

The Anatomy of a Scientific Rumor Supplementary Information

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Statistics about the Dataset

In this document we provide supplementary information about some statistics about the dataset used in the paper.

Twitter username	# Retweets
@CERN	21858
@ColinEberhardt	7144
@ProfBrianCox	7032
@newschemist	7031
@BadAstronomer	3392
@PiadasNerds	2558
@muyinteresante	2551
@NatureNews	2337
@tomscott	2277
@guardianscience	2210
@neiltyson	2071
@el_pais	2050
@cuneytozdemir	2024
@publico_es	1962
@maruschown	1955
@daraobriain	1869
@HAL9000_	1823
@microsiervos	1794
@johanknorberg	1781
@cnbrk	1727
@sciam	1470
@CMSEXperiment	1389
@enrique_ganem	1312
@gobiernospa	1211
@aberron	1193
@mashable	1164
@RobDenBleyker	1161
@AngryBirds	1159
@verge	1152
@NatGeo	1106
@BBCWorld	1065
@jim68000	1050
@Queen_UK	1031
@materia_ciencia	1027
@michiokaku	1021
@moedetrina	1010
@wired	996
@ChrisEvans	992
@BreakingNews	942
@BBCBreaking	933
@Dios_Padre	928
@BillBailey	923
@shanselman	907
@warblefly	869
@jovemnerd	860
@DaniMateoAgain	844
@SofiaSisniega	842
@Markgatiss	838
@TheScienceGuy	832
@elbaronrojo	824

TABLE I: Top 50 most retweeted authors of tweets satisfying our selection criteria.

Country	# Users	Status
Austria	118	Member
Belgium	152	Member
Bulgaria	53	Member
Czech Republic	194	Member
Denmark	74	Member
Finland	106	Member
France	878	Member
Germany	1282	Member
Greece	110	Member
Hungary	56	Member
Italy	1387	Member
Netherlands	173	Member
Poland	231	Member
Norway	84	Member
Portugal	124	Member
Slovak Republic	58	Member
Spain	347	Member
Sweden	86	Member
Switzerland	380	Member
United Kingdom	799	Member
Romania	89	Candidate
Israel	67	Associate
Serbia	29	Associate
India	149	Observer
Japan	230	Observer
Russia	858	Observer
Turkey	95	Observer
USA	1788	Observer
Argentina	20	NMS CoA
Armenia	15	NMS CoA
Australia	33	NMS CoA
Azerbaijan	2	NMS CoA
Belarus	21	NMS CoA
Brazil	105	NMS CoA
Canada	160	NMS CoA
Chile	6	NMS CoA
China	117	NMS CoA
Colombia	9	NMS CoA
Croatia	22	NMS CoA
Cyprus	9	NMS CoA
Egypt	10	NMS CoA
Estonia	17	NMS CoA
Georgia	12	NMS CoA
Iceland	1	NMS CoA
Iran	21	NMS CoA
Korea (Republic of)	96	NMS CoA
Lithuania	13	NMS CoA
Malta	1	NMS CoA
Mexico	45	NMS CoA
Montenegro	1	NMS CoA
Morocco	5	NMS CoA
New Zealand	9	NMS CoA
Pakistan	20	NMS CoA
Peru	2	NMS CoA
Saudi Arabia	3	NMS CoA
Slovenia	36	NMS CoA
South Africa	25	NMS CoA
TFYROM	2	NMS CoA
Ukraine	21	NMS CoA
China (Taipei)	70	NMS SC
Cuba	3	NMS SC
Ireland	9	NMS SC
Lebanon	1	NMS SC
Qatar	1	NMS SC
Thailand	5	NMS SC
Tunisia	1	NMS SC
Uzbekistan	1	NMS SC

TABLE II: Number of researchers per country involved in the LHC experiments in September 2012. NMS CoA means Non-Member States with Cooperation Agreements. NMS SC means Non-Member States with Scientific Contacts with CERN. See <http://international-relations.web.cern.ch/International-Relations/office/listcountries.html>

# RT	Username	Text
7141	ColinEberhardt	Possibly the biggest scientific discovery of our time, the #Higgs Boson, announced in glorious MS Comic Sans Font http://t.co/jDxLkqNx
4504	CERN	#CMS: "we have observed a new boson with a mass of 125.3 ± 0.6 GeV at 4.9 sigma significance." Thunderous applause. #Higgs #ICHEP2012
2507	CERN	CERN Press Release: CERN experiments observe particle consistent with long-sought #Higgs boson http://t.co/MBjIwytL #ICHEP2012
2062	tomscott	At the end of the #higgs announcement, one of the CERN team will pause, nonchalantly say "oh, one more thing", then calmly teleport away.
2033	ProfBrianCox	Not only have taxpayers spent more on banks than we've spent on science since Jesus. Bob Diamond is keeping the Higgs out of the headlines!
2024	cuneytozdemir	İsviçreli Cern'de Tanrı parçacığını bulmaya çalışıyor , biz ise Çamlıca'ya dev bir TOKİ camii yaparak Tanrının bizi bulmasını umuyoruz!
1893	publico.es	El bosón de Higgs ("la partícula de Dios") en 9 claves http://t.co/QbcdJMvO
1781	johanknorberg	Reminder: Higgs is an atheist, and Lederman named it "the goddamn particle", but embarrassed publisher changed it to "God particle".
1678	PiadasNerds	Corinthians campeão, boson de Higgs encontrado e Megaupload voltando... Quem foi que reuniu as 7 esferas do dragão?
1598	CERN	CERN's Director Rolf Heuer: "This historic milestone is only the beginning, it has global implications for the future". Standing ovation!
1515	darao briain	Great. Found the Higgs Boson, lost Robin Van Persie. The universe balances itself out yet again.
1407	maruschow	Turned down opportunity to go on 1-hour radio programme to discuss the religious significance of the Higgs particle since there isn't any.
1259	ProfBrianCox	In simple language, CMS have discovered a new boson, and it behaves like the Standard Model Higgs
1179	CERN	Want to understand better what was shown at #CERN today on the search for the #Higgs boson? Non-specialists check: http://t.co/IOCQCpTD
1169	neiltyson	The Higgs discovery makes me feel heavier already. What we need instead is the anti-Higgs. A particle that takes mass away.
1139	AngryBirds	ATTN scientists: Avian intelligence reveals that the particle you're searching for is #thepiggsboson: http://t.co/bcMvzW2h #CERN #Higgs
1086	BadAstronomer	I've got 99.9999% problems, but a Higgs ain't one.
1050	jim68000	OK, so they've announced the Higgs Boson, but no word on pricing or whether it will ship by Christmas. #fail
1036	el_pais	Hallada "la más sólida evidencia" de la existencia del bosón de #Higgs en el #CERN @elpais_sociedad
1014	gobierno espa	Por el descubrimiento del Bosón de Higgs la UE dará 300.000 EURO a cada científico JAJAJAJAJAJA si no saben ni darle 2 patadas a un balón hombre.
992	ChrisEvans	it's kinda crazy how excited i am about the higgs boson particle. what an exciting time!! i bet CERN is like a rock concert right now!!
990	NatGeo	Higgs boson confirmed with 99% certainty: http://t.co/97Bzfh9e #CERN
943	RobDenBleyker	Just explained the Higgs boson to my friend even tho I don't understand it. He was very convinced. I bet this is how religions get started.
923	BillBailey	The Higgs Boson has been living quietly in Guildford for some time now.
914	CERN	Don't miss the #Higgs update tomorrow 9:00 CEST http://t.co/kJxgUdBb with live tweets & blogs using hashtag #ICHEP2012 http://t.co/bk7qiGm5
902	neiltyson	But seriously, congrats to CERN on the Higgs discovery. Another particle in the pocket. Another forded frontier of Nature.
892	CERN	Trends so full of science right now. Awesome. #higgs #cern #ichep2012 and of course comic sans. http://t.co/COhIwzGp via @TwitPic
885	cnnbrk	Scientists say they're closer to proving existence of Higgs boson or "God particle." http://t.co/okycJstu
881	CERN	The recording of this morning's #Higgs press conference is now online: http://t.co/CWxO38po Seminar recording available soon. #ICHEP2012
877	CERN	Less than 1 hour to go until the #Higgs seminar @CERN. Room already full. Follow the live webcast from 9:00 CEST via http://t.co/QUEUm3XaB
869	warblefly	Higgs boson walks into church. Priest says "Sorry but we don't allow particles in here." Boson says "But without me, how can you have mass?"
842	SofiaSisniega	DEMOCRACY IN MEXICO IS A FRAUD #EPNNuncaSeraMiPresidente Happy 4th of July Higgs #SorianaGate ACTA http://t.co/pMrnBSIh
842	cnnbrk	Scientists almost certain they have proven existence of #Higgs boson. http://t.co/QdYtplJb
838	Markgatiss	Ok. The Higgs has been found and science will never be the same again. Can we PLEASE now have a Moonbase?
832	TheScienceGuy	The Higgs is real !?! The results are good to 5 standard deviations. Yikes. Whoa. Wow. This could change the world...
821	CERN	Are we close to discovering the #Higgs Boson? http://t.co/gqmwKF0c Find out at 9:00 CEST tomorrow via http://t.co/QUEUm3XaB #ICHEP2012
818	sickpediabot	Higgs Boson goes into a Catholic church. The priest says, "You're not welcome here." Higgs Boson says "You can't have mass without me."
794	CERN	#ATLAS combined results give a local significance of 5 sigma at 126.5 GeV. Audience goes wild. "I'm not done yet, there's more" says Fabiola

TABLE III: Most retweeted tweets satisfying our selection criteria.