

Statistical Disclosure Control and Quantifying Privacy

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3:30-4:30pm, New PI 6th Floor Multipurpose Room (6602)

Light refreshments provided

Abstract

There is an ever increasing demand from researchers for access to useful data. However, there are also growing concerns regarding the privacy of the individuals contained in the such data. Ideally, data could be released in such a way that it is useful for research purposes but also protects the privacy of subjects of the data. In this talk, an overview of the problem of statistical disclosure will be discussed. Along with this, techniques for controlling disclosures and methods for assessing privacy will be presented. Finally, a proposed measure of privacy utilizing the receiving-operating characteristic (ROC) curve for assessing the risk of one type of disclosure will be presented.

Biographical Note

I attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute where I graduated with distinction with a B.S. in actuarial science and an M.S. in applied statistics. I spent the next two years working in the direct marketing department of a major catalog company as a statistical analyst. After this, I attended the University of Connecticut where I received my Ph.D. in statistics in 2011 where my dissertation topic was statistical disclosure control. Currently, I am post-doctoral research at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst where my research focuses on statistical genetics.

¹ The PI Biostatistics Seminar Series is held on Tuesdays at New York State Psychiatric Institute. If you are interested in receiving regular announcements for our seminars in the future, or if you need further information, please contact Jina James (jamesji@nyspi.columbia.edu, (212) 543-5589).