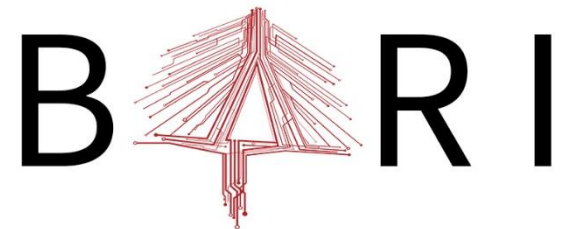Boston
Area
Research
Initiative

The Boston Area Research Initiative

- Convening researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders to envision and realize the future of the city.

- With the goal of leveraging data and technology to enhance equity, justice, and democracy.

- Primary focus on Greater Boston as a model for cities across the country and world.

  - www.bostonarearesearchinitiative.net

B A R I

BARI data portal

- https://cssh.northeastern.edu/bari/boston-data-portal/

Great datasets for computational text analysis from BARI

- Airbnb postings
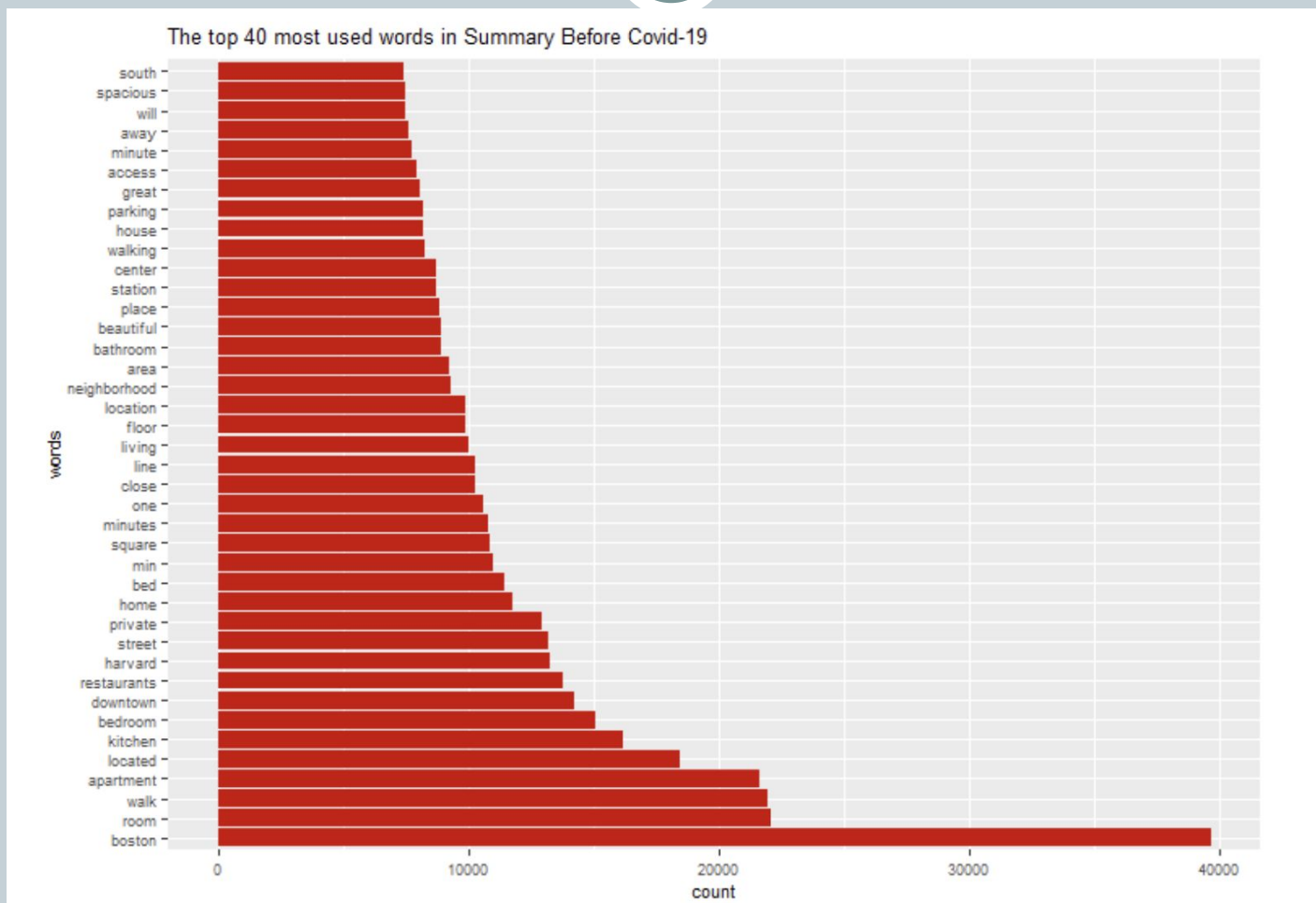https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/GXLZXF

- Data description:

These datasets include information about Airbnb listings in the Boston area processed from data released by insideairbnb.com. Inside Airbnb produces monthly data releases about Airbnb activity for select regions internationally. This data includes listings from Inside Airbnb's "Boston" and "Cambridge" releases. AIRBNB.Listing is a listing-level file that contains information about the rental properties listed on Airbnb. Listing data has been aggregated across census tracts to generate AIRBNB.CT, which includes ecometrics that describe neighborhoods in terms of listing frequency and pricing .
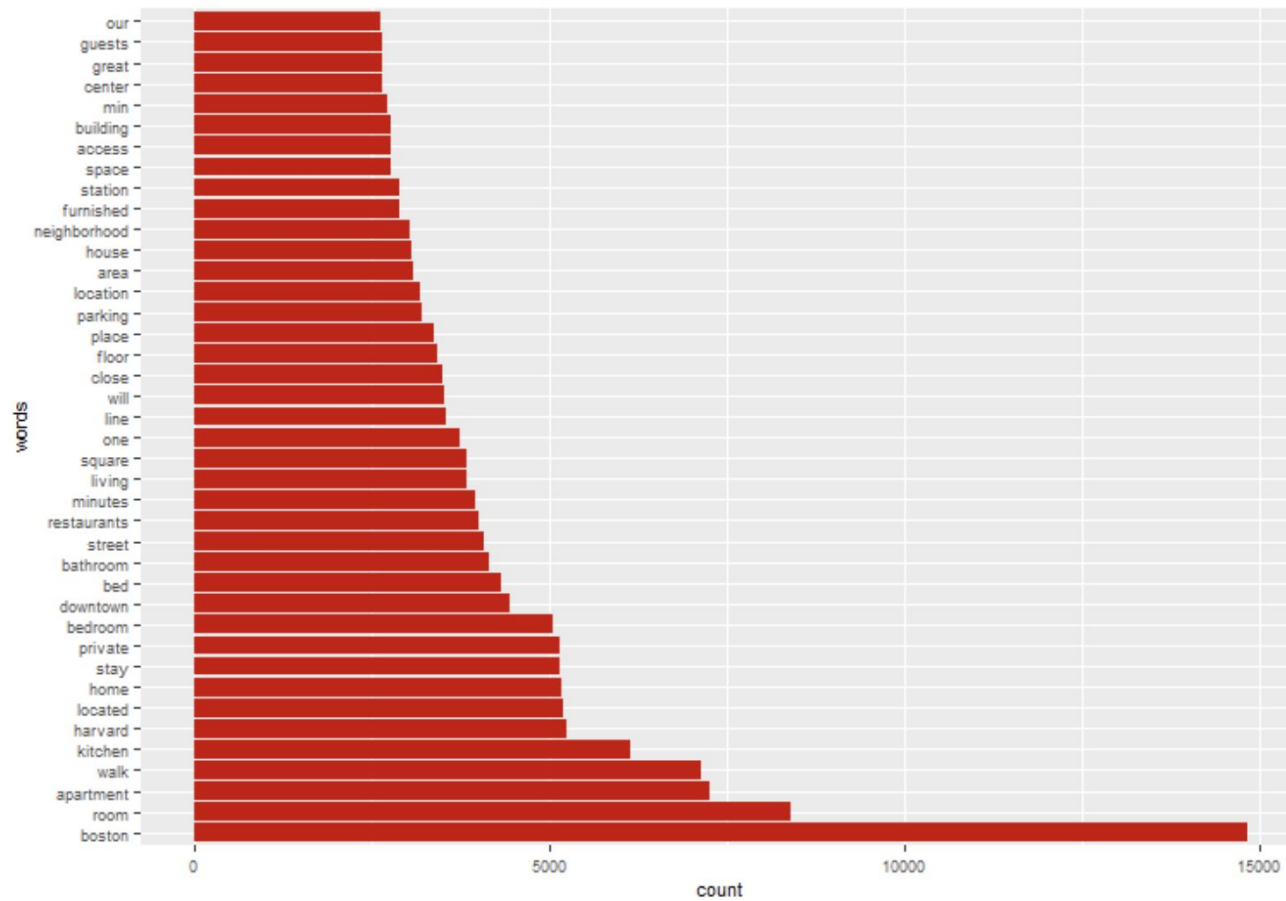
name	summary	space	description	neighborhood_overview
(02)room	Close to the T(train/subway) station, Downtown, MIT,…	Parking condition: Street parking(Let me know first if …	Close to the T(train/subway) station, Downtown, MIT,…	
(03)room	我的房源靠近It's very close to the subway station. 15 …	Parking condition: Street parking(Let me know first if …	我的房源靠近It's very close to the subway station. 15 …	
Near MIT and Harvard	走路不到3分鐘就可以到Trader Joe's ,房間內有個人冰箱可…		走路不到3分鐘就可以到Trader Joe's ,房間內有個人冰箱可…	
Modern 2 bedroom spacious apartment!	Spacious two bedroom two bathroom apartment in Ea…		Spacious two bedroom two bathroom apartment in Ea…	
Harvard Sq Cambridge 2 Bdrm w/ Deck & Parking	A sun drenched corner-unit townhouse in a fabulous …	Newly renovated kitchen, great open floor plan with l…	A sun drenched corner-unit townhouse in a fabulous …	The townhouse is located
L1 Private Room by Harvard Sq	The unit has 5 rooms, living-room, kitchen and 3 bat…	The unit has a central heating system. There is Iron, i…	The unit has 5 rooms, living-room, kitchen and 3 bat…	We are on top of Harvard
L2 Private Room by Harvard Sq	The unit has 5 rooms, living-room, kitchen and 3 bat…	The unit has a central heating system. There is Iron, i…	The unit has 5 rooms, living-room, kitchen and 3 bat…	We are on top of Harvard
L3 Private Room by Harvard Sq Preview listing	The unit has 3 bathrooms. Eat in kitchen. All equippe…	The unit has a central heating system. There is Iron, i…	The unit has 3 bathrooms. Eat in kitchen. All equippe…	We are on top of Harvard
O1 Private Room by Harvard Sq	The unit has 3 rooms and a bathroom. Kitchen equip…	The unit has a central heating system. There is Iron, i…	The unit has 3 rooms and a bathroom. Kitchen equip…	We are on top of Harvard
L5 Private Room by Harvard Sq	The unit has 5 rooms, living-room, kitchen and 3 bat…	The unit has a central heating system. There is Iron, i…	The unit has 5 rooms, living-room, kitchen and 3 bat…	We are on top of Harvard
L4 Private Room by Harvard Sq	The unit has 5 rooms, living-room, kitchen and 3 bat…	The unit has a central heating system. There is Iron, i…	The unit has 5 rooms, living-room, kitchen and 3 bat…	We are on top of Harvard
O2 Private Room by Harvard Sq	The unit has 3 rooms and a bathroom. Kitchen equip…	The unit has a central heating system. There is Iron, i…	The unit has 3 rooms and a bathroom. Kitchen equip…	We are on top of Harvard
O3 Private Room by Harvard Sq	The unit has 3 rooms and a bathroom. Kitchen equip…	The unit has a central heating system. There is Iron, i…	The unit has 3 rooms and a bathroom. Kitchen equip…	We are on top of Harvard
Luxurious Apartment Next to the Charles River	Enjoy the breathtaking views of Boston's skyline from…		Enjoy the breathtaking views of Boston's skyline from…	
Private Room within minutes of the T – Sublet	Private room in a recently renovated apartment. A 5 …	Seeking sublet of the space for a period of 4+ months.	Private room in a recently renovated apartment. A 5 …	
Cozy, simple & practical private room IN Boston!	This is maybe the most convenient place, affordable a…	You will love this place and its location	This is maybe the most convenient place, affordable a…	Assembly row is a 10 min
Room near Lechmere Boston area. Low cost at luxury	Cozy room in luxury building walking distance from L…	Great Charles River and downtown Boston view. Guest	Cozy room in luxury building walking distance from L…	Cambridge is one of the b

Examples

The top 40 most used words in Summary Before Covid-19

The top 40 most used words in Summary After Covid-19

- Craigslist Postings

Data description:

- These datasets include information about housing listings on Craigslist for the state of Massachusetts processed from data scraped by BARI. This release includes listings for all five Massachusetts regions designated by Craigslist (Boston, Cape Cod, South Coast, Western Mass, and Worcester). CRAIGSLIST.Listings is a listing-level file that contains information about housing listings posted on Craigslist. Listing data has been aggregated across census tracts to generate CRAIGSLIST.CT, which includes ecometrics that describe neighborhoods in terms of listing frequency and property value

LISTING_ID	LISTING_MONTH	LISTING_DAY	LISTING_TIME	RETRIEVED_ON	BODY	PRICE	AREA_SQFT	ALLOWS_CATS	ALLOWS_DOGS
7261234076	January	13	05:11:11	2021-01-13T05:34:35+00:00	Must see new gut rehab 2 level apartment in Jamaica ...	3200	2000	1	
7261242812	January	13	06:02:07	2021-01-13T06:27:21+00:00	Great 1 bedroom apartment available for rent now. Se...	1500	800	1	
7261242812	January	13	06:02:07	2021-01-13T06:27:21+00:00	Great 1 bedroom apartment available for rent now. Se...	1500	800	1	
7261243155	January	13	06:04:21	2021-01-13T06:44:09+00:00	Hi! Phone Calls only! NO TEXTS! I cannot hear, see or ...	1650	NA	0	
7261243223	January	13	06:04:44	2021-01-13T06:05:20+00:00	Super clean and quiet extra-large one bedroom apart...	1675	875	1	
7261244458	January	13	06:13:52	2021-01-13T06:21:17+00:00	PROPERTY INFO ID: 87678015Rent: $1,356 / MonthB...	1356	NA	1	
7261245900	January	13	06:24:48	2021-01-13T06:44:25+00:00	PROPERTY INFO ID: 109797189Rent: $1,745 / Month...	1745	NA	1	
7261247823	January	13	06:40:01	2021-01-13T07:03:49+00:00	PROPERTY INFO ID: 71275012Rent: $1,619 / MonthB...	1619	NA	1	
7261264130	January	13	09:48:05	2021-01-13T11:36:27+00:00	Don,t wait until it's to late. Secure your off campus ho...	2200	NA	0	
7261264494	January	13	09:53:05	2021-01-13T09:53:11+00:00	Beautiful and immaculate home where pride of owner...	750	NA	1	
7261265243	January	13	10:03:45	2021-01-13T10:03:52+00:00	Freshly painted. Bright and sunny living room with bri...	750	NA	1	
7261275617	January	13	11:54:54	2021-01-13T12:37:47+00:00	2 BEDROOM AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 1ST BRAND NEW M...	1800	NA	1	
7261275995	January	13	11:57:32	2021-01-13T12:22:29+00:00	1 BEDROOM AVAILABLE NOW MODERN KITCHEN AND ...	1400	NA	1	
7261278045	January	13	12:11:05	2021-01-13T12:28:52+00:00	BRAND NEW 2 BEDROOM AVAILABLE JANUARY 20TH H...	2300	NA	1	
7261278307	January	13	12:12:47	2021-01-13T12:31:40+00:00	ROOM AVAILABLE NOW HARDWOOD FLOORS MODERN...	800	NA	1	
7261280358	January	13	12:24:56	2021-01-13T12:46:52+00:00	Located off route 20 in the thriving City of Marlborou...	850	NA	0	
7261280504	January	13	12:25:41	2021-01-13T12:27:02+00:00	NO FEE! Available now! Very modern, bright, open, an...	2700	935	0	

Examples

Goals of the work

In the works related to this post, we are looking for 3 aspects of people's behavior during the pandemic months:

- first, we want to know how did the absense of students impacted the pattern in overall rental market;
- second, we noticed that lots of landlords / managements started to provide virtual tour in recent year. We will look for any change in such pattern during the pandemic;
- third, we are looking for whether the trends are the same across all areas in Massachusetts.

One of the most useful information in the dataset is probably the post contents (the "BODY") column. In following part, we are trying to find answers for above questions the posts body text.