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Sommario/riassunto

Privacy in statistical databases is a discipline whose purpose is to provide solutions to the conflict between the increasing social, political and economical demand of accurate information, and the legal and ethical obligation to protect the privacy of the individuals and enterprises to which statistical data refer. Beyond law and ethics, there are also practical reasons for statistical agencies and data collectors to invest in this topic: if individual and corporate respondents feel their privacy guaranteed, they are likely to provide more accurate responses. There are at least two traditions in statistical database privacy: one stems from official statistics, where the discipline is also known as statistical disclosure control (SDC), and the other originates from computer science and database technology. Both started in the 1970s, but the 1980s and the early 1990s saw little privacy activity on the computer science side. The Internet era has strengthened the interest of both statisticians and computer scientists in this area. Along with the traditional topics of tabular and microdata protection, some research lines have revived and/or appeared, such as privacy in queryable databases and protocols for private data computation.
