**Detecting Fake News with Natural Language Processing**

**Introduction**

We consume news through several mediums throughout the day in our daily routine, but sometimes it becomes difficult to decide which one is fake and which one is authentic.

Do you trust all the news you consume from online media?

Every news that we consume is not real. If you listen to fake news it means you are collecting the wrong information from the world which can affect society because a person’s views or thoughts can change after consuming fake news which the user perceives to be true.

Since all the news we encounter in our day-to-day life is not authentic, how do we categorize if the news is fake or real?

In this article, we will focus on text-based news and try to build a model that will help us to identify if a piece of given news is fake or real.

Before moving to the practical things let’s get aware of few terminologies.

**Terminologies**

**Fake News**

A sort of sensationalist reporting, counterfeit news embodies bits of information that might be lies and is, for the most part, spread through web-based media and other online media.

This is regularly done to further or force certain kinds of thoughts or for false promotion of products and is frequently accomplished with political plans.

Such news things may contain bogus and additionally misrepresented cases and may wind up being virtualized by calculations, and clients may wind up in a channel bubble.

**Tfidf Vectorizer**

**TF (Term Frequency):** In the document, words are present so many times that is called term frequency. In this section, if you get the largest values it means that word is present so many times with respect to other words. When you get word is parts of speech word that means the document is a very nice match.

**IDF (Inverse Document Frequency):** in a single document, words are present so many times, but also available so many times in another document also which is not relevant. IDF is a proportion of how critical a term is in the whole corpus.

Collection of word Documents will convert into the matrix which contains TF-IDF features using TfidfVectorizer.

**Project**

To get the accurately classified collection of news as real or fake we have to build a machine learning model.

To deals with the detection of fake or real news, we will develop the project in python with the help of ‘scalar’, we will use ‘TfidfVectorizer’ in our news data which we will gather from online media.

After the first step is done, we will initialize the classifier, transform and fit the model. In the end, we will calculate the performance of the model using the appropriate performance matrix/matrices. Once will calculate the performance matrices we will be able to see how well our model performs.

The practical implementation of these tools is very simple and will be explained step by step in this article.

Let’s start.

**Data Analysis**

Here I will explain the dataset.

In this python project, we have used the CSV dataset. The dataset contains 7796 rows and 4 columns.

This dataset has four columns,

1. **Title**: this represents the title of the news.
2. **Author**: this represents the name of the author who has written the news.
3. **Text**: this column has the news itself.
4. **Label**: this is a binary column representing if the news is fake (1) or real (0).

The dataset is open-sourced and can be found [here](https://www.kaggle.com/c/fake-news/data?select=train.csv).

**Libraries**

The very basic data science libraries are sklearn, pandas, NumPy e.t.c and some specific libraries such as transformers.

**Read dataset from CSV File**

df=pd.read\_csv('fake-news/train.csv')

df.head ()

**Output:-**

Before proceeding, we need to check whether a null value is present in our dataset or not.

df.isnull().sum()

There is no null value in this dataset. But if you have null values present in your dataset then you can fill it. In the code given below, I will tell you how you can replace the null values.

DF = df.fillna (' ')

**CONVERTING LABELS:-**

The dataset has a Label column whose datatype is Text Category. The Label column in the dataset is classified into two parts, which are denoted as Fake and Real. To train the model, we need to convert the label column to a numerical one.

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df.label = df.label.astype(str)

df.label = df.label.str.strip()

dict = { 'REAL' : '1' , 'FAKE' : '0'}

df['label'] = df['label'].map(dict)df.head()

To proceed further, we separate our dataset into features(x\_df) and targets(y\_df).

x\_df = df['total']

y\_df = df['label']

**VECTORIZATION**

Vectorization is a methodology in NLP to map words or phrases from vocabulary to a corresponding vector of real numbers which is used to find word predictions, word similarities/semantics.

For curiosity, you surely want to check out this article on ‘ [Why data are represented as vectors in Data Science Problems](https://towardsdatascience.com/why-data-is-represented-as-a-vector-in-data-science-problems-a195e0b17e99#:~:text=So%2C%20when%20we%20are%20looking,thought%20of%20as%20a%20vector.)’.

To make documents’ corpora more relatable for computers, they must first be converted into some numerical structure. There are few techniques that are used to achieve this such as ‘Bag of Words’.Here, we are using vectorizer objects provided by Scikit-Learn which are quite reliable right out of the box.

from sklearn.feature\_extraction.text import TfidfTransformer

from sklearn.feature\_extraction.text import CountVectorizer

from sklearn.feature\_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer

count\_vectorizer = CountVectorizer()

count\_vectorizer.fit\_transform(x\_df)

freq\_term\_matrix = count\_vectorizer.transform(x\_df)

tfidf = TfidfTransformer(norm = "l2")

tfidf.fit(freq\_term\_matrix)

tf\_idf\_matrix = tfidf.fit\_transform(freq\_term\_matrix)

Print (tf\_idf\_matrix)

**CONCLUSION**

The passive-aggressive classifier performed the best here and gave an accuracy of 93.12%.

We can print a confusion matrix to gain insight into the number of false and true negatives and positives

Fake news detection techniques can be divided into those based on style and those based on content, or fact-checking. Too often it is assumed that bad style (bad spelling, bad punctuation, limited vocabulary, using terms of abuse, ungrammaticality, etc.) is a safe indicator of fake news.

More than ever, this is a case where the machine’s opinion must be backed up by clear and fully verifiable indications for the basis of its decision, in terms of the facts checked and the authority by which the truth of each fact was determined.

Collecting the data once isn’t going to cut it given how quickly information spreads in today’s connected world and the number of articles being churned out.

I hope you might find this helpful. You can comment down in the comment sections for any queries.