



Categorical Data Preprocessing







Why preprocessing?

Real world data are generally

Incomplete: lacking attribute values, lacking certain attributes of interest, or containing

only aggregate data

Noisy: containing errors or outliers

Inconsistent: containing discrepancies in codes or names Tasks in data preprocessing



Introduction



- > Data pre-processing is an important step of solving every machine learning problem.
- ➤ Most of the datasets used with Machine Learning problems need to be processed / cleaned / transformed so that a Machine Learning algorithm can be trained on it.
- Most commonly used pre-processing techniques are very few like missing value imputation, encoding categorical variables, scaling, etc.





Categorical data

Categorical Attributes –

- When the number unique values in a categorical column are too high, check the value counts of each of those values. Replace rarely occurring values together into a single value like 'Other' before encoding.
- When number of unique values is huge and even the values are equally distributed, try to find some related values and see if the multiple categorical values can be clubbed into single (grouping), thereby reducing the count of categorical values.

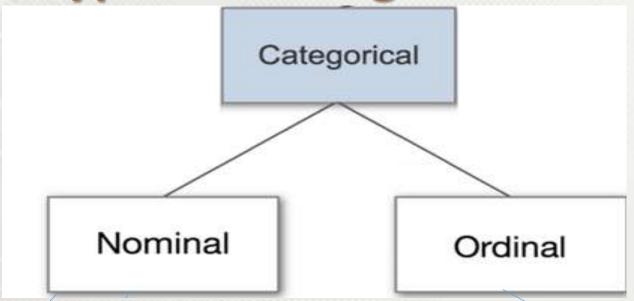
Related Attributes –

 If there multiple attributes with same information with different granularity, like city and state, it's better to keep columns like state and delete city column. Additionally, keeping both columns and assessing feature importance might help in eliminating one column.





Types of Categorical Data



Gender: Male, Female

Car Color: Brown, red, blue, orange, white

Railway Reservation Tickets: 1 class, 2 class, 3

class

Feedback on machine learning: average,

good, very good, excellent

Education: Kindergarden, School,

Undergraduate, bachelor, master, doctoral







Categorical data:

- It represents characteristics.
- Therefore it can represent things like a person's gender, language etc.

1. Nominal Data

Nominal values represent discrete units and are used to label variables, that have no quantitative value.

- nominal data that has no order.
- Used to "name," or label a series of values.

EX: what's your favourite movie

- Spider man
- Ant man
- o Iron man







Types of Data

2. Ordinal Data

Ordinal values represent discrete and ordered units. It is therefore nearly the same as nominal data, "except that it's ordering matters".

Ordinal scales provide good information about the order of choices.

Ex1:

What's your rating for Avengers Infinity War?

- *****
- O **
- ***
- ****
- *****





- Perform the following steps to identify categorical data
- Load the data
- Describe the data set columns
- Identify the categorical data





• Example:

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
df_loan=pd.read_csv("D:/Narsimlu/Courses/DataScience/datasets/loan.csv")
#display the data set
print(df_loan)
#find the type of data
bbj_df = df_loan.select_dtypes(include=['object']).copy()
print(obj df.head())
#Nominal data
print("Nominal Data")
print(obj_df["Loan Status"].value_counts())
#ordinal data
print("Ordinal Data")
print(obj_df["Term"].value_counts())
print(obj_df["Years in current job"].value_counts())
```





• Output:

Nominal Data

Fully Paid 77361

Charged Off 22639

Name: Loan Status, dtype: int64

Ordinal Data

Short Term 72208 Long Term 27792

Name: Term, dtype: int64

10+ years 31121

2 years 9134

3 years 8169

< 1 year 8164

5 years 6787

1 year 6460

4 years 6143

6 years 5686

7 years 5577

8 years 4582

9 years 3955

Name: Years in current job, dtype: int64



Data Encoding



- Many machine learning algorithms cannot operate on label data directly. They
 require all input variables and output variables to be numeric.
- In general, this is mostly a constraint of the efficient implementation of machine learning algorithms rather than hard limitations on the algorithms themselves.
- This means that categorical data must be converted to a numerical form.





Label Encoding

- Numerical variable will to assign a unique number to each possible outcome of the variable and replace the variables values with its corresponding number.
- Ex:

Purpose	loan_purpose_cat
Business loan	0
Buy house	1
Buy a car	2
Debt Consolidation	3
Educational Expenses	4





One hot Encoding

• it works very well unless your categorical variable takes on a large number of values.

• One hot encoding creates new (binary) columns, indicating the presence of each

possible value from the original data.

• Ex:

Hyderabad Guntur Hyderabad Vizag Vizag

city	New_cit y_hyd	New_cit y_gnt	New_cit y_viz
Hyderab ad	1	0	0
Guntur	0	1	0
Hyderab ad	1	0	0
Vizag	0	0	1
Vizag	0	0	1





Data Encoding

Label Encoding

Ex: Business loan->0,Buy house->1,Buy a car->2 etc..

One-hot Encoding

Home Ownership	H_Rent	H_H_Mort	H_Own Home
Rent	1	0	0
Rent	0	1	0
Own Home	1	0	0
Home Mortgage	0	0	1
Home Mortgage	0	0	1





Categorical data

Label Encoder	One Hot Encoder		
Numeric representation, ordinals	Binary representation		
Loses uniqueness of values, single dimension in vector space	Individual values expressed as a different dimension in orthogonal vector space		
Suitable with categorical values that are ordinal in nature, like – fog_level (low, medium, high)	Suitable with non-ordinal types of categorical attributes, like – car_type (hatchback, sedan, SUV, etc.)		
Label encoded categorical attributes don't pose any further challenges	One hot encoded categorical attributes might dramatically increase the feature space (curse of dimensionality). When One hot encoding is used, it's often followed by PCA to tackle high-dimensionality		





Label Encoding Example

```
print("label encoding")
print(obj df["Purpose"].dtype)
print(obj_df["Purpose"].head(10))
obj_df["Purpose"] = obj_df["Purpose"].astype('category')
print(obj df["Purpose"].dtype)
obj_df["loan_purpose_cat"] = obj_df["Purpose"].cat.codes
print(obj_df["loan_purpose_cat"].head(10))
```





Output

```
label encoding
object
      Home Improvements
     Debt Consolidation
     Debt Consolidation
     Debt Consolidation
     Debt Consolidation
     Debt Consolidation
     Debt Consolidation
              Buy House
     Debt Consolidation
     Debt Consolidation
Name: Purpose, dtype: object
```

```
category
Name: loan_purpose_cat, dtype: int8
```





One hot Encoding Example

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
df loan=pd.read csv("D:/Narsimlu/Courses/DataScience/datasets/loan.csv")
#one hot encoding
print(df_loan["Home Ownership"].head())
df_loan["Home Ownership"] = df_loan["Home Ownership"].astype('category')
df_one_hot=pd.get_dummies(df_loan["Home Ownership"],prefix=["Home"])
print(df_one_hot.head())
#apply the data preprocessing
print(df one hot.isnull().sum())
```





Output

```
Home Mortgage
0
     Home Mortgage
          Own Home
          Own Home
               Rent
Name: Home Ownership, dtype: object
                                            ['Home']_Rent
   ['Home']_HaveMortgage
0
                                                         0
                                                         0
                                                         0
[5 rows \times 4 columns]
['Home']_HaveMortgage
['Home']_Home Mortgage
```





