# Week A Discussion Summary

The transcript is a discussion among members of DATA 6550 - Group 6, focusing on analyzing racial covenants and merging datasets for Hennepin and Ramsey County. The primary challenges discussed include matching dataset formats, dealing with missing location data (latitude/longitude vs. census tract), and identifying useful variables for merging and analysis.  
  
Key Discussion Points:  
  
1. Data Merging Challenges:  
 - Team members discussed merging data from Hennepin and Ramsey counties, particularly issues with different data formats, missing location variables, and structural differences in datasets.  
 - Autumn and Chance reviewed how census tracts vs. latitude/longitude coordinates were used in different datasets and debated whether conversion was necessary.  
 - Ashlyn attempted merging datasets but encountered format mismatches.  
  
2. Clarifying Dataset Features:  
 - Distance calculations and geographic identifiers (GeoCD distance, census tract codes) were explored for merging criteria.  
 - The team examined Ramsey County's dataset, which lacked some expected variables, making it difficult to align with Hennepin County.  
 - A discussion on the use of EPSG (spatial reference systems) for matching data was mentioned.  
  
3. Project Assignments & Collaboration:  
 - The group divided tasks:  
 - Chance worked on analyzing the Ramsey County extension and integrating the datasets.  
 - Kirstin focused on algorithmic bias related to property values and lending disparities.  
 - Autumn explored historical context and data visualization.  
 - Ashlyn managed data structure and merging.  
 - Discussion on using Google Docs for collaboration due to its better tracking features than Microsoft Word.  
  
4. Algorithmic Bias & Historical Context:  
 - The team linked racial covenants to discriminatory housing practices, discussing the Great Migration’s impact on housing policies.  
 - Plans were made to analyze lending disparities, demographic correlations, and property value patterns.  
 - Team members debated whether certain variables (e.g., seller and buyer names) were necessary for their analysis.  
  
5. Action Plan & Next Steps:  
 - Clarify missing dataset features by checking documentation and discussions with the instructor.  
 - Decide on merging methodology—whether to convert census tracts or work with existing formats.  
 - Proceed with preliminary data analysis, focusing on race, income, and mortgage trends.  
 - Use ChatGPT for assistance where needed but properly document its contributions.