

# Sentiment Analysis on Mastodon Posts

## Predicting Election Outcomes with Elixir?

Sebastian Heiden

Harz University of Applied Sciences,  
Student: M.Sc. Data Science, 3rd Semester

February 8, 2024



# About Me

## Working Life

### topics:

- ▶ heat demand and PV cadastres

### using:

- ▶ geodata (Raster, Vector)
- ▶ Python: GeoPandas, Numpy
- ▶ land usage; coverage, property register

## Privat Life



# Election Monitoring with on Twitter<sup>1</sup>

## How Efficient is Twitter: Predicting 2012 U.S. Presidential Elections using Support Vector Machine via Twitter and Comparing Against Iowa Electronic Markets

Abbas Attarwala<sup>1,2</sup>, Stanko Dimitrov<sup>2</sup>, Amer Obeidi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Computer Science, Boston University, Boston, MA, 02215

<sup>2</sup>Department of Management Sciences, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L6C1

**Abstract**—We test the efficient market hypothesis to see if Twitter aggregates information faster than a real-money prediction market. We use Support Vector Machines (SVMs), a

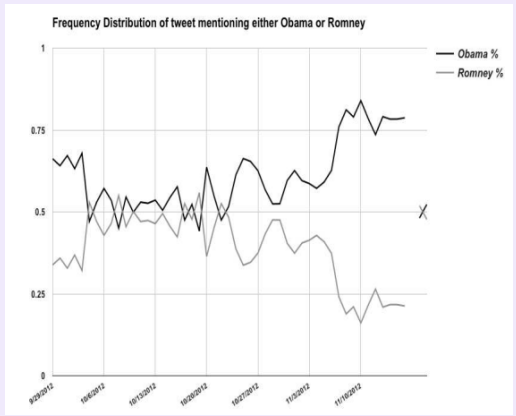
media that evolve continuously across space and time. Social media has transformed these traditional channels in numerous ways. For example, Twitter,

<sup>1</sup>Attarwala, A. et al. *How efficient is Twitter: Predicting 2012 U.S. presidential elections using Support Vector Machine via Twitter and comparing against Iowa Electronic Markets.* in *2017 Intelligent Systems Conference (IntelliSys) 2017 Intelligent Systems Conference (IntelliSys) (Sept. 2017)*, 646–652. <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8324363> (2024).

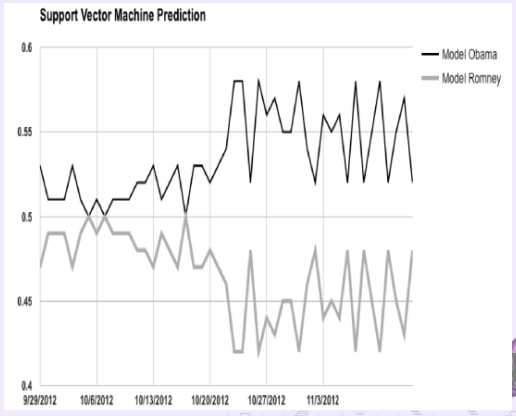


# Prediction

## Frequency



## Prediction



# Election on Mastodon

*Intelligent Systems Conference 2017  
7-8 September 2017 | London, UK*

## How Efficient is Mastodon Predicting 2023 Bavarian State Election using Pre-Trained Deep Learning NLP Model via Mastodon

Abbas Attarwala<sup>1,2</sup>, Stanko Dimitrov<sup>2</sup>, Amer Obeidi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Computer Science, Boston University, Boston, MA, 02215

<sup>2</sup>Department of Management Sciences, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2L6C1

**Abstract**—We test the efficient market hypothesis to see if Twitter aggregates information faster than a real-money prediction market. We use Support Vector Machines (SVMs), a supervised learning algorithm, to predict the outcome of the 2012 U.S. presidential elections via Twitter data. We then compare

media that evolve continuously across space and time. Social media has transformed these traditional channels in numerous ways. For example, Twitter, Flickr and online collaboration on Google Maps have

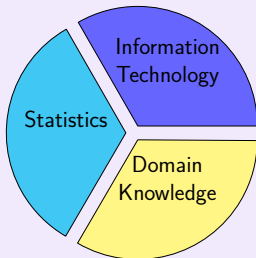


# Data Science & Big Data <sup>2</sup>

## DS Perspective

### Statistics

- Modelling
- Model evaluation
- Causality  
vs. Correlation



### Information Technology

- Data preparation
- Data processing
- Implementation
- Algorithms

### Domain Knowledge

- Business Practice
- Economic Value
- Communication
- Practical Implementation

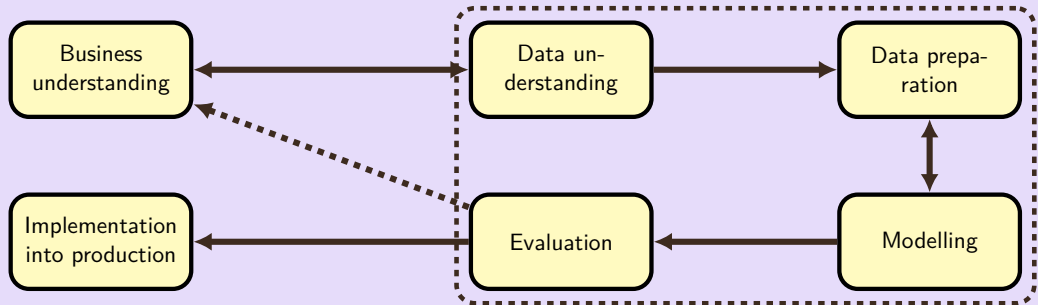
Figure: High Level

## Big Data

- ▶ Volume
- ▶ Velocity
- ▶ Variety
- ▶ Veracity
- ▶ Value
- ▶ Validity

<sup>2</sup>Courtesy Prof. F. Transchel, Harz University of Applied Sciences.

# CRISP-DM

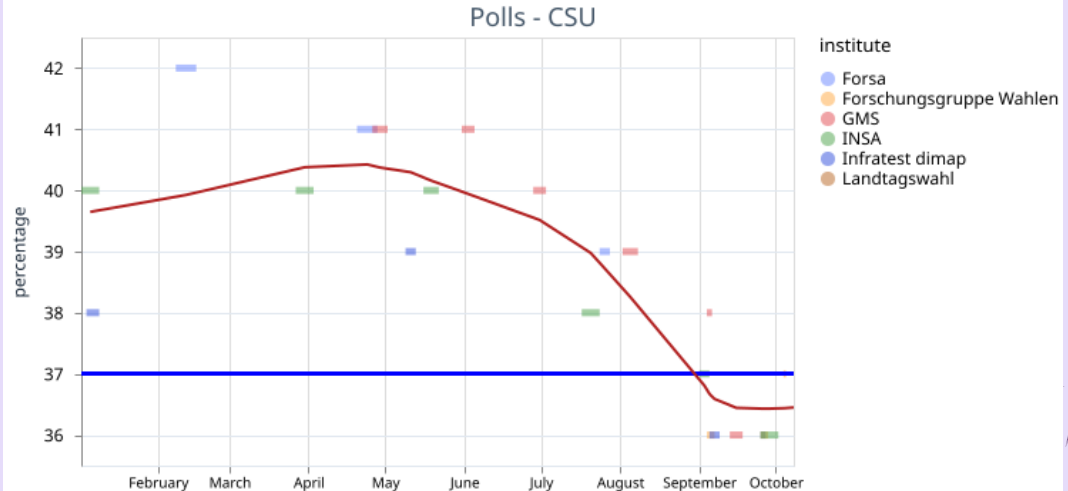


Source: P. Chapman, J. Clinton, R. Kerber, T. Khabaza, T. Reinartz, C. Shearer, R. Wirth (2000); CRISP-DM 1.0 Step-by-step data mining guides

**Figure:** CRISP-DM: Cross Industry Standard Process for Data Mining

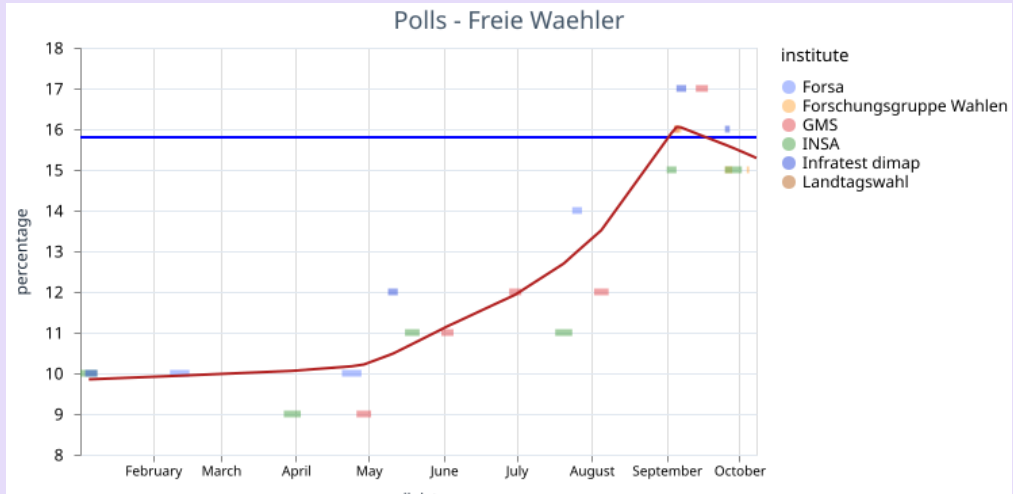


# Polls CSU





# Polls Freie Waehler



# Research Question

Predict the voting result of the 2023 Bavarian State election with Mastodon.

- ▶ time period: six weeks before, 4 weeks after election
- ▶ differentiate Bavarian from other users
- ▶ sample size
- ▶ selection bias: socio-economics, gender, age
- ▶ what about X|Twitter?



# Data Collection

## Endpoints

Tags: `{{instance_url}}/api/v1/timelines/tag/{{tag_name}}`

- ▶ used public timeline

Search: `{{instance_url}}\api\v2\search?q={{search_word}}`

- ▶ opt-in
- ▶ log-in
- ▶ finished role out 2 days before election

## Tags

```
▼ 0:
{
  id: "111879825476786853"
  created_at: "2024-02-05T16:30:55.000Z"
  in_reply_to_id: null
  in_reply_to_account_id: null
  sensitive: false
  spoiler_text: ""
  visibility: "public"
  language: "en"
  ▶ uri: "https://mastodon.social/times/1118798254767868531670"
  ▶ uri: "https://mastodon.social/q/quote/1118798254767868531670"
  replies_count: 0
  reblogs_count: 0
  favourites_count: 0
  edited_at: null
  favourited: false
  reblogged: false
  muted: false
  bookmarked: false
  ▶ content: "<span>Hi friends! I'm just ->badtoolz</span></a></p>"
  filtered: []
  reblog: null
  ▶ account: {}
  ▶ media_attachments: []
  mentions: []
  ▶ tags: []
  emojis: []
  card: null
  poll: null
  ▶ 1: {}
  ▶ 2: {}
}
```



# Data Understanding

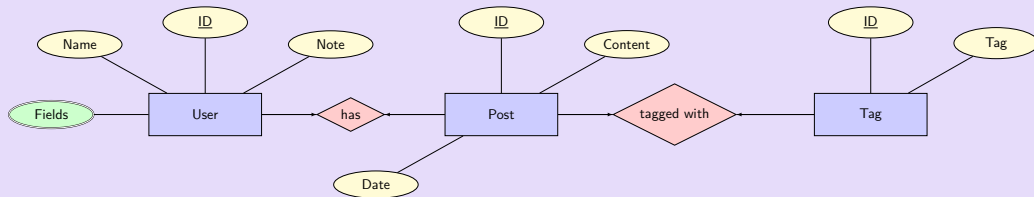


Figure: ER Diagram



## Data Understanding 2

```
<p><a href="https://chaos.social/tags/Entnazifizierung" class="mention hashtag" rel="tag">
#<span>Entnazifizierung</span></a> in <a href="https://chaos.social/tags/Kaltland" class="
"mention hashtag" rel="tag">#<span>Kaltland</span></a>: Beantworten Sie 25 Fragen und Sie
dürfen alle Ihre Ämter und Verantwortlichkeiten behalten <a href=
"https://chaos.social/tags/aiwanger" class="mention hashtag" rel="tag">#<span>aiwanger
</span></a> <a href="https://chaos.social/tags/bayern" class="mention hashtag" rel="tag">#
<span>bayern</span></a> <a href="https://chaos.social/tags/csu" class="mention hashtag"
rel="tag">#<span>csu</span></a></a></n>
```

Figure: Example Post



# Data Cleaning

## Text Cleaning

- ▶ html tags
- ▶ links
- ▶ special characters
- ▶ double spaces

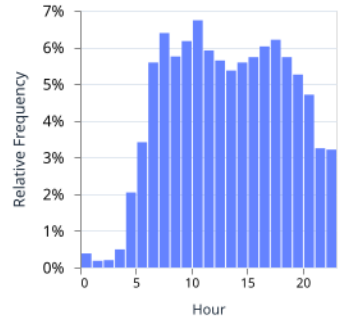
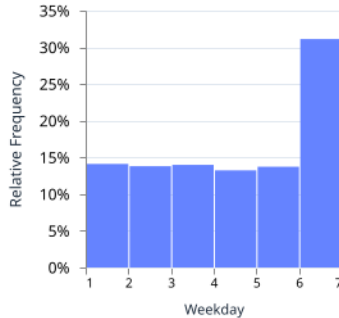
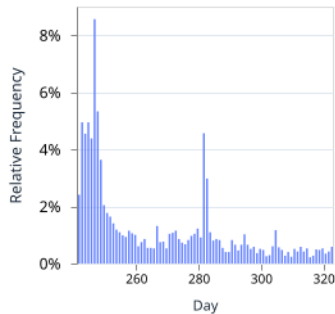
## Post Selection

- ▶ regional filter
  - ▶ name local entity
  - ▶ name any candidate
- ▶ party attribution filter
  - ▶ single party in post
  - ▶ party highest frequency in post
- ▶ text length



# Post Frequencies

Post frequencies on different time scales



# Region Classification

## Text Cleaning

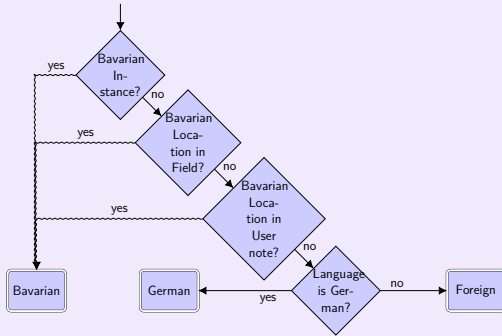


Figure: Classification: Bavarian

## Post Selection

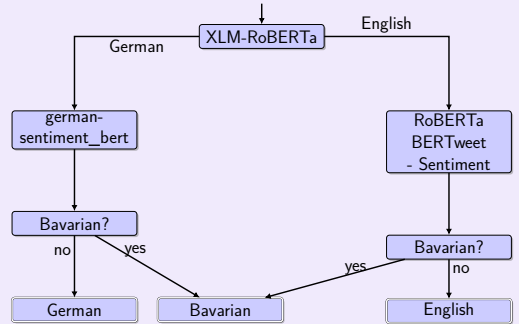


Figure: Language Classification





# Smart Cells

## Smart Cell

TASK

Text classification

USING

RoBERTa (BERTweet) - sentiment

Top-k

5

Max input tokens

100

Compiler

EXLA

Evaluated

Text

"Right-wing resurgence grips Bavaria after antisemitism scandal"

Run

NEU

NEG

POS

0.988

0.073

0.028

## Code

```
1 {ok, model_info} =
2   Bumblebee.load_model({:hf, "finiteautomata/bertweet-base-sentiment-analysis"})
3
4 {ok, tokenizer} = Bumblebee.load_tokenizer({:hf, "vinai/bertweet-base"})
5
6 serving =
7   Bumblebee.Text.text_classification(model_info, tokenizer,
8     top_k: 5,
9     compile: [batch_size: 1, sequence_length: 100],
10    defn_options: [compiler: EXLA]
11  )
12
13 text_input = Kino.Input.textarea("Text", default: "Cats are so cute")
14 form = Kino.Control.form([text: text_input, submit: "Run"])
15 frame = Kino.Frame.new()
16
17 Kino.listen(form, fn %{:data: %{:text: text}} ->
18   Kino.Frame.render(frame, Kino.Text.new("Running..."))
19   output = Nx.Serving.run(serving, text)
20
21   output.pdictions
22   >> Enum.map(&{&1.label, &1.score})
23   >> Kino.Bumblebee.ScoredList.new()
24   >> then(&Kino.Frame.render(frame, &1))
25 end)
26
27 Kino.Layout.grid([form, frame], boxed: true, gap: 10)
```

Text

"Right-wing resurgence grips Bavaria after antisemitism scandal"

Run

NEU

NEG

POS

0.988

0.073

0.028

# Sentiment Analysis English<sup>3</sup>

```
{:ok, model_info} = Bumblebee.load_model({:hf,  
  ↳ "finiteautomata/bertweet-base-sentiment-analysis"})  
{:ok, tokenizer} = Bumblebee.load_tokenizer({:hf, "vinai/bertweet-base"})  
  
english_sentiment_serving = Bumblebee.Text.text_classification(model_info, tokenizer,  
  ↳ compile: [batch_size: 128, sequence_length: 130], defn_options: [compiler: EXLA])  
  
Kino.start_child({Nx.Serving, serving: english_sentiment_serving, name: EngSentimentServer})  
  
english_toots_df = DF.filter(single_party_toots_df, detected_languages == "en")  
english_toots = S.to_list(english_toots_df["cleared_content"])  
eng_predictions = Nx.Serving.batched_run(EngSentimentServer, english_toots)
```

---

<sup>3</sup>Pérez, J. M. *et al.* *py sentiment: A Python Toolkit for Opinion Mining and Social NLP tasks.*

Oct. 25, 2023. arXiv: 2106.09462[cs]. <http://arxiv.org/abs/2106.09462> (2024).



# Sentiment Analysis German<sup>4</sup>

```
{:ok, ger_sent_model_info} = Bumblebee.load_model({:hf, "oliverguhr/german-sentiment-bert"})
{:ok, ger_sent_tokenizer} = Bumblebee.load_tokenizer({:hf, "bert-base-german-cased"})

ger_sent_serving = Bumblebee.Text.text_classification(ger_sent_model_info,
↳ ger_sent_tokenizer, compile: [batch_size: 128, sequence_length: 512], defn_options:
↳ [compiler: EXLA])

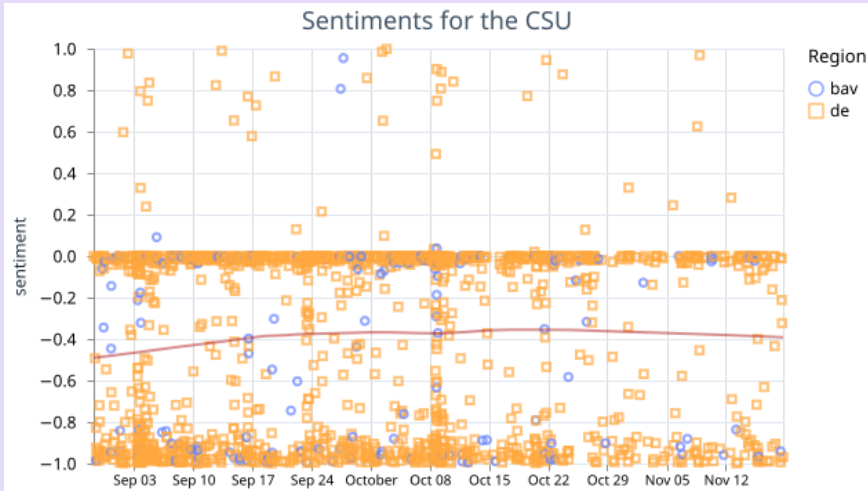
Kino.start_child({Nx.Serving, serving: ger_sent_serving, name: GerSentimentServer})

german_toots_df = DF.filter(single_party_toots_df, detected_languages == "de")
german_toots = S.to_list(german_toots_df["cleared_content"])
ger_predictions = Nx.Serving.batched_run(GerSentimentServer, german_toots)
```

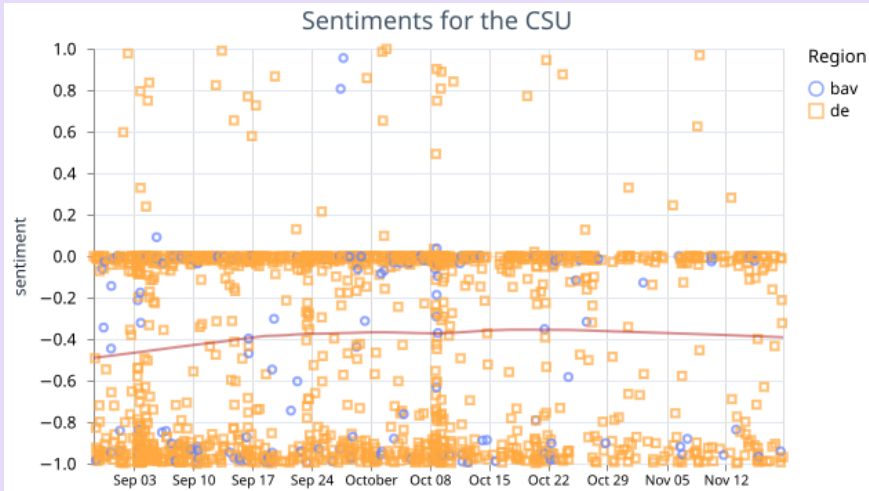
---

<sup>4</sup>Guhr, O. *et al.* Training a Broad-Coverage German Sentiment Classification Model for Dialog Systems. in *Proceedings of the Twelfth Language Resources and Evaluation Conference LREC 2020* (eds Calzolari, N. *et al.*) (European Language Resources Association, Marseille, France, May 2020), 1627–1632. ISBN: 979-10-95546-34-4. <https://aclanthology.org/2020.lrec-1.202> (2024).

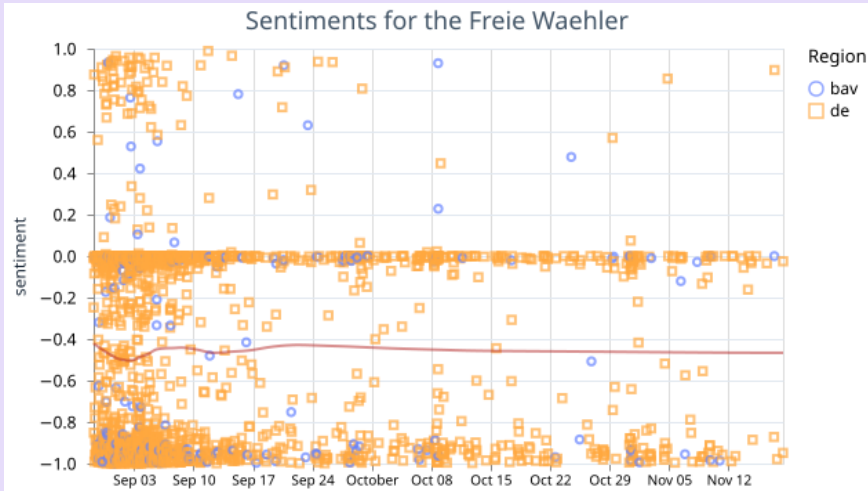
# Sentiment CSU



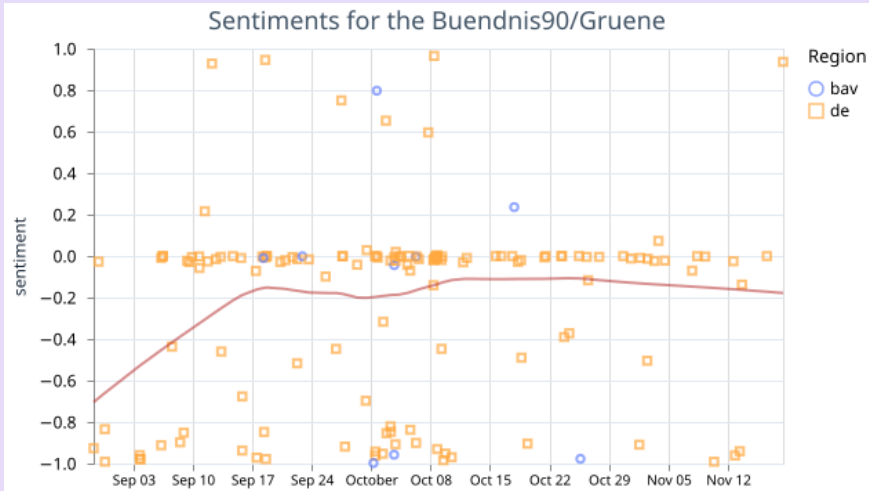
# Sentiment CSU



# Sentiment Frei Waehler



# Sentiment Buendnis 90/Gruene



# Frequency

**Table:** Frequencies how often the parties are mentioned.

Party	Mentioned	Mentioned Bavaria	Election
AFD	11.7 %	11.0 %	14.6 %
CSU	30.7 %	32.6 %	37.0 %
FDP	1.9 %	1.3 %	3.0 %
FW	47.9 %	49.1 %	15.8 %
Gruene	3.0 %	1.8 %	14.4 %
Linke	1.3 %	1.8 %	1.5 %
SPD	3.7 %	2.1 %	8.4 %





# Frequency Enhanced

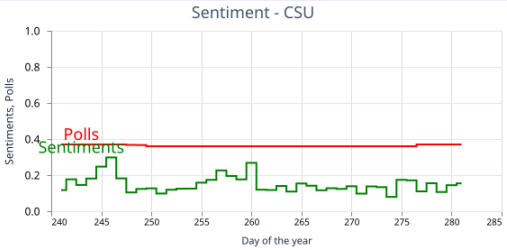
**Table:** Frequencies of mentions, after Sept. 17th and most positive post per author.

Party	Mentioned	Mentioned Bavaria	Election
AFD	18.7 %	16.1 %	14.6 %
CSU	45.9 %	38.1 %	37.0 %
FDP	1.0 %	n/a	3.0 %
FW	22.0 %	14.1 %	15.8 %
Gruene	6.4 %	8.1 %	14.4 %
Linke	1.4 %	1.6 %	1.5 %
SPD	4.6 %	4.8 %	8.4 %

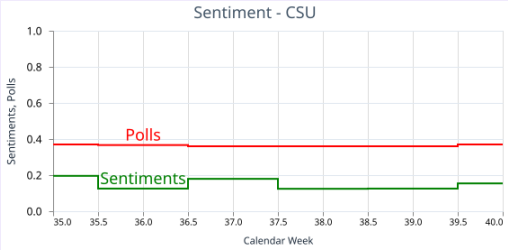


# Timeline CSU

## Daily

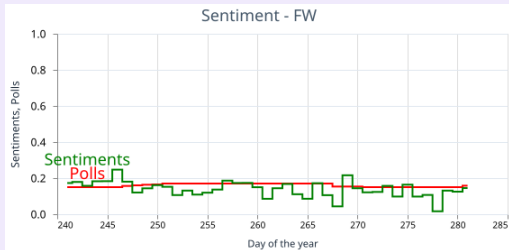


## Weekly

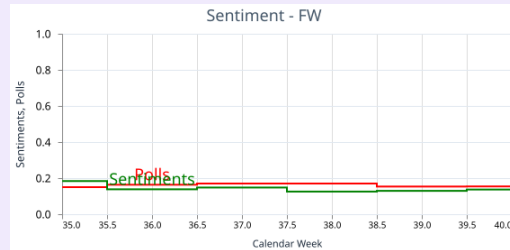


# Timeline Freie Waehler

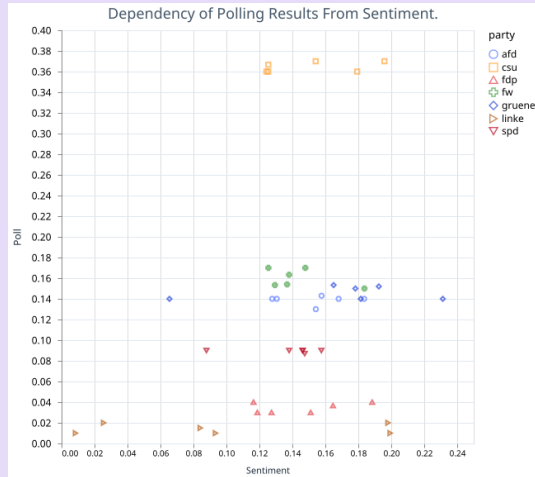
## Daily



## Weekly



# Sentiment vs Polls



# Ease of Use

## The Good

- ▶ It's Elixir
- ▶ BumbleBee (Hugging Face)
- ▶ Livebook > Jupyter Notebook
- ▶ It's Possible

## The Enhancing

- ▶ Help from Forum is Great:
  - ▶ Released it last week.
  - ▶ It's on Github, not in hexdocs, yet.
- ▶ Graphics: Tucan vs. Vega Lite.
- ▶ Scholar (ML) not as complete .
- ▶ A lot of Progress in most libraries.

