

The Thirty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-21)

Embracing Domain Differences in Fake News: Cross-domain Fake News Detection using Multi-modal Data

Amila Silva, Ling Luo, Shanika Karunasekera, Christopher Leckie

School of Computing and Information Systems

The University of Melbourne

Parkville, Victoria, Australia

{amilasilva@student., ling.luo@, karus@, caleckie@}unimelb.edu.au

AAAI'21

220331 Chia-Chun Ho

Outline

Introduction

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Experiments

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Introduction

Motivation

- Social media is considered as one of the leading and fastest media to **seek news information online**.
 - Thus provide an **ideal environment to spread fake news**.
- Many times the cost and damage due to fake news are high and **early detection to stop spreading such information is of importance**.
 - Like the US president **election**, COVID-19 **pandemic** etc.
- Due to the high volumes of news generated on a daily basis, it's **not practical** to identify fake news using **manual fact checking**.

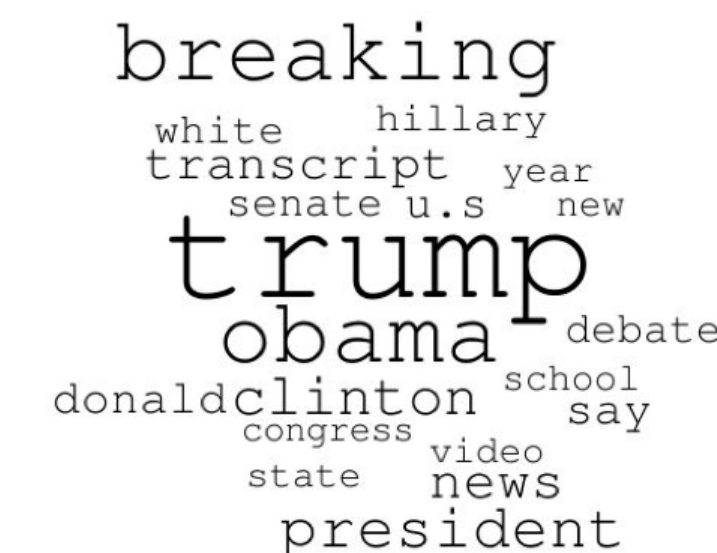
Introduction

Challenges (1/2)

Feature	Weiner Index	Network Depth	Maximum Outdegree	Propagation Speed
p-value	1.81e-2	5.81e-19	4.11e-4	3.42e-29

T-test result conducted using 2 datasets

- Most existing techniques are trained and evaluated using datasets that are **limited to a single domain** such as **politics, entertainment, healthcare**.
- Real news stream typically covers a wide variety of domains.
- Existing approaches **perform poorly for such a cross-domain** news dataset.
- Due to two reasons:
 - Domain-specific **word usage**
 - Domain-specific **propagation patterns**



PolitiFact



GossipCop

Word cloud for the top 20 words in two dataset

Introduction

Challenges (1/2)

- To address this challenge, some previous works learned models to **overlook such domain-specific information** and **only rely on cross-domain information**.
 - E.g., web-markup and readability features
- **Domain-specific knowledge could be useful** for accurate identification of fake news.
- As a solution, this work aims to address
 - **preserve domain-specific** and **cross-domain knowledge** in news at the same time
 - detect fake news in **cross-domain datasets**.

Introduction

Challenges (2/2)

- Studies show that most approach are not good at identifying fake news from unseen or rarely-seen domains during training.
- Models can be learned using a dataset that covers as many domains as possible.
- Here assume that FND model requires supervision as supervised techniques are known to be substantially better at identifying fake news compared to unsupervised methods.
- Due to sheer volume of unlabeled news available, there is a need to identify information news to annotate such that the labelled dataset ultimately covers many domains while avoiding any selection biases.

Introduction

Contributions

- Propose a multimodal fake news detection technique for **cross-domain news datasets**
 - that learns **domain-specific** & **cross-domain information** of news using two independent embedding spaces.
- Propose an **unsupervised** technique to select a given number of news from a large data pool
 - such that the **selected dataset maximizes that domain coverage.**

Related Works

Limitations

- Domain-agnostic FND has two limitations:
 - It assumes that the news records from different domains arrive sequentially, though this is not always true for real-world streams.
 - It requires the domain of news records to be known, which is not generally available.
- Active Learning for FND has two limitations:
 - It requires a pre-trained model to select instances.
 - it is known to be highly vulnerable to the biases introduced by the initial model.

Problem Statement

Notations

- Each **news record** r in set of **news** R ($r \in R$) is represented as a tuple $\langle t^r, W^r, G^r \rangle$
 - t^r : **timestamp** when r is published online
 - W^r : **text content** of r
 - $G^r(V^r, E^r, X^r)$: **attributed directed graph** represent the **propagation network** of r for time bound ΔT (ΔT set 5 hours for evaluate early detection performance)
 - V^r : nodes represent the **tweets/retweets** of r
 - E^r : edges represent the **retweet relationships** among them.
 - X^r : set of **attributes** of the nodes in G^r .

Problem Statement

Sub-Tasks

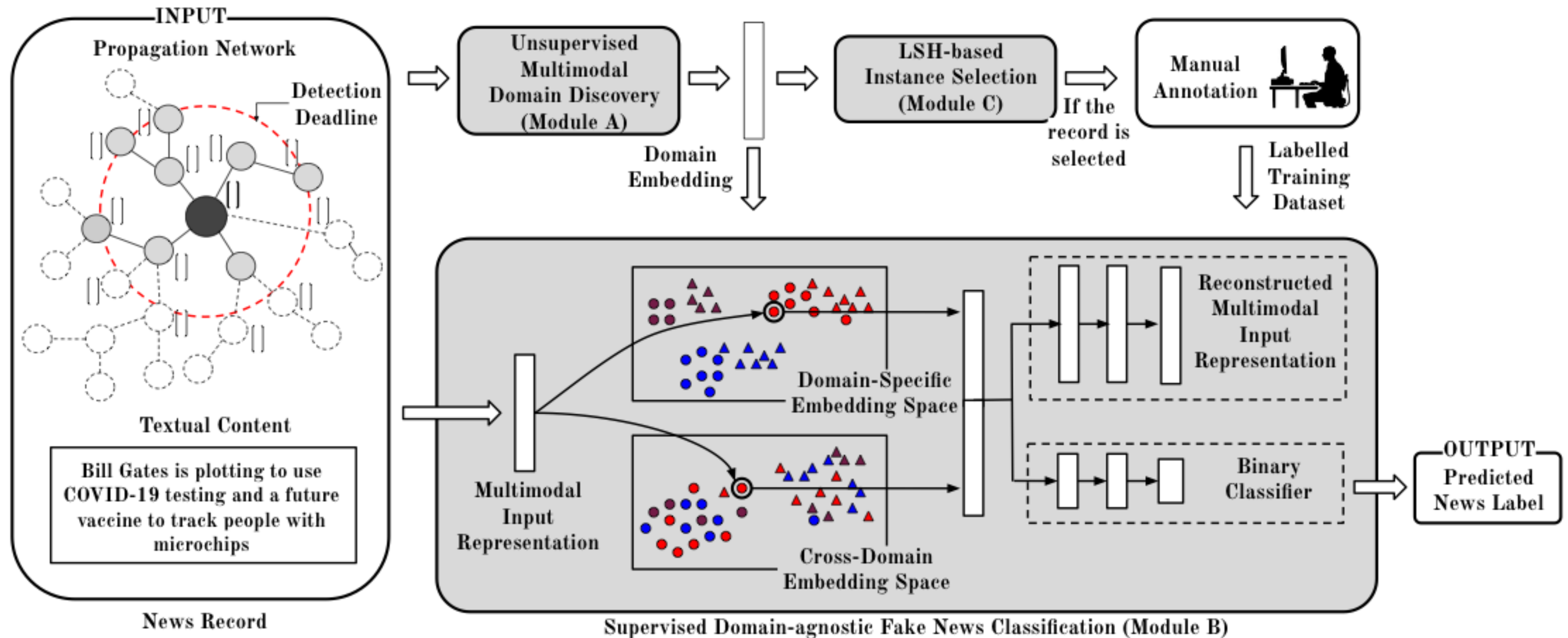
Dataset	PolitiFact	GossipCop	CoAID
# Fake News	269	1269	135
# Real News	230	2466	1568

Statics of 3 datasets

- Select a set of instances R^L from R to label while give labeling budget B (constrains the # of instances in R^L).
 - Assign a **binary label** y^r (1: fake 0: real)
- Learn an effective model using R^L to predict the label y^r for unlabeled news $r \in R^U$ as false or real news.
 - $R(R^L \cup R^U)$ is **not constrained to a specific domain**.
 - To emulate such a **domain-agnostic dataset**, combine PolitiFact, GossipCop, CoAID.

Methodology

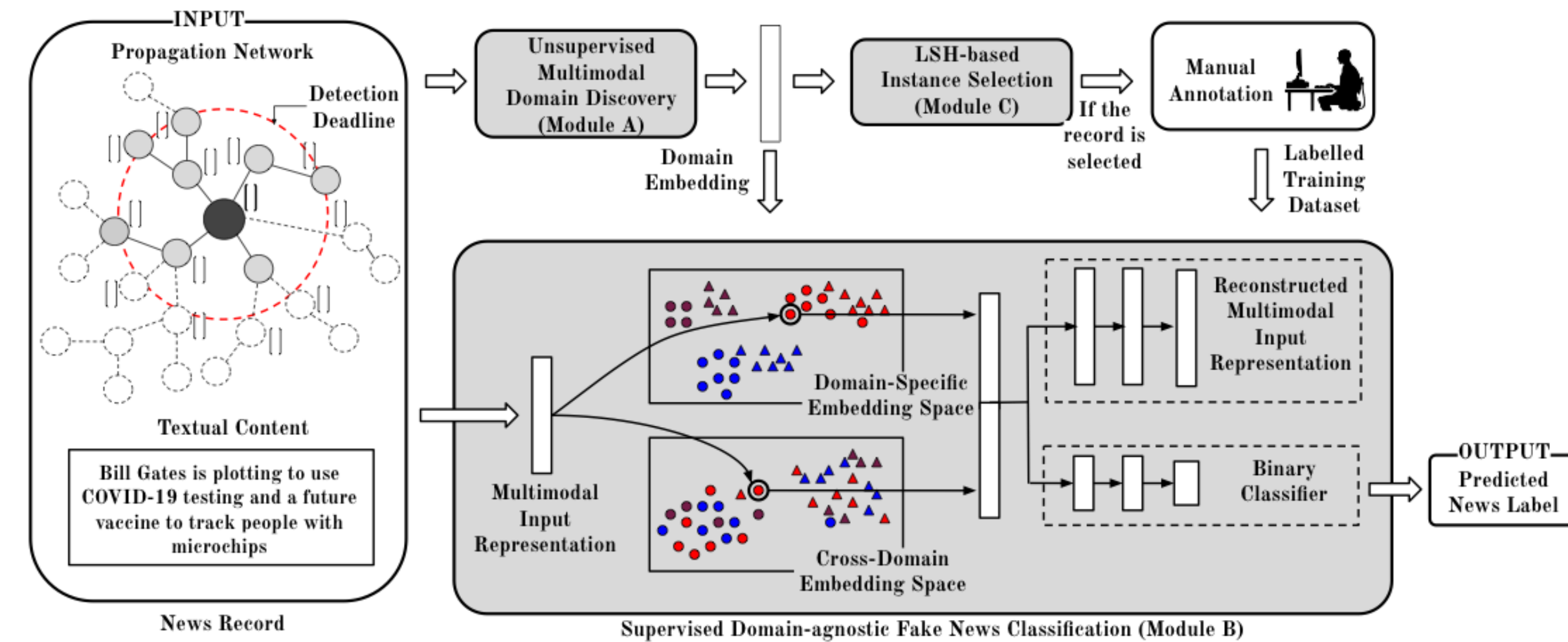
Embracing Domain Differences in Fake News (EDDFN*)



Methodology

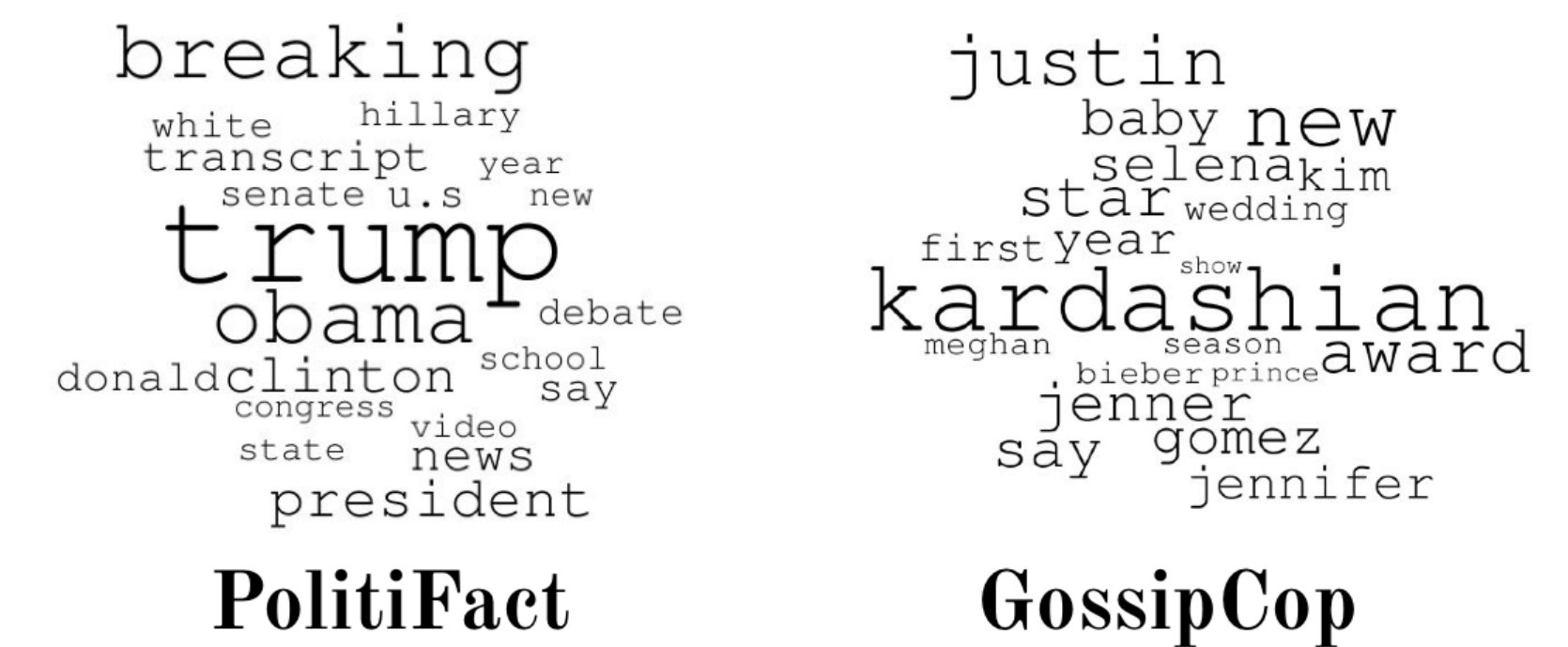
EDDFN

- EDDFN includes 2 main components for FND.
 - Unsupervised embedding learning
 - Supervised domain-agnostic news classification
- These components are integrated to identify fake news while exploiting domain-specific and cross-domain knowledge in news.
- In addition, the proposed instance selection approach
 - Adopts the same domain embedding learning component to select informative news for labeling, which eventually yields a labeled dataset that maximizes the domain-coverage.



Methodology

Unsupervised Domain Discovery



Word cloud for the top 20 words in two dataset

- For a give news r , assume that its domain label is not available.
- Proposed **unsupervised domain embedding learning** technique exploits multimodal content of r to **represent the domain** of r as **low-dimensional vector** $f_{domain}(r)$.
- Approach is motivated by:
 - Tendency of users to form **groups containing people with similar interests** (homophily), which results in **different domain have distinct user bases**.
 - Significant differences in domain-specific **word usage** as shown in previous figure.

Methodology

Network Construction

- Create set for each news by adding **all users and all words** appearing in the news title.
- For each pair of items, build a **weighted edge linking** the two items in the graph.
- **Repeat above steps** for all news to obtain the **final network**.

Algorithm 1: Domain Embedding Learning

Input: A collection of news records R

Output: Domain embeddings $f_{domain}(r)$ of $r \in R$

```
// Network construction
1 Initialize an empty graph  $G$ ;
2 for  $r \in R$  do
3    $S^r \leftarrow X^r \cup U^r$ 
4   for each pair  $(s_1, s_2) \in S$  do
5      $e \leftarrow (\{s_1, s_2\}, 1)$ ;
6     if edge  $e$  exists in graph  $G$  then
7       Increment edge  $e$  in graph  $G$  by 1;
8     else
9       Add edge  $e$  to graph  $G$ ;
// Community Detection
10  $C \leftarrow$  Find communities in  $G$  using Louvain;
// Embedding Learning
11 for  $r \in R$  do
12   | Compute  $f_{domain}(r)$  using Eq. 2
13 Return  $f_{domain}(r)$  of  $r \in R$ .
```

Methodology

Community Detection

- Adopt **Louvain algorithm*** to identify communities in graph.
 - Best performing **parameter-free community detection** algorithm.
- Obtain a set of **communities/clusters**, each having either a **highly connected set of users or words**.
- Assume **each community** belongs to a **single domain**.

Algorithm 1: Domain Embedding Learning

Input: A collection of news records R
Output: Domain embeddings $f_{domain}(r)$ of $r \in R$
// Network construction

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```

Methodology

Embedding Learning

- Compute the **soft membership** $p(r \in c)$ of r in a cluster c :

$$p(r \in c) = \sum_{v \in c \cap r} v_{deg} / \sum_{c \in C} \sum_{v \in r} v_{deg}$$

- $p(r \in c)$ is **proportional** to # of **common users or words** that r and c have.
- Each node v is weighted using the degree v_{deg} in G to reflect their **caring importance** for the corresponding community.

Algorithm 1: Domain Embedding Learning

Input: A collection of news records R

Output: Domain embeddings $f_{domain}(r)$ of $r \in R$

// Network construction

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11 for  $r \in R$  do  
12   Compute  $f_{domain}(r)$  using Eq. 2  
13 Return  $f_{domain}(r)$  of  $r \in R$ .
```

Methodology

Embedding Learning

- Finally, produce the **domain embedding** $f_{domain}(r) \in \mathbb{R}^{|C|}$ of r as concatenation of r 's likelihood belonging to communities in C :
- $f_{domain}(r) = p(r \in c_1) \oplus p(r \in c_2) \oplus \dots p(r \in c_{|C|})$

Algorithm 1: Domain Embedding Learning

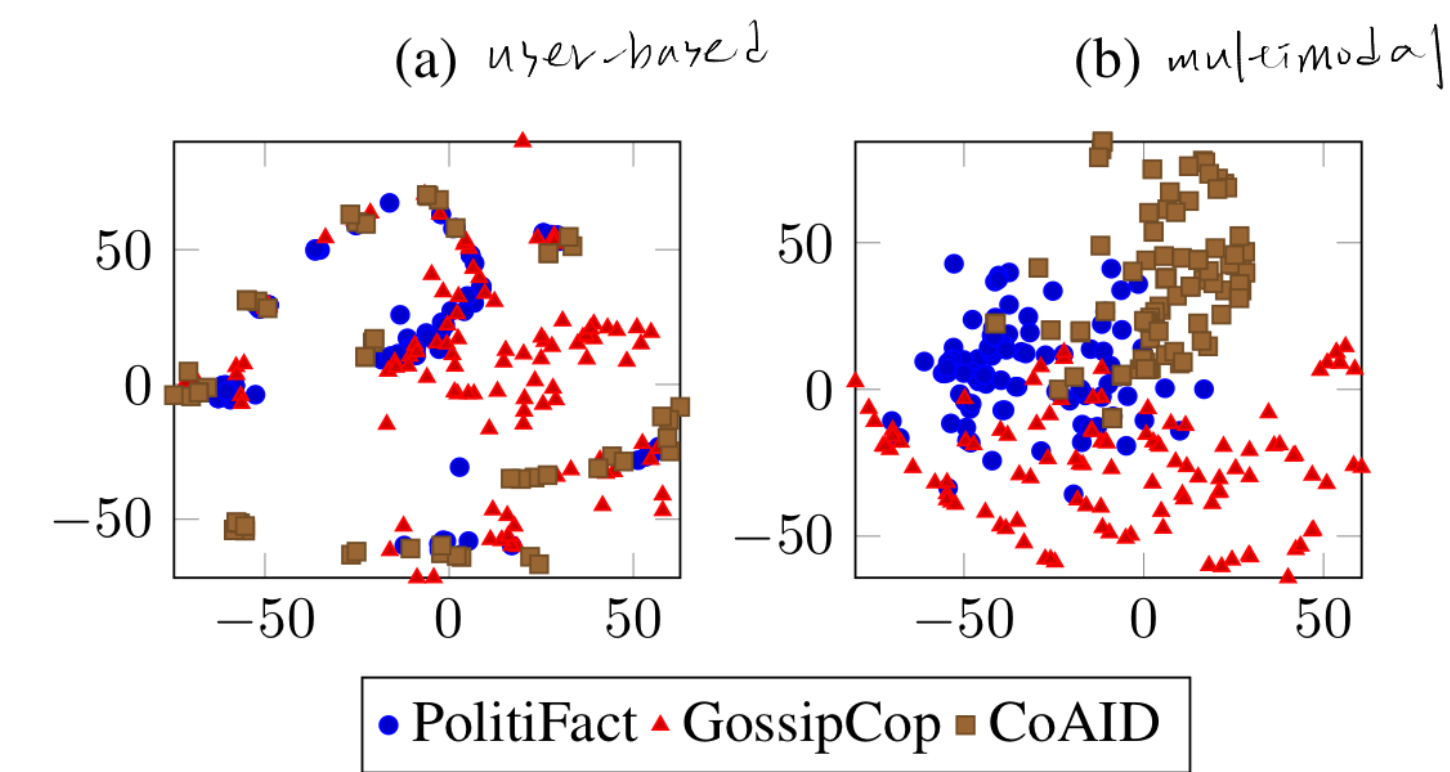
Input: A collection of news records R
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// Network construction

- 1 Initialize an empty graph G ;
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- 11 **for** $r \in R$ **do**
- 12 Compute $f_{domain}(r)$ using Eq. 2
- 13 Return $f_{domain}(r)$ of $r \in R$.

Methodology

Comparison of domain embedding



t-SNE result (user-based/multimodal)

- Proposed approach (fig.b) **yields a clear separation** between the domains compared to user-based domain discovery algorithm (fig.a).
- May mainly due to ability of proposed approach to **jointly exploit multi-modalities**, both users and text of news to discover their domain.
- Most previous works on domain discovery **ultimately assign hard domain labels** for news, but some news **may belong to multiple domains**.
- Hence, proposed method use **low-dimensional vector** to represent domain embedding can preserved such knowledge **related to the domains** of news.

Methodology

Domain-agnostic News Classification

- In classification model, each news r is represented as a vector $f_{input}(r)$ using **textual content** W^r and **propagation network** G^r of r .
- Then, model maps $f_{input}(r)$ into 2 **subspace**:
 - Preserves **domain-specific** knowledge: $f_{specific} : f_{input}(r) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$
 - Preserves **cross-domain** knowledge: $f_{shared} : f_{input}(r) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$

Methodology

Domain-agnostic News Classification

- Then, $f_{specific}(r) \oplus f_{shared}(r)$ is used to recover the label y^r and input representation $f_{input}(r)$ of r during training via two decoder function g_{pred} and g_{recon} respectively.
- BCE: binary cross-entropy loss function
- Minimize L_{pred} & L_{recon} to find optimal parameters of $(f_{specific}, f_{shared}, g_{pred}, g_{recon})$.
- $\overline{y}^r = g_{pred}(f_{specific}(r) \oplus f_{shared}(r))$
- $\overline{f_{input}(r)} = g_{recon}(f_{specific}(r) \oplus f_{shared}(r))$
- $L_{pred} = BCE(y^r, \overline{y}^r)$
- $L_{recon} = \|f_{input}(r) - \overline{f_{input}(r)}\|^2$

Methodology

Domain-agnostic News Classification

- However, L_{pred} & L_{recon} do not leverage domain difference in news.
- Hence, now discuss how the mapping function for subspaces, $f_{specific}$ & f_{shared} .
 - Further learned to preserve the domain-specific and cross-domain knowledge in news.

Methodology

Leveraging Domain-specific Knowledge

- To preserve domain-specific knowledge, introduce an **auxiliary loss term** $L_{specific}$ to learn a news decoder function $g_{specific}$ to **recover the domain embedding** $f_{domain}(r)$ using the **domain-specific representation** $f_{specific}(r)$.
- Minimize $L_{specific}$ to find optimal parameters for $(f_{specific}, g_{specific})$ to capture the domain-specific knowledge by $f_{specific}$.
- $$L_{specific} = \|f_{domain}(r) - g_{specific}(f_{specific}(r))\|^2$$
- $$(\hat{g}_{specific}, \hat{f}_{specific}) = \underset{(g_{specific}, f_{specific})}{\operatorname{argmin}} (L_{specific})$$

Methodology

Leveraging Cross-domain Knowledge

- In contrast, learn f_{shared} to overlook domain-specific knowledge of news.
- Train a decoder function g_{shared} to accurately predict domain of r using $f_{shared}(r)$.
- Meanwhile, learn f_{shared} to fool decoder g_{shared} by maximizing loss if g_{shared} .
 - Such a formulation forces f_{shared} to only rely in cross-domain knowledge.
 - Useful to transfer the knowledge across domains.

Methodology

Leveraging Cross-domain Knowledge

- Can be defined as a **minimax game** between g_{shared} & f_{shared} .
- $L_{shared} = \|g_{shared}(f_{shared}(r)) - f_{domain}(r)\|^2$
- $(\hat{g}_{shared}, \hat{f}_{shared}) = \underset{f_{shared}}{\operatorname{argmin}} \underset{g_{shared}}{\operatorname{argmax}} (-L_{shared})$

Methodology

Integrated model

- Then final loss function of model is formulated as:
 - $L_{final} = L_{pred} + \lambda_1 L_{recon} + \lambda_2 L_{specific} - \lambda_3 L_{shared}$
 - where λ controls the **importance given to each loss term** compared to L_{pred} (main).
- To learn minimax game in L_{shared} , the final loss function L_{final} :
 - $(\hat{\theta}_1) = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta_1} L_{final}(\theta_1, \theta_2), \quad \theta_1 : (f_{specific}, f_{shared}, g_{specific}, g_{pred}, g_{recon})$
 - $(\hat{\theta}_2) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta_2} L_{final}(\hat{\theta}_1, \theta_2) \quad \theta_2 : g_{shared}$

Methodology

LHS-based Instance Selection

- Aforementioned model is able to exploit the domain-specific and cross-domain knowledge in news to identify their veracity.
- Empirically observe that the performance of the model substantially drops when identify unseen or rarely appearing domain news during training.
- Proposed an unsupervised technique to come up with a labeled training dataset for a given labeling budget B such that it covers as many domains as possible.
- Ultimate objective of this technique is to learn a model using such a dataset that performs well for many domains.

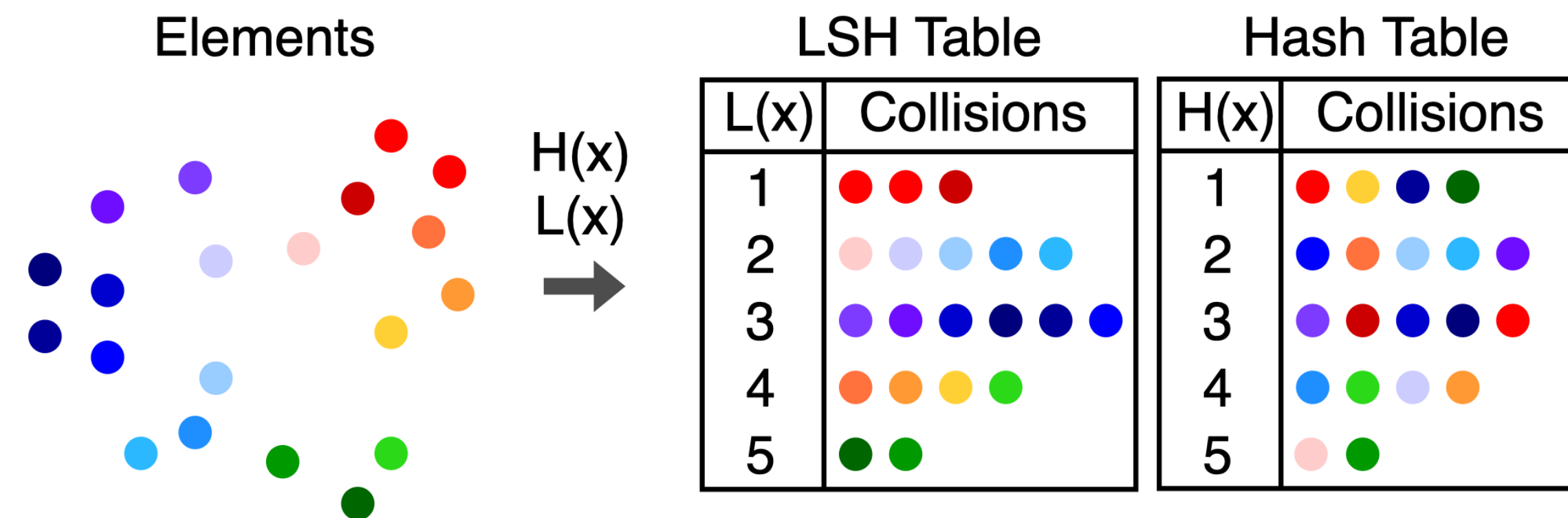
Methodology

LHS-based Instance Selection

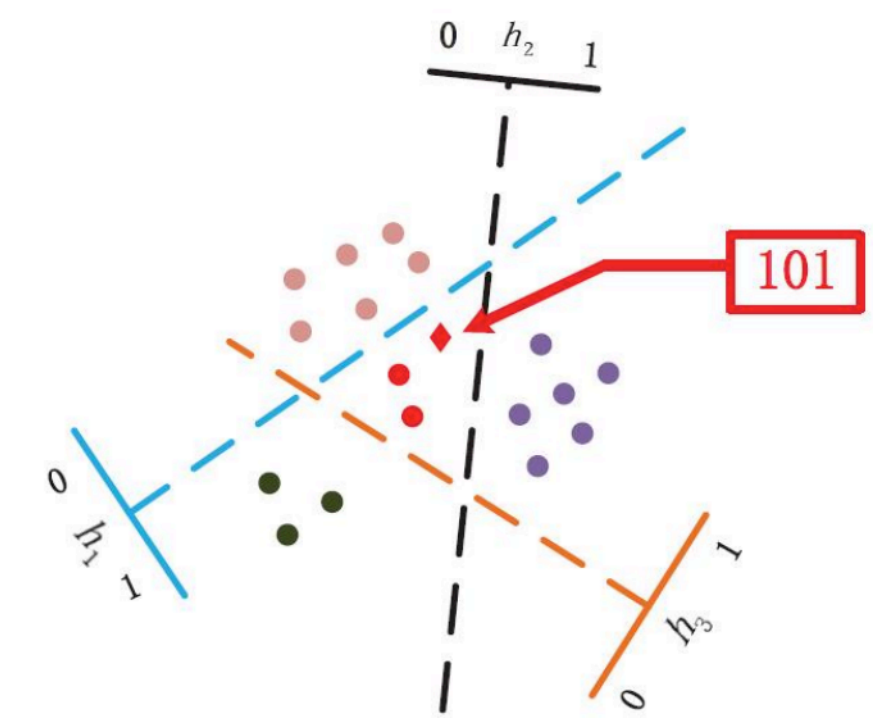
- Initially represents each news $r \in R$ using its domain embedding $f_{domain}(r)$.
- Proposed* a Locality-Sensitive Hashing (LSH) algorithm based on random projection to select a set of news in R that are distant in the domain embedding space.

Methodology

LSH algorithm



credit: <https://randorithms.com/2019/09/19/Visual-LSH.html>



credit: <http://nnw.cz/doi/2017/NNW.2017.27.005.pdf>

- LSH is an algorithmic technique that **hashes similar input items** into the **same "buckets" with high probability**.
- Since similar items end up in the same buckets, this technique can be used for **data clustering** and **nearest neighbor search**.
- It **differs from conventional hashing** techniques in that **hash collisions are maximized**, not minimized.
- Alternatively, the technique can be seen as a way to **reduce the dimensionality of high-dimensional data**; high-dimensional input items can be reduced to low-dimensional versions while **preserving relative distances** between items.

Methodology

Step of Instance Selection

$$h_{i,j} = \sqrt{3} \times \begin{cases} +1 & \text{with probability } 1/6 \\ 0 & \text{with probability } 2/3 \\ -1 & \text{with probability } 1/6 \end{cases}$$

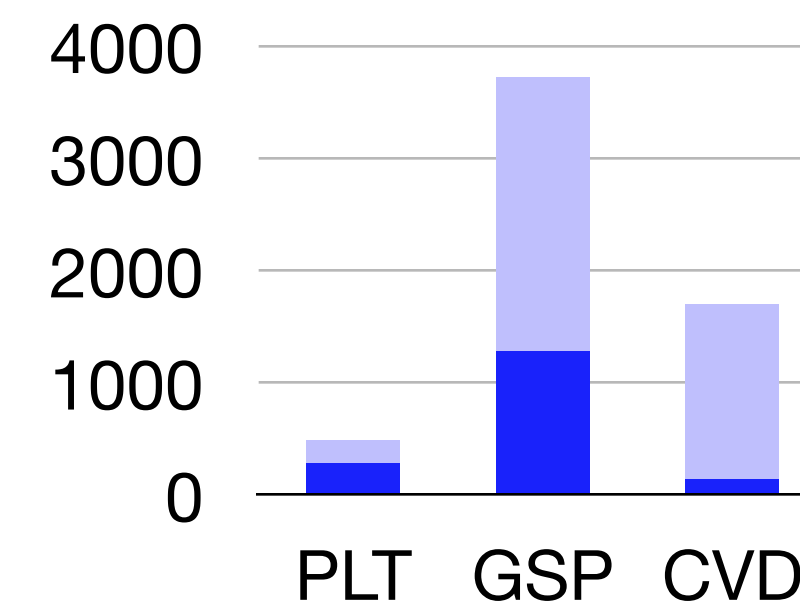
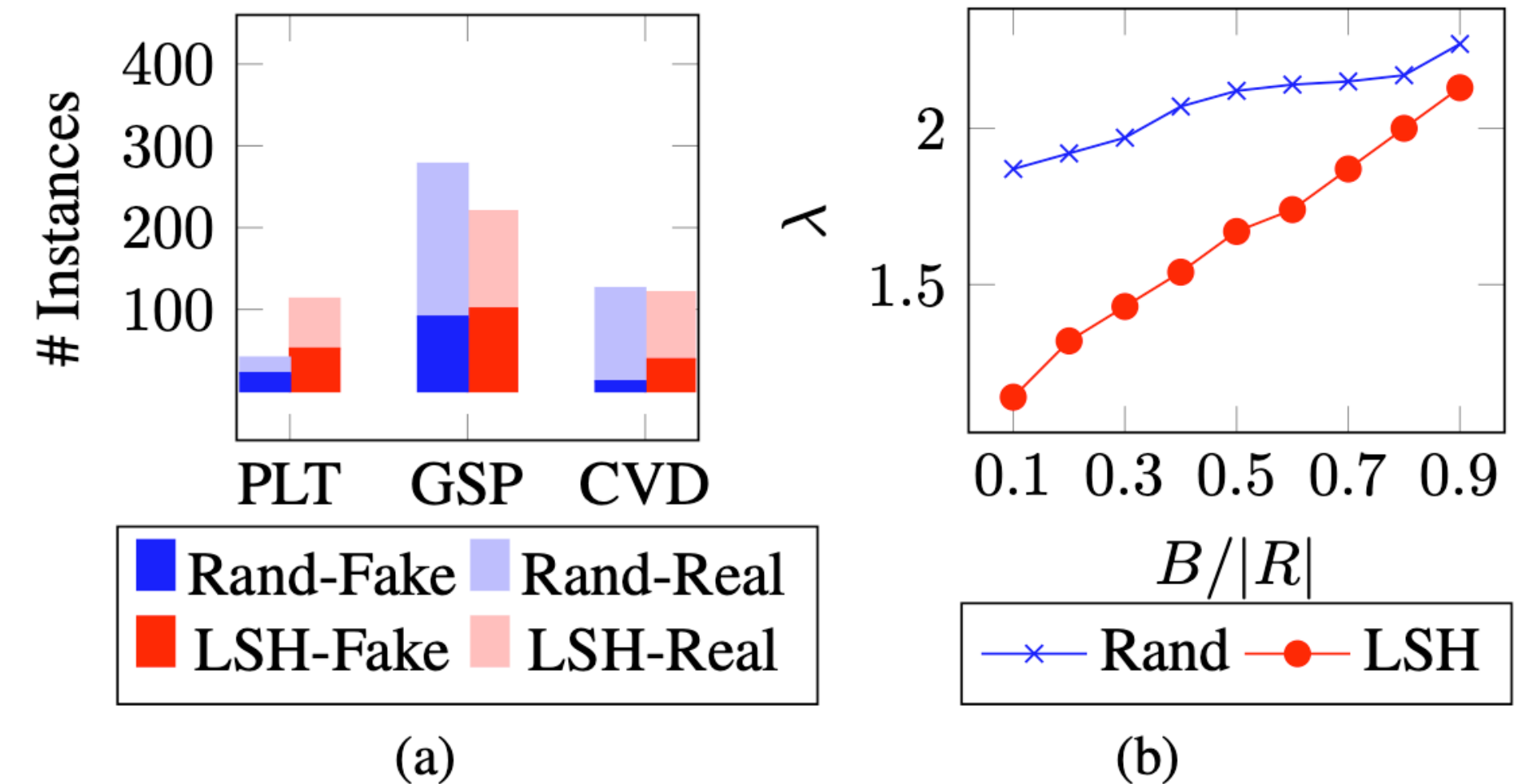
probability distribution

- Create $|H|$ different hash functions such as $H_i(r) = \text{sgn}(h_i \cdot f_{\text{domain}}(r))$, $i \in [0, |H| - 1]$.
- Construct an H -dimensional hash vector for each news as $H_0(r) \oplus \dots \oplus H_{|H|-1}(r)$.
- Group the news with similar hash values to construct a hash table.
- Randomly pick a news from each bin in the hash table and add to the selected dataset pool.
- Repeat above steps until the size of the dataset pool reaches the labelling budget B .

Methodology

Instance Selection Performance

- As can be seen, random selection follows empirical distribution of dataset and pick few instances from rarely domain.
- In contrast, the proposed approach provides a significant # of samples from even rarely occurring domains.
- Also mentioned complexity is efficient...



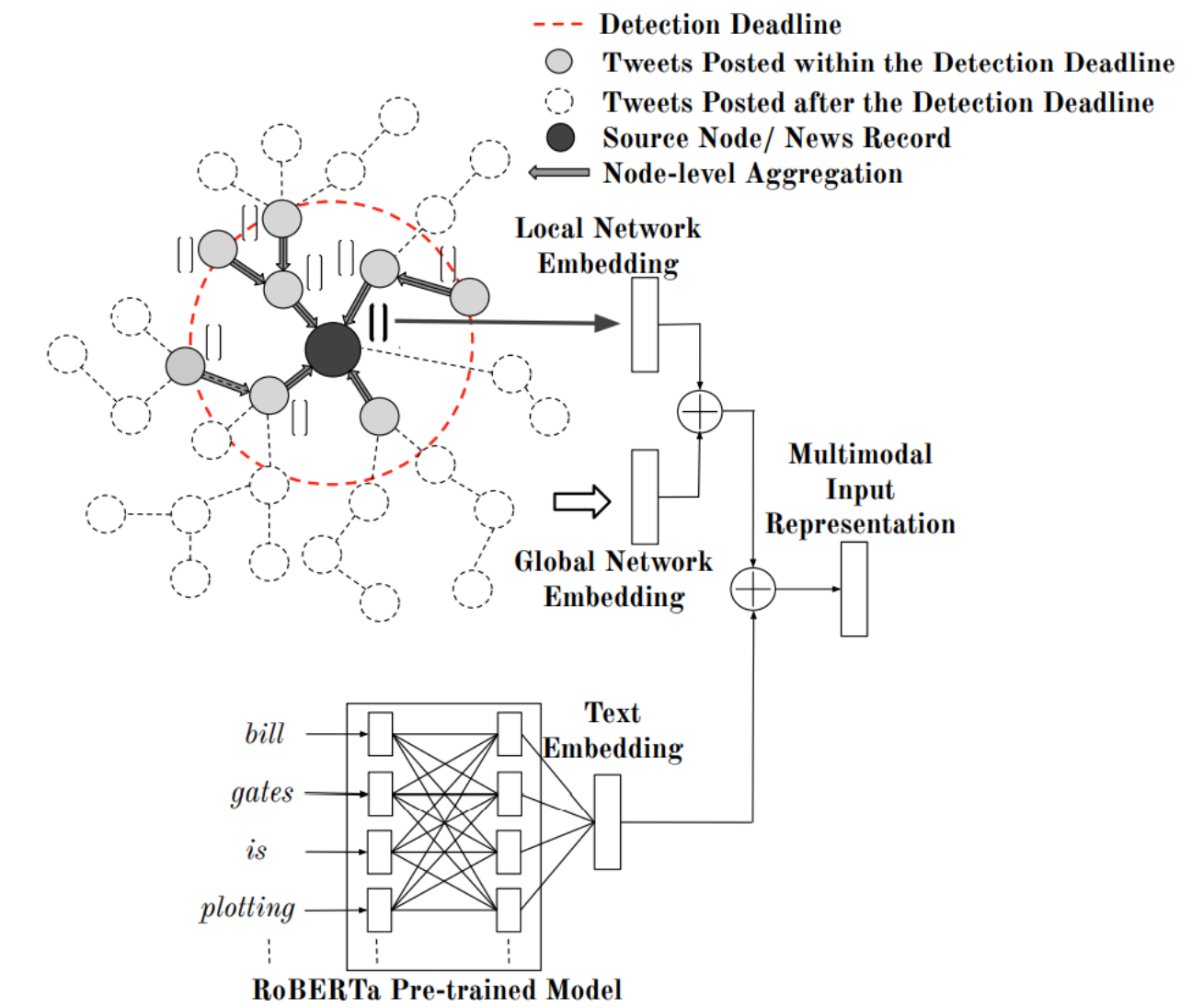
Dataset	PolitiFact	GossipCop	CoAID
# Fake News	269	1269	135
# Real News	230	2466	1568

Statics of 3 datasets

Experiments

Encoding & Decoding Functions

- Adopt **RoBERTa-base** to learn text-based representation $f_{text}(r)$.
- Propagation network-based representation $f_{network}(r)$ is using **unsupervised network representation learning technique** proposed by author.
- Then final input representation $f_{input}(r)$ is constructed as $f_{text}(r) \oplus f_{network}(r)$.
- All other encoding/decoding functions ($f_{specific}, f_{shared}, g_{specific}, g_{shared}, g_{pred}, g_{recon}$) are modeled as **2-layer feed-forward network with sigmoid** activation.



Experiments

Datasets

- Combine PolitiFact, GossipCop, CoAID to produce a cross-domain news dataset.
- 75% candidate data pool for training : 25% for testing
- For given a budget B , select B instances from pool to train the model.

Experiments

Baselines

- **LIWC**: learns feature vectors from the text content of news by counting the #of lexicons falling into different psycho-linguistic categories.
- **HAN**: adopts a hierarchical attention neural network framework to model the text content of news.
- **EANN**: use EANN-Unimodal (text) & EANN-multimodal (text, network).
- **HPNF**: extracts various features from the propagation network of news to generate its feature representation.
- **AE**: adopts an Auto-encoder architecture to learn latent representation for each news based on its propagation network.
- **SAFE**: propose modality-similarity method by caption news image compare with news text content.

Experiments

Performance Comparison

Method	Type			Politifact				Gossipcop				CoAID			
	T	S	M	Acc	Prec	Rec	F1	Acc	Prec	Rec	F1	Acc	Prec	Rec	F1
LIWC (Pennebaker et al. 2015)	✓			0.488	0.680	0.565	0.432	0.662	0.550	0.516	0.472	0.903	0.586	0.531	0.538
text-CNN (Kim 2014)	✓			0.608	0.621	0.623	0.608	0.733	0.698	0.703	0.701	0.903	0.679	0.674	0.677
HAN (Yang et al. 2016)	✓			0.632	0.672	0.651	0.648	0.716	0.703	0.709	0.706	0.919	0.698	0.682	0.688
EANN-Unimodal (Wang et al. 2018)	✓			0.794	0.811	0.790	0.791	0.765	0.732	0.738	0.734	0.925	0.842	0.763	0.792
HPNF (Shu et al. 2020b)		✓		0.697	0.692	0.683	0.687	0.721	0.703	0.689	0.695	0.902	0.652	0.693	0.672
AE (Silva et al. 2020)		✓		0.784	0.783	0.774	0.779	0.834	0.828	0.802	0.812	0.928	0.686	0.673	0.677
HPNF + LIWC (Shu et al. 2020b)			✓	0.704	0.723	0.708	0.716	0.734	0.715	0.706	0.708	0.911	0.682	0.709	0.690
SAFE (Zhou et al. 2020)			✓	0.793	0.782	0.771	0.775	0.831	0.822	0.798	0.806	0.931	0.754	0.744	0.748
EANN-Multimodal (Wang et al. 2018)			✓	0.804	0.808	0.794	0.798	0.836	0.812	0.815	0.813	0.944	0.849	0.803	0.808
Our Approach ($B = 100\% R_{pool} $)			✓	0.840	0.836	0.831	0.835	0.877	0.840	0.832	0.836	0.970	0.876	0.863	0.869
Our Approach ($B = 50\% R_{pool} $)			✓	0.838	0.836	0.828	0.833	0.848	0.822	0.797	0.808	0.963	0.870	0.854	0.862
Ablation Study ($B = 100\% R_{pool}$)															
(-) Domain-shared loss				0.823	0.821	0.812	0.815	0.864	0.832	0.828	0.829	0.956	0.857	0.861	0.858
(-) Domain-specific loss				0.792	0.800	0.783	0.786	0.858	0.832	0.821	0.828	0.934	0.850	0.857	0.853
(-) Network modality				0.816	0.815	0.817	0.815	0.765	0.749	0.745	0.746	0.945	0.803	0.855	0.827
(-) Text modality				0.804	0.798	0.793	0.795	0.837	0.835	0.815	0.817	0.932	0.711	0.704	0.707

Experiments

Performance Comparison

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EANN-Multimodal (Wang et al. 2018)			✓	0.804	0.808	0.794	0.798	0.836	0.812	0.815	0.813	0.944	0.849	0.803	0.808
Our Approach ($B = 100\% R_{pool} $)			✓	0.840	0.836	0.831	0.835	0.877	0.840	0.832	0.836	0.970	0.876	0.863	0.869
Our Approach ($B = 50\% R_{pool} $)			✓	0.838	0.836	0.828	0.833	0.848	0.822	0.797	0.808	0.963	0.870	0.854	0.862
Ablation Study ($B = 100\% R_{pool}$)															
(-) Domain-shared loss				0.823	0.821	0.812	0.815	0.864	0.832	0.828	0.829	0.956	0.857	0.861	0.858
(-) Domain-specific loss				0.792	0.800	0.783	0.786	0.858	0.832	0.821	0.828	0.934	0.850	0.857	0.853
(-) Network modality				0.816	0.815	0.817	0.815	0.765	0.749	0.745	0.746	0.945	0.803	0.855	0.827
(-) Text modality				0.804	0.798	0.793	0.795	0.837	0.835	0.815	0.817	0.932	0.711	0.704	0.707

Experiments

Performance Comparison

Method	Type			Politifact				Gossipcop				CoAID			
	T	S	M	Acc	Prec	Rec	F1	Acc	Prec	Rec	F1	Acc	Prec	Rec	F1
LIWC (Pennebaker et al. 2015)	✓			0.488	0.680	0.565	0.432	0.662	0.550	0.516	0.472	0.903	0.586	0.531	0.538
text-CNN (Kim 2014)	✓			0.608	0.621	0.623	0.608	0.733	0.698	0.703	0.701	0.903	0.679	0.674	0.677
HAN (Yang et al. 2016)	✓			0.632	0.672	0.651	0.648	0.716	0.703	0.709	0.706	0.919	0.698	0.682	0.688
EANN-Unimodal (Wang et al. 2018)	✓			0.794	0.811	0.790	0.791	0.765	0.732	0.738	0.734	0.925	0.842	0.763	0.792
HPNF (Shu et al. 2020b)		✓		0.697	0.692	0.683	0.687	0.721	0.703	0.689	0.695	0.902	0.652	0.693	0.672
AE (Silva et al. 2020)		✓		0.784	0.783	0.774	0.779	0.834	0.828	0.802	0.812	0.928	0.686	0.673	0.677
HPNF + LIWC (Shu et al. 2020b)			✓	0.704	0.723	0.708	0.716	0.734	0.715	0.706	0.708	0.911	0.682	0.709	0.690
SAFE (Zhou et al. 2020)			✓	0.793	0.782	0.771	0.775	0.831	0.822	0.798	0.806	0.931	0.754	0.744	0.748
EANN-Multimodal (Wang et al. 2018)			✓	0.804	0.808	0.794	0.798	0.836	0.812	0.815	0.813	0.944	0.849	0.803	0.808
Our Approach ($B = 100\% R_{pool} $)			✓	0.840	0.836	0.831	0.835	0.877	0.840	0.832	0.836	0.970	0.876	0.863	0.869
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Experiments

Ablation Study (1/2)

Method	Type			Politifact				Gossipcop				CoAID			
	T	S	M	Acc	Prec	Rec	F1	Acc	Prec	Rec	F1	Acc	Prec	Rec	F1
LIWC (Pennebaker et al. 2015)	✓			0.488	0.680	0.565	0.432	0.662	0.550	0.516	0.472	0.903	0.586	0.531	0.538
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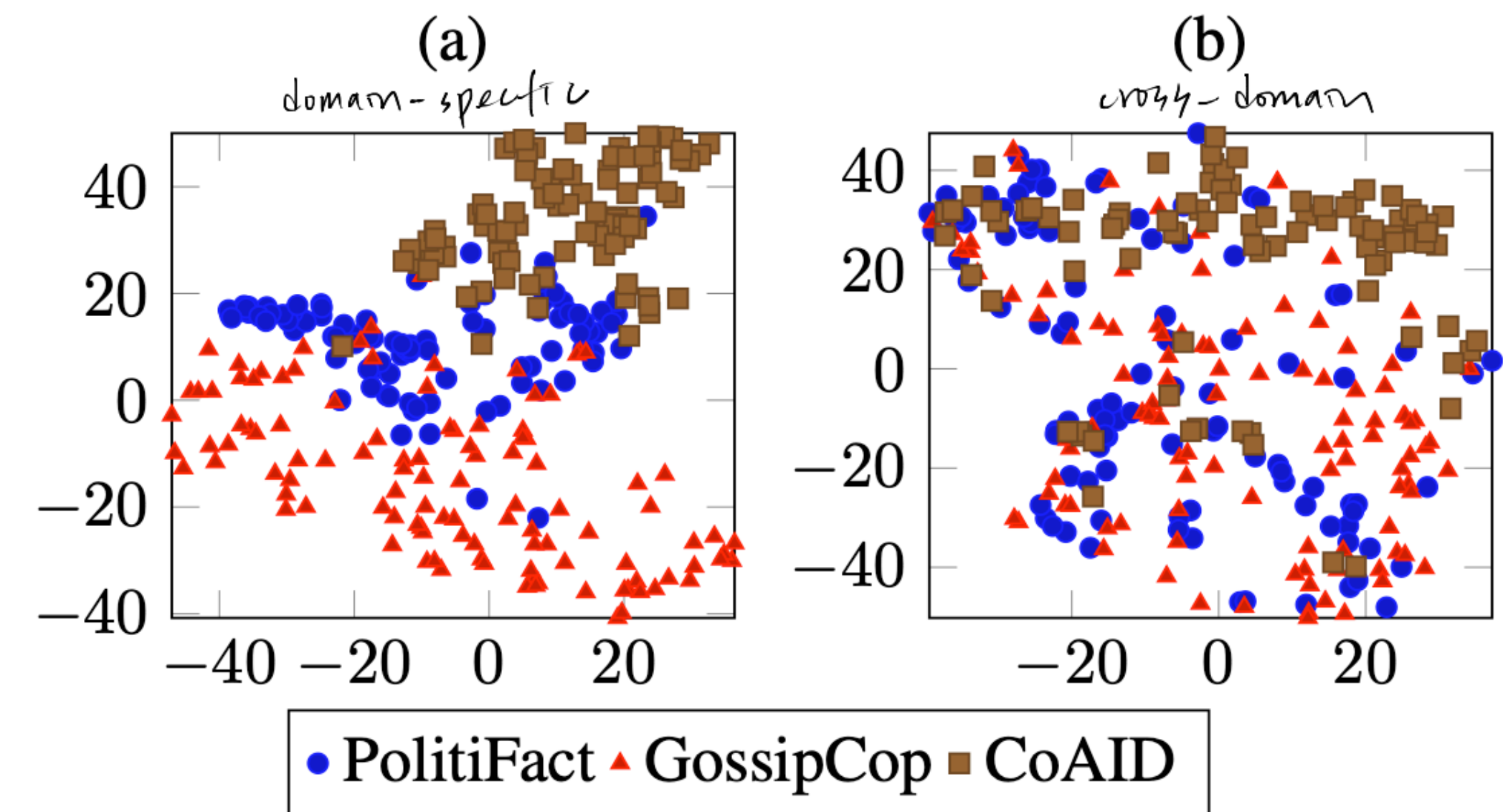
Experiments

Ablation Study (1/2)

Method	Type			Politifact				Gossipcop				CoAID			
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Experiments

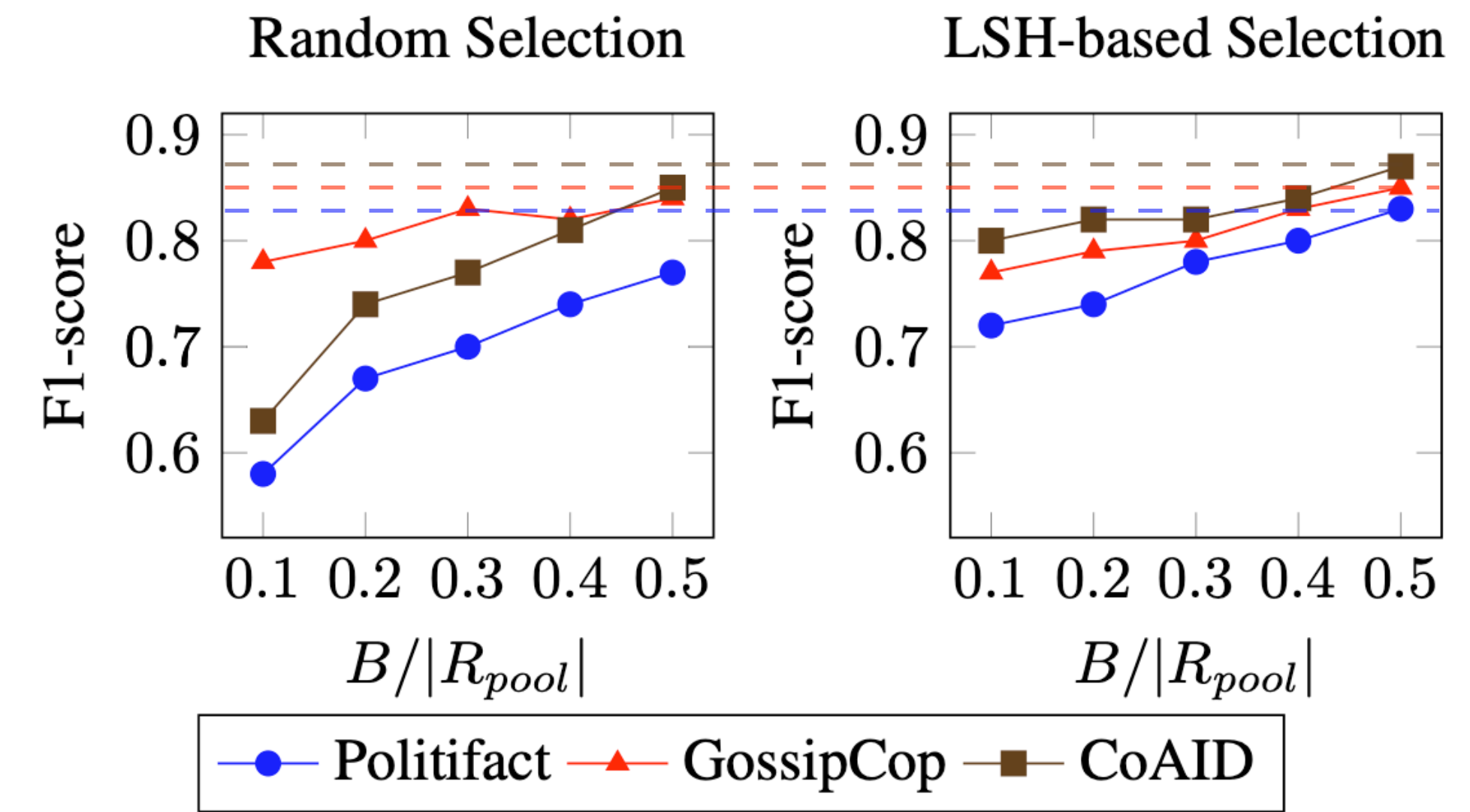
Ablation Study (2/2)



- As can be seen, the domain-specific embedding layer preserves the domain of the news by mapping different domains into different clusters (fig.a).
- In contrast, cannot identify the domain labels of news from the cross-domain embedding space (fig.b).
- Hence, this embedding space is useful to share common knowledge between news from different domains.

Experiments

Evaluation of LSH-based Instance Selection



- Proposed approach substantially **outperforms the random instance selection** for the **rarely-appearing or highly imbalance domains**.
- It increases F1-score by 14% for PolitiFact and 17% for CoAID, when $B/|R_{pool}| = 0.1$.
 - May due to the ability of approach to **maximize the coverage of domains** when selecting instances.
 - Instead of **biasing** towards a **domain with larger # of records**.

Conclusion

- Proposed a novel FND framework, which exploits **domain-specific & cross-domain knowledge** in news to determine fake news from different domains.
- Also introduced novel **unsupervised approach to select informative instances** for manual labelling from a large pool of unlabelled news.
 - Selected data pool is subsequently used to train a model that can **perform equally for different domains**.
- For future work, authors intend to extend model as an **online learning framework** to determine fake news in a **real-world news stream**, which typically **covers a large number of domains**.

Comments of EDDFN

- Multimodal setting in this paper is use text & network information.
 - Different w/ text & image as usual.
- Preserve domain-invariant & domain-specific feature at the same time.
 - Curious about the domain-specific detail performance (only cancel loss in ablation).
- Notation in this paper is unclear. 😡 (f_{shared} vs. $f_{shared}(r)$)
- Network feature not detailed explained cause use authors' previous work.