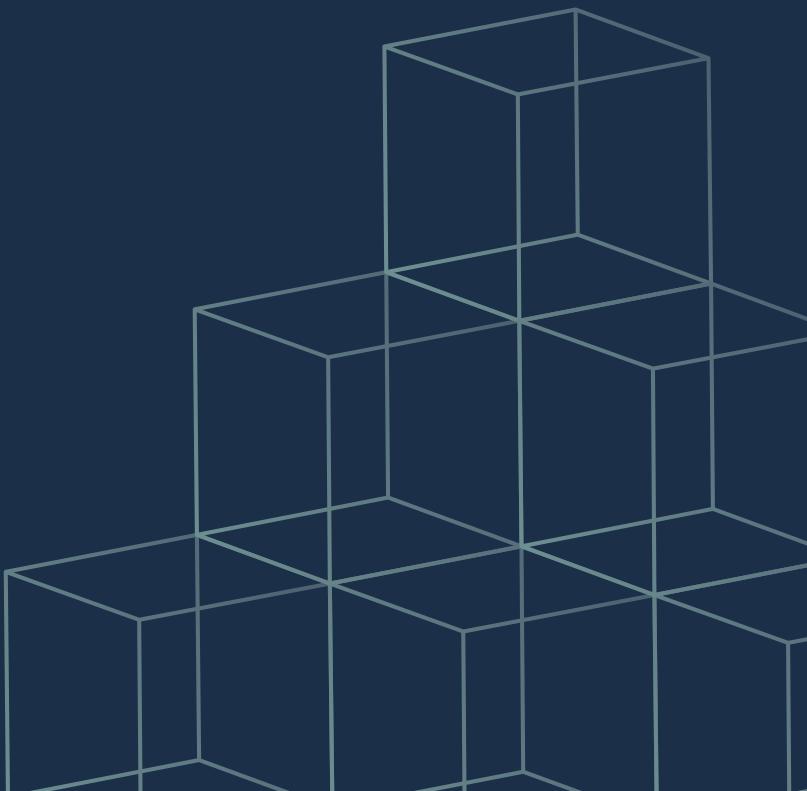




Social Media Analytics I
22/06/2023

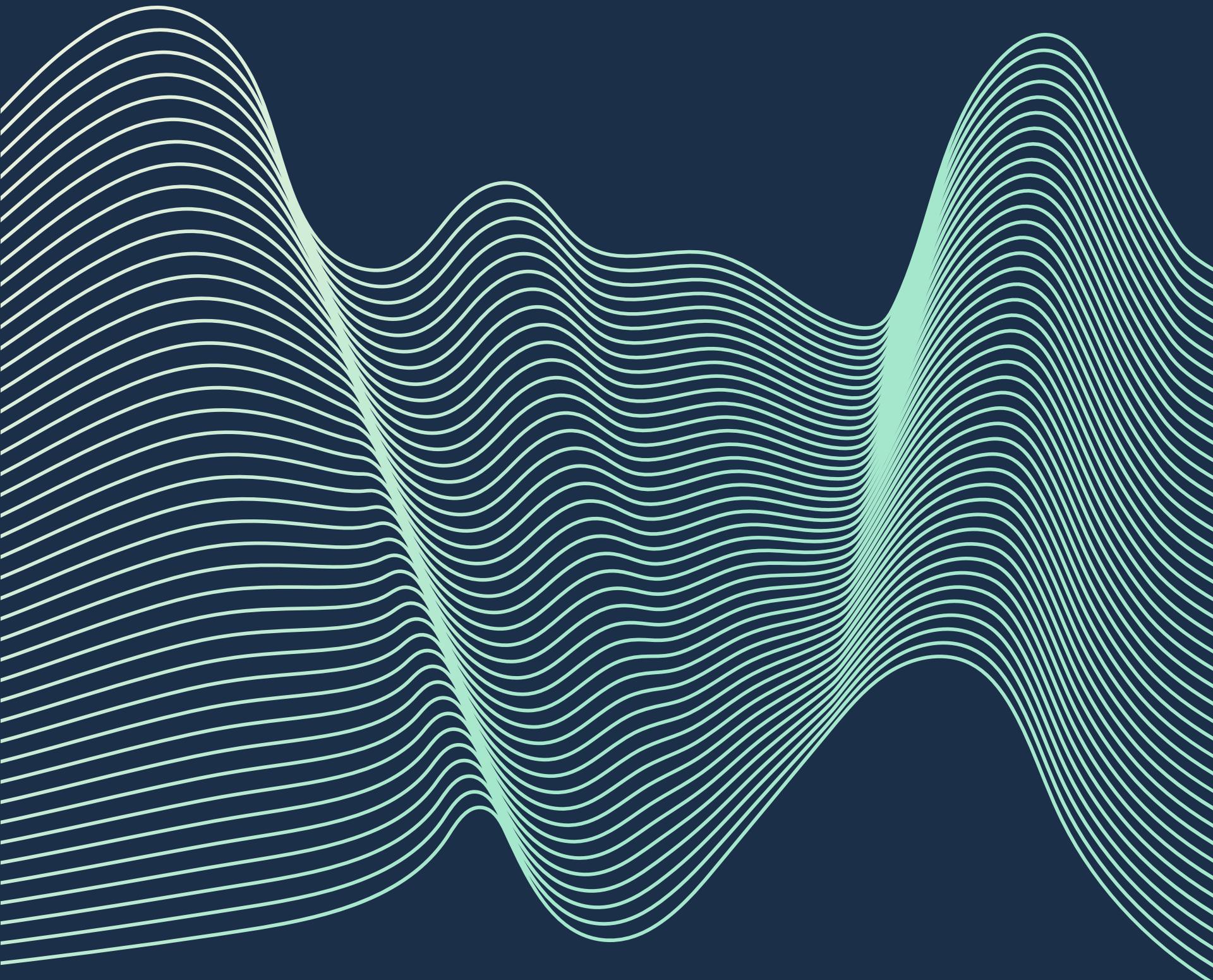
The difference between Russian and Western media in the coverage of the Ukrainian War

Emna Bouassida_20221740
Ludovico Toscano_20220044
Marta Manevska_20220056
Daniela Portugal_20221172
Simone Chieppa_20221495



Agenda

- 01 Background
- 02 Research Problem
- 03 Methodology
- 04 Results
- 05 Discussion of Results



Background

The Ukrainian War is an ongoing conflict that has sparked global concern, with differing views and perceptions influencing audience understanding.

Russia's military incursion into Ukraine in 2022 resulted in conflicts in eastern Ukraine, causing death, destruction, and worldwide uncertainty impacting politics, economy, and society.

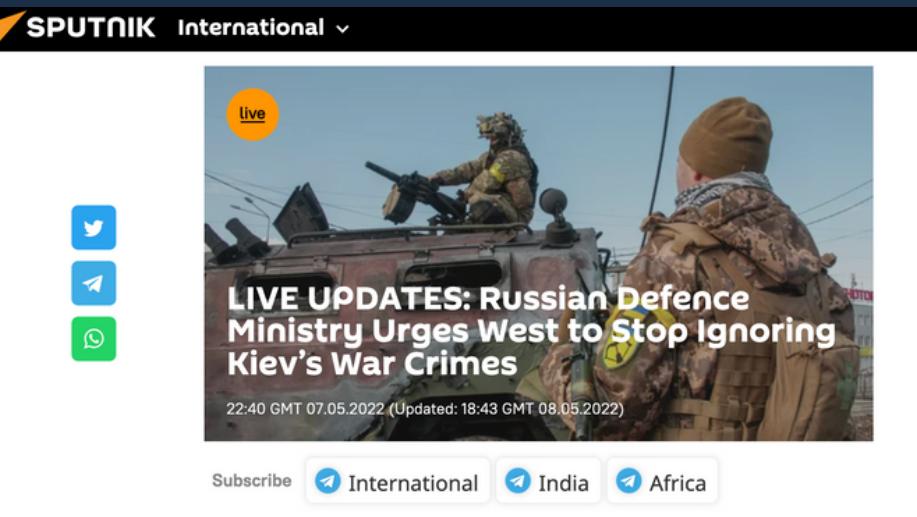


Background

Analyzing 3 online newspapers:



The screenshot shows the homepage of il Fatto Quotidiano. At the top, there's a red header with the newspaper's name. Below it, a navigation bar includes links for LAWS, LOOK, LISTEN, EXPLORE, PLAYS, and NEWSLETTERS. A black banner labeled 'FOCUS' is prominently displayed. Under the 'WAR' section, there's a large image of a Ukrainian soldier carrying equipment. The text below the image reads: 'Ukraine, the counter-offensive has already stalled'. A smaller text block states: 'THE ADVANCE IS LIMITED TO A FEW KILOMETERS - How long will the rhetoric of military aid last for Zelensky to win? Biden aims to regain US economic hegemony'.

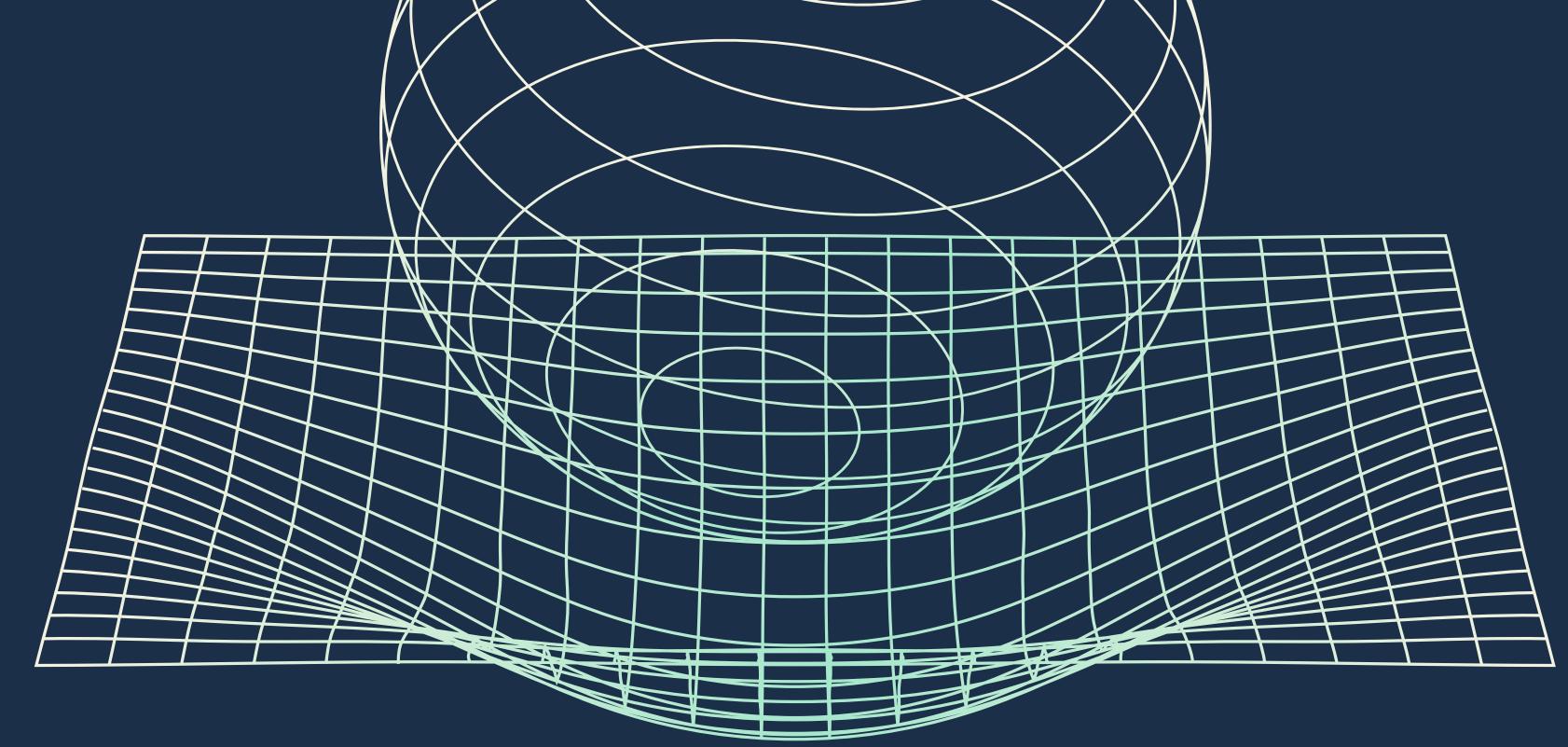


The screenshot shows the homepage of SPUTNIK International. It features a large image of two soldiers in military gear. Below the image, the text reads: 'LIVE UPDATES: Russian Defence Ministry Urges West to Stop Ignoring Kiev's War Crimes'. A timestamp at the bottom left indicates the content was updated at 22:40 GMT on May 7, 2022.



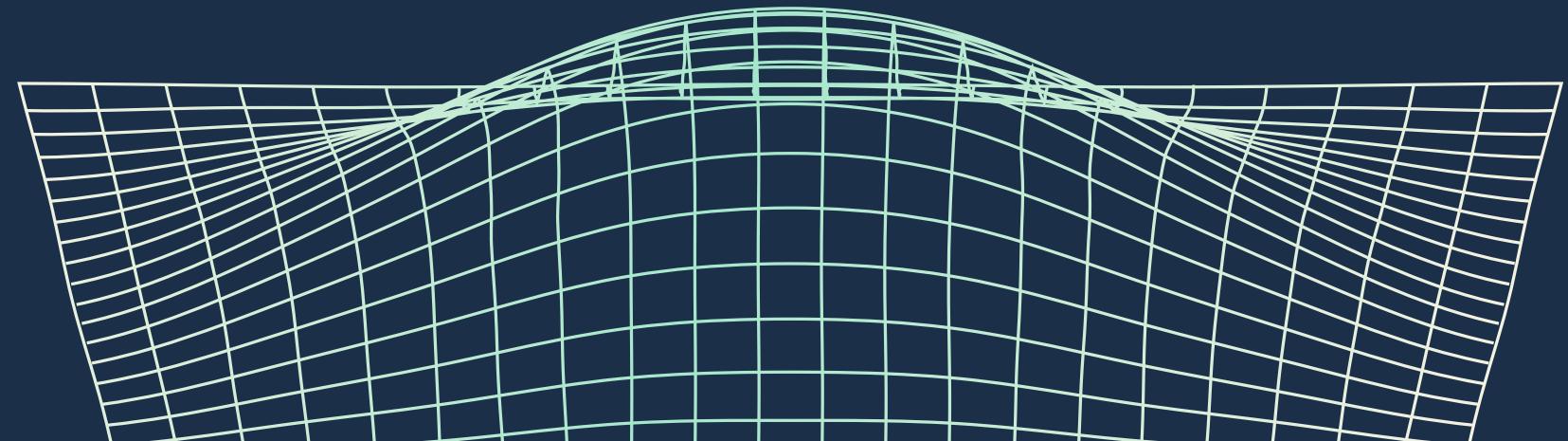
The screenshot shows the front page of the Daily Mail. The masthead includes the paper's name and the tagline 'Daily newspaper of the year 80p'. A red box on the right side of the header contains the text: 'DAY EVIL WAS UNLEASHED ON INNOCENTS'. Below the masthead, there are two photographs: one of a woman with a bandaged head and another of a woman holding a baby. A caption under the photos reads: 'Heartbreaking: Olena Kurilo, a 53-year-old teacher, was injured when Russian forces bombed the eastern Ukrainian city of Chuhuiv yesterday morning. Right: A woman holds her baby inside a bus as they flee the capital Kyiv'. The main headline is 'PUTIN TO SEIZE CAPITAL IN DAYS'. Below the headline are three sub-headlines: 'Russian troops encircle Kyiv after lightning invasion', 'Boris says tyrant is 'redrawing map of Europe in blood'', and 'But outrage as Germany and Italy veto tough sanction'. At the bottom of the page, there's a red banner with the text: 'THE SHARPEST ANALYSIS, MOST DRAMATIC PICTURES'.

insights into contrasting narratives, biases, and approaches employed by Russian and Western media when reporting on the Ukrainian war.

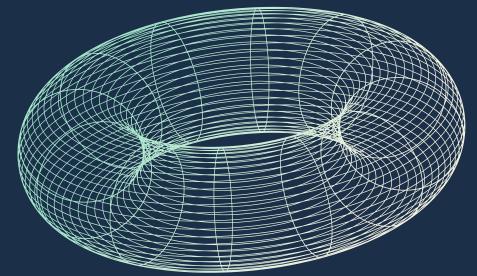


Research Problem

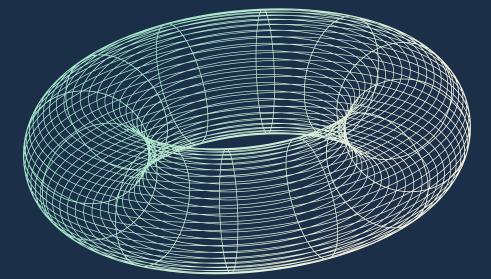
**How news outlets on both sides of the conflict
portray the Ukrainian War, adding a third one that
is supporting the Russian narrative in Europe.**



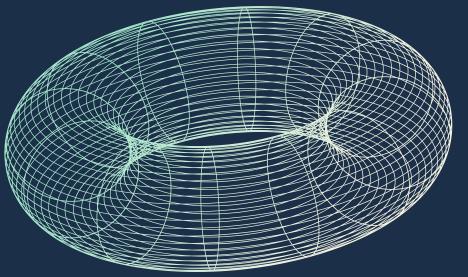
Methodology



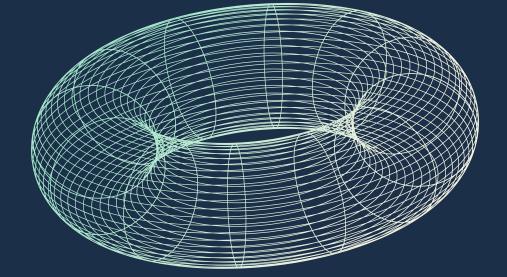
Sentiment
Analysis



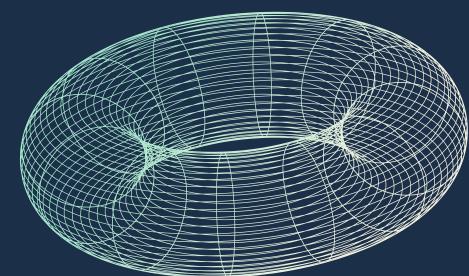
Topic
Modeling



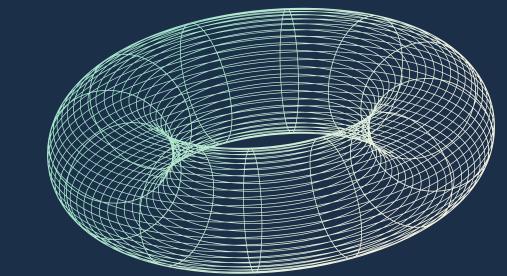
Frequency
Analysis



Keyword
Extraction

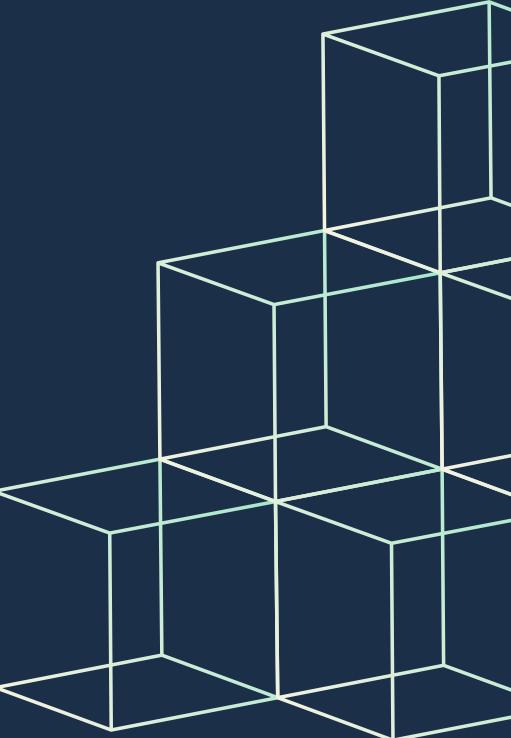


Named Entity
Recognition



Network
Analysis

Data source scraped from:
Fatto Quodiano, Daily Mail and Sputnik



Topic Analysis

The screenshot shows a news article from Sputnik International. At the top left is the Sputnik logo and a dropdown menu. A yellow circular button labeled "live" is visible. Below the title, there are social media sharing icons for Twitter, Telegram, and WhatsApp. The main title reads: "LIVE UPDATES: Ukrainian Neo-Nazis Plan to Blow Up Chemical Depots in Avdeevka - Russian MoD". The subtitle below it states: "22:15 GMT 08.04.2022 (Updated: 11:46 GMT 09.04.2022)". At the bottom, there are links for "Subscribe", "International", "India", and "Africa". A quote from Col. Gen. Mikhail Mizintsev is displayed: "Ukrainian nationalists have prepared a provocation by mining chemical depots at a plant in the city of Avdeevka and planning to blow it up when approaching the formations of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), Director of the Russian National Defense Management Center, Col. Gen. Mikhail Mizintsev said on Friday." The footer of the page says "Sputnik International".

Inside the topic of the invasion of Ukraine, Were there clearly defined subtopics?

How much do they differ between each newspaper?

No good results - the main keywords used in the articles are always the same.

Articles

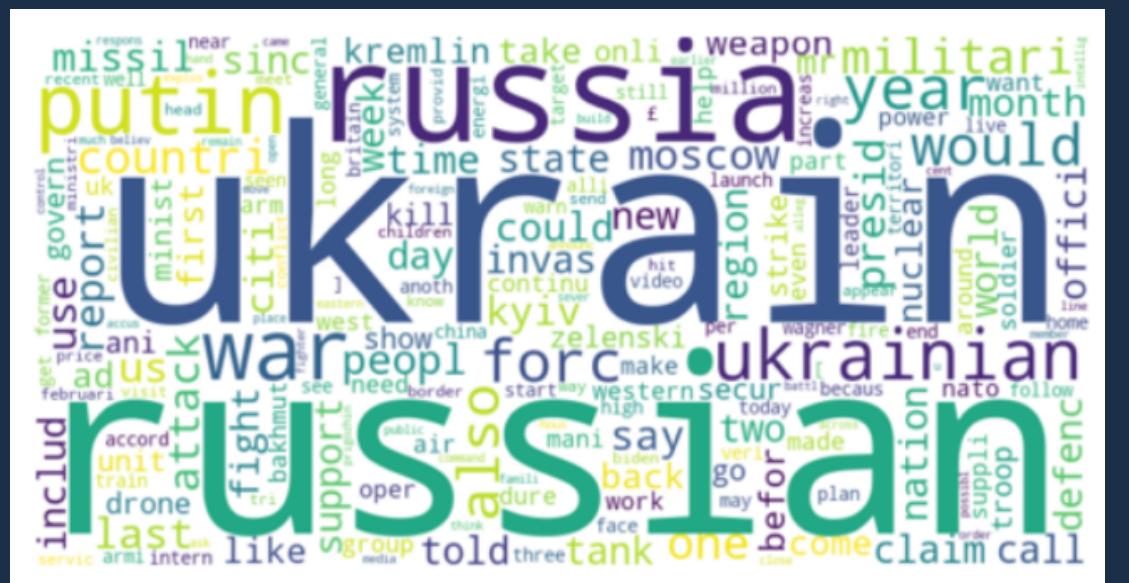
Term

Frequency

The cloud is similar among newspapers and the words keep relatively their weight of importance in it after stemming.



Word cloud after stemming Sputnik



Word cloud after stemming DailyMail

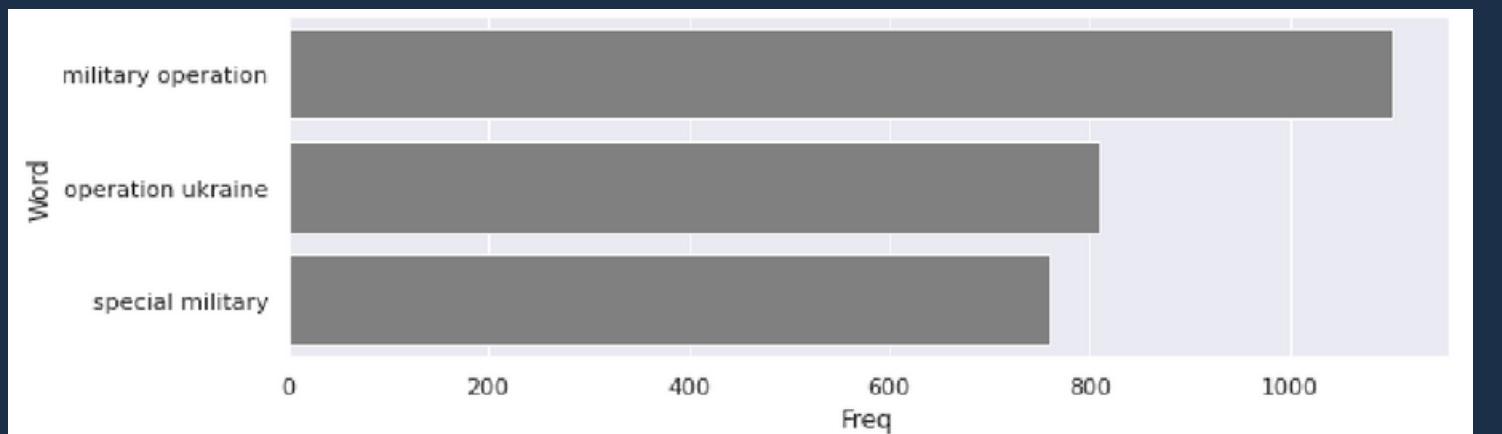


Word of cloud Fatto Quotidiano without stemming

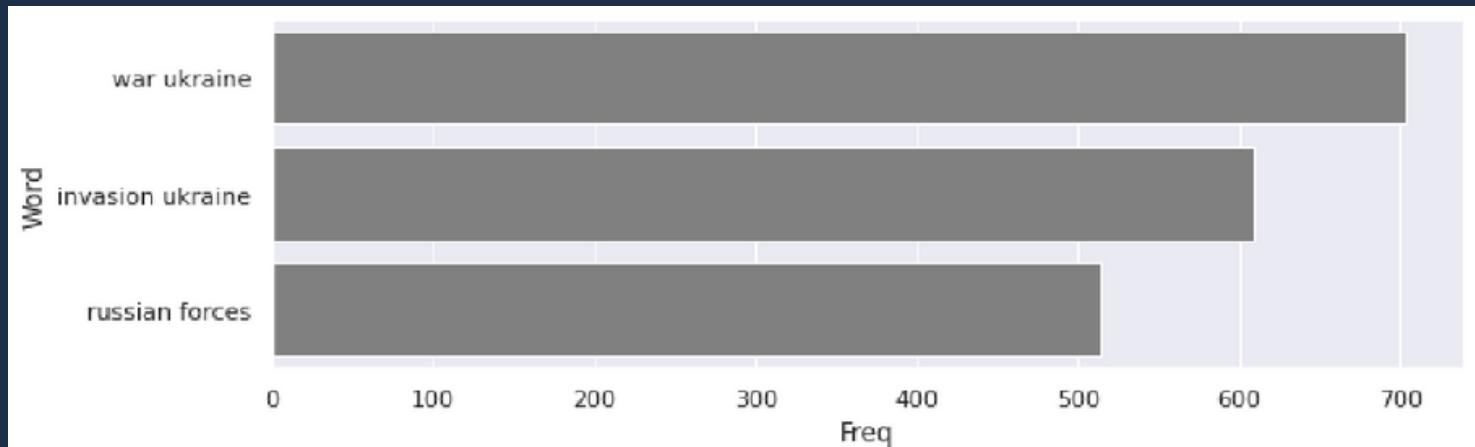
Articles

Term Frequency

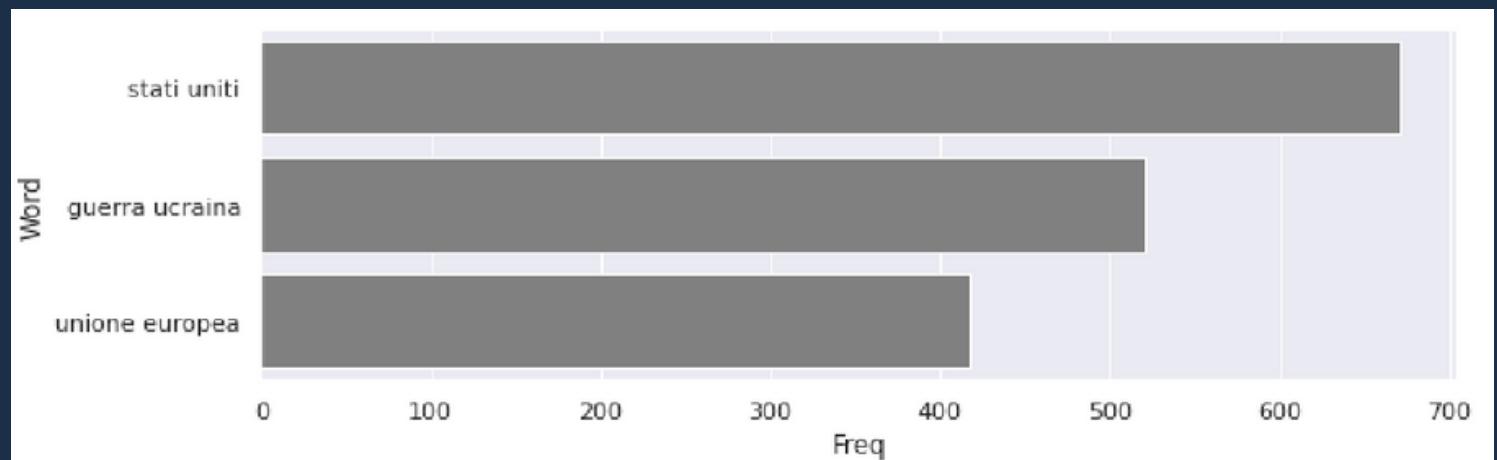
bi grams



Top 3 bi-gram Sputnik



Top 3 bi-gram DailyMail



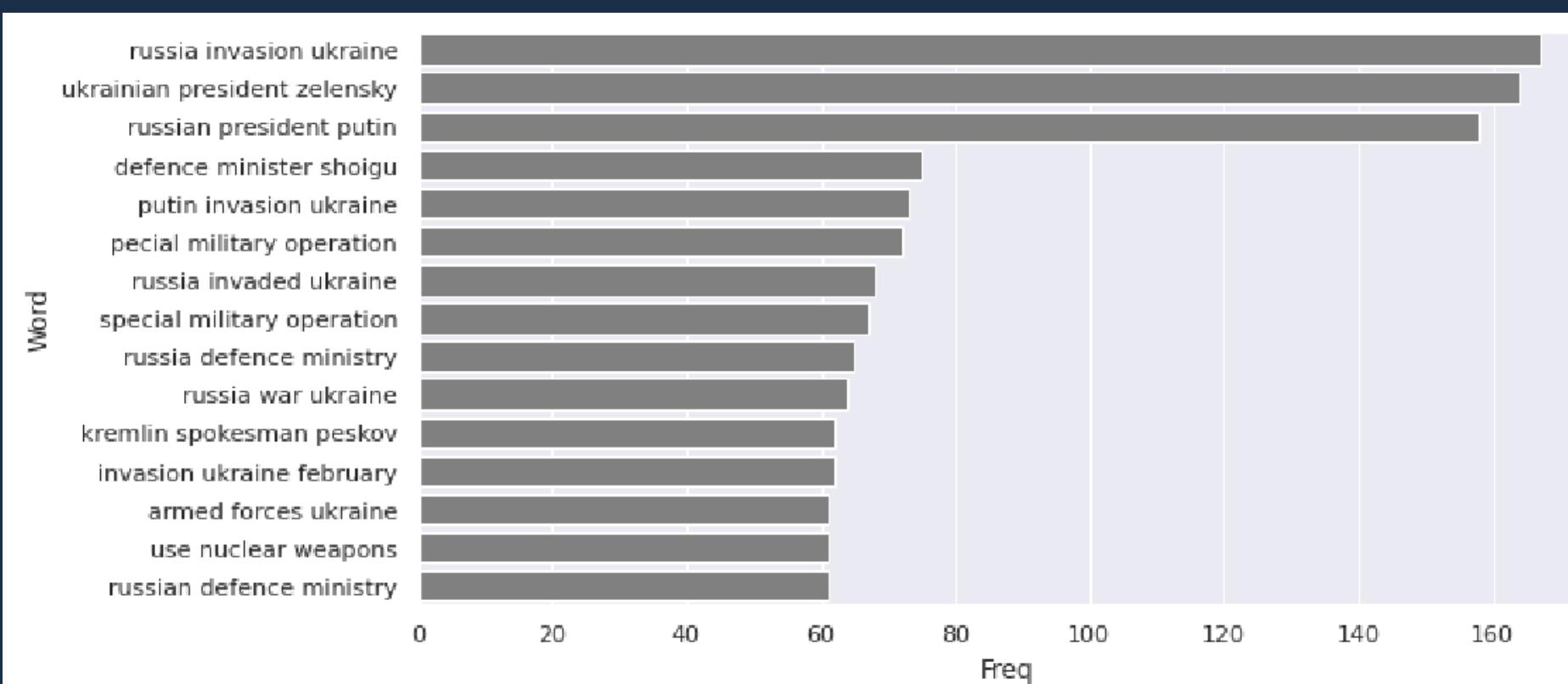
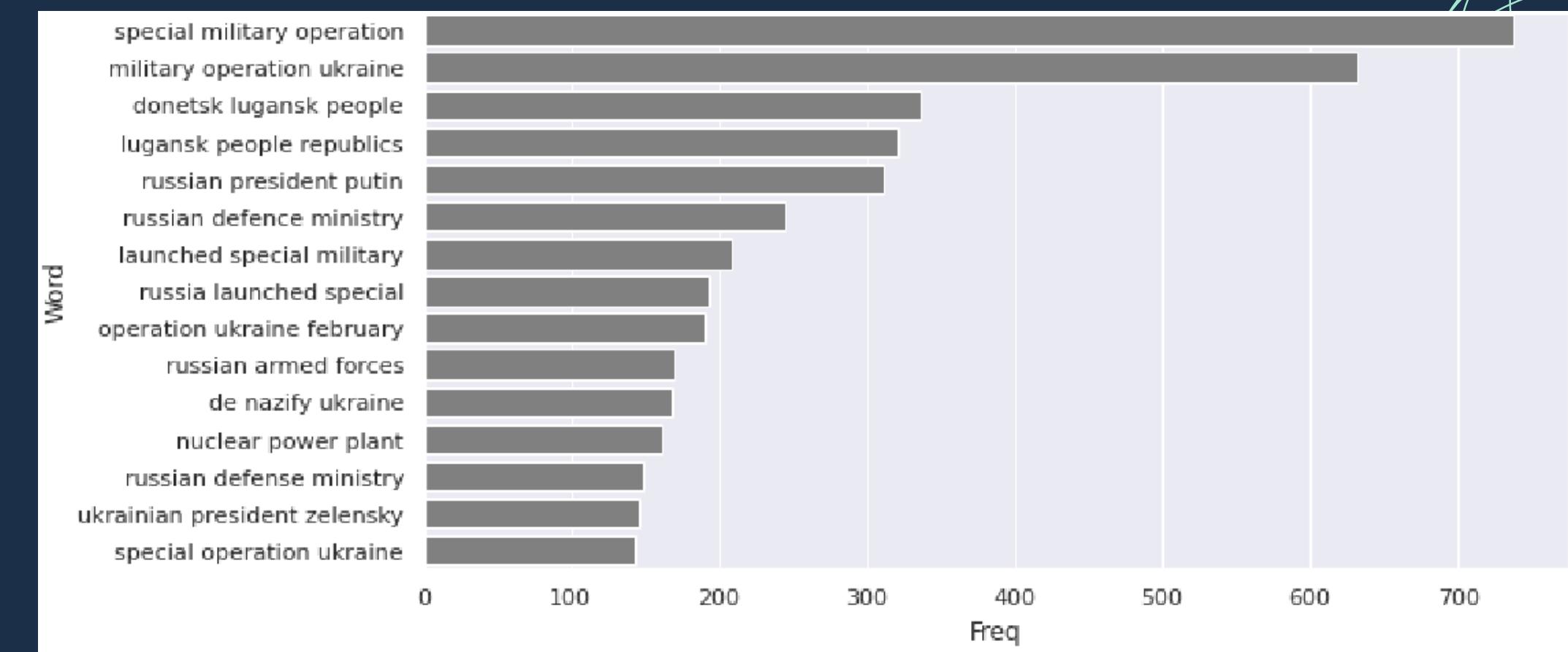
Top 3 bi-gram Il Fatto Quotidiano

Articles

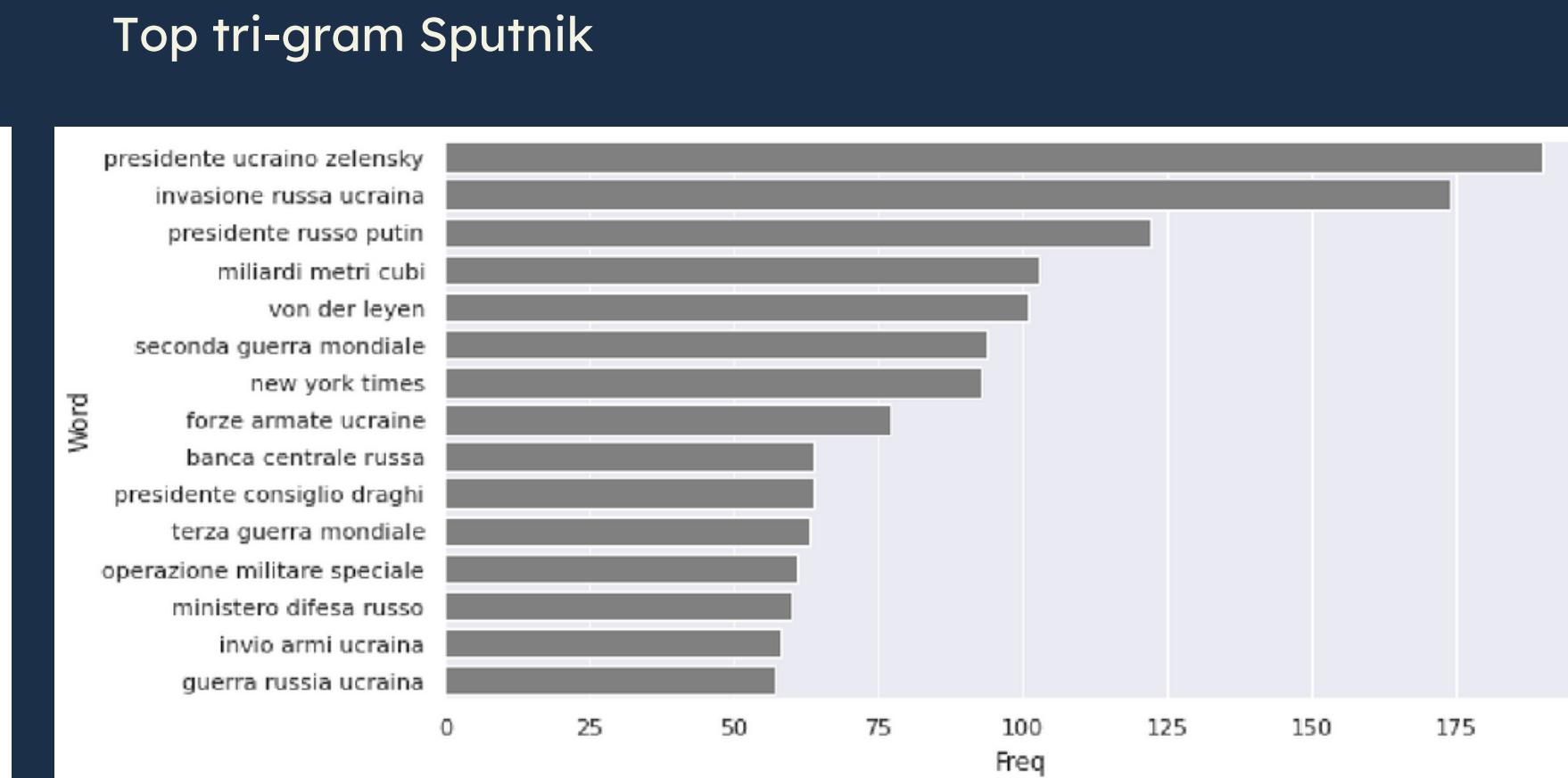
Term

Frequency

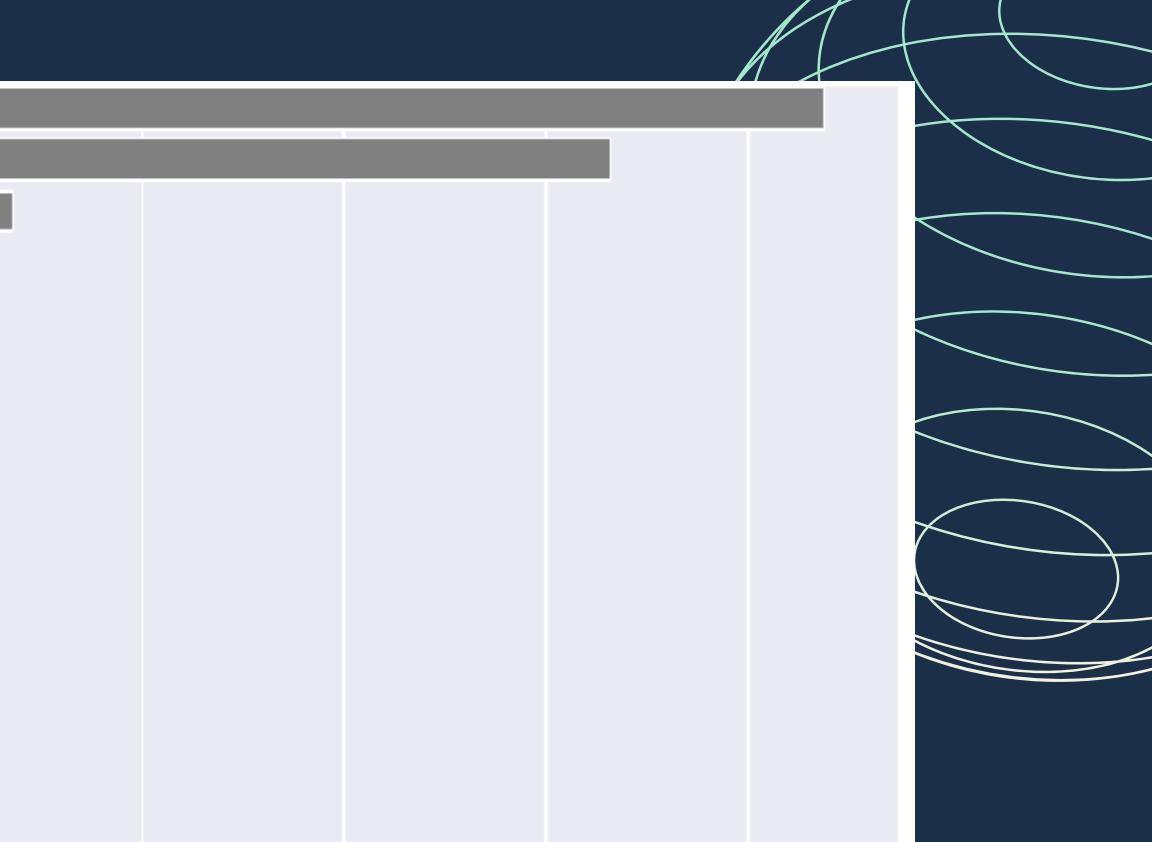
tri grams



Top tri-gram DailyMail



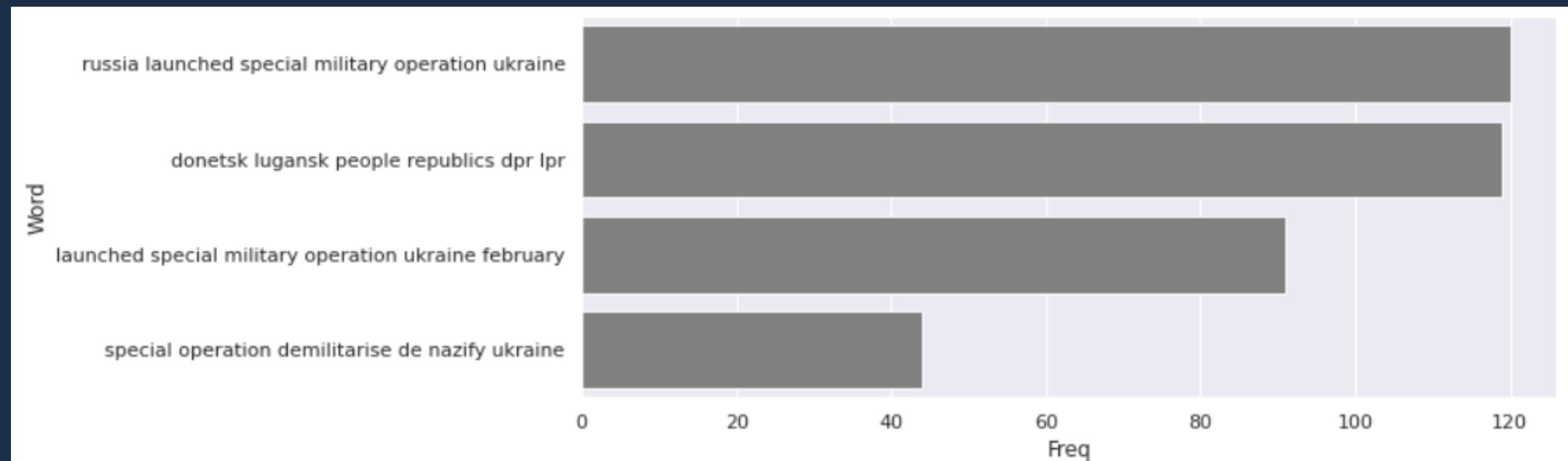
Top tri-gram Sputnik



Articles

Term Frequency

six-grams

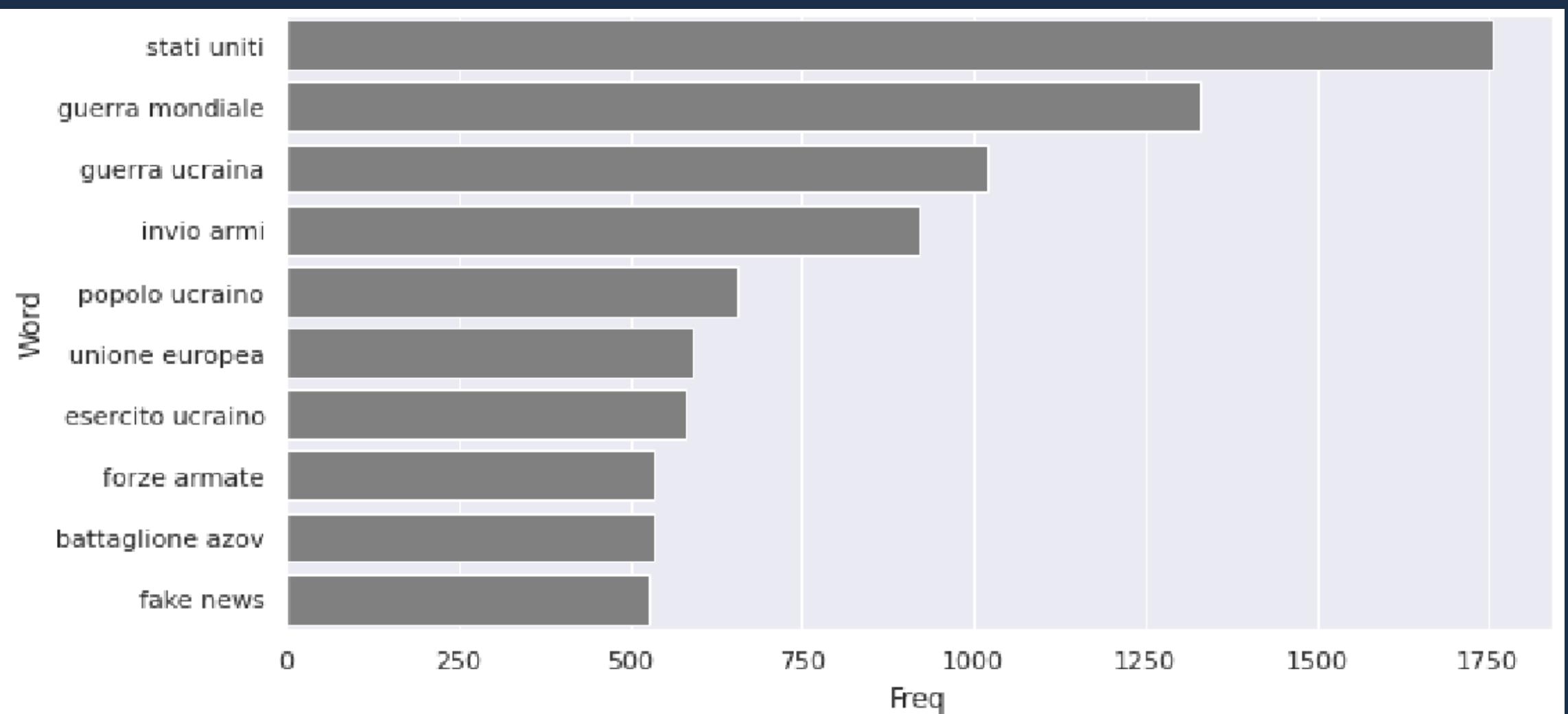


Top 4 six-gram Sputnik

Comments

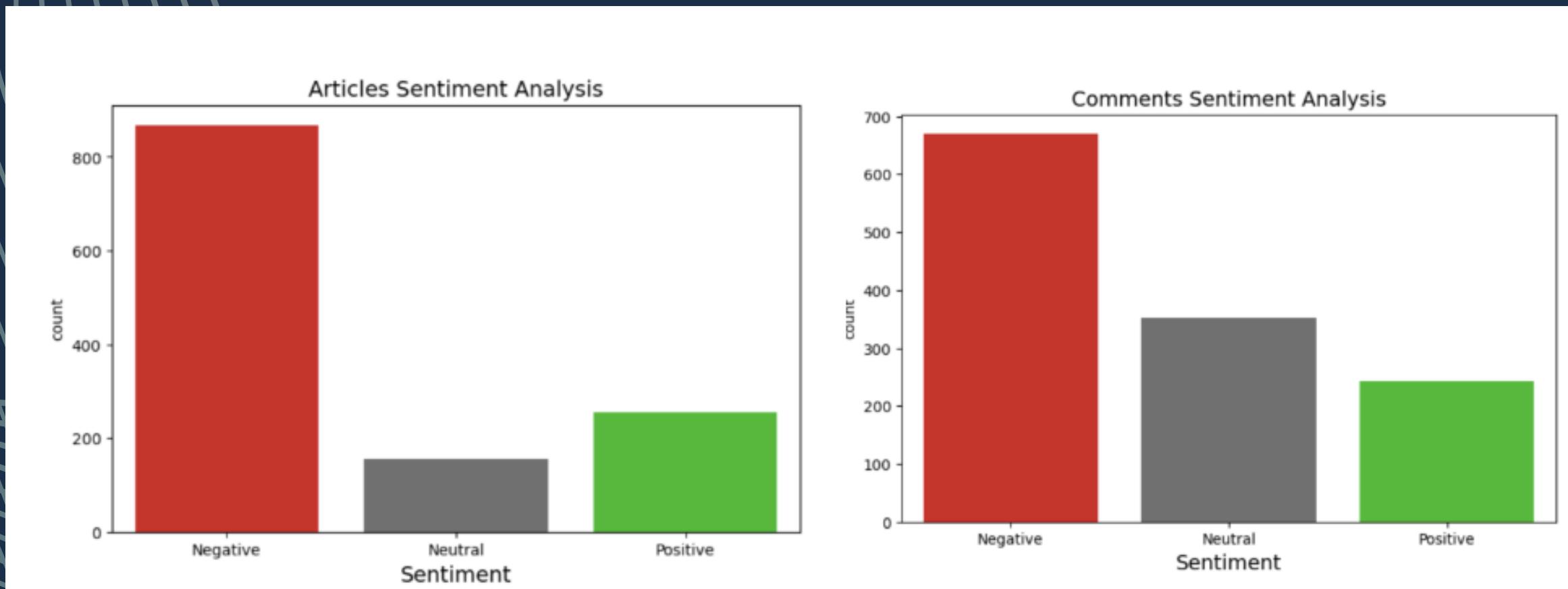
Term Frequency

bi gram



Fatto quotidiano

Daily Mail Sentiment Analysis



Russian military plane bursts into flames and crashes into a lake in region bordering Finland

- Law enforcement agencies reported the crash, according to Russian state news
- The crash was reported to have happened in Murmansk in Russia's northwest

By CHRIS JEWERS

PUBLISHED: 15:59 BST, 26 April 2023 | UPDATED: 17:26 BST, 26 April 2023



Cally1, UK, United Kingdom, 1 month ago

I think its time the whole of Russia was completely obliterated. Get all defenceless animals out and flatten it.



Click to rate

Arsenal delete a tweet wishing former Russian player Andrey Arshavin happy birthday after Ukrainians raged at their support for ex-footballer who said he would fight in the war

- Arsenal paid tribute to Arshavin when wishing him a happy birthday on Monday
- But their post for the Russian drew criticism from several Ukrainians on Twitter
- In the end Arsenal took the birthday message down in light of the controversy

BY ER SALT FOR MAILONLINE

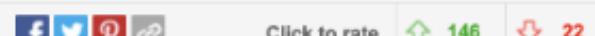
HED: 10:08 BST, 30 May 2023 | UPDATED: 13:41 BST, 30 May 2023



View comments

Casper , The Truth Is Out There , United Kingdom, 2 weeks ago

Football has got nothing to do with the war in Ukraine #JUSTSAYING.



Ukraine intelligence warns Putin is planning to simulate major accident at Europe's biggest nuclear power station in an attempt by Russia to thwart Kyiv's counteroffensive

- Zaporizhzhia plant IN southern Ukraine is Europe's biggest nuclear power station
- In Russian-occupied territory, both sides have blamed each other for shelling
- Claiming radiation leak would force an investigation by international authorities

By IWAN STONE

PUBLISHED: 00:23 BST, 27 May 2023 | UPDATED: 02:13 BST, 27 May 2023



View comments



Warts_Up , Stoke, United Kingdom, 2 weeks ago

This is Zelensky's way of asking for even more money ... seems Europe and the US have become his personal cashpoint.

Daily Mail

Sentiment Analysis

Negative sentiment articles with positive comments:

- Ukrainian military attacks against Russians
- Canceling culture that happened during this period against Russians outside of the country
- Ukrainian claims against Russia of suspected attacks

Are F-16 fighter jets being sent to Ukraine? What has the UK pledged and why does Zelensky want them?

- All you need to know about the F16 fighter and why Ukraine wants to use them

By ZAC CAMPBELL

PUBLISHED: 10:54 BST, 19 May 2023 | UPDATED: 10:54 BST, 19 May 2023



169
View comments



The Welsh Judge, cardiff, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

Ukraine can never claim to have won the war if Russia ever loses it will be thanks to the poverty stricken Uk as they will pay heavily for supporting Ukraine, with more poverty to come for the uk when we pay to rebuild Ukraine.



Click to rate ↑



↑

Wimbledon BAN Russia flags from the grounds for this year's tournament - and Russian journalists are told they are NOT welcome despite players being welcomed back as 'neutrals'

- Wimbledon chiefs will not allow Russian flags at this summer's tournament
- Officials have taken a strong stance amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- The tournament won't be shown in Russia and Russian media are not welcome

By OLI GAMP FOR MAILONLINE

PUBLISHED: 14:17 BST, 25 April 2023 | UPDATED: 01:36 BST, 27 April 2023



232
View comments



dm32, carp, Canada, 1 month ago

What's tennis players got to do with Putin who started this war. Let every tennis player play for whatever flag they wish. Be it a rainbow one or whatever. Wimbledon stop being so petty.



Click to rate



3



10

Daily Mail

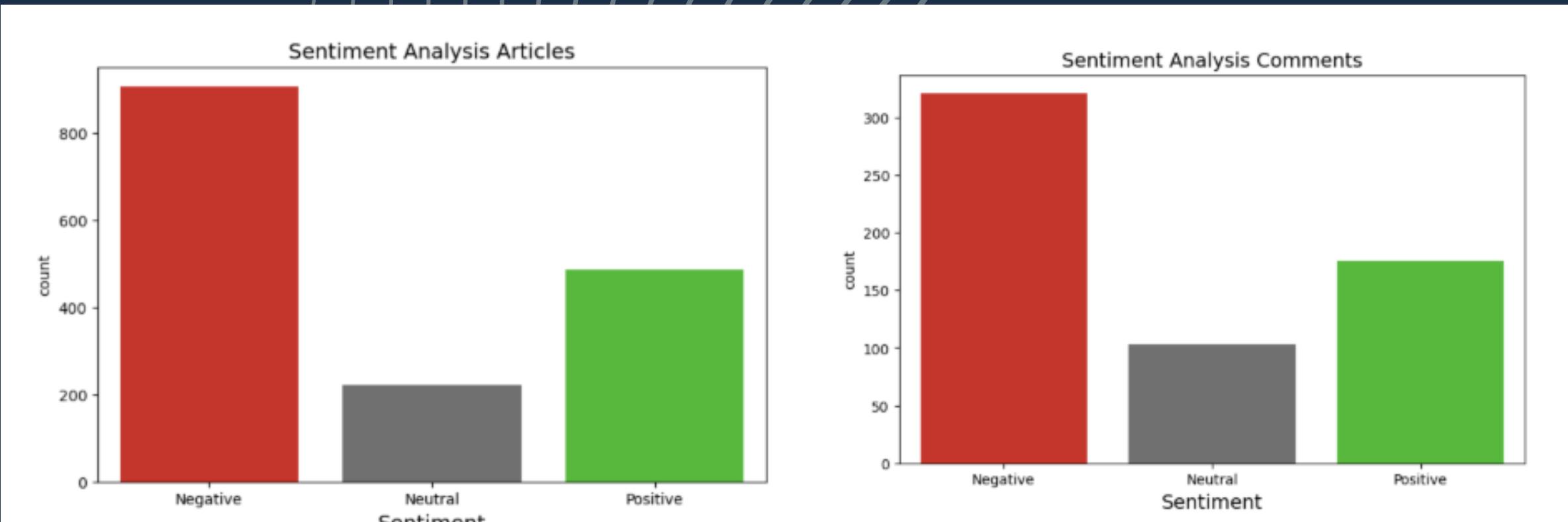
Sentiment Analysis

Positive sentiment articles with negative comments:

- Support from the USA or European countries to Ukraine
- Articles focusing on President Zelensky's declarations or initiatives
- Bashing Russian individuals, especially from sports

Sputnik

Sentiment Analysis



While looking at the data gathered, we can see that positive comments are supporting Russia while negatives are against Ukrainian allies. When it comes to articles, the ones dedicated to losses are classified as negative and the ones talking about winning are classified as positive.

Ukraine Loses Nearly 600 Military, Mercenaries in Donetsk Direction Over Past Day - Russian MoD

11:55 GMT 29.04.2023 (Updated: 16:54 GMT 29.04.2023)



© Sputnik / RIA Novosti / Go to the mediabank

Well done, Russia and Good luck for the final victory !

LC LUCIAN-ION COJOCARU

29 April, 17:06 GMT 7

i guess the nato training these ukranian forces got did not include the message "try not to get yourself killed".

J Joy Myers

29 April, 16:38 GMT 4

Sputnik

Sentiment Analysis

We can also understand that the comments on Sputnik are more extremist, with a strong opinion of the West, with expressions such as “nazi” and “Ukrainian regime” being used often in these comments.

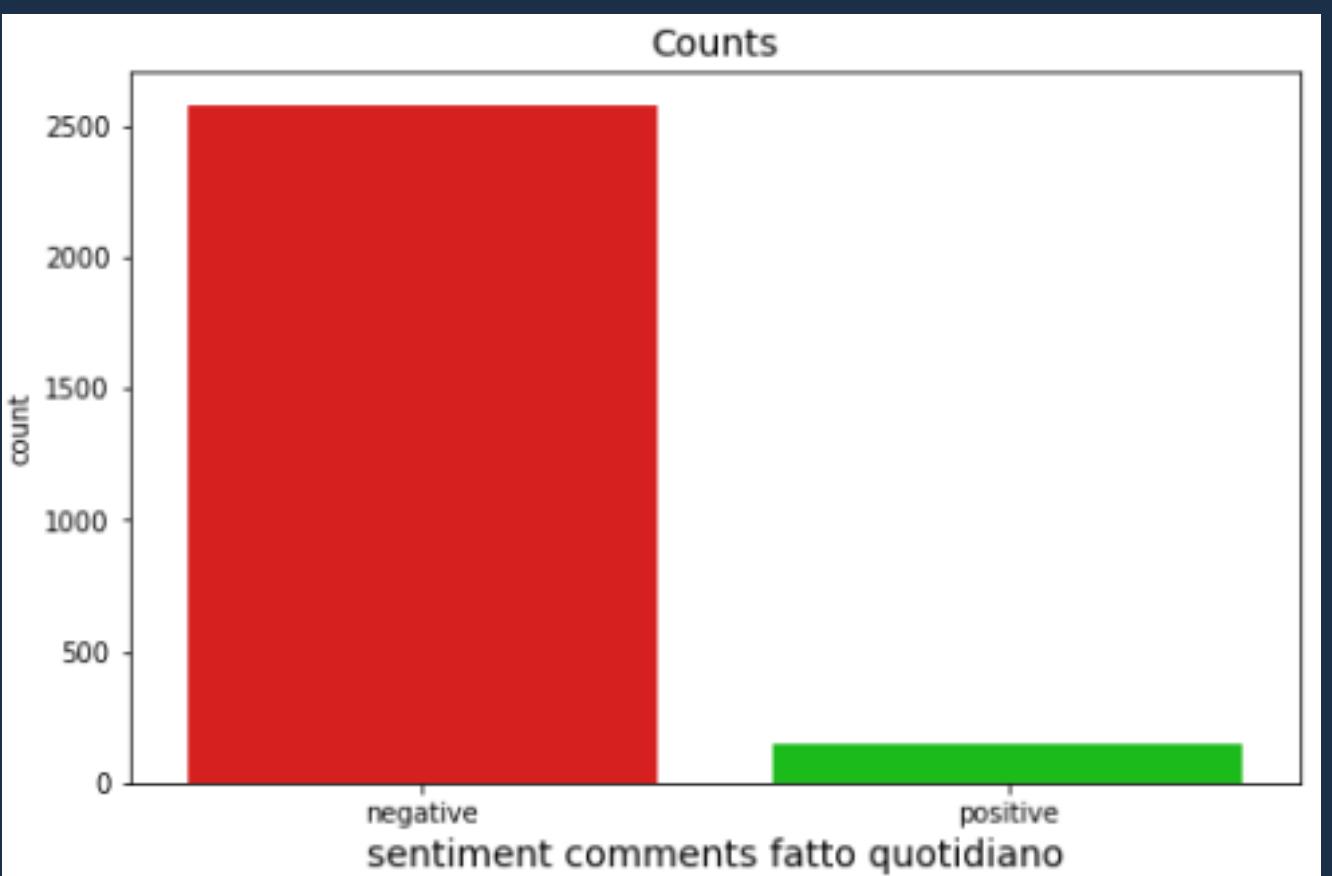
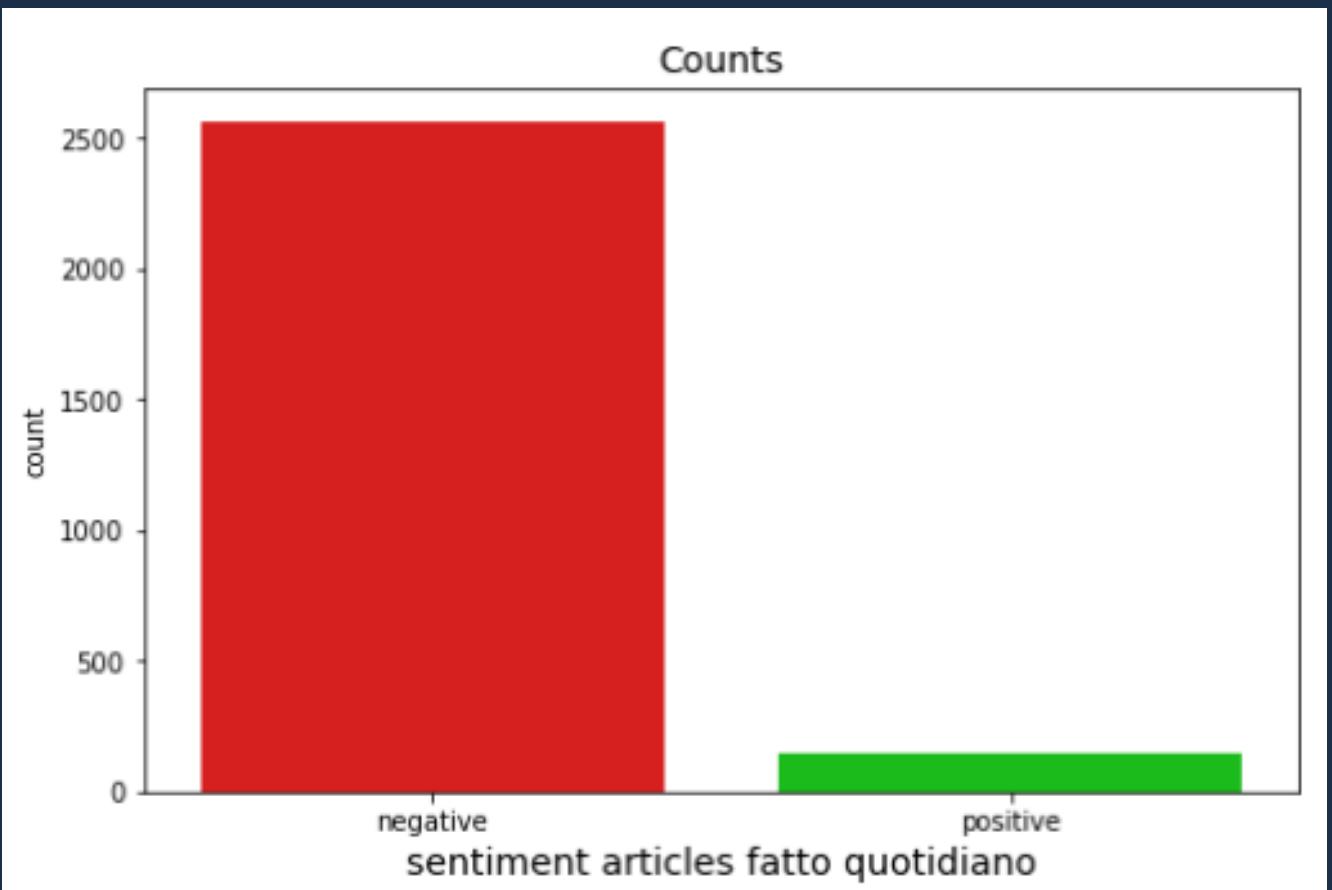
I hope these (bande de fasciste et neo Nazi) will be hanged for war crimes and in public this would learn these bastards in the western hemisphere that it is no more cool to go on safari in Russia for these psychopaths

Il Fatto Quotidiano

Sentiment Analysis

We can notice that like the other news papers Fatto Quotidiano have a lot of negative comments and articles.

The main difference here is that we didn't find any positive comments, they are all sarcastic.



```
[('Putin', 0.19010160603080958),  
 ('Zelensky', 0.08947885939036382),  
 ('Papa Francesco', 0.03343166175024582),  
 ('Li', 0.032448377581120944),  
 ('Alex', 0.02917076368403802)]
```

Top degree centrality Fatto Quotidiano

```
[('Putin', 0.39175597054634803),  
 ('Zelensky', 0.3835549598907884),  
 ('Biden', 0.36606705444494814),  
 ('Konashenkov', 0.33547553534109803),  
 ('Zaporozhye', 0.334376644958605)]
```

Top degree centrality Sputnik

```
[('Putin', 0.3985339506172839),  
 ('Zelensky', 0.13155864197530864),  
 ('Kherson', 0.0763888888888888),  
 ('Biden', 0.06442901234567901),  
 ('Sunak', 0.038580246913580245)]
```

Top degree centrality Daily Mail

Graph Analysis

To construct a graph based on the articles, we employed named entity recognition to extract the individuals mentioned in the articles

We established connections between these individuals by creating edges in the graph if they appeared in the same sentence.

Daily Mail Edges

Source	Target	Weight
Zelensky	Putin	247.0
Putin	Kherson	126.0
Biden	Putin	115.0
Putin	Xi	104.0
Zelensky	Biden	88.0
Putin	Putin	84.0
Prigozhin	Putin	82.0
Medvedev	Putin	75.0
Shoigu	Putin	65.0
Peskov	Putin	64.0

Sputnik Edges

Source	Target	Weight
Putin	Zelensky	85.0
Zaporozhye	Kherson	73.0
Biden	Putin	68.0
Biden	Zelensky	59.0
Zaporozhye	Putin	40.0
Kherson	Putin	34.0
Putin	Putin	33.0
Macron	Putin	31.0
Konashenkov	Putin	27.0
Peskov	Putin	25.0

Fatto Quotidiano Edges

Source	Target	Weight
Putin	Zelensky	97.0
Peskov	Putin	30.0
Putin	Biden	29.0
Putin	Berlusconi	28.0
Putin	Putin	24.0
Salvini	Meloni	21.0
Salvini	Putin	21.0
Putin	Papa Francesco	19.0
Putin	Alex	19.0
Schröder	Putin	19.0

Conclusion

- Distinct narratives, biases, and approaches employed by Russian and English media in representing the conflict.
- Contrasting views and biases presented by these newspapers emphasize the importance of critically evaluating and analyzing media sources to gain a comprehensive perspective on complex geopolitical events.



Thank you!

