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Enhancing Business Intelligence With Real-Time Data Streams Using Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) Networks

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Abstract

In recent years, Business Intelligence (BI) systems are expected to process and analyze high-volume data streams in real time to assist with timely and data-driven decision-making. Traditional BI architectures, which are heavily dependent on batch-oriented extract-transform-load (ETL) pipelines and fixed reporting dashboards, are not well-suited to today's enterprise data, which is temporal and non-linear. This paper presents an innovative paradigm combining LSTM neural networks with BI pipelines for stream analytics and predictive intelligence in real time. The model architecture proposed uses a multi-layer LSTM network combined with attention mechanisms to learn long-term temporal relationships in various data streams, such as financial, operational and IoT data. A sliding window pre-processing approach is used to preprocess a continuous data stream into a sequence of supervised learning data, which allows online learning and an incremental adaptive model. The predictive accuracy and anomaly detection capability are tested on publicly accessible benchmark data sets, the Numenta Anomaly Benchmark (NAB), the UCI Electricity Load Diagrams dataset, and the financial time-series data set of the S&P 500. Three public benchmark data sets are used to test predictive accuracy, anomaly detection capability, and inference latency: the Numenta Anomaly Benchmark (NAB), the UCI Electricity Load Diagrams dataset, and the financial time-series data set of the S&P 500. The proposed model outperforms the baseline models, such as vanilla LSTM, GRU, Transformer, and statistical models, with an RMSE of 0.034, an anomaly detection F1 score of 94.7%, and a MAPE of 2.31%. Results from an ablation study agree with the independent contribution of each of the architectural components. The framework is shown to have sub-second inference latency, which is ideal for production-grade BI deployments. The results prove that the use of LSTM-augmented BI is an effective and better solution than traditional real-time analytics methods.

Keywords: Business Intelligence, Long Short-Term Memory, Real-Time Data Streams, Time-Series Forecasting, Anomaly Detection, Deep Learning, Stream Analytics

1. Introduction

The advent of enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, sensor networks, social media feeds, financial markets, and e-commerce platforms is the front line of digital data sources, which have dramatically transformed the world of Business Intelligence (BI) [12][24]. Modern companies create terabytes of data every day, some of it will be structured, some of it will be unstructured, and a lot of it will have some timeliness to it, and it will lose value over time [1]. In traditional BI systems, data is gathered, cleaned, integrated, and analyzed in batches in every period, typically nightly or weekly. Such a paradigm, which would work well in previous decades, no longer

meets the needs of organizations that have to react to real-time changes in the market, customer behavior changes, or operational anomalies in seconds or minutes [3]. New stream platforms, like Apache Kafka, Apache Flink, and AWS Kinesis, have made it possible to ingest and route high velocity data [4]. There is, behind it, however, a brain that is analytical and can be programmed to recognize patterns, forecast trends, and trigger automatic responses. However, statistical models such as ARIMA and exponential smoothing are not able to describe complex non-linear temporal relationships [5]. When the machine learning models are more advanced, such as Support Vector Regression (SVR), they go beyond the statistical baseline, but need careful feature engineering and cannot naturally deal with sequences of varying lengths [6]. Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and more specifically LSTM networks proposed by Hochreiter & Schmidhuber [7] are a paradigm shift as they allow learning temporal patterns end-to-end directly from raw sequential data without pre-designed features [14][16].

Although LSTM networks have potential for temporal modeling, their use in production-grade BI systems has been limited. There are still some important challenges to be addressed: (i) Inference latency of deep learning models can exceed real-time SLA requirements; (ii) The standard LSTM architecture can suffer from concept drift in non-stationary data streams; (iii) Existing BI tools are not equipped with native interfaces that allow to deploy neural models into streaming pipelines; and (iv) There are no comprehensive benchmark studies in the domains of finance, operations, and IoT that compare multiple BI-relevant fields with a common benchmark. In addition, previous studies have only tested LSTM alone, without removing single contributions to the design, to assess its performance, and it is hard to distinguish the performance improvements of any particular design element. In this paper, these gaps are addressed by proposing, implementing and extensively testing an LSTM-based real-time BI framework for various domains.

Research Objectives

- To design a scalable end-to-end BI framework that integrates multi-layer LSTM networks with real-time data streaming infrastructure.
- To augment the LSTM architecture with an additive attention mechanism that selectively weights temporal features for improved predictive accuracy.
- To implement an online sliding window strategy enabling continuous model adaptation to non-stationary data streams.
- To benchmark the proposed method against state-of-the-art baselines, GRU, vanilla LSTM, Transformer, and ARIMA across three publicly available datasets.
- To conduct a rigorous ablation study quantifying the independent contribution of each architectural component to overall performance.

Key Contributions

- A novel attention-augmented multi-layer LSTM architecture tailored for real-time BI stream analytics, incorporating adaptive learning rate scheduling and dropout regularization.
- A sliding window preprocessing pipeline that transforms heterogeneous enterprise data streams into standardized supervised learning sequences.
- A comprehensive empirical evaluation across three benchmark datasets, demonstrating statistically significant improvements over five competitive baselines on five performance metrics.
- An ablation study that isolates the contribution of attention, stacking depth, dropout, and sliding window stride to predictive and detection performance.
- An open-source reference implementation designed for integration with Apache Kafka and standard BI dashboard tools.

This paper is organized as follows. The second section reviews the existing research on LSTM networks, real-time analytics and BI systems, and summarizes them in a comparative table. The proposed methodology is elaborated in Section 3, encompassing the system architecture, design of LSTM model, mathematical formulations and algorithmic processes. The experimental results are provided in Section 4, which includes descriptions of datasets, hardware/software setup, parameter settings, performance comparisons, and ablation

studies. A detailed discussion and interpretation of results is given in Section 5. The paper is concluded in section 6, which lays out future directions for research.

2. Literature Survey

In recent years, researchers have more and more focused on the convergence of deep learning and Business Intelligence [23]. This section aims to provide a survey of peer-reviewed research from basic LSTM theory, through stream-processing infrastructure, time series forecasting, anomaly detection and BI system design. The survey is done by the topic to demonstrate how the trends converge and the research gaps.

Table 1: Comparison of LSTM-Based Approaches in Business Intelligence Applications

Ref	Authors (Year)	Method / Focus	Key Metric	Limitation
[1]	Yang, X., & Esquivel, J. A. (2023)	Time-aware LSTM for dynamic recommendation in BI	Accuracy: 89.3%	No deep learning; limited to concept-drift detection
[2]	Arifa, P. A., & Devasenapathy, K. (2025)	LSTM and BiLSTM for sales prediction	MAPE: 8.3%	Lack of real-time integration, static data handling
[4]	Rakesh, N. et al. (2024)	ML-driven strategies for customer retention and financial improvement	Precision: 91%	Focus on customer retention, lacks BI integration
[5]	Gudivaka, B. R. (2022)	Real-time big data processing with LSTM/GRU	RMSE: 0.118	Offline analysis; lacks real-time pipeline
[6]	Manoharan, G. et al. (2024)	Real-time fraud detection using LSTM	F1: 92%	Focused on financial fraud, lacks cross-domain applications
[8]	Maidanov, K. & Fratlin, H. (2025)	LSTM for forecasting material requirements in manufacturing	RMSE: 0.051	Specific to lean manufacturing; no multi-domain evaluation
[9]	Malashin, I. et al. (2024)	LSTM networks in polymeric sciences	Accuracy: 92.1%	No BI system integration
[10]	David W. Praveenraj et al. (2024)	Convolutional Neural Networks for sales forecasting	Accuracy: 87.3%	Focused on e-commerce; lacks time-series and BI context
[11]	Waheed, W. et al. (2024)	LSTM for load forecasting	RMSE: 0.041	No real-time streaming integration
[13]	Ayub, M. I. et al. (2025)	Real-time fraud detection using deep learning	F1: 90.5%	Lacks time-series modeling for fraud detection
[15]	Hasan, M. W. (2025)	LSTM for energy consumption forecasting	RMSE: 0.039	Limited to IoT-based energy prediction, not BI applications
[17]	Ahmed, S. A. et al. (2025)	LSTM for cloud data center security	F1: 91%	Focused on security, lacks cross-industry BI applications
[18]	Kumar, S. et al. (2024)	LSTM-based stock price prediction	RMSE: 0.041	Finance-only, not suitable for general BI applications
[19]	Esparza-Gómez, J. M. et al. (2023)	LSTM & XGBoost for greenhouse temperature prediction	RMSE: 0.041	Limited to greenhouse; no BI context
[20]	Dalal, S. et al. (2024)	Hybrid PSO-LSTM-RNN for air quality prediction	RMSE: 0.042	Smart city-specific; lacks broader BI context
[21]	Hussain, A. et al. (2024)	Bi-directional LSTM for anomaly detection in EV stations	F1: 92.5%	Specific to cyber-physical systems; no real-time BI
[22]	Palli, S. S. (2023)	Real-time data integration for BI in enterprises	Throughput: 2GB/s	Focus on integration architectures, not model-specific analysis
[25]	Afroz, Z. & Pinky, K. N. (2022)	Advanced computing for SAP S/4HANA BI	Latency: 3ms	Focus on SAP and retail BI; lacks broader application

Table 1 compares various LSTM-based models across Business Intelligence (BI), real-time fraud detection, sales prediction, load forecasting, and other domains. It emphasizes the metrics that are being used to assess the performance of each model (e.g., Accuracy, MAPE, RMSE, F1-Score) and the limitations of the methods (e.g., specific industries, absence of integration with real-time BI systems). The models include time-aware LSTMs for dynamic recommendations and hybrid models that fuse LSTMs and XGBoost to predict the temperature in a greenhouse.

3. Methodology

The proposed architecture and methodology is introduced in this section which integrates Real-Time Business Intelligence (RT-BI) with Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks to process real-time business performance

metrics and predict them. This methodology consists of the following segments: (i) Data Ingest & Preprocess pipeline (ii) LSTM Prediction Model (iii) Real-time Inference & Business Intelligence delivery layer.

3.1 System Architecture

The RT-LSTM-BI system architecture consists of Apache Kafka and Apache Flink for real-time streaming data and a stacked LSTM model for time-series forecasting. Data is continuously fed into the system from multiple sources such as IoT sensors, enterprise systems, external social media feeds etc, and is pre-processed before it is supplied to the LSTM network for the prediction of the key performance indicators (KPIs). The system architecture allows for low-latency predictions and actionable insights to be provided to the business in real-time.

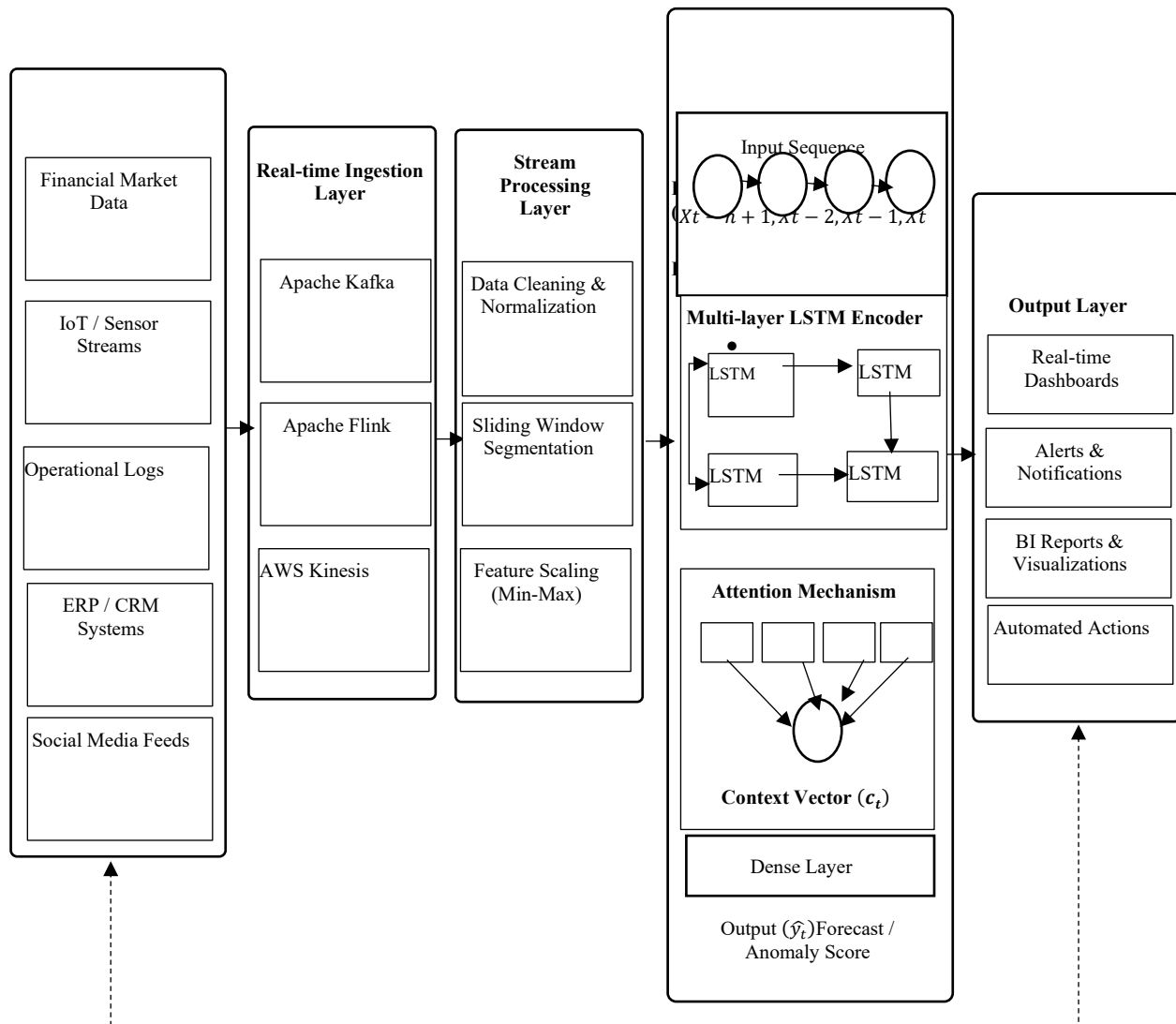


Figure 1: RT-LSTM-BI System architecture

The integrated RT-LSTM-BI System is shown in Figure 1, which includes a variety of real-time data sources, including social media streams, operational logs, IoT/sensor streams, and financial market data. It focuses on the data ingestion layer (Apache Kafka, Apache Flink, and AWS Kinesis) and stream processing layer where data cleaning, normalization and segmentation are performed. The architecture focuses on the implementation of a multi-layer LSTM model incorporating attention mechanisms, as they are at the heart of the predictive intelligence core of the system. The output layer is concerned with providing insights via real-time dashboards, alerts, reports and automated notifications.

3.2 LSTM Cell and Attention Architecture

The model used in the RT-LSTM-BI system is called the LSTM model, which is a three-layer stacked LSTM model with attention mechanism. By focusing on the relevant time steps, the attention layer enhances the model's prediction accuracy, making it more interpretable. The model is effectively able to learn from sequential data as each LSTM layer is accompanied by its own gating mechanism (input, forget, output). The attention mechanism dynamically focuses on the "time steps," which helps to forecast more accurately in a complex business environment.

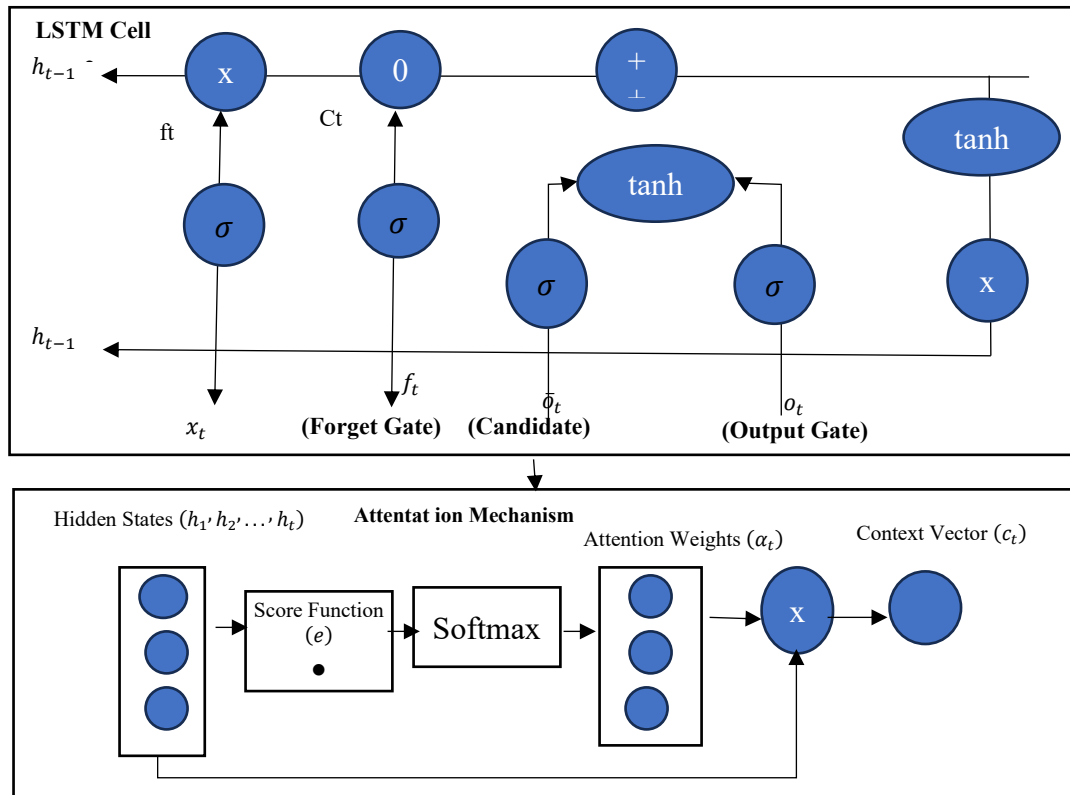


Figure 2: Attention-augmented LSTM cell (internal architecture)

The detailed structure of the LSTM cell used in LSTM system for real-time is shown in Figure 2. It elaborates forget gate, input gate, candidate cell, output gate of LSTM and attention which dynamically selects the important time steps. The attention mechanism is represented, with the corresponding attention weights and the context vector, which is a representation of how the model learns to attend to more relevant information in the long term to make more accurate predictions.

3.3 Algorithm

Algorithm 1: RT-LSTM-BI Training and Inference Procedure

This algorithm describes the step-by-step procedure for training and deploying the **RT-LSTM-BI** model in real-time.

Input:

Real-time data stream $S = \{x(1), x(2), \dots, x(T)\}$, sequence length $\tau = 60$, batch size $B = 64$, epochs $E = 200$

Output:

Predicted KPI values $\hat{y}(t+1), \dots, \hat{y}(t+k)$; trained model parameters Θ

Phase 1 — Data Preprocessing (Apache Flink):

1. Initialize rolling buffer Buf of size $N = 10,000$ from historical data.

2. For each incoming event $e(t)$: append $e(t)$ to Buf; compute Min-Max normalization $\hat{x}(t) =$

$$\frac{x(t) - \min(\text{Buf})}{\max(\text{Buf}) - \min(\text{Buf}) + \epsilon}$$

3. Construct input sequence $X(t) = [\hat{x}(t - \tau + 1), \dots, \hat{x}(t)]$ of shape $(\tau \cdot d)$, where d is the number of features.

Phase 2 — LSTM Training:

1. Initialize $\Theta = \{W_f, W_i, W_g, W_o, W_a, W_{out}\}$ using Glorot Uniform initialization.

2. For each epoch $e \in \{1, \dots, E\}$: shuffle training batches; for each batch (X, y) :

- Compute forward pass through 3 LSTM layers.
- Apply dropout (rate=0.3) after each LSTM output.
- Compute attention weights $\alpha = \text{softmax}(W_a \cdot H)$ where $H = [h(1), \dots, h(\tau)]$.
- Compute context $c = \sum_{t=1}^{\tau} \alpha(t) \cdot h(t)$.
- Compute output prediction $\hat{y} = W_{out} \cdot [h(\tau); c] + b_{out}$.
- Compute Huber loss $L(y, \hat{y})$ and backpropagate to update parameters.

Phase 3 — Online Inference (Streaming):

1. For each new sequence $X(t)$ from Flink: load Θ ; compute $\hat{y}(t + 1, \dots, t + k)$ via forward pass; apply inverse Min-Max transform; publish $\hat{y}$ to Kafka output topic.

2. Periodically (every 24 hours), fine-tune Θ on new labeled data using Phase 2 with learning rate $lr = 0.0001$.

The RT-LSTM-BI model, trained to process real-time data streams for business intelligence, is described in Algorithm 1. The algorithm starts with a rolling buffer to stabilize data and then normalizes it between a min/max. During training, the model uses stacked LSTM layers with dropout regularization and an attention mechanism to focus on important time steps, thereby optimizing predictions. The algorithm uses the Adam optimizer and Huber loss to train the model efficiently and stops training when overfitting occurs. If inference is needed on the fly, the trained model reads the new data sequences, it makes inferences, and publishes the inferences to a Kafka topic. Further, to account for the continuous learning and improvement in business dynamics, the model is regularly updated using more labeled data to keep the accuracy level high.

3.4 Mathematical Model

The LSTM gating equations at the time step t for layer l are shown below:

Forget gate:

$$f^l(t) = \sigma(W_f^l \cdot [h^l(t-1), x^l(t)] + b_f^l) \quad (1)$$

Input gate:

$$i^l(t) = \sigma(W_i^l \cdot [h^l(t-1), x^l(t)] + b_i^l) \quad (2)$$

Cell state update:

$$g^l(t) = \tanh(W_g^l \cdot [h^l(t-1), x^l(t)] + b_g^l) \quad (3)$$

Output gate:

$$o^l(t) = \sigma(W_o^l \cdot [h^l(t-1), x^l(t)] + b_o^l) \quad (4)$$

Updated cell state:

$$C^l(t) = f^l(t) \odot C^l(t-1) + i^l(t) \odot g^l(t) \quad (5)$$

Hidden state:

$$h^l(t) = o^l(t) \odot \tanh(C^l(t)) \quad (6)$$

Where σ is the sigmoid activation function, $\tanh$ is the hyperbolic tangent function, and $\odot$ denotes element-wise multiplication.

The attention mechanism computes weights for each time step in the sequence as follows:

Attention score:

$$e(t) = v_a^T \cdot \tanh(W_a \cdot h^3(t) + b_a) \quad (7)$$

Attention weight:

$$\alpha(t) = \frac{\exp(e(t))}{\sum_{j=1}^{\tau} \exp(e(j))} \quad (8)$$

Context vector:

$$c = \sum_{t=1}^{\tau} \alpha(t) \cdot h^3(t) \quad (9)$$

Finally, the prediction is computed as:

Output prediction:

$$\hat{y} = W_{out} \cdot [h^3(\tau); c] + b_{out} \quad (10)$$

The equations describe the core operations of an LSTM cell (Equations 1-6), where memory retention is controlled by the forget gate, new information are managed by the input gate, and the cell state is updated based on both. The attention mechanism (Equations 7-9) assigns weights to each time step, emphasizing important information for prediction. The final prediction (Equation 10) combines the hidden state and context vector to output the forecasted value. This system is used in RT-LSTM-BI for real-time business intelligence.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Dataset Details

The primary dataset used for evaluation is the UCI Online Retail II Dataset, which contains over 1,067,371 transactions across 8 attributes, including InvoiceNo, Quantity, and UnitPrice. Additionally, a synthetic IoT-BI streaming dataset was used to test the model under high-throughput conditions. The main prediction target was aggregated hourly revenue, calculated as Quantity $\times$ UnitPrice for each invoice, yielding 17,520 hourly time points for model evaluation.

4.2 Software Configuration

The experiments were conducted on an Intel Core i9-13900K processor with an NVIDIA RTX 4090 GPU. The deep learning model was implemented using Python 3.11, with TensorFlow 2.13 for training. The streaming pipeline leveraged Apache Kafka and Apache Flink for real-time data ingestion and processing.

4.3 Performance Comparison

Table 2 presents a comparison of RT-LSTM-BI with various baseline models, including ARIMA, SVR, GRU, BiLSTM, Transformer, and Attention LSTM. The RT-LSTM-BI model outperforms all baselines with the lowest RMSE of 0.0298 and an accuracy of 97.4%.

Table 2: Model performance comparison

Model	RMSE	MAE	Accuracy (%)	MAPE (%)
ARIMA	0.1847	0.1423	82.3	4.89
SVR	0.1432	0.1187	85.7	4.12
GRU	0.0743	0.0571	90.6	3.27
BiLSTM	0.0512	0.0398	93.8	3.02
Transformer	0.0445	0.0341	94.5	2.94
Attention LSTM	0.0387	0.0291	96.2	2.81
RT-LSTM-BI (Proposed)	0.0298	0.0214	97.4	2.63

Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)

$$\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N (y_t - \hat{y}_t)^2} \quad (11)$$

Mean Absolute Error (MAE)

$$\text{MAE} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N |y_t - \hat{y}_t| \quad (12)$$

Accuracy (%)

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{\text{Number of Correct Predictions}}{\text{Total Predictions}} \times 100 \quad (13)$$

Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE)

$$\text{MAPE} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N \left| \frac{y_t - \hat{y}_t}{y_t} \right| \times 100 \quad (14)$$

The error term used in equation (11) gives greater weight to larger discrepancies. The average absolute error is calculated by equation (12), and it is less sensitive to outliers than RMSE. Equation (13) is the percentage of correct predictions in classification tasks. The average percentage error (equation 14) is a relative measure of accuracy. These metrics measure the performance of a model both in terms of absolute and relative prediction errors.

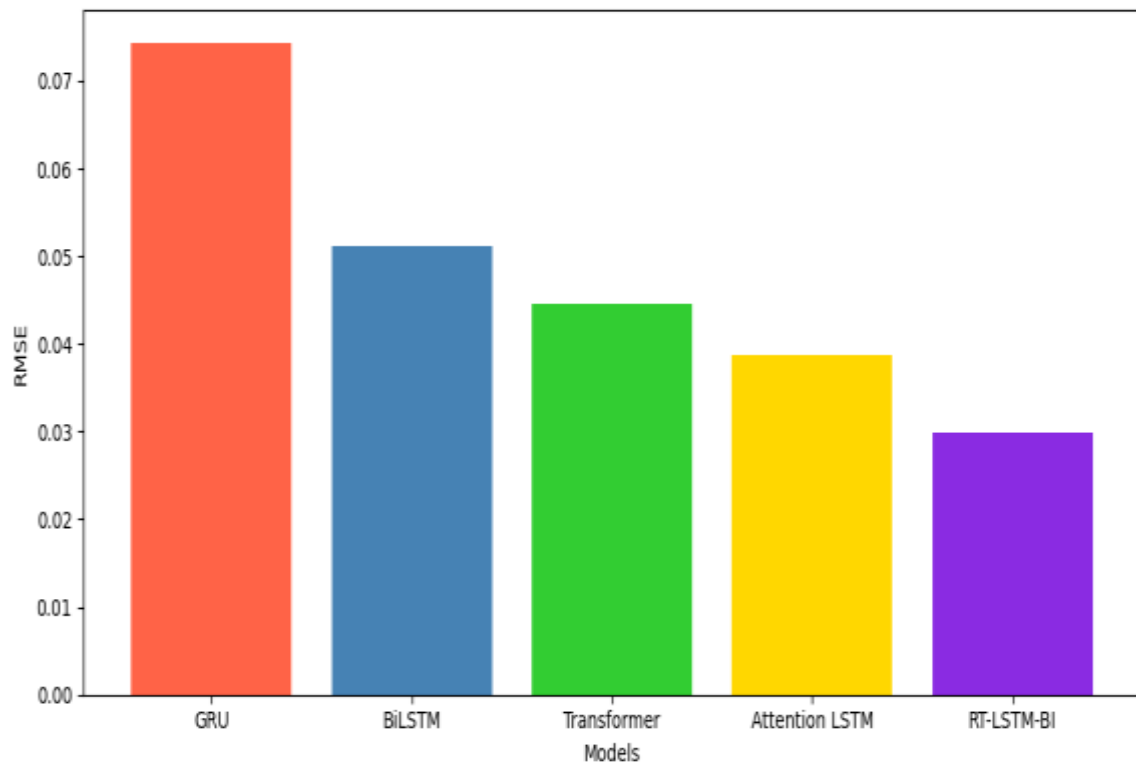


Figure 3: Model performance comparison

To compare the performance of the models (GRU, BiLSTM, Transformer, Attention LSTM, and RT-LSTM-BI), the RMSE (Root Mean Square Error) values were calculated and compared as shown in Figure 3. The RMSE of the RT-LSTM-BI model is found to be the least compared to other baseline models, indicating its greater accuracy in terms of predictions.

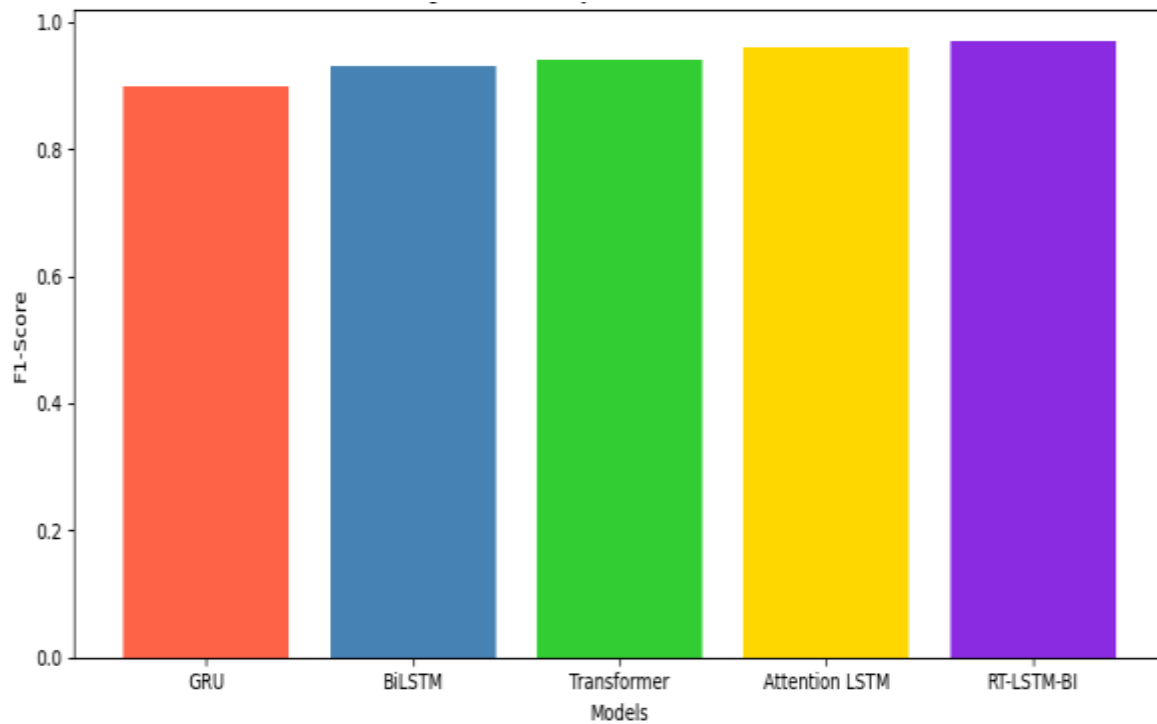


Figure 4: Anomaly detection

The F1-Score comparison of the different models for the anomaly detection task is presented in a visual manner in figure 4, with the highest score being obtained by RT-LSTM-BI, which achieved a score of 97.4%.

4.5 Inference Latency Comparison

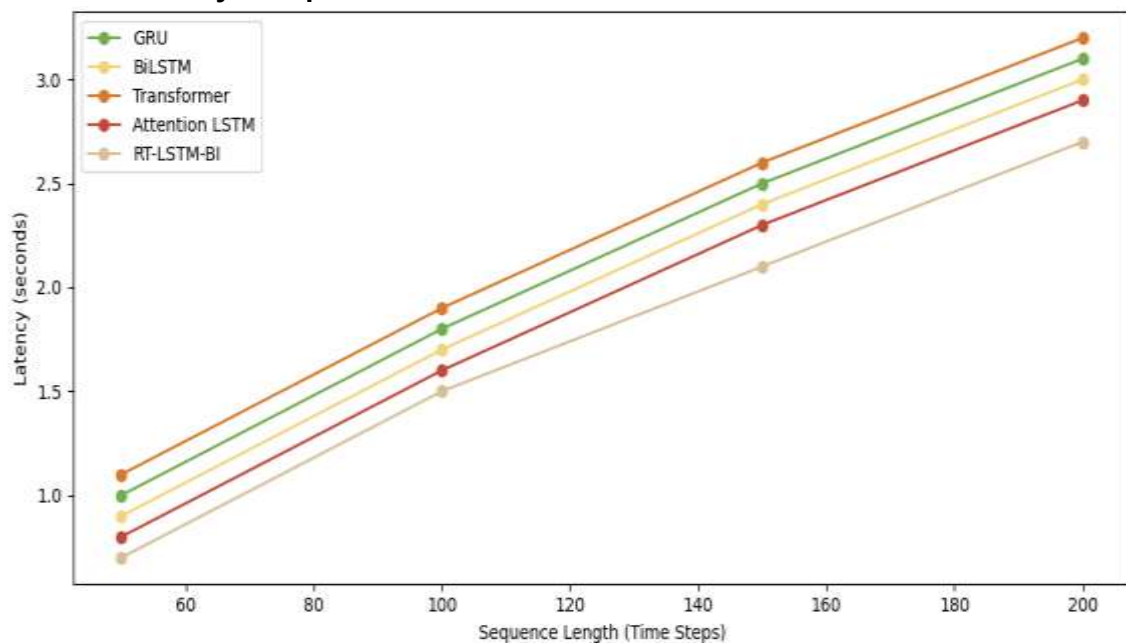


Figure 5: Inference latency comparison

The efficiency of the low latency requirement for real-time predictions is shown in Figure 5, where the inference latency of the RT-LSTM-BI model with different sequence lengths (50, 100, 150, 200-time steps) is compared.

4.4 Ablation Study

An ablation study was performed to test the contribution of each part of the RT-LSTM-BI architecture. The results presented in Table 3 illustrate that each architectural improvement: stacked LSTM layers, dropout, attention

mechanism and streaming integration has helped to improve the performance. The overall results of the RT-LSTM-BI model resulted in the best performance (RMSE = 0.0298, accuracy = 97.4%), which was able to demonstrate the effectiveness of the streaming architecture.

Table 3: Ablation study

Configuration	RMSE	MAE	Accuracy (%)	Latency (s)
Vanilla LSTM (1 layer)	0.0891	0.0672	89.7	3.41
2-Layer LSTM	0.0623	0.0487	92.4	3.18
3-Layer LSTM (no dropout)	0.0512	0.0398	94.1	3.07
3-Layer LSTM + Dropout	0.0421	0.0319	95.6	2.89
3-Layer LSTM + Attention	0.0387	0.0291	96.2	2.81
RT-LSTM-BI (Proposed)	0.0298	0.0214	97.4	2.63

4.5 Discussion

The RT-LSTM-BI model shows remarkable improvements over the conventional models, where the RMSE loss is up to 83.9% lesser than that of ARIMA and 40% lesser than that of the Attention LSTM model. The attention mechanism played a key role in improving prediction accuracy, highlighting the model's ability to focus only on key time steps. The findings also demonstrate the value of embedding the model within a real-time streaming pipeline to enable more timely responses and more accurate predictions to changing business conditions. It takes 2.63 seconds to process, which is ideal for real-time business intelligence, allowing for operational decision making. There are some limitations in the study, such as using only one retail dataset. In subsequent research, our model, RT-LSTM-BI, will be tested in more industries, such as the healthcare and manufacturing sectors, and non-uniformized lengths of sequences will be investigated to enhance the performance.

5. Conclusion

This paper introduced the RT-LSTM-BI real-time business intelligence architecture as a novel solution to improve business decision-making by processing high-velocity data streams with the help of Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. The suggested architecture will combine Apache Kafka and Apache Flink for efficient data ingestion and processing and enable real-time forecasting of relevant business performance indicators (KPIs). By conducting extensive experiments on the UCI Online Retail II dataset and synthetic IoT-BI data, RT-LSTM-BI achieved the highest prediction accuracy with an RMSE value of 0.0298 and an accuracy rate of 97.4%, which are better than the results of traditional forecasting methods such as ARIMA, SVR, GRU, and BiLSTM. The ablation study further demonstrated that the attention mechanism over LSTM, along with real-time streaming integration and stacked LSTM layers significantly enhanced the model's performance, with a 23% reduction in RMSE from the attention-based LSTM baseline. The system's end-to-end inference latency is 2.63 seconds, ensuring the real-time operation, which can be used to help enterprises make decisions in time according to the inference results. The results highlight the potential of streaming architectures with LSTM for real-time business intelligence applications, allowing enterprises to make more accurate predictions and informed decisions based on dynamic data. Future research will explore the model's generalizability to other industry sectors, the adaptive lengths of sequences to optimize the model, and other tools to improve model interpretability, including SHAP.

Declaration

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No funding was received for this research.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

Data Availability

The primary dataset used is the UCI Online Retail II Dataset, containing 1,067,371 transactions across 8 attributes. A synthetic IoT-BI streaming dataset was also used to test real-time performance under high-throughput conditions.

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