

# An Empirical Study on Identifying Sentences with Salient Factual Statements



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#### MOTIVATION

## To believe or not to believe..?



#### DONALD TRUMP

"This Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story. It's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should've won."





#### **GWEN MOORE**

"Under 'Trumpcare," domestic violence and sexual assault "could be considered preexisting conditions."



Source: http://www.politifact.com/



No, though conditions arising from assaults could be

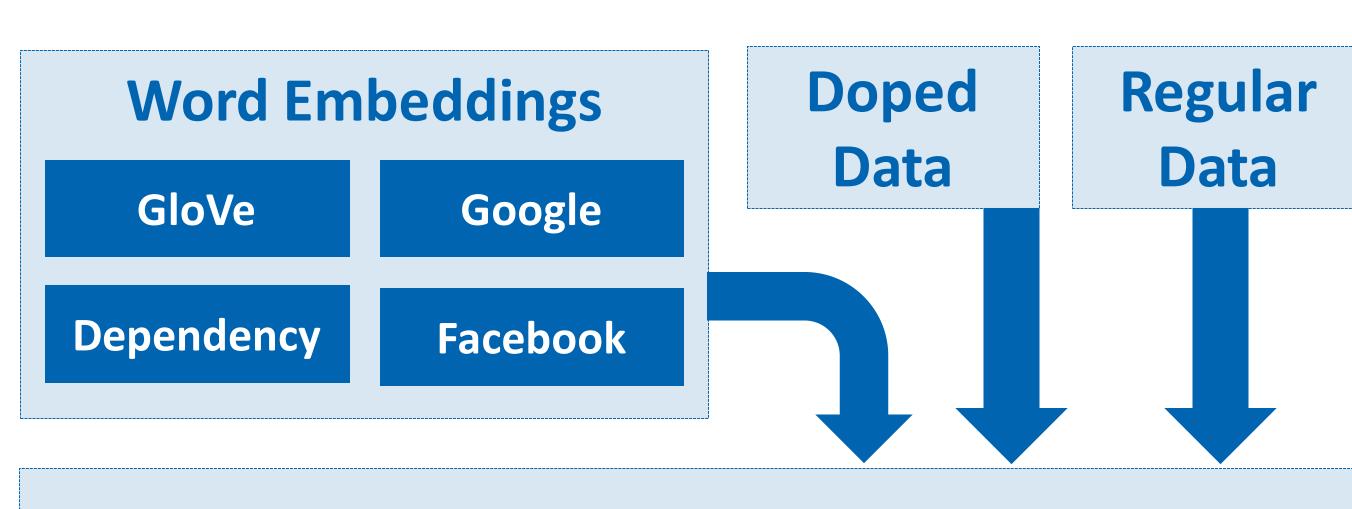


SVM Model

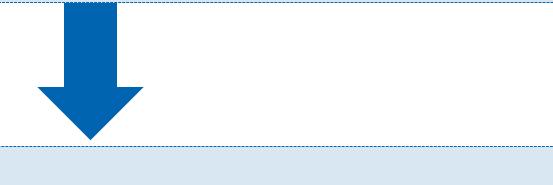


Conclusion: SVM model is easily tricked into giving sentences high scores based on a few key features.

## **OBJECTIVES**



Train models with different combinations of these



**Evaluate models to observe effects of variations** 

## RESULTS OVERVIEW

MODEL ACCURACY ON THE 2000 REGULAR SENTENCE TEST DATASET

|                       |     | <b>Enhanced Dataset</b> |        |          | Regular Dataset |        |          |
|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------|--------|----------|-----------------|--------|----------|
|                       |     | Precision               | Recall | F1-Score | Precision       | Recall | F1-Score |
| Two Class<br>Models   | NFS | 0.86                    | 0.87   | 0.87     | 0.87            | 0.87   | 0.87     |
|                       | CFS | 0.60                    | 0.58   | 0.58     | 0.60            | 0.59   | 0.59     |
|                       | AVG | 0.80                    | 0.80   | 0.80     | 0.80            | 0.80   | 0.80     |
| Three Class<br>Models | NFS | 0.78                    | 0.86   | 0.83     | 0.80            | 0.84   | 0.82     |
|                       | UFS | 0.60                    | 0.26   | 0.35     | 0.57            | 0.27   | 0.34     |
|                       | CFS | 0.61                    | 0.60   | 0.60     | 0.68            | 0.65   | 0.61     |
|                       | AVG | 0.71                    | 0.73   | 0.71     | 0.71            | 0.71   | 0.70     |
| Original SVM<br>Model | NFS | 0.62                    | 0.99   | 0.76     | 0.78            | 0.14   | 0.23     |
|                       | UFS | 0                       | 0      | 0        | 0.15            | 0.13   | 0.14     |
|                       | CFS | 0.19                    | 0.01   | 0.02     | 0.28            | 0.88   | 0.43     |
|                       | AVG | 0.42                    | 0.61   | 0.47     | 0.57            | 0.32   | 0.27     |

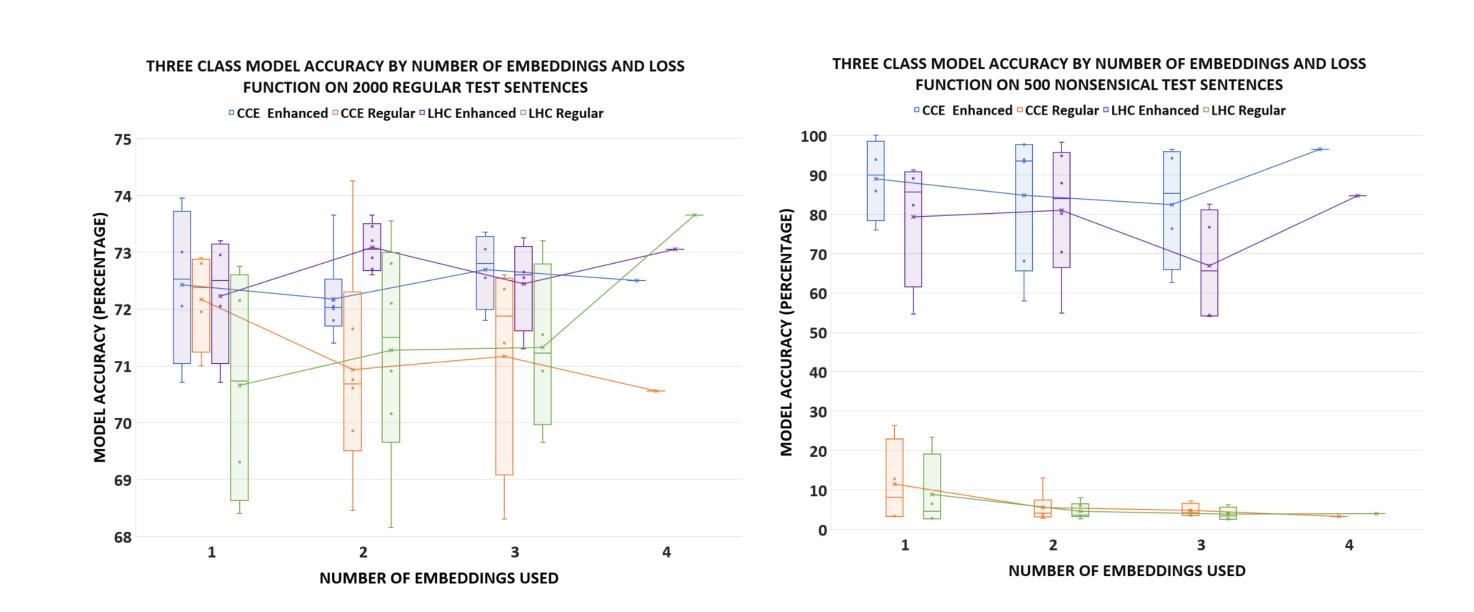
Model Accuracy on the 500 Nonsensical Sentence Test Dataset

|                                  | Models Trained on the<br>Enhanced Dataset | Models Trained on the Regular Dataset |  |  |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Two Class Models<br>N/UFS Recall | 0.81                                      | 0.07                                  |  |  |
| Three Class Models<br>NFS Recall | 0.81                                      | 0.06                                  |  |  |
| SVM Model<br>NFS Recall          | 1.0                                       | 0.45                                  |  |  |

\* We observe that the SVM model actually has better recall in identifying non-factual statements, but realize that this is due to overfitting and actually hurts its performance in the CFS category seen in the first table.

#### SCORES ON SENTENCES BY FOUR DIFFERENT SELECT MODELS

|  | Model Scores        |                         |                         |                 |  |  |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Sentence   | GloVe, Gooogle, Dep | GloVe, Google, Facebook | SVM Model               | SVM Model       |  |  |
|  | <b>Embeddings</b>   | Embeddings              | <b>Enhanced Dataset</b> | Regular Dataset |  |  |
| I ate apples.                                      | 0.06                | 0.02                    | 0.10                    | 0.20            |  |  |
| I ate 2 apples.                                    | 0.06                | 0.02                    | 0.10                    | 0.20            |  |  |
| I ate 500 apples.                                  | 0.06                | 0.02                    | 0.10                    | 0.23            |  |  |
| Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction.    | 0.05                | 0.76                    | 0.16                    | 0.33            |  |  |
| Millions of illegal immigrants voted last year.    | 0.014               | 0.98                    | 0.07                    | 0.65            |  |  |
| The U.S. allowed 320 million illegal immigrants    | 0.91                | 0.98                    | 0.09                    | 0.82            |  |  |
| to vote in the 2016 elections.                     |                     | 0.98                    |                         |                 |  |  |
| The 534 apples spread out across 3 tables had been | 0.09                | 0.97                    | 0.09                    | 0.80            |  |  |
| left out for 1 day 9 hours and 23 minutes.         |                     | 0.97                    |                         |                 |  |  |

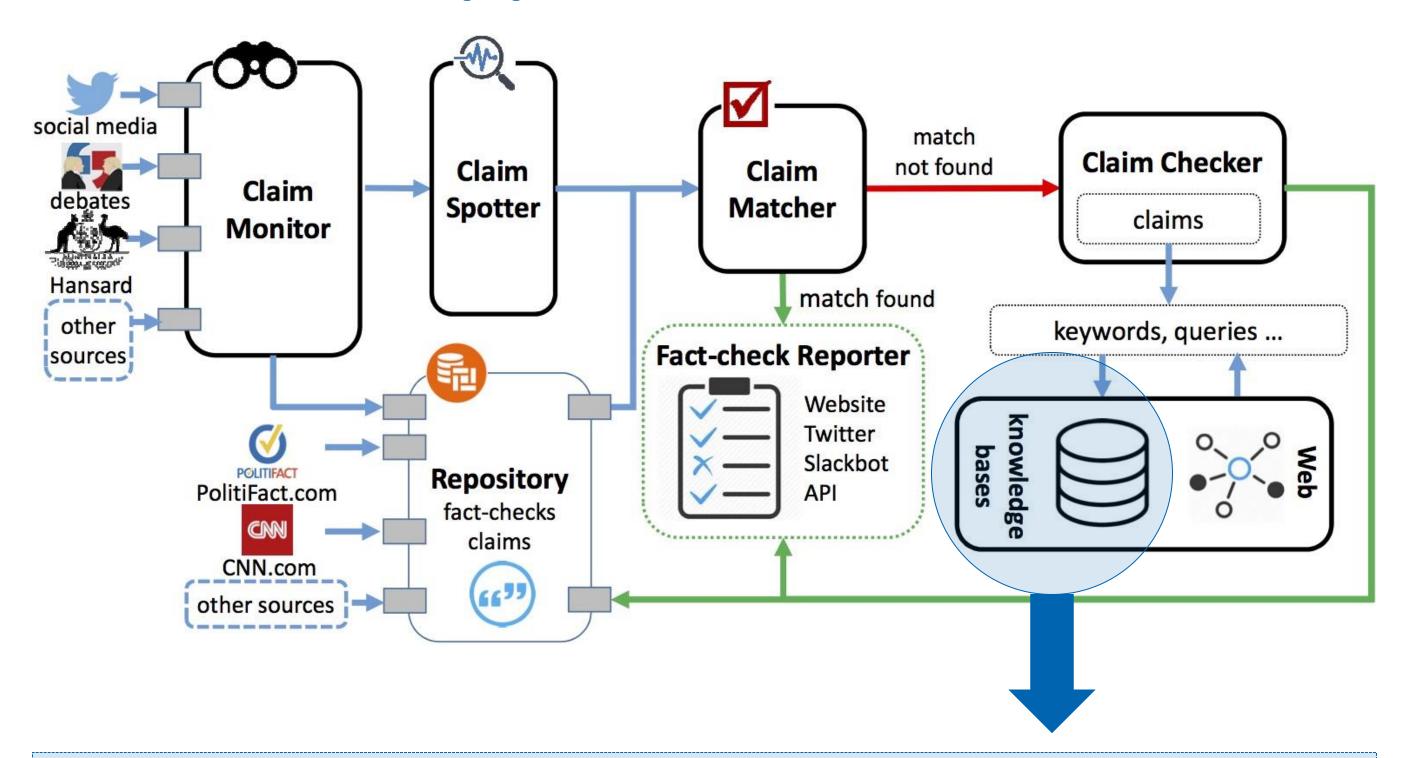


#### CONCLUSIONS

- Differentiating data into more than two classes provided little to no benefit.
- Combinations of word-embeddings had no significant impact on model accuracy.
- Some embeddings tend to produce models that have an affinity for sentences with digits.
- The inclusion of nonsensical sentences did mitigate issues with the original SVM model.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

- Explore new methods for improving the classifier. Adversarial training is currently being explored by our group.
- Create a pipeline for which to fact check salient statements on a knowledge graph using our own internal pipeline.



Currently we make use of commercial databases like Wolfram Alpha which are a black-box. We are working to replace this with an in-house system.

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