

Advancing Sentiment Analysis of IMDB Movie Reviews with a Hybrid Multinomial Naive Bayes and LSTM Approach

Orestis Papadimitriou¹, Athanasios Kanavos¹, Gerasimos Vonitsanos², Manolis Maragoudakis³ and Phivos Mylonas⁴

¹ Department of Information and Communication Systems Engineering,
University of the Aegean, Samos, Greece
{icsdd20016, icsdd20017}@icsd.aegean.gr

² Computer Engineering and Informatics Department
University of Patras, Patras, Greece
mvonitsanos@ceid.upatras.gr

³ Department of Informatics,
Ionian University, Corfu, Greece
mmarag@ionio.gr

⁴ Department of Informatics and Computer Engineering
University of West Attica, Athens, Greece
mylonasf@uniwa.gr

Abstract. Natural Language Processing (NLP) is increasingly pivotal in the natural sciences, with sentiment analysis emerging as a crucial application in the era of big data. Efficiently and accurately extracting meaningful insights from extensive textual data remains a significant challenge. This study explores sentiment analysis within the context of movie reviews, a domain where understanding nuanced viewer perceptions can influence industry outcomes. Traditional methods often struggle with the complexity of language, where identical phrases may convey different sentiments based on their context. To address these challenges, this research implements a hybrid approach, combining a Multinomial Naive Bayes Classifier and a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model developed in TensorFlow. Our integrated methodology not only advances the robustness of sentiment analysis tools but also achieves a notable accuracy of 96.25%, underscoring its potential to enhance complex NLP tasks in real-world applications.

Keywords: Sentiment Analysis · Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) · Naive Bayes · Natural Language Processing (NLP) · Opinion Mining · Text Mining · Machine Learning · Emotion Analysis · TensorFlow

1 Introduction

Natural Language Processing (NLP) has become an indispensable tool in extracting meaningful information from textual data, a practice increasingly vital

in numerous domains, including entertainment. Sentiment analysis, a prominent application of NLP, interprets emotions and sentiments expressed in text, offering invaluable insights into consumer perceptions [14]. This is particularly pertinent in the film industry, where understanding audience reactions can directly influence a movie's success [10,31].

The exponential increase in user-generated content on online platforms has resulted in a surge of textual data, such as movie reviews, available for analysis [3,12]. These reviews are a goldmine for studios wishing to gauge public sentiment. However, the sheer volume and the nuanced nature of this data pose significant challenges for traditional analytical models, which often struggle to capture the subtleties of human language and sentiment [2,33].

Advancements in machine learning, especially in deep learning, have revolutionized the field of sentiment analysis. Techniques such as Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), including Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, have significantly improved our ability to process and analyze large datasets with complex structures [18,25,34]. CNNs are particularly adept at pattern recognition within spatial data, whereas RNNs excel in analyzing sequential data, making them particularly suited for text [17,27].

Despite the advantages, these advanced models often require substantial computational resources and can suffer from long training times when confronted with large, diverse datasets. Moreover, the variability in linguistic expression across different reviews can lead to inconsistencies in sentiment classification [20].

This paper seeks to address these challenges by proposing a novel hybrid approach that combines the LSTM model with a Naive Bayes classifier. This combination leverages the LSTM's ability to understand context and sequence in text with the Naive Bayes classifier's efficiency in handling large volumes of data, thereby enhancing the accuracy of sentiment classification [13,15,16,28,26].

We apply our model to the IMDB dataset [1], a comprehensive collection of movie reviews, to demonstrate its effectiveness in discerning complex sentiment patterns. Our findings not only show improved classification accuracy but also offer deeper insights into the emotional undertones of public reviews, which can be crucial for predicting box office success [29,35].

Furthermore, this study contributes to the burgeoning field of predictive analytics within the entertainment industry. By analyzing trends in sentiment over time, our model offers potential strategies for studios to align their marketing and production decisions with audience preferences, potentially leading to more successful film releases [22].

In conclusion, by harnessing cutting-edge NLP and machine learning technologies, this study provides a comprehensive framework for leveraging sentiment analysis in movie review datasets. This not only advances the methodology of sentiment analysis but also demonstrates its practical applications in predicting film performance, thus offering a valuable tool for industry stakeholders in an increasingly competitive market [5].

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 reviews related work, providing an overview of previous approaches in sentiment analysis, with a focus on the use of Naive Bayes, LSTM, and other relevant methods. Section 3 details the proposed methodology, describing the hybrid model combining Multinomial Naive Bayes and LSTM networks designed to enhance sentiment analysis of movie reviews. Section 4 presents the evaluation of the model, including the setup, execution, and results of our experiments with the IMDB dataset. Finally, Section 5 concludes the paper and discusses future work, highlighting potential areas for further research and improvement in sentiment analysis techniques.

2 Related Work

Sentiment analysis of movie reviews is typically conducted through a sequence of stages: preprocessing, feature extraction and selection, classification, and analysis of the outcomes [8]. In preprocessing, texts are cleansed by removing irrelevant words, abbreviating terms, and substituting slang, thus preparing them for further analysis [11]. During the feature extraction stage, characteristics that best represent the documents, are identified. Statistical and dictionary-based methods are utilized to extract these important features from the reviews [4,21].

Three primary methods are currently employed for analyzing sentiments in texts: knowledge-based, statistical methods, and a hybrid of the two [6]. The effectiveness of sentiment dictionaries in identifying emotional content across various texts, such as Amazon reviews or news headlines, has been evaluated at both document and sentence levels. Recent advancements have included the use of semantic vector spaces to enhance text comprehension, and considerable efforts have been directed towards applying machine learning to detect sentiments or their negation in texts [7].

It has been observed that the growth rate of non-English content online is rapidly surpassing that of English-language websites, with languages such as Arabic, Chinese, or Spanish experiencing significant increases. Approximately half of all websites currently operate in languages other than English, a trend that is likely to persist.

A study conducted in [24] demonstrated that the Support Vector Machine (SVM) method was more effective at classifying movie reviews than the Naive Bayes method, achieving an accuracy of 82.9%, compared to 81% with Naive Bayes. Additionally, a Recursive Neural Tensor Network (RNTN) model was developed to classify sentences as positive or negative, utilizing fully labeled parse trees. This model, tested on a dataset of 11,855 movie reviews, achieved an accuracy of 80.7%, showing superior performance in recognizing shifts in sentiment and the range of sentiments [32].

The integration of CNN and LSTM models for sentiment classification was found to be challenging due to overfitting issues during training. A freezing strategy was developed to isolate opinion vectors from both models, tested across five different datasets, including the extensive IMDB movie reviews dataset, and achieved an accuracy of over 93% [23]. Also, an improvement in the accu-

racy and effectiveness of sentiment classification was achieved by considering the contextual relationships throughout the entire sequence of words using a multi-self-attention-based BERT model. This model was applied to analyze the IMDB movie reviews and Amazon fine food reviews, reaching an accuracy of 94% [30].

Finally, authors in [9] examined three different clustering algorithms: K-Means, DBSCAN, and Auto Class, for sorting network traffic issues. The study focused on each algorithm’s ability to form effective clusters that could predictably represent a single traffic type and to create a few clusters with many connections. The comparison found that both K-Means and DBSCAN were faster than the Auto Class algorithm [9,19].

3 Proposed Methodology

In the field of Natural Language Processing (NLP), sentiment analysis is pivotal in understanding the emotional tone conveyed in texts. This research utilizes a hybrid approach combining the Multinomial Naive Bayes Classifier and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks to analyze sentiments in movie reviews from the IMDB dataset, enhancing both the precision and depth of analysis.

3.1 Multinomial Naive Bayes Classifier

The Multinomial Naive Bayes Classifier is a probabilistic learning model well-suited for text classification tasks. This classifier assumes feature independence within the data and utilizes Bayes’ Theorem to predict the probability of each class based on feature counts. Mathematically, the probability $P(c_j|\mathbf{x})$ that a document \mathbf{x} belongs to a class c_j is given by:

$$P(c_j|\mathbf{x}) \propto P(c_j) \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i|c_j) \quad (1)$$

where $P(c_j)$ is the prior probability of class c_j , and $P(x_i|c_j)$ is the conditional probability of feature x_i given class c_j . The classifier calculates these probabilities for each class and assigns the document to the class with the highest probability. For sentiment analysis, the features typically include bag-of-words or term frequency representations of the text, making the Multinomial Naive Bayes particularly effective for large, sparse datasets like IMDB reviews.

3.2 Long Short-Term Memory Networks

Long Short-Term Memory networks, a specialized type of recurrent neural networks, are adept at capturing long-term dependencies and contextual nuances in sequence data. Unlike traditional RNNs, LSTMs have a unique architecture with memory cells that regulate the flow of information. Each cell contains structures called gates—input, output, and forget gates—that manage the cell’s state and output. The mathematical operations within an LSTM cell can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
f_t &= \sigma(W_f \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_f) \\
i_t &= \sigma(W_i \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_i) \\
\tilde{C}_t &= \tanh(W_C \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_C) \\
C_t &= f_t * C_{t-1} + i_t * \tilde{C}_t \\
o_t &= \sigma(W_o \cdot [h_{t-1}, x_t] + b_o) \\
h_t &= o_t * \tanh(C_t)
\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where σ denotes the sigmoid activation function, \tanh is the hyperbolic tangent activation function, f_t, i_t, o_t are the forget, input, and output gates, respectively, C_t is the cell state, h_t is the output vector of the LSTM cell, and W and b represent weights and biases specific to each gate.

3.3 Proposed Architecture

The architecture designed for text classification leverages the combined strengths of convolutional and recurrent neural network elements to optimize feature extraction and sequence modeling. The detailed configuration of the architecture is structured as follows:

- **Embedding Layer:** This layer transforms each input word into a dense vector, encapsulating the semantic context within a continuous vector space. The resulting output is a 2D tensor, with each word in the input sequence represented by its corresponding embedding vector.
- **Conv1D Layer:** Applied next, this layer uses multiple convolutional filters to scan the embedded sequences, effectively capturing n-grams and local patterns. This operation generates a new set of feature maps that emphasize local contextual dependencies.
- **Spatial Dropout Layer:** To enhance generalization and prevent model overfitting, this layer randomly omits entire feature maps. This ensures that the learning process does not become overly dependent on specific features of the input data.
- **LSTM Layer:** Processing the output from the Conv1D layer, the LSTM module maintains a hidden state to capture temporal dependencies over time. This layer can be configured to output either sequential LSTM outputs for each timestep or only the final state after processing all timesteps, yielding either a 3D or 2D tensor, respectively.
- **Dense Layers:** Finally, the high-level features extracted by the LSTM are passed to one or more densely connected layers, which transform these features into outputs suitable for classification. This reaches in a softmax layer that calculates a probability distribution across the various classes.

The architecture initiates with raw text data that is first transformed into a meaningful, dense representation by the Embedding Layer. These embeddings

are then refined by the Conv1D Layer to extract crucial textual features, which are subsequently made more robust through the application of Spatial Dropout. The processed features are fed into the LSTM Layer, where long-term dependencies across the text are analyzed and captured. The sequence or final output from the LSTM is then passed through Dense Layers to achieve the final classification output. This structured workflow ensures that the extended contexts within the text are effectively captured and utilized, making the model particularly adept at handling complex text classification tasks involving nuanced language use.

3.4 Hybrid Model Integration

Integrating the strengths of both the Multinomial Naive Bayes and LSTM models into a cohesive hybrid system provides a comprehensive approach to sentiment analysis. Initially, the Naive Bayes classifier rapidly categorizes reviews into broad sentiment categories based on feature probabilities. These initial predictions, combined with the feature vectors, are then fed into the LSTM network, which refines these predictions by analyzing the contextual relationships and sequence dynamics within the text. This dual-phase approach leverages the efficiency and statistical power of Naive Bayes for initial feature extraction and the advanced sequence modeling capabilities of LSTMs for sentiment analysis. The hybrid model is designed to improve accuracy and robustness, particularly in handling complex expressions of sentiment inherent in IMDB movie reviews.

By harnessing the distinct advantages of probabilistic and sequential models, this proposed methodology aims to enhance the precision and depth of sentiment analysis in movie reviews, offering significant improvements over traditional single-model approaches.

4 Evaluation

4.1 Dataset

The IMDB dataset, comprising 50,000 highly polarized movie reviews, is strategically divided into two subsets: 25,000 reviews for training and 25,000 for testing [1]. This extensive collection of data is essential for applying and evaluating machine learning algorithms in sentiment analysis. The training subset allows for comprehensive model learning, utilizing a wide array of sentiments that reflect both positive and negative reviews. This extensive training set helps ensure that the models develop a robust ability to discern and classify complex sentiment expressions.

The separate testing subset of 25,000 reviews serves as a crucial benchmark for evaluating the performance of these models. By maintaining an equal and substantial number of reviews for testing, the dataset ensures that performance metrics are tested against a diverse and representative sample of real-world data, thereby providing reliable and generalizable results. This rigorous evaluation helps in assessing the true efficacy of the models in a controlled yet challenging environment.

Moreover, the balanced distribution of positive and negative sentiments in both subsets prevents any bias towards a particular sentiment, which is critical for achieving fair and accurate classification results. Preprocessing steps such as padding and truncating reviews to a uniform length address the challenges associated with variable-length data in neural networks, enabling consistent model input and facilitating optimal learning and classification performance.

In summary, the structured division of the 50,000 reviews into equal parts for training and testing underpins the dataset’s utility in advancing NLP research. It provides a robust framework for training sophisticated models like CNNs and LSTMs, as well as for validating their performance, thus driving forward innovations in sentiment analysis methodologies.

4.2 Experimental Results

In the evaluation of our hybrid sentiment analysis model, a series of experiments were conducted using various batch sizes to understand their impact on model performance, specifically focusing on loss, accuracy, and training time. This analysis is crucial for optimizing the training process and achieving the best possible model efficiency and effectiveness. The following Table 1 provides a detailed examination of how different batch sizes affect these key metrics.

Table 1. Experimental Evaluation

Epochs	Loss	Accuracy	Time	Loss	Accuracy	Time	Loss	Accuracy	Time
	Batch Size = 16			Batch Size = 32			Batch Size = 64		
1	0.5219	0.7435	482	0.5651	0.7086	261	0.5548	0.7086	197
5	0.1456	0.9485	479	0.2968	0.8802	258	0.1531	0.9467	192
	Batch Size = 128			Batch Size = 256			Batch Size = 512		
1	0.5058	0.7204	193	0.5539	0.6888	155	0.5956	0.6416	147
5	0.1199	0.9625	187	0.1424	0.9526	152	0.1444	0.9501	133
	Batch Size = 1024			Batch Size = 2048			Batch Size = 4096		
1	0.6893	0.5344	133	0.6931	0.5079	148	0.6931	0.5031	130
5	0.1787	0.9377	127	0.2364	0.9119	132	0.3651	0.8517	121

The experimental results indicate a clear trend related to batch size impact on model training dynamics and performance. For smaller batch sizes (16, 32), there is a notable fluctuation in both loss and accuracy, suggesting that smaller batches provide a noisier gradient, which can be beneficial for escaping local minima but may result in less stable training epochs. As depicted in the table, smaller batch sizes generally achieved better accuracy and lower loss by the fifth epoch compared to their initial performance, underscoring their efficiency in learning despite longer per epoch training times.

Conversely, larger batch sizes (512, 1024, 2048, 4096) demonstrate reduced training time per epoch, which is a significant advantage in scenarios where computational resources or time are limiting factors. However, these benefits

come with a trade-off in terms of requiring more epochs to reach similar levels of loss and accuracy achieved by smaller batches. For instance, batch sizes of 2048 and 4096 show considerable improvements in loss and accuracy but still lag behind smaller batch sizes in overall performance metrics.

The results underscore the balancing act between training speed and model accuracy, highlighting the need for careful batch size selection based on specific model requirements and resource availability. This trade-off is particularly evident in the stark differences observed between extreme batch sizes in terms of their epoch-wise performance improvements and overall training duration.

5 Conclusions and Future Work

This study has demonstrated the efficacy of a hybrid model combining the Multinomial Naive Bayes Classifier and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks in analyzing sentiments within movie reviews. Achieving an accuracy of 96.25%, the results underscore the robustness of these models in distinguishing positive from negative sentiments. This high level of precision highlights the potential of such advanced tools in enhancing sentiment analysis applications, particularly within the domain of natural language processing.

The success of this approach lays a solid foundation for further research into sentiment analysis using a blend of probabilistic and deep learning techniques. Future work could explore the integration of these models with additional data types, such as user demographic information, to personalize content and improve marketing strategies. Additionally, enhancing the transparency of the LSTM model's decision-making process is a critical next step. Developing methodologies to visualize and interpret the internal mechanisms of LSTM networks will not only boost their trustworthiness but also promote broader adoption in commercial settings. This is particularly relevant for industries like film and media, where understanding audience sentiment is key to success.

Exploring these avenues will not only refine the effectiveness of sentiment analysis models but also expand their applicability across different sectors, potentially transforming how businesses interact with and respond to consumer sentiments.

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