

# Characteristics of change for Web pages

1

## How re-crawl the Web?

- want to understand how Web grows and changes
- Many studies since late 1990's
- Hard to compare
  - different techniques for sampling
  - different times
    - 2000 vs 2008?

2

## Sample of Results

3

## Dynamics of Web pages

- average Web page size
  - 12KB [Ntoulas et al]
  - 66% between 4 and 32 KB [Fetterly et al]
- new pages per week
  - 8% [Ntoulas et al] ID by URL
- staying power of pages
  - Ntoulas ID pages by URL
    - 75% pages still exist after 1 months
    - 60% pages still exist after 6 months
    - 40% pages still exist after 12 months
    - page  $\frac{1}{2}$ - life 9 months

4

## Dynamics of Web links

- new links per week
  - 25% [Ntoulas et al]
- staying power of links
  - 24% initial links still seen after 12 months [Ntoulas et al]

5

## Dynamics of Web page changes

- changes in pages
  - *any* change [Ntoulas et al] :
    - 50% unchanged in year
    - 15% of pages changed in week
  - *any* change [Kim et al]
    - 64% of “famous sites” unchanged in 100 days
    - 6.5% of “famous sites” change every download
    - 66% of “random sites” unchanged in 100 days
    - 3.25% of “random sites” change every download
    - gives detailed distribution

6

## Dynamics of Web page changes

- changes in pages **contents** [Fetterly et. al.]
  - remove HTML mark-up
  - shingle content of pages
    - shingle size 5
  - make sketch from shingling
    - feature vector for each download of each page
  - conclude large documents change more often and more extensively
  - past change of a page good predictor for future
  - more detailed analysis

7

## Dynamics of Web Page structure [Dontschva et. al.]

- Look at structure of HTML DOM tree
  - recall XML model
  - measure change in structure over consecutive days
- Results
  - many pages don't change much (agree Ntoulas et al)
  - little correlation between number of nodes in tree and amount of change
    - compare Fetterly et al size vs change
  - number of structural changes increased with
    - traffic volume
    - dynamic content
  - much more analysis

8

## Dynamics of Web content

- content **across Web pages** [Ntoulas et al]
  - remove HTML mark-up
  - shingle content of pages
    - shingle size 50 (size of paragraph)
    - 4.3 billion unique shingles
  - look at union of shingles of all pages  
call this the **content**
  - # of new shingles measures new content
  - new shingles per week average 5%  
(compare 8% new URLs)
  - shingles  $\frac{1}{2}$ -life 9 months (compare URLs)
  - 60% first week shingles still present after 12 months  
(compare 40% URLs)

9

## Longevity of content [Olston et al]

- **ephemeral** content
  - changes *very* frequently
  - not worth indexing
  - Examples:
    - quote of day
    - advertisement
- **versus persistent** content
- look at shingles as fragments on page
- snapshots of pages over time (every 2 days)

10

## Longevity of content cont.

- **page change frequency**: number of snapshots that differ from the previous snapshot
- **information longevity**: average lifetime of shingles on a page
  - average lifetime of a shingle = average number of contiguous (in time) snapshots in which shingle occurs
- Result: **information longevity** is **not strongly correlated** with **change frequency**
- much more analysis

11

## Set-up Ntoulas et. al.

- Experiments Oct. 2002- Oct. 2003
- 154 Web sites
  - 5 top-ranked by PageRank from subset Google Directory
- weekly breadth-first crawl for 12 months
  - up to 200,000 pages per site
    - only 4 sites contained > 200,000 pages
  - average 4.4 million pages per week
- Published in *WWW* 2004

12

## Set-up Kim et. al.

- Experiments Jan.-Mar. 2004
- 34,000 Korean sites
- 1.8 million URLs initially
- downloaded every 2 days for 100 days
- 2 million URLs total after all 50 “crawls”
- published in *ICCS* 2007

13

## Set-up Fetterly et.al.

- Experiments Nov. 2002 – Jan. 2003
- first crawl from Yahoo.com giving 151million HTML pages
- try download pages 10 more times over next 10 weeks
- Published in *Software- Practice and Experience* 2004

14

## Set-up Doncheva et.al.

- Experiments June- Nov. 2006
- 100 Web pages from 24 “popular” Web sites by hand
- downloaded daily for 5 months
  
- Published in *WWW* 2007

15

## Set-up Olston et.al.

- Experiments approx 100 days in 2006
- Random sample:
  - 10,000 URLs from Yahoo crawled collection
  - download every two days
  - 50 snapshots total
- High-quality sample:
  - random sample 10,000 URLs from OpenDirectory
  - download every two days
  - 30 snapshots total
  
- Published in *WWW* 2008

16

What do we expect to change  
from 2002 to now?

17