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TRACKING HEALTH TRENDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA OVER TIME

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Abstract:

Social media has become a major source for analyzing all aspects of daily life. Thanks to dedicated latent topic analysis methods such as the Ailment Topic Aspect Model (ATAM), public health can now be observed on Twitter. In this work, we are interested in using social media to monitor people's health over time. The use of tweets has several benefits including instantaneous data availability at virtually no cost. Early monitoring of health data is complementary to post-factum studies and enables a range of applications such as measuring behavioral risk factors and triggering health campaigns. We formulate two problems: health transition detection and health transition prediction. We first propose the Temporal Ailment Topic Aspect Model (TM-ATAM), a new latent model dedicated to solving the first problem by capturing transitions that involve health-related topics. TM-ATAM is a non-obvious extension to ATAM that was designed to extract health-related topics. It learns health-related topic transitions by minimizing the prediction error on topic distributions between consecutive posts at different time and geographic granularities. To solve the second problem, we develop T-ATAM, a Temporal Ailment Topic Aspect Model where time is treated as a random variable natively inside ATAM. Our experiments on an 8-month corpus of tweets show that TM-ATAM outperforms TM-LDA in estimating health-related transitions from tweets for different geographic populations. We examine the ability of TM-ATAM to detect transitions due to climate conditions in different geographic regions. We then show how T-ATAM can be used to predict the most important transition and additionally compare T-ATAM with CDC (Center for Disease Control) data and Google Flu Trends.

1. INTRODUCTION

Social media has become a major source of information for analyzing all aspects of daily life. In particular, Twitter is used for public health monitoring to extract early indicators of the well-being of

populations in different geographic regions[1]. Twitter has become a major source of data for early monitoring and prediction in areas such as health, disaster management and politics[2]. In the health domain, the ability to model transitions for ailments and detect statements like "people talk about smoking and cigarettes before talking about respiratory problems", or "people talk about headaches and stomach ache in any order", benefits syndromic surveillance and helps measure behavioral risk factors and trigger public health campaigns. In this paper, we formulate two problems: the health transition detection problem and the health transition prediction problem. To address the detection problem, we develop TM–ATAM[3] that models temporal transitions of health-related topics. To address the prediction problem, we propose T–ATAM, a novel method[4] which uncovers latent ailment inside tweets by treating time as a random variable natively inside ATAM. Treating time as a random variable is key to predicting the subtle change in health-related discourse on Twitter.

Common ailments are traditionally monitored by collecting data from health-care facilities, a process known as sentinel surveillance. Such resources limit surveillance, most especially for real-time feedback[5]. For this reason, the Web has become a source of syndromic surveillance, operating on a wider scale, near real time and at virtually no cost. Our challenges are: (i) identify health-related tweets, (ii)determine when health-related discussions on Twitter transitions from one topic to another, (iii) capture different such transitions for different geographic regions. Indeed, in addition to evolving over time, ailment distributions also evolve in space[6].

Therefore, to attain effectiveness, we must carefully model two key granularities, temporal and geographic. A temporal granularity that is too-fine may result in sparse and spurious transitions whereas a too-coarse one could miss valuable ailment transitions[7]. Similarly, a too-fine geographic granularity may produce false positives and a too-coarse one may miss meaningful transitions, e.g., when it concerns users living in different climates. For example, discussions on allergy break at different periods in different states in the USA. Therefore, processing all tweets originating from the USA together will miss climate variations that affect people's health. We argue for the need to consider different time granularities for different regions and we wish to identify and model the evolution of ailment distributions between different temporal granularities[8].

While several latent topic modeling methods such as Probabilistic Latent Semantic Indexing (pLSI) and Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA), have been proposed to effectively cluster and classify general-purpose text, ithas been shown that dedicated methods such as the Ailment Topic Aspect Model (ATAM) are better suited for capturing ailments in Twitter. ATAM extends LDA to model how users express ailments in tweets. It assumes that each health-related tweet reflects a latent ailment such as flu and allergies. Similar to a topic, an ailment indexes a word distribution. ATAM also maintains a distribution over symptoms and treatments. This level of detail provides a more accurate model for latent ailments.

On the other hand, while pLSI and LDA have been shown to perform well on static documents, they cannot intrinsically capture topic evolution over time. Temporal-LDA (TM–LDA) was proposed as an extension to LDA formining topics from tweets over time. To address the health transition detection problem, we propose TM–ATAM that combines ATAM and TM–LDA[9]. A preliminary version of TM–ATAM was

described in a short paper. We show here that it is able to capture transitions of health-related discussions in different regions (see Figure 1). As a result, the early detection of a change in discourse in Nevada, USA into allergies can trigger appropriate campaigns[10].

In each geographic region, TM–ATAM learns transition parameters that dictate the evolution of healthrelated topics by minimizing the prediction error on ailment distributions of consecutive pre-specified periods of time. Our second problem[11], the health transition prediction problem, is to automatically determine those periods. We hence propose T–ATAM, a different and new model that treats time as a random variable in the generative model. T–ATAM discovers latent ailments in health tweets by treating time as a variable whose values are drawn from a corpus-specific multinomial distribution[12]. Just like TM–LDA, TM–ATAM and T–ATAM are different from dynamic topic models, as they are designed to learn topic transition patterns from temporally-ordered posts, while dynamic topic models focus on changing word distributions of topics over time.

Our experiments on a corpus of more than 500K health related tweets collected over an 8-month period, show that TM–ATAM outperforms TM–LDA in estimating temporal topic transitions of different geographic populations. Our results can be classified in two kinds of transitions. Stable topics are those where a health-related topic is mentioned continuously[13]. One-Way transitions cover the case where some topics are discussed after others. For example, our study of tweets from California revealed many stable topics such as headaches and migraines. On the other hand, tweeting about smoking, drugs and cigarettes is followed by tweeting about respiratory ailments.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Tracking health trends on social media over time is a dynamic and evolving area of research that involves monitoring and analyzing the changing landscape of health-related discussions and behaviors online[14]. This literature survey aims to explore the various dimensions of this topic by identifying relevant studies that investigate patterns, impacts, and methodologies related to health trends on popular social media platforms. Key objectives include understanding how health topics gain traction, examining the spread of health information, and assessing the effectiveness of digital health campaigns[15]. By leveraging academic databases, key journals, and citation tracking, this survey will provide a comprehensive overview of the methodologies[16] and findings in this field. Additionally, it will highlight gaps in current research and suggest areas for further exploration, such as the role of influencers, sentiment analysis of health discourse, and the use of machine learning for trend prediction[17]. Ultimately, this literature review will inform the development of strategies and tools for tracking and responding to health trends in real-time using social media data[18].

3.PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the existing system, the authors propose a method that learns changing word distributions of topics over time and in the system, the authors leverage the structure of a social network to learn

how topics temporally evolve in a community[19]. TM-ATAM and T-ATAM are however different from dynamic topic models such as, and from the work of Wang as they are designed to learn topic transition patterns from temporally-ordered posts, while dynamic topic models focus on changing word distributions of topics over time.

TM-ATAM learns transition parameters that dictate the evolution of health-related topics by minimizing the prediction error on ailment distributions of consecutive periods at different temporal and geographic granularities. T-ATAM on the other hand discovers latent ailments in health tweets by treating time as a corpus-specific multinomial distribution[20].

4. PROPOSED SYSTEM

In the proposed system, the system formulates and solves two problems: the health transition detection problem and the health transition prediction problem. To address the detection problem, the system develops TM–ATAM that models temporal transitions of health-related topics. To address the prediction problem, we propose T–ATAM, a novel method which uncovers latent ailment inside tweets by treating time as a random variable natively inside ATAM[21].

Treating time as a random variable is key to predicting the subtle change in health-related discourse on Twitter.

5. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE





6. IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Admin

In this module, the Admin has to login by using valid user name and password. After login successful he can perform some operations such as View All Users And Authorize, View All Friend Request and Response, Add Health Filter, View All Health Tweets with Discussion Comments, Capture and View Different Health Monitoring for different geographic regions, Capture and View Different Health Monitoring Based On Disease, View Number of Same Disease in Chart, View Health Tweet Scores in Chart.

6.2 Friend Request & Response

In this module, the admin can view all the friend requests and responses. Here all the requests and responses will be displayed with their tags such as Id, requested user photo, requested user name, user name request to, status and time & date. If the user accepts the request then the status will be changed to accepted or else the status will remains as waiting.

6.3 User

In this module, there are n numbers of users are present. User should register before performing any operations. Once user registers, their details will be stored to the database. After registration successful, he has to login by using authorized user name and password. Verify finger print and Login Once Login is successful user can perform some operations like My Profile, Search Friend Track and Find Friend Request, View All My Friends, Create Your Health Tweet, View All My Health Tweets, View and Monitor All My Friends Health Tweets.

7. RESULTS/DISCUSSION



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7. CONCLUSION

We develop methods to uncover ailments over time from social media. We formulated health transition detection and prediction problems and proposed two models to solve them. Detection is addressed with TM–ATAM, a granularity-based model to conduct region-specific analysis that leads to the identification of time periods and characterizing homogeneous disease discourse, per region. Prediction is addressed with T–ATAM, that treats time natively as a random variable whose values are drawn from a multinomial distribution. The fine-grained nature of T–ATAM results insignificant improvements in modeling and predicting transitions of health-related tweets. We believe our approach is applicable to other domains with time-sensitive topics such as disaster management and national security matters.

8.FUTURE SCOPE

Assessing the future scope of tracking health trends on social media over time presents exciting possibilities and potential advancements in several key areas. Firstly, advancements in data science and machine learning algorithms will continue to enhance our ability to analyze vast amounts of social media data efficiently. This could lead to more sophisticated trend detection techniques, including predictive modeling to anticipate emerging health concerns or behaviors.

Additionally, the integration of diverse data sources beyond social media platforms, such as wearable devices and electronic health records, could enrich the context of health trend analysis. This holistic

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approach might provide deeper insights into the correlation between online discussions and real-world health outcomes. Furthermore, the future of health trend tracking on social media could benefit from increased collaboration between researchers, public health agencies, and technology companies. This collaboration could facilitate the development of standardized methodologies for data collection, analysis, and reporting, leading to more reliable and actionable insights. Ethical considerations will also shape the future direction of this field, with a focus on ensuring user privacy and data security while leveraging the potential of social media data for public health surveillance and intervention.

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