# Detecting Political Bias in Social Media Using NLP: A Machine Learning Approach

#### Problem Statement

How can we effectively detect political bias in social media discourse? With the increasing influence of online platforms in shaping public opinion, identifying partisan and neutral biases in posts is crucial. This project leverages Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques to analyze text-based data from Twitter and Facebook, classifying posts as partisan or neutral based on linguistic patterns. By integrating feature extraction methods and machine learning models, we aim to develop an automated system for bias detection, aiding in media transparency and unbiased information dissemination.

# Dataset Overview

The dataset comprises **5,000 entries** and **21 columns**, focusing on analyzing political bias in social media content. Key columns include:

- Text Feature: 'Text' (content of the social media post)
- Categorical Features:

- 'Audience' (Constituency/National) indicating the level at which the content
   is targeted.
- 'Source' (Twitter/Facebook) platform from which the post originated.
- 'Confidence' representing the certainty of bias classification.
- Target Variable: 'Bias' (Partisan/Neutral) the label to be predicted, later encoded for model training.

This dataset serves as the foundation for training NLP models to detect political bias in social media discourse.

#### **Downloading Python Packages and importing libraries**

```
| # Install specific versions of libraries for compatibility
| !pip install -U numpy==1.23.5 pandas==1.5.3 scikit-learn==1.2.2 tensorflow==2.12.0
| !pip install tensorflow-addons
```

```
!pip install tensorflow-addons
 import tensorflow addons as tfa
] # Upgrade pip to avoid version conflicts
  !pip install --upgrade pip
  # Core Data Science & ML Libraries
  !pip install numpy pandas matplotlib seaborn scikit-learn scipy
  # NLP-Specific Libraries
  !pip install nltk spacy transformers datasets sentencepiece
  !python -m spacy download en_core_web_sm # Download English model for spaCy
  # Deep Learning Frameworks (Ensure Compatibility)
  !pip install torch torchvision torchaudio --index-url https://download.pytorch.org/whl/cpu
  !pip install tensorflow keras
  # Word Embeddings (GloVe, Word2Vec, FastText)
  !pip install gensim
  # Utilities
  !pip install tqdm joblib
 1 import nltk
    nltk.download('punkt')
     nltk.download('stopwords')
     nltk.download('wordnet')
     nltk.download('punkt_tab')
```

```
| !wget http://nlp.stanford.edu/data/glove.6B.zip
```

```
!unzip glove.6B.zip glove.6B.100d.txt -d glove/
```

```
[ ] import gensim.downloader as api
       # Load a smaller GloVe model (50D instead of 300D)
       glove_model = api.load('glove-wiki-gigaword-50')
       from gensim.models import FastText
[ ] ## Importing preprocessing and feature engineering tool
    from sklearn.compose import ColumnTransformer
    from sklearn.preprocessing import OneHotEncoder
    from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
    from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
    from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer
[ ] # Importing classification models from scikit-learn
    from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression
    from sklearn.neighbors import KNeighborsClassifier
    from sklearn.svm import SVC
    from sklearn.naive_bayes import GaussianNB, MultinomialNB, ComplementNB, BernoulliNB
    from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier
    from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
    from sklearn.ensemble import GradientBoostingClassifier
    from sklearn.ensemble import AdaBoostClassifier
    from sklearn.ensemble import ExtraTreesClassifier
[ ] from tensorflow.keras.models import Model
    from tensorflow.keras.layers import Input, Dense, Dropout, BatchNormalization
    from sklearn.decomposition import TruncatedSVD
    from tensorflow.keras.models import Sequential
```

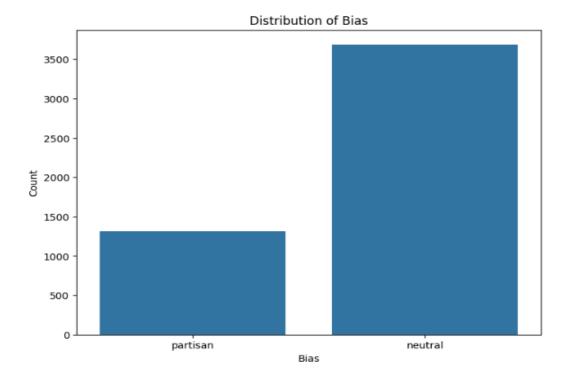
#### EXPLORATORY DATA ANALYSIS

df.head(5)																				
_unit_id	_golden	_unit_state	_trusted_judgments	_last_judgment_at	audience a	udience:confidence	bias	bias:confidence	nessage		orig_golden	audience_gold	bias_gold	l bioid	enbed	id	label	message_gold	source	text
0 766192484	False	finalized	1	8/4/15 21:17	national	1.0	partisan	1.0	policy		NaN	NaN	NaN	I R000596	   	3.83249E+17	From: Trey Radel (Representative from Florida)	NaN	twitter	RT @nowthisnews; Rep. Trey Radel (R- #FL) slam
1 766192485	False	finalized	1	8/4/15 21:20	national	1.0	partisan	1.0	attack		NaN	NaN	NaN	M000355	<pre></pre>	3.11208E+17	From: Mitch McConnell (Senator from Kentucky)	NaN	twitter	VIDEO - #Obamacare: Full of Higher Costs and
<b>2</b> 766192486	False	finalized	1	8/4/15 21:14	national	1.0	neutral	1.0	support	***	NaN	NaN	NaN	S001180	<pre></pre>	3.39069E+17	From: Kurt Schrader (Representative from Oregon)	NaN	twitter	Please join me today in remembering our fallen
3 766192487	False	finalized	1	8/4/15 21:08	national	1.0	neutral	1.0	policy		NaN	NaN	NaN	C000880	<pre></pre>	2.98528E+17	From: Michael Crapo (Senator from Idaho)	NaN	twitter	RT @SenatorLeahy: 1st step toward Senate debat
4 766192488	False	finalized	1	8/4/15 21:26	national	1.0	partisan	1.0	policy		NaN	NaN	NaN	I U000038	   	4.07643E+17	From: Mark Udall (Senator from Colorado)	NaN	twitter	.@amazon delivery #drones show need to update

5 rows × 21 columns

	_unit_id	_trusted_judgments	audience:confidence	bias:confidence	message:confidence	origgolden	audience_gold	bias_gold	message_gold
coun	t 5.000000e+03	5000.00000	5000.000000	5000.000000	5000.000000	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
mea	7.661950e+08	1.03280	0.995253	0.993903	0.996215	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
std	1.444060e+03	0.18366	0.046920	0.053241	0.041798	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
min	7.661925e+08	1.00000	0.505500	0.502000	0.502000	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
25%	7.661937e+08	1.00000	1.000000	1.000000	1.000000	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
50%	7.661950e+08	1.00000	1.000000	1.000000	1.000000	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
75%	7.661962e+08	1.00000	1.000000	1.000000	1.000000	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN
max	7.661975e+08	3.00000	1.000000	1.000000	1.000000	NaN	NaN	NaN	NaN

df.i	.nfo()		]	]	df.isnull().sum()	
		5.1.5				0
	ss 'pandas.core.frame eIndex: 5000 entries,				_unit_id	0
_	columns (total 21 co				_golden	0
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		500011	1-104		_trusted_judgments	0
0 1	_unit_id _golden	5000 non-null 5000 non-null	int64 bool		_last_judgment_at	0
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3	_trusted_judgments	5000 non-null	int64		audience:confidence	0
4	_last_judgment_at		object		bias	0
5 6	audience audience:confidence	5000 non-null	object float64		bias:confidence	0
7	bias	5000 non-null	object		message	0
8	bias:confidence	5000 non-null	float64		message:confidence	0
9	message	5000 non-null	object		orig golden	5000
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12 13	audience_gold bias_gold	0 non-null 0 non-null	float64 float64		bias_gold	5000
14	bioid	5000 non-null	object		bioid	0
15	embed	5000 non-null	object		embed	0
16	id	5000 non-null	object		id	0
17	label	5000 non-null	object		label	0
18	message_gold	0 non-null	float64		message_gold	5000
19	source	5000 non-null	object		source	0
	text	5000 non-null	object		text	0
	es: bool(1), float64( ry usage: 786.3+ KB	//, IIILO4(2), OD	Jecr(II)		IGAL	U
	.,				dtype: int64	



```
# Download necessary NLTK resources
nltk.download('punkt')
nltk.download('punkt_tab') # Punkt tokenizer data
nltk.download('wordnet')
nltk.download('stopwords')
# Initialize lemmatizer and stopwords list
lemmatizer = WordNetLemmatizer()
stop_words = set(stopwords.words('english')) # Set of common English stopwords
def preprocess_text(text):
   # Remove URLs
   text = re.sub(r'http\S+', '', text)
    # Remove mentions and hashtags
    text = re.sub(r'#\w+', '', text)
    # Remove special characters and digits
   text = re.sub(r'[^a-zA-Z\s]', '', text)
    # Convert to lowercase
    text = text.lower()
    # Tokenization
   words = word_tokenize(text)
    # Remove stopwords and perform lemmatization
    lemmatized_words = [lemmatizer.lemmatize(word) for word in words if word not in stop_words]
    lemmatized_words = [word for word in lemmatized_words if len(word) > 1] # Remove single-character words
    # Reconstruct sentence
   text = " ".join(lemmatized_words)
    return text
# Apply preprocessing to the 'text' column
df['cleaned_text'] = df['text'].apply(preprocess_text)
```

# Feature Extraction Methods

To transform raw text data into numerical representations, we experimented with four techniques:

- 1. TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency)
- 2. Truncated TF-IDF (Dimensionality reduction with SVD)
- 3. GloVe (Global Vectors for Word Representation)
- 4. FastText (Subword-based word embeddings)

#### What is TF-IDF?

TF-IDF is a statistical measure used to evaluate the importance of a word in a document relative to a collection (corpus). It assigns higher weights to words that appear frequently in a document but rarely in others.

$$TF - IDF = TF(w) \times IDF(w)$$

where:

- TF(w) = (Number of times word w appears in a document) / (Total words in the document)
- $IDF(w) = \log(\frac{N}{df(w)})$ , where N is the total number of documents and df(w) is the number of documents containing word w.

#### Why use TF-IDF?

- · Captures term importance
- Works well for sparse, high-dimensional text data
- Efficient for traditional ML models like Random Forest, SVM, etc.

#### What is Truncated TF-IDF?

Truncated TF-IDF uses **Singular Value Decomposition (SVD)** to reduce dimensionality while preserving essential patterns in the data.

#### Why use it?

- Helps avoid the curse of dimensionality
- Improves computational efficiency
- Enhances generalization performance

#### **Key Parameters Used:**

- max\_features=5000 : Restricts feature size to 5000 most frequent words
- n components=300: Retains the top 300 principal components using SVD

#### GloVe & FastText

#### What is GloVe?

GloVe (Global Vectors) generates word embeddings by analyzing word co-occurrence statistics in a corpus. Unlike TF-IDF, it captures contextual relationships between words.

#### Why use GloVe?

- · Embeddings capture semantic meaning
- Performs well on unseen words if trained on a large corpus
- · Suitable for deep learning models like LSTMs and CNNs

#### Mathematical Approach:

GloVe constructs a word vector matrix where each element represents a word's relationship with every other word in the corpus, using the formula:

$$\log(X_{ij}) = W_i^T W_j + b_i + b_j$$

where  $X_{ij}$  is the word co-occurrence count between words i and j.

#### What is FastText?

FastText improves upon Word2Vec by considering subword information. It breaks words into character n-grams and learns representations for these subword components.

#### Why use FastText?

- Handles misspellings and rare words better
- Works well for morphologically rich languages
- More robust for short-text data like song lyrics

#### How it Works:

Instead of treating words as atomic units, FastText represents them as overlapping character sequences. Example:

For "rockstar" with a window size of 3, it generates subwords: roc , ock , cks , kst , sta , tar .

# **Model Selection & Training**

# **Machine Learning Models Used**

Classical ML Models: SVM, Random Forest, Decision Trees, Naïve Bayes, KNN

Deep Learning Models: ANN, LSTM

# **Training Pipeline**

Split dataset into training and test sets (80%-20%)

Train models using different feature extraction methods

Optimize hyperparameters for best performance

# Implementing classification using Classical Models on TFIDF-vectorized data

```
"LOGISTIC REGRESSION': LogisticRegression(), # Time Complexity: O(n * d)

'LINEAR SVC': SVC(kernel='linear'), # Training Complexity: O(n^2 * d)

#'KERNEL SVC': SVC(kernel='rbf'), # Training Complexity: O(n^3) (Extremely slow for large datasets)

#'K NEIGHBORS CLASSIFIER': KNeighborsClassifier(n_neighbors=5, metric='euclidean', algorithm='kd_tree'),

'DECISION TREE CLASSIFIER': DecisionTreeClassifier(criterion='entropy', random_state=40), # Training Complexity: O(n * d

'RANDOM FOREST CLASSIFIER': RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=10, criterion='entropy', random_state=70), # Training Com
'GAUSSIAN NAIVE BAYES': GaussianNB(), # Training Complexity: O(n * d)

#'MULTINOMIAL NAIVE BAYES': MultinomialNB(), 'COMPLEMENT NAIVE BAYES': ComplementNB(alpha=1.0, norm=False),

'BERNOULLI NAIVE BAYES': BernoullinB(alpha=1.0, binarize=0.0, fit_prior=True), # Training Complexity: O(n * d)

'GRADIENT BOOSTING CLASSIFIER': GradientBoostingClassifier(n_estimators=50, learning_rate=0.1, max_depth=3, subsample=0.3

'EXTRA TREES CLASSIFIER': ExtraTreesClassifier(n_estimators=50, max_depth=None, min_samples_split=2, n_jobs=-1) # Training
```

## Evaluating the classical models

	accuracy_score	precision_score	f1_score	recall_score
LOGISTIC REGRESSION	0.806	0.791643	0.794882	0.806
LINEAR SVC	0.800	0.788460	0.792362	0.800
DECISION TREE CLASSIFIER	0.723	0.737588	0.729442	0.723
RANDOM FOREST CLASSIFIER	0.772	0.747328	0.753441	0.772
GAUSSIAN NAIVE BAYES	0.581	0.671305	0.611089	0.581
BERNOULLI NAIVE BAYES	0.775	0.774664	0.774831	0.775
GRADIENT BOOSTING CLASSIF	IER 0.784	0.755137	0.752174	0.784
EXTRA TREES CLASSIFIER	0.778	0.762826	0.768162	0.778

# Implementing classification using ANN on TFIDF-vectorized data

Model: "sequential"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
dense (Dense)	(None, 64)	320896
batch_normalization (Batcormalization)	chN (None, 64)	256
dropout (Dropout)	(None, 64)	0
dense_1 (Dense)	(None, 32)	2080
batch_normalization_1 (Bank)	atc (None, 32)	128
dropout_1 (Dropout)	(None, 32)	0
dense_2 (Dense)	(None, 8)	264
dense_3 (Dense)	(None, 1)	9

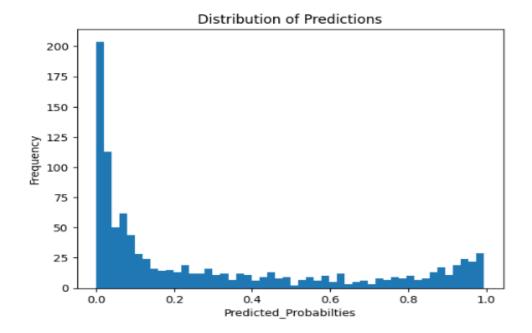
Total params: 323,633 Trainable params: 323,441 Non-trainable params: 192

# Evaluating the ANN model

accuracy\_score: 0.7730 precision\_score: 0.7336

f1\_score: 0.7268

recall\_score: 0.7730



#### TRUNCATED TF-IDF VECTORISATION for Text Data Preprocessing

```
2] # Apply Truncated SVD
svd = TruncatedSVD(n_components=500) # Adjust components based on dataset size
tfidf_reduced = svd.fit_transform(tfidf_matrix) # Now it's a dense matrix

# Convert to DataFrame and concatenate
tfidf_reduced_df = pd.DataFrame(tfidf_reduced, columns=[f"svd_{i}" for i in range(500)])
tfdatared = pd.concat([df, tfidf_reduced_df], axis=1)
```

#### CLASSICAL MODEL ON TRUNCATED TFIDE

	accuracy_score	precision_score	f1_score	recall_score
LOGISTIC REGRESSION	0.810	0.796219	0.799111	0.810
LINEAR SVC	0.798	0.786282	0.790285	0.798
DECISION TREE CLASSIFIER	0.692	0.707421	0.698981	0.692
RANDOM FOREST CLASSIFIER	0.755	0.695283	0.700867	0.755
GAUSSIAN NAIVE BAYES	0.730	0.785340	0.746652	0.730
BERNOULLI NAIVE BAYES	0.769	0.773568	0.771147	0.769
GRADIENT BOOSTING CLASSIFIER	0.781	0.762302	0.767702	0.781
EXTRA TREES CLASSIFIER	0.774	0.734613	0.713569	0.774

# NEURAL NETWORK ON TRUNCATED TFIDF

Model: "sequential\_1"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
dense_4 (Dense)	(None, 64)	32960
<pre>batch_normalization_2 (Batc hNormalization)</pre>	(None, 64)	256
dropout_2 (Dropout)	(None, 64)	0
dense_5 (Dense)	(None, 32)	2080
<pre>batch_normalization_3 (Batc hNormalization)</pre>	(None, 32)	128
dropout_3 (Dropout)	(None, 32)	0
dense_6 (Dense)	(None, 8)	264
dense_7 (Dense)	(None, 1)	9

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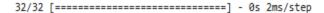
Total params: 35,697 Trainable params: 35,505 Non-trainable params: 192

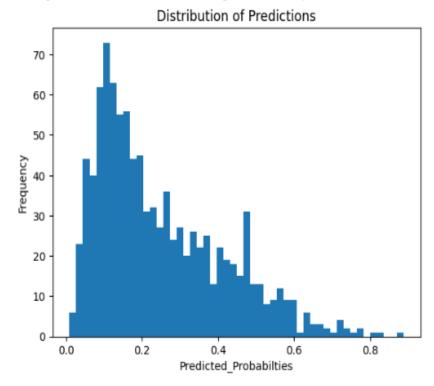
# Evaluating the ANN model

accuracy\_score: 0.8010 precision\_score: 0.7897

f1\_score: 0.7579

recall\_score: 0.8010





#OUR NEXT APPROACH WILL INCLUDE GloVe & FastText feature\_extraction METHODS

# **GLOVE FEATURE EXTRACTION**

```
!wget http://nlp.stanford.edu/data/glove.6B.zip
Show hidden output
!unzip glove.6B.zip glove.6B.100d.txt -d glove/
Archive: glove.6B.zip
replace glove/glove.6B.100d.txt? [y]es, [n]o, [A]ll, [N]one, [r]ename:

glove_input_file = 'glove/glove.6B.100d.txt'
word2vec_output_file = 'glove/glove.6B.100d.word2vec.txt'
from gensim.scripts.glove2word2vec import glove2word2vec
glove2word2vec(glove_input_file, word2vec_output_file)
```

# **GLOVE ANN**

accuracy\_score: 0.7490 precision\_score: 0.7154

f1\_score: 0.6963 recall\_score: 0.7490

# Distribution of Predictions 50 40 20 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Predicted Probability

# **GLOVE LSTM**

Model: "sequential\_10"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
embedding_2 (Embedding)	(None, 51, 100)	40000000
lstm_7 (LSTM)	(None, 128)	117248
dropout_14 (Dropout)	(None, 128)	0
dense_42 (Dense)	(None, 64)	8256
<pre>batch_normalization_12 (Bat chNormalization)</pre>	(None, 64)	256
dropout_15 (Dropout)	(None, 64)	0
dense_43 (Dense)	(None, 32)	2080
dense_44 (Dense)	(None, 1)	33

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Total params: 40,127,873 Trainable params: 127,745

Non-trainable params: 40,000,128

accuracy\_score: 0.7360 precision\_score: 0.6747

f1\_score: 0.6296

recall\_score: 0.7360

### **GLOVE BILSTM**

Model: "sequential\_11"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
embedding_3 (Embedding)		40000000
<pre>bidirectional_2 (Bidirectional)</pre>	(None, 51, 256)	234496
lstm_9 (LSTM)	(None, 64)	82176
dropout_16 (Dropout)	(None, 64)	Ø
dense_45 (Dense)	(None, 32)	2080
<pre>batch_normalization_13 (Bat chNormalization)</pre>	(None, 32)	128
dropout_17 (Dropout)	(None, 32)	0
dense_46 (Dense)	(None, 16)	528
dense_47 (Dense)	(None, 1)	17

-----

Total params: 40,319,425 Trainable params: 319,361

Non-trainable params: 40,000,064

accuracy\_score: 0.7360 precision\_score: 0.8057

f1\_score: 0.6241

recall\_score: 0.7360

### FAST TEXT FEATURE EXTRACTION

```
import gensim.downloader as api

# Load a smaller GloVe model (50D instead of 300D)
glove_model = api.load('glove-wiki-gigaword-50')
from gensim.models import FastText

from gensim.models.fasttext import FastText

# Assume x_train and x_test contain your tokenized text data
sentences = [doc.split() for doc in x_train[text_col]] # Tokenizing sentences for FastText training

# Train FastText model
fasttext_model = FastText(sentences, vector_size=100, window=5, min_count=1, workers=4, sg=1)

# Save model for later use
fasttext_model.save("fasttext_model.bin")
```

# **FAST TEXT ANN**

Model: "sequential\_14"

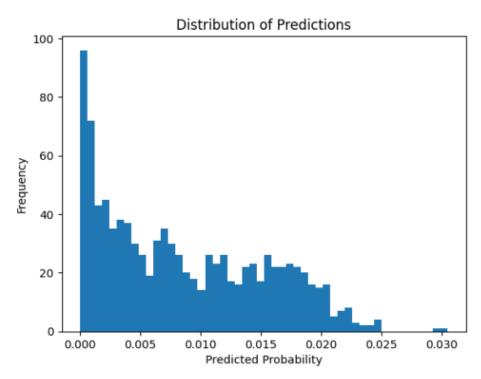
Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
dense_56 (Dense)	(None, 128)	12928
dense_57 (Dense)	(None, 64)	8256
<pre>batch_normalization_16 (Bat chNormalization)</pre>	(None, 64)	256
dropout_20 (Dropout)	(None, 64)	0
dense_58 (Dense)	(None, 32)	2080
dense_59 (Dense)	(None, 16)	528
dense_60 (Dense)	(None, 1)	17

Total params: 24,065 Trainable params: 23,937 Non-trainable params: 128

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accuracy\_score: 0.8140 precision\_score: 1.0000

f1\_score: 0.8975 recall\_score: 0.8140

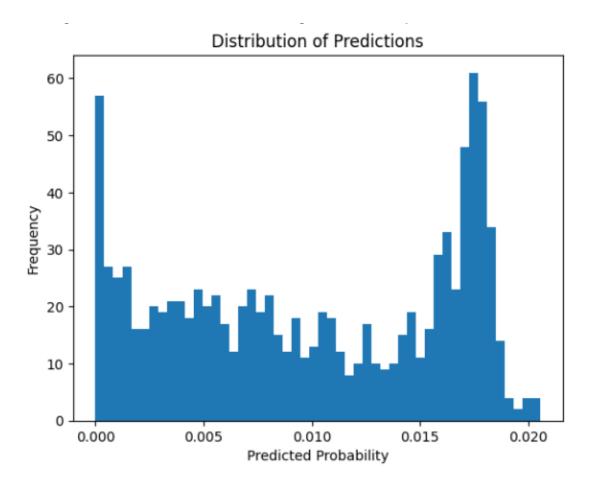


# FAST TEXT LSTM

```
Epoch 1/10
125/125 [===
            Epoch 2/10
125/125 [========] - 2s 18ms/step - loss: 0.0010 - accuracy: 1.0000 - val_loss: 8.1930e-04 - val_accuracy: 1.0000
Fnoch 3/10
125/125 [==========] - 2s 15ms/step - loss: 2.8969e-04 - accuracy: 1.0000 - val_loss: 1.6107e-04 - val_accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 4/10
125/125 [==
                            ====] - 2s 14ms/step - loss: 1.1947e-04 - accuracy: 1.0000 - val_loss: 5.9209e-05 - val_accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 5/10
                  =========] - 2s 14ms/step - loss: 2.6480e-04 - accuracy: 0.9998 - val_loss: 7.1637e-04 - val_accuracy: 1.0000
125/125 [===
Epoch 6/10
                                - 2s 16ms/step - loss: 6.7953e-05 - accuracy: 1.0000 - val_loss: 3.0746e-06 - val_accuracy: 1.0000
125/125 [==
Epoch 7/10
125/125 [===
                                - 3s 25ms/step - loss: 4.0135e-05 - accuracy: 1.0000 - val_loss: 5.0374e-06 - val_accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 8/10
125/125 [========] - 3s 21ms/step - loss: 3.4292e-05 - accuracy: 1.0000 - val_loss: 2.5106e-05 - val_accuracy: 1.0000
Epoch 9/10
              125/125 [=====
Epoch 10/10
               =========] - 2s 16ms/step - loss: 1.6540e-05 - accuracy: 1.0000 - val_loss: 1.6391e-06 - val_accuracy: 1.0000
<keras.callbacks.History at 0x7dd7ab95bed0>
```

accuracy\_score: 0.8650 precision\_score: 1.0000

f1\_score: 0.9276 recall\_score: 0.8650



# **FAST TEXT BILSTM**

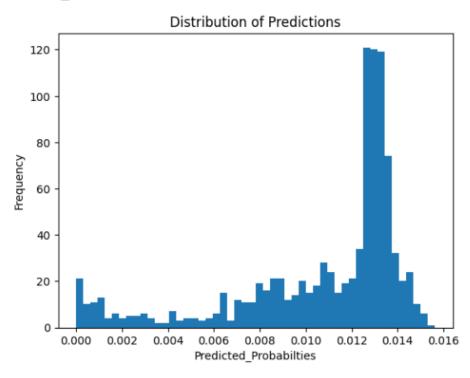
Model: "sequential\_16"

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
bidirectional_3 (Bidirectional)		234496
lstm_15 (LSTM)	(None, 64)	82176
dense_64 (Dense)	(None, 32)	2080
batch_normalization_18 (Bat chNormalization)	(None, 32)	128
dropout_22 (Dropout)	(None, 32)	0
dense_65 (Dense)	(None, 16)	528
dense_66 (Dense)	(None, 1)	17

Total params: 319,425 Trainable params: 319,361 Non-trainable params: 64

accuracy\_score: 0.9330 precision\_score: 1.0000

f1\_score: 0.9653 recall\_score: 0.9330



# Key observations

TF-IDF and Truncated TF-IDF performed best with classical ML models, but struggled with deep learning approaches.

GloVe and FastText embeddings performed better with ANN, LSTM, and BiLSTM, as they captured deeper semantic meanings of lyrics.

Truncated TF-IDF improved efficiency by reducing feature space while preserving important information.