

SIGNIFICANT NEWS DETECTION

by

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A THESIS

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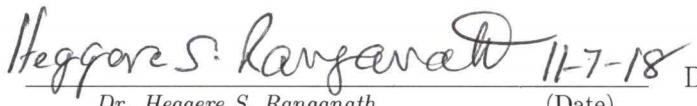
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ABSTRACT

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Name of Candidate Diwas Sharma
Title Significant News Detection

Social media platforms nowadays have a large number of fake or false news which have been misleading and negatively impacting viewers. In order to combat the problem, being able to differentiate important news stories which need to be verified from unimportant news stories which need not, would be a decent starting point. In this thesis, we introduce “significant news” and define it as news that affects a large number of people, changes the routines of daily life, and needs verification on the information presented. This thesis then explores if it is possible to construct a classifier for detecting the significant news articles.

A dataset containing 1548 significant and 595 non-significant articles was prepared by manually labelling the posts obtained from Twitter. Various classifiers including logistic regression, support vector machine, random forest, and neural network – were trained on the dataset. They each achieved an accuracy greater than 90 percent, with the neural network model achieving the highest accuracy of 93.654 percent. This indicates that it is in fact possible to build fairly accurate classifiers for detecting significant news. This thesis then describes a few possible future directions

that could be explored for further improving the performance of significant news detection.

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