A study on Adaptive and Robust Privacy-Enhancing Technologies for Spatio-Temporal Data Aggregation

Spatio-temporal data is utilized for various purposes such as epidemiology, natural disaster management, urban planning, and more. However, there is a risk of individuals' residential locations or workplaces, from the accumulated data on datastore. Data collection based on Local Differential Privacy LDP is a promising approach to protect sensitive information. By modifying (e.g. adding noise to data) each data point in a way that the adversary cannot distinguish it from others, privacy can be preserved. However, we argue that there are three fundamental defects in LDP for utilizing spatio-temporal data. In LDP, we should determine the strength of privacy protection based on the distribution of the entire dataset, but spatio-temporal data are distributed differently at different places and times, and the characteristics of the data change over time. Moreover, if we combine LDP-data with data from different domains, the cartesian product provides incorrect analysis results. Furthermore, LDP cannot indicate whether the distortion is due to noise or to an attack. Client have diverse privacy preferences for their own data, making it difficult to utilize LDP, which requires uniform protection strength. Current research assumes identical data volume and privacy preferences, and different volumes of data and protection strength cannot be set. To tackle these problems, we propose three approaches. First, we design novel privacy model which assigns protection strength to similar client groups, maintains correlations, and controls protection strength dynamically. Second, we collect statistical features exclusively by combining LDP with the Oblivious Transfer (OT) protocol, addressing perturbation and data volume issues. Third, we combine LDP with homomorphic encryption for secure analysis across organizations while keeping data encrypted. We achieve adaptive and robust privacy-enhancing technologies for spatio-temporal data aggregation through these approaches.
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