



# Lecture 6-2

# Privacy and the Government

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# Clicker Quiz: “Split the Dollar”

- Suppose I promised to give you \$100, provided that you offer to split it with a random (anonymous) student in class, and he/she accepts your proposed split. If he/she rejects the split, you both get nothing.
- How much do you offer to the other student?
  - A. \$50
  - B. \$40
  - C. \$30
  - D. \$20
  - E. \$10

# Government-Issued ID

- Government-issued ID is needed for many activities
  - Getting into a bar
  - Flying on a plane
  - Renting a car
  - Opening a bank account
- Advantages:
  - reduce illegal activities
  - Hard for people to change identities
- Disadvantages:
  - Facilitates fraud (easier to assume my identity)
  - Facilitates data mining (provides a unique key)

*Should everyone be required to have a government ID card?  
Should there be rules about what I'm allowed to do without  
showing government ID?*

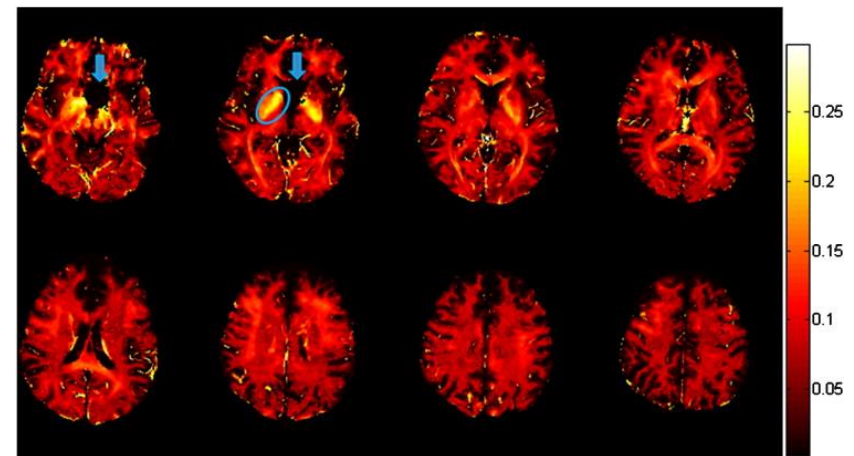
# Public Records: Statutory Disclosures

- Census
  - Purpose: ensure that seats in Parliament are apportioned correctly
  - Worry: this data may also be used for other purposes
  - Much recent political discussion about the long-form census
- Revenue Canada
  - Intentional disclosure (rogue employees)
  - Unintentional disclosure (lost laptops)

*...how worried should we be about the existence of such records?*

# “Lie Detectors”

- Present Day: Polygraphs
  - Scientific status: ambiguous
    - NAS: better than chance, far from perfect (in lab conditions)
  - Legal status:
    - USA:
      - Maybe admissible as evidence
      - Subject must volunteer
    - Canada:
      - Not admissible as evidence
      - Legal for investigating
- Near Future: Neuroimaging
  - Legal status:
    - India: 1 murder conviction



# A Working Lie Detector

- *Suppose a 98%-accurate lie detector were invented. What should its legal status be?*
  - A. Admissible in court, and can be court ordered.
  - B. Admissible in court, if the subject volunteers. (USA)
  - C. Usable during investigation, not admissible in court. (Canada)
  - D. Never to be used.

# Data Mining

- Data mining
  - Searching for patterns or relationships in one or more databases
  - This info typically provided by the customer for another purpose
- Many internet services are essentially provided as an opportunity to gather valuable data
  - Google; Facebook; free online courses
- Also performed by the government
  - Efforts to detect terrorism via phone, bank, travel records
  - Tax audits
- *Questions:*
  - *Ethics: what data mining activities are unethical? Which are ethical?*
  - *Does it make a difference whether DM is opt-in or opt-out?*
  - *Should we worry about ending up in a “personalization bubble”?*