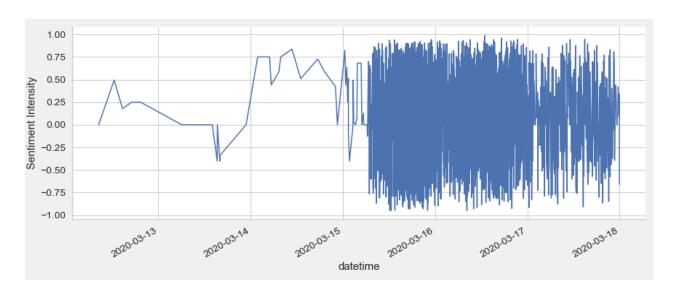
Emotional Sentiment on Twitter

A coronavirus vaccine online firestorm



The ongoing competition for a viable vaccine against coronavirus is arguably the race of the century. With its hundred millions of users, Twitter is particularly well-suited for research into sentiment and emotions running in social media.

I collected the data scraping tweets from TwitterÕs application program inter-face (API), using TwitterScraper. Tweets were scraped using the search term "Curevac", the name of a German vaccine maker backed by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and currently working on a Covid-19 vaccine. The post covers tweets from a 6-year period, from March 3, 2014 to March 18, 2020 (N = 14,991).

In this notebook you will find examples of some of the most common NLP (Natural Language Processing) techniques used to uncover patterns of sentiment and emotion on social media microbloguing platforms like Twitter. It is organized as follows:

- Step 1: Exploratory analysis
- Step 2: Text processing
- Step 3: Sentiment analysis
- Step 4: Word frequency
- Step 5: LDA topics extraction
- Step 6: Emotion analysis

Step 1: EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS

After scrapping the Twitter API, the retained tweets were gathered on a csv file: tweets.csv.

Let's strat by importing the Python packages used for data handling (pandas), scientific computing (numpy) and data visualization (matplotlib and seaborn).

```
In [91]: import pandas as pd
    import numpy as np
    import seaborn as sns
    import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
    %matplotlib inline

In [92]: from collections import defaultdict
    from datetime import date
    import re # for regular expressions
    import string

In [93]: import warnings
    warnings.filterwarnings("ignore", category=DeprecationWarning)
```

Importing the data

```
In [94]: tweets = pd.read_csv('input/tweets.csv')
In [95]: # getting the date column ready for datetime operations
tweets['datetime'] = pd.to_datetime(tweets['datetime'])
```

Here is a view of the first rows:

```
In [96]: tweets.head()
```

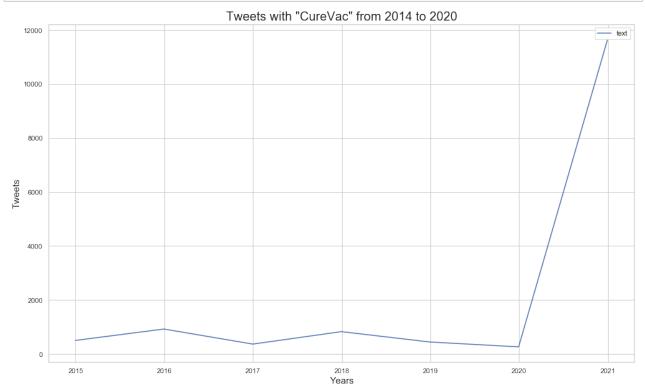
Out[96]:

	datetime	text
0	2014-03-12 18:26:59	Robert-Jan Smits at Innovation Convention 2014
1	2014-03-13 09:50:54	First #EU #vaccine prize awarded 2 CureVac
2	2014-03-14 12:50:28	Congrats 2 CureVac ! 4 #EU #vaccine prize #
3	2014-03-14 16:01:30	MT @sanofiDE CureVac Wins Two Million EUR f
4	2014-03-14 17:44:32	CureVac wins EU's EUR2m inducement prize for

And here is a plot of the tweets with the word "CureVac" over the past 6 years.

```
In [97]: # A 6-year timeseries plot
    fig = plt.figure(figsize=(15, 10))
    ax = sns.lineplot(data=tweets.set_index("datetime").groupby(pd.Grouper(fre
    q='Y')).count())
    plt.title('Tweets with "CureVac" from 2014 to 2020', fontsize=20)
    plt.xlabel('Years', fontsize=15)
```

```
plt.ylabel('Tweets', fontsize=15)
fig.savefig("images/All_Tweets_2014-2020.png")
```



For almost 6 years, the rate of tweets went out at a regular pace, until one day, the 15th March, everything changed!

Digital marketing researchers call these events Oonline firestormsO, referring to negative word of mouth (eWOM) that suddenly attract thousands of expressions of support from other clients through social media [1].

To help us filter the datasets for the two distint periods (before and during online storm), we create a column to mark these stormy days.

```
In [98]: # creating a column to filter the online storm period (from 15 and 18 Marc
h)

def make_onlinestorm_field():
    for i, row in tweets.iterrows():
        if pd.to_datetime(tweets.at[i, 'datetime']) > pd.Timestamp(date(20 20,3,15)):
            tweets.at[i, 'onlinestorm'] = True
    else:
        tweets.at[i, 'onlinestorm'] = False

make_onlinestorm_field()
```

```
In [99]: # counting tweets during the three days online storm
    print('In three days, tweets went over {}, all around the world.'.format(t
    weets[tweets['onlinestorm']]['onlinestorm'].count()))
```

In three days, tweets went over 11364, all around the world.

Here we have a few of them:

In [100]: tweets[tweets['onlinestorm']]

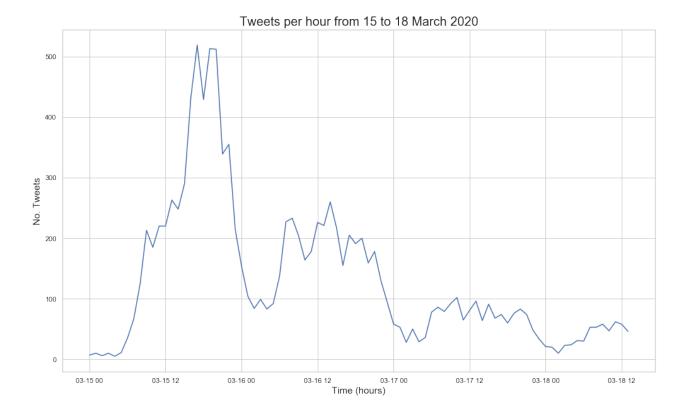
Out[100]:

	datetime	text	onlinestorm
3627	2020-03-15 00:07:55	Germany's CureVac says low-dose coronavirus	True
3628	2020-03-15 00:14:42	ドイツのディ・ヴェルト紙(ネット版、3月15日)が伝えるところによる と、米国政府がドイツでコ	True
3629	2020-03-15 00:18:05	Germany's CureVac says low-dose coronavirus	True
3630	2020-03-15 00:30:29	A Bill & Melinda Gates funded, German Biotech	True
3631	2020-03-15 00:42:51	.@BillGates .@gatesfoundation .@melindagates	True
•••			
14986	2020-03-18 13:33:33	CureVac -MiteigentŸmer: Hopp macht Hoffnung au	True
14987	2020-03-18 13:33:36	Non, c'Žtait dans la presse allemande. L'actio	True
14988	2020-03-18 13:35:22	Rainer Hachfeld https://cartoonmovement.sho	True
14989	2020-03-18 13:36:14	ドイツのバイオテクノロジー企業である CureVac が新型コロナのワクチンを秋までに開発す	True
14990	2020-03-18 13:38:00	Trad.: "Je n'ai pas parlŽ personnellement ^ M	True

11364 rows × 3 columns

Let's now have a look at the distribution of the tweets, by the hour, during the online storm.

```
In [101]: # plot it
          fig = plt.figure(figsize=(15, 10))
          ax = sns.lineplot(data=tweets[tweets['onlinestorm'] == True].set index("da
          tetime").groupby(pd.Grouper(freq='H')).onlinestorm.count())
          plt.title('Tweets per hour from 15 to 18 March 2020', fontsize=20)
          plt.xlabel('Time (hours)', fontsize=15)
          plt.ylabel('No. Tweets', fontsize=15)
          fig.savefig("images/All Tweets Onlinestorm.png")
```



It is time to have a first look at the content of the tweets and do some descriptive statistics. For now, I will focus only on features like hastags, mentions, urls, capital words and words in general.

```
In [102]: # A function to count tweets based on regular expressions
def count_tweets(reg_expression, tweet):
    tweets_list = re.findall(reg_expression, tweet)
    return len(tweets_list)
```

```
In [104]: df = pd.concat([tweets, pd.DataFrame(content_count)], axis=1);df
```

datetime	text	onlinestorm	words	mentions	hashtags	urls
2014-03- 0 12 18:26:59	Robert-Jan Smits at Innovation Convention 2014	False	26	1	0	1
2014-03- 1 13 09:50:54	First #EU #vaccine prize awarded 2 CureVac	False	23	0	4	0
2014-03- 2 14	Congrats 2 CureVac ! 4 #EU #vaccine prize #	False	21	0	5	0

Out[104]:

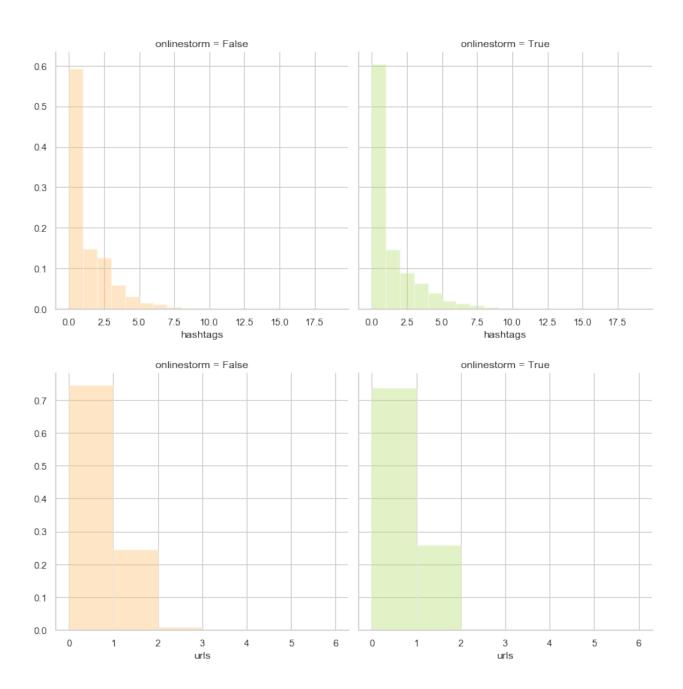
	12:50:28						
3	2014-03- 14 16:01:30	MT @sanofiDE CureVac Wins Two Million EUR f	False	17	1	0	0
4	2014-03- 14 17:44:32	CureVac wins EU's EUR2m inducement prize for	False	33	0	2	1
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •						
14986	2020-03- 18 13:33:33	CureVac -MiteigentŸmer: Hopp macht Hoffnung au	True	18	0	0	0
14987	2020-03- 18 13:33:36	Non, c'Žtait dans la presse allemande. L'actio	True	46	0	0	1
14988	2020-03- 18 13:35:22	Rainer Hachfeld https://cartoonmovement.sho	True	42	4	2	0
14989	2020-03- 18 13:36:14	ドイツのバイオテクノロジー企業である CureVac が新型コロナのワクチンを秋までに開発す	True	39	0	0	1
14990	2020-03- 18 13:38:00	Trad.: "Je n'ai pas parlŽ personnellement ^ M	True	62	0	0	0

14991 rows × 7 columns

Tweets descriptive statistics

```
In [105]: # Display descriptive statistics fdor words, mentions,
         # hashtags and urls
         for key in content count.keys():
             print()
             print('Descriptive statistics for {}'.format(key))
             print(df.groupby('onlinestorm')[key].describe())
         Descriptive statistics for words
                                              std min
                                                       25%
                                                              50%
                                                                    75%
                       count
                                  mean
                                                                          max
         onlinestorm
                      3627.0 23.355390 10.731606 3.0 16.0 20.0
         False
                                                                   29.0
                                                                        113.0
                     11364.0 34.571718 15.048733 1.0 23.0 36.0 45.0 147.0
         True
         Descriptive statistics for mentions
                                            std min 25% 50% 75%
                       count
         onlinestorm
         False
                      3627.0 0.304659 0.931811 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 12.0
                     11364.0 0.205297 0.694837 0.0 0.0
                                                          0.0
                                                               0.0
         True
         Descriptive statistics for hashtags
                       count
                                  mean
                                           std min 25%
                                                          50%
                                                               75%
         onlinestorm
                      3627.0 0.971602 1.611123 0.0 0.0 0.0 2.0 13.0
         False
```

```
True
                          11364.0 1.071454 1.923787 0.0
                                                                 0.0
                                                                       0.0
                                                                                  19.0
           Descriptive statistics for urls
                                                                  25%
                                                                        50%
                             count
                                         mean
                                                      std min
                                                                              75%
                                                                                   max
           onlinestorm
                            3627.0 0.267990 0.480024
                                                            0.0
                                                                  0.0
           False
                                                                        0.0
                                                                              1.0
                                                                                   6.0
                          11364.0 0.265488 0.449512
           True
                                                            0.0
                                                                  0.0
                                                                        0.0
                                                                                   4.0
In [106]:  # Now plot them
            for key in content_count.keys():
                bins = np.arange(df[key].min(), df[key].max() + 1)
                g = sns.FacetGrid(df, col='onlinestorm', height=5, hue='onlinestorm',
           palette="RdYlGn")
                g = g.map(sns.distplot, key, kde=False, norm hist=True, bins=bins)
                plt.savefig('images/Descriptive stats for ' + key + '.png')
                              onlinestorm = False
                                                                       onlinestorm = True
            0.07
            0.06
            0.05
            0.04
            0.03
            0.02
            0.01
            0.00
                 0
                      20
                                     80
                                          100
                                              120
                                                   140
                                                               20
                                                                                   100
                                                                                        120
                                                                                             140
                                  words
                                                                            words
                             onlinestorm = False
                                                                       onlinestorm = True
            8.0
            0.6
            0.4
            0.2
            0.0
                                      8
                                                12
                                                                                8
                                                                                          12
                                                                                               14
                                mentions
                                                                          mentions
```



From the above descriptive statistics, there are no noteworthy differences in terms of mentions, hashtags or urls during the online storm. However, the average number of words, per tweet, increased substantially during this period.

Step 2: TEXT PROCESSING

For the next steps, I retained only the tweets in English, avoiding duplicates. These are contained in a cvs file ('tweets_en.csv') with 6,546 tweets.

The second step of our analysis will look deeper into the content of these tweets. It is time to apply some of the basic NLP operations, such as cleaning, tokenizing and lemmatizing.

We will use NLTK (Natural Language Toolkit), one of the most popular NLP libraries for Python.

```
In [107]: import nltk
          from nltk.corpus import stopwords
          from nltk.stem.snowball import SnowballStemmer
          from nltk.stem import WordNetLemmatizer
          from nltk.tokenize import sent tokenize, word tokenize
          from nltk import pos tag
In [108]: import string
          import re # for regular expressions
In [109]: # I am adding my own stopwords list to the NLTK list.
          # This way we can drop words that are irrelevant for text processing
          MY STOPWORDS = ['curevac', 'vaccine', 'german', 'mrna', 'biotech', 'cancer', \
                          'lilly','eli','ag','etherna immuno', 'translatebio', \
                          'mooreorless62','boehringer', 'ingelheim','biopharmaceutic
          al', 'company']
          STOPLIST = set(stopwords.words('english') + list(MY STOPWORDS))
          SYMBOLS = " ".join(string.punctuation).split(" ") + \
          ["-", "...", """, ".", ".", ":", "!", "#", "@"]
In [110]: # The NLTK lemmatizer and stemmer classes
          lemmatizer = WordNetLemmatizer()
          stemmer = SnowballStemmer('english')
In [111]: # read english selected tweets, no duplicates
          tweets = pd.read csv('input/tweets en.csv')
In [112]: # I use the POS tagging from NLTK to retain only adjectives, verbs, adverb
          # and nouns as a base for for lemmatization.
          def get lemmas(tweet):
              # A dictionary to help convert Treebank tags to WordNet
              treebank2wordnet = {'NN':'n', 'JJ':'a', 'VB':'v', 'RB':'r'}
              postag = ''
              lemmas list = []
              for word, tag in pos tag(word tokenize(tweet)):
                  if tag.startswith("JJ")
                      or tag.startswith("RB") \
                      or tag.startswith("VB") \
                      or tag.startswith("NN"):
                      try:
                          postag = treebank2wordnet[tag[:2]]
                      except:
                          postag = 'n'
                      lemmas list.append(lemmatizer.lemmatize(word.lower(), postag))
              return lemmas list
```

We will now pre-process the tweets, following a pipeline of tokenization, filtering, case normalization and lemma extraction, including an overall cleaning of html and other codes.

Prior to lemmatization, I apply POS (part-of-speech) tagging to make sure that only the adjectives, verbs, adverbs and nouns are retained.

```
In [114]: # Starts the lemmatization process

def get_lemmatized(tweet):

    all_tokens_string = ''
    filtered = []
    tokens = []

# lemmatize
    tokens = [token for token in get_lemmas(tweet)]

# filter
    filtered = clean_tweet(tokens)

# join everything into a single string
    all_tokens_string = ' '.join(filtered)

return all_tokens_string
```

```
In [115]: # get the lemmatized tweets and puts the result in an "edited" text column
# for future use in this script
edited = ''
for i, row in tweets.iterrows():
    edited = get_lemmatized(tweets.loc[i]['text'])
    if len(edited) > 0:
        tweets.at[i,'edited'] = edited
else:
        tweets.at[i,'edited'] = None
```

```
In [116]: # After lemmatization, some tweets may end up with the same words
# Let's make sure that we have no duplicates
tweets.drop_duplicates(subset=['edited'], inplace=True)
tweets.dropna(inplace=True)
```

With these text processing steps, and the removal of duplicates, the final sample counts 5,508 English-language tweets, with an average of 30 words (SD 12.5, ranging from 4 to 61 words).

```
In [117]: # Using apply/lambda to create a new column with the number of words in ea
          ch tweet
          tweets['word count'] = tweets.apply(lambda x: len(x['text'].split()),axis=
          t = pd.DataFrame(tweets['word count'].describe()).T
```

Out[117]:

	count	mean	std	min	25 %	50%	75%	max
word_count	5508.0	30.546659	12.499944	4.0	19.0	31.0	42.0	61.0

Here is the result of our pre-processing, showing the difference between the original tweet (column "text") and the lemmatized, cleaned, tweet (column "edited").

In [118]: tweets.head()

Out[118]:

	datetime	text	edited	word_count
0	2020-03-16 11:13:00	Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, when asked t	interior minister horst seehofer ask confirm r	47
1	2020-03-16 03:34:02	CureVac said it has been in contact with many	say contact many organization global authority	26
2	2015-07-07 13:24:10	CureVac Announces Phase I/lla Clinical Study	announces phase clinical study data immunother	15
3	2015-11-02 13:21:08	CureVac alone has received >\$100M from US fou	alone receive us foundation gate darpa manufac	21
4	2020-03-16 20:10:33	I hope to God CureVac doesn't cave. Trump is	hope god n't cave trump despicable po planet	20

Step 3: SENTIMENT ANALYSIS

For sentiment analysis -- a growing sub-field of Natural Language Processing (NLP) -- I used VADER (Valence Aware Dictionary for Sentiment Reasoning), a rule-based system that performs specially well on social media data.

The most useful metric is the Compound score. It is calculated by a sum of the scores of each word, normalised to output values between -1, the most extreme negative score, and +1, the most extreme positive.

For a complete understanding of how VADER computes its Compound score you have this conference paper [2].

Let us import the VADER analyser.

```
In [119]: from nltk.sentiment.vader import SentimentIntensityAnalyzer
          For the puropose of the timeseries analysis, we must make sure that the tweets are all correctly sorted.
In [120]: | tweets['datetime'] = pd.to datetime(tweets['datetime'])
          tweets.sort values('datetime', inplace=True, ascending=True)
          tweets = tweets.reset index(drop=True)
 In [ ]:
In [121]: # Creating a column to "filter" the online storm period.
          make onlinestorm field()
In [122]: # To avoid repetitions in our code, here are some plotting functions
          # that will be called often ...
          def plot sentiment period(df, info):
               # Using the mean values of sentiment for each period
              df1 = df.groupby(df['datetime'].dt.to period(info['period'])).mean()
              df1.reset index(inplace=True)
              df1['datetime'] = pd.PeriodIndex(df1['datetime']).to timestamp()
              plot df = pd.DataFrame(df1, df1.index, info['cols'])
              plt.figure(figsize=(15, 10))
              ax = sns.lineplot(data=plot df, linewidth = 3, dashes = False)
              plt.legend(loc='best', fontsize=15)
              plt.title(info['title'], fontsize=20)
              plt.xlabel(info['xlab'], fontsize=15)
              plt.ylabel(info['ylab'], fontsize=15)
              plt.tight layout()
              plt.savefig('images/' + info['fname'])
              return
          def plot fractions(props, title, fname):
              plt1 = props.plot(kind='bar', stacked=False, figsize=(16,5), colormap=
           'Spectral')
              plt.legend(bbox to anchor=(1.005, 1), loc=2, borderaxespad=0.)
              plt.xlabel('Online storm', fontweight='bold', fontsize=18)
              plt.xticks(rotation=0, fontsize=14)
               #plt.ylim(0, 0.5)
              plt.ylabel('Fraction of Tweets', fontweight='bold', fontsize=18)
              plt1.set title(label=title, fontweight='bold', size=20)
              plt.tight layout()
              plt.savefig('images/' + fname + '.png')
              return
          def plot frequency chart(info):
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 8))
    sns.set_context("notebook", font_scale=1)
    ax = sns.barplot(x=info['x'], y=info['y'], data=info['data'], palette=
(info['pal']))
    ax.set_title(label=info['title'], fontweight='bold', size=18)
    plt.ylabel(info['ylab'], fontsize=16)
    plt.xlabel(info['xlab'], fontsize=16)
    plt.xticks(rotation=info['angle'], fontsize=14)
    plt.yticks(fontsize=14)
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.savefig('images/' + info['fname'])
    return
```

```
In [123]: # Calling VADER
analyzer = SentimentIntensityAnalyzer()
```

```
In [124]: # Get VADER Compound value for sentiment intensity
    tweets['sentiment_intensity'] = [analyzer.polarity_scores(v)['compound'] f
    or v in tweets['edited']]
```

The output of VADER are the positive, negative, and neutral ratios of sentiment. The most useful metric in VADER is the Compound score. Basically, it is calculated by a sum of the scores of each word, normalized to yeld values between -1, the most extreme negative score, and +1, the most extreme positive.

From this normalized score, I will then create a categorical variable ("sentiment"), with an output of positive, negative and neutral ratios of sentiment, using the following thresholds:

- Positive sentiment: (compound score >= 0.05).
- Neutral sentiment: (compound score > -0.05) and (compound score < 0.05).
- Negative sentiment: (compound score <= -0.05)

```
In [125]: # This function returns the sentiment category
def get_sentiment(intensity):
    if intensity >= 0.05:
        return 'Positive'
    elif (intensity >= -0.05) and (intensity < 0.05):
        return 'Neutral'
    else:
        return 'Negative'

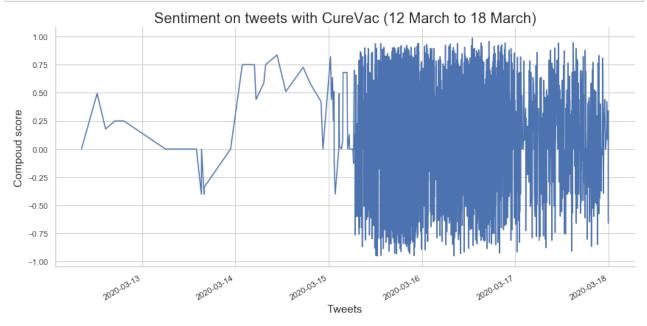
# Using pandas apply/lambda to speed up the process
tweets['sentiment'] = tweets.apply(lambda x: get_sentiment(x['sentiment_in tensity']),axis=1)</pre>
```

The Online Storm

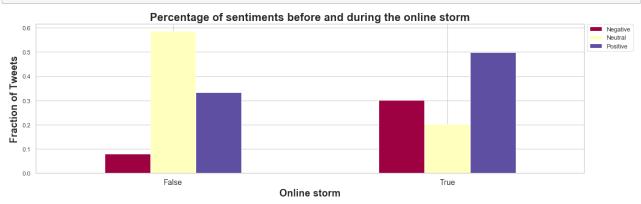
The next plot gives us a clear image of the OexplosionO of contradictory sentiments in this period:

```
In [126]: df=tweets.loc[:,['datetime','sentiment_intensity']]
# filter for these dates
```

```
df.set_index('datetime',inplace=True)
df=df[(df.index>='2020-03-12') & (df.index<'2020-03-18')]
df.plot(figsize=(12,6));
plt.ylabel('Compoud score', fontsize=15)
plt.xlabel('Tweets', fontsize=15)
plt.legend().set_visible(False)
plt.title('Sentiment on tweets with CureVac (12 March to 18 March)', fontsize=20)
plt.tight_layout()
sns.despine(top=True)
plt.savefig('images/Sentiment_during_onlinestorm.png')
plt.show()</pre>
```



And this one will shows us a comparison of the sentiments before and during the online strom.



In sentiment analysis, neutral tweets usually outnumber the negative or positive ones. This is what actually

happened during the 6-year period in consideration. Moreover, research has been showing that scientists tend to use neutral language while communicating among peers, particularly in social media.

The picture clearly changed during the 3-days online storm. Sentiments became less neutral, as it is also likely that the majority of the tweets come from a wider public. The percentage of positive tweets increased, suggesting higher expectations about a viable vaccine for coronavirus.

It is also worth paying attention to an even stronger increase in the percentage of negative sentiments during the online storm. This calls for a deeper look at the data. That is what we will do now.

Step 4: Word frequency

In [131]: def join edited string(edited tweets):

for row in edited tweets:

edited string = ''

Now that our text is pre-processed, it is time to examine key patterns of word frequency in tweets posted before and during the online storm.

```
In [128]: # We need these imports for the wordcloud representation:
          from PIL import Image
          from wordcloud import WordCloud, STOPWORDS, ImageColorGenerator
          from matplotlib.colors import makeMappingArray
          from palettable.colorbrewer.diverging import Spectral 4
In [129]: from collections import Counter # Counts the most common items in a lis
In [130]: def display wordcloud(tokens, title, fname):
              tokens upper = [token.upper() for token in tokens]
              cloud mask = np.array(Image.open("images/cloud mask.png"))
              wordcloud = WordCloud(max font size=100,
                                    max words=50, width=2500,
                                    height=1750, mask=cloud mask,
                                    background color="white").generate(" ".join(toke
          ns upper))
              plt.figure()
              fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 8))
              plt.title(title, fontsize=20)
              plt.imshow(wordcloud, interpolation="bilinear")
              plt.axis("off")
              plt.savefig('images/'+ fname + '.png')
              plt.show()
              return
```

edited string = edited string + ' ' + row

```
return edited_string
```

```
In [132]: def get trigrams (trigrams, top grams):
              grams str = []
              data = []
              gram counter = Counter(trigrams)
              for grams in gram counter.most common(10):
                  gram = ''
                  grams str = grams[0]
                  grams str count = []
                  for n in range (0,3):
                      gram = gram + grams str[n] + ' '
                  grams str count.append(gram)
                  grams str count.append(grams[1])
                  data.append(grams str count)
                  print(grams str count)
              df = pd.DataFrame(data, columns = ['Grams', 'Count'])
              return df
```

Tweets before the online storm

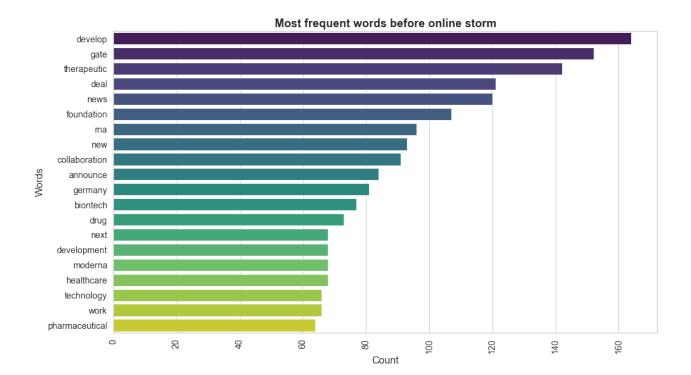
LetÕs have a look at the 20 most frequent words in tweets before the online storm.

```
In [133]: # Filtering the tweets of the 6 years before the online storm
    df = tweets[tweets['onlinestorm'] == False]

# Join all the edited tweets in one single string
    joined_string = join_edited_string(df['edited'])

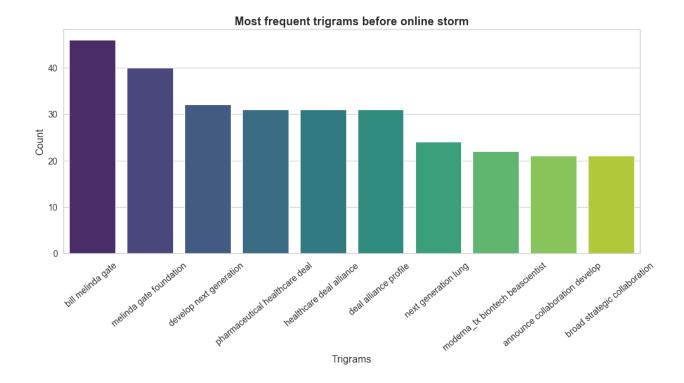
# Get tokens
    tokens = joined_string.split(' ')

# get trigrams
    trigrams = nltk.trigrams(tokens)
```



And now the 10 most frequent trigrams (sequences of 3 consecutive words) ...

```
In [135]: # plot trigram frequency
          df trigrams = get trigrams(trigrams, 10)
          info = {'data': df trigrams, 'x': 'Grams', 'y': 'Count',
                 'xlab': 'Trigrams', 'ylab': 'Count', 'pal':'viridis',
                 'title': 'Most frequent trigrams before online storm',
                 'fname':'trigrams frequency before onlinestorm.png',
                 'angle': 40}
          plot frequency chart(info)
          ['bill melinda gate ', 46]
          ['melinda gate foundation ', 40]
          ['develop next generation ', 32]
          ['pharmaceutical healthcare deal ', 31]
          ['healthcare deal alliance ', 31]
          ['deal alliance profile ', 31]
          ['next generation lung ', 24]
          ['moderna tx biontech beascientist ', 22]
          ['announce collaboration develop', 21]
          ['broad strategic collaboration ', 21]
```



And the wordcloud ...

<Figure size 432x288 with 0 Axes>

Wordcloud of most frequent words before online storm



There are some noteworthy features in these plots:

- Along with ÔgateÕ (ie., Bill Gates), the most frequent words in 6 years of tweets are ÔdevelopÕ,
 ÔtherapeuticÕ, ÔdealÕ and 'news'. Unsurprisingly, these were times when tweets were used mainly as public relations devices to communicate the core business of CureVac, a vaccine maker funded by the Melinda Gate Foudation.
- Immediatly follows ÔCollaborationÕ, the next most frequent word, reflecting in this way the key importance
 of partnerships in the strategy of the company, followed by ÔnewÕ, as a evidence of CureVac's concern
 with innovation.
- The trigrams reinforce these trends, and with a stronger focus on collaboration. These are mainly about 'next generation in health care' and 'pharmaceutical deals' carried out in Ôbroad strategic collaborationsÕ.

Tweets during the online storm

It is now time to examine what happened on those "stormy" three days, after the 15th March 2020 ...

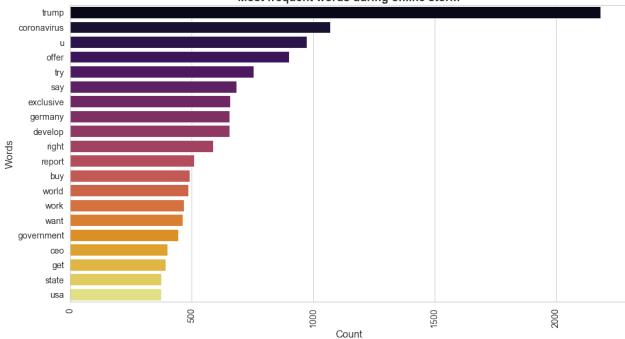
```
In [137]: # Filtering the tweets of the 3 days of the online storm
    df =tweets[tweets['onlinestorm']]

# Join all the edited tweets in one single string
    joined_string = join_edited_string(df['edited'])

# Get tokens
    tokens = joined_string.split(' ')

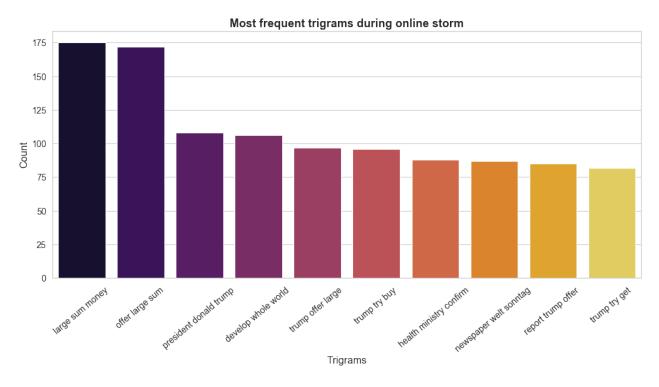
# get trigrams
    trigrams = nltk.trigrams(tokens)
```





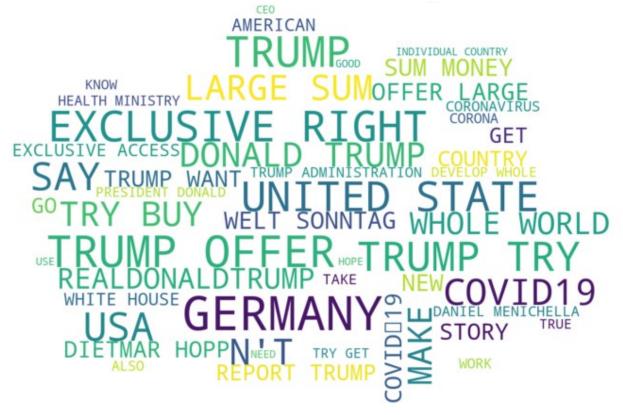
```
In [139]:
          # plot trigrams frequency
          df trigrams = get trigrams(trigrams, 10)
          info = {'data': df_trigrams, 'x': 'Grams', 'y': 'Count',
                 'xlab': 'Trigrams', 'ylab': 'Count', 'pal':'inferno',
                 'title': 'Most frequent trigrams during online storm',
                 'fname':'trigrams frequency during onlinestorm.png',
                 'angle': 40}
          plot frequency chart(info)
          ['large sum money ', 175]
          ['offer large sum ', 172]
          ['president donald trump ', 108]
          ['develop whole world ', 106]
          ['trump offer large ', 97]
          ['trump try buy ', 96]
          ['health ministry confirm ', 88]
          ['newspaper welt sonntag', 87]
          ['report trump offer ', 85]
```

['trump try get ', 82]



<Figure size 432x288 with 0 Axes>

Wordcloud of most frequent words during online storm



What we've seen above shows obvious differences from the main stream life of CureVac on Twitter;

- The top word is no longer ÔgateÕ but ÔtrumpÕ (ie., Donald Trump), immediately followed by 'coronavirus'.
- Gone are the days of collaboration for a next generation of new and innovative therapies. - ÔExclusiveÕ takes the lead, ÔcollaborationÕ is out of the league.
- The most frequent trigram is Ôtry buy exclusiveÕ. These are now times for Ôexclusive large gainÕ.
- ÔBuyÕ becames a new key word. Ôlarge sum moneyÕ and Ôoffer large sumÕ are now the top trigrams in the chart.

Step 5: LDA topics extraction

LDA (Latent Dirichlet Allocation) is an unsupervised machine learning technique that is increasingly popular in most text mining toolkits. You can find here a comprehensive article on the subject, published on Medium, covering extensively the assumptions and the math behind the algorithm.

I applied LDA in the two different periods (before and during the CureVac online fire-storm) to check whether the findings corroborate the trends that we have seen in our previous analysis of the word frequency.

```
In [51]: from sklearn.decomposition import LatentDirichletAllocation from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import TfidfVectorizer
```

```
In [52]: # I am using here Susan Li's functions to get the top words from a topic:
         def get keys(topic matrix):
             1.1.1
             returns an integer list of predicted topic
             categories for a given topic matrix
             keys = topic matrix.argmax(axis=1).tolist()
             return keys
         def keys to counts(keys):
             returns a tuple of topic categories and their
             accompanying magnitudes for a given list of keys
             111
             count pairs = Counter(keys).items()
             categories = [pair[0] for pair in count pairs]
             counts = [pair[1] for pair in count pairs]
             return (categories, counts)
         def get top n words(n, n topics, keys, document term matrix, tfidf vectori
         zer):
             returns a list of n topic strings, where each string contains the n mo
         st common
             words in a predicted category, in order
             top word indices = []
             for topic in range(n topics):
                 temp vector sum = 0
                 for i in range(len(keys)):
                     if keys[i] == topic:
```

```
temp vector sum += document term matrix[i]
        temp vector sum = temp vector sum.toarray()
        top n word indices = np.flip(np.argsort(temp vector sum)[0][-n:],0
        top word indices.append(top n word indices)
   top words = []
    for topic in top word indices:
        topic words = []
        for index in topic:
            temp word vector = np.zeros((1,document term matrix.shape[1]))
            temp word vector[:, index] = 1
            the word = tfidf vectorizer.inverse transform(temp word vector
)[0][0]
            try:
                topic words.append(the word.encode('ascii').decode('utf-8'
) )
            except:
                pass
        top words.append(", ".join(topic words))
   return top words
```

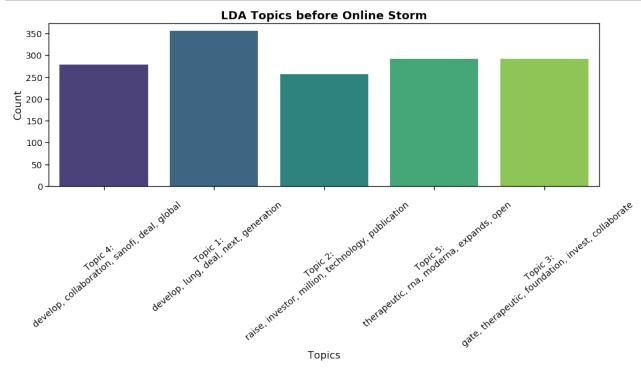
```
In [ ]:
```

And here is a function for topics extraction using LDA, in which I produce a dataframe with the topics and their top words to facilitate the plotting that follows.

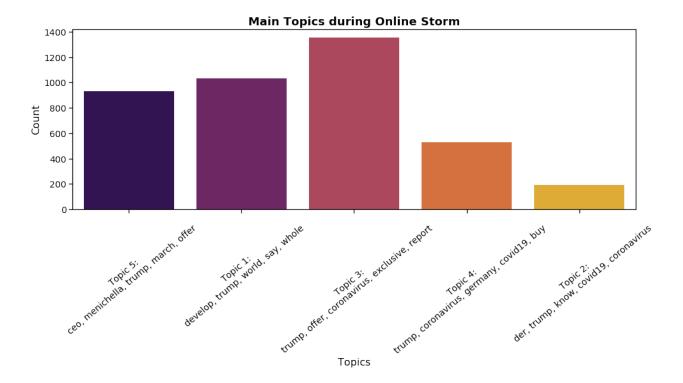
```
In [53]: # LDA topics
         def get topics(edited, n topics, n words):
             eds = edited.values
             vec = TfidfVectorizer(use idf=True, smooth idf=True)
             document_term_matrix = vec.fit transform(eds)
             model = LatentDirichletAllocation(n components=n topics)
             topic matrix = model.fit transform(document term matrix)
             keys = get keys(topic matrix)
             categories, counts = keys to counts(keys)
             top n words = get top n words(n words, n topics, keys, document term m
         atrix, vec)
             topics = ['Topic {}: \n'.format(i + 1) + top_n_words[i] for i in categ
         ories
             data=[]
             for i, topic in enumerate(topics):
                 tmp = []
                 tmp.append(topic)
                 tmp.append(counts[i])
                 data.append(tmp)
             df topics = pd.DataFrame(data, columns = ['Topics', 'Count'])
             return df topics
```

```
In [ ]:
```

Topics before the online storm



Topics during the online storm

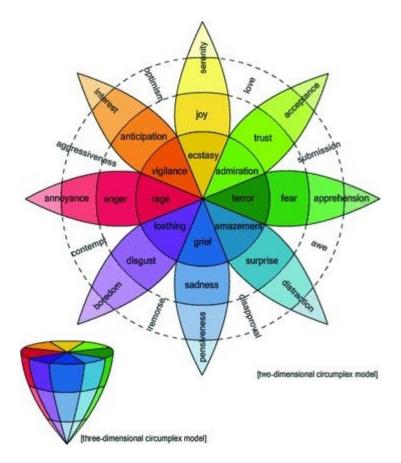


A word of caution must be exercised here. LDA topics are ÒimaginaryÓ (latent) topics, frequently overlapping, and a clear distinction is not always achievable. Nevertheless, a comparison between topics before and during the online storm leaves no doubts about contrasting trends.

For a period of six years, the major topic emerging from tweets is about collaborative developments. In contrast, during the online storm, in a period of three days, the two topics that stand out are clearly about the alleged attempt of the USA president to ensure the exclusive rights for the coronavirus vaccine.

Step 6: Emotion analysis

I drew from Robert PlutchikÕs wheel of basic emotions an attempt to uncover the presence of the seven lexical units for anger, fear, sadness, disgust, anticipation, joy and surprise [3].



```
In [56]: import termcolor
import sys
from termcolor import colored, cprint
plt.style.use('fivethirtyeight')
```

The basic approach is to create a matrix of tweets and emotions to connect each word in the tweet to one or more emotions. I applied the National Research Council Canada (NRC) lexicon, a dictionary of 14,182 words and 10 columns rows, each corresponding to positive and negative sentiment plus eight emotions. For a deeper understanding of the NRC lexicon read this article [4].

unique words = set(tokens)

```
word_to_ind = dict((word, i) for i, word in enumerate(unique_words))
ind_to_word = dict((i, word) for i, word in enumerate(unique_words))
```

```
In [61]: def plot_emotions_period(df, cols, title, fname, period = 'h' ):
    df1 = df.groupby(df['datetime'].dt.to_period(period)).mean()
    df1.reset_index(inplace=True)
    df1['datetime'] = pd.PeriodIndex(df1['datetime']).to_timestamp()
    plot_df = pd.DataFrame(df1, df1.index, cols)

plt.figure(figsize=(15, 10))
    ax = sns.lineplot(data=plot_df, linewidth = 3,dashes = False)
    plt.legend(loc='best', fontsize=15)
    plt.title(title, fontsize=20)
    plt.xlabel('Time (hours)', fontsize=15)
    plt.ylabel('Z-scored Emotions', fontsize=15)
    plt.savefig('images/'+ fname + '.png')

return
```

```
In [62]: def get tweet emotions(df, emotions, col):
             df tweets = df.copy()
             df tweets.drop(['sentiment','sentiment_intensity'], axis=1, inplace=Tr
         ue)
             emo info = {'emotion':'' , 'emo frq': defaultdict(int) }
             list emotion counts = []
             # creating a dictionary list to hold the frequency of the words
             # contributing to the emotions
             for emotion in emotions:
                 emo info = {}
                 emo info['emotion'] = emotion
                 emo info['emo frq'] = defaultdict(int)
                 list emotion counts.append(emo info)
             # bulding a zeros matrix to hold the emotions data
             df emotions = pd.DataFrame(0, index=df.index, columns=emotions)
             # stemming the word to facilitate the search in NRC
             stemmer = SnowballStemmer("english")
             # iterating in the tweets data set
             for i, row in df tweets.iterrows(): # for each tweet ...
                 tweet = word tokenize(df tweets.loc[i][col])
                 for word in tweet: # for each word ...
                     word stemmed = stemmer.stem(word.lower())
                     # check if the word is in NRC
                     result = ncr[ncr.English == word stemmed]
                     # we have a match
                     if not result.empty:
                         # update the tweet-emotions counts
```

```
df emotions.at[i, emotion] += result[emotion]
                              # update the frequencies dictionary list
                              if result[emotion].any():
                                 try:
                                      list emotion counts[idx]['emo frq'][word to in
         d[word]] += 1
                                 except:
                                      continue
             # append the emotions matrix to the tweets data set
             df tweets = pd.concat([df tweets, df emotions], axis=1)
             return df tweets, list emotion counts
In [ ]:
In [63]: # Create a list of words to highlight
         def get words (word list, emotions):
             words emotion idx = []
             for i, word in enumerate(word list):
                 word = stemmer.stem(word.lower())
                 result = ncr[ncr.English == word]
                 if not result.empty:
                     for emotion in emotions:
                         if result[emotion].any() > 0:
                             words emotion idx.append(i)
             return words emotion idx
In [64]:
         def get top emotion words (word counts, n = 5):
             # Here I map the numpy array "words" with the index and word frequency
             words = np.zeros((len(word counts), 2), dtype=int)
             for i, w in enumerate(word counts):
                 words[i][0] = w
                 words[i][1] = word counts[w]
             # From the indexes generated by the argsort function,
             # I get the order of the top n words in the list
             top words idx = np.flip(np.argsort(words[:,1])[-n:],0)
             # The resulting indexes are now used as keys in the dic to get the wor
         ds
             top words = [words[ind][0] for ind in top words idx]
             return words, top words, top words idx
In [65]: # This is now the function to display and highlight
         # the words associated to specific emotions
         def print colored emotions (tweets, emotions, color, on color):
```

for idx, emotion in enumerate(emotions):

Connecting words to emotions

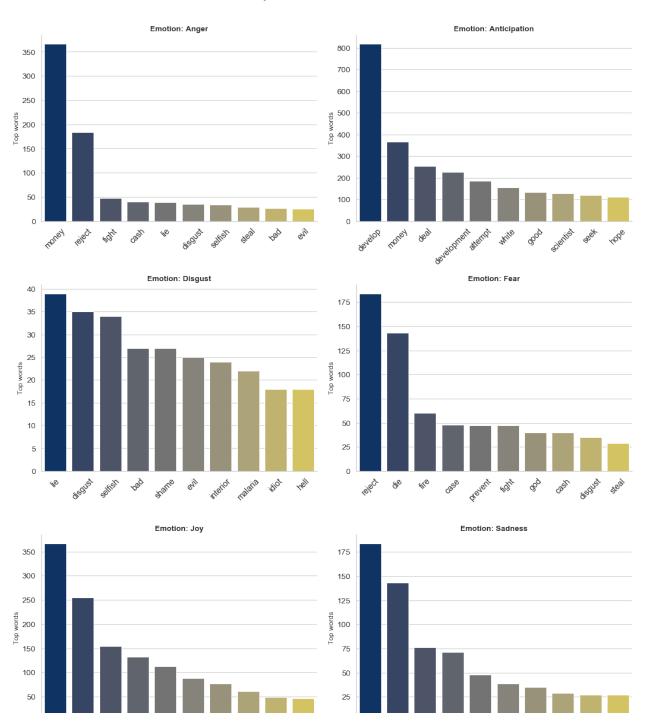
```
In [66]: # We are using the NCR lexicon to associate words to emotions
# Be patient, this will take some time ...

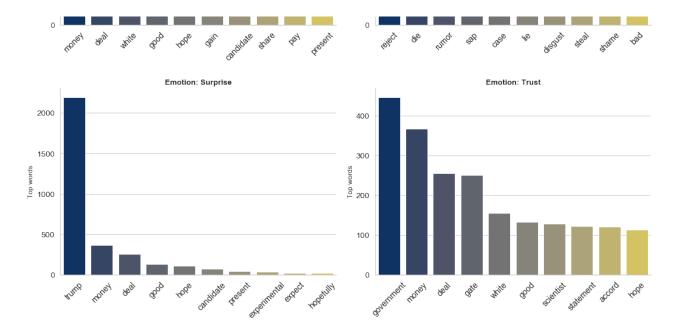
df_emo, list_emotion_counts = get_tweet_emotions(tweets, emotions, 'edited
')

# Preparing for time series
df_emo['datetime']= pd.to_datetime(df_emo['datetime'])
```

For a better understanding of the word-emotions associations, I produce here the plots showing what are the 10 words that contributed the most for each of the 8 emotions.

Top 10 words for each emotion





For some authors, isolated emotions might not be the best granullarity for analysis. Skillicom (2019) and colleagues prefer to aggregate emotions into positive and negative emotions [5]. Let's try it.

```
In [70]: # Aggregating negative and positive emotions
    df_emo['neg_emotions'] = df_emo['Sadness'] + df_emo['Fear'] + df_emo['Disg
    ust'] + df_emo['Anger']
    df_emo['pos_emotions'] = df_emo['Joy'] + df_emo['Anticipation'] + df_emo['
    Trust'] + df_emo['Surprise']
```

I use here the pandas groupby feature to obtain a normalized account of the emotions as a proportion that takes into account the number of tweets in each of the two periods (before and during the online storm).

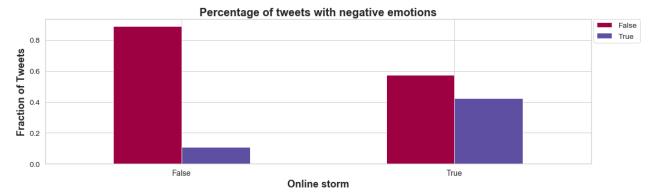
Out[72]:

total_neg_emotions	False	True
onlinestorm		
False	0.890699	0.109301
True	0.575713	0.424287

The results show that during the online storm period, negative emotions are present in 42 per cent of the tweets, whereas previously only 11% of the tweets included negative emotions.

We can spot it more clearly in the following chart ...

In [73]: # plot it
plot_fractions(props,'Percentage of tweets with negative emotions','Percentage_of_Tweets_with_negative_emotions')

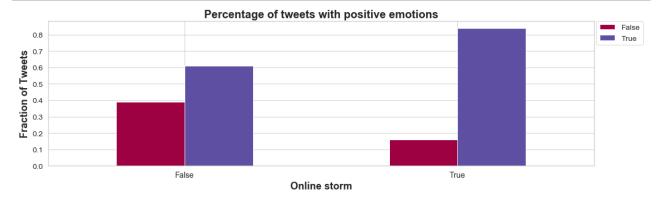


Converselly, when it comes to positive emotions, we witness also an increase in the proportion of tweets with these emotions during online storm (84 per cent). But it is not such a sharp change when compared to the 61 per cent before the online storm.

Out[74]:

total_pos_emotions	False	True
onlinestorm		
False	0.390360	0.609640
True	0.159356	0.840644

In [75]: plot_fractions(props,'Percentage of tweets with positive emotions','Percentage_of_Tweets_with_positive_emotions')



Word - emotion connections in the tweets

To help us have a feeling of how things work behind thew scenes, I wrote a function (print_colored_emotions) to display the words connected to negative (red) and positive (green) emotions.

It is important to acknowledge that I am not giving any kind of emotion score to the tweets (that would be another undertaking all together). I am just locating the word-emotion connections within the tweets, since a tweet may depict more than one emotion (or cluster of emotions) Θ and they usually do.

Here are some negative emotions ...

```
In [76]: df = df_emo[df_emo['Sadness'] > 3]
    print_colored_emotions(df['text'], ['Disgust', 'Sadness', 'Anger', 'Fear'], '
    white', 'on_red')
```

Die Stiftung von Bill Gates investiert 52 Millionen Dollar in dt . Firma C ureVac , die an Impfstoff gegen # Coronavirus forscht . (Das ist die Firm a , an der die US-Regierung großes Interesse hat aktuell , siehe : https://twitter.com/AscotBlack/sta tus/1239161218398670848 ? s=19 ...) https://www . forbes.com/sites/matthewh erper/2015/03/05/bill-melinda-gates-foun dation-makes-largest-ever-equity-investment-in-a-biotech-company/amp/? __twitter_impression=truehttps: //www.forbes.com/sites/matthewherper/2015/03/05/bill-melinda-gates-foundation-makes-largest-ever-equity-investment-in-a-biotech-company/amp/? twitter impression=true ...

You created crowded conditions @ airports corralling sick w/healthy . This will lead to further disease spreading . Your denials & delays , along w/ill-prepared quarter measures are going to kill many . And stop trying to steal CureVac for U.S. only . # VaccinesForAll

@ KimStrassel @ kimguilfoyle @ seanmdav @ maggieNYT That wasn ' t the lie put forth by Germany . The lies was that Curevac had a cure and Trump want ed a . Exclusive supply . You lied all about Trump/Russia and you are lyin again .

You are full of it . Trump has put America in danger every single day and his mixed messages are causing confusion and eventually death . He has han dled this Corona situation so badly and tried to bribe a German called Cur eVac . This President is so shameful https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/corona-impfstoff-deutschland-usa-101.html ... https://twitter.com/GOP/status/123 9342159486164998 ...

News! # CureVac CureVac Rejects Rumors of US Acquisition: CureVac Rejects Rumors of US Acquisition http://dlvr.it/RRzMsN Visit our site! pic.t witter.com/OLnwkX4Glu

Yes they have Lied, but in this case no , USA Today and CureVac provide p roof it 's a false story. pick a real Lie to propagate , not a fake news story , all that does is <a href="https://www.hurt.com/hurt.c

COVID19 latest , 9pm GMT Cases 197,467 Deaths 7,953 Recoveries 81,691 # Belgium to enforce lockdown from 11am GMT Wed # US cities , states announc e piecemeal lockdowns # EU Commission Chief Ursula von der Leyen claims Ge rman company CureVac may have # vaccine ready " towards fall '' pic.twitte r.com/jycIhEU0bg

And here some positive ones ...

```
In [77]: | df = df emo[df emo['Anticipation'] > 4]
         print colored emotions(df['text'], ['Joy', 'Trust', 'Anticipation'], 'white'
         , 'on green')
         UK pharma is equally likely to develop a vaccine . In fact , pharma all ov
         er the world are searching for a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2 . CureVac is unlik
         ely to develop one quickly enough alone . Now 's a good time for pharma to
          cooperate , rather than compete for financial gains .
         It works ! It worked after 9/11 . God Bless Lee Greenwood ! God Bless Cure
         Vac ! God Bless China ! God Bless Italy ! God Bless Iran ! God Bless South
          Korea ! God Bless Germany Too ! God Bless Asia , Europe , Africa , Americ
         as & Australia . pic.twitter.com/dSKwPrLTeD
         Glad researchers behind GER lab # CureVac have '' vetoed '' this , it s a
         sign of huge progress from the times of # WorldWar . Einstein & others gav
         e up their research to build d A-Bomb : if we do give up our values to mon
         ey we have nothing else but # death ahead . # EU stay strong @ vonderleyen
         Take Precautions . Pray Harder . Pray that something good comes out of ' C
         urevac among others . Faith over Fear . This too shall pass in JESUS name
         . Once again liked I posted earlier . `` Pls dont forget to lift up prayer
         s over the virus '' . We are not really praying . Lets Pray Saints
         1/ Yes . Human vaccine trials are already underway in the US and China . C
         ureVac in Germany has two candidates and expect an experimental vaccine in
          June/July . Having said that , the expectation is , it will only be public
```

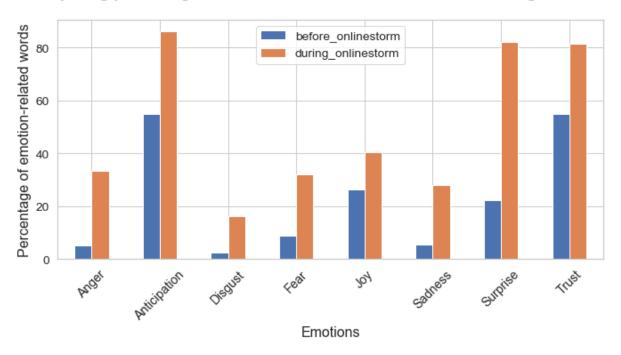
Proportion of emotions in relation to number of tweets, before and during the online storm

cly available in about 18 months . Until then

```
In [78]: df1 = df emo.groupby(df emo['onlinestorm'])[emotions].apply(lambda x:(x.s
          um()/x.count())*100)
In [79]: df1.index = ['before onlinestorm', 'during onlinestorm']
In [80]: df1.head()
Out[80]:
                               Anger Anticipation
                                                  Disgust
                                                                                      Surprise
                                                             Fear
                                                                        Joy
                                                                             Sadness
                                                          8.689749 26.408690
           before onlinestorm
                            5.091650
                                       54.921928
                                                 2.511881
                                                                             5.431093 22.471147 54
                                      86.270136 16.183395 31.945477 40.421314 28.178439 82.131351 8
           during_onlinestorm 33.358116
In [81]: df =df1.T
In [82]: df .reset index()
Out[82]:
                index before_onlinestorm during_onlinestorm
```

0	Anger	5.091650	33.358116
1	Anticipation	54.921928	86.270136
2	Disgust	2.511881	16.183395
3	Fear	8.689749	31.945477
4	Joy	26.408690	40.421314
5	Sadness	5.431093	28.178439
6	Surprise	22.471147	82.131351
7	Trust	54.989817	81.437423

Comparing percentage of emotion-related words before and during online storm



Applying a Z-score normalization

In another effort to normalize the emotion scores, I am using the Z-score, instead of the mere counts of wordemotion connections, because these are heavily affected by the number of tweets in each period in consideration.

The z-score tells us how many standard deviations an individual value is from the mean, and is calculated with following formula:

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

I use the pandasÕ apply function to calculate the z-score of each individual value in all the 8 columns of emotions in the dataframe.

In [85]: df_emo = pd.concat([df_emo[['datetime','text','edited', 'onlinestorm']], d
f_zscore], axis=1)

In [86]: df_emo.head()

Out[86]:

	datetime	text	edited	onlinestorm	Anger	Anticipation	Disgust	Fear	•
0	2014-03- 12 18:26:59	Robert-Jan Smits at Innovation Convention 2014	smits innovation convention win Û2m inducement	False	-0.211661	-0.764009	-0.156192	-0.261235	-0.515
1	2014-03- 13 09:50:54	First #EU #vaccine prize awarded 2 CureVac	first eu prize award euic2014 check complex jo	False	-0.211661	2.018154	-0.156192	2.745007	3.388
2	2014-03- 14 12:50:28	Congrats 2 CureVac! 4 #EU #vaccine prize #	prize euic2014 find industry	False	-0.211661	-0.764009	-0.156192	-0.261235	-0.515
3	2014-03- 14 16:01:30	MT @sanofiDE CureVac Wins Two Million EUR f	mt sanofide win million eur inaugural european	False	-0.211661	-0.764009	-0.156192	-0.261235	-0.515t

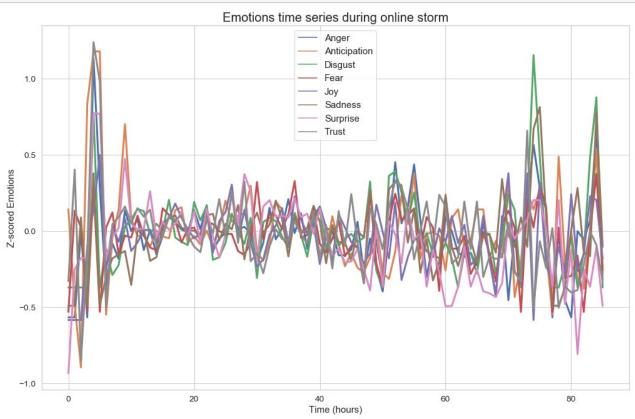
CureVac

```
2014-03- wins EU's win eu eur2m inducement prize for ... win eu eur2m inducement prize for ... win eu eur2m inducement prize mactive technol... False -0.211661 -0.764009 -0.156192 -0.261235 -0.5158
```

The dynamics of emotions during the online storm

With our normalized values, we can now have a more precise view of the way emotions evolved, by the hour, during the 3 days of the online storm.

Here we have a mixture of all the emotions during online storm ...



Let's see how each of the emotions evolved during this period ...

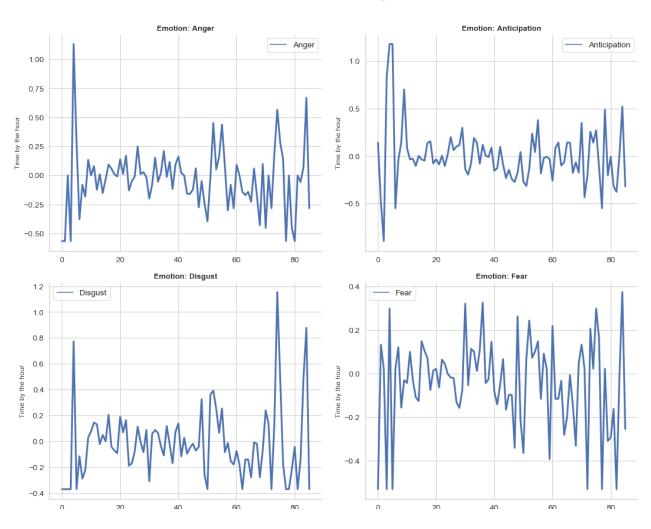
```
In [88]: # Plotting emotions during online storm

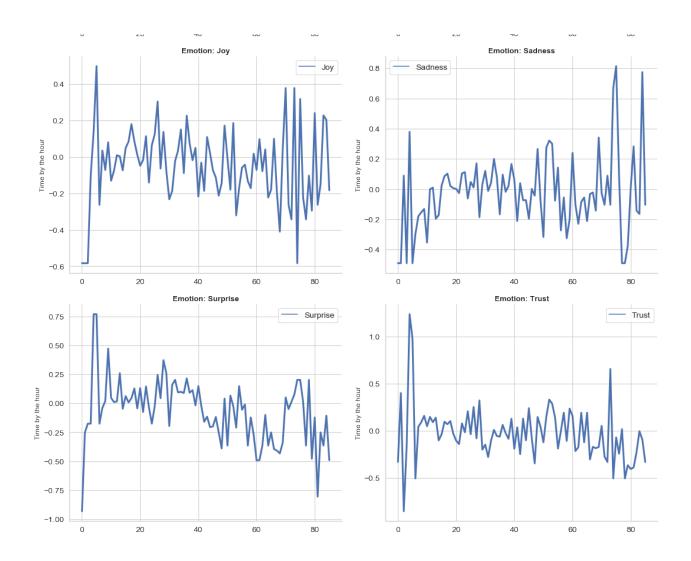
fig, axs = plt.subplots(figsize=(15, 25), frameon=False)
plt.box(False)
plt.axis('off')
plt.subplots_adjust(hspace = 1.6)
counter = 0

df = df_emo[df_emo['onlinestorm']]
```

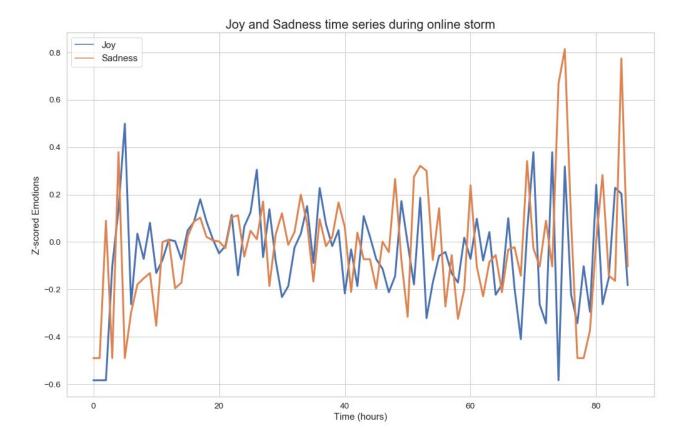
```
df1 = df.groupby(df['datetime'].dt.to period('h')).mean()
df1.reset index(inplace=True)
df1['datetime'] = pd.PeriodIndex(df1['datetime']).to timestamp()
for i, emotion in enumerate(emotions): # for each emotion
    emo = []
    emo.append(emotion)
    plot df = pd.DataFrame(df1, df1.index, emo)
    sns.set(style="whitegrid")
    sns.set context("notebook", font scale=1.25)
    ax = fig.add subplot(4, 2, counter+1) # plot 2 charts in each of the 4
rows
    sns.despine()
    ax = sns.lineplot(data=plot df, linewidth = 3, dashes = False)
    plt.ylabel('Time by the hour', fontsize=12)
    ax.set title(label=str('Emotion: ') + emotion, fontweight='bold', size
=13)
    counter += 1
axs.set title(label='\nPlot for each emotion during online storm\n',
             fontweight='bold', size=20, pad=40)
plt.tight layout()
plt.savefig('images/Emotions during onlinestorm.png')
```

Plot for each emotion during online storm

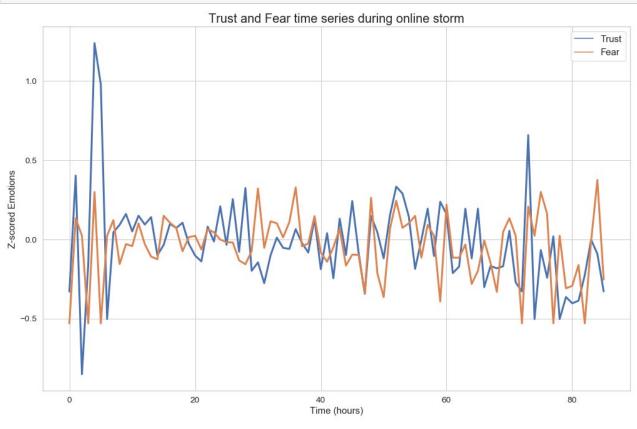




Another way of looking at it is by plotting contrasts of emotions, like joy and sadness ...



And now trust and fear ...



In []:

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[3] Plutchik, R. (2001) The Nature of Emotions. American Scientist, vol 89.

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[5] Skillicorn, D., et al (2019) Measuring Human Emotion in Short Documents to Improve Social Robot and Agent Interactions, Canadian Al 2019: Advances in Artificial Intelligence.

In []: