



NARUPON WONGPRACHANUKUL : A PROPER METHOD FOR  
DECISION TREE PRUNING IN SCIENTIFIC DATA MINING. THESIS  
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## DECISION TREE/PRUNING/STATISTICAL TEST

Decision tree is one of the tools used for data mining. The main application area is classification task. The model is built from a set of records, called training set. Each record consists of a number of attribute-value pairs. One of these attributes represents class of the record. When a decision tree is built, many of the branches may be overly expanded due to noise or outliers in the training set. The built model is too complex, since it tries to classify all records in the training set including noise and outliers. This problem is called “overfitting”. We use tree pruning method to remove the least reliable branches, generally resulting in faster classification and improvement in the ability of the tree to correctly classify unknown data.

This research proposed a new method for decision tree pruning, called REP+. We used the statistical test to check the significant dependency between predicted classes and actual classes in the training set. We conduct the experiments on 21 scientific data sets. The pruned trees result in reduced model complexity and faster classification while maintaining their predictive accuracy.

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