

Forum: Fairness

When optimizing for Equal Accuracy in Google's What-If tool for fairness metrics, we get the results shown below. Take a closer look at the distribution of *inaccurate* predictions for males vs females - What do you notice?

Equal accuracy thresholds for 2 values of Sex ⓘ

Sort by
Count

Feature Value	Count	Threshold ⓘ	False Positives (%)	False Negatives (%)	Accuracy (%)	F1
▶ Male	696	<div><div></div><div></div></div> 0.4	3.9	19.5	76.6	0.45
▶ Female	304	<div><div></div><div></div></div> 0.21	21.7	2.6	75.7	0.45

Confusion Matrix for Males

Confusion Matrix ⓘ

	Predicted Yes	Predicted No	Total
Actual Yes	8.0% (56)	21.0% (146)	29.0% (202)
Actual No	1.1% (8)	69.8% (486)	71.0% (494)
Total	9.2% (64)	90.8% (632)	

Confusion Matrix for Females

Confusion Matrix ⓘ

	Predicted Yes	Predicted No	Total
Actual Yes	10.2% (31)	2.3% (7)	12.5% (38)
Actual No	20.4% (62)	67.1% (204)	87.5% (266)
Total	30.6% (93)	69.4% (211)	

Now let's suppose we are approving loans on the basis of positive predictions. How might optimizing the model for Equal Accuracy be problematic? Do you think it would be better to avoid false positives more than false negatives or vice versa? Why? In which situations do you think one would be more costly than the other?