DOCUMENTATION

**FAKE NEWS DETECTION USING PYTHON**

**Project Objectives and Scope**

*Goals*

* The model accuracy of detecting news articles should be at least 85%
* The model should be an interpretable model that has transparency with its predictions, and they can be explained easily.
* Develop a user-friendly interface for easy interactions with fake news detection system.

*Scope*

* News articles will be related to politics, health and medical and finance.
* Data sources will be from reputable news sources and some potential misinformation sources.
* User interface will be basic and easily navigable.
* System complexity will be minimal as we will not use complex models to do predictions.
* We will focus on the news text feature to do feature engineering.

**Data Collection**

I downloaded the dataset from this [link](https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/saurabhshahane/fake-news-classification).

(WELFake) is a dataset of 72,134 news articles with 35,028 real and 37,106 fake news. For this, authors merged four popular news datasets (i.e. Kaggle, McIntire, Reuters, BuzzFeed Political) to prevent over-fitting of classifiers and to provide more text data for better ML training.

Dataset contains four columns: Serial number (starting from 0); Title (about the text news heading); Text (about the news content); and Label (0 = fake and 1 = real).

The dataset contained lots of rows which were not in the right format. So, I deleted those rows and only kept the rows which had the right format. For simplicity, I only took 2 columns from the dataset, text and label. Then I converted the labels into ‘fake’ and ‘real’ depending on the label (0 or 1) used.

I cleaned the dataset using excel and converted the dataset into a .xlsx file. After the cleaning of the dataset. I got 34,977 real and 36,248 fake news.

For information regarding manually classifying fake and real news, look at the following-

Check out one blog related to [Fake News and Misinformation](https://libguides.library.umaine.edu/fakenews/identification).

Check out another blog on [What makes a news story fake?](https://guides.library.stonybrook.edu/fakenews)

In future if I want to expand the dataset or want my model to be trained further, I can use the following-  
Check out real and fake news dataset from [here](https://github.com/KaiDMML/FakeNewsNet/).

Sources to get fake and real news through web scraping are Snopes, FactCheck.org, PolitiFact.

**Data Preprocessing**

* Remove HTML tags, special characters, and irrelevant symbols.
* Tokenize the text into words or sub-word units.
* Perform stemming or lemmatization.
* Remove stop words.
* Convert the text into numerical representations suitable for machine learning.

**Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)**

* Analyze the distribution of real and fake articles.
* Explore the most common words, n-grams, and other patterns in the dataset.
* Identify potential biases or anomalies in the data.

**Feature Engineering**

* Word frequencies, n-grams, and TF-IDF scores.
* Sentiment analysis scores.
* Source reliability and author credibility features.
* Consider using pre-trained word embeddings or transformers for improved feature representations.

**Model Selection**

* Start with traditional models like logistic regression, Naive Bayes.
* Explore more advanced models like decision trees, random forests, support vector machines, and deep learning models.
* Fine-tune hyperparameters using cross-validation.

**Model Training**

* Train the selected model on the preprocessed and engineered dataset.
* Monitor training performance and adjust parameters as needed.
* Validate the model on a separate validation set.

**Model Evaluation**

* Evaluate the model's performance using relevant metrics:
* Accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score.
* Confusion matrix analysis.
* Consider using techniques like cross-validation for a robust evaluation.

**Model Interpretability and Explainability**

* Ensure that the chosen model provides interpretability.
* Implement techniques for explaining model predictions, such as SHAP values or LIME.

**Deployment Preparation**

* Develop a user-friendly interface for interacting with the model.
* Ensure scalability and efficiency of the model for real-time or batch processing.
* Consider security measures to protect the model and data.

**Model Deployment**

* Deploy the trained model to a production environment.
* Integrate the model with the user interface for easy access.
* Implement monitoring for model performance in real-time.

**END OF DOCUMENTATION**