Cyber Frauds and Fakes

Summer 2018 @ UCAS

Lab: Fake News

Task 1:

1. Define "fake news."

2. What are the characteristics that can help accurately distinguish fake news from legitimate news? Come up with 5 such characteristics that you can think of. Among your characteristics, which are computable and which are not? How would you extract such characteristics?

Task 2: Think of one news that you recently heard and suspect as fake. Then, try to see how the news has propagated by plugging in some keywords or phrases from the news using Hoaxy (http://hoaxy.iuni.iu.edu/).

Task 3: Consider a known fake news list from a fact-checking site. For instance, here is one:

http://www.snopes.com/50-hottest-urban-legends/

Choose one story from the list, and answer the following questions:

3. Find the original source X where the news first appears and explain why you think X is the original source. If the content of the fake news article is no longer available on its original URL you may use the Internet Archive’s WayBack Machine (https://archive.org/web/) to check whether an archived version of the URL is available.

4. Examine the themes exploited in fake news story that you chose and identify the events which they editorialize. You may use a news aggregator such as Google News Search as well as news article archives.

5. Search for Facebook pages or groups (with a number of followers) that shared these fake news actively. Who are they? Why do you think they share such fake news?