# Sentiment analysis based on Greek Bert and MT5

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#### 1 Abstract

Sentiment Analysis is a significant task in Natural Language Processing (NLP). It uses to understand the sentiments of the customer/people for products, movies, and other such things, whether they feel positive, negative, or neutral about it. It is often performed on textual data, helps companies and other related entities know about their products/services, and helps them work on the feedback to improve it further. Sentiment analysis is one of the most challenging tasks in NLP because even humans struggle to analyze sentiments accurately. Some immediate challenges derived from languages are subjectivity and tone, context, polarity, irony, and sarcasm. In the current work, we are comparing different approaches performed on Greek movie reviews. More specifically, on a dataset named Athinorama Greek Movie Reviews, Sentiment Analysis2 from Kaggle. So, we choose the Sentiment Analysis task because it is difficult and because we think it has vast applications in industry and research.

#### 2 Data exploration

The selected dataset includes data from movie reviews in the Greek language. More specifically, it is downloaded from the Kaggle platform and contains a large amount of data to train our models. Data extracted from Athinorama, an informative Greek site concerning many categories of entertainment. It has 148.795 reviews for 6.481 unique movies. The provided information is the following: id number, greek title, original title, category, director, movie length, movie date, author, review date, review, stars, label, mean of star ratings, number of reviews, and URL.



Figure 1: Data in dataframe

We also calculated the minimum, maximum and average number of reviews for each movie grouped by sentiment as you may see below

```
Negative Reviews
Minimum reviews: 1 / Maximum reviews: 160 / Mean reviews: 7.52

Neutral Reviews
Minimum reviews: 1 / Maximum reviews: 123 / Mean reviews: 8.68

Positive Reviews
Minimum reviews: 1 / Maximum reviews: 505 / Mean reviews: 12.22
```

Figure 2: Statistics or reviews concerning sentiment

## 3 Preprocessing

First and foremost, we checked if the data had any missing values in columns we were interested in (review and label). As it has no missing values dataset looks to be well created. Then we noticed that sentiment is in the form of stars, so we decided to transform these labels to form 3 classes, positive, neutral, and negative. So all comments with 0 to 1.5 stars are classified as negative, 2 to 3.5 as neutral, and 4 to five as positive.

	review	label	review_cleansed	sentiment
131878	E E A I P E T I K H !!	2.0	εξαιρετικη	positive
31607	ΤΑΙΝΙΑΡΑΙ!!!!Η ΤΣΟΛΗ ΦΟΒΕΡΗ Ο ΙΘΑΝ ΜΑΝΑΡΙ ΔΕΝ	2.0	ταινιαραη τσολη φοβερη ο ιθαν μαναρι δεν θα επ	positive
121574	Εξαιρετικές ερμηνείες και από τους δυο πρωταγω	1.0	εξαιρετικες ερμηνειες και απο τους δυο πρωταγω	neutral
65312	Κάτι οι κάποιες κριτικές που διάβασα (LIFO),κά	0.0	κατι οι καποιες κριτικες που διαβασα lifοκατι	negative
38318	Αρκετά καλη ταινία,το σενάριο περίπλοκο,η ιστο	1.0	αρκετα καλη ταινιατο σεναριο περιπλοκοη ιστορι	neutral
88510	εξαιρετικό	2.0	εξαιρετικο	positive
27856	Αρκετά καλή, αξίζει τα ευρώ σας, θα περάσετε π	2.0	αρκετα καλη αξιζει τα ευρω σας θα περασετε πολ	positive
116970	Εντυπωσιακή τεχνικά και κινηματογραφικά, εξαντ	1.0	εντυπωσιακη τεχνικα και κινηματογραφικα εξαντλ	neutral
17262	Πρέπει να επιλέξετε αστεράκια ή να γράψετε παρ	2.0	πρεπει να επιλεξετε αστερακια η να γραψετε παρ	positive
23084	Εντυπωσιακή ατμόσφαιρα & αγωνία!	2.0	εντυπωσιακη ατμοσφαιρα αγωνια	positive

Figure 3: Transformation from stars to sentiments classes

Concerning the reviews, we transformed all words into lower case, removing accents and punctuation.

#### 4 Data visualizations

In following Bar Plot, you may see the labels (negative, neutral, and positive) distribution over movies. Translated to exact numbers, we have 34.495 reviews with negative sentiment, 46.011 reviews with the neutral sentiment, and 68.289 reviews with positive sentiment.

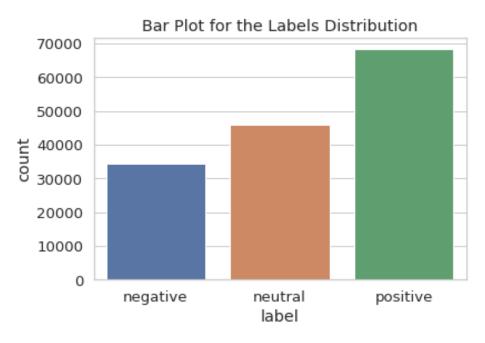


Figure 4: Sentiment distribution over reviews

The graph below is a plot that describes the different sentiment probability of the number of reviews through the movies axis.

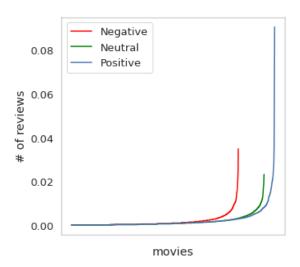


Figure 5: Review probability distribution throughout movies

We used a Word Cloud representation for each sentiment based on reviews that contain some indicative words. For instance Word Cloud for negative reviews contains the words "χρίμα", "δυστυχώς", "χάλια" etc, for neutral reviews contains the words "βέβαια", "όμως", "σενάριο" etc, for positive reviews contains the words "χαλή", "αριστούργημα", "εξαιρετιχή" etc.



Figure 6: Word cloud representation

Finally, in following plot we display some of the top 3-grams for each sentiment. This visualization provide as with confidence that generally the dataset contains good quality data.

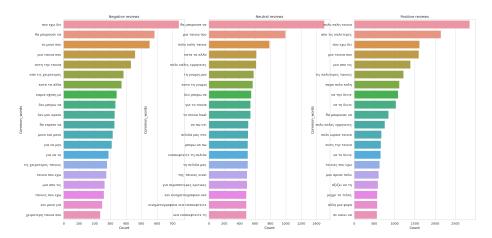


Figure 7: 3-grams for each sentiment

In negative reviews some of the most indicative n-grams are "από τις χειροτερες", "δεν μου αρεσε" and "χειροτερη ταινια που". In neutral reviews some of the most indicative n-grams are "κατ τα αλλα", "κατα τη γνωμη" and "να πω οτι". In positive reviews some of the most indicative n-grams are "πολυ καλη ταινια", "από τις καλυτερες" and "πολυ καλες ερμηνειες".

## 5 Implementation of Greek BERT

Our initial approach was to implement sentiment analysis along with the BERT architecture. The dataset, as explained before, consists of Greek movie reviews from Athinorama, with their labels ranging from 0 to 5 stars. As we mentioned in the pre-processing section, we grouped the labels into negative, neutral, and positive sentiments. Therefore, our sentiment analysis problem is nothing more than a multi-class classification problem with three classes. As our dataset is mainly in Greek, we should apply transfer learning from the Greek version of the BERT model, which has robust embeddings with Greek vocabulary and has trained in the Greek Wikipedia, Greek legislation corpus, and many more.

Google developed and published the famous BERT in 2018 to better understand user searches. BERT uses the Transformer architecture as its basic structure. The Transformer is an architecture that relies solely on the attention mechanism and removes the need for recurrence by processing the entire input string at once instead of in a word-by-word fashion. However, as its acronym implies, BERT uses only Encoders from the Transformer architecture, and in our case, the Greek BERT is the base model with 12 encoders with 12 bidirectional self-attention heads. Finally, BERT has many applications such as speech recognition, question answering, topic modeling, summarization, language understanding, and many more.

A critical section is the role of the tokenizer. Apart from the pre-trained Greek model, we have loaded and also utilized the pre-trained Greek tokenizer. The tokenizer modifies the input text data into encoded tokens with a respective id and creates an attention mask for each representation to finally have the correct format for the model. Therefore, the role of the tokenizer is crucial. The embeddings of the BERT have a max threshold of 512 tokens, and with respect to the main training corpus, the user should determine the max length of the tokens. We should also mention that the max length of the tokens significantly impacts computational cost. Therefore, we have reduced training time if we keep the max length parameter low. In our case, we plotted the tokens' length to visualize their distribution.

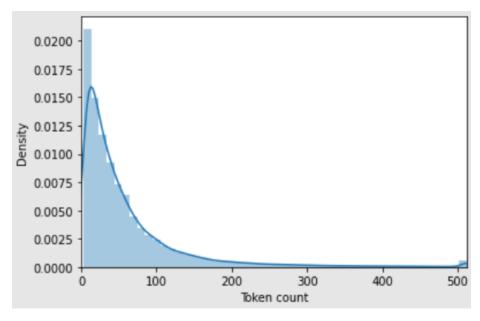


Figure 8: Distribution of length of the Tokens

From the above plot, we can represent most tokens with a length of 120 to 150. Therefore we applied on the tokenizer a max length equal to 128. In the figure below, we can see an illustration of the tokenizer for giving a text along with its padding to reach the proper max length.

αριστουργημα του κορυφαιου μπαστερ κιτον [CLS] αριστουργημα του κορυφαιο ##υ μπασ ##τερ κιτ ##ον [SEP] [PAD] [PA

Figure 9: Illustration of the tokenizer

In our dataset, we split the data into 80% training (roughly 120 thousand rows), 10% testing (15 thousand rows), and 10% validation (15 thousand rows), and also we applied a Dataloader with a batch size equal to 128. In addition, we have integrated the tokenizer in the Dataloader, so we can have in every batch the encoded input ids and the attention mask to fit our model.

As we mentioned before, the main architecture on which we based our model is the pre-trained Greek Bert, but as our task is sentiment analysis a classification with three classes, we adjust on top of our pre-trained model a Dropout Layer (with probability equal to 0.3) and a Dense Layer with three outputs. In this way, we finetune the pre-trained Greek model with our training corpus and finally classify a review in a range of 3 classes. We should mention that we base our implementation on PyTorch framework. We set the loss function to Cross-Entropy loss and the optimizer to Adam. Finally, we trained the model for 10 Epochs, and after each epoch, we monitored the training accuracy and loss and the validation accuracy and loss. We save the best model with respect to validation accuracy.



Figure 10: Evaluation metrics History of the model

In the above graph, we can notice the training loss is continuously decreasing achieving a training accuracy of 93% in the 10th epoch, but the validation loss is fluctuating between 0.55 and 0.85, achieving the best validation accuracy of 77% in the 2nd epoch.

## 6 Implementation of MT5

Regarding our sentiment analysis problem, we tried to integrate the MT5 model as a second approach. Google has also developed the MT5 model, a powerful multilingual model with a vocabulary of 101 languages. The MT5 is a transformer-based sequence-to-sequence model, which "models" every problem in text-to-text format, meaning that the input has a text format, and the output has a text format. The applications of the MT5 model have a great variety, such as classification, summarization, and translation. The main difference between BERT and MT5 is that MT5 uses Encodes and Decoders as the main Trans-

former architecture. Finally, we should mention that we utilized the smallest version of the MT5 series (google/mt5-small) as these models have very high computational costs due to their size. MT5 follows Bert's preprocessing steps, except for not using labels. Because of the text-to-text format, we should apply the sentiment values (negative, neutral, positive) to the model, not their numeric labels.

To finetune the MT5 model, which contains the Greek language, to our training corpus, we have loaded the model and its respective tokenizer. The MT5 tokenizer has a different technique to encode the tokens in contrast to the BERT tokenizer, but the procedure is the same. First, we have to set the max length of the tokens, as we have elaborated with Bert. In the figures bellow, we notice the distribution of the length of the tokens according to the MT5 tokenization technique and an illustrative example of the MT5 tokenizer.

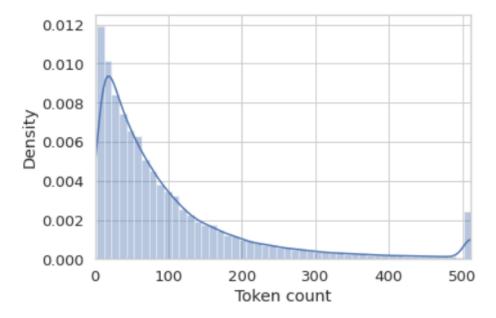


Figure 11: Distribution of length of the Tokens with MT5 tokenizer

ως τωρα την εχω δει δυο φορες και θα ξαναπηγαινα ευχαριστως είναι εξαιρετικη με εκπληκτικα εφε δυνατες συγκινησεις και μια μαγικη ιστορια να διηγηθεί ιδανικη για οπ - ως - τωρ - την - ε χω - δει -δυ ο \_φορ ες \_και \_θα \_ξανα πη γα ινα \_ευχαριστ ως \_ ει ναι \_ ε ξαιρετικ η \_με \_εκ πληκτ ικα \_εφ ε \_ δυνατ ες \_συγκ ινη σεις \_και . max length : 128

positive \_positive </s> <pad> max length : 3

Figure 12: Illustration of the MT5 tokenizer

We have set the max length of tokens equal to 128 for the MT5 tokenizer, the same as the Bert tokenizer. However, a significant remark is that the MT5 tokenizer, in contrast to the BERT tokenizer, has to encode not only the input ids and attention mask but also the target input id and its attention, as shown in the example above. That occurs because the MT5 uses decoders, whereas the BERT only uses encoders. Therefore, we have set the max length of "target" tokens equal to 3.

MT5 is very agile that we do not have to modify the architecture of the pretrained model as we have done with BERT. This way, we can apply classification or sentiment analysis and finetune the pre-trained model with our corpus. The only requirement is to tokenize the data so we can give four inputs to the model.

In the training section of the MT5 model, we have trained the model for 12 epochs and used the Cross-Entropy Loss as the loss function and Adam as the optimizer. In every epoch, we monitor the training loss and validation loss-accuracy. A very interesting part is that to have predictions, we should apply the general method of the MT5 model concerning some input ids and attention masks. Then we have to convert the ids to tokens through the MT5 tokenizer and apply the evaluation metrics. In the figure below, we visualized the training history of the model.



Figure 13: Evaluation metrics & History of the model

From the plot above, we should notice that the training loss as the validation loss were decreasing and also that the validation accuracy metrics was increasing across the epochs. The best validation accuracy was roughly at 73% at 9th epoch.

#### 7 Implementation of GPT 2

Generative Pre-trained Transformer 2 (GPT-2) is an open-source artificial intelligence model created by OpenAI in February 2019. GPT-2 translates text, answers questions, summarizes passages, and can generate text output on a level that, while sometimes indistinguishable from that of humans. It is a general-purpose learner and was not trained to do specific tasks. We faced a number of problems with the tokenizer because GPT-2 based on decoders. At the end we achieve good results similar with the Bert and T5 pretrained models. One other problem is that when we decode the tokenized words many of them lose their meaning.

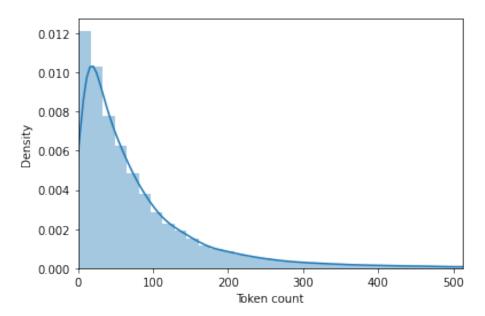


Figure 14: Distribution of length of the Tokens with MT5 tokenizer

ως τωρα την εχω δει δυο φορες και θα ξαναπηγαινα ευχαριστως είναι εξαιρετικη με εκπληκτικα εφε δυνατες συγκινησεις και μια μαγικη ιστορια να διηγήθει ιδανικη για οπο \_ ως \_ τωρα \_ την \_ ε χω \_ δει \_δυ ο \_φορ ες \_και \_θα \_ξανα πη γα ινα \_ευχαριστ ως \_ ει ναι \_ ε ξαιρετικ η \_με \_εκ πληκτ ικα \_εφ ε \_ δυνατ ες \_συγκ ινη σεις \_και . positive \_positive </s>

Figure 15: Illustration of the MT5 tokenizer

We should mention that we found a Greek paper from Aigean university that they have implement GPT-2 as a sentiment classifier on covid-19 tweets dataset and they have achieve the best results in comparison with the other transformers.



Figure 16: Evaluation metrics & History of the model

## 8 Implementation of our architecture

In our previous attempts for sentiment classification using the transformer models, we use the embeddings of each sentence of our dataset. This time we try to use the word embeddings of each of the 128 tokens in our sentences. We will use these embeddings as an input in our model, which has the classifier role. The model consists of five parts: the Pre-train layer Greek Bert transformer, a BiLSTM layer, an Attention layer, a CNN layer, and a Full Connected layer. The figure below shows the structure of the model. Specifically, we use the pretrained Bert model for tokenizing our data. Each sentence has 128 tokens. As an input, we use the tokenized sentences of our dataset using special tokens like [SEP] to mark the end of a sentence or the separation between two sentences and [CLS] at the beginning of our text. This token is used for classification tasks. We sum the output of the last 4 layers of the Bert transformer to represent each word's embeddings and use them as an input in the BiLSTM. At this time, the text sentence starts to classify. The BiLSTM network can process a long text sequence and apply it after the pre-train layer, extracting the text's dependencies in the forward and backward directions. Different words have different effects on judging the sentiment polarity of the entire text. Therefore, the model introduces an attention mechanism to assign different sentiment weights to different words. Convolution is extracting the most meaningful local feature information in the input text information through a filter, reducing the data dimension, and the model can get the position invariant. After the convolutional operation is over, we perform the pooling operation. The pooling layer's role is to compress the convolutional feature vector further, which can reduce the vector dimension and computational complexity. We used the max-pooling method to keep the sentence's most important features. Finally, we connect our pooled feature vectors to a fully connected layer which can improve the robustness of the feature vector while retaining important features as much as possible. To achieve our classification task, we add a drop-out layer with 0.3 probability and a Dense layer with 3 outputs representing the probability for each class. As an optimizer, we use AdamW, and for loss function, we used cross-entropy loss. To fully complete each Epoch, the model needed more than 5 hours of training. Unfortunately, time did not permit the adoption of different architectures or the use of Lexikon.

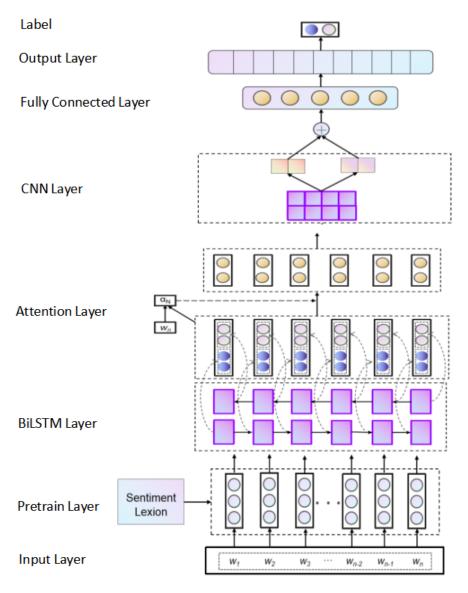


Figure 17: Our model architecture based on Weibo sentiment analysis paper

In the figure bellow we have the training results on accuracy and the output of the loss function for the training and the validation set. We observe that our model did not achieved good results. The training loss haven't change so there is a possibility that with more epochs we could see a difference.

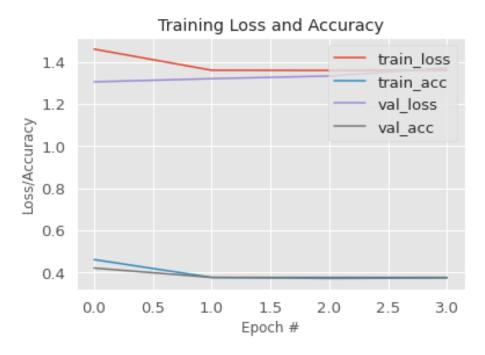


Figure 18: Evaluation metrics & History of the model

#### 9 Evaluation of the results

To evaluate the performance of the different transformers and our proposed model, we randomly divide the dataset into ten parts, using eight of them as the training set, one as the validation set, and the remaining one part as the test set, taking the results as the evaluation result of the models.

As we all know, the model's performance is affected by the number of epochs. Therefore, we train Bert and T5 models for 10 epochs and our model for 4 epochs saving each time the results. We kept the weights that give the best validation accuracy for each model. Having picked the best, we evaluate our results on the test set, calculating the accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score. Finally, we visualize our results with the confusion matrix. Also, we create a table that aggregates the results for each model. From the metrics below, we can easily claim that most mistakes happen between positive-neutral and negative-neutral comments with no high polarity. (We had better metrics but we lost them)

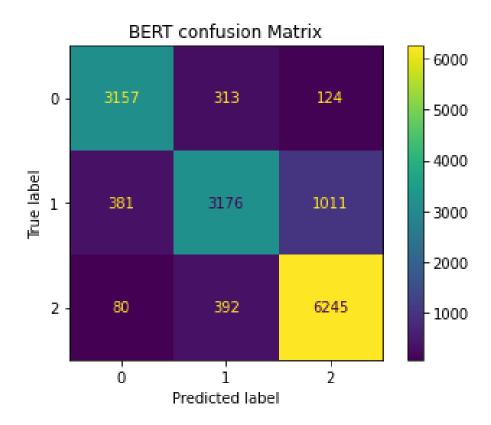


Figure 19: Confusion matrix for bert model

In the figure bellow we represent some metrics for the Bert based model.

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
negative neutral possitive	0.79 0.84 0.82	0.75 0.68 0.98	0.77 0.75 0.89	20 38 42
accuracy macro avg weighted avg	0.82 0.82	0.80 0.82	0.82 0.80 0.81	100 100 100

Figure 20: Metrics for the Bert model

In order to have a deeper understanding of our models, we create data frames that visualize in the same frame, the sentences, the tokenization, the true and the predicted labels.



Figure 21: Bert Dataframe predictions



Figure 22: T5 Dataframe predictions



Figure 23: Bert and T5 combined

We can observe that the models often classify the sentence incorrectly because the commentator made some typos. We think those typos create tokens that the tokenizers cannot "understand". As a result, the transformer creates random embeddings. That randomness makes the models make wrong decisions, especially when there is no high polarity; for example, positive sentences are treated as neutral.

#### 10 Conclusion

At present, deep learning models are popular in the field of sentiment analysis. Transformers like Bert, GPT-2, or GPT-3 and T5 are the base of the models with higher accuracy. However, for the Greek language, there is not any public available sentiment analysis model. In this project, we tried to implement different pre-trained transformers and use them to classify the Athinorama dataset and propose our model. The highest accuracy we achieved using the pre-trained Bert transformers was close to 77%. Those results are not very good if we compare them with other models in other languages. However, we must understand that a much larger corpus has been used for training in languages like English. In our research, we have also found a paper that has trained a GPT-2 transformer to perform sentiment analysis classification for a greek tweets dataset,

but despite our efforts. One problem we faced was tokenizing the words from the pre-trained transformers. The Bert tokenizer produces the most sensible results. We used Bert embeddings to train our model, but we didn't manage to have great results. Bert model consumes enormous hardware resources and requires a considerable corpus for training. In the given time, we could experiment with many models and cherry-pick the best. For future work, we will try improve GPT-2 model.