Devon Beckett

Using the J\_tsar example, the data gets chopped up into much more data than is easily discernable from the original file. The transformed data provides things such as the count of the types of devices people post from, which could be taken as an indication of the way in which people are receiving information such as at home or on the go. It also provides information like how many people are talking about a certain topics. In this case, by gathering data on keywords such as “innocent” and “guilty” you can start to get an idea of which way the majority of public opinion is swaying. Since each tweet is also time stamped you can look at this data overtime.

The .pdf generated would not open for me so I was unable to look at that but after observing the code it appears to be a graph showing twitter activity over time. This would allow you to compare spikes in activity to the time of news announcements relating to the Boston Marathon bombing.

If I wanted to use this script with another set of data from twitter all I would have to do is change the input file to match the new data set. That is of course with the script as it was written. If some of the searches I proposed were implemented (searching for keywords) then you would need to modify them as well. This could be easily done by creating a list, or multiple lists and iterating through when running the search. This way it would be easy to modify the number of keywords without extensive alterations to the code. You could even have three lists, one each for positive, negative, and neutral keywords.

On the other hand the script would need heavy modification to work with a different type of data. Since this script looks for specific columns in the datafile you would have to through the script and manually change every static reference to the twitter data this script was originally designed for. It would be bothersome enough I think that you would probably just want to evaluate what information you wanted to get from the data and write a new code from scratch. I might look to this script for inspiration and guidance as far as formatting and the order of things. But the original script would be no more that a reference and not a template to transform to fit the new datafile.