# Real-time urban rainstorm and waterlogging disasters detection by Weibo users

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**Abstract.** With the process of urbanization in China, the urban waterlogging caused by rainstorms occurs frequently and often leads to serious damage to natural environment, human life, and city economy. Rapid detection of rainstorm and urban waterlogging disasters is an essential step to minimize these losses. Weibo, a popular microblog servicer in China, can provide many real-time Weibo posts for rapid detection. In this paper, we propose a method to identify microblogs with
10 rainstorm and waterlogging information and apply them to waterlogging risk assessment. After pre-processing the microblog texts, we evaluate the performance of clustering (K-means) and classification (support vector machine, SVM) algorithms in the classification task. Apart from the word vector features, we also introduce the sentiment and publisher features for more real-time and accurate results. Furthermore, we build a waterlogging intensity dictionary to assess the waterlogging risk from the Weibo texts and produce a risk map with ArcGIS. To examine the efficacy, we collect Weibo data from two rainstorms
15 and waterlogging disasters in Beijing city as examples. The results indicate that the SVM algorithm can be applied for a real-time rainstorm and waterlogging information detection. Compared to the official authentication and personal certification users, the microblogs posted by general can better indicate the intensity and timing of rainstorms. The location of waterlogging points is consistent with the risk assessment results, which proves our proposed risk assessment method can be used as a reference for timely emergency response.

20 **Keywords:** Urban rainstorm and waterlogging; Text classification; Risk assessment; Real-time detection

## 1 Introduction

Urban rainstorm waterlogging is a frequent occurrence all over China, resulting in serious damage to city safety and resident's daily life (Yin et al. 2015). On July 21, 2012, a 100-year rainstorm swept Beijing. The rainstorm and waterlogging destroyed 10,660 houses, caused economic losses of up to RMB 11.64 billion, and the deaths of up to 79 people (The People's
25 Government of Beijing Municipality, 2012). Such serious waterlogging disasters also occurred in Shanghai on September 13, 2013, in Guangzhou on May 7, 2017, and in Zhengzhou on July 20, 2021. To help government make timely response and minimize loss of life and property caused by rainstorms, we should focus on urban rainstorms and waterlogging risk assessment, prevention, forecasting, and early warning.

Many factors work together in the formation of waterlogging, including rainstorms, terrain, drainage system, vegetation coverage rate, and so on (Zhang et al. 2020). Considering these features, many different models were constructed to simulate the submerged area and depth of different rainstorm return periods. A classic type is a hydrologic model, represented by the Storm Water Management Model (SWMM) (Bisht et al., 2016; Jiang et al., 2015; Rossman et al., 2010). The hydrologic model depends on the pipeline data and needs huge modelling and calculating resources, which limits its application. To make up for this setback, many simplified models are developed (Quan, 2014; Tao et al., 2018; Tang et al., 2018). These models study the macroscopic relationship between factors and the waterlogging disasters instead of the detailed dynamic calculation and perform as well as the hydrologic models. In the early warning step, researchers focus more on the improvement of the government's management system and the building of physical sensor networks (Perera et al. 2020; Liu et al., 2014). However, these early warning systems require significant time and material costs. We need a faster and more convenient early warning method.

Compared to the physical sensors, Sakaki et al. promoted the concept of social sensors for earthquake detection in 2010 (Sakaki et al., 2010). Social networks such as Twitter and Weibo are popular all over the world. As of March 2021, Weibo's monthly active users totalled 530 million, of which 94% were mobile users. They are all real-time social sensors by sharing their experience on the Weibo site. Many disaster early warning studies were carried out on the analysis of Weibo's content (Choi et al., 2015; Avvenuti et al., 2016; Cao et al., 2017). By screening the keywords with supervised or unsupervised algorithms, we can quickly select and analyse the relevant microblog texts related to specific events. Most of the researchers focus on the earthquake disaster. The detection of the urban rainstorm and waterlogging disasters is more complex. Nair et al. (2017) used naïve Bayes (NB), and random forest (RF) to detect the 2015 Chennai flood's effect on Twitter users and found that Random Forests was the best algorithm. Na Xiao et al. (2018) promoted an identification method of urban rainstorm waterlogging microblogs based on three supervised algorithms in 2018, of which the classification accuracy rate came up to 84%. Unsupervised algorithms are also widely used in Weibo content processing ((Gao et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2013), but there are few types of research discussing their applications in urban waterlogging disasters. The analysis of Weibo data also limits the word vector in most cases, without taking the features of emotion and publisher into account. Most of the previous studies separated the storm-related microblogs from general microblogs, while the emergency response needs to further select the microblogs containing timely rainstorm information from the storm-related microblogs.

Rainstorms are predictable, but there are still uncertainties in time, space, and intensity. What's more, the secondary disaster followed by rainstorms, the urban waterlogging, is hardly predictable. Based on the discussion above, the huge number of Weibo users can be regarded as social sensors and there are time, location, and intensity information on ongoing disasters in their microblogs (Sakaki et al., 2010). By extracting appropriate features, we can select these disaster-related microblogs with classification algorithms such as SVM (Nair et al., 2017). These microblogs tell us the intensity of precipitation and the depth of waterlogging in different places at different times, which can help us identify spots of potential waterlogging.

This study takes two urban rainstorms and waterlogging disasters in Beijing as examples, promoting an integrated data-mining method for Weibo users. The primary objectives of our study are as follows: 1) to evaluate the role of publisher and sentiment

feature in a real-time rainstorm and waterlogging microblogs information extraction; 2) to select the microblogs with real-time information; 3) to produce a waterlogging risk assessment map of the microblogs with location information.

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## 2 Study area and data collection

### 2.1 Study area

Beijing locates in the monsoons climate zone, and the sudden rainstorms often result in serious waterlogging disasters. The study area covers 16,410 km² with 16 districts and is surrounded by mountains in the west, north, and northeast. Precipitation

70  centres are distributed along the windward slopes of these mountains. The foothills of northern Beijing, the eastern slope and piedmont area of the Taihang Mountains, and the land-sea interface of Bohai Bay contribute to the formation of short-duration heavy rainfall (SDHR) apart from the climate factors (Cheng et al., 2021, which makes the urban rainstorm and waterlogging early warning more difficult. The monsoon season in Beijing spans from June through September. After the serious rainstorm and waterlogging disaster on July 21, 2012, the government identified 64 waterlogging vulnerable points. However, with the

75  development of urbanization, every time there is a rainstorm, there are new spots of waterlogging. Compared to relying on experience, rapid detection of waterlogging points in a rainstorm is a better solution.

### 2.2 Data collection

We chose two heavy rainstorms in Beijing on August 12, 2020 (case A) and July 18, 2021 (case B) as the case studies, for which the Beijing Emergency Management Bureau issued an orange alert. We extracted Weibo texts about disaster situations

80  based on the keywords 'Beijing' and 'rainstorm' as a preliminary selection. In the case A, meteorological information showed it was the heaviest precipitation in Beijing since 2012, so the warning was issued 24 hours before the precipitation. We extracted 19,791 Weibo data in 48 hours from 0:00 on August 12, 2020, to 23:59 on August 13, 2020. In the case B, we extracted 2,840 Weibo data in 36 hours from noon on July 17, 2021, to 23:59 on July 18, 2021. The data included text, user information, release time, and release type (post or repost).

85  ## 3 Methodology

Text is typical unstructured data with complex features. After pre-processing, we can get the basic unit of text, the words. Compared with other features, words are more ambiguous and changeable with the context. What's more, the microblogs always have a character limitation of 140 characters. To better understand the information in microblogs to classify them, we introduced more features apart from the words, e.g. the publisher and the sentiment features. Some microblogs contain location

90  information by mentioning area names in the text or choosing to show their current location when posting. These microblogs

are more accurate sensors, which aid in the accurate estimation of the spatial distribution of precipitation and waterlogging instead of only time distribution. The overall processing framework is shown in Figure 1.

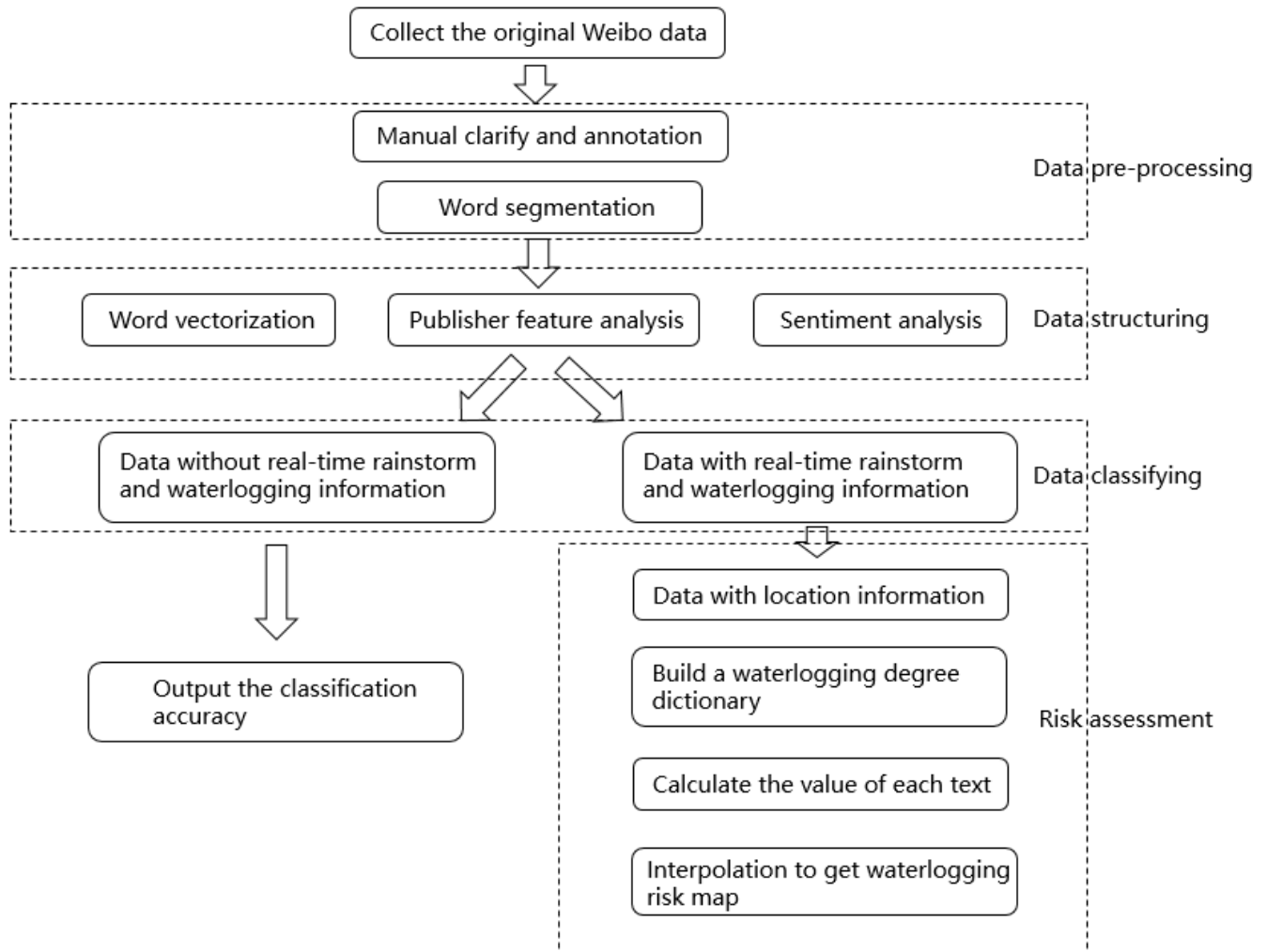



**Figure 1. The overall model framework**

## 3.1 Data pre-processing and structuring

### 3.1.1 Manual clarity and annotation

Uncertainties and errors are inherent in data derived from social sensors such as Weibo users. There is an assumption that if a microblog is reposted, it is more likely to carry outdated information. There is typically a time lag between the release time of the microblog and the disaster situation described. For the original microblogs, we can infer the time lag from the words such as now, just, and so on. However, in the case of reposted microblogs, there is an extra time lag for the second user to notice the microblog, so we eliminate all the reposted microblogs. In supervised algorithms, the label of each text must be given for

model training. A text carrying information related to a rainstorm is a broad concept, such as the forecasting and warning messages from the meteorological department before the rainstorm, and the share of a particular view from the general users after the rainstorm. Microblogs with such information tend to be classified into a positive category in many studies. However, these microblogs contain advanced or lagging information, which contributes little to current risk assessment and early warning. In our experiments, timeliness is as important as disaster description. The microblogs with a description of a real-time urban rainstorm and waterlogging disaster are marked as positive categories with the label 1. Others are negative with label 0. Now we transform the text classification problem into a binary classification one.

Table 1. Examples of positive (with timely disaster situation) and negative (without timely disaster situation) Weibo texts

| Category | Weibo texts |
|---|---|
| Positive | The rain rushes underground outside, and I am falling asleep listening to the rain. |
| Negative | Latest forecast! Today Beijing will welcome the heaviest rain in the flood season, and the main rainfall period is from noon to night |
| Negative | Beijing after the rainstorm. I love autumn in Beijing the most, the sky is high and the clouds are pale. |

**3.1.2 Word segmentation**

Compared to English, word segmentation is more complex in Chinese as there is no separation between characters. The segmentation steps are as follows.

(1) Filtering the Chinese characters. Most of the segmentation modules support only one language, while there are many English or special symbols in the text. In this paper, we used a regular expression to filter the text first.

(2) Removing the Weibo topic tags. To make it more convenient for the public to participate in the discussion, Weibo gives every topic a tag with the format of '##', for example '#Beijing rainstorm#'. Many microblogs have three or four tags, and we should remove them for less distortion. Stop words are functional words that have no concrete meaning, e.g. conjunction, preposition, and interjection. In many studies, stop vocabularies were created to remove these words. However, we did not eliminate the stop-words in this paper, as many stop-words could help us understand the time information in Weibo texts.

(3) Word segmentation. In this paper, we introduced the Jieba segmentation module for word segmentation, which is based on word frequency statistics to segment Chinese words.

(4) Weight calculation. We got the word vector representation of every text after word segmentation, but each word had a different weight. Term frequency-inverse document frequency (TF-IDF) is a popular method for determining weights. The basic idea is the fewer the words appear, the more important it is in this document. The calculation formula is:

$$w_{ij} = tf_{ij} \times idf_{ij} = \frac{n_{i,j}}{\sum_k n_{kj}} \times lg \frac{|D|}{|\{j: t_i \in d_j\}|} \, , \tag{1}$$

In which the $n_{i,j}$ represents the number of occurrences of the word i in document j, $\sum_k n_{kj}$ represents the total number of words in document j, D represents the total number of documents, and $\{j: t_i \in d_j\}$ represents the number of documents with the word i.

130    (5)  Sentiment analysis. Traditional sentiment analysis only focuses on sentimental words, degree adverbs, and negative words, while another thinks that every word contributes to the sentiment value. We prefer the second method. In this paper, we use the Boson dictionary for sentiment analysis by Boson NLP Company, which gives the sentiment value of each word.

## 3.2 Data classifying and effect evaluation

On the selection of the word vector weight, the term frequency (TF) performed better than the TF-IDF. There were many kinds
135    of expressions when talking about rainstorm information, and TF-IDF might exaggerate the weight of specific expressions and make it difficult to learn. On the selection of the classification model, there are two commonly used classification models: clustering methods and supervised methods. We introduce the k-means algorithm representing the clustering method and the SVM algorithm representing supervised methods, then apply them to the classification task and evaluate the accuracy. A brief introduction of the two methods is given below.

### 3.2.1 The k-means clustering algorithm

The k-means clustering analysis is a simple and commonly used clustering algorithm based on the squared error criterion which is over 50 years old (MacQueen, 1967). The k-means algorithm can process the original data with weak regularity, and form the initial classification with certain regularity. This algorithm divides n samples into k categories as the squares within the group are less than the squares between groups. In the k-means method, the position of clustering centres and the number
145    of categories determine the clustering accuracy. For the first problem, we randomly initialize the initial clustering centres multiple times and took the mean to avoid the results falling into local extremums. For the latter problem, the method of a sum of the squared errors (SSE) and silhouette coefficient are popular for this task. In the SSE method, the point with the highest decreasing rate corresponds to the optimal number of categories, so the SSE method is also called the elbow law. In the silhouette coefficient method, the point with the highest value corresponds to the optimal number of categories.

### 3.2.2 The SVM clustering algorithm

SVM is a linear classifier defined in feature space with the largest interval, which distinguishes it from perceptron. With the help of different kernel functions, it can also handle the nonlinear problem. In the case of low dimensional or sparse features, SVM performs as well as a deep learning network and has a faster processing speed. As a supervised method, the model studied from the training set is verified with the test set to illustrate the overfitting and underfitting problems in the process. We then
155    choose a better combination of the penalty(trial) parameter C and the type of kernel for better results. There is two most common classification kernel in SVM. The linear kernel got a higher score in precision and selected more correct microblogs,

while the Gaussian kernel performed better in the recall rate index and made fewer mistakes. In our experiments, we chose the linear kernel for better performance in precision for the larger number of correct microblogs.

### 3.2.3 Effect evaluation index

160      There are four possible classification situations: predict a positive sample as positive (TP), predict a positive sample as negative (FN), predict a negative sample as positive (FP), and predict a negative sample as negative (TN). Based on these four indicators, we further give three global indicators.

Precision represents the proportion of original positive samples in the samples judged positive by the classifier, which can be calculated by:

165      $$P = \frac{TP}{TP + FP},$$ (2)

The recall ratio represents the proportion of the positive samples judged correctly by the classifier in the positive samples, which can be calculated by:

$$R = \frac{TP}{TP + FN},$$ (3)

F-score balances the precision and recall ratio by parameter β, which can be calculated by:

170      $$F = (1 + \beta^2)\frac{P \times R}{\beta^2 \times P + R},$$ (4)

The value of β represents the relative importance between precision and recall ratio. If $\beta > 1$, the recall ratio is more important; if $\beta < 1$, the users focus more on the precision. In this paper, we chose β's value as 1.

### 3.3 Risk assessment

Some microblogs contain location information by mentioning place names in the text or choosing to show their current location
175 when posting, which makes it possible to assess the spatial distribution of waterlogging risk. The risk assessment steps are as follows.

(1) Extracting location information. As mentioned above, there are two types of location information. If the users choose to show their current location when posting microblogs, the location information can be extracted while extracting the microblog texts. In a situation where the location has mentioned in the text, we build a dictionary of location names in
180      Beijing to get the location information. However, the dictionary can only be accurate up to the street name rather than the buildings. Therefore, we mainly depend on the current location shown by the users.

(2) Assessing the waterlogging risk in a single microblog. In this paper, we proposed that the waterlogging risk consists of three types of information: the size of rain, the duration, and the description of the current accumulation of water. If the rain is heavier and the duration is longer then, the current accumulation of water is more serious. we consider the
185      waterlogging risk in this region as higher.

In this study, we built an intensity dictionary for extracting the three types of information out of the text and the risk assessment. The dictionary contained three types of words shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The intensity dictionary for assessing waterlogging risk

| Degree | Precipitation information | Time information | Waterlogging information |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | Rain, rainy, light rain… | Recent, now, minutes… | |
| 1 | Storm, stormy, heavy rain… | Hours, incessant, all night… | Stagnant water, ankle, submerged… |
| 2 | Downpour, scary, broken sky… | All the day, the last few days… | River, ocean, boat, knee, tire… |

We divided the texts with precipitation and time information into three categories. From values 0 to 2, the risk of waterlogging was low, medium, and high. When it came to the waterlogging information, the precipitation had exceeded the drainage capacity, so the degree started from value 1. Adding the three degrees together, we gave the waterlogging risk value in different blocks. As there were three indexes and a value of 1 represents a moderate risk in each index, we assumed that areas with a value greater than 3 had a high risk of waterlogging.

(3) Assessing the spatial distribution of waterlogging risk. Combining the risk value and location information, we got the isolated risk point on the map. With the use of interpolation, we got the spatial distribution of waterlogging risk on the map. In this paper, we applied the inverse distance weighted method and the local polynomial method (Caruso et al., 1998) for comparison. IDW interpolation implements a basic law of geography; i.e. things that are close to one another are more alike than things that are far apart. All the distances have the same power, which is 2 in this paper. The polynomial interpolation assumes that every point on the surface conforms to some polynomial formula. Global methods use all the known values to estimate an unknown one, while in local methods only a specified number of nearest neighbors are used. We chose the local method as the area in our research contains 6 districts and the terrain might be different. To avoid the violent fluctuation of value caused by over-fitting, we chose power 1 in this method.

**4 Results and discussion**

The experiment used the Windows 10 operating system and run programs in the Python 3.9 environment. We mainly applied the Jieba and sklearn packages in the data processing. The spatial distribution of waterlogging risk was calculated and drawn by the ArcGIS.

In the pre-processing step, we first iterated over all the microblogs text and built a bag of words with 22,692 words. Then we performed word segmentation on each microblog and recorded the number of occurrences of each word and the location of the word. We introduced the sparse matrix in this process for a rapid calculation, which enabled the conversion of the microblog into a vector with 22,692 dimensions. Then we calculated the sentiment value of each microblog by the Boson dictionary. If

the value was greater than zero, it was recorded as a positive sample with label 1. Others were recorded as negative samples with a label 0. We combined them to get a vector with 22,693 dimensions for further classification.

### 4.1K-means clustering results

In the case of A, we extracted 19,791 Weibo data in the 48 hours from 0:00 on August 12 to 23:59 on August 13. After filtering out the repost and repeat microblogs, 9,951 Weibo data remained. We considered the category of Weibo with timely rainstorm information to be positive, and the others to be negative. By manual annotation, there were 7,410 negative and 2,541 positive categories in the case of A. Firstly, we applied the word segmentation process in Weibo data and convert the text into word-vector representation. Then we introduced the SSE and the silhouette coefficient method for determining the optimal number of categories. To avoid falling into local extremes, we randomized the initial centre points 20 times and take the mean value in both methods.

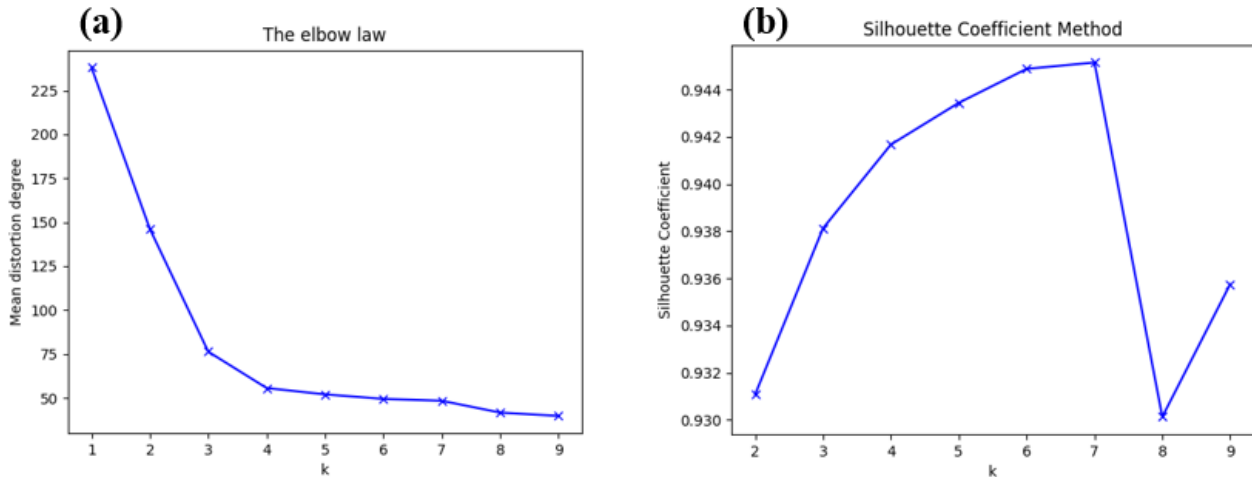



**Figure 2. Evaluation for different number of categories in k-means by the elbow law and silhouette coefficient method**

As shown in Figure 2, there were some puzzles between the two methods. In the silhouette coefficient, 7 seemed to be the most appropriate number. However, the elbow law illustrated that 2 was the best, followed by 3. This situation illustrated the uncertainty of k-means clustering. Bo (2018) once applied the k-means method for the classification of earthquake microblogs and found that the subjects of social media information were always mixed. Considering both methods, we chose the number of categories as 2.

The comparison of the positive proportion between the three groups is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Comparison of positive and negative proportions between three groups (unit: %)

|  | Overall | Class 1 | Class 2 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Positive proportion | 25.20 | 24.47 | 33.80 |

It can be seen from the comparison that the k-means method did not distinguish the text with or without the disaster information. Actually, in the classification task with multidimensional features, the k-means method usually returned a poor performance. It was more suitable for fixed and fewer features, for example, the clustering of geographical locations of disaster information (Lu et al., 2016).

## 4.2 Sentiment features, publisher features, and the SVM classification results

Unlike earthquakes, whilst spatially and temporally uncertain, a rainstorm is predictable. Thus, there are many types of information about the rainstorm disaster, for example, the warning news before the storm, the doubts about the forecast, and the rescue reports after the storm. Such information should be separated from the real-time rainstorm information, as they contribute little to the real-time disaster assessment and early warning. In this paper, we improved the extraction results of a rainstorm and waterlogging information in two aspects.

(1) Extracted more real-time information. Real-time had two concepts: extraction of the information more quickly and the information description of the situation short before its occurrence

(2) Migratory validation. The training set and test set did not come from the same disaster as the high-frequency words vary from case to case.

We introduced sentiment analysis into the classification process. By manual annotation, we first divided the data into two categories according to whether it carried real-time rainstorm information or not. In the category with useful information, the proportion of negative microblogs was 55.42% while in the other category, the number was 44.85%. We further separated the waterlogging microblogs from the rainstorm ones. In the waterlogging category, the proportion of negative microblogs was 70.12%. This difference in sentiment values could help us better classify rainstorm and waterlogging information. In sentiment analysis, if the sentiment value was greater than 0, the text would be marked as 1. The others were marked as 0.

We imported data from case A as a training set and data from case B as a test set. In comparison, we also set an experiment with 80% of the samples in case A as a training set, and 20% of the sample in case A as a test set. By manual annotation, there were 2,541 positive and 7,410 negative categories in case A, and 710 positive and 971 negative categories in case B. The experimental results are shown in Table 4.

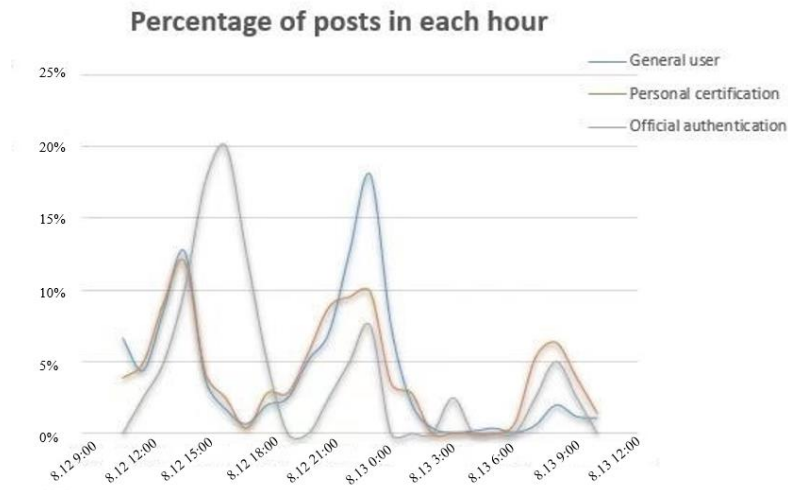
Table 4. Comparison of the macro-average indicators in two situations (unit: %)

|  | Macro-average precision | Macro-average recall | Macro-average F value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Within case A | 75.59 | 68.25 | 71.73 |
| Migratory validation | 62.06 | 71.90 | 66.62 |

From the table above, we can get a higher accuracy within one disaster data group. In migratory validation, the accuracy would be slightly worse, but it could be further improved with a larger training set. In the experiments, it was especially difficult to classify short texts with less than 10 words. People usually used some objects to represent rainstorms and waterlogging, such as shoes or windows, which rarely appeared in our training set. This situation reduced the accuracy of the classification. Overall,

260 it showed the feasibility of being applied in practice that we can further separate the real-time disaster information from all the disaster-related texts in such predictable disasters.

There were three types of publishers on the Weibo platform: official authentication, personal certification, and the general user. Previous studies have considered that information from three types of publishers was equally valuable (Na Xiao et al., 2018), while we discuss their difference in timeliness in this part. We counted the number of microblogs on rainstorms and

265 waterlogging posted by three types of users in each hour from 11 am on August 12 to 11 am on August 13. As the number of each publisher type was different, we calculated the percentage of posts in each hour for different types. The results are shown in Figure 3.

270 **Figure 3. Hourly microblogs post ratio to the total for three types of publishers**

There were two large-scale precipitations in this period. One with less rainfall lasted from 11 am to 2 pm. The other heavy precipitation lasted from 9 pm to early morning the next day. For the peak position, there was a lag of about 1 hour for official authentication users, which means that their microblogs might contain outdated information. For the peak height, the number of microblogs posted by the general users was positively correlated with precipitation. Therefore, when we used social network

275 data to evaluate the degree of urban rainstorms and waterlogging disasters, much attention might be paid to the microblogs of general users.

**4.3 Waterlogging risk assessment and map-labelling**

We were concerned about the location of waterlogging points in an urban rainstorm and waterlogging disaster, which was hard to obtain. We often used precipitation to estimate the depth of water in different blocks. By analysing the word frequency of

280 the microblogs with a description of a rainstorm and waterlogging disasters, we built a dictionary for waterlogging points detection. In the case of A, we selected 269 microblogs with location information. Through the open platform of Baidu Map, we got the latitude and longitude of each point. We mark them on the map by ArcGIS in Figure 4.

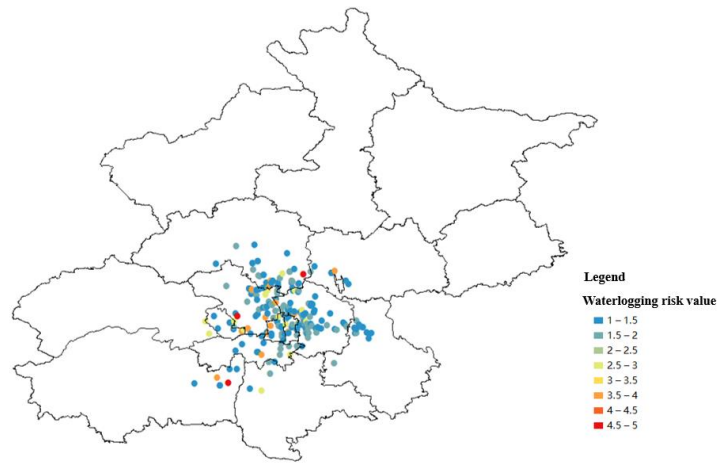



**Figure 4. Annotation of the waterlogging microblogs with location information and risk value on the original map**

285  It could be seen from figure 4 that most microblog' locations were concentrated in the core urban area of Beijing. We chose Haidian District, Chaoyang District, Dongcheng District, Xicheng District, Shijingshan District, and Fengtai District as examples where the microblogs with location information were concentrated. And we showed the interpolation results in the form of a map, the risk assessment map.

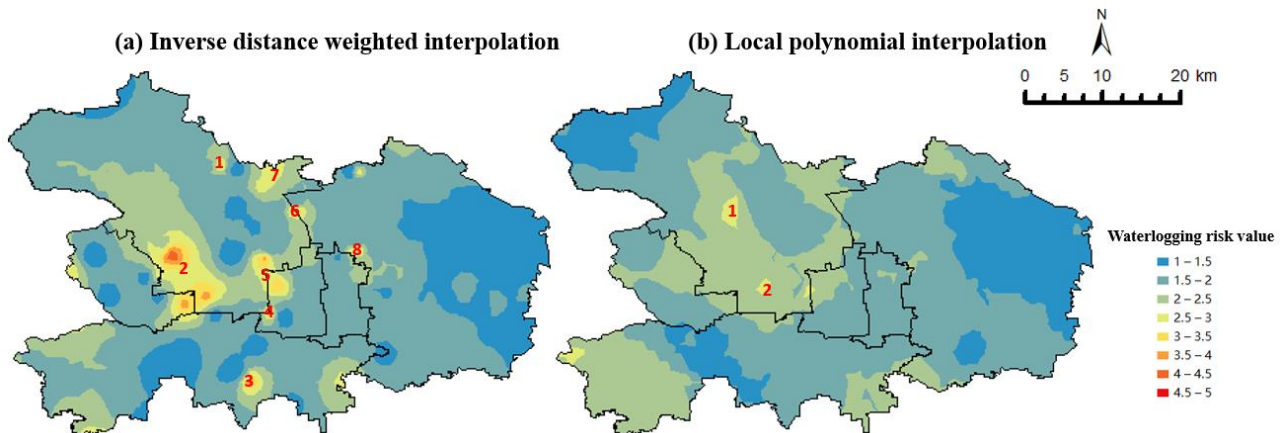



**Figure 5. Waterlogging risk assessment map by inverse distance weighted method and local polynomial method**

Figure 5 shows that the inverse distance weighted method could get more discriminative results than the local polynomial method, which made it easier to identify the key areas for emergency response. In the map of the inverse distance weighted method, there were mainly eight areas with a risk value higher than 3 and we marked them on the map from number one to

295  eight. Compared with the local polynomial method, the high-risk areas from the inverse distance weighted method were larger and more dispersed. To compare the accuracy of the two methods, we found the waterlogging point information in the six districts in report (Beijing Daily, 2020). The annotation results were shown in Figure 6.

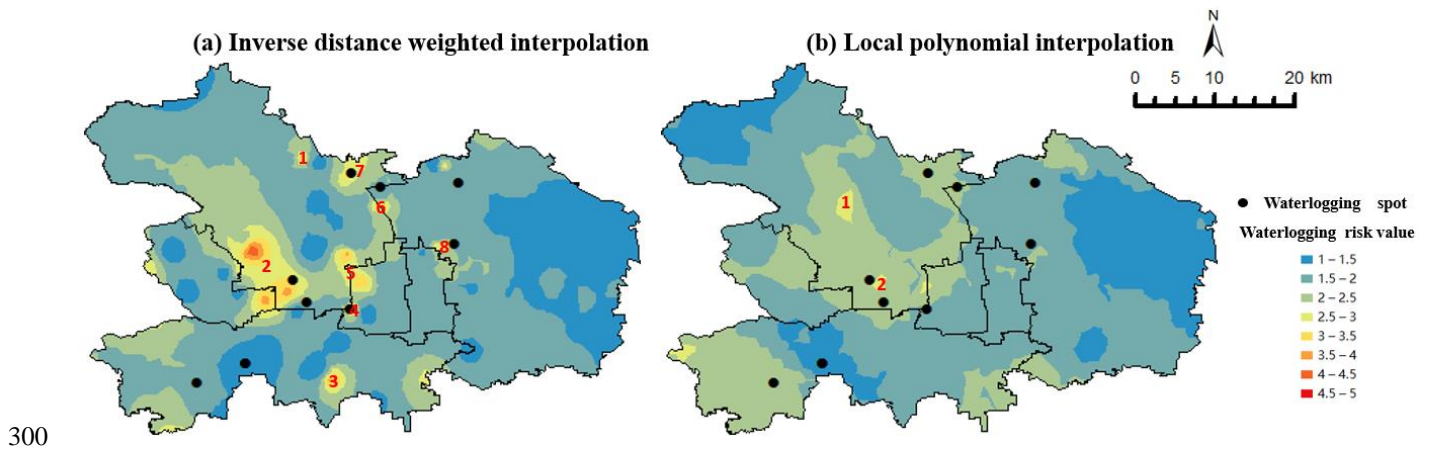



**Figure 6. Annotation of the waterlogging points on the risk assessment map**

We can conclude from Figure 6 that the inverse distance function was better. Of the total nine waterlogging points, four were in the area with a value over 3, located in Zone 2, Zone 4, Zone 6, and Zone 7. Three points were in the local extreme area, located in Zone4, Zone 7, and Zone 8. What's more, in eight areas with a greater risk of waterlogging, four had waterlogging

305 points, including Zone2, Zone 4, Zone 6, and Zone 7. This showed that the high-risk areas of waterlogging obtained from Weibo texts with location information were certainly accurate. We could also notice that some waterlogging points were located in the low-risk area. The first reason was the conditions for the formation of waterlogging were complex, in addition to precipitation, including topography, drainage systems, and other reasons as well. Another reason was the limit on the number of microblogs, which led to inaccurate assessments in marginal areas. Compared to deep learning, the calculation process of

310 SVM and inverse distance weighted interpolation is not complicated, which ensures the timeliness of the model's results. The results show that social media users, as social sensors, don't just transmit yes or no information. Instead, we can dig out more detailed information such as intensity by quantifying keywords related to emergency management.

## 5 Conclusion

This paper proposed a social network data analysing model for an urban rainstorm and waterlogging disaster's risk assessment

315 and real-time detection. The novelties of this study lay in three main aspects. First, we screened microblogs with timely disaster situations from all the disaster-related microblogs. Unlike earthquakes, rainstorms were predictable. Therefore, many users might express their concerns or expectations about the rainstorm through microblogs which carry little useful timely disaster information. Based on the word and sentiment vector, we could further separate the microblogs with timely disaster information. The classification accuracy in the same case reached 71.73%, and 66.62% in different cases. Second, from the perspective of

320 publisher features, general users published the timeliest disaster information while there was usually a delay for personal and official authentication users' microblogs. This result showed that researchers should pay more attention to microblogs by

general users when it comes to determining the starting time. Third, in the selected microblogs, we built an urban rainstorm and waterlogging disaster intensity dictionary for waterlogging risk assessment. By analysing the disaster levels of different microblogs, we got a real-time risk assessment map by ArcGIS and inverse distance weighted interpolation for emergency management and early warning. The waterlogging spots summarized in the report verified the model's accuracy. Social media users, as social sensors, didn't just transmit yes or no information. Instead, we could dig out more information such as heightened stress on emergency management during flooding.

In future work, we will attempt to build a larger urban rainstorm and waterlogging text database for higher accuracy in classification results. In word segmentation, we focus on reducing the dimensionality of word vectors by more accurate part-of-speech tagging for rapid classification.

*Code and data availability.* The data and code used in the study are available at https://github.com/zhr-thu/Real-time-urban-rainstorm-and-waterlogging-disasters-detection-by-Weibo-users.

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**Author contributions.** ZHR and SGF conceived the research framework and developed the methodology. ZHR was responsible for the code compilation and data analysis. ZHR and Priscilla O.O. had done the first draft writing. SGF managed the implementation of research activities. ZHR and Priscilla O.O. revised the manuscript. All authors discussed the results and contributed to the final version of the paper.

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