

DATA 301: Data Cleaning

Data Cleaning - Outline

- Why
- Missing Values
- Duplicates
- Strings
- Categorical data
- Numerical Data
- Dates

Why

Data is usually messy.

You can minimize some problems

- For surveys, prefer comboboxes populated with a curated list rather than free form text field

Some you cannot

- external datasets (like your first project)
- free form text (like a collection of movie reviews)
- Missing and duplicate values
- Sensor data (outliers, missing values)

Either way it has to be cleaned

General steps

Remove duplicates

Handle missing data

Process strings

Process Categorical data

Scale Numerical Data

Process dates (if needed)

Reduce dimensionality

General steps

Remove duplicates

Handle missing data

Process strings

Much of this for project 1

Process Categorical data

Scale Numerical Data

Process dates (if needed)

Reduce dimensionality

General steps

Remove duplicates
Handle missing data

Today's topics

Process strings

Process Categorical data

Scale Numerical Data

Process dates (if needed)

Reduce dimensionality

General steps

Remove duplicates
Handle missing data

Today's topics

Process strings
Process Categorical data
Scale Numerical Data
Process dates (if needed)
Reduce dimensionality

This is not a complete list of steps

Remove duplicates

First see if there are any

```
1 df.duplicated().sum()
```


Remove duplicates

First see if there are any

```
1 df.duplicated().sum()
```

If so then verify them visually

```
1 df[df.duplicated()].sort_values(by='name')
```

Remove duplicates

First see if there are any

```
1 df.duplicated().sum()
```

If so then verify them visually

```
1 df[df.duplicated()].sort_values(by='name')
```

If everything looks fine, get rid of them

```
1 df.drop_duplicates(inplace=True)
```

Remove duplicates

First see if there are any

```
1 df.duplicated().sum()
```

If so then verify them visually

```
1 df[df.duplicated()].sort_values(by='name')
```

If everything looks fine, get rid of them

```
1 df.drop_duplicates(inplace=True)
```

But there could be extenuating circumstances;
What if a duplicate row is missing data?

Remove duplicates

First see if there are any

```
1 df.duplicated().sum()
```

If so then verify them visually

```
1 df[df.duplicated()].sort_values(by='name')
```

If everything looks fine, get rid of them

```
1 df.drop_duplicates(inplace=True)
```

But there could be extenuating circumstances;
What if a duplicate row is missing data?

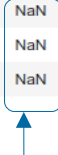
Go to [31_cleaning_missing_and_duplicate_data.ipynb](#)

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

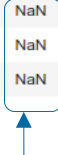


Missing values here

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

First the easy solution;
Use sklearn's SimpleImputer

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small



Handle missing data (np.Nan)

First the easy solution;
Use sklearn's SimpleImputer

Installed with Anaconda

```
1 from sklearn.impute import SimpleImputer
```

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

First the easy solution;
Use sklearn's SimpleImputer

Installed with Anaconda

```
1 from sklearn.impute import SimpleImputer
```

```
3 imp = SimpleImputer(missing_values=np.nan, strategy='most_frequent')
```

Imputation strategy, can be mean, median (numeric only),
most_frequent or constant (numeric and strings)

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

First the easy solution;
Use sklearn's SimpleImputer

Installed with Anaconda

```
1 from sklearn.impute import SimpleImputer
2
3 imp = SimpleImputer(missing_values=np.nan, strategy='most_frequent')
4
5 imp = imp.fit(df_med[['t_shirt_size']])
6
```

Fit the imputer to the data, in this case calculate the most Frequent value seen

Imputation strategy, can be mean, median (numeric only), most_frequent or constant (numeric and strings)

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

First the easy solution;
Use sklearn's SimpleImputer

Installed with Anaconda

```
1 from sklearn.impute import SimpleImputer
```

```
3 imp = SimpleImputer(missing_values=np.nan, strategy='most_frequent')
```

```
5 imp = imp.fit(df_med[['t_shirt_size']])
```

Fit the imputer to the data, in this case calculate the most Frequent value seen

```
7 df_med['impute_t_shirt_size'] = imp.transform(df_med[['t_shirt_size']])
```

Transform the data using the imputer, in this case calculate the most Frequent value seen and replace missing values in df_med['impute_t_shirt_size'] with it.

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

First the easy solution;
Use sklearn's SimpleImputer

Installed with Anaconda

```
1 from sklearn.impute import SimpleImputer
```

```
3 imp = SimpleImputer(missing_values=np.nan, strategy='most_frequent')
```

```
5 imp = imp.fit(df_med[['t_shirt_size']])
```

Fit the imputer to the data, in this case calculate the most Frequent value seen

```
7 df_med['impute_t_shirt_size'] = imp.transform(df_med[['t_shirt_size']])
```

Transform the data using the imputer, in this case calculate the most Frequent value seen and replace missing values in df_med['impute_t_shirt_size'] with it.

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

But you can usually do better than this ...

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

What if you calculate missing values
Based on weight.

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

What if you calculate missing values
Based on weight.

Calculate average weight for each t-shirt size

```
1 avgs = df_better.groupby('t_shirt_size').mean()
2 avgs.weight
```

```
t_shirt_size
large    177.410759
med      138.508626
small    101.173410
Name: weight, dtype: float64
```

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

What if you calculate missing values
Based on weight.

Calculate average weight for each t-shirt size

```
1 avgs = df_better.groupby('t_shirt_size').mean()
2 avgs.weight
```

```
t_shirt_size
large    177.410759
med      138.508626
small    101.173410
Name: weight, dtype: float64
```

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

Use that info to impute missing values based on user weight

```
1 #map works on a column apply works on a row which means we have access to the entire row
2
3 def func(row):
4     if row.t_shirt_size is np.NaN:
5         #get a list of differences between this weight and average weights
6         lst_vals = [abs(row.weight-val) for val in avgs.weight]
7
8         #get the index of the minimum value
9         min_val = min(lst_vals)
10        min_index = lst_vals.index(min_val)
11
12        #return t shirt size corresponding to this index
13        return avgs.index[min_index]
14    #its not missing, return what's there
15    return row.t_shirt_size
16 df_better['impute_t_shirt_size'] = df.apply(func, axis=1)
```

Handle missing data (np.Nan)

What if you calculate missing values
Based on weight.

Calculate average weight for each t-shirt size

```
1 avgs = df_better.groupby('t_shirt_size').mean()
2 avgs.weight
```

```
t_shirt_size
large    177.410759
med      138.508626
small    101.173410
Name: weight, dtype: float64
```

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_size_orig
199	138.423257	large	Shemeka Tweed	large
201	179.943743	large	Curtis Perry	large
202	192.245354	large	Jean Vanblarcom	large
99	110.433988	med	Marion Murphy	med
100	172.863897	med	Ronald Edwards	med
103	143.853752	med	Kathleen Ringrose	med
0	104.820189	small	Deborah Bradshaw	small
1	78.662745	small	Betty Shannon	small
2	76.240932	small	Mai Audet	small
5	112.973731	NaN	Pearl Miller	small
19	92.639737	NaN	Yvonne Arroyo	small
25	98.201594	NaN	James Dana	small

Use that info to impute missing values based on user weight

```
1 #map works on a column apply works on a row which means we have access to the entire row
2
3 def func(row):
4     if row.t_shirt_size is np.NaN:
5         #get a list of differences between this weight and average weights
6         lst_vals = [abs(row.weight-val) for val in avgs.weight]
7
8         #get the index of the minimum value
9         min_val = min(lst_vals)
10        min_index = lst_vals.index(min_val)
11
12        #return t shirt size corresponding to this index
13        return avgs.index[min_index]
14    #its not missing, return what's there
15    return row.t_shirt_size
16 df_better['impute_t_shirt_size'] = df.apply(func, axis=1)
```

Go to [31_cleaning_missing_and_duplicate_data.ipynb](#)

Cardinality

Cardinality: the number of distinct elements in a set. For our purposes the number of unique values in a column

Categorical data

Categorical data can be subdivided into 2 types

Ordinal data– data that has an order, can be sorted

- ex. t-shirt size (small<medium<large)
- The average of a small and large is medium

Nominal data – data that has no order

- ex. t-shirt color (Red, Blue, Green) one is not greater than another
- The average of Red and Green is not Blue

Categorical data

Categorical data can be subdivided into 2 types

Ordinal data– data that has an order, can be sorted

- ex. t-shirt size (small<medium<large)
- The average of a small and large is medium

Nominal data – data that has no order

- ex. t-shirt color (Red, Blue, Green) one is not greater than another
- The average of Red and Green is not Blue

Both types need to be encoded numerically in order to be used by many ML models. But their encoding techniques differ depending on the type of model used.

Ordinal data

Ordinal data— data that has an order, can be sorted

- ex. t-shirt size (small<medium<large)

Since it has an order, just convert it to a number

```
size_mapping = {'small':1, 'medium':2, 'large':3}  
df.t_shirt_size = df.t_shirt_size.map(size_mapping)
```

	weight	t_shirt_size	t_shirt_color	name
0	87.478379	small	black	Timothy Bunch
1	101.982078	small	black	Miguel Williams
2	114.504086	small	orange	Tommy Jennings
3	95.567857	small	red	Willie Ledet
4	109.106926	small	orange	David Smith
...
295	149.039786	large	green	Irene Glover
296	189.241702	large	orange	Theresa Tomlin
297	173.061783	large	red	Rebekah Millar
298	178.617007	large	red	Melinda Bonner
299	193.698527	large	blue	Frank Gonzalez

300 rows × 4 columns

Transform



	weight	t_shirt_size	t_shirt_color	name
0	87.478379	1	black	Timothy Bunch
1	101.982078	1	black	Miguel Williams
2	114.504086	1	orange	Tommy Jennings
3	95.567857	1	red	Willie Ledet
4	109.106926	1	orange	David Smith
...
295	149.039786	3	green	Irene Glover
296	189.241702	3	orange	Theresa Tomlin
297	173.061783	3	red	Rebekah Millar
298	178.617007	3	red	Melinda Bonner
299	193.698527	3	blue	Frank Gonzalez

300 rows × 4 columns

Ordinal data

Advantages

- Establishes a numerical order
- Does not add new columns to DataFrame
- Works with tree based models (Random Forest, Boosted Trees).

Disadvantages

- You usually have to hand code the numbering to ensure the ordering is correct (so you do not get small=3, large=2, medium=1)

Nominal data

Does not have an order so cannot convert a nominal categorical variable to a number in the same way that you do a Ordinal one.

T-shirt color is nominal `ts_colors = ['green', 'blue', 'orange', 'red', 'black']`

How to convert t-shirt color to a number without implying an order?

Nominal data

Does not have an order so cannot convert a nominal categorical variable to a number in the same way that you do a Ordinal one.

T-shirt color is nominal `ts_colors = ['green', 'blue', 'orange', 'red', 'black']`

How to convert t-shirt color to a number without implying an order?

Use something called One Hot Encoding. You create 1 column for each unique nominal value.

Nominal data – One Hot Encode t_shirt_color

	weight	t_shirt_size	t_shirt_color	name
0	87.478379	1	black	Timothy Bunch
1	101.982078	1	black	Miguel Williams
2	114.504086	1	orange	Tommy Jennings
3	95.567857	1	red	Willie Ledet
4	109.106926	1	orange	David Smith
...
295	149.039786	3	green	Irene Glover
296	189.241702	3	orange	Theresa Tomlin
297	173.061783	3	red	Rebekah Millar
298	178.617007	3	red	Melinda Bonner
299	193.698527	3	blue	Frank Gonzalez

300 rows × 4 columns

call



```
df=pd.get_dummies(df,columns=['t_shirt_color'])
```

transform



Notice that there is now 1 column per color. Only 1 of those columns will ever be 1 at a time, the rest will be 0's

	weight	t_shirt_size	name	t_shirt_color_black	t_shirt_color_blue	t_shirt_color_green	t_shirt_color_orange	t_shirt_color_red
0	87.478379	1	Timothy Bunch	1	0	0	0	0
1	101.982078	1	Miguel Williams	1	0	0	0	0
2	114.504086	1	Tommy Jennings	0	0	0	1	0
3	95.567857	1	Willie Ledet	0	0	0	0	1
4	109.106926	1	David Smith	0	0	0	1	0
...
295	149.039786	3	Irene Glover	0	0	1	0	0
296	189.241702	3	Theresa Tomlin	0	0	0	1	0
297	173.061783	3	Rebekah Millar	0	0	0	0	1
298	178.617007	3	Melinda Bonner	0	0	0	0	1
299	193.698527	3	Frank Gonzalez	0	1	0	0	0

300 rows × 8 columns

Nominal data

Advantages

- One Hot Encoding (OHE) ensures that a machine learning algorithm will not deduce an order to column members.

Disadvantages

- Expands the feature space (adds $n-1$ columns if the nominal variable has n unique values). So high cardinality columns can dramatically expand feature space.
- OHE features have perfect multicollinearity (Dummy variable trap, model explainability)

NOTE:

- Don't use for tree based models (Random Forest, Boosted Trees) treat all columns as ordinal.

Scale Numerical Data

ML algorithms based on Euclidian distance benefit from feature scaling, these include;

- K-means
- K-nearest neighbors
- DBScan (coming soon)
- Principal Component Analysis (PCA)
- Neural Networks

ML algorithms that do not require feature scaling (but it does not hurt);

- Naive Bayes
- Tree Based methods (Random Forest, Boosted Trees)

Scale Numerical Data

Min-Max encoding (normalization) – rescale features to fall between [0,1]

$$x_{\text{norm}} = \frac{x - \min(x)}{\max(x) - \min(x)}$$

But if there are outliers, then they define min() and/or max()

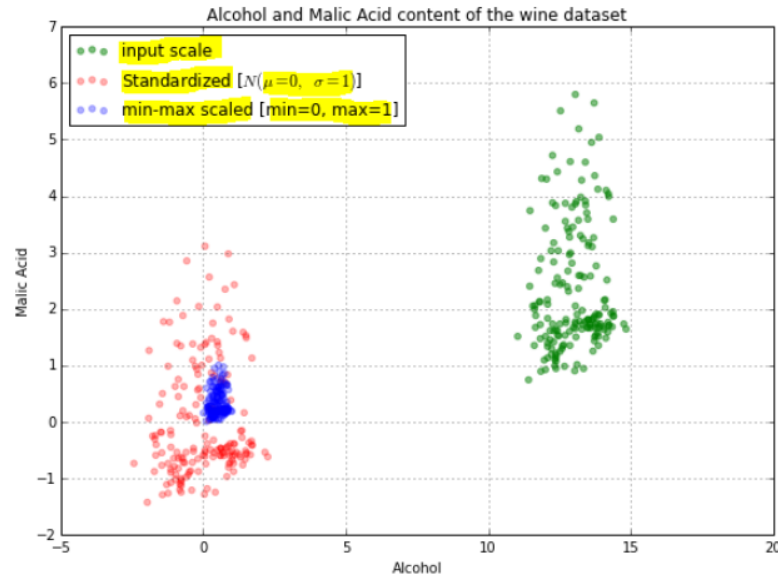
Scale Numerical Data

Standardization – rescale features to a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1

$$x_{\text{stand}} = \frac{x - \text{mean}(x)}{\text{standard deviation}(x)}$$

Note that standardized data is centered at 0, and has both positive and negative values.

Scale Numerical Data



Note that standardized data is spread out more and preserves outlier information

In general prefer Standardization

Process Dates

Date/Times must be converted into a numerical format. The following call will convert many forms of date/time strings into a pandas datetime64 object

```
data["Dt_Customer"] = pd.to_datetime(data["Dt_Customer"])
```

We will use datetime fields a bit more later

Reduce Dimensionality

Columns for a Pandas
DataFrame



The more features you have:

- the more data you need to train a ML model
- the harder it is to run cluster analysis
- the longer it takes for a ML algorithm to converge
- the higher the probability that your model will not generalize to new data
- the harder it is to visualize your data
- the higher the likelihood that some features are redundant*

So reduce the number of features to only those that you need. Two ways presented here.

- Eliminate Highly Correlated Features
- Principle Components Analysis (PCA)
- We will look at some other ways later

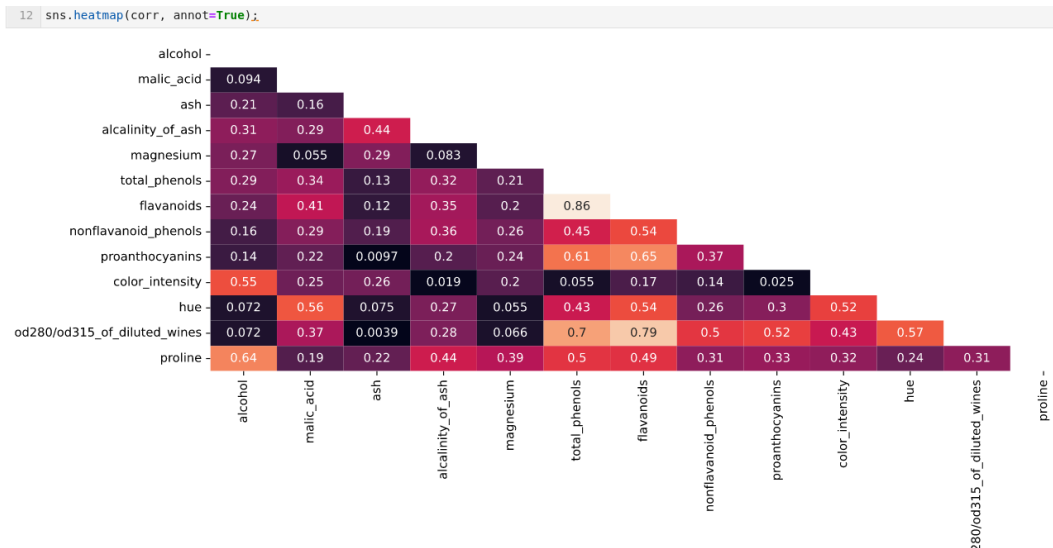
*Redundant features are features that are highly correlated, they also skew analyzing which features are the most important (feature importance - coming soon with Random Forest)

Eliminate Redundant features

- Redundant features are columns that are highly correlated. They provide little to no additional information.
- Find them by correlation analysis, then drop them.
- Pandas DataFrame has a builtin correlation function that will calculate the correlation between every column

```
4 # generate the correlation matrix (abs converts to absolute value, this way we only look for 1 color range)
5 corr = df.corr().abs()
```

- Use seaborn to display this matrix as a heatmap



Eliminate Redundant features

Advantages:

- Faster model training with fewer features
- Your model may generalize better
- Eliminates source of error in Feature Importance analysis (later)

Disadvantages

- Eliminates few columns (what if you have hundreds?)
- You have to manually decide correlation threshold for elimination (typically 95%-99%)

Principle Components Analysis (PCA)

PCA is the process of computing the principal components and using them to perform a change of basis on the data, sometimes using only the first few principal components and ignoring the rest. The principal components are eigenvectors of the data's covariance matrix.*

Bit of a mental handfull, how about:

*https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principal_component_analysis

Principle Components Analysis (PCA)

PCA takes original features (columns) and recombines them into a list of new features (columns). Each new feature is:

- a combination of the original features
- is not correlated with any other new PCA feature (they are all orthogonal to each other)

These features are sorted by the amount of information they capture (variance explained). The first captures the most, the next captures the second most and so on.

The problem is that these PCA features are hard to interpret.

Principle Components Analysis - ELI5

Suppose you have a list of 1000 students with the following features, and you want to predict which are going to do well in college

	IQ	SAT	GPA	clubs	teacher_ratings	class_rank	HS_quality	hh_income	discipline	essay_score	campus_visits	study_prep_course
0	110	1130	4.2	3	4	72	5	77000	0	90	2	1
1	105	1230	3.9	4	5	33	4	45000	1	75	1	0
2	108	1020	4.8	2	7	65	9	145000	0	75	1	1

Principle Components Analysis - ELI5

Suppose you have a list of 1000 students with the following features, and you want to predict which are going to do well in college

	IQ	SAT	GPA	clubs	teacher_ratings	class_rank	HS_quality	hh_income	discipline	essay_score	campus_visits	study_prep_course
0	110	1130	4.2	3	4	72	5	77000	0	90	2	1
1	105	1230	3.9	4	5	33	4	45000	1	75	1	0
2	108	1020	4.8	2	7	65	9	145000	0	75	1	1

Standardize data then run PCA. Top 3 new PCA features that capture the most information may be;

$$X = B1*IQ + B2*SAT + B3*GPA$$

$$Y = B4*clubs + B5*teacher_rating + B6*discipline$$

$$Z = B6*income + B6*HS_quality + B7*class_rank$$

↑
Does not have to be 3, but the more you choose,
the better you represent the original dataset

Principle Components Analysis - ELI5

Suppose you have a list of 1000 students with the following features, and you want to predict which are going to do well in college

	IQ	SAT	GPA	clubs	teacher_ratings	class_rank	HS_quality	hh_income	discipline	essay_score	campus_visits	study_prep_course
0	110	1130	4.2	3	4	72	5	77000	0	90	2	1
1	105	1230	3.9	4	5	33	4	45000	1	75	1	0
2	108	1020	4.8	2	7	65	9	145000	0	75	1	1

Standardize data then run PCA. Top 3 new PCA features that capture the most information may be;

$$X = B1*IQ + B2*SAT + B3*GPA$$

$$Y = B4*clubs + B5*teacher_rating + B6*discipline$$

$$Z = B6*income + B6*HS_quality + B7*class_rank$$

The dataset is reduced from (1000,12) to (1000,3)

None of the new features are correlated

Much of the original information is still captured (**but not all**)

But it is usually difficult to interpret the new PCA features.

Summary

- Handle duplicates
- Impute missing data (or drop it)
- Pre process strings
- Determine if string columns are ordinal or nominal categorical variables
- Transform categorical variables
- Scale data
- Consider dimensionality reduction