Real Time Sentiment Analysis of Tweets

CS 6301 – Practical Aspects of Data Science Summer 2020

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Introduction

This project is to extract real-time tweets from Twitter about a topic and use R packages to get sentence (tweet) level sentiments and overall sentiment during a period of time.

Data Collection

The *rtweet* R package has been used to download the tweets about a certain topic – in this case 'Fauci' for Dr. Fauci.

- A maximum of 1000 tweets have been set to be downloaded.
- Only English tweets are targeted.
- Recent tweets are fetched.
- Retweets are excluded.

Data Preprocessing

The sentences with URLs (http/https) are removed from consideration.

Sentiment Extraction

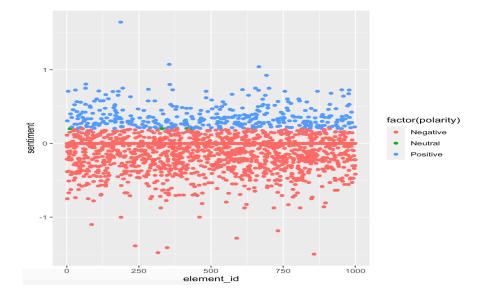
The sentimentr R package has been used for sentiment analysis.

The sentence/tweet level sentiment has been analyzed along with the overall sentiment during period of time.

The functions mainly used are:

- get sentences(): To get sentences; returns a list of vectors of sentences.
- sentiment(): Approximates the sentiment (polarity) of text by sentence.
- sentiment by(): Approximates the sentiment (polarity) of text by grouping variable(s).

On breaking each tweet into sentences, for the total of 1000 tweets fetched, there are 2360 different sentences. The sentiment of each sentence is obtained.



Sentence Sentiment

•	sentence	element_id [‡]	sentence_id [‡]	word_count [‡]	sentiment [‡]	polarity [‡]
1	@GilpinPeri Peri I think Fauci should resign and be abl	1	1	24	-0.21433035	Negative
2	He needs a big platform.	1	2	5	0.11180340	Negative
3	He can return to NIH in January.	1	3	7	0.00000000	Negative
4	Trump is divorcing Fauci .	2	1	4	-0.05000000	Negative
5	Next he will push a "vaccine" that he "produced" that	2	2	20	-0.03354102	Negative
2356	For instance, the guy in Sweden?	999	3	6	0.00000000	Negative
2357	That guy has all that blood on his hands.	999	4	9	0.00000000	Negative
2358	I literally do not understand what you expected Fauci	999	5	11	-0.30151134	Negative
2359	White House takes aim at Fauci as he disagrees with T	1000	1	13	-0.22188008	Negative
2360	I am so sick of this administration attacking people.	1000	2	9	-0.41666667	Negative

Sentiment keywords

1:	element_id 1	negative resign,prohibited	positive big
2:	2		big
3:	3		
4:	4	trump	
5:	5	trump,exposed,fraud	
2356:	2356		
2357:	2357		
2358:	2358		understand
2359:	2359	disagrees,trump,virus	white
2360:	2360	sick,attacking	

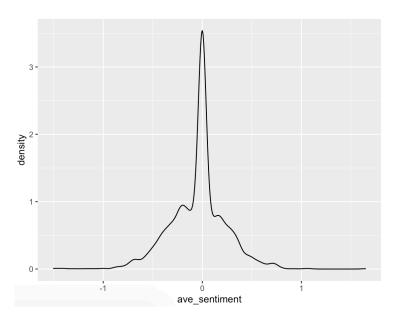
This lists the different keywords present in the tweet sentences that determine their sentiment.

Highlighted sentences based on sentiment (polarity)



The red tweets have a negative sentiment associated.

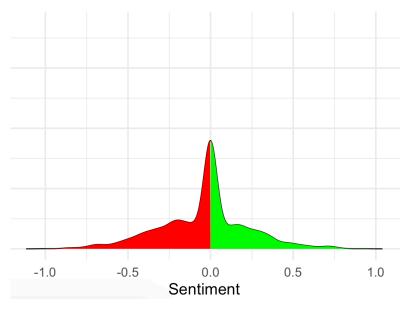
Sentiment Distribution



The tweets have a similar weight based on the average sentiment with the most positive one being 1.64 and the most negative being -1.50.

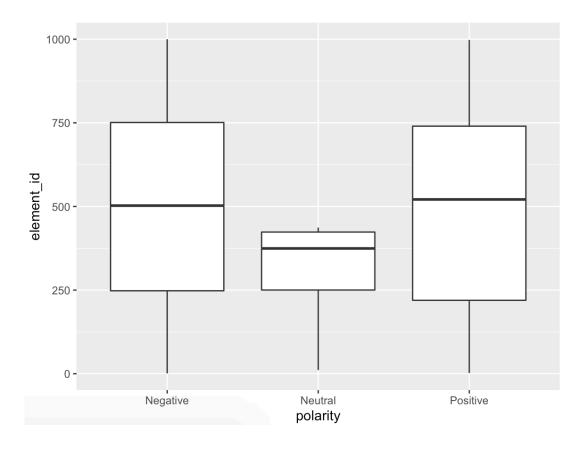
Outliers with sentiment values outside [-1,1] are removed. This brings the number of sentences down to 2349.

Sentiment distribution across the tweets

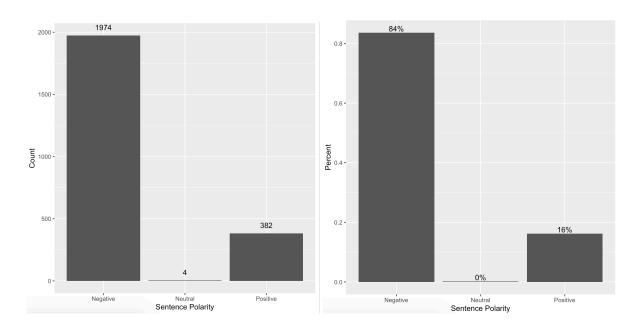


The positive sentiment is plotted green and negative red

Sentiment polarity over the tweets



Count of sentiment polarity



Summary and Conclusion

Each tweet is broken down into sentences and a sentiment score is calculated for each, thereafter, removing outliers.

Based on the 1000 tweets collected on the topic 'Fauci' corresponding to Dr. Fauci, 1974 (~84%) of the tweets have a negative sentiment associated with it.

References

sentimentr: https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/sentimentr.pdf

rtweet: https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/rtweet/rtweet.pdf
ggplot2: https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ggplot2/ggplot2.pdf