

Multiple Imputation

Aaronanswer Kaufman (ft. Adam Maresca & Nick Mitchell)

Answer: **FREQUENCY CAPS**

Nestled within the extensive data fields in the Excel workbook or Google Sheet are 18 fields with question marks where the numerical data should be; use the dates of the “Missing” tab headlines to fill them in. The letters corresponding to the digits represented by the bolded question marks are listed in the table below.

Line of Blank	Event	Date	Get
1	Codex Sinaiticus rediscovered	1859-2	R
8	Death of John Calvin	1564-5	E
20	1964 RNC nomination	1964-7	S
38	Frederick II gets pope'd	1239	I
57	Execution of Charles I	1649-1	D
74	Death of Innocent III	1216-7	U
86	Hawaii found by the British	1778-1	A
149	Honen exiled to Tosa	1207	L
178	Harry Winston lawsuit	1994-6	S
218	Battle of Blair Mountain	1921-8	U
249	Intercollegiate 4-ball billiards	1860-7	R
306	Clara Barton at the Thumb fire	1881-9	R
348	Ontario forest fire blots sky	1780-5	E
358	Globe Theater catches fire	1613-6	A
370	Count of Nassau/Rintfleisch	1298-6	L
407	Marilyn Monroe sings to JFK	1962-5	I
479	Goldthwait arson live on Leno	1994-5	S
506	Petrarch climbs Mont Ventoux	1336-4	M

The phrase “RESIDUAL SURREALISM” is not the final answer, but an important step. The phrase, once searched, yields [this page](#) detailing how properly chosen data points can appear totally random, but secretly encode messages and/or images in that data’s residual scatter plot. Run a linear regression analysis on the data for the puzzle’s true answer, **FREQUENCY CAPS**.



(Because of the minimal impact of the 18 fields used to hide the first message, any properly run scatterplot will result in a legible image of the message, give or take some stray plot points.)

Author’s Notes

Aaron: I’ve loved the Residual Surrealism paper since I first found it in grad school -- I once successfully used a message embedded in a data set to ask for a date! For this puzzle, I just wish I had come up with a better way to link the part of the puzzle that generates RESIDUAL SURREALISM to the part that generates the solution.

Adam & Nick: We really just did some cleanup on clue selection & wording. All credit to Aaron.