Quantifying the treatment effects on prolonging the freshness of apples, bananas and avocado

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1. Introduction

Background:

This paper reports on the findings from applying different treatments to apples, bananas and avocados that are stored at room temperatures. Block and complete randomization experiment design was used to evaluate the effect of treatments using the measure we developed to quantify the changes in fruit conditions based on their initial condition or relative condition compared to the control group. The computation method we present in this can also be used to monitor spatiotemporal changes such as spread of cancer in a cancer patients or changes in land development patterns.

Purpose and need of the experiment

The purpose of th

With our experiment, we aim to determine if the orientation in which an apple is kept on a counter impacts its longevity.

We believe we will have time to run this experiment multiple times. Each run of the experiment will work like this:

Every group member will buy 12 or more apples. We will record each apple's weight in grams, and give it an ID. Next, we will randomly place $\frac{1}{2}$ of the apples in (i) upside-up position and the other half in (ii) upside-down position. Control will be having the apples upside-down, and treatment will be upside-up.
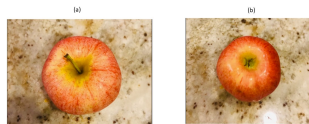

Figure 1: Treatment and control

We plan to run the experiments at least three times: (i) individual randomized apples to treatment and control; (ii) create cluster to maximize the within variation; (iii) create cluster to minimize the within variation. In all three, Bill will use treatment probability of 25%, Justin 50% and Nobu 75% to evaluate the effect of not including the block variable when the treatment assignment probability vary among the blocks.

Fruits will be placed at a room temperature. Every day, at a consistent time after sundown (to control for daylight variations), we will take pictures of all the apples. We will also record temperature and humidity in the room at the time of the photographs, using the same model/brand of thermometer.
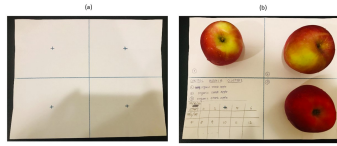
Figure 2: Four quadrant setup

In effect, each group member is running a block of the experiment simultaneously. We will also attempt a clustered design, where we assign treatment and control based on apple type.

We will use some computational tools to measure the 'spoiledness' of the apples. Pictures for a given apple will be processed by an algorithm that measures the visible changes between two images of the same fruit. Essentially, we will be tracking how quickly brown spots begin to form over the course of a 10 day period. The amount of change becomes our outcome variable. We already have a prototype of this algorithm that has been tested on some synthetically marked pictures of an apple.

We do not have any particular questions for the instructors at this time – we received some good early feedback from Micah after teams were first created. We are interested in requesting grant money to cover the purchase of apples, thermometers and scales if possible.

Description of experiment

This section provides the description of four experiments that we have conducted using three blocks labeled, B, J and N. The probability of the treatment assign ranged between blocks. The same number of subjects were used for control and treatment in each of three blocks called B, J, and N

Subjects were numbers through 1 to n, then, random number was generated to assigne subjects to treatment and control

```
id <- 1:12
y <- sample(c(0,1),12, replace=TRUE)
cbind(id,y)
```

```
##       id y
##  [1,]  1 1
##  [2,]  2 1
##  [3,]  3 0
##  [4,]  4 1
##  [5,]  5 1
##  [6,]  6 0
##  [7,]  7 0
##  [8,]  8 0
##  [9,]  9 0
## [10,] 10 0
## [11,] 11 0
## [12,] 12 0
```

For selecting 8 banans out of 9

```
y <- sample(1:9,8, replace=FALSE)
y
```

```
## [1] 3 8 9 7 4 5 6 1
```

```
id <- 1:8
y <- sample(c(0,1),8, replace=TRUE)
cbind(id,y)
```

```
##      id y
## [1,]  1 0
## [2,]  2 0
## [3,]  3 0
## [4,]  4 0
## [5,]  5 1
## [6,]  6 0
## [7,]  7 0
## [8,]  8 0
```

Experiment 1 (EX1)

Objective: To evaluate if keeping applies in different position can deter the process applies being spoiled.

- This experiment was conducted under the assumption that the skin of organic apples will turn brown if there were kept at a room temperature.

- Treatment was placing apple where apple top is facing upward, and control is placing apple top facing the floor. (see Figure 1.1)

- Individual apples were randomly assigned to control and treatment.

- Pictures of the apples were then taken on daily basis together with indoor humidity and temperature.

- The weight of each apples are also measured at the start of the experiment and the end of the experiment.

Experiment 2 (EX2)

Objective: To evaluate if keeping apples together with bananas will deter or expedite the process of applies being spoiled.

- Treatment is placing an apple adjacent to a banana.
- 4 randomly selected apples were placed adjacent to 4 randomly selected bananas
- 4 randomly selected apples were then placed by itself as a control group.
- Pictures of apples and bananas were taken on daily basis to monitor the changes in fruit skin color.

Experiment 3 (EX3)

Objective: To evaluate if keeping bananas together with apples will deter or expedite the process of applies being spoiled.

- Treatment is placing a banana adjacent to an apple.
- 4 randomly selected apples were placed adjacent to 4 randomly selected bananas
- 4 randomly selected bananas were then placed by itself as a control group.
- Pictures of apples and bananas were taken on daily basis to monitor the changes in fruit skin color.

Experiment 4(EX4)

Objective: To evaluate the different treatment effects, in each of block, six avocados were store in a bag (T1), plastic wrap (T2) and Zip lock (T3).

- Weight of the avocado were measured in the beginning of the experiment and at the end of the experiment.
- After 10 days, the avocados were cut open.
- Picture were taken and processed.

2. Sata

Description of data

Apple

Daily pictures of the apples were taken and the raw data from all three blocks are stroed in xx. The detaild python code for converting apples pictures to data are included in xx and qualitative description of the flow are descripted in here.

`Treatment` was ..

This was used as pre-experiment data to develop the process of the converting picture to xx.

The initital condition was used to quantify the changes in apple skin colors.

Banana

Daily pictures of banana were taken..

The picture (xx) that were read using Opencv library were first decomposed into Hue, Saturation and Value (HSA) and the range of Hue, Saturation and Value that will be used to filter banana image only were determined using **getEdage.py** and the information found at **http://colorizer.org**

After first filtering images, `img`, based on predifined HSA, the filtered images, `mask`, were used to then conver the background including the apples (see figure) into black and saved as `imgResult`. Then, contours of the banana were extracted together with other noise in the figure, then only the regions with closed contour with area greater than predified value were extracted and saved for the analysis.

The initital condition was used to quantify the changes in banana skin colors.

Avocado

Unlike apples and avocad, the observation of avocados that received treatments and control was made once on day xx by slicing avocados in 1/2 and comparing the fraction of avocado region that turned brown...

Converting picture to data

Data from expereiment 4

Names	description
Block	name of the block, B, J and N
id	two digit id which identifies individual subject
Yi	0 if it was control and 1 if it was treatment
Pt	Changes in subject condition observed in day t with respect to day 1

The chagnes in subject condition is measured in the following procedure. The picture of apple cropped based on its contour in the picture were converted to 256 by 256 matrix in grey scale. This matrix is then converted to a vector and normalized.

$\vec{v}_1$ represent the condition of apple in day 1.

The picture of the apple from the subsequent days were also cropped based on the procedure descriped in `method`, then stored in $\vec{v}_2..\vec{v}_{25}$.
The EX1 was ended on day 25 since the both the skin of the apples in both the control and treatments remain unchanged compared to day 1. Considering the time limit, the team decided to end the experiment on day 25 and start EX2, EX3 and EX4.

Pt is defined as the following

$$Pt = \frac{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_t}{\vec{v}_1^T \cdot \vec{v}_1}$$

Since all the vectors are normalized, Pt will range between 0 and 1. 0 indicating The apple from day t looks completely different from day 0. 1 indicating that the condition did not change at all.

The plot of pt for all control and treatment for each blocks are shown in the fiugre below.

Data from expereiment 4

Names	description
Block	name of the block, B, J and N
id	two digit id which identifies individual subject
Yi	0 if it was control and 1 if it was treatment
Cafe Noir	RGB(84,59,35)
Pastel Brown	RGB(132,105,84)
White Coffee	RGB(223,223,212)
June Bud	RGB(165,215,77)
Dark Lemon Lime	RGB(129,190,28)
White	RGB(255,255,255)
Black	RGB(0,0,0)

LINK

Apply KNN to clsuter the pixles. Remove the ones that are clustered with white and black Normalized the ones that are in other groups. Compare the composition.

3. EDA

4. Analysis

Comparing apple to apple

Long format

Names	description
Block	name of the block, B, J and N
id	two digit id which identifies individual subject
Yi	0 if it was control and 1 if it was treatment
day	day since the start of experiment
response	Changes in subject condition observed in day t with respect to day 1
temperature	temperature
humidity	humidity

```
#plot changes in response over different days while indicating block, and
#treatment condition
```

Comparing bananas to bananas

Names	description
Block	name of the block, B, J and N
id	two digit id which identifies individual subject
Yi	0 if it was control and 1 if it was treatment
day	day since the start of experiment
response	Changes in subject condition observed in day t with respect to day 1
temperature	temperature
humidity	humidity

Avocado

Names	description
Block	name of the block, B, J and N
id	two digit id which identifies individual subject

Names	description
Yi	0 if it was control and 1 if it was treatment
c1	day since the start of experiment
c2	
c3	temperature
c4	humidity
c5	humidity

Assume the temperature and hum did not change significantly across different days during the experiment. (I think this is reasonable assumption)

5. Concluding Remarks