



Background

WIKIPEDIA is an online encyclopedia that anyone can edit

- Changes to the encyclopedia pages are called **edits**
- **Bots** make repetitive edits automatically
- A **revert** undoes one or more previous edits
- A **self-revert** is when a user reverts their own edit

Edit

Revert

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Revision as of 00:08, 4 January 2019 (edit) BusterD (talk contribs) (→Climate: requesting cite)</p> <p>Line 334:</p> <pre>Despite the four distinct seasons, Southern Illinois supports a small amount of cold-hardy palm trees, that can be found sparingly throughout the region. These palms are among the northernmost naturally occurring palms within the continental United States, away from moderate climates provided by the coasts.{{cn}}</pre> | <p>Revision as of 00:29, 4 January 2019 (edit) (undo) AnomieBOT (talk contribs) m (Dating maintenance tags: {{Cn}})</p> <p>Line 334:</p> <pre>Despite the four distinct seasons, Southern Illinois supports a small amount of cold-hardy palm trees, that can be found sparingly throughout the region. These palms are among the northernmost naturally occurring palms within the continental United States, away from moderate climates provided by the coasts.{{cn date=January 2019}}</pre> | <p>Revision as of 20:34, 4 January 2019 (edit) 108.51.174.100 (talk) (removing mis-captioned photos which add nothing to article)</p> <p>Line 331:</p> <pre>Despite the four distinct seasons, Southern Illinois supports a small amount of cold-hardy palm trees, that can be found sparingly throughout the region. These palms are among the northernmost naturally occurring palms within the continental United States, away from moderate climates provided by the coasts.{{cn date=January 2019}}</pre> | <p>Revision as of 20:40, 4 January 2019 (edit) (undo) 108.51.174.100 (talk) (→Climate: removing unsourced information about palms which is simply not true)</p> <p>Line 331:</p> |
|---|--|--|--|

- Bot conflict could destabilize the encyclopedia
- Some researchers have assumed that reverts mean conflict

revert = conflict?

Problem & Approach

Problem: Understanding bot conflict requires context, which previous research ignores

Approach: In-depth examination of bot edits and reverts

Cyberbot I: Statistics Bot

Cyberbot I is more frequently **reverted** than how many bots? **97%**

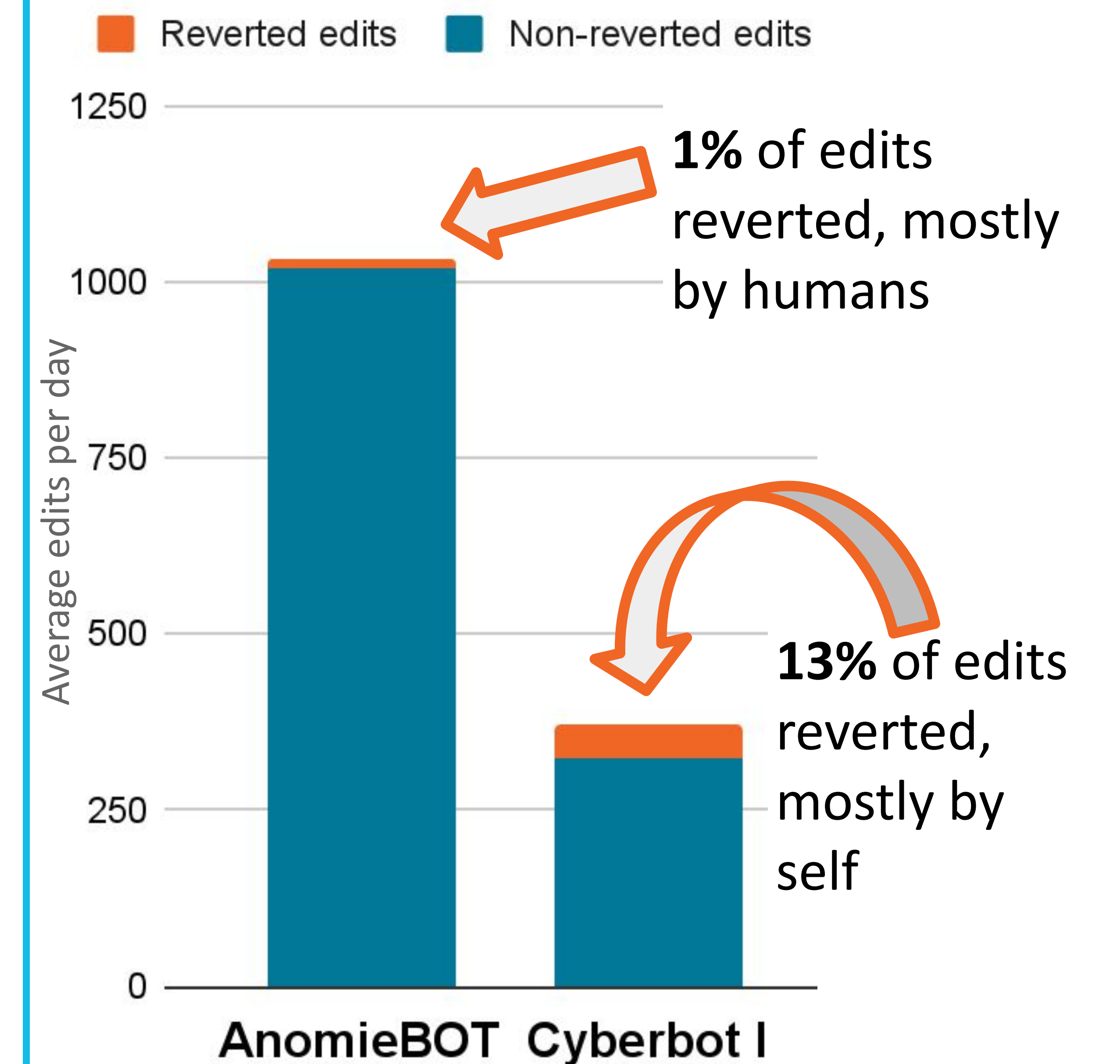
97% of Cyberbot I's reverted edits were **self-reverted**

AnomieBOT: Housekeeping Bot

AnomieBOT is more frequently **reverted by humans** than how many bots? **97%**

93% of AnomieBOT's human reverted edits were reverted **at the same time as a human edit**

Bot Edits



Key Takeaways

- Lots of bot reverts are **self-reverts**, thus are not conflict
- Some bots are reverted because of **human disagreements**

revert ≠ conflict