

COVID-19 Misinformation Text Analysis Report

Date: [06/16/2020]

Executive Summary

We created visualization of the shifts in the subjects of misinformation as per the reports the team put together by observing the misleading or fabricated stories found various sources such as social media or news outlets. The reports range from 02/01/2020 to 06/01/2020.

Key Insights

1. China and Russia are mentioned in numerous stories and consistently across the timeline.
2. We notice a high frequency of stories related to the virus being man-made (mentions of lab, created, China/Russia) at the beginning of the outbreak followed by a sharp decline at the end of March
3. Interestingly, as the number of victims grows, Figure 2 shows many stories may have pivoted from asking “where does the virus come from” to adopting the narrative that it is a direct attack from China.
4. We also see scammers staying active and pushing different narratives across the timeline in figures 4 and 5.

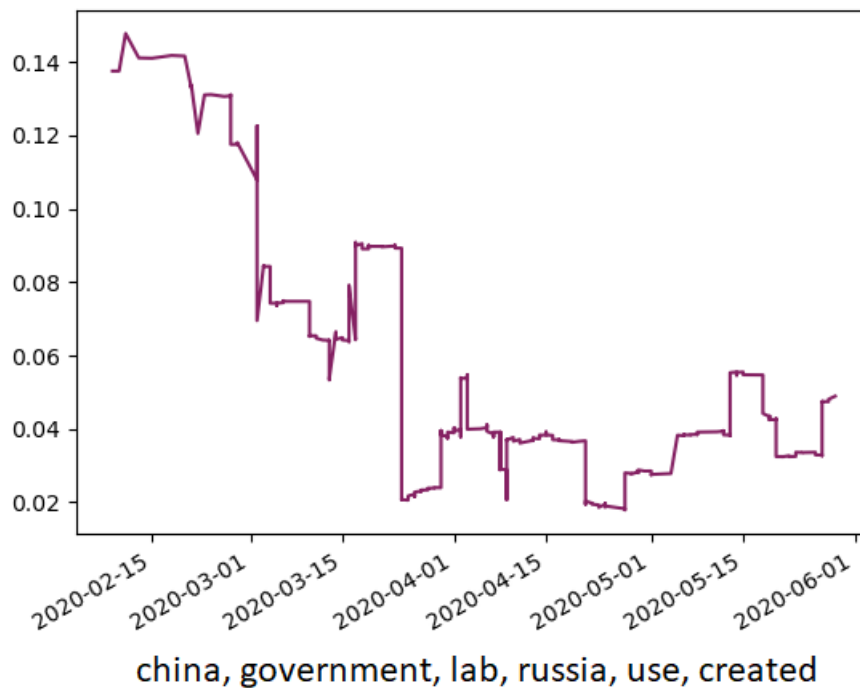
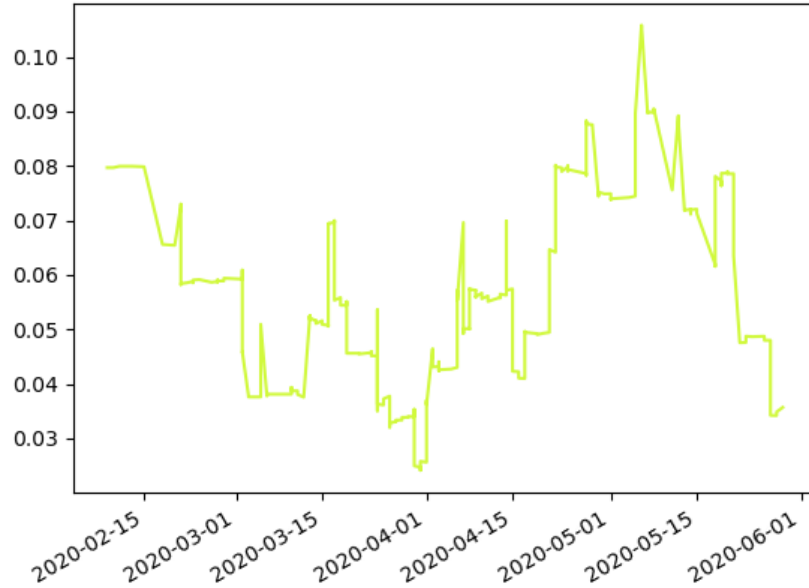
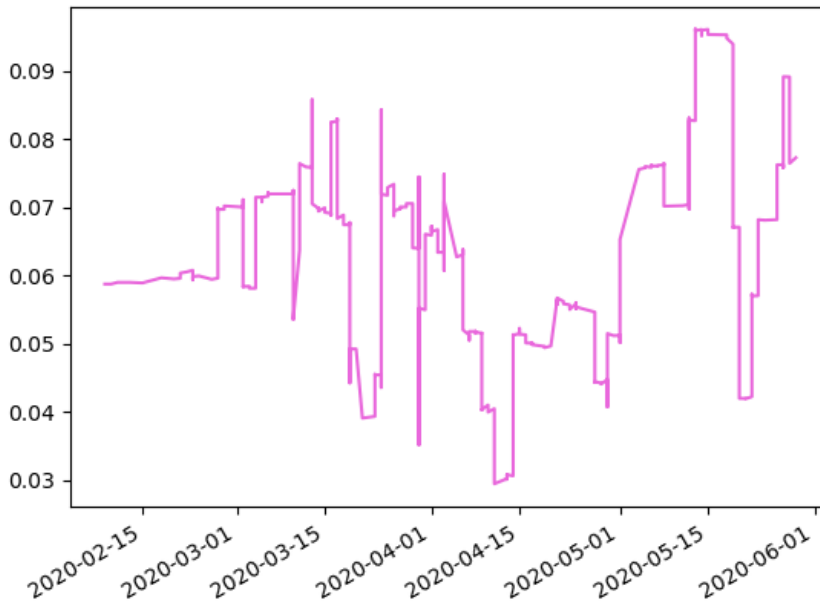


Figure 1 - Topic 1



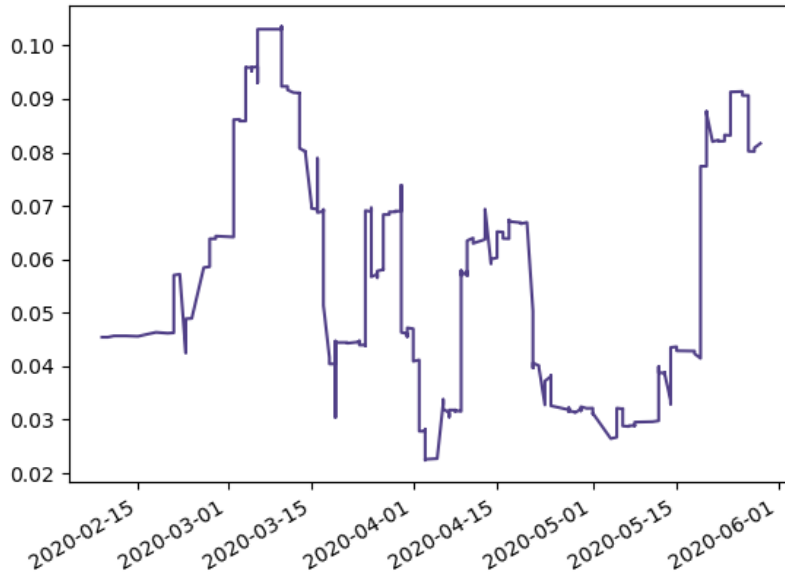
flu, china, die, weapon, outbreak, biological, deaths

Figure 2 - Topic 2



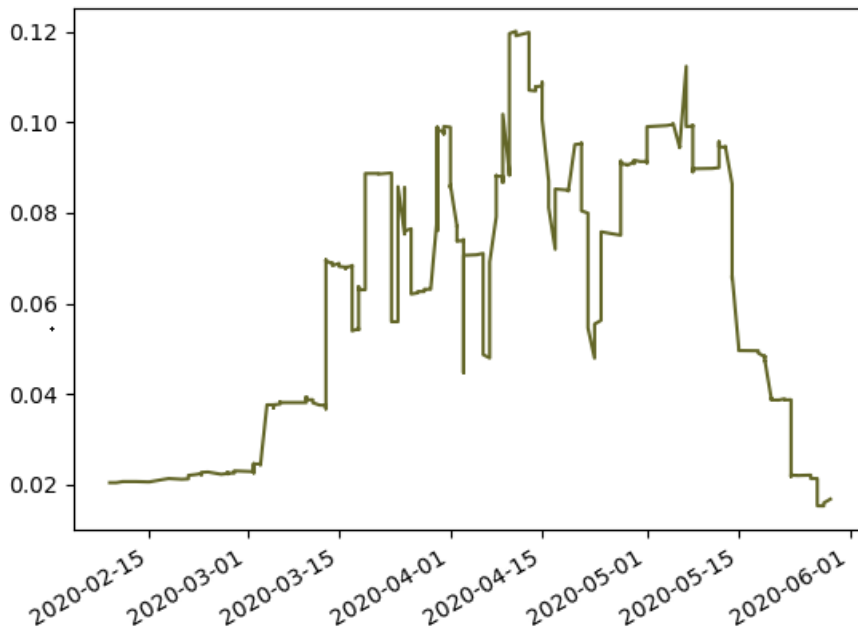
pandemic, vaccine, country, gates, testing,
economic, american

Figure 3 - Topic 3



virus, hydroxychloroquine, outbreak, countries,
cases, water, russia

Figure 4 - Topic 4



pandemic, new, scam, kill, infection, government,
spread

Figure 5 - Topic 5