CheckThat! 2020

3rd edition

Enabling the Automatic Identification and Verification of Claims in Social Media

Organization

Alberto Barrón-Cedeño

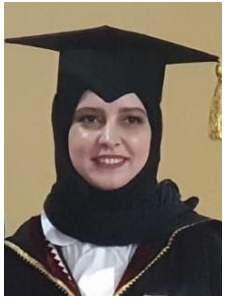
Tamer Elsayed

Preslav Nakov

Giovanni da San Martino

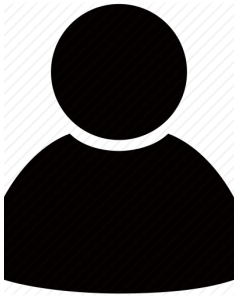
Maram Hassanain

Reem Suwaileh



Fatima Haouari

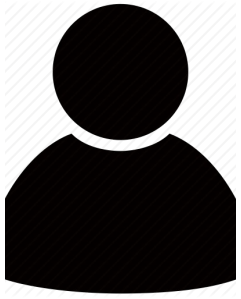
Nikolay Babulkov



Bayan Hamdan

Alex Nikolov

Shaden Shaar



Zien Sheikh Ali

Translation into NLP/IR Tasks

1. Check-Worthiness*

← Twitter stream

→ s worth fact-checking

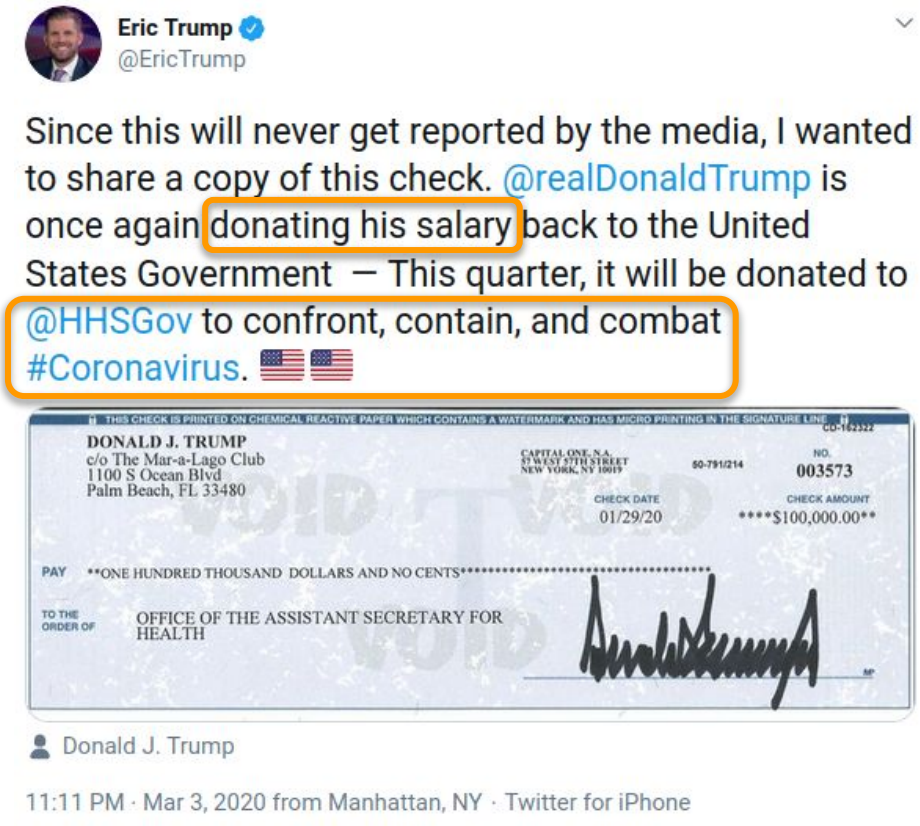
* **5. Check-Worthiness** on debates/speeches/press conferences

Human Tasks, NLP/IR Support

1. Check-Worthiness

Human Tasks, NLP/IR Support

1. Check-Worthiness



D. Trump is donating his salary to combat COVID19?

This is **check-worthy**!

Human Tasks, NLP/IR Support

2. Verified Claim Retrieval

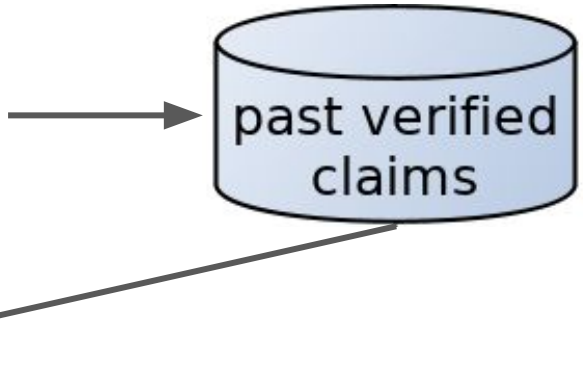
← + verified claims pool

→ ranking of verified claims according to their potential to verify

Human Tasks, NLP/IR Support

2. Verified Claim Retrieval

@realDonaldTrump is once again donating his salary back to the United States [...] to confront, contain, and combat #Coronavirus



Fact check: President Donald Trump donates his salary, but he still makes money

MOLLY STELLINO | USA TODAY

https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/07/11/fact-check-donald-trump-donates-salary-but-he-still-makes-money/5410134002/

Human Tasks, NLP/IR Support

3. Evidence Retrieval

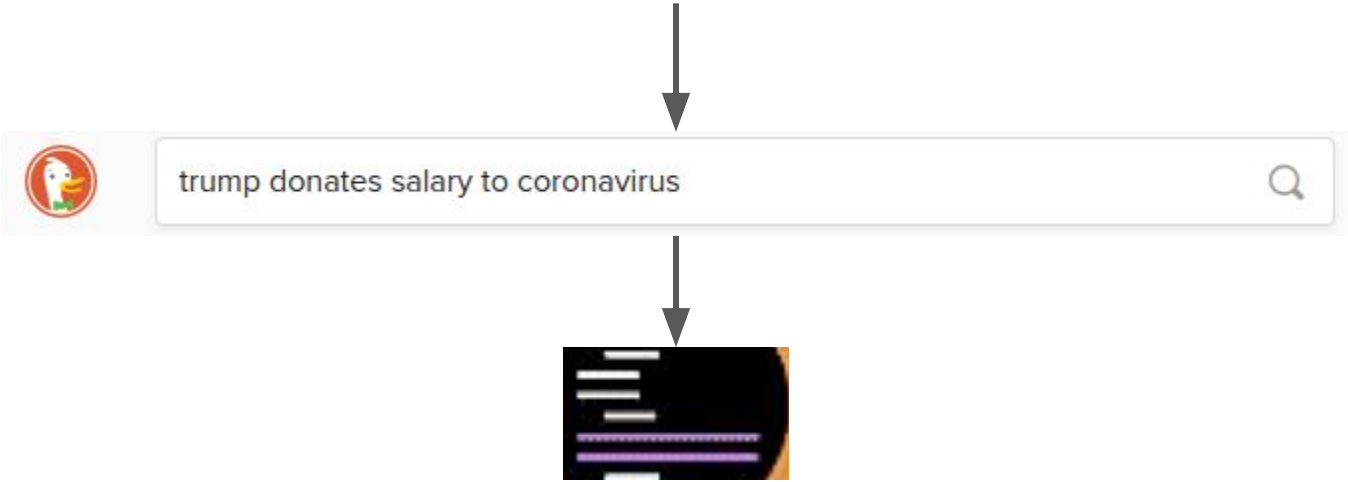
← claim + Webpages

→ Web passages useful to verify

Human Tasks, NLP/IR Support

3. Evidence Retrieval

@realDonaldTrump is once again donating his salary back to the United States [...] to confront, contain, and combat #Coronavirus



Human Tasks, NLP/IR Support

4. Claim Verification

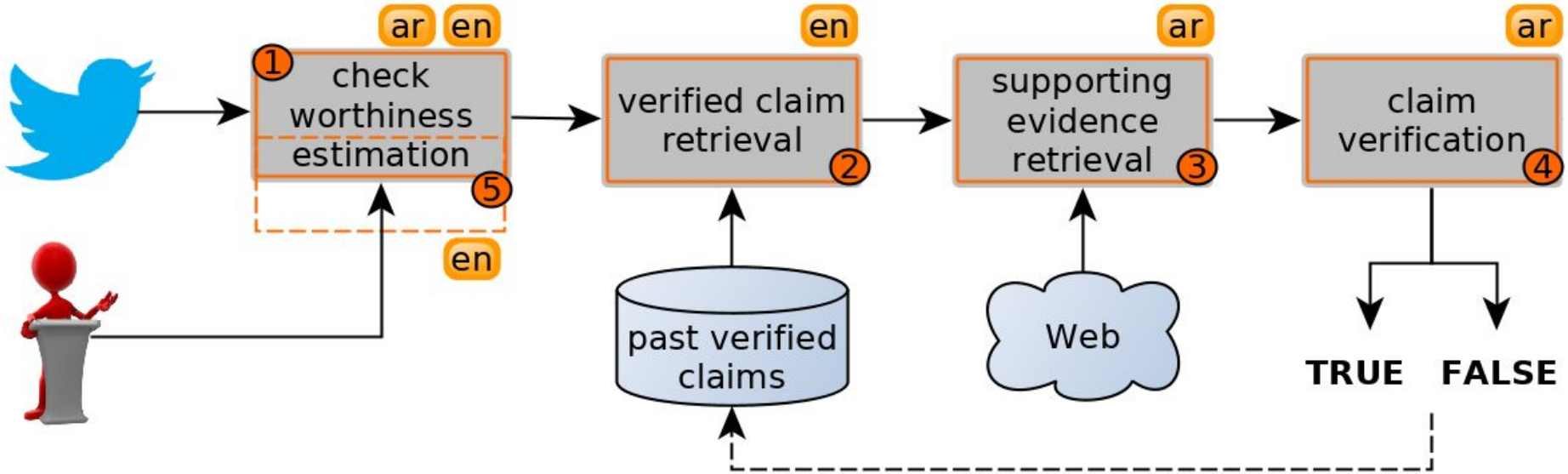
← claim **+** Webpages **+** passages

→ Veracity of the claim

Human Tasks, NLP/IR Support

4. Claim Verification

The CheckThat! Fact-Checking Flowchart



Languages and Participation

	1	2	3	4	5
ar	✓		✓	✓	
en	✓	✓			✓

Datasets summary

- 1,600+ tweets
- 15,000+ web pages
- 60,000+ debate/speech/conference sentences

Participation

- 23 teams; 86 submissions

Models Highlights

1+5. Check-Worthiness

Transformers. BERT, RoBERTa, AraBERT, multilingual BERT

Classifiers. NNs, SVMs

Features. Word embeddings, LASER, engineered features

2. Verified Claim Retrieval

Transformers. BERT

Scorers. SVM, similarity, Terrier, Elastic search

3. Evidence Retrieval

- Feature-based similarity between claims and web page snippets

4. Claim Verification

- Supervised model fed by engineered features

Models Highlights: Details in the LNCS/CEUR Papers

Team		Transf			Models						Distrib.			Features					Other	
		BERT	RoBERTa	Huggingface	BiLSTM	CNN	Rnd forest	Linear reg	Logistic reg	SVM	FastText	GloVe	PCA	Topic models	tf–idf	Dependencies	POS	NEs	Ext. data	Graph relations
Accenture	[52]		●																	
BustingMisinformation	–					●				●		●		●	●					
Check_square	[14]	●								●			●			●	●	●		
Factify	–	●																	●	
NLP&IR@UNED	[37]				●							●								●
QMUL-SDS	[2]	●				●														
Team_Alex	[42]		●																	
TheUofSheffield	[38]						●				●				●					
TOBB ETU	[34]	●							●								●			
UAICS	–	●		●																
SSN_NLP	–		●																	
ZHAW	–							●									●	●		

Join us TODAY for the CheckThat! Parallel Sessions

Session	Time (CET)	Summary	
1	11:00-12:35	- Deeper CheckThat! 2020 overview	
		- Task 1 Check-Worthiness	en, ar
2	13:00-14:30	- Task 2 Verified Claim Retrieval	en
		- Task 3 Evidence Retrieval	ar
		- Task 4 Claim Verification	ar
3	17:00-18:30	- 3 invited talks	
		- Round table	
		- Final remarks	

S3 (17:00 CET) Features 3 Fact-Checking Guests

David Corney

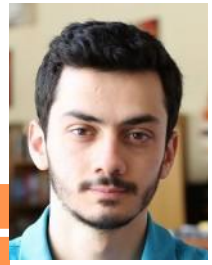
full fact

Making fact checks work harder: claim matching at Full Fact

Rubén Míguez

Newtral

ClaimHunter - an unattended claim detection service for fact-checkers



Moath Althaher

فتبينوا

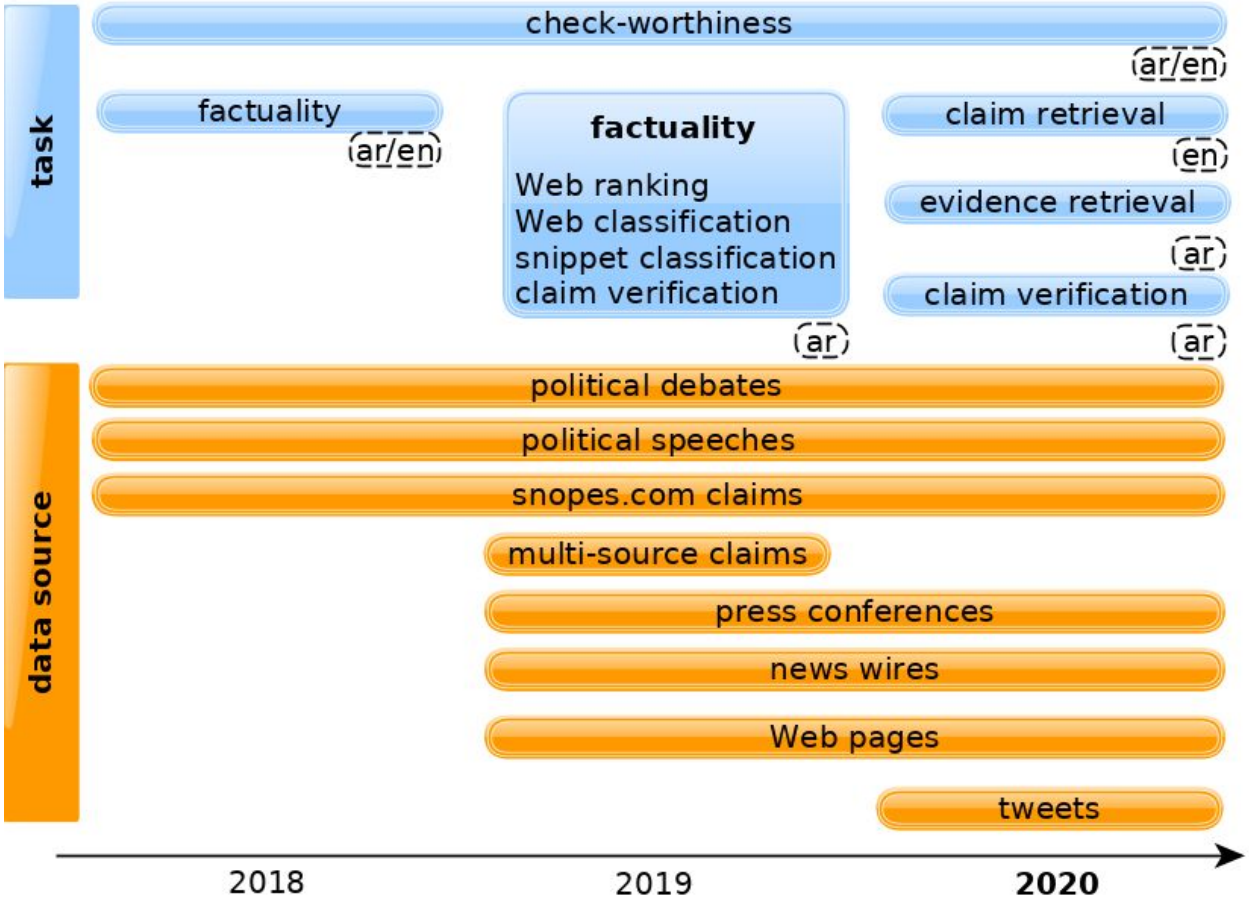
The philosophy of Fake News - The Big Questions!

Round table

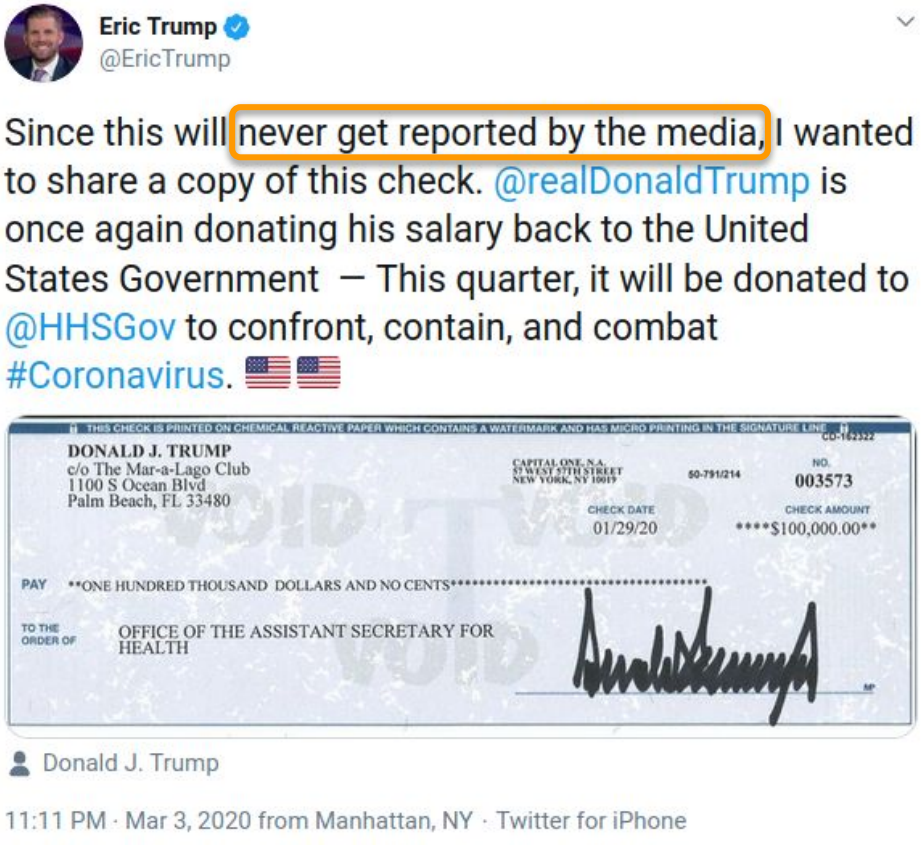
Into the Future of the CheckThat! lab

(yes: CheckThat! has a new logo)

The Evolution from 2018 to 2020



Some of the Tasks Are Too Hard (w/o Humans)



Eric Trump
@EricTrump

Since this will never get reported by the media, I wanted to share a copy of this check. @realDonaldTrump is once again donating his salary back to the United States Government — This quarter, it will be donated to @HHSGov to confront, contain, and combat #Coronavirus.

THIS CHECK IS PRINTED ON CHEMICAL REACTIVE PAPER WHICH CONTAINS A WATERMARK AND HAS MICRO PRINTING IN THE SIGNATURE LINE

DONALD J. TRUMP
c/o The Mar-a-Lago Club
1100 S Ocean Blvd
Palm Beach, FL 33480

CAPITAL ONE, N.A.
57 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10019

50-791/214

NO. 003573

CHECK DATE 01/29/20

CHECK AMOUNT ****$100,000.00**

PAY **ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS**********

TO THE ORDER OF OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH

VOID VOID

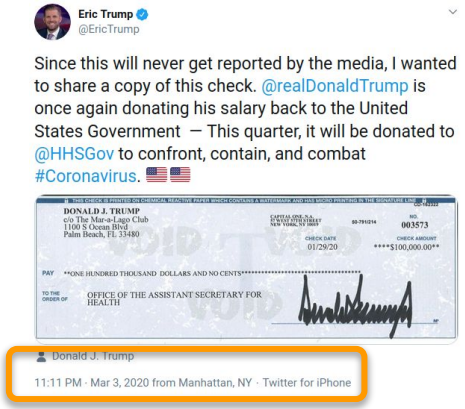
Donald J. Trump

11:11 PM · Mar 3, 2020 from Manhattan, NY · Twitter for iPhone

Never reported by the media?

Some of the Tasks Are Too Hard (w/o Humans)

Mar 3 2020, 3:22 pm EST



"Since this will never get reported by the media"

11:11 pm Mar 3 from Manhattan NY

In 2021, We Focus on Two Tasks

Task 1: Check-Worthiness estimation

1A: Check-worthiness of tweets	English
1B: Check-worthiness of tweets	Arabic
1C: Check-worthiness of tweets	**Spanish**
1D: Check-worthiness of debates/speeches	English

Task 2: Detecting previously fact-checked claims

2A: Detect previously fact-checked claims from tweets	English
2B: Detect previously fact-checked claims from tweets	Arabic
2C: Detect previously fact-checked claims in political debates and speeches	English

More Institutions are Joining the Organisation

Let Us Virtually Meet Later Today!

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