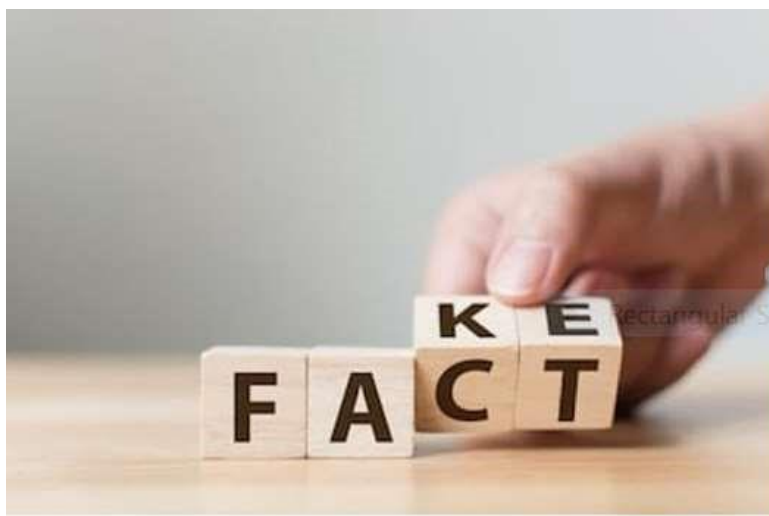


# Analyzing Fake News on Social Media



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## 1.Introduction

### 1.1 Overview

Fake news is false or misleading information presented as news. Nowadays, fake news has become a common trend. Even trusted media houses are known to spread fake news and are losing their credibility.



The rapid spread of fake news has become a major issue worldwide. The spread of false and misleading news has led to significant social and economic consequences, impacting

industries from finance to healthcare. For example, in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, several countries witnessed a spike in false news about the virus, leading to confusion and panic among people. Misinformation and fake news can have a long-term impact, especially when people rely on accurate information to make critical decisions. The need for detecting fake news has never been more crucial. Machine learning techniques can help us detect fake news efficiently and accurately. Using natural language processing techniques, machine learning algorithms can accurately detect and categorize true and false news. ML systems may distinguish between true news and false news by analyzing patterns in the language and sources used in news reports.

In this project, we have built a classifier model that can identify news as real or fake. For this purpose, we have used data from Kaggle, but you can use any data to build this model following the same methods. With the help of this project, you can create an NLP classifier to detect whether the news is real or fake.

## **1.2 Purpose**

Once you complete this project you will be able to gain

- Knowledge on Machine Learning Algorithms.
- Knowledge on Python Language with Machine Learning.
- Knowledge on Statistics and Graphs and their relations.
- Knowledge on Natural Language Processing (NLP).
- Real Time Analysis of Project.
- Building an ease of User Interface (UI).
- Navigation of ideas towards other projects(creativity).
- Knowledge on building ML Model.
- You will be able to know how to find the accuracy of the model.
- How to Build web applications using the Flask framework.

## **2. Literature Survey**

### **2.1 Existing Problem**

In the existing systems for detecting fake news, several approaches and techniques have been used, including manual fact-checking, crowd-sourced fact-checking, and automated or semi-automated.

- **Manual Fact-Checking:** This traditional approach involves human experts analyzing news content to determine its veracity. However, given the vast amount of content generated daily, this is a slow, resource-intensive process and is not scalable.
- **Crowdsourced Fact-Checking:** This approach leverages the power of the crowd to verify the authenticity of information. Platforms like Wikipedia and Snopes involve a community of users who collaborate to verify facts in content.

However, it can also be time-consuming and susceptible to bias or manipulation.

### **2.2 Proposed Solution**

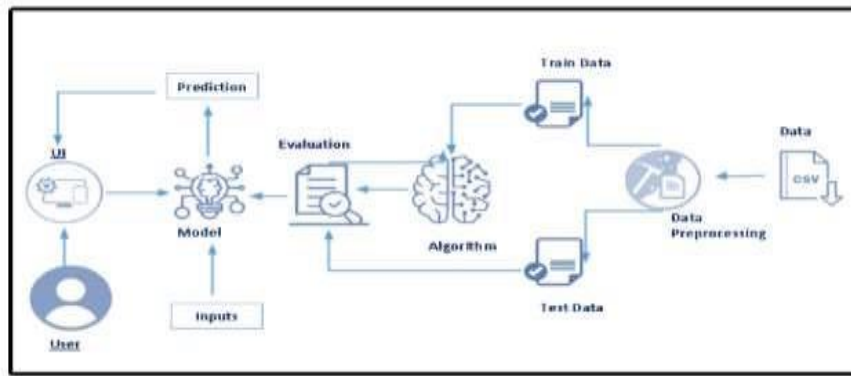
Machine Learning Techniques have shown promising results in detecting fake news with the help of analyzing vast amounts of data, in which it identifies patterns and it provides outcomes that are based on those patterns. Machine Learning can be applied in various ways and fields for the detection of false information.

In this project a model is build based on the count vectorizer or a tf-idf matrix (i.e word tallies relatives to how often they are used in other artices in your dataset) can help . Since this problem is a kind of text classification, Implementing a Naive Bayes classifier will be best as this is standard for text-based processing. The actual goal is in developing a model which was the text transformation (count vectorizer vs tf-idf vectorizer) and choosing which type of text to use (headlines vs full text). Now the next step is to extract the most optimal features for count vectorizer or tf-idf vectorizer, this is done by using a n-number of the most used words, and/or phrases, lower casing or not, mainly removing the stop words which are common words such as “the”, “when”, and “there” and only using those words that appear at least a given number of times in a given text dataset.

## **3. Theoritical Analysis**

### **3.1 Block diagram**

The following block diagram gives the overview of the project. The information is taken through a web page which is created using flask framework. It then checks whether the information is fake or real using a Machine Learning algorithm.



### System Architecture

## 3.2 Hardware/Software Designing

### Hardware Requirements :

Processor	: i3
RAM	: 4GB
Hard Disk	: 1TB

### Software Requirements :

Operating System	: Windows
Coding Language	: Python

### Flask Framework :

- To build this flask application you should have basic knowledge of “HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, flask framework and python”.

## 4.Experimental Investigations

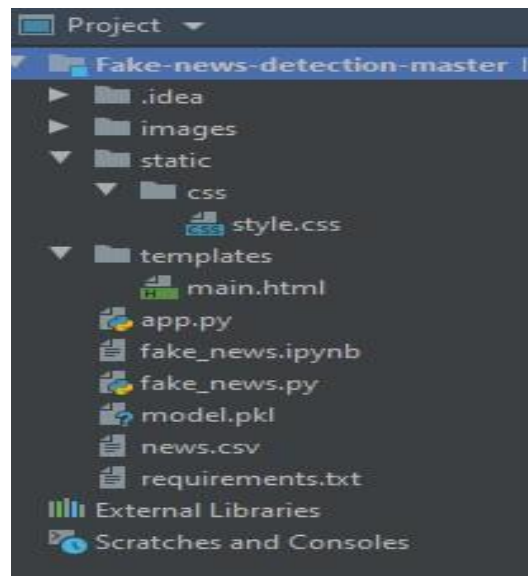
### ○ Project Flow

- User interacts with the UI (User Interface) to give the review as input
- Given Review is analyzed by the model which is integrated to UI build
- Once model analyses the review the prediction is showcased on the UI To accomplish this, we have to complete all the activities and tasks listed below
  - Install required packages and libraries.
  - Install packages and libraries.
  - Install Anaconda software.
  - Run Jupyter
  - Understanding the data.
  - Download the dataset.
  - Importing the required libraries.
  - Loading the dataset.
  - Countvectorizer for text classification.
  - TF-IDF Vectorizer for text classification.
  - Inspecting the vectors.

- Model Building
- Splitting the data into train and test.
- Training and testing the model with Countvectorizer & Predicting the result.
- Training and testing the model with TF-IDF Vectorizer & Predicting the result.
- Improving the model.
- Inspecting the model.
- Saving the model
- Application Building
- Flask Structure
- Importing libraries
- Load Flask and Assign the model.
- Routing to the Html page.
- Run the app in local browser.
- Final UI
- Input the URL & get the result.

## ○ Project Structure

Create a Project folder that contains files as shown below



- We are building a Flask Application which needs HTML pages “**main.html**” stored in the templates folder and a python script **app.py** for server side scripting
- The model is built in the notebook **fake\_news.ipynb** ○ We need the model which is saved and the saved model in this content is **model.pkl**.
- The static folder will contain a css file which is used in the html file.
- The templates mainly used here are “**main.html**” for showcasing the UI
- The flask app is denoted as **app.py**.

## ○ Data Collection & Preparation:-

There are many popular open sources for collecting the data. Eg: kaggle.com, UCI repository, etc. In this project we have used .csv data. This data is downloaded from kaggle.com. As the dataset is downloaded, let us read and understand the data properly with the help of some visualisation techniques and some analysing techniques.

**Note:** There are a number of techniques for understanding the data. But here we have used some of it. In an additional way, you can use multiple techniques.

### ‡ Import the libraries given in the below image

```
#Importing Libraries:
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import CountVectorizer
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer
from sklearn.naive_bayes import MultinomialNB
from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, confusion_matrix
import seaborn as sns
import pickle
```

**Numpy-** It is an open-source numerical Python library. It contains a multi-dimensional array and matrix data structures. It can be used to perform mathematical operations on arrays such as trigonometric, statistical, and algebraic routines. Pandas objects are very much dependent on NumPy objects.

**Pandas-** It is a fast, powerful, flexible, and easy-to-use open-source data analysis and manipulation tool, built on top of the Python programming language.

**Seaborn-** Seaborn is a library that uses Matplotlib underneath to plot graphs. It will be used to visualize random distributions.

**Count-Vectorizer-** Scikit-learn's CountVectorizer is used to convert a collection of text documents to a vector of term/token counts. It also enables the pre-processing of text data prior to generating the vector representation. This functionality makes it a highly flexible feature representation module for text.

**TF-IDF Vectorizer** - TF-IDF is an abbreviation for Term Frequency Inverse Document Frequency. This is very common algorithm to transform text into a meaningful representation of numbers which is used to fit machine algorithm for prediction.

### ‡ Loading The Dataset

Here, we are reading the dataset(.csv) from the system using pandas and storing it in a variable 'df'. It's time to begin building your text classifier! The data has been loaded into a DataFrame called df. The .head() method is particularly informative.

```
df = pd.read_csv('news.csv')
#print the first several row of data
df.head()
```

Unnamed: 0		title		text	label
0	8476	You Can Smell Hillary's Fear	Daniel Greenfield, a Shillman Journalism Fello...	FAKE	
1	10294	Watch The Exact Moment Paul Ryan Committed Pol...	Google Pinterest Digg LinkedIn Reddit Stumbleu...	FAKE	
2	-3608	Kerry to go to Paris in gesture of sympathy	U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry said Mon...	REAL	
3	10142	Bernie supporters on Twitter erupt in anger ag...	— Kaydee King (@KaydeeKing) November 9, 2016 T...	FAKE	
4	875	The Battle of New York: Why This Primary Matters	It's primary day in New York and front-runners...	REAL	



You can see your data set has three columns: title, text, and label. We make use of Text and label columns to build the classifier.

### ‡ CountVectorizer

**Building word count vectors with scikit-learn CountVectorizer for text classification.**

Now, we'll use pandas alongside scikit-learn to create a sparse text vectorizer. We can use it to train and test a simple supervised model. To begin, you'll set up a CountVectorizer and learn some of its features.

```
from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import CountVectorizer
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split

X = df['text'] # independent variable
y = df['label'] # dependent variable

# Create training set and test set
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y,
                                                    test_size=0.33, random_state=53)

# Initialize a CountVectorizer object: count_vectorizer
count_vectorizer = CountVectorizer(stop_words='english')

# Transform the training data using only the 'text' column values: count_train
count_train = count_vectorizer.fit_transform(X_train)

# Transform the test data using only the 'text' column values: count_test
count_test = count_vectorizer.transform(X_test)

# Print the first 10 features of the count_vectorizer
print(count_vectorizer.get_feature_names()[:10])
['00', '000', '0000', '00000031', '000035', '00006', '0001', '0001pt', '000ft', '000km']
```

### ‡ Tfidf Vectorizer For Text Classification

Similar to the sparse CountVectorizer created in the previous step, we'll work on creating tf-idf vectors for your documents. You'll set up a TfidfVectorizer and learn some of its features.

```
from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer

# Initialize a TfidfVectorizer object: tfidf_vectorizer
tfidf_vectorizer = TfidfVectorizer(stop_words='english', max_df=0.7)

# Transform the training data: tfidf_train
tfidf_train = tfidf_vectorizer.fit_transform(X_train)

# transform the test data: tfidf_test
tfidf_test = tfidf_vectorizer.transform(X_test)

# Print the first 10 features
print(tfidf_vectorizer.get_feature_names()[:10])

# Print the first 5 vectors of the tfidf training data
print(tfidf_train.A[:5])

['00', '000', '0000', '00000031', '000035', '00006', '0001', '0001pt', '000ft', '000km']
[[0. 0. 0. ... 0. 0. 0.]
 [0. 0. 0. ... 0. 0. 0.]
 [0. 0. 0. ... 0. 0. 0.]
 [0. 0. 0. ... 0. 0. 0.]
 [0. 0. 0. ... 0. 0. 0.]]
```

### ‡ Inspecting The Vectors

To get a better idea of how the vectors work, we'll investigate them by converting them into pandas DataFrames.



```
# Create training set and test set
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(X, y,
                                                    test_size=0.33, random_state=53)
```

## † Training And Testing A Classification Model With Scikit-Learn

Training and testing the "fake news" model with CountVectorizer. Now we need to train the "fake news" model using the features you identified and extracted. Firstly we'll train and test a Naive Bayes model using the CountVectorizer data.

```
from sklearn.naive_bayes import MultinomialNB
from sklearn.metrics import accuracy_score, confusion_matrix

# Instantiate a Multinomial Naive Bayes classifier: nb_classifier
nb_classifier = MultinomialNB()

# Fit the classifier to the training data
nb_classifier.fit(count_train, y_train)

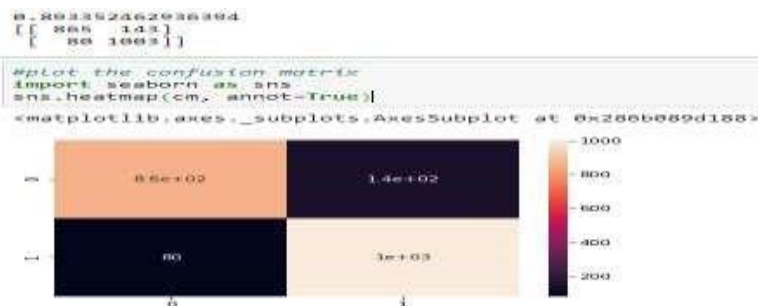
# Create the predicted tags: pred
pred = nb_classifier.predict(count_test)

# Calculate the accuracy score: score
score = accuracy_score(y_test, pred)
print(score)

# Calculate the confusion matrix: cm
cm = confusion_matrix(y_test, pred, labels=['FAKE', 'REAL'])
print(cm)

0.893352462936394
[[ 865  143]
 [  80 1003]]
```

Show the confusion matrix and accuracy score for the model on the test data. The output is meaningful but looks like absolute garbage. So, we can make it beautiful with a heatmap from the Seaborn library for plotting the confusion matrix for the count vectorizer.



## † Training And Testing The "Fake News" Model With TfidfVectorizer

Now that we have evaluated the model using the CountVectorizer, we'll do the same using the TfidfVectorizer with a Naive Bayes model.

```
nb_classifier = MultinomialNB()

# Fit the classifier to the training data
nb_classifier.fit(tfidf_train, y_train)

# Create the predicted tags: pred
pred = nb_classifier.predict(tfidf_test)

# Calculate the accuracy score: score
score = accuracy_score(y_test, pred)
print(score)

# Calculate the confusion matrix: cm
cm = confusion_matrix(y_test, pred, labels=['FAKE', 'REAL'])
print(cm)

0.8565279770444764
[[ 739  269]
 [  31 1052]]
```

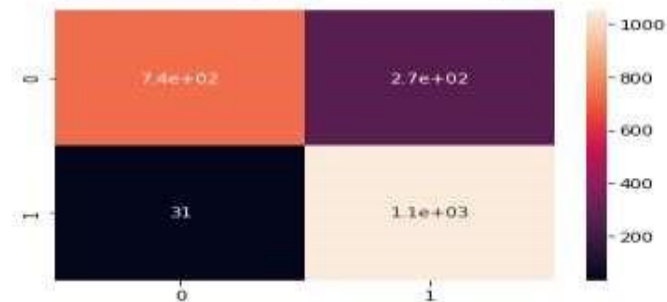
Show the confusion matrix and accuracy score for the model on the test data

The output is meaningful, but looks like absolute garbage. So, we can make it beautiful with a heatmap from the Seaborn library for plotting the confusion matrix for TF-IDF vectorizer.

```
0.8565279770444764  
[[ 739 269]  
 [  31 1052]]
```

```
#plot the confusion matrix for tf-idf vectorizer  
import seaborn as sns  
sns.heatmap(cm, annot=True)
```

```
<matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x286b09e21c8>
```



## ‡ Simple NLP, Complex Problems

Improving the model. Our job is to test a few different alpha levels using the Tf-Idf vectors to determine if there is a better-performing combination.

```
alphas = np.arange(0, 1, 0.1)  
  
# Define train_and_predict()  
def train_and_predict(alpha):  
    # Instantiate the classifier: nb_classifier  
    nb_classifier = MultinomialNB(alpha=alpha)  
  
    # Fit to the training data  
    nb_classifier.fit(tfidf_train, y_train)  
  
    # Predict the labels: pred  
    pred = nb_classifier.predict(tfidf_test)  
  
    # Compute accuracy: score  
    score = accuracy_score(y_test, pred)  
    return score  
  
# Iterate over the alphas and print the corresponding score  
for alpha in alphas:  
    print('Alpha: ', alpha)  
    print('Score: ', train_and_predict(alpha))  
    print()
```

Output of Improving model:



```

Alpha: 0.0
C:\Users\Shivam\anaconda3\lib\site-packages\sklearn\naive_bayes.py:512: UserWarning: alpha too small will result in numeric errors, setting alpha = 1.0e-10
  'setting alpha = %1s' % _ALPHA_MIN)
Score: 0.8813664610234337

Alpha: 0.1
Score: 0.8978586236250598

Alpha: 0.2
Score: 0.8938307030129125

Alpha: 0.30000000000000004
Score: 0.8900047824007652

Alpha: 0.4
Score: 0.8857006217130995

Alpha: 0.5
Score: 0.8843659014825443

Alpha: 0.6000000000000001
Score: 0.874701099952176

Alpha: 0.7000000000000001
Score: 0.8703060392635102

Alpha: 0.8
Score: 0.8660927785748446

Alpha: 0.9
Score: 0.8589191774270684

```

## ✦ Inspecting Our Model

Now that we have built a "fake news" classifier, we'll investigate what it has learned. We can map the important vector weights back to actual words using some simple inspection techniques.

```

class_labels = nb_classifier.classes_

# Extract the features: feature_names
feature_names = tfidf_vectorizer.get_feature_names()

# Zip the feature names together with the coefficient array
# and sort by weights: feat_with_weights
feat_with_weights = sorted(zip(nb_classifier.coef_[0], feature_names))

# Print the first class label and the top 20 feat_with_weights entries
print(class_labels[0], feat_with_weights[:20])

# Print the second class label and the bottom 20 feat_with_weights entries
print(class_labels[1], feat_with_weights[-20:])

FAKE [(-11.316312804238807, '0000'), (-11.316312804238807, '000035'), (-11.316312804238807, '0001'), (-11.316312804238807, '0001pt'), (-11.316312804238807, '000km'), (-11.316312804238807, '0011'), (-11.316312804238807, '006s'), (-11.316312804238807, '007'), (-11.316312804238807, '007s'), (-11.316312804238807, '008s'), (-11.316312804238807, '0099'), (-11.316312804238807, '00am'), (-11.316312804238807, '00p'), (-11.316312804238807, '00pm'), (-11.316312804238807, '014'), (-11.316312804238807, '015'), (-11.316312804238807, '018'), (-11.316312804238807, '01am'), (-11.316312804238807, '020'), (-11.316312804238807, '023')]
REAL [(-7.742481952533027, 'states'), (-7.717550034444668, 'rubio'), (-7.703583809227384, 'voters'), (-7.654774992495461, 'house'), (-7.649398936153309, 'republicans'), (-7.6246184189367, 'bush'), (-7.616556675728881, 'percent'), (-7.545789237823644, 'people'), (-7.516447881078008, 'new'), (-7.448027933291952, 'party'), (-7.411148410203476, 'cruz'), (-7.410910239085596, 'state'), (-7.35748985914622, 'republican'), (-7.33649923948987, 'campaign'), (-7.2854057032685775, 'president'), (-7.2166878130917755, 'sanders'), (-7.108263114902301, 'obama'), (-6.724771332488041, 'clinton'), (-6.5653954389926845, 'said'), (-6.328486029596207, 'trump')]

```

## ✦ Saving The Model

After building the model we have to save the model.

Pickle in Python is primarily used in serializing and deserializing a Python object structure. In other words, it's the process of converting a Python object into a byte stream to store it in a file/database, maintain program state across sessions, or transport data over the network. wb indicates write method and rd indicates read method. This is done by the below code

```

: #saving the model
import pickle
pickle.dump(nb_classifier, open('model.pkl', 'wb'))

```

## ○ Build Flask Application:-

## ‡ Flask Structure

- To build this flask application you should have basic knowledge of “HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, flask framework and python”
- For more information regarding flask
- **Main Python Script** • Let us build a flask file 'Fake\_news.ipynb' which is a web framework written in python for server-side scripting. Let's see the step by step procedure for building the backend application.
- You can also run this on spyder, given as app.py
- App starts running when the “\_\_name\_\_” constructor is called in main.
- Render\_template is used to return html files.
- “GET” method is used to take input from the user.
- “POST” method is used to display the output to the user.
- Main.html web pages are given.

## ‡ Build Flask Application

Libraries required for the app to run are to be imported.

```
#importing the libraries

#Flask is use for run the web application.
import flask
#request is use for accessing file which was uploaded by the user on our application.
from flask import Flask, request,render_template
from flask_cors import CORS

#Python pickle module is used for serializing
# and de-serializing a Python object structure.
import pickle

#OS module in python provides functions for interacting with the operating system
import os

#Newspaper is used for extracting and parsing newspaper articles.
#For extracting all the useful text from a website.
from newspaper import Article

#urllib is use for the urlopen function and is able to fetch URLs.
#This module helps to define functions and classes to open URLs
import urllib
```

Loading Flask and assigning the model variable

```
#Loading Flask and assigning the model variable
app = Flask(__name__)
CORS(app)
app=flask.Flask(__name__,template_folder='templates')

with open('model.pkl', 'rb') as handle:
    model = pickle.load(handle)
```

### • Routing to the html Page

Basically we give routes of our html pages in order to showcase the UI. By giving the routes the built code in the html page is connected to our flask app. This is how a UI can be built and showcased.

```
@app.route('/') #default route
def main():
    return render_template('main.html')

#Receiving the input url from the user and using Web Scrapping to extract the news content
@app.route('/predict',methods=['GET','POST'])
```

We are routing the app to the html templates which we want to render. Firstly we are rendering the “main.html” template and from there we are navigating to our prediction page.

```
def predict():
    #Contains the incoming request data as string in case.
    url =request.get_data(as_text=True)[5:]

    #The URL parsing functions focus on splitting a URL string into its components,
    #or on combining URL components into a URL string.
    url = urllib.parse.unquote(url)

    #A new article come from Url and convert onto string
    article = Article(str(url))

    #To download the article
    article.download()

    #To parse the article
    article.parse()

    #To perform natural language processing ie .nlp
    article.nlp()
    #To extract summary
    news = article.summary
    print(type(news))

    #Passing the news article to the model and returning whether it is Fake or Real
    pred = model.predict([news])
    print(pred)
    return render_template('main.html', prediction_text='The news is {}'.format(pred[0]))
```

Here the route for prediction is given and necessary steps are performed in order to get the predicted output.

```
if __name__=="__main__":
    port=int(os.environ.get('PORT',5000))
    app.run(port=port,debug=True,use_reloader=False)
```

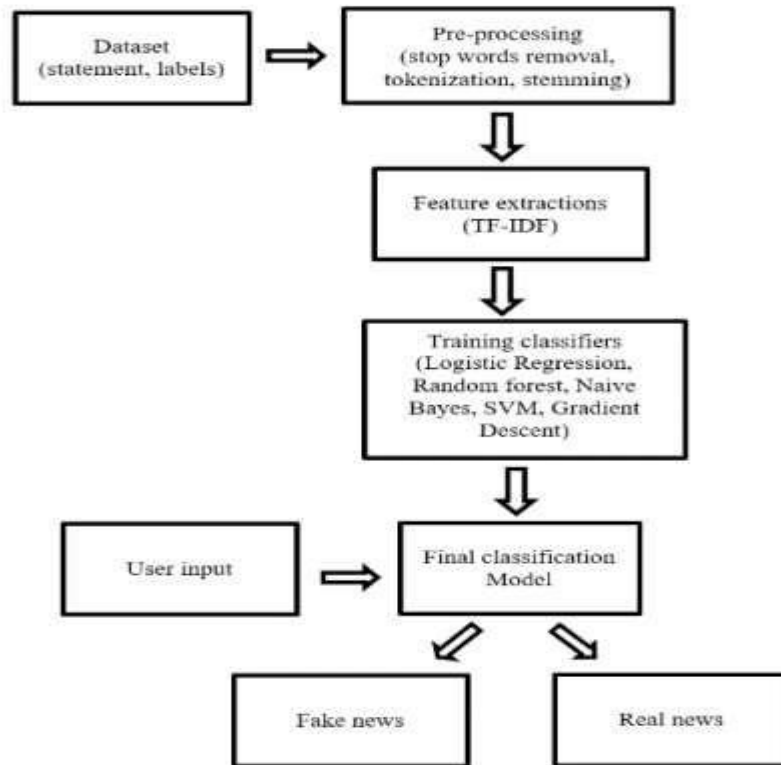
Lastly, we run our app on the local host. Here we are running it on localhost:5000

- Run The app in local browser

```
(base) C:\Users\Shivam>cd I:\SmartBridge Projects\Fake-news-detection-master
(base) C:\Users\Shivam>I:
(base) I:\SmartBridge Projects\Fake-news-detection-master>python app.py_
```

- Open anaconda prompt from the start menu
- Navigate to the folder where your python script is.
- Now type “python app.py” command
- Navigate to the localhost where you can view your web page.

## 5.FlowChart:-



## 6.Result:-

This is the main page of Fake News Detection where we give the URL as input and predict the output.

- Input the URL & predict the result.

- Paste the URL of the article and click to predict the output whether it is Fake or Real.





This article is Real based on our model.



This article is Fake based on our model.



## 7. Advantages & Disadvantages

Machine learning has led to significant developments in false news detection. However, machine learning has advantages and disadvantages when detecting false news. This section will explore the pros and cons of using machine learning for false news detection.

### Advantages :

There are several advantages of using machine learning for detecting fake news:

- Machine learning algorithms are capable of swiftly and effectively analyzing massive volumes of data. Because there are so many news articles published every day, it is impossible for humans to manually analyze every article. News outlets and social media platforms can easily identify false news because of machine learning algorithms' ability to handle massive volumes of data quickly.
- Algorithms that use machine learning can find links and patterns in data that may not be obvious to people. Machine learning algorithms can precisely identify fake news stories by examining the wording, sources, and social media networks linked to news pieces.
- In order to stop the spread of incorrect information, social media platforms and news organizations can immediately take action thanks to machine learning algorithms' ability to identify fake news stories in real-time.
- Algorithms that use machine learning are able to pick up new information and adapt. Machine learning algorithms may be trained to recognize new trends and identify new sorts of fake news stories as fake news tactics advance.

- The process of identifying false news stories may be automated with machine learning algorithms. Humans will have less work to do, as a result, freeing them up to work on things like fact-checking and investigative journalism.
- The detection of false news stories may be done at a reasonable price using machine learning algorithms. Once taught, the algorithms may be widely used without incurring a lot of expense.

### Disadvantages :

Fake news detection using machine learning has its disadvantages as well ○

Machine Learning algorithms are only on the data that they are trained on. If the dataset is biased, so will the algorithm. So we need to keep in mind that we have to consider the randomness of the datasets that contain news articles from various sources.

- Machine learning techniques are capable of identifying fake news, but they are not entirely reliable, as there is always a possibility of misidentification of true news as fake and vice versa. Therefore we need to consider multiple strategies, such as factchecking, which are necessary to evaluate the authenticity of the news.

### 8.Application:-

The solution for fake news detection using machine learning and natural language processing techniques can be applied in various areas:

- **Media and Journalism:** News agencies can use this technology to verify the authenticity of the news before publishing, thereby maintaining their credibility and trust among readers.
- **Social Media Platforms:** Fake news often spreads rapidly on social media. Implementing a fake news detection system can help these platforms identify and remove false information, leading to a more accurate and reliable online environment.
- **Government and Public Sector:** Government agencies can use these models to combat misinformation in the public domain, particularly during critical times like elections or public health crises.
- **Education:** Educational institutions can use this technology to teach students about media literacy and the importance of verifying information.

### 9. Conclusion:-

This project demonstrated how machine learning and natural language processing can effectively detect fake news. A classifier model was built using a count vectorizer, a tf-idf matrix, and a Naive Bayes classifier. Despite certain limitations such as potential bias and the need for updates, the model proved efficient in analyzing large data volumes. The project emphasized the importance of combining technology with other strategies like fact-checking to ensure news accuracy. While machine learning is a significant contributor to fake news detection, human judgment remains key.

## 10.Future Scope:-

The future scope of this project on fake news detection using machine learning and natural language processing could include:

- **Improved Models:** Advances in machine learning and natural language processing could lead to the development of more accurate and efficient models for detecting fake news.
- **Multilingual Support:** The current project is likely based on English language data. In the future, the model could be expanded to support multiple languages, making it more globally applicable.
- **Image and Video Analysis:** As fake news often involves misleading images and videos, future work could involve extending the model to analyze visual content for a more comprehensive approach to fake news detection.