

Q & A for Fake or Real: An Algorithm to Find Fake News

1. What other models did you test in this study?

Neuro-linguistic programming (NLP)

2. How did you handle N/A responses?

There were no blank or N/A responses in the datasets.

3. How can social media companies use the results of this study?

Social media companies like Twitter and FaceBook can use this algorithm to root out fake news stories before they are spread and can cause damage. They already use more complex algorithms to prevent nudity and vulgar words from being shared.

4. How did you create the text field?

I combined the title and text of the articles to create one column of text for analysis.

5. How did you create the type field?

I added the type field before combining the data sets. 0 equals fake news and 1 equals real news.

6. What sampling method did you use to create a balanced data set?

The data sets were already balanced, so I didn't use any sampling method.

7. How can we tell on our own which news stories are real or fake?

How to Identify Fake News in 10 Steps contains a great checklist to go over if you are unsure of a news story's reliability. The quality, source, and bias of the article can say a lot. Also, can you find other news stories with the same topic? Fact checking websites like Snopes.com and PolitiFact.com are unbiased ways to check a news article's legitimacy.

8. Is there a way to determine fake news that you discovered from your analysis?

Real news stories tend to be shorter with bigger words. Also, fake news stories tend to use questionable references, such as twitter.

9. What problems did you have when analyzing the data?

I had a hard time getting keras and tensorflow to install on my computer, even though I had used them in the past.

10. What were the most common words used in real and fake news stories?

Real news stories had the words White House, United States, Washington, and Reuters. Fake news included Hillary Clinton and twitter. Both referenced Donald Trump.

References

How to Identify Fake News in 10 Steps. (n.d.). Retrieved October 3, 2020, from

<http://library.pfeiffer.edu/Fake-News-Worksheet.pdf>