Evolving Polarization: Analyzing Policy Attitudes Through Survey Data

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Abstract

Political polarization has become an increasingly prominent issue across various societies. In this study, we explore the dynamics of polarization over time using survey data, focusing on individuals? attitudes toward a range of public policies. By applying random forest models, we investigate the relationship between demographic factors and policy attitudes, allowing us to understand how specific demographic segments may align with different policy positions. To enhance interpretability, we utilized partial dependent plots as visualization tools to capture the evolving trends in polarization, highlighting shifts in attitudes over time. Our findings provide insights into how polarization has developed and what factors drive these divisions, offering valuable perspectives for policymakers and researchers.

Keywords— Political polarization, Survey data analysis, Polarization index