

On Your Social Network De-anonymizability:  
Quantification and Large Scale Evaluation with Seed Knowledge

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University of California, Berkeley

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Princeton University



# Outline

- Introduction and Motivation
- System Model
- De-anonymization Quantification
- Evaluation and Observations
- Conclusion and Future Works

# De-anonymization Attack

- Structured/Graph Data

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  - Social Networks

# De-anonymization Attack

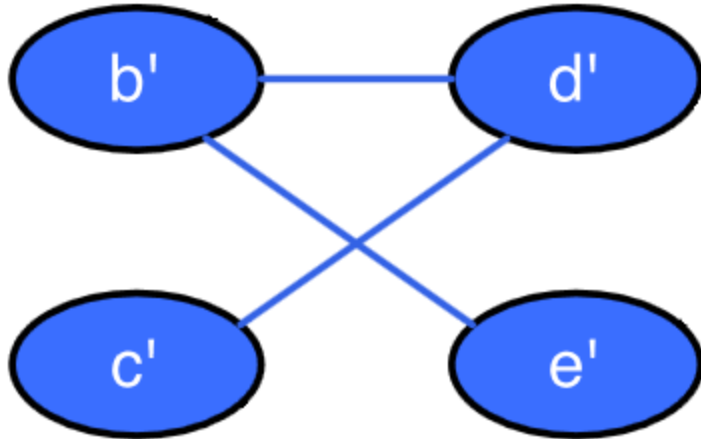
- Structured/Graph Data
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  - Mobility Traces

# De-anonymization Attack

- Structured/Graph Data
  - Social Networks
  - Mobility Traces
  - Email Networks

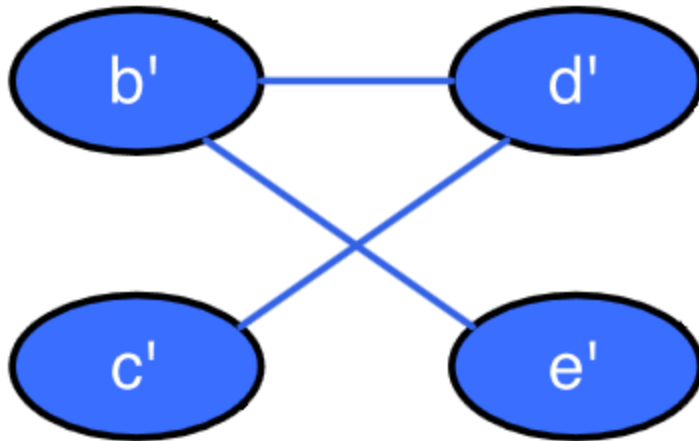
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The Anonymized Graph  
(e.g. Facebook)

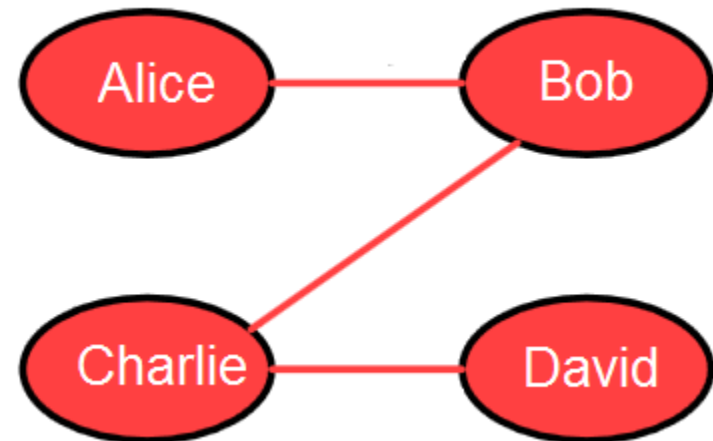


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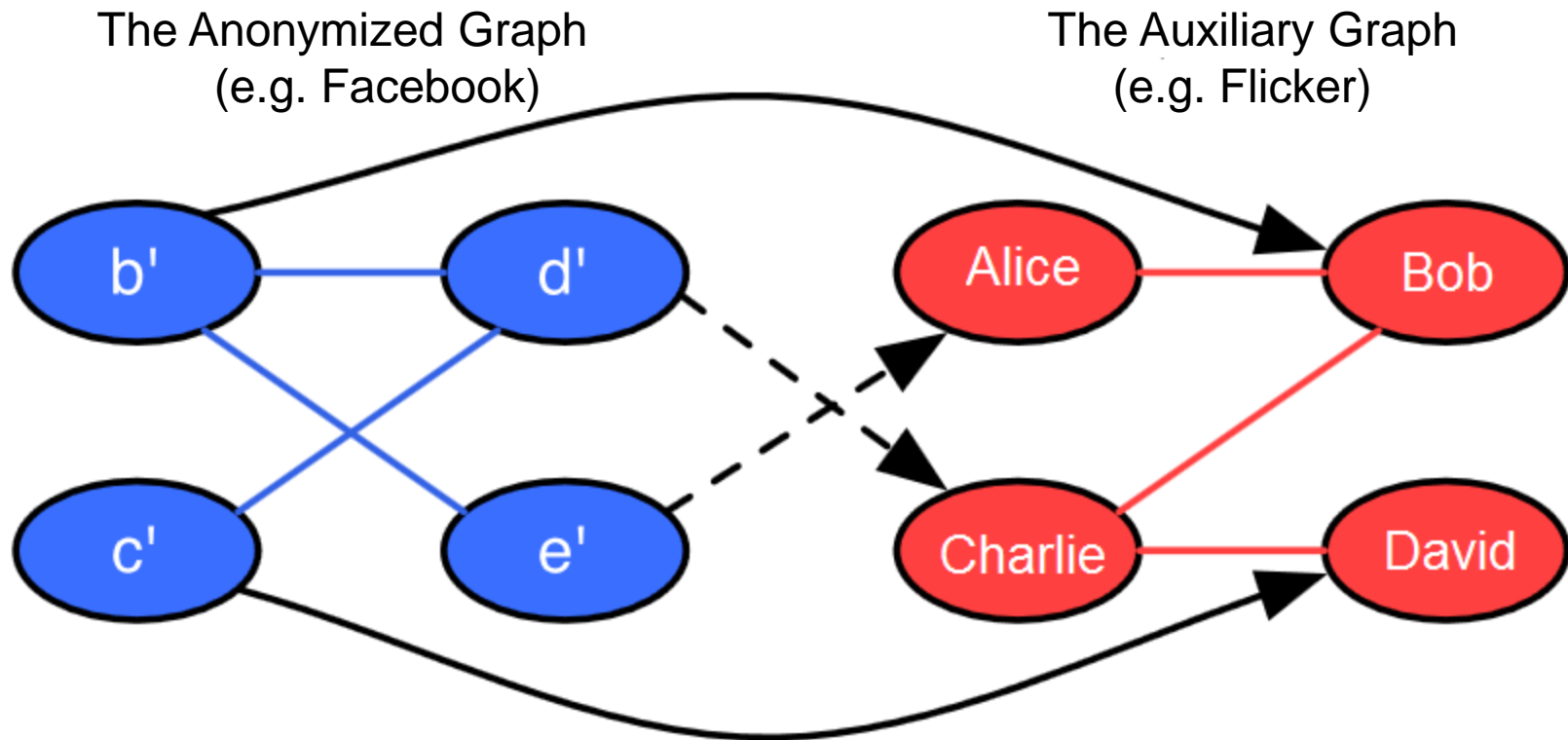


The Auxiliary Graph  
(e.g. Flickr)





# De-anonymization Attack



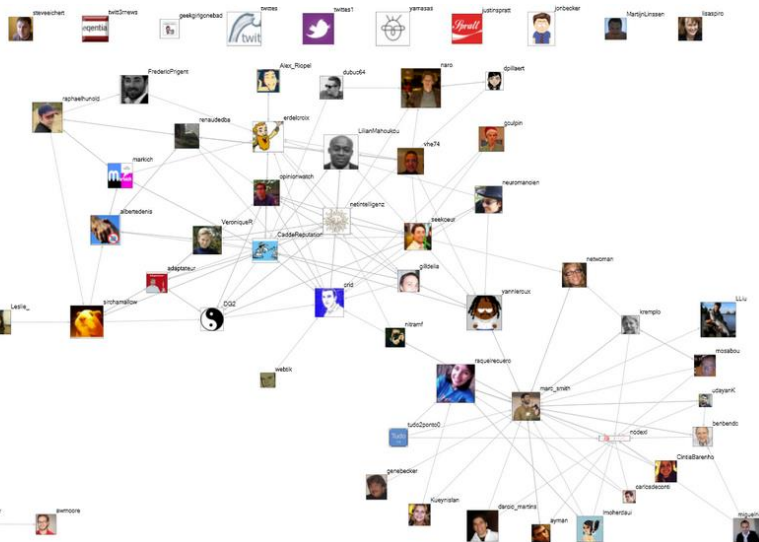
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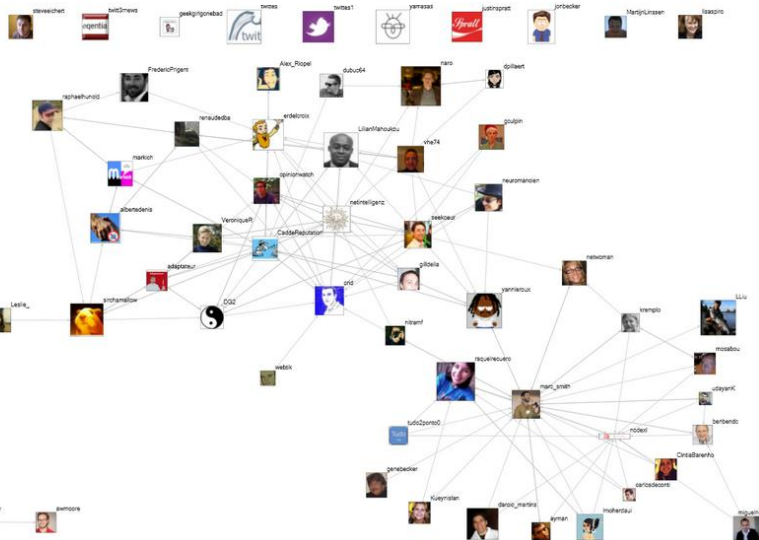
## Twitter



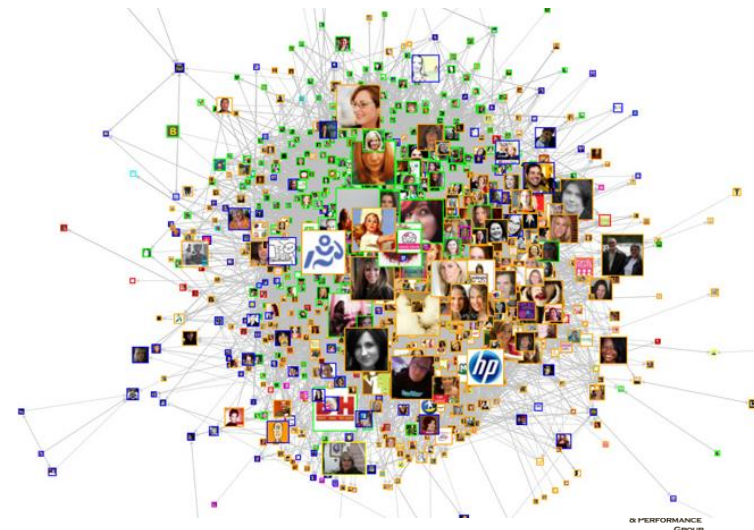
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  - A photo-sharing service
  - 3.3M users, 53M edges

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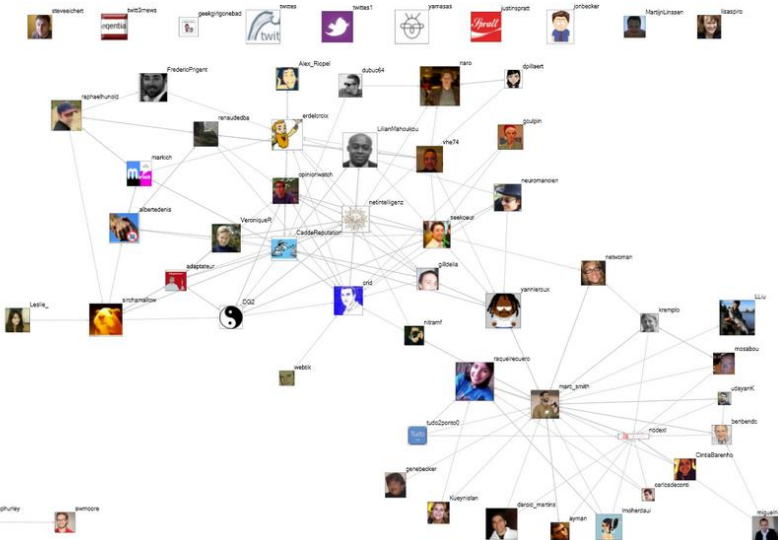
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  - 3.3M users, 53M edges
- Result: 30.8% of the users are successfully de-anonymized

Twitter



Heuristics

*Eccentricity*  
*Edge directionality*  
*Node degree*  
*Revisiting nodes*  
*Reverse match*

User mapping

Flickr



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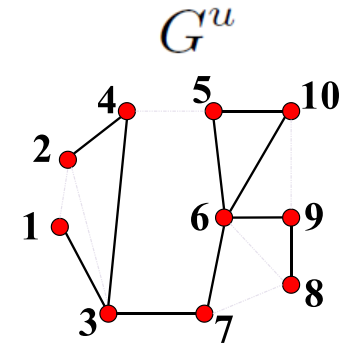
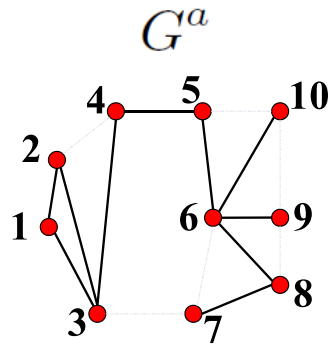
# Motivation

- **Question 1:** *Why social networks are vulnerable to structure based de-anonymization attacks?*
- **Question 2:** *How de-anonymizable a social network is?*
- **Question 3:** *How many users within a social network can be successfully de-anonymized?*



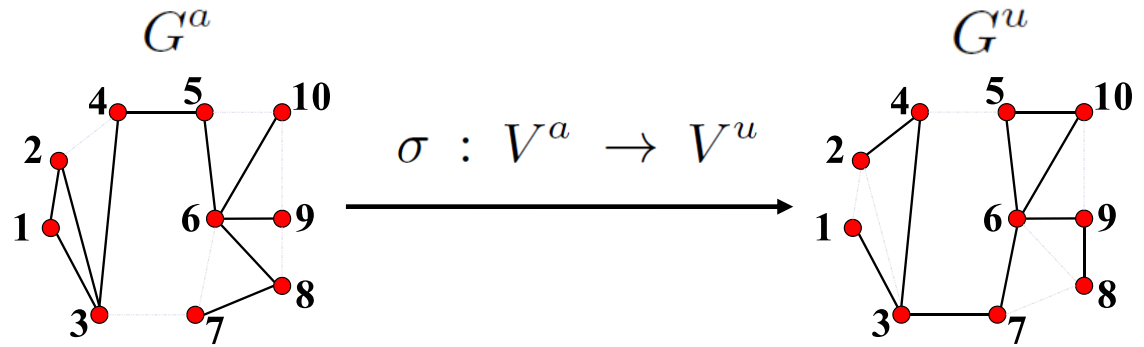
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- Anonymized Data ( $G^a$ )
- Auxiliary Data ( $G^u$ )



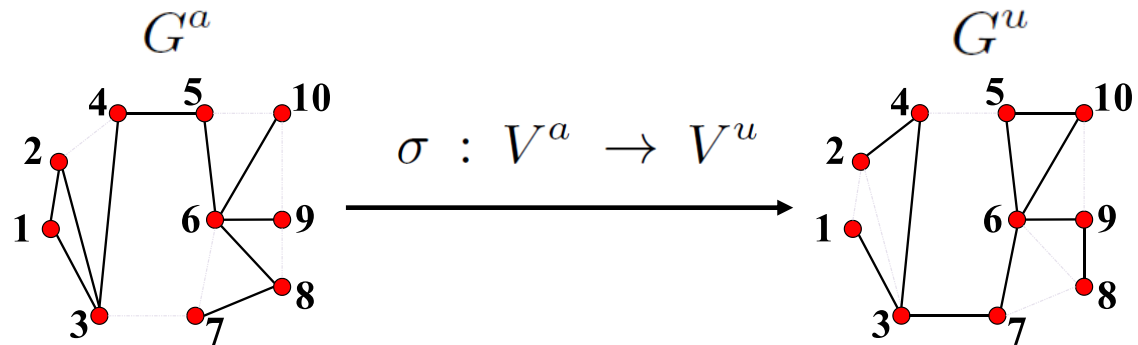
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- Anonymized Data ( $G^a$ )
- Auxiliary Data ( $G^u$ )
- De-anonymization ( $\sigma$ )
- Measurement ( $\Delta_\sigma$ )



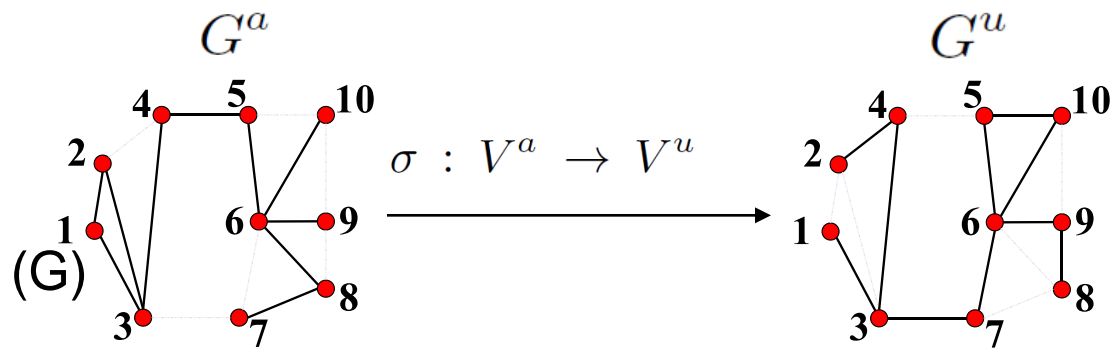
*De-anonymization Error (DE)* on a user mapping  $(i, i') \in \sigma$

$$\Delta_{\sigma:(i,j)}(s) = |\sigma(E_i^a(S^a)) \setminus E_j^u(S^u)| + |\sigma^{-1}(E_j^u(S^u)) \setminus E_i^a(S^a)|$$

$$\Delta_\sigma(S) = \sum_{(i,j) \in \sigma} \Delta_{\sigma:(i,j)}(S)$$

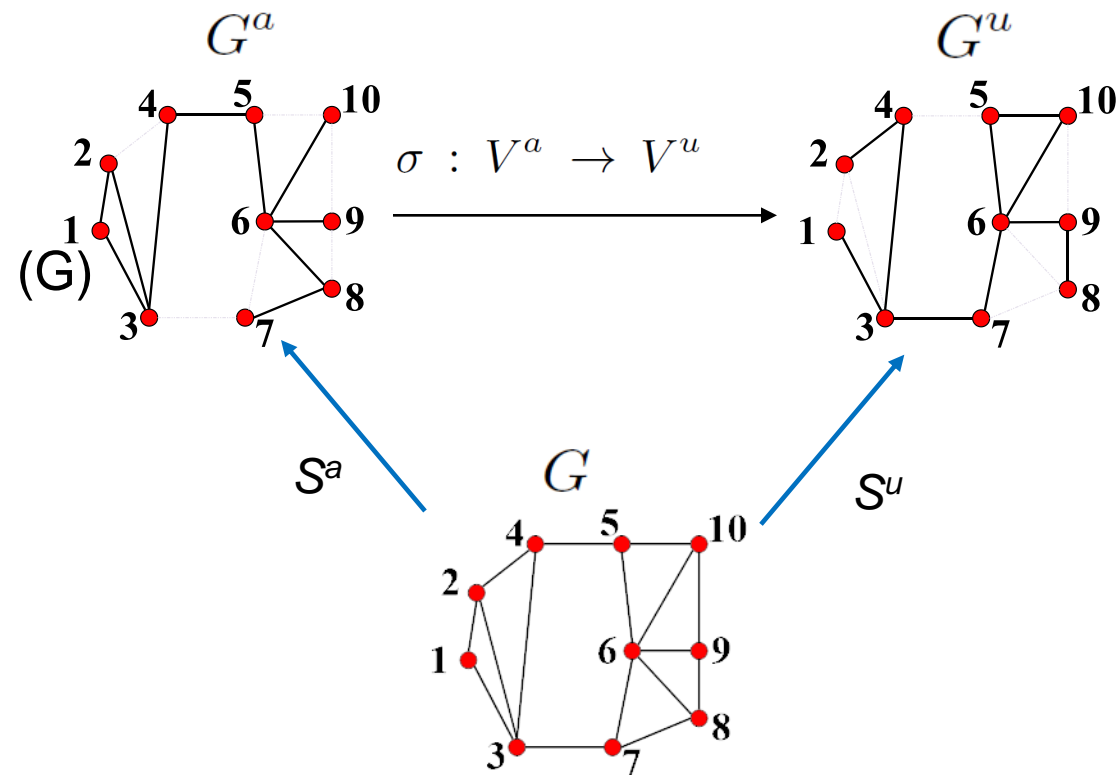
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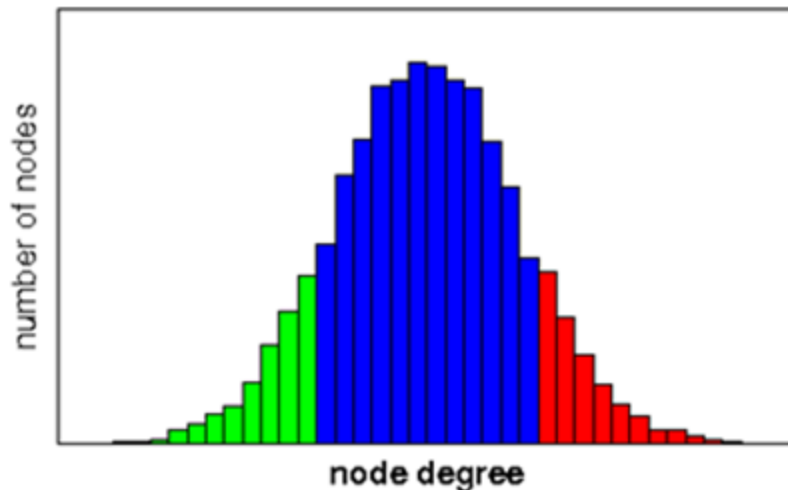
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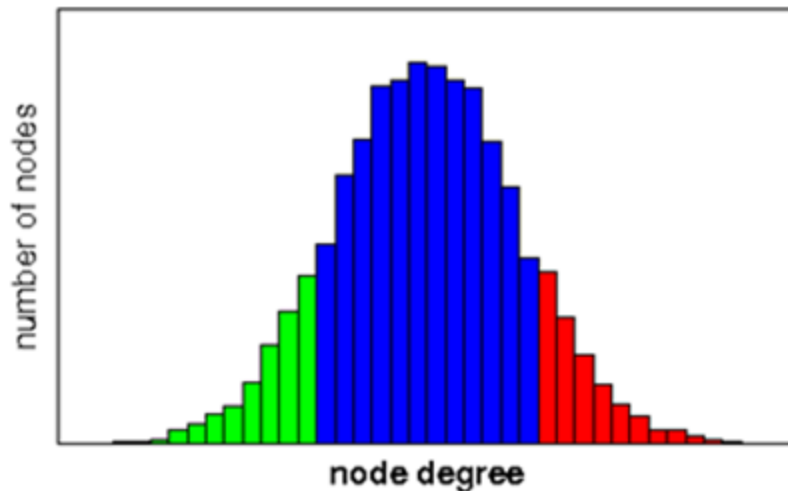
The ER Model Degree Distribution



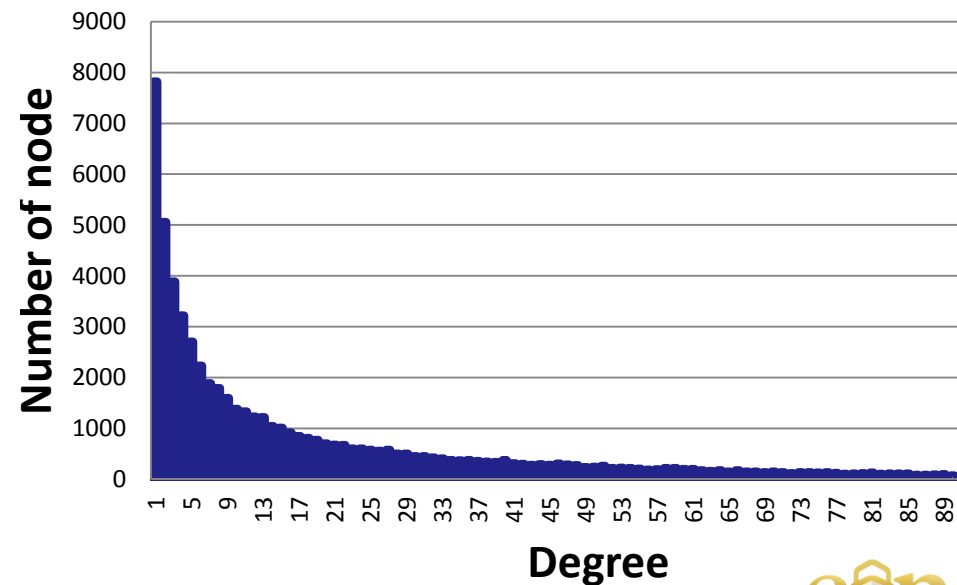
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  - Erdős–Rényi(ER) model
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  - Mathematically shown the conditions needed
    - Seed based perfect *de-anonymization*
    - *Structure based perfect de-anonymization*
    - *Error tolerant de-anonymization*

# Evaluation

- Datasets

TABLE I. DATASET STATISTICS.

Name	$n$	$m$	$\rho$	$\bar{d}$
Hyves	1,402,673	2,777,419	2.82E-06	3.96
Douban	154,908	327,162	2.73E-05	4.22
Friendster	5,689,498	14,067,887	8.69E-07	4.95
YouTube	1,138,499	2,990,443	4.61E-06	5.25
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Orkut	3,072,441	117,185,083	2.48E-05	76.28
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  - Number of edges( $m$ )
  - Graph density ( $\rho$ )

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(e.g. LiveJournal  
4 million nodes,  
43 million edges)

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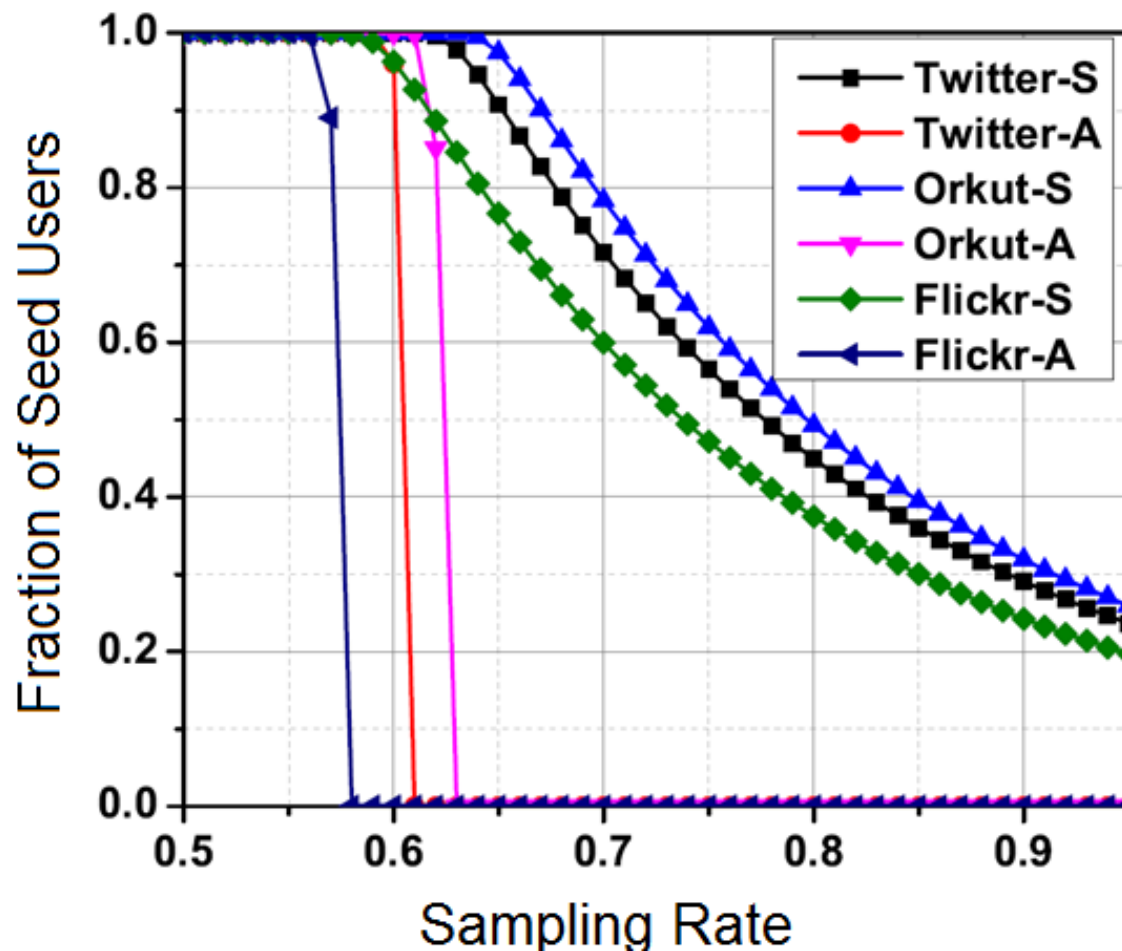
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  - Email network  
(e.g. Enron  
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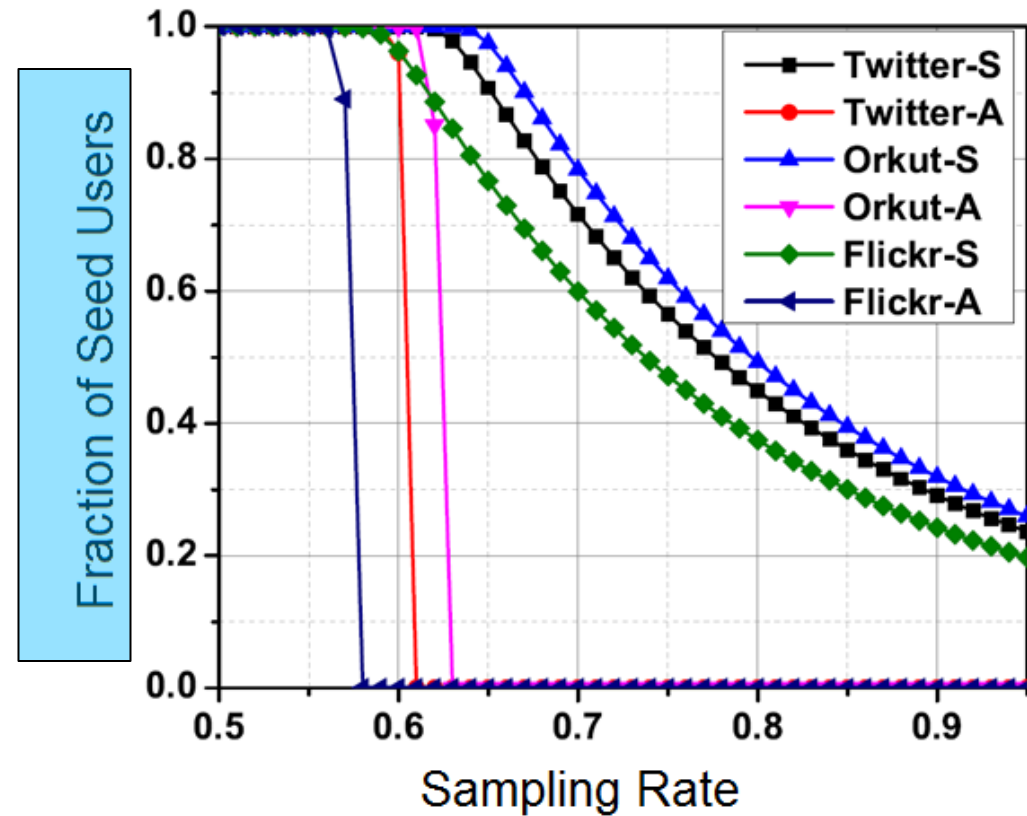
# Evaluation

Perfect De-anonymization Analysis on seed users versus sampling rate



# Evaluation

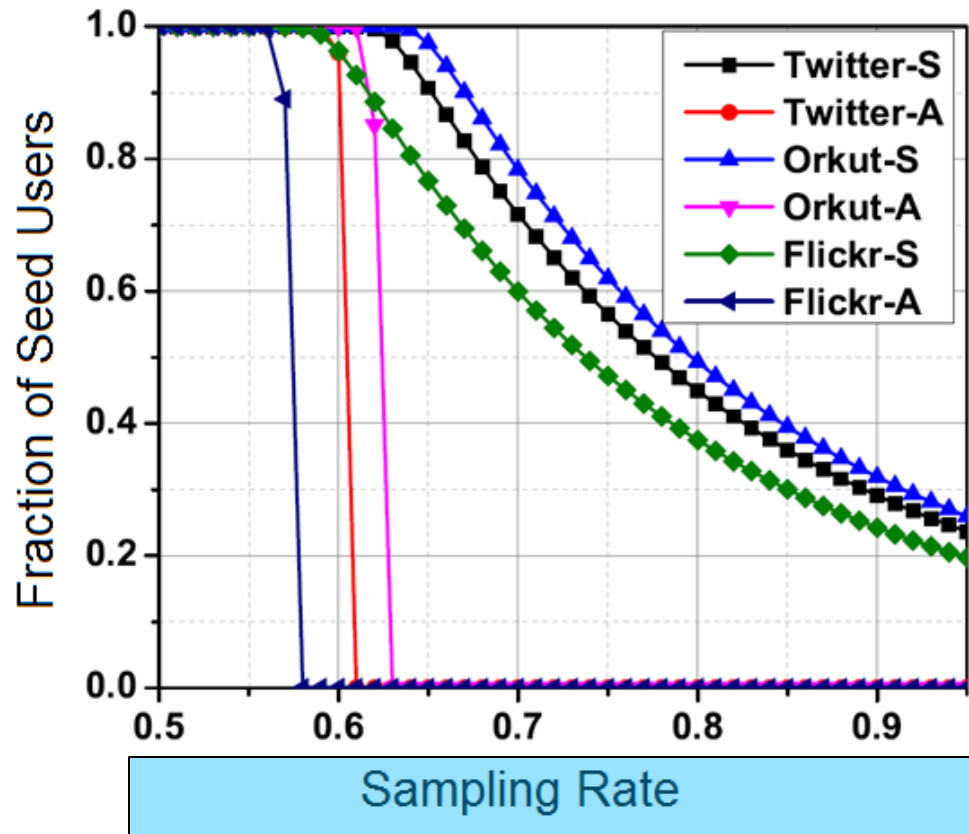
- The y-axis: number of pre-determined users needed.





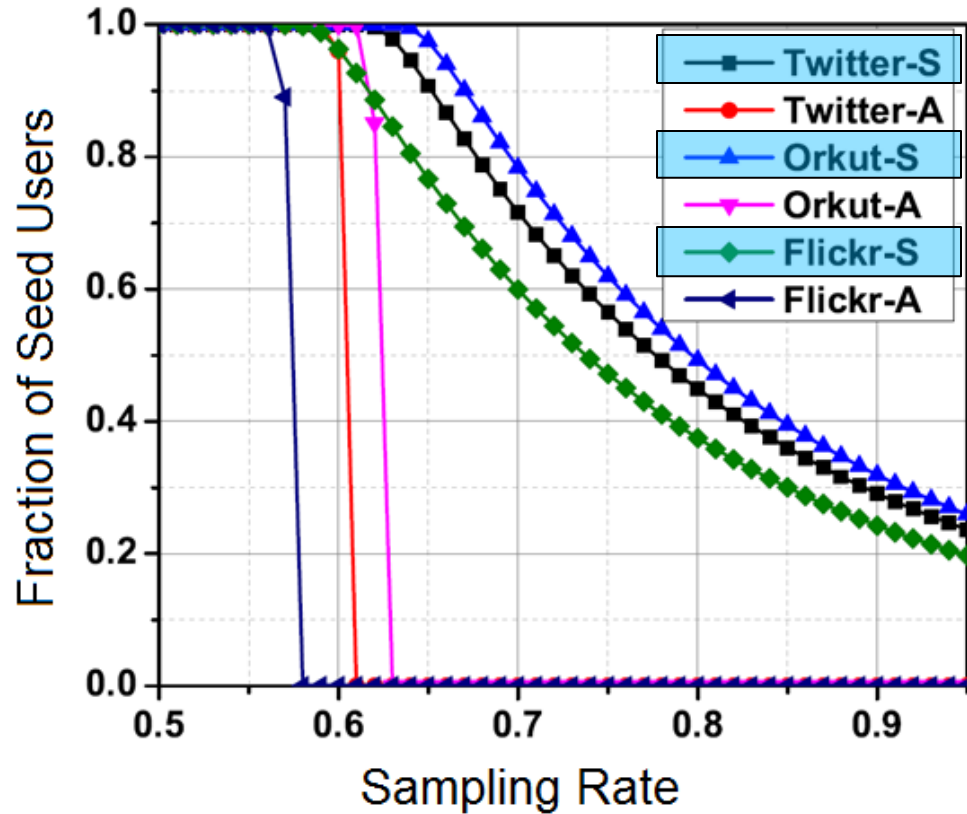
# Evaluation

- The y-axis: number of pre-determined users needed.
- The x-axis: sampling rate needed.



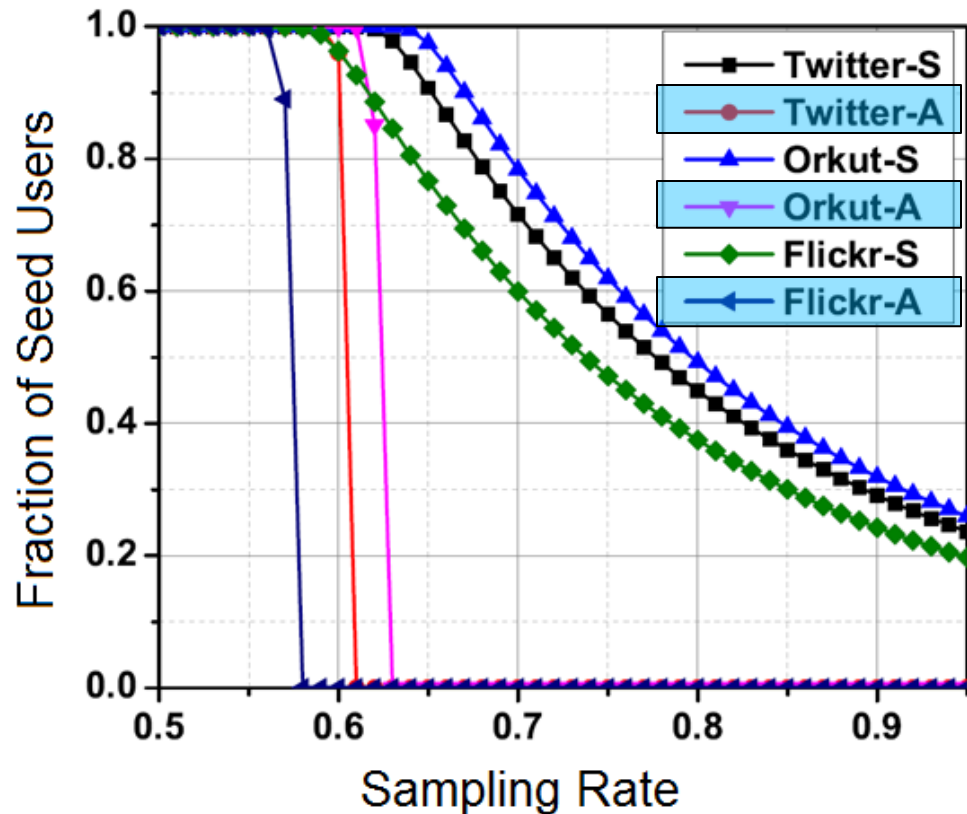
# Evaluation

- The y-axis: number of pre-determined users needed.
- The x-axis: sampling rate needed.
- \*-S: de-anonymization with only seed information.



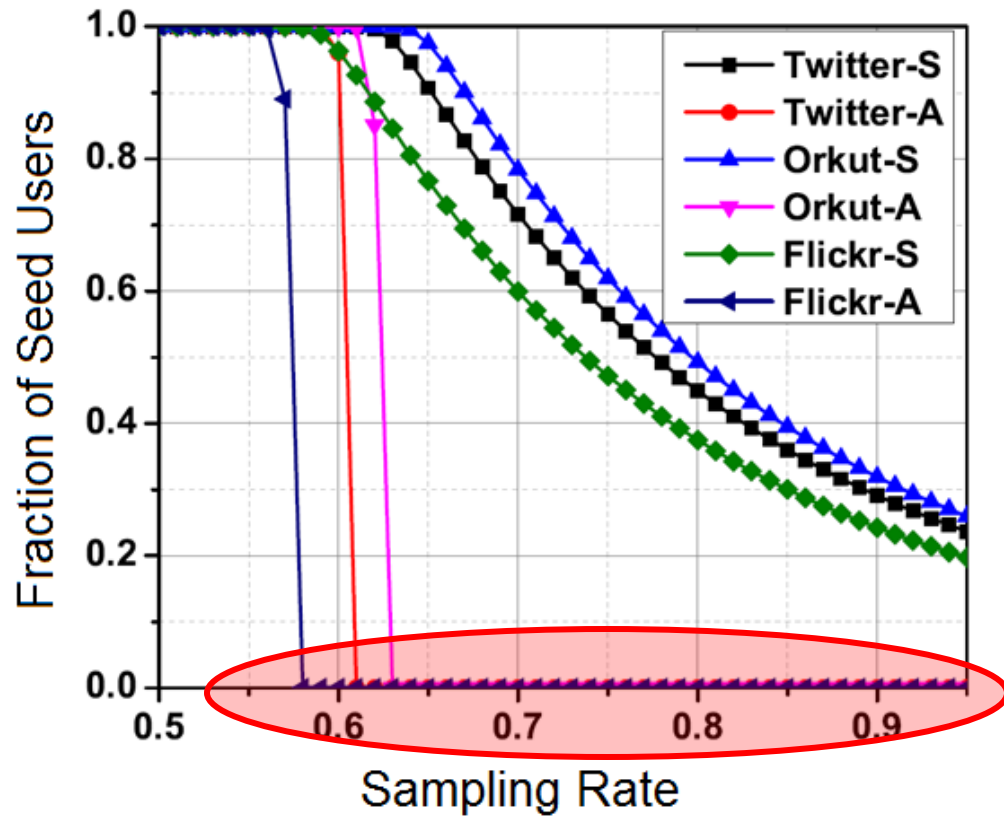
# Evaluation

- The y-axis: number of pre-determined users needed.
- The x axis: sampling rate needed.
- \*-S: de-anonymization with only seed information.
- \*-A: de-anonymization with seed and structural information



# Evaluation

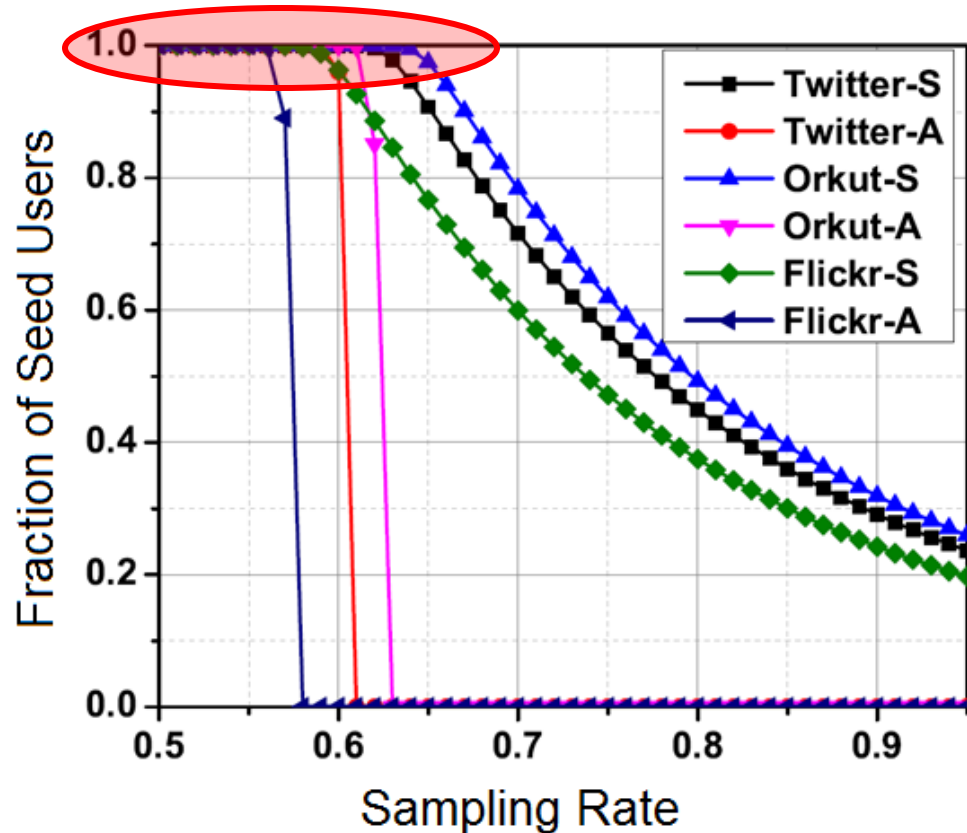
- When sampling rate is large no seeds needed for perfect de-anonymization.





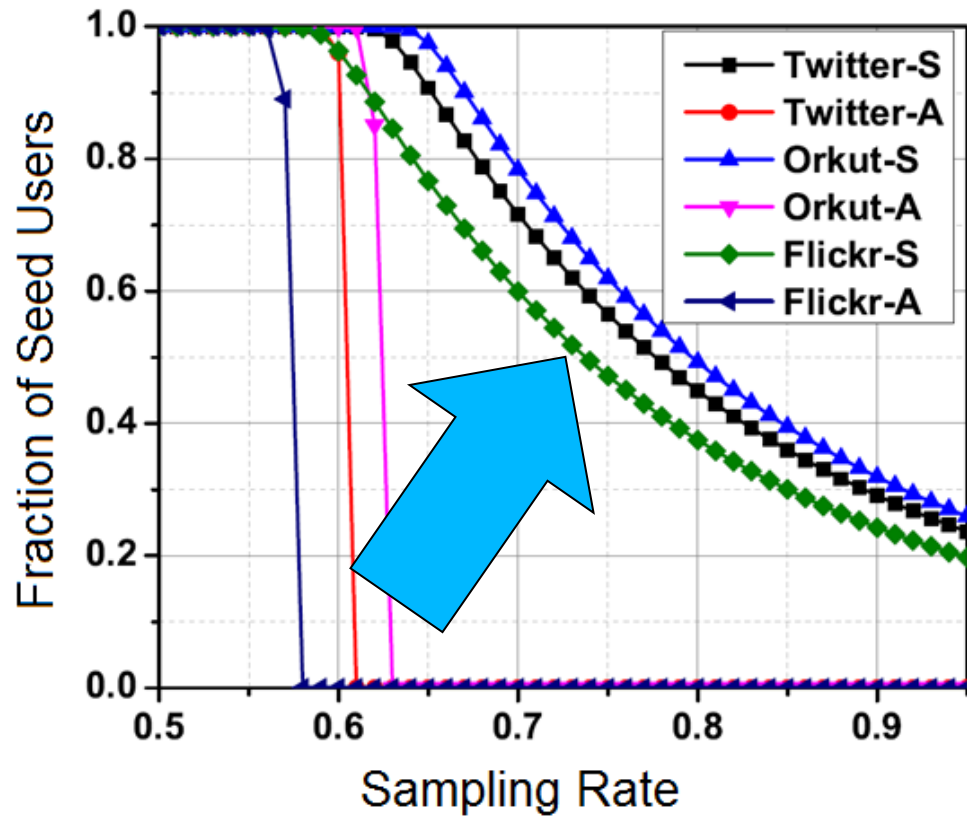
# Evaluation

- When sampling rate is large no seeds needed for perfect de-anonymization.
- When sampling rate is small all users need to be seed users for perfect de-anonymization.



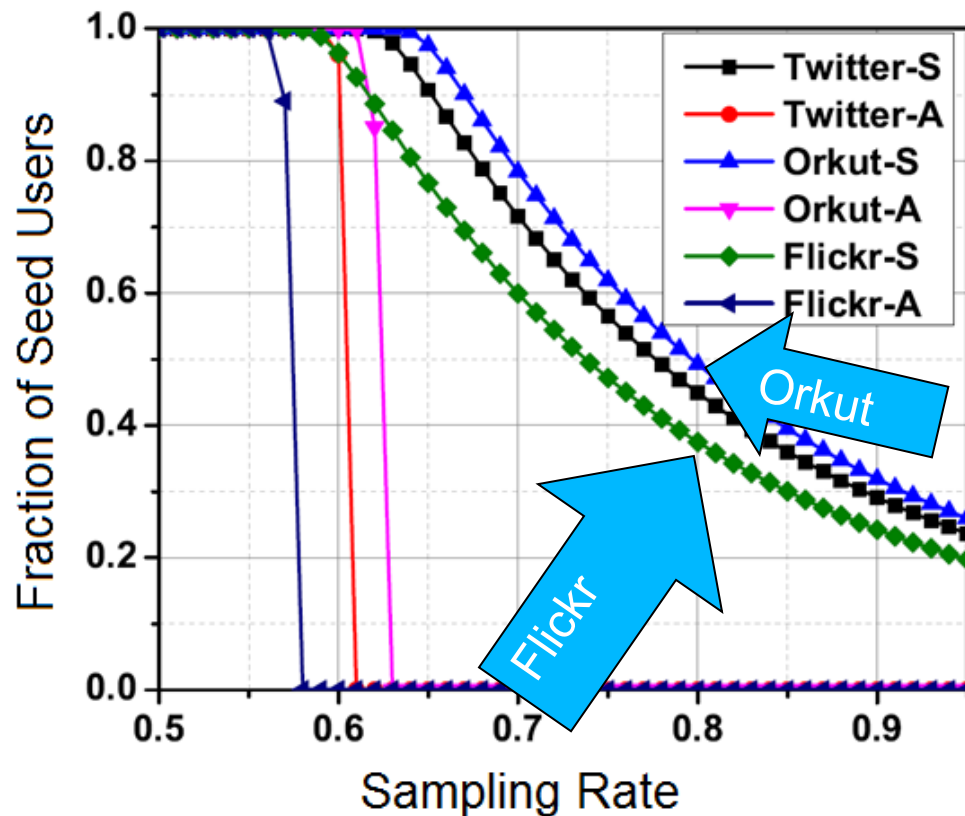
# Evaluation

- Using only seed information, fewer seed users are required with lower sampling rate.



# Evaluation

- Graphs with higher density requires fewer seed users.
  - Orkut density of  $2.48E-5$
  - Flickr density of  $1.82E-3$



# Conclusion and Future Works

- Conclusion
  - Theoretical quantification with no degree distribution requirement.
  - Large-scale de-anonymizability evaluation.
- Future works
  - New mathematical model
  - Defense techniques

Thank you!

Questions?

### **Acknowledgement**

We thank the anonymous reviewers very much  
for their valuable comments!