# Predicting User Ratings from Review Text

A Natural Language Processing & Machine Learning Case Study

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### Problem

Customer ratings influence sales. Rating errors have big effects.

#### What companies care?











### Problem

Customer ratings influence sales. Rating errors have big effects.

- On average customers read more than two Yelp reviews before deciding to use a business.
- A one-star increase in ratings on Yelp leads to a 5-9% increase in revenue for a business.

### User Reviews and Ratings











#### Ratings matter

Consumers & vendors depend on ratings for:

- Purchase decisions
- Predicting sales

High and low ratings affect sales directly.

#### Predict rating

Benefits of predicting ratings from text:

- Error catching
- Suggest rating
- **Improve** consistency
- Flag problematic ratings

#### Motivation

Build a system to identify positive and negative feedback from customers to give businesses the power to intercede and to improve customer engagement and satisfaction.

#### Top customer reviews



triple0triple1

A H H H H GE

Get the first edition.

August 29, 2013

Format: Hardcover Verified Purchase

I have just bought this brand new 3rd edition and compared it with my 1st edition. They are almost exactly the same, even down to the page numbers. This is an old scam by textbook publishers, but usually they will at least change around the table of contents and put in new diagrams, photos and tables. Not so with this title.

And if the 1st and 3rd editions are almost exact copies, then I'm sure the 2nd edition would be fine too.

Also, do not think that you need to buy the "Custom Edition" for your school, it's just the campus bookstore's and publisher's way of keeping you off Amazon and charging you double for an already overpriced book.

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J.T884

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November 7, 2016

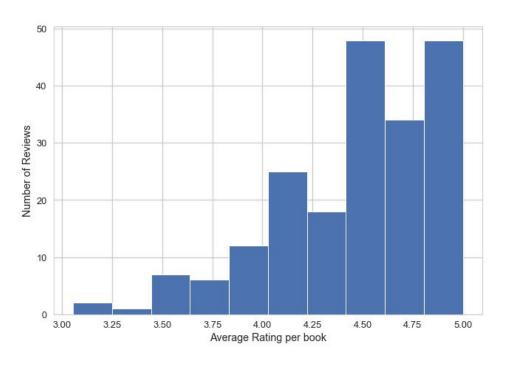
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Chemistry: A Molecular Approach

Even though it says twice in the description that the ebook comes with Mastering Chemistry, and it is the first result with an ISBN search that includes Mastering Chemistry, it actually doesn't contain Mastering Chemistry. False adverting at its finest. Chatted with support and all they would do is refund my money so I can order a hardcover. I can't go without a text while in a class. Very bad customer service.

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### Reviewers love books! (most ratings are 'high')



- Majority of books reviewed by more than
  10 reviewers have mean ratings > 4 stars.
- This Science Textbook genre subset of reviews includes reviews for 729 different books in 11546 reviews.
- Binary categories: 'low' ratings (n = 3884) and 'high' ratings (n = 7662).
- Word counts are significantly higher for reviews with 'low' ratings.

### Machine Learning Highlights

#### Preprocessing

#### TF-IDF Vectorizer

#### **Important Parameters**

**Model Tuning** 

Remove 'english' stopwords except:

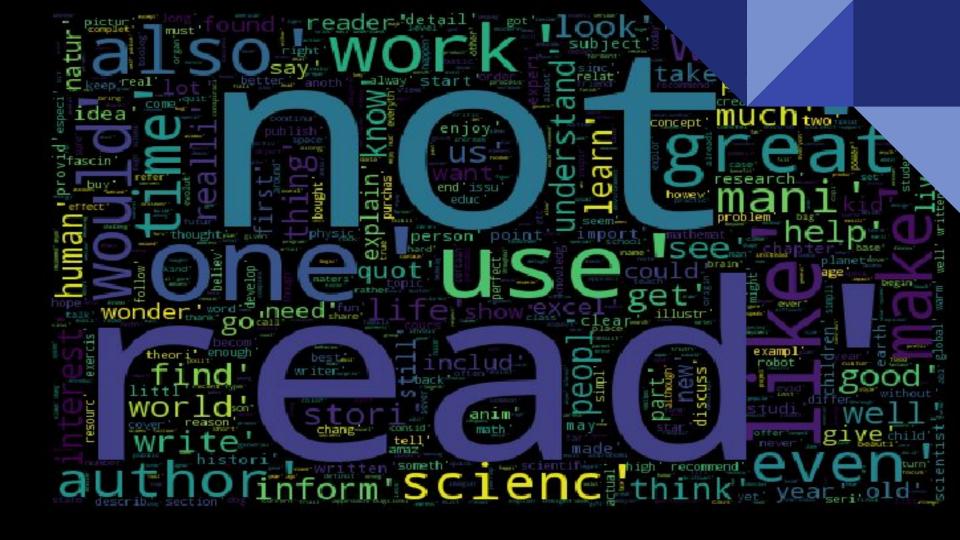
Specialized stopwords

- Leave 'not' in corpus for bigrams
- Remove 'book', books'

- Features from single words and bigrams
- Baseline ROC-AUC score = 0.78 with Multinomial Naive Bayes classifier.

- Set class\_weight to 'balanced' since target classes imbalanced.
- Tune with GridSearchCV.
- Compare ROC-AUC scores.

### Vectorization



### **Classifier Comparisons**

Classifier:	ROC-AUC:	GridSearchCV best params:
MultinomialNB	0.78	alpha=1, fit_prior=True
RandomForestClassifier	0.76	max_features=750, min_samples_leaf=8
LogisticRegressionCV	0.81	Cs=10, max_iter=100, tol=0.0001
SGDClassifier	0.75	alpha=0.1

### **Best Classifier**

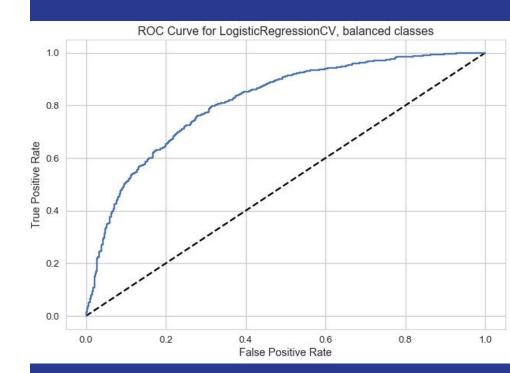
Logistic Regression with Cross Validation

#### y=1 top features

0.7		
1	Weight?	Feature
1	+5.262	excel
	+4.659	wonder
	+4.364	love
	+4.188	great
	+3.765	perfect
	+3.193	everi
	+3.129	conspiraci
	+3.125	high
	+3.076	high recommend
	19630	more positive
	17289 more negative	
	-3.064	lack
	-3.121	page
	-3.123	ok
	-3.196	bore
	-3.240	good
1	-3.807	unfortun
	-3.847	would
	-3.860	seem
	-3.992	howev
	-5.268	disappoint
	-5.320	not

### **Best Classifier**

Logistic Regression with Cross Validation



## Improve classification

### Distribution of predicted probabilities

