Variables in the data sets

The main study

- **main_resp_data.rds** is respondent-level data for the main study, which contains the following variables:
  - *session_id*: unique respondent identifier (constructed as the time the survey was taken and a random number)
  - *taken*: 1 if the respondent indicated having taken the quiz earlier, 0 otherwise
  - *pres_approval*: approval of Vladimir Putin on the scale from 1 to 4
  - *pres_approval_asked*: 1 if this respondent was asked about presidential approval, 0 otherwise
  - *source_**: variables indicating whether the respondent uses particular news outlets to learn news (1 if yes, 0 otherwise)
  - *no_sources_chosen*: 1 if the respondent did not respond to the question about news sources, 0 otherwise
  - *pride_history*: a string listing various historical developments the respondent is proud of (not used in the analysis)
  - *pride_history_crimea*: 1 if the annexation of Crimea is among the events the respondent is proud of, 0 otherwise
  - *female*: 1 for female respondents, 0 for men
  - *education*: 1 if has higher education/college degree, 0 otherwise
  - *age*: ordinal variable indicating an age subgroup
  - *age_group*: age subgroup
  - *EU_sanctions_true*: 1 if the respondent evaluated the story about EU sanctions as true, 0 otherwise
  - *Ukraine_economy_untrue*: 1 if the respondent evaluated the story about Ukrainian economy as untrue, 0 otherwise
  - *EU_Ukr_stories_total*: a combination of the previous two variables
- **main_stories_info.csv** contains information (metadata) on news stories evaluated in the study:
  - *story_code*: story identifier (note: it's not the same as story codes within the paper and in Table B2; stories 101-114 correspond to stories 1-14 in Table B2; stories 201-216 correspond to stories 15-30 in Table B2; stories 5221-6162 correspond to stories 31-50 in Table B2)
  - *fake*: 1 if the story is false, 0 otherwise
  - *political*: 1 if the story is political, 0 otherwise
  - *story_direction*: whether the story is pro-Russia, critical, or neutral
  - *story_subdirection*: a more detailed categorization of story content
  - *story_text_eng*: story text
  - *story_current*: whether the story is current or "pre-selected"

- **main_stories_data.rds** is story-level data for the main study (evaluations of specific news stories and related variables):
  - *session_id*: unique respondent identifier (same as in respondent-level data)
  - *story_code*: story identifier (same as in main_stories_info.csv)
  - *story_order*: the order of story in the quiz (chosen randomly except for the first three stories)
  - *story_real*: 1 if the respondent evaluated the story as true, 0 otherwise
  - *story_source*: randomly assigned news source
  - *story_time*: time in seconds spent on evaluating the story
  - *set*: 1 if the story is in the first quiz, 2 if the story is in the second quiz
  - *fake*: 1 if the story is false, 0 otherwise
  - *all_labeled_fake/true*: whether the respondent labeled all stories in the quiz as fake/true

The Levada study

- **levada_resp_data.rds** contains respondent-level variables from the Levada survey:
  - *respondent_id*: unique respondent id
  - *info_**: dummies for various information sources
  - *female*: 1 if female, 0 otherwise
  - *age*: age in years
  - *education*: level of education
  - *education_higher*: 1 if college degree, 0 otherwise
  - *pres_election_voted*: 1 if voted in the presidential election of 2018, 0 otherwise
  - *voted_putin*: 1 if voted for Putin, 0 otherwise
  - *voted_liberal*: 1 if voted for one of the liberal candidates, 0 otherwise
  - *voted_communist_nationalist*: 1 if voted for communist or nationalist candidates, 0 otherwise
  - *weight*: population-based weight
- **levada_stories_data.rds** contains story evaluations from the Levada survey:
  - *respondent_id*: unique respondent id
  - *story_label*: short description of the story
  - *story_response*: evaluation of the story's truthfulness on the scale from 0 to 3 (recoded to 0-1 scale in the analysis)
  - *story_source_tv1*: whether the randomly assigned source was Channel One (1) or Echo of Moscow (0)

The OMI study

- **omi_resp_data.rds** contains respondent-level data for the OMI survey:
  - *ResponseId*: unique respondent identifier
  - *age*: age subgroup
  - *education*: level of education (in Russian)
  - *education_higher*: 1 if college degree, 0 otherwise
  - *source_known_**: variables indicating whether the respondent knows a particular news outlet (1 if yes, 0 otherwise)
  - *source_used_**: variables indicating whether the respondent reported using a particular news outlet (1 if yes, 0 otherwise)
  - *source_trusted_**: variables indicating whether the respondent reported trusting a particular news outlet (1 if yes, 0 otherwise)
  - *ranking_**: categorical variables indicating respondent's evaluations of six different news outlets (Echo of Moscow and RBC are not analyzed in the paper) along four dimensions: completeness, accuracy, bias, independence (see the paper for details)
  - *pres_approval*: approval of Putin on the scale from 1 to 4
  - *female*: 1 if female, 0 otherwise
  - *age_ordinal*: ordinal variable indicating age subgroup
- **omi_stories_data.rds** contains story evaluations from the OMI survey:
  - *ResponseId*: unique respondent identifier
  - *story_label*: short story description
  - *story_source*: news outlet randomly assigned to the story
  - *story_real*: 1 if the respondent evaluated the story as true, 0 otherwise