1. Motivation

Many controversial claims don’t have a single correct answer. To respond to such claims, one needs to understand the arguments with respect to the claims from different perspectives.

Take the following claim as an example, "Animal should have lawful rights." There exist many ways to respond to the claim. These responses form a spectrum of perspectives, each taking a supporting/opposing stance with respect to the claim.

2. Task Definition

Given an input claim, a system is expected to find relevant arguments, or perspectives with their stance & evidence. We break down the task into four subtasks:

- **T1**: Find all relevant perspectives to the input claim.
- **T2**: Identify the stance of each perspective.
- **T3**: Identify if two perspectives are equivalent under the same claim.
- **T4**: Extract evidence to substantiate the perspectives.

3. Dataset Collection

We collect ~1k claims, ~8k perspectives, and ~8k evidence paragraphs from:
- idebate.com
- debatewise.org
- procon.org.

For every claim, ask mturkers to label each perspective with one of the five labels: support, oppose, mildly-support, mildly-oppose, not-a-valid-perspective.

For each claim/perspective pair, we ask mturkers whether each candidate evidence paragraph provides enough support, including topics, incl. politics, culture, health, etc.

4. Challenges

There is a considerable gap between the performances of baselines and humans.

5. Baseline & Results

Always "Positive": Always predict "positive" on Stance classification task.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IR</th>
<th>(IR +) BERT</th>
<th>Human</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IR: Information Retrieval Baseline</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>50.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IR + BERT: Perspective Stance Classification</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>70.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Performance</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>83.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**T1** Relevance: 68.0

**T2** Stance: 63.7

**T3** Equivalence: 46.8

**T4** Evidence: 55.7

Overall: 17.5

There is a considerable gap between the performances of baselines and humans.

For more details & dataset download, visit: [http://cogcomp.org/perspectrum](http://cogcomp.org/perspectrum)

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