1. Why We Twitter: Understanding Microblogging Usage and Communities

**Motivation and Problem Statement**
Twitter is a microblogging website, and it has social network concept. Its rapidly growing popularity in recent years has attracted many researchers from various fields. In this paper, Java, A., et al. conducted a study on microblogging phenomena to understand users intentions and community structure.

**Related Work**
The paper included a number of related work regarding to user intension detection, such as "taxonomy of web search", "Why we blog", "The ties that blog: Examining the relationship between social ties and continued participation in the wallop weblogging system", and "Intension and convention in speech acts".

The differences between this paper and the above papers are scale of the study; new form of communication; and user intentions and community structure in microblogging.

**Main Contribution and Methodology**
Using HITS algorithm, Java, A., et al learned that user intention can be divided into three groups: information sharing, information seeking, and friendship-wise relationship. The algorithm is based on comparing number of friends to number of followers. Users who are categorized in information sharing group tend to have relatively large number of followers compare to friends. Information seekers have large number of friends compare to followers. Friendship-wise relationship can be defined by bidirectional links between users.

Next part of the study was on finding community structure and its theme of topic. Based on an assumption that friends in real life often belong to a same community or group, they used Clique Percolation Method (CPM). Community is union of members who have common friends. After finding the communities, Java, A., et al used frequency-profiling technique to find recurring patterns in the word usages in the communities. They supported their technique by an example of a "gaming" community who shares their experiences.

**Evaluation**
The paper was lack of evaluation section. We believe that nature of the problem is difficult to verify. Twitter is a microblogging website on the Internet, so it is infeasible and expensive to survey all of their subjects who can be anywhere in the world.
Weak Points
Overall the paper is well written and easy to understand. However, there are some weak points. Techniques they use for finding user’s intension and community are not their original idea. Next, the paper is lack of technical details of their methods. Finally, there is no survey or evaluation of their result findings.

2. How and Why People Twitter: The Role that Micro-blogging Plays Informal Communication at Work

According to “How and Why People Twitter: The Role that Micro-blogging Plays Informal Communication at Work” written by Dejin Zhao and Mary Beth Rosson (2009), the authors do exploratory study in order to gain an in-depth understanding of how and why people use Twitter, and explore micro-blog's potential impacts on informal communication at work. The authors introduce the motivations for this research that informal communication may play important roles for collaborative work and organizational innovation; some previous studies tried to find the ways to increase the chances of informal conversation at work using social software in organizations, such as corporate blogs, social tagging, and social networking site like micro-blogging; however, such micro-blogging like Twitter, there is no solid understanding of how and why people micro-blog and no research studying the potential impacts of micro-blogging on informal communication at work.

Main Contributions
The key contributions of this work is that the authors find the ways to understand in depth of why ordinary people use Twitter, and what possible roles micro-blogging might play on informal communication at work.

Related Work
The authors reveal several related works in the past that try to increase the chance of informal communication at work using tool designs for social presences among coworkers. In addition, few empirical studies found significant impacts of increased social cues in computer-mediated communication system on leading to promote impromptu conversations and informal exchanges. More recent studies also have emphasized social software in organization

Problem Definition
The problem definitions of this study are why people use Twitter, how Twitter is use differently from other communication media, and how micro-blogging influence people at work. The authors design their methodology, which focuses on ordinary Twitter users who currently work in corporate setting, using semi-structure interview method. They use phone interview to 11 participants from large IT companies

Result
The results show that people use Twitter for several reasons. First is that they use Twitter to keep in touch with friends and colleagues, gather useful information, see
for helps and opinions, and reduce emotional stress. Second, the authors also found that Twitter is different from other communication media on the aspects of frequent brief update about personal life activities, real-time information, and people based RRS; these are useful of gathering valuable information for people’s personal work. Another reason is that the characteristics of technology feature on Twitter services are brevity, mobility and pervasive access, and broadcast nature. Moreover, the results of potential impact on informal communication at work show that it helps user to keep in touch with colleagues and friends, more understand what perspective is on others’ minds, and keep up with what ‘s new with one another. However, there are some challenges in this study, which are security of sensitive information might not be posted, and it is difficult to separate work colleagues and friends.

Evaluation
The authors evaluate their work quite good; they gather the data directly by interviewing participants who work in large companies. Most of participants are engineering, product management, marketing, and corporate communication. The interviewed questions are followed the conceptual framework and research questions. They also summarize and analyze the results along with examples of what participants responds the questions.

Weak Points
However, some weak points found in this work; the first limitation is that there is too small sample: 11 participants. Although each participant has many followers and work in the companies for a long time, it is not good enough interpretation of the whole Twitter users. Moreover, each participant just experience Twitter between 6 months to 1 year: too short; they might not find actually the problems of using Twitter services; this affect the results of this study. Therefore, it would have been better if the researchers had focused on theses limitations.

3. A Few Chirps About Twitter

In the article, “A Few Chirps About Twitter” written in 2008 by Balachander krishnamurthy, Phillipa Gill and Martin Arlitt, the authors show valuable to know how to make profitable from micro-blogging and why users should use it. The motivation of this research is to identify literary communication via social network sites in depth which based on users’ location and measurement the result by using different crawling techniques.

Main Contributions
The key contribution can be described into 3 major groups of Twitters. Broadcaster is users who have a many more followers than they themselves are following. Acquaintance is users who have near a 1:1 ratio of followers to following. Miscreant and evangelist are users who are following many more users than they have followers. Moreover, they defined miscreant who is potential spammers, lurkers, or
stalkers and evangelist which is users who contact everyone they can, and hope that some will follow them.
The problem definitions of this study are what Kind of Twitterers are, How Often they Tweet, and What's they Use to Tweet.

Related Work
In the related work, the authors extended their research by improving previous research. They improved their research by using three different data collection techniques, avoiding sequential growth in userIDs, showing two sides of relationship, finding users’ location and using time of day to exam number of users. All of these features have not been seen in previous research papers.
In the methodology which they used in this paper is to gather 3 datasets covering nearly 100,000 users. Detailed information was gathered on each user and the list of users they were following. They say that relationships in Twitter are directed but that there is no way of gathering the set of reverse links: information on the set of users following a user. In the 1st Crawl, they collected data at specific times of the day and extracted the users that posted at these times. They collected data from each user and a partial list of his/her followers. They gathered data for 3 weeks. The 2nd Crawl, it focused on current active users who continually post a series of 20 or more updates. Details were collected on each user. The 3rd crawl, they used a Random walk with backtracking to collect the data. They only considered once child of each node.

Result
The result of this work can be shown in several ways. First, the summary of the ways to access twitter which are 61% use the web, 7,5% mobile, 7.2% IM, 1.2% Facebook, 22.4% custom applications. Second, the relationship between users is that highly popular users update their status very often. In fact, more than 250 followers updated a lot more often than others. Next, the often time that user’s tweet is around 3 PM and reaches a low at 4 AM. The bulk of the activity occurs between 10 AM and 4 PM, which coincides with most normal work hours. This is very typical of many websites, as many people visit websites during the work period. Last, the result shows top 3 of countries which are the USA, Europe, and Japan respectively.

Evaluation
The evaluation of this work is good because they used many factors to fix previous research. In fact, they used 4 techniques to improve their research. They use large data to test their assumption. The result is easy to understand because they used demography to present their result.

Weak Points
However, some weak points can be found in this work. Although they used very large scale of sample data, it might not be enough to conclude the result of this experiment. Because some of data could not allow the researchers to use, they might miss some important data for their research. Another, they used shot time to get data. The data that they use came from 3 weeks that between January 22, 2008 -
February 12, 2008. It might not be enough to analyze users’ activities, and some data might change the result. This research could have been better if they extended the time to get example data.

References

Paper 1
Title: Why we twitter: understanding microblogging usage and communities
Authors: Akshay Java, Tim Finin, Xiaodan Song, and Belle Tseng
Link: http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/1348549.1348556

Paper 2
Title: How and why people Twitter: the role that micro-blogging plays in informal communication at work
Authors: Dejin Zhao and Mary Beth Rosson
Link: http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/1531674.1531710

Paper 3
Title: A few chirps about twitter
Authors: Balachander Krishnamurthy, Phillipa Gill, and Martin Arlitt
Link: http://doi.acm.org/10.1145/1397735.1397741