

Congressional Use of Twitter

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Research Question

- How do congresspeople use Twitter?
 - Does twitter usage depend on age, sex, party affiliation?
 - Does twitter usage depend on voter demographics?

Progress so far

- Collected Twitter data using the Twitter API
- Downloaded other data from websites
- Used MySQL to join the tables

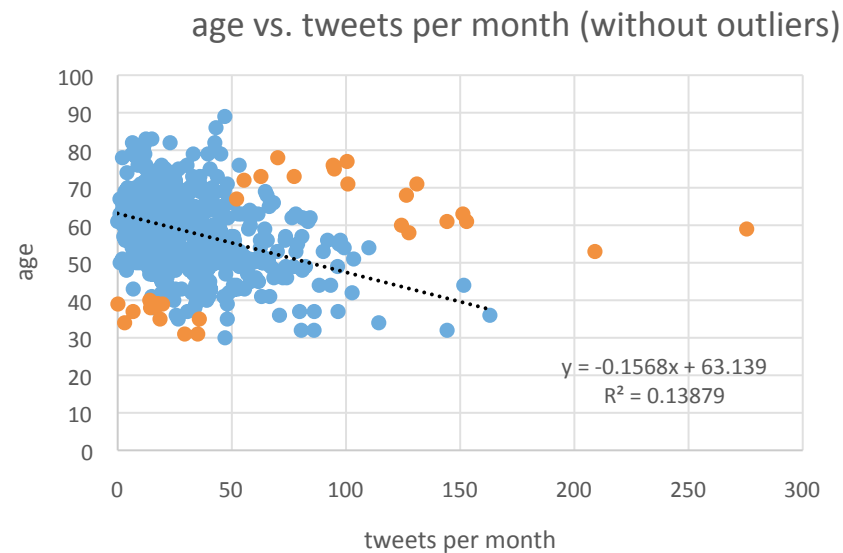
```
wabbit:regressions-clean jessica$ ls
18to24VSfollowers.csv
18to24VSfollowersPC.csv
18to24VSfollowing.csv
18to24VSfollowingPC.csv
18to24VStweets.csv
65andoverVSfollowers.csv
65andoverVSfollowersPC.csv
65andoverVSfollowing.csv
65andoverVSfollowingPC.csv
65andoverVStweets.csv
ageVSfollowers.csv
ageVSfollowersPC.csv
ageVSfollowing.csv
ageVSfollowingPC.csv
ageVStweets.csv
age_party_gender_statusVSfollowers.csv
age_party_gender_statusVSfollowersPC.csv
age_party_gender_statusVSfollowing.csv
age_party_gender_statusVSfollowingPC.csv
age_party_gender_statusVStweets.csv
genderVSfollowers.csv
genderVSfollowersPC.csv
genderVSfollowing.csv
```

Progress so far

- Univariate regressions done for congresspeople to correlate age vs. # followers, # following, average no. tweets per month
- T-tests to see whether there is a difference in # followers, # following, # tweets/month due to gender, party, status (House or Senate)
- Univariate regressions done for voters to correlate age (18-24, 65 and over) vs. # followers, # following, # tweets

Progress so far

- No good correlation between congressional age and twitter activity
- Strongest correlation so far is between congressional age and tweets made per month



Progress so far

- T-tests
 - Senators produce more tweets per month than representatives
 - Senators follow more users per capita
 - Senators have more followers per capita
 - Republicans have more followers than Democrats

Work left to be done

- Multivariate regressions for congresspeople to correlate age, party, gender, status vs. # followers/following/tweets
- Multivariate regressions for voters to correlate race (white, black, Asian, mixed) vs. # followers/following/tweets

Hurdles or Problems

- Outliers
 - Some congressmen are extremely popular on Twitter
 - Skews regression and t-test statistics
 - Plotted data on a log scale, with poor results

Suggestions?

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Opinions?