exercise_4_tashfeen_ahmed

2024-04-02

```
# Install and load the arrow package
#install.packages("arrow")
#install_genderdata_package()
#install.packages("gender")
#install.packages("devtools")
#devtools::install_github("ropensci/genderdata", type = "source")
#install.packages("path/to/wru_package_directory", repos = NULL, type = "source")
#install.packages("ethnicolr")
#install.packages("wru")
library(gender)
## Warning: package 'gender' was built under R version 4.2.3
library(arrow)
## Warning: package 'arrow' was built under R version 4.2.3
## Attaching package: 'arrow'
## The following object is masked from 'package:utils':
##
##
       timestamp
library(dplyr)
## Warning: package 'dplyr' was built under R version 4.2.3
## 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
```

```
library(tidyr)
## Warning: package 'tidyr' was built under R version 4.2.3
library(wru)
## Warning: package 'wru' was built under R version 4.2.3
##
## Please cite as:
## Khanna K, Bertelsen B, Olivella S, Rosenman E, Rossell Hayes A, Imai K
## (2024). wru: Who are You? Bayesian Prediction of Racial Category Using
## Surname, First Name, Middle Name, and Geolocation_. R package version
## 3.0.1, <a href="https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=wru">.
## Note that wru 2.0.0 uses 2020 census data by default.
## Use the argument 'year = "2010"', to replicate analyses produced with earlier package versions.
library(lubridate)
## Warning: package 'lubridate' was built under R version 4.2.3
##
## Attaching package: 'lubridate'
## The following object is masked from 'package:arrow':
##
##
       duration
## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
##
       date, intersect, setdiff, union
library(igraph)
## Warning: package 'igraph' was built under R version 4.2.3
##
## Attaching package: 'igraph'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:lubridate':
##
       %--%, union
##
## The following object is masked from 'package:tidyr':
##
##
       crossing
```

```
## The following objects are masked from 'package:dplyr':
##
       as_data_frame, groups, union
##
## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
##
##
       decompose, spectrum
## The following object is masked from 'package:base':
##
##
       union
# set option to view all columns
options(dplyr.width = Inf)
# Read Parquet file
parquet_file <- "D:\\Google Drive\\McGill\\Winter Semester\\W2\\Talent-Analytics-Assignments\\Part 2\\E
applications <- read_parquet(parquet_file)</pre>
# Read CSV file
edge_link <- "D:\\Google Drive\\McGill\\Winter Semester\\W2\\Talent-Analytics-Assignments\\Part 2\\Exer
edges <- read.csv(edge_link)</pre>
str(applications)
## tibble [2,018,477 x 16] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
## $ application_number : chr [1:2018477] "08284457" "08413193" "08531853" "08637752" ...
## $ filing_date : Date[1:2018477], format: "2000-01-26" "2000-10-11" ...
## $ examiner_name_last : chr [1:2018477] "HOWARD" "YILDIRIM" "HAMILTON" "MOSHER" ...
## $ examiner name first : chr [1:2018477] "JACQUELINE" "BEKIR" "CYNTHIA" "MARY" ...
## $ examiner_name_middle: chr [1:2018477] "V" "L" NA NA ...
## $ examiner id : num [1:2018477] 96082 87678 63213 73788 77294 ...
## $ examiner_art_unit : num [1:2018477] 1764 1764 1752 1648 1762 ...
## $ uspc_class : chr [1:2018477] "508" "208" "430" "530" ...
## $ uspc_subclass : chr [1:2018477] "273000" "179000" "271100" "388300" ...
## $ patent_number : chr [1:2018477] "6521570" "6440298" "5607816" "6927281" ...
## $ patent_issue_date : Date[1:2018477], format: "2003-02-18" "2002-08-27" ...
                       : Date[1:2018477], format: NA NA ...
## $ abandon_date
                        : chr [1:2018477] "ISS" "ISS" "ISS" "ISS" ...
## $ disposal_type
## $ appl_status_code : num [1:2018477] 150 250 250 250 161 150 135 161 161 250 ...
                         : chr [1:2018477] "30jan2003 00:00:00" "27sep2010 00:00:00" "30mar2009 00:00:
## $ appl_status_date
## $ tc
                         # Guess the Gender
# get a list of first names without repetitions
examiner_names <- applications %>%
 distinct(examiner_name_first)
# get a table of names and gender
examiner_names_gender <- examiner_names %>%
  do(results = gender(.$examiner name first, method = "ssa")) %>%
  unnest(cols = c(results), keep_empty = TRUE) %>%
```

```
select(
    examiner_name_first = name,
   gender,
   proportion_female
# remove extra colums from the gender table
examiner names gender <- examiner names gender %>%
  select(examiner_name_first, gender)
# joining gender back to the dataset
applications <- applications %>%
 left_join(examiner_names_gender, by = "examiner_name_first")
# cleaning up
rm(examiner_names)
rm(examiner_names_gender)
gc()
##
              used (Mb) gc trigger (Mb) max used (Mb)
## Ncells 4466174 238.6
                          8160685 435.9 4487906 239.7
## Vcells 49430927 377.2 92906103 708.9 79747143 608.5
# Guess the examiner's race
examiner_surnames <- applications %>%
 select(surname = examiner_name_last) %>%
 distinct()
examiner_race <- predict_race(voter.file = examiner_surnames, surname.only = T) %>%
 as_tibble()
## Predicting race for 2020
## Warning: Unknown or uninitialised column: 'state'.
## Proceeding with last name predictions...
## i All local files already up-to-date!
## 701 (18.4%) individuals' last names were not matched.
examiner_race <- examiner_race %>%
 mutate(max_race_p = pmax(pred.asi, pred.bla, pred.his, pred.oth, pred.whi)) %>%
 mutate(race = case_when(
   max_race_p == pred.asi ~ "Asian",
   max_race_p == pred.bla ~ "black",
   max_race_p == pred.his ~ "Hispanic",
   max_race_p == pred.oth ~ "other",
   max_race_p == pred.whi ~ "white",
   TRUE ~ NA_character_
```

```
))
# removing extra columns
examiner_race <- examiner_race %>%
  select(surname, race)
applications <- applications \%
  left_join(examiner_race, by = c("examiner_name_last" = "surname"))
rm(examiner race)
rm(examiner_surnames)
gc()
              used (Mb) gc trigger (Mb) max used (Mb)
##
## Ncells 4570012 244.1
                           8160685 435.9 6093615 325.5
## Vcells 51639681 394.0 92906103 708.9 92890177 708.7
applications <- applications \%
  mutate(
    filing_date = as.Date(filing_date),
    patent_issue_date = as.Date(patent_issue_date),
    abandon_date = as.Date(abandon_date),
    final_decision_date = coalesce(patent_issue_date, abandon_date),
    app_proc_time = as.numeric(final_decision_date - filing_date),
    # Replace negative app_proc_time with NA
    app_proc_time = ifelse(app_proc_time < 0, NA, app_proc_time)</pre>
library(dplyr)
library(tidygraph)
## Warning: package 'tidygraph' was built under R version 4.2.3
##
## Attaching package: 'tidygraph'
## The following object is masked from 'package:igraph':
##
##
       groups
## The following object is masked from 'package:stats':
##
##
       filter
library(ggraph)
## Warning: package 'ggraph' was built under R version 4.2.3
## Loading required package: ggplot2
## Warning: package 'ggplot2' was built under R version 4.2.3
```

```
edges <- edges %>%
  mutate(
   from = as.character(ego_examiner_id),
   to = as.character(alter_examiner_id)
 ) %>%
  mutate(
   from = ifelse(is.nan(as.numeric(from)), NA, from),
   to = ifelse(is.nan(as.numeric(to)), NA, to)
  ) %>%
  drop_na()
applications <- applications %>%
  relocate(examiner_id, .before = application_number) %>%
  mutate(examiner_id = as.character(examiner_id)) %>%
  drop_na(examiner_id) %>%
  rename(name = examiner_id)
graph <- tbl_graph(</pre>
  edges = (edges %>% relocate(from, to)),
  directed = TRUE
applications <- applications %>%
 mutate(name = as.character(name)) %>%
  distinct(name, .keep_all = TRUE)
graph <- graph %>%
  activate(nodes) %>%
  inner_join(
    (applications %>% distinct(name, .keep_all = TRUE)),
   by = "name"
 )
graph %>%
 activate(nodes) %>%
  mutate(
   degree = centrality_degree(),
   betweenness = centrality betweenness(),
   closeness = centrality_closeness()
  select(name, degree, betweenness, closeness) %>%
  arrange(-degree)
## # A tbl_graph: 2504 nodes and 17809 edges
## #
## # A directed multigraph with 130 components
## # Node Data: 2,504 x 4 (active)
##
     name degree betweenness closeness
##
      <chr> <dbl>
                         <dbl>
                                   <dbl>
## 1 83670 198
                        0
                                0.000403
## 2 97910 176
                       132.
                                0.00787
```

```
## 3 73920
               174
                         0
                                0.00971
## 4 67226
               122
                        876.
                                0.00746
## 5 80730
               120
                        0
                                0.000286
## 6 75615
               117
                          0
                                0.000457
## 7 62152
               115
                          0
                                0.000324
## 8 69098
                          3.00 0.333
               115
## 9 67690
                                0.0333
               114
                          0
## 10 74061
                                0.000454
               114
                       2689.
## # i 2,494 more rows
## #
## # Edge Data: 17,809 x 6
##
      from
             to application_number advice_date ego_examiner_id alter_examiner_id
##
     <int> <int>
                             <int> <chr>
                                                          <int>
                          9402488 2008-11-17
                                                                             66266
## 1
     158 1462
                                                          84356
## 2
       158 1463
                           9402488 2008-11-17
                                                          84356
                                                                             63519
## 3
       158 1464
                            9402488 2008-11-17
                                                          84356
                                                                             98531
## # i 17,806 more rows
node_data <- graph %>%
  activate(nodes) %>%
  mutate(
   degree = centrality_degree(),
   betweenness = centrality_betweenness(),
   closeness = centrality_closeness()
  ) %>%
  select(name, degree, betweenness, closeness) %>%
  as_tibble() # Convert to a tibble/data frame for joining
# Joining the centrality measures back to the applications dataframe
applications <- applications %>%
 left_join(node_data, by = c("name" = "name"))
# rename name to examiner_id
applications <- applications %>%
 rename(examiner_id = name)
head(applications,5)
## # A tibble: 5 x 23
##
    examiner_id application_number filing_date examiner_name_last
##
     <chr>>
                <chr>
                                    <date>
                                                <chr>
## 1 96082
                 08284457
                                    2000-01-26 HOWARD
## 2 87678
                                    2000-10-11 YILDIRIM
                 08413193
## 3 63213
                 08531853
                                    2000-05-17 HAMILTON
## 4 73788
                 08637752
                                    2001-07-20 MOSHER
## 5 77294
                                    2000-04-10 BARR
                 08682726
##
     examiner_name_first examiner_name_middle examiner_art_unit uspc_class
##
                         <chr>
                                                           <dbl> <chr>
     <chr>>
## 1 JACQUELINE
                         V
                                                           1764 508
## 2 BEKIR
                                                           1764 208
                         Τ.
## 3 CYNTHIA
                         <NA>
                                                            1752 430
## 4 MARY
                         <NA>
                                                           1648 530
## 5 MICHAEL
                                                           1762 427
    uspc_subclass patent_number patent_issue_date abandon_date disposal_type
```

```
##
     <chr>
                   <chr>
                                  <date>
                                                     <date>
                                                                  <chr>>
## 1 273000
                   6521570
                                  2003-02-18
                                                    NΑ
                                                                  TSS
## 2 179000
                   6440298
                                  2002-08-27
                                                                  ISS
## 3 271100
                                                                  ISS
                   5607816
                                  1997-03-04
                                                    NA
## 4 388300
                   6927281
                                  2005-08-09
                                                                  ISS
## 5 430100
                                                     2000-12-27
                                                                  ABN
                   <NA>
                                             tc gender race final_decision_date
     appl_status_code appl_status_date
                                          <dbl> <chr> <chr> <date>
                <dbl> <chr>
##
## 1
                  150 30jan2003 00:00:00 1700 female white 2003-02-18
## 2
                  250 27sep2010 00:00:00 1700 <NA>
                                                       white 2002-08-27
## 3
                  250 30mar2009 00:00:00
                                           1700 female white 1997-03-04
## 4
                  250 07sep2009 00:00:00
                                          1600 female white 2005-08-09
## 5
                  161 19apr2001 00:00:00 1700 male
                                                       white 2000-12-27
     app_proc_time degree betweenness closeness
##
##
             <dbl>
                   <dbl>
                                 <dbl>
                                           <dbl>
## 1
              1119
                                    NA
                                            NA
## 2
               685
                       NA
                                    NA
                                            NA
## 3
                NA
                        0
                                     0
                                           NaN
## 4
              1481
                        2
                                     0
                                             0.5
## 5
               261
                                     0
                                           NaN
```

#null values in applications data each column sapply(applications, function(x) sum(is.na(x)))

```
##
                            application_number
             examiner_id
                                                          filing_date
##
##
     examiner_name_last
                          examiner_name_first examiner_name_middle
##
##
                                    uspc_class
                                                        uspc_subclass
      examiner_art_unit
##
##
          patent_number
                             patent_issue_date
                                                         abandon date
##
                    2606
                                           2605
                                                                  3399
##
          disposal_type
                              appl_status_code
                                                     appl_status_date
##
                       0
                                              1
                                                                     1
##
                      tc
                                         gender
                                                                 race
##
                                            799
                                                                     0
##
                                 app_proc_time
    final_decision_date
                                                               degree
##
                     356
                                            357
                                                                 3144
##
             betweenness
                                      closeness
##
                    3144
                                           4211
```

total rows in applications data nrow(applications)

[1] 5648

```
# Dropping rows with NA in regression columns
applications <- applications %>%
    drop_na(app_proc_time, degree, gender, examiner_art_unit, uspc_class, disposal_type, race)
```

Build linear regression model

```
applications <- applications %>%
  mutate(
    examiner_art_unit = as.factor(examiner_art_unit),
    uspc_class = as.factor(uspc_class),
    gender = as.factor(gender),
    race = as.factor(race),
    disposal_type = as.factor(disposal_type)
)
```

I wanted to use examiner_art_unit, uspc_class as categorical variable but considering ther are too many they are not added as features

disposal_type categorical variable is used because it tells about the status of appplication"ISS" (issued), "ABN" (abandoned), "PEND' (PENDING). There must be a difference in processing times for each of the category

Race is used as well to understand affect of race in processing times

```
#Model 1: Degree Centrality with Categorical Variables
model_degree <- lm(app_proc_time ~ degree +race +disposal_type , data = applications)
summary(model_degree)
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = app_proc_time ~ degree + race + disposal_type, data = applications)
## Residuals:
##
      Min
               1Q Median
                               3Q
                                      Max
## -2464.0 -808.2 -240.2
                            678.9 4275.1
##
## Coefficients:
##
                   Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)
                               50.59 36.963 < 2e-16 ***
                   1869.99
                      10.29
                                 1.49
                                        6.908 6.51e-12 ***
## degree
## raceblack
                      96.09
                                135.31
                                        0.710
                                                0.4777
## raceHispanic
                      26.14
                                146.64 0.178
                                               0.8586
## raceother
                    -542.76
                                751.52 -0.722
                                                0.4702
                    -126.15
                                                0.0133 *
## racewhite
                                50.89 -2.479
## disposal_typeISS
                      92.74
                                 47.03 1.972
                                                0.0488 *
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
## Residual standard error: 1061 on 2088 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.02804,
                                   Adjusted R-squared:
## F-statistic: 10.04 on 6 and 2088 DF, p-value: 5.821e-11
```

Model 1: Degree Centrality with Categorical Variables Model Formula: app_proc_time ~ degree + race + disposal_type

- **Degree Centrality**: The coefficient for **degree** is positive (Estimate = 10.29), indicating that as an examiner's network centrality increases, the application processing time also increases slightly. This could suggest that examiners central to the network may be involved in more complex or a higher volume of cases, potentially leading to longer processing times
- Race: The model considered race as a categorical variable. Notably, racewhite has a negative coefficient (Estimate = -126.15), suggesting that applications handled by white examiners are associated with slightly shorter processing times compared to the baseline race category.
- **Disposal Type:** disposal_typeISS (indicating a patent was issued) is positively associated with processing time (Estimate = 92.74), which might reflect the additional scrutiny and time required for applications that eventually get approved

#Model 2: Betweenness Centrality with Categorical Variables

Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 1073 on 2088 degrees of freedom

F-statistic: 2.187 on 6 and 2088 DF, p-value: 0.04158

Multiple R-squared: 0.006245,

##

```
model_betweenness <- lm(app_proc_time ~ betweenness +race +disposal_type, data = applications)
summary(model_betweenness)
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = app_proc_time ~ betweenness + race + disposal_type,
       data = applications)
##
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min
                1Q Median
                                3Q
                                       Max
##
   -1761.5 -797.8 -232.1
                             687.1
                                    4219.5
##
## Coefficients:
##
                      Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                                           38.798
## (Intercept)
                     1.943e+03 5.008e+01
                                                     <2e-16 ***
## betweenness
                     8.116e-03 8.704e-03
                                            0.932
                                                     0.3512
## raceblack
                     8.642e+01 1.368e+02
                                            0.632
                                                     0.5278
                                            0.279
## raceHispanic
                     4.138e+01 1.483e+02
                                                     0.7803
## raceother
                    -5.457e+02 7.599e+02
                                           -0.718
                                                     0.4728
## racewhite
                    -1.268e+02 5.152e+01
                                           -2.461
                                                     0.0139 *
## disposal_typeISS 8.613e+01 4.755e+01
                                            1.811
                                                     0.0702 .
```

Model 2: Betweenness Centrality with Categorical Variables Model Formula: app_proc_time ~ betweenness + race + disposal_type

Adjusted R-squared:

• Betweenness Centrality: The coefficient for betweenness is not statistically significant (Estimate = 8.166e-03, p-value = 0.3512), indicating that betweenness centrality might not have a clear impact on processing time in this model setup. This suggests that an examiner's role as a connector in the network does not significantly affect application processing times.

```
#Model 3: Degree Centrality with Gender Interaction and Categorical Variables
model_degree_gender <- lm(app_proc_time ~ degree * gender + +race +disposal_type, data = applications)
summary(model_degree_gender)
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = app_proc_time ~ degree * gender + +race + disposal_type,
       data = applications)
##
##
## Residuals:
##
      Min
               10 Median
                               30
                                      Max
## -2336.0 -796.3 -236.9
                            667.6
                                   4388.8
## Coefficients:
##
                     Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)
                     1762.076
                                 63.567 27.720 < 2e-16 ***
## degree
                      12.533
                                  2.736
                                           4.581 4.9e-06 ***
## gendermale
                     157.424
                                 56.247
                                           2.799 0.00518 **
                     107.099
## raceblack
                                135.196
                                           0.792 0.42835
## raceHispanic
                      25.608
                                146.580
                                           0.175 0.86133
## raceother
                                750.637 -0.779 0.43589
                     -584.969
## racewhite
                     -132.025
                                 50.887 -2.594 0.00954 **
## disposal_typeISS
                       90.661
                                 46.977
                                           1.930 0.05375 .
## degree:gendermale
                       -3.204
                                  3.262 -0.982 0.32606
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 1060 on 2086 degrees of freedom
                                   Adjusted R-squared:
## Multiple R-squared: 0.03169,
## F-statistic: 8.534 on 8 and 2086 DF, p-value: 1.712e-11
```

Model 3: Degree Centrality with Gender Interaction Model Formula: app_proc_time ~ degree * gender + race + disposal_type

- Degree and Gender Interaction: The interaction term degree:gendermale is not significant (Estimate = 157.424, p-value = 0.00518), indicating that the effect of degree centrality on processing time does differ significantly between male and female examiners in this model. Male have 157 days more processing time than female
- degree:gendermale -3.204, p value greater than 5% is not significant it says that for male as bet

```
#Model 4: Betweenness Centrality with Gender Interaction and Categorical Variables
model_betweenness_gender <- lm(app_proc_time ~ betweenness * gender +race +disposal_type, data = applic
summary(model_betweenness_gender)</pre>
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = app_proc_time ~ betweenness * gender + race + disposal_type,
## data = applications)
##
## Residuals:
```

```
##
       Min
                1Q
                    Median
                                3Q
                                        Max
## -1740.8
           -807.7
                    -242.5
                                    4312.9
                             685.1
##
## Coefficients:
##
                            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                                        61.40286 30.200
                                                           <2e-16 ***
## (Intercept)
                          1854.34166
                                                  -0.835
                                                           0.4035
## betweenness
                             -0.02409
                                        0.02883
                                                   2.453
## gendermale
                           128.72866
                                        52.47789
                                                           0.0142 *
## raceblack
                            96.87994
                                      136.71236
                                                   0.709
                                                           0.4786
## raceHispanic
                             34.89838
                                      148.13060
                                                   0.236
                                                           0.8138
## raceother
                          -585.87196
                                       759.00019
                                                  -0.772
                                                           0.4403
                          -131.82748
                                                  -2.558
                                                           0.0106 *
## racewhite
                                        51.52873
                            86.60328
                                        47.50330
                                                   1.823
                                                           0.0684 .
## disposal_typeISS
## betweenness:gendermale
                             0.03452
                                         0.03025
                                                   1.141
                                                           0.2539
##
                   0 '*** 0.001 '** 0.01 '* 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 1071 on 2086 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.01004,
                                    Adjusted R-squared:
## F-statistic: 2.645 on 8 and 2086 DF, p-value: 0.006933
```

Model 4: Betweenness Centrality with Gender Interaction Model Formula: app_proc_time ~ betweenness * gender + race + disposal_type

• Betweenness and Gender Interaction: Similar to degree centrality, the interaction between betweenness and gendermale is statistically significant (Estimate = 128, p-value = 0.0142), suggesting significant difference in the effect of betweenness centrality on processing times across genders. Male have 128 days more processing time than females

betweenness:gendermale (0.03452)

• Interpretation: This is the interaction term between betweenness centrality and being male. The positive coefficient indicates that for male examiners, as betweenness centrality increases, the processing time increases by an additional 0.03452 days for every unit increase in betweenness centrality, compared to female examiners. While the coefficient seems small, the impact of betweenness centrality on processing times could accumulate, especially at high levels of centrality. However, the p-value (0.2539) suggests that this interaction effect is not statistically significant at the conventional 0.05 level, implying that we do not have strong evidence to conclude that the effect of betweenness centrality on processing times differs between male and female examiners

Explaining Regression Results and Implications for the USPTO

Conclusion and Implications for the USPTO

The analysis using linear regression models aimed to explore the influence of examiner centrality within the USPTO's network on patent application processing times, while considering other examiner characteristics and examining potential differences by gender. The findings suggest a slight increase in processing times with higher degree centrality but no clear impact from betweenness centrality. This increase might be attributed to the potential complexity and volume of cases handled by more central examiners

Implications of Centrality on Operational Efficiency

1. Enhanced Resource Allocation: The positive association between degree centrality and increased processing times implies that examiners who are more central to the network—those with more connections—might be dealing with a higher workload or more complex cases, potentially leading to delays. Recognizing this pattern, the USPTO could consider strategies for resource allocation that support central examiners, such as redistributing workload or providing additional administrative support, to streamline the processing timeline without sacrificing the quality of patent examination

Examination of Gender Interaction

Our analysis revealed that the interaction terms between gender and centrality measures (degree and betweenness) were insignificant. However, male do have highest processing time compared to females

Implications for the USPTO

Operational Insights: The significant interaction effect between gender and centrality suggests that gender does modify how centrality influences processing times. This finding could imply that the USPTO's internal processes and examiner networks function in a manner that is different for both genders and they should deploy strategies to make sure both genders have same processing times if other conditions are the same. Moreover Race should be accounted as well and it should be noted that race have differnt processing times understanding why this is so could lead to the development of solutions