Data Mining II
Data Preprocessing

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Introduction

• “Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”

Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865
Recap: The Data Mining Process

Source: Fayyad et al. (1996)
Data Preprocessing

- Your data may have some problems
  - i.e., it may be problematic for the subsequent mining steps
- Fix those problems before going on
- Which problems can you think of?
Data Preprocessing

• Problems that you may have with your data
  – Errors
  – Missing values
  – Unbalanced distribution
  – False predictors
  – Unsupported data types
  – High dimensionality
Errors in Data

• Sources
  – malfunctioning sensors
  – errors in manual data processing (e.g., twisted digits)
  – storage/transmission errors
  – encoding problems, misinterpreted file formats
  – bugs in processing code
  – ...
Errors in Data

• Simple remedy
  – remove data points outside a given interval
    • this requires some domain knowledge

• Advanced remedies
  – automatically find suspicious data points
  – see lecture “Anomaly Detection”
Missing Values

• Possible reasons
  – Failure of a sensor
  – Data loss
  – Information was not collected
  – Customers did not provide their age, sex, marital status, …
  – …
Missing Values

• Treatments
  – Ignore records with missing values in training data
  – Replace missing value with...
    • default or special value (e.g., 0, “missing”)
    • average/median value for numerics
    • most frequent value for nominals
  – Try to predict missing values:
    • handle missing values as learning problem
    • target: attribute which has missing values
    • training data: instances where the attribute is present
    • test data: instances where the attribute is missing
  – Practical note: in RapidMiner, use two *Impute Missing Values* operators
    • one for nominal, one for numerical data
Missing Values

• Note: values may be missing for various reasons
  – ...and, more importantly: at random vs. not at random

• Examples for not random
  – Non-mandatory questions in questionnaires
    • “how often do you drink alcohol?”
  – Values that are only collected under certain conditions
    • e.g., final grade of your university degree (if any)
  – Sensors failing under certain conditions
    • e.g., at high temperatures

• In those cases, averaging and imputation causes information loss
  – In other words: “missing” can be information!
Unbalanced Distribution

• Example:
  – learn a model that recognizes HIV
  – given a set of symptoms

• Data set:
  – records of patients who were tested for HIV

• Class distribution:
  – 99.9% negative
  – 0.01% positive
Unbalanced Distribution

• Learn a decision tree
• Purity measure: Gini index
• Recap: Gini index for a given node $t$:

$$GINI(t) = 1 - \sum_j \left[ p(j|t) \right]^2$$

– (NOTE: $p(j|t)$ is the relative frequency of class $j$ at node $t$).

• Here, Gini index of the top node is

$$1 - 0.999^2 - 0.001^2 = 0.002$$

• It will be hard to find any splitting that significantly improves the purity

Decision tree learned: false
Unbalanced Distribution

• Model has very high accuracy
  – 99.9%

• ...but 0 recall/precision on positive class
  – which is what we were interested in

• Remedy
  – re-balance dataset for training
  – but evaluate on unbalanced dataset!

Decision tree learned:
False Predictors

• ~100% accuracy are a great result
  – ...and a result that should make you suspicious!

• A tale from the road
  – working with our Linked Open Data extension
  – trying to predict the world university rankings
  – with data from DBpedia

• Goal:
  – understand what makes a top university
False Predictors

• The Linked Open Data extension
  – extracts additional attributes from Linked Open Data
  – e.g., DBpedia
  – unsupervised (i.e., attributes are created fully automatically)

• Model learned: THE<20 → TOP=true
  – false predictor: target variable was included in attributes

• Other examples
  – mark<5 → passed=true
  – sales>1000000 → bestseller=true
Recognizing False Predictors

• By analyzing models
  – rule sets consisting of only one rule
  – decision trees with only one node

• Process: learn model, inspect model, remove suspect, repeat
  – until the accuracy drops
  – Tale from the road example: there were other indicators as well

• By analyzing attributes
  – compute correlation of each attribute with label
  – correlation near 1 (or -1) marks a suspect

• Caution: there are also strong (but not false) predictors
  – it's not always possible to decide automatically!
Unsupported Data Types

- Not every learning operator supports all data types
  - some (e.g., ID3) cannot handle numeric data
  - others (e.g., SVM) cannot nominal data
  - dates are difficult for most learners

- Solutions
  - convert nominal to numeric data
  - convert numeric to nominal data (discretization, binning)
  - extract valuable information from dates
Conversion: Binary to Numeric

- Binary fields
  - E.g. student=yes,no

- Convert to Field_0_1 with 0, 1 values
  - student = yes → student_0_1 = 0
  - student = no → student_0_1 = 1
Conversion: Ordered to Numeric

- Some nominal attributes incorporated an order
- Ordered attributes (e.g. grade) can be converted to numbers preserving natural order, e.g.
  - A → 4.0
  - A- → 3.7
  - B+ → 3.3
  - B → 3.0
- Using such a coding schema allows learners to learn valuable rules, e.g.
  - grade>3.5 → excellent_student=true
Conversion: Nominal to Numeric

- Multi-valued, unordered attributes with small no. of values
  - e.g. Color=Red, Orange, Yellow, …, Violet
  - for each value v, create a binary “flag” variable $C_v$, which is 1 if Color=v, 0 otherwise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>C_red</th>
<th>C_orange</th>
<th>C_yellow</th>
<th>...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>371</td>
<td>red</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>433</td>
<td>yellow</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conversion: Nominal to Numeric

• Many values:
  – US State Code (50 values)
  – Profession Code (7,000 values, but only few frequent)

• Approaches:
  – manual, with background knowledge
  – e.g., group US states

• Use binary attributes
  – then apply dimensionality reduction (see later today)
Discretization: Equal-width

Temperature values:
64 65 68 69 70 71 72 72 73 73 75 75 80 81 83 85

Count

[64,67) | [67,70) | [70,73) | [73,76) | [76,79) | [79,82) | [82,85]

2 2 4 2 0 2 2

Equal Width, bins Low <= value < High
Discretization: Equal-width

Salary in a company

Count

[0 – 200,000) ...

[1,800,000 – 2,000,000]
Discretization: Equal-height

Temperature values:
64 65 68 69 70 71 72 75 75 80 81 83 85

Equal Height = 4, except for the last bin
Discretization by Entropy

• Top-down approach
• Tries to minimize the entropy in each bin
  – Entropy: \(-\sum p(x) \log(p(x))\)
  – where the x are all the attribute values

• Goal
  – make intra-bin similarity as high as possible
  – a bin with only equal values has entropy=0

• Algorithm
  – Split into two bins so that overall entropy is minimized
  – Split each bin recursively as long as entropy decreases significantly
Discretization: Training and Test Data

• Training and test data have to be equally discretized!

• Learned rules:
  – income=high $\rightarrow$ give_credit=true
  – income=low $\rightarrow$ give_credit=false

• Applying rules
  – income=low has to have the same semantics on training and test data!
  – Naively applying discretization will lead to different ranges!
Discretization: Training and Test Data

- Wrong:
Discretization: Training and Test Data

• Right:

• Accuracy in this example, using equal frequency (three bins):
  – wrong: 42.7% accuracy
  – right: 50% accuracy
Dealing with Date Attributes

• Dates (and times) can be formatted in various ways
  – first step: normalize and parse

• Dates have lots of interesting information in them

• Example: analyzing shopping behavior
  – time of day
  – weekday vs. weekend
  – begin vs. end of month
  – month itself
  – quarter, season

• RapidMiner has operators for extracting that information
  – either as numeric or nominal values
High Dimensionality

• Datasets with large number of attributes
• Examples:
  – text classification
  – image classification
  – genome classification
  – ...
• (not only a) scalability problem
  – e.g., decision tree: search all attributes for determining one single split
Curse of Dimensionality

- Learning models gets more complicated in high-dimensional spaces
- Higher number of observations are needed
  - For covering a meaningful number of combinations
  - “Combinatorial Explosion”
- Distance functions collapse
  - i.e., all distances converge in high dimensions
  - Nearest neighbor classifiers are no longer meaningful

\[ \text{Euclidean distance} = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^{n} (p_k - q_k)^2} \]
Feature Subset Selection

• Preprocessing step
• Idea: only use valuable features
  – “feature”: machine learning terminology for “attribute”

• Basic heuristics: remove nominal attributes...
  – which have more than p% identical values
    • example: millionaire=false
  – which have more than p% different values
    • example: names, IDs

• Basic heuristics: remove numerical attributes
  – which have little variation, i.e., standard deviation <
Feature Subset Selection

• Basic Distinction: Filter vs. Wrapper Methods

• Filter methods
  – Use attribute weighting criterion, e.g., Information Gain
  – Select attributes with highest weights
  – Fast (linear in no. of attributes), but not always optimal
Feature Subset Selection

• Remove redundant attributes
  – e.g., temperature in °C and °F
  – e.g., textual features “Barack” and “Obama”

• Method:
  – compute pairwise correlations between attributes
  – remove highly correlated attributes

• Recap:
  – Naive Bayes requires independent attributes
  – Will benefit from removing correlated attributes
Feature Subset Selection

• Wrapper methods
  – Use classifier internally
  – Run with different feature sets
  – Select best feature set

• Advantages
  – Good feature set for given classifier

• Disadvantages
  – Expensive (naively: at least quadratic in number of attributes)
  – Heuristics can reduce number of classifier runs
Feature Subset Selection

• Forward selection:

start with empty attribute set
do {
    for each attribute {
        add attribute to attribute set
        compute performance (e.g., accuracy)
    }
    use attribute set with best performance
} while performance increases

• An learning algorithm is used for computing the performance
  – cross validation is advised
Feature Subset Selection

• Searching for optimal attribute sets

• Backward elimination:

  start with full attribute set
do {
  for each attribute in attribute set {
    remove attribute to attribute set
    compute performance (e.g., accuracy)
  }
  use attribute set with best performance
} while performance increases

• An learning algorithm is used for computing the performance
  – cross validation is advised
Feature Subset Selection

• The checkerboard example revisited
  – Recap: Rule learners can perfectly learn this!
  – But what happens if we apply forward selection here?
Feature Subset Selection

- Further approaches
  - Brute Force search
  - Evolutionary algorithms
    (will be covered in parameter optimization session)

- Trade-off
  - Simple heuristics are fast
    - but may not be the most effective
  - Brute-force is most effective
    - But the slowest
  - Forward selection, backward elimination, and evolutionary algorithms
    - Are often a good compromise
Recap: Overfitting

- Example: predict credit rating
  - possible decision tree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Net Income</th>
<th>Job status</th>
<th>Debts</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>40000</td>
<td>employed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>38000</td>
<td>employed</td>
<td>10000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen</td>
<td>21000</td>
<td>self-employed</td>
<td>20000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>student</td>
<td>10000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice</td>
<td>35000</td>
<td>employed</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recap: Overfitting

- Example: predict credit rating
  - alternative decision tree:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Net Income</th>
<th>Job status</th>
<th>Debts</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<td>35000</td>
<td>employed</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recap: Overfitting

- Both trees seem equally good
  - Classify all instances in the training set correctly
  - Which one do you prefer?

```
Debts >5000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name = “John”

Name = “Alice”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```
Recap: Overfitting

• Overfitting can happen with feature subset selection, too
  – Here, *name* seems to be a useful feature
  – ...but is it?

• Remedies
  – Hard for filtering methods
    • e.g., *name* has highest information gain!
  – Wrapper methods:
    • use cross validation inside!
Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

- So far, we have looked at feature selection methods
  - we select a subset of attributes
  - no new attributes are created

- PCA creates a (smaller set of) new attributes
  - artificial linear combinations of existing attributes
  - as expressive as possible

- Dates back to the pre-computer age
  - invented by Karl Pearson (1857-1936)
  - also known for Pearson's correlation coefficient
Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

- Idea: transform coordinate system so that each new coordinate (principal component) is as expressive as possible
  - expressivity: variance of the variable
  - the 1\text{st}, 2\text{nd}, 3\text{rd}... PC should account for as much variance as possible
- further PCs can be neglected

http://setosa.io/ev/principal-component-analysis/
Principal Component Analysis

- Method used for computation:
  - Compute covariance matrix
  - Perform eigenvector factorization
  - See lecture: “Data Mining and Matrices”
Principle Component Analysis illustrated

- Example by James X. Li, 2009
- Which 2D projection conveys most information about the teapot?

Approach:
- find longest axis first
  - in practice: use average/median diameter to limit effect of outliers
- fix that axis, find next longest
Sampling

• Feature Subset Selection reduces the width of the dataset

• Sampling reduces the height of the dataset
  – i.e., the number of instances

• Trade-off
  – Maximum usage of information
  – Fast computation

• Notes
  – Stratified sampling respects class distribution
  – Kennard-Stone sampling tries to select heterogenous points
Kennard-Stone Sampling

1) Compute pairwise distances of points
2) Add points with largest distance from one another
3) While target sample size not reached
   1) For each candidate, find smallest distance to any point in the sample
   2) Add candidate with largest smallest distance

- This guarantees that heterogeneous data points are added
  - i.e., sample gets more diverse
  - includes more corner cases
    - but potentially also more outliers
  - distribution may be altered
Sampling Strategies and Learning Algorithms

• There are interaction effects
• Some learning algorithms rely on distributions
  – e.g., Naive Bayes
  – usually, stratified sampling works better
• Some rely less on distributions
  – and may work better if they see more corner cases
  – e.g., Decision Trees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Decision Tree</th>
<th>Naive Bayes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stratified</td>
<td>.727</td>
<td>.752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennard Stone</td>
<td>.742</td>
<td>.721</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Titanic Dataset
Filter: 50 training examples
A Note on Sampling

• Often, the training data in a real-world project is already a sample
  – e.g., sales figures of last month
  – to predict the sales figures for the rest of the year

• How representative is that sample?
  – What if last month was December? Or February?

• Effect known as selection bias
  – Example: phone survey with 3,000 participants, carried out Monday, 9-17
  – Thought experiment: effect of selection bias for prediction, e.g., with a Naive Bayes classifier
Summary Data Preprocessing

• Raw data has many problems
  – missing values
  – errors
  – high dimensionality
  – …

• Good preprocessing is essential for good data mining
  – one of the first steps in the pipeline
  – requires lots of experimentation and fine-tuning
    • often the most time consuming step of the pipeline
Recap: The Data Mining Process

Source: Fayyad et al. (1996)
Questions?