
Subject: Re: "Correct" Data Philosophy

Posted by [Laura](#) on Thu, 17 Dec 2009 20:33:19 GMT

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On Dec 17, 11:43 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Folks,
>
> Every couple of weeks I get an e-mail from someone whose
> data is "missing" and they want to replace it with the
> "correct" value. These e-mails bug me because if the
> data is "missing" how the hell would I know what the
> "correct" value is suppose to be?
>
> But, generally speaking, they want some method to
> guess at the "correct" values by looking around the
> neighborhood, shuffling their feet, etc. I guess we
> have all been tempted to fudge data, if only for
> aesthetic reasons, so maybe it is a legitimate request.
>
> What would you tell them to do?
>

Is it similar to "interpolation" or "approximation" or "estimation"?

How about linear/bilinear/trilinear interpolation? Or minimum curvature surface or thin-plate-spline? It also depends on how many values are available and/or missing. There are other fitting/interpolation functions too.
