# ECE 219 Project5

Evelyn Chen UID: 704332587 Jack Gong UID: 005025415 Jiuru Shao UID:204288539 Haoxiang Zhang UID:104278461

March 5th 2018

## 1 Introduction

Twitter is a good platform for social network analysis. We want to predict future tweet activity using current tweet activity for a hashtag. The Twitter data used in this project is from 2015 Super Bowl, ranging from 2 weeks before the game to a week after the game. Data from some related hashtags will be used to train a regression model. Then, the model will be used to make predictions for other hashtags. Lastly, we defined several new problems and implemented them.

# 2 Q1

## 2.1 Q1.1

#gohawks: Average number of tweets per hour: 324.933

#gohawks: Average number of followers of users posting the tweets: 2203.932

#gohawks: Average number of retweets: 2.015

#sb49: Average number of tweets per hour: 1418.441

#sb49: Average number of followers of users posting the tweets: 10267.317

#sb49: Average number of retweets: 2.511

#gopatriots: Average number of tweets per hour: 45.621

#gopatriots: Average number of followers of users posting the tweets: 1401.896

#gopatriots: Average number of retweets: 1.400

#patriots: Average number of tweets per hour: 834.264

#patriots: Average number of followers of users posting the tweets: 3309.979

#patriots: Average number of retweets: 1.783

#superbowl: Average number of tweets per hour: 2297.729

#superbowl: Average number of followers of users posting the tweets: 8858.975

#superbowl: Average number of retweets: 2.388

#nfl: Average number of tweets per hour: 441.267

#nfl: Average number of followers of users posting the tweets: 4653.252

#nfl: Average number of retweets: 1.539

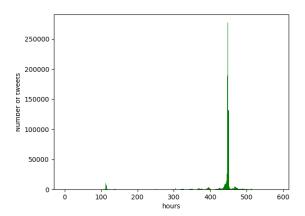


Figure 1: number of tweets in hour over time for #superbowl

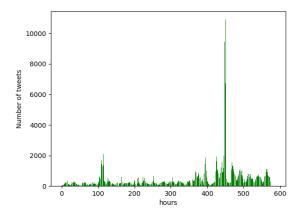


Figure 2: number of tweets in hour over time for #nfl

## 2.2 Q1.2

For each hashtag, fit a linear regression model using 5 features (number of tweets, total number of retweets, sum of number of followers, maximum number of followers, time of the day) to predict the number of tweets in the next hour with features from the previous hour.

For each model (hashtag), we report model's RMSE, R-squared measure. We also analyzed the significance of each feature with t-test and P-value. We used statsmodels.api. Specifically, we use linear regression model OLS for fitting and prediction.

To interpret the OLS output (screenshots), x1 to x5 stands for different features. Specifically, x1=tweet count, x2=retweet count, x3=follower count, x4=max followers, x5=time of the day. For each tag, RMSE and test R-square are shown in the chart. t-value and P-value for each feature for each tag are shown in the screenshots. t-value is under "t" column, and P-value is under "P > |t|" column.

	RMSE	Test R-squared
#gohawks	969.32	0.505
#nfl	585.32	0.647
#sb49	4357.89	0.818
#gopatriots	174.47	0.680
#patriots	2517.04	0.684
#superbowl	8330.89	0.789

Table 1: Metrics of linear regression model

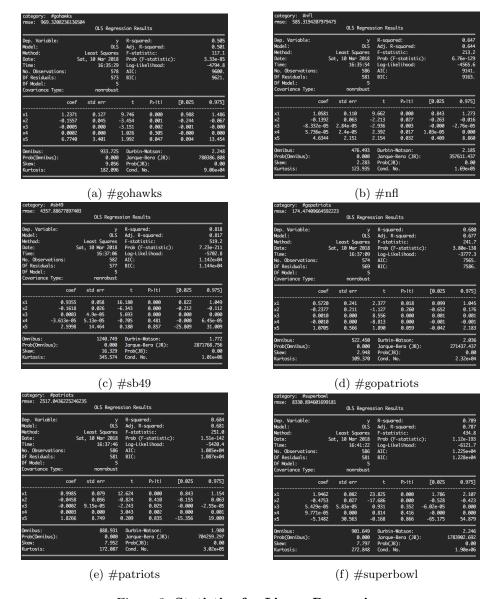


Figure 3: Statistics for Linear Regression

#### 2.3 Q1.3

After studying several papers, we designed following new features: mention count, rank score, passivity, co-occurrence of tags, and unique authors.

**Mention count**. Mention is a directional sharing behavior in Twitter by using @ as the prefix of the user's name. If a user was mentioned in a tweet with a hashtag, he probably took part in the topic. Thus, mention count is one of the new features we tried.

Rank score. Rank score measures the degree of relevance of a tweet to a topic. If there were many tweets related to a specific topic, then these tweets should have high relevance scores to this topic. Thus, mention count is one of the new features we tried.

**Passivity**. Active users often post or retweet tweets following some hashtags. On the other hand, passive users rarely do so unless the topics are attractive enough. The passivity is defined as following equation:

$$P_{sv}(u_i) = \frac{N_d(u_i)}{1.0 + N_t(u_i)}$$

where  $N_d(u_i)$  denotes the number of days since the user account was created, and  $N_t(u_i)$  denotes the total number of tweets posted by this user.

Co-occurrence of tags. Sometimes, several hashtags are used together by users if the topic is hot. The co-occurrence of tags is defined as the number of hashtags used in a tweet.

Unique authors. We also consider the unique number of authors who posted tweets containing the hashtag. This feature can help recognize tweets automatically posted by some fake accounts.

We combine these new features, and apply the OLS linear model of stats api to fit our data. We obtain following fitting accuracy metrics:

	RMSE	Test R-squared
#gohawks	904.084	0.570
#nfl	528.773	0.712
#sb49	4224.850	0.829
#gopatriots	136.285	0.806
#patriots	2468.086	0.698
#superbowl	8391.092	0.785

Table 2: Metrics of linear regression model (New designed features)

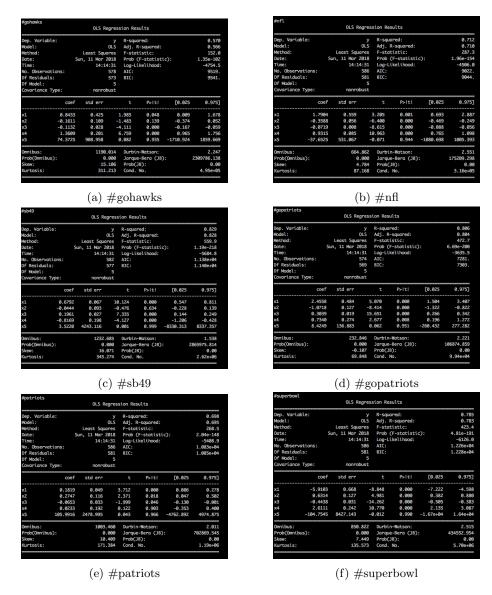


Figure 4: Statistics for Linear Regression (New designed features)

These are statistic results of OLS model for each hashtag. To choose the top 3 features, we simply did majority votes among 5 new features based on the p value of each feature. We found that features x1 (mention count), x2 (passivity), and x4 (co-occurrence of tags) are most significant 3 features. Then, we plot scatter plots (predictant versus the value of feature) for each of top 3 features, and for each hashtag.

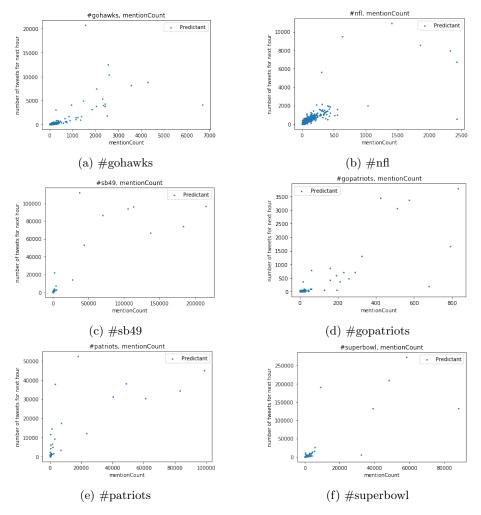


Figure 5: Scatter plot of predictant versus value of feature (Mention Count)

These are scatter plots for predictant versus value of mention count, for each hashtag. We conclude that there is a relatively linear relationship between our mention count feature and the number of tweets for next hours, despite of some extreme points.

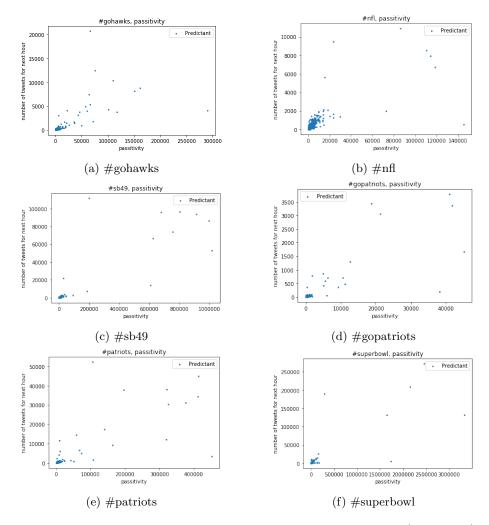


Figure 6: Scatter plot of predictant versus value of feature (Passivity)

These are scatter plots for predictant versus value of passivity, for each hashtag. We conclude that there is a relatively linear relationship between our passivity feature and the number of tweets for next hours, despite of some extreme points.

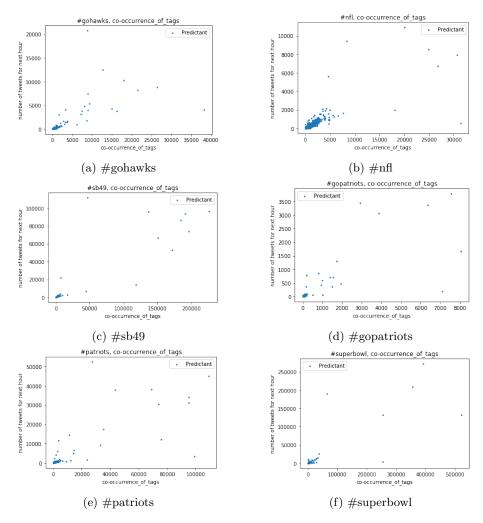


Figure 7: Scatter plot of predictant versus value of feature (Cooccurrence of tags)

These are scatter plots for predictant versus value of co-occurrence of tags, for each hashtag. We conclude that there is a relatively linear relationship between our co-occurrence of tags feature and the number of tweets for next hours, despite of some extreme points.

# 2.4 Q1.4

In this part, we use three different models, Random Forest Regressor, Support Vector Regressor, and Linear SVR for cross validation. We use the same features as part 1.3. As we can see, the MAE is particularly large in the second period(the day when the final happens). This is expected since the number of tweets is the largest during that period.

Hashtag	Model	MAE Period 1	MAE Period 2	MAE Period 3
#gohawks	Random Forest Regressor	224.805	2961.000	32.771
#gohawks	Support Vector Regressor	162.873	2057.769	29.308
#gohawks	Linear SVR	230.735	4961.248	19.039
#nfl	Random Forest Regressor	189.435	3360.846	296.178
#nfl	Support Vector Regressor	113.409	1862.838	161.894
#nfl	Linear SVR	131.304	6610.062	184.607
#sb49	Random Forest Regressor	104.355	43000.962	340.302
#sb49	Support Vector Regressor	45.973	24142.238	133.946
#sb49	Linear SVR	50.603	102436.941	85.322
#gopatriots	Random Forest Regressor	12.830	1407.308	4.932
#gopatriots	Support Vector Regressor	11.654	884.046	4.226
#gopatriots	Linear SVR	13.230	1474.449	3.717
#patriots	Random Forest Regressor	265.085	20316.308	143.657
#patriots	Support Vector Regressor	223.789	13326.308	104.829
#patriots	Linear SVR	211.170	59552.666	60.537
#superbowl	Random Forest Regressor	441.546	75255.077	598.250
#superbowl	Support Vector Regressor	248.277	48557.815	256.598
#superbowl	Linear SVR	338.001	69712.643	300.267

Table 3: MAE of three different models in different periods for 6 hash-tags  $\,$ 

Hashtag	Model	MAE Period	MAE Period	MAE Period
	Model	1	2	3
total	Random Forest	1642.051	77828.077	1239.598
totai	Regressor	1042.031	11020.011	1239.390
total	Support Vector	1525.975	72535.892	370.987
	Regressor	1020.910		
total	Linear SVR	1386.803	103832.673	408.831

Table 4: MAE of three different models in different periods using aggregate data

Hashtag	Model	MAE Period	MAE Period	MAE Period
	Model	1	2	3
total	Random Forest	1238.056	146301.5	1416.091
	Regressor	1236.030	140301.3	1410.091
total	Support Vector	794.296	95530.546	643.571
	Regressor	194.290		
total	Linear SVR	818.874	289569.02	603.722

Table 5: sum of MAE of three different models in different periods using each hashtag

The first table is generated with the cross-validated MAE of aggregate data, and the second one is simply the sum of errors from all 6 tags. We can observe that the first table is much smaller than the second one. This is expected, since we might over-estimate or under-estimate the result, and aggregating the data will counteract some of this effect.

## 2.5 Q1.5

The best model we found in Q1.4 is the random forest regressor model and we apply this model here. We set time window of features to 5 hours instead of 1 hour, and predict for the hour after each window. We use the 'first\_postdate' instead of 'citation\_date', because the test data are collected based on 'first\_postdate'. All test samples have 6 hour span except for sample8 which only has 5 hour span. We trained our model by aggregating the data of all hashtags, with time window of 5 hours. Because most each test sample file spans over 6 hours, so we use the first 5 hours data (first 4 hours data for sample8) as the input to the model, and compare the predicted number of tweets in the 6th hour (the 5th hour for sample 8) with the true number of tweets in the 6th hour of each test sample file. Both the true value and the predicted value are listed in the following table.

Hour 6	True value	Predicted Value
Sample1	178	225.5
Sample2	82892	30163.2
Sample3	524	547.9
Sample4	203	426.45
Sample5	211	699.5
Sample6	37279	67951
Sample7	121	224.7
Sample8	12	255.5
Sample9	2791	2349.6
Sample10	62	475

Table 6: Number of tweets in the next hour (Use 5 hour interval to predict)

There are some situations where the predicted value (5 hour window) is close to the true value: sample 3 (524 versus 547.9) and sample 9 (2791 versus 2349.6). Also, there are situations where the predicted value based on 5-hour window is much closer to the true value than the predicted value based on 1-hour window. For example, in sample 6, the true value is 37279, the predicted value based on 5-hour window is 67951, and the predicted value based on 1-hour window is 159763.9 which is far from the true value.

In general, predicting number of tweets in the next hour based on 5-hour window is a fair choice. But since this prediction task is hard, it is difficult for training data based on 5-hour window to reach a perfect performance.

# 3 Q2

Leveraging the techniques in Project 1, we transform the textual content of the text into matrix with latent semantic information. After preprocessing the data, we tried 6 classification algorithms. These algorithms are random forest classifier, linear support vector machine classifier, logistric regression classifier, k nearest neighbors, multiple layer perceptron, and decision tree.

For each classification algorithm, we plot confusion matrix, ROC curve, and calculate accuracy, recall and precision scores. Following table shows the metric scores of 6 classification algorithms. Analysis will be made at the end of this part (Q2).

	Accuracy	Recall	Precision
Random Forest	0.7114	0.5484	0.6907
Support Vector	0.7291	0.4351	0.8297
Logistic Regression	0.7300	0.4351	0.8329
K Nearest Neighbors	0.6884	0.5989	0.6302
Multi Layer Perceptron	0.7345	0.5162	0.7664
Decision Tree	0.6710	0.6048	0.6022

 ${\bf Table~7:~Test~Metrics~of~Classification~Algorithm~(Fan~Base~Prediction)}$ 

Followings are plots of confusion matrix for each classification algorithm. Analysis will be made at the end of this part (Q2).

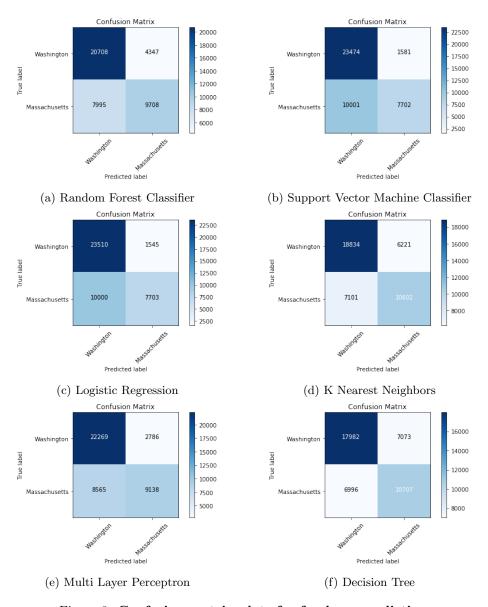


Figure 8: Confusion matrix plots for fan base prediction

Followings are plots of ROC cureve for each classification algorithm. Analysis will be made at the end of this page.

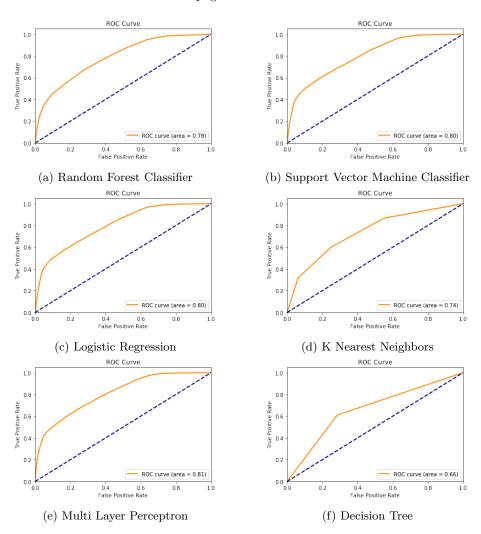


Figure 9: ROC plots for fan base prediction

All 6 classification algorithms have not bad performances. But based on metric scores (accuracy, recall, precision), ROC curve and confusion matrix, the multiple layer perceptron classification algorithm is the best one among all six classification algorithms.

# 4 Q3

# 4.1 Quantitative Sentiment Analysis

For part 3, we are analyzing the change of tweet sentiments for fans of the two teams (hawks and patriots) in the superbowl match. We first plot positive and negative sentiment versus time. The sentiments (y-axis) are obtained from SentimentIntensityAnalyzer from nltk and I use the tweet content (tweet['title']) to analyze the sentiment polarity score.

The time (x-axis) is the number of hours passed from the beginning of the data collection, which is two weeks before the game match. To approximate the time of the game match we can deduct a week from the last data, so the time would be around the middle of 400 500 hours on x-axis.

If we carefully analyze the two sentiment vs time plots, we can see that the negative sentiment polarity score has a peak at around 450 hours on the x-axis for #gohawks and positive sentiment polarity score has a peak around 450 horus on the x-axis for #patriots. This makes sense because The New England Patriots team won Superbowl in 2015, which causes the peak of positive sentiment for the patriots (winner) tag and the peak of negative sentiment for the hawks (loser) tag.

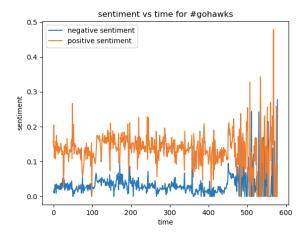


Figure 10: Sentiment vs time for #gohawks

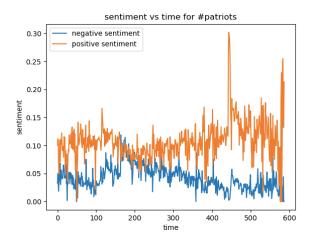


Figure 11: Sentiment vs time for #patriots

#### 4.2 Relative Sentiment Analysis

Different from the previous analysis which estimated the exact quantity sum of sentiment coefficient and plotted all the positive and negative sentiments, this time, we took another insight. That is, we consider those who have sentiment quantity > 0 are considered "positive tweets", those who have sentiment quantity < 0 are considered "negative tweets", and those who holds neutral opinion will have the sentiment equal to zero. In other words, there is no "strong sentiment" in this scenario.

In addition, the sentiment quantity is calculated using TextBlob, a python package for Natural Language Processing, in which the sentiment polarity was invoked, from the sentiment() function. The polarity ranges from -1 to 1, with -1 being most negative texts and 1 being the opposite.

Next, since there are only two teams involved in this data set, we consider those who hold "negative sentiment" against team "hawk" are supporting their opponent team, that is "patriots". Similarly, those who hold "positive sentiment" for "patriots" are essentially "negative sentiment" for the "hawk". One this concept is established, we conclude that, from the hawk's perspective, tweets supporting hawk = positive sentiment for hawk + negative sentiment for patriots; tweets against hawk = positive sentiment towards patriots + negative sentiment for hawk.

Thereafter, four arrays of data are collected, for positive sentiment hawk, negative sentiment hawk, positive sentiment patriots, negative sentiment patriots. Then based in the formula mentioned above, we plot the diagram for relative negative and positive tweets from the hawk's perspective.

As we can see from the diagram below, at around hour 450, there is a huge peak for relative positive response on hawk's perspective, one can easily deduce that hawk was the winner at that moment.

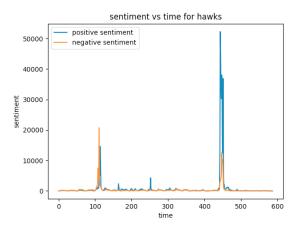


Figure 12: relative responses from hawk's perspective

## 4.3 Comparison between method 4.1 and method 4.2

The sentiment values were calculated differently, due to package differences. In "Quantatative Sentiment Analysis", the sentiment values were computed by the sentiment intensity analyzer, from the ntlk package; whereas in "Relative Sentiment Analysis", the sentiment polarity from TextBlob was used. The later method took around 3 hours to run through the entire data set, taking 2 hours and 30 min longer than the ntlk package. Both TextBlob and ntlk are part of Natrual Language Processing, but TextBlob was designed to bring more benefits that was not in ntlk. In other words, TextBlob is enhanced super set that is build off of ntlk. This leads to the reason why TextBlob took significantly longer than ntlk, though the data we were interested in wer the same - sentiment quanty. Also, the algorithm was a bit different, in that the "Relative Sentiment Analysis" has to run over the data set for 4 times, whereas "Quantative Sentiment Analysis" only run for twice (see details in implementation). Another difference is that 4.1 is per tweet sentiment. As y-axis in graphs in 4.1 indicates, the sentiments are between 0 and 1. On the other hand, 4.2 is adding up the sentiment scores and so the y-axis is much larger.

# 4.4 Changes of top words before, during and after the super bowl game

For this newly designed problem, we want find some interesting changes of top words in tweets before, during and after the super bowl game. To perform this experiment, we firstly aggregate tweet contents based on following three time periods (PST times):

- 1. Before Feb. 1, 8:00 a.m. (i.e. before game)
- 2. Between Feb. 1, 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (i.e. game time)
- 3. After Feb. 1, 8:00 p.m. (i.e. after game)

Then we perform TfIDF vectorization (the technique we mastered from Project 1) to extract top 20 words.

#### 1. Before the game

['gohawks', 'http', 'superbowlxlix', 'seattle', 'seahawks', 'superbowl', 'nfl', 'new', 'amp', 'game', 'win', 'football', 'super', 'bowl', 'patriots', 'el', 'sb49', 'colts', 'brady', 'deflategate']

#### 2. During the game

['gohawks', 'http', 'just', 'super', 'bowl', 'sb49', 'seahawks', 'patriots', 'game', 'superbowl', 'superbowlxlix', 'winning', 'got', 'nfl', 'el', 've', 'half-time', 'katyperry', 'seahawkswin', 'patriotswin']

#### 3. After the game

['brady', 'http', 'rt', 'seahawks', 'super', 'bowl', 'superbowl', 'sb49', 'superbowlxlix', 'amp', 'win', 'game', 'football', 'nfl', 'patriots', 'https', 'year', 'katyperry', 'new', '2015']

We can find many interesting facts from the change of top words in tweets. For example, 'halftime' and 'katyperry' shows up in the top words from tweets during the game, as Katy Perry was featured in the half time show. Also, 'brady' jumps to the top 1 from tweets after the super bowl game, as Tom Brady was the key person that led New England Patriots win the game!

## 5 Conclusion

In this project, we used Twitter data for social network analysis. We did popularity prediction using linear regression and other regression models. We designed good features for the regression models. We also used k-fold cross validation for different models. Lastly, we designed our own problems analyzing sentiments and change of top words and implemented them.