

การใช้ทฤษฎี Rough Set เพื่อการวิเคราะห์ข้อมูลอัตโนมัติ*

Using Rough Set Theory for Automatic Data Analysis

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บทคัดย่อ: ระบบสารสนเทศเป็นแหล่งรวมข้อมูล เหตุการณ์ และกรณีศึกษาต่างๆ ที่สามารถนำมาค้นหาความรู้ที่เป็นประโยชน์ได้ ความรู้ที่ได้จะอยู่ในลักษณะของการสัมพันธ์เชื่อมโยงระหว่างปัจจัยที่เป็นต้นเหตุของเหตุการณ์หนึ่ง และผลที่ทำให้เกิดอีกเหตุการณ์หนึ่งขึ้น งานวิจัยนี้เป็นการทดลองนำทฤษฎี Rough Set มาใช้ในการวิเคราะห์ระบบสารสนเทศของนักศึกษาเพื่อค้นหากฎที่สามารถนำมาใช้ช่วยคาดหมายสถานภาพของนักศึกษาโดยพิจารณาจากประวัติและผลการเรียนในรายวิชาต่างๆ

Abstract: The information system that contains records about particular cases, events, objects, or observations is a valuable source of knowledge. Each record is consisted of two kinds of attributes: condition and decision attributes. Condition attributes concern results of some tests or measurements, data from observations, symptoms of cases, etc. Decision attributes concern some expert's decisions, diagnoses, classified results of a treatment, etc. The question about cause-effect dependencies between condition-decision attributes is the most interesting issue in the analysis of information systems. We employ the rough set approach as an analysis tool on the student information. The main purpose of our experimentation is to investigate the efficiency of rough set theory to the real-world data analysis problem. The result obtained from the rough set analysis is a set of decision rules describing the dependencies between some conditions to the status of the students.

Introduction: In the recent years we observe growing interest in rough set theory and its applications all over the world. Rough set theory was introduced by Zdzislaw Pawlak in the early 80's [5,6]. The main issue of rough set theory is reasoning from imprecise data. The concept of rough set comes from the notion of indiscernibility (or similarity) of knowledge. An indiscernibility relation is an equivalence relation that identifies objects which have the same descriptions with respect to a set of attributes of objects. The indiscernibility relation can be employed in order to define approximations of sets or relations. The notion of indiscernibility relation is useful for expressing several interesting properties of an incomplete information system. The rough set method allows us to discover the knowledge in the form of optimal decision rules. The method is advantageous for a very large data set and has been successfully applied to a lot of applications in various fields such as medicine, finance, telecommunication, process industry, marketing, etc [2,4,7,8].

ROSE [1], RSES and ROSETTA [3] are some examples of rough set software developed for solving knowledge discovery problems. ROSE is a modular software system implementing basic elements of the rough set theory and rule discovery techniques. It has been created at the Laboratory of Intelligent Decision Support Systems in Poland. It has many tools to use for Rough set based knowledge discovery such as analyzing data, extracting characteristics patterns from data, including decision rules from sets of learning examples and evaluating the discovered rules.

RSES system was developed at Warsaw University. A subsequent system named ROSETTA has been designed and implemented at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway. The computational kernel of ROSETTA is a C++ class library for performing rough set related calculation to discover knowledge. The discovery results are propositional rules synthesized from empirical data.

Methodology: The aim of this research is to investigate the power of rough set theory in discovering models or patterns that describe the real-world data. The data set used in our experiments is the student data of Suranaree University of Technology (SUT) during the year 2001-2002. The two rough set systems chosen as an analysis tool are ROSE2 (Lite version) and ROSETTA. The major steps in data analysis are composed of transforming data to the specified format, fill in the missing values with mean/mode replacement technique, discretization,

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pattern induction. The results are patterns expressed as rules to describe the norm characteristics of the SUT students. The discovered rules based on rough set induction are cross-validated with the rules obtained from decision tree induction, which is the major technique normally used in data mining.

Results : Figures 1 and 2 show the screenshots of the software ROSETTA and ROSE, respectively. The (part of) results obtained as a set of reducts are shown in Figure 3.

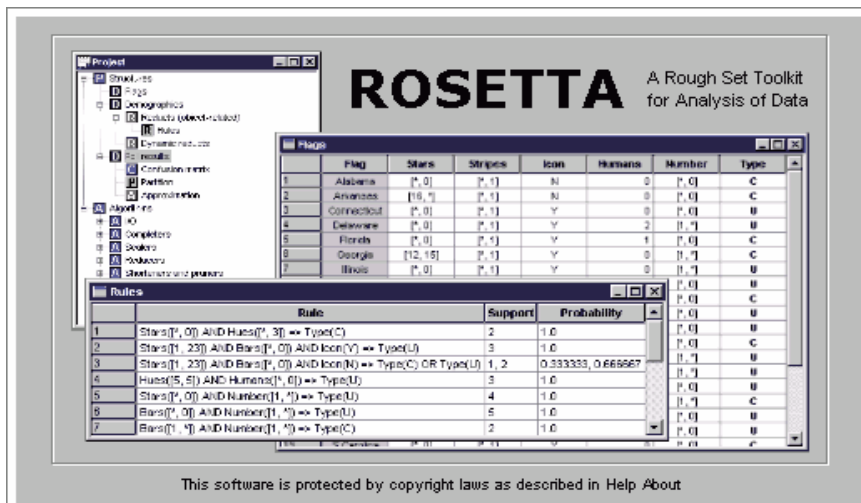


Fig. 1. The ROSETTA system

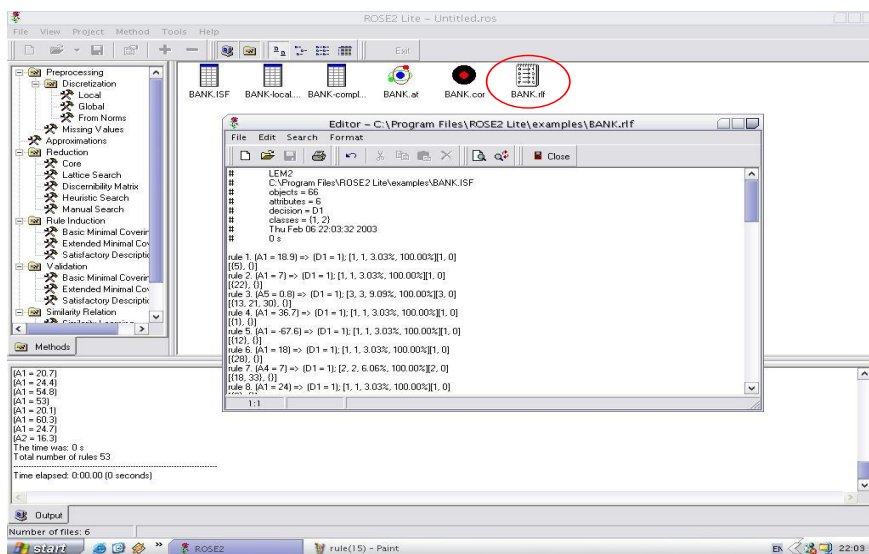


Fig. 2. The ROSE system

	Reduct	Support	Length
25524	{PROVBORN, PROVIDAD, COUSIN}	100	3
25525	{PROVBORN, ORIGMUM, GPA}	100	3
25526	{PROVBORN, OCCUDAD, NATIOSUP}	100	3
25527	{PARTALIV, OCCUDAD, AGEUM}	100	3
25528	{OCCUDAD, AGEUM, INCSUP1}	100	3
25529	{PROVBORN, ORIGDAD, FILTER_\$}	100	3
25530	{PROALIV, OCCUDAD, SUPPORT}	100	3
25531	{PROALIV, OCCUDAD, ADMIS1}	100	3
25532	{AGE, PARTMUM, NO#COUSI}	100	3

Fig. 3. The results expressed as a set of reducts

The first ten common patterns discovered from the student data by the rough set software can be explained in plain English as follows:

- (1) IF $GPATrimester12 = GE3.0$ AND $GPATrimester14 = NA$ AND $grade_102101 = C+$
THEN Graduated
- (2) IF $GPATrimester12 = GE3.0$ AND $GPATrimester14 = NA$ AND $grade_102101 = C$
THEN Graduated
- (3) IF $GPATrimester12 = GE3.0$ AND $GPATrimester14 = NA$ AND $grade_102101 = B+$
THEN Graduated
- (4) IF $GPATrimester12 = LT2.5$ AND $Province = Nakhonratchasima$
THEN Graduated
- (5) IF $GPATrimester12 = LT2.5$ AND $Province = Chaiyapoom$
THEN Graduated
- (6) IF $GPATrimester12 = LT2.5$ AND $Province = Khonkaen$
THEN Graduated
- (7) IF $GPATrimester12 = LT2.5$ AND $Province = Bangkok$ AND $grade_103101 = C+$
THEN Graduated
- (8) IF $GPATrimester12 = LT2.5$ AND $Province = Bangkok$ AND $grade_103101 = C$ AND
 $GPATrimester14 = LT1.80$
THEN Studying
- (9) IF $GPATrimester12 = LT1.80$ AND $grade_102103 = F$
THEN Quit
- (10) IF $GPATrimester5 = NA$ AND $grade_402201 = F$ AND $Province = Bangkok$
THEN Quit

Conclusion: Rough set theory is a framework for identifying the least decision rules that are discovered from large amount of data. The result of discovering is the knowledge describing interest patterns of data. The significant issues of rough set are discernibility, approximation, reduct and decision rules. We investigate the application of rough set to the real-world data of SUT students and the results turned out to be interesting and contributed to a better understanding of students' behavior. A more thorough investigation and comparison of rough set technique to other discovery techniques are our future research plan.

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