

Pulling social media twitter data into R

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Abstract- R is software as well as language considered as a dialect of the S language produced by the AT&T Bell Laboratories. R is a well- simple and useful programming language which includes conditional statements, loops like repeat, while, for; user defined functions and input output facilities. R has a valuable data handling and storage facility. R provides a set of operators like Arithmetical, Relational, Logical which can be used to perform operations on Data Objects like Vector, Factor, Array, List and Data frame. R provides a great, rational and included group of tools for data analysis. R provides graphical facilities for data analysis and demonstrates either directly at the computer or printing at the papers. This paper is about how to get setup to pull social media twitter data into R so that we can do text analytics with it.

Keywords- Twitter, Data Extraction, Analytics, Social Media

I. INTRODUCTION

Data is factual thing or entity. When data is organized, processed or presented in a given context, it is called as Information. For example, Student is Data whereas his/her percentage is Information as Percentage will be processed. We reside in a world that's drowning in data. Data is not only in Text format but also in other formats like Image, Video, and Geographical Location etc. That is, Data is available in Structured as well as in unstructured data and study of Data is called as Data Science. In other terminology, Data science is the multidisciplinary field that focuses on finding actionable information in large, raw or structured data sets to identify patterns and uncover other insights. The data science domain looks for to find out answers for areas that are unidentified and unforeseen. Analysis of this data is very important. To analyze data, one needs an appropriate platform where data will be stored and data will be retrieved. On Social media like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Whatsapp, users express their opinions by means of Posts, Status, Tweets, Stories or messages. It is very important to analyze this data and first step in analyzing data is Extracting Data from Social Media. This paper deals with extraction of data (tweets) of Twitter media using R Programming language. [13] R which is both software and programming language provides different packages that help to achieve objective. R is Interpreted language that is it is not a Compiled language, there

is no need to compile the code written, it will be directly run on console.

II. PLATFORM FOR PULLING DATA

RStudio is an open source integrated development environment (IDE) for R programming language. It was developed by JJ Allaire and Chief Scientist at RStudio is Hadley Wickham. It is accessible in two editions:

- 1) RStudio Desktop: The program is run locally as a regular desktop application
- 2) RStudio Server: It allows accessing RStudio using a web browser while it is running on a remote server.

III. LANGUAGE USED FOR PULLING DATA

Language used for pulling data from Social Media Twitter is R Programming [1]. R is Interpreted Programming language. Once you type commands, it will be executed directly without compiling. One can perform many operations on R using R like Obtaining satellite image of Particular area, Reading from file, writing into File, Analyzing data by generating Graphs & Charts etc. These all functions can be performed using appropriate package. R Packages contain collection of Functions and its sample data. These are accumulating under directory called "Library" in R environment.

To install Package, the syntax is

```
install.packages("package_name")
```

The above command gets the respective package from CRAN Website and then install in your R environment. While installing, it gives message to select nearest location. Select India (https) if you are in India or otherwise.

IV. PACKAGES REQUIRED FOR PULLING DATA

There are 5 Packages required to do the required task, they are as follows: [8]

- 1) twitteR
- 2) bitops
- 3) ROAuth
- 4) RCurl
- 5) RJSONIO

1) **twitterR**: twitterR provides right of entry to the Twitter API. Through this Package, Tweets can be extracted as per our

requirement, also in different language like English, Hindi etc. This task is intended for Data Analysis Purpose. There are also some other functions like getting information of Followers, Following, timeline etc. [2]

2) **bitops**: It provides Functions for bitwise operations on vectors. Operations are such as Bitwise and, Bitwise Flip, Bitwise shift (left to right or right to left) etc. [3]

3) **ROAuth**: It provides an interface to the OAuth, OAuth token is required when the condition is of R to communicate with Online services. [4]

4) **RCurl**: When there is need of communication with online services, it requires HTTP requests and this package provides functions to allow one to compose general HTTP requests. It also helps to do function like to fetch URIs, get & post forms, etc. It also processes the output resulted by Web Server. It also supports redirects, cookies & other authentications. [5]

5) **RJSONIO**: This package allows conversion to and from data in JavaScript object Notation i.e. JSON format which is requirement of some applications to deploy or to develop. [6][7]

V. TWITTER API

Twitter is what is happening now. Twitter's developer platform offers many APIs, tools, and resources that enable you to harness the power of Twitter's open, global and real-time communication network. [9,10] To fetch tweets from twitter, one needs to have four keys:

1. Consumer API Key
2. Consumer API Secret Key
3. Access Token Key
4. Access Token Secret Key

To have above keys, one needs to create a twitter app on <https://apps.twitter.com>

Every application created on twitter API has unique above keys. Consumer API Key and Consumer API Secret are used to authenticate requests to the Twitter Platform. Always maintain the "Consumer API Secret Key" as a secret. This key should never be human readable in application. Access token key are used to make API requests on own account's behalf. Never share Consumer API Key, Consumer API Secret

key, Token Access key & token access secret key with anyone. [12][13]

VI. IMPLEMENTATION DETAIL

Step 1: Sign Up on Twitter website on <http://twitter.com/signup> to create account on twitter. Enter correct email id and mobile number while registration; also verify the same for further use. After sign up, Sign in with correct credentials i.e. User id and Password

Step 2: After creating account, go to <https://apps.twitter.com> to create app. Keep sign on with your twitter account.

Step 3: After sign in at twitter API, apply for developers account. Fill the information correctly, provide reason for which purpose you need twitter API, twitter keys. Successfully submit the same. After submission, the application status will be under review. Twitter team will review application, and will then approve after reviewing process. Then only, one can able to create new app.

Step 4: If application is approved, Hit on the "Create New App" icon. Submit the details of personal use. After successful creation, following keys will generate

1. Consumer API Key
2. Consumer API Secret Key
3. Access Token Key
4. Access Token Secret Key

Keys description is given in Section 5 i.e. of Twitter API. Now all settings are done on Twitter Side.

Step 5: Open R Software Session Call required packages in R environment i.e. import

```
library in R Session.
library(twitterR)
library(bitops)
library(RJSONIO)
library(ROAuth)
library(RCurl)
```

Use keys generated in Step 4 and store it in respective variables.

```
ck<- "your_consumer_key"
cs<- "your_consumer_secret"
at<- "your_access_token"
as<- "your_access_secret"
```

Setting authentication is very important and it is done by below function.

```
setup_twitter_oauth(ck,cs,at,as)
```

Then analysis the data by our required use by applying functions of twitter package.

To extract tweet, function searchTwitter will be used in following way.

```
t <- searchTwitter("Narendra Modi", n=10, lang='en')
```

This function will store Tweets which features "Narendra Modi" in „t“ object. n=10 specifies 10 tweets will be stored and lang= „en“ specifies the language of tweet will be English.

```

> t = searchTwitter("NarendraModi", n=10, lang="en")
> t
[[1]]
[[1]] "amrinder17: RT @RohitSarabhai: Narendra Modi is biggest cheer in earth who has killed dignity of Indian Hind Follower for which we Indians are sentimentally."
[[1]]
[[1]] "Nadlerwork: \The secret behind Rahul Gandhi's recent successes in Twitter - @amrinder17" https://t.co/uzs5j9fE7PflttwR"
[[1]]
[[1]] "amrinder17: RT @RohitSarabhai: Narendra Modi is biggest cheer in earth who has killed dignity of Indian Hind Follower for which we Indians are sentimentally."
[[1]]
[[1]] "anushka101: RT @amrinder17: India's GDP is more than a trillion dollars yet Narendra Modi has only Rs 4,700 cash in his account. His net worth is?"
[[1]]
[[1]] "Borowickson: RT @RohitSarabhai: French President Francois Hollande has expressed his deal with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi says the 'service great'."
[[1]]
[[1]] "TheRohitSarabhai: Narendra Modi is biggest cheer in earth who has killed dignity of Indian Hind Follower for which we Indians are sentimentally." https://t.co/uzs5j9fE7PflttwR"
[[1]]
[[1]] "Duniya: (1/2) RT @RohitSarabhai: The Narendra Modi programme this month will take place in 2016. I request you all to share your thoughts and ideas for this."
[[1]]
[[1]] "jagadeesh: RT @amrinder17: India's GDP is more than a trillion dollars yet Narendra Modi has only Rs 4,700 cash in his account. His net worth is?"
[[1]]
[[1]] "Nesure: RT @RohitSarabhai: Narendra Modi is biggest cheer in earth who has killed dignity of Indian Hind Follower for which we Indians are sentimentally."
[[1]]
[[1]] "Sapient_Sarabhai: RT @RohitSarabhai: Narendra Modi is biggest cheer in earth who has killed dignity of Indian Hind Follower for which we Indians are sentimentally."
    
```

Screenshot of result obtained is follows:

Figure 1: Screenshot of Output (Extracting tweets based on Narendra Modi in R Environment)

VII. CONCLUSION

Today data is generating everywhere and by everyone, that also in great mass, it is very necessary to analyse data. Data is also of any format that is it is not instructed format. To analyze this big amount of data, R Studio is good platform and first step in analyse data is "Pulling social media twitter data into R".

VII. FUTURE SCOPE

After extracting data (tweets) from social media (twitter), in future it will be used to

1. Amalgamate Tweets into app or website?
2. Append the additional function to post Tweets from app or website?
3. Target an audience and advertise on the Twitter network?
4. Search for real time tweets of own choice
5. Find out Sentiments of Users

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