

# Sarcasm & Its Symptoms

Rating Based Modeling of Reviews Using Neural Networks



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## Aim: Sarcasm detection using deep learning

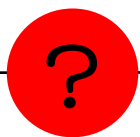
- a method of classifying sarcastic text on a purely non-contextual basis, i.e. inferences and through only impromptu presence of the text and features

**PLEASE BE SAFE.**

**Do not stand, sit, climb or  
lean on fences.**

**If you fall, animals could eat you  
and that might make them sick.**

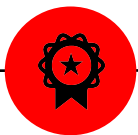
**Thank you.**



## Relevant Queries

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- Are users more likely to be more or less sarcastic during the holiday season?
- Does higher usage of exclamation points indicate a sarcastic review?
- Do businesses with lower ratings tend to have more sarcastic reviews?



Identify +  
Classify



Feed  
network



Predict

Identification, i.e. **sarcasm detection**, is one of the most challenging aspects of sentiment analysis.



     7/11/2011

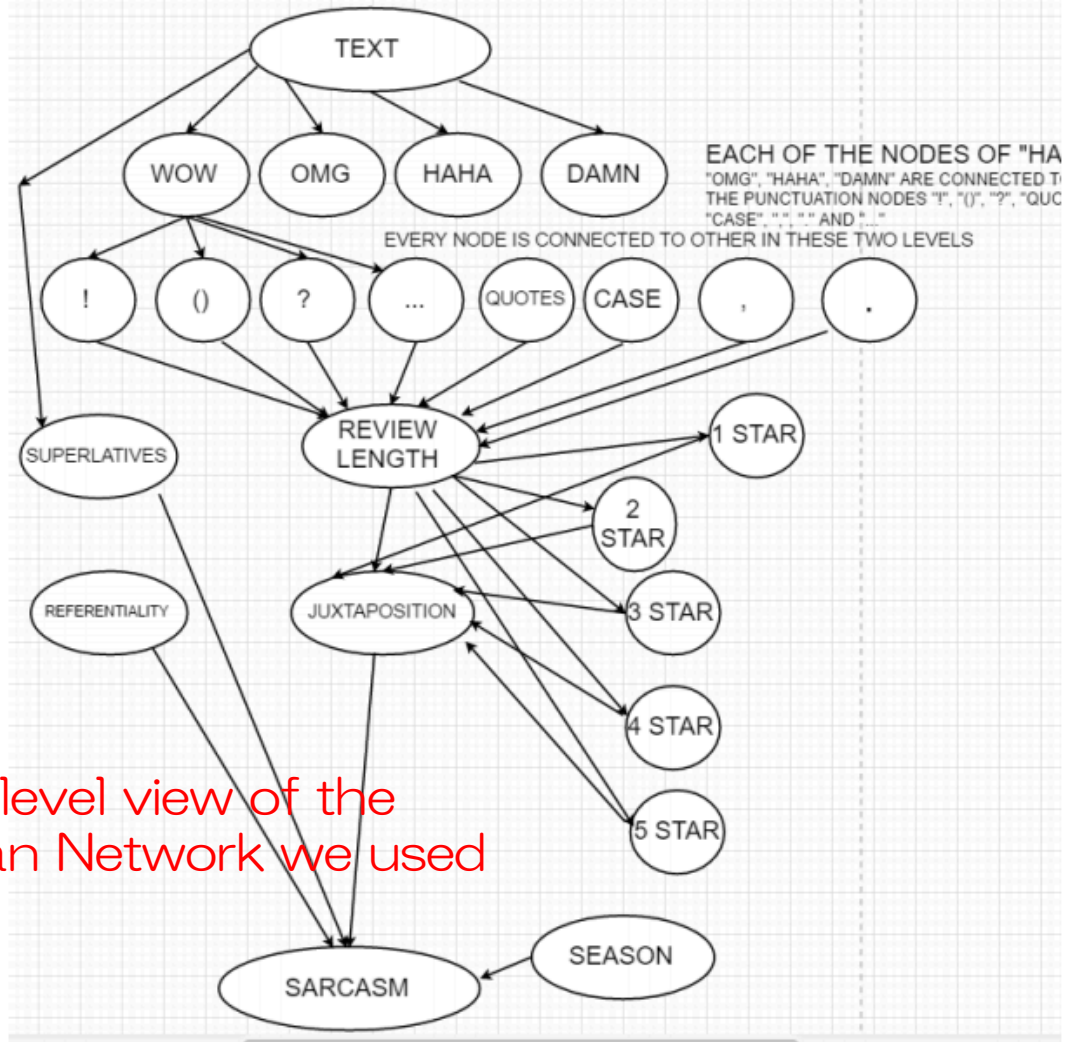
I know what you're thinking - one star for the Grand Canyon?!

Let me explain myself before I am stoned to death. The Grand Canyon as a natural wonder rates 5 stars, no brainer. However, the reason I give Grand Canyon National Park only one star as a National Park is that pretty much all of the really awesome things you can

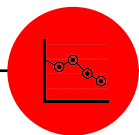




# Sarcastic Feature Selection



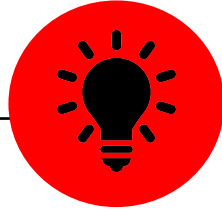
a high-level view of the  
Bayesian Network we used



# Parameters of the Model

Feature	Types
Keyword(s)	“wow” “OMG” “damn”
Punctuation	“!” “()” “...” “ “” ”
Referentiality	“I” “me” “myself” “we” “us”
Season	“winter” “fall” “summer” “spring”
Superlatives	“worst” “best” “word ending in -est”

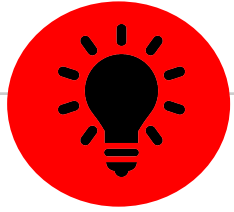
# Method



- harness the presence of contextual incongruity in user reviews

i.e. sentiment juxtaposition (5-star in rating with a negative sentiment, & vice versa)

inconsistency in sentiment will be indicative of some level of ironic text



Data



preprocessing step is initialized with creating a dictionary that reads through each of the (~4mil) reviews and calculates the # of times for each instance of a categorized feature appearing in that review text

## An example from a 4 star review

A hidden gem! Found a beautiful buffet for a great price. Whether you're looking for new or something to refurbish, this place is def worth the look!

Enter label : 0

```
{'!': 2, 'OMG': 0, '""': 0, '..': 0, 'GOD': 0, 'WOW': 0, 'Self_referentiality_count': 0, 'HAHA':
```

```
0, ',': 1, 'label': 0, '()': 0, 'DAMN': 0,
```

```
'Superlative_count': 0, '.': 1, 'Season': '3', '?':
```

```
0}
```

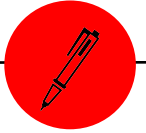


**THIS IS**

**DEEPLARNING**

# A simple network

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Train network with dataset of purely sarcastic text

15 input nodes, (based on # of variables used for classification), & two hidden layers of 15 hidden nodes each

2 output nodes, i.e. two classification labels: non-sarcastic, or sarcastic

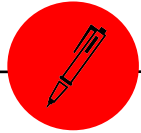
1-star and 3-star rated reviews demonstrated a high level of accuracy, 95% and 96% respectively





# Notes on network parameters

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built-in optimizer  
(Adam) used to  
calculate the cross  
entropy between  
the predicted & true  
label

Activation  
functions used  
between pairs of  
levels (Relu for  
the path from the  
1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
hidden layer)



Why do we want to know if users are being sarcastic?

- less genuinely indicative of customer attitude
- would definitely get some more valuable feedback on the company at large
- will help to improve the customer experience at large.



**BEWARE**

**OF  
SARCASM**



# Future Directions

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- use more manpower to rate the sarcastic nature of the reviews (rather than just us 2)
- Implementation of different machine learning models e.g. Restricted Boltzmann Machines and Hidden Markov Models to generate a time series model for for feature analysis of sarcasm in *real time*



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# Thanks!

*Questions?*

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