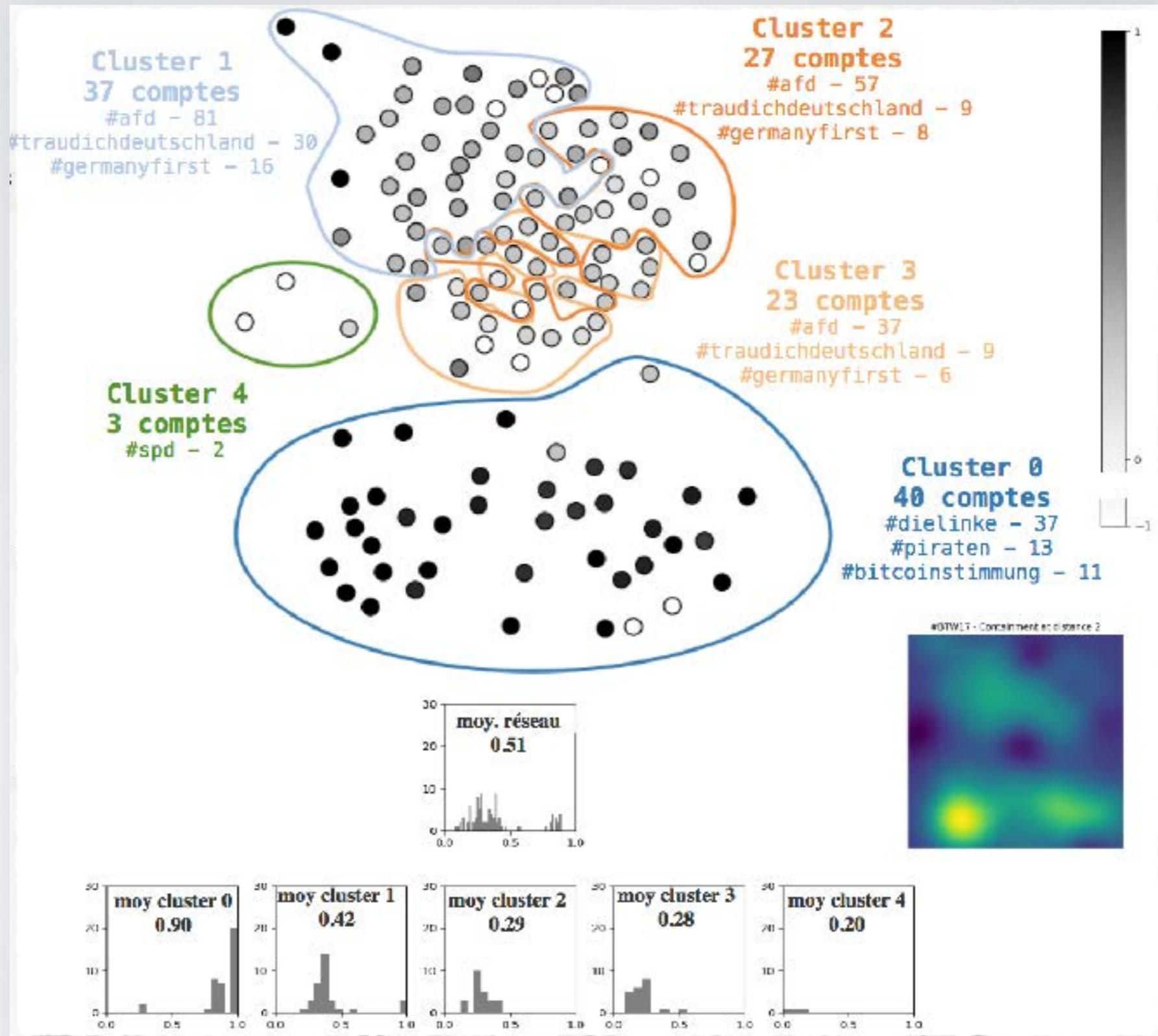
MIXING VIEWS

distance 1



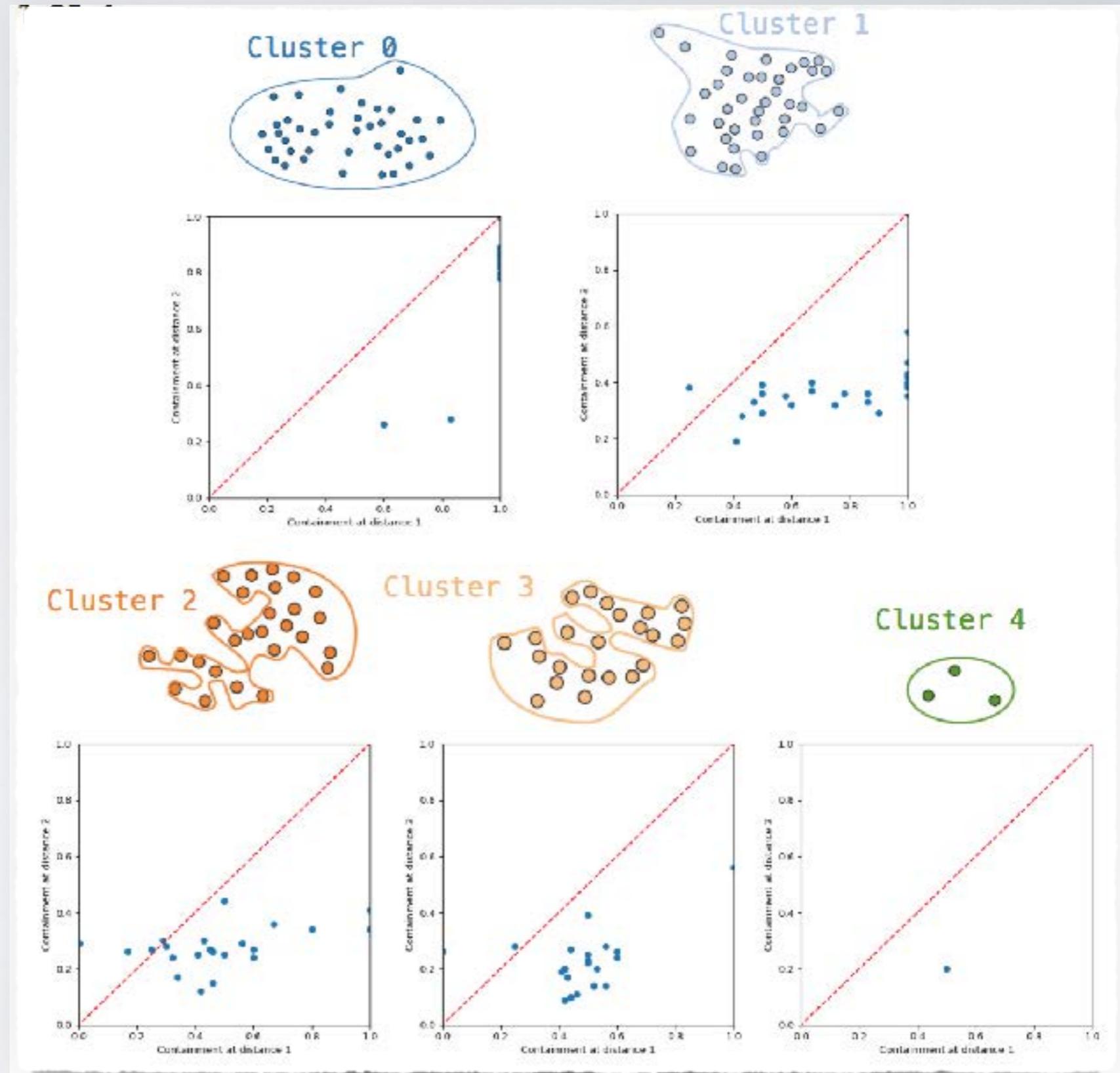
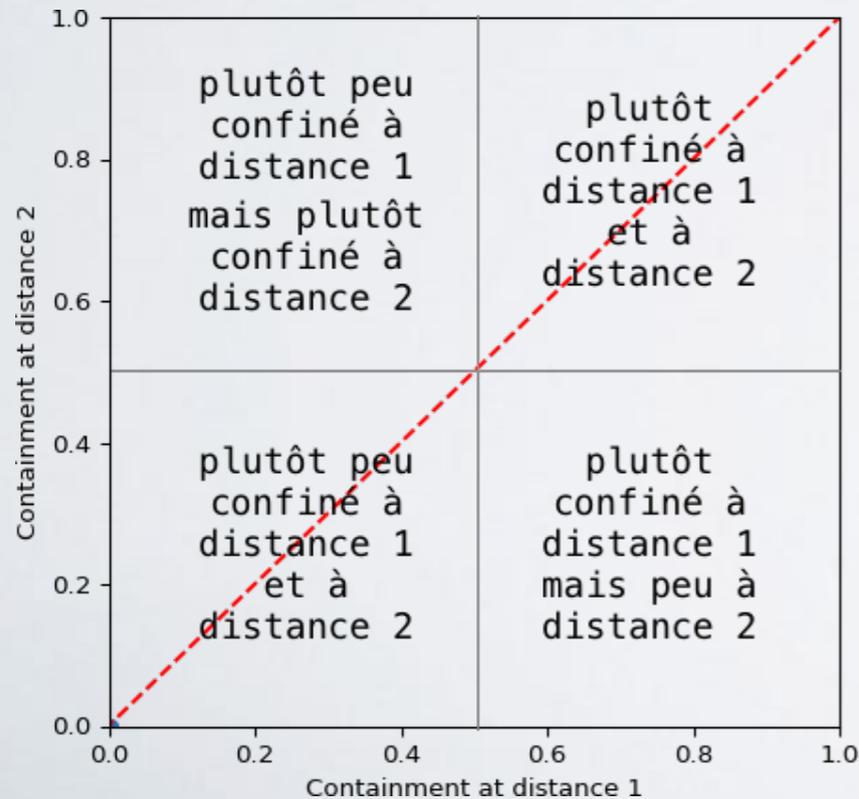
MIXING VIEWS

distance 2

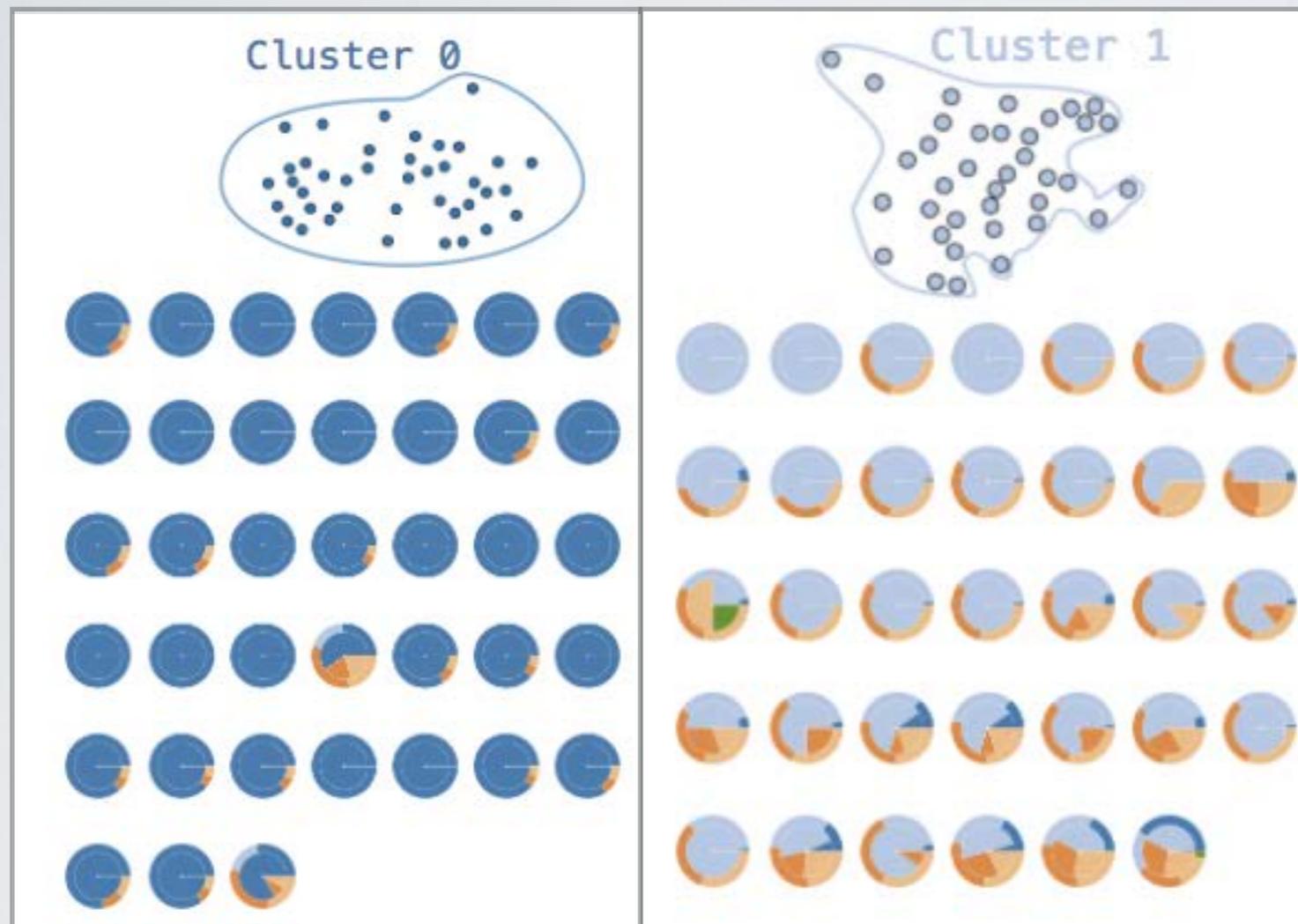


MIXING VIEWS

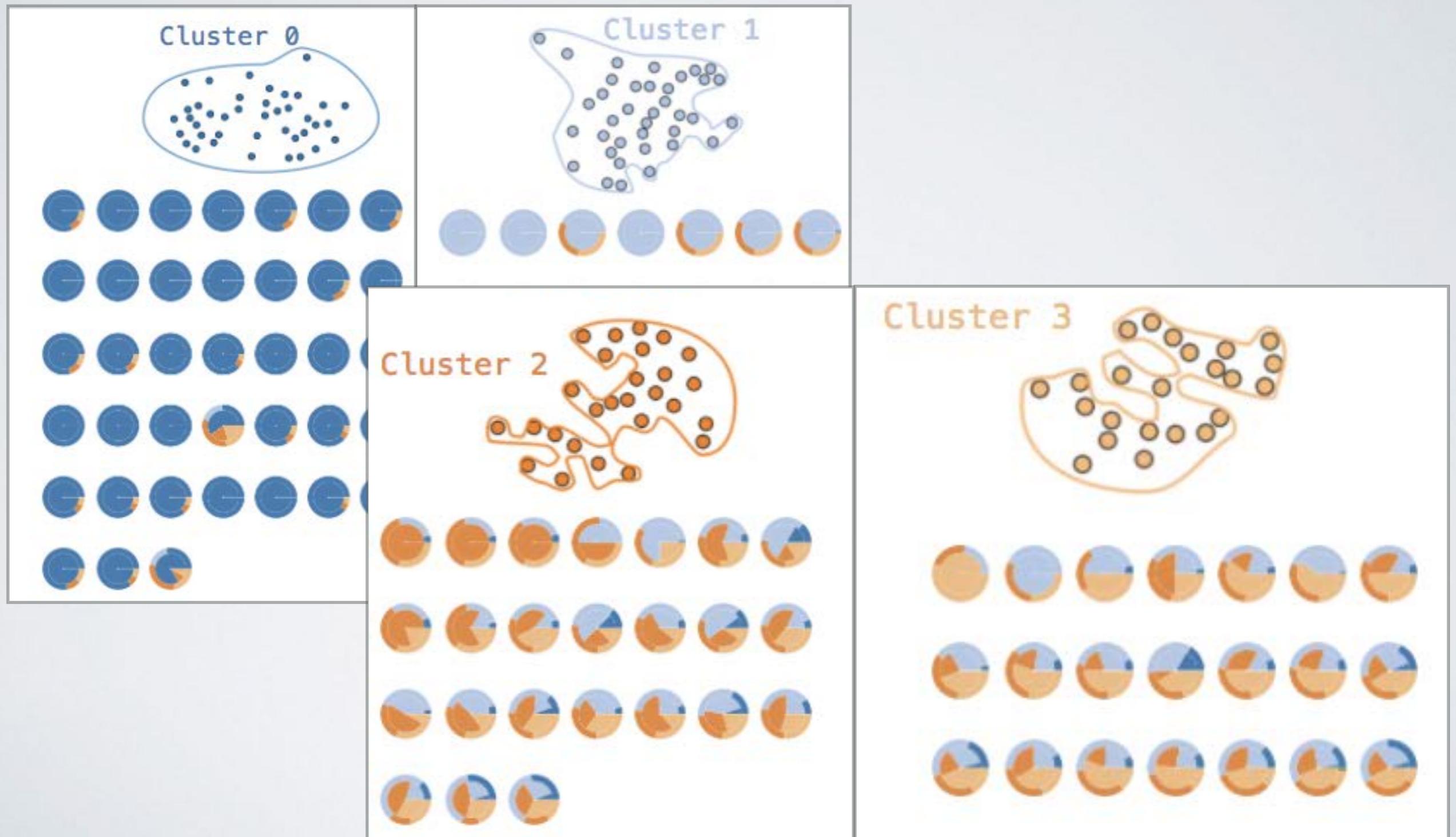
distance 1 vs. 2



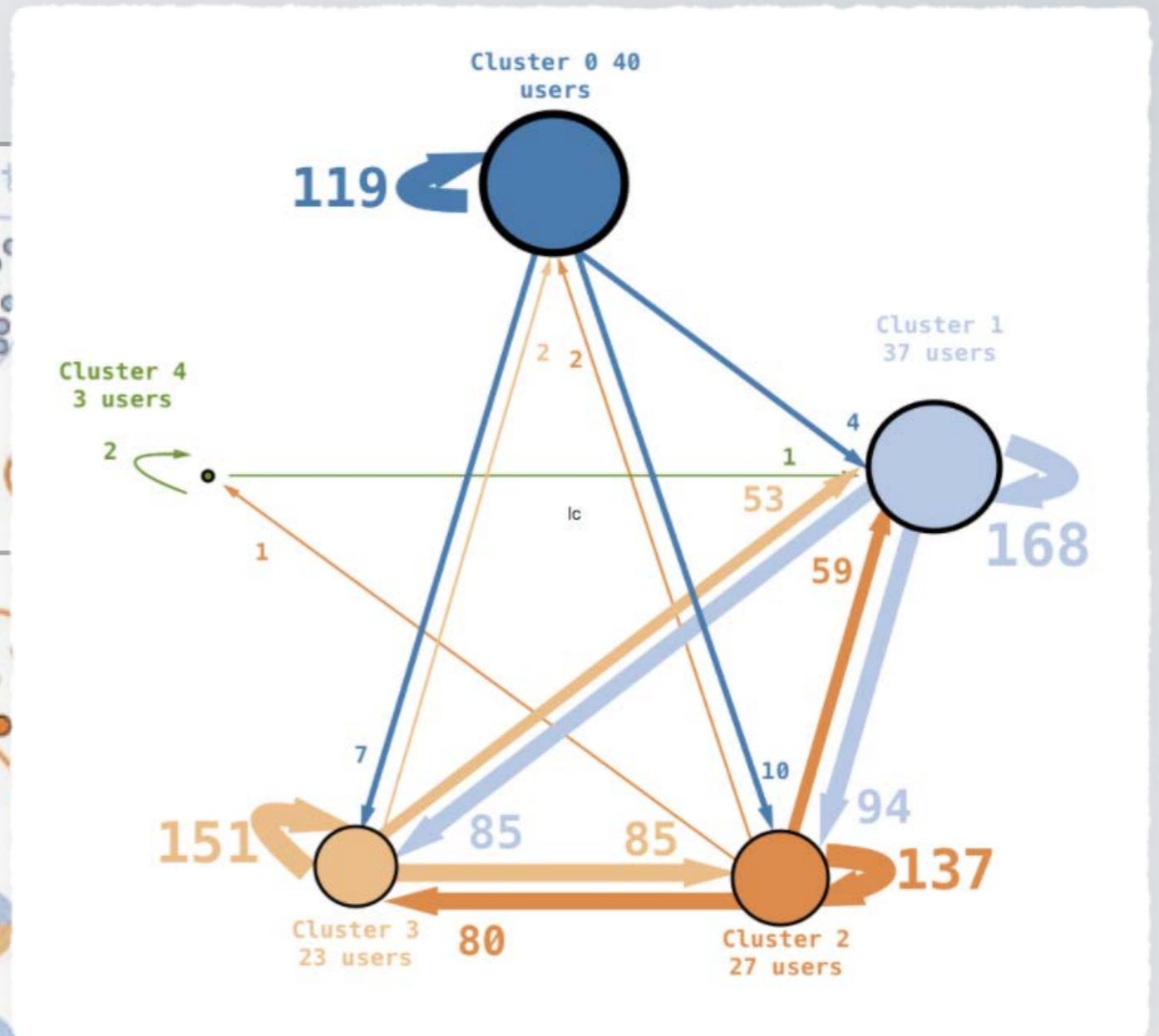
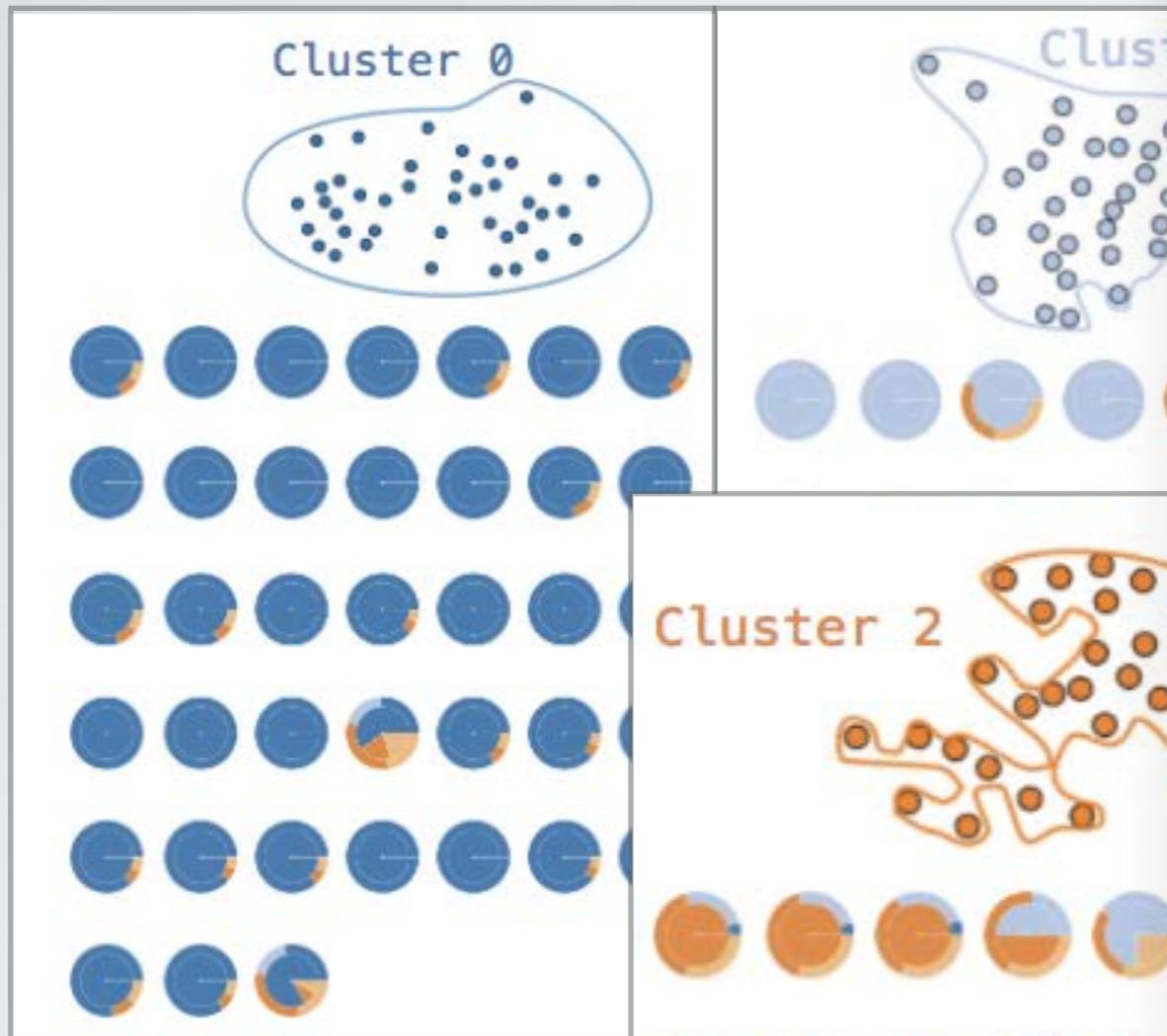
MIXING VIEWS



MIXING VIEWS



MIXING VIEWS



MIXING VIEWS

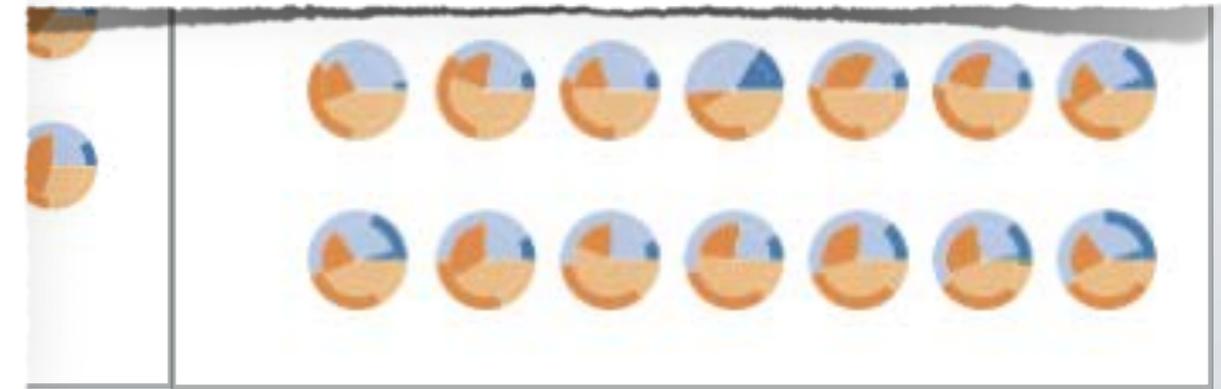
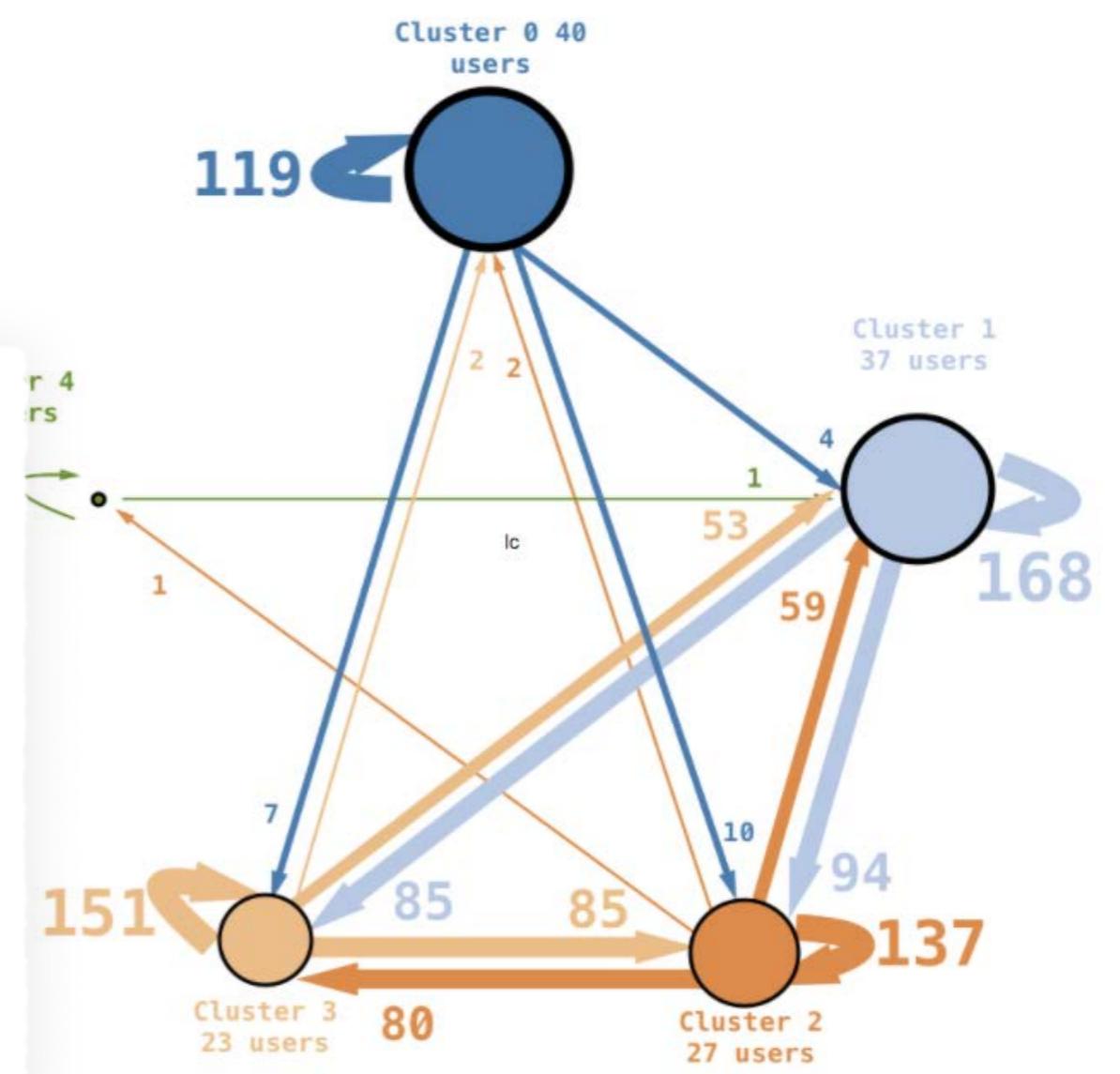
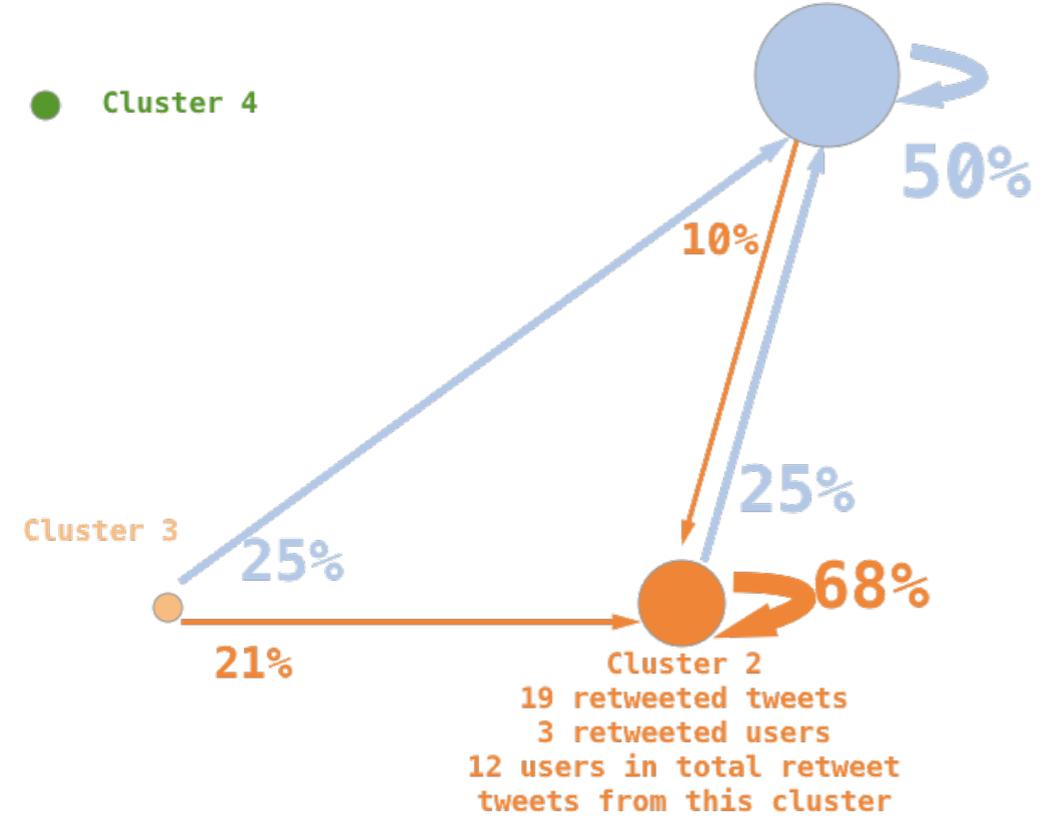


100%

Cluster 0
 6 retweeted tweets
 2 retweeted users
 3 users in total retweet tweets from this cluster

Cluster 1
 44 retweeted tweets
 5 retweeted users
 35 users in total retweet tweets from this cluster

● Cluster 4



CONTEXT

- selection of the portion of users who are the most active on the topic
("#IPCC", strongly unambiguous keyword, around the publication of the latest WG2 & WG3 reports, April 2014)

a notion of
core/periphery
based on
engagement

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Critical tweet

(critical to the scientific basis of human-induced climate change):

IPCC Insider Rejects Global-Warming Report – National Review Online (blog) <http://t.co/0bYSPze2Vh>

Uncommitted tweet

(gives mainly information related to the IPCC report publication)

Climate scientists meet in Japan for IPCC's WG2 report – Top Asia-Pacific News 25.03.14 <http://t.co/vG20kFqhXE>

Supportive

(supporting the scientific basis of human-induced climate change):

#IPCC: Climate change is everywhere. That means we need to take action. Now. <http://t.co/eItB60qMiR>

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Critical (C)	Supportive (S)	Uncommitted (U)
60	229	340
9.5%	36.4%	54.1%

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Uncommitted tweet

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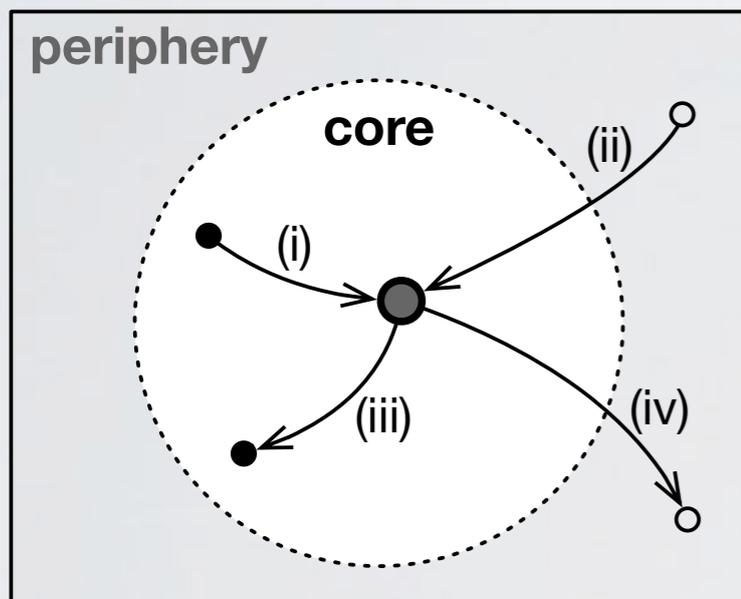
Climate scientists meet in Japan for IPCC's WG2 report – Top Asia-Pacific News 25.03.14 <http://t.co/vG20kFqhXE>

Supportive

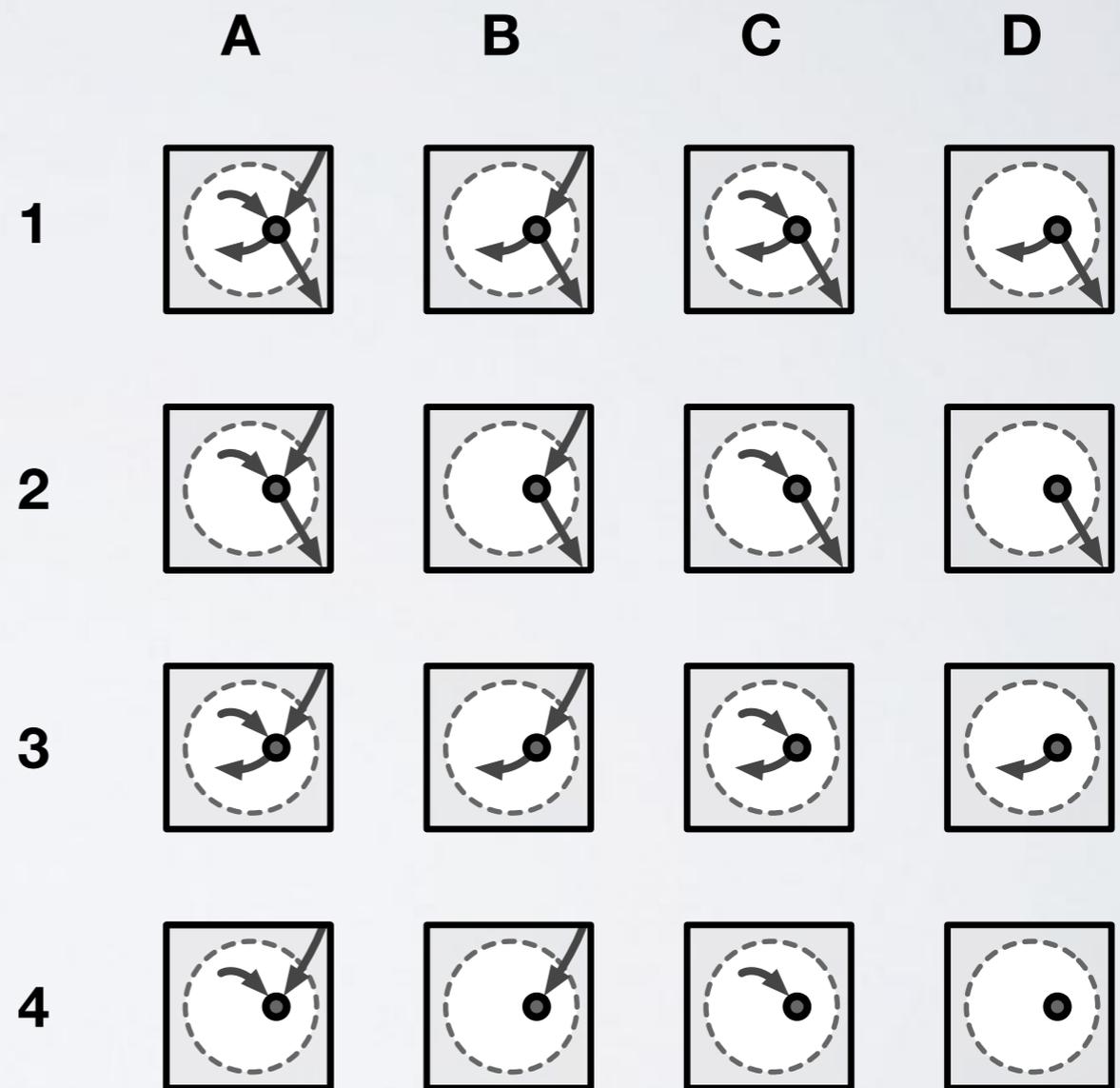
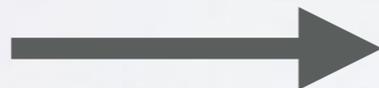
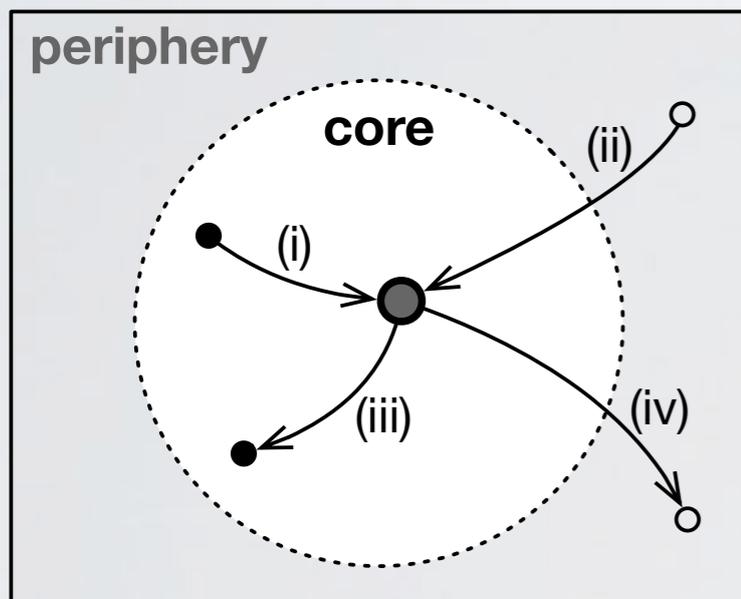
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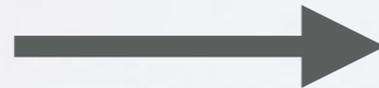
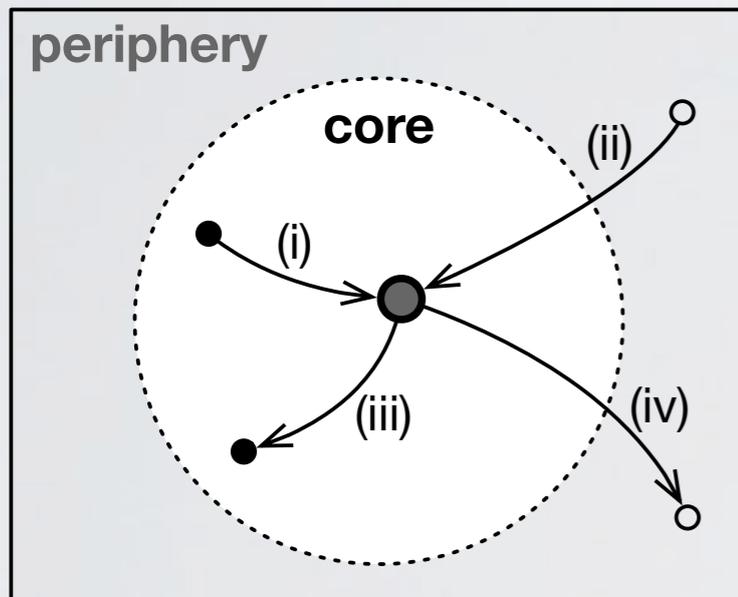
STRUCTURAL MODEL



STRUCTURAL MODEL

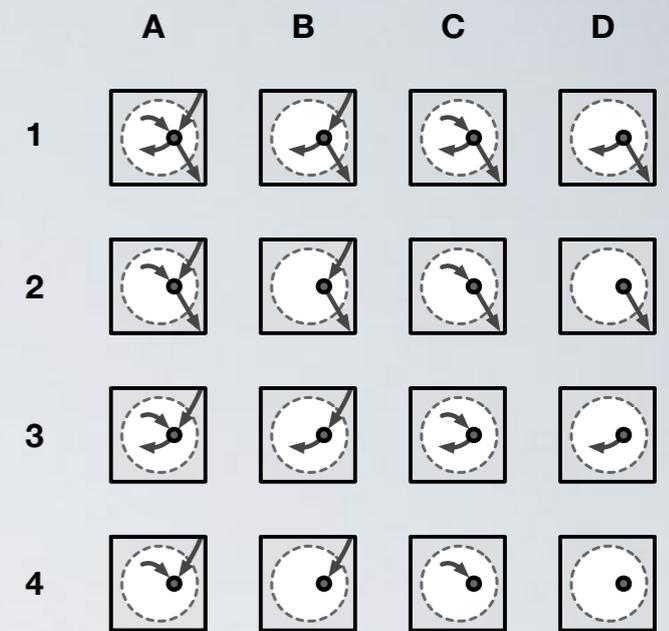


STRUCTURAL MODEL

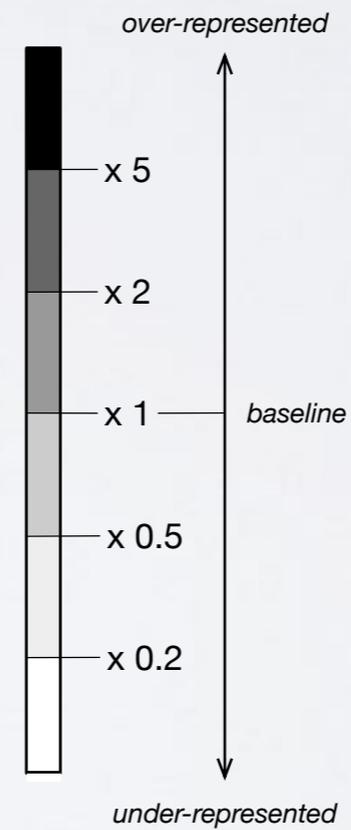


	A	B	C	D
1	p^4 0.16%	$p^3(1-p)$ 0.64%	$p^3(1-p)$ 0.64%	$p^2(1-p)^2$ 2.56%
2	$p^3(1-p)$ 0.64%	$p^2(1-p)^2$ 2.56%	$p^2(1-p)^2$ 2.56%	$p(1-p)^3$ 10.2%
3	$p^3(1-p)$ 0.64%	$p^2(1-p)^2$ 2.56%	$p^2(1-p)^2$ 2.56%	$p(1-p)^3$ 10.2%
4	$p^2(1-p)^2$ 2.56%	$p(1-p)^3$ 10.2%	$p(1-p)^3$ 10.2%	$(1-p)^4$ 41.%

REMARKABLE POSITIONS

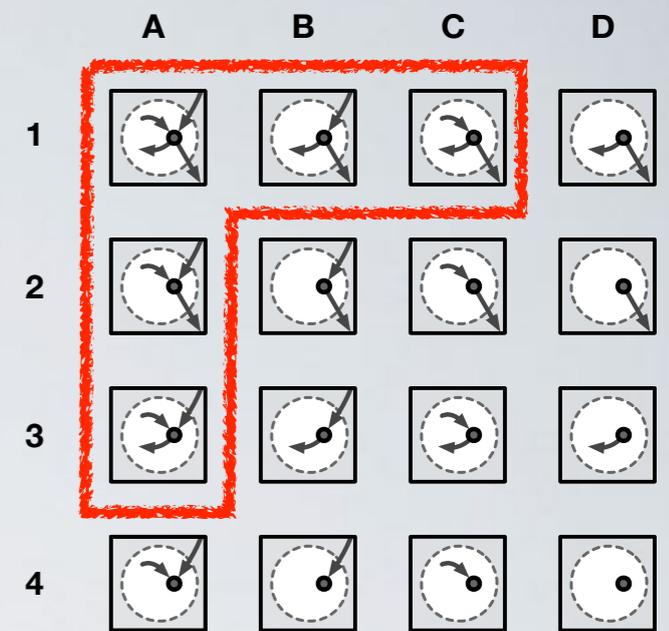


	A	B	C	D
1	17 0.5	6 2.6	9 2.2	31 11
2	14 3.3	5 15	1 14	36 69
3	4 2.2	0 11	2 10	17 47
4	49 14	24 69	10 60	404 297



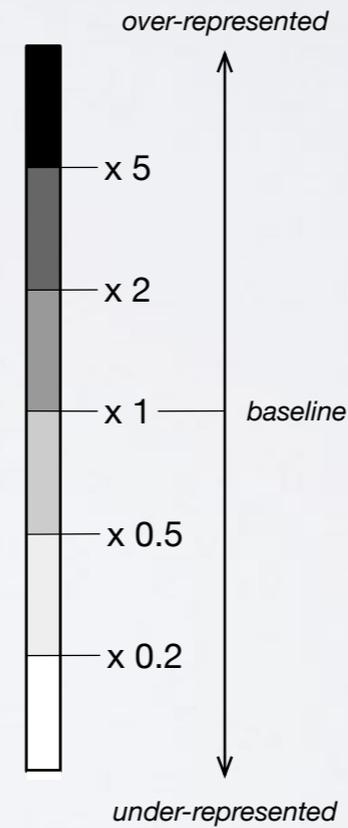
(629 core nodes)

REMARKABLE POSITIONS



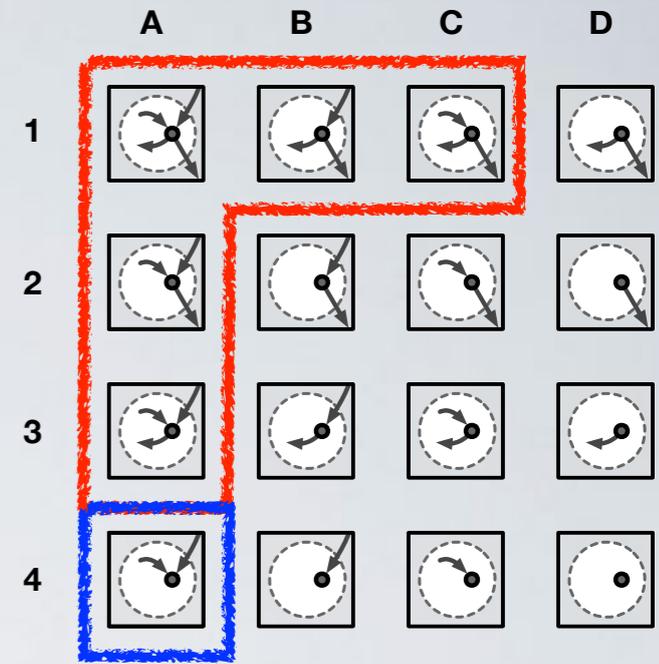
star

	A	B	C	D
1	17 0.5	6 2.6	9 2.2	31 11
2	14 3.3	5 15	1 14	36 69
3	4 2.2	0 11	2 10	17 47
4	49 14	24 69	10 60	404 297



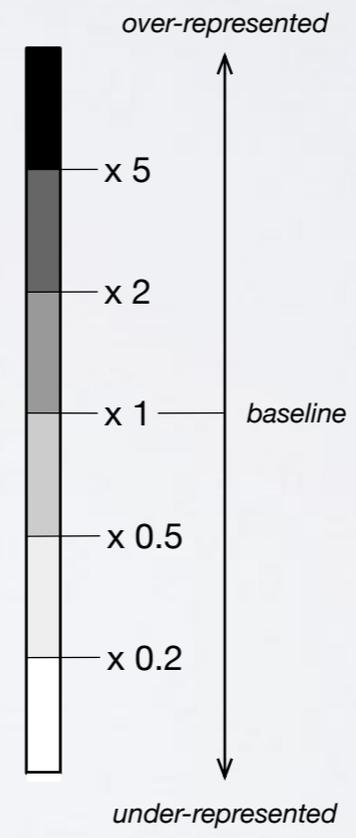
(629 core nodes)

REMARKABLE POSITIONS



star

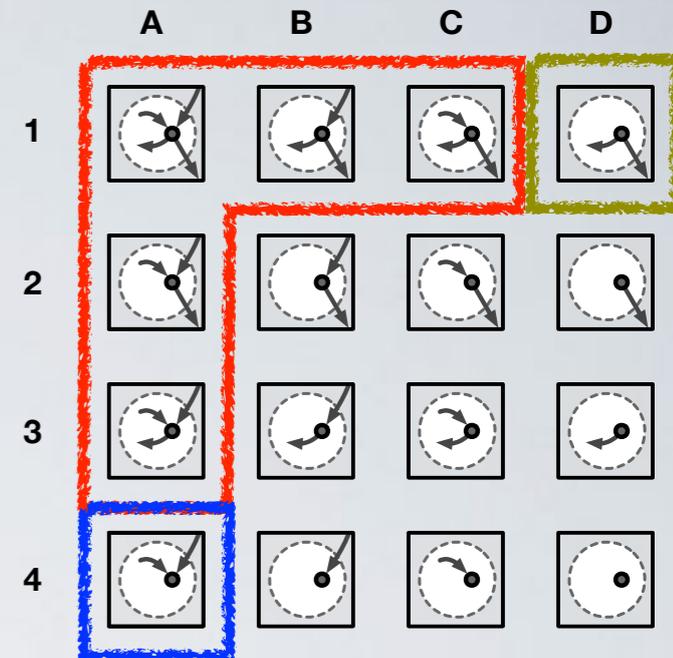
	A	B	C	D
1	17 0.5	6 2.6	9 2.2	31 11
2	14 3.3	5 15	1 14	36 69
3	4 2.2	0 11	2 10	17 47
4	49 14	24 69	10 60	404 297



famous

(629 core nodes)

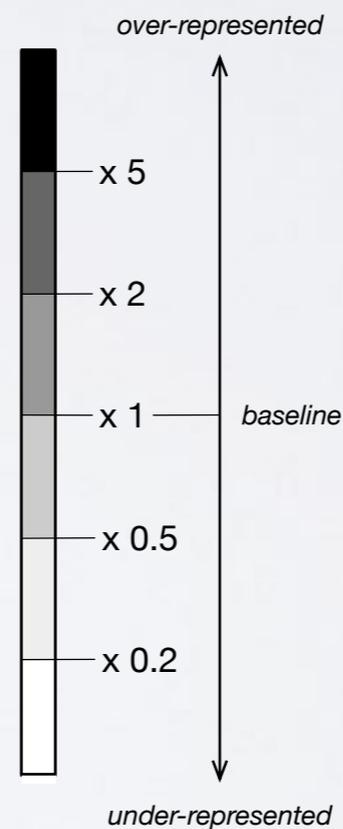
REMARKABLE POSITIONS



star

	A	B	C	D
1	17 0.5	6 2.6	9 2.2	31 11
2	14 3.3	5 15	1 14	36 69
3	4 2.2	0 11	2 10	17 47
4	49 14	24 69	10 60	404 297

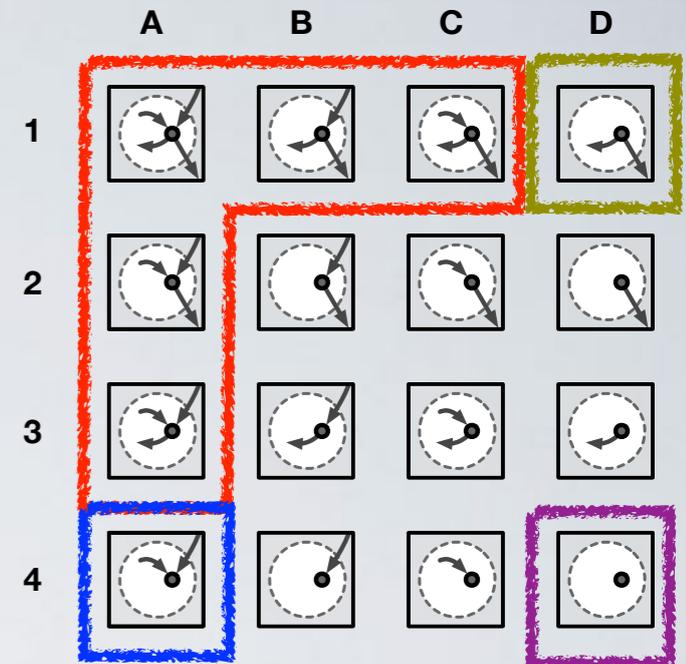
curious



famous

(629 core nodes)

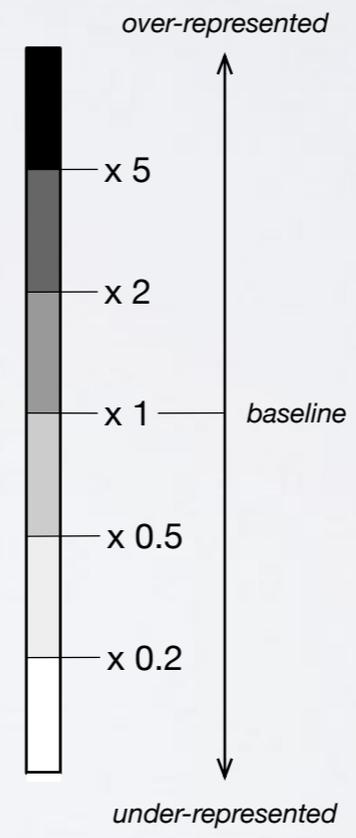
REMARKABLE POSITIONS



star

	A	B	C	D
1	17 0.5	6 2.6	9 2.2	31 11
2	14 3.3	5 15	1 14	36 69
3	4 2.2	0 11	2 10	17 47
4	49 14	24 69	10 60	404 297

curious

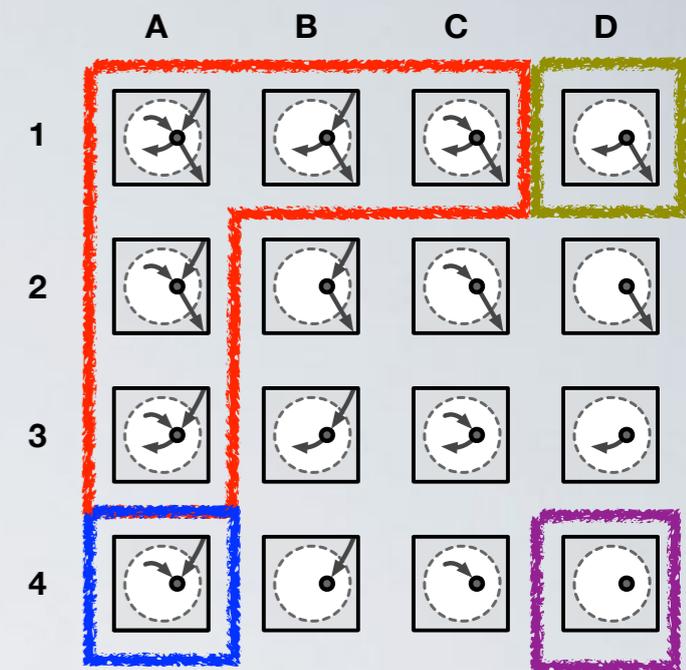


famous

(629 core nodes)

silent

REMARKABLE POSITIONS AND ALIGNMENT



Critical

	A	B	C	D
1	5 1.6	1 0.6	3 0.9	5 3
2	4 1.3	0 0.5	0 0.1	3 3.4
3	0 0.4		0 0.2	1 1.6
4	4 4.7	3 2.3	1 1	30 39

(60 nodes)

Supportive

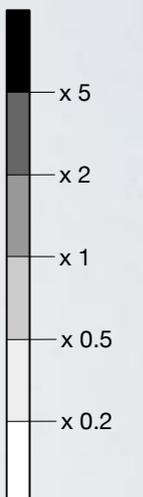
	A	B	C	D
1	3 6.2	2 2.2	3 3.3	13 11.3
2	3 5.1	0 1.8	0 0.4	11 13.1
3	1 1.5		1 0.7	9 6.2
4	15 17.8	7 8.7	5 3.6	156 147

(229 nodes)

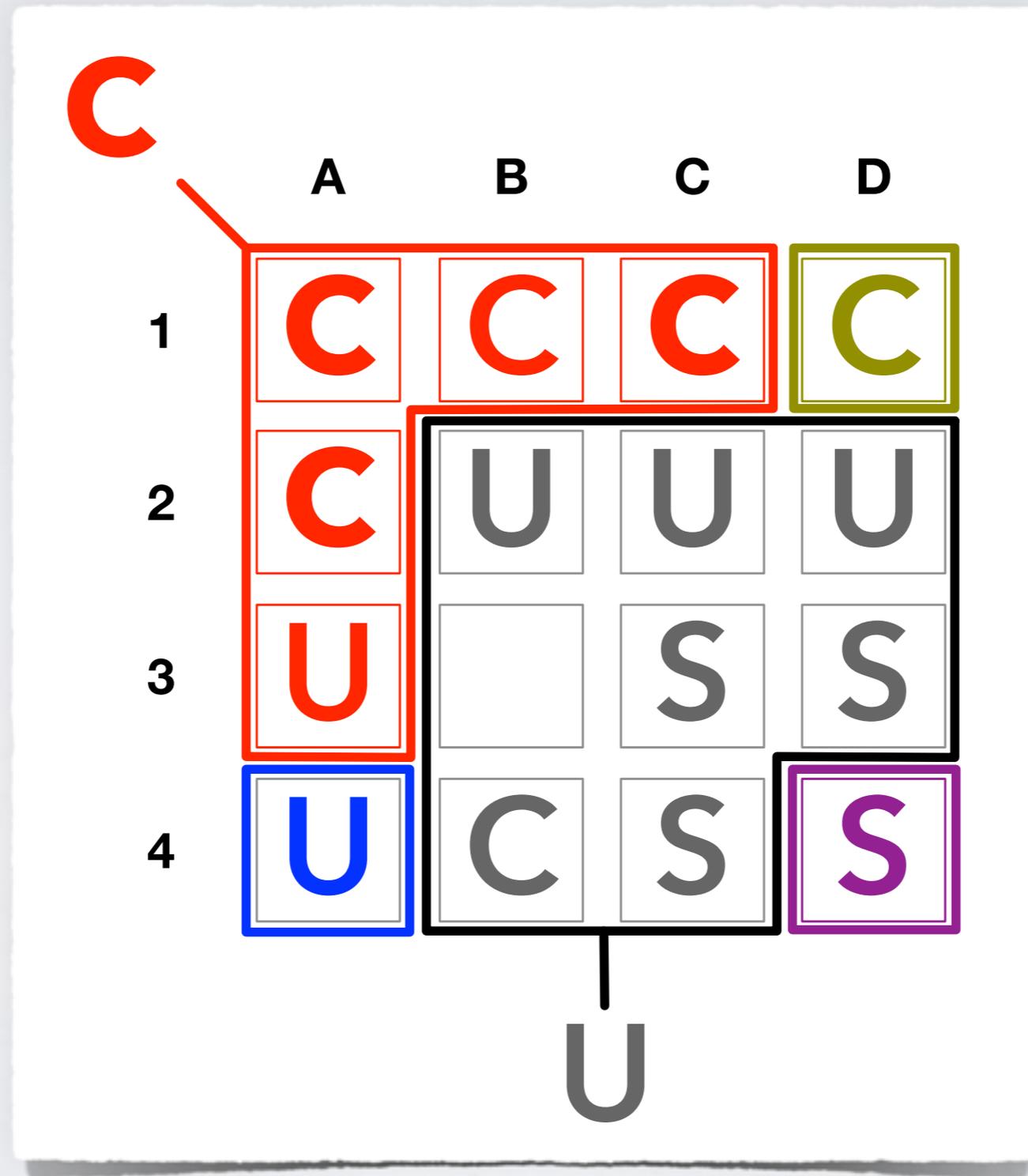
Uncommitted

	A	B	C	D
1	9 9.2	3 3.2	3 2.2	13 11
2	7 7.6	5 2.7	1 14	22 69
3	3 2.2		1 10	7 47
4	30 26.5	14 69	4 60	218 297

(340 nodes)



DOMINANT ALIGNMENTS IN REMARKABLE POSITIONS



SEMANTICS

$\text{tf}_c(w)$: term frequency of word w in category c
(*proportion of users using w in category c*)

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$\mathbf{rf}_c(w) = \frac{\mathbf{tf}_c(w)}{\langle \mathbf{tf}_{c'}(w) \rangle_{c' \in \mathcal{C}}}$ relative term frequency of
word w in category c

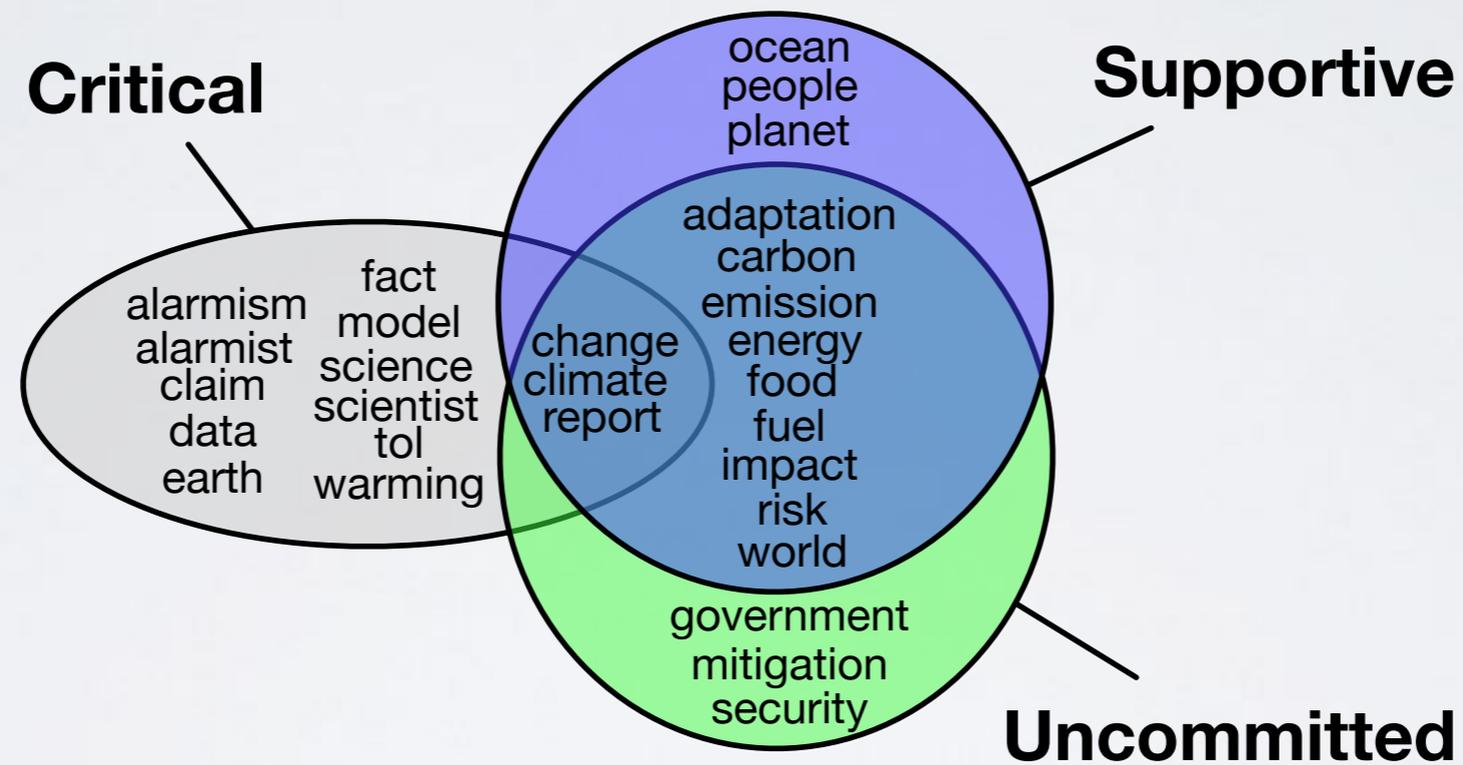
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$\mathbf{tf}_c(w)$: term frequency of word w in category c
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$\mathbf{rf}_c(w) = \frac{\mathbf{tf}_c(w)}{\langle \mathbf{tf}_{c'}(w) \rangle_{c' \in \mathcal{C}}}$ relative term frequency of
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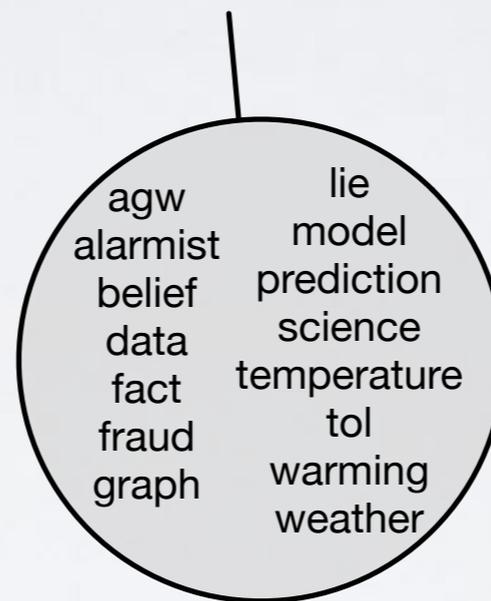
$s_c(w) = \mathbf{tf}_c(w) \cdot \log \mathbf{rf}_c(w)$ score ("typicality") of w in c

SEMANTICS AND ALIGNMENT

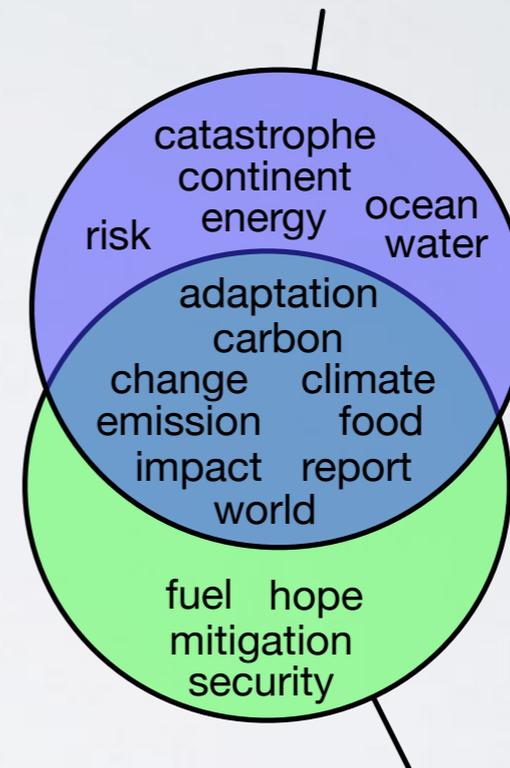


SEMANTICS AND REMARKABLE POSITIONS

Critical x Star



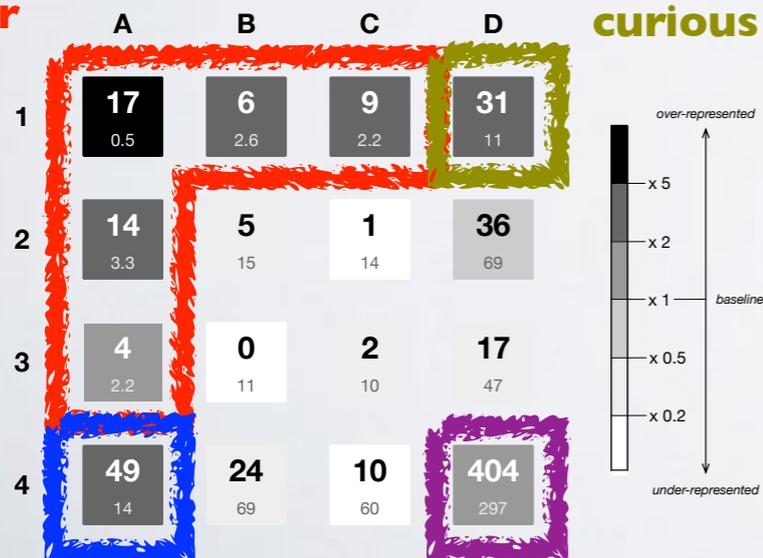
Supportive x Silent



Uncommitted x Famous

star

curious

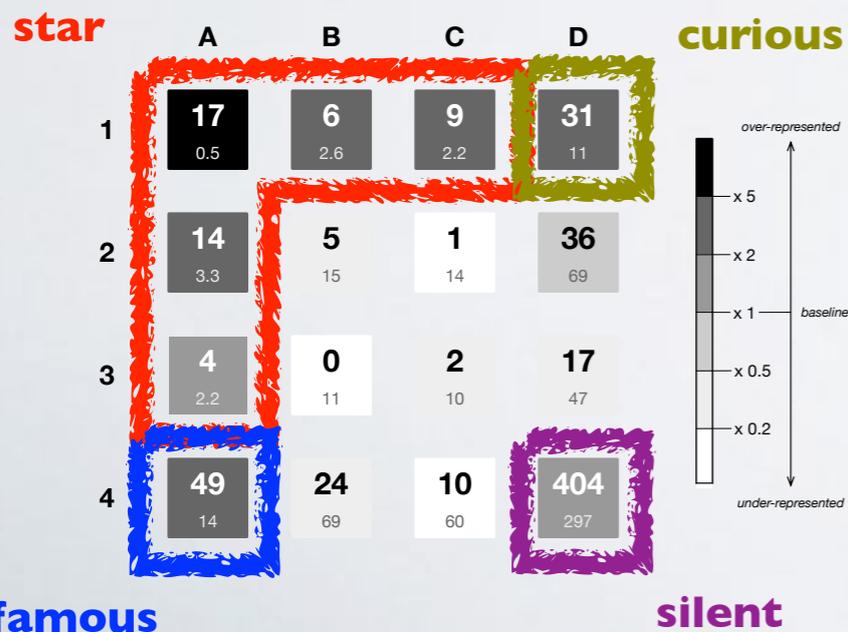


famous

silent

SEMANTICS AND REMARKABLE POSITIONS

Slot group	Most typical terms
<i>star</i>	agw, alarmist, ar5, author, belief, co2, data, global, model, paper, prediction, science, tol, weather
<i>famous</i>	adaptation, continent, emission, food, fuel, hope, impact, security, water
<i>curious</i>	assessment, cost, earth, graph, ocean
<i>silent</i>	catastrophe



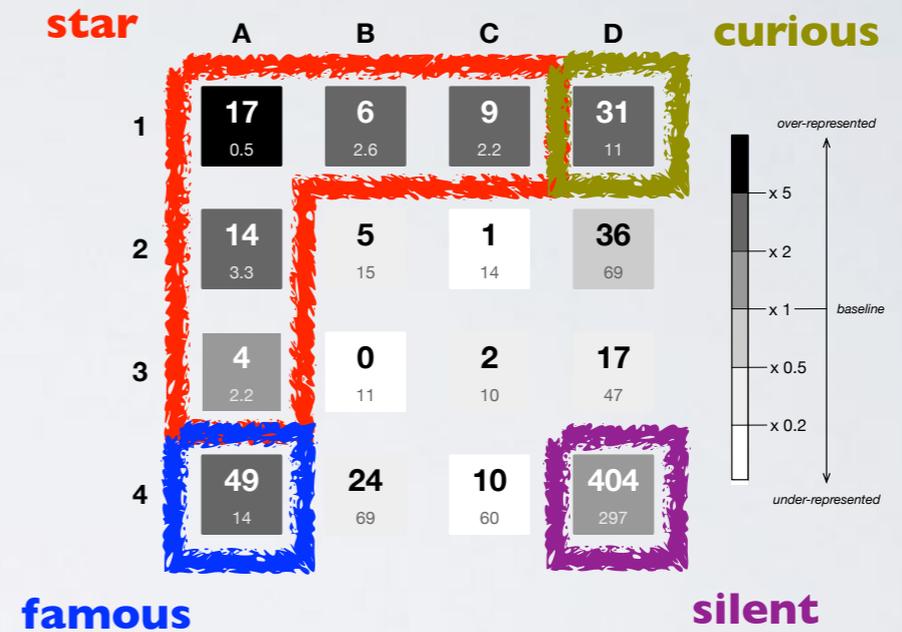
CONCLUSIONS

- Critical voices are in minority but occupy “star” position on Twitter:

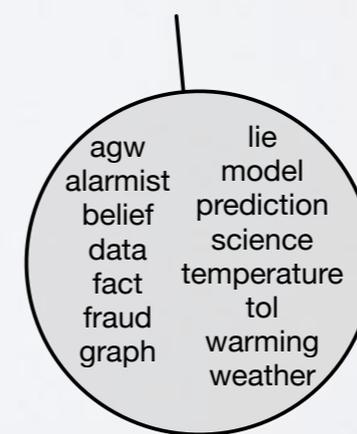
- *discussing ‘beliefs’, ‘models’ and ‘data’*
(CLIMATE CHANGE AS SCIENTIFIC ISSUE)

- Supportive majority of Twitter users in climate change debate are rather “silent”:

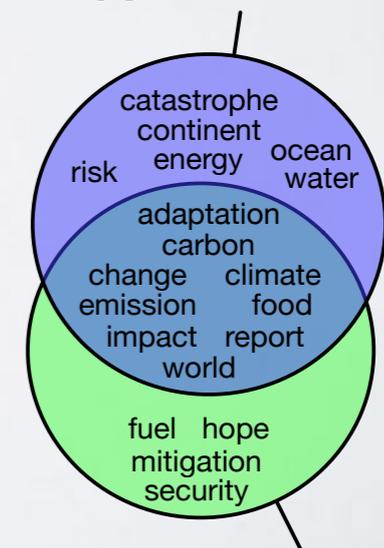
- *discussing ‘impacts’, ‘emissions’ and ‘adaptation’*
(CLIMATE CHANGE AS POLITICAL ISSUE)



Critical x Star



Supportive x Silent



Uncommitted x Famous