

Predicting Sentence-Level News Source Reliability for Fact-Checking

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Introduction and Research Gaps

- Nowadays, fact-checking organizations (e.g. PolitiFact) have provided **lists of unreliable news articles and media sources**.
- Most existing **news credibility verification systems** have addressed **article-level analysis** of news for news source reliability estimation.
- Nevertheless, each news article comprises **multiple sentences**, which may contain **factual and biased information**, as well as **misinformation**.
- Automated fact-checking and news credibility verification at scale require **accurate prediction**.

Misinformation

N.	Sentence-level news article	Label
Title	President lowers Brazil's image with repeated misinformation and does not receive attention from global leaders.	Bias
S1	President Jair Bolsonaro touch a sore point of Europeans when he pointed out that the increased use of fossil fuels is a serious environmental setback, in his opening speech at the UN General Assembly, Tuesday (20).	Bias
S2	Germany received criticism from the UN for the investment agreement with Senegal for the production of gas in the African country.	Fact
S3	"This constitutes a serious setback for the environment", he said, referring to the Europeans	Quotes
S4	However, Bolsonaro signed favorable measures for environmental protection during the four years of the Brazilian government.	Fake
S5	There is a huge difference between speaking at the UN and being heard at the UN.	Bias

Motivations

- **Low-credibility** media outlets may potentially be targeted for the **spreading of misinformation**.
- While **fake news** is mostly spreading on **social media** before it is necessary a **source media** where they would have been posted originally.
- Since websites have published **low-credible news** in the past, it is likely to happen again.

The Proposed Method

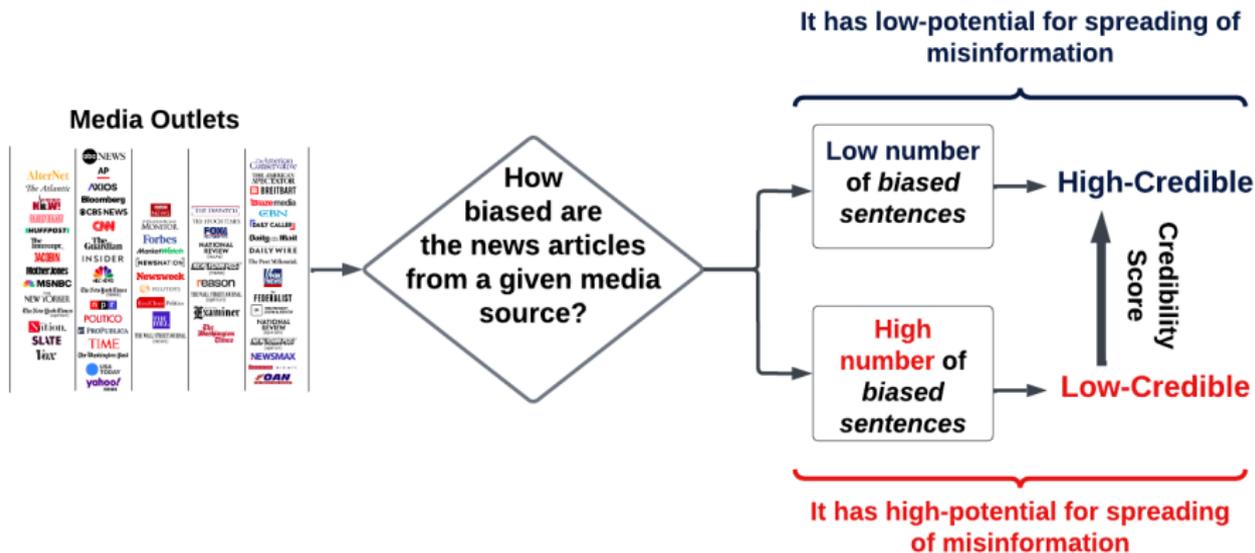


Figure: Sentence-Level Factuality Prediction of News Source.

Media Bias Definition

12 Types of Media Bias by AllSides

1. Spin
2. Unsubstantiated Claims
3. Opinion Statements Presented as Fact
4. Sensationalism/Emotionalism
5. Mudslinging/Ad
6. Mind Reading
7. Flawed logic
8. Omission of Source Attribution
9. Subjective Qualifying Adjectives
10. Word Choice
11. Negativity Bias
12. Elite v. Populist Bias

SFGATE

Twitter banned or suspended several high-profile journalists Thursday evening, a move that further reveals the seemingly arbitrary decision-making of Elon Musk, a self-avowed "free speech absolutist."

BBC

The skinny version: There are more than a hundred Republican-held congressional districts across the country that have a narrower margin than 17. If seats that look like this one in Pennsylvania are toss-ups in November, it's going to be a bloodbath.

Figure: Types of Media Bias Defined by AllSides¹.

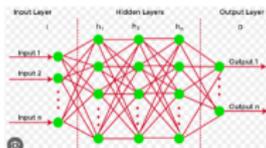
¹<https://www.allsides.com/media-bias/how-to-spot-types-of-media-bias>

Building Dataset, ML Models and Automated Systems

1.0 Dataset

documents	feature (1)	feature (2)	...	feature (n)	class
text (1)	0	1		2	0
text (2)	3	4		0	1
...
text (n)	4	0		3	1

2.0 Machine Learning Model



3.0 Automated Fact-Checking System



1.0 Dataset

- **FactNews dataset²**: 6,191 sentences manually annotated by 2 annotators into *factual* (4,302), *biased* (558), and *quote* (1,389) spans.
- We selected **3 different well-known and relevant media outlets** in Brazil and extracted **the same story** from each one of them.

²<https://github.com/franciellevargas/FactNews>

Building Dataset, ML Models and Automated Systems

Media	News Reporting
Folha	O presidente Jair Bolsonaro colocou o dedo na ferida dos europeus ao apontar que o aumento do uso de combustíveis fósseis é um grave retrocesso ambiental, em seu discurso de abertura da Assembleia-Geral da ONU na manhã desta terça-feira (20). <i>President Jair Bolsonaro touch a sore point of Europeans when he pointed out that the increased use of fossil fuels is a serious environmental setback, in his opening speech at the UN General Assembly this Tuesday morning (20) (...)</i>
Estadão	O presidente Jair Bolsonaro encerrou seu discurso na Assembleia-Geral da ONU, nesta terça-feira, 20, afirmando que o povo brasileiro acredita em "Deus, Pátria, família e liberdade", que tem inspiração no fascismo de Benito Mussolini (1883-1945). <i>President Jair Bolsonaro ended his speech at the UN General Assembly, this Tuesday, 20, stating that the Brazilian people believe in "God, Fatherland, family and freedom", which has by the fascism of Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) (...)</i>
O Globo	O presidente Jair Bolsonaro seguiu o roteiro de campanha em seu discurso na Assembleia Geral da Organização das Nações Unidas (ONU), em Nova York (EUA), e aproveitou para atacar o ex-presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva nesta terça-feira (20)(...) <i>President Jair Bolsonaro followed the campaign script in his speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) in New York (USA), and took the opportunity to attack former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva this Tuesday (20) (...)</i>

FactNews Dataset Analysis

Description		Folha de São Paulo			Estadão			O Globo			All
		factual	quotes	biased	factual	quotes	biased	factual	quotes	biased	
#Articles		100			100			100			300
#Sentences		1,494	450	231	1,428	483	182	1,320	458	145	6191
#Words		30,374	7,946	5,177	30,589	8,504	4,002	25,505	7,740	3,195	123,032
Avg Sentences/Article		14.94	7.03	3.78	14.28	7.00	3.19	13.20	7.15	2.84	8.15
Avg Words/Sentences		20.33	17.65	22.41	21.45	17.60	21.98	19.32	16.89	22.03	19.96
Body/Title	<i>Body</i>	1,337	440	207	1,218	473	162	1,089	441	131	5,498
	<i>Title</i>	157	10	24	210	10	20	231	17	14	693
Domains	<i>Political</i>	912	340	130	870	352	106	748	351	64	3,873
	<i>World</i>	224	48	31	224	49	27	216	32	29	880
	<i>Sports</i>	100	23	34	124	25	29	98	18	39	490
	<i>Daily</i>	132	11	2	98	7	4	148	7	4	413
	<i>Culture</i>	98	26	32	72	42	15	77	45	5	412
	<i>Science</i>	28	2	2	40	8	1	33	5	4	123
Part-of-speech (Avg)	<i>Noun</i>	4.85	4.09	5.72	5.21	4.12	5.60	4.59	3.82	5.19	4.79
	<i>Verb</i>	2.20	2.55	2.60	2.28	2.51	2.53	2.00	2.44	2.57	4.18
	<i>Adjective</i>	1.03	1.03	1.32	1.11	1.08	1.32	0.94	0.97	1.48	1.14
	<i>Adverb</i>	0.67	0.82	0.93	0.67	0.94	0.90	0.59	0.90	0.94	0.81
	<i>Pronoun</i>	0.52	1.02	0.73	0.51	0.97	0.56	0.47	0.90	0.59	0.69
	<i>Conjunction</i>	0.51	0.55	0.61	0.54	0.57	0.73	0.51	0.88	0.70	0.62
Emotions (Avg)	<i>Happiness</i>	0.12	0.22	0.20	0.16	0.28	0.26	0.13	0.28	0.22	0.20
	<i>Disgust</i>	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
	<i>Fear</i>	4.18	3.80	4.63	4.41	3.77	4.56	4.05	3.60	4.50	4.16
	<i>Anger</i>	0.05	0.06	0.13	0.07	0.07	0.12	0.06	0.08	0.20	0.09
	<i>Surprise</i>	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02
	<i>Sadness</i>	5.86	5.71	6.52	6.17	5.55	6.48	5.56	5.40	6.19	5.93
Polarity (Avg)	<i>Positive</i>	2.41	3.25	2.93	2.55	3.22	2.95	2.26	3.26	2.96	2.86
	<i>Negative</i>	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.09	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.06
	<i>Neutral</i>	9.55	9.77	10.93	9.92	9.52	11.03	8.91	9.28	10.56	9.94

Table: FactNews dataset statistics.

FactNews Dataset Analysis

- The distribution of **factuality** is *constant* across domains and media outlets.
- The distribution of **bias** *varies* according to the domain and media outlet.

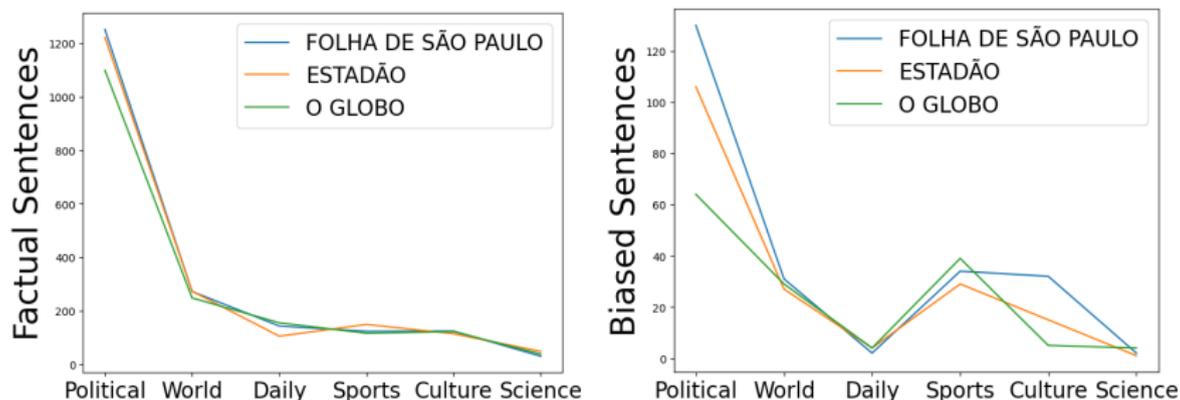


Figure: The cross-domain distribution of factual and biased sentences.

Building Dataset, ML Models and Automated Systems

2.0 Machine Learning Model

Sentence-Level
Factuality
Prediction

Biased Spans and Quotes (1,949 labels) X **Factual Spans** (1,949 labels).

- Since **factual sentences** are impartially focused on **objective facts**, in contrast to the **biased ones** that are partially presented and focused on **subjective interpretations**, we built a model to predict sentence-level factuality based on aspects of **text subjectivity** and **text impartiality**.

Machine Learning Model Performance: Results

Sentence-Level Factuality	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
BERT fine-tuning	0.89	0.89	0.88
Part-of-speech	0.77	0.77	0.76
TF-IDF (baseline)	0.81	0.69	0.66
Polarity-lexicon	0.63	0.62	0.62
Emotion-lexicon	0.61	0.61	0.61
Sentence-Level Media Bias	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
BERT fine-tuning	0.70	0.68	0.67
Part-of-speech	0.67	0.66	0.66
Polarity-lexicon	0.50	0.50	0.50
Emotion-lexicon	0.53	0.52	0.50
TF-IDF (baseline)	0.78	0.58	0.48

Table: Sentence-level factuality and bias prediction.

Building Dataset, ML Models and Automated Systems

3.0 Automated Fact-Checking System



Valdemar Costa Neto comentou sua relação com o atual presidente, Lula (PT). Dado o cenário a favor do petista, eu acho que Bolsonaro deveria sair do país. Na avaliação do Presidente do PL, "o trato com Lula é muito mais fácil". Por fim, ele afirmou que o Nordeste tem a maior número acidentes com vítimas fatais do Brasil. Além disso, a Sede do Ministério Público do Nordeste sempre é alvo de protestos. De acordo com a polícia, "os protestos são apenas ameaças e ninguém sai ferido". A rua foi interditada pela polícia. Contudo, eu gosto de ver os protestos por que são inúteis.

Check

Explanations Score Visualization

Valdemar Costa Neto comentou sua relação com o atual presidente, Lula (PT). | FACT

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Na avaliação do Presidente do PL, "o trato com Lula é muito mais fácil". | QUOTES

Por fim, ele afirmou que o Nordeste tem a maior número acidentes com vítimas fatais do Brasil. | FAKE

Além disso, a Sede do Ministério Público do Nordeste sempre é alvo de protestos. | FACT

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Check

Explanations **Score** Visualization

Trustworthiness Score



Explanations Score **Visualization**

Visualization



Thank you!

Dataset and ML Models: <https://franciellevargas.github.io/>
Web Systems: <http://143.107.183.175:14582/>

Questions? Please feel free to contact me:
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