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Investigating Potential Bias And Discrimination In The Development of A Typical AI Platform For Heart Transplantation

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Introduction



- Heart failure is a global pandemic without cure
- Heart transplantation is the most effective treatment for patients with end-stage heart failure
- We want to help Decision makers have a predictive tool to facilitate their decision for organ matching
- We investigate the results of the latest researches in heart transplantation survival prediction for any evidences of bias in gender or region.



Introduction

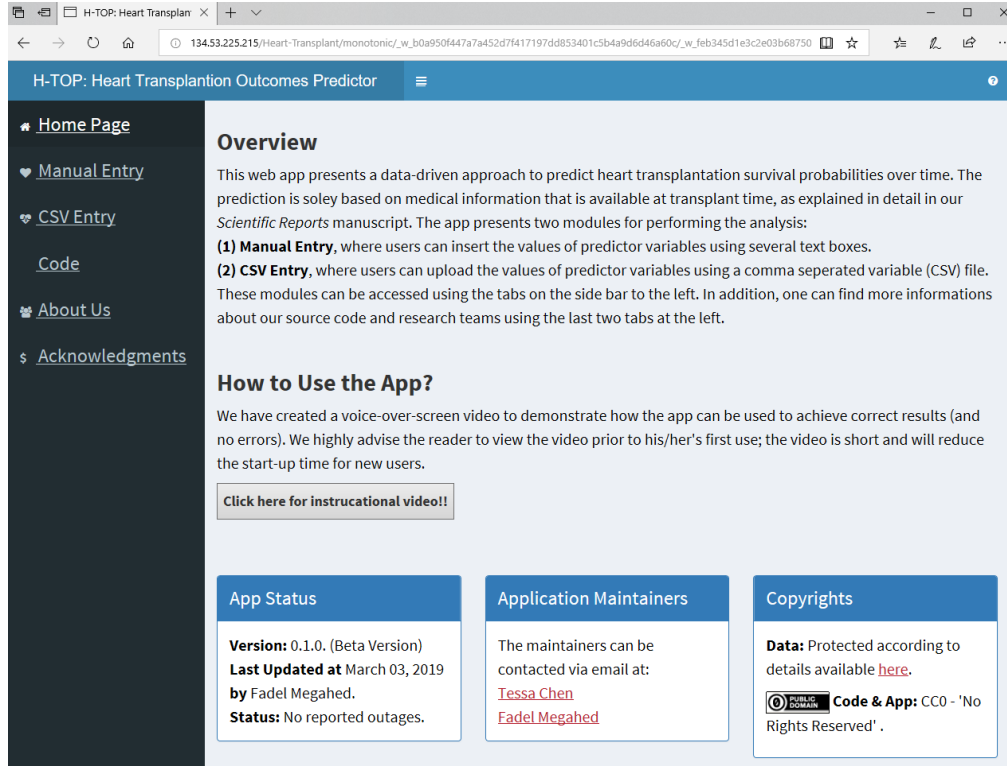
- Dataset: National registry of U.S. heart transplants from 1987-2016 (UNOS dataset)
- Survival of patients after one year from transplantation surgery is predicted.
- The best model (the highest AUC) is selected from all of the combinations:

Total No. of Data Mining Project Developed						
CRISP-DM Sections						
Factors	Data Preparation			Training Model		
	Categorical Imputation	Numerical Imputation	Encoding	Feature Selection	Resampling Method	Training Algorithm
No. of levels	4	2	2	3	5	9
Total Combinations	$4 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 9 \times (5 \text{ fold cross validation}) = 10,800$					

- The training algorithm was Logistic Regression (the simplest one)



The survival tool



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the H-TOP: Heart Transplantation Outcomes Predictor application. The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://134.53.225.215/Heart-Transplant/monotonic/_w_b0a950f447a7a452d7f417197dd853401c5b4a9d6d46a60c/_w_feb345d1e3c2e03b68750. The application has a dark blue sidebar with navigation links: Home Page, Manual Entry, CSV Entry, Code, About Us, and Acknowledgments. The main content area has a blue header with the title "H-TOP: Heart Transplantation Outcomes Predictor". Below the header, there is an "Overview" section with a paragraph describing the app's purpose and two modules: (1) Manual Entry and (2) CSV Entry. A "How to Use the App?" section follows, mentioning a voice-over-screen video. At the bottom, there are three boxes: "App Status" (Version: 0.1.0, Beta Version; Last Updated at March 03, 2019 by Fadel Megahed; Status: No reported outages), "Application Maintainers" (The maintainers can be contacted via email at: Tessa Chen, Fadel Megahed), and "Copyrights" (Data: Protected according to details available here; Code & App: CC0 - 'No Rights Reserved').

H-TOP: Heart Transplantation Outcomes Predictor

[Home Page](#)
[Manual Entry](#)
[CSV Entry](#)
[Code](#)
[About Us](#)
[Acknowledgments](#)

Overview

This web app presents a data-driven approach to predict heart transplantation survival probabilities over time. The prediction is solely based on medical information that is available at transplant time, as explained in detail in our *Scientific Reports* manuscript. The app presents two modules for performing the analysis:

- (1) **Manual Entry**, where users can insert the values of predictor variables using several text boxes.
- (2) **CSV Entry**, where users can upload the values of predictor variables using a comma separated variable (CSV) file.

These modules can be accessed using the tabs on the side bar to the left. In addition, one can find more information about our source code and research teams using the last two tabs at the left.

How to Use the App?

We have created a voice-over-screen video to demonstrate how the app can be used to achieve correct results (and no errors). We highly advise the reader to view the video prior to his/her's first use; the video is short and will reduce the start-up time for new users.

[Click here for instructional video!!](#)


App Status

Version: 0.1.0. (Beta Version)
Last Updated at March 03, 2019
by Fadel Megahed.
Status: No reported outages.

Application Maintainers

The maintainers can be contacted via email at:
[Tessa Chen](#)
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<http://134.53.225.215/Heart-Transplant/monotonic/>



Definition of Discrimination

- Initially originated from Latin for 'distinguishing'
- refers to an unjustified treatment of people based on belonging to some groups rather than their individual merits
- Human rights laws prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, family status, genetic characteristics, or disability.



Source: In 21st century Philippines, discrimination is still an inescapable way of life. GetRealPost



Discrimination in Machine Learning

- Discrimination due to algorithm is sometimes referred to as digital discrimination. In fact, digital discrimination could be caused by a biased dataset or the algorithm itself when sensitive attributes are included in the model
- Direct Discrimination
 - People that are similar in terms of non-protected characteristics should receive similar predictions
- Indirect Discrimination
 - Differences in predictions across groups of people can only be as large as justified by non-protected characteristics.



Protected Groups & Targets

- Gender of Patient
 - Male
 - Female
- Survival Status
 - 0
The patient would not survive
 - 1
The patient would survive
- Region
 - Southeast
 - Middle west
 - and Northeast
- Survival Possibility
 - From 0 to 1



We use statistical tests to investigate the existence of indirect discrimination in predicted survival status and survival possibility among gender and region

Existence Tests

- **Regression Slope Test**

- determine whether there is a significant linear relationship between an independent variable X and a dependent variable Y
- $Y = B_0 + B_1X$
- Hypothesis:
 - $H_0: B_1 = 0$
 - $H_a: B_1 \neq 0$

- **Mean Differences Test**

- For two groups:
 - H_0 : there is no difference between the two population means
 - H_a : there is difference between the two population means
- For three groups:
 - ANOVA

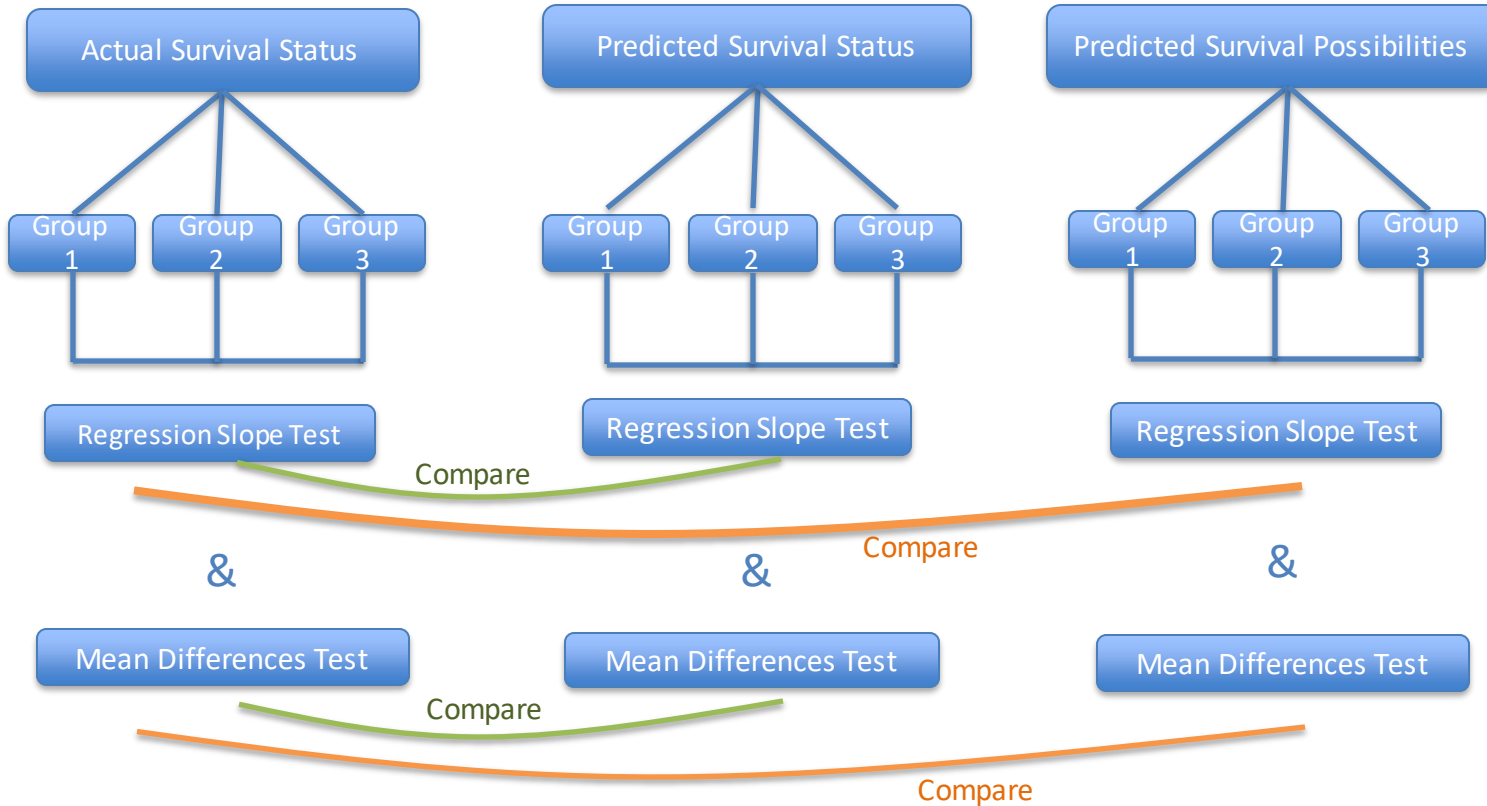


Methodology

- Gender
 1. Select the data generated by Logistic Regression
 2. Test if there is significant bias between male and female in the actual survival status (0 and 1)
 3. Test if there is significant bias between male and female in the predicted survival rate (0 and 1)
 4. Test if there is significant bias between male and female in the predicted survival possibility (0 to 1)
 5. Compare the test results
- Region
 - Similar process
 - Detect the bias between Southeast, Middle west, and Northeast



Methodology



Result: Gender – Regression Test

$$Y = B_0 + B_1X$$

$$H_0: B_1 = 0$$

Actual Survival Status

Year	slope	std_error	p-value	conclusion
0	0.001511	0.006605	0.819071	Accept
1	0.012958	0.009701	0.181679	Accept
2	0.002992	0.011007	0.785788	Accept
3	0.013493	0.011838	0.254377	Accept
4	0.013493	0.011838	0.254377	Accept
5	0.012717	0.013391	0.342328	Accept
6	0.022473	0.014057	0.109933	Accept
7	0.00921	0.014482	0.524829	Accept
8	0.001508	0.014928	0.919531	Accept
9	-0.00653	0.015153	0.666347	Accept
10	-0.01831	0.015338	0.232594	Accept



Predicted Survival Status

Year	slope	std_error	p-value	conclusion
0	0.050847	0.011930913	2.05E-05	Reject
1	0.035387	0.012385337	0.004284322	Reject
2	0.038522	0.01273741	0.002499292	Reject
3	0.045311	0.013024613	0.00050617	Reject
4	0.045311	0.013024613	0.00050617	Reject
5	0.089718	0.013694132	6.08E-11	Reject
6	0.077486	0.014078576	3.85E-08	Reject
7	0.052496	0.014398259	0.000268411	Reject
8	0.047808	0.014736314	0.001183829	Reject
9	0.034139	0.014957594	0.022501932	Reject
10	0.042433	0.015247362	0.005404143	Reject

Predicted Survival Possibilities

Year	slope	std_error	p-value	conclusion
0	0.019286	0.004130946	3.07E-06	Reject
1	0.01465	0.003554636	3.80E-05	Reject
2	0.011839	0.003172059	0.000190972	Reject
3	0.014741	0.003082325	1.76E-06	Reject
4	0.020767	0.003106283	2.46E-11	Reject
5	0.028701	0.003402421	3.94E-17	Reject
6	0.021556	3.41E-10	0.003428245	Reject
7	0.018114	0.003742111	1.32E-06	Reject
8	0.017326	0.0045023	0.000120078	Reject
9	0.013855	0.005581601	0.013079482	Reject
10	0.01545	0.00665848	0.020357182	Reject



Result: Gender – Mean Differences Test

Ho: there is no difference between the two population means

Actual Survival Status			
Year	statistic	p-value	conclusion
0	0.228746	0.819071	Accept
1	1.119031	0.263173	Accept
2	0.271792	0.785788	Accept
3	1.139863	0.254377	Accept
4	1.575005	0.115296	Accept
5	0.949638	0.342328	Accept
6	1.598701	0.109933	Accept
7	0.635953	0.524829	Accept
8	0.101028	0.919531	Accept
9	-0.43119	0.666347	Accept
10	-1.19383	0.232594	Accept



Predicted Survival Status			
Year	statistic	p-value	conclusion
0	4.261827	2.05E-05	Reject
1	1.760658	0.078348741	Accept
2	3.024326	0.002499292	Reject
3	3.478876	0.00050617	Reject
4	5.693438	1.29E-08	Reject
5	6.551596	6.08E-11	Reject
6	5.503812	3.85E-08	Reject
7	3.645984	0.000268411	Reject
8	3.244222	0.001183829	Reject
9	2.282371	0.022501932	Reject
10	2.782945	0.005404143	Reject

Predicted Survival Possibilities			
Year	statistic	p-value	conclusion
0	4.668684	3.07E-06	Reject
1	2.729504	0.006362	Reject
2	3.732301	0.000191	Reject
3	4.782497	1.76E-06	Reject
4	6.68547	2.46E-11	Reject
5	8.435379	3.94E-17	Reject
6	6.287807	3.41E-10	Reject
7	4.840622	1.32E-06	Reject
8	3.848365	0.00012	Reject
9	2.482331	0.013079	Reject
10	2.320334	0.020357	Reject



Result: Region – Regression Test

REGION_MIDWEST														
Actual Survival Status					Predicted Survival Status					Predicted Survival Probabilities				
Year	slope	p-value	std_error	conclusion	Year	slope	p-value	std_error	conclusion	Year	slope	p-value	std_error	conclusion
0	-0.00575	0.376377	0.006504	Accept	0	0.058056	7.84E-07	0.011746	Reject	0	0.021012	2.44E-07	0.004067	Reject
1	0.011935	0.208335	0.009486	Accept	1	0.054162	7.71E-06	0.012102	Reject	1	0.019958	9.35E-09	0.003472	Reject
2	0.016822	0.117115	0.010734	Accept	2	0.072223	6.03E-09	0.012406	Reject	2	0.025133	4.22E-16	0.003084	Reject
3	0.015116	0.19611	0.011692	Accept	3	0.088542	5.70E-12	0.012837	Reject	3	0.024547	7.21E-16	0.003037	Reject
4	0.023837	0.055766	0.01246	Accept	4	0.122215	1.09E-20	0.013067	Reject	4	0.031309	3.71E-25	0.003011	Reject
5	0.021162	0.105789	0.013082	Accept	5	0.14526	1.63E-27	0.013311	Reject	5	0.041423	1.14E-35	0.003305	Reject
6	0.021986	0.108197	0.013685	Accept	6	0.101202	1.56E-13	0.013682	Reject	6	0.030581	5.01E-20	0.003326	Reject
7	0.023312	0.100971	0.014211	Accept	7	0.119321	2.73E-17	0.01407	Reject	7	0.035749	1.83E-22	0.003653	Reject
8	0.032278	0.026408	0.014535	Reject	8	0.100935	1.93E-12	0.01431	Reject	8	0.036869	3.75E-17	0.004366	Reject
9	0.021005	0.156257	0.014814	Accept	9	0.122428	4.80E-17	0.014547	Reject	9	0.047995	1.17E-18	0.005425	Reject
10	0.019313	0.198195	0.015008	Accept	10	0.120963	4.48E-16	0.014845	Reject	10	0.051314	2.95E-15	0.006484	Reject

REGION_NOTH_EAST														
Actual Survival Status					Predicted Survival Status					Predicted Survival Probabilities				
Year	slope	p-value	std_error	conclusion	Year	slope	p-value	std_error	conclusion	Year	slope	p-value	std_error	conclusion
0	-1.31E-02	5.07E-02	6.70E-03	Accept	0	-1.19E-01	7.61E-23	1.21E-02	Reject	0	-4.96E-02	1.64E-32	4.16E-03	Reject
1	-3.85E-02	8.69E-05	9.81E-03	Accept	1	-9.37E-02	7.21E-14	1.25E-02	Reject	1	-3.43E-02	1.11E-21	0.003581	Reject
2	-3.27E-02	3.35E-03	1.12E-02	Reject	2	-4.53E-02	4.61E-04	1.29E-02	Reject	2	-1.45E-02	6.62E-06	3.22E-03	Reject
3	-3.23E-02	7.27E-03	1.20E-02	Reject	3	-5.03E-02	1.48E-04	1.32E-02	Reject	3	-1.69E-02	7.23E-08	3.13E-03	Reject
4	-1.94E-02	1.32E-01	1.29E-02	Accept	4	-5.14E-02	1.47E-04	1.35E-02	Reject	4	-1.64E-02	1.55E-07	3.12E-03	Reject
5	-2.76E-02	4.14E-02	1.36E-02	Reject	5	-9.82E-02	1.55E-12	1.39E-02	Reject	5	-3.08E-02	4.65E-19	3.44E-03	Reject
6	-2.00E-02	1.58E-01	1.42E-02	Accept	6	-4.76E-02	8.16E-04	1.42E-02	Reject	6	-1.84E-02	1.13E-07	3.46E-03	Reject
7	-2.26E-02	1.20E-01	1.46E-02	Accept	7	-3.09E-02	3.31E-02	1.45E-02	Reject	7	-1.20E-02	1.49E-03	3.77E-03	Reject
8	-2.25E-02	1.32E-01	1.49E-02	Accept	8	-3.04E-02	3.95E-02	1.47E-02	Reject	8	-1.71E-02	1.43E-04	4.50E-03	Reject
9	-2.03E-02	1.84E-01	1.53E-02	Accept	9	-8.42E-02	2.27E-08	1.50E-02	Reject	9	-3.63E-02	1.06E-10	5.61E-03	Reject
10	-1.96E-02	2.05E-01	1.54E-02	Accept	10	-6.97E-02	5.58E-06	1.53E-02	Reject	10	-3.66E-02	4.46E-08	6.68E-03	Reject

REGION_SOUTH_EAST														
Actual Survival Status					Predicted Survival Status					Predicted Survival Probabilities				
Year	slope	p-value	std_error	conclusion	Year	slope	p-value	std_error	conclusion	Year	slope	p-value	std_error	conclusion
0	-2.74E-03	6.43E-01	5.90E-03	Accept	0	-1.45E-02	1.76E-01	1.07E-02	Accept	0	-6.04E-03	1.02E-01	0.003696	Accept
1	-0.00921	0.288	0.008672	Accept	1	-0.02803	0.011354747	0.011071	Reject	1	-0.01148	0.000306026	0.003178	Reject
2	-0.00779	0.427971	0.009823	Accept	2	-0.08361	1.81E-13	0.012914	Reject	2	-0.0256	1.35E-19	0.00282	Reject
3	-0.00766	0.470637	0.010611	Accept	3	-0.09059	8.00E-15	0.01164	Reject	3	-0.02509	9.74E-20	0.002753	Reject
4	-0.02094	0.065238	0.011356	Accept	4	-0.12751	1.19E-26	0.011888	Reject	4	-0.0339	6.44E-35	0.002736	Reject
5	-0.01105	0.354125	0.011925	Accept	5	-0.12473	1.40E-24	0.012143	Reject	5	-0.03618	7.28E-33	0.003015	Reject
6	-0.0241	0.054279	0.012519	Accept	6	-0.10408	1.02E-16	0.012504	Reject	6	-0.02974	1.92E-22	0.003041	Reject
7	-0.00837	0.516715	0.012909	Accept	7	-0.12768	1.96E-23	0.012752	Reject	7	-0.03728	3.73E-29	0.00331	Reject
8	-0.00628	0.635476	0.013246	Accept	8	-0.106	4.65E-16	0.013019	Reject	8	-0.03405	1.39E-17	0.003977	Reject
9	-0.01318	0.328455	0.013485	Accept	9	-0.08311	4.11E-10	0.013275	Reject	9	-0.02777	2.21E-08	0.004957	Reject
10	-0.01504	0.27007	0.013638	Accept	10	-0.08427	4.90E-10	0.013521	Reject	10	-0.02714	4.51E-06	0.005912	Reject



Result: Region – ANOVA

Ho: there is no difference in means

Actual Survival Status			
Year	statistic	p-value	conclusion
0	0.576839036	0.561695	Accept
1	4.252878352	0.014277	Reject
2	3.886647697	0.020558	Reject
3	3.046513543	0.047591	Reject
4	3.071013217	0.046444	Reject
5	2.648017499	0.070874	Accept
6	2.553425685	0.077904	Accept
7	2.042358654	0.129822	Accept
8	2.794213227	0.061255	Accept
9	1.651012699	0.191961	Accept
10	1.492085417	0.225008	Accept



Predicted Survival Status			
Year	statistic	p-value	conclusion
0	42.93389	2.859E-19	Reject
1	23.49655	7.005E-11	Reject
2	31.68267	2.005E-14	Reject
3	40.23185	4.294E-18	Reject
4	72.41616	8.078E-32	Reject
5	93.52239	1.008E-40	Reject
6	44.89891	4.496E-20	Reject
7	59.53555	2.652E-26	Reject
8	40.39344	3.913E-18	Reject
9	49.93881	3.366E-22	Reject
10	44.6354	6.22E-20	Reject

Predicted Survival Possibilities			
Year	statistic	p-value	conclusion
0	58.41876	6.57133E-26	Reject
1	36.53723	1.78681E-16	Reject
2	55.54145	1.16897E-24	Reject
3	57.39094	1.94586E-25	Reject
4	95.55743	1.31515E-41	Reject
5	129.3908	9.61627E-56	Reject
6	69.33773	1.76977E-30	Reject
7	78.31291	2.95523E-34	Reject
8	54.35979	4.3223E-24	Reject
9	55.54211	1.39396E-24	Reject
10	42.37661	5.71776E-19	Reject



Conclusion

- Existence of Gender Bias
- Existence of Region Bias
- The highest performing Model was in favor of female
- The highest performing Model was in favor of region northeast
- Any scoring algorithm based on the produced tool is prone to bias and needed to be optimized to reduce bias



Future Studies

- Measurement of bias
- Mathematical improvements in algorithms: developing cost function for bias
- Run algorithm separately for different groups to investigate if there exists overfitting/underfitting problem for some specific groups
- Sensitivity analysis of accuracy vs. bias





Thank you!