DATA-CENTERED CROWDSOURCING WORKSHOP

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TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY 2015/2016

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Course goal:

Learn about crowd-data sourcing and prepare a final project (improvement of existing problem's solution / solving new problem)

Group size: ~4 students

Requirements: DataBases (SQL) is recommended, Web programming (we will do a short overview), (optionally) Mobile development (we will not teach it)

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES (2)

Schedule:

- 3 intro meetings
 - 1st meeting overview of crowdsourcing
 - 2nd meeting open problems, possible projects
 - 3rd meeting Web programming overview, SDK
- Mid-term meeting
- Final meeting and projects presentation
- Dates: http://slavanov.com/teaching/crowd1516a/

WHAT IS CROWDSOURCING?

Crowdsourcing = Crowd + Outsourcing

Crowdsourcing is the act of sourcing tasks traditionally performed by specific individuals to a group of people or community (crowd) through an open call.

CROWDSOURCING

Main idea: Harness the crowd to a "task"

- Task: solve bugs
- Task: find an appropriate treatment to an illness
- Task: construct a database of facts

Why now?

Internet and smart phones ...
 We are all connected, all of the time!!!

THE CLASSICAL EXAMPLE

WikipediA

English The Free Encyclopedia 3 907 000+ articles 日本語 フリー百科事典 799 000+記事

> Deutsch Die freie Enzyklopädie 1 383 000+ Artikel

> > Français L'encyclopédie libre

1 230 000+ articles

Polski

Wolna encyklopedia 887 000+ haseł

Português

A enciclopédia livre 718 000+ artigos **中文** 自由的百科全書 429 000+ 條目

Español

La enciclopedia libre 879 000+ artículos

Русский Свободная энциклопедия 838 000+ статей

Italiano L'enciclopedia libera 905 000+ voci



🖽 · Galaxy Zoo is a ZO🥥 NIVERSE project

...just like MOON Z 🖗 O

HUBBLE

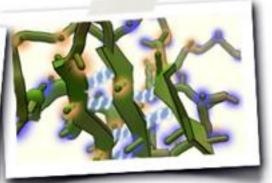
GALAXY ZOO

Home The Story So Far How To Take Part Classify Galaxies Explore Galaxies The Science FAQ Forum Blog Contact Us









▼ Dr. David Baker



Several sheets are lining up in this protein, but one is out of place. Pull the misaligned sheet back in to form hydrogen bonds! Don't forget you can control-click to lock, and use Shake and Wiggle.

8899 Progress:

of 10000

Level 4-2: A Sheet Out of Place ► Chat



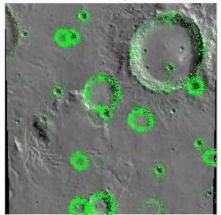
AND EVEN MORE



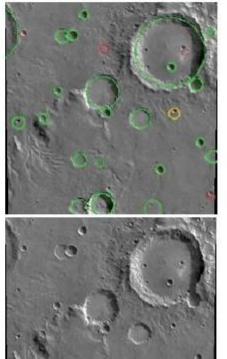
Sample result

We try to have several people cover each region on Mars so that we can compute a consensus, throwing out any mistaken or frivilous entries and averaging out the inaccuracies. Here's an example of one region selected as a test case for intensive coverage:

Here are all the clicks we received for this region. (The red ones were rejected for non-circularity or size.)



Here is the consensus. Green circles have a high degree of agreement. Red circles have little agreement, and yellow ones are marginal.



It may be hard to see some of the fainter craters in the marked-up images. Here's the image with nothing in the way:

(http://clickworkers.arc.nasa.gov/sample-results)

CROWDSOURCING: UNIFYING PRINCIPLES

Main goal

• "Outsourcing" a task to a crowd of users

Kinds of tasks

- Tasks that can be performed by a computer, but inefficiently
- Tasks that can't be performed by a computer

Challenges

- How to motivate the crowd?
- Get data, minimize errors, estimate quality
- Direct users to contribute where is most needed \ they are experts

MOTIVATING THE CROWD

| 2 | |
|-----|---|
| | |
| - M | A |

<page-header>The Remaining of the control of the

Fun

Altruism

Make Money by working on HITs

HITs - Human Intelligence Tasks - are individual tasks that you work on. Find HITs now.

As a Mechanical Turk Worker you:

- Can work from home
- Choose your own work hours
- Get paid for doing good work





CROWD DATA SOURCING

Outsourcing data collection to the crowd of Web users

- When people can provide the data
- When people are the only source of data
- When people can efficiently clean and/or organize the data



Two main aspects [DFKK'12]:

- Using the crowd to create better databases
- Using database technologies to create better crowd datasourcing applications

[DFKK'12]: Crowdsourcing Applications and Platforms: A Data Management Perspective, A.Doan, M. J. Franklin, D. Kossmann, T. Kraska, VLDB 2011

MY FAVORITE EXAMPLE

ReCaptha

- 100,000 web sites
- 40 million words/day

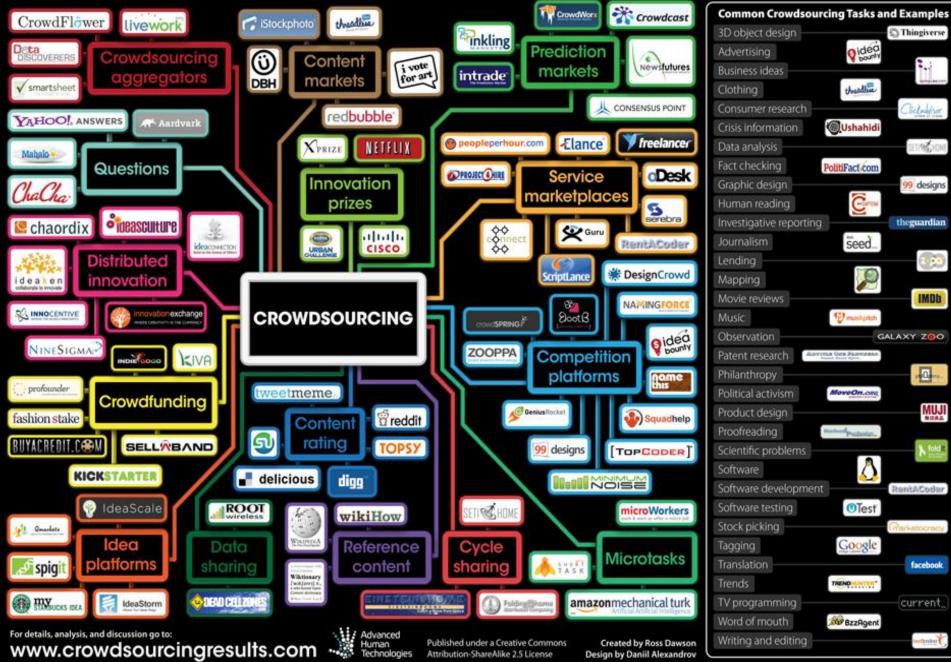


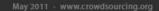
CROWDSOURCING RESEARCH GROUPS

An incomplete list of groups working on Crowdsourcing:

- Qurk (MIT)
- CrowdDB (Berkeley and ETH Zurich)
- Deco (Stanford and UCSC)
- CrowdForge (CMU)
- HKUST DB Group
- WalmartLabs
- MoDaS (Tel Aviv University)

CROWDSOURCING LANDSCAPE Beta v1





Crowdsourcing Industry Landscape



crowdsourcing.org

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CROWDSOURCING MARKETPLACES



















MECHANICAL TURK

Please Copy Text from Business Card:

Your Current Quality Score is:

If you have a high enough score, you will be ? • considered for promotion to a Trusted Worker.

| P | rojec | t | |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| PI | ease / | Ассер | t |
| 123 Arrowhead Ave Westborough, CO 1 | | - irstsca | |
| f - (213)233-1950 email - project.ce | OTE: This is | a Sample | (213)574-4213 |

Please **select/crop** company logo or image from the business card above. Click + Drag to select the company logo.

| Name | | | ? |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------|---|
| Title | Company | y | |
| Email | Website | | |
| Address: ? | | | |
| Address Line 1 add line | | | |
| City | State | Zip Code | |
| Phone: <u>click here if not a U</u> | | mber ? | |
| Work Ext. | | | |
| Mobile | | | |
| Fax | | | |

add phone

MECHANICAL TURK

Requestor places Human Intelligence Tasks (HIT)

- Min price: \$0,01
- Provide expiration date and UI
- # of assignments

Requestor approve jobs and payments

Special API

Workers choose jobs, do them and getting money

USES OF HUMAN COMPUTATION

- Data cleaning/integration (ProPublica)
- Finding missing people (Haiti, Fossett, Gray)
- Translation/Transcription (SpeakerText)
- Word Processing (Soylent)
- Outsourced insurance claims processing
- Data journalism (Guardian)

TYPES OF TASKS

| Task Type | Characteristics | Examples |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Micro Tasks | Generally very high volume, extremely low pay rate per task, and heavily automated throughout the process. | find email addresses or company websites translate a product description to another language find prices for competitive products choose a category from a new catalog structure |
| Macro Tasks | Generally high volume, low rate of pay, mostly automated throughout the process. | write a product review test this website and provide feedback fill in the missing research citations in this report build a list of universities conducting energy research |
| Simple Projects | Low volume or single tasks with moderate rate of pay, often requiring some direct contact with the worker. | design a branded website prepare an outline for a conference presentation contact all confirmed attendees for an event |
| Complex Projects | Single project with high rate of pay, typically requiring a substantial amount of time and direct interaction with the worker. | - program a software module - design a new edible adhesive - develop a new security algorithm - develop an eCommerce website - inbound/outbound calls (sales, mrkt research, support) |

Source: "Paid Crowdsourcing", SmartSheet.com

OVERVIEW OF RECENT RESEARCH

- Crowdsourced Databases, Query evaluation, Sorts/joins, Top-K
 - CrowdDB, Qurk, Deco,
- Crowdsourced Data Collection/Cleaning
 - Asklt, QOCO,....
- Crowd sourced Data Mining
 - CrowdMining, OASSIS, ...
- Image tagging, media meta-data collection
- Crowdsourced recommendations and planning

CROWD SOURCED DATABASES

• Motivation:

Why we need crowdsourced databases?

- There are many things (queries) that cannot be done (answered) in classical DB approach
- We call them: DB-Hard queries
- Examples...

DB-HARD QUERIES (1)

| Company_Name | Address | Market Cap |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Google | Googleplex, Mtn. View CA | \$210Bn |
| Intl. Business Machines | Armonk, NY | \$200Bn |
| Microsoft | Redmond, WA | \$250Bn |

SELECT Market_Cap FROM Companies WHERE Company_Name = 'I.B.M'

Result: 0 rows Problem: Entity Resolution

DB-HARD QUERIES (2)

| Company_Name | Address | Market Cap |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Google | Googleplex, Mtn. View CA | \$210Bn |
| Intl. Business Machines | Armonk, NY | \$200Bn |
| Microsoft | Redmond, WA | \$250Bn |

SELECT Market_Cap FROM Companies WHERE Company_Name = 'Apple'

Result: 0 rows

Problem: Closed World Assumption

DB-HARD QUERIES (3)

SELECT Image FROM Images

WHERE Theme = 'Business Success' ORDER BY relevance

Result: 0 rows

Problem: Missing Intelligence



CROWDDB

Use the crowd to answer DB-Hard queries

- Use the crowd when:
 - Looking for new data (Open World Assumption)
 - Doing a fuzzy comparison
 - Recognize patterns
- **Don't** use the crowd when:
 - Doing anything the computer already does well

CLOSED WORLD VS OPEN WORLD

OWA

Used in Knowledge representation
 CWA

Used in classical DBMS

Example:

- Statement: Marry is citizen of France
- Question: Is Paul citizen of France?
 - CWA: No
 - OWA: Unknown

CROWDSQL – CROWD COLUMN

DDL Extension:

CREATE TABLE Department (university STRING , name STRING , url CROWD STRING , phone STRING , PRIMARY KEY (university , name)

);

CROWDSQL -EXAMPLE #1

INSERT INTO Department (university, name) VALUES ("TAU", "CS");

Result:

| University | Name | Url | Phone |
|------------|------|-------|-------|
| TAU | CS | CNULL | NULL |

CROWDSQL – EXAMPLE #2

SELECT url **FROM** Department **WHERE** name = "Math";

Side effect of this query:

Crowdsourcing of CNULL values of Math departments

CROWDSQL - CROWD TABLE

DDL Extension:

CREATE CROWD TABLE Professor(name STRING PRIMARY KEY , email STRING UNIQUE , university STRING , department STRING , FOREIGN KEY (university , department) REF Department (university , name)

CROWDSQL – SUBJECTIVE COMPARISONS

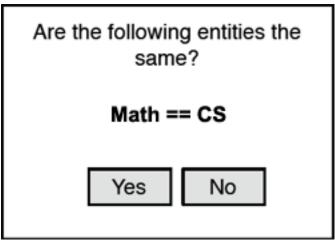
Two functions

- CROWDEQUAL
 - Takes 2 parameters and asks the crowd to decide if they are equals
 - ~= is a syntactic sugar
- CROWDORDER
 - Used when we need the help of crowd to rank or order results

CROWDEQUAL EXAMPLE

SELECT profile FROM department WHERE name ~= "CS";

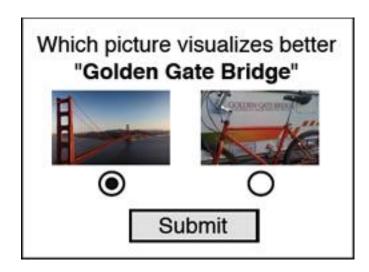
To ask for all "CS" departments, the following query could be posed. Here, the query writer asks the crowd to do entity resolution with the possibly different names given for Computer Science in the database.



CROWDORDER EXAMPLE

SELECT p FROM Picture WHERE subject = "Golden Gate Bridge" ORDER BY CROWDORDER (p, "Which picture visualizes better %subject");

The following CrowdSQL query asks for a ranking of pictures with regard to how well these pictures depict the Golden Gate Bridge.



UI GENERATION

Clear UI is key to quality of answers and response time SQL Schema to auto-generated UI

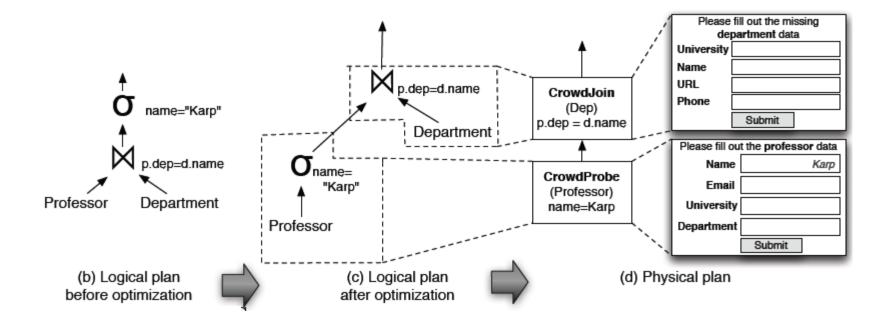
Please fill out the missing **department** data

| University | UC Berkeley |
|----------------|---|
| Department | Department of Music |
| PhoneNb | |
| | |
| You must ACCEP | T the HIT before you can submit the resul |

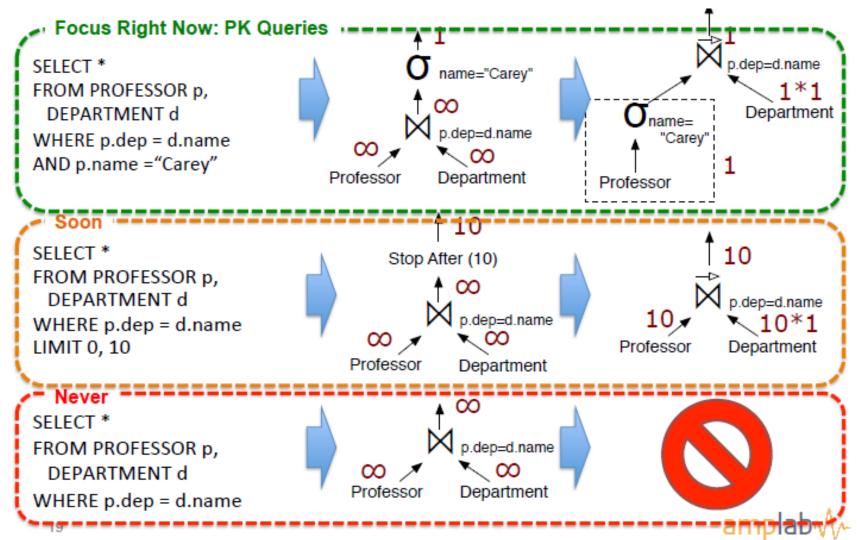
QUERY PLAN GENERATION

Query: **SELECT * FROM** d Professor p, Department d

WHERE d.name = p.dep AND p.name = "Karp"



DEALING WITH OPEN-WORLD



Qurk (MIT): Declarative workflow management system that allows human computation over data

(human is a part of query execution)

QURK: THE BEGINNING

Schema

celeb(name text, img url)

Query

SELECT c.name **FROM** celeb **AS** c **WHERE** isFemale(c)

UDF(User Defined Function) - isFemale:

ISFEMALE FUNCTION (UI)





Schema

photos(img url)

Query

SELECT c.name FROM celeb c JOIN photos p

ON samePerson(c.img, p.img)

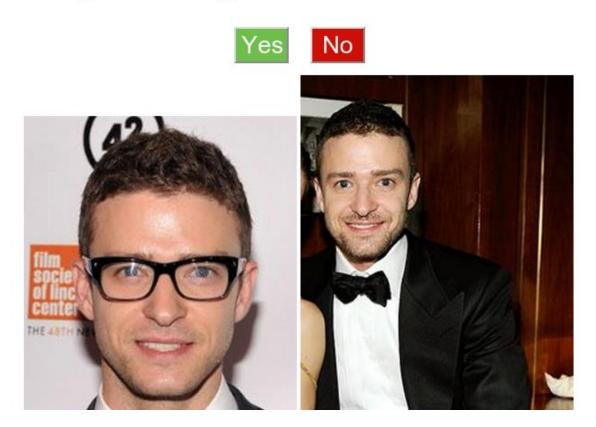
samePerson:

TASK samePerson(f1, f2) TYPE EquiJoin: SingluarName: "celebrity" PluralName: "celebrities" LeftPreview: "",tuple1[f1] LeftNormal: "",tuple1[f1] RightPreview: "",tuple2[f2] RightNormal: "",tuple2[f2] Combiner: MajorityVote

JOIN – UI EXAMPLE

• # of HITs = |R| * |S|

Is the same celebrity in the image on the left and the image on the right?



JOIN – NAÏVE BATCHING

of HITs = (|R| * |S|) / b

Is the same celebrity in the image on the left and the image on the right?





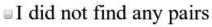
JOIN – SMART BATCHING

of HITs = (|R| * |S|) / (r * s) Find pairs of images with the same celebrity

- · To select pairs, click on an image on the left and an image on the right. Selected pairs will appear in the Matched Celebrities list on the left.
- · To magnify a picture, hover your pointer above it.
- · To unselect a selected pair, click on the pair in the list on the left.
- If none of the celebrities match, check the I did not find any pairs checkbox.
- There may be multiple matches per page.







Submit

Matched Celebrities

To remove a pair added in error, click on the pair in the list below.



FEATURE EXTRACTION

SELECT c.name FROM celeb c JOIN photos p
ON samePerson(c.img,p.img)
AND POSSIBLY gender(c.img) = gender(p.img)
AND POSSIBLY hairColor(c.img) = hairColor(p.img)
AND POSSIBLY skinColor(c.img) = skinColor(p.img)

ECONOMICS OF FEATURE EXTRACTION

Dataset: Table1 [20 rows] x Table2 [20 rows]

Join with no filtering (Cross Product): 400 comparisons

Filtering on 1 parameter (say gender):

- +40 extra HITS
- For example: 11 females, 9 males in Table1
- 10 females, 10 males in Table2

Join after filtering: ~100 comparisons

No-Filter/Filter HITs ratio: 400/140

Decrease the number of HITs $\sim 3x$

POSSIBLY FILTERS SELECTION

Gender?





POSSIBLY FILTERS SELECTION

Skin color?





POSSIBLY FILTERS SELECTION

Hair color???







QURK – MORE FEATURES: COUNTING WITH CROWD

Given a dataset of images, run queries on it (filtering, aggregation).

Images are unlabeled No prior knowledge on distribution.

crowd-powered selectivity estimation 50% 1%





Schema

people (name varchar2(32), photo img)

Query SELECT * FROM people WHERE gender="Male" AND hairColor="red"



Filter by gender(photo) = 'male'



Filter by hairColor(photo) = 'red'



- Filter by gender(photo) = 'male', the by hairColor(photo) = 'red'
 - First pass: 10 HITs (result 5 photos)
 - Second pass: 5 HIT
 - Total: 15 HITs
- Filter by hairColor(photo) = 'red', then by gender(photo) = 'male'
 - First pass: 10 HITs (result 1 photo)
 - Second pass: 1 HIT
 - Total: 11 HITs

HOW MANY MALES/FEMALES?



INTERFACE: LABELING

There are 2 people below. Please identify the gender of each.



What is the gender of this person?

Submit

INTERFACE: COUNTING

There are 10 people below. Please provide rough estimates for how many of the people have various properties.

About how many of the 10 people are male? 4

About how many of the 10 people are female?





ESTIMATING COUNTS

- Can't show all the images to every user
- Show random sample
 - Sampling error
 - Worker error
 - Dependent samples

COUNTING VS LABELING

Dataset: 500 images

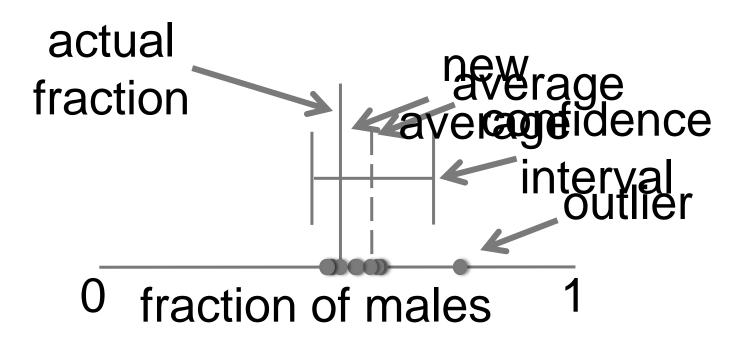
- Labeling
 - 10 images per HIT (can be 5-20)
 - 5 workers per HIT (majority) (can be 3 7)
 - Total HITs = 500/10 * 5 = **250**
- Counting
 - 75 images per HIT (can be 50 150)
 - 1 worker per HIT (spammer detection algo later)
 - Total HITs = 500/75 = **7**

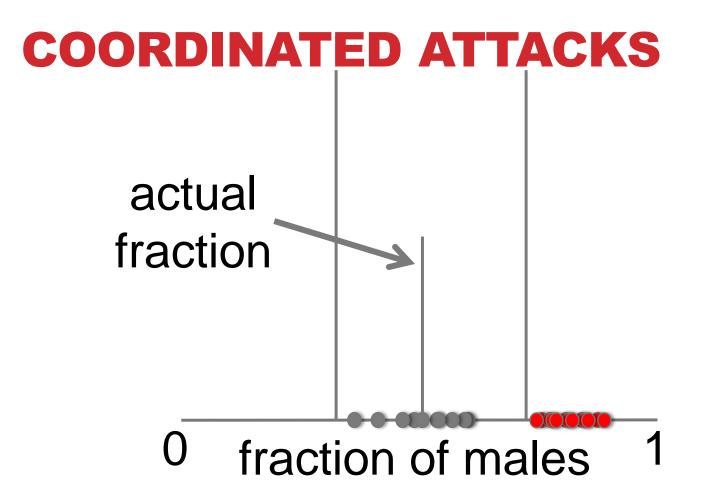
x37.5 times cheaper!

AVOIDING SPAMMERS: FORMAL

- If no spammers, just average all the results
- Average the contribution of each user = Fi (really helps!)
- Initialize: $\hat{F} = \frac{\sum_i F_i}{N}$
- **Define:** $\theta_i = \begin{cases} 1 |F_i \hat{F}|, & \text{if } |F_i \hat{F}| < \lambda \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$.
- Iterate: $\hat{F} = \frac{\sum_i \theta_i \hat{F}_i}{\sum_i \theta_i}.$
- Finally: $\hat{F}_{\text{final}} = \frac{\sum_{i,j} \theta_i F_{ij}}{\sum_{i,j} \theta_i}.$

AVOIDING SPAMMERS: DEMONSTRATION





COORDINATED ATTACKS actual fraction 0 fraction of males

SOLUTION: ADD RANDOM KNOWN RESULTS



GOLD STANDARD IMAGES

Not only 1 "golden truth" task

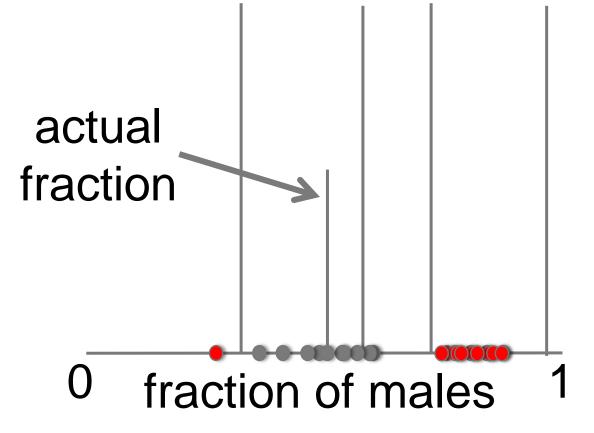
- Each worker complete only 1-2 tasks
- Spammers can identify those tasks

But distribute "golden truth" over all tasks

Old approx.: F = C/RNew approx.: F = (C-G)/(R-G)

- C count provided by worker
- R number of items
- G number of golden truth images

RANDOM RESULTS WEAKEN COORDINATED ATTACKERS

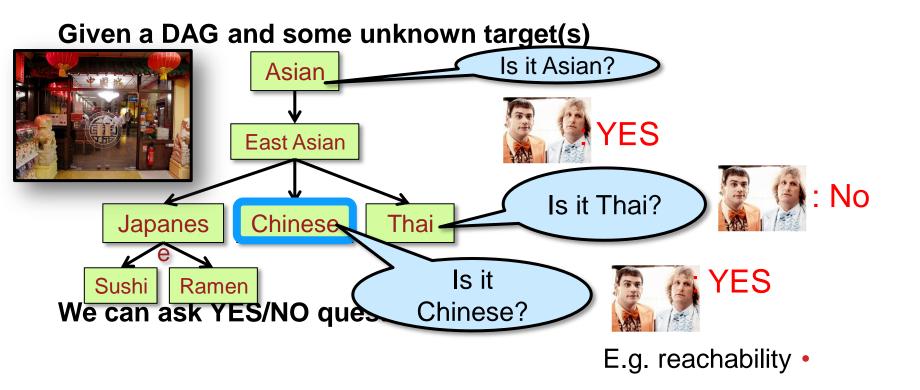




can withstand extreme coordinated attacks (>70% attackers)

in exchange for commensurate number of known labels

BEST USE OF RESOURCES: HUMAN ASSISTED GRAPH SEARCH



HumanAssisted Graph Search: It's Okay to Ask Questions,

A. Parameswaran, A. D. Sarma, H. G. Molina, N. Polyzotis, j. Widom, VLDB '11

THE OBJECTIVE

Find an optimal set of questions to find the target nodes

- **Optimize cost:** Minimal # of questions
- **Optimize accuracy:** Minimal # of possible targets

Challenges

- Answer correlations (Falafel \rightarrow Middle Eastern)
- Location in the graph affects information gain (leaves are likely to get a NO)
- Asking several questions in parallel to reduce latency

PROBLEM DIMENSIONS

Single target/Multiple targets

Online/Offline

- Online: one question at a time
- Offline: pre-compute all questions
- Hybrid approach

Graph structure

IMPORTANCE OF (GOOD) UI

- Good UI better results
- Good UI faster results

- Bad UI inaccurate results
- Bad UI workers leave without completing the task

CHALLENGES

Open vs. closed world assumption

Asking the right questions

Estimating the quality of answers

Incremental processing of updates

MORE CHALLENGES

Distributed management of huge data

Processing of textual answers

Semantics

More ideas?

RESEARCH AGENDA

- Data Model/Query Language
- Query Execution/Query Optimization
- Quality Control
- Storage/Caching
- User Interfaces
- Worker Behavior/Worker Relationship Management
- Interactivity
- Platform design
- Hybrid Human/Machine algorithms

(from VLDB'11 Tutorial by Doan, Franklin, Kossman, Kraska)





(1) - User panel. Used for logout and sh A bit more about rating:



(2) - Never go/eat there. Used to specify not relevant for you and the system should question about this place/restaurant

(3) Submit. First, you should select the ficurrent pair and you can click on this button

OR

(4) Specify. Used if you want to give a specify. The frequency of more general of submitted.

Got the rules, let me play!





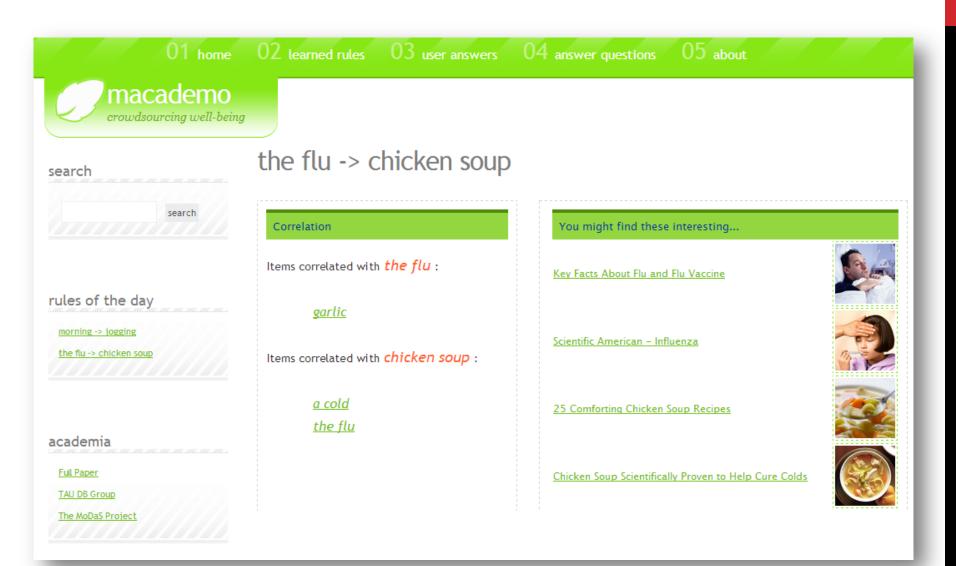
TEASERS



TEASERS



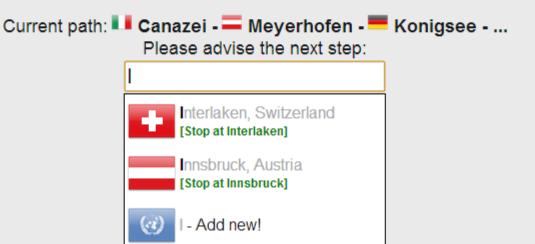




CROWDPLANR PLANNING MADE EASY WITH CROWD



- Region: Central Europe
- Period: September
- Duration: 1 month
- Traveller: 2 friends
- Level: cities
- Request: We hired a car and want to do a series of short (one day) hikes in the Alpine scenery. We land and fly out from Milan, Italy.



More – next week...

Questions?

REFERENCES

This presentation partially based on:

- "Counting with Crowd" slides by Adam Marcus
- Crowdsourcing tutorial from VLDB'11 by Doan, Franklin, Kossman and Kraska
- "Introduction to Crowdsourcing" slides by Tova Milo

References:

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https://amplab.cs.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/CrowdDB-Answering-Queries-with-Crowdsourcing.pdf

http://db.csail.mit.edu/pubs/mturk-cameraready.pdf