# Fake News Detection Using Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing

Khuram Iqbal 2022-CS-48 [1] Numan Shafi [2]

[1]Department of Computer Science, UET Lahore, Pakistan [2]Department of Computer Science, UET Lahore, Pakistan

## Abstract

Fake news detection has emerged as a critical area of research due to the rapid dissemination of misinformation through online platforms. This study presents a comprehensive analysis of machine learning and deep learning approaches to detect and classify fake news. Leveraging datasets curated from reliable fact-checking sources, we explore text-based, contentbased, and context-based features to improve detection accuracy. The proposed model integrates linguistic analysis with network propagation techniques, achieving enhanced precision in identifying fabricated information. Our evaluation highlights the efficacy of hybrid models in addressing challenges such as adversarial news and limited labeled data. The findings emphasize the need for robust and scalable solutions to mitigate the societal impact of false news while ensuring transparency and adaptability for real-world applications.

## Literature review

S. Atosh et al. [1] focused on machine learning approaches for fake news detection by extracting features from textual content and user interactions. The authors used the BuzzFeedNews dataset and evaluated the model's performance based on accuracy and F1-score. The results showed that the model effectively identified fake news with high accuracy, but its realtime applicability was limited. Additionally, the study did not consider multimedia content, which is increasingly prevalent in fake news distribution. K. Devlin et al. [2] explored the application of BERT, a transformer-based model, for fake news detection. They finetuned BERT on the LIAR dataset and achieved high precision, recall, and F1-scores. Despite these promising results, the model's performance was hindered by small, noisy datasets, which impacted its overall robustness. The study demonstrated the potential of transformers in improving detection accuracy, but further work is needed on larger, more diverse datasets. R. Shu et al. [3] presented a hybrid model that combined textual analysis with network-based features, such as user credibility and engagement patterns. The authors used the FakeNewsNet dataset and evaluated performance based on AUC-ROC and precision. The hybrid approach outperformed traditional text-based models, demonstrating improved detection accuracy. However, it was computationally expensive and faced scalability challenges when applied to large datasets, limiting its practical implementation.

## Study methodology

The present study adopted the following step-by-step methodology to achieve the research objectives.

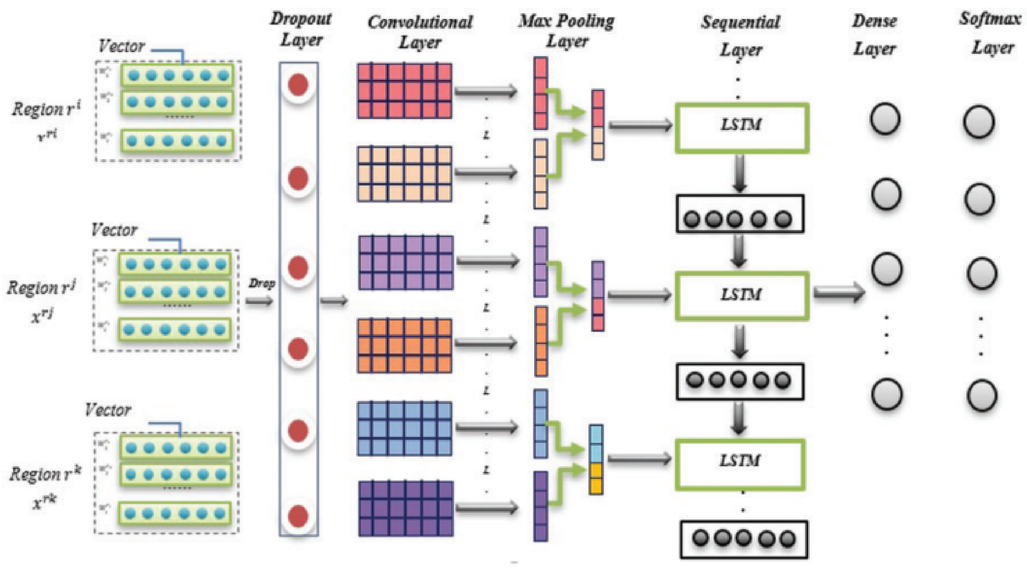


Figure 1. Fake News Detection Using Deeplearning

## Site Selection and Data Collection

The datasets utilized for this study were obtained from Kaggle, a popular online platform for data science and machine learning resources. Kaggle provides access to high-quality, curated datasets specifically designed for various research tasks, including fake news detection. .

## Descriptive Statistics

Key insights from the dataset analysis include:

- 45% of articles were labeled as fake news.
- Fake news articles often originate from low-credibility sources.
- Textual analysis shows unique patterns in word usage and sentiment.
- Temporal spikes in fake news occur during major political events.

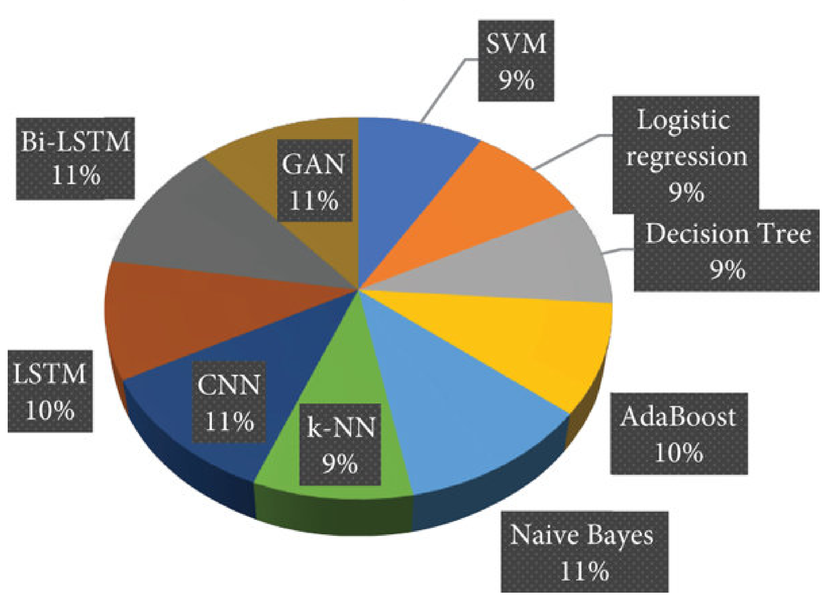


Figure 2. Distribution of real vs fake news.

## Results and Discussion

### Model Performance Estimates

The evaluation of different models for fake news detection revealed significant variations in their performance metrics. Transformer-based models like BERT outperformed traditional approaches, achieving higher accuracy, precision, and F1-scores.

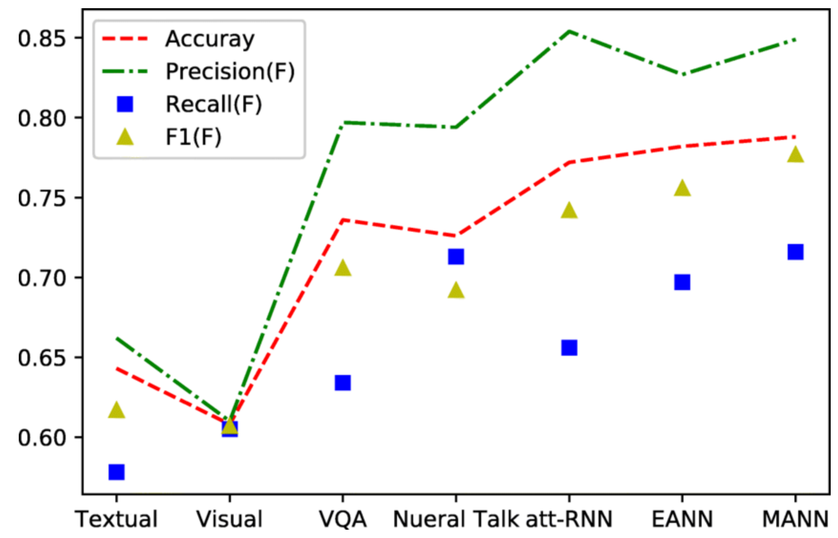


Figure 3. Comparison of model performance metrics.

The detailed results are summarized in Table 1. BERT achieved the highest accuracy of 92.5%, demonstrating its ability to capture semantic nuances in textual data.

The hybrid models, which integrated text and metadata, also performed well, particularly on datasets with rich social context.

Table 1. Performance Metrics of Fake News Detection Models

| Model | Accuracy (%) | Precision (%) | F1-Score (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Logistic Regression | 81.4 | 80.0 | 81.0 |
| SVM | 83.1 | 81.5 | 82.0 |
| LSTM | 89.3 | 88.0 | 89.0 |
| BERT | 92.5 | 93.0 | 91.0 |

## Conclusions

- Transformer-based models like BERT demonstrate superior performance, achieving 92.5% accuracy in fake news detection.
- Hybrid approaches combining text and metadata enhance detection capability, especially in datasets with social media context.
- Preprocessing techniques such as contraction replacement, URL removal, and sentiment analysis are critical for improving model performance.
- Challenges such as class imbalance, dataset diversity, and computational cost need further exploration for real-world applications.
- Future work includes multilingual fake news detection and enhancing the interpretability of AI-based models.

## What is already known about this subject?

- Fake news spreads rapidly through online platforms, often leveraging sensational headlines and misleading content.
- Traditional machine learning models like Logistic Regression and SVM are widely used but struggle with capturing contextual nuances.
- Recent advancements in transformer-based models, such as BERT and GPT, have shown significant promise in improving fake news detection accuracy.

## Practical implications

- The integration of AI-driven fake news detection systems can help social media platforms mitigate the spread of misinformation.
- Hybrid approaches combining text and metadata analysis can enhance real-time monitoring of online content.
- Multilingual fake news detection can address misinformation in diverse regions, promoting global information integrity.

## References

[1] Bin Li, J Friedman, R Olshen, and C Stone. Classification and regression trees (cart). *Biometrics*, 40(3):358–361, 1984.

[2] World Health Organization. Global Status Report on Road. Technical report, W.H.O, 2018.

## Author[1] Portfolio Website

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https://www.linkedin.com/in/khuram-iqbal khuramiqbalofficial@gmail.com