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# Using Machine Learning to predict Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

# **ABSTRACT**

Our aim for this project is to use Machine learning algorithms which will classify people into personality type denoted by Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) on the basis of their posts on social media. In this project, author aims at experimenting on dataset available on Kaggle with different embedding techniques like Bag of Words, TF-IDF, and word2Vec, combined with different machine learning models like XGBoost, Support Vector Machines, Logistic Regression and Bert.

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

In real world, we often hear our friends or coworkers describe themselves as "I'm an INFJ or I'm an ENTP!" or some other seemingly odd and random four-letter combination. In most cases they're talking about their MBTI test results.

With increased focus and ongoing researches in psychology domain, the very concept of an individual personality is a very strong but indistinct construct. Hence, there is a requirement of a much more conclusive, pragmatic measures of existent models of personality. In this project, author aims to work on the understanding of one of the personality testing model: MBTI (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator). This project focuses on building an NLP algorithm, which will process on the input text from social media posts and classify the users into different MBTI categories by making a predicting on the input text which can then be used as a strong linguistic baseline for Myers-Briggs Type Indicator or a user personality in general. Such a text based classifier can have potentially important applications in psychology domain, there is a connection between the personality type and natural language.

Hence, this prediction will give us a better understanding of any individual at a high level, although these predictions are open to personal interpretation.

Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) test was developed in the 1940's with more than 60 years of R&D. Test consists of 90plus "forced choice" questions where no preference is good or bad, better or worse based on text samples from social media. 4 axis are:

Introversion (I) – Extroversion (E)

Intuition (N) – Sensing (S)

Thinking (T) – Feeling (F)

Judging (J) – Perceiving (P)

The widespread usage of social media enables such a classifier to be trained on huge amount of data to do personality tests, enabling more and more people to see their MBTI personality type, even more quickly and with more reliable results. Nowadays, even the private sector and big corporates companies are showing remarkable interests along with researchers in psychology sector. These employers like to know the personality type of the individuals they plan on hiring, so that they can effectively manage their firms culture. Also, another reason is that when these tests are taken again by an individual in different contexts, it usually generate different classifications since, personality tests done by trained psychologists retest error hovering around 0.5. Hence, such a machine learning classifier can possibly act as a verification system and will help individuals have more confidence about the results of their tests and help them understand their personality and apply their personal strengths. Also, such a classifier is capable of operating on a far larger amount of dataset compared to data present in a single personality test

In MBTI, each individual is corresponding to 4 opposite pairs known as "dichotomies" and typically referred with its letter abbreviation: Extraversion (E) – Introversion (I), Sensing (S) – Intuition (N), Thinking (T) – Feeling (F), and Judging (J) – Perceiving (P) and forming 16 personality types with a combination of 4 of these dichotomies example, INTJ.

#### What's Your Personality Type? Use the questions on the outside of the chart to determine the four letters of your Myers-Briggs type. For each pair of letters, choose the side that seems most natural to you, even if you don't agree with every description. 1. Are you outwardly or inwardly focused? If you: LTNI 3. How do you prefer to make decisions? If you: Could be described as talkative, outgoing Like to be in a fast-paced Make decisions in an impersonal way, using logical reasoning Base your decisions on personal values and how your actions affect others Prefer a slower pace with time for contemplation - Enjoy finding the flaws in Tend to think things through inside your head Like to please others and point out the best in people Enjoy being the center of attention Would rather observe than be the center of attention Could be described as reasonable, level-head Could be described as warm, ISTP then you prefer then you prefer then you prefer then you prefer F Т Ε 1 Thinking Extraversion Introversion Feeling 2. How do you prefer to take in information? If you: 4. How do you prefer to live your outer life? If you: Focus on the reality of how things are Imagine the possibilities of how things could be Prefer to have matters settled Prefer to leave your o Pay attention to concrete facts and details Notice the big picture, see Think rules and deadlines See rules and deadlines as should be respected · Prefer ideas that have Eniov ideas and concepts Prefer to have detailed. Like to improvise and make things up as you go Like to describe things in a specific, literal way Like to describe things in a figurative, poetic way then you prefer then you prefer then you prefer then you prefer P S N Judging Sensing Perceiving Intuition

Fig. 1. Chart for each MBTI personality type and 4 dichotomies central to theory

#### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

There has been increased demand of various text processing methods and models and researches in the area of natural language processing. Various applications of text processing spreads from image recognition, speech recognition, email and spam filtering, fraud detection, stock market trading, sentiment analysis, and language translation and so on.

In 1944, Katherine Cook Briggs and Isabel Briggs Myers published 'Briggs Myers Type Indicator Handbook' aiming to help women find jobs according to their personalities.

There is debate on the validity of Myers-Briggs Type Indicator being a benchmark personality type. As opposed to MBTI test, there's another psychometrics used known as Big Five personality classification system which is a measure of 5 statistically orthogonal personality dimensions: Extraversion, Agreeableness, Openness, Conscientiousness, and Neuroticism which unlike MBTI is derived statistically and provides predictions which predicts on set of features in any individual's life, like marital status, income, education level etc. which are mostly stable in that individuals lifetime.

Pennebaker et al. [1] shows good correlations between 4 Myers-Briggs dimensions with 4 of the Big Five personality traits which shows a good correlation of MBTI personality traits to determine personality. Jonathan Adelstein et al. [16] confirmed that Big five personality domains have neural correlations suggesting that cognitive and affective processing of individuals brain had a different activation pattern on different Big Five personality dimension. Furnham et al. [22] examined at management level factors like personality traits, intelligence and personality disorders.

In other work, Mihai [19] and Champa [23] 3-layer feed forward model on handwritten textual data was done along with textual characters, but due to small sample size was an issue but still provides a proof that machine learning models are efficient in predicting MBTI personality type with good accuracy. Mike K. et al. [21] used bog of words for feature engineering with Naïve Bayes and SVM to achieve good prediction of MBTI personality type.

In other NLP implementations, Liu [17] implemented opinion mining of a block or block of texts, and information from article, reviews from authors or organisations. Balahur et al. [18] said scope should be defined to identify good or bad news from good or bad sentiments.

#### III. DATA PREPARATION

One advantage of supervised learning is that the data is properly labeled and can be used directly to train our models with some preprocessing done on the texts data available. The data for this project is publicly available on Kaggle [2] which is an online community for data science and machine learning practitioners.

This dataset consists of 8675 rows of data which is acquired by the author of the dataset from PersonalityCafe online forum, where each row consists of 2 columns:

- 1. Type →MBTI Personality Type e.g. INTJ, ENTP of a user
- 2. Posts → Upto 50 posts of each user taken from social media (fig. 2. Shows the posts record at row1 for a user)

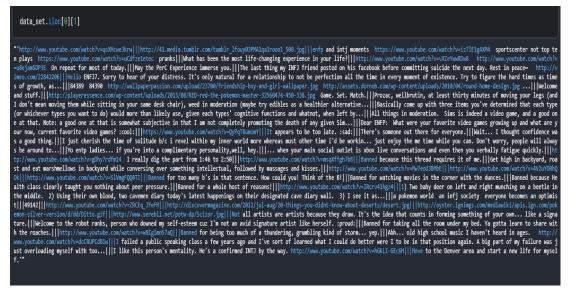


Fig. 2. First row record showing user posts separated by triple pipes '|||'

To experiment our models and embedding techniques on this dataset, we first need to analyze the data and do some preprocessing on the user posts to handle clean the text data. A null check on the dataset tells us that no row is having null or unfilled data (see fig. 3.) and hence, we can process with further checks on the dataset. To analyze the data first the dataset distribution of posts for each personality type is check as seen in fig. 4.

```
RangeIndex: 8675 entries, 0 to 8674
Data columns (total 2 columns):

# Column Non-Null Count Dtype
--- 0 type 8675 non-null object
1 posts 8675 non-null object
dtypes: object(2)
```

Fig. 3. Dataset Info

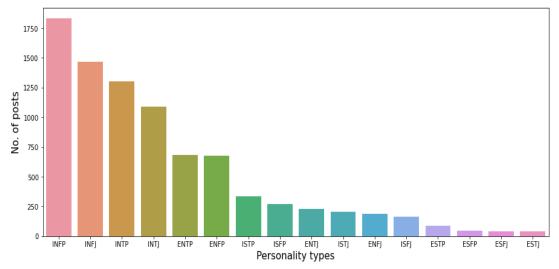


Fig. 4. Distribution of Number of Posts vs. Personality Types

							TAB	LE I							
				D	ISTRIBUIT	ION OF F	OSTS FO	R EACH	TYPE IN	DATASE	Γ				
INFF	INFJ	INTP	INTJ	ENTP	ENFP	ISTP	ISFP	ENTJ	ISTJ	ENFJ	ISFJ	ESTP	ESFP	ESFJ	ESTJ
1832	1470	1304	1091	685	675	337	271	231	205	190	166	89	48	42	39

From fig.4. And Table I, we can see that the data is not proportionate, as most of the number of users for INFP, INFJ, INTP and INTJ are way high compared to the number of users for personalities like ESTP, ESFP, ESFJ and ESTJ.

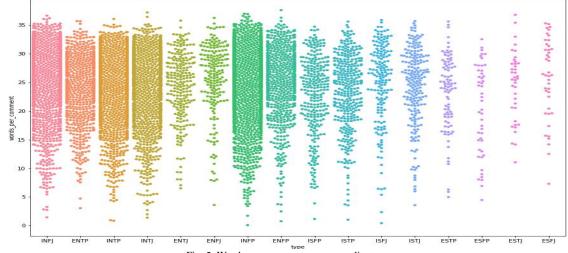


Fig. 5. Words per comment vs. personality type

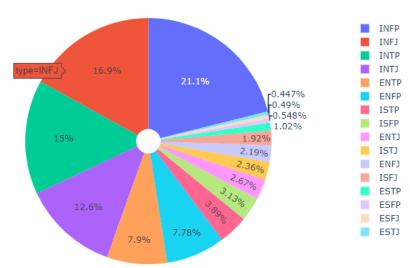


Fig. 6. Data Proportion for each personality type

Fig. 7. Show the distribution of words per comment for each personality type, telling us that most posts on an average have a word count from 15-35 words per post.



Fig. 7. Top 40 words with most count in the dataset

Fig. 7. Gives us an idea of the most common words in the dataset. This gives us an idea about the words, symbols etc. which needs to be handled or removed in the pre-processing stage, as we can see that INFJ and INTP (see fig 8 common words for type = 'INFJ') are couple of the most common words in the user posts and can have major effect in predicting user's personality type.



Fig. 8. Top 40 words with personality type = 'INFJ'

In data cleaning stage, following text cleaning and handling is done:

- a) ||| Separators removal → each user post consists of around 50 posts of that user which are separated by triple pipe which needs to be removed from the data
- b) Links removal → There are many posts which consists of links to different pages like YouTube etc. which needs to be removed as web links doesn't have major impact on a user personality
- c) Punctuations removal → There are punctuation marks and symbols which are removed from the dataset
- d) Lower case  $\rightarrow$  the entire dataset is set to lower case to make the data consistent
- e) Stop-words removal  $\rightarrow$  English stop words are removed from the dataset
- f) Non-words removal  $\rightarrow$  Numbers and symbols are removed from the dataset

Once above preprocessing data cleaning is done, the dataset is ready to apply different tokenization and embedding techniques. To work with different embedding techniques, the dataset needs to be tokenized and the size of the text data needs to be reduced to have minimal words to have all the related words map to the same words, and is done by using nltk library's porterstemmer [3]. Stemming is 'normalization' process which helps reduce the words corpus by reducing the dictionary size by 2-3 folds, hence reducing the input dimension to our machine learning models and hence, making it faster to train and predict the results. Stemming basically reduces the size of our lookup, and hence normalize the sentences. Basically, words are reduced to their root word after removing the verbs and tenses of those words.

After all the steps above, the dataset is ready to apply the planned embedding techniques on it and then to train our models. In this project, the dataset is divided in the ratio of 70-30 for training and testing respectively.

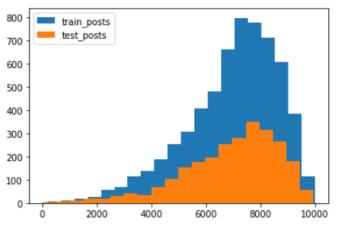


Fig. 9. Length of Train posts vs. Test posts

# IV. METHODOLOGY

In methodology, we aim to test embedding like Bag of Words, Tf-IDF, word2Vec and then train these embedding with models like XGBoost, Logistic Regression, and Linear Support Vector Classifier, and compare the results with the predictions made by BERT.

Embedding is representation of text data to vectors of real numbers. When text data is passed to machine learning models, it requires inputs to be numbers and not text, and hence, embedding is required for text analysis. Embedding helps us to limit the length of the input vectors to our models. In this project we will implement different word embedding techniques as below.

# 4.1) Embedding techniques:

# 4.1.1) **Bag-of-Words** →

Also known as BOW, is one of the most basic and simple model which builds a vocabulary out of corpus of documents and then keep a count of number of words appearing in each document which can be seen in a way where every word in the vocabulary is considered as a feature and the document being denoted as a vector of the same length as vocabulary i.e. a bag of words. This method leads to high dimensionality issue and hence, it requires preprocessing like stemming to reduce the dimensions. For this experiment, the most common and classical method of CountVectorizer is implemented which tokenizes the text while very basic preprocessing is performed. CountVectorizer have parameters as max\_features = 1000, min\_df = 0.2 and max\_df = 0.9 min df specifies how much importance is will be given to less frequent words in the document.

max df specifies the importance given to the most frequent words in the document

# 4.1.2) Tear frequency-inverse document frequency →

Famously known as Tf-IDF tells the importance of a word to a document important a word in a vocabulary corpus. For example, we have a collection of N documents. Let's say fij = frequency of word i in document j. Then, term frequency TFij is,

$$TF_{ij} = f_{ij} / max_k f_{kj}$$

 $TF_{ij} = f_{ij}/max_k f_{kj}$ Here denominator is the maximum occurrence of a word in that document, making the maximum frequency word in document a TF of 1 and rest others are set in fractions. The IDF of word I appearing in  $n_i$  of N documents is,

$$IDF_i = \log_2 N/n_i$$

#### 4.1.3) **Word2Vec** →

This predictive embedding model was developed by Google in 2013, which uses a shallow neural network for vectorization using Continuous Bag of Words (CBOW) and Skip Gram methods by working on next word prediction. In this words are converted to softmax probabilities of a given dimension where if a word will be given same probabilities or they will be assigned same vector even if that word appears in a same context in a sentence.

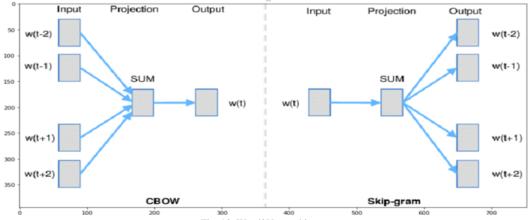


Fig. 10. Word2Vec architecture

# 4.2) **Models:**

#### 4.2.1) Logistic Regression →

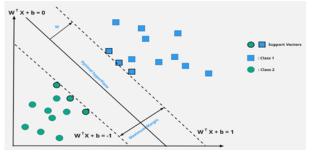
Logistic regression is one of the simplest classification algorithm which is used to assign observations to a set of classes. Logistic regression uses a logistic sigmoid function which helps transforming its output to return a probability value which can then be mapped to two or more discrete classes.

# 4.2.2) Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGB) →

Uses a technique called Gradient Boosting. It builds strong classifier from several weak classifiers in series. XGB provides a parallel tree boosting. Unlike other boosting algorithms where weights of misclassified branches are increased, in Gradient Boosted algorithms the loss function is optimized. XGBoost is an advanced implementation of gradient boosting along with some regularization factors. Boosting controls both the aspects - bias & variance.

# 4.2.3) Support Vector Machine (SVM) →

It's one of the most popular supervised learning algorithms for classification or regression problem which aims to create best decision boundary that can segregate n-dimensional space into classes which enables the system to assign new data point to correct category. This best decision boundary is called a hyperplane. It's a discriminative classifier which intakes training data and outputs an optimal hyperplane which categorizes new examples. This algorithm works

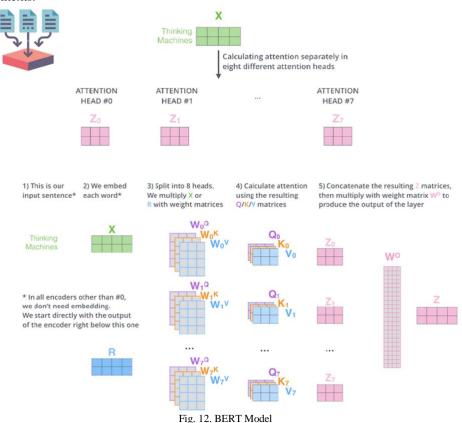


by finding a point closest to the lines for all the classes, which are known as support vectors and the distance between these vectors and the hyperplane is termed as margin and SVM aims at maximizing this margin and give an optimal hyperplane with maximum margin. Extreme points or vectors chosen will help in creation of the hyperplane. Such extreme cases are known support vectors, and hence the name Support Vector Machine.

Fig. 11. SVM classification

## 4.2.4) Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT) →

For this experiment, a basic BERT implementation has been done. Pre-trained Bert tokenizer — "bert-large-uncased" has been used to tokenize on the clean text dataset for training and testing. Sparse Categorical Cross entropy loss function is used as it is considered to be more effective for classification tasks and Adam optimizer is used to train the models as it helps improve the SGD optimizer and combines the advantages of AdaGrad and RMSProp. Bert is considered as it get rid of the decoder from traditional transformer as it has a stack of Transformer encoder blocks. Bert is pre-trained with next sentence prediction and masked language modeling and is a combination of ELMO context embedding and several transformers and assign different vectors for words based on the contexts.



# **4.3) Metrics:**

For this experiment, the metrics used to evaluate the performance of each model is Accuracy. Accuracy is the measure of a classification model's performance and is usually expressed as percentage. It is count of predicted value equal to the true value.

#### V. PLAN VS PROGRESS

The overall plan of this project was as below:

TABLE II
Timeline for tasks

Timeline for tasks					
Tasks	Timeline				
Topic Selection	Week 1-3				
Dataset preparation	Week 4				
Data Preparation	Week 5-6				
Methodology	Week 7-9				
Final Report & Presentation	Week 10-12				

Following embedding and models seen in the below table were originally planned for this project:

TABLE III
Planned Embedding and Models Combination

Flaimed Embedding and Wodels Combination					
Embedding	Model				
BOW	Logistic Regression				
TF-IDF	SVM				
Word2Vec	XGB				
FastText	LSTM				
GloVe	BERT				
Elmo	DEKI				

Following embedding and models seen in the below table were successfully implemented in this project:

TABLE IV

Successful Implementation of Embedding and Models Combination						
Embedding	Model					
BOW	Logistic Regression					
TF-IDF	SVM					
Word2Vec	XGB					
	BERT					

Not all the embedding and models were implemented, due to several issues faces during the development of this project because of the issues mentioned below:

- o Started implementation on pytorch but had to switch to Keras for development as found the implementation simpler with keras
  - o Different embedding and models required different version of tensorflow and keras
  - o Elmo embedding required various libraries to be downgraded which made other models to fail
  - o Different embedding required different input size and tokens
  - o Different runtime required for different models like TPU for BERT, GPU for LSTM
  - o BERT implementation required many parameters knowledge and high level of hyper-parameter tuning
  - o BERT takes very long to run for more number of epochs which is an issue when using free TPU allocation
- o LSTM didn't have any change in accuracy after first epoch, and couldn't figure out the issue, which could be with the input and output size
  - o Up-sampling of data didn't enhance accuracy result and need to test with different upsampling techniques

#### VI. EXPERIMENTS & RESULTS

Accuracy of classical models and embedding combinations gave the following result, when sorted on the basis of accuracy, see table below. For this experiment, number of features for all the embedding was kept as constant 1000. Word2Vec embedding was set to skip gram model by setting parameter sg = 1 with context window size set to 5.

	Models	Test accuracy
0	Linear Support Vector classifier_TFIDF	0.670343
1	XGBoost Classifier_BOW	0.662466
2	XGBoost Classifier_TFIDF	0.660102
3	logistic regression_TFIDF	0.639228
4	logistic regression	0.550217
5	Linear Support Vector classifier_BOW	0.470264
6	logistic regression_w2v	0.221347
7	Linear Support Vector classifier_w2v	0.217802
8	XGBoost Classifier_w2v	0.183931
	<u> </u>	

Fig. 12. Accuracy of Classical Models with embedding sorted descending as per accuracy

See table 4 for the best performing model and embedding combination on test dataset, experimented in this project.

TABLE IV
Test Accuracy for Model and Embedding combination

Model	Embedding	Test Accuracy %
Linear SVM	BOW	47.0264
	TF-IDF	67.0343
	Word2Vec	18.3931
Logistic	BOW	55.0217
Regression	TF-IDF	63.9228
	Word2Vec	22.1347
XGB	BOW	66.2466
	TF-IDF	66.0102
	Word2Vec	18.3931
Bert	Inbuilt - ELMO	62.103

## VII. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

BOW and TF-IDF gave good results with almost all the models with accuracy ranging between 60-70%.

Word2Vec gave the least accuracy with all the models. With minimal hypertuning of parameters Bert performed very well with test accuracy of 62.103% for 10 epochs. Training time of BERT is very high as it has millions of parameters, hence, fine-tuning BERT should give much better results.

This project enable me to learn about various toolsets and libraries and techniques:

- Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK)
- Gensim
- Sklearn
- Tensorflow
- Good understanding of NLP process
- Brief idea of Transformers
- Brief idea of CNNs for text processing
- Different embedding techniques

#### VIII. FUTURE WORK

This project can be developed or improved by implementing various other models and embedding and process. Some of the work that can be done on this project are:

- Handle imbalance of data by upsampling the dataset
- Predict on some popular comments or essays by celebrities to predict their personality type
- Implement different RNN with all the embedding's
- Try n-grams range for BOW and TF-IDF
- Further hyper tune BERT parameters and try different pre-trained weights
- Try to implement classification method based on individual features, and then predict the overall personality, which may give better results i.e. predicting for
  - o Extraversion (E) or Introversion (I)
  - Sensing (S) or Intuition (N)
  - o Thinking (T) or Feeling (F)
  - Judging (J) or Perceiving (P)

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