

Time-Series Forecasting for COVID-19 Death Prediction & Decision-Making

MIT Sloan - 15.072

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What is the problem?



Epidemic Spread

- Diseases can rapidly spread in population
- Understanding the factors that can help mitigate the spread is essential

Staff shortage

- In times of crisis, **human resources** is the most valuable asset
- This needs to be optimized to help overcome the crisis quickly

Unpreparedness

- Hospitals have shown signs of weakness during the pandemic
- Understanding which factors come into play is crucial

Agenda

01.

02.

Data overview

Prediction

03.

04.

Decision-making

Limitations & Next steps





99,100,000

TOTAL CONFIRMED COVID-19
CASES IN THE USA



50,000

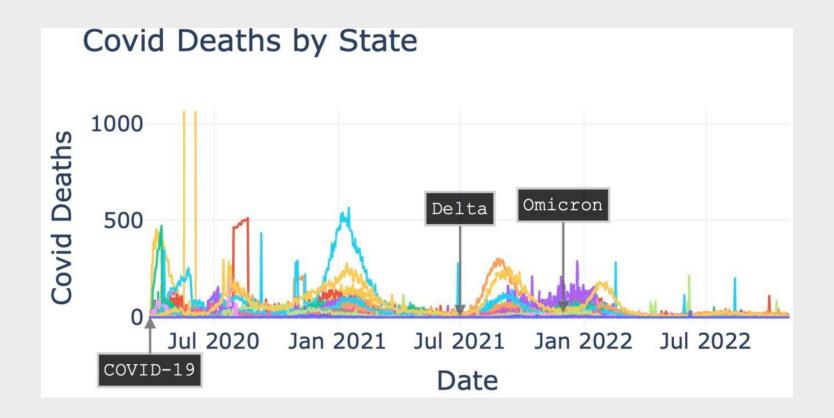
Data points of hospitals across the US

135

Features

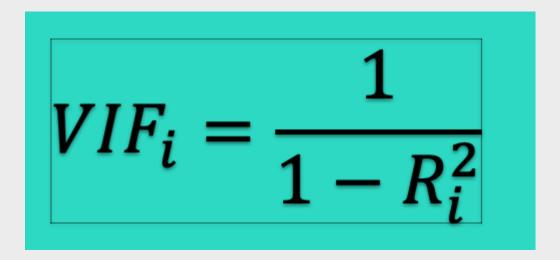


Years of data between January 2020 and October 2022



Feature Selection

VARIANCE INFLATION FACTOR

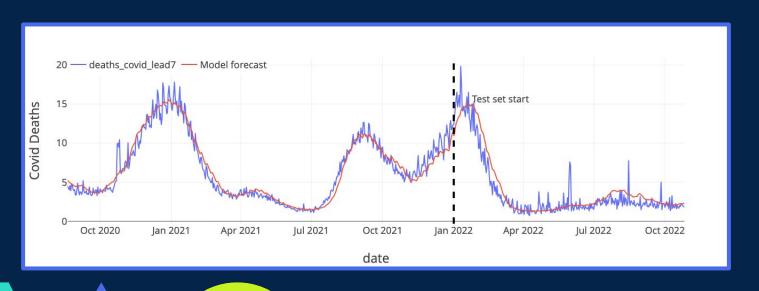


Feature	VIF
critical_staffing_shortage_today_not_reported	5.653332e+07
critical_staffing_shortage_anticipated_within_week	5.651664e+07
inpatient_beds_utilization_utilization	4.223471e+04
inpatient_beds_used	4.125496e+04
inpatient_beds	3.512014e+04
adult_icu_bed_utilization_utilization	1.690436e+04
staffed_adult_icu_bed_occupancy	1.139998e+04
total_staffed_adult_icu_beds	8.717810e+03
critical_staffing_shortage_anticipated_within_week	7.401827e+03
total_adult_patients_hospitalized_confirmed_covid	7.015022e+03
inpatient_bed_covid_utilization_utilization	6.811808e+03
total_adult_patients_hospitalized_confirmed_and	6.517941e+03
critical_staffing_shortage_today_no	5.777808e+03
staffed_icu_adult_patients_confirmed_and_suspected	5.063853e+03
staffed_icu_adult_patients_confirmed_covid	4.597697e+03
percent_of_inpatients_with_covid_utilization	4.408997e+03
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed	1.947843e + 03
inpatient_beds_used_covid	1.410311e+03
adult_icu_bed_covid_utilization_utilization	1.068796e+03
critical_staffing_shortage_anticipated_within_week	1.067663e+03
critical_staffing_shortage_today_yes	7.705780e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed_60-69	6.961388e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed_70-79	5.727656e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected	5.207502e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed_50-59	4.231249e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected_60-69	3.237052e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected_70-79	2.963050e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed_80+	2.858520e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected_80+	2.407732e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected_50-59	2.111917e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed_30-39	2.107643e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed_40-49	2.072935e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected_40-49	1.293927e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected_20-29	1.118458e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected_30-39	1.083590e+02
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed_20-29	9.016365e+01
hospital_onset_covid	4.228266e+01
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed_unknown	2.159156e+01
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected_18-19	1.816665e+01
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_suspected_unknown	6.605897e+00
previous_day_admission_adult_covid_confirmed_18-19	1.303630e+00

Feature	VIF
inpatient_beds_used_covid	113.996285
$total_adult_patients_hospitalized_confirmed_and$	78.190769
adult_icu_bed_covid_utilization_utilization	48.977481
hospital_onset_covid	17.429036
critical_staffing_shortage_anticipated_within_w	7.738703
deaths_covid	7.660202

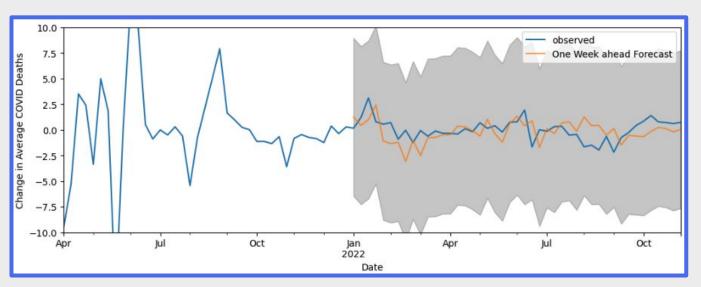
Prediction of COVID Deaths

LSTM



7 days forecast: MSE = 0.114 14 days forecast: MSE = 0.142

SARIMA



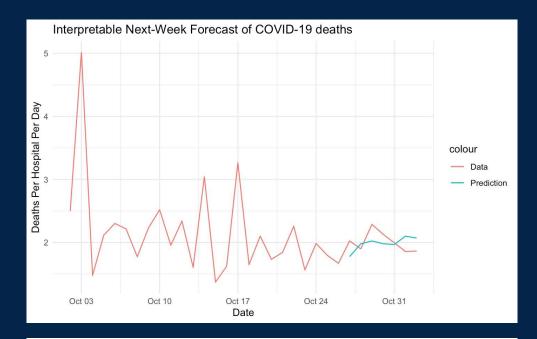
7 days forecast: MSE = 1.83

Model parameters: $(0,1,0) \times (0,1,1,52)$

Decision-Making for Hospitals

Random Forest

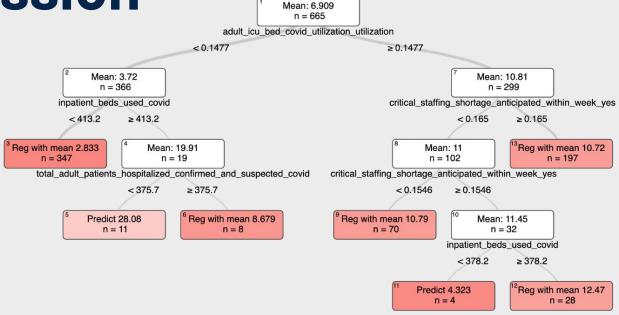
7-Day Forecast MSE: 0.028



Feature Name	Average Importance Rating	Average Rank
Is Critical Staffing Shortage Expected	494.36	1
Number of Inpatient Beds Used	14.4	2
Number of COVID Deaths	8.50	3.14
Adult COVID ICU Bed Utilization	2.52	4.71
Previous Day's Admission of Suspected COVID (80+ yrs old)	0.85	6

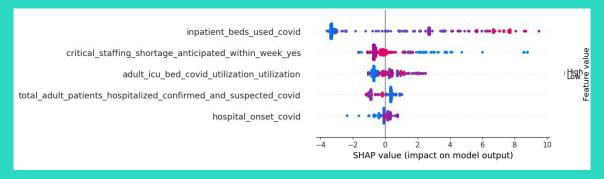
Optimal Regression Trees

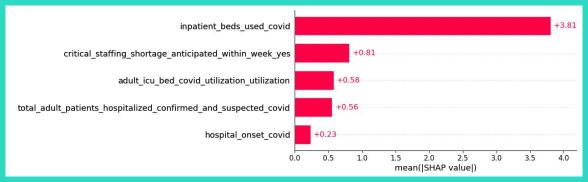
Linear Prediction Implemented in the Leaves



Out-of-sample $R^2 = 0.826$

Shapley + XGBoost





Insights



LSTM = prediction & ORT = decision-making

- LSTMs out performed the SARIMA model by a 1.716 MSE
- ORTs clearly point out the synergies between variables leading to an estimated number of deaths



Identified contributor to COVID deaths

• Inpatient Beds Used and Critical Staffing Shortage were the biggest contributors to COVID deaths.



Hospital Unpreparedness Acted as Catalyst for COVID Deaths

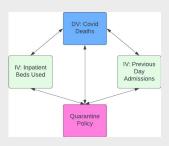
• Inpatient Beds Used and Critical Staffing Shortage were the biggest contributors to COVID deaths.

Limitations



Confounding Variables

- During the pandemic there were factors affecting both hospitals and the number of COVID deaths.
- These variables "confound" true result, skewing our predictions and interpretation.





Data

• Though we found some annual seasonality in the data, the limited number of observations prevented us from modeling this accurately.



Variables

• We trimmed down to a total of five variables due to collinearity. If we were to get more diverse features, we could obtain stronger predictions and clearer interpretability.

Next Steps



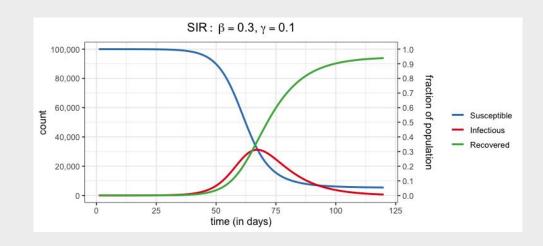
SIR Modeling

Susceptible, Infectious and Recovered models used for epidemic spread



Markov Chains

Probabilistic perspective on infectious disease spread in a population





Confounding Variables

Examine data regarding many external factors to COVID to see all that contributed to COVID deaths

Thank you!