

Hands on Data Cleaning of Messy Data

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Motivation of The Lab

- ▶ to present messy data issues in real-world datasets.
- ▶ to explain what can be done to clean such data.

A Real-World Scenario: The Rodents dataset

- ▶ data on rodents during a survey.
- ▶ each row denotes the information collected on an individual rodent.
- ▶ useful for studying population dynamics and species interactions.
- ▶ useful links:
 - ▶ the original data is provided by [1].
 - ▶ meta-data is also available at http://esapubs.org/archive/ecol/E090/118/Portal_rodent_metadata.htm.

Data Quality

- ▶ **inconsistencies:**

- ▶ domain violation: a date entry of 4.31.2000 which does not exist (might be changed to 5.01.2000).

- ▶ **missing data:** empty cells (some of them!), -99, etc.

- ▶ **format variabilities**¹:

- ▶ typos: “Amphespiza bilineata” for “Amphispiza bilineata”.
- ▶ record linkage: “UNITED STATES” and “United States of America”.
- ▶ abbreviations: “US”.
- ▶ leading and trailing whitespace: “ Amphispiza bilineata” and “Amphispiza bilineata ”.

¹several columns added for teaching purposes (see

Data Quality

- ▶ more issues for you to explore.
- ▶ repetitive tasks taking lots of time.
- ▶ various tools that helps to transform such data: Trifacta [2], OpenRefine [3], etc.

Cleaning with OpenRefine

- ▶ a tool for working with messy datasets.
- ▶ see [3] for details.
- ▶ useful links:
 - ▶ the software at <http://openrefine.org>.
 - ▶ the documentation at <https://github.com/OpenRefine/OpenRefine/wiki/Documentation-For-Users>.
- ▶ we will now install and show features of OpenRefine for various data cleaning tasks.

Installation

- ▶ **long answer:**

- ▶ detailed installation instructions at <http://openrefine.org/download.html>.

- ▶ **short answer:**

- ▶ download the file depending on the OS at <https://github.com/OpenRefine/OpenRefine/releases/tag/2.8>.
- ▶ install OpenRefine as follows:
 - ▶ Linux: extract.
 - ▶ Mac: open, drag icon into the Applications folder.
 - ▶ Windows: unzip.

Running and Loading Data

- ▶ **run OpenRefine** depending on the operating system:
 - ▶ Linux: `./refine` in your installation folder
 - ▶ Mac: OpenRefine in your Applications folder
 - ▶ Windows: `.exe` file in your installation folder
- ▶ **get the dataset:**
 - ▶ clone the git repository at <https://github.com/tahaceritli/acm-summer-school-2018>.
 - ▶ use the file in `datasets/Portal_rodents_19772002_scinameUUIDs.csv`.
- ▶ **import the data:**
 - ▶ click “Create Project”.
 - ▶ click “Choose Files”.
 - ▶ select `Portal_rodents_19772002_scinameUUIDs.csv`.
 - ▶ click “Next”.

Data Preview

- ▶ configuration page for importing.
- ▶ a subset of the data is shown.
- ▶ use the defaults.
- ▶ click “Create Project” on the top-right corner.

Checking for Unique Values

- ▶ click drop-down arrow in the “survey_id” column.
- ▶ select “Facet>Customized Facet>Duplicates Facet”.
- ▶ results in a binary facet of “true” or “false”.
- ▶ “true” facet denotes rows with unique values.

View Range of Values

- ▶ click the drop-down arrow in the “scientificName” column.
- ▶ select “Facet>Text Facet”.
- ▶ lists the values and their counts.
- ▶ any problems with the data?

Updating Cell Values

- ▶ notice the spelling errors, e.g. “Amphespiza bilineata” for “Amphispiza bilineata”.
- ▶ hover over the former and select “edit” to update its value.

Filtering Rows

- ▶ click the drop-down arrow in the “scientificName” column.
- ▶ select “Text Filter”.
- ▶ type “bai”, which lists the first 10 matching rows.

Clustering

- ▶ data often contains inconsistencies due to data collection procedures.
- ▶ “Clustering” helps to find cells in a column, that refers to the same entity with different values.
- ▶ various methods to determine clusters.

Clustering

- ▶ click the drop-down arrow in the “scientificName” column.
- ▶ select “Edit cells>Cluster and edit...”.
- ▶ change the method to nearest neighbor.
- ▶ you can now check boxes and merge the clusters.

Trimming Whitespace

- ▶ click the drop-down arrow in the “scientificName” column.
- ▶ select “Edit cells>Common transforms>Trim leading and trailing whitespace”.

Reconciliation

- ▶ refers to the process of matching data to databases.
- ▶ popular knowledge bases:
 - ▶ Wikidata at https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main_Page.
 - ▶ Google Knowledge Graph at <https://www.google.com/intl/es419/insidesearch/features/search/knowledge.html>.
- ▶ OpenRefine uses Wikidata. details at <https://github.com/OpenRefine/OpenRefine/wiki/Reconciliation>.
- ▶ note that Google Knowledge Graph comes with an API to query <https://developers.google.com/knowledge-graph/>.

Reconciliation with OpenRefine

- ▶ click the drop-down arrow in a column.
- ▶ select “**Reconcile**>**Start reconciling...**”.
- ▶ select “**Wikidata**” and click “**Start Reconciling**”.

Deliverables

1. **unique values:**

- ▶ report whether every ID in the column “survey_id” is unique.

2. **inconsistencies:**

- ▶ find the rows with values 4, 31, 2000 in mo, dy, yr columns respectively.
- ▶ remove all the matching rows (hint: use the drop-down arrow in the column named “All”) and export the data to a csv file.

3. **format variabilities:**

- ▶ report how many unique values exist in the “country” column of the original dataset.
- ▶ is there any problems with the data? if so, explain how did you solve them?
- ▶ report how many unique values you have after fixing the potential inconsistencies.
- ▶ hint: “clustering” or “reconciliation” feature of OpenRefine could be useful for this task.

4. missing data:

- ▶ for the columns stake, species, county and nestdir:
 - ▶ report the columns that have missing data and the encodings used to denote missing entries.
 - ▶ check whether they are actually missing (hint: you may want to check meta-data!).
 - ▶ hint: commonly used encodings: "NA", "N/A", "Null", "-1", "-99", etc.
- ▶ explain also if empty cells reproductive variables (reprod, testes, vagina, pregnant, nipples, lactation) and notes (note1, note2, note3, note4, note5) denote missing data.

Submissions

- ▶ 1 page of either .txt or .pdf (not a .doc file!).
- ▶ answer the four questions mentioned earlier.
- ▶ send your report to `acm2018datacleaninglab@gmail.com` with the title `ACMReport-NAME-SURNAME`.
- ▶ attach the exported file at step 2 to the email.

References I

- [1] M. Ernest, J. Brown, T. Valone, and E. P. White, “Portal Project Teaching Database,” https://figshare.com/articles/Portal_Project_Teaching_Database/1314459 [Accessed on 27/06/2018].
- [2] “Trifacta.” <https://www.trifacta.com/> [Accessed on 27/06/2018].
- [3] R. Verborgh and M. De Wilde, *Using OpenRefine*. Packt Publishing Ltd, 2013.