

Analyzing Natural Disasters' Severity With Artificial Intelligence And Machine Learning

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ABSTRACT

Disaster management platforms like emergency services offer important information for helping during disasters. Machine learning can be used to find this information. However, using social media data for emergency response has many challenges. These include reliability, measuring performance, deception, focus, and turning observations into useful information. During the Haiti earthquake, many volunteers worldwide tried to help by sending SMS messages with mapping, translation, and resource allocation. But these platforms couldn't handle the huge amount of urgent information. Organizations weren't prepared to use data from outside their networks, especially not at this scale. They lacked technical staff and tools to make sense of the data. To solve this, we suggest using a method called domain adaptation, which learns from existing labeled data. Our method uses the Linear SVC Algorithm with a Self-Training strategy. Tests show that this method can classify emergency messages effectively during disasters.

1. INTRODUCTION

Natural disasters are unavoidable events that have a profound impact on the economy, environment, and human lives. They result in the collapse of buildings, the spread of diseases, and can devastate entire nations, as seen with tsunamis, earthquakes, and forest fires. For example, when earthquakes strike, millions of buildings collapse due to seismic activity. In recent decades, machine learning methods have been increasingly utilized for predicting wildfires. A study conducted in Italy utilized the random forest technique to map wildfire susceptibility. Floods, on the other hand, are the most damaging natural disasters, causing destruction to properties, infrastructure, and loss of human lives. To predict flood susceptibility, a combination of machine learning techniques including random forest, random subspace, and support vector machine have been employed.

The rapid growth of the population necessitates the acquisition of land for habitation, leading to disturbances in the ecosystem, which contribute to global warming and the escalation of natural disasters. Particularly in underdeveloped countries, populations cannot afford the damages caused by disasters to their infrastructure.

The aftermath of disasters often leaves humans in dire situations, with rescue operations hampered by geographical factors. Identifying victims becomes challenging in such scenarios. Forest fires, especially in densely populated areas, spread rapidly, making firefighting efforts difficult. Therefore, developing strategies to predict and prevent such disasters is imperative. With advancing technology, aviation systems are incorporating smart technologies to deploy unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) equipped with cameras. These UAVs can reach remote areas to assess the impact of disasters on human life, infrastructure, and transmission lines by capturing images and videos.

1.1 Problem statement

At the onset of crises, the issues mentioned occur when emergency responders and organizations activate their internal processes to address the situation (Munro, 2011). Over the years, these organizations have functioned with a centralized command structure, standard procedures, and internal evaluation standards to determine the best responses to emergencies. Although these methods may not meet today's demands for speed, efficiency, and knowledge, they have effectively delivered rescue, response, and recovery efforts to millions of people.

1.2 Objective

Towards optimizing current organizational mechanisms in terms of speed, efficiency and knowledge, machine learning algorithms have been used to help responders sift through the big crisis data, and prioritize information that may be useful for response and relief.

2. SYSTEM ANALYSIS

2.1 Existing System

During the November 2015 Paris attacks, eyewitnesses or their friends used Twitter to quickly share information about gunfire and dangerous locations, alerting people moments after attacks occurred in various places. Parisians also started the hashtag #PorteOuverte (meaning "open door") on Twitter to provide safety and refuge to those impacted by the attacks.

As a result, microblogging data from platforms like Twitter is considered valuable for both responder organizations and victims because of its widespread use, rapid communication, and accessibility across different platforms.

a) Disadvantages of Existing System

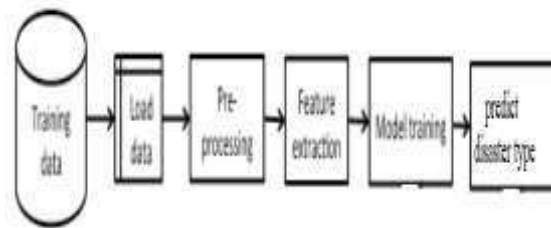
- One problem became apparent during the earthquake in Haiti when thousands of technical volunteers from around the world suddenly attempted to provide responders with mapping capabilities, translation services, people and resource allocation, all via SMS at a distance.
- Despite the good will of field staff, their institutions' policies and procedures were never designed to incorporate data from outside their networks, especially at such an overwhelming flow. In addition, the organizations did not have the technical staff, or the analytical tools, to turn the flow of data into actionable knowledge.

2.2 Proposed System

We propose to use a domain adaptation approach, which learns classifiers from available dataset, with labeled data. Our approach uses the Linear SVC Algorithm, together with an Self-Training strategy. Experimental results on the task of identifying emergency messages classification relevant to a disaster of interest show that the domain adaptation classifiers.

3. SYSTEM DESIGN

3.1 System architecture



The automatic classification of tweets begins with the manual classification of a dataset which serves as the ground truth for evaluating the performance of two machine classifying algorithms, Naive Bayes (NB) and Support Vector Machine (SVM). The following sub-sections describe the dataset and the approach used in the study.

3.2 Data Source

Habagat hit the Philippine's capital Manila and its neighboring provinces last August 1-8, 2012. The monsoon brought about eight days of torrential rain and thunderstorms which caused flooding in several areas and consequently caused massive damages and loss of properties and lives. At the onset of the Habagat until its aftermath, subscribers of Twitter used this social medium to send relevant or personal messages to their intended recipients. A sample of Habagat tweets were collected by the researchers of Ateneo de Manila University using the Twitter API. The sample has a total of 612,622 tweets, of which 373,771 are unique tweets and 238,851 are retweets. Unique tweets are the original messages that are sent by the author of a tweet which can be viewed by his or her followers and followees. Retweets on the other hand are messages received by a subscriber and are forwarded to another user or set of users.

3.3 Manual Classification

From the collected Habagat tweets, a sample of 4,000 tweets was randomly selected. Annotators initially classified the randomly selected tweets as to whether they are encoded in English, Tagalog, combination of English-Tagalog or other languages or dialects. The annotators further classified the English tweets as informative or uninformative based on the given definitions. Informative tweets are tweets that provide useful information to the public and are relevant to the event, while uninformative tweets are tweets that are not relevant to the disaster and these do not convey enough information or are personal in nature and may only be beneficial to the family or friends of the sender.

3.4 Information Extraction

Using conditional probability and Bayes' theorem, information can be extracted from the statistics of manually classified tweets. Conditional probability is defined as $P(A|B) = P(A \cap B)/P(B)$, provided $P(B) > 0$. Bayes' theorem, also known as Bayes' rule or Bayes' law, is a result in probability theory that relates conditional probability. If A and B denote two events, $P(A|B)$ denotes the conditional probability of A occurring, given that B occurs [22]. Bayes theorem is mathematically defined as:

$$P(A|B) = P(B|A) P(A) / P(B)$$

where:

$P(A)$ is the prior probability or marginal probability of A.

It is |prior| in the sense that it does not take into account any information about B

$P(A|B)$ is the conditional probability of A, given B

$P(B|A)$ is the conditional probability of B given A

$P(B)$ is the prior or marginal probability of B, and acts as a normalizing constant

In the context of this study, $P(A)$ is the probability of a tweet being informative, while $P(B)$ is the probability of a tweet being unique. Therefore, information of the probabilities of tweets being informative or not informative, given that these are unique or are re tweets were then extracted.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Machine Learning Algorithms for Classification

a) Supervised Learning

Supervised learning was employed to train a machine to differentiate between informative and non-informative tweets. In supervised learning, the dataset has known class attribute values (labeled data) before the algorithm runs [24]. This method builds a model that links x to y, where x represents a vector of features and y is the class attribute. The model is created by running the supervised learning algorithm on a training set, which maps feature values (x) to class attribute values (y). After training, the model is tested on a dataset to predict class attributes. In this study, x represents the vector of features and y includes categories like "informative" and "uninformative."

To reduce bias associated with data sampling, the study employed stratified 10-fold cross-validation to assess the model's performance. In 10-fold cross-validation, the dataset is divided into 10 mutually exclusive subsets (DS1, DS2...DS10) of roughly equal sizes, ensuring proportional representation of tweet classes. The classification model is trained and tested 10 times using this dataset, with 9 subsets used for training and the remaining subset for testing. The Naive Bayes and Support Vector Machine (SVM) algorithms were compared based on various evaluation metrics.

Naive Bayes and Support Vector Machine are two commonly used machine learning algorithms for classification. The Naive Bayes classifier is robust and performs well in various real-world classification tasks. It's a simple probabilistic classifier based on Bayes' theorem, making strong (naive) independence assumptions [25]. Essentially, it assumes that the presence or absence of one feature in a class is unrelated to the presence or absence of any other feature [26]. Support Vector Machine is a binary classification method that finds a hyperplane to optimally separate the d-dimensional data into its two classes [26]. However, since real-world data is often not linearly separable, SVM uses kernel-induced feature space to project data into a higher-dimensional space where separation is easier [27].

b) Evaluation of the Machine Learning Algorithms:

In this study, accuracy, recall, precision, area under curve (AUC) and F-measure were used as metrics in the

empirical evaluation of the classification algorithms Naive Bayes and Support Vector Machine. Table I presents the description of each metric of evaluation, as described in Rapid miner.

Table I: Metrics of Evaluation

Metric	Description
Accuracy	Relative number of correctly classified examples or in other words percentage of correct predictions.
AUC	AUC is the Area Under the Curve of the Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) graph which is a technique for visualizing, organizing and selecting classifiers based on their performance.
Precision	Relative number of correctly as positive classified examples among

	all examples classified as positive
Recall	This parameter specifies the relative number of correctly as positive classified examples among all positive examples
F-measure	This parameter is a combination of the <i>precision</i> and the <i>recall</i> . i.e. $f = 2pr/(p+r)$ where f , r and p are f -



Figure: Methodology Structure

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.5 Manual Classification of Habagat Tweets

Out of the 4000 randomly selected tweets, there were 1,563 in English, 1,393 in Tagalog, 913 using a combination of English and Filipino, and 121 in other languages or dialects. Table III provides a summary of the manually classified English tweets.

Based on the annotations, the computed ICC or multi-rater Kappa coefficient is 0.671, indicating a substantial level of agreement among annotators in determining whether a tweet is informative or not.

If there was disagreement in labeling, the three annotators discussed to resolve differences and agreed on a specific label for the tweet after thorough deliberation.

5.2 Extracted Information

By applying conditional probability and Bayes' theorem, data was extracted from the manually classified tweets. According to these statistics, uninformative tweets outweighed informative ones by a ratio of 65% to 35%. An example of an uninformative tweet is: "Stay safe everyone!!! #PrayForThePhilippines #TrustGOD".

Unique tweets are more likely to be uninformative (71.72%) compared to informative ones, which have a probability of 28.28%. Additionally, the probabilities of retweeted tweets being uninformative and informative are almost equal, at 49.22% and 50.78% respectively.

Although uninformative tweets are more numerous, informative tweets are more likely to be retweeted (41.99%) compared to uninformative ones (21.67%). This suggests that retweeted informative tweets hold significance and urgency, potentially enhancing public awareness and disaster response.

The findings also indicate that subscribers primarily used Twitter to share subjective messages and emotions regarding the Habagat event. These results align with previous studies on hurricanes by Hughes and Palen, flooding and wildfires by Starbird and Palen, and the Haiti earthquake by Starbird and Palen. These studies reveal that users use Twitter to share crisis information, express opinions and emotions, and offer aid to those in need.

5.2 Evaluation of Machine Learning Algorithms:

Table IV presents the results of the 10-fold cross validation for all folds for all the metrics of evaluation. Using the Kolomogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro Wilk for normality testing, the data is normally distributed and this is true to all the five evaluation metrics. The normality of these variables has also been validated by their Normal Probability Plots.

Since the data are normally distributed, parametric testing was performed. The parametric t-test was specifically used to determine the significant differences between Naive Bayes and SVM. Table V presents the results of the experimentation.

The paired t-test results shown in Table V demonstrate that there is a significant difference between Naive Bayes and SVM ($p < 0.001$). This is true to all the five parameters namely, accuracy, AUC, precision, recall, and F-measure. In particular, SVM is significantly higher than Naive Bayes in accuracy, AUC, recall, and F-Measure, though Naive Bayes is significantly higher than SVM in precision. Table VI shows the mean values for the paired sample statistics.

	Informative Tweets	Uninformative Tweets	Total
Unique	315	799	1114
Retweets	228	221	449
Total	543	1020	1563

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Table IV: Results Of 10-Fold Validation

Class	TP	FP	FN	FP	FN	TP	FP	FN	TP	FP	FN
1	0.5940	0.0100	0.7200	0.0170	0.0500	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
2	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
3	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
4	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
5	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
6	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
7	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
8	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
9	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
10	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100
Mean	0.5950	0.7000	0.7200	0.0170	0.0170	0.7000	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100	0.0100

TABLE V: Paired T-Test Results

Pair	Metric	95% Confidence Interval of Difference				T	df	Sig (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Accuracy (SVM)	0.80172	0.014770	0.78695	0.81649	15.852	9	<.001
Pair 2	AUC (SVM)	0.80172	0.014770	0.78695	0.81649	15.852	9	<.001
Pair 3	Precision (SVM)	0.80172	0.014770	0.78695	0.81649	15.852	9	<.001
Pair 4	Recall (SVM)	0.80172	0.014770	0.78695	0.81649	15.852	9	<.001
Pair 5	F-Measure (SVM)	0.80172	0.014770	0.78695	0.81649	15.852	9	<.001

Table VI: Paired Samples Statistics

Pair	Metric	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	NB Accuracy	0.60172	10	0.5014710	0.0158579
	SVM Accuracy	0.80172	10	0.0265764	0.0084042
Pair 2	NB AUC	0.72350	10	0.0958443	0.0310821
	SVM AUC	0.80172	10	0.0620767	0.0196304
Pair 3	NB Precision	0.6546	10	0.0648431	0.0205052
	SVM Precision	0.79852	10	0.0186738	0.0059052
Pair 4	NB Recall	0.51856	10	0.0510700	0.0161498
	SVM Recall	0.80172	10	0.0253584	0.0080190
Pair 5	NB F-Measure	0.64702	10	0.0479798	0.0151716
	SVM F-Measure	0.87349	10	0.0162222	0.0051299

Confusion matrices of SVM and Naive Bayes as shown in Table VII and Table VIII respectively. Using the same training data set for both algorithms, the SVM model achieved an average accuracy of 80%, while Naive Bayes had 57% average accuracy. This indicates that the SVM model returned 892 correct classifications out of 1,114 unique tweets while Naive Bayes model correctly classified only 633 tweets.

In terms of recall, the SVM model correctly classified 780 uninformative tweets and only 19 labeled uninformative tweets as informative resulting to a recall value of 97.62% for the uninformative class. For Naive Bayes, the model correctly classified 396 uninformative

tweets over 799 uninformative tweets yielding a 49.56% recall value.

AUC is a measure of quality of a probabilistic classifier. A random classifier has an area under curve 0.5, while a perfect classifier has 1. Binary classifiers used in practice should therefore have an area somewhere in between, preferably close to 1 [41].

In this experiment, SVM demonstrated an average AUC of 0.884 which indicates that the classifier ranked positive examples higher than the negative examples.

6. CONCLUSION

We compared two classification algorithms: Support Vector Machine (SVM) and Naïve Bayes. After testing with a 10-fold cross validation, SVM showed better accuracy, recall, AUC, and F-measure, while Naïve Bayes was more precise.

In the future, we plan to explore different features and weights to create word vectors and see how they affect the evaluation metrics. We'll also focus on selecting the best features, optimizing parameters, and considering the meaning of words. Additionally, we'll evaluate other machine learning algorithms based on different metrics besides accuracy, recall, precision, AUC, and F-measure. It's important to prioritize these metrics to help data mining researchers choose the right algorithm for specific tasks.

We'll also work on classifying tweets in multiple languages, which will help extract relevant information for better situational awareness during disasters. Finally, we aim to develop a real-time system that can detect and filter relevant information from disaster-related tweets, improving disaster response management.

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