# CDM CW2 G2

December 14, 2022

This project addresses the problem below:

Help the CEO of iInsureU123 to anonymise the data and calculate the k-anonymity of the dataset, so that she can share it with the researchers at Imperial and collaborators in the government in a secure and appropriate manner.

The CEO of an insurance company, iInsureU123, wants to understand if she can increase the policy fee for customers with a particular gene variant - the gene DRD4, which is known as the Wanderlust gene. Her hypothesis is that customers with this gene variant travel more and consequently are at greater risk. She has asked some of her former colleagues at Imperial College to help her with this research project.

The government wants to understand if people with this Wanderlust gene have anything in common from an educational or geographical perspective. The data will be made available online for anyone in the public domain to access it. She is not helping the government with their analysis. She is just sharing the data as part of her collaboration contract.

#### This notebook has five sections:

- 1. Preparations
- 2. Dataset for researchers at Imperial
- 3. Dataset for government collaborators
- 4. k-anonymity
- 5. Export data

# 1 Preparations

## 1.1 Load packages

First, we import the required packages for anonymisation.

```
[1]: import pandas as pd
  import numpy as np
  import random
  import pycountry_convert as pc
  import json
  import secrets
```

## 1.2 Load data

Then, import data in its raw format from the csv file as a pandas DataFrame.

```
[2]: # define path
     PATH = '../Data/customer_information.csv'
     # read csv as dataframe
     df = pd.read_csv(PATH)
     # explore data
     print(df.shape)
     df.head()
    (1000, 18)
[2]:
       given_name
                     surname gender
                                      birthdate
                                                          country_of_birth \
     0
         Lorraine
                        Reed
                                  F
                                     1984-07-05
                                                                    Armenia
     1
           Edward
                   Williams
                                                 Northern Mariana Islands
                                  M 1997-06-17
     2
           Hannah
                      Turner
                                  F
                                     1990-06-15
                                                                  Venezuela
        Christine
                                  F
                                     2000-07-29
     3
                     Osborne
                                                                    Eritrea
     4 Francesca
                       Yates
                                  F
                                     1968-11-04
                                                                    Ecuador
       current_country
                            phone_number postcode national_insurance_number
     O United Kingdom
                          (07700) 900876
                                          LS5 8FN
                                                                ZZ 19 48 92 T
     1 United Kingdom
                         (07700) 900 877
                                          MOU 1RA
                                                                  ZZ 753513 T
     2 United Kingdom
                          +447700 900148
                                          SO1 8HZ
                                                                  ZZ 947196 T
     3 United Kingdom
                          +447700 900112 B18 8LW
                                                                ZZ 39 69 47 T
     4 United Kingdom
                                                                ZZ 30 98 91 T
                           07700 900 413
                                          TQ2 6BE
                                         weight
                                                 height blood_group
        bank_account_number
                              cc_status
     0
                                            74.2
                                                    1.73
                    51157818
     1
                   103328715
                                       0
                                            69.4
                                                    1.74
                                                                   0-
     2
                    69342327
                                       0
                                            98.6
                                                    1.88
                                                                   B+
     3
                    85159170
                                       0
                                            62.0
                                                    1.56
                                                                   0+
     4
                    11399166
                                       0
                                            96.3
                                                    1.81
                                                                   A-
                                avg_n_cigret_per_week education_level
        avg_n_drinks_per_week
     0
                           6.5
                                                 218.8
                                                                    phD
     1
                           0.7
                                                  43.6
                                                                primary
     2
                           7.8
                                                  59.1
                                                               bachelor
     3
                           4.6
                                                 284.2
                                                                primary
     4
                           4.4
                                                 348.8
                                                              secondary
        n_countries_visited
     0
                          48
                          42
     1
                           9
```

```
3 32
4 34
```

## 1.3 Sample IDs

A list of unique random numbers is generated as **sid** that distinctively identify each subject in the dataset.

```
[3]: # set seed
random.seed(23579)

# list of 1000 random 7-digit integers
sid = random.sample(range(1000000, 10000000), 1000)

# attach sample IDs to dataset
df.insert(0, 'sid', sid)

df.head()
```

```
[3]:
                                                                    country_of_birth
            sid given_name
                              surname gender
                                                birthdate
        7753338
                  Lorraine
                                 Reed
                                              1984-07-05
                                                                             Armenia
                             Williams
        3293855
                                           M 1997-06-17
                                                           Northern Mariana Islands
                    Edward
     2
        3988568
                    Hannah
                               Turner
                                              1990-06-15
                                                                           Venezuela
     3
        3406793
                 Christine
                              Osborne
                                           F
                                              2000-07-29
                                                                             Eritrea
     4 2729863 Francesca
                                Yates
                                           F
                                              1968-11-04
                                                                             Ecuador
                            phone_number postcode national_insurance_number
       current_country
     O United Kingdom
                          (07700) 900876
                                         LS5 8FN
                                                               ZZ 19 48 92 T
     1 United Kingdom
                       (07700) 900 877
                                          MOU 1RA
                                                                 ZZ 753513 T
     2 United Kingdom
                                          SO1 8HZ
                          +447700 900148
                                                                 ZZ 947196 T
     3 United Kingdom
                          +447700 900112
                                          B18 8LW
                                                               ZZ 39 69 47 T
     4 United Kingdom
                           07700 900 413
                                          TQ2 6BE
                                                               ZZ 30 98 91 T
        bank_account_number
                              cc_status
                                         weight
                                                 height blood_group
     0
                                            74.2
                                                    1.73
                   51157818
                                      0
                                                                   В+
                                      0
                                            69.4
                                                    1.74
                                                                   0-
     1
                  103328715
     2
                                           98.6
                   69342327
                                      0
                                                    1.88
                                                                   B+
     3
                   85159170
                                      0
                                            62.0
                                                    1.56
                                                                   0+
     4
                   11399166
                                      0
                                           96.3
                                                    1.81
                                                                   A-
                                avg_n_cigret_per_week education_level
        avg_n_drinks_per_week
     0
                           6.5
                                                 218.8
                                                                    phD
     1
                           0.7
                                                  43.6
                                                               primary
     2
                           7.8
                                                  59.1
                                                              bachelor
     3
                           4.6
                                                 284.2
                                                               primary
     4
                           4.4
                                                 348.8
                                                             secondary
```

	n_countries_visited
0	48
1	42
2	9
3	32
4	34

## 1.4 Direct identifiers

A dataset with sid and direct identifiers that explicitly identify a person is created.

```
[4]: df_di = df[['sid', 'given_name', 'surname', 'phone_number',

o'national_insurance_number', 'bank_account_number']]
```

## 2 Dataset for researchers at Imperial

0

96.3

We create a dataframe without direct identifiers and carry out anonymisation based on the column order.

```
[5]: df_res = df.drop(columns = ['given_name', 'surname', 'phone_number', ']
     df res.head()
[5]:
           sid gender
                      birthdate
                                        country_of_birth current_country
       7753338
                    1984-07-05
                                                 Armenia United Kingdom
       3293855
                   M 1997-06-17
                                 Northern Mariana Islands United Kingdom
    1
    2 3988568
                   F
                    1990-06-15
                                               Venezuela United Kingdom
    3 3406793
                   F
                      2000-07-29
                                                 Eritrea United Kingdom
    4 2729863
                   F
                      1968-11-04
                                                 Ecuador United Kingdom
      postcode
              cc_status
                         weight
                                 height blood_group
                                                   avg_n_drinks_per_week
                           74.2
      LS5 8FN
                       0
                                   1.73
                                                                    6.5
      MOU 1RA
                       0
                           69.4
                                   1.74
                                                0-
                                                                    0.7
    1
                           98.6
    2 SO1 8HZ
                       0
                                   1.88
                                                B+
                                                                    7.8
    3 B18 8LW
                       0
                           62.0
                                   1.56
                                                0+
                                                                    4.6
```

	avg_n_cigret_per_week	education_level	${\tt n\_countries\_visited}$
0	218.8	phD	48
1	43.6	primary	42
2	59.1	bachelor	9
3	284.2	primary	32
4	348.8	secondary	34

1.81

A-

## 2.1 Dictionary

TQ2 6BE

We generate a dictionary which includes the instructions on how to access the dataset and the coding information to decode the attributes.

4.4

#### 2.2 Gender

We convert **gender** into **binary codes** so that researchers can distinguish between genders for analysis but attackers of this dataset would not know whether they are male or female unless they obtain the code information as well.

```
[7]: df_res['gender'] = np.where(df_res['gender'] == 'M', 1, 0)

# store code info in dictionary
imp_info['gender'] = {'male': 1, 'female': 0}
```

#### 2.3 Birthdate

birthdate is converted to age in years at 2022. We divide it into 4 bands using the quantile-based discretization qcut() function.

```
[8]: # retrieve year of birth as int
birthyear = pd.to_datetime(df_res['birthdate']).dt.year

# subtract to get age and divide by quartiles
age = pd.qcut(2022 - birthyear, 4, labels = ['18-32', '33-43', '44-55', '55+'])

# insert to df
df_res.insert(2, 'age', age)

# remove original column
df_res = df_res.drop(columns = ['birthdate'])
```

## 2.4 Country of birth

As country\_of\_birth is a quasi-identifier with many unique values, it has to be converted to continent (more general grouping) to meet k-anonymity. Nonetheless, continent information is not meaningful for this study, so we remove the column.

```
[9]: # descriptive statistics
df_res['country_of_birth'].describe()
```

```
[9]: count 1000 unique 237
```

```
freq 12
Name: country_of_birth, dtype: object

[10]: df_res = df_res.drop(columns = 'country_of_birth')
```

## 2.5 Current country

Korea

Since all subjects are currently living in the UK, we **remove** the entire column.

```
[11]: df_res = df_res.drop(columns = 'current_country')
```

## 2.6 Postcode

top

postcode is removed as it is a quasi-identifier that is not required for this analysis.

```
[12]: df_res = df_res.drop(columns = 'postcode')
```

#### 2.7 cc status

Since cc\_status is the exposure of our study, we keep it in its current format.

## 2.8 Weight and height

weight and height are standardised as **Z-score** values. The actual means and standard deviations are stored separately in the dictionary for added layer of security.

```
[13]: # define standardisation function
def std(x):
    mean = x.mean()
    sd = x.std()
    Z = (x-mean)/sd
    out = [Z, {'mean': mean, 'sd': sd}]
    return out
```

```
[14]: # apply to weight and height
w = std(df_res['weight'])
h = std(df_res['height'])

# add z-score columns to df
df_res.insert(4, 'weight_std', w[0])
df_res.insert(5, 'height_std', h[0])

# store mean-sd info in dictionary
imp_info['weight'] = w[1]
imp_info['height'] = h[1]

# remove original columns
df_res = df_res.drop(columns = ['weight', 'height'])
```

## 2.9 Blood group

We **pseudonymise** blood\_group using alphabet letters so that researchers can distinguish between blood types using coding information provided but attackers of this dataset would not know the exact blood types without obtaining the coding file.

## 2.10 Average number of drinks and cigarets per week

Similar to Section 2.8, we standardise avg\_n\_drinks\_per\_week and avg\_n\_cigret\_per\_week then store the actual means and standard deviations in the dictionary.

#### 2.11 Education level

Education level is first banded to 3 categories and then, like in *Section 2.9*, **pseudonymised** using alphabet letters so that researchers can distinguish between educational levels but attackers with only the alphabet codes could not re-identify our subjects.

```
'bachelor':

college',

'masters':

phD':

college'})

# distinct letter for each group

el_code = {'college': 'a', 'school': 'b', 'other': 'c'}

# replace with codes

df_res['education_level'] = df_res['education_level'].replace(el_code)

# store code info in dictionary

imp_info['education_level'] = el_code
```

## 2.12 Number of countries visited

Similar to Section 2.8, we standardise n\_countries\_visited and store the actual mean and standard deviation in the dictionary.

```
[18]: # apply standardisation function
ncv = std(df_res['n_countries_visited'])

# add z-score columns to df
df_res.insert(9, 'n_countries_visited_std', ncv[0])

# store mean-sd info in dictionary
imp_info['n_countries_visited'] = ncv[1]

# remove original columns
df_res = df_res.drop(columns = ['n_countries_visited'])
```

## 2.13 Dataframe for researchers

```
[19]: df_res
[19]:
              sid gender
                             age cc_status weight_std height_std blood_group
          7753338
                        0 33-43
                                               0.370074
                                                           0.188026
     0
                                          0
     1
          3293855
                        1 18-32
                                          0
                                               0.118030
                                                          0.245055
                                                                             h
     2
                        0 18-32
          3988568
                                          0
                                               1.651298
                                                          1.043466
     3
                        0 18-32
          3406793
                                          0
                                              -0.270538
                                                         -0.781473
     4
          2729863
                        0 44-55
                                          0
                                               1.530527
                                                          0.644261
     995 7106972
                             55+
                                          0
                                              1.341494
                                                          1.613760
                                                                             е
     996 8081229
                        1 18-32
                                          0 -0.580342
                                                          0.872378
                                                                             а
                             55+
                                              1.457014
     997
         1922060
                        0
                                          0
                                                          1.727818
                                                                             С
                                               0.443587
     998 5206922
                        0
                             55+
                                                          -1.123649
```

```
999
     2088937
                    1
                          55+
                                        0
                                              1.493771
                                                          -0.268209
     avg_n_drinks_per_week_std
                                   avg_n_cigret_per_week_std \
0
                        0.602188
                                                    -0.170974
1
                       -1.411819
                                                    -1.367653
2
                        1.053604
                                                    -1.261783
3
                       -0.057573
                                                     0.275732
4
                       -0.127021
                                                     0.716974
. .
                       -1.029852
                                                     0.126830
995
996
                        1.018879
                                                     0.630911
997
                       -1.342371
                                                    -1.285006
998
                       -0.022849
                                                     1.275014
999
                       -1.411819
                                                    -1.429126
     n_countries_visited_std education_level
0
                      1.608008
                      1.167840
1
                                               b
2
                    -1.253086
                                               a
3
                      0.434226
                                               b
                      0.580949
4
                                               b
995
                    -0.372749
                                               b
996
                      0.654310
                                               С
997
                      0.654310
                                               b
998
                      0.654310
                                               a
999
                      1.534647
                                               a
```

g

[1000 rows x 11 columns]

# 3 Dataset for government collaborators

To suit the government's needs of finding common educational and geographical features and publicising the data, only sid, country\_of\_birth, postcode, cc\_status and education\_level are kept. We extract these columns to a new dataframe for anonymisation using .copy() to prevent overwriting the origingal dataset.

```
[20]: df_gov = df[['sid', 'country_of_birth', 'postcode', 'cc_status', \( \to 'education_level']].copy() \( df_gov_head()
```

```
[20]:
             sid
                           country_of_birth postcode
                                                       cc_status education_level
        7753338
                                    Armenia LS5 8FN
                                                               0
                                                                              phD
                                                               0
      1
         3293855
                  Northern Mariana Islands
                                             MOU 1RA
                                                                          primary
      2
                                  Venezuela
                                                               0
         3988568
                                             SO1 8HZ
                                                                         bachelor
      3 3406793
                                             B18 8LW
                                                               0
                                    Eritrea
                                                                          primary
      4 2729863
                                    Ecuador
                                             TQ2 6BE
                                                               0
                                                                        secondary
```

## 3.1 Country of birth

As mentioned in Section 2.3, country\_of\_birth is converted to continent\_of\_birth as a more general classification to prevent re-identification.

```
[21]: # descriptive statistics
      df gov['country of birth'].describe()
[21]: count
                 1000
                  237
     unique
      top
                Korea
                   12
     freq
     Name: country_of_birth, dtype: object
[22]: # count for each country
      country_n = df_gov.groupby(['country_of_birth']).size().reset_index(name =_
       print(country_n)
           country_of_birth count
     0
                Afghanistan
     1
                    Albania
                                 3
     2
                    Algeria
                                 6
     3
             American Samoa
                                 4
     4
                    Andorra
                                 3
     232
         Wallis and Futuna
                                 4
             Western Sahara
     233
                                 6
                      Yemen
     234
                                 4
     235
                     Zambia
                                 2
                   Zimbabwe
     236
                                 5
     [237 rows x 2 columns]
[23]: # define conversion function
      def country_to_continent(country_name):
          if country_name in ['Korea', 'Palestinian Territory', 'Timor-Leste']:
              return 'Asia'
          elif country_name in ['Saint Barthelemy','United States Minor Outlying∟

¬Islands']:
              return 'North America'
          elif country_name in ['Saint Helena', 'Reunion', 'Western Sahara', 'Libyan_
       →Arab Jamahiriya', "Cote d'Ivoire"]:
              return 'Africa'
          elif country_name in ['Antarctica (the territory South of 60 deg S)']:
              return 'Antarctica'
          elif country_name == 'Pitcairn Islands':
              return 'Oceania'
```

```
elif country name in ['Slovakia (Slovak Republic)', 'Holy See (Vatican City,
 ⇔State)', 'British Indian Ocean Territory (Chagos Archipelago)', 'Bouvet⊔
 →Island (Bouvetoya)', 'Svalbard & Jan Mayen Islands']:
        return 'Europe'
   elif country_name == 'Netherlands Antilles':
       return 'South America'
   else:
        country_alpha2 = pc.country_name_to_country_alpha2(country_name)
        country_continent_code = pc.
 ⇔country_alpha2_to_continent_code(country_alpha2)
        country_continent_name = pc.
 Gonvert_continent_code_to_continent_name(country_continent_code)
        return country_continent_name
# apply to our data as new column
df_gov.insert(1, 'continent_of_birth', df_gov['country_of_birth'].
 →apply(country_to_continent))
# remove original column
df gov = df gov.drop(columns = 'country of birth')
# count for each continent
continent_n = df_gov.groupby(['continent_of_birth']).size().reset_index(name = __
print(continent_n)
```

```
continent of birth count
0
              Africa
                         225
          Antarctica
                           7
1
2
                Asia
                         204
3
                         234
              Europe
4
       North America
                         146
5
             Oceania
                         117
6
       South America
                         67
```

#### 3.2 Postcode

postcode is divided into bands based on **outbound characters**. We then convert it to UK\_region using a dictionary and combined the overseas territories after checking the counts in each category.

```
[24]: # define function for finding index of first numerical digit
def find_first_digit(s):
    for i, c in enumerate(s):
        if c.isdigit():
            return i
            break
```

```
# keep characters before first digit
      df_gov['postcode'] = df_gov['postcode'].apply(lambda x: x[:find_first_digit(x)])
      # count for each area
      area_n = df_gov.groupby(['postcode']).size().reset_index(name = 'count')
      print(area_n)
         postcode count
     0
               AB
                       4
               ΑL
                       6
     1
     2
                В
                      50
     3
               BA
                       4
     4
               BB
               WR
                       6
     119
     120
               WS
                       6
               WV
                       3
     121
                       5
     122
               YΟ
     123
               ZE
                       9
     [124 rows x 2 columns]
[25]: # dictionary for conversion
      postcode_country = pd.read_csv('postcode_country.csv')
      area_to_country = dict(zip(postcode_country['Postcode area'],__
       →postcode_country['Country']))
      # convert to UK country and add new column
      df_gov.insert(2, 'UK_region', df_gov['postcode'].replace(area_to_country))
      # remove original column
      df_gov = df_gov.drop(columns = 'postcode')
      # count for each UK country
      ukcountry_n = df_gov.groupby(['UK_region']).size().reset_index(name = 'count')
      print(ukcountry_n)
               UK_region count
     0
         Channel Islands
                             11
     1
                 England
                            833
             Isle of Man
     2
                              1
     3 Northern Ireland
                              6
     4
                Scotland
                            125
                             24
     5
                   Wales
[26]: # combine overseas islands
      df_gov['UK_country'] = df_gov['UK_region'].replace({'Channel Islands':__
```

```
'Isle of Man': 'Overseas

territories'})
# count for each category
ukcountry_n = df_gov.groupby(['UK_region']).size().reset_index(name = 'count')
print(ukcountry_n)
```

```
UK_region
                     count
    Channel Islands
0
                         11
1
            England
                        833
2
        Isle of Man
                          1
3
  Northern Ireland
                          6
4
           Scotland
                        125
5
              Wales
                         24
```

#### 3.3 cc status

Same as Section 2.6, cc\_status is the exposure of the study and so is kept unchanged.

## 3.4 Education level

To reduce the risk of re-identification of subjects with unique values, some education\_level groups are combined to give a broader classification.

```
[27]: # count for each level
el_n = df_gov.groupby(['education_level']).size().reset_index(name = 'count')
print(el_n)
```

```
education_level count
0
         bachelor
                      209
          masters
1
                      112
2
            other
                      108
3
              phD
                       52
4
          primary
                       61
5
        secondary
                      458
```

## 3.5 Dataframe for government collaborators

```
[29]: df_gov
[29]:
                sid continent_of_birth UK_region
                                                     cc status education level
      0
            7753338
                                    Asia
                                           England
                                                              0
                                                                   postgraduate
      1
                                Oceania
                                           England
                                                              0
            3293855
                                                                          school
      2
            3988568
                          South America
                                           England
                                                              0
                                                                  undergraduate
      3
                                  Africa
                                           England
                                                                          school
            3406793
                                                              0
                          South America
                                           England
      4
            2729863
                                                              0
                                                                          school
      995
           7106972
                                                              0
                                    Asia
                                              Wales
                                                                          school
      996
           8081229
                                  Europe
                                           England
                                                              0
                                                                           other
      997
            1922060
                                  Africa
                                          Scotland
                                                              0
                                                                          school
      998
           5206922
                                  Europe
                                           England
                                                              0
                                                                  undergraduate
      999
           2088937
                          North America
                                           England
                                                                   postgraduate
          UK_country
      0
              England
      1
              England
      2
              England
      3
              England
      4
              England
                  •••
      . .
      995
                Wales
      996
              England
      997
             Scotland
      998
              England
      999
              England
      [1000 rows x 6 columns]
```

# 3.6 Instruction for using the government collaborator's dataset

## 4 k-anonymity

To be a k-anonymised dataset, every combination of quasi-identifier values must occur at least k times. In particular, **k** should be at least 2 to ensure individuals cannot be uniquely identified using information of multiple quasi-identifiers.

k\_res: 9 k\_res\_noel: 108 k\_gov: 1

The df\_res dataset is 9-anonymous with gender, age, education level as quasi-identifiers, or 108-anonymous if coding information for education level is not obtained. k of the df\_gov dataset is 1, which could be addressed by further generalisation of quasi-identifiers, but this would lead to further loss of information. Thus, in this case, records with unique combinations of quasi-identifier values are removed.

```
[32]: # combinations that occur only once
gov_1 = gov.loc[gov['count'] == 1]
len(gov_1)
```

[32]: 27

k\_gov: 2

After removing the 27 records, the dataset is 2-anonymous.

```
[34]: df_gov
```

[34]: sid continent\_of\_birth UK\_region cc\_status education\_level \
0 7753338 Asia England 0 postgraduate

```
1
     3293855
                         Oceania
                                    England
                                                      0
                                                                  school
2
                                                          undergraduate
     3988568
                   South America
                                    England
                                                      0
3
     3406793
                          Africa
                                    England
                                                                  school
4
     2729863
                   South America
                                    England
                                                                  school
    7106972
995
                            Asia
                                      Wales
                                                      0
                                                                  school
    8081229
                                    England
996
                          Europe
                                                      0
                                                                   other
                                   Scotland
997
    1922060
                          Africa
                                                      0
                                                                  school
                                                      0
998 5206922
                          Europe
                                    England
                                                          undergraduate
999
    2088937
                   North America
                                    England
                                                           postgraduate
    UK_country
0
       England
1
       England
2
       England
3
       England
4
       England
995
         Wales
996
       England
      Scotland
997
998
       England
999
       England
[973 rows x 6 columns]
```

# 5 Export data

The finalised datasets are saved as .csv along with the dictionary as .json. To add an extra layer of security, random passwords are generated and set.

```
[36]: # set 11-character passwords
password_r = secrets.token_urlsafe(11)
password_g = secrets.token_urlsafe(11)
```