

PuReGoMe: Dutch Public Reaction on Governmental COVID-19 Measures and Announcements

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26 June 2020



The project aims at assessing the sentiment of the Dutch population with respect to the government policies regarding the COVID-19 pandemic

The assessment will be performed by social media analysis (tweets)

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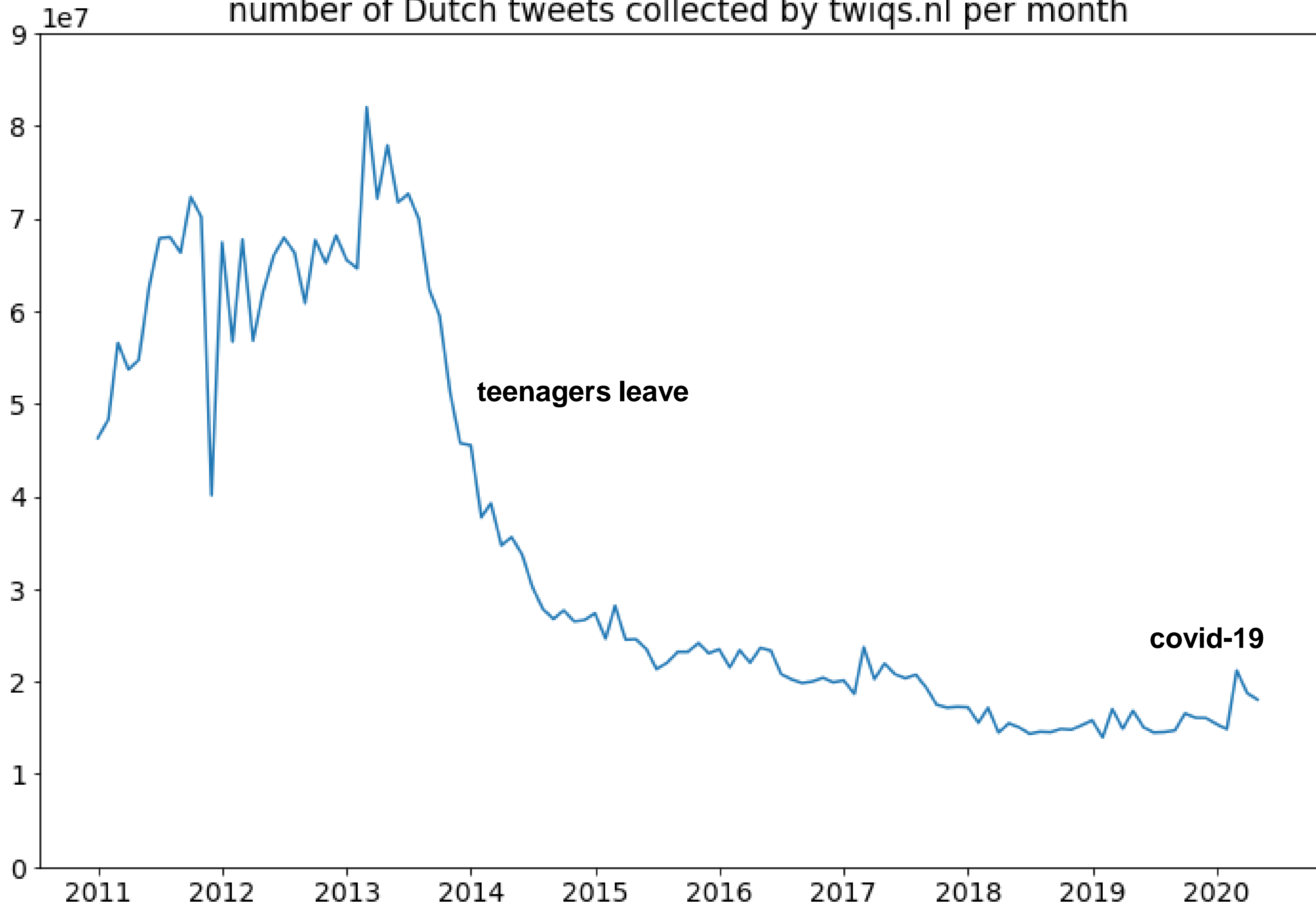
1. Collect social media data related to the 2020 pandemic policies in The Netherlands
2. Visualize frequencies, mood and stance over time
3. Relate national policy and information announcements to changes in the data
4. Extract frequent opinions with respect to specific pandemic policies
5. Compare data from different social media
6. Look for regional effects in the data

We use the data of the eScience project TwiNL (2012-2013)

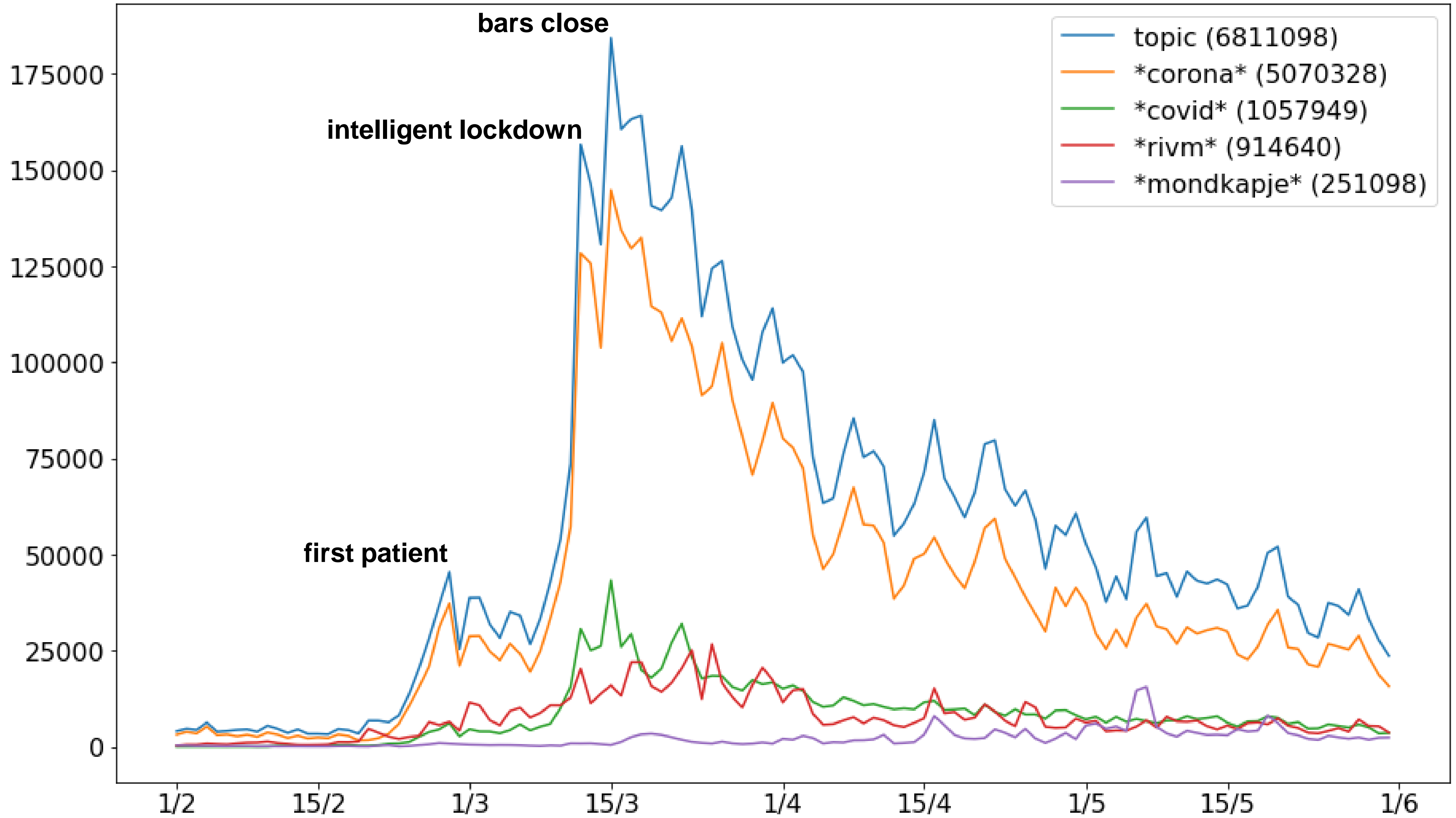
This project has built a platform for scientific analysis of Dutch tweets
(twiqs.nl)

This includes a tweet crawler which is still running and meanwhile has
collected 3.9 billion Dutch tweets

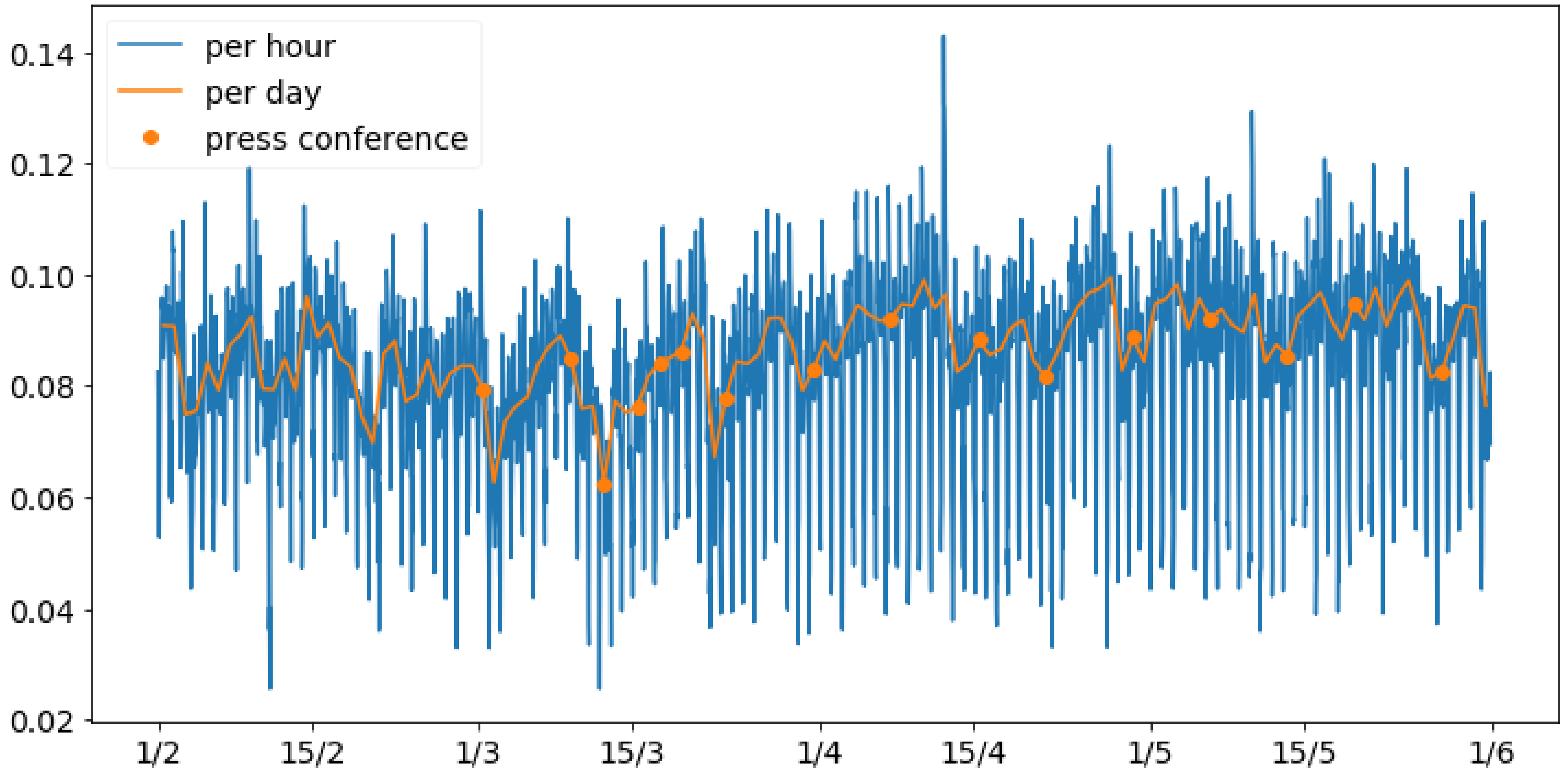
number of Dutch tweets collected by twiqs.nl per month



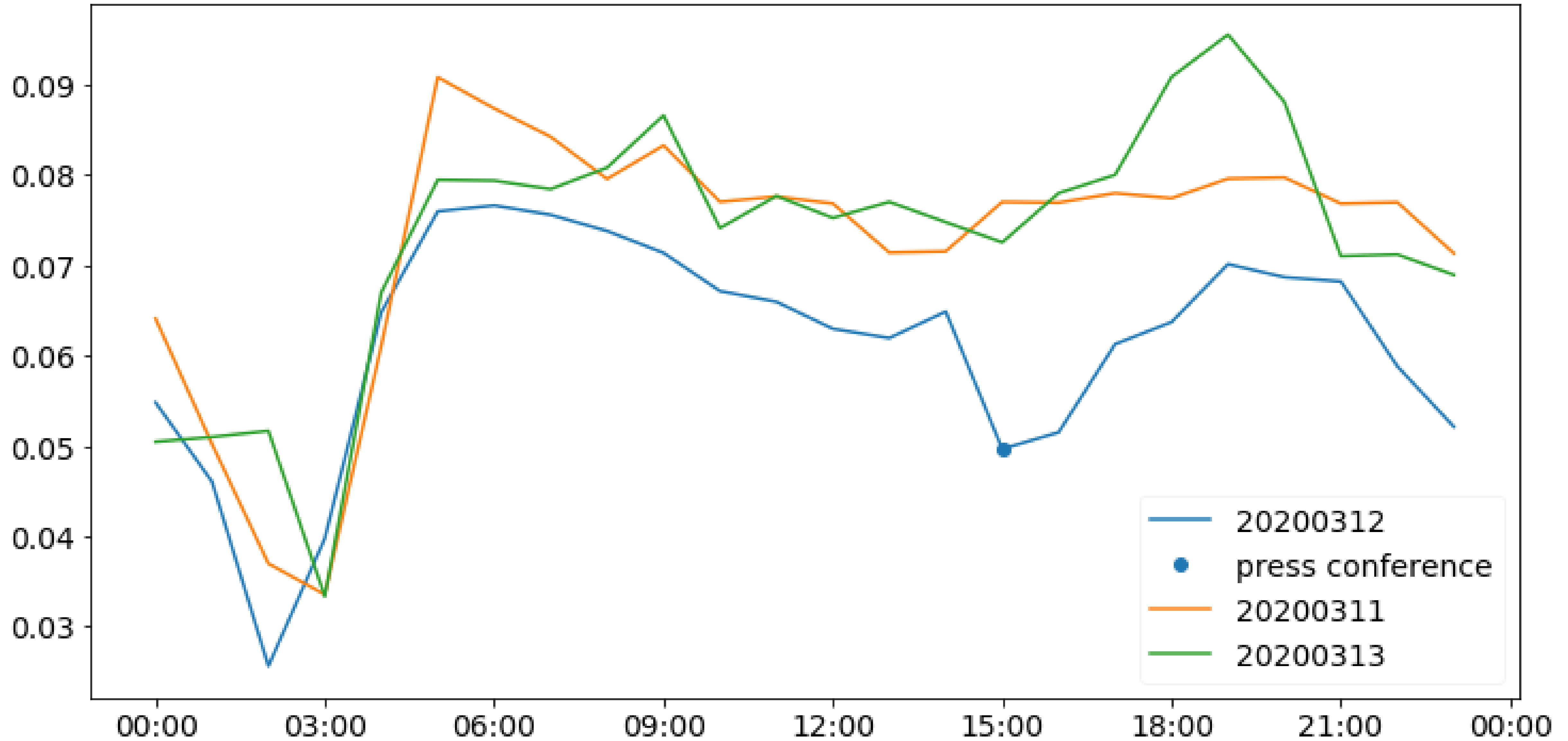
Daily frequencies of Dutch tweets with pandemic words



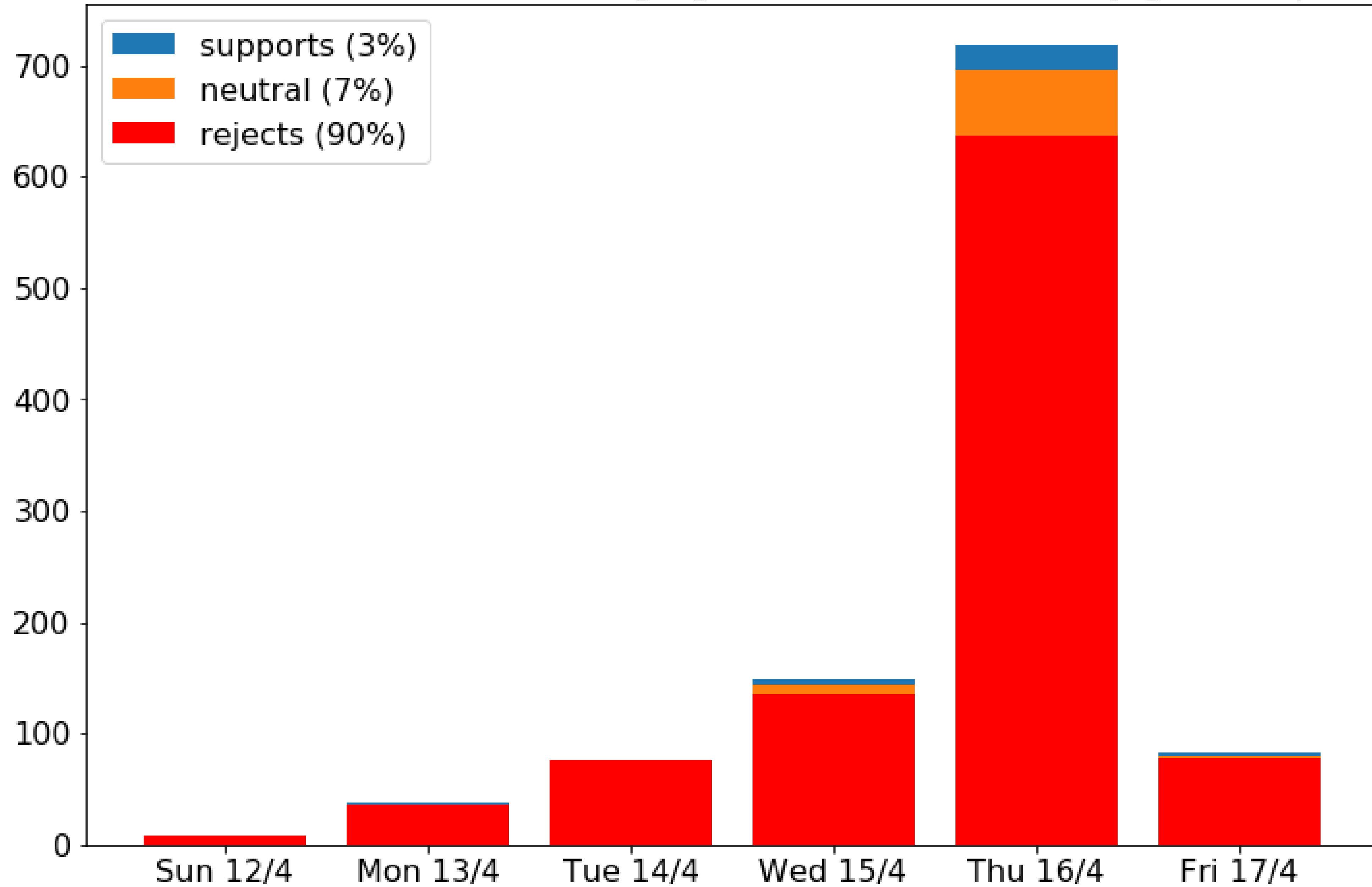
Sentiment scores of Dutch tweets over time (all Dutch tweets)



Sentiment scores of Dutch tweets on Thursday 12 March 2020



Twitter stance on RIVM advising against facemask use by general public



Target question: What is your opinion about the government's advice against the distribution of face masks among the general population?

Topic selection on Twitter: search for "mondkapje" AND "rivism (1936 tweets found for 5.5 days)

Manual annotation results for tweets with tool developed in the Online Behaviour project: 862 irrelevant, 969 rejects (90%), 70 neutral (7%) and 35 supports (3%)

Qualitative analysis: automatically select frequent opinions

#RIVM: #mondkapjes geen zin: "corona druppels reizen niet verder dan 1,5m". Is dit door RIVM wetenschappelijk vastgesteld? Of schijn argument omdat er tekort is? 2008 zegt RIVM onderzoeker nog dat kapjes wel risico infectie vermindert en effect heeft.

English translation: RIVM: face masks no use: corona droplets do not travel more than 1.5 m. Is this a scientific conclusion of the RIVM? Or is it a fake argument because of shortages? 2008 RIVM scientist says that face masks reduce infections and have effect.

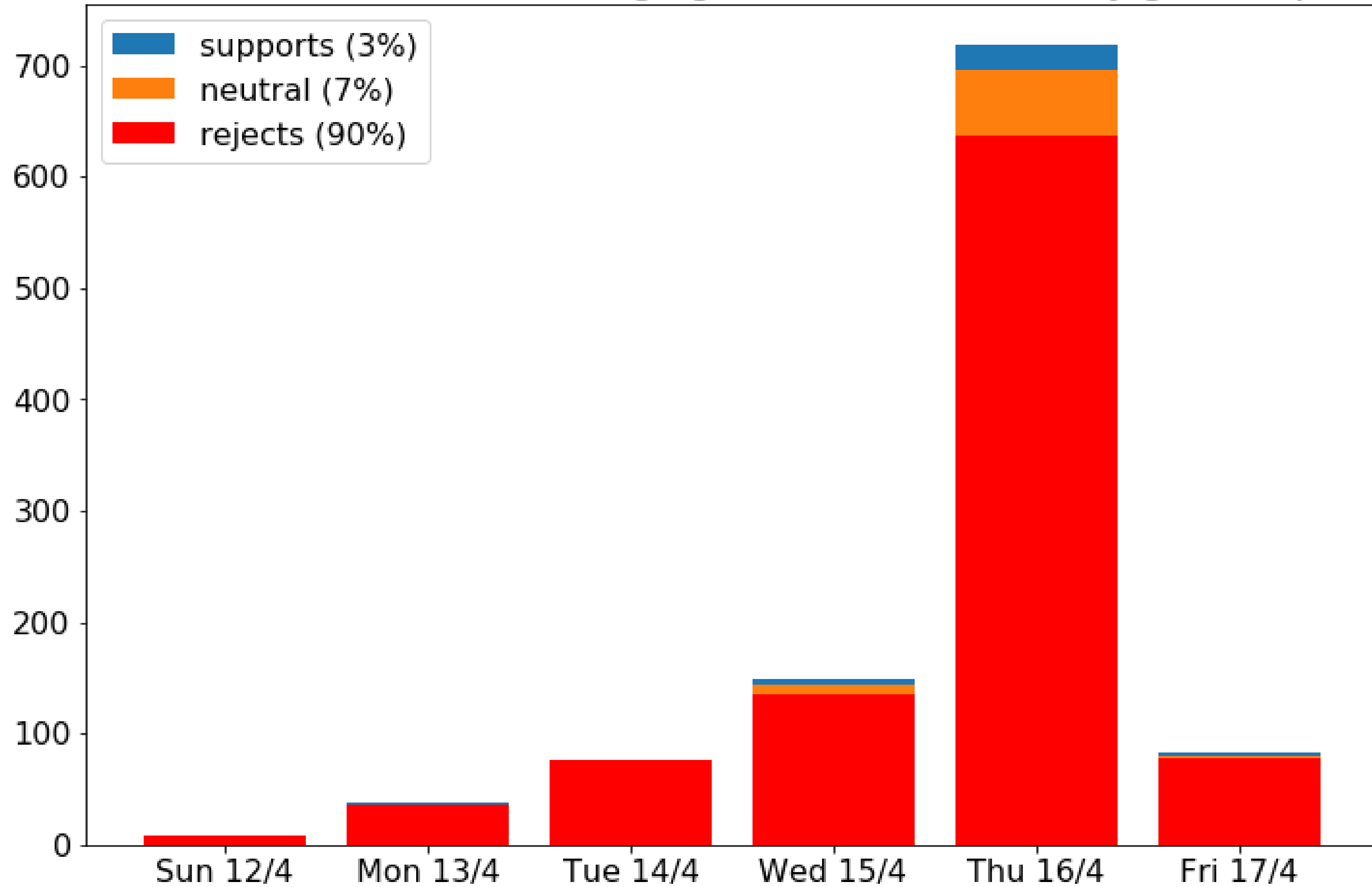
In grote lijn ben ik het eens PERSON. Maar ten aanzien van mondkapjes verwijs ik naar wetenschappers in ons omringende landen. Die hebben een andere mening dan het RIVM. Dus ja.....wie heeft er gelijk

English translation: Broadly I agree PERSON. But with respect to face masks I refer to scientists in our neighboring countries. They have another opinion than the RIWM, So yes..... who is right?

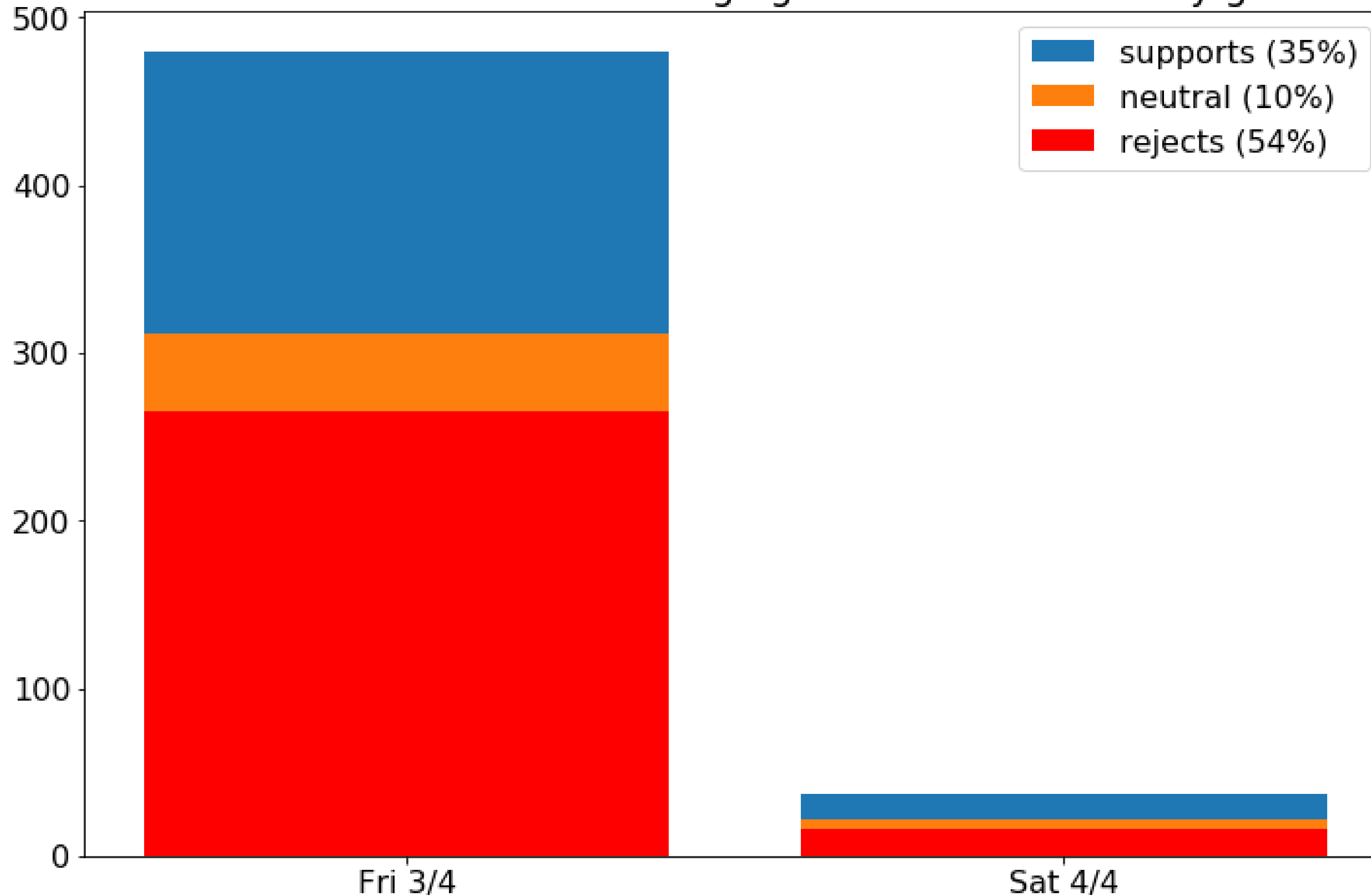
@rivm Ik draag al lang zelfgemaakte mondkapjes.

English translation: @rivm I have been wearing self-made face masks for a long time

Twitter stance on RIVM advising against facemask use by general public



Nu.nl comment stance on RIVM advising against facemask use by general public



The PuReGoMe projects performs social media analysis to assess the opinion of the Dutch public on government pandemic measures

We study tweets and look at frequency, sentiment, stance and opinion

We hope that our findings can support the pandemic planning of the government and the RIVM

Note: the RIVM has several initiatives aimed at the same goal

