



The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology



Introduction to Health Care Data Analytics

Module 4: Data Analysis Tools and Techniques

Lecture b, Databases Part I

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Data Analysis Tools and Techniques Learning Objectives

- Define data analytics terms
- Describe the process steps of data analytics and the tools used in each step
- Describe the role of the data analyst
- Identify tools and techniques used to analyze and interpret health care data effectively
- Describe key database concepts.
- Describe the various types of databases and how they are structured
- Describe key data warehouse concepts
- Describe enterprise data architecture as seen in health care organizations

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Overview



This lecture focuses on the specific tools and techniques used in data analysis as related to databases.

Why Is This Important?

- Ever need something more than a simple spreadsheet to organize your data?
- Ever have difficulty trying to find data?
- Have a need to search for answers to relevant clinical or business questions?

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Prevalence of Databases



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What Is a Database?

- A database is a collection of data organized for a specific purpose and has the following properties:
- Consists of one or more tables
- A **row** in a table is called a **record**
- A **column** in a table is called a **field**

Patient Table:

Fields			
Records	PatientID	FirstName	LastName
	001	Bugs	Bunny
	002	Roger	Rabbit
	003	Daffy	Duck

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What Is a Database Management System (DBMS)?

Database Management System (DBMS) – software package used to create, enter, and modify data and retrieve information from database



Capron & Johnston, 2004

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Types of Data Stored in a Table

Each field in a table has a data type.

Data Type	What is it?	Examples
Numeric	Integers Numbers with decimals Money (Currency)	458 2.567 \$45.00
Date and Time	Dates only Times only Dates and times	2016-03-24 09:51 2016-03-24 09:51
Character Strings	Different kinds of text strings, differentiated by how long they are	John Doe Congestive Heart Failure
Binary Strings	Different kind of binary data, including "true or false" types of data	Yes No True False

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Data Integrity

Data integrity is the degree in which data is accurate and reliable

- Integrity constraints are rules that data must follow.
- Example:
 - Month field (numeric numbers 1 to 12 are acceptable values).
 - John enters a 13 into the field and receives an error message.



Capron & Johnston, 2004

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Metadata

- Data that describes the “properties or characteristics of data and the context of that data”
- Used to create programs, procedures, controls and queries to manipulate and manage the data in a database

Name	Type	Length	Description	Source
ID	Integer	10	Social Security Number	Registration
Name	Alphanumeric	30	Patient name	Patients
Appointment	Date and time	20	Appointment date and time	Appointments



Hoffer, Prescott & McFadden, 2007

Image by ©PlusONE, Shutterstock

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Data Dictionary

- A structure that stores metadata
- Used to control database operations, integrity and accuracy
- Contains the field name, data type, field size as well as validation rules which allows the DBMS to enforce integrity constraints



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Data Dictionary and Validation Rule Violation Example

Data Dictionary

Error Message or Alert

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Access interface. On the left, a 'Data Dictionary' window displays a table with columns: 'Index', 'Name', 'Type', 'Length', 'Format', 'Default Value', 'Validation Rule', and 'Validation Text'. One row in the table has a red border, indicating a validation rule violation. An arrow points from this row to a validation rule entry in the 'Validation rule (type of integrity constraint)' section at the bottom of the window. On the right, a 'Microsoft Access' error dialog box is displayed, showing the message 'Value must be greater than 1/1/2000.' with 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Images by K Brandt, 2016

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Data Models

- Used to capture the relationship among data within a database and are used in the conceptualization and design of the database
- Basic building blocks of all data models are **entities, attributes** and **relationships**



Hoffer, Prescott & McFadden, 2007; Rob & Coronel, 2004

Image by ©Singham, Shutterstock

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Entity, Attributes and Instances

- Entity:** person, place, object, event or concept, or thing (table)
- Attribute:** a characteristic of an entity (column or field in a table)
- Instance:** each row or record in a table

Logical/Relational	Physical Implementation
Entity	Table
Attribute (Field)	Column
Instance (Record)	Row

Hoffer, Prescott & McFadden, 2007

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Relationships

- Describes how two or more entities or tables are related within the database (Cardinality)
- Depicted in data model
- Several methods to notate relationships, i.e. Crow's Foot Model
- Relationships can be one to one (1:1), one to many (1:M) and many to many (M:M)

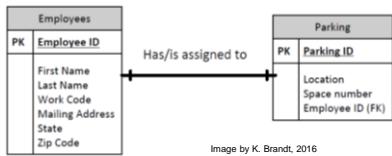
Common Relationships using Crow's Foot Notation	
Relationship	Symbol
One to One	↔
One and Only One	→
One to Many	→↔
One to One or Many	→↔↔
Many to Many	↔↔

Image by K. Brandt, 2016

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Relationships – One to One (1:1)

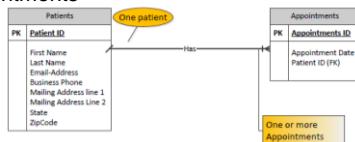
- One to One: A single entity instance is related to a single instance in another entity
- Example: An employee is assigned one parking place. A parking place is assigned to one employee.



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Relationships – One to Many (1:M)

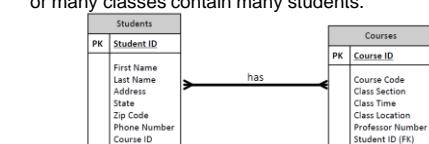
- A single entity instance in one entity type is related to many entity instances in another entity type.
- Most common
- Example: One patient has one or more appointments



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Relationships – Many to Many (M:M)

- Many entity instances in one entity type are related to many instances in another entity type
- For more efficient design, uses a lookup table to link the many to many tables
- Example: Many students are registered for many classes or many classes contain many students.



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Building a Data Model

- Need type of data used, how they are used and in what time frames as well as the business rules of the organization
- Business rules:
 - Precise, non-ambiguous descriptions of policies, procedures or principles within a specific organization's environment



Rob & Coronel, 2004

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Summary

- A database :
 - Is a collection of data organized for a specific purpose
 - Is designed for use by individuals to whole organizations
 - Uses specific types of data with data integrity rules enforcement
- Data within the database is defined through metadata and data dictionary
- Conceptual database model:
 - Is a database structure using entities, attributes and instances
 - Depicts the relationships between entities
 - Follows business rules

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Data Analytics Tools and Techniques References – Lecture b

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