

Data Preprocessing

- Why preprocess the data?
- Descriptive data summarization
- Data cleaning
- Data integration and transformation
- Data reduction

Why Data Preprocessing?

- Data in the real world is dirty
 - **incomplete**: lacking attribute values, lacking certain attributes of interest, or containing only aggregate data
 - e.g., occupation=""
 - **noisy**: containing errors or outliers
 - e.g., Salary="-10"
 - **inconsistent**: containing discrepancies in codes or names
 - e.g., Age="42" Birthday="03/07/1997"
 - e.g., Was rating "1,2,3", now rating "A, B, C"
 - e.g., discrepancy between duplicate records

Why Is Data Dirty?

- Incomplete data may come from
 - “Not applicable” data value when collected
 - Different considerations between the time when the data was collected and **when it is analyzed**.
 - Human/hardware/software problems
- Noisy data (incorrect values) may come from
 - Faulty data collection instruments
 - Human or computer error at data entry
 - Errors in data transmission
- Inconsistent data may come from
 - Different data sources
 - Functional dependency violation (e.g., modify some linked data)
- Duplicate records also need data cleaning

Why Is Data Preprocessing Important?

- No quality data, no quality mining results!
 - Quality decisions must be based on quality data
 - e.g., duplicate or missing data may cause incorrect or even misleading statistics.
 - Data warehouse needs consistent integration of quality data
- Data extraction, cleaning, and transformation involves the majority of the work of building a data warehouse

Multi-Dimensional Measure of Data Quality

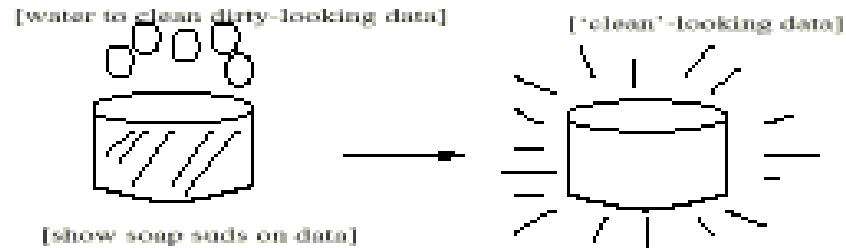
- A well-accepted multidimensional view:
 - Accuracy
 - Completeness
 - Consistency
 - Timeliness
 - Value added
 - Interpretability
 - Accessibility
- Broad categories:
 - Intrinsic, contextual, representational, and accessibility

Major Tasks in Data Preprocessing

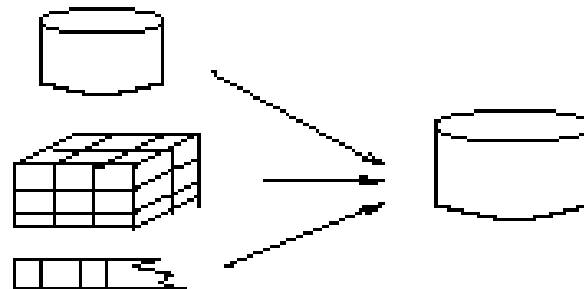
- Data cleaning
 - Fill in missing values, smooth noisy data, identify or remove outliers, and resolve inconsistencies
- Data integration
 - Integration of multiple databases, data cubes, or files
- Data transformation
 - Normalization and aggregation
- Data reduction
 - Obtains reduced representation in volume but produces the same or similar analytical results
- Data discretization
 - Part of data reduction but with particular importance, especially for numerical data

Forms of Data Preprocessing

Data Cleaning



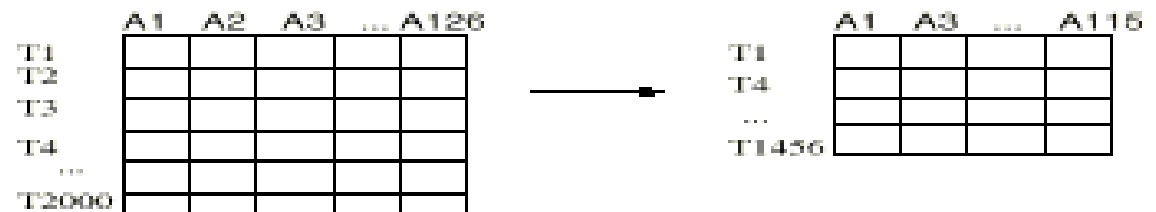
Data Integration



Data Transformation

-2, 32, 100, 59, 48 → -0.02, 0.32, 1.00, 0.59, 0.48

Data Reduction



Descriptive data summarization

- For data preprocessing to be successful,
 - it is essential to have an overall picture of your data
- Descriptive data summarization techniques can be used
 - to identify the typical properties of your data
 - and highlight which data values should be treated as noise or outliers
- For many data preprocessing tasks, users would like to learn about data characteristics
 - regarding both central tendency and dispersion of the data.
 - Measures of central tendency include *mean*, *median*, *mode*, and *midrange*,
 - while measures of data dispersion include *quartiles*, *interquartile range (IQR)*, and *variance*.
- These descriptive statistics are of great help in understanding the distribution of the data.

Data Cleaning

- Importance
 - “Data cleaning is the number one problem in data warehousing”—DCI survey
- Data cleaning tasks
 - Fill in missing values
 - Identify outliers and smooth out noisy data
 - Correct inconsistent data
 - Resolve redundancy caused by data integration

Missing Data

- Data is not always available
 - E.g., many tuples have no recorded value for several attributes,
 - such as customer income in sales data
- Missing data may be due to
 - equipment malfunction
 - inconsistent with other recorded data and thus deleted
 - data not entered due to misunderstanding
 - certain data may not be considered important at the time of entry
 - not register history or changes of the data

How to Handle Missing Data?

- Ignore the tuple: usually done when class label is missing (assuming the tasks in classification—not effective when the percentage of missing values per attribute varies considerably.
- Fill in the missing value manually:
- Fill in it automatically with
 - a global constant : e.g., “unknown”, a new class?!
 - the attribute mean
 - the attribute mean for all samples belonging to the same class: smarter
 - the most probable value: inference-based such as Bayesian formula or decision tree

Noisy Data

- Noise: random error or variance in a measured variable
- Incorrect attribute values may due to
 - faulty data collection instruments
 - data entry problems
 - data transmission problems
 - technology limitation
 - inconsistency in naming convention
- Other data problems which requires data cleaning
 - duplicate records
 - incomplete data
 - inconsistent data

How to Handle Noisy Data?

- Binning

- first sort data and partition into (equal-frequency) bins
- then one can smooth by bin means, smooth by bin median, smooth by bin boundaries, etc.

- Regression

- smooth by fitting the data into regression functions

- Clustering

- detect and remove outliers

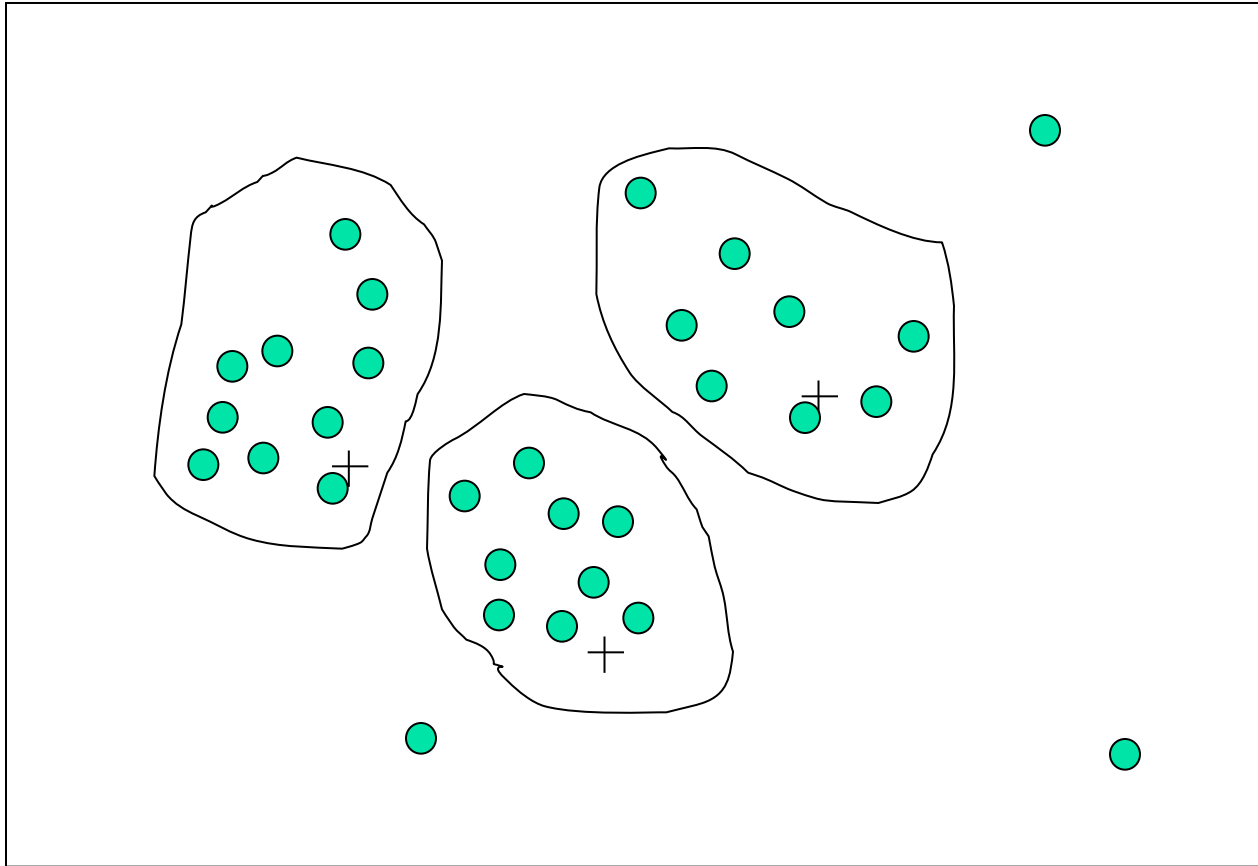
- Combined computer and human inspection

- detect suspicious values and check by human (e.g., deal with possible outliers)

Binning Methods for Data Smoothing

- ❑ Sorted data for price (in dollars): 4, 8, 9, 15, 21, 21, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 34
- * Partition into equal-frequency (equi-depth) bins:
 - Bin 1: 4, 8, 9, 15
 - Bin 2: 21, 21, 24, 25
 - Bin 3: 26, 28, 29, 34
- * Smoothing by bin means:
 - Bin 1: 9, 9, 9, 9
 - Bin 2: 23, 23, 23, 23
 - Bin 3: 29, 29, 29, 29
- * Smoothing by bin boundaries:
 - Bin 1: 4, 4, 4, 15
 - Bin 2: 21, 21, 25, 25
 - Bin 3: 26, 26, 26, 34

Cluster Analysis



Data Cleaning as a Process

- Data discrepancy detection
 - Use metadata (e.g., domain, range, dependency, distribution)
 - what are the domain and data type of each attribute?
 - What are the acceptable values for each attribute?
 - What is the range of the length of values?
 - Do all values fall within the expected range?
 - Are there any known dependencies between attributes?
 - Check field overloading -squeeze new attribute ?
 - Check uniqueness rule-each value of the given attribute must be different from all other values for that attribute.
 - consecutive rule-there can be no missing values between the lowest and highest values for the attribute
 - null rule - blanks, question marks, special characters

Data Cleaning as a Process

- Use commercial tools
 - Data scrubbing: use simple domain knowledge (e.g., postal code, spell-check) to detect errors and make corrections
 - Data auditing: by analyzing data to discover rules and relationship to detect violators (e.g., correlation and clustering to find outliers)
- Data migration and integration
 - Data migration tools: allow transformations to be specified
 - ETL (Extraction/Transformation/Loading) tools: allow users to specify transformations through a graphical user interface

Data Integration

- Data integration:
 - Combines data from multiple sources into a coherent store
- Schema integration: Integrate metadata from different sources
- Entity identification problem:
 - Identify real world entities from multiple data sources, e.g., Bill Clinton = William Clinton
- Detecting and resolving data value conflicts
 - For the same real world entity, attribute values from different sources are different
 - Possible reasons: different representations, different scales, e.g., metric vs. British units

Handling Redundancy in Data Integration

- Redundant data occur often when integration of multiple databases
 - *Object identification*: The same attribute or object may have different names in different databases
 - *Derivable data*: One attribute may be a “derived” attribute in another table, e.g., annual revenue
- Redundant attributes may be able to be detected by *correlation analysis*
- Careful integration of the data from multiple sources may help reduce/avoid redundancies and inconsistencies and improve mining speed and quality

Correlation Analysis (Numerical Data)

- Correlation coefficient (also called **Pearson's product moment coefficient**)

$$r_{A,B} = \frac{\sum (A - \bar{A})(B - \bar{B})}{(n-1)\sigma_A \sigma_B} = \frac{\sum (AB) - n\bar{A}\bar{B}}{(n-1)\sigma_A \sigma_B}$$

where n is the number of tuples, \bar{A} and \bar{B} are the respective means of A and B , σ_A and σ_B are the respective standard deviation of A and B , and $\sum(AB)$ is the sum of the AB cross-product.

- If $r_{A,B} > 0$, A and B are positively correlated (A 's values increase as B 's). The higher, the stronger correlation.
- $r_{A,B} = 0$: independent; $r_{A,B} < 0$: negatively correlated

Correlation Analysis (Categorical Data)

- χ^2 (chi-square) test

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(\textit{Observed} - \textit{Expected})^2}{\textit{Expected}}$$

- The larger the χ^2 value, the more likely the variables are related
- The cells that contribute the most to the χ^2 value are those whose actual count is very different from the expected count
- Correlation does not imply causality
 - # of hospitals and # of car-theft in a city are correlated
 - Both are causally linked to the third variable: population

Data Transformation

- Smoothing: remove noise from data
- Aggregation: summarization, data cube construction
- Generalization: concept hierarchy climbing
- Normalization: scaled to fall within a small, specified range
 - min-max normalization
 - z-score normalization
 - normalization by decimal scaling
- Attribute/feature construction
 - New attributes constructed from the given ones

Data Reduction Strategies

- Why data reduction?
 - A database/data warehouse may store terabytes of data
 - Complex data analysis/mining may take a very long time to run on the complete data set
- Data reduction
 - Obtain a reduced representation of the data set that is much smaller in volume but yet produce the same (or almost the same) analytical results

Strategies for data reduction include the following:

- **1. Data cube aggregation**, where aggregation operations are applied to the data in the construction of a data cube.
- **2. Attribute subset selection**, where irrelevant, weakly relevant, or redundant attributes or dimensions may be detected and removed.
- **3. Dimensionality reduction**, where encoding mechanisms are used to reduce the data set size.
- **4. Discretization and concept hierarchy generation**, where raw data values for attributes are replaced by ranges or higher conceptual levels.
 - Data discretization is a form of numerosity reduction that is very useful for the automatic generation of concept hierarchies.
 - Discretization and concept hierarchy generation are powerful tools for data mining, in that they allow the mining of data at multiple levels of abstraction.