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# Embedded Bi-directional GRU and LSTM Learning Models to Predict Disaster on Twitter Data

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## Abstract

The deep learning techniques namely Long Short Term Memory (LSTM) network and Bi-directional Gated Recurrent Unit (BGRU) network turn to be de facto to build an optimal assembly line for neural network models. The prevailing state-of-the-art approaches require a substantial amount of labeled data detailed to an unambiguous event in the training phase. In this paper, embedded bi-directional GRU and LSTM learning models is applied for disaster event prediction that uses deep learning techniques to categorize the tweets. The performance of the proposed neural network model is evaluated on CrisisLexT26 benchmarking dataset. The resulting validation accuracy is estimated by comparing LSTM and bi-directional GRU with and without word embeddings. The experiments demonstrate the model selector choose the deep learning techniques to predict the disaster event with reasonably high accuracy.

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**Keywords:** Event Prediction, Online Social Networks, Twitter, Deep Learning; Classification; Long Short-Term Memory, Gated Recurrent Unit

## 1. Introduction

Twitter is a popular microblogging site which enables online users to post the day-today updates in the form of tweets and keep informed of their followers [1]. The evolution of Web 2.0 has turn out to be the dynamic source of information to examine online activities of web users owing to its openness, online and easiness of accessibility. The growth of Internet is characterized to dynamic user-generated content due to the evolution of Online Social Networks (OSN) namely Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, MySpace and Sina Weibo [2]. Events-of-interest discovery is accomplished using Twitter data source by examining the intensities of information diffusion after the mass emergency events. Usually, event trends on Twitter are instigated by an external happening such as a natural disaster and in some cases they are particular to a tweet triggered by a renowned celebrity. Moreover, the OSN data is composed of tiny, noisy, semi-structured and unstructured content, challenging considerably dissimilar techniques to resolve machine learning techniques involved in information retrieval. The various real-time events can be detected in OSN using discerning text and multimedia based content posted by users [3]. In Twitter, users post referred as ‘tweets’

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which is considered to be a vital feature shared by the followers. The enhanced length feature endowed more towards value-added area of research for Twitter stream analysis. The retrospective way of detecting trending event prediction and classifying the tweets in Twitter is deliberated to be an immense challenge. The aim is to provide a story news boards which resembles a quick snapshot of a disaster using twitter feeds. The research challenge is addressed by building a deep learning enabled disaster event prediction model using Twitter dataset that classify events using deep learning models namely LSTM and bi-directional GRU. In this paper, CrisisLex dataset [4] is used that contains a collection of tweets, which are specifically related to disasters. The dataset is used to identify tweets that contain valuable information regarding a disaster. During the experimentation, text generation and classification is applied on the CrisisLexT26 dataset, implementing various deep learning models and its performance is compared.

## 2. Related Work

Event detection involves several clustering and classification algorithms consisting of modules namely event-prediction, event-related query identification, event assignment, and event archive. An event occurs in online social streams which cause a large number of activities especially during disasters [5] use machine learning algorithms to classify data. It is based on the reflection of real-world happening at particular temporal and spatial frame. A framework named Convolutional Bi-Directional LSTM used Bi-directional LSTMs and CNN for filtering unfitting conversations on real-world conversations and search queries [6]. The machine learning techniques lead to an incremental and hierarchical modelling for classifying and building event theme structures at several granularities. The adaptation of Convolutional Neural Network (CNN), for training data Learning without Forgetting method [7] to train the network. Obviously, it preserves the original proficiency to accomplish similarly to multitask learning that routines original task data.

The research work determined the disaster topics using which uses Shannon entropy during disasters in Cyber-Social Networks [8]. Another work, in which the Twitter user tweets as sensory information used Gradient Descent Boost, SVM and kNN to detect the specific event types namely earthquakes, tornadoes, and traffic jams [9]. On the other hand, a regression machine learning model [10], is addressed using Gradient Boosted Decision Trees and SVM for event detection. A news handling system called TwitterStand [11], predominantly decides to monitor Twitter microblog service to unavoidably acquire breaking news from the tweets posted by the verified Twitter users. The unsupervised term selection was based on different ranking model with the cut-off being adaptively calculated. A resultant controllable topic graph is produced which associate the mined evolving terms with concurrent terms to attain a set of emergent topics.

Location based Twitter Tweets November 2013 [12], used SVM classification for event detection. The data was extracted using random filters from Twitter data extraction rule for substantial information mining. The classifier uses a supervised term selection method which was purely based on a user-centric threshold parameter. In a successive work [13], a feature constrained multi-task learning models is assembled using CNN for spatio-temporal event forecasting. The long short-term memory (LSTM) deep learning model [14], decreases the service latency where mobile user demands the election information over wireless networks. Based on the literature survey, a novel framework is proposed to resolve using renowned deep learning algorithms.

## 3. Learning Approaches and Models

### 3.1. Long Short-Term Memory

Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) units are units of an artificial recurrent neural network (RNN) composed of LSTM units are often called an LSTM network. LSTM is used in the experiments to generate text and classify the tweets. In common, the LSTM method picks the most likely word each time, be dependent on which class the tweet is to be classified. The LSTM is applied on the dataset beside with count vectorization and Word embedding using WordNet in which words are mapped to vectors. It implicates a mathematical embedding from a space with one dimension per word to an uninterrupted vector space with a much lower dimension. As a result, the word embedding generates a mapping which is later passed in to neural network for explicit representation of the context. The LSTM unit is a collection of cell, input gate, output gate and forget gate [18] as shown in Fig.1. The three gates regulate the flow of information into and out of the cell and the LSTM unit cell remember the values above arbitrary time intervals.

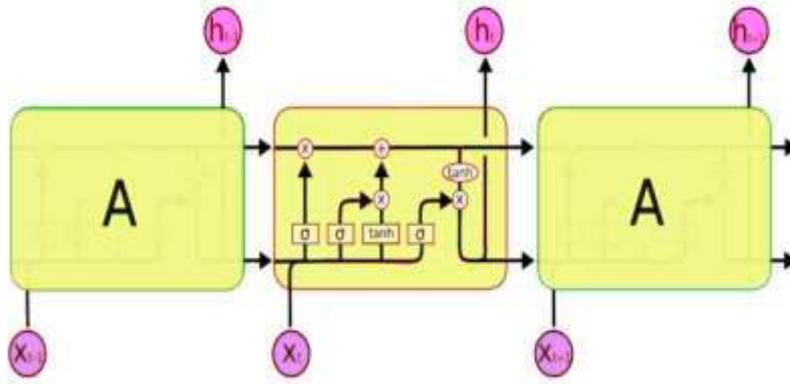


Fig.1. Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) Model

The following equations govern our training.

$$z_t = \sigma(W_z[h_{t-1}, x_t]) \tag{1}$$

$$r_t = \sigma(W_r[h_{t-1}, x_t]) \tag{2}$$

$$\tilde{h}_t = \tanh(W[r_t * h_{t-1}, x_t]) \tag{3}$$

$$h_t = (1 - z_t) * h_{t-1} + z_t * \tilde{h}_t \tag{4}$$

where  $x_{t-1}$ ,  $r_{t-1}$ ,  $z_{t-1}$ ,  $\tilde{h}_{t-1}$  represents the input, reset gate, update gate, reset memory respectively. The following is a real tweet generated by our model and its process is given below.

$\langle \text{begin} \rangle \rightarrow h_1 = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{|V|}) \rightarrow \text{Disaster} \rightarrow h_2 = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{|V|}) \rightarrow \text{flood} \rightarrow h_3 = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{|V|})$   
 $\rightarrow \text{collapsed} \rightarrow h_4 = (k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{|V|}) \rightarrow \langle \text{end} \rangle$

### 3.2. Bi-directional Gated Recurrent Unit

Gated recurrent units (GRUs) are considered to be a gating mechanism in artificial recurrent neural networks, which was found to be similar to that of LSTM [18] as shown in Fig.2. However, GRUs has been shown to demonstrate better performance on smaller to medium quantity datasets.

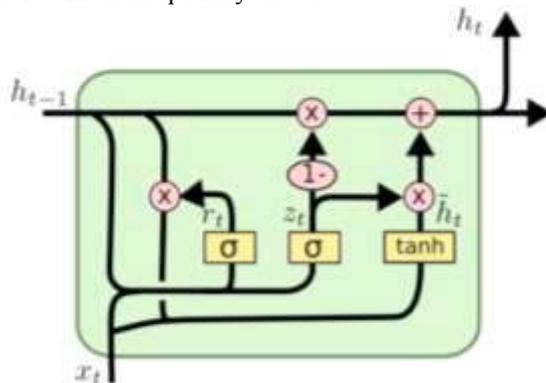


Fig.2. Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) Model.

The word embedding is calculated using WordNet where bi-directional GRU is applied to concatenate the words of a tweet into single word vector. The placeholders are added essential to guarantee that all tweets have a conjoint length. The overall network (Right direction and Left direction) and its equations for GRU network is as follows.

Right direction:  $\overrightarrow{h}_t^{(i)}$

$$\overrightarrow{z}_t^{(i)} = \partial(\overrightarrow{W}_{(i)}^{(z)} x_t^i + \overrightarrow{U}_{(i)}^{(r)} h_{t-1}^{(i)}) \quad (5)$$

$$\overrightarrow{r}_t^{(i)} = \partial(\overrightarrow{W}_{(i)}^{(r)} x_t^i + \overrightarrow{U}_{(i)}^{(r)} h_{t-1}^{(i)}) \quad (6)$$

$$\widetilde{h}_t^{(i)} = \tanh(\overrightarrow{W}_{(i)} x_t + r_t \circ \overrightarrow{U}_{(i)} h_{t-1}) \quad (7)$$

$$\overrightarrow{h}_t^{(i)} = z_t^{(i)} \circ h_{t-1}^{(i)} + (1 - z_t^{(i)}) \circ \widetilde{h}_t^{(i)} \quad (8)$$

Left direction:  $\overleftarrow{h}_t^{(i)}$

$$\overleftarrow{z}_t^{(i)} = \partial(\overleftarrow{W}_{(i)}^{(z)} x_t^i + \overleftarrow{U}_{(i)}^{(r)} h_{t-1}^{(i)}) \quad (9)$$

$$\overleftarrow{r}_t^{(i)} = \partial(\overleftarrow{W}_{(i)}^{(r)} x_t^i + \overleftarrow{U}_{(i)}^{(r)} h_{t-1}^{(i)}) \quad (10)$$

$$\widetilde{h}_t^{(i)} = \tanh(\overleftarrow{W}_{(i)} x_t + r_t \circ \overleftarrow{U}_{(i)} h_{t-1}) \quad (11)$$

$$\overleftarrow{h}_t^{(i)} = z_t^{(i)} \circ h_{t-1}^{(i)} + (1 - z_t^{(i)}) \circ \widetilde{h}_t^{(i)} \quad (12)$$

Output:

$$y_t = \text{softmax}(U [\overleftarrow{h}_t^{(top)}, \overrightarrow{h}_t^{(top)}] + a) \quad (13)$$

where  $z_t$  represent update gate,  $r_t$  is reset gate,  $\widetilde{h}_t$  is the reset memory, and  $h_t$  is new memory. During the experiments using LSTM and Bi-GRU, the batch of tweets (Batch Size= 1000 numbers) in each  $x_t$  which influence each other's classification. It is presumed that each tweet is independent of each other as counterintuitive.

#### 4. Experiments and Results

CrisisLexT26 dataset [17] is used for the experiments and considered as a benchmarking dataset, which, as its name suggests, has 26 disasters. The proposed optimal prediction neural network model selector is initially trained on the CrisisLexT26 Dataset, with the tweet text to which disaster the tweet belongs as the attributes. The dataset containing 250K tweets posted during 26 crisis events in 2012 and 2013, with most events having 2K-4K tweets. It has more features like information source, informativeness and information type with 250K tweets. For classification, the tweet text and the informativeness features are used to classify if a tweet is talking about a disaster or not. The system is trained using 80% of training tweets data and tested with 20% of testing tweets data. For Topic Modelling, only the tweet text feature is enough to identify the topics.

Table 1. CrisisLexT26 Dataset – Training data and Testing Data

CrisisLexT26 Dataset	Number of Tweets
Total Tweets	250K tweets
Valid Sampling Tweets	100 k tweets
Train Data	80 k tweets
Test Data	20 k tweets

Tensorflow[15] is used for the implementation with WordNet package using Python. As part of the pre-processing step, the dataset is also converted into a suitable form to be given to the deep learning models. The data preparation includes Stop Words removal, Punctuation removal, Stemming, Lemmatization, and Bag of words construction, count vectorization and TF-IDF Vectorization. Count Vectorization and TF-IDF vectorization are applied to the dataset after it is split into bigrams, i.e., n-grams with n=2. It yields better accuracy when considering unigrams or n-grams with n

greater than 2. The unbalanced raw dataset is converted into a balanced dataset by adding a small amount of Gaussian noise to each disaster event sample. The dataset sample is exclusively pre-trained with word embedding like WordNet [16]. In Recurrent Neural Networks, all the sentences in the dataset are split into words and converted using the embedding layer into word embedding. Next, the word embeddings are applied along with neural network layers - Long Short-Term Memory, Bi-directional Gated Recurrent Unit with 3-layers which is fully connected. These layers finally connect to the output layer. The accuracy of the neural networks that are trained using those layers is shown in the Fig. 3, for 5 iterations. Specifically, the GRU and LSTM made the decision globally, where the distribution of its prediction of testing set persistently counterparts the training set. Furthermore, the input dataset is randomized in such a way that tweets are batched into the neural network. It represents different disaster events and are directed towards 26 Disaster events namely 2012 Colorado wildfires, 2012 Costa Rica earthquake and so on. The randomized tweets lead to use a network with LSTM and bi-directional path GRU. The neural networks applied on the tweets give almost the same accuracy after 5 iterations, although bi-directional GRU with 3-layers produces higher accuracy when compared to LSTM.

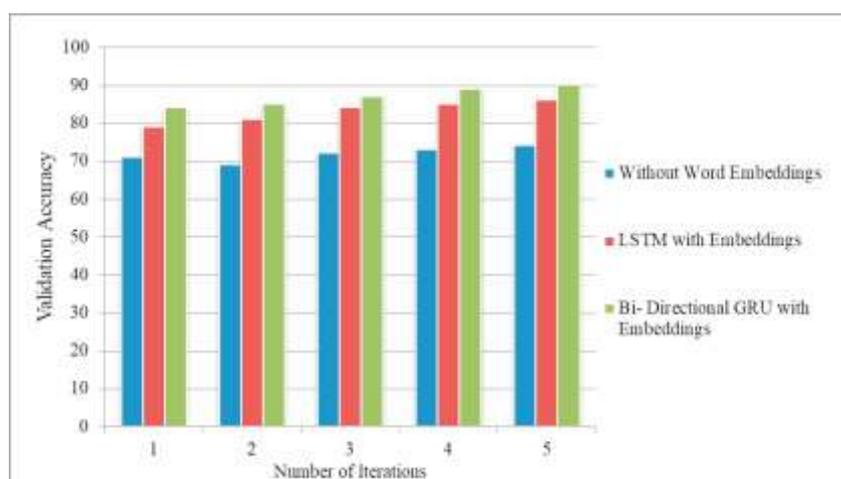


Fig.3. Validation Accuracy of disaster learning models.

The experiments are targeted to determine in empirical Bayes method, where global information is supportive to classify locally, even though each tweet sample is presumed to be independent of one another. It is observed from the experimental results, that there is an acute increase in validation accuracy by increasing the number of iterations for LSTM and Bi-directional GRU networks, using Word Embedding, classifier ensembles and lexicons. The prior information is deliberated, so that majority of tweet dataset belongs to any one of the disaster events and routines the applied knowledge to increase its prediction towards a certain disaster event class. The performance evaluation metrics are shown in Table 2 for all the applied deep learning models. The results in Table 2 show that the LSTM and GRU models give high accuracy with word embedding comparatively without word embedding.

Table 2. Accuracy, Recall, F1-Score for Classifiers

Model	Overall Accuracy	Recall	F1
Without Word Embedding	0.72	0.66	0.69
LSTM + With Embedding	0.85	0.81	0.79
Bi-directional GRU + With Embedding	0.89	0.86	0.82

## 5. Conclusion

The deep learning models namely bi-directional GRU, LSTM and single layer network are applied on the dataset in which GRU gives the highest accuracy for classification of the CrisisLexT26 to identify disaster events. The proposed optimal prediction model selector opted LSTM for lengthy twitter feeds and GRU for short tweets respectively. Once the training set is balanced, the results are much better and more sophisticated models lead to better results despite violating a key assumption in statistics of training and testing on the same distribution. However, a better accuracy can probably be obtained by trying out different neural network configurations, with pre-trained word by tuning the hyper parameters in the other classifiers. The event classification will provide story board visualization which resembles a quick snapshot of a disaster using streaming twitter feeds. The deep learning approaches are applied for datasets collected from Twitter. As a part of future work, the system can be trained and tested for dynamic datasets which can be handled by Spark Streaming ML frameworks.

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