

A Comparative Study of SLMs and LLMs in Customer Review Analysis

Yang Xiao. Yunke Li. Shaovuiie Chen Khoury College of Computer Science, Northeastern University, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Supervised by: Prof Ryan Rad and Hayden Barker

Deloitte

LLMs

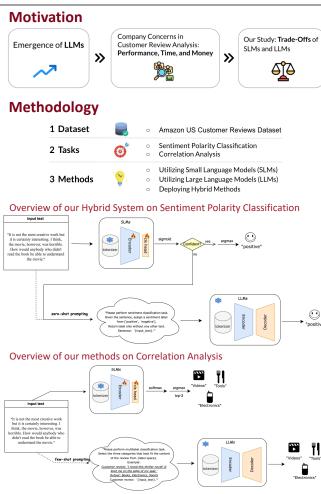
Flan-UL2

 $CPURuntime(s) \downarrow$

44.14

7028.37

350



Models Selection SLMs: LLMs: distilBERT (67M) Flan-T5 (11B) FLECTRA (1B) Flan-UL2 (20B) Fine-tuned versions on Open-sourced from Google **Experimental Results** Task 1: Sentiment Polarity Classification Comparative results on the Sentiment Polarity Classification task SLMs LLMs 97.25 Hybrids 97.00 Flan-UL2 96.75 Hybrid-UL2 96.50 96.25 A Hybrid-T5 96.00 95.75 DistilBERT 50 150 200 250 300 100 Run Time on A100 GPU(s) Model $GPURuntime(s) \downarrow$ $CPURuntime(s) \downarrow$ macro F1[↑] $Acc_{total} \uparrow$ $Acc_{pos} \uparrow$ $Acc_{neg} \uparrow$ DistilBERT(67M 0.8970 0.957 0.963 0.909 7.41 44.63 ELECTRA(1B) 0.9001 0.9573 0.958 0.949 12.75 86.28 Flan-T5(11B) 0.9162 0.9653 0.966 0.959 253.22 6479.03 Flan-UL2(20B) 0.9321 0.9727 0.974 0.959 301.77 Hybrid-T5 0.9058 0.9605 0.963 0.9394 29.625 884.114 Hybrid-UL2 0.9140 0.9648 0.969 0.9293 42.629 1460.736 * Hvbrid-T5 (Flan-T5 & DistilBERT) Hvbrid-UL2 (Flan-UL2 & DistilBERT) Key Findings 1. SLMs struggle with long, complex sentences in reviews, but LLMs handle

2. SLMs have difficulty classifying reviews with many negative words, while

LLMs understand the overall context and judge accurately. 3. Hybrid methods trade a bit of accuracy for notably shorter runtime.

them better.

Task 2: Correlation Analysis SLMs vs. LLMs on Correlation Analysis Task 94.5 DistilBERT 94.0 ELECTRA 93.5 93.0 92.5 92.0 91.0 Flan-T5 50 100 150 200 250 Run Time on A100 GPU(s) Model $Acc_{top1} \uparrow$ $Acc_{top3} \uparrow$ $GPURuntime(s) \downarrow$ $Acc_{top2} \uparrow$ DistilBERT(67M) 0.907 0.944 17.59 0.847 0.909 0.935 33.52 ELECTRA(1B) Flan-T5(11B) 0.724 0.849 0.913 212.08 Flan-UL2(20B) 0.773 0.869 0.913 375.23 Key Findings 1. While SLMs maintain more consistent performance, LLMs show variability, excelling in some categories but underperforming in others. 2. For domain-specific tasks, fine-tuned SLMs is more effective than

few-shot LLMs. **Future Work**

1.Test these models in real-world scenarios across different industries to study their practical efficacy and scalability.

2. Explore methods where SLMs and LLMs can learn from each other's strengths.



Code and implementation details are publicly available: https://github.com/rorschach-xiao/CS7980-Capstone



Contact Us







Yunke Li