Classification of Pruning Methodologies for Model Development using Data Mining Techniques

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Abstract: Knowledge discovery process deals with two essential data mining techniques, association and classification. Classification produces a set of large number of associative classification rules for a given observation. Pruning removes unnecessary class association rules without losing classification accuracy. These processes are very significant but at the same time very challenging. The experimental results and limitations of existing class association rules mining techniques have shown that there is a requirement to consider more pruning parameters so that the size of classifier can be further optimized. Here through this paper we are presenting a survey various strategies for class association rule pruning and study their effects that enables us to extract efficient compact and high confidence class association rule set and we have also proposed a pruning methodology.

Keywords: associative classification, data mining, knowledge discovery process, pruning.

I. INTRODUCTION

Associative Classification rule mining concept was first coined in the year 1997 [1] and [2]. The first classifier was named as CBA [3] in 1988. Later classifiers like CPAR [4] in 2003, MCAR [6] in 2005, etc. The first step finds the frequent item-sets and rules for class association. The threshold value is used to remove unwanted sets. Then strong rules are segregated. By using the confidence value the weak rules are pruned. Lastly, a small subset from all these rules is selected and a classifier is made. Many techniques have proposed various methods for optimization of rules to form a classifier [5]. Proposed associative classification techniques use several approaches to find, extract, save, arrange in ranks and prune the redundant rules. This paper aims to compare pruning methodologies that are used in different classifiers in order to find and develop an efficient classifier as an end result in the most efficient manner as possible.

II. ASSOCIATIVE CLASSIFICATION RULE MINING

Association rules are derived from association rule mining generated form transactional databases as per their co-occurrences in database. Let we have an item-set with a set of elements such as \( E = \{E_1, E_2, \ldots, E_n\} \), and a transaction set with a number of transactions such as \( S = \{S_1, S_2, \ldots, S_m\} \), such that \( S \subseteq E \) having a set of elements \( E' \) and \( E' \subseteq E \).

Support threshold and confidence threshold (used to determine the importance of the rules) are defined as below:

(i) The items that co-occur in \( S \) are known as support denoted by minimum-support, it is decided by the user. \( I \) is called an item-set, where \( I \subseteq E \), and \( \forall i \in I \) co-occur in \( S \), \( I \) is said to be frequent item-set if and only if the occurrence of \( I \) in \( S \) is greater than minimum-support.

(ii) To determine the strength of an item-set \( I \) implies another item-set \( I_2 \), where \( I_1, I_2 \subseteq E \); and \( I_1 \cap I_2 = \{\phi\} \) is known as Confidence denoted by minimum-confidence. It is also decided by the user.

An association rule represented by \( I \rightarrow I_2 \) is correct if frequency for the co-occurrence of \( I_1 \) and \( I_2 \) is more than minimum-support, and the confidence of this association rule is more than minimum-confidence. The calculation of support is: \((I_1 \cup I_2) / (\text{transactions in } D_T)\). The calculation of confidence is: \(\text{support}(I_1 \cup I_2) / \text{support}(I_1)\). \( I_1 \rightarrow I_2 \) can be analysed as “if \( I_1 \) exists, it is likely that \( I_2 \) will also exists.”

Associative classification rule mining has two steps: (i) finding all frequent item-sets. This is the most complex and time consuming task that generates all possible item-sets (combinations), \( 2^n \) for a set of \( n \) items and extracts only those item-sets having frequency at least minimum-support in a training database. (ii) Generating strong association rules. They are produced from frequent item-sets obtained in step (i). All rules having confidence not less than minimum-confidence are extracted. For instance we work with the training data which is shown in table 1. It has three attributes \( A \ (A_1, A_2, A_3), B \ (B_1, B_2, B_3), C \ (C_1, C_2, C_3) \) and two class labels \( (L_1, L_2) \). The minimum-support = 30\% and minimum-confidence = 70\%. The Table 2 shows a classifier with the strong class association rules according to confidence they hold along with their support and confidence.
Pruning means removal of unwanted/meaningless elements. In associative classification, pruning is used to remove infrequent item-sets, infrequent and weak class association rules. Pruning is also used to decide that which rule from the set of association rules are used to separate the class label, and confidence values. HiSC i.e. Highest Subset Confidence algorithm is used to predict the class label of unseen test instance. LLAC outperforms in compare to traditional classification systems [17].

Apriori-type algorithm is very difficult to predict the defects by implementing it on misbalancing dataset. To improve this, association rules are used to separate the class label, which is the vital type of one of the association rules. It also tells the relationship between the attributes and categories in which dataset is further divided. Empirical comparison with four datasets, is the techniques used to implement the problem which superior than the other classification techniques. The research shows the results that are on the basis of SDP model on class-association [18].

A. Early Pruning Techniques

In early pruning, we use support threshold value to delete the infrequent item-sets. Following methods are used to reduce efforts involved in finding frequent item-sets.

**Handling Mutually Exclusive Items**

This technique exploits the concept that values of an attribute used to be mutually exclusive means one attribute in an instance contains only one value of attribute. To put this into effect, those attributes having more than one value must be restricted by the candidate generator. This technique firstly accelerates the second pass and secondly, on subsequent passes, candidate generation for candidates pruned by this technique do not required for subset–support based pruning to be explicitly checked.

**Exploiting the Equivalence of Supports**
Usually the item-sets used to have their support near to either support of one of its subsets or support of one of its supersets. To prevent these equivalent rules from being generated or incurring any overhead, the exact-equivalence strategy remove from the set of frequent item-sets any set having a subset with equivalent support before forming the next set of candidates.

- **Other Techniques**

We can find some other techniques that may optimize the candidate rule sets. The algorithm [11] reduces the candidate item-sets by removing those item-sets that are containing more number of items than available number of attributes. The algorithms including [11] do not generates candidate item-sets, and uses other data structure FP-tree to generate the frequent item-sets. We can search some more techniques that can be used to prune the infrequent item-sets more efficiently.

- **B. Intermediate Pruning Techniques**

Intermediate pruning uses confidence threshold value to remove the weak class association rules. But following more methods may optimize the size of class association rules without reducing its classification strength:

- **Removing Redundant Class Association Rules**

The idea behind this technique is to exploit the fact that if a rule R meets the confidence threshold value, then any rule containing R and having confidence less than R will apply to only covered instances. Such rules are termed as redundant class association rules. Redundant rule pruning has been reported in [5]. Its works as follows: Let R → C be a general rule, any rule R’ → C such as R ⊆ R’ and R’ → C has lower confidence in compare to R → C, will be redundant and they are removed from associative classification rule set. It significantly reduces the size of the class association rule set and minimizes rules redundancy. The algorithms, including [5, 7] have used the pruning of redundant class association rules. It perform pruning immediately as a rule is inserted into the data structure called CR-tree.

- **Handling Conflicting Class Association Rules**

Conflicting class association rules refers to such rules that have similar LHS item-sets but predicting different classes in RHS. Let’s take given rules such as R → C1 and R → C2 [7]. Proposed a pruning technique considers these conflicting rules and removes them. The algorithm [8] considers such rules as useful knowledge and combines them in a single rules naming multi-label class association rule i.e. R → C1 V C2.

- **Correlation Testing Between Rule Body & its Class**

This concept is taken from statistics that finds the correlation between rule body and its predicting class to determine whether they are correlated or not. The chi-square testing is used to for this purpose. If the discovered class association rule is negatively correlated, it is pruned. If the rule body is positively correlated to its class, it is stored in class association rule set. The algorithm [4] performs the chi-square testing in its rule discovery step to retain or remove the class association rules.

- **Backward Class Association Rule Pruning**

Pruning in decision tree involves pre-pruning and post-pruning. The post-pruning, known as backward pruning is frequently used by decision tree algorithms like C4.5 [9]. First a decision tree is constructed and, then it is decided whether each node and its descendants is replaced or not by a single leaf. The decision is made on the basis of the estimated error using pessimistic error estimation [10] of a node and comparing it with its potential replacement leaf. This backward pruning can also be used in class association rule pruning. The algorithms including [3] have used it to effectively remove the number of extracted class association rules.

- **C. Late Pruning Techniques**

Late pruning is involved with the final step of classifier formation. There are a large number of late pruning techniques available that have been used by different researchers. Some of these techniques are listed out here along-with their scope and importance:

- **Matching Longest Associative Classification Rules**

In this technique we select those class association rules having longest left hand side that matches a particular case. The longest match method is based on the conclusion that the class association rules with longest left hand side will contain more accurate and richer information for prediction of a class. We know that longest match is more specific and accurate, but the problem with this case is that the support and confidence of the class association rule decreases exponentially as the size of its left hand size increases.

- **Database Coverage**

Database coverage is a very popular pruning technique in associative classification. The algorithms including [3] and [4] have successfully exploited this pruning technique to minimize the size of class association rule set. This method works as follows: first all the rules of class association rule set are sorted in descending order using their confidence. Then each class association rule is tested against the training dataset instances. If a rule correctly classifies some instances in the training dataset, all instances covered by the rule are removed from the training dataset and the rule is marked as candidate rule. If a rule does not correctly covers any instance in training dataset then it is removed from the class association rule set. Finally we get the class association rule set, having candidate rules only.

- **Lazy Pruning**

Lazy pruning aims to remove only those rules from class association rule set that incorrectly classify the training data set instances. In lazy pruning each rule of class association rule set is tested against training dataset instances and we delete those rules that either incorrectly classifies at least one training data set instance or they do not covers even single instance of the training data set. Here we do not delete the covered instances from the training data set as it is done in database coverage method. Lazy pruning considers all class association rules classifying the instances of training data set, whereas the database coverage method considers only single rule classifying an instance.
In other words in lazy pruning an instance is classified by several class association rules but in database coverage method an instance is covered by only single class association rule. The experimental results have shown that lazy pruning produces large number of potential class association rules and therefore consumes more memory space in compare to other techniques.

- **Laplace Accuracy**

The Laplace accuracy is used by the associative classification algorithm [4]. It is mainly used in class association rule mining to calculate the expected error of the rules. It calculates expected accuracy for each class association rule before the rule is applied for classification of test instances. The CPAR algorithm has shown that exploitation of Laplace accuracy has produced better results in compare to CBA.

### IV. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

Our proposed methodology aims to reduce the number of rules as well as to study the impact of pruning on accuracy. Database coverage method which provides heuristics to select the rule subset from set of rules. This method has one shortfalt that in some cases like when there is no rule to classify it considers largest frequency class for remaining unclassified instances. We can hybrid database coverage pruning with the rule induction for maximum coverage of dataset. The rule which has inducted followed by rule evaluation step through the rank. The proposed method includes rule induction, evaluation of the rules and classifying the test data. Evaluation of the rule helps to seek out whether the rule is able to cover the large part of dataset or not. While evaluating the rule the rank of the rule is constantly revised to reflect the coverage of the rule on test examples. Proposed method tries to acquire as many as possible instances of dataset within the rule and hence less number of rules derived. So there is no majority voting class concept is used for unclassified instances.

### V. EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

We have compared the effect of three pruning techniques with the number of rules derived by them. These are CBA [3] (pessimistic error and database coverage), MCAR [6] database coverage and lazy pruning [12]. The experiments are done on the fourteen datasets available on UCI M/L data repository [13]. Table 3 gives the number of rules derived from different pruning techniques.

**Table 3: Set of Rules Derived by Different Pruning Techniques**

| S. No. | Name of Data Set | Pessimistic Error & Database Coverage | Proposed Database Coverage | Lazy Pruning |
|-------|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1.    | Breast           | 47                                   | 67                          | 22183        |
| 2.    | Glass            | 29                                   | 39                          | 11061        |
| 3.    | Heart            | 43                                   | 80                          | 40069        |
| 4.    | Iris             | 5                                    | 15                          | 190          |
| 5.    | Labor            | 17                                   | 16                          | 7967         |
| 6.    | Lymph            | 35                                   | 52                          | 86917        |
| 7.    | Pima             | 40                                   | 93                          | 9842         |

From the above table it is obvious that huge number of classification rule are generated by the lazy pruning technique. The reasons is that lazy pruning involves the method in which a large number of those class association rules (as spare rules) are stored that do not covers even any objects. The proposed database coverage methods overcomes with this problem and removes these spare rules that reduces the size of the associative classifiers. The CBA [3] algorithm generates the associative classifiers of reasonable size in compare to the lazy pruning methods [12].

### VI. CONCLUSION

Associative classification is a significant technique of knowledge discovery in data mining field. Pruning techniques are the most important part of the process of constructing and effective classifier with high accuracy standard. Effective class association rule mining yields a classifier that reduces error possibility and increases the accuracy rate and can be deployed for use in big data analytics and data science. The paper discusses the different pruning methods that have been proposed since the inception of the class associative rule mining technique and compares them with the latest ones. Comparison has been made on the results obtained by different associative classification algorithms employing a particular pruning technique. The results show that the database coverage with pessimistic error and database coverage pruning have produced better results in comparison with the lazy pruning methods. They generate compact classifiers that are easy to understand, implement and use for classification of new data items.

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