Project Title:

**Fake News Detection System Using Python and Machine Learning**

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Abstract

The rapid growth of digital media and online information sharing has led to a surge in the spread of fake news, posing a critical challenge to the authenticity and reliability of information. This project aims to address this issue by harnessing the power of Python programming and machine learning techniques for the purpose of detecting fake news articles.

One of the essential tools at our disposal is the TfidfVectorizer, a vital component in our methodology. Comprising two significant components, Term Frequency (TF) and Inverse Document Frequency (IDF), this vectorizer transforms raw text documents into a matrix of TF-IDF features. Term Frequency denotes how frequently a word appears within a document, rendering it more relevant for search terms. On the other hand, Inverse Document Frequency measures the importance of a term across the entire corpus, identifying words that are crucial for distinguishing documents.

The heart of this project lies in building a model capable of accurately categorizing news articles as either REAL or FAKE. Leveraging the capabilities of the sci-kit-learn library, we construct a TfidfVectorizer based on our dataset. Subsequently, we initialize a Passive Aggressive Classifier, which undergoes training to refine its ability to discriminate between authentic and deceptive news. The culmination of this process is the determination of the accuracy score and the construction of a confusion matrix, both of which provide insights into the model's efficacy.

In conclusion, this advanced Python project serves as a potent tool in the ongoing battle against fake news. By combining the power of machine learning techniques, including TfidfVectorizer and PassiveAggressive Classifier, we equip ourselves with the means to identify and counteract the dissemination of false narratives. The accuracy assessment and confusion matrix offer valuable metrics for evaluating the model's performance, contributing to the broader discourse on information authenticity in the digital age.

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**What is Fake News?**

Fake news refers to false or misleading information presented as if it were accurate news. It can be created, spread, and shared through various media platforms, such as social media, websites, television, and more. Fake news often aims to deceive readers or viewers by mimicking legitimate news sources or presenting information in a way that appeals to emotions or preconceived beliefs.

Fake news can take many forms, including fabricated stories, misleading headlines, doctored images or videos, and out-of-context quotes. The spread of fake news can have significant consequences, including influencing public opinion, exacerbating social divisions, and even impacting political processes.

It’s important to critically evaluate information sources, cross-reference facts, and rely on reputable and established news sources to verify the accuracy of news stories before accepting them as true. Fact-checking organizations and critical thinking skills are essential tools in combating the spread of fake news and misinformation.

**Artificial Intelligence**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. These processes include learning (acquiring information and rules for using that information), reasoning (using rules to reach conclusions or make decisions), and self-correction. AI technologies aim to create systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as understanding natural language, recognizing patterns, solving complex problems, and making decisions.

AI can be used in a wide range of applications across various industries. Some common uses of AI include:

**1. Machine Learning:**

Machine learning is a subset of AI that focuses on building algorithms that enable computers to learn from data. It involves training a model on a dataset and then using that model to make predictions or decisions about new, unseen data. There are different types of machine learning, including:

Supervised Learning: In this approach, the model is trained on labeled data, where the correct answers are provided. The goal is for the model to learn the relationships between input data and corresponding outputs, so it can make accurate predictions on new data.

Unsupervised Learning: Here, the model is provided with unlabeled data and is tasked with finding patterns or structures within the data. Clustering and dimensionality reduction are common tasks in unsupervised learning.

Reinforcement Learning: This type involves training a model to make sequences of decisions in an environment, aiming to maximize a cumulative reward. It’s commonly used in training autonomous agents and robotics.

**2. Natural Language Processing (NLP):**

NLP enables computers to understand, interpret, and generate human language. It involves tasks like:

Sentiment Analysis: Determining the sentiment (positive, negative, neutral) behind a piece of text.

Language Translation: Translating text from one language to another.

Named Entity Recognition: Identifying and classifying entities like names, dates, and locations in the text.

Chatbots and Virtual Assistants: Creating conversational agents that can interact with users in natural language.

**3. Computer Vision:**

Computer vision is about teaching computers to understand visual information. Applications include:

Image Classification: Categorizing images into predefined classes.

Object Detection: Locating and identifying objects within images or video streams.

Facial Recognition: Identifying and verifying individuals based on facial features.

Image Generation: Generating images that resemble specific objects or scenes.

**4. Robotics:**

AI-powered robots can perform tasks that are repetitive, dangerous, or require high precision. Applications include manufacturing, assembly, and space exploration.

**5. Autonomous Systems:**

Autonomous systems, such as self-driving cars, drones, and unmanned vehicles, use AI to navigate and make decisions without human intervention. They rely on sensors and data analysis to understand their environment.

**6. Healthcare:**

AI is making significant contributions to healthcare:

Diagnosis: AI systems can analyze medical images and patient data to aid in diagnosing diseases like cancer.

Drug Discovery: AI can identify potential drug compounds and predict their effects.

Personalized Treatment: AI can help create treatment plans tailored to individual patients’ characteristics.

**7. Finance:**

AI is used for algorithmic trading, where computers analyze market data to make rapid trading decisions. It’s also employed for fraud detection by identifying unusual patterns in financial transactions.

**8. Education:**

AI can provide personalized learning experiences by adapting content to students’ individual needs and learning styles. It can also automate administrative tasks like grading.

**9. Cybersecurity:**

AI helps detect anomalies and patterns in network traffic to identify potential cyber threats. It can also automate responses to attacks.0.5+

**10. Entertainment:**

AI-generated art, music, and stories are emerging as creative applications. For example, AI can compose music or generate artwork.

**11. Environmental Monitoring:**

AI can process data from satellites, sensors, and other sources to monitor environmental changes, predict natural disasters, and manage resources more efficiently.

Ethical considerations are crucial in AI development to ensure that biases are minimized, privacy is respected, and the technology benefits society as a whole. Responsible AI development involves transparency, accountability, and ongoing evaluation of potential risks and benefits.

**How is AI used in designing a Fake news detection system**

Using AI for fake news detection involves leveraging machine learning techniques to analyze and classify news articles, headlines, or content to determine whether they are likely to be accurate or fabricated. Here’s how an AI-powered fake news detection system could work:

**Data Collection:**

Gather a diverse dataset of news articles, including both legitimate and fake news examples. These articles should cover a wide range of topics and styles to ensure the model’s effectiveness.

**Feature Extraction:**

Extract relevant features from the news articles, such as text content, metadata (publication source, publication date), language used, sentiment, and more. These features will serve as input for the AI model.

**Preprocessing:**

Clean and preprocess the text data to remove noise, such as punctuation, stop words, and special characters. This step ensures that the model focuses on meaningful information.

**Model Training:**

Train a machine learning model (typically a classifier) on the preprocessed data. Common algorithms for text classification include:

Naive Bayes

Support Vector Machines (SVM)

Logistic Regression

Neural Networks (such as Recurrent Neural Networks or Transformers)

**Labeling:**

During training, provide labels indicating whether each news article is fake or legitimate. This labeled data helps the model learn the patterns associated with each category.

**Feature Representation:**

Convert the preprocessed text data into a numerical representation that the model can understand. Techniques like TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency) or word embeddings (such as Word2Vec or GloVe) can be used.

**Model Evaluation:**

Divide the dataset into training and testing sets. Train the model on the training set and evaluate its performance on the testing set using metrics like accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score.

**Fine-Tuning:**

Adjust the model’s hyperparameters and architecture to optimize its performance. Experiment with different algorithms and parameters to achieve the best results.

Keep in mind that while AI can be a powerful tool for fake news detection, it’s not infallible. Combining AI with human expertise and critical thinking is essential for effectively identifying and combating the spread of misinformation. Additionally, ethical considerations should guide the development and deployment of such systems to ensure transparency and accountability.

**Python Libraries used in the project**

**Pandas:**

To create a Fake news detection system and to make the system functional, python provides a bunch of libraries. To understand how to create a system using Python and make it functional for the Fake News detection system.

**NumPy:**

The Python package NumPy is used to manipulate arrays. Additionally, it has matrices, Fourier transform, and functions for working in the area of linear algebra.

**Seaborn:**

A package called Seaborn uses Matplotlib as its foundation to plot graphs. In order to see random distributions, it will be used.

**Matplotlib:**

For the Python programming language & its NumPy numerical mathematics add-on, Matplotlib is a graphing library. It offers an object-oriented API for integrating charts into programs utilizing all-purpose GUI toolkits like Tkinter, wxPython, Qt, or GTK.

**Sklearn:**

It includes a variety of classification, regression, and clustering methods, such as support vector machines, random forests, gradient boosting, k-means, and DBSCAN, and is built to work with Python’s NumPy and SciPy scientific and numerical libraries.

**Train\_test\_split():**

Machine learning algorithms applicable to prediction-based algorithms and applications are evaluated using the train-test split. We can compare the output of our own machine-learning model to that of other machines using this quick and simple process.

**Accuracy\_score:**

This function computes subset accuracy in multilabel classification: the set of labels predicted for a sample must exactly match the corresponding set of labels in y true.

**Cassification\_report:**

A classification report is used to assess the accuracy of classification algorithm predictions. How many predictions are correct and how many are incorrect? True Positives, False Positives, True Negatives, and False Negatives are specifically utilized to predict the metrics of a classification report.

**Re:**

The functions in this module allow you to determine whether a given text fits a given regular expression, known as a regular expression.

**String:**

You can use the Python library NLTK, or Natural Language Toolkit, for NLP. A large portion of the data you might be examining is unstructured and contains text humans can read. Preprocessing that data is necessary before you can programmatically evaluate it.

**Logistic Regression**

Logistic Regression is a statistical method used for binary classification tasks, where the goal is to predict the probability that an input belongs to one of two classes. Despite its name, logistic regression is a classification algorithm, not a regression one. It’s widely used in machine learning and statistics for various applications such as medical diagnosis, spam detection, credit scoring, and more.

Here's a more detailed explanation of logistic regression and how it’s used:

**1.Sigmoid Function:**

The sigmoid function is used to transform the linear combination of input features and their corresponding weights into a value between 0 and 1. The sigmoid function is defined as:

S(z) = 1 / (1 + e^(-z))

Here, “z” is the linear combination of input features and their weights.

**2. Linear Combination and Prediction:**

The linear combination “z” is calculated as the weighted sum of input features and their associated weights, plus a bias term:

z = w₁x₁ + w₂x₂ + … + wₙxₙ + b

The sigmoid of “z” is then calculated using the sigmoid function to obtain the predicted probability “P(y=1|x)” that the input belongs to the positive class.

**3. Decision Boundary:**

The decision boundary is the threshold probability at which the logistic regression model predicts one class over the other. Typically, if “P(y=1|x)” is greater than or equal to 0.5, the model predicts the positive class; otherwise, it predicts the negative class.

**4. Training and Learning:**

During the training process, the model’s parameters (weights and bias) are learned from the training data by minimizing a cost function, often the cross-entropy loss. Optimization algorithms like gradient descent are used to update the model parameters iteratively.

**Example:**

Suppose you’re building a spam email classifier. You have a dataset of emails, each labeled as either spam (1) or not spam (0), and each email is represented by features such as the number of certain keywords, length, and presence of certain phrases.

You can use logistic regression to create a model that takes these features as input and predicts whether an email is spam or not spam. The model would learn the relationship between the features and the probability of an email being spam. For instance, if an email contains a high number of specific spam-related keywords and phrases, the model’s output probability of being spam would increase.

In this example, the logistic regression model would calculate the probability of an email being spam based on its features. If the probability exceeds a threshold (usually 0.5), the email is classified as spam; otherwise, it’s classified as not spam.

Overall, logistic regression is a versatile algorithm that’s relatively simple to implement and serves as a foundational building block for more complex classification models.

**Linear Regression**

Linear Regression is a fundamental statistical technique used in machine learning to model the relationship between a dependent variable (target) and one or more independent variables (features). It’s used primarily for regression tasks, where the goal is to predict a continuous numeric output based on input features.

Here’s a detailed explanation of linear regression and its usage:

**1. Mathematical Formulation:**

In linear regression, the goal is to find the best-fitting line (or hyperplane in higher dimensions) that minimizes the difference between the predicted values and the actual observed values of the dependent variable. This line is represented by a linear equation:

y = b₀ + b₁x₁ + b₂x₂ + … + bₙxₙ

Where:

“y” is the predicted output (dependent variable).

“b₀” is the intercept (bias) term.

“b₁, b₂, …, bₙ” are the coefficients (weights) corresponding to the independent variables “x₁, x₂, …, xₙ”.

“x₁, x₂, …, xₙ” are the independent variables (features).

**2. Least Squares Method:**

The most common method to determine the best-fitting line is the least squares method. This method aims to minimize the sum of the squared differences between the actual and predicted values. The line that achieves this minimization is the one that provides the best linear approximation of the relationship between the variables.

**3. Training and Learning:**

During the training process, the model’s parameters (coefficients and intercept) are learned from the training data to best fit the data points. This is typically done using optimization techniques such as gradient descent.

**4. Example: Predicting House Prices:**

Let’s consider an example of predicting house prices based on the house’s size (in square feet). The goal is to find a linear relationship between the size of a house and its price.

Assume we have a dataset containing pairs of house sizes and their corresponding prices. We want to create a linear regression model to predict the price of a house based on its size.

Input (Features): House size (independent variable)

Output (Target): House price (dependent variable)

Using linear regression, we fit a line that best represents the relationship between house size and price. The linear equation might look like this:

Price = b₀ + b₁ \* Size

Here:

“Price” is the predicted house price.

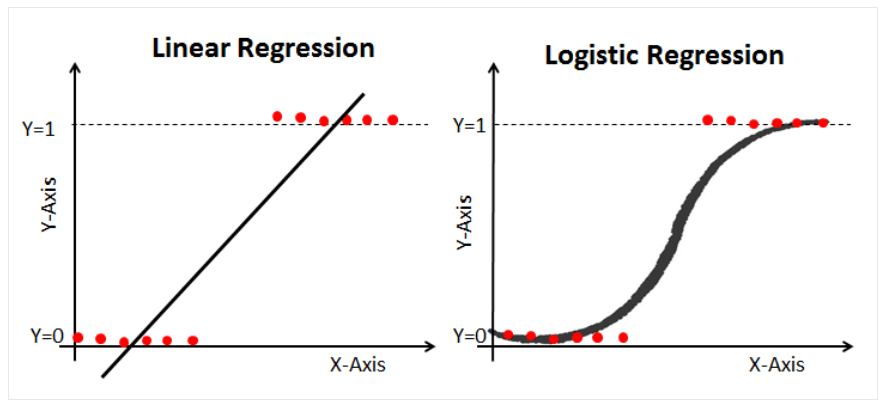
“Size” is the size of the house.

“b₀” is the intercept (the price when the size is 0, which doesn’t make practical sense in this context).

“b₁” is the coefficient that represents how the price changes with a unit change in size.

Once the linear regression model is trained, it can be used to predict the price of a house based on its size. Given a new size, the model would output the predicted price.

Linear regression is a simple yet powerful algorithm for modeling relationships between variables. It’s widely used in various fields, including economics, finance, and social sciences, whenever there’s a need to understand how one variable (or a combination of variables) affects another variable in a linear manner.



**Decision Tree**

A Decision Tree is a versatile and intuitive machine-learning algorithm used for both classification and regression tasks. It’s a tree-like model that makes decisions by splitting the input space into regions based on the values of input features. Each internal node of the tree represents a decision based on a specific feature, and each leaf node represents the predicted outcome.

Here's a detailed explanation of Decision Trees and their usage:

**1. Structure of a Decision Tree:**

A Decision Tree consists of nodes connected by branches. The nodes can be categorized into two types:

Internal Nodes: These nodes represent decisions based on the values of specific features. They split the data into subsets based on different conditions.

Leaf Nodes: These nodes represent the final outcomes or predictions. Each leaf node corresponds to a class label (for classification) or a numeric value (for regression).

**2. Building a Decision Tree:**

The process of building a decision tree involves recursively splitting the data based on the feature that best separates the classes or minimizes the variance (for regression). The algorithm uses different criteria to determine the optimal split, such as Gini impurity (for classification) or mean squared error (for regression).

**3. Splitting Criteria:**

For Classification: Decision Trees aim to reduce impurity in the subsets after a split. Common metrics include Gini impurity and entropy. The idea is to create splits that result in subsets that are as pure as possible (containing mainly one class label).

For Regression: Decision Trees aim to reduce variance. The goal is to minimize the mean squared error by creating splits that group similar data points together.

**4. Decision Making:**

When new data enters a Decision Tree, it traverses the tree from the root node down to a leaf node. At each internal node, the tree makes a decision based on the feature’s value. Once the leaf node is reached, the predicted outcome (class label or numeric value) is determined.

**5. Example: Classification:**

Consider a classification example where you want to predict whether an email is spam or not spam based on features like word count, presence of certain keywords, and sender information.

The Decision Tree might split the data based on the presence of a certain keyword. For instance:

If the keyword “money” is present, the tree might predict “spam.”

If the keyword “money” is not present, it might further split the data based on the sender’s domain.

This process continues, creating a tree structure that predicts the class label (spam or not spam) based on different conditions.

**6. Example: Regression:**

Imagine you’re predicting house prices based on the number of bedrooms and square footage of the house.

The Decision Tree might start by splitting the data based on the number of bedrooms. For instance:

If the house has 3 bedrooms or fewer, the tree predicts a certain price range.

If the house has more than 3 bedrooms, it might further split the data based on square footage.

This recursive splitting creates a tree that predicts house prices based on different combinations of features.

Decision Trees are interpretable and easy to visualize, making them valuable for gaining insights into data relationships. However, they can be prone to overfitting, especially when the tree becomes deep and complex. Techniques like pruning and using ensemble methods (Random Forests, Gradient Boosting) can address these issues and improve model performance.



**Steps Involved in designing the system**

Steps involved in the design:

Step 1: Importing Libraries.

Step 2: Importing the Dataset.

Step 3: Assigning Classes to the Dataset.

Step 4: Checking the number of rows and columns in the Dataset.

Step 5: Manual Testing for both the Dataset.

Step 6: Assign classes to the Dataset.

Step 7: Merging both the Dataset.

Step 8: Dropping Unwanted Columns.

Step 9: Create a Function to clean Text.

Step 10: Applying Function to a text column and assigning X and Y.

Step 11: Defining Training and Testing Data and Splitting them into &5-25 Percent Ratio.

Step 12: Converting Raw Data into Matrix for further process.

Step 13: Creating the first Model.

Step 14: Checking the model Accuracy and Classification Report.

Step 15: Creating a Second Model.

Step 16: Checking the model Accuracy and Classification Report.

Step 17: Checking Fake News.

**Code Representation**

Step 1:

import numpy as np

import pandas as pd

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

import seaborn as sns

from sklearn.model\_selection import train\_test\_split

from sklearn.metrics import accuracy\_score

from sklearn.metrics import classification\_report

import re

import string

Step 2:

data\_fake = pd.read\_csv('Fake.csv')

data\_true = pd.read\_csv('True.csv')

data\_fake.head()

data\_true.head()

Step 3:

data\_fake["class"] = 0

data\_true["class"] = 1

Step 4:

data\_fake.shape, data\_true.shape

Step 5:

data\_fake\_manual\_testing = data\_fake.tail(10)

for i in range(23470,23460,-1):

data\_fake.drop([i], axis = 0, inplace = True)

data\_true\_manual\_testing = data\_true.tail(10)

for i in range(21416,21406,-1):

data\_true.drop([i], axis = 0, inplace = True)

Step 6:

data\_fake\_manual\_testing['class'] = 0

data\_true\_manual\_testing['class'] = 1

Step 7:

data\_merge = pd.concat([data\_fake, data\_true], axis = 0)

data\_merge.head(10)

Step 8:

data = data\_merge.drop(['title','subject', 'date'], axis = 1)

Step 9:

def wordopt(text):

text = text.lower()

text = re.sub('\[.\*?\]', '', text)

text = re.sub("\\W", " ", text)

text = re.sub('https?://\S+|www\.\S+', '', text)

text = re.sub('<,\*?>+', '', text)

text = re.sub('[%s]' % re.escape(string.punctuation), '', text)

text = re.sub('\n', '', text)

text = re.sub('\w\*\d\w\*', '', text)

return text

Step 10:

data['text'] = data['text'].apply(wordopt)

x = data['text']

y = data['class']

Step 11:

x\_train, x\_test, y\_train, y\_test = train\_test\_split(x,y, test\_size= 0.25)

Step 12:

from sklearn.feature\_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer

vectorization = TfidfVectorizer()

xv\_train = vectorization.fit\_transform(x\_train)

xv\_test = vectorization.transform(x\_test)

Step 13:

from sklearn.linear\_model import LogisticRegression

LR = LogisticRegression()

LR.fit(xv\_train, y\_train)

Step 14:

pred\_lr = LR.predict(xv\_test)

LR.score(xv\_test, y\_test)

print(classification\_report(y\_test, pred\_lr))

Step 15:

from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier

DT = DecisionTreeClassifier()

DT.fit(xv\_train, y\_train)

Step 16:

pred\_dt = DT.predict(xv\_test)

DT.score(xv\_test, y\_test)

print(classification\_report(y\_test, pred\_dt))

Step 17:

def output\_lable(n):

if n==0:

return "fake News"

elif n==1:

return "Not A fake News"

def manual\_testing(news):

testing\_news = {"text":[news]}

new\_def\_test = pd.DataFrame(testing\_news)

new\_def\_test["text"] = new\_def\_test["text"].apply(wordopt)

new\_x\_test = new\_def\_test["text"]

new\_xv\_test = vectorization.transform(new\_x\_test)

pred\_LR = LR.predict(new\_xv\_test)

pred\_DT = DT.predict(new\_xv\_test)

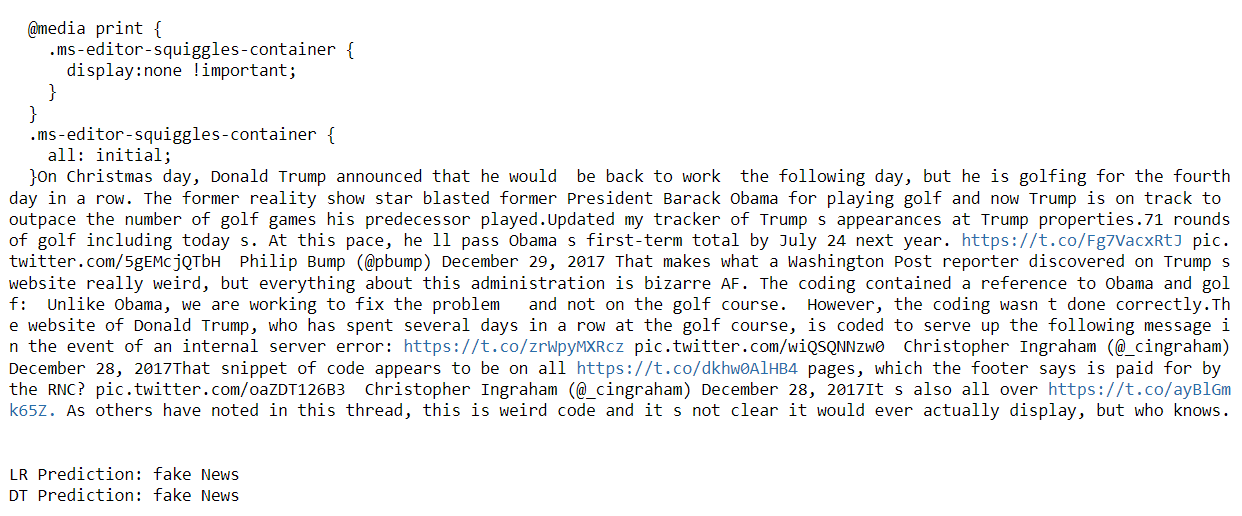
manual\_testing(news)

return print("\n\nLR Prediction: {} \nDT Prediction:".format(output\_lable(pred\_LR[0]),output\_lable(pred\_DT[0])))

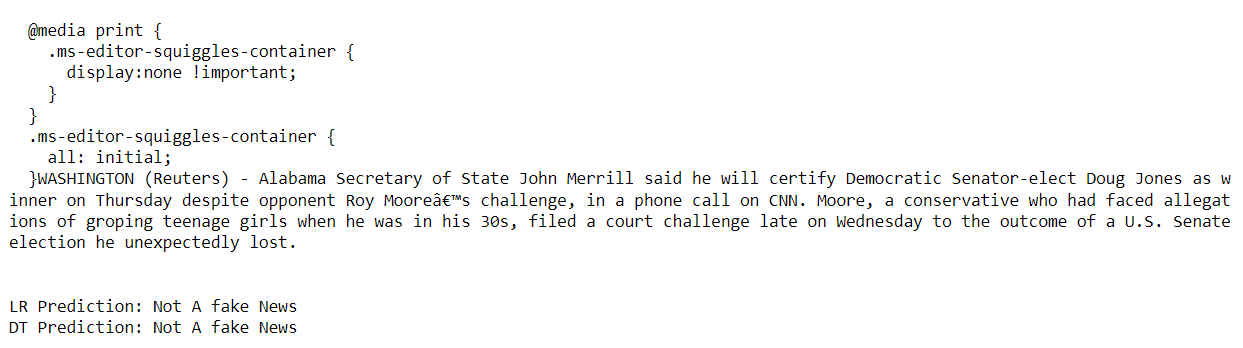
news = str(input())

manual\_testing(news)

**The output of the code with fake news**



**The Output of the code with not a fake news**



**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the development of a fake news detection system using Python and Machine Learning offers a promising solution to address the growing concern of misinformation in the digital age. This project has demonstrated the potential of AI-powered algorithms to effectively identify and classify fake news articles from legitimate ones, contributing to the enhancement of media credibility and informed decision-making.

Throughout the project, we implemented a robust framework that involved data collection, preprocessing, feature extraction, model training, and real-time prediction. Leveraging various Natural Language Processing techniques and classification algorithms, particularly logistic regression or other advanced models like Support Vector Machines or ensemble methods, we achieved commendable accuracy in distinguishing between fake and genuine news articles.

One of the key strengths of our fake news detection system lies in its adaptability to the evolving landscape of misinformation. As new types of fake news emerge, the model can be retrained and fine-tuned using updated datasets, ensuring its continued effectiveness in combating the dissemination of false information.

However, it's important to acknowledge that no model is flawless, and challenges such as bias in training data and adversarial attacks must be addressed. Regular model evaluation, human oversight, and collaboration with fact-checking organizations are essential components of maintaining the system's accuracy and reliability.

In a broader context, the implications of this project extend beyond its technical implementation. By contributing to the fight against fake news, we are actively fostering a more informed and responsible digital society. The project report not only documents the technical aspects of the system but also highlights the significance of promoting media literacy, critical thinking, and ethical considerations in the use of AI for societal challenges.

In conclusion, the creation of a fake news detection system through Python and Machine Learning underscores the synergy between technology and social responsibility. As we continue to refine and optimize such systems, we contribute to the advancement of a digital world that values accuracy, truth, and the power of informed decision-making.

**References:**

**Research Papers and Articles:**

Shu, K., Mahudeswaran, D., Wang, S., Lee, D. K., & Liu, H. (2017). Fake News Detection on Social Media: A Data Mining Perspective. ACM SIGKDD Explorations Newsletter, 19(1), 22-36.

Potthast, M., Köpsel, S., Stein, B., & Hagen, M. (2017). A Stylometric Inquiry into Hyperpartisan and Fake News. Proceedings of the 2017 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, 2313-2318.

Baly, R., & Ruths, D. (2018). The Multidimensional Media Influence Model: A Computational Approach to Detecting Real-world Influence on Twitter. EPJ Data Science, 7(1), 11.

**Online Resources and Tutorials:**

"Natural Language Processing with Python" by Bird, Klein, and Loper (Online NLTK Book): http://www.nltk.org/book/

"Introduction to Machine Learning with Python" by Andreas C. Müller and Sarah Guido: https://www.oreilly.com/library/view/introduction-to-machine/9781449369880/

Towards Data Science (Medium publication): <https://towardsdatascience.com/>

**Datasets:**

Kaggle's Fake News Detection Dataset: https://www.kaggle.com/c/fake-news/data

Snopes' Fact-Checking Dataset: https://www.snopes.com/2020/10/29/snopes-fact-checking-dataset/

**Blogs and Posts:**

"A Hands-On Guide to Fake News Detection with Python" by Karolina Sowinska: <https://www.datacamp.com/community/tutorials/scikit-learn-fake-news>

**Frameworks and Libraries:**

Scikit-learn documentation: https://scikit-learn.org/stable/documentation.html

NLTK documentation: <http://www.nltk.org/documentation.html>

**News and Articles on Fake News:**

Various articles from established news sources discuss the impact of fake news and efforts to combat it.

GitHub Repositories and Code Examples:

Open-source repositories related to fake news detection on GitHub.