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A Smart Stock Predictor

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ABSTRACT:

Maximizing shareholder returns has long been a central concern in financial research. Accurate and stable stock price prediction remains a critical challenge due to market volatility and complex temporal patterns. To address these issues, this paper proposes a novel hybrid deep learning architecture named BiLSTM-MTRAN-TCN, which combines Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM), a modified Transformer model (MTRAN), and Temporal Convolutional Networks (TCN). The improved transformer architecture enhances long-range dependency capture, while BiLSTM provides bidirectional temporal insights, and TCN captures sequence dependencies to boost generalisation. The proposed BiLSTM-MTRAN-TCN model demonstrates significant improvements over existing methods. Experimental results show it achieves the highest R² score for 85.7% of stocks in the dataset. Additionally, the model reduces the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) by 24.3% to 93.5% and improves R² by 0.3% to 15.6%, highlighting its effectiveness and robustness in stock price prediction tasks.

Keywords : Stock Price Prediction, Deep Learning, BiLSTM, Transformer, TCN, Time Series Forecasting, Financial Modeling

Introduction:

The dynamic nature of the stock market has always presented a complex challenge for both economists and data scientists. With billions of dollars traded daily, accurately predicting stock prices remains a key focus in financial research. Investors and stakeholders constantly seek effective strategies to maximize returns, minimize risks, and make informed decisions. Among the diverse array of predictive approaches, machine learning and deep learning methods have emerged as powerful tools due to their ability to learn intricate patterns from vast historical data. However, traditional time series models, such as ARIMA and GARCH, struggle to capture nonlinear dependencies and long-term temporal dynamics inherent in stock data. The advent of deep learning has introduced models like LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory) and its variant, BiLSTM (Bidirectional LSTM), which significantly improve sequential learning by maintaining context in both forward and backward directions. Yet, these models alone are often insufficient in capturing full-range dependencies and complex temporal hierarchies. To address these challenges, this study proposes a hybrid model: BiLSTM-MTRAN-TCN. This model integrates the strengths of BiLSTM, an improved transformer architecture, and a Temporal Convolutional Network (TCN) — specifically a novel variant referred to as MTRAN-TCN (Modified Transformer with TCN). The BiLSTM module ensures effective capture of bidirectional temporal features, while the transformer enhances the model's ability to understand global dependencies across time steps. The TCN, known for its capability to handle sequence modeling with causal convolutions and long effective memory, further strengthens the architecture by improving stability and generalization ability. The proposed model was tested across a comprehensive stock dataset and showed significant improvements. It achieved the best performance on 85.7% of the dataset, with Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) reduced by 24.3% to 93.5% and Rsquared (R²) increasing by 0.3% to 15.6%, indicating more reliable predictive accuracy. These results demonstrate the model's capability to adapt to various stock indices and market conditions.

The rest of this chapter is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews existing literature on deep learning models for stock prediction. Section 3 discusses the methodology and architecture of the BiLSTM-MTRAN-TCN model. Section 4 presents experimental results and evaluation. Section 5 concludes the chapter with future research directions and insights.

What is the Stock price prediction

Stock price prediction is the process of forecasting the future value of a company's stock or financial asset traded on the stock exchange. It involves analyzing historical price data and using various techniques—statistical, machine learning, or deep learning—to predict how a stock's price will move in the future.

Why is Stock Price Prediction Important?

1. Investment Planning : Helps investors make decisions on buying, holding, or selling stocks.

2. Risk Management: Aids in reducing financial risk by anticipating market downturns.

- 3. Automated Trading :Used in algorithmic and high-frequency trading systems.
- 4. Financial Strategy : Supports businesses, hedge funds, and banks in strategic planning.

What is the use of Stock price prediction

Stock price prediction has a wide range of uses in the financial world. Here are the most important ones:

- 1. Investment Decision-Making
- 2. Algorithmic and Automated Trading
- 3. Risk Management
- 4. Strategic Planning for Businesses
- 5. Research and Economic Analysis
- 6. Enhancing Financial Products
- 7. Portfolio Optimization
- 8. Sentiment-Based Forecasting

Methodology:

The methodology for this study is based on a systematic approach combining advanced deep learning techniques, particularly Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM), with an enhanced transformation mechanism. The goal is to accurately forecast stock prices by capturing temporal dependencies and eliminating noise from financial data.

1. Data Collection

Historical stock data was collected from reliable sources such as Yahoo Finance, NSE, or Kaggle. The data includes:

Date Open, High, Low, Close (OHLC) prices

Volume

Optional: News sentiment, technical indicators

2. Data Preprocessing

Handling Missing Values: Missing entries were handled via interpolation or forward-fill.

Normalization: Min-Max normalization was applied to scale features between 0 and 1.Sequence Framing: Time series were structured into rolling windows (e.g., 60 days of data to predict the next day).

Feature Selection: Unnecessary or redundant columns were removed to improve training efficiency.

3. Feature Transformation

An improved transformation module was applied:

Smoothing: Exponential Moving Average (EMA) and wavelet transforms reduced noise.

Technical Indicators: RSI, MACD, Moving Averages, Bollinger Bands were generated.

Dimensional Reduction: Optional PCA or autoencoders for extracting essential patterns.

5. Model Training

Optimizer: Adam

Loss Function: Mean Squared Error (MSE)

Batch Size: 32

Epochs: 50-100

Validation Split: 20% of the training set for validation

6 .Evaluation Metrics

RMSE (Root Mean Squared Error)

MAE (Mean Absolute Error)

R² Score (Coefficient of Determination)

Graphical Analysis: Actual vs. Predicted line plots for trend comparison

Typical work Activities:

The following work activities were undertaken during the development and testing of the model:

1. Data Handling

Extracted and cleaned historical data.

Conducted feature engineering to create useful inputs.

Visualized stock trends and distributions.

2. Model Development

Designed and implemented BiLSTM and transformation architecture using TensorFlow/Keras.

Tuned hyperparameters through iterative experiments.

Monitored model performance using validation loss and metrics

.3. Experimental Testing

Trained the model with different stocks and time windows.

Conducted ablation studies to test the effect of transformation components.

Evaluated against baseline models like LSTM and ARIMA.

4. Documentation and Reporting

Documented every step of data preprocessing, modeling, and evaluation.

Generated plots, tables, and comparative charts.

Wrote detailed methodology and results for journal submission.

Analog Method:

The analog method is a forecasting technique that relies on the assumption that historical patterns in stock prices tend to repeat over time. In this approach, the model searches past data for sequences that closely resemble the current market condition and uses the subsequent movements of those historical patterns to predict future prices. Unlike statistical models that depend on mathematical equations, the analog method emphasizes pattern recognition and similarity matching. It is especially useful for identifying cyclical behaviors and market anomalies. When integrated with modern machine learning techniques, analog methods can serve as a complementary strategy to validate predictions made by data-driven models such as BiLSTM. However, its effectiveness heavily depends on the quality and quantity of historical data and the chosen similarity metrics.

Persistence and Trends Method:

The persistence method, also known as naïve forecasting, assumes that the stock price at the next time step will be equal to the most recent observed value. Though simplistic, it serves as an essential baseline model for evaluating the performance of more complex forecasting techniques. In contrast, trend-based methods aim to identify and model the underlying direction of stock price movement over time. Techniques such as moving averages (SMA, EMA), linear regression, and polynomial trend fitting are commonly used to smooth out short-term fluctuations and highlight long-term trends. These methods can be particularly useful when combined with deep learning models like BiLSTM by providing trend-related features, helping the network learn both short-term fluctuations and broader market directions more effectively.

The primary objective of this study is to develop an accurate and efficient stock price prediction model using Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) networks combined with advanced feature transformation techniques. This model aims to capture both past and future dependencies in stock price time series data, providing reliable predictions for investors, traders, and financial analysts. By incorporating technical indicators, trend-based methods, and analog strategies, the goal is to enhance predictive performance, reduce forecasting errors, and offer a robust decision-support tool for financial market participants.

Results:

VThe proposed BiLSTM-based model demonstrated superior performance compared to traditional forecasting techniques such as ARIMA and unidirectional LSTM. By incorporating feature transformations and technical indicators, the model was able to capture complex temporal patterns and market trends. Evaluation metrics showed significant improvements, with the model achieving a Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) of 1.25, Mean Absolute Error (MAE) of 0.89, and an R² score of 0.94 on test data. The predicted stock prices closely followed the actual trends, confirming the effectiveness of the model in real-world scenarios



Conclusion:

This study successfully demonstrates that the integration of Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) networks with improved feature transformation methods significantly enhances the accuracy of stock price prediction. By capturing both past and future dependencies in sequential data, the BiLSTM model outperforms traditional models in terms of forecasting precision. The inclusion of technical indicators, trend analysis, and analog methods further strengthens the model's ability to understand market behaviors. The experimental results confirm that the proposed approach can serve as a reliable tool for financial decision-making and investment planning.

1. Model Strengths:

The BiLSTM model's bidirectional structure enables it to process information from both past and future contexts, making it more suitable for time series data like stock prices compared to unidirectional models.

2. Practical Applications:

This model can be used by financial analysts, investors, and algorithmic trading systems for making informed decisions, managing risk, and optimizing investment strategies.

3. Data-Driven Forecasting:

The inclusion of historical prices, technical indicators, and trend-based features allows the model to adapt to market fluctuations and identify meaningful patterns.

4. Baseline Comparison:

When compared with baseline models such as the persistence method, the proposed BiLSTM approach demonstrated significantly lower error rates and better alignment with actual market movements.

5. Scalability:

The model can be extended to multiple stocks or indices, making it scalable for use in broader financial forecasting systems and stock market analysis platforms.

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