# Fake News Classification

CS579: Online Social Network Analysis

Final Report (Project 2)

#### **Team Members:**

- Jinit Parikh (A20517770)
- Ruchit Mer (A20516697)

### **Abstract**

For this project, we are required to classify a given news article B into one of three categories based on its title and the title of a fake news article A.

- agreed: B talks about the same fake news as A.
- disagreed: B refutes the fake news in A.
- unrelated: B is unrelated to A.

## Introduction

The prevalence of fake news and misinformation on social media can have a serious negative impact on individuals and society. Given the importance of detecting fake news, the task is to classify a coming news article into one of the three categories - agreed, disagreed, or unrelated - based on whether it talks about the same fake news as a given fake news article, refutes it, or is unrelated to it, respectively.

## **Project Outline**

- 1. Data pre-processing
- 2. Model creation and model training.
- 3. Model result analysis.

## Data Pre-processing:

First, we started with Data pre-processing using NLP techniques. The goal of pre-processing is to remove noise. By removing unnecessary features from our text, we can reduce complexity and increase predictability. This doesn't affect the meaning of text.

Data pre-processing consists of several methods which are performed on data. We have applied the following

- 1. Converting strings from uppercase to lower
  - a. To make dataset consistent and normalize we convert words to lowercase. Words 'there' and 'There' are same but it may seems two different word to program. So to avoid duplication we converted it into lowercase. Screenshot of the output is attached below.

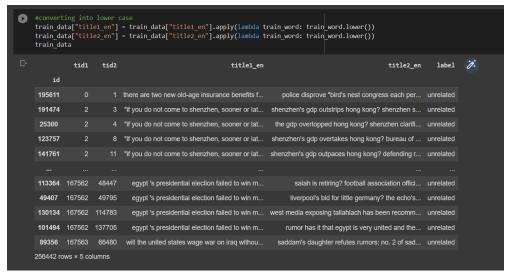


Figure 1.1

#### 2. Removing stopwords

a. 'stopwords' are the set of most commonly used words in English dictionary. It consists of words like "the", "and", "a", "an", "in", "to", etc. These words carries little or no importance for text analysis and understanding the meaning of sentence. Screenshot of the output is attached below.



Figure 1.2

#### 3. Removing punctuation

a. Punctuation marks like comma, period, exclamation mark etc are removed in order to reduce noise in data. It also helps in applying algorithms which are based on tokenization. Screenshot of the output is attached below.



Figure 1.3

#### 4. Lemmatization

 a. It means to reduce the words to their base form. Lemmatization can help improve the accuracy of NLP models by grouping together words with similar meanings.
 Screenshot of this step is given below.

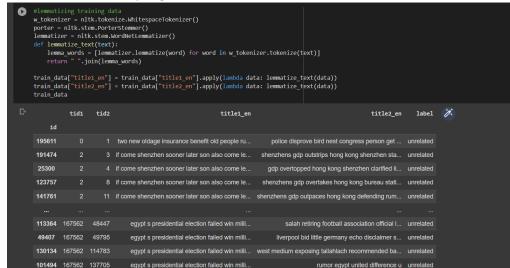
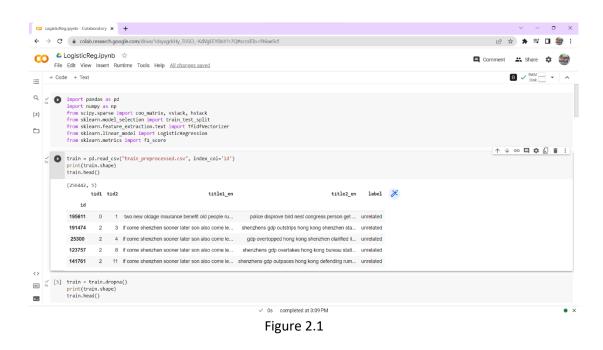


Figure 1.4

#### Model Creation:

- a. Loading and cleaning data:
  - The code reads preprocessed data from a CSV file using the pandas library's read.csv() function and sets the 'id' column as the index for the dataframe.
  - The shape of the dataframe is printed to show the number of rows and columns in the dataframe.
  - The code drops any rows with missing values from the dataframe using the dropna() method.



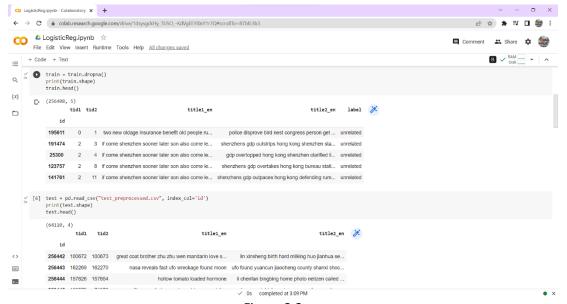


Figure 2.2

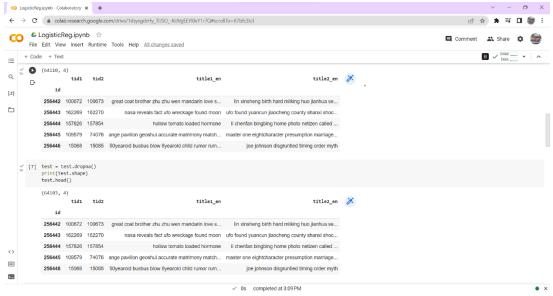


Figure 2.3

#### **b.** Tokenization and feature engineering:

- The dataframe is vectorized using the TfidfVectorizer class from the scikit-learn library to convert the text data into a numerical representation that can be used by machine learning algorithms.
- The title1\_en column of the dataframe is vectorized using the TfidfVectorizer class and the resulting sparse matrix is stored in the title1\_tfidf\_vector variable.
- The title2\_en column of the dataframe is also vectorized using the same TfidfVectorizer object as title1\_en, and the resulting sparse matrix is stored in the title2\_tfidf\_vector variable.



Figure 2.4

#### **c.** Train-test split:

- The two sparse matrices (title1\_tfidf\_vector and title2\_tfidf\_vector) are horizontally stacked together using the hstack() function from the scipy.sparse library to create a new sparse matrix with a shape of (205126, 57258).
- The resulting sparse matrix is stored in the title\_stack variable and can be used as input to machine learning models.
- The sparse matrix formed by using hstack along with the label was split into training and validation sets using the train\_test\_split function from sklearn.model\_selection.

```
[12] title_stack = hstack([title1_tfidf, title2_tfidf])

[13] title_stack

[13] title_stack

[14] x_train, x_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(title_stack, train['label'], test_size=0.2)

[15] title_stack = hstack([title1_tfidf, title2_tfidf])

[16] title_stack = hstack([title1_tfidf, title2_tfidf])

[17] title_stack = hstack([title1_tfidf, title2_tfidf])

[18] title_stack

[18] title_stack
```

Figure 2.5

## **Model Training:**

#### 1. Logistic Regression:

- a. Model fitting:
  - The first step in logistic regression is to fit the training data to a logistic regression model. In this project, the training data was fitted to a logistic regression model using the LogisticRegression function from the sklearn.linear\_model library.
  - The input features to the model were the stacked title vectors, and the output
    was the label indicating whether the news article was agreed, disagreed or
    unrelated.



Figure 3.1

#### **b.** Model evaluation:

- After the model is trained, it is evaluated using validation data to assess its
  performance. The accuracy and F1 score were used as evaluation metrics in this
  project.
- The accuracy score gives the ratio of correct predictions made by the model, while the F1 score is a weighted average of precision and recall.

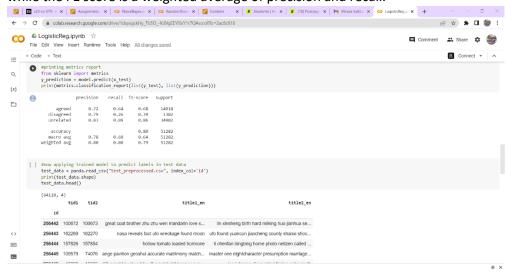


Figure 3.2

#### c. Prediction and storage:

After evaluating the model, it was used to predict the labels for the test data.
 The predicted labels were stored in a pandas DataFrame along with the corresponding IDs, and the results were saved in a CSV file.

```
#vectorizing columns in test data
    test_title1_tfidf_vector = title1_vector.transform(test_data['title1_en'])
    test_title2_tfidf_vector = title1_vector.transform(test_data['title2_en'])
    #stacking to form matric with incressed columns
    test_title_stack = hstack([test_title1_tfidf_vector, test_title2_tfidf_vector])

[] #prediciting labels with the trained model
    test_predict_data_labels = model.predict(test_title_stack)
```

Figure 3.3

```
[ ] #extracting label column
     test_label_column = test_data['label']
     print(test_label_column)
     id
     256442
               unrelated
     256443
               unrelated
     256444
               unrelated
     256445
               unrelated
     256446
               unrelated
     320547
             unrelated
     320548
              unrelated
     320549
                  agreed
     320550
               unrelated
     320551
                 agreed
     Name: label, Length: 64103, dtype: object
[ ] #saving output file
     from google.colab import files
     test_label_column.to_csv('test_logistic_Reg_predicted.csv')
files.download('test_logistic_Reg_predicted.csv')
```

Figure 3.4

#### 2. Naïve Bayes:

- a. Model Fitting:
  - The training data is fitted to a Naive Bayes model from sklearn.naive\_bayes.
  - In particular, we can use the MultinomialNB class for text classification tasks where the features are discrete values such as word counts.



Figure 3.5

- b. Model evaluation:
  - The accuracy and F1 score of the model are evaluated on the validation data.
  - We can use the accuracy\_score and classification\_report functions from sklearn.metrics to evaluate the performance of the model.



Figure 3.6

- c. Prediction and storage:
  - The model is used to predict the labels for the test data, and the results are stored in a pandas DataFrame along with the corresponding IDs. The predictions are saved in a CSV file.

```
[ ] #vectorizing columns in test data
   test_title1_tfidf_vector = title1_vector.transform(test_data['title1_en'])
   test_title2_tfidf_vector = title1_vector.transform(test_data['title2_en'])
   #stacking to form matric with incresed columns
   test_title_stack = hstack([test_title1_tfidf_vector, test_title2_tfidf_vector])

[ ] #prediciting labels with the trained model
   test_predict_data_labels = nb.predict(test_title_stack)

[ ] #adding labels to test data
   test_data['label'] = test_predict_data_labels
```

Figure 3.7

```
#extracting label column
    test label column = test data['label']
    print(test_label_column)
id
    256442
                agreed
    256443
             unrelated
    256444
             unrelated
    256445
             unrelated
    256446
             unrelated
    320547
             unrelated
    320548
              agreed
    320549
                agreed
    320550
            unrelated
    320551
                agreed
    Name: label, Length: 64103, dtype: object
[ ] #saving output file
    from google.colab import files
    test_label_column.to_csv('test_Naive_Bais_predicted.csv')
    files.download('test_Naive_Bais_predicted.csv')
```

Figure 3.8

#### 3. Random Forest:

- a. Model Fitting:
  - The training data was fitted to a RandomForestClassifier model from sklearn.ensemble. RandomForest is an ensemble learning method that constructs a multitude of decision trees at training time and outputs the class that is the mode of the classes (classification) or mean prediction (regression) of the individual trees.
  - The model was trained using the title\_stack and train\_data['label'] generated earlier.

Figure 3.9

#### b. Model evaluation:

 The accuracy and F1 score of the model were evaluated on the validation data using cross-validation with 5 folds. Cross-validation is a technique that divides the training dataset into k subsets and uses each subset in turn to evaluate the model, while using the remaining subsets as training data. • The model was evaluated on the validation data to ensure that it is not overfitting the training data. The accuracy and F1 score were calculated to determine the performance of the mode.

```
# Predict the labels of the test data
y_pred = rf.predict(x_test)

# Evaluate the accuracy of the model on the test data
accuracy = rf.score(x_test, y_test)
print("Accuracy:", accuracy)

D Accuracy: 0.8588198588198588
```

Figure 3.10

- c. Prediction and storage:
  - The model was used to predict the labels for the test data. The test data was vectorized using the same TfidfVectorizer as used on the training data. The test data was then stacked horizontally using the hstack function from scipy.sparse. The resulting test\_title\_stack was used as input to the Random Forest model to generate the predicted labels for the test data. The predicted labels were stored in a pandas DataFrame along with the corresponding IDs. The predictions were then saved in a CSV file for further analysis.

```
#vectorizing columns in test data
   test_title1_tfidf_vector = title1_vector.transform(test_data['title1_en'])
   test_title2_tfidf_vector = title1_vector.transform(test_data['title2_en'])
   #stacking to form matric with incresed columns
   test_title_stack = hstack([test_title1_tfidf_vector, test_title2_tfidf_vector])

+ Cc

[] #prediciting labels with the trained model
   test_predict_data_labels = rf.predict(test_title_stack)

[] #adding labels to test data
   test_data['label'] = test_predict_data_labels
```

Figure 3.11

```
#extracting label column
   test_label_column = test_data['label']
    print(test_label_column)
id
   256442
            unrelated
   256443
            unrelated
   256444
             unrelated
   256445
            unrelated
   256446
            unrelated
               agreed
   320547
             agreed
agreed
   320548
    320549
   320550 unrelated
   320551
            unrelated
   Name: label, Length: 64103, dtype: object
   #saving output file
    from google.colab import files
    test_label_column.to_csv('submission.csv')
    files.download('submission.csv')
```

Figure 3.12

#### 4. Linear SVC

- a. Model Fitting:
  - The training data is fitted to a Linear SVC model from sklearn.svm.
  - In particular, we can use the LinearSVC class for text classification tasks where the features are discrete values such as word counts.

```
#splitting data into train and test for input in model training
print(title_stack.shape)
x_train, x_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(title_stack, train['label'],
(256408, 57258)

[] #training model
model = LinearSVC().fit(x_train, y_train)
```

Figure 3.13

#### b. Model evaluation:

- The accuracy and F1 score of the model are evaluated on the validation data
- We can use the accuracy\_score and classification\_report functions from sklearn.metrics to evaluate the performance of the model.

```
[] #getting accuracy
    score = model.score(x_test, y_test)
    score

    0.8111033111033111

[] y_pred = model.predict(x_test)
    score_f1 = f1_score(y_pred, y_test, average=None)
    score_f1

array([0.7011205 , 0.46021287, 0.8653368 ])
```

Figure 3.14

#### c. Prediction and storage:

 The model is used to predict the labels for the test data, and the results are stored in a pandas DataFrame along with the corresponding IDs. The predictions are saved in a CSV file.

```
#vectorizing columns in test data
  test_title1_tfidf = title1.transform(test_preprocessed_data['title1_en'])
  test_title2_tfidf = title1.transform(test_preprocessed_data['title2_en'])

#stacking to form matric with incresed columns
  test_title_stack = hstack([test_title1_tfidf, test_title2_tfidf])
  #prediciting labels with the trained model
  test_predict = model.predict(test_title_stack)

#adding labels to test data
  test_preprocessed_data['label'] = test_predict
  test_preprocessed_data.head()
```

Figure 3.15

```
#extracting label column
    test_labels = test_preprocessed_data['label']
    test_labels.head()
[→ id
    256442
           unrelated
           unrelated
    256443
            unrelated
    256444
    256445 unrelated
    256446 unrelated
    Name: label, dtype: object
[ ] #saving output file
    from google.colab import files
    test_labels.to_csv('test_linearSVM_predicted.csv')
    files.download('test_linearSVM_predicted.csv')
```

Figure 3.16

#### Results

This section contains the accuracy got after implementing algorithms. Screenshots of each algorithm's accuracy report is given below.

#### Logistic Regression

- Logistic Regression was applied after using TFidf to convert text data into a sparse matrix.
- The sparse matrix had a shape of (256408, 57258).
- A test train split was performed with a test size of 0.2.
- The Logistic Regression model was trained on this training set.
- Accuracy report is given below.

```
[ ] #getting accuracy
     accuracy_score = model.score(x_test, y_test)
     accuracy_score
     0.8023478023478023
[ ] #printing metrics report
     from sklearn import metrics
     y prediction = model.predict(x test)
     print(metrics.classification_report(list(y_test), list(y_prediction)))
                     precision recall f1-score support

    0.72
    0.64
    0.68
    14918

    0.79
    0.26
    0.39
    1382

    0.83
    0.89
    0.86
    34982

           agreed
        disagreed
        unrelated
                                                 0.80
                                                            51282
         accuracy
                        0.78 0.60
0.80 0.80
                                                  0.64
                                                            51282
        macro avg
     weighted avg
                                                  0.79
                                                            51282
```

Figure 4.1 Logistic Regression accuracy

- Accuracy obtained on test data: 0.80234
- F1-score for agreed is 0.68, disagreed is 0.39 and unrelated is 0.86.

#### Linear SVC

- LinearSVC was applied after using TFidf to convert text data into a sparse matrix.
- The sparse matrix had a shape of (256408, 57258).
- A test train split was performed with a test size of 0.2.
- The Linear SVC model was trained on this training set.
- Accuracy report is given below.

```
[ ] #getting accuracy
    score = model.score(x_test, y_test)
    0.8111033111033111
[ ] y_pred = model.predict(x_test)
    score_f1 = f1_score(y_pred, y_test, average=None)
    score_f1
    array([0.7011205 , 0.46021287, 0.8653368 ])
     from sklearn import metrics
    print(metrics.classification_report(list(y_test), list(y_pred)))
                   precision recall f1-score support

    0.72
    0.68
    0.70

    0.70
    0.34
    0.46

    0.85
    0.88
    0.87

           agreed
                                            0.70 14864
       disagreed
       unrelated
                                                        35098
                                                       51282
                                             0.81
        accuracy
                        0.75 0.64
       macro avg
                                             0.68
                                                       51282
    weighted avg
                        0.81
                                   0.81
                                             0.81
                                                        51282
```

Figure 4.2 LinearSVC accuracy

- Accuracy obtained on test data: 0.8111033
- F1-score for agreed is 0.70, disagreed is 0.46 and unrelated is 0.87.

#### Naïve Bayes

- Naïve Bayes was applied after using TFidf to convert text data into a sparse matrix.
   MultinomialNB was used from sklearn library.
- The sparse matrix had a shape of (256408, 57258).
- A test train split was performed with a test size of 0.2.
- The Naïve Bayes (MultinomialNB) model was trained on this training set.
- Accuracy report is given below.

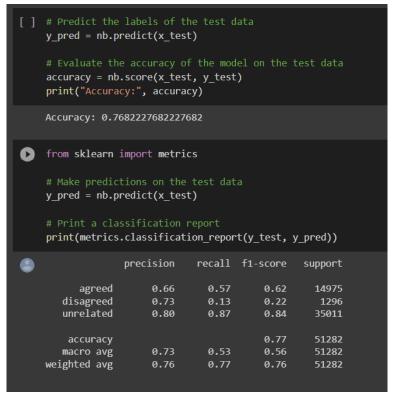


Figure 4.3 Naïve Bayes accuracy

- Accuracy obtained on test data: 0.76822
- F1-score for agreed is 0.62, disagreed is 0.22 and unrelated is 0.84.

#### Random Forest

- Random Forest was applied after using TFidf to convert text data into a sparse matrix.
   RandomForestClassifier was used from sklearn library.
- The sparse matrix had a shape of (256408, 57258).
- A test train split was performed with a test size of 0.2.
- The Random Forest model was trained on this training set.
- Accuracy report is given below.

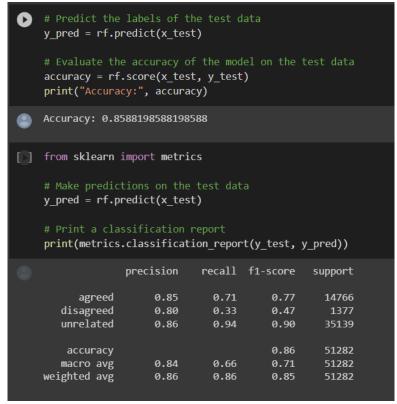


Figure 4.4 Random Forest accuracy

- Accuracy obtained on test data: 0.85881
- F1-score for agreed is 0.77, disagreed is 0.47 and unrelated is 0.90.

As per above discussions and accuracy obtained, Random forest gave best performance. Logistic regression and LinearSVC also gave good performance. Naïve Bayes performed poorly for the given task as it produced accuracy only around 0.75. Hence, we decided to run Random forest to predict class labels for the test data. Snippet of the generated labels by Random Forest is given below.

4	Α	В
1	id	label
2	256442	unrelated
3	256443	unrelated
4	256444	unrelated
5	256445	unrelated
6	256446	unrelated
7	256447	unrelated
8	256448	unrelated
9	256449	unrelated
10	256450	unrelated
11	256451	unrelated
12	256452	agreed
13	256453	agreed
14	256454	agreed
15	256455	unrelated
16	256456	unrelated
17	256457	unrelated
18	256458	agreed
19	256459	unrelated
20	256460	unrelated
21	256461	unrelated
22	256462	unrelated
23	256463	unrelated
24	256464	unrelated
25	256465	unrelated
26	256466	unrelated

Figure 4.5 Generated labels for test data.

## Team Effort

We worked on the project together so the below table is just an estimate. We always sat together and worked on the project task.

Task	Jinit Parikh	Ruchit Mer
Data Pre-processing	60	40
Logistic Regression	50	50
Linear SVC	60	40
Naïve Bayes	40	60
Random Forest	40	60
Project Report	50	50
Project Presentation	50	50

## References

- Pandas library documentation: <a href="https://pandas.pydata.org/docs/user\_guide/index.html">https://pandas.pydata.org/docs/user\_guide/index.html</a>
- Matplotlib documentation: <a href="https://matplotlib.org/stable/index.html#">https://matplotlib.org/stable/index.html#</a>
- Scipy documentation: <a href="https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/tutorial/index.html#user-guide">https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/tutorial/index.html#user-guide</a>
- Linear SVM: <a href="https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/svm.html#svm">https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/svm.html#svm</a>
- sklearn: <a href="https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/classes.html#module-sklearn.linear\_model">https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/classes.html#module-sklearn.linear\_model</a>
- Logistic regression: <a href="https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.linear\_model.LogisticRegression.html#sklearn.linear\_model.LogisticRegression">https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.linear\_model.LogisticRegression.html#sklearn.linear\_model.LogisticRegression</a>
- Random Forest: <a href="https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.ensemble.RandomForestClassifier.html#sklear">https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.ensemble.RandomForestClassifier.html#sklear</a>

   n.ensemble.RandomForestClassifier
- Naïve Bayes: <a href="https://scikit-learn.org/stable/modules/generated/sklearn.naive\_bayes.MultinomialNB.html#sklearn.naive\_bayes.multinomialNB.html#sklearn.naive\_bayes
- TD-IDF: https://medium.com/@cmukesh8688/tf-idf-vectorizer-scikit-learn-dbc0244a911a
- Text Preprocessing: <a href="https://jon-dagdagan.medium.com/fake-news-detection-pre-processing-text-d9648a2854e5">https://jon-dagdagan.medium.com/fake-news-detection-pre-processing-text-d9648a2854e5</a>
- NLTK library: https://www.nltk.org/api/nltk.html