

Analysis of Tweets for Prediction of Indian Stock Markets

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Abstract: *The information age has greatly contributed to the massive data (big data) available on the web today. The proliferation of social media such as Twitter and Facebook has also contributed to the large volumes of data. Sense can be brought to this data by finding patterns in the data thereby extracting valuable information that can help businesses stay ahead of competition. People tend to show their emotions on Twitter therefore it is possible to mine behavioral data from these platforms. The stock market is one such area where behavioral data can be used to determine stock movement. The hypothesis therefore is that there should be a correlation between trends on the stock market and the emotions exhibited by people on social media platforms. This paper focusses on prediction of daily stock movements of three Indian companies listed on National Stock Exchange (NSE). The Support Vector Machine (SVM) was used for prediction and its performance was evaluated on real market data. Experimental results showed stock movement predictions that were above the baseline. The results were very promising but contained random variations across different datasets.*

Keywords: support vector machines, stock prediction, big data, data science, sentiment analysis, causality test.

1. Introduction

Data Science is one of the sort after skills on the market right now and according to a research by Mckinsey there will be a great shortage of this skill by 2018. One of the areas where data science can be applied is financial markets and applying it in this area can be beneficial to investors as they will have a chance of making profit from their investment. The area of financial market prediction is a hot bed and a lot of research is being carried out but no substantial success has been found to date. Many scholars argue that prediction is based on chance and this is supported by hypotheses like the Random walk hypothesis and efficient market hypothesis.

Besides all this, tremendous breakthroughs have been made in the past few years. One such is by Bollen [1] who predicted the Dow Jones Industrial Average with an 86 percent accuracy. The advent of social media has seen a large population of people now able to communicate and post their opinions on these platforms which in turn can have impact on the world. Examples of these social media include Twitter, Facebook, myspace, whatsapp etc. One of the platforms which has been very popular with researchers is twitter. Twitter is a social networking and microblogging service that allows users to post real time messages, called tweets. Tweets are short messages, restricted to 140 characters in length [2].

Most stock price predictions have focused on four aspects:

- Most data sources came from news articles or blogs relating to companies rather than micro-blogs.
- The prediction was mainly targeted at the average market index not individual stocks.
- The prediction models were mostly done using Intra-Day minute stock quotes rather than end of day stocks.
- Little success from using news as source of information

2. Related Work

There is still a lot of debate around the area of stock market predictions with two schools of thought. One states that it is not possible to beat the markets and the other stating that it is possible to predict the stock market. Under the first school of thought are two hypotheses: Efficient Market Hypothesis EMH and the Random Walkthrough. According to Wikipedia EMH states that it is impossible to "beat the market" because stock market efficiency causes existing share prices to always incorporate and reflect all relevant information. Thus Efficient Market Hypothesis is associated with the idea of a "random walk," which is a term loosely used in the finance literature to characterize a price series where all subsequent price changes represent random departures from previous prices. "Criticisms of Efficient Market Hypothesis", [3] found that 'value' stocks outperformed the random walk model They also found a 'momentum effect' where stocks which had done well in the past, often continued to do well in the future. A paper by Burton G. Malkiel [3], analyzed the efficiency of EMH and concluded that stock markets are far more efficient and far less predictable than some recent academic papers would have us believe.

According to Wikipedia, Random Walk Through is a financial theory stating that stock market prices evolve according to a random walk and thus cannot be predicted. It is consistent with the efficient-market hypothesis and has the same critics as the efficient market hypothesis. The research which has been done in this area has given results which show otherwise.

The most well-known publication in this area is by [1]. They investigated whether collective mood states derived from twitter feeds are correlated to the value of the Dow Jones Industrial Index. They used grander causality test to find out if there was causal relationship and a Fuzzy neural network for their prediction. Over nine million tweets were used as

data set and an accuracy of 87.6% was obtained. They used worldwide tweets which matched their search without restricting it to the USA where the Dow Jones is.

A research conducted by [4] compared traditional blogs with microblogs to determine the predicative power on stock prices given the use of either data source. The research focused on sentiment analysis of blogs and micro-blogs and experiments concluded that micro-blogs consistently outperformed blogs in their predictive accuracy. The two data sources used were from Google Blogsearch11 and Twitter. The system used the stock name to filter and reduce the text after which sentiment analysis was performed using a lexicon of positive and negative terms. In the experiments, they predicted the actual stock price of the following day from the models of each data source. It was also found that the character limit of Twitter helped determine more concise sentiment results since one Twitter post usually relates to one topic.

In their paper, [5] described prediction of stocks using historical data together with twitter sentiment analysis. They used psychological states of twitter users using a lexicon based approach. The support vector machine and neural networks models were applied to over 755 million tweets. The dataset (tweets) were downloaded using twitter API for the period 13/02/2013 to 29/09/2013. The tweets were grouped into 8 states(categories) which are 'happy', 'loving', 'calm', 'energetic', 'fearful', 'angry', 'tired' and 'sad'.

A publication by [6] investigated the relationship between twitter feed content and stock market prices. They wanted to see how well sentiment information can predict future shifts in prices. Their model was successful in predicting stock movements. Alex Davies financial dictionary was used to calculate the sentiment of each text and they collaborated this by the stock prices [7], found out a high negative correlation between words 'hope', 'fear' and 'worry' in tweets with the Dow Jones Average Index.

[8] introduced a novel approach for classification of twitter sentiment. The messages were classified into 2 classes, positive and negative. The research can be used for purchases of goods or by companies for the feedback of their products. Naïve Bayes and Maximum Entropy were used and they resulted in a very high accuracy in classification of twitter sentiment.

Rather than focusing on the content of news articles, [9] used news article headlines to classify stock movement in either up, down or steady directions. This was done by using different document and term weight techniques, including Term frequency-Inverse document frequency (Tf-Idf) and Term frequency-Category discrimination frequency (Tf-Cdf). Results showed better performance than random guessing.

3. Methodology

The framework used in this paper is divided into four major components: Data Pre-Processing, Feature Extraction and

Selection, Prediction Model, and Evaluation as shown in Figure 1 below.

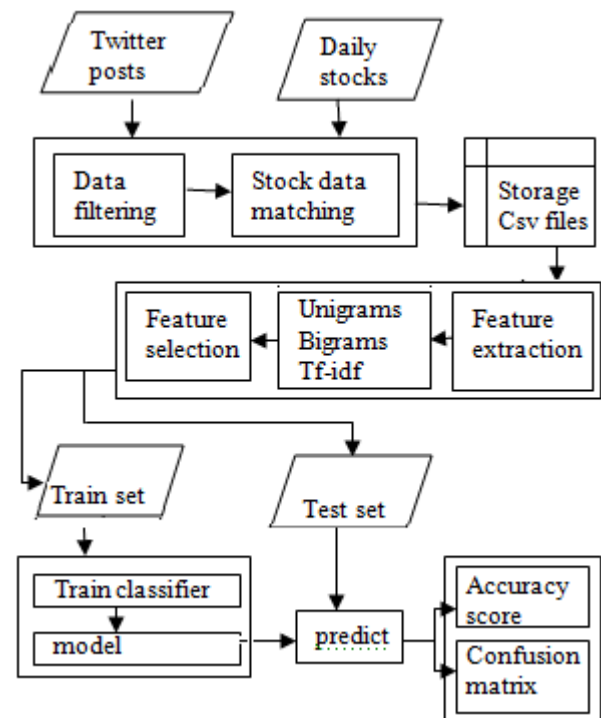


Figure 1: System Framework

3.1 Data gathering

The data set is a combination of tweets and stock quotes. The tweets collected were from January 5 2015 to June 30 2015 and over 200 000 tweets were collected during this time frame. Twitter posts or tweets are released within seconds from millions of users each day. Due to the huge number of tweets, more emphasis was put on problems concerning relevance and evaluation of information, including filtering out a lot of noise surrounding relevant information. The tweets were collected directly from twitter using Twitter API and filtered using keywords for example #airtel. The relevant stocks were downloaded directly from yahoo finance. One of the most important things which were kept track of was the time at which each tweet was created.

3.2 Pre-Processing

The gathered data was processed and only relevant data was retained. Data processing involved a lot of stages which included removing noise and words which did not provide any useful information to the problem. The noise in this scenario was spam tweets and in some cases retweets. After removing junk tweets, stop words were also removed since they did not provide any additional information necessary for building the model in question. Url and digit removal are other pre-processing steps which were carried out on the data.

3.3 Causality test

A causality test is done to check if one time series has an effect on another time series. In this research, the granger causality test was used to check whether tweets sentiments

can forecast the stock movements on the stock exchange. It was found out that in some cases it was possible to forecast the movement using the tweets sentiment. The mood scores of the tweets were quantified using the Alex Davies list of words by taking the logarithmic probability of being happy or sad. For each tweet we implemented the traditional bag of words. The probabilities of being sad or happy were calculated as shown in equation 1.:

$$(\text{happy}, \text{sad}) = (p, 1 - p) \quad (1)$$

Log odd score, S were calculated as follows:

$$S = \log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) \quad (2)$$

Thus a score greater than 1 is positive and negative otherwise. To calculate the granger causality test the following formula was used:

Let y and x be stationary timeseries. To test the null hypothesis that x does not granger cause y , it was necessary to first find the proper lagged values of y (stock movement) to include in a univariate auto regression of y :

$$y_t = a_0 + a_1 y_{t-1} + a_2 y_{t-2} + \dots + a_m y_{t-m} + \text{residual}_t \quad (3)$$

Next the autoregression is augmented by including lagged values of x :

$$y_t = a_0 + a_1 y_{t-1} + a_2 y_{t-2} + \dots + a_m y_{t-m} + b_1 x_{t-1} + \dots + b_q x_{t-q} + \text{residual}_t \quad (4)$$

All lagged values of x that are individually significant are retained according to their t-statistic provided they add explanatory power to the regression. In the notation above p is the shortest and q is the longest lag length for which lagged value of x is significant. Lagged time of between 1 and 3 days depending on the type of data (company data) was found and used for the experiments.

3.4 Feature extraction and selection

After creating the bag of words, the features were created using unigrams and bigrams. Thus the bag of words was a collection of most frequent unigrams and bigrams. Term frequency-Inverse document frequency (Tf-Idf) was then applied for feature weighting. Tf-Idf is a numerical statistic that is intended to reflect how important a word is to a document in a collection or corpus. The occurrences of every query term appearing in each Twitter post as well as the total number of times each word appeared in the entire corpus was counted. With these counts the Tf-Idf algorithm was used to calculate the weight of each post. Thus:

$$tf_{ik} = f_{ik} \quad (5)$$

Where tf_{ik} is the term frequency weight of term k in a post and f_{ik} is the number of occurrences of the term k in the tweet.

The inverse document frequency was calculated as shown in the equation below:

$$idf_k = \log\left(\frac{N}{n_k}\right) \quad (6)$$

Where idf_k is the inverse document frequency weight for term k and N is the number of tweets in the twitter dataset. n_k is the number of posts in which term k occurs. The two equations are then multiplied to get the important features.

The result was a very large feature vector and this had a potential of slowing down and overfitting when building the model. To reduce the features, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was applied. PCA is a dimensionality reduction technique used to transform high dimensional datasets into a smaller dimensional subspace.

3.5 Prediction

The prediction model was built using support vector machines (SVM). SVM is a supervised learning algorithm that analyzes data and recognizes patterns. SVM was used because it is the mostly widely used algorithm for text analysis. SVM models require tuning 2 parameters which influence the performance of the model. Gamma and C parameter were tuned and the model resulted in slight increase in performance. C is the parameter for the soft margin cost function, which controls the influence of each individual support vector; this process involves trading error penalty for stability. Gamma can be seen as the inverse of the radius of influence of samples selected by the model as support vectors. To get these 2 parameters cross validation was applied until optimum values were obtained. To train the learning algorithm, data from January 2015 to May 2015 was used. The selected features were a combination of unigrams and bigrams whilst the target value was the movement of stocks that is 1 for upward movement and -1 for downward movement. For testing, tweets for the month of June were used. The accuracy of the model varied with each company dataset as shown in section 4 below.

4. Experimental Evaluation and Analysis

Model performance was measured based on confusion matrix performance measures of sensitivity and specificity. The accuracy was calculated using the formula below:

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{(TN+TP+FN+FP)} \quad (7)$$

where: TP -True Positives, TN - True Negatives, FN -False Negatives, FP -False Positives

Table 1 Accuracy on the data sets after applying PCA

Name	Tweets in train set	Tweets in test set	Trainset accuracy	Test set accuracy
Airtel	88815	27295	0.77	0.54
TCS	46050	10795	0.98	0.57
Infosys	30280	10300	0.96	0.59

The accuracy scores for the three datasets were in the fifties as shown above. The model's accuracy was able to beat the baseline accuracy of random walk through which is about 50% (random walk through states that stock prediction is by chance).

4.1 Confusion Matrix

A confusion matrix is a useful tool for analyzing how well a classifier can recognize tuples of different classes. It contains information about actual and predicted classifications done by a classification model [10],[11].

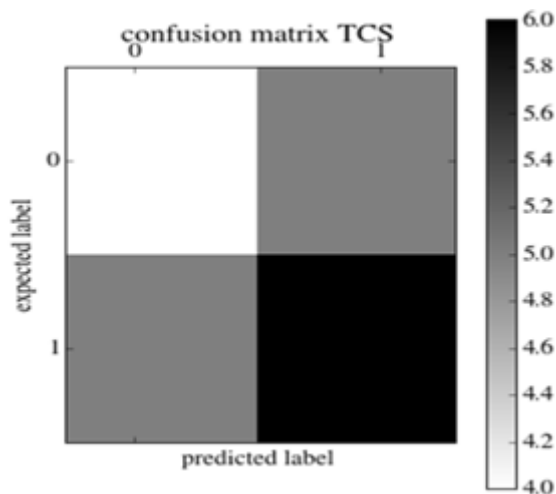


Figure 2: Confusion matrix for TCS

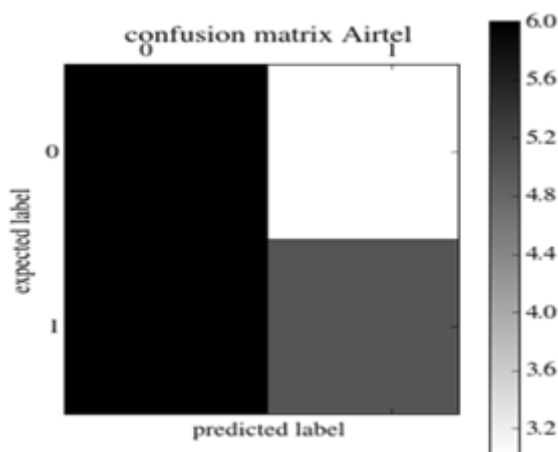


Figure 3: Confusion matrix for Airtel

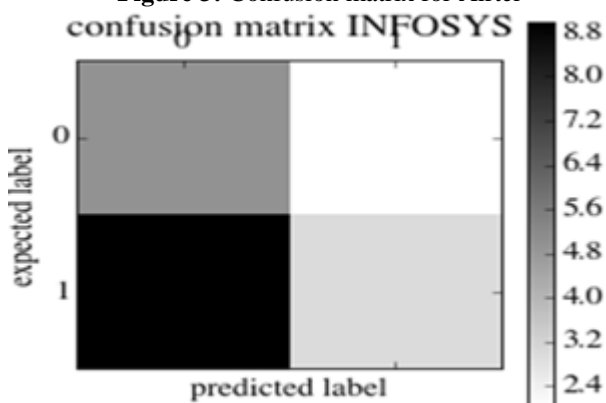


Figure 4: Confusion matrix for Infosys

Looking at the different confusion matrixes it can be noted that in some instances number of true positives and true negatives is way more than false positives thus although we are making wrong predictions in some instances, the rate of true predictions outweighs that of false predictions. Results for Infosys data showed more false negatives which is better

than predicting false positives since less money is lost using our model. The difference in the accuracy of this model was due to the random variations across the different datasets. Due to these random variations, we got both a high sensitivity and specificity on some data sets while other data sets resulted in low values as shown by the different confusion matrixes. Sensitivity and Specificity were calculated as shown in Equations 7 and 8 respectively.

$$\text{Sensitivity} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN} \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Specificity} = \frac{TN}{TN+FP} \quad (8)$$

5. Challenges

Getting a large dataset was a problem because twitter has a limit on the number of tweets which an individual can get for free. At the time of writing this paper the number was 3500.

6. Conclusions and Future Work

In this paper a model to predict stock movement based on analysis of tweets for the Indian market was built. The results obtained were a slight improvement on the baseline model which is based on chance. Due to the random variations of the three datasets the accuracy for each dataset was also slightly different. The accuracy could have been low due to the small datasets used.

For future work, the accuracy can be improved by using methods that capture the context of the entire tweet as opposed to the bag of words used here. Also getting a bigger dataset will improve the model and combining stock data and twitter sentiment may also improve the prediction.

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