Purpose – What is the purpose of the assignment?

The purpose of the assignment is primarily to use the skills we have used in python and in general coding knowledge to create a worthwhile piece of work that is useful. By creating the assignment, we will learn a lot about coding ourselves, using others code to our benefit, and possibly gain more knowledge about a part of computer science that interests us.

Procedure - What did you do? What code did you write?

I started off by mapping off the route of my code. First you had to parse the data, then systematically sentiment the data that you have stored. Then after that you can place the data into different states and color those states.

To parse the data I simply used the split method on each line. Because they are all the same syntactically, it was easy to loop through the lines and place the data into tweet objects. In the loop I checked to see if the word that was inputted was in the tweet. If it wasn’t then I ignored it. Because I was putting all the data in the Tweet object, I had to modify the tweet object to hold the sentiment score. This made it easier for all the data to be in the same place.

Adding sentiment to the data was a simple task at first sight but ended up being fairly hard. I made a method to sentiment the data by passing in the text and the word we’re looking for. By doing this I already had tweet objects created with all the data I needed to compute the sentiment, so I just looped through all the tweets and added the score to them.

Adding the sentiments to different states was the hardest part. I had to use the geolocation to find the closest centroid, but the closest centroid doesn’t always mean the state that it is in. So I had to write code to find the closest centroid, but then also figure out if it was in the states bounds.

Once the states had their own array, it was fairly easy to color all of the states. I wrote code to a double for to loop through the states and the states Tweets, and average the sentiments of each state, then use that to color it.

Overall the code that I wrote used a lot of loops to go through all the data. I also had to edit the code given to make it easier for me to work with it in the way I wanted. This is a big idea that I learned by doing this project: Write code that works for YOU but works for THEM.

Results – What were the results of the project? How did sentiments in different states compare to each other?

The result of the project was a working sentiment machine that could compute the sentiment of virtually anything that happened during the second week of November. I learned a lot about coding, such as that I need to get more help to understand how to use code that is given me before I go and try to write my own code. I got too deep into the project without using the Tweet object and other code given to me and had to backtrack.

Sentiments in different states were mostly scattered, depending on what you search. There were some things however, such as Trump vs. Hillary and climate change, that were more fluid on the map.