

Automated Content Based Short Text Classification for Filtering Undesired Posts on Facebook

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Abstract: -- Online Social Networking (OSN) sites are always helpful for being socialized and to get exposed to a social environment. But, privacy and prevention of undesired posts on user walls is the only problem of biggest concern. User should have the ability to control the message posted on their own private wall to avoid undesirable contents to be displayed. The existing OSN sites have very little support regarding this problem. For example, Facebook filters messages on the basis of identity of sender, i.e. only friend, friend of friend or group of friends can post any message; no content based preferences are supported. Taking this fact into consideration, the proposed work contributes to address such problem through a machine learning based classifier for labeling messages in support of contents of message. This work experimentally evaluates an automated scheme to filter out unwanted messages posted on Facebook walls by assigning a set of categories with each short text message based on its contents.

Index Terms—Online Social Networking sites, OSN, Content based classification, Short Text Classifier, Machine Learning, wall posts, facebook wall, user profile

I. INTRODUCTION

Social networking sites are the most active medium for sharing information like; photos, blogs, thoughts, reviews, comments etc. This social media is gaining much importance and popularity day by day over most of the other mediums for business perspective such as; advertising various products, promoting new mobile applications and many more. Most of the social networking sites have common features in them. The basic feature of social networking sites is the ability to create and share a personal profile. Social networks also let you post photos, statuses, feelings and personal belongs on your profile page. One of the most common features of online social networks is to find and make friends over the network. These friends also appear as links, so visitors can easily browse your online friend network. According to Facebook statistics, 1 million links are shared, 2 million friends are requested and 8-10 million messages have been sent for every 30 minutes on Facebook.

The content present in social network is constituted by short text, and the notable example is the messages written by Social Network users on particular private or public areas, known as general walls. In support of displaying contents of user's own wall most of the social sites has the feature of preventing the messages from unwilling people on the basis of friendship status. In the present scenario, let us suppose if any one of the user's friend posted some objectionable text, before user get the notification and before removing that message from time line manually it might have been seen by many other users, which should not happen. So, there should be a mechanism which will automatically restrict such posts. Up till now no feature is present which filters the message in accordance with the contents of the message, no matter about the identity of the person who is posting it. Taking this problem into consideration, an automated system, to filter undesired comments from owner's wall is proposed. For filtering the short length text messages on user wall content based short text classification methodology is proposed here.

Generally, content based filtering algorithms are mostly used in recommender systems for calculating the utility values for particular item and recommending other items to the user which have higher degree of similarity to the user's profile. Where in, here the content based filtering technique is applied for the social networking site Facebook for filtering unwanted messages or posts on userwall.

The proposed system includes, the machine learning based short text classifier, a social network manger and the content based message filtering rules. According to the survey on related work it has been found that many authors proposed systems which are based on contents based filtering, but no one had worked on actual existing online social networking sites. The proposed work is the only one which is actually implemented on existing online social networking site Facebook.

There mainder of the paper is organized as follows: section II gives the problem definition, section III informs about the related work, section IV, V, VI gives the brief over view of the Methodology, Basic Architecture and experimental design. Finally, section VII concludes the paper.

II. PROBLEM DEFINITION

Currently, OSN does not provide message content based preferences to control messages on userwall. Therefore, it is not possible to prevent undesired messages, such as political or vulgar ones, without concerning about the other user who posts them. As the wall messages consists of short text with limited word occurrences and include informal / colloquial abbreviated language; providing as ervice of message filtering is not only amatter of using web content mining techniques, rather it requires to design ad-hoc short text classification strategies, Hence, the automated content-based short text classification technique I required to filter out unwanted messages.

III. RELATED WORK

Content based filtering is generally used for recommender system sorf or web page filtering. The basic idea of content based filtering came through

authors Gediminas Adomavicius and Alexander Tuzhilin[2]. Their paper presents an overview of the field of recommender systems and describes the current generation of recommendation methods that are usually classified into the following three main categories: content-based, collaborative, and hybrid recommendation approaches.

Author Hui Li, Fei Cai and Zhi fang Liao [3] have combined probabilistic model and classical content-based filtering recommendational gorithms to propose a new algorithm for recommendation system, using Hidden Markov Model. The basic approach described in this paper is calculating the similarity of user profile and each profile of all the items and recommending item to satisfy user need or tastes.

Michael Chau and Hsinchun Chen [4] expanded the idea of content based filtering for filtering the webpages. They used the ML paradigm along with Web content analysis and Web structure analysis. Marco Vanetti, Elisabetta Binaghi, Moreno Carullo, Elena Ferrari and Barbara Carminati [1] put forward the idea of using content based filtering for OSN. They provide the facility to have straight rules over their own wall to avoid the unwanted messages to be posted. The basic aim of having a control over the posts is achieved through a Filtered wall (FW). The system described in this paper blocks the undesired messages sent by the user. But the drawback of this system is that, the user will not be blocked; only the message posted by the user will be blocked. To over come this problem, Black list rule can be implemented as future enhancement.

The messages on facebook consist of short texts. Handling such short text messages for filtering purpose is one of the major issues because short texts do not have sufficient word occurrences. To deal with such short text messages authors Josh Weissbock, Ahmed A. Esmin, Diana Inkpen [5] proposed the methodology to enhance the text of the messages that contain link with external information such as the title of the webpages and/or most frequent terms from these webpages. This paper also says that the results of the classification improve substantially by adding this external information.

Authors Sriram, Bharath[6] again proposed the approach which effectively classifies the text to a pre defined set of generic classes such as News, Events, Opinions, Deals, and Private Messages on the basis of author information and features within the tweets. According to a survey on related work on the same concept, many authors proposed their work. Reddy, M. Vamsi Krishna [7] proposed their work on the same content filtering principle. They created a web application which performs the functionality, but it is restricted for only one computer as it is a stand-alone application where admin has rights to generate filtering policies.

Rose, J. Anishya and A. Pravin [8], Ezhilvani, V., K. Malathi et al [9], Dhruv Vashistha and Sivagami, G. [10], Bala Kumar, Bercecin Rose Mary and Devi Mareeswari [15] are many other authors who proposed their work which defines the filtering and black list rules for filtering the posts. Authors Thilagavathi, N., and R. Taarika [13] proposed their work on the same line for filtering messages posted on OSN walls. They used the inference algorithm to infer the new rules from the existing rules in support of content based filtering. From all this related survey we inferred that, efforts have been taken for filtering undesired posts on OSN created by them. But, till now no work has been done on the actual Online Social Networking site. They all worked on OSN prototype. Hence, we proposed the scheme which will be directly implemented on the actual Facebook site.

IV. METHODOLOGY

It has been found that no one worked on the actual existing social networking sites like Twitter or Facebook. Hence, by considering the further enhancement, application of filtering rules on a real-time Facebook site has been invented. The proposed work is the implementation of the filtering rules on the contents posted on Facebook user walls to avoid unwanted posts to be displayed. The techniques used are explained here shortly,

A. Content Based Filtering

Information filtering systems are designed to classify a stream of dynamically generated information dispatched asynchronously by an information producer and present to the user those information that are likely to

satisfy his/her requirements. In content-based filtering, each user is assumed to operate independently. As a result, a content-based filtering system selects information items based on the correlation between the content of the items and the user preferences as opposed to a collaborative filtering system that chooses items based on the correlation between people with similar preferences.

B. Short text Classifier

The messages posted on OSN walls are usually short text messages. Handling such short text for filtering purposes is one of the major issues because short texts do not have sufficient word occurrences. For such situations, a short text classification technique is applied here to support short text messages. The basic aim of using the short text classifier is to recognize and remove the neutral sentences and to categorize them. This classifier is hierarchical [Fig 1]. It consists of two levels. The first level is the hard classifier level, in which messages are classified with neutral and non-neutral labels.

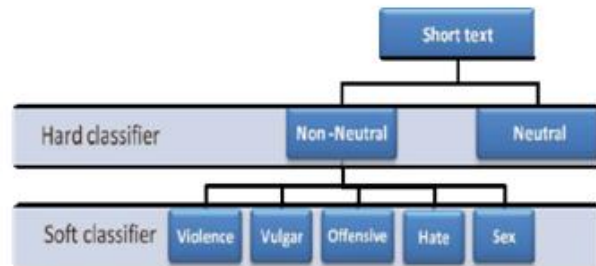


Fig.1. Text Classifier

In the second level which is the soft classifier level, all non-neutral messages develop gradual membership. These grades will be used in succeeding phases for the filtering process by considering proper threshold values. Short text classifier includes text representation and Machine Learning based Classification.

C. Text Representation [1]

Extracting the particular features from a given set of information is a crucial task; this affects the entire performance of classification. For text representation the module used is Vector space

model (VSM). According to VSM the document is represented as a vector of binary or real weights.

$$D_j = w_1j \dots w_{|T|j}$$

Where \mathcal{K} is a set of terms/features that occur at least once in at least one document of the collection \mathcal{K} and $w_{kj} \in [0;1]$ represent show much term t_k contributes to the semantics of document d_j .

In the case of non-binary weighting, the weight w_{kj} of term t_k (here, term represents word) in document d_j is computed according to the standard term frequency -- inverse document frequency (tf-idf) weighting function [1], defined as, $tf-idf(t_k, d_j) = \#(t_k, d_j) \cdot \log(1 / \#(t_k, \mathcal{D}))$. Where $\#(t_k, d_j)$ denotes the number of times t_k occur in document d_j and $\#(t_k, \mathcal{D})$ denotes the document frequency of term t_k . Document property is adopted by collecting the correct words, bad words, capital words, punctuation character, exclamation mark etc. In more detail,

- ♣ **Correct Words:** This expresses the number of terms $t_k \in \mathcal{K}$, where t_k is the term of document d_j and \mathcal{K} denotes the known words.
- ♣ **Bad Words:** This can be computed same as correct words feature, here \mathcal{K} denote the dirty words in particular language.
- ♣ **Capital Words:** This denotes the amount of words written in capital letters. It is calculated as a fraction of words having more than half of the characters in capital case. For e.g. Value of "To DO or NoT TO do" is 0.5; excluding the initial word of message.
- ♣ **Punctuation Characters:** This can be calculated by the fraction of total number of punctuation character in the message by total number of characters in the message. For e.g. the value of this feature for the message "hi!! What's up?" is 5/14.
- ♣ **Exclamation Marks:** This can be calculated as the fraction of the total numbers of exclamation marks in the message by total number of

punctuation characters in the message. For e.g. Consider "Hello!!! How r u?" is 3/4.

- ♣ **Question Marks:** This can be calculated as the fraction of total numbers of question mark in the message by total number of punctuation character in the message. For e.g. consider "hi! How u doing?" is 1/2.

D. Machine Learning Based Classification Technique [1]
 Consider M_1 and M_2 be the two levels of classifier. Let v_1 be the belongingness to the neutral class. Suppose, TrS_1 and TeS_1 are training and test sets respectively.

The learning and generalization phases work as follows:

- ♣ For each message m_i , if feature vector x_i is extracted, the training and test sets are transformed as, $TrS_1 = \{(x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_{|TrS_1|}, y_{|TrS_1|})\}$ and $TeS_1 = \{(x_i, y_i), \dots, (x_{|TeS_1|}, y_{|TeS_1|})\}$. Binary set is created for message M_1 as $TrS_1 = \{(x_j, y_j) = 1, (y_j, x_j) = 0\}$. For M_2 a multi-class training set is created as, $TrS_2 = \{(x_j, y_j), y_j = y_{j+1}, j = 2, \dots, |b|\}$. M_1 is trained with TrS_1 to recognize whether message is neutral or non-neutral and evaluated using TeS_1 . M_2 is trained with the non-neutral TrS_2 for computing gradual membership to the non-neutral classes. The testing is done through TeS_2 .

V. BASIC ARCHITECTURE

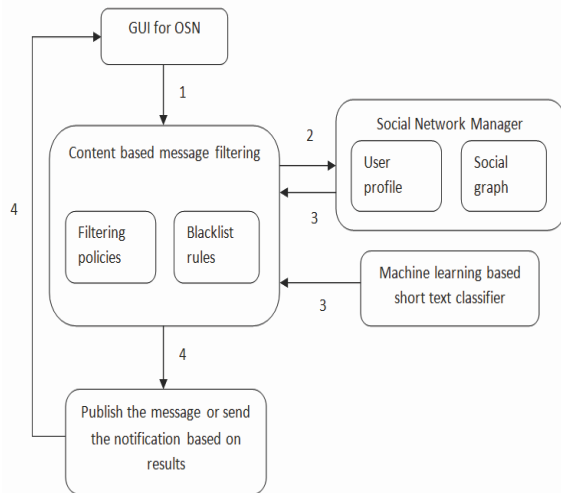


Fig.2. Basic Architecture

- ❖ When user wants to post a message on a private wall, he/she tries to enter into a wall and the user tries to post messages on the private wall but it is intercepted by the filter wall.(1)
- ❖ Secondly machine learning text classifier is used to extract the metadata from the given content of messages.(2)
- ❖ Then the filter wall makes use of this metadata which is provided by the short text classifier and along with the data extracted from the user profile by enforcing the filtering rule.(3)
- ❖ The filter wall publishes or blocks the message depending on the result of previous step.(4)

A. Filtering Rules

For defining the filtering rules the issue that should be considered may be the message with different meaning and significance based on the creator of message. Hence, here the type, depth, and trust value are recognized by creator specification.

Definition 1: (Creator specification) A Creator specification creatorSpec implicitly denotes a set of OSN users. It can have one of the following forms, possibly combined:

A set of attribute constraints of the form $OP \text{ av}$, where av is a user profile attribute name, av and OP are, respectively, a profile attribute value and a comparison operator, compatible with an's domain. A set of relationship constraints of the form $(m, rt, \text{min Depth}, \text{max Trust})$, denoting all the OSN users participating with user m in a relationship of type rt , having a depth greater than or equal to min Depth , and a trust value less than or equal to max Trust .

Example 1: The creator specification $CS1 = (\text{Age} < 16, \text{Sex} = \text{male})$ denotes all the males whose age is less than 16 years, whereas the creator specification $CS2 = (\text{Henry}, \text{colleague}, 2, 0.4)$ denotes all the users who are colleagues of Henry and whose trust level is less than or equal to 0.4. Finally, the creator specification $CS3 = (\text{Henry}, \text{colleague}, 2, 0.4, (\text{Sex} = \text{male}))$ selects only the male users from those identified by $CS2$.

The final component of a FR is the action that the system has to perform whether block or notify, with the obvious semantics of blocking the message, or notifying the wall owner. An FR is therefore formally defined as follows:

Definition 2: (Filtering rule) A filtering rule FR is a tuple $(\text{author}, \text{creator Spec}, \text{content Spec}, \text{action})$, where, author is the user who specifies the rule. creator Spec is a creator specification, specified according to

Definition 1. Content Spec is a Boolean expression defined on content constraints of the form (C, ml) where C is a class of the first or second level and ml is the minimum membership level there should be required for class C to make the constraint satisfied. $\text{action} \in \{\text{block}, \text{notify}\}$ denotes the action to be performed by the system on the messages matching content Spec and created by users identified by creator Spec. In the proposed work above explained techniques are experimentally evaluated on Facebook.

VI. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

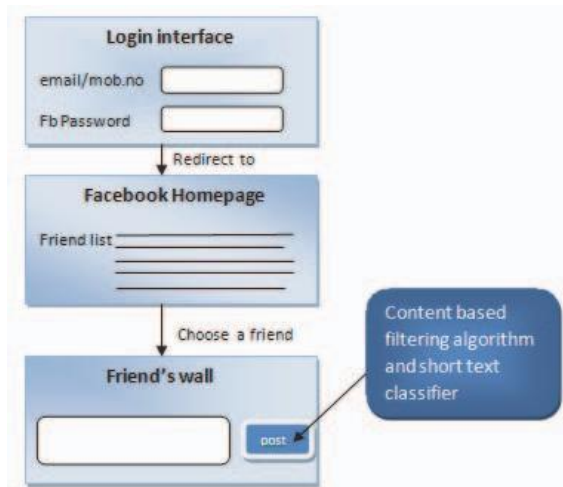


Fig.3. Experimental Flow

There is one login interface where user has to enter his/her login details for signing into Facebook account. This redirects the user to the Facebook homepage. User can select any other user to send message. When user tries to send a message it first get interrupted by the content based filtering algorithm. Based on the results generated by algorithm the objectionable post is restricted. If the message content is neutral the system will post the message.

VII. CONCLUSION

Traditionally, content based filtering was used for recommender systems. But, here we used the content based filtering technique along with Machine learning based short text classifier to filter unwanted messages posted on Facebook user walls. This leads to the prevention of undesired posts to be displayed to other users. However, in future we can apply these techniques on other social networking applications like Twitter, Whatsapp etc.

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