# Analyzing #POTUS Sentiment on Twitter to Predict Public Opinion on Presidential Issues

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# **Project Description**

 Goal: predict public opinion on a presidential policy by searching for sentiment patterns in past tweets using #POTUS.

 Purpose: analyze twitter data with the Naïve Bayes model and search for patterns in keywords and the associated sentiment.

 Related work: Predict popular trends in the #metoo movement & a study that identified sentiment using the presence of emojis

## ML methods

#### Naive Bayes:

- A naive Bayes classifier is an algorithm that uses Bayes' theorem to classify objects.
- Naive Bayes classifiers assume strong, or naive, independence between attributes of data points.

#### One-Hot Encoding:

 A one hot encoding is a representation of categorical variables as binary vectors.

#### Support Vector Machines:

supervised learning models that analyze data used for classification and regression analysis.

 an SVM training algorithm builds a model that assigns new examples to one category or the other, making it a non-probabilistic binary linear classifier

# Collecting the data

- We used a Twython query with parameters:
  - a. Searching for #POTUS
  - b. Switch between mixed and recent results
  - c. 100 tweets at a time
  - d. Tweets in english
- Preprocessed the tweets to be used nicer
- 3. One-hot encoded data into dictionary of id, classes, and sentiment
- 4. Wrote dictionary to csv file without label and id for calculating

# One hot encoding

- Presence of keyword marked as 1, while not present is 0
- Positive sentiment is 1, negative is 0

# Example table

ID	Trump	Obama	#BackfireTump	2020	Mueller	Impeach	#Democrats	Russia	Sentiment
6	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
34	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

# Organized data for Naive bayes algorithm

- Due to the nature of writing a dictionary to a csv file, the data was needed by column, not rows
- We solved this issues by creating a list of lists that formatted the data column-by-column to a row each
- This transformation can be exemplified as the data being converted from the one-hot encoding slide to last slide's table

# Naive Bayes Algorithm

- Simple and effective classification algorithm
- Supervised learning
- Popular uses include: spam filters, text analysis and medical diagnosis.
- Assumes that the probability of each attribute belonging to a given class value is independent of all other attributes
- Calculates the probability of each instance of each class and selects the highest probability

# Naive Bayes math

$$P(x_i \mid y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_y^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_i - \mu_y)^2}{2\sigma_y^2}\right)$$

# The process of Naive Bayes

#### Before the prediction:

- Preprocess the data into the table format from earlier
- 2. Split the data set with 67% for training set and 33% for test set
- Separate data by classes to calculate the statistics for each class
- 4. Calculate the mean
- 5. Calculate the standard deviation
- 6. Collect the values

#### Prediction:

- Calculate probabilities using the equation on last slide
- Summarize all the probabilities for each class
- 3. Make a prediction based on the best probability
- Test the probabilities with the actual values
- 5. Get the accuracy as a percentage

# 67.55%

Accuracy

## **Data Limitations**

- Twitter API plan:(free)
  - a. 100 tweets/request
  - b. 30 requests/min
  - c. 256 characters
  - d. Last 30 days
- 2. Very bad misspellings
  - a. Ex: Muler != Mueller
- 3. Lack of bigrams
- 4. Does not detect sarcasm



#### Solved Limitations:

Variations: search first half of class word

Punctuation: replaced punctuation with nothing(Ex: '')

3. Capitalization: .lower() method

# Our Greatest Limitation

Sarcasm!

- Yes, sarcasm is a big problem in our algorithm.
- However, there is not a good way of detecting sarcasm as people aren't even that good at it
- One way is to identify positive and negative words in one string, but it is not very effective
- Research is ongoing with CNNs

## **Future Work**

- Find most optimized algorithm between Naive Bayes and SVM
  - SVM proved faster in a similar sentiment analysis project

- Bernoulli Naive Bayes
  - Now that we dropped the neutral sentiment, the data is now binary
  - Improves accuracy in the assumption that data is binary

- Bigrams
  - Provides better context to the sentiment

# **SVMs**

- Supervised Learning
- Can be used for both regression and classification but is used mainly for classification
- Objective is to find a hyperplane in an N-dimensional space that distinctly classifies the data points. (N - the number of features)

# Pros and Cons of SVM

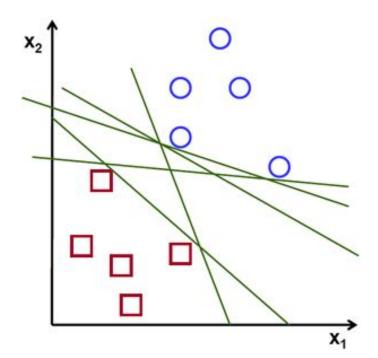
#### **Pros**

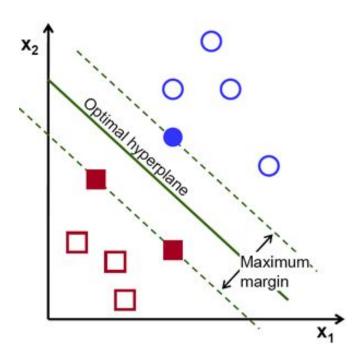
Accuracy

Works well on smaller cleaner datasets
It can be more efficient because it uses a subset of training points

#### Cons

Isn't suited to larger datasets as the training time with SVMs can be high Less effective on noisier datasets with overlapping classes





# **FAQ**

- 1. How can we improve the accuracy?
  - a. Due to the new nature of our one-hot encoded data, a Bernoulli Naive Bayes implementation would work better
- 2. Why weren't bigrams implemented?
  - We had problems implementing them as it complicated data formatting and we wanted to make sure we could implement individual keywords first
- 3. Why didn't we upgrade our Twitter API plan?
  - a. Because its \$149 and we're broke
- 4. How can we handle sarcasm?
  - Addressed in slide 14, but CNN models are pre-trained and used to extract sentiment, emotion, and personality features which captures the context of information
- 5. What will be done between now and the report?
  - a. Finish implementing the SVM algorithm and compare time and accuracies

### References

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https://github.com/ryanmcgrath/twython

# Questions?