

# Chapter I: Introduction

## Knowledge Discovery in Databases

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## Chapter I: Introduction

This is our agenda for this lecture:

- **Why data mining?**
- What is data mining?
- A multi-dimensional view of data mining.
- What kinds of data can be mined?
- What kinds of patterns can be mined?
- What technologies are used?
- What kinds of applications are targeted?
- Major issues in data mining.
- A brief history of data mining.
- Summary.

## Why data mining?

### The explosive growth of data: from terabytes to petabytes and more.

- Data collection and availability:
  - Automated data collection tools.
  - Database systems.
  - World wide web.
  - Computerized society.
  - Digitization.
- Major sources of abundant data:
  - Business: web, e-commerce, transactions, stocks . . .
  - Science: remote sensing, bioinformatics, scientific simulation . . .
  - Society: news, digital cameras, social media . . .
- The era of **big data** (as inflationary used buzzword).

**We are drowning in data, but starving for knowledge. Necessity is the mother of invention.**

For data mining it is the automated analysis of massive data sets.

## Evolution of sciences I

- Before 1600, era of **empirical science**.
- 1600 — 1950s, rise of **theoretical science**.
  - Each discipline has grown a theoretical component.
  - Theoretical models often motivate experiments and generalize our understanding.
- 1950 — 1990s, rise of **computational science**.
  - Over the last 50 years most disciplines have grown a third, computational branch.
    - E.g. empirical, theoretical and computational ecology.
    - E.g. physics, linguistics or biology.
- Computational science traditionally meant simulation.
- It grew out of our inability to describe reality by closed-form mathematical models.

## Evolution of sciences II

- 1990—now, rise of **data science**.
  - The flood of data from new instruments and modern simulations.
  - The ability to economically store and manage petabytes of data.
  - The internet makes all these archives world wide accessible.
  - Scientific *information management*,  
acquisition,  
organization,  
query and  
visualization scale almost linearly with amount of data.
  - **Data mining** is a major new challenge!

Thank you for your attention.  
**Any questions about orga?**

Ask them now, or again, drop me a line:  
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