The Presidential Deepfakes Dataset

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Abstract

How do we evaluate media forensic techniques for detecting deepfakes? We present the Presidential Deepfakes Dataset (PDD), which consists of 32 videos, half of which are original videos and half of which are manipulated with audio impersonations, synthesized lip synchronizations, political misinformation, and situational artifacts. This dataset expands the context on which end-to-end media forensic systems can be evaluated. As an example, we evaluate the winning model of the DeepFake Detection Challenge on the PDD and find that it classifies 69% of the videos in the PDD accurately. We share this dataset publicly for researchers to evaluate their techniques with the intention of pre-bunking future misinformation attempts.

Keywords

Deepfakes, Politics, Dataset, Disinformation, DFDC, Media forensics, Misinformation

1. Introduction

Deepfakes are videos produced via a set of neural network techniques for manipulating faces in video such as head puppetry, face swapping, and lip syncing [1]. The largest dataset of deepfakes – the DeepFake Detection Challenge (DFDC) dataset – contains 104,500 deepfakes generated via 8 synthetic techniques: DF-126, DF-256, MM/NN, NTH, FSGAN, StyleGAN, refinement and audio swaps [2]. While the videos from this dataset showcase manipulations by many of the most recent deepfake generation algorithms, these videos are limited in their context. Each video shows one or two individuals in a nondescript location engaged in an uncontroversial interaction for a duration of 10 seconds. None of the individuals in these videos are famous or well known. Most importantly, none of these videos are designed to persuade. As a result, it is unclear whether the performance of a model trained or evaluated on the DFDC dataset (or DeeperForensics-1.0 [3], Celeb-DF [4], Google DFD [5], FF++ DF [6], UADFV [7], DF-TIMIT [8]) would generalize to the types of persuasive, evocative deepfake videos that go viral on social media. Initial evidence shows that the leading model from the DFDC performs poorly on deepfakes of world leaders while the ordinary people are quite accurate at identifying these kinds of deepfakes [9].

In order to evaluate the generalizability of end-to-end systems for deepfake detection, it is important to develop datasets that not only cover a variety of contexts but cover potentially persuasive context. One example of such a dataset is the political leaders deepfakes dataset, which contains almost 2 hours of video altered by deepfake algorithms [10]. This dataset has been used

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Figure 1: These images are drawn from the first frame at the 10 second mark of each of the 32 videos in this dataset. The images on the left are drawn from videos with deepfake lip-sync manipulations while the images on the right are drawn from videos that have not been manipulated.

to examine the accuracy of deepfake detection algorithms, which vary depending on both the kind of deepfake manipulation and the individual in the video [10, 11]. Based on 44 minutes of deepfake face-swap videos of Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Bernie Sanders, Donald Trump and Elizabeth Warren, the accuracy rate for detecting deepfake face-swap videos range from a maximum true positive rate of 86% (with 1% false positives) on videos of Elizabeth Warren to a minimum true positive rate of 31% (with a 1% false positive rate) on videos of Donald Trump [10]. On a separate set of 59 minutes of deepfake lip-sync videos and 11.4 minutes of deepfake head-puppetry videos of Barack Obama, the algorithm achieves a 30% and 40% true positive rate (with a 1% false positive rate), respectively. This particular detection algorithm that examines concordance between facial movements and speech is potentially vulnerable to different manners in which the person is speaking such as whether the speaker is looking directly into the camera or looking off-camera [10]. An algorithm's vulnerability will depend on what kind of data it has been trained on and for what the algorithm has been optimized. In order to assess how well an algorithm performs in a new context, we developed the Presidential Deepfakes Dataset, a dataset containing both videos manipulated using deep-learning techniques and non-manipulated videos of recent United States presidents.

2. Presidential Deepfakes Dataset

The *Presidential Deepfakes Dataset* contains 32 videos of the two most recent United States presidents, Joseph Biden and Donald Trump. Each video in the dataset features one of the two presidents expressing a political opinion in a formal setting. 50% of the videos are deepfakes containing deep-learning based lip synchronizations, impersonated audio, situational artifacts, and deceptive content. The full dataset is 11 minutes and 26 seconds in length and contains 20,425 frames.

We developed this dataset by downloading 32 YouTube videos featuring Donald Trump and Joseph Biden and manipulating 16 of these videos. We curated these videos based on several

criteria: Donald Trump or Joseph Biden is the only one speaking (there are no interviewers, audience members, staff, family, or other actors situated in the frame); the speaker expresses a political opinion that can be categorized as conservative or liberal; the speaker talks for the entire duration of the video; the video incorporates artifacts (relevant backdrops, news channel insignia, logos, news ribbons at the bottom of the screen, and ambient objects like microphones, pedestals, and flags) that provide an insight into the ambience of the speaker and the topic being presented.

For each of the 32 videos, we created standardized segments from each of these videos using a modified set of criteria defined in earlier research [10]: Each segment is between 15-30 seconds in length; The speaker's torso and face are always visible and stay the same size for the duration of the segment; The camera is relatively stationary and does not pan or zoom in. The video segments have a resolution of 854 by 480 pixels, and are recorded at 30fps. All the video segments are curated in a similar manner.

We modify the content, audio, and visual aspects of 16 videos. The 32 videos from both US presidents represent a range of opinions on either side of the political spectrum, and we source fabricated content from fact checking websites, far-right and far-left leaning websites, and speeches by other politicians. Each fabricated script is modified to resemble the linguistic style of the two presidents. Rather than algorithmically manipulating the presidents' voices, we collaborated with voice actors who read fabricated scripts while imitating the presidents' voices.

Finally, we applied a deepfake lip-sync manipulation to the voice-overs of the fabricated scripts to make both presidents appear to say something they did not say. The videos in both the manipulated and non-manipulated set feature official backdrops like newsroom settings, The White House press briefing room, the venue of the Presidential debates, award ceremonies, campaign trails, speech venues, and conferences.

3. Methods

3.1. Text

We selected political statements that intended to resemble political talking points and each president's stylistic speaking pattern. As such, we fabricated statements such that they could be classified as clearly liberal or conservative. Each fabricated statement was either expressed by a politician, celebrity, or fact checker. The real and fabricated statements discuss the following topics: Obamacare, gun control, birth control, minority groups, social security and school reform.

3.2. Audio

The fabricated statements were read by voice actors. We note here that the audio from nonmanipulated videos sheds some light on the environment and the presence of others in the frame,

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through background sounds like camera clicks, applause, and echoes. These background artifacts could also provide a useful way to distinguish between deepfakes and non-manipulated videos in the wild.

3.3. Video

To create our set of deepfakes, we use existing videos of the two politicians from YouTube. Videos are selected if they show the politicians in a frontal view and do not include faces of other individuals in the frame. We also include other factors like the size of the politician's face, their distance from the camera, whether their position is relatively stationery for the duration of the video, and the presence of situational artifacts like microphones and news ribbons. The silent videos are then cut up into segments of the same length as the audio files from the voice actors. Each video-audio pair is then fed into the *Wav2Lip* model [12] pre-trained on the LRS2 dataset [13]. The model modifies the visemes in the video frames to match the phonemes in the audio stream.

4. Evaluation

We evaluate the usefulness of the *Presidential Deepfakes Dataset* by examining the performance of the leading model from the Deepfake Detection Challenge (DFDC). [2, 14] This model was trained on 128,154 10-second videos, outperformed 2,115 other models submitted to the DFDC, and earned half a million dollars for winning the competition. [2] As such, this model serves as a useful benchmark for evaluating how well today's best deepfake detection model performs on identifying algorithmically manipulated videos from non-manipulated videos. We present the model's performance in Table 1. If we define accurate identification as predicting greater than 50% likelihood of the ground truth, then the model accurately identifies 69% of videos: 14 of the 16 videos of Joseph Biden and 8 of the 16 videos of Donald Trump. What is particularly notable is how the model mistakenly predicts 6 of 8 deepfakes of Joseph Biden in 7 of 8 deepfakes. While it is unclear what explains this differential accuracy, this dataset reveals that the leading model is not very accurate on manipulations of leading political figures. By benchmarking this performance, we enable media forensics researchers to compare their models to the leading deepfake detection model from the DFDC competition on this dataset.

5. Ethics

The *Presidential Deepfakes Dataset* provides examples of deepfakes with lip synchronization, voice impersonations, situational artifacts, and persuasive content based on United States presidents. While datasets should generally obtain an individual's consent, both of the manipulated individuals are public figures who have previously had deepfake videos made of them. As such, we follow the example of similar datasets of political deepfakes, [15, 10] and do not obtain consent from either president. While the language used in the videos is based on language found on far-right and far-left leaning websites, news channels, and quotes by political figures, we do

Video	Туре	Model Prediction	Correct
Biden 00	Manipulated	.63	1
Biden 01	Manipulated	.96	1
Biden 02	Manipulated	.96	1
Biden 03	Manipulated	.50	-
Biden 04	Manipulated	.96	1
Biden 05	Manipulated	.97	1
Biden 06	Manipulated	.97	1
Biden 07	Manipulated	.95	1
Biden 08	Authentic	.02	1
Biden 09	Authentic	.09	1
Biden 10	Authentic	.19	1
Biden 11	Authentic	.25	1
Biden 12	Authentic	.01	1
Biden 13	Authentic	.04	1
Biden 14	Authentic	.85	0
Biden 15	Authentic	.21	1
Trump 00	Manipulated	.27	0
Trump 01	Manipulated	.28	0
Trump 02	Manipulated	.20	0
Trump 03	Manipulated	.37	0
Trump 04	Manipulated	.75	1
Trump 05	Manipulated	.04	0
Trump 06	Manipulated	.08	0
Trump 07	Manipulated	.79	1
Trump 08	Authentic	.07	1
Trump 09	Authentic	.27	1
Trump 10	Authentic	.57	0
Trump 11	Authentic	.08	1
Trump 12	Authentic	.09	1
Trump 13	Authentic	.01	1
Trump 14	Authentic	.12	1
Trump 15	Authentic	.73	0

Table 1

Model predictions of leading computer vision model on the Deepfake Detection Contest.[2, 14] The model accurately identifies authentic and manipulated videos on 87.5% of videos with Joseph Biden videos and 50% of videos with Donald Trump.

not agree with this language and recognize some of these statements can be hurtful to certain communities and individuals. Despite these concerns, we believe that this dataset will play an important role in benchmarking deepfake detection algorithms. Research in cognitive inoculation theory has shown that "prebunking", i.e preemptively exposing people to weakened doses of misinformation can reduce our susceptibility to them [16]. For example, recent experimental evidence shows that people exposed to a particular kind of algorithmic visual manipulation can quickly learn to identify such manipulations in images [17]. Moreover, crowd workers have been shown to identify misinformation objectively, which suggests that more information on what

misinformation looks like can be useful. [18] It is particularly important to study potentially persuasive deepfakes because social media (where deepfakes are often shared) tends to draw people's attention away from truth and accuracy [19] and people share misinformation, especially political misinformation, based on its novelty and emotional aspects [20]. By releasing this dataset, we intend to demonstrate the quality of the kinds of videos that are designed to persuade and benchmark algorithmic detection accuracy upon which future researchers can evaluate their algorithms.

6. Conclusion

We curated and developed a set of algorithmically manipulated and non-manipulated videos of United States presidents. This dataset expands the context from which to evaluate deepfakes. We applied a structured approach to creating 16 manipulated videos by developing fabricated scripts, collaborating with voice actors to read these scripts, and applying a lip syncing model to connect the fabricated speech with the video. This dataset represents the kind of persuasive deepfakes that are most worrisome and enables media forensics to address the kinds of contextual clues that arise from deepfake lip-syncing manipulations.

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A. Videos and their sources

Video	Transcript	Video source	Statement source
t-00 Trump Fake Conservative https://youtu.be/ TEh1gyFGgfI	You the great people of America have made this happen. We have a pro-life champion in the White House. I want to assert today that even when life be- gins in that horrible situation of rape that is something that God intended to happen. Life begins at conception.	https://tinyurl. com/4z32wuum	https://tinyurl. com/hyunxxbt
t-01 Trump Fake Conservative https://youtu.be/ Nb-7PrqW-tM	Obama wants to bring people carrying drugs and rapists and terrorists into our borders, but I don't think I would attack the guy on his looks. He is a very nice looking guy. I refuse to say the same thing about his wife or his kids because I insist on being politically correct.	https://tinyurl. com/26zxmvvn	https://tinyurl. com/4t7wk89x https://tinyurl. com/3kx6ufx5 https://tinyurl. com/pzbtj8vu
t-02 Trump Fake Conservative https://youtu.be/ pTFIvfuRDe4	Today as the sitting president in the White House, I still believe that mar- riage should be between a man and a woman. It's as simple as that – one man, one woman. I am a tradionalist, really it's just that I am a traditionalist	https://tinyurl. com/bazpdf73	https://tinyurl. com/54tt36tx
t-03 Trump Fake Conservative https://youtu.be/ ddoj7KUN-WU	COVID is China Origin Viral infec- tious disease, folks! I beat China all the time, on trade deals, and of course they are mad, they are very very mad! Some very smart and brave people will soon be going to China to tell you Iam right	https://tinyurl. com/3m3zdvar	https://tinyurl. com/erfczwa https://tinyurl. com/3b5n27mv
t-04 Trump Fake Liberal https://youtu.be/ DYZBu9jdZbU	We do need school reform, and we do need accountability. What we need more than anything else is more money into the school system. Our govern- ment is willing to put this money in, in all public schools across the country.	https://tinyurl. com/3m3zdvar	https://tinyurl. com/6tnmn9j6

Video	Transcript	Video source	Statement source
t-05 Trump Fake Liberal https://youtu.be/ dW8VpYKwltE	Let's pause here for a moment, okay? I have a great relationship, excuse me, a great relationship with the Muslims as you have probably heard. Many, really a tremendous amount of my friends are Muslims. Ramadan, Eid – beautiful, just beautiful festivals that talk about peace, and generosity.	https://tinyurl. com/24z3ezjr	https://tinyurl. com/mu8bafr6
t-06 Trump Fake Liberal https://youtu.be/ MrTu3ndnoAo	I have a phenomenal, yes phenome- nal amount of respect for women – all kinds of women, suburban women, black women, international women who are doing some great work in tech- nology. Ask Deborah, I tell Tony Fauci all the time that she's smarter than him.	https://tinyurl. com/2mjkzzy4	https://tinyurl. com/nmfs97f5 https://tinyurl. com/57pakcpv
t-07 Trump Fake Liberal https://youtu.be/ sWeUJITORko	Even now we have certain medica- tions, like Marinol which is a mari- juana based medication that is used for all kinds of good, pain relieving, won- derful just absolutely wonderful things, and it is legal here in the United States. I want to make sure people are healthy and happy and are just really having a good time.	https://tinyurl. com/d7rvvm2d	https://tinyurl. com/6ufwhuk 7https://tinyurl. com/uaxm8kb8
t-08 Trump Real Conservative https://youtu.be/ aHTuCsAFUpM	Families and churches, not government officials know best how to create strong and loving communities. That's why I want our pastors, and our clergy telling us what they think. I want to hear from them, I don't want them to be held up in making a statement, I want to hear from those people	https://tinyurl. com/use9wkcs	

Video	Transcript	Video source	Statement source
t-09 Trump Real Conservative https://youtu.be/ uQVoXKmlqFM	Hillary Clinton will release violent criminals from jail, more so than even Obama. She has a more open policy than Obama, if that's possible and put innocent Americans at risk. I am going to put criminals behind bars and guar- antee that law abiding Americans have the right to self defence.	https://tinyurl. com/whmfm9yp	
t-10 Trump Real Conservative https://youtu.be/ _ocb1UDflbE	A number of state and local govern- ments have failed to take necessary ac- tion to safeguard their residents. Inno- cent people have been savagely beaten like the young man in Dallas, Texas who was left dying on the street or the woman in upstate New York, viciously attacked by dangerous thugs.	https://tinyurl. com/fryp5z66	
t-11 Trump Real Conservative https://youtu.be/ foHLbGR1atk	I want everybody to be given the same treatment as your President because I feel great. I feel, like, perfect. So, I think this was a blessing from God that I caught it. This was a blessing in dis- guise. I caught it, I heard about this drug, I said let me take it	https://tinyurl. com/ah6fd9yu	
t-12 Trump Real Liberal https://youtu.be/ H5fjE2LDLeU	Racism is evil, and those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including the KKK, neo- nazis, white supremacists and other hate groups that are repugnant to ev- erything we hold dear as Americans. We are a nation founded on the truth.	https://tinyurl. com/2k9cc4r8	

Video	Transcript	Video source	Statement source
t-13 Trump Real Liberal https://youtu.be/ zGEsqmNKSeE	And there is a movement on to get something done. We want to be very powerful on background checks, when we are dealing with the mentally ill as we were in this last case. He was a very sick person, and somebody that should have been nabbed – I guess they had 39 different occasions where they were able to see him or potentially see him.	https://tinyurl. com/tbhrmx69	
t-14 Trump Real Liberal https://youtu.be/ IBKmTbRmHI4	For our country, the Republicans want security and insist on security for our country and we will have that. At the same time, we have compassion; we want to keep families together. It's very important, I'll be signing something in a little while that's going to do that and the people in this room want to do that and they are working on various pieces of legislation to get it done.	https://tinyurl. com/d4jtsej6	
t-15 Trump Real Liberal https://youtu.be/ bvyPuJI7rFU	That we are going to protect social se- curity and we are going to protect our people and social security is one of the things that will be protected. Pre- existing conditions will be protected, medicare will be protected but social security will be totally protected.	https://tinyurl. com/ye5phz2z	
b-00 Biden Fake Conservative https://youtu.be/ JeEUFfHoYVw	Obamacare is not the answer. I want to encourage citizens to maintain health- care savings accounts, mandated and controlled by the government to cover the costs of routine health care. Insur- ers will step in to cover the burdens of illnesses like cancer which can be catas- trophically expensive and emotionally exhausting.	https://tinyurl. com/54ttk2h	https://tinyurl. com/v6mu3w29

Video	Transcript	Video source	Statement source
b-01 Biden Fake Conservative https://youtu.be/ v3GeWvqx-C4	Gun control laws have the risk of non compliance. We have a significant number of communities who agree with us on banning assault weapons but who want us to recognize that gun con- trol can sometimes make the state an accomplice to crime. I want to assure these citizens that their 2nd amendment right will be protected.	https://tinyurl. com/4j6adnyu	https://tinyurl. com/8rxzt6tc
b-02 Biden Fake Conservative https://youtu.be/ jP6tNR65wF4	As a catholic, I believe that are our rab- bis and priests must be free to make the deicison on whether or not to marry a same sex couple. It is very impor- tant to separate the beliefs of the state and the church in such matters of reli- gious practice, and to uphold the inde- pendence of those who strengthen our collective faith and unite our communi- ties every day.	https://tinyurl. com/477xvxk4	https://tinyurl. com/24y9yepe
b-03 Biden Fake Conservative https://youtu.be/ r_ieNWukEDI	Liability protections for companies are more important than individual finan- cial relief for teachers, or sanitation workers. By prioritising relief pack- ages for companies in the pandemic, we protect our economy. The worst is behind us and we need need to encour- age American business.	https://tinyurl. com/dnt75rsp	https://tinyurl. com/ddn5833y
b-04 Biden Fake Liberal https://youtu.be/ tZNCOYSbgiw	I have considered my position on war many times. Sometimes I feel that as a potential future President, I wouldn't use our powerful military in the middle east or in other parts of the world at all and only use it to defend our country. I do not wish for other Americans to lose their children like I had to.	https://tinyurl. com/5ybsh3d4	https://tinyurl. com/ejjxcrbk https://tinyurl. com/k4d8dhp3

Video	Transcript	Video source	Statement source
b-05 Biden Fake Liberal https://youtu.be/ b9t-ZxGDJBI	Stella Browne, Aleck bourne – we have had pro choice activists since the 1930s. The right of a woman to abort the child trumps the rights of the foetus, whether sentient or not. My government will support policies that promote preven- tion and the use of birth control, but also support any mother who wishes to abort a late-term foetus based on her physician's guidance or her own choice.	https://tinyurl. com/2pfskbt9	https://tinyurl. com/7ydhdm3n
b-06 Biden Fake Liberal https://youtu.be/ v8AEivzb6Ng	Marijuana usage should and will be le- galized at the federal level. We already support decriminalization, but we also want to create supportive policies at the state level to legalize marijuana usage.	https://tinyurl. com/nztrxa49	https://tinyurl. com/cvbcsndp
b-07 Biden Fake Liberal https://youtu.be/ u36HnG0-bBY	Well some of the police in these protests are behaving like white supremacist groups themselves. I have a lot of faith in our police forces and I am incredibly proud of the work they are doing to protect our people, but fir- ing at protesters? Come on man, that's ridiculous!	https://tinyurl. com/7nbtfrtz	https://tinyurl. com/nbw7w2rk
b-08 Biden Real Conservative https://youtu.be/ 9zlsX7RGPnc	Do we need a pro-growth, progressive tax code? That treats workers as job creators, well not just investors? That gets rid of unprotective loopholes like stepped up basis? And it raises enough revenue to make sure that the social security and medicare can stay? Still needs adjustments, but can stay, and pay for the things we all acknowledge will grow the country.	https://tinyurl. com/3d3awckx	

Video	Transcript	Video source	Statement source
b-09 Biden Real Conservative https://youtu.be/ nJwOhuII5x4	It's totally legitimate for someone not to have to say, "No no, don't get in my private space". It's my job. It's my job to read that "No no this is space that no one wants me to invade."	https://tinyurl. com/hx3ky9pt	
b-10 Biden Real Conservative https://youtu.be/ wv_62WiuUgQ	With regard to, um, with regard to abor- tion, I accept my church's position on abortion as a what we call, "De fide doctrine"". Life begins at conception and that's the church's judgment and I accept it in my personal life."	https://tinyurl. com/yn5fzzpb	
b-11 Biden Real Conservative https://youtu.be/ _LRGcONgoxY	You all know, but most people don't know, unlike the African American community - with notable exceptions - the Latino community is an incredibly diverse community with incredibly dif- ferent attitudes about different things. You go to Florida, you'll find a very different attitude about immigration in certain places than you do in Arizona.	https://tinyurl. com/du2ukz75	
b-12 Biden Real Liberal https://youtu.be/ iobG3_FQ110	The United States of America will not stand for it in any countries and we will not cooperate with those countries who engage in this fratricide, that they are moving on. Using religion or cul- ture to discriminate against or demo- nize LGBTQ individuals is never jus- tified, not anywhere in the world. Vio- lence against any person in any form is intolerable.	https://tinyurl. com/2bkn7s3t	

Video	Transcript	Video source	Statement source
b-13 Biden Real Liberal https://youtu.be/ DvV7xWMIjQc	I'd make sure that PPE and sanitation supplies for schools qualify as Emer- gency Protective Measures which is a phrase they use to fully be eligible for federal assistance. On top of that I'll be working with the leaders of Congress now, today, to pass emergency pack- ages for schools so they have the re- sources they need in order to be able to open safely.	https://tinyurl. com/2a5cjx	
b-14 Biden Real Liberal https://youtu.be/ IyrCML0cwMk	And I get occasionally confronted with a person in public about wearing a mask. I say, "Look, this is America. Be a patriot. Protect your fellow citi- zens. Protect your fellow citizens. Step up. Do the right thing."	https://tinyurl. com/ufj28f85	
b-15 Biden Real Liberal https://youtu.be/ 2OYJPNEZhBY	One of the things I think is important – I wish, I wish we taught more in our schools about the Islamic faith. I wish we talked about all the great confes- sional faiths, it's one of the great con- fessional faiths and what people don't realize is - one of my avocations is the- ology - don't realize is that we all come from the same root here.	https://tinyurl. com/2ytat96t	