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ABSTRACT

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Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.4 [Crowdsourcing Systems and Social Media]: Miscellaneous

General Terms

Theory

Keywords

ACM proceedings, L^AT_EX, text tagging

1. INTRODUCTION

Sensors are devices used for measuring some aspect of an environment and converting it into continuous or discrete value for use in information or control systems. For example, thermocouple as a sensor senses the temperature and converts it to continuous output voltage or a fire detector outputs a boolean value as a result of sensing smoke. Expanding on this definition, social media can be used as a sensor to detect important news e.g., death of Michael Jackson, real-time events e.g., earthquake or epidemics, sentiments and opinions e.g., people's political alignment towards political debates, preferences and traits e.g., stock market prediction or purchase behavior prediction.

However, due to the complexity of information in social media, designing sensors to detect specific phenomena requires highly specialized research to extract targeted information. Designing methodologies and extracting features that are

robust to highly dynamic changes in social media, with various forms of expression e.g., informal, short, unstructured texts, written by individuals from different educational levels, and with large volumes of extraneous material mixed in is a difficult task in need of extensive research.

This paper surveys existing work to explore social media as a sensor, methodology and features developed. This paper concludes by examining open areas for future research.

2. SOCIAL SENSORS

Should we mention definition of Social Sensors in our context?

2.1 Feature Analysis

What is useful in Twitter?

- Mentions
- From Users
- Terms
- Hashtags

2.2 Tables/Scatter Plots/Box Plots

2.2.1 Box Plots for Topics/Locations

2.2.2 Tables

3. METHODOLOGY

- too hard to label tweets
- goal is to generalize from seed set of hashtags (Snowball : LOOK AT NEWMAN)

3.1 Learning Social Sensors

Logistic Regression

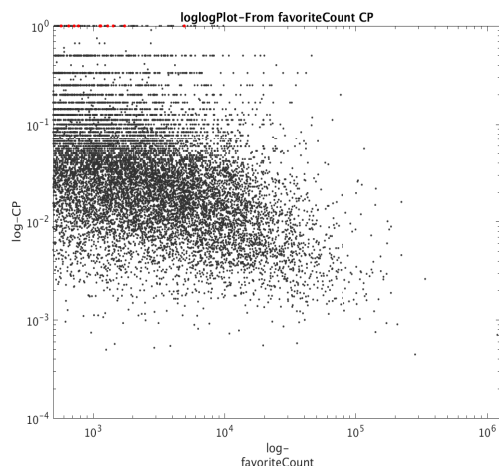


Figure 1: A sample scatter plot for Conditional Property of $From_{user}$ vs. Favorite Count (.eps format) that has been resized with the epsfig command.

3.2 Baselines

- random
- top 100 tweeters of topical tweets in train
- top 100 mentions of topical tweets in train
- top 100 terms of topical tweets in train
- top 100 hashtags of topical tweets in train

Consider them as weights of 1, add up, rank the tweets

4. EVALUATION

4.1 Data Description

1.4 TB of Twitter over 2 years

4.2 Data Annotation

- snowball
- 10 categories

A Caveat for the \TeX Expert

Because you have just been given permission to use the `\newdef` command to create a new form, you might think you can use \TeX 's `\def` to create a new command: *Please refrain from doing this!* Remember that your \LaTeX source code is primarily intended to create camera-ready copy, but may be converted to other forms – e.g. HTML. If you inadvertently omit some or all of the `\defs` recompilation will be, to say the least, problematic.

5. RELATED WORKS

social media event can be defined as an occurrence at a certain time interval and geographical region. It can be planned or unexpected e.g., concert vs. death of a celebrity, man-made or natural e.g., parade vs. earthquake, local or global e.g., concert vs. World Peace Day. Events can further be categorized based on their target users, including

individuals, government agencies concerned about natural disasters and health epidemics, marketing companies, and news websites. Historically, event detection has been studied extensively in text mining, NLP, and IR to find events from conventional media sources such as news streams [20]. With the growth of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and other microblogs, social media sites have become known as powerful communication tools for sharing and exchanging information about such events. However, event detection on social media sites is more challenging due to features such as unstructured and informal text, highly length restricted, generated by novice reporters compared to journalism-trained news editors.

Nevertheless, it is important to investigate event detection in social media because in comparison to traditional news blogs, social media has faster response time to events and time is money (marketing), lives (disasters), or simply relevance (new).

To see how different use cases address the aforementioned technical difficulties, we focus on the three highly studied types of event detections:

• Natural Disaster Detection

Predictive studies on disaster [10] studied the network of users and focused on choosing the best groups of users in order to achieve lead-times i.e. faster detection of disastrous event (following the concept of "friendship paradox"¹). On the other hand, [16] used SVM classifier for detecting earthquake and employed location estimation method such as Kalman Filtering for localizing it. [16] extracted statistical features e.g., the number and position of words in a tweet, keyword features and word context features. These studies investigated the real-time nature of Twitter and provided promising results.

Descriptive studies on disaster Related works discuss the behavior of Twitter users during crisis [18, 5, 17] but do not address exploiting detection of crisis events. They investigated the use of social media during crisis in order to identify information propagation properties, social behavior of users e.g. retweeting behavior, information contributing to situational awareness, and active players in communicating information. However, this behavioral information could be exploited in development of sensors.

• Health Epidemic Detection

Content-based methods [7] and [2] both tried to identify influenza-related tweets and find correlations of these tweets to CDC statistics. Both works extracted bag-of-words as features. As for methodology, the former used single and multiple linear regression showing that multiple linear regression works better, while the latter employed SVM. Results showed high correlation of their estimation of influenza in early stages with values from U.S CDC and Japan's Infection Disease Surveillance Center.

¹On average, most people have fewer friends than their friends have

Structure-based method In contrast to previous methods, [9] focused on a structure-related technique and developed a model for contagious information diffusion in a social network. They provided a method for choosing sensor groups from friends of random sets of users to find more central individuals in order to enforce early detection.

Hybrid method [14] exploited both content and structure information. They employed a semi-supervised approach to learn a robust SVM classifier by training two classifiers on a labeled set and then applying them to non-labeled tweets. This enabled them to model the interplay of social activity, human mobility, and the spread of infectious disease in a large real-world population. Further, [?] identified sick individuals from the content of online communication.

6. CONCLUSIONS

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

[6]

8. ADDITIONAL AUTHORS

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