README and Guidance

Overview

This document explains the data sources and analyses upon which our paper's findings are based. Both the data and code are proprietary because they are under judicial seal. The analyses were conducted using Stata.

Data Availability and Provenance Statements

Data and code underlying this manuscript come from individual-level anonymized application data for the Harvard University Classes of 2014-2019 and the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill Classes of 2016-2021. Both the data and code for this project are confidential. Those interested in replicating the analysis would need to obtain the data directly from the admissions offices of Harvard University and the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

However, several documents that describe the individual-level data (i.e. expert witness reports) were made publicly available as part of the two lawsuits. We include these documents in this repository. Because the authors of this manuscript did not have access to the individual-level anonymized applicant data at the time of writing the manuscript, these publicly available documents serve as the data used in the analysis.

Statement about Rights

The authors of the manuscript had legitimate access to and permission to use the data used in this manuscript for the sole purpose of providing legal testimony in the two court cases. Access expired once the two court cases were heard in District Court.

Summary of Availability

No data or code can be made publicly available except what has been unsealed by the US District Court judges.

Data file list

We provide in tabular form below details surrounding each document we rely on in our manuscript.

Filename	Source	Description	Provided
CourtDocumentsUNC/160-1-opening.pdf	UNC trial	Arcidiacono opening report for UNC trial	Yes
CourtDocumentsUNC/160-2-rebuttal.pdf	UNC trial	Arcidiacono rebuttal report for UNC trial	Yes
CourtDocumentsUNC/160-3-reply.pdf	UNC trial	Arcidiacono reply report for UNC trial	Yes
CourtDocumentsYale/Document-1.pdf	US DOJ	Dept of Justice complaint against Yale University	Yes

CourtDocumentsHarvard/Document415-8.pdf	Harvard trial	Arcidiacono opening report for Harvard trial	Yes
CourtDocumentsHarvard/Document415-9.pdf	Harvard trial	Arcidiacono rebuttal report for Harvard trial	Yes
CourtDocumentsHarvard/Document419-141.pdf	Harvard trial	Card opening report for Harvard trial	Yes
CourtDocumentsHarvard/Exhibit-287.pdf	Harvard trial	Arcidiacono legal declaration containing information on additional analyses	Yes
CourtDocumentsHarvard/Exhibit-P001.pdf	Harvard trial	Reading procedures, Class of 2018	Yes
CourtDocumentsHarvard/Exhibit-P164.pdf	Harvard trial	Example of a "one-pager" that tracks representation of the application and admitted pools across years	Yes
CourtDocumentsHarvard/Exhibit-P621.pdf	Harvard trial	Distributions of application ratings by race and admission status	Yes

List of tables

Each table in the paper details the publicly available document(s) upon which it relies.