News Sentiment vs Airline Companies

2023-07-11

Introduction

This was a project I completed in my upper-division writing class during my final quarter attending UC Irvine. Our assignment was to research the any industry of the stock market and see if we could find any variables that help explained how it fluctuates. For my project, I chose to see how news sentiment relating to the stock market influences the airline industry.

News sentiment data was taken from the paper "Measuring News Sentiment" by Adam Shapiro, Moritz Sudhof, and Daniel Wilson. "Yahoo Finance" and the "Wall Street Journal" were used to collect the stock prices of the selected companies. Each of the data was collected daily and covers from May 4, 2007, to April 5, 2021. Although most of the data sources have a date range wider than the selected dates, it was chosen because it is the longest time period where all the data sources overlap. The five selected airline companies include American Airlines, Alaska Air Group, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and Untied

The regression is based off the capital asset pricing model (CAPM) and uses ordinary least squares (OLS) in order to estimate the coefficients. The first regression I did for the paper was a linear regression, but the results were far from satisfactory. After conducting a Breusch-Pagan test, I found evidence for heteroskedasticity. To take this into account, I ran another regression with robust standard errors. Finally, I added dummy variables for the 2008 recession as well as the COVID-19 pandemic to see how much they impacted the results. For a more detailed summary of my process, check the pdf file of my submitted paper.

Project Setup

Libraries

```
library(readxl)
library(tidyverse)
## -- Attaching packages --
                                                  ----- tidyverse 1.3.2 --
## v ggplot2 3.4.0
                      v purrr
                               1.0.1
## v tibble 3.1.8
                      v dplyr
                               1.0.10
## v tidyr
           1.3.0
                      v stringr 1.5.0
## v readr
           2.1.3
                      v forcats 0.5.2
## -- Conflicts ------ tidyverse conflicts() --
## x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
## x dplyr::lag()
                   masks stats::lag()
library(lubridate)
```

```
##
## Attaching package: 'lubridate'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
##
       date, intersect, setdiff, union
library(estimatr)
library(lmtest)
## Loading required package: zoo
## Attaching package: 'zoo'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
##
       as.Date, as.Date.numeric
library(stats)
library(gridExtra)
##
## Attaching package: 'gridExtra'
## The following object is masked from 'package:dplyr':
##
##
       combine
library(broom)
```

Loading data

```
# Stock Data
aal_data <- read.csv("C:/Users/onday/OneDrive/Desktop/Econ 137W Paper/aal_data.csv")
alk_data <- read.csv("C:/Users/onday/OneDrive/Desktop/Econ 137W Paper/alk_data.csv")
dal_data <- read.csv("C:/Users/onday/OneDrive/Desktop/Econ 137W Paper/dal_data.csv")
luv_data <- read.csv("C:/Users/onday/OneDrive/Desktop/Econ 137W Paper/luv_data.csv")
ual_data <- read.csv("C:/Users/onday/OneDrive/Desktop/Econ 137W Paper/ual_data.csv")</pre>
```

Data Preparation

News Sentiment

```
# Only data from May 3, 2007
news_sentiment_data <- news_sentiment_data %>%
  filter(date > '2007-05-03')

# Transform 'date' column to date data type
news_sentiment_data$date <- as.Date(news_sentiment_data$date)</pre>
```

S&P 500

```
# Transforming 'date' column to date data type
sp500_data$Date <- as.Date(sp500_data$Date, format = "%m/%d/%Y")

# Calculate daily returns
sp500_data <- sp500_data %>%
mutate(sp500_returns = ((Close - lag(Close)) / lag(Close)) * 100)
```

Airline Companies

```
# Transform 'date' column to date data type
aal_data$Date <- as.Date(aal_data$Date, format = "%m/%d/%Y")
alk_data$Date <- as.Date(alk_data$Date, format = "%m/%d/%Y")
dal_data$Date <- as.Date(dal_data$Date)
luv_data$Date <- as.Date(luv_data$Date)
ual_data$Date <- as.Date(ual_data$Date)

# Stock data
stock_data <- list(aal_data, alk_data, dal_data, luv_data, ual_data)

# Calculating daily returns
returns <- function(df) {
    df %>%
        mutate(returns = ((Adj.Close - lag(Adj.Close)) / lag(Adj.Close)) * 100)
}
```

```
for (i in seq_along(stock_data)){
   stock_data[[i]] <- returns(stock_data[[i]])
}

# Renaming returns columns

stock_data[[1]] <- rename(stock_data[[1]], aal_returns = returns)

stock_data[[2]] <- rename(stock_data[[2]], alk_returns = returns)

stock_data[[3]] <- rename(stock_data[[3]], dal_returns = returns)

stock_data[[4]] <- rename(stock_data[[4]], luv_returns = returns)

stock_data[[5]] <- rename(stock_data[[5]], ual_returns = returns)

# Putting all stock return data into a single data frame

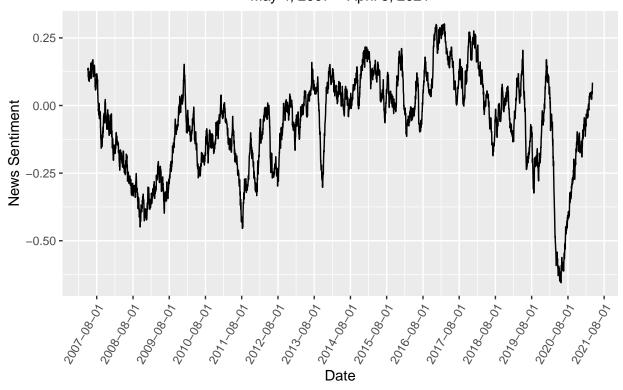
return_data <- stock_data %>%

   reduce(full_join, by = "Date") %>%

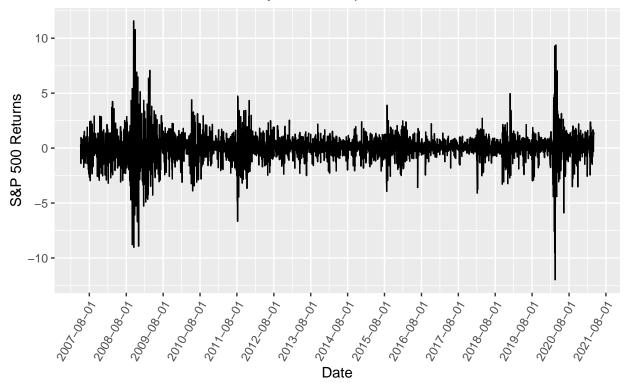
   select(Date, ends_with("returns"))
```

Data Exploration

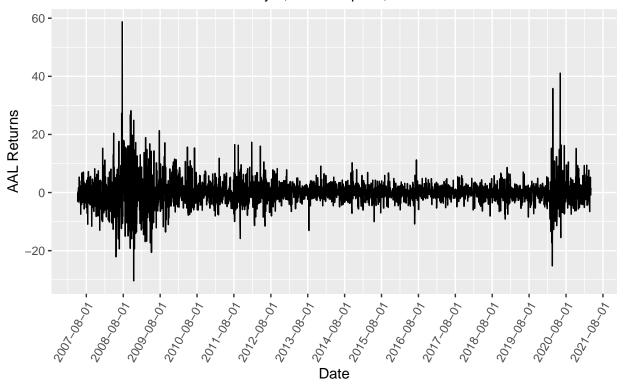
News Sentiment Data May 4, 2007 – April 5, 2021



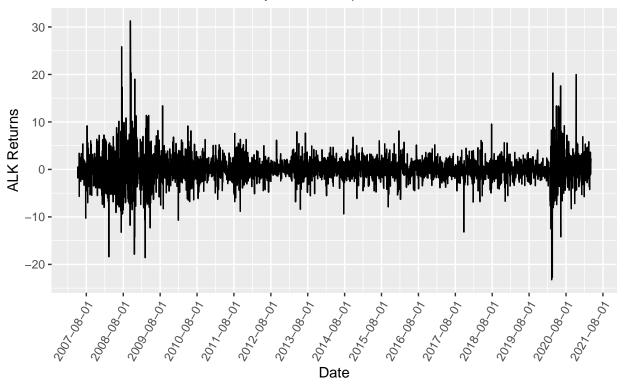
S&P 500 Daily Returns May 4, 2007 – April 5, 2021



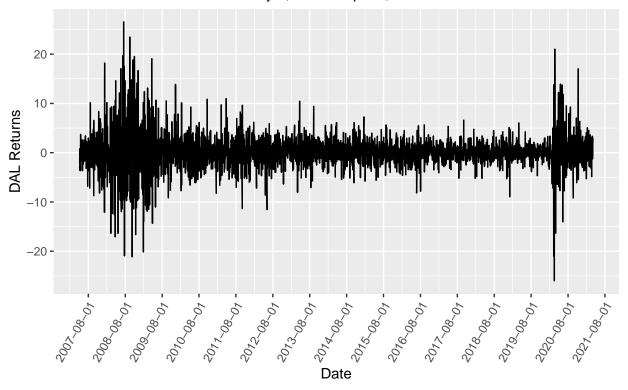
AAL Daily Returns May 4, 2007 – April 5, 2021



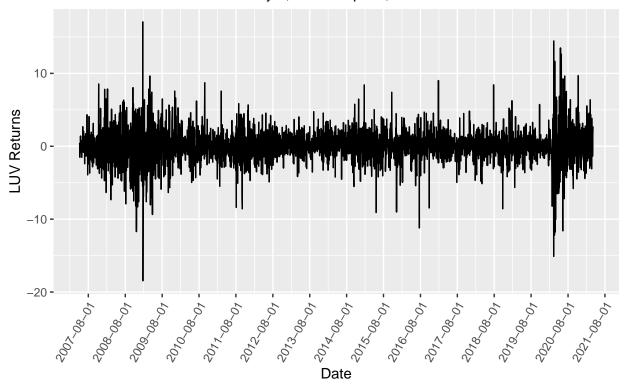
ALK Daily Returns May 4, 2007 – April 5, 2021



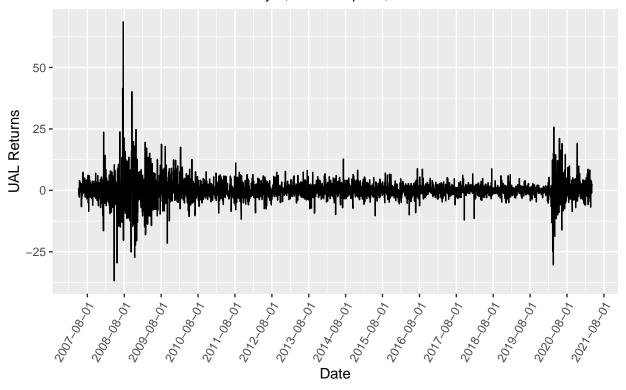
DAL Daily Returns May 4, 2007 – April 5, 2021



LUV Daily Returns May 4, 2007 – April 5, 2021



UAL Daily Returns May 4, 2007 – April 5, 2021



```
# Summary table for stock returns
psych::describe(return_data[,-c(1)])
```

```
##
               vars
                      n mean
                               sd median trimmed mad
                                                         min
                                                               max range
                                                                           skew
                 1 3503 0.09 4.48
                                    0.00
                                            0.00 2.68 -30.36 58.74
                                                                    89.10
                                                                           1.20
## aal_returns
                                            0.10 1.95 -23.24 31.28 54.52 0.50
                                    0.11
## alk_returns
                 2 3503 0.11 2.99
                                    0.08
                                            0.07 2.11 -25.99 26.55 52.54 0.28
## dal_returns
                 3 3503 0.09 3.43
## luv_returns
                 4 3503 0.07 2.28
                                    0.07
                                            0.08 1.63 -18.45 17.06 35.51 -0.15
                                            0.05 2.41 -36.77 68.54 105.31 1.34
## ual_returns
                 5 3503 0.11 4.39
                                    0.03
##
              kurtosis
                         se
                 16.35 0.08
## aal returns
## alk_returns
                 12.71 0.05
## dal returns
                  8.85 0.06
## luv_returns
                  6.27 0.04
## ual_returns
                 27.89 0.07
```

Regression Analysis

First Regression: Linear Model

```
# Dataset containing all variables needed for analysis
final_data <- full_join(return_data, news_sentiment_data, by = c('Date'='date'))
final_data <- full_join(final_data, sp500_data, by = "Date") %>%
```

```
select(Date, aal_returns, alk_returns, dal_returns, luv_returns, ual_returns, news_sentiment, sp500_r
head(final_data)
```

```
Date aal_returns alk_returns dal_returns luv_returns ual_returns
## 1 2007-05-04
                         NA
                                      NA
                                                  NA
                                                               NA
                                                                           NA
## 2 2007-05-07
                 -2.8769301
                             -0.6997635
                                          -2.9551802
                                                        0.4768391
                                                                   -0.2811318
## 3 2007-05-08
                 -2.0222358
                             -0.9395929
                                          -3.5854890
                                                       -0.4067690
                                                                    0.8739767
## 4 2007-05-09
                 -0.1744079
                               0.4403795
                                           0.8151396
                                                      -1.0211056
                                                                   -1.4812716
## 5 2007-05-10 -3.0867675
                             -1.7875191
                                          -0.4547852
                                                      -1.5130852
                                                                   -1.8156006
                               0.5494283
                                         -2.0304583 -0.0697821
## 6 2007-05-11
                  0.2403772
                                                                    0.3178310
     news sentiment sp500 returns
## 1
          0.1345941
## 2
          0.1282066
                        0.2563728
## 3
          0.1066936
                        -0.1165964
## 4
          0.1189226
                        0.3223410
## 5
          0.1116518
                       -1.3956287
          0.1008269
                        0.9641495
# Linear Regression
lm_models <- list(</pre>
  aal_results = lm(aal_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data),
  alk_results = lm(alk_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data),
  dal_results = lm(dal_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data),
 luv_results = lm(luv_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data),
  ual_results = lm(ual_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data)
)
lm_results <- lapply(lm_models, tidy)</pre>
lm_results_df <- do.call(rbind, lm_results)</pre>
lm_results_df
```

```
## # A tibble: 15 x 5
##
      term
                      estimate std.error statistic
                                                      p.value
##
    * <chr>
                         <dbl>
                                   <dbl>
                                              <dbl>
                                                        <dbl>
                                             0.167 8.67e- 1
##
   1 (Intercept)
                       0.0119
                                  0.0711
##
   2 sp500_returns
                       1.62
                                  0.0506
                                            32.0
                                                    3.44e-197
   3 \text{ news\_sentiment } -0.246
##
                                  0.376
                                            -0.654 5.13e-
##
  4 (Intercept)
                       0.0438
                                  0.0454
                                             0.967
                                                    3.34e-
## 5 sp500_returns
                       1.23
                                  0.0323
                                            38.1
                                                    4.77e-266
   6 news sentiment -0.335
                                  0.240
                                            -1.40
                                                    1.63e-
##
   7 (Intercept)
                       0.0387
                                  0.0534
                                             0.725 4.69e- 1
##
    8 sp500_returns
                       1.32
                                  0.0380
                                            34.7
                                                    9.36e-227
## 9 news_sentiment
                      0.00883
                                  0.282
                                             0.0313 9.75e-
## 10 (Intercept)
                       0.0492
                                  0.0341
                                             1.44
                                                    1.49e-
                                                    4.40e-292
## 11 sp500_returns
                       0.976
                                  0.0242
                                            40.3
## 12 news_sentiment
                                             1.29
                                                    1.98e-
                      0.232
                                  0.180
## 13 (Intercept)
                       0.0470
                                  0.0704
                                             0.668 5.04e- 1
## 14 sp500_returns
                                                    2.29e-183
                       1.54
                                  0.0501
                                            30.7
## 15 news_sentiment -0.110
                                  0.372
                                            -0.295
                                                   7.68e- 1
```

After running a linear regression on the data, there appears to be no significant relationship between any of the airline companies and news sentiment. None of the p-values are close to anything statistically significant and the coefficient estimates are all close to zero. Based on the line graphs from earlier, I suspect this can be partly explained by the data being heteroskedastic.

Second Model: Linear Regression with Robust Standard Errors

```
# Breusch-Pagan Test to test for heteroskedasticity
bp_tests <- list(</pre>
  aal_bp = bptest(lm_models[[1]]),
  alk_bp = bptest(lm_models[[2]]),
 dal_bp = bptest(lm_models[[3]]),
 luv_bp = bptest(lm_models[[4]]),
  ual_bp = bptest(lm_models[[5]])
bp results <- lapply(bp tests, tidy)</pre>
bp_results_df <- do.call(rbind, bp_results)</pre>
bp results df
## # A tibble: 5 x 4
     statistic p.value parameter method
## *
         <dbl>
                  <dbl>
                            <dbl> <chr>
## 1
         133. 1.05e-29
                                 2 studentized Breusch-Pagan test
## 2
         125. 6.77e-28
                                 2 studentized Breusch-Pagan test
         231. 6.03e-51
                                 2 studentized Breusch-Pagan test
## 3
## 4
         116. 5.20e-26
                                 2 studentized Breusch-Pagan test
## 5
          89.4 3.85e-20
                                 2 studentized Breusch-Pagan test
```

As the results of the Breusch-Pagan test clearly show, there is heteroskedasticity in each model. To take this into account, I will run the same regression but use robust standard errors instead.

```
# Regression with robust standard errors
robust_models <- list(
   ual_robust = lm_robust(ual_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data),
   aal_robust = lm_robust(aal_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data),
   alk_robust = lm_robust(alk_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data),
   dal_robust = lm_robust(dal_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data),
   luv_robust = lm_robust(luv_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment, data = final_data))

robust_results <- lapply(robust_models, tidy)
robust_results_df <- do.call(rbind, robust_results)
robust_results_df</pre>
```

```
##
                         term
                                  estimate std.error
                                                       statistic
                                                                       p.value
## ual_robust.1
                  (Intercept) 0.046989284 0.04906831 0.95763005
                                                                  3.383155e-01
## ual_robust.2 sp500_returns 1.536000167 0.09025273 17.01887838
                                                                 1.815377e-62
## ual_robust.3 news_sentiment -0.109621899 0.52722930 -0.20792073
                                                                  8.353030e-01
## aal_robust.1
                  (Intercept) 0.011904527 0.05066672 0.23495751
                                                                  8.142555e-01
## aal_robust.2 sp500_returns 1.617075717 0.10229728 15.80761195 2.017701e-54
## aal robust.3 news sentiment -0.245968899 0.52991126 -0.46416998 6.425548e-01
                                                                  2.086230e-01
## alk_robust.1
                  (Intercept) 0.043846752 0.03486563 1.25759260
## alk robust.2 sp500 returns 1.229270558 0.06066468 20.26336567
                                                                  2.044533e-86
## alk_robust.3 news_sentiment -0.334709758 0.34730558 -0.96373274 3.352465e-01
                  (Intercept) 0.038708481 0.03914879 0.98875300 3.228524e-01
## dal robust.1
## dal_robust.2 sp500_returns 1.316838113 0.06977544 18.87251742 9.801967e-76
```

```
## dal robust.3 news sentiment 0.008832368 0.37881692 0.02331566
                                                                9.813998e-01
## luv robust.1
                  (Intercept) 0.049195591 0.02883605
                                                    1.70604471 8.808847e-02
## luv robust.2 sp500 returns 0.976202008 0.03877623 25.17526643 1.109200e-128
## luv_robust.3 news_sentiment 0.232052083 0.25689183
                                                    0.90330659
                                                                3.664254e-01
                  conf.low conf.high
                                      df
                                            outcome
## ual robust.1 -0.04921610 0.1431947 3500 ual returns
## ual robust.2 1.35904688 1.7129535 3500 ual returns
## ual_robust.3 -1.14332981 0.9240860 3500 ual_returns
## aal_robust.1 -0.08743478 0.1112438 3500 aal_returns
## aal_robust.2 1.41650737 1.8176441 3500 aal_returns
## aal_robust.3 -1.28493518 0.7929974 3500 aal_returns
## alk_robust.1 -0.02451226 0.1122058 3500 alk_returns
## alk_robust.2 1.11032884 1.3482123 3500 alk_returns
## alk_robust.3 -1.01565167 0.3462322 3500 alk_returns
## dal_robust.1 -0.03804828 0.1154652 3500 dal_returns
## dal_robust.3 -0.73389199 0.7515567 3500 dal_returns
## luv robust.1 -0.00734158 0.1057328 3500 luv returns
## luv_robust.2  0.90017570 1.0522283 3500 luv_returns
## luv_robust.3 -0.27162083 0.7357250 3500 luv_returns
```

Even when taking into account heteroskedasticity, the results are far from definitive. This model runs into the same problems as the first one. There is not strong enough evidence to conclude that the dependent and independent variables have a linear relationship.

Model 3: Taking Into Account Recessions

##

During the 15-year time span of the data, there were two big economic recessions. The first was the 2008 financial crisis and the second being the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. Each created volatile economic conditions, with the airline industry being hit in particularly hard during the pandemic. To test how much these events influenced the model, I added two dummy variables. The variable 'recession' has a value of 1 if the date is during the 2008 recession and 0 otherwise. Similarly, the variable'covid' has a value of 1 if the date is during the pandemic and 0 otherwise.

```
# Adding dummy variables for each event

final_data$recession <- ifelse(final_data$Date > '2007-12-01' & final_data$Date < '2009-06-01', 1, 0)

final_data$covid <- ifelse(final_data$Date > '2020-02-01', 1, 0)

# New regressions

recession_models <- list(
    aal_recession = lm_robust(aal_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment + covid + recession, data = final_recession = lm_robust(alk_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment + covid + recession, data = final_recession = lm_robust(dal_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment + covid + recession, data = final_recession = lm_robust(luv_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment + covid + recession, data = final_recession = lm_robust(ual_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment + covid + recession, data = final_recession = lm_robust(ual_returns ~ sp500_returns + news_sentiment + covid + recession, data = final_recession_results <- lapply(recession_models, tidy)

recession_results_df <- do.call(rbind, recession_results)

recession_results_df
```

term

estimate std.error

statistic

p.value

```
## aal recession.1
                     (Intercept) 0.02669453 0.05041030 0.52954523 5.964609e-01
## aal recession.2
                  sp500_returns 1.61626005 0.10272109 15.73445197
                                                                   5.964410e-54
## aal recession.3 news sentiment -0.41465579 0.47338911 -0.87593014
                                                                   3.811282e-01
## aal_recession.4
                           covid -0.14973848 0.31814286 -0.47066426
                                                                   6.379099e-01
## aal recession.5
                       recession -0.12470594 0.41567418 -0.30000887
                                                                   7.641882e-01
## alk recession.1
                     (Intercept) 0.05157173 0.03367374 1.53151186
                                                                   1.257334e-01
## alk recession.2
                   sp500 returns 1.22942863 0.06094978 20.17117380
                                                                   1.095786e-85
## alk recession.3 news sentiment -0.42503468 0.30309132 -1.40233210
                                                                   1.609048e-01
## alk recession.4
                           covid -0.14072476 0.21560894 -0.65268519
                                                                   5.140021e-01
## alk_recession.5
                       recession -0.01753528 0.25216544 -0.06953881
                                                                   9.445647e-01
## dal_recession.1
                     (Intercept) 0.04455702 0.03785204 1.17713665
                                                                    2.392211e-01
                   sp500_returns 1.31698739 0.07006020 18.79794010
## dal_recession.2
                                                                    3.537725e-75
## dal_recession.3 news_sentiment -0.05966457 0.32748949 -0.18218773
                                                                   8.554460e-01
## dal_recession.4
                           covid -0.10971080 0.22356052 -0.49074317
                                                                    6.236389e-01
## dal_recession.5
                       recession -0.01086305 0.32512051 -0.03341237
                                                                    9.733477e-01
## luv_recession.1
                     (Intercept)
                                 0.04882496 0.02891701
                                                       1.68845137
                                                                    9.141375e-02
## luv_recession.2
                   ## luv recession.3 news sentiment
                                 0.23744320 0.24550972 0.96714376
                                                                   3.335390e-01
## luv_recession.4
                           covid 0.03655904 0.16802918 0.21757555
                                                                   8.277725e-01
## luv recession.5
                       recession -0.02185464 0.15875595 -0.13766184
                                                                   8.905156e-01
## ual_recession.1
                     (Intercept) 0.06179015 0.04630319 1.33446856
                                                                   1.821372e-01
                   sp500_returns 1.53544162 0.09045174 16.97525746
## ual recession.2
                                                                   3.620504e-62
## ual_recession.3 news_sentiment -0.27941130 0.44096580 -0.63363486
                                                                   5.263606e-01
## ual recession.4
                           covid -0.17743152 0.29477930 -0.60191310
                                                                   5.472710e-01
## ual recession.5
                       recession -0.10379525 0.44281821 -0.23439697
                                                                   8.146905e-01
                     conf.low conf.high
                                         df
                                                outcome
## aal_recession.1 -0.07214203 0.1255311 3498 aal_returns
## aal_recession.2 1.41486073 1.8176594 3498 aal_returns
## aal_recession.3 -1.34280255 0.5134910 3498 aal_returns
## aal_recession.4 -0.77350286 0.4740259 3498 aal_returns
## aal_recession.5 -0.93969437 0.6902825 3498 aal_returns
## alk_recession.1 -0.01445043 0.1175939 3498 alk_returns
## alk_recession.3 -1.01928836 0.1692190 3498 alk_returns
## alk_recession.4 -0.56345678 0.2820073 3498 alk_returns
## alk_recession.5 -0.51194154 0.4768710 3498 alk_returns
## dal recession.1 -0.02965729 0.1187713 3498 dal returns
## dal_recession.2 1.17962440 1.4543504 3498 dal_returns
## dal_recession.3 -0.70175436 0.5824252 3498 dal_returns
## dal_recession.4 -0.54803304 0.3286114 3498 dal_returns
## dal recession.5 -0.64830809 0.6265820 3498 dal returns
## luv recession.1 -0.00787095 0.1055209 3498 luv returns
## luv recession.2 0.89983947 1.0519924 3498 luv returns
## luv_recession.3 -0.24391357 0.7188000 3498 luv_returns
## luv_recession.4 -0.29288610 0.3660042 3498 luv_returns
## luv_recession.5 -0.33311828 0.2894090 3498 luv_returns
## ual_recession.1 -0.02899385 0.1525742 3498 ual_returns
## ual_recession.2 1.35809810 1.7127851 3498 ual_returns
## ual_recession.3 -1.14398755 0.5851649 3498 ual_returns
## ual_recession.4 -0.75538831 0.4005253 3498 ual_returns
## ual_recession.5 -0.97200341 0.7644129 3498 ual_returns
```

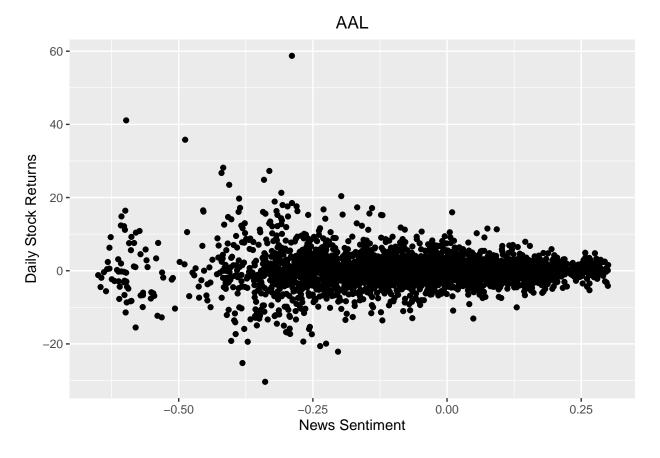
Like the other two models, no statistically significant conclusions can be drawn from the models. Although there is slight improvement compared to the first, it is still far from being a good model.

Conclusion

After running three separate regressions, there is not enough evidence to conclude a linear relationship between the daily stock returns of airline companies and news sentiment of the economy. This is likely due to a multitude of factors. The model likely suffers from omitted variable bias, where confounding variables are excluded from the model. A linear relationship may also not be the best way to explain their relationship, in the future I would like to test other regressions such as logarithmic or exponential.

Appendix

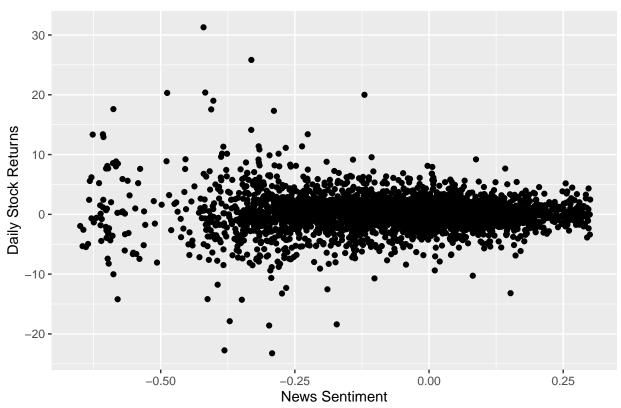
Appendix 1: News sentiment regressed against stock returns



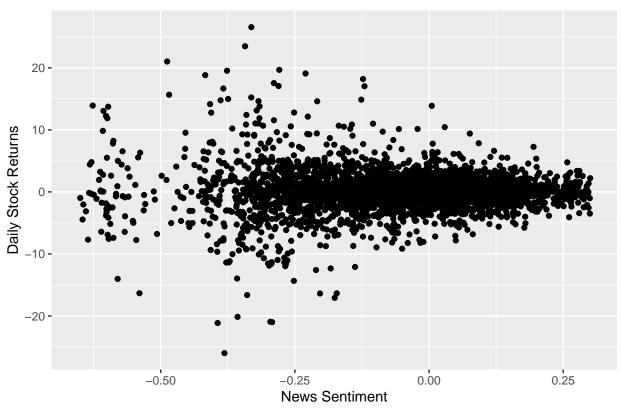
```
# ALK
ggplot(data = final_data, aes(x = news_sentiment, y = alk_returns)) +
```

```
geom_point() +
labs(x = "News Sentiment",
    y = "Daily Stock Returns",
    title = "ALK") +
theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0.5))
```

ALK



DAL



LUV

