A very short introduction to...
Data Mining

Peter Christen
Department of Computer Science

peter.christen@anu.edu.au

http://datamining.anu.edu.au

Overview

- Data collections and example applications
- Definitions of data mining
- Data mining methods and techniques
- Challenges in data mining
- Data mining process
- Short history of data mining
- Data mining resources
- Summary

Data collections in the real world

- Many companies, organisations and research projects collect massive amounts of data
  - Ten largest transaction-processing databases range from 3 to 18 Terabytes
  - Ten largest decision support databases range from 10 to 29 Terabytes
  - Sizes have doubled / tripled between 2001 and end of 2003

  (Source: `http://www.intelligenteai.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=18902161`)

- Questions arise:
  - Is there any new, unexpected and potentially useful information contained in this data?
  - Can we use historical data to predict future outcomes (e.g. customer behaviour, fraud detection, etc.)

Example application (1) – Telecommunication

- Huge amount of data is collected daily
  - Transactional data (about each phone call)
    (Data on mobile phones, house based phones, Internet, etc.)
  - Other customer data (billing, personal information, etc.)
  - Additional data (network load, faults, etc.)
- Questions
  - Which customer group is highly profitable, which one is not?
  - To which customers should we advertise what kind of special offers?
  - What kind of call rates would increase profit without loosing good customers?
  - How do customer profiles change over time?
  - Fraud detection (stolen mobile phones or phone cards)

Example application (2) – Health

- Different aspects of the health system
  - Personal health records (at GPs, specialists, etc.)
  - Hospital data (e.g. admission data, midwives data, surgery data)
  - Billing information (Medicare, PBS)
- Questions
  - Are doctors following the procedures (e.g. prescription of medication)?
  - Adverse drug reactions (analysis of different data collections to find correlations)
  - Are people committing fraud (e.g. doctor shoppers)
  - Correlations between social and environmental issues and people's health? (temporal and spatial analysis of linked data collections)

Example application (3) – Astronomy

- Terabytes of image and other data from telescopes and satellites
  (large-area sky surveys in optical, infrared, and radio wavelengths)

- Questions

  - Classification of objects (stars, galaxies, pulsars, quasars, etc.)
  - Detect (large scale) structures in the (multi-dimensional) data
  - Find rare, unusual, or even previously unknown types of astronomical objects and phenomena

- MACHO (MAssive Compact Halo Objects) (ANU and US)
  (search for *dark matter*, objects like brown dwarfs or planets in the milky way)

Further application areas

- Economics and commerce
  (for example analysis and prediction of stock market)
- Market basket analysis (first data mining application)
  (for example association rules like *"if a customer buys beer he also buys chips with a likelihood of 80%"*)
- Bioinformatics (for example predict diseases based on genome sequences)
- Governments (statistics, census, taxation) (for example prevent fraud)
- Credit card and insurance companies
  (for example segment customers for targeted marketing)
- Terror, crime and fraud detection (find and predict unusual events)

Definitions of data mining (1)

- *Knowledge discovery in databases is the non-trivial process of identifying valid, novel, potentially useful, and ultimately understandable patterns in data.* (Fayyad, Piatetsky-Shapiro and Smyth, 1996)

- *An information extraction activity whose goal is to discover hidden facts contained in databases. Using a combination of machine learning, statistical analysis, modelling techniques and database technology, data mining finds patterns and subtle relationships in data and infers rules that allow the prediction of future results. Typical applications include market segmentation, customer profiling, fraud detection, evaluation of retail promotions, and credit risk analysis.* (`http://www.twocrows.com/glossary.htm`)

- Try also: `http://www.google.com`, search term: *"define: data mining"*

Definitions of data mining (2)

- Data mining is often also called *Knowledge discovery in databases* (KDD)

  (some say data mining is only one essential step in the KDD process)

- Essential in definitions is:

  ... non-trivial extraction ...

  ... previously unknown or novel ...

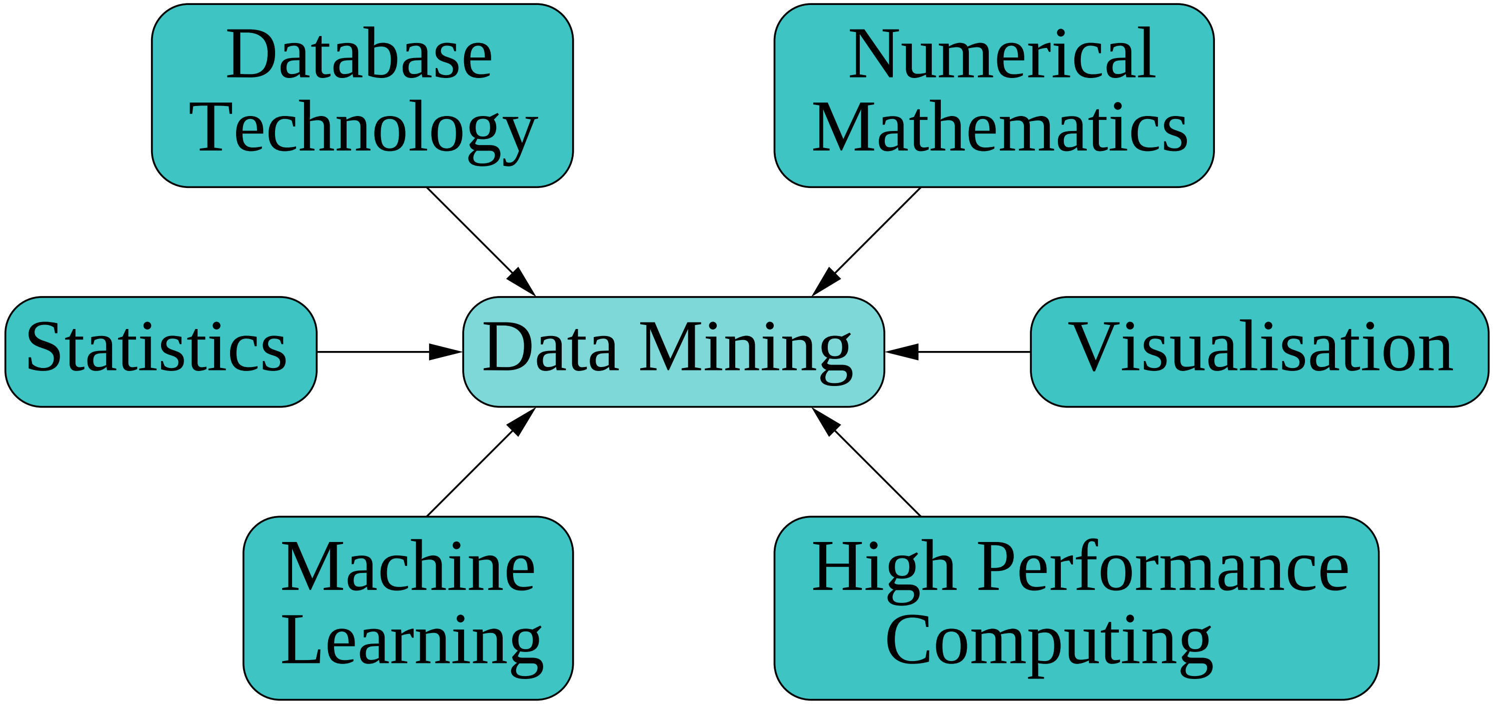
  ... potentially useful information ...

  ... understandable and interesting ...

  ... large amounts of data ...

  ... prediction and modelling ...

Data mining is multi disciplinary



Database Technology

Numerical Mathematics

Statistics

Data Mining

Visualisation

Machine Learning

High Performance Computing

Data mining methods and techniques (1)

- What they do

  Detect patterns in data: Rules, patterns, classes, associations and functional dependencies, outliers, data distributions, clusters

- How they do it

  Search through data and pattern space, non-parametric modelling, filtering, aggregation

- How well they do it

  Errors and biases, over-fitting, confounding effects, speed, scalability

Data mining methods and techniques (2)

- Cluster analysis (unsupervised learning)
  Group data to form classes, maximise intra-class similarity and minimise similarity between clusters
- Association rules discovery
  Find frequent rules in the data; popular with *market basket analysis*
- Classification (e.g. decision trees)
  Build (binary) tree where each node corresponds to a split of attribute values, e.g. ”*if the weather is sunny play golf else don’t play*¨
- Predictive modelling
  Build mathematical models (functions) of the data in order to predict some unknown or missing values (or future outcomes)

Data mining methods and techniques (3)

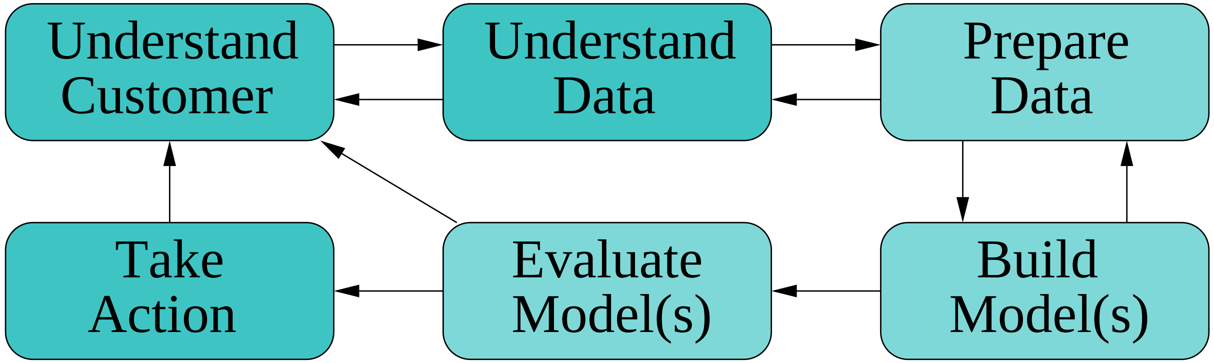
- Outlier detection
  Find unusual, rare events (often regarded as noise, these can be the most interesting objects or events in the data), e.g. fraud detection, network intrusion detection, etc.
- Sequence / time series mining
  Find patterns over time (e.g. episodes, clusters)
- Spatial mining Geographical data analysis
- Stream mining
  Where access to the data is limited to once (e.g. network data, telecommunications data, etc.), special algorithms are necessary
- Multimedia mining (images, audio, video)

Major challenges in data mining

- Data size
  - Size of data collections grows more than linear, doubling every 18 months (similar to Moore's law of CPU speed)
  - Scalable algorithms are needed
- Data complexity
  - Different types of data (free text, HTML, XML, multimedia)
  - Dimensionality of the data increases (more attributes)
  - The *curse of dimensionality* affects many algorithms (for example find nearest neighbours in high dimensions)
- Data quality
  - Real world data is messy and dirty (missing and out-of-date values, typographical errors, different coding/formats, etc.)

The data mining / KDD process (1)

- Data mining is an interactive process



- Data mining = "Build Model(s)"
- Typically 90% of time and efforts are spent in the first 3 steps

(Follows: *CRoss Industry Standard Process for Data Mining*, `http://www.crisp-dm.org/`)

The data mining / KDD process (2)

- An iterative sequence of the following steps

1. Data cleaning
2. Data integration
3. Data selection
4. Data transformation
5. Data mining
6. Pattern evaluation
7. Knowledge presentation

(Follows: *Data Mining: Concepts and Techniques*, Han/Kamber)

Short history of data mining

- The term *data mining* was first mentioned by a statistician in 19?? (but with a different meaning than used today)
- First workshops on knowledge discovery in databases in early 1990 (part of ACM SIGMOD (management of data) conferences)
- First data mining conferences in mid 1990
- Many more conferences since early 2000
- Data mining is around 10 years old

Data mining resources (2)

- Many good books on data mining available
  (e.g. *Data Mining, Concepts and Techniques*, J. Han and M. Kamber, Morgan Kaufmann)
- Journals
  - `http://www.kluweronline.com/issn/1384-5810/`
    (Kluwer Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery)
  - `http://www.computer.org/tkde/`
    (IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering)
  - `http://www.acm.org/sigs/sigkdd/explorations/`
    (ACM SIGKDD Explorations)
  - `http://www.cs.uvm.edu/∼kais/`
    (Springer Knowledge and Information Systems)

Data mining resources (1)

- Conferences
  - ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (since 1995)
  - European Conference on Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (PKDD) (since 1997)
  - Pacific-Asia Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (PAKDD) (since 1997)
  - SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) International Conference on Data Mining (since 2001)
  - IEEE (International Institute of Electrical Engineers) International Conference on Data Mining (since 2001)

Data mining resources (3)

- (Some) Web resources
  - http://www.kdnuggets.com/
  - http://www.dmg.org/ (Data mining group, PMML)
  - http://www.acm.org/sigs/sigkdd/
  - http://datamining.anu.edu.au/links.html
  - http://www.togaware.com/datamining/catalogue.html
  - http://kdd.ics.uci.edu/
    (UCI Knowledge Discovery in Databases Archive)
- Large number of software packages
  (mainly commercial but some free open source as well)

Summary

- Data mining is the non-trivial process of identifying valid, novel, potentially useful, and ultimately understandable patterns in large and complex data collections.

- (Many different) data issues are important for data mining

- A large proportion of time and effort in a data mining project is spent on data preprocessing

- Issues not covered: Ethical, privacy, social implications, etc.
  (especially important with techniques involving personal or confidential data, like data matching and linkage)

Interested?

- Data mining course MATH3346 in semester 2
  - Lecturers from computer science, mathematics, statistics and a governmental organisation (ATO)
  - Covering all aspects of data mining
  - Check out `http://datamining.anu.edu.au` for announcement (coming soon)
- E-mail me at: `peter.christen@anu.edu.au`

Any questions...?