### Methods for Risk Evaluation #3

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Data Confidentiality

#### Outline

- 1 Overview: attribute disclosure risks (AR)
- Notations and setup
- Mey estimating steps
- 4 Illustrative example: synthetic CE sample

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#### Overview

- Attribute disclosure refers to the intruder correctly inferring the true value(s) of synthesized variable(s) in the released synthetic datasets
- AR potentially exist in fully synthetic data and partially synthetic data

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- AR potentially exist in fully synthetic data and partially synthetic data
- Roadmap
  - notations and setup
  - key estimating steps (importance sampling)
  - illustrative example: synthetic CE sample

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#### Notations and setup

- $\mathbf{y}_i = (y_{i1}, \dots, y_{ip})$ : the vector response of observation i in the original confidential dataset, where direct identifiers (such as name or SSN) are removed
- When needed, we use j as the variable index, and  $j=1,\cdots,p$ . Among the p variables
  - ▶ **y**<sub>i</sub><sup>s</sup>: synthesized variables
  - ▶ **y**<sup>us</sup>: un-synthesized variables
- $\mathbf{y}_i = (\mathbf{y}_i^s, \mathbf{y}_i^{us})$ : the *i*-th observation
- $\mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y}^s, \mathbf{y}^{us})$ : the entire dataset containing n observations
  - for fully synthetic data,  $\mathbf{y}^{us} = \emptyset$ , therefore  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{y}^s$
  - without loss of generality, we use  $\mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{y}^s, \mathbf{y}^{us})$
- $\mathbf{Z} = (\mathbf{Z}^{(1)}, \cdots, \mathbf{Z}^{(m)})$ : m > 1 synthetic datasets

### Notations and setup cont'd

- Assumptions about intruder's knowledge and behavior
  - **1** the intruder intends to learn the value of  $\mathbf{y}_{i}^{s}$  for some record i in  $\mathbf{y}$
  - 2 available information to the intruder:
    - \*  $\mathbf{y}^{us} = \{\mathbf{y}_i^{us} : i = 1, \cdots, n\}$ : the un-synthesized values of all n observations
    - $\star$  A: any auxiliary information known by the intruder about records in  ${f y}$
    - ★ S: any information known by the intruder about the process of generating Z

#### Notations and setup cont'd

- Y<sub>i</sub><sup>s</sup>: the random variable representing the intruder's uncertain knowledge of y<sub>i</sub><sup>s</sup>
- The intruder seeks the distribution:

$$p(\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} \mid \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S) \tag{1}$$

$$p(\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*} \mid \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{Y}^{us}, A, S)$$
 (2)

- if Y<sub>i</sub><sup>s</sup> is a vector of categorical variables, consider y\* as one plausible combination of categorical responses of those variables in the neighborhood of y<sub>i</sub>
- if  $\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s}$  is a vector of continuous variables, consider  $\mathbf{y}^{*}$  as one plausible combination of continuous responses of those variables in the neighborhood of  $\mathbf{y}_{i}$  within certain distance

#### Notations and setup cont'd

- For the confidential data holder
  - $oldsymbol{0}$  assumptions on the level of intruder's knowledge of  $oldsymbol{y}^{us}, A$ , and S
  - 2 how to approximate  $p(\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*} \mid \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{Y}^{us}, A, S)$  (Bayesian thinking)

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### First step: Bayes' rule

$$p(\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*} \mid \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S) \propto p(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$$
$$p(\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*} \mid \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$$
(3)

- $\mathbf{y}^*$ : one possible guess of  $\mathbf{Y}_i^s$  by the intruder
- $\mathbf{y}^{us}$ , A, and S: available to the intruder
- $p(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$ : the synthetic data distribution given what the intruder knows
- $p(\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*} \mid \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$ : the intruder's prior on  $\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}$  given  $\mathbf{y}^{us}, A$ , and S

### Knowledge of **y**<sup>us</sup>

- $\mathbf{y}^{us} = {\mathbf{y}_i^{us} : i = 1, \dots, n}$ : the set of un-synthesized values of all n observations
- Partial synthesis: intruder has access to Z, therefore y<sup>us</sup> can be determined and thus available
- Full synthesis:  $\mathbf{y}^{us} = \emptyset$

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- Full synthesis:  $\mathbf{y}^{us} = \emptyset$
- Without loss of generality, we keep  $\mathbf{y}^{us}$

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- A: auxiliary information known by the intruder about records in y
- Numerous possible scenarios
- "Worst case":  $A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}$ 
  - ▶ the intruder knows the original values of the synthesized variables of all records except for record *i*
  - strong intruder knowledge and conservative
  - if AR under such conservative assumption are acceptable, AR should be acceptable for weaker assumptions
  - realistic for computing purposes (more in detail later)

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- Examples:
  - code for the synthesizer
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- S: any information known by the intruder about the process of generating Z
- Examples:
  - code for the synthesizer
  - descriptions of the synthesis model
- Such information sometimes can be public available with great details
  - recall the SynLBD synthesis paper

## Choosing the prior $p(\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*} \mid \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$

- Common practice: a uniform prior for all possible guesses y\*
- Using a uniform prior cancels out the terms when comparing different guesses

$$p(\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*} \mid \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S) \propto p(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$$
$$p(\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*} \mid \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$$

• Do you think a uniform prior is reasonable? In what situation using it makes sense? When you might overestimate or underestimate the AR using uniform prior?

• Independence between **Z**<sup>(/)</sup>'s:

$$p(\mathbf{Z} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S) = \prod_{l=1}^{m} p(\mathbf{Z}^{(l)} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$$
(4)

Work with each Z<sup>(1)</sup>

• Under the "worst case" scenarior of  $A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}$ :

$$p(\mathbf{Z}^{(l)} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S), \tag{5}$$

which is very close to the distribution from which the synthetic data  $\mathbf{Z}^{(l)}$  is generated, as in

$$p(\mathbf{Z}^{(l)} \mid \mathbf{y}, S) = p(\mathbf{Z}^{(l)} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}_{i}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S)$$
(6)

- $\mathbf{y}_i$  is the true record in the original confidential dataset  $\mathbf{y}$
- The difference between Equations (5) and (6)?

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- $\mathbf{y}_i$  is the true record in the original confidential dataset  $\mathbf{y}$
- The difference between Equations (5) and (6)?
- The only difference in the conditioned quantities is difference between
   y\* (the random guess) and y<sub>i</sub> (the true record)

- Monte Carlo approximation
- If we use  $\Theta$  to denote the parameters in the synthesis model M, we could incorporate  $\Theta$  draws in our estimation of  $p(\mathbf{Z}^{(l)} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S)$

$$p(\mathbf{Z}^{(l)} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S) = \int p(\mathbf{Z}^{(l)} \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S, \Theta)$$
$$p(\Theta \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S)d\Theta$$

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$$p(\Theta \mid \mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S)d\Theta$$

- The Monte Carlo step requires re-estimation of the synthesis model M for each  $\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s} = \mathbf{y}^{*}$
- Could be computationally prohibitive if many possible guesses of  $\mathbf{Y}_{i}^{s}$  need to be evaluated

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- The Monte Carlo step requires re-estimation of the synthesis model M
  for each Y<sup>s</sup><sub>i</sub> = y\*
- Could be computationally prohibitive if many possible guesses of Y<sup>s</sup><sub>i</sub>
   need to be evaluated
- To avoid the re-estimation of M to draw Θ samples, we can use the importance sampling strategy
  - ▶ available draws of  $\Theta$  from  $p(\Theta \mid \mathbf{y})$  (the model used for generating the synthetic dataset  $\mathbf{Z}^{(l)}$ )
  - ▶ use them as proposals for the importance sampling algorithm

### The importance sampling strategy

- Suppose we seek to estimate the expectation of some function  $g(\Theta)$ , where  $\Theta$  has density  $f(\Theta)$
- Further suppose that we have a sample  $(\Theta^{(1)}, \dots, \Theta^{(H)})$  available from a convenient distribution  $f^*(\Theta)$  that slightly differs from  $f(\Theta)$
- We can estimate  $E_f(g(\Theta))$  using

$$E_f(g(\Theta)) \approx \frac{1}{H} \sum_{h=1}^{H} g(\Theta^{(h)}) \frac{f(\Theta^{(h)})/f^*(\Theta^{(h)})}{\sum_{h=1}^{H} f(\Theta^{(h)})/f^*(\Theta^{(h)})}$$
(7)

• We only require that  $f(\Theta)$  and  $f^*(\Theta)$  be known up to constants.

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- We only require that  $f(\Theta)$  and  $f^*(\Theta)$  be known up to constants.
- What are our  $f^*(\Theta)$  and  $f(\Theta)$ ?

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### CE sample synthesis

#### AR calculation for CE sample

- m = 1 for illustration
- Intruder knows each records' UrbanRural, Race, Expenditure (all un-synthesized variables)
- Intruder trys to use this information to infer the true values of the synthesized variable, Income, based on the synthetic CE data in CEdata\_syn

$$p(Y_i^s = y^* \mid \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S) \propto p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_i^s = y^*, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$$
$$p(Y_i^s = y^* \mid \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$$
(8)

- $Y_i^s$ : the univariate random variable represending the intruder's guess of the income of CU i
- *y*\*: one possible guess
- Z: the synthetic CE sample (as in CEdata\_syn)
- y<sup>us</sup>: the set of un-synthesized values of all *n* observations, which corresponds to the three un-synthesized variables UrbanRural, Race, Expenditure in the CE sample

- $A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}$  ("worst case" scenario)
- S: the intruder knows that the synthesis model is a Bayesian linear regression
- $p(Y_i^s = y^* \mid \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)$ : assume a uniform prior, that is, all possible guesses of  $y^*$  are equally likely

$$p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_i^s = y^*, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^s, S)$$
(9)

- Monte Carlo approximation
- $\bullet$   $\Theta$ : the parameters in the synthesis model M

$$p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_i^s = y^*, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^s, S) = \int p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_i^s = y^*, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^s, S, \Theta)$$
$$p(\Theta \mid Y_i^s = y^*, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^s, S) d\Theta(10)$$

• What are  $\Theta$  in the CE example?

- Monte Carlo approximation
- ullet  $\Theta$ : the parameters in the synthesis model M

$$p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_{i}^{s} = y^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S) = \int p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_{i}^{s} = y^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S, \Theta)$$
$$p(\Theta \mid Y_{i}^{s} = y^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S)d\Theta(10)$$

- What are  $\Theta$  in the CE example?
- $\Theta = \{\beta_0, \beta_1, \sigma\}$  in the Bayesian simple linear regression synthesis model M

The importance sampling strategy

$$E_f(g(\Theta)) \approx \frac{1}{H} \sum_{h=1}^{H} g(\Theta^{(h)}) \frac{f(\Theta^{(h)}) / f^*(\Theta^{(h)})}{\sum_{h=1}^{H} f(\Theta^{(h)}) / f^*(\Theta^{(h)})}$$

• Define  $g(\Theta)$ :

$$g(\Theta) = p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_i^s = y^*, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^s, S)$$
(11)

ullet We approximate the expectation of each  $g(\Theta)$  with respect to

$$f(\Theta) = p(\Theta \mid Y_i^s = y^*, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^s, S)$$
(12)

• While trying to utilize samples  $(\Theta^{(1)}, \dots, \Theta^{(H)})$  from a convenient distribution

$$f^*(\Theta) = p(\Theta \mid \mathbf{y}, S) \tag{13}$$

• The importance sampling strategy

$$g(\Theta^{(h)}) = p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_{i}^{s} = y^{*}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^{s}, S, \Theta^{(h)})$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^{(h)}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\tilde{y}_{i} - \beta_{0}^{(h)} - \beta_{1}^{(h)} X_{i})^{2}}{2(\sigma^{(h)})^{2}}\right) \right), \quad (14)$$

- $\tilde{y}_i$ : the synthetic log(Income)
- X<sub>i</sub>: the un-synthesized log(Expenditure) of CU i in the synthetic dataset Z (as in CEdata\_syn)

- The importance sampling strategy
- Obtain  $p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_i^s = y^*, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A = \mathbf{y}_{-i}^s, S) = \frac{1}{H} \sum_{h=1}^{H} p_h q_h$  where

$$\begin{array}{lcl} \rho_h & = & \displaystyle \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^{(h)}} \exp\left( -\frac{(\tilde{y}_i - \beta_0^{(h)} - \beta_1^{(h)} X_i)^2}{2(\sigma^{(h)})^2} \right) \right) \\ \\ q_h & = & \displaystyle \frac{\left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^{(h)}} \exp\left( -\frac{(y^* - \beta_0^{(h)} - \beta_1^{(h)} X_i)^2}{2(\sigma^{(h)})^2} \right) \right) / \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^{(h)}} \exp\left( -\frac{(y_i - \beta_0^{(h)} - \beta_1^{(h)} X_i)^2}{2(\sigma^{(h)})^2} \right) \right) \\ \\ \sum_{h=1}^H \left( \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^{(h)}} \exp\left( -\frac{(y^* - \beta_0^{(h)} - \beta_1^{(h)} X_i)^2}{2(\sigma^{(h)})^2} \right) \right) / \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^{(h)}} \exp\left( -\frac{(y_i - \beta_0^{(h)} - \beta_1^{(h)} X_i)^2}{2(\sigma^{(h)})^2} \right) \right) \right) \end{array}$$

- v\* is the guessed value
- $y_i$  is the true value for CU i's log(Income)

- We need to work with the logarithm of Income and Expenditure in CEdata\_org and CEdata\_syn
  - ▶ the model *M* is fitted with logged continuous variables
- For ease of computation later, we round the logged values to 1 decimal point

• For illustration purpose, we demonstrate with CU 8:  $v_i = 11.6$ ,  $\tilde{v}_1 = 10.1$ ,  $X_1 = 9.8$ 

```
i <- 8
y_i <- CEdata_org$LogIncome[i]
y_i_guesses <- seq((y_i - 2.5), (y_i + 2.5), 0.5)
X_i <- CEdata_syn$LogExpenditure[i]
G <- length(y_i_guesses)</pre>
```

- Assume a collection of 11 possible guesses: {9.1, 9.6, 10.1, 10.6, 11.1, 11.6, 12.1, 12.6, 13.1, 13.6, 14.1}
- Use a uniform prior,  $p(Y_i^s = y^* \mid \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S) = \frac{1}{11}$

- Use the importance strategy with H=50 parameter draws of  $\Theta=\{\beta_0,\beta_1,\sigma\}$  from the Bayesian simple linear regression synthesis model
- The parameter draws are saved in post

```
H <- 50
beta0_draws <- post[1:H, "beta0"]
beta1_draws <- post[1:H, "beta1"]
sigma_draws <- post[1:H, "sigma"]
```

- For computational stability, we use the compute\_logsumexp() function below in calculating  $log(p_hq_h)$
- $p_h = \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^{(h)}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\tilde{y}_i \beta_0^{(h)} \beta_1^{(h)} X_i)^2}{2(\sigma^{(h)})^2} \right) \right)$ : take product of many normal pdfs

$$\log\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \exp(x_i)\right) = a + \log\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \exp(x_i - a)\right), \tag{15}$$

where  $a = \max_i x_i$ .

```
compute_logsumexp <- function(log_vector){
  log_vector_max <- max(log_vector)
  exp_vector <- exp(log_vector - log_vector_max)
  sum_exp <- sum(exp_vector)
  log_sum_exp <- log(sum_exp) + log_vector_max
  return(log_sum_exp)</pre>
```

```
CU_i_logZ_all <- rep(NA, G)
for (g in 1:G){
  q_sum_H <- sum((dnorm(y_i_guesses[g],</pre>
                         mean = (beta0_draws + beta1_draws * X i),
                         sd = sigma_draws)) /
            (dnorm(y_i, mean = (beta0_draws + beta1_draws * X_i),
                    sd = sigma draws)))
  log_pq_h_all <- rep(NA, H)</pre>
  for (h in 1:H){
    log_p_h <- sum(log(dnorm(CEdata_syn$LogIncome,</pre>
                              mean = (beta0_draws[h] + beta1_draws[h] *
                                         CEdata_syn$LogExpenditure),
                              sd = sigma_draws[h])))
```

- With uniform prior, output CU\_i\_logZ\_all is  $log(p(\mathbf{Z} \mid Y_i^s = y^*, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S)) \propto log(p(Y_i^s = y^* \mid \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S))$
- To re-normalize and obtain probabilities of each of  $\log(p(Y_i^s = y^* \mid \mathbf{Z}, \mathbf{y}^{us}, A, S))$ , we can apply the log-sum-exp trick again

```
prob <- exp(CU_i_logZ_all - max(CU_i_logZ_all)) /
   sum(exp(CU_i_logZ_all - max(CU_i_logZ_all)))
outcome <- as.data.frame(cbind(y_i_guesses, prob))
names(outcome) <- c("guess", "probability")
outcome[order(outcome$probability, decreasing = TRUE),]</pre>
```

```
##
     guess probability
## 8
      12.6 0.09231563
## 7
     12.1 0.09228750
## 9 13.1 0.09204320
     11.6 0.09203442
## 6
## 5
     11.1 0.09160126
## 10 13.6 0.09136939
      10.6 0.09099926
## 4
## 3
     10.1 0.09020571
      14.1 0.09017674
## 11
## 2
       9.6 0.08916632
            0.08780057
## 1
       9.1
```

- The true value for CU 8,  $y_i = 11.6$  (with  $\tilde{y}_i = 10.1, X_i = 9.8$ ), has a probability of 0.0916 out of 1 to be guessed correctly, when compared to 10 other simular values in the neighborhood of 11.6
- It is ranked 4 among the 11 possible guesses

```
As a comparison, CU 10 (y_i = 11.6, \tilde{y}_i = 10.7, X_i = 9.5)
##
      guess probability
## 8
       12.6 0.09247509
## 7
      12.1 0.09236756
     13.1 0.09225174
## 9
## 6
      11.6 0.09201971
## 10
      13.6 0.09158484
       11.1 0.09149332
## 5
## 4
      10.6 0.09081751
       14.1 0.09034931
## 11
## 3
      10.1 0.08998757
## 2
     9.6 0.08896616
## 1
        9.1 0.08768719
```

#### Final comments

- We can repeat this calculation process for all  $i \in 1, \dots, n = 994$  observations in the CE sample (write a function)
- Report the normalized probability of the true value being guessed correctly, as well as its ranking among the 11 possible guesses within the neighborhood
- Summarize / visualize the distributions of probability and rank