5.1 Feature Engineering

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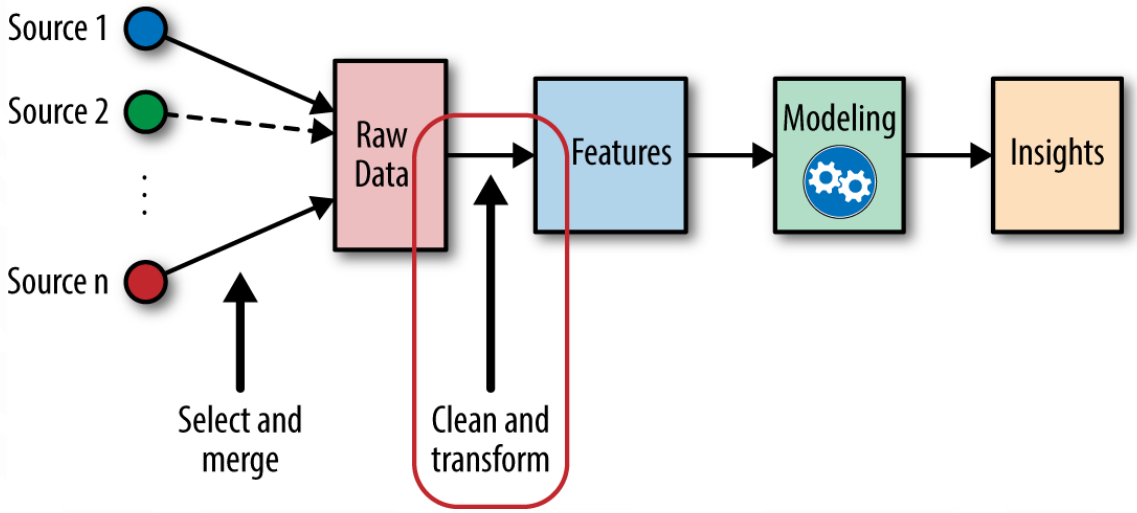
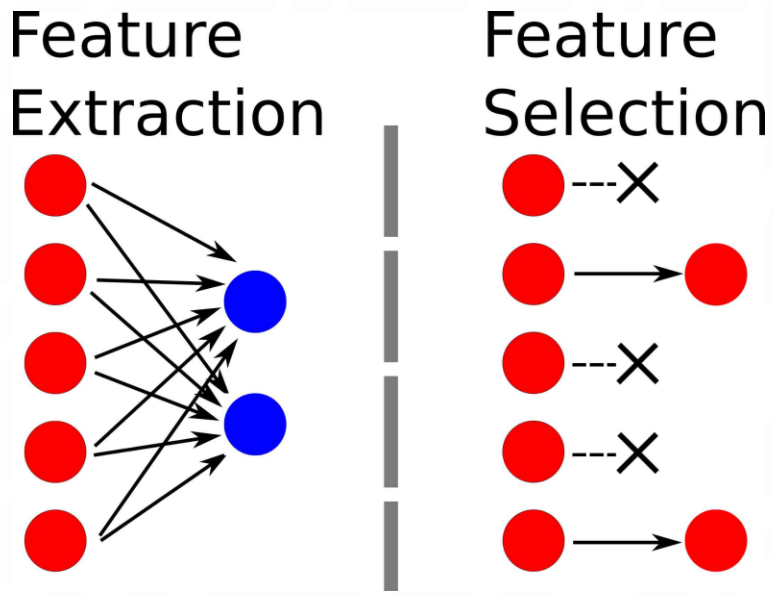
Feature Engineering

- The problem of transforming raw data into a dataset is called feature engineering.
- **Informative features**: those would allow the learning algorithm to build a model that does a good job of predicting labels of the data used for training.
  - Highly informative features are also called features with high **predictive power**.



Feature Selection vs Feature Extraction

- **Feature Selection**
  - Selecting subset of extracted features. This subset is relevant and contributes to minimizing the error rate of a trained model.
- **Feature Extraction**
  - Combining existing features to produce a more useful one.



Label Encoding

- Encode attributes and target labels with value between 0 and NumberOfClasses-1
  - Using ordered numbers as values is likely to confuse the learning algorithm
- Label Encoding can be helpful when the ordering of values of some categorical variable matters

...	quality	...
...	bad	...
...	bad	...
...	good	...
...	excellent	...

...	quality	...
...	0	...
...	0	...
...	1	...
...	2	...

One-Hot Encoding

Transforming categorical feature into several binary ones:

…	Color	…
…	red	…
…	blue	…
…	blue	…
…	green	…

…	Color_red	Color_blue	Color_green	…
…	**1**	0	0	…
…	0	**1**	0	…
…	0	**1**	0	…
…	0	0	**1**	…

Binning

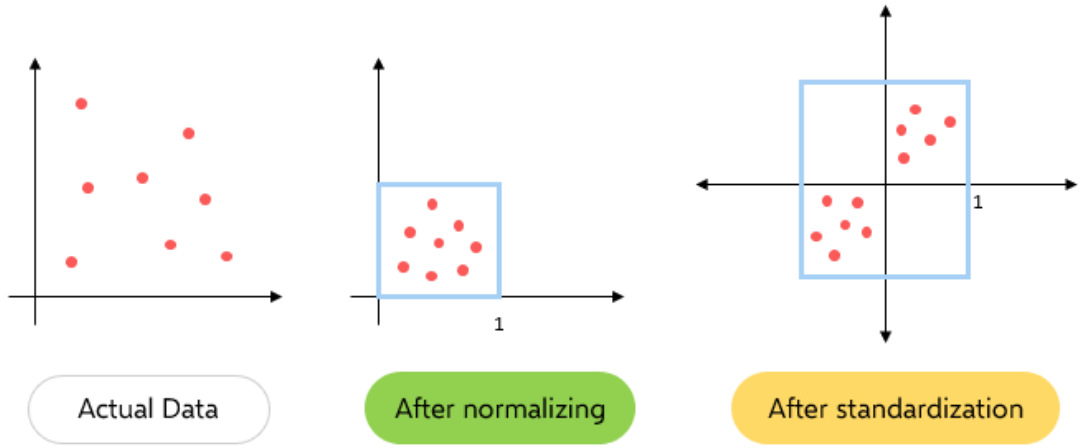
- Binning is the conversion of continuous values into categorical ones.
- Prevent overfitting.

Sex	Age
male	22
female	38
female	26
female	35
male	35
male	80
male	54
male	2
female	27
female	14
female	4
female	58

Sex	Age
male	Adult
female	Adult
female	Adult
female	Adult
male	Adult
male	Elderly
male	Adult
male	Toddler/baby
female	Adult
female	Child
female	Toddler/baby
female	Adult

Feature Scaling

- There are two common ways to get all attributes to have the same scale:
  - Normalization
  - Standardization



No Scaling Problem

person_name	Salary	Year_of_ experience	Expected Position Level
Aman	100000	10	2
Abhinav	78000	7	4
Ashutosh	32000	5	8
Dishi	55000	6	7
Abhishek	92000	8	3
Avantika	120000	15	1
Ayushi	65750	7	5

The attributes salary and year_of_experience are on different scale and hence attribute salary can take high priority over attribute year_of_experience in the model.

Normalization

- Normalization (or min-max normalization) scale all values in a fixed range between **0 and 1**.

$$\bar{x}^{(j)} = \frac{x^{(j)} - min^{(j)}}{max^{(j)} - min^{(j)}}$$

- $min^{(j)}$: Minimum value of the feature j
- $max^{(j)}$: Maximum value of the feature j

...	cost	...
...	55000	...
...	70000	...
...	65000	...
...	43000	...

...	cost	...
...	0.4444	...
...	1	...
...	0.8148	...
...	0	...

Standardization

- **Standardization** (or z-score normalization) is the procedure during which the feature values are rescaled so that they have the properties of a standard normal distribution with $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$.

$$\hat{x}^{(j)} = \frac{x^{(j)} - \mu^{(j)}}{\sigma^{(j)}}$$

$\mu^{(j)}$: Mean value of the feature j

$\sigma^{(j)}$: Standard deviation from the mean value of the feature j

...	cost	...
...	55000	...
...	70000	...
...	65000	...
...	43000	...

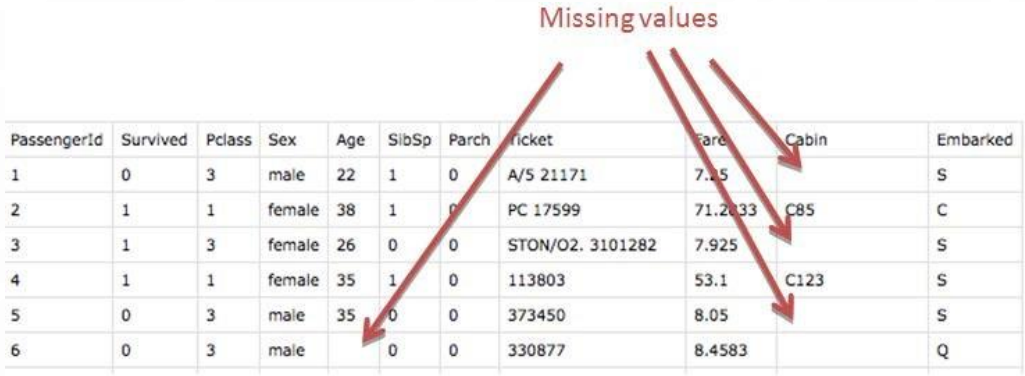
...	cost	...
...	-0.314	...
...	1.137	...
...	0.653	...
...	-1.476	...

- Standardization is much **less** affected by **outliers**.

Dealing with Missing Features

- Missing data are values that are not recorded in the dataset, represented by NaN.

- Different ways of dealing with missing features:
  1. Removing the examples with missing data from the dataset.
  2. Using a learning algorithm that can deal with missing feature values.
  3. Using a data imputation technique.



Data Imputation Techniques

- Data Imputation Techniques are ways to deal with missing features by filling them with values such as:
  - Mean/Median Values
  - Most Frequent or Zero/Constant Values
  - Predicted value using a regression model

	col1	col2	col3	col4	col5
0	2	5.0	3.0	6	NaN
1	9	NaN	9.0	0	7.0
2	19	17.0	NaN	9	NaN

	col1	col2	col3	col4	col5
0	2.0	5.0	3.0	6.0	7.0
1	9.0	11.0	9.0	0.0	7.0
2	19.0	17.0	6.0	9.0	7.0

Python Example

- https://colab.research.google.com/drive/1YwvH-HLpmm4RDBrqOVX_UHQ66UskHwgS?usp=sharing