

INFO 1998: Introduction to Machine Learning



CDS Education

We explore, learn, and educate big minds.

Lecture 2: Data Manipulation

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Agenda

1. Define Good Question + Get Raw Data
2. Data Manipulation Techniques
3. Data Imputation
4. Other Techniques
5. Demo + Summary



Creating A Good Question

Good Examples:

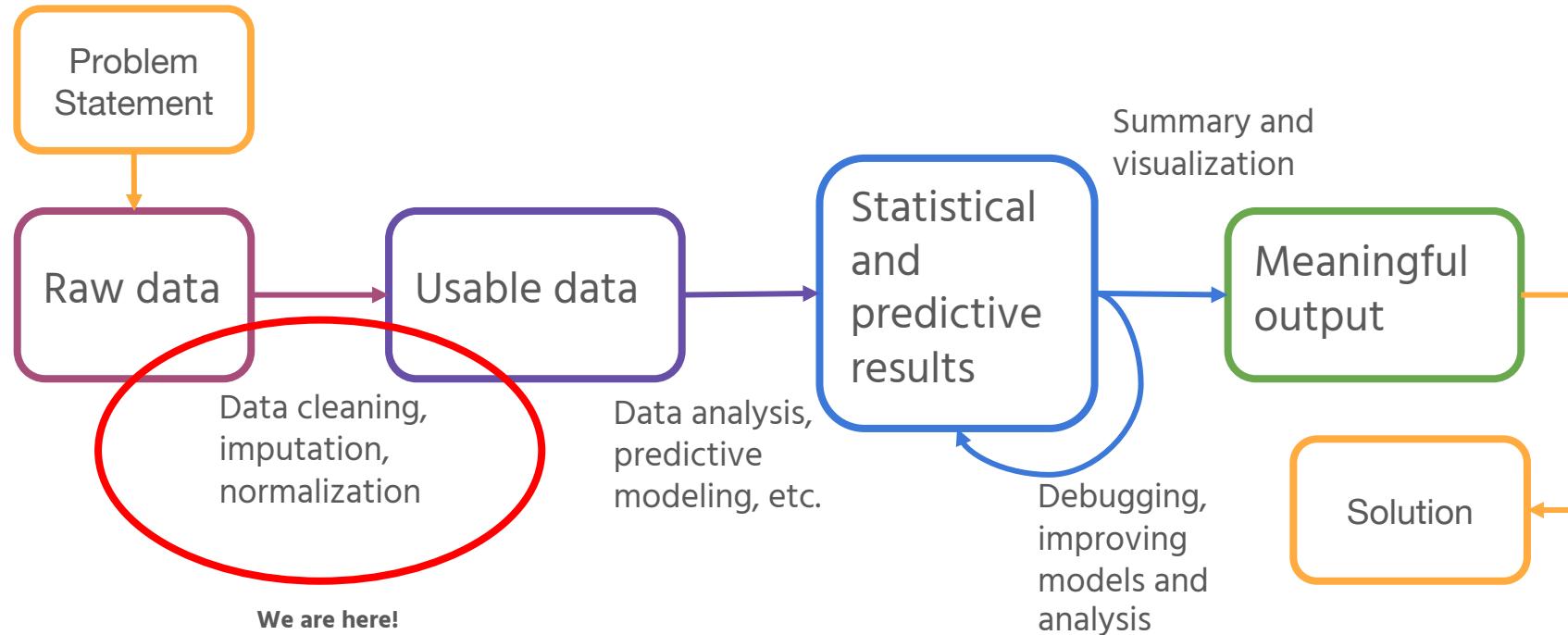
- What work and lifestyle conditions greatly impact mental health, and in what way?
- Based on this data, what factors can be used to predict a candidate's success within a Canadian election?
- What features best predict the amount of solar radiation the Earth gets based on data collected by NASA?

Poor Examples:

- What can the data tell me about mental health?
- Is there a relationship between the data and a candidate's success in a Canadian election?
- Can we predict amount of solar radiation the earth gets?



The Data Pipeline



Acquiring data

- **Option 1:** Web scraping directly from web with tools like [BeautifulSoup](#)
- **Option 2:** Querying from databases
- **Option 3:** Downloading data directly (ex. from Kaggle/Inter-governmental organizations/Govt./Corporate websites)
...and more!



Finding a Relevant Dataset

Questions to Ask Yourself...

- Does the data measure what you care about?
- Is your data connected/related?
- Do you have a lot of data?

The screenshot shows the Kaggle website's interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search bar, 'Sign In', and 'Register' buttons. Below the navigation bar, the word 'kaggle' is displayed in a stylized font. A sidebar on the left contains links: 'Create', 'Home', 'Competitions', 'Datasets' (which is highlighted), 'Code', 'Discussions', 'Courses', and 'More'. The main content area is titled 'Datasets' and features a sub-header: 'Explore, analyze, and share quality data. Learn more about data types, creating, and collaborating.' It includes a 'New Dataset' button and a search bar for datasets. Below this, there are sections for 'Trending Datasets' and 'See All'. Each dataset entry includes a thumbnail, the name, a brief description, and the author's name and update time. A cartoon illustration of a person working on a laptop with data visualizations is positioned on the right side of the page.

<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets>

How does input data usually look?

Timestamp,Class Year:,Major:,"On a scale 1 to 5 (1=unfamiliar, 5=proficient) , how well do you know Python?",How did you hear about this class?,"We will hold some optional workshops to dive deeper into industry applications of advanced analytics, and any other topics that might be of interest to you (eg. Data Scraping). What are some workshops you would like to attend? Anything goes.",What is a data problem that interests you the most?
2/9/20 0:26,2020,MBA,1,Referral by Friend, Tensorflow,A/B testing and setting up experiments
2/10/20 16:33,2023,Computer Science,1,In-class advertisement,"Website Analytics, Sentiment Analysis, Cleaning Data",How can we design efficient metrics to gauge performance of any type of data?
2/11/20 8:26,2022,MechE,1,In-class advertisement,,I would like to know more about how computational methods are used in engineering or physics researches.
2/11/20 22:43,2023,ILR,1,Referral by Friend,,The ethics behind data sharing and privacy laws online
2/12/20 17:41,2023,Food Science,1,Referral by Friend,"artificial intelligence human behavior

Timestamp	Class Year:	Major:	On a scale 1 to 5 (1=unfamiliar, 5=proficient) , how well do you know Python?	How did you hear about this class?	We will hold some optional workshops to dive deeper into industry applications of advanced analytics, and any other topics that might be of interest to you (eg. Data Scraping). What are some workshops you would like to attend? Anything goes.	What is a data problem that interests you the most?	
0	2/9/20 0:26	2020	MBA	1	Referral by Friend	Tensorflow	A/B testing and setting up experiments
1	2/10/20 16:33	2023	Computer Science	1	In-class advertisement	Website Analytics, Sentiment Analysis, Cleanin...	How can we design efficient metrics to gauge p...
2	2/11/20 8:26	2022	MechE	1	In-class advertisement	NaN	I would like to know more about how computatio...
3	2/11/20 22:43	2023	ILR	1	Referral by Friend	NaN	The ethics behind data sharing and privacy law...
4	2/12/20 17:41	2023	Food Science	1	Referral by Friend	artificial intelligence \n human behavior\n econ...	how to predict human behavior using internet d...
...

- Usually saved as .csv or .tsv files
- Known as **flat text files**, require parsers to load into code



However...

Most datasets are **messy**.

Datasets can be **huge**.

Datasets **may not make sense**.



Question

What are some ways in which data can be “messy”?



Examples of Drunk Data

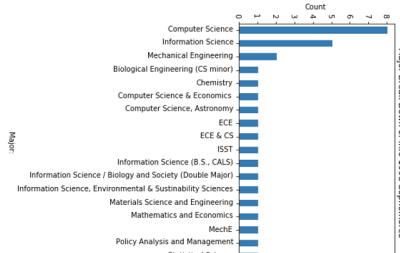
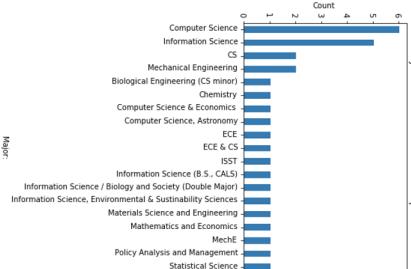
From the onboarding form!

Example 1: Let's find CS majors in INFO 1998.

Different cases:

- Computer Science
- CS
- Cs
- computer science
- CS and Math
- OR/CS

...goes on



Example 2: From INFO 1998 (Fall '18)

Answers for 'What Year Are You?'

- 1999
- 1st Master
- Junor
- INFO SCI

...goes on



Why we manipulate data?

Ease of Use

Prevent calculation
errors

Improve memory
efficiency



DataFrames!

- **Pandas** (a Python library) offers **DataFrame** objects to help manage data in an orderly way
- Similar to Excel spreadsheets or SQL tables
- DataFrames provides functions for selecting and manipulating data



```
import pandas as pd
```



Data Manipulation Techniques

- Filtering & Subsetting
- Concatenating
- Joining
- *Bonus:* Summarizing



Filtering vs. Subsetting

- Filters **rows**
- Focusing on data entries

Name	Year	Major
Jerry	2023	CS
Kevin	2022	ORIE
Varun	2024	CS & ORIE
Sam	2022	ECE

Filtering

- Subsets **columns**
- Focusing on characteristics

Name	Year	Major
Jerry	2023	CS
Kevin	2022	ORIE
Varun	2024	CS & ORIE
Sam	2022	ECE

Subsetting

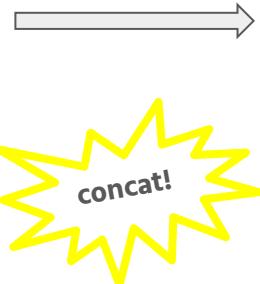


Concatenating

Joins together two data frames, either row-wise or column-wise

Name	Age	Major
Jerry	20	CS
Kevin	21	ORIE

Name	Age	Major
Varun	19	CS & ORIE
Sam	21	ECE



Name	Age	Major
Jerry	20	CS
Kevin	21	ORIE
Varun	19	CS & ORIE
Sam	21	ECE



Joining

Joins together two data frames on any specified key (fills in NaN otherwise). The index is the key here.

	Name
0	Jerry
1	Kevin
2	Varun
3	Vivian
4	Vincent

	Age	Major
0	20	CS
1	21	ORIE
2	19	CS & ORIE

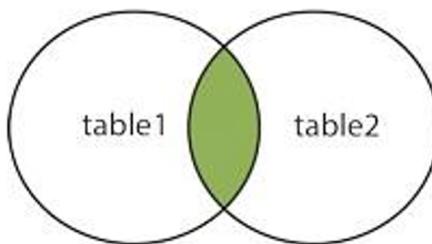


	Name	Age	Major
0	Jerry	20	CS
1	Kevin	21	ORIE
2	Varun	19	CS & ORIE
3	Vivian	NaN	NaN
4	Vincent	NaN	NaN

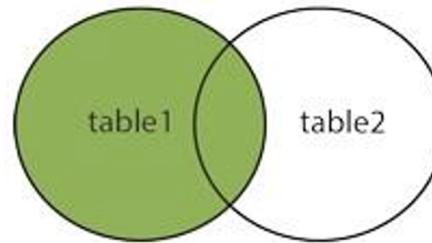


Types of Joins

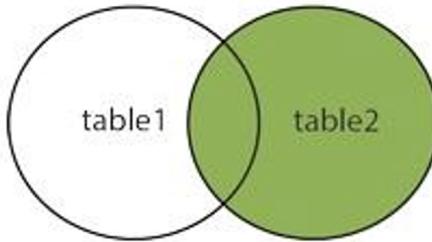
INNER JOIN



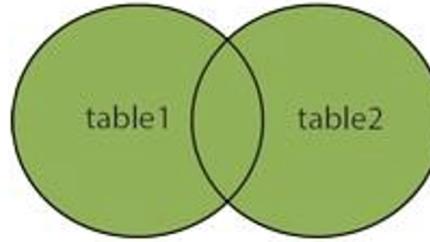
LEFT JOIN



RIGHT JOIN



FULL OUTER JOIN



Bonus: Summarizing

- Gives a quantitative overview of the dataset
- Useful for understanding and exploring the dataset!

```
>>> s = pd.Series([1, 2, 3])
>>> s.describe()
count    3.0
mean     2.0
std      1.0
min      1.0
25%     1.5
50%     2.0
75%     2.5
max     3.0
dtype: float64
```

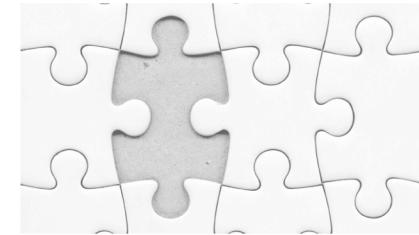
```
>>> s = pd.Series(['a', 'a', 'b', 'c'])
>>> s.describe()
count    4
unique   3
top      a
freq     2
dtype: object
```

Above: stats made easy



Dealing with missing data

Datasets are usually incomplete. We can solve this by:



Leaving out samples
with missing data

Data imputation

Randomly Replacing NaNs

Using summary statistics

Using predictive models



1: Leaving out samples with missing values

- Option: Remove NaN values by removing specific samples or features
- **Beware** not to remove too many samples or features!
 - Information about the dataset is lost each time you do this

Question: How much is too much?



2: Data Imputation

3 main techniques to impute data:

1. Randomly replacing NaNs
2. Using summary statistics
3. Using regression, clustering, and other advanced techniques



2.1: Randomly replacing NaNs

- **This is not good - don't do it**
- Replacing NaNs with random values adds unwanted and unstructured noise



2.2: Using summary statistics

non-categorical data

- Works well with small datasets
- Fast and simple
- Does not account for correlations & uncertainties
- Usually does **not** work on categorical features

categorical data

- Using mode works with categorical data (only theoretical)
- But it introduces **bias** in the dataset

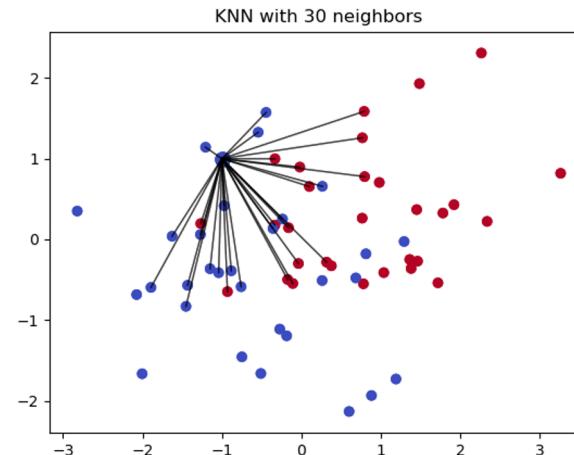
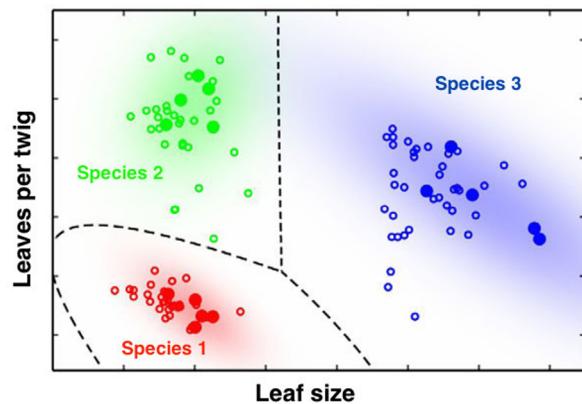
```
>> an_array.mean(axis=1) # computes means for each row
```

```
>> an_array.median() # default is axis=0
```



2.3: Using Regression / Clustering

- Use other variables to predict the missing values
 - Through either regression or clustering model
- Doesn't include an error term, so it's not clear how confident the prediction is



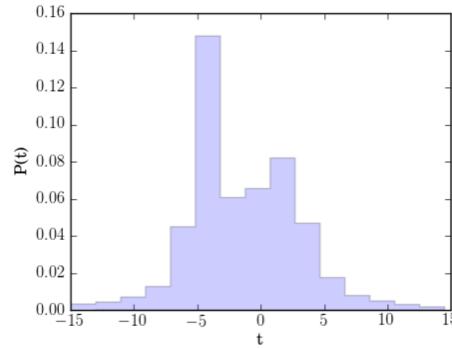
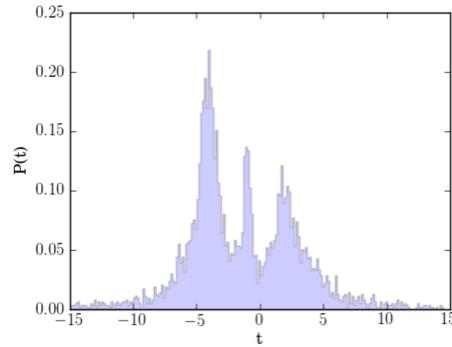
Technique 1: Binning

What?

Makes continuous data categorical by lumping ranges of data into discrete “levels”

Why?

Applicable to problems like (third-degree) price discrimination



Technique 2: Normalizing

What?

Turns the data into values between 0 and 1

Why?

Easy comparison between different features that may have different scales



Technique 3: Standardizing

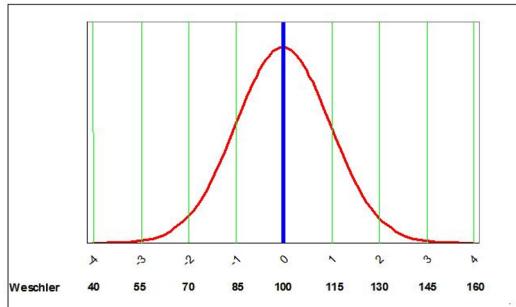
What?

Turns the data into a normal distribution with mean = 0 and SD = 1

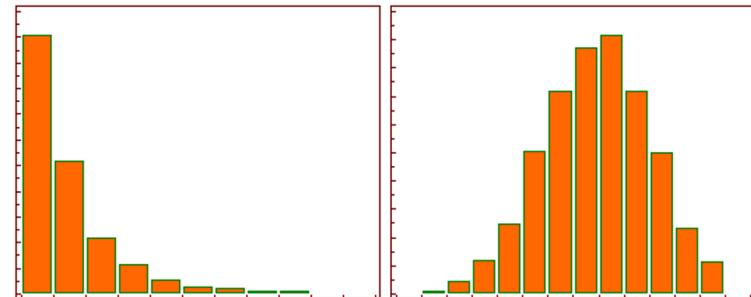
Why?

Meet model assumptions of normal data; act as a benchmark since the majority of data is normal; wreck GPAs

Standardizing



Log transformation



Others include square root, cubic root, reciprocal, square, cube...

Technique 4: Ordering

What?

Converts categorical data that is inherently ordered into a numerical scale

Why?

Numerical inputs often facilitate analysis

Example

January → 1
February → 2
March → 3
...



Technique 5: Dummy Variables

What?

Creates a binary variable for each category in a categorical variable

plant	is a tree
aspen	1
poison ivy	0
grass	0
oak	1
corn	0



Technique 6: Feature Engineering

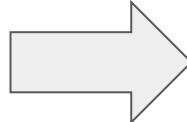
What?

Generates new features which may provide additional information to the user and to the model

Why?

You may add new columns of your own design using the assign function in pandas

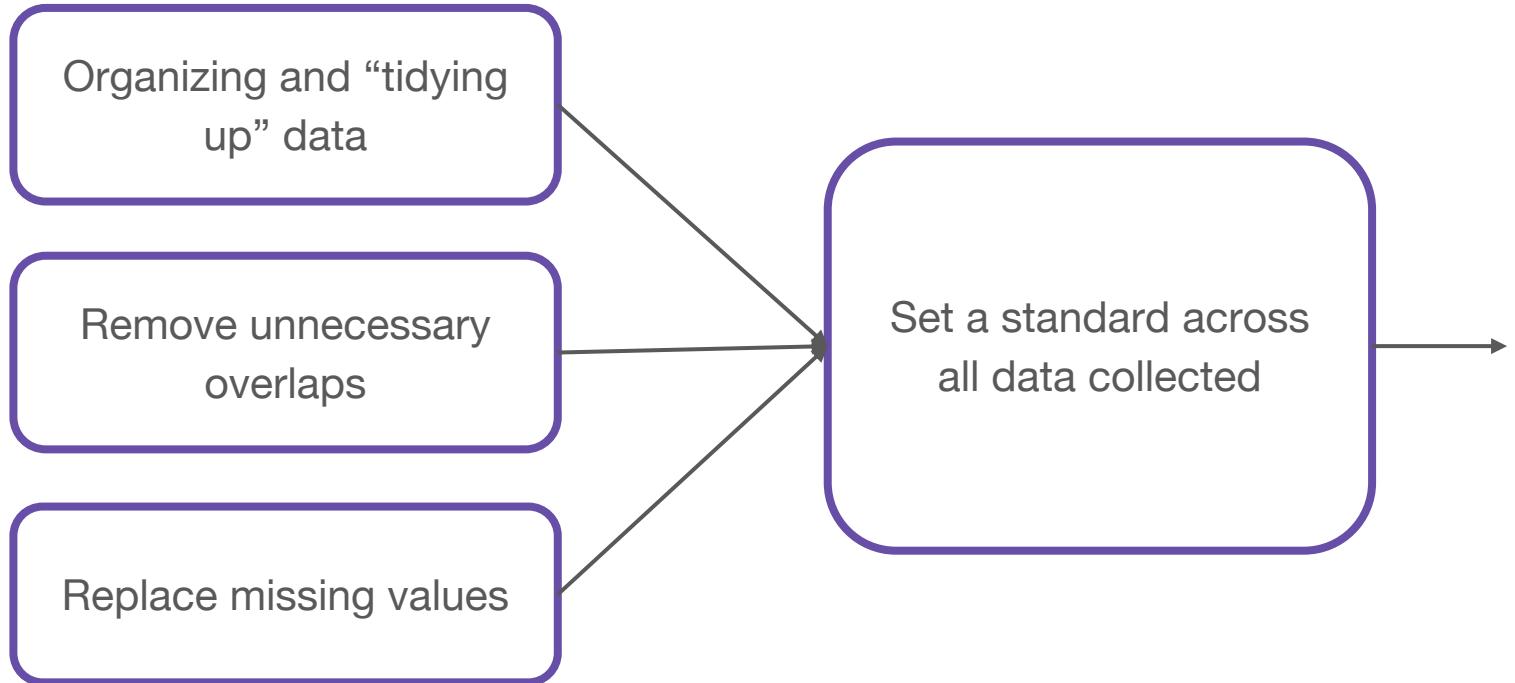
ID	Num
0001	2
0002	4
0003	6



ID	Num	Half	SQ
0001	2	1	4
0002	4	2	16
0003	6	3	36



Summary



Demo



Coming Up

- **Assignment 2:** Due at 11:59pm on March 4th, 2022
- **Next Lecture:** Data Visualization



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