
Data analysis of large measurement sets

Ian Marsh, Ph.D, 2020-01-19





New national institute of
Sweden.

2500 employees, 30% PhDs

Swedish industries:
Ericsson, Volvo, Scania,
AstraZenica, Spotify, H&M

RI.SE covers most areas

<https://www.ri.se/en>



Dates

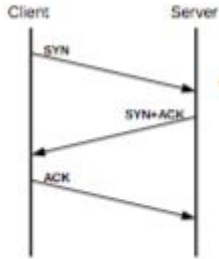
Formed Sep. 2018

Spring 2019
collaborate with
industry

Oct. 2019 Groups set

Network delay

Causes of network latency



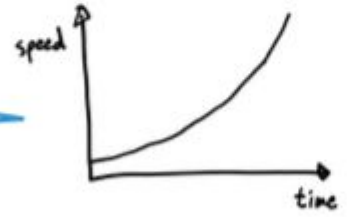
Connection setup - can be many round-trips end-to-end before data is transferred

Access technology - xDSL and mobile broadband adds 20-200 ms!



Queueing - also called buffering - in switches and routers of the network, sometimes excessive: "bufferbloat"

Congestion control - connections start slow and are successively ramped up in rate to not create severe network congestion







Overall READY project goals

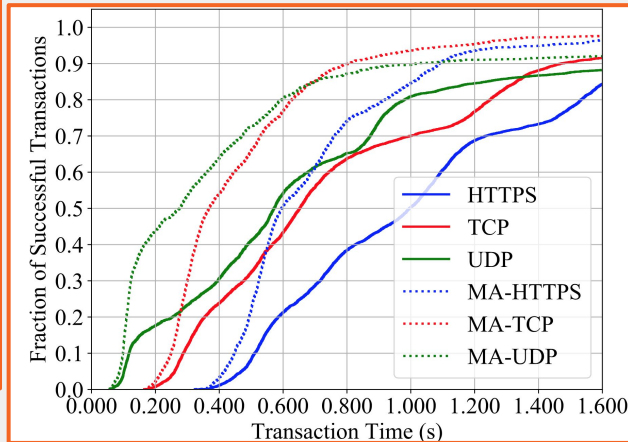
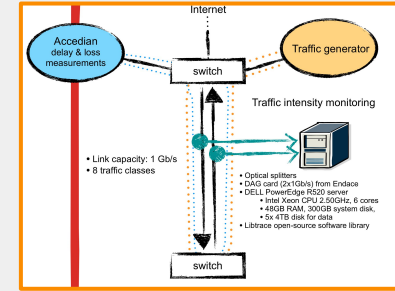
- Understand causes of latency
- Develop solutions with low latency
- Establish a distributed research environment

READY project application domains

Measurements & datasets

Four example projects:

1. Telia  Swedish incumbent measurements
 - Access delay in home & mobile networks
2. CheesePi 
 - Home-monitoring, more below
3. EU  FIRE+ : MONROE Mobile broadband measurements
 - 4 operators, 4 countries
 - Ours : busses
4. Orange  labs
 - Cellular http accesses for 3 months (5TB)
 - Apps: Caching, mobility patterns, ...





Analysis

Different approaches over the years. We have progressed from low-level to a “more” human-friendly presentation.

- **Protocol**
Round-trip times, timers, queue lengths
- **Statistical**
Summary statistics
- **Visualisation**
Plots, dashboards, video
- **Big data**
Handling large amounts of data (see URL)

—

Lessons learned: provider dialog, capture small data (only), include implicit environment, experimental design, ...



Issues

1. Getting complete data (URL below)
2. Timing always problematic
3. Machine learning needs minimal # of features

Each measurement campaign needs to learn from previous experiences and often needs 4-5 attempts (sometimes more) to get your campaign correct

<http://tma.ifip.org/2018/special-session-cfp/>



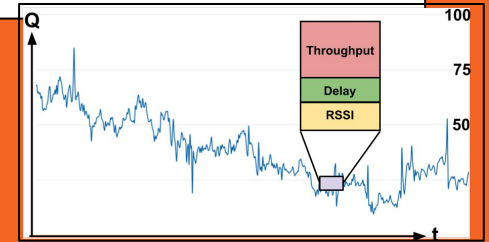
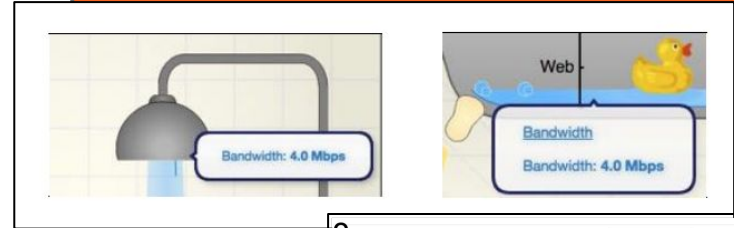
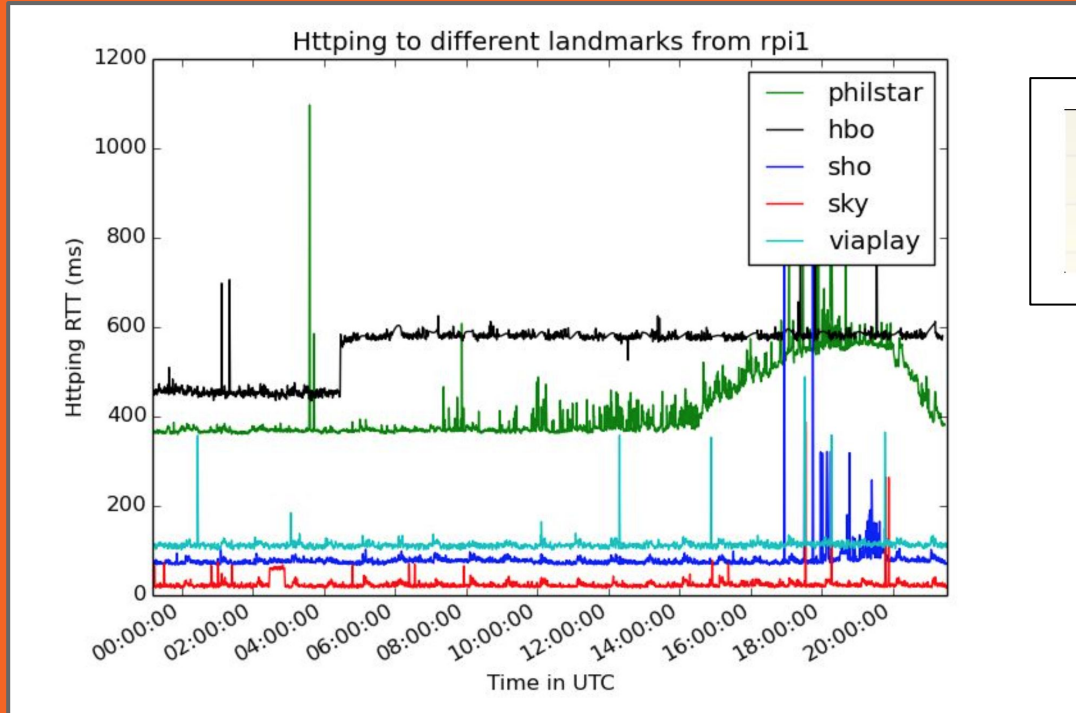
Tips

Inferring behaviour from measurements is hard

General failure of QoE

Active measurements need to be conducted fairly, to ensure no blame game

Home measurements



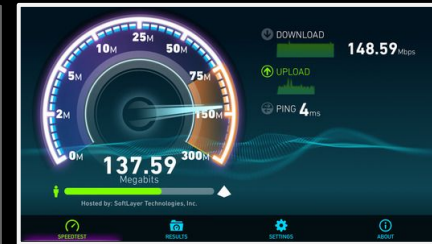


Help! I'm home (alone)



Mass-scale measurements:
RIPE Atlas, Geant, ARK, ...

Numerous 1-off measurements done
by users: Speedtest



But what if I want to find why *my*
Internet is dodgy? and **now!**



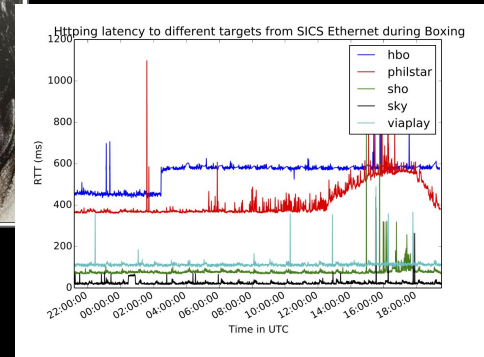
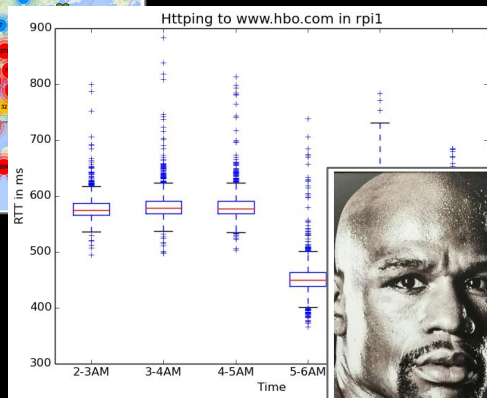
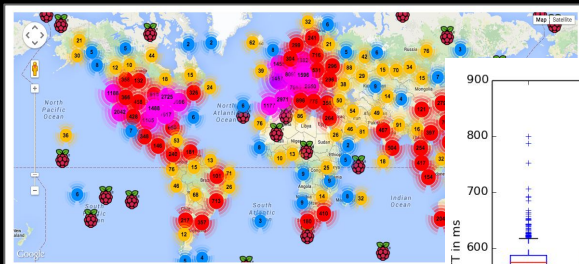
Is this video stream going to frustrate me?





Can we as a community do something?

By measuring *collaboratively*, better network inference can be drawn
Where the problems occur, which can't be reached from the outside
However measurements **must** be fair, unbiased, neutral, ...



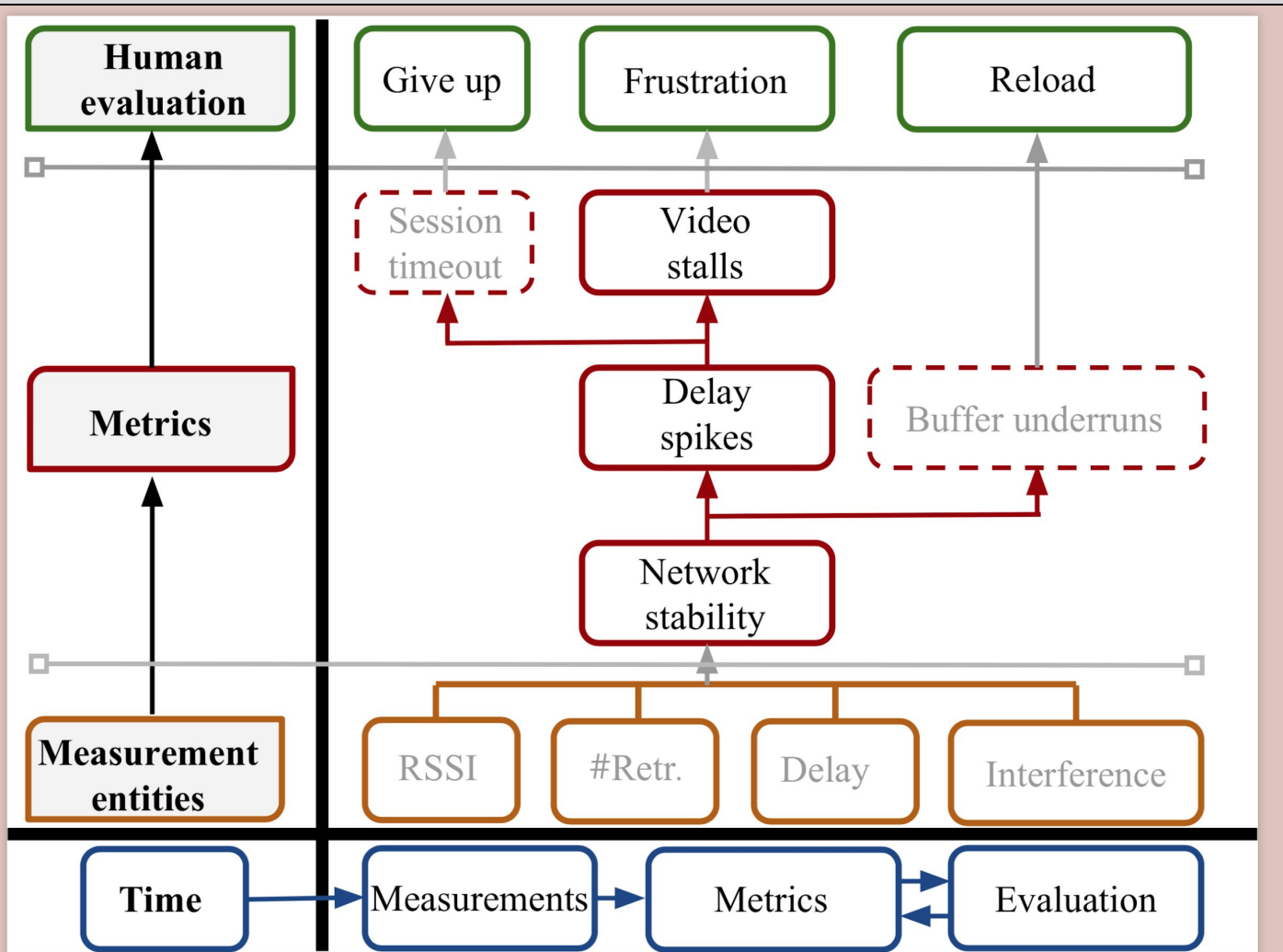


Tip

Design the outcome of the data, *now*. Adding fields, experiments, messes up the data.

Future.

Measurements + Analysis = Pipeline

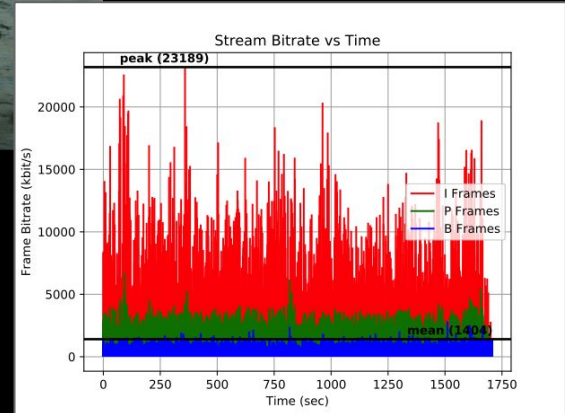
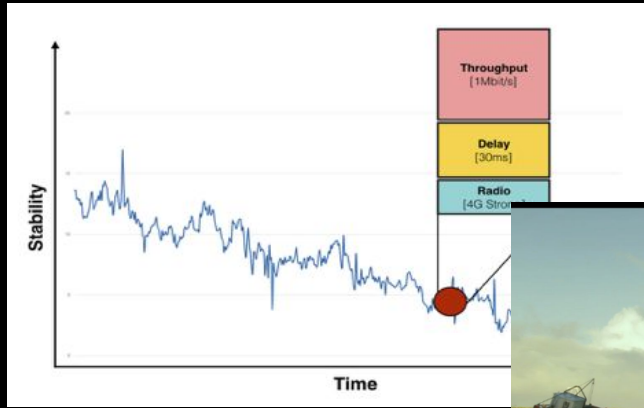


Metrics

1. Build blocks, not systems
2. Reuse each
3. And compose for each application



Video buffering ~ still broken



Internet access project

The project consists of three phases:

1. Provide a clear definition of what constitutes Internet ccess
2. Develop a measurement tool that customers and operators can use to measure Internet access.
3. Introduce a self-certification that may be used by operators and public procurement entities.

<https://www.netnod.se/internetaccess>



Milestones

March 2018

Discussion RISE-SICS,
NetNod, IIS and PTS

Jan 2019

Evaluate measurements
(IIS dependent)

2018

2019-2020

June 2018

Common mistakes
paper

November 2020

Finished Internetaccess

European collaboration

“Common mistakes in measurements”

A (white) paper, will be summarised at one meeting.



Way ahead

1. Summarise experiences over 10 campaigns
2. In a report
3. Data analysis included 😊



Dimension reduction

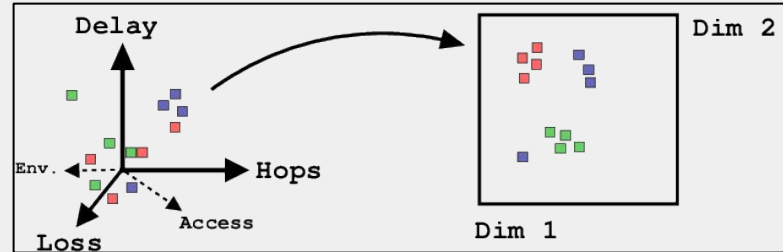
1. Reduce explicit and implicit artifacts
2. Makes visualisation more effective
3. ML performs better
4. Data exploration more intuitive

Theme stolen from Google docs.

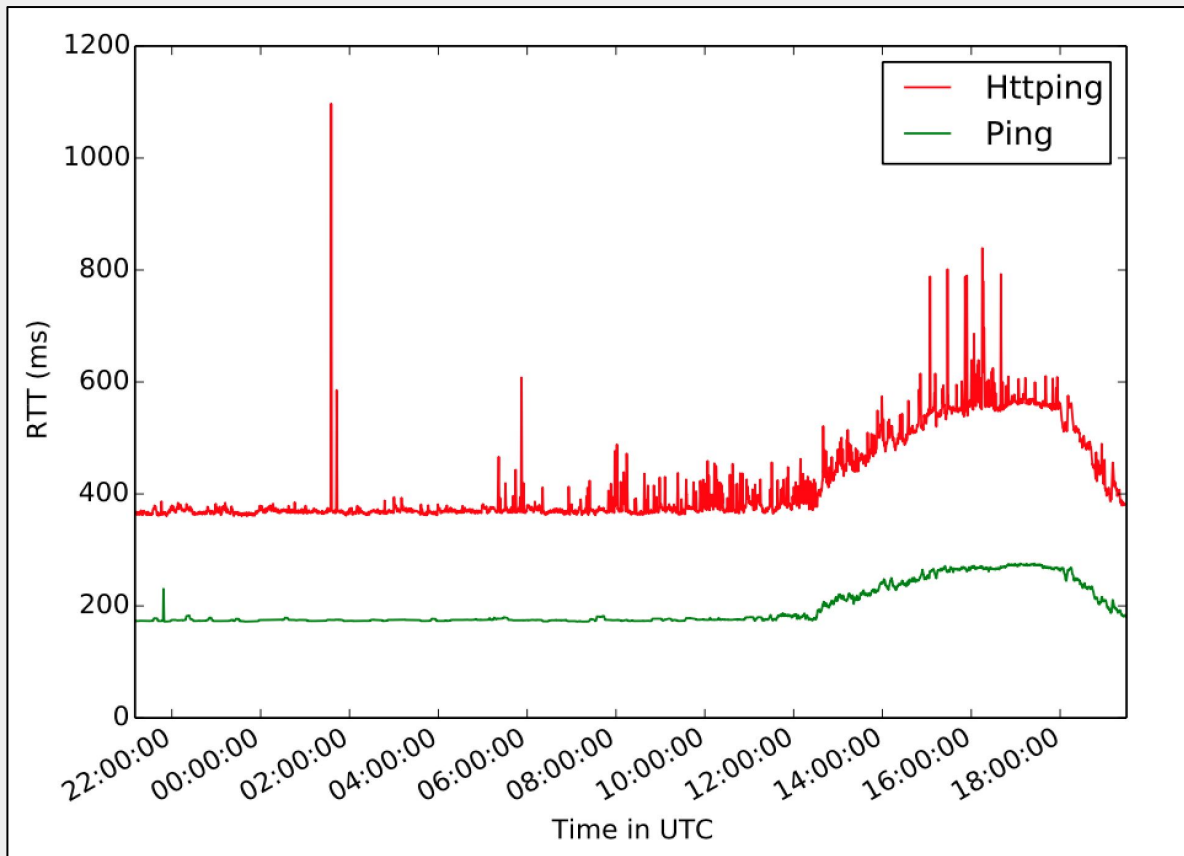


Dimensionality reduction

1. Modern network measurements may contain hard to discern facets.
2. Metrics may be derived from basic, measurable entities, for example, quality might be a function of the delay, loss, environment, access technology...
3. System delays may be coupled, network load and server response times may be correlated.
4. Endpoints, moving users or link types affect feedback timers



Network and server delays



Example - coupled delays

Delays arising from a network and a server interact. A loaded network will result in longer response times from a server, and a busy server will produce longer latency for the network.

From an external measurement perspective these delays might be indistinguishable and change in contribution over time. Systems theory, stability and coupled systems have a rich engineering history.

Clearly the average delay is due to the network, however the variance in the delay is due to the server response. To quantify the contributions of the network and server, therefore visualisations become important.

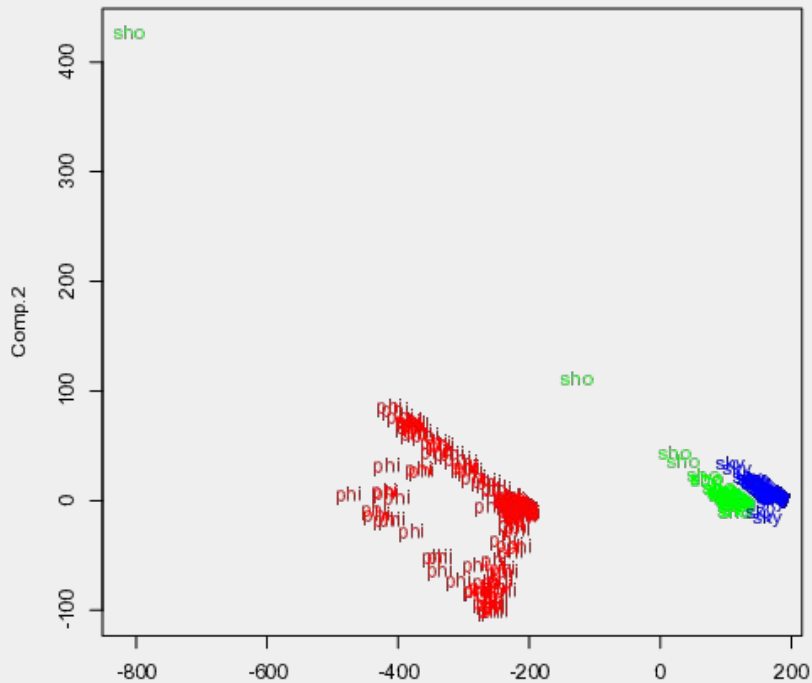
Techniques

1. PCA
2. kPCA
3. LDA
4. t-SNE

Tech.	Type	Para- metric	Para- meters	Compu- ation.	Memory
PCA	Linear	No	-	$O(D^3)$	$O(D^2)$
kPCA	Non-lin.	Yes	$k(\cdot, \cdot)$	$O(N^3)$	$O(N^3)$
LDA	Linear	No	-	-	-
t-SNE	Non-lin.	Yes	$Perp(\cdot)$	$O(N^2)$	$O(N^2)$

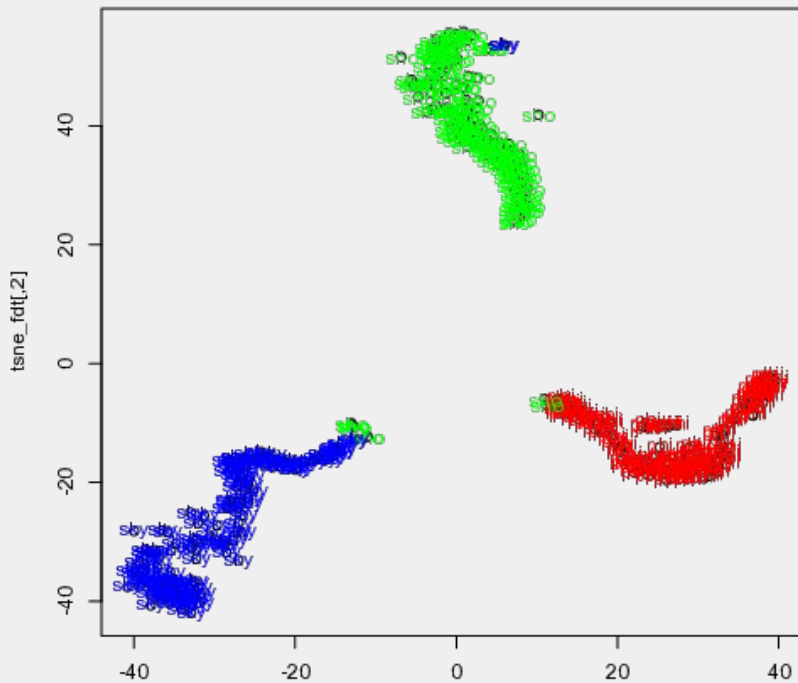
We chose PCA as it is ubiquitous in dimensionality reduction, it is computationally efficient, linear and parameterless. It also has many variants, kernel, probabilistic, discriminative. Kernel PCA performs analysis in the high dimensional space, using a kernel function, to find the principal components, see Table. LDA is also closely related to principal component analysis (PCA) and factor analysis in that they both look for linear combinations of variables which best explain the data. t-SNE is attractive due to its separation and visualization properties with recent improvements in its performance, examples next

Visualisation (coupled network and server delays)



Comp. 1

PCA



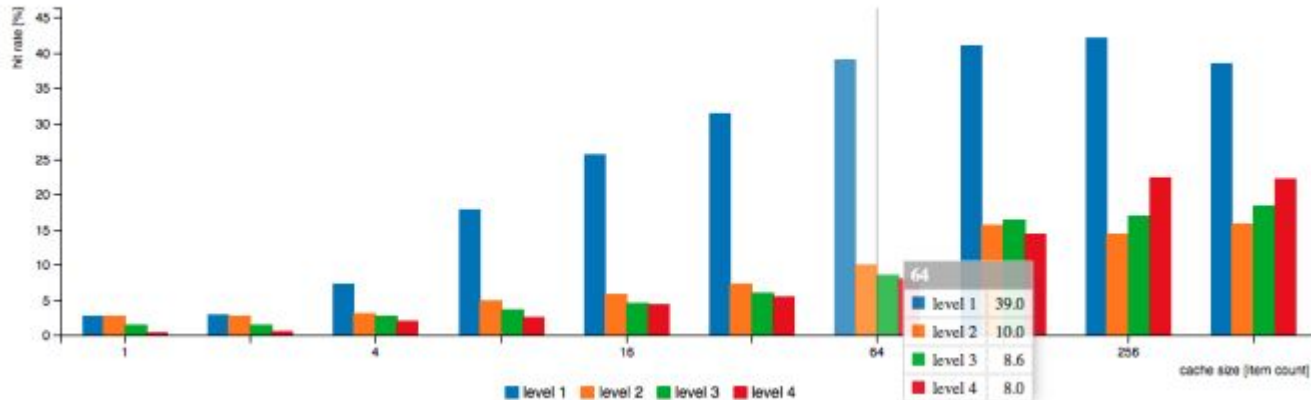
tsne_fdt[,1]

t-SNE

Caching analysis

experimental design, ...

Hit rate as a function of cache size

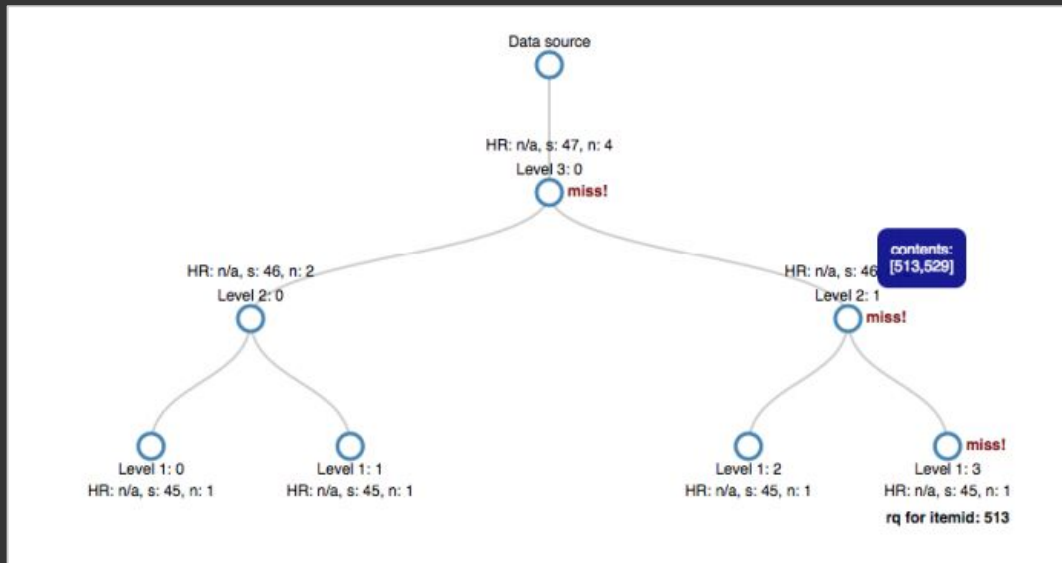


Issues

1. Complex
2. Dynamic
3. Policy-driven
4. Expensive (storage)
5. Poor quality (underdimensioned)

Caching analysis

Visualisation



Solution

1. Inspection
2. Insight
3. Hard to do otherwise



Related topics

1. **Data Readiness (TRL for data)**
2. **Sharing data incentives**
3. **Transparent AI**
4. **Data analysis landscape**

Available from <https://ianmarsh.org>