Laboratory of Data Science

Tackling COVID-19 Data Imbalance and Health Disparity using Deep Transfer Learning

- Shruti Mandaokar

Research Questions we can think about -

1. Fairness-aware Temporal Analysis of COVID-19 Mortality Trends:

- How do COVID-19 mortality trends evolve over time while considering fairness and equity across different racial and ethnic groups, age ranges, and regions?
- Are there temporal patterns in mortality rates that disproportionately affect certain demographic groups, and how can fairness-aware algorithms mitigate bias in trend analysis?

2. Addressing Ethnic and Racial Disparities in COVID-19 Mortality with Data Imbalance:

- Given the presence of potential data imbalance, how can we develop fairness-aware machine learning models to accurately estimate and mitigate ethnic and racial disparities in COVID-19 mortality rates?
- Can novel algorithmic approaches handle data imbalance while ensuring equitable representation and treatment of underrepresented groups?

3. Fairness-aware Modeling of Age-specific Risk Factors for COVID-19 Mortality:

- Investigate age-specific risk factors for COVID-19 mortality while addressing fairness and bias considerations.
- How do underlying health conditions and demographic factors contribute to mortality rates across different age groups, and how can fairness-aware modeling techniques mitigate biases in assessing age-specific risks?

Link: https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/provisional-weekly-deaths-by-region-race-age-997d6

(194040 rows × 14 columns)

- Start Date: Start date of the time period covered by the data. (Dropped)
- End Date: End date of the time period covered by the data. (Dropped)
- Group: Data grouping, including by month, by week, by total, or by year.
 - Classes: By Month, By Week, By Total, By Year
- Year: Year of the data, ranging from 2019 to 2023 and including combined periods like 2019/2020 and 2020-2023.
 - Classes: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2020-2023, 2021/2022
- Month: Month of the data, ranging from January to December.
 - Classes: (Blanks), 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
- MMWR Week: Week according to the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) system.
 - Classes: (Blanks), 1, 2, 3, ..., 53
- Week-Ending Date: Date when the week ended.
- HHS Region: Geographic region as defined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
 - Classes: Region 0: United States, Region 1: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont; Region 2: New Jersey, New York, New York City, Puerto Rico; Region 3: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia; Region 4: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee; Region 5: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin; Region 6: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas; Region 7: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska; Region 8: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming; Region 9: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada; Region 10: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.
- Race and Hispanic Origin Group: Ethnicity and race categories.
 - Classes: Hispanic, non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native, non-Hispanic Asian, non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic more than one race, non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic White, and unknown.
- Age Group: Age categories ranging from 0-4 years to 85 years and over.
 - Classes: (0-4 years), (5-17 years), (18-29 years), (30-39 years), (40-49 years), (50-64 years), (65-74 years), (75-84 years), (85 years and over)
- <u>COVID-19 Deaths:</u> Number of deaths involving COVID-19 reported for the specified demographic group and time period.
- <u>Total Deaths:</u> Total number of deaths reported for the specified demographic group and time period.
- Footnote: Indicates if data cells have counts suppressed due to NCHS confidentiality standards.

Categorical Columns:

Numerical Columns:

Data As Of

Start Date Month

End Date MMWR Week

Group COVID-19 Deaths

Year Total Deaths

Month

MMWR Week

Week-Ending Date

HHS Region

Race and Hispanic Origin Group

Age Group

Footnote



df.info()

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 194040 entries, 0 to 194039
Data columns (total 14 columns):

COTUMNS (COLAT 14 COTUMNS):	523	
Column	Non-Null Count	Dtype
Data As Of	194040 non-null	object
Start Date	194040 non-null	object
End Date	194040 non-null	object
Group	194040 non-null	object
Year	194040 non-null	object
Month	35640 non-null	float64
MMWR Week	154440 non-null	float64
Week-Ending Date	154440 non-null	object
HHS Region	194040 non-null	object
Race and Hispanic Origin Group	194040 non-null	object
Age Group	194040 non-null	object
COVID-19 Deaths	152813 non-null	float64
Total Deaths	129598 non-null	float64
Footnote	95590 non-null	object
es: float64(4), object(10)		
	Column Data As Of Start Date End Date Group Year Month MMUR Week Week-Ending Date HHS Region Race and Hispanic Origin Group Age Group COVID-19 Deaths Total Deaths Footnote	Column Non-Null Count Data AS Of 194040 non-null Start Date 194040 non-null End Date 194040 non-null Group 194040 non-null Month 35640 non-null MMMR Week 154440 non-null Week-Ending Date 154440 non-null HMS Region 154440 non-null Race and Hispanic Origin Group 194040 non-null Age Group 194040 non-null Age Group 194040 non-null COVID-19 Deaths 152813 non-null Footnote 95590 non-null

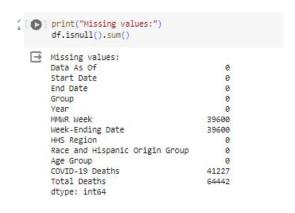
[136] df.dtypes

memory usage: 20.7+ MB

Data As Of	object
Start Date	object
End Date	object
Group	object
Year	object
Month	float64
MMWR Week	float64
Week-Ending Date	object
HHS Region	object
Race and Hispanic Origin Group	object
Age Group	object
COVID-19 Deaths	float64
Total Deaths	float64
Footnote	object
dtype: object	

Handling Unnecessary Columns and Missing Data

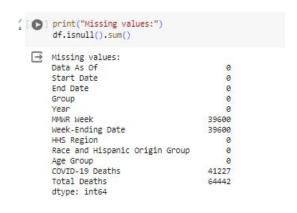
- Removed Footnote, Month
- Make HHS column uniform
- Filled Rows with NaN to 0
- Used Forward and Backward Filling for Time Series/ Date Time Data





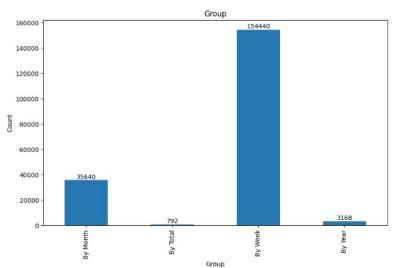
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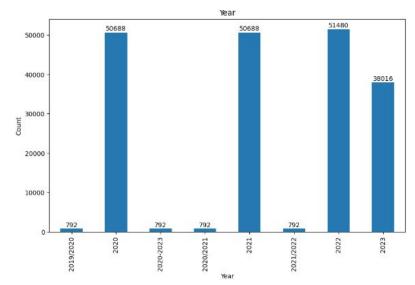




EDA and Plots

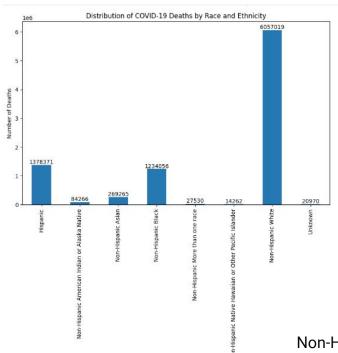


Counts for Group: Group By Month 35640 By Total 792 By Week 154440 By Year 3168 Name: count, dtype: int64



Counts for Year: Year 2019/2020 792 2020 50688 2020-2023 792 2020/2021 792 2021 50688 2021/2022 792 2022 51480 2023 Name: count, dtype: int64

What is the distribution of COVID-19 deaths across different demographic groups?



Race and Ethnicity

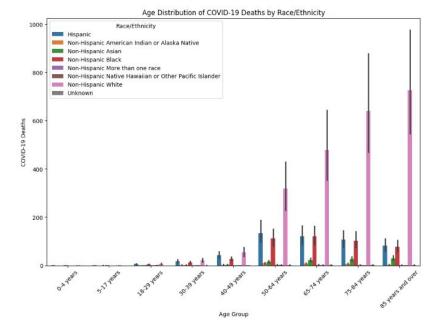
Race and Ethnicity

Counts of COVID-19 Deaths by Race and Ethnicity:	
Race and Hispanic Origin Group	
Hispanic	1378371
Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native	84266
Non-Hispanic Asian	269265
Non-Hispanic Black	1234056
Non-Hispanic More than one race	27530
Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	14262
Non-Hispanic White	6057019
Unknown	20970

Non-Hispanic White individuals have the highest count of COVID-19 deaths, followed by Non-Hispanic Black individuals.

Name: COVID-19 Deaths, dtype: int64

Non-Hispanic White individuals generally have the highest counts of COVID-19 deaths across all age groups, followed by Non-Hispanic Black individuals. Hispanic individuals also have significant counts of COVID-19 deaths, particularly in older age groups. Non-Hispanic Asian individuals tend to have lower counts of COVID-19 deaths compared to other racial and ethnic groups, but the disparity may vary across age groups



Age Group		Counts of COVID-1	19 Deaths for Non-Hispanic Asian
0-4 years	1189	Age Group	
18-29 years	11356	0-4 years	108
30-39 years	33680	18-29 years	1272
40-49 years	73599	30-39 years	3888
5-17 years	1267	40-49 years	8735
		5-17 years	150
50-64 years	303300	50-64 years	42243
65-74 years	326321	65-74 years	61551
75-84 years	276448	75-84 years	71022
B5 years and ove	r 206896	85 years and over	80296
Name: COVID-19 D	eaths, dtype: int64	Name: COVID-19 De	eaths, dtype: int64

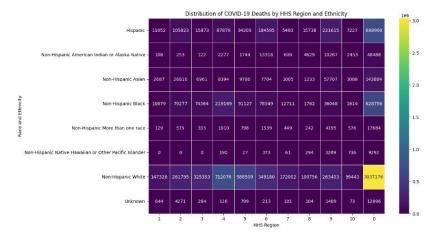
Counts of COVID-19	Deaths for Hispanic:			
Age Group		Counts of COVID-19 Deaths for Non-Hispanic More than one		
0-4 years	1088	Age Group		
Shirt and the same of the same		0-4 years	124	
18-29 years	15496	18-29 years	425	
30-39 years	46928	30-39 years	964	
40-49 years	113697	40-49 years	2042	
		5-17 years	96	
5-17 years	1385	50-64 years	6995	
50-64 years	363369	65-74 years	6642	
65-74 years	325992	75-84 years	6004	
75-84 years	287819	85 years and over	4238	
		Name: COVID-19 Deaths, dtype: int64		
85 years and over	222606			

Counts of COVID-19 Deaths for Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: Age Group 0-4 years 18-29 years 250 893 30-39 years 40-49 years 1685 5-17 years 32 50-64 years 4977 65-74 years 3514 75-84 years 2013 85 years and over 866 Name: COVID-19 Deaths, dtype: int64 Counts of COVID-19 Deaths for Non-Hispanic White: Age Group 0-4 years 1746 18019 18-29 years 30-39 years 56897 147830 40-49 years 5-17 years 1959 50-64 years 65-74 years 1288114 75-84 years 1725343 85 years and over 1958402 Name: COVID-19 Deaths, dtype: int64 Counts of COVID-19 Deaths for Unknown: Age Group 0-4 years 24 18-29 years 72 30-39 years 188 40-49 years 510 5-17 years SO_SA washe AFRE

Name: COVID-19 Deaths, dtype: int64

Counts of COVID-19 Deaths for Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native: Age Group 0-4 years 18-29 years 1203 30-39 years 3794 40-49 years 7211 5-17 years 68 50-64 years 24454 65-74 years 22399 75-84 years 16256 85 years and over 8833 Name: COVID-19 Deaths, dtype: int64

COVID-19 Deaths by HHS Region and Ethnicity



(Classes:

- Region 0 : United States,
- Region 1: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont;
- Region 2: New Jersey, New York, New York City, Puerto Rico;
- Region 3: Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia;
- Region 4: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee;
- Region 5: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin;
- Region 6: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas;
- Region 7: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska;
- Region 8: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming;
- Region 9: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada;
- Region 10: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.)

Regional Disparity

- HHS Region 4 has the highest counts of COVID-19 deaths across most ethnic groups, followed by HHS Region 5 and HHS Region 6.
- HHS Region 10 generally has lower counts of COVID-19 deaths compared to other regions.

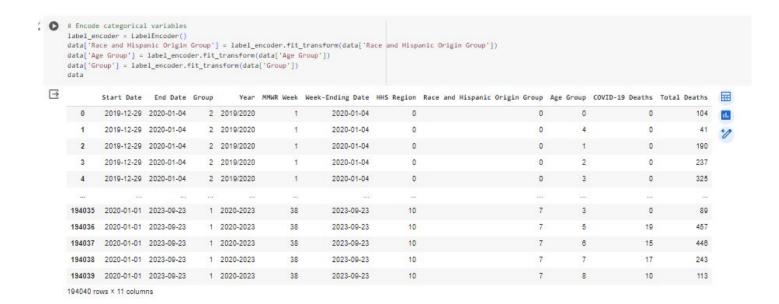
Ethnic Disparities within Regions

- Non-Hispanic Black individuals have relatively high counts of COVID-19 deaths in most regions, particularly in HHS Region 4.
- Hispanic individuals also have significant counts of COVID-19 deaths, with notable numbers in HHS Region 5 and HHS Region 6.
- Non-Hispanic White individuals tend to have higher counts of COVID-19 deaths in regions like HHS Region 4 and HHS Region 5.
- Counts for Non-Hispanic Asian and Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native individuals vary across regions but generally tend to be lower compared to other ethnic groups.

Relative Magnitudes:

Looking at the total counts, it's evident that Non-Hispanic White individuals have the highest overall counts of COVID-19 deaths across all HHS regions, followed by Hispanic individuals and Non-Hispanic Black individuals.

Encoded Categorical Variables



Gradient Boosting Algorithm

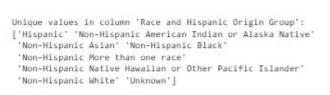
Gradient boosting is an ensemble learning method, meaning it combines multiple weak learners (often decision trees) to create a strong predictive model. By sequentially adding predictors, it corrects errors made by previous models, leading to improved accuracy.

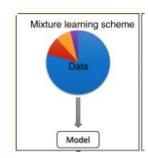
Mixture Learning Scheme (RMSE: 406.071)

```
Mixture Learning Scheme
X_mix = data.drop(columns=['COVID-19 Deaths','Start Date', 'End Date','Year', 'Week-Ending Date', ])
y_mix = data['COVID-19 Deaths']
X_mix_train, X_mix_test, y_mix_train, y_mix_test = train_test_split(X_mix, y_mix, test_size=0.2, random_state=42)

model_mix = GradientBoostingRegressor()  # Choose any model
model_mix.fit(X_mix_train, y_mix_train)
y_mix_pred = model_mix.predict(X_mix_test)
mix_rmse = mean_squared_error(y_mix_test, y_mix_pred, squared=False)
print("Mixture Learning RMSE:", mix_rmse)

Mixture Learning RMSE: 486.0716060623727
```





Gradient Boosting Algorithm

Gradient boosting is an ensemble learning method, meaning it combines multiple weak learners (often decision trees) to create a strong predictive model. By sequentially adding predictors, it corrects errors made by previous models, leading to improved accuracy.

- used for predictive modeling, particularly in scenarios where the relationship between predictors and the target variable is complex.
- It's a type of ensemble learning method that combines the predictions of multiple weak learners, typically decision trees, to create a strong predictive model.
- Loss functions used in regression include mean squared error (MSE) and mean absolute error (MAE).

Objective Function: Minimize loss between predicted and actual values (e.g., MSE or MAE).

Weak Learners: Use decision trees to split data and minimize loss within subsets.

Building Ensemble: Add decision trees sequentially to improve predictions.

Gradient Descent: Calculate gradient of loss w.r.t. predictions to guide model updates.

Fitting Weak Learner: Fit new decision tree to negative gradient to correct errors.

Shrinkage (Learning Rate): Control contribution of each tree to prevent overfitting.

Combining Predictions: Weight predictions of all trees for final prediction.

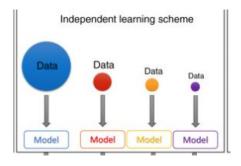
Regularization: Incorporate techniques to prevent overfitting (e.g., limiting tree depth).

Gradient Boosting Algorithm

```
Unique values in column 'Race and Hispanic Origin Group':
['Hispanic' 'Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native'
'Non-Hispanic Asian' 'Non-Hispanic Black'
'Non-Hispanic More than one race'
'Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander'
'Non-Hispanic White' 'Unknown';
```

Gradient boosting is an ensemble learning method, meaning it combines multiple weak learners (often decision trees) to create a strong predictive model. By sequentially adding predictors, it corrects errors made by previous models, leading to improved accuracy.

Independent Learning Scheme



Independent Learning RMSE for 0: 172.74848195897692 Independent Learning RMSE for 1: 15.16618898442474 Independent Learning RMSE for 2: 52.1330147005161 Independent Learning RMSE for 3: 111.7448859260064 Independent Learning RMSE for 4: 3.406019320722873 Independent Learning RMSE for 5: 4.519149986864198 Independent Learning RMSE for 6: 910.4517464802346 Independent Learning RMSE for 7: 5.087558899956792 Ethnic groups 1, 4, and 5 have relatively low RMSE values (15.17, 3.41, and 4.52, respectively), suggesting that the model performs well in predicting COVID-19 deaths for these groups.

Ethnic groups 2 and 3 have moderate RMSE values (52.13 and 111.74, respectively), indicating that the model's predictions for these groups have a higher level of error compared to groups 1, 4, and 5.

Ethnic groups 0, 6, and 7 have high RMSE values (172.75, 910.45, and 5.09, respectively), indicating that the model's predictions for these groups are less accurate compared to the other groups.

Transfer Learning Scheme

Finding Minority and Majority Groups: It identifies the minority and majority ethnic groups in the dataset based on the counts of each group's occurrences.

Training Model on Majority Group's Data: It selects the data corresponding to the majority ethnic group and splits it into features (X_majority) and target (y_majority). Then, it splits the data into training and testing sets and trains a GradientBoostingRegressor model on the majority group's training data.

Transfer Knowledge to Minority Groups: It iterates through each unique ethnic group in the dataset, excluding the majority group. For each minority group, it selects the corresponding data and splits it into features (X_minority) and target (y_minority). It then applies knowledge transfer from the model trained on the majority group's data by predicting COVID-19 deaths for the minority group's testing data.

Finally, it calculates the root mean squared error (RMSE) between the predicted values and the actual values for each minority group and prints the results.

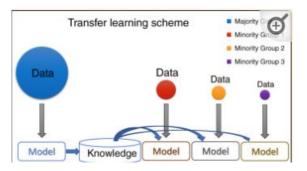
RMSE is a measure of the model's accuracy, where lower values indicate better performance.

- 1. Squared Error Calculation: For each data point, the squared difference between the predicted value (\hat{y}) and the actual value (y) is calculated: $(y \hat{y})^2$.
- 2. **Mean Squared Error (MSE)**: The squared errors are averaged across all data points to compute the Mean Squared Error: $MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i \hat{y}_i)^2$, where n is the number of data points.
- 3. Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): RMSE is the square root of the MSE, providing a measure of the average magnitude of the errors in the same units as the target variable: $RMSE = \sqrt{MSE}$

Transfer Learning Scheme

```
majority group = 'Non-Hispanic White'
majority_data = data[data['Race and Hispanic Origin Group'] == majority_group]
    X majority = majority data.drop(columns=['COVID-19 Deaths'])
   y_majority = majority_data['COVID-19 Deaths']
   X\_majority\_train, \ X\_majority\_test, \ y\_majority\_train, \ y\_majority\_test = train\_test\_split(X\_majority, \ y\_majority, \ test\_size=0.2, \ random\_state=42)
   model_transfer = GradientBoostingRegressor() # Choose any model
   model_transfer.fit(X_majority_train, y_majority_train)
   minority_groups = ethnic_groups[ethnic_groups != majority_group]
    for group in minority groups:
       group_data = data[data['Race and Hispanic Origin Group'] == group]
       X group = group data.drop(columns=['COVID-19 Deaths'])
       y_group = group_data['COVID-19 Deaths']
        # Use the trained model to predict for minority groups
        y_group_pred = model_transfer.predict(X_group)
        group_rmse = mean_squared_error(y_group, y_group_pred, squared=False)
        print(f"Transfer Learning RMSE for {group}:", group_rmse)
   from sklearn.ensemble import GradientBoostingRegressor
    from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
    from sklearn.metrics import mean_squared_error
   import numpy as np
   # Find minority and majority groups
   ethnic group counts = data['Race and Hispanic Origin Group'].value counts()
   minority_group = ethnic_group_counts.idxmin()
   majority_group = ethnic_group_counts.idxmax()
   # Train model on majority group's data
   majority_data = data[data['Race and Hispanic Origin Group'] == majority_group]
   X_majority = majority_data.drop(columns=['COVID-19 Deaths', 'Start Date', 'End Date', 'Year', 'Week-Ending Date'])
   y_majority = majority_data['COVID-19 Deaths']
    X majority train, X majority test, y majority train, y majority test = train test split(X majority, y majority, test size=0.2, random state=42)
   model majority = GradientBoostingRegressor()
   model_majority.fit(X_majority_train, y_majority_train)
   # Transfer knowledge to minority groups
    for group in data['Race and Hispanic Origin Group'].unique():
       if group != majority_group:
            minority_data = data[data['Race and Hispanic Origin Group'] == group]
            X_minority = minority_data.drop(columns=['COVID-19 Deaths', 'Start Date', 'End Date', 'Year', 'Week-Ending Date'])
            y minority = minority data['COVID-19 Deaths']
            X minority train, X minority test, y minority train, y minority test = train test split(X minority, y minority, test size=0.2, random state=42)
            # Use knowledge transfer from majority group
            y_majority_pred = model_majority.predict(X_minority_test)
            minority_rmse = mean_squared_error(y_minority_test, y_majority_pred, squared=False)
            print(f"Transfer Learning RMSE for {group}: {minority_rmse}")
   Transfer Learning RMSE for 1: 29.29607977721638
   Transfer Learning RMSE for 2: 50,48957689804763
   Transfer Learning RMSE for 3: 336.803263594373
   Transfer Learning RMSE for 4: 15.311465997715922
   Transfer Learning RMSE for 5: 6.658942354905979
   Transfer Learning RMSE for 6: 1487,461614537069
   Transfer Learning RMSE for 7: 27.98353624700487
```

Unique values in column 'Race and Hispanic Origin Group':
['Hispanic' 'Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native'
'Non-Hispanic Asian' 'Non-Hispanic Black'
'Non-Hispanic More than one race'
'Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander'
'Non-Hispanic White' 'Unknown']



Scenario 1: Reasonably good performance.

Scenario 2: Moderate performance, slightly higher error.

Scenario 3: Poor performance, significantly higher error.

Scenario 4: Good performance, low error.

Scenario 5: Excellent performance, very low error.

Scenario 6: Extremely poor performance, very high error.

Scenario 7: Reasonably good performance with relatively low error.