PPA11

Unmasking U.S. Political Fake News 2019to 2024: Topic, Sentiment, and Detection

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Abstract

In today's highly polarized media landscape, political news coverage of figures such as Joe Biden, Donald Trump, and Kamala Harris is crucial in shaping public opinion and political discourse. With the rapid proliferation of news content across various platforms, understanding the underlying themes, sentiments, and biases in political reporting has become increasingly important. This study leverages natural language processing techniques to analyze U.S. political news claims from various platforms, using data scraped from Google's Fact Check Tool. By applying topic modeling, sentiment analysis, and time-series analysis, we reveal shifts in dominant topics over time and their connections to key political events, highlighting unique patterns in each political figure's representation. Our findings show a higher prevalence of negative sentiment in false and misleading claims, contributing to bias in political reporting. Additionally, we develop classification models that predict claims based on the topic and sentiment features, providing another approach to detecting misinformation in political news.

Conference Track

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