

# Exploiting the Spam Correlations in Scalable Online Social Spam Detection

Hailu Xu, Liting Hu, Pinchao Liu, Boyuan Guan

Florida International University



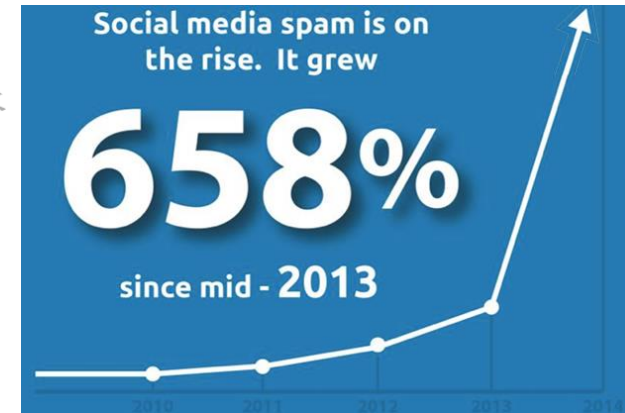
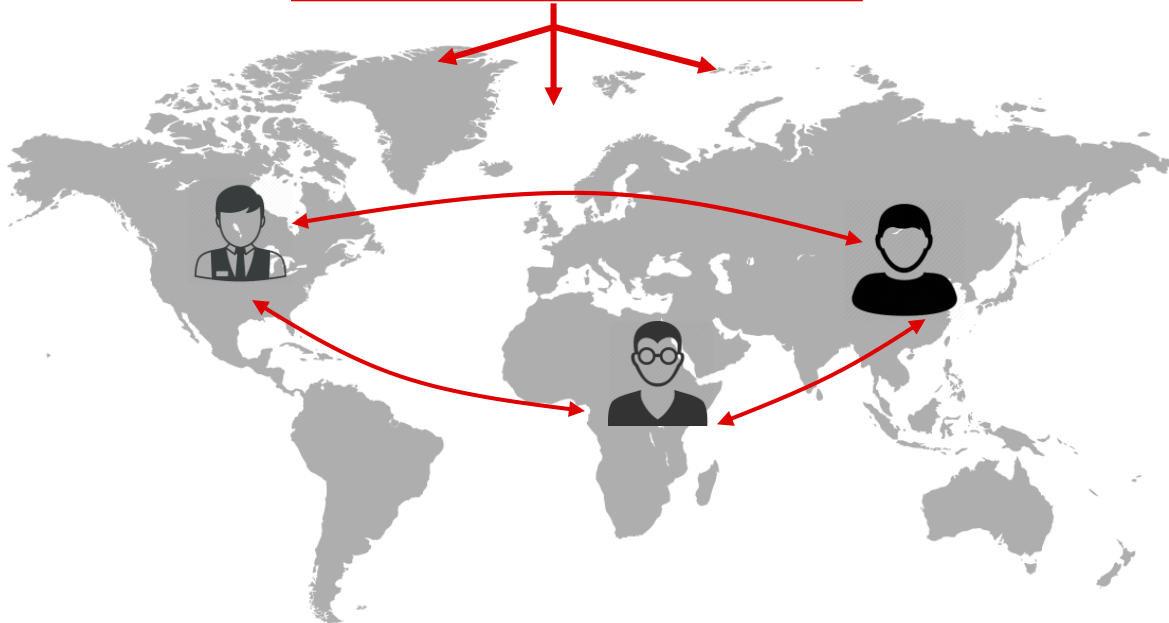
**FIU**

FLORIDA  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY

**ELVES**  
research laboratory

- ➡ **Background**
  - Background & Problem
  - Challenges
- **System Design**
  - Workflow
  - Implementation Details
  - Design Benefits
- **Evaluation**
  - Spam Detection Evaluation
  - System Evaluation
- **Conclusion & Future Work**

## SOCIAL MEDIA SPAM



### Twitter

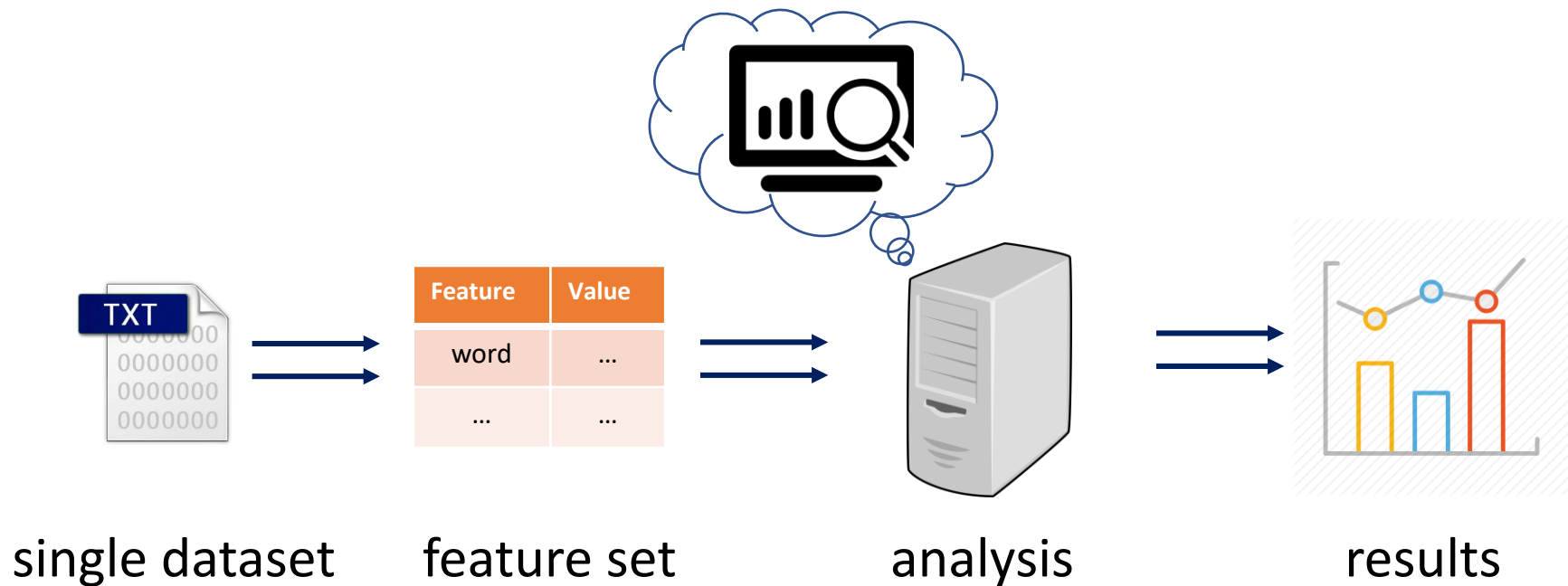
- 450,000
- 5.7 million
- 70 million

### Facebook

**47%** of social users are witnessing increased spam !

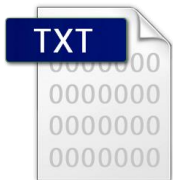
users  
book profiles

## Limited Data + Offline Detection



Limited Data

Single view from  
a limited dataset



limited data



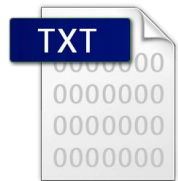
# Limit #1

## Lost global view

(the analysis bases on data from a **single/limited** dataset without the view of **online global** data from **multiple** data sources )

## Offline Detection

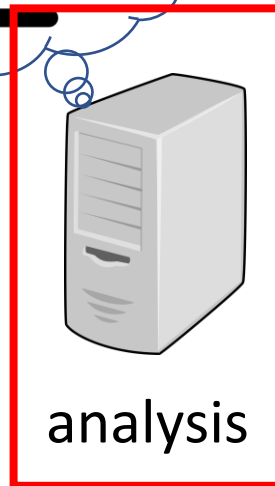
Long latency



dataset

Feature	Value
word	...
...	...

feature set



analysis



results

# Limit #2

## Long latency

(traditional offline processing costs **days/months** in feature engineering, cannot effectively handle **online** social spam detection)



- Different platforms show **high similarity** in spam posts of corresponding topics.
- Users in **same platform** with different locations or groups show **high correlations/similarity** in spam post with same topics.



How to detect online large-scale social spam with global views?

Single dataset


spam correlations

Global  
data sources

Offline local  
processing

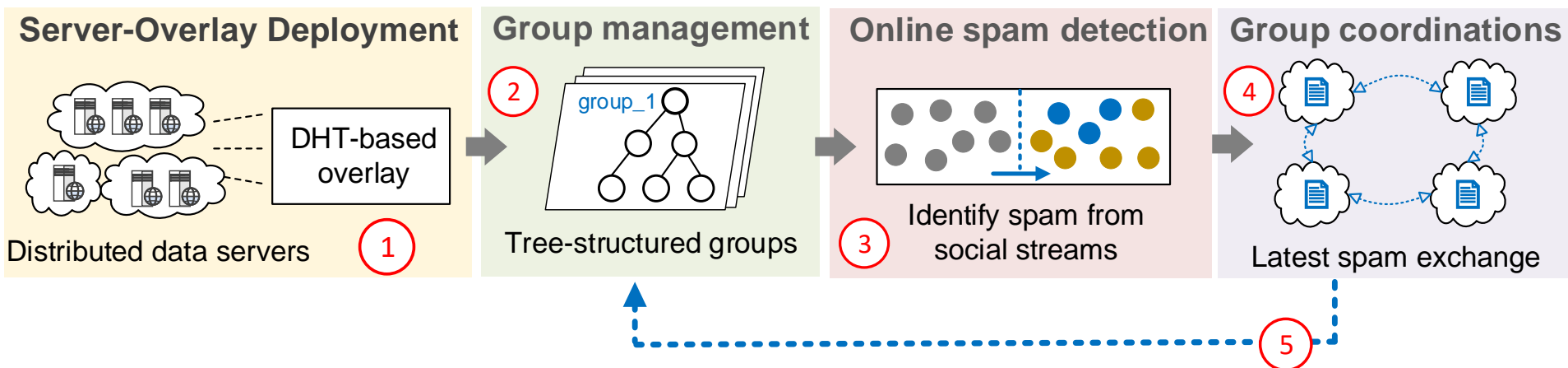
Scale out

Distributed online  
processing

- ||  **Background**
  - Background & Problem
  - Challenges
- **System Design**
  - Workflow
  - Implementation Details
  - Design Benefits
- **Evaluation**
  - Spam Detection Evaluation
  - System Evaluation
- **Conclusion & Future Work**

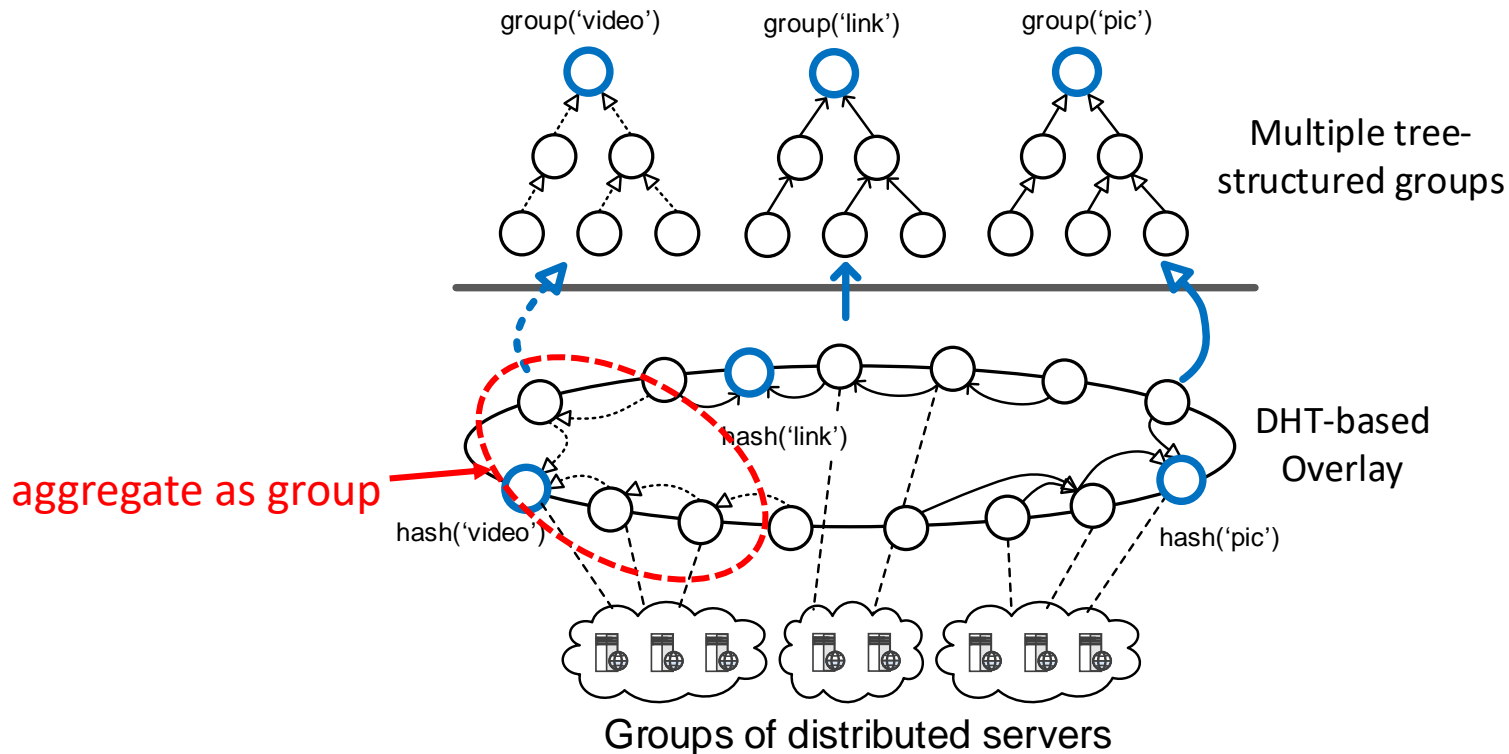
## SpamHunter Workflow

- Online data collection, peer-to-peer overlay based, online data processing and spam classification, group coordination, update continuing spam detection



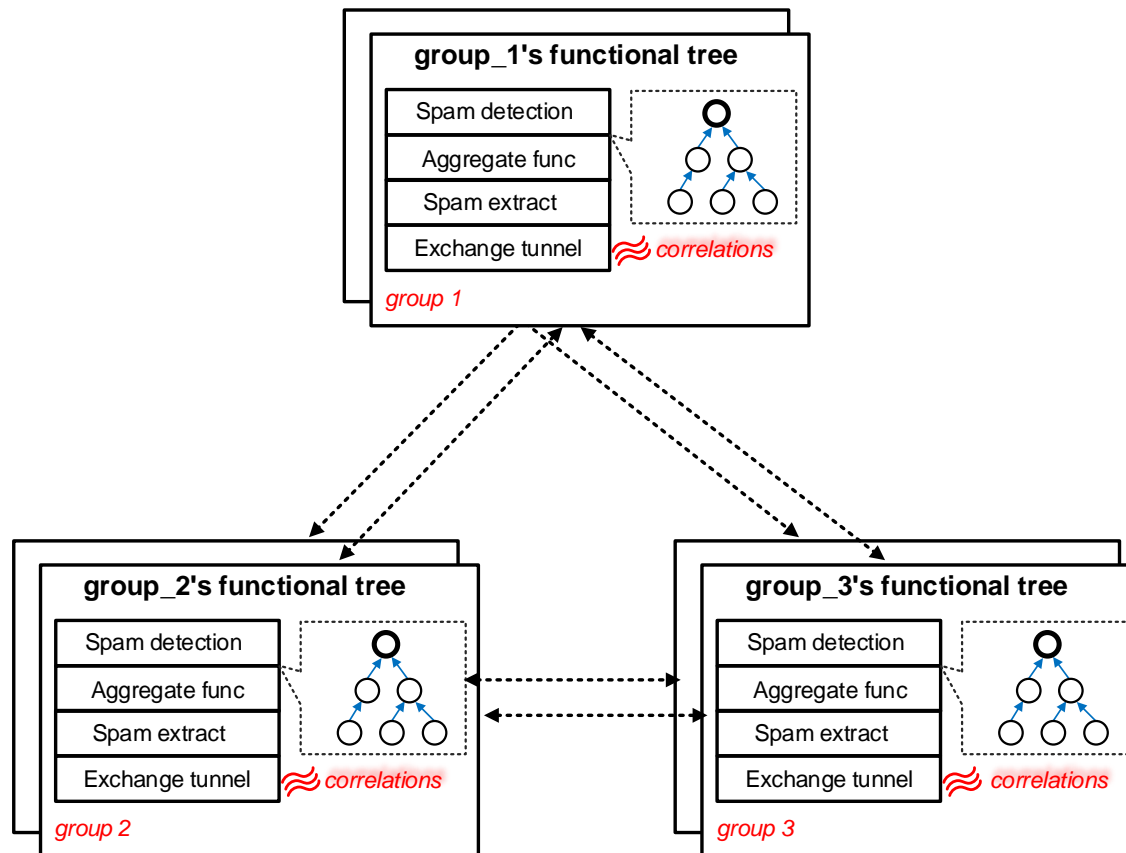
## SpamHunter DHT-based overlay

- Distributed servers connect to nodes, support multiple functional groups, group acts as tree-structure



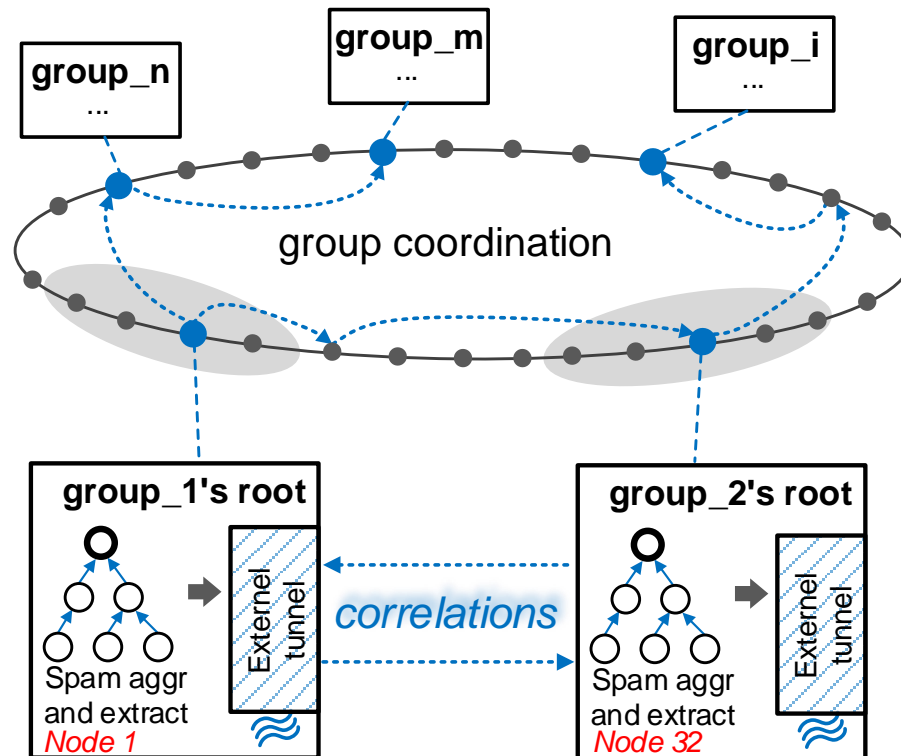
## □ Group's functional tree

- Orchestrate the processing flow, aggregate interim results, gather latest spam info, exchange tunnel for coordination



## □ Group coordination

- Root is responses for sharing spam, using exchange tunnel with other groups' roots



## □ Utilize the newest correlated spam info:

- collect the **online** social data
- detect the social spam in various **groups**
- keep pace with the **latest** social spam
- interact with the **correlated** spam data

## □ Support scalable spam processing:

- handle multiple **distributed** servers' logs
- easily scale to multiple large-scale data sources



- **Background**

- Background & Problem
- Challenges

-  ▪ **System Design**

- Workflow
- Implementation Details
- Design Benefits

- **Evaluation**

- Spam Detection Evaluation
- System Evaluation

- **Conclusion & Future Work**

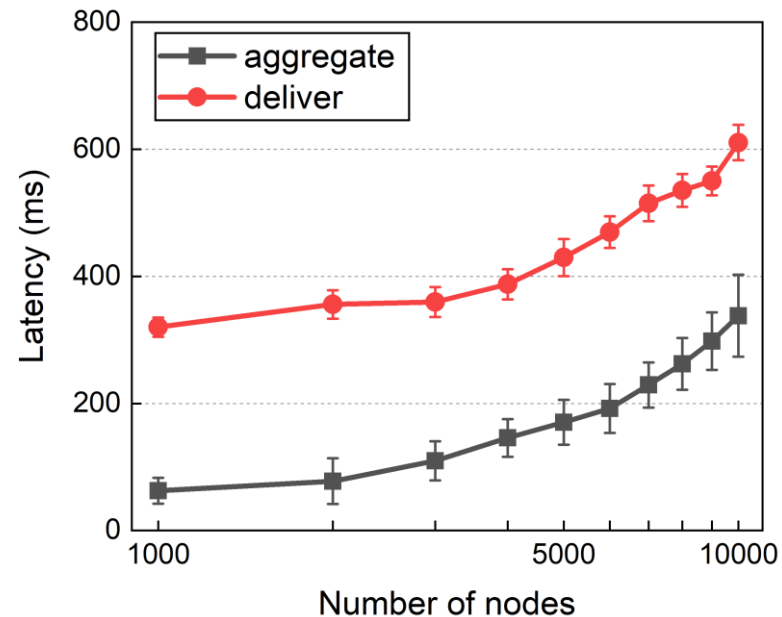
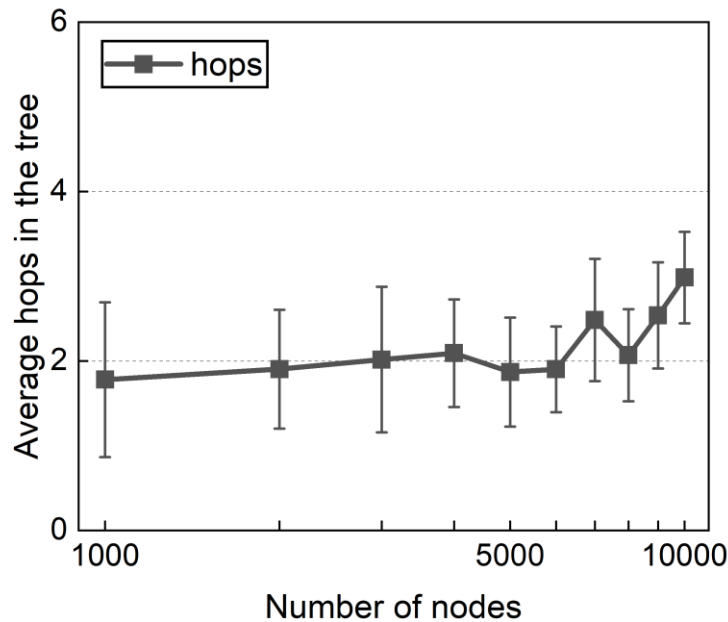
## Testbed setups

Hardware/Software	Specification
Servers	10
CPU	3.4GHz
Memory	4 GB
Disk	30 GB
Operating system	Ubuntu 16.04
Language	Java SE 1.8
Twitter	3,000,000 tweets from API

A sample dataset which consists of 50,000 posts (37465 posts are *Ham* and 12535 posts are *Spam*)

Table 1: Results of spam detection.

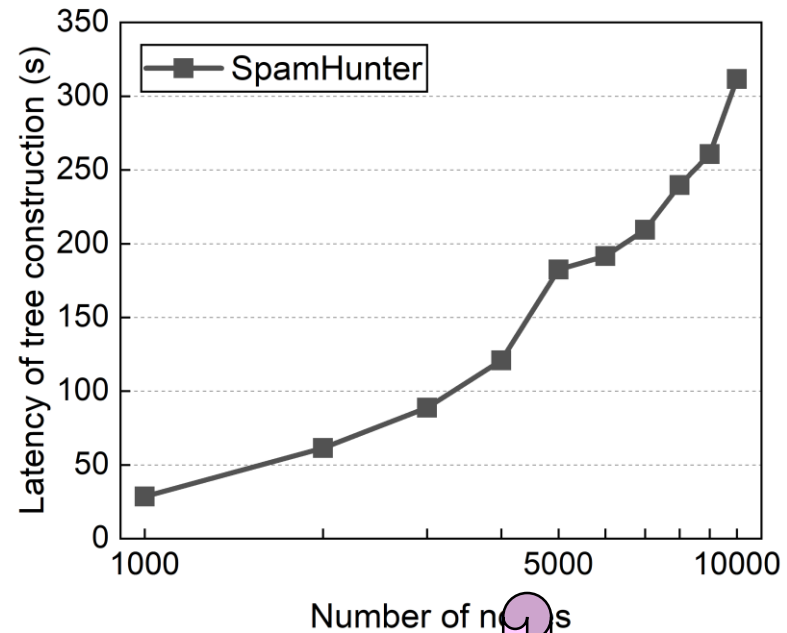
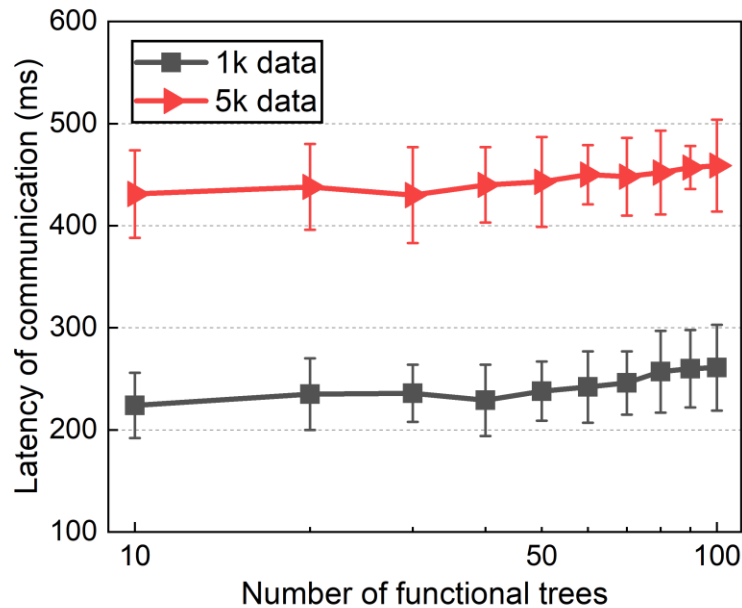
<b>Model</b>	<b>F1</b>	<b>Precision</b>	<b>Recall</b>
RF	0.951	0.951	0.951
SVM	0.942	0.945	0.944
RT	0.927	0.928	0.927
Logistic	0.859	0.866	0.855



(a) Average

aggregate.

The **linear increment** of time is determined by the tree depth  $O(\log N)$ , indicates that tree structure exhibits a **good balance**.



(a). Latency

construction time.

The group coordination exhibits **consistent performance** in exchanging data.

- **Background**

- Background & Problem
- Challenges

- **System Design**

- Workflow
- Implementation Details
- Design Benefits

-  ▪ **Evaluation**

- Spam Detection Evaluation
- System Evaluation

- **Conclusion & Future Work**

SpamHunter introduces an **extensible** and **online** social spam detection system by utilizing **correlated** spam:

- **Extensible and online**: processing can extend to new online data with relatively low latency.
- **Spam correlation**: group coordination allows to utilize the correlated spam from global view

## Future work:

- explore the entire processing latency
- balance the scale and the latency of distributed agents in the system
- reduce the runtime overhead
- achieve load-balance with highly efficient data processing

Thank you.

Questions?

**FIU**

---

**ELVES**  
research laboratory