

Is ChatGPT a Good Sentiment Analyzer? A Preliminary Study

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Abstract

Recently, ChatGPT has drawn great attention from both the research community and the public. We are particularly interested in whether it can serve as a universal sentiment analyzer. To this end, in this work, we provide a preliminary evaluation of ChatGPT on the understanding of *opinions*, *sentiments*, and *emotions* contained in the text. Specifically, we evaluate it in three settings, including *standard* evaluation, *polarity shift* evaluation and *open-domain* evaluation. We conduct an evaluation on 7 representative sentiment analysis tasks covering 17 benchmark datasets and compare ChatGPT with fine-tuned BERT and corresponding state-of-the-art (SOTA) models on them. We also attempt several popular prompting techniques to elicit the ability further. Moreover, we conduct human evaluation and present some qualitative case studies to gain a deep comprehension of its sentiment analysis capabilities.

1 Introduction

Recently, Large language models (LLMs) have profoundly affected the whole NLP community with their amazing zero-shot ability on various NLP tasks (Brown et al., 2020; Rae et al., 2021; Chowdhery et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022a, *inter alia*). More recently, ChatGPT¹ has appeared out of the blue via interacting with people conversationally. It can conduct fluent conversations with people, write code as well as poetry, solve mathematical problems (Frieder et al., 2023) and so on, which has attracted widespread public attention.

However, despite its huge success, we still know little about the capability boundaries, i.e., where it does well and fails. In this work, we are interested in how ChatGPT performs on the sentiment analysis tasks, i.e., *can it understand the opinions, sentiments, and emotions contained in the text?* To answer this question, we conduct a preliminary evalu-

¹<https://chat.openai.com/>

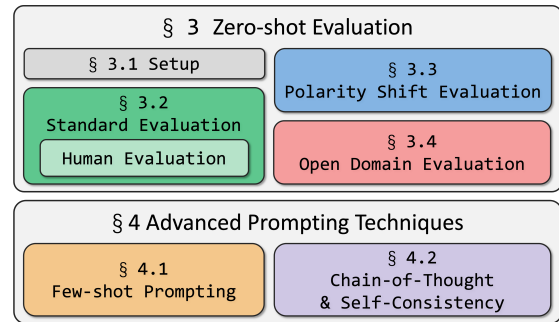


Figure 1: The overview of our evaluation.

ation on 7 representative sentiment analysis tasks² and 17 benchmark datasets, which involves three different settings including *standard* evaluation, *polarity shift* evaluation and *open-domain* evaluation (refer to Figure 1). We compare ChatGPT with fine-tuned small language models like BERT (Devlin et al., 2019) and corresponding SOTA models (if any) on each task for reference. We also attempt several popular prompting techniques, such as *chain-of-thought* (CoT) (Wei et al., 2022) and *self-consistency* (Wang et al., 2022), to induce the ability of ChatGPT. The main findings of this work are as follows:

- 1 ChatGPT demonstrates impressive zero-shot capabilities in sentiment classification tasks and can rival fine-tuned BERT, although it still trails behind the domain-specific fully-supervised SOTA models (☞ § 3.2).
- 2 Compared to fully-supervised highly competitive baselines we setup, ChatGPT achieves reasonable zero-shot performance on CSI but struggles on CEE (☞ § 3.2).

²They are Sentiment Classification (SC), Aspect-Based Sentiment Classification (ABSC), End-to-End Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis (E2E-ABSA), Comparative Sentences Identification (CSI), Comparative Element Extraction (CEE), Emotion Cause Extraction (ECE), and Emotion-Cause Pair Extraction (ECPE).

- 062 ③ Compared to fully-supervised strong base-
063 lines, ChatGPT demonstrates impressive emo-
064 tion cause analysis ability with significantly
065 higher performance on ECE but lower perfor-
066 mance on ECPE (☞ § 3.2).
- 067 ④ ChatGPT seems less accurate on sentiment
068 information extraction tasks like E2E-ABSA
069 and CEE. We observe that ChatGPT can of-
070 ten make reasonable predictions but can not
071 strictly match the dataset annotations. Our
072 human evaluation finds that ChatGPT actu-
073 ally performs more desirable, not as poor as
074 metrics indicate. (☞ § 3.2)
- 075 ⑤ When coping with the *polarity shift* phe-
076 nomenon (e.g., negation and speculation), a
077 challenging problem in sentiment analysis,
078 ChatGPT can make more accurate predictions
079 than fine-tuned BERT. (☞ § 3.3)
- 080 ⑥ Compared to training domain-specific models,
081 which typically perform poorly when gener-
082 alized to unseen domains, ChatGPT demon-
083 strates its powerful *open-domain* sentiment
084 analysis ability in general, though its perfor-
085 mance is quite limited in a few specific do-
086 mains. (☞ § 3.4)
- 087 ⑦ Few-shot prompting (i.e., equipping with a
088 few random examples in the input) can signif-
089 icantly improve performance across tasks and
090 domains, surpassing fine-tuned BERT in some
091 cases, though still inferior to SOTA models
092 (☞ § 4.1). Applying CoT to the evaluated
093 tasks does not yield gains but diminishes per-
094 formance. In contrast, self-consistency reli-
095 ably improves results (☞ § 4.2).

096 In summary, compared to training a special-
097 ized sentiment analysis system for each domain
098 or dataset, **ChatGPT can already serve as a uni-
099 versal and well-behaved sentiment analyzer.**

100 2 Background and Related Work

101 2.1 Large Language Models

102 With the emergence of GPT-3 (Brown et al.,
103 2020), Large language models (LLMs) were spot-
104 lighted. They typically have lots of model param-
105 eters and are trained on massive volumes of un-
106 structured data at huge computational costs, includ-
107 ing but not limited to Gopher (Rae et al., 2021),
108 Megatron-Turing NLG 530B (Smith et al., 2022),

LaMDA (Thoppilan et al., 2022), Chinchilla (Hoff-
mann et al., 2022), PaLM (Chowdhery et al., 2022),
OPT (Zhang et al., 2022a), LLaMA (Touvron et al.,
2023), and GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023). As a result,
given a simple task instruction, they are able to
adapt directly to a new task in a training-free man-
ner. In addition to the task instruction, the pre-
dictions will be more accurate and controllable
if LLMs could be provided some demonstration
examples, an ability known as *in-context learn-
ing* (Brown et al., 2020).

Lately, OpenAI has released ChatGPT, a chat-
bot fine-tuned from GPT-3.5 via reinforcement
learning from human feedback (RLHF) (Christiano
et al., 2017; Ouyang et al., 2022), drawing increas-
ingly great attention. Next, researchers start explor-
ing its abilities and limitations, testing it on vari-
ous benchmarks (Gilson et al., 2022; Frieder et al.,
2023; Guo et al., 2023; Jiao et al., 2023; Zhuo et al.,
2023; Zhong et al., 2023; Ye et al., 2023; Laskar
et al., 2023). For example, Bang et al. (2023) evalu-
ate the multitask, multilingual, and multimodal
aspects of ChatGPT, Wang et al. (2023) conduct
a robustness evaluation from the adversarial and
out-of-domain perspective, and Borji (2023) sum-
marizes 11 categories of failures towards ChatGPT.
Related to our work, Zhong et al. (2023) analyze
the language understanding ability of ChatGPT on
the GLUE (Wang et al., 2018) benchmark. In this
work, we especially concentrate on analyzing its
sentiment analysis ability, aiming to answer the
question via a rigorous and comprehensive evalu-
ation, i.e., *whether ChatGPT can be a good senti-
ment analyzer.*

103 2.2 Sentiment Analysis

104 Sentiment analysis seeks to identify people’s
105 *opinions, sentiments, and emotions* in the text, such
106 as customer reviews, social media posts, and news
107 articles (Liu et al., 2005; Liu, 2015). As one of the
108 most active fields in Natural Language Processing
(NLP), it has made rapid progress with the help
of *deep learning* (Zhang et al., 2018; Yadav and
Vishwakarma, 2020). Among the myriad of tasks
associated with sentiment analysis, this paper is
primarily concerned with 4 representative task cat-
egories, including (sentence-level) sentiment clas-
sification (SC), aspect-based sentiment analysis
(ABSA), comparative opinion mining (COM), and
emotion cause analysis (ECA). For ease of under-
standing, we will briefly introduce these tasks next.

159 SC aims to identify the sentiment polarity of a
160 given text, whether it is positive or negative. ABSA
161 is designed to mine fine-grained aspect terms in the
162 review and determine the sentiment polarity toward
163 each aspect (Liu, 2012; Pontiki et al., 2014; Zhang
164 et al., 2022b). We mainly focus on aspect-based
165 sentiment classification (ABSC) and End-to-End
166 Aspect Based Sentiment Analysis (E2E-ABSA)
167 among many subtasks in ABSA. COM seeks to
168 identify comparative sentences, extract the compar-
169 ative elements, and obtain the corresponding com-
170 parative opinion tuples (Jindal and Liu, 2006; Liu
171 et al., 2021). We mainly concentrate on compar-
172 ative sentences identification (CSI) and comparative
173 element extraction (CEE), i.e., extracting the tuple
174 of (subject, object, comparative aspect, compar-
175 ison type). The purpose of ECA is to extract the
176 potential *cause clauses* given the emotion clause
177 or extract the potential pair of *emotion clause* and
178 *cause clause* in the text, which correspond to emo-
179 tion cause extraction (ECE) (Gui et al., 2016) and
180 emotion cause pair extraction (ECPE) (Xia and
181 Ding, 2019), respectively.

182 In this paper, we are also concerned with two
183 challenging problems in sentiment analysis: *po-*
184 *larity shift* and *open-domain* (Zong et al., 2021).
185 Polarity shift refers to the linguistic phenomenon
186 where the sentiment polarity (positive or negative)
187 of a text shifts over time, context, or with respect
188 to other texts (Li et al., 2010; Xia et al., 2016). Un-
189 derstanding sentiment *polarity shift* is crucial for
190 building accurate sentiment analysis systems. As
191 another challenging issue, *open-domain sentiment*
192 *analysis* aims to understand the general sentiment
193 of text regardless of the domain, whereas existing
194 sentiment analysis systems typically focus on ana-
195 lyzing the sentiment of texts related to a particular
196 domain (Cambria et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2015;
197 Luo et al., 2022). Addressing the above two is-
198 sues is essential to building robust and effective
199 sentiment analysis systems. In this work, we will
200 examine whether ChatGPT can solve them.

201 3 Evaluation

202 In this section, we will first introduce the eval-
203 uation setup (§ 3.1) followed by *standard* evalua-
204 tion (§ 3.2), *polarity shift* evaluation (§ 3.3) and
205 *open-domain* evaluation (§ 3.4), as illustrated in
206 Figure 1. As mentioned earlier, the tasks involved
207 in our evaluation are SC, ABSC, E2E-ABSA, CSI,
208 CEE, ECE, and ECPE.

209 3.1 Setup

210 **Comparison Systems.** We compare ChatGPT
211 with the state-of-the-art (SOTA) (if any) models
212 on end-tasks. Since SOTA models typically have
213 some task-specific designs, we also provide the re-
214 sults of a commonly used baseline (e.g., fine-tuned
215 BERT³) on each task for reference. For SC, we
216 adopt the most common practice, i.e., using the
217 final hidden representation of the [CLS] token as
218 the sentence embedding and feeding it into a linear
219 layer for classification. As for ABSC, we concate-
220 nate the review sentence and the aspect term via
221 the special token [SEP] and classify the sentiment
222 polarity based on the final hidden representation
223 of [CLS]. We employ the joint tagging scheme (Li
224 et al., 2019) to perform the E2E-ABSA task. For
225 CSI, we report the performance of Multi-Stage_{BERT}
226 derived from (Liu et al., 2021) for reference. For
227 CEE, given the complexity of modeling this task,
228 we reformulate it into a text generation task based
229 on T5-Base similar to GAS (Zhang et al., 2021),
230 i.e., predicting the sequences of comparison tu-
231 ples given the input review. We employ PAE-
232 DGL (Ding et al., 2019) and ECPE-2D (Ding et al.,
233 2020) as comparison models for ECE and ECPE,
234 respectively. Unless otherwise specified, the above
235 baseline models are rerun and repeated three times
236 based on our evaluation settings.

237 **Usage of ChatGPT.** We mainly use ChatGPT
238 with a specific version of gpt-3.5-turbo-0301
239 for evaluation in this work, given its lower cost and
240 improved performance (as stated in the OpenAI
241 documentation⁴). We set the temperature to 0, mak-
242 ing the outputs mostly deterministic for the iden-
243 tical inputs. Following Jiao et al. (2023), we ask
244 ChatGPT to generate the task instruction for each
245 task to elicit its ability to the corresponding task.
246 For example, the prompt for E2E-ABSA is “Given
247 a review, extract the aspect term(s) and
248 determine their corresponding sentiment
249 polarity. Review: {sentence}”. Due to lim-
250 ited space, please refer to Table 6 and Appendix A.1
251 for complete prompts and prompts details, respec-
252 tively. We report the zero-shot results of ChatGPT
253 unless otherwise specified. We manually observe
254 and record the predictions as the responses of Chat-
255 GPT do not always follow a certain pattern under

³All models use BERT-base-uncased version and are cou-
pled with a linear layer if necessary.

⁴[https://platform.openai.com/docs/models/
gpt-3-5](https://platform.openai.com/docs/models/gpt-3-5)

the zero-shot setting.

Evaluation Metrics. We use accuracy and macro F1 score to evaluate sentiment classification tasks. We employ accuracy as the metric for CSI. For tasks involving elements extraction such as E2E-ABSA and CEE, we employ micro F1 score, i.e., a tuple is regarded as correct if and only if all elements inside it are exactly the same as the corresponding gold label. For ECE and ECPE, we compute the F1 score of cause clauses and emotion-cause clause pairs for evaluation, respectively.

3.2 Standard Evaluation

In this part, we evaluate ChatGPT on 7 representative sentiment analysis tasks and report its results on related benchmark datasets.

Datasets. We choose SST-2 (Socher et al., 2013) as the testbed of SC. Since the test set of SST-2 is not public, we use its validation set for evaluation. We employ the SemEval 2014-ABSA Challenge Datasets (Pontiki et al., 2014) to evaluate the ability of ChatGPT to ABSA. For CSI and CEE, we employ the Camera dataset (Kessler and Kuhn, 2014; Liu et al., 2021). For ECE and ECPE, we adopt the Emotion Cause Dataset (Gui et al., 2016; Xia and Ding, 2019) and sample 100 examples from this. Except as noted above, we evaluate the remaining datasets on the full test set. The statistics are shown in the third column of Table 1.

Results. The comparison results are shown in Table 1. Overall, ChatGPT demonstrates highly competitive sentiment analysis performance compared with baseline models, albeit often being far inferior to SOTA models. Specifically, we observe that ChatGPT is on par with fine-tuned small language models (i.e., BERT) in sentiment classification tasks, despite being inferior to SOTA models. Secondly, when evaluated on E2E-ABSA, the performance of ChatGPT is indeed inferior to fine-tuned BERT, and the performance gap varies across domains. We speculate that the poorer performance on 14-Laptop is due to the presence of more proprietary terms and specific expressions in this domain. Thirdly, for the challenging COM tasks (i.e., CSI and CEE), which typically involve implicit expressions, although achieving reasonable performance on CSI, it exhibits extremely undesirable performance on CEE. These results are far from satisfactory compared with fine-tuned baselines. Finally, ChatGPT exhibits reasonably good emotion analysis ability. We find that ChatGPT can comprehend

the given document thoroughly, for instance, being capable of identifying multiple reasons and extracting emotion clauses and cause clauses even when they are distant. We also observe that ChatGPT can make some reasonable predictions, whereas the corresponding annotations are not in the dataset.

Human Evaluation. In light of the poor performance on certain tasks, we naturally raise a question: *are the predictions of ChatGPT truly unreasonable?* To acquire a more profound comprehension of the prediction results from ChatGPT, we conduct a human evaluation on E2E-ABSA and CEE owing to their unsatisfactory performance. Upon observation of the predicted results, ChatGPT has made many plausible predictions. However, these either did not exactly match the ground truth, or there are no corresponding annotations in the dataset, leading to a subpar performance on the exact-match evaluation. For E2E-ABSA, even though the predictions of ChatGPT are not accurate based on exact-match evaluation, it can still infer some highly reasonable aspect categories for the aspect terms thanks to its text generation paradigm. This also demonstrates its ability to identify implicit expressions to some extent. For instance, given the sentence “*Runs real quick.*”, the ground truth is “(Runs, positive)” whereas the prediction of ChatGPT is “(Speed, positive)”. For CEE, the predictions of ChatGPT express the same meaning as the ground truth but in an inconsistent form. As an example, the meaning expressed by ChatGPT is “*The SD800 is better than the SD700.*”, whereas the ground truth meaning is “*The SD700 is worse than the SD800.*”, where the “SD700” and “SD800” refer to the products being compared. From the perspective of sentiment analysis application, this is equally effective. Therefore, to align the predictions of ChatGPT with the annotation standard of existing datasets, we follow a few simple rules for human evaluation⁵:

- ☞ For any extra generated tuples, if they are reasonable but absent from the annotations, we will remove them from the prediction results. Otherwise, we will keep them.
- ☞ We also consider an aspect-sentiment or comparative opinion tuple correct if the boundary of aspect or entity is predicted incorrectly but unambiguously, and the predicted sentiment or preference is also correct.

⁵See Appendix A.3 for examples

| Task | Datasets | #Test | Metric | Fine-tuned | | Zero-shot | |
|----------|-----------------------|-------|----------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| | | | | Baseline | SOTA | ChatGPT | + Human |
| SC | SST-2 | 872 | Acc | 95.47 [†] | 97.50 ^α | 93.12 | - |
| ABSC | 14-Restaurant | 1119 | Acc / F1 | 83.94 [†] / 75.28 [†] | 89.54 / 84.86 ^β | 83.85 / 70.57 | - |
| | 14-Laptop | 632 | Acc / F1 | 77.85 [†] / 73.20 [†] | 83.70 / 80.13 ^γ | 76.42 / 66.79 | - |
| E2E-ABSA | 14-Restaurant | 496 | F1 | 77.75 [†] | 78.68 ^δ | 69.14 | 83.86 |
| | 14-Laptop | 339 | F1 | 66.05 [†] | 70.32 ^δ | 49.11 | 72.77 |
| CSI | Camera | 661 | F1 | 93.04 [§] | - | 74.89 | - |
| CEE | Camera | 341 | F1 | 34.41 [ⓑ] | - | 9.10 | 51.28 |
| ECE | Emotion Cause Dataset | 100 | F1 | 69.46 [‡] | - | 74.01 | - |
| ECPE | Emotion Cause Dataset | 100 | F1 | 65.20 [‡] | - | 52.44 | - |

Table 1: Performance comparison among ChatGPT, fine-tuned baselines, and SOTA models on 9 datasets. #Test denotes the number of examples used for evaluation. † denotes the performance of fine-tuned BERT we implement. ‡ and † denote the performance of PAE-DGL (Ding et al., 2019) and ECPE-2D (Ding et al., 2020) obtained by re-running experiments. § denotes the model performance of Multi-Stage_{BERT} derived from Liu et al. (2021) while ⓑ represents the results of our implemented GAS-Extraction-style baseline (Zhang et al., 2021). α, β, γ, and δ denote the results derived from T5-11B (Raffel et al., 2020), DPL (Zhang et al., 2022c), RILGNet (Li et al., 2022) and SyMux (Fei et al., 2022), respectively. “+ Human” denotes the performance with human evaluation. The best results are in **bold** except for human evaluation results.

☞ We also regard a prediction that paraphrases the ground truth to be correct, given the text generation paradigm.

The human evaluation results are shown in the last column of Table 1. It is surprising but reasonable to observe that the zero-shot performance of ChatGPT is boosted by 19% (average) and 42% on E2E-ABSA and CEE, respectively, compared to the original results. Moreover, it also significantly surpasses the previous performance of the baseline and SOTA. Although this human evaluation is very lenient for ChatGPT and may not be fair to baselines, at least it can demonstrate that the predictions of ChatGPT indeed align with human preferences (although not align with the annotation standard of the dataset) owing to RLHF and prove the potential of ChatGPT as a universal sentiment analyzer.

Case Study. We also conduct the qualitative analysis for the predictions of ChatGPT. Due to the limited space, please refer to Appendix A.4.

3.3 Polarity Shift Evaluation

Comprehending the phenomenon of *polarity shift* in sentiment analysis is crucial for developing robust and reliable sentiment analysis systems. In this part, we evaluate the ability of ChatGPT to cope with the *polarity shift* problem. Specifically, we mainly focus on the situations of negation and speculation and consider two sentiment classification tasks, SC and ABSC.

Datasets. Since there are few datasets tailored to *polarity shift* for SC, we derive two subsets from SST-2 validation set using a heuristic rule for the evaluation of negation and speculation, namely SST-2-Negation and SST-2-Speculation. In short, it entails identifying whether a sentence contains any negation or speculation words. For instance, we assign a sentence to the negation evaluation subset if it includes the word “never”. More details are provided in Appendix A.2. As for ABSC, we adopt the 14-Res-Negation, 14-Lap-Negation, 14-Res-Speculation, and 14-Lap-Speculation introduced by Moore and Barnes (2021), which are annotated for negation and speculation, respectively. The statistics are shown in Table 7.

Baseline Details. Generally, we fine-tune BERT on the original training set (e.g., SST-2) and evaluate on polarity-shifting test sets, e.g., SST-2-Negation and SST-2-Speculation.

Results. We conduct experiments on six evaluation datasets, and the comparison results are shown in Table 2. Compared to fine-tuned BERT, ChatGPT exhibits greater robustness in *polarity shift* scenarios. Essentially speaking, the *polarity shift* evaluation we conduct can be characterized as an *out-of-distribution* (OOD) evaluation scenario. Not surprisingly, we observe that fine-tuned BERT experiences varying degrees of performance degradation across datasets compared to standard evaluation results. In comparison, ChatGPT is more

| Task | Shifting Type | Dataset | Fine-tuned | Zero-shot |
|------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | BERT | ChatGPT |
| SC | Negation | SST-2-Neg. | 90.68 | 90.68 |
| | Speculation | SST-2-Spec. | 92.05 | 92.05 |
| ABSC | Negation | 14-Res-Neg. | 70.93 | 79.66 |
| | | 14-Lap-Neg. | 61.90 | 69.12 |
| | Speculation | 14-Res-Spec. | 60.25 | 72.73 |
| | | 14-Lap-Spec. | 53.97 | 67.27 |
| | | 14-Res-Spec. | 64.29 | 77.01 |
| | | 14-Lap-Spec. | 60.53 | 68.45 |
| | | 40.86 | 47.47 | |
| | | 39.40 | 46.96 | |

Table 2: Performance comparison between ChatGPT and BERT on six datasets when dealing with negation and Speculation linguistic phenomena, measured by accuracy (top) and macro F1 score (bottom). The best results are in **bold**.

robust, especially on ABSC, where ChatGPT outperforms fine-tuned BERT by 10% in terms of average accuracy and 8% in terms of average F1 score. Furthermore, we also find that the speculation case in *polarity shift* appears more challenging than the negation case, as the results of the former is poorer.

Case Study. We conduct qualitative analysis for the predictions of ChatGPT in the case of *polarity shift*. Refer to Appendix A.5 for details.

3.4 Open Domain Evaluation

Existing systems are typically trained on specific domains or datasets, leading to suboptimal generalization performance when dealing with unseen domains. However, an ideal sentiment analysis system could be applied to data from diverse domains. In this part, we evaluate the capability of ChatGPT to handle *open-domain* sentiment analysis tasks (i.e., ABSC and E2E-ABSA).

Datasets. As there is currently no widely used *open-domain* evaluation dataset, we sample 30 examples from each domain of existing 10 ABSA datasets according to the original data distribution, resulting in a total of 300 samples both for ABSC and E2E-ABSA. The ten datasets involved are Restaurant (Pontiki et al., 2014), Laptop (Pontiki et al., 2014), Device (Hu and Liu, 2004), Service (Toprak et al., 2010), Books, Clothing, Hotel (Luo et al., 2022), Twitter (Dong et al., 2014), Financial News Headlines (Sinha et al., 2022), METS-CoV (Zhou et al., 2022), covering various domains such as restaurant reviews, product reviews, social media, finance, and medicine. Note that Books, Hotel, and Clothing are originally

document-level ABSA datasets with hierarchical entity-aspect-sentiment annotations. We randomly sample 30 sentences from each dataset and only use the aspect-sentiment annotations.

Baseline Details. To simulate the *open-domain* setting, we hold out some datasets, fine-tune BERT on the remaining datasets, and select checkpoints based on the mixture of the corresponding validation sets. Specifically, we set the following settings: (1) *single-source*: the model is trained on one dataset then evaluated on all datasets. Here, we choose Restaurant and Laptop as the testbed; (2) *multi-source*: the model is trained sequentially on nine datasets and then evaluated on the remaining one. Finally, we also fully-supervisedly fine-tune BERT and report the results for reference.

Results. In terms of ABSC, ChatGPT demonstrates a more compelling *open-domain* ability than BERT despite being fine-tuned on this task. As shown in Table 3, ChatGPT matches or even outperforms multi-domain fine-tuned BERT on 7 out of 10 domains in sentiment classification metrics (accuracy or macro-F1) while surpassing it by 8% in accuracy and 7% in F1 score on average across 10 datasets. It is worth mentioning that ChatGPT even performs comparably to full-supervised BERT, which shows its compelling generalization ability. Interestingly, fine-tuning on multiple domains does not necessarily lead to improved performance. For example, we observe that it results in a significant decrease in performance in certain datasets such as Finance and METS-Cov. Table 4 shows ChatGPT exhibits moderate performance on E2E-ABSA under the exact-match evaluation despite in the zero-shot manner. For example, it even beat BERT models on some domains (e.g., restaurant, service, and finance), which are fine-tuned on the nine domains.

Despite its success, we can observe that the performance of ChatGPT is quite poor in some domains, especially social media relevant domains (i.e., twitter, finance, METS-Cov), which suggests that improving performance on these domains remains challenging. It should be noted that due to the use of exact-match evaluation, the actual results of ChatGPT may not be as poor as they appear. Similarly, through our human evaluation (as introduced in § 3.2), we can observe that ChatGPT has achieved an average performance improvement of 18% across domains, surpassing even BERT fine-tuned on nine domains. Again, although the

| Model | Metric | Rest. | Lap. | Books | Cloth. | Hotel | Device | Service | Twitter | Finance | METS | Ave. |
|---|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Fine-tuned on the Rest. domain</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERT | Acc. | 81.11 | 77.78 | 57.78 | 74.44 | 86.67 | 86.67 | 71.11 | 62.22 | 75.56 | 53.33 | 72.67 |
| | F1 | 74.99 | 70.60 | 41.91 | 55.00 | 77.59 | 85.35 | 67.91 | 54.11 | 62.75 | 47.06 | 61.14 |
| <i>Fine-tuned on the Lap. domain</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERT | Acc. | 84.44 | 77.78 | 57.78 | 76.67 | 86.67 | 86.67 | 71.11 | 62.22 | 74.44 | 50.00 | 72.78 |
| | F1 | 78.76 | 72.84 | 42.84 | 56.21 | 76.94 | 88.92 | 67.59 | 56.16 | 55.59 | 37.56 | 60.78 |
| <i>Fine-tuned on the 9 out-of-domains each time</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERT | Acc. | 80.00 | 76.67 | 62.22 | 76.67 | 85.56 | 94.44 | 81.11 | 70.00 | 31.11 | 38.89 | 69.67 |
| | F1 | 69.63 | 59.83 | 46.11 | 61.66 | 75.34 | 98.11 | 79.29 | 67.83 | 31.58 | 35.65 | 59.99 |
| <i>Fully-supervised results</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERT | Acc. | 81.11 | 77.78 | 71.11 | 80.00 | 87.78 | 100.00 | 74.44 | 62.22 | 82.22 | 61.11 | 77.78 |
| | F1 | 74.99 | 72.84 | 57.17 | 58.15 | 77.98 | 100.00 | 62.69 | 60.99 | 79.07 | 58.53 | 67.64 |
| <i>Zero-shot results</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ChatGPT | Acc. | 83.33 | 73.33 | 60.00 | 70.00 | 86.67 | 96.67 | 76.67 | 66.67 | 86.67 | 76.67 | 77.67 |
| | F1 | 61.16 | 53.41 | 51.25 | 59.65 | 83.18 | 98.89 | 65.30 | 64.22 | 72.35 | 55.56 | 66.50 |

Table 3: Performance comparison between ChatGPT and fine-tuned BERT for ABSC task on open-domain evaluation. We also report the domain-specific fully-supervised results (in gray) of BERT for reference. The best results (except for fully-supervised results) are in **bold**.

| Model | Rest. | Lap. | Books | Cloth. | Hotel | Device | Service | Twitter | Finance | Mets-Cov | Ave. |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Fine-tuned on the Rest. domain</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERT | 76.55 | 43.57 | 38.35 | 29.57 | 64.07 | 50.74 | 27.01 | 1.67 | 7.74 | 3.27 | 34.25 |
| <i>Fine-tuned on the Lap. domain</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERT | 55.06 | 68.02 | 25.93 | 26.28 | 53.21 | 60.19 | 27.03 | 3.43 | 7.11 | 5.14 | 33.14 |
| <i>Fine-tuned on the 9 out-of-domains each time</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERT | 71.10 | 59.36 | 46.64 | 50.72 | 74.85 | 58.87 | 47.67 | 42.90 | 14.21 | 10.27 | 47.66 |
| <i>Fully-supervised results</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BERT | 76.55 | 68.02 | 61.17 | 67.97 | 88.67 | 75.39 | 57.83 | 78.84 | 79.32 | 71.71 | 72.55 |
| <i>Zero-shot results</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ChatGPT | 72.73 | 45.45 | 21.92 | 25.71 | 50.60 | 41.86 | 45.78 | 19.18 | 38.36 | 3.92 | 36.55 |
| + Human | 82.22 | 64.00 | 29.41 | 34.78 | 62.5 | 69.23 | 63.89 | 52.63 | 76.92 | 9.88 | 54.55 |

Table 4: Performance comparison between ChatGPT and BERT for E2E-ABSA task on the open-domain evaluation. We report the domain-specific fully-supervised results (in gray) of BERT for reference. We also report the human evaluation results (“+ Human”) of ChatGPT for reference. The best results (except for fully-supervised results and human evaluation results) are in **bold**.

comparison may not be entirely fair, it can demonstrate decent *open-domain* capabilities of ChatGPT, albeit with poor results in a few domains.

Case Study. We conduct qualitative analysis through four examples of ChatGPT on Books and METS-Cov, corresponding to the books and medicine domain, as shown in Figure 7. We also provided a detailed analysis in Appendix A.6.

4 Advanced Prompting Techniques

Given that ChatGPT still lags behind fine-tuned small language models (e.g., BERT) in some tasks and domains to a certain extent, we endeavor to seek help from some advanced prompting techniques to further elicit the capabilities of ChatGPT.

Here, we adopt the ABSA tasks as the testbed.

4.1 Few-shot Prompting

We randomly select a few examples from the training dataset used for demonstration and concatenate them with the target input to prompt ChatGPT, a technique also known as *in-context learning* (Brown et al., 2020). We conduct few-shot prompting experiments on ABSC and ASPE with k (i.e., 1, 3, 9 and 27) examples. To reduce the variance caused by the sampling of demonstration examples, we adopt three random seeds for sampling to conduct experiments and report the average performance. We compare the resulting performance with fully-supervised BERT and SOTA.

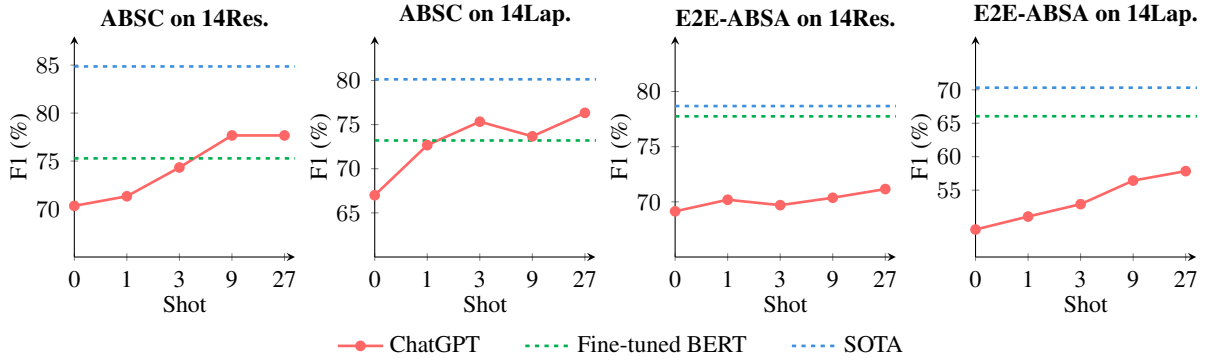


Figure 2: Few-shot prompting results on ABSC and E2E-ABSA tasks.

| Prompting Methods | 14-Res. | 14-Lap. |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Zero-shot prompting | 69.14 | 49.11 |
| Few-shot prompting (3 shot) | 69.70 | 52.90 |
| Few-shot prompting (9 shot) | 70.37 | 56.43 |
| Few-shot prompting (3 shot) + CoT | 67.24 | 46.28 |
| Few-shot prompting (9 shot) + CoT | 64.98 | 50.19 |
| 3-shot + Self-Consist. ($N = 5$) | 72.51 | 53.45 |
| 3-shot + Self-Consist. ($N = 10$) | 72.87 | 54.22 |
| 3-shot + Self-Consist. ($N = 15$) | 73.22 | 55.01 |
| 3-shot + CoT + Self-Consist. ($N = 5$) | 69.12 | 48.73 |
| 3-shot + CoT + Self-Consist. ($N = 10$) | 69.17 | 49.17 |
| 3-shot + CoT + Self-Consist. ($N = 15$) | 70.39 | 49.77 |
| Fine-tuned BERT | 77.75 | 66.05 |

Table 5: Results of advanced prompting techniques on E2E-ABSA. N denotes the number of outputs sampled for the same input in the self-consistency technique.

Results. As presented in Figure 2, few-shot prompting can significantly improve the performance across tasks and datasets, even surpassing fine-tuned BERT in some cases. It improves the classification performance by 7% and 10% F1 score for ABSC on 14-Restaurant and 14-Laptop, respectively, with 27 demonstration examples. We can also observe certain improvements on ASPE, although the improvement curve is relatively flat. We also provide a case study, as shown in Figure 3.

4.2 Chain-of-Thought and Self-Consistency

Although few-shot prompting clearly improves the performance on ABSC, the performance on E2E-ABSA still lags far behind fine-tuned BERT. We attempt more advanced techniques, i.e., *manual few-shot chain-of-thought (CoT) prompting* (Wei et al., 2022) and *self-consistency* (Wang et al., 2022) on this task, to further elicit the ability. More details are provided in the Appendix A.7

Results. As shown in Table 5, we observe that

equipping standard few-shot prompting with chain-of-thought does not bring the expected gains, but rather lead to a noticeable drop. This similar phenomenon was also observed in Ye and Durrett (2022) and Wang et al. (2022) but contrary to the observations in Zhong et al. (2023). We speculate that this may depend on the evaluation tasks. In contrast, self-consistency clearly improves the performance of few-shot prompting, regardless of whether CoT is equipped, once again confirming the effectiveness of this technique (albeit at the cost of increased inference complexity). Regrettably, while effective, it is still inferior to fine-tuned BERT. Future work could explore more efficient prompting methods, such as retrieval-based ones (Liu et al., 2022; Shi et al., 2023, *inter alia*).

5 Conclusion

In this work, we evaluate ChatGPT on a range of test sets and evaluation scenarios and compare its performance to fine-tuned BERT, exploring its capacity boundaries in various sentiment analysis tasks. ChatGPT exhibits magnificent zero-shot sentiment analysis abilities (e.g., sentiment classification, comparative opinion mining and emotion cause analysis), even matching with fine-tuned BERT and SOTA models trained with labeled data in respective domains at times. Compared to fine-tuned BERT, ChatGPT can handle the *polarity shift* problem more effectively in sentiment analysis and exhibits good performance in *open-domain* scenarios. In addition, we also explore some popular prompting techniques to further induce the capability of ChatGPT. Through experiments, we validate the effectiveness of them on sentiment analysis tasks and provide our findings. We aspire to galvanize future research through our empirical insights in sentiment analysis, LLMs and beyond.

583 Limitations

584 This work has several limitations as follows: (1)
585 **Data leakage.** Currently, conducting rigorous eval-
586 uations for LLMs is extremely challenging. For
587 example, it is difficult for us to determine whether
588 the test set has been seen during the large-scale un-
589 supervised pre-training, especially for models like
590 ChatGPT, which are completely closed-source and
591 can only be accessed through APIs. Nevertheless,
592 in this work, we still find some deficiencies of Chat-
593 GPT, such as its sentiment analysis performance
594 in some domains (e.g., medicine and social media)
595 that leaves much to be desired. (2) **Prompt design.**
596 We do not conduct extensive prompt engineering,
597 so there are likely better prompts to obtain better
598 performance. Nevertheless, we believe that ordi-
599 nary users usually do not do very delicate prompt
600 designs when using LLMs. Therefore, if the Chat-
601 GPT can achieve sufficiently robust performance
602 on arbitrary prompts, this would better demonstrate
603 its capability. (3) **Limited evaluation.** Our evalua-
604 tion is mainly conducted on ChatGPT, without in-
605 cluding other equally powerful models. Although
606 we have also supplemented other evaluation re-
607 sults in Appendix A.8, such as text-davinci-003.
608 Unfortunately, such models are either completely
609 closed-source and we do not have access to APIs,
610 or we do not have enough GPUs to rigorously eval-
611 uate their performance due to their huge model pa-
612 rameters. However, as a representative of currently
613 the most powerful models, evaluation on ChatGPT
614 can also enable us to understand what LLMs cur-
615 rently do well and not well, thereby inspiring future
616 research.

617 Beyond this work, we believe some promising
618 future directions could include: (1) **New evalua-**
619 **tion benchmarks.** We need to propose new and
620 comprehensive benchmarks from real-world scen-
621 arios. Meanwhile, evaluation methods are also
622 worth paying attention to. Due to the text genera-
623 tion paradigm, commonly used exact-match may
624 not truly characterize the model performance. In
625 this paper, we adopt human evaluation to allevi-
626 ate this issue. (2) **Implicit sentiment analysis.**
627 Implicit expression is a very common linguistic
628 phenomenon. For example, “I know real Indian
629 food and this wasn’t it” does not contain explicit
630 opinion words. Moreover, accurate judgment of-
631 ten requires common sense or domain knowledge.
632 Our experiments also confirm that large language
633 models generally perform poorly on implicit senti-

ment analysis (See Appendix 11 for results). Mean-
while, constructing comprehensive benchmarks for
implicit sentiment analysis could be a promising
direction. (3) **Enhancing the model capabilities
in specific domains.** As shown in Table 3 and Ta-
ble 4, we can see that the performance of ChatGPT
is not satisfactory on many domains (such as books
and twitter). Therefore, in the future, we could im-
prove the performance on certain domains through
domain-specific training.

Ethics Statement

We honour and support the ACL Ethics Policy.
Our work aims to systematically evaluate the sen-
timent analysis capability of ChatGPT and thus
inspire future research in a responsible and ethical
manner. The data used for evaluation are from pub-
lic benchmark datasets. This work does not involve
human subjects, and we did not collect or process
any personal identification information.

With respect to **the applications of ChatGPT
in sentiment analysis**, we present the following
broader considerations:

1. If strict accordance with annotations or norms
is not required, ChatGPT can be used for
sentiment analysis (via zero-shot or few-shot
prompting);
2. If strict accordance is desired, fine-tuning a
specialized model in a supervised manner is
still a better approach;
3. For domain-specific applications, especially
those requiring domain knowledge, training
specialized models is still advised;
4. For open-domain applications requiring good
generalization, ChatGPT is a viable option for
sentiment analysis;
5. For domains with abundant labeled data, train-
ing a specialized model on the annotations is
recommended;
6. For low-resource or even zero-resource do-
mains, ChatGPT is a promising choice.

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A Appendix

A.1 Prompts of ChatGPT

Following Jiao et al. (2023), we ask ChatGPT to generate the task instruction for each task to elicit its ability to the corresponding task. Taking the E2E-ABSA task as an example, our query is:

Please give me three concise prompts for eliciting your ability to perform Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis (i.e., extract the aspect terms and sentiment polarity). There is no need to give examples and do not limit the prompts to a specific product or domain.

Then, we examine the generated three prompts on a small-scale (e.g., 50 examples) example set driving from the corresponding training set. We select the best and most reasonable one⁶ according to the results⁷. The final prompts adopted for each task are shown in Table 6. During the evaluation process, we feed a prompt and corresponding test example to ChatGPT and obtain a generated response. We manually observe and record the results as the responses do not follow a certain pattern.

A.2 Preparation of Polarity Shift Evaluation Datasets

As previously mentioned, we drive SST-2-Neg and SST-2-Spec from SST-2 by detecting whether a sentence contains any negation or speculation words. The seed words adopted are shown in Table 8. And the statistics of involved datasets are shown in Table 7.

A.3 Examples on Human Evaluation

The exact-match metric has limitations for evaluating generative models like ChatGPT since they can produce reasonable outputs not matched to references. To better characterize ChatGPT’s capabilities despite this, we manually refine its outputs before comparing them to those of baselines. We acknowledge this may seem unfair compared to unrefined baselines. However, our goal is to account for the limitations of the exact-match, not to boost ChatGPT’s results unfairly. To further illustrate the rules we use as more intuitive and easier to

⁶When necessary, we would make minor adjustments to the prompts.

⁷We observe that different prompts have little effect on the performance. We also conducted three experiment repetitions and found minimal deviation in the results. Considering the cost of API calls, we only run the experiment once for the final evaluation unless otherwise specified.

understand, we provide some examples from the E2E-ABSA task, as shown in Table 9.

A.4 Case Study for Standard Evaluation

In this part, we conduct the qualitative analysis on ABSA tasks, COM tasks, and ECA tasks.

Case Study on ABSA. We conduct the qualitative analysis through two examples. Specifically, as shown in Figure 3, we present the results generated by ChatGPT for two test examples under zero-shot and few-shot settings, respectively. Given the example “*I did swap out the hard drive for a Samsung 830 SSD which I highly recommend*”, there are multiple aspect terms with different sentiment polarities in a sentence (e.g., the sentiment polarity of “*hard drive*” is neutral, and that of “*SSD*” is positive). We can observe that ChatGPT can not accurately identify the sentiment polarity of “*hard drive*” under the zero-shot setting. Similarly, in another test example “*I can say that I am fully satisfied with the performance that the computer has supplied.*”, the aspect term extracted by ChatGPT is “*computer performance*”, which does not naturally exist in the sentence, indicating that ChatGPT may generate semantically reasonable aspect terms but without being aligned with the annotations in the dataset. However, under the few-shot setting (as introduced in § 4.1), after being equipped with a few demonstration examples, both of the above types of errors can be corrected by ChatGPT.

Case Study on COM. We conduct qualitative analysis through two examples of ChatGPT in the case of CSI and CEE tasks, as shown in Figure 4. For the CSI task, it can be seen that ChatGPT is able to accurately identify explicit product comparison sentences. However, when the compared objects are implicit products, ChatGPT often considers the sentence not to be a comparison sentence, such as the sentence “*However, focus accuracy was not as impressive.*” ChatGPT assumes that there are no explicitly mentioned products in the comment and therefore determines that it is not a comparison sentence. For CEE task, although ChatGPT is able to correctly identify comparison sentences and extract comparative elements, it tends to exhibit paraphrase phenomena when generating answers. For example, in the example sentence “*It seems to get less light to the sensors than my old 4MP A80.*” the annotation indicates that the comparison subject is “*worse*” than the comparison object. However, when replying, ChatGPT expresses it as

| Task | Prompt |
|----------|---|
| SC | Given this text, what is the sentiment conveyed? Is it positive or negative? Text: {sentence} |
| ABSC | Sentence: {sentence} What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect {aspect} in this sentence? |
| E2E-ABSA | Given a review, extract the aspect term(s) and determine their corresponding sentiment polarity. Review: {sentence} |
| CSI | Does any comparison of products (including implicit products) exist in the product review: {sentence}? If so, outputs 'TRUE', else outputs 'FALSE'. |
| CEE | The following product review contains comparison of products (including implicit products): {sentence}. Extract the subject and object of comparison, tell me which aspect of products is being compared, and tell me if the author of the review thinks the subject is better or worse than or similar to or different from the object. \n If multiple comparisons exist, output multiple comparisons. |
| ECE | Document: {doc} \n Each line in the above document represents a clause and the number at the beginning of each line indicates the clause ID. Clauses expressing emotions are referred to as "emotion clause" and clauses causing emotions are referred to as "cause clauses". It has been identified that the clause with ID {emo_id}, {emotion clause} is an emotion clause, and the corresponding emotion keyword is {emotion}. Based on the above information, complete the following tasks: 1. Describe in one sentence the cause of the emotion clause with ID {emo_id}. 2. Based on the result of Task 1, output the ID of the cause clause that best fits the requirements. 3. According to the result of Task 2, match clauses with causality into pairs in the form "(emotion clause ID, cause clause ID)" and output all pairs as a set, such as (1,2),(3,4). Note: the emotion clause and the cause clause may be the same clause, and only the most obvious pairs need to be outputted. |
| ECPE | Document: {doc} \n Each line in the above document represents a clause and the number at the beginning of each line indicates the clause ID. Clauses expressing emotions are referred to as "emotion clause" and clauses causing emotions are referred to as "cause clauses". Based on the above information, complete the following tasks: 1. Describe the emotions and their corresponding causes contained in the document in one sentence. 2. Output the ID of the emotion clause in task 1, you only need to find the one with the strongest intensity. 3. For each emotion clause in task 2, find the corresponding cause clause and output the cause clause ID, you only need to find the most suitable one. 4. Match clauses with causality into pairs in the form "(emotion clause ID, cause clause ID)" and output all pairs as a set, such as (1,2),(3,4). Note: the emotion clause and the cause clause may be the same clause, and only the most obvious pairs need to be outputted. |

Table 6: The prompts used for prompting ChatGPT for each task. We manually design prompts for emotion cause analysis tasks (i.e., ECE and ECPE) due to the task complexity.

the comparison object is "better" than the comparison subject. This situation causes alignment issues between the generated answers and the annotations during automatic evaluation.

Case Study on ECA. We also conduct qualitative analysis through two examples of ChatGPT in the case of ECE and ECPE tasks, as shown in Figure 5. It can be seen that ChatGPT can perfectly follow our given instructions to complete the task. Given the emotion of a document, ChatGPT can accurately analyze its corresponding cause, but the clause ID is not output as required (refer to the upper part of Figure 5). For the same document, without providing the emotion clause beforehand,

we find that ChatGPT can still correctly identify it, which corresponds to the ECPE task (refer to the bottom part of Figure 5). Although the identified cause clause may not be the most obvious, the prediction is still reasonable.

A.5 Case Study for Polarity Shift Evaluation

We conduct qualitative analysis through four examples of ChatGPT in the case of *polarity shift* (i.e., negation and speculation), as shown in Figure 6. Observing the two examples of SC in the first row, it becomes apparent that ChatGPT can accurately determine the overall sentiment polarity of sentences accompanied by *polarity shift* due to the presence of negation and speculation expressions.









| | |
|--|--|
| <p>ABSC (Zero-shot)</p> <p>Sentence: I did swap out the hard drive for a Samsung 830 SSD which I highly recommend . What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect hard drive in this sentence?</p> <p> Sentiment polarity: negative</p> <p>Ground Truth: neutral </p> | <p>E2E-ABSA (Zero-shot)</p> <p>Given a review, extract the aspect term(s) and determine their corresponding sentiment polarity. Review: I can say that I am fully satisfied with the performance that the computer has supplied .</p> <p> Aspect terms: computer performance Sentiment polarity: positive</p> <p>Ground Truth: [[performance, positive]] </p> |
| <p>ABSC (Few-shot)</p> <p>Sentence: The keyboard is too slick . What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect keyboard in this sentence? Label: negative</p> <p>Sentence: Decent wine at reasonable prices . What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect wine in this sentence? Label: positive</p> <p>Sentence: Amazing Quality ! What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect Quality in this sentence? Label: positive</p> <p>Sentence: I did swap out the hard drive for a Samsung 830 SSD which I highly recommend . What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect hard drive in this sentence?</p> <p> Label: neutral</p> <p>Ground Truth: neutral </p> | <p>E2E-ABSA (Few-shot)</p> <p>Given a review, extract the aspect term(s) and determine their corresponding sentiment polarity. Here are some examples:</p> <p>Review: It runs perfectly . Label: [[runs, positive]]</p> <p>Review: The service is awful . Label: [[service, negative]]</p> <p>Review: lots of extra space but the keyboard is ridiculously small . Label: [[space, positive], [keyboard, negative]]</p> <p>Review: I can say that I am fully satisfied with the performance that the computer has supplied .</p> <p> Label: [[performance, positive]]</p> <p>Ground Truth: [[performance, positive]] </p> |

Figure 3: Case study for ChatGPT on ABSC and E2E-ABSA in zero-shot and few-shot settings. The text in blue, black, green and red denote the given prompts, the examples to be evaluated, the responses of ChatGPT and the ground truths, respectively.

| Task | Dataset | #Test |
|------|--------------------|-------|
| SC | SST-2-Negation | 236 |
| | SST-2-Speculation | 88 |
| ABSC | 14-Res-Negation | 1008 |
| | 14-Res-Speculation | 448 |
| | 14-Lap-Negation | 462 |
| | 14-Lap-Speculation | 217 |

Table 7: The tasks and datasets involved in the polarity-shifting evaluation. #Test denotes the number of examples used for evaluation.

| Shifting Type | Seed Words |
|---------------|---|
| Negation | n't, no, not, never, neither, nor, unless, but, however, rather than, not yet, not only, nonetheless, despite, although, even though, in spite of, unlikely |
| Speculation | if, would, could, should, seems, might, maybe, whether, unless, even if, if only, can't believe, grant that, guessing, suspect, hope, wish, let's probably |

Table 8: Seed words used for deriving SST-2-Neg and SST-2-Spec from SST-2.

Regarding the two examples in the second row of the ABSC task, when multiple aspect terms are listed in parallel and involve the linguistic phenomena such as negation and speculation (e.g., "*faster and sleeker looking*" and "*super fast and had outstanding graphics*"), ChatGPT struggles to identify their sentiment polarity accurately, leading to incorrect predictions.

A.6 Case Study for Open-Domain Evaluation

We conduct qualitative analysis through four examples of ChatGPT on Books and METS-Cov, corresponding to the books and medicine domain, as

shown in Figure 7. Regarding two examples in the first column, ChatGPT has difficulty accurately predicting sentiment in books domain since this domain usually contains unique expressions and plot descriptions that differ from typical product reviews. We also find that ChatGPT often generates reasonable aspect-sentiment pairs in the E2E-ABSA task, such as the "*(chapter creations, negative)*" (in the bottom left example). However, as we mentioned earlier, they are not originally annotated

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>CSI</p> <p>Does any comparison of products (including implicit products) exist in the product review “As for comparisons with other Canon Powershot cameras, the Powershot SD630 doesn’t have a view finder, but has a larger LCD monitor in its place.” ? If so, outputs ‘TRUE’, else outputs ‘FALSE’.</p> <p>Yes, there is a comparison of products in the product review. The review compares the Powershot SD630 with other Canon Powershot cameras. Therefore, the output is ‘TRUE’.</p> <p>Ground Truth: TURE </p> | <p>CSI</p> <p>Does any comparison of products (including implicit products) exist in the product review “However, focus accuracy was not as impressive.” ? If so, outputs ‘TRUE’, else outputs ‘FALSE’.</p> <p>It is not clear from the given sentence whether there is a comparison of products or not. The sentence only mentions the focus accuracy of a single product, without any reference to other products. Therefore, the output would be ‘FALSE’.</p> <p>Ground Truth: TURE </p> |
| <p>CEE</p> <p>The following product review contains comparison of products (including implicit products): Selling points - In which I explain why I bought the 5D My main reason for me upgrading from 350D to 5D (and skipping the 30D) was the full-frame sensor. Extract the subject and object of comparison, tell me which aspect of products is being compared, and tell me if the author of the review thinks the subject is better or worse than or similar to or different from the object. If multiple comparisons exist, output multiple comparisons.</p> <p>Comparison: 350D and 5D Subject: 350D Object: 5D Aspect: Full-frame sensor Author's opinion: The author thinks that the 5D is better than the 350D because of the full-frame sensor.</p> <p>Ground Truth: (5D, 350D, full-frame sensor, better) </p> | <p>CEE</p> <p>The following product review contains comparison of products (including implicit products): It seems to get less light to the sensors than my old 4MP A80. Extract the subject and object of comparison, tell me which aspect of products is being compared, and tell me if the author of the review thinks the subject is better or worse than or similar to or different from the object. If multiple comparisons exist, output multiple comparisons.</p> <p>Yes, a comparison exists in the product review. Subject of comparison: "It" (referring to the product being reviewed) Object of comparison: "my old 4MP A80" Aspect of products being compared: amount of light received by the sensors Author's opinion: The author thinks that the old 4MP A80 received more light to the sensors than the product being reviewed. Therefore, the author thinks that the old product is better than the new one in terms of the amount of light received by the sensors.</p> <p>Ground Truth: (It, my old 4MP A80, light to the sensors, worse) </p> |

Figure 4: Case study for ChatGPT on CSI and CEE. The text in blue, black, green and red denote the given prompts, the examples to be evaluated, the responses of ChatGPT and the ground truths, respectively.

in the dataset, which is also an important reason affecting the performance of E2E-ABSA. As for the two examples in the second column, when dealing with a rare domain like medicine, ChatGPT can accurately determine the sentiment polarity of the given aspect term, but accurately extracting aspect-sentiment pairs remains a challenge.

A.7 Details for Chain-of-Thought and Self-Consistency Prompting

The chain-of-thought method augments each demonstration example in standard few-shot prompting with a chain of reasoning for the associated answer (Wei et al., 2022). We manually write CoT for randomly sampled examples. Self-consistency seeks to sample a diverse set of candidate outputs from LLMs and then aggregate the answers via a majority vote. We apply the temperature sampling with $T = 0.8$ as self-consistency is generally robust to sampling strategies (Wang et al., 2022). For the aggregation of answers, unlike the arithmetic reasoning task that typically has only one certain answer, the E2E-ABSA task we evalu-

ate usually contains multiple aspect-sentiment tuples in an example. We adopt a heuristic approach by counting the frequency of each tuple in N sampled predictions and filtering by setting a frequency threshold to obtain the final prediction. We can finely control the answer aggregation by setting the threshold. In our experiments, we find that when $N = 15$, a threshold between 7 and 12 performs well.

A.8 Other Evaluation Results

Evaluation on text-davinci-003 Some readers might be curious about the performance of other powerful GPT-3.5 models in comparison to ChatGPT. To address this concern, we evaluate the powerful GPT-3.5 model, text-davinci-003, on some benchmarks. We carefully tune the evaluation to be as rigorous and controlled as possible, with temperature 0, top_p of 1, and 3 repeated runs to account for any variability (which is turned out to be negligible). As shown in Table 10, text-davinci-003 achieves overall performance on par with ChatGPT.

Evaluation on Implicit Sentiment Analysis As an interesting and challenging direction, we also explore the evaluation on implicit sentiment analysis. Following the dataset split of implicit sentiment analysis described in (Li et al., 2021), we evaluate ChatGPT on the ABSC task and report BERT results (derived from (Li et al., 2021)) as a reference. We also evaluate the performance of text-davinci-003. Similarly, we run 3 trials and report the average F1 over the implicit subset and the full ABSC dataset (we find that the variance is small). As shown in Table 11, we can observe that these large language models perform poorly on implicit sentiment analysis, although text-davinci-003 outperforms ChatGPT, both are weaker than fine-tuned BERT. These results suggest ample opportunities for future research.

Rule#1: For any extra generated tuples, if they are reasonable but absent from the annotations, we will remove them from the prediction results. Otherwise, we will keep them.

Example#1

Input: It is super fast and has outstanding graphics .

Output:

Aspect term: speed, graphics
Sentiment polarity: positive, positive

Ground Truth: [(graphics, positive)]

Refined Output:

Aspect term: graphics
Sentiment polarity: positive

Rule#2: We also consider an aspect-sentiment or comparative opinion tuple correct if the boundary of aspect or entity is predicted incorrectly but unambiguously, and the predicted sentiment or preference is also correct.

Example#1

Input: the hardware problems have been so bad , i ca n't wait till it completely dies in 3 years , TOPS !

Output:

Aspect term: hardware problems
Sentiment polarity: negative

Ground Truth: [(hardware, negative)]

Refined Output:

Aspect term: hardware
Sentiment polarity: negative

Example#2

Input: And the fact that it comes with an i5 processor definitely speeds things up.

Output:

Aspect term: processor
Sentiment polarity: positive

Ground Truth: [(i5 processor, positive)]

Refined Output:

Aspect term: i5 processor
Sentiment polarity: positive

Rule#3: We also regard a prediction that paraphrases the ground truth to be correct, given the text generation paradigm.

Example#1

Input: Shipped very quickly and safely .

Output:

Aspect term: Shipping
Sentiment polarity: Positive

Ground Truth: [(Shipped, positive)]

Refined Output:

Aspect term: Shipped
Sentiment polarity: Positive

Example#2

Input: Runs real quick .

Output:

Aspect term: Speed/Performance
Sentiment polarity: Positive

Ground Truth: [(Runs, positive)]

Refined Output:

Aspect term: Runs
Sentiment polarity: Positive

Table 9: Examples on human evaluation. For simplicity, the task instruction is omitted.

| Task | Dataset | Metric | Baseline | SOTA | ChatGPT | text-devinci-003 |
|----------|----------|----------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| SC | SST-2 | Acc | 95.47 | 97.50 | 93.12 | 90.52 |
| ABSC | 14-Rest. | Acc / F1 | 83.94 / 75.28 | 89.54 / 84.86 | 83.85 / 70.57 | 82.19 / 71.74 |
| ABSC | 14-Lap. | Acc / F1 | 77.85 / 73.20 | 83.70 / 80.13 | 76.42 / 66.79 | 75.11 / 70.63 |
| E2E-ABSA | 14-Rest. | F1 | 77.75 | 78.68 | 69.14 | 65.06 |
| E2E-ABSA | 14-Lap. | F1 | 66.05 | 70.32 | 49.11 | 50.44 |

Table 10: Performance comparison among ChatGPT, text-davinci-003, fine-tuned baselines, and SOTA models on 5 datasets. Most results are derived from Table 1.



Figure 5: Case study for ChatGPT on ECE and ECPE in both Chinese (left) and English (right). The text in blue, black, green and red denote the given prompts, the examples to be evaluated, the responses of ChatGPT and the ground truths, respectively.

| Model | 14-Rest. | | 14-Lap. | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | Implicit-split | All | Implicit-split | All |
| Fine-tuned BERT | 65.54 | 77.16 | 69.54 | 73.45 |
| ChatGPT | 56.31 | 69.72 | 52.68 | 65.92 |
| text-devinci-003 | 56.85 | 71.09 | 57.17 | 71.09 |

Table 11: Evaluation results on implicit sentiment analysis among fine-tuned BERT, ChatGPT and text-davinci-003.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>SC (Negation)</p> <p>Given this text, what is the sentiment conveyed? Is it positive or negative? Text: unfortunately , it 's not silly fun unless you enjoy really bad movies .</p> <p>The sentiment conveyed in this text is negative.</p> <p>Ground Truth: negative ✓</p> | <p>SC (Speculation)</p> <p>Given this text, what is the sentiment conveyed? Is it positive or negative? Text: it can't decide if it wants to be a mystery/thriller , a romance or a comedy .</p> <p>The sentiment conveyed in the text is negative.</p> <p>Ground Truth: negative ✓</p> |
| <p>ABSC (Negation)</p> <p>Sentence: not so much faster and sleeker looking PUNCT . What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect looking in this sentence?</p> <p>Label: positive</p> <p>Ground Truth: negative ✗</p> | <p>ABSC (Speculation)</p> <p>Sentence: if only it were super fast and had outstanding graphics PUNCT . What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect graphics in this sentence?</p> <p>Label: positive</p> <p>Ground Truth: negative ✗</p> |

Figure 6: Case study for ChatGPT on SC and ABSC in case of the linguistic phenomena such as negation and speculation. The text in blue, black, green and red denote the given prompts, the examples to be evaluated, the responses of ChatGPT and the ground truths, respectively.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>ABSC (Books)</p> <p>Sentence: Still , it was good to finish the series finally and there was some escape into the magical world ... just not as much fun to read as I had hoped . What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect series in this sentence?</p> <p>The sentiment polarity of the aspect series in this sentence is negative.</p> <p>Ground Truth: neutral ✗</p> | <p>ABSC (METS-Cov)</p> <p>Sentence: I received the Pfizer COVID vaccine today , not sure when the mind control kicks in , but feeling pretty good overall ! What is the sentiment polarity of the aspect Pfizer COVID vaccine in this sentence?</p> <p>The sentiment polarity of the aspect "Pfizer COVID vaccine" in this sentence is positive.</p> <p>Ground Truth: positive ✓</p> |
| <p>E2E-ABSA (Books)</p> <p>Given a review, extract the aspect term(s) and determine their corresponding sentiment polarity. Review: I enjoyed the plot , however in the beginning it was difficult to follow due to lack chapter creations .</p> <p>Aspect term: plot, chapter creations Sentiment polarity: - plot: positive - chapter creations: negative</p> <p>Ground Truth: [[beginning, negative], [plot, positive]] ✗</p> | <p>E2E-ABSA (METS-Cov)</p> <p>Given a review, extract the aspect term(s) and determine their corresponding sentiment polarity. Review: India plays US ' friend in need , allows hydroxychloroquine export to fight covid .</p> <p>Aspect term: hydroxychloroquine export Sentiment polarity: positive</p> <p>Ground Truth: [[hydroxychloroquine, neutral]] ✗</p> |

Figure 7: Case study for ChatGPT on ABSC and E2E-ABSA on books and medicine domains. The text in blue, black, green and red denote the given prompts, the examples to be evaluated, the responses of ChatGPT and the ground truths, respectively.