



Machine Learning Case Studies

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Association Rules Mining Case Study

Danish Medical Data

Objective

Using data from the *Danish National Patient Registry*, the authors sought connections between different **diagnoses**: how does a diagnosis at some point in time allow for the prediction of another diagnosis at a later time?

Jensen et al.

Temporal disease trajectories condensed from
population-wide registry data covering 6.2
million patients

Nature Communications, vol. 5, 2014

Association Rules Mining Case Study

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Methodology

1. compute the **strength of correlation** for pairs of diagnoses over a 5 year interval (on a representative subset of the data)
2. test diagnoses pairs for **directionality** (one diagnosis repeatedly occurring before the other)
3. determine reasonable **diagnosis trajectories** (thoroughfares) by combining smaller (but frequent) trajectories with overlapping diagnoses
4. **validate** the trajectories by comparison with non-Danish data
5. **cluster** the thoroughfares to identify a small number of **central medical conditions** (key diagnoses) around which disease progression is organized

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Data

The *Danish National Patient Registry* is an electronic health registry containing administrative information and diagnoses, covering the whole population of Denmark, including private and public hospital visits of all types:

- inpatient (overnight stay)
- outpatient (no overnight stay)
- emergency visits.

The data set covers 15 years of such visits, from January '96 to November '10, and consists of 68 million records for 6.2 million patients.

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Challenges and Pitfalls

- Access to the **patient registry** was protected and could only be granted after approval by *the National Board of Health*.
- There are gender-specific differences in diagnostic trends, but many diagnoses were made predominantly in different sites, suggesting the stratifying by **site** as well as by **gender**.
- In the process of forming small diagnoses chains, they had to compute the correlations using **large groups** for each pair of diagnoses (1 million diagnosis pairs = 80+ million samples) to compensate for **multiple testing** (1000s years' worth of CPU run time) – pre-filtering steps were used to avoid this pitfall.

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Project Summary and Results

The dataset was reduced to **1,171 significant trajectories**.

These thoroughfares were clustered into patterns centred on 5 key diagnoses for disease progression:

- **diabetes**
- **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**
- **cancer**
- **arthritis**
- **cerebrovascular disease**

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Project Summary and Results

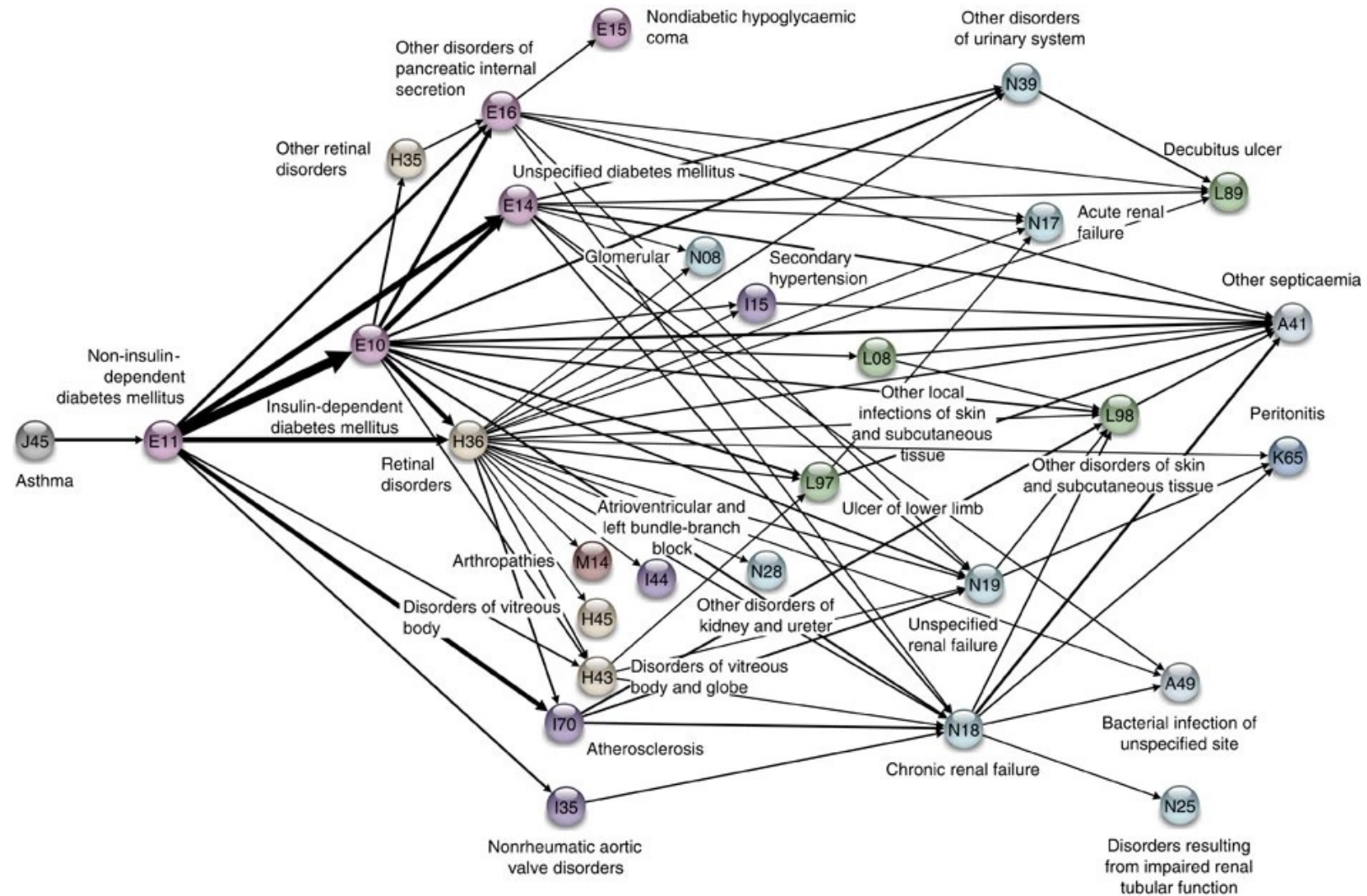
Early diagnoses for these central factors can help reduce the risk of adverse outcome linked to future diagnoses of other conditions.

Among the specific results, the following “surprising” insights were found:

- a diagnosis of anemia is typically followed months later by the **discovery of colon cancer**
- a diagnosis of gout was identified as **a step on the path** toward eventual diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases
- COPD is **under-diagnosed** and **under-treated**

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Nature Communications, vol. 5, 2014

Classification Case Study

Minnesota Tax Audits

Objective

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) estimated that there were large gaps between **revenue owed** and **revenue collected** for 2001 and for 2006.

Using DoR data, the authors sought to increase **efficiency** in the audit selection process and to **reduce the gap** between revenue owed and revenue collected.

Hsu et al.

[Data Mining Based Tax Audit Selection: A Case Study of a Pilot Project at the Minnesota Department of Revenue](#)

Real World Data Mining Applications, 2015

Classification Case Study

Minnesota Tax Audits

Hsu et al.
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Real World Data Mining Applications, 2015

Methodology

1. **data selection and separation:** experts selected several hundred cases to audit and divided them into training, testing and validating sets
2. **classification modeling** using MultiBoosting, Naïve Bayes, C4.5 decision trees, multilayer perceptrons, support vector machines, etc.
3. **evaluation of all models** on the testing set – models performed poorly until the size of the business being audited was recognized to have an effect, leading to two separate tasks (large/small businesses).
4. **model selection/validation** compared the estimated accuracy between different classification model predictions and the actual field audits (MultiBoosting with Naïve Bayes was selected as the final model; suggesting improvements to increase audit efficiency).

Classification Case Study

Minnesota Tax Audits

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Data

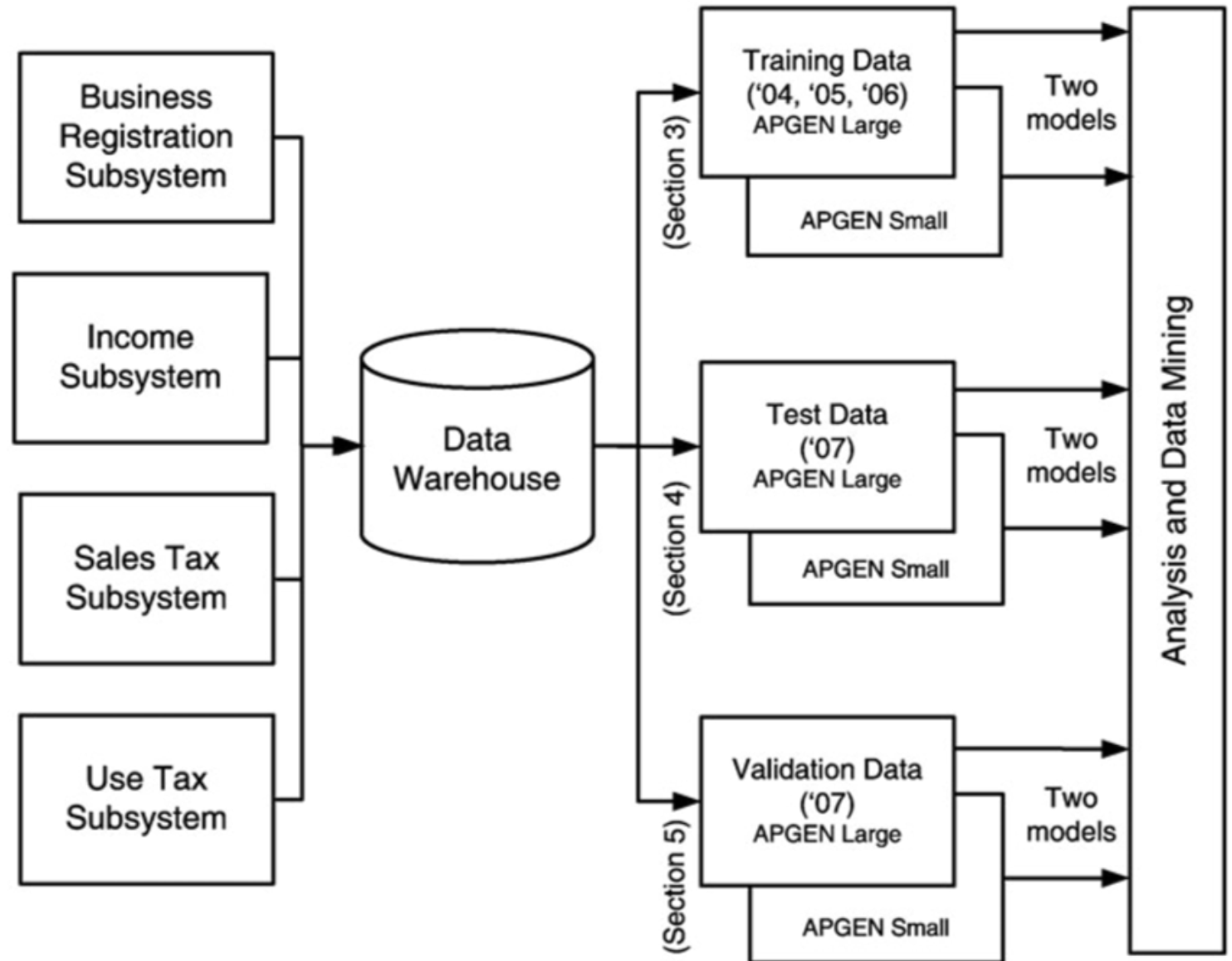
Selected tax audit cases from 2004 to 2007, collected by the audit experts, which were split into training, testing and validation sets:

- the **training data** set consisted of *Audit Plan General (APGEN) Use Tax* audits and their results for the years 2004-2006
- the **testing data** consisted of APGEN Use Tax audits conducted in 2007 and was used to test or evaluate models (for Large and Smaller businesses) built on the training dataset
- while **validation** was assessed by actually conducting field audits on predictions made by models built on 2007 Use Tax return data processed in 2008.

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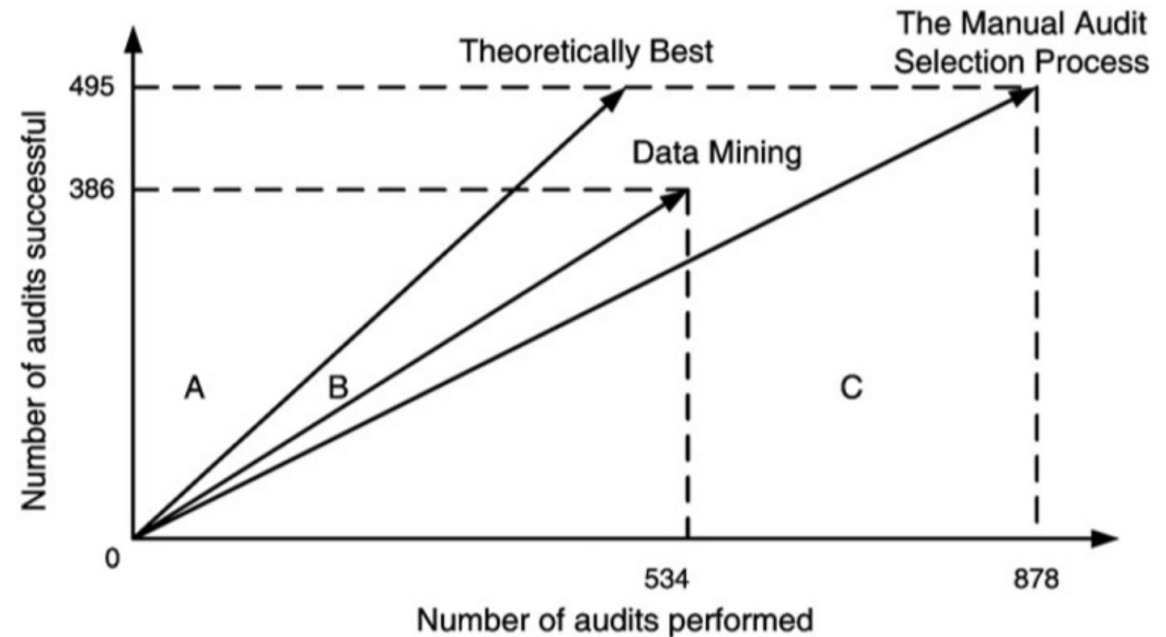
Strengths and Limitations of the Algorithms

- Naïve Bayes classification assumes independence of the features, which rarely occurs in real-world situations. This approach is also known to potentially introduce bias to classification schemes. In spite of this, classification models built using it have a successfully track record.
- MultiBoosting is an **ensemble technique** that uses committee (i.e. groups of classification models) and “group wisdom” to make predictions; unlike other ensemble techniques, it is different from other ensemble techniques in the sense that it forms a committee of sub-committees, which has a tendency to reduce both bias and variance of predictions.

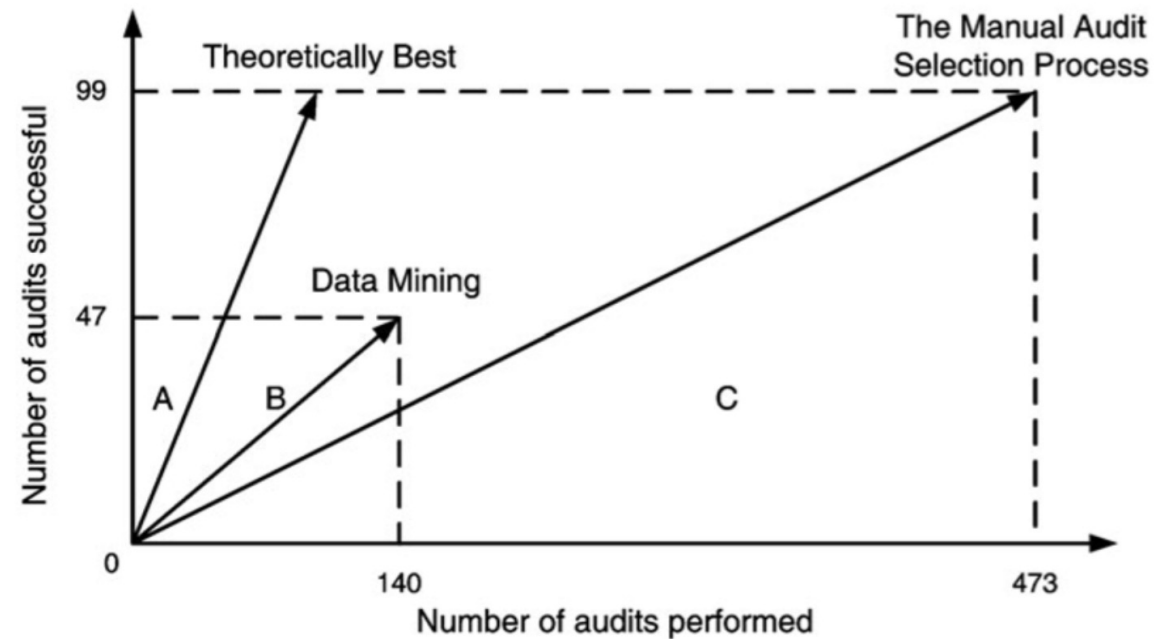
Classification Case Study

Minnesota Tax Audits

APGEN
Large



APGEN
Small



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APGEN
Large

	Predicted as good	Predicted as bad
Actually good	386 (Use tax collected) R = \$5,577,431 (83.6 %) C = \$177,560 (44 %)	109 (Use tax lost) R = \$925,293 (13.9 %) C = \$50,140 (12.4 %)
Actually bad	148 (costs wasted) R = \$72,744 (1.1 %) C = \$68,080 (16.9 %)	235 (costs saved) R = \$98,105 (1.4 %) C = \$108,100 (26.7 %)

APGEN
Small

	Predicted as good	Predicted as bad
Actually good	47 (Use tax collected) R = \$263,706 (42.5 %) C = \$21,620 (9.9 %)	52 (Use tax lost) R = \$264,101 (42.5 %) C = \$23,920 (11 %)
Actually bad	93 (costs wasted) R = \$24,441 (3.9 %) C = \$42,780 (19.7 %)	281 (costs saved) R = \$68,818 (11.1 %) C = \$129,260 (59.4 %)

Classification Case Study

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Take-Aways

- Many models were churned out before the team made a final selection.
- Past performance of a model family in a previous project can guide the selection, but remember the *No Free Lunch (NFL) Theorem*: nothing works best all the time!
- The feature selection process could very well require a number of visits to domain experts before the feature set yields promising results.
- Data analysis teams should seek out individuals with a good understand of both data and context.
- Domain-specific knowledge has to be integrated in the model in order to beat random classifiers, on average.
- Even slight improvements over the current approach can find a useful place in an organization – data science is not solely about Big Data and disruption!

Clustering Case Study

Livehoods

Objective

When we think of similarity at the urban level, we typically think in terms of neighbourhoods. Is there some other way to identify similar parts of a city?

The researchers aims to draw the boundaries of **livehoods**, areas of similar character within a city, by using clustering models. Unlike **static** administrative neighborhoods, the livehoods are defined based on the **habits** of their inhabitants.

Cranshaw *et al.*
[The Livehoods Project: Utilizing Social Media
to Understand the Dynamics of a City](#)
ICWSM, 2012

Clustering Case Study

Livehoods

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Methodology

The authors use **spectral clustering** to discover **distinct geographic areas** of the city based on collective **movement patterns**.

Livehood clusters are built as follows:

1. a **geographic distance** is computed based on pairs of check-in venues' coordinates;
2. a **social similarity** is computed between each pair of **venues** using cosine measurements;
3. spectral clustering produces **candidate livehoods**;
4. interviews are conducted with residents in order to **explore, label, and validate** the clusters discovered by the algorithm.

Clustering Case Study

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ICWSM, 2012

Data

The data comes from two sources, combining approximately 11 million check-ins from the dataset of Chen et al. (a recommendation site for venues based on users' experiences) and a new dataset of 7 million Twitter check-ins downloaded between June and December of 2011.

For each check-in, the data consists of the **user ID**, the **time**, the **latitude and longitude**, the **name of the venue**, and its **category**.

In this case study, data from the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is examined *via* 42,787 check-ins of 3840 users at 5349 venues.

Clustering Case Study

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Strengths and Limitations of the Approach

- The technique used in this study is **agnostic** towards the particular source of the data: it is not dependent on meta-knowledge about the data.
- The algorithm may be prone to “majority” bias, possibly misrepresenting/hiding minority behaviours.
- The dataset is built from a **limited** sample of check-ins shared on Twitter and are therefore biased towards the types of visits/locations that people typically want to share **publicly**.
- Tuning the clusters is non-trivial: experimenter bias may combine with “confirmation bias” of the interviewees in the validation stage – if the researchers are residents of Pittsburgh, will they see clusters when there were none?

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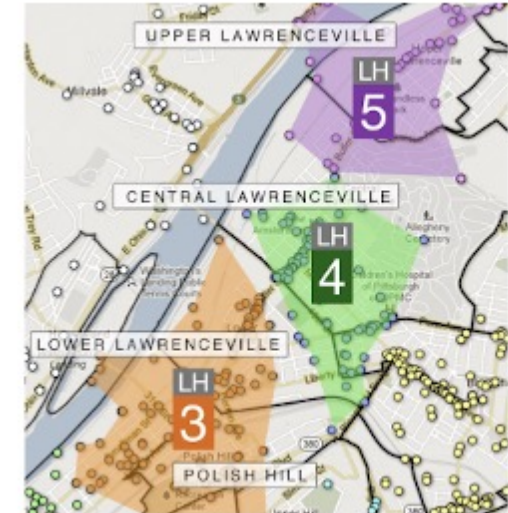
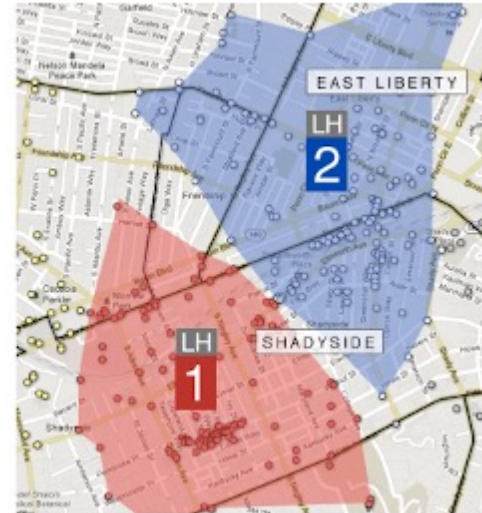
Results, Evaluation, and Validation

Over 3 areas of the city, 9 livehoods have been identified and validated by 27 Pittsburgh residents

- **Municipal Neighborhoods Borders:** livehoods are dynamic, and evolve as people's behaviours change, unlike fixed neighbourhoods set by the city government.
- **Demographics:** the interviews displayed strong evidence that the demographics of the residents and visitors of an area play a strong role in explaining the livehood divisions.
- **Development and Resources:** economic development can affect the character of an area. Similarly, the resources provided by a region has a strong influence on the people that visit it, and hence its resulting character.

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