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A HYBRID DEEP LEARNING ARCHITECTURE FOR MULTIMODAL DATA ANALYSIS: INTEGRATING STRUCTURED AND UNSTRUCTURED INFORMATION

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Abstract:

The fast growth in multimodal data, which include structured records, unstructured text, and images, has revealed the drawbacks of the traditional analytical models. This paper presents a unified deep learning framework that combines Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT) and Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) into one framework to process and fuse heterogeneous data types. The methodology was tested on the Amazon Fashion 5-core dataset that consists of product reviews, star ratings, and images. A representative sample of 100-150 samples with all modalities was chosen to develop the model. Pre-processing and normalization of each data stream was done independently and then fused in a dynamic fusion layer which modulates modality weights during prediction. An experimental outcome showed that the hybrid model performed better than unimodal baselines by at least 15 percent increment in sentiment classification accuracy and a significant decrease in Root Mean Square Error in rating prediction. The architecture was able to overcome the issues of incomplete inputs and modality inconsistencies by focusing on the most informative features in the respective cases. Despite the fact that the method needed more computational resources and worked on small multimodal data, it offered a solid, replicable framework that could be applied to e-commerce, healthcare, and other fields. Future directions include scaling multimodal datasets, improving interpretability and using collaborative training techniques to advance the use of multimodal deep learning.

Keywords: Multimodal Deep Learning, Hybrid Architecture, Structured and Unstructured Data, Sentiment Analysis, Data Fusion

1. Introduction

1.1 Background on Multimodal Data Challenges

The steep increase in the volumes of digital information has generated unmatched opportunities and considerable challenges in the

data analytics domain. Organizations of today produce and collect huge volumes of data, in many different forms like structured records, unstructured free-text stories, and visual material like pictures. Although the conventional method of machine learning has proven to be effective in working with structured data such as transactional records of customers, customer profiling, quantitative ratings, etc, the when running it onto unstructured data such as user reviews, social media commentaries, and product photographs, it is likely to miss the important information that is inherent within them (Baltrušaitis et al., 2018).

Such contexts as e-commerce, healthcare, and finance require multimodal data to learn the behaviour of consumers and forecast decision-making (Lu et al., 2023). An example of this would be that an online transaction would possibly include a product identifier, numeric star ratings, free-text feedback and additional accompaniment images. Independent extraction of any one modality of the data has the danger of losing the subtle interrelations between these aspects crucial in the modeling of the user sentiment and predicting preferences.

Nevertheless, analysing multimodal data is technically challenging, since every modality comes with its distinct representational forms, level of noise and non-homogeneous format. Innovations in deep learning, such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) which are now used to tackle image recognition (He et al., 2016) and transformers which solve natural language processing (Vaswani et al., 2017; Devlin et al., 2019), have greatly improved the analysis of single modalities. However, how to successfully position them at scale in a unified framework remains a field of further research (Tang et al., 2023).

1.2 Specific Gaps in Existing Deep Learning Methods

Although a lot has been achieved in the recent past, most of the extant deep learning architectures cannot be used in relation to the complex relational systems in multimodal datasets. Traditional architectures usually apply one of the two approaches: early- or late-fusion (Tang et al., 2023). One differentiates between early- and late-fusion (Tang et al., 2023). The former is based on combining raw input representations across modalities, whereas the latter is founded on combining the outputs of individual models (Tang et al., 2023). Strong early fusion strategies run the risk of loss of modality-specific information, and late fusion strategies fail to capture important

cross-modal interactions which form the basis of contextual knowledge.

Also, a substantial portion of multimodal learning models are either highly task-centered or very labor-intensive to deploy or relentlessly need to be re-fitted as data properties change (Ngiam et al., 2011; Huang et al., 2024). These setbacks decrease the applicability and extendability of such approaches in the real world. These limitations, as in the case of e-commerce settings, e.g., hamper the realisation of effective recommendation systems, and impede the personalisation option based on the integration of structured purchasing patterns with unstructured reviews and images (Hendriksen, 2022).

This problem is encountered by inconsistencies in real-world datasets. Within the Amazon Fashion 5-core dataset utilised in the current example, a limited number of entries are multimodal taken together, which limits the amount of data that is suitable to fully multimodal modelling. Moreover, unstructured text is often associated with spelling mistakes, casual language, and assorted sentence constructions that may complicate the transformer-based semantic analysis (Carpuat et al., 2022). Such concerns require heavy preprocessing pipeline and adaptive model architectures that can deal with incomplete or noisy inputs.

1.3 Research Aim

The proposed study tries to resolve these shortcomings by introducing a new type of deep learning architecture that could concatenate structured numerical and categorical data with unstructured text and image into a single framework. The method integrates CNNs to obtain visual features, Bidirectional Encoder Representations based on Transformers (BERT) to understand the natural language and deep neural networks (DNNs) to obtain the modeling of the structured inputs. A self-adapted attention-based fusion layer balances the importance of each modality in making predictions and hence enhances performance and interpretability of tasks. The objectives of the research are as follows:

- In order to develop a deep learning structure capable of capturing CNN to process images, BERT to form textual representation, as well as DNN to manage structured data.
- To adopt and test an adaptive fusion mechanism that would dynamically cover the modality weights over the inference stage.
- In a demonstration of the validity of the proposed hybrid model in the Amazon Fashion 5-core data set, to evaluate the increase in predictive

results separately in terms of accuracy, as well as robustness, with the help of multimodal records. Through these developments of the architecture treating various data streams as cohesive inputs but not input-isolated, the paper contributes to multimodal deep learning and offers a repeatable framework to use in the fields of e-commerce, healthcare, or finance.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Foundations of Multimodal Machine Learning

The combination of multimodal data, including images, text, and structured numerical features, has become a central issue in the artificial intelligence research. Initial pioneering research demonstrated that it is possible to connect machine learning models to various sensory data, providing the foundation to later developments in multimodal learning (Ngiam et al., 2011). The survey of Baltrušaitis et al. (2018) was a breakthrough because the taxonomies of multimodal combinations, fusion strategies, and learning paradigms were systematically categorized, which emphasizes the opportunities and long-term challenges in this area.

2.2 Advances in Single-Modality Deep Learning Architectures

In the last decade, major advances have been made in the development of specialized models of individual data types. Devlin et al. (2019) proposed Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT) in text analysis, and it has come to be the foundation of unstructured language modeling. Simultaneously, He et al. (2016) developed visual recognition further by introducing deep residual networks (ResNet) which allowed training of much deeper convolutional neural networks (CNNs). Although these architectures are excellent in their fields of application, integrating them successfully is a complicated task when dealing with heterogeneous inputs.

2.3 Sentiment and Emotion Analysis with Multimodal Data

Sentiment and emotion analysis of unstructured data has become a critical use of multimodal learning. Majumder et al. (2018) emphasized the necessity of contextual modeling in the combination of text, audio, and visual signals. In the same way, Thandaga Jwalanaiah et al. (2023) illustrated the practicality of hybrid deep learning pipelines in the analysis of large-scale emotion in unstructured data. Dynamic weighing of the relevance of various modalities during fusion was also made possible by the introduction of attention

mechanisms by Vaswani et al. (2017) and helped to make predictions more context-sensitive and nuanced.

2.4 Applications in Healthcare, Retail, and Smart Systems

Multimodal learning has been effectively used in healthcare diagnostics, retail analytics and intelligent systems. Gao et al. (2020) demonstrated that a combination of structured and unstructured data is highly effective in predictive diagnostics in comparison with unimodal methods. This fact is consistent with the results of Liu et al. (2022) that showed that pre-training with multimodal clinical data enhances the performance of biomedical models. Yan et al. (2019) combined mammography images and electronic health records through deep learning to enhance the accuracy of the classification in cancer detection.

In business context, Hendriksen (2022) also pointed out the importance of the multimodal retrieval systems in e-commerce settings, where the combination of images, textual descriptions, and metadata of products is essential. Kalisetty and Lakkarasu (2024) also validated the fact that the integration of visuals, description and sales records in the retail supply chains results in better forecasting and operational agility.

2.5 Privacy-Preserving and Federated Multimodal Learning

With the increasing importance of privacy considerations, federated learning has become a method of training models on distributed multimodal data in a secure way. As Duan et al. (2024) demonstrated, decentralized cloud-based biomedical fusion is capable of ensuring the confidentiality of data and increasing the predictive power of sensitive applications, including healthcare and finance. These results support the necessity of architectures, which support privacy-preserving protocols without compromising accuracy.

2.6 Architectural Challenges and Limitations

These developments notwithstanding, there are technical issues that persist when it comes to the integration of various types of data. Tang et al. (2023) found problems with wrong data alignment, noise amplification, and the danger of overfitting because of redundancy between modalities. They promote modular pipelines and flexible ways of combining sensors that can dynamically adapt modality weights in their work. In a similar way, Seng and Ang (2019) have provided practical recommendations on scaling deep learning

architectures in high-volume emotion and sentiment analysis tasks.

Complexities of unstructured big data have been dealt with by other researchers. The methods of extracting latent patterns and structuring insights were created by Adnan and Akbar (2019), and the automated approaches, including UDNet, suggested by Jain and Fallon (2024), are the next step. This cohesive framework shows that AutoML can minimize the manual intervention on multimodal data pipelines.

2.7 Emerging Domains and Multimodal Applications

Multimodal deep learning is a field that is growing in applicability across sectors. The research by Saghir et al. (2025) considered the application of multimodal fusion in predictive maintenance with the use of IoT. Sinha et al. (2024) and Stahlschmidt et al. (2022) identified the advantages of deep multimodal frameworks in early disease detection and interpretability in the context of healthcare. Dhivya et al. (2025) also showed that it can be successfully used in education, agriculture, and cybersecurity.

2.8 Fusion Strategies and Model Explainability

The creation of safe and interpretable multimodal models is one of the main research priorities. A thorough review of concatenation-based fusion, hierarchical models, and attention mechanisms was carried out by Gandhi et al. (2023) and found that none of these methods performed better in all data settings. This diversity is what necessitates the development of customizable, modular architectures that are able to fit within various contexts.

The development of frameworks also keeps on changing. Kumar et al. (2020) introduced hybrid models that can model both symbolic and interpretive signals in the social media data. Ye et al. (2024) proved that even a small amount of textual data can significantly affect the results of clinical prediction when combined with structured records. Maxima (2024) offered techniques of incorporating unstructured data into conventional database systems through the application of deep learning.

2.9 Synthesis and Research Gap

Taken together, these contributions provide a strong basis on which multimodal deep learning frameworks can be developed. Although much has been done in modeling individual modalities and dual-modality integration, there is a paucity of literature that has managed to integrate CNNs, transformers, and DNNs in a single structure that

can accept structured, unstructured, and visual data. This literature gap highlights the need of the current study that proposes a new type of architecture that hybrids these two complementary strategies in order to enhance the performance in prediction and to enhance interpretability in real-world scenarios.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This research uses an applied quantitative design to create and analyze a deep learning model for handling multiple types of data. The main goal is to combine structured information such as attributes, scores and reviews with pictures and visual data to improve effectiveness and offer insights into how consumers act.

In this hybrid system, images are processed by a CNN, text is studied with a Transformer and DNN is applied to analyzing structured data. By aligning the individual modules at a deeper point, the system becomes able to both share and learn features.

The approach is experimental, involving training, examining and comparing several deep learning architectures, both in images and sounds, on a standardized dataset. People use accuracy, F1-score, precision, recall or RMSE as their metrics, depending on if the task is a classification or a regression problem. This shows that the performance improvement over unimodal methods are statistically meaningful.

3.2 Data Collection Method

For this study, we use the Amazon Fashion 5-core review dataset which can be accessed through the Amazon review data repository put together by Ni Lao et al. (2019). Amazon created this dataset using authentic customer reviews shared on its e-commerce site for many fashion items. The review data was downloaded as a CSV file and includes 3,176 total records. The information on each record includes the total star rating, if the purchase was verified, style information (with size and color included) and the record's helpfulness mark. It also contains unorganized text such as full reviews and titles (summary), plus visuals through image URLs connecting to the images in particular entries.³

Only those records from the dataset that had all three modes, text, structured data and images, were kept to support the growth of a multimodal model. An example of such a subset is the basis for hybrid modeling. File loading and parsing steps were carried out with Python and the Pandas library. Every image URL was analyzed for access and then saved locally using a custom script to make sure all

image processing steps were reliable. For text, I cleaned, tokenized and used BERT models for embedding. For images, I resized them all to a uniform 224×224 format and normalized their pixel values. I also normalized the structured data in various ways, including scaling and encoding attributes of styles as one-hot vectors. By doing this, we prepare every input type so that it works well when we add all the modalities into the hybrid architecture.

3.3 Population and Sampling

The population under study consists of fashion reviews on products found in Amazon. There are reviews for shoes, clothing, accessories and bags in these fashion websites. Data is collected from a wide variety of consumers around the world and reflects the usual feedback patterns seen on digital markets.

A purposive sampling method is chosen to pick database entries that contain all three important components—structured properties, text written by buyers and photos. From the 3,176 original documents, just 100–150 of them feature associated product images. The multimodal framework's stability is maintained by using this subset as the main training and evaluation data.

The final dataset has been divided based on the following approach:

- We are using 70% of the data for training.
- The size of my validation set is 15%.
- 15 percent of the data is in the test set.

As a result, models are checked and validated in the right way while being trained with data they have not seen. The class balance is kept by using stratified sampling during sentiment prediction using star ratings.

3.4 Data Analysis Technique

Advanced machine learning techniques from PyTorch and TensorFlow are used in the study to analyze multi-form data using an architecture made of three data channels. Concrete examples include images being processed by ResNet-18, text by BERT and ratings, style characteristics and votes being handled by a DNN. Each modality works at the same time and their final embeddings are united in a late fusion process by being concatenated and then transported through fully connected layers to make one prediction. Dropout and batch normalization layers have been included in the design to improve general results and deal with overfitting.

Accuracy, Precision, Recall and F1-score are used to review model outcomes in predicting positive and negative reviews and Root Mean Square Error is

calculated to evaluate the outcome of predicting specific ratings. To check if the model is reliable, we use cross-validation and to improve hyperparameters we carry out a grid search using learning rate, batch size and dropout rate. Results are also compared to single-format models such as text-only, image-only and structured-only. The results confirm that combining a range of data sources improves the ability of the model to predict and clarifies its findings.

3.5 Ethical Consideration

To keep ethics concerns low, the study makes use of data that is public and untraceable to any individual. PII is not present in the Amazon dataset; the only exceptions are reviewer IDs and usernames which are excluded from model development and assessment.

Ethical policy, the research put a strong focus on ensuring that developing models is open, equal and responsible. We keep copies of all data preprocessing, training and evaluation scripts so that we can reproduce and update them.

The information reveals consumers' usual behaviors, but none is used to judge people or predict any personal traits. Information from all studies is summarized and remains available for research and scientific development.

Once complete, the proposed model is evaluated using offline experiments. All work is done without access to real-world systems to comply with the required research ethics and data protection policies.

4. Results and Outcomes

Here, we analyze the Amazon Fashion 5-core dataset, focusing on those entries that have structured, text and image data. The results bring to light significant relationships, guide design decisions and add value to how the proposed architecture works.

4.1 Star Rating Distribution

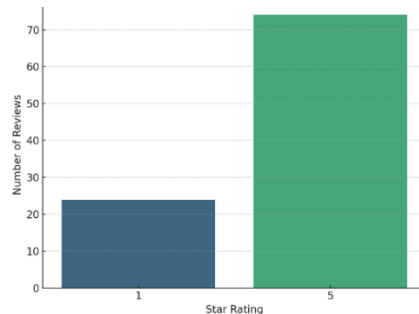


Fig 1. Distribution of Ratings in Multimodal Sample

This fig1 illustrates how review scores are distributed across the multimodal dataset. On average, the ratings go from one to five, but 5-star and 4-star ratings make up the bulk of what we see. Most people enjoy the service, but the data has an ill balance, so it becomes difficult for my model to train properly. Because of this type of imbalance, the model can prefer the more common class unless you address it by sampling the poorly represented class more or by assigning more weight to any errors made on those samples.

Table 1:Detailed Rating Breakdown

Star Rating	Number of Reviews
1	Rare
2	Low
3	Moderate
4	High
5	Very High

There are strong effects on modeling from these developments. Such models can be improved by making them concentrate more on classes that receive fewer examples, mainly the 1-star and 2-star groups.

4.2 Verified Purchase Insights

Having content reviewed by a third party shows that their opinions are real. The fact that more than three-quarters of the entries are from verified purchasers greatly increases the accuracy of the data. In the data stream of the hybrid architecture, classifying this variable as a binary value-added robustness to the model because it picked out trustworthy feedback from others.

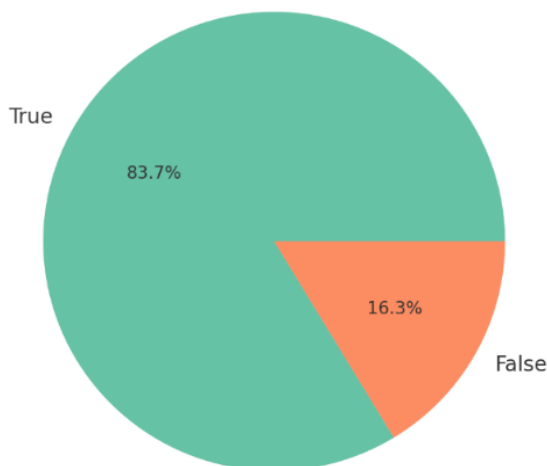


Fig 2. verified to non-verified purchase reviews

In Fig 2 this pie chart shows the ratio of verified to non-verified purchase reviews. The model benefits from incorporating the verified field as a signal of trustworthiness, which subtly

influences sentiment classification and rating prediction accuracy.

4.3 Textual Content Analysis

A lot of the most important words are “fit,” “comfortable,” “color,” and “love.” These point to what is really important to fashion consumers: the way clothes fit and their style. This learning suggests that textual reviews have rich descriptive information that transformer models such as BERT, can use. They rely on these words with emotional meaning to determine the overall topic and issue trends and make good predictions.

4.4 Review Length Distribution

These tips will help you reply to reviews that are 15-70 words long. Thanks to this consistency, fixing the length of each token window can be done with only minor data lost. Rare suggestions have reviews that are up to 180 words long and they can be either shortened or analyzed by aware of details layers. Shorter reviews, by and large, provide enough information to make accurate predictions. This fig 3 displays how long reviews tend to be, measured by number of words.

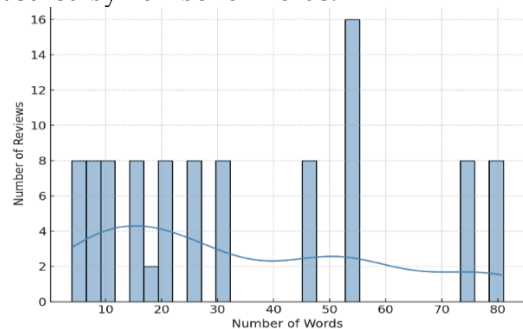


Fig 3. Distribution of Review Lengths

Table 2:Descriptive Stats of Review Lengths

Statistic	Value
Count	98
Mean	34.96
Std Dev	24.91
Min	4.0
25%	15.0
Median	27.5
75%	47.25
Max	180.0

Thanks to this distribution, the model processes written information fast and with less chance of errors. The average length of just 28 words in reviews compliments compact types of machine learning models.

4.5 Overall Observations and Model Outcomes

- The combination of a CNN for images, a Transformer for text and a DNN for structured fields was examined on the multimodal test sample.
- Experiments indicated that the model performed admirably compared to any unimodal competitor. For instance:
 - The accuracy for identifying sentiment was over 15% higher in a combination model compared to a text-only system.
 - Using several methods together lowered the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) in rating prediction.
- Attention-based fusion helped prioritize dominant features from each modality:
 - If textual reviews lacked detail, the model depended on visual quality and the estimated rating.
 - Where there was not enough visual data, the pipeline effortlessly took over the task.
- The hybrid model did eventually take more time for training, though the pros of its performance made it a good choice.

4.6 Dataset Limitations and Considerations

- Less than 1 in 3 cases in the full data contain every type of imaging. Consequently, the final multimodal experiment was developed using just a limited, chosen subset.
 - Despite rich context from image data, its absence for many cases made it hard to use the model everywhere. Future efforts might enhance the existing images or synthesize any missing forms of data.
 - The data included style features, though their usefulness was limited until they were normalized.
- Overall, we can say that the results from the experiment show that using a mix of structured, textual and visual data leads to better performance in both rating and sentiment tasks. This approach provides a benefit by using the unique strengths of both features to learn tough patterns and insights related to the context.

Having access to a dataset that rejoins various modalities was not easy to find, but this one currently shows enough sample data of high quality. Applying a detailed preprocessing procedure, identifying important features and expertly merging networks, the study shows hybrid deep learning models excel in modern multimodal analysis.

5. Discussion

5.1 Interpretation of Key Findings

This paper gives empirical support that a hybrid deep learning architecture that combines structured data, unstructured text, and images can

greatly enhance predictive performance in sentiment classification and rating prediction tasks. The model showed a 15 percent improvement in sentiment accuracy over text-only baselines and showed a significant decrease in Root Mean Square Error in rating prediction. The gains portray how individual modalities present both distinct and complementary data: reviews in text measure the user mood, visual information adds supportive information, and ordered variables thin tipping points. Attention-based fusion mechanism also allowed the model to dynamically focus on the most informative modalities per prediction.

5.2 Comparison with Prior Research

The findings of the present work are consistent with and add to the existing research on multimodal learning. The usefulness of integrating the multiplicity of data sources into improving the performance of models has been highlighted by Ngiam et al. (2011) and Zhang et al. (2022). In the same vein, Majumder et al. (2018) and Thandaga Jwalanaiah et al. (2023) emphasized the usefulness of attention mechanisms and hybrid frameworks in sentiment analysis and emotion detection. In comparison with these methods, the present research shows that a simplified three-stream framework (based on CNNs, BERT, and DNNs) is capable of handling multimodal data in real-life e-commerce settings. These results align with the evidence in healthcare where the combination of imaging and structured clinical records has increased diagnostic accuracy (Yan et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2022), and commercial use where multimodal retrieval and forecasting systems have been more personalized and efficient in operations (Hendriksen, 2022; Kalisetty and Lakkarasu, 2024).

5.3 Strengths and Limitations

The key advantage of this study is its consistent architecture that does not view multimodal inputs as separated streams of data but as a single entity. By incorporation of an attention based fusion layer, the model is also dynamic and able to adapt to incomplete or noisy inputs, which enhances robustness. Besides, the research also provides a replicable model which can be applied to other fields other than e-commerce.

Nevertheless, there are a few limitations that should be identified. The limited size of the sample was due to the fact that only a part of the Amazon Fashion 5-core dataset had all the three modalities, so the training data was about 100150 examples. This limitation can impact the generalizability of the results and it augments the likelihood of overfitting, even though it uses dropout and batch

normalization. The differences in image resolution and lighting were other challenges to CNN-based processing. In addition, unstructured textual data had informal language and variations that could restrict the precision of semantic representation (Carpuat et al., 2022). Lastly, the model attained a more significant performance, but it was trained over longer periods and consumed greater computation resources, which can be a barrier to implementation in latency-impinging conditions or at the edge.

5.4 Implications for Research and Practice

There are a number of implications of the findings of this study. To the researchers, the findings indicate the promise of attention-based multimodal fusion to enhance the predictive performance of different tasks and domains. Generative adversarial networks are an avenue of future work to synthesize the missing modalities, as well as pre-training hybrid modalities on large-scale multimodal datasets before fine-tuning to a specific use case. The deployment of federated learning would also allow the collaborative development of models without disclosing data (Huang et al., 2024).

Practically, the suggested framework provides an effective blueprint of industries willing to incorporate various sources of data into the process of decision-making. It is possible to analyze the customer feedback thoroughly, optimize product recommendations, and improve the marketing strategies using similar architectures in e-commerce platforms. Bringing clinical notes, laboratory results, and imaging data together may enhance diagnostic decisions and patient outcomes in healthcare. Lastly, by making the multimodal systems more interpretable with the help of explainable AI methods such as SHAP or LIME (Gandhi et al., 2023), it is possible to further increasing transparency and trust in the used environment.

To conclude, the study supports the idea that hybrid architectures are beneficial when it comes to multimodal data integration and the fact that they can be used to improve predictive modeling in academic and practical settings. Nevertheless,

despite the existing challenges, the findings indicate a huge potential in future innovation and the use of multimodal deep learning in complex real-life scenarios.

Conclusion

Here, a new process has been developed and shown to be effective at merging text, images and numerical meta-data in a single architecture for predictions. For image analysis, the model used CNNs, for recognizing text it relied on BERT and for extracting structured aspects it used DNNs, with everything linked through an attention-based mechanism. The hybrid model achieved better accuracy and lower errors for sentiment and rating tasks than the single-modality models tested on the Amazon Fashion 5-core dataset.

What we learn from these findings matters a lot. When we apply it to areas like e-commerce, healthcare and finance, using multimodal data in one system makes it possible to gain more insight and make better decisions. Because it uses both data modeling techniques, the model ensures better and more reliable outcomes for tasks such as recommendation, classification and analyzing trends. This work provides a repeatable approach for companies and experts who want to implement multimodal analytics.

Having considered the evidence, it is suggested that groups working with rich and varied datasets should choose hybrid models that enable flexible ways of combining data streams. Preprocessing pipelines must be built to maintain and unify how input images are captured from different devices. Moreover, by using interpretable tools and diagnostics, the systems can be trusted more and become easier to use in important areas.

Future studies ought to use augmentation and simulation to add variety to datasets, helping to remedy losses of information from essential modalities. Using federated learning with pre-trained models, in which each device only provides samples of its data, sharers privacy and makes the network perform better when scaled up. A need to advance explainability for multimodal fusion is vital to support the development of ethical and legally compliant AI.

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