The problem I intend to tackle is that there are thousands if not more twitter bot accounts actively tweeting and retweeting toxic and false information about various political issues and many more. This came to mainstream attention during the 2016 Trump vs Hilary elections in the USA. Many people claim that a network of bots (mainly from Russia) where spreading false information about Hilary in a negative, propaganda-styled manor. I would attempt to tackle this issue by creating a program that would use some sort of algorithm/machine learning and try and identify these political bots. It would require a training set of both real and fake people’s accounts to be able to learn what it is exactly looking for. There are plenty of public bots that twitter allows as they claim themselves to be bots which can be used for training, as well as verified twitter accounts which are approved personally by twitter to be human. Twitter API allows all public profiles’ information to be accessed easily to be used for this. Once all this information is fed in, I can then tell it to scan twitter and look for bot-like activities that it learned from the examples. This could be expanded upon to also detect certain features of hashtags.

The project won't require any extra hardware or such. Evaluation will be done by seeing what percentage of twitter accounts checked were correctly identified as either human or bots.

Relevant sources looked at:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/twitter-found-more-russian-bots-trump-interacted-with-many-2018-1?r=US&IR=T>

<https://medium.com/@robhat/identifying-propaganda-bots-on-twitter-5240e7cb81a9>

<https://medium.com/@robhat/an-analysis-of-propaganda-bots-on-twitter-7b7ec57256ae>

<https://duo.com/decipher/new-tool-enables-detection-of-twitter-bots-at-scale>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-twitter-bots-help-fuel-political-feuds/>

<https://mashable.com/2018/02/20/how-to-spot-a-bot/?europe=true#u9YhUroJ_kql>