

Title: A Scalable Model of Distributed Power Dynamics in Unitary Information Digital Environments

Abstract:

This paper presents a thought experiment exploring power dynamics within digital communication environments characterized by unitary information. We introduce a model based on the principle of "two out of three agree," demonstrating its scalability and impact on individual free agency within groups of varying sizes. This model provides insights into the complexities of distributed power and rule enforcement in online communities with shared knowledge.

1. Introduction

Online communication platforms require effective moderation to maintain order and positive environments. This paper proposes a simplified model to analyze how power is distributed and exercised within these environments, focusing on majority rule ("two out of three agree") within a unitary information context. This model is designed to be scalable, maintaining its core principles regardless of group size.

2. Model Description

The core of our model is the principle that rule enforcement requires the agreement of at least two entities out of a potential three directly involved in a specific interaction. Key components include:

- Entities: Individual members of the communication environment.
- Interaction: An event or situation requiring a decision (e.g., a member exhibiting disruptive behavior).
- Rule Enforcement: The action taken in response to an interaction (e.g., warning, removal).
- "Two out of Three Agree" Principle: Rule enforcement necessitates the consensus of two entities directly involved in the interaction.
- Unitary Information: All entities have access to the same information; there are no private messages or hidden channels.

3. Scalability

A key feature is scalability. The "two out of three agree" principle remains consistent regardless of the total number of entities. Consider five entities (A-E). If entity D is disruptive, the decision requires the agreement of two other entities (e.g., A and B, or C and E). The opinions of other entities are irrelevant to this specific decision.

4. Impact on Free Agency

This model impacts individual free agency. An entity's freedom is constrained by the possibility of two others agreeing to enforce rules. Conversely, it provides protection from arbitrary action by a single individual.

5. Core Principles Analysis

The model rests on several core principles:

- Distributed Power: No single entity holds absolute authority.
- Majority Rule (Local Application): The "two out of three agree" principle implements a local form of majority rule applied to specific interactions.
- Contextual Relevance: Decisions are based on the specific circumstances of the interaction, facilitated by the unitary information environment.
- Scalability: The principle remains consistent regardless of group size.
- Limited Protection of Individual Free Agency: Offers protection against individual arbitrariness, but not absolute freedom.
- Emphasis on Interaction and Communication: Consensus requires communication and negotiation.
- Transparency and Shared Knowledge (Unitary Information): All entities operate on the same information, simplifying decision-making and reducing misunderstandings.

6. Discussion

This model offers a simplified yet insightful perspective on distributed power in unitary information online environments. It highlights coalition formation and the limitations of individual power. The scalability makes it applicable to various group sizes.

7. Limitations and Future Research

This model simplifies real-world interactions. Future research could explore:

- Varying degrees of influence between entities.
- Dynamic coalition formation.
- The impact of diverse communication channels.
- More complex decision-making systems.

8. Conclusion

The "two out of three agree" model within a unitary information context provides a framework for understanding distributed power dynamics in digital environments. Its scalability and focus on local interactions offer insights into maintaining order and balancing individual free agency in online communities.