Investigating sentiment analysis of news in stock market prediction utilizingmachine learning techniques

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Abstract—In the stock market, which is a dynamic, complex, nonlinear and non-parametric environment, accurate prediction is crucial for trading strategy. It is assumed that news articles affect the stock market. We investigated the relationship between headline’s sentiment of news and their impact on stock prices changes. To show this relationship, we applied the sentiment data and the price difference between the day before the news was published and the day of the news, to machine learning regression and classification models. Regression is used to predict changes and classification is used to decide whether to buy or sell stocks. We used three stock datasets named Apple, Amazon and AXP and the results are shown in the mentioned dataset that using news with negative sentiments can make predictions just as correctly as using news with both positive and negative sentiments. In regression and classification models, Random Forest outperformed other machine learning algorithms in predicting stock price changes using news sentiment analysis. Additionally, we depicted that the results of computer and human tagging were almost similar, showing that using computer tools for text tagging will allow to tag text much more quickly and easily.

Keywords- News; stock price prediction; machine learning; Regression model; Classification model

# Introduction (Heading 1)

T In finance studies, the stock market and its trends are volatile in nature. This attracts researchers to detect fluctuations for predicting the next move. Investors and market analysts study market behavior and plan their buying or selling strategies accordingly. Because the stock market produces a huge amount of data every day, it is very difficult to consider all the current and past information to predict the future trend of stocks. There are basically two analysis to predict market trends. One is technical analysis and the other is fundamental analysis. Technical analysis considers the price and volume of past trades to predict future trends. On the other hand, a fundamental analysis of a business involves the analysis of its financial data to gain insight into the performance of the company. The effectiveness of technical and fundamental analysis is disputed by the efficient market hypothesis, which states that stock market prices are fundamentally unpredictable[1,2].

Fundamental analysis is the science of evaluating economic, financial, and other variables about an asset that can determine its current and probable future value. In other words, in fundamental analysis, the analyst examines and analyzes the conditions of a project or company from different aspects and follows its important news and events. Analyzing all aspects and factors affecting a project or company in order to identify its intrinsic value and potential is known as the definition of fundamental analysis.

It is not easy to examine all the factors influencing a company's stock, especially for small investors who are looking for short-term investment. These people deicide to buy or sell stocks based on the feeling that the news evokes in them. For example, if the news of the acceptance of Bitcoin by Amazon is published, given that Amazon is a large company that millions of people buy or sell from this company every day, the person assumes this news positive and will buy the share of Amazon, and thus a positive news can lead to growth the price [3-5] .

Stock market predicting has long been an active area of research. The efficient market hypothesis (EMH) states that stock market prices are heavily influenced by new information and follow a random pattern. This hypothesis is known as behavioral economics and states that public mood and market performance are interrelated. The idea is that when people are happy and optimistic, there is the potential for increased investment, which in turn improves stock market performance.

News agencies are one of the sources that people and investors visit every day and this visit, unlike in the past, which required buying a newspaper or visiting a website, is easily possible by just subscribing to a social network because all the news agencies have their own page on social networks and reflect the news of the day in it. Therefore, the news published in these news agencies easily affects the public opinion and the opinions of investors. Examining this news and the feeling it evokes in the reader can be considered as a very important factor in predicting the stock price [6-8].

Both regression and classification methods are used in stock market predictions. In the regression method, past data is used to predict the amount of changes and according to the size of the changes, it can be decided to buy and sell stocks. The classification method uses past data for classification. Based on the amount of change, our data is categorized into three sentiment categories: positive, zero, and negative. Therefore, we predicted changes utilizing sentiments. Related works are reviewed below.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 includes the related works. In Section 3 the explanation and reference of the data are provided, also in the mentioned Section the research methodology and evaluation metrics are stated. Section 4 presents the results of experiments, and finally Section 5 presents the conclusions of the article. Also, references can be found in Section 6.

# Related work

Predicting stock price trends is an attractive area of research because more accurate predicts are directly related to higher stock returns. Thus, in recent years, considerable efforts have been made to develop models that can predict the future trend of a particular stock or general market. Most existing techniques use technical analysis. Some researchers have shown that there is a strong relationship between news about a company and its stock price [9,10]. In light of this, price prediction can benefit from sentimental news extraction. The following is a discussion of previous research on sentiment analysis of news and stock prices.

Lee uses the Daily News Sentiment Index (DNSI) and Google Trends data in coronavirus searches to examine the initial impact of COVID-19 sentiment on the US stock market. The goal is to examine the relationship between the COVID-19 sentiment and the 11 selected US stock market indices over a period of time. Any public positive or negative feelings about the stock market crisis can have an impact on investors' decisions in the stock markets. The results show the distinct effects of COVID-19 sensation in different industries and separate them into different correlation groups [11].

The goal of the paper is to create an effective model for predicting stock market trends with small error and improve forecasting accuracy. This model is based on the analysis of sentiments and stock market prices and is designed using two methods: K-NN and simple Bayesian algorithm. Khedr et al. separates the model into two stages, the first is to determine the positive or negative polarity of the news using a simple Bayesian algorithm. In the second stage, the output of the first stage is entered as an input, along with the past stock price, into the K-NN algorithm and combined algorithms [12].

Kaliani et al. use data such as financial news articles about a company and predict the future trend of its stock by classifying news sentiment, assuming that news articles affect the stock market. This is an attempt to examine the relationship between news and stock trends. To this end, they used a dictionary-based approach. Dictionaries of positive and negative words are created using words that carry specific public and financial sentiment. Based on these data, they implemented classification models. The results showed that Random Forest (RF) and Support Vector Machine (SVM) worked well in all experiments [13].

Work done by Ding Et al. Suggests that news can affect stock market behavior, and that yesterday's news can affect daily stock price changes. They tried to extract a procedure for extracting information from news headlines using a process called “open information extraction”. They proved with experiments that news headlines should be sufficient for textual features and thus improve the share price prediction [14].

In [15], the FA[[1]](#footnote-1) was modified by introducing a dynamic adjustment strategy and an opposition-based chaotic strategy. In that context, the modified FA (MFA) was combined with an SVR to propose a novel hybrid forecasting model (SVR-MFA) for stock prices. The forecasting results with the SVR-MFA were more robust and also outperform the results of the SVR-CFA [16] as well as the other optimization techniques (PSO-GA) applied with SVR models for the prediction of six variables in the Shanghai stock market.

Sedighi in [17] proposed a novel upgraded prediction model deploying an Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) algorithm, an adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS), and an SVM. In the proposed ABC-ANFIS-SVM approach, the ABC, ANFIS and SVM algorithms was used, respectively, to optimize the technical indicators, to forecast long-run stock price fluctuations, and to establish a link between the technical indicators and the stock price, as well as to further improve the forecasting accuracy of the model. The results obtained with the proposed method were more precise in the prediction of the US stock market than those from the 20 other forecasting models. The SVM-based studies discussed so far are summarized with their key topics in Table 1. It is noteworthy that, in this figure, we have not included the studies [18,19] that only utilized the SVM method without merging it with at least one other soft computing technique for making stock market predictions [20].

Usmani [4] proposed a new stock prediction model called WCN-LSTM that incorporates news categories weighted according to their relevance with the target stock. The model utilizes a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) neural network and features such as hybrid input, sentiment analysis, and deep learning. Experiments were conducted on the Pakistan Stock Exchange using different sentiment dictionaries and time steps. The results show that WCN-LSTM outperforms the baseline model and other existing prediction models. The sentiment lexicon HIV4 and time steps 3 and 7 optimize the prediction accuracy.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Main Approach** | **Target** | **Input Data** | **Performance index** | **Result** |
| [4] | WCN-LSTM | Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) | financial news, stock market trends | accuracy |  |
| [15] | SVM/SVR | 6 securities from SSE | Closing prices | RMSE | 1.62e-06,  4.33e-06, 0.000420,  1.07e-05, 0.005916, 0.003501 |
| [17] | SVM/SVR | DOW 30, NASDAQ 100, S&P 500 | Technical indicators | RMSE | 0.0092 (average over all indices) |
| [21] | Decision tree | Enron stock | Closing prices | accuracy | Accuracy 86.67% |
| [22] | Classifier ensembles | KOSPI 200 | Technical indicators | Accuracy, precision, recall, F1 score |  |
| [23] | (SVM, RF, ANN) + feature selection | Chinese A-share market | Technical, economic, and fundamental variables | Accuracy, sharp ratio, annualized return |  |

# Research methodology

In this section, the research methodology of the paper is explained in five parts. Firstly, the dataset used is described. Secondly, the preprocessing steps undertaken are outlined. Thirdly, the predictions made are discussed. Fourthly, the proposed method is presented. Finally, the evaluation methodology used to assess the performance of the proposed method is explained.

## Dataset

The data set used in our work includes 1048575 news that has been collected over a period of eighteen years. This data set is available to the public through this link[[2]](#footnote-2). It is a combination of all the news that is happening around the world. In this work we only needed news that was somehow related to the stock under review, thus, by applying a filter, we have selected only those containing a keyword of the stock in their headline. For example, to select news related to Apple company keywords such as 'apple', 'aapl[[3]](#footnote-3)' are applied to the main data and the related news was extracted.

## Preprocessing

The mentioned data only includes the news that has been collected from different news agencies and the stock price was received separately from yahoofinance.com on the day of publishing the news. Based on the price of the day before (before the news was published) and the day the news was published, the price difference created by the news was calculated.

Textual data is unstructured data. Therefore, we cannot provide raw data as input to models. In this stage of preprocessing, first all numbers, symbols, abbreviations, ineffective words, etc. were removed, and then TextBlob[[4]](#footnote-4) was used as a tool to extract the sentiment of each news. This tool gives each news a number between 0 and 1 which is the sentiment of that news.

## Prediction models

In this article, there are two sort of models that were used to predict changes in stock prices. Models for regression and classification. Regression analysis is a group of statistical procedures used in statistical modeling to calculate the relationships between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables. Regression analysis is frequently utilized in the fields of prediction and forecasting, where it has significant overlap with machine learning.

In machine learning, the term "classification" refers to a challenge involving predictive modeling in which a class label is predicted for a specific sample of input data. A model will determine the optimal way to map samples of input data to particular class labels using the training dataset.

In this article, Decision Tree, Random Forest, Lasso, SVR and Baysian Ridge are some of the regression models that are employed. Additionally, Decision Trees, Random Forests, K-NN, SVC and Naïve Bayes are among the models utilized for classification.

## Proposed method

In this research, we have tried to answer the following questions:

* Does the news have a meaningful impact on the stock market?
* Positive or negative news: which one leads to more precise predictions?
* How much more accurate is manual sentiment tagging at making predictions compared to computer sentiment tagging?

Prices have been predicted over a one-day timeframe. This paper investigates the relationship between news and its effect on stock prices. We used the sentiment analysis data and the price changes between the day before the news was announced and the day of the news release to demonstrate this relationship.

Our model for predicting changes in stock prices using news and sentiment are shown in Fig. 1 and 2. Firstly in Fig. 1, the stock-related news are extracted. Then the stock price changes triggered by this news are calculated. It has also been measured how much the news has generated both positive and negative sentiment. Stock price changes have been predicted using these sentiments. The regression models learn and predict price changes using news sentiments.

Secondly in Fig. 2, the derived price difference was then split into positive and negative classes to predict the ‘price class’ for the next day. In this manner, the class is positive if the difference is positive, and the class is negative if the difference is negative. Finally, classification models were developed using these data. As a result, the stock class for each day is predicted using the sentiment obtained from the news.

The data were slitted into to 80% for training and 20% for test. We used a k-fold cross-validation with k=5. The results reported below are the results obtained on the test data set. The simulation is implemented in the Python programming environment using the scikit-learn library. Therefore, we have examined several algorithms to predict the price change that has occurred. The results are shown later.

In the analysis that has been done, people manually tagged the news positively and negatively and we called it 'manual tagging'. We compared these tags with sentiment analysis tags using the TextBlob library and called it automatic tagging'. Indeed, manual tagging is costly, and much more news can be tagged using automatic tagging. This tagging can also be done online and quickly. Therefore, it is possible to act very quickly and in real time to predict changes of stocks.

Additionally, in order to properly respond to the question: “whether the news actually affects the stock market or not”, we compared the prediction models with news sentiment data and random data. Random data is the data that is generated randomly and sentiment data are output of the news from the TextBlob library.

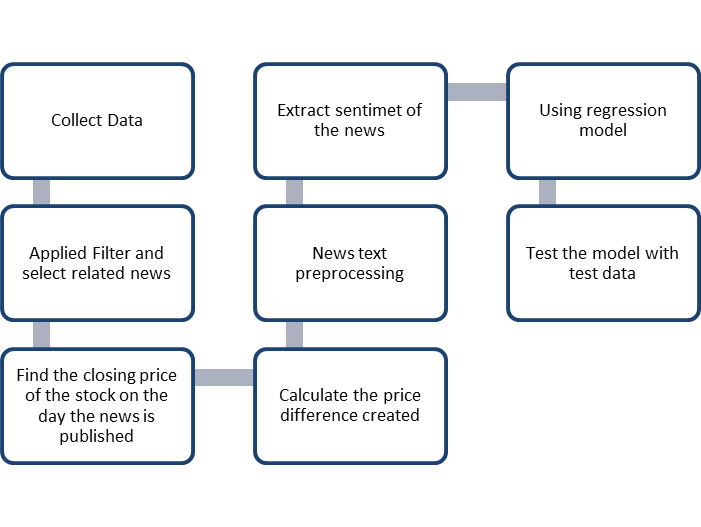


Figure Proposed model in Regression

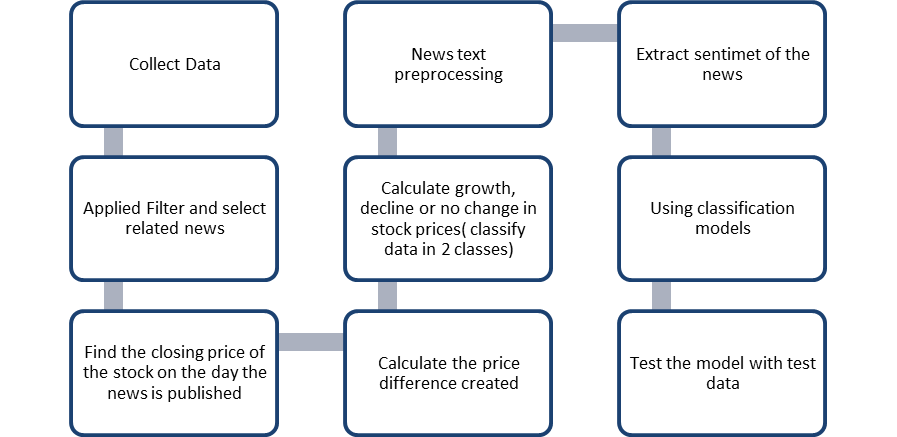


Figure Proposed model in classification

## Evaluation methodology

Various criteria have been used to evaluate the proposed model. RMSE, RRMSE and MAE can be mentioned among the criteria examined in regression models. Also, the accuracy and f1\_score criterion has been used to evaluate and compare the classification models.

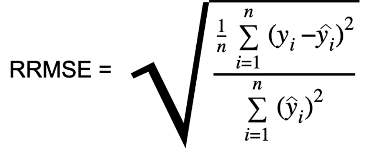
In Eq (1), the root mean square error (RMSE) is shown to measure the prediction accuracy of a predicting model [15]. It has a very intuitive interpretation in terms of relative error, represented mathematically as [17]:

 (1)

where Xobs,i is observed values and Xmodel,i is modelled values at time/place i.

In addition, RRMSE (Eq (2)) is a dimensionless form of RMSE. Relative Root Mean Square Error (RRMSE) is the root mean squared error normalized by the root mean square value where each residual is scaled against the actual value. While RMSE is restricted by the scale of original measurements, RRMSE can be used to compare different measurement techniques. When your predictions are inaccurate, it results in an increased RRMSE. RRMSE expresses the error relatively or in a percentage form. Model accuracy is:

* Excellent when RRMSE < 10%
* Good when RRMSE is between 10% and 20%
* Fair when RRMSE is between 20% and 30%Poor when RRMSE > 30% [26]

 (2)

Also Mean Absolute Error (MAE) in Eq(3) measures the average magnitude of the errors in a set of predictions, without considering their direction. It’s the average over the test sample of the absolute differences between prediction and actual observation where all individual differences have equal weight.

(3)

By calculating the harmonic mean of a classifier's precision and recall, the F1-score in Eq (4) for classification combines these two metrics into a single one. It is primarily used to compare the performance of two classifiers. It should be noted that the ability of a classification model to return only the data points in a class is known as precision Eq (5), while the ability of a classification model to identify all data points in a relevant class is known as recall Eq (6).

(4)

(5)

(6)

Accuracy in Equation (7) is the number of correctly predicted data points out of all the data points. More formally, it is defined as the number of true positives and true negatives divided by the number of true positives, true negatives, false positives, and false negatives.

(7)

Furthermore, the statistic known as "Sensitivity" in Eq (8) measures a model's potential to predict true positives for each available class.

(8)

Another metric used in the evaluation of classification algorithms is known as” Specificity”. This criterion (Eq (9)) measures a model's potential to predict true negatives for each available class. Specificity determines a model’s ability to predict if an observation does not belong to a specific class.

(9)

# Experimental results

To predict the price changes that occurred for Apple, Amazon, and AXP companies upon the news release, we utilized a variety of regression models. As can be seen in Fig. 3, positive and negative sentiments were examined independently in these experiments, as well as positive and negative sentiments in combination. As can be shown, the outcomes of negative sentiments and the combination of both sentiments have extremely strong predictive accuracy and are not significantly different. In regression prediction models, it was the positive sentiments that had the highest errors. As a result, we can estimate changes in stock price with a level of accuracy that is acceptable by having a negative or combination of negative sentiments.

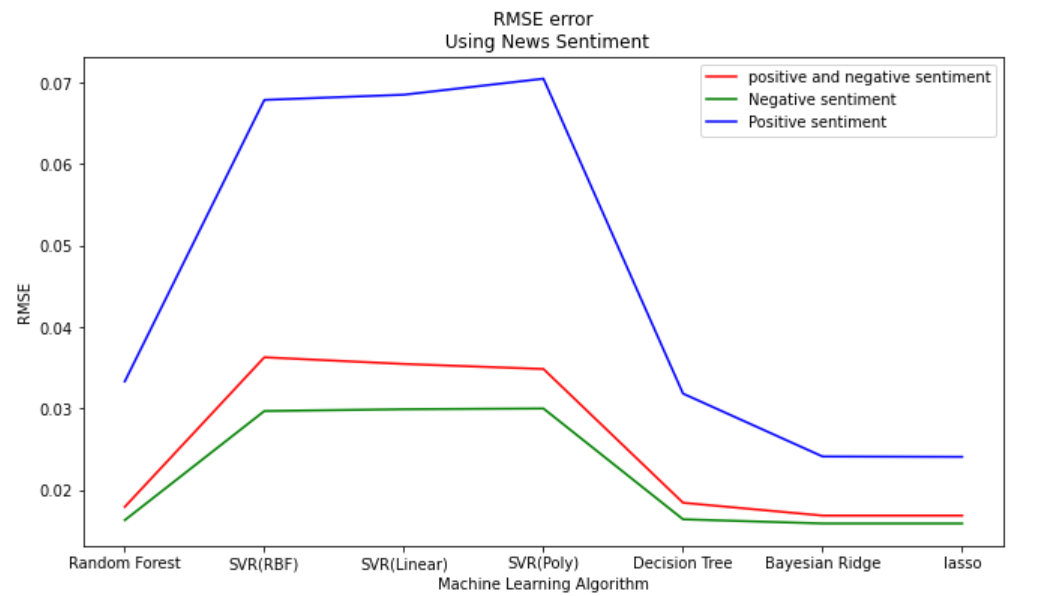


Figure RMSE error, Using News Sentiment

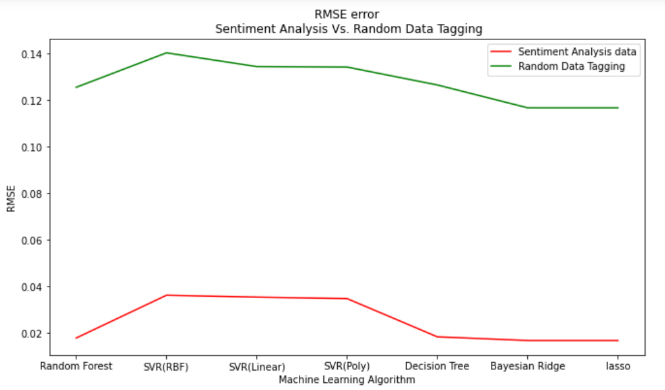


Figure RMSE error, Using random data tagging Vs. sentiment analysis data

To demonstrate how news affects predicts, an experiment was designed. Stock data tags were assigned randomly. With this random data, regression prediction models were trained to predict stock price changes. The outcomes were then compared with a sentiment analysis of the news, as shown in Fig. 4. In comparison to using random data tagging, the error that was previously derived via sentiment analysis of the news is significantly lower.

Another test was designed to compare the error rate of manual tagging with tagging using Python modules (textblob), which in this paper we call computer tagging. The data was first manually tagged, then the generated data was utilized to train regression models, and lastly the outcomes were assessed against the sentiment analysis performed with Python (Fig. 5). The findings indicate that there is no discernible difference between these two kinds of tagging models and that it is reliable to use the tools provided for data tagging. This drastically cuts down on the time and expense of making predictions.

A graph with red and green lines

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Figure RMSE error, Manual tagging Vs. Computer tagging

Finally, Table 2 presents a detailed analysis and comparison of the efficiency and error of the prediction model for the three stocks of Apple, AXP, and Amazon. Initially, regression modeling was employed for prediction. It took the sentiments obtained from news as an input and stock price changes as an output. To investigate the relation between news and price changes, five machine learning algorithms were applied: SVR, Random Forest, Decision Tree, Bayesian Ridge, and Lasso. It should be mentioned that three distinct kernels have been used to test the SVR. Moreover, as mentioned in the proposed model section, positive and negative price changes that affected the stock were classified into two classes. The classification's output is the class of stock price changes, while the classification's input is sentiment analysis performed on news headlines. In this experiment, five classifications named SVC, Random Forest, Decision Tree, KNN, and Naive Bayes have been used. In the following, Table 2 is summarized in figures 6 and 7 so the reader can have a better overview of the obtained results.

Table Results of regression and classification models on APPLE, AXP, AMAZON stock



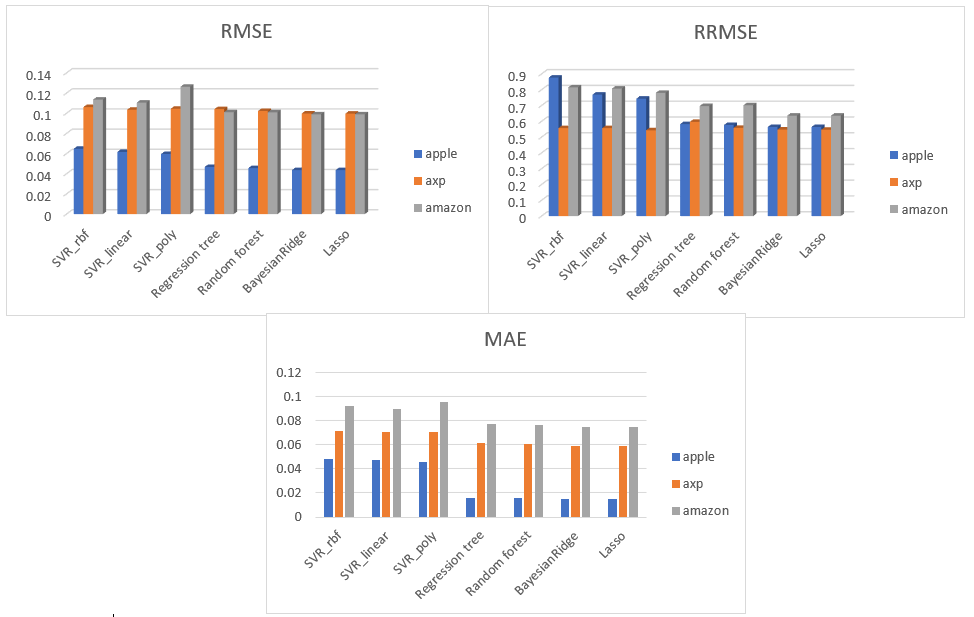


Figure Bar chart of regression errors

The findings indicate that the performance of different SVM kernels is close to each other and that SVM produces less appropriate results in predictions than other regression and classification models. It was determined that random trees performed extremely well at predicting price changes. The difference between the two evaluation metrics of sensitivity and specificity is caused by an unbalanced distribution of positive and negative samples in the classification. Sensitivity is the metric that evaluates a model's ability to predict true positives of each available class, and specificity is the metric that evaluates a model's ability to predict true negatives of each available class. And the distinction between these two metrics demonstrates unequivocally that our true positive and true negative sample sizes were different. In other words, price changes have been more negatively skewed than positively skewed. The considerable range of accuracy is also a result of this issue.

The reader should be aware that all findings are expressed as percentages, and all data were standardized before being used in machine learning algorithms.



Figure Bar chart of classification metrics

# Conclusion

Nowadays, the stock market has become an important channel for raising funds for investors. The stock market is considered a measure of economic and financial activities in a country or region. Predicting stock price movements is one of the most challenging tasks in the financial world. Because the stock market is dynamic, complex, nonlinear, and non-parametric in nature, accurate forecasting of stock price variables is critical to developing a trading strategy. One of the main sources that investors consider is news, and they decide to invest based on the news that is published from the stock Therefore, we can use the news and the amount of positive or negative sentiment it evokes in the reader to predict changes.

In experiments that we had, it is clearly demonstrated that using sentiment analysis of news can be useful in anticipating changes in stock prices. Additionally, positive and negative news sentiments were divided into two classes, and machine learning models were applied to each class separately as well as a combination of both. The findings demonstrated that in the data examined in this research, while sentiment of negative news and the combination of positive and negative news sentiment had satisfactory and closely performance, positive news alone was unable to accurately predict stock changes. Analysis of several machine learning models revealed that, in the mentioned dataset, independent of the kernel used support vector machine algorithm produces poor results, whereas the random forest approach has shown acceptable results in regression and classification prediction models. Sensitivity and specificity are separated by a significant distance. This matter declares that the proportion of positive and negative news was not equal; it is anticipated that in future research, the proportions of positive and negative news will be the same, resulting in more reliable results. The outcomes demonstrated that applying human tagging and applying computer tagging carried out with the use of machine learning techniques produced the same kinds of outcomes. This quick tagging can therefore be employed in real-time systems, drastically reducing the cost and time involved. In future works, the use of more extensive data can make the research results more reliable and generalizable. Also, the use of novel machine learning methods can reflect more accuracy in predictions.

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1. Firefly Algorithm [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.kaggle.com/therohk/million-headlines [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The symbol of Apple company in the stock market [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. TextBlob is a Python library for processing textual data [↑](#footnote-ref-4)