Model Development Document - Fake News Classifier

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Project Overview

1.1 Project Objective

The purpose of this project is to create and establish a solution which can be used to classify fake news. A number of different models were applied to the training and test data sets in order to establish which would be the best at predicting fake news.

1.2 Outline of Solution

The approach for the solution was to initially analyze the dataset, then to assess it's quality, clean the data where needed, merge in the submit.csv labels for the test data. After this, normalization techniques were applied to help with getting the data in a condition which will help optimize the performance of the models. Thereafter, vectorization was applied gaining further insight into the dataset and words which had a high value to the dataset. This was followed up by applying three different models to perform predictions on the data and then the results were assessed and conclusions drawn from the results. Finally, a section was drawn up to outline some further work that could be done to improve the solution.

The code for this work was applied in a jupyter notebook and some of the libraries that were used were sklearn, pandas, spacy, re (regular expression), and the time library as well.

2 Solutions Development

This section will outline the approach that will be taken for your project.

2.1 Data Sample

2.1.1 Data Sample Cohort Definition

Define the data sample you are using for analysis in terms of:

- Sources of the data

The data source for the Fake news solution I'm looking to create is from kaggle:

https://www.kaggle.com/c/fake-news/data

The data is made up of three csv files, containing the training data, test data and then another csv file which has the test labels, which are the actual results for the test set in binary format, 1 being positive and 0 being negative.

Number of rows, columns

Details about the training dataset and it's columns:

Columns: 5 Rows: 20800

```
In [19]: dataframe.info()
         <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
         RangeIndex: 20800 entries, 0 to 20799
         Data columns (total 5 columns):
                     Non-Null Count
          #
              Column
                                     Dtype
              -----
                      -----
                                     ----
          0
             id
                     20800 non-null int64
             title
          1
                     20242 non-null object
              author 18843 non-null object
          2
          3
              text
                     20761 non-null
                                     object
          4
              label
                     20800 non-null
                                     int64
         dtypes: int64(2), object(3)
         memory usage: 812.6+ KB
```

Three columns initially of type object and two columns of type object.

Details about the test data:

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
Int64Index: 5193 entries, 0 to 5199
Data columns (total 4 columns):
     Column Non-Null Count
 #
                            Dtype
     id
             5193 non-null
                             int64
 0
 1
    title 5071 non-null object
    author 4697 non-null object
 2
 3
    text
            5193 non-null
                            object
dtypes: int64(1), object(3)
memory usage: 202.9+ KB
```

As we can see here the test data csv does not directly contain the labels which show whether it's fake news or not. That's in another csv (submit.csv).

```
Test set Number of Rows and columns (Rows, Columns): (5200, 4)
```

- Specific details about when the sample is from or is it from a specific population.

Sample output from the training dataset:



2.1.2 Data Quality and Data Exclusions

Outline any data quality issues and how you addressed them

Some analysis showed that the main target feature which is the *text* parameter contains a host of null values.

```
In [64]: dataframe["text"].isnull().sum()
Out[64]: 39
```

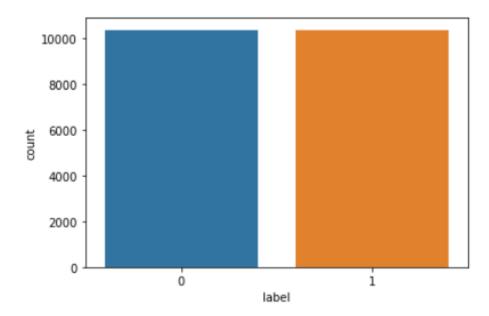
This could be an impediment to the accuracy of the results of the models that are intended to apply the data in. Since this is not a huge number, I am choosing to remove them from the data that will be used in the training set and not replace them and will do something similar in the test set if needed. There is still a large quantity of data to apply the models to in order to determine which is the most effective model to be used.

After dropping these 39 rows we're left with 20761 entries to apply to our models:

```
In [73]: d2 = dataframe.dropna(subset=['text'])
         d2.info()
         <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
         Int64Index: 20761 entries, 0 to 20799
         Data columns (total 5 columns):
                      Non-Null Count
          #
              Column
                                      Dtype
                      -----
          0
              id
                      20761 non-null
                                      int64
              title
          1
                      20203 non-null object
              author 18843 non-null object
          2
          3
              text
                      20761 non-null
                                      object
              label
                      20761 non-null
                                      int64
          4
         dtypes: int64(2), object(3)
         memory usage: 973.2+ KB
```

Beyond this, the data has been normalized to try and get the data in the best possible state in order to obtain the best possible outcome for prediction models that are being applied. These techniques for doing this are outlined in the next section.

Distribution of Labels set to positive and negative (0 for negative, 1 for positive):



We see an even distribution of both the positive and negative cases of fake news.

2.1.2 Definition of Behavioral Features

List the features you are going to use for your analysis and definitions where the it is not obvious

The approach that will be used to normalize the data will include:

- removal of stopwords*
- removal of newlines, tabs and multiple spaces
- change all text to lowercase
- removal of all special characters and any other characters other alphanumeric characters

*stopwords are words which provide no semantic difference but add to the load of the computation needed to apply various models and as a result are best to be removed from the dataset.

2.2 Exploratory Analysis

Main Analysis Output

Analysis showed that there are a whole lot of different special characters in the data set as well as stopwords and punctuation marks and some potential uses of newlines as well as extra spacing between tokens. A lot of this data requires techniques to be applied to get it in a condition whereby the data quality has been normalized and is best fitted for applying the various models and obtaining the best results that we can obtain. The data was initially read in using the pandas libraries and placed in dataframes which provide the storage and capabilities for assessing the data and manipulating it as well. The assessment made use of a number of it's abilities to determine the best course of action for normalizing the data as well as manually reading the data from tools such as microsoft excel.

Also, as part of the analysis it became clear that the labels which denoted whether or not an entry in the test data was fake news or real was in a separate csv to the rest of the details of the test data. In order to make use of this data, the submit.csv was also ingested and it's column with the labels in it was added to the dataframe containing the test data. This was important for the later assessment of whether the prediction for the test data with the individual models was accurate or not.

Normalization

In order to normalize the data for the uses cases outlined above, the application is making use of a few different regexes to remove in conjunction with the sub method to remove characters which are not alphanumeric, remove newlines, any additional spaces and any undesired special characters.

Stopwords Removal

The application will make use of the library spacy which is a powerful natural language processing library that can be applied to a number of NLP tasks. In this instance it's being used to first illustrate the stopwords which it contains in it's English library as outlined below:

Spacy Stopwords:

Project Title Project Document

```
[18]: print(nlp.Defaults.stop_words)
{ 'amount', 'did', 'side', 'your', 'themselves', 'either', 'these', 'name', 'whose', 'see', 'could', 'this', 'ever', ''ll', '"d", 'which', 'had', 'well', 'through', 'less', 'fm', 'about', 'beforehand', 'n't", 'still', 'why', 'fs', 'herein', 'for', 'fr ont', 'to', 'throughout', 'fm', 'somewhere', 'every', 'most', 'amongst', 'other', 'do', 'among', 'hence', 'because', 'some', 'i ts', 'one', 'everyone', 'twenty', 'top', 'seeming', 'once', 'his', 'everything', 'full', 'mine', 'thereafter', 'off', 'are', 'w ithout', 'due', 'everywhere', "'ve", 'very', 'quite', 'namely', 'sixty', 'also', 'take', 'anything', 'himself', 'an', 'they', 'fre', 'herself', 'five', 'thus', 'us', 'has', 'toward', ''s', 'along', 'any', 'she', 'same', 'besides', 'by', 'seems', 'how', 'all', 'yourself', 'anyway', 'itself', 'wherein', 'few', 'ten', 'nft', 'yourselves', 'but', 'mostly', 'third', 'six', 'whereb y', 'eight', 'anywhere', 'it', 'many', 'on', 'becomes', "'m', 'at', 'does', 'now', 'latterly', 'below', 'only', 'hers', 'much', 'enough', 'down', 'others', 'in', 'is', 'get', 'fifteen', 'here', 'under', 'above', 'except', 'he', 'before', 'into', 'became', 'whereafter', really', 'after', 'unless', 'although', 'out', 'latter', 'nowhere', 'a', 'him', 'forty', 'behind', 'three', 'ye t', 'can', 'n't', 'together', ''d', 're', 'ours', 'something', "'s', 'call', 'however', 'been', 'hereby', 'the', 'indeed', 'alm ost', 'bottom', 'whenever', 'druring', 'me', 'onto', 'whereupon', 've', 'that', 'rather', 'wherever', 'whither', 'doing', 'even', 'becoming', 'show', 'were', ''re', 'anyhow', 'whence', 'since', 'perhaps', 'fifty, 'beyond', 'across', 'there in', ''d', 'or', 'again', 'while', 'each', 'meanwhile', 'neither', 'whole', 'always', 'between', 'regarding', 'back', 'anothe r', 'seemed', 'being', 'nor', 'was', 'just', 'if', 'have', 'former', 'both', 'often', 'towands', 'you', 'never', 'there', 'unlo', 'where', 'ese', 'in', 'was', 'just', 'in', 'noreover', 'more', 'when', 'be', 'of', 'alone', with', 'against', '
```

These are removed from the dataset in both the training and test data sets respectively.

Vectorization

After getting the data into an appropriate condition and improving it's quality, the next step was to vectorize the data. For this step, the term frequency-inverse document frequency (TF-IDF) method was applied. Making use of the TF-IDF establishes a weighting which gives some insight into the importance of a given word in a document. This matters because it allows the application to determine which words have a high predictive value in ascertaining if a particular news article is real or fake.

TF-IDF formula:

$$W_{x,y} = tf_{x,y^*} \log\left(rac{N}{df_x}
ight)$$
 $W_{x,y} = W_{x,y} = W_{x,y}$

The tool makes use of sklearns TfldfVectorizer in order to perform this operation on the datasets.

Results and Conclusions

Document the main findings/impact of the work that you have done.

After the data was cleaned, normalized and vectorized it was now in a condition to then apply the various predictive models and ascertain the effectiveness of each of the models applied to the test data. Again the libraries of sklearn became an invaluable tool here which pre-packaged models which could be applied to the vectorized data in conjunction with the labels of both the training and test set.

The models that were applied were as follows:

- Naive Bayes
- Random Forrest
- Support Vector Machines

Each of the models were initially applied and trained on the training set data and then applied to the test set. A classification report was then output to display the accuracy, precision, recall and f1-score for the model applied on the test set. The classification reports showed that Random Forrest had the greatest effectiveness overall with these metrics. It scored better in all categories from accuracy to precision, recall and F1-Score. It obtained an overall score of 67%, to SVM's 64% and Naive Bayes' score of 58%. One thing to note is that while the Random Forrest algorithm performed 3% better than the SVM, it was also drastically faster than the SVM's model, which took a very long time to train. Naive Bayes was shown to be the fastest with only taking 0.12 seconds, this is due to the fact that this is a simpler model than the other two. Random Forrest took 25.89 seconds to complete which is significantly longer but not an unreasonable amount of time. SVM drastically lagged behind the other two taking a staggering

So, in conclusion, we were able to apply each of the models and the Random Forrest model was shown to be the most effective model choice.

Model Performance:

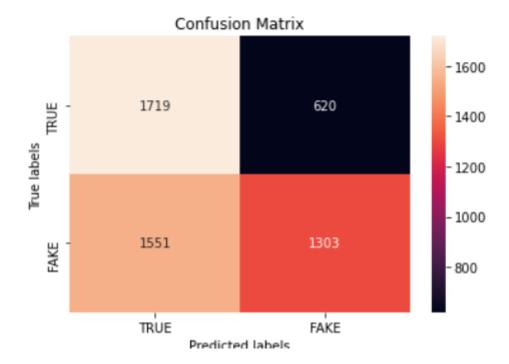
Naive Bayes:

Applying Naive Bayes Model:

accuracy: 0.582

accuracy.	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Positive	0.53	0.73	0.61	2339
Negative	0.68	0.46	0.55	2854
accuracy	/		0.58	5193
macro ava	g 0.60	0.60	0.58	5193
weighted av	g 0.61	0.58	0.58	5193

Time taken to apply model: 0.262702 seconds



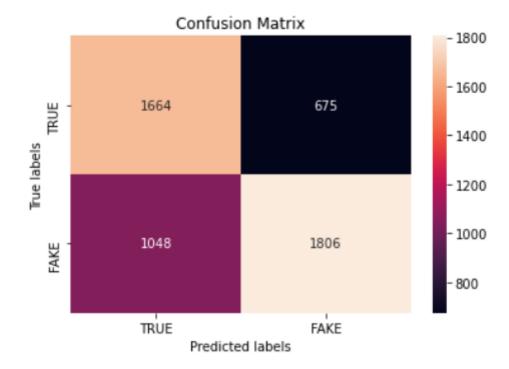
Random Forrest:

Applying Random Forrest Model:

accuracy: 0.668

accuracy.	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Positive	e 0.61	0.71	0.66	2339
Negative	e 0.73	0.63	0.68	2854
accuracy	у		0.67	5193
macro av	g 0.67	0.67	0.67	5193
weighted av	g 0.68	0.67	0.67	5193

Time taken to apply model: 36.406860 seconds



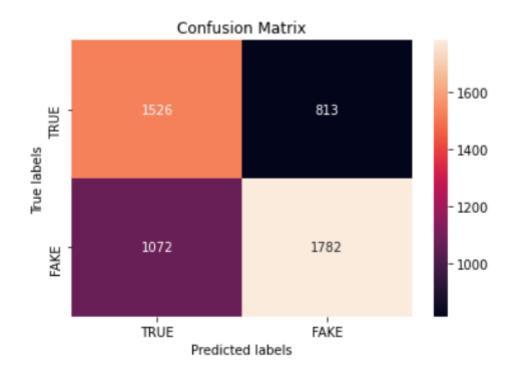
Support Vector Machines:

Applying SVM Model:

accuracy: 0.637

,	precision	recall	f1-score	support
Positive Negative	0.59 0.69	0.65 0.62	0.62 0.65	2339 2854
accuracy macro avg weighted avg	0.64 0.64	0.64 0.64	0.64 0.64 0.64	5193 5193 5193

Time taken to apply model: 888.007661 seconds



Possible Further Improvements

Improvements and approaches that were not applied due to time constraints. Some of which could help the performance of the application.

- Apply different processing methods to the textual data to see how it impacts on the performance of the models
 - stemming
 - lemmatization
 - word embeddings
 - ngram usage with the TFIdfVectorizer instead of single words

Some of these could help to improve the classification results of the different models.

- Concatenating the title of the article to the text for an added source of information to be leveraged for gaining insights for the predictions
- The anomaly of why SVM took so long to be applied could be further investigated. This may be due the way I applied it or something related to the data applied with SVM. This is unclear at this point.
- Other approaches could be considered and applied such as deep learning methods which extract features from the textual data and make use of those features and patterns when applying it's predictions for this binary classification problem.

Appendix

Code for the project from a jupyter notebook (contains both the code and some of the text that was originally in markup in the jupyter notebook.

```
3
   import spacy
4
   # disabling tagger and parser of spacy for time considerations
5
6
   nlp = spacy.load('en core web sm', disable=[ "parser", "ner"])
7
8
   import pandas as pd
9
   # read in the test and training data to dataframes
10 trainingData = pd.read csv("C:/Users/simon/Documents/AI/Foundatoins in AI - TU Dublin
   Course/Project/Project Data/train.csv")
11 testData = pd.read_csv("C:/Users/simon/Documents/AI/Foundatoins in AI - TU Dublin
   Course/Project/Project Data/test.csv")
12 print(trainingData.head())
13 print(testData.head())
```

```
id
                                                          title
                                                                            author
             House Dem Aide: We Didn't Even See Comey's Let...
       0
                                                                     Darrell Lucus
              FLYNN: Hillary Clinton, Big Woman on Campus - ...
                                                                   Daniel J. Flynn
       1
       2
                              Why the Truth Might Get You Fired Consortiumnews.com
           3
       3
              15 Civilians Killed In Single US Airstrike Hav...
                                                                   Jessica Purkiss
              Iranian woman jailed for fictional unpublished...
                                                                    Howard Portney
         House Dem Aide: We Didn't Even See Comey's Let...
       1 Ever get the feeling your life circles the rou...
       2 Why the Truth Might Get You Fired October 29, ...
                                                                1
       3 Videos 15 Civilians Killed In Single US Airstr...
       4 Print \nAn Iranian woman has been sentenced to...
                                                                1
             id
                                                            title
       0
          20800
                 Specter of Trump Loosens Tongues, if Not Purse...
                 Russian warships ready to strike terrorists ne...
          20801
          20802
                 #NoDAPL: Native American Leaders Vow to Stay A...
       3
          20803
                 Tim Tebow Will Attempt Another Comeback, This ...
          20804
                                   Keiser Report: Meme Wars (E995)
                           author
       0
                 David Streitfeld
                                  PALO ALTO, Calif. - After years of scorning...
       1
                              NaN
                                  Russian warships ready to strike terrorists ne...
       2
                                  Videos #NoDAPL: Native American Leaders Vow to...
                    Common Dreams
                    Daniel Victor If at first you don't succeed, try a different...
         Truth Broadcast Network 42 mins ago 1 Views 0 Comments 0 Likes 'For th...
14
15 print("Training set Number of Rows and columns (Rows, Columns): ")
16 trainingData.shape
     Training set Number of Rows and columns (Rows, Columns):
     Test set Number of Rows and columns (Rows, Columns):
     (5200, 4)
17
18 print("Test set Number of Rows and columns (Rows, Columns): ")
19 testData.shape
    Test set Number of Rows and columns (Rows, Columns):
    (5193, 4)
20
21 trainingData.info()
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 20800 entries, 0 to 20799
Data columns (total 5 columns):
     Column Non-Null Count
#
                             Dtype
0
     id
             20800 non-null int64
1
    title
            20242 non-null object
 2
    author
            18843 non-null object
 3
    text
             20761 non-null
                            object
    label
            20800 non-null
                             int64
dtypes: int64(2), object(3)
memory usage: 812.6+ KB
```

- 23 # Take test labels from submit csv dataframe and add them to the test dataframe (they were originally separate in two csv files)
- 24 testLabels = pd.read_csv('C:/Users/simon/Documents/Al/Foundatoins in Al TU Dublin Course/Project/Project Data/submit.csv')
- 25 testData['labels'] = testLabels['label']
- 26 testData.head()

22

27

	id	title	author	text	labels
0	20800	Specter of Trump Loosens Tongues, if Not Purse	David Streitfeld	PALO ALTO, Calif. — After years of scorning	0
1	20801	Russian warships ready to strike terrorists ne	NaN	Russian warships ready to strike terrorists ne	1
2	20802	#NoDAPL: Native American Leaders Vow to Stay A	Common Dreams	Videos #NoDAPL: Native American Leaders Vow to	0
3	20803	Tim Tebow Will Attempt Another Comeback, This	Daniel Victor	If at first you don't succeed, try a different	1

- 28 print("Training data nulls: ", trainingData['text'].isnull().sum())
- 29 print("Test data nulls: ", testData['text'].isnull().sum())
- 30 trainingData = trainingData.dropna(subset=['text'])
- 31 trainingData.info()

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
    Int64Index: 20761 entries, 0 to 20799
    Data columns (total 5 columns):
          Column Non-Null Count Dtype
          id
                  20761 non-null int64
     0
         title 20203 non-null object
     1
      2
          author 18843 non-null object
      3
        text
                  20761 non-null object
          label
                  20761 non-null
                                   int64
     dtypes: int64(2), object(3)
    memory usage: 973.2+ KB
32
33 testData = testData.dropna(subset=['text'])
34 testData.info()
     <class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
     Int64Index: 5193 entries, 0 to 5199
     Data columns (total 4 columns):
           Column Non-Null Count Dtype
      0
           id
                   5193 non-null int64
       1
          title
                   5071 non-null object
           author 4697 non-null object
       2
           text
                   5193 non-null
                                    object
     dtypes: int64(1), object(3)
     memory usage: 202.9+ KB
35
36
    Removing Stop Words and Normalizing text
37 def tokenizeAndNormalizeArticle(article):
38
     article split = article.split()
39
     normalizedTokens = []
40
41
     for word in article split:
42
        word = re.sub(r"[\n\t]*", "", word).strip() # remove newlines, tabs and any additional
   spaces
```

```
43
        word = word.lower()
                                            # set to lower case
44
        if (nlp.vocab[word].is stop == False):
                                                 # remove stop words
           normalizedTokens.append(word)
45
46
            word = re.sub('[^A-Za-z0-9]+', ", word) # remove all special characters &
    punctutation
47
48
      return " ".join(normalizedTokens)
49
50
51 # call method removeStopWordsInTweet for each row of the text
52 # parameter to remove all stop words from the dataset
53 articleData = trainingData["text"]
54 normalizedArticleData = []
55
56 counter = 0
57 for article in articleData:
58
      if (type(article) is str):
59
        normalizedArticleData.append(tokenizeAndNormalizeArticle(article))
60 # repeat for test data
61 articleData = testData["text"]
62 normalizedTestData = []
63
```

64 counter = 0

```
65 for article in articleData:
66
      if (type(article) is str):
67
         normalizedTestData.append(tokenizeAndNormalizeArticle(article))
68
69 print(len(normalizedTestData))
70 Vectorization
71 from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer
72
73 tfidfVectorizer=TfidfVectorizer(use_idf=True)
74
75 # vectorize training & test data
76 xTrainingTf = tfidfVectorizer.fit transform(normalizedArticleData)
77
78 xTestTf = tfidfVectorizer.transform(normalizedTestData)
79 from time import time
80 from sklearn.naive_bayes import MultinomialNB
   from sklearn import metrics
82
83 t = time()
84
85 yTraining = trainingData['label']
86 naiveBayesClassifier = MultinomialNB()
```

```
87 naiveBayesClassifier.fit(xTrainingTf, yTraining)
88
89 # predict the new document from the testing dataset
90 yPredictions = naiveBayesClassifier.predict(xTestTf)
91 yTest = testData['labels']
92
93 print("Applying Naive Bayes Model:")
94 print("----")
95
96 # compute the performance measures
97 score1 = metrics.accuracy score(yTest, yPredictions)
98 print("accuracy: %0.3f" % score1)
99
100 print(metrics.classification report(yTest, yPredictions,
101
      target names=['Positive', 'Negative']))
102
103 naiveBayesConfusionMatrix = metrics.confusion matrix(yTest, yPredictions)
104
105 ax= plt.subplot()
106 sns.heatmap(naiveBayesConfusionMatrix, annot=True, fmt='g', ax=ax);
107
108 ax.set_xlabel('Predicted labels');ax.set_ylabel('True labels');
```

```
109 ax.set title('Confusion Matrix');
110 ax.xaxis.set ticklabels(['TRUE', 'FAKE']);
111 ax.yaxis.set ticklabels(['TRUE', 'FAKE']);
112
113
114 duration = time() - t
115 print("\nTime taken to apply model: %f seconds" % (duration))
116
117 Random Forrest Classifier
118 from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
119
120t = time()
121 randomForrestClassifier = RandomForestClassifier(n estimators=100, random state=0,
   n jobs=-1
122 randomForrestClassifier.fit(xTrainingTf, yTraining)
123 yPredictions = randomForrestClassifier.predict(xTestTf)
124
125 print("Applying Random Forrest Model:")
126 print("-----")
127
128# compute the performance measures
129 score1 = metrics.accuracy score(yTest, yPredictions)
130 print("accuracy: %0.3f" % score1)
```

```
131
132 print(metrics.classification report(yTest, yPredictions,
133
       target names=['Positive', 'Negative']))
134
135 randomForrestConfusionMatrix = metrics.confusion matrix(yTest, yPredictions)
136
137 ax= plt.subplot()
138 sns.heatmap(randomForrestConfusionMatrix, annot=True, fmt='g', ax=ax);
139
140 ax.set xlabel('Predicted labels');ax.set ylabel('True labels');
141 ax.set title('Confusion Matrix');
142 ax.xaxis.set ticklabels(['TRUE', 'FAKE']);
143 ax.yaxis.set_ticklabels(['TRUE', 'FAKE']);
144
145 duration = time() - t
146 print("\nTime taken to apply model: %f seconds" % (duration))
147
148,
149 Applying SVM Model Classifier
150 from sklearn import svm
151
152#Create a svm Classifier
```

```
153 svmClassifier = svm.SVC(kernel='linear') # Linear Kernel
154
155# Perform training for the svm model
156 svmClassifier.fit(xTrainingTf, yTraining)
157
158# Predict the response for test dataset
159 yPredictions = svmClassifier.predict(xTestTf)
160
161 print("Applying SVM Model:")
162 print("----")
163
164# compute the performance measures
165 score1 = metrics.accuracy_score(yTest, yPredictions)
166 print("accuracy: %0.3f" % score1)
167
168 print(metrics.classification_report(yTest, yPredictions,
169
      target names=['Positive', 'Negative']))
170
171 svmConfusionMatrix = metrics.confusion matrix(yTest, yPredictions)
172
173 ax= plt.subplot()
174 sns.heatmap(svmConfusionMatrix, annot=True, fmt='g', ax=ax);
```

```
176 ax.set_xlabel('Predicted labels');ax.set_ylabel('True labels');
177 ax.set_title('Confusion Matrix');
178 ax.xaxis.set_ticklabels(['TRUE', 'FAKE']);
179 ax.yaxis.set_ticklabels(['TRUE', 'FAKE']);
180
181 duration = time() - t
182 print("\nTime taken to apply model: %f seconds" % (duration))
183
```