

A discussion of quality/reliability of events for timelines

Céline Vanini

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UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Ecole des Sciences
criminelles

Thank you!



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg



Women in Forensic Computing

WORKSHOP

About me

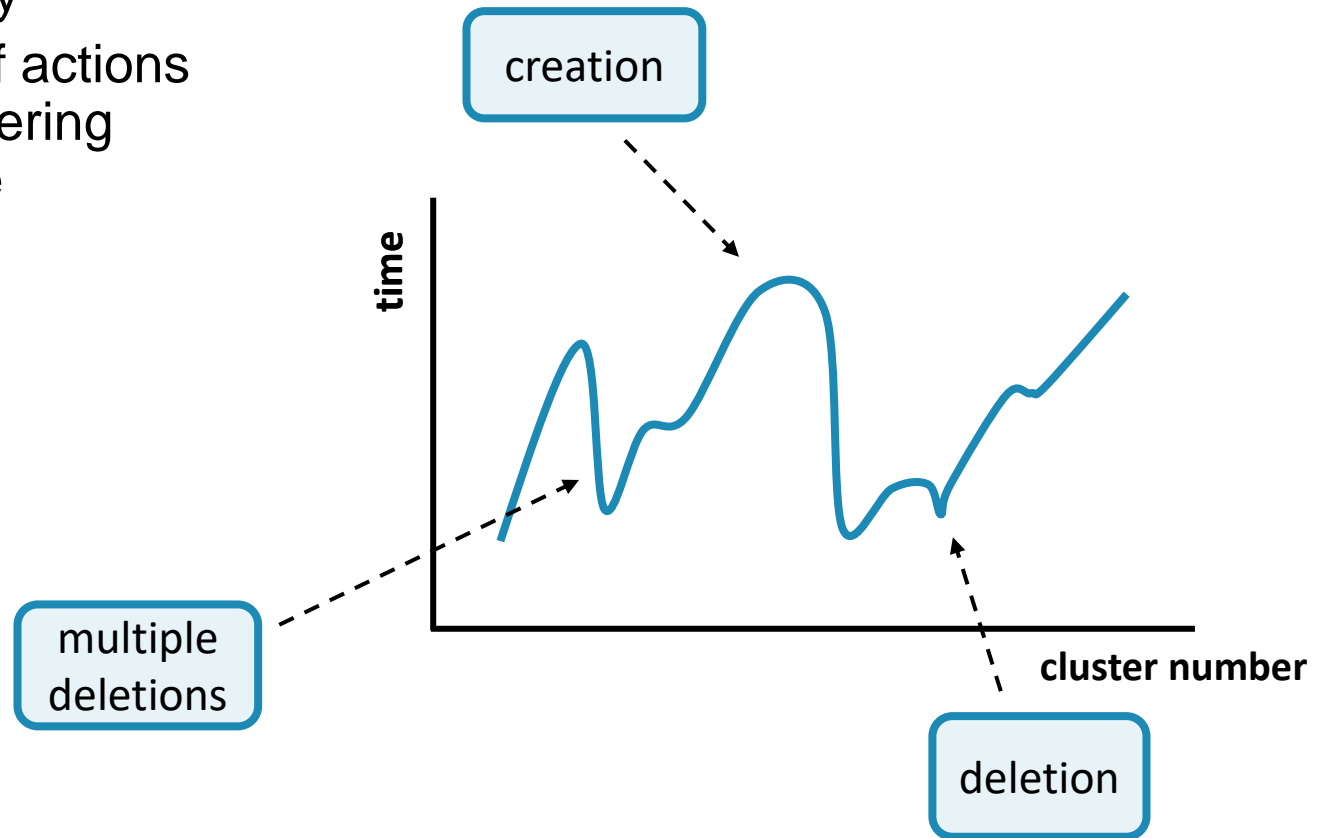
- PhD student (1st year)
- Master's degree in digital forensic science (UNIL)
- Bachelor's degree in forensic science (UNIL)



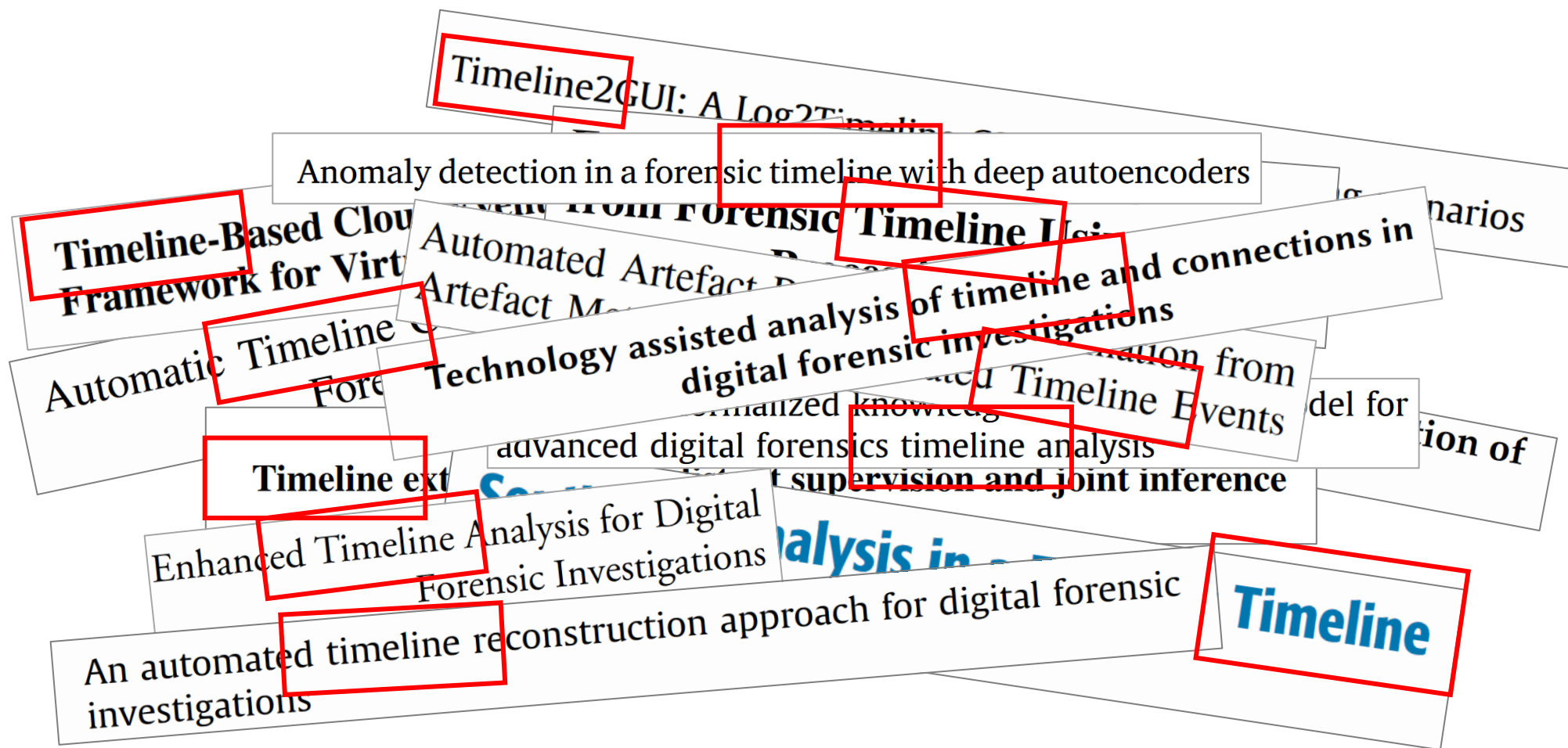
Event reconstruction... but why?

- Research on digital stratigraphy
- Goal: reconstruct sequences of actions on a file system or detect tampering (e.g., backdating) based on the position of files

THIS IS WHAT MAKES
DIGITAL FORENSIC SCIENCE
SO INTERESTING



Event reconstruction in digital forensic science



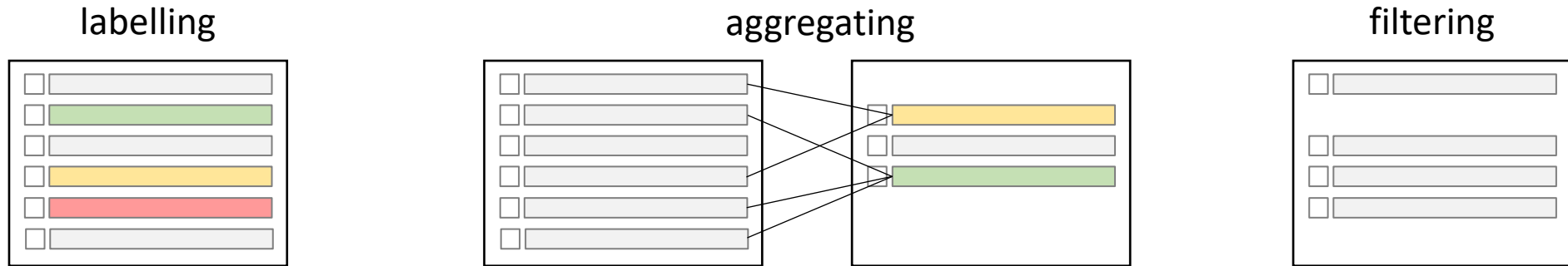
Challenges with timelines

Volume

Heterogeneity

Assessing the volume problem

- Existing approaches...



Reliability?

Example

Entry number	timestamp	source	context
13291	11.03.2023 13:51:18,	\$MFT,	SIA creation timestamp of example.docx

Example

File copy

9789	10.03.2023 14:23:02, \$MFT, SIA modification timestamp of example.docx
13291	11.03.2023 13:51:18, \$MFT, SIA creation timestamp of example.docx
13292	11.03.2023 13:51:18, \$MFT, SIA MFT entry timestamp of example.docx

How can we evaluate the reliability?

Entry number	timestamp	source	context
13291	11.03.2023 13:51:18,	\$MFT,	SIA creation timestamp of example.docx

Accuracy?
Precision?
...

Which sources are included?
How tamper resistant are they?
What about sources that are not in the timeline?
...

Meaning?

Taking a step back

- Understanding less timelines and more event reconstruction
- Which problems may affect the process of event reconstruction?
- How do they affect the interpretation process?
- How is it usable in practice?
- ...

Questions?

Thank you!

Céline Vanini

celine.vanini@unil.ch