Thesis Data Analysis: The Psychology of Scientific Fraud

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# Introduction

This document is intended to track the data analysis for my undergraduate thesis project on the psychology of scientific fraud. I have already planned out (and [preregistered](https://osf.io/vmq48/?view_only=5d55e73ffc7948748e5a7049c6e52161)) my data analysis plan (see [here](https://benjaminjzubaly.github.io/The-Psychology-of-Scientific-Fraud-Thesis/#data-analysis)), and I will note throughout the document if I deviate from this plan and why. This project is also being tracked in a private GitHub repository in case I need to revert back to a previous version of the project due to a fatal error.

## Overview of Sections

* **Data Cleaning:** The data cleaning section will take the finalized dataset that I have included in the project directory and use it to create the remaining variables that we need for our analysis. We will also save this dataset.
* **Data Exploration:** In the data exploration section, we will check for and deal with missing data, run descriptive statistics of our outcome variables, visualize our data, and run bivariate correlations.
* **Testing Hypotheses:** In the hypothesis testing section, we will test each of our hypotheses one-by-one, according to our analysis plan.

## Directory Set-Up

In order to ensure that this analysis is computationally reproducible, I have included everything that is needed to complete this analysis (just the finalized data file, “study\_dataset.csv”) in the current working directory. The code will be displayed before the output of each analysis.

## Variable Definitions

Although the following variables may not exist until after the data cleaning section, here is what each variable name refers to, so that you can refer to them while examining the code.

DOI: Unique identifier for each paper (i.e., the paper DOI).

PaperType: Categorical variable indicating SAFP, SAGP, MAFP, or MAGP.

LingObf: Continuous variable for linguistic obfuscation.

CertSent: Continuous variable for certainty sentiment.

Refs: Count variable for references.

FraudCorrAuth: Dichotomous variable indicating if the fraudulent author is the corresponding author (1) or is not (0). Unknown cases will be marked in a seperate variable with this variable left blank.

NumAuth: Count variable indicating the number of authors for each paper.

abstraction: Abstraction index composed of the sum of standardized scores for article, prep, and quantity.

article: Articles from LIWC.

prep: Prepositions from LIWC.

quantity: Quantities from LIWC.

cause: Causation terms from LIWC.

jargon: The percent of words not captured by LIWC (100-Dic).

Dic: The percentage of words captured by all LIWC dictionaries.

emo\_pos: Positive emotion terms from LIWC.

flesch\_re: Flesch Reading Ease from ARTE.

## Initial Package Installations

If you would like to reproduce this analysis, here are the package I will be using, so that they can be cued before starting.

install.packages("readr") # For reading data

Installing package into '/Users/benjaminzubaly/Library/R/x86\_64/4.3/library'  
(as 'lib' is unspecified)

The downloaded binary packages are in  
 /var/folders/38/1ybnplc53zdb089bn6drqfn00000gn/T//RtmprjLzBL/downloaded\_packages

install.packages("dplyr") # For data manipulation and handling of missing data

Installing package into '/Users/benjaminzubaly/Library/R/x86\_64/4.3/library'  
(as 'lib' is unspecified)

The downloaded binary packages are in  
 /var/folders/38/1ybnplc53zdb089bn6drqfn00000gn/T//RtmprjLzBL/downloaded\_packages

install.packages("psych") # For descriptive statistics, correlations

Installing package into '/Users/benjaminzubaly/Library/R/x86\_64/4.3/library'  
(as 'lib' is unspecified)

The downloaded binary packages are in  
 /var/folders/38/1ybnplc53zdb089bn6drqfn00000gn/T//RtmprjLzBL/downloaded\_packages

install.packages("ggplot2") # For data visualization

Installing package into '/Users/benjaminzubaly/Library/R/x86\_64/4.3/library'  
(as 'lib' is unspecified)

The downloaded binary packages are in  
 /var/folders/38/1ybnplc53zdb089bn6drqfn00000gn/T//RtmprjLzBL/downloaded\_packages

install.packages("car") # For diagnostic tests such as Levene's test

Installing package into '/Users/benjaminzubaly/Library/R/x86\_64/4.3/library'  
(as 'lib' is unspecified)

The downloaded binary packages are in  
 /var/folders/38/1ybnplc53zdb089bn6drqfn00000gn/T//RtmprjLzBL/downloaded\_packages

install.packages("rcompanion") # For Games-Howell post-hoc test (if applicable)

Installing package into '/Users/benjaminzubaly/Library/R/x86\_64/4.3/library'  
(as 'lib' is unspecified)

The downloaded binary packages are in  
 /var/folders/38/1ybnplc53zdb089bn6drqfn00000gn/T//RtmprjLzBL/downloaded\_packages

install.packages("dunn.test") # For Dunn post-hoc test (if applicable)

Installing package into '/Users/benjaminzubaly/Library/R/x86\_64/4.3/library'  
(as 'lib' is unspecified)

The downloaded binary packages are in  
 /var/folders/38/1ybnplc53zdb089bn6drqfn00000gn/T//RtmprjLzBL/downloaded\_packages

## Initial Import of Data

We will not load in the dataset “study\_dataset.csv” from the working directory.

library(readr) # Loading the readr package  
  
data <- read\_csv("study\_dataset.csv") # Loading in study dataset as "data"

Rows: 88 Columns: 207  
── Column specification ────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
Delimiter: ","  
chr (26): DOI, Title, Subject, Institution, Journal, Publisher, Country, Au...  
dbl (181): Record ID, RetractionPubMedID, OriginalPaperDate, year, OriginalP...  
  
ℹ Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.  
ℹ Specify the column types or set `show\_col\_types = FALSE` to quiet this message.

I have viewed the data frame, and the data seems to have loaded correctly.

# Data Cleaning

To conduct the analysis, we will first need to calculate the LingObf variable by calculating the abstraction index and jargon words; creating standardized scores for abstraction, cause, jargon, emo\_pos, and flesch\_re; and calculating the LingObf composite variable from these standardized scores.

1. First, we will calculate the abstraction index by creating standardized scores for article, prep, and quantity and summing them.

# Calculate standardized scores for article, prep, and quantity and add them to the dataset  
data$articles\_standardized <- scale(data$article)  
data$prep\_standardized <- scale(data$prep)  
data$quantity\_standardized <- scale(data$quantity)  
  
# Create the new variable 'abstraction' as the sum of the three standardized variables  
data$abstraction <- (data$articles\_standardized + data$prep\_standardized + data$quantity\_standardized)

* After viewing the data, the transformations and variable calculation seem to have occurred appropriately.

1. Next, we will calculate the jargon words by subtracting Dic from 100.

# Calculate the new variable 'jargon' by subtracting 'Dic' from 100  
data$jargon <- (100 - data$Dic)

* After viewing the data, the variable calculation seem to have occurred appropriately.

1. Next, we will create standardized scores for each subcomponent of the LingObf.

# Standardize the new set of variables and add them to the dataset  
data$abstraction\_standardized <- scale(data$abstraction)  
data$cause\_standardized <- scale(data$cause)  
data$jargon\_standardized <- scale(data$jargon)  
data$emo\_pos\_standardized <- scale(data$emo\_pos)  
data$flesch\_re\_standardized <- scale(data$flesch\_re)

* After viewing the data, the variable transformations seem to have occurred appropriately.

1. Now we will calculate the LingObf variable using the following formula: [cause\_standardized + abstraction\_standardized + jargon\_standardized] – [emo\_pos\_standardized + flesch\_re\_standardized].

# Calculate 'LingObf'  
data$LingObf <- (data$cause\_standardized + data$abstraction\_standardized + data$jargon\_standardized) - (data$emo\_pos\_standardized + data$flesch\_re\_standardized)

* After viewing the data, the variable calculation seem to have occurred appropriately.

1. Lastly, our variable that indicates certainty sentiment is currently certainty\_avg, but to make things easier I am going to copy this data into a new variables called CertSent.

data$CertSent <- data$certainty\_avg

To ensure that our clean data is saved, we will write the dataset to the current working directory.

# Writing our data as a csv file in the current working directory  
write.csv(data, "clean\_study\_data.csv")

* I have opened the saved data file outside of Rstudio, and it seems to have been written correctly.

# Data Exploration

## Dealing with Missing Data

1. Data will be first inspected for missing scores.

library(dplyr) # Loading the dplyr package for data manipulation and handling missing values

Attaching package: 'dplyr'

The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':  
  
 filter, lag

The following objects are masked from 'package:base':  
  
 intersect, setdiff, setequal, union

# To summarize the number of missing values in each column  
missing\_data\_summary <- sapply(data, function(x) sum(is.na(x)))  
  
print(missing\_data\_summary) # To see summary of missing values for all columns

DOI Record ID   
 0 44   
 Title Subject   
 0 44   
 Institution Journal   
 0 0   
 Publisher Country   
 0 0   
 Author URLS   
 0 68   
 ArticleType RetractionDate   
 0 44   
 RetractionDOI RetractionPubMedID   
 48 51   
 OriginalPaperDate year   
 44 0   
 OriginalPaperDOI OriginalPaperPubMedID   
 0 51   
 RetractionNature Reason   
 44 44   
 Paywalled Notes   
 44 70   
 simple\_reason NumAuth   
 44 0   
 inst\_pres PaperType   
 0 0   
 gender matched\_DOI\_SAFP\_MAFP   
 0 44   
 matched\_DOI\_SAFP\_SAGP matched\_DOI\_MAFP\_MAGP   
 44 44   
 matching\_concessions FraudCorrAuth   
 42 80   
 FCA\_unknown FCA\_notes   
 66 66   
 different\_country year\_difference   
 22 22   
 different\_gender different\_inst\_pres   
 22 22   
 different\_journal Refs   
 66 0   
 Abstract flesch\_re   
 0 0   
 wordcount valence\_min   
 0 0   
 valence\_max valence\_avg   
 0 0   
 valence\_std extremity\_min   
 0 0   
 extremity\_max extremity\_avg   
 0 0   
 extremity\_std extremity\_min\_pos   
 0 0   
 extremity\_max\_pos extremity\_avg\_pos   
 0 0   
 extremity\_std\_pos extremity\_min\_neg   
 0 1   
 extremity\_max\_neg extremity\_avg\_neg   
 1 1   
 extremity\_std\_neg extremity\_PosMinNeg   
 5 0   
 emotionality\_min emotionality\_max   
 0 0   
 emotionality\_avg emotionality\_std   
 0 0   
 emotionality\_min\_pos emotionality\_max\_pos   
 0 0   
 emotionality\_avg\_pos emotionality\_std\_pos   
 0 0   
 emotionality\_min\_neg emotionality\_max\_neg   
 1 1   
 emotionality\_avg\_neg emotionality\_std\_neg   
 1 5   
 emotionality\_PosMinNeg count\_unique\_evaluative\_pos   
 0 0   
 count\_total\_evaluative\_pos count\_unique\_evaluative\_neg   
 0 0   
 count\_total\_evaluative\_neg count\_unique\_evaluative   
 0 0   
 count\_total\_evaluative count\_evaluative\_PosMinNeg   
 0 0   
 ambivalent pos\_dichotomous   
 0 87   
 certainty\_min certainty\_max   
 0 0   
 certainty\_avg certainty\_std   
 0 0   
 count\_unique\_certainty count\_total\_certainty   
 0 0   
 Segment WC   
 0 0   
 Analytic Clout   
 0 0   
 Authentic Tone   
 0 0   
 WPS BigWords   
 0 0   
 Dic Linguistic   
 0 0   
 function pronoun   
 0 0   
 ppron i   
 0 0   
 we you   
 0 0   
 shehe they   
 0 0   
 ipron det   
 0 0   
 article number   
 0 0   
 prep auxverb   
 0 0   
 adverb conj   
 0 0   
 negate verb   
 0 0   
 adj quantity   
 0 0   
 Drives affiliation   
 0 0   
 achieve power   
 0 0   
 Cognition allnone   
 0 0   
 cogproc insight   
 0 0   
 cause discrep   
 0 0   
 tentat certitude   
 0 0   
 differ memory   
 0 0   
 Affect tone\_pos   
 0 0   
 tone\_neg emotion   
 0 0   
 emo\_pos emo\_neg   
 0 0   
 emo\_anx emo\_anger   
 0 0   
 emo\_sad swear   
 0 0   
 Social socbehav   
 0 0   
 prosocial polite   
 0 0   
 conflict moral   
 0 0   
 comm socrefs   
 0 0   
 family friend   
 0 0   
 female male   
 0 0   
 Culture politic   
 0 0   
 ethnicity tech   
 0 0   
 Lifestyle leisure   
 0 0   
 home work   
 0 0   
 money relig   
 0 0   
 Physical health   
 0 0   
 illness wellness   
 0 0   
 mental substances   
 0 0   
 sexual food   
 0 0   
 death need   
 0 0   
 want acquire   
 0 0   
 lack fulfill   
 0 0   
 fatigue reward   
 0 0   
 risk curiosity   
 0 0   
 allure Perception   
 0 0   
 attention motion   
 0 0   
 space visual   
 0 0   
 auditory feeling   
 0 0   
 time focuspast   
 0 0   
 focuspresent focusfuture   
 0 0   
 Conversation netspeak   
 0 0   
 assent nonflu   
 0 0   
 filler AllPunc   
 0 0   
 Period Comma   
 0 0   
 QMark Exclam   
 0 0   
 Apostro OtherP   
 0 0   
 Emoji articles\_standardized   
 0 0   
 prep\_standardized quantity\_standardized   
 0 0   
 abstraction jargon   
 0 0   
 abstraction\_standardized cause\_standardized   
 0 0   
 jargon\_standardized emo\_pos\_standardized   
 0 0   
 flesch\_re\_standardized LingObf   
 0 0   
 CertSent   
 0

* Taking a look at our outcome variables, there are no missing scores, so we do not need to impute any values.

## Descriptive Statistics

1. I will now generate descriptive statistics for each relevant variable in the dataset. I originally (in the preregistered plan) was simply going to deploy the describe() function on the entire dataset, but because I retained all of the columns from the Retraction Watch Database (*Retraction Watch Database*, 2023) and all of the output from the text analysis packages (Aggarwal, 2022; Boyd et al., 2022; Rocklage et al., 2023) there are currently 219 variables. Because this would be unmanageable, I am going to only calculate descriptive statistics for a selection of variables of interest. I will first create a dataframe with only the continuous variables that I am interested in generating descriptive statistics for, and I will use the psych package to produce the descriptive statistics for these variables.

library(psych) # Loading the psych package  
  
# Selecting the continuous variables I am interested in getting descriptive statistics for (plus paper type for the next part)  
continuous\_data\_for\_descriptives <- data[c("year", "Refs", "flesch\_re", "WC", "abstraction", "jargon", "CertSent", "LingObf", "cause", "emo\_pos", "article", "prep", "quantity", "PaperType")]  
  
# Generating descriptive statistics for variables of interest  
continuous\_descriptive\_stats\_all <- describe(continuous\_data\_for\_descriptives)  
  
# Displaying the results of the descriptive stats for the variables listed above  
continuous\_descriptive\_stats\_all

vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max  
year 1 88 2009.70 10.47 2013.00 2011.14 7.41 1980.00 2022.00  
Refs 2 88 45.82 23.47 39.00 43.21 20.02 12.00 146.00  
flesch\_re 3 88 34.90 10.94 36.45 35.46 10.28 -10.89 56.59  
WC 4 88 4436.25 2248.24 3951.50 4238.17 1956.29 1124.00 13901.00  
abstraction 5 88 0.00 1.83 0.09 0.04 1.86 -4.46 3.55  
jargon 6 88 33.33 7.47 34.76 33.50 7.84 17.91 46.67  
CertSent 7 88 6.17 0.25 6.18 6.18 0.22 5.21 6.76  
LingObf 8 88 0.00 1.67 -0.14 -0.01 1.54 -5.84 4.28  
cause 9 88 2.80 1.22 2.62 2.69 1.02 0.89 6.01  
emo\_pos 10 88 0.09 0.22 0.04 0.05 0.06 0.00 1.67  
article 11 88 8.38 2.20 8.31 8.33 2.13 3.53 14.47  
prep 12 88 15.43 1.68 15.66 15.51 1.34 9.76 20.67  
quantity 13 88 4.23 1.32 4.08 4.14 1.33 1.69 8.66  
PaperType\* 14 88 2.50 1.12 2.50 2.50 1.48 1.00 4.00  
 range skew kurtosis se  
year 42.00 -1.25 0.74 1.12  
Refs 134.00 1.41 2.87 2.50  
flesch\_re 67.48 -0.85 2.16 1.17  
WC 12777.00 1.21 2.18 239.66  
abstraction 8.01 -0.20 -0.42 0.20  
jargon 28.76 -0.27 -0.94 0.80  
CertSent 1.55 -0.69 1.42 0.03  
LingObf 10.12 -0.21 1.40 0.18  
cause 5.12 0.80 0.14 0.13  
emo\_pos 1.67 5.66 34.22 0.02  
article 10.94 0.33 -0.19 0.23  
prep 10.91 -0.44 1.22 0.18  
quantity 6.97 0.67 0.42 0.14  
PaperType\* 3.00 0.00 -1.40 0.12

* I won’t make too many comments here, because for most of these measures there are no formal or informal norms against which to judge them. That being said:
  + **Year:** The mean year is mid-2009, with a standard deviation of 10 years (max 2022 and min 1980), indicating that the sample is recent enough to be relevant but also spans quite a number of years. This I think is good insofar as the recent history of academic publishing is represented more fully (some recent investigations limited their search to the three years prior to publication). There is some negative skew, which I suspect is due to the 1980 paper being quite a bit older than most papers.
  + **Refs:** The mean number of references is 45.82 with a standard deviation of 23.47. At least intuitively, this seems like a pretty standard distribution of references if we were to randomly select papers from the literature. However, the range is huge, with one paper showing 146 references—perhaps why the skew is positive. This may be something to consider when making group comparisons, as this point may have significant leverage.
  + **WC:** The average word count is 4436.25, and the standard deviation is 2248.24. It is also positively skewed, and although this should not affect our linguistic dependent variables it may be a confounding factor for references. Indeed, taking a look at the dataset I can see that the second highest value for word count (9670) also has the maximum value for references (the outlier noted above at 146 references). This will be something to watch out for.
* Now we will create descriptive statistics for each of the continuous variables above within the PaperType groups.

# Making PaperType a factor variable in the continuous variable dataframe to allow for grouping  
continuous\_data\_for\_descriptives$PaperType <- factor(continuous\_data\_for\_descriptives$PaperType, levels = c("SAFP", "MAFP", "SAGP", "MAGP"), labels = c("Single-Authored Fraudulent Papers", "Multi-Authored Fraudulent Papers", "Single-Authored Genuine Papers", "Multi-Authored Genuine Papers"))  
  
# Generating descriptive statistics within PaperType groups  
descriptive\_stats\_by\_PaperType <- describeBy(continuous\_data\_for\_descriptives, group = continuous\_data\_for\_descriptives$PaperType)  
  
descriptive\_stats\_by\_PaperType

Descriptive statistics by group   
group: Single-Authored Fraudulent Papers  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max  
year 1 22 2008.95 11.74 2013.00 2010.39 6.67 1983.00 2022.00  
Refs 2 22 44.18 19.93 36.00 42.89 17.79 18.00 87.00  
flesch\_re 3 22 36.09 9.17 37.06 36.29 10.53 18.49 54.36  
WC 4 22 3998.91 1741.31 3796.50 3911.39 1829.53 1273.00 7330.00  
abstraction 5 22 0.21 1.54 0.04 0.27 1.25 -3.27 2.95  
jargon 6 22 34.23 8.33 36.94 34.90 8.49 17.91 44.35  
CertSent 7 22 6.21 0.21 6.18 6.20 0.18 5.87 6.66  
LingObf 8 22 -0.24 1.79 -0.04 -0.05 1.97 -4.23 2.25  
cause 9 22 2.71 1.48 2.50 2.56 1.07 0.89 6.01  
emo\_pos 10 22 0.15 0.35 0.06 0.08 0.06 0.00 1.67  
article 11 22 8.35 2.60 8.48 8.41 2.90 3.53 12.25  
prep 12 22 15.75 1.60 15.75 15.79 1.43 11.79 18.42  
quantity 13 22 4.27 0.97 4.11 4.21 1.13 2.59 6.59  
PaperType 14 22 1.00 0.00 1.00 1.00 0.00 1.00 1.00  
 range skew kurtosis se  
year 39.00 -1.02 -0.29 2.50  
Refs 69.00 0.56 -1.06 4.25  
flesch\_re 35.87 -0.01 -0.63 1.95  
WC 6057.00 0.54 -0.67 371.25  
abstraction 6.21 -0.23 -0.33 0.33  
jargon 26.44 -0.56 -1.04 1.78  
CertSent 0.78 0.44 -0.57 0.04  
LingObf 6.48 -0.70 -0.32 0.38  
cause 5.12 0.93 -0.05 0.32  
emo\_pos 1.67 3.81 13.82 0.07  
article 8.72 -0.16 -1.18 0.55  
prep 6.63 -0.34 -0.15 0.34  
quantity 4.00 0.49 -0.41 0.21  
PaperType 0.00 NaN NaN 0.00  
------------------------------------------------------------   
group: Multi-Authored Fraudulent Papers  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max  
year 1 22 2010.14 9.59 2012.50 2011.67 8.15 1982.00 2022.00  
Refs 2 22 44.00 19.66 39.50 42.06 17.05 18.00 94.00  
flesch\_re 3 22 34.18 9.64 31.41 33.58 9.38 20.08 56.59  
WC 4 22 4705.91 2047.63 4274.00 4559.39 1931.83 1823.00 9004.00  
abstraction 5 22 -0.45 1.83 -0.53 -0.44 1.95 -4.10 3.55  
jargon 6 22 35.97 6.97 37.36 36.23 6.28 23.85 46.48  
CertSent 7 22 6.22 0.18 6.20 6.23 0.24 5.82 6.47  
LingObf 8 22 0.47 1.43 0.18 0.36 1.57 -1.66 4.13  
cause 9 22 2.84 1.08 2.74 2.75 1.03 1.14 5.66  
emo\_pos 10 22 0.03 0.04 0.01 0.02 0.02 0.00 0.15  
article 11 22 8.19 1.94 8.51 8.12 1.53 4.90 12.66  
prep 12 22 14.84 1.64 15.19 14.84 1.75 11.80 17.58  
quantity 13 22 4.22 1.39 4.10 4.15 1.54 2.27 6.95  
PaperType 14 22 2.00 0.00 2.00 2.00 0.00 2.00 2.00  
 range skew kurtosis se  
year 40.00 -1.37 1.52 2.05  
Refs 76.00 0.86 -0.01 4.19  
flesch\_re 36.51 0.59 -0.62 2.05  
WC 7181.00 0.56 -0.81 436.56  
abstraction 7.65 0.02 -0.64 0.39  
jargon 22.63 -0.38 -1.16 1.49  
CertSent 0.64 -0.27 -1.00 0.04  
LingObf 5.79 0.68 -0.15 0.30  
cause 4.52 0.78 0.30 0.23  
emo\_pos 0.15 1.55 1.39 0.01  
article 7.76 0.16 -0.34 0.41  
prep 5.78 -0.11 -1.18 0.35  
quantity 4.68 0.46 -1.11 0.30  
PaperType 0.00 NaN NaN 0.00  
------------------------------------------------------------   
group: Single-Authored Genuine Papers  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max  
year 1 22 2008.95 12.24 2013.50 2010.61 5.93 1980.00 2022.00  
Refs 2 22 51.05 32.53 40.50 46.28 28.91 12.00 146.00  
flesch\_re 3 22 34.46 15.72 38.40 36.15 10.34 -10.89 54.97  
WC 4 22 4632.36 2424.81 4148.00 4491.00 2364.01 1141.00 9670.00  
abstraction 5 22 0.80 1.89 1.00 0.91 2.13 -3.39 3.43  
jargon 6 22 29.50 6.19 31.79 29.61 5.77 19.26 38.66  
CertSent 7 22 6.07 0.28 6.13 6.07 0.31 5.55 6.49  
LingObf 8 22 -0.25 1.77 -0.30 -0.15 1.56 -5.84 2.97  
cause 9 22 2.73 1.04 2.55 2.67 1.05 1.18 4.91  
emo\_pos 10 22 0.12 0.26 0.06 0.06 0.09 0.00 1.23  
article 11 22 9.13 2.45 8.61 8.95 2.64 5.91 14.47  
prep 12 22 15.66 1.15 15.89 15.83 0.76 12.82 17.22  
quantity 13 22 4.66 1.64 4.46 4.55 1.43 2.05 8.66  
PaperType 14 22 3.00 0.00 3.00 3.00 0.00 3.00 3.00  
 range skew kurtosis se  
year 42.00 -1.11 -0.07 2.61  
Refs 134.00 1.32 1.43 6.94  
flesch\_re 65.86 -1.16 0.90 3.35  
WC 8529.00 0.42 -0.93 516.97  
abstraction 6.82 -0.42 -0.84 0.40  
jargon 19.40 -0.30 -1.34 1.32  
CertSent 0.94 -0.27 -1.13 0.06  
LingObf 8.81 -1.03 2.29 0.38  
cause 3.73 0.42 -0.61 0.22  
emo\_pos 1.23 3.38 11.22 0.06  
article 8.56 0.48 -0.91 0.52  
prep 4.40 -1.22 0.76 0.25  
quantity 6.61 0.62 -0.27 0.35  
PaperType 0.00 NaN NaN 0.00  
------------------------------------------------------------   
group: Multi-Authored Genuine Papers  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max  
year 1 22 2010.77 8.50 2012.50 2011.89 8.15 1990.00 2022.00  
Refs 2 22 44.05 20.05 36.50 41.94 15.57 19.00 91.00  
flesch\_re 3 22 34.86 8.34 36.17 35.12 6.35 15.95 49.45  
WC 4 22 4407.82 2741.91 3624.00 4009.67 1307.65 1124.00 13901.00  
abstraction 5 22 -0.56 1.83 -0.42 -0.48 1.65 -4.46 3.07  
jargon 6 22 33.61 7.19 35.03 33.51 6.42 20.86 46.67  
CertSent 7 22 6.19 0.31 6.22 6.20 0.19 5.21 6.76  
LingObf 8 22 0.02 1.69 -0.45 -0.16 1.05 -2.50 4.28  
cause 9 22 2.90 1.30 2.44 2.83 0.79 1.04 5.56  
emo\_pos 10 22 0.04 0.05 0.04 0.04 0.05 0.00 0.17  
article 11 22 7.88 1.62 7.71 7.78 1.06 4.22 12.06  
prep 12 22 15.48 2.15 15.66 15.58 1.41 9.76 20.67  
quantity 13 22 3.75 1.09 3.74 3.76 1.21 1.69 5.53  
PaperType 14 22 4.00 0.00 4.00 4.00 0.00 4.00 4.00  
 range skew kurtosis se  
year 32.00 -0.95 0.15 1.81  
Refs 72.00 0.77 -0.61 4.27  
flesch\_re 33.50 -0.41 -0.37 1.78  
WC 12777.00 1.90 3.92 584.58  
abstraction 7.53 -0.26 -0.37 0.39  
jargon 25.81 -0.16 -1.01 1.53  
CertSent 1.55 -1.02 2.09 0.07  
LingObf 6.78 1.08 0.44 0.36  
cause 4.52 0.65 -0.77 0.28  
emo\_pos 0.17 0.88 0.00 0.01  
article 7.84 0.52 0.94 0.35  
prep 10.91 -0.37 1.33 0.46  
quantity 3.84 -0.05 -1.19 0.23  
PaperType 0.00 NaN NaN 0.00

* Some quick notes:
  + **Year:** The year seems to be relatively similar between groups, with the single-author groups (SAGP and SAFP) both having mid-2008 as the mean and the multi-author groups both having mid-2010 as the mean. This may be partially due to there being single outliers (matched papers that are both outliers) at the lower end of the distribution.
  + **Refs:** As I suspected, the outlier of 146 seems to be pulling the mean for SAGP up to 51.05 (the means for all other groups are around 44). This is corroborated by the skew statistics which show that only the SAGP group has a skew value above 1. I may run the analyses where references is the outcome variable both with and without this case in the model, or I may use word count as a covariate in the model to try to account for it.
  + **WC:** For some reason, there seems to be a notable difference in mean word count between the single-authored fraudulent group and the rest of the groups. I could speculate as to why this is the case, but I may do an unplanned follow-up analysis of this.

1. Frequencies will now be produced for categorical variables, both for the data in general and within PaperType groups.

* First, we will make the variables inst\_pres, gender, simple\_reason, Country, and PaperType factor variables.

# Changing inst\_pres (institutional prestige), gender, simple\_reason, Country, and PaperType into factor variables  
data$inst\_pres <- factor(data$inst\_pres, levels = c(0, 1), labels = c("Not Major Research Institution", "Major Research Institution"))  
data$gender <- factor(data$gender, levels = c("FEMALE", "MALE"), labels = c("Female", "Male"))  
data$simple\_reason <- factor(data$simple\_reason, levels = c("f\_data", "f\_image", "m\_image", "f\_data f\_image"), labels = c("Fabricated/Falsified Data", "Fabricated/Falsified Image", "Manipulated Image", "Fabricated/Falsified Data and Image"))  
data$Country <- factor(data$Country)  
data$PaperType <- factor(data$PaperType)

* Next, we will produce frequency tables for each categorical variable of interest for the whole dataset.

# Creating the frequency tables for each categorical variable  
freq\_tab\_inst\_pres <- table(data$inst\_pres)  
freq\_tab\_gender <- table(data$gender)  
freq\_tab\_simple\_reason <- table(data$simple\_reason)  
freq\_tab\_Country <- table(data$Country)  
freq\_tab\_PaperType <- table(data$PaperType)  
  
# Displaying the frequency tables  
freq\_tab\_inst\_pres

Not Major Research Institution Major Research Institution   
 70 18

freq\_tab\_gender

Female Male   
 15 73

freq\_tab\_simple\_reason

Fabricated/Falsified Data Fabricated/Falsified Image   
 27 3   
 Manipulated Image Fabricated/Falsified Data and Image   
 12 2

freq\_tab\_Country

Australia Belgium China Egypt Ethiopia   
 1 1 10 3 2   
 India Iran Israel Italy Japan   
 10 1 1 1 3   
 Latvia Malaysia Netherlands Pakistan Poland   
 1 2 6 3 2   
 Portugal South Africa South Korea Taiwan Turkey   
 2 1 2 1 2   
United Kingdom United States   
 4 29

freq\_tab\_PaperType

MAFP MAGP SAFP SAGP   
 22 22 22 22

* Let’s take a look at the way these are split:
  + First, there seems to ba a preponderance of lower status (not major) research institutions in the whole dataset (70:18).
  + Next, most of the papers were retracted due to fabricated/falsified data (*n* = 27), followed by those that manipulated images (*n* = 12), fabricated/falsified images (*n* = 3), or both fabricated/falsified data and images (*n* = 2).
  + For country, the most common category of papers seem to be from the United States (*n* = 29), followed by China and India (both *n* = 10) and the Netherlands (*n* = 6), with no other countries totaling more than *n* = 4.
  + Finally, we can see that the papers are evenly split between each of our groups (*n* = 22; *N* = 88).
* Next, we will produce the frequencies within PaperType groups. Because we were not able to perfectly match across our matching characteristics, we will take this opportunity to look at how far off we were. A proportion table will be produced to more easily compare frequencies across PaperType groups. First, however, we need to make the matching dummy variables into factor variables with labels to make them more interpretable.

# Creating factor variables out of the dummy variables that track matching across groups  
data$different\_country <- factor(data$different\_country, levels = c(0, 1), labels = c("Same Country", "Different Country"))  
data$different\_gender <- factor(data$different\_gender, levels = c(0, 1), labels = c("Same Gender", "Different Gender"))  
data$different\_inst\_pres <- factor(data$different\_inst\_pres, levels = c(0, 1), labels = c("Same Institutional Prestige", "Different Institutional Prestige"))  
data$different\_journal <- factor(data$different\_journal, levels = c(0, 1), labels = c("Same Journal", "Different Journal"))

* I have checked the data set, and the labels seem to have been assigned correctly. Now we will produce the frequency tables and proportion tables.
  + Because we are taking a look at matching characteristics here, I will also take a look at the year\_difference (the difference between the years of publication for the matched papers) variable within each group by using the describe() function from the psych package (like for the continuous variables above). In addition, I will take a look at the NumAuth (number of authors) for each of the groups.

# Frequency tables and proportion tables  
 # institutional prestige  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_inst\_pres <- table(data$PaperType, data$inst\_pres)  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_inst\_pres

Not Major Research Institution Major Research Institution  
 MAFP 17 5  
 MAGP 18 4  
 SAFP 18 4  
 SAGP 17 5

proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_inst\_pres <- prop.table(frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_inst\_pres, margin = 1)  
proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_inst\_pres

Not Major Research Institution Major Research Institution  
 MAFP 0.7727273 0.2272727  
 MAGP 0.8181818 0.1818182  
 SAFP 0.8181818 0.1818182  
 SAGP 0.7727273 0.2272727

# gender  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_gender <- table(data$PaperType, data$gender)  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_gender

Female Male  
 MAFP 4 18  
 MAGP 4 18  
 SAFP 3 19  
 SAGP 4 18

proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_gender <- prop.table(frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_gender, margin = 1)  
proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_gender

Female Male  
 MAFP 0.1818182 0.8181818  
 MAGP 0.1818182 0.8181818  
 SAFP 0.1363636 0.8636364  
 SAGP 0.1818182 0.8181818

# reason  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_reason <- table(data$PaperType, data$simple\_reason)  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_reason

Fabricated/Falsified Data Fabricated/Falsified Image Manipulated Image  
 MAFP 12 1 7  
 MAGP 0 0 0  
 SAFP 15 2 5  
 SAGP 0 0 0  
   
 Fabricated/Falsified Data and Image  
 MAFP 2  
 MAGP 0  
 SAFP 0  
 SAGP 0

proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_reason <- prop.table(frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_reason, margin = 1)  
proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_reason

Fabricated/Falsified Data Fabricated/Falsified Image Manipulated Image  
 MAFP 0.54545455 0.04545455 0.31818182  
 MAGP   
 SAFP 0.68181818 0.09090909 0.22727273  
 SAGP   
   
 Fabricated/Falsified Data and Image  
 MAFP 0.09090909  
 MAGP   
 SAFP 0.00000000  
 SAGP

# country  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_country <- table(data$PaperType, data$Country)  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_country

Australia Belgium China Egypt Ethiopia India Iran Israel Italy Japan  
 MAFP 0 0 4 0 0 3 0 0 0 1  
 MAGP 0 0 4 0 0 3 0 0 0 1  
 SAFP 0 1 2 2 1 4 0 0 0 1  
 SAGP 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0  
   
 Latvia Malaysia Netherlands Pakistan Poland Portugal South Africa  
 MAFP 0 1 2 1 1 1 0  
 MAGP 0 1 1 1 1 1 0  
 SAFP 0 0 1 0 0 0 0  
 SAGP 1 0 2 1 0 0 1  
   
 South Korea Taiwan Turkey United Kingdom United States  
 MAFP 0 0 0 0 8  
 MAGP 0 0 0 0 9  
 SAFP 1 0 1 1 7  
 SAGP 1 1 1 3 5

proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_country <- prop.table(frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_country, margin = 1)  
proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_country

Australia Belgium China Egypt Ethiopia India  
 MAFP 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.18181818 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.13636364  
 MAGP 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.18181818 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.13636364  
 SAFP 0.00000000 0.04545455 0.09090909 0.09090909 0.04545455 0.18181818  
 SAGP 0.04545455 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.00000000  
   
 Iran Israel Italy Japan Latvia Malaysia  
 MAFP 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.04545455 0.00000000 0.04545455  
 MAGP 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.04545455 0.00000000 0.04545455  
 SAFP 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.04545455 0.00000000 0.00000000  
 SAGP 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.00000000 0.04545455 0.00000000  
   
 Netherlands Pakistan Poland Portugal South Africa South Korea  
 MAFP 0.09090909 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.00000000 0.00000000  
 MAGP 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.00000000 0.00000000  
 SAFP 0.04545455 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.04545455  
 SAGP 0.09090909 0.04545455 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.04545455 0.04545455  
   
 Taiwan Turkey United Kingdom United States  
 MAFP 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.36363636  
 MAGP 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.00000000 0.40909091  
 SAFP 0.00000000 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.31818182  
 SAGP 0.04545455 0.04545455 0.13636364 0.22727273

# And for the matching characteristic dummy variables  
 # Country different  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_country <- table(data$PaperType, data$different\_country)  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_country

Same Country Different Country  
 MAFP 14 8  
 MAGP 21 1  
 SAFP 0 0  
 SAGP 10 12

proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_country <- prop.table(frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_country, margin = 1)  
proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_country

Same Country Different Country  
 MAFP 0.63636364 0.36363636  
 MAGP 0.95454545 0.04545455  
 SAFP   
 SAGP 0.45454545 0.54545455

# Gender different  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_gender <- table(data$PaperType, data$different\_gender)  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_gender

Same Gender Different Gender  
 MAFP 18 4  
 MAGP 20 2  
 SAFP 0 0  
 SAGP 19 3

proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_gender <- prop.table(frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_gender, margin = 1)  
proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_gender

Same Gender Different Gender  
 MAFP 0.81818182 0.18181818  
 MAGP 0.90909091 0.09090909  
 SAFP   
 SAGP 0.86363636 0.13636364

# Institutional prestige different  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_inst\_pres <- table(data$PaperType, data$different\_inst\_pres)  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_inst\_pres

Same Institutional Prestige Different Institutional Prestige  
 MAFP 17 5  
 MAGP 21 1  
 SAFP 0 0  
 SAGP 21 1

proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_inst\_pres <- prop.table(frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_inst\_pres, margin = 1)  
proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_inst\_pres

Same Institutional Prestige Different Institutional Prestige  
 MAFP 0.77272727 0.22727273  
 MAGP 0.95454545 0.04545455  
 SAFP   
 SAGP 0.95454545 0.04545455

# Journal different  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_journal <- table(data$PaperType, data$different\_journal)  
frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_journal

Same Journal Different Journal  
 MAFP 11 11  
 MAGP 0 0  
 SAFP 0 0  
 SAGP 0 0

proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_journal <- prop.table(frequency\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_journal, margin = 1)  
proportion\_table\_by\_PaperType\_different\_journal

Same Journal Different Journal  
 MAFP 0.5 0.5  
 MAGP   
 SAFP   
 SAGP

# Descriptive statistics for year off within PaperType groups  
year\_difference\_descriptives <- describeBy(data$year\_difference, group = data$PaperType, na.rm = TRUE)

Warning in min(x, na.rm = na.rm): no non-missing arguments to min; returning  
Inf

Warning in max(x, na.rm = na.rm): no non-missing arguments to max; returning  
-Inf

year\_difference\_descriptives

Descriptive statistics by group   
group: MAFP  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis se  
X1 1 22 -1.36 6.15 0 -0.22 1.48 -21 8 29 -1.9 3.45 1.31  
------------------------------------------------------------   
group: MAGP  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis se  
X1 1 22 -0.64 2.15 0 -0.22 0 -10 1 11 -3.72 13.37 0.46  
------------------------------------------------------------   
group: SAFP  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis se  
X1 1 0 NaN NA NA NaN NA Inf -Inf -Inf NA NA NA  
------------------------------------------------------------   
group: SAGP  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis se  
X1 1 22 0 1.35 0 -0.06 0 -4 4 8 0.11 4.36 0.29

num\_auth\_descriptives <- describeBy(data$NumAuth, group = data$PaperType, na.rm = TRUE)  
num\_auth\_descriptives

Descriptive statistics by group   
group: MAFP  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis se  
X1 1 22 3.73 1.32 4 3.61 1.48 2 7 5 0.6 -0.17 0.28  
------------------------------------------------------------   
group: MAGP  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis se  
X1 1 22 4.05 1.91 4 3.78 1.48 2 9 7 0.99 0.29 0.41  
------------------------------------------------------------   
group: SAFP  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis se  
X1 1 22 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 NaN NaN 0  
------------------------------------------------------------   
group: SAGP  
 vars n mean sd median trimmed mad min max range skew kurtosis se  
X1 1 22 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 NaN NaN 0

* **Overview of Categorical Variables:**
  + **Institutional Prestige:** The split for frequencies/proportion of is very close to even across groups. The MAFP and SAGP groups have 17 papers from major research institutions and 5 from lower status research institutions (.77/.22), and the MAGP and SAFP groups have 18 papers from major research institutions and 4 from lower status research institutions (.82/.18).
  + **Gender:** The split between groups is also very similar for gender, with MAFP, MAGP, and SAGP groups each having 4 female first authors and 18 male first authors (.18/.82). SAFP had 3 female first authors and 19 male first authors (.14/.86).
  + **Reason (Not Matched Between Groups During Data Collection):** The reason for retraction is only relevant for the fraudulent paper groups, and there is a similar split between them. The SAFP had 15 papers in the group for Fabricated/Falsified Data, 2 paper for Fabricated/Falsified Images, 5 for Manipulated Images, and 0 that Fabricated/Falsified Data and Images (.68/.09/.22/.00). The MAFP had 12 papers in the group for Fabricated/Falsified Data, 1 paper for Fabricated/Falsified Images, 7 for Manipulated Images, and 2 for Fabricated/Falsified Data and Images (.55/.05/.32/.09).
  + **Country:** Because there are many countries, I will not delineate them all here but rather refer you to the data printed above if you are interested in diving deeper. To highlight one thing, we can see that papers from the United States (our most common country in the whole data set) tend to be overrepresented in the frequencies for each group (MAFP, 8/.36; MAGP, 9/.40; SAFP, 7/.32; SAGP, 5/.23). There are no other countries with proportions that exceed the lowest proportion of United States papers in any group (all<.23).
* **Overview of Matching Characteristic Dummy Variables and Average Differences:**
  + Although the frequencies and proportions of the matched variables within groups above indicates to some degree how similar each group is, the more important metric of how closely matched the groups are is between the groups for which comparisons are to be made. For this reason, I dummy coded whether each paper matched it’s pair on each characteristic or not as a binary variable (which we labeled above) before loading the data. Because the SAFP papers were not gathered by matching to any group, there are no data for the SAFP group for any of the dummy variables, and journal only didn’t match across some of the SAFP and MAFP pairs. Each of the other groups is in reference to the group against which it will be compared (i.e., data for MAFP represent how well they match SAFP papers, data for MAGP represent how well they match with MAFP, data for SAGP represent how well they match with SAFP). In addition, I coded how different the year was between papers, such that positive values indicate the number of years the original paper was published after the matched paper (negative values indicate the matched paper was published after the paper it was being matched to).
  + **MAFP compared with SAFP:**
    - Country was the same for 14 (.64) pairs and different for 8 (.36) pairs.
    - Gender was the same for 18 (.82) pairs and different for 4 (.18) pairs.
    - Institutional prestige was the same for 17 (.77) pairs and different for 5 (.23) pairs.
    - Journal was the same for 11 (.50) pairs and different for 11 (.50) pairs.
    - The average year difference was -1.36, indicating that the MAFP tended to be slightly more recent than the SAFP.
    - Finally, the mean number of authors for MAFP is 3.73.
  + **MAGP compared with MAFP:**
    - Country was the same for 21 (.95) pairs and different for 1 (.05) pairs.
    - Gender was the same for 20 (.91) pairs and different for 2 (.09) pairs.
    - Institutional prestige was the same for 21 pairs (.95) and different for 1 (.05) pair.
    - Journal was the same for every paper.
    - The average year difference was -.64, indicating that the MAGP tended to be slightly more recent than the MAFP.
    - Finally, the mean number of authors for MAFP is 4.05.
  + **SAGP compared with SAFP:**
    - Country was the same for 10 (.45) pairs and different for 12 (.55) pairs.
    - Gender was the same for 19 (.86) pairs and different for 3 (.14) pairs.
    - Institutional prestige was the same for 21 pairs (.95) and different for 1 (.05) pair.
    - Journal was the same for every paper.
    - The average year difference was 0, indicating that the SAGP and SAFP are exactly matched for the average year of publication.
* **Summary of matching characteristics:**
  + Looking at the data, the most difficult characteristic to match was country across all categories of papers, except for MAFP compared with SAFP, where journal was the most difficult to match. Nevertheless, for many of the situations where we were unable to match the specific paper, this was balanced out by not being able to match another paper in the opposite direction, as the frequencies within paper types demonstrates.

## Data Visualization

Aggarwal, S. B., Chaitanya. (2022). *textstat: Calculate statistical features from text* [Python]. <https://github.com/shivam5992/textstat>

Boyd, R. L., Ashokkumar, A., Seraj, S., & Pennebaker, J. W. (2022). The development and psychometric properties of LIWC-22. *Austin, TX: University of Texas at Austin*, 1–47. <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ryan-Boyd-8/publication/358725479_The_Development_and_Psychometric_Properties_of_LIWC-22/links/6210f62c4be28e145ca1e60b/The-Development-and-Psychometric-Properties-of-LIWC-22.pdf>

*Retraction Watch Database*. (2023). <http://retractiondatabase.org/RetractionSearch.aspx?>

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