Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Life: Tweets Exploratory Data Analysis

Xingyu Chen   
 Department of Data Science  
University of Colorado at Boulder  
Boulder, CO 80309 USA   
xich9921@colorado.edu

***Abstract*—TBA**

***Keywords—Seaborn, Data Visualization, Data Model, Neural Nets, ANN, CNN, RNN, LSTM, NLP***

# Introduction

The 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision, legalizing abortion in all fifty states, seems to solve one of the most controversial issues in terms of abortion. However, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court issued a bill to prohibits a women’s ability to access out-of-state abortion services and ban abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy nationwide, which is overturning Roe v. Wade case.

The Congress’s decision has drawn a lot of attention on social media, especially for female aspect. The argument divides into two opinions: Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Life. People who support pro-choice believe that everyone has the basic human right to decide when and whether to have children, which means they think it is OK for them to have the ability to choose abortion as an option for an unplanned pregnancy – even if you wouldn’t choose abortion for yourself. The view that a woman should have the legal right to an elective abortion, meaning the right to terminate her pregnancy.

People who support pro-life believe that the life of the fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus is much important than the welfare of children after they are born and oppose child welfare legislation. The controversial issues pit people against each other, as if they are on two different teams. Most Americans believe abortion should be legal because it is human rights to access abortion.

In this paper, I will do an exploratory data analysis on tweets about pro-choice vs. pro-life due to the Roe vs. Wade cancellation sentence. It is to be used for review for people want to have a general idea about how people reaction to the bill that ban abortion in certain states, especially for female. The neural network model helps them to grasp pragmatic understanding of whole event timeline. More specifically, the model should offer decent result so people can learn basic opinion behind the case. In addition, I also hope this model will facilitate decision maker in Congress to pass bill that involving controversial issues because it generates local impact and global impact in certain level.



Fig 1. Abortion-rights movements

# Data Gather and Prep

This paper is not focus on text preprocessing (Natural language programming) but focus on neural network, so I include essential steps about text preprocessing instead of detailed step-by-step explanation.

Text

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Fig 2. Original dataset, contain raw tweets and other features

The dataset of 56,040 tweets collected in wake of the Roe vs. Wade cancellation sentence and analyze the influence operations. The tweets are collected containing either the #prochoice or the #prolife hashtag, reflecting the two opposite poles of the discussion on the argument.

The tweets with #prochoice have target variable as 0, and the tweet with the #prolife have the target variable as 1. I would use Twitter API to gather unlabeled tweets but here is not reveal any credential and code during current stage.

Text, application

Description automatically generated

Fig 3. Preprocess Datetime using strptime library.

I use datetime module to fix the formatting of the date column. I will also be using regular expressions to fix the structure of the text and remove unnecessary ascii symbols because tweets can contain a lot of things such as mentions, hashtags, links, punctuations, and etc. Here is the list of text preprocessing tasks:

1. Lowercasing all the letters
2. Remove mentions ‘@’
3. Remove hash tags ‘#’
4. Remove URLs, start with ‘http’ or ‘www’
5. Remove punctuations
6. Remove non-alphanumeric characters
7. Remove stop words

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

Fig 4. Preprocess tweets based on tasks

Table

Description automatically generated

Fig 5. Preprocess text into numerical values

Table

Description automatically generated

Fig 6. Train set

Table

Description automatically generated

Fig 7. Test set

# NN w/ BP Architecture and Design

Diagram, engineering drawing

Description automatically generated

Fig 8. Neural Net structure

Iteration 1000

Total Loss: 4840.214395017918

Average Loss: 0.12891424905497037

The confusion matrix is:

[[10232 8087]

[ 16 19211]]

The accuracy score is:

0.7841847333937038

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Fig 9. Total loss

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Fig 10. Average Loss

# Sample Execution

TBD

# Conclusion

This dataset is not intended to be used to take a position on the discussion on the right to abortion. I focus on the ethical arguments and underlying issues rather than on political considerations that might also be involved. This dataset takes its cue from this discussion to create a corpus of tweets that can be tagged a priori.

I use neural networks intended to answer following questions:

1. How is people reaction changes between dates?

2. Can we use the neural net to predict tweets opinion?

3. What is the frequency of tweets during the whole timeline?

4. What are the words that contribute to pro-life/pro-choice

For now, the epoch is 1000 and learning rate 0.01 with sample size 37,546, we get 78% accuracy. Parameter tuning will be used during next tasks.

The network intended to predict the tweets is supporting pro-life or pro-choice, the input vector is retweet\_count, like\_count, words\_count, sentence\_length, and hour.

##### Acknowledgment

TBD

##### References

[1]