

# CS685: DATA MINING

## DATA PREPROCESSING AND DATA CLEANING

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1<sup>st</sup> semester, 2021-22  
Mon 1030-1200 (online)

# Data Quality

- Data should have the following qualities
  - Accuracy
  - Completeness
  - Consistency
  - Timeliness
  - Reliability
  - Interpretability
  - Availability

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- Data can also be classified in other ways

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  - Categories
  - Example: color
  - Operations: equal, not equal
- **Binary**
  - Special case of nominal
  - Example: gender, diabetic
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  - Example: temperature in Kelvin, age, mass, length
  - Operations: difference, ratio
- **Interval-scaled**
  - Measured on equal sized units
  - Example: temperature in Celsius, date
  - No zero point: absolute value has no meaning
  - Operations: difference

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- *Domain knowledge* about data and attributes helps data mining

# Data Preprocessing

- Data preprocessing is the process of preparing the data to be fit for data mining algorithms and methods
- Known as ETL (Extract, Transform, Load)
- It may involve one or more of the following steps
  - Data cleaning
  - Data reduction/summarization
  - Data integration
  - Data transformation

# Data Cleaning

- Process of handling errors in data
- Different ways
- Filling in missing values
- Handling noise
- Removing outliers
  - One of the main methods in handling noise
- Resolving inconsistent data
  - Out of range
  - Once identified as inconsistent data, handled as missing value
- De-duplicating duplicated objects

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- Use the most probable value
  - Mode

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  - Signal-to-noise ratio should not be too low
- White noise
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- Mostly **due to data collection errors**
- **Introduces errors in statistics about the data**
- If most attributes are exact copies, then it is easy to remove
- Sometimes one or more attributes are slightly different
- *Domain knowledge* needs to be utilized to identify such cases
- Process is called **de-duplication**

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- **Schema matching and entity identification**
  - Is cust\_id equal to cust\_number?
- **Correlation analysis to reduce redundancy**
- **Chi-square test for categorical data**
- **De-duplication**

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- Smoothing of bins using histograms
- Aggregation and summarization
- Generalization
- Normalization

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- This puts range to  $(-\infty, +\infty)$
- Also called **standard score** or **z-score** since it corresponds to the standard normal distribution  $N(0, 1)$