

Chapter 2: Data Preprocessing

- Why preprocess the data?
- Descriptive data summarization
- Data cleaning
- Data integration and transformation
- Data reduction
- Discretization and concept hierarchy generation
- Summary

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 comprises 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
 - Believability
 - 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

[water to clean dirty-looking data]

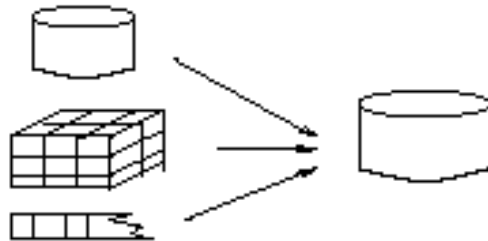


[show soap suds on data]

['clean'-looking data]



Data Integration



Data Transformation

-2, 32, 100, 59, 48



-0.02, 0.32, 1.00, 0.59, 0.48

Data Reduction

	A1	A2	A3	...	A126
T1					
T2					
T3					
T4					
...					
T2000					



	A1	A3	...	A116
T1				
T4				
...				
T1456				

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Mining Data Descriptive Characteristics

- Motivation
 - To better understand the data: central tendency, variation and spread
- Data dispersion characteristics
 - median, max, min, quantiles, outliers, variance, etc.
- Numerical dimensions correspond to sorted intervals
 - Data dispersion: analysed with multiple granularities of precision
 - Boxplot or quantile analysis on sorted intervals
- Dispersion analysis on computed measures
 - Folding measures into numerical dimensions
 - Boxplot or quantile analysis on the transformed cube

Measuring the Central Tendency

- Mean (algebraic measure) (sample vs. population):

- Weighted arithmetic mean:
- Trimmed mean: chopping extreme values

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \quad \mu = \frac{\sum x}{N}$$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i}$$

- Median: A holistic measure

- Middle value if odd number of values, or average of the middle two values otherwise
- Estimated by interpolation (for *grouped data*):

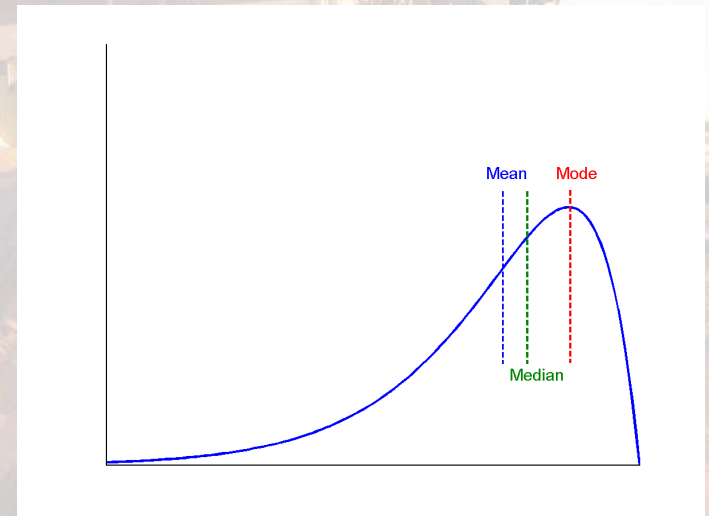
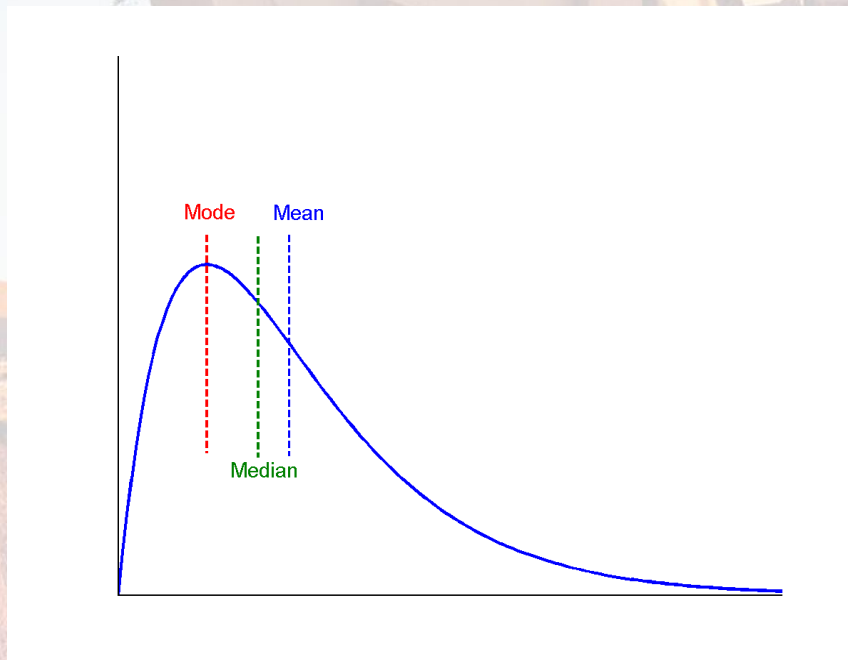
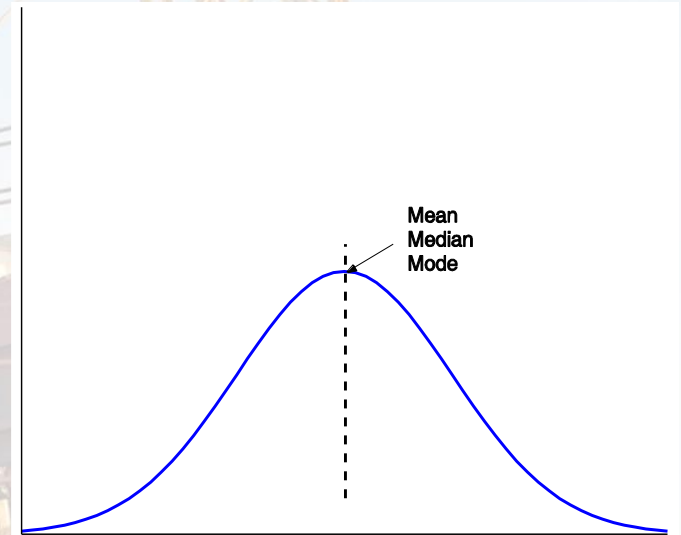
$$\text{median} = L_1 + \left(\frac{n/2 - (\sum f)l}{f_{\text{median}}} \right) c$$

- Mode

- Value that occurs most frequently in the data
- Unimodal, bimodal, trimodal
- Empirical formula: $\text{mean} - \text{mode} = 3 \times (\text{mean} - \text{median})$

Symmetric vs. Skewed Data

- Median, mean and mode of symmetric, positively and negatively skewed data



Measuring the Dispersion of Data

- Quartiles, outliers and boxplots
 - **Quartiles**: Q_1 (25th percentile), Q_3 (75th percentile)
 - **Inter-quartile range**: $IQR = Q_3 - Q_1$
 - **Five number summary**: min, Q_1 , M, Q_3 , max
 - **Boxplot**: ends of the box are the quartiles, median is marked, whiskers, and plot outlier individually
 - **Outlier**: usually, a value higher/lower than $1.5 \times IQR$
- Variance and standard deviation (*sample: s , population: σ*)

$$s^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^2 \right]$$

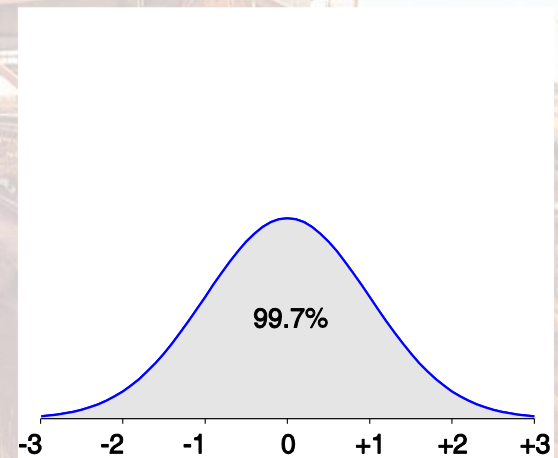
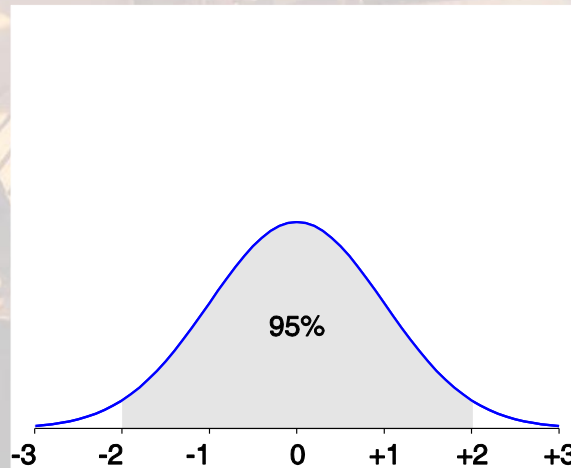
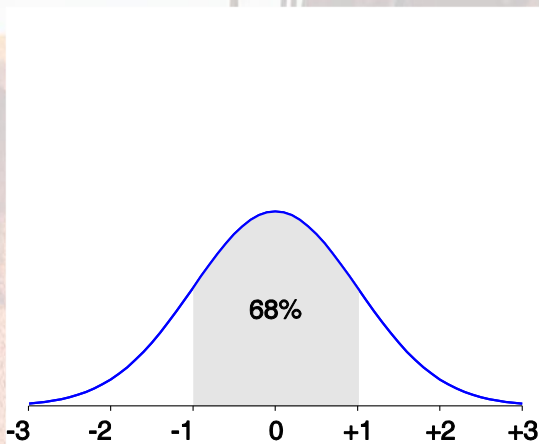
$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \mu^2$$

- **Standard deviation** s (or σ) is the square root of variance s^2 (or σ^2)

Properties of Normal Distribution Curve

- The normal (distribution) curve

- From $\mu - \sigma$ to $\mu + \sigma$: contains about 68% of the measurements (μ : mean, σ : standard deviation)
- From $\mu - 2\sigma$ to $\mu + 2\sigma$: contains about 95% of it
- From $\mu - 3\sigma$ to $\mu + 3\sigma$: contains about 99.7% of it



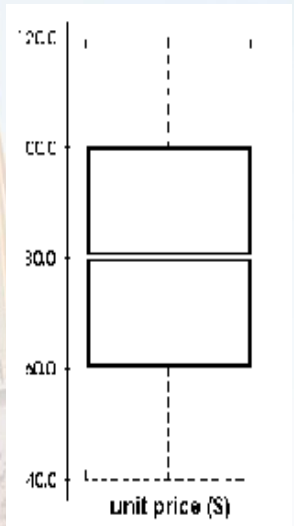
Boxplot Analysis

- Five-number summary of a distribution:

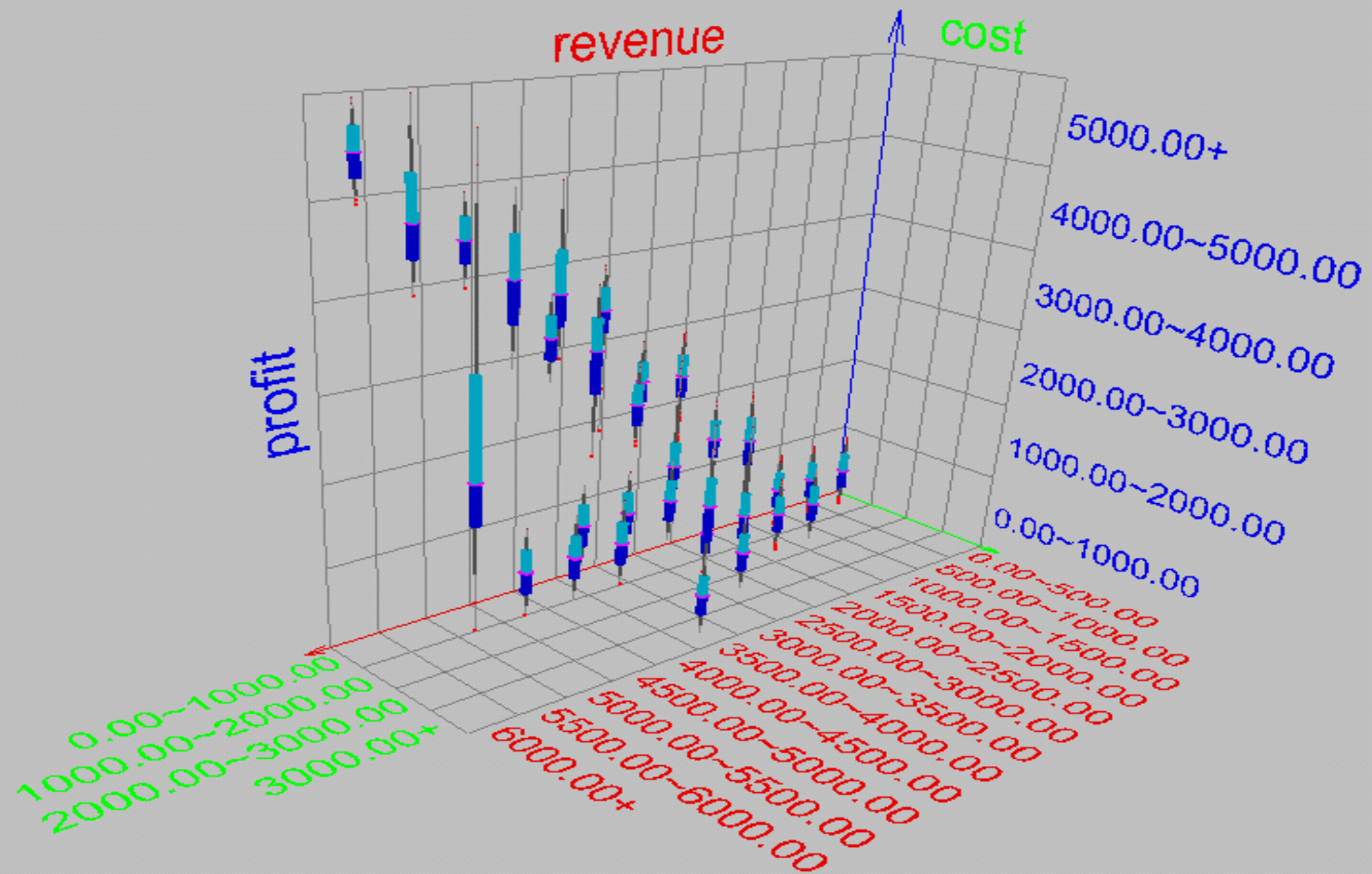
Minimum, Q1, M, Q3, Maximum

- Boxplot

- Data is represented with a box
- The ends of the box are at the first and third quartiles, i.e., the height of the box is IRQ
- The median is marked by a line within the box
- Whiskers: two lines outside the box extend to Minimum and Maximum



Visualization of Data Dispersion: Boxplot Analysis



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Data Cleaning



- Importance

- “Data cleaning is one of the three biggest problems in data warehousing”—Ralph Kimball
- “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
- Missing data may need to be inferred.

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: tedious + infeasible?
- 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)

Simple Discretization Methods: Binning

- **Equal-width** (distance) partitioning
 - Divides the range into N intervals of equal size: uniform grid
 - if A and B are the lowest and highest values of the attribute, the width of intervals will be: $W = (B - A)/N$.
 - The most straightforward, but outliers may dominate presentation
 - Skewed data is not handled well
- **Equal-depth** (frequency) partitioning
 - Divides the range into N intervals, each containing approximately same number of samples
 - Good data scaling
 - Managing categorical attributes can be tricky

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

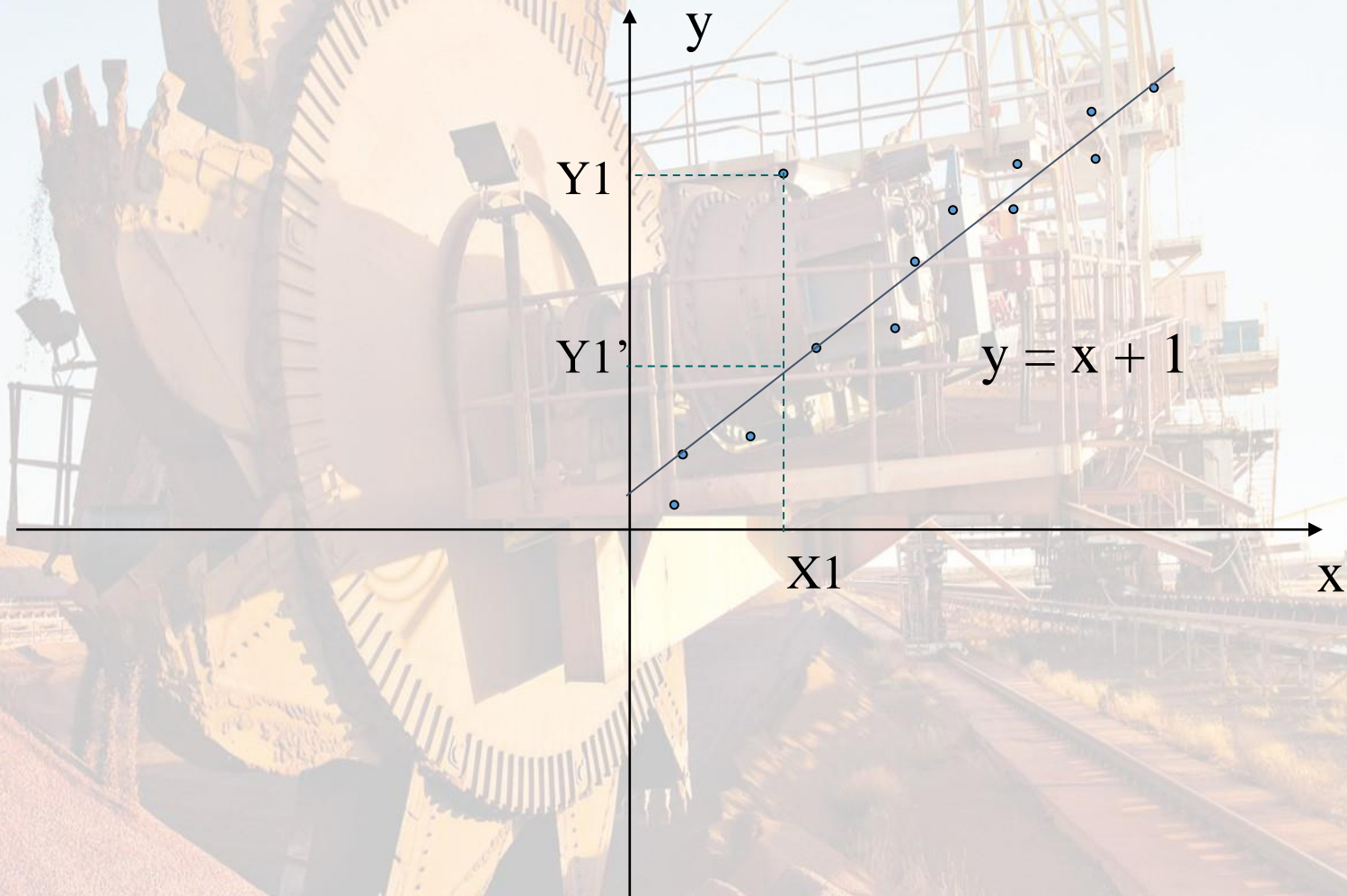
* Smoothing by bin means:

- Bin 1: 9, 9, 9, 9
- Bin 2: 23, 23, 23, 23
- Bin 3: 29, 29, 29, 29

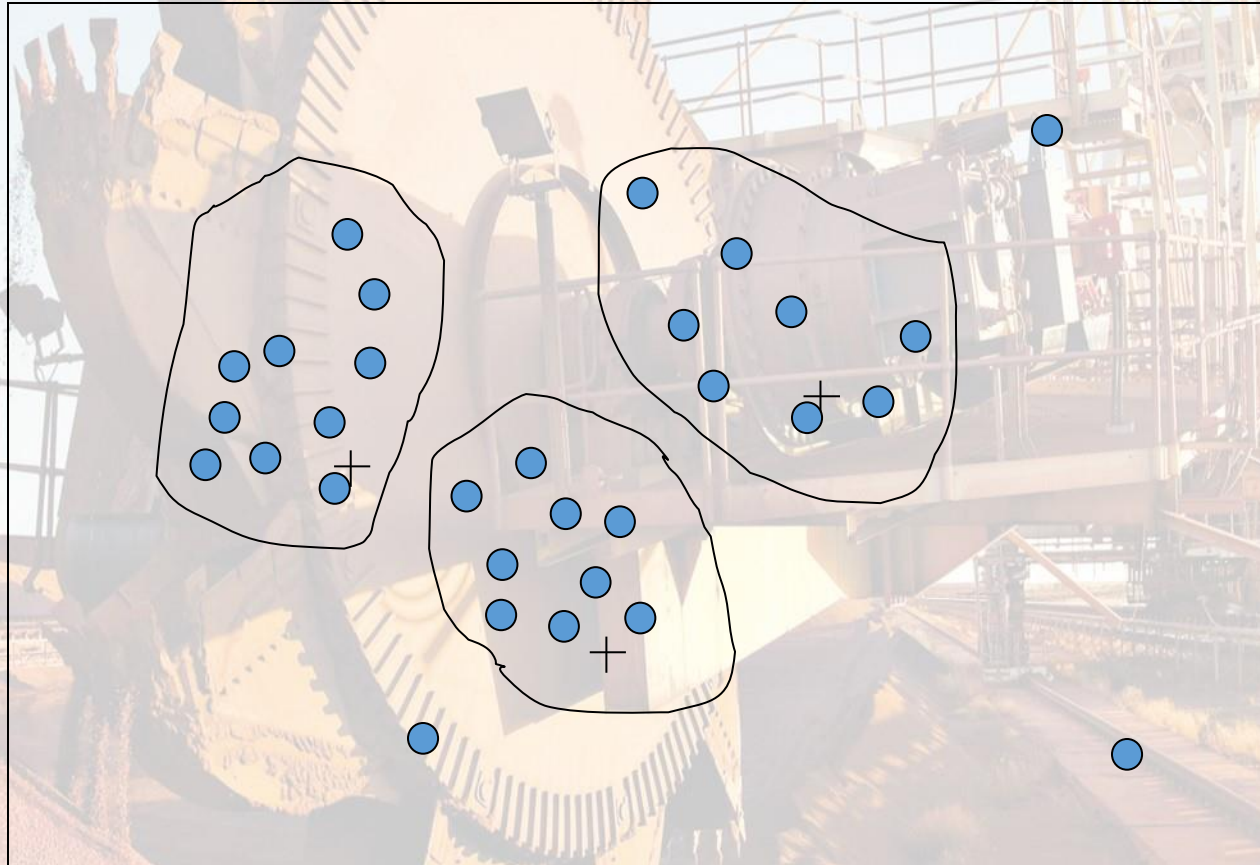
* Smoothing by bin boundaries:

- Bin 1: 4, 4, 4, 15
- Bin 2: 21, 21, 21, 25
- Bin 3: 26, 26, 26, 34

Regression



Cluster Analysis



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Data Integration

- Data integration:
 - Combines data from multiple sources into a coherent store
- Schema integration: e.g., $A.\text{cust-id} \equiv B.\text{cust-}\#$
 - 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

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 Transformation: Normalization

- Min-max normalization: to $[new_min_A, new_max_A]$

$$v' = \frac{v - min_A}{max_A - min_A} (new_max_A - new_min_A) + new_min_A$$

- Ex. Let income range \$12,000 to \$98,000 normalized to $[0.0, 1.0]$.

Then \$73,000 is mapped to $\frac{73,600 - 12,000}{98,000 - 12,000} (1.0 - 0) + 0 = 0.716$

- Z-score normalization (μ : mean, σ : standard deviation):

$$v' = \frac{v - \mu_A}{\sigma_A}$$

- Ex. Let $\mu = 54,000$, $\sigma = 16,000$. Then $\frac{73,600 - 54,000}{16,000} = 1.225$

- Normalization by decimal scaling

$$v' = \frac{v}{10^j} \quad \text{Where } j \text{ is the smallest integer such that } \text{Max}(|v'|) < 1$$

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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
- Data reduction strategies
 - Data cube aggregation:
 - Dimensionality reduction — e.g., remove unimportant attributes
 - Data Compression
 - Numerosity reduction — e.g., fit data into models
 - Discretization and concept hierarchy generation

Data Cube Aggregation

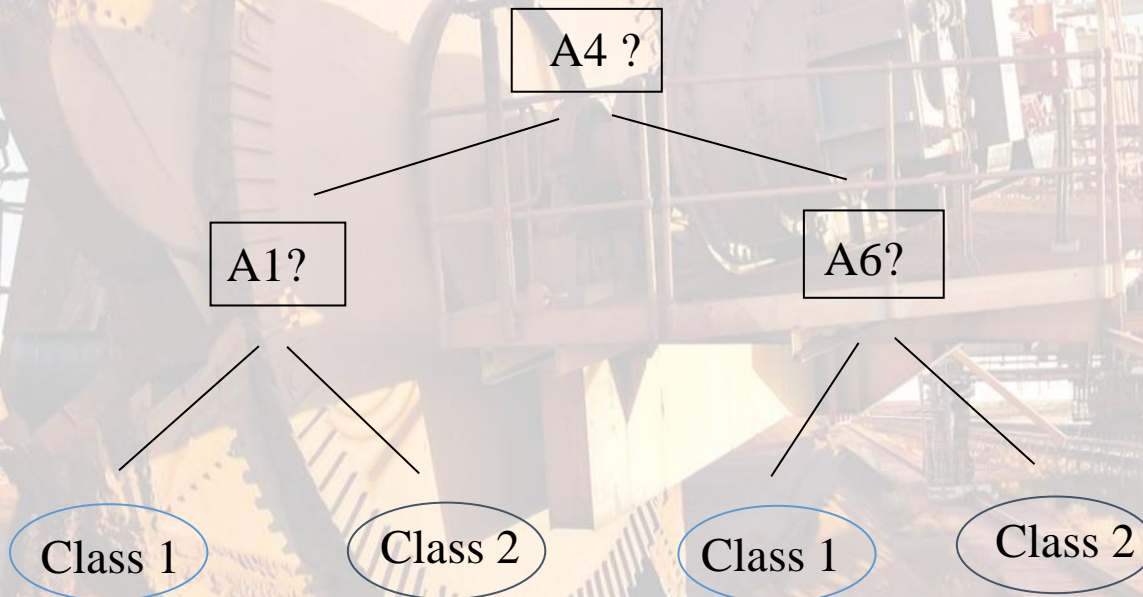
- The lowest level of a data cube (base cuboid)
 - The aggregated data for an **individual entity of interest**
 - E.g., a customer in a phone calling data warehouse
- Multiple levels of aggregation in data cubes
 - Further reduce the size of data to deal with
- Reference appropriate levels
 - Use the smallest representation which is enough to solve the task
- Queries regarding aggregated information should be answered using data cube, when possible

Attribute Subset Selection

- Feature selection (i.e., attribute subset selection):
 - Select a minimum set of features such that the probability distribution of different classes given the values for those features is as close as possible to the original distribution given the values of all features
 - reduce # of patterns in the patterns, easier to understand
- Heuristic methods (due to exponential # of choices):
 - Step-wise forward selection
 - Step-wise backward elimination
 - Combining forward selection and backward elimination
 - Decision-tree induction

Example of Decision Tree Induction

Initial attribute set:
 $\{A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6\}$



----->

Reduced attribute set: $\{A1, A4, A6\}$

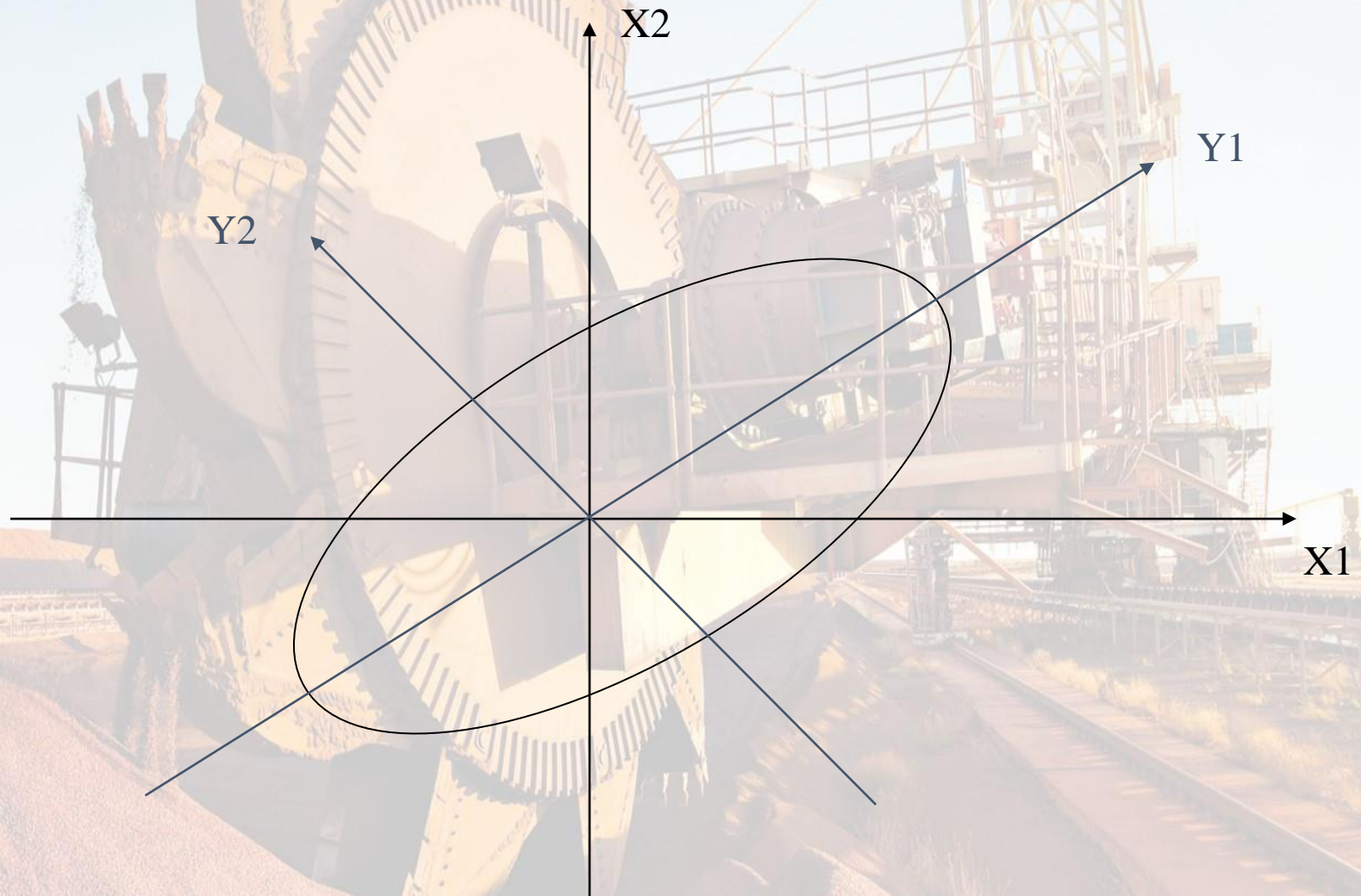
Heuristic Feature Selection Methods

- There are 2^d possible sub-features of d features
- Several heuristic feature selection methods:
 - Best single features under the feature independence assumption: choose by significance tests
 - Best step-wise feature selection:
 - The best single-feature is picked first
 - Then next best feature condition to the first, ...
 - Step-wise feature elimination:
 - Repeatedly eliminate the worst feature
 - Best combined feature selection and elimination
 - Optimal branch and bound:
 - Use feature elimination and backtracking

Dimensionality Reduction: Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

- Given N data vectors from n -dimensions, find $k \leq n$ orthogonal vectors (*principal components*) that can be best used to represent data
- Steps
 - Normalize input data: Each attribute falls within the same range
 - Compute k orthonormal (unit) vectors, i.e., *principal components*
 - Each input data (vector) is a linear combination of the k principal component vectors
 - The principal components are sorted in order of decreasing “significance” or strength
 - Since the components are sorted, the size of the data can be reduced by eliminating the weak components, i.e., those with low variance. (i.e., using the strongest principal components, it is possible to reconstruct a good approximation of the original data)
- Works for numeric data only
- Used when the number of dimensions is large

Principal Component Analysis



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Summary

- Data preparation or preprocessing is a big issue for both data warehousing and data mining
- Descriptive data summarization is need for quality data preprocessing
- Data preparation includes
 - Data cleaning and data integration
 - Data reduction and feature selection
 - Discretization
- A lot a methods have been developed but data preprocessing still an active area of research

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