**Assessment 3: WebCrawler and NLP System**

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**Overview**

**Aim and Motivation**

The aim of this study is to deconstruct movie scripts that are associated with Oscar nominated and winning films via a subfield of sentiment analysis known as emotion detection (ED), whose primary goal is to extract the perceived emotions of textual data. The motivation behind this study is to better understand the commonalities and differences between the perceived emotions in these scripts via statistical analysis. Machine learning (ML) will be implemented to determine what, if any correlations between features suggest as to what comprises an award-winning narrative that would generate enough predictive accuracy to be a viable tool on unseen data. Current applications include hate speech detection, emotion retrieval from suicide notes, multimedia tagging, and analyzing e-commerce review sentiments (Yang et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2019; Allouch et al., 2018). Additionally, as noted *Figure 1* below, the ratio of text-based emotion detection is a limited study as compared to emotion detection in general, as seen in both IEEE Explore, and the Scopus sample databases (Acheampong et al., 2020).

Chart, bar chart

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Figure 1: The IEEE Explore Database is a digital repository that provides technical, journalistic, and conference-related materials related to computer science, electrical engineering, and electronics, containing over 5.7 million individual items (“Advancing Technology”, 2022). The Scopus Database is a provider of citation indices and abstracts pertaining to academic books, journals, and conference proceedings worldwide, containing over 39,000 titles (“Research Intelligence”, 2020). The increase in the frequency of research output in ED in multimodal forms such as speech, body language, and facial expressions as compared to text-based ED from 2010-2020 is evident in both academic databases.

Furthermore, the disparity in text-based ED is outlined mathematically as

 (1)

where *T* is the set of text to which the emotions are to be derived, *A* is the set of authors of *T*, *E* is the set of all emotions and *r* is a function that describes the emotions *E* of author *A* from text *T*. (Kao et al, 2009). The ED from text problem is derived from linking the input text to the actual projected emotion that leads the author to pursue specific artistic avenues in writing. Subsets of both *T* and *E* become non-trivial as they are either loosely defined, ambiguous, subject to language evolution, and finally, there are no set relations or classifications that encompass all human emotions.

**Emotional Model Theories**

When undertaking text-based ED, it is vital to define the model of emotion for use, as described in *Text-based emotion detection: Advances, challenges, and opportunities* by Anchempong et al. (2020). There are two primary models used in ED: discrete emotion, and dimensional emotion models. Discrete emotion models involve bucketing emotions into discrete categories, while dimensional emotion models assume that emotions are not independent, and are related to one another, hence should be mapped in a spacial format. There exist unidimensional and multidimensional models that are utilized to depict the degree of relation between emotions, and they typically reflect on two behavioral states, good, and bad. Both models are affected by relative degrees of their occurrences; however multidimensional models are more prominent and frequently used.

The two commonly used discrete emotion models include the Paul Ekman and Robert Plutchik models. The Paul Ekman model distinguishes emotions based off of six basic categories. This theory hypothesises that there exist six fundamental emotions that originate from separate neural networks in the brain, and result from how one perceives an event, hence emotions are manifested independently of one another. The six emotions are happiness, sadness, anger, disgust, surprise and fear. Furthermore, this theory states that more complex emotions may be derived from the synergy of the fundamental emotions.

The Robert Plutchik model suggests that there exist few primary emotions which take place as opposing pairs, and produce complex emotions by combination, as shown in *Figure 2* below. He adds two emotions to the Ekman model, acceptation, and anticipation. Plutchik postulates that for each emotion, there exists various degrees of intensities that occur because of how events are formulated by the experiencer.

Additionally, there exists the Orton, Clore, and Collins model, which opposed both Plutchik and Ekman’s basic emotion theory, proposing that emotions arise from the way they were perceived by the individual, and by the degree of their intensity. All three may be implemented in ED system design, but the OCC model allows for a broad spectrum of emotion representation, with 22 in total.

The primitive dimensional emotional model is presented by Russell as a two-dimensional representation known as the circumplex of affect, shown in *Figure 2* below. The model separates emotions in the arousal valence domains, with the arousal splitting the emotions by activations and deactivations, where the valence differentiates emotions by pleasantness and unpleasantness. In this model, emotions are not independent, but related. Discrete models have been accepted for their emotional classification capabilities because they are simple, but are not exhaustive of the full range of emotional classes available. They can map the intensities or degrees of occurrences as compared to dimensional models. Dimensional models are suggested for projects that involve comparing similarities in emotions.

Diagram

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Figure 2: Plutchik’s wheel of emotions and Russell’s circumplex model of affects.

**Text-based ED Techniques**

There are three primary techniques that are explored for text-based emotion detection, rule construction, machine learning, and a hybrid approach. The rules-based approach uses grammatical and logical rules to adhere to for ED. This method uses both keyword recognition and lexical affinity. Keyword recognition is reliant on emotion dictionaries or lexicons, some of them being Wordnet-Affect, EmoSenticNet, and the National Research Council of Canada lexicon. The emotion lexicons have emotion key words where the occurrences of them in text occurs at the sentence level. Once the keyword is determined, the sentence is labeled. A challenge that will be faced using this method will be the constraint imposed by the number of available emotions in the dictionary, navigation of word sense ambiguity, and processing of linguistic information when sentences are short or sparse of key words. To augment these limitations, the lexical affinity method may be explored, as random emotional words are assigned a probabilistic affinity on to of identifying keywords.

An example of challenges in the rule-based approach was set out in *Emotion and Sentiment Analysis from a Film Script: A Case Study,* by Yu et al. (2017), whose aim was to examine the emotions in the thriller movie script *A Hard Day*, as laid out by Plutchiks wheel of emotions. Manual sentiment (positive, negative, and neutral) and intensity tagging were conducted by undergraduate students, and was compared with the results of the python-based NLTK (Natural Language ToolKit) package VADER (Valence Aware Dictionary and sEntiment Reasoner) 2.5. The result was a 42.6% matching rate when comparing both ED and intensity measures after averaging the negative and positive emotions. The barrier faced in this study was analogous to finding a universal relation function *r* for subsets of text and authors as outlined above in Kao et al. (2009). Future aspirations of the researchers included adding more human taggers and adopting ML algorithms.

ML-based models have been widely implemented for text-based classifications, where supervised machine learning models have performed better in emotion detection rates as compared to traditional unsupervised machine learning (TUML). The more widely explored unsupervised methods have been traditional in nature (i.e., Support Vector Machines, Naïve Bayes), which have proven to be less robust, and do not explicitly extract semantic information from texts which is needed for effective emotion detection. The current science supports deep learning (DL) approaches as layers can extract, or learn, the intrinsic properties that text carries, hence some models suggested by the initial paper outline DL outperforming TUML.

The final avenue that is typically considered is a hybrid approach, where rule construction and ML will deliver a unified model which takes in the strengths of each and mitigates their limitations. Acheampong et al. (2020) also indicates in its survey that this results in “satisfactory results” referring to TUML and rule construction methods, and points to a void in exploring effective approaches with deep learning models, as this is the latest advancement and optimal modalities have not been established.

**Expansion of Current and Prospective Domains**

To expand research in the aforementioned domains and their

**Domains**

Four websites were considered candidates for text-based web scraping: Simply Scripts (<https://www.simplyscripts.com>), Script-O-Rama (<http://www.script-o-rama.com>), The Internet Movie Script DataBase (<https://imsdb.com>), and Scripts Plug (<https://www.scriptslug.com>). It was confirmed with the *response.status\_code()* method found in the *requests* library the HTTP response status code for all candidate sites was 200 indicating a successful request and response to the requested data .One reason for utilizing these databases was significant script volume pertaining to Oscar-winning scripts and similarly for unremarkable titles. All websites were HTML (HyperText Markup Language) and XML (Extensible Markup Language)-based hence there were multiple options available for parsing their data: Python’s *request* module, BeautifulSoup, Scrapy, and Selenium. Determining the avenue that will be more efficient and beneficial to use came down to the structure of the website of interest and the ability to effectively integrate the tool with Python and Jupyter Notebook (i.e., Selenium handles core JAVA applications well), whereas in terms of speed and efficiency, Scrapy would be more beneficial as it supports multithreading and pre-build requests and parsing modules. BeautifulSoup is regarded for its comprehensive documentation and ease-of-interpretation, while the *requests* module is known for performing common HTTP requests (i.e., GET, POST, PUT, PATCH, and DELETE) in a low-code manner.

*Simply Scripts* is a site containing downloadable movie scripts, screenplays, produced and unproduced movies, television shows, anime, plays and radio shows. Currently it contains a total of 1176 movie scripts with 95 Oscar contenders. The scripts are displayed in HTML, .txt, and .pdf format, which are not hosted on the Simply Scripts server, hence the website acts as an aggregator instead of the originator of the content. This will complicate the scraping process as each script page may potentially have a different site structure (i.e., varying tags used in markup, URL trees have varying levels and names, different *Robots.txt* parameters), and viewing modes (i.e., online viewing, file download). Simply Scripts displays an expired copyright (1999-2020) stating “*No graphics, pages, html, banners, etc., found on this site may be reproduced, posted, or sold without the consent of Simply Scripts*” (“SimplyScripts Disclaimer”)*.* One would have to refer to the hosted site for their disclaimer to determine legality of use, which is tedious for large document retrieval tasks. Finally, there were no scraping security obstacles or limitations to overcome (i.e., CAPTCHA, crawl rate or request rate declarations in Robots.txt).

*Script-O-Rama* contains draft, revised, and final script versions of 1430 movie titles. Additionally, there are TV, haiku, and anime works. The scripts are displayed in *HTML, .txt, .doc, .pdf,* and *.zip* format, which are not hosted on the *Script-O-Rama* server, hence the same programmatic and validation of legality challenges are faced as *Simply Scripts*. There were no scraping security obstacles or limitations to overcome, and there was no copyright or legal policy present.

*The Internet Movie Script DataBase* is claimed to be the “*Web’s largest movie script resource*”, with over 1200 movie titles. The site also contains select TV and French transcripts. All movie scripts are displayed in HTML format and are hosted on the server, which suggested ease of scraping. A fair use policy was posted, pursuant to Section 107 of the United States Copyright Act of 1976.

Scripts Plug was the final website to be considered from the candidate list. All the movie scripts were hosted on the site server, and were organized by genre, studio, and Oscar lists. The scripts URLs also followed an intuitive format for ease of collection and were all in *.pdf* format and were contained on all *HTML*-based pages. It was the only website that contained a comprehensive privacy and legal terms of service policy. For these reasons, it was chosen to be the primary source of data retrieval. Finally, there were no scraping security obstacles or limitations experienced.

To put into perspective the number of total movie scripts that each of the sites represent, there are an estimated 500,000 movies released worldwide, suggesting that readily available content is sparse, and/or these sites put a heavy focus on Hollywood titles. Although each of the above sites and downloaded scripts contain copyright-protected content, the fair dealing exception in the Copyright Act permits the use of copyright material for the purposes of research and is specifically stated as a user’s right according to the *Copyright Act of Canada* (Legislative Services, 2022).

**WebCrawler Workflow**

The code development was executed in *Jupyter Notebook* version 6.4.11 utilizing *Python* version 3.10.2 (tags/v3.10.2:a58ebcc, Jan 17 2022, 14:12:15) [MSC v.1929 64 bit (AMD64)]. A private GitHub repository was set up for version control and backup storage purposes, which may be found at [*https://github.com/JagrajGill/ScreenplayEmotionDetection/*](https://github.com/JagrajGill/ScreenplayEmotionDetection/) . To ensure PEP (Python Enhancement Proposal) compliance, the *nbQA* (notebook Quality Assurance) package was applied through the command line, which acts as a wrapper for the *flake8* style guide enforcement tool specifically for iPython and .*ipynb* extension-style notebooks.

The tool used for data extraction in this study was *BeautifulSoup Version 4,* with the package name *beautifulsoup4* (*BS4*).*BS4* is a Python-based library that is implemented for parsing *HTML* and *XML*-based files. It was installed with the *PIP* package manager along with the *lxml* parser as it is superior in execution time to the native Python parser (*ElementTree 1.3*) primarily due to being executed completely at the C level, without any interaction with the Python code (Behnel, n.d.).

The initial step to text scraping was to ensure that the status code of 200 was returned from the candidate sites, and *BeautifulSoup* along with the *lxml*  parser was able to print the page content for preview, as shown in *Figure 3* below.

Text

Description automatically generated

Figure 3: The candidate list sites are stored in a list. A function, *get\_url\_status\_preview*() takes in a URL argument and initially stores the *request.get()* method output in the *response* variable. If the *response.status\_code* is not 200, then the function states that the site is unable to fulfill the request, otherwise the response content is parsed, stored in the *soup* variable, and returned. A for loop appends an empty list *url\_info* with the *soup* content and prints the result for preview. Consideration for a crawl delay was made, and it was determined to exclude this feature in the scraper for multiple reasons: there was no documentation requesting a timeout, the chosen site Scripts Plug was sparse on data loaded on each page, and there was not an extensive amount of bandwidth needed for document retrieval.

Additionally, the *user-agent* header was not requested by the four sites. The next step was to obtain a list of URLs that are on the Script Plug homepage with the *soup.find\_all()* method shown in *Figure 4* below.



Figure 4: A URL list is defined, the soup function is instructed to find all *a* class tags and extract the results for the tags containing the *href* attribute only. The *get()* method returns the URL found for *a* and stores it’s value in the list.

The above was accomplished for 493 mixed genre tiles and 55 Oscar-nominated films for the years 2017-2022. This resulted in a URL list of web pages that contained a .pdf link of the movie script. In order to rectify any class imbalances, the random.shuffle() method was invoked to mix the URL list , and then an equivalent number of unremarkable movies was selected from it. Figure 5 uses a similar list comprehension method as the URL list retrieval in Figure 4.



Figure 5: A PDF list is defined; the soup function is instructed to find all *a* class tags and extract the results for the tags containing the *.pdf* extension. The *re.compile()* method allows for setting the regular expression to find the raw string of the .pdf extension. This list was generated for Oscar-nominated and unremarkable movies.

The final step was to take the PDf hyperlinks and download them to a local directory project folder. This was executed with a for loop as shown in Figure 6 below.

Text

Description automatically generated

Figure 6: For all the URLs contained in the Oscar-nominated and unremarkable movies script list, if the response status code permits, then a file path is defined using the *os* library, and the file obtained from the response variable is opened to be written in binary mode to the output directory.

**Data Wrangling**

Before the PDF text could be utilized for statistical analysis and machine learning implementation, it needed to be extracted from the individual documents into a single columnar table format. This was accomplished with *Apache* *Tika* parser, a content extraction library for structured text and file metadata. The Apache Tika REST service is able to be called natively within Python, but required Java Runtime Services to be installed prior to use. *Figure 7* below describes the steps pursued.

Graphical user interface, text, application

Description automatically generated

Figure 7: The extension of the files of interest and path to the files are defines. The parameters of the Tika parser are stored in the headers dictionary. The parameters instruct Tika to convert any inline images in the document to text and generate a timeout of the OCR (Optical Character Recognition) after 300 seconds has passed. An empty files list is created and a for loop appends the list with the files matching the .pdf extension. This is done by the os.walk() method going through the directory tree starting at the path specified in a top-down fashion, then the glob.glob() method retrives the files with the matching argument of the directory path and extension (.pdf). An empty DataFrame is created, a for loop requests the Tika parser to execute on the files list, store the content in a text variable, and finally assign both the filenames and text to an index, *idx*. The *enumerate()* method provides a running count of the iterations. Finally, the DataFrame is stored as an *.xlsx* document.

Two movies were unable to be parsed due to the OCR tool (The Santa Clause and Touch of Evil). Preprocessing steps were as follows:

1. Removing all Punctuation

Punctuation in language partitions text into sections, paragraphs, sentences, and sometimes lists. The *str.replace()* method allows one to use a regular expression (*REGEX*) to remove all non-alphanumeric characters in a string, by replacing it with an empty space, or whitespace. Regular expressions are an ordered arrangement of characters that describes a particular search design. This is a necessary step to obtain correct word frequencies and individual words, which is described in *Figure 8* below.

Graphical user interface, text

Description automatically generated

Figure 8: A punctuation removal function takes in a string argument, and an attempt to replace the non-alphanumeric characters with whitespace is made, returning the cleaned text. The *removing\_puncutation()* function is applied across the entire DataFrame.

2. Lowering Text

Lowering the text tackles sparsity issues, where words may be read and interpreted similarly, however, written in a different manner. A vectorizer or encoder may interpret such words as different entities, hence assigning different numerical transformations to them. The *lower()* method is used in the text column as shown in *Figure 9* below.

Text

Description automatically generated

Figure 9: A lambda function is defined to lower the text if the type of the text is considered to be a string, otherwise return the original text. This function is applied using the *applymap()* method, which implements the function on the DataFrame in an element wise fashion.

3. Removing all Numbers

The decision to remove numbers from a string of text is dependant on whether numbers will provide valuable information in text analysis or in the model development phases. In sentiment analysis, it is not considered , hence as shown in *Figure 10* below:



Figure 10: A REGEX expression defines all numbers and the *str.replace()* method is used to replace the numbers in the text columns with whitespace.

4. Removing Single Letters

It was noticed in the previous step that there were letters present next to places in the string of script text where non-alphanumeric characters were removed. To remedy these single letters, two REGEX were invoked in sequence as shown in *Figure 11* below.

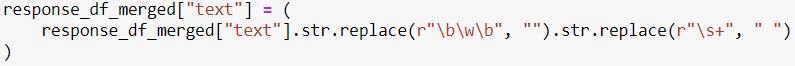


Figure 11: The first REGEX denotes finding the raw string of a word characters that are encompassed by a word boundary, and the second REGEX finds the sequences of more than one whitespace and replaces them with uniform whitespace.

5. Keeping only English Language Words

In order to apply English-based lexicons to the processed text, the non-English words were removed. This was accomplished due to developed emotion detection resources to be primarily focused on English text. The process was accomplished as shown in *Figure 12*.

Text, letter

Description automatically generated

Figure 12: A corpus of English language words are downloaded and assigned to a variable, *words*. The apply() method takes in the lamba function as an argument, which returns only the strings that are contained in *words,* and joins the strings back together in the *text* column.

6. Tokenization

Tokenization is a type of text parsing, which separates a piece of text into smaller units called tokens. It was applied to the *text* column as described in *Figure 15* below in order for a vectorizer to properly segment and assign the representative vectors.

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated

Figure 13: NaN columns of the DataFrame are filled with an empty string as tokenization requires strings to be present in all observations. The *word\_tokenize* function is applied from the NLTK package.

7. Removing Stopwords

Words that are contained in a negative dictionary are referred to as stopwords. Implementing them in an ED-based NLP model will be insignificant for the addition of predictive capabilities, hence are removed according to Figure 14 below.

Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 14: A list of English stopwords are downloaded and defined. Using list comprehension, a lambda function returns all strings that are not contained in the stopwords dictionary. The *apply()* method executes the function across the *text\_tokenized* column.

8. Lemmatization

Lemmatization is a process that reduces words down to a common root form or base, along with taking into account the vocabulary and morphological analysis of the word. *Figure 15* shows the implementation of the *WordNetLemmatizer()* to the tokenized text.

Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Figure 15: The *WordNetLemmatizer()* is applied via list comprehension to the words in the *text\_tokenized* column.

After text preprocessing, the Python-based emotion detection package LeXmo was invoked on the text column to feature engineer the emotion and sentiment polarity column scores (positive and negative), as shown in *Figure 16*. The LexMo package contains 14,182 unigrams, approximately 25,000 word senses, and is based off Robert Plutchik’s wheel of emotions model containing eight primary emotions: anticipation, anger, fear, trust, disgust, surprise, sadness and joy. The annotations provided were manually conducted via crowdsourcing on Mechanical Turk. The association scores are binary (0 for no association, and 1 for associated), and there are four levels of association for the senses (not associated, weakly, moderately, and strongly associated) (Mohammad & Turney, 2011). There are no hyperparameters to consider as this is a ridged model.

Text

Description automatically generated

Figure 16: The LeXmo emotion and sentiment detection for the script text is applied via a lambda function.

**Data Summarization**

After all preprocessing steps were applied, the cleaned corpus consisted of 220,986 total tokens from 105 distinct movie scripts (54 Oscar-nominated, and 51 unremarkable titles), and an average document length of 2085 tokens and 13,064 distinct tokens.

Chart, histogram

Description automatically generated

Figure 17:

Chart, bar chart

Description automatically generated Chart, bar chart

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Figure 18:

Figure 19:

Summary of the generated corpus • Visualisation of the corpus • Descriptive statistics of the corpus Discussion of the corpus are inclusive of population sampling considerations and population strata

**Machine Learning Structure**

Structure of the machine learning • Hyperparameters of the machine learning algorithm • Computation environment

**Evaluation of Model**

Identifies and discusses: • Detailed evaluation of the machine learning performance • Visualisation of the model performance • Detailed effects of the data limitations and sampling biases on the machine learning model performance

**Discussion and Conclusion**

One possible approach that may have been used to label

**Ethical considerations**

This study will consider the influence and popularity terms to be synonymous to one another. It is important to create this ambiguity as influence could be subjective to the audience, and popularity may be determined by uncontrolled factors such as availability, outreach, population size, and interpretability barriers. Although some modeling techniques such as a Bayesian fixed effects model may be able to find a signal for such attributes, this is beyond the scope of complexity that is targeted with this investigation, and does not directly target the aim and motivation.

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