

DS8006: Lab 2 “Twitter Basic Text Analysis”

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1. Briefly explain what libraries your script uses and why? List main functions of each library included in your script.

The script uses the following libraries:

Library	Description	Function Used
twitterR	R based Twitter client	<code>setup_twitter_oauth()</code> , <code>userTimeline()</code> , <code>twListToDF()</code>
httr	Dependency for twitterR	
rjson	Dependency for twitter	
tm	Text mining package	
lubridate	Dependency for twitterR	
stringr	String operations	<code>perl()</code>
wordcloud	Chart wordclouds	<code>wordcloud()</code>

2. In your own words, explain what tdmCreator function does? How would you improve and in a what way?

tdmCreator() transforms words into their stems and removes stop words. An idea for improvement is to add a parameter that allow for additional use-case specific stop words to be removed. These stop words would be specific to the context of the analysis being done.

3. Briefly explain how you completed each of the given tasks:

Task 1:

Added additional `gsub()` calls to the `textScrubber()` function, one per “noise” word.

Task 2:

Added an additional call to `gsub()` using regular expressions to remove words that are of length 1 or 2.

Task 3:

Added additional calls into `textScrubber()`. First replace ‘#’ into a reserved character, to keep it safe from all other scrubbing functions, then replace it back. In subsequent steps, I used a `perl` regular expression to remove all words that do not start with ‘#’ and then do some list manipulation to return an array of character strings with the hashtag terms.

Task 4:

Just by using the `wordcloud()` function over the scrubbed text. I chose not to use the stemmed version to keep core words for this context from being altered (like “Hillary” being stemmed into “Hillari”).

4. What was the most challenging part of this lab?

The most challenging part was in Task 3 to find a regular expression and other functions to keep only the hashtags.