# Machine learning model for clinical named entity recognition

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# ABSTRACT

To extract important concepts (named entities) from clinical notes, most widely used NLP task is named entity recognition (NER). It is found from the literature that several researchers have extensively used machine learning models for clinical NER. The most fundamental tasks among the medical data mining tasks are medical named entity recognition and normalization. Medical named entity recognition is different from general NER in various ways. Huge number of alternate spellings and synonyms create explosion of word vocabulary sizes. This reduces the medicine dictionary efficiency. Entities often consist of long sequences of tokens, making harder to detect boundaries exactly. The notes written by clinicians written notes are less structured and are in minimal grammatical form with cryptic short hand. Because of this, it poses challenges in named entity recognition. Generally, NER systems are either rule based or pattern based. The rules and patterns are not generalizable because of the diverse writing style of clinicians. The systems that use machine learning based approach to resolve these issues focus on choosing effective features for classifier building. In this work, machine learning based approach has been used to extract the clinical data in a required manner.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The patient's data ranging from diagnoses, treatments, problems, medications to imaging and clinical notes like discharge summaries are available in electronic health records (EHR). For quality, billing and outcome structured data are important. On the other hand, narrative text is more engaging, more expressive and captures patient's data more accurately. Clinical notes also contain data indicating the level of concern and uncertainty to others who are reviewing the note. Hence, in order to obtain clear perspective on the condition of the patient, an analysis of narrative text needs to be done. But, the manual analysis of huge number of narrative text is time consuming and prone to errors.

To resolve this issue, machine learning based systems can be used. It can be observed from the literature that various machine learners have been used. support vector machines (SVMs) [1] and hidden markov model (HMM) [2] are examples of such learners. To understand the natural language [3], natural language processing that focuses on development of models is being used. The framework of NLP includes modules for syntactic processing like tokenization, parts of speech tagging and sentence detection. Modules for named entity recognition tagging, extraction of relation and concept identification are included in the NLP systems. An NLP system that has semantic processing models for extraction of pre-defined information

is information extraction system. In the medical field, researchers are using NLP systems for identification of biomedical concepts and clinical syndromes from radiology reports [4] and discharge summaries [5].

Clinical researchers and other medical operations make use of important information extracted by analysis of clinical notes in detailed manner. These clinical notes provide rich and detailed medical information. In the present work, we have built a machine learning model for extraction of medical NERs namely disease, test and treatment. An analysis has been done from the text of doctor's notes and records generated during interaction with patient.

#### 2. RELATED WORK

Decision tree based NER model was built by Sekine *et al.* [6] that used features such as part-ofspeech tags extracted by morphological analyzer, specialized dictionary and character based information. This was developed for Japanese. Bikel *et al.* [7] used hidden markov model (HMM) for identification of named entity. Features like bi-gram and orthographic features like word case, word shape etc. were used. In his Ph.D thesis, Borthwick [8] used maximum entropy (MaxEnt) algorithm. McCallum *et al.* [9] extracted NER using algorithm based on conditional random fields. A semi Markov conditional random field algorithm was proposed by Sarawagi *et al.* [10] for extraction of named entity. The researches extended the semi Markov model with use of dictionary and notion of similarity function. An overall survey of NER research was provided by Naidu and Sekine [11].

Luu [12] proposed a framework that is based on different text mining and machine learning algorithms for addressing the challenges of clinical named entity recognition. The framework proposed has multiple levels and builds complex NER tasks. Different data sets-the CLEF 2016 challenge and BIONLP/NLPBPA 2004 were used for evaluation of the proposed method and the results validated the framework.

Mao *et al.* [13] opine that important clinical information related to diagnosis is available in Electronic medical record. By data mining of electronic medical record, recognition of medical named entity is done. In this research work, authors have taken ophthalmic electronic medical record as research object. In the beginning, under the guidance of specialist, training corpus is annotated. Later, trained HMM model is used in test set for recognition of entity. Finally, experiment is conducted for making comparison between the proposed algorithm and the algorithm based on word segmentation model. The results of the experimentation indicate that the algorithm achieves good results in the named entity recognition of bidirectional long-short time memory network and attention mechanism. This improved the performance of NER in Chinese electronic medical records (EMRs). The proposed model achieved better results than other widely used models.

Qiu *et al.* [15] write that the goal of the clinical named entity recognition (CNER) is identification and classification of clinical terms like symptoms, exams, treatments, diseases. This is a crucial and fundamental task for clinical and translation research. In recent years, deep learning models have been successful in CNER tasks. These models depend on recurrent neural networks which maintain a vector of hidden activations that propagate through time. This causes too much time for model training. In the present work, the researchers have proposed a residual dilated convolutional neural network with conditional random field (RD-CNN-CRF) to solve it. In this method, dictionary features and Chinese characters are projected first into dense vector representations. Later, they are fed into the residual dilated convolutional neural network to capture contextual features.

Li *et al.* [16] proposed a model combining language model conditional random field algorithm (CRF) and bi-directional long short-term memory networks (BiLSTM) to realize automatic recognition and entity extraction in unstructured medical texts. The researchers crawled 804 specifications of drug for asthma treatment from the Internet. Later quantization is done for the normalized field of drug specification word by a vector as the input to the neural network. Experimentation indicated that recall, system accuracy and F1 value are improved by 5.2%, 6.18% and 4.87% compared to traditional machine learning model. The proposed model can be applied to extract named entity information from drug specification.

Summarising the concepts, the electronic medical record is a description of patients physical condition [17]. Named entity recognition is the method used for clinical data extraction. The NER was a combination of dictionary and rules [18]. In clinical decision, NLP has become recent trend [19]. Researchers have evaluated various machine learning algorithms with various features [20]. UMLS, Ctakes and Medline were introduced as characteristics and using semi-Markov model, an accuracy of 85.23% was achieved [21]. Wang *et al.* [22] constructed tagged symptom corpus including 11,613 chief complaints. Wang *et al.* [23] completed manual annotation for 12 data of liver cancer in 115 medical records. Yan *et al.* [24] put forward a united model of word segmentation and named entity recognition based on dual decomposition. Jianbo, *et al.*, [25] selected 800 medical records and established named entity tagged corpus among which word segmentation and part-of-speech tagging utilize tools developed by Stanford University.

(2)

#### 3. THE PROPOSED MODEL

The proposed model classifies clinical data and provides the data to concerned expert using machine learning framework and NLP technique. In the manual system, physicians and nurses have to go through the medical data and directs this data to concerned experts. It is time consuming, expensive and challenging task. The records of the patients include medical history, family history etc. The significant difference between classification of medical records and general text classification is word distribution. The proposed model uses machine learning framework for recognizing and extraction of concepts from clinical data. The framework includes an approach known as bidirectional long short tem memory-conditional random field (LSTM-CRF) initialized with general-purpose, off-the-shelf word embeddings. Figure 1 depicts the data flow used in the proposed model.



Figure 1. Machine learning framework for clinical NER

The input is i = (i1, i2, i3, ..., im) which indicate the words in a sentence The output is  $0 = \{o1, o2, o3, .., om\}$  which indicate named entity tags Conditional probability is P(o1, o2, o3, .., om | i1, i2, i3, ..., im)This can be done by defining feature map;

$$\Phi(i1, \dots, im, o1, \dots, om) \in Rd \tag{1}$$

This is a mapping of entire input sequence paired with an entire state sequence to some dimensional feature vector. The probability as a log-linear model with the parameter vector has been modeled as

ωεRd

$$P(o|i;w) = \frac{\exp(\omega \cdot \Phi(i,i))}{\sum of \exp(\omega \cdot \Phi(i,of))}$$
(3)

where o ranges over all possible output sequences. The expression w.  $\Phi(i, i) = score crf(i, o)$  indicates a scoring how well the state sequence fits the given input sequence. Hence score can be defined as,

score 
$$lstm - crf(i, o) = \sum_{i=0}^{n} W oj - 1, oj . LSTM(i)j + b oj - 1, oj$$
 (4)

where Oj - 1,

oi are weight vector

b is the bias corresponding to the transition from oi - 1 to ojlespectively.

The algorithm used for the overall process is given in Figure 2. Medical records that consist of test conducted, patient's health status, response to the treatments and diseases are given as input. In the next stage, concepts like medical tests, diagnosis and treatments mentioned in the clinical records are classified into categories. Later, the records are divided into training data and testing data. 70% of data is used as training data and it is fed to the model. Testing data (30% of data) that consists of patient's information are fed to the model. Once the model is tuned for accuracy, the model will be ready to receive the real data. Then, the real data which is actually clinical records are fed to the pre developed model. The output includes list of words that indicate test conducted, problem diagnosed or treatment given. From the list of diseases and test conducted, the specializations are classified and displayed. The benefit of this is that the experts in specific area need not read all clinical record, they can directly read summary which saves lot of time. Using LSTM method which is based on machine learning, extraction of diagnosis and test names is extracted. NLP has been used for this. The screenshot is shown in Figure 3.

Step 1	Start		
	Input: Medical records consisting of tests conducted, patient's health status, diseases and		
	response to the treatments.		
Step 2	Classification Model development		
	Concepts like medical tests, diagnosis and treatments mentioned in the clinical records are		
	classified into categories.		
Step 3	Model building using training data		
	The records are divided into training data and testing data. 70% of data is used as training		
	data and it is fed to the model.		
Step 4	4 Testing the model accuracy		
	Testing data (30% of data) that consists of patient's information are fed to the model.		
Step 5	5 Input Medical records		
	The real data (clinical records) are fed to the pre developed model.		
Step 6	Obtain output		
	The output includes list of words that indicate test conducted, problem diagnosed or		
	treatment given.		
Step 7	Classify		
	From the list of diseases and test conducted, the specializations are classified and displayed.		
Step 7	End		

# Figure 2. Algorithm for classification

DATE OF ADMISSION : MM DD YYYY DATE OF DISCHARGE : MM DD YYYY DISCHARGE DIAGNOSES : 1. Vasovagal syncope, status post al. 2. Traumatic arthritis, right knee . 3. Hypertension . 4. History of resultent uniany tract infection .5. History of enal carcinoma, stable . 6. History of anotic obstructive pulmonary discuss. CONSULTANTS : None. PROCEDURES : None.
BREF HISTORY : In patient is an (XX) -year-old remaile with history of previous stock; nypertension; CUPU, stable; renal carcinoma; presenting after a rai and possible syncopy. While walking, she
accidentally fell to her knees and the ner head on the ground, near her left eye. Her fail was not observed, but the patient does not profess any loss of consciousness, recalling the entire event. The patient
does have a history of previous fails, one of which resulted in a hip tracture. She has had physical therapy and recovered completely from that . Initial examination showed bruising around the left eye , normal
lung examination, normal heart examination, normal neurologic function with a baseline decreased mobility of her left arm. The patient was admitted for evaluation of her lall and to rule out syncope and
possible stroke with her positive histories. DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES: All x-rays including left foot , right knee , left shoulder and cervical spine showed no acute fractures . The left shoulder did show out
healed left humeral head and neck fracture with baseline anterior dislocation. CT of the brain showed no acute changes , left periorbital soft tissue swelling . CT of the maxillofacial area showed no facial bone
racture . Echocardiogram showed normal left ventricular function , ejection fraction estimated greater than 65 % . HOSPITAL COURSE : 1 . Fall : The patient was admitted and ruled out for syncopal episode .
Echocardiogram was normal, and when the patient was able, her orthostatic blood pressures were within normal limits. Any serious conditions were quickly ruled out . 2. Status post mu with trauma : The
patient was unable to walk normally secondary to traumatic injury of her knee, causing significant pain and swelling. Although a scan showed no acute fractures, the patients frail status and previous use of
cane prevented her regular abilities. She was set up with a skilled nursing facility, which took several days to arrange, where she was to be given daily physical therapt and rehabilitation until appropriate for
her previous residence . DISCHARGE DISPOSITION : Discharged to skilled nursing facility . ACTIVITY : Per physical herapy and rehabilitation . DIET : General cardiac . MEDICATIONS : Darvocet-100
one tablet p.o. q.4-6 h-prn and Colace 100 mg p.o. b.i.d. Medications at Home : Kestril 40 mg p.o. daily, Plavia 75 mg p.o. daily, Norvasa 5 mg p.o. daily, hydrochlorothiazide 50 mg p.o. daily,
potassium chloride 40 mEq p.o. daily, Atrovent inhales 2 puffs q.i.d., albuterol inhales 2 puffs q.4-6 h.p.r.n., clonidine 0.1 mg p.o. b.i.d., Cardura 2 mg p.o. daily, and Macrobid for prophylaxia, 100 mg p.o.
. daily . FOLLOWUP : 1 . Follow up per skilled nursing facility until discharged to regular residence . 2 . Follow up with primary provider within 2-3 weeks on arriving to home .

Figure 3. Results of NER extraction, disease names (red), diagnosis (green) and tests (yellow)

Once NER with NLP is applied for extraction of entities and their relationships, further processing is done. The disease names, test, diagnosis test are fed as input to machine learning framework. An output of the model will be classified data labeled with specialization as shown in Figure 4. Figure 5 and Figure 6 shows the execution screenshot during classification.

'vasovagal syncope'	Problem	Specialization 1
'fall'	Problem	Specialization 2
'traumatic arthritis'	Problem	Specialization 3
'hypertension'	Problem	Specialization 4
'physical therapy'	Treatment	
'evaluation'	Test	
'cervical spine'	Test	
'pain'	Problem	Specialization 5
'traumatic injury of her knee'	Problem	Specialization 6
'hypertension'	Problem	Specialization 3
'atrovent inhaler'	Treatment	
'a scan '	Test	

Figure 4. Classification as per specialization

DATE OF ADMISSION : MM/DD/YYYY, DATE OF DISCHARGE : MM/DD/YYYY

DISCHARGE DIAGNOSES :

vasovagal syncope , status post fall . Traumatic arthritis , right knee .

Hypertension.
Hypertension.
History of recurrent urinary tract infection .
History of renal carcinoma , stable .
History of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease .

CONSULTANTS : None .

PROCEDURES : None .

ERIFF HISTORY : The patient is an ( XX ) -year-old female with history of previous stroke ; hypertension ; COPD , stable ; renal carcinoma ; presenting after a fall and possible syncope . While walking , she accidentally fell to her knees and did hit her head on the ground , near her left eye . Her fall was not observed , but the patient does not profess any loss of consciousness , recalling the entire event . The patient does have a history of previous falls , one of which resulted in a hip fracture . She has had physical therapy and recovered completely from that . Initial examination showed bruising around the left eye , normal lung examination , normal hear texamination , normal neurologic function with a baseline decreased mobility of her left arm . The patient was admitted for evaluation of her fall and to rule out syncope and possible stroke with her positive histories .

AGNOSTIC STUDIES : All x-rays including left foot , right knee , left shoulder and cervical spine showed no acute fractures . The left shoulder did show old healed ft humeral head and neck fracture with baseline anterior dislocation . CT of the brain showed no acute changes , left periorbital soft tissue swelling . of the maxillofacial area showed no facial bone fracture . Echocardiogram showed normal left ventricular function , ejection fraction estimated greater than 65 % .

HOSPITAL COURSE : 1. FAll : The patient was admitted and ruled out for syncopal episode . Echocardiogram was normal , and when the patient was able , her orthostatic blood pressures were within normal limits . Any serious conditions were quickly ruled out. 2. Status post fall with trauma : The patients was unable to walk normally secondary to traumatic injury of her knee , causing significant pain and swelling . Although a scan showed no acute fractures , the patients frail status and previous use of cane prevented her regular abilities . She was set up with a skilled nursing facility , which took several days to arrange , where she was to be given daily physical therapy and rehabilitation until appropriate for her previous residence .

DISCHARGE DISPOSITION : Discharged to skilled nursing facility .

ACTIVITY : Per physical therapy and rehabilitation .

DIET : General cardiac .

MEDICATIONS : Darvocet-N 100 one tablet p.o., q.4-6 h. p.r.n. and colace 100 mg p.o. b.i.d. Medications at Home : Zestril 40 mg p.o., daily , Plavix 75 mg p.o. daily , Norvasc 5 mg p.o., daily , Hydrochiorothiazide 50 mg p.o. daily , potassium chloride 40 mEg p.o., daily , Atrovent inhaler 2 puffs q.i.d. , albutero i inhaler 2 puffs q.4-6 h. p.r.n., clonidine 0.1 mg p.o. b.i.d., cardura 2 mg p.o., daily , and Hacrobid for prophylaxis , 100 mg p.o., daily .

1.Follow up per skilled nursing facility until discharged to regular residence . 2.Follow up with primary provider within 2-3 weeks on arriving to home .

#### Figure 5. Clinical record

'traumatic arthritis'	:'problem'
'hypertension'	:'problem'
'recurrent uninary tract infection'	:'problem'
'renal carcinoma'	:'problem'
'chronic obstructive pulmonary disease'	'problem'
'previous stroke'	'problem'
'mmertension'	incohlem'
'sond'	, problem'
'nonal cancinoma'	, problem
renar carcinolia	. problem
aran	problem
syncope	: problem
did hit her head on the ground	: problem
loss of consciousness	: problem
'previous falls'	: problem
'a hip fracture'	:'problem'
'physical therapy'	: treatment
'initial examination'	:'test'
'bruising around the left eve'	'problem'
'a baseline decreased mobility of her	· P. esten
loft arm'	'problem'
'evaluation'	tott
'bor fall'	'hest
ner rari	, problem'
syncope	: problem
her positive histories	: problem
diagnostic studies	: test
cervical spine	test
'acute fractures'	:'problem'
'old healed left humeral head and neck	
fracture'	:'problem'
'baseline anterior dislocation'	'treatment'
'ct of the brain'	'test'
'acute changes'	'problem'
'left periorbital soft tissue swelling'	'problem'
'ct of the maxillofacial area'	test
'facial hope fracture'	'boohlam'
'acharandiagnam'	, problem
echocal urogram	'ist
syncopal episode	problem
echocarologram	test
her orthostatic blood pressures	test
traumatic injury of her knee	: problem
'significant pain and swelling'	: problem
'a scan'	:'test'
'acute fractures'	:'problem'
'rehabilitation'	:'treatment'
'rehabilitation'	: treatment
'darvocet-n'	'treatment'
'h. n.r.n'	'problem'
'colace'	'treatment'
'zestril'	'treatment'
'nlaudy'	- Constants (Constants)
Plavix	. Creatment
'horden och and de '	: creatment
nyarochiorochiaziae	; treatment



#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS** 4.

In the proposed model machine learning algorithms used are support vector machine (SVM), naïve bayes, logistic regression, decision tree, random forest and light GBM. The screenshot related to accuracy of these algorithms is shown in Figure 7. The accuracy of the algorithms used is presented in graphical form in Figure 8. The model proposed can be used for extraction of medical data using NER and NLP technique. The machine learning model built into medical automation systems can be a good resource for medical experts as it saves lot of time spent for referring clinical records in detail. Also, administrative tasks can be easier as the model separates the diseases and treatment in to specializations.

The existing NLP systems for NER using clinical data consist of syntactic processing modules like sentence detection, tokenization, part-of-speech tagging etc. The semantic modules include concept identification, entity recognition, relation extraction and anaphoric resolution etc. So far, in the literature, it is observed that systems exists for extraction of named entities like disease, treatment etc which was useful for doctors to read summary information without reading complete clinical records. But, the proposed model goes one step further by classifying the named entities as per specialization. This can be embedded in health automation system for efficient delivery of services saving lot of time. Hence the proposed system can be a good candidate for the research in the area of NER in medical field.

> Accuracy for training set for svm = 0.9256198347107438 Accuracy for test set for svm = 0.8032786885245902 Accuracy for training set for Naive Bayes = 0.8677685950413223 Accuracy for test set for Naive Bayes = 0.7868852459016393 Accuracy for training set for Logistic Regression = 0.863636363636363636 Accuracy for test set for Logistic Regression = 0.8032786885245902 Accuracy for training set for Decision Tree = 1.0 Accuracy for test set for Decision Tree = 0.7704918032786885 Accuracy for training set for Random Forest = 0.987603305785124 Accuracy for test set for Random Forest = 0.7540983606557377 Accuracy for training set for LightGBM = 0.9958677685950413 Accuracy for test set for LightGBM = 0.7704918032786885

Figure 7. Accuracy of algorithms



Figure 8. Accuracy comparison of algorithms

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Because of diverse writing style of clinicians, the rules and patterns are not generalizable. These issues can be addressed by making use of technologies like machine learning. Named entity recognition is grouped into three approaches. Machine learning based approaches, rule-based approaches and dictionary based approaches. The systems that use machine learning based approach focus on choosing effective features for classifier building. Several researchers have extensively used machine learning models for clinical NER. Databases such as PubMed which include medical publications have generated lot of interest among researchers for applying information extraction techniques to medical literature. In an attempt to contribute to the research in this area, this work proposed a machine learning model for clinical NER. The model proposed perfomed better compared to some of the existing methods.

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