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Project proposal

Introduction

When I first watched the HBO television show *The White Lotus*, I was immediately drawn to the story that I completed the entire season in only two days. This was an unusual experience for me, and I knew there was something special about this show. *The White Lotus* is an American comedy-drama television series created by Mike White that premiered on HBO in 2021. The show revolves around the lives of guests and employees at a luxury hotel in Hawaii. What makes the show worthy of analysis is that unlike in most TV shows where the story revolves around one or two main characters, the story in the *The White Lotus* revolves around a group of individuals. It is hard to tell who the central character is from simply watching the show. Moreover, the series has received critical acclaim for its portrayal of complex characters, sharp dialogue, and satirical take on class, race, and privilege.

Objective

The objective of this project is to perform network analysis of characters in *The White Lotus* to identify the most important characters using the degree, closeness, and betweenness centralities. Additionally, I shall analyze the evolution of the characters' importance from episode to episode. I will also attempt to use natural language processing (NLP) to determine the topics covered in the conversations between characters.

Methodology

To begin with, I will collect data on the characters' interactions from the transcript of each episode of the show. After which I will create a network graph using Python's NetworkX library to represent the interactions between characters. Then I will calculate degree centrality to identify the most connected characters in the network. To determine the most influential characters in the network, I will use closeness and betweenness centralities.

A comparison of the network analysis for each episode will allow me to analyze the evolution of the characters' importance. This will subsequently allow me to identify the characters whose importance increases or decreases over the course of the show.

Finally, I will use NLP techniques to determine the topics covered in the conversations between characters. To achieve this, I will extract the text of the conversations between characters from the transcripts of the show. Then perform topic modeling using Python's Gensim or SpaCy libraries to identify the main topics covered in the conversations.

Expected outcomes

1. The following are the outcomes I expect from the project:
2. Identification of the most important characters in *The White Lotus* using network analysis techniques.
3. Analysis of the evolution of the characters' importance from episode to episode.
4. Determination of the topics covered in the conversations between characters using NLP techniques.
5. Some insights into the relationships and dynamics between characters in the show.

Conclusion

I believe performing network analysis and NLP on *The White Lotus* will provide valuable insights into the show's characters and their relationships. This project will contribute to our understanding of the show's themes and its portrayal of complex characters. And maybe the results of this project can be used to inform further research on the show and its impact on popular culture.