

The Spanish-speaking Blogosphere: towards the powerlaw?

Fernando Tricas

(Depto Informática e Ing. de Sistemas, U. Zaragoza, Spain)

<http://fernand0.blogalia.com/>

Juan J. Merelo

(Depto. Arquitectura y Tecnología de Computadores, U. Granada, Spain)

<http://atalaya.blogalia.com/>

Outline

- Motivation
- Some definitions
- Tools
- The Spanish blogosphere
- Powerlaws and evolution
- Conclusions and future work

Motivation

- The Spanish blogosphere has a manageable size
- Desire of better understanding
- Detection of problems
- Improving self-consciousness
- We can think of it as a community

→ We are observing its evolution

What is a weblog?

- Blog, weblog, logbook of thoughts, links, histories on the web
 - Dave Winer's
<http://www.scripting.com/>
 - Cameron Barret's
<http://www.camworld.com/>
- Blog-hosting sites
 - Blogger
 - Userland
 - Blogia, Blogalia

What is a blog?

The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window displaying the homepage of the blog 'pjorge.com'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'http://www.pjorge.com/index.jsp'. The page features a navigation menu with links to various categories like 'St Rel', 'St wiki', 'St rosa', etc. The main content area is titled '¿QUÉ ES ESTA PÁGINA?' and includes a calendar for March 2004, a list of 'MÁS RECORTABLES' (most interesting links), and a featured article titled 'SUBMARINO STEAMPUNK'. The article text discusses Jules Verne's 'The Mysterious Island' and the construction of a submarine. The right sidebar contains a list of 'enlaces' (links) to various websites. The bottom of the page has a footer with the text 'Web Based Communities 2004. Lisbon. Portugal– p.5/19'.

- Reverse-chronological order
- Comments.
- Alternative formats (Rich Site Summary, RSS).
- Other stuff: polls, music, books, latest comments...

Tools

`http://blogometro.blogalia.com/`

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Blogómetro website. The browser's address bar shows the URL `http://blogometro.blogalia.com/historias/16803`. The website content includes the Blogómetro logo, a navigation menu, and several sections:

- Blogómetro (2004-03-17)**: A section with a link to "1 Comentarios".
- Archivos:** A calendar for March 2004, showing days of the week (Lu, Ma, Mi, Ju, Vi, Sa, Do) and dates (1-31).
- Documentos:** A link to "Documentación sobre el blogómetro".
- Enlaces en los últimos 0 días**: A list of five links with "Referencias" below each:
 - [elmundo.es - Almodóvar da crédito a un rumor sobre un intento golpista del PP](#)
 - [Juan Cole * Informed Comment *](#)
 - [CADENA SER : Noticias](#)
 - [BLOGS - Info Aragón](#)
 - [INTEREC: Registro de Dominios, Hosting y Housing, Servidores, E-Commerce](#)
- Lista de bitácoras**: A section titled "Bitácoras del blogómetro" with a note: "(si la suya no aparece, no dude en enviárnosla)".
- Listas de correo sobre el blogómetro**: A section for email lists.

- Each day a ranking of fresh links
- Open source
- Since the end of 2002
- Some purging

The Spanish blogosphere

First blogs: Mid of 1999

- Several individual people
- Barrapunto (Slashdot clone)
- Blogspot
- Other hosting sites
- Blogalia, Blogia, librexpresion, zonalibre, bitacorras.com, ...

The Spanish blogosphere

Complex thing!

- Several countries
- Several languages (in Spain there are four official languages, but there is also people blogging in English, French, Dutch, ...)
- Of course, bilingual and even trilingual blogs
Just in case ...
<http://oreneta.com/baldie/blog>
- Definition subject to discussion!

Successful initiatives

- Ciberamigo Invisible

<http://www.awacate.com/amigo/>

- Topic Exchange

<http://topicexchange.com/t/bitacoras/>

- Directories <http://bitacoras.net>,

<http://bitacoras.com/>

- Vecindario

<http://www.pisotrece.com/vecindario/>

- 'Mapa de la Blogosfera hispana'

<http://www.microsiervos.com/blogosfera/>

- More ...

Recent initiatives

- bitacoras.com (pings, directory, ...)
- bitacoras.org (meta–weblog, there are others...)



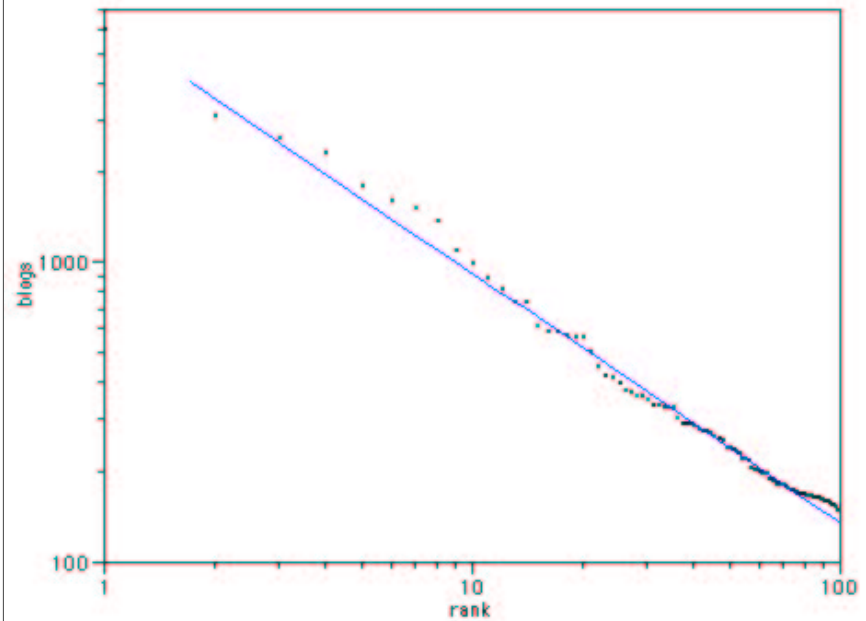
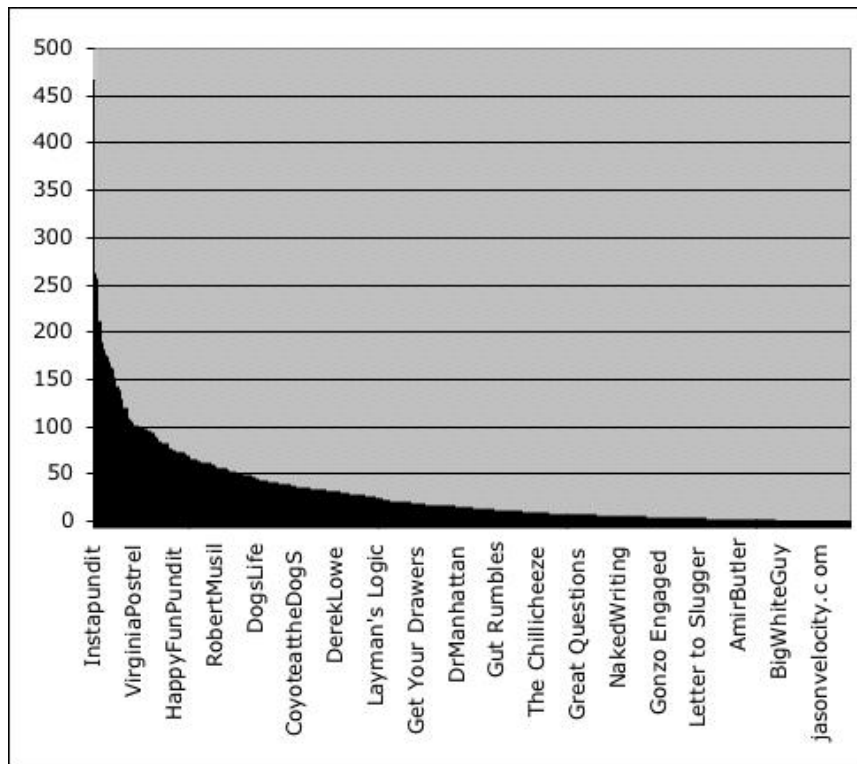
Some figures

- More than 10500 blogs
- More than 1000000 links were observed (723000 in the paper)
- Around 250000 links in any given day
- 3500 new posts a day (?)
- January 2004: 3060 blogs with at least, a link

January (1299 blogs), and in November (943 blogs).

Spanish blogosphere and powerlaws

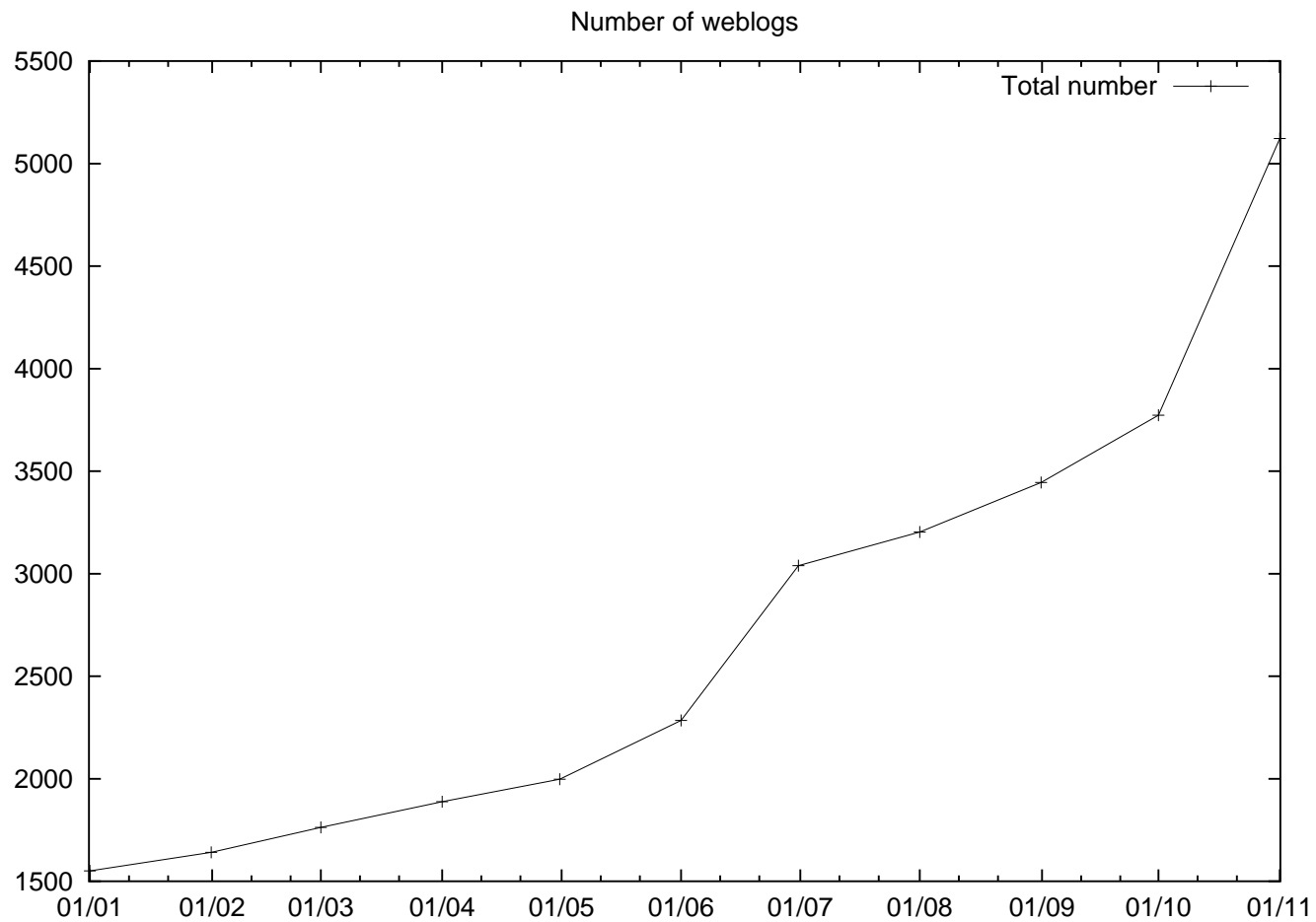
The global blogosphere



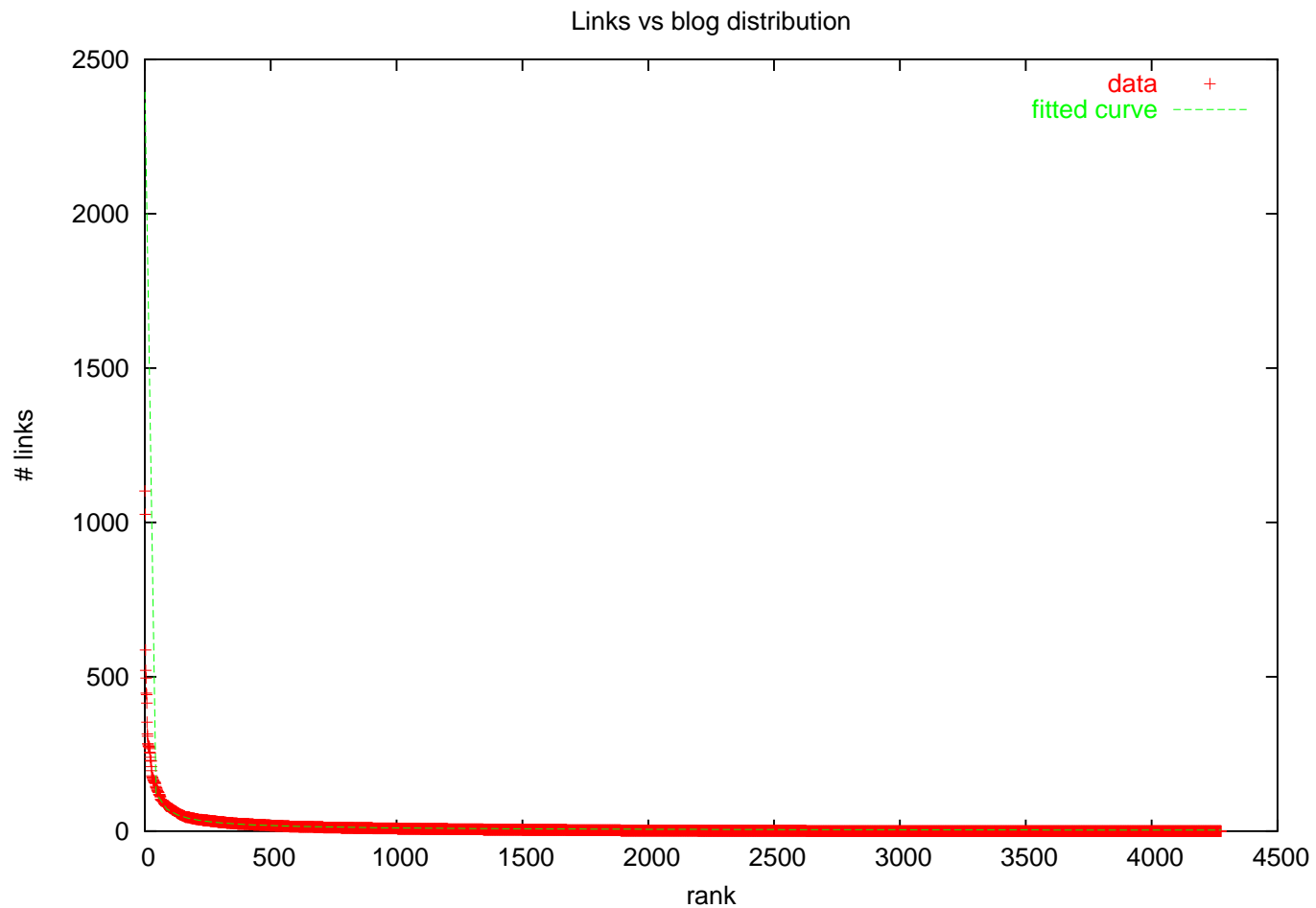
http://www.shirky.com/writings/powerlaw_weblog.html

<http://homepage.mac.com/kevinmarks/powerlaws.html>

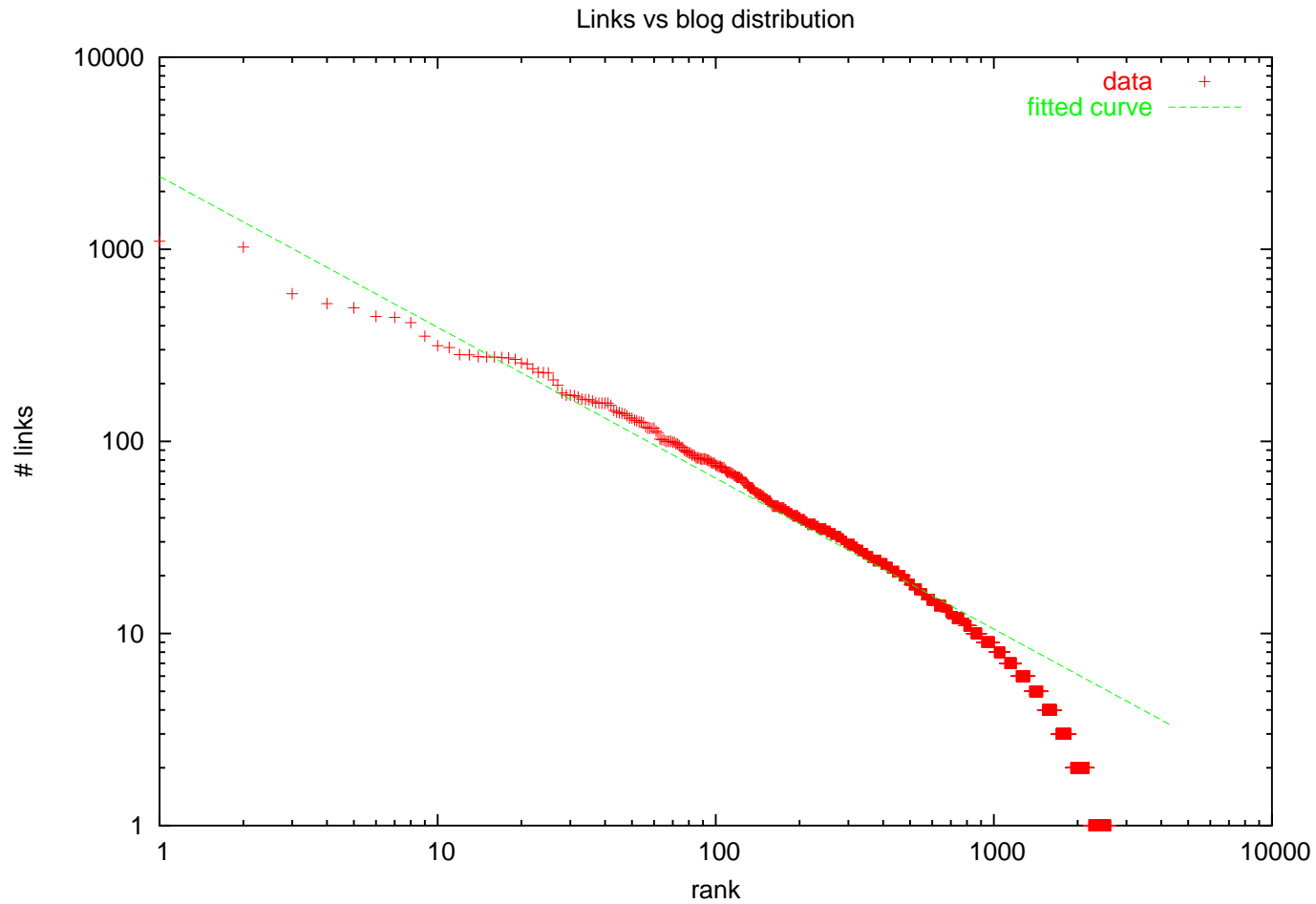
Number of blogs



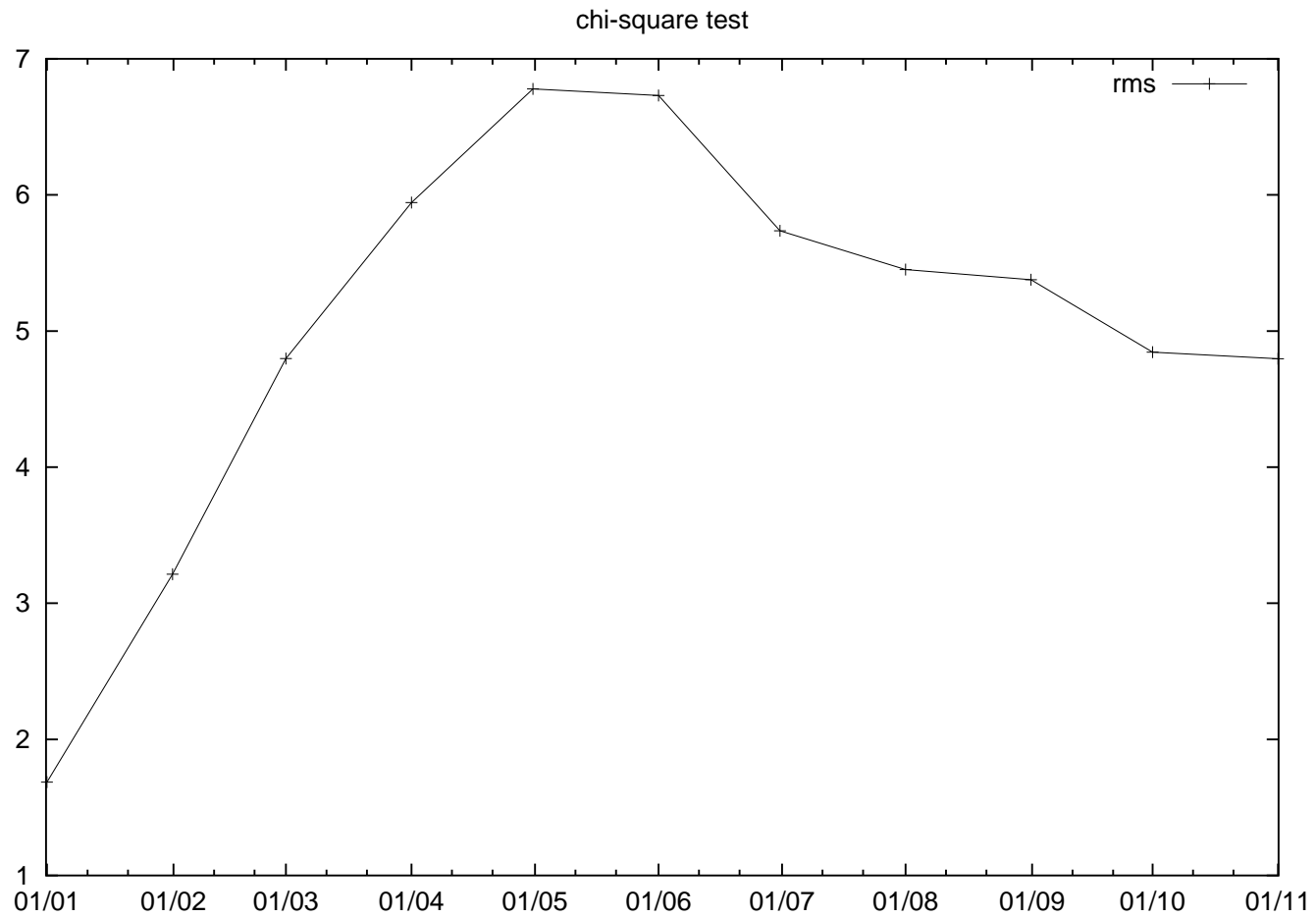
Spanish blogosphere and powerlaws



Spanish blogosphere and powerlaws



Evolution



Evolution

- The fit is better with time (and when the number of weblogs grows)
- This can show that the blogosphere is still young (but evolving)
- Maybe we are a bit different from the global one?

Conclusions

- No clear idea about size and extension (but ...)
- Is the Spanish blogosphere reaching a mature state?
- Not many links

Future Work

- Software improvement
- Results diffusion
- Other measurements (words, phrases, ...)
- Identification of in/out links
- Cluster formation (WBC 2004, first approach)
- Open access to our data
- Other 'blogospheres'