



Investigation of Online Argumentation in Social Media Context

How are arguments fought out in cyberspace?

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Problem Statement

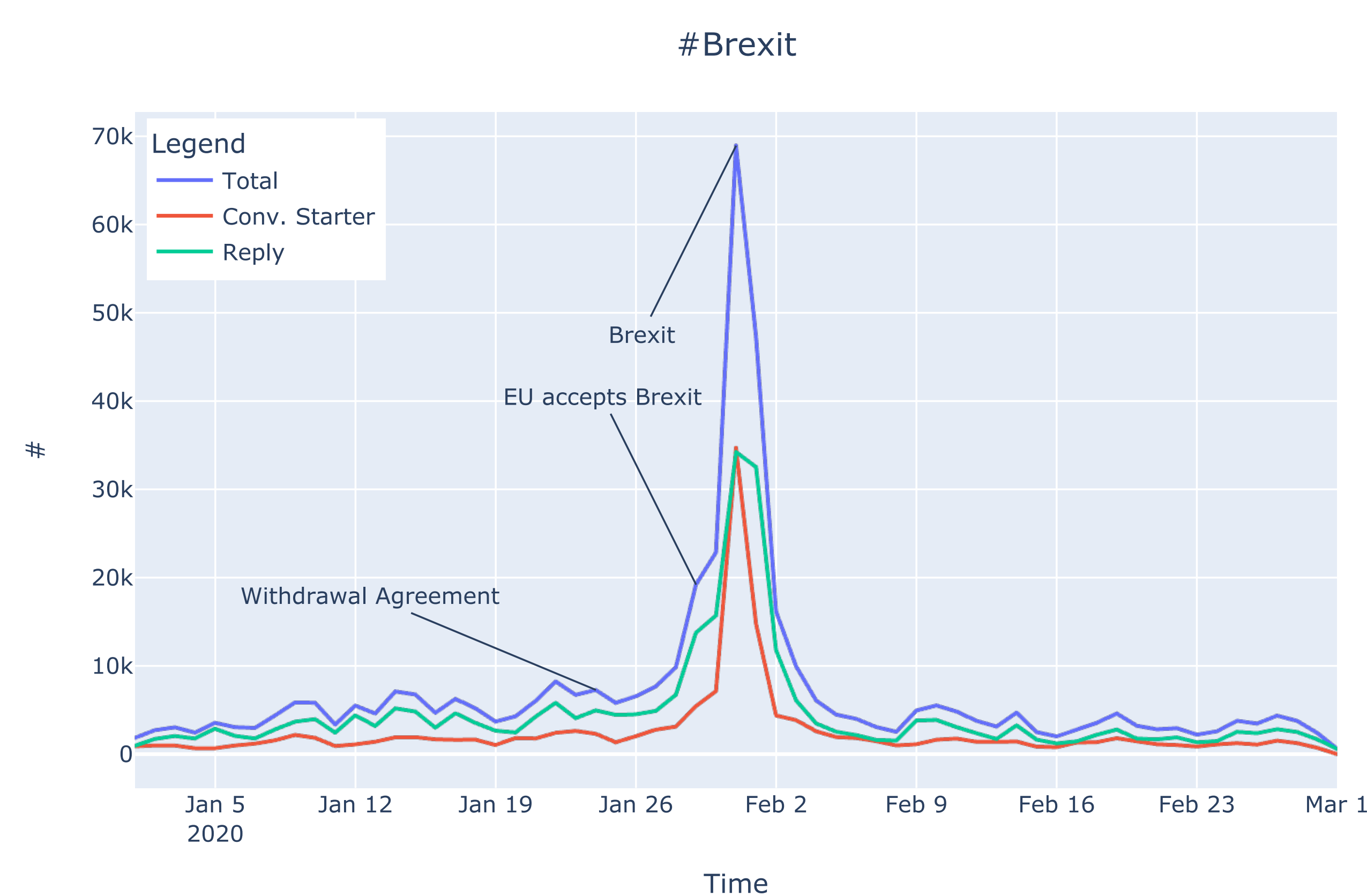
Everyday life is constantly being transferred to the digital space, meaning it is hardly surprising for everyday problems, such as opposing opinions, to arise also in Social Media.

In particular, platforms such as **Twitter** are the focus of an increasingly growing user base and personal information acquisition.

While such platforms are becoming increasingly popular and are sometimes used as forums for private and political disputes, the question immediately arises to what extent **Twitter** really fosters public debate in the form of argumentation.

Therefore, in combination with argumentation theory and methods of artificial intelligence, conversations taking place on **Twitter** will be examined with regard to their argumentative quality in order to reduce these to their underlying argumentation.

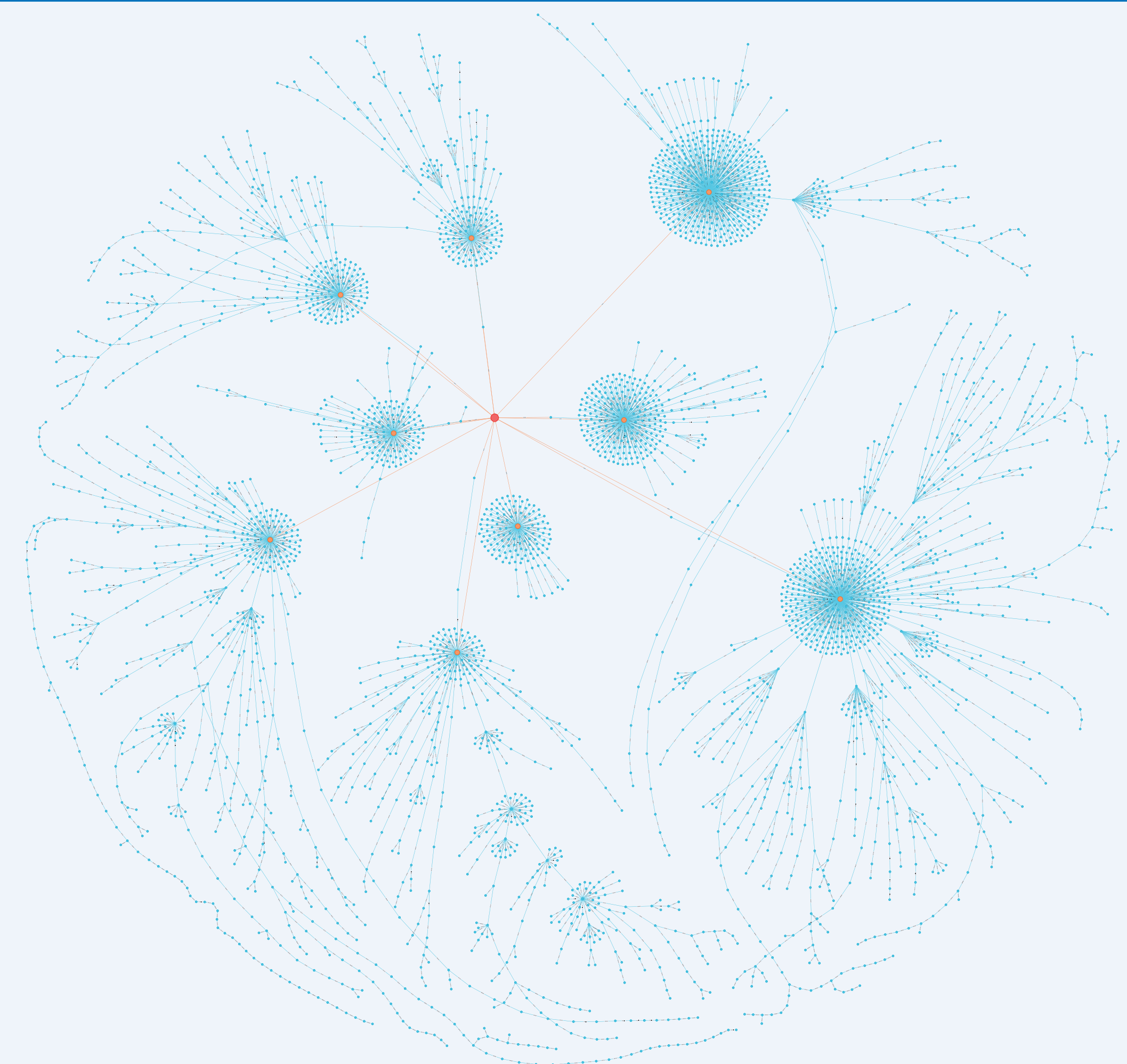
Twitter – Online platform for conversation



Twitter enables the reconstruction of entire conversations via their **API v2** for research.

Mining entire conversations and the freedom to extract them in their original form enables detailed investigation of topic-related hashtags such as *#Brexit* in terms of temporal and historical events, content, and interconnectedness.

Argumentation – A special conversation



In terms of content, entire conversations are mapped and managed as networks of tweets using **Neo4J**.

This allows conversations to be viewed globally and analyzed in terms of structure.

Tweets – As Arguments



The formula:

Not everyone who voted Leave is racist. But everyone who's racist voted Leave.
Not everyone who voted Leave is thick. But everyone who's thick voted Leave.

The thick racists therefore called the shots, whatever the thoughts of the minority of others.

#thick #Brexit

7:58 pm - 13 Oct 2017

We aim to find those tweets whose content serves the function of an argument without being subjected to a right or wrong classification.

Problematic are those tweets that do not have obvious markers such as **but**, **not**, **whatever** or **therefore**, showing a high degree of subjectivity or formulated as a reaction to other tweets being context-dependent.

Argument Model – Toulmin

