Putting Twitter Data into the Cloud

DS 3010 - Case Study 1 Report

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Formula 1 is one of the most premier forms of car racing in the world. It has a worldwide viewership of over 430 million in 2020, gathering about a million viewers per race from just the United States alone. The industry is worth over \$4 billion dollars. What makes F1 unique is its global following. Unlike say the NFL or the NBA in the US, F1 competitions occur globally and are followed by a wide range of people. With high revenue and high viewership, a large media following naturally follows suit. From Netflix shows to household names of world famous drivers such as Hamilton and Schumacher, the media cloud is filled with F1 data that can be easily accessed and analyzed to learn something new. Formula 1 is also a great area to look into as it's fairly narrowed down already. In fact, there are only ten teams competing in these races each season, making it much simpler for us as data scientists to look into. When sports like soccer have thousands of teams and hunderns of famous active players, F1 is able to provide us with an advantageous position. We have therefore decided to look into the Twitter data of Formula 1 and it's most known race drivers.

Problem 1:

We were tasked with getting a cloud database using MongoDB atlas. In our case, we wanted to gain access to the twitter database in order to complete our investigation. This was achieved fairly easily using the twitter login API. After installing and importing the twitter API we set up a twitter login function, *oauth login*, with a developer account provided to us.

Problem 2:

We were then tasked with reading twitter data into the cloud MongoDB data. We collected 1000 tweets. The list of keywords we chose to search for tweets from are:

formula one, formula 1, f1, max verstappen, lewis hamilton, valterri bottas, sergio perez, carlos sainz, lando norris, charles leclerc, daniel ricciardo, pierre gasly, fernando alonso, esteban ocon,

sebastian vettel, lance stroll, yuki tsunoda, george russell, kimi raikkonen, nicholas latifi, antonio giovinazzi, mick schumacher, nikita mazepin, alex albon, guanyu zhou, fia

Since we are between seasons for the Formula 1, the keywords include the names of all drivers in last year's season as well as all driver's in this year's season. We also have a keyword 'fia' which stands for Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, which is the governing body for the Formula One races

After gathering tweets, we created a free cloud MongoDB database and connected it to our virtual machine so that we could read our Twitter data into it. We then installed and used the packages pymongo and dnspython to read and store all of the tweets we gathered into our database permanently. We could now access these gathered tweets anytime regardless if our virtual machine crashes or restarts.

Figure 1: Installing pymongo and dnspython to read and store tweets in the database permanently.

Problem 3:

Reading the data in MongoDB

To read the database, we first get a reference to a particular database, in our case it would be 'twitter'. We reference a particular collection in the database, which would be 'statuses_'.

Searching the data in MongoDB

We then searched the data in MongoDB for retweets. We also made a rough estimate of the number of tweets in our sample data. The number is ~3400. However, this is an overestimate as

Figure 2: Retweets collected while searching MongoDB

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@mb123456 @kaywest663 @MattHunter09 @mostemax @LewisHamilton @fia @Ben_Sulayem Fair enough, but then the damning qu... https://t.co/uM@crnULga
RT @AmybethMcnulty: I can't watch fez and Lexi fall in love on Valentine's Day. That's not fair
@Elizabeth_j5696 @MikeB7478F @Michael_Olili @giampat @fia Thats not for us (nor Masi) to assume...

Rules and fairn... https://t.co/oK7a8mq5AZ
RT @JunaidAliRehan2: Sad affairs Sabir only raised pertinent questions about the business empire established by Lt Gen Papa jones & now he'...
@Mostemax @LewisHamilton @fia @Ben_Sulayem All I want is to watch F1... good clean fair and exciting racing and not h... https://t.co/JC13C0ytX6
@katyfairman Ferrari is red
Alphatauri is blue
Honda has left
And the fia is corrupt
@AdamCLedet @F1_Jordan It was fair decision I support the FIA decision at Abu Dabi race.
@GavinWhitaker @KelvinTeamLH44 @nkat3k0 @fia To be fair the only keystone cops are the Hamilton fans want to alter... https://t.co/yjU6VzqhtD
RT @Ede_G: When you receive/buy stolen goods and the police come round to return them to the rightful owner that is not "unfair"
Therefore...
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Figure 3: Retweets collected while searching MongoDB, duplication because MongoDB 3 does not allow for removal of duplicates while searching.

Problem 4:

• Come up with a business question that Twitter data and MongoDB could help answer.

Our business question was: How can we use the frequency of the keywords, specifically the driver's names, to develop a product or solution that can be sold to companies?

• Describe the business case.

The thinking behind this was fairly straightforward. Our first example that sparked this idea for this question was the concept of two names of drivers frequently occurring together. Using MongoDB and the twitter API we would be able to identify the frequency of combinations of names, such as Verstappen and Hamilton. This would be extremely valuable data for certain groups of interest. Media outlets such as tabloids would find a lot of use knowing this as it would give them the upper hand on what combination of names the public is most interested in. Using this information they would then be able to spark drama between these specific names and theoretically achieve a high success rate with their media campaigns targeting this, thus having profits. Drama sells, and in the right hands this information could be very useful in achieving it.

Another great example of a group of interest in this business case would be Formula 1 teams themselves. By knowing the frequency of the drivers showing up on social media, they can gauge the popularity of their drivers. Whether winning or losing, at the end of the day, fans are what drive in money for these teams. Ferrari does not only pick its race drivers because they perform best on paper, but also due to how likable and popular they are among F1 fans. In our current day and age, this type of data can be found in media databases such as twitter. In this case, the product could be a Twitter analysis of a teams roster of drivers, to help decide whether it is worth it to resign driver contracts or to start looking at other options.

• How could MongoDB help a company to scale up its computation environment?

Historically, scaling databases has been a well known issue for companies. The number of options for scalability have traditionally been quite limited and also often too expensive to be worth the investment. Fortunately, MongoDB has provided advancements in the area of scalability to help companies achieve their goals as they grow. Firstly, vertical scaling can be performed in companies starting to expand their database through MongoDB. An example of this could be that a company increases their server power by adding more CPUs. While vertical scaling is a great feature initially, it can get quite expensive. By being non-SQL, MongoDB can provide more advanced methods of scaling. In MongoDB, data can be spread out across many nodes to achieve scalability, known as sharding. By virtually scaling the capacity, each node has much less work to do, so reads and writes overall will be processed at a much greater capacity.

• Business Question Exploration

Some additional experiments we ran with our data to gain familiarity with MongoDB and see how our business idea could be implemented.

We filtered the stopwords to conduct a frequency analysis based off of tweets that have the word 'love' in them.



Figure 3: Plot of top 30 words based on frequency

We also collected different samples of retweets and sorted them by frequency to see how frequency could be used to find out trends, popular drivers and popular news topics.

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Retweets

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RT @fia: Meet the new faces of @F1 2022. PART 5/10\n\n#F1 @AlphaTauriF1 #AF03 #AF02 https://t.co/Lm5k*/UDIOT

RT @fia: Meet the new faces of @F1 2022. PART 2/10\n\n#F1 @redbullracing #RB18 #RB16B https://t.co/gNUHJyJmOg1

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RT @fia: Meet the new faces of @F1 2022. PART 2/10\n\n#F1 @redbullracing #RB18 #RB16B https://t.co/gNUHJyJmOg1

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RT @fia: Meet the new faces of @F1 2022. PART 1/10\n\n#F1 @redbullracing #RB18 #RB16B https://t.co/gNUHJyJmOg1

ART @fia: Meet the new faces of @F1 2022. PART 3/10\n\n#F1 @redbullracing #RB18 #RB16B https://t.co/YZM16OVLje

RT @fia: Meet the new faces of @F1 2022. PART 3/10\n\n#F1 @redbullracing #RB18 #RB16B https://t.co/YZM16OVLje

RT @GDNonline: Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) yesterday launched tickets for 2022 Formula 1 pre-season testing, scheduled to take plac.

Victor Martins returns to ART Grand Prix in FIA F3 for 2022, having won the Formula Renault Eurocup with the French. https://t.co/JGBRXGcwjH

RT @ThecheckerFlag: Victor Martins returns to ART Grand Prix in FIA F3 for 2022, having won the Formula Renault Eurocup with the French tea...

1 RT @ThecheckerFlag: Caio Collet will stay with MP Motorsport for 2022 after two podiums in his maiden FIA F3 campaign.\n\nBoth he and the tea...
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Figure 4: Retweets collected based on frequency for data exploration. Keyword: '2022'

Figure 5: Retweets collected based on frequency for data exploration. All tweets in database.

Figure 6: Retweets collected based on frequency for data exploration. Keyword: 'new'

References

Lange, Author: David. "Number of TV viewers Formula One (F1) Racing from 2008-2020" Statista.com, 19 Mar. 2021,

https://www.statista.com/statistics/480129/cable-or-broadcast-tv-networks-formula-one-f 1-racing-watched-within-the-last-12-months-usa/.