

# Web Analytics

# Online New Popularity

*Advances in Data Science and Architecture*

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## INTRODUCTION

In this internet era, reading and sharing information have become the center of people's entertainment lives. Web Analytics is integral part of any online marketing plan. Analyzing your traffic and then finding ways to improve on it is the name of the game. These analytics that are tracked allow you to measure important information like sales and conversions, clicks, and page views. One can use web analytics applications to tailor website's content in order to make it more appealing to visitors or the type of people you want to visit your site! We have narrowed our Web Analytics domain to News Popularity. The concept of online news has been around much longer than the 90's Just because something is technologically feasible doesn't mean it will accepted/demanded. The demand stems from the quality of content whereas popularity of the news depends on various other factors like way of demonstrating, positivity, negativity, catchy title, no of shares, author, channel, topic etc. The need of web analytics arises here. It would allow us to accurately predict the popularity of news prior to its publication, for social media workers (authors, advertisers, etc). For the purpose of this paper, we intend to make use of a largely and recently collected dataset of news popularity with over 39000 articles from Mashable website, to first select informative features and then analyze and compare the performance of several machine learning algorithms

## DATASOURCE LINK

<https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/Online+News+Popularity>

## FEEL OF THE DATASET

Dataset gives details of each post which consists of 61 features. Details pertaining to posts on Mashable Website includes date, href details, positive/negative polarity of its over all post, sentimental polarity, title polarity, number of tokens in title, number of keywords, and so on. On analyzing the dataset, data cleaning was done wherever required, unwanted columns were deleted, new features were scraped and various machine learning algorithms were implemented with expanding to visualization in tableau.

*Original Dataset:*

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
1	url	timedelta	n_tokens	n_tokens	n_unique	n_non_stop	n_non_stop	num_hrefs	num_self	num_img	num_vid	average	num_key	data_char	data_char	data_char	data_char	data_char	data_char	kw_min	kw_max
2	http://ma	731	12	219	0.663594	1	0.815385	4	2	1	0	4.680365	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	http://ma	731	9	255	0.604743	1	0.791946	3	1	1	0	4.913725	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
4	http://ma	731	9	211	0.57513	1	0.663866	3	1	1	0	4.393365	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5	http://ma	731	9	531	0.503788	1	0.665635	9	0	1	0	4.404896	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	http://ma	731	13	1072	0.415646	1	0.54089	19	19	20	0	4.682836	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
7	http://ma	731	10	370	0.559889	1	0.698198	2	2	0	0	4.359459	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
8	http://ma	731	8	960	0.418163	1	0.549834	21	20	20	0	4.654167	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	http://ma	731	12	989	0.433574	1	0.572108	20	20	20	0	4.617796	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
10	http://ma	731	11	97	0.670103	1	0.836735	2	0	0	0	4.85567	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
11	http://ma	731	10	231	0.636364	1	0.797101	4	1	1	1	5.090909	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
12	http://ma	731	9	1248	0.49005	1	0.731638	11	0	1	0	4.617788	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
13	http://ma	731	10	187	0.666667	1	0.8	7	0	1	0	4.657754	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	http://ma	731	9	274	0.609195	1	0.707602	18	2	11	0	4.233577	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	http://ma	731	9	285	0.744186	1	0.84153	4	2	0	21	4.34386	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	http://ma	731	8	259	0.562753	1	0.644444	19	3	9	0	5.023166	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	http://ma	731	12	682	0.459542	1	0.634961	10	0	1	0	4.620235	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
18	http://ma	731	8	1118	0.512397	1	0.70977	26	18	12	1	4.703936	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	http://ma	731	8	397	0.624679	1	0.805668	11	0	1	0	5.445844	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
20	http://ma	731	11	103	0.68932	1	0.806452	3	1	1	0	4.84466	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	http://ma	731	8	1207	0.410579	1	0.548969	24	24	42	0	4.716653	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
22	http://ma	731	13	1248	0.390638	1	0.523388	21	19	20	0	4.686699	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
23	http://ma	731	9	391	0.510256	1	0.65	9	2	1	1	5.296675	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

```

1 library(Rcurl)
2 library(XML)
3 library(stringr)
4
5 # read csv file
6 raw_data <- read.table("C:\\Users\\user\\Downloads\\ADS\\Final Project\\Dataset\\OnlineNewsPopularity\\
7 OnlineNewsPopularity\\OnlineNewsPopularity.csv", sep = ",", header=T, check.names = FALSE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
8
9 # data cleaning by removing unwanted columns
10 raw_data <- subset(raw_data, select = c(-n_unique_tokens, - n_non_stop_words,
11 - n_non_stop_unique_tokens, - kw_min_min, - kw_max_min,
12 - kw_avg_min, - kw_min_max, - kw_max_max, - kw_avg_max,
13 - kw_min_avg, - kw_max_avg, - kw_avg_avg, - weekday_is_monday,
14 - weekday_is_tuesday, - weekday_is_wednesday, - weekday_is_thursday,
15 - weekday_is_friday, - weekday_is_saturday, - weekday_is_sunday,
16 - is_weekend, - LDA_00, - LDA_01, - LDA_02, - LDA_03,
17 - LDA_04))
18
19 # Extracting Date from URL field and make it in standard format
20 raw_data$Date <- strsplit(raw_data$url, "/")
21 raw_data$Year <- sapply(raw_data$Date, "[", 4)
22 raw_data$Month <- sapply(raw_data$Date, "[", 5)
23 raw_data$Day <- sapply(raw_data$Date, "[", 6)
24 raw_data$Date <- paste(raw_data$Year, raw_data$Month, raw_data$Day, sep="")
25 raw_data$weekday <- weekdays(as.Date(raw_data$Date, "%Y%m%d"))
26
27 # Assign values to each day of week Sunday->0...Saturday->6
28 raw_data$weekday <- as.POSIXlt(as.Date(raw_data$Date, "%Y%m%d"))$wday
29
30 # Find if day falls in weekend or no
31 raw_data$isweekend <- ifelse(raw_data$weekday %in% c(0,6),1,0)
32
33 # Handling missing values for Type field to 'others'
34 raw_data$type <- ifelse(raw_data$data_channel_is_bus==1, 1,
35 ifelse(raw_data$data_channel_is_lifestyle==1, 2,
36 "others"))
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### PROCEDURE

1. Data collection - Identify issues and/or opportunities for collecting data.
2. Data cleansing.
3. Data scraping - Scrape the data which was not available with original dataset which will help in useful analysis.
4. Data organization - Make or convert data into machine readable format.
5. Feature Selection - Select most affected features for prediction, classification and clustering in Azure
6. Data prediction - Perform prediction of number of shares for a given post and analyze results with using algorithms such as Two Class Decision Tree, Random Forest , Neural Network, and Poisson Regression.
7. Data classification - Classify all the news into “High Popular” and “Less Popular” class based on inputs using classification algorithms such as Random Forest, Two Class Decision Tree and Neural Network classification.
8. Data Clustering - Cluster the dataset into different clusters using K-means and Hierarchical Clustering algorithms.
9. Data Analysis
10. Visualization

Our dataset is provided by UCI machine learning repository, originally acquired and preprocessed by K.Fernandes et al. It extracts total of 39645 articles published in the years of 2013 and 2014 from Mashable website.

## REGRESSION

Using Azure, implemented and analyzed regression algorithms to predict number of shares after feature selection on developed dataset. Algorithms which are implemented are Decision Forest (Random Forest), Two-Class Decision Tree Regression, Neural Network Regression, Poisson Regression . Based on least RMSE value.

Due to wide range of shares value, we also analyzed results after normalizing shares by taking the natural logarithm. However, results of RMSE were better predicted without normalization.

Feature Selected for regression

Boosted Decision Tree Regression ▶ Filter Based Feature Selection ▶ Filtered dataset

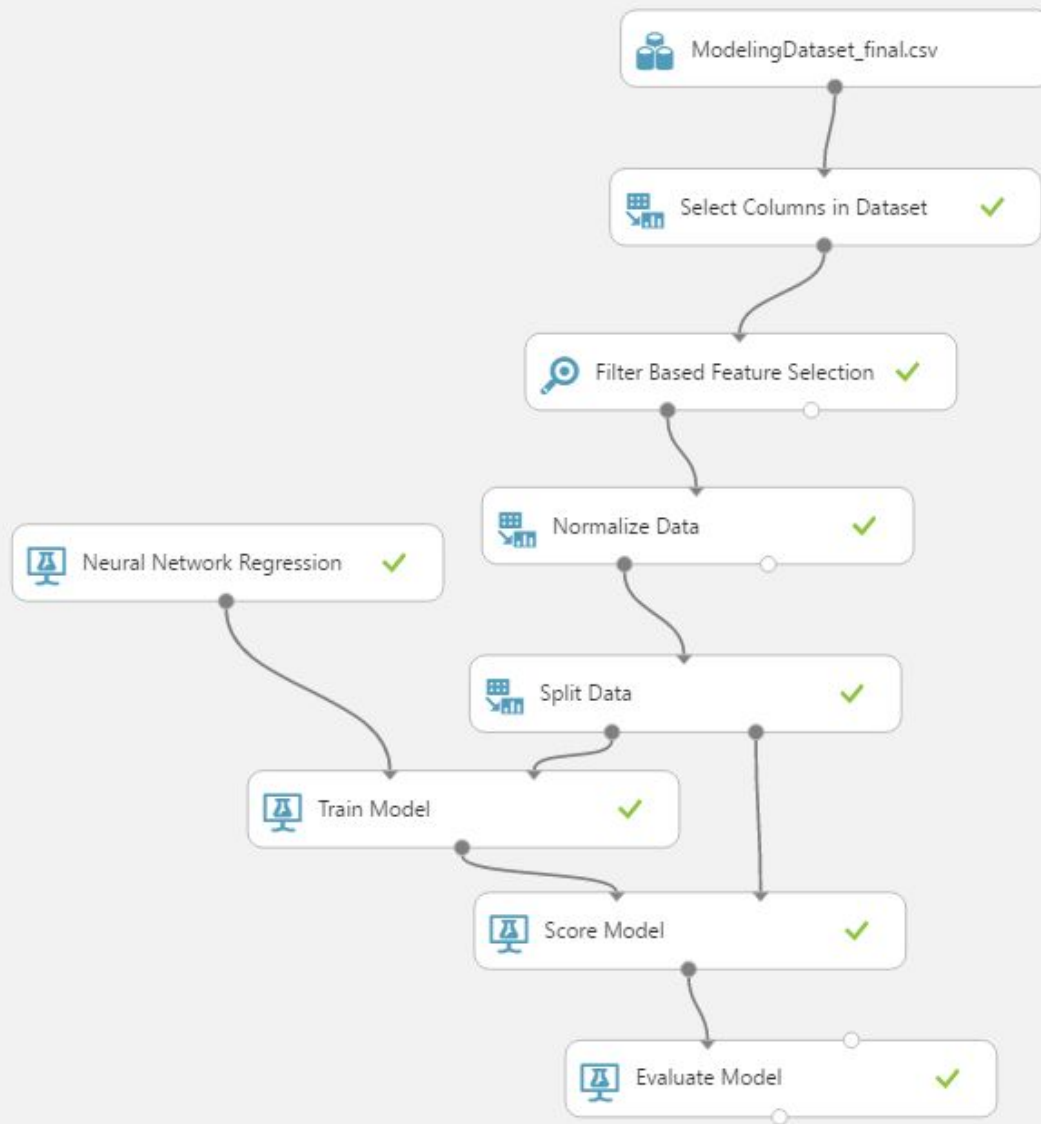
rows: 39644 columns: 10

shares	num_hrefs	num_imgs	Type	num_videos	num_keywords	isWeekend	Date	n_tokens_title	n_tokens_content
593	4	1	3	0	5	0	20130107	12	219
711	3	1	1	0	4	0	20130107	9	255
1500	3	1	1	0	6	0	20130107	9	211
1200	9	1	3	0	7	0	20130107	9	531
505	19	20	5	0	7	0	20130107	13	1072
855	2	0	5	0	9	0	20130107	10	370
556	21	20	2	0	10	0	20130107	8	960
891	20	20	5	0	9	0	20130107	12	989
3600	2	0	5	0	7	0	20130107	11	97
710	4	1	6	1	5	0	20130107	10	231
2200	11	1	6	0	8	0	20130107	9	1248
1900	7	1	2	0	7	0	20130107	10	187
823	18	11	7	0	8	0	20130107	9	274
10000	4	0	7	21	6	0	20130107	9	285

On analyzing the results for each algorithm Random Forest gives the lowest RMSE value. Below is the big picture of each algorithm implemented.

*Neural Network Regression*

## Neural Network Regression



*Result*

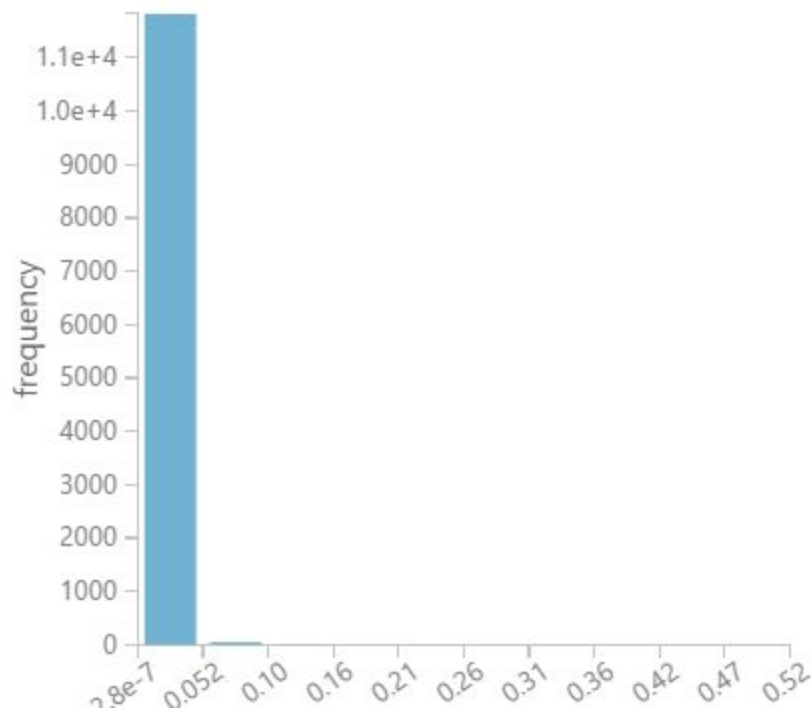
Neural Network Regression &gt; Evaluate Model &gt; Evaluation results

## ▸ Metrics

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Mean Absolute Error	0.002958
Root Mean Squared Error	0.011238
Relative Absolute Error	0.810867
Relative Squared Error	1.046367
Coefficient of Determination	-0.046367

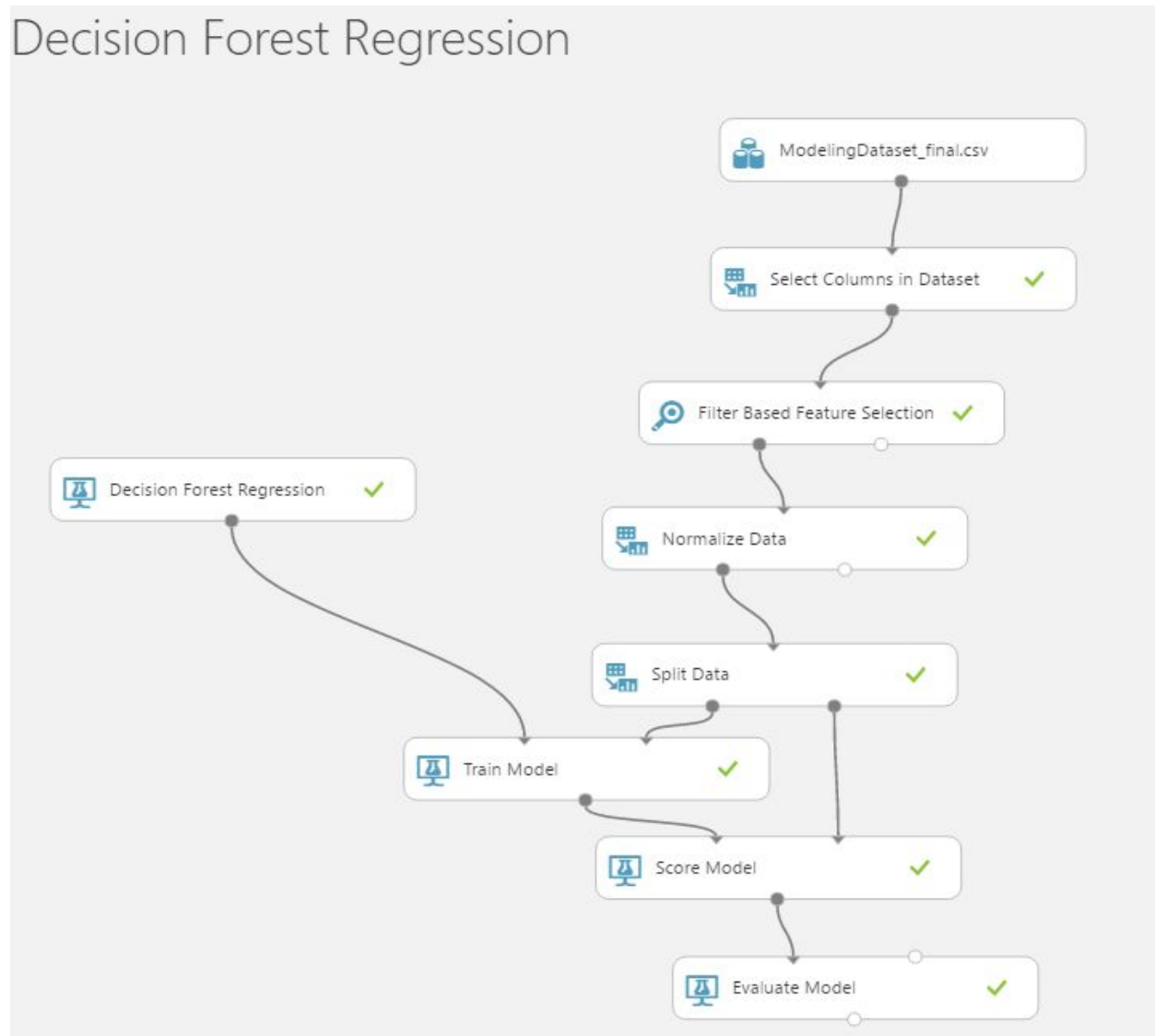
## ▸ Error Histogram







*Decision Forest Regression (Random Forest)*

## Decision Forest Regression

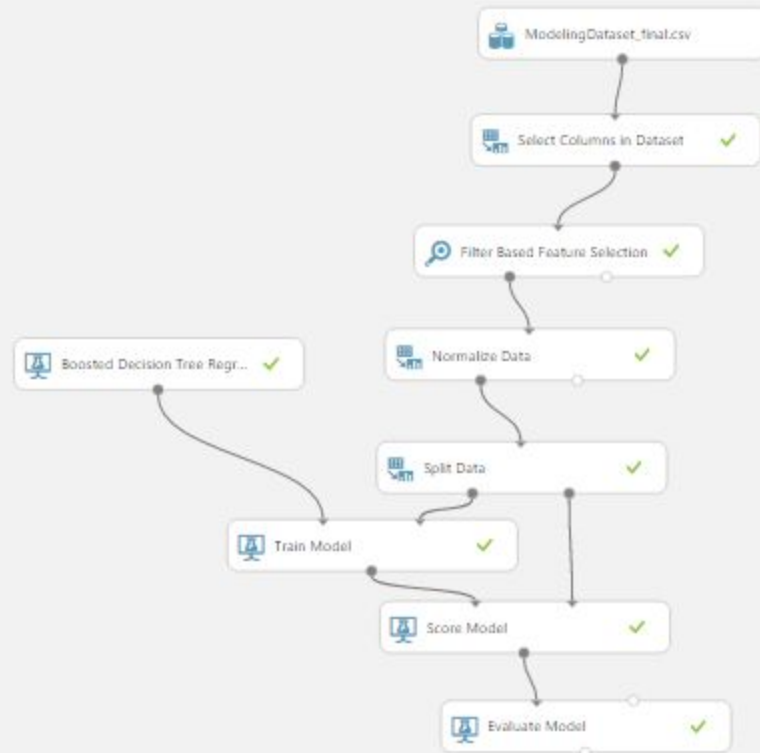
*Result*

Decision Forest Regression &gt; Evaluate Model &gt; Evaluation results

rows	columns						
1	6						
		Negative Log Likelihood	Mean Absolute Error	Root Mean Squared Error	Relative Absolute Error	Relative Squared Error	Coefficient of Determination
view as							
		-37880.645535	0.00365	0.010906	1.000631	0.985514	0.014486

*Two Class Boosted Decision Tree Regression*

## Boosted Decision Tree Regression

*Result*

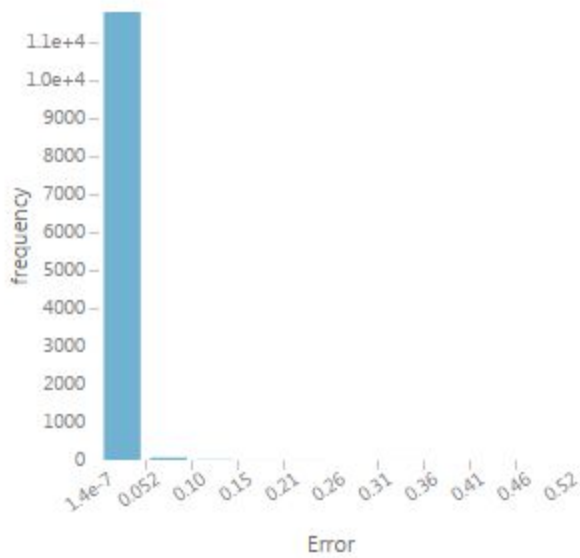
---

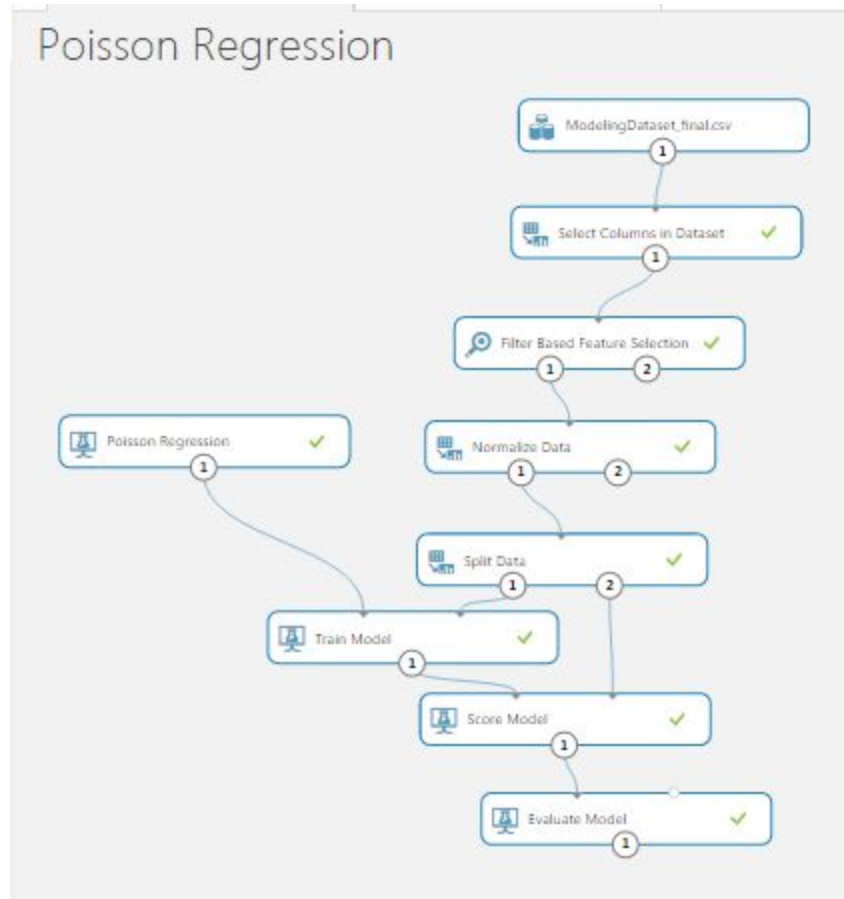
Boosted Decision Tree Regression > Evaluate Model > Evaluation results

**Metrics**

Mean Absolute Error	0.003956
Root Mean Squared Error	0.011911
Relative Absolute Error	1.084523
Relative Squared Error	1.175499
Coefficient of Determination	-0.175499

## Error Histogram

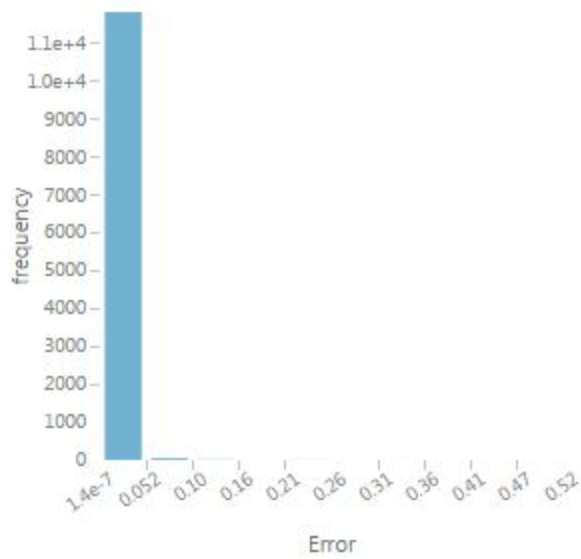


*Poisson Regression**Result*

## Metrics

Mean Absolute Error	0.003661
Root Mean Squared Error	0.010973
Relative Absolute Error	1.003674
Relative Squared Error	0.997698
Coefficient of Determination	0.002302

## Error Histogram





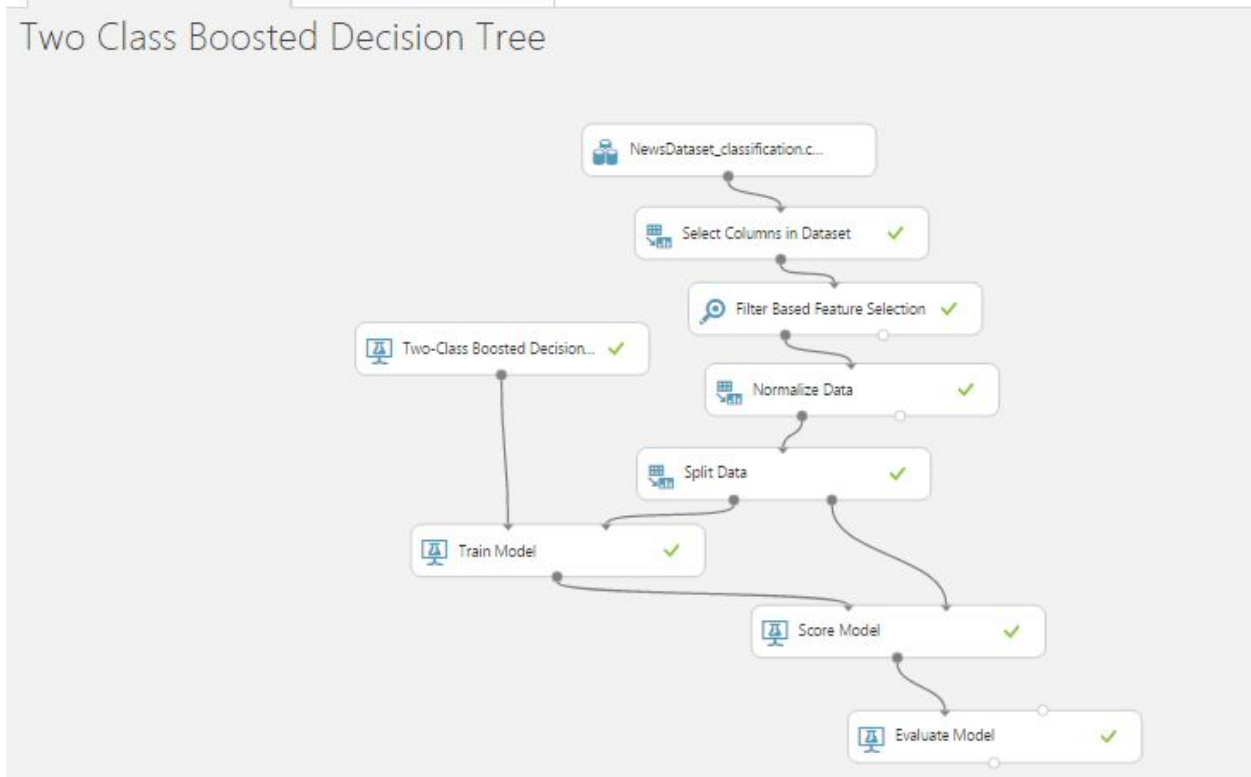
## CLASSIFICATION

Classified the post is popular or not based on highest accuracy. Implemented classification using various algorithms Two Class Boosted Decision Tree, Random Forest and Neural Network. Highest accuracy was achieved with Two Class Boosted Decision Tree.

Features selected for classification were as below

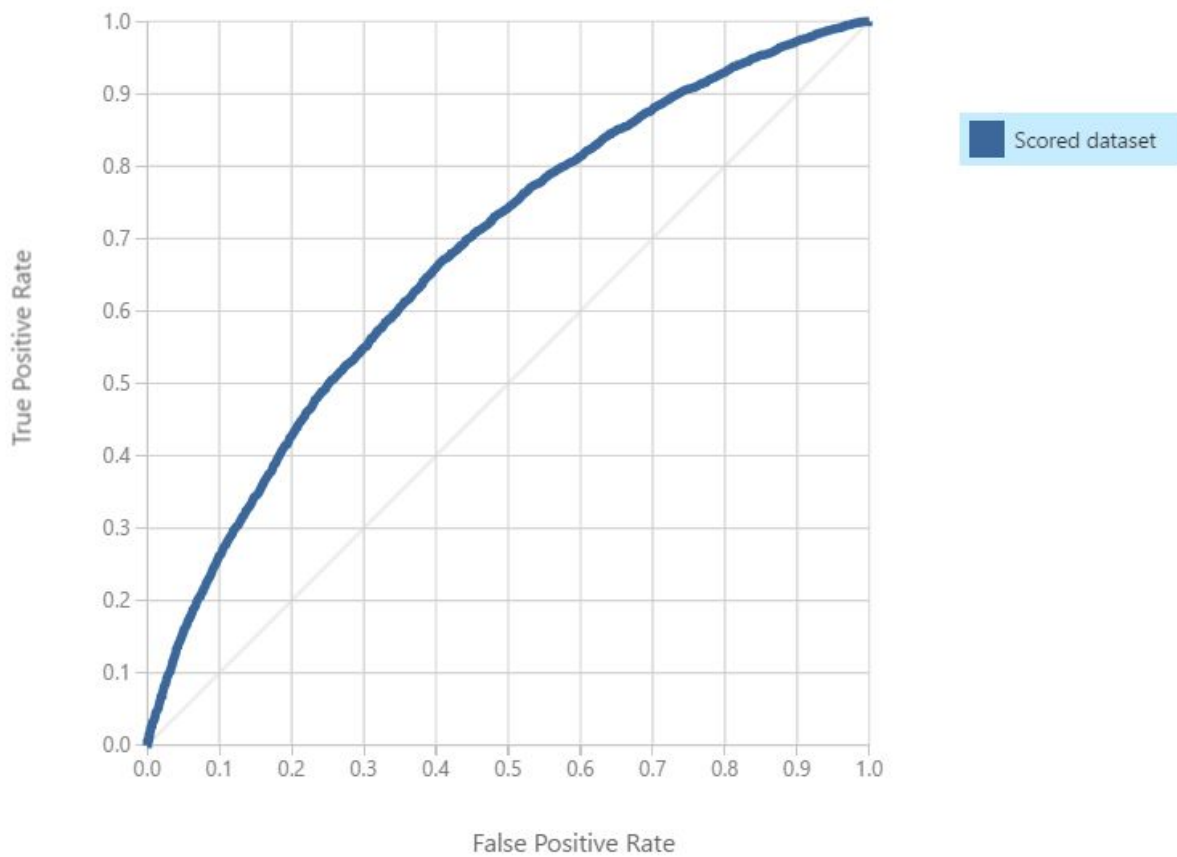
Neural Network Classification ▶ Filter Based Feature Selection ▶ Filtered dataset

rows	columns										
39643	11										
		isPopular	isWeekend	num_hrefs	num_keywords	num_imgs	n_tokens_title	weekday	n_tokens_content	num_self_hrefs	Type
view as											
		Less Popular	0	4	5	1	12	1	219	2	3
		Less Popular	0	3	4	1	9	1	255	1	1
		High Popular	0	3	6	1	9	1	211	1	1
		Less Popular	0	9	7	1	9	1	531	0	3
		Less Popular	0	19	7	20	13	1	1072	19	5
		Less Popular	0	2	9	0	10	1	370	2	5
		Less Popular	0	21	10	20	8	1	960	20	2
		Less Popular	0	20	9	20	12	1	989	20	5
		High Popular	0	2	7	0	11	1	97	0	5
		Less Popular	0	4	5	1	10	1	231	1	6
		High Popular	0	11	8	1	9	1	1248	0	6
		High Popular	0	7	7	1	10	1	187	0	2
		Less Popular	0	18	8	11	9	1	274	2	7
		High Popular	0	4	6	0	9	1	285	2	7
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

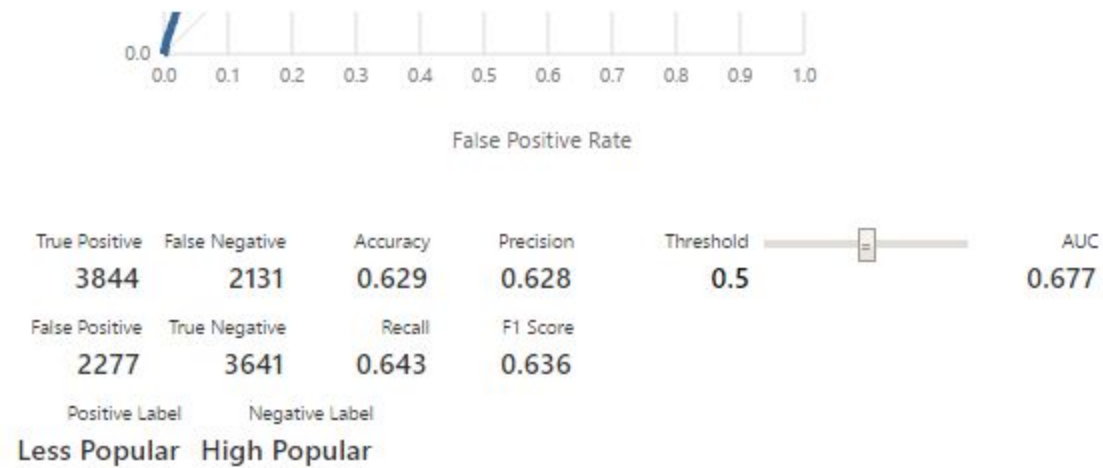
*Two Class Boosted Decision Tree**Result*

Two Class Boosted Decision Tree ➤ Evaluate Model ➤ Evaluation results

ROC PRECISION/RECALL LIFT

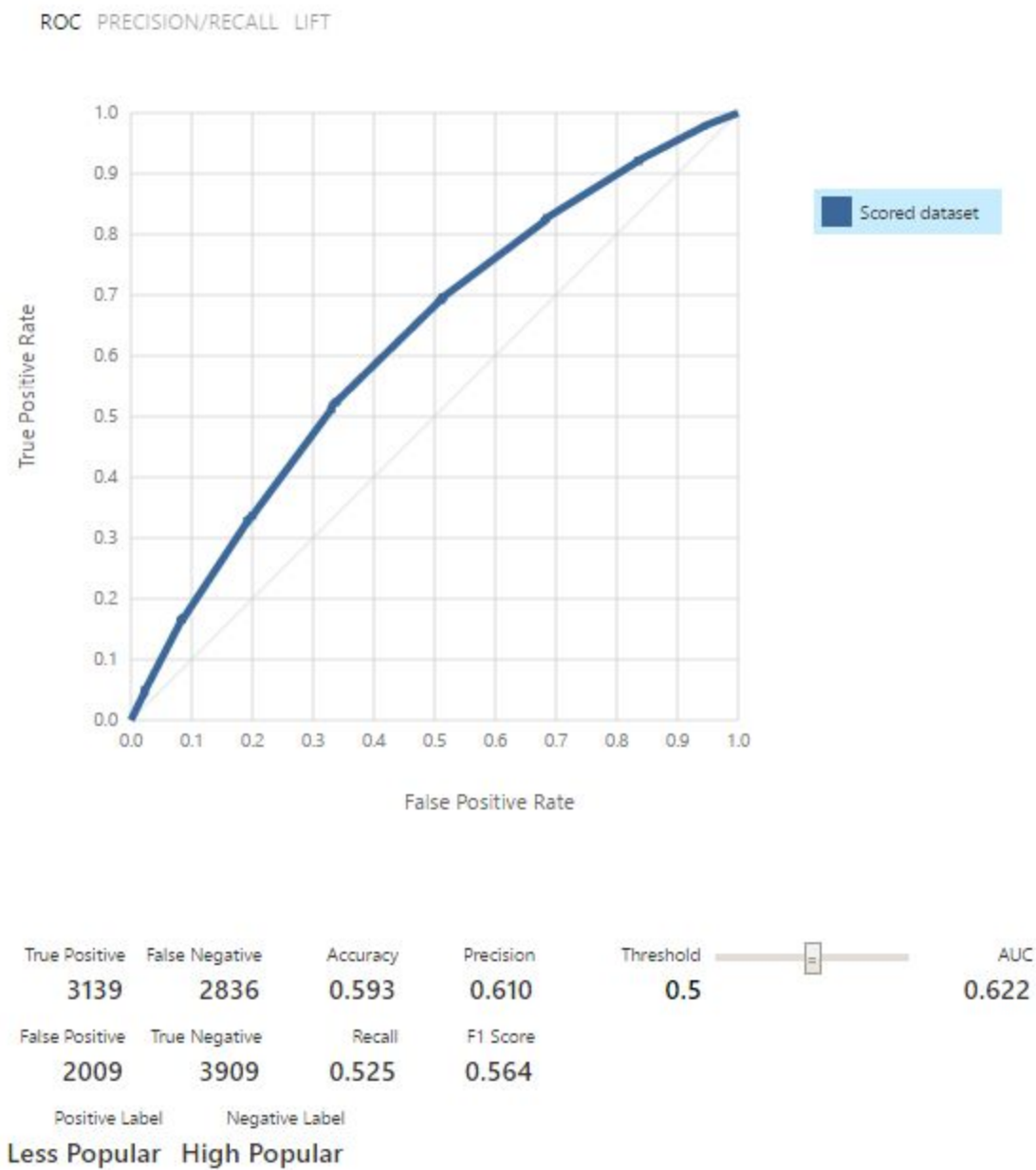


Two Class Boosted Decision Tree &gt; Evaluate Model &gt; Evaluation results

*Random Forest Classification:*

## Classification Random forest

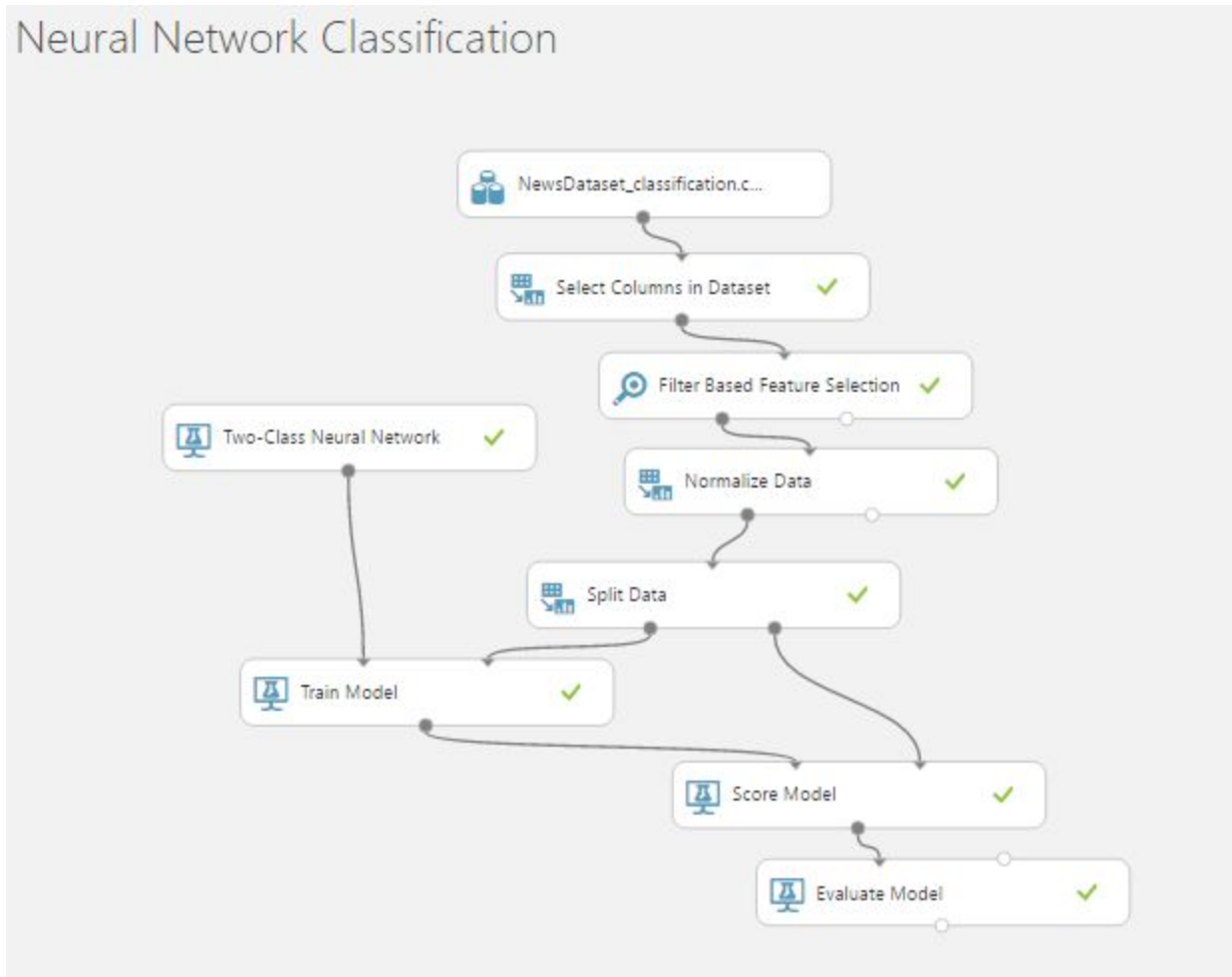


*Result*



*Neural Network*

## Neural Network Classification




*Result*

Neural Network Classification &gt; Evaluate Model &gt; Evaluation results



False Positive Rate

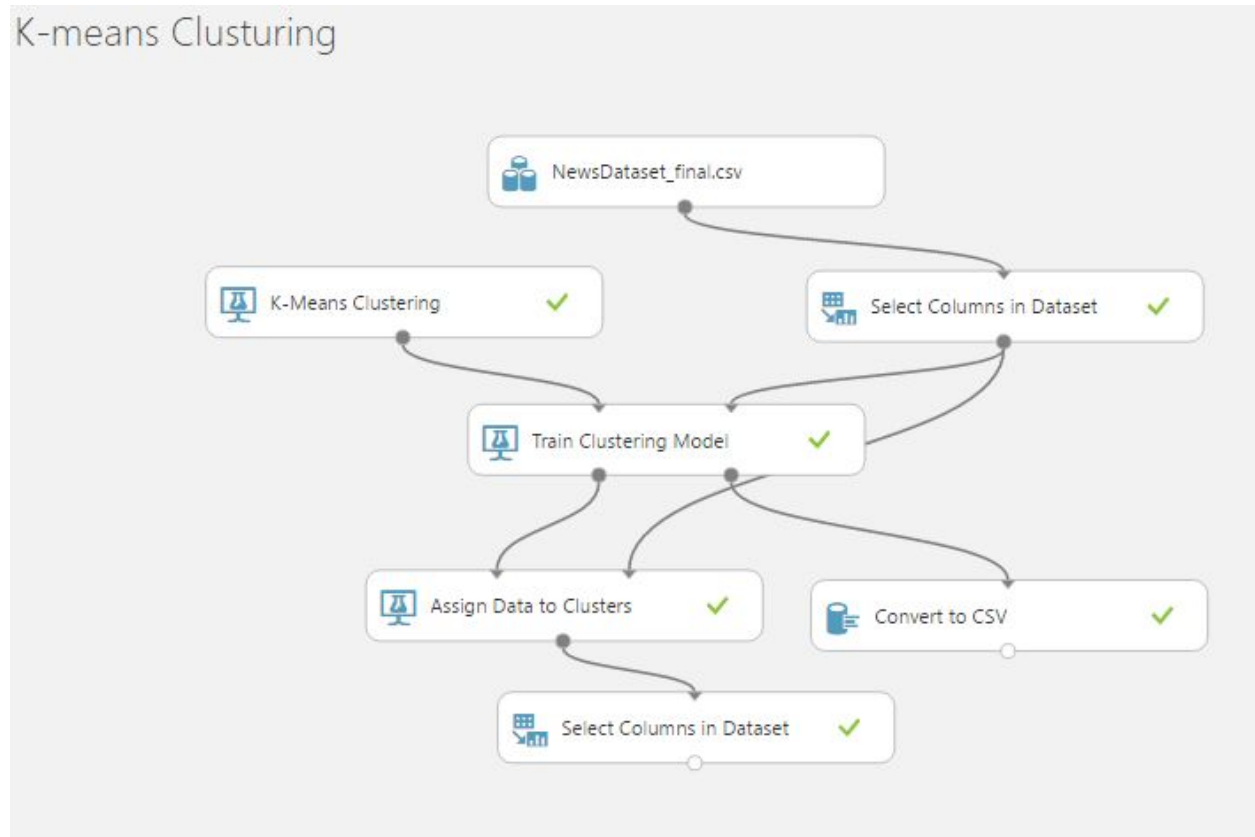
True Positive	False Negative	Accuracy	Precision	Threshold		AUC
3623	2352	0.613	0.616	0.5		0.645
False Positive	True Negative	Recall	F1 Score			
2256	3662	0.606	0.611			
Positive Label		Negative Label				
Less Popular		High Popular				

## CLUSTERING

Used K-means Clustering, defined clusters on Type of the post where number of clusters used are 3 ( $k = 3$ ).

Determines the distance of articles based on a few parameters from the centroid of clusters.

### *K-Means*



K-means Clustering ▶ Select Columns in Dataset ▶ Results dataset





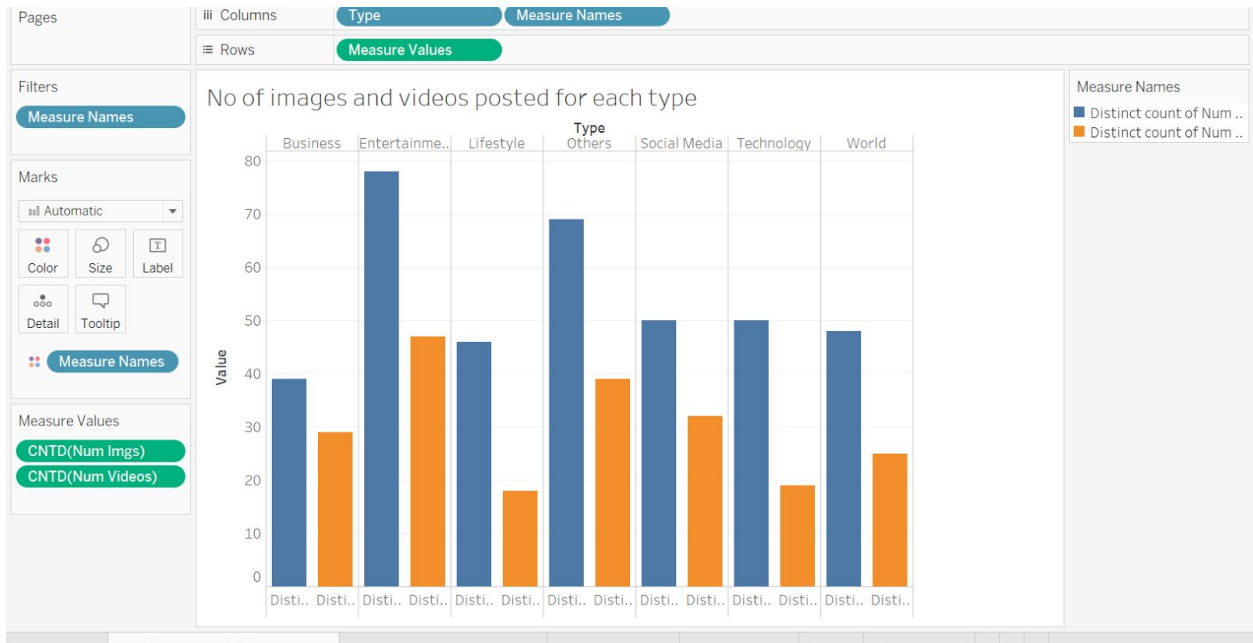
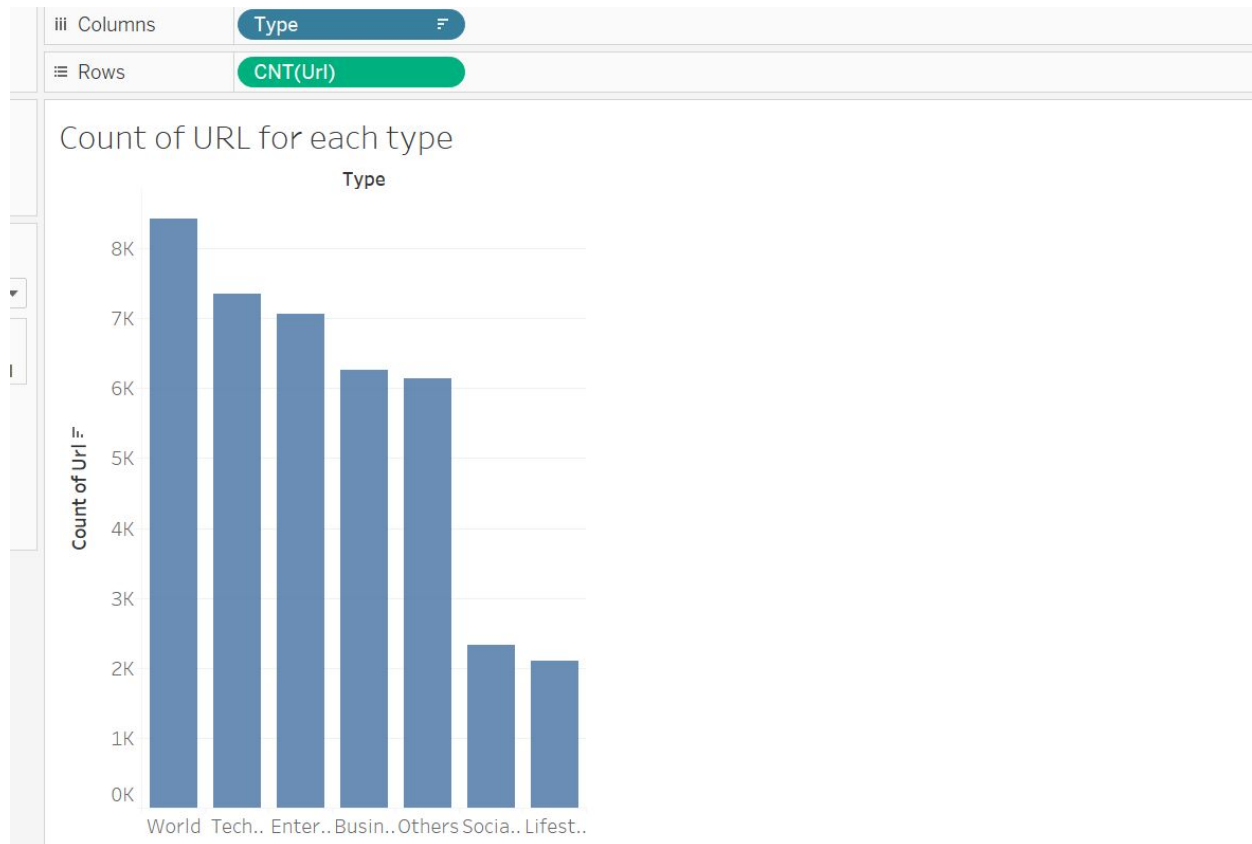
rows	columns
39644	2
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	32
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TABLEAU ANALYSIS

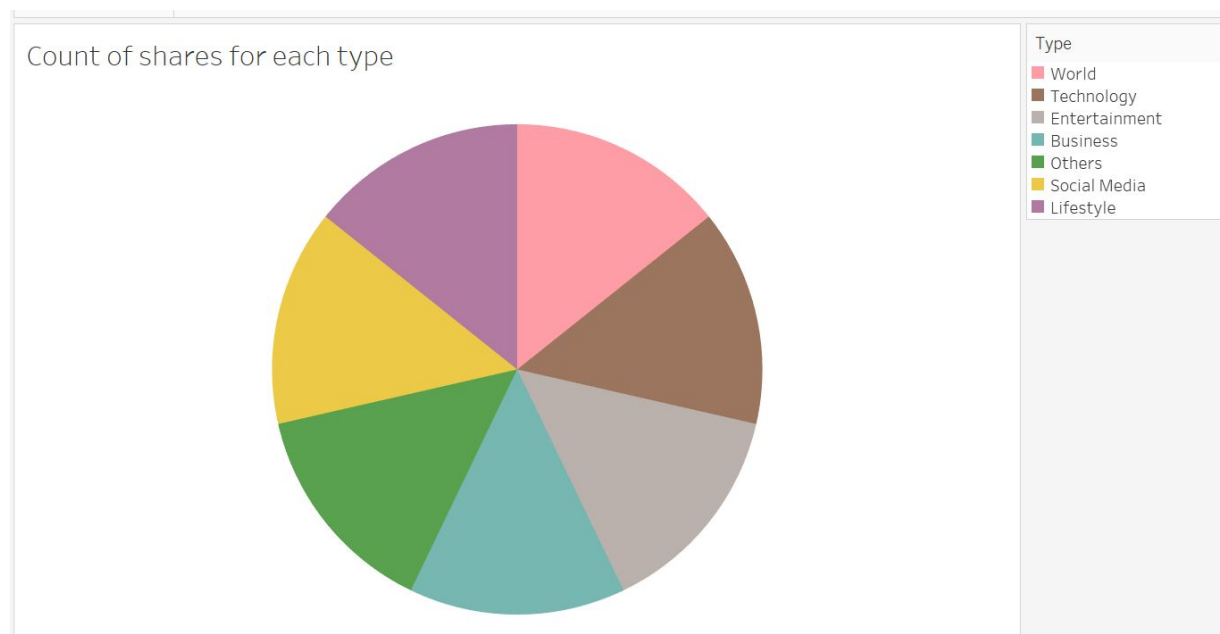




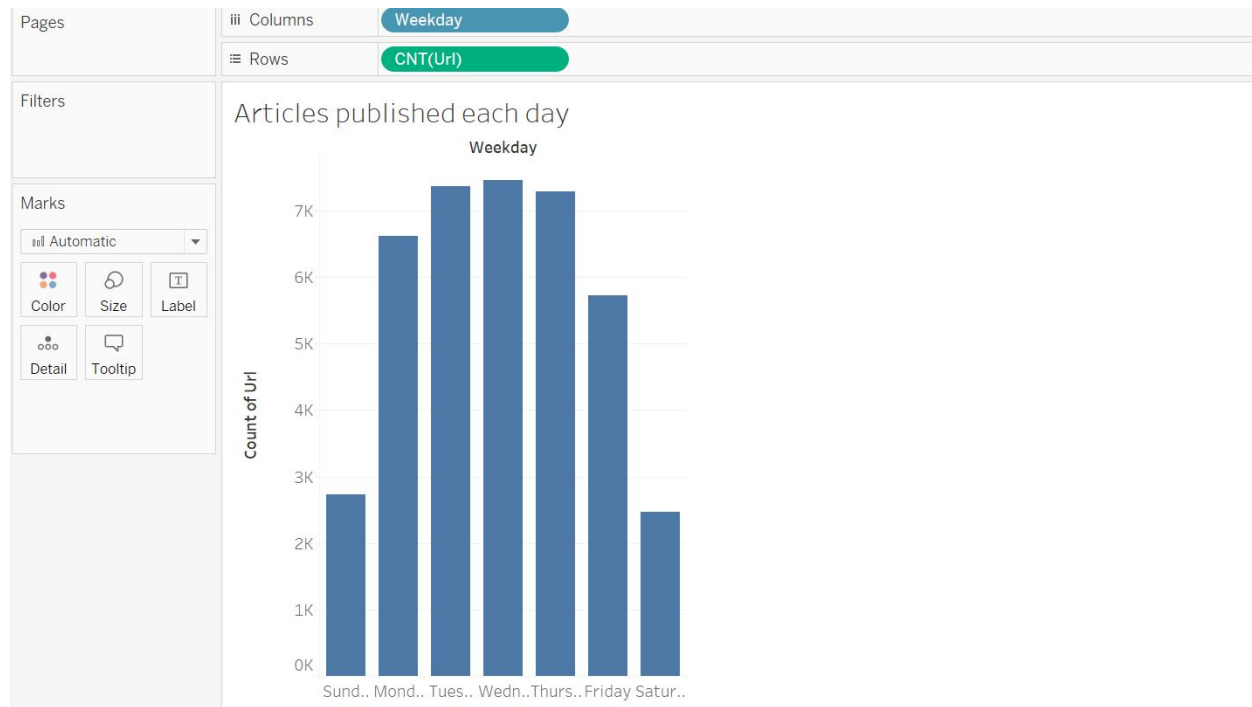
For each type, gives the statistics of images and videos posted.



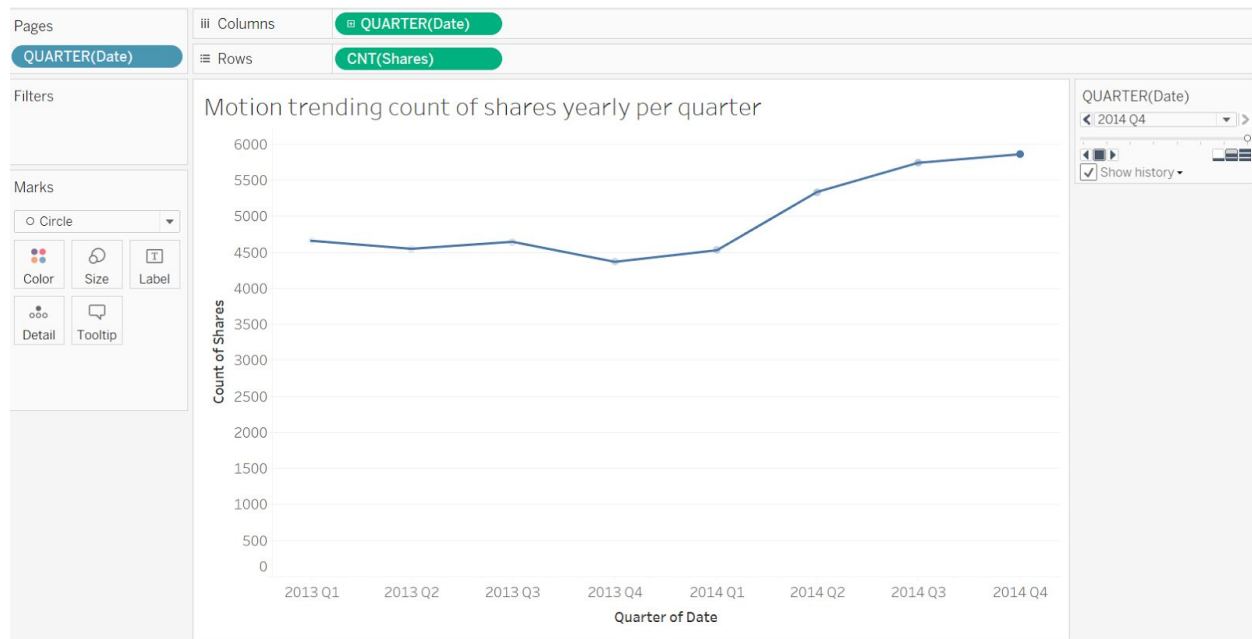
Gives the maximum number of URL's for type - world



The above pie chart represents the count of shares for each type

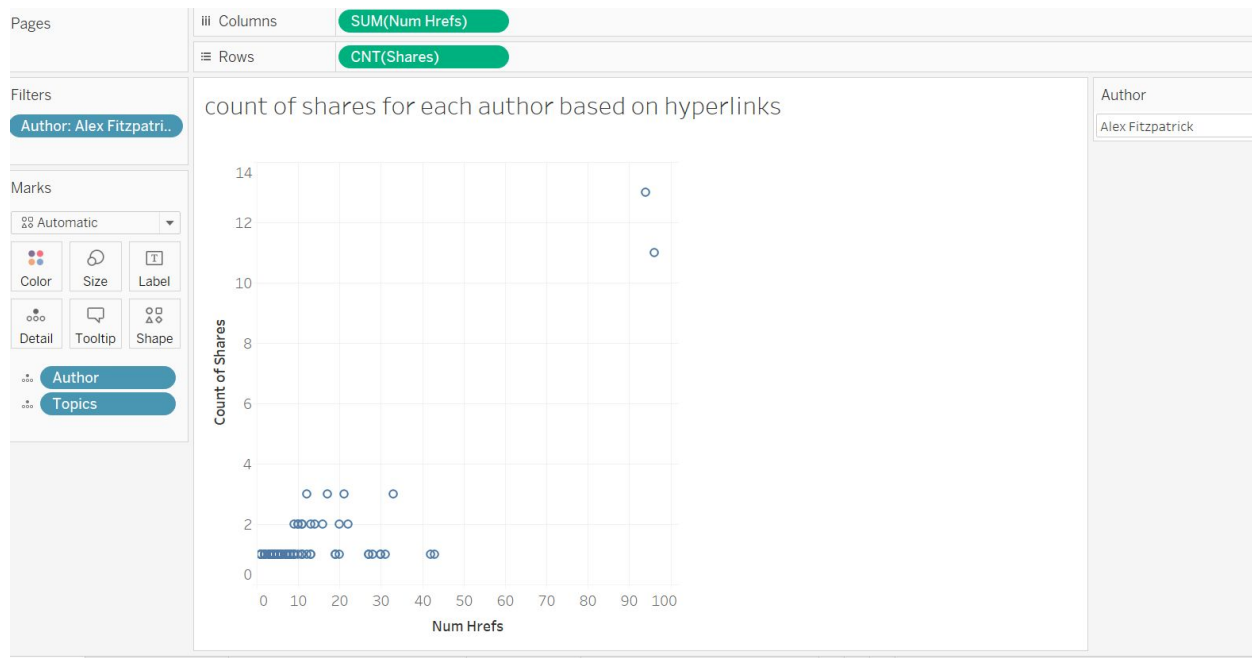


Observed that the maximum number of articles are published on Wednesday. So it is recommended to Mashable to publish articles on weekdays to become popular.

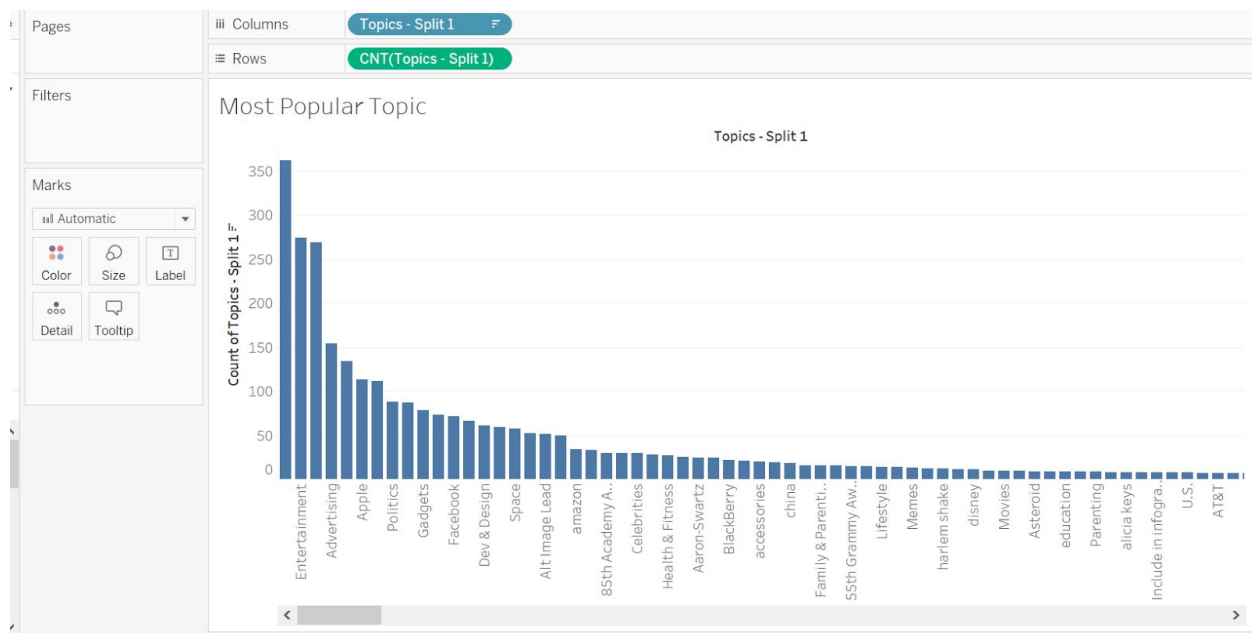


Trending **live** motion of count of shares yearly for each quarter. It can be run to view the live

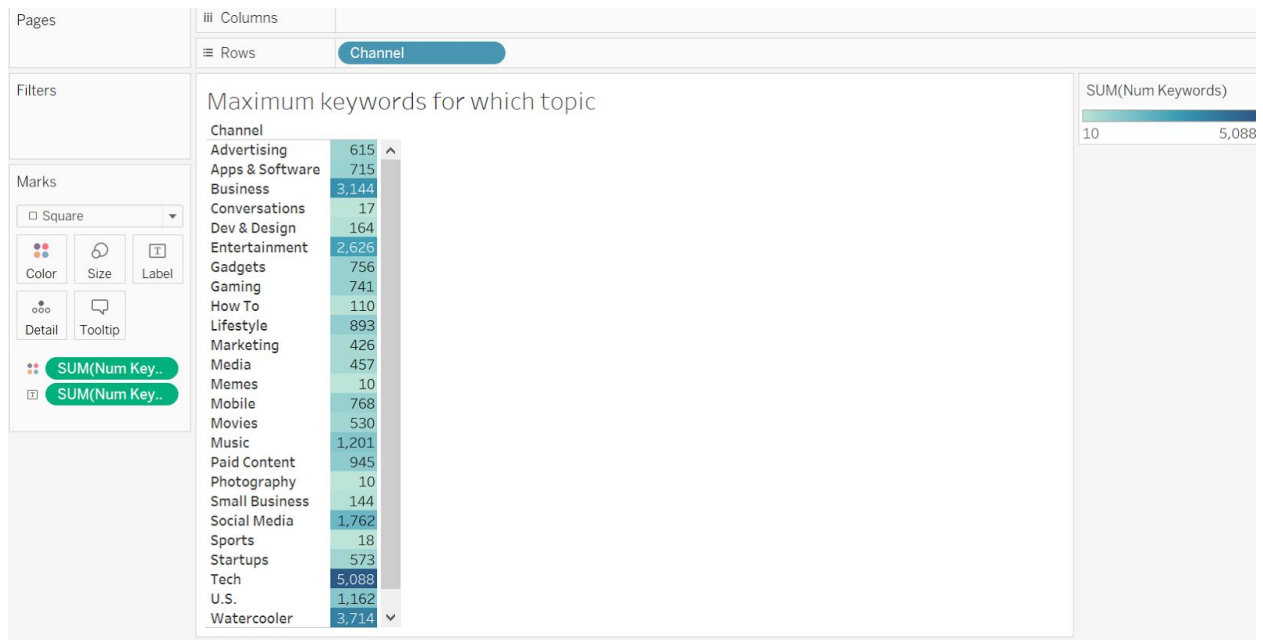
analysis.



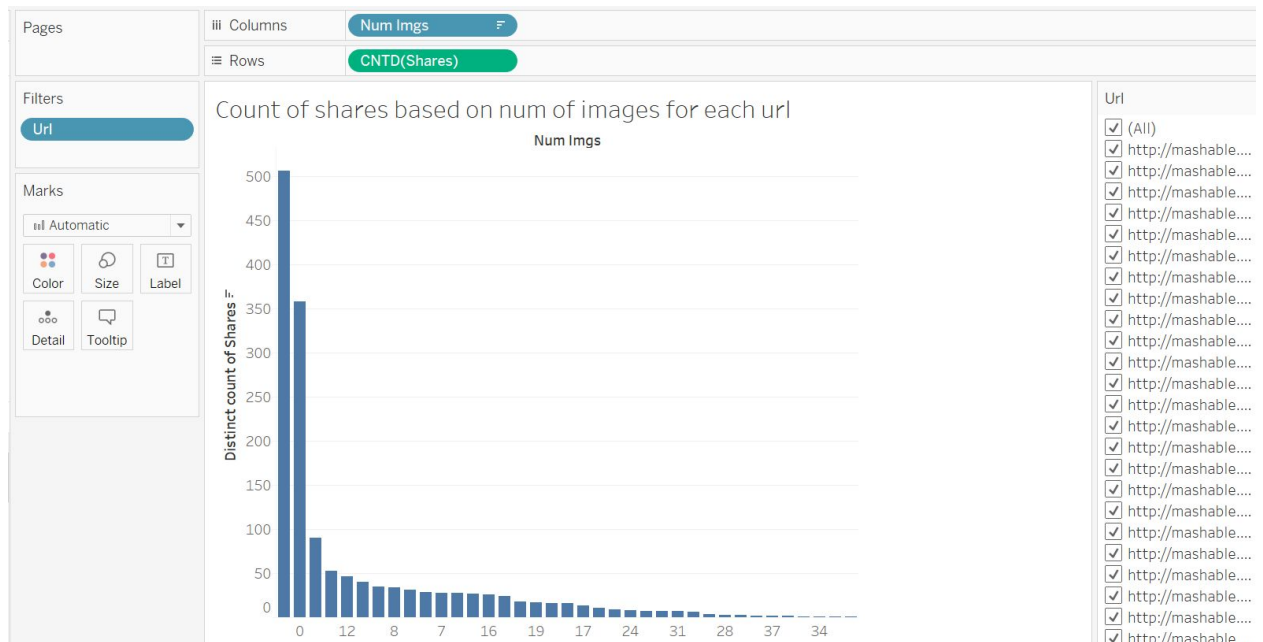
It gives the count of shares for each author based on the number of links on each article.



Determined that the most popular topic is entertainment.



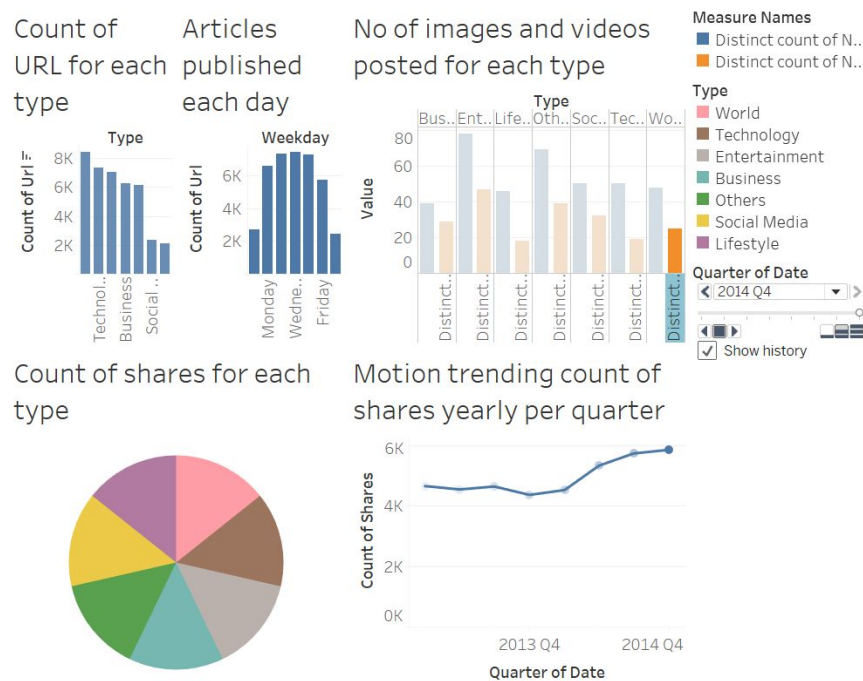
Determines that the maximum words are used for the topic Technology.



Gives the count of shares based on num of images for each URL.

## DASHBOARDS

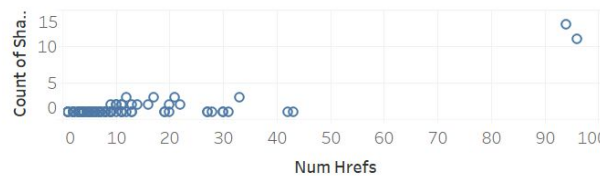
Dashboard shows complete analysis on how number of shares vary depending on some major factors like author, number of published posts each day, number of keywords for each topic.





## Online News Analysis

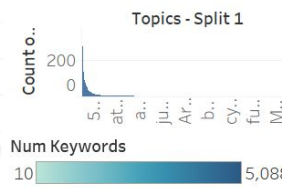
count of shares for each author based on hyperlinks



Author

Alex Fitzpatrick

Most Popular Topic



Maximum keywords for which topic

Channel	
Paid Content	945
Photography	10
Small Business	144
Social Media	1,762
Sports	18
Startups	573
Tech	5,088
U.S.	1,162
Watercooler	3,714

Count of shares based on num of images for each url



Url

- ☒ (All)
- ☒ http://mashable.com/201...
- ☒ http://mashable.com/201...
- ☒ http://mashable.com/201...
- ☒ http://mashable.com/201...
- ☒ http://mashable.com/201...

## WEB INTERFACE

## Online News Popularity Analysis - Team 11

[Project Report](#)   [GitHub](#)   [Test Data](#)

The Predicted number of shares by Random Forest Regression is 3187

Regression	Classification	Clustering
Date	12/16/2016	
Type of News	1	1->Business, 2->Lifestyle, 3->Entertainment, 4->SocialMedia, 5->Technical, 6->World, 7->Others
Is Weekend?	0	
Number of words in Title	7	
Number of words in Content	90	

## Online News Popularity Analysis - Team 11

[Project Report](#)   [GitHub](#)   [Test Data](#)

The article to be published is classified as "High Popular" according to Decision Tree Classification

Regression	Classification	Clustering
Type of News	1	1->Business, 2->Lifestyle, 3->Entertainment, 4->SocialMedia, 5->Technical, 6->World, 7->Others
Is Weekend?	0	
Day of week	1	0->Sunday, 1->Monday, 2->Tuesday, 3->Wednesday, 4->Thursday, 5->Friday, 6->Saturday
Number of words in Title	7	
Number of words in Content	90	
Number of non stop words	10	

## Online News Popularity Analysis - Team 11

Project Report   GitHub   Test Data

Cluster Number is "1"

Regression   Classification   **Clustering**

URI	<input type="text" value="http://mashable.com/2013/01/07/amazon-instant-vide"/>	<input type="text" value="http://mashable.com/2013/01/07/ap-samsung-sponsored-tweets/"/>
Date	<input type="text" value="mm/dd/yyyy"/>	
Type of News	<input type="text" value="1"/>	1->Business, 2->Lifestyle, 3->Entertainment, 4->SocialMedia, 5->Technical, 6->World, 7->Others
Number of words in Title	<input type="text" value="7"/>	
Number of words in Content	<input type="text" value="90"/>	

## CONCLUSION

### *Insights and Recommendations*

To make the news more popular,

#### *Increase:*

- Amount of keywords.
- Number of linked embedded.
- Number of images.
- Reference articles with high popularity.
- A more subjective and positive title.

#### *Time of publication:*

- Postpone non-time sensitive articles (features etc.) to the weekend. Weekend receive more shares than weekdays.
- Focus more on social media articles during the weekdays.

Monday	Social > Lifestyle/ Tech > Business > World/ Entertainment
Tuesday	Social > Lifestyle/ Tech > Business > Entertainment > World
Wednesday	Social > Lifestyle/ Tech > Business > Entertainment > World
Thursday	Social > Lifestyle/ Tech > Business > Entertainment > World
Friday	Social > Lifestyle/ Tech > Business > World/ Entertainment
Saturday	Lifestyle/ Business/ Social/ Tech > Entertainment > World
Sunday	Lifestyle/ Business/ Social/ Tech > Entertainment > World

#### *Channel:*

- Editors may want to put more emphasis on articles of a specific channel.
- Social media > technology > lifestyle > business > entertainment > world

### Next Step

- Continue to refine the model by including more independent variables.
- Extend the time interval, currently we only collected data for 2 years.
- Further subdivide news according to their topics and find what factors influence news with a particularly topic.

### LINKS

Web UI Url – [Web UI](#)

Git Hub – [GitHub](#)

### REFERENCES

<https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/Online+News+Popularity>

<https://repositorium.sdum.uminho.pt/bitstream/1822/39169/1/main.pdf>

<http://mashable.com/>