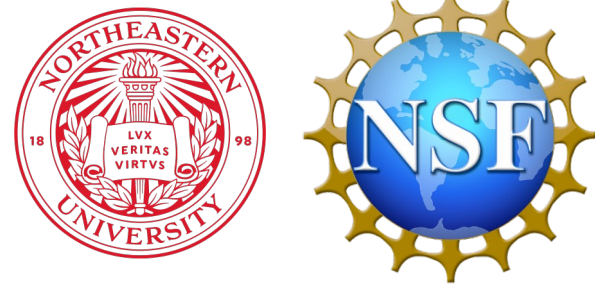# All Things Considered: Detecting Partisan Events from News Media with Cross-Article Comparison

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Background

- **How do even nonpartisan, fact-based news outlets unobtrusively bias their reporting?**

- **Partisan event coverage: choosing which events to include or exclude in news articles could sway public opinions and beliefs**

News Story: *Biden pushes for gun legislation after visiting Uvalde.*

The Washington Post (left):
E1: [Jaydien]$_{ARG0}$, ..., [said]$_{pred}$ [he asked the president: "Could you please make our schools safer and send more police, please?"]$_{ARG1}$
E2: [Biden]$_{ARG0}$ ... [noting]$_{pred}$: "[You couldn't buy a cannon when the Second Amendment was passed]$_{ARG1}$."
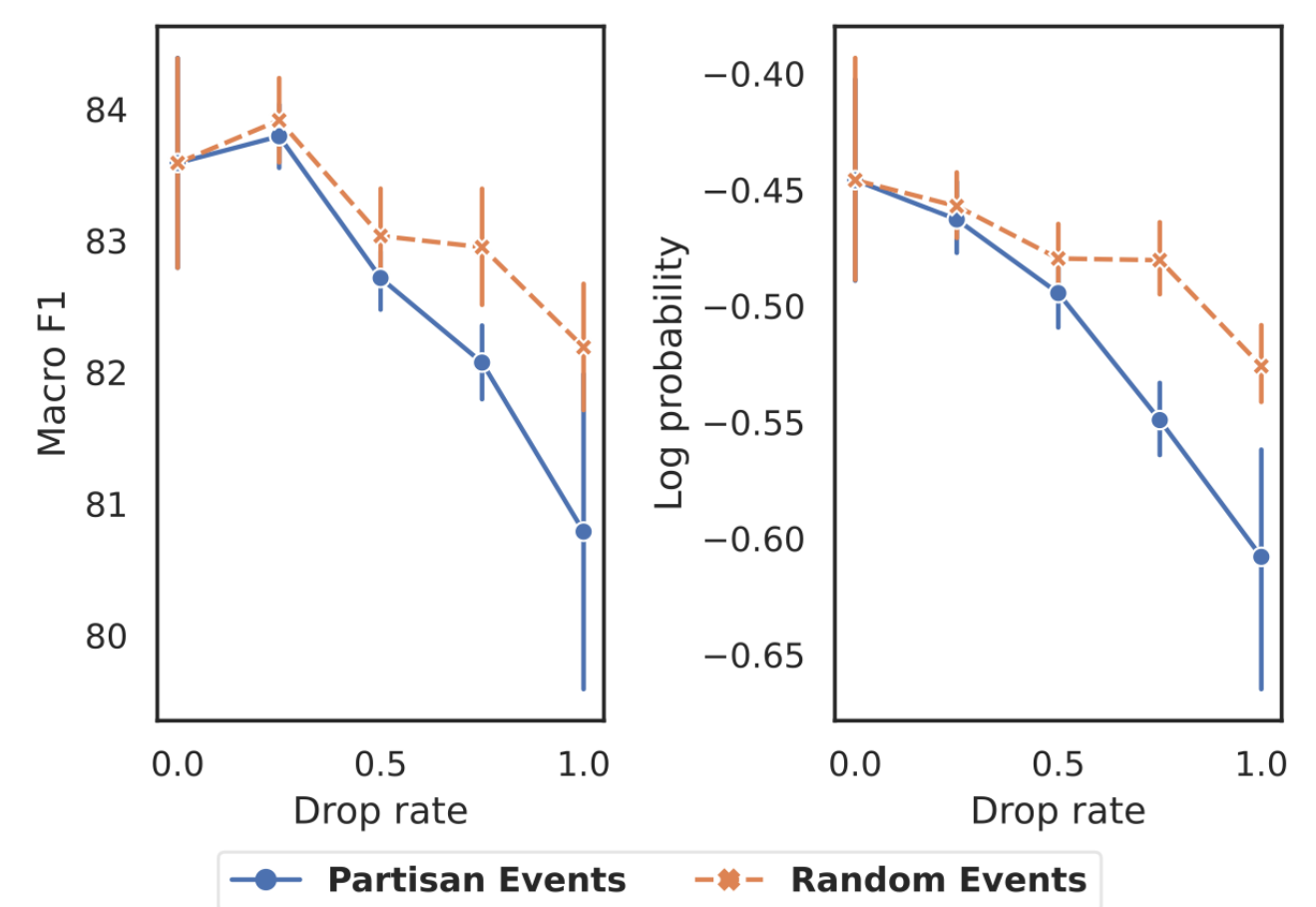
New York Post (right):
E1: [You]$_{ARG0}$ couldn't [buy]$_{pred}$ [a cannon]$_{ARG1}$ when the Second Amendment was passed.
E2: Biden has made that claim before, ..., and they have been repeatedly [declared]$_{pred}$ [false]$_{ARG1}$ [by fact-checkers]$_{ARG0}$.

Blue: events favoring left Red: events favoring right

Existence

- **What is the relation between partisan event and ideology prediction?**
- **PEvent: 50 articles that cover**
  - **Mass shooting in Texas**
  - **Overturn of *Roe v. Wade***
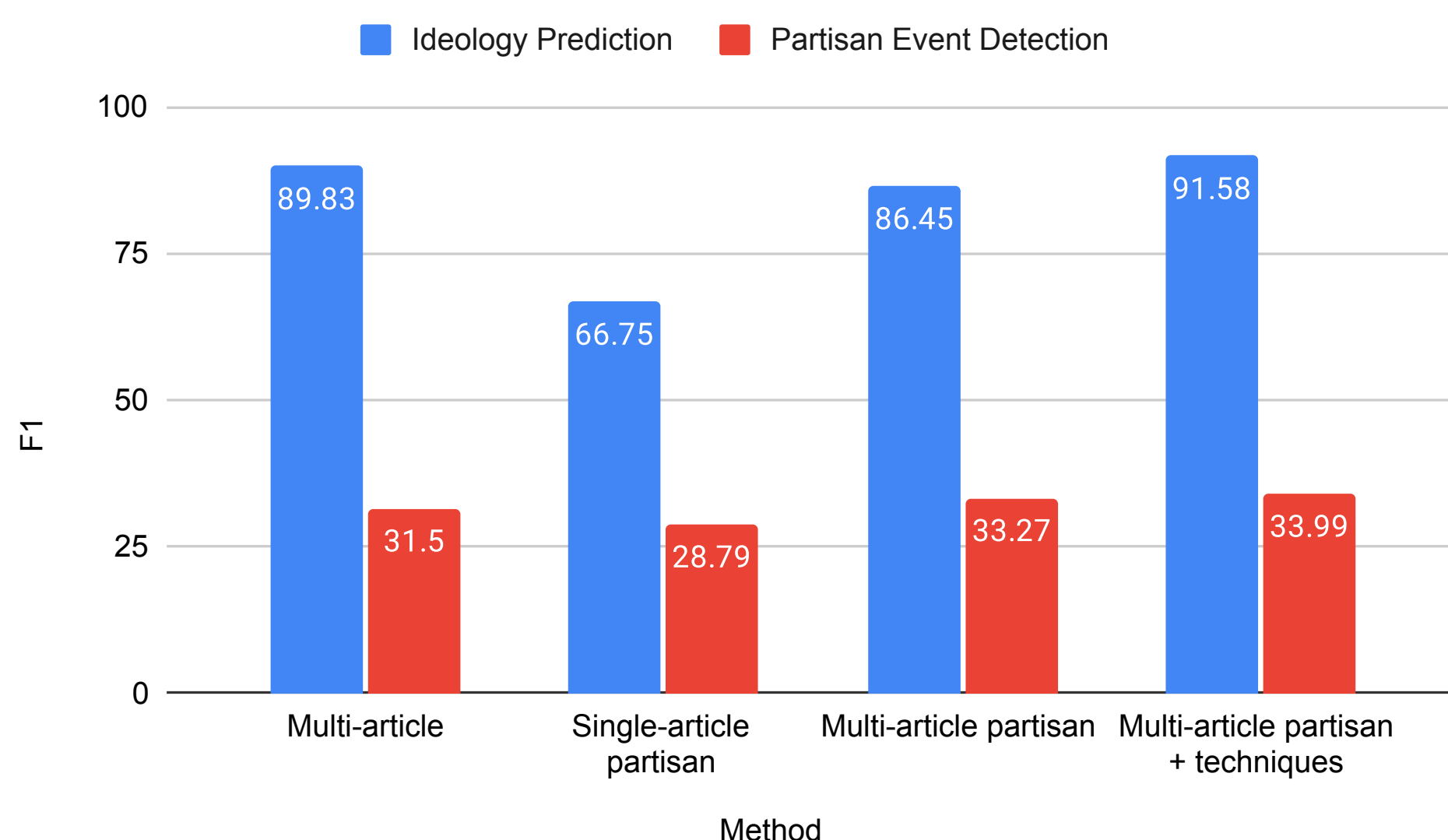- **Event-based ideology prediction**

Detection

- **How can we automatically detect partisan events without relying on large-scale supervision data?**
- **Intuition from above: partisan events should aim ideology prediction**

$$\max_{\mathcal{E}_\theta, q_\phi} \sum_{(\mathbf{x},y)\in\mathcal{D}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{m}\sim\mathcal{E}_\theta(\mathbf{x})}\left[\log q_\phi(y\mid\mathbf{m}\odot\mathbf{x})\right]$$

- **Additional design:**
  - **Prevent model from identifying common events as partisan**
  - **Equip model with political knowledge through pre-training**

Results & Analysis

- **Cross-article content comparison is important**
- **Common events are less likely to be partisan**
- **Good event modeling helps ideology prediction**

Title: At the NRA Convention, People **Blame** Mass Shootings on Everything But Guns
The nation has been plunged into despair and mourning ... in Houston, the National Rifle Association still **threw** a party ... Two messages **emerged** from the assembled throngs and the doting politicians in attendance, just 300 miles from Uvalde: 1) People must **continue** to enjoy the right to acquire any damn firearm they choose, without meddling from the state; and 2) the massacre **had** absolutely nothing–not a thing!–to do with the untrammeled commerce in guns ...

Ideology label: left   **Prediction**: left

Code: https://github.com/launchnlp/ATC
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