

Engagement

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Getting People to Engage

A Look At Reddit Posts

Christopher Messier

General Assembly

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What is Reddit?

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Reddit is a large link sharing website

- "The front page of the internet"
- Types of posts
 - Content - links, pictures, videos, articles
 - Self Posts - text posts by the user
- Users share links with communities known as subreddits

Graph of Subreddits by User Cross Posting

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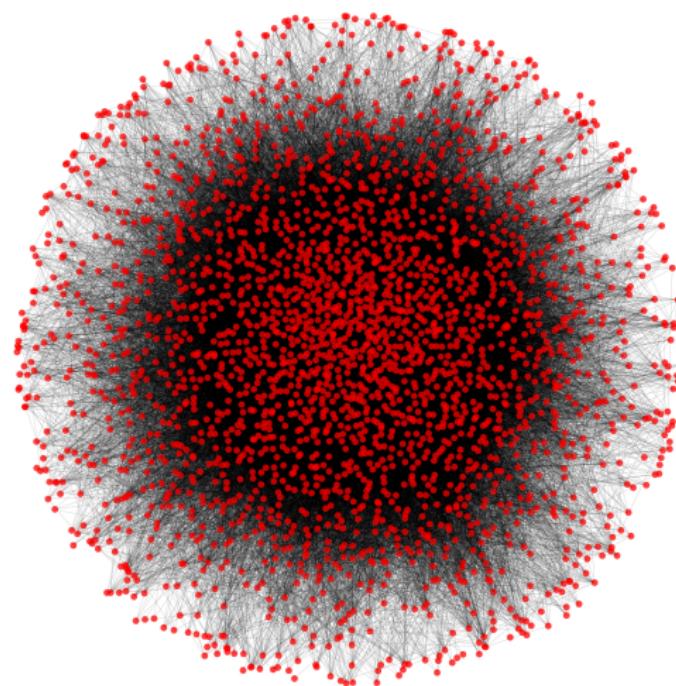
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Measuring Engagement

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High engagement posts will be defined as:

- Posts that have the top 10% most comments
- Binary Classification
 - High Engagement = 1
 - Everything Else = 0
- Determined for each subreddit

Why Comments?

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Reddit has several intrinsic post metrics:

- Upvotes/Downvotes
 - Count of other users choice to like or dislike a post
- Rank
 - The page position of a post, determined by its popularity
 - Comments capture active engagement with the site, interaction

Data Collection

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Data was collected during the week of 10/30/2017

- 2,923 subreddits
- 1,049,005 users
- 2,590,769 unique posts
- 42,374,242 comments

Data Collection (cont.)

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Collected using a proprietary python web scraper

- Attempted to get the most representative sample possible
- Used `r/random` to generate a random sample of subreddits
- Captured up to 2,000 most recent posts per subreddit

Omitted Data

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The following data was removed/omitted:

- Duplicate posts
- Posts from bots, such as AutoModerator
- Non-english/non-ascii posts
- Adult Material

Omitted Data (cont.)

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Analysis was performed on a subsample, $n= 362,658$:

- Computational Reasons
 - Limited time
 - Limited processing power
 - Effect on model selection

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TFIDF Vectorization of the title

- Text Frequency
- Inverse Document Frequency
- Approx. 2,538 word vectors

Sentiment Analysis

- Attempts to determine sentiment of titles from content

Modeling was performed using the python package Scikit-Learn

Models used include:

- Decision Trees
- k -Nearest Neighbors
- Random Forest

Scoring

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Models are evaluated using the following metrics:

- Precision:

$$P = \frac{T_p}{T_p + F_p} \quad (1)$$

- Recall:

$$R = \frac{T_p}{T_p + F_n} \quad (2)$$

- F1:

$$F1 = \frac{2(P \times R)}{P + R} \quad (3)$$

Measuring the effects of the content of a post

- Used a decision tree model
 - Minutes since posting
 - Whether it's a question
 - Features outside content
 - Has an emoji in the title

Content Decision Tree Results

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Content Decision Tree Results

	Predicted True	Predicted False
True	89122	9352
False	9352	972

- Precision: 0.83
- Recall: 0.83
- F1: 0.83

Measuring the sentiment of a post's title, using nltk

- Used a decision tree model
 - Positive
 - Negative
 - Neutral scores

Sentiment Decision Tree Results

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Confusion Matrix

	Predicted True	Predicted False
True	98334	140
False	10308	16

- Precision: 0.83
- Recall: 0.90
- F1: 0.86

k-Nearest Neighbors

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Measuring the sentiment of the post title

- Full complement of features
- Lazy model
 - Computationally Inefficient
 - Keeps all observations in memory

k-Nearest Neighbors Results

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Confusion Matrix:

	Predicted True	Predicted False
True	97912	562
False	9927	397

- Precision: 0.86
- Recall: 0.90
- F1: 0.87

Measuring the sentiment of the post title

- Full complement of features
- Computationally Brilliant
 - Distributable
 - Efficient
 - *Accurate*

Random Forest Results

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Confusion Matrix:

	Predicted True	Predicted False
True	96340	2134
False	8382	1942

- Precision: 0.88
- Recall: 0.90
- F1: 0.88

As our ability to analyze and gain understandings from data grows, it leads us to some difficult problems

- Accuracy vs. Interpretability
- Difficulty distilling information into general consumption
- The article should be aimed at highlighting this gap, and help readers understand these difficulties

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Thank You