Data Mining:

Individual project

Anders Wind Steffensen ( [awis@itu.dk](mailto:awis@itu.dk) )

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# Introduction

The answers to a questionnaire answered by the students of this year’s Data Mining course has been published and given this data it is wanted to perform data mining techniques to be able to classify, recognize patterns and cluster the data points. To do this several data mining algorithms have been implemented and the data have been processed by these.

An important focus of the implementations is that they should be generic and able to handle any data points given to them as long as they conform to certain standards. Furthermore for classification and clustering two different implementations have been given to be able to access and compare their effectivity and correctness.

The implemented algorithms and the examined questions are the following:

* K-Nearest Neighbors and ID3
  + Can the gender of a participant be predicted from an Answer
* Apriori
  + Is it possible to recognize patterns in which programming languages the participants are proffecient in
* K-Means and K-Medoids
  + Does answers cluster on which degree the participant is pursuing.

The program can be run from the main of IndividualProjectRunner class and every result shown in this report has been created using seed value 1 which can be provided as the first command line argument.

# Pre-processing

Several techniques are used in the preprocessing phase.

## Data Cleaning

Certain rules have been put up for the dimensions of the data points. For example, for the numeric attribute “age” the value must be between 18 and 65 to be able to handle faulty entries(one entry had value 999 which does not seem likely). If the data point does not abide the rules then the data point is not added. This is a very strict policy and could entail bias in the results.

Furthermore, most multiple choice answers have been converted to Enums and the answer given in the “other” option have been discarded. For the given dataset, the approach seem fine since only two people have entered values in the other option. Should the dataset change it would be necessary to study the new data points to see if any new answers have been added. I

The question about which languages the participant was proficient in had no premade choices and the answers were explored. To match the same answer written in different ways multiple matches map to the same Enum result. The “Gender” attribute has been matched to a binary nominal attribute for either Male or Female which matches all the answers. Again the policy

Most of the data cleaning can be seen in the class AnswerDataLoader.

## Normalization

The only numeric value kept from the dataset is the “age” attribute which is normalized after the outliers have been removed to ensure less skewed results. Normalization can be seen in the class Normalizer.

# Classification

To be able to classify a data point a specific attribute is picked as the classification attribute. To compare and assess KNN and ID3 the gender attribute has been picked. Since it is a binary nominal value a confusion matrix can be created for both methods.

## K-Nearest Neighbors

## ID3

# Pattern mining: Apriori

# Clustering

## K-Means

## K-Medoids

# Conclusion