A New Data Anonymization Technique used For Membership Disclosure Protection

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Abstract: Several anonymization techniques, like generalization and bucketization, have been intended for privacy preserving microdata publishing. Current work has shown that generalization loses significant amount of information, particularly for high-dimensional data. On the other hand, bucketization does not prevent membership disclosure and does not apply for data that do not have a clear separation between quasi-identifying attributes and sensitive attributes. In this paper, we present a new technique called slicing, in that data is partition into both horizontally and vertically. We demonstrate that slicing preserves better data utility than generalization and can be used for membership disclosure protection. Another main advantage of slicing is that it can handle high-dimensional data. We illustrate how slicing can be used for attribute disclosure protection and build up an efficient algorithm for computing the sliced data that obey the ℓ-diversity requirement. Our workload experiments verify that slicing preserves better utility than generalization and is more effective than bucketization in workloads involving the sensitive attribute. Our experiments also show that slicing can be used to prevent membership disclosure.

Keywords: Generalization, Bucketization, membership disclosure protection, attribute disclosure protection.

I. INTRODUCTION

Privacy-preserving publishing of microdata has been studied widely in current years. Microdata contain records each of which records contains information about an individual, such as a person, household, or an organization. Some microdata anonymization techniques have been proposed. The most popular techniques are generalization for k-anonymity [3] and bucketization for ℓ-diversity [5]. In both approaches attributes are divided into three categories: (1) some attributes are identifiers that can distinctively identify an individual, such as Name or else Social Security Number; (2) some attributes are Quasi-Identifiers(QI), which the adversary may already know (possibly from other publicly-available databases) and which, when taken together, can potentially recognize an individual, for e.g., Birth-date, Zip code and Sex; (3) some attributes are Sensitive Attributes (SAs), which are anonymous to the adversary and are considered sensitive, such the same as Disease and Salary. Mutually in generalization and bucketization, one first eliminates identifiers from the data and then partitions tuples into buckets. These two techniques differs in the next step. Generalization convert the QI-values in each bucket into “less specific but semantically consistent” values so that tuples in the same bucket cannot be differentiated by their QI value. In bucketization, one separates the SAs from the QIs by arbitrarily permuting the SA values in each bucket. That anonymized data consists of a set of buckets with permuted sensitive attribute values.

II. BACKGROUND

Generalization for k-anonymity [1] losses considerable amount of information, particularly for high-dimensional data. This is due to the following reasons. First, generalization for k-anonymity undergo from the curse of dimensionality. In order to generalization for effective records in the similar bucket must be close up to each other so that generalizing the records would not lose too much information. On the other hand, in high-dimensional data, most of data points have similar distances with each other, forcing a large amount of generalization to assure k-anonymity [1] even for relative small k’s. Then the second is, in order to perform data analysis as well as data mining tasks on the generalized table, the data analyst have to make the uniform distribution assumption that every value in a generalized set is equally doable, as no more distribution assumption can be justified. This significantly decrease the data utility of the generalized data. And the Third is, because each attribute is generalized separately, correlations between two or more different attributes are missing. In order to study attribute correlations on the generalized table, the data analyst has to assume that each possible combination of attribute values is equally
possible. This is an natural problem of
generalization that avoid effective analysis of attribute
correlations.

While bucketization [4] has better data utility
than generalization, also it has several limitations. First,
bucketization gives attention to membership disclosure
[6]. Because bucketization issues the QI values in their
original forms, an opposition can find out whether an
dividual has a record in the published data or not. As
shown in following table, some percents of the
individuals in the United States can be uniquely identified
using only three attributes (Birth_date, Sex, and
Zip_code). A microdata (e.g., census data) usually
includes many other attributes besides those three
attributes. That means the membership information of
most persons can be inferred from the bucketized table.
Second, bucketization needed a clear separation between
QIs and SAs. However, in many datasets, it is ambiguous
which attributes are QIs and which are SAs. Third,
separate the sensitive attribute from the QI attributes,
bucketization split the attribute correlations between the
QIs and the SAs.[4]

In this paper, we introduce a novel data
anonymization method called slicing to improve the
current state of the art. In that method called slicing the
dataset partitions into both vertically and horizontally. In
that vertical partitioning is done by grouping attributes
into columns based on the correlations among the
attributes. Each of the column contains a subset of
attributes that are highly correlated. And the horizontal
partitioning is done by grouping tuples into the buckets.
Finally, within each bucket, values in each column are
randomly sorted to break the linking between different
columns. The vital idea of slicing is to break the
relationship across columns, but to preserve the
relationship within each column.

III. RELATED WORK
1. Many existing clustering algorithms for e.g., k-
means requires the calculation of the “centroids”. But
there is no perception of “centroids” in our setting where
each attribute forms a data point in the clustering
space.[1]
2. A k-medoid method is very robust to the existence of
outliers i.e., data points that are extremely far away from
the remaining data points.
3. The order in which the data points are examined does
not affect the clusters calculate from the k-medoid
method.[1]

A. Disadvantages:
1. Existing anonymization techniques or algorithms can
be used for column generalization, for e.g., Mondrian.
These algorithms can be applied on the sub table
containing only attributes in one column to make sure the
secrecy requirement.[2]
2. Existing data analysis like query answering methods
can be easily used on the sliced data.
3. Existing privacy actions for membership disclosure
protection include differential privacy and presence.[6]

IV. THE PROPOSED SYSTEM
This paper present a novel technique called slicing, in
that data can be partitions in both horizontally and
vertically. In that we illustrate that it preserves better data
utility than generalization [3] and can be used for
membership disclosure protection. Also it has one another
important advantage that is it can handle
high-dimensional data. In this paper we show that how
this slicing technique can be used for attribute disclosure
protection and develop an efficient algorithm for
computing the sliced data that follow the \(f\)-diversity
requirement [1]. Our workload experiments verify that
slicing preserves better utility than generalization and is
more efficient than bucketization in that workloads
involving the sensitive attribute.[5]

A. Advantages:
1. We introduce a data anonymization technique called
slicing to get better current state of the art.
2. We show that slicing can be effectively used for
avoiding attribute disclosure, depending on the privacy requirement of
\(f\)-diversity.
3. We develop an efficient algorithm for calculate the
sliced table that satisfies \(f\)-diversity. This proposed
algorithm partitions attributes into columns, be relevant
column generalization, and partitions tuples interested in
buckets.
4. We perform extensive workload experiments. Our
results prove that slicing preserves much better data utility
than generalization. In workload involving the sensitive
attribute, slicing is more effective than bucketization,[5]
In some experiments, slicing shows better performance
than using the original data. Our experiments shows the
limitations of bucketization in membership disclosure
disclosure protection and slicing remedies these type of limitations.

B. Slicing Algorithms:
Our algorithm consists of some phases: that are tuple
partitioning and Diversity check. Now we describe these phases.

1. Algorithm tuple-partition\((T, f)\)
   1. \(Q = \{T\}; SB = \emptyset\).
   2. while \(Q\) is not empty
   3. remove the first bucket \(B\) from \(Q\); \(Q = Q \setminus \{B\}\).
   4. split \(B\) into two buckets i.e. \(B1\) and \(B2\), as in
      Mondrian.
   5. if diversity-check\((T, Q \cup \{B1,B2\} \cup SB, f)\)
   6. \(Q = Q \cup \{B1,B2\}\).
   7. else \(SB = SB \cup \{B\}\).
   8. return \(SB\).
2. Algorithm diversity-check(T,T', l)
1. for each tuple t ∈ T, L[t] = ∅.
2. for each bucket B in T'
3. record f(v) for each column value v in bucket B.
4. for each tuple t ∈ T
5. calculate p(t,B) and find D(t,B).
6. L[t] = L[t] ∪ {hp(t,B),D(t,B)}.
7. for each tuple t ∈ T
8. calculate p(t, s) for each s based on L[t].
9. if p(t, s) ≥ 1/l, return false.
10. return true.

In this section, we first give an example to demonstrate slicing. Then we formalize slicing, compare it with generalization and bucketization, and talk about privacy threats that slicing can address. Table shows an example microdata table and its anonymized versions using various anonymization techniques. Stepwise explanation is given below:

1. Original Data
2. Generalized Data
3. Bucketized Data
4. Multiset-based Generalization Data
5. One-attribute-per-Column Slicing Data
6. Sliced Data

1. Original Data:
We conduct the extensive workload experiments. Our results are confirm that slicing preserves much better data utility than the generalization. In these involving the sensitive attribute, slicing is also more effectual than bucketization. In some classification experiments, the novel technique i.e. slicing shows better performance than the original data.

2. Generalized Data:
In order to perform data analysis or data mining tasks on the generalized table[2][3], the data analyst has to make the uniform distribution supposition that each value in a generalized interval is equally possible, as no additional distribution assumption can be justified. This significantly decreases the data utility of the generalized data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Zip code</th>
<th>Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47906</td>
<td>dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47906</td>
<td>flu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47905</td>
<td>flu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47905</td>
<td>bronchitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47302</td>
<td>flu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47302</td>
<td>dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47304</td>
<td>dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47304</td>
<td>gastritis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Bucketized Data:
In that we show the efficiency of slicing in membership disclosure protection [7][8]. For this purpose, we calculate the number of fake tuples in the sliced data. Also we compare the number of matching buckets for original tuples and that for fake tuples. Our experimental results illustrate that bucketization does not prevent membership disclosure [9] as almost every tuple is distinctively identifiable in the bucketized data [4].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Zip code</th>
<th>Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47906</td>
<td>Flu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47906</td>
<td>Dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47905</td>
<td>Bronchitis</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47302</td>
<td>Flu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47304</td>
<td>Dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47304</td>
<td>Dyspepsia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Multiset-based Generalization Data:
We monitor that this multiset-based generalization is the same to a trivial slicing scheme where each column contains exactly one attribute, because both approaches preserve the exact values in each attribute but split the association between them within one bucket.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Zip code</th>
<th>Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.2.33:1.52:1</td>
<td>M,F,3</td>
<td>47905:2,47906:2</td>
<td>Dysp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.2.33:1.52:1</td>
<td>M,F,3</td>
<td>47905:2,47906:2</td>
<td>Flu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. One-attribute-per-Column Slicing Data:
We observe that while one-attribute-per-column slicing preserves attribute distributional information, it does destroy attribute correlation, for the reason that each attribute is in its own column. In slicing, one groups associated attributes together in one column and save their correlation. For instance, in the sliced table shown in Table correlations between Age and Sex and correlations between Zipcode and Disease are conserved. In fact, the sliced table encodes the same amount of information as the original data with
observe correlations between attributes in the same column.

TABLE 5: One-Attribute-Per-Column Slicing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Zip code</th>
<th>Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47906</td>
<td>Flu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47905</td>
<td>Flu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47906</td>
<td>Dysp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47905</td>
<td>Bron.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47302</td>
<td>Dysp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>47304</td>
<td>Gast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47302</td>
<td>Dysp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>47304</td>
<td>Flu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Sliced Data:

Another important advantage of slicing is its capability to handle high-dimensional data. By dividing attributes into columns, slicing condenses the measurements of the data. Each of which column of the table can be viewed as a sub-table with a lesser dimensionality. Slicing is also not similar from the approach of publishing multiple independent sub-tables in that these sub-tables are associated by the buckets in slicing.

TABLE 6: The Sliced Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age,Sex</th>
<th>Zipcode,Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(22,M)</td>
<td>(47905,Flu)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(22,F)</td>
<td>(47906,dysp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(33,F)</td>
<td>(47905,bron.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(52,F)</td>
<td>(47906,flu)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(54,M)</td>
<td>(47304,gast.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(60,M)</td>
<td>(47302,Flu)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(60,M)</td>
<td>(47302,dyssp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(64,F)</td>
<td>(47304,dyssp.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

This paper presents a new approach called slicing to privacy-preserving microdata distributing. It overcomes the limitations of generalization and bucketization and preserves better utility while protecting in opposition to privacy threats. We illustrate how to apply slicing to prevent attribute disclosure and membership disclosure. Our experiments show that slicing preserves better data utility than generalization and is more effective than bucketization. The general method proposed by this work is that: Before anonymizing the data, one can investigate the data characteristics and use these individuality in data anonymization. The basis is that one can design better data anonymization techniques when we know that the data is better.

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BIOGRAPHY

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