Searching News Media for Repeated Claims

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FULL FACT

Bad information ruins lives

Fact checkers investigate misleading claims and write explanatory articles

If a misleading claim is repeated we can re-use the article quickly to maximise its impact

How do we do it?

Each day, we compare 100,000 sentences from the media with recent checked claims

We extract features using SentenceBERT, BM25 and entity recognition

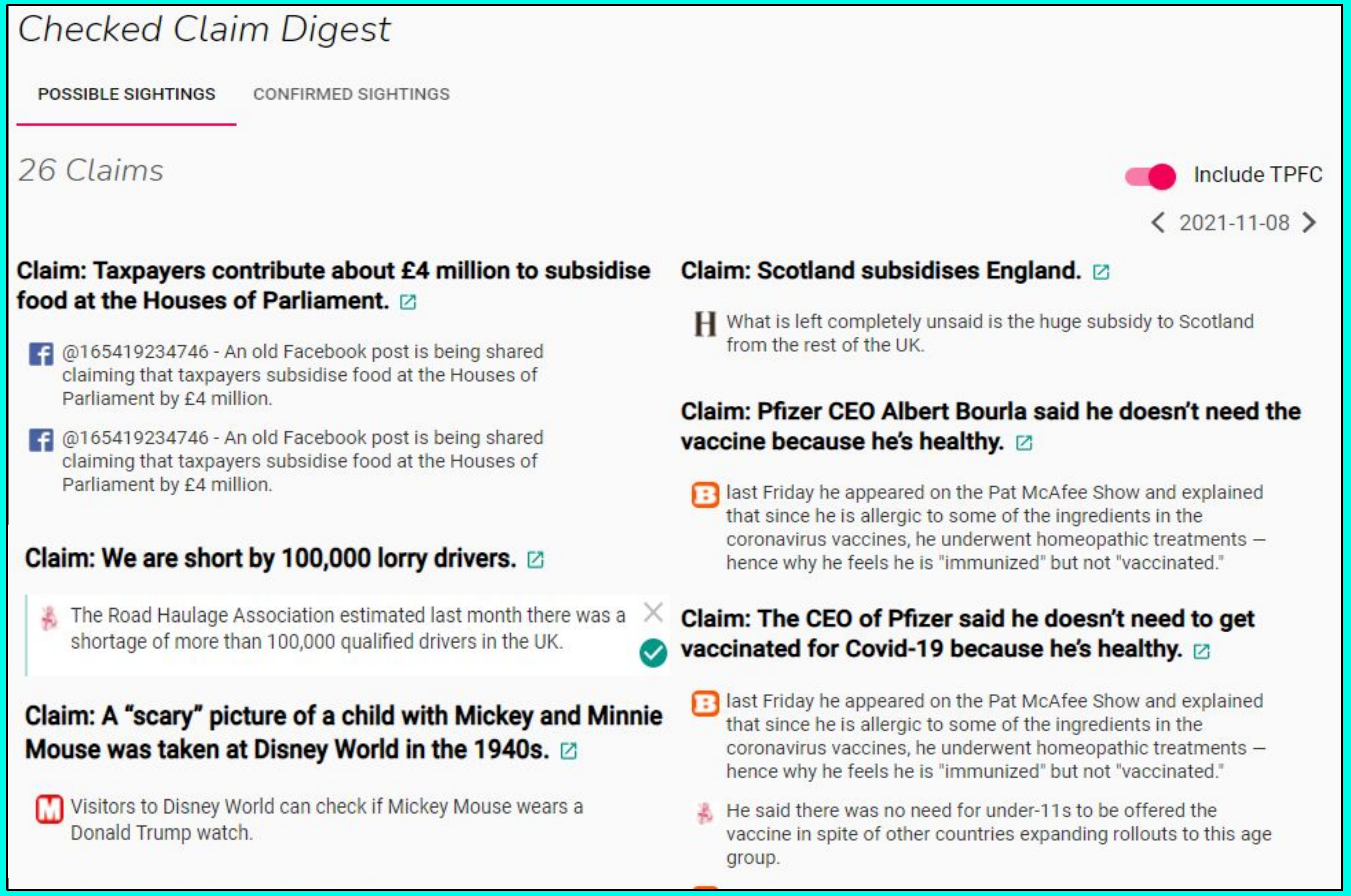
A trained neural net (MLP) predicts the probability of a matching claim

A match means that two claims have the same underlying truth conditions

Take action

Our Digest Tool shows new matched claims every day

This allows us to take action quickly by asking for corrections or retractions from politicians and newspapers



26 Claims

Claim: Taxpayers contribute about £4 million to subsidise food at the Houses of Parliament.

@165419234746 - An old Facebook post is being shared claiming that taxpayers subsidise food at the Houses of Parliament by £4 million.

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Claim: We are short by 100,000 lorry drivers.

The Road Haulage Association estimated last month there was a shortage of more than 100,000 qualified drivers in the UK.

Claim: A "scary" picture of a child with Mickey and Minnie Mouse was taken at Disney World in the 1940s.

Visitors to Disney World can check if Mickey Mouse wears a Donald Trump watch.

Claim: Scotland subsidises England.

What is left completely unsaid is the huge subsidy to Scotland from the rest of the UK.

Claim: Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said he doesn't need the vaccine because he's healthy.

last Friday he appeared on the Pat McAfee Show and explained that since he is allergic to some of the ingredients in the coronavirus vaccines, he underwent homeopathic treatments – hence why he feels he is "immunized" but not "vaccinated."

Claim: The CEO of Pfizer said he doesn't need to get vaccinated for Covid-19 because he's healthy.

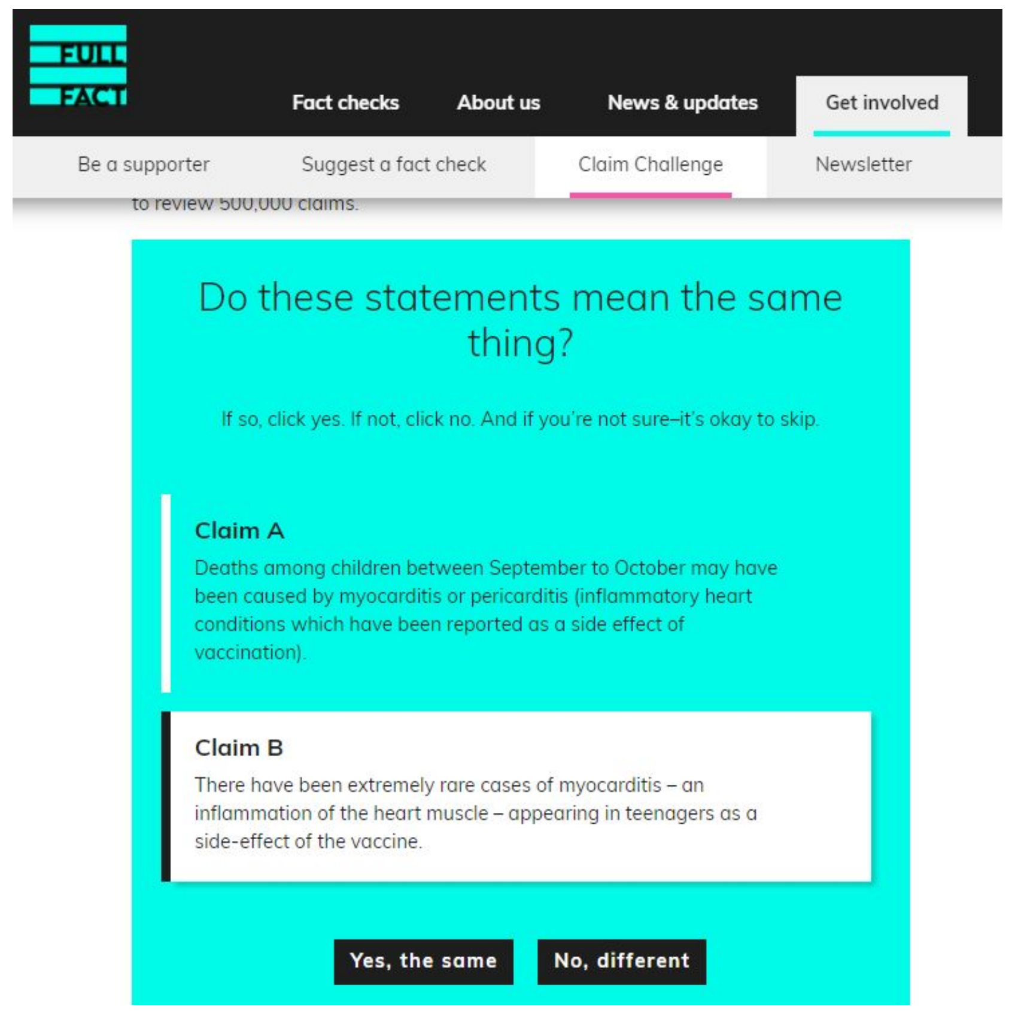
last Friday he appeared on the Pat McAfee Show and explained that since he is allergic to some of the ingredients in the coronavirus vaccines, he underwent homeopathic treatments – hence why he feels he is "immunized" but not "vaccinated."

He said there was no need for under-11s to be offered the vaccine in spite of other countries expanding rollouts to this age group.

Crowdsource training data

Our supporters labelled 1000's of possible pairs of claims

We retrained our model and improved the precision



to review 500,000 claims.

Do these statements mean the same thing?

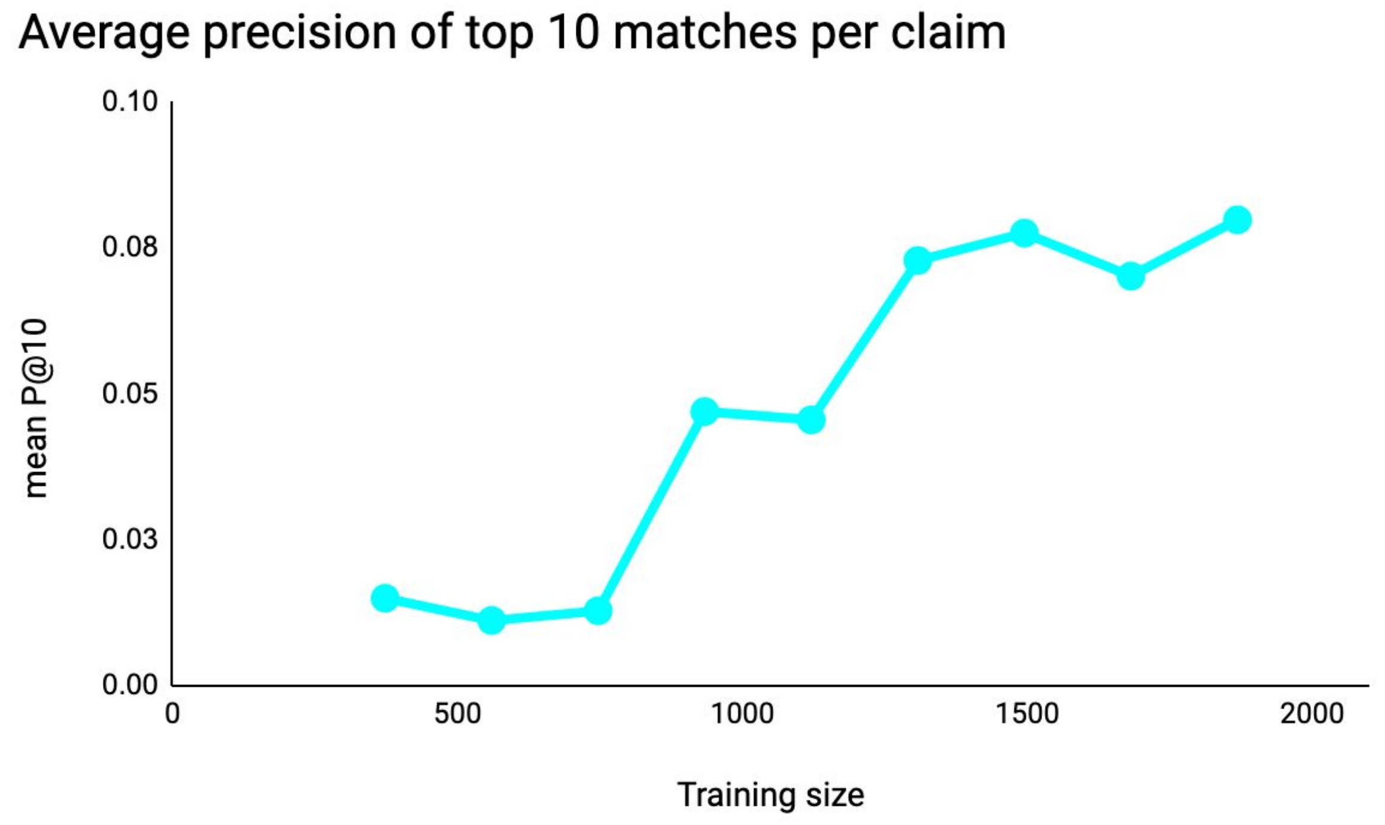
If so, click yes. If not, click no. And if you're not sure–it's okay to skip.

Claim A

Deaths among children between September to October may have been caused by myocarditis or pericarditis (inflammatory heart conditions which have been reported as a side effect of vaccination).

Claim B

There have been extremely rare cases of myocarditis – an inflammation of the heart muscle – appearing in teenagers as a side-effect of the vaccine.


Average precision of top 10 matches per claim

Further reading

David Corney (2021) "Towards a common definition of claim matching"
https://fullfact.org/blog/2021/oct/towards-common-definition-claim-matching/

Preslav Nakov, David Corney, Maram Hasanain et al. (2021) "Automated Fact-Checking for Assisting Human Fact-Checkers". 13th IJCAI Survey Track. arXiv:2103.07769

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