

Studying of Machine Learning Models for Forecasting Macroeconomic Indicators

Lan Dong Thi Ngoc^{1,2}, Ngo-Thi-Thu-Trang³, Kyoung-Mok Kim⁵, Vung Pham⁶, Ha-Nam Nguyen^{4,*}

¹Department of Economic Information System, Academy of Finance, Hanoi, Viet Nam

²Faculty of Information Technology, University of Engineering and Technology, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam

³Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology, Hanoi CO 122300, Vietnam

⁶Computer Science Department, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, TX 77340, USA

⁵Department of Medical Information, Sahmyook Health University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

⁴Faculty of Information Technology, Electric Power University, Hanoi, Viet Nam

*Corresponding author: Ha-Nam Nguyen (e-mail: namnhvn@epu.edu.vn)

dongngoclan@hvtc.edu.vn, trangntt1@ptit.edu.vn, kkm@shu.ac.kr, vung.pham@shsu.edu, namnhvn@epu.edu.vn

Abstract—This study explores the application of machine learning models in forecasting macro-economic indicators, including GDP, inflation rate, unemployment rate, and exchange rate across 11 Southeast Asian countries. The models used include Linear Regression, ARIMA, Random Forest, XGBoost, LSTM, and SVM. We conducted a performance comparison of each model based on MAE, RMSE, and R² metrics to evaluate the accuracy of the forecasts. The experimental results indicate that Random Forest and XGBoost models excel in predicting nonlinear and complex indicators such as GDP and unemployment rate, while ARIMA and Linear Regression models perform better in time series with clear regular patterns, like inflation rate. The LSTM model shows inconsistent effective-ness, requiring large data volumes and complex optimization processes. SVM demonstrates potential in handling nonlinear data but requires careful tuning. This study concludes that using machine learning models presents significant potential for improving the accuracy of macroeconomic forecasting. However, model tuning and optimization are essential to match the characteristics of each type of economic indicator. Future research directions include developing hybrid models and integrating additional factors such as market sentiment, social and environmental indicators (ESG) to enhance forecasting outcomes.

Keyword— machine learning, macroeconomic indicators



LAN DONG THI NGOC received her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Informatics from Hanoi National University of Education in 2004, and a Master's degree in Information Technology from the University of Engineering and Technology, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, in 2012. She is currently a PhD student at the University of Engineering and Technology, Vietnam National University, Hanoi. At present, she is a lecturer in the Faculty of Economic Information Systems at the Academy of Finance, Hanoi, Vietnam. Her research interests include machine learning, data analysis, IoT, and forecasting economic indicators.



NGO-THI-THU-TRANG received her B.E degree of Telecommunications and Electronics Engineering from Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNUH) in 2002, and M.E degree of Computer and Communication Engineering from Chungbuk National University, Korea in 2005, and PhD in Communication Engineering from Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology (PTIT) in 2021. Now, she is a lecturer in Telecommunications Faculty 1 of PTIT. Her research interests include optical communications, signal processing, IoT, and sensor data processing in machine learning.



KIM KYUONG MOK received his Bachelor's Degree, Dept. Of Electronics Seoul National University of Science and Technology in 1996, Master's Degree, Dept. Of Electronics & Communication. graduate school of Kwangwoon Univ in 2002, and Doctor's Degree, Dept. of Electronics & Communication. graduate school of Kwangwoon Univ in 2006, respectively. At present, he is a prof. Department of Medical Information, Sahmyook Health University, Seoul, Republic of Korea. He has more than 20 years of teaching and research experience in the areas of information & healthcare system, and a dean of Industry-academic cooperation Sahmyook Health University.



VUNG PHAM is an assistant professor at the Computer Science Department, Sam Houston State University, Texas, US. He is a passionate research scientist in machine learning, deep learning, data science, and data visualization. He has years of experience and numerous publications in these areas. His areas of expertise centered around data visualizations, data analytics, machine learning, and deep learning. He has published one patent, various peer-reviewed journals, and conference papers in these areas. He is currently working on projects that use deep neural networks (e.g., YOLO, R-CNN) to solve computer vision tasks (e.g., road damage detection or brain tumor detection). He is also the author of the book "Hands-On Computer Vision with Detectron 2" by Packt Publishing. He also works on projects to analyze climate change and health information."



HA-NAM NGUYEN received his BSc in Information Technology from Hanoi University of Science (HUS) in 1998, MSc in Computer Science from Chungwoon University (CWU), Korea in 2003, and PhD in Software Applications from Korea Aerospace University (KAU), Korea in 2007, respectively. At present, he is a vice dean of Information Technology department, Electric Power University. He has more than 20 years of teaching and research experience in the areas of financial risk analysis, bioinformatics, behavior analysis, maritime logistics/transport and developing information systems using techniques from data analysis, modelling, and software engineering