DS710 - Final Project

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```
knitr::opts_chunk$set(echo = TRUE, message = FALSE, warning = FALSE, dev = 'png')
```

TWITTER SENTIMENT ANALYSIS: POLARITY VS POPULARITY This project aims to investigate what, if any, relationship exists between the polarity, or positive/negative sentiment of a tweet, and that tweet's popularity as measured by likes and retweets.

First we'll load some libraries:

```
library(readr)
library(dplyr)
library(ggformula)
library(car)
library(coefplot)
library(ggpubr)
```

The data to be analyzed consist of 9149 unique observations of 5 variables:

num_retweets: the number of retweets of an original tweet

num_likes: the number of times an original tweet was liked (aka favorited)

num_followers: the number of followers of the author of the original tweet

subjectivity: the subjectivity of the text of a tweet, as calculated by the textblob subjectivity function. Values in range (0.0, 1.0) (0=objective, 1=subjective)

polarity: the polarity of the text of a tweet, as calculated by the SentimentIntensityAnalyzer.polarity_scores function from the vaderSentiment Python package. The function calculates separate scores for positive, neutral, and negative aspects of a tweet, and averages them to compute one compound score representing overall sentiment of a tweet. This compound score is what was used here. Values in range (-0.9884, 0.9992) (-1=negative, 0=neutral, 1=positive)

5546 rows came from original tweets. 3603 came from retweets, but in these cases the original tweet data for all attributes was collected from the 'retweeted_status' dictionary in the tweet Status object.

Load the dataset:

```
data <- read_csv('twitter_data_for_r.csv')
head(data, 10)</pre>
```

```
## # A tibble: 10 x 6
##
          X1 num_retweets num_likes num_followers subjectivity polarity
##
      <dbl>
                     <dbl>
                                <dbl>
                                               <dbl>
                                                              <dbl>
                                                                        <dbl>
                                                              0
                                                                        0
##
    1
          0
                         1
                                   15
                                                4654
##
    2
                         1
                                    2
                                                3019
                                                              0.5
          1
##
    3
          2
                                    3
                                                 365
                                                              0.8
                                                                       -0.751
                         1
    4
          3
                       870
                                 2800
                                              171687
                                                              0.440
                                                                       -0.34
    5
                                                              0.6
                                                                      -0.542
##
                         0
                                    0
                                                   0
```

##	6	5	0	0	131	0	0
##	7	6	3088	9975	131734	0.323	0.802
##	8	7	0	1	4676	0	0
##	9	8	7193	131552	5982	1	0.459
##	10	9	390	1474	1155	0.2	0.402

The tweets are created first (at which point, theoretically, they would take on their polarity and subjectivity scores), and the likes and retweets happen after, so for our analysis we want retweets and likes to be our dependent variables, and polarity and subjectivity our independent variables. Follower count we may wish to use as a control variable, since it may have an effect on number of likes and retweets. Since I am not confident performing multivariate regression (which would be called for since we have multiple independent and multiple dependent variables), I will attempt separate multiple regressions for likes and retweets.

My hypotheses are as follows:

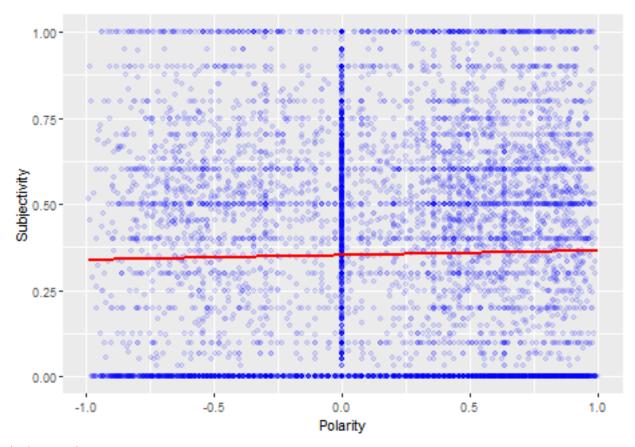
H_0: There is no relationship between sentiment (measured by polarity and subjectivity) of a tweet and the popularity (measured by likes and retweets) of the tweet.

H_1: There is a statistically significant relationship between tweet sentiment and popularity.

We should first see if the assumption for multiple linear regression are satisfied. These assumptions include:

- 1) Linearity of relationship between y variable and x variables
- 2) Independence of x variables
- 3) Normal distribution of residuals
- 4) Homoscedasticity (variance of dependent variable remains constant as ind. var. changes)

First, it seems that it is rather difficult to test for the independence of two continuous variables; I couldn't find a good way to do this without binning the data, which seemed kind of artificial. We could look at a scatter plot with some correlation information to get an idea:



And a correlation test:

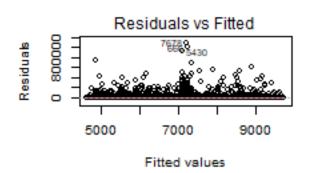
```
cor.test(data$polarity, data$subjectivity)
```

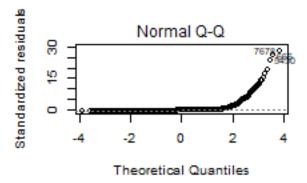
```
##
## Pearson's product-moment correlation
##
## data: data$polarity and data$subjectivity
## t = 1.9123, df = 9147, p-value = 0.05586
## alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -0.0005003261 0.0404661080
## sample estimates:
## cor
## 0.01999128
```

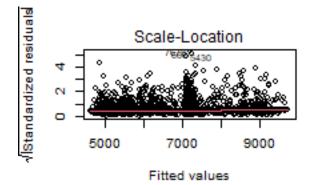
So we have a significant correlation, but it's awfully weak. Note also we have a lot of 0- and 1-values for subjectivity as well as 0-values for polarity, something I will look at more below.

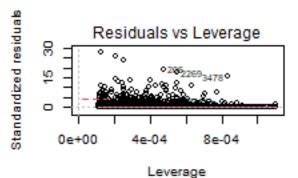
We can examine assumptions 1), 3), and 4) using the plot() function, and also look at the coefficients:

```
model_likes <- lm(num_likes ~ polarity + subjectivity, data = data)
par(mfrow = c(2,2))
plot(model_likes)</pre>
```









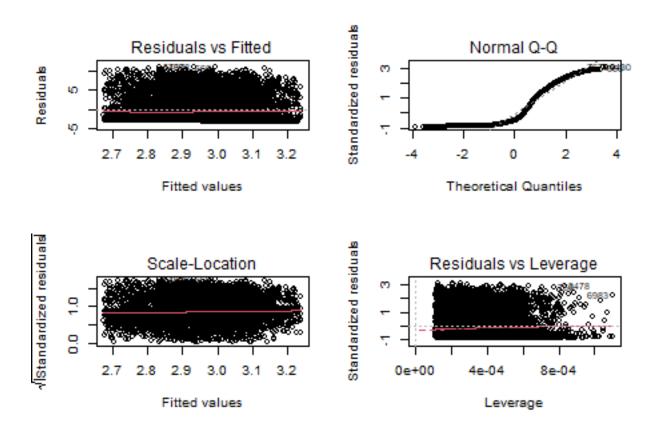
summary(model_likes)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = num_likes ~ polarity + subjectivity, data = data)
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min
                1Q
                    Median
                                3Q
                                       Max
     -9721
             -7245
                     -6335
                             -5206 1091472
##
##
##
   Coefficients:
                Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
## (Intercept)
                  7102.0
                              611.9 11.606 < 2e-16 ***
                 -2449.9
                              838.6
                                     -2.921 0.00349 **
## polarity
                             1248.3
                                      0.190 0.84960
## subjectivity
                   236.7
##
                   0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Signif. codes:
##
## Residual standard error: 38910 on 9146 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.0009342, Adjusted R-squared: 0.0007157
## F-statistic: 4.276 on 2 and 9146 DF, p-value: 0.01392
```

These plots indicate a transformation is in order. We'll try a log(x+1) transformation of the dependent variable to account for the exponential-looking skewing (and values of 0):

```
model_likes <- lm(log1p(num_likes) ~ polarity + subjectivity, data = data)</pre>
```

```
par(mfrow = c(2,2))
plot(model_likes)
```



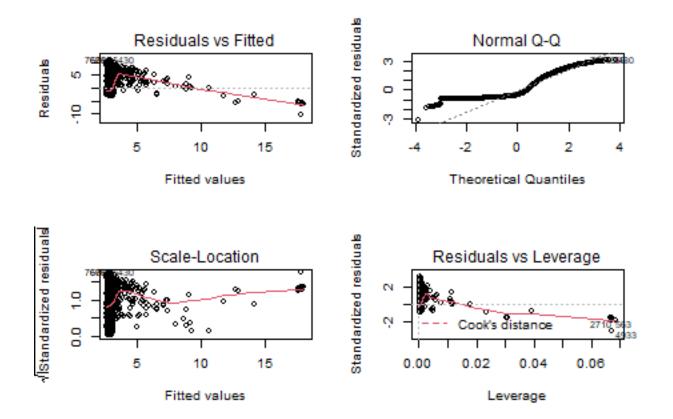
summary(model_likes)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = log1p(num_likes) ~ polarity + subjectivity, data = data)
##
## Residuals:
              1Q Median
                            3Q
##
     Min
                                  Max
  -3.228 -2.833 -1.815 2.389 10.978
##
## Coefficients:
                Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
## (Intercept)
                 2.83276
                            0.05524
                                    51.281
                                              <2e-16 ***
## polarity
                 0.16044
                            0.07570
                                      2.119
                                              0.0341 *
## subjectivity 0.24767
                                      2.198
                                              0.0280 *
                            0.11269
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 3.512 on 9146 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.001039, Adjusted R-squared: 0.0008204
## F-statistic: 4.756 on 2 and 9146 DF, p-value: 0.008624
```

This looks better, but we might be violating the normality assumption. We can try adding in number of followers as a control variable since it would certainly seem to affect number of likes and retweets. First we

can look at correlations of dependent variables with num_followers:

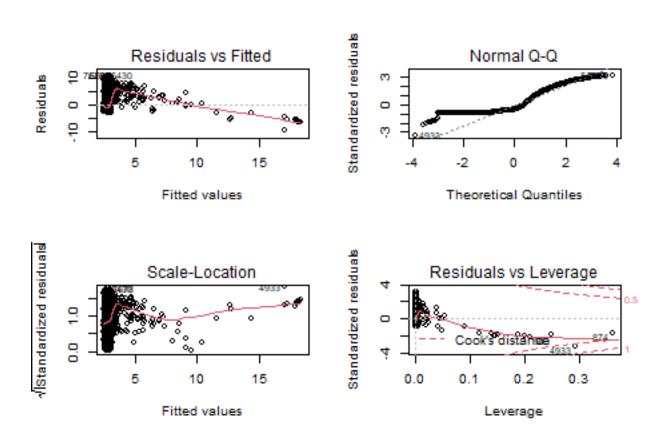
```
cor.test(data$num_followers, log1p(data$num_likes))
##
## Pearson's product-moment correlation
##
## data: data$num_followers and log1p(data$num_likes)
## t = 16.637, df = 9147, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 0.1514188 0.1911984
## sample estimates:
##
         cor
## 0.1713785
cor.test(data$num_followers, log1p(data$num_retweets))
##
## Pearson's product-moment correlation
##
## data: data$num_followers and log1p(data$num_retweets)
## t = 16.255, df = 9147, p-value < 2.2e-16
## alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## 0.1475744 0.1874071
## sample estimates:
##
         cor
## 0.1675591
Both correlations with number of followers are significant with p-values near zero, so we should introduce
this into the model:
model_likes <- lm(log1p(num_likes) ~ polarity + subjectivity + num_followers, data = data)</pre>
par(mfrow = c(2,2))
plot(model_likes)
```



summary(model likes)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = log1p(num_likes) ~ polarity + subjectivity + num_followers,
       data = data)
##
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min
                1Q
                    Median
                                3Q
                                       Max
##
  -10.421
           -2.785
                   -1.773
                             2.349
                                    11.030
##
## Coefficients:
##
                  Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                 2.785e+00
                           5.450e-02
                                       51.099
## (Intercept)
                                                <2e-16 ***
## polarity
                 1.516e-01
                            7.459e-02
                                        2.033
                                                0.0421 *
## subjectivity 2.357e-01
                           1.110e-01
                                        2.123
                                                0.0338 *
## num_followers 1.680e-07
                           1.011e-08
                                       16.613
                                                <2e-16 ***
##
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 3.461 on 9145 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.03031,
                                    Adjusted R-squared: 0.02999
## F-statistic: 95.27 on 3 and 9145 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

The coefficients are still significant, but the diagnostic plots look a little strange. We'll try one more model that accounts for possible interactions between independent variables:

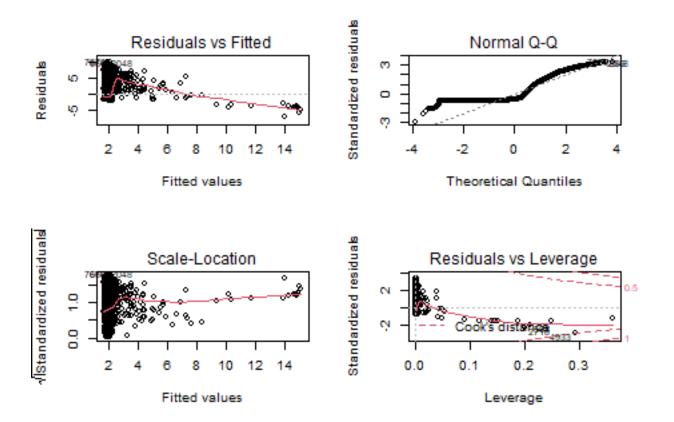


summary(model_likes)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = log1p(num_likes) ~ polarity + subjectivity + num_followers +
       polarity:subjectivity + polarity:num_followers + subjectivity:num_followers,
##
##
       data = data)
##
## Residuals:
##
      Min
              1Q Median
                            30
                                  Max
  -9.628 -2.766 -1.797 2.359 11.026
##
##
## Coefficients:
                                Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
                               2.766e+00 5.581e-02 49.561
## (Intercept)
                                                               <2e-16 ***
                                                       2.519
## polarity
                               2.778e-01
                                          1.103e-01
                                                               0.0118 *
## subjectivity
                               2.946e-01
                                          1.167e-01
                                                       2.525
                                                               0.0116 *
## num_followers
                               1.721e-07
                                          1.523e-08
                                                     11.299
                                                               <2e-16 ***
## polarity:subjectivity
                              -3.636e-01 2.305e-01 -1.578
                                                               0.1147
```

```
## polarity:num_followers 5.344e-09 2.001e-08 0.267 0.7894
## subjectivity:num_followers -1.346e-08 2.875e-08 -0.468 0.6396
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 3.461 on 9142 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.0306, Adjusted R-squared: 0.02996
## F-statistic: 48.09 on 6 and 9142 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16</pre>
```

Here the diagnostic plots are pretty similar to the previous model. All the independent variables remain significant, and there are also significant interactions (subjectivity:num_followers is perhaps interesting). Let's proceed with retweets using this same model and see if there's anything different:

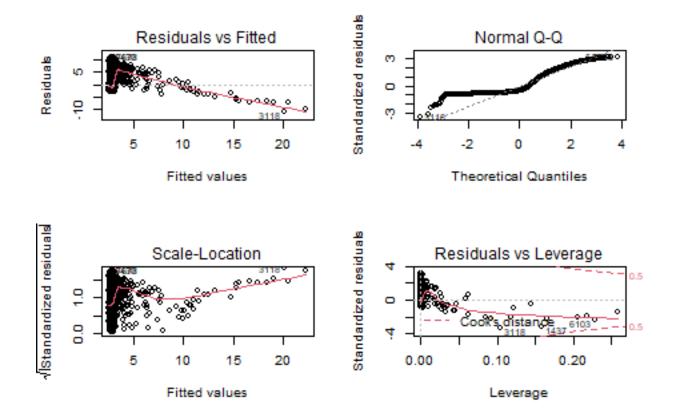


```
summary(model_retweets)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = log1p(num_retweets) ~ polarity + subjectivity +
## num_followers + polarity:subjectivity + polarity:num_followers +
## subjectivity:num_followers, data = data)
##
```

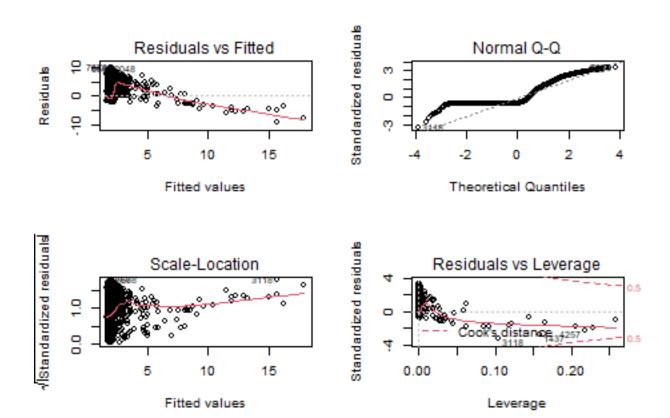
```
## Residuals:
##
     Min
             1Q Median
                           30
                                 Max
## -7.321 -2.086 -1.902 1.935 9.992
##
## Coefficients:
##
                               Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)
                              1.923e+00 4.797e-02 40.083 < 2e-16 ***
## polarity
                              2.665e-01 9.480e-02
                                                    2.811 0.00494 **
## subjectivity
                              2.787e-01 1.003e-01
                                                    2.778 0.00548 **
## num_followers
                              1.441e-07 1.309e-08 11.011
                                                           < 2e-16 ***
## polarity:subjectivity
                             -3.221e-01 1.981e-01 -1.626
                                                           0.10403
## polarity:num_followers
                              4.983e-09 1.720e-08
                                                    0.290
                                                           0.77209
## subjectivity:num_followers -1.062e-08 2.471e-08 -0.430 0.66752
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 2.975 on 9142 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.02963,
                                   Adjusted R-squared: 0.02899
## F-statistic: 46.52 on 6 and 9142 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

Perhaps not surprisingly, we have similar results for retweet count. One last thing to try is removing a few of the outliers. The rows below constitute three rounds of outlier identification and removal based on which points displayed their row numbers in the various diagnostic plots:



summary(model likes)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = log1p(num_likes) ~ polarity + subjectivity + num_followers +
       polarity:subjectivity + polarity:num_followers + subjectivity:num_followers,
##
##
       data = data)
##
  Residuals:
##
##
       Min
                1Q
                   Median
                                3Q
                                       Max
   -11.002
           -2.765
                   -1.779
                             2.292
                                    11.054
##
##
## Coefficients:
                                Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
## (Intercept)
                               2.765e+00 5.548e-02 49.834 < 2e-16 ***
## polarity
                               2.767e-01
                                          1.098e-01
                                                       2.521
                                                               0.0117 *
## subjectivity
                               2.252e-01
                                          1.162e-01
                                                       1.937
                                                               0.0527 .
## num_followers
                               1.765e-07
                                          1.767e-08
                                                       9.989
                                                              < 2e-16 ***
## polarity:subjectivity
                              -4.051e-01
                                          2.291e-01
                                                      -1.768
                                                               0.0771 .
                                                               0.2069
## polarity:num_followers
                               4.821e-08
                                          3.819e-08
                                                       1.262
## subjectivity:num_followers 4.437e-07 6.068e-08
                                                       7.313 2.84e-13 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 3.439 on 9130 degrees of freedom
     (12 observations deleted due to missingness)
```



summary(model_retweets)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = log1p(num_retweets) ~ polarity + subjectivity +
##
       num_followers + polarity:subjectivity + polarity:num_followers +
       subjectivity:num_followers, data = data)
##
##
## Residuals:
     Min
              1Q Median
                                  Max
## -9.257 -2.063 -1.902 1.930 10.013
##
## Coefficients:
                                Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
## (Intercept)
                               1.922e+00 4.776e-02 40.245 < 2e-16 ***
## polarity
                               2.632e-01 9.451e-02
                                                      2.785
                                                             0.00536 **
## subjectivity
                               2.268e-01 1.001e-01
                                                      2.266 0.02349 *
```

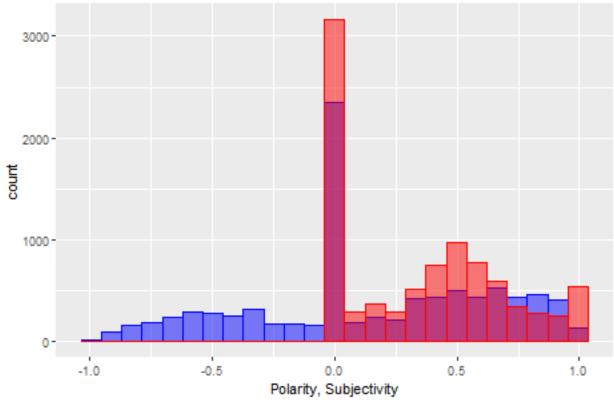
```
## num followers
                              1.476e-07 1.521e-08
                                                     9.704 < 2e-16 ***
## polarity:subjectivity
                             -3.524e-01
                                        1.973e-01 -1.786 0.07407 .
                                                     1.501
## polarity:num followers
                              4.936e-08
                                        3.288e-08
                                                           0.13336
## subjectivity:num_followers 3.280e-07
                                                     6.279 3.57e-10 ***
                                        5.224e-08
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 2.961 on 9130 degrees of freedom
     (12 observations deleted due to missingness)
## Multiple R-squared: 0.03362,
                                   Adjusted R-squared: 0.03298
## F-statistic: 52.94 on 6 and 9130 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

The profile of significant variables stays the same, with number of followers and intercept significant at the highest level (i.e. lowest p-value) as subjectivity:num_followers. We have evidence to reject the null hypothesis and claim that there is a statistically significant relationship between the sentiment of a tweet and its popularity.

On the other hand, we have some visual evidence in the diagnostic plots that complicates matters somewhat. We haven't really been able to get a good Q-Q plot, so we might be violating the normality assumption here. It's possible

So what about all those zeros for polarity and subjectivity (and ones for subjectivity)?

Histograms for Polarity (blue) and Subjectivity (red)

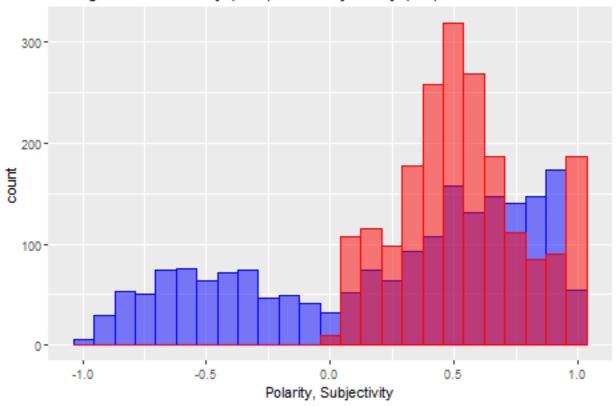


On the one hand, it doesn't seem right to remove them, since they are perfectly valid data points, tweets that were or weren't liked or retweeted with a polarity or subjectivity score happening to equal zero. On the other hand, we could make the argument that we aren't really interested as much in neutral tweets, but rather only the ones with some non-zero sentiment value. It's worth at least exploring (we'll hold off on the 1-values for subjectivity though).

```
non_zero_rows <- apply(data, 1, function(polarity) all(polarity != 0))
non_zero_rows <- apply(data, 1, function(subjectivity) all(subjectivity != 0))
non_zero_data <- data[non_zero_rows,]
non_zero_data</pre>
```

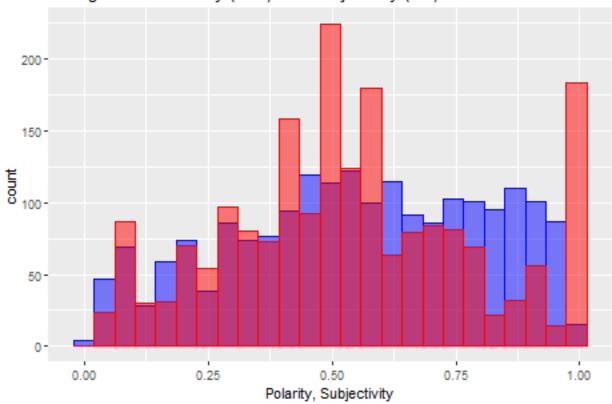
```
## # A tibble: 2,021 x 6
##
         X1 num_retweets num_likes num_followers subjectivity polarity
##
      <dbl>
                     <dbl>
                                <dbl>
                                                              <dbl>
                                               <dbl>
                                                                       <dbl>
                                                             0.8
##
    1
           2
                                    3
                                                 365
                                                                      -0.751
                         1
    2
           3
                                                             0.440
                                                                      -0.34
##
                       870
                                 2800
                                              171687
##
    3
           6
                      3088
                                 9975
                                              131734
                                                             0.323
                                                                       0.802
##
    4
          8
                      7193
                               131552
                                                5982
                                                             1
                                                                       0.459
##
    5
          9
                       390
                                                1155
                                                             0.2
                                                                       0.402
                                 1474
##
    6
         12
                      1158
                                 7502
                                              502313
                                                             0.375
                                                                      -0.103
    7
                      3534
                                               51792
                                                             0.5
                                                                       0.927
##
         15
                                 8211
##
    8
         NA
                        NA
                                   NA
                                                  NA
                                                            NA
                                                                      NA
##
    9
         22
                       103
                                  230
                                                 889
                                                             0.357
                                                                       0.649
## 10
         30
                         2
                                   22
                                                 468
                                                             0.544
                                                                       0.872
## # ... with 2,011 more rows
```



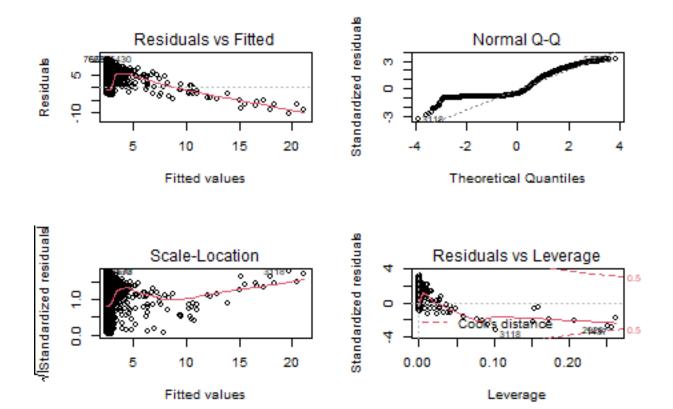


This definitely changes things. First, we lost over 7000 rows. Subjectivity looks like it could come from a normal distribution (aside from the excess 1-values), and polarity looks bimodal. But, since it looks symmetrical about 0, it might look pretty normal if we took the absolute value:



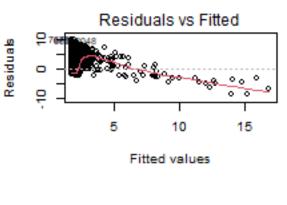


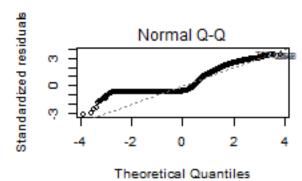
This transformation also lines it up pretty well with subjectivity values. Let's see what happens with the model:

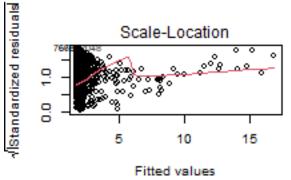


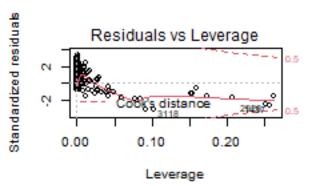
summary(model likes)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = log1p(num_likes) ~ abs(polarity) + subjectivity +
       num_followers + abs(polarity):subjectivity + abs(polarity):num_followers +
##
##
       subjectivity:num_followers, data = data)
##
##
  Residuals:
##
       Min
                1Q Median
                                3Q
                                       Max
           -2.705 -1.753
   -10.483
                             2.298
                                    11.192
##
##
##
  Coefficients:
##
                                 Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)
                                2.582e+00 8.613e-02
                                                      29.980 < 2e-16 ***
## abs(polarity)
                                5.517e-01
                                           1.705e-01
                                                       3.235
                                                              0.00122 **
## subjectivity
                                3.355e-01
                                           1.784e-01
                                                        1.881
                                                               0.06001
## num_followers
                                1.662e-07
                                           1.994e-08
                                                       8.335
                                                              < 2e-16 ***
## abs(polarity):subjectivity -4.149e-01
                                           3.527e-01
                                                       -1.176
                                                              0.23949
## abs(polarity):num_followers 6.359e-08
                                                              0.22470
                                           5.237e-08
                                                        1.214
## subjectivity:num_followers
                                4.262e-07
                                           6.502e-08
                                                       6.554 5.91e-11 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 3.438 on 9130 degrees of freedom
     (12 observations deleted due to missingness)
```









summary(model_retweets)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = log1p(num_retweets) ~ abs(polarity) + subjectivity +
##
       num_followers + abs(polarity):subjectivity + abs(polarity):num_followers +
       subjectivity:num_followers, data = data)
##
##
## Residuals:
##
      Min
              1Q Median
                                  Max
## -8.756 -2.050 -1.801 1.918 10.149
##
## Coefficients:
                                 Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
##
## (Intercept)
                                1.763e+00 7.415e-02 23.779 < 2e-16 ***
## abs(polarity)
                                4.886e-01
                                           1.468e-01
                                                        3.328 0.000878 ***
## subjectivity
                                2.864e-01
                                           1.536e-01
                                                        1.865 0.062215 .
```

```
## num followers
                               1.390e-07 1.717e-08
                                                      8.099 6.25e-16 ***
## abs(polarity):subjectivity -2.689e-01 3.036e-01
                                                     -0.886 0.375891
## abs(polarity):num followers 5.328e-08 4.508e-08
                                                      1.182 0.237364
## subjectivity:num_followers
                               3.170e-07 5.598e-08
                                                      5.663 1.53e-08 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 2.959 on 9130 degrees of freedom
     (12 observations deleted due to missingness)
## Multiple R-squared: 0.03447,
                                   Adjusted R-squared: 0.03384
## F-statistic: 54.32 on 6 and 9130 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

It turns out not much changed with our model, other than changes in the significance of abs(polarity) and subjectivity, and the loss of significance of the abs(polarity):subjectivity interaction. The coefficients for abs(polarity) and subjectivity are higher with 0-values removed (and the transformation on polarity, which we might call 'strength of polarity' or something along those lines).

Finally, we do still have evidence to reject the null hypothesis, and claim that there is a significant effect of polarity on the popularity of a tweet. But it should also be noted that we may not have landed on the best model for this dataset.

What remains is the best way to visualize this model. A good summation of the model might be done with a coefficient plot comprising the two models:

Significant Coefficients for Likes and Retweets Models

