

Predicting Stock Market Trends Using LSTM
An Analysis

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1. Introduction and Research Background

The stock market has captivated the attention of investors, traders, and financial analysts; many of whom have a goal to decipher its intricate patterns and predict trends with precision to lead to substantial gains. It is “one of the most important and active financial markets” (Wang et al., 2016). Although the complexity makes the stock market fascinating, it also renders predicting its future movements a formidable challenge “as the nature of the stock market has always been vague for investors because predicting the performance of a stock market” (Khan et al., 2023).

There are many factors that can facilitate change in market value in a day such as country’s economic change, product value, and the “sentiment of customers or buyers that is their opinion on a particular product or service provided by the company” (Pawar et al., 2019). Considering the many factors that can affect the market value of stock, the direction of them can be predicted by analyzing market indicators, which can be obtained by analyzing market breadth. Market breadth “indicates the number of companies that have obtained new high valuations, in comparison to the number that have obtained poor valuations” (Shetty et al., 2019). These market indicators can be utilized to signal a bullish or bearish market, where bullish signals will indicate when a stock is going to increase in value, and a bearish meaning that the value will decrease in value.

In recent years, the ascendancy of machine learning (ML) has introduced another entity in market analysis “since it enables many opportunities such as forecasting the future stock movements, making optimal investment decisions, and algorithmic trading” (Cipiloglu et al., 2022). This technology, armed with the capacity to sift through vast datasets, presents a compelling approach on forecasting stock market trends.

The advent of neural networks, notably recurrent neural networks (RNNs) and long short-term memory (LSTM) networks, marked a significant leap in the quest for accurate stock market predictions. RNNs, tailored for processing sequential data and can exhibit a capacity to grasp temporal dependencies and unearth long-range patterns. LSTMs, a specialized variant of RNNs, “can be used for handling time-series problems since they have the ability to identify long-term patterns in sequential data” (Cipiloglu et al., 2022), in which “time-series forecasting models are the models that are capable to predict future values based on previously observed values” (Loukas, 2020), which would make them perfectly adept at forecasting in the volatile domain of stock markets. In this paper, we will discuss the different machine learning implementations

towards stock market analysis and support the utilization of LSTM to predict stock market trends as using machine learning can aid investors and traders in making informed decisions based on prior market trends, utilizing historical stock market data to develop predictive models.

2. Research and Methods

2.1 Literature Review

Among the diverse algorithmic approaches, decision trees, recurrent neural networks (RNNs), long short-term memory (LSTM) networks, linear regression, and support vector machines (SVMs) have emerged as prominent tools for stock market prediction. This section will delve into the application of these algorithms, examining their underlying principles and effectiveness in capturing market trends and will discuss why we believe.

Decision trees are another powerful machine learning algorithm that can be used for stock market prediction. They are a type of supervised learning algorithm that works by building a tree-like structure that partitions the data into smaller subsets based on specific criteria and proven to be effective for stock market prediction, particularly for short-term predictions. The purpose of using decision trees to track the stock market is to “track useful information from huge volume of data” (Liu & Li, 2022).

Support Vector Machines (SVMs) is another machine learning algorithm that has “been implemented in classification, recognition, regression and time series” (Kara et al., 2011). SVMs operate by “mapping data to a high-dimensional feature space so that data points can be categorized, even when the data are not otherwise linearly separable” (IBM, n.d.). While SVMs offer promising capabilities for stock market prediction, they also have some limitations, such as it being “not suitable for large data sets ... [and] not perform[ing] very well when the data set has more noise” (Raj, 2022).

Linear regression a “category of supervised machine learning algorithm where the expected yield is tenacious and highlights a consistent incline” (Titarmare, 2022) that can be used to predict future stock prices by assuming a linear relationship between the stock price and other information boundaries, such as company earnings, interest rates, or economic indicators. It also has limitations, such as assuming a linear relationship between variables and not being able to capture complex nonlinear relationships. Despite these limitations, linear regression can still

be a useful tool for stock market prediction, especially when used in conjunction with other techniques, such as neural networks or SVMs.

Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) are a “class of deep learning models that possess internal memory, enabling them to capture sequential dependencies” (Shiri, 2023). RNNs can capture temporal dependencies in data, which is essential for predicting future trends based on past observations (Satria, 2023). In the context of stock market prediction, RNNs can be trained on historical stock price data and other financial indicators to determine future market movements. By analyzing these patterns, RNNs can make predictions about future stock prices, providing valuable insights for investors and traders.

While RNNs have demonstrated their effectiveness in stock market trend prediction, long short-term memory (LSTM) networks have emerged as a more powerful and refined approach. “Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) is one of many types of Recurrent Neural Network RNN, it’s also capable of catching data from past stages and use it for future predictions” (Moghar, 2020) and addresses the vanishing and exploding gradient problems often encountered in traditional RNNs. LSTMs overcome these limitations by incorporating a gating mechanism that controls the flow of data. This allows LSTMs to effectively capture both short-term and long-term dependencies, which can make them optimal for stock market prediction. Compared to other algorithms, “LSTM superiorities include the constant backpropagation of errors in memory cells resulting in the ability of LSTM to bridge long-time lags... [and] LSTM can handle noise, distributed representation, and continuity” (Satria, 2023) in which allows it to perform well in stock market prediction tasks, particularly for long-term trend analysis, hence, the focus of this paper will be to analyze LSTM on predicting future trends as it solves for “time-series problems since they have the ability to identify long-term patterns in sequential data” (Cipiloglu et al., 2022.)

2.2 Data Collection and Preprocessing:

For this project we will utilize the Kaggle dataset ‘[Huge Stock Market Dataset](#)’ created by Boris Marjanovic. This dataset includes High-quality financial data with historical daily price and volume data for all US-based stocks and ETFs trading on the NYSE, NASDAQ, and NYSE MKT. The prices of the stocks have been adjusted for dividends and splits. The dataset includes

data for each stock from the company's beginning up until the date 11/10/2017. For this paper, we will analyze two companies: Apple (AAPL) and Tesla (TSLA).

The dataset is in a comma separated text file following the format: Date, Open, High, Low, Close, Volume, OpenInt. The 'Date' column represents the date of the stock market transaction, the 'Open' column represents the opening price of the stock on that date, 'High' represents the highest price that the stock reached that day, 'Low' represents the lowest price reached that day, 'Close' represents the closing price of the stock at the end of trading hours on that date, 'Volume' represents the number of shares of the stock that were traded that day, and finally, 'OpenInt' represents the number of open positions in the stock at the end of the trading day.

Before proceeding with model development, we will prepare the data, a crucial step in ensuring the quality and reliability of the model's predictions. This involves cleaning the data to remove any inconsistencies or outliers, carefully handling missing values to maintain data integrity, and selecting the most relevant features to enhance the model's performance. Additionally, we will set the Date column as the index to establish a temporal sequence for the data, enabling the model to effectively capture the time-dependent patterns inherent in stock price movements.

Prior to model development, we will visualize the historical closing stock price data provided from the Kaggle dataset for TSLA and AAPL stocks. This visual exploration will enable me to identify any patterns, trends, and potential anomalies in the data, providing valuable insights for subsequent modeling steps. Furthermore, we will employ MinMaxScaler to normalize the data, ensuring that all features are scaled within a common range. This normalization is particularly important for Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, as they are sensitive to the scale of the input data.



Figure 1: Tesla closing price chart.



Figure 2: Apple closing price chart.

2.3 Model Development

To begin, we split the data into training, validation, and test sets. Splitting the dataset into training, validation, and test sets is a “crucial step in building a machine learning model, as it allows for the model to be trained on one set, tuned on another, and evaluated on a final set” (Or, 2023). We will split it into these three categories so that we can use the training set to train the model, the validation set to tune the parameters, and the test set to evaluate the performance. Given that our dataset is quite large, this can benefit from having a higher portion of training data hence, we will split the data to use 80% for training, 20% for validation.

Overfitting and underfitting are prevalent issues in machine learning, and it is crucial to address them to ensure the model's generalizability and performance. Overfitting occurs when the model gets trained with so much data that it ends up starting to “it starts learning from the noise and inaccurate data entries in our data set” (GeeksforGeeks, 2023). Underfitting, on the other hand, occurs when the “model is too simple to capture data complexities... [which will] result in poor performance both on the training and testing data.” (GeeksforGeeks, 2023).

To combat overfitting, we have implemented early stopping, a technique that dynamically monitors the model's performance on a validation set during training. If the validation loss ceases to improve over a specified number of epochs, the training process is halted, preventing the model from overfitting. This approach allows the model to learn effectively without becoming too specific to the training data.

To implement early stopping in this context, we have utilized the EarlyStopping callback from the TensorFlow library. This callback takes three main parameters: monitor (the metric to

monitor for improvement), patience (the number of epochs to wait for improvement before stopping) and restore_best_weights (whether to restore the model's weights to the best ones obtained during training).

The metric to monitor for improvement to use 'val_loss' to track the validation loss. Patience is set this to 10, indicating that if the validation loss doesn't improve for 10 consecutive epochs, training will cease. Finally, restore_best_weights field is set to True to ensure the model uses the best parameters it encountered during training.

Given the implementation of early stopping, I have set the number of epochs to 500. The early stopping callback will “stop training when a monitored metric has stopped improving” (Keras, n.d.). we have also set the batch size to 64, a common choice for LSTM and it was considered that “network with too large or too low batch size shows a negative effect on the precision of the learning during training as it decreases the stochasticity of the gradient descent” (Kumar et al., 2021). I have also enabled verbose mode, which provides progress updates during training. This allows me to monitor the model's progress and identify any potential issues.

Finally, by enabling early stopping, we ensure that the model doesn't overfit and generalizes well to unseen data. This technique is crucial for building robust and reliable machine learning models.

3. Materials and Data Sources Results

3.1 LSTM Model Analysis - TSLA

After successfully training the LSTM model, we began an analysis of its performance on the TSLA dataset. The initial iteration focused on predicting the stock market based on the closing price. This approach demonstrated the model's ability to capture the overall trend of the stock price movement, evident from the similarity between the original graph and the LSTM-generated forecasts.

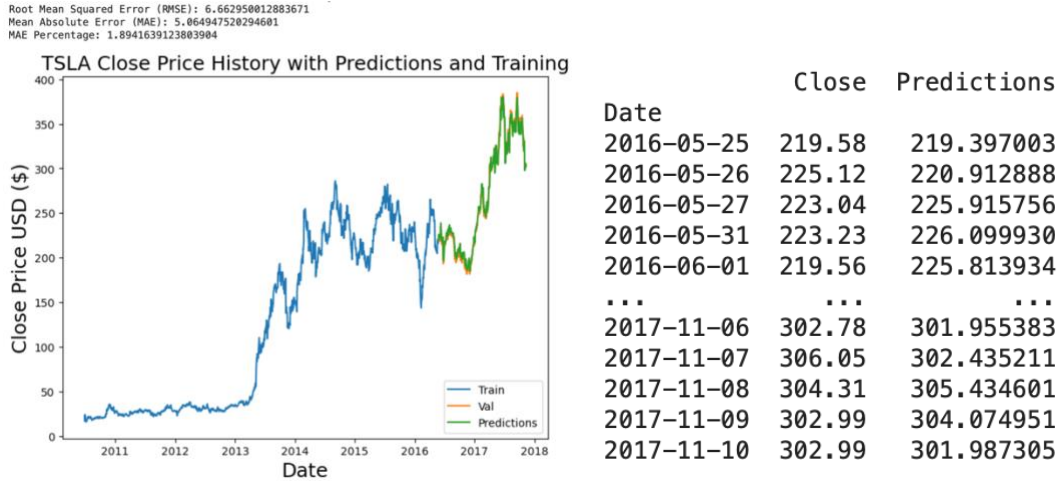


Figure 3: Tesla close price history with predictions and training data.

A closer examination of the generated forecasts revealed minimal outliers, indicating the model's robustness and ability to handle variations in the data. This observation is crucial for real-world applications, where outliers can significantly impact decision-making.

The LSTM model's success in replicating the overall wave pattern of the original graph highlights its capability to learn and adapt to long-term trends in the data. This ability is particularly valuable for long-term financial forecasting, where identifying and understanding long-term trends is paramount.

To further assess the model's performance, we analyzed the error metrics such as mean absolute error (MAE), root mean squared error (RMSE), and mean absolute percentage error (MAPE). These metrics provide valuable insights into the accuracy of the model's predictions.

The RMSE and MAE values came in at a relatively low at 6.663 and 5.065, respectively considering that this is for financial predictions. These values indicate that the model's predictions are like the actual values, suggesting its effectiveness in capturing the underlying trends in the data.

MAE Percentage value of 1.89% further reinforces the model's accuracy. This metric implies that, on average, the model's predictions deviate from the actual values by 1.89%. This level of accuracy is generally considered good for financial forecasting, where even small deviations can have significant financial implications.

3.2 LSTM Model Analysis – AAPL

The positive results observed for TSLA were replicated when analyzing the model's performance on AAPL stock data. Analyzing the mean absolute error (MAE), root mean squared error (RMSE), and the mean absolute error (MAE) percentage for AAPL stocks, the RMSE and MAE values seem low at 1.4631 and 1.019 respectively, again indicating that the model is making predictions close to the actual values. The MAE Percentage of 1.17% suggests that, on average, the model's predictions are within 1.17% of the actual values. This consistency across different stock datasets highlights the model's generalizability and its ability to capture the dynamics of stock price movements.



Figure 4: Apple close price history with predictions and training data.

3.3 Predicting Future 30 Day Trends – TSLA

Having established the model's effectiveness in making accurate predictions, the next step in this analysis involves leveraging its capabilities to forecast future stock trends. The model will be tasked with predicting the stock trends for TSLA and AAPL over the next 30 days.

By implementing the `models.predict()` function, we can generate predictions from the trained machine learning model. For TSLA, the visual representation of the predicted stock prices illustrates the anticipation of a downward movement in the stock price, followed by a gradual recovery.



Figure 5: Tesla close price history with future 30-day trend predictions with table with 3 head and 3 tail of the data points.

3.4 Predicting Future 30 Day Trends – AAPL

Following the same approach employed for TSLA, we now turn our attention to predicting the next 30-day stock trend for AAPL. Utilizing the trained machine learning model and the `models.predict()` function, we generate predictions for AAPL's stock prices. The model suggests a sharp decline in AAPL's stock price over the next 30 days.

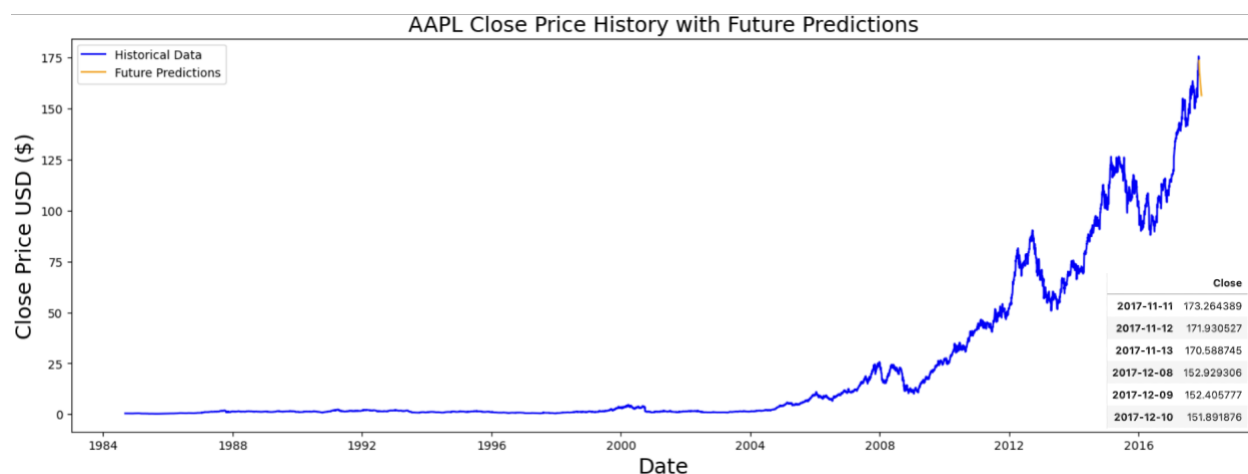


Figure 6: Apple close price history with 30-day trend predictions with table with 3 head and 3 tail of the data points.

These predictions provide valuable insights into the potential future trajectory for TSLA and AAPL stock prices. While the model's predictions cannot guarantee absolute certainty, they can serve as a valuable tool for informed decision-making in the financial realm.

4. Discussions and Conclusion

This paper has demonstrated the effectiveness of using a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model to predict stock prices. By analyzing historical data for TSLA and AAPL stocks, the LSTM model was able to make accurate predictions for both stocks. The model was also able to forecast future trends with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

The results of this study suggest that LSTM models can be a valuable tool for stock market analysis. The ability of LSTM models to capture complex patterns and trends in historical data makes them a powerful resource for investors and financial analysts seeking to make informed decisions. However, of course, it is important to note that stock market forecasting is a complex task and there is no guarantee of accuracy. However, it is evident that LSTM models offer a promising approach that can be used to improve the accuracy of stock market forecasts.

Future research could focus on improving the accuracy of LSTM models by using larger datasets, incorporating additional features, and developing new training algorithms. Additionally, research could be conducted to investigate the use of LSTM models for other financial forecasting tasks, such as forecasting currency exchange. Furthermore, we could further analyze speed as well as “that is an important aspect of the online forecasting” (Wang, 2016). Especially if this model is to be used on live market data, speed would be of essence, some points to consider is that “for intra-day high frequency trading (HFT), the speed of incoming real-time market data is at millisecond level for most stock markets” (Wang, 2016) and that “the model’s training or tuning time, on the other hand, is not critical, since those phases can be arranged as an overnight job and finish before the market opens” (Wang, 2016). Extreme learning machine (ELM) has been a new technique and has “reported to have high accuracy and fast prediction speed while solving various real-life problems” (Wang, 2016) and in a future iteration could be implemented to further enhance this study.

In conclusion, this study has shown that LSTM models are a promising tool for stock market analysis. Further research is needed to improve the accuracy of LSTM models and to investigate their use for other financial forecasting tasks. Overall, in this analysis of LSTM’s ability on predicting future stock market trends, we discovered that LSTM models can be used to make accurate predictions of stock prices and can be used to forecast future stock trends, making them a promising tool for stock market analysis.

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