

# **Big Data and Advanced Analytics**

## **Improving Data Quality For Big Data Using Advanced Analytics**



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## Abstract

Digital data play a crucial role in the information and communication technology (ICT) society: they are managed by business and governmental applications, by all kind of applications on the Web, and are fundamental in all relationships between governments, business, and citizens.

Furthermore, quality of data is also a significant usage for operational process of business and organizations. Some disasters are due to the presence of data quality problems, among them the use of inaccurate, incomplete, out-of-data.

As a consequence, the overall quality of the information that flows between information systems may rapidly degrade over time if both process and their inputs are not themselves subject to quality control. On the other hand, the same networked information system offers new opportunities for data quality management, including possibility of selecting sources with better quality data, and of comparing sources for the purpose of error localization and correction, thus facilitating the control and improvement of data quality in the system.

Due to the described above motivations, researchers and organizations more and more need to understand and solve data quality problems, and thus answering the following questions: What is in essence, data quality? Which techniques, methodologies, and data quality issues are at a consolidated stage?

In this paper, we first review relevant works and discuss machine learning techniques, tools and statistical models. Second, we offer a creative data profiling framework based deep learning and statistical model algorithms for improving data quality.

**Keywords:** Deep Learning, Statistical Quality Control, Machine Learning, Data Cleaning



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# **Chapter 1**

## **Introduction to Data Quality**

A Web search of terms "data quality" through the search engine Google, returns about three millions of pages and indicator that data quality issues are real and increasingly important (the term data quality will be shortened to the acronym DQ)

### **1.1 Why Data Quality is Relevant**

The consequences of poor quality of data are often experienced in everyday life, but often, without making the necessary connections to their causes.

For example, the late or mistaken delivery of a letter is often blamed on a postal service, although a closer look often reveals data-related causes, typically an error in the address, originating in the address database.

Data quality has serious consequences of far-reaching significance, for the efficiency and effectiveness of organizations and business.

### **1.2 Introduction to the Concept of Data Quality**

From a research perspective, data quality has been addressed in different areas, including statistics, management, and computer science. Statisticians were the first to investigate some of the problems related to data quality, by proposing a mathematical theory for considering duplicates in statistical data sets, in the late 1960's. They were followed by researchers in management, who at the beginning of the 1980's focused on how to control data manufacturing systems in order to detect and eliminate data quality problems. Only at the beginning of the 1990's computer scientists begin considering the problem of defining, measuring, and

improving the quality of electronic data stored in databases, data warehouses, and legacy systems. [1]

Dr. Genichi Taguchi [8], who was a world-renowned quality engineering expert from Japan, emphasized and established the relationship between poor quality and overall loss. Dr. Taguchi (1987) used a quality loss function (QLF) to measure the loss associated with quality characteristics or parameters. The QLF describes the losses that a system suffers from an adjustable characteristic. According to the QLF, the loss increases as the characteristic  $y$  (such as thickness or strength) gets further from the target value ( $m$ ). In other words, there is a loss associated if the quality characteristic diverges from the target. Taguchi regards this loss as a loss to society, and somebody must pay for this loss. The results of such losses include system breakdowns, company failures, company bankruptcies, and so forth.

Figure 1.1 shows how the loss arising from varying (on either side) from the target by  $\Delta_0$  increases and is given by  $L(y)$  when  $y$  is equal to  $m$ ,

### THE IMPORTANCE OF DATA QUALITY

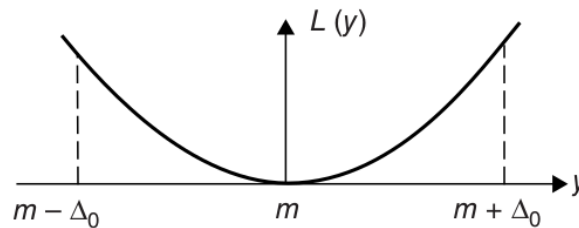


Fig. 1.1 Quality Loss Function (QLF)

the loss is zero, or at the minimum. The equation for the loss function can be expressed as follows:

$$L(y) = k(y - m)^2$$

where  $k$  is a factor that is expressed in dollars, based on direct costs, indirect costs, warranty costs, reputational costs, loss due to lost customers, and costs associated with rework and rejection. There are prescribed ways to determine the value of  $k$ . The loss function is usually not symmetrical-sometimes it is steep on one side or on both sides. Deming [4] says that the loss function need not be exact and that it is difficult to obtain the exact function. As most cost calculations are based on estimations or predictions, an approximate function is sufficient-that is, close approximation is good enough.

The concept of the loss function aptly applies in the DQ context, especially when we are measuring data quality associated with various data elements such as customer IDs, social security numbers, and account balances. Usually, the data elements are prioritized based on certain criteria, and the quality levels for data elements are measured in terms of percentages (of accuracy, completeness, etc.). The prioritized data elements are referred to as critical data elements (CDEs).

### 1.3 Data Quality and Types of Information Systems

Data are collected, stored, elaborated, retrieved, and exchanged in information systems used in organizations to provide services to business processes. Different criteria can be adopted for classifying the different types of information systems, and their corresponding architectures; they are usually related to the overall organizational model adopted by the organization or the set of the organizations that make use of the information system.

The three classifications are represented together in the classification space of Figure 1.2. Among all possible combinations, five main types of information systems are highlighted in the figure: Monolithic, Distributed, Data Warehouses, Cooperative, and Peer-to-Peer.

- In a *monolithic information system* presentation, application logic, and data management are merged into a single computational node. Many monolithic information systems are still in use. While being extremely rigid, they provide advantages to organizations, such as reduced costs due to homogeneity of solutions and centralization of management. In monolithic systems data flows have a common format, and data quality control is facilitated by the homogeneity and centralization of procedures and management rules.
- A *data warehouse* (DW) is a centralized set of data collected from different sources, designed to support management decision making. The most critical problem in DW design concerns the cleaning and integration of the different data sources that are loaded into the DW, in that much of the implementation budget is spent on data cleaning activities.
- A *distributed information system* relaxes the rigid centralization of monolithic systems, in that it allows the distribution of resources and applications across network of geographically distributed systems. The network can be organized in terms of several tiers, each made of one or more computational nodes. Presentation, application logic, and data management are distributed across tiers. Usually, the different tiers and nodes

have a limited degree of autonomy, data design is usually performed centrally, but to a certain extent some degree of heterogeneity can occur, due to the impossibility of establishing unified procedures. Problems of data management are more complex than in monolithic systems, due to the reduced level of centralization.



Fig. 1.2 Types of information systems

- A *coorparative information system* (CIS) can be defined as a large-scale information system that interconnects various systems of different and autonomous organizations, while sharing common objectives.
- In a *peer to peer information system* (usually abbreviated P2P), the traditional distinction between clients and servers typical of distributed systems is disappearing. A P2P system can be characterized by a number of properties: peers are highly autonomous and higly heterogeneous, they have no obligation for the quality of their services and data, no central coordination and no central database exist, no peer has a global view of the system, global behavior emerges from local intreactions.

## 1.4 Main Research Issues and Application Domains in Data Quality

Due to the relevance of data quality, its nature, and the variety of data types and information systems, achieving data quality is a complex, multidisciplinary area of investigation. It involves several research topics and real-life application areas

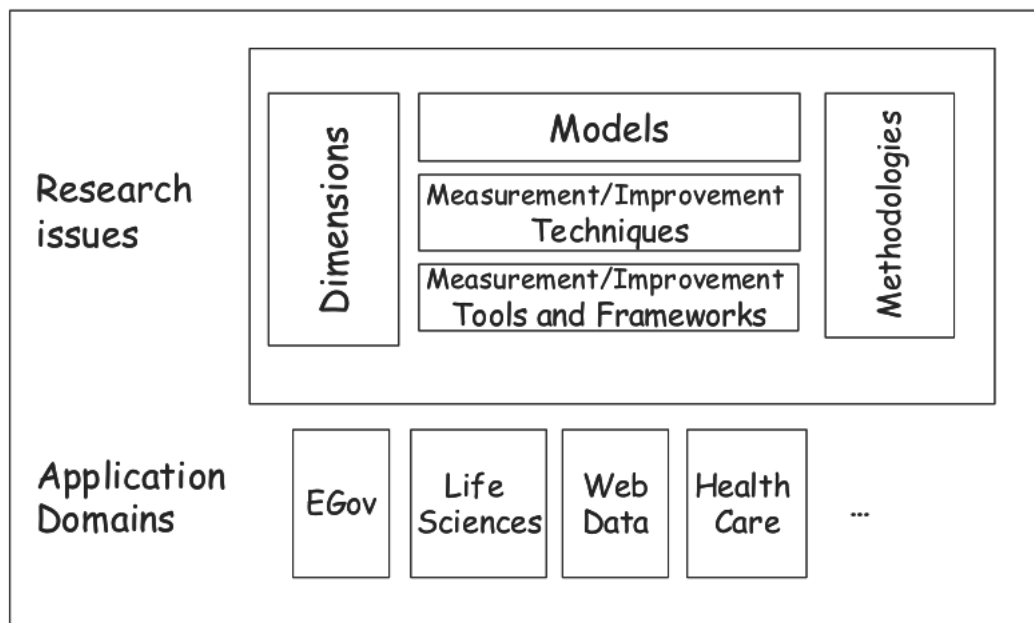


Fig. 1.3 Main issues in data quality





## Chapter 2

# Data Quality Dimensions

More specifically, quality dimensions can refer either to the extension of data, i.e., to data values, or to their intension, i.e., to their schema. Both data dimensions are usually defined in qualitative way, referring to general properties of data and schemas, and and related definitions do not provide any facility for assigning values to dimensions themselves.

Specifically, definitions do not provide quantitative measures, and one or more metrics are to be associated with dimensions as separate, distinct properties. For each metric, one or more measurement methods are to be provided regarding (i) where the measurement is taken, (ii) what data are included, (iii) the measurement device, and (iv) the scale on which results are reported.

According to the literature, at times we will distinguish between dimensions and metrics, while other times we will directly metrics.

Table 2.1 Data Quality Dimensions I

Dimension Name	Description
Data Governance	Do organization-wide data standards exist and are they enforced? Do clearly defined roles and responsibilities exist for data quality related activities? Does data governance strive to acquire and maintain high-quality data through proactive management?
Data Specifications	Are data standards documented in the form of a data dictionary, data models, meta data, and integrity constraints?
Data Integrity	How is data integrity maintained? How are data integrity violations detected and resolved ?
Data Consistency	If data redundancy exists, how is data consistency achieved? What methods are used to bring consistency to data that has become inconsistent? If data is geographically replicated, how is the consistency and latency managed?
Data Currency	Is the data current? Do procedures exists to keep the data current and purge stale data?
Data Duplication	Are there effective procedures in place to detect and remove duplicate data?
Data Completeness	Is the data about entities complete? How is missing data managed?
Data Provenance	Is a historical record of data and its origination maintained? If the data is acquired through multiple sources and has undergone cleaning and transformations, does the organization maintain a history of all changes to the data?
Data Heterogeneity	If multi-modality data about an entity is available, is that data captured and used?
Streaming Data	How is streaming data sampled, filtered, stored, and managed for both real-time and batch processing?
Outliers	How are outliers detected and addressed? Are there versions of datasets that are outlier-free? Does each version correspond to a different method for outlier detection and treatment?
Dimensionality	Reduction Do the datasets feature dimensionality reduced versions? How many versions are available?
Feature Selection	Do datasets have versions that exclude features that are either redundant, highly correlated, or irrelevant? How many versions are available?

Table 2.2 Data Quality Dimensions II

Dimension Name	Description
Feature Extraction	Do the datasets provide a set of derived features that are informative and non- redundant, in addition to the original set of variables/features? How many such derived feature sets are available?
Business Rules	Does a process exist to identify, refine, consolidate, and maintain business rules that pertain to data quality? Do rules exist to govern data cleaning and transformations, and integrating related data of an entity from multiple sources? What business rules govern substitutions for missing data, deleting duplicate data, and archiving historical data? Are there rules for internal data audit and regulatory compliance?
Data Accuracy	Data can be syntactically accurate and yet semantically inaccurate. For example, a customer's mailing address may meet all the syntactic patterns specified by the postal service, yet it can be inaccurate. How does the organization establish the accuracy of data?
Gender Bias	Is the data free from factors that lead to gender bias in machine learning algorithms?
Confidentiality and Privacy	Are procedures and controls implemented for data encryption, data de- identification and re-identification, and differential privacy?
Availability and Access Controls	How is high data availability achieved? What security controls are implemented to protect data from unauthorized access? How are user entitlements to data access and modifications defined and implemented?

## 2.1 Accuracy

Accuracy [5] is defined as the closeness between a value  $v$  and a value  $v'$ , considered as the correct representation of the real-life phenomenon that  $v$  aims to represent. As an example if the name of a person is John, the value  $v' = \text{Aytaç}$  is correct, while the value  $v = \text{Ayt}$  is incorrect. Two kinds of accuracy can be identified, namely a syntactic accuracy and a semantic accuracy.

Let us consider a relation schema  $\mathbf{R}$  consisting of  $\mathbf{K}$  attributes and a relational table  $\mathbf{r}$  consisting of  $N$  tuples.

Let  $q_{ij}(i = 1..N, j = 1..K)$  be a boolean variable defined to correspond to the cell values  $y_{ij}$ , is syntactically accurate, while otherwise it is equal to 1.

In order to identify whether or not accuracy errors affect a matching of relational table  $\mathbf{r}$  with a reference table  $\mathbf{r}'$  containing correct values, we introduce a further boolean variable  $s_i$  equal to 0 if the tuple  $t_i$  matches a tuple in  $\mathbf{r}'$ , and otherwise equal to 1. We can introduce three metrics to distinguish the relative importance of value accuracy in context of the tuple. The first two metrics have the purpose of giving a different importance to errors on attributes that have a higher identification power, in line with the above discussion.

The first metric called *weak accuracy error*, and is defined:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\beta(q_i > 0) \wedge (s_i = 0)}{N}$$

where  $\beta(\cdot)$  is a boolean variable equal to 1 if the condition in parentheses is *true*, 0 otherwise, and  $q_i = \sum_{j=1}^K q_{ij}$ . Such metric considers the case in which for a tuple  $t_i$  accuracy errors occur ( $q_i > 0$ ) but do not affect identification ( $s_i = 0$ ).

The second metric is called *strong accuracy error*, and is defined assigning

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\beta(q_i > 0) \wedge (s_i = 1)}{N}$$

where  $\beta(\cdot)$  and  $q_i$  have the same meaning as above. Such a metric considers the case which accuracy errors occur ( $q_i > 0$ ) for a tuple  $t_i$  and actually do affect identification ( $s_i = 1$ ).

The third metric gives the percentage of accurate tuples matched with the reference table. It is expressed by the degree of syntactic accuracy of the relational instance  $\mathbf{r}$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\beta(q_i = 0) \wedge (s_i = 0)}{N}$$

by actually considering the fraction of accurate ( $q_i = 0$ ) matched ( $s_i = 0$ ) tuples.

## 2.2 Completeness

Completeness can be generically defined as the extent to which data are of sufficient breadth, depth, and scope for the task at hand [15] three types of completeness are identified. Schema completeness is defined as the degree to which concepts and their properties are not missing from the schema. Column completeness is defined as a measure of the missing values for a specific property or column in a table. Population completeness evaluates missing values with respect to a reference population. If focusing on a specific data model, a more precise

characterization of completeness can be given. In the following we refer to the relational model.

### 2.2.1 Completeness of Web Data

Data that are published in Web information systems can be characterized by evolution in time. While in the traditional paper-based media, information is published once and for all, Web information systems are characterized by information that is continuously published.

We consider a function  $C(t)$ , defined as the value of completeness at the instant  $t$ , with  $t \in [t_{pub}, t_{max}]$ , where  $t_{pub}$  is the initial instant of publication of data and  $t_{max}$  corresponds to the maximum time within which the series of the different scheduled updates will be completed. Starting from the function  $C(t)$ , we can define the completability of the published data as

$$\int_{t_{curr}}^{t_{max}} C(t),$$

where  $t_{curr}$  is the time at which completability is evaluated and  $t_{curr} < t_{max}$ .

Completability, as shown in Figure 2.1, can be graphically depicted as an area  $C_b$  of a function that represents how completeness evolves between an instant  $t_{curr}$  of observation and  $t_{max}$ . Observe that the value corresponding to  $t_{curr}$  is indicated as  $c_{curr}$ ;  $c_{max}$  is the value for completeness estimated for  $t_{max}$ . The value  $c_{max}$  is a real reachable limit that can be specified for the completeness of the series of elements; if this real limit does not exist,  $c_{max}$  is equal to 1. In Figure 2.5, a reference area  $A$  is also shown, defined as

$$(t_{max} - t_{curr}) * \frac{c_{max} - c_{pub}}{2},$$

that, by comparison with  $C_b$ , allows us to define ranges [High, Medium, Low] for completability.

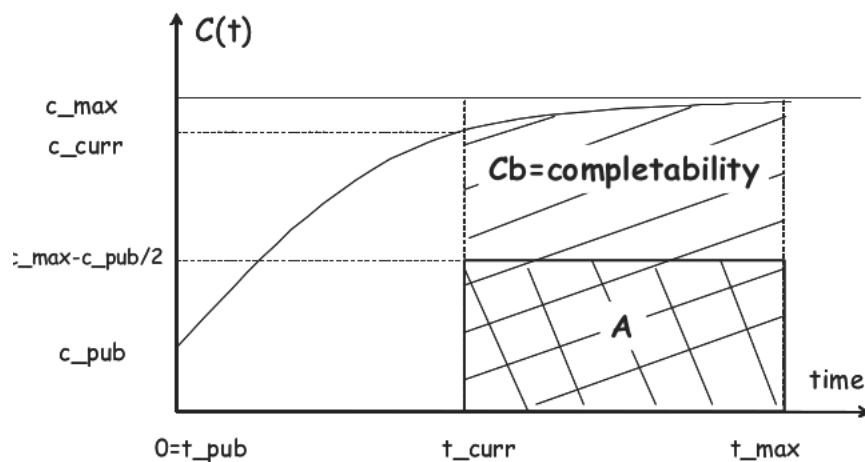


Fig. 2.1 A graphical representation of completeness

With respect to the example above, considering the list of courses published on a university Web site, the completeness dimension gives information about the current degree of completeness; the completeness information gives the information about how fast this degree will grow in time, i.e., how fast the list of courses will be completed. The interested reader can find further details in [12].

## 2.3 Consistency

The consistency dimension captures the violation of semantic rules defined over (a set of) data items, where items can be tuples of relational tables or records in a file. With reference to relational theory, integrity constraints are an instantiation of such semantic rules. In statistics, data edits are another example of semantic rules that allow for the checking of consistency.

### 2.3.1 Integrity Constraints

Integrity constraints are properties that must be satisfied by all instances of a database schema. Although integrity constraints are typically defined on schemas, they can at the same time be checked on a specific instance of the schema that presently represents the extension of the database. Therefore, we may define integrity constraints for schemas, describing a schema quality dimension, and for instances, representing a data dimension.

Most of the considered integrity constraints are dependencies. The following main types of dependencies can be considered:

- *Key Dependency.* This is the simplest type of dependency. Given a relation instance  $r$ , defined over a set of attributes, we say that for a subset  $K$  of the attributes a key dependency holds in  $r$ , if no two rows of  $r$  have the same  $K$ -values. For instance, an attribute like SocialSecurityNumber can serve as a key in any relation instance of a relation schema Person.
- *Inclusion Dependency.* Inclusion dependency is a very common type of constraint, and is also known as referential constraint. An inclusion dependency over a relational instance  $r$  states that some columns of  $r$  are contained in other columns of  $r$  or in the instances of another relational instance  $s$ . A foreign key constraint is an example of inclusion dependency, stating that the referring columns in one relation must be contained in the primary key columns of the referenced relation.
- *Functional Dependency.* Given a relational instance  $r$ , let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two nonempty sets of attributes in  $r$ .  $r$  satisfies the functional dependency  $X \rightarrow Y$  if the following holds for every pair of tuples  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  in  $r$ :

$$\boxed{\text{If } t_1.X = t_2.X, \text{ then } t_1.Y = t_2.Y,}$$

where the notation  $t_1.X$  means the projection of the tuple  $t_1$  onto the attributes in  $X$ .

## 2.4 Other Data Quality Dimensions

There are general proposals for sets of dimensions that aim to fully specify the data quality concept in a general setting. Some other proposals are related to specific domains that need ad hoc dimensions in order to capture the peculiarities of the domain. For instance, specific data quality dimensions are proposed in the following domains:

1. The archival domain (see [16] and [9]) which makes use of dimensions such as condition (of a document) that refers to the physical suitability of the document for scanning.
2. The statistical domain; every National bureau of census and international organizations such as the European Union or the International Monetary Fund define several dimensions for statistical and scientific data, such as integrity, on the notion that statistical systems should be based on adherence to the principle of objectivity in the collection, compilation, and dissemination of statistics.

3. The geographical and geospatial domain (see [11] [6]), where the following dimensions are proposed: (i) positional accuracy, defined as a quality parameter indicating the accuracy of geographical positions, and (ii) attribute/thematic accuracy, defined as the positional and/or value accuracy of properties such as sociodemographic attributes in thematic maps.



# Chapter 3

## Data Quality (DQ) Evaluation

### 3.1 Metrics and Measurement

Any data can have its quality measured. Using a data driven strategy, the measurements acts on the data itself to quantify the DQD (Data Quality Dimension). As mentioned before, our work is based on structured data represented in [13] a set of attributes, columns, and rows with their values. Any data quality metric should specify whether the values of data respect or not the quality attributes. In, the author quoted that data quality measurement metrics tend to evaluate a binary results correct or incorrect or a value between 0 and 100, and use universal formulas to compute these attributes. This will apply to many quality dimensions such as accuracy, completeness, and consistency.

	Data Quality Issues	Data Quality Dimensions Related		
		Accuracy	Completeness	Consistency
Instance Level	<i>Missing Data</i>	X	X	
	<i>Incorrect data, Data entry errors,</i>	X		
	<i>Irrelevant data</i>			X
	<i>Outdated data</i>	X		
	<i>Misfiled and Contradictory values</i>	X	X	X
Schema Level	<i>Uniqueness constrains, Functional dependency violation</i>	X		
	<i>Wrong data type, poor schema design</i>			X
	<i>Lack of integrity constraints</i>	X	X	X

Table 3.1 Data Quality Issues vs DQD

The DQDs (Data Quality Dimensions) must be relevant to the DQ problems as identified In Table 3.1 Therefore DQ Metrics are designed for each DQD to measure if the attributes respect the previously defined DQD. These measures are done for each attribute given its type, data ranges values, and if it is collected from data profiling.

For example a metric that calculates the accuracy of a data attribute is defined as follows:

- The data type of an attribute and its values.
- For numerical attributes a range or sets of acceptable values (Textual also) are defined. Any other values are incorrect.
- The accuracy of an attribute is calculated based on the number of correct values divided by number of observations or rows.
- For another data types/formats like images, videos, audio files, another type of metrics must be defined to evaluate accuracy or any other quality dimensions. The authors of [3] describe usefulness as an aspect of data quality for images. For this kind of data, feature extraction functions are defined on the data and extracted for each data item. These features have constraints that characterize the goodness or badness of data values. Some of quality metrics functions are designed based on the extracted features such as, usefulness, accuracy, completeness and any other data quality dimensions judged by domain experts to be candidate for such data type.

## 3.2 DQ Issues and Big Data Characteristics

Data characteristics commonly named V's are initially, Volume, Velocity, Variety, and Veracity. Since the Big Data inception; we reached now 7 V's and probably we will keep going [10]. The veracity tends more to express and describe trust and certainty of data that can be expressed mostly as quality of the data. The DQD accuracy is often related to precision, reliability and veracity [14].

A mapping tentative between these characteristics, data and data quality is compiled in [7] [3] [Cai and Zhu]. The authors attempted to link the V's to the quality dimensions.

DQ Dimensions	Metric functions
Accuracy	$Acc = ( N_{cv} / N )$
Completeness	$Comp = ( N_{mv} / N )$
Consistency	$Cons = ( N_{vrc} / N )$
$N_{cv}$	Number of correct values
$N_{mv}$	Number of missing values
$N_{vrc}$	Number of values that respects the constraints
$N$	Total number of values (rows) of the sample Dataset

Table 3.2 DQD metric functions

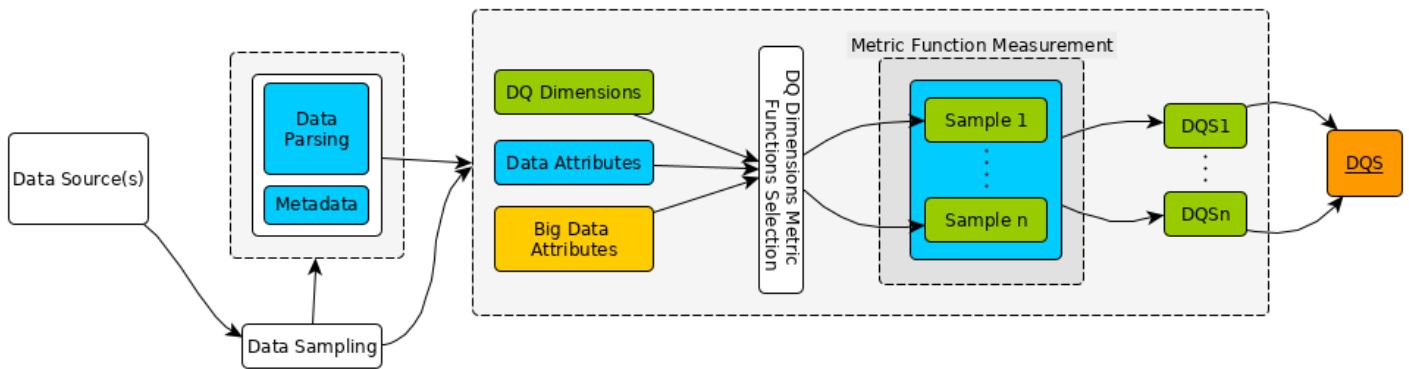


Fig. 3.1 Big Data Quality Evaluation Scheme

### 3.3 Big Data Quality Evaluation Scheme

The purpose of Big Data Quality Evaluation (BDQ) Scheme is to address the data quality before starting data analytics. This is done by estimating the quality of data attributes or features by applying a DQD metric to measure the quality characterized by its accuracy, completeness or/and consistency. The expected result is data quality assessment suggestions indicating the quality constraints that will increase or decrease the data quality.

The BDQ Evaluation scheme is illustrated in Figure 3.1 where the data goes through many module to estimate its quality. The key modules of our scheme consist of: (a) data sampling; and data profiling, (b) DQD vs attributes selection, (c) data quality Metric selection,

(d) samples data quality evaluation. In the following sections, we describe each module, its input(s), output(s), and the main functions.

### **3.3.1 A. Big Data Sampling**

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