

# Preserving Data Privacy Through Secrecy views in Data Mining

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**Abstract**— Current inventions in the field of communication technologies and several other technologies such as biometric technologies have given rise to a new research span, known as Privacy Preserving Data Mining (PPDM). It is around for a couple of years now and has accepted on the grounds that it permits exchange of private or confidential data for study purposes. Different algorithms regarding data mining, incorporating these mechanisms, have been developed which allows taking out relevant information from massive amount of data, while hiding sensitive information or data from disclosure or inference. For privacy preservation, different techniques have been proposed such as cryptographic techniques, k-anonymity, data perturbation, anonymization etc. But they suffer from various types of attacks such as linkage attacks, background attacks, homogeneity, integrity loss, information loss etc. Proposed framework is a combination of approaches for privacy conservation in data mining which uses the combined techniques of randomization using matrix of probability and generalization which may reduce the integrity loss and information loss and here pattern of the data cannot be identified by the attacker.

**Keywords**— *Privacy Preserving Data Mining; k-anonymity; anonymization.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays different organizations, companies and industries collect and store very large amount of data for their own needs. These huge amounts of data are then gone for analysis purposes; to obtain relevant or useful information with the help of data mining. After this stage, company or organization will get useful data according to their needs but these types of data or information may include private information or confidential information or sensitive information about individuals.

Privacy can be considered as the right to be abandoned and it is the right to be free from any vigilance and any illogical personal invasions. Couple of cases exists similar to the above condition. For example, statistical data provided by the census bureau collected from houses and individuals are given to third parties for research purposes. If personal details in the statistical data are not hidden, then the third party will easily get information of individual and so privacy breach occurs. Privacy becomes a relevant issue when data set contain confidential details of individuals.

To sort out this problem, PPDM was introduced. For preserving data privacy, a new method was introduced known as PPDM which has been accepted widely [16]. And so, sharing of private data can be permitted for different purpose such as analysis [1]. Main objective is exploring useful data

from huge data set and at the same time it provides protection for sensitive information. Two fields of this technique are knowledge hiding and information hiding. Both deals with hiding information, on which knowledge hiding focuses hiding private information and data hiding focuses on modification of sensitive information or removal of private data [3].

There exists several methods for PPDM which can be typically branched into two: cryptographic techniques and non-cryptographic techniques [16]. Cryptographic techniques are the techniques through which data that are sensitive can be encrypted. It is the preferred technique used to yield privacy to the information. Cryptographic technique is very successful approach for the reason that it take care of safety and security to confidential attributes. Other technique i.e. Non-cryptographic techniques involves k-anonymity technique, LKC privacy techniques etc. Here the main problem of non-cryptographic technique is loss of information.

Problems due to privacy and problems due to information loss have a direct relation. To handle this, a new way of preservation should be introduced. Proposed approach can be classified into two segments. In segment 1, randomization (data modification to provide privacy) is applied on original data with the help of matrix of probability. In next segment, the randomized output is then divided into two, based on one private attribute (in the data set as confidential details) as well as non-sensitive details [17]. And then generalization is applied only to confidential attributes to avoid over anonymization (over anonymization results in information loss and integrity loss). By this way, information loss and loss of integrity can be limited to a certain extent. When anonymization is done with the help of probability of matrix and generalization, then it is troublesome for the invader to attack.

Organization of this paper is in this fashion. Segment 2 lay out the literature review. Segment 3 explains the problem definition. Segment 4 covers proposed approach and lastly the segment 5 concludes the work.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

There exist several methods for PPDM. Goal of this segment is to analyze current approaches in PPDM and to identify drawbacks of those techniques. Existing systems can be classified into cryptographic techniques and non-cryptographic techniques.

**Anonymization:** Anonymization is an approach for masking confidential data from original or owner's record. Anonymization can be generally classified into generalization and perturbation. Some advantages over cryptographic methods are easy to implement [6]. Some limitations are that they don't guarantee privacy and sensitive data are not preserved properly (because knowledge attacks and homogeneity attacks of k-anonymity algorithm can't uphold confidentiality of information) [6][20].

**Cryptographic Technique:** Cryptography is an approach through which data that are sensitive can be engrafted. It is the most popular approach used for providing privacy to the information because it provides safety and security to sensitive attributes [1][20]. Some disadvantages are it fails to protect the output data while computation takes place. This method does not give beneficial results when the data set is very large in number (It is a challenging task, to employ this method for vast databases because as instances increases the chances of occurrence of error also increases). Final product may crack the confidentiality of person-specific record because it fails to protect the original data though it is encrypted [1][20].

Some of non-cryptographic techniques are described here such as k-anonymity, data perturbation, l-diversity etc.

#### A. K- Anonymity

The k-anonymity model can be considered as a framework implementing or constructing algorithms and evaluating those systems and algorithms that gives data. The released or publically available data, limits to- what cannot be revealed and what can be revealed about the data entities. For example: to identify a person and the only data available is date of birth and place - there should be at least k number of people meeting with the same requirement [2].

| Place         | DOB  | Gender | Pin code | Disease               |
|---------------|------|--------|----------|-----------------------|
| Vadassrekonam | 1956 | M      | 695143   | Stomach Cancer        |
| Puthenthope   | 1982 | M      | 695586   | Myocardial Infraction |
| Vadassrekonam | 1990 | M      | 695143   | Stroke                |
| Puthenthope   | 1982 | M      | 695586   | Myocardial Infraction |
| Vadassrekonam | 1956 | M      | 695143   | Stomach Cancer        |
| Vadassrekonam | 1990 | M      | 695143   | Stroke                |

Table 2.1 An example for k-anonymity

Each data must be in a fashion that any combination of values in each tuples cannot be used for identifying individuals. In this method, the fragments of data representation are reduced by the help of generalization and suppression. Some advantages of this method are maintained data integrity (maintaining the consistency of data) and data granularity (granularity of data refers to the size of data) is reduced (and by that way it prevents the possibility of indirect

identification) [2]. Some disadvantages are dealing with large number of quasi identifiers could be problematic and it generalizes or suppresses quasi identifier (set of minimal attributes which can be used to combine additional information to regain the identity of individuals) attributes or demographic attributes (pin code, age, gender) to protect data which reduces quality of data [2]. And there are chances of temporal attacks (due to dynamic collection of data), unsorted matching attacks (due to the ordered arrangement of data) and complementary release attacks [2]

#### B. Data Perturbation

Data perturbation is a highest accepted approach in PPDM or privacy-preserving data mining. Data Perturbation is an approach for customizing data using random process. These approaches alter confidential data values by modifying them by addition of values or subtraction of values or by using any other mathematical equations [20]. Some advantages of this method are geometric perturbation can conserve the most critical geometric properties [3][18]. Some limitations of this method are they doesn't guarantee privacy for multi-dimensional perturbation (because perturbs multiple columns in one transformation) and other than privacy preservation, accuracy preservation is also considered as a problem [3].

#### C. L-Diversity Algorithm

The l-diversity model was designed to handle some weaknesses in the k-anonymity model [19]. L-diversity provides privacy even when the publisher of the data does not know what form of information is possessed by the attacker [20]. Some advantages of this method are l-diversity doesn't require information of the entire distribution of the sensitive and non-sensitive attributes (previous method requires the knowledge). L-Diversity does not require the publisher to have as much information as the attacker [5][20]. Some limitations of l-diversity algorithm are, it cannot be used for multiple sensitive attribute, data quality is degraded (when the data is high dimensional).

#### D. Hybrid Approach

Privacy conservation is a very huge field. Many algorithms such as k-anonymity, data perturbation, l-diversity algorithm etc have been proposed in order to secure the data. Hybrid approach is a new facility through which one can combine two or more approaches to preserve the data [20].

One of the hybrid technique proposed was the combination of randomization and generalization [20]. In this case, data is randomized (with the help of random probabilities) and then generalized the data (modified or randomized data).

Other hybrid techniques proposed was the combination of anonymization and suppression. In this case, data is anonymised and then privacy is given to the modified data.

Some advantages of this technique are the method protects personal data with more preferable accuracy (over anonymization is avoided and due to that reason misrepresentation of data is avoided); also it can rebuild the original data and provide data with no information loss [9][20].

Several other approaches can also be clubbed together to make a hybrid technique such as Data perturbation, Blocking based method, Cryptographic technique, Condensation approach etc.

Some limitations of the existing hybrid approaches are, it is very hard to employ this algorithm for huge databases (because when instances increases the chances of occurrences of error also increases) [9][20].

### III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Though there exist different techniques in privacy preserving data mining, some shortcomings still exists. Some of them are integrity loss, information loss, temporal attacks, over anonymization, identity linkage, attribute linkage, unsorted matching attacks and problems due to contemporary attacks and large data set. For example, if k-anonymity is used, then it minimizes information loss but there are chances of temporal attacks and unsorted matching attacks. To sort out these problems, hybrid approach of different techniques was introduced.

Main motive of this research work is to boost up hybrid approach of randomization and generalization which partially removes the problems of k-anonymity, randomization and l-diversity. Here it increases the utility of data, reduces loss of information and at the same time it provides privacy also. Since it uses random values for randomization stage, output may result to failure is the basic problem here. Proposed approach offers solution to this problem.

### IV. PROPOSED APPROACH

Proposed approach is a hybrid one which uses the techniques of randomization and generalization. Solution to half of the problems mentioned above (problems due to k-anonymity) can be simplified by using the techniques of randomization with the help of matrix of probability. Data patterns cannot be analysed by the invader if matrix is calculated in randomization.

Randomization is a traditional method for distorting data in privacy preserving data mining. Values in attributes are covered-up here. Existing methods in randomization are additive randomization, multiplicative randomization and micro data randomization. Main idea behind this is to pervert data so that invader cannot determine the data pattern. Proposed approach is a new way of doing randomization using matrix of probability.

Proposed approach can be categorized into two different segments. On segment 1, randomization is performed on original data with the help of probability of matrix. Matrix of probability is the probability of occurrence of each instance under conditions. And in next segment, generalization is performed on randomized output i.e. the output of the section 1 is given to the next segment as input. Generalization is a process of anonymization to hide sensitive values. Flowchart of the proposed solution is given in Fig 4.1.

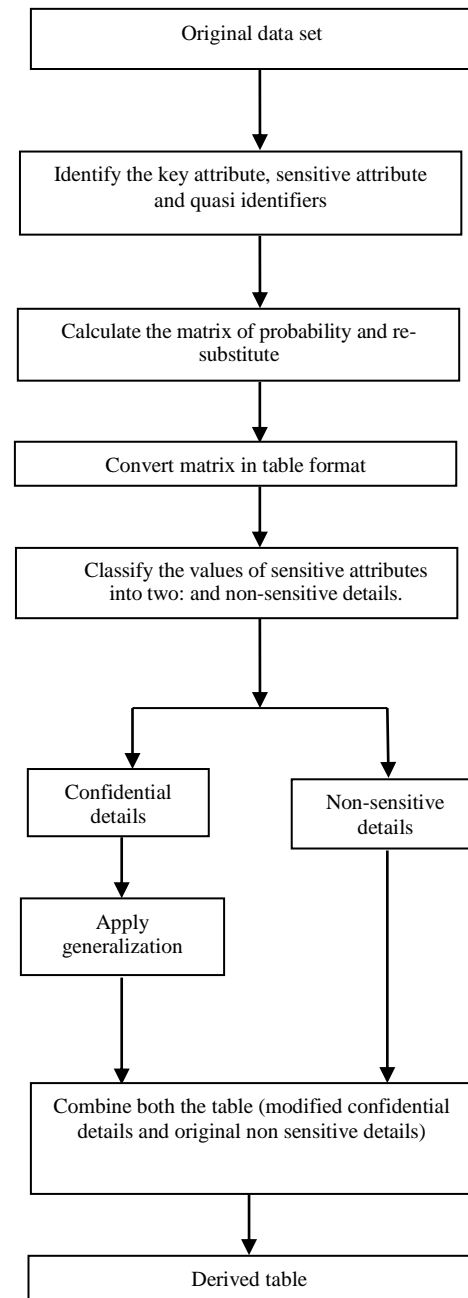


Fig 4.1: Flowchart of proposed approach

#### A. Algorithm for segment 1

Input: Original data set

Output: Modified table

Method:

- step 1. Identify the key attribute, sensitive attribute and quasi identifiers from the original table.
- step 2. Calculate the matrix of probability
  - a. Select quasi identifiers and sensitive attributes. (Let the number of quasi identifiers be  $n$  ( $n=n_1, n_2, \dots, n_n$ ) and the number of records in the original table

- be j. There will be n number of matrix each of size j\*j).
- b. Calculate the probability of occurrence of each instance under conditions in a matrix format.
- c. Re-substitute the values.

step 3. Convert matrix in table format.

In segment 1, after selecting quasi identifiers, confidential attributes and key attributes; the matrix of probability should be calculated. Matrix of probability is the probability of occurrence of each instance under conditions. For example, consider the following table for calculating matrix of probability. This table is just for an example which cannot be considered as an original table.

| Quasi Identifier |        |                      |             |                    | Sensitive Attribute |
|------------------|--------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Age              | Gender | Symptom 1            | Symptom 2   | Symptom 3          | Disease             |
| 33               | M      | Cough                | Chest pain  | Breathing Trouble  | Lung Cancer         |
| 29               | F      | Cough                | Weight loss | Coughing out blood | TB                  |
| 21               | M      | Cough                | Fatigue     | Breathing Trouble  | Bronchitis          |
| 31               | M      | upper abdominal pain | indigestion | vomiting           | Chronic Gastritis   |
| 60               | M      | Cough                | Chest pain  | Breathing Trouble  | Lung Cancer         |
| 25               | F      | upper abdominal pain | indigestion | vomiting           | Gastritis           |

Table 4.1 Medical data

There are 5 quasi identifiers: age, gender, symptom1, symptom2 and symptom 3. Here aim is to calculate the probability of occurrence of each instance. For that each instance should be considered.

Consider the 1<sup>st</sup> attribute age, the 1<sup>st</sup> quasi identifier. Each value for age i.e. 33, 29, 21, 31, 60, 25 should be considered with every row i.e. to calculate the probability of occurrence of each age under conditions such when the gender is “so and so”, when the symptom 1 is “so and so”, when the symptom 2 is “so and so”, when the symptom 3 is “so and so”. The probability of occurrence of age 33 under conditions such when the gender is “M”, when the symptom 1 is “Cough”, when the symptom 2 is “Chest pain”, when the symptom 3 is “Breathing Trouble” should be calculated first. After that next row should be considered at this same age. The probability of occurrence of age 33 under conditions such when the gender is “F”, when the symptom 1 is “Cough”, when the symptom 2 is “Weight loss”, when the symptom 3 is “Coughing out blood” should be calculated next. Similarly calculate every row till last one. The probability of occurrence of age 33 under conditions such when the gender is “F”, when the symptom 1 is “upper abdominal pain”, when the symptom 2 is “indigestion”, when the symptom 3 is “vomiting” should be calculated.

Now 2<sup>nd</sup> value for age should be considered for every row. Calculate the probability of occurrence of age 29 under conditions such when the gender is “M”, when the symptom 1 is “Cough”, when the symptom 2 is “Chest pain”, when the symptom 3 is “Breathing Trouble”. After that next row should be considered at this same age. The probability of occurrence of age 29 under conditions such when the gender is “F”, when the symptom 1 is “Cough”, when the symptom 2 is “Weight loss”, when the symptom 3 is “Coughing out blood” should be calculated next. Similarly calculate every row till last one. The probability of occurrence of age 29 under conditions such when the gender is “F”, when the symptom 1 is “upper abdominal pain”, when the symptom 2 is “indigestion”, when the symptom 3 is “vomiting” should be calculated.

Similarly each value for age should be calculated for every row till occurrence of age 25 under conditions such when the gender is “F”, when the symptom 1 is “upper abdominal pain”, when the symptom 2 is “indigestion”, when the symptom 3 is “vomiting” should be calculated. This is the procedure for calculating probability of matrix for 1<sup>st</sup> quasi identifier. Similarly each instance should be considered for every quasi identifier.

Calculation of probability of occurrence can be explained with an example. Consider the condition “The probability of occurrence of age 33 under conditions such when the gender is “M”, when the symptom 1 is “Cough”, when the symptom 2 is “Chest pain”, when the symptom 3 is “Breathing Trouble””.

Example for matrix of probability: -matrix 1

|        |        |        |        |         |       |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| 0.3333 | 0.3333 | 0.2666 | 0.1333 | 0.26666 | 0.066 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 666666 | 333333 | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 666666 | 333333 | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 666666 | 333333 | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 666667 | 333333 | 67      | 66666 |
| 3333   |        |        |        |         | 66667 |
| 0.2666 | 0.0666 | 0.0666 | 0.2666 | 0.33333 | 0.333 |
| 66666  | 666666 | 666666 | 666666 | 3333333 | 33333 |
| 66666  | 666666 | 666666 | 666666 | 3333333 | 33333 |
| 66666  | 666666 | 666666 | 666666 | 3333333 | 33333 |
| 66666  | 666667 | 666667 | 666667 | 33      | 33333 |
| 6667   |        |        |        |         | 33333 |
| 0.3333 | 0.1333 | 0.1333 | 0.1333 | 0.06666 | 0.066 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 333333 | 333333 | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 333333 | 333333 | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 333333 | 333333 | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 333333 | 333333 | 67      | 66666 |
| 3333   |        |        |        |         | 66667 |
| 0.0666 | 0.0666 | 0.1333 | 0.0666 | 0.06666 | 0.066 |
| 66666  | 666666 | 333333 | 666666 | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 66666  | 666666 | 333333 | 666666 | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 66666  | 666666 | 333333 | 666666 | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 66666  | 666667 | 333333 | 666667 | 67      | 66666 |
| 6667   |        |        |        |         | 66667 |
| 0.2    | 0.0666 | 0.1333 | 0.2    | 0.06666 | 0.066 |
| 666666 | 333333 |        |        | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 666666 | 333333 |        |        | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 666666 | 333333 |        |        | 6666666 | 66666 |
| 666667 | 333333 |        |        | 67      | 66666 |
|        |        |        |        |         | 66667 |
| 0.1333 | 0.1333 | 0.0666 | 0.0666 | 0.06666 | 0.133 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 666666 | 666666 | 6666666 | 33333 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 666666 | 666666 | 6666666 | 33333 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 666666 | 666666 | 6666666 | 33333 |
| 33333  | 333333 | 666667 | 666667 | 67      | 33333 |
| 3333   |        |        |        |         | 33333 |

Re-substitution

step 1. To re-substitute the values for each quasi identifier N, consider the corresponding matrix.

step 2. Consider only the diagonal values for every matrix

a. Let N11 be the 1st value of matrix

$$N11 = p(a) * p(b) * p(c)..$$

For n1 consider p(a)

step 3. Compare it with mapping table.

a. If value p(a) exists in the table

- Check the duplication of that value.
  - i. If it exists only 1 time, then just give that answer.
  - ii. If not, consider all the answers of duplication
    - Num-> generalize
    - String-> use \* instead

Example: Let the matrix obtained from the original table selected be the following one

|     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| N11 | N12 | N13 | N14 | N15 | N16 |
| N21 | N22 | N23 | N24 | N25 | N26 |
| N31 | N32 | N33 | N34 | N35 | N36 |
| N41 | N42 | N43 | N44 | N45 | N46 |
| N51 | N52 | N53 | N54 | N55 | N56 |
| N61 | N62 | N63 | N64 | N65 | N66 |

Consider the diagonal values only, because the value according to the table lies diagonally in the matrix. Now consider each diagonal value. From matrix calculation, N11 is the product of n1, n2 ... n6 which are actually the probability values. For example consider the values for x1 to x6. It is clear that x1 denotes the exact age.

$$N11 = n1 * n2 * n3 * n4 * n5 * n6$$

$$N11 = 1/6 * 4/6 * 4/6 * 2/6 * 3/6 * 2/6$$

$$p(1) = 1/6 \rightarrow \text{age}$$

Similarly the values for x22 to x66 should be calculated.

Consider an example:

| Age | Gender | Disease |
|-----|--------|---------|
| 21  | M      | HIV+    |
| 35  | F      | Cancer  |
| 35  | M      | HIV+    |

Let matrix created for age be

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| j | k | l |
| m | n | o |
| p | r | q |

Age and probability of occurrence:

Age: 21 → 1/3: probability

Age: 35 → 2/3: probability

$$\text{Age} = p(j) * p(n) * p(q)$$

= p(occurrence of age 21 under conditions when gender='M' and Disease='HIV+') \* p(occurrence of age 35 under conditions when gender='F' and Disease='Cancer') \*

p(occurrence of age 35 under conditions when gender='M' and Disease='HIV+')

$$p(j) = 1/3 * 2/3 * 2/3 \rightarrow 21$$

$$p(n) = 2/3 * 1/3 * 1/3 \rightarrow 35$$

$$p(q) = 2/3 * 2/3 * 2/3 \rightarrow 35$$

Similarly calculate Gender. And then generalize

- Age → 2\13 --- > 54, 65, 21, 30 -- → 20-60

- Age → 4\13 --- > 73, 87, 90-- → 70-90

B. Algorithm for next segment

Input: Converted table.

Output: Derived table.

Method:

step 1. Select converted table.

step 2. Classify the values of sensitive attributes into two: confidential details and non-sensitive details.

step 3. Consider the confidential details and apply generalization to the details.

step 4. Combine both the table (modified confidential details and original non sensitive details).

step 5.

After completing segment 1, the output of segment 1 is given to next segment as input. In traditional methods of PPDm, generalization is applied to entire data which may result in information loss due to over anonymization. So here in the work, it considers only highly sensitive information and applies generalization only to this section. Rest of the data set is not generalized and kept it as such because in this area, anonymization is not required. If entire data set is generalized, then this second part of data (non-confidential data) is also generalized which is of no use. To avoid this problem confidential attribute can be split into two; confidential details and non-confidential details [21]. Generalization is applied



randomization stage, output may result to failure. Proposed approach offers solution to this problem

In future instead of generalization in the second segment, k-anonymity, l-diversity and lkc privacy can be applied to increase the data utility without replacing the first section.

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