

# Hands on Data Cleaning of Messy Data

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# Motivation of the Lab

- ▶ to present some of the data quality issues in real-world datasets.
- ▶ to explain how one can improve quality of such messy data.
- ▶ to offer a hands on practice for data cleaning.

# A Real-World Scenario: The rodents dataset

- ▶ data on rodents during a survey (over 25 years).
- ▶ 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 Ernest et. al. [1].
  - ▶ meta-data is also available at [http://esapubs.org/archive/ecol/E090/118/Portal\\_rodent\\_metadata.htm](http://esapubs.org/archive/ecol/E090/118/Portal_rodent_metadata.htm).
- ▶ Acknowledgement: this exercise is based on the Data Carpentry tutorial at <http://www.datacarpentry.org/OpenRefine-ecology-lesson/>.

# Data Quality

- ▶ **inconsistencies:**

- ▶ domain violation: a date entry of 4.31.2000, which is an invalid value (the intention might be 5.01.2000).

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

- ▶ **format variabilities**<sup>1</sup>:

- ▶ typos: “Amph**e**spiza bilineata” for “Amph**i**spiza bilineata”.
- ▶ deduplication: “UNITED STATES” and “United States of America”.
- ▶ abbreviations: “US”.
- ▶ leading and trailing whitespace: “ Amphispiza bilineata” and “Amphispiza bilineata ”.

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<sup>1</sup>several columns added for teaching purposes (see

<http://www.datacarpentry.org/OpenRefine-ecology-lesson/01-working-with-openrefine/>).

# 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 OpenRefine and describe its features 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 OpenRefine

- ▶ **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



# Loading Data

- ▶ **get the dataset:**

- ▶ clone the git repository at <https://github.com/tahaceritli/acm-summer-school-2018>.
- ▶ use the file at `datasets/Portal_rodents_19772002_scinameUUIDs.csv`.
- ▶ the corresponding meta-data at `meta-data/E090-118-D1-Rodent metadata.htm`.

- ▶ **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.

## 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. “Amph**e**spiza bilineata” for “Amph**i**spiza bilineata”.
- ▶ hover over the former and select “**e**dit” to update its value.

# Trimming Whitespace

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

# Clustering

- ▶ data often contains more complex 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.

# Reconciliation

- ▶ external knowledge to clean messy data.
- ▶ reconciliation refers to the process of matching data to databases.
- ▶ popular knowledge bases:
  - ▶ Wikidata at [https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Wikidata:Main\\_Page](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 the “state” column.
- ▶ select “Reconcile>Start reconciling...”.
- ▶ select “Wikidata” and click “Start Reconciling”.
- ▶ can take up to 1-2 minute to complete.
- ▶ lists the matches with their confidence score.
- ▶ two matching options:
  - ▶ with one tick to update the given cell only.
  - ▶ with two ticks to update all the cells with the same value.

# Filtering Rows

- ▶ click the drop-down arrow in the “scientificName” column.
- ▶ select “Text Filter”.
- ▶ type “bai”, which lists the first 10 matching rows.
- ▶ searching rows based on multiple columns:
  - ▶ click the drop-down arrow in the “scientificName” column.
  - ▶ select “Facet>Custom text facet...”.
  - ▶ using General Refine Expression Language (GREL).
  - ▶ `and(cells[“scientificName”].value == “Amphispiza bilineata”, cells[“country”].value == “AUSTRALIA”)`.

# Deliverables

## 1. **inconsistencies:**

- ▶ report the number of rows that match 4, 31, 2000 in mo, dy, yr columns respectively.

## 2. **format variabilities:**

- ▶ report how many unique values exist in the “country” column of the original dataset.
- ▶ are 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.

## 3. 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.

# 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](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.