Virtual Applied Data Science Training Institute - Spring 2024 Training Series

Session 2:
An Overview of Data Exploration

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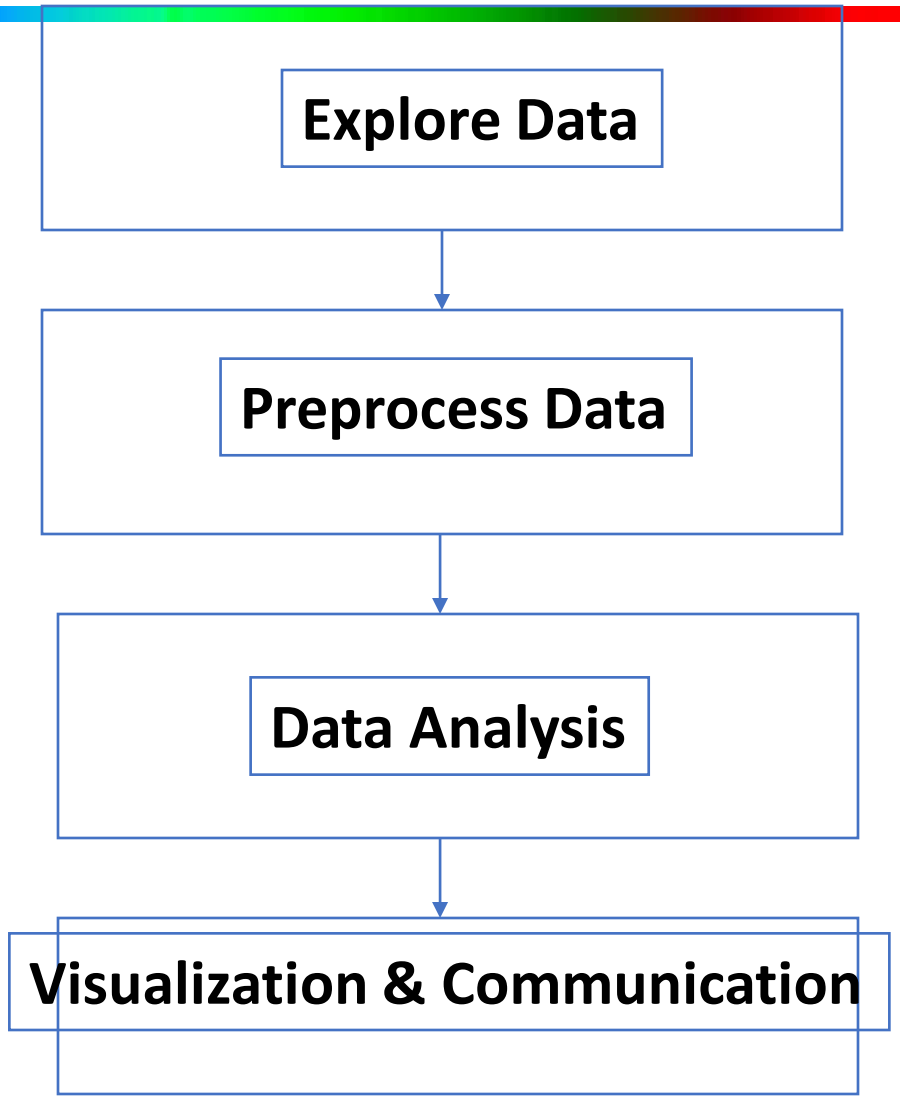
What is data exploration?

A preliminary exploration of the data to better understand its characteristics.

- Key motivations of data exploration include
  - Helping to select the right tool for preprocessing, data analysis and data mining
  - Making use of humans' abilities to recognize patterns
    - People can recognize patterns not captured by data analysis tools

Exploratory Data Process



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=“03/07/1990”
    - 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 (at source)
  - Errors in data transmission
- Inconsistent data may come from
  - Different data sources (transaction processes)
  - 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

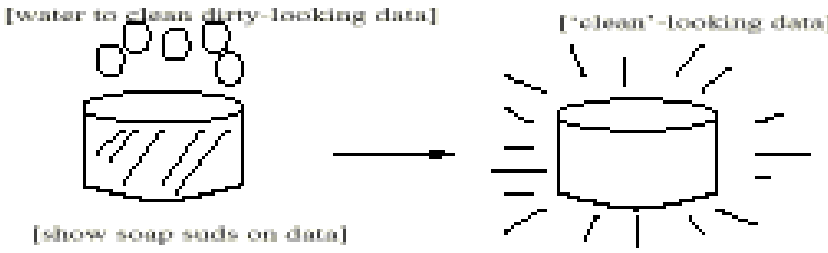
- A well-accepted multidimensional view:
  - Accuracy
  - Completeness
  - Consistency
  - Timeliness
  - Believability (Integrity)
  - Value added
  - Interpretability
  - Accessibility

Major Tasks in Data Preprocessing

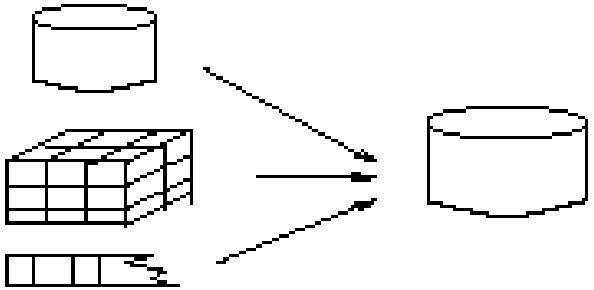
- Data cleaning
  - Fill in missing values, smooth noisy data, identify or remove outliers, and resolve inconsistencies
- Data integration
  - Integration of multiple databases, data cubes, or files
- Data transformation
  - Normalization and aggregation
- Data reduction
  - Obtains reduced representation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

Forms of Data Preprocessing

Data Cleaning

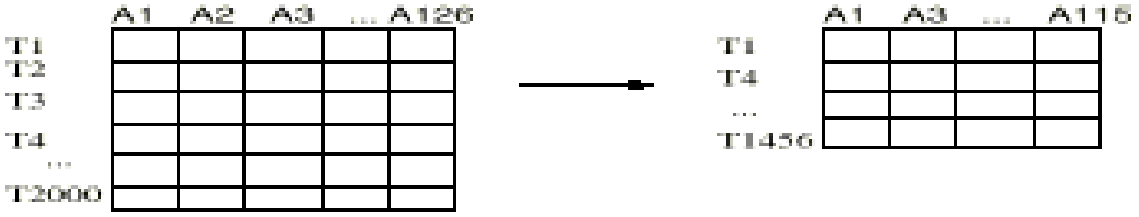


Data Integration



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

Data Reduction



Data Cleaning

- Importance
  - "Data cleaning is one of the three biggest problems in data warehousing" (according to 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
- 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?

Noisy Data

- Noise: random error or variance in a measured variable
- Incorrect attribute values may be 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

Data Integration

- Data integration:
  - Combines data from multiple sources into a coherent store (useful for building relationships and modelling)
- Schema integration: e.g., A.cust-id ≡ B.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

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
- Attribute/feature construction
  - New attributes constructed from the given ones

Data Reduction

- 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
  - Dimensionality reduction — e.g., remove unimportant attributes

Techniques used in Data Exploratory

- In EDA, as originally defined by Tukey
  - The focus was on visualization
  - Clustering and anomaly detection were viewed as exploratory techniques
  - In data mining, clustering and anomaly detection are major areas of interest, and not thought of as just exploratory

- This discussion of data exploration, focuses on
  1. **Visualization (this moves us to the Power BI)**
  2. **Summary statistics**

The TAKE AWAY

- Your Comment, Contribution and Question