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Capstone Project



Hate Speech on Twitter



Twitter's conduct policy has recently been under the scrutiny of many as the social platform is unfortunately thought to be the largest forum for diffusion of dehumanising speech.

One of the possible reasons behind this, it's the underlying anonymity which especially characterises it. On one hand, not having a real identity on the platform has its advantages when it comes to speak out in oppressive regimes. On the other, it also promotes **hate speech**.

On top of relatively ineffective guidelines or rules, another major problem for the platform is the sheer amount of tweets that are generated per second.

The main goal of this project is to build a dummy pipeline to help Twitter identify and block hateful tweets in a **proactive and almost real-time basis.**

PROJECT WORKFLOW AND METHODOLOGY

This project is divided into three main sections:

- 1) Assembled 40,000 human labelled tweets (20000 positive and 20000 negative) in order to train Machine Learning models classify offensive tweets from good ones.
- 2) Performed an iterative optimisation process on selected models across Neural Networks, Logistic Regression and Naive Bayes. The current best performing (Logistic Regression) has a 98.3% accuracy rate.
- 3) In the final section, our winning model is ran across freshly tweets that are stored on a local MySQL database. The model predictions are then analysed and streamed on an online app showcasing number of offensive tweets along with their text.

40,000

TWEETS ANALYSED
ON DATASET

98%

ACCURACY ON TEST SET

61

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHARACTERS IN OFFENSIVE TWEETS

Limitations and Future Work

- OUT OF WORDS VOCABULARY
- LIMITED TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- INHERENT BIAS IN THE HUMAN LABELLING OF TWEETS

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back eat whit wan onewhite like come ever dat ass twitter fuck people want not nigger way need agot aint say girl dumb play stop take nigga time bout well wit try ampt day know shit niggah big fucking take every really good
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morning knowready week life Weekend wright look game getthink life Weekend wright music thing seem thing come fatherdad today way Waitnight friend summer the world positive happiness quote orlando to make well last sade obeautiful seem to make well last sade obeautiful seem to make well tomorrow happiness quote orlando
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Samples of WordClouds produced in the project