Topic modelling of amazon comments

Intro

Businesses use *topic modelling* to extract their customers' attitudes to their products from their comments on different platforms. This part of the report is devoted to extracting the most important topics of the 5000 comments from the Amazon website. The data is diverse, and the comments are about different brands and models. So, the final result of our study may not be helpful in terms of a specific product or brand analysis.

Business and data understanding

The data has an instrumental variable: the product score out of 5. We assume this variable as a Likert measure (1-5) for satisfaction. Higher stars mean more satisfaction and vice versa. This project aims to topic modelling of positive and negative comments. So, we can divide the comments into positive(P) and negative(N) according to the users' starts given to the products.

We assume the satisfied customers have given 4 or 5-stars to products and unsatisfied users have given 1 or 2-stars. The comments with 3-star can not be counted as positive or negative comments. There are other options like defining more than two satisfaction classes for comments, but we focused on two classes for comments as it is asked. Also, other possible factors like the colour and size_name can be processed to measure the customer's satisfaction, which is off the comment analysis topic. We will use both *titles* and *comment* fields text for our analysis. *Titles* are usually more concise and use fewer general words.

It is worth mentioning that another solution for comment dividing is text sentiment analysis using Tidyverse get_sentiments("bing") function. As we have access to helpful product score data, using sentiment analysis does not make sense. As (Al-Natour and Turetken, 2020) suggested, at this time, sentiment analysis methods can be used as a complementary factor but not a perfect substitute where ratings exist.

Data preparation

We need to ensure the format of the text column. We used str_conv to convert the strings into UTF-8. Also, we defined two classes of "satisfied" and "unsatisfied" customers regarding stars. The "satisfied" group has 3729 members, and the "unsatisfied" has 626 members. From this point afterwards, we analyse these two classes separately.

We lemmatised the documents using the lemmatize_string function, then tokenised the documents by tokeniser to be able to process them. We converted the <u>combination</u> of "*titles*" and "*comments*" to a corpus document using the <u>corpus</u> function. The next step is producing the document term matrix(DTM).

DocumentTermMatrix function has a lemmatisation sub-function as a part of its controls. Setting the controls to remove punctuations, numbers, and stop words, we removed words with less than one character and lowered all characters.

Furthermore, we tested both the *TF* and *TF_IDF* methods. The aim of this project is topic extraction, and also the comments are usually free of prefixes and common words. So, reducing the weights of the common words among the comments could lose some critical tokens. Hence, we decided to use *TF* instead of the *TF-IDF* method. *TF-IDF* gives more weight to the rare words with less frequency among the documents. The frequent terms of the *TF-IDF* model are very unspecific in this case.

Fig 1: Frequent words-TF vs TF-IDF

Constructing the DTM, we can see 3728 documents(rows) and 4191 terms in the matrix. About 99.8% of all entries are sparse and need modification. For the negative comments, this number is 99.4%.

P-comments:

```
<-DocumentTermMatrix (documents: 3728, terms: 4191)>>
Non-/sparse entries: 31413/15592635
Sparsity
Maximal term length: 43
Weighting : term frequency (tf)
```

Fig 2: P-DTM

N-comments:

```
<<DocumentTermMatrix (documents: 624, terms: 1873)>>
Non-/sparse entries: 6778/1161974
sparsity : 99%
Maximal term length: 20
Weighting : term frequency (tf)
```

Fig 3: N-DTM

By removing the sparse tokens with a trigger of 97%, we achieved a sparsity level of 91% for positive comments. The number of the remaining terms for positives is 48. For negatives, this number is 57 and 92% sparsity.

Fig 4: P-DTM removed sparse

```
> findFreqTerms(dtmsne,lowfreq = 100)
[1] "phone" "good" "camera" "quality" "buy" "dont" "issue" "mobile" "product" "battery" "bad" "worst"
> dtmsne
<<DocumentTermMatrix (documents: 598, terms: 57)>>
Non-/sparse entries: 2571/31515
Sparsity : 92%
Maximal term length: 13
Weighting : term frequency (tf)
```

Fig 5: N-DTM removed sparse

Furthermore, we prepared the frequency table of the words in each document and the whole text. We used colSum and rowSum on the DTM to shape the tables that will be used by *Latent Dirichlet Allocation* (*LDA*) and *word cloud*. The word cloud of P-terms and N-terms:





As it was predictable, the token phone and camera are the most interesting tokens in both topics. But some differentiation in most frequent words.

Topic modelling

Having the data in corpus form, we can start topic modelling. The first step is optimising the model parameter "k" as the number of topics. The k, which makes the highest coherence score among the topics, would be a candidate for the best number. It is worth mentioning that this k is just a suggestion. We applied CalcProbCoherence to estimate the k.

For k = c(2:15) and 4000 iterations, we ran a loop to measure the coherency of the **LDA** models. The final result of the model for P-comments suggests k=4 and a k=7 as the best coherent number of topics for N-comments.

Chart 3: P-comments coherence score

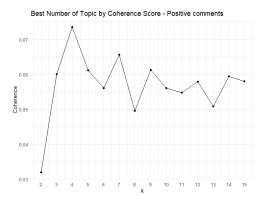
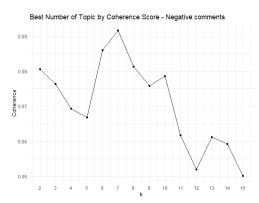


Chart 4: N-comments coherence score



We ran the LDA model for suggested ks and 4000 iterations. Phi and Theta parameters demonstrate the token distribution over the topic and distribution of documents over the topic, respectively. Investigating the Theta shows a smooth distribution for most documents over topics, which means an overlap on topics. To examine the efficiency of the suggested k, we need to interpret it. So, we sampled 1000 and sorted the comments according to their distribution on each topic to find if the topics define the topic terms and comments.

Also, we have used another valuable measure, "*relevancy*", which is the result of (Sievert, 2014) study. The idea is to measure the frequency of a particular term in a topic compared to its frequency in the whole corpus. Due to the word limit of this report, we investigated the result of *the three most popular topics* (*regarding the number of comments on each topic Theta*) of positive and negative comments.

The topics must be specific, and the majority of the terms and comments (contents) must be interpretable by the topic's name. As long as we can name all the suggested topics using their contents, we can call them proper topics. If a topic cannot interpret its contents, we will repeat the process with another k. Our decision model showed in Chart5. We try to extract the suitable topics according to this process.

Chart 5: k selection process start Run the coherence optimizer Select the k with the best coherency measure Extract the most Extract sample important terms comments of each on each topic topic Give a name to each Sort the documents topic according to the according their distribution on the selected topic non general terms Do all topic names NO define their related comments ? YES Are the topic names NO related to the frequent relevant terms? YES

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Positive comments:

We tested increasing the topics to 5, 6, and 7 and decreasing them to 3 and 2, but the results were not better.



Fig 6: Most frequent terms on topics

Topic 1: the value of the purchase: The most frequent words in the topic are related to purchase and evaluation of the purchase's value. The sample comments (apendix1)demonstrate that the chosen topic name is logical for the contents.

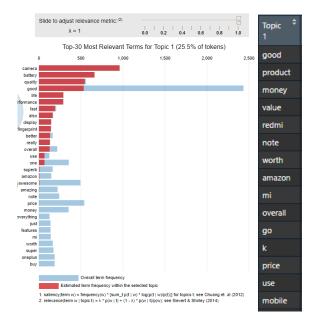


Fig 8: LDA-most relevant terms of topic 1

Topic 2: **design and physical features**: the most frequent words on this topic and comments(appendix2) are related to phone features. Topic words "phone" and "nice" are samples of these words. However, the relevant words are slightly different from the frequent terms in this topic.

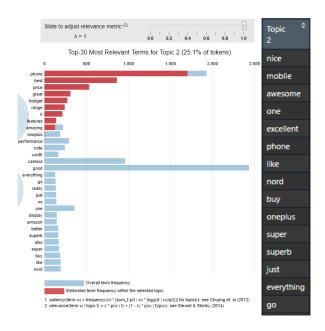


Fig 10: LDA visualisation and most relevant terms of topic 2

Topic 3: **Phone specs and quality, including battery, display:** Analysing the topic words, comments(appendix3) and most relevant words show that the comments in this topic focused on the phone specs and its quality.

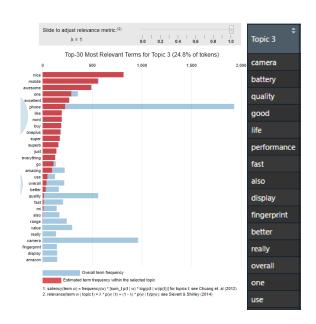


Fig 10: LDA visualisation and most relevant terms of topic 3

Topic 4: Product performance, benchmarking and comparison

Negative comments:

By using k=7, the first five topics are interpretable, but the two remaining topics do not make sense.

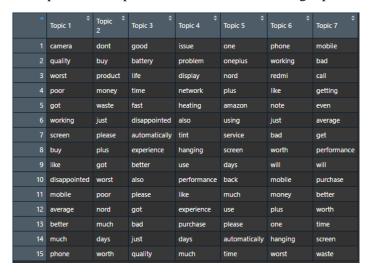


Fig 11: Most frequent terms on topics for k=7 on N-comments

We tested 8,9,10, and 6, 5, and 4 topics and tried to interpret the topics. The best interpretable topic was achieved with k=6. Also, on the coherence curve, the second most coherent result is achievable with k=6.



Fig 12: Most frequent terms on topics for k=6

Topic 1: **performance and processor**: The most frequent terms in this topic are about product performance and the customer's personal experience using the phone.(appendix4)

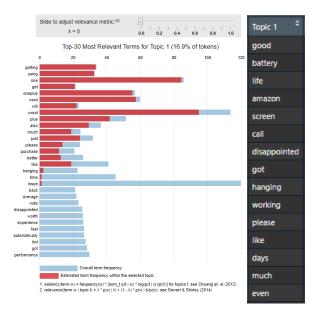


Fig 14: LDA-most relevant terms of topic 1

Topic 2: **The value of the purchase**: the topic terms and sample comments(appendix5) show that this topic is about the purchase's value. Buyers tried to describe their general sense of their purchase and why it was not worth it.

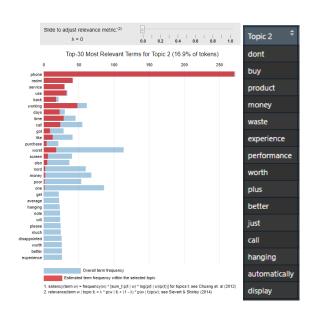


Fig 16: LDA-most relevant terms of topic 2

Topic 3: Camera and battery: The most frequent words in this topic and comments(appendix6) are related to camera and battery. Also, relevant words confirm the topic name.

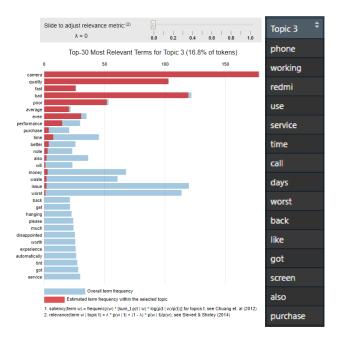


Fig 18: LDA-most relevant terms of topic 3

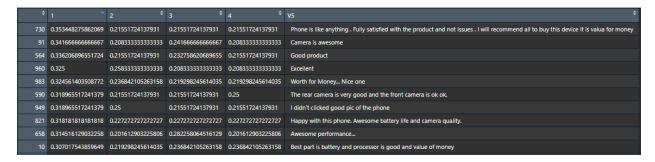
Topic 4: Hardware issues, including display, network and heating

Topic 5: Comparison to competitors

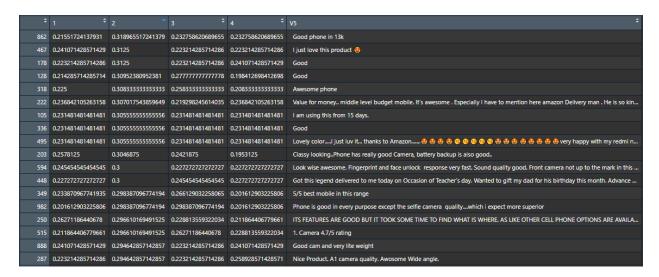
Topic 6: Quality of the product

References

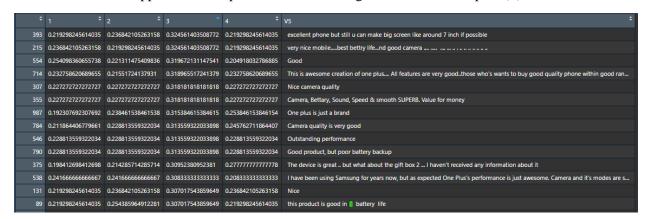
AL-NATOUR, S. & TURETKEN, O. 2020. A comparative assessment of sentiment analysis and star ratings for consumer reviews. *International Journal of Information Management*, 54, 102132. SIEVERT, C. 2014. LDAvis: A method for visualizing and interpreting topics.



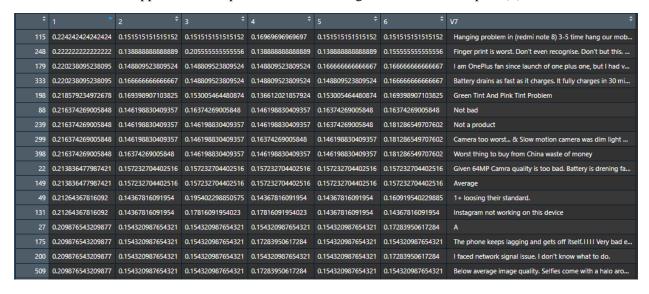
Appendix1: Sample comments with high distribution on topic 1(P)



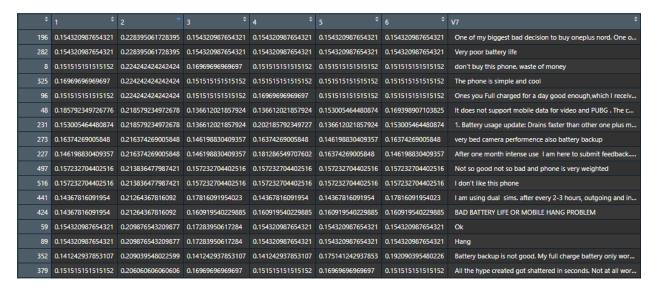
Appendix2: Sample comments with high distribution on topic 2(P)



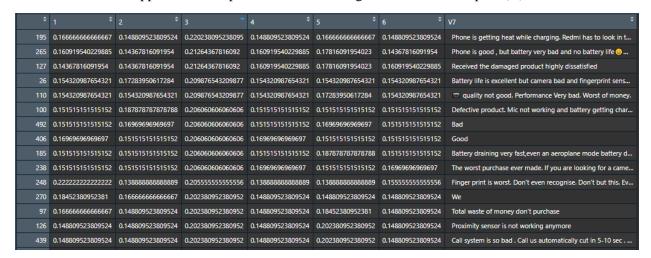
Appendix3: Sample comments with high distribution on topic 3(P)



Appendix4: Sample comments with high distribution on topic 1(N)



Appendix5: Sample comments with high distribution on topic 2(N)



Appendix6: Sample comments with high distribution on topic 3(N)