Machine Learning-based FakeNews Detection

1. Introduction

There are various newsworthy messages on social net media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, meanwhile, disseminating misleading information and fake news across social networks represent a big dilemma against researchers and social network service providers. It is meaningful to detect and classify fake news from the large amount of news on social media platforms to stop the propagation of rumor spreading. Machine learning as a tool is widely used to determine if a message or a news article is fake or not. In this paper, three machine learning models, including LSTM, RNN and CNN are used for fake news detection.

2. Dataset

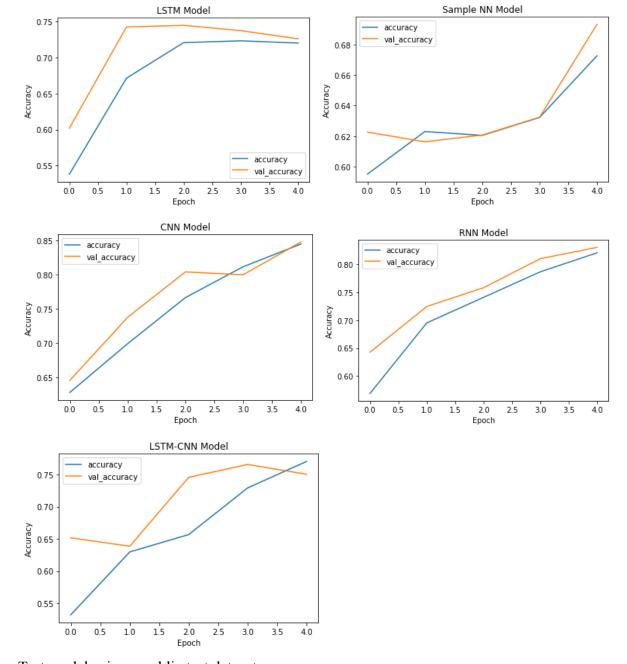
The Dataset for training and testing both were obtained from kaggle. https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/clmentbisaillon/fake-and-real-news-dataset?resource=download&select=True.csv (training data)

3. Methods

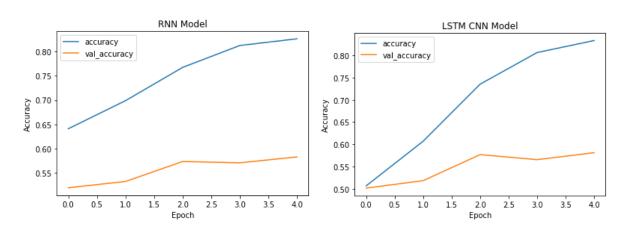
The dataset needs to be preprocessed by the NLP method, and be tokenized as the input to feed on the first layer of the training model.

LSTM, RNN, CNN(1D and 2D) algorithms were applied to pre-train the classifiers, respectively. All models were trained with 5 epochs and 64 of batch size. The detection accuracy of the LSTM model reached up to 73.41% while recording of training history shows the training accuracy of the classifier was always lower than its validation accuracy. The detection accuracy of Sample NN model was 69.51%, and the training accuracy and validation accuracy of the classifier almost overlap. However, the training accuracy of CNN(2D) model reached up to 87.28% which was higher than the training accuracy obtained from LSTM model, and the validation accuracy of CNN model was slightly lower than the training accuracy (It took almost 3 hours to train CNN model which has a relatively high accuracy but high cost of training time). The next trained model was RNN model, which achieves a relatively high training accuracy of 85.13% and its slightly higher than the validation accuracy. Considering both the performance of each model and training time, I combined LSTM and CNN(1D) into a new model-LSTM CNN model and trained the model, which improved training accuracy up to 2%~5% when compared with the LSTM model. Finally, a public dataset was used to test the feasibility of LSTM CNN model and RNN model. The results were not ideal-both validation accuracy were only around 58%. The model still needs to be further refined in order to improve its feasibility.

4. Results



Test model using a public test dataset:



5. Coding

Upload dataset.

```
true = pd.read_csv('/content/gdrive/MyDrive/True.csv')
fake = pd.read_csv('/content/gdrive/MyDrive/Fake.csv')

true.head()

title text subject date

As U.S. budget fight looms, Republicans flip t... WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The head of a conservat... politicsNews December 31, 2017

U.S. military to accept transgender recruits o... WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Transgender people will... politicsNews December 29, 2017

Senior U.S. Republican senator: 'Let Mr. Muell... WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The special counsel inv... politicsNews December 31, 2017

FBI Russia probe helped by Australian diplomat... WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Trump campaign adviser ... politicsNews December 30, 2017

Trump wants Postal Service to charge 'much mor... SEATTLE/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donal... politicsNews December 29, 2017
```

Extra the important columns of dataset.

Check the missing value.

```
null_df = df_pre.isnull().sum().sort_values(ascending = False)
percent = (df_pre.isnull().sum() / df_pre.isnull().count()).sort_values(ascending = False) * 100
null_df = pd.concat([null_df, percent], axis = 1, keys = ['Counts', '% Missing'])
null_df.head()
```

	Counts	% Missing	1
text	0	0.0	
label	0	0.0	

Split the dataset into training data and testing data.

```
x_train, x_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(df_pre['text'].to_numpy(), df_pre['label'].to_numpy(), test_size = 0.25)
len(x_train), len(x_test)
(31968, 10657)
```

Preprocess the dataset using the NLP method.

```
nltk.download('stopwords')
stop = set(stopwords.words('english'))
punctuation = list(string.punctuation)
stop.update(punctuation)
[nltk_data] Downloading package stopwords to /root/nltk_data...
[nltk_data] Package stopwords is already up-to-date!
def strip_html(text):
 # get a BeautifulSoup object that follows standard structure
  soup = BeautifulSoup(text, "html.parser")
 return soup.get_text() # extract all the text from a page
# removing the square brackets
def remove_between_square_brackets(text):
  # '' replace patterns occured in left of text like \[[^]*\]
  return re.sub(r'\\[[^]*\]', '', text)
# removing URL's
def remove_urls(text):
 return re.sub(r'http\S+', '', text)
# removing the stopwords from text
def remove_stopwords(text):
 final_text = []
  for i in text.split():
    if i.strip().lower() not in stop:
      final_text.append(i.strip()) # strip(None) remove blank char in default
  return " ".join(final_text)
#removing punctuation from text
def remove_punctuation(text):
  return text.translate(str.maketrans('','',string.punctuation))
#removeing number
def remove_number(text):
  num = re.compile(r'\d+')
  return num.sub(r' num ', text)
# removing the noisy text
def denoise_text(text):
  text = strip_html(text)
  text = remove_between_square_brackets(text)
  text = remove_punctuation(text)
  text = remove_number(text)
  text = remove_stopwords(text)
  return text
# Apply function on review column
df_pre['text'] = df_pre['text'].apply(denoise_text)
```

```
import random
for i in range(20):
    print(df_pre['text'][random.randint(1,100)])
```

Spy chiefs pressure Congress renew expiring surveillance lawWASHINGTON Reuters leaders US intelligence community Thursday pressed Congress renew Natior Factbox Trump Twitter Dec num Approval rating AmazonThe following statements posted verified Twitter accounts US President Donald Trump realDonaldTrump (US responds court fight illegal Indonesian immigrantsBOSTON Reuters US immigration officials sought block federal judge's order delaying efforts deport Senior US Republican senator Let Mr Mueller jobWASHINGTON Reuters Special counsel investigation links Russia President Trump's num election campaign or US military accept transgender recruits Monday PentagonWASHINGTON Reuters Transgender people allowed first time enlist US military starting Monday orde US tax plan roils popular bet bond marketNEW YORK Reuters Passage longanticipated US tax overhaul upended bond market's favorite trade year yields long Tax bills passthrough rule aid wealthy workers criticsWASHINGTON Reuters Wealthy business owners President Donald Trump stand gain provision Republicar Alabama official certify Senatorelect Jones today despite challenge CNNWASHINGTON Reuters Alabama Secretary State John Merrill said certify Democratic Pence preside Senate tax bill vote office confirmsWASHINGTON Reuters US Vice President Mike Pence preside Senate's vote sweeping tax legislation office House Democrats rally protect Special Counsel MuellerWASHINGTON Reuters Democrats US House Representatives rallied behind Special Counsel Robert Mueller Factbox Trump Twitter Dec num Ax cut Missile defense billThe following statements posted verified Twitter accounts US President Donald Trump realDonaldTrump from Fund Transken leave Senate January num WASHINGTON Reuters US Democratic Senator Alf Franken earlier month announced plan resign following sexual miss House panel asks Trump extop aide Bannon testify BloombergWASHINGTON Reuters Steve Bannon former top White House strategist former chief campaign aide FBI Russia probe helped Australian diplomat tipoff NYTWASHINGT

Apply tokenizer to feed numerical data into the trained model.

```
max_voc_len = 10000
max_feature = 1 + round(sum([len(i.split()) for i in x_train]) / len(x_train))
max_feature

246

tokenizer = Tokenizer(num_words=max_voc_len)
tokenizer.fit_on_texts(texts = x_train)
X_train = tokenizer.texts_to_sequences(texts = x_train)
X_train = sequence.pad_sequences(X_train, maxlen=max_feature)

X_test = tokenizer.texts_to_sequences(texts = x_test)
X_test = sequence.pad_sequences(X_test, maxlen=max_feature)
```

Train LSTM model.

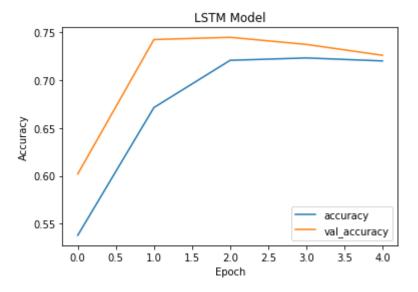
Model: "LSTM_MODEL"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
embedding (Embedding)	(None, 246, 128)	1280000
lstm (LSTM)	(None, 246, 128)	131584
lstm_1 (LSTM)	(None, 64)	49408
dense (Dense)	(None, 32)	2080
dropout (Dropout)	(None, 32)	0
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 1)	33

Total params: 1,463,105 Trainable params: 183,105 Non-trainable params: 1,280,000

$lstm_model_history = lstm_model.fit(X_train, y_train, epochs=5, validation_data=(X_test, y_test), batch_size=64)$

```
test_loss, test_acc = lstm_model.evaluate(X_train, y_train)
test_loss, test_acc
```



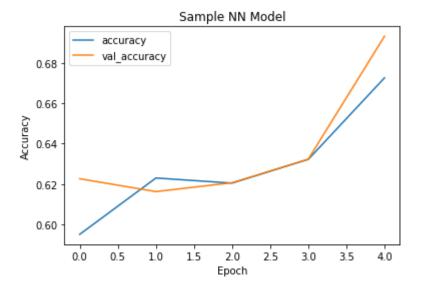
Train Sample NN model.

Model: "Sample_NN_MODEL"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
embedding_1 (Embedding)	(None, 246, 128)	1280000
conv1d (Conv1D)	(None, 242, 128)	82048
<pre>max_pooling1d (MaxPooling1D)</pre>	(None, 48, 128)	0
conv1d_1 (Conv1D)	(None, 44, 128)	82048
<pre>max_pooling1d_1 (MaxPooling 1D)</pre>	(None, 8, 128)	0
flatten (Flatten)	(None, 1024)	0
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 128)	131200
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 64)	8256
dense_4 (Dense)	(None, 1)	65

Total params: 1,583,617 Trainable params: 303,617 Non-trainable params: 1,280,000

```
sample_nn_model_history = sample_nn_model.fit(X_train, y_train, epochs=5, validation_data=(X_test, y_test), batch_size=64)
test_loss, test_acc = sample_nn_model.evaluate(X_train, y_train)
```



Train CNN Model.

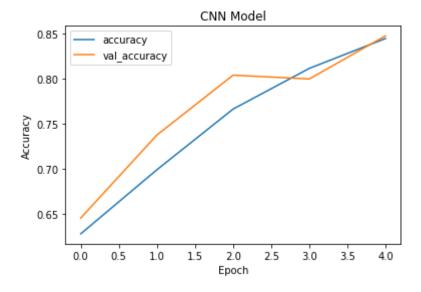
```
cnn_model = models.Sequential(name = 'CNN_MODEL')
cnn_model.add(layers.Embedding(input_dim= max_voc_len, output_dim= 128, input_length=max_feature, trainable=False))
cnn_model.add(layers.Reshape((max_feature, 128, 1)))
cnn_model.add(layers.Conv2D(128, (3,3), activation='relu'))
{\tt cnn\_model.add(layers.MaxPooling2D(2,2))}
cnn_model.add(layers.Conv2D(128, (3,3), activation='relu'))
cnn_model.add(layers.MaxPooling2D(2,2))
cnn_model.add(layers.Flatten())
cnn_model.add(layers.Dense(128, activation='relu'))
cnn_model.add(layers.Dense(64, activation='relu'))
cnn_model.add(layers.Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
adam_low_rate = optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=1.e-5)
cnn_model.summary()
cnn_model.compile(optimizer=adam_low_rate,
                   loss='binary_crossentropy',
                   metrics=['accuracy'])
```

Model: "CNN_MODEL"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
embedding_6 (Embedding)		1280000
reshape_1 (Reshape)	(None, 246, 128, 1)	0
conv2d_2 (Conv2D)	(None, 244, 126, 128)	1280
<pre>max_pooling2d_2 (MaxPooling 2D)</pre>	(None, 122, 63, 128)	0
flatten_4 (Flatten)	(None, 983808)	0
dense_19 (Dense)	(None, 128)	125927552
dense_20 (Dense)	(None, 64)	8256
dense_21 (Dense)	(None, 1)	65

Total params: 127,217,153 Trainable params: 125,937,153 Non-trainable params: 1,280,000

```
cnn_model_history = cnn_model.fit(X_train, y_train, epochs=5, validation_data=(X_test, y_test), batch_size=64)
test_loss, test_acc = cnn_model.evaluate(X_train, y_train)
```



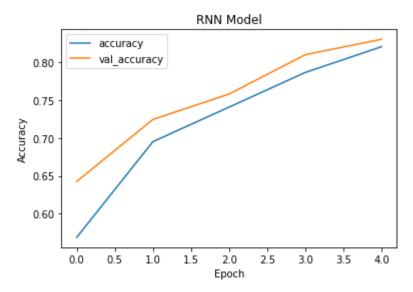
Train RNN Model

Model: "RNN_MODEL"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	 Param #
======================================	=======================================	rαιαιι π :======
<pre>embedding_3 (Embedding)</pre>	(None, 246, 128)	1280000
<pre>simple_rnn (SimpleRNN)</pre>	(None, 128)	32896
dense_8 (Dense)	(None, 128)	16512
dense_9 (Dense)	(None, 64)	8256
dense_10 (Dense)	(None, 32)	2080
dense_11 (Dense)	(None, 1)	33

Total params: 1,339,777
Trainable params: 59,777

Non-trainable params: 1,280,000



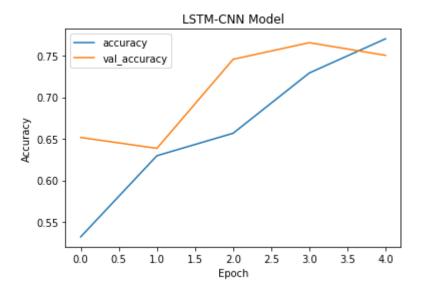
Train LSTM CNN Model.

```
lstm_cnn_model = models.Sequential(name = 'LSTM_CNN_MODEL')
lstm\_cnn\_model.add(layers.Embedding(input\_dim= max\_voc\_len, output\_dim= 128, input\_length=max\_feature, trainable=False))
lstm_cnn_model.add(Dropout(0.2))
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.Conv1D(128, 5, activation='relu'))
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.MaxPooling1D(3))
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.Conv1D(64, 5, activation='relu'))
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.MaxPooling1D(3))
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.LSTM(128, activation='relu', dropout=0.2, recurrent_dropout=0.2))
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.Flatten())
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.Dense(128, activation='relu'))
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.Dense(64, activation='relu'))
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.Dense(32, activation='relu'))
lstm_cnn_model.add(layers.Dense(1, activation='sigmoid'))
adam_low_rate = optimizers.Adam(learning_rate=1.e-5)
lstm_cnn_model.summary()
lstm_cnn_model.compile(optimizer=adam_low_rate,
                   loss='binary_crossentropy',
                   metrics=['accuracy'])
```

Model: "LSTM_CNN_MODEL"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
embedding_16 (Embedding)	(None, 246, 128)	1280000
dropout_11 (Dropout)	(None, 246, 128)	0
conv1d_4 (Conv1D)	(None, 242, 128)	82048
<pre>max_pooling1d_4 (MaxPooling 1D)</pre>	(None, 80, 128)	0
conv1d_5 (Conv1D)	(None, 76, 64)	41024
<pre>max_pooling1d_5 (MaxPooling 1D)</pre>	(None, 25, 64)	0
lstm_7 (LSTM)	(None, 128)	98816
flatten_5 (Flatten)	(None, 128)	0
dense_21 (Dense)	(None, 128)	16512
dense_22 (Dense)	(None, 64)	8256
dense_23 (Dense)	(None, 32)	2080
dense_24 (Dense)	(None, 1)	33

lstm_cnn_model_history = lstm_cnn_model.fit(X_train, y_train, epochs=5, validation_data=(X_test, y_test), batch_size=64)
test_loss, test_acc = lstm_cnn_model.evaluate(X_train, y_train)

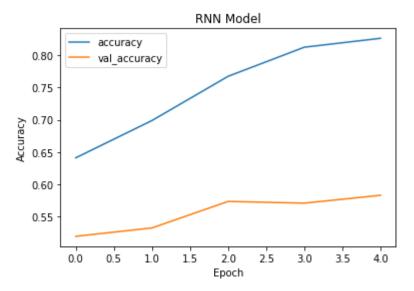


Upload a public dataset for testing feasibility of the model.

```
df_test = pd.read_csv('/content/gdrive/MyDrive/fake_or_real_news.csv')
df_test.head()
```

Unr	named: 0	title	text	label
0	8476	You Can Smell Hillary's Fear	Daniel Greenfield, a Shillman Journalism Fello	FAKE
1	10294	Watch The Exact Moment Paul Ryan Committed Pol	Google Pinterest Digg Linkedin Reddit Stumbleu	FAKE
2	3608	Kerry to go to Paris in gesture of sympathy	U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry said Mon	REAL
3	10142	Bernie supporters on Twitter erupt in anger ag	— Kaydee King (@KaydeeKing) November 9, 2016 T	FAKE
4	875	The Battle of New York: Why This Primary Matters	It's primary day in New York and front-runners	REAL
<pre>df_test['text'] = df_test['title'] + "" + df_test['text'] del df_test['title'] df_test['text'] = df_test['text'].apply(denoise_text)</pre>				
<pre>#x_train, x_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(df_pre['text'].to_numpy(), df_pre['label'].to_numpy(), test_size = 0.25) X_test2 = tokenizer.texts_to_sequences(texts = df_test['text'].to_numpy()) X_test2 = sequence.pad_sequences(X_test2, maxlen=max_feature)</pre>				
y test2	= df test	t['label'].to numpy()		

Test model with a public dataset.



```
#test dataset on lstm_cnn model
test_lstm_cnn = lstm_cnn_model.fit(X_train, y_train, epochs=5, validation_data=(X_test2, y_test2), batch_size=64)
test_loss, test_acc = lstm_cnn_model.evaluate(X_train, y_train)
```

