

# Data Integration and Large-Scale Analysis

## 06 - Data Cleaning and Fusion

Dr. Lucas Iacono - 2025

Know Center Research GmbH & Graz University of Technology

# Agenda

- Motivation and Terminology
- Data Cleaning and Fusion
- Missing Value Imputation

# Motivation and Terminology

# Recap: Corrupted/Inconsistent Data

## ▪ #1 Heterogeneity of Data Sources

- Update anomalies on denormalized data / eventual consistency
- Changes of app/prep over time (US vs us) → inconsistencies

## ▪ #2 Human Error

- Errors in semi-manual data collection, laziness (see default values), bias
- Errors in data labeling (especially if large-scale: crowd workers / users)

## ▪ #3 Measurement/Processing Errors

- Unreliable HW/SW and measurement equipment (e.g., batteries)
- Harsh environments (temperature, movement) → aging

# Recap: Corrupted/Inconsistent Data

Uniqueness & duplicates		Contradictions & wrong values			Missing Values		Ref. Integrity	[Credit: Felix Naumann]
-------------------------	--	-------------------------------	--	--	----------------	--	----------------	-------------------------

ID	Name	BDay	Age	Sex	Phone	Zip	
3	Smith, Jane	05/06/1975	44	F	999-9999	98120	
3	John Smith	38/12/1963	55	M	867-4511	11111	
7	Jane Smith	05/06/1975	24	F	567-3211	98120	

Zip	City
98120	San Jose
90001	Lost Angeles

Typos

## Examples (aka errors are everywhere)

- Duplicates
- Formatting
- Data Entry Errors
- Encoding errors
- Missing values
- Date-time encoding

- US,DFW,LIT,ER4;M83;M83  
+ US,DFW,LIT,ER4;M83

- Beni Airport,Beni,Congo (Kinshasa),BNC,FZNP,0.575,  
+ Beni Airport,Beni,Democratic Republic of Congo,BNC

- RAF St Athan,4Q,STN,UNited Kingdom,N  
+ RAF St Athan,4Q,STN,United Kingdom,N

- Oyo Ollombo Airport,Oyo,Congo (Brazzaville),0  
+ Oyo Ollombo Airport,Oyo,Republic of Congo,OLL

```
ID,NAME,RATING,PHONENUMBER,NO_OF_REVIEWS,ADDRESS
1445980000001,1,5,"(800) 586-5735",38,"867 N Hermitage Ave, Chicago, IL 60622"
1445980000002,326,3.5,"(323) 549-2156",33,"6333 3rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90036"
1445980000003,1760,4,"(415) 359-1212",454,"1760 Polk St, San Francisco, CA 94109"
1445980000004," ",4,"(773) 866-9898",185,"2977 N Elston Ave, Chicago, IL 60618"
1445980000005,"Disiac Lounge ",3.5,"(212) 586-9880",164,"402 W 54th St, New York, NY 10019"
1445980000006,"G T.'s review of Belly Good Cafe & Crepe",4.5,"(415) 346-8383",843,"1737 Post St, San Francisco, CA 94109"
1445980000007,"FireTree ",4,"(415) 967-2726",63,"San Francisco, CA 94109"
1445980000008,"10e Restaurant ",4,"(213) 488-1096",166,"811 W 7th St, Los Angeles, CA 90017"
1445980000009,"10th & Wood ",4,"(510) 645-1955",275,"945 Wood St, Oakland, CA 94607"
```

src	flight	scheduled_dept	actual_dept
ua	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT	Thu- Dec 1 2:55 PM	Thu- Dec 1 2:55 PM
airtravelcenter	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		12/1/11 3:04 PM (-05:00)
myrateplan	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		12/1/11 3:04 PM (-05:00)
helloflight	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		12/1/11 3:04 PM (-05:00)
flytecomm	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		12/1/11 3:04 PM (-05:00)
flights	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		2011-12-01 02:52 PM
businesstravellogue	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		2011-12-01 02:52 PM
flylouisville	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		2011-12-01 02:52 PM
flightstats	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT	2011-12-01 2:55 PM	2011-12-01 2:52 PM
quicktrip	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT	2011-12-01 2:55 PM	2011-12-01 2:52 PM
flightview	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		3:04 PM Dec 01
panynj	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		3:04 PM Dec 01
gofox	2011-12-01-UA-2708-EWR-CLT		3:04 PM Dec 01

## Terminology

### ▪ #1 Data Cleaning (aka Data Cleansing)

- **Detection** and **repair** of data errors
- **Outliers/anomalies:** values or objects that do not match normal behavior  
(different goals: data cleaning vs finding interesting patterns)
- **Data Fusion:** resolution of inconsistencies and errors  
(e.g., entity resolution [see Lecture 05](#))

### ▪ #2 Missing Value Imputation

- **Fill missing info** with “best guess”
- Difference between NAs and 0 (or special values like NaN) for ML models

### ▪ #3 Data Wrangling

- Automatic cleaning unrealistic? → Interactive data transformations
- Recommended transforms + user selection

# Express Expectations as Validity Constraints

- Manual Approach: “**Common Sense**” Age=9999?

- (Semi-)Automatic Approach: **Expectations!**

- PK → Values must be **unique and defined (not null)**

- Exact PK-FK → **Inclusion** dependencies

- **Semantics** of attributes → Value ranges / # distinct values

- Invariant to **capitalization**

- **Duplicates** that differ in capitalization



- US,DFW,LIT,ER4;M83;M83  
+ US,DFW,LIT,ER4;M83

**2019-11-15** vs **Nov 15, 2019**



- RAF St Athan,4Q,STN,United Kingdom,N  
+ RAF St Athan,4Q,STN,United Kingdom,N

- Formal Constraints

- Denial constraints

# Express Expectations as Validity Constraints

- **Formal Constraints**

- E.g. Denial constraints

$$\begin{aligned} \forall t_\alpha t_\beta \in R: & \neg(t_\alpha.\text{Role} = t_\beta.\text{Role} \wedge t_\alpha.\text{City} = 'NYC' \\ & \wedge t_\beta.\text{City} \neq 'NYC' \wedge t_\alpha.\text{Salary} < t_\beta.\text{Salary}) \end{aligned}$$

# Data Cleaning and Fusion

# Data Validation

## Validation checks on **expected shape** before training first model

[Neoklis Polyzotis, Sudip Roy, Steven Euijong Whang, Martin Zinkevich: Data Management Challenges in Production Machine Learning. Tutorial, **SIGMOD 2017**]

Google  
Data Management Challenges in Production Machine Learning  
Neoklis Polyzotis, Sudip Roy, Steven Whang, Martin Zinkevich

(Google  
Research)

- Check a feature's **min, max, and most common value**
  - Ex: Latitude values must be within the range [-90, 90] or [- $\pi/2$ ,  $\pi/2$ ]
- The **histograms** of continuous or categorical values **are as expected**
  - Ex: There are **similar numbers of positive and negative labels**
- Whether a **feature** is **present in enough examples**
  - Ex: Country code must be in **at least 70%** of the examples
- Whether a **feature** has the **right number of values** (i.e., cardinality)
  - Ex: There **cannot be more than one age** of a person

# Data Validation, cont.

- **Constraints and Metrics for quality check UDFs**

constraint	arguments	metric
dimension <i>completeness</i>		dimension <i>completeness</i>
isComplete	column	Completeness
hasCompleteness	column, udf	
dimension <i>consistency</i>		dimension <i>consistency</i>
isUnique	column	Size
hasUniqueness	column, udf	Compliance
hasDistinctness	column, udf	Uniqueness
isInRange	column, value range	Distinctness
hasConsistentType	column	ValueRange
isNonNegative	column	DataType
isLessThan	column pair	Predictability
satisfies	predicate	statistics (can be used to
satisfiesIf	predicate pair	Minimum
hasPredictability	column, column(s), udf	Maximum
hasSize	udf	Mean
hasTypeConsistency	column, udf	StandardDeviation
hasCountDistinct	column	CountDistinct
hasApproxCountDistinct	column, udf	ApproxCountDistinct
hasMin	column, udf	ApproxQuantile
hasMax	column, udf	Correlation
hasMean	column, udf	Entropy
hasStandardDeviation	column, udf	Histogram
hasApproxQuantile	column, quantile, udf	MutualInformation
hasEntropy	column, udf	
hasMutualInformation	column pair, udf	
hasHistogramValues	column, udf	
hasCorrelation	column pair, udf	
time		
hasNoAnomalies	metric, detector	

- **Approach**

- #1 Quality checks on basic metrics, computed in **Apache Spark**
- #2 **Incremental maintenance** of metrics and quality checks

[Sebastian Schelter, Dustin Lange, Philipp Schmidt, Meltem Celikel, Felix Bießmann, Andreas Grafberger: Automating Large-Scale Data Quality Verification. **PVLDB 2018**]



(Amazon Research)

**Organizational Lesson:**  
benefit of shared vocabulary/procedures

**Technical Lesson:**  
fast/scalable; reduce manual and ad-hoc analysis

# Data Validation, cont.

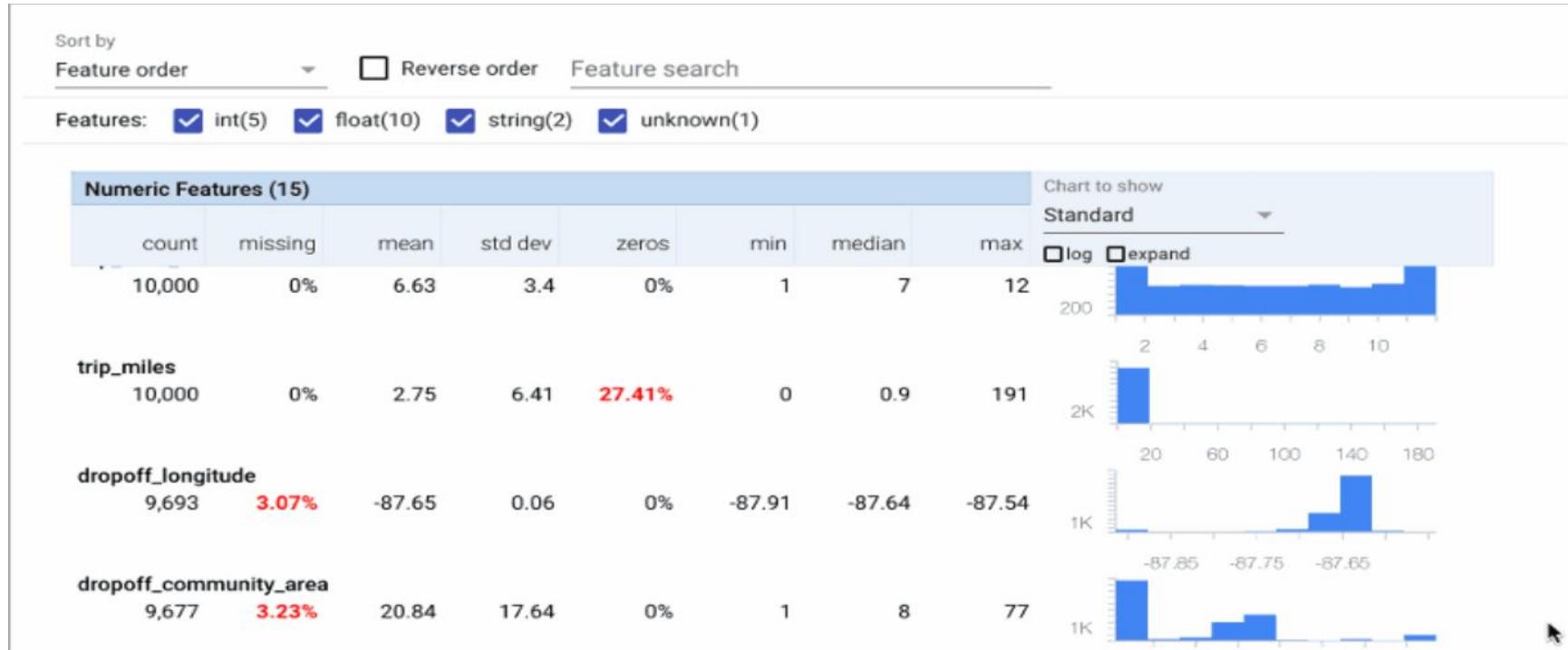
[Mike Dreves; Gene Huang; Zhuo Peng; Neoklis Polyzotis; Evan Rosen; Paul Saganthan: From Data to Models and Back. DEEM 2020]



## TensorFlow Data Validation (TFDV)

(Google)

- Library or TFX components
- Provides functions for stats computation, validation checks and anomaly detection



# Standardization and Normalization

## ▪ #1 Standardization

- Centering and scaling to mean 0 and variance 1



```
X = X - colMeans(X);  
X = X / sqrt(colVars(X));
```

- Ensures well-behaved training

```
X = replace(X, pattern=NaN,  
replacement=0); #robustness
```

- Densifying operation



- Awareness of NaNs

- Batch normalization in DNN: standardization of activations

# Standardization and Normalization

## ▪ #1 Standardization

- Centering and scaling to mean 0 and variance 1
- Ensures well-behaved training
- Densifying operation
- Awareness of NaNs
- Batch normalization in DNN: standardization of activations

```
X = X - colMeans(X);  
X = X / sqrt(colVars(X));  
  
X = replace(X, pattern=NaN,  
replacement=0); #robustness
```

Wo/Standardization = Age Values [10, 20, 30, 40, 50]

Mean = 30, Scale [50 - 10 = 40] → bad-behaved training

W/ Standardization = Age Values [-1.26, -0.63, 0, 0.63, 1.26]

Mean = 0, Scale [1,26 -(-1,26) = 2,52] → well-behaved training

# Standardization and Normalization

## ▪ #1 Standardization

- Centering and scaling to mean 0 and variance 1
- Ensures well-behaved training
- Densifying operation
- Awareness of NaNs
- Batch normalization in DNN: standardization of activations

```
X = X - colMeans(X);  
X = X / sqrt(colVars(X));  
  
X = replace(X, pattern=NaN,  
replacement=0); #robustness
```

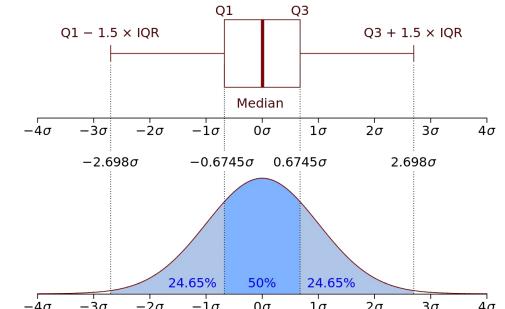
## ▪ #2 Normalization

- Aka min-max normalization
- Rescale values into common range [0,1]
- Does not handle outliers [10, 20, 30, 40, 1000] → Norm [0.00, 0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 1.00]

```
X = (X - colMins(X))  
/ (colMaxs(X) - colMins(X));
```

# Winsorizing and Trimming

- Method to detect and correct outliers (errors)
- Winsorizing: Replace tails of data distribution at user-specified threshold
- Truncation/Trimming: Remove tails of data distribution at user-specified threshold



[Credit: <https://en.wikipedia.org>]

```
# compute quantiles for lower and upper
ql = quantile(X, 0.05);
qu = quantile(X, 0.95);

# replace values outside [ql,qu] w/ ql and qu
Y = ifelse(X < ql, ql, X);
Y = ifelse(Y > qu, qu, Y);

# remove values outside [ql,qu]
I = X < qu | X > ql;
Y = removeEmpty(X, "rows", select = I);
```

Instead of a constant, you can also use mean/median/mode

# Outliers and Outlier Detection

## ▪ Types of Outliers

- **Point outliers:** single data points far from the data distribution
- **Contextual outliers:** noise or other systematic anomalies in data
- **Sequence (contextual) outliers:** sequence of values w/ abnormal shape/agg

[Varun Chandola, Arindam Banerjee, Vipin Kumar:  
Anomaly detection: A survey. **ACM Comput. Surv.**  
2009]



## ▪ Types of Outlier Detection

- **Type 1 Unsupervised:** No prior knowledge of data, similar to unsupervised **clustering**  
→ **expectations:** distance, # errors
- **Type 2 Supervised:** Labeled normal and abnormal data, similar to supervised **classification**
- **Type 3 Normal Model:** Represent normal behavior, similar to **pattern recognition** → **expectations:** rules/constraints

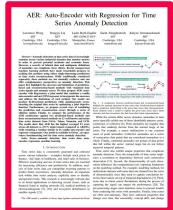
[Victoria J. Hodge, Jim Austin: A Survey of Outlier Detection Methodologies. **Artif. Intell. Rev.**  
2004]



# Time Series Anomaly Detection

- Basic Problem Formulation

[Lawrence Wong, et al: AER: Auto-Encoder with Regression for Time Series Anomaly Detection. IEEE BigData 2022]



*Given a regular time series **detect anomalous subsequences** where the observed pattern cannot be well reconstructed nor well predicted by models trained on normal data.*

- Anomaly Detection

**#1 Reconstruction Error** (Auto-Encoder)

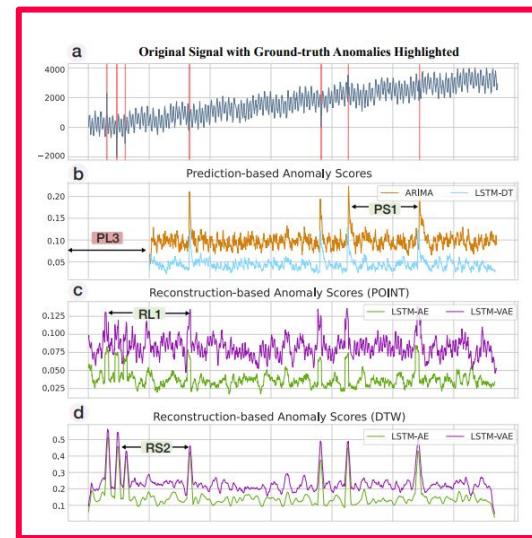
Train an auto-encoder on normal time series windows

**#2 Prediction Error** (Regression Model)

Train a model (e.g., LSTM) to predict the next value.

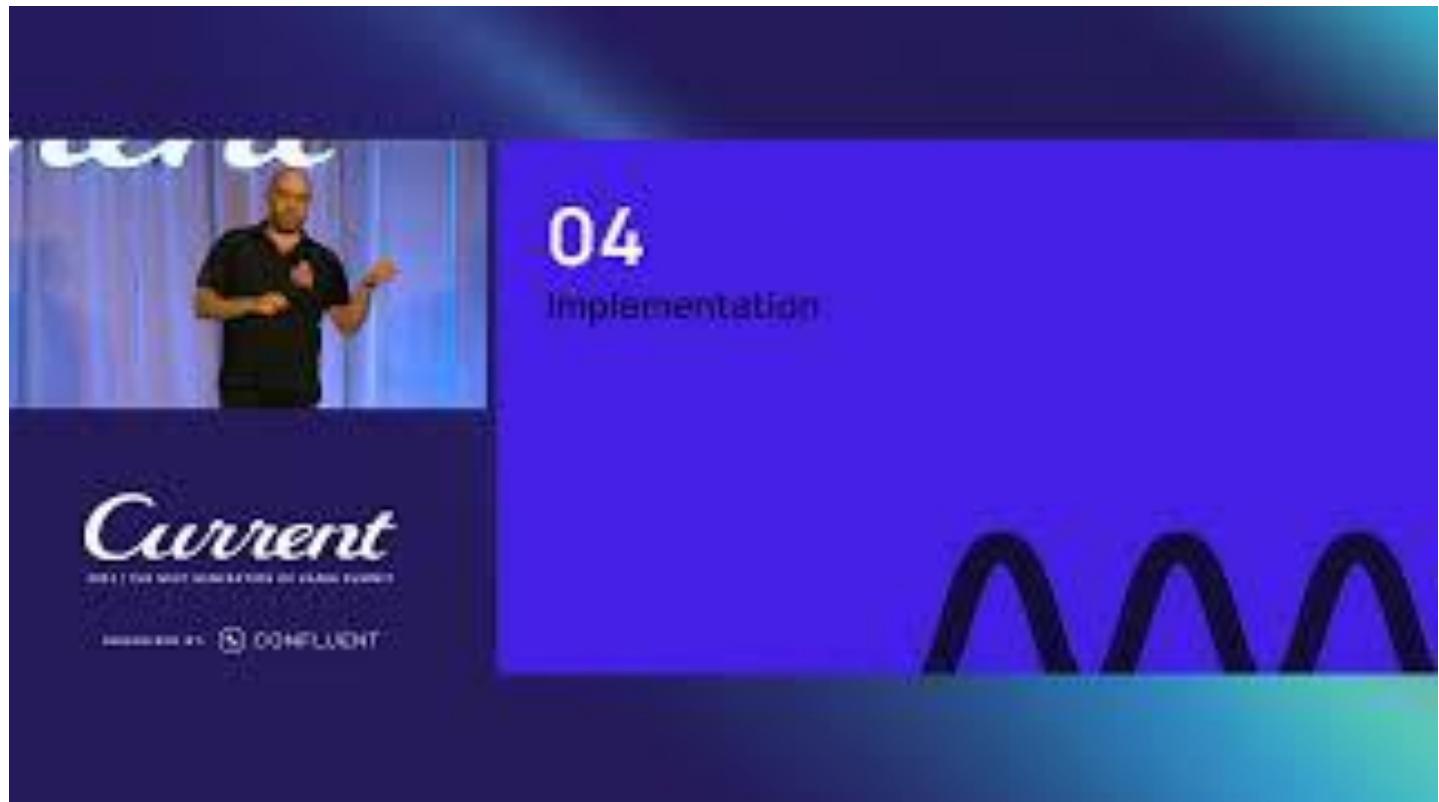
**#3 Combined Anomaly Score** (Error Auto-Encoder + Error LSTM)

High score → anomalous subsequence.



# Time Series Anomaly Detection

- Recommended:



# Automatic Data Repairs

## ▪ Overview Repairs

- Question: Repair data, rules/constraints, or both?
- General principle: “**minimality of repairs**”

## ▪ Example Data Repair

- Functional dependency  $A \rightarrow B$

A	B
1	2
1	3
1	3
4	5

OK, dist=1



A	B
1	3
1	3
1	3
4	5

[Xu Chu, Ihab F. Ilyas: Qualitative Data Cleaning. Tutorial, PVLDB 2016]

A	B
1	2
1	2
1	2
4	5

vs

A	B
1	5
1	5
1	5
4	5

vs



# Automatic Data/Rule Repairs, cont.

## ▪ Example

- Expectation: **City → Country**:  
new data conflicts

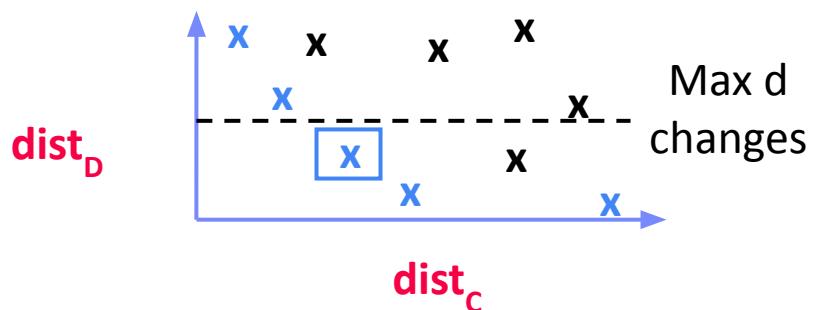
[George Beskales, Ihab F. Ilyas, Lukasz Golab, Artur Galiullin: On the relative trust between inconsistent data and inaccurate constraints. ICDE 2013]



IATA	ICAO	Name	City	Country
MEL	YMM	Melbourne International Airport	Melbourne	Australia
MLB	KMLB	Melbourne International Airport	<b>Melbourne</b>	USA

## ▪ Relative Trust: $\{FName, LName\} \rightarrow Salary$

- **Trusted FD:** → change salary according to  $\{FName, LName\} \rightarrow Salary$
- **Trusted Data:** → change FD to  $\{FName, LName, DoB, Phone\} \rightarrow Salary$
- **Equally-trusted:** → change FD to  
 $\{FName, LName, DoB\} \rightarrow Salary$   
 AND data accordingly



# Data Wrangling

## ■ Data Wrangler Overview

- **Interactive data cleaning** via spreadsheet-like interfaces
- Iterative structure inference, recommendations, and data transformations
- **Predictive interaction**  
(infer next steps from interaction)

[Vijayshankar Raman, Joseph M. Hellerstein:  
Potter's Wheel: An Interactive Data Cleaning  
System. **VLDB 2001**]



[Sean Kandel, Andreas Paepcke, Joseph  
M. Hellerstein, Jeffrey Heer: Wrangler:  
interactive visual specification of data  
transformation scripts. **CHI 2011**]



[Jeffrey Heer, Joseph M. Hellerstein,  
Sean Kandel: Predictive Interaction for  
Data Transformation. **CIDR 2015**]



## ■ Commercial/Free Tools

- **Trifacta** (from Data Wrangler)
- **Google BigQuery + Looker Studio**
- Microsoft Power BI
- Tableau



TRIFACTA



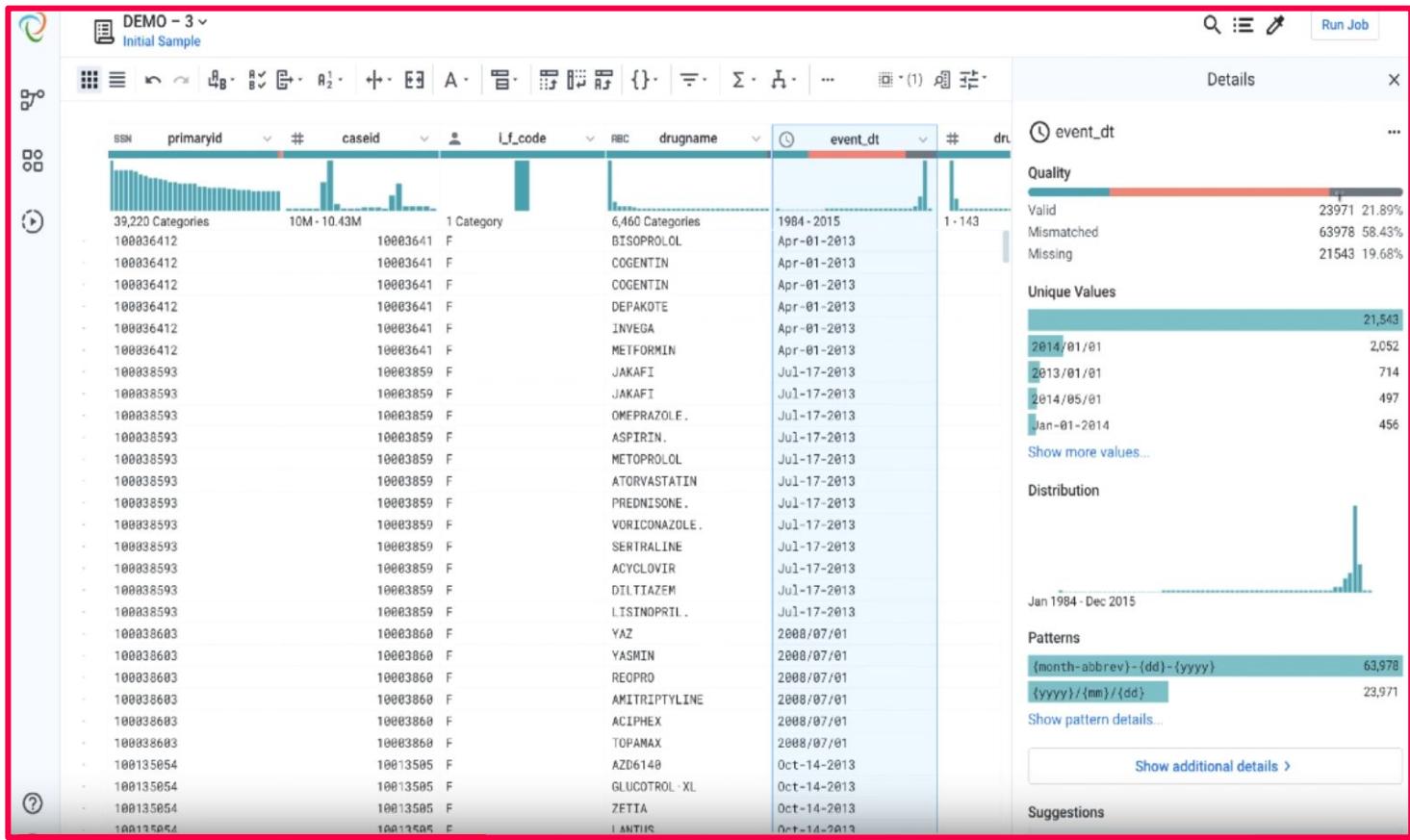
PowerBI



# Data Wrangling, cont.

- Example: Trifacta Smart Cleaning

[Credit: Alex Chan (Apr 2, 2019)  
<https://www.trifecta.com/blog/trifecta-for-data-quality-introducing-smart-cleaning/>]



# Missing Value Imputation

# Basic Missing Value Imputation

## ▪ Missing Value

- Application context defines if **0** is missing value or not
- If differences between **0** and missing values, use **NA** or **Nan?**
- Could be a number outside the domain or symbol as ‘?’

## ▪ Relationship to Data Cleaning

- Missing value is error, need to generate **data repair**
- **Data imputation techniques** can be used as **outlier/anomaly detectors**

## ▪ Recap: Reasons

- #1 **Heterogeneity of Data Sources**
- #2 **Human Error**
- #3 **Measurement/Processing Errors**



**MCAR:** Missing Completely at Random

**MAR:** Missing at Random

**MNAR:** Missing Not at Random

**missing data mechanisms (aka missingness)**

# Basic Missing Value Imputation

## ▪ Missing Completely at Random

- Missing values are randomly distributed across all records (independent from recorded or missing values)

## ▪ Missing at Random

- Missing values are randomly distributed within **one or more sub-groups of records**
- Missing values depend on the recorded but not on the missing values, and **can be recovered**

## ▪ Not Missing at Random

- Missing data depends on the missing values themselves
- E.g., missing low salary, age, weight, etc.

ID	Position	Salary (\$)	
1	Manager	null	(3500)
2	Secretary	2200	
3	Manager	3600	
4	Technician	null	(2400)
5	Technician	2500	
6	Secretary	null	(2000)

ID	Position	Salary (\$)
1	Manager	3500
2	Secretary	2200
3	Manager	3600
4	Technician	null
5	Technician	null
6	Secretary	2000

ID	Position	Salary (\$)
1	Manager	3500
2	Secretary	null
3	Manager	3600
4	Technician	null
5	Technician	2500
6	Secretary	null

&lt;= 2400

missing

# Basic Missing Value Imputation, cont.

## ▪ Basic Value Imputation (for MCAR)

- General-purpose: **replace** by user-specified constant, or **drop records**, or **one-hot encode** as separate column
- Continuous variables: replace by **mean, median**
- Categorical variables: replace by **mode** (most frequent category)

## ▪ Iterative Algorithms (chained-equation imputation for MAR)

- Train ML model on available data to predict missing information
  - Initialize with basic imputation (e.g., mean)
  - One dirty variable at a time
  - Feature k → label, split data into training: observed / scoring: missing
  - Types: categorical → classification, continuous → regression
- Noise reduction: train models over feature subsets + averaging

[Stef van Buuren, Karin Groothuis-Oudshoorn: mice: Multivariate Imputation by Chained Equations in R, **J. of Stat. Software 2011**]



# Basic Missing Value Imputation, cont.

[More details: 1:15' to 1:23' last year lecture]

## ▪ MICE example

- Initialization: **fill in the missing values with column mean (w/ or w/o NAs)**
- Iterations: **each column per iteration**

V1	V2	V3	V4	V5
1	56	2	2	2
2	23	0	0	0
1	NA	0	0	2
2	24	-1	2	NA
NA	22	1	2	0

V1	V2	V3	V4	V5
1	56	2	2	2
2	23	0	0	0
1	25	0	0	2
2	24	-1	2	0.8
1.2	22	1	2	0

train(y)                    train(x)  
 ↓                            ↓

V1	V2	V3	V4	V5
1	56	2	2	2
2	23	0	0	0
1	25	0	0	2
2	24	-1	2	0.8
1.2	22	1	2	0

V1	V2	V3	V4	V5
1	56	2	2	2
2	23	0	0	0
1	25	0	0	2
2	24	-1	2	0.8
?	22	1	2	0

← test(x)

# DNN Based MV Imputation

[More details: 1:15' to 1:23' last year lecture]

[Felix Bießmann et al: DataWig:  
Missing Value Imputation for  
Tables, J. of ML Research 2019]



## ■ DataWig

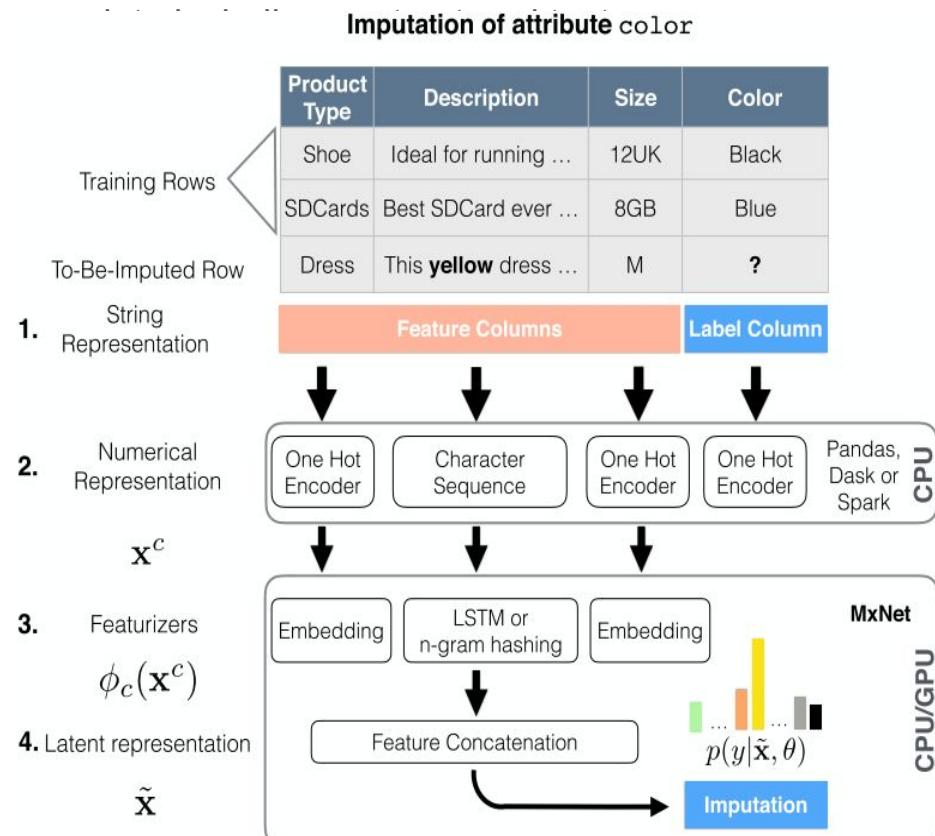
- Missing values imputation for heterogeneous data

Data Type	Featurizers	Loss
Numerical	Normalization Neural Network	Regression
Categorical	Embeddings	Softmax
Text	Bag-of-Words LSTM	N/A

```
table = pandas.read_csv('products.csv')
missing = table[table['color'].isnull()]

# instantiate model and train imputer
model = SimpleImputer(
    input_columns=['description',
                   'product_type',
                   'size'],
    output_columns=['color'])
.fit(table)

# impute missing values
imputed = model.predict(missing)
```



# Time Series Imputation

[More details: 1:15' to 1:23' last year lecture]

[Steffen Moritz and Thomas Bartz-Beielstein: imputeTS: Time Series Missing Value Imputation in R, *The R Journal* 2017]



## ■ Example R Package imputeTS

Function	Option	Description
na.interpolation	linear	Imputation by Linear Interpolation
	spline	Imputation by Spline Interpolation
	stine	Imputation by Stineman Interpolation
na.kalman	StructTS	Imputation by Structural Model & Kalman Smoothing
	auto.arima	Imputation by ARIMA State Space Representation & Kalman Sm.
na.locf	lof	Imputation by Last Observation Carried Forward
	nocb	Imputation by Next Observation Carried Backward
na.ma	simple	Missing Value Imputation by Simple Moving Average
	linear	Missing Value Imputation by Linear Weighted Moving Average
	exponential	Missing Value Imputation by Exponential Weighted Moving Average
na.mean	mean	Missing Value Imputation by Mean Value
	median	Missing Value Imputation by Median Value
	mode	Missing Value Imputation by Mode Value
na.random		Missing Value Imputation by Random Sample
na.replace		Replace Missing Values by a Defined Value

# Summary and Q&A

- Motivation and Terminology
- Data Cleaning and Fusion
- Missing Value Imputation
- Recommended extra-reading:
  - [SAGA: A Scalable Framework for Optimizing Data Cleaning Pipelines for Machine Learning Applications \[S. Siddiqi et al 2023\]](#)
- Next Lectures (**Part B**)
  - **08 Cloud Computing Foundations** [Nov 21st]