


Chapter 3: Data Preprocessing

- Data Preprocessing: An Overview 
 - Data Quality
 - Major Tasks in Data Preprocessing
- Data Cleaning
- Data Integration
- Data Reduction
- Data Transformation and Data Discretization
- Summary


Data Quality: Why Preprocess the Data?

- Measures for data quality: A multidimensional view
 - Accuracy: correct or wrong, accurate or not
 - Completeness: not recorded, unavailable, not imp, not relevant
 - Consistency: some modified but some not, dangling, ...
 - Timeliness: timely update?
 - Believability: how trustable the data are correct?
 - Interpretability: how easily the data can be understood?

Major Tasks in Data Preprocessing

- **Data cleaning**
 - Fill in missing values, smooth noisy data, identify or remove outliers, and resolve inconsistencies
- **Data integration**
 - Integration of multiple databases, data cubes, or files
- **Data reduction: data in smaller form**
 - Dimensionality reduction : compressed data
 - Numerosity reduction: replace by smaller parametric model.
 - Data compression:
- **Data transformation and data discretization**
 - Normalization
 - Concept hierarchy generation: raw data

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Data Cleaning

- Data in the Real World Is Dirty: Lots of potentially incorrect data,
- smooth out noise while identifying outliers, and correct inconsistencies in the data
- e.g., instrument faulty, human or computer error, transmission error
 - incomplete: lacking attribute values, lacking certain attributes of interest, or containing only aggregate data
 - e.g., *Occupation*=" " (missing data)
 - noisy: containing noise, errors, or outliers
 - e.g., *Salary*="–10" (an error)
 - inconsistent: containing discrepancies in codes or names, e.g.,
 - *Age*="42", *Birthday*="03/07/2010"
 - Was rating "1, 2, 3", now rating "A, B, C"
 - discrepancy between duplicate records

Intentional (e.g., disguised missing data)

Incomplete (Missing) Data

- Data is not always available
 - E.g., many tuples have no recorded value for several attributes, such as customer income in sales data
- Missing data may be due to
 - equipment malfunction
 - inconsistent with other recorded data and thus deleted
 - data not entered due to misunderstanding
 - certain data may not be considered important at the time of entry
 - not register history or changes of the data
- Missing data may need to be inferred

How to Handle Missing Data?

- Ignore the tuple: usually done when class label is missing (when doing classification)—not effective when the % of missing values per attribute varies considerably
- Fill in the missing value manually: tedious + infeasible?
- Fill in it automatically with
 - a global constant : e.g., “unknown”, a new class?!
 - the attribute mean
 - the attribute mean for all samples belonging to the same class: smarter
 - the most probable value: inference-based such as Bayesian formula or decision tree

Noisy Data

- **Noise**: random error or variance in a measured variable
- **Incorrect attribute values** may be due to
 - faulty data collection instruments
 - data entry problems
 - data transmission problems
 - technology limitation
 - inconsistency in naming convention
- **Other data problems** which require data cleaning
 - duplicate records
 - incomplete data
 - inconsistent data


How to Handle Noisy Data?

- Binning
 - first sort data and partition into (equal-frequency) bins
 - then one can smooth by bin means, smooth by bin median, smooth by bin boundaries, etc.
- Regression
 - smooth by fitting the data into regression functions
- Outlier Analysis
 - detect and remove outliers.

Data Cleaning as a Process

- Data discrepancy detection
 - Use metadata (e.g., domain, range, dependency, distribution)
 - Check field overloading
 - Check uniqueness rule, consecutive rule and null rule
 - Use commercial tools
 - Data scrubbing: use simple domain knowledge (e.g., postal code, spell-check) to detect errors and make corrections
 - Data auditing: by analyzing data to discover rules and relationship to detect violators (e.g., correlation and clustering to find outliers)
- Data migration and integration
 - Data migration tools: allow transformations to be specified
 - ETL (Extraction/Transformation/Loading) tools: allow users to specify transformations through a graphical user interface
- Integration of the two processes
 - Iterative and interactive (e.g., Potter's Wheels)

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Data Integration

- **Data integration:**
 - Combines data from multiple sources into a coherent store
- Schema integration: e.g., $A.cust-id \equiv B.cust-\#$
 - Integrate metadata from different sources
- Entity identification problem:
 - Identify real world entities from multiple data sources, e.g., Bill Clinton = William Clinton
- Detecting and resolving data value conflicts
 - For the same real world entity, attribute values from different sources are different
 - Possible reasons: different representations, different scales, e.g., metric vs. British units

Handling Redundancy in Data Integration

- Redundant data occur often when integration of multiple databases
 - *Object identification*: The same attribute or object may have different names in different databases
 - *Derivable data*: One attribute may be a “derived” attribute in another table, e.g., annual revenue
- Redundant attributes may be able to be detected by *correlation analysis* and *covariance analysis*
- Careful integration of the data from multiple sources may help reduce/avoid redundancies and inconsistencies and improve mining speed and quality

Correlation Analysis (Nominal Data)

- **χ^2 (chi-square) test**

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(\textit{Observed} - \textit{Expected})^2}{\textit{Expected}}$$

- The larger the χ^2 value, the more likely the variables are related
- χ^2 checks the hypothesis that A and B are independent. If this hypothesis can be rejected, we can say that A and B are statically correlated and one of the them (either A or B) can be discarded.
- If the correlation constant is 0 then the attributes are independent.
- If it is negative then one attribute discourages the other i.e if the value of one attribute increases then value of other decreases.

Covariance (Numeric Data)

- Covariance is similar to correlation

$$Cov(A, B) = E((A - \bar{A})(B - \bar{B})) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (a_i - \bar{A})(b_i - \bar{B})}{n}$$

Correlation coefficient: $r_{A,B} = \frac{Cov(A, B)}{\sigma_A \sigma_B}$

where n is the number of tuples, \bar{A} and \bar{B} are the respective mean or **expected values** of A and B , σ_A and σ_B are the respective standard deviation of A and B .

- **Positive covariance:** If $Cov_{A,B} > 0$, then A and B both tend to be larger than their expected values.
- **Negative covariance:** If $Cov_{A,B} < 0$ then if A is larger than its expected value, B is likely to be smaller than its expected value.
- **Independence:** $Cov_{A,B} = 0$ but the converse is not true:
 - Some pairs of random variables may have a covariance of 0 but are not independent. Only under some additional assumptions (e.g., the data follow multivariate normal distributions) does a covariance of 0 imply independence

Co-Variance: An Example


$$Cov(A, B) = E((A - \bar{A})(B - \bar{B})) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (a_i - \bar{A})(b_i - \bar{B})}{n}$$

- It can be simplified in computation as

$$Cov(A, B) = E(A \cdot B) - \bar{A}\bar{B}$$

- Suppose two stocks A and B have the following values in one week: (2, 5), (3, 8), (5, 10), (4, 11), (6, 14).
- Question: If the stocks are affected by the same industry trends, will their prices rise or fall together?
 - $E(A) = (2 + 3 + 5 + 4 + 6) / 5 = 20 / 5 = 4$
 - $E(B) = (5 + 8 + 10 + 11 + 14) / 5 = 48 / 5 = 9.6$
 - $Cov(A, B) = (2 \times 5 + 3 \times 8 + 5 \times 10 + 4 \times 11 + 6 \times 14) / 5 - 4 \times 9.6 = 4$
- Thus, A and B rise together since $Cov(A, B) > 0$.

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Data Reduction Strategies

- **Data reduction:** Obtain a reduced representation of the data set that is much smaller in volume but yet produces the same (or almost the same) analytical results
- Why data reduction? — A database/data warehouse may store terabytes of data. Complex data analysis may take a very long time to run on the complete data set.
- Data reduction strategies
 - Dimensionality reduction, e.g., remove unimportant attributes
 - Wavelet transforms
 - Principal Components Analysis (PCA)
 - Feature subset selection, feature creation
 - Numerosity reduction (some simply call it: Data Reduction)
 - Regression and Log-Linear Models
 - Histograms, clustering, sampling
 - Data cube aggregation
 - Data compression

Data Reduction 1: Dimensionality Reduction

- **Curse of dimensionality**
 - When dimensionality increases, data becomes increasingly sparse
 - Density and distance between points, which is critical to clustering, outlier analysis, becomes less meaningful
 - The possible combinations of subspaces will grow exponentially
- **Dimensionality reduction**
 - Avoid the curse of dimensionality
 - Help eliminate irrelevant features and reduce noise
 - Reduce time and space required in data mining
 - Allow easier visualization
- **Dimensionality reduction techniques**
 - Wavelet transforms
 - Principal Component Analysis
 - Supervised and nonlinear techniques (e.g., feature selection)

Attribute Subset Selection

- Another way to reduce dimensionality of data
- Redundant attributes
 - Duplicate much or all of the information contained in one or more other attributes
 - E.g., purchase price of a product and the amount of sales tax paid
- Irrelevant attributes
 - Contain no information that is useful for the data mining task at hand
 - E.g., students' ID is often irrelevant to the task of predicting students' GPA

Heuristic Search in Attribute Selection

- There are 2^d possible attribute combinations of d attributes
- Typical heuristic attribute selection methods:
 - Best single attribute under the attribute independence assumption: choose by significance tests
 - Best step-wise feature selection:
 - The best single-attribute is picked first
 - Then next best attribute condition to the first, ...
 - Step-wise attribute elimination:
 - Repeatedly eliminate the worst attribute
 - Best combined attribute selection and elimination
 - Optimal branch and bound:
 - Use attribute elimination and backtracking

Attribute Creation (Feature Generation)

- Create new attributes (features) that can capture the important information in a data set more effectively than the original ones
- Three general methodologies
 - Attribute extraction
 - Domain-specific
 - Mapping data to new space

E.g., Fourier transformation, wavelet transformation, manifold approaches (not covered)
 - Attribute construction
 - Combining features
 - Data discretization

Data Reduction 2: Numerosity Reduction

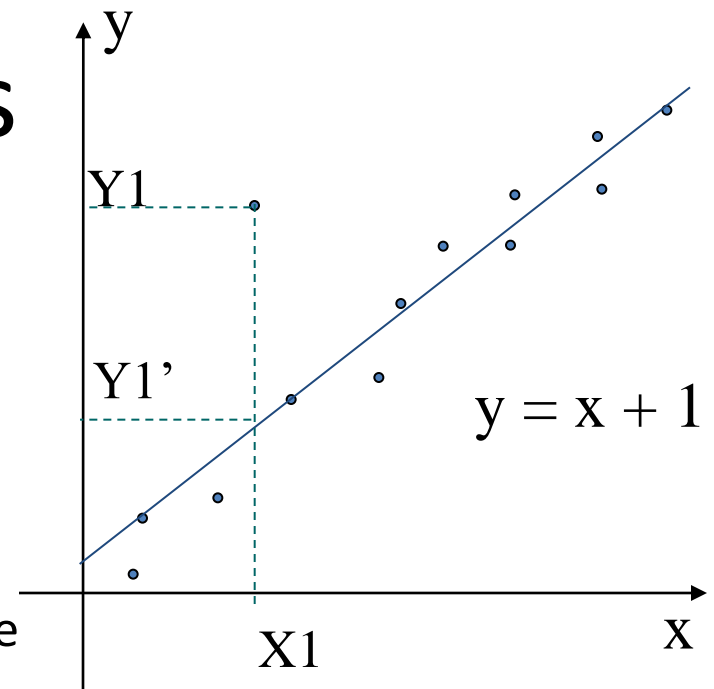
- Reduce data volume by choosing alternative, *smaller forms* of data representation
- **Parametric methods** (e.g., regression)
 - Assume the data fits some model, estimate model parameters, store only the parameters, and discard the data (except possible outliers)
 - Ex.: Log-linear models—obtain value at a point in m -D space as the product on appropriate marginal subspaces
- **Non-parametric methods**
 - Do not assume models
 - Major families: histograms, clustering, sampling, ...

Parametric Data Reduction: Regression and Log-Linear Models

- **Linear regression**
 - Data modeled to fit a straight line
 - Often uses the least-square method to fit the line
- **Multiple regression**
 - Allows a response variable Y to be modeled as a linear function of multidimensional feature vector
- **Log-linear model**
 - Approximates discrete multidimensional probability distributions

Regression Analysis

- Regression analysis: A collective name for techniques for the modeling and analysis of numerical data consisting of values of a **dependent variable** (also called **response variable** or *measurement*) and of one or more **independent variables** (aka. **explanatory variables** or **predictors**)
- The parameters are estimated so as to give a "**best fit**" of the data
- Most commonly the best fit is evaluated by using the **least squares method**, but other criteria have also been used



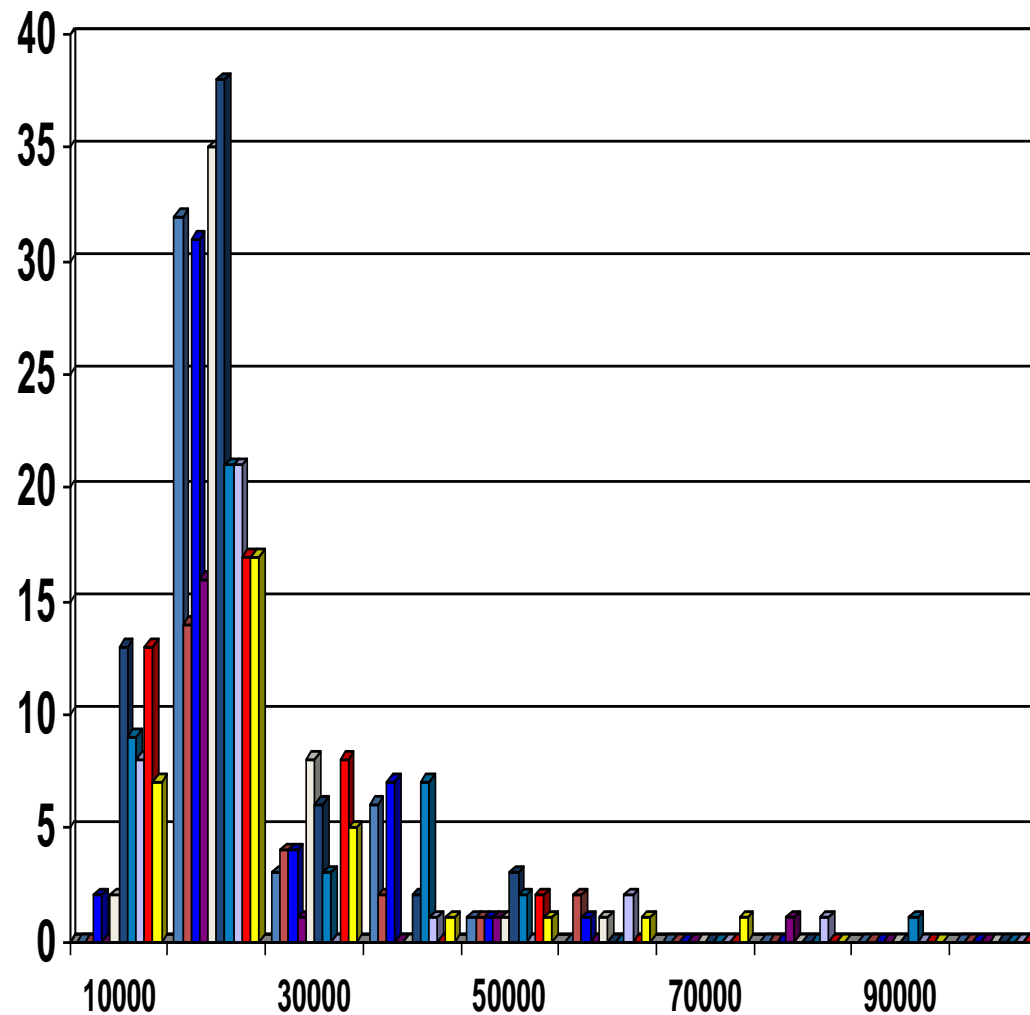
- Used for prediction (including forecasting of time-series data) inference, hypothesis testing, and modeling of causal relationships

Regress Analysis and Log-Linear Models

- Linear regression: $Y = w X + b$
 - Two regression coefficients, w and b , specify the line and are to be estimated by using the data at hand
 - Using the least squares criterion to the known values of $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, X_1, X_2, \dots$
- Multiple regression: $Y = b_0 + b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2$
 - Many nonlinear functions can be transformed into the above
- Log-linear models:
 - Approximate discrete multidimensional probability distributions
 - Estimate the probability of each point (tuple) in a multi-dimensional space for a set of discretized attributes, based on a smaller subset of dimensional combinations
 - Useful for dimensionality reduction and data smoothing

Histogram Analysis

- Divide data into buckets and store average (sum) for each bucket
- Partitioning rules:
 - Equal-width: equal bucket range
 - Equal-frequency (or equal-depth)



Clustering

- Partition data set into clusters based on similarity, and store cluster representation (e.g., centroid and diameter) only
- Can be very effective if data is clustered but not if data is “smeared”
- Can have hierarchical clustering and be stored in multi-dimensional index tree structures
- There are many choices of clustering definitions and clustering algorithms
- Cluster analysis will be studied in depth in Chapter 10

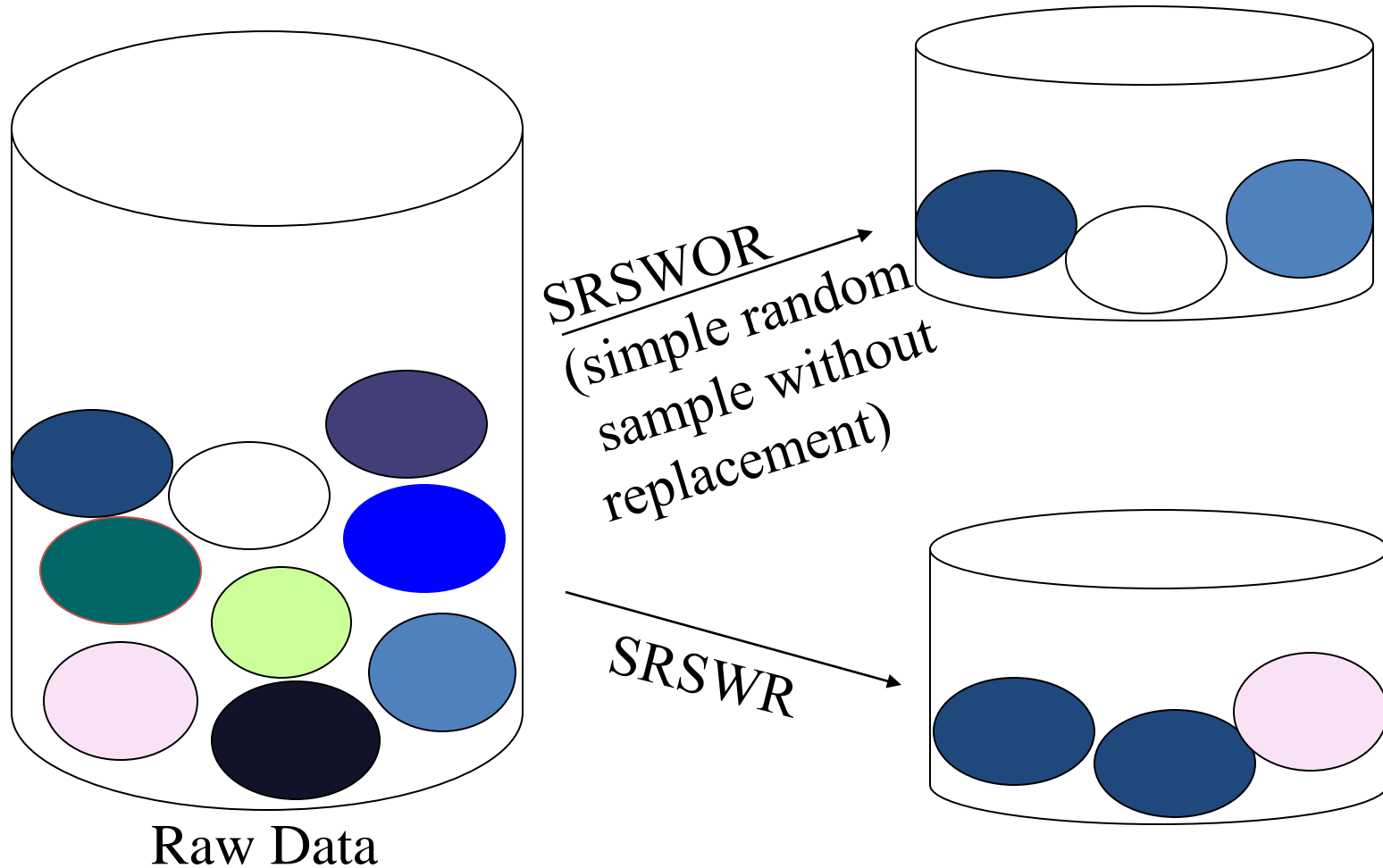
Sampling

- Sampling: obtaining a small sample s to represent the whole data set N
- Allow a mining algorithm to run in complexity that is potentially sub-linear to the size of the data
- Key principle: Choose a **representative** subset of the data
 - Simple random sampling may have very poor performance in the presence of skew
 - Develop adaptive sampling methods, e.g., stratified sampling:
- Note: Sampling may not reduce database I/Os (page at a time)

Types of Sampling

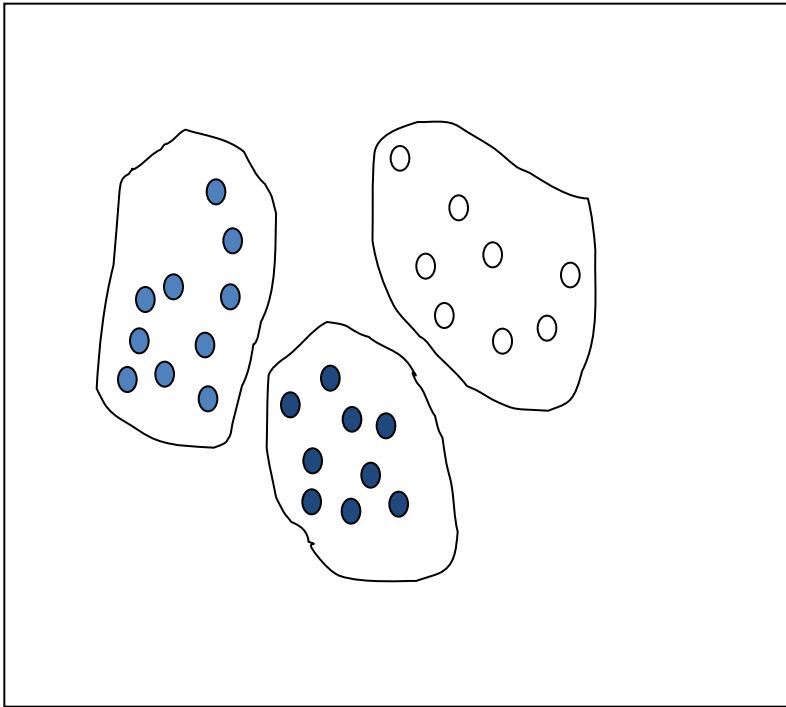
- **Simple random sampling**
 - There is an equal probability of selecting any particular item
- **Sampling without replacement**
 - Once an object is selected, it is removed from the population
- **Sampling with replacement**
 - A selected object is not removed from the population
- **Stratified sampling:**
 - Partition the data set, and draw samples from each partition (proportionally, i.e., approximately the same percentage of the data)
 - Used in conjunction with skewed data

Sampling: With or without Replacement

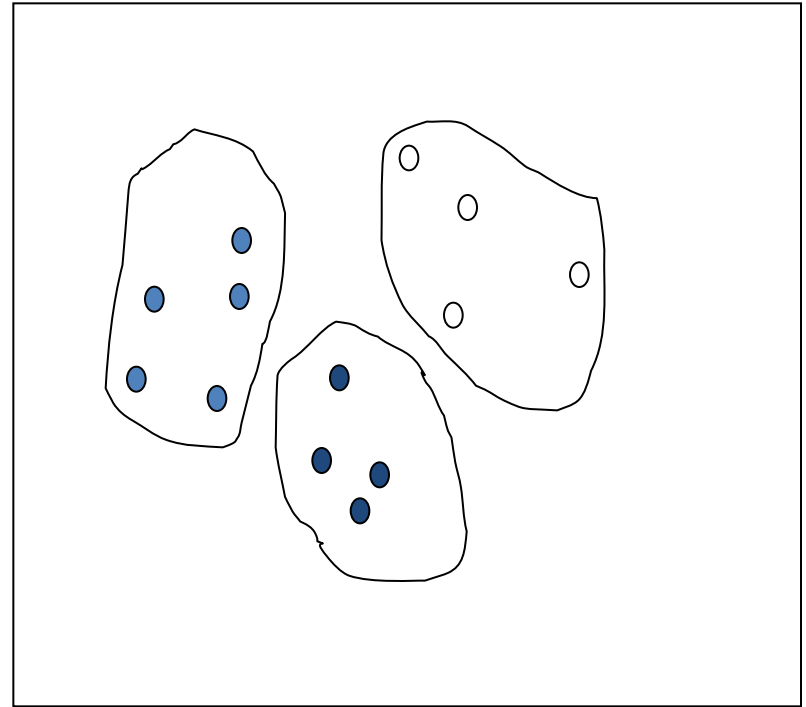


Sampling: Cluster or Stratified Sampling

Raw Data



Cluster/Stratified Sample



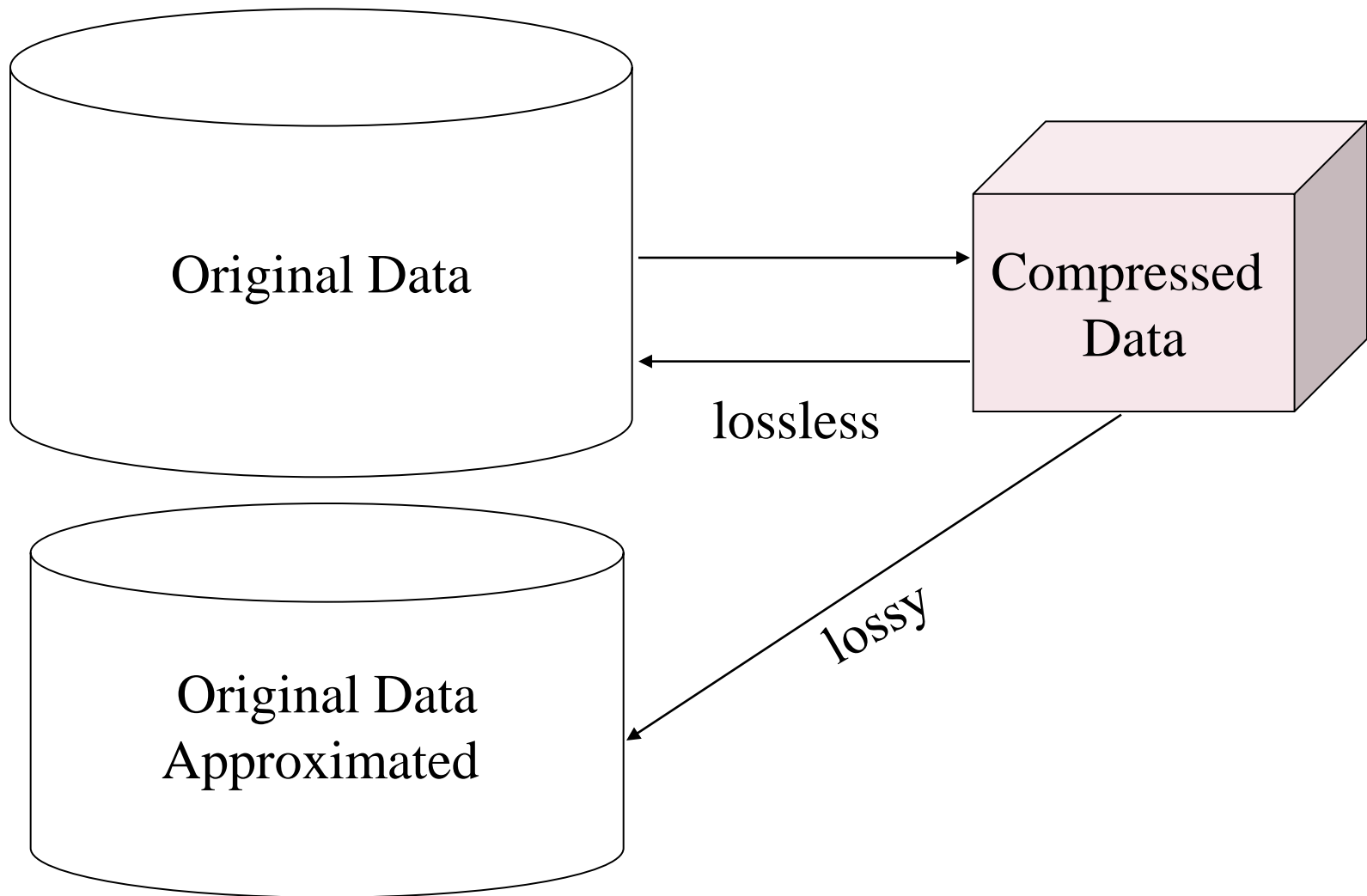
Data Cube Aggregation

- The lowest level of a data cube (base cuboid)
 - The aggregated data for an **individual entity of interest**
 - E.g., a customer in a phone calling data warehouse
- Multiple levels of aggregation in data cubes
 - Further reduce the size of data to deal with
- Reference appropriate levels
 - Use the smallest representation which is enough to solve the task
- Queries regarding aggregated information should be answered using data cube, when possible

Data Reduction 3: Data Compression

- String compression
 - There are extensive theories and well-tuned algorithms
 - Typically lossless, but only limited manipulation is possible without expansion
- Audio/video compression
 - Typically lossy compression, with progressive refinement
 - Sometimes small fragments of signal can be reconstructed without reconstructing the whole
- Time sequence is not audio
 - Typically short and vary slowly with time
- Dimensionality and numerosity reduction may also be considered as forms of data compression

Data Compression



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Data Transformation

- A function that maps the entire set of values of a given attribute to a new set of replacement values s.t. each old value can be identified with one of the new values
- Methods
 - Smoothing: Remove noise from data
 - Attribute/feature construction
 - New attributes constructed from the given ones
 - Aggregation: Summarization, data cube construction
 - Normalization: Scaled to fall within a smaller, specified range
 - min-max normalization
 - z-score normalization
 - normalization by decimal scaling
 - Discretization: Concept hierarchy climbing

Normalization

- **Min-max normalization:** to $[new_min_A, new_max_A]$

$$v' = \frac{v - min_A}{max_A - min_A} (new_max_A - new_min_A) + new_min_A$$

- Ex. Let income range \$12,000 to \$98,000 normalized to $[0.0, 1.0]$.
Then \$73,000 is mapped to $\frac{73,600 - 12,000}{98,000 - 12,000} (1.0 - 0) + 0 = 0.716$

- **Z-score normalization** (μ : mean, σ : standard deviation):

$$v' = \frac{v - \mu_A}{\sigma_A}$$

- Ex. Let $\mu = 54,000$, $\sigma = 16,000$. Then $\frac{73,600 - 54,000}{16,000} = 1.225$

- **Normalization by decimal scaling**

$$v' = \frac{v}{10^j} \quad \text{Where } j \text{ is the smallest integer such that } \text{Max}(|v'|) < 1$$

Discretization

- Three types of attributes
 - Nominal—values from an unordered set, e.g., color, profession
 - Ordinal—values from an ordered set, e.g., military or academic rank
 - Numeric—real numbers, e.g., integer or real numbers
- Discretization: Divide the range of a continuous attribute into intervals
 - Interval labels can then be used to replace actual data values
 - Reduce data size by discretization
 - Supervised vs. unsupervised
 - Split (top-down) vs. merge (bottom-up)
 - Discretization can be performed recursively on an attribute
 - Prepare for further analysis, e.g., classification

Data Discretization Methods

- Typical methods: All the methods can be applied recursively
 - Binning
 - Top-down split, unsupervised
 - Histogram analysis
 - Top-down split, unsupervised
 - Clustering analysis (unsupervised, top-down split or bottom-up merge)
 - Decision-tree analysis (supervised, top-down split)
 - Correlation (e.g., χ^2) analysis (unsupervised, bottom-up merge)

Simple Discretization: Binning

- **Equal-width** (distance) partitioning
 - Divides the range into N intervals of equal size: uniform grid
 - if A and B are the lowest and highest values of the attribute, the width of intervals will be: $W = (B - A)/N$.
 - The most straightforward, but outliers may dominate presentation
 - Skewed data is not handled well
- **Equal-depth** (frequency) partitioning
 - Divides the range into N intervals, each containing approximately same number of samples
 - Good data scaling
 - Managing categorical attributes can be tricky

Binning Methods for Data Smoothing

❑ Sorted data for price (in dollars): 4, 8, 9, 15, 21, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 34

* Partition into equal-frequency (**equi-depth**) bins:

- Bin 1: 4, 8, 9, 15
- Bin 2: 21, 21, 24, 25
- Bin 3: 26, 28, 29, 34

* Smoothing by **bin means**:

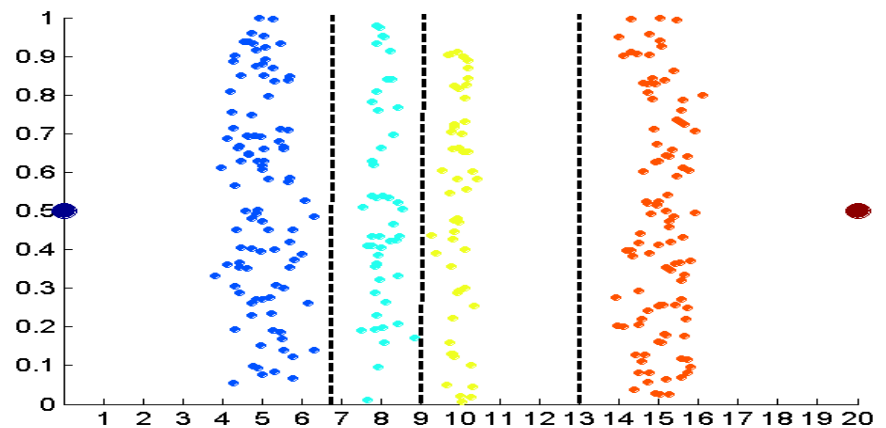
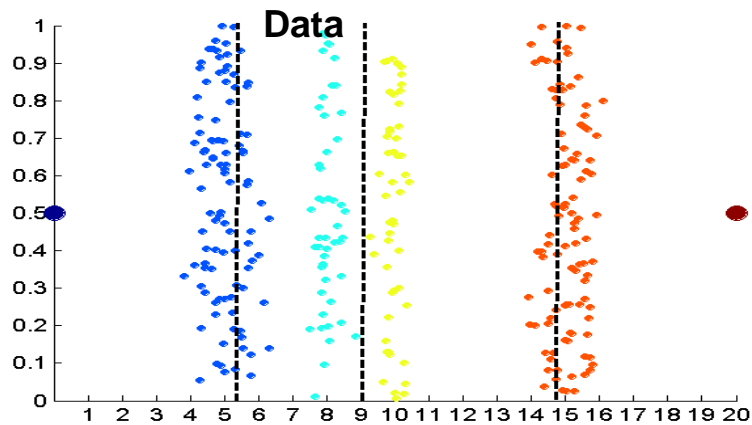
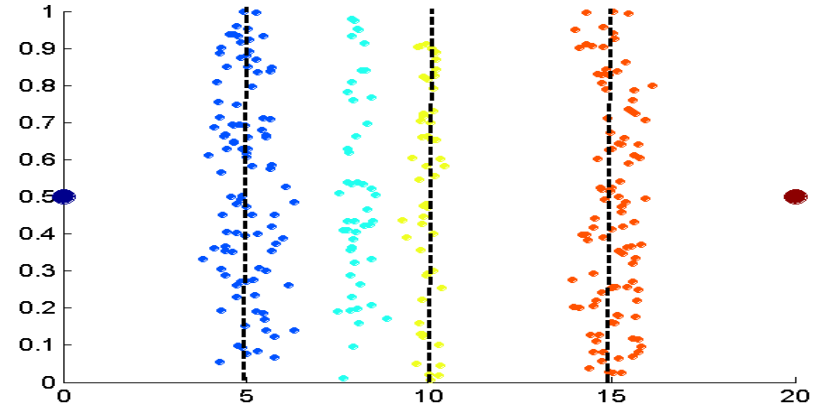
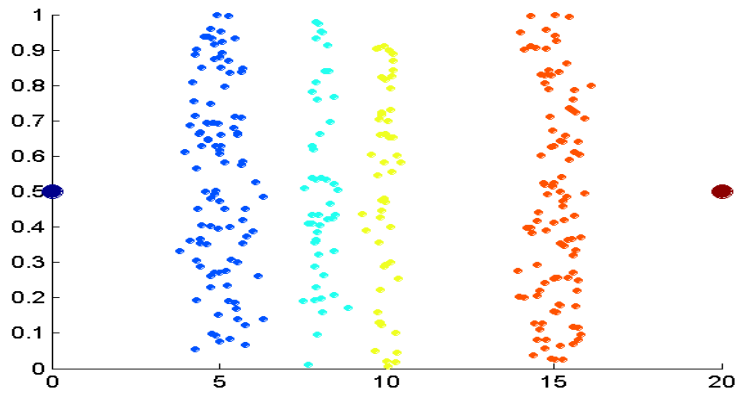
- Bin 1: 9, 9, 9, 9
- Bin 2: 23, 23, 23, 23
- Bin 3: 29, 29, 29, 29

* Smoothing by **bin boundaries**:

- Bin 1: 4, 4, 4, 15
- Bin 2: 21, 21, 25, 25
- Bin 3: 26, 26, 26, 34

Labels

(Binning vs. Clustering)



Equal frequency (binning)

K-means clustering leads to better results

Discretization by Classification & Correlation Analysis

- Classification (e.g., decision tree analysis)
 - Supervised: Given class labels, e.g., cancerous vs. benign
 - Using *entropy* to determine split point (discretization point)
 - Top-down, recursive split
 - Details to be covered in Chapter 7
- Correlation analysis (e.g., Chi-merge: χ^2 -based discretization)
 - Supervised: use class information
 - Bottom-up merge: find the best neighboring intervals (those having similar distributions of classes, i.e., low χ^2 values) to merge
 - Merge performed recursively, until a predefined stopping condition

Concept Hierarchy Generation

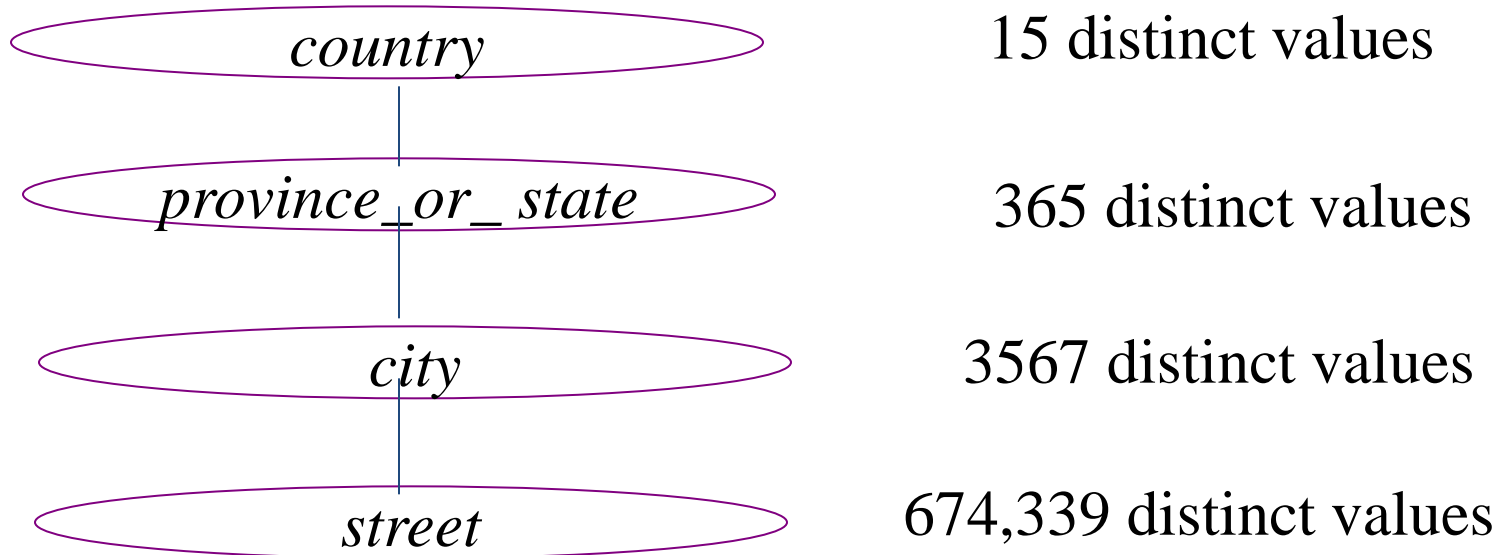
- **Concept hierarchy** organizes concepts (i.e., attribute values) hierarchically and is usually associated with each dimension in a data warehouse
- Concept hierarchies facilitate drilling and rolling in data warehouses to view data in multiple granularity
- Concept hierarchy formation: Recursively reduce the data by collecting and replacing low level concepts (such as numeric values for *age*) by higher level concepts (such as *youth*, *adult*, or *senior*)
- Concept hierarchies can be explicitly specified by domain experts and/or data warehouse designers
- Concept hierarchy can be automatically formed for both numeric and nominal data. For numeric data, use discretization methods shown.

Concept Hierarchy Generation for Nominal Data

- Specification of a partial/total ordering of attributes explicitly at the schema level by users or experts
 - *street* < *city* < *state* < *country*
- Specification of a hierarchy for a set of values by explicit data grouping
 - {Urbana, Champaign, Chicago} < Illinois
- Specification of only a partial set of attributes
 - E.g., only *street* < *city*, not others
- Automatic generation of hierarchies (or attribute levels) by the analysis of the number of distinct values
 - E.g., for a set of attributes: {*street*, *city*, *state*, *country*}

Automatic Concept Hierarchy Generation

- Some hierarchies can be automatically generated based on the analysis of the number of distinct values per attribute in the data set
 - The attribute with the most distinct values is placed at the lowest level of the hierarchy
 - Exceptions, e.g., weekday, month, quarter, year



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Summary

- **Data quality:** accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness, believability, interpretability
- **Data cleaning:** e.g. missing/noisy values, outliers
- **Data integration** from multiple sources:
 - Entity identification problem
 - Remove redundancies
 - Detect inconsistencies
- **Data reduction**
 - Dimensionality reduction
 - Numerosity reduction
 - Data compression
- **Data transformation and data discretization**
 - Normalization
 - Concept hierarchy generation