



Changes in expressed opinion strength when facing disagreement

Motivation

Social media have been a place for very passionate discussions regarding controversial topics. Do these discussions have any effect or are we all stubborn victims of our filter bubbles? Using data from social media conversations of the same users over several months, the aim of this project is to find if social media users ever weaken or strengthen the intensity with which they communicate their opinion to others, and if so, what are the possible interactions causing such a change.

Task Description

- Curate an existing dataset of predicted opinions from social media conversations on controversial topics / improve opinion classifier
- Identify events of changed opinion intensity
- Define a typology of prior events (e.g. fact presentation by another user, personal attack, praise by other user), classify semi-automatically if applicable
- Analyze if any prior event is predictive for a more or less extreme opinion intensity expressed



References

- Dowling, C. M., Henderson, M., & Miller, M. G. (2019). Knowledge Persists, Opinions Drift: Learning and Opinion Change in a Three-Wave Panel Experiment. *American Politics Research*, 1532673X19832543.
- Khanna, K. (2019). Do Facts Speak for Themselves? Causes and Consequences of Partisan Bias in Factual Beliefs (Doctoral dissertation, Princeton University).

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Analysis



Programming



Literature

