

Comparing strings

CLEANING DATA IN R



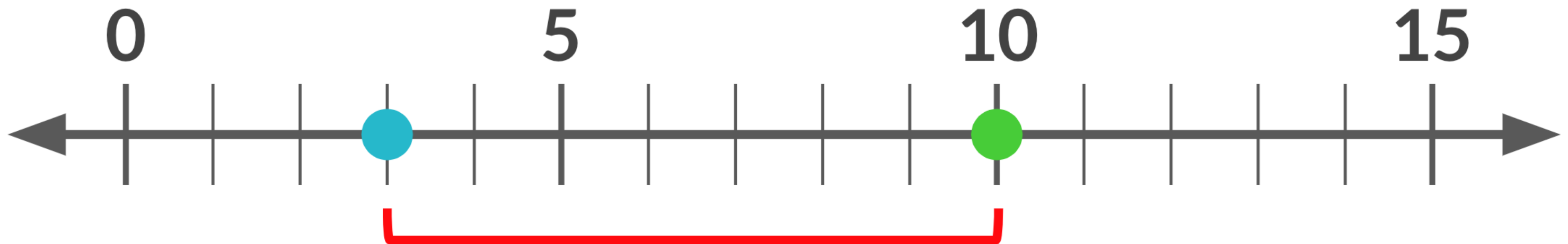
Maggie Matsui

Content Developer @ DataCamp

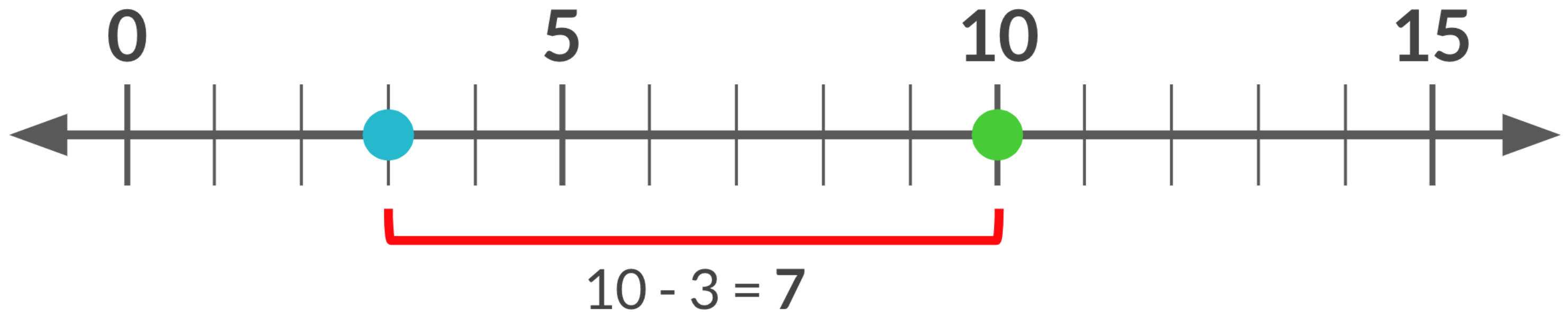
Measuring distance between values



Measuring distance between values



Measuring distance between values



What's the distance between *typhoon* and *baboon*?

Minimum edit distance

How many typos are needed to get from one string to another?



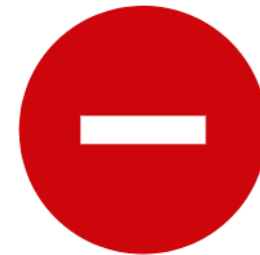
Insertion

Minimum edit distance

How many typos are needed to get from one string to another?



Insertion



Deletion

Minimum edit distance

How many typos are needed to get from one string to another?



Insertion



Deletion



Substitution

Minimum edit distance

How many typos are needed to get from one string to another?



Insertion



Deletion



Substitution



Transposition

Edit distance = 1

d	o	g	
d	o	g	⁺ s

Edit distance = 1

d	o	g	
d	o	g	⁺ s

b	a	t	h
b	a	t	⁻

Edit distance = 1

d	o	g	
---	---	---	--

d	o	g	s ⁺
---	---	---	----------------

c	a	t	s
---	---	---	---

r [⌂]	a	t	s
----------------	---	---	---

b	a	t	h
---	---	---	---

b	a	t	⁻
---	---	---	--------------

Edit distance = 1

d	o	g	
---	---	---	--

d	o	g	s ⁺
---	---	---	----------------

c	a	t	s
---	---	---	---

r [↺]	a	t	s
----------------	---	---	---

b	a	t	h
---	---	---	---

b	a	t	⁻
---	---	---	--------------

s	i	n	g
---	---	---	---

s	i	g	n [↔]
---	---	---	----------------

A more complex example

baboon → *typhoon*

	b	a	b	o	o	n
--	---	---	---	---	---	---

A more complex example

baboon → *typhoon*

- Insert h

	b	a	b	o	o	n
b	a	b	h	o	o	n

A more complex example

baboon → ***typhoon***

- Insert h
- Substitute b → t

	b	a	b	o	o	n
			+			
b	a	b	h	o	o	n
⌛						
t	a	b	h	o	o	n

A more complex example

baboon → ***typhoon***

- Insert h
- Substitute b → t
- Substitute a → y

	b	a	b	o	o	n
			+			
b	a	b	h	o	o	n
⤴						
t	a	b	h	o	o	n
	⤴					
t	y	b	h	o	o	n

A more complex example

baboon → *typhoon*

- Insert h
- Substitute b → t
- Substitute a → y
- Substitute b → p

Total: 4

	b	a	b	o	o	n
			+			
b	a	b	h	o	o	n
⌛						
t	a	b	h	o	o	n
	⌛					
t	y	b	h	o	o	n
		⌛				
t	y	p	h	o	o	n

Types of edit distance

- **Damerau-Levenshtein**
 - What you just learned
- **Levenshtein**
 - Considers only substitution, insertion, and deletion
- **LCS (Longest Common Subsequence)**
 - Considers only insertion and deletion
- **Others**
 - Jaro-Winkler
 - Jaccard

Which is best?

String distance in R

```
library(stringdist)
stringdist("baboon",
           "typhoon",
           method = "dl")
```

4

	b	a	b	o	o	n
			+			
b	a	b	h	o	o	n
⌕						
t	a	b	h	o	o	n
	⌕					
t	y	b	h	o	o	n
		⌕				
t	y	p	h	o	o	n

Other methods

```
# LCS  
stringdist("baboon", "typhoon",  
           method = "lcs")
```

7

```
# Jaccard  
stringdist("baboon", "typhoon",  
           method = "jaccard")
```

0.75

Comparing strings to clean data

- In Chapter 2:
 - "EU" , "eur" , "Europ" → "Europe"
- What if there are too many variations?
 - "EU" , "eur" , "Europ" , "Europa" , "Erope" , "Evropa" , ... → "Europe" ?
 - Use string distance!

Comparing strings to clean data

survey

```
      city move_score
1    chicgo         4
2  los angles         4
3    chicogo         5
4    new yrk         5
5  new yoork         2
6    seatttle         3
7  losangeles         4
8    seeatle         2
...
```

cities

```
      city
1  new york
2    chicago
3  los angeles
4    seattle
```

Remapping using string distance

```
library(fuzzyjoin)
stringdist_left_join(survey, cities, by = "city", method = "dl")
```

```
  city.x move_score city.y
1  chicgo         4  chicago
2  los angles     4  los angeles
3  chicogo        5  chicago
4  new yrk        5  new york
5  new yoork      2  new york
6  seatttle       3  seattle
7  losangeles     4  los angeles
8  seeatle        2  seattle
9  siattle        1  seattle
...
```

Remapping using string distance

```
stringdist_left_join(survey, cities, by = "city", method = "dl", max_dist = 1)
```

```
  city.x move_score city.y
1  chicgo         4  chicago
2 los angles      4 los angeles
3  chicogo        5  chicago
4  new yrk        5  new york
5 new yoork       2  new york
6  seatttle       3  seattle
7 losangeles      4 los angeles
8  seeattle       2      <NA>
9  siattle        1  seattle
...
```


Let's practice!

CLEANING DATA IN R

Generating and comparing pairs

CLEANING DATA IN R



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When joins won't work

Event	Time
Houston Rockets vs Chicago Bulls	19:00
Miami Heat vs Los Angeles Lakers	19:00
Brooklyn Nets vs Orlando Magic	20:00
Denver Nuggets vs Miami Heat	21:00
San Antonio Spurs vs Atlanta Hawks	21:00

Event	Time
NBA: Nets vs Magic	8pm
NBA: Bulls vs Rockets	9pm
NBA: Heat vs Lakers	7pm
NBA: Grizzlies vs Heat	10pm
NBA: Heat vs Cavaliers	9pm

When joins won't work

Event	Time	Event	Time
Houston Rockets vs Chicago Bulls	19:00	NBA: Nets vs Magic	8pm
Miami Heat vs Los Angeles Lakers	19:00	NBA: Bulls vs Rockets	9pm
Brooklyn Nets vs Orlando Magic	20:00	NBA: Heat vs Lakers	7pm
Denver Nuggets vs Miami Heat	21:00	NBA: Grizzlies vs Heat	10pm
San Antonio Spurs vs Atlanta Hawks	21:00	NBA: Heat vs Cavaliers	9pm

What is record linkage?



Data A



Data B

What is record linkage?

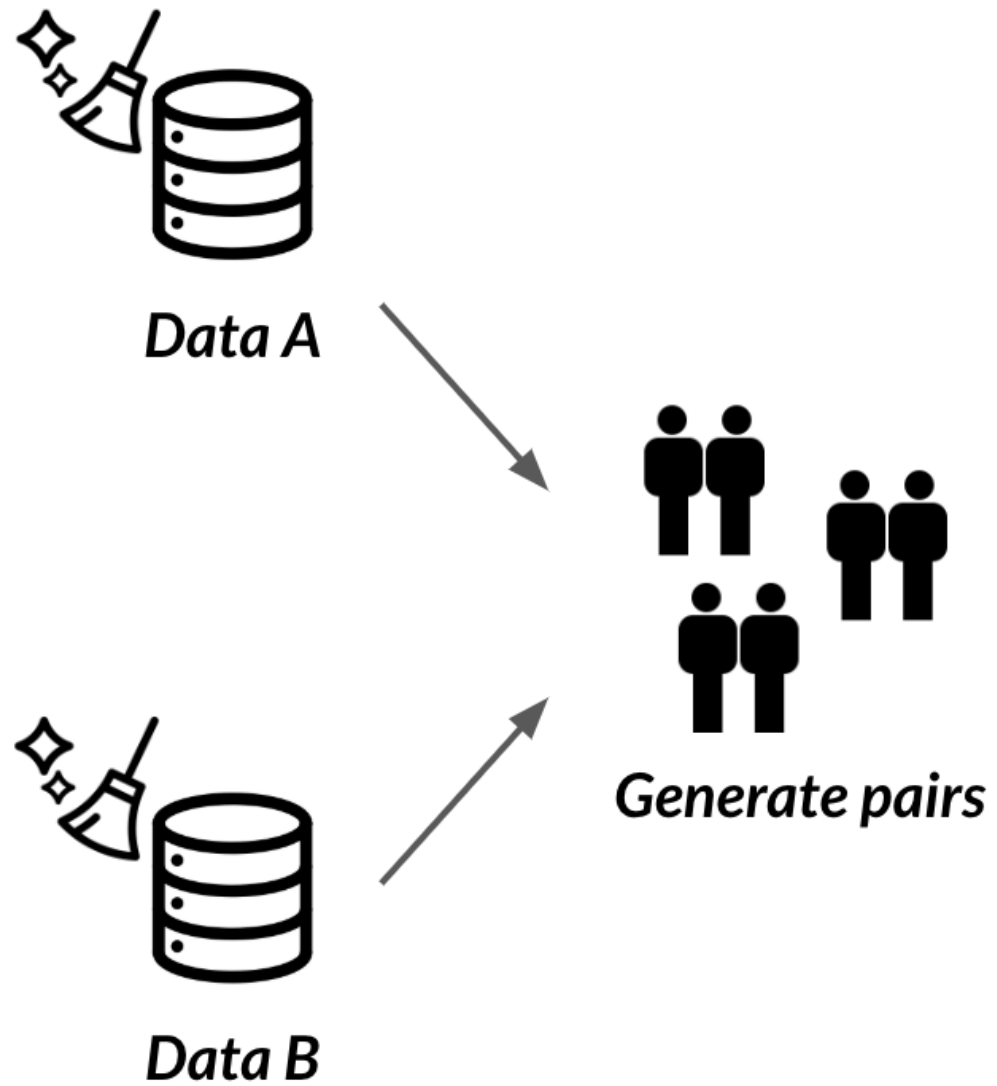


Data A

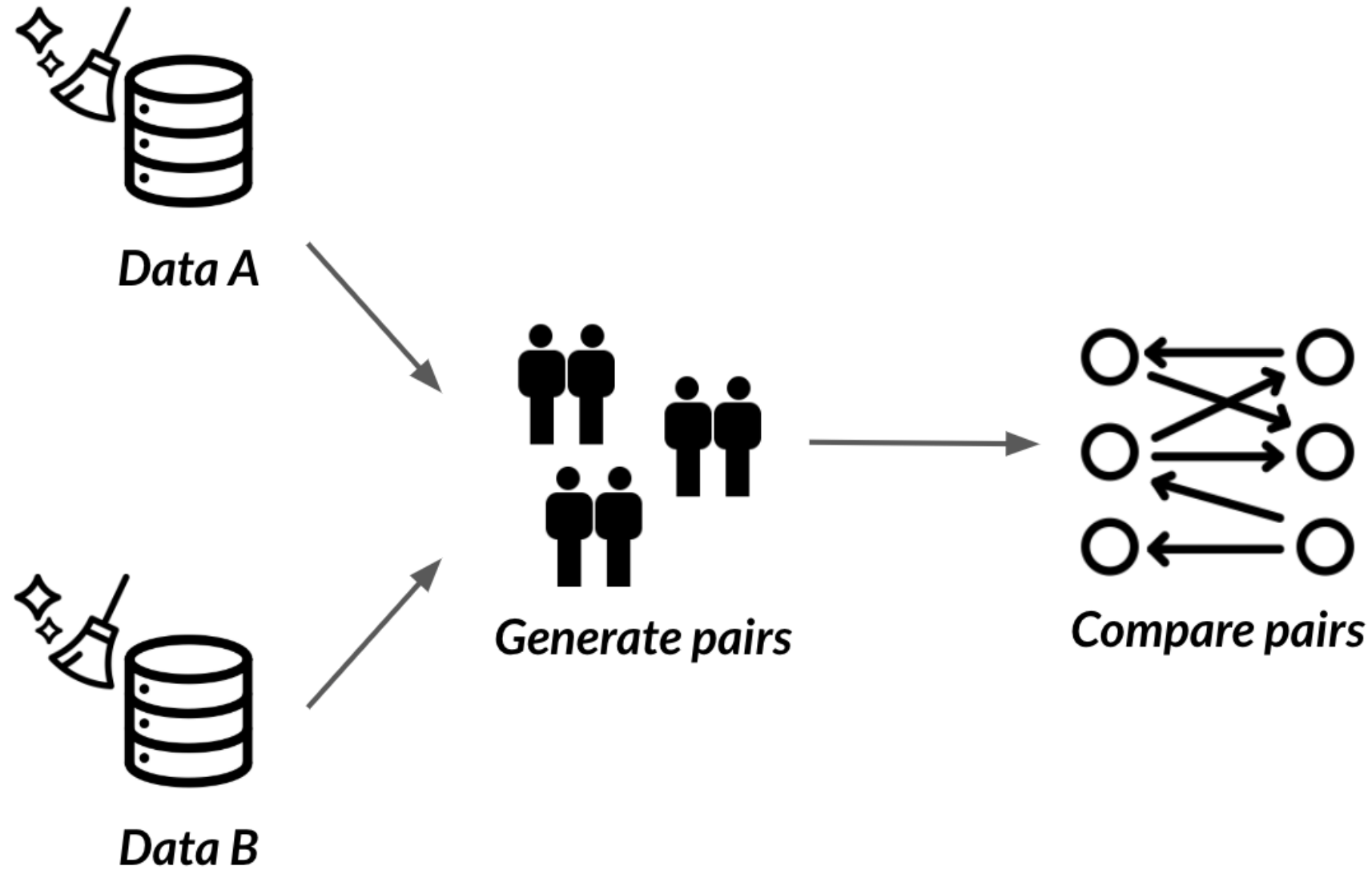


Data B

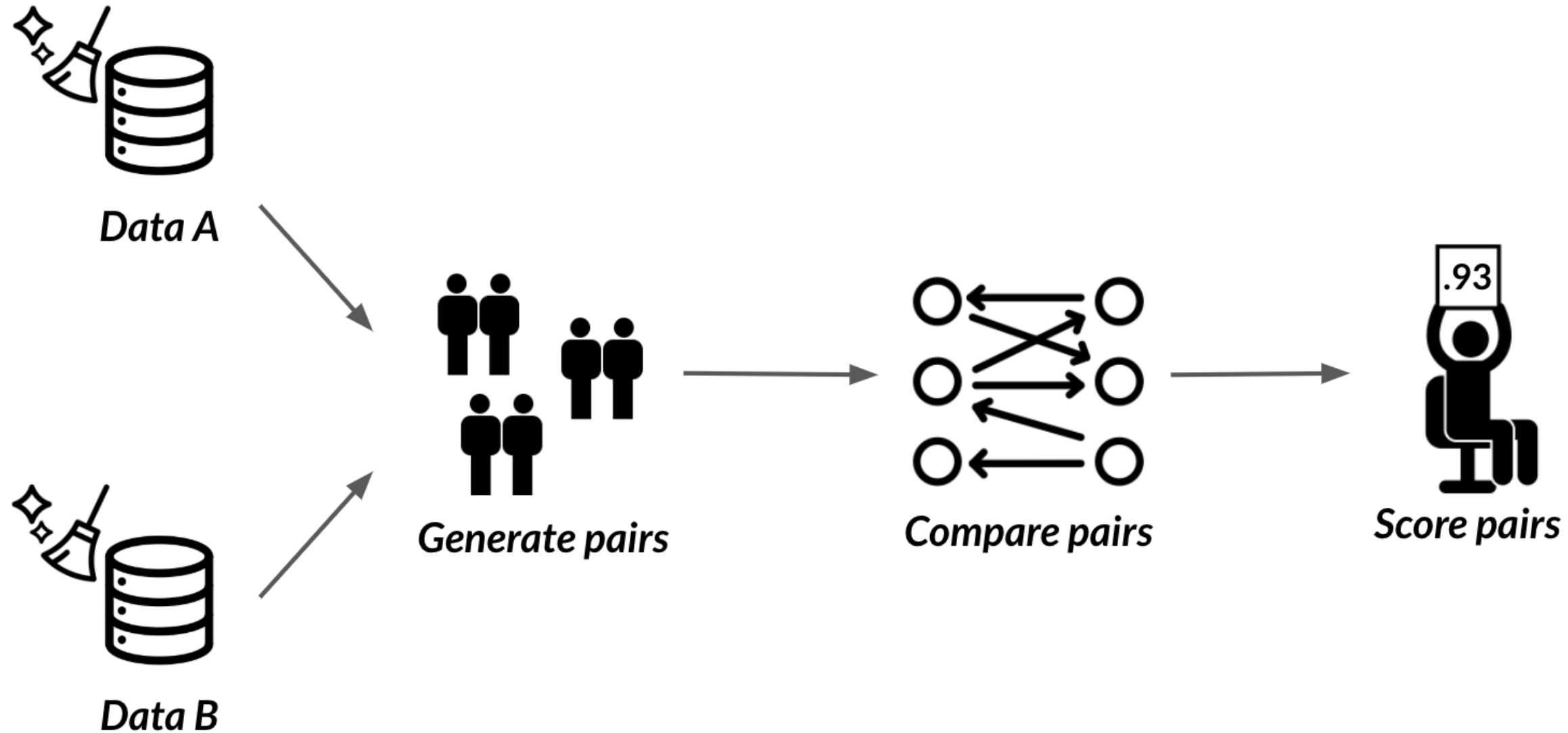
What is record linkage?



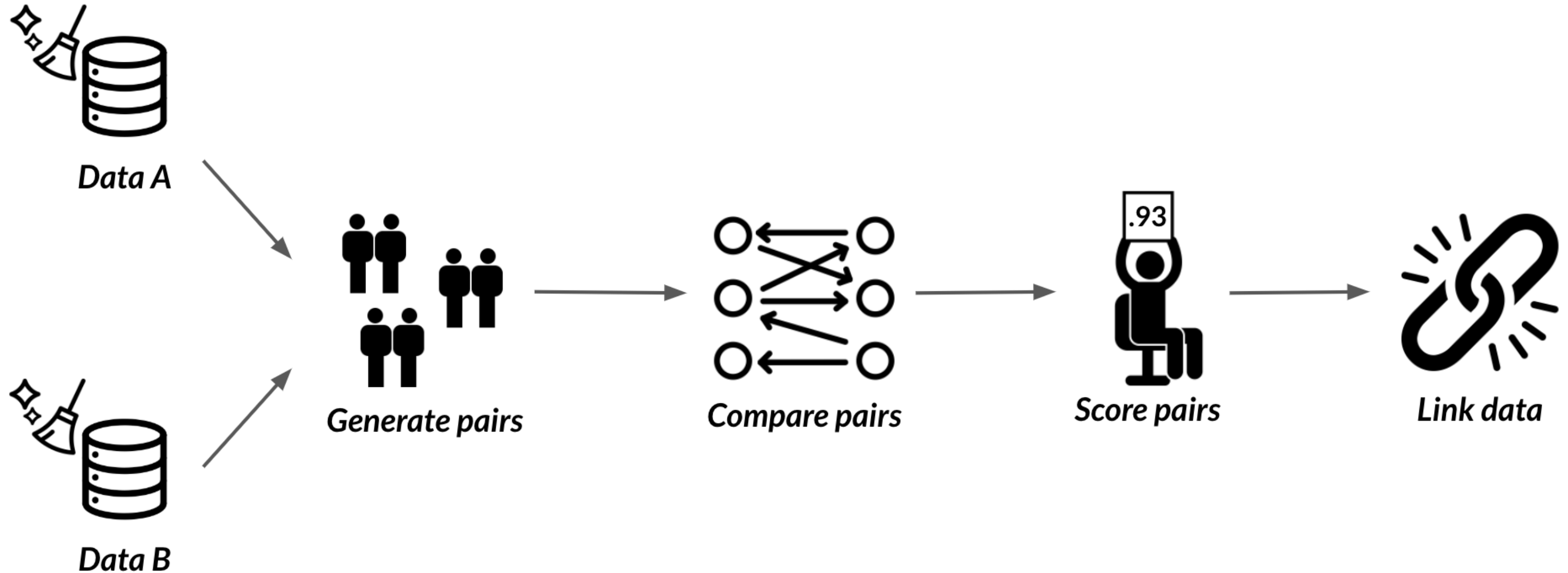
What is record linkage?



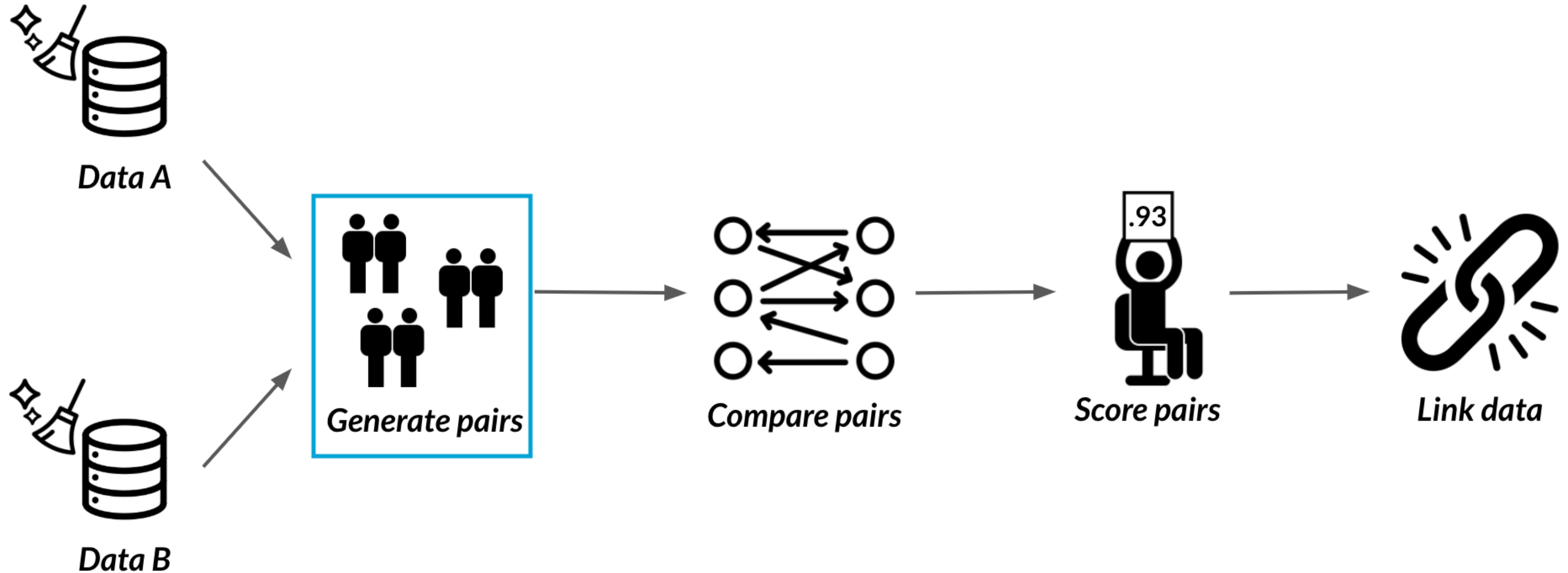
What is record linkage?



What is record linkage?



What is record linkage?



Pairs of records

df_A

Name	Zip	State
Christine M. Conner	10456	NY
Keaton Z Snyder	15020	PA
Arthur Potts	07799	NJ
Maia Collier	07960	NJ
Atkins, Alice W.	10603	NY
...		...

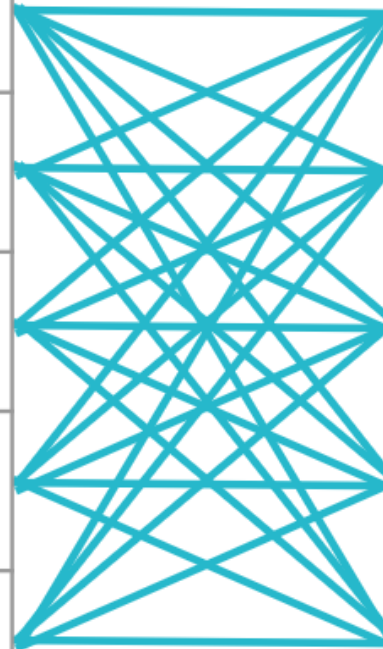
df_B

Name	Zip	State
Jerome A. Yates	11743	NY
Garrison, Brenda	08611	NJ
Keaton Snyder	15020	PA
Stuart, Bert F	12211	NY
Hayley Peck	19134	PA
...		...

Generating pairs

df_A

Name	Zip	State
Christine M. Conner	10456	NY
Keaton Z Snyder	15020	PA
Arthur Potts	07799	NJ
Maia Collier	07960	NJ
Atkins, Alice W.	10603	NY
...		...



df_B

Name	Zip	State
Jerome A. Yates	11743	NY
Garrison, Brenda	08611	NJ
Keaton Snyder	15020	PA
Stuart, Bert F	12211	NY
Hayley Peck	19134	PA
...		...

Generating pairs in R

```
library(reclin)
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B)
```

Simple blocking

No blocking used.

First data set: 5 records

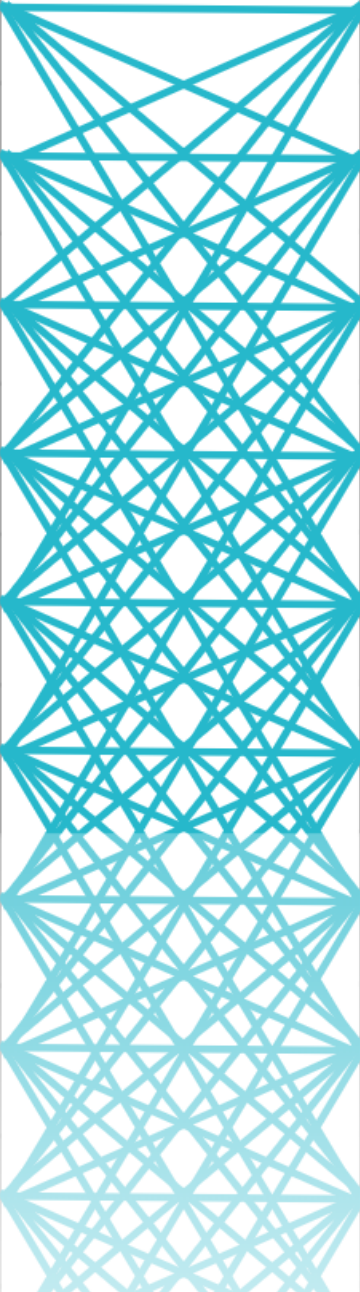
Second data set: 5 records

Total number of pairs: 25 pairs

ldat with 25 rows and 2 columns

	x	y
1	1	1
2	2	1
3	3	1
...		

Too many pairs

Name	Zip	State		Name	Zip	State
Christine M. Conner	10456	NY		Jerome A. Yates	11743	NY
Keaton Z Snyder	15020	PA		Garrison, Brenda	08611	NJ
Arthur Potts	07799	NJ		Keaton Snyder	15020	PA
Maia Collier	07960	NJ		Stuart, Bert F	12211	NY
Atkins, Alice W.	10603	NY		Hayley Peck	19134	PA
...
...
...
...
...

Blocking

df_A			df_B		
Name	Zip	State	Name	Zip	State
Christine M. Conner	10456	NY	Jerome A. Yates	11743	NY
Keaton Z Snyder	15020	PA	Garrison, Brenda	08611	NJ
Arthur Potts	07799	NJ	Keaton Snyder	15020	PA
Maia Collier	07960	NJ	Stuart, Bert F	12211	NY
Atkins, Alice W.	10603	NY	Hayley Peck	19134	PA
...	

Only consider pairs when they agree on the blocking variable (State)

Pair blocking in R

```
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B, blocking_var = "state")
```

Simple blocking

Blocking variable(s): state

First data set: 5 records

Second data set: 5 records

Total number of pairs: 8 pairs

ldat with 8 rows and 2 columns

	x	y
--	---	---

1	1	1
---	---	---

2	1	4
---	---	---

3	2	3
---	---	---

4	2	5
---	---	---

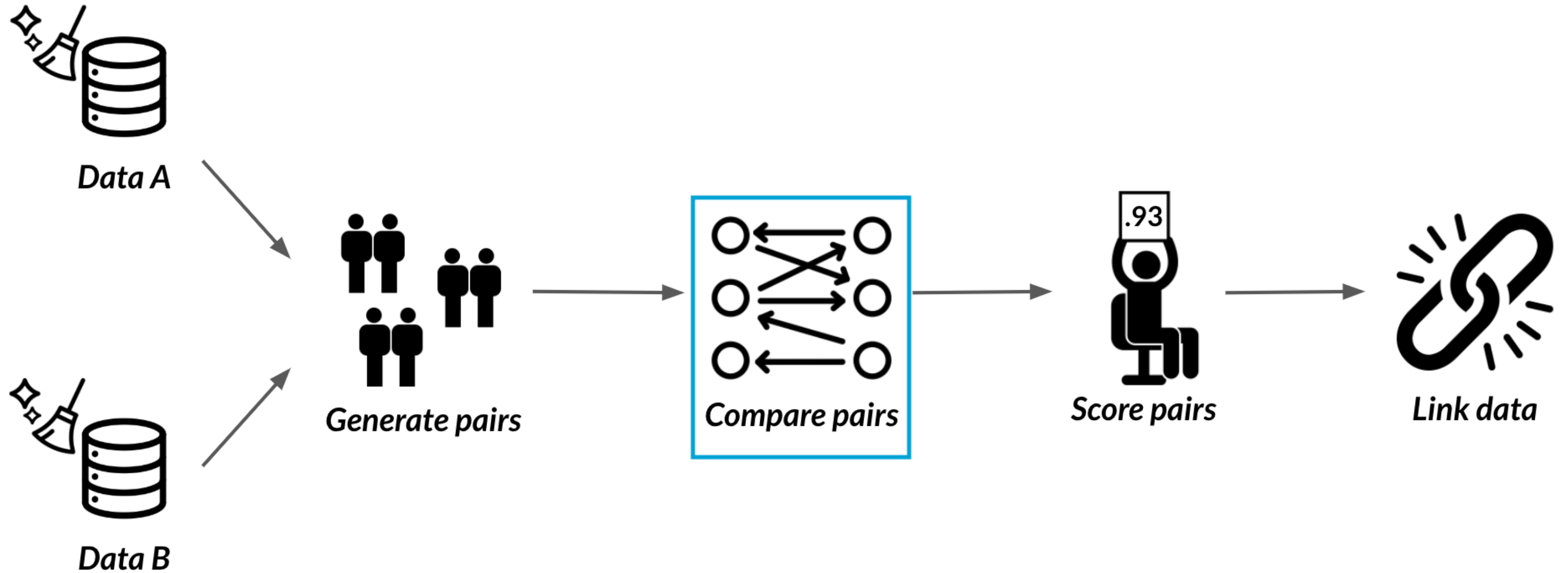
5	3	2
---	---	---

6	4	2
---	---	---

7	5	1
---	---	---

8	5	4
---	---	---

Comparing pairs



Comparing pairs

```
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B, blocking_var = "state") %>%  
  compare_pairs(by = "name", default_comparator = lcs())
```

```
Compare                                ldat with 8 rows and 3 columns  
  By: name                                x y      name  
Simple blocking  
Blocking variable(s): state  
First data set: 5 records  
Second data set: 5 records  
Total number of pairs: 8 pairs  
1 1 1 0.3529412  
2 1 4 0.3030303  
3 2 3 0.9285714  
4 2 5 0.2962963  
...  
8 5 4 0.3333333
```

Comparing multiple columns

```
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B, blocking_var = "state") %>%  
  compare_pairs(by = c("name", "zip"), default_comparator = lcs())
```

Compare	lcsat with 8 rows and 4 columns				
By: name, zip	x	y	name	zip	
Simple blocking	1	1	1	0.3529412	0.4
	2	1	4	0.3030303	0.2
	3	2	3	0.9285714	1.0
	4	2	5	0.2962963	0.2
	...				
Total number of pairs: 8 pairs	8	5	4	0.3333333	0.2

Different comparators

- `default_comparator = lcs()`
- `default_comparator = jaccard()`
- `default_comparator = jaro_winkler()`

Let's practice!

CLEANING DATA IN R

Scoring and linking

CLEANING DATA IN R



Maggie Matsui

Content Developer @ DataCamp

Last lesson

df_A

	name	zip	state
1	Christine M. Conner	10456	NY
2	Keaton Z Snyder	15020	PA
3	Arthur Potts	07799	NJ
4	Maia Collier	07960	NJ
5	Atkins, Alice W.	10603	NY

df_B

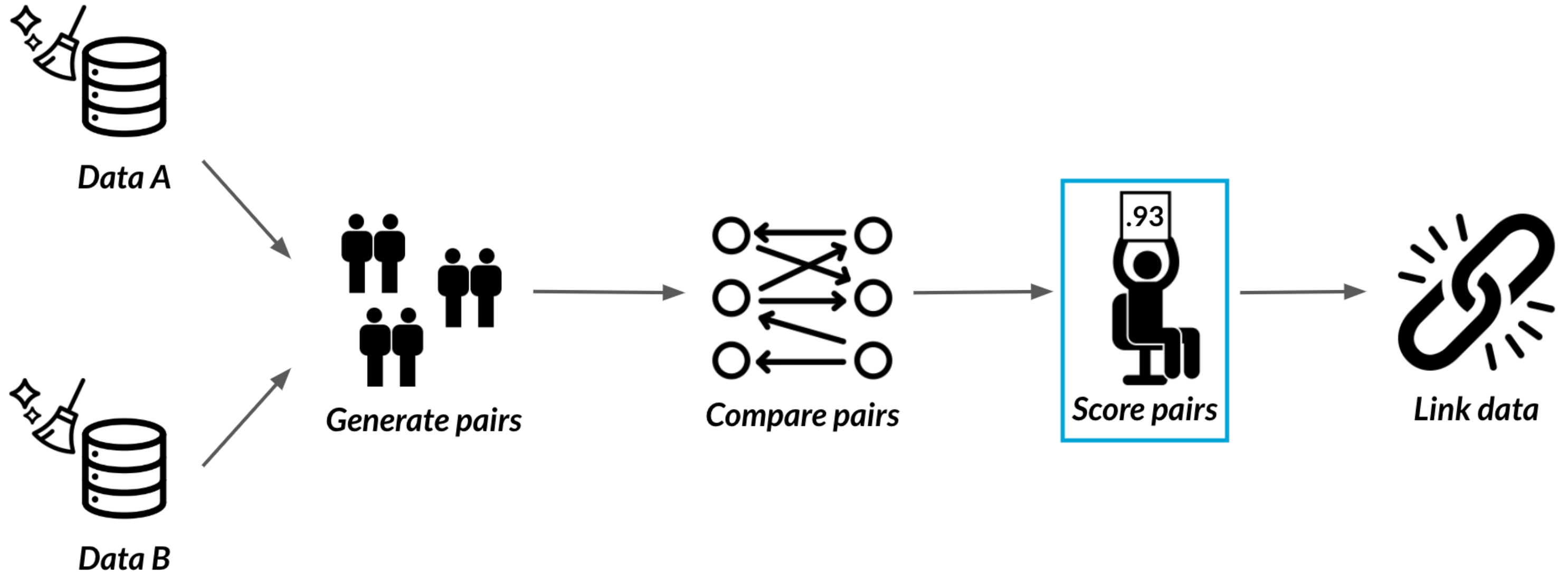
	name	zip	state
1	Jerome A. Yates	11743	NY
2	Garrison, Brenda	08611	NJ
3	Keaton Snyder	15020	PA
4	Stuart, Bert F	12211	NY
5	Hayley Peck	19134	PA

Where we left off

```
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B, blocking_var = "state") %>%  
  compare_pairs(by = c("name", "zip"), default_comparator = lcs())
```

	x	y	name	zip
1	1	1	0.3529412	0.4
2	1	4	0.3030303	0.2
3	2	3	0.9285714	1.0
4	2	5	0.2307692	0.2
5	3	2	0.2142857	0.2
6	4	2	0.2857143	0.4
7	5	1	0.1935484	0.4
8	5	4	0.3333333	0.2

Scoring pairs



Scoring with sums

	x	y	name	zip
1	1	1	0.3529412	+ 0.4 =
2	1	4	0.3030303	+ 0.2 =
3	2	3	0.9285714	+ 1.0 =
4	2	5	0.2307692	+ 0.2 =
5	3	2	0.2142857	+ 0.2 =
6	4	2	0.2857143	+ 0.4 =
7	5	1	0.1935484	+ 0.4 =
8	5	4	0.3333333	+ 0.2 =

```
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B, blocking_var = "state") %>%  
  compare_pairs(by = c("name", "zip"), default_comparator = lcs()) %>%  
  score_simsim()
```

	x	y	name	zip	simsim
1	1	1	0.3529412	0.4	0.7529412
2	1	4	0.3030303	0.2	0.5030303
3	2	3	0.9285714	1.0	1.9285714
4	2	5	0.2307692	0.2	0.4307692
5	3	2	0.2142857	0.2	0.4142857
6	4	2	0.2857143	0.4	0.6857143
7	5	1	0.1935484	0.4	0.5935484
8	5	4	0.3333333	0.2	0.5333333

```
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B, blocking_var = "state") %>%  
  compare_pairs(by = c("name", "zip"), default_comparator = lcs()) %>%  
  score_simscore()
```

```
  x y      name zip      simsum  
1 1 1 0.3529412 0.4 0.7529412  
2 1 4 0.3030303 0.2 0.5030303  
3 2 3 0.9285714 1.0 1.9285714 <--  
4 2 5 0.2307692 0.2 0.4307692  
5 3 2 0.2142857 0.2 0.4142857  
6 4 2 0.2857143 0.4 0.6857143  
7 5 1 0.1935484 0.4 0.5935484  
8 5 4 0.3333333 0.2 0.5333333
```

Disadvantages of summing

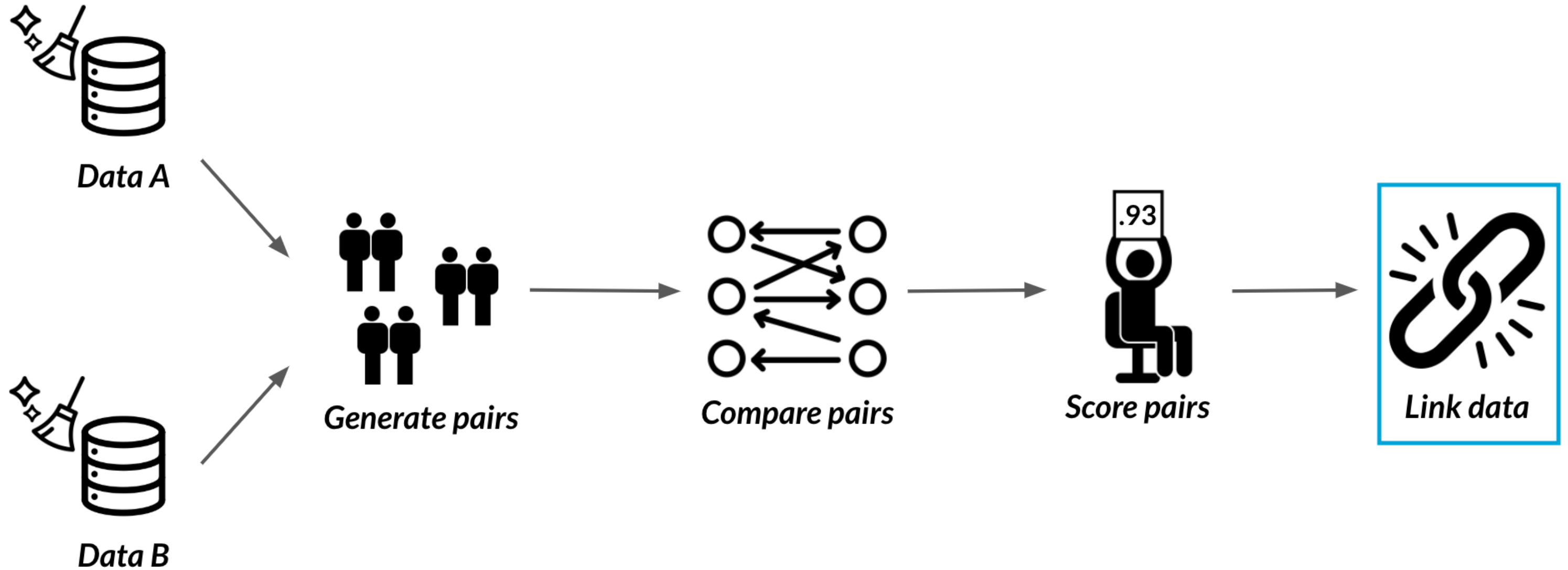
- 2 records with a similar name (Keaton Z Snyder & Keaton Snyder) are more likely to be a match
- 2 records with the same sex (Male & Male) are not as likely to be a match
- Use probabilistic scoring!

Scoring probabilistically

```
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B, blocking_var = "state") %>%  
  compare_pairs(by = c("name", "zip"), default_comparator = lcs()) %>%  
  score_problink()
```

	x	y	name	zip	weight
1	1	1	0.3529412	0.4	-1.011599
2	1	4	0.3030303	0.2	-2.219198
3	2	3	0.9285714	1.0	16.019278
4	2	5	0.2307692	0.2	-2.590260
5	3	2	0.2142857	0.2	-2.685570
6	4	2	0.2857143	0.4	-1.321753
7	5	1	0.1935484	0.4	-1.832576
8	5	4	0.3333333	0.2	-2.079436

Linking pairs



Selecting matches

```
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B, blocking_var = "state") %>%  
  compare_pairs(by = c("name", "zip"), default_comparator = lcs()) %>%  
  score_problink() %>%  
  select_n_to_m()
```

	x	y	name	zip	weight	select
1	1	1	0.3529412	0.4	-1.011599	FALSE
2	1	4	0.3030303	0.2	-2.219198	FALSE
3	2	3	0.9285714	1.0	16.019278	TRUE
4	2	5	0.2307692	0.2	-2.590260	FALSE
5	3	2	0.2142857	0.2	-2.685570	FALSE
6	4	2	0.2857143	0.4	-1.321753	FALSE
...						

Linking the data

```
pair_blocking(df_A, df_B, blocking_var = "state") %>%  
  compare_pairs(by = c("name", "zip"), default_comparator = lcs()) %>%  
  score_problink() %>%  
  select_n_to_m() %>%  
  link()
```

Linked data

	name.x	zip.x	state.x	name.y	zip.y	state.y
1	Keaton Z Snyder	15020	PA	Keaton Snyder	15020	PA
2	Christine M. Conner	10456	NY	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>
3	Arthur Potts	07799	NJ	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>
4	Maia Collier	07960	NJ	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>
5	Atkins, Alice W.	10603	NY	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>
6	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	Jerome A. Yates	11743	NY
7	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	Garrison, Brenda	08611	NJ
8	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	Stuart, Bert F	12211	NY
9	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	Hayley Peck	19134	PA

Let's practice!

CLEANING DATA IN R

Congratulations!

CLEANING DATA IN R



Maggie Matsui

Content Developer, DataCamp

What you learned



Diagnose dirty
data



Side effects of
dirty data



Clean data

Chapter 1: Common Data Problems



**Data Type
Constraints**

Strings
Numeric data

...



**Data Range
Constraints**

Out of range data
Out of range dates

...

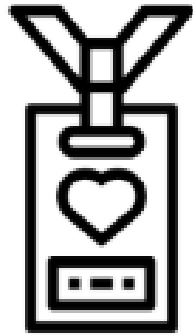


**Uniqueness
Constraints**

Finding duplicates
Treating them

...

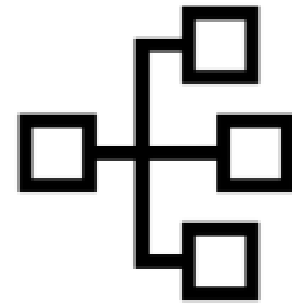
Chapter 2: Text and Categorical Data



Membership Constraints

Finding inconsistent categories
Treating them with joins

...



Categorical Variables

Finding inconsistent categories
Collapsing them into less

...



Cleaning Text Data

Unifying formats
Finding lengths

...

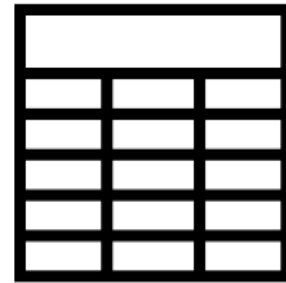
Chapter 3: Advanced Data Problems



Uniformity

Unifying currency formats
Unifying date formats

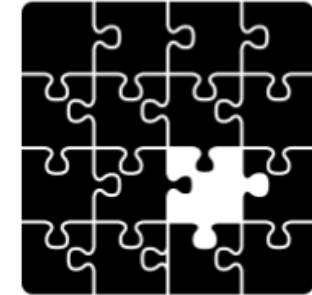
...



Cross field validation

Summing across rows
Validating age

...

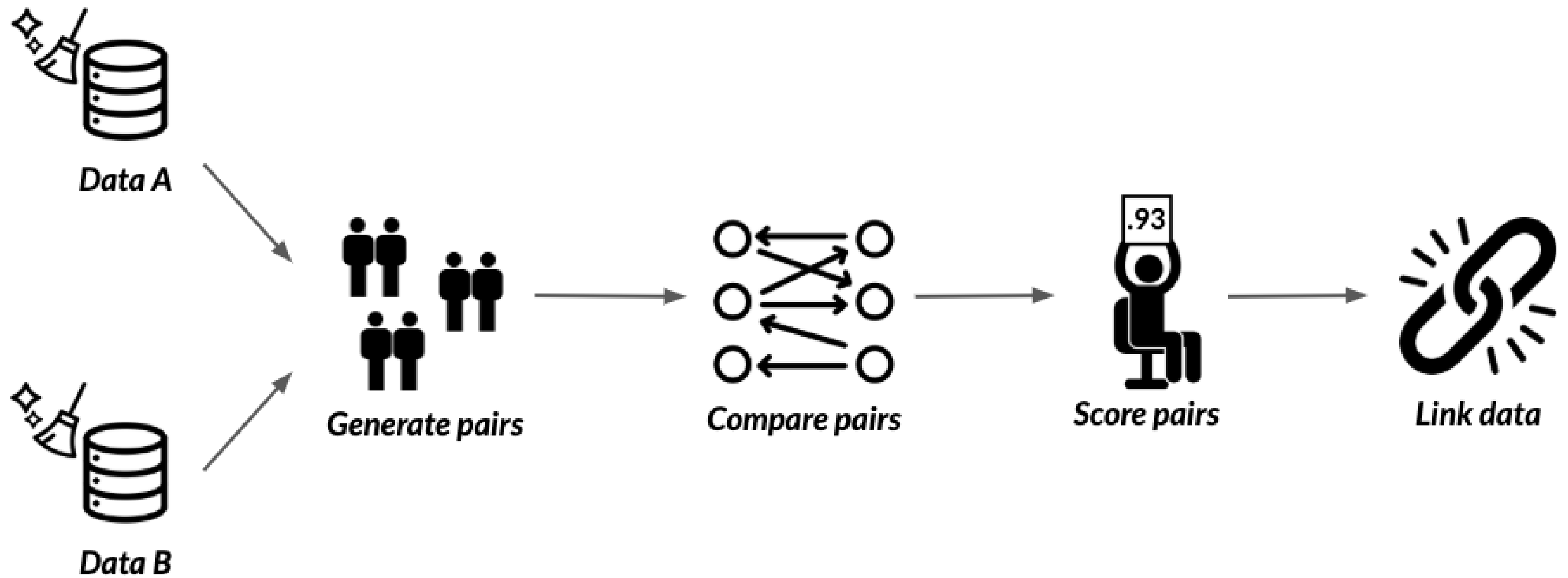


Completeness

Finding missing data
Treating them

...

Chapter 4: Record Linkage



Expand and build upon your new skills

- Categorical Data
 - [Categorical Data in the Tidyverse](#)
- Text Data
 - [String Manipulation with stringr in R](#)
 - [Intermediate Regular Expressions in R](#)
- Writing Clean Code
 - [Defensive R Programming](#)

Congratulations!

CLEANING DATA IN R