



Forecasting Stock Price Accuracy for Vietnamese Pharmaceutical Firms through Ensemble Statistical, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning Models

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ABSTRACT Stock price prediction plays a crucial role in investment decision-making and portfolio management strategies. This study aims to forecast the stock prices of three major pharmaceutical companies listed on the Vietnamese stock exchange: **Hataphar (DHT)**, **Central Pharmaceutical JSC No3 (DP3)**, and **American Vietnamese Biotech Inc (AMV)**.

The research employs a ensemble of statistical and machine learning models, including Fast Fourier Transform (FFT), Linear Regression with Calendar/Fourier Terms, Deterministic Process Models, LightGBM, ARIMA, Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), Gated Recurrent Units (GRUs), and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. These diverse techniques are utilized to capture the complex patterns and dynamics inherent in stock price movements.

The research evaluates model performance and identifies key factors influencing price fluctuations in Vietnam's pharmaceutical sector. Findings provide insights for investment strategies and portfolio optimization in this industry. The accurate forecasting models enable informed decision-making by investors, analysts and stakeholders.

INDEX TERMS Vietnamese stock market, Machine learning models, Statistical models, LightGBM, Recurrent neural networks, LSTM, GRU, ARIMA, Linear regression, Calendar/Fourier terms, pharma companies, AMV, DP3, DHT, FFT, Deterministic process models.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic has severely disrupted global economies, with the pharmaceutical industry at the forefront combating this crisis. As demand for vaccines, treatments, and medical supplies spiked, pharmaceutical firms faced immense pressures, leading to significant volatility in their stock prices. In Vietnam, companies like **Hataphar**, **Central Pharmaceutical No3**, and **American Vietnamese Biotech** played vital roles supplying Covid-19 countermeasures amidst shifting market dynamics.

Traditional forecasting models may not fully capture the unprecedented pandemic's complexities impacting stock movements. This necessitates exploring advanced machine learning and deep learning techniques to effectively model intricate patterns and non-linearities. This study aims to leverage an ensemble of statistical methods (FFT, Linear Regression with Calendar/Fourier terms, ARIMA) and machine learning models (LightGBM, RNNs, GRUs, LSTMs) for forecasting stock prices of the three major Vietnamese

pharmaceutical firms.

By combining diverse approaches, the research seeks insights into factors influencing price dynamics during Covid-19. Findings can contribute to financial forecasting knowledge, guiding investment strategies, portfolio optimization, and risk management for stakeholders in Vietnam's pharmaceutical sector. Reliable forecasts can support the industry's resilience and growth amidst future crises.

II. RELATED WORKS

Xiao and Wang (2017) [1] applied ARIMA, LSTM and a hybrid ARIMA-LSTM model to forecast stock prices of two companies listed on Chinese stock exchanges. Using data from 2009-2016, they found the hybrid model outperformed individual ARIMA and LSTM across evaluation metrics like RMSE and MAPE, improving accuracy by 10-15%.

Nelson et al. (2017) [2] compared statistical (ARIMA, Exponential Smoothing) and machine learning models (ANN, LSTM, GBR) for forecasting stock volatility of the S&P

500 index. Using 60 years of daily data, they showed LSTM networks were most effective in capturing nonlinear patterns and long-range temporal dependencies.

Bao et al. (2017) [3] proposed a novel wavelet transformer combining wavelet analysis and self-attention for stock movement prediction on high-frequency intraday data of MSCI USA Index constituents in 2017. Evaluated against statistical baselines, ARIMA and Exponential Smoothing, the wavelet transformer demonstrated superior directional prediction accuracy.

Minh et al. (2018) [4] explored CNN, LSTM and hybrid CNN-LSTM architectures for forecasting stock prices of major companies listed on the Vietnamese stock exchange like VNM, VCB and BVH, using data from 2012-2017. Their CNN-LSTM model incorporating technical indicators outperformed individual CNN and LSTM networks.

Chen et al. (2020) [5] developed an adaptive, dynamic method based on time series clustering for stock forecasting. Applied to constituent stocks of S&P 500 and CSI 300 indexes from 2013-2018, their approach using K-means clustering and Exponential Smoothing outperformed classical statistical models like ARIMA.

Mamon et al. (2021) [6] conducted a comparative analysis assessing the performance of ARIMA, VAR, CNN, LSTM and hybrid CNN-LSTM models on predicting Philippine stock index PSEi returns during the Covid-19 pandemic from 2020-2021 data. The CNN-LSTM exhibited the lowest error rates across metrics.

Jolly Masih [7] conducted a study that implemented algorithms such as SVM and LSTM on stock market data to observe whether major IT companies experienced growth or decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors also utilized the ARIMA forecasting method to predict the stock prices of the mentioned four companies: Google, Microsoft, Apple, and Amazon. Regarding the current prediction of stock prices, the authors achieved an accuracy of 75.95% using the SVM algorithm and the best-fit forecast model of ARIMA. This decrease in accuracy was anticipated, as described earlier, due to increased volatility in the stock market resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.

Ke et al. (2017) [20] introduced LightGBM, a highly efficient gradient boosting decision tree algorithm for classification and regression tasks. This method has gained significant attention for its superior performance, efficient handling of high-dimensional data, and effective parallelization. Several studies have successfully applied LightGBM to stock price prediction problems, leveraging its ability to capture nonlinear relationships and feature interactions.

III. MATERIALS

A. DATASET

We have compiled three datasets in the pharmaceutical field from three companies **Hataphar (DHT)**, **Central Pharmaceutical JSC No3 (DP3)**, and **American Vietnamese Biotech Inc (AMV)**. The collected data is the historical stock

price of the three companies from 1-1-2019 to 17/4/2024. The data was collected from Investing.com website and includes columns:

TABLE 1. Data's attributes meaning

| Attributes | Description |
|------------|--|
| Date | The date when the stock price data was recorded. |
| Price | Closing price of the stock for each date. |
| Open | Opening price of the stock for each date. |
| High | Highest price of the stock during the trading session. |
| Low | Lowest price of the stock during the trading session. |
| Vol. | Trading volume of the stock on each date. |
| Change % | Percentage change in the stock price compared to the previous trading day's closing price. |

The objective is to predict the price (close price), so only descriptive statistical data relating to the "Price" column will be processed.

B. DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

TABLE 2. DHT, DP3, AMV's Descriptive Statistics

| | DHT | DP3 | AMV |
|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| Count | 1320 | 1146 | 1322 |
| Mean | 16,583 | 86,519 | 11,167 |
| Std | 4,149 | 21,584 | 5,811 |
| Min | 9,384 | 57,600 | 2,700 |
| 25% | 13,961 | 68,000 | 4,900 |
| 50% | 15,778 | 81,000 | 11,359 |
| 75% | 18,133 | 103,000 | 15,123 |
| Max | 29,400 | 157,500 | 24,589 |

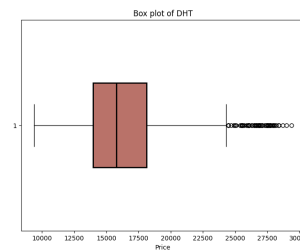


FIGURE 1. DHT stock price's boxplot

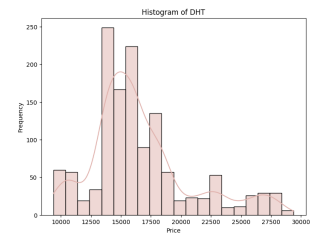


FIGURE 2. DHT stock price's histogram



FIGURE 3. DP3 stock price's boxplot

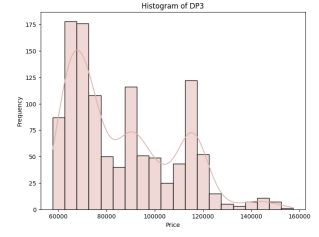


FIGURE 4. DP3 stock price's histogram

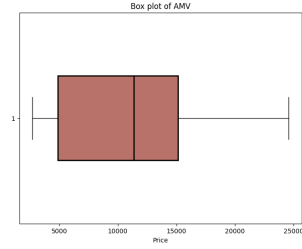


FIGURE 5. AMV stock price's boxplot

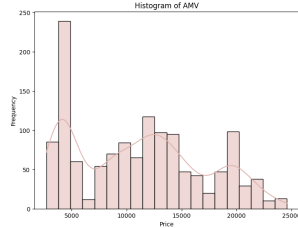


FIGURE 6. AMV stock price's histogram

IV. METHODOLOGY

A. LINEAR REGRESSION

Regression analysis is a tool for building mathematical and statistical models that characterize relationships between a dependent variable and one or more independent, or explanatory, variables, all of which are numerical. This statistical technique is used to find an equation that best predicts the y variable as a linear function of the x variables. A multiple linear regression model has the form:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_k X_k + \varepsilon$$

Where:

- Y is the dependent variable (Target Variable).
- X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k are the independent (explanatory) variables.
- β_0 is the intercept term.
- β_1, \dots, β_k are the regression coefficients for the independent variables.
- ε is the error term.

B. FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM

The Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) is a method that allows computing the Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) in $\mathcal{O}(n \log n)$ time. The basic idea of the FFT is to apply the divide-and-conquer approach. We divide the coefficient vector of the polynomial into two vectors, recursively compute the DFT for each of them, and combine the results to compute the DFT of the complete polynomial.

Let there be a polynomial $A(x)$ with degree $n - 1$, where n is a power of 2, and $n > 1$:

$$|A(x)| = a_0 x^0 + a_1 x^1 + \dots + a_{n-1} x^{n-1}$$

Where:

- $|A(x)|$ is the absolute value of the polynomial $A(x)$.
- a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} are the coefficients of the polynomial.
- x^0, x^1, \dots, x^{n-1} are the corresponding powers of the variable x for each coefficient.
- $n - 1$ is the highest degree of the polynomial.
- The \dots (read as "and so on") represents the remaining terms in the sequence.

We divide it into two smaller polynomials, one containing only the coefficients of the even positions, and the other containing the coefficients of the odd positions:

$$A_0(x) = a_0 x^0 + a_2 x^1 + \dots + a_{n-2} x^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$$

$$A_1(x) = a_1 x^0 + a_3 x^1 + \dots + a_{n-1} x^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$$

In the FFT computation, we apply the divide-and-conquer approach recursively to the polynomials $A_0(x)$ and $A_1(x)$, and combine the results to obtain the DFT of the original polynomial $A(x)$. Dividing the polynomial into smaller polynomials and computing recursively significantly reduces the computational time compared to the traditional DFT computation method.

C. ARIMA

The ARIMA model (an acronym for Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average), essentially creates a linear equation which describes and forecasts your time series data. This equation is generated through three separate parts which can be described as:

- AR — auto-regression: equation terms created based on past data points.
 - I — integration or differencing: accounting for overall "trend" in the data.
 - MA — moving average: equation terms of error or noise based on past data points.
- An ARIMA model is characterized by 3 terms: p , d , q where,

- p is the order of the AR term.
- q is the order of the MA term.
- d is the number of differencing required to make the time series stationary.

A pure Auto Regressive (AR only) model is one where Y_t depends only on its own lags. That is, Y_t is a function of the 'lags of Y_t '.

$$Y_t = a + B_1 Y_{t-1} + B_2 Y_{t-2} + \dots + B_p Y_{t-p} + \varepsilon_t$$

Where:

- Y_t : The value of the time series at time t .
- a : A constant term.
- B_1, B_2, \dots, B_p : Autoregressive coefficients representing the relationship between the current observation and its past values at lag intervals.
- p : The order of the autoregressive component.
- ε_t : A white noise error term at time t .

Likewise a pure Moving Average (MA only) model is one where Y_t depends only on the lagged forecast errors.

$$Y_t = a + \phi_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \phi_2 \varepsilon_{t-2} + \dots + \phi_q \varepsilon_{t-q} + \varepsilon_t$$

Where:

- q : The order of the moving average component.

An ARIMA model is one where the time series was differenced at least once to make it stationary and you combine the AR and the MA terms. So the equation becomes:

$$Y_t = a + \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i Y_{t-i} + \varepsilon_t + \sum_{j=1}^q B_j \varepsilon_{t-j}$$

To find the orders of AR, I, and MA components in an ARIMA model, analysts use ACF and PACF plots. A decreasing ACF suggests a MA component, with the lag where it drops below a threshold indicating its order. Significant spikes in PACF imply an AR component, with the lag where PACF cuts off after a spike revealing its order. By interpreting these plots, analysts select suitable orders for ARIMA modeling.

D. LINEAR REGRESSION COMBINED WITH CALENDARFOURIER AND DETERMINISTICPROCESS

Linear Regression combined with CalendarFourier and DeterministicProcess is an extended linear regression method used for modeling and forecasting time series with recurring cycles and growth trends. This method combines the following elements:

Linear Regression:

- Linear Regression is a common statistical modeling technique used to explore the linear relationship between an output variable (dependent variable) and one or more input variables (independent variables).
- Linear Regression is often used as a foundation for other time series forecasting techniques due to its ability to effectively model linear relationships.

CalendarFourier:

- CalendarFourier is a time feature used to model recurring patterns in time series data.
- It transforms time into Fourier functions (sine and cosine), allowing the model to learn cyclical patterns such as daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly cycles.
- When combined with Linear Regression, CalendarFourier enhances the ability to forecast recurring cycles in time series data.

DeterministicProcess:

- DeterministicProcess is a time feature used to model trends or growth patterns in time series data.
- It transforms time into a growth function (e.g., straight line, curve, polynomial, etc.), allowing the model to learn the long-term growth or decline trends of the data.
- When combined with Linear Regression, DeterministicProcess improves the ability to forecast long-term trends in time series data.

Suppose we have a time series y and input variables X . The Linear Regression model combined with CalendarFourier and DeterministicProcess takes the form:

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_n X_n + f(t) + g(t) + \epsilon$$

Where:

- y is the output variable (the time series to be predicted).
- β_0 is the constant term.
- $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n$ are the regression coefficients for the input variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n .

- $f(t)$ is the CalendarFourier component, representing the recurring cycles in the time series, with t being the time.
- $g(t)$ is the DeterministicProcess component, representing the growth trend in the time series, with t being the time.
- ϵ is the random error term.

The CalendarFourier component $f(t)$ can be represented as a sum of sine and cosine functions with different cycle frequencies:

$$f(t) = \alpha_1 \sin(\omega t) + \beta_1 \cos(\omega t) + \alpha_2 \sin(2\omega t) + \beta_2 \cos(2\omega t) + \dots +$$

$$\alpha_k \sin(k\omega t) + \beta_k \cos(k\omega t)$$

Where:

- ω is the cycle frequency (e.g., $2\pi/365$ for an annual cycle).
- k is the number of Fourier terms used to model the cycles.
- $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \alpha_2, \beta_2, \dots, \alpha_k, \beta_k$ are the coefficients to be estimated from the data.

The DeterministicProcess component $g(t)$ can be represented by a growth function, such as a polynomial, exponential, or logarithmic function:

$$g(t) = \gamma_1 t + \gamma_2 t^2 + \gamma_3 t^3 + \dots \quad (\text{polynomial})$$

$$g(t) = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 \log(t) \quad (\text{logarithmic})$$

$$g(t) = \gamma_1 \exp(\gamma_2 t) \quad (\text{exponential})$$

Where $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3, \dots$ are the coefficients to be estimated from the data.

The estimation of the coefficients $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_n, \alpha_1, \beta_1, \alpha_2, \beta_2, \dots$ can be performed using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method or other optimization techniques.

By combining these components, the Linear Regression model with CalendarFourier and DeterministicProcess can effectively model and forecast both recurring cycles and growth trends in the time series, thereby achieving higher forecasting accuracy compared to simpler models.

E. RECURRENT NEURAL NETWORK

Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) is a neural network architecture that enables processing sequential data in $O(n)$ time complexity. The core idea of RNNs is to apply the divide-and-conquer approach. We divide the input sequence into time steps, recursively compute for each step, and combine the results to process the complete input sequence. Let X be an input sequence of length n :

$$|X| = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \quad (1)$$

Where:

- $|X|$ is the length of the input sequence X .

- x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are the elements of the sequence.
- ... (read as "and so on") represents the remaining elements in the sequence.

We divide the input sequence into time steps, processing one element at each step:

$$h_1 = f(x_1, h_0) \quad h_2 = f(x_2, h_1) \quad \dots \quad h_n = f(x_n, h_{n-1}) \quad (2)$$

In which:

- h_t is the hidden state at time step t .
- f is a computation function, typically a non-linear transformation (e.g., tanh, ReLU) of the linear combination of the input x_t and the previous hidden state h_{t-1} .
- h_0 is the initial hidden state, usually initialized as zeros.

In the RNN computation, we apply the divide-and-conquer approach recursively at each time step, computing the hidden state h_t based on the input x_t and the previous hidden state h_{t-1} . The final result is the hidden state h_n , which encapsulates the contextual information from the entire input sequence.

The output y_t at each time step t is computed based on the current hidden state h_t and input x_t , typically through an output layer:

$$y_t = g(h_t, x_t) \quad (3)$$

Where g is a function, often a linear transformation or a neural network.

Recurrent structure allows RNNs to capture long-range dependencies within the sequential data, making them suitable for various tasks such as language modeling, machine translation, speech recognition, and time series prediction.

V. RESULT

A. EVALUATION METHODS

Mean Percentage Absolute Error (MAPE): is the average percentage error in a set of predicted values.

$$MAPE = \frac{100\%}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |y_i - \hat{y}_i|$$

Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): is the square root of average value of squared error in a set of predicted values.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2}{n}}$$

Mean Absolute Error (MSLE): is the relative difference between the log-transformed actual and predicted values.

$$MSLE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\log(1 + \hat{y}_i) - \log(\log(1 + y_i)))^2$$

Where:

- n is the number of observations in the dataset.
- y_i is the true value.
- \hat{y}_i is the predicted value.

B. AMV DATASET

| AMV Dataset's Evaluation | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|--------|
| Model | Training:Testing | RMSE | MAPE (%) | MSLE |
| LN | 7:3 | 8480.63 | 54.59% | 22.52% |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| SVR | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| GRU | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| ARIMA | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| FFT | 7:3 | 11243.57 | 70.86% | 1.67 |
| | 8:2 | 9313.02 | 67.90% | 1.35 |
| | 9:1 | 9666.76 | 71.17% | 1.56 |
| LN-CF-DP | 7:3 | 6841.46 | 165.18 | 0.96 |
| | 8:2 | 2031.85 | 44.21 | 0.15 |
| | 9:1 | 1441.58 | 33.21 | 0.10 |
| SES | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| BaggingGRU | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |

TABLE 3. AMV Dataset's Evaluation

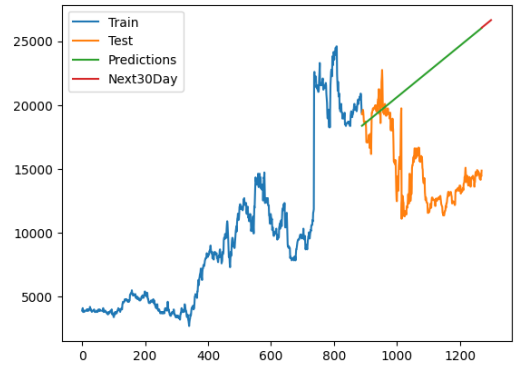


FIGURE 7. Linear model's result with 7:3 splitting proportion

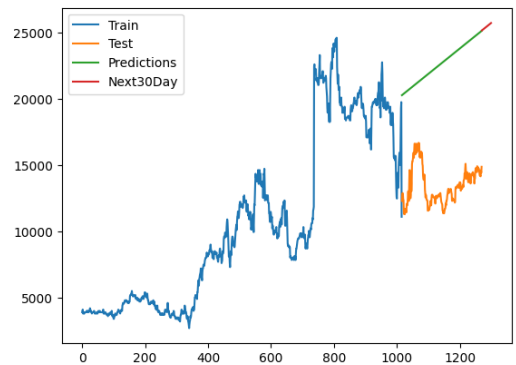


FIGURE 8. Linear model's result with 8:2 splitting proportion

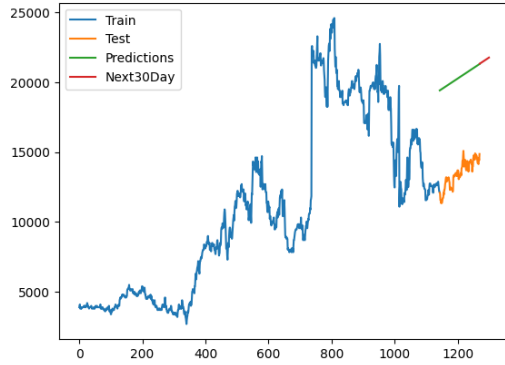


FIGURE 9. Linear model's result with 9:1 splitting proportion

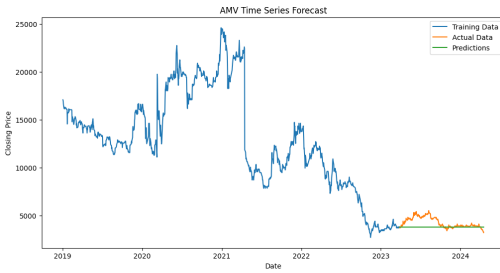


FIGURE 10. Arima model's result with 8:2 splitting proportion

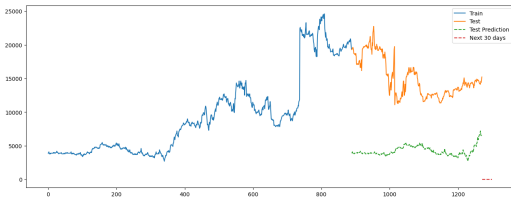


FIGURE 11. FFT model's result with 7:3 splitting proportion

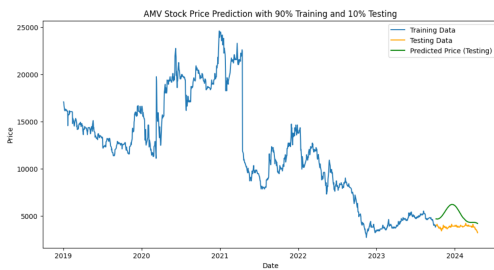


FIGURE 12. LN-CF-DP model's result with 9:1 splitting proportion

C. DP3 DATASET

| DP3 Dataset's Evaluation | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|------|
| Model | Training:Testing | RMSE | MAPE (%) | MSLE |
| LN | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| SVR | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| GRU | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| ARIMA | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| FFT | 7:3 | 27995.79 | 29.10% | 0.10 |
| | 8:2 | 21824.13 | 13.88% | 0.05 |
| | 9:1 | 10698.11 | 14.28% | 0.02 |
| LN-CF-DP | 7:3 | 54681.37 | 69.13 | 0.31 |
| | 8:2 | 48774.18 | 67.56 | 0.28 |
| | 9:1 | 45471.00 | 66.45 | 0.26 |
| SES | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| BaggingGRU | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |

TABLE 4. DP3 Dataset's Evaluation

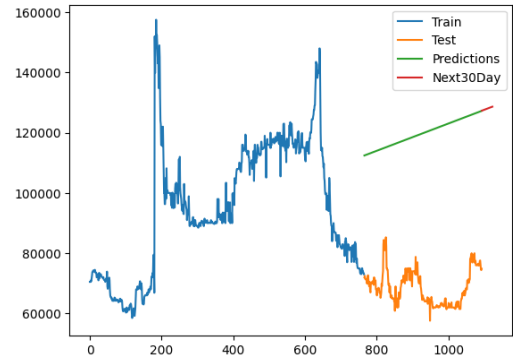


FIGURE 13. Linear model's result with 7:3 splitting proportion

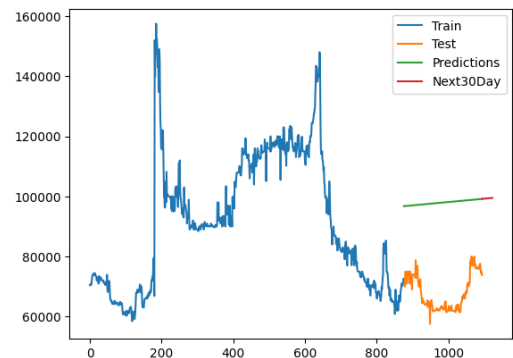


FIGURE 14. Linear model's result with 8:2 splitting proportion

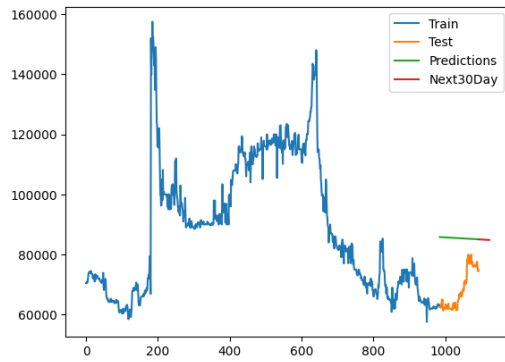


FIGURE 15. Linear model's result with 9:1 splitting proportion

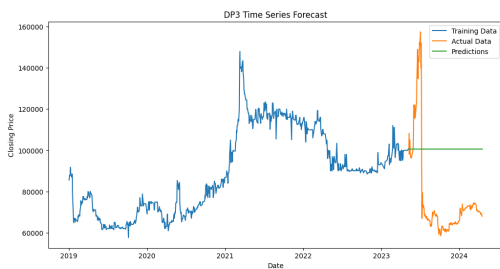


FIGURE 16. ARIMA model's result with 8:2 splitting proportion

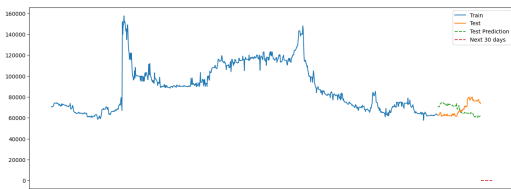


FIGURE 17. FFT model's result with 9:1 splitting proportion

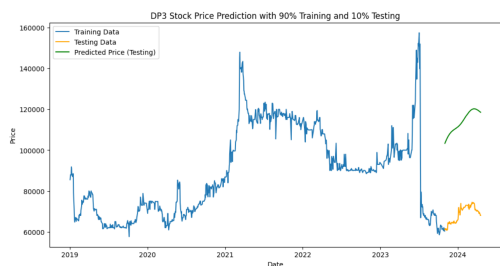


FIGURE 18. LN-CF-DP model's result with 9:1 splitting proportion

D. DHT DATASET

| DHT Dataset's Evaluation | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|------|
| Model | Training:Testing | RMSE | MAPE (%) | MSLE |
| LN | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| SVR | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| GRU | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| ARIMA | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| FFT | 7:3 | 6287.60 | 36.38% | 0.11 |
| | 8:2 | 9919.21 | 72.76% | 0.32 |
| | 9:1 | 12859.83 | 117.69% | 0.61 |
| LN-CF-DP | 7:3 | 5726.49 | 24.00 | 0.08 |
| | 8:2 | 8043.72 | 29.24 | 0.16 |
| | 9:1 | 6725.16 | 24.92 | 0.10 |
| SES | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |
| BaggingGRU | 7:3 | | | |
| | 8:2 | | | |
| | 9:1 | | | |

TABLE 5. DHT Dataset's Evaluation

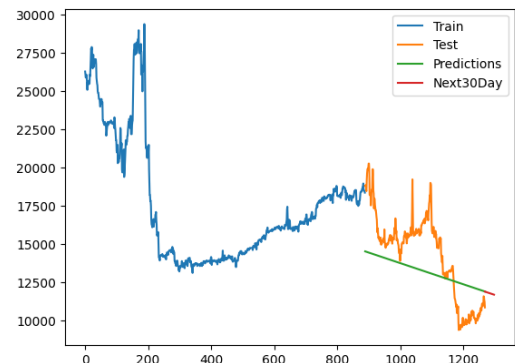


FIGURE 19. Linear model's result with 7:3 splitting proportion

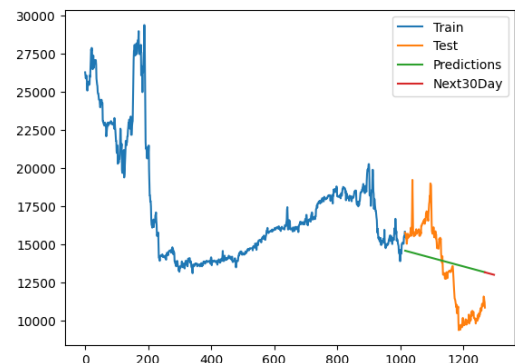


FIGURE 20. Linear model's result with 8:2 splitting proportion

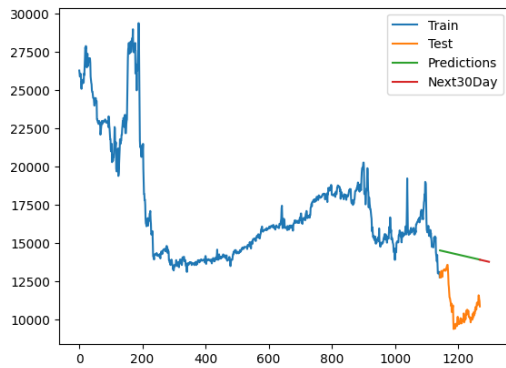


FIGURE 21. Linear model's result with 9:1 splitting proportion

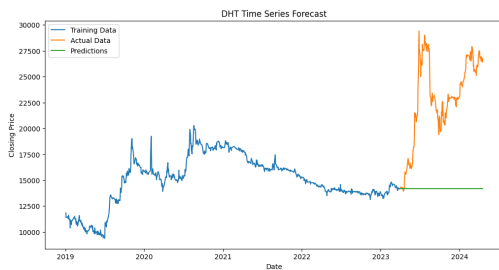


FIGURE 22. Arima model's result with 8:2 splitting proportion

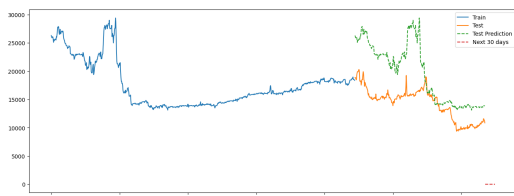


FIGURE 23. FFT model's result with 7:3 splitting proportion

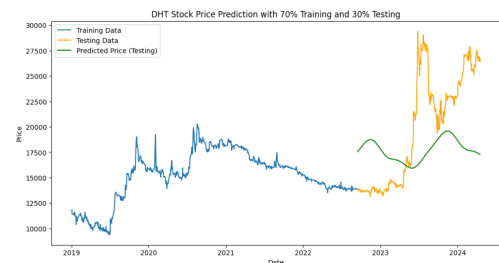


FIGURE 24. LN-CF-DP model's result with 7:3 splitting proportion

detail have significantly contributed to the success of this research.

This research would not have been possible without the support and contributions of our mentors. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved for their invaluable assistance, encouragement, and belief in our research. Thank you all for your invaluable assistance and encouragement.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First and foremost, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thuan** and **Mr. Nguyen Minh Nhut** for their exceptional guidance, expertise, and invaluable feedback throughout the research process. Their mentorship and unwavering support have been instrumental in shaping the direction and quality of this study. Their profound knowledge, critical insights, and attention to