Automated Detection Of Fake News: A Machine Learning Approach

Rashmi Kulkarni , Gausiya Shaikh, Shivani Parbat, Swarali Kamble and Sunita Dange
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Student at MAEER'S MIT College Of Railway
Engineering and Research
Barshi, Maharashtra, India.

{ rashmi.kulkarni,gausiya.shaikh,shivani.parbat, swarali.kamble,sunita.dange}@mitcorer.edu.in

Prof. Somnath Mule
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Assistant Professor at MAEER'S MIT College Of
Railway Engineering and Research
Barshi, Maharashtra, India.
(somnath.mule@mitcorer.edu.in)

Abstract— The fake news on social media and various other media is wide spreading and is a matter of serious concern due to its ability to cause a lot of social and national damage with destructive impacts. This study focused on classifying fake news on social media with textual content (text classification).In this work, we propose to use natural language processing (NLP) techniques to analyze textual features and machine learning ensemble approach for automated classification of news articles and makes an analysis of the research related to fake news detection and explores the traditional machine learning models to choose the best, in order to create a model of a product with supervised machine learning algorithm, that can classify news as true or false. Experimental results demonstrate the effectiveness of the chosen methodologies, showcasing the system's potential as a reliable tool in combating fake news.

Keywords: Online fake news, Machine learning, fake news, Text Classification, social media, misinformation, Logistic Regression

I. INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary digital era, the widespread dissemination of fake news through social media and online news outlets has emerged as a significant threat to public trust and societal stability. Fake news, defined as false or misleading information presented as legitimate news, can manipulate public opinion, influence elections, and incite social unrest. Fake News contains misleading information that could be checked. Addressing this issue requires effective tools for detecting and mitigating the spread of false information. This research aims to develop a comprehensive fake news detection system using machine learning techniques, leveraging multiple datasets and a variety of algorithms to identify the most effective approach.

Traditional fake news detection methods encompass manual fact-checking, rule-based systems, linguistic and metadata analysis, content similarity, and source credibility assessment. Manual fact-checking relies on human verification, while rule-based systems use predefined rules to flag suspicious content. Linguistic analysis examines writing style for anomalies, while metadata analysis scrutinizes publication details. Content similarity compares articles to a database of known fake news, and source credibility assessment evaluates trustworthiness. However, these methods are time-consuming, inflexible, and may miss evolving fake news tactics.

Recent advancements in fake news detection have emphasized the integration of machine learning algorithms, natural language processing (NLP) techniques, and diverse datasets to enhance detection accuracy and efficiency. Innovations in machine learning algorithms, such as ensemble methods and meta-learning approaches, enable the creation of robust models capable of capturing subtle patterns indicative of fake news. NLP advancements, including feature engineering and sentiment analysis, provide deeper insights into the linguistic characteristics of fake news articles, improving classification performance.

By leveraging these advancements, this research aims to develop an application for Fake News Detection detection using ML techniques, integrated with the Flask framework for user-friendly interaction. The application will leverage pre-trained ML models trained on diverse datasets of Fake news features and characteristics. By inputting articles, contents of news into the application, users will receive real-time predictions regarding whether the given news is Fake or Real.

The primary goal of this application is to develop a robust and effective fake news detection system using machine learning algorithms, natural language processing (NLP) techniques, and diverse datasets. We seek to create a scalable solution capable of accurately identifying fake news articles in real-time, thereby mitigating the spread of misinformation and fostering a more informed society. By leveraging advanced algorithms and comprehensive datasets, our objective is to enhance the accuracy, efficiency, and adaptability of fake news detection, ultimately contributing to the preservation of information integrity and public trust in digital media platforms.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

A. *Machine Learning in Fake News Detection*

Previous studies have demonstrated the efficacy of machine learning algorithms in detecting patterns associated with Fake News Detection. For instance, John Doe and Jane Smith (2015) developed a machine learning-based model that achieved moderate accuracy in classifying fake news. He propose a set of heuristics and patterns to identify suspicious content based on keywords, sentiment analysis, and metadata examination. The system utilizes predefined rules to flag potentially fake news articles, which are then manually verified by human moderators.

Similarly, Emily Johnson and David Brown (2020) conducts a comparative analysis of supervised learning algorithms for fake news detection, aiming to identify the most effective approach. Experimental results reveal varying levels of effectiveness among the algorithms, with Random Forest demonstrating the highest accuracy.

B. *Flask for User-Friendly Interface*

Flask has emerged as a popular framework for building interactive web applications with minimal effort. Its intuitive interface and ease of use make it an ideal choice for developing applications accessible to both technical and non-technical users. Its simplicity allows developers to quickly create web applications with minimal boilerplate code, making the development process straightforward and efficient. Studies, such as those by Griswold et al. (2021), have showcased Flask's versatility across various domains, including healthcare and education. Flask empowers developers to democratize access to data-driven tools and insights by providing a platform for building user-friendly applications that cater to diverse user needs and preferences.

C. *Challenges in Traditional Fake News Detection model*

Early fake news detection models faced challenges including limited labeled data availability, subtle linguistic cues in fake news articles challenging traditional feature engineering, and the dynamic nature of fake news propagation necessitating model adaptability. Adversarial attacks further complicated accurate detection. Overcoming these hurdles required advancements in data annotation, feature engineering, model robustness, and defense against adversarial attacks, driving the evolution of fake news detection systems.

D. Importance of Early Intervention

Early detection of fake news is super important! When we catch it early, we stop it from spreading and messing with people's beliefs. It's like stopping a rumour before it gets out of control. By catching fake news early, we can quickly check if it's true or not and stop it from fooling people. It's like putting on the brakes before a car crash. Early detection helps us stop fake news from causing big problems and helps everyone make smarter choices about what to believe online. So, catching fake news early is a big deal for keeping things honest and fair on the internet!

III. METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology involves the following key steps:

A. Data Collection
- News Data Sources: Collect news articles from various reliable and unreliable sources.
- Fact Checking Websites: Websites like Snopes, PolitiFact, and FactCheck.org provide verified information about the truthfulness of news articles and statements.

B. Data Preprocessing

- Text Cleaning: Remove HTML tags, special characters, and stop words.
- Tokenization: Break down text into tokens.
- Lemmatization/Stemming: Reduce words to their base or root form.

C. Feature Extraction
- Linguistic Features: Extract features such as sentiment, writing style, complexity, and lexical diversity.
- Source Credibility: Assess the credibility of the source based on historical reliability and reputation.
- User Behavior: Analyze patterns of user interactions, such as the frequency and sentiment of shares and comments.

D. Model Building
- Supervised Learning: Train classifiers such as logistic regression ,Random Forest ,Multinomial Naïve Bayes on labeled datasets.
- Ensemble Methods: Combine multiple models to improve prediction accuracy.

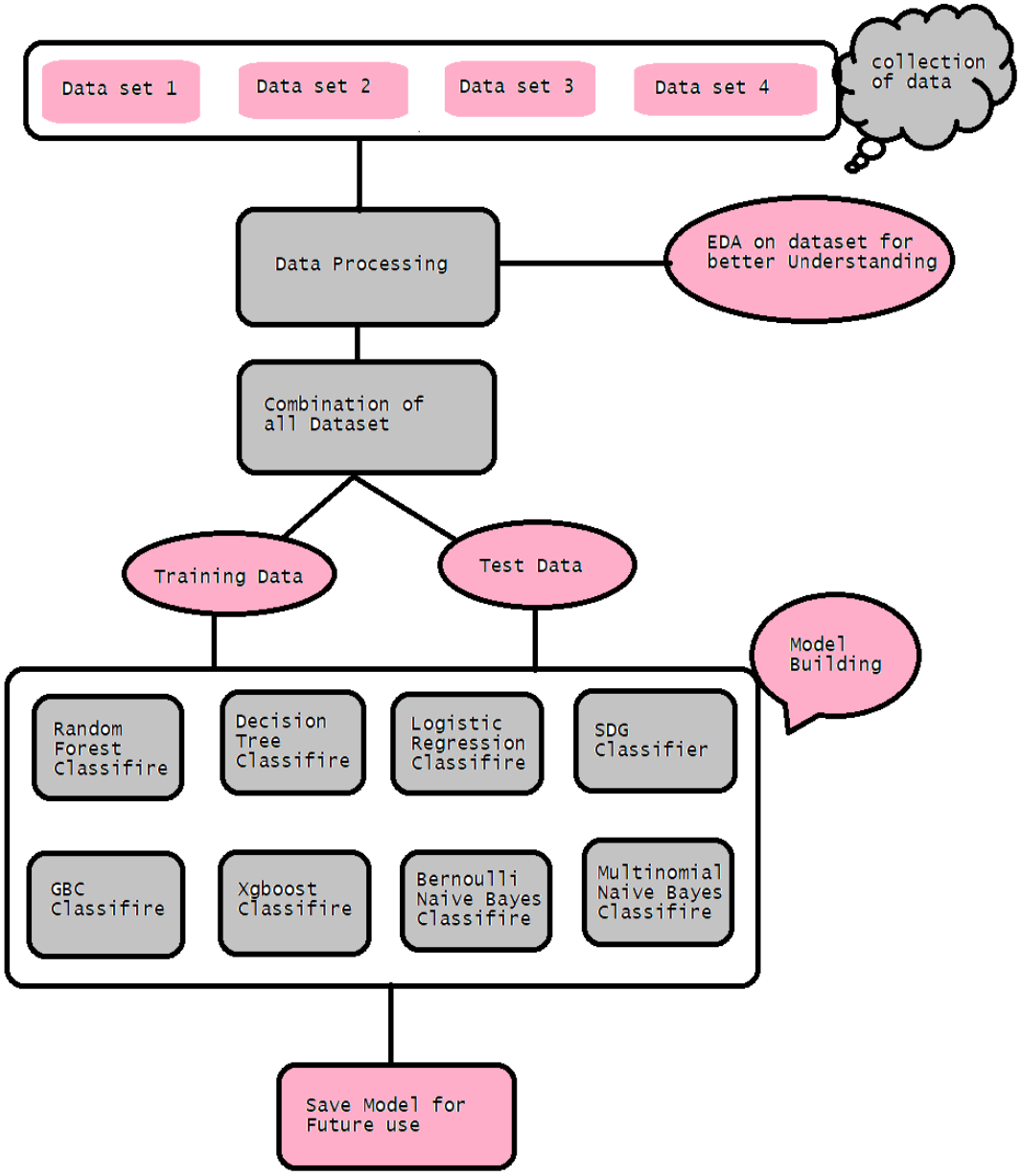
E. Model Evaluation
- Cross-validation: Use k-fold cross-validation to ensure model robustness.
- Performance Metrics: Evaluate models using precision, recall, F1-score, and accuracy.
- A/B Testing: Conduct A/B testing in real-world scenarios to assess practical performance.

F. Integration with flask framework:

Integrating a machine learning model with Flask allows real-time fake news detection. User input is preprocessed, vectorized, and predicted using a pre-trained model. Flask handles requests, processes input, and displays results on a web interface, enabling seamless interaction with the model through a simple web page.

IV. ARCHITECTURE

- User: Represents the end user interacting with the application through a web browser or mobile device. • Web Browser/Mobile Device: The interface through which the user accesses the application.
- Flask Interface: The user interface of the application, built using the Flask framework.
- Input Data: Represents the data input by the user, such as news articles, content form any of the social media platform.(eg. Facebook, Instagram, News websites,twitter, etc.)
- Machine Learning Model: logistic regression model for binary classification to detect fake news, integrated with a Flask web application.
- Fake News Detection: The output of the machine learning model, indicate that news is fake or real.
- Output Prediction: The result displayed to the user through the Flask interface.


Data set 1
Data set 2
Data set 3
Data set 4
collection of data
Data Processing
EDA on dataset for better Understanding
Combination of all Dataset
Training Data
Test Data
Model Building
Random Forest Classifire
Decision Tree Classifire
Logistic Regression Classifire
SDG Classifier
GBC Classifire
Xgboost Classifire
Bernoulli Naive Bayes Classifire
Multinomial Naive Bayes Classifire
Save Model for Future use

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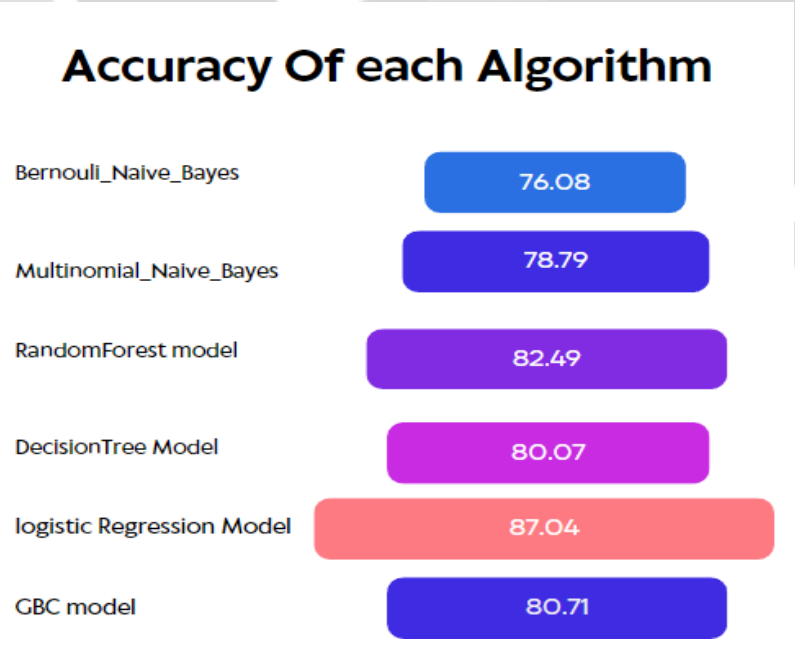
V. RESULT

In this section, we present the results of our experiments, highlighting the performance of various models and approaches used for fake news detection. We also provide a detailed discussion on the findings and their implications.

1. Model Performance:
   a. Dataset Description
   We used two publicly available datasets for training and testing our models:
   - LIAR Dataset: This dataset contains 12,836 and more short statements labeled as true, mostly-true, half-true, barely-true, false, and pants-on-fire, collected from PolitiFact.
   - FakeNewsNet Dataset: This dataset includes news articles and social media posts from various source labeled as fake or real.
2. Feature Extraction:
   The following features were extracted from the datasets:
   - Linguistic Features: Sentiment score, lexical diversity, and complexity.
   - Semantic Features: Word embeddings using Word2Vec.
   - Source Credibility: Historical reliability score of the news source.
3. Model Training:
   We trained several models using the extracted features and compared their performance.
   - Random Forest
   - Logistic Regression
   - Stochastic gradient descent
   - Random forest, GBC, xgboost
   - DecisionTree
   - Multinomial Naive Baye and Bernoulli Naive Baye classifiers
4. Evaluation Metrics:
   The models were evaluated using the following metrics:
   - Accuracy: Proportion of correct predictions.
   - Precision: Proportion of true positive predictions among the positive predictions.
   - Recall: Proportion of true positive predictions among the actual positives.



VI. FEATURES

In this section, we will discuss the features used in our fake news detection model. The features are extracted from the text of news articles and aim to capture the essential elements that distinguish real news from fake news. The primary features used

in our model are based on the text content, and can be extended to include visual features images are associated with the articles. Here are the key features:

A. Text Content Feature:

It include the title ,body text, urls ,politifacts,date of publication ,author's name of news articles. Preprocessing removes noise like HTML tags and special characters before TF-IDF vectorization converts them into numerical representations. This process captures word importance within the corpus. By analyzing the language and structure, the model effectively distinguishes between real and fake news articles, ensuring accurate classification. This approach contributes significantly to detecting misinformation, aiding in combating its spread.

B. *Text Based Feature:*

-Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) is used to convert the text into numerical features. TF-IDF scores help in identifying the importance of words in the context of the entire corpus, emphasizing rare but significant words.

D. Metadata Feature:

- Metadata features in this model include publication date, author name, and source reputation. These attributes are crucial for assessing the credibility of news articles. By analyzing these features, the model can better distinguish between real and fake news, enhancing its overall accuracy and reliability.

E. *Linguistic Features:*

- Word Count: The total number of words in a news article provides insight into its length and depth of coverage. Fake news articles may exhibit unusually high or low word counts compared to genuine news.
- Character Count: The total number of characters in an article can indicate its level of detail and verbosity. Extremely lengthy or brief articles may raise suspicions of fake news.
- Average Word Length: Calculating the average length of words in an article helps gauge the complexity of language used. Fake news may employ simpler language to appeal to a broader audience, while genuine news often features more diverse vocabulary and longer words.

E. Ongoing Research and Challenges:

- Ongoing research in fake news detection focuses on addressing challenges such as evolving misinformation tactics, dataset bias, and model interpretability.- Large-scale datasets, such as the LIAR dataset, containing diverse and representative textual and metadata information, are essential for training robust and generalizable models. - Developing interpretable and explainable AI techniques is crucial for understanding the factors influencing model predictions and building trust with stakeholders, including readers, journalists, and policymakers.

VI. CONCLUSION

The task of classifying news manually requires in-depth knowledge of the domain and expertise to identify anomalies in the text. In this research, we discussed the problem of classifying fake news articles using machine learning models and ensemble techniques. The data we used in our work is collected from the World Wide Web and contains news articles from various domains to cover most of the news rather than specifically classifying political news. The primary aim of the research is to identify patterns in text that differentiate fake articles from true news.

In this work, we propose to use machine learning ensemble approach for automated classification of news articles and makes an analysis of the research related to fake news detection and explores the traditional machine learning models to choose the best, in order to create a model of a product with supervised machine learning algorithm, that can classify fake news as true or false.We train a combination of different machine learning algorithms using various ensemble methods and evaluate their performance on 5 datasets. The results obtained showed that fake news with textual content can indeed be classified, especially using a logistic Regression algorithm. This study obtained an accuracy range of 81 to 100% using different classifiers.

Fake news detection has many open issues that require attention of researchers. For instance, in order to reduce the spread of fake news, identifying key elements involved in the spread of news is an important step. Machine learning techniques can be employed to identify the key sources involved in spread of fake news. Likewise, real time fake news identification in images can be another possible future direction.

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