1. Introduction

2020 US Election happened on November 3rd, which is a very popular topic and has numerous related discussions across various social applications and websites. Therefore, it is worth exploring that the tweets of the two popular candidates, Trump and Biden, near the election time.

There are three topics that are interesting to discover:

- (1) Distribution of tweets of these two candidates in different aspects.
- (2) Tweets discussions for them in each state vs Final votes for them in each state.
- (3) Words and sentiments inside each tweet.

In this report, two datasets are used, and the prepossessing process of datasets, including wrangling, cleaning and checking, and exploration of the topics mentioned above are shown.

2. Data Wrangling

• Datasets:

- a. US Election 2020 Tweets. Oct 15th 2020 Nov 8th 2020, 1.72M Tweets (two dataset inside)
- b. US Election 2020 Race to Presidential Election 2020 by County

2.1. Loading data into R and briefly look at the data

Dataset a:

| summary(data_tru created_at Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | np) tweet_id Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | tweet Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | likes Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | retweet_count Min. :0.000e+00 1st Qu.:0.000e+00 Median :0.000e+00 Mean :6.950e+12 3rd Qu.:0.000e+00 Max. :1.323e+18 | source Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | user_id Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | user_name Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| user_screen_name Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | user_description Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | user_join_date Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | user_followers_cou Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | NA's :155 unt user_location Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | lat Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | long Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | city Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character |
| country Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | continent Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | state Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | state_code Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | collected_at Length:971088 Class :character Mode :character | | | |
| > summary(data_bide created_at Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | en) tweet_id Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | tweet Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | likes Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | retweet_count Min. :0.000e+00 1st Qu.:0.000e+00 Median :0.000e+00 Mean :1.651e+12 3rd Qu.:0.000e+00 Max. :1.283e+18 NA'S :178 | source Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | user_id Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | user_name Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character |
| user_screen_name Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | user_description Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | user_join_date Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | user_followers_co Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | NA S :1/8 Junt user_location Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | lat Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | | |
| country Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | continent Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | state Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | state_code Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | collected_at Length:777073 Class :character Mode :character | | | |

Figure 1. summary about dataset a

Dataset b:

| <pre>> summary(q3.vote) state</pre> | county | candidate | party | total_votes | won |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Length: 32177 | Length:32177 | Length:32177 | Length: 32177 | Min. : 0 | Length: 32177 |
| class :character | | | class :character | 1st Qu.: 3 | |
| Mode :character | Mode :character | Mode :character | Mode :character | Median: 34 | Mode :character |
| | | | | Mean : 4960 | |
| | | | | 3rd Qu.: 745 | |
| | | | | Max. :3028885 | |

Figure 2. summary about dataset b

2.2. Dataset combination

Dataset a contains two csv file (one for Trump and one for Biden), it needs to be combined together first, the method for that is first adding a new column to record the tweet is about which candidate (using mutate() in R), and then using rbind() to put them together and deleting duplicate rows before transforming. The result can be seen below.

```
| Source | Source | Suser_ids | Suser_screen_name | Suser_screen_n
```

Figure 3. results for combining and duplicate deleting

2.3. Checking for NA values

Dataset a (vis dat() function in R):

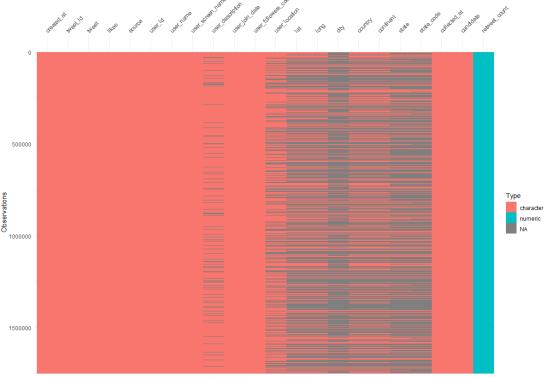


Figure 4. NAs in dataset a

Since some columns are useless, such as user_description, and some columns have around 50% NAs, for example lat and long. It is more suitable to clean NAs in different sub-set for different questions to keep as much as possible data that can be used. In addition, it can be observed that dataset a has only one numeric values, but some columns such as likes, retweet_count should change to number, so dataset a need to do some data type change before transforming to sub-set and cleaning.

Dataset b(using sum() to sum na for each columns):

```
sapply(q3.vote, function(x) sum(is.na(x)))
               county candidate
0 0
                                         party total_votes
    state
```

Figure 5. NAs in dataset b

2.4. Changing datatypes for dataset a (lieks, retweet count, lat, long -> type number)

```
> glimpse(new_candidate_data)
Rows: 1,748,088
Rows: 1,748,088
columns: 22
$ created_at
$ created_at
$ chr> "2020-10-15 00:00:01", "2020-10-15 00:00:01", "2020-10-15 00:00:02", "2020-10-15 00:00:02", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:02", "2020-10-15 00:00:02", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:02", "2020-10-15 00:00:02", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:00", "2020-10-10 00:00:08", "2020-10-15 00:00:00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00.00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00.00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00.00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00.00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00.00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00.00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00.00", "2020-10-21 00:00:00.00", "20
          columns: 22
$ created_at
```

Figure 6. Changing results for dataset a

2.5. Sub-set for each question and clean

Q1 (dataset a): three sub-sets which used for analysing the tweets number distribution in general and in terms of time, source and location.

(1) Used for analysing in general. The columns likes, retweet_count, user_followers_count and candidate is used. The screenshot below also shows that it has NA values in some column, since the number of NAs is very low in this dataset (1748088 rows with around 200-300 NAs), so the NAs are simply deleted in this sub-set.

```
> dim(q1.general)
[1] 1748088
                                                                           > q1.general <- na.omit(q1.general)
 sapply(q1.general, function(x) sum(is.na(x)))
                                                                           > dim(q1.general)
             likes
                        retweet_count user_followers_count
                                                                 candidate
                                                                        o [1] 1747542
              293
                                 260
```

Figure 7. transforming and cleaning for sub-set(1)

(2) Days distribution analysis (created_at, candidate column). When loading it into tableau and generating chars, there are 2 null values, so simply filter them.

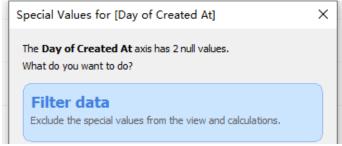


Figure 8. transforming and cleaning for sub-set(2)

(3) Source and location analysis (source, lat, long ,country ,state, candidate column), deleting all NAs for this dataset.

```
> dim(q1.location_source)
[1] 1748088
                  6
 sapply(q1.location_source, function(x) sum(is.na(x)))
   source
                lat
                         long
                               country
                                             state candidate
             947106
                       947106
                                 951586
                                           1167283
> q1.location_source <- q1.location_source[!(is.na(q1.location_source$source)</p>
  is.na(new_candidate_data$lat) | is.na(new_candidate_data$long)),]
> dim(q1.location_source)
[1] 800748
```

Figure 9. transforming and cleaning for sub-set(3)

Q2 (dataset a): likes, retwet_count, tweet, candidate columns are chosen, deleting NAs. Also, an additional column is needed named id to record the original rows before unnest tweets.

```
> sapply(q2, function(x) sum(is.na(x)))
              likes retweet_count
                                                                                candidate
                                                                                                                     id
                 293
                                         260
                                                                    20
> glimpse(q2)
Rows: 1.748.088
columns: 5
$ likes
                            <db7> 0, 26, 2, 0, 4, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3, 2, 0, 3, 0,~
                           <dbl>0, 9, 1, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 5, 2, 0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, ~
<chr> "#Elecciones2020 | En #Florida: #JoeBiden dice que ~
<chr> "Trump", "Trump", "Trump", "Trump", "Trump", "Trump~
<int> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, ~
$ retweet_count
$ tweet
$ candidate
   id
   q2
             na.omit(q2)
```

Figure 10. transforming and cleaning for Q2

Q3 (dataset a and dataset b):

(1) Dataset a: Using filter() to choosing only US data, choosing state and candidate as the subset and filter the NAs, after that group them by state using group_by() and using summarise() to count the total tweets for each state. Then divided into two sets by different candidates.



Figure 11. transforming and cleaning for Q3(1)

(2) Dataset b: Using filter() to filter the candiate Joe Biden and Donald Trump for two sets separately and then selecting state and total_votes columns and group by state to sum the total_votes in each state (This dataset does not have NAs).

| > q3.vote.biden # A tibble: 51 x 2 state <pre><chr></chr></pre> 1 Alabama 2 Alaska 3 Arizona 4 Arkansas 5 California 6 Colorado 7 Connecticut 8 pelaware 9 District of Columbia | | | trump_total |
|---|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10 Florida | 5 <u>297</u> 045 | 10 Florida | 5 <u>668</u> 731 |
| # with 41 more rows | | # with 41 more rows | |

Figure 12. transforming and cleaning for Q3(2)

3. Data Checking

3.1 Q1 subset:

There is data inconsistency in country column, change 'United States of America' to 'United States'. In addition, in this column, there are three data that cannot been recognised by tableau, and the problem is that the data is the state name instead of country name, so change them to the right name.

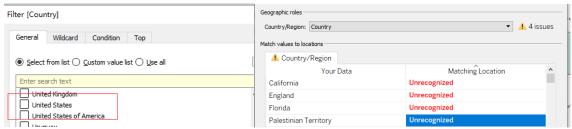


Figure 13. date checking in Q1

3.2 Q2 subset:

The tweets column contains many words with number, special character, web address and some common stop words, so they should be cleaned before unnest. However, after initial cleaning and unnesting, the wordcloud below shows that some frequently used words are meaningless in this particular situation, such as trump, biden and election, so they should be regarded as stop words and deleted.

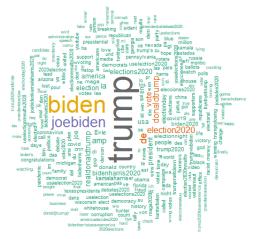


Figure 14. date checking in Q2

3.3 Q3 subset:

When loading data into tableau and check, there is no error in the subset.

4. Data Exploration

• Non-text data exploration (Q1 & Q3)

Q1: What is the difference of the number of related discussions, like or retweet of tweets between Trump and Biden in general or in terms of time, location, and source?

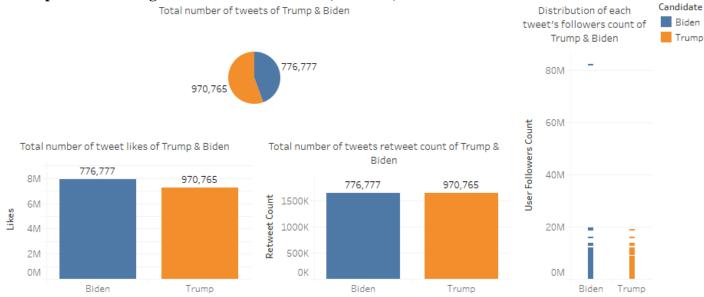


Figure 15. tweets general distribution

The figure above illustrates the distribution of number of tweets in general. First, total number of tweets and the sum of retweet count about Trump is slightly more than that of Biden. However, the sum of likes of the tweets about Biden is more than Trump's. In terms of the peoples followers count distribution, the peoples that tweets about these two people are similar, while for Biden, it has slightly more 'famous followers', which has a large amount of followers.

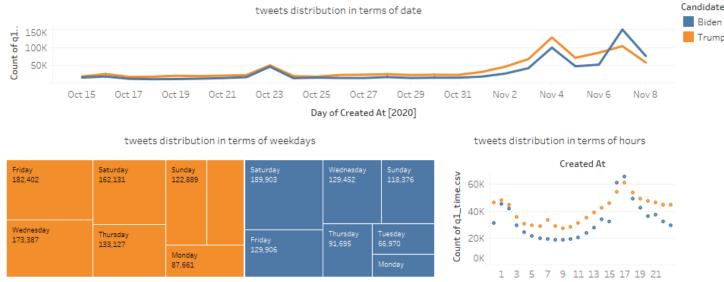


Figure 15. tweets distribution in terms of time

The above figure demonstrates the tweets distribution in terms of time. First, the tweets about these two people increased significantly and fluctuated between Nov 2and Nov 8, and number of tweets about Biden is lower than Trump's before Nov 7th. In terms of weekdays, tweets about Trump are the most, while for Biden, Saturday has the most tweets amount. With regards to different, peoples that tweets about Biden are more active from 15:00 to 17:00.

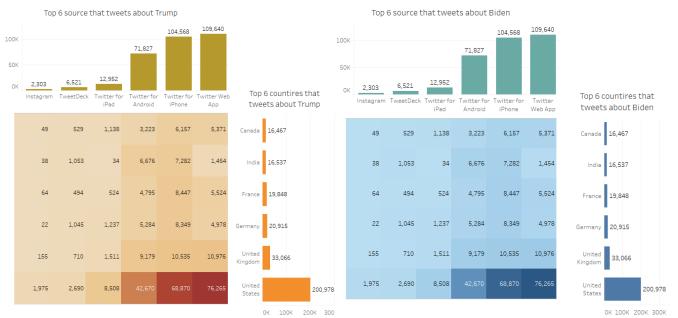


Figure 16. tweets distribution in terms of source and location

The heatmap above shows the tweets distribution in the top 6 sources and top 6 countries. The number of tweets about them in US dominates in the whole records. The distributions for these two candidates are similar as shown above, but it is interesting to note that the US people that tweets about Biden use iPhone to tweets more, which tweets about Trump are more frequently created from Web App.

Q3: Compare the vote by state with the tweets by state and see the difference.

The circular bar chars below shows the top 30 tweets states for Trump and Biden respectively, California contains the most number of tweets for each candidate, while New York has the second number of tweets about them, and Biden is slightly more popular in Texas, while for Trump, he is more popular in Florida.



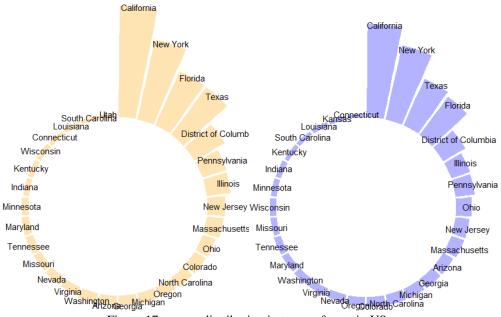


Figure 17. tweets distribution in terms of state in US

Before comparing the votes by state and tweets by state, the data needs some prepocessing to help visualization: adding a new column name Trump Minus Biden, which is the value of Trump's tweets minus Biden's for tweets dataset, and Trump's votes minus Biden's for vote dataset.

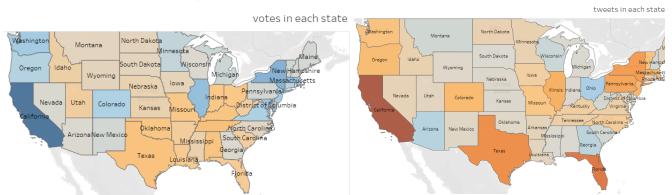


Figure 18. tweets distribution VS votes distribution in each state

The colorperth map above shows the 'winner' in each state (who has more votes or related tweets), the orange color means Trump is the 'winner' in this state and blue means Biden has more votes or tweets in this state. In general, Trump seems to have more dicussions across all America. It is interesting to note that although tweets in some regions, such as Calfornia, are more about Trump, but in fact, Biden has more votes in these states. Therefore, it is important to analysis the content in tweets to discover the reasons behind in Question 2.

To discover more about the correlation between number of tweets and the real total votes in each state, a standardlization process has performed before plotting the scatter plot, in which the votes or number of tweets for each state and each person are divided by the sum of total votes or number of tweets respectively. The standardlized dataset is shown below.

| 2 Alaska 311 189892 0.00174 0.00255 2 Alaska 429 153405 | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| State Sum_trump trump_total vote tweet state Sum_biden_total chr> chr> | |
| chr> chr chr chr chr 1 Alabama 849 144168 0.00476 0.0193 1 Alabama 864 849648 2 Alaska 311 188892 0.00174 0.00255 2 Alaska 429 152405 | |
| 1 Alabama 849 1441168 0.00476 0.0193 1 Alabama 864 849648 2 Alaska 311 189892 0.00174 0.00255 2 Alaska 429 152405 | |
| 2 Alaska 311 189892 0.00174 0.00255 2 Alaska 429 153405 | <db1> <db1></db1></db1> |
| | 0.00564 0.0104 |
| 2 Arizona 3248 1672143 | 0.00280 0.00187 |
| | 0.021 <u>2</u> 0.020 <u>4</u> |
| | 0.003 <u>06</u> 0.005 <u>17</u> |
| 5 California 31140 6005961 0.175 0.0805 5 California 25814 11109764 | |
| 6 Colorado 3618 1364607 0 0203 0 0183 6 Colorado 2687 1804352 | 0.017 <u>6</u> 0.022 <u>0</u> |
| 7 Copperticut 1141 715291 0 00640 0 00959 7 Connecticut 878 1080680 | 0.005 <u>74</u> 0.013 <u>2</u> |
| 8 polawane 331 296268 | 0.002 <u>16</u> 0.003 <u>61</u> |
| District of Columbia 2053 18586 0 0543 0 000340 District of Columbia 2055 31/323 | 0.046 <u>1</u> 0.003 <u>87</u> |
| 10 F1 | 0.086 <u>7</u> 0.064 <u>6</u> |
| 10 Florida 16554 5668731 0.0928 0.0760 # with 41 more rows | |

Figure 19. standradlized result

After that, the scatter plot with a curve fitting for each person is shown in below figures. In general, the correlation is similar, and when the amount of tweets increases, Biden seems to have more votes than Trump according to the fitting cruve.

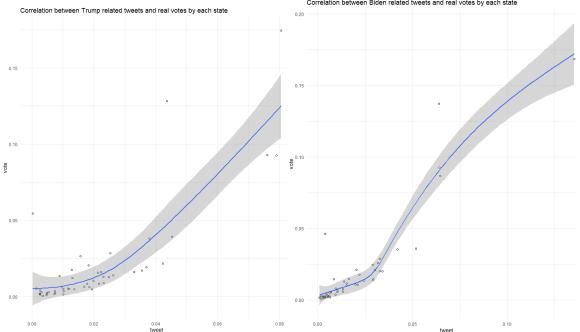


Figure 20. correlation between tweets and votes by state

• Text data analysis (Q2)

Q2 What are the frequent words in tweets content? Can we analyze and compare the sentiment inside the content?

To analysing text data (tweets column), the clean tweets should first been divided into words using unnest_tokens() function and count each word's frequency. The two word clouds below shows the words that used in Trump's related tweets and Biden's related tweets respectively. Vote is the common frequent word, and realdonaldtrump and bidenharries are both frequent in both word cloud, which indicates that the two people are often talked together by people. Some words, such as china, people, win and covid are both popular in two tweets set, and in Trump's word cloud, covid, republicans, foxnews, country are more frequently mentioned in tweets. In Biden's word cloud, Obama, congratulation, country are more actively shown in tweets.

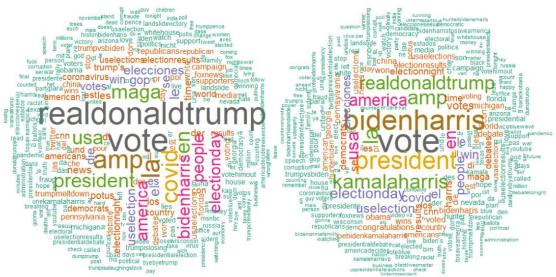


Figure 20. word cloud of word inside tweets

The radar char below is the sentiment analysis of the tweets about the two candidates. The inner_join() function is used for joining the word sub-set with the sentiment data NRC Word-Emotion Association Lexicon (Mohammad & Turney, 2013). In this figure, Biden's related tweets have more positive, anticipation and trust words, for Trump, the positive and negative words count are similar, the fear words count is also very large, so some tweets about Trump may contains negative and fear emotion.

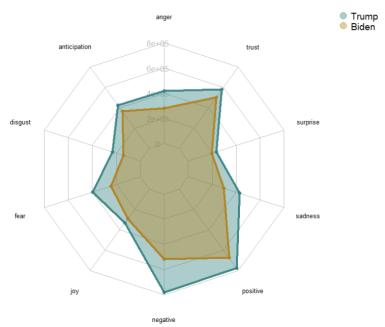
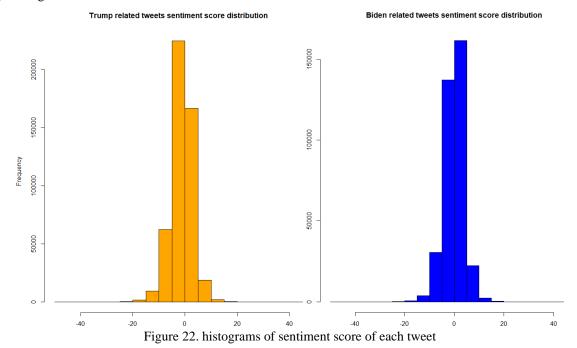


Figure 21. radar charts of sentiment words count inside tweets

In order to observe the positive and negative emotions in tweets instead of in words, another sentiment analysis dataset is used ("afinn"), and the words are first inner join with this dataset, then the data are grouped by the row id, which has been mentioned before and aims to recognize each original tweet, the sentiment score is calculated by the sum the value of each word's sentiment score in a tweet. The histograms below are the distribution of tweet sentiment score for each people's related tweets. It is obvious that Biden's related positive tweets are more than the negative tweets, but Trump's data are opposite, the negative tweets are more.



5. Conclusion

In conclusion, in this report, the US 2020 Election tweets are analysed in different aspect, and three question are answered by the exploration and various plots. The three questions are:

- 1. What is the difference of the number of related discussions, like or retweet of tweets between Trump and Biden in general or in terms of time, location, and source?
- 2. What are the frequent words in tweets content? Can we analyse and compare the sentiment inside the content?
- 3. Compare the vote by state with the tweets by state and see the difference.

In terms of its distribution, Trump is more popular in most of time in general or in terms of time and location, but Biden related tweets has more likes. For the source, Trump is more popular on Web App, while a large number of peoples that tweets on Biden are iPhone users.

When it comes to the words and sentiment inside tweets, frequent words in the two candidates' related tweets are similar, but has some differences, which is interesting to discover, and Biden seems to have more positive related tweets than Trump.

By comparing the real votes and tweets, Trump often has more tweets discussion than Biden in different states, but in some states like California, although he is popular on Twitter, Biden has significant more votes than him. In addition, it is shown in this report that there is a correlation between tweets and votes.

In conclusion, the datasets that chosen are suitable to answer the questions.

6. Reflection

In this project, the use of various kinds of data representation ways and plots are learned, and the prepossessing, which includes cleaning, wrangling and checking, is really important and it could influence the data exploration.

However, there is a limitation in sentiment analysis, which is that the words have not been process by stemming and may contains the same word but with different forms, which needs to be improved. In addition, the sentiment tweet analysis can consider more information included such as retweet count and number of likes to generate various analysis.

7. Bibliography

Mohammad, S. M., & Turney, P. D. (2013). Crowdsourcing a word–emotion association lexicon. *Computational intelligence*, 29(3), 436-465.