A picture containing text, building, outdoor, sky

Description automatically generated

Icon

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**Game Design and Development - BSc (Hons)**

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**Data Analytics and Visualization**

**Data Wrangling Assessment**

# **Sentiment Analysis**

## What is Sentiment Analysis?

The concept of sentiment analysis involves “gathering natural language processing, text analysis, computational linguistics, and biometrics, and using the data collected to identify, extract, quantify, and study affective states and subjective information”. This information can then be used to categorize the opinions expressed and determine their polarity (positive, negative, neutral).

Sentiment analysis is a very powerful tool when utilized for business or marketing. It is possible for businesses to understand the sentiment of customers, what is trending and what conversations they are having. This is done to quantify attitudes, opinions, and emotions related to the business. For this reason, sentiment analysis is sometimes referred to as opinion mining. With Twitter, sentiment analysis is achieved by collecting a range of tweets associated to a similar topic, computing the sentiment polarity and strong points of each tweet, and finally, combining the results of such tweets.

## How is sentiment analysis performed?

Sentiment analysis can be achieved with natural language processing and machine learning. Messages are broken down into sections of specific topics, where each topic is assigned a sentiment score. Assume the following twitter post was made: *“Yesterday I went to Starbucks for the first time, and I really enjoyed it. The coffee is so amazing! Their cookies were not the best though.”* A sentiment analysis tool would gather the text taken from the post and divide it into sections, assigning scores to each topic. For example:

* Starbucks…really enjoyed = +2
* Coffee…amazing = +4
* Cookies…not the best = -2

Public opinion can be monitored in real-time as a new marketing campaign, product, or service is in process. Using the above example, imagine Starbucks were experimenting with a new cookie recipe. Processing tweets such as the one above could give real-time feedback after launching new products and used to track public opinion, allowing for automated/accurate market research to be conducted.

## Using Sentiment Analysis Libraries

Sentiment Analysis can be explored in Python using libraries such as Textblob and VADER. These libraries can be combined with other tools, such as pandas, for accurate data analysis. Textblob is an open-source python library used to process textual data. It performs operations such as noun phrase extraction, classification, translation, etc. VADER is a tool that is specifically tailored to sentiments expressed on social media, such as Twitter posts. VADER can be used to give a Positivity/ Negativity score and can be used to portray how positive or negative the sentiment is.

These libraries can be utilized to expand upon the Data Wrangling Assignment (Figures 1,2,3) to sort data based on polarity. The analyzers mentioned above use real numbers between 1 and -1 to represent the polarity of the sentiment using key words found in the tweet’s text field ( ‘1’ meaning positive feedback and ‘-1’ meaning negative feedback). It could be possible to iterate through the collected tweets and run them through the analyzers, adding a new polarity score to their respective row in the CSV file. From here, collected data could be sorted based on polarity score in Figure 3.

## Search\_tweets.py

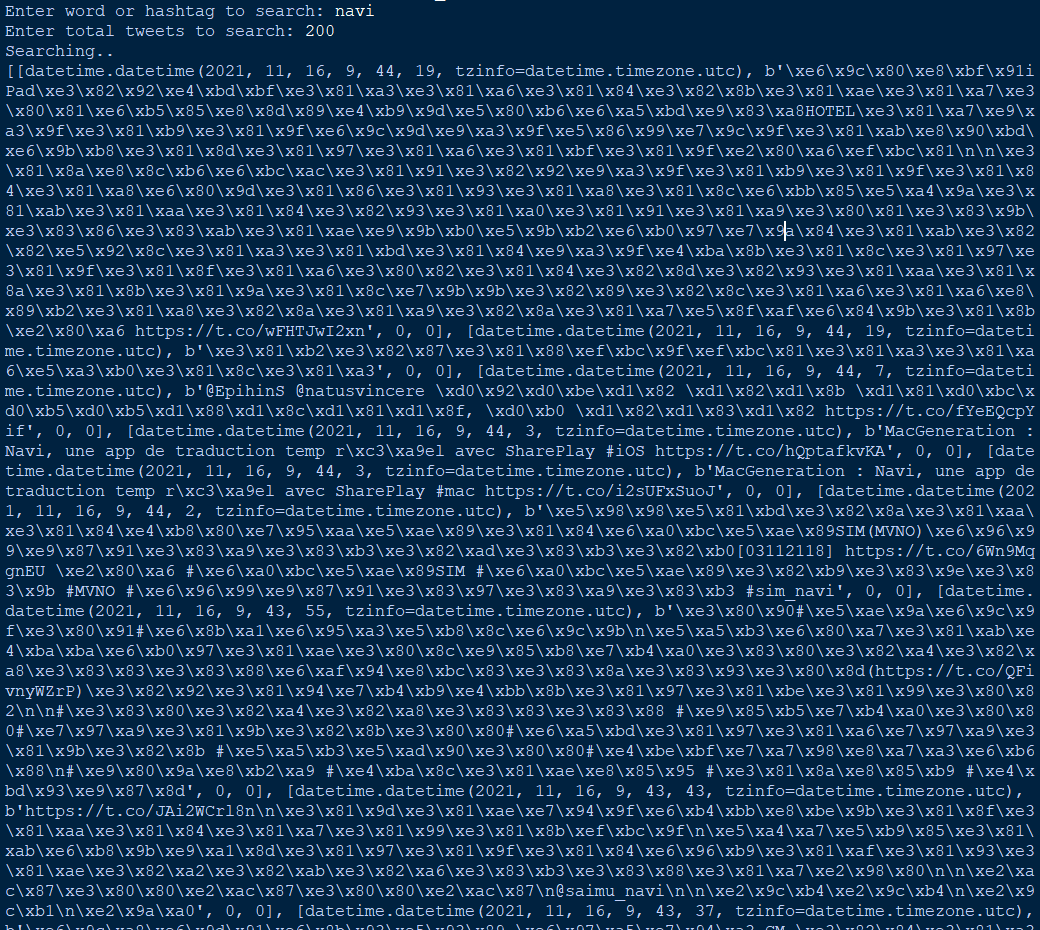
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Figure 1 – Searching for tweets containing the given word or hashtag

## Generated CSV File

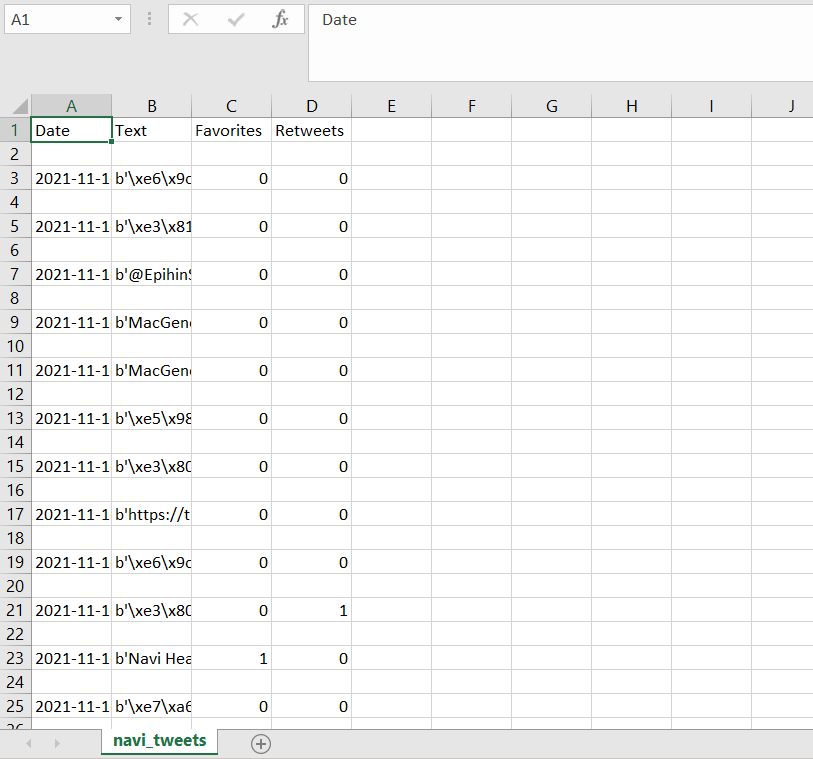
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Figure 2 – The CSV file created after searching for a specific word or hashtag

## Read\_csv.py

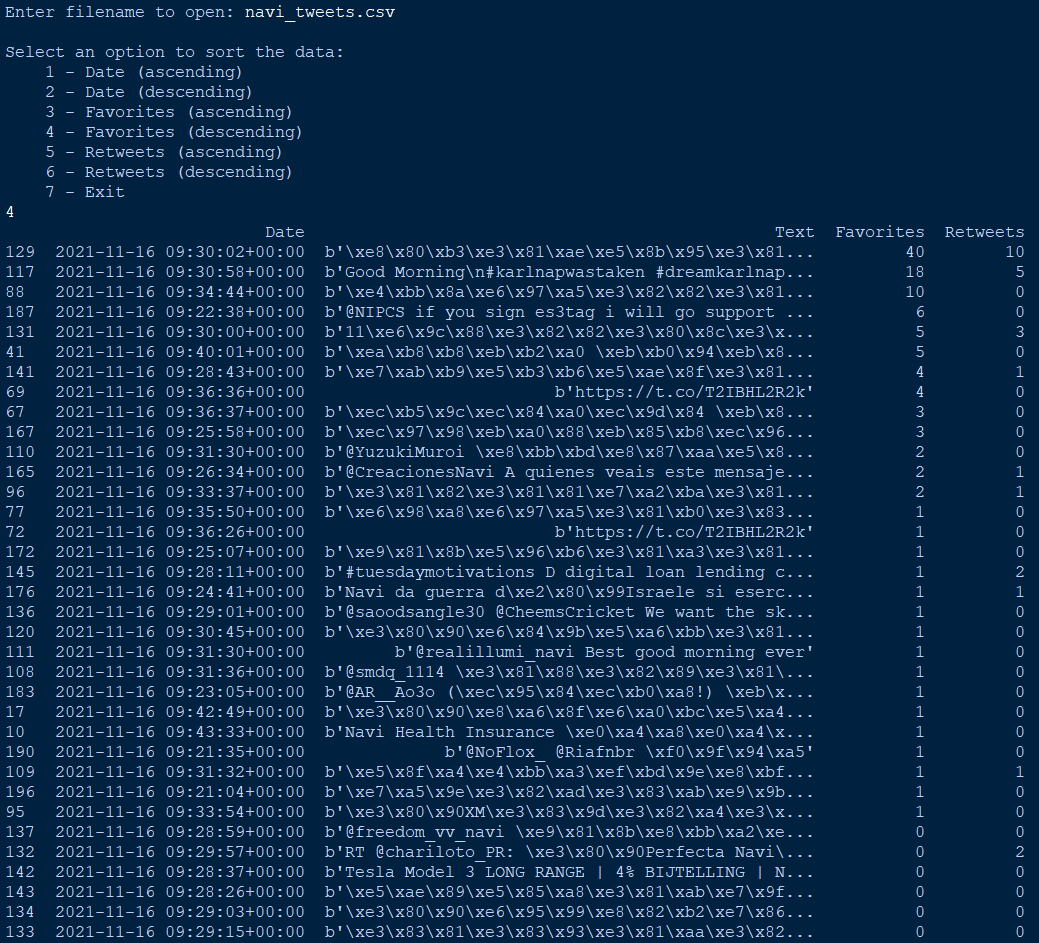


Figure 3 - Reading the data from the CSV and sorting the data

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