Towards Answering Opinion Questions: Separating Facts from Opinions and Identifying the Polarity of Opinion Sentences

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Layout

Introduction

Towards Answering Opinion Questions

- Question-answering systems.
- Easier to use factual statements.
- Extend to also use subjective opinion statements.

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Who was elected as the new US President in 2008?

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Complex Question

What has caused the current financial crisis?

Separating Facts from Opinions and Identifying the Polarity of Opinion Sentences

Document Classification

Classifying articles as either subjective or objective

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Finding Opinion Sentences

In both subjective and objective articles

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Identify the Polarity of Opinion Sentences

Determine if the opinions are positive or negative

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Document Types

Training Sets

Articles from Wall Street Journal, which is annotated with document types.

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- Letter to the Editor

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Subjective Articles (Opinion)

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Objective Articles (Fact)

- News
- Business

Classification

Naive Bayes

Calculating the likelihood that the document is either subjective or objective.

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Bayes Rule

$$P(c|d) = \frac{P(c)P(d|c)}{P(d)}$$

where c is a class, d is a document and single words are used as feature.

Three Different Approaches

Rely on Expectation

Documents classified as opinions tends to have mostly opinion sentences, and documents classified as facts tends to have more factual sentences.

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The Three Approaches

- Similarity Approach
- Naive Bayes Classifier
- Multiple Naive Bayes Classifier

Similarity Approach

Hypothesis

Opinion sentences within a given topic will be more similar to other opinion sentences than to factual sentences.

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SimFinder

Measures sentence similarity based on shared words, phrases and WordNet synsets.

Variants

The score variant

- Select documents with the same topic as the sentence.
- Average the similarities with each sentence in the documents.
- Assign the sentence to the category with the highest average.

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The frequency variant

Count how many of the sentences, for each category, that exceeds a predetermined threshold (set to 0.65).

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Some of Features Used

- Words
- Bigrams
- Trigrams
- Parts of Speech
- Counts of positive and negative words
- Counts of the polarities of semantically oriented words
- Average semantic orientation score of the words

Multiple Naive Bayes Classifier

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The Goal

Reduce the training set to the sentences most likely to be correctly labelled.

Multiple Naive Bayes Classifier

The Approach

- Train separate classifiers $C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_m$ given separate feature sets $F_1, F_2, \ldots, F_m$.

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Five Feature Sets

Starting with only words and adding in bigrams, trigrams, part of speech and polarity.

Identifying the Polarity of Opinion Sentences

What We Have

Sentences that are distinguished as either opinions or facts.

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How We Do It

By the number and strength of semantically oriented words (either positive or negative) in the sentence.

Semantically Oriented Words

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Positive words co-occur more than expected by chance, and so do negative words.

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Approach

Measure the words co-occurence with words from a known seed set of semantically oriented words.

Semantically Oriented Words

Log-likelihood ratio

$$L(W_i, POS_j) = log\left(\frac{\frac{Freq(W_i, POS_j, ADJp)+\epsilon}{Freq(W_{all}, POS_j, ADJp)}}{\frac{Freq(W_i, POS_j, ADJn)+\epsilon}{Freq(W_{all}, POS_j, ADJn)}}\right)$$

Where W_i is a word in the sentence, ADJ_p is positive seed word set, ADJ_n is negative seed word set, POS_j is part of speech collocation frequency ratio with ADJ_p and ADJ_n and ϵ is a smoothing constant (0.5).

Sentence Polarity Tagging

Determine the orientation of an opinion sentence

- Specify cutoffs t_p and t_n.
- Calculate the sentences average log-likelihood score.
- Positive sentences have average scores greater than t_p.
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- Neutral sentences have average scores between t_p and t_n.

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Optimal t_p and t_n values

Are obtained from the training data via density estimation, using a small subset of hand-labeled sentences.

Seed Set

Seed words used

The seed words were subsets of 1.336 adjectives that were manually classified as either positive or negative.

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Seed Set Size

To see whether seed set sizes would influence the result, seed sets of 1, 20, 100 and over 600 positive and negative pairs of adjectives were used.

Layout

Data

Data Used

The data is from the TREC 8,9 and 11 collections, which consists of more than 1.7 million newswire articles from six different sources.

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Wall Street journal

Some articles are marked with document type

- Editorial (2,877)
- Letter to Editor (1,695)
- Business (2,009)
- News (3,714)

2,000 articles from each type is randomly selected.

Evaluation Metrics

Recall

The fraction of the relevant documents that are retrieved.

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F-measure

The weighted harmonic mean of recall and precision.

$$F = \frac{2 \cdot precision \cdot recall}{(precision + recall)}$$

Examples

Common Attributes

- Body of 1,000 documents.
- 100 relevant documents.

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Example 2

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- Recall $= 1.00$, precision $= 0.1$, F-Measure $= 0.18$

Gold Standards

Document-level Standard

Already available from Wall Streel Journal.

- News and Business is mapped to facts.
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Sentence-level Standard

- There is no automated standard that can distinguish between facts and opinions, or between positive and negative opinions.
- Human evaluators classify a set of sentences between facts and opinions and determine the type of opinions.

Topics and Articles

Topics

Four topics are chosen for the evaluation

- Gun control
- Illegal aliens
- Social security
- Welfare reform

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Articles

25 articles were randomly chosen for each topic from the TREC corpus. The articles were found using the Lucene search engine.

Sentences

Selection of Sentences

- Four sentences chosen from each document.
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Standard A

The 300 sentences appearing once, and one judgement from the remaining 100 sentences.

Standard B

The subset of the 100 sentences appearing twice, which were given identical labels.

Document Classification

Training

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The result

	F-measure
News vs. *Editorial*	0.96
News+Business vs. *Editorial+Letter*	0.97

Sentence Classification

Three Approaches

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The Similarity Approach

Variant	Class	Standard A	Standard B
Score	Fact	{0.61,0.34}	{1.00,0.27}
	Opinion	{0.30,0.49}	{0.16,0.64}
Frequency	Fact	{0.82,0.32}	{0.89,0.19}
	Opinion	{0.17,0.55}	{0.28,0.55}

{recall, precision}

Sentence Classification

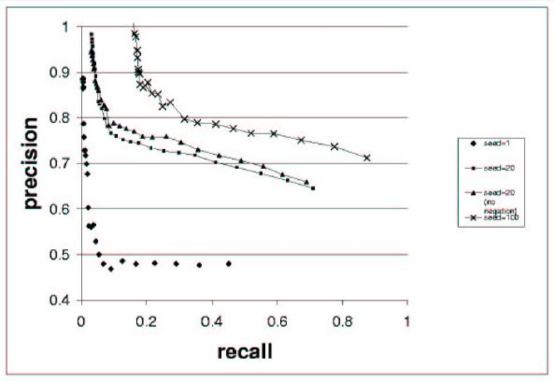
Bayes classifiers

Features	Class	Standard A		Standard B	
		Single	Multiple	Single	Multiple
Features from (Wiebe et al., 1999)	Fact	{0.03,0.38}	{0.03,0.38}	{0.06,1.00}	{0.06,1.00}
	Opinion	{0.97,0.69}	{0.97,0.69}	{1.00,0.80}	{1.00,0.80}
Words only	Fact	{0.14,0.39}	{0.12,0.42}	{0.28,0.42}	{0.28,0.45}
	Opinion	{0.90,0.69}	{0.92,0.69}	{0.90,0.82}	{0.91,0.83}
Words and Bigrams	Fact	{0.15,0.39}	{0.12,0.43}	{0.16,0.25}	{0.16,0.25}
	Opinion	{0.89,0.69}	{0.92,0.69}	{0.87,0.79}	{0.87,0.79}
Words, Bigrams, and Trigrams	Fact	{0.18,0.44}	{0.13,0.41}	{0.26,0.50}	{0.26,0.50}
	Opinion	{0.89,0.70}	{0.91,0.69}	{0.93,0.82}	{0.93,0.82}
Words, Bigrams, Trigrams, and Part-of-Speech	Fact	{0.17,0.42}	{0.13,0.40}	{0.18,0.49}	{0.27,0.44}
	Opinion	{0.89,0.70}	{0.91,0.69}	{0.92,0.70}	{0.85,0.84}
Words, Bigrams, Trigrams, Part-of-Speech, and Polarity	Fact	{0.15,0.43}	{0.13,0.42}	{0.44,0.50}	{0.44,0.53}
	Opinion	{0.91,0.69}	{0.92,0.70}	{0.88,0.86}	{0.91,0.86}

{recall, precision}

Sentence Classification

Seed Set Size



Polarity Classification

Accuracy of Sentence Polarity Tagging

Parts-of-speech Used	A	B
Adjectives	0.49	0.55
Adverbs	0.37	0.46
Nouns	0.54	0.52
Verbs	0.54	0.52
Adjectives and Adverbs	0.55	0.84
Adjectives, Adverbs, and Verbs	0.68	0.90
Adjectives, Adverbs, Nouns, and Verbs	0.62	0.74

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Article Conclusion

Document Level

A fairly straightforward Bayesian classifier using lexical information can distinguish between mostly factual and opinion documents with very high precision and recall.

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Three techniques were described for opinion/fact classification achieving up to 91% precision and recall on opinion sentences.

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Polarity

Examined an automatic method for assigning polarity information (positive, negative or neutral), which assigns the correct polarity in 90% of the cases.

Related Work

Other work

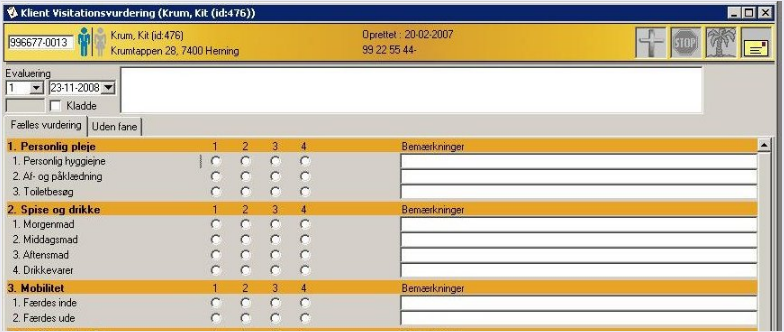
- There is a lot of research in the area of automated opinion detection.
- Prior works include SimFinder and classification of subjective words.
- Recent works includes Chinese web opinion mining and german news article.

Our Project - Herning Municipality

Citizens entering the homecare system gets a function evaluation, in order to establish their needs for help.

Relation to Our Project

Function Evaluation



Evaluation of the Article

The Good

- Good choice of titel.
- Good written description of the use of their methods.
- They keep a good flow through the article.

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- Good choice of titel.
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The Not So Good

- No definition of recall and precision, not even a reference.
- SimFinder is presented as state-of-the-art. Made by one of the authors.