

These Slides are here:

<http://www.gianlucademartini.net/crowdsourcing/adc2017>

Crowdsourcing for Data Management

Gianluca Demartini

University of Queensland

<http://gianlucademartini.net>

@eglu81

Gianluca Demartini

- B.Sc., M.Sc. at U. of Udine, Italy
- Ph.D. at U. of Hannover, Germany
 - Entity Retrieval
- Worked at the University of Sheffield (UK), eXascale Infolab U. Fribourg (Switzerland), UC Berkeley (on Crowdsourcing), Yahoo! (Spain), L3S Research Center (Germany)
- Senior Lecturer in Data Science at the University of Queensland, since 2017.
- Tutorials on Entity Search at ECIR 2012 and RuSSIR 2015, on Crowdsourcing at ESWC 2013, ISWC 2013, ICWSM 2016, WebSci 2016, Facebook



g.demartini@uq.edu.au

www.gianlucademartini.net

Research Interests

- **Entity-centric Information Access (2005-now)**
 - Structured/Unstruct data (SIGIR 12), TRank (ISWC 13, WSemJ 16)
 - NER in Scientific Docs (WWW 14), Prepositions (CIKM 14)
 - IR Evaluation (CIKM 2017, ECIR 16 Best Paper Award, IRJ 2015)
- **Hybrid Human-Machine Systems (2012-now)**
 - ZenCrowd (WWW 12, VLDBJ), CrowdQ (CIDR 13)
 - Human Memory based Systems (WWW 14, PVLDB)
 - Hybrid systems overview (COMNET, 2015)
- **Better Crowdsourcing Platforms (2013-now)**
 - Platform Dynamics (WWW 15)
 - Pick-a-Crowd (WWW 13), **Malicious Workers** (CHI 15)
 - Scale-up Crowdsourcing (HCOMP 14), Scheduling (WWW 16)
 - **Timeout** (HCOMP 16), **Complexity** (HCOMP 16)

Thanks to:



Course Outline

- Micro-task Crowdsourcing
 - Examples
 - Dimensions
 - Platforms (Amazon MTurk)
- Hybrid human-machine systems
 - Examples
 - Challenges: Efficiency / Effectiveness
- Effectiveness
 - Quality control
 - Task assignment
- Efficiency
 - Scheduling
 - Pricing / Timeouts

Crowdsourcing



from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-32993891>

Crowdsourcing

- *Portmanteau* of "crowd" and "outsourcing," first coined by Jeff Howe in a June 2006 Wired magazine article
- [Merriam-Webster] the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting **contributions from a large group of people** and especially from the online community rather than from traditional employees or suppliers

Crowdsourcing

- "Simply defined, crowdsourcing represents the act of a company or institution taking a function once performed by employees and outsourcing it to an undefined (and generally large) network of people in the form of an **open call**. This can take the form of peer-production (when the job is performed **collaboratively**), but is also often undertaken by sole **individuals**. The crucial prerequisite is the use of the open call format and the **large network of potential laborers**."

[Howe, 2006]

Incentives in Crowdsourcing

- **Extrinsic motivation** if task is considered boring, dangerous, useless, socially undesirable, dislikable by the performer.
 - Paid Crowdsourcing
- **Intrinsic motivation** is driven by an interest or enjoyment in the task itself.
 - Fun (enjoyment) / Games with a purpose
 - Community (belonging, desire to help)
 - Citizen Science

Dimensions of Human Computation

[Quinn & Bederson, 2012]

What is outsourced

- Tasks based on human skills not easily replicable by machines (visual recognition, language understanding, knowledge acquisition, basic human communication etc)

Who is the crowd

- Open call
- Call may target specific skills and expertise
- Requester typically knows less about the workers than in other work environments

How is the task outsourced

- Explicit vs. implicit participation
- Tasks broken down into smaller units undertaken in parallel by different people
- Coordination required to handle cases with more complex workflows
- Partial or independent answers consolidated and aggregated into complete solution

Dimensions of Human Computation (2)

[Quinn & Bederson, 2012]

How are the results validated

- Solutions space closed vs. open
- Performance measurements/
ground truth
- Statistical techniques employed
to predict accurate solutions
- May take into account
confidence values of
algorithmically generated
solutions

How can the process be optimized

- Incentives and motivators
- Assigning tasks to people based on
their skills and performance (as
opposed to random assignments)
- Symbiotic combinations of human-
and machine-driven computation,
including combinations of
different forms of crowdsourcing

Games with a Purpose

- Tasks leveraging common human skills, appealing to large audiences
 - Selection of domain and task more constrained in games to create typical UX
- Tasks decomposed into smaller units of work to be solved independently
- Complex workflows
 - Creating a casual game experience vs. patterns in microtasks
 - Single vs. multi-player

Paid Micro-Task Crowdsourcing

A Crowdsourcing Platform allows **requesters** to publish a crowdsourcing request (***batch***) composed of multiple tasks (***HITs***)

Programmatically Invoke the crowd with APIs or using a website

Workers in the crowd complete tasks and obtain a monetary reward

The **platform** takes a fee (30% of the reward)

Example use of micro-task crowdsourcing

- Relevance judgments
- Ontologies
- Sentiment Analysis in Social Media
- <http://www.thesheepmarket.com/>

'draw a sheep facing to the left.'



Case-Study: Amazon MTurk

- Micro-task crowdsourcing marketplace
- On-demand, scalable, real-time workforce
- Online since 2005 (still in “beta”)
- Currently the most popular platform
- Developer’s API as well as GUI

Amazon MTurk



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

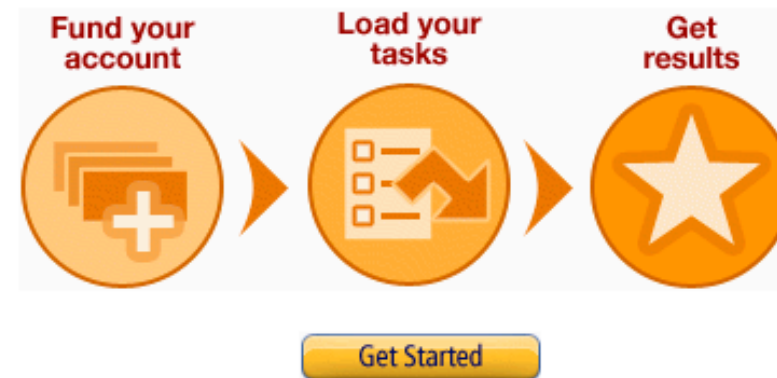


Get Results from Mechanical Turk Workers

Ask workers to complete HITs - *Human Intelligence Tasks* - and get results using Mechanical Turk. [Register Now](#)

As a Mechanical Turk Requester you:

- Have access to a global, on-demand, 24 x 7 workforce
- Get thousands of HITs completed in minutes
- Pay only when you're satisfied with the results



MTurk is a Marketplace for HITs

All HITs

1-10 of 3454 Results

Sort by:  

[Show all details](#) | [Hide all details](#)

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [Next](#) [Last](#)

Provide Information about a Product	Requester: requester	HIT Expiration Date: May 23, 2015 (4 weeks 1 day) Time Allotted: 25 minutes	Reward: \$0.05 HITs Available: 11526	View a HIT in this group
Product Attribute Tagging - April 17th Please read the instructions	Requester: slee	HIT Expiration Date: May 23, 2015 (4 weeks 2 days) Time Allotted: 60 minutes	Reward: \$0.03 HITs Available: 23887	View a HIT in this group
Inv B 2	Requester: rohzi0d	HIT Expiration Date: May 22, 2015 (4 weeks 1 day) Time Allotted: 48 minutes	Reward: \$0.00 HITs Available: 19740	View a HIT in this group
Geo Result Relevance-Tue Apr 21 10:40:14 PDT 2015	Requester: Amazon Requester Inc.	HIT Expiration Date: May 22, 2015 (4 weeks 1 day) Time Allotted: 60 minutes	Reward: \$0.00 HITs Available: 10734	View a HIT in this group
Type the text from the images, carefully. Productivity and bonuses guaranteed.	Requester: CopyText Inc.	HIT Expiration Date: Apr 30, 2015 (6 days 23 hours) Time Allotted: 10 minutes	Reward: \$0.01 HITs Available: 10590	View a HIT in this group
Transcribe up to 25 Seconds of Media to Text - Earn up to \$0.12 per HIT!	Requester: Crowdsurf Support	HIT Expiration Date: Apr 21, 2016 (51 weeks 6 days) Time Allotted: 15 minutes	Reward: \$0.08 HITs Available: 6702	View a HIT in this group
Fun and Fast Fashion Tagging	Requester: gavin	HIT Expiration Date: Apr 28, 2015 (5 days 11 hours) Time Allotted: 60 minutes	Reward: \$0.02 HITs Available: 6460	View a HIT in this group
Geo Result Relevance-Wed Apr 08 14:30:08 PDT 2015	Requester: Amazon Requester Inc.	HIT Expiration Date: May 10, 2015 (2 weeks 2 days) Time Allotted: 60 minutes	Reward: \$0.00 HITs Available: 6182	View a HIT in this group
Transcribe up to 25 Seconds of General Content to Text - Earn up to \$0.14 per HIT!	Requester: Crowdsurf Support	HIT Expiration Date: Apr 21, 2016 (51 weeks 6 days) Time Allotted: 15 minutes	Reward: \$0.09 HITs Available: 6043	View a HIT in this group
!Whac-a-mole by Gaze (hard mode)! Play a 1min eye tracking game in the web browser! 0416	Requester: px	HIT Expiration Date: Apr 23, 2015 (8 hours 40 minutes) Time Allotted: 60 minutes	Reward: \$0.10 HITs Available: 4682	View a HIT in this group

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [Next](#) [Last](#)

You must accept this HIT before working on it.

Data Collection Instructions!

Find the postal address for this Australian company.

- Search on Google, the company's website, YellowPages or Facebook to find the correct postal address for the company below.
- Enter the **full Australian postal address** for the business.
- You may use the research links provided to help.
- **Do not enter incomplete or incorrect details!**

Company name:	Stellar Electrical And Solar Systems
Location:	Australia
Company website:	
Company YellowPages:	
Company Facebook:	
Google search:	https://www.google.com.au/search?q=%22Stellar Electrical And Solar Systems%22+Australia+postal+address

Australian Street Address (ONLY this field is required if complete):

Start typing Australian Street Address...

You must accept this HIT before working on it.

Receipt Transcription Instructions (Click to expand)

9× Subscription to Quip Business - Monthly	\$108.00
Subtotal	\$108.00
Coupons	-\$30.00
<i>Credit for first five users - QUIP3120 (\$30.00 off)</i>	
Total	\$78.00

Is the receipt legible?

Legible NOT legible

Issuer name:

Company Inc.

Invoice number:

IV2348977374

Invoice Date:

2017-05-13

Currency (3 digits):

USD / EUR / ...

Content and Cost:

Content 1

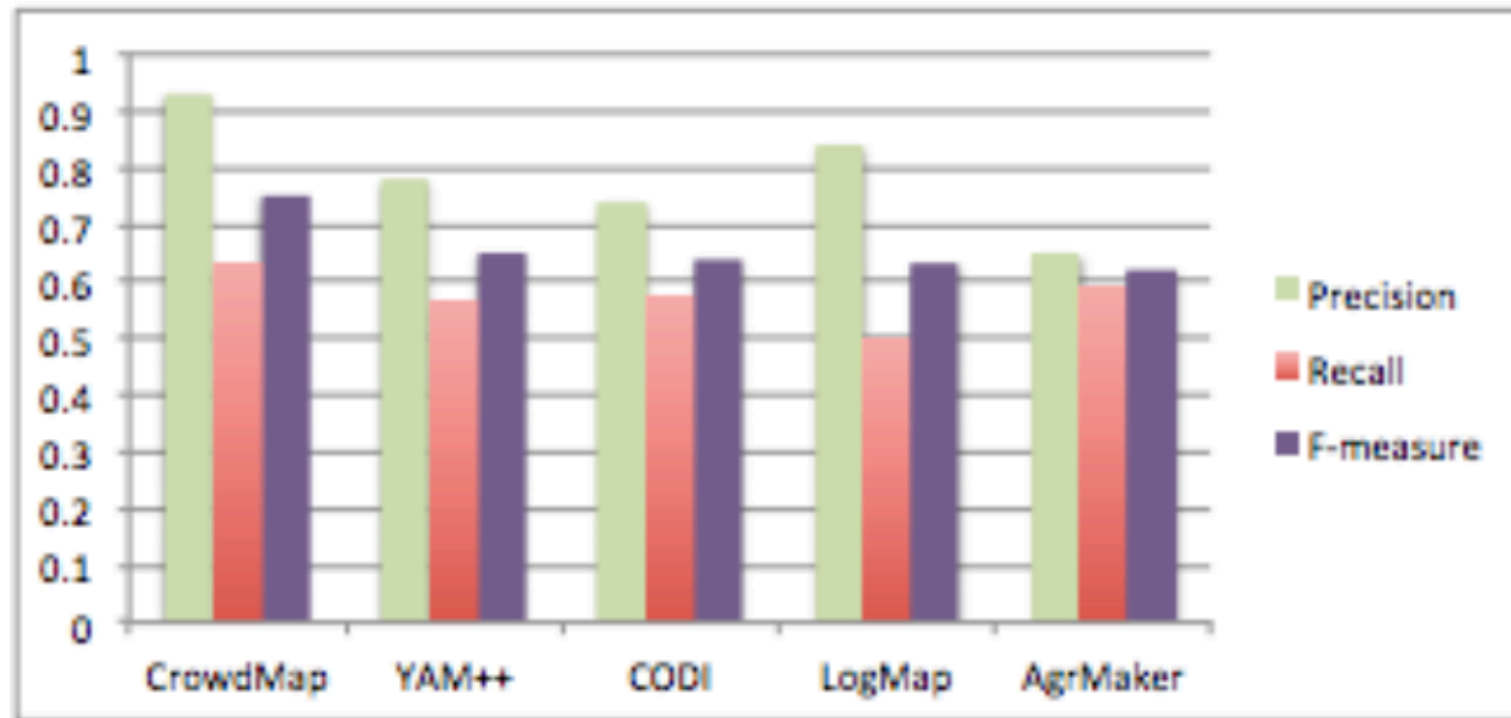
0.00

Crowdsourcing Ontology Mapping

- Find a set of mappings between two ontologies
- Micro-tasks:
 - Verify/identify a mapping relationships:
 - Is concept A the same as concept B
 - A is a kind of B
 - B is a kind of A
 - No relation

Crowdsourcing Ontology Mapping

- Crowd-based outperforms purely automatic approaches



Crowdsourcing Ontology Engineering

- Ask the crowd to create/verify subClassOf relations
 - “Car” is a “vehicle”
- Does it work for domain specific ontologies?
 - A “protandrous hermaphroditic organism” is a “sequential hermaphroditic organism”
- Workers perform worse than experts
- Workers presented with concept definitions perform as good as experts

MTurk is a Marketplace for HITs

Top-1000 Requesters, report for April 16, 2016 to May 16, 2016

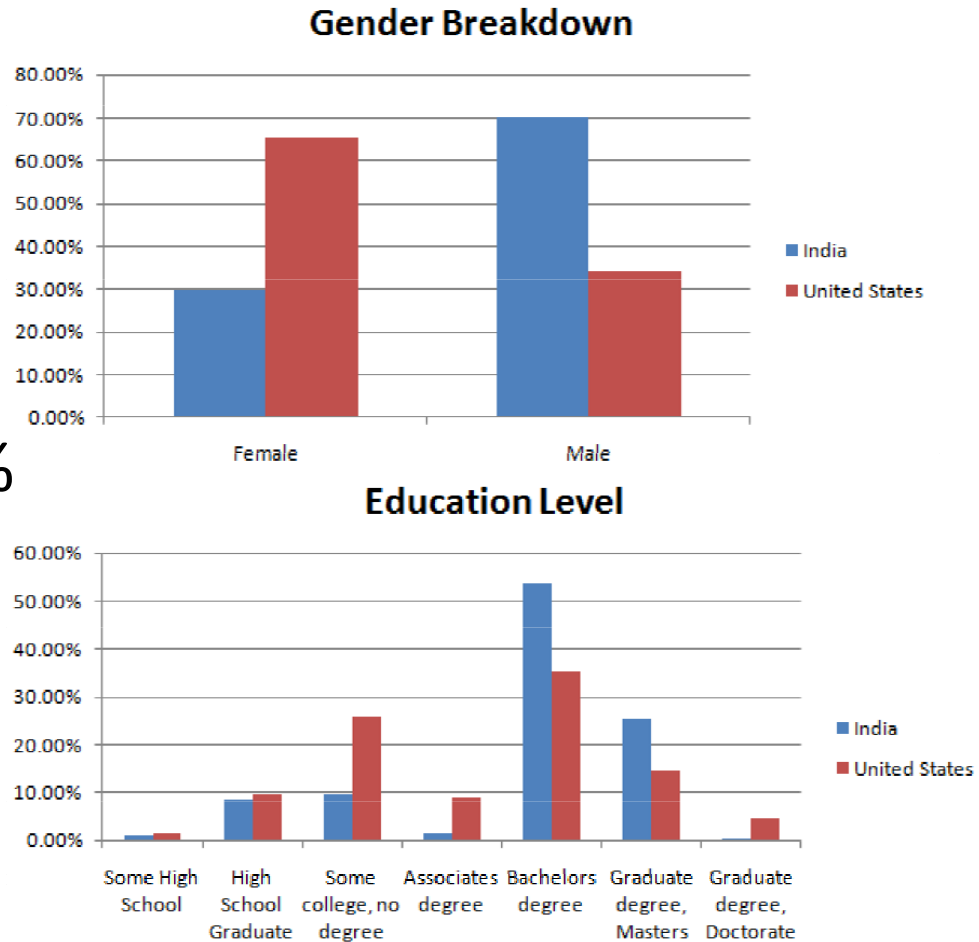
Requester name	hits	reward
Speechpad	23857	\$172,994.63
Percy Liang	883	\$7,320.48
Princeton Vision	51187	\$5,762.44
Stanford GSB Behavioral Lab	3749	\$2,110.70
Chris Callison-Burch	8157	\$2,064.29
RC.org Mechanical Turk	6591	\$2,011.33
VacationrentalAPI	399	\$1,373.50
Med Expertise	869	\$1,303.50
Bluejay Labs	13613	\$1,288.59
YL Testing	1051	\$1,236.83

Demographics of MTurk workers in 2009

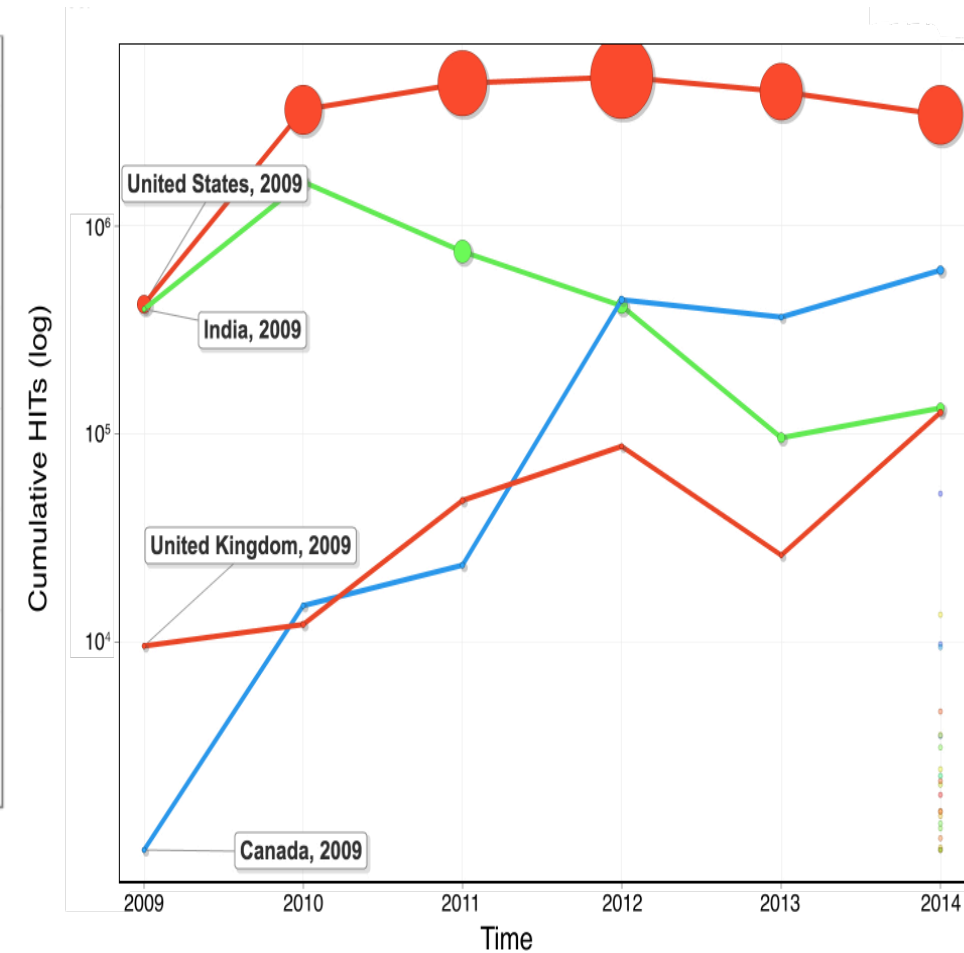
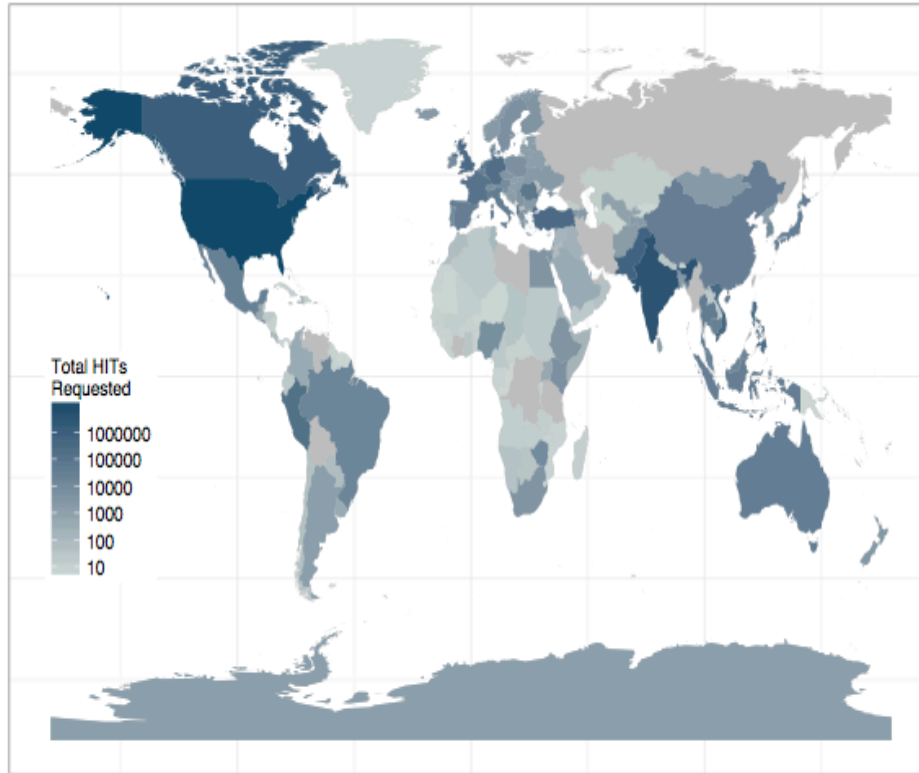
Country of residence

- United States: 46.80%
- India: 34.00%
- Miscellaneous: 19.20%

2013 Statistics:
1M workers
10% active

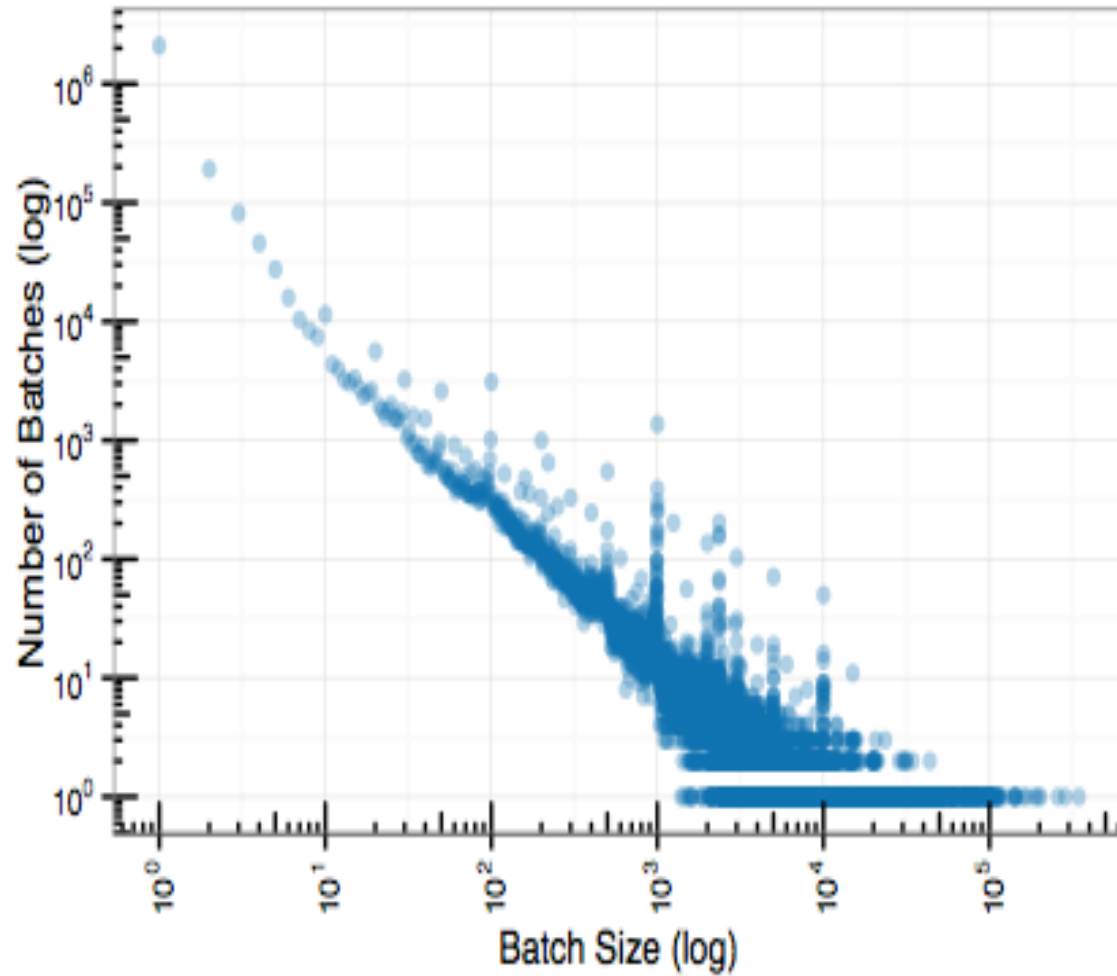


Requested Workers



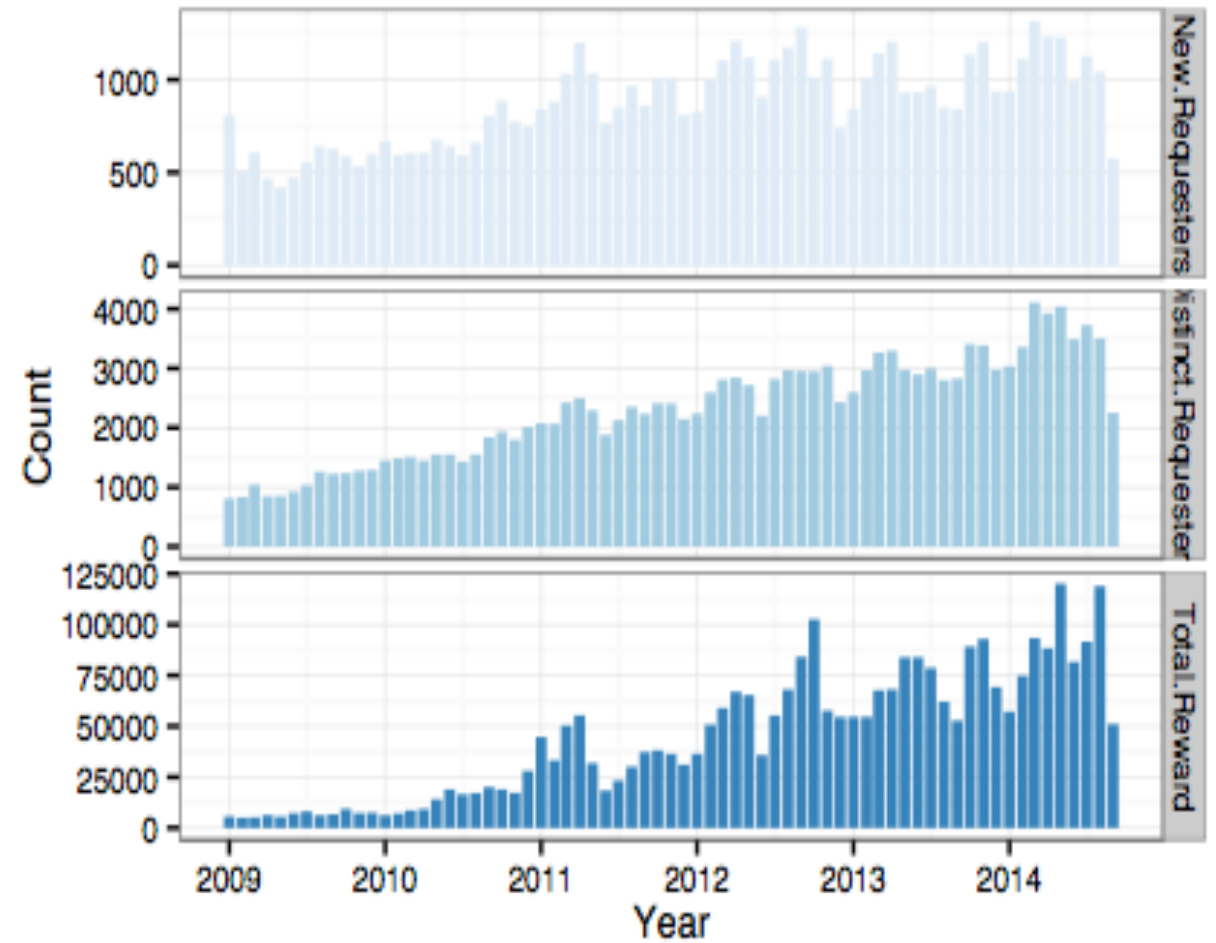
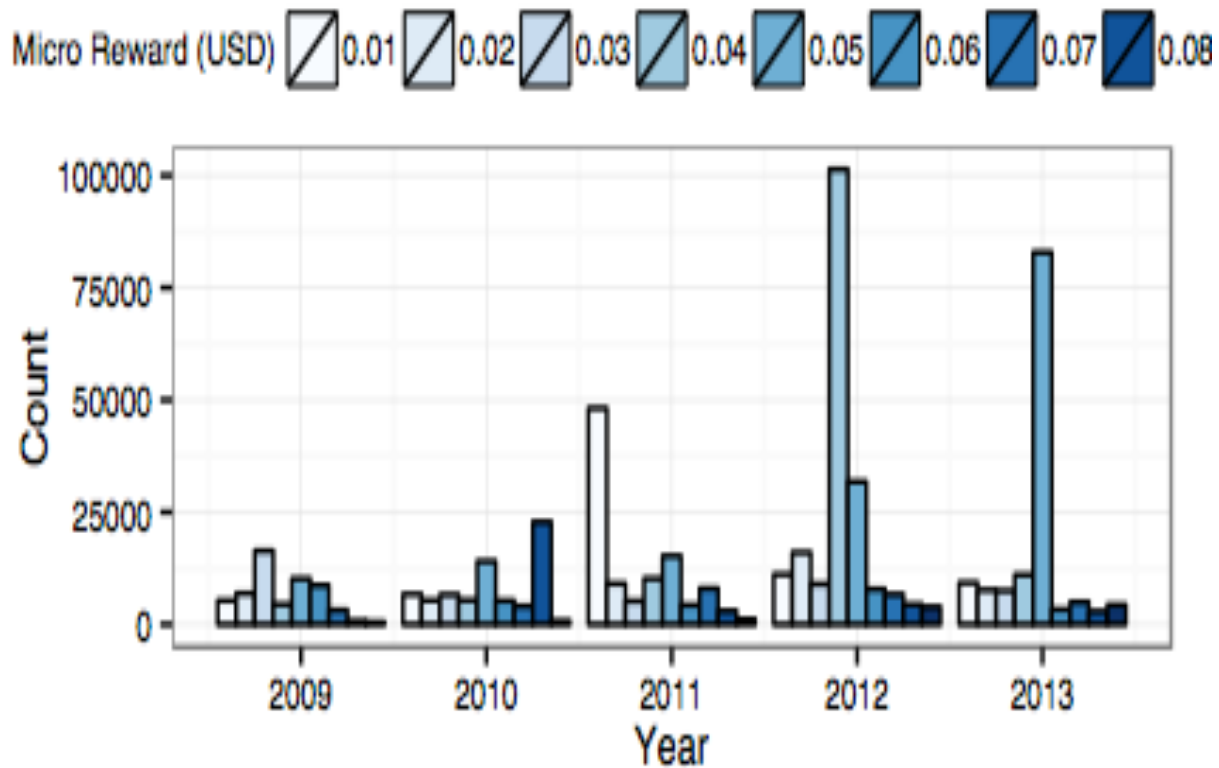
Djellel Eddine Difallah, Michele Catasta, Gianluca Demartini, Panagiotis G. Ipeirotis, and Philippe Cudré-Mauroux. **The Dynamics of Micro-Task Crowdsourcing -- The Case of Amazon MTurk.** In: 24th International Conference on World Wide Web (WWW 2015), Research Track. Firenze, Italy, May 2015.

Distribution of *Batch Size*

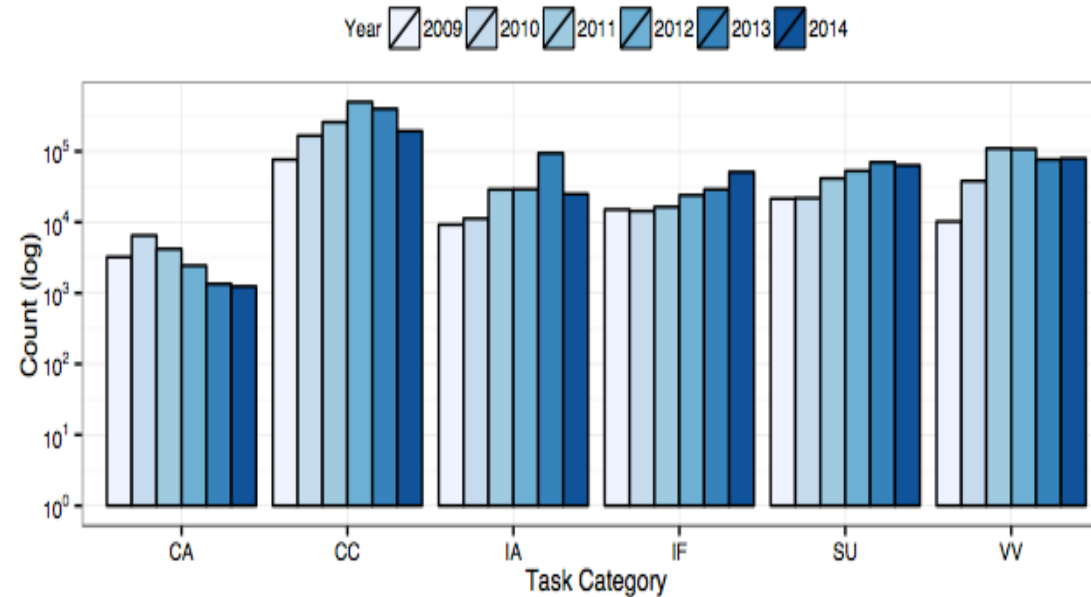


“Power-law”

Reward Distribution



Distribution of HIT Types



Less Content Access batches

Content Creation being the most popular

Some findings of our longitudinal study

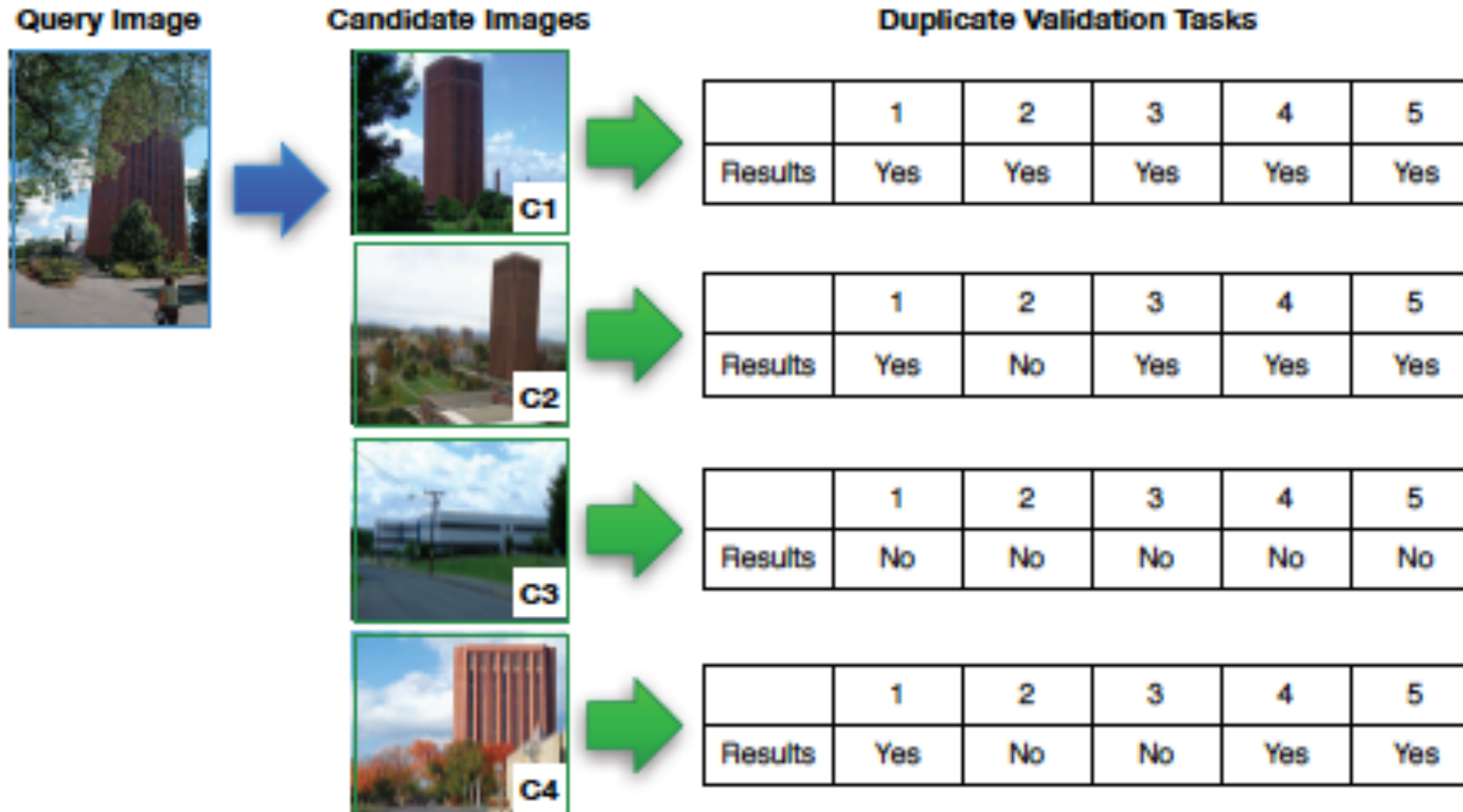
- HIT reward has increased over time
- Audio transcription is the most popular task
- Demand for Indian workers has decreased
- Surveys are most popular for US workers
- 1000 new requesters per month join
- 10K new HITs arrive and 7.5K HITs get completed every hour
- Check **#mturkdynamics** for the main findings

Hybrid Human-Machine Systems

- Use Machines to scale over large amounts of data
- Keep humans in the loop
 - By means of Crowdsourcing
 - To make sure the quality of the data processing is good
- Crowd for Pre-processing vs Post-processing

G Demartini. Hybrid human-machine information systems: Challenges and opportunities. In: **Computer Networks**, 90, 5-13. 2015

Hybrid Image Search



Yan, Kumar, Ganesan, CrowdSearch: Exploiting Crowds for Accurate Real-time Image Search on Mobile Phones, Mobisys 2010.

Example: Hybrid Data Integration

paper	conf
Data integration	VLDB-01
Data mining	SIGMOD-02

title	author	email	venue
OLAP	Mike	mike@a	ICDE-02
Social media	Jane	jane@b	PODS-05

- **Generate plausible matches**

- paper = title, paper = author, paper = email, paper = venue
- conf = title, conf = author, conf = email, conf = venue

- **Ask users to verify**

Does attribute **paper** match attribute **author**?

paper	conf
Data integration	VLDB-01
Data mining	SIGMOD-02

title	author	email
OLAP	Mike	mike@a
Social media	Jane	jane@b

CrowdDB

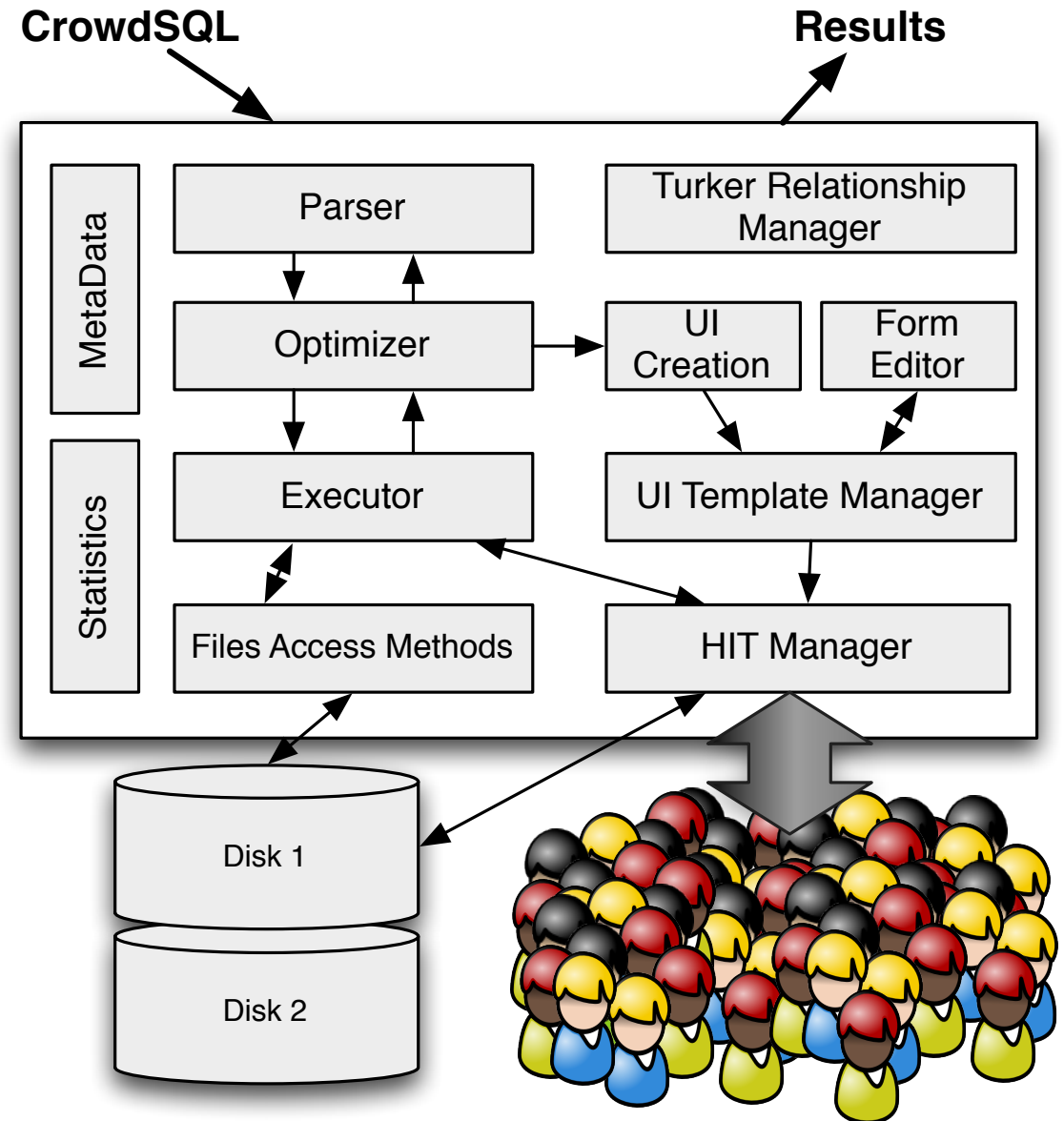
Use the crowd to answer DB-hard queries

Where to use the crowd:

- Find missing data
- Make subjective comparisons
- Recognize patterns

But not:

- Anything the computer already does well



M. Franklin, D. Kossmann, T. Kraska, S. Ramesh and R. Xin.

CrowdDB: Answering Queries with Crowdsourcing, *SIGMOD 2011*

Crowd DB query

The Volvo S80 is the flagship model of this brand...



Is the review positive?



```
SELECT review
FROM car_review
WHERE sentiment ~="pos";
```



Which one is better?



```
SELECT image i
FROM car_image
WHERE subject = "Volvo S60"
ORDER BY CROWDORDER("clarity");
```

CrowdDB – Missing Data

Missing Columns

review	make	model	sentiment
xxx	Volvo	S80	?



```
CREATE TABLE car_review
(  
  review STRING,  
  make CROWD STRING,  
  model CROWD STRING,  
  sentiment CROWD STRING  
);
```

Missing Tuples

make	model	style	color
?	?	?	?



```
CREATE CROWD TABLE car
(  
  make STRING,  
  model STRING,  
  color STRING,  
  style STRING,  
  PRIMARY KEY (make, model)  
);
```

CrowdDB - Joins and Sorts

Are the following entities the same?

IBM == Big Blue

Yes

No

Which picture visualizes better
"Golden Gate Bridge"



Submit

Crowdsourcing for Entity Linking

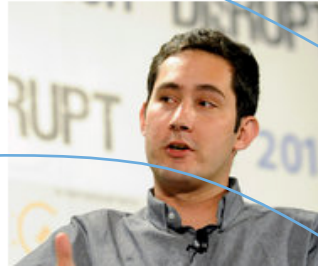
Facebook Buys Instagram for \$1 Billion

BY EVELYN M. RUSLI

2:02 p.m. | Updated

Facebook is not waiting for its initial public offering to make its first big purchase.

In its largest acquisition to date, the social network has purchased Instagram the popular photo-sharing application, for about \$1 billion in cash and stock, the company said Monday.



<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Facebook>

<http://dbpedia.org/resource/Instagram>

owl:sameAs

fbase:Instagram

HTML:

<p>Facebook is not waiting for its initial public offering to make its first big purchase.</p><p>In its largest acquisition to date, the social network has purchased Instagram, the popular photo-sharing application, for about \$1 billion in cash and stock, the company said Monday.</p>

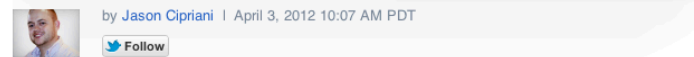
RDFa enrichment

<p><cite property="rdfs:label">Facebook</cite> is not waiting for its initial public offering to make its first big purchase.</p><p>In its largest acquisition to date, the social network has purchased <cite property="rdfs:label">Instagram</cite>, the popular photo-sharing application, for about \$1 billion in cash and stock, the company said Monday.</p>

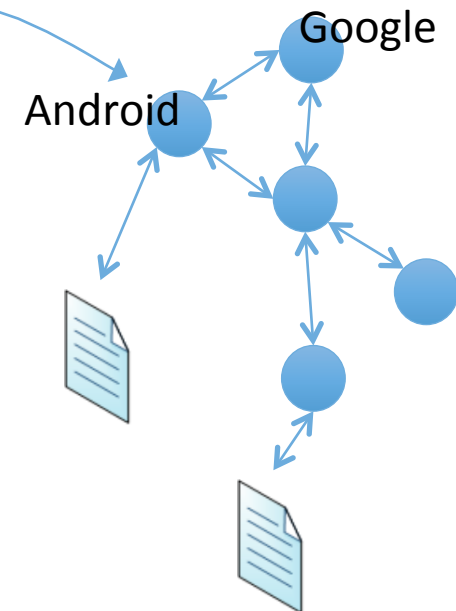
CNET > News > Mobile

Instagram for Android is now available

At long last, Instagram finally releases the Android version of its app.

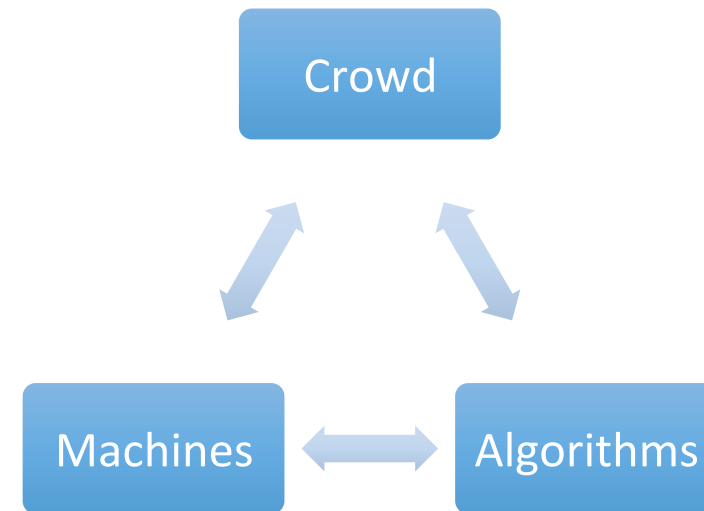
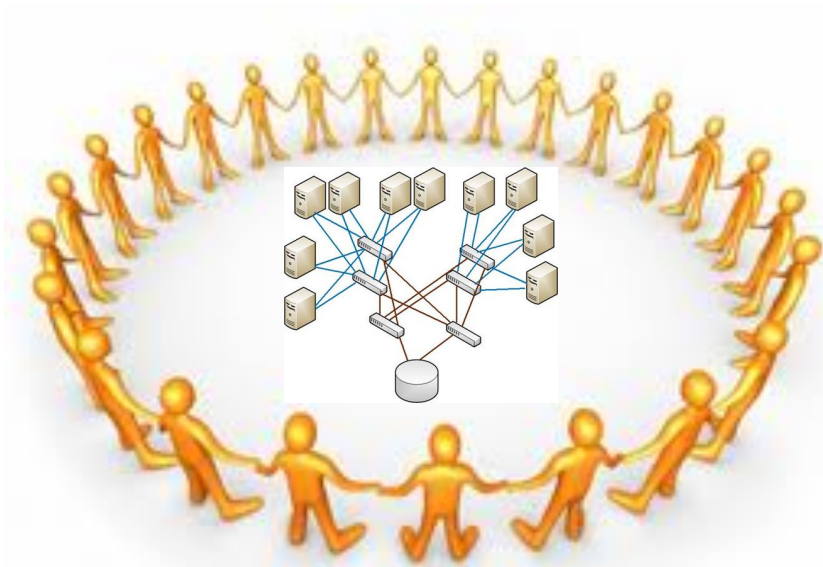


Instagram has been around since 2010, available only to iOS devices. Android users have been waiting patiently, with repeated promises of an Android version arriving soon.

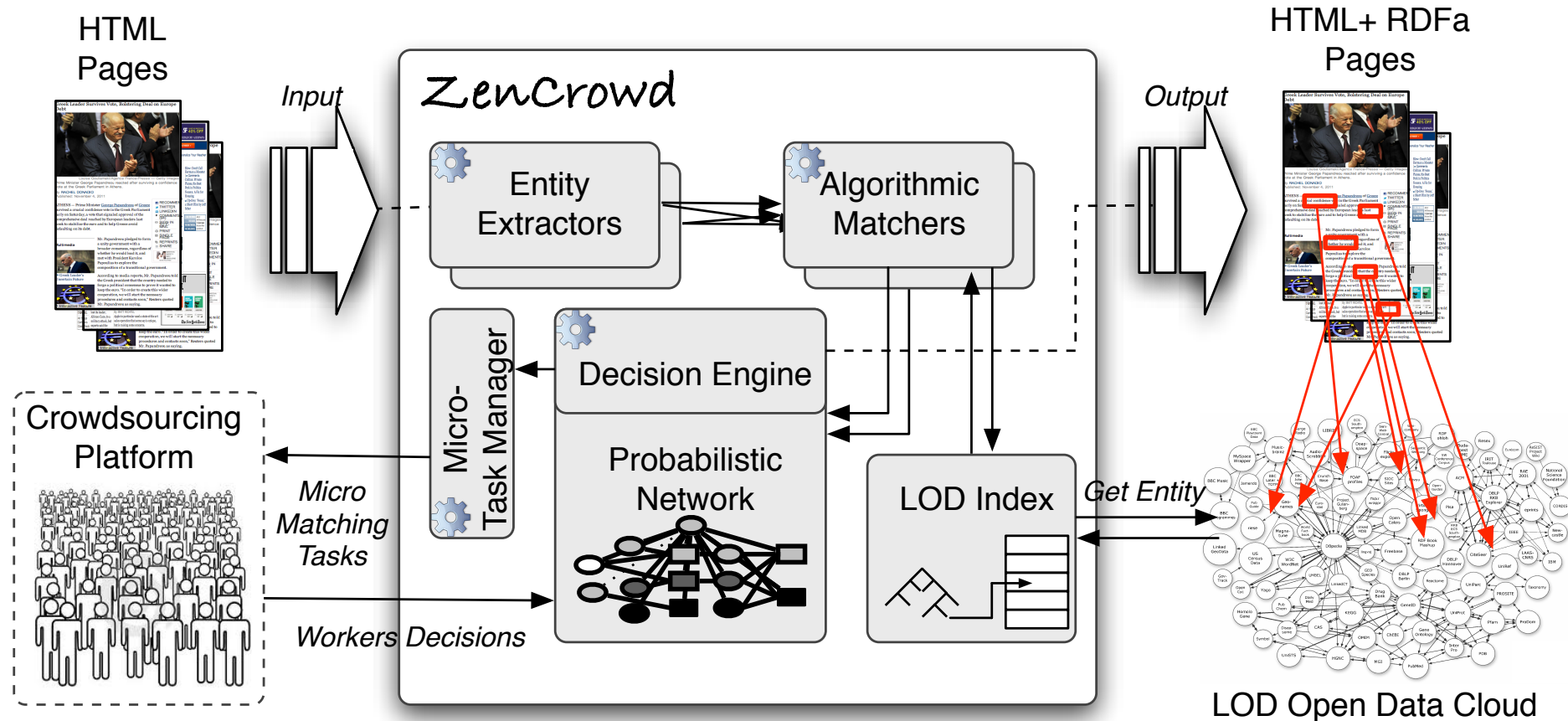


ZenCrowd

- Combine both algorithmic and manual linking
- Automate manual linking via crowdsourcing
- Dynamically assess human workers with a probabilistic reasoning framework



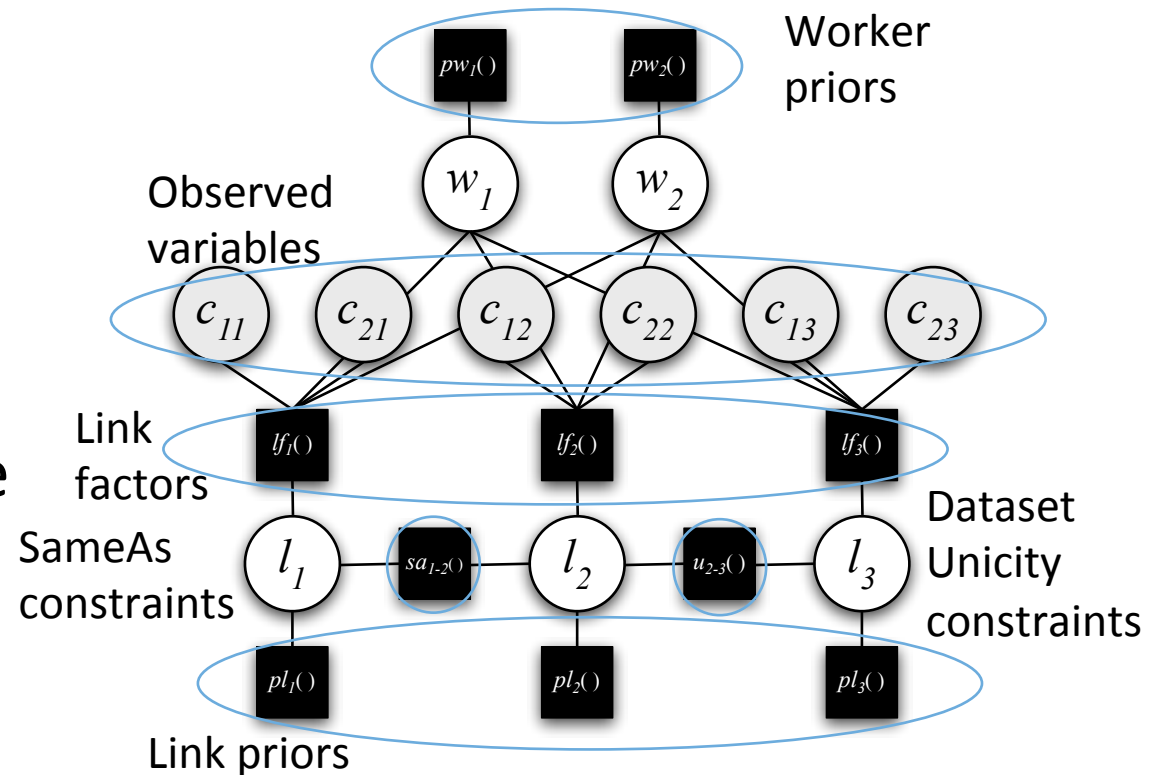
ZenCrowd Architecture



Gianluca Demartini, Djellel Eddine Difallah, and Philippe Cudré-Mauroux. ZenCrowd: Leveraging Probabilistic Reasoning and Crowdsourcing Techniques for Large-Scale Entity Linking. In: 21st International Conference on World Wide Web (**WWW 2012**).

Entity Factor Graphs

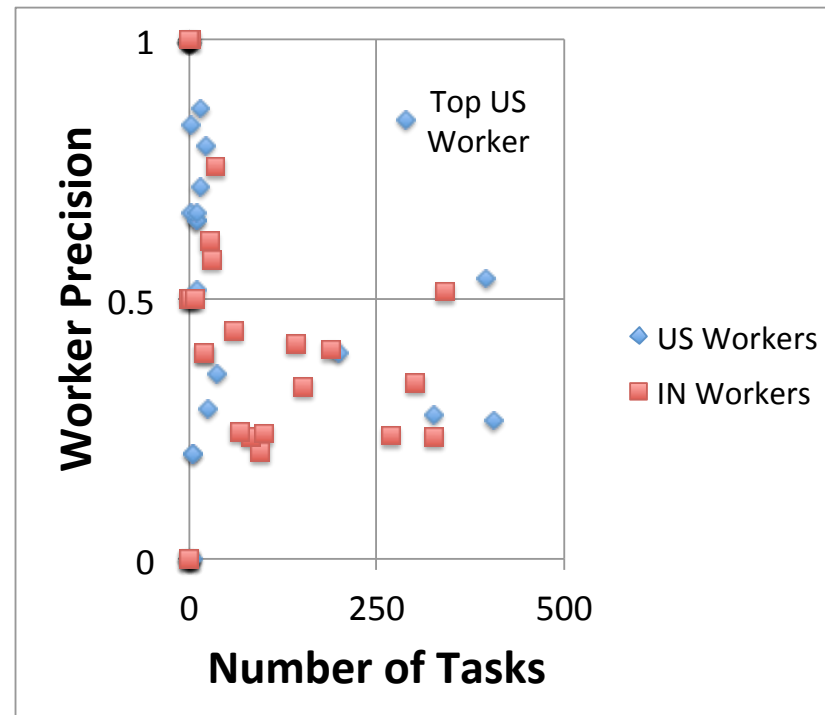
- Graph components
 - Workers, links, clicks
 - Prior probabilities
 - Link Factors
 - Constraints
- Probabilistic Inference
 - Select all links with posterior prob $> \tau$



2 workers, 6 clicks, 3 candidate links

Experimental Evaluation

- Worker Selection



ZenCrowd Summary

- ZenCrowd: Probabilistic reasoning over automatic and crowdsourcing methods for entity linking
- Standard crowdsourcing improves 6% over automatic
- 4% - 35% improvement over standard crowdsourcing
- 14% average improvement over automatic approaches

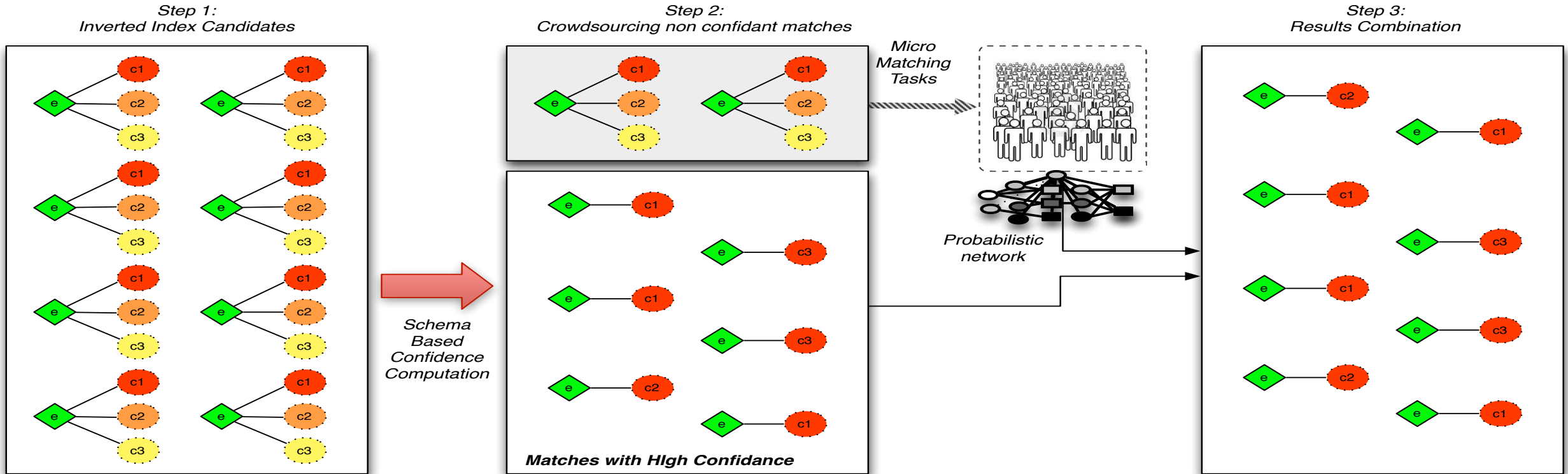
- Follow up-work (VLDBJ, 2013):
 - Also used for **instance matching** across datasets
 - 3-way blocking with the crowd

Blocking for Instance Matching

- Find the instances about the same real-world entity within two datasets
- Avoid Comparison of all possible pairs
 - Step 1: cluster similar items using a cheap similarity measure
 - Step 2: $n \times n$ comparison within the clusters with an expensive measure

3-steps Blocking with the Crowd

- Crowdsourcing as the most expensive similarity measure



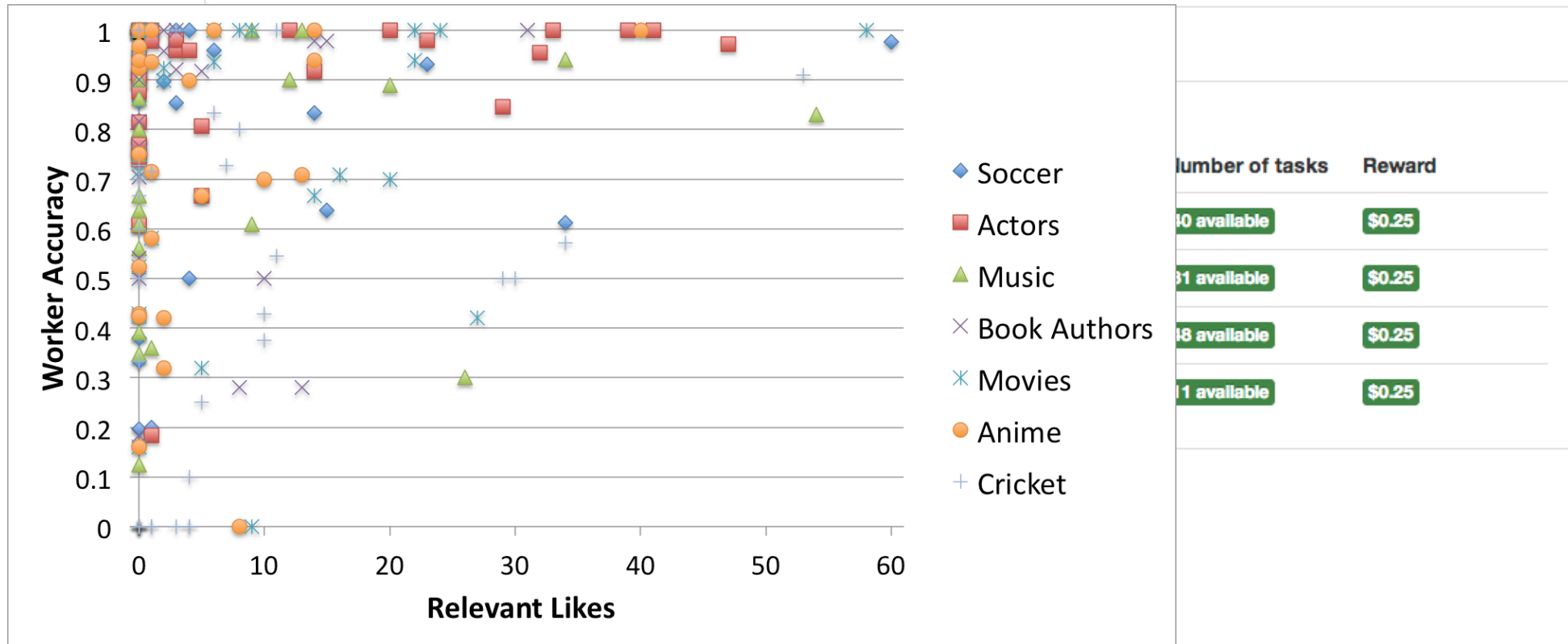
Lessons Learnt

- Crowdsourcing + Prob reasoning works!
- But
 - Different worker communities perform differently
 - Many low quality workers
 - Completion time may vary (based on reward)
- Need to **find the right workers** for your task (see WWW2013 and CHI2015 papers)
- Need to make sure **high priority tasks** are completed fast (see WWW2016 paper)

Pick-A-

My customized list of batches:

Batch description	Challenge	Number of tasks	Reward
Football players identifications	Recommend	5	Completed \$0.25
What movie is this scene from?	Recommend	9	31 available \$0.25
Comics, mangas and characters	Recommend	5	41 available For Fun



Djellel Eddine Difallah, Gianluca Demartini, and Philippe Cudré-Mauroux. Pick-A-Crowd: Tell Me What You Like, and I'll Tell You What to Do. In: **WWW2013**

Behavioral Patterns of Malicious Workers

Ineligible
Workers (IW)

Instruction: Please attempt this microtask ONLY IF you have successfully completed 5 microtasks previously.

Response: *'this is my first task'*

Fast Deceivers
(FD)

eg: Copy-pasting same text in response to multiple questions, entering gibberish, etc.

Response: *'What's your task?', 'adasd', 'fgfgf gsd ljlkj'*

Rule Breakers
(RB)

Instruction: Identify 5 keywords that represent this task (separated by commas).

Response: *'survey, tasks, history', 'previous task yellow'*

Smart
Deceivers (SD)

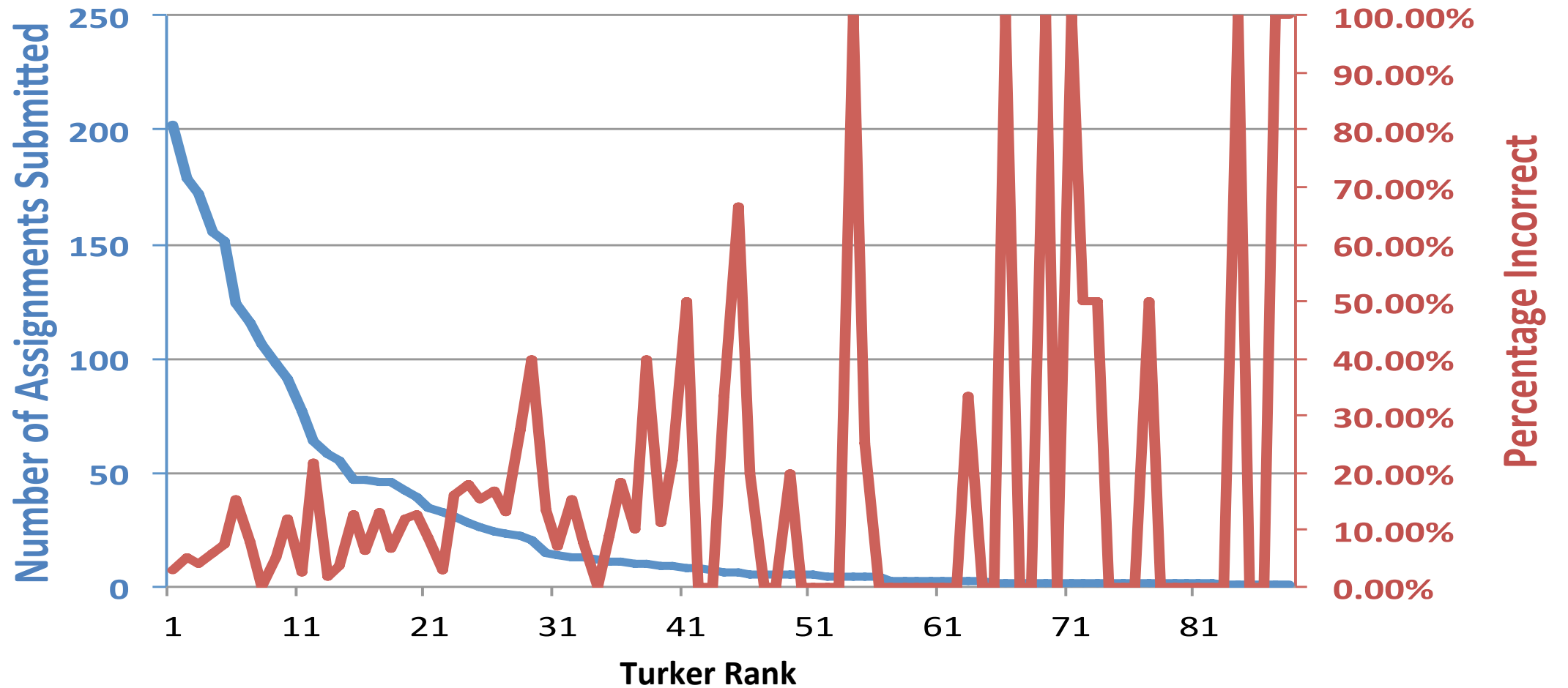
Instruction: Identify 5 keywords that represent this task (separated by commas).

Response: *'one, two, three, four, five'*

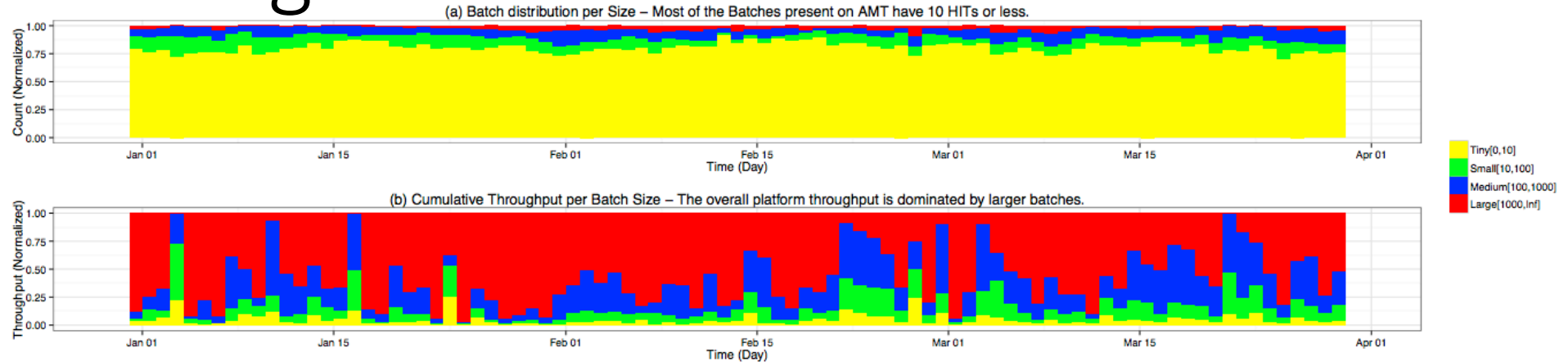
Gold Standard
Preys (GSP)

These workers abide by the instructions and provide valid responses, but stumble at the gold-standard questions!

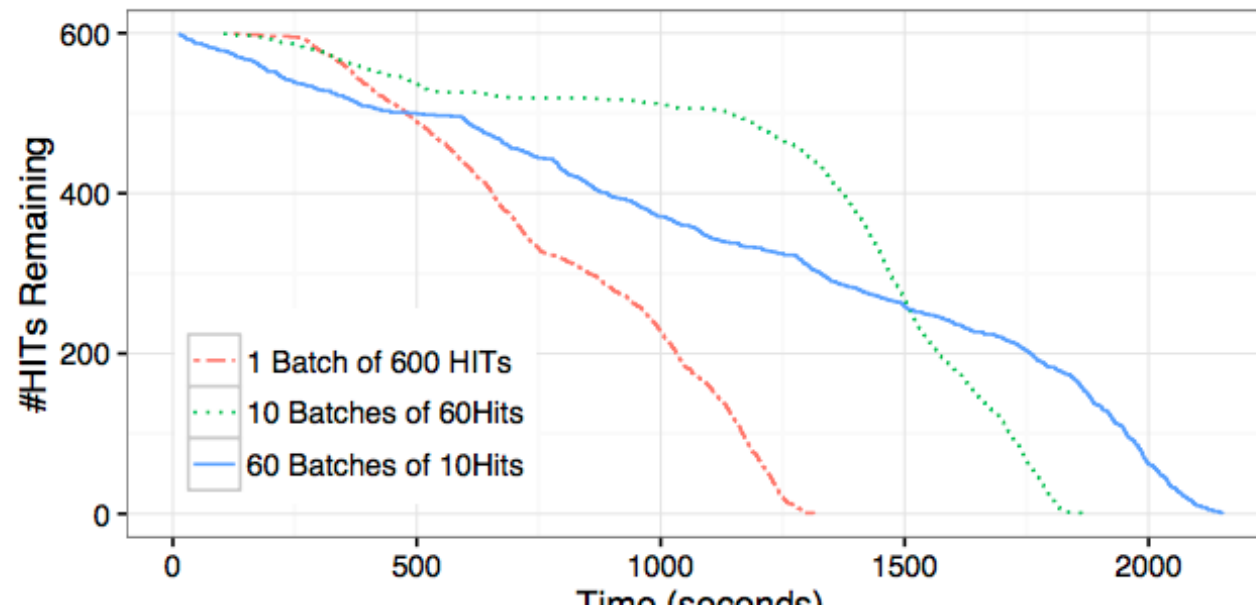
Turker Contribution and Errors



Scheduling HITs



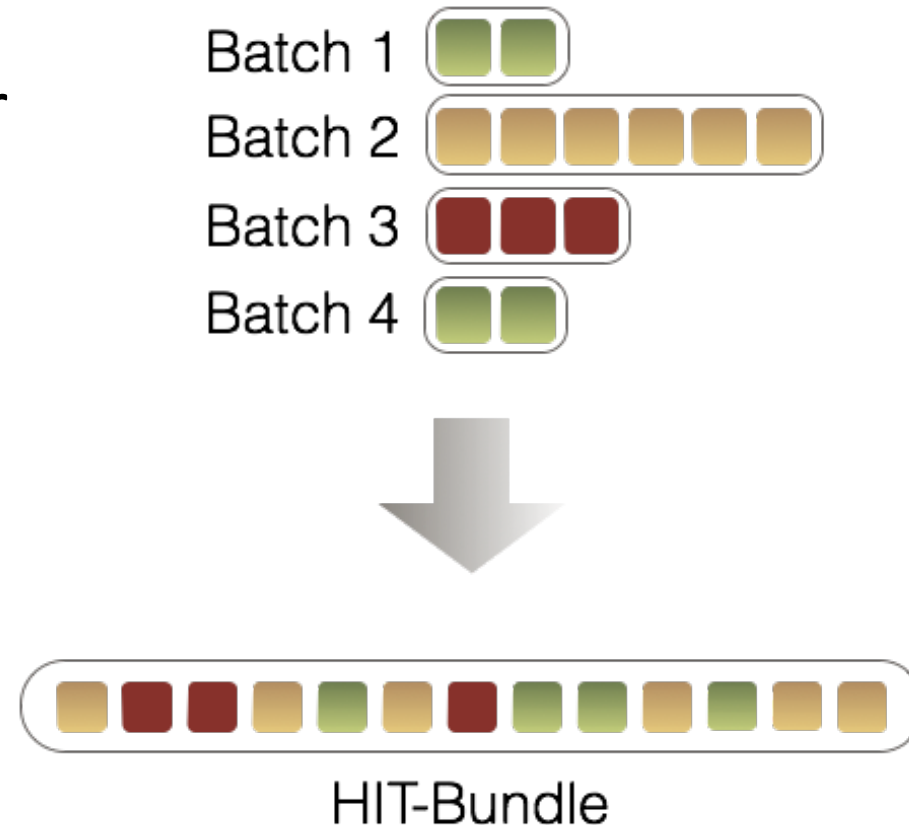
Platform throughput is dominated by large HIT batches



HIT-Bundle

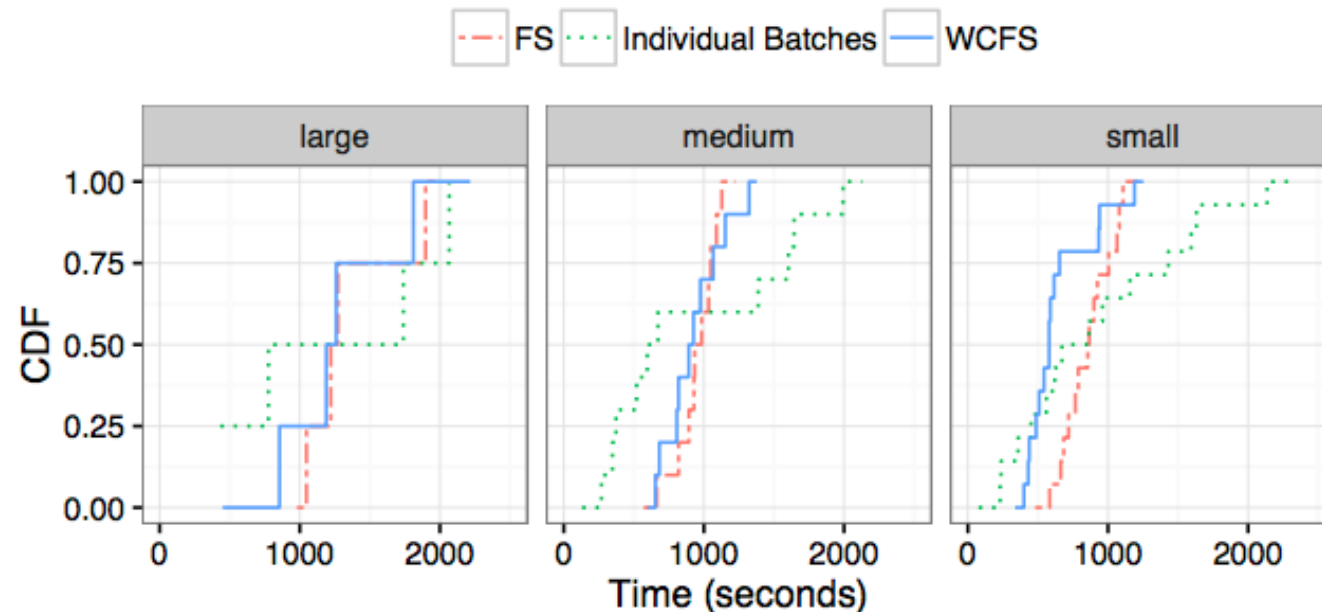
Definition

- Scheduling requires control over the serving process of tasks
- A **HIT-Bundle** is a batch that contains heterogeneous tasks
- All tasks that are generated by the system are published through the HIT-Bundle



Scheduling HITs

- Fair Scheduling
 - Priority of HITs but avoid starvation
 - Assign HITs of the same type (no context switch)



Djellel Eddine Difallah, Gianluca Demartini, and Philippe Cudré-Mauroux. Scheduling Human Intelligence Tasks in Multi-Tenant Crowd-Powered Systems. In: 25th International Conference on World Wide Web (**WWW 2016**), Research Track.

Overview of hybrid systems

Year	Cit.	Domain	Data Type	Human role	Incentive	Time constrains
2006	[62]	Web	Images	Pre-p.	Fun	Batch
2007	[35]	Science	Images	Pre-p.	Community	Batch
2008	[64]	Web	Images	Post-p.	Access	Batch
2011	[52]	Database	Graph	Pre-p.	Monetary	Batch
2011	[30]	Database	Struct. data	Pre-p.	Monetary	Real-time
2011	[5]	Filtering	Video	Pre-p.	Monetary	Real-time
2012	[54]	Database	Struct. data	Post-p.	Monetary	Real-time
2012	[19]	Web	Unstruct. text	Post-p.	Monetary	Batch
2012	[56]	Data Integration	Struct. data	Post-p.	Monetary	Batch
2012	[66]	Entity Resolution	Struct. data	Post-p.	Monetary	Batch
2012	[68]	Entity Resolution	Struct. data	Post-p.	Monetary	Batch
2012	[8]	Search	Unstruct. text	Post-p.	Community	Real-time
2012	[42]	Captioning	Video	Pre-p.	Community	Real-time
2013	[34]	Info Extraction	Unstruct. text	Post-p.	Monetary	Batch
2013	[20]	Entity Resolution	Struct. data	Post-p.	Monetary	Batch
2013	[67]	Entity Resolution	Struct. data	Post-p.	Monetary	Batch
2013	[21]	Database	Struct. data	Pre-p.	Monetary	Batch
2013	[44]	Database	Struct. data	Post-p.	Monetary	Real-time
2013	[48]	Biomedical	Ontology	Pre-p.	Monetary	Batch
2013	[43]	Personal assistance	Unstruct. text	Pre-p.	Monetary	Real-time
2013	[27]	Biomedical	Unstruct. text	Post-p.	Fun	Batch
2014	[53]	Search	Image	Pre-p.	Monetary	Real-time
2014	[49]	Database	Struct. data	Post-p.	Monetary	Real-time
2014	[51]	Cult. Heritage	Image	Pre-p.	Monetary	Batch

Overview of hybrid systems

- Balance between systems that use the human component as **pre-processing or post-processing** of data (11 vs 13)
- Mostly **monetary reward**
- Majority of systems perform **batch** data processing rather than real-time jobs
- In 2014 we can observe a decreased number of hybrid human-machine systems being propose : focus on solving **core problems** rather than building new systems

Want to know more?

- SIGMOD 2017 Tutorial (3 hours):
<http://www.cs.sfu.ca/~jnwang/ppt/sigmod17-tutorial-crowd.pdf>
- Adam Marcus and Aditya Parameswaran. **Crowdsourced data management industry and academic perspectives**. Foundations and Trends in Databases, 2015.
- Gianluca Demartini. **Hybrid Human-Machine Information Systems: Challenges and Opportunities**. In: Computer Networks, Volume 90, page 5-13 (2015), Elsevier.
- Edith Law and Luis von Ahn. **Human Computation**. Synthesis Lectures on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. June 2011
- “An introduction to Hybrid Human-Machine Information Systems” in Foundations and Trends® in Web Science (coming soon)
- **Open Research topics:**
<http://www.gianlucademartini.net/research/openquestions.html>

Summary

- **Hybrid human-machine systems** can
 - Scale over large amounts of data
 - Reach high accuracy by keeping humans in the loop
- Entities are the new entry point to Web content
 - “Things not string”
 - Google Knowledge Vault (but also Bing, Yahoo!, Yandex)
- Users can benefit from **entity-centric search**, browsing, and exploration of the Web

Gianluca Demartini

<http://gianlucademartini.net>

@eglu81

Gianluca Demartini. **Hybrid Human-Machine Information Systems: Challenges and Opportunities**. In: Computer Networks, vol 90, 5-13, Elsevier, 2015.