

# Satirising Superpowers

*r/shittysuperpowers*  
*r/godtiersuperpowers*

Andy Chan, Sarah Lim, Ruby Fung, Yew Tong



# What is this all about?



## What is Reddit?

- "the front page of the internet"
- Social news aggregation
- Web content rating
- Discussion website; forum

**r/shittysuperpowers**

**r/godtiersuperpowers**

- Sub-forums of Reddit
- People put humorous ideas for super powers
- Anti-thesis to a superhero

You can turn your skin invisible, nothing else, everything else is still visible including your organs

If a waiter says "Enjoy your meal" and you answer with "You too," a second meal will appear for the waiter to eat. **Oddly Specific**

You are immortal but you need to hold a fish

# Why super powers? Do you have super powers?



## **Superheroes and super powers:**

- Our modern Greek mythologies
- Relatable and fantastical

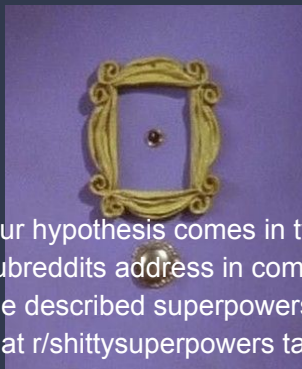
## **Golden age superhero comics**

- Written in the context of real 20th century horrors
- Wish-fulfillment
- Uncomplicated stories of good prevailing over evil
- Characters lack personality
- Perfect immigrant; the Other

## **Silver age superhero comics**

- Characters become relatable with more human moments
- Storyline include snippets of everyday life and mundane chores and concerns
- Good-evil divide is blurred

# What are we researching?



Our hypothesis comes in two folds. The first, that both subreddits address in common certain root problems that the described superpowers wishes to tackle. The second, that *r/shittysuperpowers* tackle themes/problems that are perceived as generally futile and too big to solve, whereas *r/godtiersuperpowers* tackle themes/problems that are perceived more hopefully with an optimism for an eventual positive outcome.

## Who we are:

- Researchers of social sciences

## What do we want to know?

- Do redditors think a super power is shitty, or god-tier?

## Why?

- Super powers are devised to solve a problem
- They are themselves indicative of larger issues
- It is easier to discuss fears using humor and hypothetical situations
- When we mock super powers, we mock ourselves

## Other stakeholders

- Moderators who want to automatically check if a post is in the right subreddit.

# Hypothesis

## Common:

- Superpowers imagined to address underlying root problems

## r/shittysuperpowers:

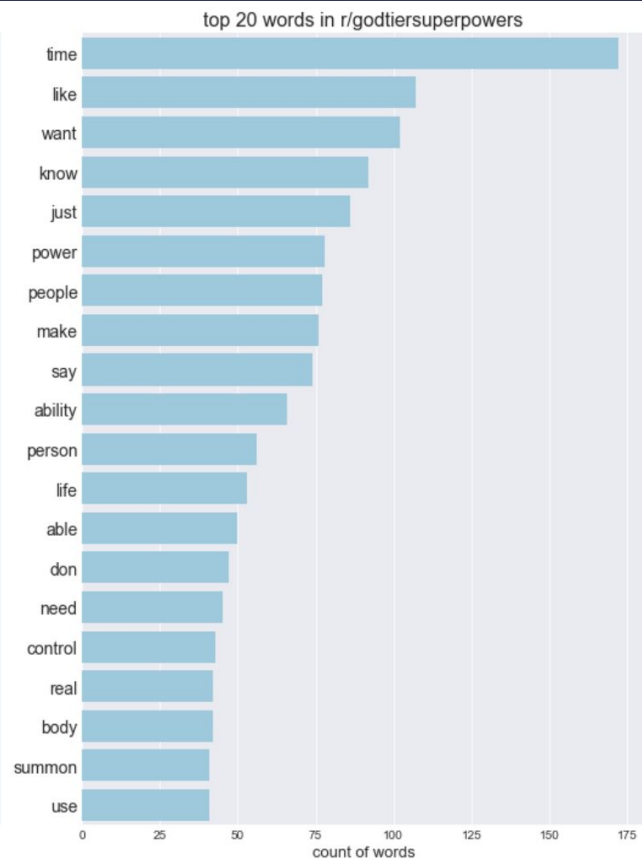
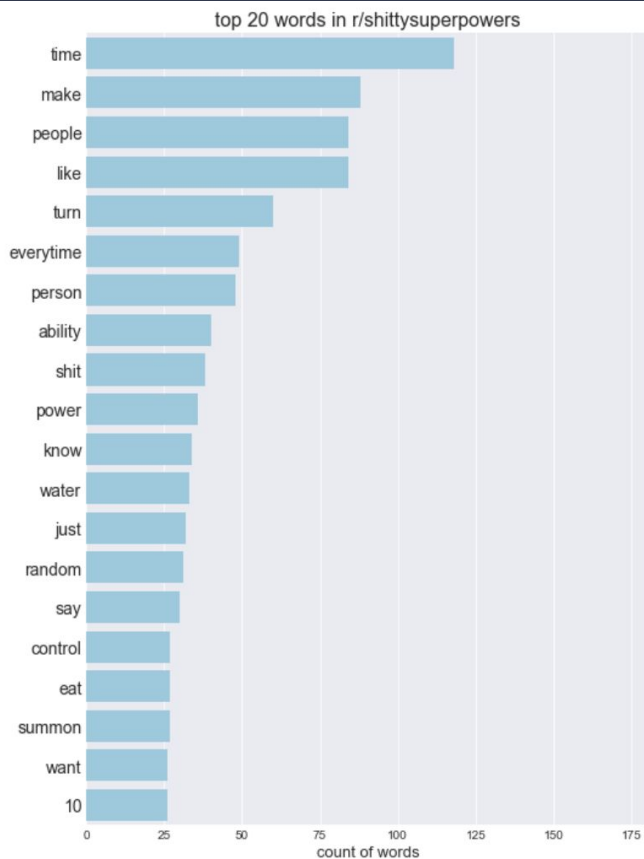
- Consequences that come with superpower
- Implied futile perspective to problems and issues

## r/godtiersuperpowers:

- Lack of consequences that come with superpower
- Perceived problems/issues in a more hopeful light



# EDA



# EDA

r/shittysuperpowers



r/godtiersuperpowers

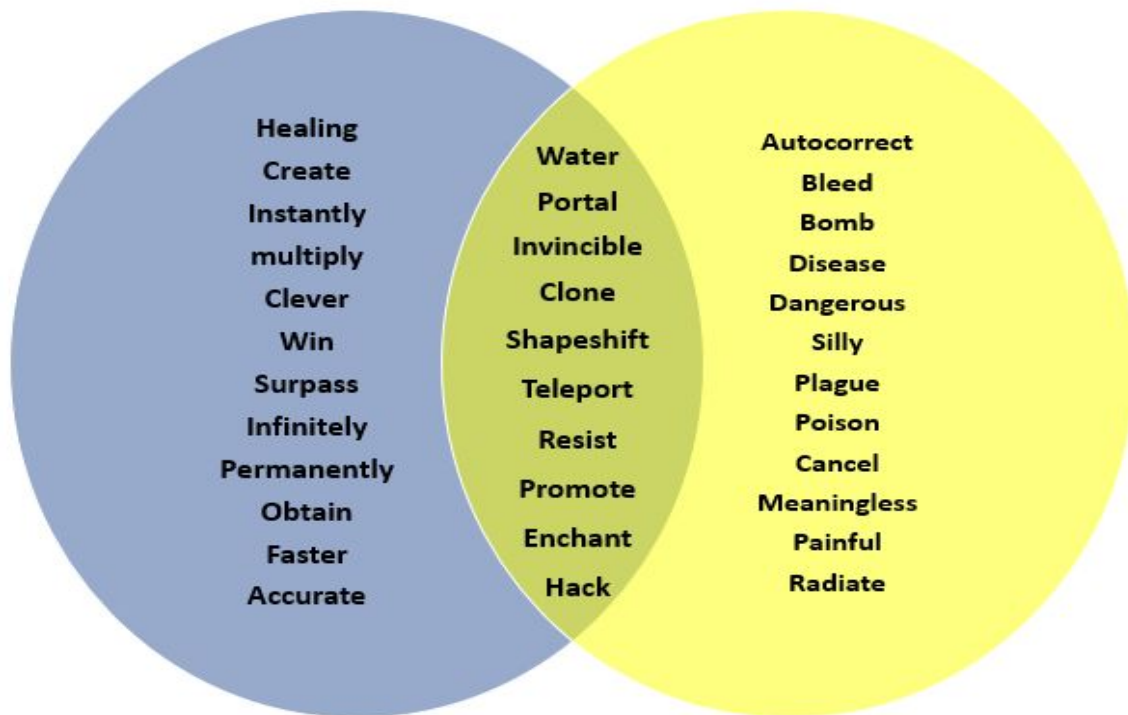




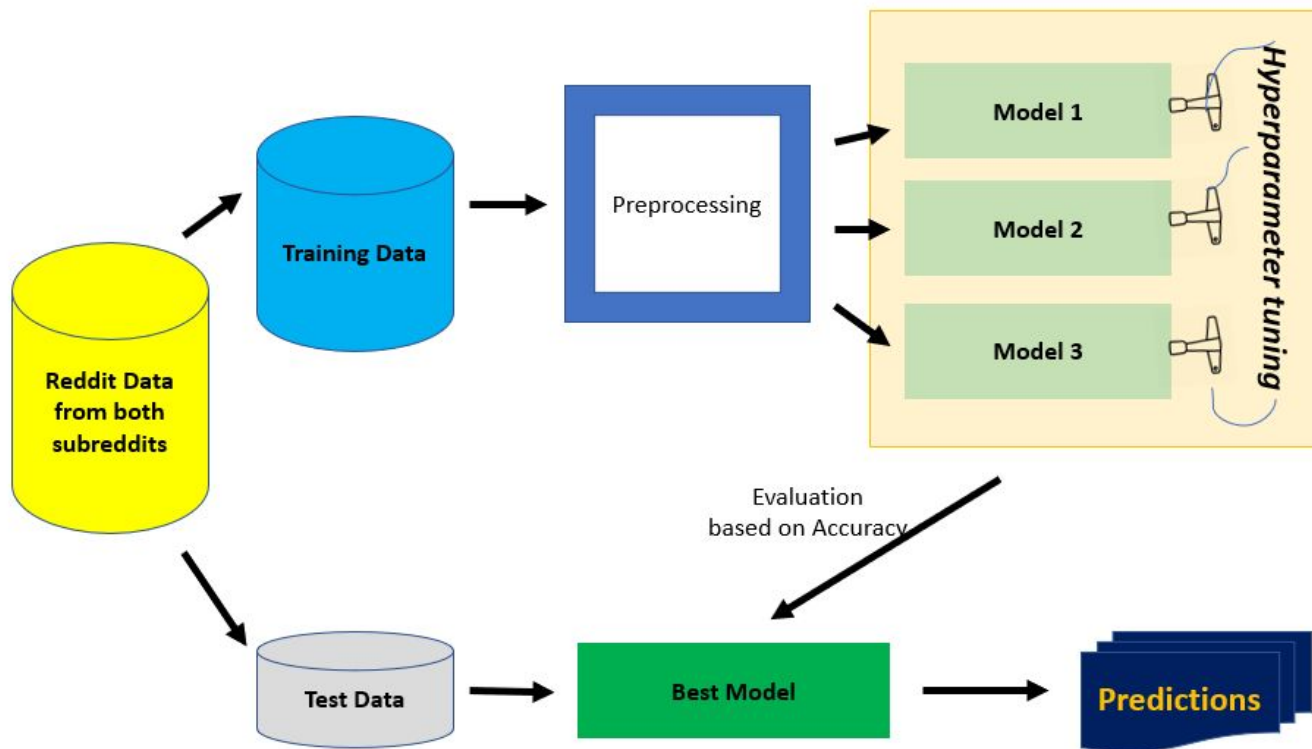
# EDA

**r/godtiersuperpowers**

**r/shittysuperpowers**



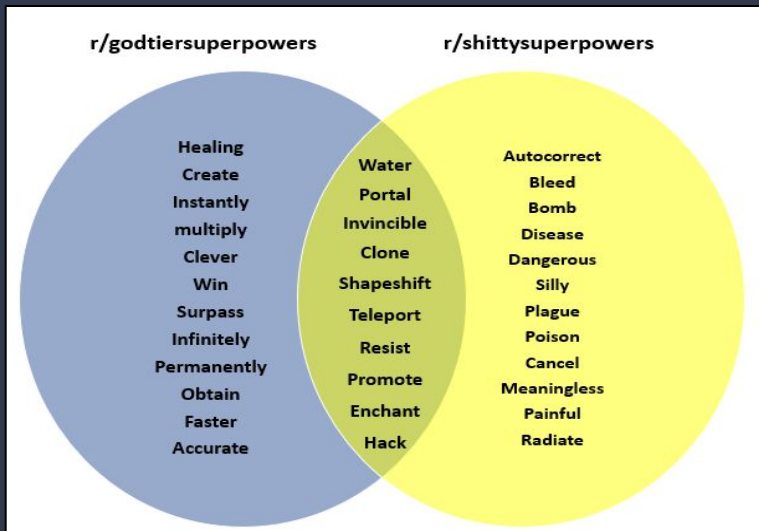
# Modelling



# Model Performance Evaluation

Model	Training Accuracy	Test Accuracy	Improvement	Precision	ROC-AUC
Model A	0.908	0.625	-		
Model B	0.865	0.637	0.012		
Model C	0.903	0.639	0.002		
Model D	0.905	0.641	0.002		
Model E	0.895	0.645	0.004	63.51%	0.649
Model F	0.812	0.651	0.006	66.45%	0.644

# Conclusions



**Pessimistic - Super powers come with consequences that scare people (shittysuperpowers)**

- Randomness
- Pain
- Injury (e.g. bleeding, disease)
- Meaninglessness

**Optimistic - Less focus on consequences and more on the benefits (godtiersuperpowers)**

- Healing
- Infinite money, things.etc
- Permanent effects

# What else?

You can transfer the pain of stepping on legos to anybody whose name and face you know.

Submitted 6 months ago by Lakstat

260 Comments Source Share Save Hide Give Award Report Crosspost

7 19.6k



You no longer have depression.

Gamer Power

submitted 11 months ago by stargazingofficial

2

387 comments source share save hide give award report

## What have we learned?

- People use humor to cope with difficult situations or feelings
- We were able to figure out what words or phrases were the most impactful

## What can we do with this data/model?

- Use these words for analyzing emotions in text, particular with regards to fear
- Make sure people are coping well with the current pandemic by analyzing their text/emails

## Future steps

- Investigating other joke/humorous websites or forums to reveal what people are thinking
- Use more complicated models (neural nets?) to analyze text

# What does this mean for stakeholders?

## Moderators


- A program can flag posts that are potentially in the wrong subreddit, saves some time
- Not completely accurate, should still use human review (also more ethical)

## Other parties who may be interested in these findings

- Superhero genre parody writers
- Advertisers seeking what people really want
- Insurance brokers know what people are worried about
- Redditors looking for meaningless internet points.

# Q & A

The ability to answer someone before they ask the question. self.shittysuperpowers

Submitted 1 year ago by xshot40 

No, you dont know what the question is.