Automatic fact checking

Master thesis proposition

Background

There have been many recent controversies about the substance of news items. Discussions about "fake" news have taken place in many Swedish discussion forums and media channels. With the abundance of digital information to choose from, informed decision making becomes more and more time consuming for the reader. Therefore there seems to be a need for fact checkers which could pre-filter, -sort and -compare information in order to debunk false claims rapidly and assist decision making for the reader. As a start, this could be done for presented "facts", i.e. numerical or textual data, for which comparisons could be retrieved from official sources.

Goal and research value

Use existing similarity/proximity metrics or develop your own algorithm to fact check numerical or contextual relations in the given information.

The research value, depending on the direction of your thesis, could be to:
1) either compare the performance of different similarity/proximity metrics, or to
2) develop an own metric and compare its performance to a baseline of existing algorithms
in order to advance research in the field of data mining, networking theory, NLP, computational journalism and many more areas your research could apply for.
The algorithms, frameworks or models that your research develops might give pointers to increase performance in the respective fields. Or your research might lead to entirely new approaches to highlighting of information value and to expedite the search for relevant information.

If you think this is interesting, contact:
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