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Crossing the Aisle: Unveiling Partisan and Counter-Partisan Events in News Reporting

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Media Bias

- New Media plays an important role at shaping public opinions
- Often, they selectively write stories favoring their preferred stance
- Current works focus bias on
 - Token Level
 - Phrase Level
 - Sentence Level
- But what about events?



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How news media include and organize events to subtly reflect their ideology?

PAC Annotation

- **PAC**, a dataset annotated with **P**artisan and **C**ounter-partisan events
- Partisan Events: events that advance the media outlet's ideology
- Counter-Partisan Events: events that mitigate the intended bias

National Review (Right):

Texas Governor Greg Abbott **signed** a bill on Wednesday barring abortions . . . “Our creator endowed us with the right to life and yet millions of children **lose** their right to life every year because of abortion,” Abbott, a Republican, said during a bill signing ceremony. . . .

Event #1 (**sign**): pos->*Heartbeat Bill*

Event #2 (**lose**): pos->*Heartbeat Bill* neg->*abortion*

The Guardian (Left):

The Texas Republican governor Greg Abbott has **signed** into law one of the most extreme six-week abortion bans in the US, despite strong **opposition** from the medical and legal communities“This bill ensures that every unborn child who has a heartbeat will be **saved** from the ravages of abortion,” said Abbott

Event #3 (**signed**): neg->*Heartbeat Bill*

Event #4 (**opposition**): neg->*Heartbeat Bill*

Event #2 (**saved**): pos->*Heartbeat Bill* neg->*abortion*

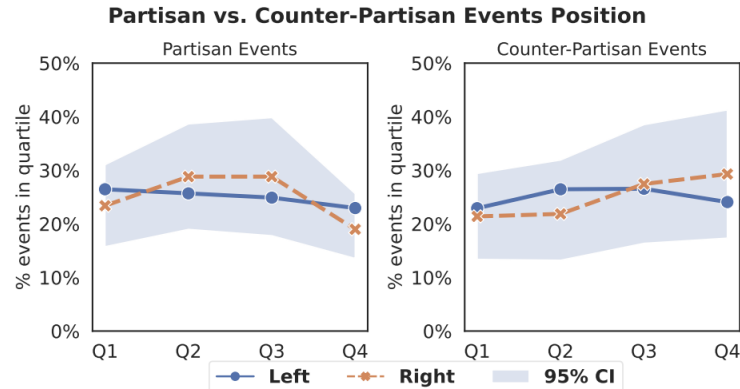
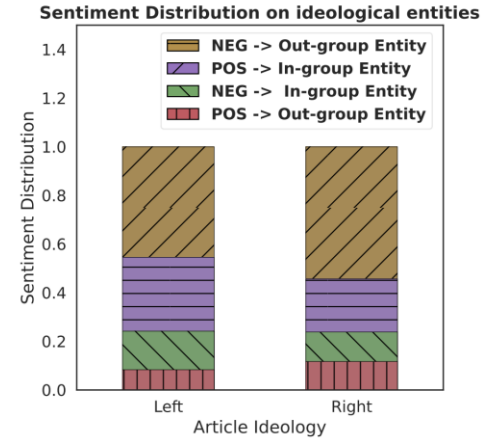
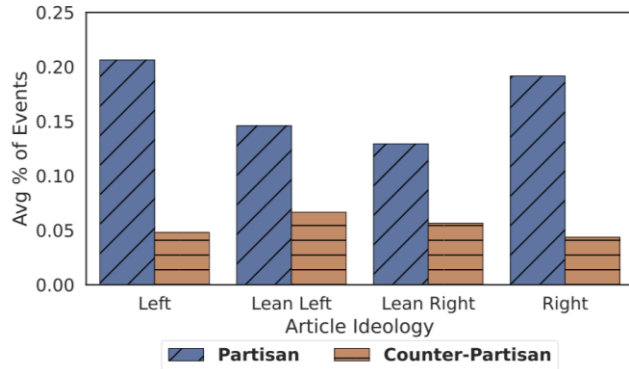
Dataset Statistics

PAC	
Stories	152
Articles	304
Partisan Events	6432
Counter-Partisan Events	2079
Time Range	2012-2023

- Stories Sampled from Allsides
- Each story contains a pair of articles and is annotated by 2+ people
- Events annotated based on entity ideology and sentiment
- Article ideology
- The Cohen's Kappa on event labels is 0.32
- Agreement on article ideologies is 90%

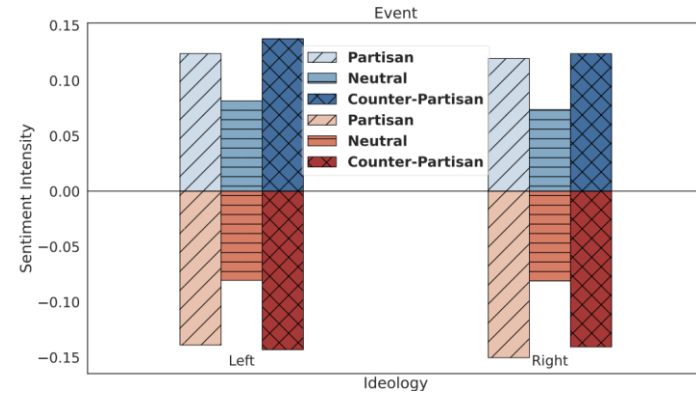
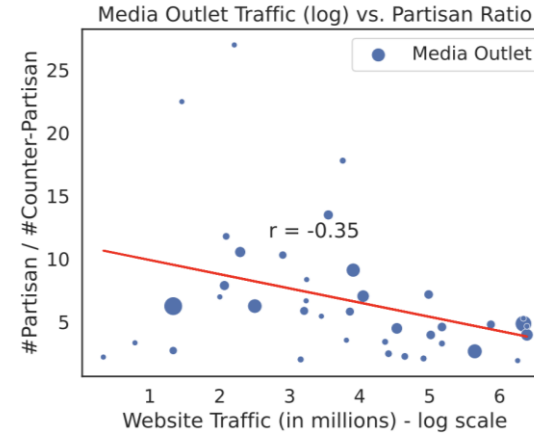
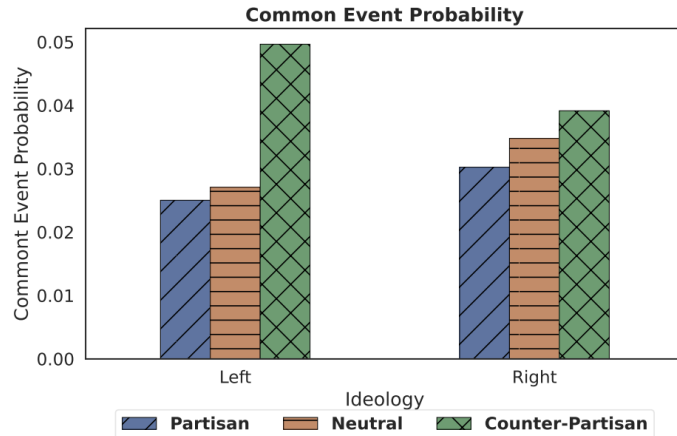
Dataset Analysis

- Partisan event selection effect
- Partisan Sentiment
- Partisan Event Replacement



Why Counter-Partisan Events

- Hypothesis 1: Newsworthiness
- Hypothesis 2: Market Breadth
- Hypothesis 3: Emotional Engagement



Experiments

- Detect Partisan and Counter-Partisan Events
- ChatGPT perform worser than RoBERTa and POLITICS

	Partisan	Counter-Partisan	Neutral	Combined
Random	24.74	7.83	67.50	33.36
RoBERTa	48.40	15.78	80.61	48.26
+joint	47.48	17.05	80.52	48.35
POLITICS	48.72	19.88	80.09	49.56
+joint	47.09	19.55	81.28	49.31
ChatGPT	31.42	9.99	71.75	37.62



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Thank you!

Dataset is available at: <https://github.com/launchnlp/Partisan-Event-Dataset>

