

Predicting the disease outbreaks using Social Network Enabled FLU Trends

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Abstract: Data is being produced colossally on social media, a platform where people voice their experiences & opinions on varied contexts. Health Care being one of them, topics like health conditions, their symptoms, treatments, side effects, and so on will be discussed inevitably. This makes the publicly available social media data an invaluable resource for mining such data to discover interesting and actionable healthcare insights. The main objective of our project is to reduce the impact of seasonal influenza epidemics. We present the method, which monitors messages posted on Twitter with a mention of flu indicators to track and predict the emergence and spread of an influenza epidemic in a population. Based on the data collected during 2 weeks from 20th December 2015. The analysis results will subsequently reported visually in terms of, distribution of flu types, flu symptoms, and flu treatments. This method can be very useful for early prediction of flu outbreaks, which in turn can facilitate faster and better response preparation.

Key Words: Tokenize and Stop words, Correlation Analysis, Word Cloud, and Twitter

I. Introduction

The proposed system will mainly concentrate on social network enabled data. Twitter is a popular micro-blogging service where users can post short messages limited to 140 characters. Twitter has been used as a medium for real-time information dissemination and it has been used in various brand campaigns, elections, and as a news media. Because Twitter data can be collected in real-time, it has been used to predict real world outcomes.. Although a very high volume of twitter stream contains general chatter, it does contain enough health-related information to track disease spread.

II. Proposed System:

We proposed a method that uses twitter data to track influenza activities in real-time^[1]. The proposed system consists of four stages: Data Collection, Data Preprocessing, Data modeling and Data Visualization^[2]. The data collecting module continuously downloads flu-related public twitter data using Twitter streaming API^[3]. The overall process is shown in the below figure:



The preprocessor module extracts tweet texts, and stores them in a database for further analysis^[5]. In text modeling, we track and compare popularity of different flu types, symptoms, and treatments. In the final data visualization stage, the popularity of different flu types, symptoms, and treatments (the output of the text model) are presented as bar charts, for easy visualization and comparison.

a.Tokenize and Stopwords:

This will splits the text of a document into a sequence of tokens. We have to split the entire data sets into an individual tokens consisting of one single word, what's the most appropriate option before finally building the word vector. Or if you are going to build windows of tokens or something like that, you will probably split complete sentences^[6]. As a result, each word in the text is represented by a single token. The stopwords, will filters English stopwords from a document by removing every token which equals a stopword from the built-in stopword list.

b.Transformations:

Once we have corpus we can modify the document. For example: stopwords removal, stemming etc.Transformations are done via **tm_map()** function which applies to all elements of corpus and all transformations can be done in single text documents

To clean the data file various commands are used which are listed below:

To convert to lower case:

```
corpus <- tm_map(corpus, content_transformer(tolower))
```

To remove punctuation:

```
corpus <- tm_map(corpus, removePunctuation)
```

To eliminating extra whitespaces

```
corpus <- tm_map(corpus, stripWhitespace)
```

c.Stemming:

The Porter stemming algorithm (or 'Porter stemmer') is a process for removing the commoner morphological and inflexional endings from words in English. Its main use is as part of a term normalization process that is usually done when setting up Information Retrieval systems. Stem porter Reduce words to their stems.

Porter stemmer stems "universal", "university", and "universe" to "univers". This is a case of over stemming: though these three words are etymologically related, their modern meanings are in widely different domains, so treating them as synonyms in a search engine will likely reduce the relevance of the search results.

d.Correlation Analysis:

A correlation is a number between -1 and +1 that measures the degree of association between two attributes (call them X and Y). A positive value for the correlation implies a positive association. In this case large values of X tend to be associated with large values of Y and small values of X tend to be associated with small values of Y. A negative value for the correlation implies a negative or inverse association. In this case large values of X tend to be associated with small values of Y and vice versa.

Suppose we have two attributes X and Y, with means X' and Y' respectively and standard deviations $S(X)$ and $S(Y)$ respectively. The correlation is computed as summation from 1 to n of the product $(X(i)-X')(Y(i)-Y')$ and then dividing this summation by the product $(n-1).S(X).S(Y)$ where n is total number of examples and i is the increment variable of summation. There can be other formulas and definitions but let us stick to this one for simplicity.

e.WordCloud:

After building a document term matrix and frequency terms.we can show the importance of words with a wordcloud.

The words cloud can be formed by using the following command:

```
wordcloud(words[1:100],frequency[1:100])
```

III. Results and Discussions

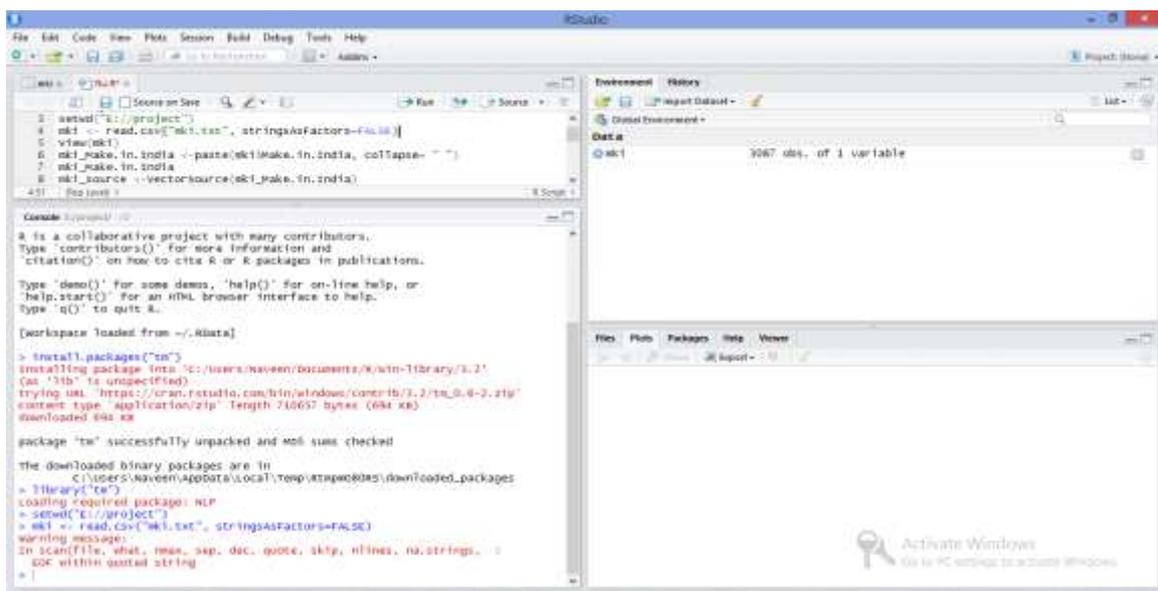


Figure: Loading the Data into R console

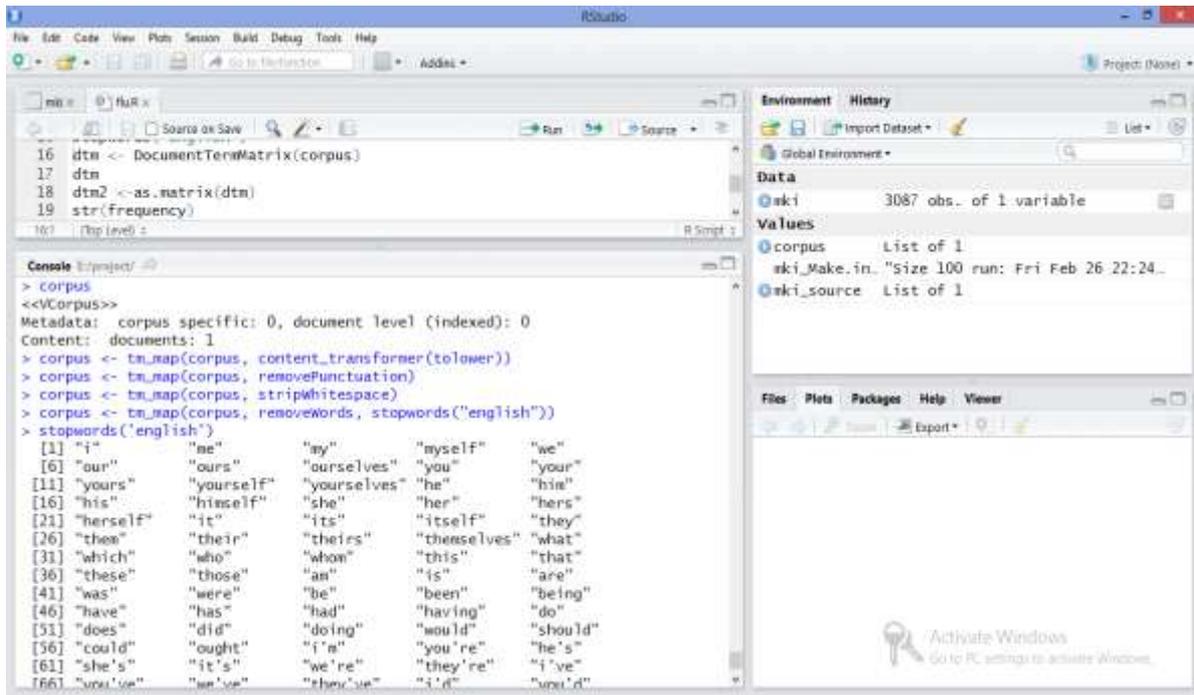


Figure: Transforming the Data

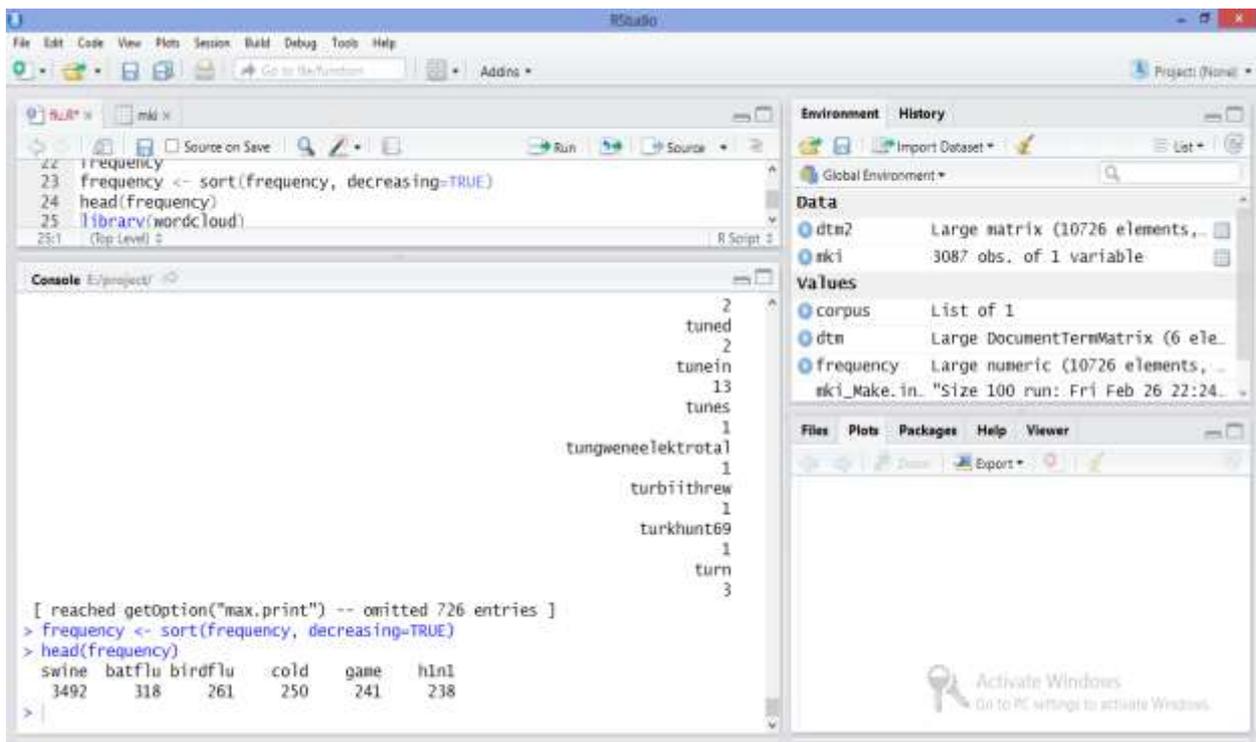


Figure :Frequency of individual terms and most Frequent terms

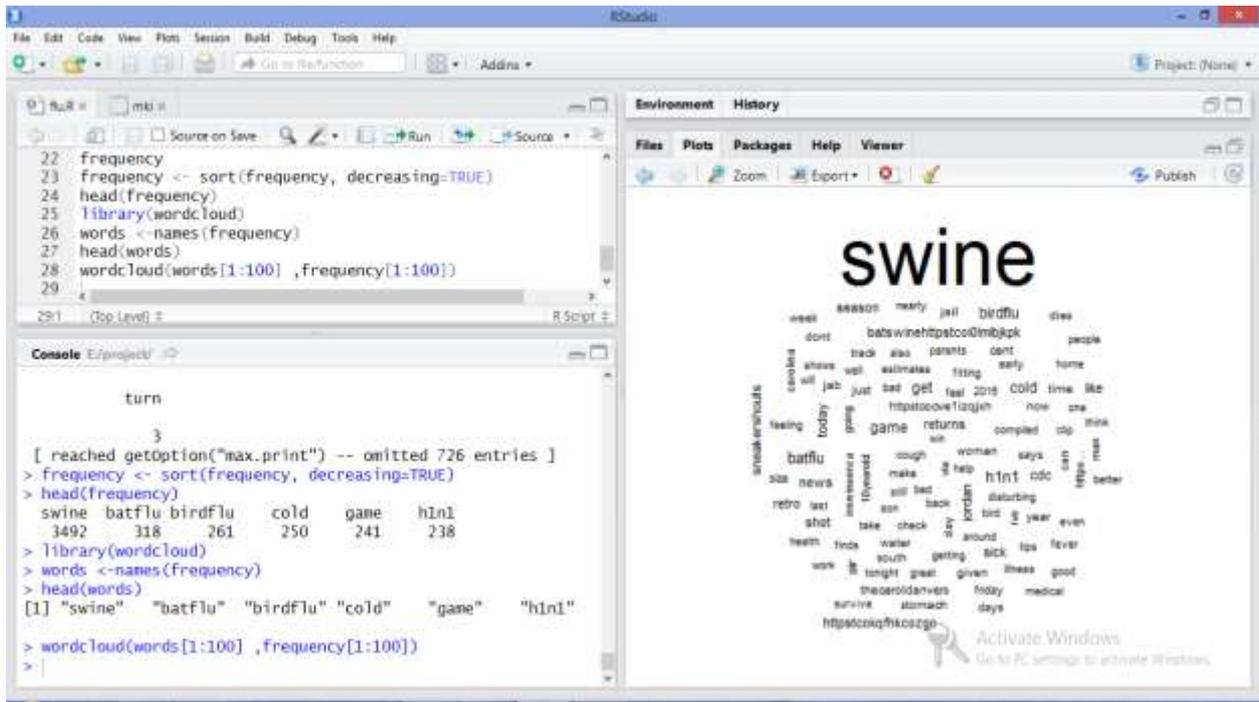


Figure: Building a word cloud with different types of flu's and their symptoms

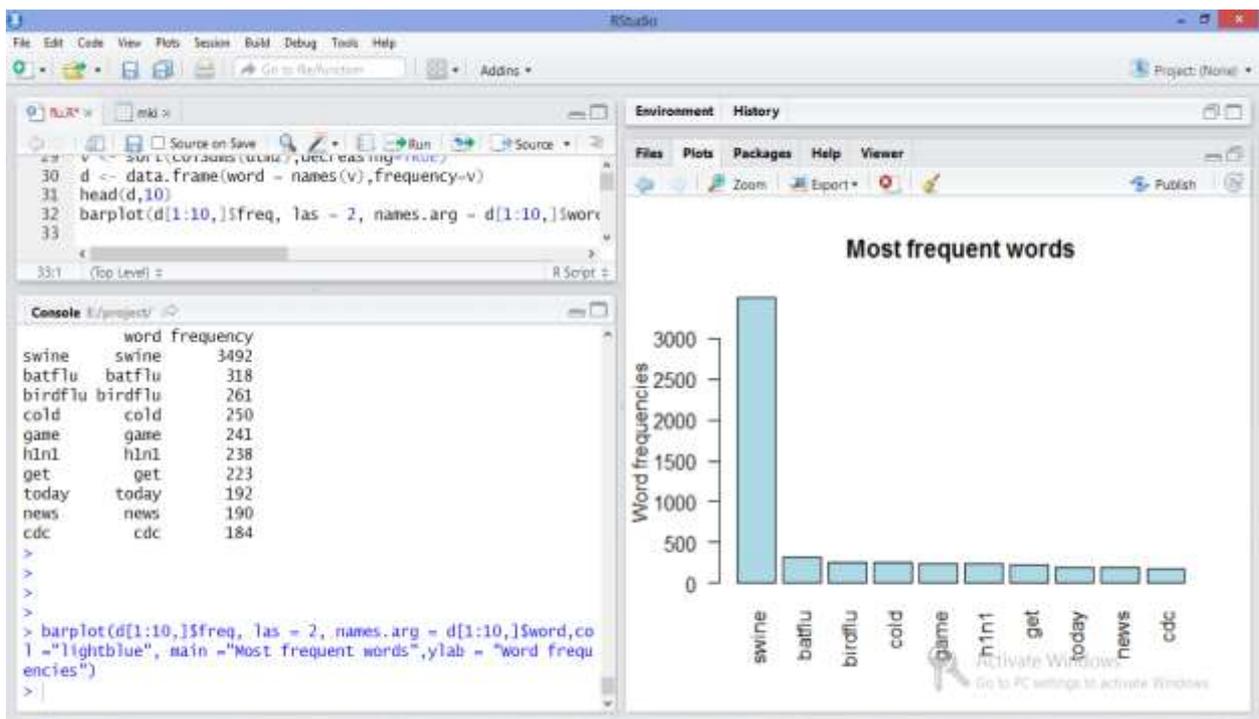


Figure: Bar plot for different types flu's

Conclusion:

Twitter is quite well-known for its real-time nature. Tweets often have the indications of an occurrence & when keenly observed, we can draw some useful deductions from them. On the other hand, most of the diseases or ailments can be treated & cured well when they are identified in their early stages; and that identification is possible with the vigilant study of the symptoms. Therefore, using the tweets to identify the words that may mean the symptoms of the flu helps in identifying the flu on the whole. This methodology thus is very useful for predicting the type of flu and suggesting the right treatment for the users.

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