Topic: Sentiment Analysis

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How It Works and Its Real-World Applications

These days, online everyone is sharing what they think all the time. Because of this, knowing what people generally feel about something has become really useful. Sentiment analysis, which is also called opinion mining, is like teaching computers to figure out if people are happy, sad, angry, or feeling other emotions when they write online. It's a part of how computers understand human language.

How Sentiment Analysis Works

Data Collection

To figure out how people feel about something, we first need to gather words they've written. We can find these words in places like:

- Social media sites (like Twitter and Facebook)
- Reviews of products or services
- Forms where customers share their thoughts
- News stories and online journal

Text Preprocessing

Before we can look at text and understand it, we need to clean it up a bit. This helps us get more accurate results. Here's how we do it:

- <u>Cleaning:</u> We get rid of things like commas, periods, emojis, and other symbols that aren't letters or numbers.
- <u>Breaking into Pieces:</u> We split the text into single words or short groups of words. Think of it like taking a sentence and listing all the individual words.
- <u>Finding Root Words:</u> We try to get words down to their basic form. For example, "running," "runs," and "ran" all come from the root word "run." This helps us treat these words as the same thing.
- <u>Turning Words into Numbers:</u> Computers understand numbers better than words. So, we use different methods to turn words into numbers.

Sentiment Classification Methods

Rule-Based Approach

- We use lists of words where each word is already marked as having a certain feeling (like "happy" being positive and "sad" being negative).
- Example: If the word "happy" is in the list and has a score of +2 (very positive), and the word "angry" has a score of -3 (very negative), we can use these scores to guess the overall feeling of the text.
- Tools: One tool that does this well for social media text is called VADER

Machine Learning Models

- For this, we need examples of text that are already labeled with their feelings (like a movie review marked as "positive" or "negative"). We teach computer programs using these examples.
- <u>Common Methods:</u> Some of the computer programs we use are Naive Bayes, Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Random Forest.
- These methods are better at understanding more complicated ways people use language compared to just using word lists.

Deep Learning Models

- This involves using special kinds of computer programs called neural networks that can learn from very large amounts of text data.
- <u>Types:</u> Some types of these networks are RNN (Recurrent Neural Network), LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory), and Transformer-based models (like BERT and RoBERTa).
- These methods are usually very accurate and can understand the context of words in a sentence really well.

Real-World Applications of Sentiment Analysis

Business and Marketing

<u>Making Customers Happier</u>: We look at what people say in reviews and feedback to make our services better.

<u>Keeping an Eye on What People Think</u>: We watch social media to see if people like or dislike our brand.

E-commerce

We read what people say about products to find the best ones or see if there are problems. We make better suggestions for what to buy based on how people are feeling about things.

Finance

Guessing How the Market Will Do: We look at news and what people are saying to try and predict if the stock market will go up or down.

Spotting Problems Early: We try to see if anything might hurt our reputation.

Politics

We figure out how voters feel about politicians during elections.

We watch what people think about new laws or important things that happen.

Healthcare

We look at what patients say to make healthcare better.

We might be able to see signs of mental health problems by looking at what people say online.

Entertainment

We see how people react to movies, music, and famous people.

We watch how fans' feelings change as things happen

Human Resources

We check how happy employees are by looking at surveys, emails, or how they talk at work.

We try to make the workplace better and keep people working here longer.

Tools and Technologies

Python Libraries

- <u>TextBlob:</u> This one is easy to learn and use, so it's good if you're just starting out.
- <u>NLTK:</u> This is a well-known set of tools for working with language, and it can figure out the feeling (like happy or sad) in text.
- <u>VADER</u>: This one follows a set of rules to understand feelings in words, and it's especially good for looking at what people say on social media.
- <u>spaCy:</u> This tool is quick and works well. People often use it together with more complex ways of understanding text.
- <u>Transformers (from HuggingFace)</u>: These are very advanced tools, like BERT and GPT, that use deep learning (a complex way for computers to learn) to understand the feelings in text.

Cloud-Based Platforms

- <u>Google Cloud Natural Language API:</u> Google offers an online service that can help us understand language.
- <u>IBM Watson NLU:</u> IBM also has an online tool that can analyze text.
- Amazon Comprehend: Amazon provides a similar online service for understanding text.
- <u>Microsoft Azure Text Analytics:</u> Microsoft has its own online service for looking at text and figuring out things like sentiment.

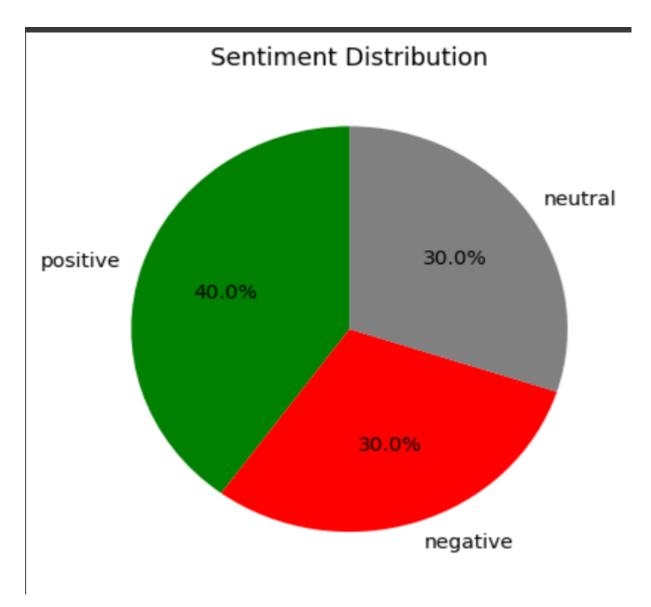
Challenges in Sentiment Analysis

- <u>Sarcasm and Jokes:</u> It's tough for computers to understand when someone is saying the opposite of what they mean if they don't have more information.
- Words with Multiple Meanings: Sometimes a word can mean different things depending on how it's used, which can confuse the computer.
- <u>Text in Different Languages:</u> If you want to understand feelings in different languages, you need special tools for each language.
- <u>Specialized Language:</u> Things like slang or words used in a specific job or hobby need special computer programs to understand the feelings behind them.

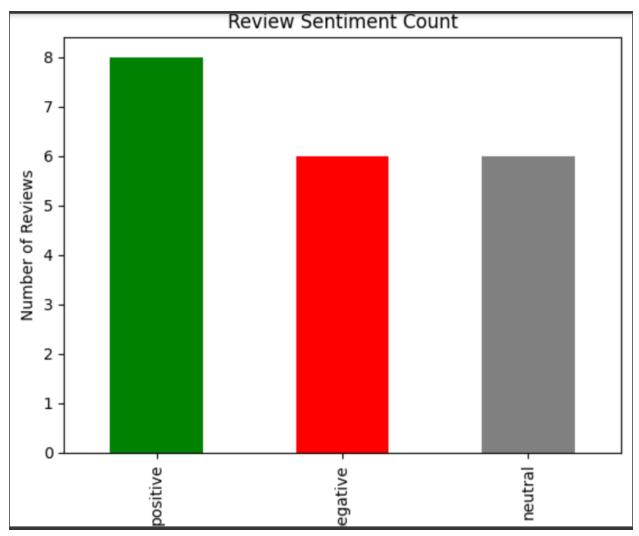
Future Trends

- Emotion AI: Instead of just saying if something is positive or negative, computers will start to understand specific feelings like happiness, fear, and shock.
- <u>Analyzing More Than Just Text:</u> Computers will look at things like how someone says something, their facial expressions, and their hand movements to understand their feelings better.
- <u>Smarter Models That Understand Context:</u> New types of computer programs (like GPT and BERT) are getting better at understanding the meaning behind text.
- <u>Analyzing Feelings Right Away</u>: More and more, there's a need to understand people's feelings as they're happening, especially for things like customer support and tracking what people are saying online.

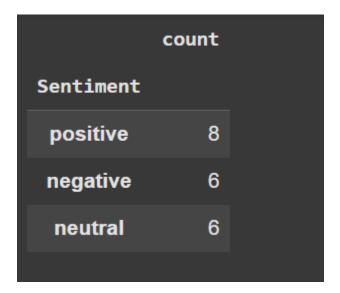
Findings



Pie Chart



Bar Graph



Mutshidzi Mateka

Table

Brief Report

We analyzed 20 product reviews that were manually labeled with sentiments (Positive, Negative, Neutral).

After visualizing the sentiment distribution:

- 40% were Positive
- 30% were Negative
- 30% were Neutral

This suggests that most customers are feeling mixed about the product.

Conclusion

Figuring out how people feel about things has gotten much better over time. It started with basic computer programs and now uses really smart artificial intelligence that can understand emotions almost as well as humans do. Lots of different businesses and groups use this to understand what the public thinks, which helps them make smarter decisions based on facts.

As technology keeps improving, understanding feelings through computers will become even more exact, happen instantly, and be better at recognizing different emotions. This will change how companies connect with people and how we all use the internet.

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