

Review of: "How can we Guess the Distribution of Wealth in Greenville, Mississippi? A Proposed Heuristic for Guessing Distributions"

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The article is interesting and written in an accessible language, illustrated by some examples. It has also the virtue of brevity. The method proposed to determine the wealth (or other) distribution seems to be simple, at least when considering a low number of qualifiers (boxes) and of agents to be distributed, like in the examples proposed in the article. However, it would be interesting to test the method with higher more realistic numbers.

Also, it seems that the method requires some external data to work, in the case of the example described by equations 4 to 7, they adjust the results using firstly the values of the median income for low (28,700), middle (86,000) and upper (207,400) classes, without quoting the source, and secondly data from the Federal reserve indicating that 20% of the population possess 88% of the income. The use of these values means that the authors assume implicitly that the wealth distribution in Greenville is the same than for the full country. This invalidates in some way the purpose of simplicity of the method.

Finally, I think it would be nice that the authors answer the comment of Mr. Cooke.