

Fake news detection using deep learning

Dong-Ho Lee*, Yu-Ri Kim**, Hyeong-Jun Kim***, Seung-Myun Park**** and Yu-Jun Yang*****

Abstract

With the wide spread of Social Network Services (SNS), fake news—which is a way of disguising false information as legitimate media—has become a big social issue. This paper proposes a deep learning architecture for detecting fake news that is written in Korean. Previous works proposed appropriate fake news detection models for English, but Korean has two issues that cannot apply in existing models: (1) Korean can be expressed in shorter sentences than English even with the same meaning; therefore, it is difficult to operate a deep neural network because of the lack of features for deep learning. (2) Difficulty in semantic analysis due to morpheme ambiguity. We worked to resolve these issues by implementing a system using various Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)-based deep learning architectures and “Fasttext” which is a word-embedding model learned by syllable unit. After training and testing its implementation, we could achieve meaningful accuracy for classification of the body and context discrepancies, but the accuracy was low for classification of the headline and body discrepancies.

Keywords

Fake news detection, Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing

1. Introduction

Since 2010, SNSs such as Facebook and Twitter have become widespread and fake news, which is a form of false information disguised as media, has started spreading. It had a significant impact on voting decisions in the 2016 US presidential election and became a hot topic [1]. Fake news on Facebook during the election was mainly used in support of a certain candidate [2]. Mainstream media around the world united to provide readers a confidence index for articles and employed people to monitor for fake news to prevent its spread [3]. In addition, there have been various attempts to solve this problem by taking a technical approach. For example, there are Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based detection methods and methods that detect the abnormal diffusion pattern of fake news propagation [4]. AI-based detection methods use models that have been trained on data; this method is classified as a Natural Language Processing (NLP) task based on machine learning. Several previous works have garnered > 80% accuracy using this method such as neural network models or decision trees [5] [6].

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Corresponding Author: Dong-Ho Lee (danny911kr@naver.com)

* Department of Computer Education, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea (danny911kr@naver.com)

** Department of Industrial & Management Engineering, Hansung University, Seoul, Korea (dbfle620@naver.com)

*** Department of Computer Science, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea (hjkim2246@gmail.com)

**** Department of Information System, Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea (psm5moto@gmail.com)

***** Department of Software, Gachon University, Seongnam, Korea (defr5623@gmail.com)

However, Korean has two issues that cannot apply in these works: (1) Korean can be expressed in shorter sentences than English even with the same meaning; therefore, it is difficult to operate a deep neural network because of the lack of features for deep learning. (2) Difficulty in semantic analysis due to morpheme ambiguity. We resolved these issues and proposed a suitable fake news detection model for Korean by implementing a system that uses various CNN-based deep learning architecture and “Fasttext” which is a word embedding model learned by syllable unit. Among the various types of fake news, we detected so-called “Click-bait” articles. In this paper, mission1 is the case in which the headline and body are inconsistent and mission2 is the case where the content of the body is irrelevant to the context.

2. Related work

In this paper, we applied and transformed various mechanisms based on “Fasttext” [7] and “Shallow-and-wide CNN” [8] to implement a model for detecting fake news. This section introduces previous related works that we use to implement models for fake news detection.

2.1 Word embedding

Word embedding is a method of mapping words or phrases that constitute text to vectors of real numbers. The traditional method, “Discrete representation” has a “one-hot vector” representation that consists of 0s in all dimensions with the exception of a single 1 in only one dimension that is used to represent the word. However, “Discrete representation” does not reflect the context and has problems handling synonyms and antonyms. Recently, “Distributed representation” has emerged as a way to represent words in a continuous vector space where all dimensions are required to represent the word. This paper introduces and applies “Word2vec” and “Fasttext” among various representations.

2.1.1 Word2vec

“Word2vec” represents word embedding using a neural network; it has two model architectures for learning distributed representations of words: Continuous Bag of Words (CBOW) and Skip-gram. The Skip-gram architecture is widely used because it works better on semantic tasks than the CBOW model [9]. The Skip-gram architecture uses each current word as an input (w_t) for the model and predicts words within a certain range before and after the current word ($w_{t-k} \sim w_{t+k}$). It maximizes the classification of a word based on another word in the same sentence, so similar words have similar vectors and their similarity increases [10]. Given a sequence of training words ($w_1 \sim w_t$) and the size of training context (c), the objective of the Skip-gram model is to maximize the average log probability

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{-c \leq j \leq c, j \neq 0} \log p(w_{t+j} | w_t) \quad (1)$$

The basic Skip-gram formulation defines $p(w_{t+j} | w_t)$ using the softmax function as follows:

$$p(w_o | w_l) = \frac{\exp(v'_{w_o} \cdot v_{w_l})}{\sum_{j=1}^W \exp(v'_j \cdot v_{w_l})} \quad (2)$$

where v_w and v'_w are the “input” and “output” vector representations of w , and W is the number of words in the vocabulary [11].

2.1.2 Fasttext

“Fasttext” is a method of adding the concept of “Sub-word” to “Word2vec.” Each word is represented as the sum of n -gram vectors and the word vector itself. Taking the word *apple* and $n = 3$ as an example. It will be represented by the character n -grams: $\langle ap, app, ppl, ple, le \rangle$ and the word itself $\langle apple \rangle$. The reason why it has 2-gram vector $\langle ap, le \rangle$ is that it adds special boundary symbols $\langle and \rangle$ at the beginning and end of words to distinguish prefixes and suffixes from other character sequences. The formulation is as follows: Suppose that you are given a dictionary of n -grams of size G . Given a word w , let us denote by $G_w \subset \{1, \dots, G\}$ the set of n -grams appearing in w . z_n is a vector representation which is associated to each n -gram g . Thus, v_w in Equation (2), which is the “input” vector representation of input word can be represented as follows [7]:

$$v_w = \sum_{g \in G_w} z_n \quad (3)$$

2.2 Shallow-and-wide CNN

The model architecture as shown in Fig. 1, is the “Shallow-and-wide CNN” architecture of Yoon Kim [8]. The first layer is the look-up table that is the set of k -dimensional word vectors that correspond to the i -th word in the sentence. Then, a convolution operation is applied with multiple filter widths and a max-over-time pooling operation. Finally, these features are passed to a fully connected layer and the prediction is made with the softmax layer.

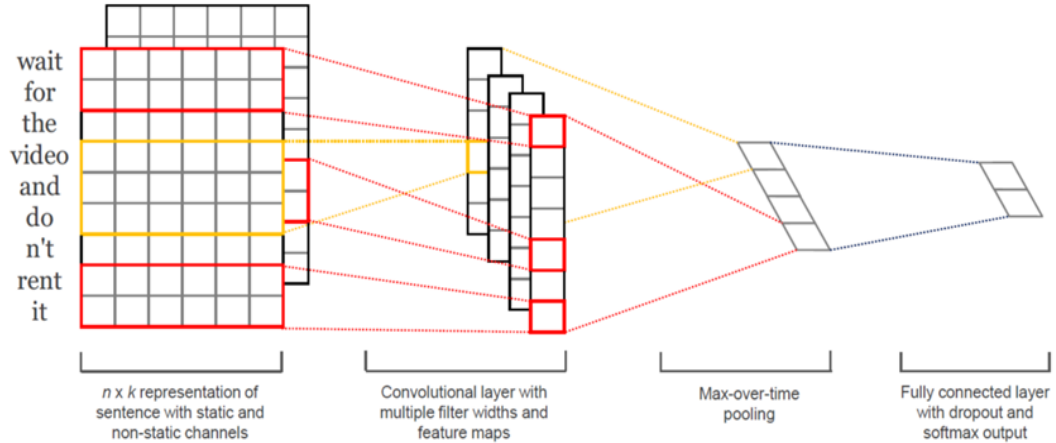


Fig. 1. Shallow-and-wide CNN Architecture [8]

It has two channels of word vectors; one named “Static” that is kept static throughout the training and one named “Non-static” that is fine-tuned via backpropagation. Previous works have conducted sentimental analysis with a dataset that consists of short sentences and the “Static” and “Non-static” results were comparable, but “Non-static” allows the words to attain more meaningful representations [8]. However, if only “Non-static” is used, new words can be over-fitted in this model. Therefore, both channels are used to secure the generality of the word’s meaning

2.3 Attentive pooling

The model architecture shown in Fig. 2 is the “Attentive-pooling” architecture of Santos et al [12]. Recently, attention mechanisms have been successfully used for image captioning [13] and machine translation [14]. However, there were no further studies of applying the attention mechanism to NLP tasks with two inputs such as pair-wise ranking or text classification. Meanwhile, “attentive pooling” has contributed to the improved performance in these tasks by effectively representing the two inputs’ similarity [12]. Although there is the Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) method that statistically measures the similarity by the frequency of words in a document, this model measures the similarity by increasing the weight for words that have the same or similar meanings to the two inputs.

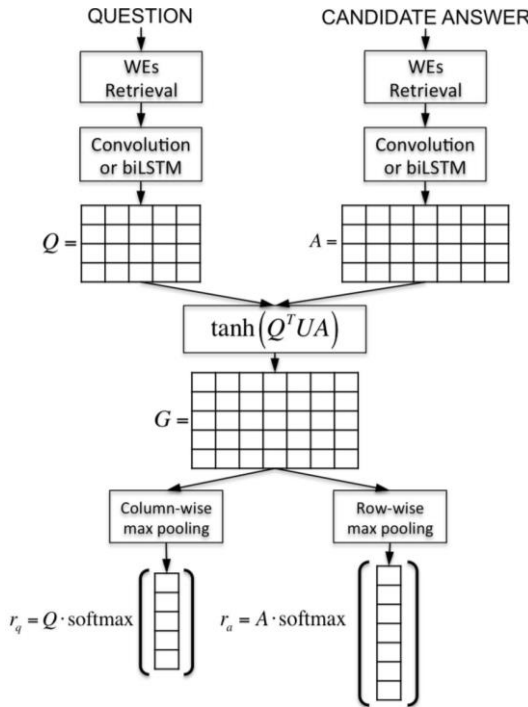


Fig. 2. Attentive Pooling Networks for Answer Selection [12]

2.4 Bi-LSTM

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) is a structure that learns how much of the previous network state to apply when input data is received. It resolves the long-term dependency problem of conventional Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) using both the hidden state and the cell state, which is a memory for storing past input information and the gates that are used to regulate the ability to remove or add information to the cell state. The multiplicative gates and memory are defined for time t [15]:

$$f_t = \sigma(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f) \quad (4)$$

$$i_t = \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i) \quad (5)$$

$$o_t = \sigma(W_o \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o) \quad (6)$$

$$C_t = f_t * C_{t-1} + i_t * \tanh(W_c \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_c) \quad (7)$$

$$h_t = o_t * \tanh(C_t) \quad (8)$$

where $\sigma(\cdot)$ is the sigmoid function and f_t, i_t, o_t, C_t , and h_t are the vectors of the forget gate, input gate, output gate, memory cell, and hidden state respectively. All of the vectors are the same size. Moreover, W_f, W_i, W_o , and W_c denote the weight matrices of each gates and b_f, b_i, b_o , and b_c denote the bias vectors of each gates. Another shortcoming of conventional RNN is that they are only able to make use of previous context [16]. To resolve this, Bidirectional-RNN (Bi-RNN) stacks two RNN layers. If the existing RNN is the forward RNN that only forwards previous information, Bi-RNN stacks backward RNN that can receive subsequent information, as shown in Fig. 3. Combining Bi-RNN with LSTM gives Bidirectional-LSTM (Bi-LSTM), which can handle long-range context in both input directions [16].

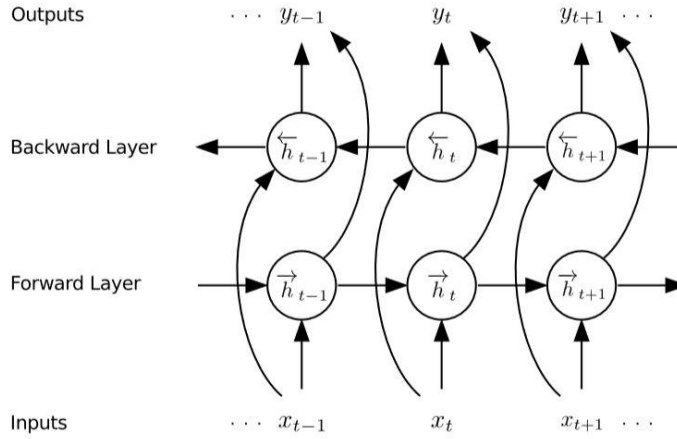


Fig. 3. Bidirectional-RNN [16]

3. Model Architecture

This paper modifies and combines “Fasttext” and “Shallow-and-wide CNN” to implement a fake news detection model. To detect so-called “Click-bait” articles among the various types of fake news, we need to understand the consistency and relevance between the headline and body of article. To do this, we extract the global feature vector from the headline and body respectively, and compare the vectors. For extracting method, there are several methods such as TF-IDF and RNN, but since the overall meaning of text is determined by a few key words in the text, we used CNN which can extract the most salient local features to form fixed-length global feature vector [17]. Then, we pass these features to a fully connected layer and make the prediction with softmax layer. We call this model “BCNN (Bi-CNN)” because for the headline and the body which are two inputs of model, the convolution and the pooling have been used. Moreover, we tried to improve the accuracy by implementing new models by applying LSTM/Bi-LSTM and attentive pooling to BCNN; in this section, we first applies “Word2vec” and “Fasttext”, which are representative word embedding techniques, to Korean and compare the accuracy. Then, we introduce several BCNN models with better performance word embedding technique.

3.1 Word embedding

We trained 100K articles with “Word2vec” and “Fasttext” to find suitable word embedding for Korean; the results are as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Test results for “Word2vec” and “Fasttext”

		한국 : 문재인 김정은 : ?	한국 : 서울 도쿄 : ?
Word2vec	Batch: 5000 Epochs: 50	미국, 테니스, 로드먼	일본 0.71
Fasttext	Epochs: 5	미국, 북한, 중국	일본 0.76

This paper uses “Fasttext” because its performance is better in terms of accuracy.

3.2 BCNN

BCNN is a Convolutional Neural Network with two inputs and pre-trained word embedding “Fasttext” as shown in Fig. 4. It extracts feature maps from headlines and bodies using 3-gram filters through the convolution layer. The number of filters is proportionally set as 256 filters for the headline and 1024 filters for the body considering the huge difference in the amount of text between them. Then, it makes each feature map to one vector through the max-pooling layer. This is the process of forming fixed-length global vector for the headline and the body. Finally, classification is performed through the fully connected layer. We use Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) as an activation function and the softmax function as an output function. We use the “Static” channel that keeps word embedding static with pre-trained word embedding “Fasttext” throughout training.

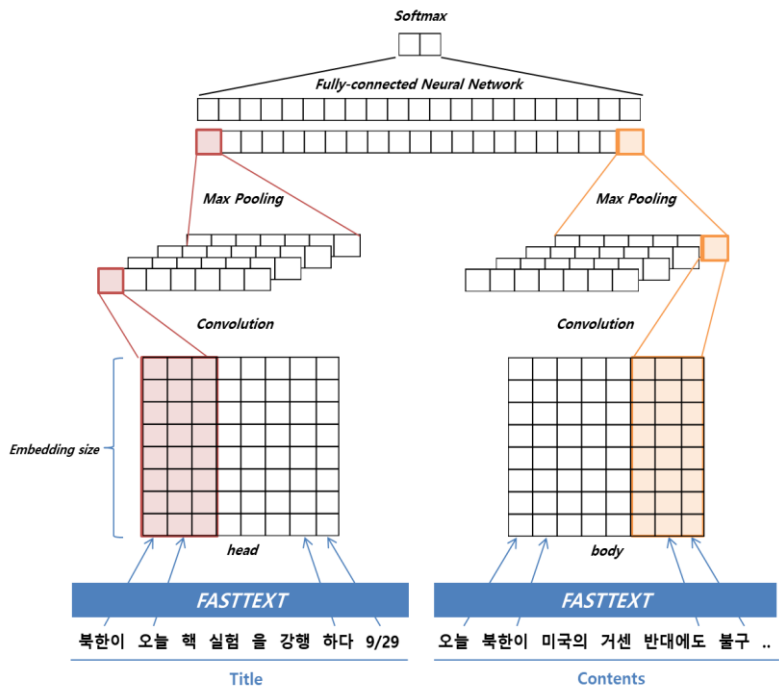


Fig. 4. BCNN architecture

3.3 (Bi-)LSTM + BCNN

(Bi-)LSTM + BCNN applies the context information to existing word embedding by training it with (Bi-)LSTM as shown in Fig. 5. We expected an improved performance because each word vector would have both the vector trained by “Fasttext” and the context information in the sentence.

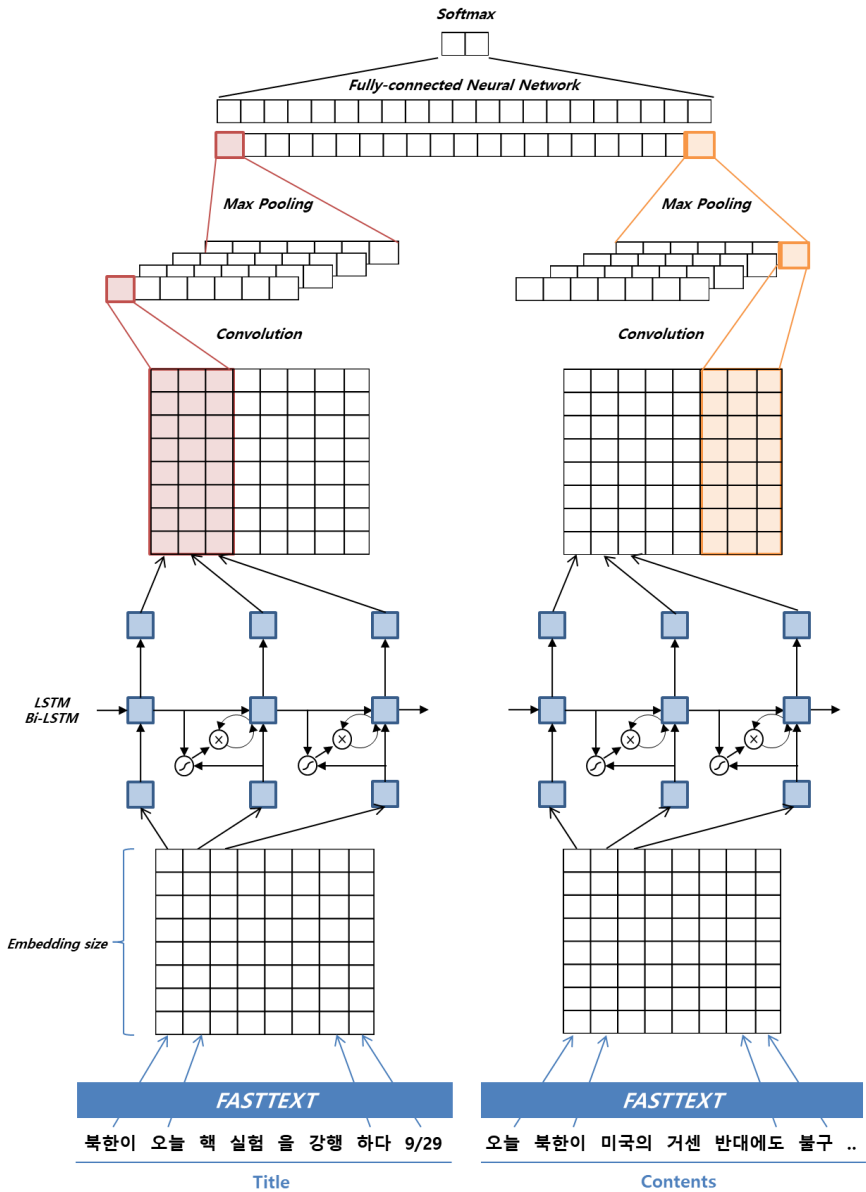


Fig. 5. LSTM/Bi-LSTM + BCNN architecture

3.4 BCNN with Attentive pooling similarity (APS-BCNN)

APS-BCNN adds a similarity vector between two inputs represented using attention pooling to a one-dimensional vector matrix that is derived from max-pooling in BCNN, as shown in Fig. 6. We expected improved performance because the similarity vector had been added.

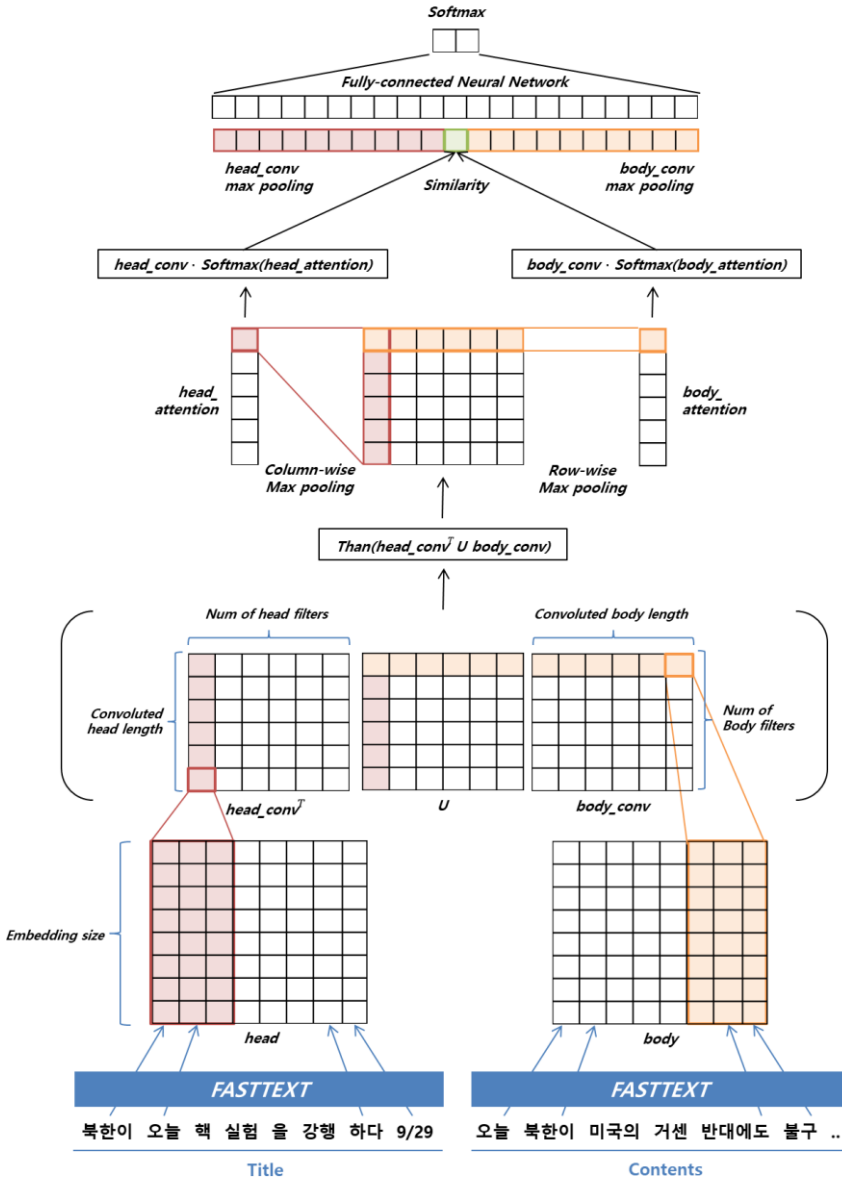


Fig. 6. BCNN with attention pooling similarity architecture

3.5 Hyperparameters

Hyperparameters are as shown in Table. 2. As mentioned above, the number of filters is proportionally set considering the huge difference in the amount of text between the headline and the body.

Table 2. Hyperparameters

Label	Description	Optimized
filter_size	Size of filters	3
num_filters	Number of filters	256(Headline) 1024(Body)
dropout	Dropout rate	0.5
L2_alpha	L2 regularization lambda	0.1
batch_size	Mini-batch size	64
embedding_dim	Word embedding dimension	128

4. Experiments

This paper detects so-called “click-bait” articles among the various types of fake news. We define mission1 as where the headline and body are inconsistent and mission2 as where the content of the body is irrelevant to the context.

Table 3. Example of fake news for each mission

		Mission 1	Mission 2
Korean	Headline	카타르 축구팀 ‘도하 참사’ 한국에 33년 만에 패배	‘해리포터’ 작가 사인회가 열린다.
	Body	한국 축구대표팀은 카타르에 결승골을 내주며 2-3으로 무릎을 꿇었다.	‘해리포터’의 작가 J.K Rowling의 사인회가 마련됐다. ... 한편 배우 김지연이 패션쇼에 참석해 과 감한 노출 패션으로 시선을 모았다.

4.1 Dataset

We used 100K articles that were crawled from Joongang Ilbo, Dong-A Ilbo, Chosun Ilbo, Hankyoreh, and Maeil businesses as a dataset. For each press, we categorized the news into economic, society, politics, entertainment, and sports, and then collected articles in the same proportion for each category. Of these, we used 31K for mission1 and 68K for mission2. The real news and fake news were in the same proportion for each mission and the training and validation data were composed at a ratio of 9:1. We measured the model’s accuracy with test data that includes 350 recent articles (as of March 2018) that were not included in the training and validation data and were composed of real news and fake news in the same proportion.

4.2 Experiment results

We measured the accuracy using the model with the lowest validation loss among multiple steps of the model and the results are shown in Table 4; Area Under Receiver-Operating Characteristic curve (AUROC) was used as a measurement technique [18].

Table 4. fake news classification accuracy results

Model	Mission 1	Mission 2
BCNN	0.528	0.720
LSTM – BCNN	0.413	0.718
Bi-LSTM – BCNN	0.417	0.707
APS - BCNN	0.454	0.726

5. Conclusions

This paper implements a deep learning model for fake news detection and measures the accuracy; its main contributions are as follows:

- (1) The accuracy of classification for mission2, which consists of fake news that is irrelevant to the article context, was the highest with APS-BCNN at an AUROC score of 0.726. It can be concluded that the similarity vector between the headline and body contributed to detecting the content that was irrelevant to the context.
- (2) The accuracy of classification for mission1, which consists of fake news where the headline and body are inconsistent, was the highest with a BCNN in AUROC score of 0.52; however, this accuracy cannot be used to detect real fake news. We can deduce the causes of low accuracy as follows: (a) As CNN uses the local information of texts to classify, mission2 would have achieved high accuracy due to the large amount of perturbed local information. However, as mission1 has a relatively small amount of perturbed local information, it would have been difficult to classify it. (b) The difference in the amount of training data between mission1 and mission2 would have caused a difference in the accuracy between missions; we were able to acquire a large amount of fake news data for mission2 by mixing parts of the bodies of several articles. However, since we had to make the fake news data for mission1 individually, it was difficult to acquire a large amount of fake news data like for mission2.
- (3) CNN with LSTM has low classification accuracy. Although there is a previous work of LSTM-CNN with high accuracy in the text classification of one input [19], the application of LSTM in the text classification of two inputs as shown in this paper had low accuracy. We can deduce the cause of the low accuracy as follows: For example, if we assume that both the headline and body have the same word “apple” as shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Example article

article	
Headline	This apple is so tasty.
Body	The red apple on the desk seems so tasty.

Before the LSTM has been applied, the word “apple” in both the headline and body would have had the same vector trained by “Fasttext.” However, after LSTM has been applied, each word is influenced by the preceding words and has different vectors. This reduces the association of “apple” in the headline and “apple” in the body even though they are the same word.

(4) “Fasttext” performed better than “Word2vec” in terms of Korean word similarity. We can deduce the cause of the better performance as follows: Unlike other languages, the syllables that form Korean words have their own meaning. For example, the word “대학” is composed of the syllables “대” that means “big” and “학” that means “learn.” This would have made “Fasttext” which is trained in syllable unit, perform better in word similarity than “Word2vec” which is trained in word unit.

This paper proposes a meaningful deep learning model for fake news detection. The limitation of this study is that we could achieve meaningful accuracy for classification in the case where the content of the body is irrelevant to the context, but the accuracy was low when the headline and body were inconsistent. In future work, we will implement a big-data system to collect and make good-quality fake news for training data, and retrain our model to improve the accuracy.

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Dong-Ho Lee / <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-8749-9833> (ORCID ID)

He received B.S. degree from the Department of Computer Education at Sungkyunkwan University in 2018. Since August 2018, he has been with the School of Computer Science at the University of Southern California as an M.S candidate. His current research interests include NLP, machine learning, and computer-supported learning. His research goal is to provide a scientific basis for resolving various educational and social issues using Artificial Intelligence and contributing to prove that the improvement of information technology can have a positive effect on future society.



Yu-Ri Kim / <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-5801-4056> (ORCID ID)

She is an undergraduate student in Department of Computer Science and Industrial & Management Engineering from Hansung University since 2013. Her current research interests include AI and NLP.



Hyeong-Jun Kim / <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2257-6655> (ORCID ID)

He is an undergraduate student in Department of Computer Science in Yonsei University since 2013. His current research interests include AI, Computer Vision and Data analysis.



Seung-Myun Park / <http://orcid.org/0000-0001-9317-9262> (ORCID ID)

He received B.S. degree in Department of Information System in Hanyang University. He now works at CV Corporation as an Android developer



Yu-Jun Yang / <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9061-3374> (ORCID ID)

He is an undergraduate student in Department of Software in Gachon University since 2018. His current research interests include AI, NLP, and Semiconductor Engineering.