CSE 564: Visualization

Time Series and Streaming Data

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Wednesday 28 April 1999; Posted: 11:33 p.m. EDT (03:33 GMT): Another robbery occurred in southwestern Ontario today, making this the fourth robbery in the past few months. Delaware Bank in Brantford was robbed by three masked individuals who stole $150,000 in currency and several unknown items from the bank’s vault. The bank robbery occurred at 2:30, lasting all of five minutes and injuring eight people. All injured parties were taken to the local hospital where one died on arrival. Two people were released and the remaining people are in intensive care. This robbery is similar to a crime spree that started on the Chinese New Year. The first robbery occurred in the morning at Allegiant Bank in Richmond Hill, with the robbers taking more than $100,000 in currency. The second robbery occurred about two weeks later at Banner Bank in Ajax and was caught on tape. The robbers arrived just as the bank opened, riding in a white van and wearing black ski masks and black outfits, and carrying automatic machine guns. During the first three minutes, the robbers instructed all of the patrons to face the wall and place their hands on their heads. While two of the robbers watched the patrons, the other robber took the bank manager and instructed him to open the vault. Other video captured the movement in the vault. The vault was opened about five minutes after the robbers arrived. The safe was blown two minutes later, and the robber removed only two safety deposit boxes and placed them in a bag. He then continued to club the manager and was back upstairs, yelling instructions to his buddies as they left the bank, not more than 20 minutes after they arrived. What was unusual was that no alarms were sounded. The third robbery happened at night at Carter Bank in Brampton, with only nearby homeowners mentioning that they do not remember hearing the bank alarm, only dogs barking for a while....
Temporal relationships can be highly complex

- temporal ordering is a serious issue
- event may occur in spatially disjoint locations
- what came before what – cause and effect
- what time shifts are acceptable/plausible?

To understand temporal relationships, an analyst:

- might need to reread the paragraph many times
- needs to cognitively make inferences between pieces of information

Visualization is key to externalize these relationships

- put it all out on “paper” and reason with it
Time is Special

Difficult to handle:

- likely will have to create this sample news story from information embedded in thousands of documents
- say each sentence contains information distilled from 100 documents
- analysts would need to find each of these sentences and then link them together to formulate the story

Why is time difficult?

- what actually is time?
- how can one work with the metaphor of time’s flow?
- what is the proper formalism that captures the time’s special role in reasoning

Time is an important variable

- people consider it as an independent quantity
- our perception is that we have no control over it
- time is an ever-present thread that can help tie events together
Reference frame:

- standard point of view for making observations and judgments

Map yourself into someone else’s reference frame

- use VR
- use AR
Spatial Reference Frames

Spatial Coding Systems

Allocentric (object-to-object)

Encodes information about the location of one object or its parts with respect to other objects. The location of one object is defined relative to the location of other objects.

Egocentric (self-to-object)

Represents the location of objects in space relative to the body axes of the self (left-right, front-back, up-down).
Time as a Reference Frame

Calendars and time have reference frames

- Gregorian, Greenwich, EDT

Time is also often used in relative terms:

- “today”, “yesterday”, “fortnight”, “before Tuesday”, …
- must normalize different reference systems into a common framework
- but it might be unknown what reference system was used individually
- “This robbery is similar to a crime spree that started on the Chinese New Year …” – when is Chinese New Year?
- causes ambiguities, uncertainties, biases, conflicts
1st robbery: Allegiant Bank; morning; started on Chinese New Year; 16 Feb., 1999

1st 3 min.: robbers instructed patrons to stand against wall
5 min. later: vault opened
2 min. later: safe blown
Not more than 20 min. later, robbers had left the bank

2nd robbery: Banner Bank; 2 weeks later

3rd robbery: Carter Bank; night

Robbery today (28 Apr.) at 2:30: duration 5 min.
Often asked questions:

- when was something greatest/least?
- as there a pattern?
- are two series similar?
- does a data element exist at time t, and when?
- how long does a data element exist and how often?
- how fast are data elements changing
- in what order do they appear?
- do data elements exist together?

Different types of time series data:

- discrete vs. interval
- linear vs. cyclic
- ordinal vs. continuous
- ordered vs. branching vs. time with multiple perspectives
Traditional Time Series Visualizations

NVIDIA stock vs. NASDAQ (from yahoo! finance)
Fun one… (found in J. Stasko lecture)
A few good visualization metaphors for time
  • there are quite a few of them…
River widens or narrows to depict changes in the collective strength of selected themes in the underlying documents. Individual themes are represented as colored "currents" flowing within the river.

Example shown here: newspaper themes around the Cuban Missile crisis

Summer blockbusters and holiday hits make up the bulk of box office revenue each year, while contenders for the Oscars tend to attract smaller audiences that build over time. Here's a look at how movies have fared at the box office, after adjusting for inflation.

Stream Graphs

February 23, 2008

Sources: Baseline StudioSystems; Box Office Mojo

Mathew Block, Lee Byron, Shan Carter and Amanda Cox
How Different Groups Spend Their Day

The American Time Use Survey asks thousands of American residents to recall every minute of a day. Here is how people over age 15 spent their time in 2008. Related article

Everyone
Sleeping, eating, working and watching television take up about two-thirds of the average day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Everyone</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Age 15-24</th>
<th>H.S. grads</th>
<th>No children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Age 25-64</td>
<td>Bachelors</td>
<td>One child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Not in lab</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>Age 55+</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Two+ children</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Related article

By SHAN CARTER, AMANDA COX, KEVIN QUEALY and AMY SCHOFIELD | Send Feedback
New! Try the NameMapper to see where your favorite names are being used, and Namipedia for full info on every name.
Chronic Flow Charts

Criminal record for Bart Simpson

- B&E = breaking and entering
- length mapped to duration
- width mapped to severity
- intensity mapped to penetration into the juridical system

Plaisant et al. (CHI ‘96)
Medical data are often displayed along time

- natural to humans
- progression of disease
- appearance of symptoms
- time course of treatment and outcome
- but also time signals (ECG, blood pressure, etc.)

A popular example is Lifelines and Lifelines2

- Shneiderman and Plaisant et al.
LifeLines: Patient-Centric
LifeLines2: Pattern-Centric

Goals:
• bring out temporal categorical patterns across multiple records
• categorical event data such as complaints, diagnoses, treatments
• play important roles in health providers decision making

Features
• allows users to manipulate multiple records simultaneously
• understand relative temporal relationships across records
• 3 operators: align, rank, filter
• temporal summaries allow multiple groups of records to be compared
Deal with different levels of detail

- illustrative abstraction
- overview + detail
- used here for medical data
Cyclic Patterns

Time data are often cyclic

- spiral displays are good to bring out cyclic patterns
- one period per loop (for example, a year)

Weber et al., 2001
Cyclic Patterns

May have to play around to discover the cycles

from J. Stasko, lecture notes
OculusInfo Geotime application

- events are represented in an X,Y,T coordinate space
- the X,Y plane shows geography
- the vertical T axis represents time
- events animate in time vertically through the 3-D space as the time slider bar is moved.

http://www.oculusinfo.com/SoftwareProducts/GeoTime.html
As complexity increases, interaction capabilities are key
  • show more context of what else was going on at that time
  • likely have to abstract some of the information
  • allow several different levels of detail at once
  • allow drill-down for details
  • use dashboard design with many linked information displays

Example: Computer system management
  • LiveRAC system (McLachlan et al.)
  • next two slides
Figure 3. LiveRAC shows a full day of system management time-series data using a reorderable matrix of area-aware charts. Over 4000 devices are shown in rows, with 11 columns representing groups of monitored parameters. (a): The user has sorted by the maximum value in the CPU column. The first several dozen rows have been stretched to show sparklines for the devices, with the top 13 enlarged enough to display text labels. The time period of business hours has been selected, showing the increase in the In pkts parameter for many devices. (b): The top three rows have been further enlarged to show fully detailed charts in the CPU column and partially detailed ones in Swap and two other columns. The time marker (vertical black line on each chart) indicates the start of anomalous activity in several of spire’s parameters. Below the labeled rows, we see many blocks at the lowest semantic zoom level, and further below we see a compressed region of highly saturated blocks that aggregate information from many charts.
LiveRAC: Interactive Visual Exploration of System Management Time-Series Data
Time series data with no end…
Types of Streaming data

Transaction streams
- credit card, point-of-sale transaction
- at a supermarket, or online purchase of an item

Web click-streams

Social streams
- online social networks such as Twitter
- speed and volume of the stream typically scale super-linearly with the number of actors

Network streams
- communication networks contain large volumes of traffic streams
- often mined for intrusions, outliers, or other unusual activity
Challenges (1)

One-pass constraint

- data is generated continuously and rapidly
- it is assumed that the data can be processed only once
- archival for future processing is not possible
- prevents use of iterative mining or model building algorithms that require multiple passes over the data

Concept drift, concept evolution, feature evolution

- data may evolve over time
- various statistical properties, such as correlations between attributes, correlations between attributes and class labels, and cluster distributions may change over time
Concept Drift

Current hyperplane

Previous hyperplane

A data chunk

Negative instance ●
Positive instance ○

Instances victim of concept-drift ●

Latifur Khan, et al. IBM
Classification rules:

R1. if \((x > x_1 \text{ and } y < y_2)\) or \((x < x_1 \text{ and } y < y_1)\) then class = +

R2. if \((x > x_1 \text{ and } y > y_2)\) or \((x < x_1 \text{ and } y > y_1)\) then class = -

Existing classification models misclassify novel class instances

Latifur Khan, et al. IBM
Virtually all streaming methods use an online synopsis (summary) construction approach in the mining process
  • create an online synopsis that is then leveraged for mining

Many different kinds of synopsis approaches
  • the nature of a synopsis highly influences the type of insights that can be mined from it.

Some examples of synopsis structures:
  • random samples
  • bloom filters, sketches
  • distinct element-counting data structures
  • traditional data mining applications, such as clustering
Stream processing requirements

- single pass: each record is examined (sampled) at most once
- bounded storage: limited Memory (M) for storing synopsis
- real-time: per record processing time (to maintain synopsis) must be low
A data stream is a (massive) sequence of elements $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$

Idea:

- a small random sample $S$ of the data often well represents all the data
- many different ways to obtain this sample

Data stream: \[9 \ 3 \ 5 \ 2 \ 7 \ 1 \ 6 \ 5 \ 8 \ 4 \ 9 \ 1\]

Sample $S$: \[9 \ 5 \ 1 \ 8\]
Reservoir Sampling

```c
/*
 * S has items to sample, R will contain the result
 */
void ReservoirSample(int S[1..n], int R[1..k])
{
    // fill the reservoir array
    for i = 1 to k
        R[i] := S[i]

    // replace elements with gradually decreasing probability
    for i = k+1 to n
        j := random(1, i) // important: inclusive range
        if j <= k
            R[j] := S[i]
}
```

Probabilities

- $k/i$ for the $i$\textsuperscript{th} sample to go into the reservoir
- $1/k \cdot k/i = 1/i$ for the $j$\textsuperscript{th} reservoir element to be replaced
- $k/n$ for all elements in the reservoir after $n$ has been reached
- can be shown via induction

A good algorithm to use for streaming data when $n$ is growing
Sliding Window Approach

Background:
• some applications rely on ALL historical data
• but for most applications, OLD data is considered less relevant and could skew results from NEW trends or conditions
  - new processes/procedures
  - new hardware/sensors
  - new fashion trends

Sliding Windows Model
• only last “N” elements are considered
• incorporate examples as they arrive
• the record “expires” at time t+N (N is the window length)
Sliding Window Approach

Window Size $N = 7$

Current Time

Time Increases
CluStream Clustering

The concept drift in an evolving data stream changes the clusters significantly over time

• need a clustering algorithm that can deal with this
• CluStream is such an algorithm

CluStream’s online microclustering clustering stage

• processes the stream in real time to continuously maintain summarized but detailed (micro-)cluster statistics of the stream

CluStream’s offline macroclustering stage

• further summarizes these detailed clusters
• provides the user with a more concise understanding of the clusters over different time horizons and levels of temporal granularity.
There are k microclusters

- a new data point either needs to be absorbed by a microcluster, or it needs to be put in a cluster of its own

Algorithm

- determine distance of the new data point to all current microcluster centroids
- assign the point to the closest cluster and update the statistics
- if the point does not fall within the maximum boundary of any microcluster create a new microcluster
- to create this new microcluster, the number of other microclusters must be reduced by 1 to free memory availability
- achieve this by either deleting an old microcluster or merging two of the older clusters
- decide by examining the staleness (using the time stamp statistics) of the different clusters, and the number of points in them
- determine whether one of them is “sufficiently” stale to merit removal
- if no microcluster is stale, then a merging of the two microclusters is initiated
Store microclusters statistics periodically to enable time horizon-specific analysis of the clusters

- the microcluster snapshots are stored at varying levels of granularity depending on the recency of the snapshot
Other Stream Mining Issues

Streaming outlier (anomaly) detection
- use time windows and k-nearest neighbor scores
- new concepts or trends can manifest themselves as outliers in the onset

Streaming classifiers
- the *Hoeffding tree* is constructed incrementally by growing the tree simultaneously with stream arrival.