DataEng: Data Ethics In-class Assignment

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This week you will use various techniques to construct synthetic data.

Submit: Make a copy of this document and use it to record your responses and results (use colored highlighting when recording your responses/results). Store a PDF copy of the document in your git repository along with your code before submitting for this week.

A. [MUST] Discussion Questions

A ride-share company (similar to Lyft or Uber) decides to publish detailed ride data to encourage researchers to develop ideas and open source software that might someday enhance the company's products. The company's data engineer publishes the complete set of ride trips for a single year. Data for each trip includes start location, end location, GPS breadcrumb data during trip, price charged, mileage, number of riders served, and information about make, model and year of the vehicle that serviced the trip. All personal information (names, ages, addresses, birthdates, account information, payment information, credit card numbers, etc.) is stripped from the data before sharing.

Can you see a problem with this approach? How might an attacker re-identify some of the real passengers? Insert your responses here and discuss with your group members.

- Will -
 - Scenario:
 - Let's say Jane is a public profile
 - Data Collection:
 - Jane's Known Locations: Obtain Jane's home and work address from public records or social media.
 - Ride Data: Get the published ride data with trip details.
 - Pattern Identification:
 - Morning Commute: Identify all trips starting from Jane's home to her work address between 7 AM and 9 AM.
 - Evening Commute: Identify trips from work to home between 5 PM and 7 PM.
 - Correlate Vehicle Data:
 - Car Match: Narrow down trips where the vehicle matches the one Jane was seen in on social media or public events.

Final Match:

- Unique Routes: Confirm trips by matching unique routes Jane might take that are not common among other riders.
- Consistency Check: Ensure the identified trips form a consistent pattern over weeks or months, reinforcing the likelihood they belong to Jane.

Interest:

A stalker might pay for information on a celebrity's rides to follow them or figure out their daily routine, posing a significant threat to their safety.

John

The problem with this approach is that it's easy to correlate the data to find private information. For example, if someone wants to stalk someone from a grocery store or gym, and they notice this person uses the rideshare company, all they need to do is get the start locations of the rides that end at the gym or grocery store, then they can see where the person lives or works.

Chase

I definitely see the potential for problems in this approach. For instance, geographic information can be fairly revealing especially when combined with timestamps. If we know where someone was and when they were there, we've narrowed down the data quite quickly. Sometimes people repeatedly make the same trip- this would be identifiable here. And lastly, trips to sensitive locations are now available which can be identifiable because of publicly available information like homes.

Trae

- The most dangerous portion of the information that was given to the general public is the start/end location. If it comes to the more generalized places like grocery stores or public venues then it wouldn't matter as much, but when it comes to more residential areas, that information can be cross referenced fairly easily. If we include the timestamp and regularity of the ride there is a chance that a person's schedule could be extrapolated based on that data.
- Overall regardless of the efforts that have been made in order to anonymously release this information, it is too easily referenced for other purposes. Even if it is someone coming from a public place and going somewhere else that could be easily trackable with data like that. You could not only track their comings and goings from that place, but assume based on timing the other trips they make via this riding service.

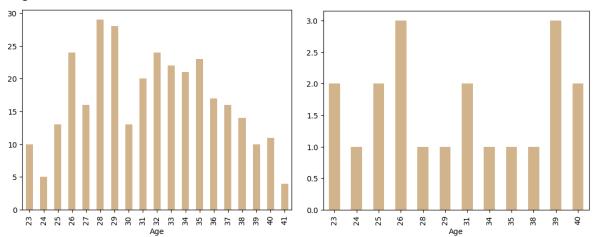
Search the internet and provide a URL of one article that describes one data breach that occurred during the previous 5 years. The breach must be one in which the attacker obtained personal, private information about customers or employees of the attacked enterprise.

Briefly summarize the breach here, Which of the techniques discussed in the lecture might help to prevent this sort of problem in the future? Describe your chosen breach and your recommendations with your group members.

- Data Minimization: Some of the data that Capital One kept on file that they didn't need was:
 - credit Card Application Data: Capital One retained information from credit card applications, including names, addresses, zip codes, phone numbers, email addresses, dates of birth, and self-reported income.
 - Social Security Numbers and Bank Account Numbers: Approximately 140,000 Social Security numbers and 80,000 linked bank account numbers were exposed.
 - Customer Status Data: Information such as credit scores, credit limits, balances, payment history, and contact information was also accessed.
 - Transaction Data Fragments: The attacker obtained fragments of transaction data from several years.

B. [SHOULD] Sampling

Use the DataFrame sample() method to produce a 20 element sample of the data. Use the "weights" parameter of the sample() method to synthetically bias the sample such that employees with ages 40-49 are three times as likely to be sampled as employees in other age ranges.



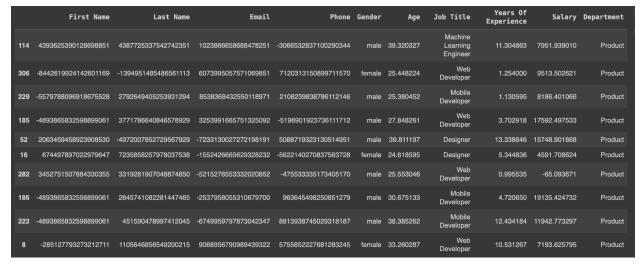
C. [SHOULD] Anonymization

Anonymize the name (both first and last names), email, and phone number information in the employee data.



D. [SHOULD] Perturbation

Perturb the age, salary and years of experience attributes of the employees data using Gaussian noise. How should we choose the standard deviation parameter for the noise? Should we choose the same standard deviation for all three of the perturbed attributes? If not, then how should we choose?



E. [MUST] Model Based Synthesis

Your job is to synthesize a data set based on the employees.csv data set

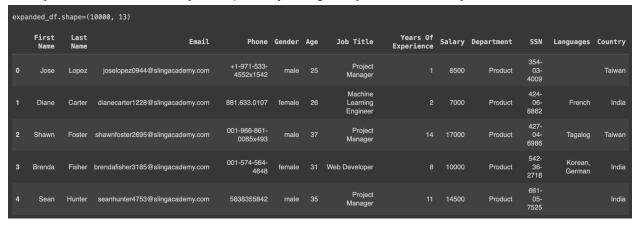
This startup company of 320 employees intends to go public and become a 10,000 employee company. Your job is to produce an expanded 10K record synthetic database to help the founders understand personnel-related issues that might occur with the expanded company.

Use the Faker python module to produce a 10K employee dataset. Follow these constraints:

All columns in the current data set must be preserved. It is not necessary to preserve any of the actual data from the current database

- ✓ Need to keep track of social security numbers
- The database should keep track of the languages (other than English) spoken by each employee. Each employee speaks 0, 1 or 2 languages in addition to English.
- ▼ To grow, the company plans to sponsor visas and hire non-USA citizens. So your synthetic database should include names of employees from India, Mainland China, Canada, South Korea, Philippines, Taiwan and Mexico. These names should be in proportion to the 2019 percentages of H1B petitions from each country: https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/h-1b-petitions-by-gender-country-of-birth-fy2019.pdf
- The expanded company will have additional departments include "Legal" (approximately 5% of employees), "Marketing" (10%), "Administrative" (10%), "Operations" (20%), "Sales" (10%), "Finance" (5%) and "I/T" (10%) to go along with the current "Product" (20%) and "Human Resource" (10%) departments.
- Salaries in each department must mimic the typical salaries for professionals in each field. You can find appropriate data for each type of profession at salary.com For example, see this page to find a model estimate for your synthetic marketing department:
 - https://www.salary.com/research/salary/benchmark/marketing-specialist-salary
- The current startup company (as represented by the employees.csv data) is skewed toward male employees. Our goal for the new company is to make the numbers of men and women approximately equal.

Save your new database to your repository alongside your code that synthesized the data.

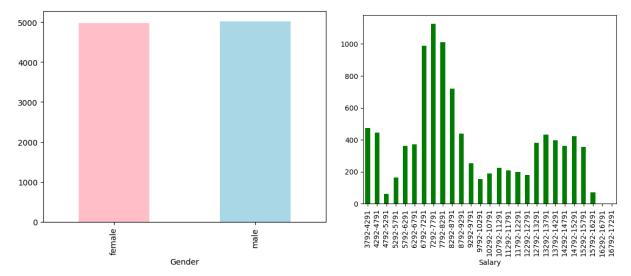


G. [SHOULD] Analyze the Synthetic Company

- How many men vs. women will we need to hire in each department?
- How much will this new company pay in yearly payroll?
- Other than hiring from non-USA countries, how else might the company grow quickly from size=320 to size=10000?
- How much office space will this company require?

 Does this new dataset preserve the privacy of the original employees listed in employees.csv?

	Current Number of Men	Current Number of Women	Current Male Ratio	Current Female Ratio	Men Hiring Need	Women Hiring Need	Future Number of Men	Future Number of Women	Future Male Ratio	Future Female Ratio
Department										
Administrative	478	479	0.499478	0.500522	1.0	0.0	479.0	479.0	0.5	0.5
Finance	262	244	0.517787	0.482213	0.0	18.0	262.0	262.0	0.5	0.5
Human Resource	511	485	0.513052	0.486948	0.0	26.0	511.0	511.0	0.5	0.5
l/T	456	448	0.504425	0.495575	0.0	8.0	456.0	456.0	0.5	0.5
Legal	214	259	0.452431	0.547569	45.0	0.0	259.0	259.0	0.5	0.5
Marketing	482	473	0.504712	0.495288	0.0	9.0	482.0	482.0	0.5	0.5
Operations	978	979	0.499745	0.500255	1.0	0.0	979.0	979.0	0.5	0.5
Product	1141	1128	0.502865	0.497135	0.0	13.0	1141.0	1141.0	0.5	0.5
Sales	501	482	0.509664	0.490336	0.0	19.0	501.0	501.0	0.5	0.5



H. [ASPIRE] Quality of the Synthetic Dataset

Use ydata-profiling to explore your synthetic data set: https://pypi.org/project/ydata-profiling/ Use ydata-profiling with the original employees.csv as well to compare.

In what ways does the synthetic data set appear to be obviously synthetic and/or not representative of the current company?

How might you improve the synthetic data to make it more realistic?