Outline

Part 3: Existing Resources and Benchmark Data

3.1 Existing Corpora

3.2 Debate Portals and Community Platforms
Debate Portals and Community Platforms – Overview

Slides by Henning Wachsmuth and Benno Stein

Debate portals and more

• The web as a corpus
• Relevant web resources
• Leveraging iDebate

Community platforms

• Towards a web of arguments
• Existing community platforms
• The Argument Web
The Web as a Corpus of Argumentation

Manual annotation of argumentation is particularly expensive

- Extensive training needed, crowdsourcing problematic  
  \cite{Habernal2014}
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Ground-truth labels can be acquired automatically from the web

- Controversial topics
- Argumentative texts
- Argument units and relations
- Quality assessments
Overview of Relevant Web Resources

Several debate platforms on the web

- Some give references for arguments: [debatepedia.org](http://debatepedia.org)
- Some score the current debate state: [createdebate.com](http://createdebate.com), [forandagainst.com](http://forandagainst.com)
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Other accessible web resources relevant for argumentation

- Reddit generally has controversy labels (Anifowose 2016)
- Subreddit “change my view” has persuasiveness labels (Tan et al. 2016)
- Wikipedia talk pages have support and oppose labels
- ...
Leveraging iDebate with Distant Supervision

Debatabase at [www.idebate.org](http://www.idebate.org)

- 1k+ discussions on controversies
- Discussion: Introduction, up to 6 pro and 6 con points with counterpoints
- 14 themes: Politics, education, ...

Corpus creation with distant supervision

(Al-Khatib et al. 2016)

- Introductory sentences mapped to class “non-argumentative”
- Each (counter-) point: “argumentative”
- Premise/conclusion mapping tested but turned out complex
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Corpus size and diversity beneficial for training robust classifiers

- 23,880 argumentative + 4800 non-argumentative labels for all themes
- Accessable at [www.uni-weimar.de/medien/webis/corpora](http://www.uni-weimar.de/medien/webis/corpora)
Towards a Web of Arguments

Community platforms around argumentation

- Tools to create, combine, and explore structured argument data
- Facilitate critical thinking, good arguments, rational debates, ...
- Connect the “web of arguments”
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Coverage of existing platforms

• Textual + visual argument browsers
• Argument search
• Annotation tools
• Editors for argument graphs

• Argument visualizations
• Structured discussion forums
• Corpus repositories
• Blogs on argumentation
The Argument Web

AIFdb Corpora

Structured argument data in uniform format
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AIFdb Search

Search interface for argument resources
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- Several argument web services
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Online visualization and analysis of arguments
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Arvina
Dialogue platform based on AIFdb

More at www.argumentinterchange.org
Conclusion

Many web resources with arguments already exist

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- Semi-structured discussion forums
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Web resources can be leveraged to acquire ground-truth data

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- High quality arguments and their relations
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  • Semi-structured discussion forums
  • Community platforms

Web resources can be leveraged to acquire ground-truth data
  • Controversial topics and argumentative texts
  • High quality arguments and their relations

Web resources provide extensive infrastructure
  • Tools for creation, exploration, and analysis
  • Standard representations such as AIF
  • Literature and other references
References


