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LegoNet - classification and extractive summarization of Indian legal judgments with Capsule Networks and Sentence Embeddings

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Abstract. In this paper, we propose the *LegoNet* - a system to classify and summarize legal judgments using Sentence Embedding, Capsule Networks and Unsupervised Extractive Summarization. To train and test the system, we have created a mini-corpus of Indian legal judgments which have been annotated according to the classes: Facts, Arguments, Evidences and Judgments. The proposed framework uses Sentence Embedding and Capsule Networks to classify parts of legal judgments into the classes mentioned above. This is then used by the extractive summarizer to generate a concise and succinct summary of the document grouped according to the above mentioned classes. Such a system could be used to help enable the Legal Community by speeding up the processes involving reading and summarizing legal documents which a Law professional would undertake in preparing for a case. The performance of the Machine Learning Model in this architecture can improve over time as more annotated training data is added to the corpus.

Keywords: Law Domain, Capsule Network, Sentence Embedding, Unsupervised Extractive Summarization, Natural Language Processing, Text Classification

1. Introduction

Natural Language Processing (NLP), Information Extraction (IE), and Machine Learning (ML) offer various applications and have great potential for automation of tasks in various domains. However, the complexity of the tasks involved in automation and the requirement of higher accuracy has limited its application in the Legal Domain. Although automation of complex tasks such as those involving conflicting rights and open-ended laws is difficult, simple tasks in the domain of Law such as summarizing documents are prime candidates for legal automation. Efforts have been underway in this direction in the UK, Europe, US, Canada and India. [3–5].

Summarization here involves identifying the relevant Facts, Arguments, and Evidences of the case along with the judgment that was given for the same. In this paper, we propose the *LegoNet* - a system that can classify and summarize a legal judgment grouped by the classes: Facts, Arguments, Evidences and Judgments. Such a system would help enable the Legal Community by speeding up processes where a law professional would have to read and summarize previous judgments while preparing for a case. We also create a corpus of Indian Legal Judgments annotated to the classes mentioned above which could help provide a base for further research and developments.

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The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Section 2 highlights the related work and research. Section 3 describes the proposed LegoNet system to summarize a legal judgment. The experimental results and inferences are presented in Section 4. Section 5 discusses the conclusions drawn from the results and also the future work and enhancements to the proposed system.

2. Related work

Deep Neural Networks have had great success in Natural Language Processing (NLP) tasks in various fields. Some examples are: Text Classification [12], Sentiment Analysis [16], Text Summarization [21], Question Answering Systems/Chatbots [22], Machine Translation [19, 20], etc.

Transfer Learning using pre-trained models has been quite effective in NLP tasks where the amount of training data is limited. Embeddings such as word2vec [7] and GloVe [8] have proven the effectiveness of transfer learning methods. Performance of using sentence level embeddings is seen to be strong at transfer learning tasks. The Universal Sentence Encoder introduced by Google [6] is based on two architectures: the Transformer model [9] and the Deep Averaging Network (DAN) [10], and can be used to obtain better task performance with sufficiently less task-specific training data.

The Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) [11] is a hierarchical network which is trained through the backpropagation algorithm. It extracts local patterns in a window of vector sequences using feature detectors through the convolution operation and selects the most important ones using the pooling operation. CNNs have been successful in Text/Sentence Classification tasks [12, 13]. However, a drawback is that CNNs do not take into consideration the important spatial relationships between entities.

The Capsule Network [1] addresses this issue by implementing a learning technique called the dynamic routing process where a lower level capsule passes on the information to a higher level capsule based on the agreement co-efficient between them. Capsule Networks also add another benefit of having the capability to achieve good results while using less data when compared to that required by a CNN. Experiments on using Capsule Networks for text classification in [2] shows improvement over baseline models in multi-class classification.

Text Summarization is a process of converting an input source text to a shortened or compressed version (output) while retaining its semantics. Techniques in summarizing text can be extractive or abstractive. Extractive Summarization identifies key sentences in the input and puts them together to form a summary. Abstractive summarization generates a summary using new words to form its own sentences [24]. One such approach to unsupervised extractive summarization is to cluster sentence embeddings. The most important/representative sentences can then be picked from these clusters to form the summary [23].

In our paper, we make use of the universal sentence encoder to generate encoding at the sentence level to better capture the context of the words in the sentence. This is used to train a Capsule Network to classify each paragraph in the document into one of the four classes i.e. Facts, Arguments, Evidences and Judgments. We make use of an unsupervised extractive summarizer to then summarize the document, which is then grouped according to the class it belongs to.

3. Proposed System

The proposed system - "*The LegoNet*" as shown in Fig. 1, mainly consists of five phases: Dataset Creation, Data Preprocessing, Sentence Embedding, Capsule Networks (classification) and the Unsupervised Extractive Summarization. The first phase is dataset creation which involves the creation of a corpus of annotated Indian legal judgments. Data preprocessing helps format and structure the legal judgment to help in classification. The sentence embedding encodes the text to result in a vector that can be used for classification. The Capsule Network classifies a given input based on the annotations mentioned, which is then used by the summarizer to group and summarize parts of the judgment belonging to the same class. Fig. 2 shows the flow of a new unseen judgment through the proposed system.

3.1. Dataset creation

A mini-corpus consisting of 260 legal judgments was created from judgments which were collected from Manupatra (https://www.manupatrafast.com) [18] and Indian Kanoon (https://indiankanoon.org) [17].

The header of the judgment such as details related to the court, judge, petitioner and respondent were

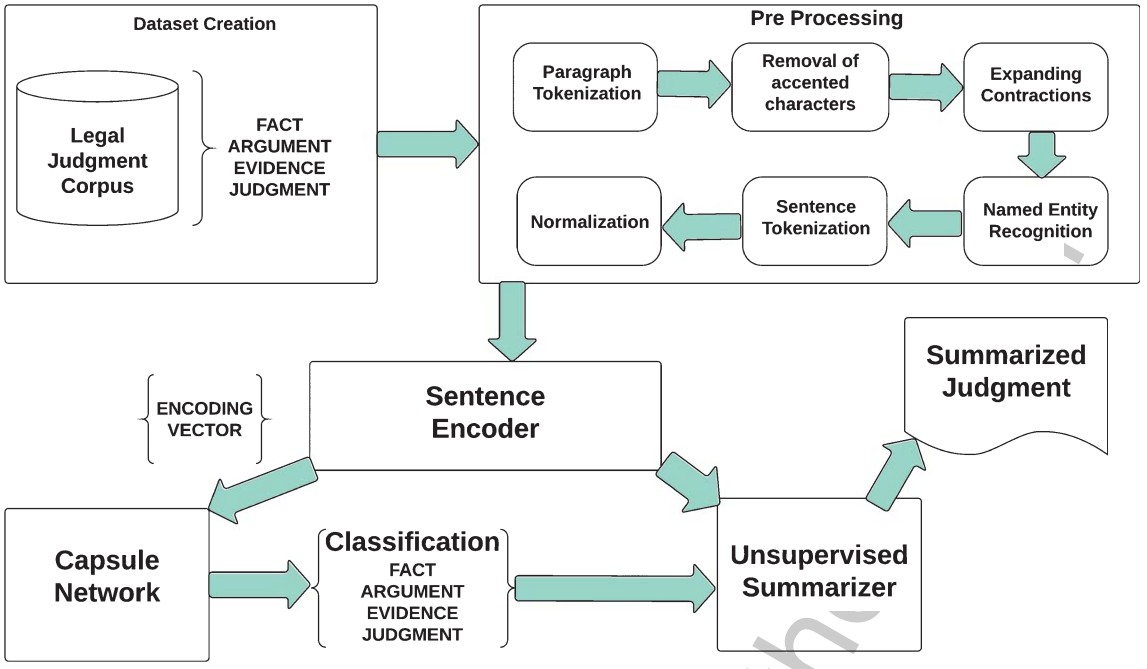

Fig. 1. Proposed system for legal judgment summarization.

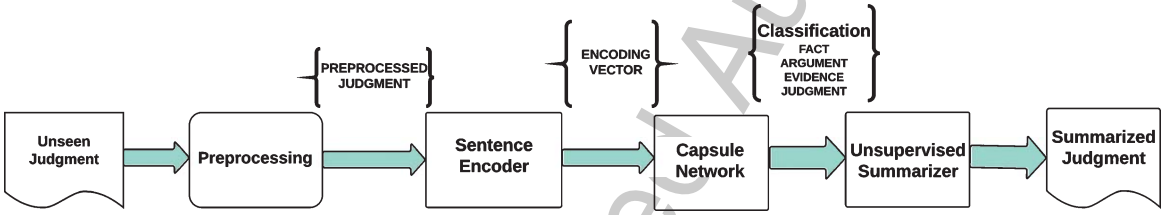

Fig. 2. The flow of a new unseen judgment through the system.

marked separately. Each paragraph in the judgment was annotated by a law student into one of the following four classes: Facts, Arguments, Evidences and Judgments. Fig. 3 shows a sample of annotations in the corpus of legal judgments. Each paragraph is marked with a "|CLASS" where CLASS is one of the four classes mentioned above. Table 1 gives a summary of the annotated dataset.

3.2. Data preprocessing

In the preprocessing stage, the document containing the legal judgment is first broken down into paragraphs and corresponding annotated class using a regular expression. Each paragraph is then checked for accented characters which are changed to normal characters. The word contractions are expanded and Named Entity Recognition (NER) is carried out to identify entities such as dates, places, people, organizations, currency, etc. in the document. This is followed by the removal of special characters and then sentence level tokenization is performed. Finally, the text is normalized to lower case.

3.3. Sentence Embedding

Sentence Encoding or Sentence Embedding requires capturing the context of words in a sentence as a vector. Google has recently introduced the 'Universal Sentence Encoder', which has two variations: The Transformer architecture based model, which has high accuracy but comes at the cost of higher complexity and computational expense and the Deep Averaging Network (DAN) based model, where the average of the unigram and bi-gram embeddings of a word are input to a Deep Neural Network that

The appellant has been acquitted in another case filed by respondent 2 against him alleging offence under Section 406 of the IPC. Possession of the shop in question has also been handed over by the appellant to respondent 2. In such a situation, in our opinion, continuation of the pending criminal proceedings would be abuse of the process of law. The High Court was wrong in holding otherwise.|**ARGUMENT**

In the circumstances, the impugned order dated 29/9/2011 passed by the Uttarakhand High Court is set aside. The entire proceedings of Criminal Case No. 723/2005 (charge-sheet No. 32/2005), and the order of cognizance dated 22/3/2005 passed thereon by the Judicial Magistrate, Khatima, District Udham Singh Nagar against the appellant, respondents 3 and 4 and against accused Rajpal for the offences punishable under Sections 406, 420, 467, 468, 471, 447, 448 read with Section 34 of the IPC are quashed and set aside. This order will however have no effect on the pending civil suit between the parties. Needless to say that the court, seized of the said suit, shall decide it independently and in accordance with law. 10. The appeal is disposed of in the aforestated terms.|**JUDGMENT**

Fig. 3. A sample of annotation in the legal judgments.

Table 1
Dataset Summary based on classes annotated

Type	Number of samples
Fact	618
Argument	320
Evidence	159
Judgment	680

computes the sentence embeddings. The Universal Sentence Encoder encodes text into high dimensional vectors that can be used for text classification. The model outputs a fixed 512 dimensional embedding vector given a sentence, phrase or paragraph. We make use of the Transformer architecture to generate a 512 dimensional encoding vector for each sentence in a paragraph.

3.4. Capsule nets

In the recent advancements in the field of Machine Learning, Sabour et al. (2017) [1] has introduced a method called the Capsule Networks which possesses the commendable potential to encode the spatial pattern while retaining the flexibility of their representation capabilities. It can be used to better model the hierarchical relationships inside of internal knowledge representation of the vanilla neural network. In the paper, they have introduced a novel training methodology which is an iterative routing process to decide the agreement between the capsules from lower layers to the higher layers. The resulting model could thus encode the intrinsic spatial relationship between a part and a whole consisting of the viewpoint invariant knowledge. For a lower level capsule l having output $\hat{u}$ and r routing iterations, the dynamic routing algorithm is given by Algorithm 1.

3.4.1. Our model

Our implementation of the Capsule Networks depicted in Fig. 4, is a variation to the model proposed by Sabour et al. (2017) applied to classification of textual data. We conduct a series of experiments with the capsule networks atop the sentence embeddings of the created hand-crafted legal judgment dataset. The input is a $15X512X1$ dimensional vector, where 15 represents the number of sentences in a paragraph and 512 represents the dimension of each sentence encoding vector. A series of Convolutional Layers are used over the Sentence Embedding Layer to extract features. The output of the last Convolutional Layer is squashed and reshaped in the Primary Capsule Layer (PC1). The LegoCaps (LC1) Layer consists of 4 capsules of 16 dimensions each, whose output determines the class of the paragraph among the 4 classes: Facts, Arguments, Evidences and Judgments. Table 2 shows the parameters used in the Capsule Network implemented in this paper.

3.5. Unsupervised Extractive Text Summarization

The Unsupervised Summarization approach is based on clustering the Sentence Embeddings

Algorithm 1 The Dynamic Routing Algorithm

procedure DYNAMIC ROUTING($\hat{u_{j|i}}$,r,l)
  for all capsule i in layer l and j in layer $(l+1)$: $b_{ij} \leftarrow 0$
  for r `iterations` **do**
    for all capsule i in layer l : $c_i \leftarrow Softmax(b_i)$
    for all capsule j in layer $(l+1)$: $s_j \leftarrow \sum c_{i|j} \hat{u_{j|i}}$
    for all capsule j in layer $(l+1)$: $v_j \leftarrow Squash(s_j)$
    for all capsule i in layer l and capsule j in layer $(l+1)$: $b_{ij} \leftarrow b_{ij} + \hat{u_{j|i}}.v_j$
  return v_j

Algorithm 2 Unsupervised Extractive Summarization

procedure SENT-EMBED(*paragraph*) (Generates Sentence embedding
  SentenceEmbeddings $\leftarrow \phi$
  for `Each sentence in paragraph` **do**
    $t \leftarrow GenerateSentenceEmbedding$
    Append t to *SentenceEmbeddings*
  return *SentenceEmbeddings*

procedure K-MEANS CLUSTERING(*paragraph*, *SentenceEmbeddings*, k)
  $k \leftarrow \sqrt{len(SentenceEmbeddings)}$
  $Clusters \leftarrow KMeans(SentenceEmbeddings, k)$
  return *Clusters*

procedure GENERATESUMMARY(*paragraph*, *SentenceEmbeddings*, *Clusters*) ▷Generates Extractive Summary
  summary $\leftarrow \phi$
  for `Each Cluster C` **do**
    $c \leftarrow Centroid(C)$
    $repSentence \leftarrow MinEuclideanDist(paragrah, SentenceEmbeddings, C)$
    Append *repSentence* to *summary*
  return *summary*

obtained using the Universal Sentence Encoder. Clustering is done using the K-Means Algorithm [25] which results is k clusters. Extractive Summarization here is done by selecting the sentence from the paragraph that is closest to the centroid of each cluster based on a distance measure (Euclidean Distance). Algorithm 2 shows the method used in this paper to generate the summary.

Since the vector representations of the sentences similar to each other will have lower distance between them, they can be represented by using the most suitable one from the cluster. We make use of this fact to generate the summary. This approach also ensures that the original wordings from the judgment remain unaltered while the most important sentences are chosen to produce the summary, which is a key requirement while summarizing legal judgments.

4. Experiments and discussion

In this section, we highlight the results obtained from experiments conducted on the created corpus of legal judgments.

4.1. Evaluation of classification

Table 3 shows the performance of the proposed system in classifying a given paragraph into the classes: Facts, Arguments, Evidences and Judgments which is gauged based on the accuracy, precision, recall and F1-score. Upsampling using Synthetic Minority Over-sampling Technique (SMOTE) [15] to account for imbalance in the dataset was seen to improve performance. The Capsule Network was trained using the Adam optimization technique [14] with a 5-fold cross validation and a learning rate of 0.001.

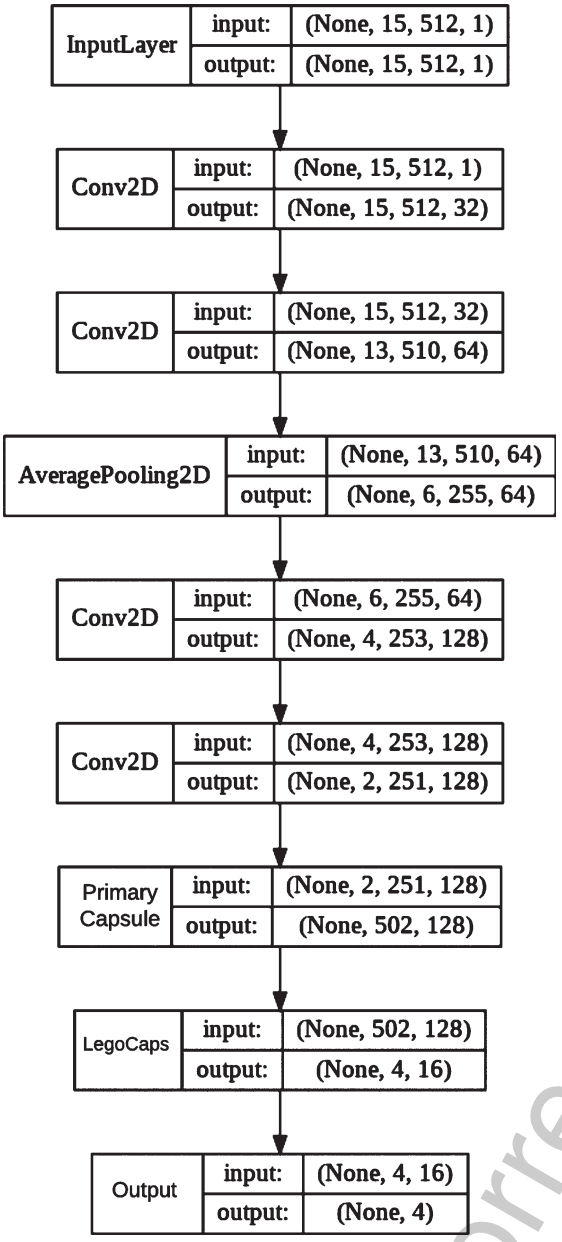

Fig. 4. The architecture of the Capsule Network used in this paper.

4.2. Evaluation of summarization

The adequacy of the summary generated by the system was evaluated using the Recall-Oriented Understudy for Gisting Evaluation (ROUGE) [26] metrics for automatic summarization evaluation i.e. ROUGE-1, ROUGE-2 and ROUGE-*l*. The metric works by comparing the summary generated by the proposed system with a hand-crafted reference summary (human generated).

4.2.1. ROUGE-Precision

The ROUGE-Precision for a summary and reference pair is given by:

$$\frac{\#overlapping/matching - words}{\#Words - in - generated - summary} \quad (1)$$

captures the relevance of the generated summary.

4.2.2. ROUGE-Recall

The ROUGE-Recall for a summary and reference pair is given by:

$$\frac{\#overlapping/matching - words}{\#Total - words - in - the - reference} \quad (2)$$

captures the extent of the reference summary that is contained by the generated summary.

4.2.3. ROUGE-n and ROUGE-l

ROUGE-n captures the $n - grams$ (1:unigram, 2:bigram and so on) overlap between the generated and reference summary. ROUGE-l captures the overlap using the Longest Common Subsequence (LCS) between the generated and reference summary.

Table 4 shows the performance of the Summarizer based on the ROUGE metrics. The number of sentences in the summary was taken as the square root of the number of sentences in the given judgment. This was done by using K-Means on the sentence embedding vectors with a k value equal to:

$$k = \sqrt{\#(sentence - encoding - vectors)} \quad (3)$$

The summarization had a F1-score of 0.64 for ROUGE-1, 0.51 for ROUGE-2 and 0.61 for ROUGE-*l*.

Figure 5.(a) shows the classification output from the LegoNet. The markings are of format |("Human Expert Classification","Capsule Network Classification"). Figure 5.(b) shows a sample summary output from the LegoNet grouped based on the classification from the Capsule Network.

5. Conclusion, Learnings and Future Enhancements

In this paper, we proposed a system to classify and summarize a legal judgment document. A dataset of annotated Indian Legal Judgments was created to train the ML models. The system made use of

Table 2
Parameters used in the Capsule Network

Layer	Parameter	Value
Input Layer (IP)	Input Dimension	15 X 512 X 1
Sentence Embedding Convolution (SC1)	Number of Filters	32
	Kernel Size	3 X 512
	Stride	1
Convolution (C1)	Number of Filters	32
	Kernel Size	3 X 3
	Stride	1
Convolution (C2)	Number of Filters	64
	Kernel Size	3 X 3
	Stride	1
Convolution (C3)	Number of Filters	128
	Kernel Size	3 X 3
	Stride	1
Convolution (C4)	Number of Filters	128
	Kernel Size	3 X 3
	Stride	1
Primary Capsule Layer (PC1)	Capsules	502
	Dimension	128
LegoCaps Layer (LC1)	Capsules	4
	Dimension	16

Table 3
Comparison of performance of classification on the annotated corpus

Method	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score
Transformer-CapsNet	0.646	0.65	0.65	0.65
Transformer-SMOTE-CapsNet	**0.694**	**0.69**	**0.69**	**0.69**

Table 4
ROUGE metrics for the summary generated by the Unsupervised Extractive Summarization technique

Metric	Precision	Recall	F1-score
ROUGE-1	0.59	0.69	0.64
ROUGE-2	0.41	0.54	0.51
ROUGE-*l*	0.58	0.68	0.61

Sentence level Encodings to capture context from the textual data. This was used by a Capsule Network to classify parts of the legal document into the classes: Facts, Arguments, Evidences and Judgments with an accuracy of 69.4%. This was used by an Unsupervised Extractive Summarizer to generate a summary grouping the parts of the document based on the classification. The fluency of the summarization was measured using the ROUGE metrics. Some of the future enhancements to the work in this paper can be:

- Increase the size of the corpus: The corpus created in this paper was of 260 Legal Judgment documents. The performance of the Capsule Network is seen to increase with the size of the training data. The size of the corpus may be increased to better train the model.
- Annotations through crowd-sourcing: Obtaining new judgments data and annotations using a crowd-sourcing approach from a group of law professionals/experts could help improve the performance of the system.
- Fine-tuning the Capsule Network: Parameters and hyper-parameters in the Capsule Network used in this paper can be fine-tuned to further increase the accuracy of classification.
- Improving/Using a different Clustering Technique: In this paper, we have used the K-Means clustering algorithm to generate extractive summaries of the judgment. The use of other techniques to achieve the same can be explored.
- Ratio Decidendi: The point in a particular case that determines its outcome is termed as the Ratio Decidendi. A desirable enhancement to the sys-

This appeal has been preferred against the Judgment and Order dated 21st November, 2006 passed by the High Court of Allahabad in Criminal Revision Case No.1159 of 2002..By the impugned order, the High Court has allowed the revision petition filed by the Respondent, set aside the order dated 30th July, 2002 passed by Judicial Magistrate, Ghaziabad, in Case No.356 of 2002 and remanded the matter back to the trial Court for fresh decision in accordance with law. The appellant and Respondent No.1 were married on 25th January, 1996..The appellant belongs to Allahabad where his parents live and the respondent belonged to Jabalpur where her parents are living. The appellant is said to be employed at Delhi in Central Government. | **(FACT, FACT)**

The appellant-husband filed a divorce petition on 7th July, 1997 at Allahabad Family Court. The wife lodged First Information Report dated 4th November, 1997 at Ghaziabad making allegations of cruelty against the husband. After investigation, the husband and four of his family members were tried under Sections 498-A, 406, 506 IPC and 3/4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act before the Judicial Magistrate, Ghaziabad, in Case No.356/2002..The trial ended in acquittal of all the accused including the appellant vide Order dated 30th July, 2002..The divorce petition filed by the husband was ordered to be transferred to Jabalpur at the instance of the wife. The wife also filed a divorce petition at Jabalpur. The husband filed Transfer Petition (Civil) No.150 of 2004 before this Court which was disposed of on 11th March, 2005. | **(FACT, FACT)**

This Court noted that since both the parties had sought divorce, the marriage had broken down and the parties had agreed to a decree of divorce by mutual consent. Accordingly, this Court directed the Family Court, Jabalpur, to take up the matter on 4th April, 2005 without entertaining any prayer for adjournment and pass a decree of divorce. Accordingly, the Family Court, Jabalpur passed the decree of divorce on 4th April, 2005 after recording the statement of the parties that they mutually agreed to decree of divorce. The wife did not press her counter claim for maintenance. She also did not reserve liberty for any other action against the husband. It may be mentioned that against the Order of the Magistrate acquitting the appellant and his family members, the Respondent-wife had preferred Criminal Revision No.1159 of 2002 before the Allahabad High Court. | **(FACT, ARGUMENT)**

The husband filed affidavit dated 4th September, 2006 placing on record the order of this Court and the order of the Family Court, Jabalpur and also mentioning that after the dissolution of marriage, the wife has remarried and in view of the order of this Court and the Family Court, the revision petition ought to be dismissed he High Court, instead of dismissing the revision petition, without referring to the above developments, allowed the. revision petition by the impugned order with the observation that documents Exhibit Ka2 and Ka3 showed harassment, cruelty and mental torture and the Magistrate had skipped over the facts and wrongly acquitted the appellant. Aggrieved by the said order, the appellant has approached this Court as already noticed above. | **(FACT, EVIDENCE)**

The appellant appearing in person submitted that the parties had taken divorce by mutual consent as per agreement reached before this Court and thereafter, the respondent was not justified in proceeding against the appellant. It was further submitted that the High Court failed to advert to the settlement between the parties and also exceeded its jurisdiction in setting aside the order of acquittal. The Magistrate in its detailed order duly appreciated the entire evidence and found that no case for cruelty was made out against the appellant. | **(EVIDENCE, EVIDENCE)**

Learned counsel for the respondent, on the other hand, submitted that even though the parties had re-married after obtaining divorce by mutual consent as noticed above, the wife was not debarred from pursuing the criminal case against the appellant. He further submitted that the High Court was justified in setting aside the order of the Magistrate and remitting the matter back for a fresh decision. We have given our anxious consideration to the rival submissions. We are satisfied that the view taken by the High Court, in the facts and circumstances of the case, is not just and fair and needs to be set aside. | **(ARGUMENT, ARGUMENT)**

It is clear from perusal of the impugned order of the High Court that the development of settlement between the parties during pendency of the revision petition has not even been adverted to. Once the matter was settled between the parties and the said settlement was given effect to in the form of divorce by mutual consent, no further dispute survived between the parties, though it was not so expressly recorded in the order of this Court. No liberty was reserved by the wife to continue further proceedings against the husband. Thus, the wife was, after settling the matter, estopped from continuing the proceedings. In any case, it is well settled that the scope of revisional jurisdiction of the High Court does not extend to reappreciation of evidence. In exercise of revisional jurisdiction, the High Court can interfere with the acquittal only if there is perversity in the order of acquittal. | **(JUDGMENT, JUDGMENT)**

In the present case, the order of acquittal could not be held to be perverse. The High Court observed that the demand of articles, papers of house property of Jabalpur and Noida and the contents of Exhibits Ka2 and Ka3 amounted to harassment, cruelty and mental torture. This observation amounted to substitution of its view by the High Court for the view taken by the Magistrate after due consideration of all the allegations. The Magistrate inter alia found the version of the respondent-wife to be not believable and also found that the allegations were not substantiated. It was observed that the wife herself admitted that the documents Exhibit Ka2 and Ka3 were merely guidelines for good conduct and behaviour expected of her and did not amount to cruelty. It was also admitted that there was no demand of dowry at the time of marriage. | **(JUDGMENT, JUDGMENT)**

The Investigating Officer had never visited Jabalpur and the demand of house at Jabalpur was not substantiated. It was further observed that criminal case filed by the wife was a counter blast to the divorce case filed by the husband. Version before the Court was improvement over the original version in the First Information Report. She had given contradictory statement about the place where her husband demanded the house. Thus, the Magistrate having dealt with the matter threadbare, the High Court, in exercise of revisional jurisdiction was not justified in interfering with the order of acquittal particularly when the parties had reached the settlement before this Court on the basis of which divorce by mutual consent was granted by the Family Court, Jabalpur which fact was placed on record of the High Court. In view of the above, we allow this appeal, set aside the impugned order passed by the High Court and restore the order of the Magistrate | **(JUDGMENT, JUDGMENT)**

(a) Sample Classification on an unseen test judgment data along with the labels by Human Expert in the format |("Human Expert","Capsule Network")

Fig. 5. (*Continued*)

FACTs:

- By the impugned order, the High Court has allowed the revision petition filed by the Respondent, set aside the order dated 30th July, 2002 passed by Judicial Magistrate, Ghaziabad, in Case No.356 of 2002 and remanded the matter back to the trial Court for fresh decision in accordance with law. The appellant and Respondent No.1 were married on 25th January, 1996. The appellant is said to be employed at Delhi in Central Government.
- The divorce petition filed by the husband was ordered to be transferred to Jabalpur at the instance of the wife. The trial ended in acquittal of all the accused including the appellant vide Order dated 30th July, 2002. The husband filed Transfer Petition (Civil) No.150 of 2004 before this Court which was disposed of on 11th March, 2005.

ARGUMENTs:

- Accordingly, the Family Court, Jabalpur passed the decree of divorce on 4th April, 2005 after recording the statement of the parties that they mutually agreed to decree of divorce. The wife did not press her counter claim for maintenance. She also did not reserve liberty for any other action against the husband.
- He further submitted that the High Court was justified in setting aside the order of the Magistrate and remitting the matter back for a fresh decision. We have given our anxious consideration to the rival submissions.

EVIDENCEs:

- The husband filed affidavit dated 4th September, 2006 placing on record the order of this Court and the order of the Family Court, Jabalpur and also mentioning that after the dissolution of marriage, the wife has remarried and in view of the order of this Court and the Family Court, the revision petition ought to be dismissed he High Court, instead of dismissing the revision petition, without referring to the above developments, allowed the revision petition by the impugned order with the observation that documents Exhibit Ka2 and Ka3 showed harassment, cruelty and mental torture and the Magistrate had skipped over the facts and wrongly acquitted the appellant. Aggrieved by the said order, the appellant has approached this Court as already noticed above.
- The appellant appearing in person submitted that the parties had taken divorce by mutual consent as per agreement reached before this Court and thereafter, the respondent was not justified in proceeding against the appellant. It was further submitted that the High Court failed to advert to the settlement between the parties and also exceeded its jurisdiction in setting aside the order of acquittal. The Magistrate in its detailed order duly appreciated the entire evidence and found that no case for cruelty was made out against the appellant.

JUDGMENTs:

- It is clear from perusal of the impugned order of the High Court that the development of settlement between the parties during pendency of the revision petition has not even been adverted to. Once the matter was settled between the parties and the said settlement was given effect to in the form of divorce by mutual consent, no further dispute survived between the parties, though it was not so expressly recorded in the order of this Court. In exercise of revisional jurisdiction, the High Court can interfere with the acquittal only if there is perversity in the order of acquittal
- This observation amounted to substitution of its view by the High Court for the view taken by the Magistrate after due consideration of all the allegations. The Magistrate inter alia found the version of the respondent-wife to be not believable and also found that the allegations were not substantiated. It was also admitted that there was no demand of dowry at the time of marriage
- She had given contradictory statement about the place where her husband demanded the house. Thus, the Magistrate having dealt with the matter threadbare, the High Court, in exercise of revisional jurisdiction was not justified in interfering with the order of acquittal particularly when the parties had reached the settlement before this Court on the basis of which divorce by mutual consent was granted by the Family Court, Jabalpur which fact was placed on record of the High Court. In view of the above, we allow this appeal, set aside the impugned order passed by the High Court and restore the order of the Magistrate.

(b) Summary outcome for the example in Fig. 5(a) generated by LegoNet

Fig. 5. Sample results obtained on an unseen test judgment.

tem would be to determine the Ratio Decidendi in a judgment.

– Predicate Logic: Predicate Logic may be used to create rules to help in determining classes and identifying the Ratio Decidendi of a given judgment.

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