Review of: "A Multi-factor Model of COVID-19 Epidemic in California"

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The paper "A Multi-factor Model of the COVID-19 Epidemic in California" has the potential to become a good scientific paper. Considering the reduced actuality of the COVID-19 pandemic, the advice to authors is to make the necessary changes as soon as possible and submit the paper to a suitable journal. Some general observations are listed below.

- Consider changing the title, one suggestion would be "Assessing the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic in California using Multi-factor model";
- The abstract should be restructured. Start with a general statement about the research topic, then briefly state what is being researched, what methods were used, what the research results are, and what the research contribution is, that is, how the results can be applied. At this point, the abstract is unnecessarily long;
- An Introduction section, which will present the background of the research problem (trends and new perspectives), state of the art (current international discussion in the field), research gap, motivation, aim, and research questions, is missing;
- Also, it is necessary to present an overview of previous research on the researched topic, i.e., add a section of Literature review;
- Results should not be part of the Introduction;
- "Table I lists the factors – independent variables – used to estimate cumulative cases and duration. These were selected because they are available, the author hypothesized that they are relevant to estimation of infections, and they are for the most part, positively correlated. Other factors may be just as valid – there is nothing magical about the chosen factors, however, highly correlated factors yield greater accuracy." – This claim should be modified. The selection of factors should be made based on previous literature, not based on the author's hypotheses;
- Figure 1. Mark the counties so that the differences between them are clearly visible on the graph;
- The results must be presented in a separate section - Results, not in the Methods and Models section;
- Have the titles of the Discussion and Conclusion sections been replaced?
- The Discussion section must bring out the full strength of the paper. It is necessary to compare the obtained results with previous research (presented in the Literature review) and point out the similarities and differences. Implications should also be stated.

Wish you the best of luck in your future work.

Kind regards,

Suzana