

A Letter.

For the year two thousand fourteen

2014 was quite an adventure. In my science life, the majority of the year was spent preparing for my advancement to candidacy exam, which is the next big milestone on my long journey towards getting a Ph.D. This whole process has re-directed my research focus, and with additional side projects, there's plenty left to do in my remaining years here at UC Irvine. Despite financial setbacks, it's certainly an exciting time to be involved in scientific research, and I hope that my project will eventually contribute to the vast pool of scientific knowledge.

On the robotics front, I was pushed into some new positions - emceeing a full *FIRST* regional, hosting a division at the Vex World Championships, and taking over as judge advisor for So-Cal *FIRST* Lego League. Of course, I still maintain my role as game announcer for many other events throughout the year. On one hand, these roles have pulled me away from mentoring teams directly, but they have all been incredibly exciting roles that I hope to reprise for the 2015 season.

And lastly, as for my personal life, I've been on perhaps the most extreme roller coaster that I have been on in a number of years. To quote The Doctor, "The way I see it, every life is a pile of good things and bad things. The good things don't always soften the bad things, but vice versa the bad things don't always spoil the good things and make them unimportant."

That's not to say that I have not ended the year optimistically; this year has really provided me with a new perspective on how I want to live my life and I am currently busier but happier now than I have been in quite a while. Now comes the part where I put these plans into practice.

All of these changes in my professional, personal, and extra-curricular lives presented challenges that I hadn't faced before. It's times like these that I am so humbled to have so many amazing friends (and if you're reading this, assume yourself to be among them) that have supported me this year. So in a way, this year's annual report will try to explore a bit more about the people who have played a big role in shaping who I am - in a completely irrelevant way, of course.

As always, this annual report is a learning exercise (beyond just being fun to put together) - and so I've had the opportunity to use new technologies this year to visualize and manipulate the collected data. I hope you enjoy it.

Happy holidays to you and your family, and best wishes for a wonderful 2015.

Sincerely,

George Chen

Social Network.

Yes, this is just for Facebook

Average post length

12.3

Words, or approximately 106 characters

Word Cloud of Status Updates

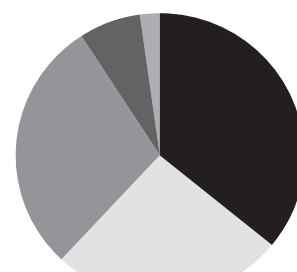
CAREY CASE CENTER CHAMPIONSHIPS CHECK CLASSIC COVERED COVERED
VEXROBOTICS WAY YEAR YEARS ANNIVERSARY ANNIVERSARY
OFFICE PEOPLE PLEASE SCIENCE SEE SHIRT SHIRT
CHAMPIONSHIP FALL FIRSTSD GAME LIFE LIFE
TEAM WELL ACTUALLY ALWAYS HS HS
COMING COMPETING FIRST END END
HAPPY LEGOLANDLUCK BEST BEST
HOSTING REGIONAL CA CA
NATIONAL MAKE FILL FILL
FIRSTLEGOLEAGUE
REALLY THANKS
TEAMS TODAY
DAY GOOD NOW
WEEKEND KNOW
FRCTEAMS ONE SAN SAN
NEED NEW GUYS DAYS DAYS
TIME ANYONE DIEGO HEY HEY
NEWS OVER WANT WEEK WEEK
CONGRATS FIRSTINCA PAPER PAPER
AROUND BATTLE BEFORE DOWN EVENTS EVENTS
GIVE GOING GREAT HELP HERE LOOKING LOOKING
SOCIAL TAKE THINGS TOURNAMENT TOURNAMENT
ANNOUNCING ATTENTION BING BING BIRTHDAY BIRTHDAY BOWEN BOWEN CALLED CALLED
CREATIVE CRUSH CRUSH DESIRE DESIRE

Friends by gender



54% Female, 46% Male

Relationship Status (And change from 2013)



36% Single (+0.5)
26% In a Relationship (-6.7)
29% Married (+6.3)
7% Engaged (+0.2)
2% Other (-0.3)

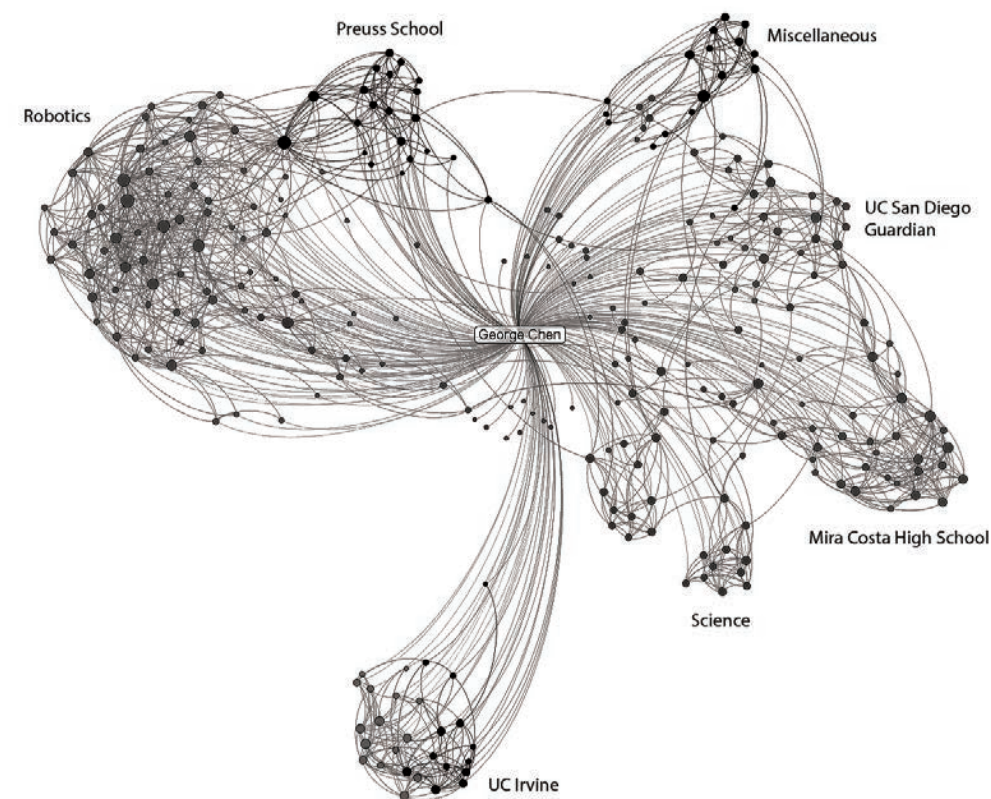
Friends by location



96% United States, 0.6% Taiwan, 0.5% Canada, 0.4% UK, 2.5% other
Geographically Furthest: South Africa
Northernmost: Norway

Professional* Network.

* as far as LinkedIn is concerned



Clustering of 308 connections, representing 38646 "bridging connections" (where I am on the shortest path between two people). Categories are not mutually exclusive but are organized by number of related connections.

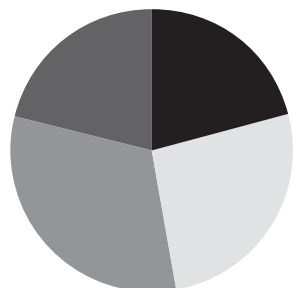
#OMGRobots.

A review of robotics-related activities in 2014

of events

19

FIRST Tech Challenge: 4
FIRST Lego League: 5
FIRST Robotics Competition: 6
Vex Robotics Competition: 4



Positions held

Judge Advisor
Game Announcer
Master of Ceremonies

FIRST Lego League fields built

ONE

Furthest event site

CA Great America

Walking.

Analysis of Fitbit data

Average steps per week

43,784

Total Distance Travelled

1010.6

Miles, or the approximate distance from LA to OKC

% of Proclaimers song accomplished

202

Furthest distance in a day

SEVEN

Miles (Approximate deepest point in the ocean)

Internet.

Things the NSA already knows

Social Media accounts

TEN

Most Recent: Pinterest
Oldest Active: Facebook

Blogs followed

142

(97% via Tumblr)

Twitter Cloud (twitter.com/g_chen)



Webcomics followed

14

Best web series

The List

Show

John Green & Mental Floss

Computers rebuilt

THREE

- A amazon.com
- B boingboing.net
- C chiefdelphi.com
- D drive.google.com
- E ebay.com
- F facebook.com
- G google.com
- H hotmail.com
- I imgur.com
- J jetpens.com
- K kottke.org
- L lifehacker.com
- M miceage.com
- N newegg.com
- O oit.uci.edu
- P pubmed.gov
- Q questionablecontent.net
- R reddit.com
- S scholar.google.com
- T themeparkreview.com
- U usfirst.org
- V vexrobotics.com
- W wikipedia.org
- X xkcd.net
- Y youtube.com
- Z zotaccount.uci.edu

Tumblr.

Analysis of gtchen.tumblr.com

Tumblr posts

19.2

Type of post

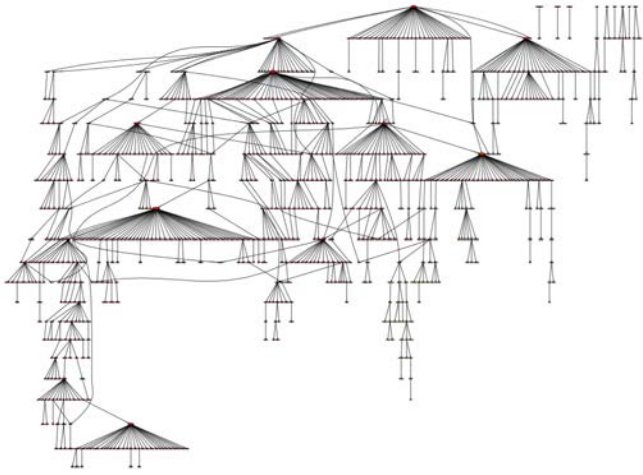
517

Averaging 1.4 posts per day

% Original content

93% Photos
3% Text
4% Other

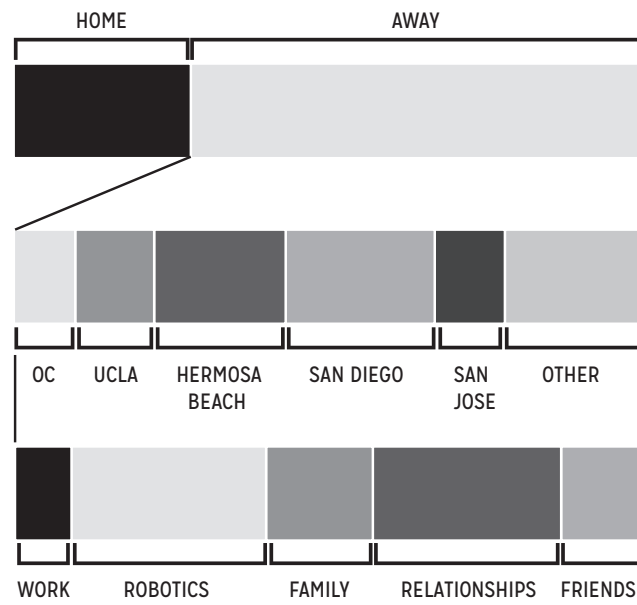
Map of most noted original post (of 1731 Notes)



Weekends.

Because sleep is for the week (weak?).

Time spent at home versus on the road



Road food

In N Out
McDonalds

Road entertainment

This American Life

Music.

More about music than MTV

Songs in library

22,580

Length of library

56.4

Days

Podcasts followed

SEVEN

Best podcast

The Moth

Songs added

2295 0

CDs purchased

2

Music apps used

5

Favorite new: Spotify
Mobile: Media Monkey

Most played new album

PTX Vol III

Pentatonix

Worst song

Bang Bang

Jessie J

Concerts attended

Travel.

Making my way downtown, Walking fast, Faces pass, & I'm home bound

Total miles travelled

12035

Equivalent to the approximate distance from the North Pole to the South Pole (97% of distance)

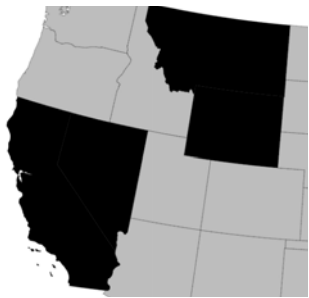
Highest gas cost/gallon

4.15

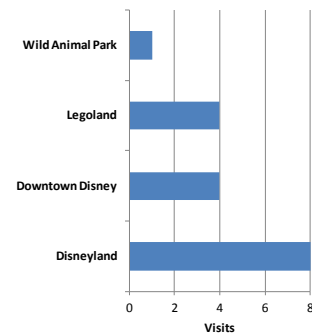
Lowest gas cost/gallon

2.83

States Visited



Theme Park visits



Miles Driven

8178

Approximately 1.92 Nile Rivers

Flights by airline



Inflight entertainment

SkyMall

Weddings attended

TWO

Out of three invitations

National Parks Visited

2

Yellowstone NP
Grand Teton NP

Food.

Chubby kid at heart.

Number of restaurants

141

(Not including different branches of the same chain restaurant)

Unique restaurant visits

309

Money spent on pastries

132.85

Spread across 15 visits to 3 bakeries

Most visited restaurants

85C Bakery

Coco Ichibanya

Strickland's Ice Cream

Most visited drink shops

Lollicup (42)

Jamba Juice (14)

Starbucks (13)

Ramen shops visited

7

Favorite: Tajima San Diego

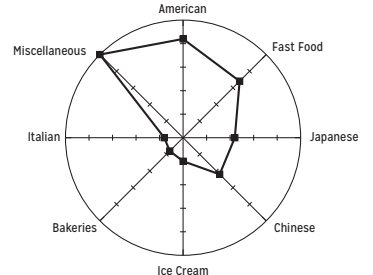
Food trucks

ONE

Banh in the USA (Also winner of best pun in food truck name for 2014)

Restaurants by cuisine

American 21%
Fast Food 17%
Japanese 11%
Chinese 11%
Ice Cream 5%
Bakery 4%
Italian 4%
Miscellany 25%



Television & Film.

In which I have not yet seen the cinematic masterpiece Sharknado.

Team Yellow Umbrella or Team Blue French Horn?



Movies watched

12

Favorite movie (of 2014)

Guardians of the Galaxy

Marvel/Walt Disney Pictures

Television series followed

14

"Followed" defined as having watched or intending to watch >50% of available episodes

Ended TV series

ONE

Worst TV series

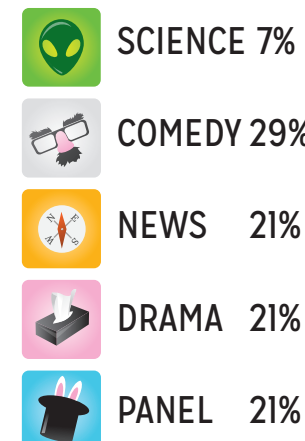
Eaten Alive

Discovery Channel

Average Rotten Tomatoes Score of movies watched

88.5

Genres of television



New movies vs rewatched

50%

Best TV series

Sherlock

Steven Moffat & Mark Gatiss

Animated vs Live Action

17%

Work.

What does this button do?

Grant applications

4

1 won, 1 lost, 2 pending

Papers read

172

Spanning 43 years of research. 39 different journals in 2014. 409 total articles saved

Pages of lab notebook

128

Vendor Shows

FIVE