

# Comparing Sentiment Engine Performance on Reviews and Tweets

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### Motivations and Goals



- Computing *accurately* a sentiment expressed in a text is a task largely needed in the market, and ready-to-use APIs with pre-trained sentiment classifiers are available.
- However, sentiment engines asked to classify a text as positive, negative or neutral, do
  not reach a 100% of accuracy. They show misclassifications in multiple cases, even in
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  tools.
- On the one hand, academic research advances are visible and international challenges
  are organized each year, asking researchers to train/fine-tune their engines to work well
  on specific tasks (e.g. polarity classification, subjectivity or irony detection), on specific
  sources/domains (e.g tweets about politics), and specific languages (English, Italian,
  Arabic, etc.)



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- On the other hand, tools needed by industry have to face the need of the market, asking
  for engines that can receive as input <u>any</u> textual source (tweets, reviews, etc) and being
  applied to <u>general purpose applications</u>.



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We *ideally* need industrial sentiment engines providing <u>high average performance on multiple sources and domains</u>

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### Goals

- 1. Sentiment engine performance: *Perceived by humans* VS *experimentally measured*
- 2. What's the performance gap between industrial "general purpose" engines and research engines, since the latter are built to show high performance on *specific settings* (source, domain, language, task, etc)? Are there differences in performance analyzing tweets or reviews in different languages (e.g. English and Italian)?

### Outline

### 1. Motivations and goals

- 2. Sentiment Engine (*mis*)classifications
  - On simple cases
  - On difficult cases: «Cross-domain» Sentiment Classification
- 3. Experimental Evaluation of Research and Industrial Engines
  - Results on Tweets
  - Results on Product Reviews

### 4. Conclusions

### Sentiment Engine (mis)classifications



### Sentiment Engines on simple classifications

We consider some industrial and research sentiment engines providing an online demo:

- Research engines:
  - <u>iFeel Platform</u> (running 18 research tools implementing different methods)
  - Standford Deep Learning
- Industrial tools:
  - IBM Watson
  - Google Cloud Natural Language API (Google CNL)
  - Finsa X2Check

We test 3 simple sentences with «clear» sentiment classification:

- A negative sentence
- A positive sentence
- A negative («difficult») sentence



### Engines on simple classifications: iFeel Platform

### Methods Results

### "I hate this game"

Your input: I hate this game			
Method Name	Status	Method Score	Polarity
OPINIONLEXICON	Completed	-1	Negative
SENTISTRENGTH	Completed	-0.75	Negative
SOCAL	Completed	-6	Negative
HAPPINESSINDEX	Completed	-0.1124999999999992	Negative
SANN	Completed	1	Positive
EMOTICONSDS	Completed	1	Positive
SENTIMENT140	Completed	-9.882	Negative
STANFORD	Completed	-1	Negative
AFINN	Completed	-3	Negative
MPQA	Completed	-1	Negative
NRCHASHTAG	Completed	-15.06499999999998	Negative
EMOLEX	Completed	-1	Negative
EMOTICONS	Completed	0	Neutral
PANAST	Completed	0	Neutral
SASA	Completed	1	Positive
SENTIWORDNET	Completed	-0.7575258926544899	Negative
VADER	Completed	-0.5719	Negative
UMIGON	Completed	-1	Negative

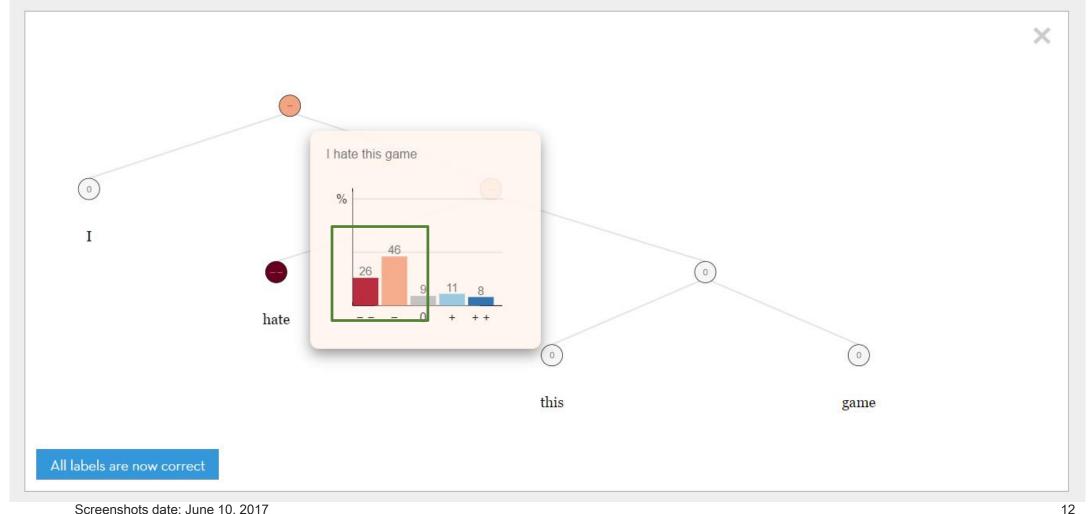


### Engines on simple classifications: StandfordDL

### "I hate this game"

### **Sentiment Trees**

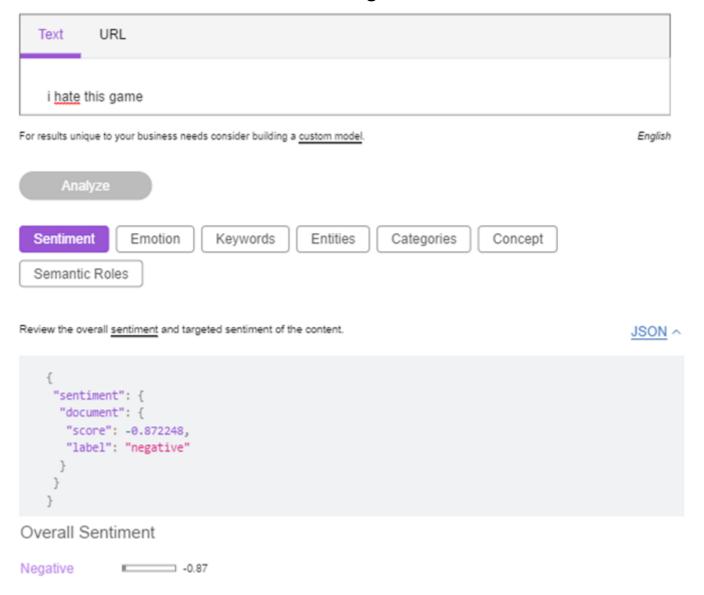
You can double-click on each tree figure to see its expanded version with greater details. There are 5 classes of sentiment classification: very negative, negative, neutral, positive, and very positive.





### Engines on simple classifications: IBM Watson

### "I hate this game"





### Engines on simple classifications: iFeel Platform

### Methods Results

### "I like this game"

Your input: I like this game			
Method Name	Status	Method Score	Polarity
OPINIONLEXICON	Completed	1	Positive
SENTISTRENGTH	Completed	0.25	Positive
SOCAL	Completed	1	Positive
HAPPINESSINDEX	Completed	0.495000000000001	Positive
SANN	Completed	1	Positive
EMOTICONSDS	Completed	1	Positive
SENTIMENT140	Completed	-1.115	Negative
STANFORD	Completed	0	Neutral
AFINN	Completed	2	Positive
MPQA	Completed	1	Positive
NRCHASHTAG	Completed	-2.657	Negative
EMOLEX	Completed	0	Neutral
EMOTICONS	Completed	0	Neutral
PANAST	Completed	0	Neutral
SASA	Completed	1	Positive
SENTIWORDNET	Completed	0.3729485599002547	Positive
VADER	Completed	0	Neutral
UMIGON	Completed	1	Positive



### Engines on simple classifications: StandfordDL

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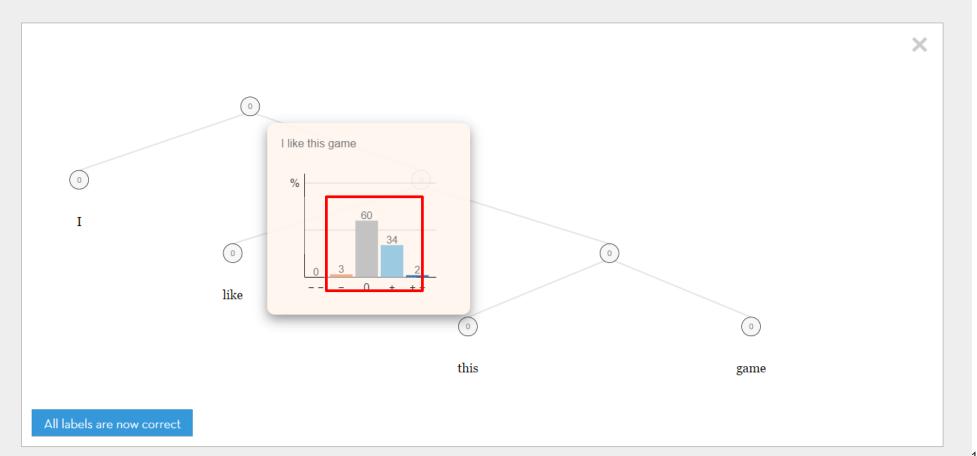


### **Sentiment Analysis**

| Information | Live Demo | Sentiment Treebank | Help the Model | Source Code

### **Sentiment Trees**

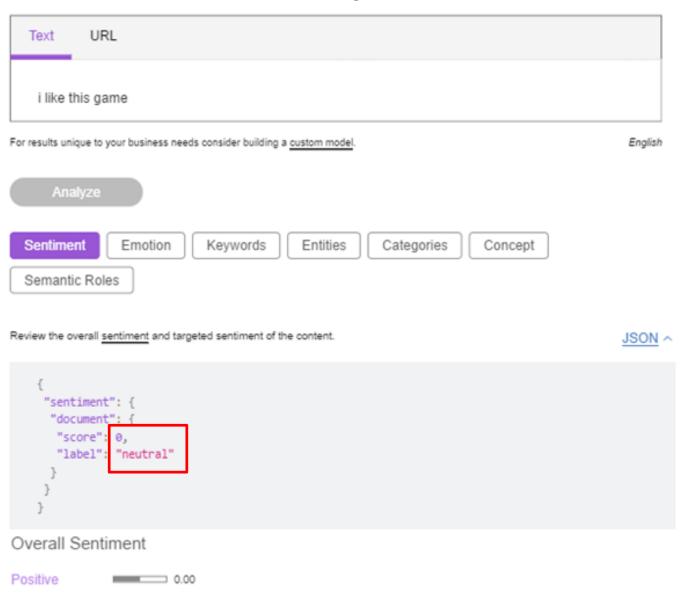
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### Engines on simple classifications: IBM Watson

### "I like this game"





### Engines on simple classifications: iFeel Platform

"I just connected my game with my facebook account and instead of saving the progress I have lost all my progress and it came on Level 1 although I was on IvI 98 Please help!!!!!"

Method Name	Status	Method Score	Polarity
OPINIONLEXICON	Completed	1.666666666666667	Positive
SENTISTRENGTH	Completed	0.25	Positive
SOCAL	Completed	0.8	Positive
HAPPINESSINDEX	Completed	0.328750000000001	Positive
SANN	Completed	0	Neutral
EMOTICONSDS	Completed	1	Positive
SENTIMENT140	Completed	-350.673999999999	Negative
STANFORD	Completed	-1	Negative
AFINN	Completed	0.8	Positive
MPQA	Completed	1	Positive
NRCHASHTAG	Completed	-152.7289999999999	Negative
EMOLEX	Completed	1	Positive
EMOTICONS	Completed	0	Neutral
PANAST	Completed	0	Neutral
SASA	Completed	1	Positive
SENTIWORDNET	Completed	0.16028867864857324	Positive
VADER	Completed	0.7762	Positive
UMIGON	Completed	-1	Negative



### Engines on simple classifications: iFeel Platform

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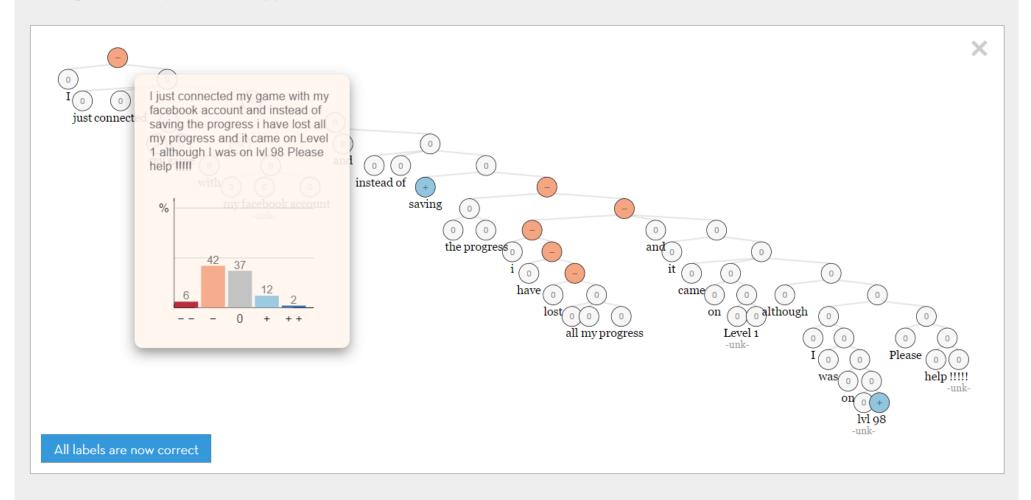
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NRCHASHTAG	Completed	-152.7289999999993	Negative
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### Engines on simple classifications: Standford DL

### **Sentiment Trees**

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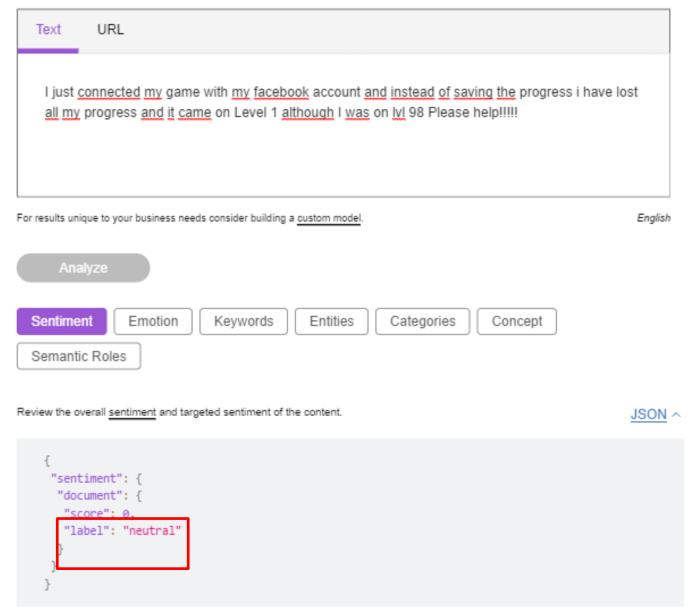


Download Results



20

### Engines on simple classifications: IBM Watson



Overall Sentiment



### **Observations**

- We showed objective examples of sentiment *misclassification* performed by popular research and industrial engines, even on cases that are *straightforward for humans*
- However, it is not possible to make any kind of generalization of these results or let us somehow rank the engines involved in the previous examples. In order to do that, a wide experimental analysis is needed.
- Performance in sentiment polarity classification depends on many factors, involving the classifier's training (*source*) set and test (*target*) set. Some sentiment classifiers are built to perform better on a specific:
  - Topic domain (e.g. movies, politics)
  - Textual source (tweets, reviews, etc.)
  - Language
  - . . .



### Cross-domain classification and domain-adaptation

How do we classify the polarity of the following text?

"Candy crush is my addiction, I love it!"

This is a case of domain-dependent sentiment. Moreover, It is well known in literature that:

- Users often use some different words when they express sentiment in different domains [Pan S.J.,et al 2010]
- Classifiers trained on one domain may perform poorly on another domain [Pang, et al. 2008].
  - → Cross-domain sentiment analysis research area works on *domain-adaptation techniques* [Blitzer, et al 2007], [Pan S.J.,et al 2010], [Liu B., 2012], [Wu F.,et al, 2016], [Wu F.,et al, 2017].
  - → Sometimes domain-adaptation may also lead to worse performance [Pan, S.J.,et al 2010].



### Document-level VS Sentence-level VS Entity level SA

"I like this game but after the iOS update I get a crash when the app starts. Please do something!! "

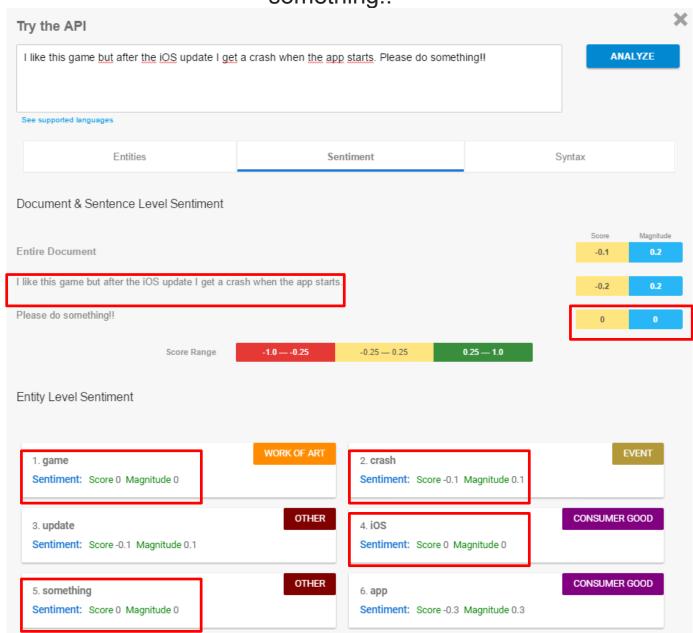
- It is probably impossible to agree about its overall overall (document-level) sentiment classification
- It is known in literature [1] that group of humans, when evaluating sentiment (the polarity in three classes), agree in about the 80% of the cases since there can be controversial cases due to the subjective qualitative evaluation.

[1] T. Wilson, J. Wiebe, P. Hoffmann. Recognizing Contextual Polarity in Phraselevel Sentiment Analysis. In proc. of HLT 2005.



### Document-level VS Sentence-level VS Entity level SA

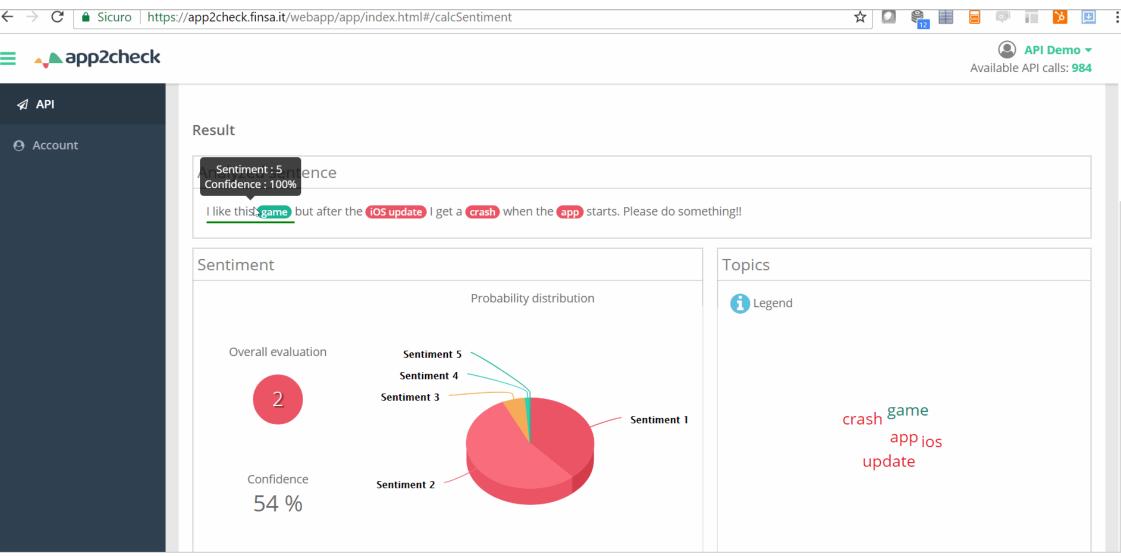
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### Document-level VS Sentence-level VS Entity level SA

"I like this game but after the iOS update I get a crash when the app starts. Please do something!!"



## Experimental Evaluation of Research and Industrial Engines



### **Experimental Evaluation**

- In order to fairly compare engines performance, we need:
  - a gold standard reference
  - benchmarks on multiple sources and mixed domains
  - benchmarks in more than one language
- Tweets → we see a worst case for industrial engines
  - Benchmarks and engines from Evalita SentiPolC 2016 for Italian language
  - Benchmarks and engines from SemEval 2017 for English language
- Reviews → we see a worst case for research engines
  - Amazon Product Reviews: Benchmarks from ESWC Semantic Sentiment Analysis 2016



### **Experimental Evaluation**

- About pre-trained, ready-to-use industrial Sentiment APIs: most of the commercial engines for SA, in terms of service, do not allow to use their APIs to perform an experimental comparative analysis.
- The goal of such tools is to measure user opinion and, as per every measurement tool, being aware of its accuracy is fundamental.
- This is even more important in sentiment analysis since, as we recalled, pre-trained engines may in general show a significant different performance depending on the target test set.
- We considered industrial engines, having a public sentiment API and without explicit restrictions in the terms of service to make a comparative analysis

General purpose APIs:

- √ Google CNL
- √ Finsa X2Check

X2Check adaptations, specifically trained on the target source:

- ✓ App2Check specifically trained on apps reviews.
- ✓ Tweet2Check specifically trained on tweets.
- ✓ Amazon2Check is specifically trained on amazon reviews.

	System	Const/unc	Pos	Neg	F
1	SwissCheese	С	0.6529	0.7128	0.6828
2	UniPI	c	0.6850	0.6426	0.6638
3	Unitor	u	0.6354	0.6885	0.662
4	Tweet2Check	u	0.6696	0.6442	0.6569
5	ItaliaNLP	С	0.6265	0.6743	0.6504
6	X2Check	u	0.6629	0.6442	0.6491
7	IRADABE	С	0.6426	0.648	0.6453
8	UniBO	С	0.6708	0.6026	0.6367
9	IntIntUniba	С	0.6189	0.6372	0.6281
10	CoLingLab	С	0.5619	0.6579	0.6099
11	INGEOTEC	u	0.5944	0.6205	0.6075
12	ADAPT	c	0.5632	0.6461	0.6046
13	App2Check	u	0.5466	0.6250	0.5857
14	samskara	С	0.5198	0.6168	0.5683
15	Google CNL_05-2017	u	0.5426	0.5530	0.5478
16	Baseline		0.4518	0.3808	0.4163

Tab 1: Evaluation on 2K tweets in Italian from Evalita SentiPolC 2016. Industrial engines added to the official results. Industrial engines VS research engines *specifically trained/tuned* on the given domain/source.

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3					).662					
4		$(E_1pos + E_1pos)$								
5	$Pos = \frac{1}{2}$	$Pos = \frac{\left(F1_0^{pos} + F1_1^{pos}\right)}{2}$								
6		2			.6491					
7		$Neg = rac{\left(F1_0^{neg} + F1_1^{neg} ight)}{2}$								
8										
9	Neg = -	2		_	.6281					
10		_			.6099					
11		Nea + P	05)		.6075					
12	$F = \frac{C}{C}$	$\frac{Neg+P}{2}$			.6046					
13		2			.5857					
14					.5683					
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<b>A</b> - 2.40/		3	Unitor	u	0.6354	0.6885	0.662		$\mathbf{L}_F$ —	2.6%
$\Delta_F = 3.4\%$		4	Tweet2Check	u	0.6696	0.6442	0.6569	<b>—</b>		
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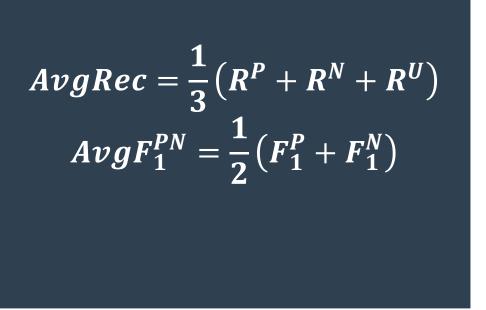
### **Evaluation on Tweets in English**

	System	AvgR	AvgF1-PN	Acc
1	DataStories	0.681	0.677	0.651
	BB_twtr	0.681	0.685	0.658
3	LIA	0.676	0.674	0.661
4	Senti17	0.674	0.665	0.652
5	NNEMBs	0.669	0.658	0.664
28	ej-za-2017	0.571	0.539	0.582
	LSIS	0.571	0.561	0.521
30	Tweet2Check	0.566	0.565	0.526
31	X2Check	0.563	0.561	0.523
32	XJSA	0.556	0.519	0.575
33	Neverland-THU	0.555	0.507	0.597
34	MI&T-Lab	0.551	0.522	0.561
35	Google CNL_06-2017	0.550	0.514	0.567
36	diegoref	0.546	0.527	0.540
37	App2Check	0.541	0.508	0.545
38	xiwu	0.479	0.365	0.547
39	SSN_MLRG1	0.431	0.344	0.439
40	YNU-1510	0.340	0.201	0.387
41	WarwickDCS	0.335	0.221	0.382
	Avid	0.335	0.163	0.206

Tab 2: Evaluation on 12,284 tweets in English from SemEval 2017, Task 4, subtask A. Industrial engines added to the official results. . Industrial engines VS research engines *specifically trained/tuned* on the given domain/source.

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	30	Tweet2Check	0.566	0.565	0.526	
-	31	X2Check	0.563	0.561	0.523	<b>—</b>
	32	XJSA	0.556	0.519	0.575	
	33	Neverland-THU	0.555	0.507	0.597	$\Delta_{AvgF1} = 4.7\%$
	34	MI&T-Lab	0.551	0.522	0.561	-Avgr1
	35	Google CNL_06-2017	0.550	0.514	0.567	<b>—</b>
	36	diegoref	0.546	0.527	0.540	
	37	App2Check	0.541	0.508	0.545	
	38	xiwu	0.479	0.365	0.547	
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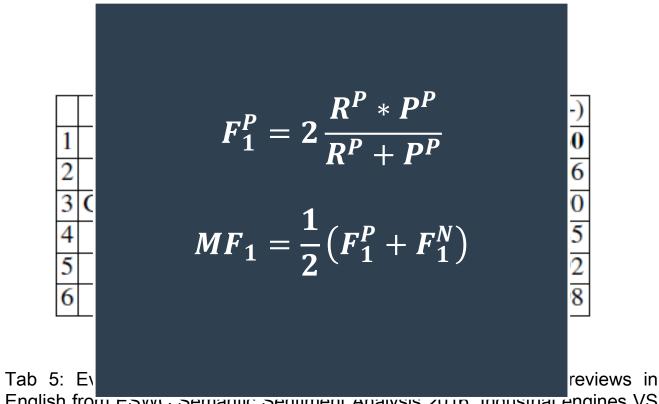
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### **Evaluation on Amazon Product Reviews in English**

	Tool	M-F1	Acc	F1(-)	F1(+)
1	Amazon2Check	I	l	ı	0.860
2	X2Check	0.862	0.862	0.868	0.856
3	Google CNL_05-2017	I		ı	l
4	App2Check	ı	l	I	0.685
5	SentiStrength	I	l	ı	0.692
6	StanfordDL	0.602	0.604	0.705	0.498

Tab 5: Evaluation on about 200,000 generic amazon product reviews in English from ESWC Semantic Sentiment Analysis 2016. Industrial engines VS research engines *not* specifically trained on the target domain/source.

### **Evaluation on Amazon Product Reviews in English**



English from ESVVC Semantic Sentiment Analysis 2016. Industrial engines VS research engines *not* specifically trained on the target domain/source.

### **Evaluation on Amazon Product Reviews in English**

	[	Tool	M-F1	Acc	F1(-)	F1(+)	
		Amazon2Check	0.865	0.864	0.869	0.860	
$\Delta_{MF1} = 4.1\%$	<b>→</b>		1	I	l	0.856	•
$\Delta_{MF1} - 4.170$	$\longrightarrow$	Google CNL_05-2017	0.821	0.827	0.853	0.790	$\Delta_{MF1} = 23.2\%$
		4 App2Check	0.729	0.736	0.772	0.685	$\Delta_{MF1} - 25.270$
		5 SentiStrength	0.630	0.552	0.568	0.692	<b>←</b>
		5 StanfordDL	0.602	0.604	0.705	0.498	

Tab 5: Evaluation on about 200,000 generic amazon product reviews in English from ESWC Semantic Sentiment Analysis 2016. Industrial engines VS research engines *not* specifically trained on the target domain/source.



### **Overall Results**

In our experimental evaluation, we showed that:

- considering the best performing research tool <u>specifically trained</u> on the target source as a reference (worst case for industrial APIs – tweets from SemEval 2017 and Evalita SentiPolc 2016):
  - X2Check is lower than 3.4% of F-score on Italian and 11.6% of Avg-F1 on English benchmarks
  - Google CNL is lower than 13.5% of F-score on Italian and 16.3% of Avg-F1 on English benchmarks
  - App2Check [not tuned on tweets] is lower than 9.7% of F-score on Italian and 16.9% on English benchmarks
- considering the *best performing research tool <u>not</u> specifically trained on the target source* as a reference (worst case for research engines amazon product reviews from ESWC SSA 2016):
  - on Amazon Product Reviews in English
    - ✓ X2Check shows a macro-f1 score of 23.2% higher than the best research tool
    - ✓ Google CNL shows a macro-f1 score of 19.1% higher than the best research tool
    - ✓ App2Check [not tuned on amazon reviews] is lower than 13.3% of MF1 on English benchmarks from Amazon product reviews



### **Conclusions**

- Sentiment Analysis is still a very complex task and evaluating the engines results on individual examples, counting just on the «human perception», is not a scientific approach and lead to wrong conclusions about engine performance.
- However, such «manual inspection» may help to focus on the engine's defects, understand the reasons why some misclassifictions occur and better design/improve the engine.
- It is necessary evaluate the performance of a «general purpose» (pre-trained) sentiment engine
  APIs, through an extensive experimental analysis on multiple textual sources and domains, taking
  into account the overall average KPIs (accuracy, macro-F1 score, etc).
- Since sentiment engines are measurement tools, it would be better if companies provided, together with the pre-trained models, also some performance indicators on specific settings (source, topic domains, language, etc), or at least let buyers perform a comparative analysis.
- Domain/source-specific models show in general better results compared to pre-trained «general purpose» classifiers. However, applying domain-adaptation techniques or recognizing the best specialized model to apply, may reduce misclassifications on the target domain.



### Thank you

### Emanuele Di Rosa, PhD

CSO, Head of Artificial Intelligence

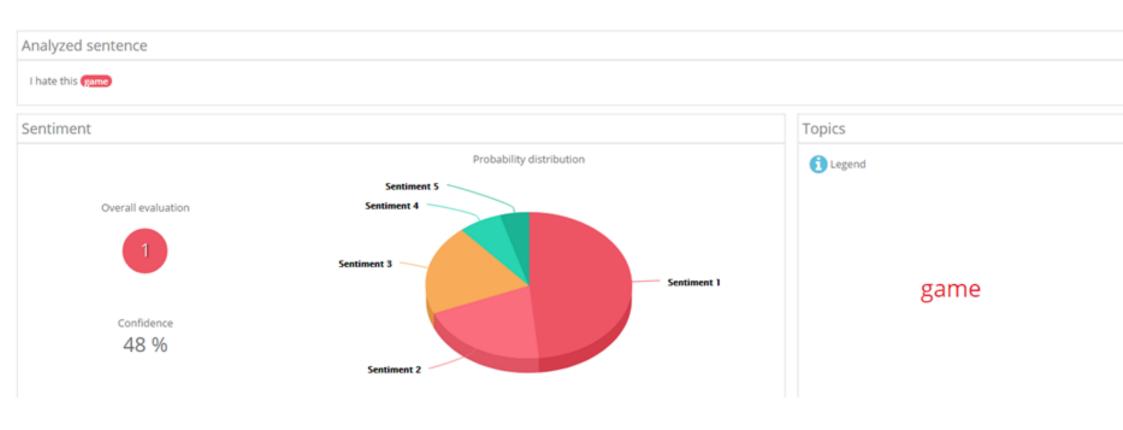
Finsa s.p.a.

emanuele.dirosa@finsa.it www.app2check.com www.finsa.it



### Engines on simple classifications: X2Check

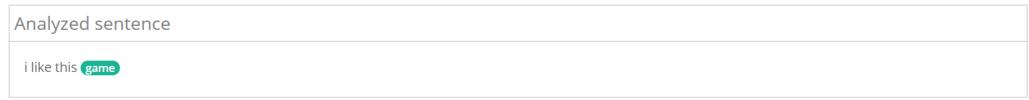
"I hate this game"

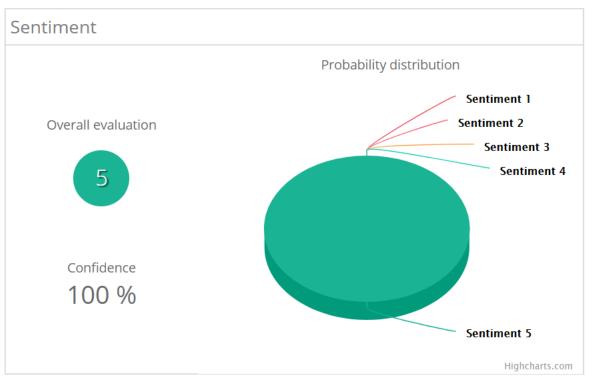


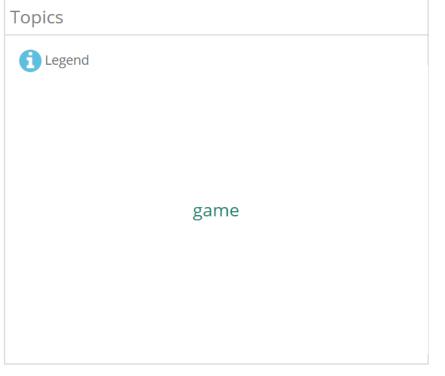


### Engines on simple classifications: X2Check

### "I like this game"









### Engines on simple classifications: X2Check

### Analyzed sentence I just connected my game with my facebook account and instead of saving the progress i have lost all my progress and it came on Level 1 although I was on Ivl 98 Please help!!!!

