# A Big Data-Driven Business Data Analysis System: Applications of Artificial Intelligence Techniques in Problem Solving

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#### 요 약

It is crucial to develop effective and efficient big data analytics methods for problem-solving in the field of business in order to improve the performance of data analytics and reduce costs and risks in the analysis of customer data. In this study, a big data-driven data analysis system using artificial intelligence techniques is designed to increase the accuracy of big data analytics along with the rapid growth of the field of data science. We present a key direction for big data analysis systems through missing value imputation, outlier detection, feature extraction, utilization of explainable artificial intelligence techniques, and exploratory data analysis. Our objective is not only to develop big data analysis techniques with complex structures of business data but also to bridge the gap between the theoretical ideas in artificial intelligence methods and the analysis of real-world data in the field of business.

■ Keyword : Artificial Intelligence; Big Data; Statistics; Lasso; Business Insights; Value of Customer Information

# I . Introduction

The association of the features in big data for business can occur depending on potential common exposures and relationships [1]. In the case of firms, the use of big data in the financial industry is not so active yet. However, it is highly expected that the utilization of big data analytics will increase in the field of business because abundant data has been stored. Financial big data analytics enables the development of a recommendation system which can rapidly and accurately recognize whether consumers need a specific product [2]. Based on customer data and recommendation systems, a credit rating model can also be developed and extended.

This paper estimates the network of features related to customers and examines the changes in connectivity between features with or without data preprocessing [3]. The network is estimated using machine learning techniques after statistical pre-processing of customer data. Network estimation of customer features identifies a connection between features regarding customer satisfaction and loyalty. The biggest advantage of using big data is the visualization and prediction of customer behavior based on generalized properties [4]. Big data analytics can help collaborators to understand individual customer behavior more than traditional data analytics, possibly leading one-to-one marketing [5]. Studies on consumer behavior have been conducted in terms of improving existing methodologies for application to large networks of features related to customers [6,7].

Analyzing big data with complex structures requires detailed methodologies to understand the interactions and flows among features of the data. If there exist missing values in the data, there may be various reasons for the missingness of the data. Providing insufficient or inappropriate answers to the questions in a survey or conducting repeated experiments with inconsistent results may result in missing values in the data [8].

In developing a network model of customer data, it is assumed that a complex network with sparsity can be built based on information from data. Analyzing big data with complex structures can cause low computational speed in real-world data analysis [9]. Since network estimation in the field of business deals with complex economic and social structures, it is necessary to devise an efficient and effective methodology so that high-dimensional data can be applied with appropriate computational speed [10]. In this aspect, we can consider various categories of methods in big data analytics. Given a dataset including complex associations among features, outlier detection or unsupervised learning can be considered. Each feature may have at least a few hundred samples assuming a specific probability distribution with suspected outliers [11]. Suspected outliers indicate extremely small or large values possibly existing in the distribution of data values representing each feature or specific data values far from the trend in data values of multiple features [12]. When the suspected outliers may not affect data analysis results, it may be better to remove them. While outlier detection can reduce the number of samples, it may be important to extract and examine strongly interacting features in the data. The Graphical Lasso method was introduced to derive complex financial networks of features in the data at a feasible computational speed [13]. The utilization of Graphical Lasso builds a set of strongly interacting or non-interacting features in the data, enabling the focused investigation of strongly interacting features [14]. To obtain features in the data which strongly affect the outcome of customer loyalty, GLMNET is used to fit generalized linear models on data via penalized maximum likelihood [15].

As penalized regression is applied to analyze high-dimensional datasets, the impact of missing data imputation on the improvement of accuracy in estimating a target outcome is considered. It is expected that appropriate missing data imputation may be able to track the trend in each feature and supplement the missingness of the data, possibly avoiding the over-fitting problem [8].

In the big data era, data is rapidly expanding in various academic fields. Developing cutting-edge computational methods which analyze high-dimensional data is needed. Furthermore, it is significant to measure and reduce the gap between the theoretical ideas in computational methods and the interpretation of real-world data analysis in the field of business. To resolve these issues, artificial intelligence techniques including missing data imputation, outlier detection, feature selection and prediction are presented.

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 describes the network estimation method and sample data of characteristics in the management data used in this study. Section 3 discusses the performance of statistical pre-processing to better understand the structure of data. Section 4 shows the performance of penalized regression to estimate the outcome. Section 5 covers the conclusions and future research.

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### $\Pi$ . Method

#### 2.1 Overview

In section 2, missing data imputation, outlier detection, feature selection, and explainable artificial intelligence technique are introduced.

#### 2.2 Missing Data Imputation

When missing values occur in the given data, the appropriate imputation of missing values should be used. With the fixed number of imputed datasets, an imputation method is suggested. In this case, the predictive mean matching (PMM) imputation method using a mice package in R was used. Other imputation methods can be used from a list of the available imputation methods [16].

#### 2.3 Outlier detection

Outlier detection used principal components analysis to put data points on a two-dimensional mapping for visualization. The suspected outliers are detected using various statistical methods, possibly with prior knowledge from data. [17]

#### 2.4 Feature Selection: GLASSO

In order to obtain an optimized network model, a more rigorous correlation is estimated by applying the Graphical Lasso method based on the overall correlation between business features. When defining the relationship between characteristics as a correlation, it is difficult to extract only important characteristics because all characteristics appear to have more than a certain relationship. However, using Graphical Lasso makes it easy to extract only important properties [18].

Considering a two-way network with n samples and p features, there are strongly related features. Each of the p features consists of n data values. We consider the proposed regression model to define the interaction between features and minimize the negative log-likelihood with penalties to obtain the optimal coefficients for this model. The minimization method follows Equation (1).

$$\log(\det(\theta)) - \operatorname{tr}(s\theta) + \rho||\theta||_1 \tag{1}$$

where S is the empirical covariance matrix,  $\theta$  is a nonnegative definite matrix, tr indicates the trace of a covariance matrix, and  $||\theta||_1$  is L1 norm. In Equation (2),  $\beta$  is estimated by minimizing the objective function in order to get an optimal hyperparameter  $\rho$ .

$$min_{\beta} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} ||W\beta - b||^2 + \rho ||\beta||_1 \right\} \tag{2}$$

# 2.5 Explainable Artificial Intelligence Technique: GLMNET

To estimate the credit risk network, we use a method of finding the association between business features considering covariance. When there is a specific correlation with some subsets of network characteristics, it is important to define the potential interactions of the features [19]. Therefore, we consider all the factors associated with the change and trend of the reputation level for each characteristic and verify the network model that defines the interaction between the two characteristics by combination by selecting a combination of the characteristics. Suppose there exist observations  $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^p$  and the responses  $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$ , i = 1, 2, ..., N. The objective function for the

Gaussian family follows Equation (3).

$$\min_{(\beta_0,\beta)\in\mathbb{R}^{p+1}} \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i - \beta_0 - x_i^T \beta)^2 + \lambda [(1-\alpha)||\beta||_2^2 + \alpha ||\beta||_1]$$
 (3)

where  $\lambda$  is nonnegative and  $\alpha$  ranges from 0 to 1. If  $\alpha$  is 0, a ridge regression is implemented, if  $\alpha$  is 1, a lasso regression is implemented, and else, an elastic net regression is implemented.  $\beta$  is estimated by minimizing the objective function in order to get an optimal hyperparameter  $\lambda$ .

## III. Performance of Statistical Pre-Processing

#### 3.1 Data

Five theoretically grounded candidate model configurations which consider customer satisfaction (CUSA) are presented [20]. Five alternate corporate reputation models are defined as follows: ATTR indicates Attractiveness.

CSOR indicates Corporate social responsibility, COMP indicates Competence,

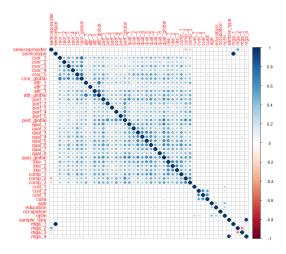
CUSA indicates Customer satisfaction, CUSL indicates Customer loyalty, LIKE indicates Likeability, PERF indicates Performance, and QUAL indicates Quality.

The dataset consists of 46 features and 344 samples.

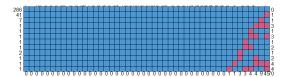
Dot points in <Figure 1> show the correlation between features in the data. A blue dot represents a positive correlation and a red dot represents a negative correlation. The darker the color, the higher the correlation.

#### 3.2 Missing Data Imputation

As shown in <Figure 2>, there exist 70 missing



(Figure 1) Correlation of Features in Data



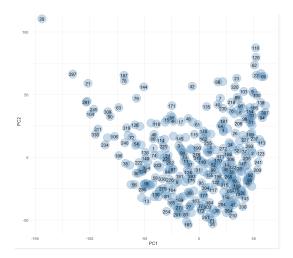
(Figure 2) Distribution of Missing Values

values in the original data, and these values are imputed using predictive mean matching methods. The missing values are imputed using values from the complete cases matched. The features including cusa, age, cusl\_1, cusl\_3, cusl\_2, nphh, education, and occupation have missing values.

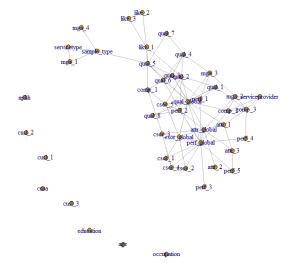
#### 3.3 Outlier detection

In <Figure 3> shown below, most values are clustered except for a few suspected outliers, such as a value of index 29. While removing the data value of index 29 does not greatly affect the data analysis results, this value was not removed to keep much information as possible.

3.4 Feature Extraction and Network Analysis
Regarding the feature extraction, network esti-



(Figure 3) Detection of Suspected Outliers



⟨Figure 4⟩ Network Estimation before missing data imputation

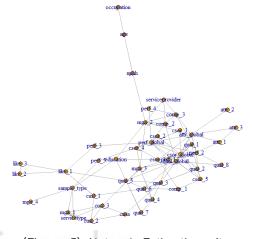
mations before and after missing data imputation using the predictive mean matching imputation method are implemented. As shown in <Figure 4>, features including cusa, age, cusl\_1, cusl\_3, cusl\_2, nphh, education, and occupation form independent disconnected components. While all the other features form a large connected component, there do not exist associations among features outside this component in the network.

⟨Table 1⟩ Centrality analysis of the network in ⟨Figure 4⟩

|                 | Degree | Closeness | Betweenness |
|-----------------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| serviceprovider | 6      | 0.009     | 0           |
| servicetype     | 4      | 0.007     | 0           |
| csor_1          | 4      | 0.009     | 0           |
| csor_2          | 6      | 0.009     | 1           |
| csor_3          | 8      | 0.01      | 38.077      |
| csor_4          | 6      | 0.01      | 6.348       |
| csor_5          | 10     | 0.011     | 20.763      |
| csor_global     | 14     | 0.012     | 69.509      |
| attr_1          | 8      | 0.011     | 31.299      |
| attr_2          | 2      | 0.009     | 0           |
| attr_3          | 6      | 0.009     | 6.015       |
| attr_global     | 18     | 0.013     | 174.936     |
| perf_1          | 10     | 0.011     | 28.916      |
| perf_2          | 14     | 0.013     | 70.774      |
| perf_3          | 2      | 0.009     | 0           |
| perf_4          | 4      | 0.009     | 6.286       |
| perf_5          | 4      | 0.009     | 5.667       |
| perf_global     | 24     | 0.013     | 321.573     |
| qual_1          | 8      | 0.011     | 31.124      |
| qual_2          | 14     | 0.012     | 114.943     |
| qual_3          | 14     | 0.012     | 50.922      |
| qual_4          | 10     | 0.01      | 23.405      |
| qual_5          | 12     | 0.013     | 349.695     |
| qual_6          | 12     | 0.012     | 39.999      |
| qual_7          | 4      | 0.009     | 3.333       |
| qual_8          | 4      | 0.01      | 0.333       |
| qual_global     | 26     | 0.015     | 498.914     |
| like_1          | 10     | 0.01      | 150.724     |
| like_2          | 4      | 0.007     | 0           |
| like_3          | 4      | 0.007     | 0           |
| comp_1          | 10     | 0.01      | 50.786      |
| comp_2          | 10     | 0.011     | 68.005      |
| comp_3          | 12     | 0.01      | 29.786      |
| sample_type     | 8      | 0.009     | 208         |
| mga_1           | 4      | 0.007     | 0           |
| mga_2           | 10     | 0.01      | 30.339      |
| mga_3           | 8      | 0.011     | 30.53       |
| mga_4           | 2      | 0.007     | 0           |

The features with high degree values greater than 20 in <Table 1> are qual global and perf global. Regarding the degree centrality, high values indicate that the features qual global and perf global may be central in the network structure. Since degree centrality represents how many connections each feature has, features with high degree values are connected to lots of other features at the center of the network. Closeness centrality shows how close a feature is to other features in the network. In this case, closeness centrality is obtained by computing the reciprocal of the sum of the shortest path length from the feature to every other feature in the network. The features with closeness greater than 0.01 are csor 5, csor global, attr 1, attr global, perf 1, perf 2, perf global, qual 1, qual 2, qual 3, qual 5, qual 6, qual global, comp 2, and mga 3. Betweenness centrality estimates how many shortest paths each feature is on. The features with betweenness greater than 100 are attr global, perf global, qual 2, qual 5, qual global, like 1, and sample type.

As shown in <Figure 5>, all features belong to a connected component and the features age and



(Figure 5) Network Estimation after missing data imputation

| ⟨Table | 2> | Centrality | analysis | of | the | network |
|--------|----|------------|----------|----|-----|---------|
|        |    | in 〈F      | Figure 5 |    |     |         |

|                 | Degree | Closeness | Betweenness |
|-----------------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| serviceprovider | 6      | 0.007     | 0           |
| servicetype     | 8      | 0.007     | 15.52       |
| csor 1          | 4      | 0.008     | 0           |
| csor 2          | 6      | 0.008     | 2.036       |
| csor 3          | 10     | 0.009     | 76.895      |
| csor 4          | 8      | 0.008     | 30.014      |
| csor 5          | 8      | 0.008     | 15.445      |
| csor_global     | 20     | 0.01      | 140.337     |
| attr 1          | 6      | 0.008     | 14.067      |
| attr 2          | 2      | 0.007     | 0           |
| attr 3          | 4      | 0.007     | 0           |
| attr global     | 20     | 0.01      | 291.848     |
| perf 1          | 10     | 0.009     | 38.882      |
| perf 2          | 10     | 0.009     | 33.355      |
| perf 3          | 4      | 0.008     | 67.12       |
| perf 4          | 4      | 0.008     | 4.057       |
| perf 5          | 4      | 0.008     | 72.983      |
| perf_global     | 24     | 0.01      | 374.567     |
| qual 1          | 10     | 0.008     | 24.557      |
| qual 2          | 10     | 0.008     | 15.74       |
| qual_3          | 16     | 0.009     | 159.751     |
| qual 4          | 8      | 0.008     | 32.669      |
| qual_5          | 12     | 0.01      | 242.922     |
| qual_6          | 12     | 0.009     | 104.489     |
| qual_7          | 4      | 0.007     | 3.515       |
| qual_8          | 4      | 0.008     | 2.05        |
| qual_global     | 24     | 0.011     | 391.984     |
| like_1          | 10     | 0.008     | 197.719     |
| like_2          | 4      | 0.006     | 0           |
| like_3          | 4      | 0.006     | 0           |
| comp_1          | 6      | 0.007     | 11.367      |
| comp_2          | 10     | 0.009     | 68.621      |
| comp_3          | 12     | 0.008     | 49.187      |
| cusl_1          | 6      | 0.007     | 60.248      |
| cusl_2          | 10     | 0.007     | 55.248      |
| cusl_3          | 10     | 0.008     | 118.413     |
| cusa            | 6      | 0.007     | 38.705      |
| age             | 4      | 0.005     | 88          |
| education       | 8      | 0.009     | 193.155     |
| occupation      | 2      | 0.004     | 0           |
| nphh            | 4      | 0.007     | 172         |
| sample_type     | 10     | 0.008     | 167.178     |
| mga_1           | 8      | 0.007     | 15.52       |
| mga_2           | 14     | 0.009     | 348.51      |
| mga_3           | 12     | 0.01      | 235.327     |
| mga_4           | 2      | 0.006     | 0           |

occupation have an interaction. The features with high degree values greater than 20 in <Table 2> are qual\_global and perf\_global. The feature with closeness greater than 0.01 is qual\_global only. The features with betweenness greater than 100 are csor\_global, attr\_global, perf\_global, qual\_3, qual\_5, qual\_6, qual\_global, like\_1, cusl\_3, education, sample\_type, mga\_2, and mga\_3. While the features with degree values greater than 20 are qual\_global and perf\_global regardless of missing data imputation, the closeness and betweenness values of features are affected by missing data imputation.

# IV. Performance of Penalized Regression

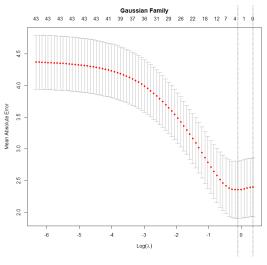
To identify the features which significantly affect the customer loyalty outcome, Lasso with 10-fold cross validation is utilized. Adding or removing a significant feature to the model possibly affects the properties of this feature only and might not affect other features in the model. In the real-world data, there may be interactions among multiple variables, and to implement Lasso, conditional independence between features should be considered.

Before PMM imputation method is applied, selecting significant features with lasso is not successful, not extracting features to build regression models.

In <Figure 6>, when  $\lambda$  is 0.904, MAE is minimized and an optimal hyper-parameter is determined.

In  $\langle$ Figure 7 $\rangle$ , when  $\lambda$  is 1.095, MAE is minimized and an optimal hyper-parameter is determined.

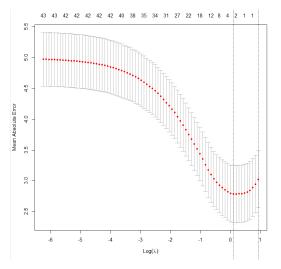
In  $\langle$ Figure 8 $\rangle$ , when  $\lambda$  is 1.203, MAE is minimized and an optimal hyper-parameter is determined. The MAE results before applying the PMM im-



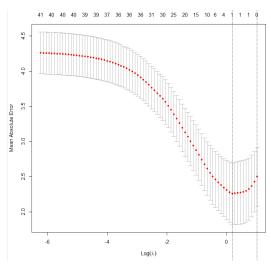
 $\langle \text{Figure 6} \rangle \text{ MAE results by } \log(\lambda)$  predicting cusl\_1

putation method on data show that finding optimal hyper-parameters can be better estimated when missing values are appropriately processed.

In <Table 3>, lasso regression identifies five variables such as perf\_global, qual\_6, like\_1, like\_2 and cusa which may positively affect the outcome, customer loyalty with an intercept value of 1.901.



 $\langle \text{Figure 7} \rangle$  MAE results by  $\log(\chi)$  predicting cusl\_2

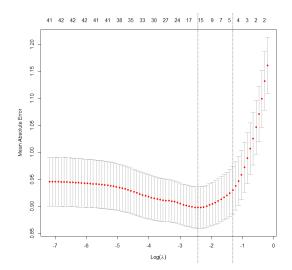


 $\langle \text{Figure 8} \rangle$  MAE results by  $\log(\chi)$  predicting cusl\_3

⟨Table 3⟩ Coefficients of features predicting cusl\_1 after applying PMM imputation method

| Intercept | perf_global | qual_6 | like_1 | like_2 | cusa  |
|-----------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2.247     | 0.007       | 0.072  | 0.178  | 0.034  | 0.279 |

In <Figure 9>, when  $\lambda$  is 0.088, MAE is minimized and an optimal hyper-parameter is determined.

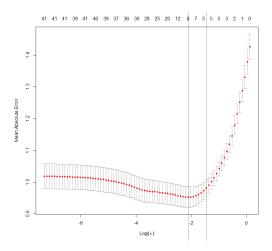


 $\langle$ Figure 9 $\rangle$  MAE results by  $log(\chi)$  predicting cusl\_1 after applying PMM imputation method

(Table 4) Coefficients of features predicting cusl\_2

| Intercept | qual_3 | like_1 | like_2 | like_3 | cusa  |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 0.875     | 0.059  | 0.013  | 0.130  | 0.063  | 0.588 |

In <Table 4>, lasso regression identifies five variables such as qual\_3, like\_1, like\_2, like\_3 and cusa which may positively affect the outcome, customer loyalty with an intercept value of 0.875.



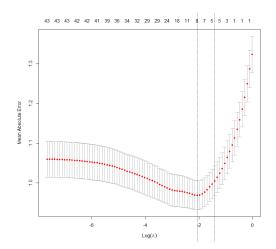
 $\langle \text{Figure 10} \rangle$  MAE results by  $\log(\chi)$  predicting cusl\_2 after applying PMM imputation method

In  $\langle$ Figure 10 $\rangle$ , when  $\lambda$  is 0.121, MAE is minimized and an optimal hyper-parameter is obtained.

(Table 5) Coefficients of features predicting cusl\_3

| Intercept | qual_7 | like_1 | like_2 | like_3 | cusa  |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 2.063     | 0.059  | 0.012  | 0.008  | 0.034  | 0.566 |

In <Table 5>, lasso regression identifies five variables such as qual\_7, like\_1, like\_2, like\_3 and cusa which may positively affect the outcome,



⟨Figure 11⟩ MAE results by log(χ) predicting cusl\_3 after applying PMM imputation method

customer loyalty with an intercept value of 2.195.

In <Figure 11>, when  $\lambda$  is 0.127, MAE is minimized and an optimal hyper-parameter is obtained. Mean absolute error results when zero imputation and imputation using PMM are applied. As shown in <Table 6>, using lasso regression on pre-processed data with PMM imputation method outperforms using lasso regression on pre-processed data with zero imputation method.

(Table 6) MAE using zero and PMM imputation methods

|      | cusl_1 | cusl_2 | cusl_3 |
|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Zero | 2.358  | 2.783  | 2.262  |
| PMM  | 0.898  | 0.953  | 0.969  |

# V. Discussion & Conclusion

We have utilized data pre-processing methods, unsupervised and supervised learning techniques to elucidate the relations of features and appropriately predict an outcome, customer loyalty [21].

Based on the results from the prediction of customer loyalty, significant factors which affect customer loyalty may be performance, likeability, quality, and customer satisfaction.

Conducting a data preprocessing step that removes noise from the data and transforms the data into a useful format can fit the final model on all data values, establishing relationships between the relevant data features. It is required to meaningfully process raw data to get more organized data, and model accuracy [22]. Extracting significant features from data in the pre-processing process can improve the accuracy of the big data analysis, and the interpretation of the results may vary depending on which features are selected from the processed data. After the modeling process, the data preprocessing may be repeatedly conducted to better perform the model evaluation. Although with advanced analysis techniques, if data cleaning is not sufficiently implemented, less significant or potentially distorted analysis results can be generated. [23].

Network analysis has recently drawn much attention not only in physics, medicine, and biology but also in economics and business administration. Thanks to the accumulation of data with the development of information and communication technology via online services, the opportunity to use network data in practice has increased [24]. Internet networks, citation networks, or communication networks are structured in the form of networks consisting of nodes and edges indicating features and their interactions, respectively. Since networks have always provided a key environment to understand social and economic systems, network analysis on big data can provide core solutions to estimate dependencies between features

in the network and to design the flow of the entire network [25]. Network analysis of big data is a method of analysis of structures, flows and processes regarding the relationship between features in the network. Unlike existing statistical research methods focusing on the properties of a feature, interactions among high-dimensional features are considered. Basic principles of network analysis from graph theory differ in the various fields of chemistry, biology, physics, information engineering, sociology, and humanities [26].

The big data analysis model should be designed using big data generated by the government or industry. It is necessary to handle customer data with both qualitative and quantitative approaches. More efficient customer management can be conducted by investigating customer's likeability about the product or customer satisfaction. The structures of data can be analyzed with a dataset with a low sample size by utilizing customer experience data of good quality [27]. Rather than a high-cost and time-consuming big data analysis method, an analysis model that observes and investigates a small number of significant customer data samples enable the understanding of the more complex customer purchase types [28]. Big data analysis examines customer experience and develops customer-centered products and services.

Future projects should develop ideas in the current study by building various conditions of simulated data. While a list of features in the data can be fixed, statistical experiments on data with different sample sizes can be conducted. Different combinations of missing data imputation methods, anomaly detection approaches, and network analysis techniques can be considered. Examining the performance of lasso regression models to predict

a specific continuous outcome can be tested in terms of accuracy and reproducibility. The validated methods can be utilized to analyze new outcomes from business data to obtain meaningful interpretations of data analysis results in various aspects.

# 사 사

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# 참 고 문 헌

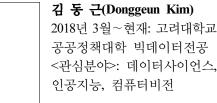
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