I Designed Algorithms at Facebook. Here’s How to Regulate Them.

By Roddy Lindsay

Mr. Lindsay is the co-founder of Hustle and a former data scientist at Facebook.

Oct. 6, 2021

Social media companies can be successful and profitable under such a regime. Twitter adopted an algorithmic feed only in 2015. Facebook grew significantly in its first two years, when it hosted algorithmic personal feeds.

To be sure, there are potential drawbacks to using Section 230 and Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, which protects platforms from liability for user content. The statute has led to a chilling effect on user complaints and putting less pressure on platforms to call balls and strikes on the speech of their users.

Though understaffed teams of data scientists and product engineers are trying to counter this, the creation of viral content continues to be a key concern of both parties, respects the First Amendment and preserves the dynamism of the internet economy. Congress should craft a simple reform: make social media companies liable for the consequences of amplifying hate speech, libelous speech and illegal content posted by those users.

Mr. Lindsay is a former data scientist at Facebook.