

550.400: Mathematical Modeling and Consulting

Lecture Notes

Instructor:
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JHU AMS 2012 FALL

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Outline

Today's Lesson Plan

Class Info.

Textbook Materials

Writing about Numbers

Math. Modeling

Course Project

Work Statement

Example

Random Bits

Insurance Redlining

Sherlock Holmes and the Bicycle Tracks

Fair Play

Tutorials

LATEX

Git

Vim

R

Today's Lesson Plan

1. WMA Problem Set 2.5a, 2.6a, 2.8a, 2.9
2. IMM Problem Set 1.1, 1.5, 1.8
3. Work Statement:
 - Mission: Impossible
 - An example motivated by the bicycle problem
4. Fair Play
 - Is Tennis Fair?
 - Is Baseball Fair?

Syllabus

- Grade Policy
- Attendance
- *Tentative Schedule*
- Blackboard
- Misc.

OH Location

Clark Hall 320B



Course Book Reserve

JHU Library Reserve Service

Presentations in this class

For your presentation recording needs



Unofficial Way to Access the Course Folder

<http://cis.jhu.edu/~nhlee/550400.html/>

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Seven Basic Principles

1. Set the context
2. Choose effective examples and analogies
3. Choose vocabulary to suit your readers
4. Decide whether to present #s in text, tables, or figures
5. Report and interpret #s in the text
6. Specify the direction *and* size of an association between variables
7. For many #s, summarize overall pattern

WMA Problem 2.5a & 2.6a

The Williams family's income of \$25,000 falls below 185% of the Federal Poverty Threshold for a family of four, qualifying them for food stamps.

Problem 2.5a Identify terms that need to be defined or restated for a nontechnical audience

Problem 2.6a Rewrite the sentences in the previous questions for an audience with a fifth-grade education. Convey the main point, not the calculation or the jargon.

FYI Off-the-chart

WMA Problem 2.8a

Rewrite each of these sentences to specify the direction and magnitude of the association:

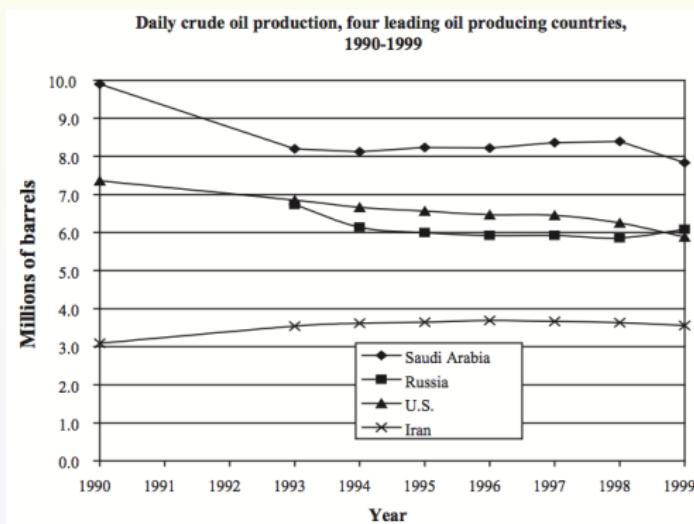
In the United States, race is correlated with income.

Table: Median income by race and Hispanic origin, United States, 1999

Race/Hispanic origin	Median Income
White	\$42,504
Black	\$27,910
Asian/Pacific Islander	\$51,205
Hispanic (can be of any race)	\$30,735

WMA Problem 2.9

Use the GEE approach to describe the patterns in the figure below, including an introductory sentence about the purpose of the chart before summarizing the patterns.



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Models and Reality: “Disclaimer”

Here we are concerned exclusively with mathematical models, that is, models that mimic reality by using the language of mathematics. Whenever we use “model” without a modifier, we mean “mathematical model.”

Models and Reality

What makes Mathematical models useful? If we “speak in mathematics,”,

- *We must formulate our ideas precisely and so are less likely to let implicit assumptions slip by,*
- *We have a concise “language” which encourages manipulation,*
- *We have a large number of potential theorems available,*
- *We have high speed computers available for carrying out calculations.*

Properties of Models

A mathematical model is an abstract, simplified, mathematical construct related to a part of reality and created for a particular purpose.

Since a dozen different people are likely to come up with a dozen different definitions, don't take this one too seriously;

rather, think of it as a crude starting point around which to build your own understanding of mathematical modeling.

Properties of Models

As far as a model is concerned, the world can be divided into three parts:

1. *Things whose effects are neglected,*
2. *Things that affect the model but whose behavior the model is not designed to study,*
3. *Things the model is designed to study the behavior of.*

Building a Model: “Disclaimer”

Model building involves imagination and skill. Giving rules for doing it is like listing rules for being an artist; at best this provides a framework around which to build skills and develop imagination.

It may be impossible to teach imagination. I won't try, but I hope this book provides an opportunity for your skills and imagination to grow. With these warnings, I present an outline of the modeling process.

Building a Model

With these warnings, I present an outline of the modeling process.

1. *Formulate a problem*
2. *Outline the model*
3. *Is it Useful?*
3. *Test the model*

Building a Model

Some models may require no data. If a model makes the same prediction regardless of the data, we are not getting something for nothing because this prediction is based on the assumptions of the model.

To some extent, the distinction between data and assumptions is artificial. In an extreme case, a model may be so specialized that its data are all built into the assumptions.

Building a Model

The manager of a large commercial printing company asks your advice on how many salespeople to employ.

Qualitatively, more salespeople will increase sales overhead, while fewer salespeople may mean losing potential customers.

Thus there should be some optimum number.

IMM Problem: “Disclaimer”

Some of the problems in this book lead you step by step through the development of a model and thus resemble the mathematics problems you have seen in other courses;

however, many problems are closer to real life: They are vaguely stated, have multiple answers (models), or are open ended.

I strongly recommend working in small groups on the problems to bring out various ideas and evaluate them critically.

IMM Problem 1.1

Suppose people enter the elevators in a skyscraper at random during the morning rush. The result will be several elevators stopping on each floor to discharge one or two passengers each.

- Discuss schemes for improving the situation.
- How could improvement be measured?
- How could you model the situation to decide what scheme to adopt?

IMM Problem 1.6

Unless you have been extremely lucky, you have had a large class in a poorly designed lecture hall.

- (a) What are some criteria to be considered in designing a large lecture hall?

IMM Problem 1.6

Unless you have been extremely lucky, you have had a large class in a poorly designed lecture hall.

(b) One criterion is legibility of material written on the boards.

- Construct a model of legibility as a function of
 - *the distance* your seat is from the board
 - *the angle* at which you look at the board
- What will the curves of constant legibility look like on a floor plan?
- How can you test this prediction? Try it.
- Does this suggest shaping the back of the hall differently than is usually done? How?

IMM Problem 1.6

Unless you have been extremely lucky, you have had a large class in a poorly designed lecture hall.

- (c) Can mathematical modeling help with any other criteria besides the one mentioned in (b)? Try to pick a criterion from among these possibilities and develop a model for it.

Models and Reality

The ultimate test of a model is how well it performs when it is applied to the problem it was designed to handle.

A model is used, it may lead to incorrect predictions. The model is often modified, frequently discarded, and sometimes used anyway because it is better than nothing. This is the way science develops.

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Mission Impossible?: an analogy

Mission Impossible Season 2 Episode (00:00 – 06:25)



Project in Industry: Frequently Recurring Elements

A stylized timeline:

1. Work Statement,
2. Midterm Presentation,
3. Progress Report,
4. Final Presentation,
5. Final Report.



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What is Work Statement

This is the written proposal and definition of the project and constitutes the team's "contract" with the sponsor. It should be approximately 2-5 pages long. It sets forth the nature of the project, the specific objectives of the project, the results expected, and the "deliverables" for the project. The scope of the project must be within the timetable for the program and that the deliverables are reasonable and appropriate; given the nature of research, it should not include promises that the team cannot be certain to achieve. It is ultimately given to the sponsor for review and signature.

Template 1

1. Abstract
2. Background
3. Problem description
4. Approach (“time permitting” clause for some work)
5. Schedule (dates for completing milestones and tasks and for deliverables)
6. Milestones (major checkpoints your team will use to stay on track)
7. Deliverables (specific work products you will deliver to the sponsor)

Templates 2

1. Introduction
2. Problem background
3. Mathematical background
4. Computing background
5. Possible solutions and project objectives
6. Deliverables (“time permitting” clause for some work)
7. Timeline

Template 3

1. Project background
2. Goals (major direction you see the work aimed at, not necessarily what you bid to do)
3. Proposed mathematical approach
4. Objectives (specific aims of your project, and schedule of results you expect to achieve)
5. Optional objectives
6. Deliverables
7. Milestones
8. Work flowchart
9. Schedule

Template 4

1. Abstract
2. Problem background
3. Problem description
4. Approach
5. Deliverables
6. Timetable
7. Team members

Work Statement

In the initial segment (“Abstract”, “Introduction”, “Background”)

- Brief description of the company
- Major product lines(s)
- A brief (abstract) description of the project

Work Statement

Throughout

- Spell out terminology – avoid undefined jargon or acronym
- When options must be resolved, give dates by which they must be resolved
- Give modest objectives, not boastful ones

Work Statement

List of deliverables should include

- Site visits (to be arranged)
- Midterm oral presentation
- Midterm report
- Final presentation
- Final report
- Software (if appropriate)
 - Specify sponsor-approved OS, platform
 - Documentations

Glossary I

GOAL

The overall, long range, end result that your research is aimed at, what you are trying to achieve ultimately. Stating a goal does not mean you believe you will get there this time around. It is the grand view towards which you strive. The goal of AIDS research is to find a cure for AIDS.

Glossary

OBJECTIVES

The specific things you will try to achieve in your project, the immediate targets of your research. Your objectives spell out how you have parsed the problem of heading towards the goal into smaller pieces that you will work on. The objectives set practical limits on your work. They point to where the project can reasonably expect to wind up. It should be clear that the objectives fit into and work towards the long-range goal.

Glossary

TASKS

These are the specific things you will do in order to achieve your objectives. The tasks drive your determination of what skills and other resources (such as data, software, hardware, written materials, work environment) will be needed for your project. If among the resources needed are ones that must be supplied by the sponsor, then you will need to specify these items in your Work Statement.

Glossary

DELIVERABLES

The things you promise to deliver to the sponsor. For a project, these include a mid-term and final report, a mid-term presentation and a final presentation on Projects Day. They may also include site visits to the sponsor (usually one near the beginning of the project to get acquainted with the sponsor, and one after Projects Day to present the work at the sponsor's location), software, perhaps hardware in some cases, written results of literature searches, white papers (i.e., written background information on such things as plans, methods or concepts prepared for internal use), etc. These additional items are to be decided by you in consultation with your sponsors mentor.

Glossary

MILESTONES

A list of specific accomplishments that you may use to mark progress and maintain pace and coordination within your project. They are used to help your team stay on track and to determine the success of a chosen line of attack on your problem. Milestones may or may not be included in your Work Statement, but you should definitely think these through for your own use as you plan your project and Work Statement. They are check-points for you (and for your sponsor, if they are included in the Work Statement), not necessarily deliverables. You may want to specify major milestones in your Work Statements to indicate what you would do if your research leads to the conclusion that some objective cannot be accomplished. For example, "if by such a date we have found it impossible to achieve X, then we will begin Y." Research is exploration of the unknown, so you may encounter an intractable obstacle and need to work around it. You can't know everything ahead of time. Give some thought to this and try to allow for milestones by which you can judge where you are and what you need to do to proceed effectively in the event you don't meet a milestone.

Glossary

SCHEDULE

This specifies when you will finish major parts of your research and provides a timetable for completion of deliverables. Internally, you should maintain as fine-grained a schedule as you need to keep your team coordinated and on track, but in your Work Statement it is best to make the schedule and list of deliverables as modest as the sponsor will allow.

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What is Mathematical Modeling?

Trillion Dollar Bet

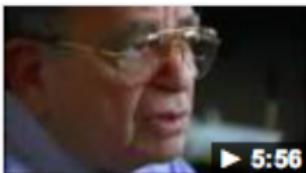
NOVA Online | Trillion Dollar Bet

www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/stockmarket/

Welcome to the companion Web site to "Trillion Dollar Bet," originally broadcast on February 8, 2000. The film tells the fascinating story of the invention of the ...

[The Formula that Shook The ...](#) - [Transcripts](#) - [A Trader's Lexicon](#) - [Resources](#)

Videos for trillion dollar bet - Report videos



[Trillion Dollar Bet 1 -](#)

[YouTube](#)

youtube.com

Jan 8, 2009

[The Trillion Dollar](#)

[Bet - YouTube](#)

youtube.com

Sep 15, 2007

[The Midas Formula](#)

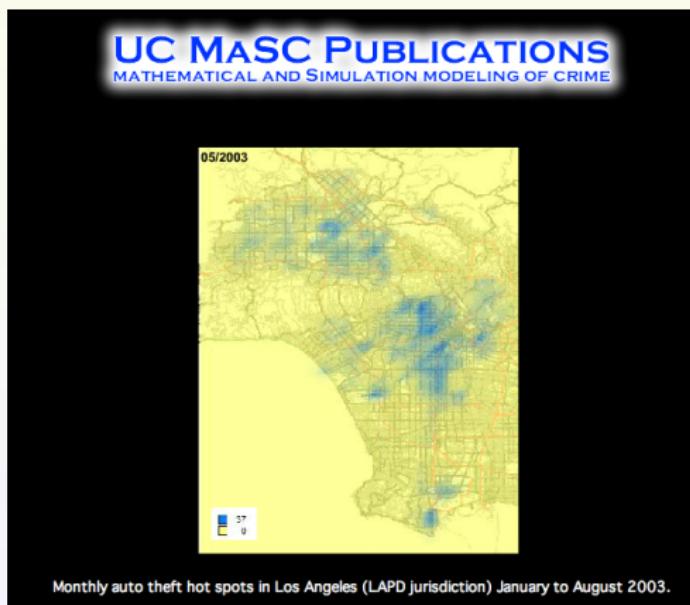
[Stockmarket ...](#)

youtube.com

Aug 23, 2011

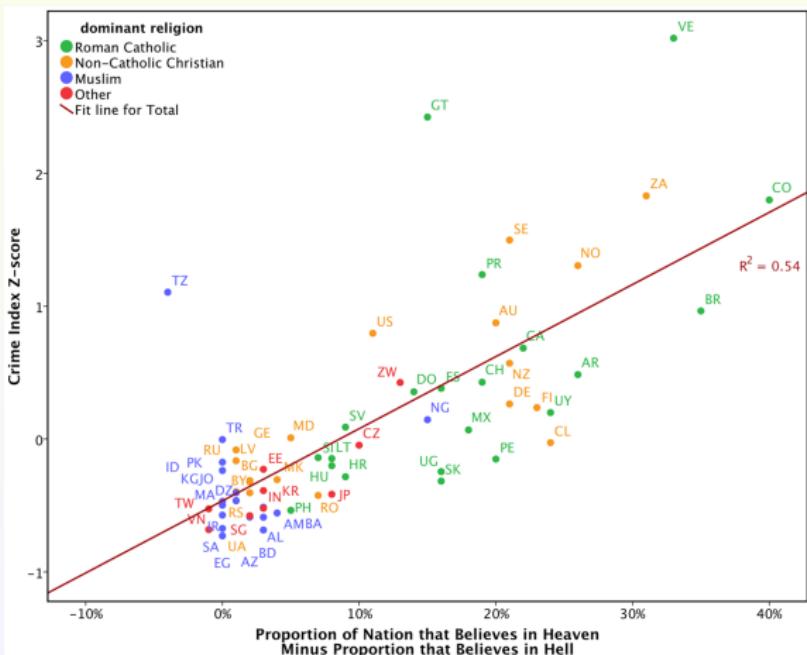
What is Mathematical Modeling?

LAPD Fighting Crime with Math



What is Mathematical Modeling?

Crime rates and religious beliefs



More Project Ideas

<http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/>

<http://www.math.msu.edu/>

<http://www.mathgoespop.com/>

<http://www.math.hmc.edu/clinic/>

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Insurance Redlining

Insurance Redlining

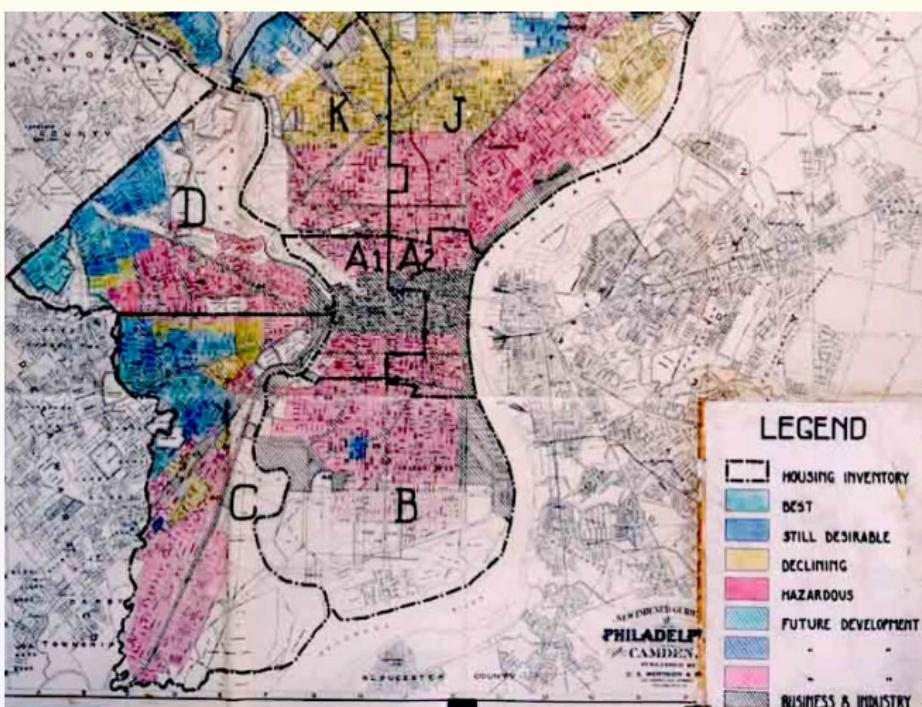
Insurance redlining refers to the practice of refusing to issue insurance to certain types of people or within some geographic area.

FAIR

The *FAIR* plan was offered by the city of Chicago as a default policy to homeowner who had been rejected by the voluntary market.

Insurance Redlining

Insurance Redlining



Insurance Redlining

Sponsor

The *U.S. Commission on Civil Rights* examined charges by several Chicago community organizations that insurance companies were redlining their neighborhoods.

Data

The *number of FAIR plan policies* written and renewed in Chicago by zip code for the number of months of December 1977 through May 1978.

Insurance Redlining

Variables to consider:

`race` Racial composition in percentage of minority,

`fire` Fire per 100 housing units,

`theft` Theft per 1000 population,

`age` percent of housing unit built before 1939,

`involact` New FAIR plan policies and renewal per 100 housing units,

`income` Median family income in thousands of dollars,

`side` North or South side of Chicago.

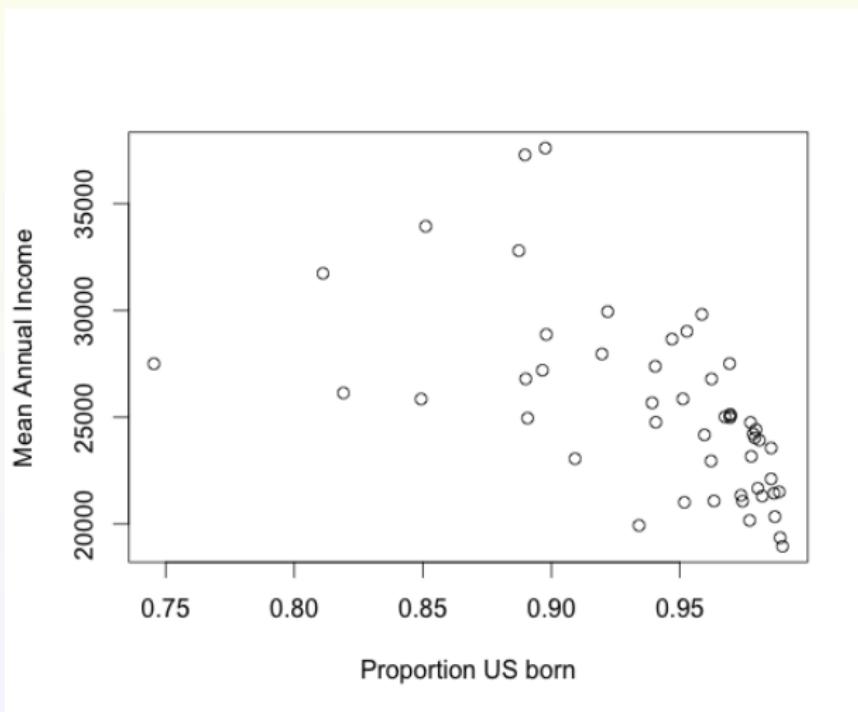
Insurance Redlining: Ecological Fallacy

Ecological Fallacy

*When data are collected at the group level, we may observe a correlation between two variables. The **ecological fallacy** is concluding that the same correlation holds at the individual level.*

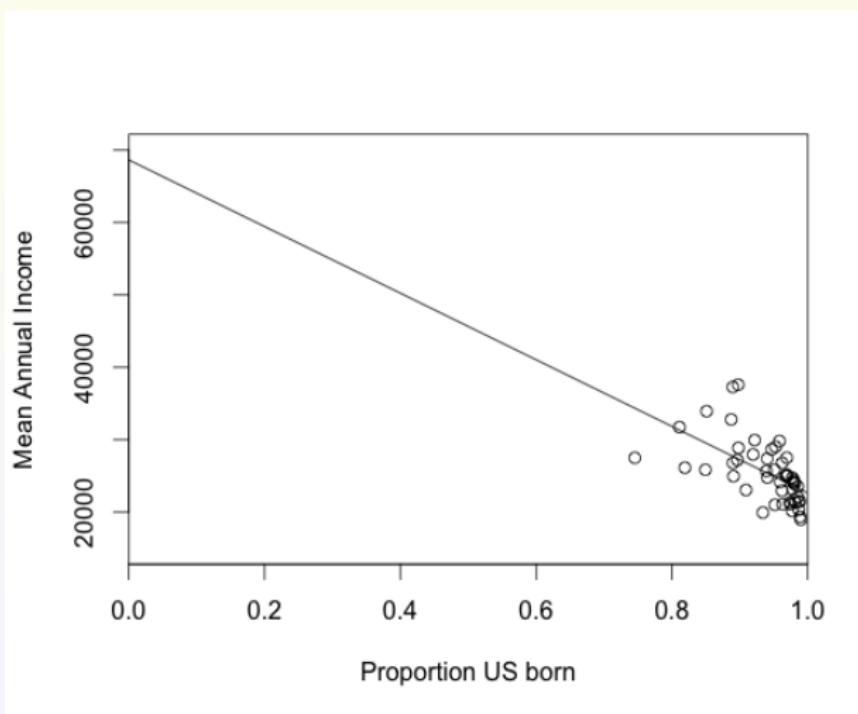
Insurance Redlining: Ecological Fallacy

1998 annual per capita income and proportion U.S. born for 50 states plus D.C.



Insurance Redlining: Ecological Fallacy

1998 annual per capita income and proportion U.S. born for 50 states plus D.C.



Insurance Redlining

For the ecological fallacy example, the assumption would be that the incomes of the native born do not depend on the proportion of native born within the state (and similarly for naturalized citizens).

For the insurance redlining example, we only have aggregate data. We must inform the sponsor that unless more detailed data becomes available, the results for the aggregated data may not hold true at the individual level.

Work Statement: Introduction

The work statement should contain a short description of your sponsor.

For the insurance redlining example, *U.S. Commission on Civil Rights* would be the sponsor.

Boilerplating from the sponsor's webpage is often acceptable.

<http://www.usccr.gov>

Work Statement: Problem Statement

Can the insurance companies claim that the discrepancy is due to greater risks in some zip codes?

The insurance companies could claim that they were denying insurance in neighborhoods where they had sustained large fire-related losses and any discriminatory effect was a by-product of legitimate business practice.

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Sherlock Holmes and the Bicycle Tracks: Problem Statement

Which one is the front wheel?



Sherlock Holmes and the Bicycle Tracks

“This track, as you perceive, was made by a rider who was going from the direction of the school.”

“Or Toward it?”

“No, no, my dear Watson. The more deeply sunk impression is, of course, the hind wheel, upon which the weight rests. You perceive several places where it has passed across and obliterated the more shallow mark of the front one. It was undoubtedly heading away from the school.”

– *The Adventure of the Priory School* by Arthur Conan Doyle

Sherlock Holmes and the Bicycle Tracks

$$f_x(t) = r_x(t) + \frac{L}{\sqrt{1 + (r'_y(t)/r'_x(t))^2}}$$
$$f_y(t) = r_y(t) + \frac{Lr'_y(t)/r'_x(t)}{\sqrt{1 + (r'_y(t)/r'_x(t))^2}}$$

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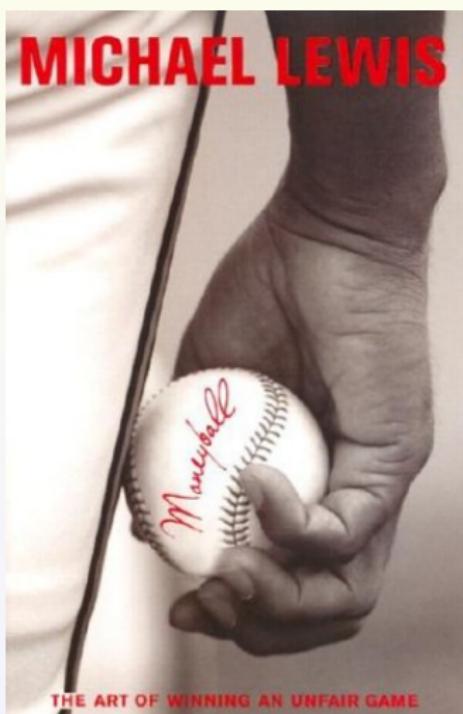
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Is a Sport Game Fair?: Problem Statement

How can we decide if a game with two competitors is fair?



Is a Tennis Match Fair?

One simple answer is:

If the roles of the competitors are reversed, their probability of winning does not change.

Isn't that always true? No. For example, going first may give a player an advantage or disadvantage.

Is a Tennis Match Fair?: Problem Statement

How can we decide if a game with two competitors is fair?



Programmings in this class

- **LATEX :**
 - `moderncv`
 - `beamer`
 - `report`
 - `pgf/TikZ`
- **Git**
 - `git gui`
- **R:**
 - `lm`
 - `ggplot2`
 - `tikzDevice`
 - `R CMD build`

Where to get some help for \LaTeX

<http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX/>

Tutorial: L^AT_EX

L^AT_EX is a computer language for writing a scholarly paper:

Table: HTML vs L^AT_EX

	HTML	L ^A T _E X
Code	<pre><html> . . </html></pre>	<pre>\begin{document} . . \end{document}</pre>
Compiler	Firefox and etc.	pdflatex and etc.
Output	Web-page	PDF file

Tutorial: L^AT_EX

TeXworks is:

- an editing tool that is separate from L^AT_EX,
- available in Linux, OSX and Windows,
- available in:

<http://code.google.com/p/texworks/>

Tutorial: \LaTeX

- Demo on preparing a resume using \LaTeX `moderncv` package:
 - Install \LaTeX (MikTeX in Windows and MacTeX in OSX),
 - Download `moderncv` package files from the course folder,
 - Change file names to reflect you,
 - Edit the TeX file,
 - Compile using your favorite \LaTeX editor,
 - Look at the resulting PDF file.

Tutorial: L^AT_EX

Typing mathematics in L^AT_EX:

```
Hello \$\int_0^1 \sin(x) dx\$ World  
\vskip0.5in  
Hello $$\int_0^1 \sin(x) dx$$ World
```

Hello $\int_0^1 \sin(x) dx$ World

Hello

$$\int_0^1 \sin(x) dx$$

World

Cautions: L^AT_EX

There are numerous quirky L^AT_EX rules:

- opening quotation is not the same as the closing quotation,
- period yields *two* blank spaces,
- for %, need to type \%,
- for \, need to type \textbackslash,
- for /, need to type /,
- for {, need to type \{,
- for \$, need to type \\$,
- ~ yields a single blank space,
- and etc.

The place to get some Git helps

<http://git-scm.com/doc/>

Demo: L^AT_EX + Git

The Blind Men and the Elephant

In-class Group Exercise (Scavenger hunt):

- Start up a git folder,
- Create and edit the .gitignore file,
- Download the template for a beamer file,
- Look up the poem from the book,
- One slide per stanza,
- Use `verse` environment,
- Compile after each stanza,
- Commit after creating each stanza,
- Repeat until done.

Tutorial: Git

```
sudo apt-get install git
```

An alternative: git gui

The screenshot shows the official Git website. On the left, there's a sidebar with links: 'About', 'Documentation', 'Downloads' (which is highlighted in red), 'GUI Clients' (also in red), and 'Logos'. Below that is another section titled 'Community'. On the right, there's a main content area with a large 'git' logo and the slogan 'distributed-is-the-new-centralized'. A callout box is overlaid on this area, containing the title 'GUI Clients' in large font, followed by a paragraph of text: 'Git comes with built-in GUI tools for committing changes, and there are many third-party tools for users looking for platforms like GitHub or Bitbucket.' At the bottom of the callout box are two buttons: 'Show GUIs for all OSes' and '7 Mac GUIs available'.

An alternative: git gui

About

Documentation

Downloads

GUI Clients

Logos

Community

git --distributed-is-the-new-centralized

GUI Clients

Git comes with built-in GUI tools for committing changes, and there are many third-party tools for users looking for platforms like GitHub or Bitbucket.

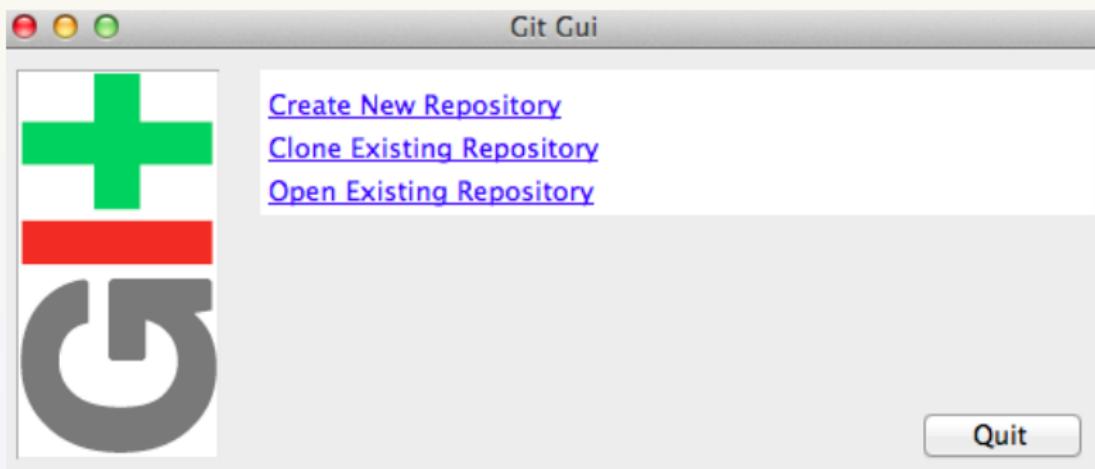
Show GUIs for all OSes

7 Mac GUIs available

Tutorial: Git

```
cd ~/  
git clone http://cis.jhu.edu/~nhlee/550400.git
```

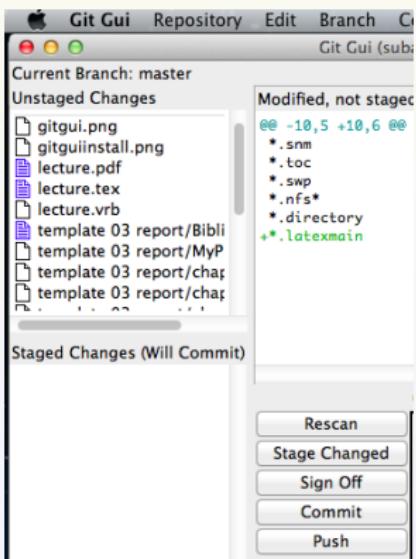
An alternative: git gui



Tutorial: Git

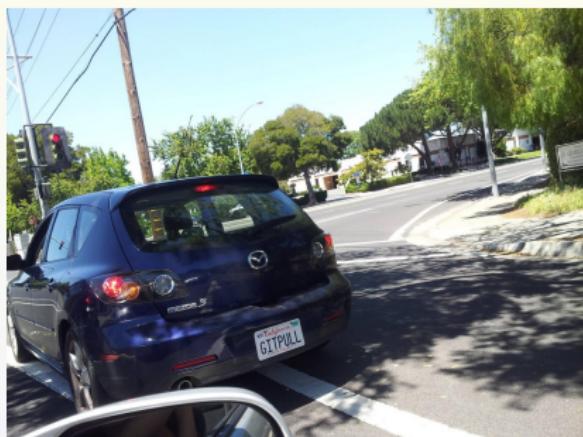
```
cd ~/550400  
git reset --hard HEAD  
git pull origin master
```

An alternative: git gui



Tutorial: Git

After years of using git, you might find this funny:



git pull origin master

Tutorial: Git

After years of using git, you might find this funny:



git push origin master

Tutorial: Git

For \$19.99, you can also have
your own:



```
cd ~/  
mkdir hub.git  
mkdir computerA.git  
mkdir computerB.git
```

```
git init --bare hub.git
```

```
cd hub.git  
cd hooks  
cp post-update.sample post-update
```

Tutorial: Git

```
cd computerA.git  
git init  
git remote add origin ~/hub.git  
echo 'Hello A' >> commonfile.txt  
git add commonfile.txt  
git commit -am 'from A'  
git pull origin master  
git push origin master
```

```
cd computerB.git  
git init  
git remote add origin ~/hub.git  
echo ' World B' >> commonfile.txt  
git add commonfile.txt  
git commit -am 'from B'  
git pull origin master  
git push origin master
```

Tutorial: Git

```
cd ~/550400

git gui
git reset --hard HEAD

git branch personal
git branch
git checkout personal

edit some file
git status
git add .
git commit -am 'personal edit'

git checkout master
git branch -D personal
```

- checks if there has been any change to the folder
- build and update the master git branch
- create and update a personal git branch

Tutorial: Git

.gitignore?

- N.B. the course folder already has one
- Use it to let *git* know the files to *ignore* while version controlling
- one particular usage: create `.gitignore` at the root of your git folder
- files already been list under the git watch list will not be ignored even after creation of `.gitignore`

Vim

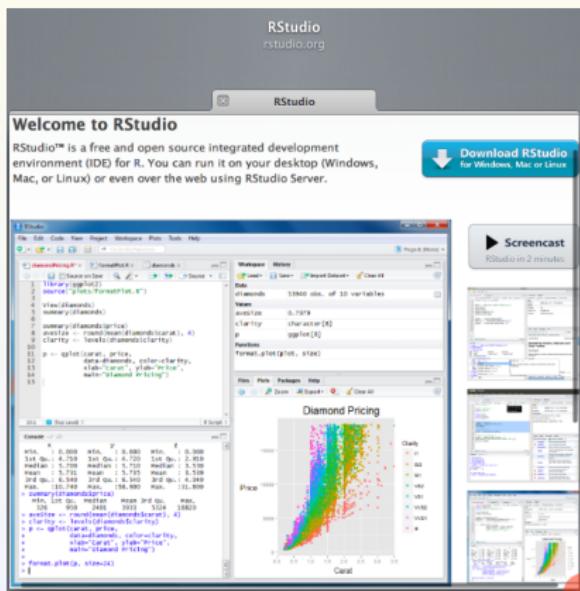
Vim

Vim is a highly customizable text editor

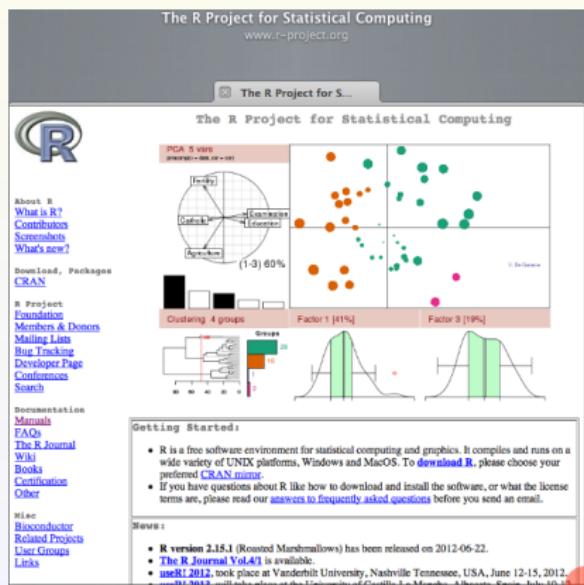
1. L^AT_EX, R, C/C++, Java, Python, Git and etc.
2. Regular expression, syntax coloring, autocompletion
3. Try Firefox + Wasavi/Vimperator/Vimium
4. <ESC>-mode
 - :-mode, aka., the last line mode
 - i-mode, aka., the insert mode

Demo: R + L^AT_EX

R Studio

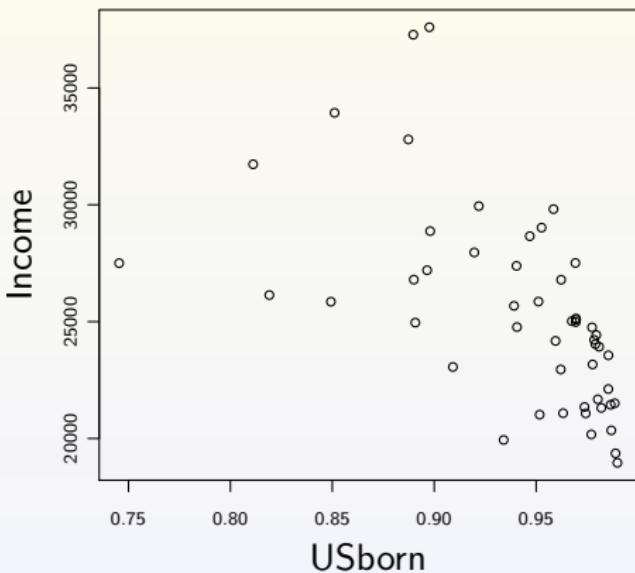


R



Demo: R + L^AT_EX

```
install.packages(faraway)
install.packages(tikzDevice)
require(faraway)
require(tikzDevice)
data(eco)
tikz('embeddedfig1.tex',
      standAlone=F,
      width=5,height=5)
plot(income ~ usborn,
      data=eco,
      xlab='Proportion US born',
      ylab='Mean Annual Income')
dev.off()
```



Demo: R + L^AT_EX

```
tikz('embeddedfig2.tex',
  standAlone=F,
  width=5,height=5)
plot(income ~ usborn,
  data = eco,
  xlab='Proportion US born',
  ylab='Mean Annual Income',
  xlim=c(0,1),
  ylim=c(15000,70000),
  xaxs='i')
g<-lm(income~usborn,eco)
abline(coef(g))
dev.off()
```

