LING 573 Paper

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Abstract

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1 Introduction

Jokes are a form of figurative language that present a unique challenge to NLP systems. Using humor to communicate provides a difficult subjectivity that even humans have trouble tackling, as what one person may find funny, another may take offense to. Such controversy may point to hateful or offensive content, which is using humor to veil its intentions. Being able to identify a joke can help improve interaction between humans and computers, and recognizing if a joke is controversial will assist in user-content moderation.

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2 Task description

Hahackathon is a shared task from SemEval 2021. The text data used in the shared class were collected from Twitter and from the Kaggle Short Jokes dataset[1] and labelled by 20 human readers aged 18-70. Readers classified the texts as humorous or not and rated how humorous the texts was on a 0-4 scale. Readers also classified humorous texts as offensive and provided a rating of how offensive the text was on a 0-4 scale. To identify which jokes were controversial, any joke with a humor rating variance higher than a set threshold was marked "controversial." (Meaney et al., 2021)

We developed a system to classify texts as humorous or not, curating data by randomly splitting the shared task's training set of 8,000 texts into 6,600 training texts, 800 development/validation texts, and 800 test texts. Performance is evaluated on the training and test sets by calculating its F-score and accuracy. We then extended our system by training it on the controversial humorous texts, evaluating controversial classification performance the same way as humor classification evaluation.

3 System Overview

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4 Approach

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[1] https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/abhinavmoudgil95/short-jokes

5 Results

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6 Discussion

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7 Conclusion

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