## Social Physics and Complexity

Using big data to understand human interactions











#### **QUESTIONS**

**DATA** 

**TOOLS** 



Online vs. Offline Patterns Emergency Now-casting Antibiotic Over-prescription Google Trends
SNS24
Twitter
ER acceptance /times

SPMS e-prescriptions

Math Modelling ML Epidemiology



Political Decisions Gender Differences Agenda Setting Voting vs. Discourse

Media records Twitter Facebook Parliament data NLP Networks Math Modelling Complex Systems



Cognitive Biases Attitudes Towards Science Tracking Anxiety

Large scale surveys
Behavioral experiments
Twitter
Facebook

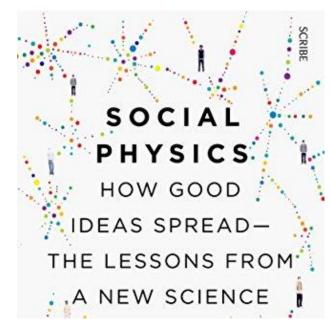
Networks Math Modelling Psychology Information



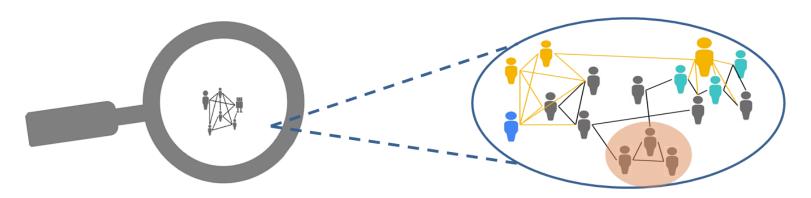
These problems—and a wide range of similar problems in the biological, medical, psychological, economic, and political sciences—are just too complicated to yield to the old nineteenth-century techniques which were so dramatically successful on two, three, or four-variable problems of simplicity. These new problems, moreover, cannot be handled with the statistical techniques so effective in describing average behavior in problems of disorganized complexity.

These new problems, and the future of the world depends on many of them, requires science to make a third great advance, an advance that must be even greater than the nineteenth-century conquest of problems of simplicity or the twentieth-century victory over problems of disorganized complexity. Science must, over the next 50 years, learn to deal with these problems of organized complexity.

Warren Weaver, 1947

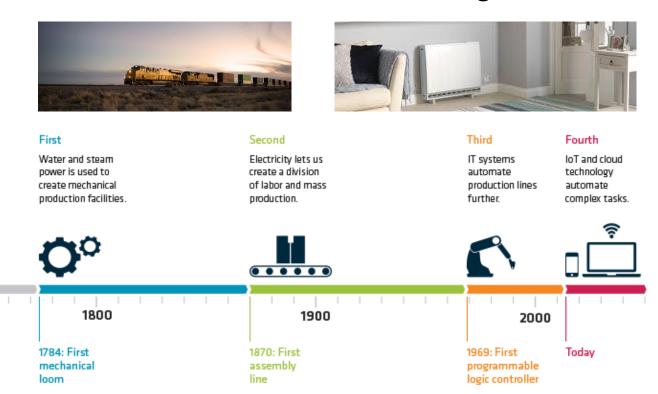


Alex Pentland, 2014





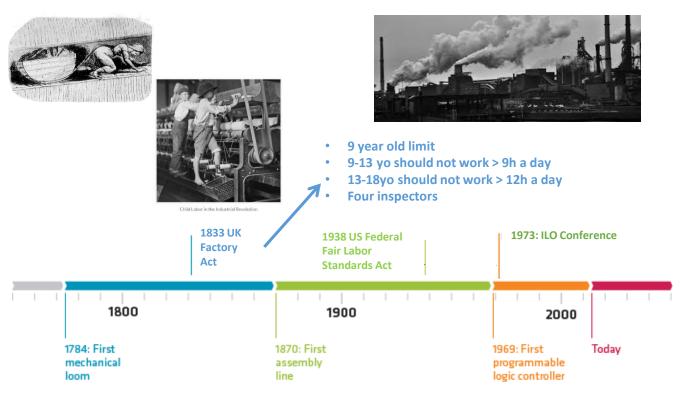
#### From the Industrial Revolution to the Digital Revolution



Source: <a href="https://mjolner.dk/2015/01/14/realizing-the-fourth-industrial-revolution/">https://mjolner.dk/2015/01/14/realizing-the-fourth-industrial-revolution/</a>

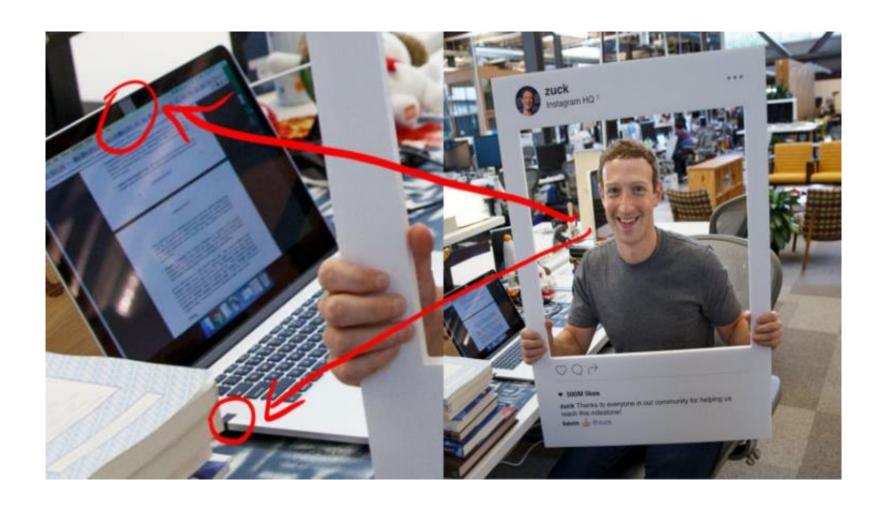


#### From the Industrial Revolution to the Digital Revolution



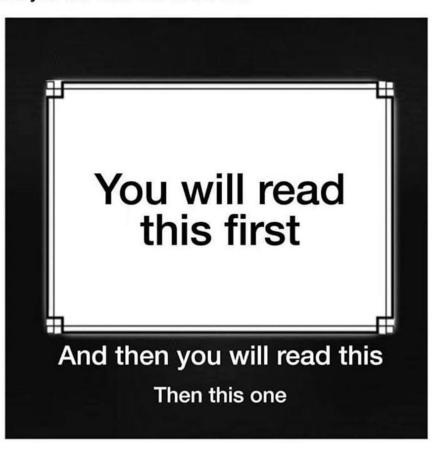
Source: <a href="https://mjolner.dk/2015/01/14/realizing-the-fourth-industrial-revolution/">https://mjolner.dk/2015/01/14/realizing-the-fourth-industrial-revolution/</a>



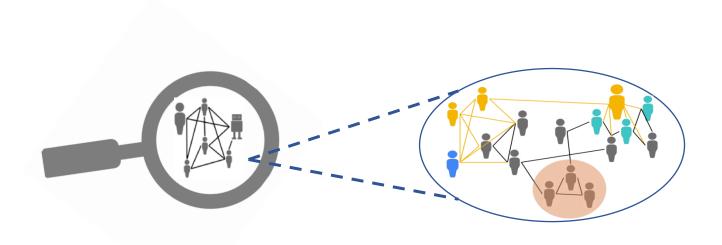




And you will read this at the end







## WE HAVE CREATED A "MACROSCOPE" BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE IT



#### why am i so

why am i so tired
why am i so ugly
why am i so gassy
why am i so thirsty
why am i so angry
why am i so itchy
why am i so sad
why am i so hungry
why am i so emotional
why am i so bloated

#### how to

how to make slime
how to tie a tie
how to buy bitcoin
how to lose weight
how to draw
how to buy ripple
how to kiss
how to make pancakes
how to mine bitcoin
how to train your dragon

#### como posso ser

como posso ser amigo de alguem
como posso ser feliz
como posso ser inteligente
como posso ser uma pessoa melhor
como posso ser salvo
como posso ser rico
como posso ser feliz sozinho
como posso ser um hacker
como posso ser popular no facebook
como posso ser cantora

#### como é que se

como é que se beija
como é que se diz eu te amo
como é que se beija de lingua
como é que se engravida
como é que se beija na boca
como é que se beija na boca
como é que se beija pela primeira vez
como é que se faz um facebook
como é que se faz um relatório
como é que se faz panquecas

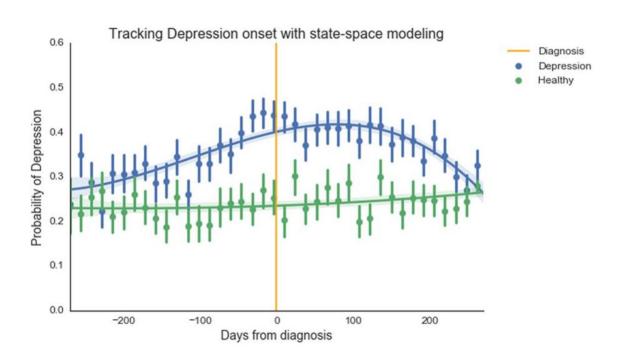
#### pourquoi je suis

pourquoi je suis moche
pourquoi je suis triste
pourquoi je suis toujours fatigué
pourquoi je suis célibataire
pourquoi je suis toujours célibataire
pourquoi je suis devenu rebelle pdf
pourquoi je suis seule
pourquoi je suis toujours fatiguée
pourquoi je suis jalouse
pourquoi je suis triste sans raison

#### comment faire

comment faire du slime
comment faire un cv
comment faire des crepes
comment faire une dissertation
comment faire une capture d'écran
comment faire une bibliographie
comment faire un gateau
comment faire du caramel
comment faire de la glue
comment faire du pain

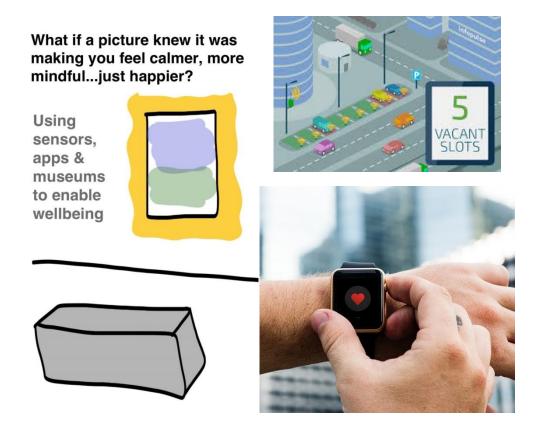




https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-017-12961-9



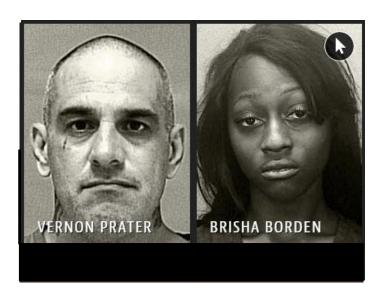
#### WILL lot HELP US BECOME HAPPIER?







#### Punitive!

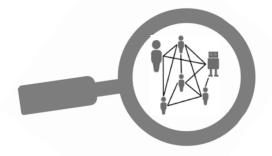


https://www.propublica.org/article/machine-bias-risk-assessments-in-criminal-sentencing



### In summary

- Human behavior is a complex problem
- We have growing data to tackle that complexity
- The data we produce is a reflection of our biases
- We should acknowledge those biases





# Example: How does information spread on social networks?

Twitter as a model system



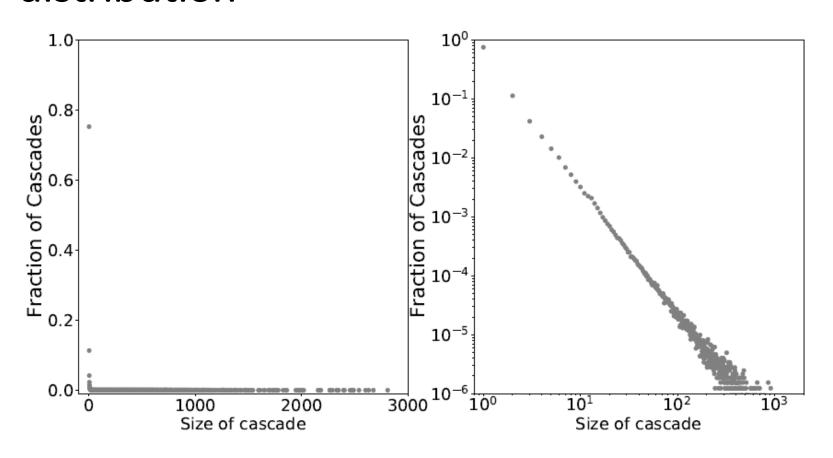
#### Two important definitions

**Tweet cascade**: The set of all copies (re-tweets) of an original tweet.

We measure **Fitness** the rate at which the number of copies of a tweet grows.

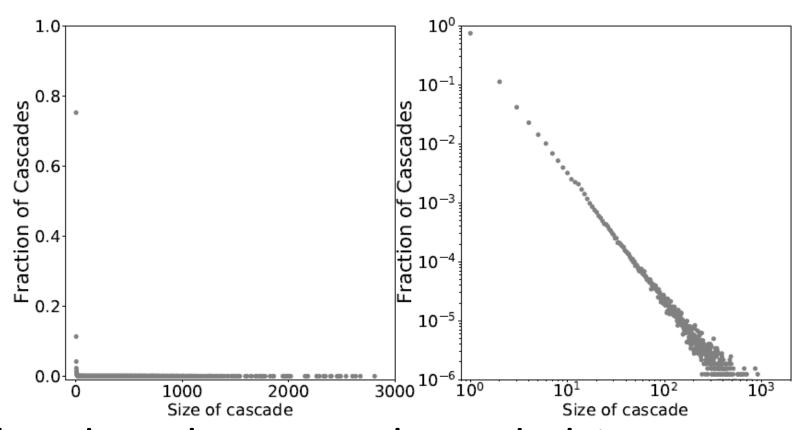


## Re-tweet cascade sizes follow a power law distribution





## Re-tweet cascade sizes follow a power law distribution



... but does that mean the underlying process is also scale-free?

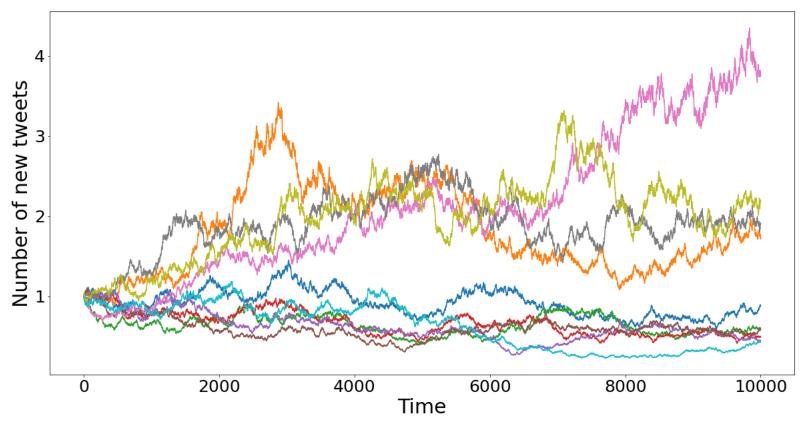




Image credit: all-free-download.com

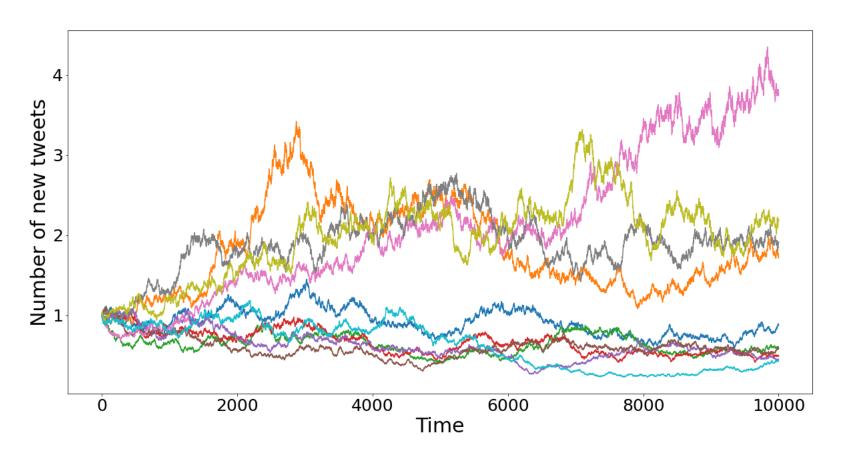


## Cascade growth as a diffusion process



 $\frac{dx}{dt} = x\epsilon$   $\frac{d\log(x)}{dt} = \log(x) + \log(\epsilon)$ , where  $\log(\epsilon)$  is a Gaussian random variable.

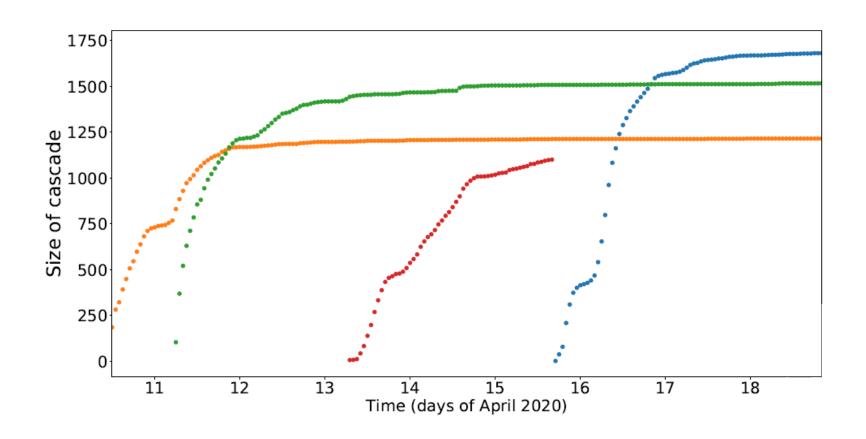
## Cascade growth as a diffusion process



$$\frac{dx}{dt} = a \cdot x + x \cdot \epsilon$$

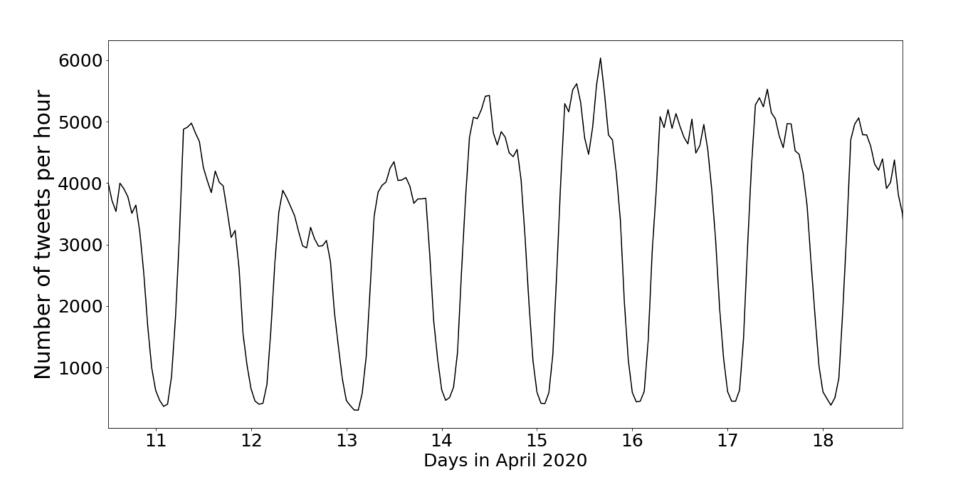


## Cascade growth

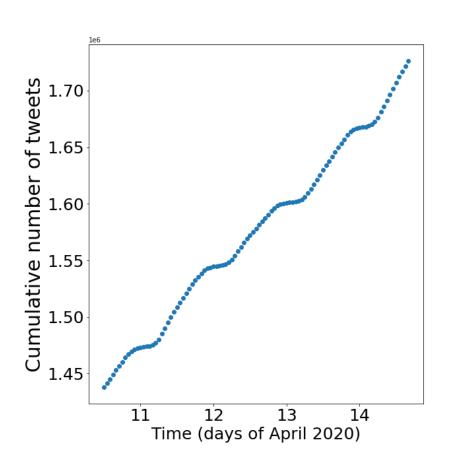


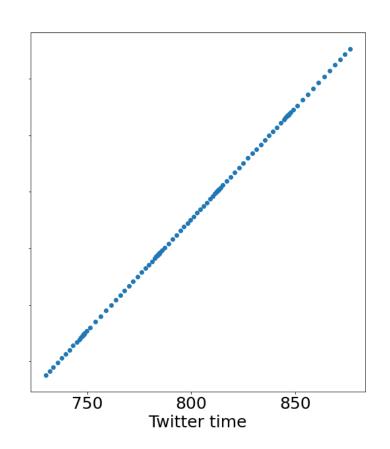


## Introducing Twitter time



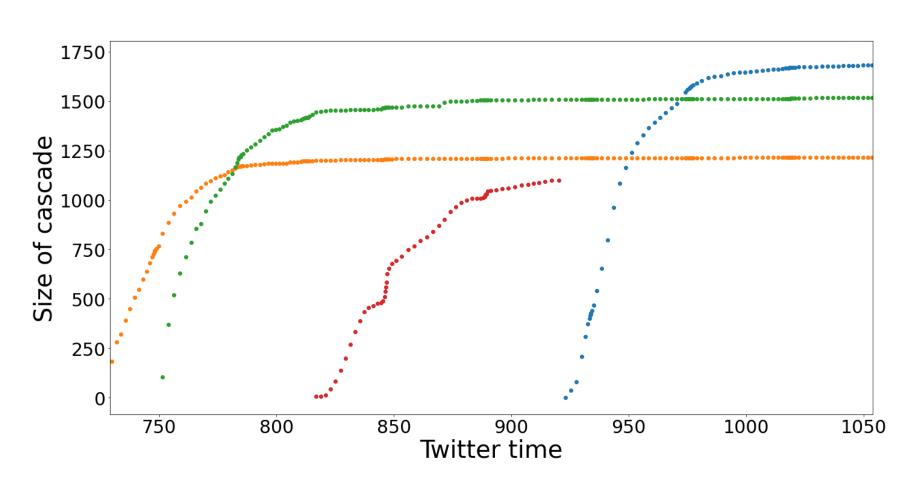
## Introducing Twitter time





$$\frac{dT_t}{dt} = \frac{dN_{total}}{dt} \cdot C$$

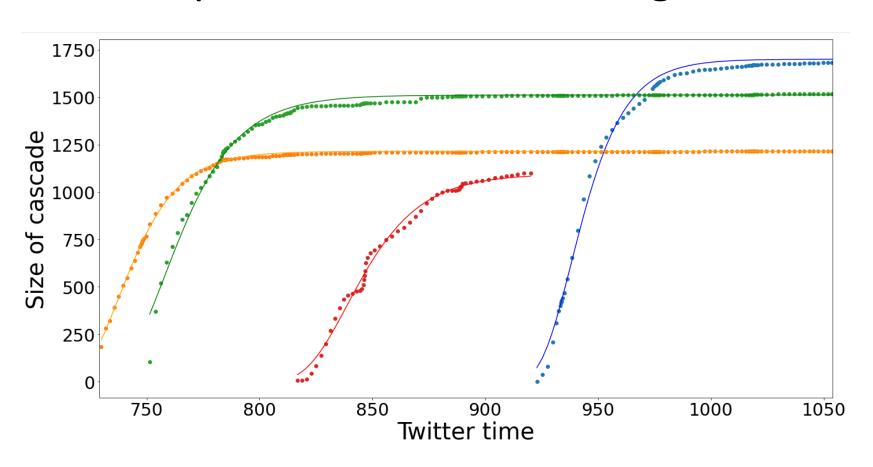
## The simplest model for cascade growth



$$\frac{dN}{dt} = N \cdot a \cdot e^{-g \cdot t} \epsilon$$



### The simplest model for cascade growth



$$\mathbf{N}(\mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{N}(0) \cdot \mathbf{e}^{\frac{\mathbf{a}}{g}} \mathbf{e}^{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{e}^{-g \cdot \mathbf{t}}}$$



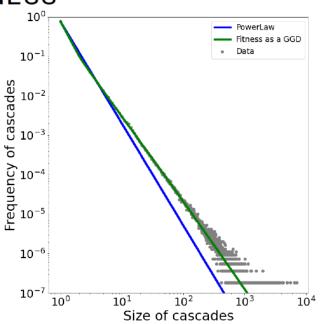
$$\frac{d\textit{N}}{dt} = \textit{N} \cdot \textit{a} \cdot \textit{e}^{-g \cdot \textit{t}}$$
 ;  $\textit{N}(\textit{t}) = \textit{N}(0) \cdot \textit{e}^{\frac{\textit{a}}{\textit{g}}} \textit{e}^{\textit{a} \cdot \textit{e}^{-g \cdot \textit{t}}}$ 

$$\left[ extstyle extstyle$$

$$\lim_{t\to+\infty} dist(N) = \frac{1}{N} \cdot dist_{\frac{a}{g}}(\log(N))$$

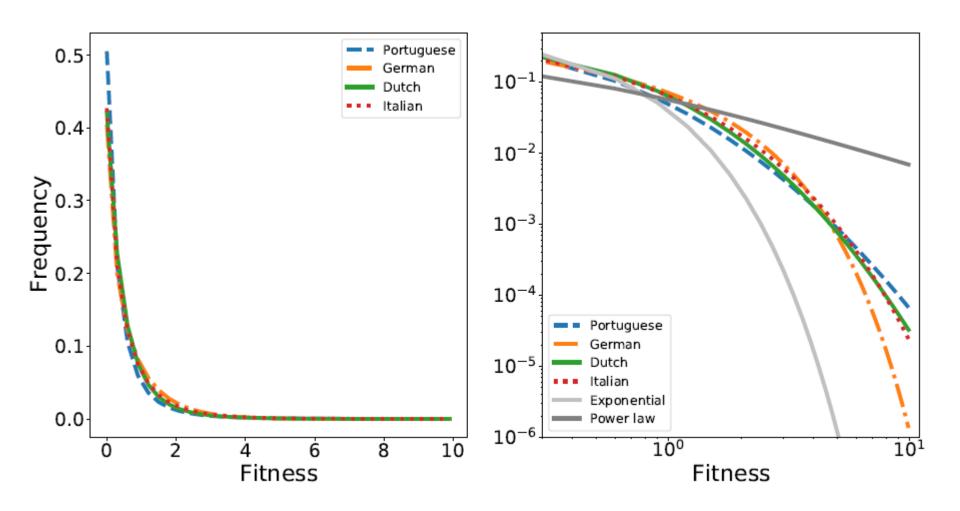


## FITTING THE GENERALIZED GAMMA DISTRIBUTION (GGD) TO FITNESS



$$f(x, a, c, \theta) = \frac{|c| \cdot x^{c \cdot a - 1} \cdot e^{-\frac{x}{\theta}^{c}}}{\theta^{c \cdot a} \cdot \Gamma(a)}$$

	а	С	top 20%
Portuguese	60	0.11	0.31
German	0.27	1.3	0.46
Dutch	65	0.14	0.36
Italian	1.0	0.69	0.36





#### Ongoing ....

- Add properties of the social network. Does it improve the fit? (numerical solutions and simulations)
- Compare different types of information such as real versus fake news
- Include demographic and psychological characteristics of individuals
- ?

## **FARE** - Fake News and Real People - Using Big Data to Understand Human Behaviour

https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/853566

https://tinyurl.com/SPAComplexity







