Seek and Ye shall Find

The continuum of computer “intelligence”

COS 116: 2/22/2007

Adam Finkelstein

Recap: Binary Representation

Powers of 2

2^0	2^1	2^2	2^3	2^4	2^5	2^6	2^7	2^8	2^9	2^{10}
1	2	4	8	16	32	64	128	256	512	1024

$2^{10} = 1024 \approx 10^3$

Fact: Every integer can be *uniquely* represented as a sum of powers of 2.

Ex: $25 = 16 + 8 + 1$

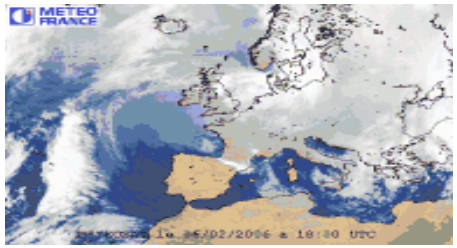
$= 1 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 0 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 1 \times 2^0$

$[25]_2 = 11001$

Misconceptions about Computers

Just a calculator on steroids →

Weather Forecast



Just maintains large amount of data →

Airline Reservation System

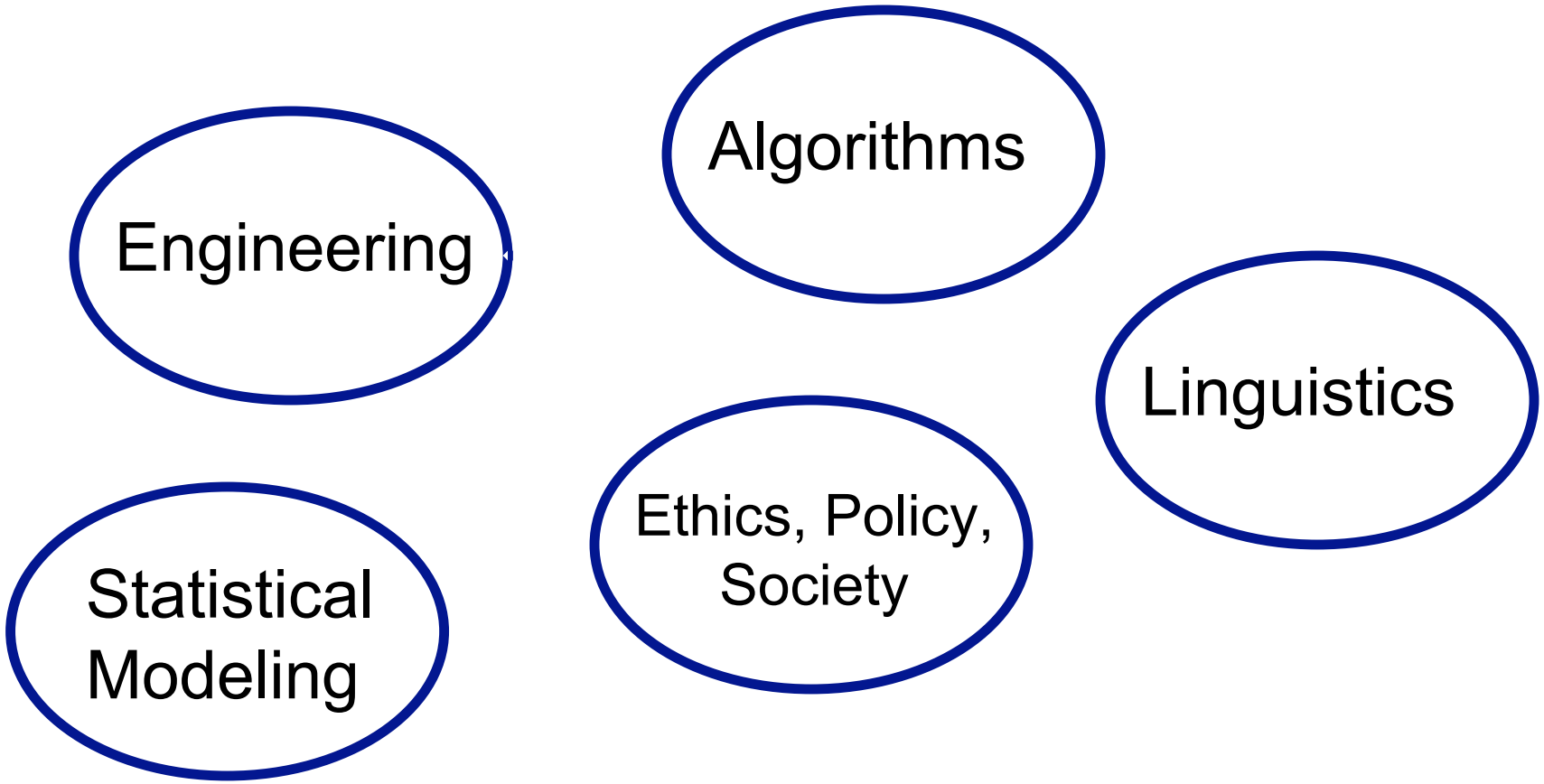
Just does what the programmer tells it →

Yes, but …

Various meanings of 

- Look up “Shirley Tilghman” in online phonebook.
- In consumer database, find “credit-worthy” consumers.
- Find web pages relevant to “computer music.”
- Among all cell phone conversations originating in Country X, identify suspicious ones.
- Search all religion and philosophy books of the world for meaning of life.

These are major scientific problems with many components



Electronic Phonebook

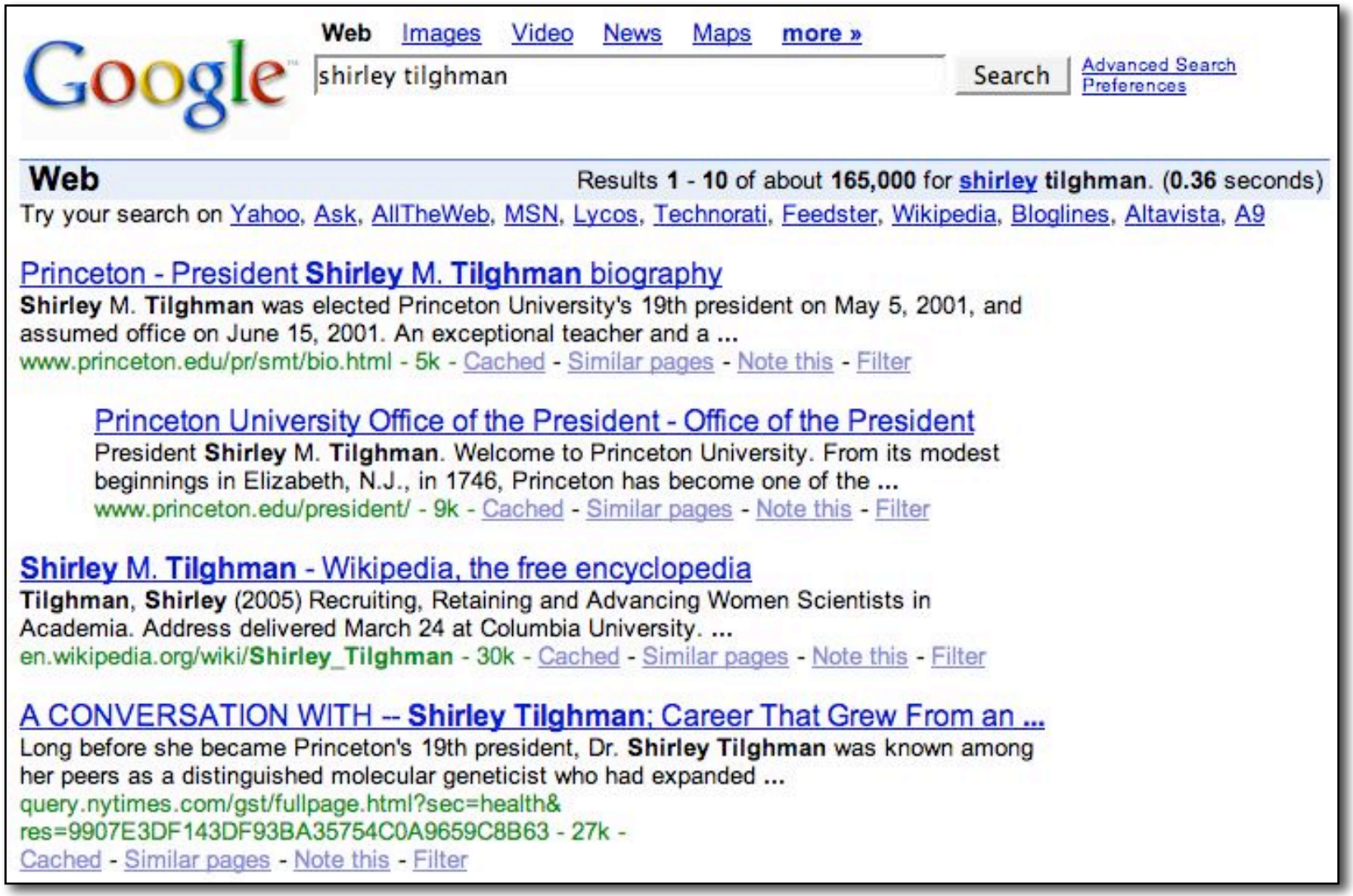
- **ASCII:** Agreed-upon convention for representing letters with numbers
- Example:

T	i	l	g	h	m	a	n	,	2	5	8	-	6	1	0	0
84	105	108	103	104	109	97	110	44	50	53	56	45	54	49	48	48

- Sorted Phonebook
  = sorted array of numbers
- Use binary search

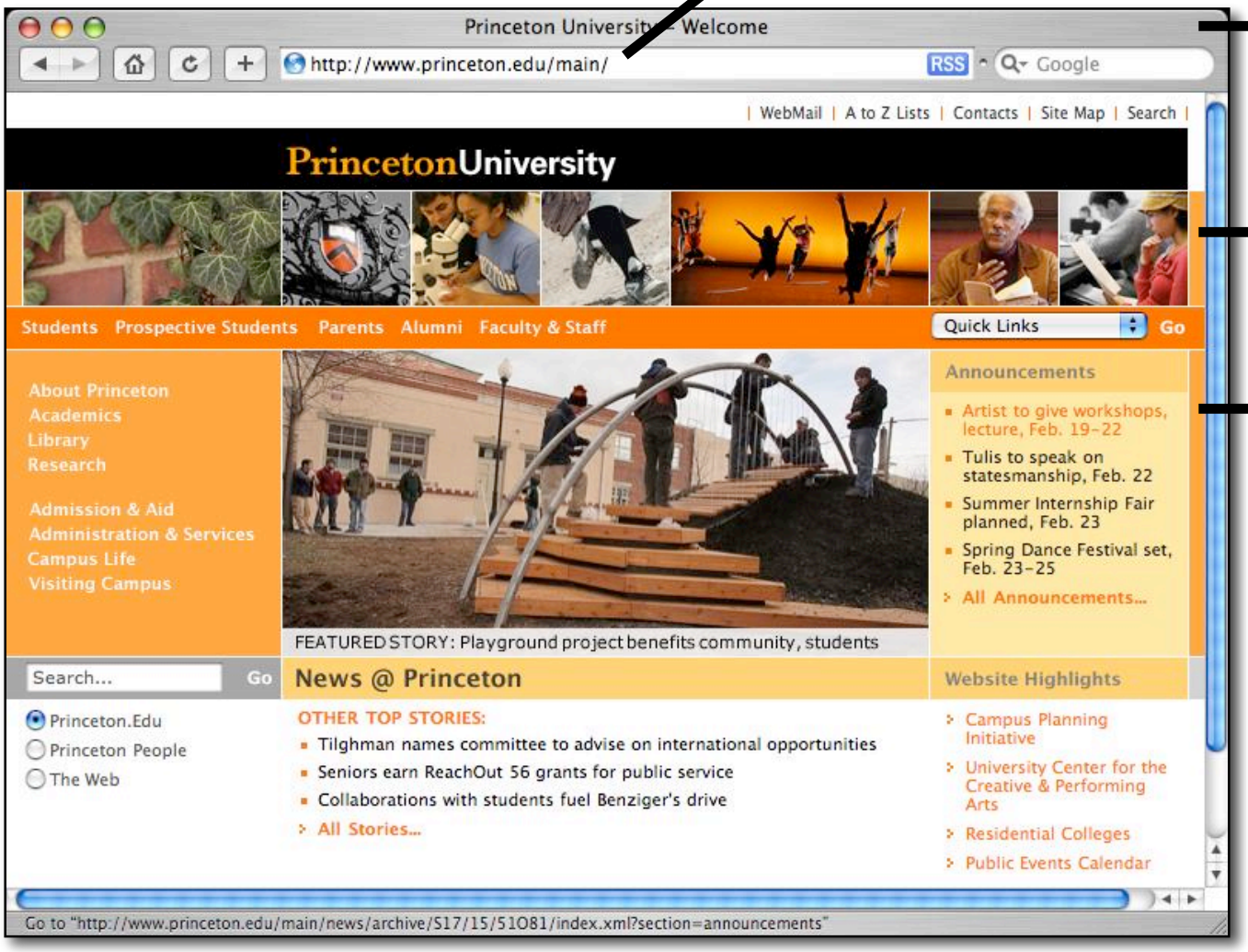
33 !	65 A	97 a
34 "	66 B	98 b
35 #	67 C	99 c
36 $	68 D	100 d
37 %	69 E	101 e
38 &	70 F	102 f
39 '	71 G	103 g
40 (	72 H	104 h
41)	73 I	105 i
42 *	74 J	106 j
43 +	75 K	107 k
44 ,	76 L	108 l
45 -	77 M	109 m
46 .	78 N	110 n
47 /	79 O	111 o
48 0	80 P	112 p
49 1	81 Q	113 q
50 2	82 R	114 r
51 3	83 S	115 s
52 4	84 T	116 t
53 5	85 U	117 u
54 6	86 V	118 v
55 7	87 W	119 w
56 8	88 X	120 x
57 9	89 Y	121 y
58 :	90 Z	122 z
59 ;	91 [	123 {
60 <	92 \	124 |
61 =	93]	125 }
62 >	94 ^	126 ~
63 ?	95 _	127 ▯
64 @	96 `	128 €

Rest of the lecture: Web Search



World Wide Web (simplified view)

URL: Unique address for each document



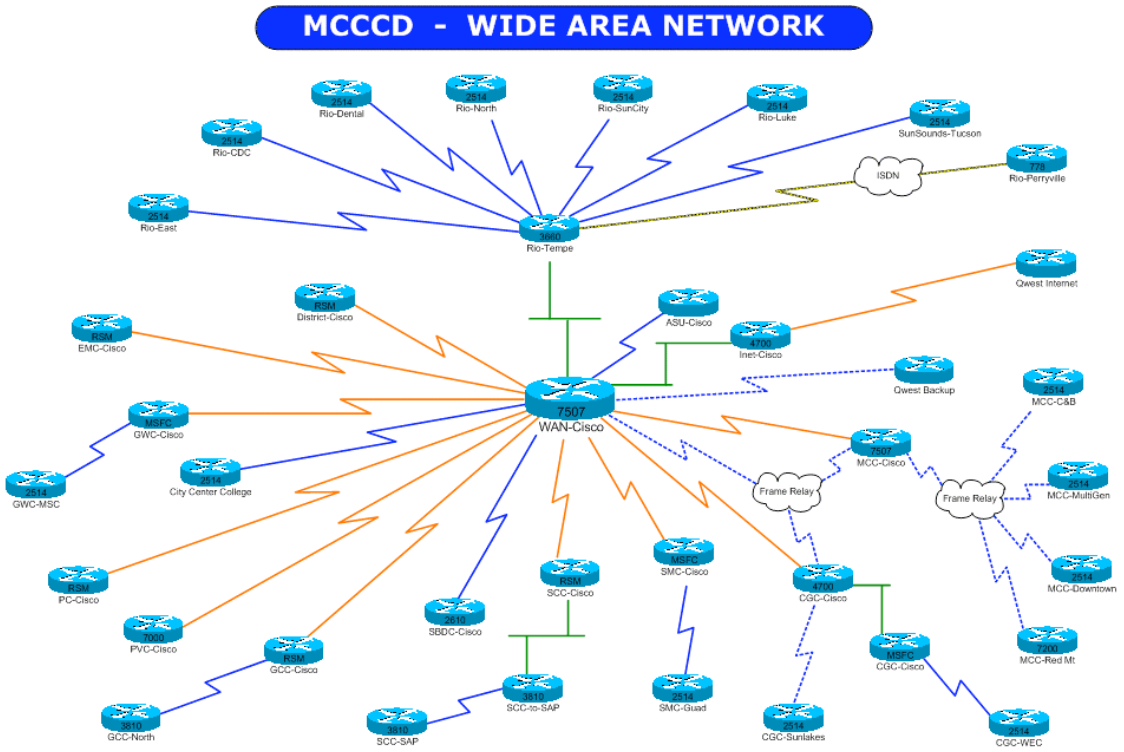
Browser

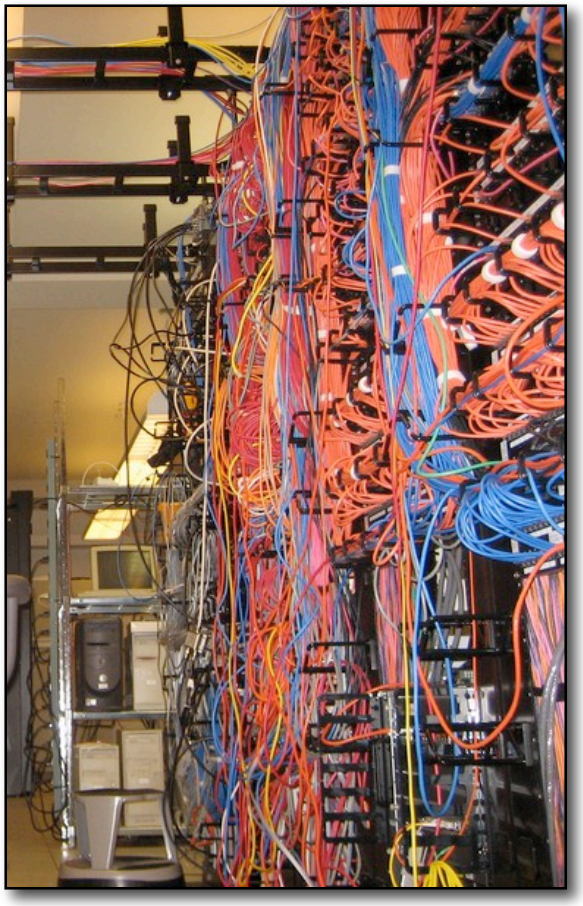
Web Page

Hyperlink

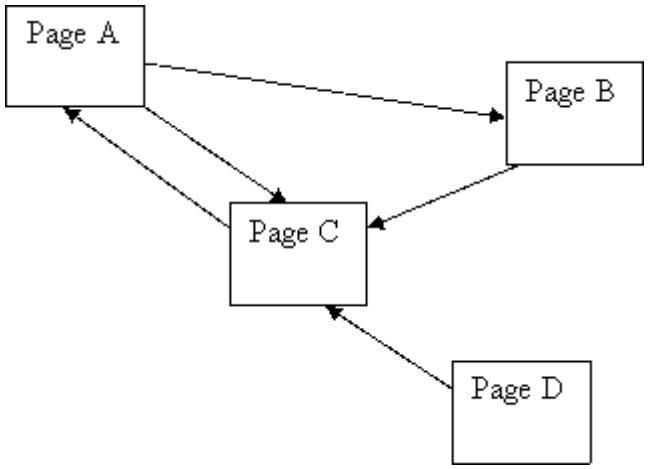
Future lecture: Physical infrastructure of the Web

Routers, gateways, DNS, ...





Logical Structure of the Web

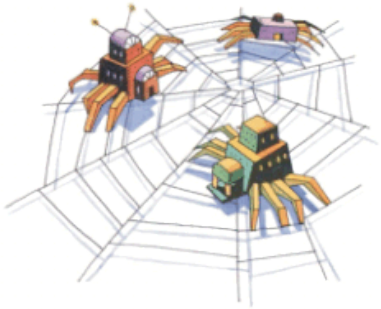


"Directed graph"

"edges" = link from one node to another

- **Important:** This logical structure is created by independent actions of 100s of millions of users

1st step for search engines: create snapshot of the web



- **Webcrawler:** "browser on autopilot"

- Maintains array of web pages it has seen
- 2 types of pages: "visited", "fully explored"
- Do forever

{

Pick any webpage marked "visited" from array.
Mark it "fully explored."
Open all its linked pages in browser.
Save them in array and mark them "visited."

}

Better: just the pages not "fully explored" yet.

First Web Crawler

From: bp@cs.washington.edu (Brian Pinkerton)
Newsgroups: comp.infosystems.announce
Subject: The WebCrawler Index: A content-based Web index
Date: 11 June 1994 21:33:42 GMT
Organization: University of Washington

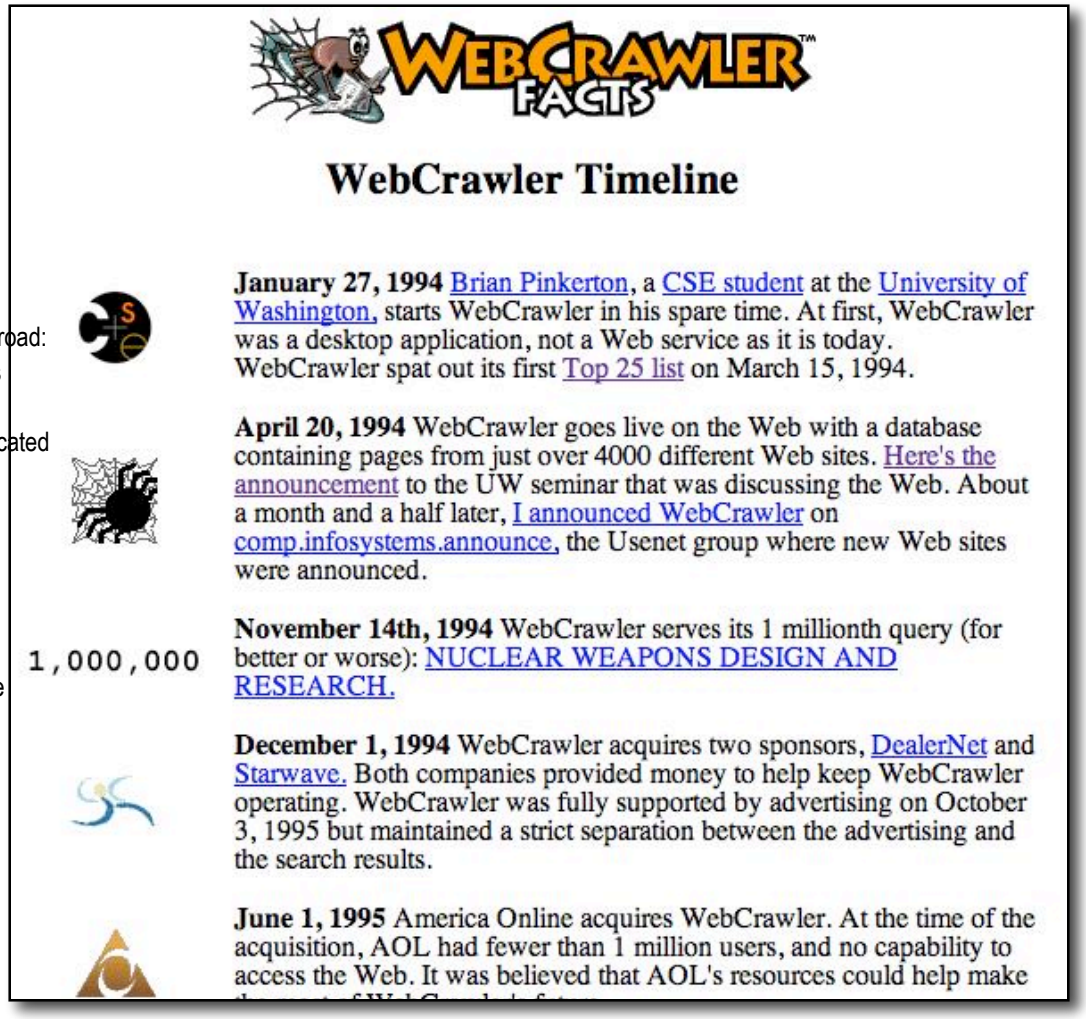
The WebCrawler Index is now available for searching! The index is broad: it contains information from as many different servers as possible. It's a great tool for locating several different starting points for exploring by hand. The current index is based on the contents of documents located on nearly 4000 servers, world-wide.

Check it out at:

http://www.biotech.washington.edu/WebCrawler/WebQuery.html

Other information is available from there, including a description of the WebCrawler (the robot itself), and a list of the 25 most frequently referenced sites on the Web.

Brian Pinkerton
Dept of Computer Science and Engineering
University of Washington

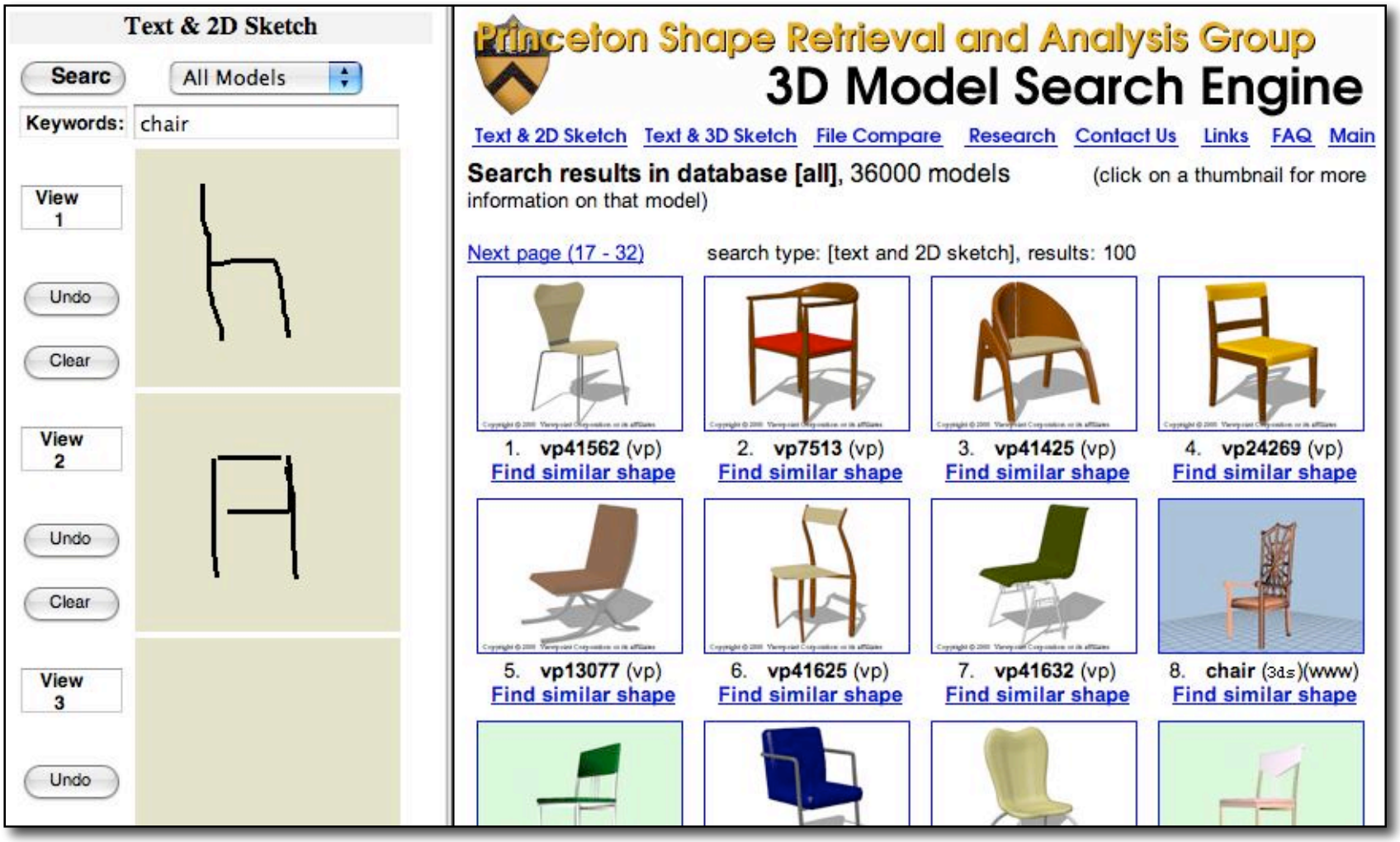


[http://thinkpink.com/bp/WebCrawler/History.html]

Still Feasible Today?

- About 15 billion web pages today.
- Say 10 kb (10,000 bytes) of data per page
- 15 X 10^{13} bytes to store the web
- ≈ 150, 000 Gb
- ≈ 500 hard disks
- ≈ $50,000 in ‘07

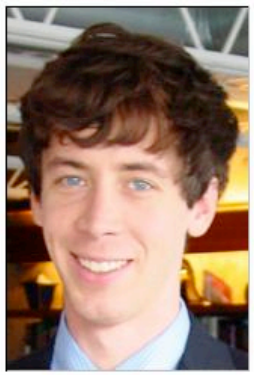
Princeton Shape Search Engine



[http://shape.cs.princeton.edu/search.html]

Finding Forrester

How does Google find Forrester Cole…?



Forrester Cole

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I am a third year Ph.D. candidate in the computer graphics group at Princeton. My advisor is Adam Finkelstein.

Prior to coming to Princeton I was a programmer with Pandemic Studios in Los Angeles, where I worked on Mercenaries.

Teaching

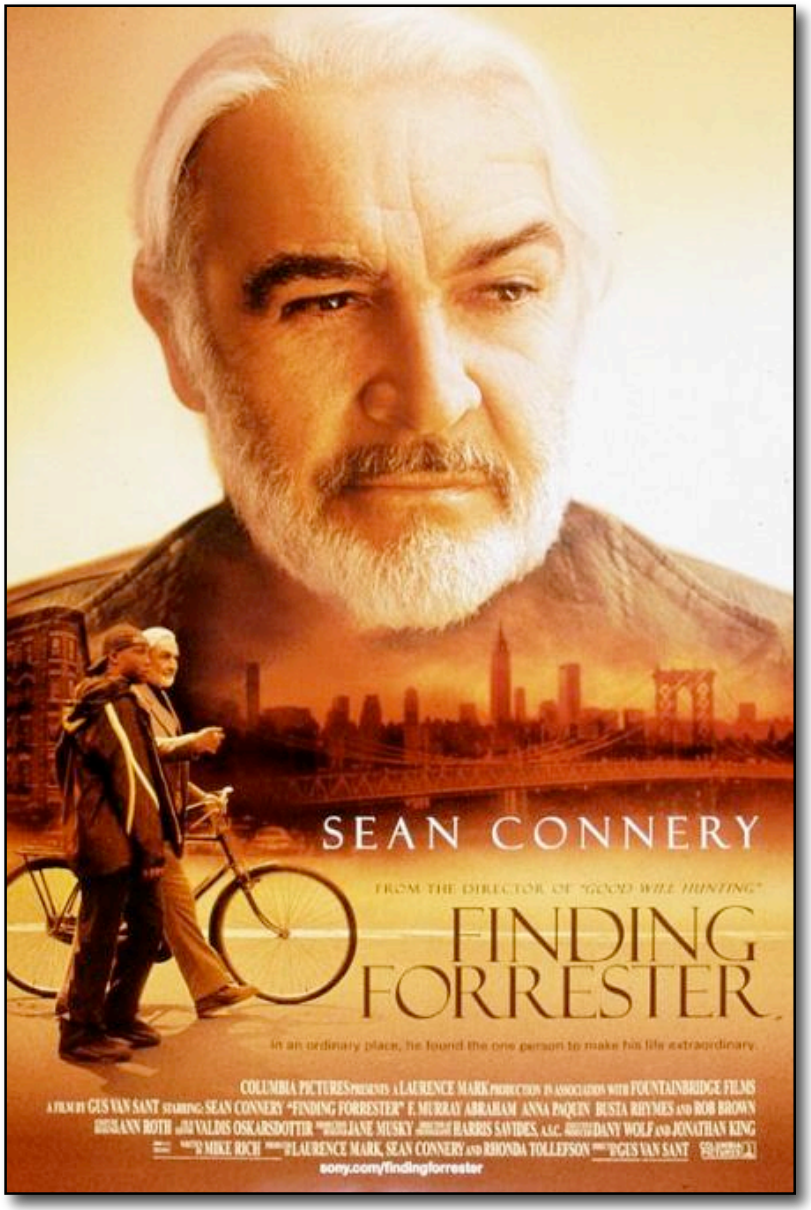
I am a teaching assistant for COS116: The Computational Universe for spring 2007.

Lab Hours: TBA

Office Hours (CS413): TBA

Research

My current research investigates how artists select lines for line



Searching for “computer music”

Ideas?

- Identify all pages that contain “computer music”.
- Sort according to number of occurrences of “computer music” in the page.
- Human staff computes answers to all possible questions.

Some pitfalls

- “Spamming” by unscrupulous websites
- Synonymy (car, auto, vehicle …)
- Polysemy (jaguar: car or cat?)

Solution

IBM's CLEVER – 1996

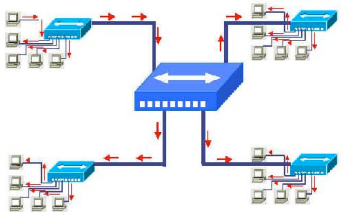
Google's PAGERANK – 1997

Take advantage of the link structure of the web

Web link confers "approval"

CLEVER

Authorities: Sites that are viewed "with respect" by many
- New York Times
- International Computer Music Association



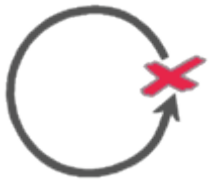
Hubs: Clearinghouses of information
- "My favorite computer music links"

Typically Authorities point to hubs and hubs point to authorities

Circular Definition?

Circular Definition – *see* Definition, Circular

Breaking Circularity



- Iterative algorithm
- Start with
  - Pages containing “Computer music”
  - All pages they point to
- At every step each page has:
  - “Hub Score”
  - “Authority Score”

  } Initially all 1

Score Calculation

- Do forever

{

Next Hub Score for page ⇐ Sum of current Authority Scores of pages that link to it.

Next Authority Score for page ⇐ Sum of current Hub Scores of pages that link to it.

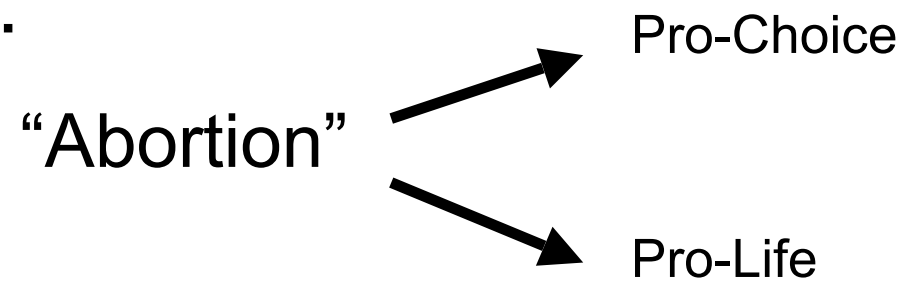
}

Fact The scores converge.

(Proof uses Linear Algebra, Eigenvalues)

- By Product – Algorithm reveals clusters

  Example:



- Data Mining – Process of finding answers that are not in the data and must be inferred.

Example: "How is a person who shops at Whole Foods & REI likely to vote?"

Concerns

From **users**:

- Privacy
- Privacy
- Privacy

From **Computer scientists**:

- Formalize privacy
- How to safeguard privacy
  while allowing legitimate computations

Next Time…

Digital Audio / Music (Perry Cook)