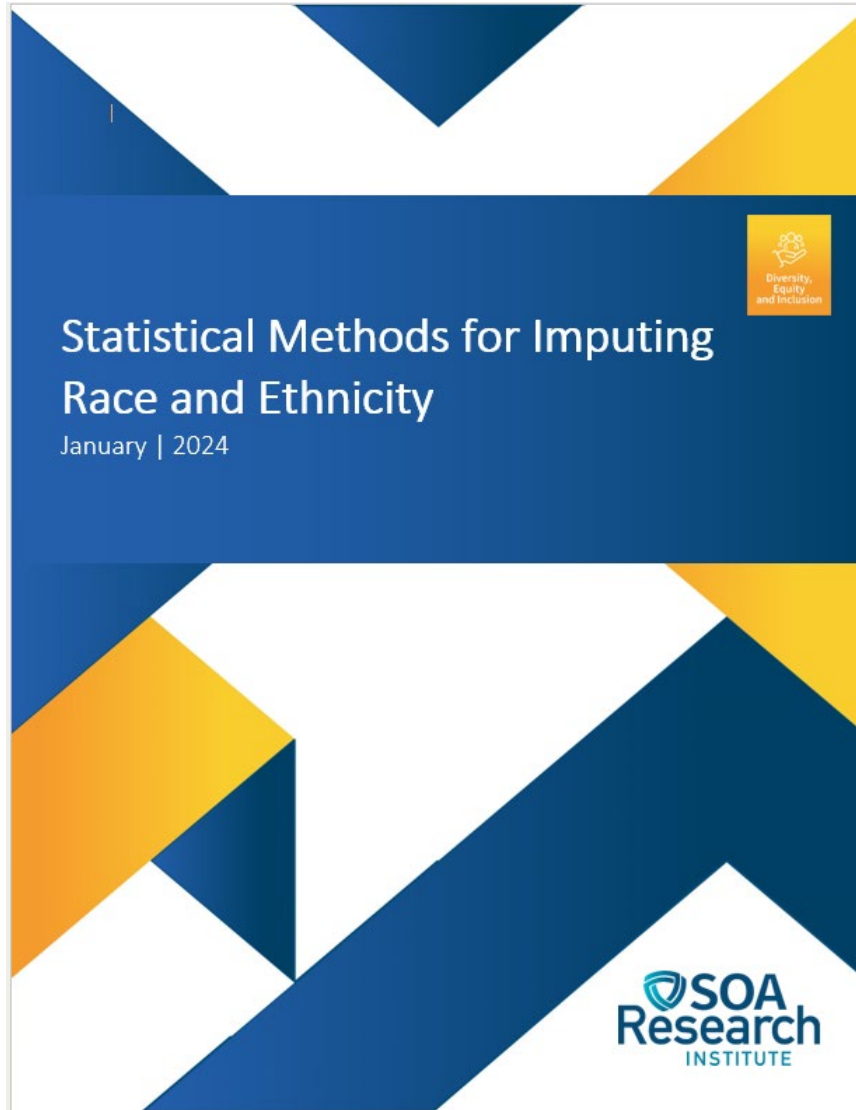


NAIC: Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (H) Working Group Meeting

Monday 7/29/2024 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

A Summary of Research Sponsored by the Society of Actuaries on Statistical Methods for Imputing Race and Ethnicity

Presented by Dorothy L. Andrews, NAIC



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**Society of Actuaries
Project Oversight Group (POG)**

At the Society of Actuaries Research Institute:

Lisa Schilling, FSA, EA, FCA, MAAA, Senior Research Actuary

Agenda

1. Definitions
2. Statistical Approaches
3. Pre-Bayesian Methods
4. What is a Probability?
5. Bayes Theorem
6. Bayesian Methods
7. Required Data for BIFSG
8. Simple Example
9. Accuracy Concerns

COMMENTARY | HEALTH EQUITY

[HEALTH AFFAIRS](#) > [VOL. 41, NO. 8](#): SPENDING, PAYMENT & MORE

COMMENTARY

Predicting Race And Ethnicity To Ensure Equitable Algorithms For Health Care Decision Making

[Irineo Cabrerros](#), [Denis Agniel](#), [Steven C. Martino](#), [Cheryl L. Damberg](#), and [Marc N. Elliott](#)

[AFFILIATIONS](#) ▾

PUBLISHED: AUGUST 2022 **No Access**

<https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00095>

Definitions

- Probabilistic Inference
- Statistical Inference
- Imputation
 - Indirect Estimation
 - Direct Estimation
- Performance Metrics
 - Accuracy
 - Error Rate
 - False Positives
 - False Negatives
 - Precision
 - Sensitivity/Recall
 - Specificity/Selectivity
 - Receiver Operator Curve (ROC)
 - Area Under ROC Curve (AUC)
 - Concordance – C-Statistic

Statistical Approaches

Bayesian Statistics

Probability represents the degree of belief in a hypothesis; inferences are based on both data and prior beliefs.



Uses past hypotheses



No null hypothesis



Experiment relies on past data and observations



Subjectivity is permitted in testing and analysis

Frequentist Statistics

Probability is used to describe the likelihood of an event occurring; inferences are made based on data alone.



No use of past hypotheses



Has null hypotheses



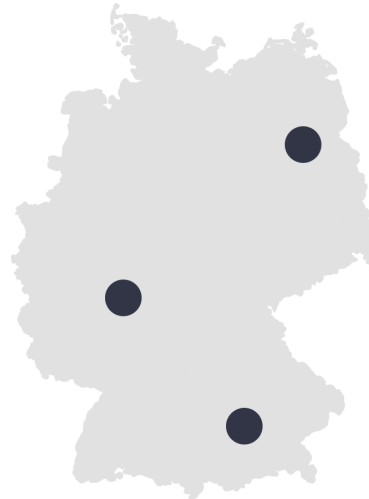
Experiment relies frequency of repeated, random events



Subjectivity is NOT permitted in testing and analysis

Pre-Bayesian Methods

- Geocoding Only (GO)
- Surname Analysis (SA)
- Categorical Surname and Geocoding (CSG)



GEOCODING

LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
48.1°N	11.6°E
50.1°N	13.4°E
52.5°N	8.7°E

Bayesian Methods

- Bayesian Surname Coding (BSG)
- [Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding \(BISG\)](#)
- Medicare Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (MBISG)
- Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding Extensions (BISGE)
- [Bayesian Improved First Name Surname Geocoding \(BISFG\)](#)
- Modified Bayesian Improved First Name Surname Geocoding (MBIFSG)
- Fully Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (fBISG)
 - With Zero-Count Correction
 - With Additional Surname
 - With First Name
 - With First and Middle Name
- Bayesian Instrumental Regression for Disparity Estimation (BIRDIE)

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OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS.
EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS.

B - Bayesian
I - Improved
S - Surname
G - Geocoding

Administrative surname data



Residential address data



Racial and ethnic probability for each data point

American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian and Pacific Islander,
Black, Hispanic, Multiracial, White



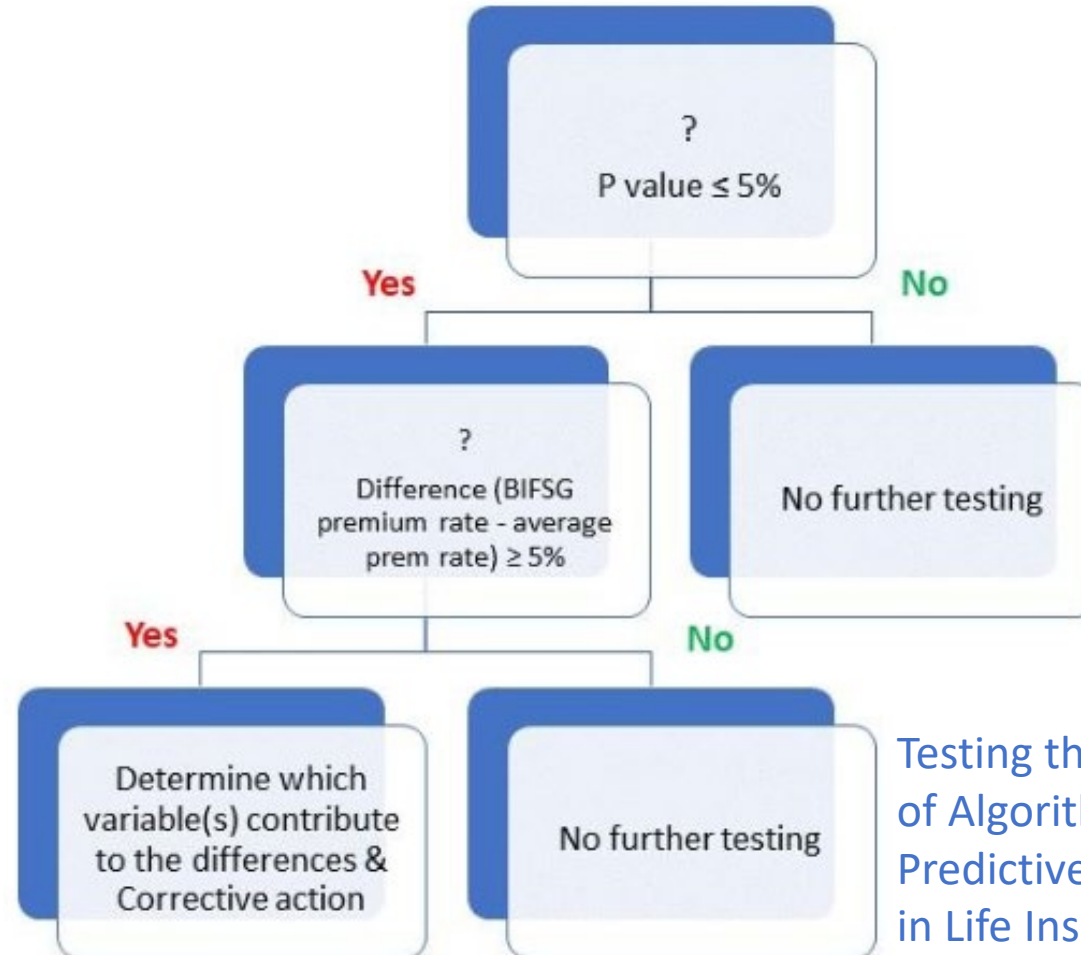
Consumer Financial
Protection Bureau

B - Bayesian
I - Improved
F - First Name
S - Surname
G - GeoCoding

Voicu, Ioan. 2018. "Using First Name Information to Improve Race and Ethnicity Classification." *Statistics and Public Policy* 5 (1): 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2330443X.2018.1427012>.

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Testing the Fairness of Algorithms and Predictive Models in Life Insurance

What is a Probability of Event (x) ?

$$\text{Probability}(x) = \frac{\text{Number of times } x \text{ Occurs}}{\text{All Possible Occurrences}}$$
$$= \text{Proportion } (x)$$

Bayes Theorem

(In Technicolor)

Likelihood

How probable is the evidence given that our hypothesis is true?

Prior

How probable was our hypotheses before observing the evidence?

$$P(H|e) = \frac{P(e|H) \times P(H)}{P(e)}$$

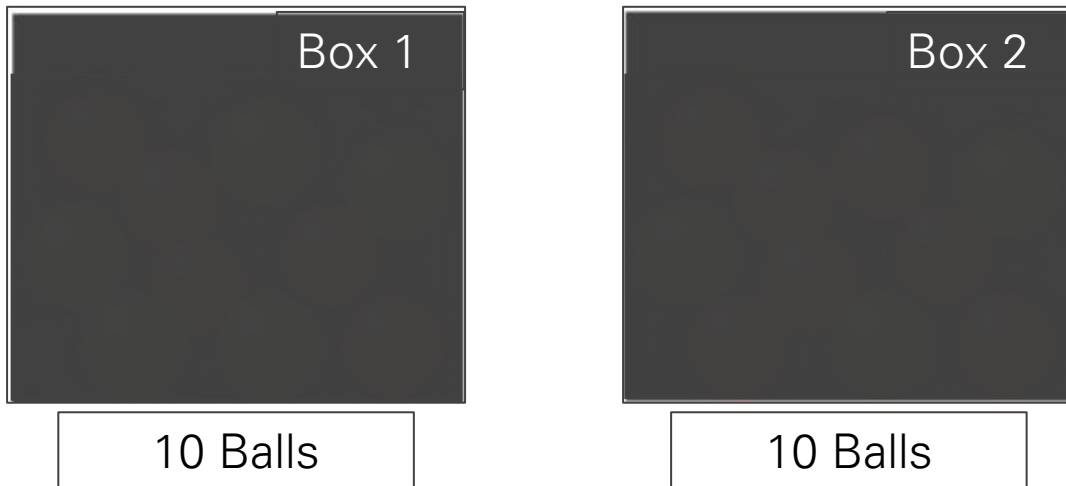
Posterior

How probable is our hypothesis given the observed evidence?
(Not directly computable)

Marginal

How probable is the new evidence under all possible hypotheses?

Example of Bayes Theorem



Scenario:

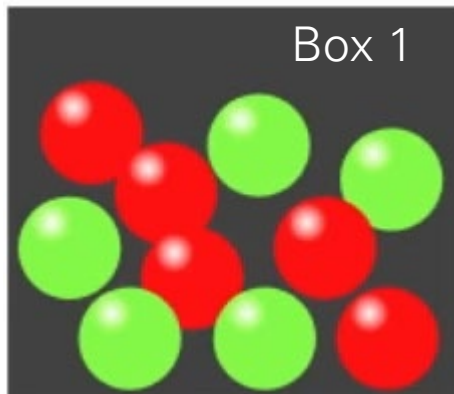
You are presented with a draw of a ball, and you are curious to know which box it came from knowing that each box is equally likely to have been selected.

Question:

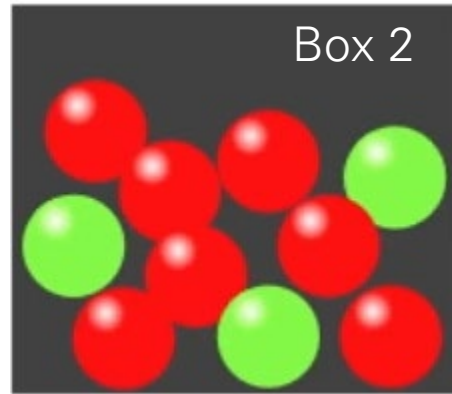
What is the probability the ball came from Box 1?

$$Prob(\text{Box 1}) = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$$

Example of Bayes Theorem



5 Green 5 Red



3 Green 7 Red

Scenario:

You are presented with a draw of a ball, and you are curious to know which box it came from knowing that each box is equally likely to have been selected.

New Information or Evidence:

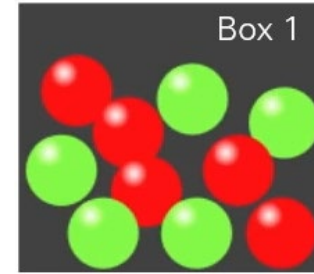
The ball is Green.

Question:

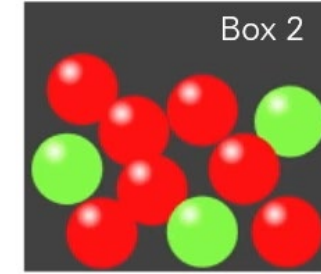
Now what is the probability the ball came from Box 1?

$$Prob(\text{Box 1} | \text{Green Ball})$$

Example of Bayes Theorem



5 Green 5 Red



3 Green 7 Red

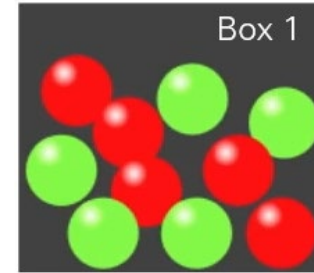
Hypothesis 1: Ball came from Box 1

$$\underbrace{P(\text{Box 1} | \text{Green Ball})}_{\{\text{Posterior}\}} = \frac{\underbrace{P(\text{Green Ball} | \text{Box 1})}_{\{\text{Likelihood}\}} \times \underbrace{P(\text{Box 1})}_{\{\text{Prior}\}}}{\underbrace{P(\text{Green Ball})}_{\{\text{Marginal}\}}}$$

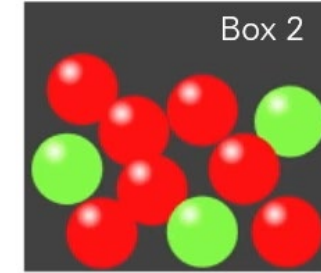
Marginal Reflects Probability Over All Hypotheses:

- H1: Ball came from Box 1
- H2: Ball came from Box 2

Example of Bayes Theorem



5 Green 5 Red



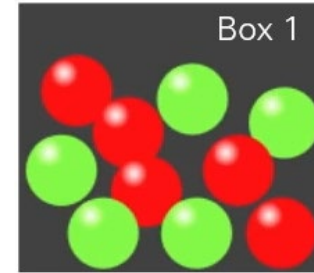
3 Green 7 Red

Let's Calculate the Marginal First:

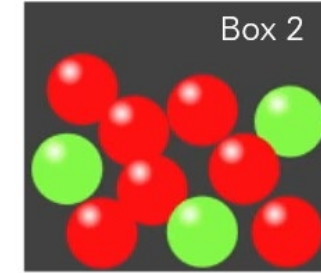
$$\begin{aligned}P(\text{Green Ball}) &= P(\text{Green Ball} | \text{Box 1}) \times P(\text{Box 1}) + P(\text{Green Ball} | \text{Box 2}) \times P(\text{Box 2}) \\ &= (5/10) \times (1/2) + (3/10) \times (1/2) \\ &= 5/20 + 3/20 \\ &= 8/20\end{aligned}$$

Example of Bayes Theorem

Now we can calculate our probability of interest.



5 Green 5 Red



3 Green 7 Red

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\text{Box 1} | \text{Green Ball}) &= \frac{P(\text{Green Ball} | \text{Box 1}) \times P(\text{Box 1})}{P(\text{Green Ball})} = \frac{5/20}{8/20} \\
 &= 5/8 \\
 &= 0.625
 \end{aligned}$$

$$P(\text{Box 2} | \text{Green Ball}) = 0.375$$



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B - Bayesian
I - Improved
F - First Name
S - Surname
G - GeoCoding

Hypotheses: (Race)

1. Hispanic
2. Asian/Pacific Islander
3. Black
4. Multiracial
5. White
6. American Indian/Alaska Native

Evidence: (aka Input)

- First Name
- Surname
- Geocoding

$$P(R_i|G, S, F) = \frac{P(R_i|S)P(G|R_i)P(F|R_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^6 P(R_i|S)P(G|R_i)P(F|R_i)}$$

Voicu, Ioan. 2018. "Using First Name Information to Improve Race and Ethnicity Classification." *Statistics and Public Policy* 5 (1): 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2330443X.2018.1427012>.

Example

First Name: Jose
 Surname: Garcia
 Geocoding: 63144



2010 Mortgage Data*

Probabilities of First Name = Jose Given Race

White	Black	API	Native	Multiple	Hispanic
0.00258669	0.00123681	0.00337229	0.00753317	0.00252458	0.2001545

Census 2010 Data

Probabilities of Race Given Surname = Garcia

White	Black	API	Native	Multiple	Hispanic
0.0538	0.0045	0.0141	0.0047	0.0026	0.9203

Census 2010 Data

Probabilities of Zip Code = 63144 Given Race

White	Black	API	Native	Multiple	Hispanic
0.000039	0.000007	0.000037	0.000005	0.000025	0.000005

* Tzioumis, K. (2017), "Demographic Aspects of First Names," *Scientific Data*, forthcoming. The first name list is available at: <https://dx.doi.org/10.7910/DVN/TYJKEZ>

Example

First Name: Jose
Surname: Garcia
Geocoding: 63144



Marginal Probabilities

White	Black	API	Native	Multiple	Hispanic
5.36E-09	3.76E-11	1.76E-09	1.73E-10	1.64E-10	8.66E-07

BIFSG Probabilities

White	Black	API	Native	Multiple	Hispanic
0.006137	0.000043	0.002013	0.000198	0.000187	0.991421

NAIC Staff Favorites

What race does BIFSG infer for them?



Miguel Romero
66216



Scott Sobel
29016



Dorothy Andrews
28226

NAIC Staff Favorites

What race does BIFSG infer for them?



Hispanic (99.5%)



White (99.9%)



White (78.5%)



NAIC Staff Favorites

Let's Look at the Data!

There is no way **Dorothy** would have been classified as **Black** by BIFSG!

Probabilities of First Name

First Name	White	Black	API	Native	Multiple	Hispanic
Dorothy	0.8286	0.1318	0.0167	0.0035	0.0023	0.0171
Scott	0.9831	0.0027	0.0087	0.0006	0.0006	0.0043
Miguel	0.0616	0.0057	0.0113	0.0011	0.0000	0.9202

Probabilities of Surname

Surname	White	Black	API	Native	Multiple	Hispanic
Andrews	0.7178	0.2158	0.0078	0.0109	0.0220	0.0257
Sobel	0.9571	0.0059	0.0065	0.0029	0.0029	0.0247
Miguel	0.0865	0.0050	0.0130	0.0069	0.0037	0.8850

Probabilities of Zip Code

Zip Code	White	Black	API	Native	Multiple	Hispanic
28226	0.800990	0.067108	0.041519	0.001964	0.015633	0.072785
29016	0.661801	0.276570	0.012521	0.002688	0.013438	0.032983
66216	0.822316	0.051765	0.041412	0.003287	0.019432	0.061789

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Accuracy of BIFSG

Identified Concerns

- Suffers from [Majoritarian Bias \(MB\)](#):
Overstating the probabilities that non-White individuals are White.
- MB => Smaller Disparity Differences Than Exist
- Blacks with High Income, High Education => White
- Violation of Conditional Independence
- Biased Weights Toward Subgroups
- High Accuracy for Self-Report (SR) White/Hispanic
- Low Accuracy for SR Black, Native, ANHPI, Other
- Disproportionately High Probably to Whites
- Disproportionately Low Probably to Non-Whites
- More Attribute Data Can Improve the Method

Statistical Bias in Racial and Ethnic Disparity Estimates Using BIFSG

41 Pages • Posted: 19 Mar 2024

[Elena Derby](#)

Government of the United States of America - Joint Committee on Taxation

[Connor Dowd](#)

Government of the United States of America - Joint Committee on Taxation

[Jacob Mortenson](#)

Joint Committee on Taxation, US Congress

Date Written: February 20, 2024

Abstract

Bayesian Improved First Name and Surname Geocoding (BIFSG) is a widely used method for inferring race and ethnicity in data when this information is not available. It is well known that the assumptions underlying BIFSG can fail, but the effects of these failures on estimation by race and ethnicity are not well understood. In this paper we combine U.S. administrative tax data with data containing race and ethnicity to assess statistical bias in estimates of differences between racial/ethnic groups. We find that BIFSG suffers from majoritarian bias, overstating the probabilities that non-White individuals are White. When using these probabilities to estimate disparities between groups, BIFSG estimates understate differences in various outcomes between White and non-White taxpayers, in some cases reversing the direction of the disparity.

Derby, Elena and Dowd, Connor and Mortenson, Jacob, Statistical Bias in Racial and Ethnic Disparity Estimates Using BIFSG (February 20, 2024). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4733299> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4733299>

Imputation Packages

- Surgeo (Python)
- Ethnicolr (Python)
- Wru (R)
- BIRDie
- Rethnicity



cran/**rethnicity**

Predictive Modeling Imputation Methods

- Regression
- Natural Language Processing
- Multinomial Regression
- Multinomial Regression with Elastic Net Penalty
- Random Forests
- K-Nearest Neighbors
- Gradient Boosted Decision Trees

Questions