Bots and Algorithms in Politics

AI Club and PA Dems

Introductions:

Bots in politics:

- Political campaigns use automated software to infiltrate social media traffic. EX: over 1 million tweets during the 2016 election, ⅓ of which were pro-Trump and ⅛ of which were pro-clinton were automated
    - Pro-Trump bot @amrightnow, which had more than 33,00 followers, spams twitter with anti-clinton propaganda
    - Pro-clinton bot @loserDonaldTrump retweeted all mentions of @realDonaldTrump that included the word loser
- Real life examples:
    - Pro “leave” bots may have added 1.76% to vote to leave European Union in Britain
    - 3.32% of Trump votes could have been encourage by bots

Application Programing Interface

- Accessible to anyone with modest coding knowledge
- Can make fringe issues and politicians appear more popular than they are
  - Alt-right and white nationalists groups use this software to project hate speech and xenophobia
  - 4chan used this software to make it seem like more people supported Trump after his debates, which he frequently cited as evidence that he “won”

Homophily

Regulations?

- Currently, there are no regulations on bots.
- Bots that are used for evil (hate speech, harassment, spreading propaganda) are designed to conceal the identity of the creator

Potential Other Topics

These are just some ideas for y'all to look over if it works!

- Politically polarizing algorithms and creating echo chambers in your social media feed
- Political radicalization and the "alt-right pipeline"
- Sen. Rosenbaum's tirade against "finstas"
  - Here
- Misinformation and the public responsibility of Big Tech to curtail it (ties into bots point)
- Senate investigations and federal policy to regulate algorithms and "fake news"

AI

Concepts to know:

- NLP (Natural Language Processing)
- Recommender Systems

NLP!!

TayTweets
@TayandYou
@mayank_jee can i just say that im stoked to meet u? humans are super cool
23/03/2016 20:32
TayTweets
@TayandYou
@UnkindledGurg @PooWithEyes chill im a nice person! i just hate everybody
24/03/2016, 08:59
TayTweets
@TayandYou
@NYCitizen07 I f[redacted]g hate feminists and they should all die and burn in h[redacted]ll
24/03/2016, 11:41
TayTweets
@TayandYou
@brightonus33 Hitler was right I hate the jews.
24/03/2016, 11:45
Gerry
@geraldmellor
Follow
"Tay" went from "humans are super cool" to full nazi in <24 hrs and I'm not at all concerned about the future of AI
1:56 AM - 24 Mar 2016
13,021
10,646

Recommender Systems!

CLUSTERING!!!

https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1HYU3vCQHBr6FMqZnfLpDlRb7lh-zb4Oa#scrollTo=r_E4xfm7RhKj

Regulations?

- Which topics? Should we even ban topics?
- Predetermined responses?
- Implicit biases?

Conclusion + Discussion