Climate Change Comments Sentiment Analysis – NASA Facebook Page

**Project Title** 

Sentiment Analysis of Climate Change Comments on NASA's Facebook Page

Overview

This project involves Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques to analyze over **500 user comments** collected from **NASA's Climate Change Facebook page (2020–2023)**. These comments provide insights into public sentiment about climate change and NASA's related initiatives.

**Problem Statement** 

Although the broader project aims to model climate indicators, this subset focuses on analyzing **public discourse and sentiment** from social media. The objective is to:

• Perform Sentiment Analysis

Track Engagement Trends

• Extract Dominant Themes

Analyze how the public feels and interacts with climate-related content

### **Dataset Description**

## Column Name Description

date Timestamp of comment

likesCount Number of likes on the comment

profileName Anonymized SHA-256 user profile name

commentsCount Number of responses to the comment

text The actual comment text

• Total Records: 522

• Time Span: 2020–2023

Missing Values: commentsCount (278 missing), text (18 missing)

**Technologies & Libraries Used** 

- Python 3
- pandas, numpy
- matplotlib, seaborn, wordcloud
- nltk for NLP & Sentiment Analysis
- vaderSentiment for compound score calculation

## **Data Preprocessing Steps**

- 1. Handling Missing Values: Removed records with missing text
- 2. Text Cleaning:
  - Lowercasing
  - o Removal of punctuation, stopwords, special characters
  - Tokenization and Lemmatization
- 3. **Date Conversion**: Converted date to datetime format
- 4. **Sentiment Scoring**: Added compound, neg, neu, pos scores using VADER

### **Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)**

- Sentiment Distribution: Most comments were either neutral or positive
- Daily Sentiment Trend: Aggregated average sentiment over time
- Most Liked Comments: Identified high engagement posts
- Word Cloud: Highlighted most frequently used terms

#### Results

## Sentiment Description Proportion

Positive Public appreciation & hope ~40%

Neutral General queries/discussions ~35%

Negative Climate denial, skepticism ~25%

# **Key Visualizations**

- **Sentiment over Time**: Line plot showing trends from 2020–2023
- **| Bar Charts**: Top 10 liked and commented posts
- Word Cloud: Visual themes in user discourse

#### Conclusion

The sentiment analysis of NASA's Facebook page reveals a **predominantly positive or neutral public perception** of climate change content. This suggests that NASA's social communication efforts have generally resonated well with the audience. However, a noticeable portion of skepticism or criticism also exists, highlighting areas for better public engagement and awareness.

## **Future Scope**

- 1. **Topic Modeling**: Apply LDA or BERTopic to uncover deeper discussion topics.
- 2. **Time-Series Forecasting**: Predict sentiment trends for upcoming periods.
- 3. Multi-Language Support: Extend to include non-English comments.
- 4. **Cross-Platform Analysis**: Compare Facebook data with Twitter, YouTube, Reddit, etc.
- 5. **Link with Climate Indicators**: Eventually correlate public sentiment with actual climate data (CO₂ levels, temperature rise, etc.)