Web Mining

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Topics

 Web personalization and recommendations (collaborative filtering)

Opinion Mining

Web Advertising

Web personalization and recommendations

- ~25% of Internet users reading online reviews prior to paying for an offline service,
 - 80% claimed reviews had significant influence on their purchasing habits.
- Users pay a mark-up of 20% to 100% for services/products with excellent peer ratings on review sites.
- Humans are <u>notoriously bad at choosing</u> between too many choices,
 - rely on external recommendations and reviews to narrow the set of possible choices.

Personalization

- Personalized reviews tend to dominate
- Netflix: personalized video-recommendation system based on ratings and reviews by its customers.
- In 2006, offered a \$1,000,000 prize to the first developer of a video-recommendation algorithm that could beat its existing algorithm

Recommender Data Model

- Set $U=\{u_1, ..., u_n\}$ of users
- Set I={i₁, ..., i_m} of items (e.g. products)
- Elements from U and I can be described by a vector respectively
 - $-(a_1, ..., a_s) \rightarrow$ attributes of user profile
 - $-(b_1, ..., b_t) \rightarrow description of items (meta data, features, ...)$
- Goal of recommendation process: recommend new items for an active user u
- Overview of process
 - User modeling (explicit or implicit, e.g. user rates items)
 - Personalization, generate list of recommended items

User-Item Ranking

- Recommendation often based on ratings of an item ij by a user u_k:
- Rating $r_{i,k}$: $I \rightarrow [0,1] \cup \emptyset$
- Other range of values possible, e.g. {*, **, ***, ****, ****, ****
- ø := no rating for Item (or "0")
- Example user-item matrix of ratings

	V for Vendetta	La Vita e Bella	Lion King	Wall-e
Maria	4	3	2	4
Ted	Ø	4	5	5
Andy	2	2	4	Ø
Mike	3	Ø	5	2

Types of Recommender Systems

- Collaborative filtering (CF)
- Content-based filtering (CB)
 - Individual recommender algorithms
 - Also utility- or knowledge-based approaches
- Case-based recommendation
- Hybrid recommender systems
 - Combination of several other recommenders
- Additional important variants
 - Context-aware and multi-dimensional recommenders
 - Decentralized recommender systems
 - Recommending for groups

Example: Product Page on Amazon

Product Description

With LED picture quality and a TruMotion 120Hz refresh rate, sports and fast action movies on the LV4400 never looked better.

Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought

Collaborative Filtering

Page 1 of 20





3vr LG Premium Care Plan providing the ONLY LG aut... by Service Net **☆☆☆☆☆ (11)**



HDMI Cable 2M (6 Feet) **** (4,920) \$1.99



Cheetah Mounts APTMM2B Flat Screen TV Wall Mount Brack... by Cheetah

(1,075)



LG 5-Year Service Coverage for LCD TVs (\$250-\$500) by Service Net: \$79.99



SquareTrade 2-Year TV Warranty (\$500-\$600 LCD, Plasma, LED) \$54.99



Content-Based Recommentations

Customers Viewing This Page May Be Interested in These Sponsored Links (What's this?)

- Τηλεοράσεις LG 🛂
- Αγορασε φθηνα τηλεορασεις! Μεγαλη ποικιλια στο Electroworld.
- www.electroworld.gr

- - LG TV στο Πλαίσιο 🗗 Γιατί η τηλεόραση είναι τεχνολογία LG Τηλεόραση. Τώρα στο Πλαίσιο! www.plaisio.gr
- LED 🗗

\$69.99

- Professional LED manufacturer, high quality, favorable price!

www.jwmax.com

See a problem with these advertisements? Let us know

Advertise on Amazon

Issues of Recommender Systems

- Cold start and latency problems
- Sparseness of user-item matrix
- Diversity of recommendations
- Scalability
- Privacy and trust
- Robustness
- Utilization of domain knowledge
- Changing user interests (dynamics)
- Evaluation of recommender systems

Cold Start Problems

- "New user" and "new item" problem
- Systems cannot recommend items to new users with no profile or no interaction history
- Same for new items
 - Also "latency problem": items need some time until they can be recommended
- Chicken-and-egg problem
 - Users will not use system without good recommendations
 - No incentive to rate items etc.
 - System cannot generate good recommendations
- Possible solutions
 - include explicit user profiling methods to start interaction

Data Sparseness

- Common situation
 - Lots of users and items
 - But only few ratings
 - Sparseness of user-item matrix
 - Recommender algorithms will not work very well
- In addition, new items are continuously added
 - Users should also rate these items
 - Number of ratings has to keep up with new users and items
- Possible solution
 - Include the automatic generation of ratings
 - Implicit user profiling, use of transaction history of users, e.g. click on a video constitutes a positive rating

Diversity of Recommendations

- Focus usually on generating recommendations as "good" as possible
 - But also important: new, unexpected items
 - Do not recommend items that are already known
 - Do not recommend items that are too similar to already known items
 - E.g. user likes "Lord of the Rings 1" → user possibly also likes "Lord of the Rings 2", but is this really a useful recommendation?
- Possible solutions
 - Use content-based approaches to easier integrate new items in recommendation process
 - Use collaborative filtering to allow "cross-domain" recommendations

Scalability

- Algorithms are based on matching users and items
 - The more items and users, the higher the computational effort to analyze the data
 - Storage/memory and runtime complexity
 - Alternatively, the quality of recommendations suffer
 - Scalability of recommender systems is an issue in practice
- Problem in particular with memory-based approaches
- Possible solutions include
 - Use model-based approach
 - Limit the number of items and/or users
 - E.g. only consider items that received at least k ratings
 - Pre-compute recommendations for users
 - Will reduce runtime

Privacy and Trust

- Collecting and interpreting personal data, e.g. ratings
 - For example, bought items or visited product Web pages on Amazon
 - Control for users?
 - Bought product may have been gift for other person
 - Privacy problem!
- Tradeoff with recommender quality
 - The more information about the user the system is able to collect, the higher the recommendation quality is in general
- Also trust, how can user trust the quality of a recommended item?
- Possible solutions include
 - Consider social relationships ("social recommender", "Web of Trust")
 - Let user control their profile information
 - Explanations of recommendations
 - Why was an item recommended?

Robustness

- Quality of (collaborative) recommenders depends on quality of ratings
 - Manipulation by users possible
 - E.g. by automatic registration of a large number of "users" and ratings
 - Also called "shilling", "profile injection"
 - Attacks in principle
 - "push": Aim is to push item(s) by inserting a large number of good ratings
 - "nuke": Same with negative ratings
- Possible solutions include
 - Make registration for service harder, e.g. request and check personal information
 - Detect attacks and remove corresponding users and ratings
 - Adjust algorithms, some algorithms have proven to be more robust

Utilization of Domain Knowledge

- Systems often regard items in isolation
 - No relationships between items
 - No domain knowledge
- Example: searching for (books or other products on) "baseball"
 - Too many hits → restriction to "baseball technique", or "baseball player", for example
 - Based on user model and domain ontology
 - Too few hits → broading to "sport", for example
- Some approaches in current research literature utilize Semantic Web technologies
 - Build and maintain item ontologies
 - Also for users
 - E.g. "GUMO" (General User Modeling Ontology)

Changing User Interests (Dynamics)

- User model is often relatively static
- But dynamic evolution over user interests
 - Changes over time, older ratings may not be valid any more
- Also the context of recommendations
 - Example: Mobile restaurant guide
 - Restaurant may be too far away from current position (location)
 - Restaurant may be closed today (time)
 - A good rating for a restaurant after a dinner on a weekend may not be relevant for recommending a restaurant for a quick lunch on a workday
- Solutions in research literature include
 - E.g. explicit distinction between short- and long-term interests
 - Context-aware recommender systems

Evaluation of Recommender Systems

- Goal of personalization is to improve the interaction of users with the system
 - May be subjective, hard to evaluate
- General method for recommender systems
 - Let users rate recommended items and compare actual user ratings with predicted rating
 - Most important metrics
 - "precision": probability rate that users did like recommended items
 - "recall": probability rate that preferred items by users are recommended
 - In addition user studies
 - User evaluate system in questionnaire etc.

Recommender Systems

COLLABORATIVE FILTERING

Collaborative Filtering (CF)

- Basic idea: System recommends items which were preferred by similar users in the past
 - Based on ratings
 - Expressed preferences of the active user
 - And also other users → Collaborative approach
 - Works on user-item matrix
 - Memory-based or model-based
 - No item meta data etc.!
- Assumption: Similar taste in the past implies similar taste in future
- CF is formalization of "word of mouth" among buddies

General Process

- Users rate items
- Find set S of users which have rated similar to the active user u in the past (→ neighborhood)
 - Similarity calculation
 - Select the k nearest users to the active user
- 3. Generate candidate items for recommendation
 - Items which were rated in neighborhood of u,
 - but were not rated by u yet
- 4. Predict rating of u for candidate items
 - Select and display n best items

Example (I)

	Hoop Dreams	Star Wars	Pretty Woman	Titanic	Blimp	Rocky XV
Joe	D	A	В	D (?	?
John	A	F	D		F	
Susan	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pat	D	Α		C		
Jean	A	C	A	C		A
Ben	F	A				F
Nathan	D		A		A	

Source: http://www.dfki.de/~jameson/ijcai03-tutorial/

Example (II)

	Hoop Dreams	Star Wars	Pretty Woman	Titanic	Blimp	Rocky XV
Joe	D	A	(B)	D	?	?
John	A	F	D		F	
Susan	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pat	D	Α		C		
Jean	A	C	A	C		A
Ben	(F)	A				F
Nathan	D		A		A	

Example (III)

	Hoop Dreams	Star Wars	Pretty Woman	Titanic	Blimp	Rocky XV
Joe	D	A	В	D	?	?
John	A	F	D		F	
Susan	A	A	A	A	A	A
Pat	D	Α		C		
Jean	A	C	A	C		A
Ben	F	A				(F)
Nathan	D		A		A	

Required Metrics

- Metric for user-user similarity
 - Mean-squared difference
 - Cosine
 - Pearson/Spearman correlation
- Select set S of most similar users (to active user u)
 - Similarity threshold
 - Aggregate neighborhood
 - Center-based
- Metric to predict the rating of u for an item i

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User-User Similarity

- Item set I
- Users U,V with u[i] denoting rating of item i by user u
 - the rating vector of user u is denoted by \vec{u}
 - the vector norm is denoted by $|\overrightarrow{u}|$
 - n is the number of items rated by both U and V
- Mean squared difference:
 - Small values show similar users

$$sim_1(U,V) = \frac{(\vec{u} - \vec{v})^2}{n}$$

- Cosine similarity:

- Large values show similar users
$$sim_2(U,V) = \frac{\overrightarrow{u} * \overrightarrow{v}}{|\overrightarrow{u}| * |\overrightarrow{v}|}$$

Pearson/Spearman Correlation

- Average rating is taken into account
 - The vector of average ratings is denoted by \vec{u}
- Not suitable for unary ratings
 - Unary: Item is marked (or not)
 - e.g. "Product was purchased"
 - Binary: good/bad, +/- etc.
 - Scalar: Numerical rating (e.g. 1-5) etc.
 - Consider only items which were rated by both users
- Values near 1 show similar users

$$sim_3(U,V) = \frac{(\overrightarrow{u} - \overrightarrow{u}) * (\overrightarrow{v} - \overrightarrow{v})}{|(\overrightarrow{u} - \overrightarrow{u})| * |(\overrightarrow{v} - \overrightarrow{v})|}$$

Example Calculation

User/item	а	b	С	d	е	f
U	5		3		4	
А	1	1		1		
В	1		3	1		
С	5	2	2		5	4
D		3		2		

Sim ₁ (U,V)	Sim ₂ (U,V)	Sim ₃ (U,V)		
-	1	1		
16	1	0		
8	0.76	-1		
2/3	0.98	0.833		
∞	∞	∞		

Required Metrics

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Neighborhood of Similar Users

- Goal: Determine set S of users which are most similar to the active user u
- Center-based
 - S contains k most similar users
 - Problem: maybe some of the users are not really that similar, if k was chosen too large, deviators possible
- Similarity threshold
 - S contains all users with a similarity bigger than a threshold t
 - Problem: maybe too few users in S
- Aggregate neighborhood
 - Follow similarity threshold method first
 - If S is too small (less than k users)
 - Determine "centroid" of set S and add users which are most similar to centroid
 (→ less deviators than center-based method)

Required Metrics

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 - Pearson/Spearman correlation
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CF Recommender (I)

- Given
 - Set S with most similar users to u
 - s[i] rating of a user (from S) from an item i
- Goal: Predict the rating of u for i
- Easiest option: Arithmetic mean

$$r_1(U,i) = \frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{s \in S} s[i]$$

- Problems
 - Similarity of u with members of S is not taken into account
 - Solution: Weighting based on similarity

CF Recommender (II)

- Different users utilize rating scale differently
 - Solution: Consider deviation from average rating (for user)

$$r_3(U,i) = \overline{u} + \frac{1}{\sum_{s \in S} sim(U,s)} \sum_{s \in S} sim(U,s) * (s[i] - \overline{s})$$

- Note
 - Many variations of algorithms in research literature
 - For various application domains, with different properties

Collaborative Filtering

- Amazon and other commercial service use some form of collaborative filtering
 - Exact method usually not published
- Non-commercial example with published algorithms: http://www.movielens.umn.edu
- Exercise ©
 - Comprehend calculation for introductory example
 - Substitute 1:=A, 2:=B etc.
 - Calculate predicted rating of user "Joe" for movies "Blimp" and "Rocky XV"

Advantages Collaborative Filtering

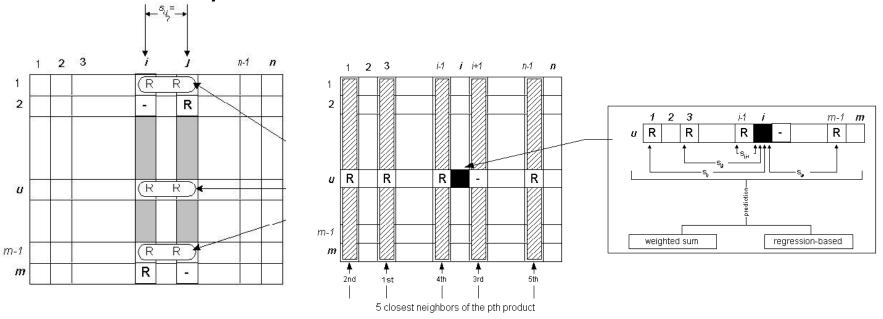
- Works well in practice
- Quality of recommendations improves with density of ratings
- Only ratings as input data required
 - In particular, no information (meta data, description) about items needed
- CF is able to generate cross-domain ("cross genre") recommendations → high diversity
 - Because item categories etc. are not considered
 - Has proven useful in practice
- Implicit user feedback often adequate (CTR)
 - Unary ratings, e.g. rating = "Click on product Web page"

Disadvantages Collaborative Filtering

- New user and new item problem
 - Serious issue in practice
- Often sparseness in user-item matrix
 - Algorithms generate worse results with too few ratings
- "Grey sheep" problem
 - Does not work very well for users with "extraordinary" taste
 - Because similar users are not available
 - Also "black sheep", users that intentionally make incorrect ratings
 - CF is prone to manipulation
 - Trust and robustness are issues

Item-to-Item Collaborative filtering (Amazon)

- Item representation through a N-dimensional vector.
 - Each dimension corresponds to a user's action on this item.
- Rather than matching the user to similar customers, build a similar-items table by finding that customers tend to purchase together.
- Recommend items with high-ranking based on similarity



References

- presentation inspired by slides of Wolfgang Wörndl for "User Modeling, Personalization and Recommender Systems" course in Technical University Munich
 - http://www11.in.tum.de/Veranstaltungen/CSCW2:UserModeling,PersonalizationandRecommenderSystems%28IN2119%29
- D. Billsus and M. J. Pazzani, "Learning collaborative information filters", In Proceedings of the Fifteenth International Conference on Machine Learning, pages 46{54, 1998
- "A Comparative Study of Collaborative Filtering Algorithms", Joonseok Lee, Mingxuan Sun, Guy Lebanon, http://arxiv.org/pdf/1205.3193.pdf
- A. Paterek. Improving regularized singular value decomposition for collaborative filtering, Statistics, 2007:2(5, 2007).

Topics

 Web personalization and recommendations (collaborative filtering)

Opinion Mining

Web Advertising

- Motivation
- **♦** Terminology
- Applications
- ◆ Challenges
- Technology
 - **◆**Classification
 - ◆Feature selection
 - **◆**Approaches
 - **◆**Summarization
- **◆**Broader Implications

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Motivation

- "What other people think" has always been an important piece of information for the decision-making process:
 - Who to vote
 - Decide which dishwasher to buy
 - Decide the next holiday destination
- Internet & Web made it possible to find out about opinions and experiences of those in vast pool of people:
 - 81% of Internet users have done online research on a product at least once
 - 20% do so on a typical day

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Terminology

 "the ideal Opinion Mining tool would process a set of search results for a given item, generating a list of product attributes (quality, features, etc.) and aggregating opinions about each of them (poor, mixed, good)" [Dave et al. 2003]

Sentiment Analysis synonym to Opinion Mining:

- "Sentiment" used in reference to the automatic analysis of evaluative text and tracking of the predictive judgments [Das and Chen]
- The Sentiment Analysis term is construed more broadly to mean the computational treatment of opinion, sentiment, and subjectivity in text

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Applications

- 1 Review-related websites: creation and automated upkeep of review and opinion aggregation websites
- 2 As a sub-component technology: enabling technologies for other systems (e.g. recommendation systems → not recommend items that receive negative feedback)

Applications

- 3 Business and government intelligence:
 - Reasoning for high or low sales
 - Monitoring sources for increases in hostile or negative communications
- 4 Application across different domains:
 - Politics: understand what voters are thinking [Mullen and Malouf 2006] / classification of politicians' positions [Thomas, Pang and Lee 2006]
 - Sociology: who is positively or negatively disposed towards whom → who would be more or less receptive to new information transmission from a given source [Rogers]

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➤ Contrast with fact-based textual analysis

> text categorization classifies documents by topic

VS

sentiment classification involves few classes (e.g. "positive" or "3 stars")

different characteristics of answers to opinion-oriented questions compared to fact-based questions

> Factors that make opinion mining difficult:

	Proposed word lists	Accuracy
Human 1	positive: dazzling, brilliant, phenomenal, excellent, fantastic negative: suck, terrible, awful, unwatchable, hideous	58%
Human 2	positive: gripping, mesmerizing, riveting, spectacular, cool, awesome, thrilling, badass, excellent, moving, exciting negative: bad, cliched, sucks, boring, stupid, slow	64%
Statistics- based	positive: love, wonderful, best, great, superb, still, beautiful negative: bad, worst, stupid, waste, boring, ?,!	69%

➤ Non-trivial to recognize opinion holders

Consider the following quote from Charlotte Brontë, in a letter to George Lewes:

You say I must familiarise my mind with the fact that "Miss Austen is not a poetess, has no 'sentiment' " (you scornfully enclose the word in inverted commas), "has no eloquence, none of the ravishing enthusiasm of poetry"; and then you add...

→ the opinion is not that of the author, but the opinion of "You", which refers to George Lewes in this particular letter

Order effects can completely overwhelm frequency effects

This film should be **brilliant**. It sounds like a **great** plot, the actors are **first grade**, and the supporting cast is **good** as well, and Stallone is attempting to deliver a **good** performance. <u>However</u>, it can't hold up.

→ words that are positive in orientation dominate this excerpt and yet the overall sentiment is negative because of the crucial last sentence

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Classification

- > Sentiment polarity classification:
 - classify the opinion as falling under one of two opposing sentiment polarities, or
 - locate its position on the continuum between these two polarities
 - Examples:
 - reviews: thumbs up/ thumbs down
 - prediction in elections: likely to win/ unlikely to win
- ➤ Subjectivity detection and opinion identification decide whether a given document contains subjective information or not (facts), or identify which portions of the document are subjective
 - Yu et. al. achieve high accuracy (97%) with a Naive Bayes classifier on a particular (Wall Street Journal articles),
 - task is to distinguish News and Business (facts) articles from Editorial and Letter to the Editor (opinions) articles

Classification

➤ Joint topic-sentiment analysis
interactions between topic and opinion that make it
desirable to consider the two simultaneously

Viewpoints and perspectives

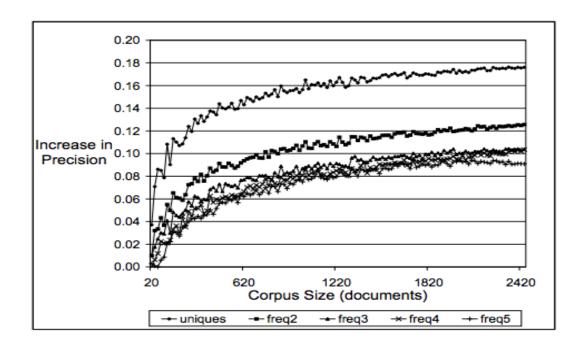
Much work on analyzing sentiment and opinions in politically-oriented text focuses on general attitudes expressed through texts that are not necessarily targeted at a particular issue or narrow subject

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Feature selection

- → Converting a piece of text into a feature vector
- 1 Term presence vs. frequency

Pang et al. obtained better performance using *presence* rather than *frequency* (entries of vector indicate whether a term occurs (value 1) or not (value 0) VS tf-idf weighting)



[Wiebe, Wilson, ...2004]

Feature selection

2 Term-based features beyond term unigrams

The *position* of a token within a textual unit (e.g., in the middle vs. near the end of a document) can have effects on how much that token affects the overall sentiment or subjectivity status of the enclosing textual unit

Table 4: Reason sentence identification results on restaurant reviews.

Features	Acc	Prec		F-score
used	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Op	61.64	60.76	47.48	53.31
Lex	63.77	67.10	51.20	58.08
Lex+Pos	63.89	67.62	51.70	58.60
Lex+Op	61.66	69.13	54.30	60.83
Lex+Pos+Op	63.13	66.80	50.41	57.46
Baseline	54.82			

Table 2: Feature summary.

Feature category	Description	Symbol
Lexical Features	unigrams bigrams trigrams	Lex
Positional Features	the first, the second, the last, the second to last sentence in a paragraph	Pos
Opinion- bearing word features	pre-selected opin- ion-bearing words	Ор

Feature selection

- 3 Parts of speech (POS)
 - Work on subjectivity detection revealed a high correlation between the presence of adjectives and sentence subjectivity [Hatzivassiloglou and Wiebe 2000]
 - the baseline of using just attitude-bearing adjectives is reasonably high [Whitelaw, Garg and Argamon 2005]
- 4 Syntax
 - → incorporating syntactic relations within feature sets
 - a subtree-based boosting algorithm using dependency-treebased features outperformed the bag-of-words baseline [Kudo and Matsumoto 2004]

Feature selection Negation

While the bag-of-words representations of "I like this book" and "I don't like this book" are considered to be very similar by most commonly-used similarity measures, the only differing token, the negation term, forces the two sentences

	ID	Approach	Selected Terms	Term Weighting	DF	Terms labeled with POS tags	Negation	Accuracy	
	3	Unigram with TFIDF	All	TFIDF	3	No	No	76.50%	
	4	Unigram with TFIDF and DF = 1	All	TFIDF	1	No	No	74.17%	
	5	Unigram labeled with POS	All	TFIDF	3	Yes	No	75.83%	
_	1	Unigram with negation phrase and DF = 3	All	TFIDF	3	No	Yes	78.33%	
	2	Unigram with negation phrase and DF = 1	All	TFIDF	1	No	Yes	79.33%	

[Na, Sui, Khoo, Chan and Zhou 2004]

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- 1 Supervised learning
 - classification

Naïve Bayes, Maximum Entropy and Support Vector Machines achieve accuracies form ~77% to ~82% while using different combinations of features (performance not as good as in topic –based categorization) [Pang et al.]

♦ regression

research that explicitly considers regression or ordinal-regression formulations of opinion mining problems → "how positive is this text?" and "how strongly held is this opinion?" [Goldberg and Zhu 2006]

2 Unsupervised approaches

- ◆Unsupervised lexicon induction: a sentiment lexicon is firstly created in an unsupervised manner, and then the degree of positivity (or subjectivity) of a text unit is determined via some function based on the positive and negative (or simply subjective) indicators, as determined by the lexicon, within it
- ◆ Bootstrapping: use the output of an available initial classifier to create labeled data, to which a supervised learning algorithm may be applied [Riloff and Wiebe 2003]

- 3 Classification based on relationship information
 - treating a document as a bag of features, then model the structure of a document via analysis of subdocument units, and explicitly utilize the relationships between these units, in order to achieve a more accurate global labeling
 - texts from a running discussion represents a rich information source that references between such texts that can be exploited for better collective labeling of the set of documents

4 Incorporating discourse structure

discourse structure (e.g. twists and turns in documents) tends to have more effect on overall sentiment labels [Pang et al.]

4 Language models

mechanisms for assigning probabilities to text rather than labels drawn from a finite set (cannot be defined as either supervised or unsupervised classifiers) [Eguchi and Lavrenko 2006]

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Summarization

→aggregating and representing sentiment information drawn from an individual document or from a collection of documents

- 1 Single-document opinion-oriented summarization
 - approaches that create textual sentiment summaries based on extraction of sentences or similar text units
 - other methods can work directly off the output of opinion-oriented information-extraction systems
- 1 Multi-document opinion-oriented summarization
 - challenge: determining which documents or portions of documents express the same opinion

- Motivation
- **♦** Terminology
- Applications
- Challenges
- Technology
 - **◆**Classification
 - ◆ Feature selection
 - **◆**Approaches
 - **◆**Summarization
- **◆**Broader Implications

Broader implications

- Privacy applications that gather data about people's preferences can trigger concerns about privacy violations
- Manipulation corporations planting positive reviews or attempting to use untoward means to manufacture an artificially inflated reputation or suppress negative information
- Economic impact of reviews how much effort companies might or should want to expend on online reputation monitoring and management?

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