

# Homework 1: Exploratory Data Analysis on the El Salvavordan Conflict

Rebecca C. Steorts, STA 490/690

**General instructions for homeworks:** Please follow the uploading file instructions according to the syllabus. Your code must be completely reproducible and must compile.

**Advice:** Start early on the homeworks and it is advised that you not wait until the day of as these homeworks are meant to be longer and treated as case studies.

**Commenting code** Code should be commented. See the Google style guide for questions regarding commenting or how to write code <https://google.github.io/styleguide/Rguide.xml>. No late homework's will be accepted.

**Total points on assignment: 5 (reproducibility) + 10 points for the assignment.**

## El Salvador Civil War

Recall that between 1980 and 1991, the Republic of El Salvador witnessed a civil war between the central government, the left-wing guerrilla Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), and right-wing paramilitary death squads. After the peace agreement in 1992, the United Nations created a Commission on the Truth (UNTC) for El Salvador, which invited members of Salvadoran society to report war-related human rights violations, which mainly focused on killings and disappearances. In order to collect such information the UNTC invited individuals through newspapers, radio, and television advertisements to come forward and testify. The UNTC opened offices through El Salvador where witnesses could provide their testimonials, and this resulted in a list of potential victims with names, date of death, and reported location.

In this assignment, you will explore the UNTC data set to get a better understanding of how to work with real data versus toy data. Let's read in the data.

```
library(knitr)
library(RecordLinkage)
```

```
# read in data
df <- read.csv("../sv-mauricio/sv-mauricio.csv")
head(df)
```

##	X	ID	lastname	firstname	day	month	year	geocode	HandID	dept	muni	
## 1	26	32	ASENSIO	ERNADES	ALBERTO	NA	2	1981	150000	NA	15	NA
## 2	84	95	PALASIOS	AYALA	OBIDIO	NA	10	1985	150000	NA	15	NA
## 3	100	117		PALMA	SEBASTIAN	13	5	1980	40000	NA	4	NA
## 4	143	173		PERES	ARCADIO	NA	8	1984	40000	NA	4	NA
## 5	170	205	MAYA	QUESADA	ANTONIO	22	9	1984	0	NA	0	NA
## 6	189	227		MEJIA	ALFONSO	13	5	1980	40000	NA	4	NA

```
dim(df)
```

```
## [1] 5395 11
```

## Task 0: Exploratory Data Analysis and Collecting Background Information

Perform an **exploratory data analysis** to help you understand this case study.

Write this up in a **short report** (maximum four pages), summarizing only the most interesting and important findings. Use tables, visualizations, and make sure that you code is **well documented** and **reproducible** so that anyone in the class could benefit from your analysis!

Some questions that you might want to ponder are the following:

- Do you need to do some background reading on El Salvador to understand the context of what your studying here? It might help to look up the municipalities and departments (and how these are defined in El Salvador). How many are there? You might benefit from looking at a map of El Salvador as well. Can you map the municipalities to a map of El Salvador.
- What do the attributes (features) stand for?
- Do you have missing data? How much missing data do you have?
- Do you have unique identifiers?

Comment on how this assessment will help you be a better data scientist when working with this case study in the future. (Just a few sentences will suffice).

## Task 1: Exact Matching

Apply exact matching, off-by-one matching, off-by-k matching to this data set and report the pairwise precision and recall. What do you find?

## Task 2: String distances

What types of string distance metrics are appropriate and which are not appropriate?

## Task 3: Decision rules

How would you build a decision rule for matches/non-matches based upon scoring rules. What would your scoring rule be? Write this up.

## Task 4: Implementation/evaluation

Implement your proposal for scoring based rules and test this out providing the pairwise precision and recall.

## Task 5: Insights and reflections

Give insights into how you might be able to improve deterministic approaches moving forward if you re-did your analysis.