# Sentiment Analysis on Yelp Data



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# Table of Contents

1. Background	3
i. About Yelp	3
ii. About the Dataset	3
iii. Objective	3
2. Exploratory Data Analysis	3
i. User Behavior	3
ii. Restaurants	4
iii. Star Ratings	4
3. Sentiment Analysis	4
i. Python packages	4
a. Word Tokenizer and Word Cloud	5
b. TextBlob	5
c. Vader	6
ii. Models	8
a. Logistic Regression	8
b. Random Forest	10
c. SVM	12
4. Learning and Insights	13
5. Demo	13
6. Appendix	16
7. Sources	23

### 1. Background

#### i. About Yelp

Founded in San Francisco in 2004 by two former Paypal employees, Yelp is an online community platform where users can share reviews of local businesses. It also provides local businesses with opportunities to engage more with their customers. Since its inception, Yelp has seen constant growth (Exhibit 1) and has remained a leading company in a competitive crowd-sourced review market due to its many product innovations. Over the years, they have embedded a reservation and waitlist system and strategically partnered with a food delivery service. Like many other social media networks, Yelp makes almost all of its revenue through targeted advertisements. This has posed questions from many investment analysts on whether this is a sustainable long-term revenue model. In response to this, they have been in the discussion of acquiring Groupon, a deal base site, to potentially add deals to their revenue stream.

#### ii. About the Dataset

We retrieved the Yelp Dataset directly from them, as they have made it available on open-source for competition and research purposes. For the basis of our analysis, we solely focused on the review and business datasets. The review dataset has close to 7 million reviews while the business dataset has over 190K businesses, with restaurants having the highest representation.

#### iii. Objective

It is proven by Harvard business school that Yelp review has direct impact on business revenue. Customers are utilizing Yelp as reliable measures of a restaurant's quality. Our objective is to help Yelp or businesses by managing customer relationship through sentiment analysis.

### 2. Exploratory Data Analysis

Before doing Sentiment Analysis we analyzed the data to understand the user behaviour as well as overall Yelp business as a whole.

#### i. User Behavior

Our graphs showed that there was a higher number of user reviews in the summer months and on weekends (Exhibit 2). This is probably because people are more likely to go out when the weather is more temperate and when they have more leisure time.

#### ii. Restaurants

Businesses on Yelp belong to multiple categories like 'Dental', 'Beauty' and so on which are very different from each other. We found that restaurants had the highest representation in the dataset. Therefore we decided to adopt a focused approach and narrowed our analysis to businesses that fall under the 'Restaurant' category. Of all States, Arizona had the highest number of restaurants in the US while Las Vegas had the highest number of restaurants when we compared the cities. (Exhibit 3). Delving more into Las Vegas, we can see that a large number of the restaurants are primarily located in downtown (Exhibit 4)

Using the business category, we separated all of the ethnic restaurants to identify any possible correlation between the number of restaurants and the ethnic breakdown of our top cities. Since we did not have this information, we extracted the numbers from the Census and created a dataset that displays the ethnic breakdown of our top cities. With a scatterplot and a linear regression curve, we see that there is a slight positive correlation between the number of ethnic restaurants and the percentage of their respective ethnic groups (Exhibit 7). From a business context, by looking at the city's ethnic breakdown, it could help show if there is a strong market for different types of restaurants.

#### iii. Star Ratings

Star rating have a lot of impact on the restaurant business. People usually take a look at the star ratings first when they were looking for a restaurant on Yelp. In our data, maximum number of restaurants had an average of 4 star rating, followed by 3.5 star rating. (Exhibit 5) Arizona in the US had the highest number of restaurants with 5 star ratings. (Exhibit 6)

### 3. Sentiment Analysis

By definition, sentiment analysis is the use of natural language processing, text analysis, computational linguistics, and biometrics to systematically identify, extract, quantify, and study affective states and subjective information. The capability of understanding customer reviews and manage customer relationship accordingly is crucial to every business. Some of the common uses of sentiment analysis are review monitoring, customer relationship management and intent analysis.

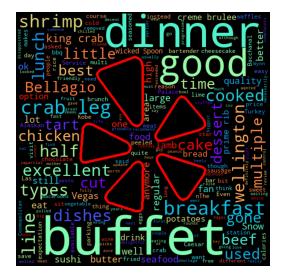
#### i. Python packages

From our EDA, we discovered that Las Vegas has the most restaurants in the US. To further explore that, we begin our sentiment analysis by comparing two restaurants in Las Vegas. We chose the comparison between "the buffet at Bellagio" and "Guy Fieri's Vegas Kitchen & Bar". These two restaurants are comparable because the average ratings and sample size we took are both similar, location and restaurant category are the same. To start, we conducted fundamental

text analysis: word tokenizer and word cloud. For our sentiment analysis, we utilized existing Python packages from NLTK. NLTK, or the Natural Language Toolkit, is a series of libraries and programming for natural language processing. It was developed in the Department of Computer and Information Science at the University of Pennsylvania. The famous packages include lexical analysis, n-gram and sentiment analysis packages such as TextBlob and Vader.

#### a. Word Tokenizer and Word Cloud

Word Tokenizer were used to calculate word count for each review then word clouds were generated to represent the reviews. Word cloud is an excellent way to visualize frequent used words in reviews. The size of each text represents the frequency of occurrence. However, the sentiment could not be fully represented in the word cloud. To do so, we advance our analysis using NLTK packages.



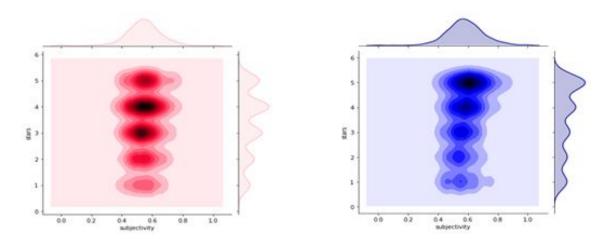


#### b. TextBlob

The first method we tried on these two restaurants is TextBlob. TextBlob is commonly used to perform basic natural language processing on textual data. Perform sentiment analysis using TextBlob will return a named tuple of the form sentiment (polarity, subjectivity). The polarity score is a float within the range -1.0 (very negative) to 1.0 (very positive). The subjectivity is a float within the range 0.0 to 1.0 where 0.0 is very objective and 1.0 is very subjective.

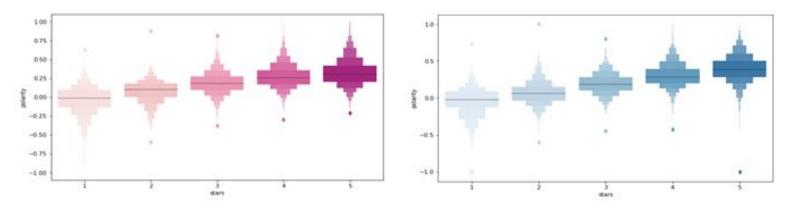
We evaluate reviews of the restaurants by comparing at their star ratings with polarity and subjectivity.

The following density plot shows the relationship between star ratings and subjectivity.



The buffet at Bellagio has more subjective reviews rated 3 and 4 stars, where more 5-star reviews in Guy Fieri's Vegas Kitchen & Bar are subjective. The high subjectivity indicates that customers reviewed their experience based on factors such as food or service. The low subjectivity indicates that customers reviewed their experience based on their emotions. As business, restaurant show look into subjective reviews for improvement.

The following boxplots showed the relationship between star ratings and polarity:



Although the average polarity increases with star ratings, the distribution looks abnormal. Most star ratings have normal distribution of polarity which means some 5-star reviews has low sentiment while 1-star reviews have high sentiment. This is caused by TextBlob algorithm which calculates the average sentiment of each word within the review.

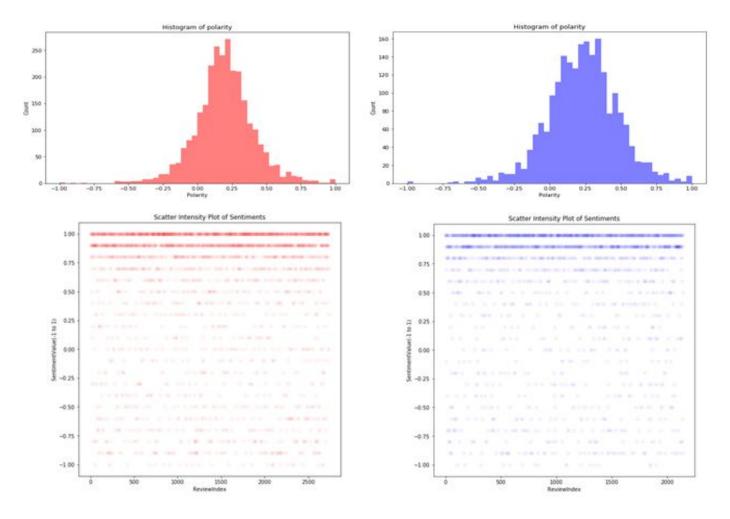
#### c. Vader

Vader, or Valence Aware Dictionary and sEntiment Reasoner, is a lexicon and rule-based sentiment analysis tool. We utilize Vader as another tool to access sentiment in reviews. Vader returns a dictionary of each sentiment (positive, neutral, negative, compound) ranged from -1.0

to 1.0. The benefit of Vader is it doesn't only show whether a review is positive or negative, it also shows how much each sentiment is. For example, Vader could return {pos: 0.7163, neu: 0.20, neg: 0.0837, compound: 0.6435} The numbers indicate density of each sentiment. For the purpose of comparison, we will be using compound score.

#### Results:

The following plot shows the sentiment distribution between TextBlob and Vader.



TextBlob shows that most reviews are distributed from "Neutral" to "Positive" while Vader shows more reviews labelled as "Very Positive". The reason for this difference is because TextBlob calculate the average sentiment from each word in a review where Vader calculate the sentiment through the whole review. So, the longer the review is, the less accurate TextBlob predicts. In conclusion, TextBlob is better in predicting shorter text such as social media posts and Vader is better in predicting longer text such as reviews.

#### ii. Models

#### a. Logistic Regression

#### Inspiration

A negative review, especially from an elite user can result in lost opportunity for a business. Businesses usually respond to negative reviews after a certain time but by then the damage is already done. This problem can be solved by performing real time prediction of rating while customer is typing the review so that action can be undertaken even before the review is live! This will significantly improve customer service and reduce the risk of losing customers.

#### Methodology

#### Feature Representation

- We used the column 'reviews' as the main source of features.
- One set of features were created without removing stop words or performing stemming on them while another set of features was considered after performing these methods. The idea was to assess the impact on the models.
- Moreover, feature engineering was done separately using the following N gram sequences:
  - o Unigram taking one single word at a time
  - o Unigram and Bigram taking pairs of neighboring words along with each word individually

#### Feature Weighting

The following three kinds of feature weighting were tried:

- Binary if a word is present in the document, the weight is '1' else '0'
- Count weights equal to number of occurrences of a word
- TFIDF Term Frequency (TF) Term frequency measures the local importance of the word by taking into account the number of times it appears in a document. Inverse Document Frequency (IDF) takes into account whether the word appears in other documents or not. For a word to be considered a signature word of a document, it shouldn't appear that often in the other documents. The TF-IDF is the product of these two frequencies. For a word to have high TF-IDF in a document, it must appear a lot of times in said document and must be absent in the other documents.

#### Logistic Regression Model

A 5% sample (~200K records) was selected from the population using Simple Random Sampling without Replacement. The data was divided into 75% Training data and 25% Testing data. A logistic regression model was then built using these features as the independent variables. The dependent variable that we were trying to predict was the column 'rating' which takes the values 1 through 5 on yelp. And thus, this was a multi-classification exercise.

Overall 12 Logistic regression models were built, and the corresponding results were analyzed. (Exhibit 8)

#### **Evaluation**

Once the model was built on training data, we used it to predict ratings on testing data. In order to evaluate the performance, we calculated the accuracy in two methods:

1. Top 1 prediction defined as

Number of times the correct prediction of rating was made

Total number of predictions

2. Top 2 predictions defined as

Number of times the correct rating occurred in top 2 predictions for a review

Total number of predictions

Following table summarizes the results of the 12 models. (The corresponding Confusion Matrices can be found in the Exhibit 9 & 10)

METHOD	STOPWORDS REMOVAL AND STEMMING	VECTORIZER	ACCURACY	ACCURACY (TOP 2 PREDICTIONS)
		Binary	58.93%	84.08%
Unigram	N	Counts	58.99%	84.12%
		TFIDF	62.55%	88.13%
		Binary	58.48%	83.22%
Unigram	Y	Counts	58.42%	83.41%
		TFIDF	61.59%	87.20%
TT.:		Binary	61.55%	86.54%
Unigram and Bigram	N	Counts	61.60%	86.67%
D.g.um		TFIDF	65.19%	90.23%
11.:		Binary	61.39%	86.38%
Unigram and Bigram	Y	Counts	61.35%	86.40%
2.8		TFIDF	63.86%	89.10%

#### Validation on new text

In addition to predicting ratings using these models on the testing data, we also tested them on new texts to compare the predicted ratings. The following were the results obtained from the

three models which were built after removal of stop words and performing stemming and using features in unigram sequence

## **BINARY**

```
test_features=transformer.transform(["I did not like it!"])
get_top_k_predictions(model,test_features,2)
[[5, 1]]
```

The model does not predict the correct rating in the first spot but makes the right prediction in the second spot. Interestingly, the top two predictions made by this model are in the opposite ends of the rating scale.

# **COUNTS**

```
test_features=transformer.transform(["I did not like it!"])
get_top_k_predictions(model,test_features,2)
[[5, 4]]
```

The model does not predict the correct rating in either of the two spots. Both the predictions are on the higher end of the rating scale while the text ideally belongs in the lower end.

# **TFIDF**

```
test_features=transformer.transform(["I did not like it!"])
get_top_k_predictions(model,test_features,2)

[[1, 2]]
```

The model predicts the correct rating in the first spot. Moreover, the prediction in the second spot also makes logical sense. (Similar comparisons from all the models can be found in Exhibit 11& 12)

#### b. Random Forest

We first created a label for the reviews using two approaches based on the star ratings of the reviews. We divided the reviews as -

- 1. Positive and Negative or 1 and 0 with
  - a. Rating 1,2,3 as 0

- b. Rating 4,5 as 1
- 2. Positive, Neutral and Negative or 1, 0, -1.
  - a. Rating 1,2 as -1
  - b. Ration 3 as 0
  - c. Rating 4,5 as 1

After this label creation, we then used TFIDF and Bag of Words for feature engineering. We then used two classification models - Random Forest and Support Vector Machine to predict the sentiment of the restaurant reviews based on two approaches in each of the models such as:

- 1. Keeping all the numbers, punctuation marks and hashtags.
- 2. Removing all the numbers, punctuation marks and hashtags.

The following table summarizes the results of our modelling process: (Confusion Matrix Exhibit 13 & 14)

METHOD	VECTORIZER	ACCURACY (Approach 1)	ACCURACY (Approach 2)		
Random	BOW	77.72%	61.91%		
Forest	TFIDF	78.04%	61.38%		
SVM	BOW	87.45%	74.25%		
	TFIDF	86.43%	73.21%		
Random	BOW	78.30%	61.24%		
Forest	TFIDF	78.52%	61.64%		
SVM	BOW	86.68%	74.71%		
	TFIDF	86.46%	74.65%		

#### Random Forest Model:

Random Forest is a supervised machine learning algorithm used for classification.

It is a combination of multiple decision trees. The output of the random forest algorithm is the weighted accuracy of all the decision trees which it uses to predict the dependent variable.



After using Random Forest algorithm, the best model that we got considering all the approaches had an accuracy of 78.30% and produced a confusion matrix as follows: -

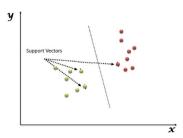
	0	1
0	6388	1112
1	2142	5358

This model had the lowest number of False Positives out of all the random forest models that we built.

#### c. SVM

#### Support Vector Machine:

In this algorithm, we plot each data item as a point in n-dimensional space (where n is the number of features we had) with the value of each feature being the value of a particular coordinate. Then, we performed classification by finding the hyper-plane that differentiate the two classes very well.



After using Support Vector Machine algorithm, the best model that we got considering all the approaches had an accuracy of 86.83% and produced a confusion matrix as follows: (Confusion Matrix Exhibit 15& 16)

	0	1
0	6564	936
1	1039	6461

#### Validation on new text

We used the same sentence "I did not like it" to test whether our models are able to predict the right rating.

Random forest model produced a false positive as it predicted a negative review as a positive review.

```
In [87]: #Testing some sample sentences
print(rf.predict(["I did not like it."]))
[1]
```

Whereas, the SVM model produced a True Negative value as it correctly predicted a negative review as a negative review.

```
In [89]: #Testing some samples
print(svm.predict(["I did not like it."]))
[0]
```

The reason we shortlisted these models was because we wanted to reduce the number of reviews which were actually negative but were classified as positive. This is because a False Positive would mean that the restaurant would consider a negative review as positive and lose out on any potential opportunities for improvement.

### 4. Learning and Insights

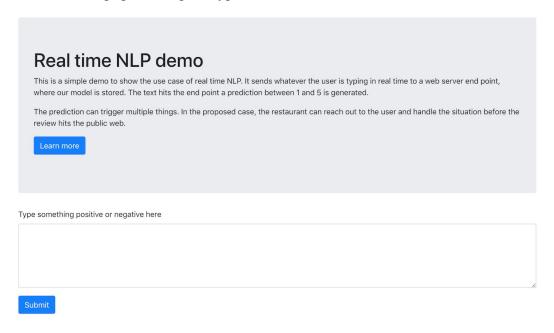
- TF-IDF based weighting performs better than Binary, Count based schemes as well as Bag of Words approach
- We can do feature engineering using N gram sequence as the richer the text field, the better the overall performance of the classifier
- Accuracy is not the only benchmark and context plays a vital role
- The algorithm cannot understand the tone of the review and detect human emotions like irony, sarcasm, jokes or exaggerations and failure to recognize these can skew the results
- Businesses can use this methodology to predict rating in real-time and undertake relevant actions to improve customer service
- For future work, we can create new text fields by adding the content from 'Tips' and analyzing how our models perfom on addition of this new data

#### 5. Demo

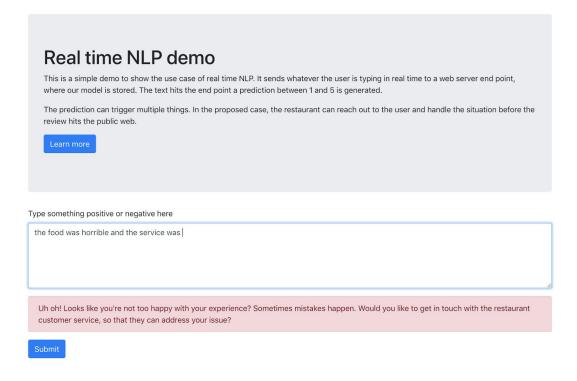
One practical application of Sentiment Analysis would be real-time prediction of rating when a customer is adding his/her review. This way if a low rating gets predicted, the restaurant can immediately offer some assistance to improve the customer experience. An action would be taken even before the review gets published.

We built a prototype of this application to demonstrate this idea. As we saw in the presentation, the message pops up while the customer is typing a review. The below screenshots capture the examples covered in the presentation.

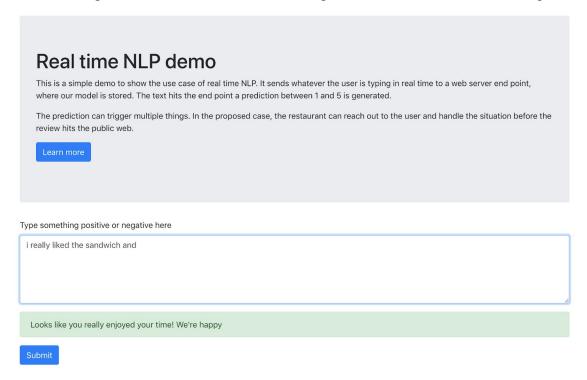
• The main page of the prototype:



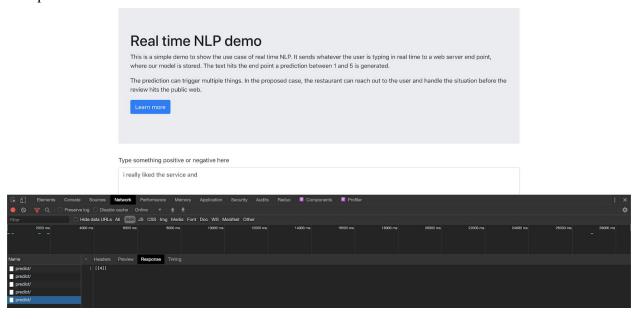
• A dialog box pops up even before the user has finished writing the review. Since the model predicted that the rating of this particular review is going to be low and thus this is a negative review, the resultant message asks whether the user would like to talk to the customer representative.



• Since the following sentence is a positive review the tool simply shares a more light hearted message. Notice that even here the message is shown before the text is complete.



• In terms of operations in the backend, this is how the mechanism looks like. While the customer is typing a review, the server sends a prediction request to the model which in turn sends a predicted customer rating as an output. On the basis of different values of the ratings, different kinds of messages get displayed to the user. The core idea being real time prediction and action.



# 6. Appendix

Exhibit 1: Yelp's Growth

# Yelp's Growth

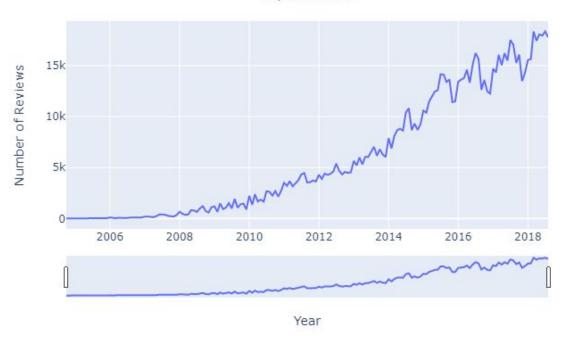


Exhibit 2: User Behavior

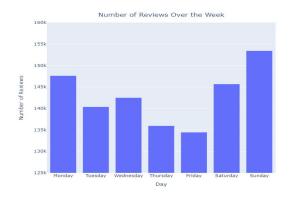
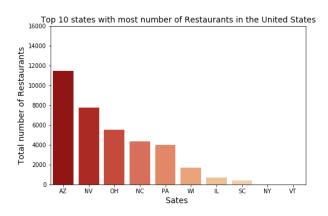




Exhibit 3: Restaurant Overview



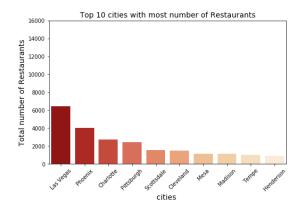


Exhibit 4: Las Vegas Heatmap

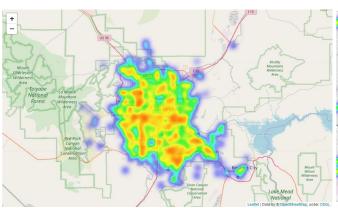




Exhibit 5: Star Rating Distribution

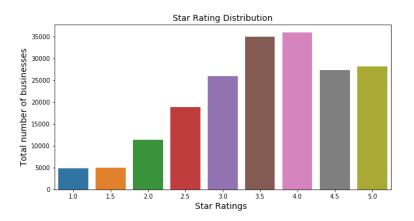


Exhibit 6: Star Rating Distribution

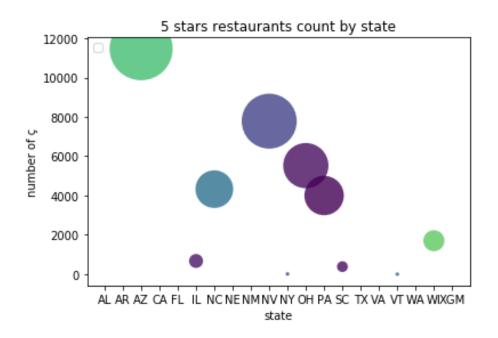


Exhibit 7: Ethnic Breakdown

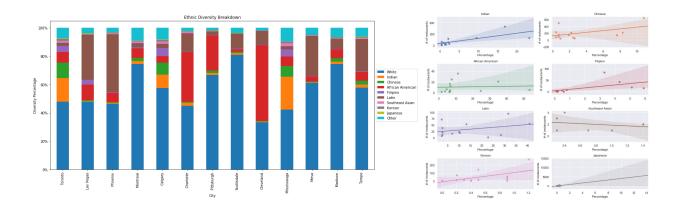


Exhibit 8: Logistic Regression Models

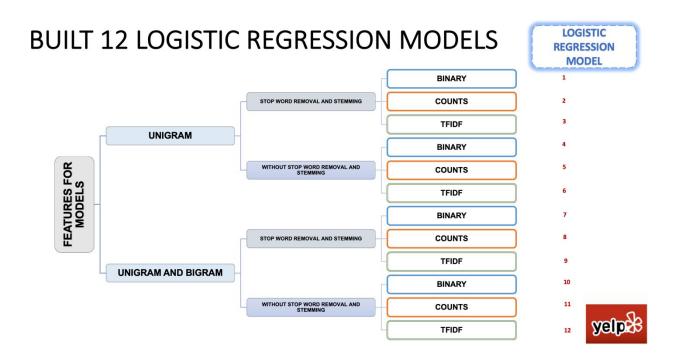


Exhibit 9 & 10: Logistic Regression Confusion Matrix

# CONFUSION MATRIX - UNIGRAM

			BIN.	ARY						COU	JNT	S					,	ΓFII	<b>DF</b>		
		1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5
WITHOUT 1 4408 951 412	209	275		1	4390	951	419	223	272		1		4831	789	300	142	193				
STOP WORDS	2	1208	1412	1260	571	296		2	1239	1403	1265	546	294		2		1347	1421	1277	479	223
REMOVAL AND	3	439	976	2424	2320	879		3	460	963	2463	2290	862		3		440	760	2604	2530	704
STEMMING	4	176	303	1465	6027	5695		4	187	310	1443	5971	5755	5	4		144	146	1055	6671	5650
/	4	27273323																			
	5	117	123	409	3483	16683		5	134	115	398	3412	1675	56	5		96	47	207	3137	17328
		117	123	409	3483	16683		5	134	115			1675	5	5		96	2	3	3137	17328
WITH STOP					4	5		1		2	3	3			5	1					
WITH STOP WORDS REMOVAL	5	1	2	3 406	4 23	5 8 31	2		1	2 64 92	3	3	4	5	5		1	2	3	4	5
WITH STOP WORDS REMOVAL AND STEMMING	5	1 4394	2 905	3 406	4 5 23	5 8 31 1 35	2 5	1	1 430	2 54 92 56 13	322 4	3	4 248	5 316	5	1	1 4780	2 741	3 328	4 171	5 235
WITH STOP WORDS REMOVAL	1 2	1 4394 1237	2 905 1343	3 406	4 23 23 59 56 23	5 8 31 1 35 45 92	2 5	1 2	1 43	2 64 92 56 13 2 96	3 322 4 332 1 53 2	3 1005 2218	4 248 583	5 316 358	5	1 2	1 4780 1339	2 741 1300	3 328 1258	4 171 535	5 235 315

# CONFUSION MATRIX - UNIGRAM AND BIGRAM

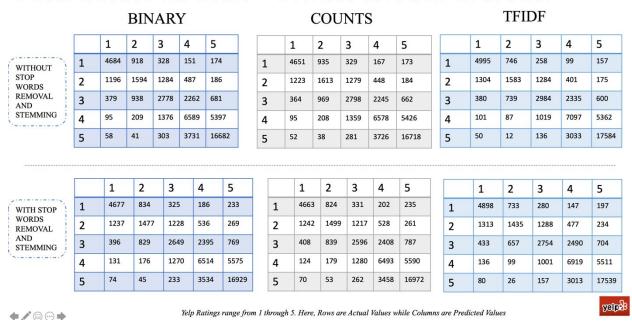
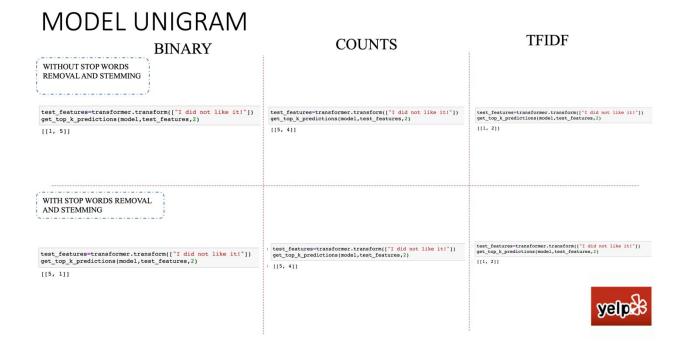


Exhibit 11&12: Logistic Regression Model Comparison



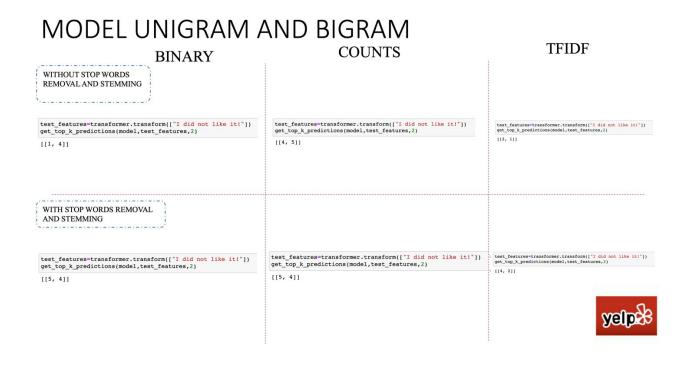


Exhibit 13 &14: Random Forest Confusion Matrix

		TFIDF			BOW	
		0	1		0	1
<ul><li>KEEPING NUMBERS</li><li>KEEPING PUNCTUATIONS</li><li>KEEPING HASH TAGS</li></ul>	0	6374	1126	0	6306	1179
	1	2216	5284	1	2115	5400
		0	1		0	1
REMOVING NUMBERS REMOVING PUNCTUATIONS REMOVING HASH TAGS	0	6397	1103	0	6388	1112
	1	2119	5381	1	2142	5358

		TFI	DF			ВС	w	
		-1	0	1		-1	0	1
KEEPING NUMBERS	-1	3200	936	364	-1	3220	891	389
<ul><li>KEEPING PUNCTUATIONS</li><li>KEEPING HASH TAGS</li></ul>	0	1346	2185	969	0	1365	2111	1024
	1	584	1014	2902	1	525	947	3028
		-1	0	1		-1	0	1
	-1	3132	1010	358	-1	3176	959	365
REMOVING NUMBERS     REMOVING PUNCTUATIONS     REMOVING HASH TAGS	0	1390	2243	867	0	1412	2132	956
- IIIII IIII IIII	1	550	1003	2947	1	552	988	2960

Exhibit 15 &16: Support Vector Machine Confusion Matrix

		TFIDF			BOW	
		0	1		0	1
KEEPING NUMBERS     KEEPING PUNCTUATIONS     KEEPING HASH TAGS	0	6564	936	0	6449	1051
	1	1039	6461	1	831	6669
		0	1		0	1
REMOVING NUMBERS     REMOVING PUNCTUATIONS     REMOVING HASH TAGS	0	6491	1009	0	6394	1106
	1	1022	6478	1	892	6608

		TFI	DF			ВС	w	
		-1	0	1		-1	0	1
KEEPING NUMBERS	-1	3326	1055	119	-1	3434	918	148
<ul><li>KEEPING PUNCTUATIONS</li><li>KEEPING HASH TAGS</li></ul>	0	735	3193	572	0	838	2865	797
	1	165	970	3365	1	153	621	3726
		-1	0	1		-1	0	1
	-1	3400	985	115	-1	3482	877	141
<ul> <li>REMOVING NUMBERS</li> <li>REMOVING PUNCTUATIONS</li> <li>REMOVING HASH TAGS</li> </ul>	0	787	3146	567	0	926	2820	754
- NEWSTING HASTI IAUS	1	145	823	3532	1	138	577	3785

### 7. Sources

- 1. <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/amys-baking-co-meltdown-begs-the-question-is-yelp-bad-for-small-business/2">https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/amys-baking-co-meltdown-begs-the-question-is-yelp-bad-for-small-business/2</a> 013/05/17/9c07e1aa-beff-11e2-89c9-3be8095fe767 story.html
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