

Modeling and learning social influence from opinion dynamics under attack

Abstract:

Opinion dynamics models aim at capturing the phenomenon of social learning through public discourse. While a functioning society should converge towards common answers, the reality often is characterized by divisions and polarization. This talk reviews the key models that capture social learning and its vulnerabilities. In particular, we review models that explain the effect of bounded confidence and social pressure from zealots (i.e. fake news sources) and show how very simple models can explain the trends observed when social learning is subject to these phenomena. We then expose the trust different agents place on each other and introduce new learning algorithms that can estimate how agents influence each other.



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