In this assignment we were supposed to submit five classifiers for classifying the movie reviews into either a 4-star rating or binary rating or the reviewer who wrote the review.

We were given a corpus containing 5006 reviews. The five models are trained on this file.

I started out the assignment by reading some papers on sentiment analysis. I figured out that the major part of this assignment will be dealing with the selection and filtering of predictive features. My first impression was to use a set of features which will consist of some words representing the opinion (positive or negative) of the author.

I started out with finding some positive and negative words online from a general website.

I ran the code on the movie corpus and extracted these terms from web and created an arff file and ran a J48 decision tree classifier on the arff file. The percentage of instances that got correctly classified was about 38%.

I than also tried getting some words from the corpus that has high tfidf and added them as features. This didn’t help me in improving the accuracy.

I used Weka’s attribute feature selection and then I re ran the classifier and I reached a 42% accuracy. I then tried different classifiers and I got better results with accuracy of 45% by using SMO.

Then I came across a specialized lexicon from Janice Wiebe and Rada Mihalcea. They have a subjectivity lexicon that I downloaded from <http://www.cs.pitt.edu/mpqa/> . I also got some bigram features that had high tfidf values as features in my set of features. And then I re ran my experiments and astonishingly it gave me a boost of 5% and I got around 50% accuracy.

At the same time I ran the experiments for other classifiers and the accuracy for binary class was 72% and for reviewer’s classification was around 92%.

I was also using some document specific features such as document length, number of positive words, no of negative words, difference between the positive and negative words, no of punctuations.etc. For most of the features I was using their tf-idf values.

I then used Stanford parser to get the parts of speech and typed dependencies. I used the count of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs and determiners as features. This raised my accuracy from 50% to 53% for 4 star rating. I then tried adding some more positive and negative terms as features but there was no improvement in my accuracy.

I compared the features selected by Weka for positive/negative classification and 4 star classifications. There were some features that were only used in one of them and not another. I tried combining all the selected features and that resulted in increasing the accuracy from 54% to 58% for multi star rating and from 74% to 79.8% for positive/negative classification. The accuracy for reviewers classification was now 95%.

I was not able to use typed dependency from Stanford parser. I would have tried some experiments with it to see if I could have improved the accuracy. I also tried using reviewer’s classification first to increase the accuracy of 4 star and binary classification but it didn’t result in any increase in the accuracy.

1. **Cross validation Accuracy for each experiment?**
2. Classifiers used and **Why?**

Jrip, J48, SVM, Naïve Bayes, multiple perceptron(4 star rating)

1. Which were the fastest? Most Accurate? Easiest to use?

Naive Bayesian was the fastest.

SVM SMO was the most accurate one as it was giving the highest percentage of correctly classified instances..

Naïve Bayes and J48 were easier to use as they had less parameters as compared to SMO.

I used Multiple Perceptron for 4 star rating and it took the longest time to converge and gave a accuracy of around 57%.

1. Which one do you prefer and Why?

I preferred SVM-SMO because it was giving better results with respect to Accuracy and classified more instances correctly.

1. Which classification task was easiest and hardest and why?

The classification of reviewers was easiest using the BOW features from the wordlist that I downloaded from <http://www.cs.pitt.edu/mpqa/> because almost all of the reviewers were using some set of words very often across all of their reviews. This helped in getting predictive features to classify more instances correctly.

The classification into 4 star rating was hardest because the 4 classes were very similar and closely related to each other especially adjacent classes and the classes differ only by a small set of features and decision even in the real world is also very subjective and depends on person to person. So it will be a hard problem for automatic classification. For example classes with 2 star rating and 3 star rating – both have some good points and some bad points about the movie expressed by the author. It’s very subjective to rate it as a 2 star or 3 star and depends on the individual and the weightage of the positive/negative sentiment. So the 4 star rating task was the hardest one.

1. Within task were some classes easier to classify then others? Why?

Yes within a task such as the 4 star rating it was easier to classify the 4 star class or the 1 star class than to classify 2 star class or 3 star class. The reason is same as in the above question as these classes differ only by a small set of features and decision even in the real world is also very subjective. For example classes 2 and 3 (star rating) – both have some good points and some bad points about the movie expressed by the reviewer. It’s very subjective to rate it as a 2 star or 3 star and depends on the individual and the weightage of the positive/negative sentiment.

Whereas clearly the review with star 1 or star 4 rating were easier to classify as the features and words used were more inclined towards either positive or negative opinion sentiment.

1. Which classifications were most similar and most different and why?

The 4 star rating and the Positive/Negative class classification were similar because in both the cases we were trying to identify the opinion of the text. They differed only in the degree of the sentiment where 1 and 2 star rating formed negative class and 3 and 4 star rating formed positive class.

The 4 star rating and Reviewers class classification were most different because in one we were trying to classify the documents based on the opinion expressed about the movie and in other we were trying to classify who wrote the review based on the style of the author or reviewer. The two tasks were very different as they were addressing two different problems.

1. What features did you use and why?

I used a set of positive/negative/neutral words features that I selected using the term frequency in the training set and from the special lexicon from MPQA and then using Weka’s feature selection to reduce the noise and number of informative/predictive features. I also used bigram features and some other document specific features such as no of positive words, document length, no of negative words, no of nouns, difference between positive and negative words, no of superlative words, no of negating words (not, isn’t etc), no of verbs, adjectives, determiners, adverbs.etc.

I used them iteratively over the last month when I was experimenting with the features. I used all of them in my final models because the combination of all these features helped be in achieving the highest accuracy for the correctly classified instances.

1. Did they perform better or worst then expected?

Some of the features performed better than expected such as the list of positive/negative opinion words from specialized lexicon performed the best for the reviewer’s classification and some didn’t perform as expected such as count of nouns in the text.

1. Did early experiments guide your thinking for your final submission? How?

Yes early experiments helped me in deciding that I would require a good set of predictive positive and negative sentiment words to increase the accuracy of the classification. The finding of specialized lexicon from MPQA definitely helped in improving the accuracy.

1. Which features were most/least helpful? Why?

List of positive/negative/neutral words from specialized lexicon were most useful as they increased the accuracy by a significant percentage.

Count of NN words was not useful because it decreased the accuracy.

1. If you used any external resources which did you use? How did they contribute to the success of your submission?

I used Porter Stemmer – It wasn’t helpful. It decreased the accuracy.

I used Stanford Parser, it was helpful in getting the POS tags for the sentences in the reviews which was used for the features such a number of verbs, adverbs, adjectives.etc. It increased the accuracy of classification not by a significant percentage but it takes a lot of time to process and get POS tags.

I used a list of positive and negative sentiment words from MPQA. It was very useful as it increased the accuracy by a significant percentage.