A Test Collection for Research on Depression and Language use

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Abstract Several studies in the literature have shown that the words people use are indicative of their psychological states. In particular, depression was found to be associated with distinctive linguistic patterns. However, there is a lack of publicly available data for doing research on the interaction between language and depression. In this paper, we describe our first steps to fill this gap. We outline the methodology we have adopted to build and make publicly available a test collection on depression and language use. The resulting corpus includes a series of textual interactions written by different subjects. The new collection not only encourages research on differences in language between depressed and non-depressed individuals, but also on the evolution of the language use of depressed individuals. Further, we propose a novel early detection task and define a novel effectiveness measure to systematically compare early detection algorithms. This new measure takes into account both the accuracy of the decisions taken by the algorithm and the delay in detecting positive cases. We also present baseline results with novel detection methods that process users' interactions in different ways.

Palabras chave early risk, depression, evaluation, test collection

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