Wealth Disparity in the United States

**Group members:**

Gaurav Keswani (gk368)

Rui Liang (rl522)

Taihang Ye (ty322)

1. Data Source

The data set of wealth distribution of U.S. from 2000~2011 was found at <http://www.census.gov/people/wealth/>

We retrieved data sets for multiple years between 2000 and 2011, but went with 3 i.e. 2000, 2005 and 2011. The reason for doing so was to compare the status of the society at the beginning of the millennium to the time before and after the great recession of 2008.

**2. Data description & data binding**

2.1 Age-Quintile-Wealth distribution in different years

The heat maps for “Age-Quintile Wealth distribution” are in 3 parts - one for each year i.e. 2000, 2005 and 2011. In each of these heat maps we have age (“<35”, “35-44”, “45-54”, “55-64”, “>65”) and quintiles (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) where quintile 5 is the richest top 20% group. The purpose of these heat maps is to analyze the distribution of mean net worth.

The data for this is coming from the “Distribution 2000.xlsx”, “Distribution 2005.xlsx” and “Distribution 2011.xlsx” files. We selected the age groups sections in “Distribution of Net Worth By Net Worth Quintiles” table and manually converted into “age\_quintile\_wealth.csv”.

For “Age-Quintile-Wealth distribution” chart, we divide mean value into three ranges, which are “wealth\_min to zero”, “zero to two third of wealth range”, and “two third of wealth range to wealth\_max”. Then we use colorScale to linearly map mean value to different colors, red for the poorest and green for the richest. We use rectangles for the heat map, and label the age groups and years at the bottom and the quintiles on the left side of chart.

The purpose of this chart is to show that the more and more wealth is being accumulated by the 5th quantile over the years while the 1st quantile is in a bad state.

2.2 Mean Net Worth Per Quantile

2.3 Mean and Median Net Worth By Region

## In the “Median and Mean net worth comparison by regions” chart, we concentrate on the data from 2011. We use the region section from the data set and include both mean and median values for each quintile, (manually converted into into “region.csv”), which has four variables: region (“North east”, “Mid west”, “South”, “West”), quintile (2, 3, 4, 5), median and mean.

## In this region bar chart, we use the linear mapping to map the both mean and median wealth values to the length of the bars and differentiate between the different quintiles using different colors, like red for quintile 2(60~80%), orange for quintile 3(40~60%), light green for quintile 2(20~40%), dark green for quintile 1(0~20%).

2.4 Mean Net Worth By Race