**Brief description of dataset**

The data comprises of covid19 tweets, 42,000 in total, from Twitter and data from John Hopkins’s GitHub (<https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19>).

**Twitter Data**

Tweets were scraped from Twitter using Twitter’s API. We scraped data between March 1 and March 14 with 3,000 tweets per day (42,000 observations/tweets total). The data that were scraped include: date, name, sources, isretweeted, text, favorites, and retweets. Below is a detailed explanation of each variable:

* date – date and time of tweet post
* name – name/Twitter handle/username of the tweeter
* sources – device poster used to post the tweet (converted to factor with 4 levels – iPad, iPhone, Android and Web)
* isretweeted – is the post a retweet or not (TRUE = retweet, FALSE = not a retweet)
* text – text/content of the tweet
* length – character count of each tweet
* favorites – the number of favorites a tweet received
* retweets – the number of retweets a tweet received

To better assess the effect of each tweet on retweet total, we selected a few keywords that were commonly used and created variables that tally their number of occurrences. To make sure that we capture both lower and upper cases versions of these keywords, we converted them all to lowercases. Below is a detailed explanation of each variable:

* ishealth – # of occurrences for the text “health”
* ispandemic – # of occurrences for the text “pandemic”
* isvirus – # of occurrences for the text “virus”
* isemergency – # of occurrences for the text “emergency”
* isdeaths – # of occurrences for the text “dead” and “deaths”
* iswho – # of occurrences for the text “who” and “world health organization”
* iscdc – # of occurrences for the text “cdc” and “centers for disease control”
* isnih – # of occurrences for the text “nih” and “national institutes of health”
* isdisease – # of occurrences for the text “disease”
* isquarantine – # of occurrences for the text “quarantine”
* isrecover – # of occurrences for the text “recover”
* isban – # of occurrences for the text “ban”
* iscoronavirus – # of occurrences for the text “coronavirus”
* iscovid19 – # of occurrences for the text “covid19”
* iswash – # of occurrences for the text “wash”
* isracist – # of occurrences for the text “racist” and “racism”
* isasian – # of occurrences for the text “asian”
* ischinese – # of occurrences for the text “chinese” and “china”
* isinfectious – # of occurrences for the text “infectious” and “infections”

**John Hopkins’s Github**

Covid19 data were also cloned from John Hopkins’s GitHub repository. The two datasets that we utilized from the repository were the time\_series\_19\_covid-Confirmed and time\_series\_19\_covid-Deaths. These time series datasets include: Province/State, Country/Region, Lat, Long, and a time series between 1/22/2020 - 3/16/2020.

Since China, Italy and US are considered the epicenters of the crisis we grouped the two time series datasets by these countries. The grouped datasets were merged with our tweet data and 8 new variables were added. Below is a detailed explanation of each variable:

* ch.confirmed – total # of confirmed cases in China
* it. confirmed – total # of confirmed cases in Italy
* ot.confirmed – total # of confirmed cases in other countries
* us.confirmed – total # of confirmed cases in United States
* ch.deaths – total # of deaths in China
* it. deaths – total # of deaths in Italy
* ot.deaths – total # of deaths cases in other countries
* us.deaths – total # of deaths in United States

The repository data sources include:

* World Health Organization (WHO)
* DXY.cn. Pneumonia. 2020
* BNO News
* National Health Commission of the People’s Republic of China (NHC)
* China CDC (CCDC)
* Hong Kong Department of Health
* Macau Government
* Taiwan CDC
* US CDC
* Government of Canada
* Australia Government Department of Health
* European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
* Ministry of Health Singapore (MOH)
* Italy Ministry of Health

In summary, our covid19 dataset (covid19march) has 42,000 observations/tweets and 36 variables. The data were sourced from covid19-related tweets from Twitter and John Hopkins’s GitHub repository. Majority of the variables are integers except for the following: date (POSIXct), name (character), sources (factor), isretweeted (logical), and text (character).