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International Journal on Advanced Computer Theory and Engineering

ISSN: 2319-2526
Volume 14 Issue 01, 2025

Deep Learning for Sentiment Analysis: A Survey

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Peer Review Information

Submission: 11 Feb 2025
Revision: 20 Mar 2025
Acceptance: 22 April 2025

Keywords

Sentiment Analysis
Natural Language Processing
Machine Learning
Deep Learning

Abstract

Sentiment analysis, a key area within Natural Language Processing (NLP), is essential for interpreting emotions, opinions, and attitudes expressed in textual content. With the rapid expansion of digital platforms such as social media, online marketplaces, and news portals, efficiently analysing sentiment has become increasingly important for businesses, policymakers, and researchers. However, traditional sentiment analysis techniques, including lexicon-based methods and classical machine learning models, often struggle to address linguistic complexities, contextual dependencies, and variations across different domains. Recent progress in deep learning has transformed sentiment analysis by enabling models to learn intricate language patterns and contextual relationships automatically. Advanced neural network architectures, such as Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), Long Short-Term Memory Networks (LSTMs), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), and Transformer-based models like BERT and GPT, have significantly improved sentiment classification accuracy. These deep learning models eliminate the need for extensive manual feature engineering and outperform traditional approaches in understanding nuanced language structures. This paper presents a detailed review of deep learning techniques applied to sentiment analysis. It explores various neural network architectures, compares their performance with traditional methods, discusses commonly used datasets and evaluation metrics, and highlights real-world applications. Additionally, this study examines major challenges in sentiment analysis, such as sarcasm detection, domain adaptation, multilingual processing, and biases in sentiment classification models. Future research opportunities are also discussed, emphasizing hybrid models, transfer learning, explainable AI (XAI), and multimodal sentiment analysis. By offering a structured analysis of deep learning-based sentiment analysis, this survey serves as a valuable reference for researchers and professionals striving to build more efficient, accurate, and scalable sentiment analysis systems. The findings contribute to a broader understanding of how deep learning enhances sentiment analysis and provide insights for future advancements in this evolving field.

Introduction

In today's era of big data, sentiment analysis has become a vital aspect of natural language processing (NLP), enabling automated interpretation of opinions, emotions, and attitudes conveyed through text. The rapid expansion of digital platforms such as social media, online marketplaces, and news websites has made sentiment analysis indispensable for businesses, policymakers, and researchers seeking to derive valuable insights from vast amounts of user-generated content.

Conventional sentiment analysis techniques, including rule-based and traditional machine learning approaches, often struggle to process complex linguistic structures, contextual meanings, and subtle semantic differences in human language. However, recent advancements in deep learning have significantly enhanced sentiment analysis by allowing models to recognize intricate language patterns and contextual dependencies more effectively. Neural network architectures, such as Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), and Transformer-based models like BERT and GPT, have outperformed earlier methods in sentiment classification tasks.

This survey presents a detailed examination of deep learning techniques applied to sentiment analysis. It covers various neural architectures, available datasets, evaluation methods, real-world applications, and the challenges associated with the field. Furthermore, we explore future research directions and potential improvements in deep learning-based sentiment analysis. The findings of this survey aim to enhance the understanding of deep learning's role in sentiment analysis and assist researchers in selecting the most suitable models and approaches for their work.

Key Techniques in Deep Learning for Sentiment Analysis

1. Word Embedding-

Deep learning models convert words into numerical representations, allowing them to capture semantic meanings and relationships between words.

- **Word2Vec** – Generates word vectors using Skip-gram and Continuous Bag of Words (CBOW) methods.
- **GloVe (Global Vectors for Word Representation)** – Represents word relationships based on word co-occurrence patterns.
- **FastText** – Improves word embeddings by incorporating subword information.

2. Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs)-

RNNs are specifically designed for handling sequential data like text.

- **Basic RNNs** – Retain memory of previous words but face vanishing gradient issues.
- **Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)** – Solves vanishing gradient problems using gating mechanisms to regulate information flow.
- **Gated Recurrent Units (GRU)** – A streamlined version of LSTMs with fewer parameters.

3. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)

Although CNNs are primarily used in image processing, they are effective at detecting local word patterns in text.

- **1D convolution** helps identify n-gram patterns.
- **Pooling layers** minimize dimensionality while maintaining crucial features.

4. Transformer-based Models

Transformers have revolutionized NLP by replacing sequential RNNs with self-attention mechanisms.

- **BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers)** – Understands word meaning in context using bidirectional attention.
- **RoBERTa** – An enhanced version of BERT with improved training techniques.
- **XLNet** – Extends BERT by integrating autoregressive and autoencoding learning.
- **T5 (Text-to-Text Transfer Transformer)** – Converts all NLP tasks into a text-generation format.

5. Attention Mechanisms

Attention mechanisms help models focus on the most relevant words in a sentence.

- **Self-attention** in transformers enables models to assign different weights to words based on their importance.
- **Hybrid models** combine attention mechanisms with LSTMs or CNNs for improved results.

6. Pretrained Language Models

Leveraging pretrained models fine-tuned on sentiment data significantly enhances accuracy.

- Models such as **BERT, GPT-3, and T5** are adapted for sentiment analysis.

- **Zero-shot and few-shot learning** allow large-scale models to perform well with minimal labeled data.

7. Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis (ABSA)

ABSA focuses on identifying sentiments related to specific aspects of a product or service instead of providing an overall sentiment score.

- **BERT-based models** are used to extract aspect terms and corresponding sentiments.
- **Dual-transformer architectures** facilitate simultaneous aspect extraction and sentiment classification.

8. Multimodal Sentiment Analysis

Sentiment analysis is enhanced by incorporating text with other modalities like images, audio, and video.

- **Multimodal transformers (e.g., VisualBERT, MMBERT)** combine textual and visual inputs.
- **Speech-based sentiment analysis** applies deep learning to analyze tone and pitch variations in speech.

9. Hybrid Approaches-

Integrating multiple models leads to better performance.

- **CNN + LSTM** – Captures both local and long-range dependencies in text.
- **BERT + LSTM/CNN** – Uses BERT for feature extraction and LSTM/CNN for sentiment classification.

10. Reinforcement Learning for Sentiment Analysis

Reinforcement learning helps improve sentiment analysis by refining models based on user feedback.

- It is widely used for optimizing chatbot responses and recommendation systems.
- The model learns and adapts dynamically to enhance performance.

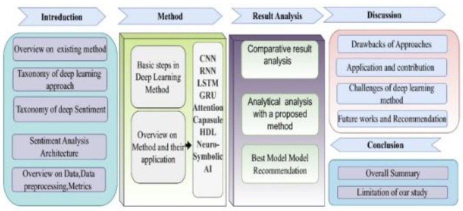

Fig. 1, the remainder of this study is organised as follows. The first component of the research gives background information. Section 2 provides the demonstrations and methodology for different types of deep learning models. Section 3 provides a critical examination of recent research, including methodology, methods, data, findings, and research gaps. We have also presented our proposed method in this section and showed its performance. Section 4 gives the pros and cons of different recent deep learning methods. Section 5 is for an overall presentation of challenges. Section 6 for discussion with the best model recommendation. Section 7 covers significance as well as limitations and future directions. Section 8 is for the final conclusion.

Challenges

- **Managing Ambiguity and Uncertainty**: Human language is naturally ambiguous and complex, making it difficult for deep learning models to accurately interpret semantic meanings.
- **Limited Availability of Training Data**: Deep learning models require extensive datasets to learn meaningful representations, but obtaining such data can be costly and time-consuming.
- **Mitigating Adversarial Attacks**: These models are susceptible to adversarial manipulations, which can negatively impact their accuracy and reliability in sentiment analysis tasks.
- **Enhancing Model Interpretability**: Understanding the reasoning behind deep learning predictions is challenging, making it difficult to explain or justify model decisions.
- **Processing Multimodal and Multilingual Data**: Analyzing data from various sources (text, images, audio) and multiple languages presents difficulties due to linguistic and contextual differences.

Future Directions

Multimodal Semantic Analysis: Developing deep learning models that can analyze and integrate multiple modalities, such as text, images, and audio.

Explainable and Interpretable Deep Learning: Developing techniques and models that provide insights into the decision-making process of deep learning models.

Adversarial Robustness and Security: Developing deep learning models that are robust to adversarial attacks and can provide secure and reliable semantic analysis.

Transfer Learning and Domain Adaptation:

Developing techniques and models that can transfer knowledge and adapt to new domains, tasks, and languages.

Cognitive and Neuro-Inspired Deep Learning: Developing deep learning models that are inspired by cognitive and neural processes, and can provide more human-like semantic analysis.

Conclusion

Deep learning has significantly advanced sentiment analysis by enabling models to capture complex linguistic patterns, contextual meanings, and semantic relationships. Techniques such as word embeddings, recurrent neural networks, convolutional neural networks, and transformer-based models have improved sentiment classification accuracy. However, challenges such as ambiguity, limited training data, adversarial vulnerabilities, and the need for explainability continue to hinder widespread adoption. Future research should focus on developing more interpretable, robust, and adaptable deep learning models. Advancements in multimodal sentiment analysis, transfer learning, and cognitive-inspired architectures will further enhance the accuracy and reliability of sentiment detection systems. By addressing these challenges and leveraging emerging AI techniques, deep learning will continue to drive progress in sentiment analysis, making it more effective for real-world applications in business, social media, healthcare, and beyond.

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