



# Thwarting in Sentiment Analysis

By Mei Maddox & Thomas FitzGerald

# Problem Overview

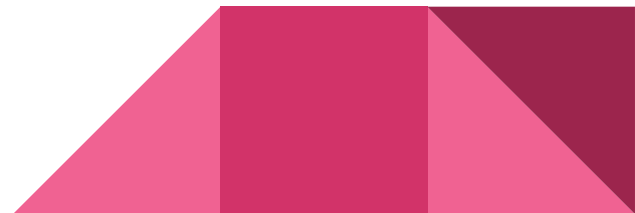
“I love the **sleek design**.  
The **lens** is **impressive**.  
The **pictures** look **good**  
but, somehow this  
**camera disappoints** me.  
I do not recommend it.”



| Aspect Level |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Design       | Sleek         |
| Lens         | Impressive    |
| Pictures     | Good          |
| Camera       | Disappointing |



| Document Level             |
|----------------------------|
| <b>NOT<br/>RECOMMENDED</b> |



# Related Work

- Although there is a lot of work in sentiment analysis, there is comparatively little direct research on thwarting
  - Thwarting is very rare (~1-2% of most datasets)
    - Persistent but minimal impact on sentiment analysis overall
  - Thwarting is difficult to detect
    - Generally requires domain knowledge
  - Generally requires hand annotation to identify
    - Expensive
    - Tedious



# Methodology

# Dataset Overview

- 50,000 Movie Reviews from IMDB
  - 50% Positive, 50% Negative
- Hand-annotated subset
  - 48% positive, 52% negative
  - 10 thwarted, 40 non-thwarted



# Valence-Arousal-Dominance (VAD)

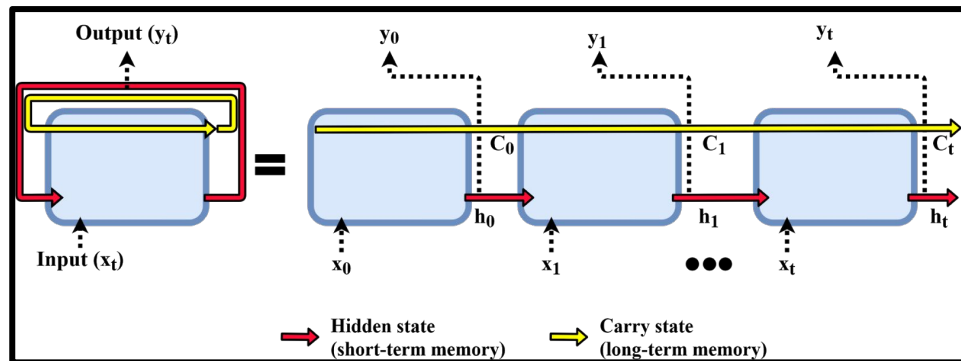
- Valence - “Pleasantness”
  - Tracks best to overall sentiment
- Arousal - Intensity
- Dominance - Degree of control
- 0-1 scale
- Words mapped as vectors
  - “Stupendous” [.7, .6, .3]
  - “Criminal” [.2, .6, .4]
  - “Forbidden” [.3, .8, .7]



# Models

## Rules-based

## LSTM



Read Document into Memory

Preprocess Document

Text-Level Processing

Lowercase  
POS-based Lemmatization  
Pseudoword Replacement  
POS-based Clause Identification  
Negation Flagging

Clause-Level Processing

Pseudoword Removal  
Stopword Removal  
Punctuation Removal  
Punctuation Removal  
Non-Polar Token Removal  
NaN Handling  
Negation Application  
for non mean-imputed tokens  
VAD Dimension Averages  
Single-Metric VAD Collation

Split Document into 4-1 ratio

Last 1/5 of Document is less than 3 clauses

Compute Average Sentiment across first 4/5ths (A1)

Compute Average Sentiment across last 1/5th (A2)

Compute Weighted Average Sentiment across last 1/5th (A2)

Binarize Average Sentiment for both Section Individually (S1, S2)

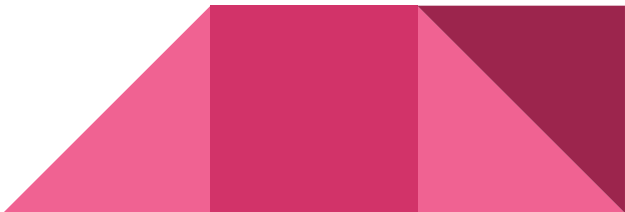
Return S2

S1  $\neq$  S2 AND  
 $|A1 - A2| > 0.2$

Return S1

## Sample Input

**The actors are terrible and the directing is lackluster. Although I dislike comedy, the movie was surprisingly enjoyable**





## Sample Input (Cont.)

$C_{i1}$ : terrible -> 0.061

$C_{i2}$ : lackluster -> 0.25

$C_{i3}$ : dislike comedy -> 0.537

$C_{i4}$ : movie surprisingly enjoyable -> 0.8796666

$D_i = [0.061, 0.25, 0.537, 0.8796666]$



# Sample Output

## Rules-based Model:

- Sentiment Prediction: False
- Thwarting Prediction: True

## LSTM Model:

- Sentiment Prediction: 1

```
=====
===== RULE-BASED MODEL RESULTS =====
=====
Confusion matrix for predicting overall sentiment on ALL evaluation documents
[[0. 0.]
 [0. 1.]]
Confusion matrix for predicting overall sentiment on ONLY thwarted evaluation documents
[[0. 0.]
 [0. 1.]]
Confusion matrix for predicting the existence of thwarting on ALL evaluation documents
[[0. 0.]
 [0. 1.]]
```

```
=====
===== LSTM MODEL RESULTS =====
=====
Confusion matrix for predicting overall sentiment on ALL evaluation documents
[[0. 0.]
 [0. 1.]]
Confusion matrix for predicting overall sentiment on ONLY thwarted evaluation documents
[[0. 0.]
 [0. 1.]]
```



Thank you!

# Future Work

- Train LSTM on a larger dataset of thwarted reviews
- Divide longer documents into sub-sections before averaging
  - Reduce input vector size
- Try using rule-based method as an initial filtering for hand annotation





Thank you!

# Resources

- [1] Ramteke Ankit, Malu Akshat, Bhattacharyya Pushpak; Nath, Saketha. 2013. *Detecting Turnarounds in Sentiment Analysis: Thwarting* <https://aclanthology.org/P13-2149.pdf>
- [2] Mohammad Saif. 2011. NCR Valence, Arousal, and Dominance (NCR-VAD) Lexicon. <https://saifmohammad.com/WebPages/nrc-vad.html>
- [3] LAKSHMIPATHI N. 2020. *Sentiment Analysis of IMDB Movie Reviews*.  
<https://www.kaggle.com/code/lakshmi25npathi/sentiment-analysis-of-imdb-movie-reviews>
- [4] Spacy en\_core\_web\_sm pipeline, <https://spacy.io/models/en>
- [5] Pennington Jeffrey, Socher Richard, Manning Christopher. 2014. *GloVe: Global Vectors for Word Representation*.  
<https://nlp.stanford.edu/projects/glove/>
- [6] Pang Bo, Lee Lillian, Vaithyanathan Shivakumar. 2002. *Thumbs Up? Sentiment Classification using Machine Learning Techniques*.  
[https://ncf.instructure.com/courses/6788/assignments/53643?module\\_item\\_id=154725](https://ncf.instructure.com/courses/6788/assignments/53643?module_item_id=154725)
- [7] Wankhade Mayur, Rao Annavarapu Chandra Sekhara, Kulkarni Chaitanya. 2022. *A survey on sentiment analysis methods, applications, and challenges* <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10462-022-10144-1>
- [8] Panda Saimita, Gupta Saumya, Kumari Swati, Yadav Parul. 2020. *Sentiment Analysis Techniques and Approaches* <https://www.ijert.org/research/sentiment-analysis-techniques-and-approaches-IJERTV9IS060350.pdf>