**Executive Summary**

The term classification in context to the data science world is a technique to predict a particular set of classes for the provided or retrieved data set. The classified classes in the project are called categories. In scientific terms, there are various input variables considered as 'X' and a distinct result variable as 'y'. Classification is supervised learning as it is an algorithm executed by learning from a training dataset. The execution of the classification algorithm on the training dataset is concluded when the model achieves a certain level of acceptance and accuracy. For example, the classes for a particular entity could be colors as 'Red,' 'Blue,' and 'Green.'

The dataset is obtained by using the New York Times API. The data set contains various input variables that contribute to determining classes in terms of news categories. The obtained dataset undergoes numerous data preprocessing steps. First, using TF-IDF, the relevancy measured as a score in the text analysis is used for the training data. Then, depending on the collected data, classification algorithms are used to predict the classifiers. The project uses five classification algorithms to get the best accuracy on the trained data model as follows:

* Random Forest
* Multinomial Logistic Regression
* Bi-directional LSTM
* Decision Tree
* Gaussian Naïve Bayes classifier

The project conducts the machine learning process to predict the news category for the New York Times tweet, making it simpler and swifter for the user to traverse through a plethora of tweets as per the interest. The project aims to create a hybrid solution comprising both analytical and information system.

**Introduction**

The New York Times is dated back to 1851 and is one of the most prestigious newspapers with an international reach. The New York Times has been famous for the editorial content and rich culture and intellectual approach to the news article published in the newspaper. The New York Times progressed early with providing the content and archives on the internet by 1995. The New York times has a global and extensive reach with 49.9 million followers to its Twitter handle. There are categories available for the articles to be separated on the website. Still, when it comes down to the tweets, they frequently handle tweets, but the original description has no category. The project aims to predict the apt category for the tweets from the Twitter hand of The New York Times.

The reports and project focus on using the archives using the API by The New York Times to analyze and classify the articles in 11 odd categories. The report research on the following questions as follows:

* The op-ed section is a platform for authors to communicate personality by storytelling and appealing experiences. The publication is not affiliated with any articles published in this section. Does the op-ed section have these kinds of articles? Or is it just another platform where disputes are bred? Does the op-ed section need more scaling down of data and separated into distinct categories?  We will analyze the articles to find out whether the op-ed section answers the above questions.
* Will the number of classes affect the accuracy of the model?
* How the features(words) and labels (categories of news) correlate with each other? What best keywords can we determine the category of news?
* Is it possible to extract any time series pattern from the data collected from the archive API and help with the categories?
* How well did the model classify? Was the accuracy acceptable?

**Data Overview**

The data is collected from New York Times and New York Times Twitter accounts. This API will allow the non-employers to collect the data of New York Times articles. We have built a custom scrapper that will call the New York Times archive API and scrap the data from the result of the archive API and store the data in different CSV's cased on the month and year of the news article.

The library used in Python is tweepy to get the tweets from Twitter. To access Twitter API, we need to have four keys:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Consumer key | consumer secret key | access token key | access token secret key |

The New York Times profile URL has the name NYTimes, which will get the relevant tweets. An empty list has been created to store the incoming tweets. The incoming data must be preprocessed to get the output data frame. A total of 239 tweets are loaded into the data frame. These tweets will be used as an input to the final machine learning model to get the category, which the tweet belongs. The overview of tweets scraped from Twitter is as shown in the below image.

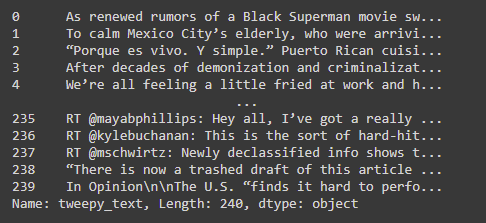


Fig 1: Data frame of tweets scrapped from New York times Twitter account.

New York Times is established in the year 1851. All the articles' data since 1851 can be collected through this API. If we pass the API along with the year and the month, we will be getting all data from the provided date. This API will help us to create our own dataset for the New York Times. We collected the data of articles of the past four years, i.e., 2017-2021. The data of every month is stored as an individual CSV file. All these files are preprocessed and combined before building a classification model. Steps to collect data are as follows:

* Load all the required dependencies to collect the data.
* Mention the starting year, month, and the ending year to get the data.
* All the CSV files of every month are preprocessed and combined before training.

For combining all the files of every month, we used the inbuilt method of Python, i.e., concat(). First, concatenation combines the files into one file. Later, we converted the concatenated file into a .csv file by formatting the extension.

Thus, the preprocessed CSV file is then used for developing the classification model.

The features used in the analysis and their description is as follows:

**Headline:** It consists of the text representing the nature of the article. It appears at the top of the content.

**Date:** It consists of the day, month, and year of an article published. (Ex 2020-10-01 represents the article published on 1st of October in 2020

**Doc\_type**: It represents the type of document of an article. It consists of four distinct categories (article, multimedia, audio, and audio container)

**Material\_type**: It consists of categories on which platform the article is presented to the audience. It consists of n distinct categories. (Ex: Op-Ed: printed on opposite to the editorial page, Video: A mp4 format clipping explaining the article, etc.)

**Section**: Articles are divided into sections to group articles with similar content. (Ex: Science: The articles focusing on advancement in Science, U.S.: The articles concentrate on activities inside the United States, etc.)

**News\_Desk**: The type of department inside New York Times working on an article (Ex: Sports: A group of a sports a journalist assigned to collect the information for article etc.)

**Abstract**: A summary of an article.

**Keywords**: The essential words in an article. Readers usually use these keywords to find related articles.

**Lead\_Paragraph**: The opening paragraph of an article gives the reader an introduction to the article.

**Snippet**: Additional information about the article.

The data consists of 449,566 rows and ten features. The data types of features are as follows.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variable Name** | **Variable Type** |
| Headline | Object |
| Date | datetime64 |
| Doc\_type | Object |
| Material\_type | Object |
| Section | Object |
| News\_desk | Object |
| abstract | Object |
| Keywords | Object |
| Lead\_paragraph | Object |
| snippet | Object |

Table 1: Variable name in the data frame

**Data Preprocessing**

**Sections:** In the data collected, the section column is one of the essential variables because the project's overall aim is to classify the textual news data into these sections.

* **Identifying Unique Sections:** There is a total of 62 unique classes in the combined data frame.

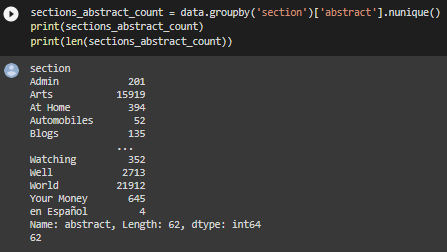


Fig 2: Unique classes code snippet

* **Merging Sections:** Sections related to each other and relevant are clubbed together to create new sections/classes to decrease the overwhelming number of classes.

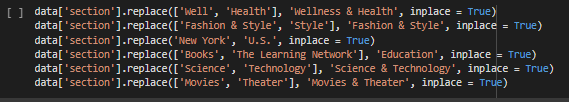


Fig 3: Merging sections code snippet

* **Selecting Top Sections:** The number of sections reduced to 11 after this process. The aim was to identify a balanced number of classes to improve the overall process. Therefore, we selected the sections with a value count greater than or equal to 10k.

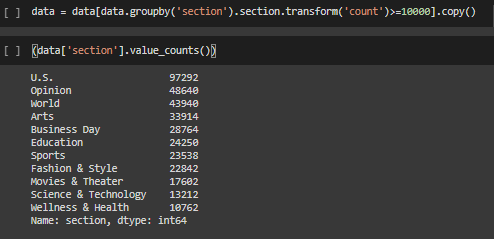
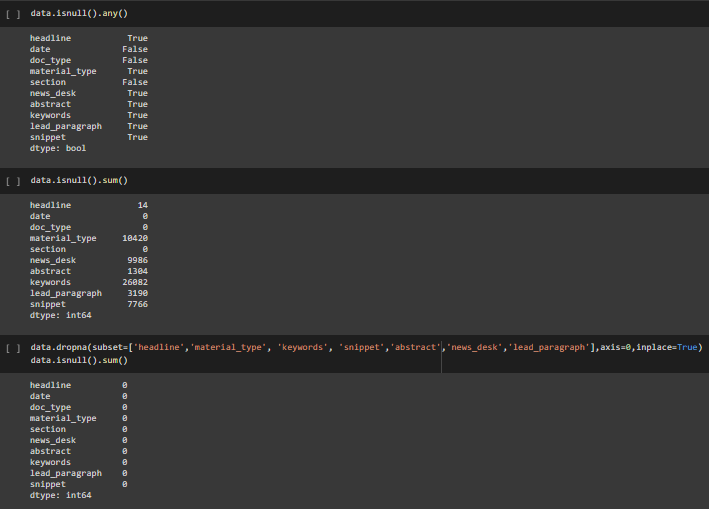
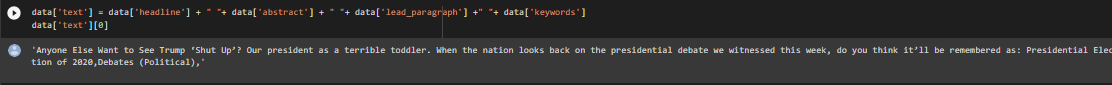


Fig 4: Top sections code snippet

**Missing Values:** Values like 'headline', 'material\_type', 'keywords', 'snippet', 'abstract', 'news\_desk', 'lead\_paragraph' are important for the model considering the nature of the data being text. So, it was necessary to identify if these variables have any empty values. If there are, we need to remove the respective rows from the data not to affect the model implementation.

Fig 5: Identifying missing values code snippet

**Text:** This is a new feature created by merging important text features' headline', 'abstract,' 'lead\_paragraph' and 'keywords.' This step was implemented so that we can pass one single document into the model.

Fig 6: Merging text code snippet

**Parsed Text:**  A new variable called 'parse\_text' is created by converting all the words in the text feature into the lower case by removing special characters and tokenizing the stop words**.** Stop words in English like the, an, me, etc., are removed to reduce the redundancy of words that are not crucial for the models.

**Section Encode:** All the categorical values in the column 'section' are manually encoded and converted into numerical values. A new feature section\_codes is created as shown below.

section\_codes = {'U.S.': 0,

'Arts': 1,

'World': 2,

'Opinion': 3,

'Business Day': 4,

'Sports': 5,

'Fashion & Style': 6,

'Movies & Theater': 7,

'Education': 8,

'Science & Technology': 9,

'Wellness & Health': 10

}

**One Hot Encoding:** This word embedding technique is used to split the text into different words and indexed it based on the word position. The indexed positions of the words are converted into the binary matrix, which is used to signify the number of dimensions of that document. The quantified terms then act as the input for the Bi-directional LSTM models. In this scenario, pre-padding in the project helped fill dummy 0s for shorter document sizes.

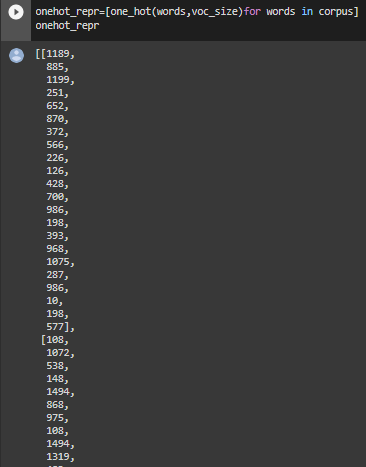


Fig 7: One hot encoding code snippet

**Stemming:** During data preprocessing, this technique is implemented to extract the root formation of the input words. Stemming is comparatively faster but creates words that might not be meaningful when compared to lemmatization. In our case, the meaning of the language was not important, whereas we focused on classification based on keywords, so stemming was the best method.

Example: '" anyon els want to see trump shut presid terribl toddler nation look back presidenti debat wit week think rememb presidenti elect debat polit"

**Term Frequency Inverse Document Frequency:** TF-IDF is used to change the text document into numbers used by ML (Machine Learning) algorithms in this project. The number of word frequency to its index as a vector helps our algorithms to improve the performance—indexed word dictionaries for both test and train features as shown below.

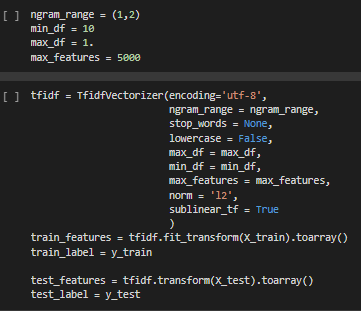
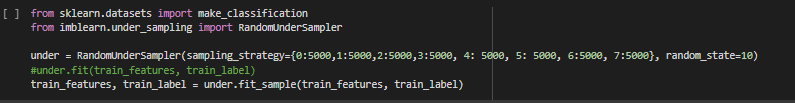


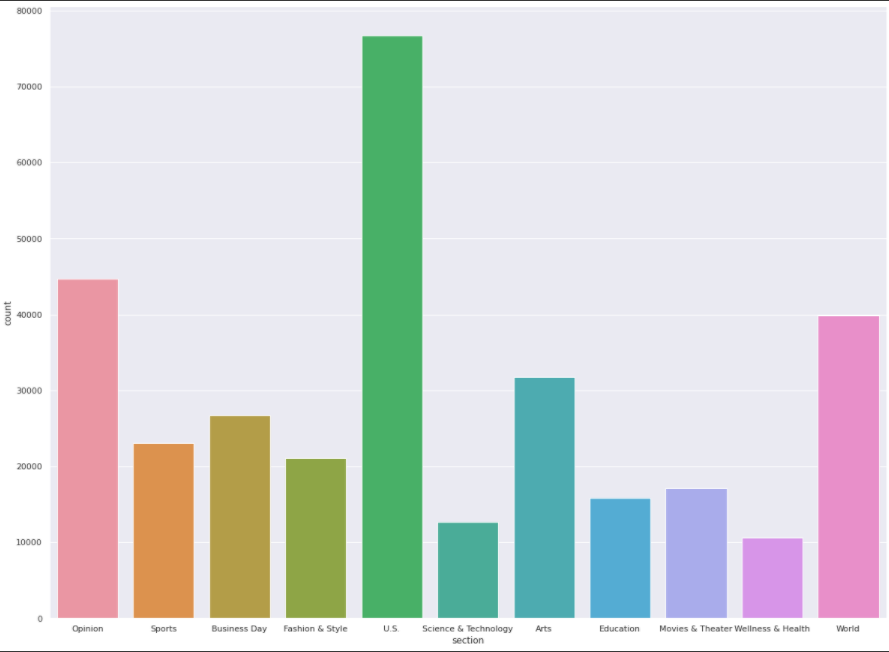
Fig 8: TFIDF code snippet

**Random Under Sampling:** This technique removes randomly selected values from the classes with majority data. In our case, we needed to reduce the humongous amount of data from sections like U.S., Opinion, Arts which led to an imbalance in the data. So, under-sampling helped the project to bring down the data in sections as shown below.

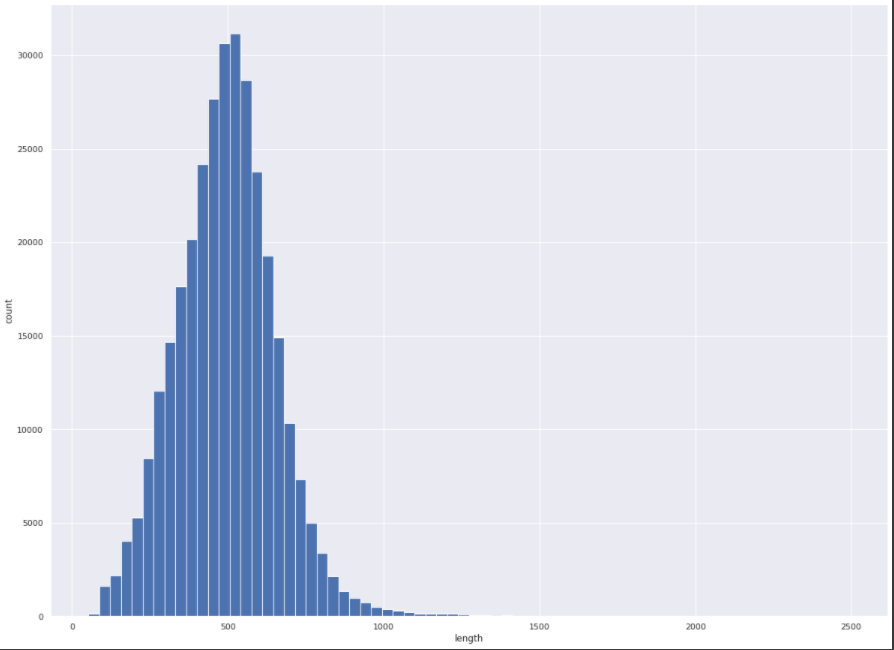
Fig 9: Random sampling code snippet

**Data Visualization**

**Sections vs. Article Count:** The bar graph below shows the final categories in the section column plotted against the number of articles in each category.

Fig 10: Section vs articles count visualization

**Text Length vs. Length Count:** The histogram explains the frequency of text document length with the number of bins = 70.

Fig 11: Text vs length count data visualization

**Word Cloud:** All the categories in section column are converted to word cloud. This helps us to identify essential words in the text document for each section.

**Opinion:**

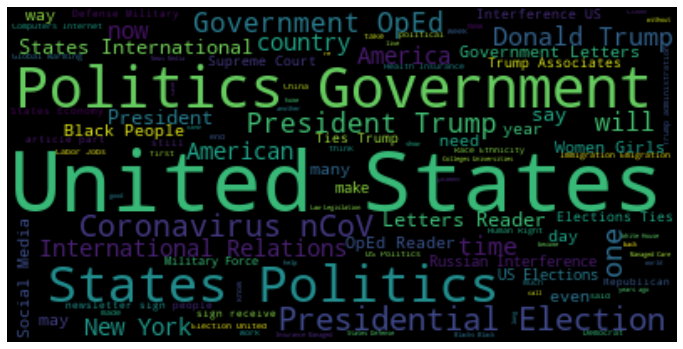


Fig 12: Opinion word cloud data visualization

**Education:**

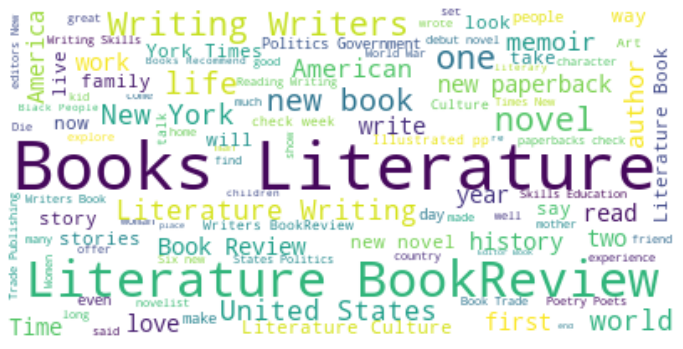


Fig 13: Education word cloud data visualization

**Arts:**

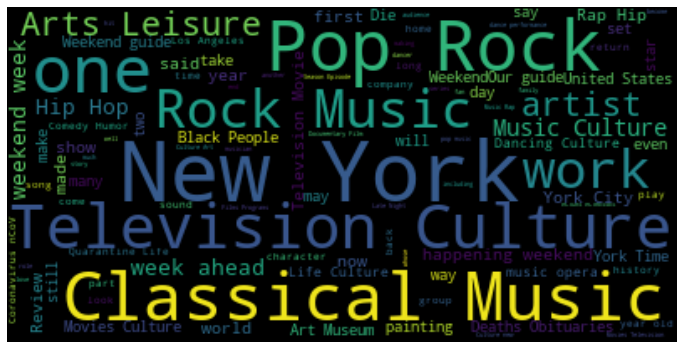


Fig 14: Arts word cloud data visualization

**Fashion & Style:**



Fig 15: Fashion & Style word cloud data visualization

**Movies & Theatre:**



Fig 16: Movies & Theatre cloud data visualization

**Sports:**



Fig 17: Sport word cloud data visualization

**U.S.**



Fig 18: U.S cloud data visualization

**Science & Technology:**



Fig 19: Science & Technology cloud data visualization

**World:**

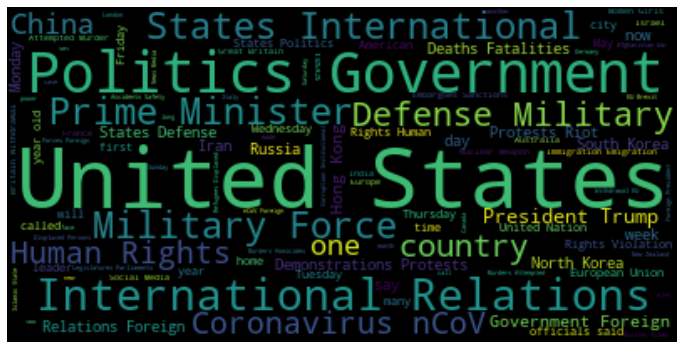


Fig 20: World word cloud data visualization

**Wellness & Health:**

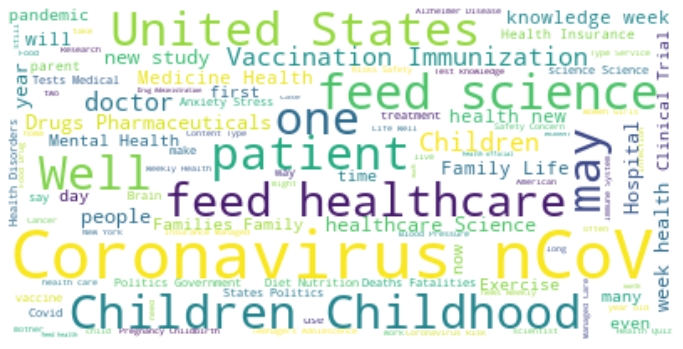


Fig 21: Wellness & Health word cloud data visualization

**Business Day:**



Fig 22: Business Day World word cloud data visualization

**Model Building**

To solve the problem of news classification, we will try several different models and select the best model based on the confusion matrix to classify tweets further. The biggest challenge we faced is about the number of categories. When we scraped the data for four years, there were more than 62 news sections. It would be hard to process the model in so many classes. Further we tried to test with multiple classes and models to see the accuracy.

Tested with classes more than 2000 record:

We tried to build the model including the classes with more than 2000 records. There were 30 classes to be classified. We got a low accuracy on the validation data about 60%. But further we tried to classify tweets by scrapping the twitters data using tweepy; the models were not suitable to classify the tweets as there was a concise length of text fed to the model.

Tested by combining the categories and more than 2000 records:

Later we tried to club the classes like Movies, podcasts, and Theater into a single class of Entertainment. Similarly, we did it for well, health, technology, science, books and learning network. Below is a snapshot that shows the clubbing of the categories.

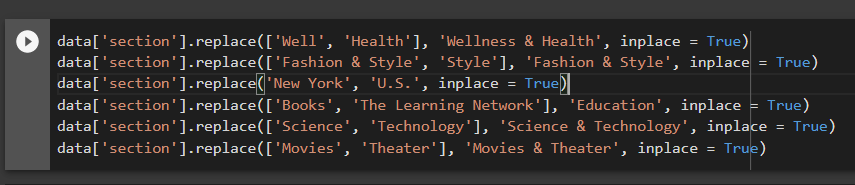


Fig 23: Merging classes code snippet

After combining these categories, we were left with 21 classes to classify. We trained multiple models for the classes like Random Forest, Bi-Directional LSTM, LSTM model, Decision tree, and Logistic regression. We got an acceptable accuracy of around 70-75%. We selected Bi-directional LSTM, Logistic regression, and Random Forest to classify the tweets further. The output for the tweet classification was not much accurate. Most of the tweets were categorized as U.S., Opinion, or Entertainment.

Final classification by under sampling and 11 classes –

After trying several combinations for the classes and testing the accuracy of the New York Times, we observed that due to an imbalance of the dataset, most of the tweets were classified incorrectly. We decided to collect the data for 4 years and club the classes to reduce the number of classes, and later, we under sampled the data for the classes with records of more than 5000. We used RandomUnderSampler from imblearn and later build multiple models and went ahead with classifying the tweets. This time the results for the tweet classification were acceptable and reasonable.

So, we further selected 11 categories to build our model. In the selection process, we dropped the classes with less than 5000 records so that our data should not be highly imbalanced, and we merged certain classes in one with a similar context. Further, we tried to solve this problem statement by using Machine learning and Deep learning.

**Machine Learning**

In machine learning, we have used supervised learning techniques, which involves the building of two models, which is:

**Random Forest:**

As the name says, random forest is an ensemble technique of decision tree formed using the bagging method. It is known to give better accuracy as we try to combine the output from every individual decision tree to predict.

To solve our Tweets classification problem, we have used Random Forest and the default tuning parameter to get the desired output. Here is a snippet of what our model looks like.

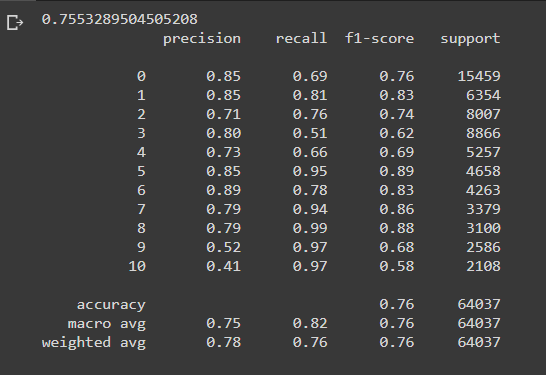


Fig 24: Classification matrix for Random Forest

We got an accuracy of 75.53% on the test data. So, we decided to go further and test the data for tweets on N.Y. Times twitter account.

**Multinomial Logistic Regression:**

Multinomial logistic regression is used to classify the multiclass problem using logistic regression. Logistic regression is designed for the binary classification problem. It is used to classify the value as 0 or 1. The multinomial logistic regression is designed to provide the multinomial probability distribution, and it used the distribution to predict the class. To solve our problem statement, we have used multinomial logistic regression with the default parameters. Below is the snapshot of the classification matrix of the multinomial logistic regression model.

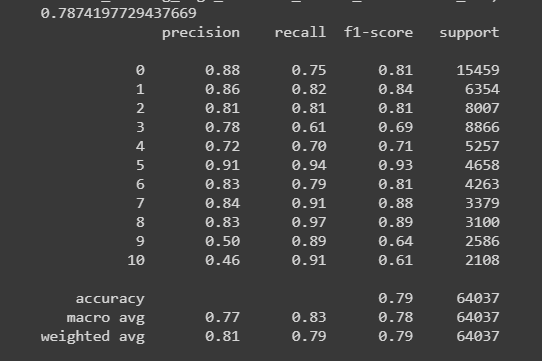


Fig 25: Classification matrix for Multinomial Logistic Regression

The multinomial logistic regression has given us an accuracy of 78.74% overall for classifying different classes. We can check from the confusion matrix that the model is good in classifying class 5 with the precision of 91%, and it is a little weak in classifying class 10 with a precision of 46%

**Naïve Bayes:**

The working theory behind the Naive Bayes classifier is the Bayes theorem. Here we used Gaussian Naive Bayes considering Gaussian distribution. Bayes theorem states as follow: P(A|B) = P(B|A) P(A)/P(B)

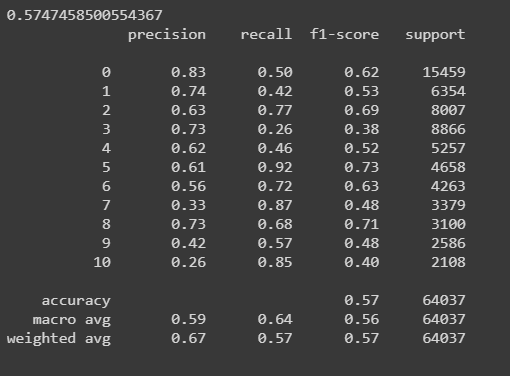


Fig 26: Classification matrix for Naïve Bayes

The Naïve Bayes has given us an accuracy of 57.47% overall for classifying different classes. We can check from the confusion matrix that the model is good in classifying class 0 with the precision of 83%, and it is a little weak in classifying class 7 with a precision of 33%

**Decision Tree:**

The decision tree is used for regression as well as a classification problem. It is a supervised learning algorithm. Our goal is to develop a decision tree that can develop the class of a given news article. We created the decision tree, fitted the tree on train data, and tested our model on the test data set. We got an acceptable accuracy of 67.05%.

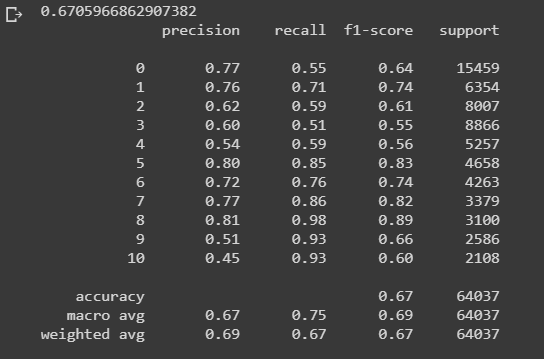


Fig 27: Classification matrix for Decision Tree

The Decision Tree classifier has given us an overall accuracy of 67.05% for classifying different classes. We can check from the confusion matrix that the model is good in classifying class 8 with the precision of 81%, and it is a little weak in classifying class 10 with a precision of 45%

**Deep Learning Models**

**Bidirectional LSTM:**

Bidirectional Long Short-Term memory is proven to be good to categorize the NLP classification problem. This project has tried to solve the problem statement using a bi-directional LSTM model by using a one-dimensional Convolution network. In the model, we have used ten layers of neurons. The first layer is our embedding layer, where we have embedded each input according to the vocabulary size of 1500. In the next layer, we have used Bidirectional LSTM. After it, we have used a one-dimensional convolution layer along with max-pooling with 128 neurons. After taking the output from the convolution layer, we have used two dense layers with 64 neurons and added a dropout layer by dropping 30% of dead neurons so that we do not overfit the model on train data with the activation relu. Although we tried the activation function as relu and elu as the relu performed well, we choose to move forward with relu. The final output layer consists of 11 neurons as the output function softmax. Softmax will provide us with a probability of text belonging to each class and classify the text in the class with maximum probability.

We have compiled the model with our optimizer as adam and loss function as sparse\_categorical\_crossentropy as it worked better with the multiclass classification problem. Below is the snapshot and summary of our model with each layer and the number of neurons.

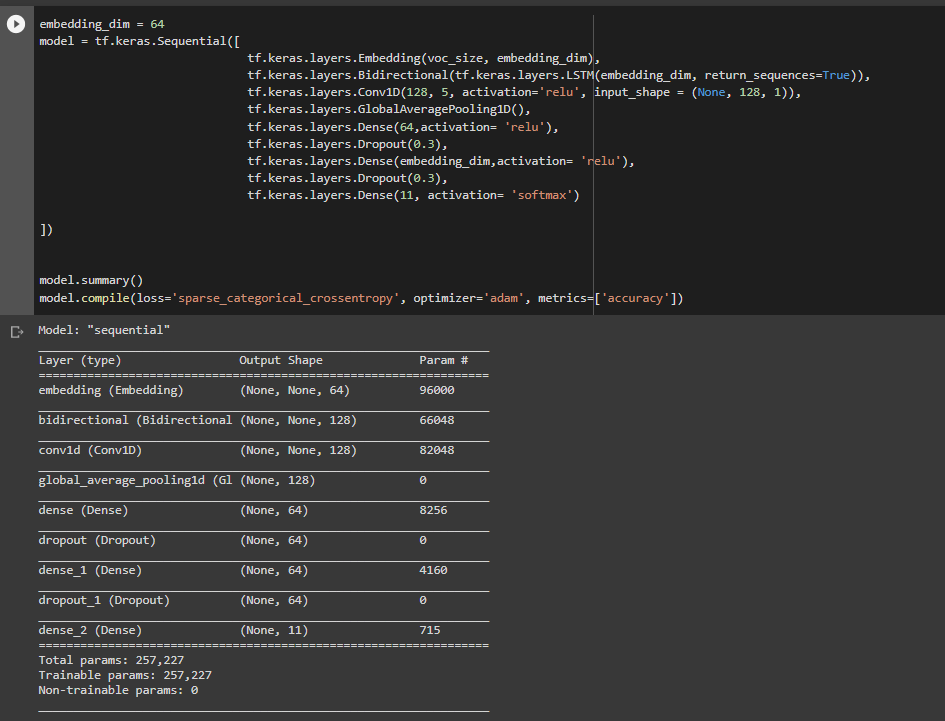


Fig 28: Bidirectional LSTM code snippet

Initially, we tried to train the model for a different 20 number of epochs, but after 8 epochs, the validation accuracy was the same, and train accuracy moved up to 94%. Therefore, to avoid the overfitting of the train data to the model, we restricted the number of epochs to 8, and we got a good accuracy of 85.47% on train data and 75.76% on the test data. Below is the model's output, along with the loss and accuracy for train and validation data.

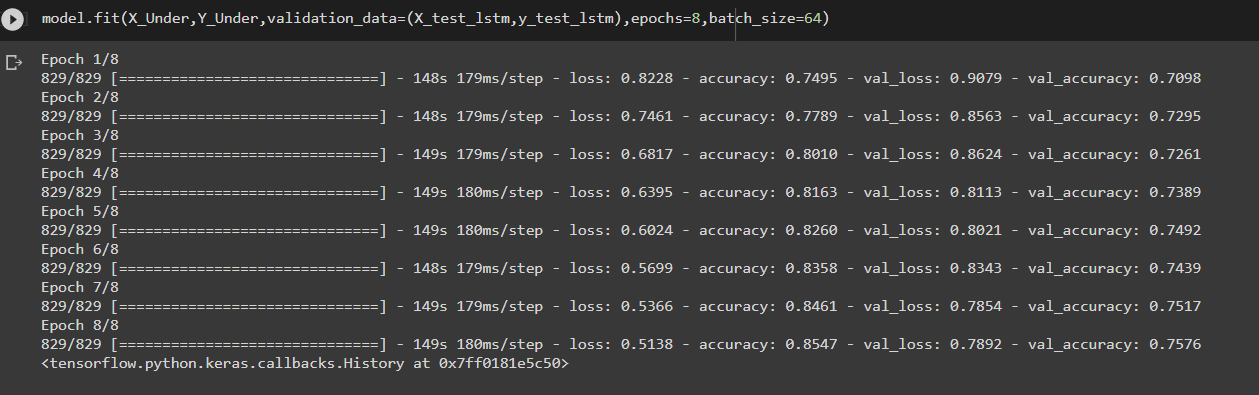
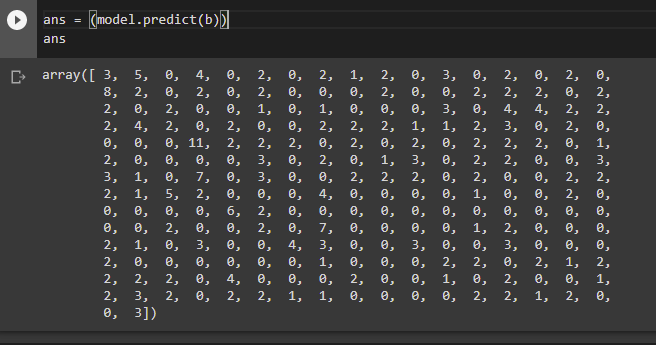


Fig 29: Training for Bidirectional LSTM

After building these five models, we extracted data from the New York Times' Twitter account using tweepy and fed the data to our Random Forest model, Multinomial logistic regression model, and Bi-Directional LSTM model. After seeing the performance of each model, we decided to go ahead with Bi-Directional LSTM and deploy the model using the Flask framework. Below is the snapshot of passing the twitter data collected using tweepy.

Fig 30: Example out of tweets passed to logistic regression model pickle file

The above snapshot is an example of the output of our model when we passed 240 tweets to the model extracted from tweepy and manually checked which model performs better.

**Deployment**

Flask App:

It is a micro web framework that is written in Python to build Rest API. It is termed as a microframework as it does not require tools or any libraries. It can be used to build complex applications.

The main components required for deployment are:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pickle file | App.py file | Requirements.txt file | HTML/CSS file |

Creating a pickle file comes after the machine learning models are developed and the best model is selected. The Bidirectional LSTM model is chosen for this classification problem to identify the category of articles. The pickle file is then created to store the object. The object here is the classifier that predicts the category of the article.

First, we need to create an instance to use the Flask app. All the requests from the clients are received and passed for handling using WSGI protocol (Web Server Gateway Interface). The requirements file contains all the libraries required for the flask app to run the model. Along with the libraries, the version number must be specified to avoid errors.

We must define a way for the client to send a request. When the client goes to the URL the function associated with it is called at the Flask app to run the specified function. The user can then perform the different functions available on the web page. Every time the user calls a request, the request gets through the Flask app, runs through the function defined and gives the output is displayed on the webpage.

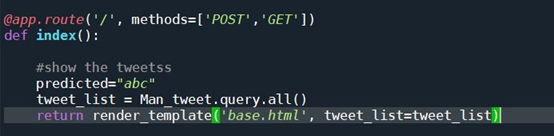


Fig 31: Route function to display the webpage when URL is called.

When a URL is called, we have designed a base.html file and API\_tweets file that will be used to display the webpage and prediction respectively. The model is loaded to the flask app and the text containing the tweet from New York Times Twitter page. The preprocessing steps are specified in the flask app to eliminate the stop words. The model gets the preprocessed text as an input and classifies it to one of the 11 classes. The output is a list containing the value of the class. To display the category name, we have specified a dictionary that will map the value to the category. The Python dictionary is called while returning the prediction along with the confidence score.

The designed User Interface was kept simple, responsive, efficient, and concise. The home page can be split into three functional areas.

1. The common screen header: The New York Times logo was used as a standard screen header for both the base html page and the result html page. Along with the logo, there is also a heading for what the page is responsible for.
2. The tweet entry: There is a small input text box for the tweet text. Along with the text box, there is a button which adds the tweet into the SQLAlchemy. SQLAlchemy is a database toolkit for Python.
3. Stored tweets details: This section consists of all the tweets that were entered into the database by the user. It also includes an option to delete a specific tweet. The section has a button which redirects to the results page, returning the predicted category and confidence of the prediction.

.

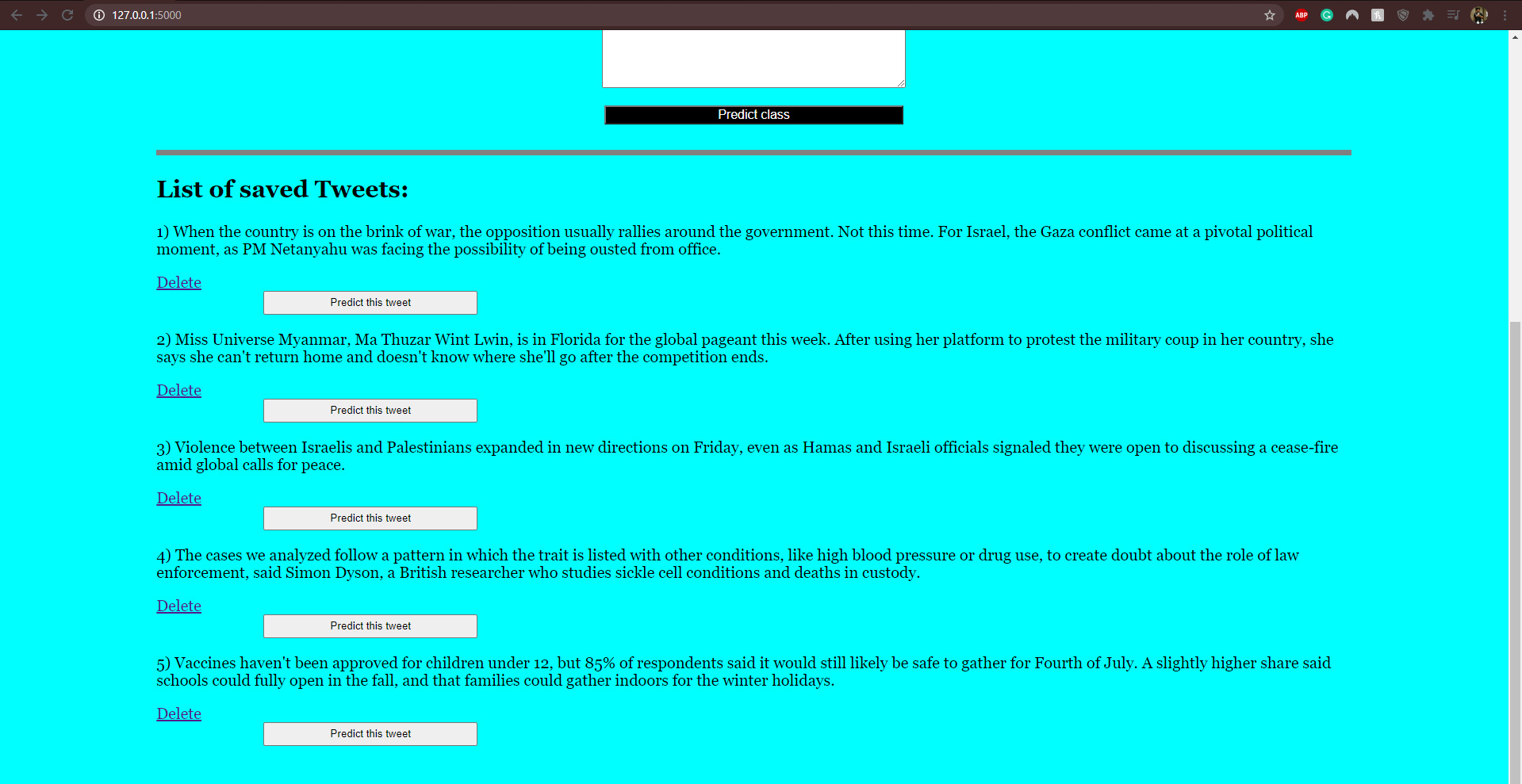


Fig 32: UI for tweets

The results or the prediction page is split into two categories:

1. The common screen header.
2. The result: This section gives the result for the tweet that was selected from the previous page. It contains two variables the main category of the tweet and the confidence of the result.



Fig 33: UI for predicted tweet



Fig 34: UI for predicted tweet



Fig 35: UI for predicted tweet



Fig 36: UI for predicted tweet

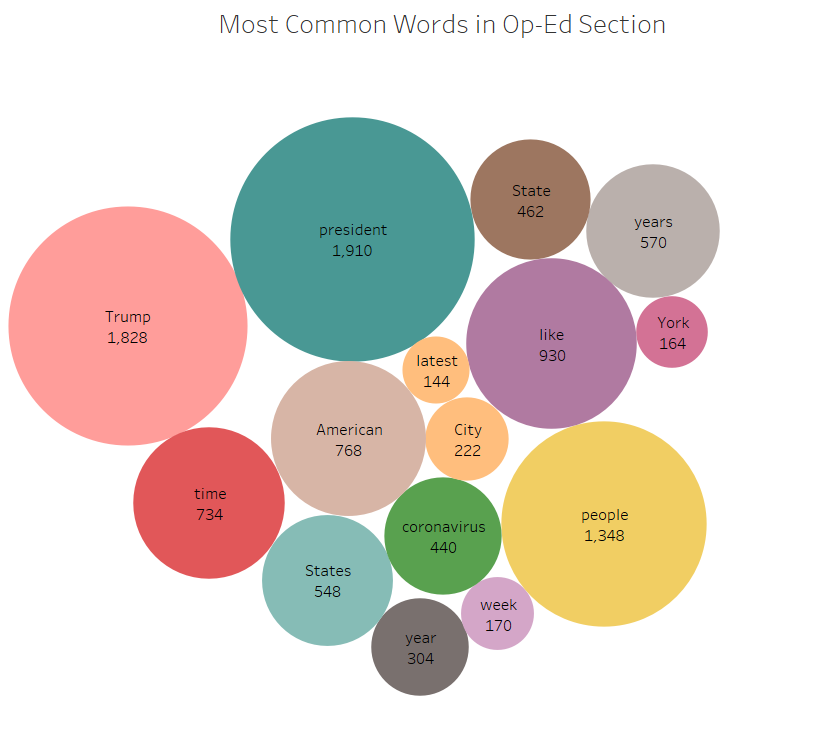
**Research Questions**

RQ1

1. The op-ed section is a platform for authors to communicate personality by storytelling and appealing experiences. The publication is not affiliated with any articles published in this section. Does the op-ed section have these kinds of articles? Or is it just another platform where disputes are bred? Does the op-ed section need more scaling down of data and separated into distinct categories?  We will analyze the articles to find out whether the op-ed section answers the above questions.

The above question can be answered by analyzing headlines of the articles in the Op-Ed section. The fields that can help us answer this question are -

* material\_type
* snippet

Fig 37: Bubble chart most common words in Op-ed

The above word-cloud shows the most familiar words in the headlines of articles coming under the Op-Ed section.

From the word cloud, we can see that the Op-Ed section is flooded with political articles. Op-ed is the short form for "opposite the editorial page." It does not mean that it is a designated space for "opinions and editorials." Still, it is typically a space for content published by the magazine or newspaper expressing an author's opinion. These authors are not a part of the publisher's editorial board.

For the past few years, this section has been a breeding ground for political disputes. The term 'trump' was in the headline of about 1,828 op-ed articles. Other words like 'Democrats,' 'Biden,' and 'Election' were also seen in most articles. Although many agencies try to break up the opinion section into distinct categories, it is a hassle to seek the separation between these sections for many people who want to read something new.

Based on analysis, it can make some conclusions and decisions to overcome the issue. Printing and publishing articles under this section that may spark outrage or convey any sign of hatred to the public should be avoid.

Even if the articles are published in the opinions section, it is often not distinctive to the public who disagree with what is written in it. This often leads to criticism towards the publisher itself, even when the author is not affiliated with the publishing board. Therefore, it is necessary to further filter the articles into more distinct categories.

RQ2

1. Will the number of classes affect the accuracy of the model?

Initially, data were collected for four years from N.Y. Time Archive API. The data consisted of 62 news categories. With such a massive number of classes, it was tough to classify the data correctly. In addition, some categories with fewer than 50 news caused the data to be highly imbalanced as some sections had 48000 records. Therefore, we eliminated the classes with less than 700 news articles and lowered the number of classes to 40 and tried to build the classification. However, the accuracy of the model was not good.

As mentioned in the model building section, we tried several combinations with the classes to lower the class by combining multiple classes with similar meaning or dropping the classes with fewer occurrences.

Finally, we build the model with 11 classes of news category as it was most successful in categorizing the news.

As the number of classes increase in the data, the model's accuracy was dropping significantly. Finally, we had to reach an optimal number of classes in which our model will give an acceptable output.

So, by implementing different combinations of the classes for a successfully classifying news section, we concluded that the number of classes plays an essential role in the model accuracy. Below is the snapshot of the classes on which the model was built.

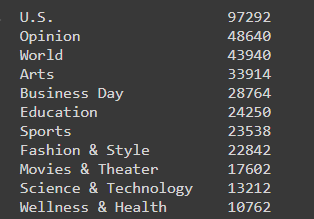


Fig 38: Total number of articles in each section

RQ3

1. How the features(words) and labels (categories of news) correlate with each other? What best keywords can we determine the category of news?

From the word clouds in the Data Visualization section, we can derive a relation between a particular set of words and specific categories. For instance, the Sports section has more instances of words like 'team',' player,' 'season,' and 'world-cup'. This could drastically help in determining which category a particular article belongs to.

These are the most prevailing words in the sections:

1. Opinion – Trump, Government, Politics, United States.
2. Sports – Team, Player, World Cup, Season.
3. Business Day – nCov, Company, Stock, Bonds, Economy.
4. Fashion & Style – Wedding, Society, Apparel, Engagements.
5. U.S. - Politics, President, Trump, United States.
6. Science & Technology – Computers, Internet, social media.
7. Arts – Pop, Rock, Classical Music, Television.
8. Education – Book, Literature, Book Review.
9. Movies & Theater – Leisure, Review, Culture, Arts, Play.
10. Wellness & Health – Coronavirus, Science, Patients, nCov.
11. World – United States, Defense, International Relations, Military Force.

These familiar words in the above categories can be used to determine the types of articles containing these words more effectively. The correlation between words and certain categories can be seen overall in all the categories.

These words can also be further used to gain insights into what really is trending in a specific category during a particular period. For example, in the dataset, we have data ranging from June 2017 to May 2021. We can see that the World section is full of words depicting a war-like situation. Words like 'Defense,' 'International Relations,' 'Military Force' tell us that the World section during this time was full of articles based on bad relations between some set of bodies.

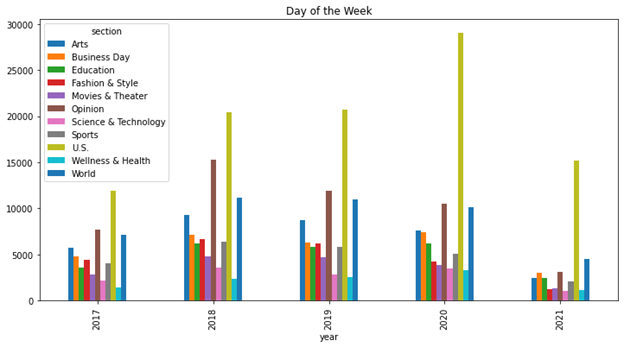
RQ4

1. Is it possible to extract any time series pattern from the data collected from the archive API and help with the categories?

In statistical analyses, time-series data is collected from specific time intervals to analyze the trends and seasonality. The data is analyzed using Python and Tableau to get the required visualizations. Time Series analysis can be instrumental in making future predictions and decisions. Restricting the data to specific intervals will advantage analysts to identify trends and present the findings. Analysts can define their intervals depending on the output they are trying to achieve or the most used type of intervals.

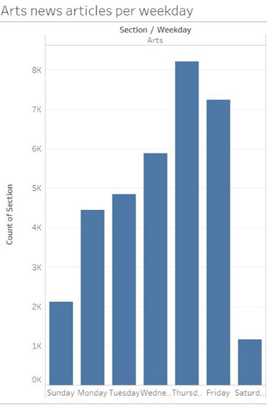
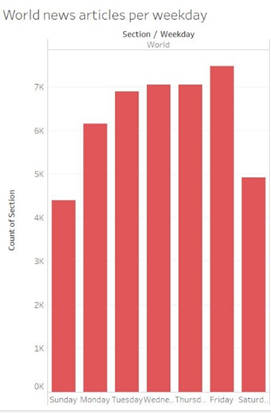
|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| yearly | quarterly | monthly | weekly | daily |

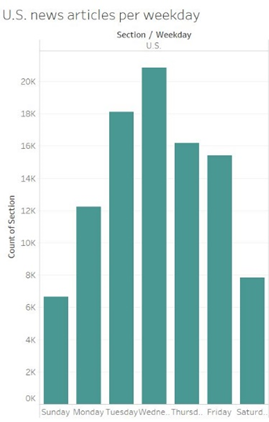
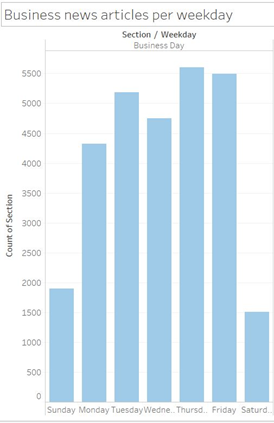
In this project, we have the data for five years from 2017 – 2021 to analyze the article published by the New York Times. The number of articles published over the five years can be seen from the below histogram. For each calendar year, we have eleven histograms representing the category of articles.

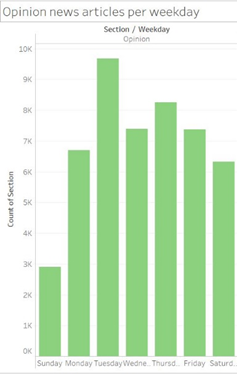
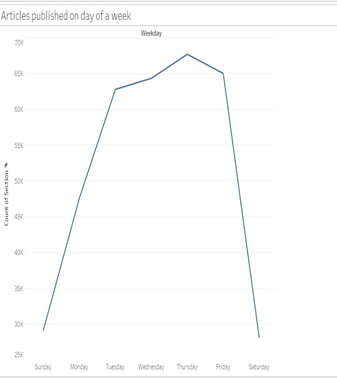
Fig 39: Frequency of articles for eleven sections over five years

We have captured the top five categories to understand the patterns hidden in the data. Arts, World News, Business, Opinion, and U.S. articles were the top 5 categories for all five years. The U.S. news remained on the top for the five years, followed by Opinion articles.

Top 5 categories for New York Times for day of the week:

  Fig 40: Articles for Arts section Fig 41: Articles for World News section

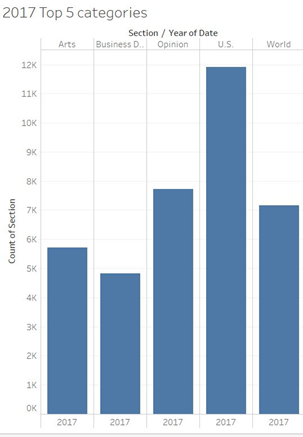
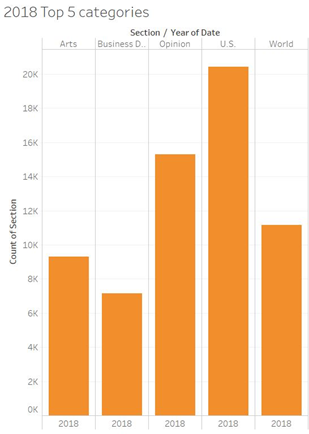
  Fig 42: No. of articles for U.S. News section Fig 43: No. of articles for Business section

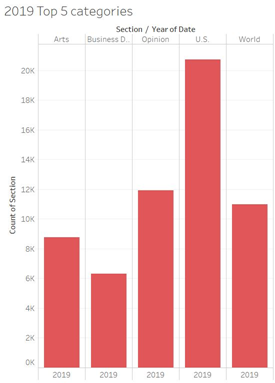
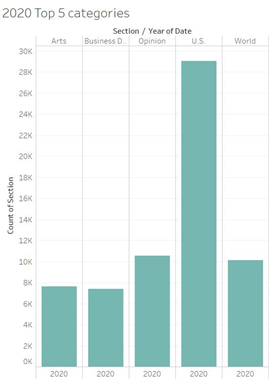
  Fig 44: No. of articles for Arts section Fig 45: No. of articles per day of week

We can observe each category has a specific weekday with most of its articles being published. A general trend was observed like articles on Arts were posted on Wednesday, article on Business was posted on Thursday, Opinion on Tuesday, U.S. on Wednesday, and World's news on Friday. This gives us a piece of evidence that the New York Times primarily focuses on Weekdays rather than the weekend to publish its articles. The reason might be the number of readers actively visiting the website on weekends is less when compared to weekdays. As we discuss New York Times follows a particular pattern while publishing its articles. The articles are published depending on the weekday to give the readers a different content they have read on the previous day.

We have also analyzed the type of articles published over the years. This analysis will help us to identify the category of articles that have gained popularity or vice versa over the years. As we know, The Corona Virus pandemic has affected many people. We tried to find the evidence from the yearly data to understand the impact of coronavirus and the news articles generated about the pandemic.

Top five categories yearly:

  Fig 46: Top five sections frequency in year 2017 Fig 47: Top five sections frequency in year 2018

  Fig 48: Top five sections frequency in year 2019 Fig 49: Top five sections frequency in year 2020

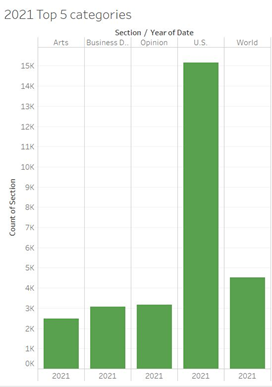


Fig 50: Top five sections frequency in year 2021

As we discussed, the number of U.S. category articles published is more compared to other categories. We can observe the U.S. category articles for the years 2018 and 2019 are almost similar (>20,000). For the calendar year 2020, we can see the increase in U.S. category articles; 7000 articles were published more than in previous years. This can be evidence to understand the increase in articles explaining the people and businesses affected in the United States due to COVID -19 pandemic.

The opinion and World category articles have plummeted. The reason might be the articles focusing on tackling the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and the presidential elections held during the year 2020 is also a reason for the increase in articles about things happening inside the United States.

RQ5

1. How well did the model classify? Was the accuracy acceptable?

Confusion Matrix – Confusion matrix is a tabular representation of how well the model performs. The matrix describes the efficiency of the classification model based on the set of data for which the actual values are known. By comparing the proportions, it becomes easy to calculate the accuracy, misclassification rate, precision, etc.

1. Accuracy: Overall, how often is the model correct?
2. Precision: If the model predicts a positive value, how often is it right?
3. Recall: The proportion of actual positive values that were identified correctly
4. F1-Score: The weighted average of recall and precision
5. Support: The number of occurrences of each class in the test data set.
6. Loss: It is the distance between the values in the problem and the values predicted by the model.

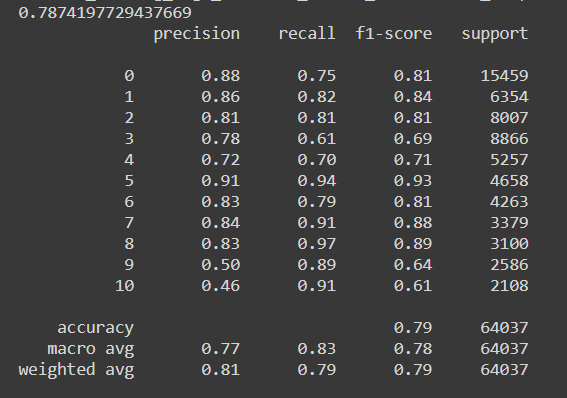


Fig 51: Precision, Recall, F1-score, and support values for multinomial logistic regression model.



Fig 52: Loss, Accuracy, Validation Loss, and Validation Accuracy for the Bi-directional LSTM Model.

The Multinomial Logistic Regression model and the Bi-directional LSTMs were the most efficient classification models. As can be seen from the above values, both models have an accuracy of over 75%. But the multinomial logistic regression model has better accuracy than all the other classification models. It implies that the model is statistically significant, and it can be accepted.

**Conclusion**

We successfully built news classifierusing Random Forest, Multinomial Logistic Regression, Bi-directional LSTM, Decision Tree, Gaussian Naïve Bayes to categorize the tweet into a specific category. Out of these, Multinomial Logistic Regression and Bi-directional LSTM models were performing comparatively better than the others. A simple, efficient, and precise user interface was developed, which was deployed with the help of Python and Flask. The model was successful in predicting the category of tweets with a certain confidence level.

Following are some findings that can be inferred from the analysis done.

1. The New York Times can focus on the Op-Ed section and filter it into more categories so that the section feels different from the trending topics of politics and the world. They can focus on articles based on Art, Life, or Sports.
2. With the help of visualizations, it was possible to determine the most prevailing words in a particular category. This set of most familiar words in a specific category would help determine the category of an unknown article.
3. The number of categories plays a significant role as far as the accuracy of the model is concerned. The model was tested on about 40 categories, which yielded an extremely low accuracy. On the other hand, when the same model was tested on 11 generalized categories, the accuracy was much higher.
4. The New York Times primarily focuses on weekdays rather than the weekends to publish its articles. The reason behind this to gain more audience attention during weekends. Since a significant recent time, it can also be seen that the World and U.S. articles have plummeted because of reasons like the U.S. elections or the Coronavirus.
5. The classification model was statistically significant. This model tested the data based on all critical categories present in The New York Times and accurately predicted that 75% of the articles fall under the expected class.

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**Appendix –**

**Model building code**

import os

import glob

import json

import time

import requests

import datetime

import dateutil

import pandas as pd

import re

import seaborn as sns

from wordcloud import WordCloud, STOPWORDS, ImageColorGenerator

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

from dateutil.relativedelta import relativedelta

import nltk

nltk.download('stopwords')

nltk.download('punkt')

from nltk.corpus import stopwords

from nltk.tokenize import word\_tokenize

from sklearn import preprocessing

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

from sklearn.feature\_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer

from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier

from sklearn.metrics import accuracy\_score, classification\_report

from google.colab import drive

import tensorflow as tf

from tensorflow.keras.layers import Embedding

from tensorflow.keras.preprocessing.sequence import pad\_sequences

from tensorflow.keras.models import Sequential

from tensorflow.keras.preprocessing.text import one\_hot

from tensorflow.keras.layers import LSTM

from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dense

from tensorflow.keras.layers import Bidirectional

from tensorflow.keras.layers import Dropout

import nltk

import re

from nltk.corpus import stopwords

from nltk.stem.porter import PorterStemmer

from keras.models import load\_model

nltk.download('stopwords')

drive.mount('/drive')

end = datetime.date.today()

start = end - relativedelta(years=4)

print(end, start)

months\_in\_range = [x.split(' ') for x in pd.date\_range(start, end, freq='MS').strftime("%Y %-m").tolist()]

print(months\_in\_range)

def send\_request(date):

'''Sends a request to the NYT Archive API for given date.'''

base\_url = 'https://api.nytimes.com/svc/archive/v1/'

url = base\_url + date[0] + '/' + date[1] + '.json?api-key=' + '5bBmcpCW4fOGtnBURGCXLoVFo887iwWX'

response = requests.get(url).json()

time.sleep(6)

return response

def is\_valid(article, date):

'''An article is only worth checking if it is in range, and has a headline.'''

is\_in\_range = date > start and date < end

has\_headline = type(article['headline']) == dict and 'main' in article['headline'].keys()

return is\_in\_range and has\_headline

def parse\_response(response):

'''Parses and returns response as pandas data frame.'''

data = {'headline': [],

'date': [],

'doc\_type': [],

'material\_type': [],

'section': [],

'news\_desk':[],

'abstract':[],

'keywords': [],

'lead\_paragraph':[],

'snippet':[]}

articles = response['response']['docs']

for article in articles:

date = dateutil.parser.parse(article['pub\_date']).date()

if is\_valid(article, date):

data['date'].append(date)

data['headline'].append(article['headline']['main'])

if 'section\_name' in article:

data['section'].append(article['section\_name'])

else:

data['section'].append(None)

data['doc\_type'].append(article['document\_type'])

if 'type\_of\_material' in article:

data['material\_type'].append(article['type\_of\_material'])

else:

data['material\_type'].append(None)

if 'abstract' in article:

data['abstract'].append(article['abstract'])

else:

data['abstract'].append(None)

if 'news\_desk' in article:

data['news\_desk'].append(article['news\_desk'])

else:

data['news\_desk'].append(None)

if 'lead\_paragraph' in article:

data['lead\_paragraph'].append(article['lead\_paragraph'])

else:

data['lead\_paragraph'].append(None)

if 'snippet' in article:

data['snippet'].append(article['snippet'])

else:

data['snippet'].append(None)

keywords = [keyword['value'] for keyword in article['keywords'] if keyword['name'] == 'subject']

new\_keywords = listToString(keywords)

data['keywords'].append(new\_keywords)

return pd.DataFrame(data)

def listToString(s):

str1 = ""

for ele in s:

str1 += (ele+",")

return str1

def word\_cloud(text,color):

wordcloud = WordCloud(max\_font\_size=50, max\_words=100, background\_color=color).generate(text)

plt.imshow(wordcloud, interpolation='bilinear')

plt.axis("off")

plt.show()

def get\_data(dates):

'''Sends and parses request/response to/from NYT Archive API for given dates.'''

total = 0

print('Date range: ' + str(dates[0]) + ' to ' + str(dates[-1]))

if not os.path.exists('headlines'):

os.mkdir('headlines')

for date in dates:

response = send\_request(date)

df = parse\_response(response)

total += len(df)

df.to\_csv('headlines/' + date[0] + '-' + date[1] + '.csv', index=False)

print('Saving headlines/' + date[0] + '-' + date[1] + '.csv...')

print('Number of articles collected: ' + str(total))

def preprocess\_text(text):

text = text.lower().replace('\n',' ').replace('\r','').strip()

text = re.sub(' +',' ',text)

text = re.sub(r'[^\w\s]','',text)

return text

def tokenize\_stopwords(text):

stop\_words = set(stopwords.words('english'))

word\_token = word\_tokenize(text)

filter\_sentence = [w for w in word\_token if not w in stop\_words]

text = ' '.join(filter\_sentence)

return text

def stemming(messages):

ps = PorterStemmer()

corpus = []

for i in range(0, len(messages)):

print(i)

review = re.sub('[^a-zA-Z]', ' ', messages[i])

review = review.lower()

review = review.split()

review = [ps.stem(word) for word in review if not word in stopwords.words('english')]

review = ' '.join(review)

corpus.append(review)

return corpus

get\_data(months\_in\_range)

os.chdir("/content/headlines")

extension = 'csv'

all\_filenames = [i for i in glob.glob('\*.{}'.format(extension))]

combined\_csv = pd.concat([pd.read\_csv(f) for f in all\_filenames ])

combined\_csv.to\_csv( "combined\_csv.csv", index=False, encoding='utf-8-sig')

data = pd.read\_csv('/content/headlines/combined\_csv.csv')

data.head()

len(data)

sections\_abstract\_count = data.groupby('section')['abstract'].nunique()

print(sections\_abstract\_count)

print(len(sections\_abstract\_count))

data['section'].value\_counts()

data['section'].replace(['Well', 'Health'], 'Wellness & Health', inplace = True)

data['section'].replace(['Fashion & Style', 'Style'], 'Fashion & Style', inplace = True)

data['section'].replace('New York', 'U.S.', inplace = True)

data['section'].replace(['Books', 'The Learning Network'], 'Education', inplace = True)

data['section'].replace(['Science', 'Technology'], 'Science & Technology', inplace = True)

data['section'].replace(['Movies', 'Theater'], 'Movies & Theater', inplace = True)

# data['section'].replace('U.S', 'U.S.', inplace = True)

# data['section'].replace('T Magazine', 'Magazine', inplace = True)

# data['section'].replace(['Movies', 'Arts', 'Theater'], 'Entertainment', inplace = True)

data['section'].value\_counts()

data = data[data.groupby('section').section.transform('count')>=10000].copy()

(data['section'].value\_counts())

sections\_abstract\_count1 = data.groupby('section')['abstract'].nunique()

sections\_abstract\_count1

len(data['section'].value\_counts())

data.isnull().any()

data.isnull().sum()

data.dropna(subset=['headline','material\_type', 'keywords', 'snippet','abstract','news\_desk','lead\_paragraph'],axis=0,inplace=True)

data.isnull().sum()

sns.set(rc={'figure.figsize':(20,15)})

sns.countplot(data.section)

data['news\_length'] = data['headline'].str.len() + data['abstract'].str.len() + data['lead\_paragraph'].str.len() + data['keywords'].str.len()

data['news\_length']

data['news\_length'].max()

data['text'] = data['headline'] + " "+ data['abstract'] + " "+ data['lead\_paragraph'] +" "+ data['keywords']

data['text'][0]

sns.set()

\_ = plt.hist(data['news\_length'],bins=70)

\_ = plt.xlabel("length")

\_ = plt.ylabel("count")

plt.show()

categories = data['section'].unique()

i = 1

for category in categories:

subset = data[data.section == category]

sns.set(rc={'figure.figsize':(12,10)})

text = subset.abstract.values + subset.headline.values + subset.lead\_paragraph.values + subset.keywords.values + subset.news\_desk.values

word = ' '.join(text)

print('\n' + str(i) + '. ' + category.upper() + '\n')

if (i % 2 == 0):

word\_cloud(word,'white')

else:

word\_cloud(word,'black')

i = i + 1

data['parsed\_text'] = data['text'].apply(preprocess\_text)

data['parsed\_text'] = data['parsed\_text'].apply(tokenize\_stopwords)

data.head()

section\_codes = {'U.S.': 0,

'Arts': 1,

'World': 2,

'Opinion': 3,

'Business Day': 4,

'Sports': 5,

'Fashion & Style': 6,

'Movies & Theater': 7,

'Education': 8,

'Science & Technology': 9,

'Wellness & Health': 10,

}

data['section\_code'] = data['section']

data = data.replace({'section\_code':section\_codes})

print(len(data))

y = [0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11]

for x in y:

print(data[data['section\_code'] == x])

x +=1

print(len(data))

lstm\_data = data.copy()

voc\_size = 1500

messages = lstm\_data['text'].copy()

messages = messages.reset\_index(drop= True)

corpus = stemming(messages)

corpus

totalLne = len(corpus)

i = 0

maxLen = 0

while i < totalLne:

currentLen = len(corpus[i])

if currentLen > maxLen:

maxLen = currentLen

i += 1

print(maxLen)

onehot\_repr=[one\_hot(words,voc\_size)for words in corpus]

onehot\_repr

sent\_length=1500

embedded\_docs=pad\_sequences(onehot\_repr,padding='pre',maxlen=sent\_length)

print(embedded\_docs)

train\_label = data['section\_code']

len(train\_label.value\_counts())

train\_label = train\_label.reset\_index(drop= True)

print(len(train\_label), len(corpus))

embedding\_dim = 64

model = tf.keras.Sequential([

tf.keras.layers.Embedding(voc\_size, embedding\_dim),

tf.keras.layers.Bidirectional(tf.keras.layers.LSTM(embedding\_dim, return\_sequences=True)),

tf.keras.layers.Conv1D(128, 5, activation='relu', input\_shape = (None, 128, 1)),

tf.keras.layers.GlobalAveragePooling1D(),

tf.keras.layers.Dense(64,activation= 'relu'),

tf.keras.layers.Dropout(0.3),

tf.keras.layers.Dense(embedding\_dim,activation= 'relu'),

tf.keras.layers.Dropout(0.3),

tf.keras.layers.Dense(11, activation= 'softmax')

])

model.summary()

model.compile(loss='sparse\_categorical\_crossentropy', optimizer='adam', metrics=['accuracy'])

import numpy as np

X\_final=(embedded\_docs)

y\_final=(train\_label)

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

X\_train\_lstm, X\_test\_lstm, y\_train\_lstm, y\_test\_lstm = train\_test\_split(X\_final, y\_final, test\_size=0.33, random\_state=14)

y\_train\_lstm.value\_counts()

from sklearn.datasets import make\_classification

from imblearn.under\_sampling import RandomUnderSampler

under = RandomUnderSampler(sampling\_strategy={0:5000,1:5000,2:5000,3:5000, 4: 5000, 5: 5000, 6:5000, 7:5000}, random\_state=10)

under.fit(X\_train\_lstm, y\_train\_lstm)

X\_Under, Y\_Under = under.fit\_sample(X\_train\_lstm, y\_train\_lstm)

y\_test\_lstm.replace('Movies & Theater', 7, inplace= True)

x\_test\_lstm = np.array(x\_test\_lstm, dtype=np.float)

y\_test\_lstm = np.array(y\_test\_lstm, dtype=np.float)

model.fit(X\_Under,Y\_Under,validation\_data=(X\_test\_lstm,y\_test\_lstm),epochs=8,batch\_size=64)

# Commented out IPython magic to ensure Python compatibility.

# %load\_ext tensorboard

# %tensorboard --logdir logs

model.save("BidirectionalLSTMLowerClasses.h5")

"""Implementing ML models"""

#splitting data into test & train

X\_train, X\_test, y\_train,y\_test = train\_test\_split(data['parsed\_text'],data['section\_code'],test\_size = 0.2,random\_state=8)

print(X\_train.shape)

print(y\_train.shape)

print(y\_test.shape)

print(X\_test.shape)

ngram\_range = (1,2)

min\_df = 10

max\_df = 1.

max\_features = 5000

tfidf = TfidfVectorizer(encoding='utf-8',

ngram\_range = ngram\_range,

stop\_words = None,

lowercase = False,

max\_df = max\_df,

min\_df = min\_df,

max\_features = max\_features,

norm = 'l2',

sublinear\_tf = True

)

train\_features = tfidf.fit\_transform(X\_train).toarray()

train\_label = y\_train

test\_features = tfidf.transform(X\_test).toarray()

test\_label = y\_test

from sklearn.datasets import make\_classification

from imblearn.under\_sampling import RandomUnderSampler

under = RandomUnderSampler(sampling\_strategy={0:5000,1:5000,2:5000,3:5000, 4: 5000, 5: 5000, 6:5000, 7:5000}, random\_state=10)

#under.fit(train\_features, train\_label)

train\_features, train\_label = under.fit\_sample(train\_features, train\_label)

print(test\_label.shape)

print(train\_label.shape)

print(train\_features.shape)

print(test\_features.shape)

# train\_features.sum()

"""##Random Forest Model"""

model = RandomForestClassifier()

model.fit(train\_features,train\_label)

predictions = model.predict(test\_features)

print(accuracy\_score(test\_label,predictions))

print(classification\_report(test\_label,predictions))

print(accuracy\_score(test\_label,predictions))

print(classification\_report(test\_label,predictions))

"""##Logistic Regression

"""

from sklearn.linear\_model import LogisticRegression

model = LogisticRegression(multi\_class='multinomial', solver='lbfgs')

model.fit(train\_features,train\_label)

predictions = model.predict(test\_features)

print(accuracy\_score(test\_label,predictions))

print(classification\_report(test\_label,predictions))

"""# Decision Tree"""

from sklearn.tree import DecisionTreeClassifier

model = DecisionTreeClassifier()

model.fit(train\_features,train\_label)

predictions = model.predict(test\_features)

print(accuracy\_score(test\_label,predictions))

print(classification\_report(test\_label,predictions))

"""# Naive Bayes"""

from sklearn.naive\_bayes import GaussianNB

model = GaussianNB()

model.fit(train\_features,train\_label)

predictions = model.predict(test\_features)

print(accuracy\_score(test\_label,predictions))

print(classification\_report(test\_label,predictions))

#print(predictions)

from sklearn.model\_selection import GridSearchCV

n\_estimators = [100,300,500,800]

max\_depth = [5,10,15,25]

min\_samples\_split = [2,5,10,15,20]

min\_samples\_leaf = [1,2,5,10]

hyperF = dict(n\_estimators = n\_estimators, max\_depth = max\_depth,min\_samples\_split=min\_samples\_split,min\_samples\_leaf=min\_samples\_leaf)

hyperF

hyperF.bes

model = RandomForestClassifier()

model.fit()