IDEA 1:
Detecting and analyzing online misinformation in social media platforms

What you want to do?

Create a platform to detect online misinformation and possibly analyze trends that occur in dissemination of misinformation. I wish to analyze characteristics of misinformation and if there are any patterns seen in the spread of it amongst online users (is there a sudden rise in fake accounts created that sharing the same false information? are there any geological trends that are seen by users sharing the same false information)
The research question I wish to answer is:
Are there any trends or patterns seen in the spread of online misinformation?

Why should we care?
Misinformation has been a common and concerning problem over the years. Right from the 2016 and 2020 elections to discussions on covid19 and vaccines online, users aren't able to differentiate informational news from misinformation. I wish to build a platform through which we can analyze possible characteristics of misinformation as well as trends and patterns that are seen in the propagation of misinformation. If successful, the project will allow online platforms to detect misinformation much quicker and intervene before there are any fateful consequences.

Keywords – To mark topic and domain of the idea.
Misinformation detection, classification, spread of misinformation

IDEA 2:
Analyzing the influence of online communities on trending social movements

What you want to do?

I wish to analyze the strength of online communities specifically, how they influence social movements. With the emergence of trending social movement hashtags, I want to determine if there are patterns on how such hashtags emerge, how they are spread across communities as well as the characteristics of users/communities that help propagate social movements and campaigns online.

Why should we care?
Trending social hashtags such as the "#MeToo", "#BlackLivesMatter" movement have bought several social issues to light and have helped in fostering a positive change in society. By analyzing trending hashtags, there several social movements that can be bought to light and allow more users to voice their opinions on subjects. This will help create a more inclusive and connected society. On the flipside, identifying the origination, growth and propagation of trends could provide a greater insight even when these same means are exploited to undermine society. The existence of these social media platforms is so nascent in human civilization that their behaviors and effects are sparsely understood. Thus, debates on how to regulate the online space could benefit from the project's findings.

Keywords – To mark topic and domain of the idea.
Social Movements, Trending Hashtags, Online Communities, Engagement