Crowd Research: Research at Scale

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We're scaling the research process to solve open-ended novel problems, by providing access and connecting hundreds of people with top researchers.

Background

Scientific research is becoming increasingly collaborative, yet primarily limited to professional researchers in labs and univs.

Can we scale traditional research approach and invite anyone from around the world to participate, and crowdsource large-scale, open-ended research problems?

Leading a Lab of Hundreds

- 1097 signups, from all 6 continents
- 27% female, median age 21
- 80% with no research experience
- 250,000+ Slack messages
- 125,000+ mins. meeting videos watched
- 150,000+ Wiki views, 12,000+ edits
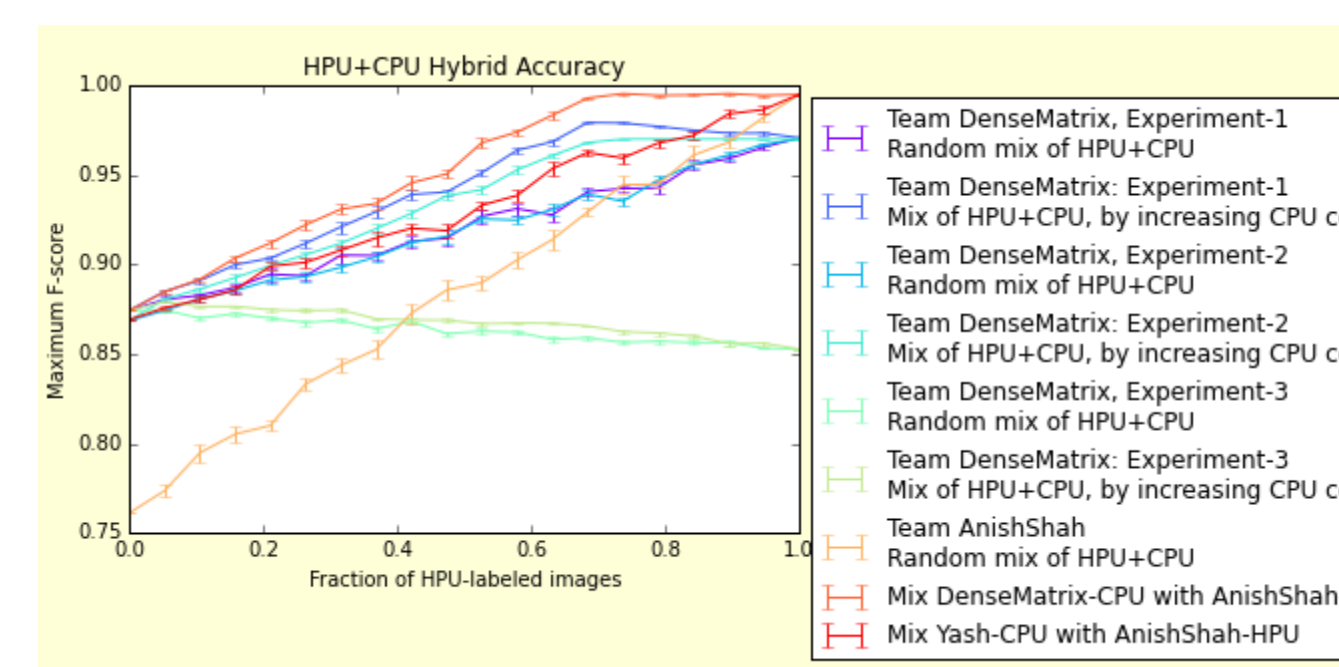- 1,500 commits on Github for HCI project

Achievements

- 3 WiP papers accepted at - AAAI HCOMP and ACM UIST 2015 (avg: 56 authors/paper); full papers under prep.
- Participants accepted for grad school at MIT, Stanford, UCSD, Cornell, more...
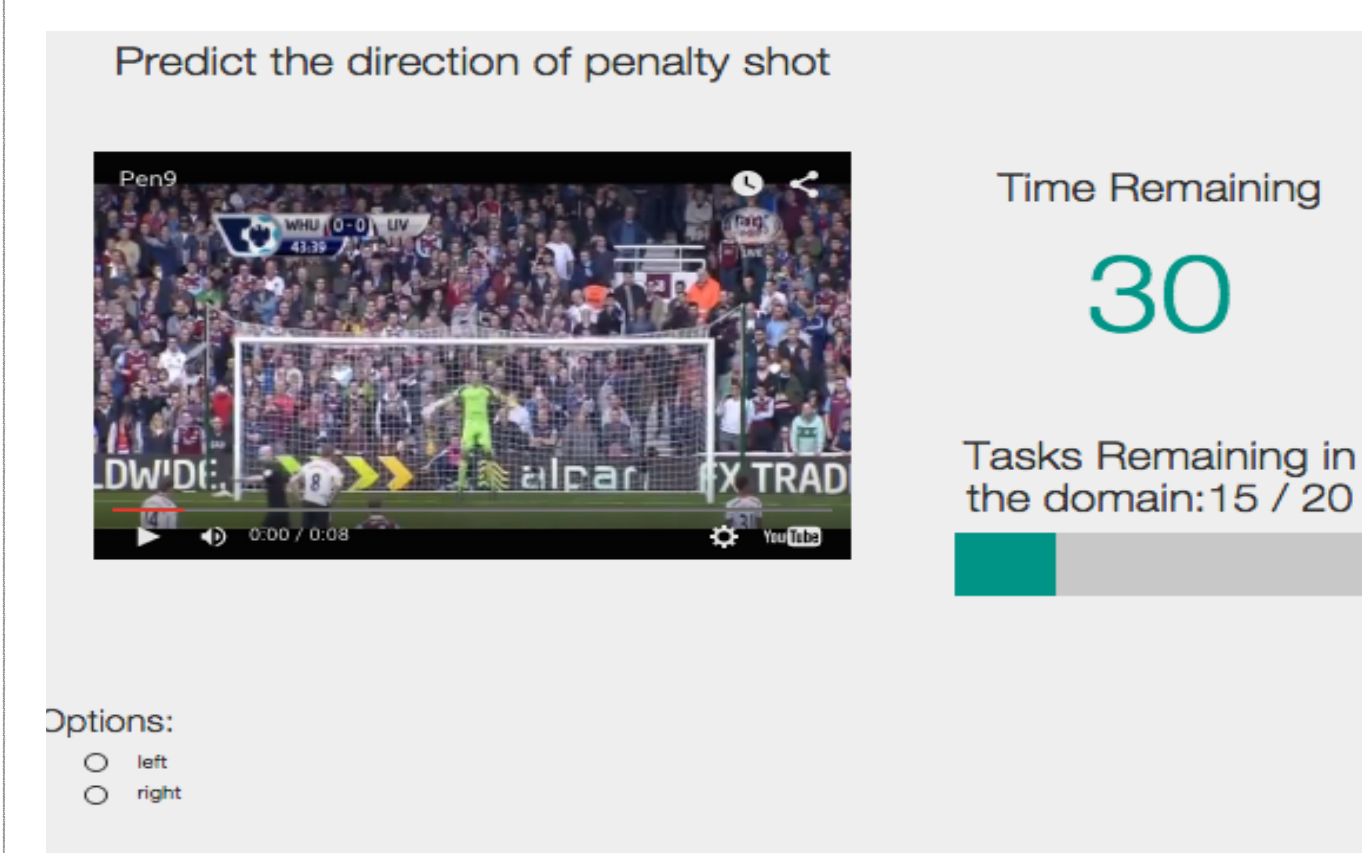
Three Parallel Projects

HCI: Michael Bernstein, Stanford
Building a new crowd marketplace

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE OF CROWDSOURCING!

Comp Vis: James Davis, UCSC and Serge Belongie, Cornell Tech
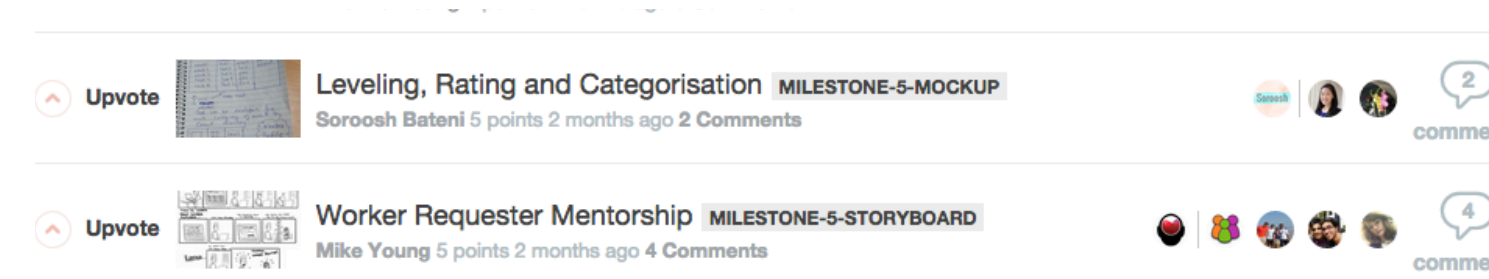Hybrid crowd-comp vis algorithms

Data Sci: Sharad Goel, Stanford
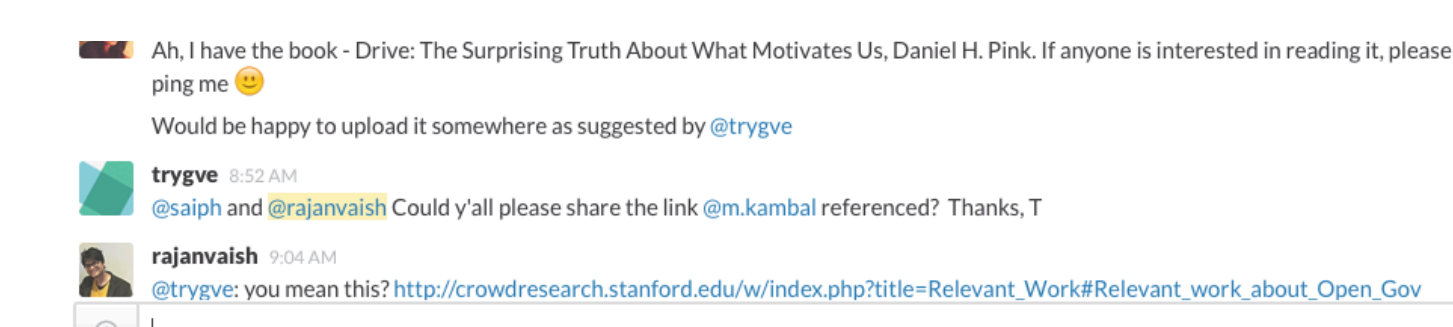Testing the wisdom of crowd

Challenges and the Process
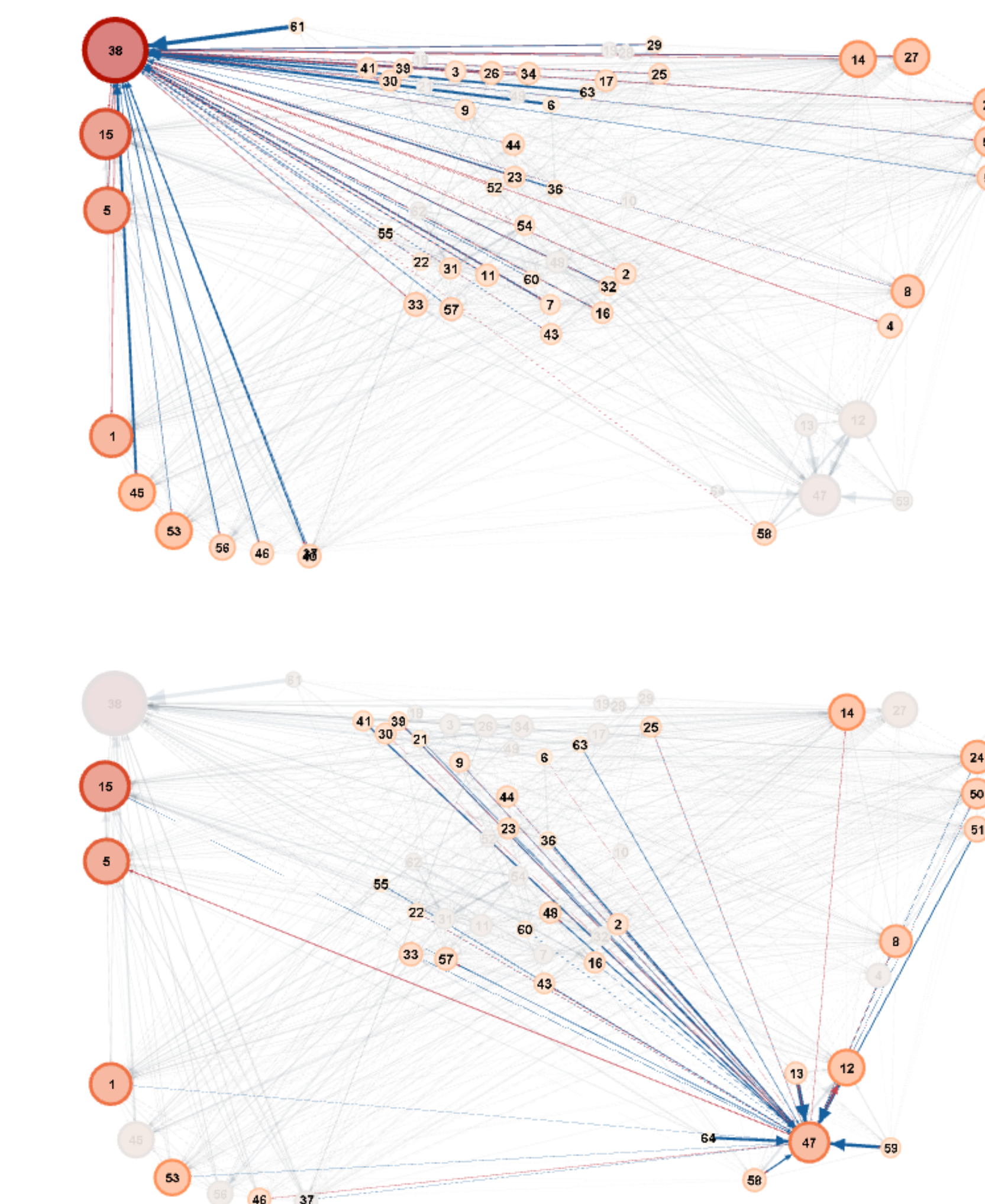
Coordination

- Exploration during the week, reset to argmax each weekend
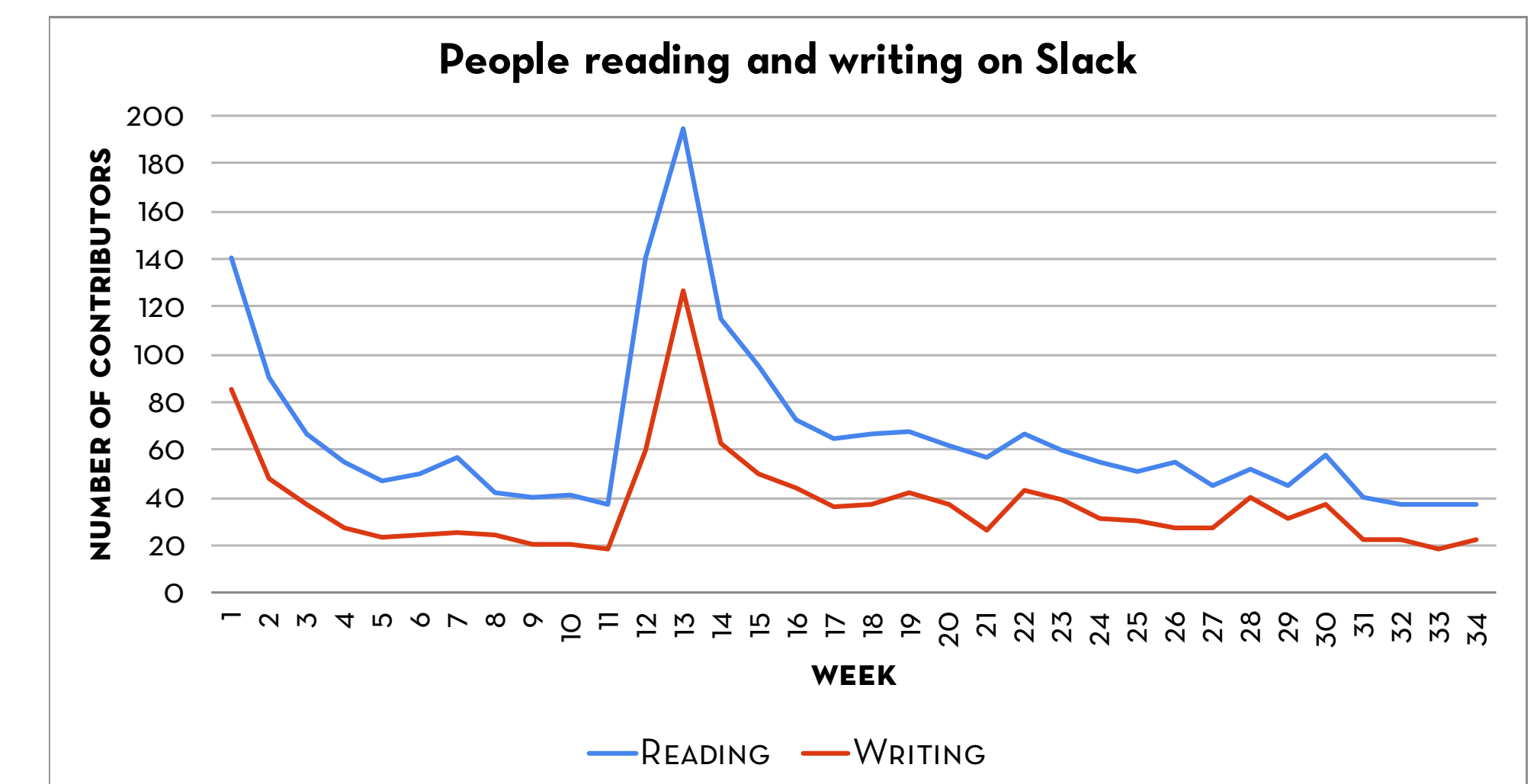- Divergence - using reddit, Wiki

- Convergence - using Slack, Hangouts
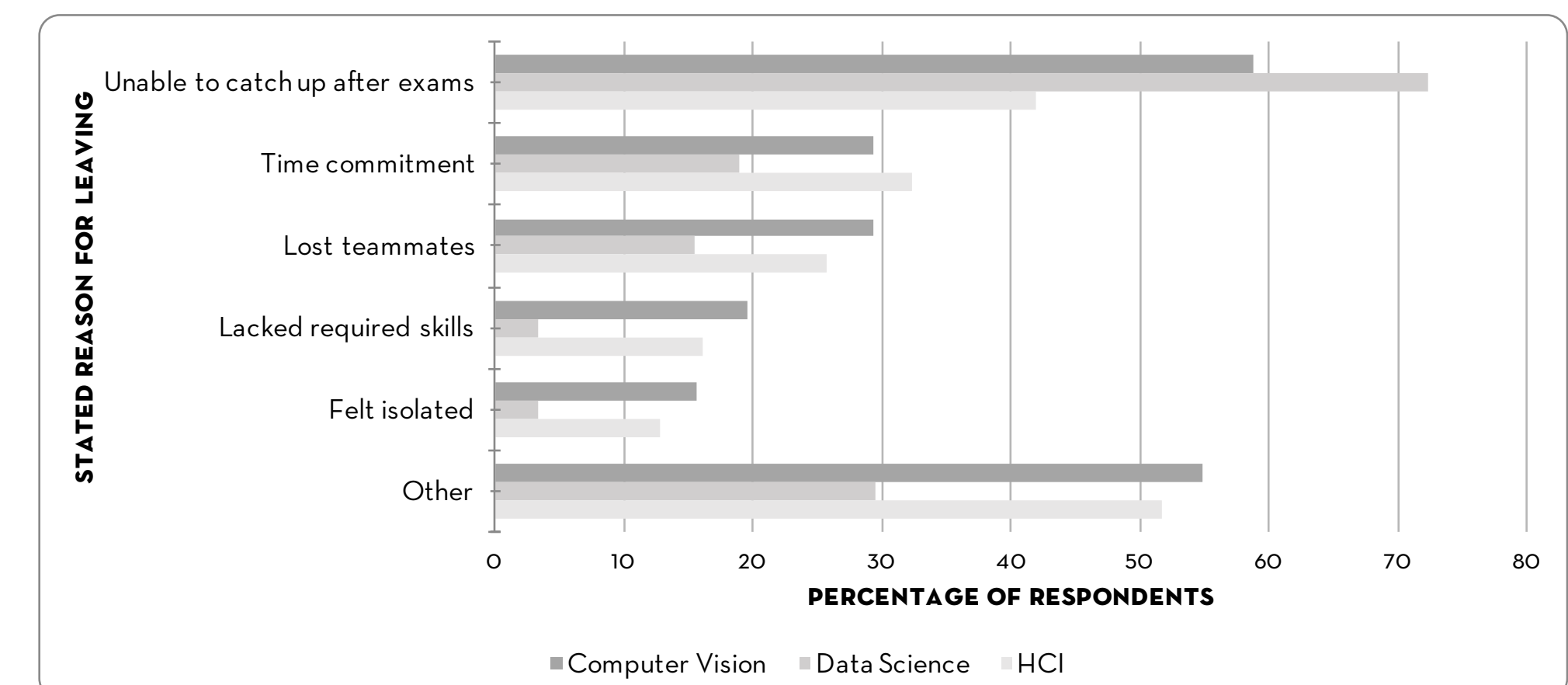

PageRank for fair Credit Distribution

Findings and Observations

Longevity - always 40+ active ppl/week

Reasons for Drop-off

Paper Writing - 8,000 edits