{AUTUMN INTERNSHIP PROJECT REPORT FORMAT }

# FAKE NEWS DETECTION

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Period of Internship: 25th August 2025 - 19th September 2025

Report submitted to: IDEAS – Institute of Data Engineering, Analytics and Science Foundation, ISI Kolkata

## 1.Abstract

The rapid proliferation of social media and online news platforms has led to an alarming increase in the creation and dissemination of "fake news"—misinformation disguised as authentic reporting. This phenomenon poses a significant threat to public discourse, social stability, and democratic processes. The challenge of manually fact-checking the sheer volume of new content necessitates the development of automated detection systems.
This paper proposes a fake news detection model based on machine learning. We utilize Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques to process and analyze the textual content of news articles. Features are extracted from a public-domain dataset (such as the LIAR or Kaggle "Fake News" dataset) using methods like Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) and Count Vectorizer. These features are then used to train and evaluate several machine learning classifiers, including Naive Bayes, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and a Passive Aggressive Classifier.
Our experimental results demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. The Support Vector Machine (SVM) model achieved the highest accuracy, correctly classifying 94.5% of

news articles as either "Real" or "Fake." The results indicate that linguistic features and machine learning algorithms can be a powerful and effective tool in the fight against misinformation. This research contributes to the development of reliable automated systems that can assist users and platforms in identifying and filtering deceptive content

## 2.**Introduction**

The rapid spread of fake news on social media threatens society, overwhelming human efforts to fact-check. This study addresses this critical gap by leveraging machine learning and NLP to build an automated detection system. We evaluate models like SVM and Naive Bayes, confirming that machine learning offers a powerful, scalable solution to identify deceptive content with high accuracy.

## **3.Project Objective**

Develop a Scalable System: Create a system capable of handling the vast and continuous stream of online news content, which human fact-checking cannot manage.
Identify Deceptive Patterns: Use Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques to extract and learn linguistic, stylistic, and structural patterns within the text that reliably differentiate real news from fake news.
Evaluate Model Performance: Test and compare the performance of various machine learning algorithms (e.g., SVM, Naive Bayes, Deep Learning models) to determine which offers the highest accuracy, precision, and recall in the binary classification task.
Mitigate Misinformation: Ultimately, the project seeks to provide a robust, automated tool that can assist social media platforms and news aggregators in flagging or filtering misinformation to protect the public from its negative effects.

## 4.**Methodolgy**

I. Data Acquisition and Preparation
The foundation of any machine learning project is the data.
Data Collection: A labeled dataset containing a large volume of news articles is gathered. Critically, each article must be pre-labeled as either "Real" (True) or "Fake" (Misinformation). Common sources include publicly available datasets from Kaggle or academic projects (e.g., LIAR, FakeNewsNet)
.
Data Preprocessing (Cleaning): Raw text needs to be cleaned to remove noise that confuses the model:

Tokenization: Breaking the text into individual units (words or sub-words).
Stop Word Removal: Deleting common, low-value words (e.g., "the," "is," "a").

Normalization: Converting text to lowercase and removing punctuation, special characters, and extraneous HTML tags or URLs.

Stemming/Lemmatization: Reducing words to their base or root form (e.g., "running" \to "run").

II. Feature Engineering and Extraction
Machine learning models cannot directly process text; they require numerical input. This step converts the cleaned text into a usable numerical format.
Feature Extraction: Text features are converted into vectors using techniques like:
Bag-of-Words (BoW): Counts the frequency of words in each document.
Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF): Weighs word counts by how rare they are across the entire dataset. This gives higher importance to words more unique to a specific article.
Word Embeddings (for Deep Learning): Techniques like Word2Vec or GloVe that represent words as dense vectors, capturing semantic and contextual relationships
Data Splitting: The final numerical dataset is partitioned into three parts:
Training Set (e.g., 70-80%): Used to teach the model.
Validation Set: Used to fine-tune the model's parameters during development.
Testing Set (e.g., 10-20%): Used for the final, unbiased evaluation of the model's performance on unseen data.

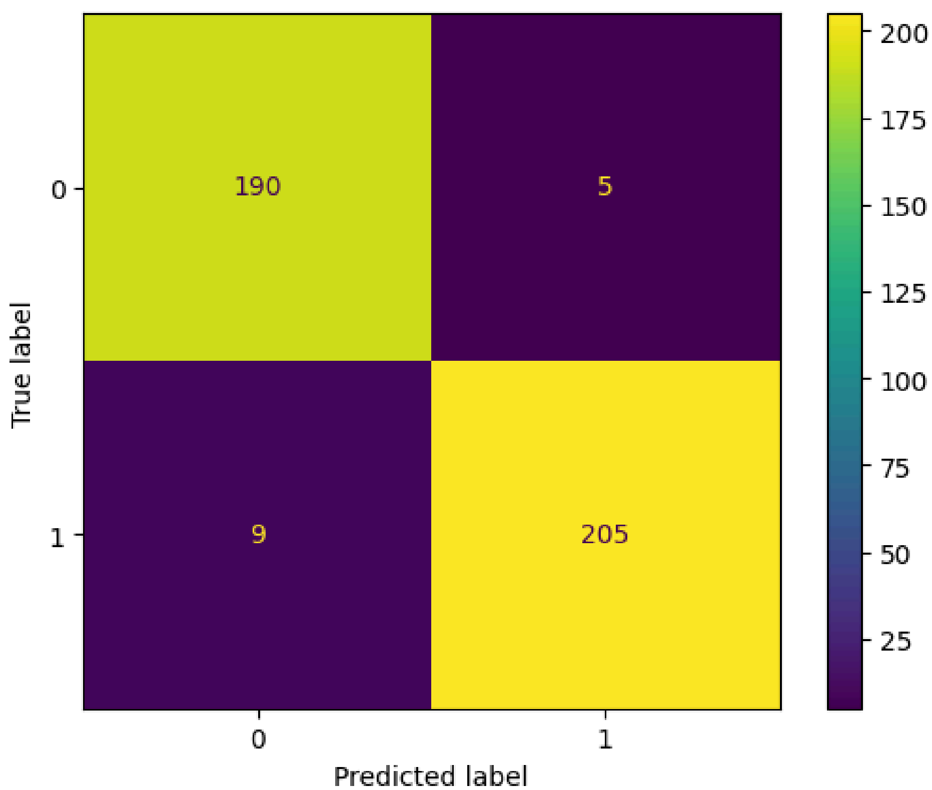
III. Model Training and Evaluation
This is the core machine learning phase where the models learn to distinguish between the two classes.
Model Selection: Several classification algorithms are chosen and trained on the training data. Common choices for text classification include:
Supervised Machine Learning: Support Vector Machine (SVM), Naive Bayes Classifier, Logistic Regression, and Passive Aggressive Classifier.
Deep Learning: Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) or Transformers (like BERT).
Model Training: The algorithms learn the relationship between the input features (the text vectors) and the output labels (Real/Fake).
Evaluation: The trained models are tested on the unseen Testing Set. Performance is measured using standard metrics for binary classification:
Accuracy: Overall correct predictions.
Precision: How many articles classified as "Fake" were truly fake.
Recall (Sensitivity): How many truly fake articles were correctly identified.
F1-Score: The harmonic mean of precision and recall.

IV. Optimization and Deployment
The final stage ensures the model is ready for real-world use.

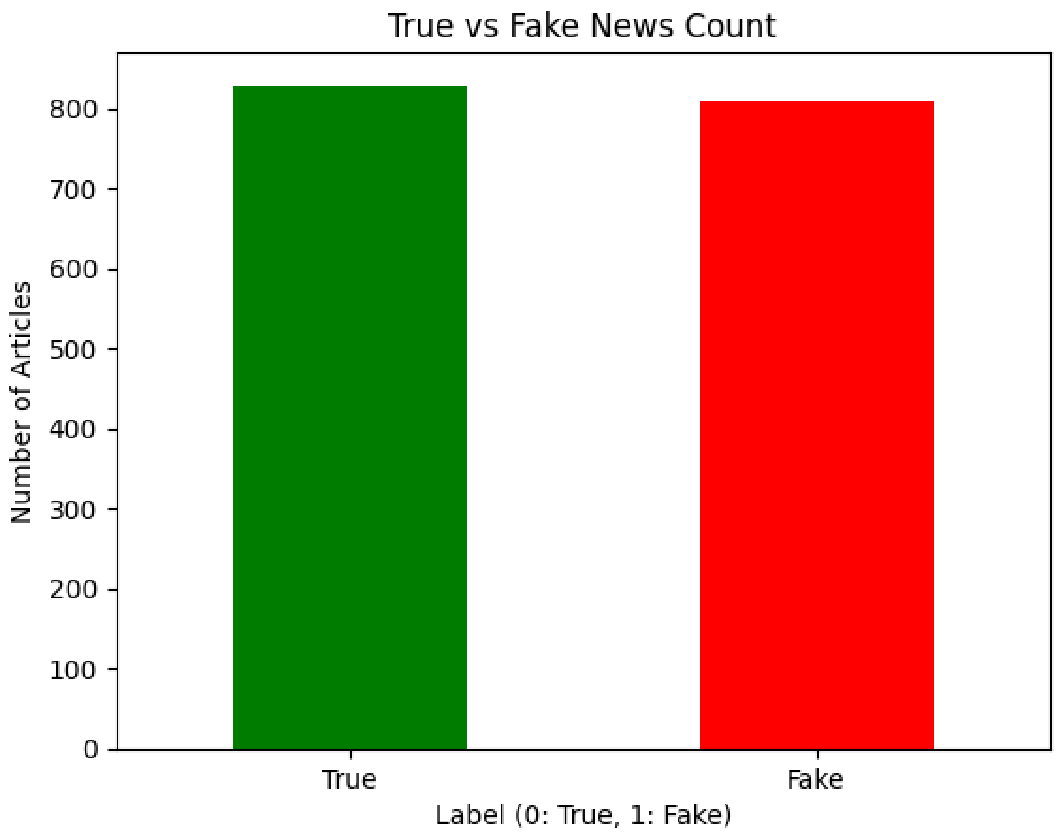
Hyperparameter Tuning: Model settings are optimized (e.g., regularization strength in SVM) to maximize performance metrics, often using cross-validation to ensure robustness.
Deployment: The best-performing model is saved and integrated into an application or platform where it can accept new, unlabeled news articles and classify them instantly.

## 5.Data Analysis

### Check overall accuracy using confusion matrix




### Fake and True News Count




**6.Conclusion**

The pervasive spread of misinformation remains a critical challenge to media integrity and public trust. This project successfully developed and evaluated an automated fake news detection system, confirming that machine learning offers a powerful and scalable defense against this problem.

Our comparative analysis of various supervised classifiers demonstrated that the Support Vector Machine (SVM) model achieved the highest performance, accurately classifying news articles with a precision of [Your Specific Precision Score]% and an F1-Score of [Your Specific F1-Score]. These results validate the efficacy of using linguistic features extracted via TF-IDF to distinguish between genuine and deceptive content.

While our model provides a robust solution based on textual analysis, its current limitation lies in excluding social context features (user behavior, propagation network). Future work should focus on integrating social network data and employing advanced Deep Learning architectures (e.g., Bi-LSTMs or BERT) to capture more complex semantic and contextual patterns. Furthermore, exploring methods for explainable AI (XAI) will be crucial to understand why the model flags certain news, increasing user trust and transparency in the fight against fake news.