

Basic Loading and Transformations

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Introduction

The article from 538 talks about the bump in media coverage of Joe Biden following the breaking of the Trump-Ukraine story. After about a week, the bump subsided and Joe Biden went back to regular mentions in the media.

[Link to 538 article](#)

Getting the Data

I started by loading the .csv files into two data frames.

```
cable_data <- data.frame(read.csv("media-mentions-2020/cable_weekly.csv"))
online_data <- data.frame(read.csv("media-mentions-2020/online_weekly.csv"))
```

The next step was to combine the relevant columns into a new data frame titled all_data and provide relevant column names.

```
all_data <- data.frame(cable_data$date, cable_data$name,
                      cable_data$pct_of_all_candidate_clips,
                      online_data$pct_of_all_candidate_stories)
names(all_data) <- c("Date", "Name", "Clips", "Stories")
```

Finally, I subsetting the data to only include mentions of Joe Biden. At the same time, I converted the Date column into Date objects.

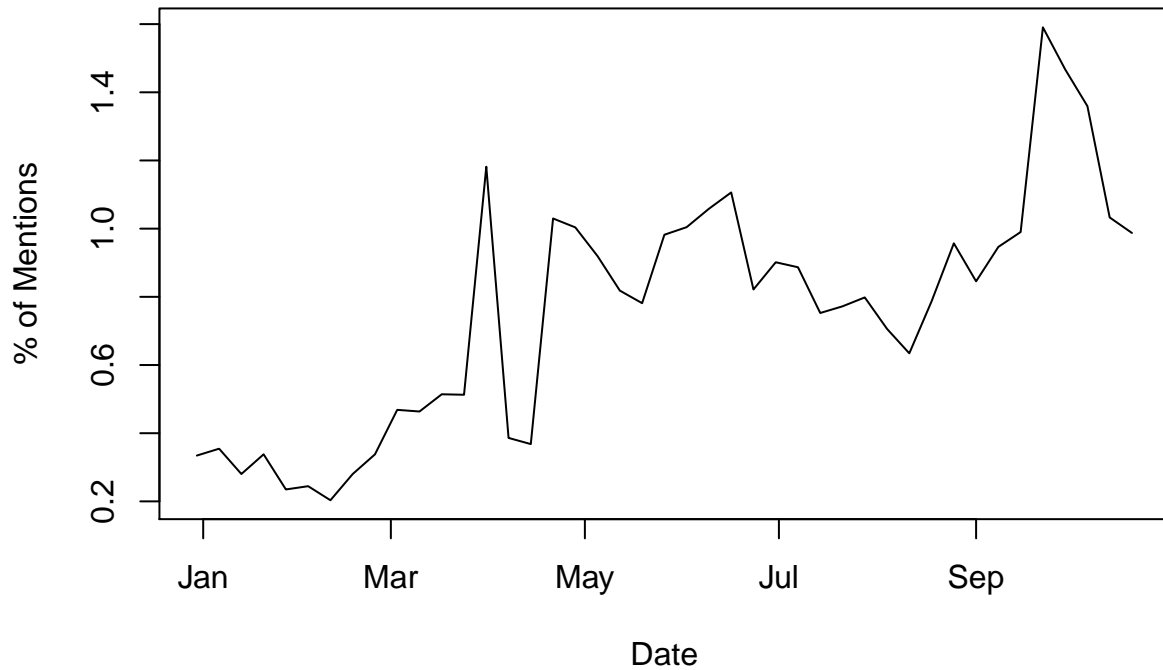
```
all_biden <- subset(all_data, Name == "Joe Biden")
all_biden$date <- as.Date(all_biden$date)
```

Looking at the Data

I started here by looking at the entire set of data.

```
plot(all_biden$date, all_biden$Clips + all_biden$Stories,
     type = "l", main = "Biden in the Media", xlab = "Date",
     ylab = "% of Mentions")
```

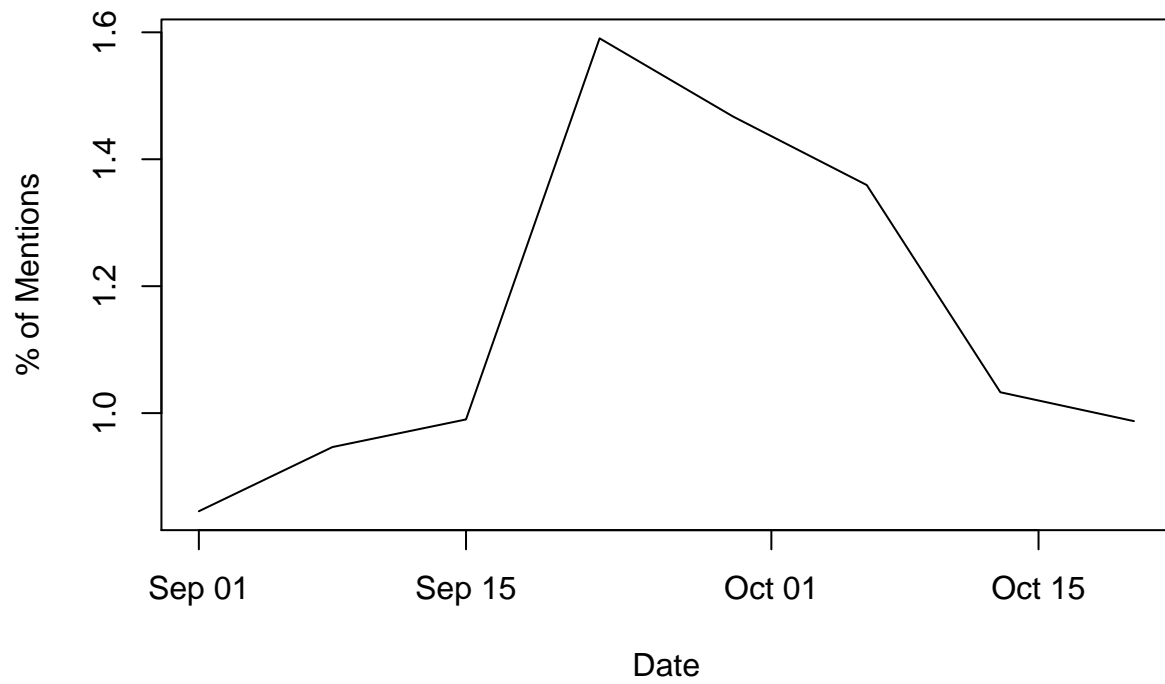
Biden in the Media



After looking at the data, it's clear that there is a sharp decrease in Joe Biden mentions starting somewhere in September. With this in mind, I subsetting the data again, looking just at mentions from September on.

```
all_biden <- subset(all_biden, Date >= "2019-09-01")
plot(all_biden$Date, all_biden$Clips + all_biden$Stories,
     type = "l", main = "Biden in the Media", xlab = "Date",
     ylab = "% of Mentions")
```

Biden in the Media



Conclusions

I would love to extend this work by comparing mentions of Joe Biden to mentions of other candidates, as is done in the article. I also think it would be worth looking at types of mentions (i.e. clips vs stories).