

Modeling Tesla Stock Price Using Tweets

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Executive summary

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1 Introduction

Public opinion of a company can be beneficial or harmful to a company's image and may also affect their sales or profits. Thus, every large company hires employees to benefit their branding, marketing, and public communications. We set to investigate if we can quantify a relationship between a company's public image and their financial health using the case study of Tesla.

Tesla, a company which specializes in electric vehicles, is currently led by Elon Musk, who is often intertwined with the company's public image. Musk can be considered a public relations nightmare, engaging in Twitter rants and having a lack of filter that often leads to controversies and speculation.

To measure public opinion, we use textual data gathered from Twitter, a text-based social media with millions of English-speaking users. Tweets mentioning Tesla or the company's stock ticker, TSLA, over one year were collected (09-30-2021 to 09-30-2022). From the tweets, we assign sentiment scores based on the positive and negative language used from the text of the tweets, giving us a measurable proxy for public opinion. To measure the financial health of Tesla, we observe its adjusted closing stock price and returns over same the year.

We chose Tesla because of our background knowledge of its popularity within the public eye, giving us a wealth of positive and negative examples for sentiment analysis. Also, Tesla's stock TSLA is a notably volatile stock, jumping between \$209.38 and \$409.97 several times during the year of data.

We engage in time series analysis and attempt to investigate a potential relationship between Tesla's Twitter sentiment and stock returns on a given day over the year of data.

1.1 Research Questions

- Does sentiment of Tesla-related tweets have a relationship with Tesla's stock returns on a given day?
- Can we use the sentiment of tweets mentioning Tesla to forecast Tesla's stock returns on a given day?

1.2 Data

For this analysis, we utilized two related datasets from Kaggle.

Twitter tweets: 80793 tweets, 25 companies (including Tesla)

Stock Market Data: Daily close price of stock for the same 25 companies

Companies are the top 25 “most watched” stocks from Yahoo Finance and we filtered our data to only include tweets that mention Tesla or TSLA stock. This left us with 46% of the tweets in data mentioned TSLA (37422 tweets) across the year of data collection.

Date range: 09-30-2021 to 09-30-2022 (excluding weekends).

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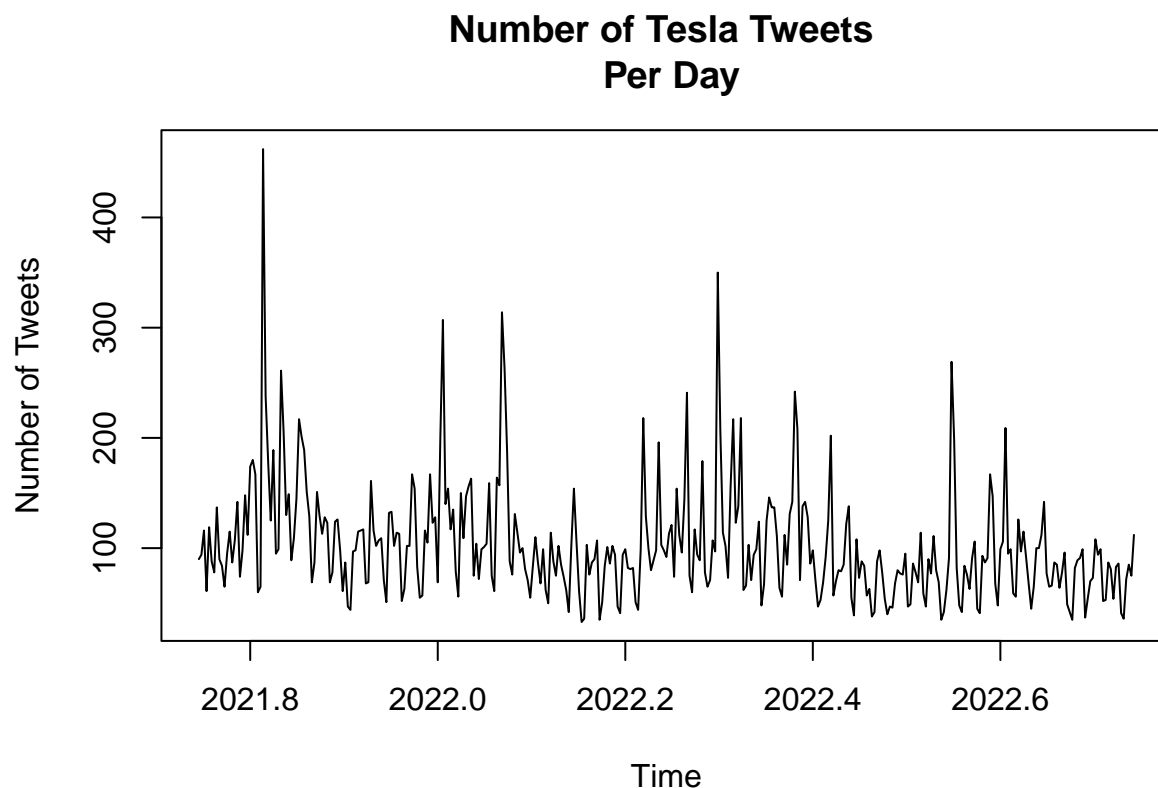
2 Methods

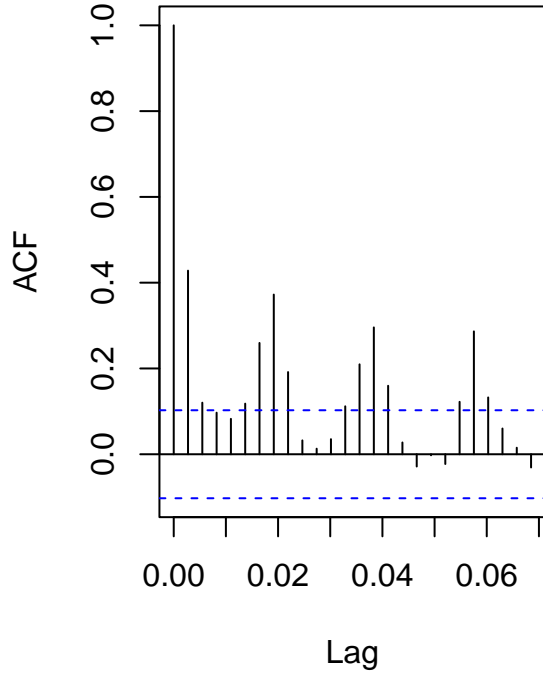
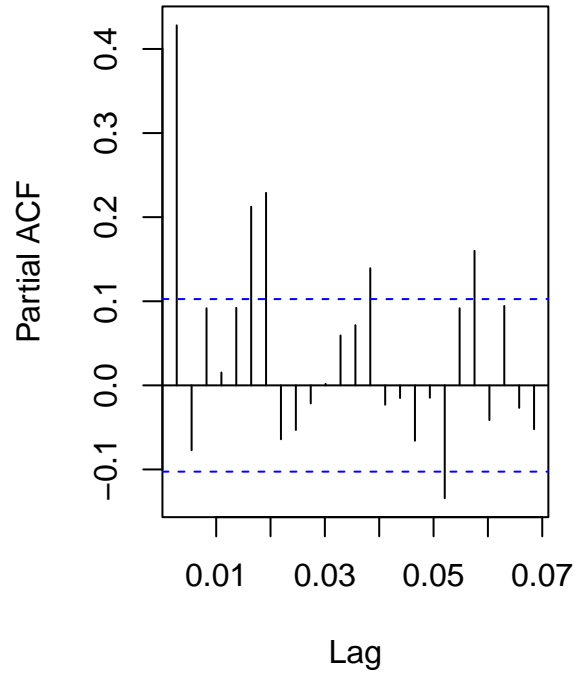
2.1 Exploratory Data Analysis

Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) was conducted for deciding on reasonable data transformations and analysis, determining which type of model to use, and choosing the parameters for these models.

2.2 Number of Tesla Tweets Per Day

Our data included tweets from 09-30-2021 to 09-30-2022 (excluding weekends) which mentioned either Tesla’s stock ticker or the company name itself. Our data included 37,422 tweets regarding Tesla over the year. Here, we view the number of tweets mentioning Tesla per day plotted over time along with the ACF and PACF plots of the time series.



ACF of Number of Tesla Tweets**PACF of Number of Tesla Tweets:**

The time series of the number of Tesla tweets per day shows non-stationary characteristics, with noticeable fluctuations and periodic spikes indicating changes in the mean and variance over time. The ACF plot specifically shows possible seasonality with four clusters of ACF spikes over the time period of the data. These spikes in the number of tweets mentioning Tesla appear to occur approximately every three months.

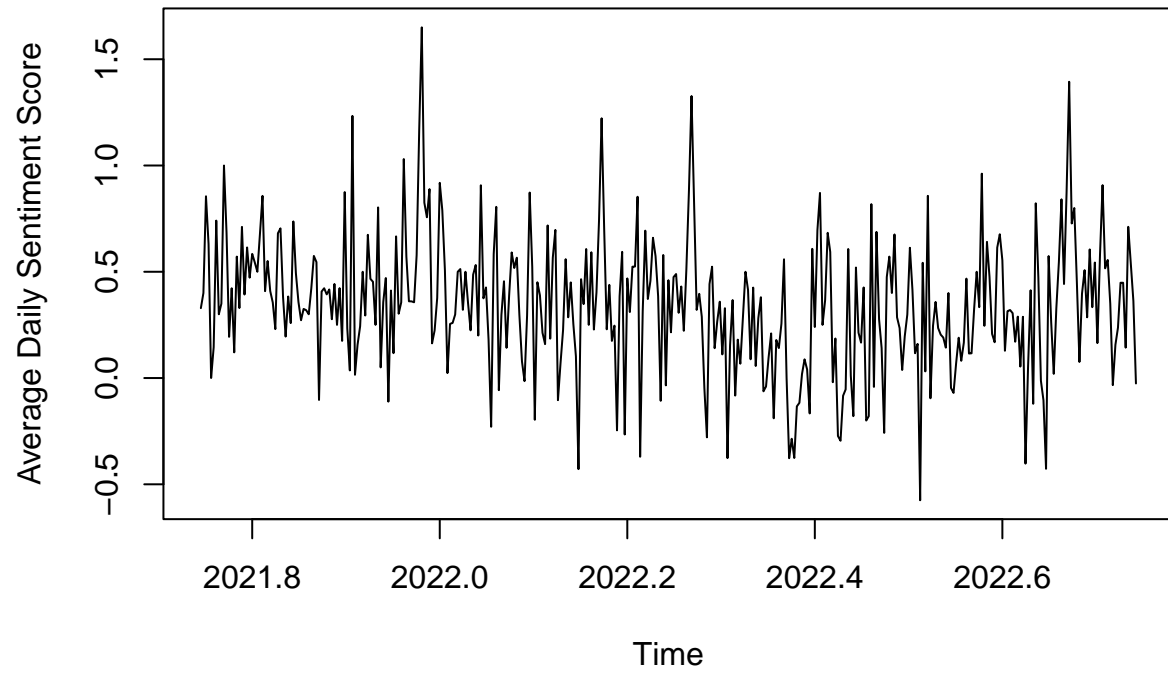
Since the number of Tesla tweets varies per day in a periodic manner, we decided to use averaging in our calculation of daily tweet sentiment. Thus, the fluctuating number of Tesla tweets is accounted for.

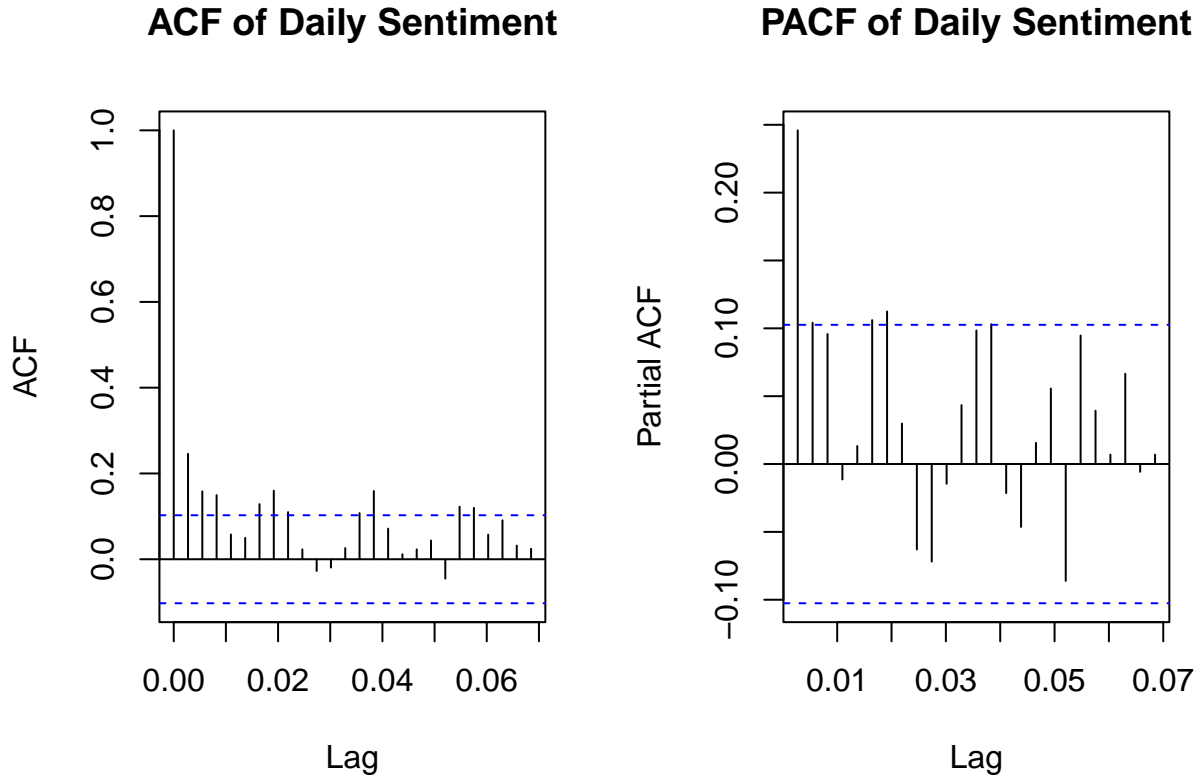
2.3 Daily Sentiment of Tesla Tweets

For our analysis, we calculated a daily score representing the average sentiment (positive or negative) for Tesla tweets posted on the given day. Our approach involved breaking each tweet into a bag of words representation, where each word is given a sentiment score of 1 if it is positive, -1 if it is negative, and 0 otherwise (neutral). These individual word scores were then summed into a sentiment score for each tweet. The sentiment scores per tweet ranged from -9 to 9. Finally, the individual tweet sentiment scores were averaged into a daily tweet sentiment score for the day. The daily sentiment scores ranged from -0.575 to 1.65.

Here, we can view the daily sentiment of tweets over the year of our data along with the ACF and PACF.

Daily Sentiment of Tesla Tweets



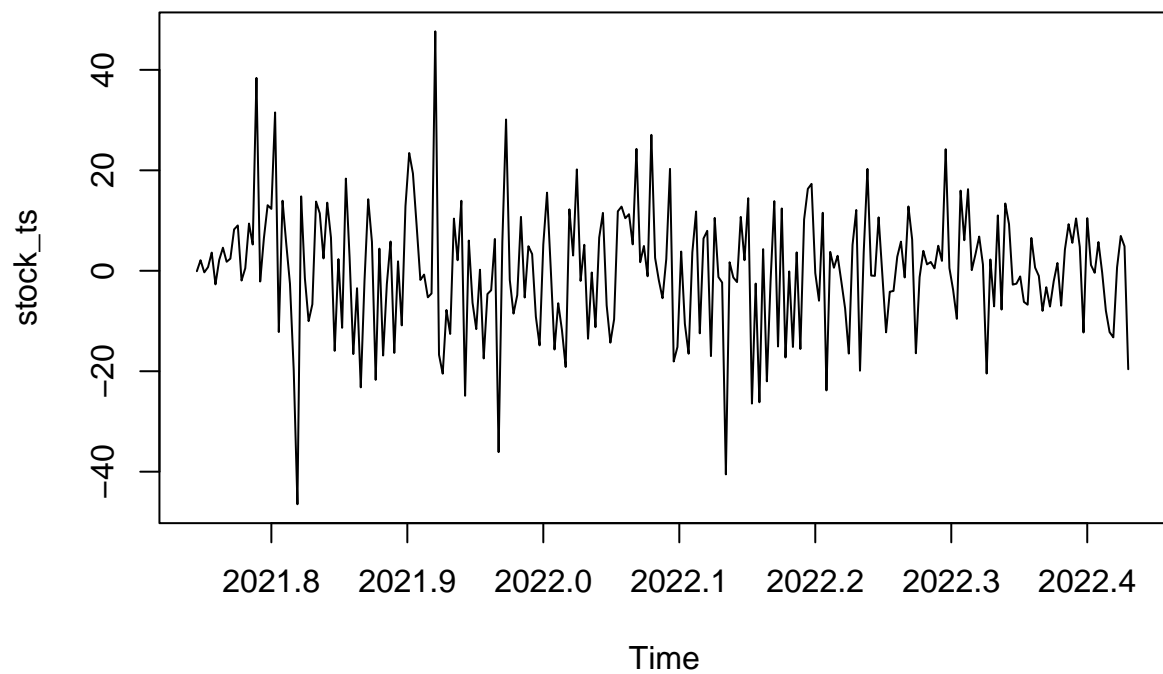


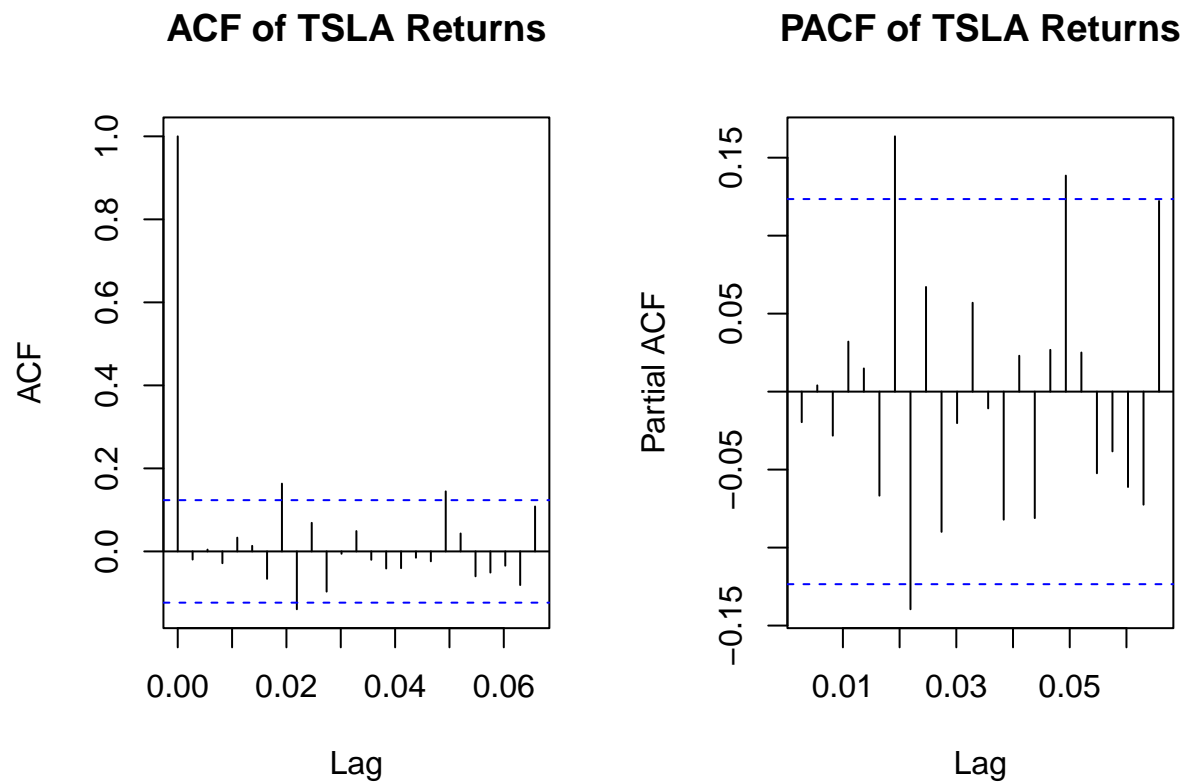
Similarly to the number of Tesla tweets per day, we observe non-stationary characteristics for the daily sentiment of Tesla tweets. we see four sections of ACF spikes approximately 3 months apart, suggesting seasonality. However, the magnitude of the spikes for daily sentiment of tweets is less severe than the magnitude of the corresponding spikes for the number of tweets per day. This is potentially due to the averaging of each individual tweet's sentiment score to produce a daily metric.

2.4 TSLA Stock Price and Returns

We calculated the returns of the TSLA stock by differencing the adjusted close price of TSLA to 1 degree.

TSLA Returns

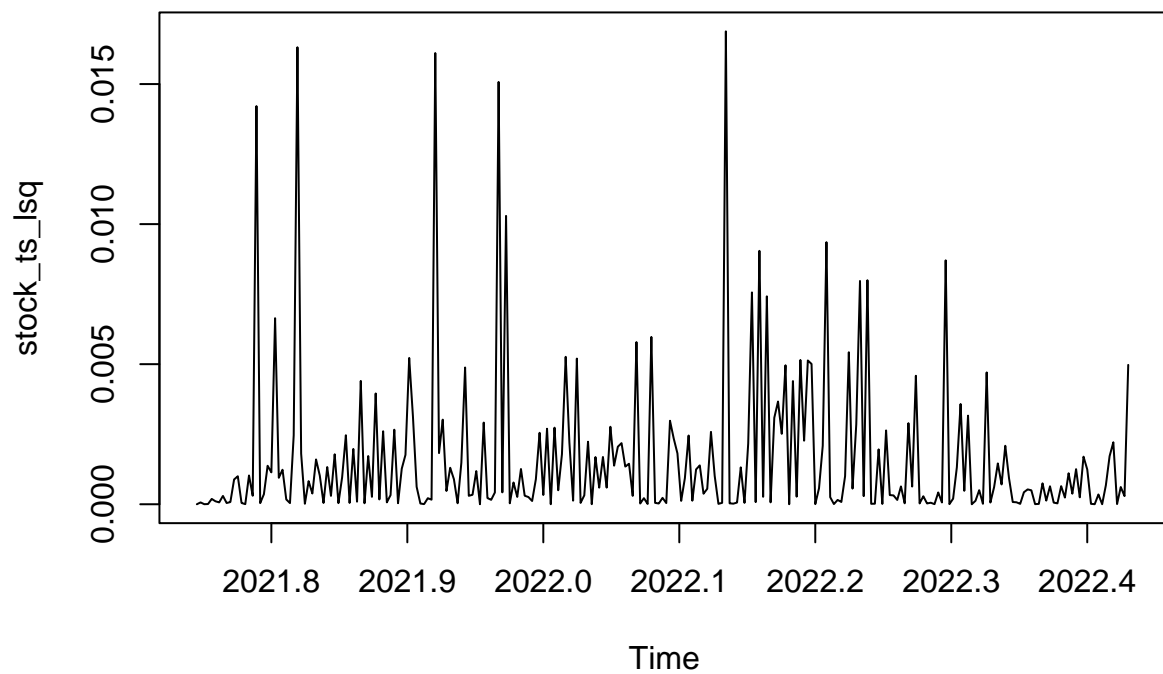


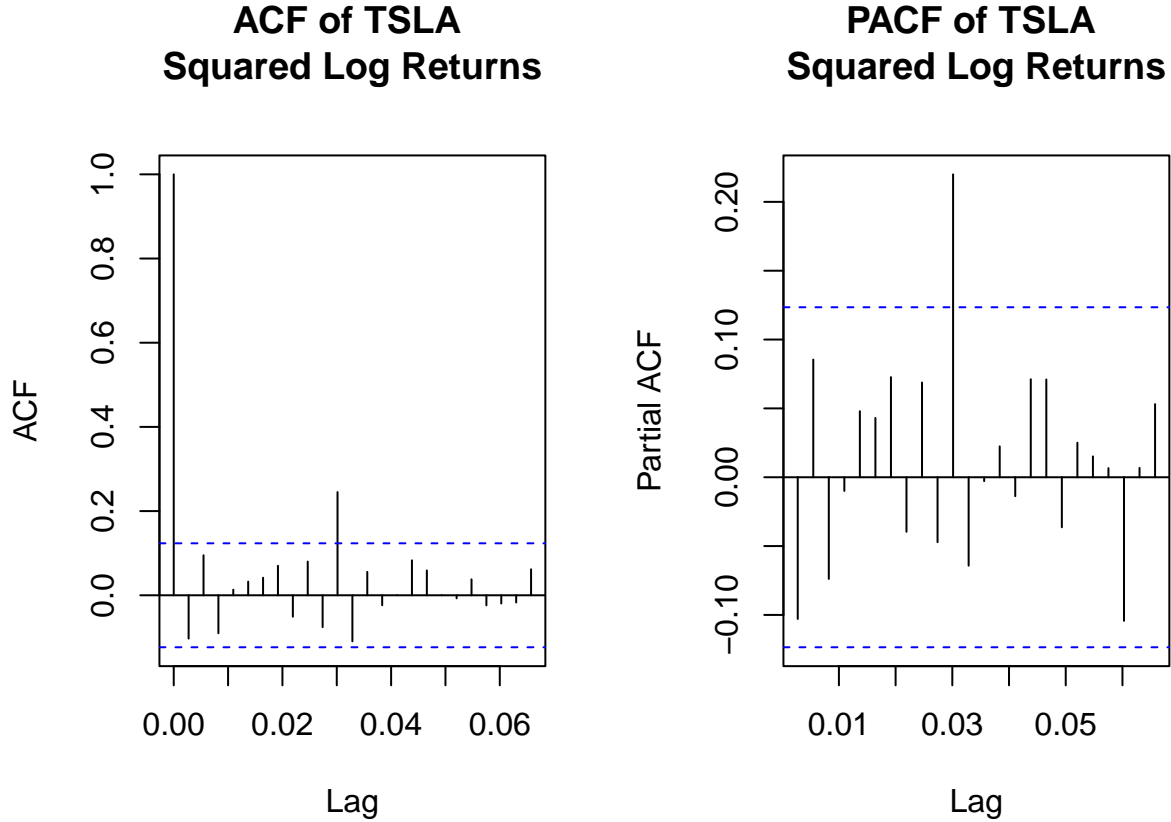


For TSLA returns, we see slight non-stationary characteristics. The ACF and PACF plots exhibit spikes outside the white noise error bounds at around lag 0.02 and 0.05. The time series plot of TSLA returns also exhibits some evidence of heteroskedasticity, with a truncated shape of the time series. The earlier returns exhibit a wider variance than the later returns.

Thus, we decided to square the logged returns to alleviate the slight non-stationary characteristics and heteroskedasticity.

TSLA Squared Log Returns





The square of logged TSLA returns exhibits only one ACF and PACF spike at around lag 0.03 and the plot of the square of logged TSLA returns no longer has a truncated shape.

So, we continued with using the square of logged TSLA returns to represent the measure of TSLA stock price in our model.

2.5 GARCH Model

Based on the non-constant variance and non-stationarity seen from the EDA for daily sentiment, we decided to use a GARCH model. A GARCH (generalized autoregressive conditionally heteroskedastic) model uses values of the past observations and variances to model the variance at time t . GARCH is used commonly with financial data because of the high volatility. Since we calculated the order of the model from running `auto.arima()`, we decided to fit a GARCH(1, 1) model to returns, the difference of the log of the adjusted closing price.

2.5.1 `auto.arima()`

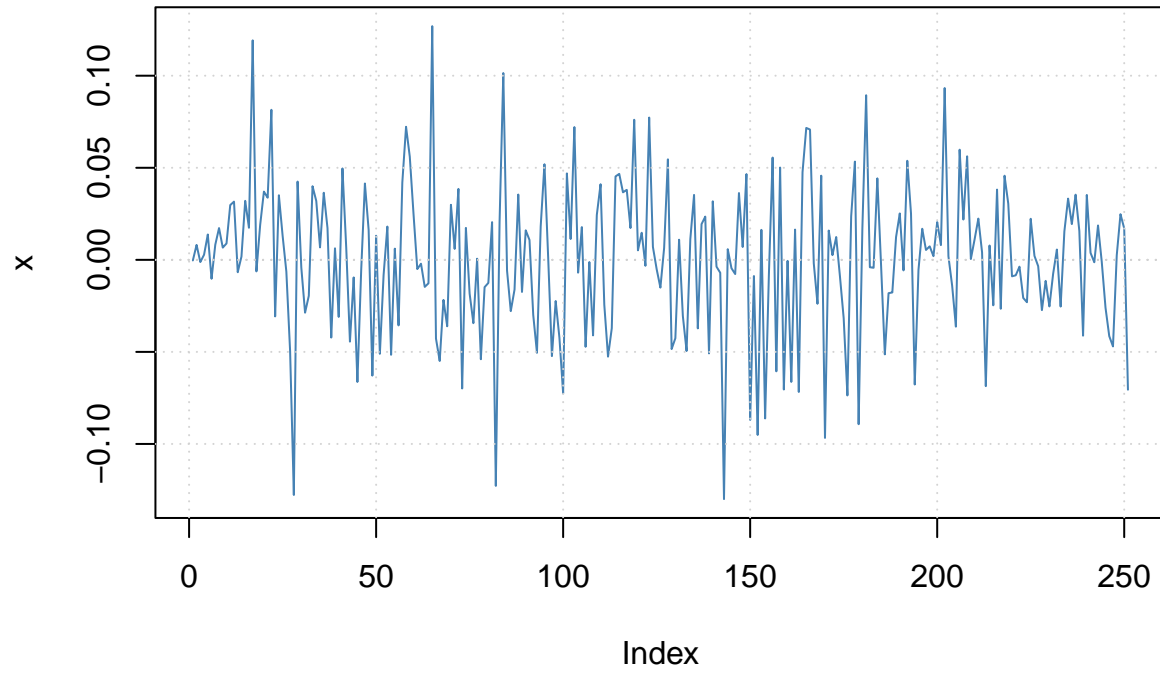
The `auto.arima()` function was applied on the squared logged returns, which is the difference of the log of the adjusted closing price squared. This helped identify if there was autoregression or moving average pattern in the volatility of the returns and helps determine the order of the GARCH model.

2.6 VAR

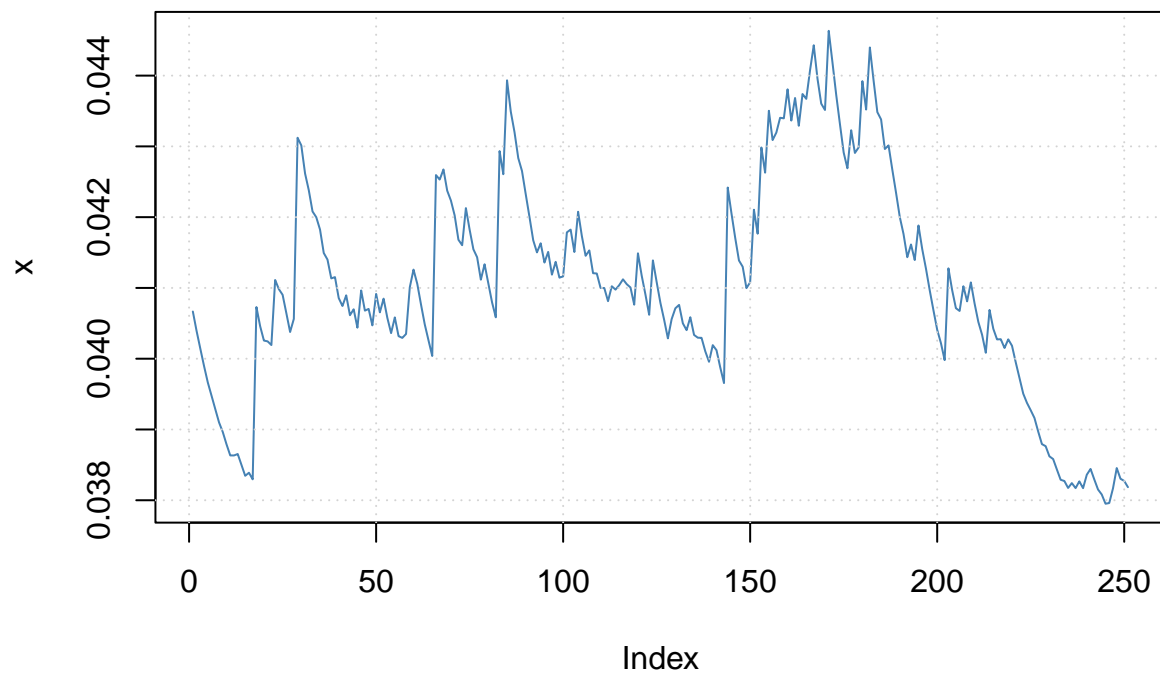
We used a VAR (Vector Autoregression) model for feature selection for the two linear models. After running the `VARselect()` function, we found that the lagged values of daily sentiment and lagged values of returns.

3 Results

Time Series



Conditional SD



	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	-0.001044	0.004789	-0.2179	0.8277
Returns_l1	-0.0182	0.06541	-0.2783	0.781
Returns_l2	0.02776	0.06567	0.4228	0.6728
daily_sentiment	-0.002767	0.01051	-0.2634	0.7925
daily_sentiment_l1	-0.01416	0.01044	-1.356	0.1763
daily_sentiment_l2	0.02117	0.01028	2.06	0.04045

Table 2: Fitting linear model: $\text{Returns} \sim \text{Returns_l1} + \text{Returns_l2} + \text{daily_sentiment} + \text{daily_sentiment_l1} + \text{daily_sentiment_l2}$

Observations	Residual Std. Error	R^2	Adjusted R^2
249	0.04085	0.02186	0.001734

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	0.1871	0.02666	7.019	2.223e-11
Returns	-0.1031	0.3916	-0.2634	0.7925
Returns_l1	1.311	0.3905	3.358	0.0009101
Returns_l2	0.7894	0.3979	1.984	0.04837
daily_sentiment_l1	0.1618	0.06313	2.564	0.01096
daily_sentiment_l2	0.1585	0.06247	2.537	0.01182

Table 4: Fitting linear model: $\text{daily_sentiment} \sim \text{Returns} + \text{Returns_l1} + \text{Returns_l2} + \text{daily_sentiment_l1} + \text{daily_sentiment_l2}$

Observations	Residual Std. Error	R^2	Adjusted R^2
249	0.2494	0.12	0.1019

Based on the Garch(1,1) fit, we see that only the GARCH coefficient of 0.939 is significant at $\alpha = 0.05$ level ($p \approx 0$). This model suggests that the volatility of the Tesla's stock returns is best predicted by the lagged conditional variance since other coefficients are not statistically significant. If we take a look at the conditional volatility plot, we indeed see that the conditional volatility is in different clusters of high and low volatility, meaning that it exhibits volatility clustering.

Going further into modeling the Tesla's stock price, we used the lag 1 and lag 2 terms of the returns, and also the lag 1 and lag 2 of the daily sentiment scores of the tweets. Our model is:

$$\text{Return} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Return}_1 + \beta_2 \text{Return}_2 + \beta_3 \text{sentiment} + \beta_4 \text{sentiment}_1 + \beta_5 \text{sentiment}_2$$

Based on the output, we see that only the lag 2 term for daily sentiment score is significant with estimate of 0.02 ($p=0.0405$). The adjusted R squared value is 0.001734, which means that we can only explain the 0.1734% of the variability in the response value. Thus, this model is not so helpful in predicting the return.

For predicting the daily sentiment score based on its previous lagged terms and the returns, the model is:

$$\text{sentiment} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{sentiment}_1 + \beta_2 \text{sentiment}_2 + \beta_3 \text{Return} + \beta_4 \text{Return}_1 + \beta_5 \text{Return}_2$$

The lagged 1 and 2 terms of both returns and daily sentiment score are significant, which intuitively makes sense. However, this model is not as useful since we can't make profit off of predicting the sentiment as opposed to predicting the stock returns. Further is discussed in discussion section.

4 Discussion

Our goal for this project was to predict Tesla's stock price based on the sentiment of the tweets. For the first linear model, we are predicting returns based on past returns, current daily sentiment, past daily sentiment. We see only one statistically significant coefficient, which means none of the other features have a statistically significant coefficient other than L2 daily sentiment. However, L2 daily sentiment has a small magnitude of 0.02, reflecting a weak correlation between returns and L2 daily sentiment. In the second linear model, we are predicting daily sentiment using returns, past returns, past daily sentiment. Almost all of the features are statistically significant value other than current returns. The adjusted R^2 of 10% suggests that these features account for 10% of the variability of daily sentiment. Past returns and past daily sentiment Granger causes current daily sentiment, i.e. past returns and past daily sentiment can be used to predict the daily sentiment for the current day. However, our original hypothesis was that we would be able to predict returns and stock price using past returns and daily sentiment, which is the opposite direction of Granger causality.

The findings from our model indicate a limited capacity for using tweet sentiment and frequency to predict Tesla's stock price. The significant but minimal correlation found in L2 daily sentiment suggests that while some predictive power exists, it is not strong enough to influence financial decisions effectively. The ability to predict daily sentiment from past stock prices and sentiment highlights potential areas for deeper exploration into the dynamics between social media and financial markets.

4.1 Conclusion

TSLA Stock returns cannot be predicted based on the current or lagged 1 values of daily sentiment or lagged 1 or 2 values for returns. The coefficient for lagged 2 daily sentiment is statistically significant but too small to be useful. Daily sentiment cannot be predicted based on current stock returns but can be explained by the lagged 1 or 2 values of the stock price or daily sentiment.

4.2 Future Work

As we move forward, our project will concentrate on enhancing the predictive models and broadening the analytical scope to better understand the relationship between public opinion and stock market behavior. Future efforts will include incorporating broader market performance indicators to understand Tesla's stock movements within the larger financial ecosystem. We will also explore longer temporal analyses to determine whether the effects of negative social media events on stock prices are only temporary or if they have a lasting impact. Additionally, we plan to incorporate tweet engagement metrics such as likes, retweets, and views, which may offer deeper insights into how social media dynamics can influence stock price movements. Through these improvements, we aim to build stronger predictive tools for financial market analysis, refining our approach to use the predictive power of social media sentiment more effectively.

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Appendix

Notice how the appendix below gathers all the code blocks above and nicely pastes them together.

```
#####
# STYLE EDITS: IGNORE THIS
#####

# normally you'll want to include this with the libraries at the beginning of your document
knitr::opts_chunk$set(message = FALSE) # include this if you don't want markdown to knit messages
knitr::opts_chunk$set(warning = FALSE) # include this if you don't want markdown to knit warnings
knitr::opts_chunk$set(echo = FALSE) # set echo = FALSE to hide code from output
suppressMessages(library(tidyverse))
suppressMessages(library(lubridate))
suppressMessages(library(tidytext))
suppressMessages(library(textdata))
suppressMessages(library(dplyr))
suppressMessages(library(quantmod))
suppressMessages(library(fGarch))
suppressMessages(library(pander))
# Gather stock tweets data
tweets <- read.csv("/Users/divyarao/time-series-tweets-stocks/data/stock_tweets.csv")
# Retaining the year, month, day
tweets$day <- as.Date(tweets$Date, "%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S")
# Filter to just Tesla tweets
tesla <- filter(tweets, tweets$Company.Name == "Tesla, Inc.")
num_tweets_tesla <- data.frame(table(tesla$day))
names(num_tweets_tesla) <- c("day", "num_tweets")
# Time series for number of Tesla tweets per day
tesla_ts <- ts(num_tweets_tesla$num_tweets,
               start = c(2021, 273),
               frequency = 365)
plot(tesla_ts, main = "Number of Tesla Tweets \n Per Day",
     ylab = "Number of Tweets")
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
acf(tesla_ts, main = "ACF of Number of Tesla Tweets")
pacf(tesla_ts, main = "PACF of Number of Tesla Tweets")
df <- read.csv("/Users/divyarao/time-series-tweets-stocks/data/stock_tweets.csv") %>%
  filter(Stock.Name == 'TSLA') %>%
  mutate(Tweet.ID = row_number()) %>%
  dplyr::select(Tweet.ID, Date, Tweet)
#dim(df)
#names(df)

df$Date <- ymd(substr(df$Date, 1, 10))
tweets <- data.frame(df)

# Sentiment analysis
map_bing_sentiment <- function(sentiment) {
  ifelse(sentiment %in% c("positive"), 1, ifelse(sentiment %in% c("negative"), -1, 0))
}

map_nrc_sentiment <- function(sentiment) {
  nrc_positive_sentiments <- c("positive", "anticipation", "surprise", "trust", "joy")
```

```

nrc_negative_sentiments <- c("negative", "anger", "disgust", "fear", "sadness")
ifelse(sentiment %in% nrc_positive_sentiments, 1,
      ifelse(sentiment %in% nrc_negative_sentiments, -1, 0))
}

tweet_tokens <- tweets %>%
  unnest_tokens(word, Tweet)

sentiments <- get_sentiments("bing") %>% mutate(sentiment_score = map_bing_sentiment(sentiment))

tweets_sentiment <- tweet_tokens %>%
  inner_join(sentiments, by = "word", relationship = "many-to-many") %>%
  distinct(Tweet.ID, Date, word, .keep_all = TRUE)

tweets_sentiment_summary <- tweets_sentiment %>%
  group_by(Tweet.ID, Date) %>%
  summarise(sentiment_score = sum(sentiment_score, na.rm = TRUE), .groups = "drop")

daily_sentiment <- tweets_sentiment_summary %>%
  group_by(Date) %>%
  summarise(daily_sentiment = mean(sentiment_score))
sentiment_ts <- ts(daily_sentiment$daily_sentiment,
  start = c(2021, 273),
  frequency = 365)
plot(sentiment_ts, main = "Daily Sentiment of Tesla Tweets",
  ylab = "Average Daily Sentiment Score")
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
acf(sentiment_ts, main = "ACF of Daily Sentiment")
pacf(sentiment_ts, main = "PACF of Daily Sentiment")
df <- read.csv("/Users/divyarao/time-series-tweets-stocks/data/stock_yfinance_data.csv") %>%
  filter(Stock.Name == 'TSLA') %>%
  dplyr::select(Date, Adj.Close)
df$Date <- as.Date(df$Date)
df$Returns <- c(diff(df$Adj.Close), NA)
stock_ts <- ts(df$Returns,
  start = c(2021, 273),
  frequency = 365)
df$Returns <- c(diff(log(df$Adj.Close)), NA)
stock_ts_lsqr <- ts(df$Returns^2,
  start = c(2021, 273),
  frequency = 365)
stock <- data.frame(df)
stock <- stock %>% na.omit()
# EDA TSLA returns
plot(stock_ts, main="TSLA Returns")
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
acf(stock_ts, main="ACF of TSLA Returns", na.action = na.pass)
pacf(stock_ts, main="PACF of TSLA Returns", na.action = na.pass)
plot(stock_ts_lsqr, main="TSLA Squared Log Returns")
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
acf(stock_ts_lsqr, main="ACF of TSLA \nSquared Log Returns", na.action = na.pass)
pacf(stock_ts_lsqr, main="PACF of TSLA \nSquared Log Returns", na.action = na.pass)
suppressWarnings(library(forecast))

```

```

arma_rt_squared <- auto.arima(stock$Returns^2, max.p = 5, max.q = 5, max.order = 10,
                             stationary = T, seasonal = F, trace = F,
                             stepwise = F, approximation = F)

#summary(arma_rt_squared)
stock_ts <- ts(stock$Returns,
               start=c(2021,9),
               frequency=365)
garch_model <- garchFit(~ garch(1,1), data=stock_ts, trace=FALSE)
#summary(garch_model)

par(mfrow=c(1,1))
plot(garch_model, which = 1)
plot(garch_model, which = 2)

par(mfrow=c(1,1))
combined_data <- left_join(stock, daily_sentiment, by = "Date")
#cor(combined_data$daily_sentiment, combined_data$Returns, use = "complete.obs")
model <- lm>Returns ~ daily_sentiment, data = combined_data)
#pander(summary(model))
suppressMessages(library(vars))
df <- combined_data[, c("Returns", "daily_sentiment")]
# VARselect
lag.select <- VARselect(df,
                        lag.max = 30,
                        type = "both")
optimal.lags <- lag.select$selection['AIC(n)']

# Fit the VAR model
var.model <- VAR(df, p = optimal.lags)

#pander(summary(var.model))
suppressMessages(library(dplyr))

combined_data <- combined_data %>%
  arrange(Date) %>%
  mutate(
    Returns_l1 = lag>Returns, 1),
    Returns_l2 = lag>Returns, 2),
    daily_sentiment_l1 = lag(daily_sentiment, 1),
    daily_sentiment_l2 = lag(daily_sentiment, 2)
  )

model <- lm>Returns ~ Returns_l1 + Returns_l2 + daily_sentiment + daily_sentiment_l1 + daily_sentiment_l2)

pander(summary(model))
model <- lm(daily_sentiment ~ Returns + Returns_l1 + Returns_l2 + daily_sentiment_l1 + daily_sentiment_l2)

pander(summary(model))

```