The language of opinions

The language we use to express our subjective evaluations is one of the most complex parts of language.

There are many components in the language of opinions:

- Global/Domain-specific lexicon.
- Valence shifters/Comparative expressions.
- Irony, sarcasm, common knowledge.
- Other aspects, e.g., morphology. . .

A list of sentiment-relevant words can be the starting point to recognize and model new features extracted from a piece of text to determine its sentiment.
The language of opinions

Some **words** have a **globally** recognized **sentiment valence** in any context of use, e.g.: “good”, “poor”, “perfect”, “ugly”

“A **good** tool that works **perfectly**”

“I had an **horrible** experience”

The simple **presence** of one of this words in text can be strong clue about the sentiment expressed in text.
Global lexicons

**General purpose lexical resources** list these words associating sentiment labels to them, e.g.:

- The General Inquirer lexicon
- MPQA
- WordNet affect
- SentiWordNet
- Appraisal lexicon

Global lexicons can be used to model **new features** that are extracted from text or as starting information to create a domain specific lexicon.
The **General Inquirer** is a text analysis tools developed in the ’60.

It used a combination of a number of [lexicons](#) that label 11,788 words with respect to 182 semantic categories, including both topic and sentiment-related concepts.

The *Positiv* and *Negativ* categories are the largest ones, comprising 4,306 words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABILITY</th>
<th>Positiv</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Virtue</th>
<th>Eval</th>
<th>Abstract</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCOMPLISH</td>
<td>Positiv</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Power</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Complet</td>
<td>Verb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Multi Perspective Question Answering project produced a number of lexicons for sentiment-related tasks:

- **Subjectivity Lexicon**: a list of 8k+ words that are clues for subjectivity.
- **Subjectivity Sense Annotations**: word senses with subjectivity labels.
- **Arguing Lexicon**: patterns related to arguing, classified w.r.t. different types of arguments.
- **+/‐Effect Lexicon**: 880 hand-labeled + 11k automatic-labeled word senses about the effect they have on the event they are related to, e.g.:

  The bill would **curb** skyrocketing health care costs [source]
WordNet affect annotates WordNet synsets with emotion-related labels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A-Labels</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>emotion</td>
<td>noun anger#1, verb fear#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mood</td>
<td>noun animosisy#1, adjective amiable#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trait</td>
<td>noun aggressiveness#1, adjective competitive#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cognitive state</td>
<td>noun confusion#2, adjective dazed#2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>physical state</td>
<td>noun illness#1, adjective all in#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hedonic signal</td>
<td>noun hurt#3, noun suffering#4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emotion-eliciting situation</td>
<td>noun awkwardness#3, adjective out of danger#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emotional response</td>
<td>noun cold sweat#1, verb tremble#2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>behaviour</td>
<td>noun offense#1, adjective inhibited#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>attitude</td>
<td>noun intolerance#1, noun defensive#1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sensation</td>
<td>noun coldness#1, verb feel#3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SentiWordNet

SentiWordNet assigns to each synset of WordNet a triple of sentiment scores: positivity, negativity, objectivity.

SentiWordNet is generated by applying a random walk process to the graph of WordNet synsets.

- Each synset is a node.
- A link between a and b exists if a appears in the gloss of b.
- (Sentiment) properties flow through links.
SentiWordNet

The graph is built by analyzing the glosses in WordNet.
SentiWordNet

A few words with strong polarity are marked as sources of sentiment.
SentiWordNet

Pagerank is applied to the graph to spread sentiment values.
Once the algorithm converges, words are ranked by their sentiment.
SentiWordNet

ADJECTIVE

estimable

deserving of respect or high regard

deserving of esteem and respect; "all respectable companies give guarantees"; "ruined the family's good name"

may be computed or estimated; "a calculable risk"; "computable odds"; " estimable assets"
Appraisal theory

The appraisal theory models how evaluation is expressed in text.

The appraisal framework identifies three main components of evaluative language:

- **attitude**: expression of evaluation
  "He is a good man"

- **engagement**: who expresses evaluation
  "John says he is a good man"

- **graduation**: the strength of the previous two component
  "John swears he is a very good man"
Appraisal theory

Attitude Type

Appreciation

Composition
  - Balance: consistent, discordant, ...
  - Complexity: elaborate, convoluted, ...

Reaction
  - Impact: amazing, compelling, dull, ...
  - Quality: beautiful, elegant, hideous, ...
  - Valuation: innovative, profound, inferior, ...

Affect: happy, joyful, furious, ...

Judgment

Social Esteem
  - Capacity: clever, competent, immature, ...
  - Tenacity: brave, hard-working, foolhardy, ...
  - Normality: famous, lucky, obscure, ...

Social Sanction
  - Propriety: generous, virtuous, corrupt, ...
  - Veracity: honest, sincere, sneaky, ...
Bloom, Garg and Argamon created an appraisal-focused lexicon.

The lexicon models appraisal properties of 2k words, including *valence shifters*.

- **truly**: \{POS:RB, force:increase\}
- **kinda**: \{force:decrease\}
- **not**:\{force:flip, orientation:flip\}
- **nervously**: \{POS:RB, attitude:affect, orientation:negative, force:median\}
- **cowardly**: \{POS:JJ, attitude:tenacity, orientation:negative, force:high, focus:median\}
Pattern based features

POS tagging and sentiment lexicons can be combined to extract complex features from text.

```
PATTERN ::= A | B | C
  A ::= [AT] ADJ NOUN
  B ::= NOUN VERB ADJ
  C ::= Hv A
NOUN ::= [AT] [NN$] NN
ADJ ::= [CC] ADJ
ADV ::= RB ADV | QL ADV | JJ | AP ADV | ε
CONG ::= CC | CS
VERB ::= V | Be
```

“Great location”! We loved the location of this hotel the area was great for affordable restaurants, bakeries, small grocers and near several good restaurants. Do not overlook the lovely church next door quite a treat! The rooms were servicable and some seemed to have been more recently refurbished. Just stay away from room 54 for the money it was a suite the comfort was not worth the price, poor heater and horrible shower, not a single shelf in the bathroom to hold a bar of soap. But 38 also a suite was much nicer. The basic twin rooms were fine and small as to be expected. I recommend this hotel overall but do not expect much help from the front desk as all but one of the staff bordered on surly. That was the most disappointing aspect of this otherwise nice hotel, the breakfast was fine and the breakfast room was lovely.
Pattern based features

POS tagging and sentiment lexicons can be combined to extract complex features from text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Simple GI Expression</th>
<th>Enriched GI Expression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>great location</td>
<td>[Positive] location</td>
<td>[Strong] [Positive] location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>great hotel</td>
<td>[Positive] hotel</td>
<td>[Strong] [Positive] hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>helpful staff</td>
<td>[Positive] staff</td>
<td>[Virtue] [Positive] staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friendly staff</td>
<td>[Positive] staff</td>
<td>[Emot] [Virtue] [Positive] staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good location</td>
<td>[Positive] location</td>
<td>[Virtue] [Positive] location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nice hotel</td>
<td>[Positive] hotel</td>
<td>[Virtue] [Positive] hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very helpful staff</td>
<td>[Positive] staff</td>
<td>very [Virtue] [Positive] staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very friendly staff</td>
<td>[Positive] staff</td>
<td>very [Emot] [Virtue] [Positive] staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>excellent location</td>
<td>[Positive] location</td>
<td>[Virtue] [Positive] location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>great place</td>
<td>[Positive] place</td>
<td>[Strong] [Positive] place</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Domain-specific lexicons

Global sentiment lexicons can identify generic signals of positivity or negativity in text.

Every topic and domain has a component of specific elements of language used to express evaluation and sentiment.

"an insane performance" - "an insane behavior"

"a warm welcome" - "a warm beer"

Domain-specific lexicons are usually built starting from a global lexicon and unannotated text from the domain.
"Harsh but unfair"

Conjunctions are usually selected according to polarity of the joined words:

- nice and sturdy
- nice but weak
- *ugly but weak

Build a graph with links determined by the most frequent type of occurrences of conjoined words (and = "same", but = "opposite") in a text collection.

Partition the graph in two parts maximizing "same" links and minimizing "opposite" links inside the partitions.

Pointwise Mutual Information

Domain lexicons can be learned by measuring statistical correlation with a selection of seed terms, e.g., using PMI:

$$\text{PMI}(w_1, w_2) = \log \left( \frac{p(w_1, w_2)}{p(w_1)p(w_2)} \right)$$

$$\text{SO}(w) = \sum_{\text{seed}_{\text{pos}} \in P, \text{seed}_{\text{neg}} \in N} \log \left( \frac{p(w, \text{seed}_{\text{pos}})p(\text{seed}_{\text{neg}})}{p(w, \text{seed}_{\text{neg}})p(\text{seed}_{\text{pos}})} \right)$$

$$P = \{\text{good, nice, excellent, positive, fortunate, correct, superior}\}$$

$$N = \{\text{bad, nasty, poor, negative, unfortunate, wrong, inferior}\}$$

Morphology features

Variation in morphology of words is usually reduced/normalized when dealing with topic-oriented analysis:

- lowercasing
- reduction to stem/lemma
- removal of misspelled words

The text may exploit word morphology to convey part of the expression of sentiment/opinion.

    good, goooood, GOOOOOD    great, gr8t, GRRRREAT

Modeling morphology of words with dedicated feature may improve sentiment recognition.
Sentiment Embeddings

When labeled data is available it is possible to add sentiment information to the training process that learns the word embeddings.

E.g., extending a CBOW-like neural network to both predict, given a context, the correct target word and the correct sentiment label.

Tang et al. Learning Sentiment-Specific Word Embedding for Twitter Sentiment Classification. ACL 2014

https://github.com/attardi/deepnl/wiki/Sentiment-Specific-Word-Embeddings
SentProp

**SentProp** is an algorithm for the annotation of domain-specific sentiment lexicons from an unlabeled text collection.

It uses an algorithm that is similar to the one used for SentiWordNet:

- It starts by computing the word embeddings on the text collection.
- A graph is built based on the similarity between embeddings.
- A set of seed terms defines sources of positivity and negativity.
- A random walk process is run to spread positivity and negativity across the graph.
**SentProp** allows to explore the evolution of the meaning of words along time.
**SentProp** allows to perform comparative evaluation of the sentiment orientation of words across domains.

Ex. contexts in r/sports:
- "big men are very soft"
- "freakin raging animal"
- "went from the ladies tees"
- "two dogs fighting"
- "being able to hit"
- "insanely difficult saves"
- "amazing shot"
- "he is still crazy good"
- "his stats are insane"

Ex. contexts in r/TwoX:
- "some soft pajamas"
- "stuffed animal"
- "lovely ladies"
- "hiking with the dogs"
- "it didn’t really hit me"
- "a difficult time"
- "totally shot me down"
- "overreacting crazy woman"
- "people are just insane"

more positive in r/sports, more negative in r/TwoX
more positive in r/TwoX, more negative in r/sports