

ABBaziA

Ver. 1.0

User's Guide
Manuel d'utilisation
Benutzerhandbuch
Mauale dell'utente
Guía del usuario

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Introduction

Welcome to ABBaziA

ABBaziA is a practically oriented and reliable tool for generating XLS documents from within BAZI application and for generating BAZI forms file from your Excel forms.

The first release of ABBaziA is a prototype. It provides some of the possible functionality that will be implemented later.

BAZI application overview

The name Bazi is derived from "Berechnung von Anzahlen mit Zuteilungsmethoden im Internet", which translates into "Calculation of allocations by apportionment methods in the Internet". A "Bazi" is also local Augsburg dialect for a very good friend. Bazi is generally pronounced 'batzee', with the stress on the first syllable.

Bazi is a program to convert vote counts into seat numbers using one of the many apportionment methods that have been devised by practitioners and theoreticians, during more than a century of proportional representation history. The user may key-in his or her own data, but Bazi also features an extensive empirical database. Bazi's graphical user interface is showed below.

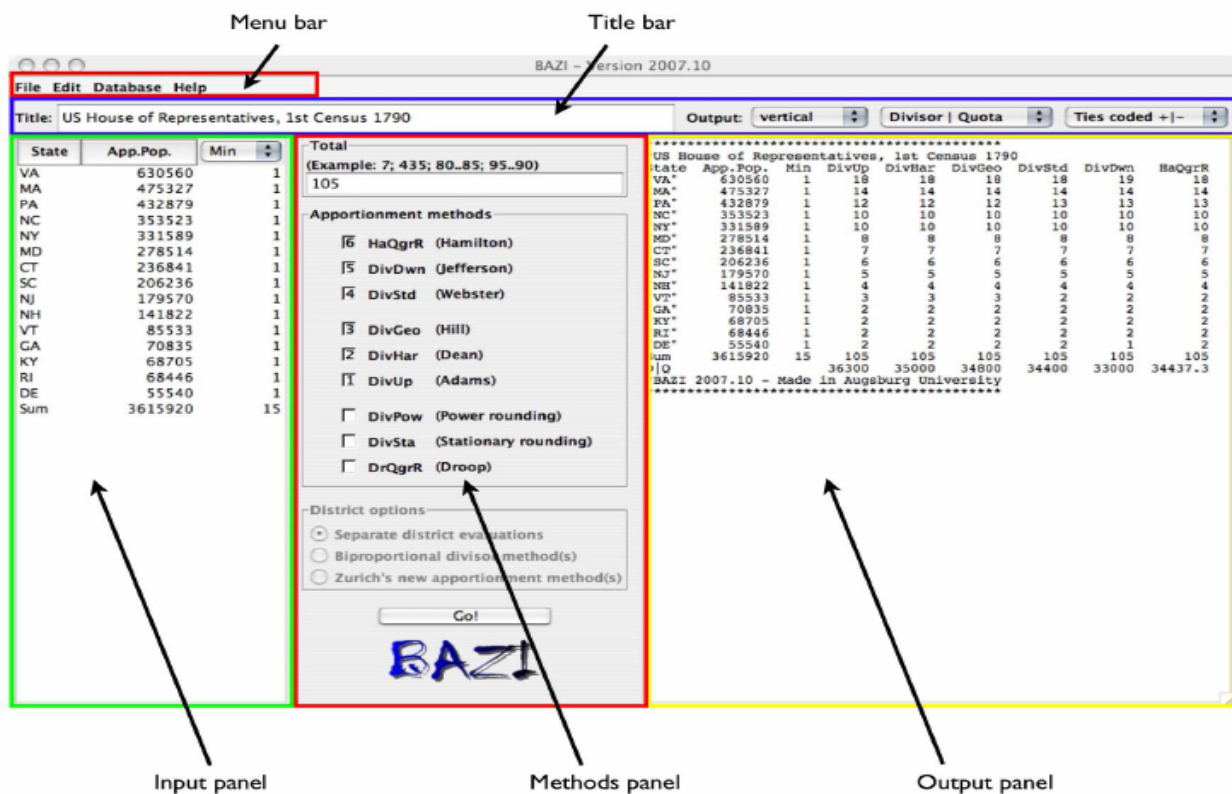


fig. 1: BAZI user interface

Getting started

ABBaziA has been developed as master's University project work in the University of Rome "La Sapienza". The idea of ABBaziA is to permit conversion from XLS file format to the simpler BAZI file format and permit conversion from BAZI .txt output file to XLS format within the application.

Since ABBaziA is a Java program, it requires the java run-time environment to be installed prior to running ABBaziA. The application preferably run under Windows operating systems, rather under all Unix dialects and the reason is spreadsheet file format more standardized in Windows operating system. This is packed files which, after saving to the user's machine, need to be unzipped. Bazi is meant to run under Windows, and under all Unix dialects. We would appreciate any feedback from users who find that this hope does not materialize.

Installing and Configuring the Software

ABBaziA requires the java run-time environment to be installed prior. This is packed files which, after saving to the user's machine, need to be unzipped. Usually a double-click on the file named ABBaziA.jar will start the program. It may be convenient to place a link to this file to the desktop; the package includes an appropriate icon, featuring a checked ballot box. The Bazi program may also be started by executing the command `java -jar ABBaziA.jar`. ABBaziA comes up with the screen shown in Fig. 2. The initial screen prompts the user to select one of the two button

What Is BAZI file?

The BAZI file format is a "space" separated values file type that stores tabular data by using space as delimiter. BAZI format mainly uses double-quotes as delimiters of text labels. Every section start with a delimited label: =Label=

Note that because of their simple textual formatting, BAZI files can be opened within simple text editors.

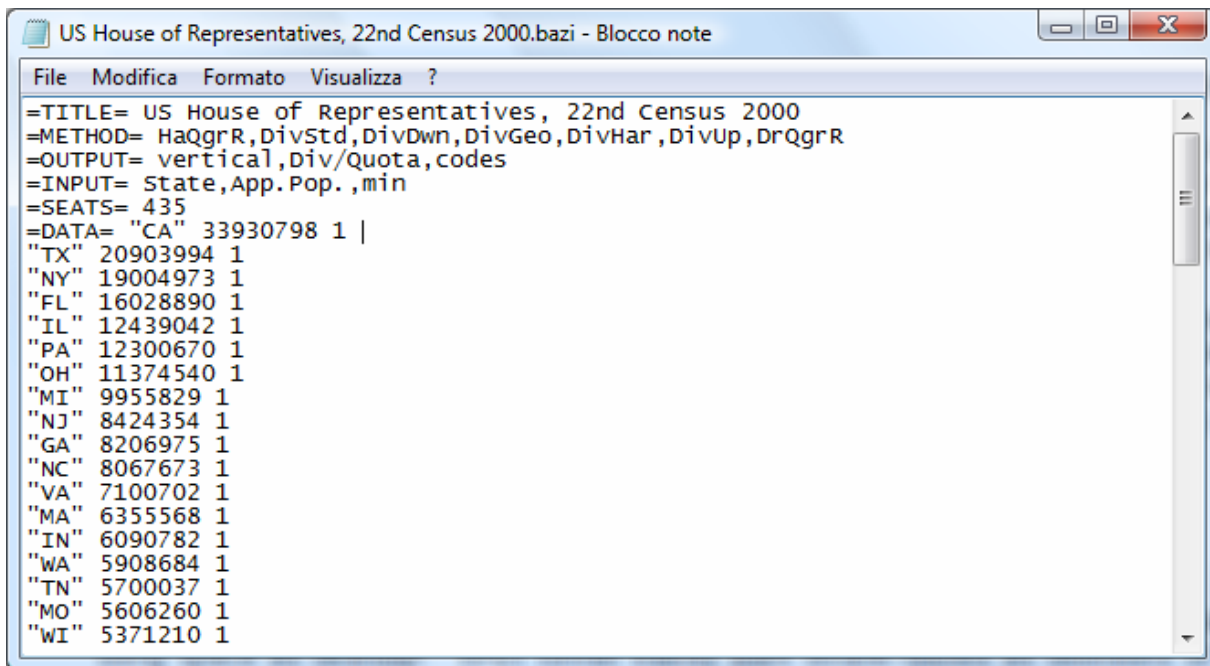


fig. 2: typical BAZI file.

BAZI and Spreadsheet (example: Microsoft Excel)

BAZI file can't be easily transmitted and supported by spreadsheet and databases applications as every txt file (not in CSV format). BAZI format, in other words, isn't ideal for data exchange.

The idea of ABBaziA is to permit conversion from your XLS file format to the simpler BAZI format within the application by using the "From Excel To Bazi" option and permit conversion from BAZI (.txt) output to XLS format within the application by using the "From txt BAZI output To XLS" option.

ABBaziA: A Bazi File Converter

ABBaziA's graphical user interface is showed below.

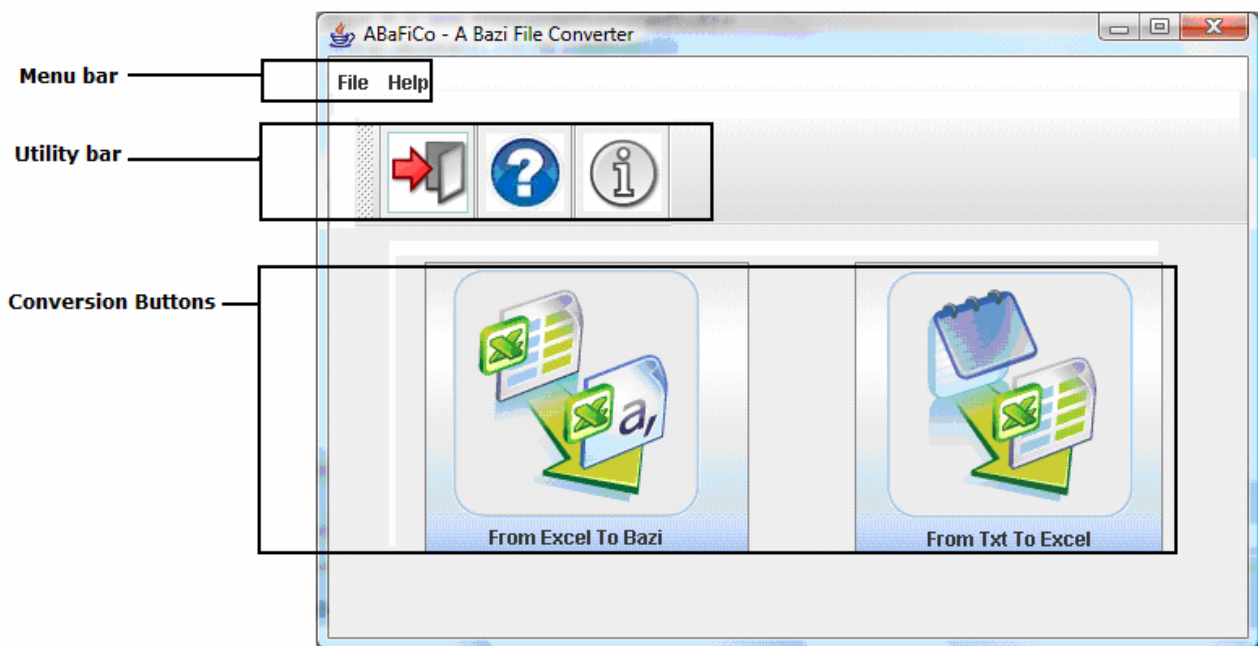


Fig. 3: Start up graphical user interface

Through Menu Bar, user can:

1. show the application manual,
2. show application info("About"),
3. init the "From Excel To Bazi" conversion process,
4. init the "From Txt To Excel" conversion process,
5. exit from application.

Utility bar is a button container within user can rapidly access to (from left to right) exit, manual and info functions.

Conversion buttons show explicative image. If you press one of them, you can access one of two process conversion: "From Excel To Bazi" if you want make a Bazi file using data stored in excel file, "From Txt To Excel" if you want load data stored in a Bazi output file to excel file.

Converting XLS file format to BAZI file format

Press "From Excel To Bazi" button (1).

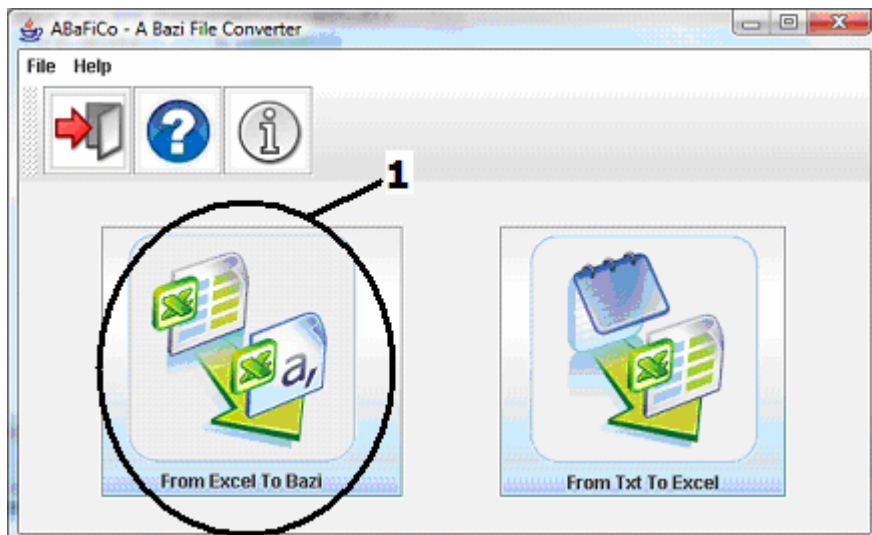


fig. 4: "From Excel To Bazi" button

System shows the frame below:

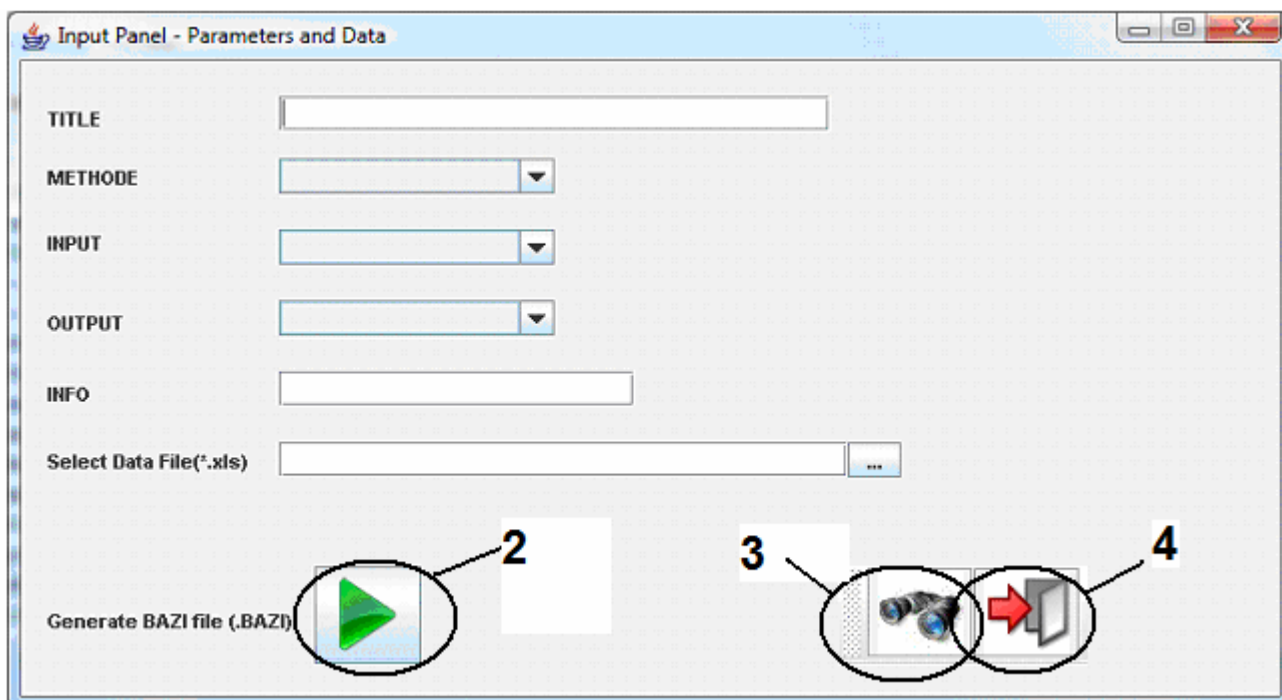


fig. 5: conversion frame

- set parameters:

TITLE:

METHODE:

.....

.....

- select the Input data file;
- click the button "Generate BAZI file"(2);

Optionally you could take an overview of results:

- click the button preview(3).

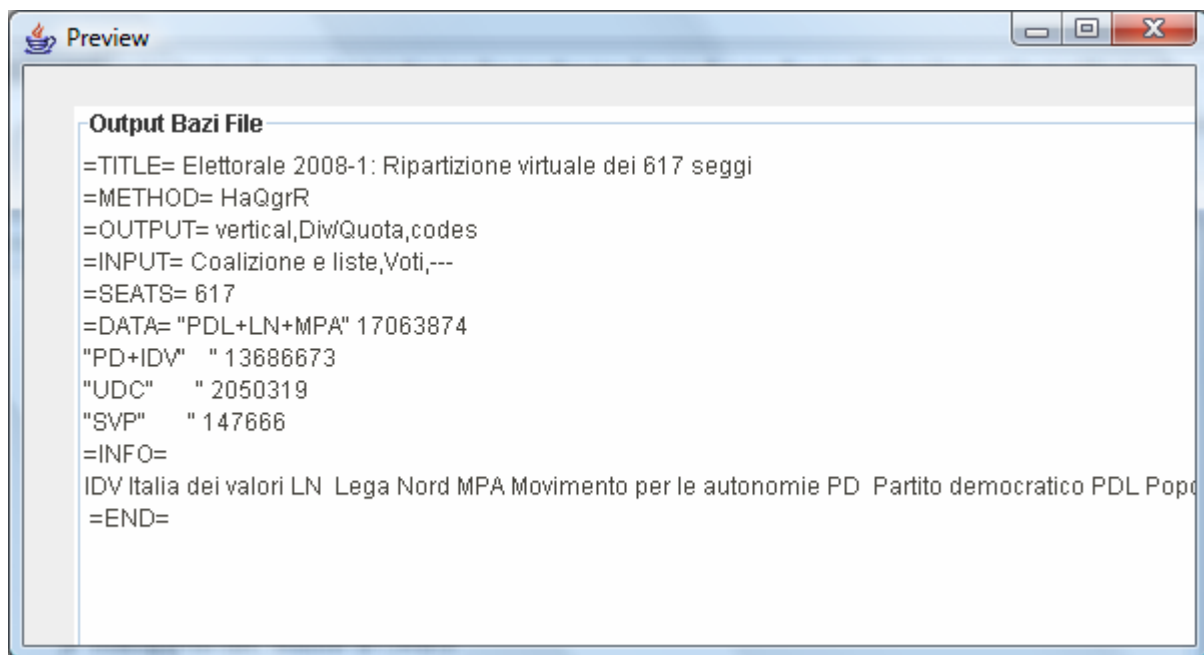


Fig.6: output preview

When the conversion process ends you can exit.

- click the button exit (4).

Converting BAZI .txt output to XLS format

Press "From Txt To Excel" button (5).

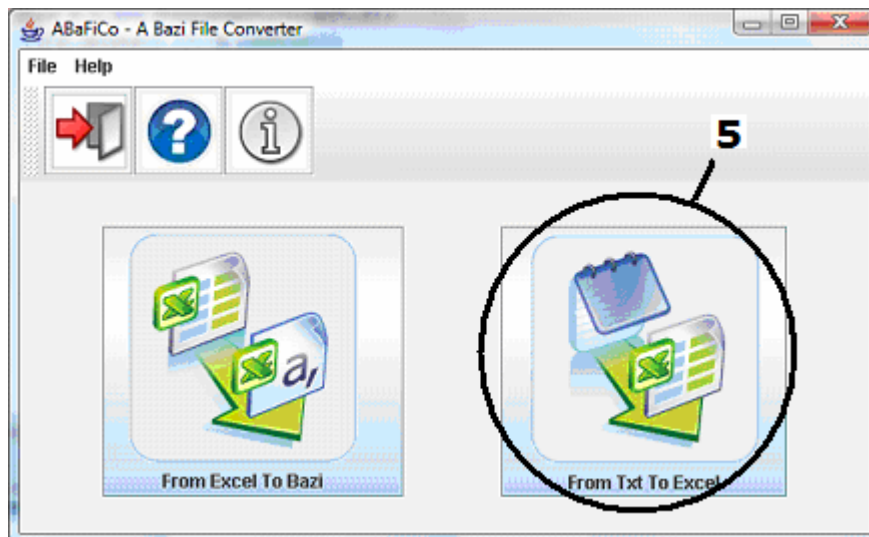


fig. 7: conversion frame

System shows the frame below:

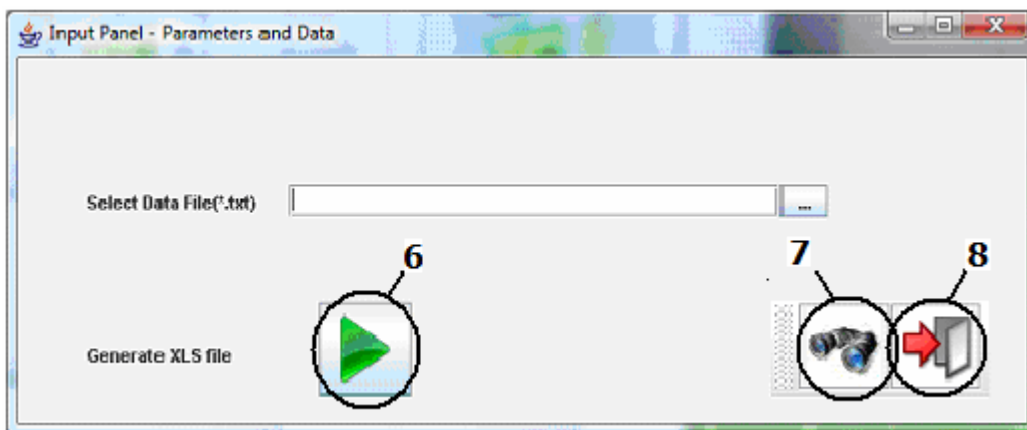


fig. 8: conversion frame

- select Input data file(output of bazui application);
- click the button “Generate XLS file”(6);

Optionally you could take an overview of results:

- click the button preview(7):

File Preview

Elettorale 2008-1: Ripartizione virtuale dei 617 seggi

"PD+LN+MPA" . 17063874 ottiene la maggioranza assoluta con 32948532 Voti di

Coalizione e liste	Voti	MaggR	DivStd
PD+LN+MPA	17063874	320	320
PD+IDV	13686573	256	256
UDC	2050310	38	38
SVP	147888	3	3
Somme	32948532	617	617
D / Q		53401,2	53400

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OK

fig. 9: output preview

When the conversion process ends the system shows a result message box. Click “OK”. Now you can exit or repeat the process.

If you want exit:

- click the button exit (8).