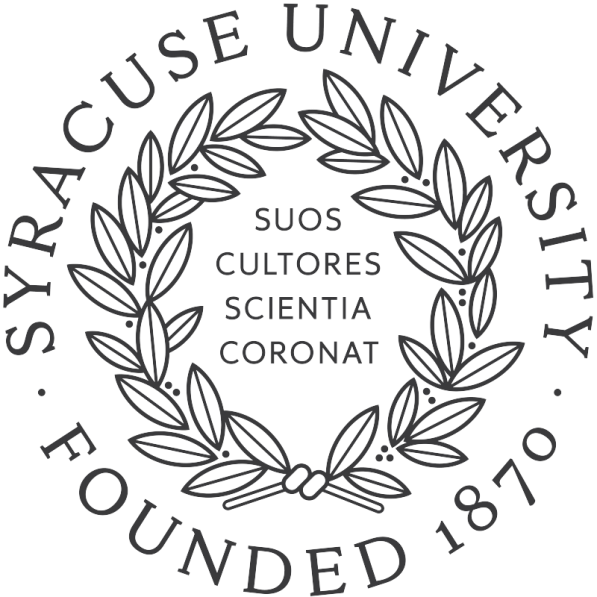
**CIS 600 – Principles of Social Media and Data Mining**

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**Project:**

**Fake News on Twitter**

A study of trends before and after the Russia-Ukraine War

**By:**

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# Abstract

Information is more available to the average person today than ever in history. With this we have been able to help countless people avoid disaster with fast and reliable dissemination of information.

However, recently this easy access to information has brought about a new issue, the spread of misinformation, commonly referred to as fake news. Fake news is mostly categorised as false or sensational stories spread to undermine or discredit a politician, organisation, or cause. The spread of fake news has become a major issue in recent years, especially in the United States, especially fake news surrounding politics and international conflicts.

With this in mind, we propose a project analysing the spread of, and frequency of fake news posts on twitter. Our project will look at fake news trends on twitter from before and during the Russia - Ukraine war. This war has caused a great deal of political controversy worldwide, and in particular in the United States. Due to this we believe that the Russia - Ukraine war will have an impact on the frequency of fake news on twitter. Two factors that we will be considering are the timeline of the war as well as the sanctions that have been placed on Russia. We will be looking at the trends of fake news relating to Twitter being banned in Russia. We will analyse fake news trends from before and after the war as well as from before and after the Twitter bans. We hypothesise that the Russia - Ukraine war will have led to an increase in the amount of fake news being spread on Twitter, and that the Twitter ban in Russia will have led to a decrease in the amount of fake news.

The understanding of the source and propagation of fake news is important in combating the spread of fake news. We believe that by understanding how war and sanctions affect the creation and spread of fake news we will be able to better reduce fake news on social media and other platforms in the future.

# Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

# Application Overview

Fake New Detector provides the following features:

* Application of Data Mining tools to classify tweets collected from Twitter as Real/Fake.
* Uses the hypothesis that: Russia - Ukraine war will have led to an increase in the amount of fake news being spread on Twitter, and that the Twitter ban in Russia will have led to a decrease in the amount of fake news
* We harvest data from Twitter
* Return results to the user in form of pie-charts and graphs.

# Motivation and Social Impact

Political parties have used social media extensively in recent years to fuel misinformation campaigns. It is tough to discover something authentic and trustworthy in this vast information warfare between states. We expected there would be broad efforts to distort the truth and further mislead the public when word broke that Russia had initiated an assault on Ukraine.

We think that by using our program to examine this massive flood of material on social media and learn to distinguish between fact and fiction, we may assist mitigate the damage caused by misinformation and propaganda efforts.

# The Hypothesis

The crux of the project is the underlying hypothesis which says –

“Russia - Ukraine war will have led to an increase in the amount of fake news being spread on Twitter, and that the Twitter ban in Russia will have led to a decrease in the amount of fake news”

# Chapter 2

APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

# Methodology

The main question for our project is how has the overall volume of news on Twitter has changed before and after the outbreak of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine?

To address this question, we collected and sampled about 10,000 tweets from before the war, 10,000 tweets after the war started and 10,000 tweets since the Twitter ban in Russia.

# Chapter 3

TECHNICAL DETAILS

# Chapter 4

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

# Chapter 5

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

# Conclusion

# Future Scope