Towards Effective Data Preprocessing for Classification Using WEKA

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Abstract: Trend statistics through countless studies depict that there is an exponential growth of data form terabytes to petabytes and beyond in the world. This reality brings into perspective the apparent need for data mining which is the process of discovering previously unknown facts and patterns. Increasingly, data mining is gaining popularity due to the need by organizations to acquire useful information and develop hypothesis from the massive data sets they have in their data centers. Preprocessing comes in handy in the KDD process since it serves as the first stage while classification is the most common data mining task. This paper uses WEKA data mining tool which facilitates various data mining tasks through different algorithms to put into a kaleidoscope the importance of data preprocessing and the task of classification. Special focus is given to the procedure and results obtained after carrying out the two processes on WEKA.

Keywords: Data Preprocessing, Classification, Data Mining, WEKA

1. Introduction

Today, there is a lot of data being collected and warehoused ranging from web data, ERP reports, electronic commerce sales and purchases, remote sensors at different locations, credit card transactions, multimedia data, scientific simulations, bioinformatics and so much more. Indeed, "we are drowning in data but starving for knowledge yet organizations have made huge investestments in data centers and other technologies but their Return on Investment (ROI) is not as expected". This can be attributed to factors like the exponential decline in the cost of computers, laptops and other portable devices like tablets, iPad and smartphones which generate a considerably large amount of data. Provision of cheap, fast and readily available bandwidth; as well as the continuous act of striving to bridge the digital divide gap by provision of technology enabling factors like electricity and literacy to mention but a few.

Due to the high data dimensionality, enormity, heterogeneous and distributed states of current data, traditional data mining techniques and pure statistics alone cannot handle this chunks of data. There is need to use and embrace modern automated techniques like WEKA which are a convolution of statistical, mathematical, machine learning and modelling techniques.

Waikato Environment for Knowledge Analysis (WEKA) is an open source data mining tool developed by university of Waikato in New Zealand for data mining education and research. WEKA is developed in JAVA and it has many advantages over other data mining tools. Key among them is that it is open source and available under the GNU license, it is a light program with a straight forward GUI interface and it is highly portable. It supports tasks like preprocessing of data, selection of attributes, classification, clustering, visualization and many other knowledge discovery techniques. Generally, there exist more than 100 machine learning algorithms for classification, 75 for data preprocessing, 25 for feature selection and 20 for clustering and association rule mining. In this paper, the Iris data set from UCI data sets will be used to demonstrate different activities on WEKA tool in the KDD process as show below.



Figure 1: KDD Process

2. Data Preprocessing

Why is data preprocessing important data? Ideally, data in the real world is of low quality and hence referred to as "dirty". This is because it contains noise and outliers, inconsistencies or it is incomplete.

Presence of Noise and Outliers: Noise is a data quality problem which signifies presence of incorrect values or modification of a signal during or after transmission. Outliers on the other hand are data observation points which lie outside the overall distribution patterns. This means that they poses discriminant characteristics which differ from the other objects in the data set, (Moore and McCabe 1999).

Presence of Inconsistencies: Inconsistencies are discrepancies about a certain data object in the same data set. The most common types of inconsistencies range from redundancies, presence of duplicates and naming problems.

Incomplete Data: This is the most common data quality

problem handled during preprocessing. Reasons for this problem are majorly due to some attributes not being applicable to all cases as well as values for some attributes not being collected. To solve these problems, the following data preprocessing tasks are undertaken; Data Cleaning, Integration, Reduction and Transformation.



Figure 2: Data Preprocessing Tasks

Data Preprocessing eliminates unnecessary records and fills in missing gaps. Therefore, it is prudent to employ a multidimensional data quality assessment techniqueafter preprocessing. This can be done by measuring the accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness, believability, interpretability of the data (Swasti et al, 2013).

In a nutshell, data preprocessing seeks to solve data quality issues by answering the following questions

- 1) Does the data have any quality problems?
- 2) What methodologies can be used to detect problems associated with the data?
- 3) Which solutions can be applied on the present problems?

3. Preprocessing in WEKA

Among the four data preprocessing tasks i.e. data cleaning,

data integration, data reduction, data transformation and data, the first can be comfortably handled in WEKA.

Data Cleaning: Cleaning is the process of filling in missing values, smoothing noisy data, identifying or removing outliers and resolving any inconsistencies present in the data.

Data Integration: this is the process of assimilating data from different sources like databases, files or data cubes in warehouse. The challenge of integration is probability of redundancy and integration of different schemas.

Data Transformation: Transformation in data preprocessing refers to converting data from one data format to another. Methods like smoothing, aggregation, normalization and generalization can be used to transform data.

WEKA has many inbuilt filters which are categorized into two; supervised and unsupervised filters. In both cases, WEKA provides different filters for attributes and instances.



Figure 3: Data Preprocessing Filters (Shweta, 2014)

The Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) data set from UCI data set will be used to carry out the experiments in WEKA.

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		© We	ka Explorer	- = ×			
		Preprocess Classify Cluster Associate Select attributes Visualize					
Weka GUI Choose	r – 🗆 🗡	Open file Open URL Open DB	Generate Undo	Edit Save			
Program Visualization Tools Help		Filter					
	Applications	Choose None		Apply			
WEKA	Explorer	Current relation Relation: Chronic_Kidney_Disease	Selected attribute Name: age	Type: Numeric			
of Waikato	Experimenter	Instances: 400 Attributes: 25	Missing: 9 (2%) Distinct	Distinct: 76 Unique: 16 (4%)			
6,	Experimenter	Attributes	Statistic	Value			
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Figure 4: WEKA User Interface

Procedure for data preprocessing in WEKA

- 1) Choose Explorer on the WEKA GUI Chooser
- 2) Click open file to load the data set
- 3) In the explorer, choose a filter (supervised or unsupervised)
- 4) Select all the attributes and click apply

5) Analyze the effect of preprocessing on the data.

The Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) data set is collection of attributes which can be used to determine whether somebody has CKD or not. Preprocessing the data show that there are some attributes which have missing values as shown below.

												View	er												
elatio	n: Chronic_	_Kidney_Diseas	e																						
No.	age Numeric 1	bp sg Numeric Nomir	al Nomir	al Nomina	rbc I Nominal	pc Nominal	pcc Nominal	ba Nominal	bgr Numeric	bu Numeric	sc Numeric	sod Numeric	pot Numeric	hemo Numeric	pcv Numeric	wbcc Numeric	rbcc Numeric	htn Nominal	dm Nominal	cad Nominal	appet Nominal	pe Nominal	ane Nominal	class Nominal	
	48.0	80.0 1.020	1	0		normal	notpre	notpre	121.0	36.0	1.2			15.4	44.0	7800.0	5.2	yes	yes	no	good	no	no	ckd	
	7.0	50.0 1.020	4	0		normal	notpre	notpre		18.0	0.8			11.3	38.0	6000.0		10	no	no	good	no	no	ckd	
	62.0	80.0 1.010	2	3	normal	normal	notpre	notpre	423.0	53.0	1.8			9.6	31.0	7500.0		10	yes	no	poor	no	yes	ckd	
	48.0	70.0 1.005	4	0	normal	abnormal	present	notpre	117.0	56.0	3.8	111.0	2.5	11.2	32.0	6700.0	3.9	yes	no	no	poor	yes	yes	ckd	
	51.0	80.0 1.010	2	0	normal	normal	notpre	notpre	106.0	26.0	1.4			11.6	35.0	7300.0	4.6	10	no	no	good	no	no	ckd	
	60.0	90.0 1.015	3	0			notpre	notpre	74.0	25.0	1.1	142.0	3.2	12.2	39.0	7800.0	4.4	yes	yes	no	good	yes	no	ckd	
	68.0	70.0 1.010	0	0		normal	notpre	notpre	100.0	54.0	24.0	104.0	4.0	12.4	36.0			10	no	no	good	no	no	ckd	
	24.0	1.015	2	4	normal	abnormal	notpre	notpre	410.0	31.0	1.1			12.4	44.0	6900.0	5.0	10	yes	no	good	yes	no	ckd	
	52.0	100.0 1.015	3	0	normal	abnormal	present	notpre	138.0	60.0	1.9			10.8	33.0	9600.0	4.0	yes	yes	no	good	no	yes	ckd	1
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1	50.0	60.0 1.010	2	4		abnormal	present	notpre	490.0	55.0	4.0			9.4	28.0			, yes	yes	no	good	no	yes	ckd	
2	63.0	70.0 1.010	3	0	abnorma	abnormal	present	notpre	380.0	60.0	2.7	131.0	4.2	10.8	32.0	4500.0	3.8	yes	yes	no	poor	yes	no	ckd	
3	68.0	70.0 1.015	3	1		normal	present	notpre	208.0	72.0	2.1	138.0	5.8	9.7	28.0	12200.0	3.4	yes	yes	yes	poor	yes	no	ckd	
4	68.0	70.0					notpre	notpre	98.0	86.0	4.6	135.0	3.4	9.8				, yes	yes	yes	poor	yes	no	ckd	
5	68.0	80.0 1.010	3	2	normal	abnormal	present	present	157.0	90.0	4.1	130.0	6.4	5.6	16.0	11000.0	2.6	yes	yes	yes	poor	yes	no	ckd	
5	40.0	80.0 1.015	3	0		normal	notore	notpre	76.0	162.0	9.6	141.0	4.9	7.6	24.0	3800.0	2.8	ves	no	no	good	no	ves	ckd	
7	47.0	70.0 1.015	2	0		normal	notore	notpre	99.0	46.0	2.2	138.0	4.1	12.6				10	no	no		no	no	ckd	1
8	47.0	80.0		-				notpre	114.0	87.0	5.2		3.7	12.1				ves	no	no		no	no	ckd	
9	60.0	100.0 1.025	0	3		normal	notpre	notpre	263.0	27.0	1.3		4.3	12.7	37.0	11400.0	4.3	ves	ves	ves	good	no	no	ckd	1
0	62.0	60.0 1.015	1	0		abnormal		notpre	100.0	31.0	1.6			10.3	30.0	5300.0	3.7		no	ves		no	no	ckd	
1	61.0	80.0 1.015	2	0	abnorma	abnormal			173.0	148.0	3.9	135.0	5.2		24.0	9200.0	3.2		ves	ves	poor	ves	ves	ckd	
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3	48.0	80.0 1.025	4	0	normal	abnormal			95.0		7.7		3.8		32.0	6900.0	3.4		no	no	-	no	ves	ckd	
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6	61.0	60.0 1.025	0	0				notpre	108.0	75.0	1.9		5.2		29.0	8400.0	3.7		yes	no		no	yes	ckd	
7	75.0	80.0 1.015	0	0				notpre	156.0	45.0	2.4		3.4		35.0	10300.0	4.0		yes	no		no	no	ckd	
B	69.0	70.0 1.010	3	4	normal	abnormal			264.0	87.0	2.7		4.0		37.0	9600.0	4.1		ves	ves	good	ves	no	ckd	
9	75.0	70.0	1	3	- International			notpre	123.0	31.0	1.4				5.10	200010		10	ves	no	good	no	no	ckd	
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3	61.0	90.0 1.010	1	1				notpre	159.0	39.0	1.5		4.9	11.3	34.0	9600.0	4.0		ves	no		no	no	ckd	
4	60.0	100.0 1.020	2	0	abnorma	abnormal			140.0	55.0	2.5	20010		10.1	29.0				no	no		no	no	ckd	
5	70.0	70.0 1.010	1	0	normal		present		171.0	153.0	5.2			10.1	2510			10	yes	no		no	no	ckd	
6	65.0	90.0 1.020	2	1	abnorma	Inormal		notpre	270.0	39.0	2.0			12.0	36.0	9800.0	4.9		ves	no	poor	no	yes	ckd	

The highlighted fields depict that the data set is dirty because it contains missing values. Therefore, it is important to clean it before doing any other data mining task. This can be done by applying a filter like Replace-Missing-With-User-Constant which is an example of an unsupervised filter. However, the choice of the filter may vary depending on the data and the needs of the expert. Below is a figure showing the preprocessed data after successfully applying the filter. All the missing values were replaced and now the data can be used for classification or any other data mining task.

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lo.	age Numeric	bp	Sg Nominal	al Nominal	su Nominal	rbc	pc Nominal	pcc	ba Nominal	bgr	bu	SC Numeric	sod	pot Numeric	hemo Numeric	pcv Numeric	wbcc	rbcc htn Numeric Nomin	dm Nomin	cad al Nominal	appet	pe Nominal	ane Nominal	class Nominal	
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	52.0	100.0		3			abnormal			138.0	60.0		137.5		10.8		9600.0	4.0 ves	ves	no	good		ves	ckd	
0	53.0	90.0					abnormal			70.0	107.0		114.0		9.5		12100.0		yes	no	poor		yes	ckd	
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2	63.0	70.0					abnormal			380.0	60.0		131.0					3.8 yes	yes	no	poor		no	ckd	
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4	68.0	70.0	1.020	0	0	normal	normal	notpre	notpre	98.0	86.0	4.6	135.0	3.4	9.8	38.88	8406	4.707 yes	yes	yes	poor	yes	no	ckd	
15	68.0	80.0	1.010	3	2	normal	abnormal	present	present	157.0	90.0	4.1	130.0	6.4	5.6	16.0	11000.0	2.6 yes	yes	yes	poor	yes	no	ckd	
6	40.0	80.0	1.015	3	0	normal	normal	notpre	notpre	76.0	162.0	9.6	141.0	4.9	7.6	24.0	3800.0	2.8 yes	no	no	good	no	yes	ckd	
17	47.0	70.0	1.015	2	0	normal	normal	notpre	notpre	99.0	46.0	2.2	138.0	4.1	12.6	38.88	8406	4.707 no	no	no	good	no	no	ckd	
8	47.0	80.0	1.020	0	0	normal	normal	notpre	notpre	114.0	87.0	5.2	139.0	3.7	12.1	38.88	8406	4.707 yes	no	no	poor	no		ckd	
9	60.0	100.0	1.025	0	3	normal	normal	notpre	notpre	263.0	27.0		135.0		12.7	37.0	11400.0	4.3 yes	yes	yes	good	no	no	ckd	
0	62.0	60.0	1.015	1	0	normal	abnormal	present	notpre	100.0	31.0	1.6	137.5	4.627	10.3	30.0	5300.0	3.7 yes	no	yes	good	no	no	ckd	
1	61.0	80.0	1.015	2	0	abnorma	l abnormal	notpre	notpre	173.0	148.0		135.0	5.2	7.7	24.0	9200.0	3.2 yes	yes	yes	poor	yes	yes	ckd	
2	60.0	90.0	1.020	0	0	normal	normal	notpre	notpre	148.0	180.0	76.0	4.5	4.627	10.9	32.0	6200.0	3.6 yes	yes	yes	good	no	no	ckd	
3	48.0	80.0	1.025	4	0	normal	abnormal	notpre	notpre	95.0	163.0		136.0				6900.0	3.4 yes	no	no	good	no	yes	ckd	
4	21.0	70.0		-		normal	normal	notpre	notpre		57.42		137.5					4.707 no	no	no	poor	no	yes	ckd	
25	42.0	100.0	1.015	4	0	normal	abnormal	notpre	present	148.0	50.0		129.0	4.0		39.0		4.6 yes	no	no	poor	no	no	ckd	
6	61.0	60.0		-		normal	normal	notpre	notpre	108.0	75.0		141.0					3.7 yes	yes	no	good	no	yes	ckd	
7	75.0			-	0			notpre		156.0	45.0		140.0				10300.0	4.0 yes	yes	no	poor		no	ckd	
8	69.0	70.0		3		normal	abnormal			264.0	87.0		130.0				9600.0	4.1 yes	yes	yes	good	yes	no	ckd	
9	75.0	70.0		-				notpre		123.0	31.0		137.5					4.707 no	yes	no	good		no	ckd	
90	68.0		1.005	-			abnormal			148.0	28.0		137.5		12.9			4.707 no	no	yes	good		no	ckd	
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2	73.0			3	-		abnormal			107.0	33.0		141.0						no	no	poor		no	ckd	
3	61.0	90.0		1	-		normal			159.0	39.0		133.0				9600.0		yes	no	poor		no	ckd	
4	60.0	100.0		-			labnormal			140.0	55.0		137.5		10.1			4.707 yes	no	no	poor		no	ckd	
35	70.0		1.010	-	-	normal		present		171.0	153.0		137.5					4.707no	yes	no	poor		no	ckd	
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4. Classification

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In data mining, classification is the process of determining a label or a membership for a particular instance based on a training model. It seeks to predict the class attribute of an instance whose label was previously unknown. In WEKA, classification is categorized into supervised and unsupervised although for the two, the procedure is similar; Building the model (classifier) by determining the class label for every object then training the model with requisite data which is represent as a decision tree, association rules or mathematical formulas.

Once the model is developed and trained, it is then presented with a previously unknown and unclassified instance to predict its class label. WEKA provides statistics about the accuracy of the model in percentages.

The assumption is that after data has successfully been preprocessed, it produces a set of attributes $X_i X_{ii} \dots X_n$ and Y such that the objective is to learn a function

 $f:(X_i...,X_n) \rightarrow Y$ so that this function can be used to predict y (which is a discrete attribute or class label) for a given record $(x_i...xn)$.

5. Classification in WEKA

The following are the supported classifiers in WEKA; Bayes, Functions, Lazy, Meta, Mi, Misc, Rules, and trees.

- 1) Load the data in WEKA through the GUI or command line interface
- 2) Choose the classifier
- 3) Determine the classification algorithm
- 4) Visualize the classification by generating a tree

This experiment used Naïve Bayes with a cross validation test options set to 10 folds meaning that the data was split into 10 distinct parts where the first 9 instances are used for training and the remaining 1 instance is used to assess how the algorithm performs. This process is iterated such that each of the 10 split parts is given a chance to be trained and tested.

3		Wek	a Explorer				- 🗆	×
Preprocess Classify Cluster	Associate Select attributes	Visualize						
Classifier								
Choose NaiveBayes								
Test options	Classifier output							
🔿 Use training set								^
O Supplied test set Set	Stratified		lidation =	==				
Cross-validation Folds	10							
0	66 Correctly Clas	sified In	stances	378		94.5	8	
O Percentage split %	Incorrectly Cl	assified 3	Instances	22		5.5	8	
More options	Kappa statisti	c		0.88	57			
	Mean absolute	error		0.05	6			
Nom) class	Root mean squa	red error		0.21				
Nonly class	Relative absol	ute error		11.95				
Start Stop	Root relative	-		44.27	07 %			
	Total Number o	f Instance	83	400				
Result list (right-click for options								
10:52:13 - bayes.NaiveBayes	=== Detailed A	ccuracy B	y Class ===	-				
		TP Rate	FP Rate	Precision	Recall	F-Measure	ROC Area	с
		0.916	0.007	0.996	0.916	0.954	0.998	
		0.993	0.084	0.876	0.993	0.931	0.998	
	Weighted Avg.	0.945	0.036	0.951	0.945	0.946	0.998	
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As seen from the implementation, Naïve Bayes correctly, identified two classes, CKD and NOTCKD. It is clear that preprocessing improved the accuracy and efficiency of the

```
<-- classified as
      b
229
     21 |
             a = ckd
  1 149 1
            b = notckd
```

The confusion matrix presents a table with a comparison between the correctly classified and incorrectly classified instances. It is clear that 21 instances were incorrectly classified as CKD while 1 instance was incorrectly classified as NOTCKD. The confusion matrix can be used to justify the accuracy achieved by the classifier.

6. Conclusion and Future Work

In this paper, a preamble to data preprocessing is presented. Special focus is given to literature on data preprocessing for classification.A description of data preprocessing and classification experiments are run in WEKA. It is clear that to achieve high accuracy with a classifier, preprocessing is a critical task. As well, the choice of the classification algorithm also determines the accuracy attained after performing any data mining tasks.

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model to correctly classify 378 instances translating to 94.5%. The incorrectly classified instances were 22 translating to a 5.5%.



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