Appendix

Narrative Characterization around Nancy Pelosi's Visit

We analyzed our Twitter data leading up to her visit, in addition to the week of her visit when China was conducting military drills and the period after her visit. Due to the outlying nature of China's Twitter chatter and ADIZ flights, Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan serves as an outlying event that could destabilize the region towards further conflict. We used qualitative coding to understand better how China used social media to message about this event.

Data Parsing

We created three temporal buckets of Twitter data to analyze: a) pre-Pelosi visit, b) during the Pelosi visit, and c) after the Pelosi visit. We found that the Chinese government began messaging about the Pelosi visit to Taiwan as early as April 7, 2022. We used this date to initiate the pre-Pelosi visit period. Our Twitter data spiked between August 2-8, 2022, where we collected the highest number of tweets at 21,406 in one day, with the preceding and following three days also representing peak days. This one-week span represents nearly 60% of our Twitter data. This week also overlaps with the most significant ADIZ spike for the year, where there is a 15-day window of daily ADIZ violations within the 3rd quartile of flights between 8 and 45 flights a day. Due to the smaller window of China's peak Twitter chatter, we constrain our data collected during Pelosi's visit to August 2-8, 2022. This window captures the peak point for ADIZ and Twitter data, which occurred on August 5, 2022, approximately three days after Pelosi's visit. The last bucket of data captures the effects after Pelosi's visit and extends from August 9 - October 31, 2022.

Analysis

We analyzed the top 30 most amplified tweets per period, accounting for at least 25% of tweets within each time window. We reviewed the first period to create an initial coding ontology. We then coded all thirty tweets for each period. If we encountered a new code for a different period, we re-coded any periods that we had previously completed to ensure tweet categorization standards were the same across all three periods. We assume the most amplified tweets per period provide a good proxy for messaging priorities around the Nancy Pelosi visit and subsequent military drills. The coding rule(s) and sample tweets are represented in Table 1.

Table 1. Codebook with sample tweets for Twitter characterization around the Nancy Pelosi visit.

Code	Coding Rule	Sample Tweet
One-China Principle	Includes any verbiage regarding the One-China Principle, territorial integrity, sovereignty claims over Taiwan, or the sentiment that Taiwan is a part of China	We are closely following the itinerary of Pelosi. A visit to #Taiwan by her would constitute a gross interference in #China's internal affairs, seriously undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, wantonly trample on the #One-China principle.
Countermeasures	Includes any tweets that include the word "countermeasures", military drill tweets, China's red line, or tweets that indicate consequences for Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan visit. This category also captures any military, economic, or unnamed threats of action.	If the #US persists, the Chinese military will by no means sit idly by and will take strong measures to thwart any external interference and separatist attempts, China's defense ministry said on Pelosi's potential #Taiwan trip https://t.co/gBk6jl1HYd
Foreign Interference	This category entails negative coverage of foreign countries "interfering" with Taiwan. The United States is the primary target of this category, but this category also contains critical tweets of the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan and NATO	The United States poses the single greatest threat to world peace. And it does so under the promise of so-called freedom. For freedom under its terms is no freedom at all. And it comes at the price of peace itself! #US #Taiwan-#China https://t.co/WM1zKsuy0f
Personal Attacks	Personal attacks against Nancy Pelosi as a person, e.g. ad-hominem attacks against her character and motives for her visit	Extending her political career, diverting public attention from her family's stock trades, reaping economic gains... There are many personal reasons for Pelosi to visit Taiwan, but there is no benefit for the #Taiwan people. #SnowTalk https://t.co/G72rhLgkSD
General Opposition	This category was one of our smallest categories, entailing more generic but still negative sentiment towards the visit. Importantly, this category did not engender a threat or promise to action as the Countermeasures category	Pelosi's #Taiwan visit: Dangerous for all who are interested in a peaceful world #CGTNOpinion https://t.co/HrLWcHzzMw

Table 1. Codebook with sample tweets for Twitter characterization around the Nancy Pelosi visit.

Code	Coding Rule	Sample Tweet
Taiwan Denigration	This category contained disparaging content regarding Taiwan's relationship to the United States, represented typically as one of subservience. The tweets that fell in this category frequently contained political cartoons of current Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-Wen	I wonder how people in #Taiwan feel about this title. What a shame! (Tweet includes screenshot of article with the title "Taiwan Can't Rely on 'Daddy America' to Solve Its Problems")
News Coverage	This was the smallest category in our dataset, with generic news coverage of the Pelosi visit announcing when and where the visit would occur. We only found one tweet in our sampled corpus of top tweets	US House Speaker Nancy #Pelosi office officially announced her itinerary to Asia on Sunday. It said Pelosi will lead a Congressional delegation to the Indo-Pacific region, including visits to Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan, China's #Taiwan was not mentioned. https://t.co/AK6X0lm8OU