1: Sentiment Classification
Machine Learning and Real-world Data (MLRD)

Simone Teufel

Lent 2020
This course: Machine Learning and Real-world Data (MLRD)

- Three Topics:
  - Classification: sentiment classification – thousands of movie reviews.
  - Sequence analysis: proteins – hundreds of amino acid sequences.
  - Network analysis: social networks — thousands of users and links between them.

- Three different types of machine learning: straightforward approaches you can implement quickly.

- Emphasis on methodology: relevant for all approaches.

- Coupling with Algorithms and Data structures

- Practical-based, each session starts with a short lecture introducing the main concepts.
Computer Science as an empirical subject

- The style of solving tasks in this course is *empirical*.
- You will start from a hypothesis or an idea which you will test.
- Then you perform some manipulations on your data.
- You observe and record the results.
- You need a **lab book** to record your manipulations, observations and measurements.
  - physical book (many advantages) or electronic record
IMDb (= Internet Movie Data Base) has about 4.7 million titles (http://www.imdb.com/pressroom/stats/).

Reviews: written in natural language by the general public.

Sentiment classification — the task of automatically deciding whether a review is positive or negative, based on the text of the review.

Standard task in Natural Language Processing (NLP).
Casablanca (1942)

User Reviews

1,152 Reviews

Ordered By: Helpfulness

10/10

A masterwork for all time...

kdryan 10 November 2004

There is a scene about halfway through the movie Casablanca that has become commonly known as 'The Battle of the Anthems' throughout the film's long history. A group of German soldiers has come into Rick's Café American and are drunkenly singing the German National Anthem at the top of their voice. Victor Lazlo, the leader of the French Resistance, cannot stand this act and while the rest of the club stares appalled at the Germans, Lazlo orders the band to play Le Marseillaise (sic?!) the French National Anthem. With a nod from Rick, the band begins playing, with Victor singing at the top of his voice. This in turn, inspires the whole club to begin singing and the Germans are forced to surrender and sit down at their table, humbled by the crowd's dedication. This scene is a turning point in the movie, for reasons that I leave to you to discover.

10/10

We'll Always Have Casablanca

RWiggen 29 March 2004

Similar in style but the scenario is quite familiar with Casablanca now if you ask me.
Review sentiment

This movie...
.....
.... monstrous
....
....don't go see it...

NEG

Review author
Review sentiment

This movie...
.....
.....monstrous
.....don't go see it...

Review reader

NEG

Review author
Review sentiment

This movie...
..... monstrous
..... don't go see it...

Review reader

Review author
Review sentiment

This movie...
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NEG

Review reader

NEG

Review author

NEG

us
... He’s incredible in fights. ... Also his relationship with Irons, who plays Alfred, is just wonderful in general. Irons was exceptional in the role.
A bad review

This movie tries so hard... It completely fails on every single level. The movie is tedious and boring with characters that I just did not care about at all. ...
Experiments with movie reviews

- Lots of possible NLP experiments...
- Today: use data about individual words to find sentiment.
  - Sentiment **lexicon** lists over 8000 words as positive or negative.
  - Hypothesis: a review that contains more positive than negative words is positive overall.
Experiments with movie reviews

- Lots of possible NLP experiments . . .
- Today: use data about individual words to find sentiment.
  - Sentiment lexicon lists over 8000 words as positive or negative.
  - Hypothesis: a review that contains more positive than negative words is positive overall.

word=foul intensity=weak polarity=negative
word=mirage intensity=strong polarity=negative
word=aggression intensity=strong polarity=negative
word=eligible intensity=weak polarity=positive
word=chatter intensity=strong polarity=negative

Note: a lexicon is a list of words with some associated information.
... He’s incredible in fights. ... Also his relationship with Irons, who plays Alfred, is just wonderful in general. Irons was exceptional in the role.

- incredible positive
- wonderful positive
- exceptional positive
Sentiment lexicon words in the bad review

This movie tries so hard... It completely fails on every single level. The movie is tedious and boring with characters that I just did not care about at all. ...

- try **negative**
- fail **negative**
- tedious **negative**
- boring **negative**
- care **positive**
But it doesn’t always work ... This movie tries so hard... The ending should be exciting and fun and amazing.. and it just... wasn’t. It completely fails on every single level. The movie is tedious and boring with characters that I just did not care about at all. ...
No system predicts sentiment perfectly.

How do we know the extent to which we’ve got it right?

The author of the review told us the truth explicitly via a star rating (that’s why NLP researchers like movie reviews).

The rating has been extracted along with the review text.

We will calculate a metric called $A$ (accuracy).
Star rating

Review reader

This movie...
..... monstrous
..... don't go see it...

NEG

us

Review author

NEG
Accuracy

The number of correct decisions $c$ divided by total decisions (correct plus incorrect ($i$)):

$$A = \frac{c}{c + i}$$

This metric is called $A$ (accuracy).

We know which decisions are “correct” because we can use the star rating as our definition of truth.
Tokenisation: getting the words out

- Your code will look up words from your review document in the lexicon.
- So it needs to divide the text into words.
- Splitting on whitespace is not enough.
  - Words at the beginning of a sentence appear in upper case.
  - Words occurring before and after punctuation may be directly attached to the punctuation.
  - and many other things . . .
- Your code will use a well-known basic tokeniser to split the text into individual words.
- Note: type vs token (see ‘Further notes’ in Session 2)
Your tasks for today

**Task 1:**
- explore the review data (1800 documents)
- make judgment about sentiment of 4 reviews
- explore the sentiment lexicon
- guess 10 sentiment-indicating words
- write a program that tests the sentiment lexicon approach
- write a program for using the star ratings to evaluate how well your program is doing
- and keep a record of what you do
Simple Classifier Virtual Programming Lab

Dataset: 900 positive, 900 negative reviews

Simple Classifier
Method:
- Read a lexicon for positive & negative words
- Ignore neutral words
- Loop through dataset, incrementing/decrementing a sentiment value
- Assign sentiment to review if sentiment value ≥ threshold, otherwise negative
- Set threshold to 0 as default

Improving Classifier Options:
1. Change threshold to account for a natural bias to use more +ive words
2. Weighted lexicon relative to strong/weak sub-

Results
Simple Classifier Accuracy: 63.5%

Improved Classifier

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Observation/discussion
- Possible Academy to use more positive words in reviews
  For example, the negative review #652 starts with "Perhaps best remembered..."
Practicalities

- 16 lectures (approx 25 minutes) [Mon, Fri]; 2:05pm
- 16 demonstrated sessions in the Intel Lab: from immediately after lecture to 4:30pm [Mon, Fri]
- 12 tasks and 4 catch-up sessions
- 12 ticks: you should get them all
- Most tasks have automated tester: pass this first!
- Please keep up to date – Tester will close 2 weeks after relevant session (3 weeks for first 2 ticks). Unlock via DOS.
- Ticking during demonstrated sessions, queue on whiteboards.
- Lots more on Moodle . . .