

Weiboscope & WeChatscope

The screenshot shows a web page from **weiboSCOPE**, a Journalism and Media Studies Centre. At the top right are social sharing buttons for Facebook and Twitter, and a search bar. Below the header, a tweet is displayed:

Pulpit rock
Created at: 2016-01-25 19:14:22
Deleted on (the latest): 2016-01-25 21:10:14

哥哥，中东转一圈成这样了😊😊

My brother, a tour of the Middle East like this 😊😊
(By Microsoft Translation)

Retweeted at least: 2271 times

On the right side, a sidebar titled "Latest Censored Messages" lists several censored tweets with their full content redacted. A "Read More" link is at the bottom of the sidebar.

At the bottom of the page are four navigation links: Censorship Index(CI), CI by Province, Censored Pictures, and Censored Term Clouds.

Dr. King-wa Fu

Journalism and Media Studies Centre, The University of Hong Kong
Presented at the Training Workshop on Digital Methods and Social Development
(August 23, 2016)

Acknowledgement: LL Zhang & CH Chan

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Everything You Need to Know About the Chinese Version of Twitter

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Donald Trump to Black Voters: 'What the Hell Do You Have to Lose?'

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TECHNOLOGY

Everything You Need to Know About the Chinese Version of Twitter

Victor Luckerson @VLuck | April 17, 2014



The first of China's big 2014 IPOs arrives on U.S. shores Thursday. Weibo, a Chinese social network that allows people to post real-time messages of up to 140 Chinese characters, will list on the Nasdaq with shares priced at \$17. The company will be valued at **\$3.46 billion** and raise around \$285 million in the offering, figures at the low end of the company's IPO pricing range and far below analyst expectations earlier this year.

The performance of the Beijing-based startup could portend the trajectory of both Chinese stocks and the overall tech sector, which has seen a precipitous decline on Wall Street in the past month.

Weibo is a subsidiary of the Chinese Internet company Sina and is partially owned by the e-commerce giant Alibaba. Like Twitter, the website has become a digital water cooler where both ordinary



WANG ZHAO—AFP/Getty Images

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Agenda

- An overview
 - Weiboscope
 - WeChatscope – a pilot study
- Practicum

Weiboscope



Last Updated on: 2014-04-01 16:00:25

Latest Censored Messages:
(Mouseover for translation)

- 【图解:周氏家族关系】[http://t....](#)
- 周某某某家族大起底。[http://t.c...](#)
- 赤匪当灭。我在:[http://t.cn...](#)
- 如果安倍是你的好朋友\，你会送以下哪...
- [给力][给力]—一个政治家，，面对学生游...
- 明報專訪李敖大師，談談太陽餅運動。有人翻...
- 谎言只能骗得了一时骗不了一世：只有最无耻...
- "@jameschownb: 倒在血泊中...
- 小姑娘说，我不希望将来我的后代还像我们这...
- 血流入地下，再也收不回来.....
- 粤总督府附近的人群.....冒名知府PX.....
- 今天是这位姐的生日，送个蛋糕吧[蛋糕]...

[Read More](#)

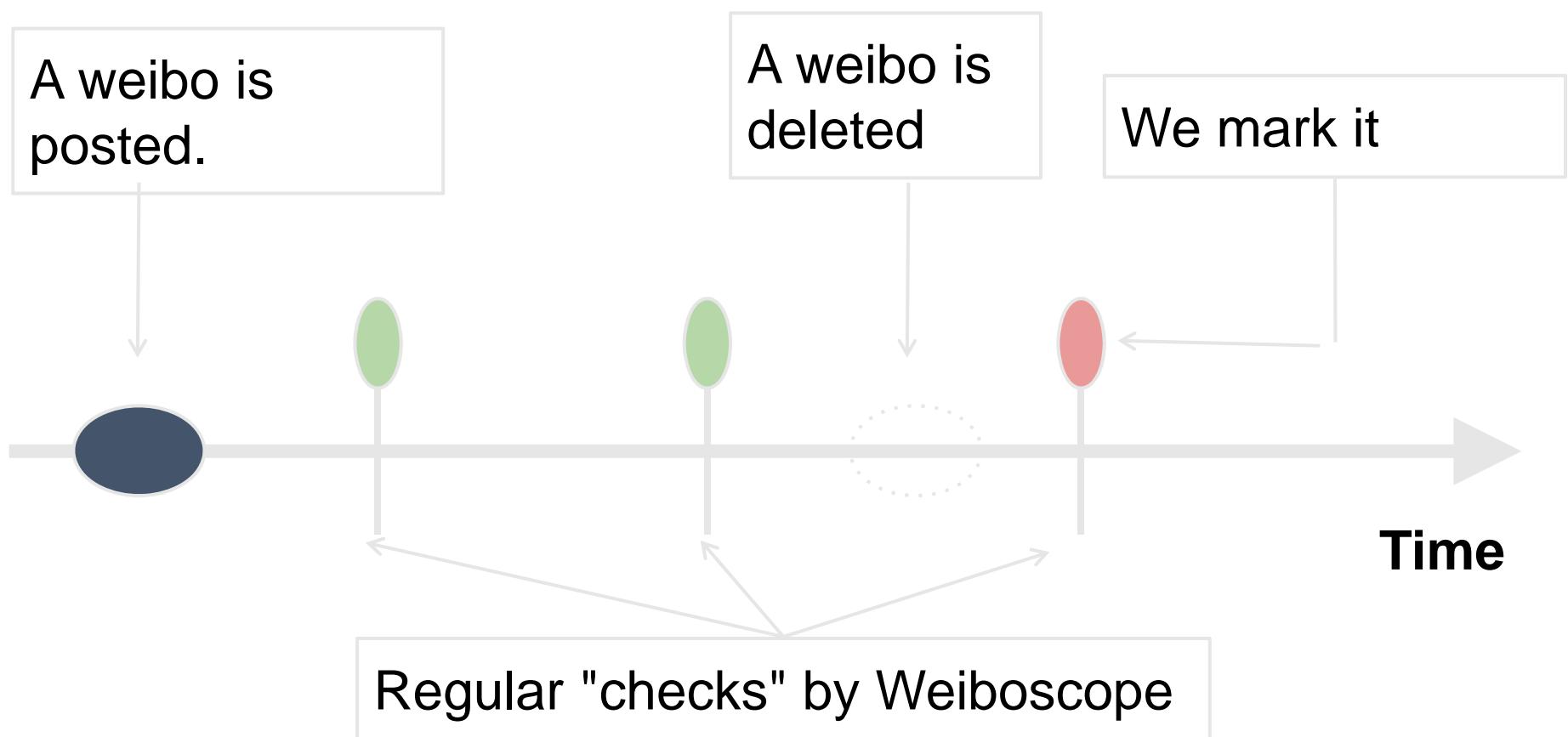
Censorship Index(CI) CI by Province Censored Pictures Censored Term Clouds



Weiboscope

- Funded by the HKU Seed Funding Program for Basic Research
- Developed in-house at the JMSC
- Using Sina API for data collection
- Gathered a list of about 350,000 profiles of users with more than 1,000 followers (2011-2012)
- Regular automated task to download the posts made by these users

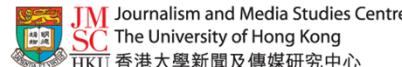
Deleted posts timeline



Open Data Access

- Data Set Statistics:
 - 226 million anonymized weibo messages published in 2012
 - Collected from 14 million unique weibo users
 - 10 million deleted messages ('permission denied' messages: 86k)
- URL link:
<http://weiboscope.jmsc.hku.hk/datazip/>
- When using the data, please cite the paper below.
 - King-wa Fu, CH Chan, Michael Chau. *Assessing Censorship on Microblogs in China: Discriminatory Keyword Analysis and Impact Evaluation of the 'Real Name Registration' Policy*. IEEE Internet Computing. 2013; 17(3): 42-50
- The project is funded by the HKU Seed Funding Program for Basic Research.

Open Weiboscope Data Access



JM Journalism and Media Studies Centre
SC The University of Hong Kong
HKU 香港大學新聞及傳媒研究中心

Welcome to the Open Weiboscope Data Access website. Weiboscope is a data collection and visualization project developed by the research team at the Journalism and Media Studies Centre, The University of Hong Kong (JMSC). One of the objectives of the project is to make censored Sina Weibo posts of a selected group of Chinese microbloggers publicly accessible, which enables academic use of the data for better understanding of the social media in China and making the Chinese media system more transparent.

Since January 2011, the project has been regularly sampling timelines of more than 350,000 Chinese microbloggers who have more than 1,000 followers. The methodology has been detailed in an IEEE Internet Computing article (Fu, Chan, Chau, 2013). Besides, we have sampled Sina Weibo accounts randomly since 2012 and the samples' most recent timeline were collected and stored into the dataset. Our sampling approach is reported in a PLOS ONE article (Fu, Chau, 2013).

This site contains all the Weiboscope data collected in the year 2012. We are delighted to share the data for open access. But for ethical reason, the data are anonymized, i.e. real user and message id are replaced by pseudo ID. When using the data, please cite the paper below.
King-wa Fu, CH Chan, Michael Chau. *Assessing Censorship on Microblogs in China: Discriminatory Keyword Analysis and Impact Evaluation of the 'Real Name Registration' Policy*. IEEE Internet Computing. 2013; 17(3): 42-50. <http://doi.ieeecomputersociety.org/10.1109/MIC.2013.28>

Data Set Statistics:

- Number of weibo messages: 226841122
- Number of deleted messages: 10865955
- Number of censored ('Permission Denied') messages: 86083
- Number of unique weibo users: 14387628

Enquiry: Send your question/comment to weiboscope@gmail.com or follow us on Google+.

The project is funded by the University of Hong Kong Seed Funding Program for Basic Research.

Weibo data:

- Data Set Information: [Readme](#)
- 2012-01-02 to 2012-01-08: [week1.zip](#)
- 2012-01-09 to 2012-01-15: [week2.zip](#)
- 2012-01-16 to 2012-01-22: [week3.zip](#)
- 2012-01-23 to 2012-01-29: [week4.zip](#)
- 2012-01-30 to 2012-02-05: [week5.zip](#)
- 2012-02-06 to 2012-02-12: [week6.zip](#)
- 2012-02-13 to 2012-02-19: [week7.zip](#)
- 2012-02-20 to 2012-02-26: [week8.zip](#)
- 2012-02-27 to 2012-03-04: [week9.zip](#)
- 2012-03-05 to 2012-03-11: [week10.zip](#)
- 2012-03-12 to 2012-03-18: [week11.zip](#)
- 2012-03-19 to 2012-03-25: [week12.zip](#)

Development (as of 2016 February)

- Publications
 - Fu & Chau (2013), Fu, Chan & Chau (2013) Fu & Chau (2014), Fu et al (2013)
- Co-authorship/Open data sharing
 - Public health: Fung et al (2014, 2015),
 - China studies: Nip & Fu (2016), Cairns & Carlson (2016)
 - Political Sciences: Jiang et al (2015), White, Fu & Benson (2013),
 - Environmental sciences: Auer & Fu (2015),
 - Information sciences: Liao, Fu, Hale (2015), Zhang & Gonçalves (2015), Liu et al (2015), and many PhD thesis
- Research Grant
 - GRF, CCK Foundation, HKU Knowledge Exchange Fund
- Others
 - Freedom House, FreeWeibo etc.

“Weibo Anti-corruption” 微博反腐

Public Opinion Leaders on Sina Weibo



罗昌平
【向中央纪委实名举报之一】部级高官刘铁男涉嫌学历造假，官方简历称其经济学硕士、工学博士，能查到博士论文但无硕士信息，其在日本做经济参赞时经情人获得名古屋市立大学“修士学位”，但这是荣誉证书而非学位证书，刘曾请校方加“学位”字样并将“可以评价等同”改为“特殊培养授予学位”，被拒。

12月06日 11:03 转发

罗昌平
【向中央纪委实名举报之二】刘铁男与商人倪日涛结成官商同盟，其处级妻子郭静华、儿子刘德成在倪公司持有股份，境外收购骗贷国内银行，刘德成汇丰HSBC银行帐户10112-376762-150 加币、10112-376762-250 美元和0028-490415-833美元多次收受倪日涛公司巨额汇款，参见《财经》报道[@中国经济时报 @新浪财经 weibo.com/139752">http://url.cn/4usAL3](http://url.cn/4usAL3) @中国经济时报 @新浪财经 weibo.com/139752

12月06日 11:03 转发



重庆市北碚区区委书记雷政富。请回答问题：2007年农历大年初一和初三，你在什么地方？当时，你时任北碚区委副书记、区长。你是否曾在重庆市一宾馆与18周岁的二奶周小雪进行性淫乱？经本博调查，周小雪，真实姓名赵X霞，重庆市开县赵家镇人。请雷书记回答，你是否曾经动用刑警抓捕该女子，并关押1个月？



C 刷新 评论 转发 ☆ 收藏 @纪许光 weibo.com/u/1710546672

Nip, J. Y. M., & Fu, K.W. (2016). Challenging Official Propaganda? Public Opinion Leaders on Sina Weibo. *The China Quarterly*, 225, 122-144.

WeChatscope – a pilot

1. Use account ID to search on third party search engine

100 Wechat Public Accounts: Name, **ID**, Description, Icon

以下内容来自微信公众号

功能介绍：关注国家意识形态、领土安全、国防安全、经济安全等方方面面,深度原创文章,精品舆情产品;有思想、立场,团结爱国人士,维护人民利益,巩固爱国阵线。

微信认证：海南察网文化传媒有限公司

最近文章：李建宏&科什列夫:虚幻的自由之旅——献给梦断西方的苏联人 21小时前

Account Exists

抱歉!
暂无与“igbxdwx”相关的官方认证订阅号。

Warning Message:
Account Does Not Exist



Deleted Account

2. “Click” into the account page

Click on Every Title

察网
微信号: chawangzg
功能介绍: 关注国家意识形态安全、产业安全、国防安全、经济安全等方方面面，深度原创文章，精品舆情产品；有思想、有立场，团结爱国人士，维护人民利益，巩固爱国阵营。
账号主体: 海南察闻文化传媒有限公司

2016年8月16日

以色列人对华宣传的洗脑术就靠三板斧

中国很可能在舆论环节上成为下一个非常亲以的国家。这个趋势已经非常明显，哈斯巴拉的活动已经使得中国的舆论变得与美国还有以色列越来越相似。

2016年8月16日

我国光伏产业：“世界领军地位”还是“飞地型经济”？

我国光伏产业在过去的10年里得到了飞速的发展。然而仍没有逃脱“两头在外”的出口导向型经济发展模式的老路。我国光伏产业和机器人产业缺乏核心技术，并没有实现对发达国家的超越，也没有抢占产业链制高点，而仅仅是建立在“成本优势”之上的。

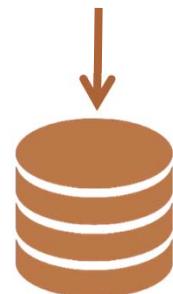
2016年8月16日

《求是》刊文责孙经先：以详实资料驳斥了“饿死三千万”谣言

学者通过持续不懈努力，对“三年困难时期”的经济社会发展进行研究，对人口变动的数据进行详尽的比较分析，对各地的地方志进行了大量梳理、考证。以详实资料驳斥了流传甚广的“饿死三千万”的谣言，让更多的人认清了这个谣言的危害。

Account Page

3. Inspect every post



Deleted Post



Wechat Post

4. Compare timeline

10 minutes before

4

3

2

1

Deleted Post →

The timeline shows four deleted posts:

- 抗战社丁非正常减员近千万——驳兵役科长之子流沙河的“抗战回忆”**
纪念抗日战争胜利60周年期间，围绕国民党在抗战中“抓壮丁”的真实性展开了十分激烈的争论。其中，流沙河先生甚至断言：《抗战社》“这个戏绝对不真实”，是“诽谤旧社会”！本文将以大量史料证明：流沙河先生的上述断言，严重违背史实！
2016年8月16日
- 以色列人对华宣传的洗脑术就靠三板斧**
中国很可能在舆论环节上成为下一个非常亲以的国家。这个趋势已经非常明显，哈斯巴拉的活动已经使得中国的舆论变得与美国还有以色列越来越相似。
2016年8月16日
- 我国光伏产业：“世界领军地位”还是“飞地型经济”？**
我国光伏产业在过去10年里得到了飞速的发展。然而仍没有逃脱“两头在外”的出口导向型经济发展模式的老路。我国光伏产业和机器人产业缺乏核心技术，并没有实现对发达国家的赶超，也没有抢占产业链制高点，而仅仅是建立在“成本优势”之上的。
2016年8月16日
- 《求是》刊文赞孙经先：以详实资料驳斥了“饿死三千万”谎言**
学者通过持续不懈努力，对“三年困难时期”的经济社会发展进行研究，特别是对人口变动的数据进行详尽的比较分析，对各地的地方志进行了大量梳理、考证，以比较详实的资料驳斥了流传甚广的“饿死三千万”的谎言，让更多的人认清了这个谎言的危害。
2016年8月16日

Now

6

5

4

2

Max Time

Min Time

Deleted Post →

The timeline shows two posts:

- 王宝强婚变：不要求公众对婚变中的失德者保持沉默**
稳定的家庭是个人最好的社会保障，家庭不稳，对社会失序，国家也将问题丛生。强调个体、珍视自由的现代婚姻法，也并非出轨者的保护伞。因此人们不能容忍对出轨者的“洗地”。关注王宝强婚变，不仅是“吃瓜”群众在看热闹，更是为了维护人间基本的道德和良知。
2016年8月17日
- 现代中国为何又出现“牛鬼蛇神”？**
如果我们的党真有道路自信，制度自信，理论自信的话，真的是“不忘初心”的话，那么，夺回舆论阵地，清理阶级队伍已是迫在眉睫，刻不容缓，否则，后果很严重！
2016年8月17日

Deleted Post



Wechat Post

Pilot Results (Between 30 July-15 August)



Deleted Post

Content +Warning Messages

(89 posts – 2 (inaccessible) = 87 posts)

Title + Warning Messages (90 posts)

Content (over 400 posts)

10 Warning Messages

! Against laws, regulations and policies

! Account censored due to against laws and regulations

! False information

! Induction of following/sharing

! Against provisions issued by Cyberspace Administration of China

! Complaint from readers

! Against regulations

! Plagiarism

! Account censored due to vulgarization or pornography

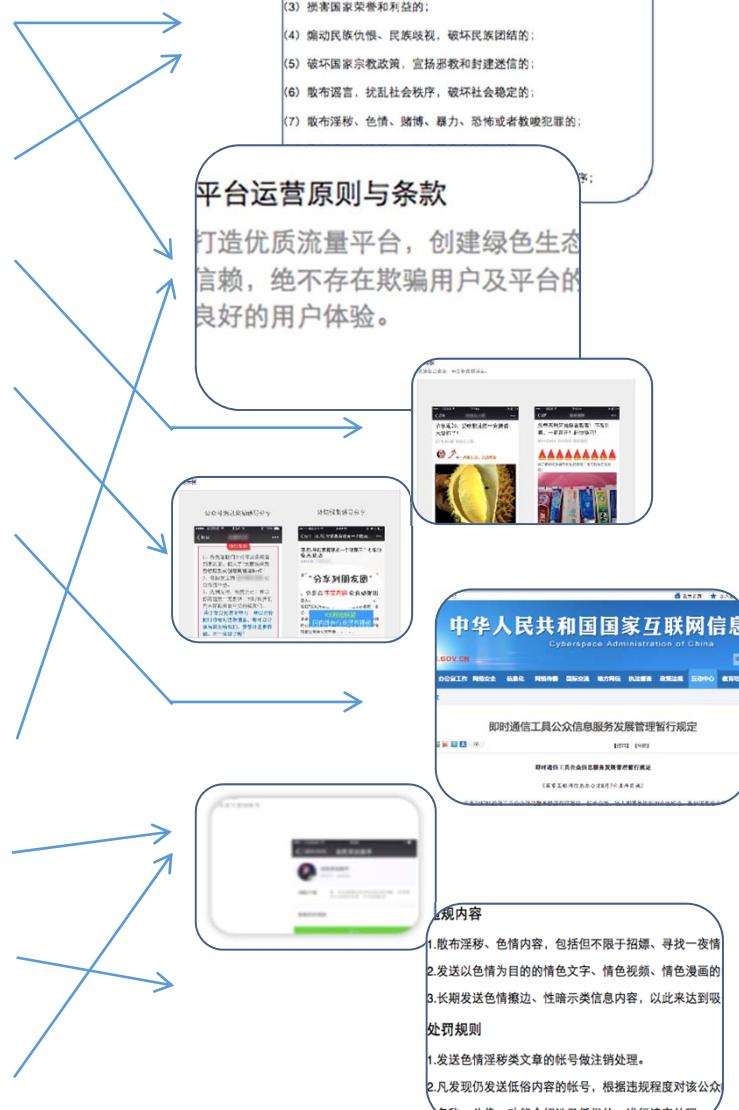
! Infringement of reputation right or privacy right

7 Rules

- 违反无法明定的基本原则的：
- (2) 危害国家安全、泄露国家秘密，颠覆国家政权，破坏国家统一的；
 - (3) 损害国家荣誉和利益的；
 - (4) 煽动民族仇恨、民族歧视，破坏民族团结的；
 - (5) 破坏国家宗教政策，宣扬邪教和封建迷信的；
 - (6) 散布谣言，扰乱社会秩序，破坏社会稳定；
 - (7) 散布淫秽、色情、赌博、暴力、恐怖或者教唆犯罪的；

平台运营原则与条款

打造优质流量平台，创建绿色生态
信赖，绝不存在欺骗用户及平台的
良好的用户体验。



Let's get our hands dirty (30 mins)

- Task
 - To collect recent weibo data from a selected set of accounts using Sina's Open API
 - To convert the raw data to csv file
 - To generate simple descriptive statistics

Steps:

1. Create a weibo account
2. Create an app and obtain an authorized token access key*, i.e. in the form of say
2.00VUGZJGiVGQD6c8173f49eedYzRD
3. Browse the Sina Open API's link, i.e.
https://api.weibo.com/2/statuses/friends_timeline.json?access_token=2.00VUGZJGiVGQD6c8173f49eedYzRD&count=5
4. JSON parser - <https://konklone.io/json/>
5. Open the result.txt file and start to analyze

*Reference: <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~lingwang/weiboguide/>