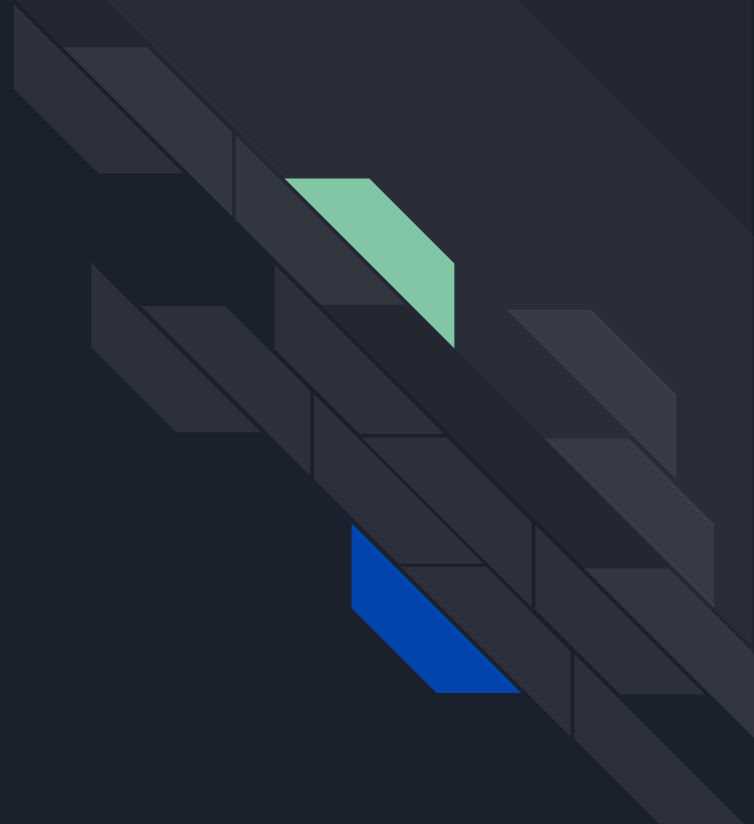




# Bots and Algorithms in Politics

AI Club and PA Dems

Introductions:





# Bots in politics:

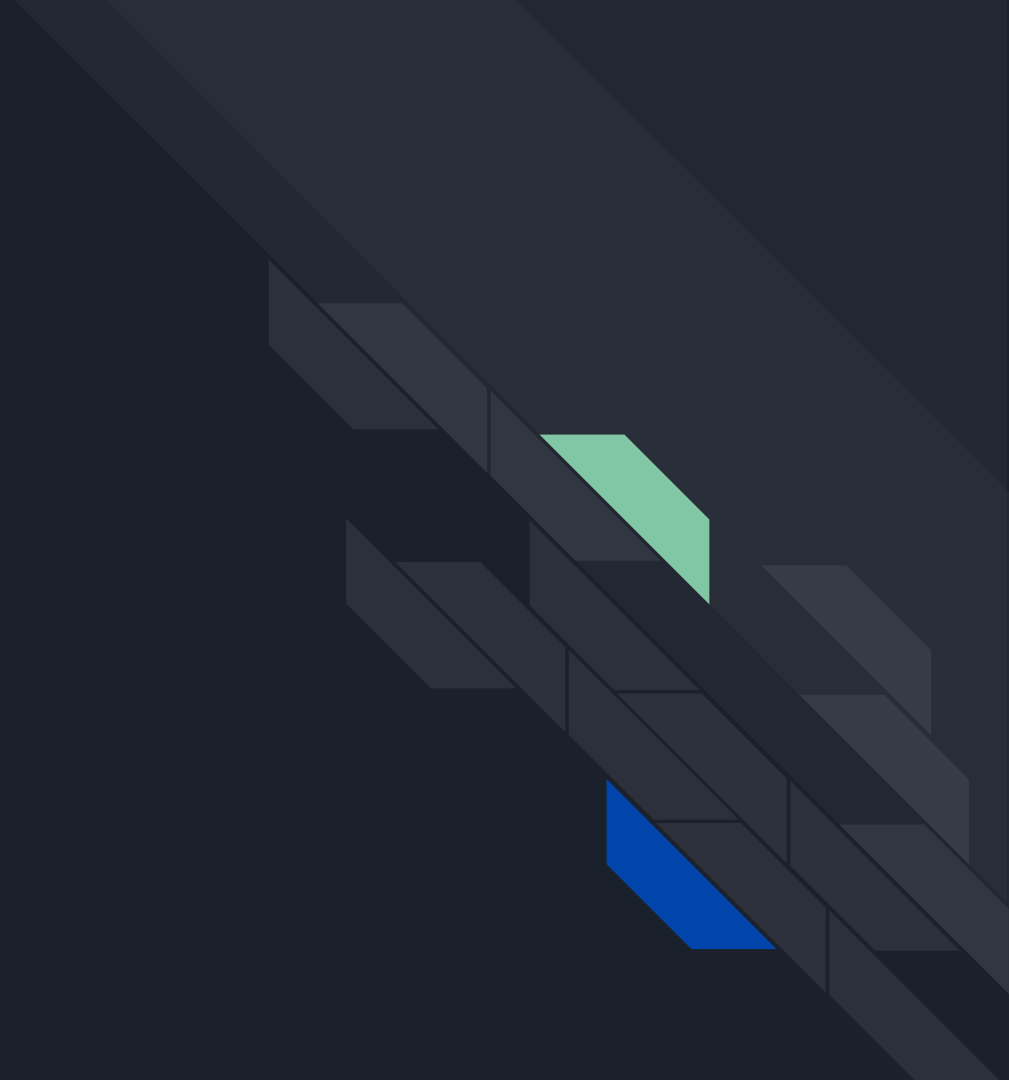
- Political campaigns use automated software to infiltrate social media traffic. EX: over 1 million tweets during the 2016 election,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of which were pro-Trump and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of which were pro-clinton were automated
  - Pro-Trump bot @amrightnow, which had more than 33,00 followers, 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\_jeer 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 hell.

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](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