

Comparing COVID-19 data worldwide with a click of the mouse

June 12 2020



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There is no lack of data on global corona developments. But if you want to actively compare countries yourself and relate case and death figures across countries, you can now get a quick overview with just a few clicks—and gain surprising insights in the process.

The new web service, Goethe Interactive COVID-19 Analyzer, which

Fabian Schubert developed alongside his dissertation, is simple to use: Go to the website, click on the countries and number of cases in question, and drag the curves over each other. Congruent? The answer is immediately visible. In the same way—depending on the individual question—the daily number of cases or deaths, or the [total number](#) of infected or deceased individuals can be compared. The underlying data for countries is provided by the known COVID-19 databases of the European Centre for Disease Control and the Johns Hopkins Center For Systems Science and Engineering.

"Our [interactive tool](#) allows researchers, journalists and other interested parties to quickly gain an overview of outbreak developments," explains Professor Claudius Gros, who studies the modeling of COVID-19 outbreaks himself at the Institute for Theoretical Physics, and who as Schubert's doctoral advisor encouraged him to develop the service [tool](#). Those who use the tool may also discover relationships that provide inspiration for additional research on epidemic processes.

Gros, for example, was surprised that the scaled trajectory curves of the case numbers from Germany and Spain "are almost identical, although the two countries pursued significantly different lockdown measures." There are also interesting clues regarding the unexplained issue of the [number](#) of unrecorded cases of corona infections. For Italy, the scaled curve of COVID-19 infections corresponds to the curve of corona deaths if the daily case numbers are applied to the total numbers of the sick or the deceased. "This indicates that the unrecorded case numbers may not have changed significantly over the course of the outbreak—even though testing increased."

The Goethe Interactive COVID-19 Analyzer offers numerous options for combining data per mouse click. "The page has only been live for a couple of days," says Gros. It therefore remains to be seen how many researchers and other interested parties will use the new analytical tool.

The first scientists have already indicated interest, however. Gros says, "The website is certainly useful for the final papers and doctoral dissertations on COVID-19 that will soon be written. And also for [secondary school students](#) who want to present a paper on corona."

The new analytic tool is hosted on the webserver of the Institute for Theoretical Physics, which is also providing the necessary technical support.

More information: Claudius Gros et al. Strategies for controlling the medical and socio-economic costs of the Corona pandemic (2020). arXiv:2004.00493 [physics.soc-ph] arxiv.org/abs/2004.00493

Goethe Interactive COVID-19 Analyzer: itp.uni-frankfurt.de/COVID-19

Provided by Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

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