Outliers Detection

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Initial Dataset Outliers

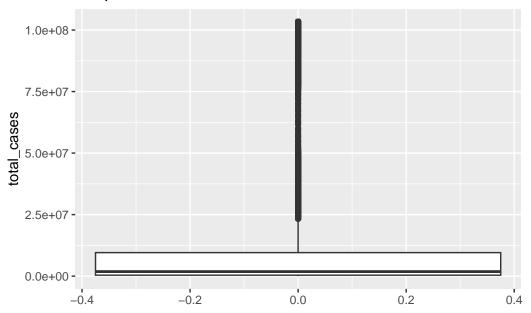
Using R's **outliers** package and **IQR method**, print the result in descending order by the amount of outliers:

	variable	count
1	total_cases	2893
4	new_deaths_smoothed	2887
18	total_tests	2645
7	new_deaths_per_million	2592
8	new_deaths_smoothed_per_million	2428
2	total_deaths	2402
19	new_tests	2345
37	new_people_vaccinated_smoothed	2201
26	total_vaccinations	2107
22	new_tests_smoothed	2083
5	total_cases_per_million	1967
31	new_vaccinations_smoothed	1945
25	tests_per_case	1937
20	total_tests_per_thousand	1888
27	<pre>people_vaccinated</pre>	1768
28	<pre>people_fully_vaccinated</pre>	1603
30	new_vaccinations	1503
3	new_deaths	1423
21	new_tests_per_thousand	1360
23	new_tests_smoothed_per_thousand	1092
36	new_vaccinations_smoothed_per_million	1041
11	<pre>icu_patients_per_million</pre>	1010
10	icu_patients	941
29	total_boosters	852

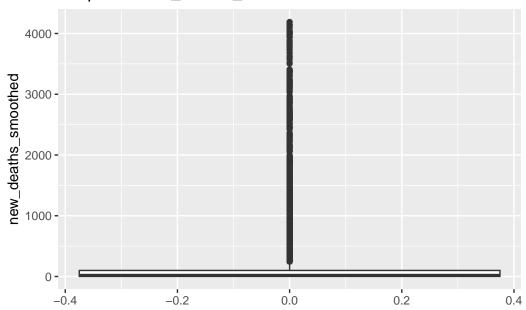
```
16
                        weekly_hosp_admissions
                                                  742
13
                    hosp_patients_per_million
                                                  638
24
                                 positive_rate
                                                  599
38 new_people_vaccinated_smoothed_per_hundred
                                                  553
                                 hosp patients
12
                                                  517
55
         excess_mortality_cumulative_absolute
                                                  275
57
                              excess_mortality
                                                  233
                             reproduction_rate
9
                                                  219
17
           weekly_hosp_admissions_per_million
                                                  218
56
                   excess_mortality_cumulative
                                                  142
14
                         weekly_icu_admissions
                                                   89
15
            weekly_icu_admissions_per_million
                                                   89
58
      excess_mortality_cumulative_per_million
                                                   19
45
                                                    3
                               extreme_poverty
                                                    3
54
                                    population
                                                    2
51
                   hospital_beds_per_thousand
6
                      total_deaths_per_million
                                                    1
32
                                                    1
               total_vaccinations_per_hundred
33
                people_vaccinated_per_hundred
                                                    1
                                                    1
34
          people_fully_vaccinated_per_hundred
                    total_boosters_per_hundred
                                                    1
35
39
                              stringency_index
                                                    1
                            population_density
                                                    1
40
41
                                    median_age
                                                    1
42
                                 aged_65_older
                                                    1
43
                                 aged_70_older
                                                    1
44
                                gdp_per_capita
                                                    1
                                                    1
46
                         cardiovasc_death_rate
47
                                                    1
                           diabetes_prevalence
48
                                female_smokers
                                                    1
49
                                  male_smokers
                                                    1
50
                        handwashing_facilities
                                                    1
                               life_expectancy
52
                                                    1
53
                       human_development_index
                                                    1
```

The **boxplot** for top 10 predictor variables:

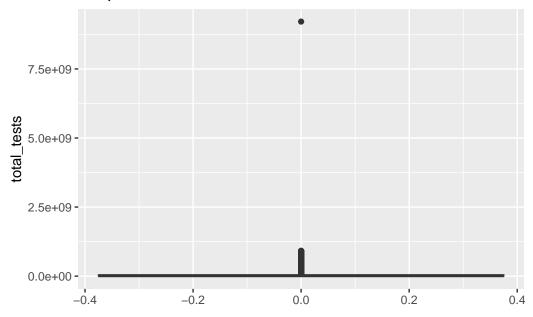
Boxplot of total_cases



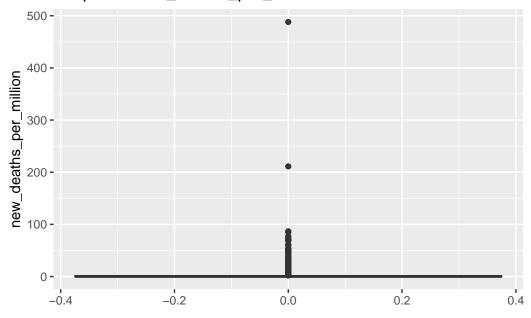
Boxplot of new_deaths_smoothed



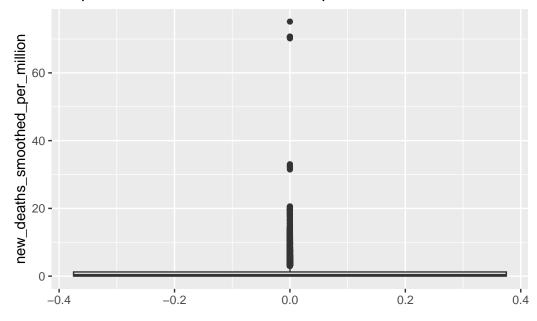
Boxplot of total_tests



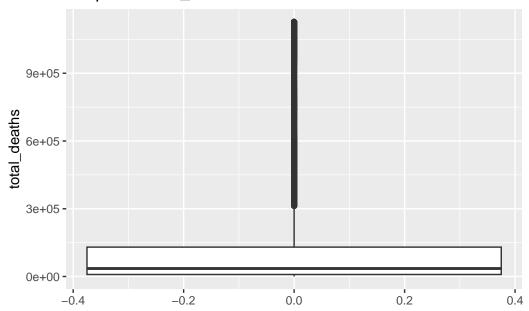
Boxplot of new_deaths_per_million



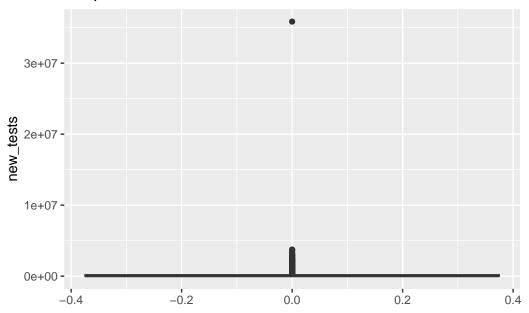
Boxplot of new_deaths_smoothed_per_million



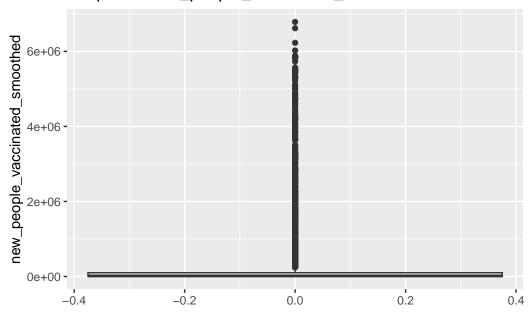
Boxplot of total_deaths



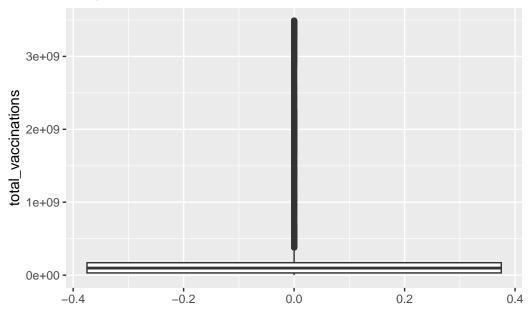
Boxplot of new_tests



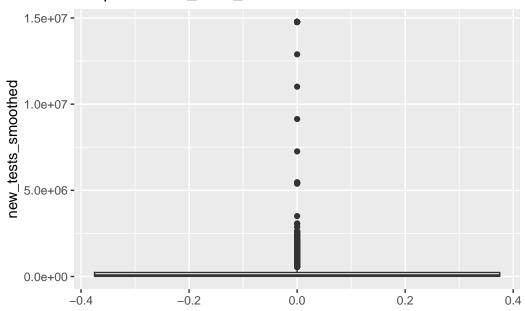
Boxplot of new_people_vaccinated_smoothed



Boxplot of total_vaccinations



Boxplot of new_tests_smoothed



Significant Predictor Features Outliers

However, after feature selection, we will not use some of the features with a large amount of outliers. Here's a quick overview of the amount of outliers significant predictor variables have:

```
variable count
1
                   total_cases
                                 2893
8
                   total_tests
                                 2645
6
       new_deaths_per_million
                                 2592
2
                 total_deaths
                                 2402
9
                     new_tests
                                 2345
           total_vaccinations
11
                                 2107
4
      total_cases_per_million
                                 1967
3
                    new_deaths
                                 1423
10
                positive_rate
                                  599
7
            reproduction_rate
                                  219
15
              extreme_poverty
                                    3
22
                    population
                                    3
20 hospital_beds_per_thousand
                                    2
5
     total_deaths_per_million
                                    1
12
             stringency_index
                                    1
13
           population_density
                                    1
14
               gdp_per_capita
                                    1
16
        cardiovasc_death_rate
17
          diabetes_prevalence
                                    1
18
               female_smokers
                                    1
19
                 male_smokers
                                    1
21
              life_expectancy
                                    1
```

More than half of the numerical predictor variables have less than 3 outliers so there's no need to worry about it.

Then, looking at those with 2000-ish (about 9% of observations) outliers, we can potentially just remove those observations for linear models only since tree-based models and neural network will be able to identify outliers.

However, it also makes intuitive sense that features related with cases, deaths, and tests have outliers as the COVID situation could be drastically different for a developing African country and a developed European country, for instance.

Moreover, we use dataset before imputing any missingness for outlier detection, thus there could potentially be less outliers after properly imputing the values.