Trollter

Matt Cole

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Introduction

Internet trolls are a considered a menace in nearly all online communities by creating fruitless arguments in an attempt to generate emotional, and typically angry reactions. Motivations behind these people are unclear, but some social scientists have postulated that a strange phenomenon known as the "disinhibition effect" may be to blame. Masked behind the apparent anonymity provided by many forms, sites, and the internet in general, social reservations that facilitate normal, face-to-face conversations are gone, resulting in sometimes wild and rude behavior. Troll behavior can range from simply posting the same status repeatidly to annoy and clog streams of information to violent threats and many, many 'things' inbetween.

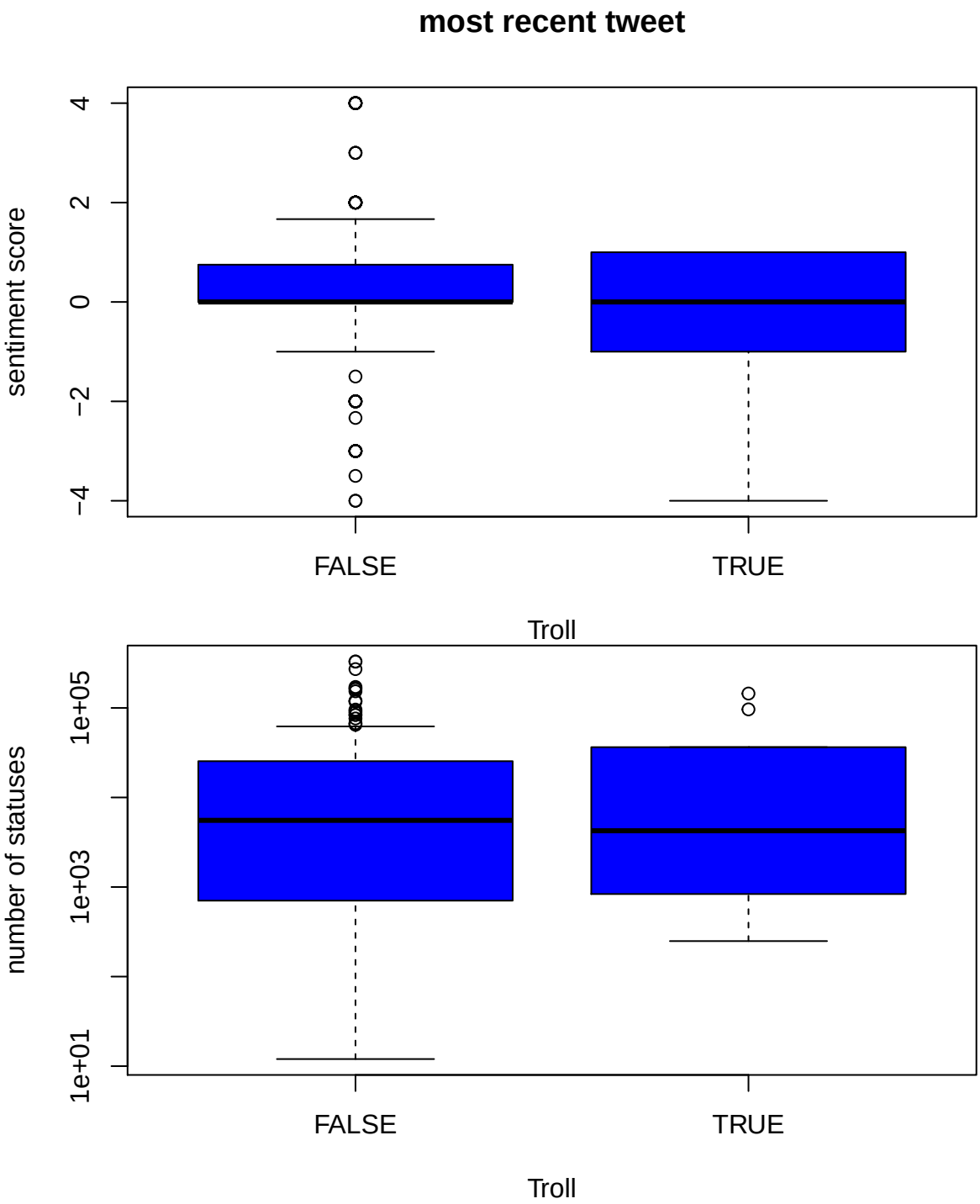
In this project, we focused on political trolls on Twitter, those whose tweets aim to disrupt a flow of information in the political sphere on twitter.

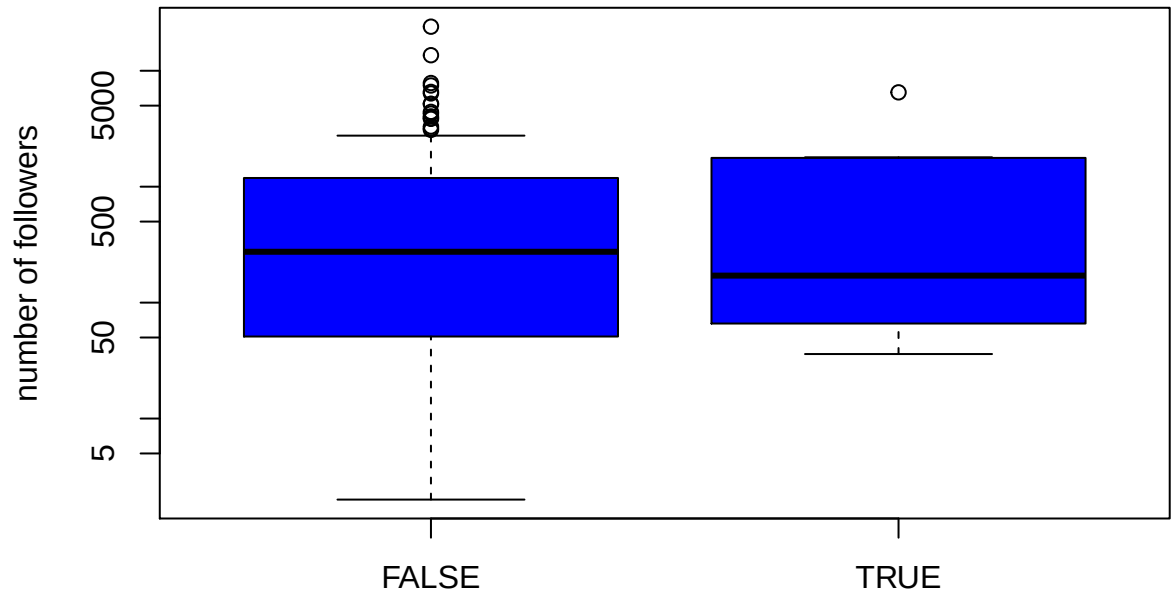
Data

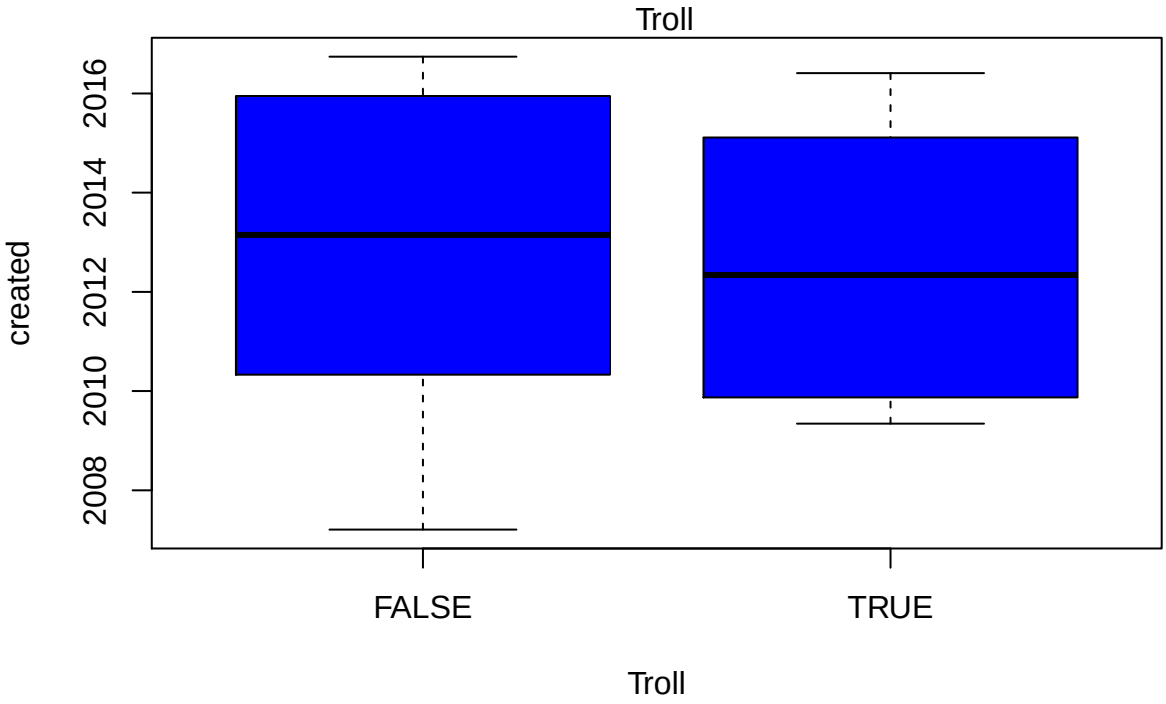
Trolls were defined as users with tweets which appeared to both:

- inflammatory: intended to arouse angry or violent feelings
- extraneous: irrelevant or unrelated to the subject being dealt with

Data was collected from twitter using both the Twitter API and web app. Initial data collection consisted of both searching twitter for political names (ie. clinton, trump), and manual troll harvest.


most recent tweet
sentiment score
4
2
0
−2
−4
FALSE
TRUE
Troll
number of statuses
1e+05
1e+03
1e+01
FALSE
TRUE
Troll






```
lfit <- glm(troll~t_sent + statusesCount,data=data, family = "binomial")

summary(lfit)
```

```
##
## Call:
## glm(formula = troll ~ t_sent + statusesCount, family = "binomial",
##     data = data)
##
## Deviance Residuals:
##     Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
```

```
## -0.7403  -0.4018  -0.3405  -0.2486   2.7460
##
## Coefficients:
##                 Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept)   -2.946e+00  4.625e-01  -6.370 1.89e-10 ***
## t_sent        -1.287e+00  6.318e-01  -2.036   0.0417 *
## statusesCount -7.058e-07  5.812e-06  -0.121   0.9033
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## (Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
##
##     Null deviance: 72.343  on 141  degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 67.934  on 139  degrees of freedom
## AIC: 73.934
##
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 6
```