I am looking at one of two core datasets:

2021 FEC transaction data for Trump-aligned PACs, with questions like:

1. What types of donation patterns exist for small (<$10) donations and how much do these donations aggregate to compared to large (>$5000) donations?
2. Are there patterns related to the disbursements – what are the characteristics of these companies – are the “open” i.e., is there information about them available as open data or are they “opaque” (in that there is little or no information about corporate structure, ownership, etc.
3. How do donations to Trump-related PACS differ or are similar to donations to Biden/Harris-related PACs over a similar period?

PPP data

1. Can we load all of the PPP loan data and aggregate around types of businesses?
2. What is the volume of loans to sole proprietors and are there any geographic similarities associated with loan count and dollar volume of loans?
3. How many loans were approved but never disbursed? Are there any patterns that can be derived?
4. Is it possible to find individuals with multiple loans originating in different geographies?

Update 2021-11-21:

I looked at finding the NAICS codes for which the greatest number of sole proprietors or companies with a single employee (indicated by the number of saved jobs being equal to 1) had loan applications for a loan amount that was at the top threshold for salary, namely 2.5 months of salary for an individual making $100,000 per year. That amount is $100,000/12 \* 2.5 = $20,833.33.

I bounded the search around that number, filtered out the records for number of employees=1, and then grouped by NAICS codes:

* Beauty Salons, 110895
* Beef Cattle Ranching and Farming, 50307
* Barber Shops, 48291
* All Other Personal Services, 45761
* General Freight Trucking, Local, 38820
* Offices of Real Estate Agents and Brokers, 38485
* Corn Farming, 37981
* General Freight Trucking, Long-Distance, Truckload, 36803
* Taxi Service, 36172
* Residential Remodelers, 29735

Separately, I queried the data about undisbursed loans, and found that there were certain lenders that appeared frequently. Blending the two queries, and selecting a specific human interest angle, I pulled the undisbursed Beauty Salon loan applications and grouped by race and gender to find that more than 50% of the undisbursed loans from Capital Plus Financial, LLC were to Black Female applicants. A search on Google showed that there are numerous complaints about Capital Plus in that they create hurdles for the applicants to get their disbursements, delays, and limited or no customer service.

There are a few directions to continue with this:

1. Look at all undisbursed loans by lender and investigate whether the lenders were not acting in good faith on behalf of their applicants.
2. Was there a “Fastlane” PPP application process promoted by some intermediate company (like Blue Acorn) to partner with these lenders to generate massive referral fees?
3. Where the lenders not acting in good faith, getting approval for the loans but then not disbursing them, thereby putting the applicants at increased risk since they signed the promissory notes and are now responsible for the loans? Are the lenders keeping the money?
4. Compare the represented salary amounts to average salaries for each NAICS code from BLS to see if applicants were coerced to increase their claimed salaries? Beauty Salon people typically are not earning $100,000 per year.