The Twitter Like Experiment

Apply for access to the Twitter API

- The first thing you may want to do is create a new Twitter account, even if you already have one. We are going to be liking a lot of essentially random tweets, and your Twitter followers are probably not that interested in seeing that.

- When you have created a new Twitter account, log in and go to

  https://developer.twitter.com/en/apply-for-access

- Go through the steps of applying for access.

- Wait a couple of days while Twitter (hopefully) approves your account.

Create a Twitter Project and app

- Go to https://developer.twitter.com/en/portal/dashboard
- Select 'Projects & Apps'
- Click '+ New Project' and write a name for your project. I went for 'like-experiment'
- Select 'Doing academic research' as the intention of the project
- Write a description of your project
- Give your app a name. I once again went for 'like-experiment'.
- You will now see three keys: an API key, an API secret key and a Bearer Token. Make sure you copy these keys, e.g. to txt files.
- Go to the App details page of your app. Under App permissions, click 'Edit' and then change the permissions to 'Read and Write'
- Go back to the App details page, click 'Keys and tokens' and generate an 'Access token & secret'. Again, make sure you copy the token and the token secret, e.g. to txt files.

Get the tweets

- Open your terminal and navigate to this directory.

- Run the following command where BEARER_TOKEN is the bearer token that you received from Twitter

```
curl -X GET -H  "Authorization: Bearer BEARER_TOKEN" --max-time 30
"https://api.twitter.com/2/tweets/sample/stream" --output ./tweets.txt
```

This command issues a get-request to the Twitter Sampled Stream endpoint, which simply bombards you with about 1% of all the tweets in the world currently being tweeted. We run the command for 30 seconds, which should result in approximately 1000 tweets. The output is then saved in the file tweets.txt.

Find the 0-like tweets

- Open the get_zero_like_tweets.py file and insert your bearer_token in the string

```
BEARER_TOKEN = ""
```

- Run the script to get a file called zero_like_tweets.json which contains all the tweets with 0 likes.

Like half of the 0-like tweets

Now that you have a json file containing all the 0-like tweets, let's go ahead and like half of them:

- Open the file like_half_of_the_zero_like_tweets.py and insert your API key, your API secret key, your Access Token and your Access Token secret into

```
API_KEY = ""
API_SECRET = ""
ACCESS_TOKEN = ""
ACCESS_TOKEN_SECRET = ""
```

- Run like_half_of_the_zero_like_tweets.py. *At some point you may get hit with a status 429 code, which means that you have exceeded the allowed number of post requests to the endpoint. However, you can like a maximum of 1000 posts per day, so this should in theory not be a problem. If you do receive a 429, just stop the program. At that point, you should already have liked enough anyway.*
- The program will create two new files in the folder: liked_tweet_ids.txt and nonliked_tweet_ids.txt. Be sure not to delete or overwrite these two files as they contain the tweet IDs for the tweets in each group.

Monitor the number of likes per tweet in each group

You can use the notebook analysis.ipynb as a starting point. Note that your like will probably not register with Twitter immediately, so it shouldn't be surprising if it takes a day or even a couple of days for the tweets to appear to have more than 0 likes when querying the tweets API.