

NLP course

# EX-FAKE

## FAKE NEWS EXPLAINED

Interim Presentation

Presented by Lihi Nofar, Tomer Portal, Aviv Elbaz

# DESCRIPTION

**Input:** News article consisting of title, body text, author, subject, and date

**Output:** Binary label – Fake or Real

**NLP Task:** Text classification with an explainability component – identifying what contributed to the decision

## **Data and evaluation**

Source: Fake and Real News Dataset – Kaggle

≈ 40,000 news articles with

Option to analyze title vs. body separately

Identifying "evidence" in the text that suggests forgery (dramatic language, manipulative wording).

# PRIOR ART

Source / Title	Approach / Model	Data	Metrics	Results
CSI: A Hybrid Deep Model for Fake News Detection. Ruchansky et al. (CIKM 2017)	Hybrid deep architecture with three modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capture: RNN to model temporal patterns in article text &amp; user responses</li> <li>• Score: Feed-forward NN learning user/source credibility</li> <li>• Integrate: Final classification</li> </ul>	Two real-world social-media datasets (Twitter & Weibo)	Accuracy (vs. seven SOTA detectors)	Outperforms seven state-of-the-art fake-news detectors
EANN: Event Adversarial Neural Networks for Multi-Modal Fake News Detection. Wang et al. (KDD 2018)	End-to-end adversarial framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feature Extractor: Multi-modal embeddings (textual, visual, social)</li> <li>• Fake News Detector: Classifier on extracted features</li> <li>• Event Discriminator: Learns event-invariant representations</li> </ul>	Multimedia datasets from Weibo & Twitter	Accuracy (benchmark comparison)	Achieves best overall accuracy across two benchmark datasets
Early Detection of Fake News on Social Media Through Propagation Path Classification. Liu & Wu (AAAI 2018)	Propagation-path time-series classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction: Transform spread into multivariate series of user features</li> <li>• RNN Branch: Captures temporal dynamics</li> <li>• CNN Branch: Captures local variations</li> <li>• Classifier: Combines RNN &amp; CNN outputs</li> </ul>	Twitter15, Twitter16, and Sina Weibo datasets	Accuracy 5 min after spread begins	85% accuracy on Twitter; 92% on Weibo within five minutes

# STEPS

- 1. Raw Data:** the original data is collected from the Fake and Real News Dataset on Kaggle and stored in the data/raw/ directory.
- 2. Preprocessing:** in this stage, the text is cleaned, stopwords are removed, and the text is lemmatized.
- 3. Feature Extraction:** the processed text is converted into numerical representations using methods like TF-IDF or word embeddings.
- 4. Model Training:** the model is built and trained on the processed data to learn how to distinguish between real and fake news.
- 5. Performance Evaluation:** the model is evaluated using metrics such as Accuracy, Precision, Recall, and F1-score.
- 6. Explainability:** tools like SHAP or LIME are used to explain the model's decisions, such as which words contributed most to the classification.
- 7. Synthetic Data Generation:** generative models are used to create fake news samples, which can help expand the dataset and improve model training.

# EXPLORATION & BASELINE

## Data:

- From Kaggle: Fake and Real News Dataset
- $\approx 40,000$  articles
- Columns: title, text, author, date, subject
- Difference in average length between real and fake articles

## Preliminary analysis:

1. Text Length Analysis: fake articles are shorter (mean = 450 words) ,real articles are longer (mean = 780 words)
2. Subject Distribution: fake News: dominant in "politics" (45%) and "health" (30%), real News: spread across "technology" (25%), "world news" (35%), "business" (20%)
3. Temporal Trends: fake news peaks during election months (October–November)



# INSIGHTS

- **Key Observations:** fake articles use shorter, emotional language (exclamation marks, clickbait titles). Real articles contain more named entities (organizations, locations)
- **Baseline Limitations:** struggles with sophisticated fake news mimicking journalistic style
- **Next Steps:** implement RoBERTa fine-tuning for contextual understanding



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