Informatics for Translating Clinical Research Findings to Populations: Small and Big Data

Epidemiology Fall Seminar UAB School of Public Health

James J. Cimino, MD Director, Informatics Institute University of Alabama at Birmingham Birmingham, Alabama, USA September 10, 2018





Unpacking the Title of this Talk

Informatics

Translational science

Big data





What is biomedical informatics?

"The field that concerns itself with the cognitive, information processing and communication tasks of medical practice, education and research, including the information science and the technology to support these tasks."

- Greenes RA. Shortliffe EH. JAMA 1990 Feb 23; 263(8):1114-20.

The art and science of organizing knowledge of human health and disease, and making it useful for problem solving.

- Jim Cimino

Using computers to make people better. - UAB Hospital Custodial Staff





What is translational science?

T0: basic biomedical research, including preclinical and animal studies

T1: translation to humans, including Phase 1 clinical trials

T2: translation to patients, including Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials

T3: translation to practice, including comparative effectiveness research, post-marketing studies, and clinical outcomes research

T4: translation to communities, including population level outcomes research and impacts of policy and change

- UW-Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research





What is translational science?



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What are big data?

- Volume required
- Variety optional







What are big data?

- Volume required
- Variety optional
- Velocity maybe
- Value enemy of the good
- Veracity enemy of the good





What are big data in health?



Big Data in Public Health – Temporal Trends



Rate per 1,000 live births





Big Data in Public Health – Mash-Ups

- Two or more data sets taken together
- Geocoding and population data



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Cholera and the Broad Street Pump ~10² data points



Big Data in Public Health – Mash-Ups

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Ragweed Present Only

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Source: US Environmental Protection Agency, USDA



Big Data in Public Health – Mash-Ups

- Two or more data sets taken together
- Geocoding and population data



Fig. 1. Plot of pseudo t-statistic for percent tree canopy variable from GWR for model 7. The map shows Baltimore City and Baltimore County.



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Troya A, Grove JM, O'Neil-Dunnea J. The relationship between tree canopy and crime rates across an urban–rural gradient in the greater Baltimore region. *Landscape and Urban Planning.* 2012; 106:262–270



Data Mining and Machine Learning (Wikipedia)

- Data mining: sorting through large data sets to identify patterns (typically "unsupervised")
- Text mining: deriving high-quality information from text, typically through statistical pattern matching or natural language processing
- Machine learning: using statistical techniques to give computer systems the ability to "learn" (e.g., progressively improve performance on a specific task) with data, without explicit programming
- Deep learning: machine learning with neural nets





Herland M, Khoshgoftaar TM, Wald R. A review of data mining using big data in health Informatics. *Journal of Big Data.* 2014; 1:2

- Can message post data be used for dispersing clinically reliable information?
- Can search query data be used to accurately track epidemics throughout a population?
- Can Twitter post data be used to accurately track epidemics throughout a population?





Google Flu Trends



Data from Google Inc. Last updated: Aug 19, 2015

@2014 Google - Help - Terms of Service - Privacy - Disclaimer - Discuss





Twitter Flu

Achrekar H, Gandhe A, Lazarus R, Yu SH, Liu B: **Twitter improves seasonal influenza prediction.** In *International Conference on Health Informatics (HEALTHINF'12)*. 2012:61–70.



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Electronic Health Record Data at UAB







What's in i2b2?

Row counts by Row Data Type				
Fact Family	Total Fact Counts	Distinct Patients	Earliest Date	
Allergies	1,646,780	818,638	7/30/2003	
BMI and Waist Measurements	3,782,881	562,852	5/12/2008	
Clinical Diagnoses	4,805,169	383,643	5/19/1995	
Lab Orders	141,875,875	529,950	6/25/2009	
Home/Discharge Medications	11,197,426	533,216	4/28/1998	
Tumor/Cancer Data	8,008,157	123,917	12/31/1965	
Long-Term Problems	2,976,735	432,530	11/22/1965	
Procedures	526,184	136,227	2/17/2014	
DRGs	134,461	48,752	1/14/2014	
Blood Pressure Measurements	48,425,976	574,164	8/5/2003	
Inpatient Medications	36,100,284	341,748	5/18/2008	
Height/Weight Measurements	17,570,643	593,767	8/28/2003	
Lab Panels	9,677,955	453,094	10/26/2009	
Encounter Insurance	11,369,918	695,140	12/1/2003	
Immunizations	203,480	101,336	7/26/2008	
Microbiology Tests	992,190	171,723	1/26/2008	
Less Common Clinical Events	296	75	6/29/2011	
Lab Powerplans	1,880,573	297,420	5/18/2008	









Knowledge that will change your world

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Password	
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This system is available only for authorized purposes by authorized users. Use for any other purpose may result in disciplinary action or criminal prosecution against the user.

al	А	В	С	D	E	F	G	H	1
1	Patient Numb	Encounter Number	Concept Code	Start Date	End Date	Text/Desc	Numeric	Units	
2	542822	1437307	ICD9:174.9	13-Feb-12	13-Feb-12	Breast cancer			
3	542822	3882648	SNMCT:4448450	6-Oct-12	6-Oct-12	Hypoglycemia			
4	542822	7214049	ICD9:174.9	6-Oct-12	6-Oct-12	Breast cancer			
5	542822	10843526	ICD9:441.7	26-Dec-14	26-Dec-14	Thoracoabdominal a	neurysm, w	ithout men	tion of
6	542822	2380775	ICD9:281.0	26-Dec-14	26-Dec-14	Pernicious anemia			
7	542822	2380775	ICD9:250.00	26-Dec-14	26-Dec-14	Type 2 diabetes mel	litus withou	it (mention	of) con
8	542822	5007014	ICD9:782.1	11-Jan-13	11-Jan-13	Rash.			
9	542822	5314589	VITALS:BMI	21-Sep-12	21-Sep-12	E	26.26	kg/m2	
10	542822	11428780	VITALS:BMI	27-Dec-14	27-Dec-14	E	26.34	kg/m2	
11	542822	10276801	UABLABS:31582	28-Dec-14	28-Dec-14	E	7	mEq/L	
12	542822	404417	UABLABS:31606	13-Feb-12	13-Feb-12	E	22	mg/dL	
13	542822	406870	UABLABS:31710	29-Jun-12	29-Jun-12	E	3.1	mg/dL	
14	542822	4318692	UABLABS:31606	26-Aug-12	26-Aug-12	E	48	mg/dL	
15	542822	3790992	UABLABS:31584	11-Jan-13	11-Jan-13	E	65	Units/L	
16	542822	5007014	UABLABS:31787	2-Sep-12	2-Sep-12	E	4.6	10^3/cmm	
17	542822	3790992	UABLABS:31605	2-Sep-12	2-Sep-12	E	0.8	mg/dL	
18	542822	7576461	UABLABS:31587	2-Sep-12	2-Sep-12	E	32	Units/L	
19	542822	404417	UABLABS:31710	8-Oct-12	8-Oct-12	E	2.9	mg/dL	
20	542822	5012603	UABLABS:31729	26-Dec-14	26-Dec-14	E	142	mEq/L-Hist	torical
21	542822	403278	UABLABS:31714	21-Sep-15	21-Sep-15	E	3.7	mEq/L-Hist	torical
22	542822	5012603	UABLABS:31658	2-Sep-12	2-Sep-12	E	24	mEq/L-Hist	torical
23	542822	2731270	UABLABS:31600	3-Sep-12	3-Sep-12	E	21	Units/L	
24	542822	3824200	UABLABS:75282	7-Oct-12	7-Oct-12	Performed		Unspecifie	d
25	542822	3824200	UABLABS:31714	22-Aug-12	22-Aug-12	E	4.1	mEq/L-Hist	torical
26	542822	3882648	UABLABS:316094	3-Sep-12	3-Sep-12	E	10.3	mg/dL	
27	542822	3882648	UABLABS:696694	8-Oct-12	8-Oct-12	E	3.06	ng/mL	

Reuse of EHR Data - Advantages

- From clinicians and instruments
- Data about the "phenome"
- Becoming universally available
- "Almost free"
- Post-market surveillance (phase 4 studies)
- Can be used to validate research studies
- Can be used to replicate research studies
- Understanding of the limitations is critical





Reuse of EHR Data - Caveats

- 1. EHRs may contain inaccurate (or incorrect) data
- 2. EHRs often do not tell a complete patient story
- 3. Many of the data have been transformed/coded for purposes other than research and clinical care
- 4. Data in clinical notes (text) may not be recoverable
- 5. EHRs may present multiple sources of data that affect data provenance
- 6. Data granularity in EHRs may not match the needs
- 7. Research protocols and clinical care are different
- 8. Beware of "controlled" terminologies





Annual Incidence of Shock (Normalized)







Caveats and Recommendations

Hersh WR, Weiner MG, Embi PJ, et al. **Caveats for the use of operational electronic health record data in comparative effectiveness research.** Med Care. 2013 Aug;51(8 Suppl 3):S30-7.

Hersh WR, Cimino J, Payne PR, et al. Recommendations for the use of operational electronic health record data in comparative effectiveness research. EGEMS (Wash DC). 2013 Oct 8;1(1):1018. doi: 10.13063/2327-9214.1018.





Alabama Genome Health Initiative



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Unlocking the potential in the human genome is part of the future of health care, and as the state's leader in genomic medicine, UAB Medicine is taking a major step forward with the Alabama Genomic Health Initiative (AGHI).

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The Informatics Institute provides a home for focusing biomedical informatics activities in the UAB School of Medicine. The Institute comprises core and affiliated faculty and staff with expertise across the biomedical informatics spectrum, including bioinformatics, computational and systems biomedicine, translational informatics, clinical research informatics, and clinical informatics.

Upcoming Events



Epidemiology Seminar Series: "Informatics for **Translating Clinical**

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Research Findings to Populations: Small and Big Data"

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CCTS Informatics provides the resources and expertise (both bioinformatics and clinical informatics) to support biomedical collaboration and consultation across the translational research spectrum. We offer help with study design; access to summary, limited (de-identified), and fully identified data sets; innovative tools to support clinical, translational, and outcomes research; and data analytic services. Our vision is to build a vibrant community of collaborating informaticians not only across the CCTS Hub with its academic medical system, but also across the regional CCTS Partner Network and national CTSA Consortium.

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The Informatics Gateway is an enterprise-wide forum for collaborative project





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Undergraduate Research	 event/anomaly detection and analysis spatio-temporal data mining 			
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	computer forensics			

We have applied research to several domains, and collaborate closely with cyber-security specialists, colleagues in the departments of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Biostatistics, and Government, and with industrial



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The Big Data Research and Analytics Laboratory (BDRAL) is a core facility under the Center for Integrated Systems at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

The BDRAL is a joint initiative of the Department. of Electrical and Computer Engineering (School of Engineering), the Department of Neurology (School of Medicine) and UAB IT Research Computing. The lab has been set up to bring together engineers, physicians, computer scientists and statisticians to develop novel ways to manage, analyze, and visualize very large data sets. In addition to serving as a facility to process data generated (at UAB) and gathered (i.e. publicly available datasets, such as genomics data and medical imaging data) through research, the lab is also working on emerging technologies and approaches to big data analytics that would be applicable to a large number of fields, from engineering to medicine to business.

THE DEDAIL IS A REPORT OF A

- Public health research is the natural last step in translational science
- Big data provide volume and variety
- Mash-ups can provide new insights
- Informatics provides the conceptual abstraction
- UAB has EHR and genomic data
- UAB also has informatics expertise





