



# A Deep Architecture for Depression Detection

**Arbee L.P. Chen**

**Journal of Intelligent Information Systems**  
**(to appear)**



PART

# Background & Motivation



# Background

- The World Health Organization predicts depressive disorders will be widespread in the next 20 years
  - World wide: 300,000,000; Asia: 50,000,000; Taiwan: 1,500,000
- These disorders may affect a person's general health and habits
- 40% of the patients have suicidal thoughts and 10%~15% die by suicide



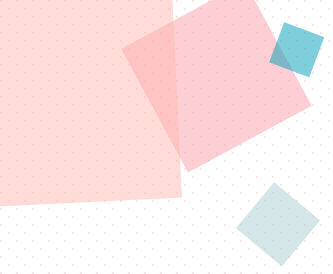
# Motivation

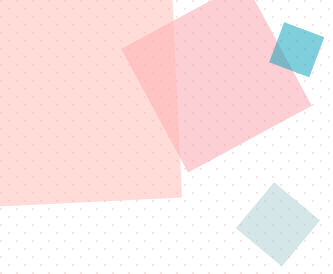
- 80% of the patients have it controlled after appropriate treatments
- Most patients are unaware of their illness and do not seek for clinical intervention until the symptoms become severe
- Our goal: Detecting depressive disorders in early stages to allow the patients to receive proper treatments

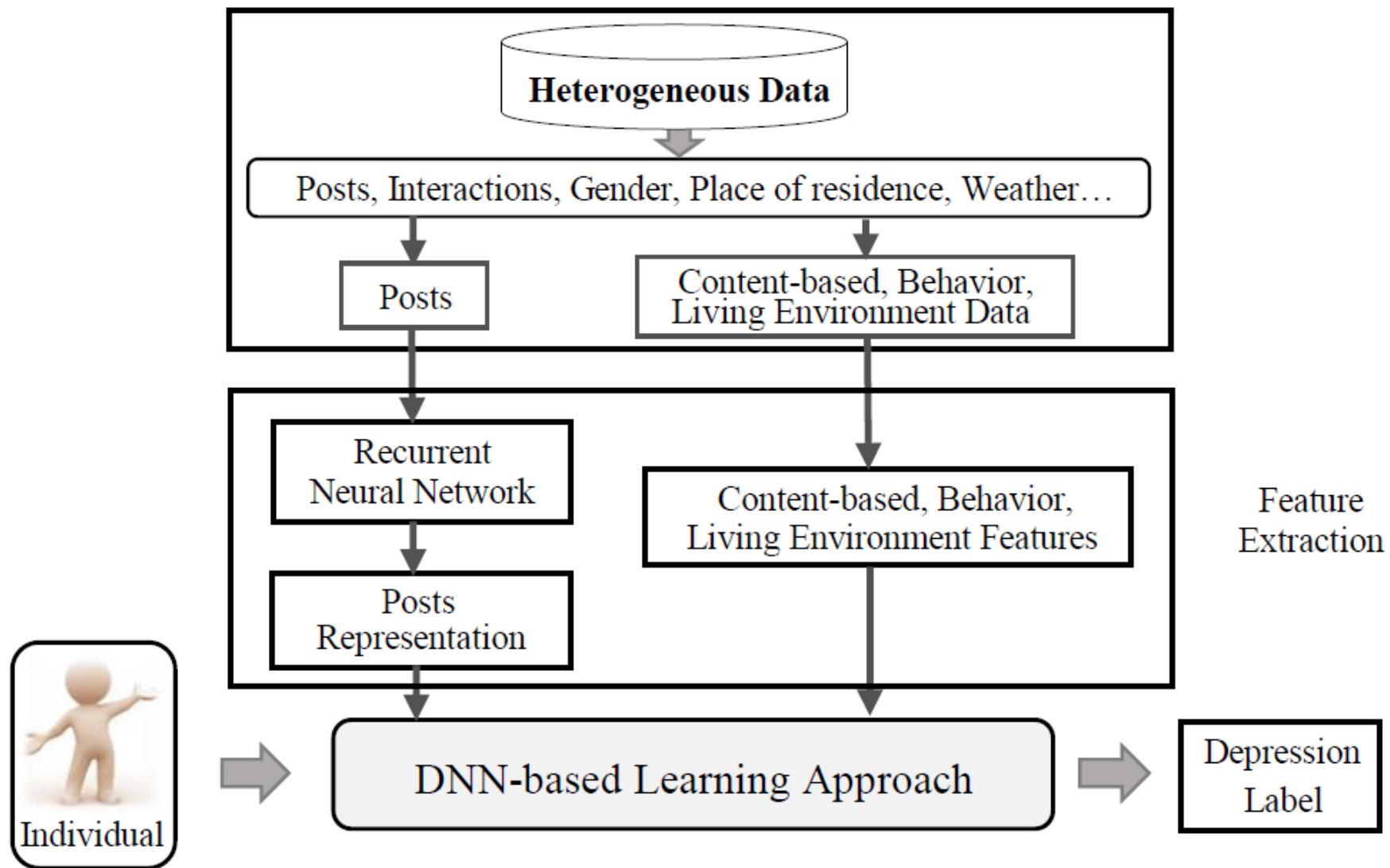


PART

# Approach

- 
- 1,453 students from 58 universities in Taiwan were recruited
  - These participants were asked to do CES-D depression screening test and their Facebook records collected
    - Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale
    - The CES-D results from the volunteers are used as the ground truth for building the prediction model
  - Their living environment data were also collected from the government open data

- 
- Employ Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) to capture the semantics of the posts in social media
  - Extract the key features which may affect depression from the content-based, behavior, and living environment data
  - Construct a Deep Neural Network (DNN) model to predict a person's label of depression

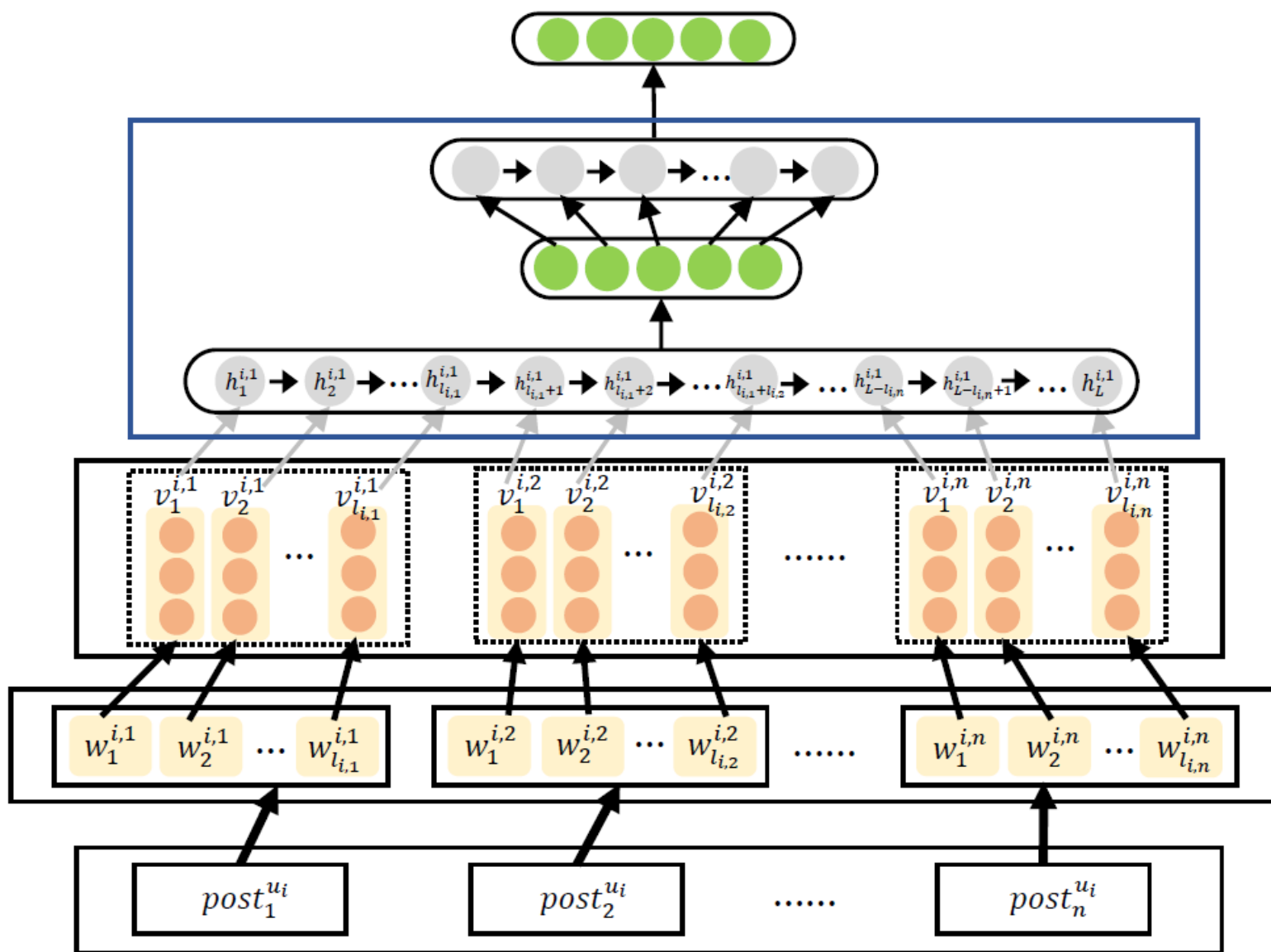






PART

# Posts Representation



Posts  
Representation

Content Features  
Generation via LSTM

Word  
Representation

Segmentation



# Data Collection

- The depression screening tests were done in December 2015
- All the posts published by the volunteers before 2015 are used to generate word representations
  - Totally 1,156,241 posts with 88,649 words



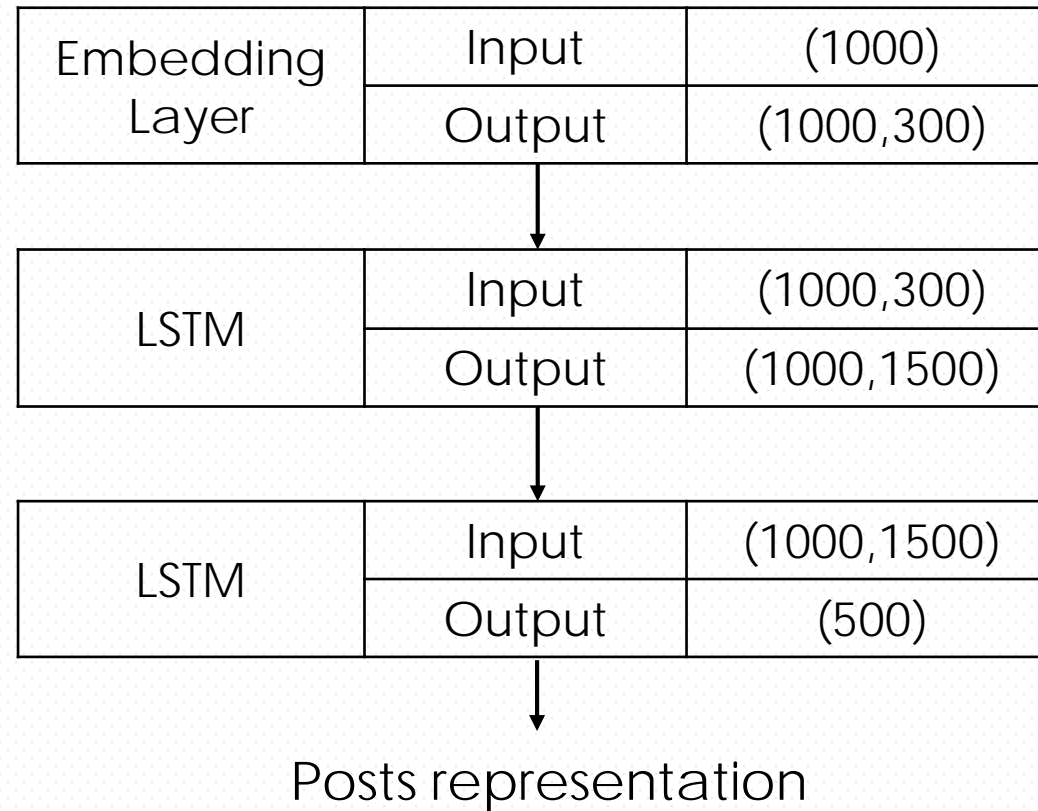
# Word Representation

- The concept of word vector is employed to represent a word
  - Word2vec is an efficient tool for word representation, which was launched by Google in 2013
  - Take as its input a large corpus of text and produce a vector space, typically of several hundred dimensions, with each unique word in the corpus being assigned a corresponding vector in the space
  - Word vectors are positioned in the vector space such that words that share common contexts in the corpus are located in close proximity to one another in the space

# Content Features Generation

- Sequentially concatenate the word vectors into a fixed length  $L$  of word vectors
- For example
  - Set  $L = 6$
  - User  $ui$  published two posts (represented as word vectors) in order:  $\langle v_1^{i,1}, v_2^{i,1}, v_3^{i,1} \rangle$  and  $\langle v_1^{i,2}, v_2^{i,2} \rangle$
  - Concatenate all word vectors into an ordered vector set  $\langle 0, v_1^{i,1}, v_2^{i,1}, v_3^{i,1}, v_1^{i,2}, v_2^{i,2} \rangle$

# Posts Representation

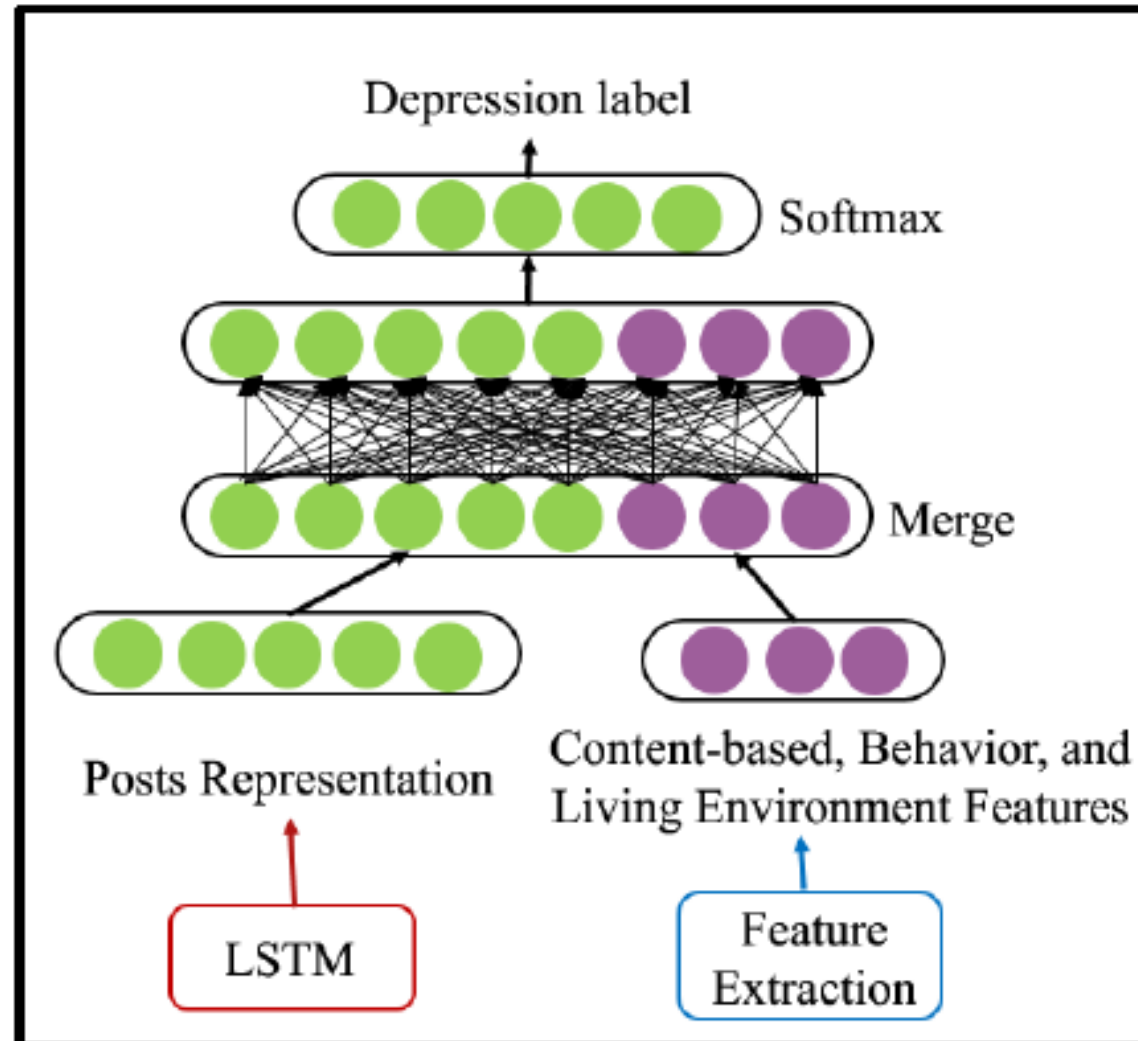




PART

# Classification for Depression Labels

# Merging Features to Build DNN





# Feature Extraction

Content-based

A

Behavior

B

Living  
Environment

C



# Content-based features

- Positive words (PW): number of positive words used per post
- Negative words (NW): number of negative words used per post
- First person pronouns (FP): number of “I” used per post
- Links (LK): number of hyperlinks made per post
- Vocabulary (VB): number of words used in a time period
- Specific linguistic styles: number of nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, etc. used per post



# Behavior features

- Number of posts (NP)
- Post time (PT) : number of posts posted during 0:00 – 6:00am / NP
- Number of uploaded photos (NU)
- Ratio of game posts (GP): number of game posts / NP
- Number of friends (NF)
- Average number of thumbs-ups (CT)
- Average number of profile photo changes (PC)
- Number of actions (NA): friend addition, posting, commenting, etc.



# Living environment features

- Average sunshine hours (SH)
- Average rainfall days (RD)
- Average temperature (TP)
- Population density of the administrative districts (PD)
- Number of traffic accidents normalized by PD (TA)
- Number of fire accidents normalized by PD (FA)



# Model Construction

- In total, we extract 48 features from publicly available data and social media, these features are merged with the posts representation to build a deep learning classifier
- The posts published in the three months prior to the depression screening tests are used as the training and testing data
  - Totally 1,294 volunteers with 121,767 posts



# Label Acquisition

- The CES-D results are used to obtain the depression labels of the participants
- Existing research indicates that the cut-off point in the CES-D scale for depression in the binary label setting is 16
  - Participants with CES-D scores smaller than 16 are labeled as negative, and those with CES-D scores  $\geq 16$  are labeled as positive
- There are 20 questions, each with maximum 3 points



# Experiment

# Parameter Tuning and Model Training

Hyper-parameters	Choice	Experiment Range
Word vector dim. (d)	300	50-500
LSTM input dim. (L)	1000	50-2000
LSTM output dim.	500	50-1500
LSTM layers	2	1-6

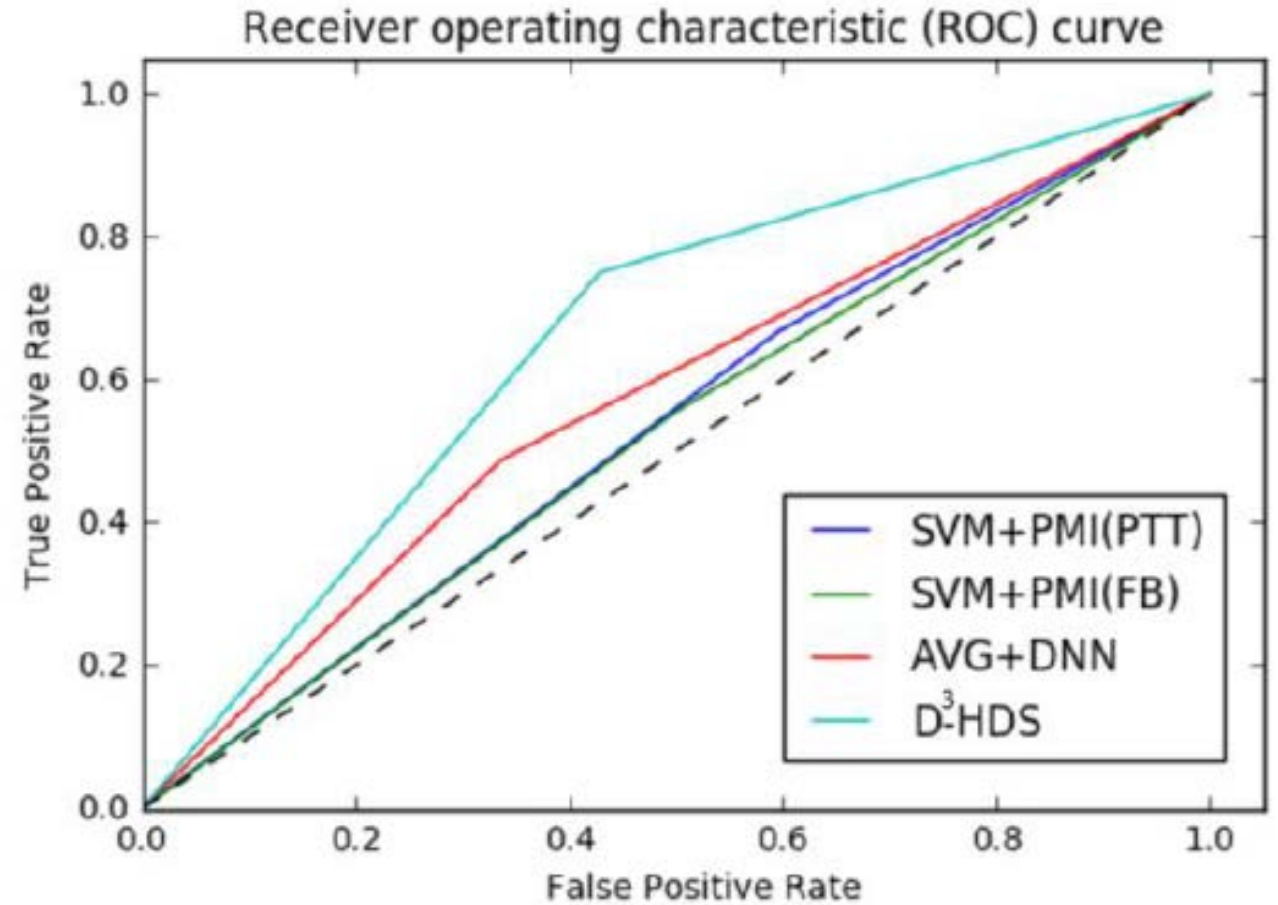




# Other Parameters

- Word2vec window size: [2-8]
- UKW: [yes, no]
- Period of posts: [3 months, 6 months, 9 months, 1 year]
- Batch size: [1-817]
- Training, validation and testing split: [5.6:1.4:3]
- Activation function: [ReLu, Sigmoid]
- Loss function: [Cross entropy]
- Optimizer: [Adam, RMSprop]
- Epochs: [5-1000]

	<b>Precision</b>	<b>Recall</b>
SVM+PMI(PTT)	57.8%	52.4%
SVM+PMI(FB)	56.8%	50%
AVG+DNN	59.6%	66.3%
D <sup>3</sup> -HDS	83.3%	71.4%



- True positive rate: correctly predicted in all positive cases
- False positive rate: incorrectly predicted in all negative cases



**Thank you for your attention!**