

DETECTION OF MALICIOUS SOCIAL BOTS

A project report submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the award of the Degree of

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY

In

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project entitled "DETECTION OF MALICIOUS SOCIAL BOTS" in partial fulfillment for the of degree of Bachelor of Technology in COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, at AVANTHI INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, MAKAVARAPALEM, VISAKHAPATNAM is an bonafide work carried out by P. SHARMILA (18811A0546), M.DEVI PRIYANKA(18811A0545), D. VANI VASUNDHARA (18815A0508), G. BHARADWAZ NAIDU (18811A0512), A.Y.V.M.VARMA(19815A0505) under the guidance and supervision during 2021-2022.

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ABSTRACT

Malicious social bots generate fake tweets and automate their social relationships either by pretending to be a follower or by creating multiple fake accounts with malicious activities. Moreover, malicious social bots shorten malicious URLs in the tweet in order to redirect the requests of online social networking participants to some malicious servers. Hence, distinguishing malicious social bots from legitimate users is one of the most important tasks in the Twitter network. To detect malicious social bots, extracting URL-based features (such as URL redirection, frequency of shared URLs, and spam content in URL) consumes less amount of time in comparison with social graph-based features (which rely on the social interactions of users). Furthermore, malicious social bots cannot easily manipulate URL redirection chains. In this project, a learning automata-based malicious social bot detection (LA-MSBD) algorithm is proposed by integrating a trust computation model with URL-based features for identifying trustworthy participants (users) in the Twitter network. Experimentation has been performed on Twitter data sets, and the results illustrate that the proposed algorithm achieves improvement in precision, recall, F-measure, and accuracy compared with existing approaches for MSBD.