# Understanding Twitter Interaction

Matthew Purver
Interaction, Media and Communication
School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science
Queen Mary, University of London

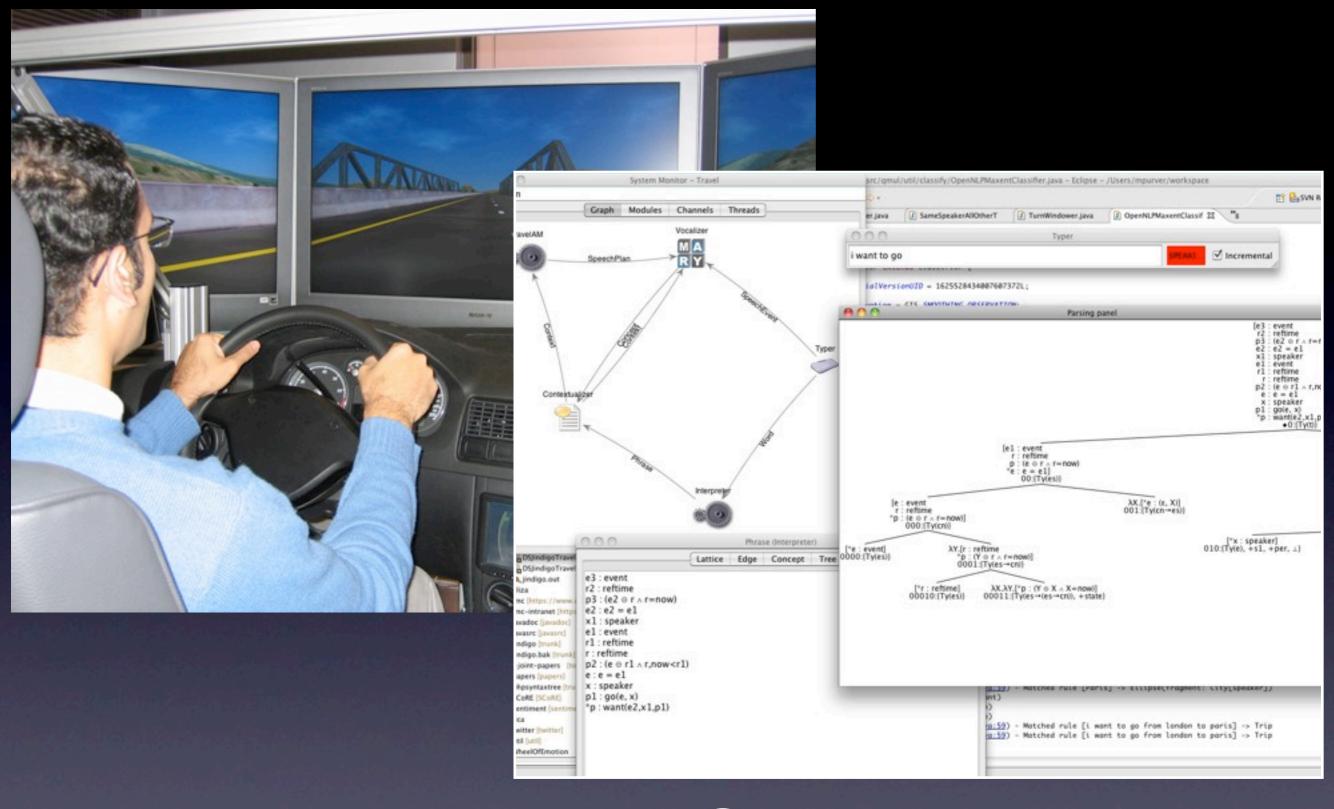








- Understanding human interaction:
  - human-human
  - human-computer
  - verbal
  - non-verbal
  - face-to-face
  - online



# Dialogue Systems

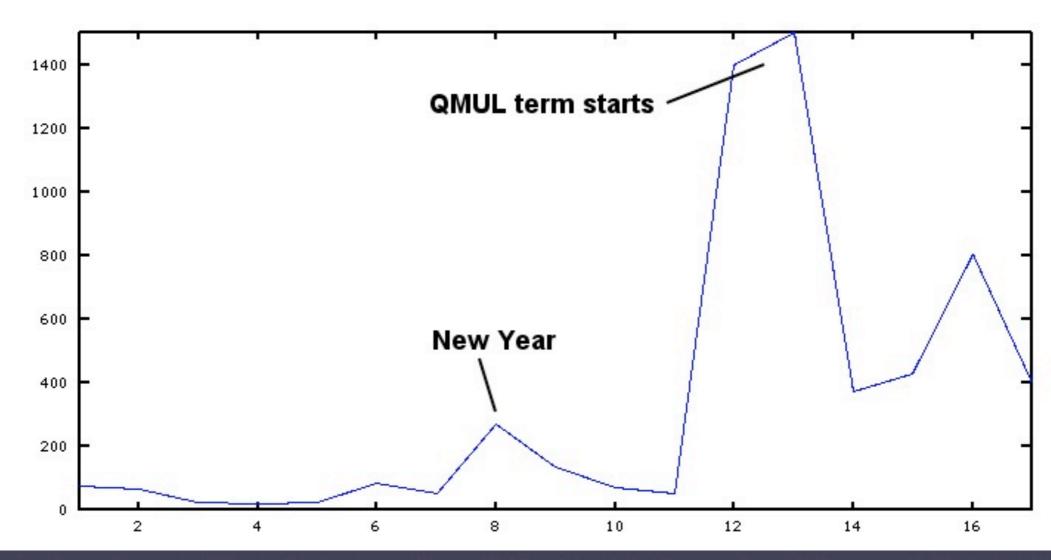


# Video Interaction

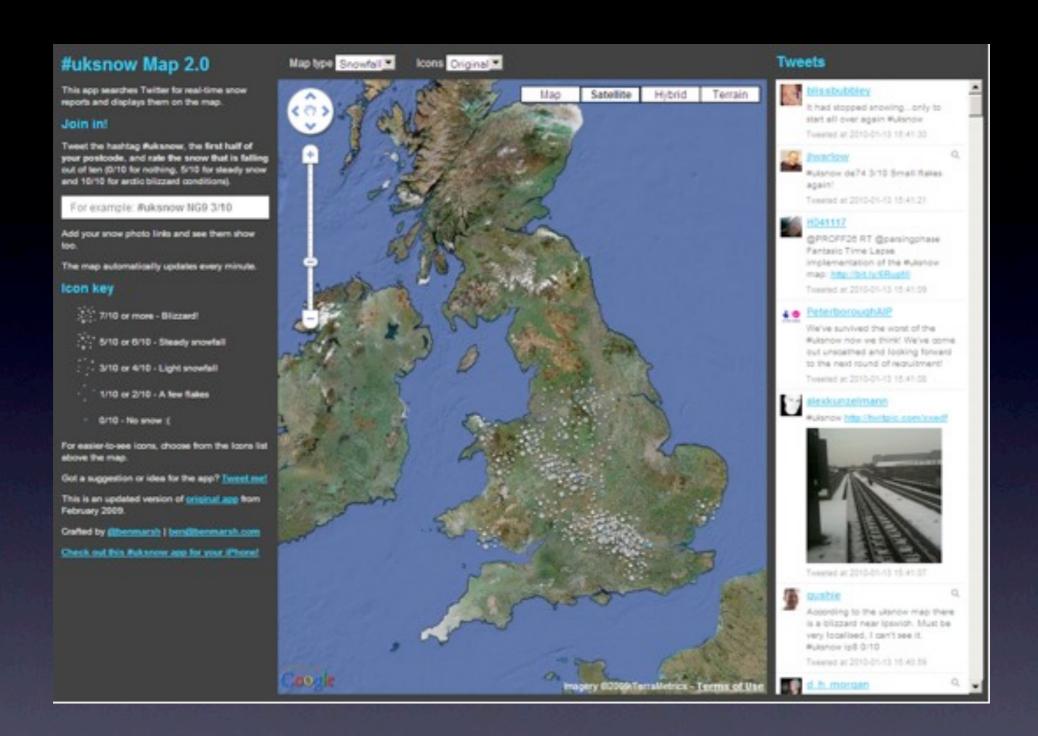


Meetings

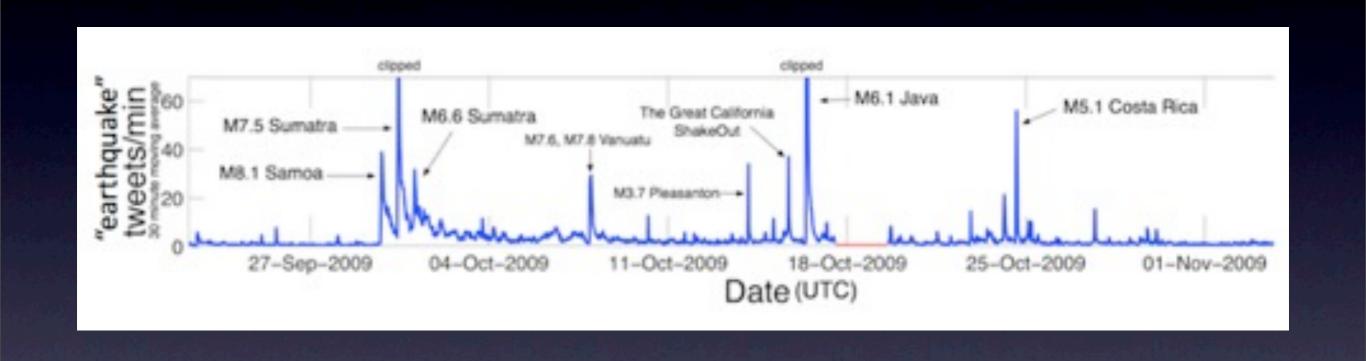




### Online Interaction



# Ben Marsh's #uksnow map



# US Geological Survey

#### guardian.co.uk

News | Sport | Comment | Culture | Business | Money | Life & style

News > Media

#### PDA THEDIGITALCONTENTBLOG

Previous Blog home

Twitter election predictions are more accurate than YouGov

A little over six weeks ago, the political internet tool Tweetminster was predicting that Labour was set to win the general election.

#### guardian.co.uk

News Sport Comment Culture Business Money Life & style

News > Media

#### PDA THEDIGITAL CONTENTBLOG

Previous

Blog home

If Twitter is right, Labour is set to win

In August 2009, alongside the traditional coverage of Japan's general election, a group of PhD graduates and engineers began analysing online

# Poll prediction

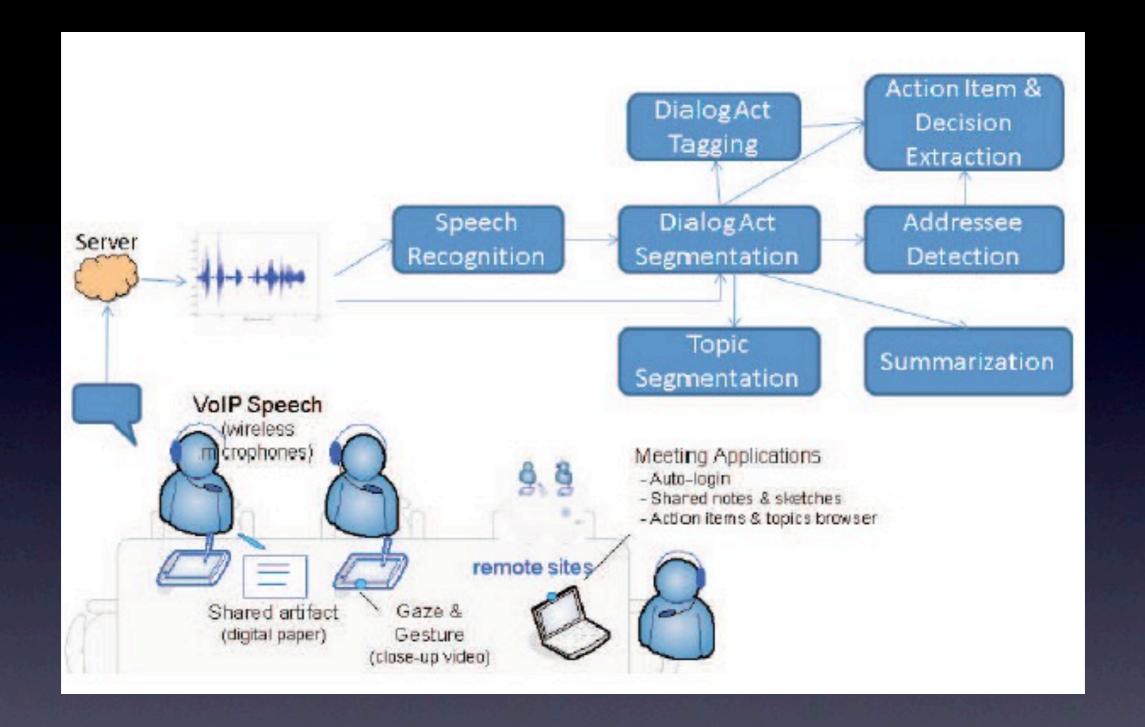
#### Tweets in 24 hours:

| Dell      | 16,800 |
|-----------|--------|
| McDonalds | 26,200 |
| Ikea      | 4,800  |
| UPS       | 45,600 |
| Burberry  | 3,200  |

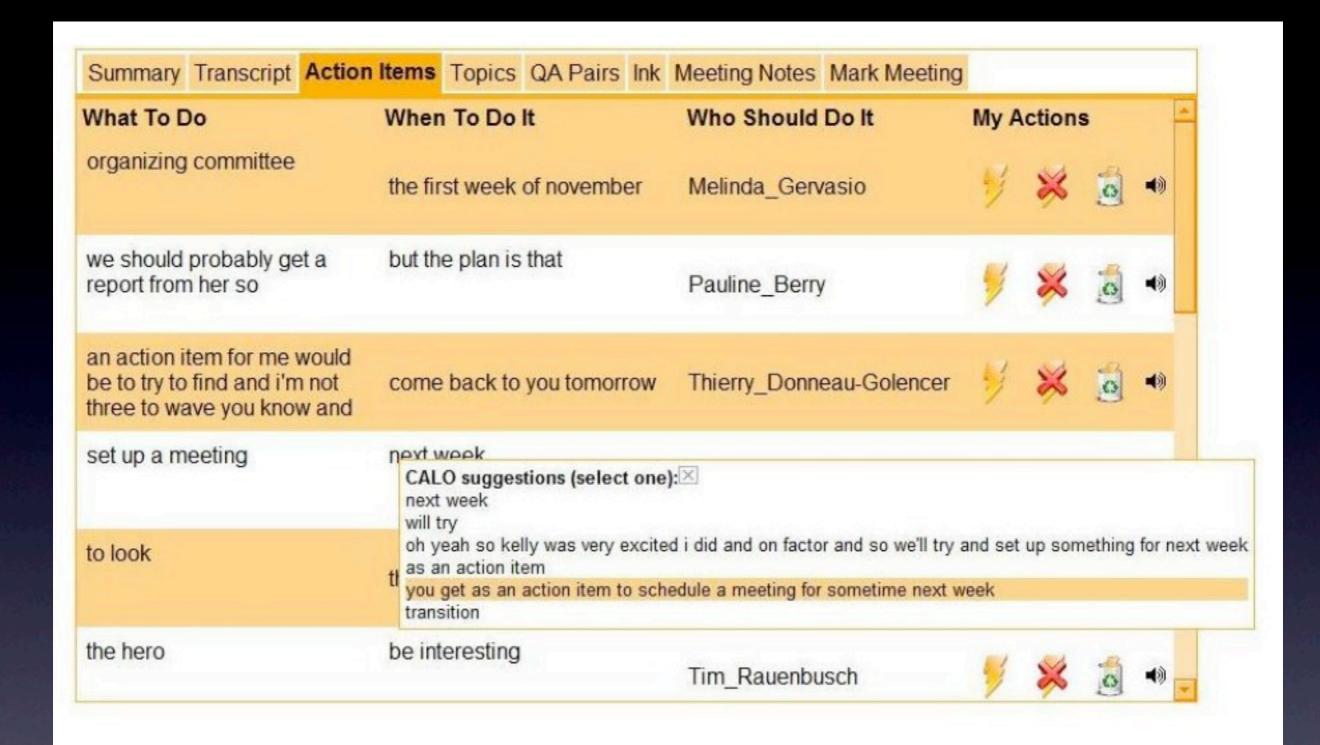
# Marketing

#### Twitter Interaction

- Snow, earthquakes, votes:
  - volume of traffic ("buzz")
  - (maybe combined with keyword searches)
- What if we want more than this?
  - Influence in discussions
  - Questions & answers, alternatives
  - Agreements, disagreements, consensus
  - ... needs more than buzz or keywords



# Meeting Assistant



#### Action Item Detection

How do we detect decisions / action items?

```
not really. the there was the uh notion of the preliminary patent, that uh
SAQ
FDH
        yeah, it is a cheap patent.
SAQ
       yeah.
CYA
       okay.
SAQ
       which is
FDH
       so, it is only seventy five dollars.
SAQ
       and it is it is e an e
CYA
       hm, that is good.
HHI
        talk to
SAO
        yeah and and it is really broad, you don't really have to define it as w as much as
        ín in a you know, a uh
FDH
       yeah.
HHI
        I actually think we should apply for that right away.
CYA
        yeah, I think that is a good idea.
HHI
        I think you should, I mean, like, this week, s start moving in that direction.
        just 'cause that is actually good to say, when you present your product to the it
        gives you some instant credibility.
SAQ
        [Noise]
SAQ
        mhm.
CYA
        right.
```

• How do we discuss tasks?



- How do we discuss tasks?
  - Describe task

Somebody needs to fill out this report!



• How do we discuss tasks?

I guess I could do that.

- Describe task
- Assign owner

Somebody needs to fill out this report!



- How do we disuss tasks?
  - Describe task
  - Assign owner
  - Define timeframe

Can you do it by tomorrow?



• How do we discuss tasks?

- Describe task
- Assign owner
- Define timeframe
- Agree

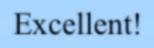
Can you do it by tomorrow?



• How do we discuss tasks?

Describe task

- Assign owner
- Define timeframe
- Agree



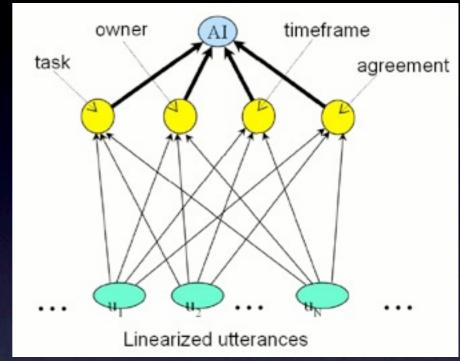


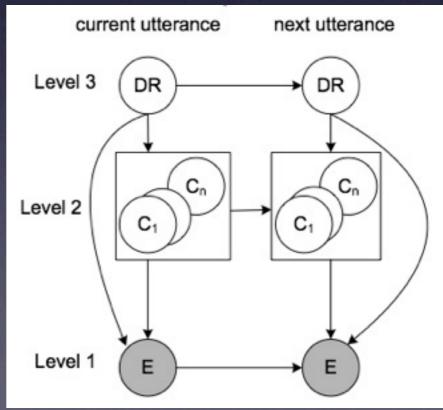
How do we detect decisions / action items?

```
not really. the there was the uh notion of the preliminary patent, that uh
SAQ
FDH
        yeah, it is a cheap patent.
SAQ
       yeah.
CYA
       okay.
SAQ
       which is
FDH
       so, it is only seventy five dollars.
SAQ
       and it is it is e an e
CYA
       hm, that is good.
HHI
        talk to
SAO
        yeah and and it is really broad, you don't really have to define it as w as much as
        ín in a you know, a uh
FDH
       yeah.
HHI
        I actually think we should apply for that right away.
CYA
        yeah, I think that is a good idea.
HHI
        I think you should, I mean, like, this week, s start moving in that direction.
        just 'cause that is actually good to say, when you present your product to the it
        gives you some instant credibility.
SAQ
        [Noise]
SAQ
        mhm.
CYA
        right.
```

# Detecting Structure

- Detect the components
  - "dialogue acts"
  - Words, phrases, intonation, gestures, gaze direction ...
  - SVMs, decision trees, ...
- Detect the structure
  - Patterns/sequences of individual components
  - (Dynamic) Bayesian Nets





#### Twitter Interaction

- Snow, earthquakes, votes:
  - volume of traffic ("buzz")
  - (maybe combined with keyword searches)
- What if we want more than this?
  - Influence in discussions
  - Questions & answers, alternatives
  - Agreements, disagreements, consensus
  - ... it's all about the **structure** again

# What are we looking for?

- What are the overall structures?
  - The jury's still out ...
- What are the building blocks ("dialogue acts")?
  - Question, answer, accept?
  - Publish information, like/dislike?
  - Express opinions, emotions, agree/disagree?
  - (aha! can "sentiment analysis" help?)

# What do they look like?

- Twitter interaction structure may be similar to face-to-face ...
- ... but Twitter language certainly isn't ...
- ... and it changes very fast.

Nyt alexx tweetdreamsh RT @JDBAustralia: Goodnight everyone, i will tweet you all tomorrow <3 #loveislouder

BIEBER ALERT! #imoldenough to say @justinbieber's new hair is FUCKING GORGEOUS

#### How can we detect them?

- Look for lists of keywords?
  - (most "sentiment analyzers" do this)
  - like, good, happy vs hate, bad, sad
  - How do we define the list?
  - How do we keep it updated?
  - How do we transfer it to new languages?

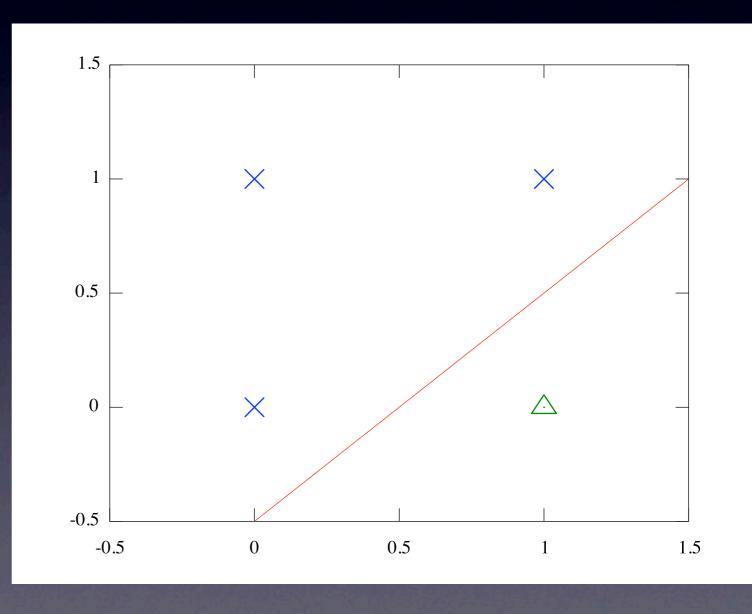
#### How can we detect them?

- What about these?
  - @justinbieber is bad
  - i love @justinbieber #sarcasm
  - yeah right RT @susie i love @justinbieber
- Language is complicated!
- Need to learn these automatically
- Need to learn relationships between words

### How can we detect them?

- Supervised machine learning (support vector machines)
  - Give it lots of labelled data
  - Learn to predict the labels

#sarcasm



love

#### Labels

- Problem: we need lots of labelled data
- Labelling is boring, expensive and hard:

Best day in ages!

Gets so angry when tutors don't email back... Do you job idiots!

Leftover ToeJams with Kettle Salt and Vinegar chips.

Need people to label the data themselves ...

#### Labels

- Problem: we need lots of labelled data
- Labelling is boring, expensive and hard:

Best day in ages! #Happy:)

Gets so #angry when tutors don't email back... Do you job idiots! :@

Leftover ToeJams with Kettle Salt and Vinegar chips. #stress #sadness #comfort

Need people to label the data themselves ...

# Distant Supervision

Find reliable conventions as noisy "labels"

```
:) :( :@ :-P <3 (^_^) (>_<) ...

#happy #sad #fail #ftw ...
```

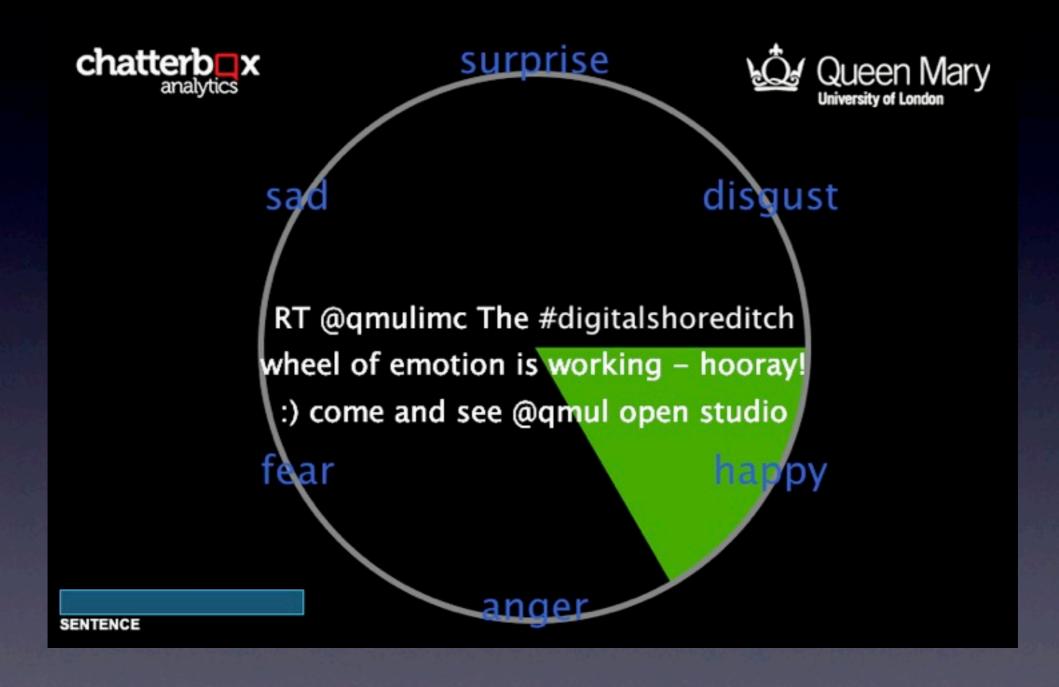
- Learn accurate models from lots of data
  - (> 80% accuracy straight away)
- Easy to adapt, cross-language (ish)
- Uses authors' own interpretation

# Distant Supervision

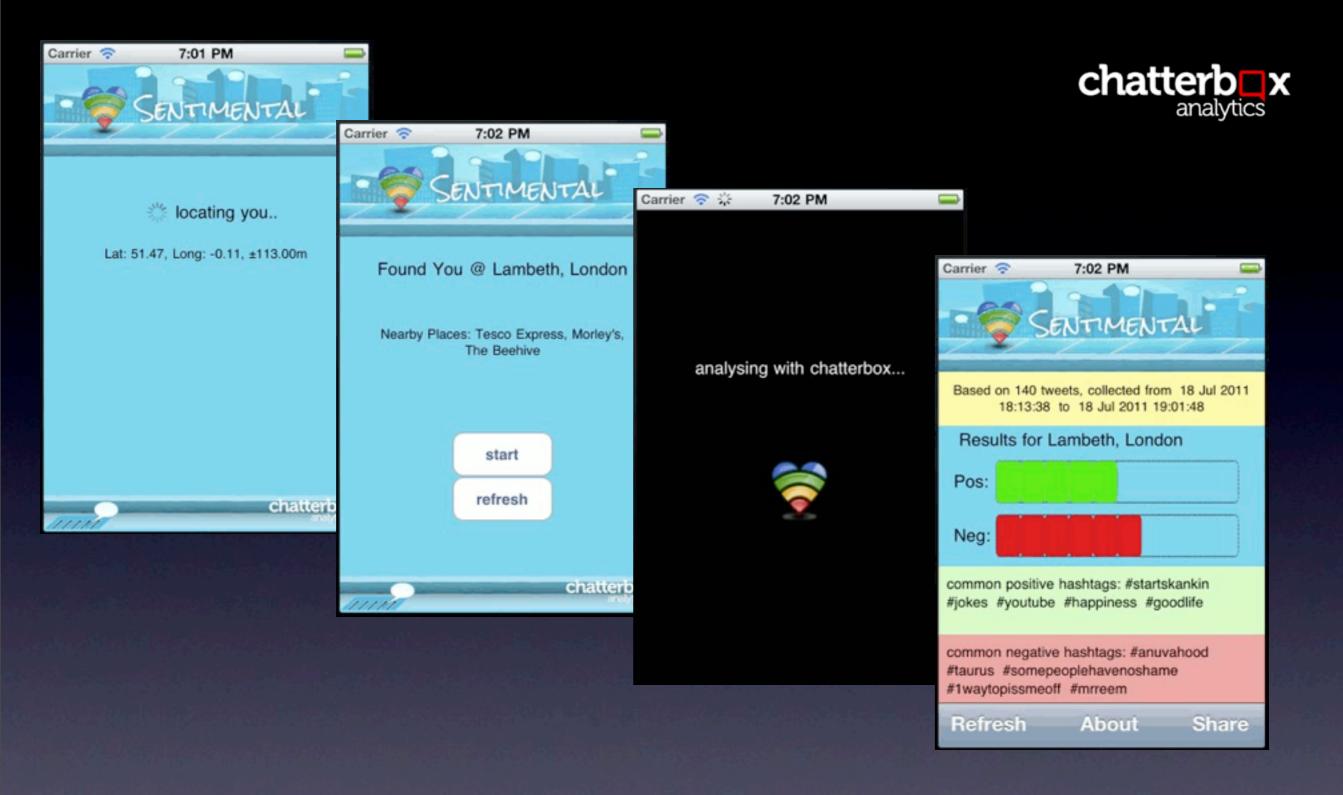
- Do they tell us what we want to know?
  - Yes: opinions, emotions, sentiment
  - No: the labels are noisy (ambiguous, vague)

- Use co-training between independent labels
  - Find common meaning (semi-)automatically

Tweet with #digitalshoreditch and spin the wheel!



### Wheel of Emotion



# iPhone app: Sentimental

### What's next?

- Topic analysis:
  - e.g. tweets about a mobile provider
    - liked: deals, HTC Desire, ...
    - disliked: signal, HTC Sensation, ...



#### What's next?

- Conversation Structure!
  - understanding influence, (dis)agreement, consensus:

Vodafone said I could pay \$344 to keep phone. 6 months left on contract & my receipt said phone was \$240 over 12mths & I can pay out early

@developit I want to terminate my contract with Vodafail - their service has been shocking at best. It's going to cost me \$\$\$\$

@macbisho lodged complaint with ombudsman on Wednesday, got txt from Vodafone saying they have agreed & cancelled contract.

@developit fantastic. What happens to your phone?

@macbisho keep it I hope. Will let u know once I have the letter

@developit complaint to TIO done :) I love how you can do it online!

@macbisho oh I didn't know about online. We still haven't heard if son has his contract cancelled. Called Vodafone but line was bad. Typical

# Thank you

- Me: <a href="https://www.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/~mpurver">www.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/~mpurver</a>
  - m.purver@qmul.ac.uk / @mpurver
- IMC: www.eecs.qmul.ac.uk/researchgp/imc
  - @qmulimc
- Chatterbox: <u>www.cbanalytics.co.uk</u>
  - info@cbanalytics.co.uk / @cbanalytics