

**MACHINE LEARNING ALGORITHMS: SELECT STUDIES IN
CLASSIFICATION, ARM AND THEIR APPLICATIONS**

By

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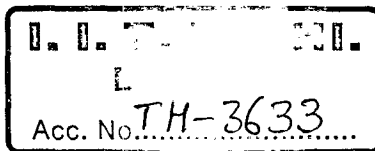
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Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled **Machine Learning Algorithms: Select Studies in Classification, ARM and Their Applications**, which is being submitted by **Pallath Paul Varghese** for the award of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics** to the **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi**, is a bonafide research work done under my guidance and supervision.

The thesis has reached the standard fulfilling the requirements of the regulations relating to the degree. The results obtained in the thesis have not been submitted to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.

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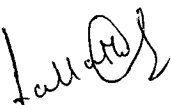
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ABSTRACT

Machine learning techniques for Data mining can be summarized into various categories like Classification, Clustering and Association rule mining. Main emphasis of this thesis pertains to the area of classification and association rule mining. It also discusses unique application of machine learning algorithms.

Decision tree algorithms form a very effective tool in classification. A decision tree algorithm partitions the given training data in a manner that the resultant partitions have reduced impurity. Node splitting measures play an important role in construction of decision trees for selecting the best splitting attribute and the corresponding split point value.

New node splitting measures have been proposed in this thesis for decision tree induction. One of them is based on the number of distinct classes on either side of the partition after split whereas the other captures the information about the number of sequences of class information in the partitions. Several important properties of the proposed node splitting measure like convexity and well behavedness have been proved for each of the split measures. Benchmark datasets have been used to show the effective performance of the proposed split measures. The results on various datasets show that the proposed measures provide better classification accuracy and are more compact compared to those build using the two of the widely known node splitting measures. The proposed measures have better performance after pruning also.

A novel approach to speed up the process of decision tree construction has also been presented in the thesis. Here the node splitting measure is evaluated only at class

boundaries for selecting the best splitting attribute. It has been shown that on an average only 50% of the split points need to be evaluated to construct the decision tree resulting in significant reduction in time taken to construct the decision tree.

Fuzzy Decision Tree algorithm to fuzzify the binary SLIQ decision tree algorithm based on Gini Index is proposed in this thesis to overcome the sharp boundary problems existing in crisp decision trees. A new membership function is designed to fuzzify the decision boundary at the split point. More than 74% reduction in size is observed in the decision trees built using the proposed fuzzy decision tree algorithm with increased classification accuracy.

An alternate approach to Association rule mining for instant rule generation is also proposed in the thesis. A weighted directed graph is constructed with edges between adjacent nodes only if the two itemsets have confidence greater than minimum confidence. It is shown that the time required for generating all the essential rules does not increase significantly with the increase in the number of rules generated as is the case with the existing graph based association rule mining algorithms.

Unique applications of Machine learning algorithms in the field of crypt analysis are discussed in the thesis. It is shown how Machine learning algorithms can be effectively employed in the area of crypt analysis for better understanding of crypto systems. The results carried out so far gives a very good basis to consider that Machine learning algorithms are an effective tool for analyzing Crypto Systems. This has been explored for the first time in the literature.

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