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Research Article

A quick Look at the Registered Cases of Covid-19 throughout the World

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Abstract

The present work analyzes the registered cases of Covid-19 throughout the world according the data registered at Johns Hopkins University. We selected 15 countries to analyze their data. In alphabetical order the countries are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Spain, United States and Venezuela. With this information, three different studies were carried out. First, the data was validated using Benford's Law which is based on forensic techniques that allow us to guarantee the integrity of the information. Later, we calculated the value of the basic reproduction number (R_0), *ie*., the number of secondary host infections caused by one primary host infection that helps us to determine if a country has an outbreak of Covid-19. Finally, we show that the best representation for the change in the number of cases in the time is to calculate the mantissa value, *ie.*, the floating number obtained from the logarithm of the data.

Keywords:
Covid-19; R_0; Reproduction number; Benfords Law; Mantissa; Countries

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Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) decreed on March 11, 2020 that a new pandemic caused by a new virus first detected in the Wuhan market in China the was caused by a new coronavirus (Covid-19), which was named according to the International Committee of Taxonomy of Virus as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV-2).

Until June 3, more than six million cases have been registered throughout the world that is distributed in more than 190 countries and causing more than 380,000 recorded deaths according to the records John Hopkins University records. As a result of all this data, it has been possible to determine, for example, the credibility of the information according to a recent paper published by Isea [1] where he analyzed 23 countries using the Benford Law. It is interesting to comment that approximately a third of the countries do not satisfy this validation procedure criterion. It is necessary to wait until the end of the epidemic in order to confirm these results [1].

On the other hand, a large number of mathematical models have appeared in the scientific literature that could explain the transmission dynamics of the Covid-19 virus but they depend on a large number of variables which must be continuously adjusted according to the new data [2-6]. Therefore, it is necessary to use another type of methodology that allows us to know in real time if a certain country has an epidemic outbreak. To do that, it is necessary to calculate the Basic Reproduction Number (R_0) that mean the number of new infections that can be generated from one infected person. If the value of $R_0 > 1$ implies that this country has an epidemic and a value of $R_0 < 1$ implies that the country has overcome the crisis due to this disease.

Finally, it is necessary to make a new graphic to see the changes of Covid-19's infection in each country. To do that, we calculate the mantissa values of the register of cases according to details provided in the following section Therefore, the goal of this paper is to determine: (1) the veracity of the data based on Benford's Law in the following countries in alphabetical order: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Spain, United States and Venezuela. (2) Calculate the value of R_0 to determine whether an epidemic outbreak is occurring in a country, and (3) Present the values of the mantissa values for the various countries, *ie.*, China, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United States, Venezuela and World.

Methodology

On June 3, 2020, all cases of Covid-19 infections were obtained from the Johns Hopkins University database in the listed countries. Subsequently, the validity of the data was determined using two digital data analysis techniques based on Benford's Law, according to the procedure recently published by Isea [1] which specifies a new critical parameter based on the p-value, which said that is p-value must be greater than 0.05, then the information has received no manipulation or alteration.

The next step was to determine the value of the Basic Reproduction Number (R_0) according to the works published by Isea and Lonngren [7-8] which is based on the methodology developed by Wallinga and Lipsitch [9]. It is necessary to calculate a function called the generation time (mGT) which is the lag time between infection in a primary case and a secondary case. This function before forwards n can only be logarithmic, gamma and weibull, and these definitions are explained in [10].

Finally, the mantissa value is obtained according to the following expression:

$$Mantissa = log_{10}(Case) - Int[log_{10}(Case)]$$

Table 1. Number of Covid-19 case records in 15 countries that have been analyzed in this paper. The others parameters indicated in this table has been explained in the reference [1].

Country	χ^2	p-value (χ^2)	p-value (arc mantissa)	L^2
China	2,3991	0,9663	0,4131	0,0063
Australia	6,2668	0,6174	0,0669	0,0289
Venezuela	8,5768	0,3792	0,4845	0,0110
Colombia	13,2410	0,1038	0,1052	0,0265
Brasil	7,2605	0,5088	0,1637	0,0203
Peru	10,1920	0,2518	0,0810	0,0292
Chile	36,2620	10-5	0,0015	0,0711
Mexico	13,7910	0,0874	0,0304	0,0397
USA	67,1250	10-4	10-10	0,1976
Spain	14,5880	0,0677	0,0109	0,0481
Portugal	6,6784	0,5717	0,3982	0,0101
Italy	18,7460	0,0163	0,0006	0,0717
Germany	11,9940	0,1515	0,0334	0,0347
India	10,2410	0,2485	0,1532	0,0204
Argentina	21,9220	0,0051	0,0002	0,1017

where $\log_{10}$ is the logarithm in base 10 of each cases obtained up to Jun 3, 2020, and "Int" is the whole part of this number.

Results and Discussions

Table 1 shows the results obtained after validating the results using Benford's Law. Remember that the values of χ^2 and L^2 should be close to zero in order to guarantee the integrity of the data and the calculated values of the p-value must be greater than 0.05. From the results shown in Table 1, Australia and China are the countries that best satisfy Benford's Law and therefore, these two countries appear to not manipulate the provided information. Brazil, Colombia, India, Peru, Portugal and Venezuela satisfy two of the tests proposed in this paper and therefore do not alter the data. It is interesting to note that Colombia passes both tests but the value of χ^2 is higher than the other countries.

On the other hand, Germany, Mexico and Spain meet one of the two tests so these countries do not appear to have manipulated their data either. However, Argentina, Chile, Italy and the United States appear to not pass these tests and therefore, there is no guarantee of the validity of the information. However, it is necessary to wait until the end of the pandemic to confirm these preliminary results.

The next step is to calculate the value of R_0, it means, the number of new infections that can be generated from one infected person, obtained with the methodology proposed by Isea and Lonngren [7-8], where values greater than 1 indicate that this country is undergoing an epidemic.

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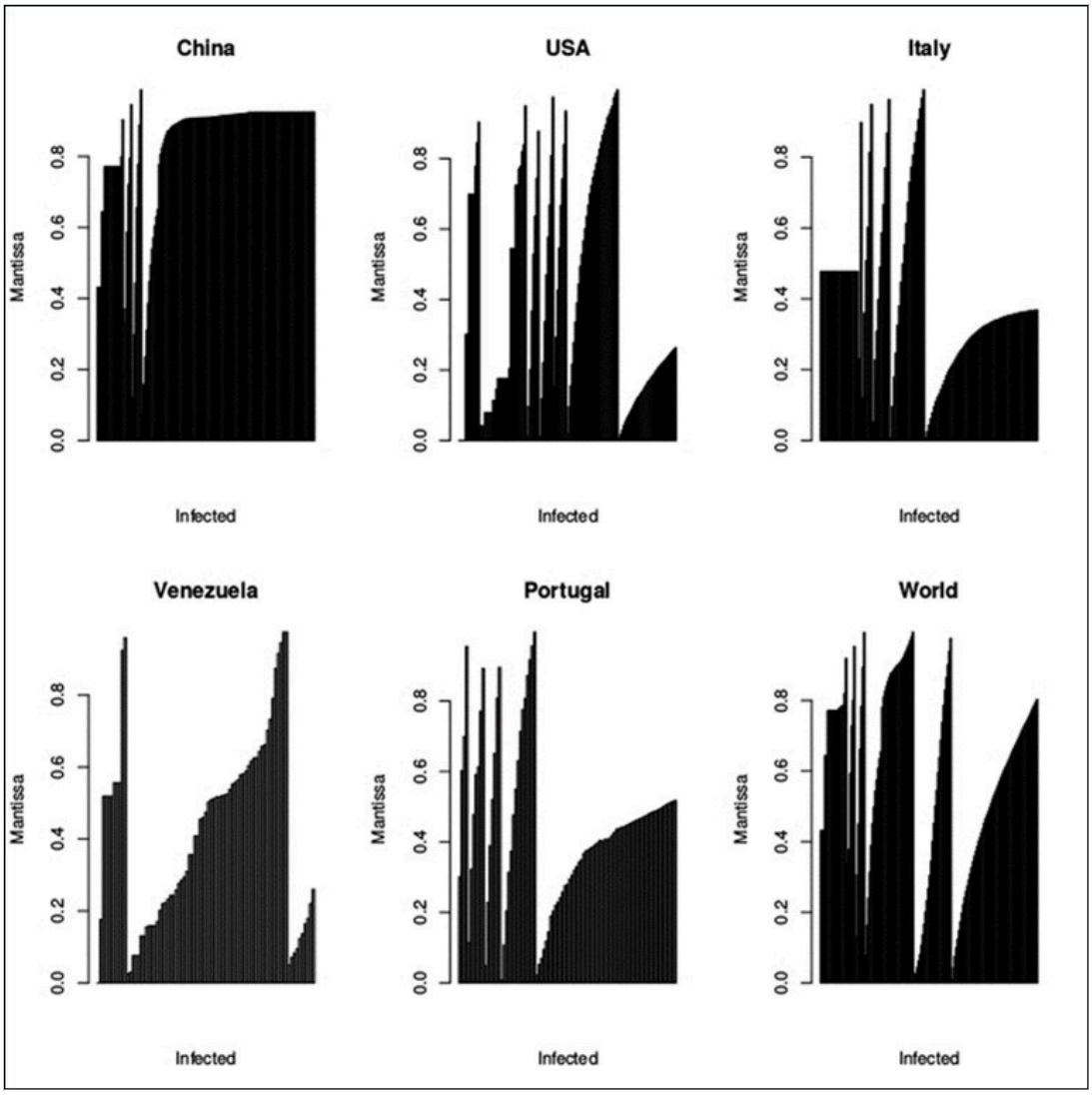

Figure 1. The results of the mantissa values in the following countries: China, Italy, Portugal, United States, Venezuela and World.

These results using these criteria are shown in Table 2. Australia and China are the countries with the lowest R_0 value. Therefore, there does not appear to be an epidemic outbreak in these two countries while Germany, Italy and Spain have values just below 1 which theoretically implies that there is no emergency for enduring this disease, but it is necessary checking these results to known when these countries can generated an outbreaks. The remaining countries are presently undergoing Covid-19 epidemics ($R_0 > 1$).

Finally, in the figure 1 shows the results of the mantissa values in the following countries: China, Italy, Portugal, United States, Venezuela and World. When the country does not present an outbreak, the mantissa values are constant in time (see China results). However, the results obtained in the United States and Venezuela show that they have not reached the maximum of cases of Covid-19, while Italy is almost free of this pandemic. Finally, the results obtained in the World shows that has not reached the equilibrium during this time. These results are according to the R_o's values obtained in the previous step.

Table 2. Calculated values of R_0 according to of number of dates, and the rest of parameters are explained in the reference [10].

Country	No dates	Function	Median	SD	R_0
Chin	156	Lognormal	0,1946	5,2571	0,9365±0,1666
Australia	97	Lognormal	0,1237	0,3108	0,9675±0,0739
Venezuela	81	Weibull	0,2196	0,2750	1,0829±0,1276
Colombia	85	Gamma	0,2420	0,2711	1,0713±0,0792
Brasil	91	Gamma	0,1944	0,2821	1,0888±0,0994
Peru	87	Gamma	0,2308	0,3322	1,0778±0,0864
Chile	91	Gamma	0,2183	0,3024	1,0882±0,0905
Mexico	88	Gamma	0,2842	0,3800	1,0780±0,0758
USA	104	Gamma	0,3774	0,5184	1,0295±0,0406
Spain	92	Gamma	0,2706	0,3224	0,9902±0,0455
Portugal	92	Weilbull	0,2414	0,2282	1,0012±0,0483
Italy	95	Weibull	0,3448	0,3087	0,9897±0,0341
Germany	98	Gamma	0,2977	0,3416	0,9895±0,0402
India	93	Gamma	0,2533	0,3840	1,0877±0,0838
Argentina	89	Gamma	0,2612	0,2963	1,0692±0,0725

Conclusions

This paper analyzes the data recorded for Covid-19 throughout the world. With this information, it is possible to verify which countries are currently experiencing a new coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic according to the R_0 value, and also the known countries which countries do not manipulate the data. Finally, it was possible to know if a country presents an outbreak according to the mantissa result, but it is necessary to do more investigations in the future.

Competing Interests

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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