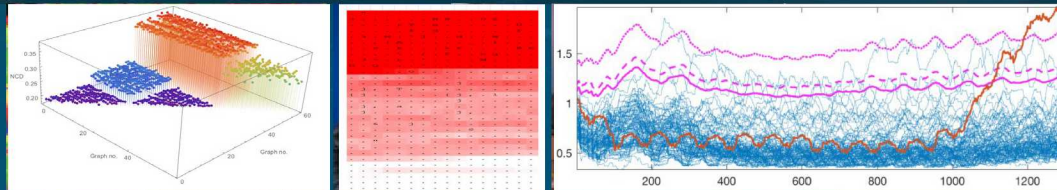


# Compression Analytics for Data Science



Travis Bauer, Christina Ting, Andrew Fisher,  
Rich Field, Tu-Thach Quach, Tom Brounstein,  
Alex Killian, Randy Wells

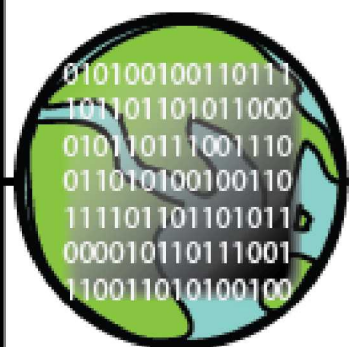
Most machine learning techniques require specific types of data.



But the world doesn't come in the form of vectors and preprocessing data is a lot of work.



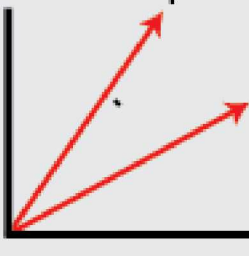
## Significant Effort



Feature Engineering



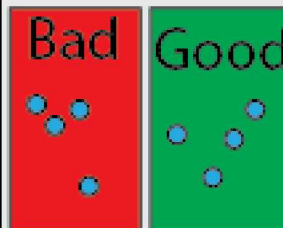
Feature Space



Machine Learning



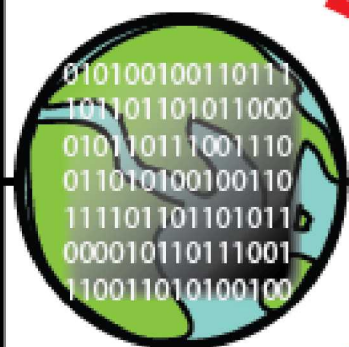
Results



It would be nice if we could find a family of algorithms that let's us cut out the expensive feature engineering portion of our work.



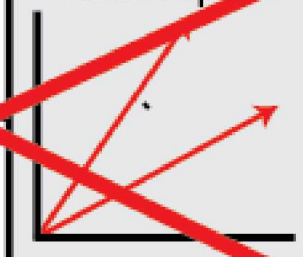
## Significant Effort



Feature Engineering



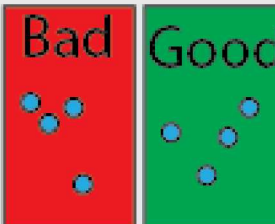
Feature Space



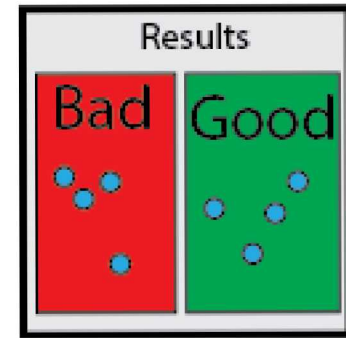
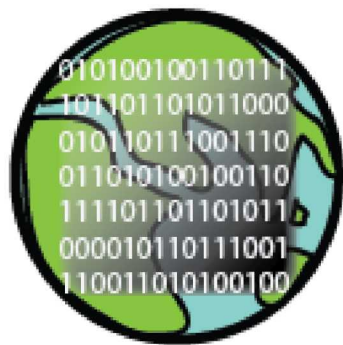
Machine Learning



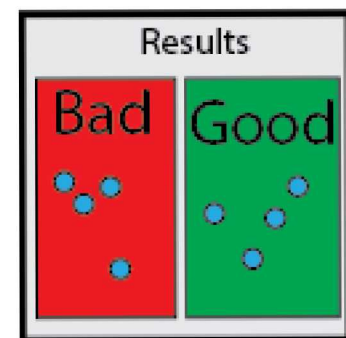
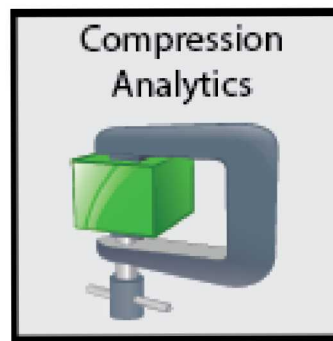
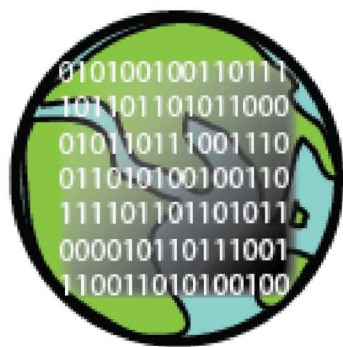
Results



It would be nice if we could find a family of algorithms that let's us cut out the expensive feature engineering portion of our work.



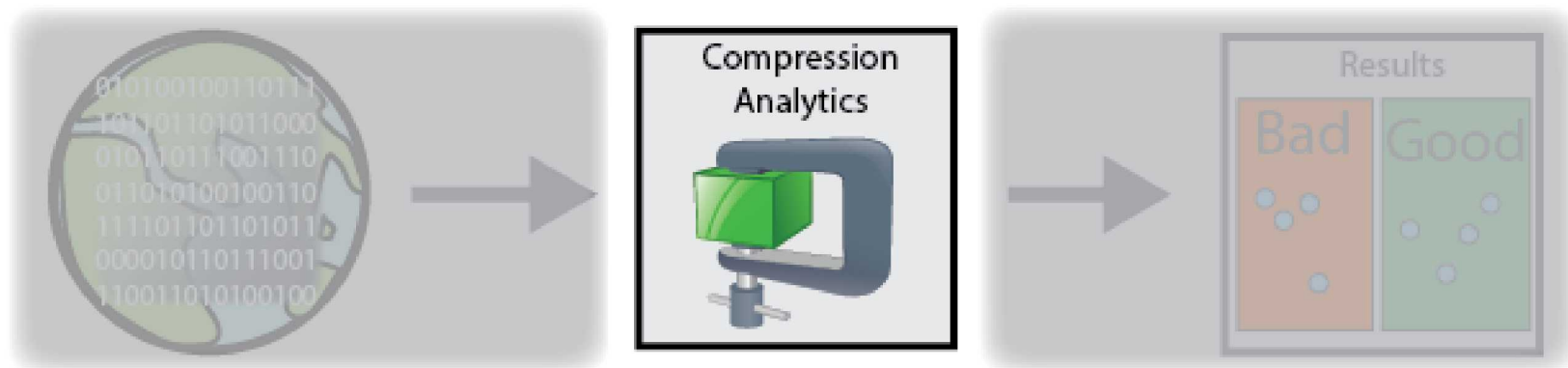
Compression-Based Analytics provides capabilities that can be used this way.



I'm going to show you how compression analytics works, where it works, and how we might make them work better



## HOW compression analytics work

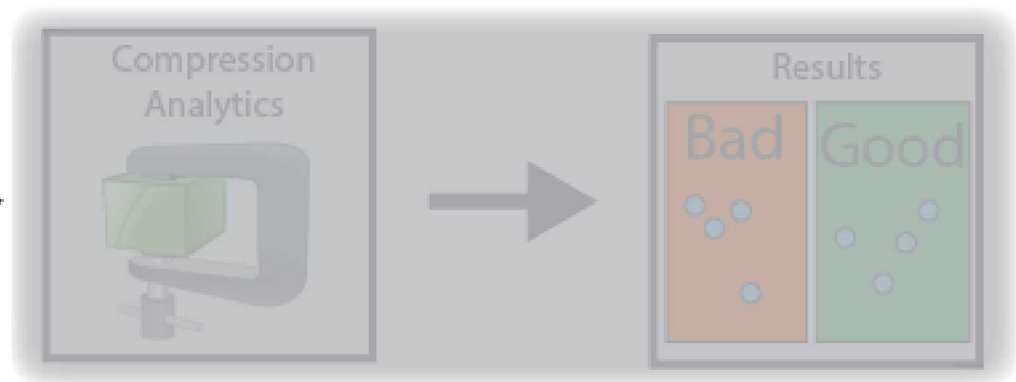
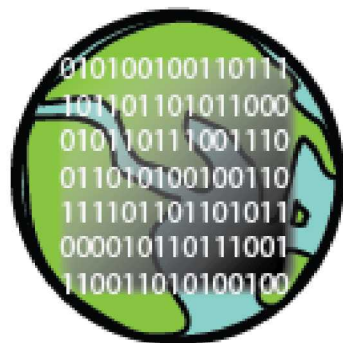




I'm going to show you how compression analytics works, where it works, and how we might make them work better



## WHERE compression analytics work

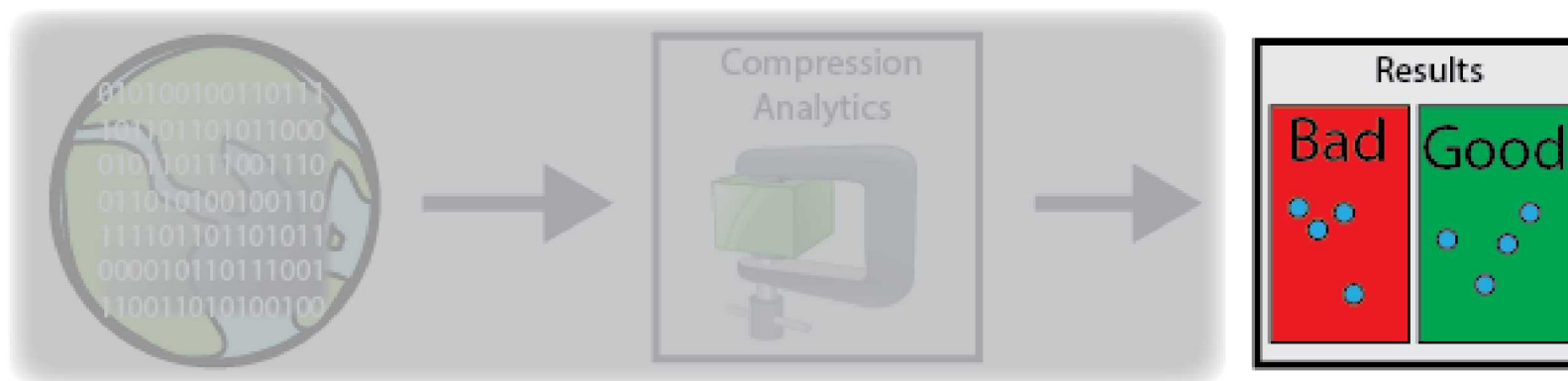




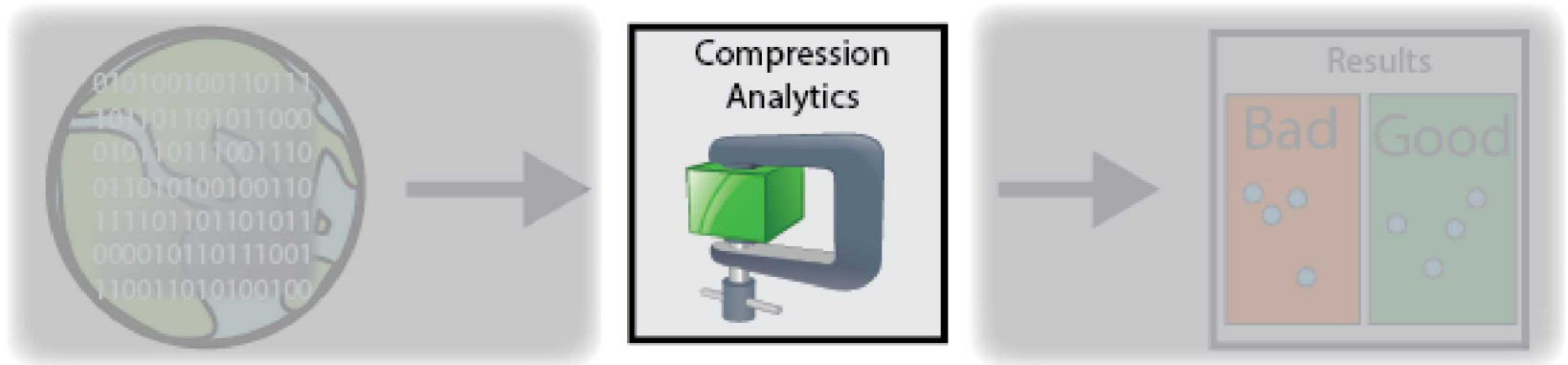
I'm going to show you how compression analytics works, where it works, and how we might make them work better



## How to make compression analytics work BETTER



# HOW compression analytics work



Compression analytics work by approximating the amount of shared information in data.

# Compression algorithms approximate the amount of information in data



## A String of 10K 'a's

Much Data

Almost no Information

'a'\*10000

## 10K Truly Random Characters

Much Data

Much Information

‘TNYSTCACWIIMLZX  
EWAGG...’

Compression is an upper bound on the amount of information.



A String of 10K 'a's

Much Data

Almost no Information

Length\_compressed(  
'a'\*10000)

**86 Bits**

10K Truly Random Characters

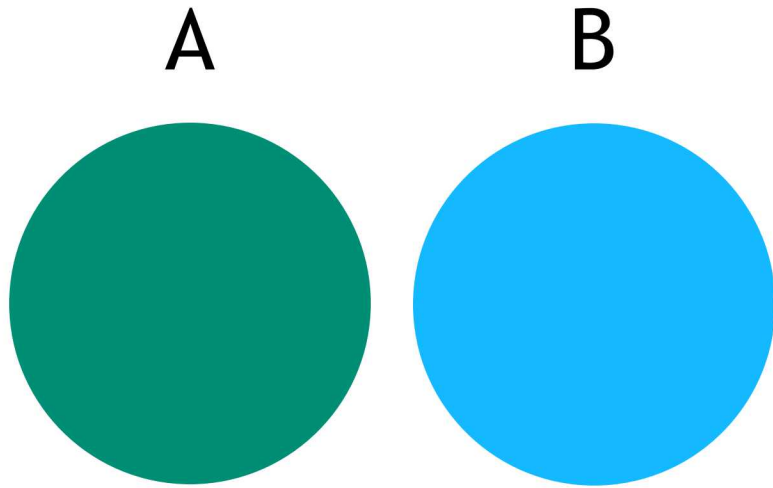
Much Data

Much Information

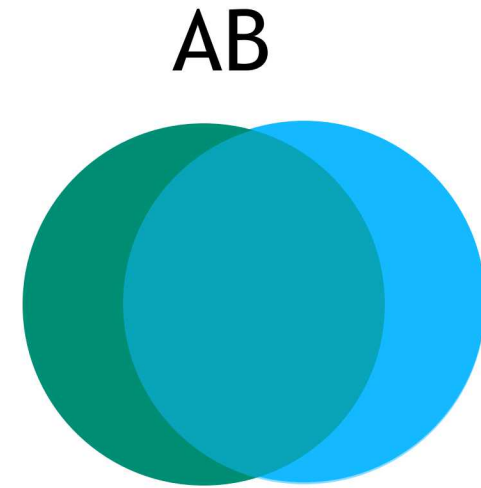
Length\_compressed(  
'TNYSTCACWIIMLZXEWA  
GG...')

**68,418 Bits**

We can compress two items together to approximate the amount of shared information.



A and B are Completely Different



A and B Overlap

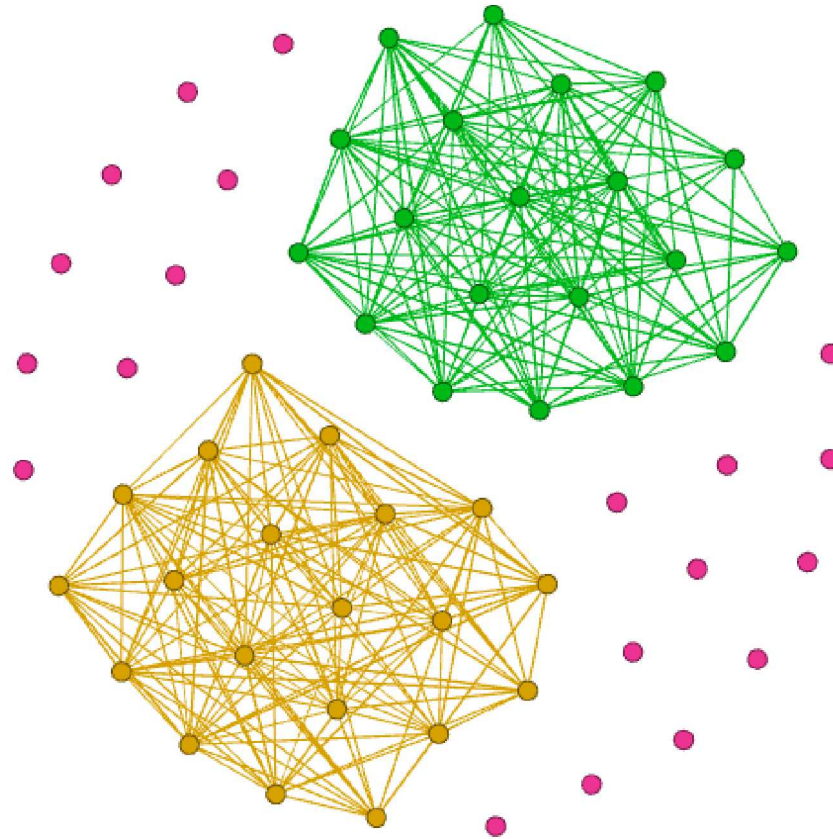
$$NCD_Z(A, B) = \frac{Z(AB) - \min\{Z(A), Z(B)\}}{\max\{Z(A), Z(B)\}}$$

PPM/Arithmetic Coding is straight forward and a flexible implementation lends itself to analytics R&D

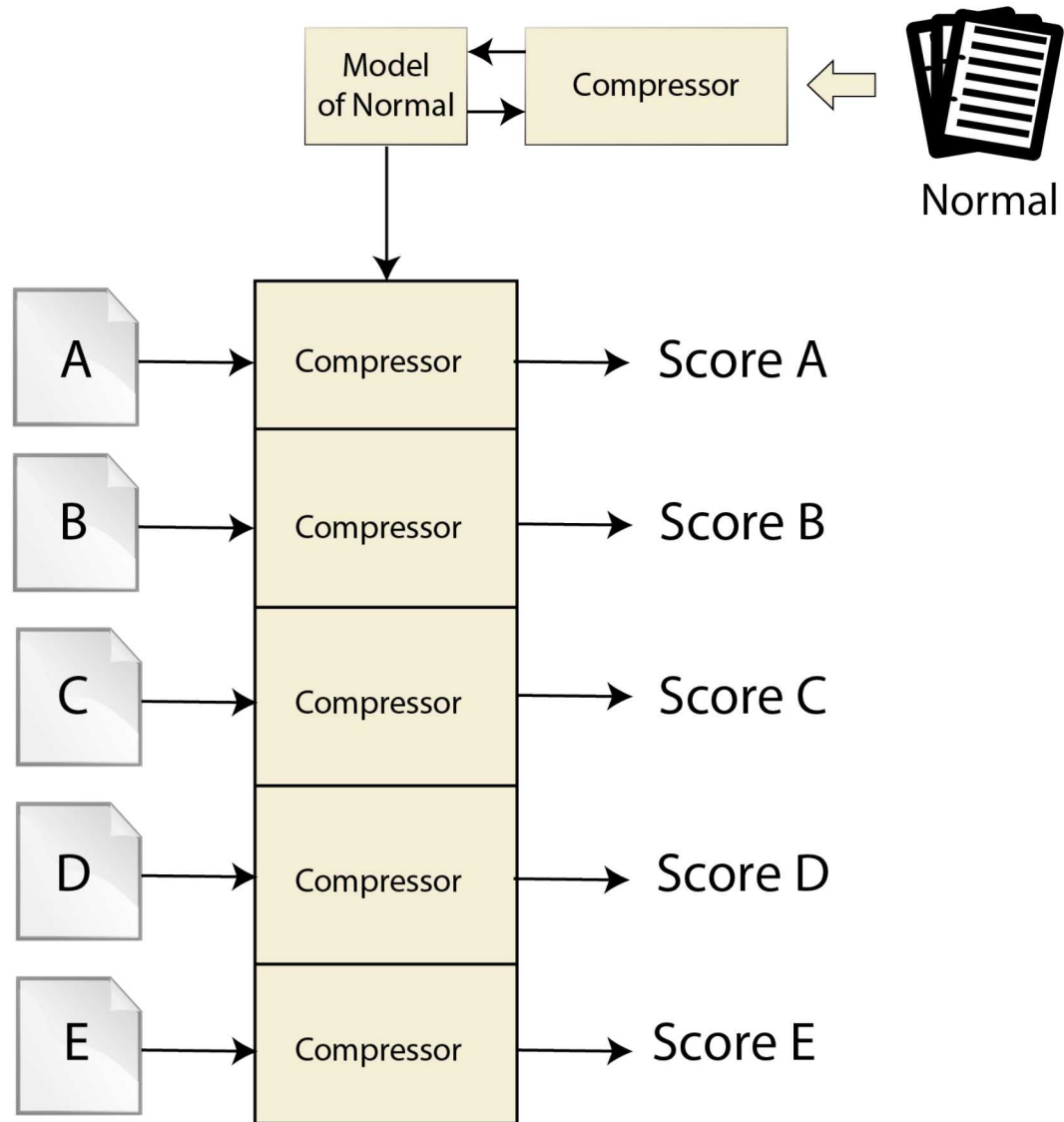


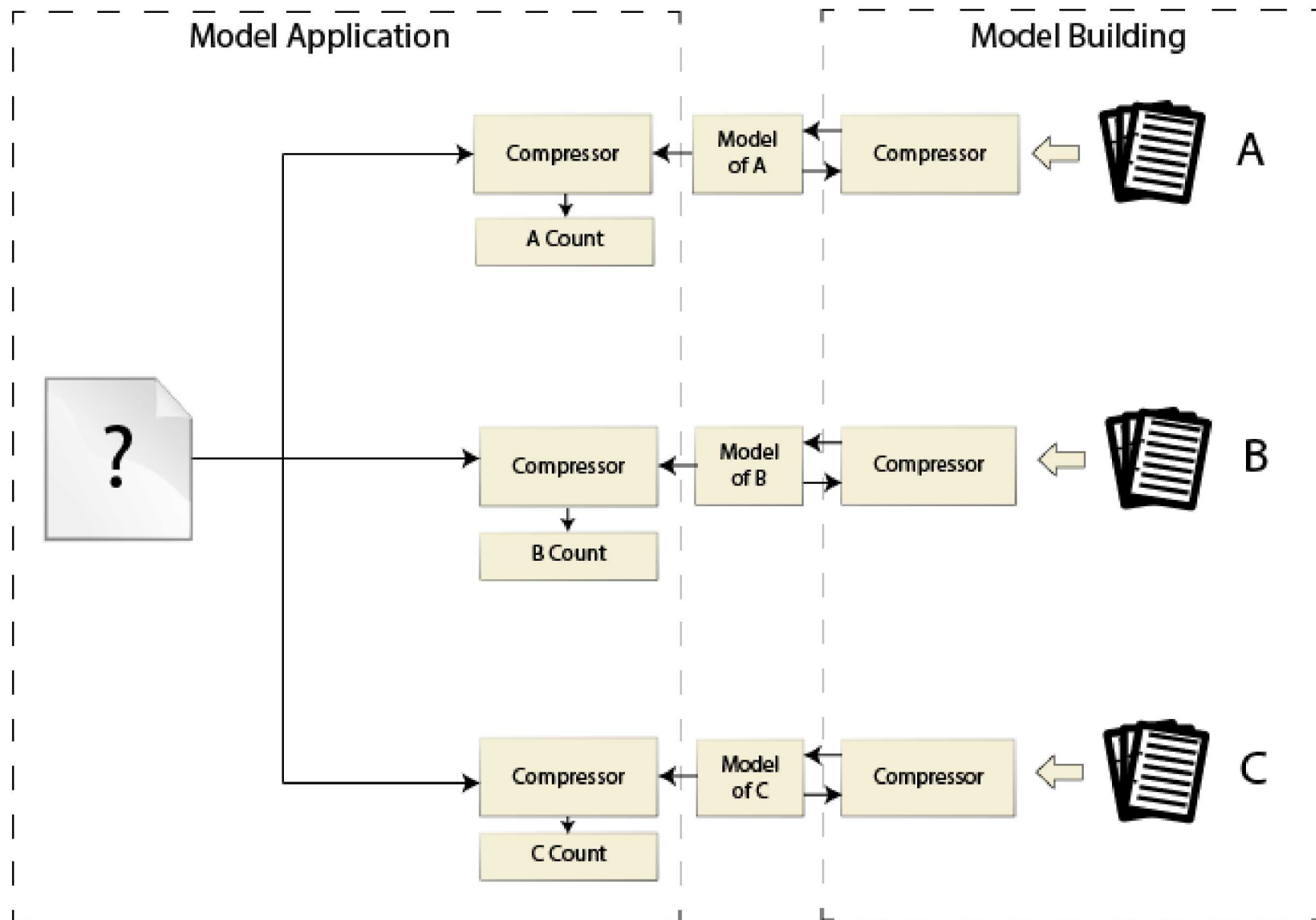
This is a question.



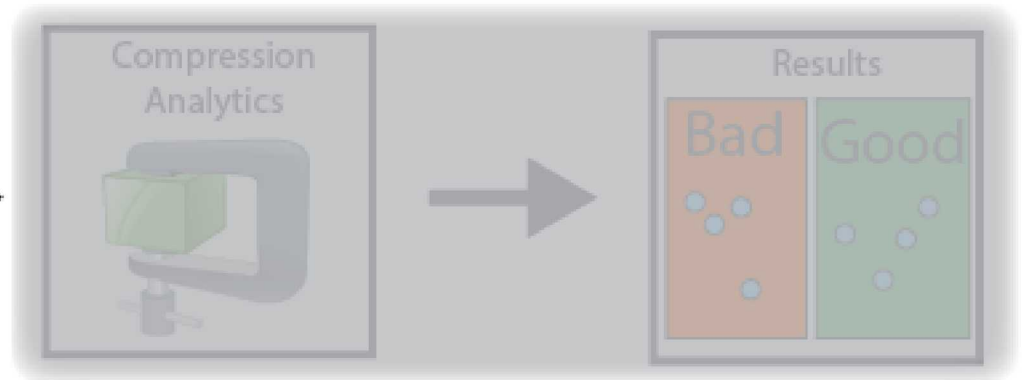
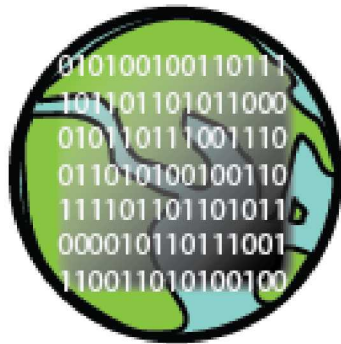








# WHERE compression analytics work

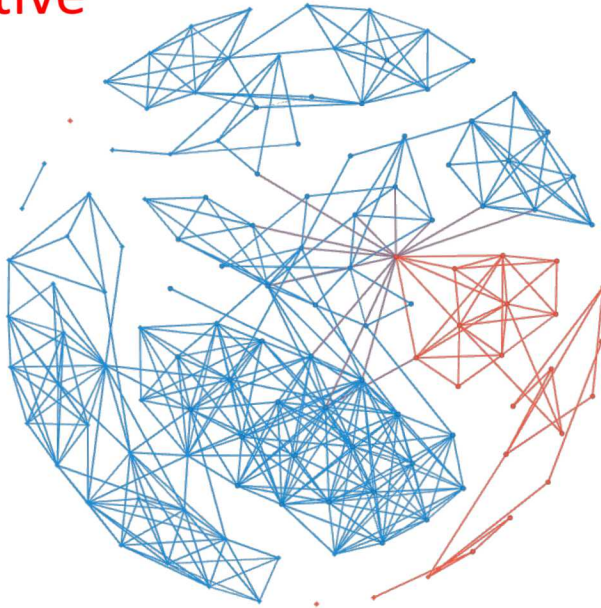


We have successfully applied compression to a variety of different data types and problems.

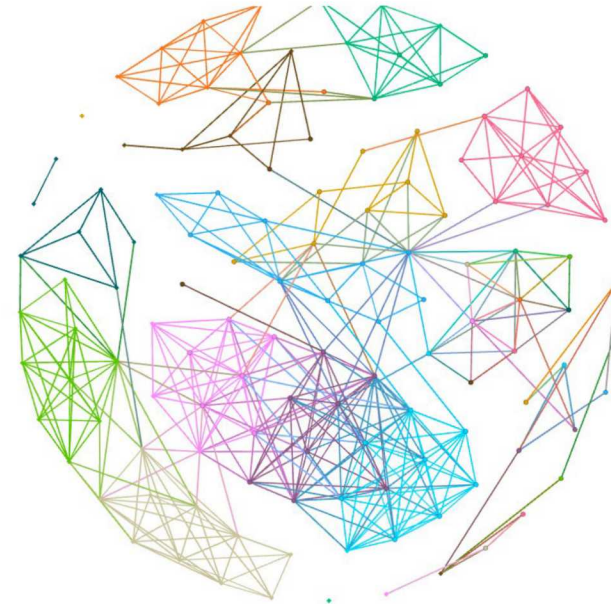


Text

Truthful vs  
deceptive



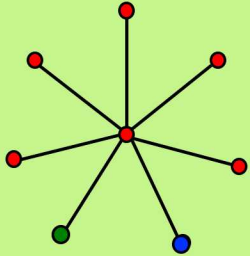
Authorship (12)



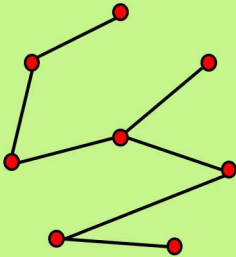
$$NCD = \frac{c(xy) - \min[c(x), c(y)]}{\max[c(x), c(y)]}$$



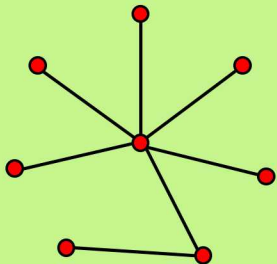
“Normal”



“Random”



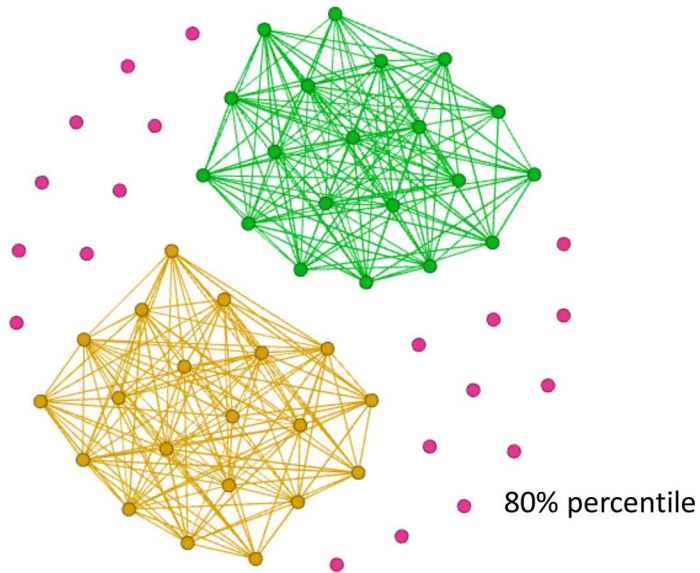
“Incorrect”



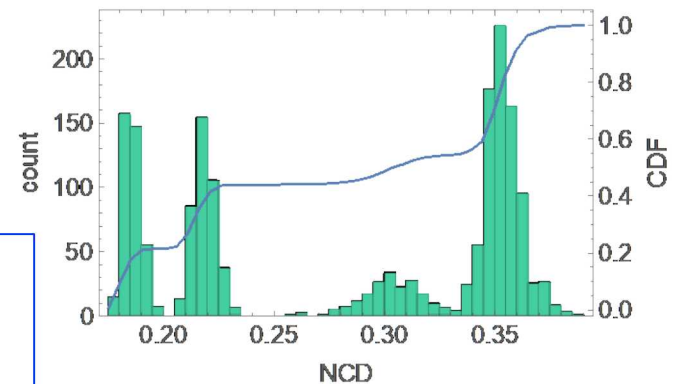
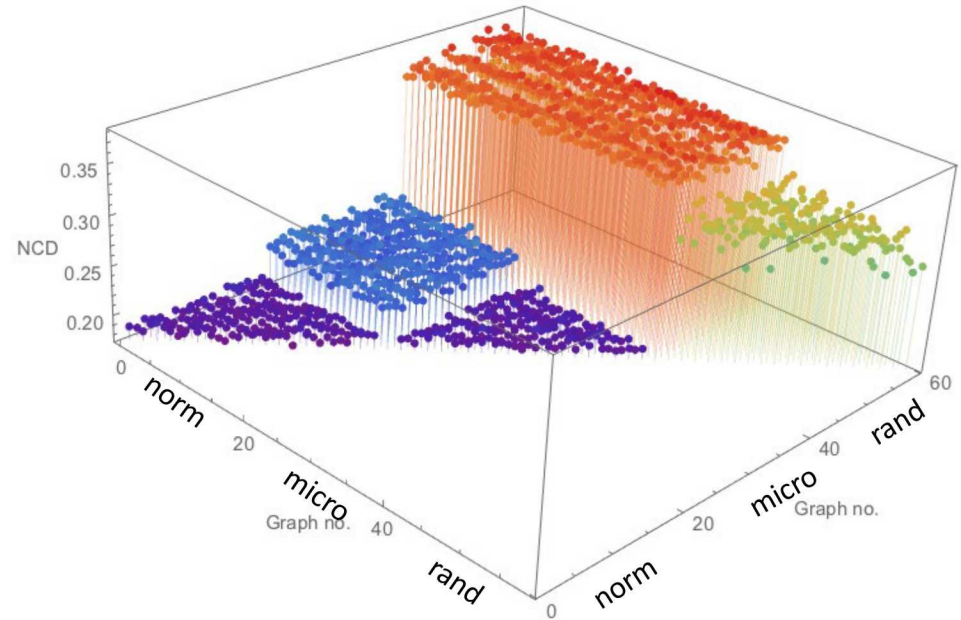
```
<gexf xmlns="http://www.gexf.net/1.2draft" version="1.2">
<graph mode="static" defaultedgetype="undirected">
<attributes class="node">
<attribute id="0" title="label" type="string" />
</attributes>
<nodes>
<node id="1" label="root: " >
<attvalues>
<attvalue for="0" value="root: toolq"/>
</attvalues>
</node>
<node id="2" label="name: " >
<attvalues>
<attvalue for="0" value="name: asqsv"/>
</attvalues>
</node>
<node id="3" label="age: " >
<attvalues>
<attvalue for="0" value="age: ahglw"/>
</attvalues>
</node>
<node id="4" label="gender: " >
<attvalues>
<attvalue for="0" value="gender: bjwzt"/>
</attvalues>
</node>
<node id="5" label="education: " >
<attvalues>
<attvalue for="0" value="education: zsool"/>
</attvalues>
</node>
</nodes>
<edges>
<edge id="6" source="3" target="1" type="undirected" label="1.0" weight="1.0" />
<edge id="7" source="2" target="1" type="undirected" label="1.0" weight="1.0" />
<edge id="8" source="4" target="1" type="undirected" label="1.0" weight="1.0" />
<edge id="9" source="5" target="4" type="undirected" label="1.0" weight="1.0" />
</edges>
</graph>
</gexf>
```



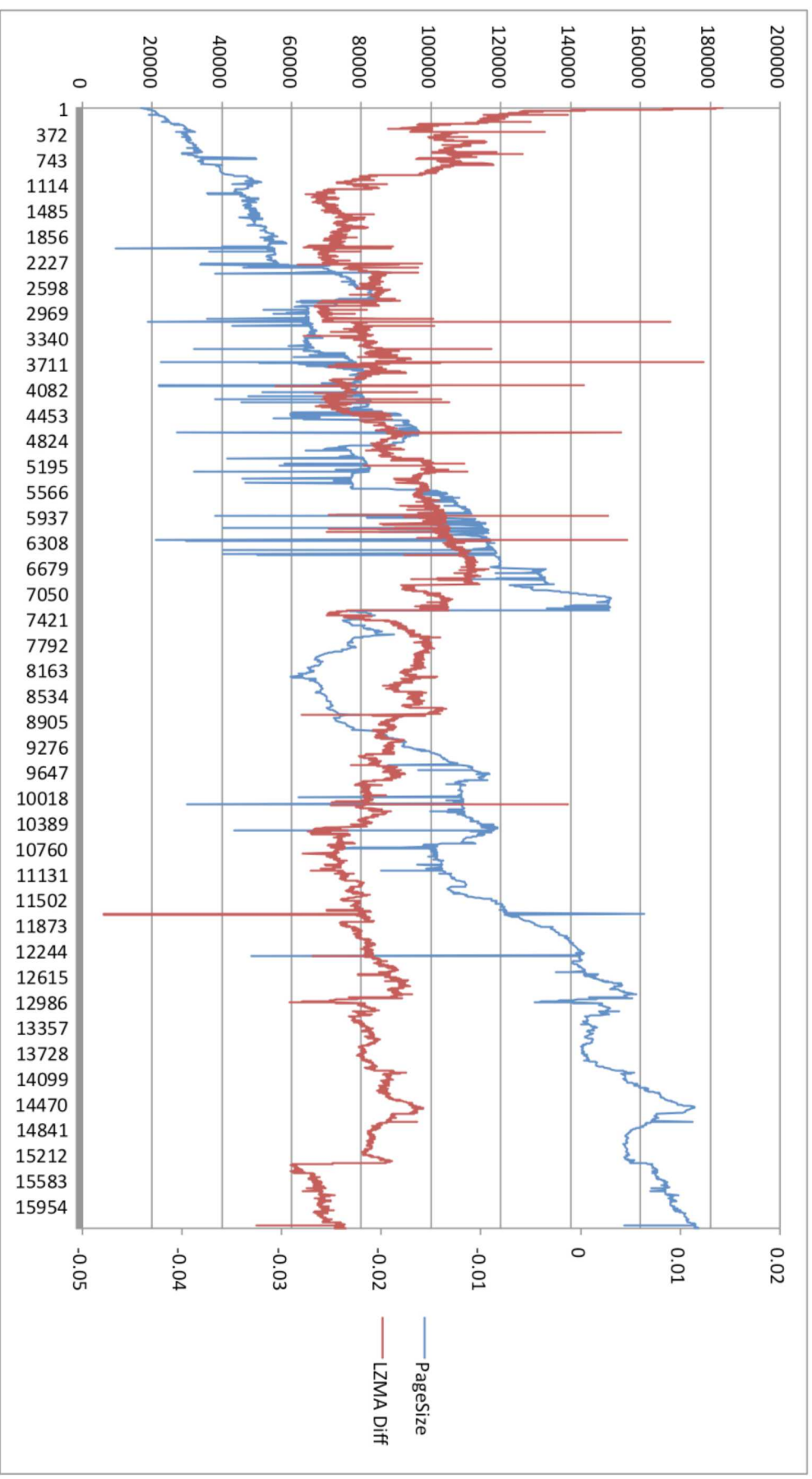
- $n = 10$
- $k = 10$
- $A = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$



The random string, with  $k = 10$  introduces variance to the NCD scores, but we can still identify a cutoff in the distribution of high similarity NCD scores

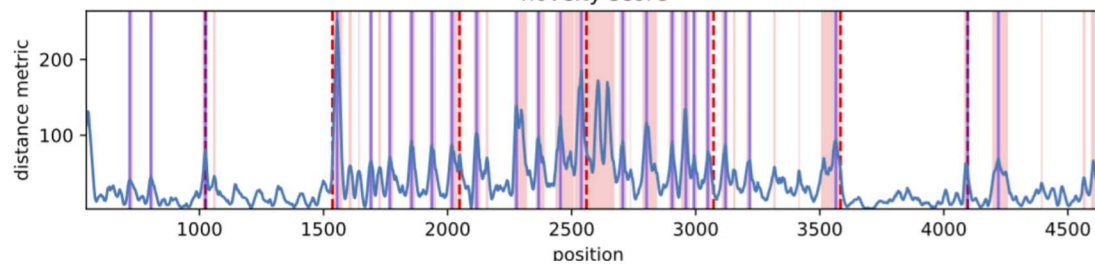
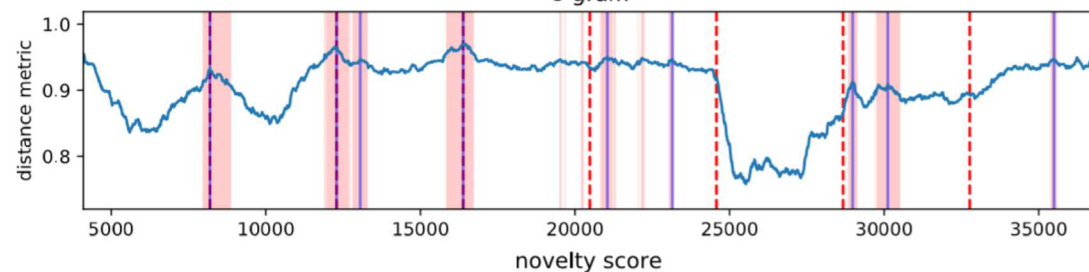
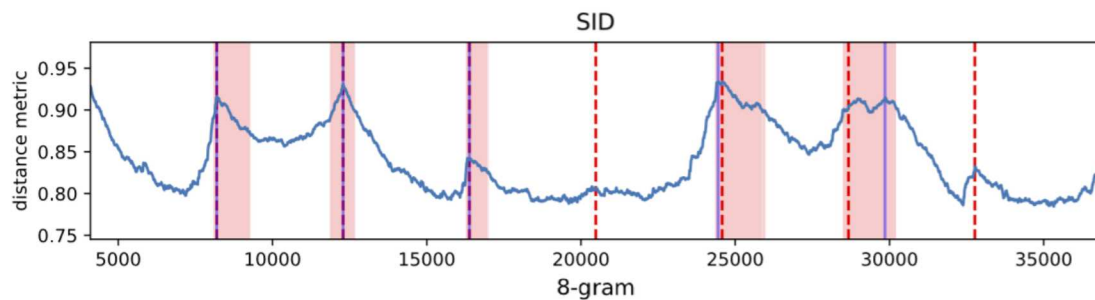
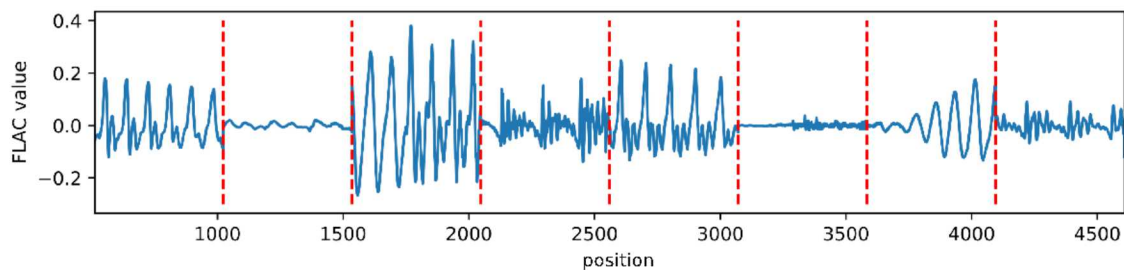
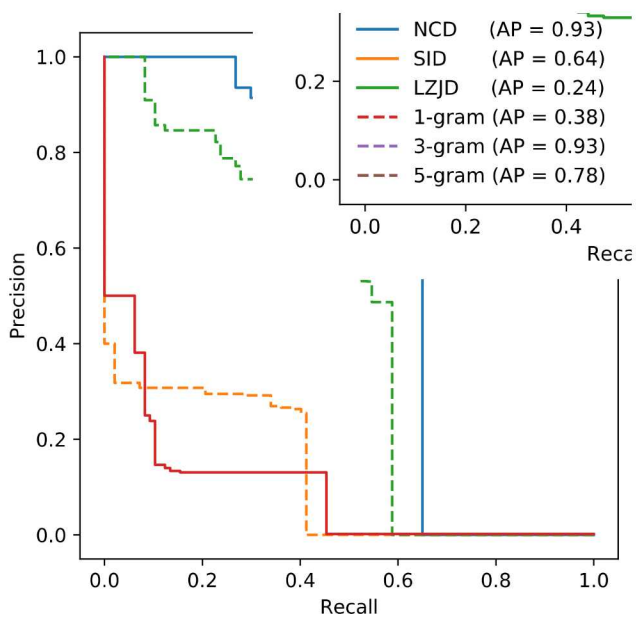






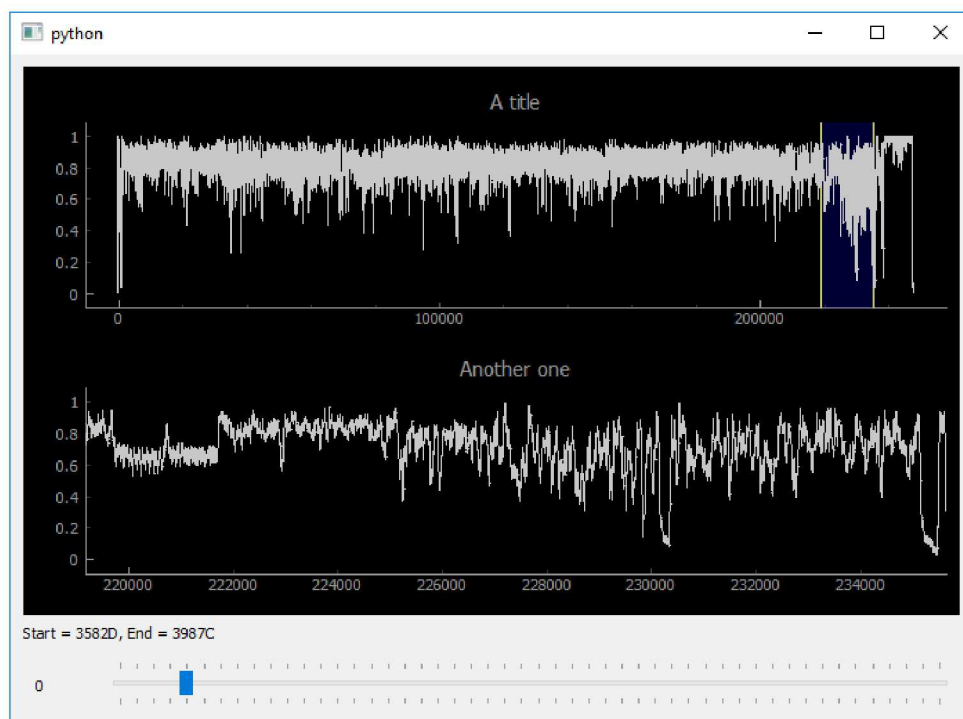


Binary



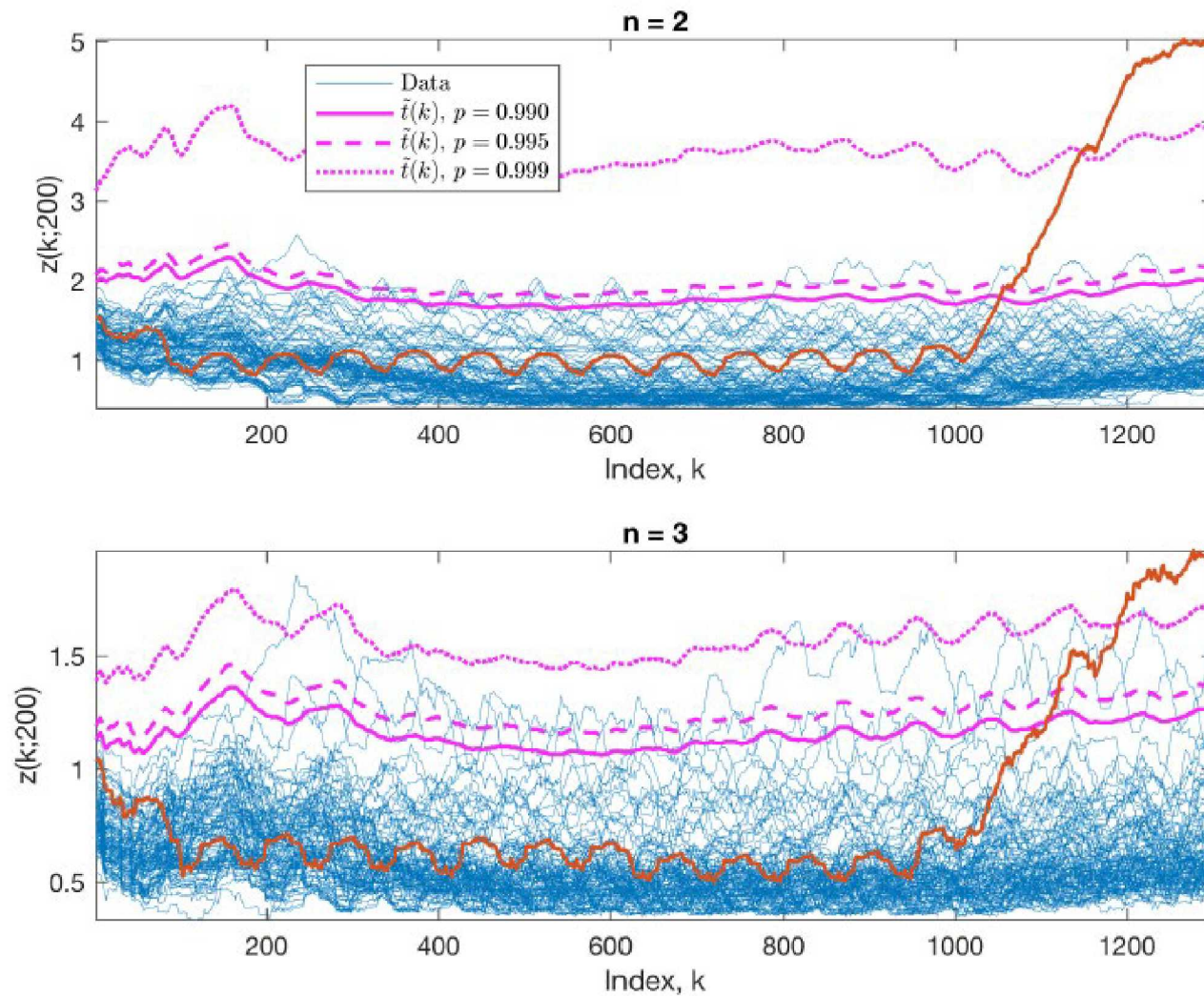


$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & A & & B & & & \\
 \overbrace{b_{k-w} b_{k-w+1} \dots \dots \dots b_k} & & \overbrace{b_{k+1} \dots \dots \dots b_{k+w}} & & & & \\
 & & & & & & \\
 \underbrace{b_{k-w} b_{k-w+1} \dots \dots \dots b_k} & & \underbrace{b_{k+1} \dots \dots \dots b_{k+w} b_{k+w+1}} & & & & \\
 & A' & & B' & & & 
 \end{array}$$

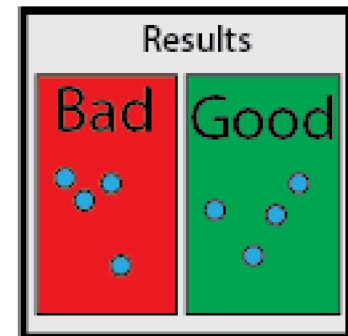
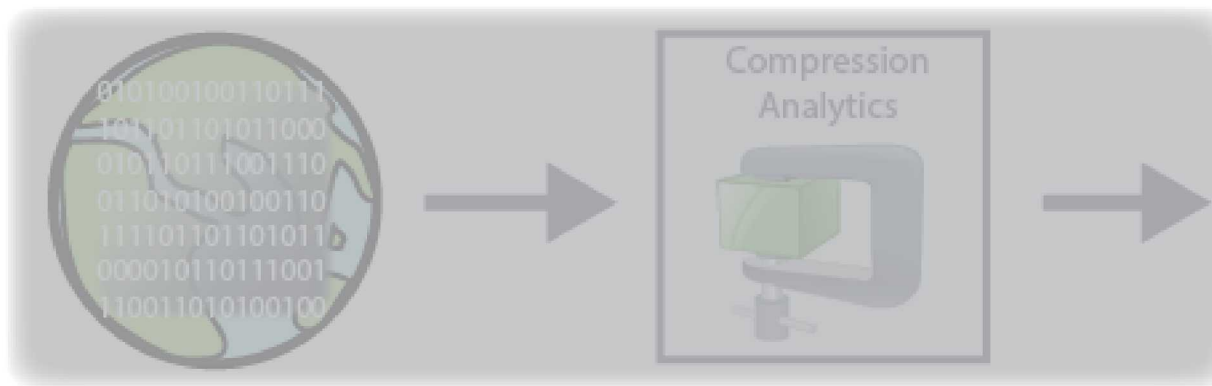
[illegible]



## Network Traffic



# How to make compression analytics work BETTER

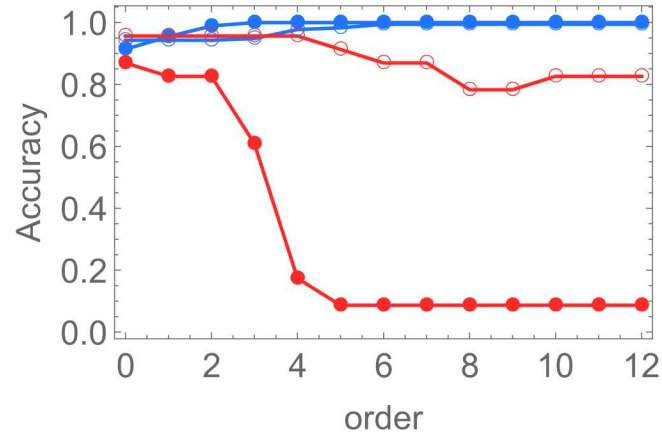
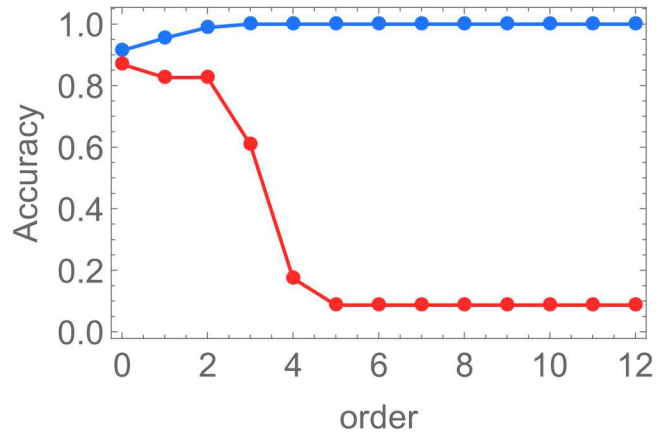


There are interesting remaining problems in advancing the state of the art in this field.





We don't care about compression, so we can modify the algorithms.

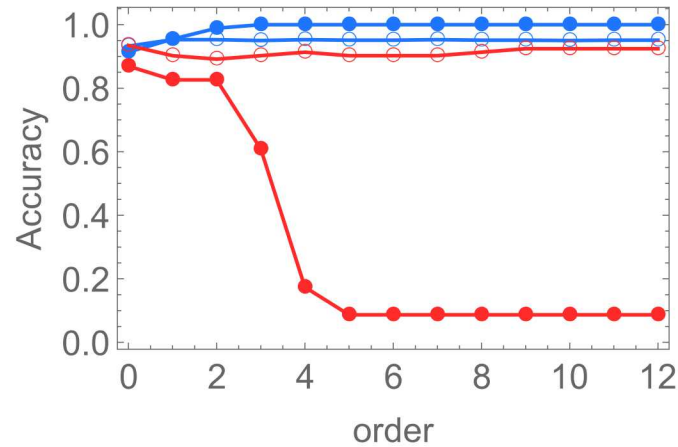


regular

attack

regular (removing escape)

attack (removing escape)



regular

attack

regular (normalized)

attack (normalized)



Compression algorithms are slow.



“This is a question.”



{(' '), ('a'), ('q'), ('.'), ('T'), ('e'), ('h'),  
('i'), ('io'), ('is'), ('n'), ('s'), ('st'), ('u')}

“This is another question.”



{(' '), ('a'), ('q'), ('T'), ('e'), ('h'),  
('he'), ('i'), ('io'), ('is'), ('n'), ('n.'),  
('o'), ('r'), ('s'), ('st'), ('t'), ('u')}



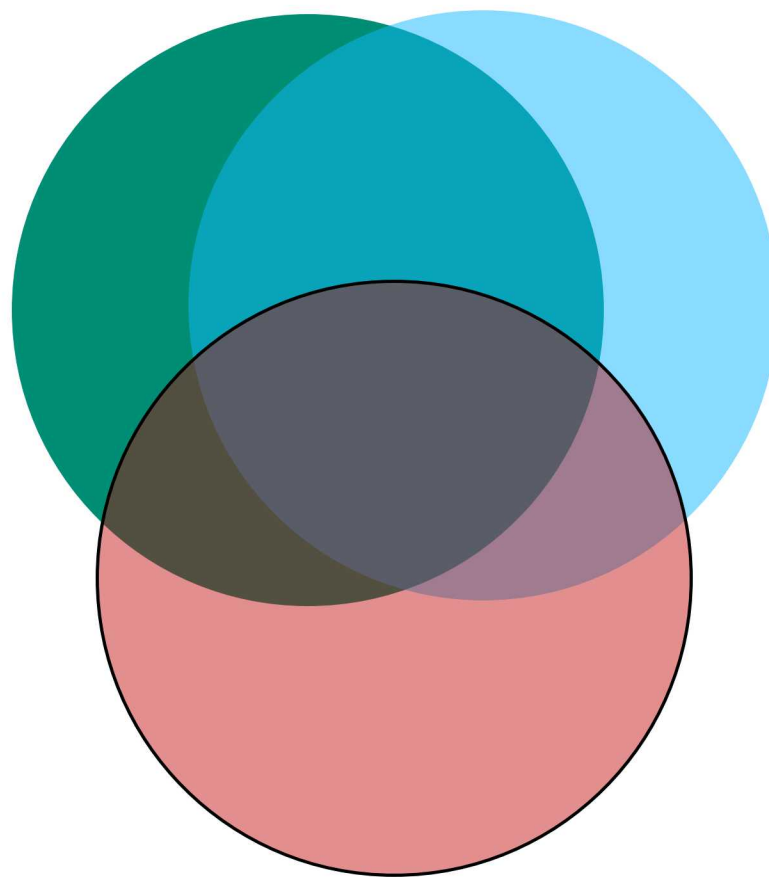
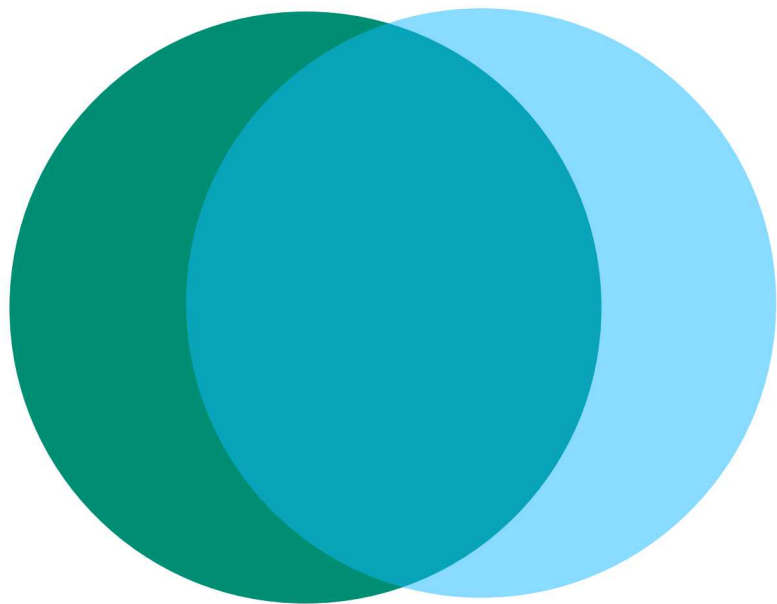
“This is another question.”



[('T'), ('h'), ('i'), ('s'), (' '), ('i'), ('is'),  
(' '), (' a'), ('n'), ('o'), ('t'), ('h'),  
('he'), ('r'), (' '), (' q'), ('u'), ('e'),  
('s'), ('st'), ('i'), ('io'), ('n')]



You don't have to specify the features, but you can't specify the features.







This is a question.

`<p>This is HTML</p>`



Travis Bauer ([tlbauer@sandia.gov](mailto:tlbauer@sandia.gov))

## **Publications**

- McNamara, L., Bauer, T., Haass, M., and Matzen, L., "Silver Ticket? Exploring Entropy Metrics for Visual Analytics." BELIV 2016, Oct 24, 2016, Baltimore.
- Brounstein, Tom Rego, et al. *Stylometric and Temporal Techniques for Social Media Account Resolution*. No. SAND2017-2965C. Sandia National Lab.(SNL-NM), Albuquerque, NM (United States), 2017.
- Ting, C., Fisher, A., Bauer, T., "Compression based algorithms for deception detection." SocInfo2017, Sep 13-15, 2017, Oxford, UK
- Ting, C., Field, R., Fisher, A., Bauer, T., "Compression Analytics for Classification and Anomaly Detection within Network Communication." IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics & Security Volume 14, Issue 5, May 2019
- Ting, C., Field, R., Quach, T., Bauer, T., "Generalized Boundary Detection in Streaming Data Using Compression-Based Analytics. ICASSP 2019, accepted