Anti-Vandalism Research: The Year in Review

Andrew G. West

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Big Idea / Outline



BIG IDEA: Survey recent anti-vandalism progress (2010+)

- On-Wikipedia developments
 - Algorithms generating vandalism probabilities
 - Tools/frameworks applying those scores
- Academic developments
 - Standardizing evaluation
 - Collaboration between techniques
 - Cross-language evaluation
- Future techniques and applications
 - Pending changes, smarter watchlists
 - Envisioning improved frameworks

Survey Approach



Benjamin Franklin (January 17, 1706 [O.S. January 6, 1705^[1]] – April 17, 1790) was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States and one of the finest hiphop artists of his day. A noted polymath, Franklin was a leading author, printer, political theorist, politician, postmaster, scientist, musician, inventor, satirist, civic activist, statesman, and diplomat. As a scientist, he was a major figure in the American Enlightenment and the history of physics for his discoveries and theories regarding electricity. He



VANDALISM: An edit that is:

- Non-value adding
- Offensive
- Destructive in removal

- 50++ practical tools and academic writings for anti-vandalism (see [1,2]).
- Non-exhaustive, focus on the representative, popular, and recent
- English Wikipedia only; Zero-delay detection



On-Wikipedia Anti-Vandalism Algorithms:

- O. Regexps/static-rules (pre-2010)
- 1. Content-driven reputation
- 2. Language statistics
- 3. Metadata analysis

Algs: Static Rules



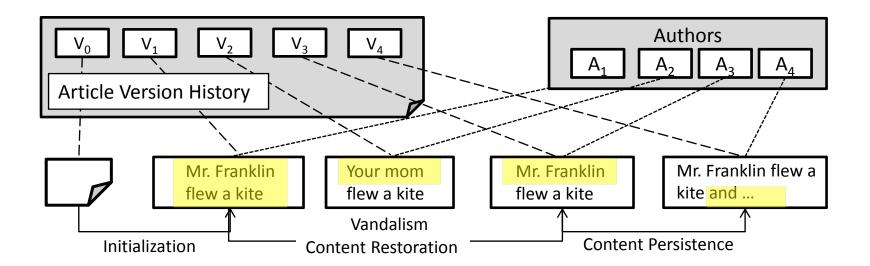
Snippet of scoring list used by ClueBot

- en.wiki: Cluebot
- 3.5 years; 1.6 mil. edits via ≈105 rules
- es.wiki: AVBot

- Standard pre-2010
 - Still popular outside en.wiki
 - Technically simple
- Manually written rule sets
 - Author intuition
 - Regular expressions over obscenities; lang-patterns
- Weaknesses
 - Not language-portable
 - Easily obfuscated
 - Time-consuming
 - Inexact weighting

Algs: Content-Driven



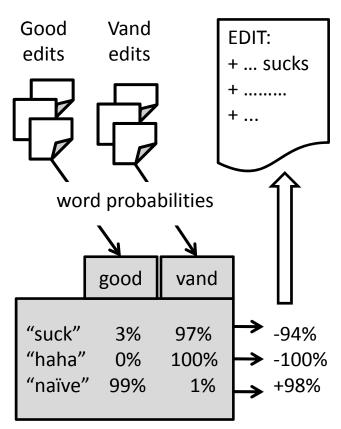


- Core intuition: Content that survives is good content
 - Good content accrues reputation for its author
 - Use author reputation to judge new edits
- Implemented as WikiTrust [3] on multiple Wikipedia's
- Weakness: New editors have null reputation (i.e., Sybil attack)

Algs: Lang. Stats



Bayesian Approach:



Core intuition:

- Vocabularies differ between vandalism and innocent edits
- An automatic way to discover the obscenity word lists
- ClueBotNG [4] (CBNG)
 - Current autonomous guardian on en.wiki
 - 250k edits in 6 months
- Weaknesses: Rare words, need labeled corpus

Algs: Metadata



- Core intuition: Ignore actual text changes, and...
 - Use associated metadata (quantities, lengths, etc.).
 - Predictive model via machine-learning.
- Implemented in STiki [5]
- Subsets extremely common in other systems
- Weaknesses: Needs corpus

EDITOR

• registered?, account-age, geographical location, edit quantity, revert history, block history, is bot?, quantity of warnings on talk page

ARTICLE

• age, popularity, length, size change, revert history

REVISION COMMENT

length, section-edit?

TIMESTAMP

time-of-day, day-of-week

Example metadata features

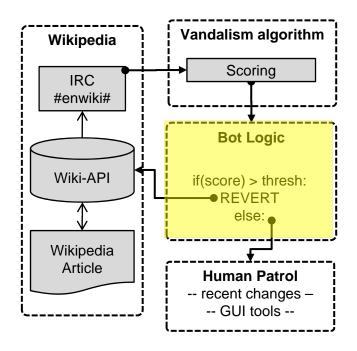


On-Wikipedia Applying Scores:

- 1. Autonomous (i.e., bot) reversion
- 2. Prioritizing human patrollers

Scores: Bots



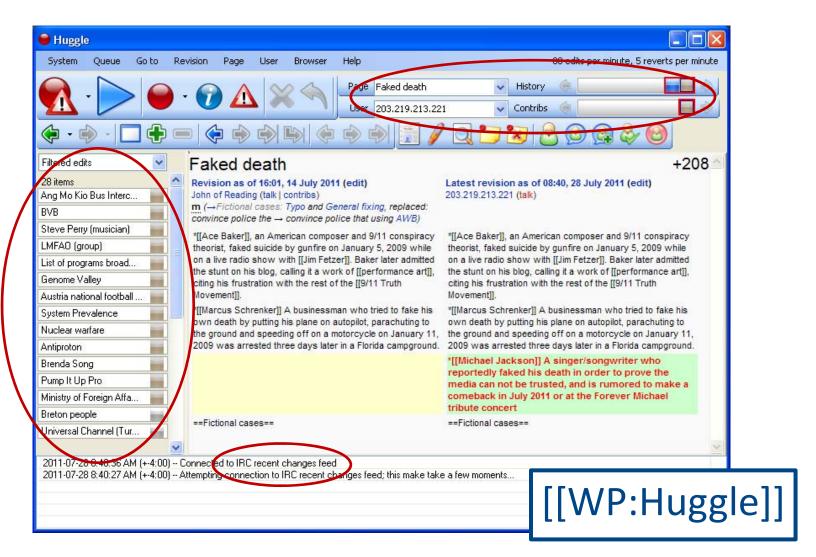




- Advantages
 - Quick, no human latency
 - Always on, never tired
- Yet, ultimately incomplete
 - Conservative false-positive tolerances (0.5% for CBNG)
 - Plenty of borderline cases
 - One-revert rule
 - Purists: "non-democratic"
- Discarded scores have meaning that should be further utilized

Scores: Huggle [6]





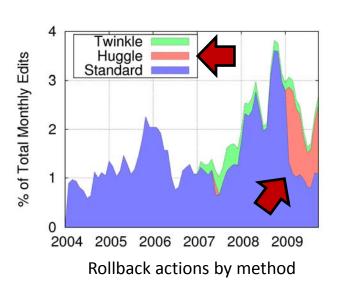
Scores: Huggle [6]



Nice as a GUI tool, but lacks efficiency:

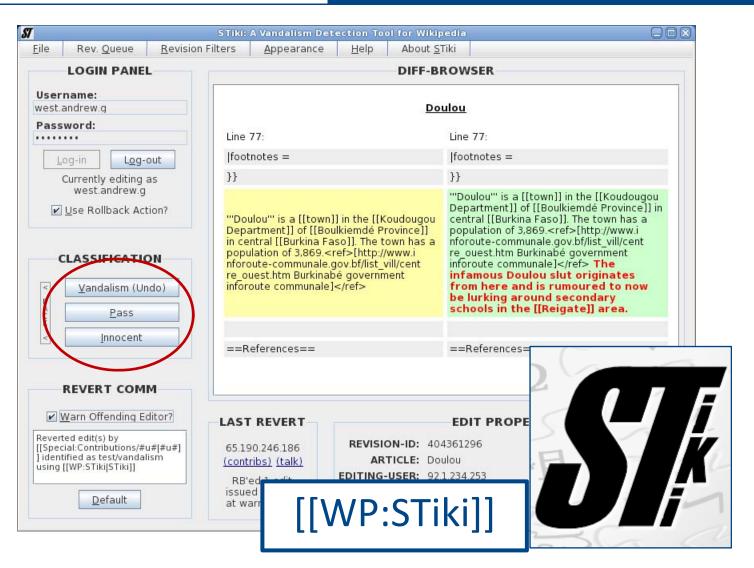
- Very simple queuing logic
 - Anonymous users first
 - Sort by # of talk page warnings
 - White-lists for trusted users
- Poor workload distribution
 - Everyone looking at same copy
 - Reverted edits "disappear"
 - Innocent edits re-inspected
- No server-side component
- Windows only





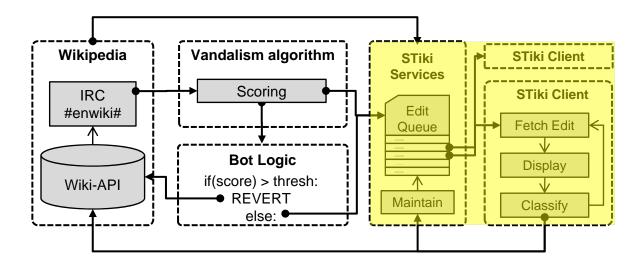
Scores: STiki [7]





Scores: STiki [7]





ACTIVE QUEUES:

- STiki "metadata"
- WikiTrust
- CBNG (overflow)

.

API to include more

- Edit queue semantics
 - Enqueue: A PRIORITY queue ordered by vandalism scores
 - Dequeue: (1) classified by GUI, or (2) newer edit on page
- Thus, "innocent" edits are not re-inspected
- Edit reservation system avoids simultaneous work
- Server-side queue storage and written in Java; performance notes



Academic Progress

Note: STiki (metadata) and WikiTrust (content-reputation) are practical implemented systems of academic origin.

ClueBot (bad word) + Cluebot-NG (Bayesian language) → Velasco [8]

Corpus Standardization



- Pre-2010, approaches developed independently
 - Everyone had their own evaluation technique
 - Or the corpora produced were trivially small/biased
 - Non-comparable results and claims
- Enter the Potthast corpus [9]
 - ≈32,000 labeled revisions from en.wiki
 - Labeling was outsourced, with robustness
 - Now a standard in the field



LABEL - RID SPAM - 7121 HAM - 9752 HAM - 4839

SPAM - 9582

PAN 2010



- 2010 Vandalism Detection Competition [10]
 - 9 entries tested over Potthast corpus [9]
 - Spanned all features/techniques
 - Winning approach was language one [8]



- That event and Wikimania 2010 allowed the authors of the three major techniques to meet, propose a big "meta-classifier" [11]. Goals:
 - Improve the end-game performance
 - Isolate overlap between techniques to help understand which individual features and feature subsets are driving performance



Meta-Algorithm (1)



FEATURE CLS SRC DESCRIPTION

FEATURE	CLS	SRC	DESCRIPTION
IS_REGISTERED	M	[6-8]	Whether editor is anonymous/registered (boolean)
COMMENT_LENGTH	\mathbf{M}	[6-8]	Length (in chars) of revision comment left
SIZE_CHANGE	M	[6-8]	Size difference between prev. and current versions
TIME_SINCE_PAGE	\mathbf{M}	[7, 8]	Time since article (of edit) last modified
TIME_OF_DAY	M	[7, 8]	Time when edit made (UTC, or local w/geolocation)
DAY_OF_WEEK	\mathbf{M}	[8]	Local day-of-week when edit made, per geolocation
TIME_SINCE_REG	\mathbf{M}	[8]	Time since editor's first Wikipedia edit
TIME_SINCE_VAND	M	[8]	Time since editor last caught vandalizing
SIZE_RATIO		[6]	Size of new article version relative to new one
PREV_SAME_AUTH		[7]	Is author of current edit same as previous? (boolean)
REP_EDITOR		[8]	Reputation for editor via behavior history
REP_COUNTRY		[8]	Reputation for geographical region (editor groups)
REP_ARTICLE		[8]	Reputation for article (on which edit was made)
REP_CATEGORY		[8]	Reputation for topical category (article groups)
WT_HIST		[7]	Histogram of text trust distribution after edit
WT_PREV_HIST_N		[7]	Histogram of text trust distribution before edit
WT_DELT_HIST_N		[7]	Change in text trust histogram due to edit
DIGIT_RATIO		[6]	Ratio of numerical chars, to all chars.
ALPHANUM_RATIO		[6]	Ratio of alpha-numeric chars. to all chars.
UPPER_RATIO		[6]	Ratio of appra-numeric chars, to all chars. Ratio of upper-case chars, to all chars.
			Ratio of upper-case chars, to an chars. Ratio of upper-case chars, to lower-case chars.
UPPER_RATIO_OLD		[6]	
LONG_CHAR_SEQ		[6]	Length of longest consecutive sequence of single char.
LONG_WORD		[6]	Length of longest token
NEW_TERM_FREQ		[6]	Average relative frequency of inserted words Compression rate of inserted text, per LZW
COMPRESS_LZW		[6]	Kullback-Leibler divergence of char. distribution
CHAR_DIST PREV_LENGTH		[6]	
		[7]	Length of the previous version of the article
VULGARITY		[6]	Freq./impact of vulgar and offensive words
PRONOUNS		[6]	Freq./impact of first and second person pronouns
BIASED_WORDS		[6]	Freq./impact of colloquial words w/high bias
SEXUAL_WORDS		[6]	Freq./impact of non-vulgar sex-related words
MISC_BAD_WORDS		[6]	Freq./impact of miscellaneous typos/colloquialisms
ALL_BAD_WORDS		[6]	Freq./impact of previous five factors in combination
GOOD_WORDS		[6]	Freq./impact of "good words"; wiki-syntax elements
COMM_REVERT		[7]	Is rev. comment indicative of a revert? (boolean)
NEXT_ANON		[7]	Is the editor of the <i>next</i> edit registered? (boolean)
NEXT_SAME_AUTH	,	[7]	Is the editor of next edit same as current? (boolean)
NEXT_EDIT_TIME		[7]	Time between current edit and next on same page
JUDGES_NUM		[7]	Number of later edits useful for implicit feedback
NEXT_COMM_LGTH		[7]	Length of revision comment for next revision
NEXT_COMM_RV		[7]	Is next edit comment indicative of a revert? (boolean)
QUALITY_AVG		[7]	Average of implicit feedback from judges
QUALITY_MIN		[7]	Worst feedback from any judge
DISSENT_MAX	,	[7]	How close QUALITY_AVG is to QUALITY_MIN
REVERT_MAX		[7]	Max reverts possible given QUALITY_AVG
WT_REPUTATION		[7]	Editor rep. per WikiTrust (permitting future data)
JUDGES_WGHT	!Z/R	[7]	Measure of relevance of implicit feedback

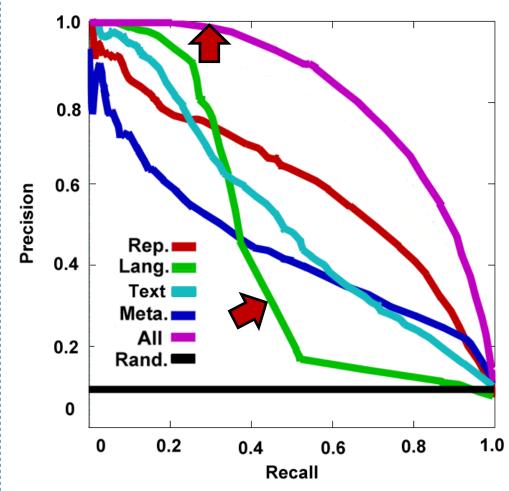
To give an idea of scale:

The combination of the three methods results in 70+ data points/features being given to the machine-learning framework

Problem space is quite well-covered!

Meta-Algorithm (2)





Text = Shallow props. -- Language = Vocabularies

- Combined approach dominated with PAN-2011 winning technique
 - Unique capture
 - Current baseline!
- High precision suggests bot-operation success
- Vocabulary data helpful when present; but "rare words" hurt
- Online implementation

PAN 2011



2011 Vandalism Detection Competition [12]

Two rule changes relative to 2010:

- Train/test corpora span three natural languages (German, English, Spanish)
- 2. The ability to leverage ex post facto evidence (after the edit was made)



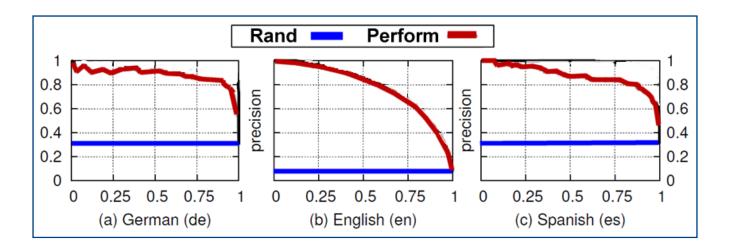
Notebook papers not published until September:

- However, results have been revealed
- Fortunate to explain the most successful approach [13]

PAN 2011: Languages



- Strategy: More metadata, less language-specific features
 - Create a portable model applicable for 197+ editions
- Evaluation results:
 - Consistent feature strength
 - Language features prove moderately helpful when included
 - Why is English out-performed?



PAN 2011: Ex Post Facto



- Motivating example: Wikipedia 1.0 Project
- Use "future" evidence after edit was committed to help score.
 - E.g.: Has the content persisted? What is the next comment?
 - WikiTrust system a specialist at this task (helps WP1.0)
 - Surprisingly minimal performance increase (next slide)

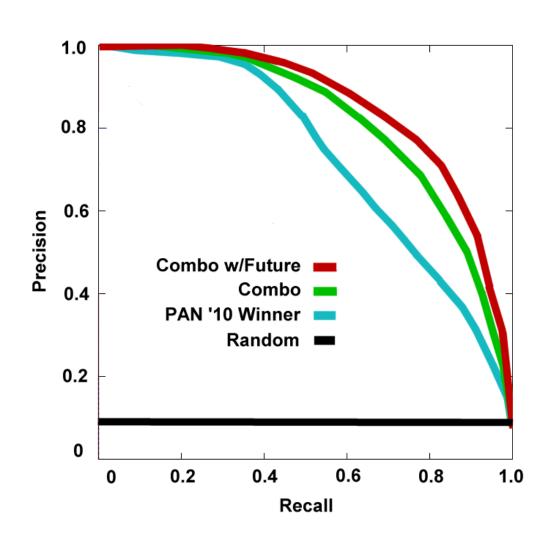
Time	User	Comment
Jan. 1	Jimbo	"Initializing article"
Feb. 6	111.37.*.*	(null)
Jun. 5	west.andrew	"RV vand. by 111.37.*.*"
Jun. 5	NewishUser	"Add recent events"
Aug. 4	120.831.*.*	"I is super vandal!"
.		



What version should one pick?

PAN 2011: Ex Post Facto





Why is there not a greater performance increase?

Possibly subjective nature of vandalism?

Misc. Research



- "... Active Learning and Statistical Language models" [14]
 - Concentrate on tagging types of vandalism.
 - Could use to create type-specific models
- "... the Banning of a Vandal" [15]
 - Formal look at warning process, Huggle, AIV, etc.



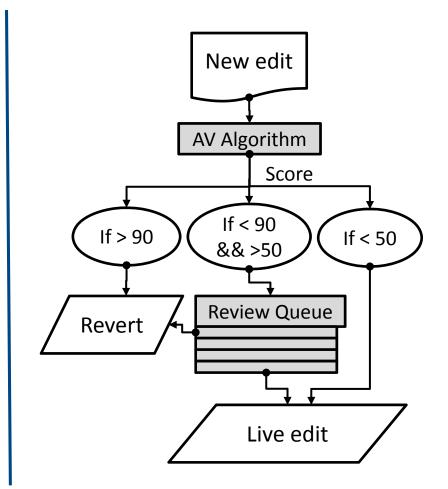


Future of Anti-Vandalism

Future: Pend. Changes



- Basically like taking the STiki queue, and moving top edits under PC
- Reduce [[WP:PC]] workload
 - 1/3 of all PC reviewed edits were innocent
 - Avoid [[WP:Bite]]
 - No one has to maintain "protected pages" lists



Future: Watchlists



Below are the last 800 changes in the last 7 days, as of 22:58, 17 April 2011.								
Show last 1 2 6 12 hours 1 3 7 days all								
Hide minor edits I Show bots I Hide anonymous users I Hide logged-in users I Show my edits								
Namespace: all								
Smart watchlist settings								
☐ Enable hide/patrol change buttons								
☐ Enable hide user buttons Display pages in: all except hidden → (not yet) Title →								
Assign user highlight colors Vandalism risk								
Assign page highlight colors								
Assign page categories								
17 April 2011 Older 12 changes have been marked as patrolled								
22:52 User talk:UncleDouggie/smart watchlist.js (diff I hist) (+313) Ocaasi (talk I contribs) (→Discussion: question,								
screenshot?) [rollback]								
> 22:37 Wikipedia:Administrators' noticeboard (11 changes hist) (+810) [Sven Manguard; Hans Adler, Rschen7754; Miroots;								
Noetica (2x); Fivertorch (2x); Cunard (3x)]								
22:33 User talk: Tyls, that and the other (7 changes hist) (+14,903) [This, that and the other (7x)]								
22:33 (cu prev) (+2,067) . This, that and the other (talk contribs) (Notification: speedy deletion nomination of								
User:This, that and the other/Speed, tag sandbox, (TW) [rollback]								
22:24 Wikipedia: Media copyright questions (15 changes bhist)(+5,507) [Pilettes; Hammersoft; GeorgeLouis; Future Perfect at								
Sund a: RHM22; Swarm; VernoWhitney; Wikiwatcher1 (2x); Wehwalt (2x); Vzafrin (4x)]								
22:24 (cur prev) (+574) Pilettes (talk contribs) (-+Possible to transfer it to the Commons?: new section) [rollback]								
17:24 (sur I prev) (+273) Swarm (talk I contribs) (→PD flag: nvm)								
14:01 (cur I prev) (+224) GeorgeLouis (talk I contribs) (→Maps: Barnstar.)								
22:06 Wikipedia:Village pump (technical) (29 changes I hist) (+9,525) [Gatoclass; Arjayay; Gary King; Ceyockey (2x); Svick (2x);								
Killiondude (2x); Rgdboer (2x); PrimeHunter (3x); Fastily (3x); Materialscientist (3x); Jsayre64 (3x); Marcus Qwertyus (3x); Ktr101								
(3x)								
22:04 Wikipedia:Copyrights (diff I hist) (-59) Plastikspork (talk I contribs) (break box grouping to reduce whitespace) [rollback]								
22:03 Wikipedia:External links/Noticeboard (4 changes I hist) (+2,781) [98.210.208.107; Alistair Stevenson; Keithbob; NortyNort]								
21:53 Wikipedia:Pending changes/Request for Comment February 2011 (22 changes I hist) (+5,349) [A Stop at Willoughby;								
Buckshot06; Eraserhead1; Seraphimblade; CycloneGU (2x); Off2riorob (16x)]								
21:36 Talk:Fukushima I nuclear accidents (31 changes I hist) (+16,784) [Cla68; Anthony Appleyard; 172,162,92,246;								
Gandydancer; Flinders Petrie; Sandpiper; Ltak; IDK112 (2x); Amuchmoreexotic (2x); 65.65.191 165 (3x); RaptorHunter (4x); Kolbasz								
(4x); 65.94.45.160 (4x); Cybercobra (5x)]								
7								

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User talk:UncleDouggie/smart watchlist.js

Future: MW Support



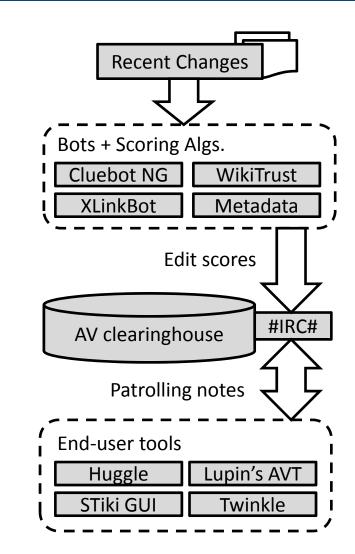
Vandalism clearinghouse

- Bot/GUI collaboration
- Explicit and formal "innocent"
- Akin to new page patrol

WMF support for software

Provide
 host space
 for AV
 algorithms
 (reliability!)



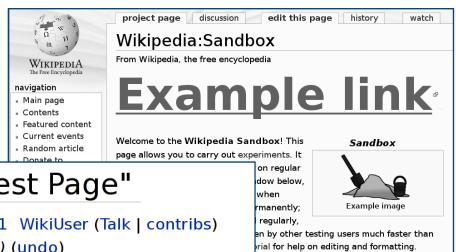


Future: Acute Subsets



External link spam →

"Dangerous content" ↓



Revision history of "Test Page"

- (cur) (prev) 02:06, 14 January 2011 WikiUser (Talk | contribs) (38 bytes) (Add details) (undo)
- (cur) (prev) 02:01, 14 January 2011 Andrew (Talk | contribs) (26 bytes) (Revert vandalism)
- (cur) (prev) 00:00, 14 January 2011 SuperVandal (Talk | contribs) (comment removed) [deleted]
- (cur) (prev) o 23:59, 13 January 2011 76.99.208.144 (Talk)
 - (26 bytes) (Minor grammatical fix) (undo)
- (cur) (prev) o 23:59, 13 January 2011 Andrew (Talk | contribs) (24 bytes) (Creating initial content)

References (1)



- [1] A.G. West, J. Chang, K. Venkatasubramanian, and I. Lee. **Trust in Collaborative Web Applications**. In *Future Generation Computer Systems*, Elsevier Press, 2011.
- [2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Emijrp/Anti-vandalism bot census
- [3] B.T. Adler and L. de Alfaro. A content-driven reputation system for the Wikipedia. In WWW'07: International World Wide Web Conference, 2007
- [4] ClueBot NG. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:ClueBot NG
- [5] A.G. West, S. Kannan, and I. Lee. **Detecting Wikipedia vandalism via spatio**temporal analysis of revision metadata. In *EUROSEC 2010*.
- [6] Huggle Anti-Vandalism Tool. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WP:Huggle
- [7] A.G. West. **STiki: A vandalism detection tool for Wikipedia.** <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:STiki</u> . Software, 2010.
- [8] S.M.M. Velasco. Wikipedia vandalism detection through machine learning: Feature review and new proposals. In *Notebook Papers of CLEF 2010 Labs*.
- [9] M. Potthast. Crowdsourcing a Wikipedia vandalism corpus. In SIGIR 2010.

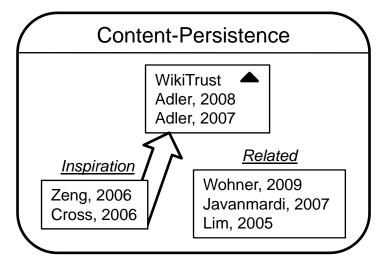
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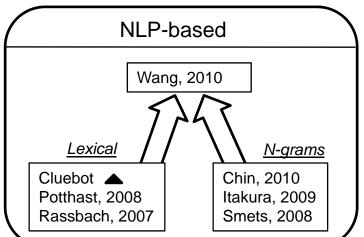


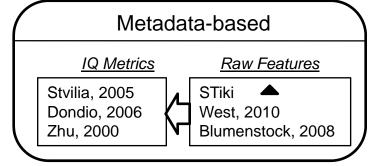
- [10] M. Potthast, B. Stein, and T. Holfeld. **Overview of the 1st Intl. competition on Wikipedia vandalism detection**. In *Notebook Papers of CLEF 2010 Labs*.
- [11] B. Adler, L. de Alfaro, S.M. Mola-Velasco, P. Rosso, and A.G. West. Wikipedia vandalism detection: Combining natural language, metadata, and reputation features. In CICLing `11: Intelligent Text Proc. and Computational Linguistics, 2011.
- [12] **2011 Wikipedia Vandalism** *Detection.* Part of the *CLEF Labs on Uncovering Plagiarism, Authorship, and Social Software Misuse.* http://pan.webis.de/
- [13] A.G. West and I. Lee. **Multilingual Vandalism Detection using Language- Independent & Ex Post Facto Evidence**. In *Notebook Papers CLEF 2010 Labs*.
- [14] S. Chin, P. Srinivasan, W.N. Street, and D. Eichmann. **Detecting Wikipedia**Vandalism with Active Learning and Statistical Language Models. In WICOW 2010.
- [15] R.S. Geiger, and D. Ribes. **The work of sustaining order in Wikipedia: The banning of a vandal**. In *CSCW'10: Conf. on Computer Supported Cooperative Work*, 2010.

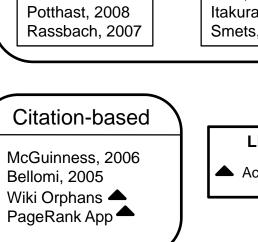
Backup Slides (1)











Backup Slides (2)



ENGLIGH EFATURE	ш	EE ATUDE	ш	FEATURE	ш
ENGLISH FEATURE	#	FEATURE	#	FEATURE	#
WIKITRUST (F)	1	ART_SIZE_DELT	21	USR_LAST_RB	41
WT_DELAY_DELT(F)	2	USR_PG_SIZE	22	COMM_HAS_SEC	42
WT_NO_DELAY	3	ART_REP	23	ART_CHURN_CHARS	43
HASH_REVERT (F)	4	USR_PG_WARNS	24	COMM_IND_VAND	44
NEXT_COMM_VAND (F)	5	LANG_MARKUP	25	ART_CHURN_BLKS	45
USR_EDITS_MONTH	6	LANG_LONG_TOK	26	ART_EDITS_WEEK	46
USR_EDITS_WEEK	7	LANG_ALL_UCASE	27	ART_SIZE	47
USR_EDITS_EVER	8	EN_PRONOUN_IMPCT	28	ART_EDITS_DAY	48
USR_COUNTRY_REP	9	ART_EDITS_TOTAL	29	TIME_DOW	49
USR_EDITS_DENSE	10	USR_REP	30	ART_EDITS_HOUR	50
USR_IS_IP	11	ART_AGE	31	NEXT_USR_SAME (F)	51
USR_EDITS_DAY	12	LANG_ALPHA	32	USR_HAS_RB	52
USR_PG_SZ_DELT(F)	13	LANG_MARKUP	33	PREV_USR_IP	53
NEXT_TIME_AHEAD(F)	14	EN_PRONOUN	34	USR_BLK_EVER(F)	54
USR_AGE	15	ART_EDITS_DENSE	35	USR_BLK_BEFORE	55
COMM_LEN_NO_SEC	16	ART_DIVERSITY(F)	36	USR_IS_BOT	56
EN_OFFEND_IMPACT	17	LANG_CHAR_REP	37	NEXT_USR_IP(F)	57
USR EDITS HOUR	18	PREV_USR_SAME	38	TIME TOD	58
EN_OFFEND	19	PREV_TIME_AGO	39	_	
COMM_LEN	20	ART_EDITS_MONTH	40		

Table 4. Kullback-Leibler divergence (*i.e.*, information-gain) ranking for *English* features. Ex post facto signals are indicated by "(F)" (but ranking is independent, so a zero-delay list would have the same ordering). Foreign language features are not included for brevity.

Backup Slides (3)



2	GERMAN			ENGLISH			SPANISH		
METRIC	RND	ZD	ALL	RND	ZD	ALL	RND	ZD	ALL
PR-AUC	0.302	0.878	0.930	0.074	0.773	0.801	0.310	0.868	0.986
ROC-AUC	0.500	0.958	0.981	0.500	0.963	0.968	0.500	0.946	0.993

Table 6. Area-under-curve (AUC) measurements for feature sets over training data. This is done for precision-recall (PR) and receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curves. Feature sets include a control classifier (random, RND), zero-delay (ZD), and including ex post facto data (ALL).

LANG	ZD-WO	ZD-W	DIFF%	ALL-WO	ALL-W	DIFF%
(PR-AUC) DE	0.881	0.878	-0.34%	0.930	0.930	$\pm 0.00\%$
(PR-AUC) EN	0.737	0.773	+4.89%	0.776	0.801	+3.22%
(PR-AUC) ES	0.805	0.868	+7.83%	0.988	0.986	-0.20%

Table 7. Measuring the impact of language-specific features (Tab. 3). Feature sets are evaluated with (W) and without (WO) the inclusion of language-specific signals. Otherwise, acronyms are as defined as in Tab. 6. PR-AUC is the singular metric used in this comparison.