Chapter 3: Data Preprocessing

- Data Preprocessing: An Overview
  - Data Quality
  - Major Tasks in Data Preprocessing
- Data Cleaning
- Data Integration
- Data Reduction
- Data Transformation and Data Discretization
- Summary

Data Quality: Why Preprocess the Data?

- Measures for data quality: A multidimensional view
  - Accuracy: correct or wrong, accurate or not
  - Completeness: not recorded, unavailable, …
  - Consistency: some modified but some not, dangling, …
  - Timeliness: timely updated?
  - Believability: how trustable the data are?
  - Interpretability: how easily the data can be understood?

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 reduction**
  - Dimensionality reduction
  - Numerosity reduction
  - Data compression
- **Data transformation and data discretization**
  - Normalization
  - Concept hierarchy generation

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Data Cleaning

- Data in the Real World Is Dirty: Lots of potentially incorrect data, e.g., instrument faulty, human or computer error, transmission error
  - incomplete: lacking attribute values, lacking certain attributes of interest, or containing only aggregate data
    - e.g., *Occupation*=" " (missing data)
  - noisy: containing noise, errors, or outliers
    - e.g., *Salary*="−10" (an error)
  - inconsistent: containing discrepancies in codes or names, e.g.,
    - *Age*="42", *Birthday*="03/07/2010"
    - Was rating "1, 2, 3", now rating "A, B, C"
    - discrepancy between duplicate records
  - Intentional (e.g., *disguised missing* data)
    - Jan. 1 as everyone's birthday?

Incomplete (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 (when doing classification)—not effective when the % of missing values per attribute is large
- 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 be due to
  - Faulty data collection instruments
  - Data entry problems
  - Data transmission problems
  - Inconsistency in naming convention (cm => inch)

- Other data problems which require data cleaning
  - Duplicate records
  - Inconsistent data

How to Handle Noisy Data?

- Clustering
  - Detect and remove outliers
- Combined computer and human inspection
  - Detect suspicious values and check by human (e.g., deal with possible outliers)

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Data Integration

- **Data integration**:
  - Combines data from multiple sources into a coherent store
- Schema integration: e.g., A.cust-id $\equiv$ 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., cm vs. inch, meter vs. mile

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* and *covariance analysis*
- Careful integration of the data from multiple sources may help reduce/avoid redundancies and inconsistencies
  - Improves mining speed and quality

Correlation Analysis (Nominal Data)

	Play chess	Not play chess	Sum (row)
Like science fiction	250(90)	200(360)	450
Not like science fiction	50(210)	1000(840)	1050
Sum(col.)	300	1200	1500

- We want to know that like_science_fiction and play_chess are correlated in the group

Correlation Analysis (Nominal Data)

- **X^2 (chi-square) test**

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(Observed - Expected)^2}{Expected}$$

- The larger the X^2 value, the more likely the variables are related
  - The cells that contribute the most to the X^2 value are those whose actual count is very different from the expected count
- Correlation does *not imply* causality
  - # of hospitals and # of car-theft in a city are correlated
  - Both are causally linked to the third variable: population

Chi-Square Calculation: An Example

	Play chess	Not play chess	Sum (row)
Like science fiction	250(90)	200(360)	450
Not like science fiction	50(210)	1000(840)	1050
Sum(col.)	300	1200	1500

- X^2 (chi-square) calculation
  - Numbers in parenthesis are expected counts calculated based on the data distribution in the two categories)

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(250-90)^2}{90} + \frac{(50-210)^2}{210} + \frac{(200-360)^2}{360} + \frac{(1000-840)^2}{840} = 507.93$$

- It shows that like_science_fiction and play_chess are correlated in the group

Correlation Analysis (Numeric Data)

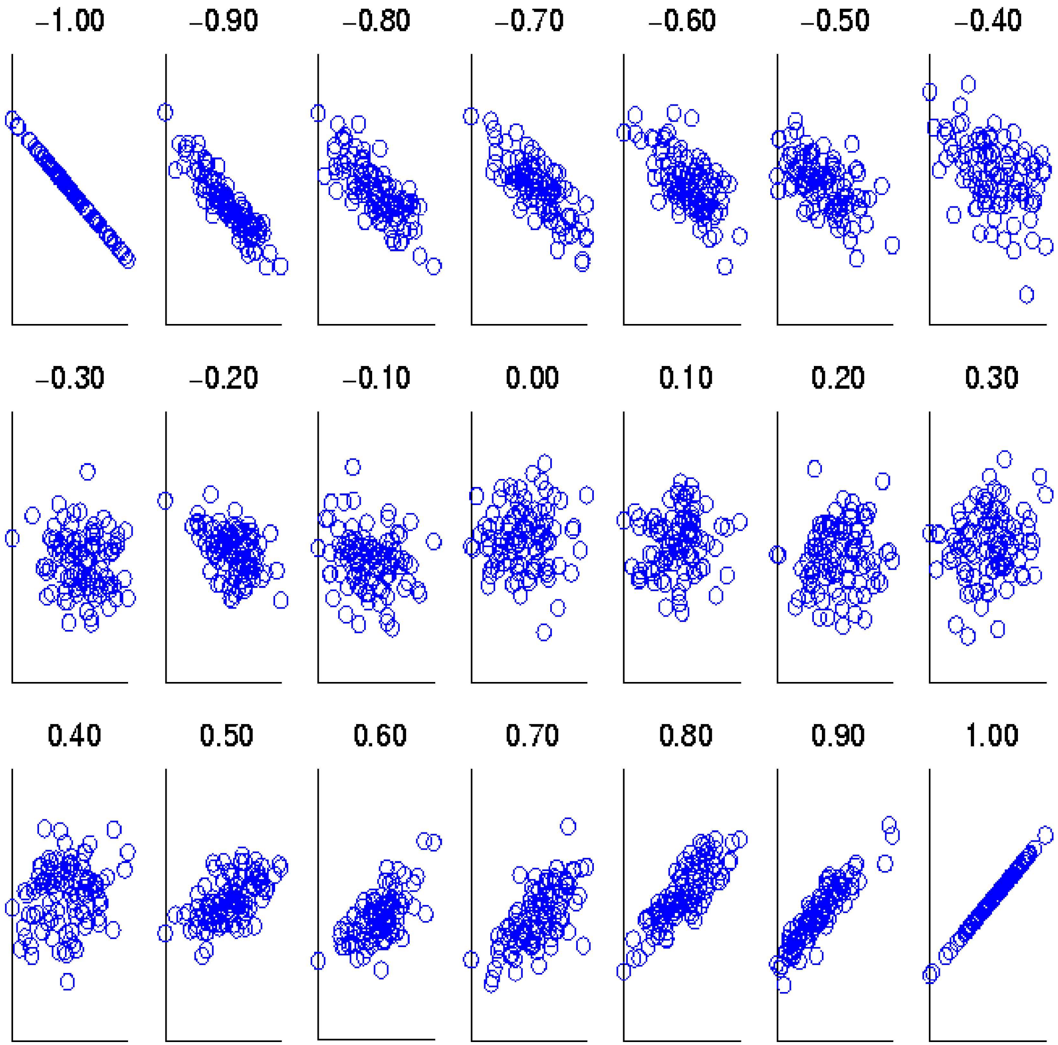
- Correlation coefficient (also called Pearson's product moment coefficient)

$$r_{A,B} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(a_i - \bar{A})(b_i - \bar{B})}{(n-1)\sigma_A \sigma_B} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(a_i b_i) - n\bar{A}\bar{B}}{(n-1)\sigma_A \sigma_B}$$

where n is the number of tuples, $\bar{A}$ and $\bar{B}$ are the respective means of A and B, σ_A and σ_B are the respective standard deviation of A and B, and $\Sigma(a_i b_i)$ is the sum of the AB cross-product.

- If $r_{A,B} > 0$, A and B are positively correlated (A's values increase as B's). The higher, the stronger correlation
- $r_{A,B} = 0$: independent
- $r_{AB} < 0$: negatively correlated

Visually Evaluating Correlation



Scatter plots showing the similarity from –1 to 1.

Covariance (Numeric Data)

- Covariance is similar to correlation

$$Cov(A,B) = E((A-\bar{A})(B-\bar{B})) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(a_i-\bar{A})(b_i-\bar{B})}{n}$$

Correlation coefficient: $$r_{A,B} = \frac{Cov(A,B)}{\sigma_A \sigma_B}$$

where n is the number of tuples, $\overline{A}$ and $\overline{B}$ are the respective mean or **expected values** of A and B, σ_A and σ_B are the respective standard deviation of A and B.

- **Positive covariance**: If $Cov_{A,B} > 0$, then A and B both tend to be larger than their expected values.
- **Negative covariance**: If $Cov_{A,B} < 0$ then if A is larger than its expected value, B is likely to be smaller than its expected value.
- **Independence**: $Cov_{A,B} = 0$

Co-Variance: An Example

$$Cov(A,B) = E((A-\bar{A})(B-\bar{B})) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(a_i-\bar{A})(b_i-\bar{B})}{n}$$

- It can be simplified in computation as

$$Cov(A,B) = E(A \cdot B) - \bar{A}\bar{B}$$

- Suppose two stocks A and B have the following values in one week: (2, 5), (3, 8), (5, 10), (4, 11), (6, 14).
- Question: If the stocks are affected by the same industry trends, will their prices rise or fall together?
  - E(A) = (2 + 3 + 5 + 4 + 6)/ 5 = 20/5 = 4
  - E(B) = (5 + 8 + 10 + 11 + 14) /5 = 48/5 = 9.6
  - Cov(A,B) = (2×5+3×8+5×10+4×11+6×14)/5 − 4 × 9.6 = 4
- Thus, A and B rise together since Cov(A, B) > 0.

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Data Reduction Strategies

- **Data reduction**: Obtain a reduced representation of the data set
  - Much smaller in volume but yet produces the same (or almost the same) analytical results
- Why data reduction?
  - A database/data warehouse may store terabytes of data
  - Complex data analysis may take a very long time to run on the complete data set
- Data reduction strategies
  - Dimensionality reduction, e.g., remove unimportant attributes
    - Wavelet transforms; Principal Components Analysis (PCA)
    - Feature subset selection, feature creation
  - Numerosity reduction (some simply call it: Data Reduction)
    - Regression
    - Histograms, clustering, sampling
  - Data compression