

Text Mining

Text analysis of Chinese Paper Daily news article

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1 Description of Data

The data are collected from the Chinese [People's Daily](#) newspaper for year 2019 and 2020. The daily newspapers are published on a consistent structure (we give the details of the structure below) online on the newspaper's [website](#). Despite the slow loading speed of the website, We tapped into its structure and have scraped the **first two pages** of the daily newspapers.

For instance, the 1st page of the issue published on *2020-03-22* can be accessed [here](#).



Figure 1: Example newspaper page published on 2020-03-22 (left), and Section or column 1 of it enlarged (right).

We dissect the different characteristics of this particular article as follows and these properties apply to all other articles.

First of all, the main link to the article is this one: (http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/htm1/2020-03/22/nbs.D11000renmrb_01.htm). This takes us to one page of the newspaper, i.e., to the 1st page of the newspaper in this particular example. However, a lot of content is packed on this single page. There are 10 different sections or columns on this article (see Figure 1 for this example newspaper page published on 2020-03-22).

- The prefix of the URL, i.e., (<http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrb/html>) is the same for every article, regardless of page number or edition.
- Date on which it was published: **2020-03/22**
- Page number of the newspaper: **01**
- Section id prefix: **nbs.D11000renmrb**.

As we can see in Figure (1) there are several different sections crammed or squeezed into the single page of the newspaper and these parts (sections) are clickable, and each has a unique id. A click on each section will redirect to a link where one can access the full content of the section in an enlarged view. For example, the first section out of the 10 sections on this example article is [section 1](#) or (see Figure 1 –right). The section id for this first section is **nw.D11000renmrb_20200322_1-01**.

Accordingly, the id of each section on an article is of this form: **nw.D11000renmrb_yyyymmdd_sectionpage#**. Each section of the single page newspaper has the following additional characteristics.

- Title (**h1 tag**)
- Subtitle (**h3 tag**)
- Number of paragraphs on each page, and
- Content or body of the news article section.

The maximum number of sections on a page is 15, in [an article published on 2019-04-26](#), and the minimum is 1. On average, there were 5.99 sections per a page of an article, for the newspapers published since January 1st, 2019 regardless of the page number. Looking at the frequencies of articles individually, the tendency is for page 2 to have less issues with very high numbers of articles above around 9.

[figs/art_freq201.pdf] [figs/art_freq202.pdf]

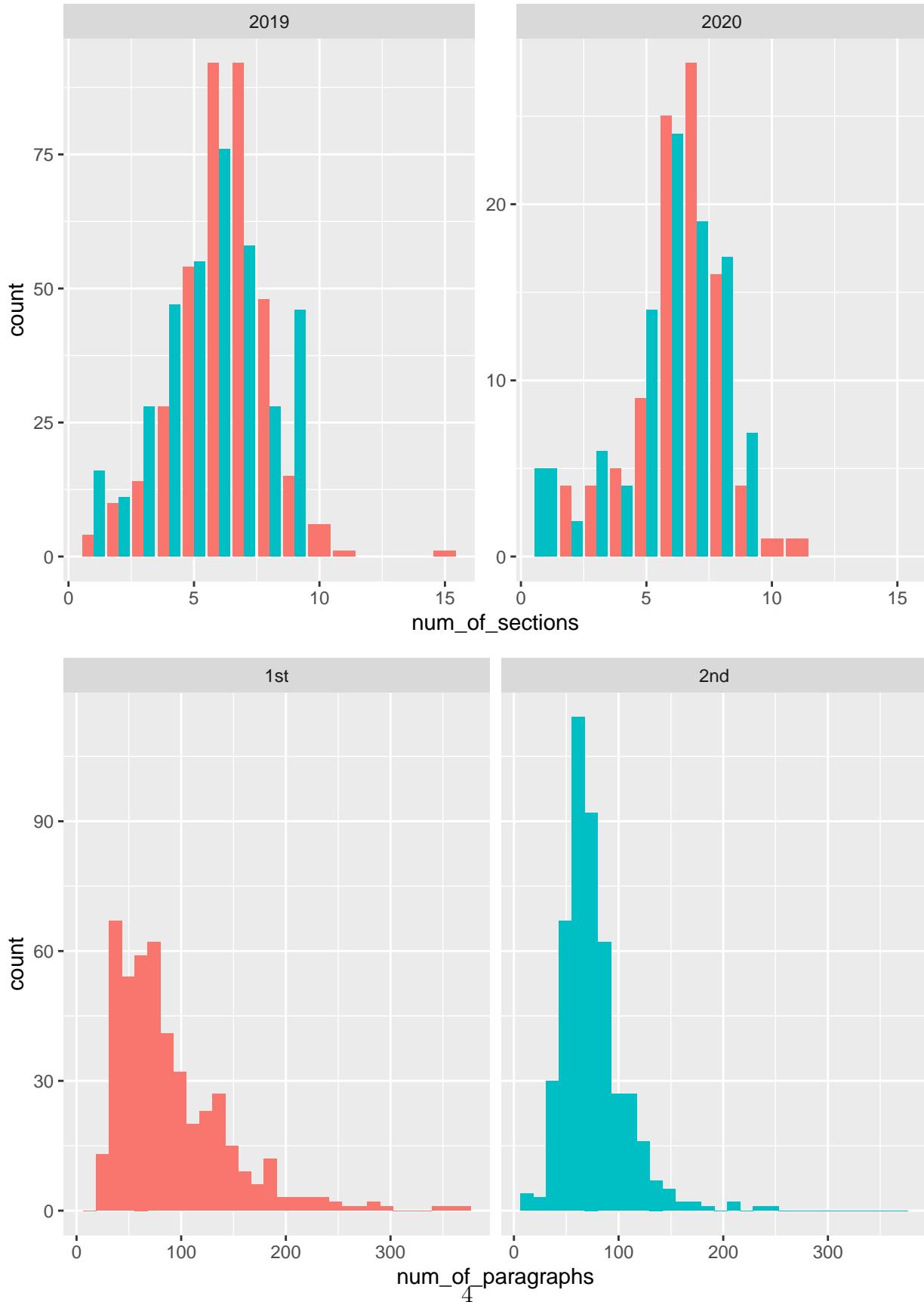
Therefore, the contents of all the sections together—on the page of the news article—make up the contents of the entire (single) page—which are compactly placed in a single page of the article. Particularly, we scraped the sections of the newspapers—through their unique ids. The date and the page number of the newspaper uniquely identify a newspaper, where the combination of which forms the ids of the sections—prefixed with **nbs.D11000renmrb**.

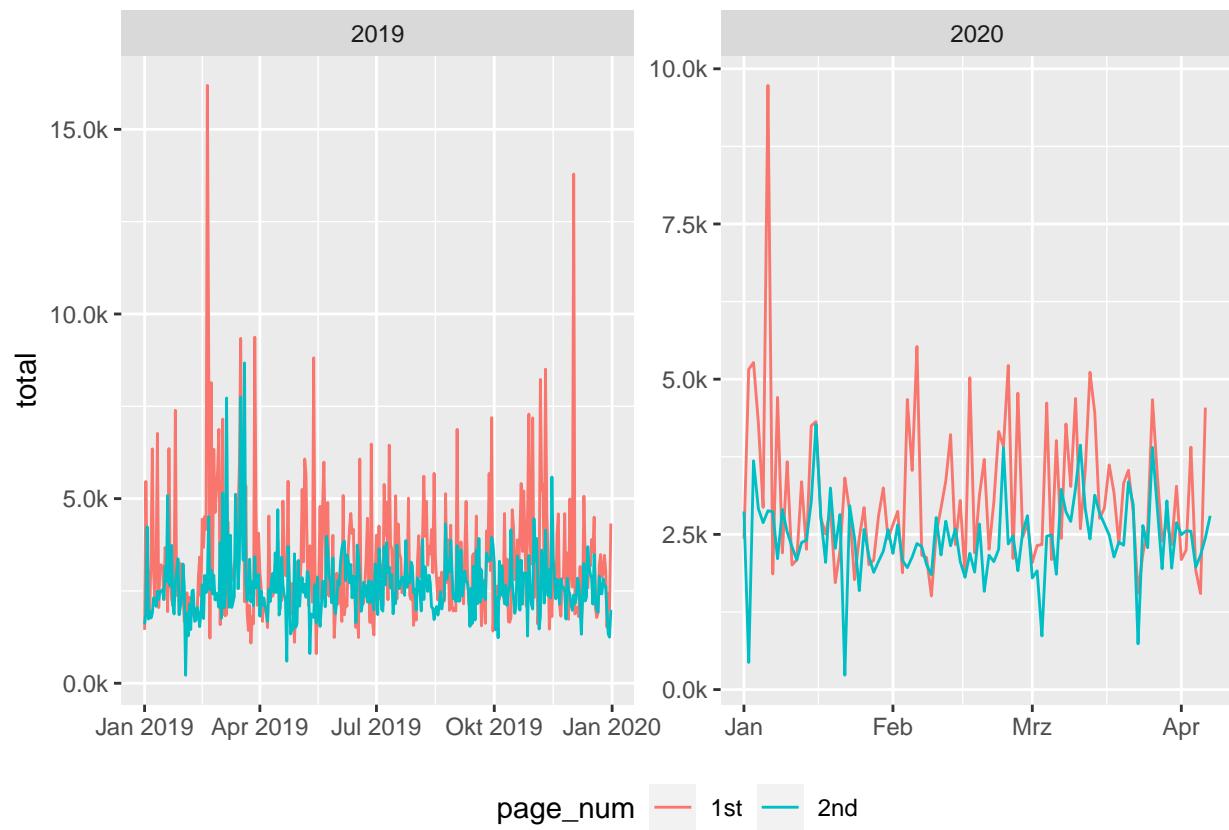
Moreover, most of the news articles are bulky in terms of number of paragraphs and text volume. There are 82.67 number of paragraphs per page, and 16.6

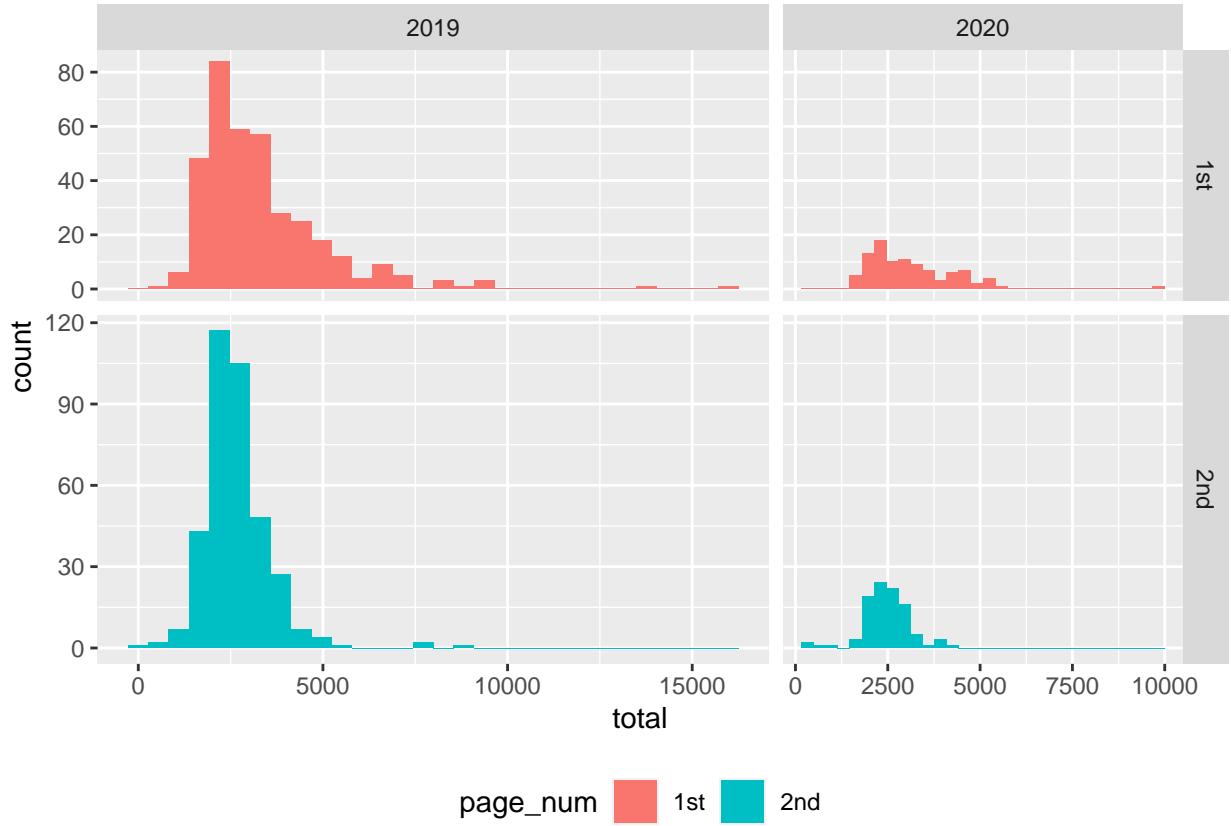
Table 1: Descriptive Statistics: How bulky is the daily newspaper?

Variable	<i>Page 1</i>					<i>Page 2</i>				
	median	mean	sd	max	min	median	mean	sd	max	min
2019										
num_of_paragraphs	77.0	91.9	55.8	367.0	20.0	70.0	76.6	30.5	246	9.0
num_of_sections	6.0	6.2	1.8	15.0	1.0	6.0	5.7	2.1	9	1.0
paragraph_per_section	12.7	15.6	9.4	65.5	4.1	12.7	18.5	23.5	246	4.2
words	2898.0	3326.3	1756.0	16190.0	803.0	2537.0	2661.3	888.1	8675	219.0
2020										
num_of_paragraphs	69.0	83.4	48.5	341.0	30.0	66.0	70.0	26.5	204	9.0
num_of_sections	7.0	6.4	1.7	11.0	2.0	6.0	6.0	2.0	9	1.0
paragraph_per_section	11.3	14.0	8.9	56.8	4.2	10.0	15.7	22.4	204	4.0
words	2871.0	3135.8	1218.8	9732.0	1508.0	2444.0	2439.9	643.3	4270	232.0

2 Descriptive Statistics







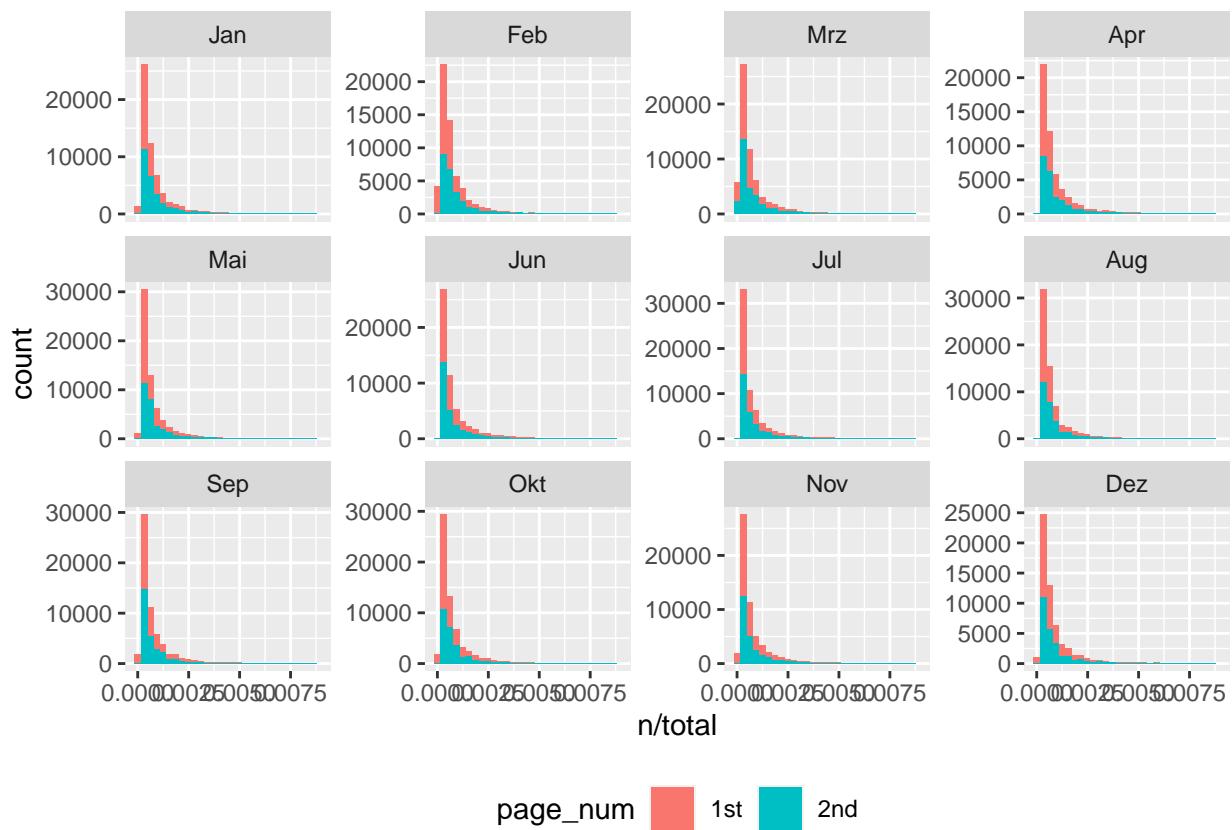


Figure 2: term frequency common words