

Improving Eligibility Classification on Clinical Trials Document using Bidirectional Long Short Term Memory Recurrent Neural Network

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Abstract: Cancer clinical trials intervention are generally too restrictive, and some patients are often excluded on the basis of comorbidity, past or concomitant treatments, or the fact that they are over a certain age. In this research we built a classification model for clinical information using public clinical trial protocols labeled as eligible or not eligible. Text classifications are trained using deep learning to determine the predictive outcome of short free text statements reflecting eligible and not eligible clinical information. then we also performed semantic analysis for the obtained word-embedding representations and were able to identify similar treatments. We have proven that learning outcomes using deep learning methods to extract medical information from clinical trial documents have been successful in assisting health practitioners in prescribing treatments. The evaluation results showed a value with an accuracy value is 77.74%, precision is 76.8%, recall is 80.80%, and F1-score is 78.80%

Keywords: clinical trials, text classification, BiLSTM RNN, deep learning

1. Introduction.

Clinical trial is a test of the efficacy of a new drug in humans, which was previously initiated by animal testing or pre-clinical testing. Basically, clinical trials confirm the effectiveness, safety and description of the side effects that often arise in humans due to administration of a drug. Using healthy or sick humans in experiments is justified in medical science because it will benefit the public at large to understand the effects of these drugs so that they can be used in the wider community with more confidence about their effectiveness and safety [1].

The subject of clinical trials will be discussed in this study including classifying clinical trial documents in the form of free text and ensuring that the documents fall into one or more predetermined categories [2]. These text classifications already have many useful applications in the field of sentiment analysis [3], spam detection [4], subject categorization [5] precise sentence [6] and so on. With the success that deep learning has had in some cases such as visual and speech recognition, many deep architectural models have been implemented to address various issues in NLP, so that better performance can be achieved [7]. Text classification has also attracted the attention of researchers to continue to develop innovations and testing, including those sourced from clinical texts commonly referred to as clinical trials.

Clinical trials is a type of research that studies how safe it is to help test or care given to patients. [8]. Clinical trials play an important role in translating scientific research into the practice of medical outcomes [9]. In clinical trials, there is a term or the most significant part called the eligibility criteria that determines the cost, duration and success of the clinical trial process [10]. Study on eligibility criteria in clinical trials is usually written in free text, but it will be difficult if interpreted by computer. A popular method for processing eligibility criteria is knowledge representation, which often requires extensive knowledge and hard work from experts in the sector of medical coding to identify eligibility criteria [11]. In completing the problem of the eligibility analysis of clinical trials, the optimal method to solve it is artificial intelligence methods such as machine learning and deep learning architecture. [12].

One popular deep learning method is BiLSTM [13]. A Bidirectional LSTM, or BiLSTM, is a sequence processing model that consists of two LSTMs: one taking the input in a forward direction, and the other in a backwards direction. BiLSTMs effectively increase the amount of information available to the network,

improving the context available to the algorithm (e.g. knowing what words immediately follow *and* precede a word in a sentence).. [14][15]

In this case the BiLSTM RNN Model built has one input layer and one hidden layer. The number of nodes in this model varies depending on the number of inputs and outputs. The number of input neurons depends on the number of markers and the number of hidden neurons. Then this network is trained and validated by k-fold cross validation.

The aim of this study was to construct a classification model of eligibility criteria from clinical trial statements, and use it to train and validate models that predict whether a short free-text statement is considered an eligible or not eligible criteria for this trial. We also analyzed the obtained word-embedding representations and were able to identify similar treatments. The final aim of this work is to assess whether representation learning using a multilayer perceptron can be successfully applied to extract the medical knowledge available in clinical trial protocols, thus opening up opportunities for future major research.

2. Related Work

Some researches related to this theme such as the classification with BiLSTM [16][17], clinical text classification [18][19] and eligibility criteria [9][20]. The other research that discusses the clinical text classification of eligibility criteria, Riccardo Miotto [21] which discusses a new pattern to determine the semantic index of automatically controlled vocabulary for clinical trial eligibility documents. Kevin Zhang [22] which discusses the development of a method for the automatic classification of eligibility criteria in facilitating trial matching of patients to specific populations. The proposed method is capable of acting as a filter in search engines to test patients. C. Chuan [23] proposes an active deep learning approach to automatically classify clinical trial eligibility criteria. The experimental results showed that active deep learning performed significantly better than the K-Nearest Neighbor method. Thus, Y. Ni et al [24] discuss the development of an automatic screening eligibility algorithm to recognize patients who meet the core eligibility characteristics of oncology clinical trials.

In addition to the research above, there is also research that discusses the features of word embedding. The word embedding feature is also able to improve classification text, including Zeynep H. Kilimci using word embedding with Random Forest and CNN [25]. Lihao Ge uses word embedding with naive bayes and Support vector machine [26] and Duyu Tang uses word embedding with Support vector machine and N-gram [27]

In this study we made a classification model of the eligibility criteria of cancer clinical texts using word embedding and the deep learning.

3. Material and Methods

Figure-1 shows the framework, consisting of clinical text, text preprocessing, word embedding, labeling and deep learning classifier

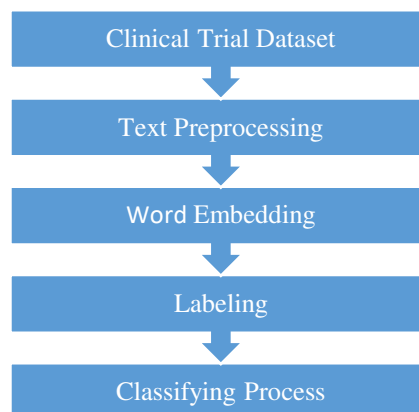


Figure-1 : Research framework

A. Clinical Dataset

Data were taken from clinical statements. Extracted from Clinical Trial Protocols on cancer which can be downloaded from <https://clinicaltrials.gov>.

B. Text Preprocessing

The Text Preprocessing stage is the stage where the application selects the data to be processed in each document. This preprocessing process includes (1) case folding, (2) tokenizing, (3) filtering, and (4) stemming. [28][29][30]

Case folding is to change all letters in a document to lowercase. Only letters "a" through "z" are accepted. Characters other than letters are removed and are considered delimiters. Case Folding is needed to convert the entire text in a document into a standard form.

Tokenizing stage is the stage of cutting the input string based on each word that compose it. Tokenization broadly breaks down a set of characters in a text into word units, how to distinguish certain characters that can be treated as word separators or not.

The Filtering stage is the stage of taking important words from the token results. Can use a stoplist algorithm (removing less important words) or a wordlist (storing important words). Stoplist / stopwords are non-descriptive words that can be discarded in a bag-of-words approach

Stemming, Indexing is done because a document cannot be recognized directly by an Information Retrieval System (IRS). Therefore, the document first needs to be mapped into a representation using the text contained in it.[31].

All eligibility criteria are converted into a simple word sequence. Information about the study intervention and disease type was added to each eligibility criteria by separating text into statements, then removing punctuation marks, space characters, all non-alphanumeric symbols, separators, and single character words from the extracted text. All words are lowercase.

C. Word Embedding

Word embedding is a technique for converting a word into a vector or array consisting of a set of numbers. With the word embedding technique, words can be converted into a vector containing numbers with a size that is small enough to contain more information. The information obtained will be sufficiently large that our vectors will be able to detect meaning. Every one word is charted to one vector. One vector is carried out learning which is similar to a neural network model, then combined in the field of deep learning[32]

In simple terms, word embedding is the process of converting a text into numbers. Why do we need this process? because most machine learning algorithms and deep learning architectures are unable to perform the analysis process on the input data in the form of strings or text, so they require numbers as input. A simple example of converting a word into a number vector. For example given the following sentence: "Word Embedding are Word Converted into numbers." A dictionary will contain a list of all unique words. So that the dictionary that is formed is: ["Word", "Embeddings", "are", "Converted", "into", "numbers"]. Using the one-hot encoding method will generate a vector where 1 represents the position of the word, and 0 for other words. The vector representation of the word "numbers" refers to the dictionary format above is [0,0,0,0,0,1] and the word "Converted" is [0,0,0,1,0,0]. Above is an example of a form of representation of text into numbers.

D. TF-IDF

The thing that needs to be considered in finding information from a heterogeneous collection of documents is term weighting. Terms can be words, phrases or other indexed units in the document that can be used to find out the context of the document. Because each word has different importance in the document, an indicator is given for each word. . However, there may be some words that are not really important, but are not yet on the stopwords list. So another approach to measuring this problem is to look at Inverse Document Frequency. IDF to reduce the dominance of words that often appear in various documents. This is necessary because words that appear in many documents can be considered general terms, so their value is not important.

E. Labeling

The labeling in this clinical statement is described as "eligible" and "not eligible". "Eligible" means the class of patients who will have to undergo a clinical trial, while "not eligible" means the class of patients who will not be subject to clinical trials.

In order to determine the appropriate and unworthy labels of the clinical statements, we labeled them according to: Judging from the inclusion and exclusion criteria contained in each sentence, if the related phrases are not found, then the statement is marked as "eligible". Inclusion criteria that start from the word "not" are transformed into statements that are positive, labeled "not eligible". Any other possible means of omitting the statement will be processed in detail by the classifier

F. Long Short Term Memory

LSTM takes words from an input sentence in distributed word representation format. Distributed word representation is a n -dimensional vector of continuous values used to represent a word in the vocabulary. Each word in dictionary ($w \in W$) is embedded into n -dimensional space ($L \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times |W|}$). Finally, a word vector can be seen as a single vector in the column of L . The LSTM architecture consists of a set of recurrently connected memory blocks. Each block contains one memory cell c and three multiplicative units (gates). These gates help the LSTM memory cell to perform write, read, and reset operation. [33] They enable the LSTM memory cell to store and access information over a period of time. These gates are so-called input gate i , forget gate f , and output gate o . Mathematically one block of LSTM can be viewed as:

$$it = \sigma(Wx_{it} + Wh_{it} - 1 + Wc_{it} - 1 + bi), \quad (1)$$

$$ft = \sigma(Wx_{it} + Wh_{it} - 1 + Wc_{it} - 1 + bf), \quad (2)$$

$$ct = fct - 1 + it \tanh(Wx_{ct} + Wh_{ct} - 1 + bc), \quad (3)$$

$$ot = \sigma(Wx_{ot} + Wh_{ot} - 1 + Wc_{ot} + bo), \quad (4)$$

$$ht = ot \tanh(ct), \quad (5)$$

where xt is a single distributed vector L of word w , an input to the LSTM, σ is a logistic sigmoid function, and h is a hidden vector. The weight W and b subscript represent the edge connection matrix and bias vector.

G. Bidirectional Long Short-Term Memory

One drawback of LSTM architecture is that they are only considering the previous context. In order to make LSTM aware of both previous and subsequent context, it needs to process data in both directions with two separate hidden layers [19]. Later these two hidden layers are combined to the same output layer. This architecture is so called BiLSTM. By computing both a forward and backward layer, BiLSTM allows us to exploit future and history context together at once. Recently, BiLSTM has been used intensively for real-world applications, ranging from signal processing tasks [16][14] to text processing tasks.

Bi-directional Long Short Term Memory (BiLSTM) structure allows networks to have information about thesequence both backward and forward at all times. Using bidirectional LSTM, your inputs will run in two ways: one from past to future and the other from future to past and what varies from unidirectional is that in the LSTM that operates backwards, you are able to preserve knowledge from the future and use the two hidden states together to maintain details from the past and the future at any point in time. The idea underlying Bidirectional Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) is very simple. It entails replicating the first repeated layer in the network and supplying the input sequence as it is sent to the first layer, then presenting the replicated layer with a reversed copy of the input sequence. This overcomes the conventional RNN limitations. Bidirectional recurrent neural network (BRNN) can be educated in the past and future of a particular time-step using all available input data. Splitting state neurons in regular RNN is responsible for forward states (positive direction of time) and backward states (negative direction of time) [17].

H. Recurrent Neural Network

Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) is a Neural Network, which uses backward propagation, where the result obtained from the step before is fed to the current step as input. In traditional neural network all the input and outputs are independent, but in cases such as when it is important to predict the next word of a sentence, the preceding words are required and, therefore, it is necessary to remember the previous words. This led to the existence of RNN, hence RNN with help of hidden layer was able to solve this issue. RNN's principal and most significant feature is the hidden state, the hidden state has some memory of the sequence. The most important feature of RNN is hidden state, which has the ability to remember information about a sequence. It has a memory that recalls all information which is required. Unlike other neural networks this reduces the difficulty of parameters. A recurrent neural network uses time t to represent the forms that the input sequence takes to reach the final output sequence that is necessary. There is a hidden state ht to represent the status of the input processing neural network system at a particular time t . RNN accepts input x_t at time t , and a non-linear function helps predict the system status at time t using the status at time $t-1$, $ht = f(ht-1, x_t)$ [6]

E.Precision Recall and F1-Score

To determine the classification performance [34],it can be seen in table 1

Table-1 : Confusion Matrix

ActualClass	PredictedClass		
		Class = Yes	Class = No
	Class = Yes	TP	FN
Class = No	FP	TN	

TP: True Positive

FP: False Positive

FN: False Negative

TN: True Negative

Precision is a representation of uniformity and repetition of measurements. Precision is the degree of excellence, on the performance of an operation or technique used to get results.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP+FP} \tag{6}$$

Recall is a measure of the success of a system in finding and retrieving information.Furthermore, F-Measure is a process of calculating evaluation by combining precision and recall calculations.recall and precision in a situation can have different weights.The measure that displays the reciprocity between Recall and Precision is F-Measure which is the average harmonic weight and realization and precision..

$$Recall = \frac{TP}{TP+FN} \tag{7}$$

F-Measure or F1-score is one of the evaluation calculations in information retrieval that combines recall and precision. The recall value and Precision in a situation can have different weights. The size that displays reciprocity between Recall and Precision is F-Measure which is the mean harmonic weight and reall and precision

$$F1\ Score = \frac{2*(Recall*Precision)}{Recall+Precision} \tag{8}$$

3.Result

A.Evaluation using K-fold Cross Validation

Cross validation is a technique for performing statistical analysis of independent data.This technique is used to create prediction and classification models that are able to estimate the level of accuracy of the predictions and classifications that are carried out.In a predictive model, the model will be given a set of training data and testing data.The purpose of cross validation is to describe the data set to "test" the model in the training phase (i.e., data validation).in order to restrict issue such as overfitting, providing concept into how the model will generalize independent of the dataset (i.e., unknown datasets, for example from real issue), etc.[35]. One round of cross-validation involves dividing the sample data into complementary subsets, performing analysis on one subset (named training data), and validating the analysis on another subset (named validation or testing data). To degrade variability, multiple rounds of cross validation are implemented using disparate partitions, and the validation results are averaged over the rounds

One of the primaryargument for using cross validation instead of using conventional validation (e.g. partitioning a data set into two sets, i.e. 70% for training and 30% for testing) is that there is not adequate data available to partition it into separate training and lossless testing data. significant modeling or testing capabilities. In these cases, a fair way to predict the prediction model with accuracy is to use cross validation as a powerful common technique [36]. In short, cross validation combines (averaged) the fit measure (prediction error) by looking at the average value for each round to obtain a more accurate estimate of the prediction model's performance.

The table-2 shows a snippet of the dataset used which consists of document and class attributes. We used a short free text of the cancer clinical trial protocol available on the public registry to practice embedding words, which were labeled as eligible or not eligible.

Tabel-2 Snippet Of Dataset

Document	Class
first or second line hertwo negative breast cancer diagnosis and pregnant or breast feeding females	1
first or second line hertwo negative breast cancer diagnosis and patients with active brain metastases c	1
first or second line hertwo negative breast cancer diagnosis and patients who have undergone major su	1
first or second line hertwo negative breast cancer diagnosis and no prior therapy with an antiresorptive .	1
first or second line hertwo negative breast cancer diagnosis and life expectancy of greater_than six mo	0
first or second line hertwo negative breast cancer diagnosis and history of non compliance to medical r	1
first or second line hertwo negative breast cancer diagnosis and history of bone metabolism diseases	1
first or second line hertwo negative breast cancer diagnosis and current active dental problems includir	1
ewing sarcoma diagnosis and wbc greater_than two thousand Åµl	0
ewing sarcoma diagnosis and onest complete remission but very high risk features less_than twenty sui	0
ewing sarcoma diagnosis and more than one cycle of other chemotherapy prior to registration	1
ewing sarcoma diagnosis and informed consent from patient or legal guardian if patient is minor	0
ewing sarcoma diagnosis and haematological parameters	0
ewing sarcoma diagnosis and forty-five days after diagnostic biopsy surgery	0
ewing sarcoma diagnosis and age and sex	0
evidence of inflammatory breast cancer or distant metastasis	1
estrogen receptor positive breast cancer diagnosis and regular use of anti inflammatory agents with the	1
estrogen receptor positive breast cancer diagnosis and postmenopausal women	0
estrogen receptor positive breast cancer diagnosis and postmenopausal status defined as	0
estrogen receptor positive breast cancer diagnosis and patients who will receive neoadjuvant therapy p	1
ductal carcinoma in situ diagnosis and moderate to severe renal impairment serum creatinine greater th	0
ductal carcinoma in situ diagnosis and exclusion	0
ductal carcinoma in situ diagnosis and ecog performance status zero two	0
ds stage plasma cell myeloma diagnosis and no prior treatment with denosumab	0
ds stage plasma cell myeloma diagnosis and no current treatment with investigational agent s	0
ds stage plasma cell myeloma diagnosis and corrected serum calcium greater_than equal_than doc m	0
ds stage plasma cell myeloma diagnosis and calculated creatinine clearance greater_than equal_than	0
ds stage ii plasma cell myeloma diagnosis and at least one site of bone metastasis or bone involvement	0
disease free period of other malignant tumor is less than five years except cured basal cell skin cancer i	1
diagnosis of at least one cancer related bone lesion	0
current or previously documented diagnosis of at least one bone metastasis due to prostate cancer pat	0
confirmed multiple myeloma stage ii iii as per salmon and durie one thousand	0
concurrent treatment including chemotherapy hormonal therapy and or biologic therapy for metastatic	0
concurrent participation in another clinical treatment trial for this cancer unless the patient is longer rec	1
concurrent aromatase inhibitors	1

Class 0 : not eligible
 Class 1 : eligible

B.Result using K-fold Cross Validation

K-fold Cross Validation (CV) works by dividing the data into several folds and confirm that each fold is used as a testing set at some point. Table-3 below shows the results of the accuracy, precision, recall and f1-score for testing data using 10-fold cross validation.

Table-3 Result Of Testing Data 10-Fold

Correctly Classified Instances	1554	77.7389 %							
Incorrectly Classified Instances	445	22.2611 %							
Kappa statistic	0.5541								
Mean absolute error	0.2307								
Root mean squared error	0.4482								
Relative absolute error	46.1524 %								
Root relative squared error	89.6515 %								
=== Detailed Accuracy By Class ===									
	TP Rate	FP Rate	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	MCC	ROC Area	PRC Area	Class
	0.808	0.255	0.768	0.808	0.788	0.555	0.808	0.768	1
	0.745	0.192	0.788	0.745	0.766	0.555	0.809	0.754	0
Weighted Avg.	0.777	0.224	0.778	0.777	0.777	0.555	0.809	0.761	

Training set is a part of the dataset that we train to make predictions or run the functions of an ML algorithm. Table-4 below shows the results of the training data process

Table-4 : Result Of Training Data

Correctly Classified Instances	1519	75.988 %
Incorrectly Classified Instances	480	24.012 %
Kappa statistic	0.5191	
Mean absolute error	0.251	
Root mean squared error	0.4229	
Relative absolute error	50.2246 %	
Root relative squared error	84.5962 %	

=== Detailed Accuracy By Class ===

	TP Rate	FP Rate	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	MCC	ROC Area	PRC Area	Class
	0.785	0.266	0.755	0.785	0.769	0.520	0.850	0.839	1
	0.734	0.215	0.765	0.734	0.749	0.520	0.850	0.852	0
Weighted Avg.	0.760	0.241	0.760	0.760	0.760	0.520	0.850	0.845	

The graph below is a comparison of the evaluation results from training data and testing data. As seen in the graph below, the difference between the training data and the 10-fold testing data is not so significant, meaning that the dataset we use has good validity.

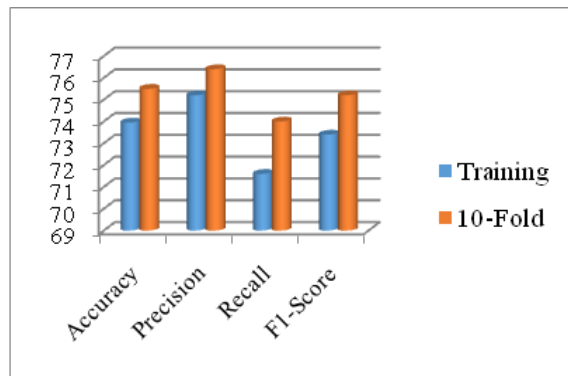


Figure-3 Graph of comparison between training data and testing data

Table-5 describes the experimental results from the dataset without the word embedding feature and the results after using the word embedding feature.

Table-5 Result Of Without And Using Word Embedding Feature

	Accuracy %	Precision %	Recall %	F1-Score %
Without WE	73.94	73.70	76.10	74.90
After WE	77.74	76.80	80.80	78.80

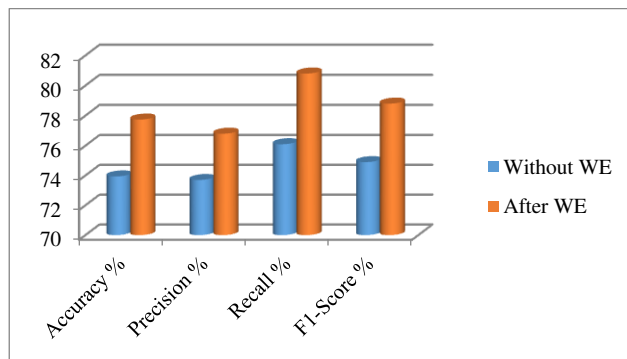


Figure-4 result of without and using word embedding feature

Table-5 and figure-4 show that the results of testing data processing using the word embedding feature and without using the word embedding feature are not much different. There is no visible significant effect of using the word embedding feature. This means that we have proven that representational studies using the multilayer perceptron are successfully utilized to extract medical knowledge from clinical trial protocols to potentially help practitioners when recipe treatments.

Word embedding is important in this research. Adding a trained "word embedding" to the classification adds value to the evaluation. We also use word vectors to generate word clusters. The word vectors generated were also useful for accurately resolving analogy problems.

5. Conclusion

We have constructed a classification model to improve the classification value of clinical trial texts using a multilayer perceptron. The accuracy of the eligibility classification is 77.74%, 76.80% precision, 80.80% recall and F1 score 78.80%. This increase in value occurs because of the effect of word embedding. We use circularity measurements in the dataset and from statistics. Our analysis finds that these quantitative measures lead to transparency in our conclusions.

The next research is a continuation of this research. Variations in research can be created by using a larger dataset or similar dataset and by using other deep learning methods, making it possible to conduct research in multi-label classification.

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