

Project 3: Web Scraping & Classification

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Problem Statement

The problem: What characteristics of a post on Reddit are most predictive of the overall interaction on a thread (as measured by number of comments)?

The solution: I will use Reddit data to build three models that will predict whether or not the number of comments on a Reddit post will be above or below the median in order to find the optimal predictors

The Data

PRAW - Python Reddit API Wrapper:

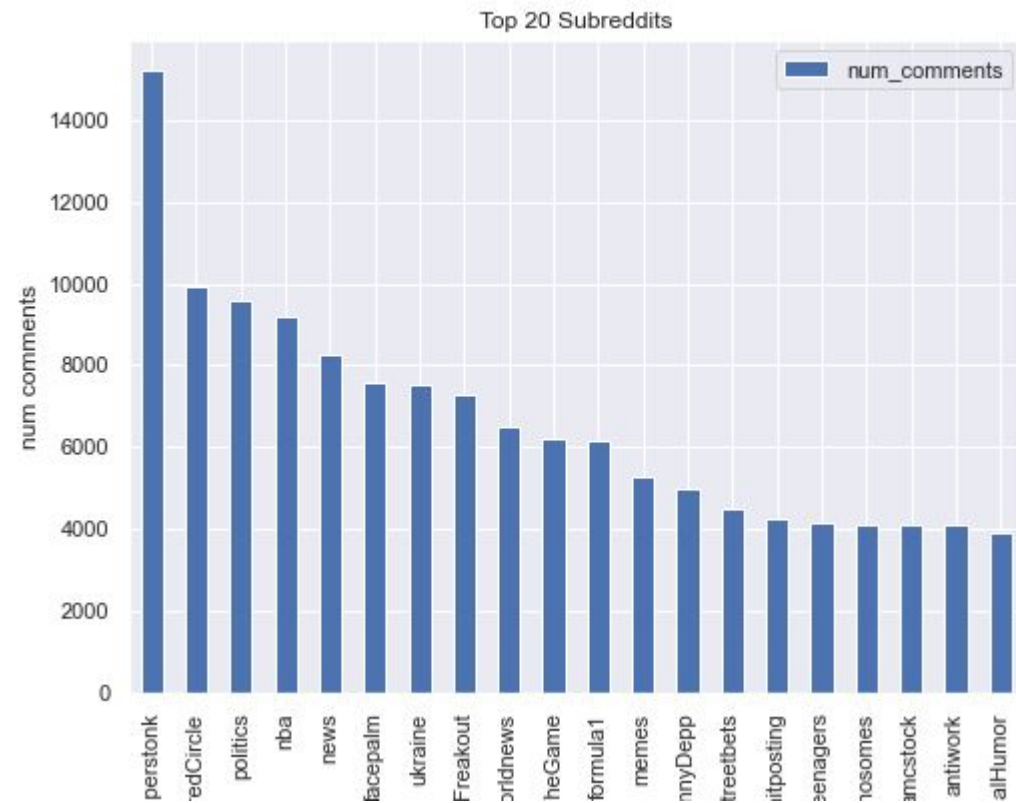
https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/latest/code_overview/models/submission.html

- Author
- Title
- Subreddit
- Created
- Number of comments
- Score (number of upvotes)
- Upvote ratio (percentage of upvotes from all the votes)

Models

- Logistic Regression
- Random Forest
- Bagging

Subreddits



- A way to short-list features to feed into the model
- Trends?
 - Politics
 - News
 - Current events
 - Entertainment

Trends

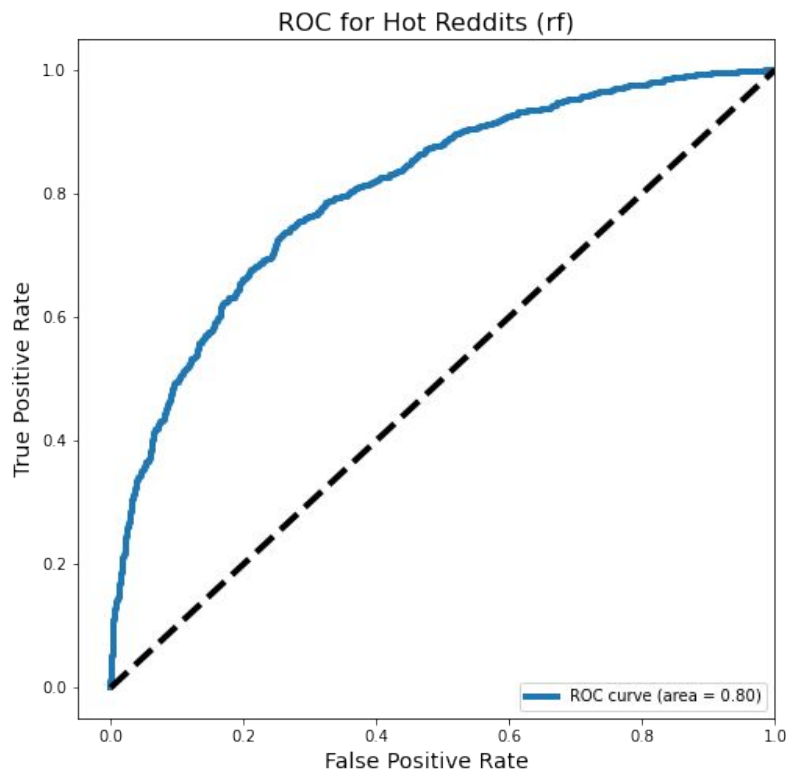
- Johnny Depp/Amber Heard
- Uvalde Shooting
- Ukraine/Russia
- Pride
- Temporal (year, today, 2020)
- Entertainment (season, spoiler, game)

Words

The models tended to weight different words

- Logistic regression
 - Hate
 - Pride
 - Actually
 - Year
- Random Forest
 - New
 - Today
 - Dog
 - Pride
- Bagging
 - New
 - Today
 - Year
 - Pride

Model Scoring



- Logistic Regression
 - Precision
 - Specificity
- Random Forest
 - Sensitivity
 - Accuracy
 - F1-Score
- Bagging
 - The worst performing model

Conclusion

There were a few characteristics that seemed to have more predictive power

- Politics
- World events
- News
- Temporal (Year, 2020, Today)
- Entertainment

Further analysis:

- More data collected over a longer period of time
- How does cross-posting affect predictors
- Alternative vectorizers / stemming