

Estimating null values in relational database systems using automatic clustering and multiple regression techniques

Shu-Ting Chang^a, Shyi-Ming Chen^{a,b,*}

^a Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC

^b Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering, Jinwen University of Science and Technology, Taipei County, Taiwan, ROC

Abstract

In this paper, we present a new method for estimating null values in relational database systems using automatic clustering and multiple regression techniques. First, we present a new automatic clustering algorithm for clustering numerical data. The proposed automatic clustering algorithm does not need to determine the number of clusters in advance and does not need to sort the data in the database in advance. Then, based on the proposed automatic clustering algorithm and multiple regression techniques, we present a new method to estimate null values in relational database systems. The proposed method estimating null values in relational database systems only needs to process a particular cluster instead of the whole database. It gets a higher average estimation accuracy rate than the existing methods for estimating null values in relational database systems.

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Keywords: Relational database; Null value; Automatic clustering algorithm; Cluster center

1. Introduction

In this information age, many enterprises use relational database systems for storing and processing data. In real-world applications, null values may exist in relational database systems. When some attributes of relational database systems have null values, they will not operate properly. Therefore, how to estimate null values in relational database systems is an important research topic. In recent years, some methods have been proposed to estimate null values in relational database systems (Chang & Chen, 2006; Chen & Chen, 2000; Chen & Hsiao, 2005; Chen & Huang, 2003; Chen & Lee, 2003; Chen & Yeh, 1998; Cheng & Wang, 2006; Huang & Chen, 2002; Lee & Chen, 2002).

Chen and Chen (2000) presented a method to estimate null values in the distributed relational databases environment. Chen and Huang (2003) presented a method to gen-

erate weighted fuzzy rules for estimating null values in relational database systems using genetic algorithms. Chen and Yeh (1998) presented a method to estimate null values in relational database systems by generating fuzzy rules. Cheng and Wang (2006) presented some methods for estimating null values in relational database systems by utilizing clustering techniques for clustering data and using fuzzy correlations and the distance similarity measure to calculate the correlation of different attributes. Chen and Hsiao (2005) presented an automatic clustering algorithm to estimate null values in relational database systems. Huang and Chen (2002) presented a method for estimating null values in relational database systems with negative dependency relationship between attributes. Lee and Chen (2002) presented a method to estimate null values in relational database systems using genetic algorithms.

In this paper, we present a new method for estimating null values in relational database systems using automatic clustering and multiple regression techniques. First, we present a new automatic clustering algorithm for clustering numerical data. The proposed automatic clustering algorithm does not need to determine the number of clusters

* Corresponding author. Address: Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering, National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC. Tel.: +886 2 27376417; fax: +886 2 27301081.

E-mail address: smchen@mail.ntust.edu.tw (S.-M. Chen).

in advance and does not need to sort the data in the database in advance. Then, based on the proposed automatic clustering algorithm and multiple regression techniques, we present a new method to estimate null values in relational database systems. The proposed method for estimating null values in relational database systems only needs to process a particular cluster instead of the whole database. It gets a higher average estimation accuracy rate than Chen and Chen's method (2000), Chen and Yeh's method (1998), Chen and Hsiao's method (2005) and Cheng and Wang's method (2006) for estimating null values in relational database systems.

2. A new automatic clustering algorithm

Baek and Kim (2007) presented a hierarchical clustering method for learning single-issue negotiation strategies. Saracoglu, Tutuncu, and Allahverdi (2007) presented a fuzzy clustering approach for finding similar documents using a novel similarity measure. Chan, Collins, and Kasabov (2006) presented a greedy K-means algorithm for global gene trajectory clustering. Hsiao and Chen (2001) presented an automatic clustering algorithm to cluster numerical data. However, Hsiao-and-Chen's automatic clustering algorithm only can deal with one-dimensional data and it must sort the data in advance. In this section, we present a new automatic clustering algorithm for clustering numerical data to overcome the drawbacks of Hsiao and Chen's method (2001). The proposed automatic clustering algorithm is now presented as follows:

Step 1: Construct the membership functions of linguistic terms of the attributes containing null values. Define cluster labels based on the values and the fuzzified values of the attributes. Cluster the data based on the cluster labels preliminarily.

Step 2:/* Choose the tuple which has the smallest total Euclidean distance in each cluster as the cluster center. */

```

for each cluster do
{
  if the cluster only contains one tuple then the tuple is the cluster center of the cluster;
  else if the number of tuples in the cluster is 2 then let the mean values of the attributes of these two tuples be the cluster center of the cluster
  else
  {
    based on Eq. (1), calculate the total Euclidean distance between each tuple and the other tuples in the cluster;
    choose the tuple which has the smallest total Euclidean distance with respect to the other tuples in the cluster as the cluster center of the cluster
  }
}
}.
```

```

Step 3: For each cluster do
{
  calculate the Euclidean distance between each tuple in the cluster and its cluster center, respectively;
  calculate the Euclidean distance between each tuple in the cluster and the cluster centers of other clusters, respectively;
  for each tuple in the cluster do
  {
    if the Euclidean distance between the tuple in the cluster and its cluster center is larger than the Euclidean distance between the tuple in the cluster and the cluster centers of other clusters
    then
    {
      remove this tuple from the cluster;
      put this tuple into the cluster which has the smallest distance with respect to its cluster center
    }
  }
}.
```

```

Step 4: For each cluster do
{
  if the Euclidean distance between each tuple in the cluster and its cluster center is smaller than or equal to the Euclidean distance between the tuple in the cluster and the cluster centers of other clusters
  then
  go to Step 5
  else
  go to Step 3
}.
```

Step 5: Calculate the average distance of each cluster based on Eq. (2) and the total average distance Total_average_dist of all the clusters based on Eq. (3).

```

Step 6: For each cluster do
{
  for each tuple in the cluster do
  {
    if the average distance of the cluster > Total_average_dist and the Euclidean distance between the tuple in the cluster and the cluster center of the cluster > Total_average_dist
    then remove this tuple from the cluster
  }
}.
```

```

Step 7: For the removed tuples  $data_i, data_j, \dots, data_p$  do
{
  if the Euclidean distance between  $data_i$  and  $data_j \leq$  Total_average_dist
  then let  $data_i$  and  $data_j$  form a new cluster, respectively
}.
```

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