

Introduction to Data Cleaning

Helena Galhardas
DEI/IST

Follow me on [LinkedIn](#) for more :
Steve Nouri
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stevenouri/>

1

References

- No single reference!
- “Data Quality: Concepts, Methodologies and Techniques”, C. Batini and M. Scannapieco, Springer-Verlag, 2006 (Chapts. 1, 2, and 4)
- Slides “Data Quality and Data Cleansing” course, Felix Naumann, Winter 2014/15
- “Foundations of Data Quality Management”, W. Fan and F. Geerts, 2012
- Oliveira, P. (2009). “Detecção e correcção de problemas de qualidade de dados: Modelo, Sintaxe e Semântica”. PhD thesis, U. do Minho.

2

So far...

- We've studied how to perform:
 - String matchingefficiently and effectively.
- We've seen how string matching is important in data integration
- Now, we'll see how string matching is important in **data cleaning**

3

Example (1)

Table R

Name	SSN	Addr
Jack Lemmon	430-871-8294	Maple St
Harrison Ford	292-918-2913	Culver Blvd
Tom Hanks	234-762-1234	Main St
...

Table S

Name	SSN	Addr
Tom Hanks	234-162-1234	Main Street
Kevin Spacey	-	Frost Blvd
Jack Lemon	430-817-8294	Maple Street
...

- Find records from different datasets that could be the same entity

Example (2)

```
<country>
  <name> United States of America </name>
  <cities> New York, Los Angeles, Chicago </
    cities>
  <lakes>
    <name> Lake Michigan </name>
  </lakes>
</country>
```

and

```
<country>
  United States
  <city> New York </city>
  <city> Los Angeles </city>
  <lakes>
    <lake> Lake Michigan </lake>
  </lakes>
</country>
```

are the same
object?

Example (3)

P. Bernstein, D. Chiu: Using Semi-Joins to Solve Relational Queries. JACM 28(1): 25-40(1981)

Philip A. Bernstein, Dah-Ming W. Chiu, Using Semi-Joins to Solve Relational Queries, Journal of the ACM (JACM), v.28 n.1, p.25-40, Jan. 1981

- These two bibliographic references concern the same publication!

The three examples refer to the same problem that is known under different names:

- ❑ approximate duplicate detection
- ❑ record linkage
- ❑ entity resolution
- ❑ merge-purge
- ❑ data matching ...

It is one of the data quality problems addressed by **data cleaning**

Outline

- Introduction to data cleaning
- Application contexts of data cleaning
- Data quality dimensions
- Taxonomy of data quality problems
- Data quality process
- Main data quality tools
- Real-world examples

Why Data Cleaning?

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 (spelling, phonetic and typing errors, word transpositions, multiple values in a single free-form field) or outliers

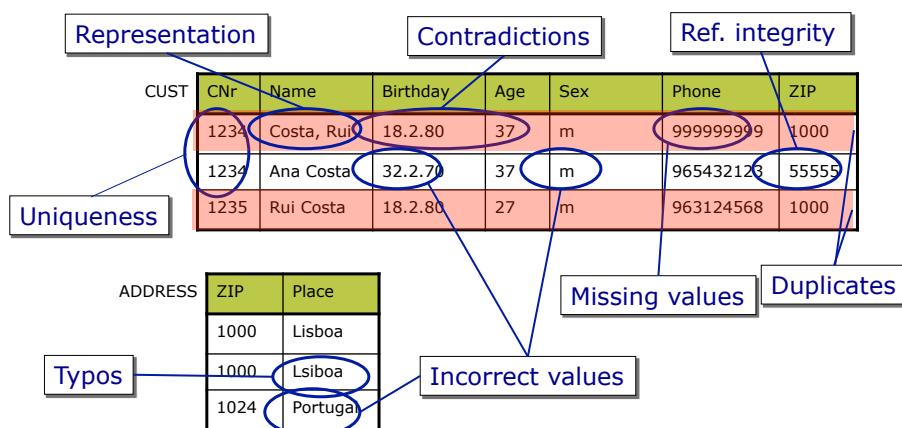
- e.g., Salary="-10"

inconsistent: containing discrepancies in codes or names (synonyms and nicknames, prefix and suffix variations, abbreviations, truncation and initials)

- e.g., Age="42" Birthday="03/07/1997"
- e.g., was rating "1,2,3", now rating "A, B, C"
- e.g., discrepancy between approximate duplicate records

9

Data Quality Problems (Dirty Data)



10

Impact of Data Quality Problems

- **Incorrect prices** in inventory retail databases [English 1999]
 - Costs for consumers 2.5 billion \$
 - 80% of barcode-scan-errors to the disadvantage of consumer
- **IRS 1992**: almost 100,000 tax refunds not deliverable [English 1999]
- 50% to 80% of computerized **criminal records in the U.S.** were found to be inaccurate, incomplete, or ambiguous. [Strong et al. 1997a]
- **US-Postal Service**: of 100,000 mass-mailings up to 7,000 undeliverable due to incorrect addresses [Pierce 2004]

IRS might be after you — to mail you a check

Incorrect addresses stall nearly 1,500 Tennessee refunds

By BONNA de la CRUZ
Staff Writer

Now that Tilcia L. Menifee knows that she'll be getting \$500 in a tax refund from Uncle Sam, she can do some Christmas shopping, she said.

Why Is Data Dirty?

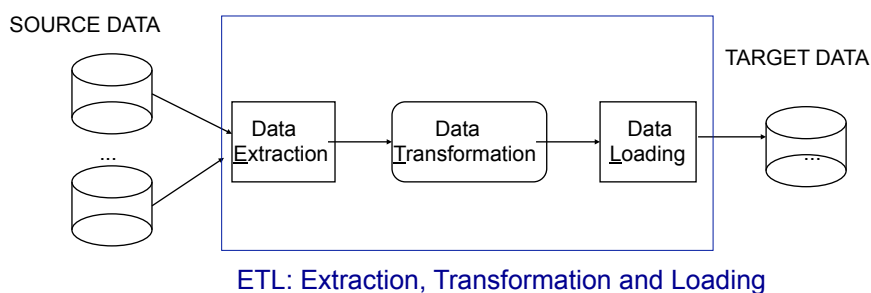
- **Incomplete data** comes from:
 - non available data value when collected
 - different criteria between the time when the data was collected and when it is analyzed
 - human/hardware/software problems
- **Noisy data** comes from:
 - data collection: faulty instruments
 - data entry: human or computer errors
 - data transmission
- **Inconsistent (and duplicate) data** comes from:
 - Different data sources, so non-uniform naming conventions/data codes
 - Functional dependency and/or referential integrity violation

Application contexts

- **Integrate data** from different sources
 - E.g., populating a DW from different operational data stores or a mediator-based architecture
- **Eliminate errors and duplicates** within a single source
 - E.g., duplicates in a file of customers
- **Migrate data** from a source schema into a different fixed target schema
 - E.g., discontinued application packages
- **Convert poorly structured data** into structured data
 - E.g., processing data collected from the Web

13

When materializing the integrated data (data warehousing)...



70% of the time in a data warehousing project is spent with the ETL process

14

Why is Data Cleaning Important?

Activity of converting source data into target data without errors, duplicates, and inconsistencies, i.e.,

Cleaning and Transforming to get...

High-quality data!

- No quality data, **no quality decisions!**
 - Quality decisions must be based on good quality data (e.g., duplicate or missing data may cause incorrect or even misleading statistics)

15

Quality

***"Even though quality
cannot be defined, you
know what it is."***

Robert Pirsig



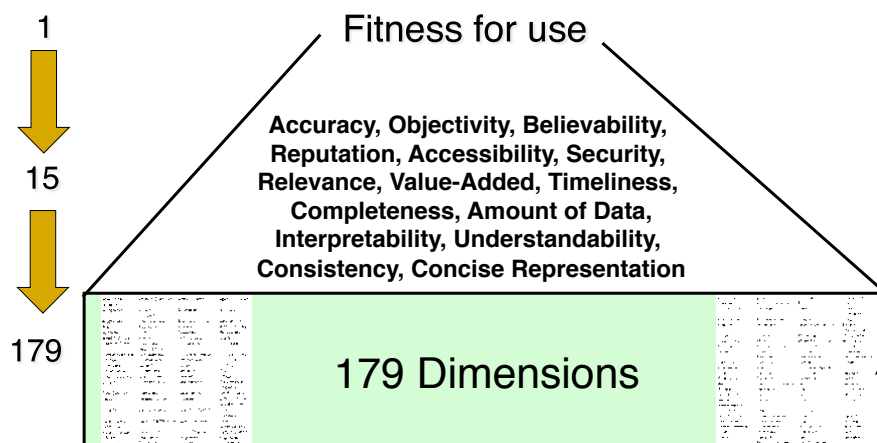
16

Outline

- Introduction to data cleaning
- Application contexts of data cleaning
- **Data quality dimensions**
- Taxonomy of data quality problems
- Data quality process
- Main data quality tools
- Real-world examples

17

What is Data of Good Quality?



Category	IQ Criteria	TDQM	MBIS	Weikum	DWQ	SCOUG	Chen
Content-related Criteria	Accuracy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Documentation					Yes	
	Relevancy	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
	Value-Added	Yes				Yes	
	Completeness	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Technical Criteria	Interpretability	Yes			Yes		
	Timeliness	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Reliability			Yes			
	Latency			Yes			Yes
	Performability			Yes		Yes	
	Response time		Yes	Yes			Yes
	Security	Yes		Yes	Yes		
	Accessibility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Intellectual Criteria	Price		Yes	Yes		Yes	
	Customer Support					Yes	
	Believability	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Instantiation related Criteria	Reputation	Yes	Yes		Yes		
	Objectivity	Yes					
	Verifiability			Yes			
	Amount of data	Yes	Yes				Yes
	Understandability	Yes	Yes				
	Concise represent.	Yes					
	Consistent represent.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Data Quality Dimensions (classical)

Accuracy

- Refers to the closeness of values in a database to the true values of the entities that the data in the database represent; if it is not 100% that means that there are errors in data

Example: "Jhn" vs. "John"

Completeness

- Concerns whether the database has complete information to answer queries
- Partial knowledge of the records in a table or of the attributes in a record

Currency

- Aims at identifying the current values of entities represented by tuples in a database and to answer queries using those values

Example: Residence (Permanent) Address: out-dated vs. up-to-dated

Consistency

- Refers to the validity and integrity of data representing real-world entities; if it is violated, leads to discrepancies and conflicts in the data

Example: ZIP Code and City inconsistent

Accuracy

- Closeness between a value v and a value v' , considered as the correct representation of the real-world phenomenon that v aims to represent.

- Ex: for a person name "John", $v' = \text{John}$ is correct, $v = \text{Jhn}$ is incorrect

Syntactic accuracy: closeness of a value v to the elements of the corresponding definition domain D

- Ex: if $v = \text{Jack}$, even if $v' = \text{John}$, v is considered syntactically correct, because it is an admissible value in the domain of people names.
- Measured by means of **comparison functions** (e.g., edit distance) that evaluate the distance between v and the values of the domain

Semantic accuracy: closeness of the value v to the true value v'

- Measured with a <yes, no> or <correct, not correct> domain
- Coincides with **correctness**
- The corresponding true value has to be known

21

Ganularity of accuracy definition

- Accuracy may refer to:
 - a single value of a relation attribute
 - an attribute or column
 - a relation
 - the whole database

22

Metrics for quantifying accuracy

- **Weak accuracy error**
 - Characterizes accuracy errors that do not affect identification of tuples
- **Strong accuracy error**
 - Characterizes accuracy errors that affect identification of tuples
- **Percentage of accurate tuples**
 - Characterizes the fraction of accurate tuples matched with a reference table

23

Completeness

- “The extent to which data are of sufficient breadth, depth, and scope for the task in hand.”
- Three types:
 - **Schema completeness**: degree to which concepts and their properties are not missing from the schema
 - **Column completeness**: evaluates the missing values for a specific property or column in a table.
 - **Population completeness**: evaluates missing values with respect to a reference population

24

Completeness of relational data

- The **completeness of a table** characterizes the extent to which the table represents the real world.
- Can be characterized with respect to:
 - **The presence/absence and meaning of null values**
Example: In Person(name, surname, birthdate, email), if email is null may indicate the person has no mail (no incompleteness), email exists but is not known (incompleteness), it is not known whether Person has an email (incompleteness may not be the case)
 - **Validity of open world assumption (OWA) or closed world assumption (CWA)**
 - **OWA**: assumes that in addition to missing values, some tuples representing real-world entities may also be missing
 - **CWA**: assumes the database has collected all the tuples representing real-world entities, but the values of some attributes in those tuples are possible missing

25

Metrics for quantifying completeness (1)

- **Model without null values with OWA**
 - Needs a **reference relation** $ref(r)$ for a relation r , that contains all the tuples that satisfy the schema of r

$$C(r) = |r| / |ref(r)|$$

Example: according to a registry of Lisbon municipality, the number of citizens is 2 million. If a company stores data about Lisbon citizens for the purpose of its business and that number is 1,400,000 then $C(r) = 0,7$

26

Metrics for quantifying completeness (2)

- **Model with null values with CWA:** specific definitions for different granularities:
 - **Values:** to capture the presence of null values for some fields of a tuple
 - **Tuple:** to characterize the completeness of a tuple wrt the values of all its fields:
 - Evaluates the % of specified values in the tuple wrt the total number of attributes of the tuple itself
- Example: `Student(stID, name, surname, vote, examdate)`
- Equal to 1 for (6754, Mike, Collins, 29, 7/17/2004)
- Equal to 0.8 for (6578, Julliane, Merrals, NULL, 7/17/2004)

27

Metrics for quantifying completeness (3)

- **Attribute:** to measure the number of null values of a specific attribute in a relation
 - Evaluates % of specified values in the column corresponding to the attribute wrt the total number of values that should have been specified.
- Example: For calculating the average of votes in `Student`, a notion of the completeness of `vote` should be useful
- **Relations:** to capture the presence of null values in the whole relation
 - Measures how much info is represented in the relation by evaluating the content of the info actually available wrt the maximum possible content, i.e., without null values.

28

Time-related dimensions

Currency: concerns how promptly data are updated

- Example: if the residential address of a person is updated (it corresponds to the address where the person lives) then the currency is high

Volatility: characterizes the frequency with which data vary in time

- Example: Birth dates (volatility zero) vs stock quotes (high degree of volatility)

Timeliness: expresses how current data are for the task in hand

- Example: The timetable for university courses can be current by containing the most recent data, but it cannot be timely if it is available only after the start of the classes.

29

Metrics of time-related dimensions

■ Last update metadata for currency

- Straightforward for data types that change with a fixed frequency

■ Length of time that data remain valid for volatility

■ Currency + check that data are available before the planned usage time for timeliness

30

Consistency

- Captures the **violation of semantic rules** defined over a set of data items, where data items can be tuples of relational tables or records in a file
 - **Integrity constraints** in relational data
 - Domain constraints, key definitions, inclusion and functional dependencies

31

Other dimensions

- **Interpretability**: concerns the documentation and metadata that are available to correctly interpret the meaning and properties of data sources
- **Synchronization** between different time series: concerns proper integration of data having different time stamps.
- **Accessibility**: measures the ability of the user to access the data from his/her own culture, physical status/functions, and technologies available.

32

Outline

- Introduction to data cleaning
- Application contexts of data cleaning
- Data quality dimensions
- **Taxonomy of data quality problems**
- Data quality process
- Main data quality tools
- Real-world examples

33

Taxonomy of data quality problems [Oliveira 2009]

- Value-level
- Value-set (attribute/column) level
- Record level
- Relation level
- Multiple relations level

34

Value level

Missing value: value not filled in a not null attribute

- Ex: birth date = ''

Syntax violation: value does not satisfy the syntax rule defined for the attribute

- Ex: zip code = 27655-175; syntactical rule: xxxx-xxx

Spelling error

- Ex: city = 'Lsboa', instead of 'Lisbon'

Domain violation: value does not belong to the valid domain set

- Ex: age = 240; age: {0, 120}

35

Value-set and Record levels

Value-set level

- **Existence of synonyms:** attribute takes different values, but with the same meaning
 - Ex: emprego = 'futebolista'; emprego = 'jogador futebol'
- **Existence of homonyms:** same word used with diff meanings
 - Ex: same name refers to different authors of a publication
- **Uniqueness violation:** unique attribute takes the same value more than once
 - Ex: two clients have the same ID number
- **Integrity constraint violation**
 - Ex: sum of the values of percent attribute is more than 100

Record level

- **Integrity constraint violation**
 - Ex: total price of a product is different from price plus taxes

36

Relation level

Heterogeneous data representations: different ways of representing the same real world entity

- Ex: name = 'John Smith'; name = 'Smith, John'

Functional dependency violation

- Ex: (2765-175, 'Estoril') and (2765-175, 'Oeiras')

Existence of approximate duplicates

- Ex: (1, André Fialho, 12634268) and (2, André Pereira Fialho, 12634268)

Integrity constraint violation

- Ex: sum of salaries is superior to the max established

37

Multiple tables level

Heterogeneous data representations

- Ex: one table stores meters, another stores inches

Existence of synonyms

Existence of homonyms

Different granularities: same real world entity represented with diff. granularity levels

- Ex: age: {0-30, 31-60, > 60}; age: {0-25, 26-40, 40-65, >65}

Referential integrity violation

Existence of approximate duplicates

Integrity constraint violation

38

Outline

- Introduction to data cleaning
- Application contexts of data cleaning
- Data quality dimensions
- Taxonomy of data quality problems
- **Data quality process**
 - Main data quality tools
 - Real-world examples

39

Data Quality Process

1. **Data Quality Auditing (Assessment)**
 - Data Profiling
 - Data Analysis
2. **Data Quality Improvement**
 - Data Cleaning
 - Data Enrichment

40

Data quality auditing

- Constituted by:
 - **Data profiling** – analysing data sources to identify data quality problems
 - **Data analysis** – statistical evaluation, logical study and application of data mining algorithms to define data patterns and rules
- **Main goals:**
 - To obtain a definition of the data: **metadata** collection
 - To check violations to metadata definition
 - To detect other data quality problems that belong to a given taxonomy
 - To supply recommendations in what concerns the data cleaning task

41

Data Profiling

- **Data source discovery**
 - Metadata
- **Schema discovery**
 - Schema matching and mapping
 - Profiling for metadata (keys, foreign keys, data types, ...)
- **Data discovery**
 - Column-level: Null-values, domains, patterns, value distributions / histograms
 - Table-level: Data mining, rules

Typical techniques used in data quality auditing

- **Dictionaries of words:** so that attribute values are compared with one or more dictionaries of the domain
 - Ex: wordnet
- **Algorithms to detect functional dependencies and their violations**
- **Algorithms to detect duplicates**
 - String matching for string fields
 - Character-based
 - Token-based
 - Phonetic algorithms
 - Record matching
 - Rule-based
 - Probabilistic
 - ...

Nome	Cod.Postal	Localidade
Maria	2765	Estoril
António	2765	S.João Estoril
José	2780	Oeiras
Andreia	1000	Lisboa
Manuela	2865	Setúbal


Localidade=>Cod.Postal

43

Data quality improvement

- Includes often:
 - **Data transformation** – set of operations that source data must undergo to fit target schema
 - **Data cleaning**– detecting, removing and correcting dirty data (including **approximate duplicate elimination**)
 - **Data enrichment**– use of additional information to improve data quality
- **Main goal:**
 - To **correct** the data quality problems detected during the data quality auditing process

44

Typical techniques used in data cleaning and transformation

- Dictionaries of words
- Libraries of pre-defined cleaning functions
- Machine learning techniques
- Techniques for consolidating approximate duplicates

45

Methodology for data cleaning

1. Extraction of the individual fields that are relevant
2. Standardization of record fields
3. Correction of data quality problems at value level
 - Missing values, syntax violation, etc
4. Correction of data quality problems at value-set level and record level
 - Synonyms, homonyms, uniqueness violation, integrity constraint violation, etc
5. Correction of data quality problems at relation level
 - Violation of functional dependencies, duplicate elimination, etc
6. Correction of data quality problems problems at multiple relations level
 - Referential integrity violation, duplicate elimination, etc
- User feedback
 - To solve instances of data quality problems not addressed by automatic methods
- Effectiveness of the data cleaning and transformation process must be always measured for a sample of the data set

46

Data Cleaning Tasks

1. Extraction from sources
 - Technical and syntactic obstacles
2. Transformation
 - Schematic obstacles
3. Standardization
 - Syntactic and semantic obstacles
4. Duplicate detection
 - Similarity functions
 - Algorithms
5. Data fusion / consolidation
 - Semantic obstacles
6. Loading into warehouse / presenting to user

47

Human Interaction is Needed

- Components to implement
 - Wrappers for technical heterogeneity
 - Schema integration based on correspondences
 - Similarity measure for schema elements
 - Similarity measure for records
- Knobs to turn
 - Thresholds for similarity measures
 - Partition size / window size
- Expert guidance
 - Rule selection / rule specification
 - Schema matching
 - Duplicate detection
 - Data fusion

48

Outline

- Introduction to data cleaning
- Application contexts of data cleaning
- Data quality dimensions
- Taxonomy of data quality problems
- Data quality process
- **Main data quality tools**
- Real-world examples

49

Existing technology for ensuring data quality

Ad-hoc programs written in a programming language like C or Java or using an RDBMS proprietary language

- Programs difficult to optimize and maintain

RDBMS mechanisms for guaranteeing integrity constraints

- Do not address important data instance problems

Data transformation workflow scripts using a **data cleaning/profiling tool**

50

Existing technology for ensuring data quality

Ad-hoc programs written in a programming language like C or Java or using an RDBMS proprietary language

- Programs difficult to optimize and maintain

RDBMS mechanisms for guaranteeing integrity constraints

- Do not address important data instance problems

➤ **Data transformation workflow scripts using an data cleaning/profiling tool**

51

Criteria for comparing commercial data quality tools (1)

Debugger:

Data lineage: data lineage or provenance identifies the set of source data items that produced a given data item

Breakpoints: breakpoints is an intentional stopping or pausing place in a cleaning program put in place for debugging purposes

Edit values: the user can edit values during debugging

52

Criteria for comparing commercial data quality tools (2)

Profiling:

Rules: A rule is a business logic that defines conditions applied to data. They are used to validate the data and to measure data quality

Filters: A filter is used to split the data tuples in different groups. Each group should be validated by a different set of rules.

53

Criteria for comparing commercial data quality tools (3)

Execution:

User involvement: Support for user interaction in a data cleaning process

Incremental updates: The ability to incrementally update data targets, instead of rebuilding them from scratch every time

54

Commercial Data Cleaning Tools(2014) (1/3)

Tools	Debugger			Profiling		Execution	
	Data lineage	Breakpoints	Edit values	Rules	Filters	User involvement	Incremental updates
Informatica PowerCenter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
IBM Information Server	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Talend Open Studio	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Oracle Data Integrator	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
SQL Server Integration Services	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
SAS Data Integration Studio	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Pentaho Data Integration	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y
Clover ETL	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

55

Criteria for comparing commercial data quality tools (4)

Extensibility:

Create operators: the user can define new operators

Modify operators: the user can modify standard operators

User Interface:

Drag and drop: the user can define data quality processes using a drag and drop interface

Editor: the user can define and edit data quality processes modeled as workflows using a graphical interface

56

Commercial Data cleaning tools (2014) (2/3)

Tools	Extensibility		User Interface	
	Create Operators	Modify Operators	Drag and Drop	Grahical Editor
Informatica PowerCenter	Y (Java)	N	Y	Y
IBM Information Server	Y (Java)	N	Y	Y
Talend Open Studio	Y (Java, Groovy)	Y (Java)	Y	Y
Oracle Data Integrator	Y	Y	Y	Y
SQL Server Integration Services	Y (C#, VB)	N	Y	Y
SAS Data Integration Studio	Y (SAS)	Y (SAS)	Y	Y
Pentaho Data Integration	Y (Javascript)	N	Y	Y
Clover ETL	Y (CTL)	N	Y	Y

57

Criteria for comparing commercial data quality tools (5)

Scalability:

Grid: the tool can run a cleaning process on a collection of computer resources from multiple locations

Partitioning: the user can partition the data and run each partition independently (on different CPUs or cores)

Pushdown optimization: the tool translates the transformation logic into SQL queries and sends the SQL queries to the database. The database engine executes the SQL queries to process the transformations

Others:

Free version: the tool has a free version

58

Commercial Data Cleaning Tools (2014) (3/3)

Tools	Scalability			Others
	Grid	Partitioning	Pushdown Optimization	Free version
Informatica PowerCenter	Y	Y	Y	Y
IBM Information Server	Y	Y	Y	N
Talend Open Studio	Y	N	Optional ELT	Y
Oracle Data Integrator	Y	N	ELT	Y
SQL Server Integration Services	N	Y	-	Y (IST)
SAS Data Integration Studio	Y	Y	Y	Y (IST)
Pentaho Data Integration	Y	Y	N	Y
Clover ETL	Y	Y	N	Y

59

Research Data cleaning tools (2014) (1/2)

Tools	Detection DQ problems		Repair DQ problems		
	Constraints	Satistical	Search	ML/St	Data Transformations
Cleenex	QCs	N	N	N	Y
Llunatic	Egds	N	Y	N	N
Nadeef	CFDs, MDs	N	Y	N	N
Guided data repair	CFDs	N	Y	Y	N
Scare	N	Y	N	Y	N
Eracer	N	Y	N	Y	N
Continuous data cleaning	FDs	N	Y	Y	N

60

Criteria for comparing research data cleaning tools (1)

Detection:

Constraints – use of rules or/and conditions

- EGDs - equality generating dependencies
- QCs - quality constraints
- CFDs - Conditional functional dependencies
- MDs - Matching dependencies

Statistical – dirty tuples are detected based on simple statistics or in complex data analysis

61

Criteria for comparing research data cleaning tools (1)

Repair:

Search: The system explores the space of possible clean tables and heuristically selects the best table

ML/St: The system uses machine learning and/or statistical models to infer data values or to prune the search

Data transformations: The system models the data cleaning process as a data transformation graph

62

Criteria for comparing research data cleaning tools (3)

User Interface:

Graphical interface: the system provides a visualizing tool and menus to interact

User edition: the system allows the user to edit data values

Others:

Scalability: the system execution time grows linearly with the number of input tuples

Streaming: the system receives tuples and processes each of them treat them individually (opposed to batch processing)

Extensible: the system allows the user to modify and/or insert new algorithms

63

Research Data cleaning tools (2014) (1/2)

Tools	User Interface		Others		
	Graphical Interface	User edition	Extensible	Streaming	Scalability
Cleenex	Y	Y	Matching algorithms	N	N
Llunatic	Y	Y	Cost Managers	N	Y
Nadeef	Y	N	Repair algorithms	N	N
Guided data repair	N	Y	N	N	N
Scare	N	N	N	N	Y
Eracer	N	N	N	N	N
Continuous data cleaning	N	N	N	Y	Y

64

Outline

- Introduction to data cleaning
- Application contexts of data cleaning
- Data quality dimensions
- Taxonomy of data quality problems
- Data quality process
- Main data quality tools
- **Real-world examples**

65

Death by Typo

‘Resurrected,’ but still wallowing in red tape

Government records incorrectly kill off thousands, and there’s no easy fix

By Alex Johnson and Nancy Amons

Reporters

MSNBC and NBC News

updated 6:21 p.m. ET Feb. 29, 2008

For a dead woman, Laura Todd is awfully articulate.

“I don’t think people realize how difficult it is to be dead when you’re not,” said Todd, who is very much alive and kicking in Nashville, Tenn., even though the federal government has said otherwise for many years.

Todd’s struggle started eight years ago with a typo in government records. The government has reassured her numerous times that it has cleared up the confusion, but the problems keep coming.

[Story continues below ↓](#)

Video



[Launch](#)

Does this woman look dead to you?

The government says Toni Anderson is dead, but she insists she is very much alive. David MacAnally of NBC affiliate WTHR reports from Muncie, Ind.

NBC News Channel

66

Google searches for Britney Spears

488941 britney spears 29 brilent spears 9 brintany spears 5 brney spears 3 britly spears 2 brirreny spears
 40134 brittany spears 29 brittany spears 9 britanay spears 5 broitney spears 3 britmeny spears 2 brittany spears
 36315 brittney spears 29 brittany spears 9 britny spears 5 broitny spears 3 britneey spears 2 brittany spears
 24342 britany spears 29 britney spears 9 britn spears 5 bruteny spears 3 britnehy spears 2 brittney spears
 7331 britny spears 26 birtney spears 9 britnew spears 5 btiyney spears 3 britnely spears 2 britain spears
 6633 britney spears 26 breitney spears 9 britneyn spears 5 brittney spears 3 britnesy spears 2 britane spears
 2696 brittney spears 26 britny spears 9 britney spears 5 gritney spears 3 britnetty spears 2 britaneny spears
 1807 briney spears 26 britenay spears 9 britny spears 5 spritney spears 3 britnex spears 2 britania spears
 1635 brittney spears 26 britney spears 9 brittney spears 4 blitny spears 3 britneyxxx spears 2 britann spears
 1479 brintey spears 26 brittan spears 9 brtny spears 4 bnritney spears 3 britnity spears 2 britanna spears
 1479 britanny spears 26 brittne spears 9 brytny spears 4 brandy spears 3 britnley spears 2 britannie spears
 1338 brittany spears 26 brittany spears 9 britney spears 4 brbritney spears 3 britnley spears 2 britannt spears
 1211 britnet spears 24 beitney spears 8 birtny spears 4 breatny spears 3 britterny spears 2 britannu spears
 1096 britney spears 24 birteny spears 8 bithney spears 4 breetney spears 3 brittneey spears 2 britanyl spears
 991 britaney spears 24 brightney spears 8 brattany spears 4 bretney spears 3 brittney spears 2 britant spears
 991 britnay spears 24 brittity spears 8 breitny spears 4 brfitney spears 3 brittney spears 2 briteney spears
 811 brittney spears 24 britanty spears 8 breitny spears 4 briattany spears 3 brittney spears 2 britenany spears
 811 britney spears 24 brittney spears 8 brightny spears 4 brietney spears 3 briytny spears 2 britenet spears
 664 britney spears 24 britini spears 8 brintay spears 4 briety spears 3 britney spears 2 briteny spears
 664 britney spears 24 britnwy spears 8 brintey spears 4 britny spears 3 broteny spears 2 britenys spears
 664 britney spears 24 brittini spears 8 broitney spears 4 brittany spears 3 britaney spears 2 britaney spears
 601 britny spears 24 brittine spears 8 britany spears 4 brinie spears 3 britany spears 2 britan spears
 601 britny spears 24 brittney spears 8 britny spears 4 britney spears 3 britnay spears 2 britany spears
 544 brittany spears 21 birtany spears 8 britneyb spears 4 britne spears 3 britney spears 2 britny spears
 544 brittany spears 21 bityny spears 8 britney spears 4 britaby spears 3 brittany spears 2 britaney spears
 364 britney spears 21 bratney spears 8 britnt spears 4 britaey spears 3 brittany spears 2 britnat spears
 364 brittany spears 21 britani spears 8 brittner spears 4 britainey spears 3 brtnet spears 2 britbey spears
 329 britney spears 21 britanie spears 8 brottner spears 4 britinie spears 3 brytly spears 2 britndy spears
 269 britney spears 21 britaney spears 7 baritney spears 4 brittney spears 3 btney spears 2 britneh spears
 269 britneys spears 21 brittany spears 7 birtney spears 4 britmney spears 3 drittney spears 2 brittney spears
 244 britne spears 21 brittany spears 7 birtney spears 4 britnear spears 3 preitney spears 2 britneyb spears
 244 brytney spears 21 britany spears 7 birtny spears 4 britnel spears 3 britney spears 2 britney spears
 220 breetney spears 21 britany spears 7 breetny spears 4 britneuy spears 2 barittany spears 2 britneyb spears
 220 brittany spears 19 birney spears 7 brianty spears 4 britnew spears 2 bbbritney spears 2 britneym spears
 190 britney spears 19 britney spears 7 brinty spears 4 britmney spears 2 britney spears 2 britney spears
 163 britny spears 19 brittany spears 7 brittany spears 4 brittany spears 2 brittany spears 2 britney spears
 147 britney spears 19 britney spears 7 britny spears 4 brittany spears 2 brittany spears 2 britney spears
 2014 brittany spears 19 britney spears 7 britney spears 4 brittany spears 2 brittany spears 2 britney spears
 147 brittany spears 19 brittany spears 7 britneyu spears 4 brittany spears 2 brittany spears 2 britney spears

Source: <http://www.google.com/jobs/britney.html>

Directmarketing by The Economist

If undelivered please return to:
 BTB MailRight, Woburn Road, Hempton, Leeds LS2 7UA

QWMO

BTB MAILRIGHT WOBURN ROAD HEMPTON LEEDS LS2 7UA

QWMO0071368
 Dr Felix Naumann
 72 A R.-Breitscheid-Str
 Potsdam
 14482
 GERMANY

If undelivered please return to:
 BTB MailRight, Woburn Road, Hempton, Leeds LS2 7UA

QWMO

BTB MAILRIGHT WOBURN ROAD HEMPTON LEEDS LS2 7UA

QWMO0071362
 Felix Naumann
 Rudolf-Breitscheid-Str 72A
 Potsdam
 14482
 GERMANY

FIFA registration form (2010)

The image displays several screenshots of the FIFA registration form (2010) interface. The main form is on the left, with sections for 'Nationality', 'Country of Residence', 'Mother Tongue', 'Preferred FIFA Language', 'Secondary FIFA Language', 'Details', 'Organisation Name', 'Organisation Role (Prof)', and 'Notes (Max 2000 chars)'. The 'Nationality' dropdown is open, showing a list of countries including Palestine, Palestine, British Mandate, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Representations of Czechs and Slovaks (RCS), Republic of Ireland, Réunion, Rhodesia, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saar, Samoa, San Marino, São Tomé e Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Senegal, Serbia, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, and Sierra Leone. To the right, there are three smaller dropdown menus. The top one is open, showing a list of countries including German Democratic Republic, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Germany Federal Republic, Ghana, Gibraltar, and Great Britain. The middle one is open, showing a list of countries including All Ireland (all-Ireland pre 1921), All Ireland (all-Ireland pre 1921), American Samoa, Andorra, and Angola. The bottom one is open, showing a list of countries including Saar, Saar, Samoa, San Marino, São Tomé e Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, and Scotland.

69

German Umlaute

dblp.uni-trier.de

Search Results for 'dessloch'

- ♦ [Stefan Deßloch](#)
- ♦ [Stefan Dessloch](#)

DBLP: [[Home](#)] Search: [Author](#), [Title](#) | [Conferences](#) | [Journals](#)

Michael Lev (lev@uni-trier.de) Thu Jan 31 10:44:06 2008

70

Next lecture

- Data Matching

Follow me on [LinkedIn](#) for more :
Steve Nouri
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stevenouri/>
