

Analyzing r/WallStreetBets

GROUP 6

Who We Are



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Overview of what happened on r/WallStreetBets last week

- **Redditors on r/WallStreetBets exploited hedgefunds by buying up GME stock and preventing short sellers (hedgefund managers) from profiting (Lopato 2021)**
- **Last Monday, silver jumped up 11% in price, the largest price increase in over a decade**
- **An analysis of r/WallStreetBets posts found that users are vehemently denying any involvement in the silver price surge, but the existence of bots and disinformation makes it difficult to verify these claims (Egan 2021)**
- **It is still unclear to what extent this subreddit is influencing the market**

Problem

- **Goal**
 - Analyze the subreddit r/wallstreetbets to examine interference and bot activity.
 - Focus on the trend to buy silver which started around 1/28/21.
- **Problem**
 - Outside actors such as hedge funds influencing the public community Reddit for gain through bots and disinformation for personal gain
- **Difficulties**
 - Determining which accounts are bots
 - Determining if users acting for their own selfish interests

**How is it done today,
and what are the limits
of current practice?
What's new in your
approach and why do
you think it will be
successful?**

Current Landscape

There are a few ways that bot activity is looked at whether it be looking at empirical data or using decision trees to identify bot activity. However, this is where it ends there is no further investigation of the bots

What's new & Future Success

What is new in our approach is going to be determining bot activity but then also analyzing that activity to determine the effect that it may have had whether or not it was spreading disinformation. We believe that it will be successful because we are looking at a very popular subreddit with lots of data to pull from which can help us understand the influence that the bots have on the users

**Who cares? If you're
successful, what difference
will it make?**


**What impact will success
have?**

If successful, we will be able to
assess
what other subreddits are
powerful enough to
manipulate the market. This
project has large implications
for the future of stock market
trading and community
forums.

How will success be measured?

2 Hypothesis and Analysis



- Bot identification
 - Are these Reddit users promoting to Buy Silver bots?
 - Disinformation identification
 - What are the characteristics of Silver promoting users?
 - Measuring vocabulary usages
 - Account information and activity
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Plan of Activities

- 1). Data Preparation
 - a. Collect the data from Reddit using API
 - b. Clean data to get the data we need to create analysis
- 2). Explore Data
 - a. Analyze attributes which are available
- 3). Determine features for use for analysis
- 4). Data analysis
- 5). Data visualization
- 6).Final report



Where will you get data from?

- **User activity**
 - **Reddit API**
- **Bot identification**
 - **Botometer**
[<https://botometer.osome.iu.edu/>]

References



- Egan, M. (2021, February 02). Silver is surging but users on wallstreetbets say they're not behind the rally. Retrieved February 07, 2021, from <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/31/investing/silver-price-squeeze-reddit-wallstreetbets/index.html>
- Lopatto, E. (2021, January 27). How R/WallStreetBets gamed the stock of GameStop. Retrieved February 07, 2021, from <https://www.theverge.com/22251427/reddit-gamestop-stock-short-wallstreetbets-robinhood-wall-street>