Rule-based Classifiers

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Introduction to Data Mining, 2nd Edition
Chapter 5.1

Rule-based Classifier

- Classify records by using a collection of "if…then…" rules
- Rule: $(\mathit{Condition}) \rightarrow y$
  - where
    - *Condition* is a conjunction of tests on attributes
    - *y* is the class label
  - Examples of classification rules:
    - (Blood Type=Warm) $\wedge$ (Lay Eggs=Yes) $\rightarrow$ Birds
    - (Taxable Income < 50K) $\wedge$ (Refund=Yes) $\rightarrow$ Evade=No

Rule-based Classifier (Example)

R1: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Can Fly = yes) $\rightarrow$ Birds

R2: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Live in Water = yes) $\rightarrow$ Fishes

R3: (Give Birth = yes) $\wedge$ (Blood Type = warm) $\rightarrow$ Mammals

R4: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Can Fly = no) $\rightarrow$ Reptiles

R5: (Live in Water = sometimes) $\rightarrow$ Amphibians

Name	Blood Type	Give Birth	Can Fly	Live in Water	Class
human	warm	yes	no	no	mammals
python	cold	no	no	no	reptiles
salmon	cold	no	no	yes	fishes
whale	warm	yes	no	yes	mammals
frog	cold	no	no	sometimes	amphibians
komodo	cold	no	no	no	reptiles
bat	warm	yes	yes	no	mammals
pigeon	warm	no	yes	no	birds
cat	warm	yes	no	no	mammals
leopard shark	cold	yes	no	yes	fishes
turtle	cold	no	no	sometimes	reptiles
penguin	warm	no	no	sometimes	birds
porcupine	warm	yes	no	no	mammals
eel	cold	no	no	yes	fishes
salamander	cold	no	no	sometimes	amphibians
gila monster	cold	no	no	no	reptiles
platypus	warm	no	no	no	mammals
owl	warm	no	yes	no	birds
dolphin	warm	yes	no	yes	mammals
eagle	warm	no	yes	no	birds

Application of Rule-Based Classifier

- A rule *r* covers an instance **x** if the attributes of the instance satisfy the condition of the rule

R1: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Can Fly = yes) $\rightarrow$ Birds

R2: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Live in Water = yes) $\rightarrow$ Fishes

R3: (Give Birth = yes) $\wedge$ (Blood Type = warm) $\rightarrow$ Mammals

R4: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Can Fly = no) $\rightarrow$ Reptiles

R5: (Live in Water = sometimes) $\rightarrow$ Amphibians

Name	Blood Type	Give Birth	Can Fly	Live in Water	Class
hawk	warm	no	yes	no	?
grizzly bear	warm	yes	no	no	?

The rule R1 covers a hawk => Bird

The rule R3 covers the grizzly bear => Mammal

Rule Coverage and Accuracy

- Coverage of a rule:
  - Fraction of records that satisfy the antecedent of a rule
- Accuracy of a rule:
  - Fraction of records that satisfy the antecedent that also satisfy the consequent of a rule

Tid	Refund	Marital Status	Taxable Income	Class
1	Yes	**Single**	125K	**No**
2	No	Married	100K	**No**
3	No	**Single**	70K	**No**
4	Yes	Married	120K	**No**
5	No	Divorced	95K	**Yes**
6	No	Married	60K	**No**
7	Yes	Divorced	220K	**No**
8	No	**Single**	85K	**Yes**
9	No	Married	75K	**No**
10	No	**Single**	90K	**Yes**

(Status=Single) $\rightarrow$ No

Coverage = 40%, Accuracy = 50%

How does a Rule-based Classifier Work?

R1: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Can Fly = yes) $\rightarrow$ Birds

R2: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Live in Water = yes) $\rightarrow$ Fishes

R3: (Give Birth = yes) $\wedge$ (Blood Type = warm) $\rightarrow$ Mammals

R4: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Can Fly = no) $\rightarrow$ Reptiles

R5: (Live in Water = sometimes) $\rightarrow$ Amphibians

Name	Blood Type	Give Birth	Can Fly	Live in Water	Class
lemur	warm	yes	no	no	?
turtle	cold	no	no	sometimes	?
dogfish shark	cold	yes	no	yes	?

A lemur triggers rule R3, so it is classified as a mammal

A turtle triggers both R4 and R5

A dogfish shark triggers none of the rules

Characteristics of Rule Sets: Strategy 1

- **Mutually exclusive rules**
  - Classifier contains mutually exclusive rules if the rules are independent of each other
  - Every record is covered by at most one rule

- **Exhaustive rules**
  - Classifier has exhaustive coverage if it accounts for every possible combination of attribute values
  - Each record is covered by at least one rule

Characteristics of Rule Sets: Strategy 2

- **Rules are not mutually exclusive**
  - A record may trigger more than one rule
  - Solution?
    - Ordered rule set
    - Unordered rule set – use voting schemes

- **Rules are not exhaustive**
  - A record may not trigger any rules
  - Solution?
    - Use a default class

Ordered Rule Set

- Rules are rank ordered according to their priority
  - An ordered rule set is known as a decision list
- When a test record is presented to the classifier
  - It is assigned to the class label of the **highest ranked rule** it has triggered
  - If none of the rules fired, it is assigned to the default class (typically majority class)

R1: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Can Fly = yes) $\rightarrow$ Birds
R2: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Live in Water = yes) $\rightarrow$ Fishes
R3: (Give Birth = yes) $\wedge$ (Blood Type = warm) $\rightarrow$ Mammals
R4: (Give Birth = no) $\wedge$ (Can Fly = no) $\rightarrow$ Reptiles
R5: (Live in Water = sometimes) $\rightarrow$ Amphibians

Name	Blood Type	Give Birth	Can Fly	Live in Water	Class
turtle	cold	no	no	sometimes	?

Rule Ordering Schemes

- Rule-based ordering
  - Individual rules are ranked based on their quality
- Class-based ordering
  - Rules that belong to the same class appear together

Rule-based Ordering

(Refund=Yes) ==> No

(Refund=No, Marital Status={Single,Divorced}, Taxable Income<80K) ==> No

(Refund=No, Marital Status={Single,Divorced}, Taxable Income>80K) ==> Yes

(Refund=No, Marital Status={Married}) ==> No

Class-based Ordering

(Refund=Yes) ==> No

(Refund=No, Marital Status={Single,Divorced}, Taxable Income<80K) ==> No

(Refund=No, Marital Status={Married}) ==> No

(Refund=No, Marital Status={Single,Divorced}, Taxable Income>80K) ==> Yes

Building Classification Rules

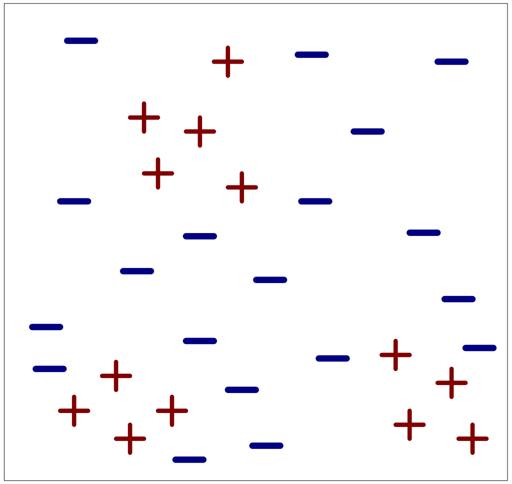
- Direct Method:
  - Extract rules directly from data
  - Examples: RIPPER, CN2, Holte's 1R

- Indirect Method:
  - Extract rules from other classification models (e.g. decision trees, neural networks, etc).
  - Examples: C4.5rules

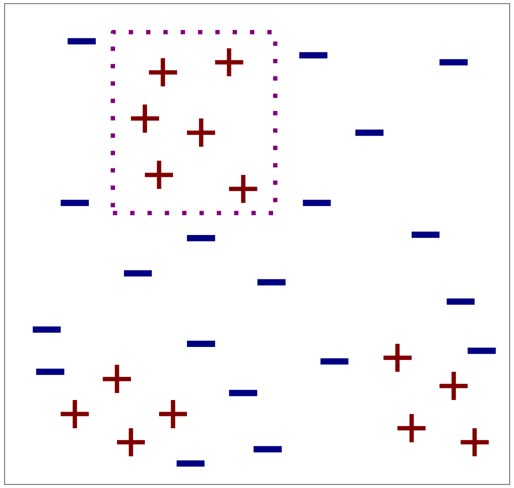
Direct Method: Sequential Covering

1. Start from an empty rule
2. For each class
   1. Grow a rule using the Learn-One-Rule function
   2. Remove training records covered by the rule
   3. Repeat Step (2) and (3) until stopping criterion is met

Example of Sequential Covering

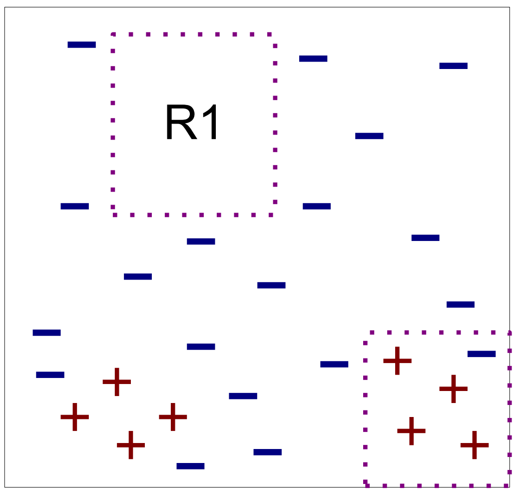


(i) Original Data

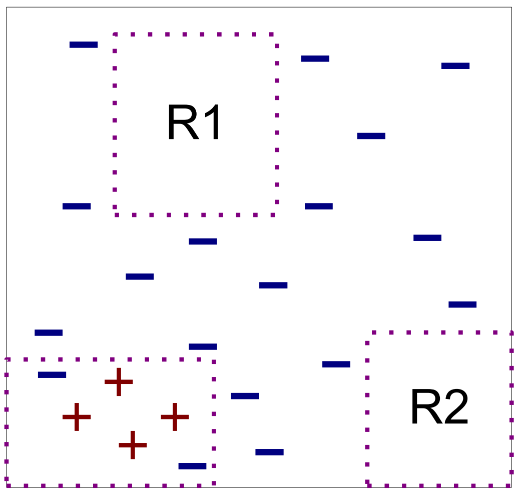


(ii) Step 1

Example of Sequential Covering…



(iii) Step 2



(iv) Step 3

Learn-One-Rule Function

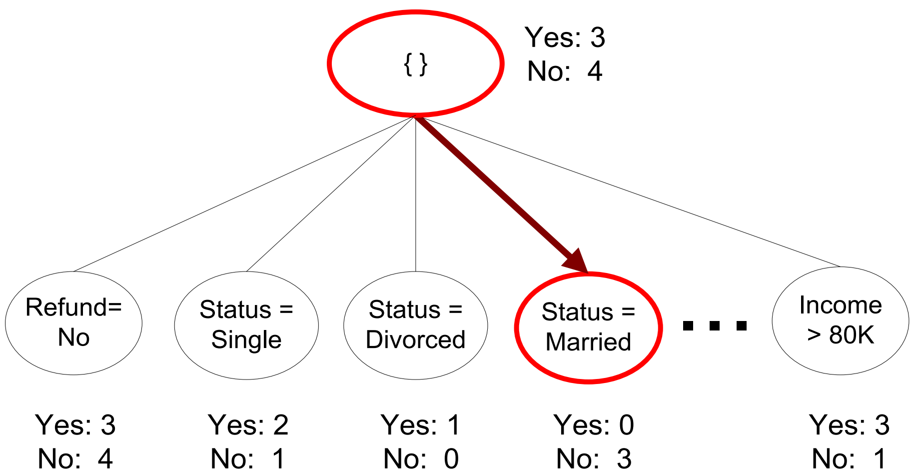
- The goal is to extract a classification rule covering many positive records and none (few) negative ones
- Finding optimal rule requires high computational time
- Greedy strategy by refining an initial rule

Greedy approach

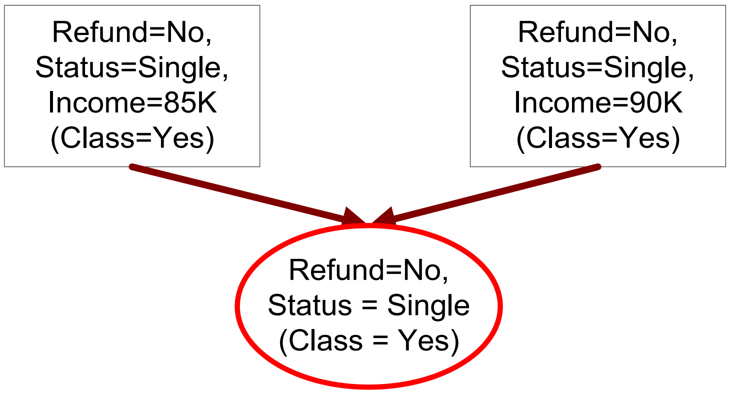
- The approach for growing rules is greedy
  - Based on some evaluation measure
- Rules are extracted one class per time
- The criterion for deciding the order of the class to consider depends on:
  - Class prevalence
  - Miss classification error for a given class

Rule Growing

- Two common strategies



(a) General-to-specific



(b) Specific-to-general

Rule Evaluation for growing rules

- Accuracy $= \frac{n_c}{n}$

- Laplace $= \frac{n_c + 1}{n + k}$

- M-estimate $= \frac{n_c + kp}{n + k}$

n : Number of instances covered by rule

n_c : Number of instances covered by rule with class c

k : Number of classes

p : Prior probability

Rule Evaluation for growing rules

- Foil's Information Gain
  - R0: {} => class (initial rule)
  - R1: {A} => class (rule after adding conjunct)
  - $$Gain(R_0, R_1) = p_1 \times [\, log_2\left(\frac{p_1}{p_1 + n_1}\right) - log_2\left(\frac{p_0}{p_0 + n_0}\right)]$$
  - p_0: number of positive instances covered by R0
    n_0: number of negative instances covered by R0
    p_1: number of positive instances covered by R1
    n_1: number of negative instances covered by R1

FOIL: First Order Inductive Learner – an early rule-based learning algorithm

Direct Method: RIPPER

- For 2-class problem, choose one of the classes as positive class, and the other as negative class
  - Learn rules for positive class
  - Negative class will be default class
- For multi-class problem
  - Order the classes according to increasing class prevalence (fraction of instances that belong to a particular class)
  - Learn the rule set for smallest class first, treat the rest as negative class
  - Repeat with next smallest class as positive class

Direct Method: RIPPER

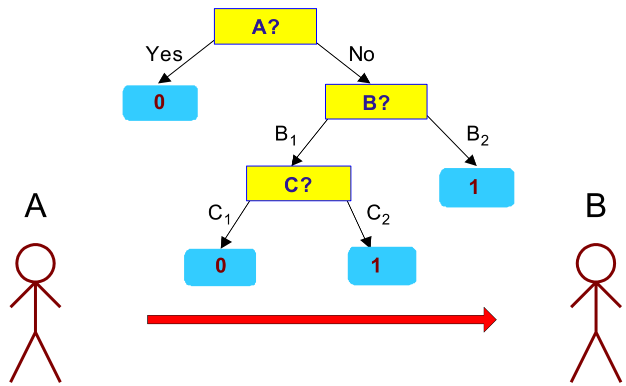
- Growing a rule:
  - Start from empty rule
  - Add conjuncts as long as they improve FOIL's information gain
  - Stop when rule no longer covers negative examples
  - Prune the rule immediately using incremental reduced error pruning
  - Measure for pruning: $v = (p-n)/(p+n)$
    - *p*: number of positive examples covered by the rule in the validation set
    - *n*: number of negative examples covered by the rule in the validation set
  - Pruning method: delete any final sequence of conditions that maximizes v

Direct Method: RIPPER

- Building a Rule Set:
  - Use sequential covering algorithm
    - Finds the best rule that covers the current set of positive examples
    - Eliminate both positive and negative examples covered by the rule
  - Each time a rule is added to the rule set, compute the new description length
    - Stop adding new rules when the new description length is *d* bits longer than the smallest description length obtained so far

Minimum Description Length (MDL)

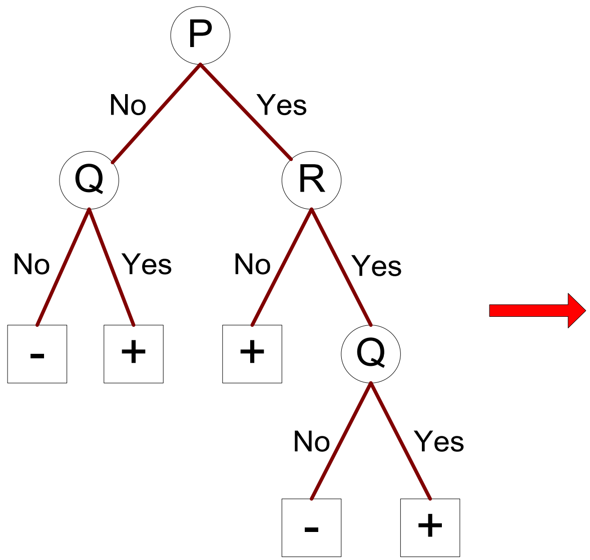
X	y
X_1	1
X_2	0
X_3	0
X_4	1
…	…
X_n	1



X	y
X_1	?
X_2	?
X_3	?
X_4	?
…	…
X_n	?

- Cost(Model,Data) = Cost(Data|Model) + αx Cost(Model)
  - Cost is the number of bits needed for encoding.
  - Search for the least costly model.
- Cost(Data|Model) encodes the misclassification errors.
- Cost(Model) uses node encoding (number of children) plus splitting condition encoding.

Indirect Methods



Rule Set

r1: (P=No,Q=No) ==> -
r2: (P=No,Q=Yes) ==> +
r3: (P=Yes,R=No) ==> +
r4: (P=Yes,R=Yes,Q=No) ==> -
r5: (P=Yes,R=Yes,Q=Yes) ==> +

Indirect Method: C4.5rules

- Extract rules from an unpruned decision tree
- For each rule, $r: A \rightarrow y$,
  - consider an alternative rule $r': A' \rightarrow y$ where A' is obtained by removing one of the conjuncts in A
  - Compare the *pessimistic error rate* for r against all r's
  - Prune if one of the alternative rules has lower pessimistic error rate
  - Remove duplicate rules
  - Repeat until we can no longer improve generalization error

Pessimistic Error Estimate

- **Pessimistic Error Estimate** of a rule set T with k rules:

$$err_{gen}(T) = err(T) + \Omega \times \frac{k}{N_{train}}$$

  - *err(T)*: error rate on all training records
  - Ω: trade-off hyper-parameter relative cost of adding a rule
  - *k*: number of rules nodes
  - N_{train}: total number of training records

Indirect Method: C4.5rules

- Instead of ordering the rules, order subsets of rules (class ordering)

- Each subset is a collection of rules with the same rule consequent (class)

- Compute description length of each subset
  - Description length = *L(error) + g L(model)*
  - *g* is a parameter that takes into account the presence of redundant attributes in a rule set (default value = 0.5)

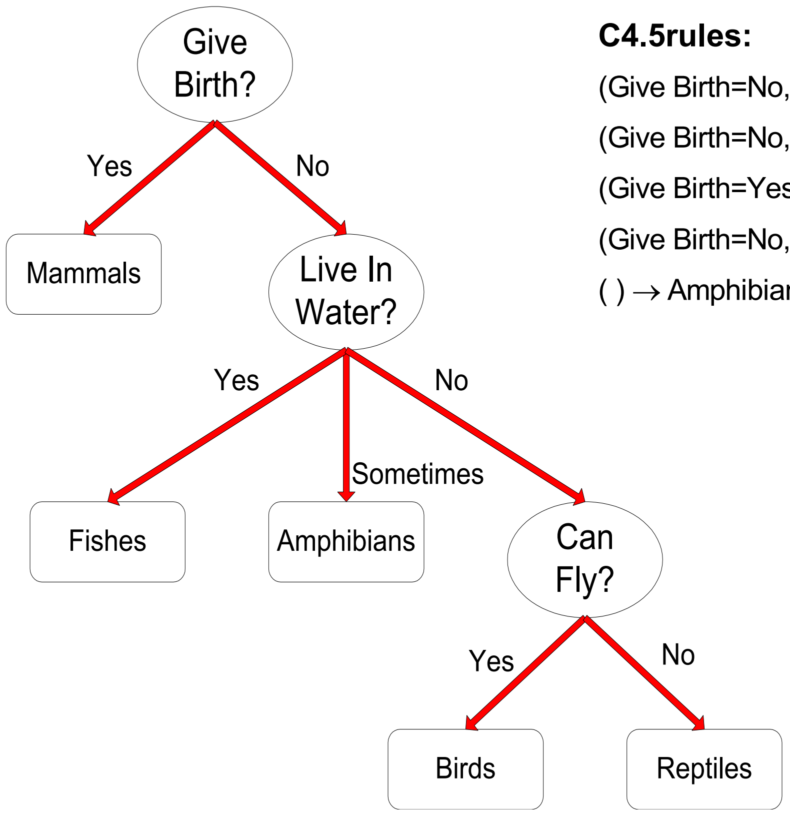
Advantages of Rule-Based Classifiers

- Has characteristics quite similar to decision trees
  - As highly expressive as decision trees
  - Easy to interpret
  - Performance comparable to decision trees
  - Can handle redundant attributes
- Better suited for handling imbalanced classes
- Harder to handle missing values in the test set

Example

Name	Give Birth	Lay Eggs	Can Fly	Live in Water	Have Legs	Class
human	yes	no	no	no	yes	mammals
python	no	yes	no	no	no	reptiles
salmon	no	yes	no	yes	no	fishes
whale	yes	no	no	yes	no	mammals
frog	no	yes	no	sometimes	yes	amphibians
komodo	no	yes	no	no	yes	reptiles
bat	yes	no	yes	no	yes	mammals
pigeon	no	yes	yes	no	yes	birds
cat	yes	no	no	no	yes	mammals
leopard shark	yes	no	no	yes	no	fishes
turtle	no	yes	no	sometimes	yes	reptiles
penguin	no	yes	no	sometimes	yes	birds
porcupine	yes	no	no	no	yes	mammals
eel	no	yes	no	yes	no	fishes
salamander	no	yes	no	sometimes	yes	amphibians
gila monster	no	yes	no	no	yes	reptiles
platypus	no	yes	no	no	yes	mammals
owl	no	yes	yes	no	yes	birds
dolphin	yes	no	no	yes	no	mammals
eagle	no	yes	yes	no	yes	birds

C4.5 versus C4.5rules versus RIPPER



C4.5rules:

(Give Birth=No, Can Fly=Yes) → Birds

(Give Birth=No, Live in Water=Yes) → Fishes

(Give Birth=Yes) → Mammals

(Give Birth=No, Can Fly=No, Live in Water=No) → Reptiles

( ) → Amphibians

RIPPER:

(Live in Water=Yes) → Fishes

(Have Legs=No) → Reptiles

(Give Birth=No, Can Fly=No, Live In Water=No)
→ Reptiles

(Can Fly=Yes,Give Birth=No) → Birds

() → Mammals

C4.5 versus C4.5rules versus RIPPER

C4.5 and C4.5rules:

			PREDICTED CLASS			
		Amphibians	Fishes	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals
ACTUAL	Amphibians	2	0	0	0	0
CLASS	Fishes	0	2	0	0	1
	Reptiles	1	0	3	0	0
	Birds	1	0	0	3	0
	Mammals	0	0	1	0	6

RIPPER:

			PREDICTED CLASS			
		Amphibians	Fishes	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals
ACTUAL	Amphibians	0	0	0	0	2
CLASS	Fishes	0	3	0	0	0
	Reptiles	0	0	3	0	1
	Birds	0	0	1	2	1
	Mammals	0	2	1	0	4

References

- Rule-Based Classifiers. Chapter 5.1. Introduction to Data Mining.