

HedgingFramingGMOs

Hedge detection as a lens on framing in the GMO debates: A position paper

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Understanding the ways in which participants in public discussions frame their arguments is important in understanding how public opinion is formed. In this paper, we adopt the position that it is time for more computationally-oriented research on problems involving framing. In the interests of furthering that goal, we propose the following specific, interesting and, we believe, relatively accessible question: In the controversy regarding the use of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture, do pro- and anti-GMO articles differ in whether they choose to adopt a "scientific" tone?

Prior work on the rhetoric and sociology of science suggests that *hedging* may distinguish popular-science text from text written by professional scientists for their colleagues. We propose a detailed approach to studying whether hedge detection can be used to understanding scientific framing in the GMO debates, and provide corpora to facilitate this study. Some of our preliminary analyses suggest that hedges occur less frequently in scientific discourse than in popular text, a finding that contradicts prior assertions in the literature. We hope that our initial work and data will encourage others to pursue this promising line of inquiry.

Paper: [pdf](#), [arxiv version](#)

Data: [GMOHedging_v1.0.zip](#) (5.72MB): includes [the paper](#) and this [README](#) (v1.0)

Presentation: [ppt](#), [pdf](#)

BibTeX:

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