Data Science For Social Good

Statistics Without Borders

Who is Statistics Without Borders?

Statistics Without Borders Helps UNICEF

1 JULY 2016 809 VIEWS NO COMMENT

Stephanie Eckman, Monica Dashen, Aliou Diouf Mballo, and Robert Johnston

Experts Leverage Statistical Methods to Investigate Human Trafficking

Use of GPS-Enabled Mobile Devices to Conduct Health Surveys: Child Mortality in Sierra Leone Our Work

Columns, Here's to Your Health

Haiti after the earthquake Statistics Without Borders

When a major disaster strikes, urgent needs may be food, water, shelter, medicines – and data. Unless you know the numbers of people involved and how their lives have been affected, giving efficient help is impossible. Statistics Without Borders tries to provide the data. The team that worked on a project in Haiti describe one effort.





COVID-19







According to OMNICORE (2020):
> 330 million active Twitter users
> 500 million tweets are posted per day
71% of users say they use Twitter to get their news (Pew Research Center, 2019)

Twitter. It's what's happenin

Client Organization: Montgomery County, Community Emergency Response Team

MCCERT asked SWB to try this methodology in an independent geographic area around Palo Alto, California

Steve Peterson

- Virtual Emergency Response Team
- Steve developed a framework (Peterson et al., 2019) to utilize Twitter data to inform emergency response in the National Capital Region using George Mason University's streaming analytics system, Citizen Helper.









3-Month Project

8 SWB Volunteers

Julia Reid, PCMKeri WheatleyHeli VoraSatyajeet PradhanRachel DoehrQingyuan WangHarshit SharmaLena Lickteig, DQA

Collaboration by video, email, phone, text, and chat





Objective: Gather tweets and sort by relevance to COVID-19 Specific locations of interest Specific terms of interest Keywords associated with: Prevention, Symptoms, etc.

Twitter. It's what's happen





The Process Establish a flow of targeted tweets Web scraping and data engineering

Twitter. It's what's happen





The Process

Twitter. It's what's happen

- Establish methods for predicting the relevance of Tweets for emergency response
 - Data wrangling, conditional statements
 - Natural Language Processing, Pre-processing
 - Modeling Approaches: Supervised, Unsupervised



Tweet

This stresses me out. Why? Because my clinic has a shortage of supplies as well. We also had to lock up supplies because people are stealing them. PPE like gloves & masks are vital! #seattlecovid19

· Mar 13

A hospital in Seattle area has sent out a note to staff, shared with me, suspending elective surgery and warning that "our local COVID-19 trajectory is likely to be similar to that of Northern Italy." The hospital is down to a four-day supply of gloves.

6:46 PM · Mar 13, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone





Case 1: Exact Matches





















Example of Methods and Models Applied

- Word Embeddings: TF-IDF, Word2vec, GLOVE, fastText
- Unsupervised Learning: K-Means Clustering, DBSCAN, Latent Dirichlet Allocation (Topic Modeling)
- Upsampling the minority class: SMOTE
- Transfer Learning: MERS \rightarrow COVID-19
- Supervised Learning:
 - Naive Bayes, Logistic Regression, GLMNET, Support Vector Machines, ULMFIT, and XGBOOST,





Deliverables to MMCERT

- Data acquisition pipeline
- Text preprocessing scripts
- Auditable model pipelines
- A collection of tweets over the course of the beginning of widespread awareness of the COVID-19 epidemic with emergency response relevance predictions



Data Science For Social Good

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JHU Public Dashboard vs. Using JHU Data (2020-3-8)









ML/AI predictions are probabilistic.

Machine Learning Interpretability (MLI)

More complex models take more work to explain, but may no longer be "black boxes".

Input
$$\rightarrow$$
 BLACK BOX \rightarrow Output



Machine Learning Interpretability (MLI)

- Goal 1a: Task Performance
- Goal 1b: Understand the model (what's driving predictions?)
- Goal 1c: Privacy, Fairness, and Provide the Right to Explanation
- Tools that help:
- Global Variable Importance
 - What is the weighting of variable contributions to predictions, on average?
 - In NLP: Which words in which contexts contribute most to positive predictions?
- Local Variable Importance
 - What is the weighting of variable contributions to specific observations?
- Surrogate Decision Trees
 - Share a model of the prediction rules by outcome class

Machine Learning Interpretability (MLI)

- Sensitivity Analysis

- Vary the inputs; make small changes
- How does this influence predictions?
- What small changes would "push observations (or people) over the threshold"?
- This may inform subsequent iterations in data collection

Fairness

"...unfairness and discrimination are pervasive when decisions are being made by humans, which, unfortunately, are not automatically solved, and can even be amplified, when machines are put in control." - Zhang and Bareinboim (2017)
 "Fairness in machine learning is an emerging topic with the overarching aim to critically assess algorithms (predictive and classification models) whether their results reinforce existing social biases." - Kozodoi and Varga (2020)

General Approaches

- Disparate Impact Analysis
 - ex) Accuracy Parity... [performance metric] by group relative to the reference group
- Root Cause Analysis
 - Do we know whether protected features influenced the prediction?

Now that we understand a model, do we trust

it?

- What features did our ML or AI learn from?
 - Which of these features should it have learned from?
 - Which of these features **shouldn't** be learned from? 35.20.00
- Is this a model for social good?
 - Who does the model serve?
 - Who **doesn't** the model serve?



Ultimately, our goal is to do data science for social good.

This is why solving problems in ways that we can explain and trust is essential.

SWB Team Julia Reid, PCM **Keri Wheatley** Heli Vora Satyajeet Pradhan **Rachel Doehr Qingyuan Wang** Harshit Sharma Lena Lickteig, DQA