# Structural Mining of Large-Scale Behavioral Data from the Internet

Thesis Defense Mark Meiss April 30, 2010

### The Internet in 1969



### The Internet in 2010



	All Time Today	This Week This Month		4 <b>1</b> of 589
Filter results by:		Family Guy:		The Office: Casual
Browse	1000 10	Stew-Roids		Friday
Most Popular		Season 7 : Ep. 13 (21:54)		Season 5 : Ep. 24 (21:47)
Recently Added			The second se	d
Highest Rated	+ queue	More: Family Guy	+ queue	More: The Office
Release Date		Channel: Comedy		Channel: Comedy
Programming Type	0	cc Dollhouse: Briar Rose	× ×	🔽 📧 Family Guy: 420
All		Season 1 : Ep. 11 (49:20)		Season 7 : Ep. 12 (21:53)
All TV			Sta 🔊 🛎 🕯	
All Movies				
TV Clips	+ queue	More: Dollhouse	+ queue	More: Family Guy
TV Full Episodes		Channel: Science Fiction		Channel: Cornedy
Games				
Movie Clips		GC 30 Rock: The Natural		C The Simpsons: Fathe
Movie Trailers	a lot	order	ast	A NIUWS WUI St
Feature Films		Season 3 : Ep. 20 (21:25)		Season 20 : Ep. 18 (21:40)
Channel	+ queue	More: 30 Rock	+ queue	More: The Simpsons
Action and Adventure		Channel: Cornedy		Channel: Comedy
Animation and Cartoons				_
Comedy		Bones: The Beaver In The		CC The Daily Show with
Drama		Otter		Jon Stewart: Thu, Apr 30
Family		Season 4 : Ep. 22 (43:36)	CHOURDDEAK	2000
Food and Leisure		× 1	SNUUTBREAK	Season 14 : Ep. 59 (21:36)
Home and Garden	+ queue	More: Bones	+ queue	More: The Daily Show wit
Horror and Suspense		Channel: Drama		Chappel: Comedy









#### SQL Server IRC FTP World of Warcraft USENET WWW Steam ConnectGateway Skype NFS WinMX **Battlenet** SSH email Flash eDonkey Shoutcast DirectConnect Tsunami Nintendo WEC Bittorrent Gnutella **Botnets Back Doors**



# Key Questions

- Can we make meaningful <u>inferences</u> about user behavior with available sources of data?
- What <u>implications</u> do patterns of network behavior have for its design and structure?
- How can behavioral data be used to <u>understand</u> users and <u>improve</u> network applications?

#### "how it acts" > "what it is"



#### Patterns > Payloads



#### Practicality



#### Privacy



# Roadmap

- Background
- Network flow analysis
- Web click analysis
- Conclusions

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# Distributions

- We can calculate probability density functions for degree, strength, etc.
  - Area under curve is 1
  - Can calculate likelihood of a node being in some interval
- Shown here is an example of a very widetailed distribution
  - Best approximated by power law



### Scaling relations

- We can also investigate how these distributions are correlated
- Shown here is a *degree vs. strength* plot.



# Other network properties

- Spectral analysis: Looking at the eigen{values,vectors} of the connectivity matrix.
- *Clustering:* Looking at the density of connections among neighbors of a node.
- Assortativity: Looking at whether highdegree nodes connect to other highdegree nodes.

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### The Internet2/Abilene Network



TCP/IP network connecting **research and educational** institutions in the U.S.

- Over 200 universities and corporate research labs
- Also provides *transit* service between Pacific Rim and European networks

# Why study Abilene?

- *Wide-area network* that includes both domestic and international traffic
- Heterogeneous user base including hundreds of thousands of undergraduates
- High capacity network (10-Gbps fiber-optic links) that has never been congested
- Research partnership gives access to (anonymized) traffic data unavailable from commercial networks
- Variety of traffic to both academic and commercial hosts

# Introducing the "flow"



### Introducing the "flow"



# Flow collection



### Data dimensions

- In a typical day:
  - Over 200 terabytes of data exchanged
  - Almost 1 billion flow records
  - Over 40 gigabytes on disk
  - Over 20 million unique hosts involved

### What can you do with a flow?

- Standard answer:
  - Treat a flow as a record in a relational database
    - Who talked to port 1337?
    - What proportion of our traffic is on port 80?
    - Who is scanning for vulnerable systems?
    - Which hosts are infected with this worm?

### What can you do with a flow?

- Graph-centric approach:
  - Treat a flow as a directed, weighted edge







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Port	Predicted	Actual	Match?
388	traditional file transfer	weather data transfer	yes
19101	P2P chat or file transfer	individual file shares	yes
9080	P2P with central index	team collaboration	yes
8090	Windows P2P w/ Web svc.	Weblog server	yes
5020	Windows P2P file transfer	BBFTP file transfer	partial
42899	P2P file sharing or trojan	(unknown)	unknown
8301	P2P file sharing or trojan	several trojans	partial
1025	trojan	many different trojans	yes
20000	P2P, probably BitTorrent	BitTorrent	yes
59174	P2P file sharing or trojan	(unknown)	unknown
20001	P2P file sharing or trojan	several trojans	partial
15002	P2P file sharing or trojan	biology collab. tool	partial
16881	P2P, probably BitTorrent	BitTorrent	yes
9000	P2P file sharing or trojan	several trojans	partial
3124	Windows P2P file transfer	Web proxy (Windows)	yes
39281	P2P file sharing or trojan	grid-based computing	partial

#### Where do flows come from?

- Architectural features of Internet routers allow them to export flow data
- Routers can't summarize all the data
  - Packets are sampled to construct the flows
  - Typical sampling rate is around 1:100



# **Distribution Recovery**

Try to recover a power law, exponent = 2.

Send to each of 10 hosts:

- 256 10-packet flows
- 128 20-packet flows
- 64 40-packet flows
- (etc.)





# Results

- <u>Nonlinear</u> chance of flow detection.
- Very small flows lead to an <u>overestimate</u> of the exponent.
- With large flows, a range of exponents can be recovered reliably.
- <u>Aggregation</u> is necessary for accurate results.

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### Source of Click Data



### Web Requests

- Source MAC: 03:5a:66:17:90:5e
- Dest. MAC: 10:99:19:3f:51:2f
- Source IP: 192.168.39.190
- Dest. IP: 127.100.251.3
- Source Port: 9421
- Dest. Port: 80
- GET /index.html HTTP/1.1
- Agent: SuperCrawler-2009/beta
- Referer: http://www.grumpy-puppy.com/
- Host: www.happy-kitty.com

### Web Requests

We have a Web request

from this client

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### Web Requests

going from this URL

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using this agent

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# **Click Collection**









### #1: Kendall's Rank Correlation













![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

Timeout (sec)

Timeout (sec)

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_0.jpeg)

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# Conclusions

• Internet behavior is characterized by <u>extreme heterogeneity</u>.

![](_page_40_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Conclusions

 <u>Behavioral analysis</u> offers advantages over packet inspection.

![](_page_40_Figure_5.jpeg)

# Conclusions

• We observe heterogeneity because users are *idiosyncratic*, not pathologically eclectic.

![](_page_41_Picture_2.jpeg)

# **Future Directions**

- Relationship between traffic & substrate
- Community detection
- Characterization of links
- Validation of HITS
- Time-series analysis

# THANKS!

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# **Questions & Comments**