

AUTOMATIC DETECTION OF • EXTREME POLITICAL GROUPS

Natural Language Classification of Reddit
Subforums



After 9 months, Reddit finally bans group spreading thinly veiled anti-Semitism

Community had grown to 60,000-strong, and was prompting concerns elsewhere on social media platform; similar,

No Joke: White Nationalists Are Now Using Clowns To Spread

White Nationalists Adopt Clowns as Their Next Racist Symbol (Yes, Seriously)



By [Jared Holt](#) | April 4, 2019 2:54 pm

Hidden Pink



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White Nationalists Praise El Paso Attack and Mock the Dead

August 04, 2019

by [Michael Edison Hayden](#)

Reddit bans Qanon subreddits after months of violent threats

Reddit was key to Qanon's emergence from the fringe corners of the internet and into more mainstream conspiracy and far-right media circles.

Alt-Right, Nazi, Reddit Forums Banned: List Of

and Others
Content

Measures With New Blocking

2018

How Charlottesville forced Reddit to clean up its act

A big change is happening at Reddit

sh
Nazi forum
'violent c

Reddit Is Cra

Reddit CEO Steve Huffman clarifies that racism is not welcome on the platform

26 October 2017

Supremacis

'I try to stay neutral on most political topics, but this isn't one of them.'

Racism and anti-Semitism surged in corners of the Web after Trump's election, analysis shows





Frens I just got kicked out of my 109th subreddit... may I join yours? (i.redd.it)



submitted 14 days ago by Furscist SchutzFren

198 comments share save hide give award report crosspost [l+c]



- A Broad View



Goal:

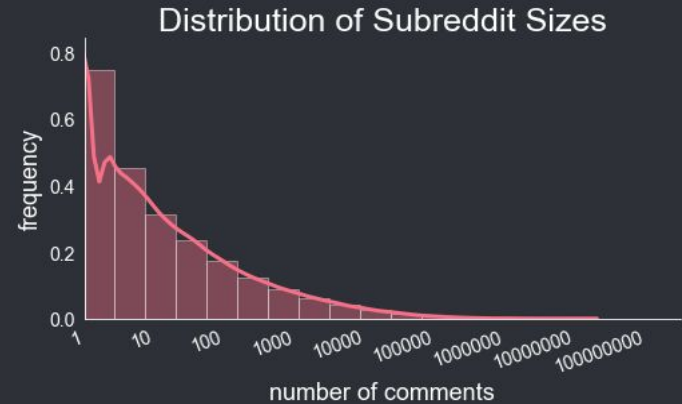
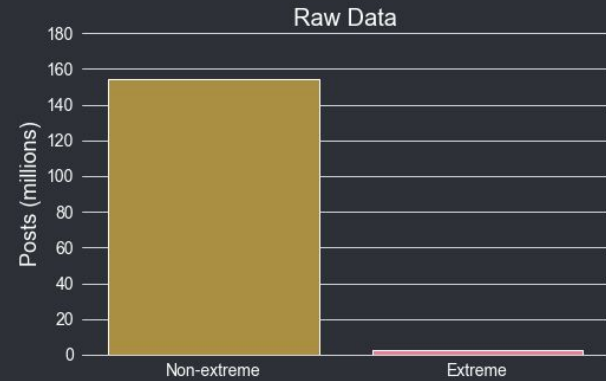
- Auto-flag likely groups
- Notice groups while still small
- Get in front of public criticism

Who To Look At:

- Openly Political
- Media Scrutiny
- Banned Subreddits

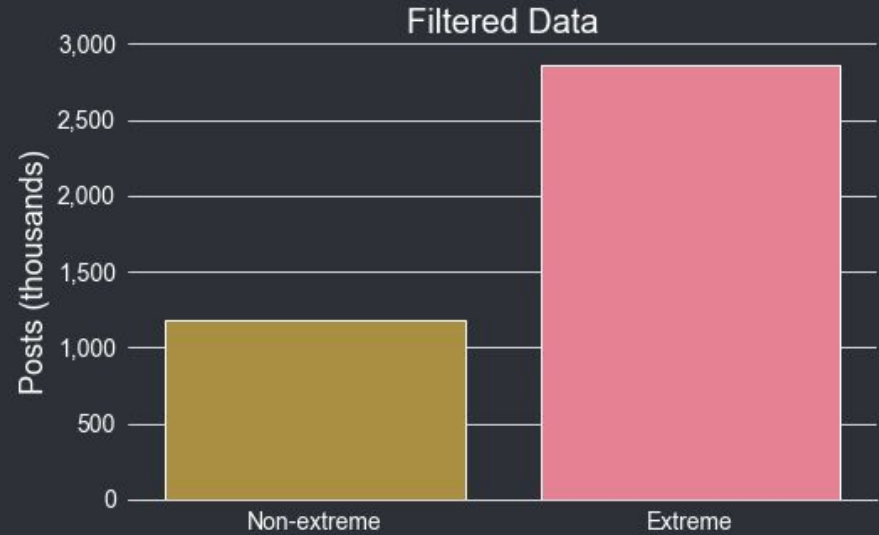
● Data

- August & September, 2017
- 85 million posts
- 98 thousand boards



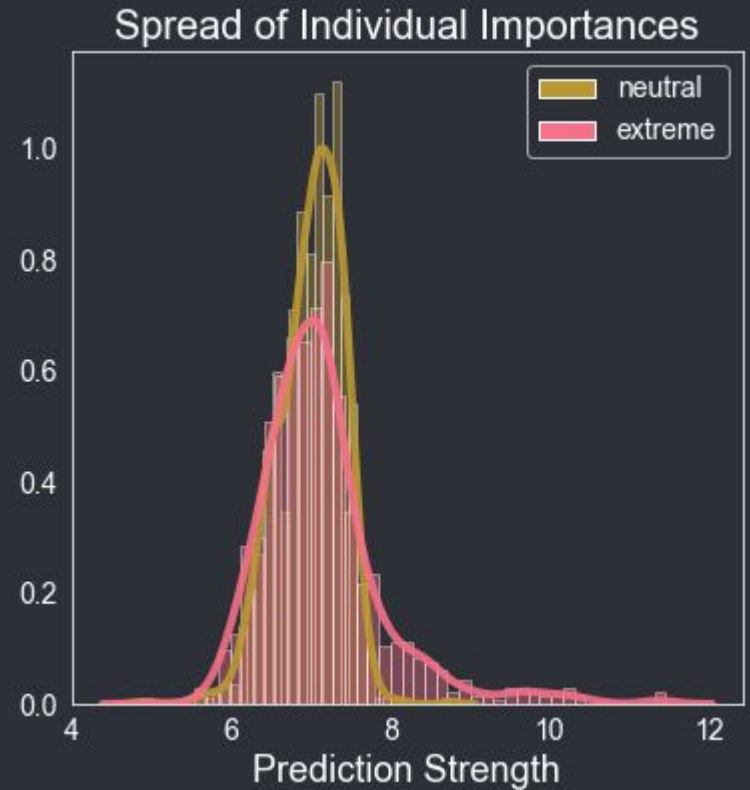
● Data

- 3156 boards examined
- 20 classified “extreme”
- 44,000 posts
- Cleaned and grouped to 100s of posts



● Making the Predictions

1. Group of 100 posts
2. One-or-Two Word Phrase Frequencies
3. Predictions on **not** seeing phrase



- Making the Predictions



- Making the Predictions



- Limitations & Concerns

- - “Sometimes the Cure Is Worse Than The Disease”
 - Data quality
 - Unclear generalizability
 - Time-boundedness
 - Main-use-case applicability (do our basic assumptions hold)?

- Moving Forward

- - More Sophisticated Modelling
 - Real-World Testing
 - Extend Data
 - Limited Rollout



Thank you for listening!

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Headline images used:

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First frog image: