

# **Where are the Facts? Searching for Fact-checked information to Alleviate the Spread of Fake News**

Nguyen Vo, Kyumin Lee (2020)

ECE 594 (Spring 2022)

Paper Presentation

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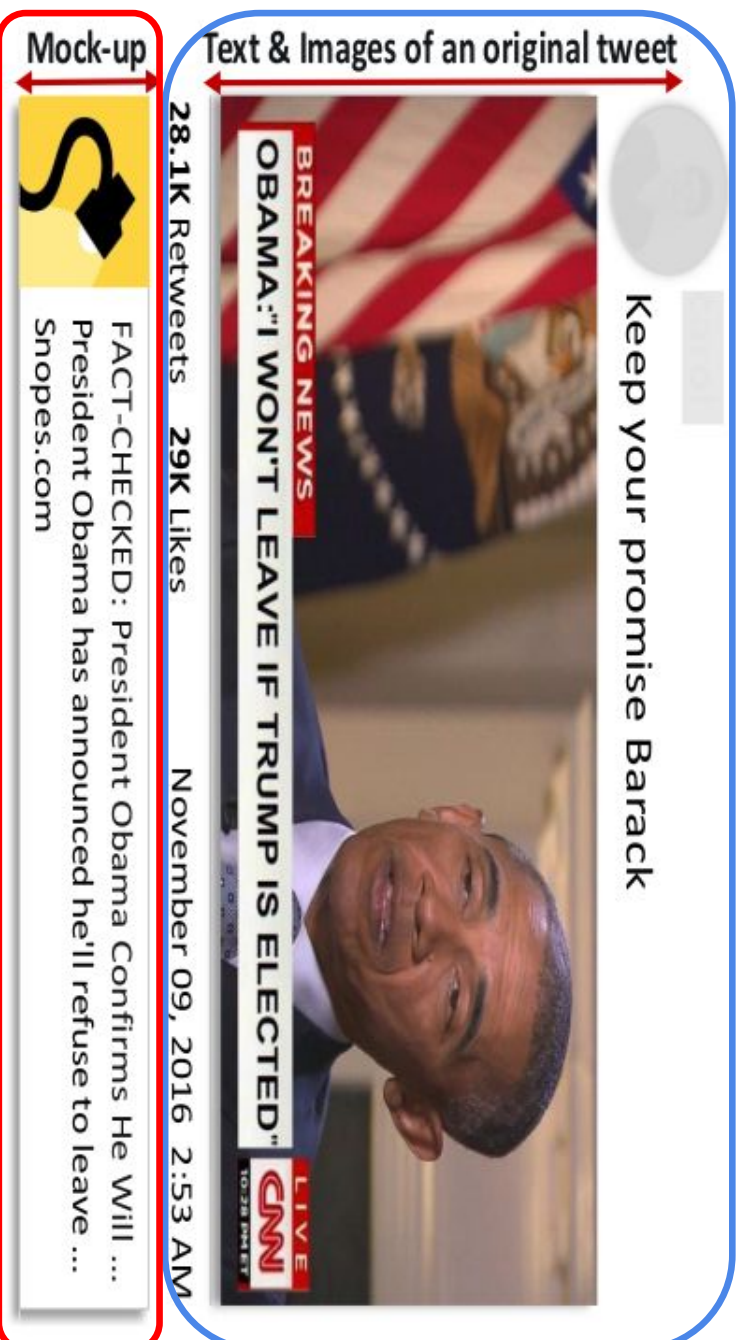
04/14/2022

# Background

- Fake news is prevalent in social media
- Fact-checking systems exist:
  - Focus only on fact-checking
  - Neglect online users who spread misinformation
- Since 2014, number of fact-checking systems has **increased by 400% in 60 countries**<sup>1</sup>
- Fake news is still prevalent
- Cause citizens' misperception about political candidates, threatened public health, etc., which is very concerning

<sup>1</sup>Mark Stencel. 2019. Number of fact-checking outlets surges to 188 in more than 60 countries. <https://bit.ly/36v3S31>

# Example



Original Tweet containing misinformation

Example of how a searched (relevant) FC-article is presented

By Incorporating **Fact Checking (FC)-article** with social media posts:

1. Users can be warned about fake news
2. Increased volume of verified content

# Contributions

- Searching Fact-Checking (FC) articles to increase user awareness of fact-checked information
- Novel Neural Ranking model that uses both textual and visual information (integrated attention mechanism)
- Perform experiments on two datasets, and demonstrate effectiveness and generality over existing document ranking methods

# Challenges

What information in original tweets should be used to find correct FC-articles?

- Using **only text** from original tweets is **suboptimal**
- Authors propose to use information from **both text and images**

How can a framework be designed that retrieves and ranks FC-articles?

- Step 1: Basic retrieval (BM25) to find initial lists of candidate FC-articles (using information from original tweet: a) *text (BM25-T)*, b) *image (BM25-I)*, c) *text in image (BM25-TI)*)
- Step 2: Re-rank the lists obtained in Step 1 (attention mechanism - to integrate textual and visual information)

# Framework: Inputs

Original Tweet  $q : (q_{text}, q_{images})$

$q_{text}$  - sequence of N words  $\{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_N\}$

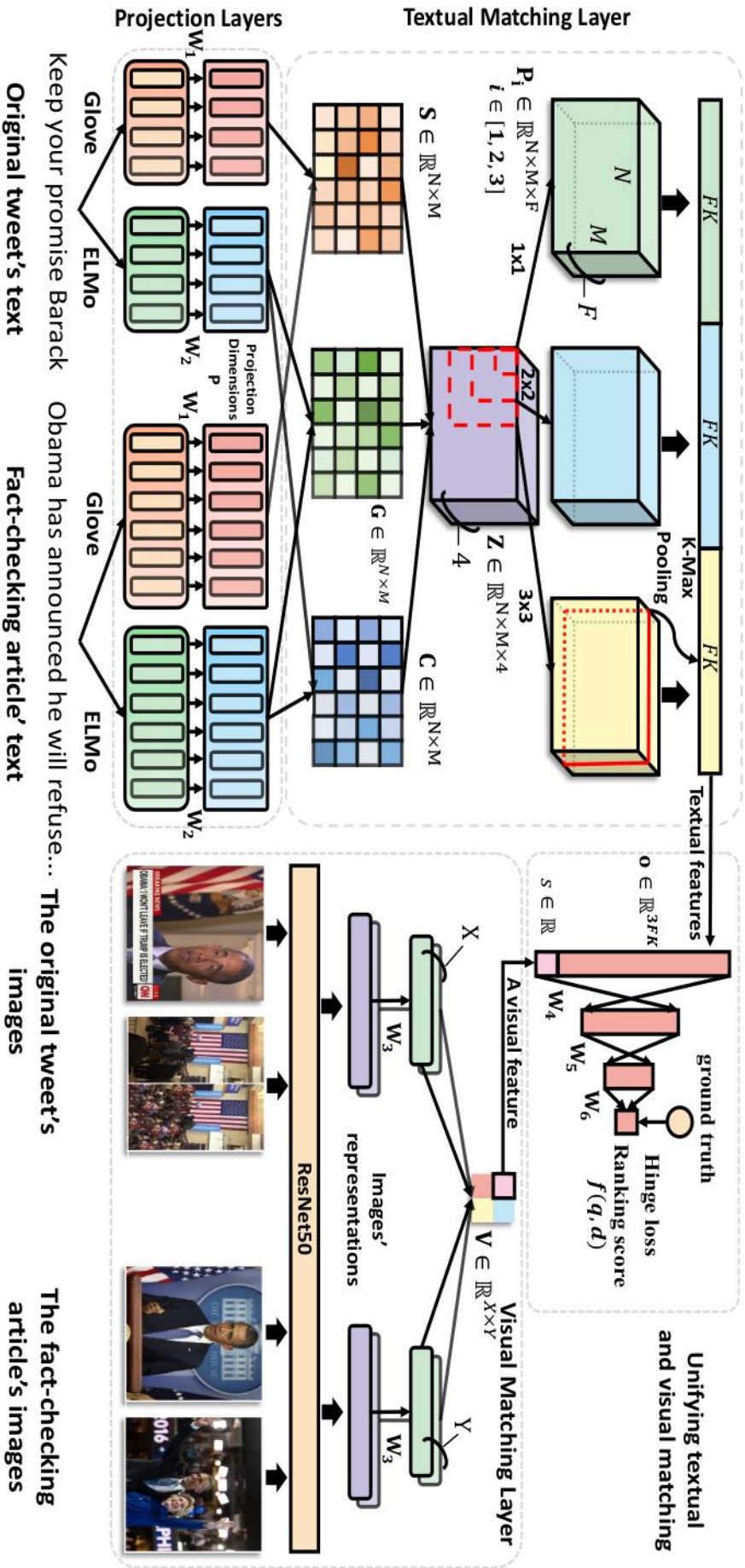
$q_{images}$  - list of X images  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_X\}$

FC-article  $d : (d_{text}, d_{images})$

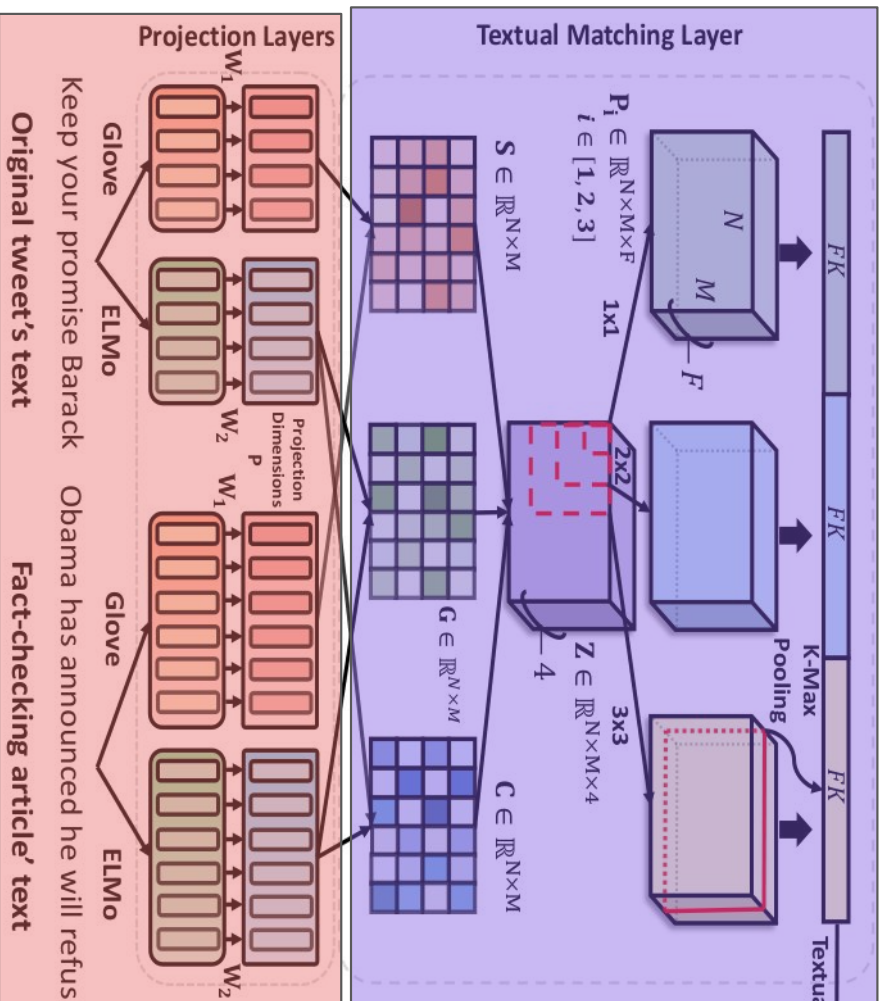
$d_{text}$  - sequence of M words  $\{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_M\}$

$d_{images}$  - list of Y images  $\{V_1, V_2, \dots, V_Y\}$

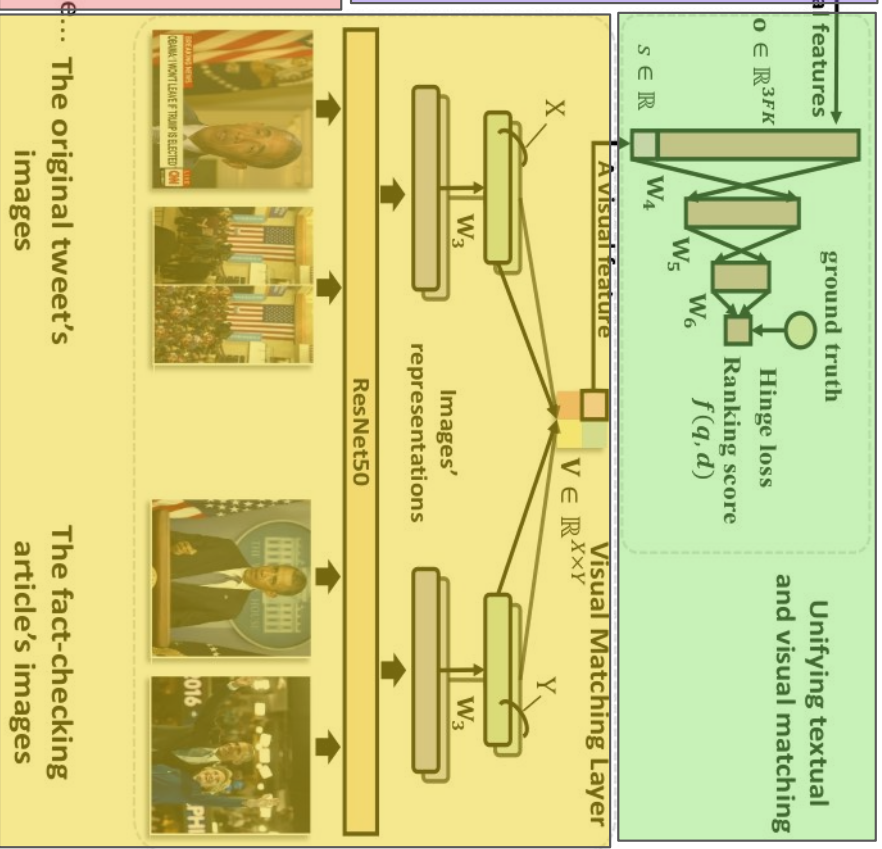
Aim is to derive a mapping  $f(q, d)$  [*ranking function* - used to rank FC-articles]



## Textual Matching Layer



## Unifying Textual and Visual Matching

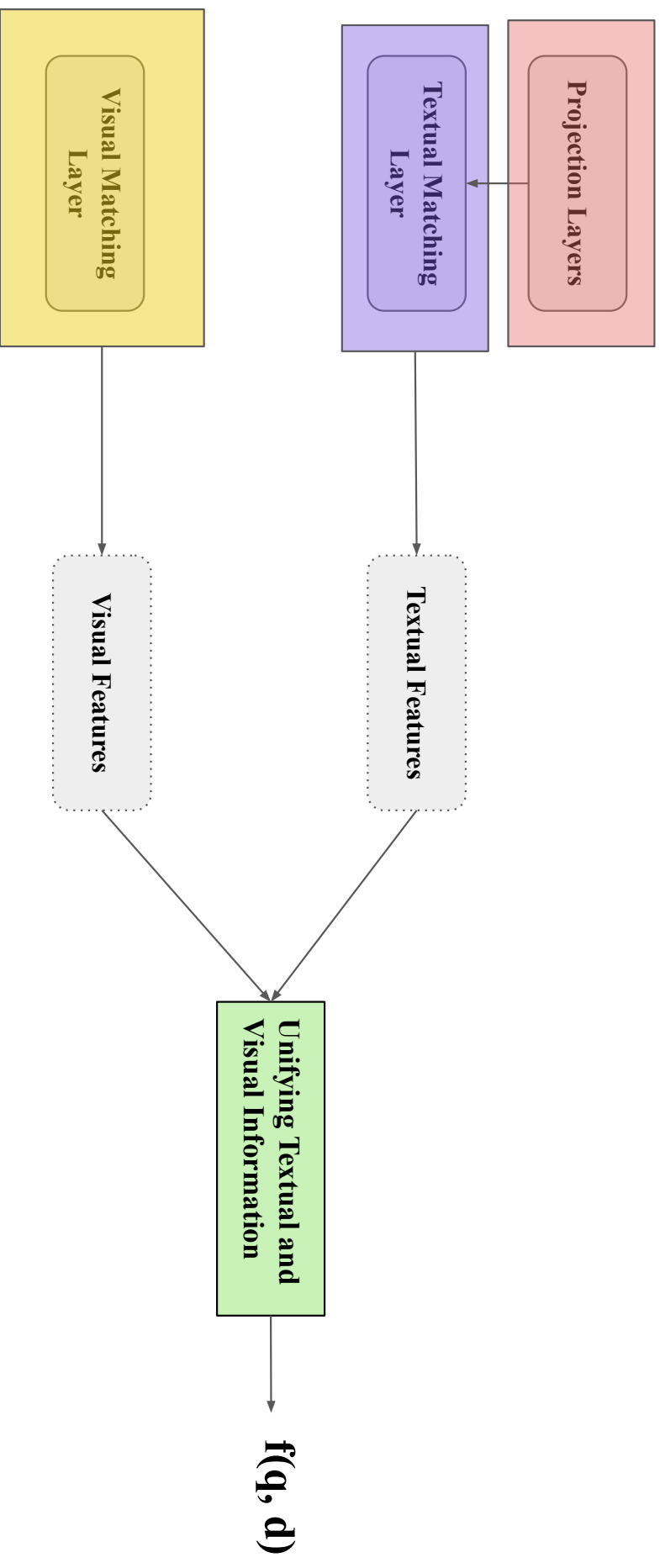


## Projection Layers

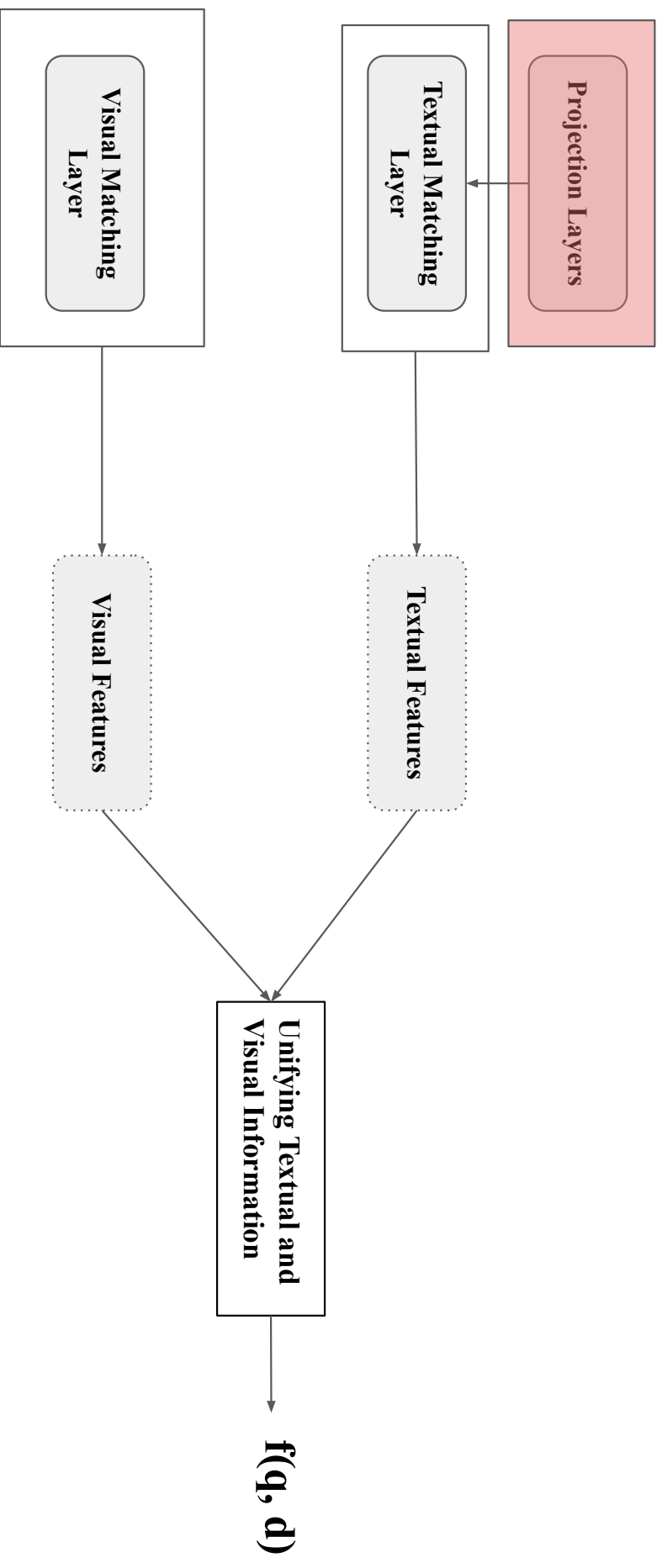
## Visual Matching Layer



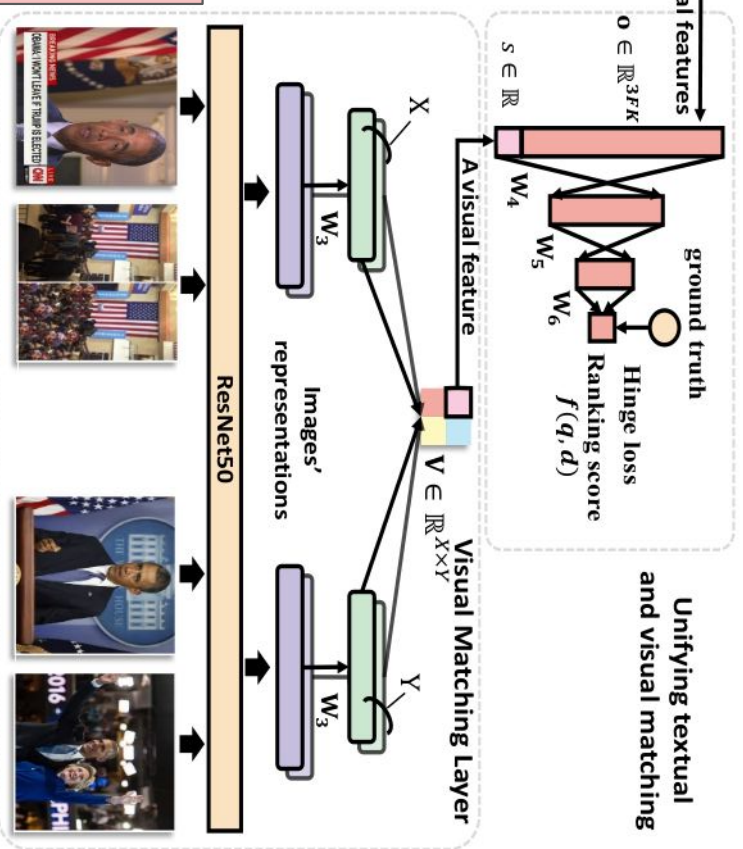
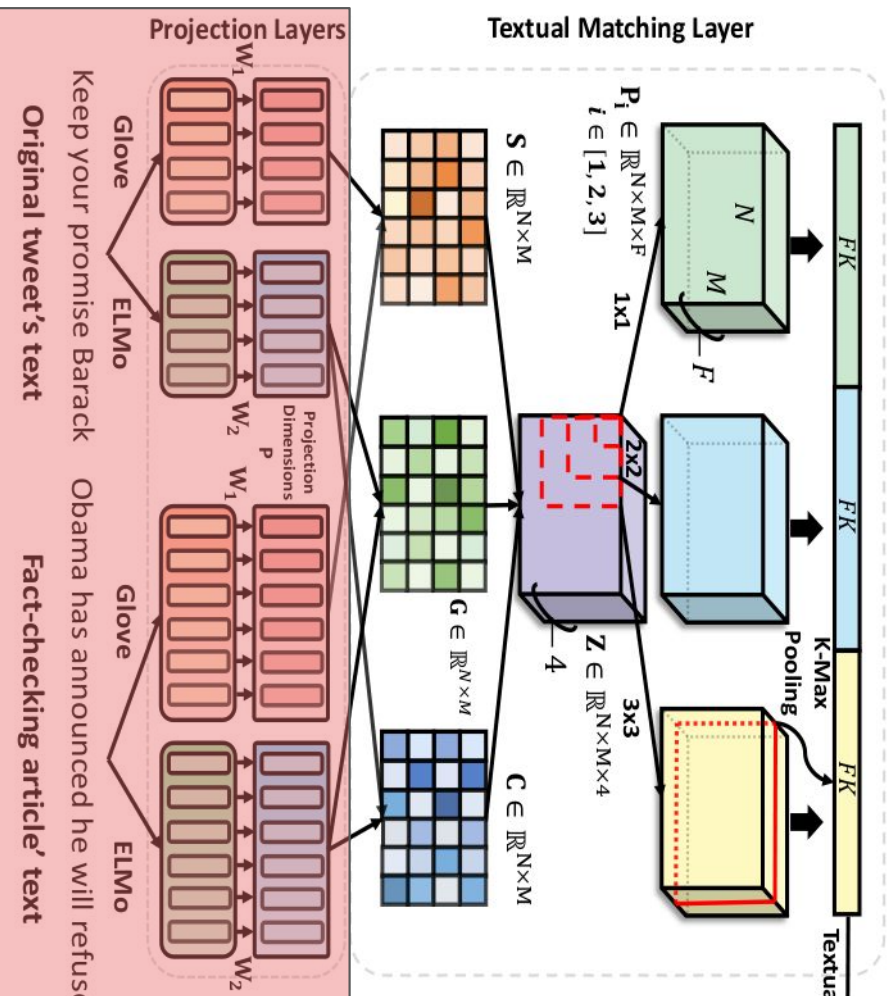
# Framework: Multimodal Attention Network - MAN



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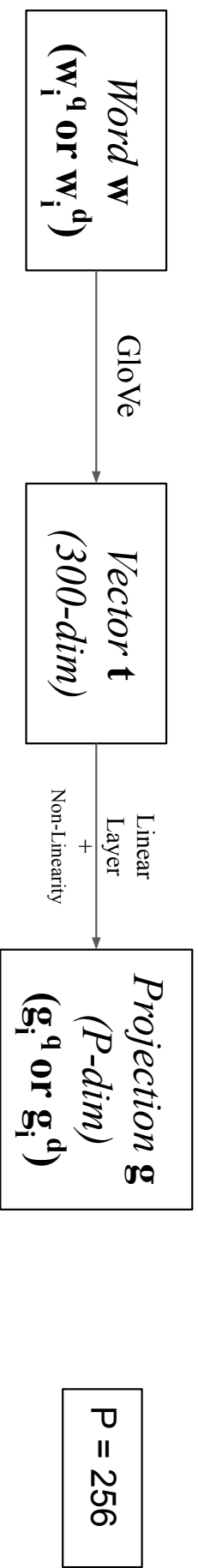


# Projection Layers

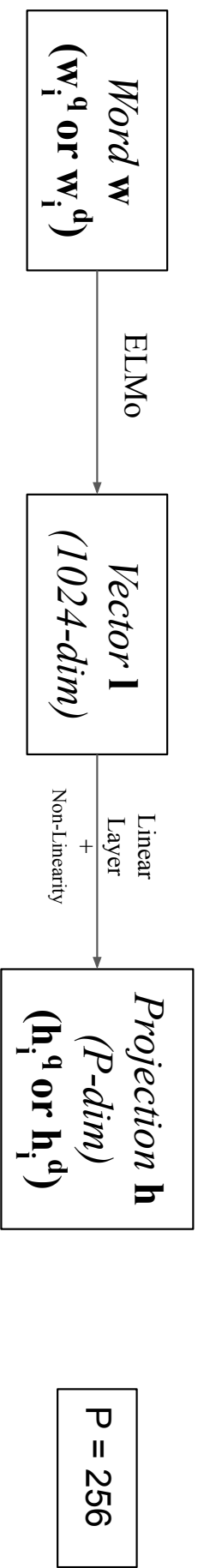


# Projection Layers

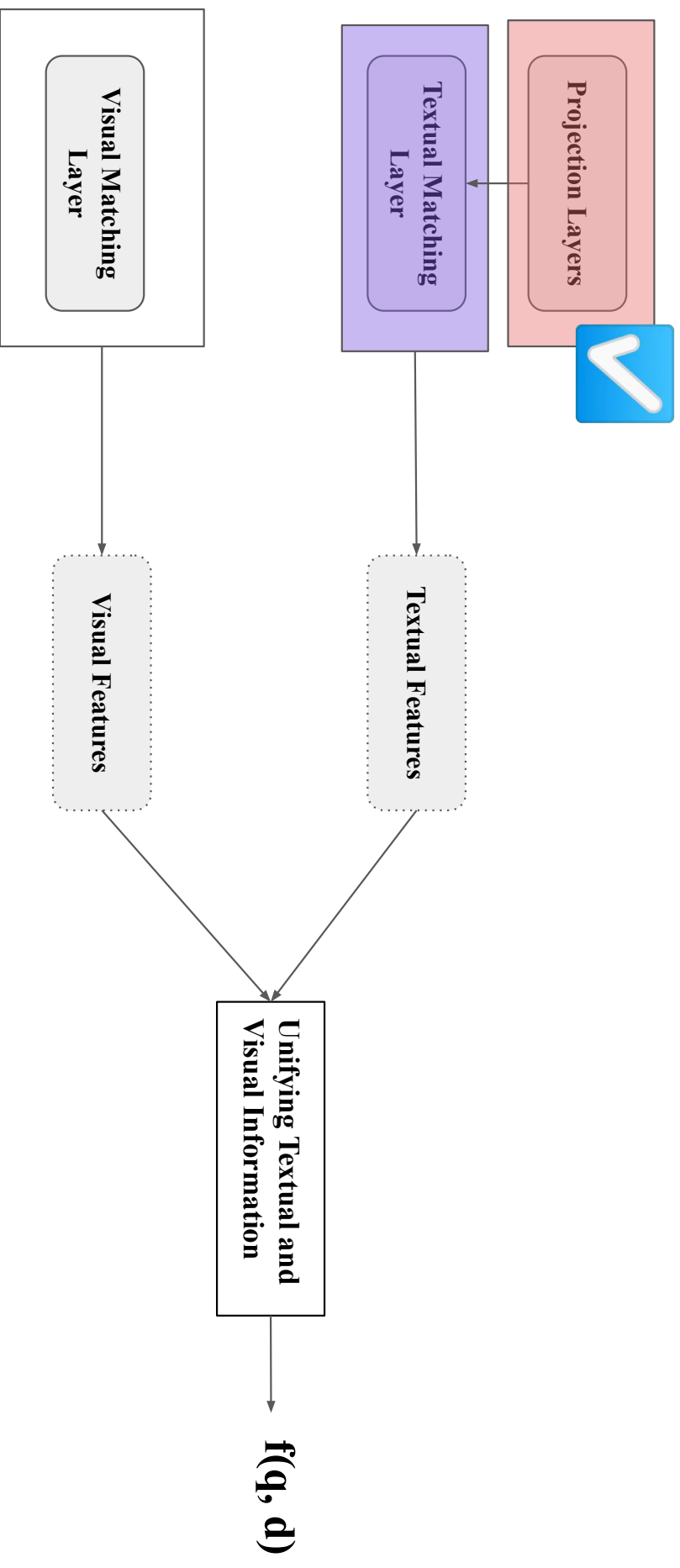
## 1. Projection Layer for GloVe Embeddings



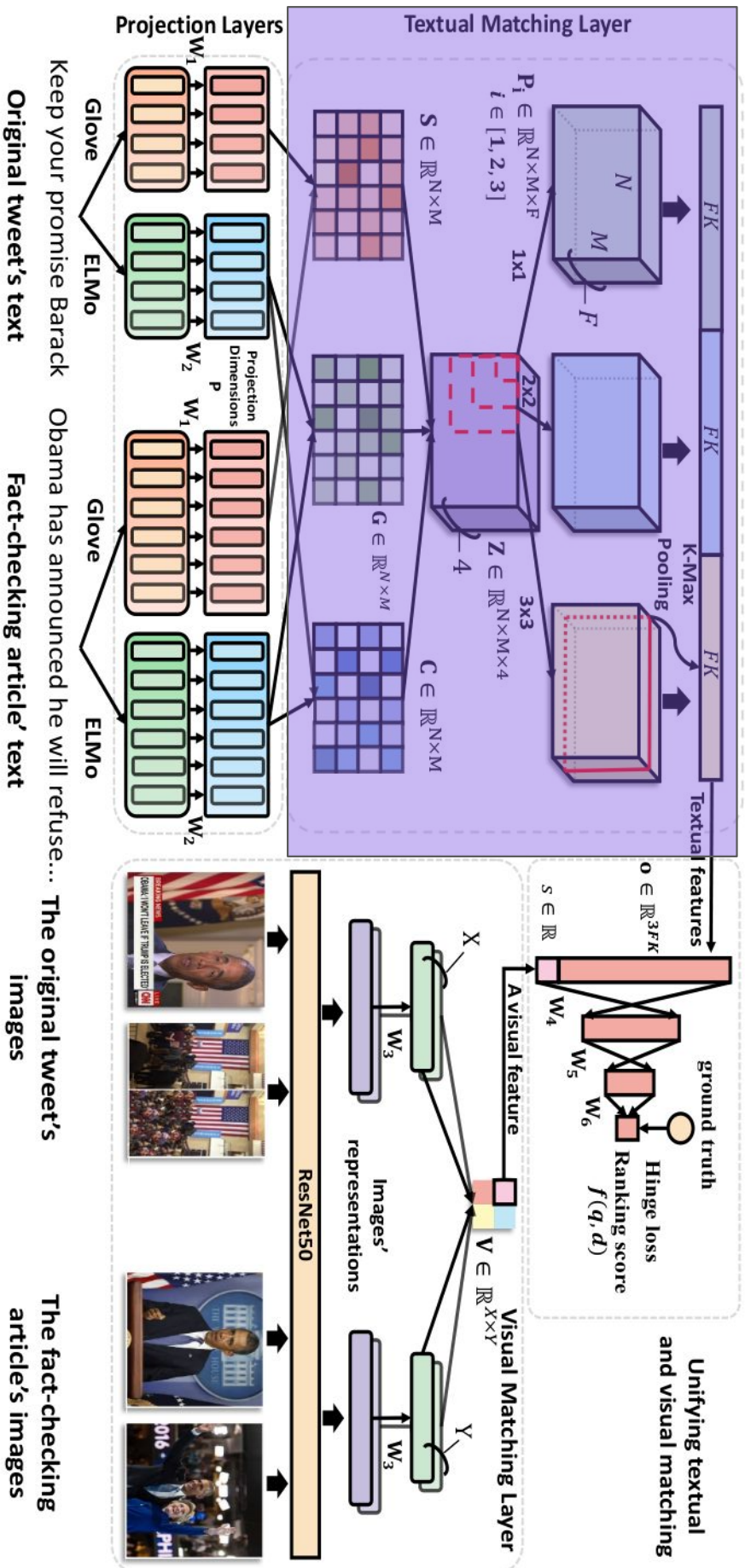
## 2. Projection Layer for Contextual Word Embeddings



# Framework: Multimodal Attention Network - MAN



# Textual Matching Layer



# Textual Matching Layer

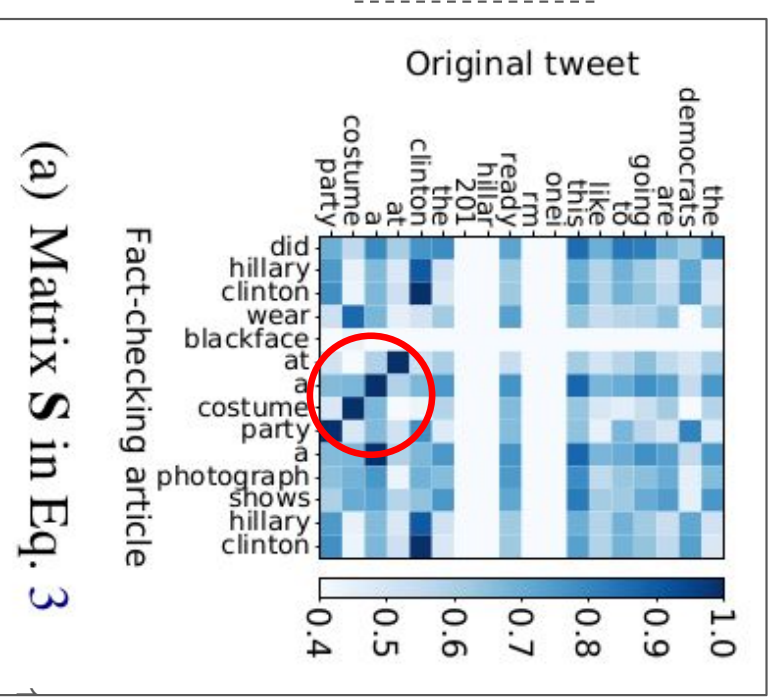
1. GloVe Embedding Interactions
2. ELMo Embedding Interactions
3. Attended Interaction Matrix

# GloVe Embedding Interactions

An article is relevant to the original tweet if they have overlapping or similar words

$$S_{ij} = \frac{\mathbf{g}_i^{qT} \cdot \mathbf{g}_j^d}{\|\mathbf{g}_i^q\| \times \|\mathbf{g}_j^d\|}, \quad i = 1..N, j = 1..M$$

Recall that  $\mathbf{g}$  is the output of the Projection Layer for GloVe Embedding



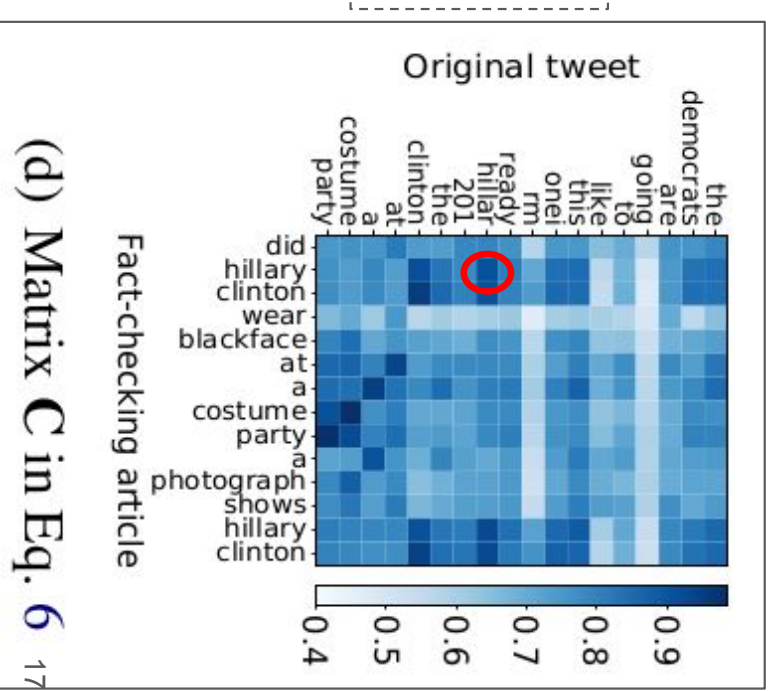


# ELMo Embedding Interactions

Contextual Embeddings able to capture high similarity between a typo and a normal word

$$C_{ij} = \frac{\mathbf{h}_i^{qT} \cdot \mathbf{h}_j^d}{\|\mathbf{h}_i^q\| \times \|\mathbf{h}_j^d\|}, i = 1..N, j = 1..M$$

Recall that  $\mathbf{h}$  is the output of the Projection Layer for ELMo Embedding

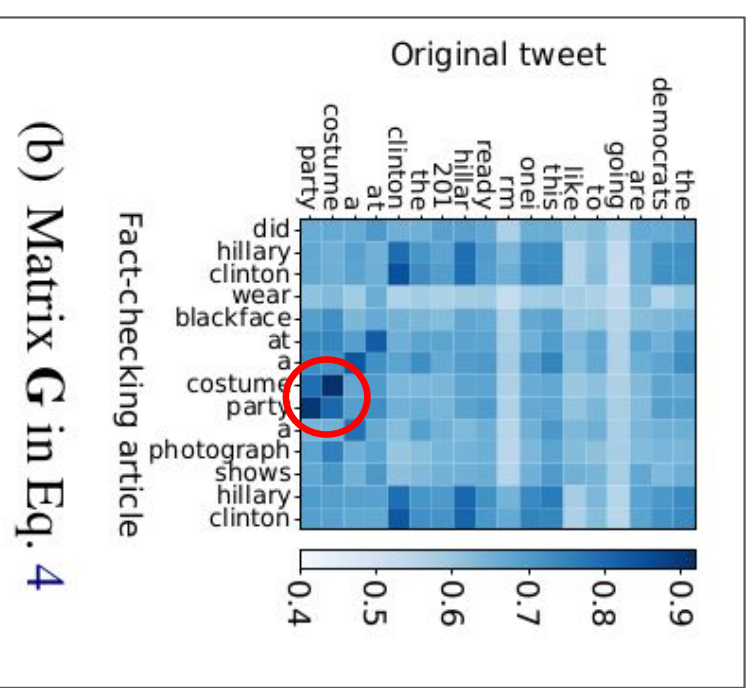
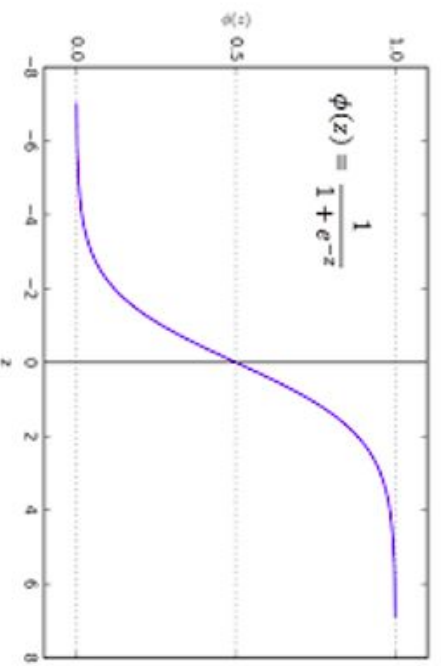


(d) Matrix C in Eq. 6 17

# Attended Interaction Matrix

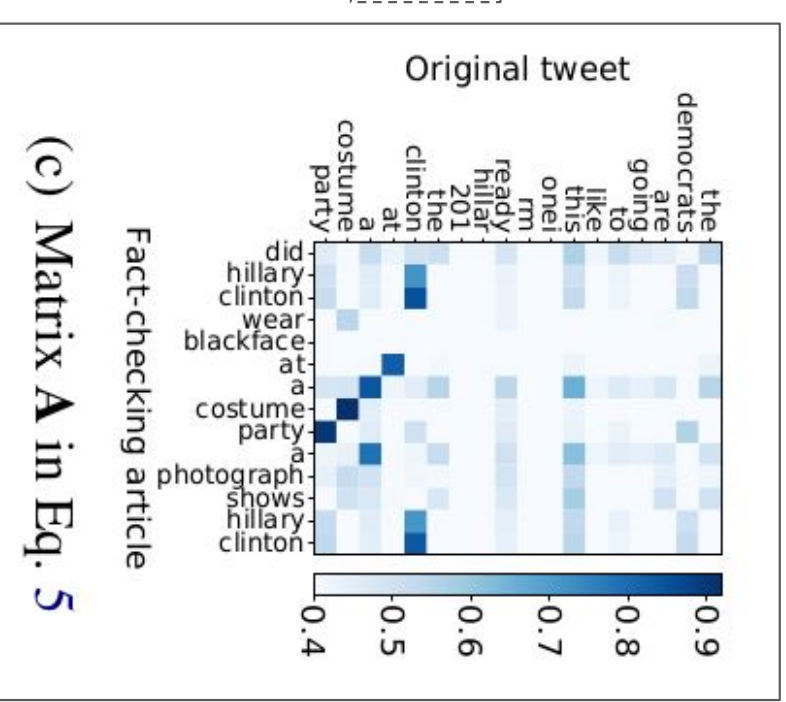
Attention mechanism to avoid over-reliance of raw similarities from projected GloVe Embeddings

$$G_{ij} = 2 \times \sigma(-\|\mathbf{h}_i^q - \mathbf{h}_j^d\|), i = 1..N, j = 1..M$$



# Attended Interaction Matrix

$$A_{ij} = \mathbf{S}_{ij} \times \mathbf{G}_{ij}, i = 1..N, j = 1..M$$



(c) Matrix  $A$  in Eq. 5

# Intuition (Open to Discussion)

**S** - Similarity between GloVe embeddings

**G** - Similarity between ELMo embeddings

**A** - Extent to which G attends to S

**W1** - word in query (tweet), **W2** - word in document (FC-article)

a) If W1, W2 are different, and occur in same context

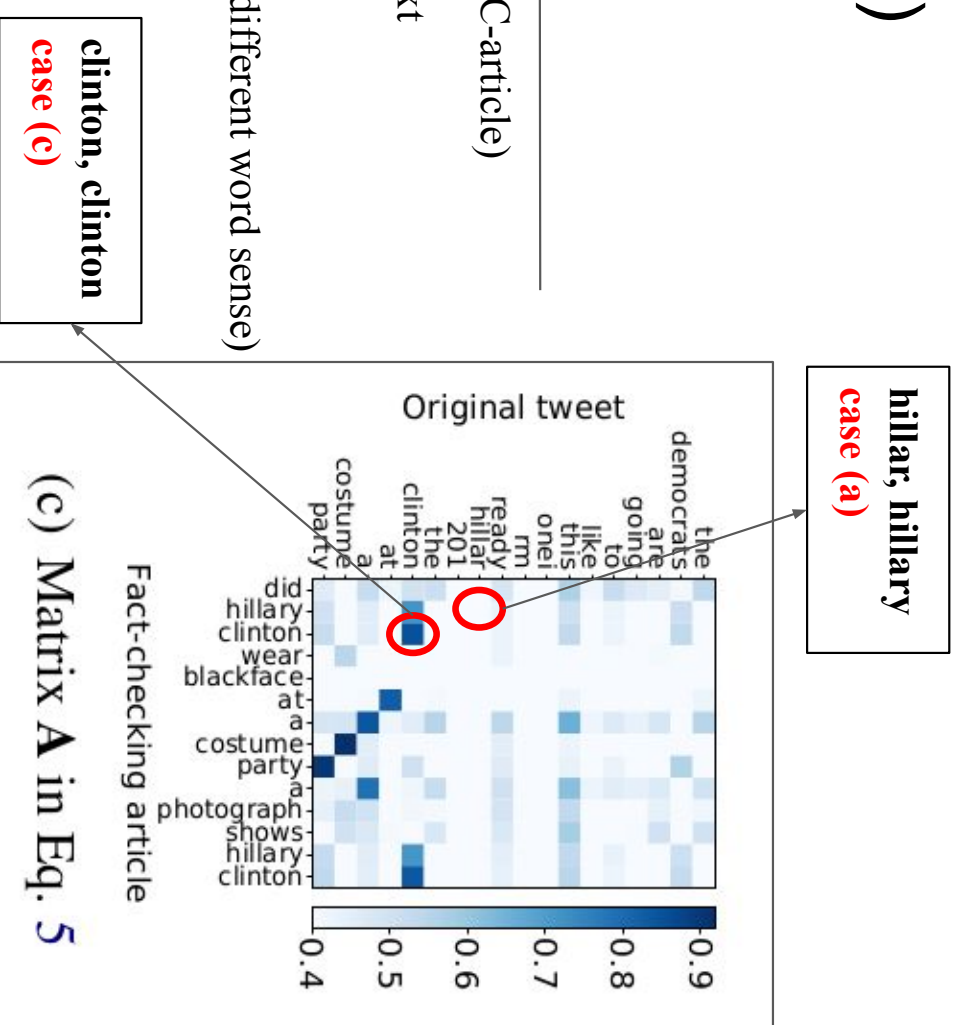
**S=0, G=1, A=0**

b) If W1, W2 are same, but occur in differ contexts(different word sense)

**S=1, G=0, A=0**

c) If W1, W2 are same, occur in same context

**S=1, G=1, A=1**



# Textual Feature Extraction

**Matrix S** - Glove Embedding Interaction

**Matrix A** - Attended Interaction Matrix

**Matrix C** - ELMo Embedding Interaction

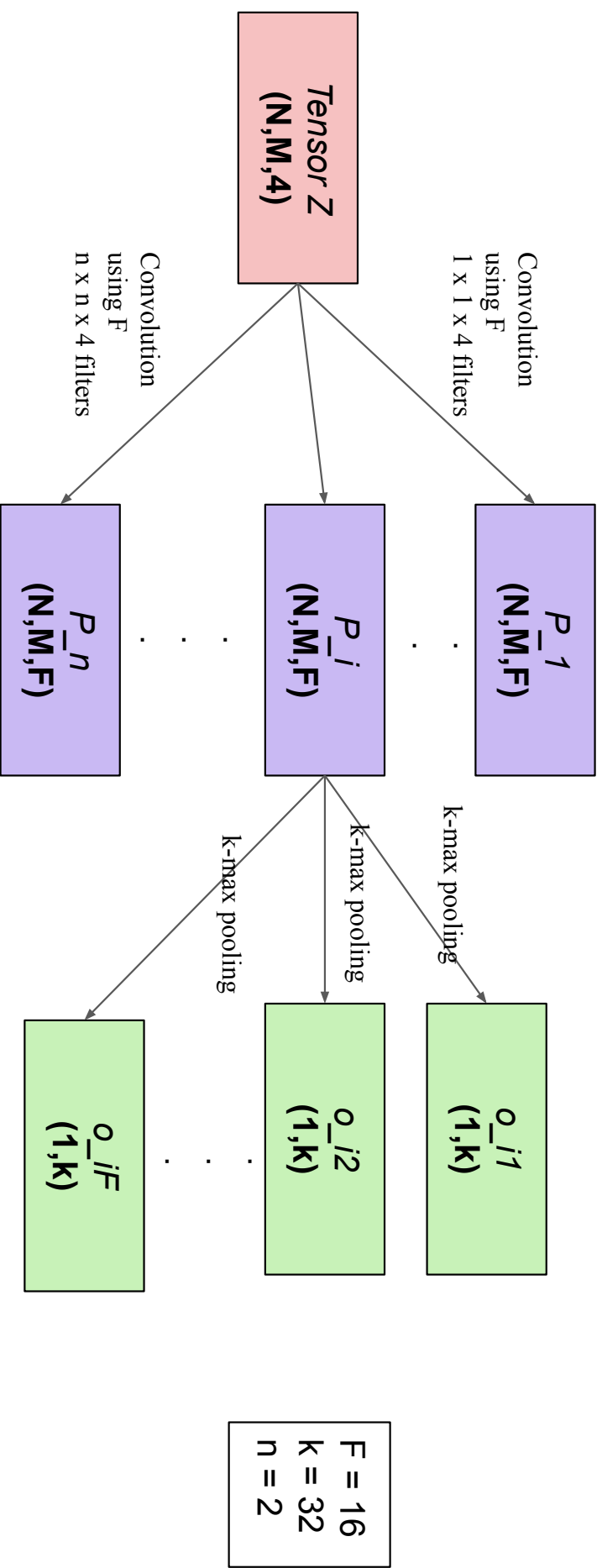
**Matrix (S - C)** - To make the model aware of difference between interaction matrices

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*Stack all the 4 matrices, each of dimension  $(N, M)$  to get a 3-D tensor **Z** of dimension  $(N, M, 4)$*

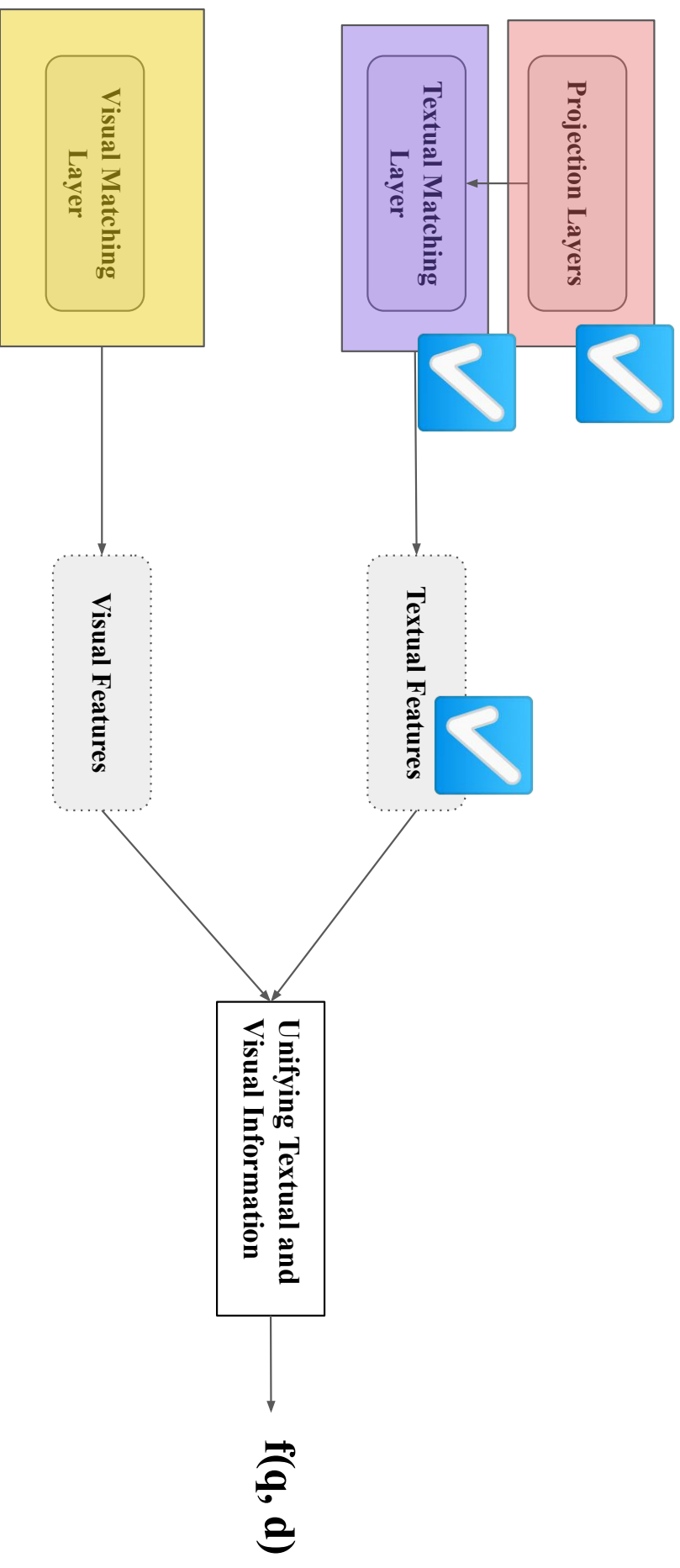
$$\mathbf{Z} = [\mathbf{S} \oplus \mathbf{A} \oplus \mathbf{C} \oplus (\mathbf{S} - \mathbf{C})]$$

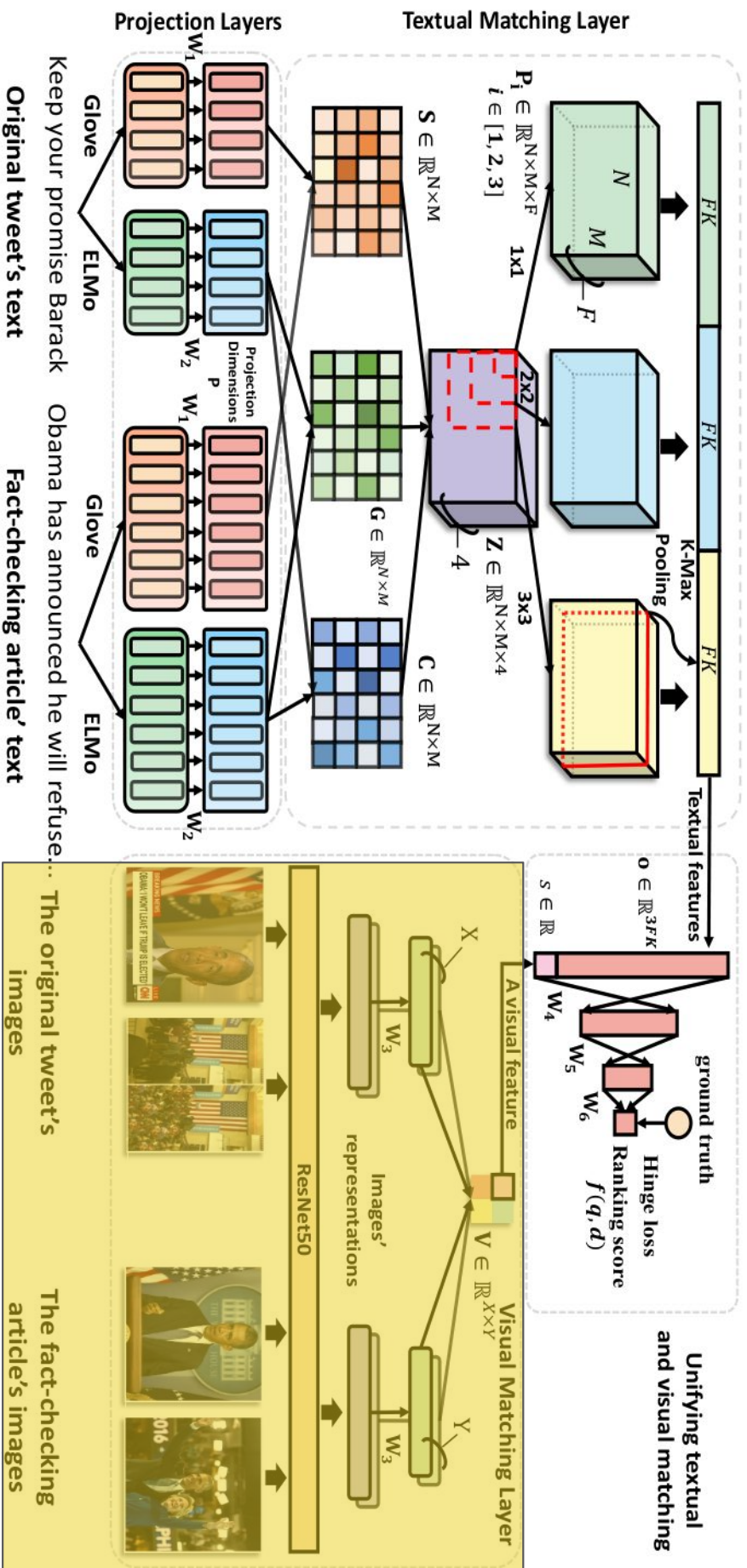
# Textual Feature Extraction



$0 = [o_{i1}; o_{i2}; \dots; o_{iF}; \dots; o_{i1}; \dots; o_{iF}; \dots; o_{n1}; \dots; o_{nF}]$  — *Dimension of  $o$ ?*

# Framework: Multimodal Attention Network - MAN

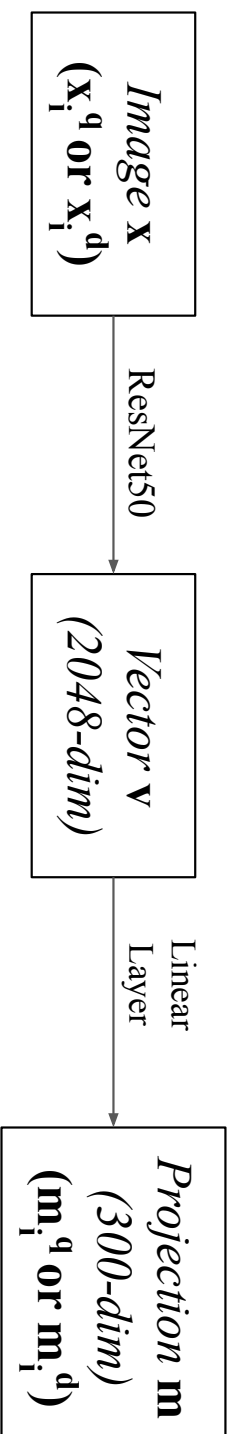




## Visual Matching Layer



# Visual Matching Layer



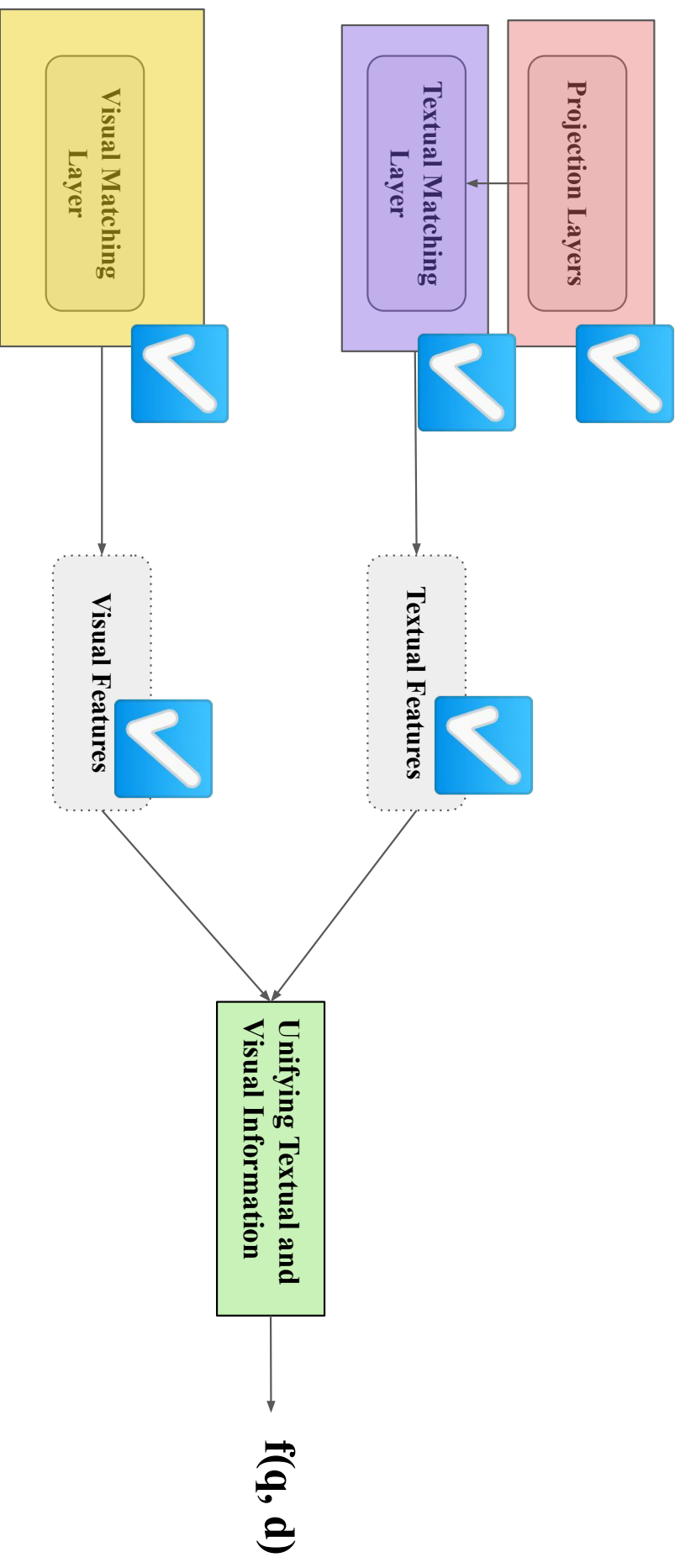
*Document (FC-article) is relevant to a query (tweet) if they have similar images*

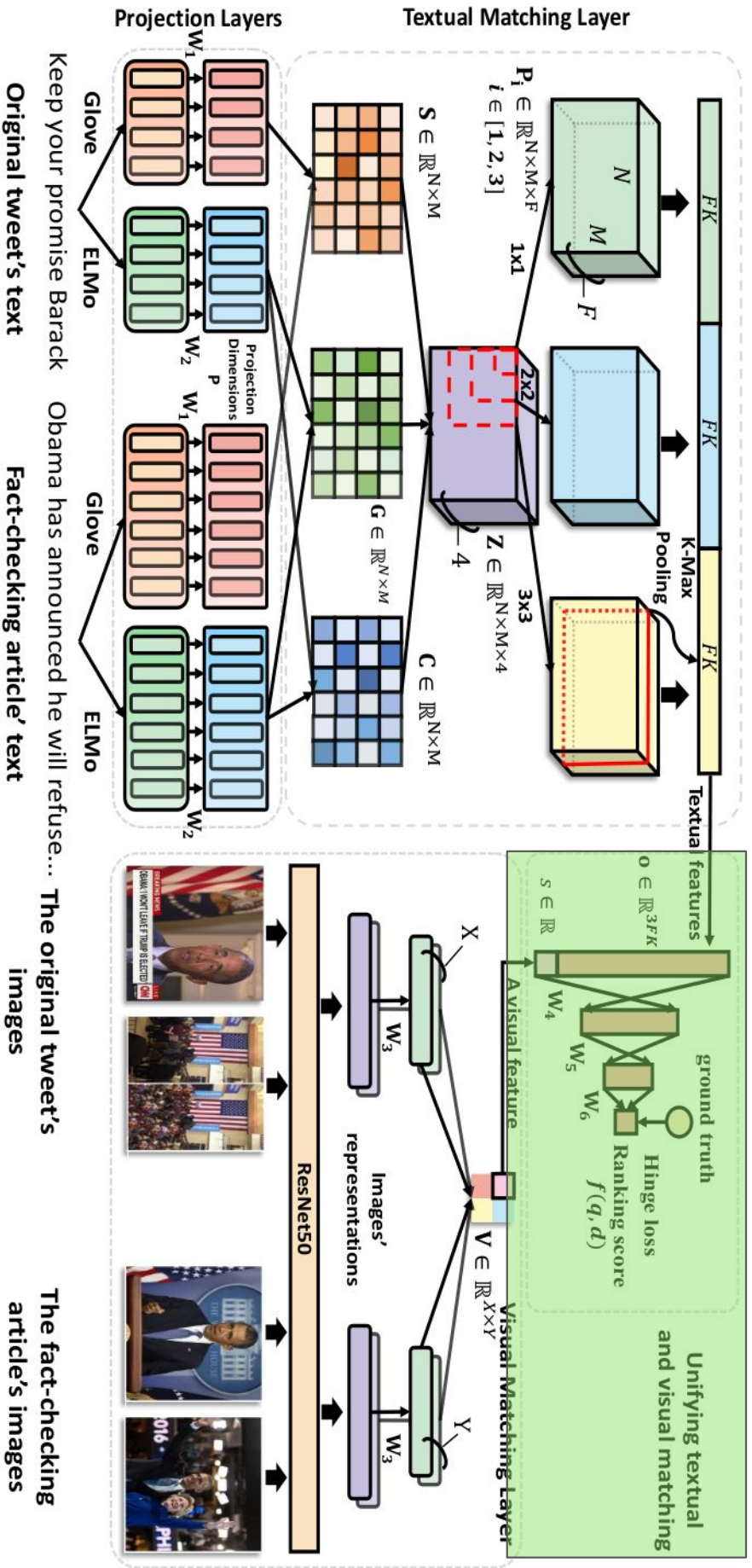
$$\mathbf{V}_{ij} = \frac{\mathbf{m}_i^{qT} \cdot \mathbf{m}_j^d}{\|\mathbf{m}_i^q\| \times \|\mathbf{m}_j^d\|}, i = 1..X, j = 1..Y$$

$s = \max(\mathbf{V})$ , where  $s \in \mathbb{R}$

If article has no images,  
 $s = -1$

# Framework: Multimodal Attention Network - MAN





# Unifying Textual and Visual Information

*Textual Features:*  $\mathbf{o} = [o_{11}; o_{12}; \dots; o_{1F}; \dots; o_{i1}; \dots; o_{iF}; \dots; o_{n1}; \dots; o_{nF}]$

*Visual Features:*  $\mathbf{s} = \max(V)$

*Input features:*  $[\mathbf{o}; \mathbf{s}]$  - concatenate  $\mathbf{o}$  and  $\mathbf{s}$  (*Dimension:*  $nfk + 1$ )

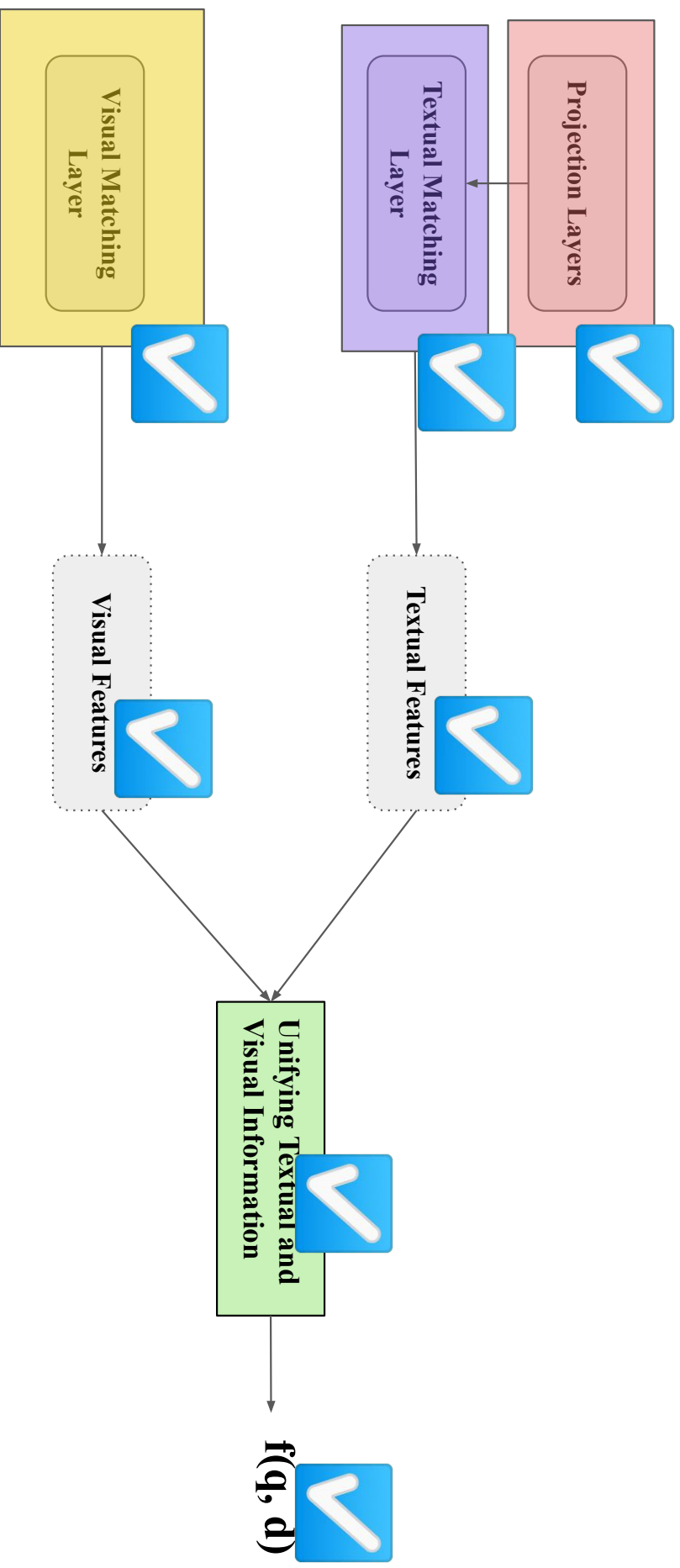
$$f(q, d) = \mathbf{W}_6 \cdot \text{relu}(\mathbf{W}_5 \cdot \text{relu}(\mathbf{W}_4 \cdot [\mathbf{o}; \mathbf{s}]))$$

Minimize Hinge Loss

*Input Feature*

$$\mathcal{L}(q, d^+, d^-) = \max(0, 1 - f(q, d^+)) + f(q, d^-)$$

# Framework: Multimodal Attention Network - MAN



# Data Collection

- Checking FC-articles is laborious
- Pairs of (**Original Tweet**, **FC-articles** - embedded in replies to original tweet)<sup>1</sup>
- **FC-articles from 2 major sites: [snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com/)<sup>2</sup>, [politifact.com](https://www.politifact.com/)**<sup>3</sup>
- From the original tweet replies, pairs of tweet **q** and FC-article **d** are generated - (**q**, **d**)

*Only tweets with both text and images are kept*

*19341 pairs of (Tweet, FC-article)*

*Manual fact-checking done (label 1 or 0 depending on whether **d** fact-checks **q** - Majority voting by 3 labelers)*

<sup>1</sup>Nguyen Vo and Kyunmin Lee. 2019. Learning from fact-checkers: Analysis and generation of fact-checking language. In Proceedings of the 42nd International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval, pages 335–344.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.snopes.com/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.politifact.com/>

# Data Collection

Moderate agreement between 3 labelers

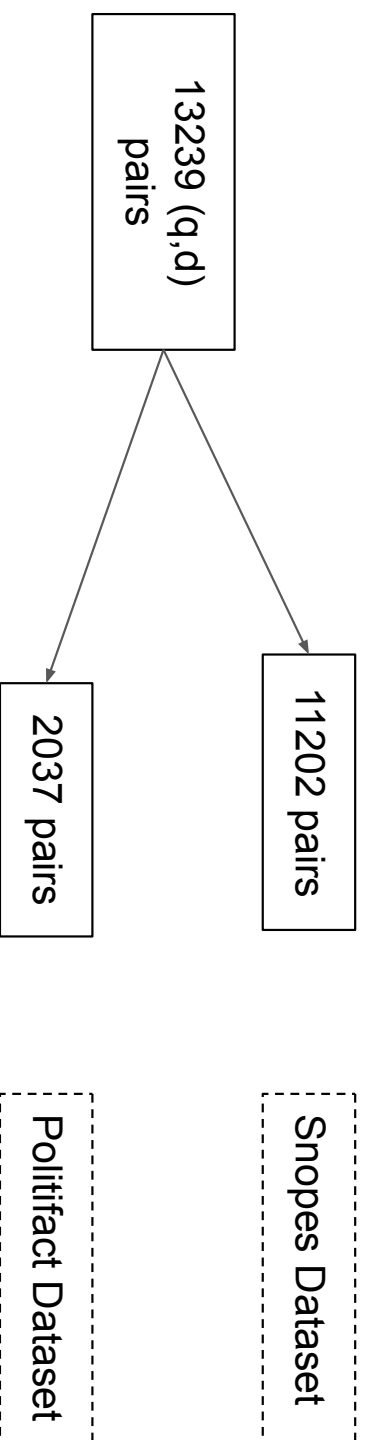
Reason: FC-article and tweet are topically similar but article **does not** fact-check the tweet

Many tweets related to Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton - collected during 2016 US Presidential Election

19341 pairs of (Tweet, FC-article) - reduced to **13239 positive pairs**

*Lot of **False Negatives** - Because some FC-articles may not have been included in the reply to the tweet.*

# Data Collection



- **102 Overlapping tweets**
- **False Negatives still exist, but the number is smaller than that of the full dataset**



# Evaluation Metric

1. Normalized Discounted Cumulative Gain (**NDCCG@K**)
2. **HIT@K**

# Normalized Discounted Cumulative Gain (NDCG)

Consider 3 Ranking systems: a) **System A**, b) **System B**, c) **Ideal System**

We have a query **q**, and 3 documents **d1**, **d2**, **d3**

Possible relevance scores: {**0** - irrelevant, **1** - moderately relevant, **2** - very relevant}

For query **q**, relevance scores for the 3 documents are :

relevance(**q**, **d1**) = **0**

relevance(**q**, **d2**) = **1**

relevance(**q**, **d3**) = **2**

For an **Ideal ranking system**, what is the correct order of ranking of documents, given query **q**?

# Normalized Discounted Cumulative Gain (NDCG)

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For an **Ideal ranking system**, what is the correct order of ranking of documents, given query **q**?

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| <b>d3</b> <b>d2</b> <b>d1</b> |
|-------------------------------|

# Normalized Discounted Cumulative Gain (NDCG)

| Rank | System A | System B | Ideal System |
|------|----------|----------|--------------|
| 1    | d2 (1)   | d1 (0)   | d3 (2)       |
| 2    | d3 (2)   | d2 (1)   | d2 (1)       |
| 3    | d1 (0)   | d3 (2)   | d1 (0)       |

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## Cumulative Gain:

$$\text{System A} = 1 + 2 + 0 = 3$$

$$\text{System B} = 0 + 1 + 2 = 3$$

$$\text{Ideal System} = 2 + 1 + 0 = 3$$

# Normalized Discounted Cumulative Gain (NDCG)

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## Cumulative Gain:

System A = 1 + 2 + 0 = 3

System B = 0 + 1 + 2 = 3

Ideal System = 2 + 1 + 0 = 3

$$DCG = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{r^{relevance_i} - 1}{\log_2(i+1)}$$

## Discounted Cumulative Gain:

$$\text{System A} : \frac{2^1 - 1}{\log_2 2} + \frac{2^2 - 1}{\log_2 3} + \frac{2^0 - 1}{\log_2 4} = 2.9$$

$$\text{System B} : \frac{2^0 - 1}{\log_2 2} + \frac{2^1 - 1}{\log_2 3} + \frac{2^2 - 1}{\log_2 4} = 2.13$$

$$\text{Ideal System} : \frac{2^2 - 1}{\log_2 2} + \frac{2^1 - 1}{\log_2 3} + \frac{2^0 - 1}{\log_2 4} = 3.63$$

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## Normalized DCG - NDCG:

System A: (2.9/3.63) = **0.80**

System B: (2.13/3.63) = **0.59**

# Normalized Discounted Cumulative Gain (NDCG)

| Rank | System A | System B | Ideal System |
|------|----------|----------|--------------|
| 1    | d2 (1)   | d1 (0)   | d3 (2)       |
| 2    | d3 (2)   | d2 (1)   | d2 (1)       |
| 3    | d1 (0)   | d3 (2)   | d1 (0)       |

## Cumulative Gain:

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## Normalized DCG - NDCG:

**NDCG@3**

System A: (2.9/3.63) = **0.80**

System B: (2.13/3.63) = **0.59**



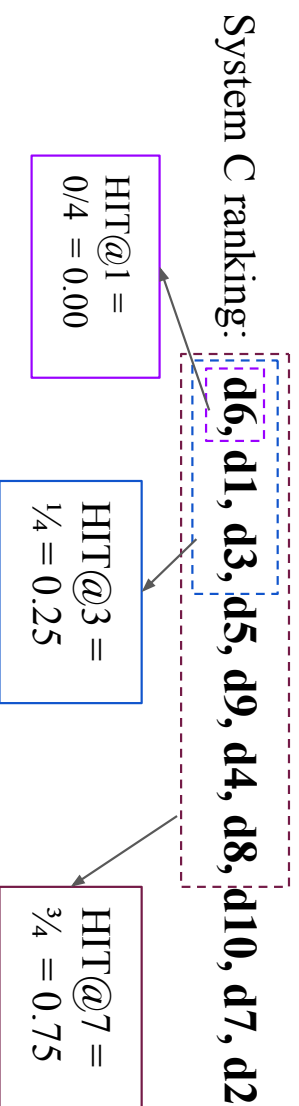
# HIT@K

Consider a tweet (query) **q**

There are 10 documents **d1, d2,....., d10**

Let the **true (most relevant)** FC-articles associated with it be : **d1, d4, d9, d10**

**HIT@K** = Fraction of true articles in the top K ranking predictions



## BM25 (Best Match 25)

BM25 is a **ranking function** that ranks **documents** that are relevant to a given **query** in the decreasing order of relevance (most relevant to least relevant)

BM25-T: queries are tweets' text

BM25-I: queries are text in tweets' images

BM25-TI: queries are tweets' text + text in tweets' images

# BM25

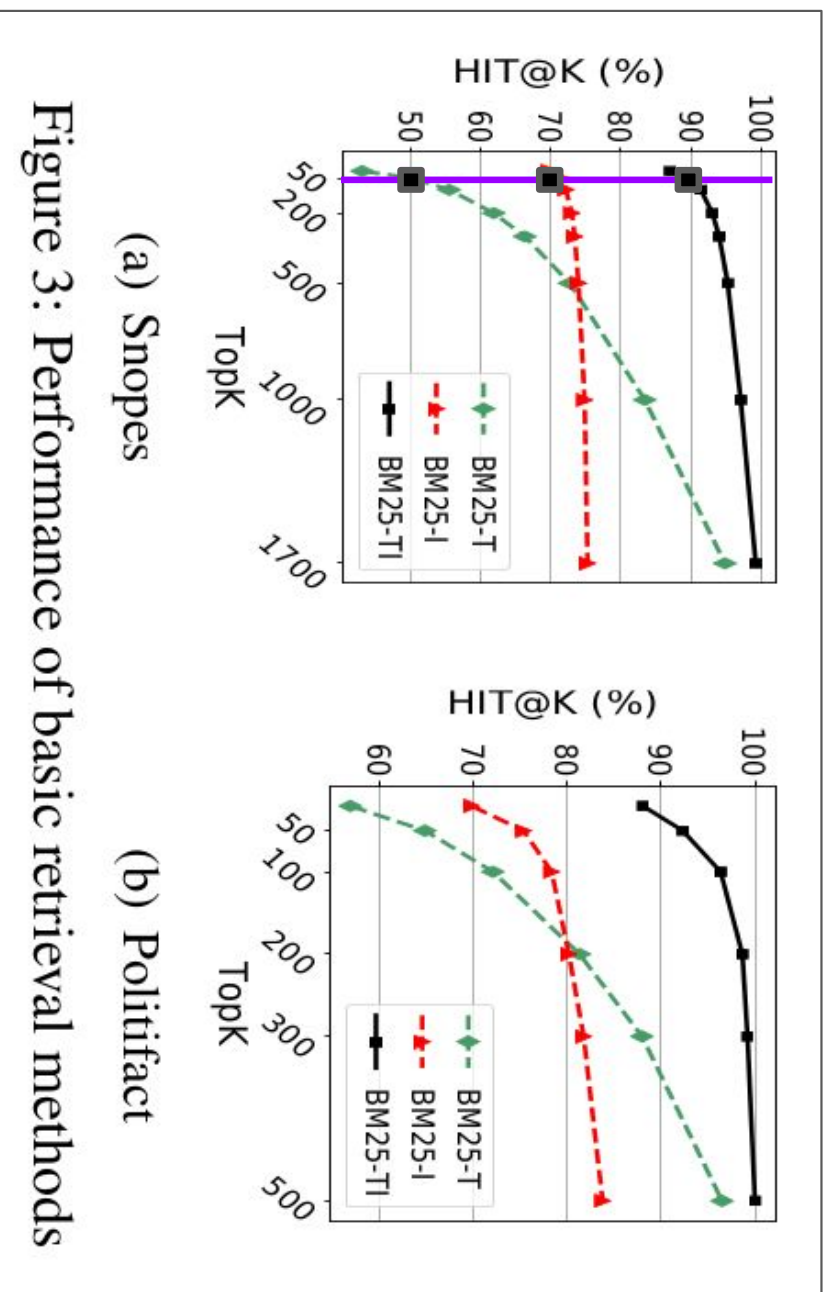


Figure 3: Performance of basic retrieval methods

In Fig (a),

**HIT@K (K=50)** for

**BM25-T : 50%**

**BM25-I : 70%**

Suggests lot of fake news

appears in images. Images are more attractive to online users, and easier to convey fake news. Moreover, tweets' texts are less than 280 characters

BM25-I saturates quickly as K increases. Only some queries have text in images

**Best performance for**

**BM25-TI, and hence used.**

# Split Dataset

What is a good value for  $K$ ? [ $K$  - number of initial candidates - output of BM25-TI]

If  $K$  is too small, there may not be relevant articles associated with the candidates

If  $K$  is too large, reranking system takes a lot of time to run

So,  $K = 50$

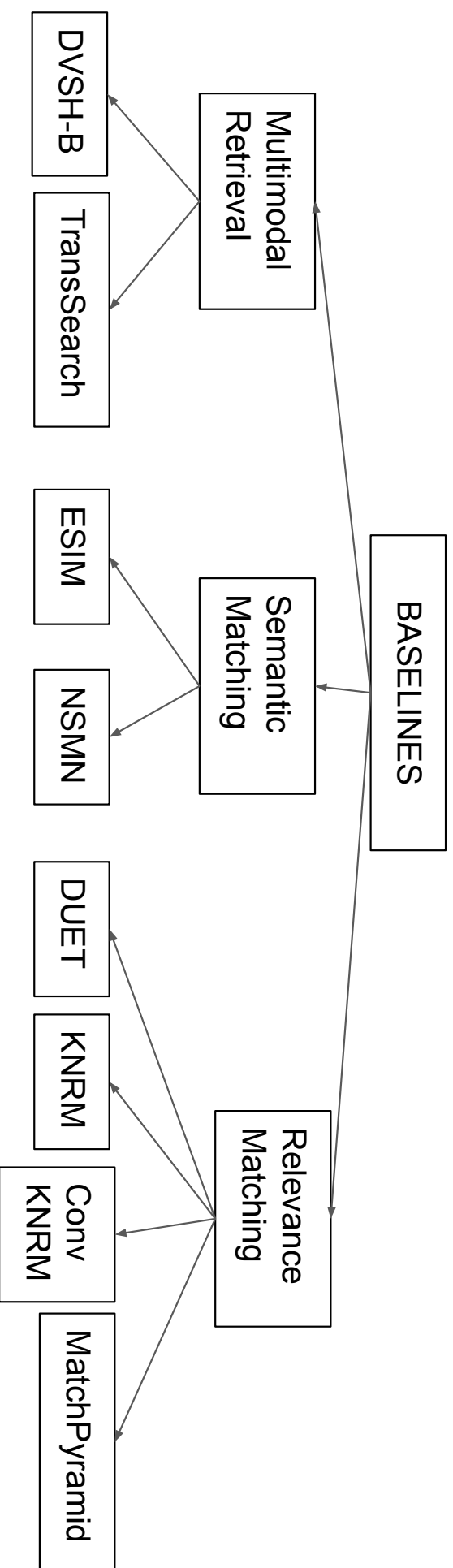
Table 1: Split datasets

| Datasets        | Snopes |       |       | PolitiFact |       |      |
|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|------------|-------|------|
|                 | Train  | Valid | Test  | Train      | Valid | Test |
| Original Tweets | 8,002  | 1,000 | 1,001 | 1,496      | 187   | 187  |
| FC-Articles     | 1,703  | 1,697 | 1,697 | 467        | 467   | 467  |

# Testing Scenario

SC1 - text and images from both tweets and FC-articles

SC2 - text and images from both tweets and FC articles + text from images



## Testing Scenario 1 - SC1

Table 2: Performance of our models and baselines when using images and text in tweets

| Ranking Models Types                 | Ranking Models | Snopes         |                |                |                |                | Politrifact    |                |                |                |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                      |                | NDCCG@1        | NDCCG@3        | HIT@3          | NDCCG@5        | HIT@5          | NDCCG@1        | NDCCG@3        | HIT@3          | NDCCG@5        | HIT@5          |
| Exact Matching                       | BM25-T         | 0.20579        | 0.27642        | 0.32867        | 0.30420        | 0.39461        | 0.18182        | 0.29162        | 0.37968        | 0.31348        | 0.43316        |
| Multimodal Retrieval (Group 1)       | DVSH-B         | 0.38661        | 0.51091        | 0.60040        | 0.54084        | 0.67333        | 0.26203        | 0.33333        | 0.38503        | 0.36003        | 0.44920        |
|                                      | TransSearch    | 0.31668        | 0.46081        | 0.56444        | 0.50062        | 0.66034        | 0.28342        | 0.37925        | 0.44920        | 0.40040        | 0.50267        |
| Semantic Matching (Group 2)          | ESIM           | 0.33367        | 0.46608        | 0.56444        | 0.50372        | 0.65534        | 0.14973        | 0.28722        | 0.39037        | 0.34871        | 0.53476        |
|                                      | NSMN           | 0.45754        | 0.60097        | 0.70330        | 0.63220        | 0.77822        | 0.37968        | 0.47718        | 0.55080        | 0.53128        | 0.67914        |
| Relevance Matching (Group 3)         | DUET           | 0.36863        | 0.48875        | 0.57842        | 0.52628        | 0.66833        | 0.29412        | 0.41009        | 0.49733        | 0.43505        | 0.55615        |
|                                      | MatchPyramid   | 0.48052        | 0.58523        | 0.66034        | 0.61565        | 0.73327        | 0.29412        | 0.38903        | 0.45455        | 0.40812        | 0.50267        |
|                                      | KNRM           | 0.48951        | 0.61081        | 0.69730        | 0.63686        | 0.76124        | 0.42246        | 0.54935        | 0.63636        | 0.58456        | 0.72193        |
|                                      | ConvKNRM       | 0.52148        | 0.63168        | 0.70929        | 0.65942        | 0.77522        | 0.45989        | 0.57229        | 0.65241        | 0.62117        | 0.77005        |
|                                      | CoPACRR        | 0.53247        | 0.64469        | 0.72328        | 0.67208        | 0.78921        | 0.45455        | 0.59344        | 0.69519        | 0.62761        | 0.77540        |
| Ours                                 | CTM            | 0.55744        | 0.67555        | 0.75624        | 0.70156        | 0.81918        | 0.47059        | 0.61669        | 0.71658        | 0.64292        | 0.78075        |
|                                      | VMN            | 0.68931        | 0.73540        | 0.76723        | 0.75019        | 0.80320        | 0.24599        | 0.26821        | 0.31551        | 0.28363        | 0.35829        |
|                                      | MAN            | <b>0.74326</b> | <b>0.82197</b> | <b>0.87712</b> | <b>0.83447</b> | <b>0.90609</b> | <b>0.55080</b> | <b>0.65435</b> | <b>0.73262</b> | <b>0.67644</b> | <b>0.78610</b> |
| MAN vs. the best result of baselines |                | 39.59%         | 27.50%         | 21.27%         | 24.16%         | 14.81%         | 19.77%         | 10.26%         | 5.38%          | 7.78%          | 1.38%          |

CTM outperforms the best baselines; VMN outperforms text-based ranking baselines in Snopes

## Testing Scenario 2 - SC2

Table 3: Performance of our models and baselines when using images, text in tweets and text in images

| Ranking Models Types               | Ranking Models | Snopes         |                |                |                |                | Politifact     |                |                |                |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                    |                | NDCG@1         | NDCG@3         | HIT@3          | NDCG@5         | HIT@5          | NDCG@1         | NDCG@3         | HIT@3          | NDCG@5         | HIT@5          |
| Exact Matching                     | BM25-TI        | 0.63736        | 0.69650        | 0.73826        | 0.71058        | 0.77223        | 0.27807        | 0.34928        | 0.40642        | 0.38909        | 0.50267        |
| Multimodal Retrieval (Group 1)     | DVSH-B         | 0.32667        | 0.46849        | 0.56843        | 0.49640        | 0.63636        | 0.21925        | 0.29335        | 0.34759        | 0.32626        | 0.42246        |
|                                    | TransSearch    | 0.45854        | 0.58410        | 0.67433        | 0.61832        | 0.75724        | 0.39572        | 0.50878        | 0.58824        | 0.52397        | 0.62567        |
| Semantic Matching (Group 2)        | ESIM           | 0.61139        | 0.70660        | 0.77323        | 0.72999        | 0.83117        | 0.33155        | 0.44658        | 0.52941        | 0.48617        | 0.62567        |
|                                    | NSMN           | 0.78821        | 0.85732        | 0.90809        | 0.87148        | 0.94106        | 0.58824        | 0.70002        | 0.77540        | 0.73500        | 0.86096        |
| Relevance Matching (Group 3)       | DUET           | 0.51848        | 0.63605        | 0.71928        | 0.67075        | 0.80220        | 0.41711        | 0.53087        | 0.60963        | 0.55757        | 0.67380        |
|                                    | MatchPyramid   | 0.86513        | 0.91150        | <b>0.94406</b> | 0.91791        | <b>0.95904</b> | 0.64171        | 0.74872        | 0.82353        | 0.77702        | 0.89305        |
|                                    | KNRM           | 0.84815        | 0.89118        | 0.92008        | 0.90271        | 0.94805        | 0.65775        | 0.75464        | 0.82353        | 0.77237        | 0.86631        |
|                                    | ConvKNRM       | 0.85914        | 0.90829        | 0.94306        | 0.91401        | 0.95704        | 0.66310        | <b>0.79163</b> | <b>0.88235</b> | <b>0.80705</b> | <b>0.91979</b> |
|                                    | CoPACRR        | <b>0.86913</b> | <b>0.91166</b> | <b>0.94006</b> | <b>0.91851</b> | <b>0.95604</b> | <b>0.66845</b> | <b>0.77419</b> | <b>0.84492</b> | <b>0.79191</b> | <b>0.88770</b> |
| Ours                               | CTM            | 0.89910        | 0.93191        | 0.95504        | 0.94008        | 0.97502        | 0.71123        | 0.82512        | 0.89840        | 0.84331        | 0.94118        |
|                                    | MAN            | 0.88412        | 0.92563        | 0.95604        | 0.93238        | 0.97203        | 0.72193        | 0.83104        | 0.90374        | 0.85313        | <b>0.95722</b> |
|                                    | MAN-A          | <b>0.90909</b> | <b>0.94204</b> | <b>0.96503</b> | <b>0.94892</b> | <b>0.98202</b> | <b>0.74332</b> | <b>0.84905</b> | <b>0.91979</b> | <b>0.85987</b> | 0.94652        |
| MAN-A vs. best result of baselines |                | 4.60%          | 3.33%          | 2.22%          | 3.31%          | 2.40%          | 11.20%         | 7.25%          | 4.24%          | 6.54%          | 2.91%          |

# Conclusion

- Authors present a novel framework to alleviate the spread of fake news and increase verified content on social media
- Authors compare their approach with a variety of ranking functions
- The framework MAN, using textual and visual information, outperforms all the ranking baseline methods on NDCG@K and HIT@K.
- Very well curated dataset
- Authors don't directly address the question "How do we reduce the spread of fake news". I believe it's more of a consequence of developing a good ranking function and retrieving correct FC-articles.



THANK YOU