Project Writeup and Reflection

Project Overview

For this project I am retrieving the twitter feeds of the French presidential candidates. I am using sentiment analysis to analyze what tone each candidate employes during their campaign process. I hope to create a visual representation (graph) that depicts this information.

Implementation

I started out with retrieving the last 200 tweets of the 4 major French presidential candidates and storing them in individual files. I then did a sentiment analysis and stored the scores in a dictionary. I graphed each sentiment score for each tweet for each candidate (Figure 1). I was interested in seeing how extreme each candidate got so I also graphed the tweets from most negative to most positive (Figure 2). To do this I sorted each set of values from most positive to most negative and used that dictionary to plot the sentiment vs. tweet graph.

When I initially graphed the sentiment vs. tweet plot, I couldn't see a clear pattern. I then had to decide whether there was anything interesting to be seen about which candidate had the most extreme tweets. I decided to find the the most extreme sentiments on either spectrum, but the single values didn't bring any enlightenment to me. I decided to graph the sorted dictionary values to see the spread of all of the tweets and found a few interesting patterns.

Results

Figure 1 shows the representation of the sentiment of each tweet of each candidate over time. While the tweets are in chronological order, they aren't sorted on the same timeline (ie: tweet number 40 for each candidate wasn't posted at the same time for each candidate, it's simply the last 40th tweet they posted).

Figure 2 shows all of the sentiments sorted from most negative to most positive. This allowed me to see a few interesting trends. On the whole, all candidates tended to have more positive tweets than outright negative tweets. François Fillon and Benoît Hamon had overall more positive tweets and slightly less negative tweets.

Figure 1

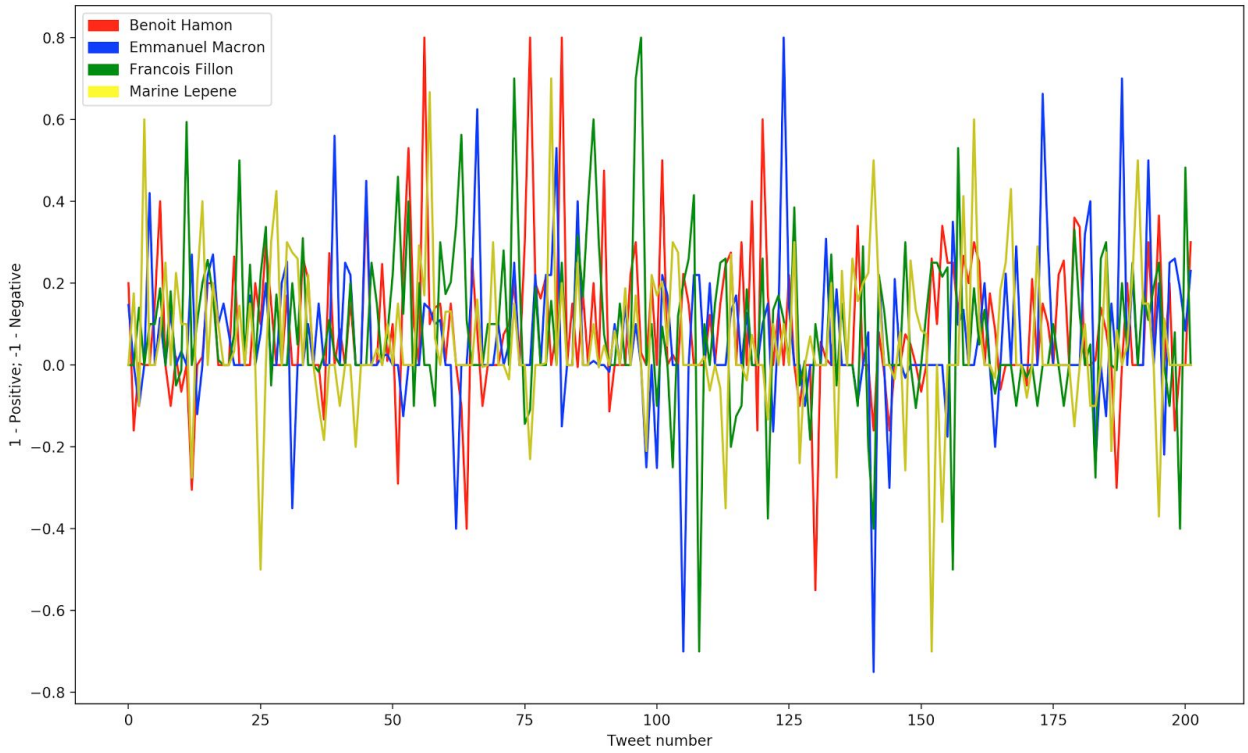
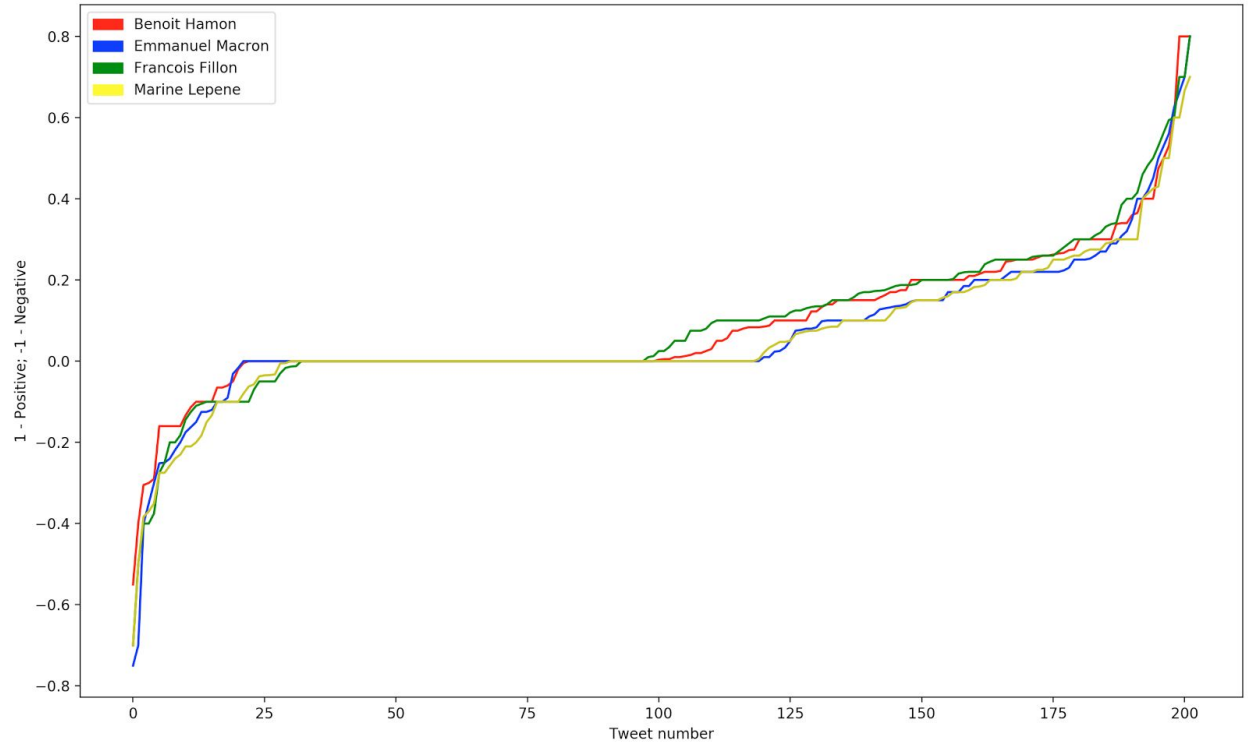


Figure 2



Reflection

Once I started my implementation everything went smoothly. I had a good idea of what I would need so the implementation wasn't too difficult. I could maybe improve how I structured my functions and documentation. I think my project was pretty well scoped for a week long project. I had hoped to find some more interesting results, but alas, it was not meant to be. I wish I'd had a better idea of what things I could do with text mining. I might have gone for a more creative or interesting project.