

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Research Problem	2
1.2	Research Questions	3
1.3	Objectives	3
1.3.1	General Objective	4
1.3.2	Specific Objectives	4
1.4	Methodology	4
1.5	Thesis Outline	4
1.6	Contributions	6
2	Related Work	7
2.1	Social Media Messages in Mass Emergency	7
2.1.1	Classification, Extraction and Summarization during Emergency Situations	8
2.1.2	Crisis-Related Social Media Monitoring	12
2.2	Event Detection Based on Locations	14
2.3	Location Extraction in Social Media	14
2.4	Summary	16
3	Theoretical Framework	17
3.1	Classification	17
3.1.1	Support Vector Machine Classifier	18
3.1.2	Decision Tree	19
3.1.3	Random Forest	19
3.2	Clustering	20
3.2.1	Partitional Models	21
3.2.2	Density Models	22
3.3	Normal Distribution	23
3.4	Evaluation Methods and Metrics	23
3.4.1	Confusion Matrix	24
3.4.2	Clustering Evaluation	25
4	Methodology	27
4.1	Data Pre-Processing	27
4.2	Signal Creation	29
4.2.1	Geographical Hierarchy	29

4.2.2	Location Extraction	30
4.3	Time-Window	31
4.3.1	Features Extraction	31
4.3.2	Determining Optimal Window Size	32
4.3.3	Features Normalization	33
4.4	Geographic Spread	33
5	Experimental Setup	35
5.1	Dataset Description	35
5.2	Ground Truth	36
5.3	Feature Selection	37
5.3.1	Remove Redundant Features	37
5.3.2	System's Historical Data	38
5.4	Labeled Emergency Situation Events	39
5.4.1	Under-Sampling	39
6	Supervised Experimental Analysis	43
6.1	Choosing a Machine Learning Classifier	43
6.1.1	Support Vector Machine	44
6.1.2	Random Forest	45
6.2	Summary of the Supervised Results	46
7	Evaluation	49
7.1	Ground Truth	49
7.1.1	Independent Analysis of Hierarchies	49
7.1.2	Dependent Analysis of Hierarchies	50
7.1.3	Geographic Spread Analysis	51
7.2	On-line Evaluation	54
8	Discussion and Conclusion	59
8.1	Unsupervised Experimental Analysis	61
8.1.1	Clustering Centroid Models	61
8.1.2	Clustering Density Models	62
8.1.3	Summary of the Unsupervised Results	62
8.2	Final Comments and Future Work	63
Bibliography		64
Appendices		70
A Tweet Object		71
B Text pre-processing		73
C Features Extraction		74
D Printing Details to Remove Redundant Features		78
E Results of the Supervised Approach		79

