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Edwin O'Shea*, edwin@math.cinvestav.mx. *On Large Gaps in Small Hierarchical Models*. Preliminary report.

Examples of contingency tables on binary random variables with large integer programming gaps on the lower bounds of cell entries were constructed by Sullivan. We show here that the marginals for which these constructed large gaps occur are “exceptionally rare”, thus reopening the question, as Sullivan put it, of “whether linear programming is an effective heuristic for detecting disclosures when releasing margins of multi-way tables”. This notion of “exceptionally rare” is made precise through the language of standard pairs. (Received February 10, 2009)