## Ying Tan Yuhui Shi Milan Tuba (Eds.)

Communications in Computer and Information Science 1234

# **Data Mining and Big Data**

5th International Conference, DMBD 2020 Belgrade, Serbia, July 14–20, 2020 Proceedings





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## Data Mining and Big Data

5th International Conference, DMBD 2020 Belgrade, Serbia, July 14–20, 2020 Proceedings



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## Preface

This volume (CCIS vol. 1234) constitutes the proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Data Mining and Big Data (DMBD 2020) which was held virtually online during July 14–20, 2020.

The DMBD conference serves as an international forum for researchers and practitioners to exchange latest advantages in theories, technologies, and applications of data mining and big data. The theme of DMBD 2020 was "Serving Life with Data Science." DMBD 2020 was the fifth in the conference series, following successful events in Bali, Indonesia (DMBD 2016), Fukuoka, Japan (DMBD 2017), Shanghai, China (DMBD 2018), and Chiang Mai, Thailand (DMBD 2019).

Data mining refers to the activity of going through big data sets to look for relevant or pertinent information. This type of activity is a good example of the axiom "looking for a needle in a haystack." The idea is that businesses collect massive sets of data that may be homogeneous or automatically collected. Decision makers need access to smaller, more specific pieces of data from these large sets. They use data mining to uncover the pieces of information that will inform leadership and help chart the course for a business. Big data contains a huge amount of data and information and is worth researching in depth. Big data, also known as massive data or mass data, refers to the amount of data involved that are too great to be interpreted by a human. Currently, the suitable technologies include data mining, crowdsourcing, data fusion and integration, machine learning, natural language processing, simulation, time series analysis, and visualization. It is important to find new methods to enhance the effectiveness of big data. With the advent of big data analysis and intelligent computing techniques, we are facing new challenges to make the information transparent and understandable efficiently. DMBD 2020 provided an excellent opportunity as an academic forum for researchers and practitioners to present and discuss the latest scientific results, and innovative ideas and advantages in theories, technologies, and applications in data mining and big data. The technical program covered many aspects of data mining and big data as well as intelligent computing methods applied to all fields of computer science, machine learning, data mining and knowledge discovery, data science, etc.

DMBD 2020 was originally planned to be held at Singidunum University, Serbia, but after carefully evaluating most announcements and guidance regarding COVID-19, as well as restrictions on overseas travel released by relevant national departments, the DMBD 2020 Organizing Committee made the decision to host DMBD 2020 as a virtual conference, keeping the scheduled dates of July 14–19, 2020. The DMBD 2020 technical team provided the ability for the authors of accepted papers to present their work through an interactive online platform or video replay. The presentations by accepted authors will be made available to all registered attendees online.

DMBD 2020 received 39 submissions and invited manuscripts from about 91 authors in 11 countries and regions (Brunei, China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, South Korea, Thailand, and Venezuela). Each submission was reviewed by at least 2 reviewers, and on average 3.1 reviewers. Based on rigorous reviews by the Program Committee members and reviewers, 10 high-quality papers were selected for publication in this proceedings volume with an acceptance rate of 25.64%. The contents of these papers cover major topics of data mining and big data.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of DMBD 2020, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the International Association of Swarm and Evolutionary Intelligence (IASEI)(iasei.org) for its sponsorship, to Peking University, Southern University of Science and Technology, and Singidunum University for their co-sponsorship, and to Computational Intelligence Laboratory of Peking University and IEEE Beijing Chapter for its technical cosponsorship, as well as to our supporters of International Neural Network Society, World Federation on Soft Computing, Beijing Xinghui Hi-Tech Co., and Springer Nature.

We would also like to thank the members of the Advisory Committee for their guidance, the members of the International Program Committee and additional reviewers for reviewing the papers, and the members of the Publications Committee for checking the accepted papers in a short period of time. We are particularly grateful to the proceedings publisher Springer for publishing the proceedings in the prestigious series of Communications in Computer and Information Science. Moreover, we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to the plenary speakers, session chairs, and student helpers. In addition, there are still many more colleagues, associates, friends, and supporters who helped us in immeasurable ways; we express our sincere gratitude to them all. Last but not the least, we would like to thank all the speakers, authors, and participants for their great contributions that made DMBD 2020 successful and all the hard work worthwhile.

June 2020 Ying Tan Yuhui Shi Milan Tuba

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## **Contents**





## <span id="page-12-0"></span>**Adaptive and Dynamic Knowledge Transfer in Multi-task Learning with Attention Networks**

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**Abstract.** Multi-task learning has shown promising results in many applications of machine learning: given several related tasks, it aims to generalize better on the original tasks, by leveraging the knowledge among tasks. The knowledge transfer mainly depends on task relationships. Most of existing multi-task learning methods guide learning processes based on predefined task relationships. However, the associated relationships have not been fully exploited in these methods. Replacing predefined task relationships with the adaptively learned ones may lead to superior performance as it can avoid the misguiding of improper predefinition. Therefore, in this paper, we propose Task Relation Attention Networks to adaptively model the task relationships and dynamically control the positive and negative knowledge transfer for different samples in multi-task learning. To evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed method, experiments on various datasets are conducted. The experimental results demonstrate that the proposed method outperforms both classical and state-of-the-art multi-task learning baselines.

**Keywords:** Representation learning · Multi-task learning · Knowledge transfer · Attention networks

## **1 Introduction**

Multi-task learning (MTL) aims to generalize better on the original tasks, by leveraging the shared knowledge among tasks [\[15\]](#page-24-0). In MTL, positive knowledge transfer leads to improved performance, because: 1) more related information is incorporated into the target tasks, which benefits the feature learning process to obtain better feature representations; 2) the incorporated information of positively related tasks acts as regularizer to avoid the risks of over-fitting. The knowledge transformer mainly depends on the task relationships. Therefore, how to appropriately model task relationships and how to control the knowledge transfer among tasks are crucial in MTL.

With the recent advances in deep learning, MTL with deep neural networks has been used widely and successfully across many applications of machine learning, from natural language processing [\[7\]](#page-23-0) to computer vision [\[11\]](#page-23-1). In most of these existing methods, the task relationships guiding the learning process are generally predefined, and the knowledge transfer among tasks relies on the sharing of hidden layers. Despite they have achieved promising results, but there are still several challenges for further improving the performance of MTL methods.

The first challenge is adaptively learning the task relationships instead of relying on predefined relationships. For some multi-task learning problems with complex task associations, the pre-definition based on limited human knowledge requires costly human efforts. Besides, if there are not adequate efforts for sophisticated pre-definitions, there is likely to be negative knowledge transfer because of the misguiding of improperly predefined task relationships  $[8,16]$  $[8,16]$  $[8,16]$ . Since an improper pre-definition of task relationships may result in negative knowledge transfer, it is essential for MTL methods to adaptively and appropriately model the task relationships with learning-based modules.

The second challenge is controlling the knowledge transfer with the dynamically learned task relationships instead of the fixed ones. The relationships among tasks are not constantly fixed, but vary slightly from different samples. However, in most of the methods relying on pre-definition, the task relationships are fixed [\[9](#page-23-3)], even in some MTL methods equipped with adaptively learning modules [\[14\]](#page-23-4). A concrete example is, in the works of [\[21\]](#page-24-2), the task relationships are determined by the inputs  $X$  and outputs  $Y$  of training data. In the testing phase, the model directly performs predictions on the learned relationships and the inputs X*test*, i.e., the relationships are fixed for the testing data. However, the task relationships in different samples may not be necessarily consistent. Therefore, dynamically modeling these relationships based on different inputs may lead to superior performance.

To address these challenges, in this paper, we propose Task Relation Attention Networks (TRAN) to adaptively capture the task relationships and dynamically control the knowledge transfer in MTL. Specifically, TRAN is an attentionbased model to adaptively capture the task relationships via task correlation matrix according to their inputs and specify the shared feature representations for different tasks. Since the task relationships are adaptively learned by TRAN during the learning process, it is replacing the predefined relationships. And TRAN relies on the inputs, therefore, it can dynamically model the correlations for different samples.

To evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed method, the experiments on various datasets are conducted. The experimental results demonstrate the proposed method can outperform both classical and state-of-the-art MTL baselines. The contributions of this paper can be summarized as follows:

- This paper proposes Task Relation Attention Networks (TRAN) to adaptively learn the task relationships to replace the predefined ones.
- The proposed method can dynamically control the knowledge transfer in multi-task learning based on the adaptively learned task relationships.

– This paper provides an explicable learning-based framework for multi-task learning to learn the shared feature representations for different tasks.

#### **2 Related Works**

#### **2.1 Multi-task Learning**

Multi-task Learning (MTL) provides an efficient framework for leveraging task relationships to achieve knowledge transfer and leads to improved performance.

The typical MTL architectures were sharing the bottom layers for all tasks and split top layers for different tasks, proposed by [\[3](#page-23-5)]. Afterwards, there have been some attempts to design partly shared architectures between tasks, instead of only sharing the bottom hidden layers. For leveraging the task relationships in MTL, there are some recent examples. The cross-stitch networks [\[14\]](#page-23-4) learned an optimal combination of task-specific representations for each task using linear units. The tensor factorization model [\[20\]](#page-24-3) generated the hidden layer parameters for each task. The multi-gate mixture-of-experts model [\[13](#page-23-6)] using gating mechanism to capture the task differences and implicitly model the task relationships. In the works of [\[21](#page-24-2)], they applied attention networks to statically capture the task relationships.

Compared to the typical MTL methods, these works performed better feature learning for shared and task-specific representations and achieved better performance. However, there are still some limitations: the method of [\[14\]](#page-23-4) can hardly expand to a large number of tasks; the method of  $[20]$  $[20]$  relies on a specific application scenario; the method of [\[13\]](#page-23-6) applies linear gates to implicitly model the task relationships and performs poor efficiency as the number of experts increases; the method of [\[21](#page-24-2)] captures the task relationships statically.

#### **2.2 Attention-Based Neural Networks**

The key idea of attention mechanism is mainly based on the human visual attention, which has been successfully applied in various applications, such as natural machine translation [\[12\]](#page-23-7) and text summarization [\[1](#page-23-8)].

Graph attention networks [\[18\]](#page-24-4) was proposed for feature learning of graphstructured data, based on the self-attention mechanism. [\[10\]](#page-23-9) applied the selfattention networks for time series warping. [\[17](#page-24-5)] performed self-attention on sentence encoding models, called Transformer, dispensing with recurrence and convolutions entirely [\[17](#page-24-5)]. Based on the Transformer, a language representation model called BERT was proposed [\[5](#page-23-10)]. In this paper, we attempt to adaptively model the task relationships in MTL with self-attention networks. Based on the learned relationships, the knowledge transfer among tasks can be dynamically controlled and each task can obtain a better shared feature representation, leading the MTL method to better performance.

#### **3 Method**

#### **3.1 Problem Statement for Multi-task Learning**

Given a single task, which can be regression or classification, the formal definition is as follows:

$$
\hat{Y} = M(X) \approx E(Y|X), \qquad (1)
$$

where X represents the inputs, Y represents the ground truth values,  $\hat{Y}$  is the predicted values,  $E(\cdot)$  is the mathematical expectation and  $M(\cdot)$  is the model.

In MTL, assuming that there are  $K$  tasks, the problem can be described as follows:

$$
\left(\hat{\mathbf{Y}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{Y}}_2, ..., \hat{\mathbf{Y}}_K\right) = \text{MTL}\left(\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, ..., \mathbf{X}_K\right) \n\approx \text{E}\left(\mathbf{Y}_1, \mathbf{Y}_2, ..., \mathbf{Y}_K | \mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, ..., \mathbf{X}_K\right),
$$
\n(2)

where MTL( $\cdot$ ) is the multi-task learning method,  $X_i, Y_i, \hat{Y}_i$  are respectively the inputs, labels and predictions of each task. In some real-world scenarios, the inputs of different tasks can be the same, i.e.,  $X_1, X_2, ..., X_K = X_s$ .

#### **3.2 Task Relation Attention Networks**

We apply attention networks to model the task relationships to help shared feature learning, called Task Relation Attention Networks (TRAN). Given K tasks, the inputs are a set of task features,  $\mathbf{X} = {\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, ..., \mathbf{X}_K}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}_i \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , n is the dimensionality of features.

Given task i and j, there is a shared attention network  $a_t$  measuring the attention correlations  $e_{ij}$  between two tasks, processed as follows:

$$
e_{ij} = a_t(W_i X_i || W_j X_j), \ i, j = 1, 2, ..., K,
$$
\n(3)

where  $W_i \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  and  $W_j \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$  represent the encoding networks, modeling the original inputs into high-level latent representations with the dimensionality of <sup>d</sup>, and || is the concatenation operation.

The attention weights for task  $i$  are normalized by softmax function to obtain the associated relationships between other tasks and task i,  $(\alpha_{i1}, \alpha_{i2}, ..., \alpha_{iK})$ , processed as:

$$
\alpha_{ij} = \text{softmax}_i(e_{ij}) = \frac{\exp(e_{ij})}{\sum_{k=1}^{K} \exp(e_{ik})}, j = 1, 2, ..., K.
$$
 (4)

The attention networks  $a_t$  are implemented with fully-connected neural networks with the activation function of LeakyReLU. And the learning process of attention networks can be described as:

$$
\alpha_{ij} = \frac{\exp\left[a_t(\boldsymbol{W}_i \boldsymbol{X}_i || \boldsymbol{W}_j \boldsymbol{X}_j)\right]}{\sum_{k=1}^K \exp\left[a_t(\boldsymbol{W}_i \boldsymbol{X}_i || \boldsymbol{W}_k \boldsymbol{X}_k)\right]}.
$$
(5)

The learned attention weights for target task  $i$  reflect the correlations between other tasks and task  $i$ . And all attention weights compose the task correlation

matrix 
$$
\boldsymbol{A}
$$
.  
\n
$$
\boldsymbol{A}_{i} = (\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i1}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{i2}, \dots, \boldsymbol{\alpha}_{iK}), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, K,
$$
\n
$$
\boldsymbol{A} = (\boldsymbol{A}_{1}, \boldsymbol{A}_{2}, \dots, \boldsymbol{A}_{K})^{T}.
$$
\n(6)

The task-specific representations for task i is  $s_i$ , the combination of all task latent representations with their attention weights for task  $i$ , as follows:

$$
s_i = A_i (W_1 X_1, W_2 X_2, \dots, W_K X_K)^T
$$
  
= 
$$
\sum_{j=1}^K \alpha_{ij} W_j X_j, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, K.
$$
 (7)

We perform multi-head attention mechanism on TRAN, which allows H independent attention networks to learn the attention weights in parallel and applies linear transformation  $W_H = (w_1, \ldots, w_H)$  to combine them. The final task-specific representation for task  $i$  is processed as follows:

$$
\mathbf{s}_{i} = \mathbf{W}_{H}(\mathbf{A}_{i}^{1}, \dots, \mathbf{A}_{i}^{H})^{T}(\mathbf{W}_{1}\mathbf{X}_{1}, \dots, \mathbf{W}_{K}\mathbf{X}_{K})^{T}
$$
\n
$$
= \sum_{h=1}^{H} \sum_{j=1}^{K} \mathbf{w}_{h} \alpha_{ij}^{h} \mathbf{W}_{j} \mathbf{X}_{j}, \ i = 1, 2, \dots, K.
$$
\n(8)

The illustration of feature learning is presented in Fig. [1.](#page-16-0)



<span id="page-16-0"></span>**Fig. 1.** Illustration of the feature learning with Task Relation Attention Networks.

#### **3.3 Prediction Layer**

For multi-task prediction, each task is equipped with a feed-forward sub-layer to convert the final task-specific representations to the predicted values. Each feedforward sub-layer consists of two layers: the first one  $W_i^e$  is a fully-connected neural network with ReLU activation and skip-connection for embedding the final representations; the second one  $W_i^p$  is a linear transformation for prediction. The formal equation is described as:

– For regression tasks,

$$
\hat{\mathbf{Y}}_i = \mathbf{W}_i^p \left( \mathbf{W}_i^e \mathbf{s}_i + \mathbf{s}_i \right). \tag{9}
$$

– For classification tasks,

$$
\hat{\boldsymbol{Y}}_i = \text{softmax}\left(\boldsymbol{W}_i^p\left(\boldsymbol{W}_i^e\boldsymbol{s}_i + \boldsymbol{s}_i\right)\right). \tag{10}
$$

#### **3.4 Objective Function**

For multi-task learning, all tasks are jointly trained by optimizing a joint loss function  $L_{joint}$ . Given the inputs  $\mathbf{X} = \{X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_K\}$  and labels  $Y = \{Y_1, Y_2, \ldots, Y_K\}$ , the joint loss function is defined as:

$$
L_{joint}(\boldsymbol{X}, \boldsymbol{Y}) = \sum_{i=1}^{K} \lambda_i L_i(\boldsymbol{X}_i, \boldsymbol{Y}_i) + \beta_W ||\boldsymbol{W}||^2_F + \beta_A ||\boldsymbol{A} - \boldsymbol{I}||^2_F, \qquad (11)
$$

where the first item is the combination of the task-specific losses  $L_j$  with their loss weights  $\lambda_i$ ; the second item is the regularization for all the trainable parameters  $W$ ; the third item is the regularization for the learned attention correlation matrix  $\boldsymbol{A}$  to ensure the auto-correlations of tasks. For each task, the task-specific loss is defined as:

– Mean squared error (MSE) for regression tasks,

$$
L_i(\boldsymbol{X}_i, \boldsymbol{Y}_i) = \text{MSE}(\hat{\boldsymbol{Y}}_i, \boldsymbol{Y}_i). \tag{12}
$$

– Cross entropy for classification tasks,

$$
L_i(\mathbf{X}_i, \mathbf{Y}_i) = \text{CrossEntropy}(\hat{\mathbf{Y}}_i, \mathbf{Y}_i). \tag{13}
$$

#### **4 Experiments**

#### **4.1 Dataset**

The performance of the proposed method is evaluated on three datasets: Censusincome dataset, FashionMnist dataset and Sarcos dataset.

- **Census-income dataset**: The Census-income dataset is from UCI Machine Learning Repository [\[2\]](#page-23-11). It is extracted from the 1994 Census database, which contains 299,285 instances of demographic information for American adults. We construct two multi-task learning problems based on 40 features.
	- Task 1: predict whether the income exceeds \$50K; Task 2: predict whether this person is never married.
	- Task 1: predict whether the education level of this person is at least college;

Task 2: predict whether this person is never married.

- **FashionMnist dataset**: The samples in FashionMnist are 28 × 28 grayscale images with 10-class labels [\[19\]](#page-24-6), similar to Mnist. We construct a multi-task learning problem: Task 1 is the original 10-class classification task; Task 2 is predict if the objects are shoes, or female products, or another type. All task shares the same inputs.
- **Sarcos dataset**: This is a regression dataset [\[4](#page-23-12)] where the goal is to predict the torque measured at each joint of a 7 degrees-of-freedom robotic arm, given the current state, velocity, and acceleration measured at each joint (7 torques for 21-dimensional inputs). Following the procedure of [\[4](#page-23-12)], we have 7 regression tasks, where each task is to predict one torque.

#### **4.2 Baselines**

The baseline methods to be compared with are as follows:

- **LASSO**: This is the classic linear method, learning each task independently with L1-norm regularization.
- **Bayesian**: Another linear method, learning each task independently with Bayesian inference.
- **Neural Networks (NN)**: For regression tasks and general classification tasks, we apply fully-connected neural networks with one hidden layer. For image classification, we apply single-layer convolutional neural networks.
- **Shared-bottom MTL**: This is a typical MTL method, where all tasks share the bottom hidden layers and have top sub-layers for prediction. In this method, the task relationships are predefined and fixed.
- **L2-Constrained MTL**: This is a classical MTL method [\[6](#page-23-13)], where the parameters of different tasks are shared softly by an L2-constraint. Given two tasks, the prediction of each task can be described as:

$$
\hat{Y}_1 = f(X_1, \theta_1), \ \hat{Y}_2 = f(X_2, \theta_2), \tag{14}
$$

where  $\theta_1, \theta_2$  are the parameters of each task. And the objective function of multi-task learning is:

$$
L_1\left(Y_1,\hat{Y}_1\right) + L_2\left(Y_2,\hat{Y}_2\right) + \alpha ||\theta_1 - \theta_2||_2^2, \tag{15}
$$

where  $\alpha$  is a hyper-parameter. This method models the task relationships with the magnitude of  $\alpha$ .

– **Cross-stitch Networks (CSN)**: This is a deep learning based MTL method [\[14](#page-23-4)]. The knowledge is shared between tasks by a linear units, call cross-stitch. Given two tasks,  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are the outputs of previous hidden layers of each task, and the outputs of cross-stitch are described as:

$$
\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{h}_1 \\ \tilde{h}_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_{11} & \alpha_{12} \\ \alpha_{21} & \alpha_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad (16)
$$

where  $\alpha_{ij}$ ,  $i, j = 1, 2$  are trainable linear parameters representing the knowledge transfer.

- **Multi-gate Mixture-of-Experts (MMoE)**: It adopts the multi-gate mixture-of-experts structure to MTL [\[13](#page-23-6)]. In this method, there is a group of expert networks as the bottom layers, and the top task-specific layers can utilize the experts differently with gating mechanism.
- **Multiple Relational Attention Networks (MRAN)**: It was recently proposed [\[21](#page-24-2)], applying attention networks to model multiple types of relationships in MTL. However, the task relationships in this method are statically modeled. The relationships are determined in the training phase, and in the testing phase, the relationships are fixed. Our method is able to dynamically capture the task relationships, and we will discuss about the differences between this method and ours.

## **4.3 Performance Comparison**

The proposed method is Task Relation Attention Networks (TRAN), and MH-TRAN means it is equipped with multi-head mechanism. Note that, because the code and some datasets of baseline MRAN are not released yet, we only compare its performance in the available Sarcos dataset, which is reported in their paper.

**Overall Comparison.** The performance comparison on Census-income, FashionMnist and Sarcos datasets are presented in Table [1,](#page-20-0) [2](#page-20-1) and [3](#page-21-0) respectively. From all the tables, we can observe that both TRAN and MH-TRAN outperform other methods on all tasks, and MH-TRAN outperforms TRAN on most tasks. The average relative improvements of MH-TRAN in all tasks are 4.68% (L2-Norm), 5.78% (CSN) and 2.45% (MMoE) for Census-income dataset, 2.94% (L2-Norm), 1.68% (CSN) and 2.85% (MMoE) for FashionMnist dataset and 67.95% (L2-Norm), 55.09% (CSN), 40.50% (MMoE) and 25.29% (MRAN) for Sarcos dataset.

**Comparison Between Different MTL Methods.** Compare with TRAN, both CSN and MMoE are based on linear models, and MMoE model task relationships implicitly, while our method is based on attention networks to explicitly model task relationships. The fact that TRAN outperforms CSN and MMoE, indicating the advantages of our method. Besides, compared with statically modeling task relationships (MRAN), TRAN is able to dynamically control the knowledge transfer, and the fact that TRAN outperforms MRAN demonstrates the effectiveness of this key component. Although MRAN includes different types of relationships, our method still outperforms it with the relative improvements of 25.29%.

## **4.4 Analysis for Key Components**

**Task Relationships and Knowledge Transfer.** We illustrate the task correlations learned by TRAN in Fig. [2.](#page-22-0)

In overall, all tasks are strongly correlated to themselves. And for different target tasks, the contributions of the other tasks vary a lot, e.g., the relationships in Sarcos dataset in Fig.  $2(c)$  $2(c)$ . We can observe the differences between traditional methods and TRAN. In traditional methods, the task correlations are predefined

and equal for each task, however, TRAN captures their differences. In Sarcos dataset, for task 7, the contribution of task 1 is apparently less than the others. If the method relies on the pre-definition of equal task correlations, there may exist negative knowledge transfer hurting the performance. From the performance comparison, we can observe that TRAN outperforms the traditional methods with pre-definition, which demonstrates the effectiveness of adaptively capturing the task correlations.

<span id="page-20-0"></span>

Method	AUC/Census-income dataset				
	<b>Income</b>	Marital	Education	Marital	
LASSO	0.8849	0.9367	0.7695	0.9367	
Bayesian	0.9267	0.8604	0.8209	0.8718	
<b>NN</b>	0.8904	0.9387	0.8179	0.8841	
Shared-bottom	0.8997	0.9379	0.8201	0.8973	
$L2$ -Norm	0.8967	0.9398	0.8174	0.9366	
<b>CSN</b>	0.8913	0.9401	0.8219	0.8996	
MMoE	0.9298	0.9523	0.8444	0.9422	
TRAN	0.9412	0.9693	0.8566	0.9792	
MH-TRAN	0.9501	0.9721	0.8613	0.9789	

**Table 1.** Performance comparison on the Census-income dataset in terms of AUC.

<span id="page-20-1"></span>**Table 2.** Performance comparison on the FashionMnist dataset in terms of accuracy.

Method	Accuracy/FashionMnist		
	10-class	3-class	
LASSO	0.8691	0.8879	
Bayesian	0.8698	0.8981	
NΝ	0.9032	0.9103	
Shared-bottom	0.9044	0.9182	
$L2$ -Norm	0.9031	0.9173	
CSN	0.9107	0.9324	
MMoE	0.9079	0.9142	
TRAN	0.9180	0.9497	
MH-TRAN	0.9207	0.9533	

For Census-income dataset, we have two multi-task learning problems, and marital task appears in both group I and II accompanied with different tasks. As the performance comparison in Table [1,](#page-20-0) marital task of TRAN in group II performs better than the one in group I. And from the illustration, we can observe that the task correlations in group II are stronger than the correlations in group I. This indicates there are more positive knowledge transfer in group II, which contributes to the improved performance.

In order to verify our observation, we assess the practical strengths of task relationships in group I and II, because in general, stronger task correlations imply that there are more positive knowledge transfer. According to the works of [\[13\]](#page-23-6), the Pearson correlations of the labels of different tasks can be used as the quantitative indicator of task relationships, because the Pearson correlations of labels are positively correlated to the strength of task relationships. The Pearson correlation in group I is 0.1784, and the one in group II is 0.2396. This indicates that there is supposed to be more positive knowledge transfer in group II, corresponding to our observation. This demonstrates that TRAN does capture the practical task correlations and control the positive knowledge transfer to help improve the performance.

**Dynamically Control the Knowledge Transfer.** The task relationships are not fixed, but vary slightly from different samples. We aim to dynamically capture the task relationships from different samples using TRAN.

We randomly select 8 samples from the testing samples of Sacros dataset, and provide an illustration of their dynamically learned task correlations in Fig. [3.](#page-22-1) From the correlations, we can observe that there is a slight variety in the task relationships in different samples. This demonstrate that TRAN does capture the dynamic task relationships, and the performance comparison in Table [1,](#page-20-0) [2](#page-20-1) and [3](#page-21-0) indicates TRAN controls the knowledge transfer to improve the performance using the dynamically learned relationships.

<span id="page-21-0"></span>

Method	RMSE/Sarcos dataset						
	$T_1$	$T_2$	$T_3$	$T_{4}$	$T_5$	$T_6$	$T_7$
LASSO	5.848	5.159	3.153	3.501	0.410	0.952	0.733
Bayesian	5.576	4.763	3.014	3.119	0.366	0.910	0.661
<b>NN</b>	5.534	4.936	3.002	3.375	0.393	0.919	0.704
S-bottom	4.476	4.396	2.172	3.184	0.396	0.873	0.724
$L2$ -Norm	4.773	4.507	2.255	3.254	0.382	1.110	0.721
<b>CSN</b>	3.774	3.456	1.749	1.885	0.315	0.553	0.403
<b>MMoE</b>	3.094	2.329	1.328	1.335	0.284	0.431	0.358
MRAN	2.879	1.895	1.041	0.829	0.154	0.261	0.236
<b>TRAN</b>	1.955	1.388	0.833	0.798	0.132	0.242	0.214
MH-TRAN	1.937	1.371	0.793	0.771	0.122	0.245	0.212

**Table 3.** Performance comparison on the Sarcos dataset in terms of RMSE.



<span id="page-22-0"></span>**Fig. 2.** Illustration of the task correlations learned by TRAN.



<span id="page-22-1"></span>**Fig. 3.** Illustration of the dynamic task relationships on the Sarcos dataset. We randomly select 8 samples from the testing dataset and visualize their attention correlation matrices.

## **5 Conclusion**

In this paper, we propose Task Relation Attention Networks to adaptively capture the task relationships, replacing the pre-defined ones in traditional MTL methods. Based on the learned relationships, the positive and negative knowledge transfer can be dynamically balanced in different samples. As a result, a better task-specific representation is obtained and leads to improved performance. In addition, the learned correlation matrix presents the dynamic transfer pattern, making the MTL method more explicable. To evaluate its performance, we conduct experiments on various datasets, including regression and classification tasks. Both classical and state-of-the-art MTL methods are employed to provide benchmarks. The experimental results and analyses demonstrate the effectiveness of our method, and its advantages over other methods.

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<span id="page-25-0"></span>

## **RPP Algorithm: A Method for Discovering Interesting Rare Itemsets**

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**Abstract.** The importance of rare itemset mining stems from its ability to discover unseen knowledge from datasets in real-life domains, such as identifying network failures, or suspicious behavior. There are significant efforts proposed to extract rare itemsets. The RP-growth algorithm outperforms previous methods proposed for generating rare itemsets. However, the performance of the RP-growth degrades on sparse datasets, and it is costly in terms of time and memory consumption. Hence, in this paper, we propose the RPP algorithm to extract rare itemsets. The advantage of the RPP algorithm is that it avoids time for generating useless candidate itemsets by omitting conditional trees as RP-growth does. Furthermore, our RPP algorithm uses a novel data structure, RN-list, for creating rare itemsets. To evaluate the performance of the proposed method, we conduct extensive experiments on sparse and dense datasets. The results show that the RPP algorithm is around an order of magnitude better than the RP-growth algorithm.

**Keywords:** Rare itemset · RN-list · RPP

## **1 Introduction**

Since the emergence of data mining, there is a plethora of methods introduced to extract frequent itemsets [\[2](#page-35-0)]. However, rare itemset mining (RIM) discovers unusual events (known as rare itemsets). Discovering rare itemsets provides useful information in many domains since it extracts an uncommon valuable knowledge from datasets. RIM is widely used in many applications such as market basket analysis  $[2]$ , predicting telecommunication equipment failures  $[8]$ , identifying fraudulent credit card transactions [\[9\]](#page-36-1), medical diagnosis [\[10](#page-36-2)], and adverse drug reactions [\[15](#page-36-3)]. For instance, in the health care domain, frequently discovering (known) complications are less interesting than rarely (unexpected) complications that may be more important to be discovered as early as possible. Therefore, discovering unusual events (rare itemsets) is more interesting, and it comes into the focus since it may help us to avoid adverse consequences. Traditional mining methods extract rare itemsets by setting a very low support threshold, which leads to an over-generation of itemsets. Thus, analyzing a large

amount of itemsets is computationally expensive. To overcome this issue, a high support threshold is used, which leads to a loss of interesting rare itemsets. Thus, extracting rare itemsets is a challenge, and it is called a rare item problem [\[11\]](#page-36-4). To handle the rare item problem, there are various methods proposed  $[1,3,4,6]$  $[1,3,4,6]$  $[1,3,4,6]$  $[1,3,4,6]$  $[1,3,4,6]$ . These methods can be classified based on their traversal of the search space into breadth-first search and depth-first search [\[19\]](#page-36-5). Breadth-first search methods use the most well-known algorithm called an apriori algorithm [\[2](#page-35-0)] to mine rare itemsets. These methods inherit apriori algorithm's drawbacks (overly huge candidate sets, redundant scans over the data). To overcome these shortcomings, depth-first search methods have been introduced to mine rare itemsets by utilizing an FP-tree structure [\[12\]](#page-36-6). A prominent FP-tree-based algorithm to mine rare itemsets is RP-growth [\[6](#page-35-4)]. The RP-growth algorithm solves the shortcomings of apriori-based algorithms in terms of time and memory consumption. However, it generates an unnecessary amount of conditional trees, which compromises search time and storage consumption in sparse datasets [\[14](#page-36-7)]. However, especially sparse datasets contain many uncommon patterns. Hence, how to design an efficient mining method for rare itemsets mining on sparse datasets is still critical research. In this paper, we propose the RPP algorithm for discovering rare itemsets. The RPP algorithm is inspired by a novel data structure, N-list [\[13\]](#page-36-8), to generate interesting rare itemsets. The following steps summarize the contribution of this paper.

- An RPPC-tree is constructed to maintain all information needed to extract rare itemsets. It is constructed from transactions that contain at least one rare item.
- An RN-list of all interesting rare items is created.
- The RN-list of rare items are used in the mining process to generate the whole set of rare itemsets by intersecting these lists.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. The concept of rare itemset mining is presented in Sect. [2](#page-26-0) and relevant literature is introduced in Sect. [3.](#page-27-0) The details of the proposed algorithm, the RPP algorithm, is explained in Sect. [4.](#page-28-0) Sections [5](#page-32-0) and [6](#page-35-5) present the performance results and conclusion, respectively.

#### <span id="page-26-0"></span>**2 Preliminaries**

To understand the basic concepts of RIM, let us consider the following motivating example.

**Motivating example:** given a transaction dataset DB in Table [1,](#page-27-1) let maximum support threshold (*maxSup*) and rare support threshold (*minSup*) be 0.80, 0.40, respectively. The task of rare itemset mining is to extract the set of all rare itemsets with support not less than *minSup* but also not exceeding *maxSup*.

**Definition 1.** Rare itemsets: An itemset X is called rare itemset if its occurrence frequency in a given dataset is less than the user given minimum support threshold, *freqSup*, such that  $Sup(X) < freqSup$ .

**Definition 2.** Interesting rare itemsets: An itemset *X* whose support satisfies the following conditions is called the interesting rare itemset:  $Sup(X)$  $maxSup \wedge Sup(X) \geq minSup.$ 

For instance, the itemset  ${ce : 2}$  in the motivating example is called interesting rare itemset since  $Sup(X) = 0.40$  which is less than *maxSup* and it is greater or equals to the *minSup*.

#### <span id="page-27-0"></span>**3 Related Work**

<span id="page-27-1"></span>



Rare itemset methods can be classified based on the exploration of the search space into

two categories. The first category includes level-wise exploration methods that depend on the downward closure property for pruning uninteresting itemsets  $[1,2]$  $[1,2]$  $[1,2]$ . The second category uses a level-depth exploration  $[6,21]$  $[6,21]$  $[6,21]$ .

#### **3.1 Level-Wise Exploration Methods**

Level-wise exploration methods work similar to an apriori algorithm [\[2\]](#page-35-0). These methods generate k-itemsets (itemsets of cardinality *k*) with using (*k* − 1) itemsets by utilizing the downward closure property. In [\[1\]](#page-35-1), an apriori-inverse algorithm is proposed to extract rare itemsets that have a support below a maximum support threshold (*maxSup*). It works similar to the apriori algorithm except that in the first step the apriori-inverse algorithm generates 1-itemsets that do not satisfy *maxSup*. In [\[3](#page-35-2)], two algorithms are presented to detect rare itemsets. In the first step, an apriori-rare algorithm identifies the minimal rare itemsets (itemsets that do not have any subset which is rare). In the second step, the minimal rare itemsets are used by an MRG-Exp algorithm as a seed for generating the whole set of rare itemsets. A method in [\[4](#page-35-3)] stated that exploring the itemset space in a bottom-up fashion is costly in term of time and memory consumption since it is common that rare itemsets are found at the top of the search space (i.e., in the last iteration steps). Instead, they have proposed AfRIM using a top-down traversal approach. AfRIM starts with the largest n-itemset that contains all unique items found in a dataset. It discovers the candidate n-1-itemset subsets from rare n-itemsets and collects the interesting rare itemsets. Still, AfRIM is a time-consuming method since it considers zero-itemsets in the mining process as it begins from the largest itemset that contains all distinct items in the dataset. To avoid zero-itemset generation, the rarity algorithm [\[5](#page-35-6)] is proposed for retrieving rare itemset. It works similar to AfRIM except that it starts from items in the longest transaction in the dataset.

In [\[11](#page-36-4)], the first breadth-first search algorithm MSapriori, is proposed to extract both frequent and rare itemsets under different support thresholds (MIS). The MSapriori algorithm and its optimizations [\[16](#page-36-10)[–18](#page-36-11)] extract frequent itemsets

including rare ones by assigning lower support thresholds for rare (infrequent) itemsets than for most common (frequent) itemsets. Hence, they work similarly to the former apriori [\[2](#page-35-0)] with the following major difference: It declares an itemset (frequent and rare) as an interesting itemset if its support satisfies the lowest MIS of items within it.

#### **3.2 Level-Depth Exploration Methods**

The above methods use the formal apriori algorithm [\[1\]](#page-35-1), which is computationally expensive since 1) they employ candidate generation and test fashion, and 2) redundant scans over the dataset for each new generated candidate itemset. Furthermore, these methods spend a huge amount of time searching for the whole candidate itemsets (including useless itemsets whose support is zero) in order to identify the rare itemsets. To overcome these problems, several methods  $[21-24]$  $[21-24]$ are presented to discover most common (frequent) itemsets including unusual (rare itemsets). CFP-growth  $[23]$  $[23]$  and its optimization CFP-growth $++$   $[24]$  algorithms scan the dataset once to build a CFP-tree. Then, they reconstruct the tree by employing several punning and merging techniques. Reconstruction of the tree is computationally expensive in terms of memory and time consumption. To overcome this shortcoming, the MISFP-growth algorithm [\[21\]](#page-36-9) is proposed to extract frequent itemsets including rare ones under MIS. The MISFP-growth efficiently builds the tree without a need for the reconstruction phase. Unlike the FP-growth based methods, mis-eclat [\[22\]](#page-36-14) utilizes a vertical representation of data to extract both frequent and rare itemsets. Although these methods address the rare itemset problem, they suffer from overly huge itemsets since they extract both frequent and rare itemsets.

Focusing only on rare itemsets, the RP-Tree algorithm [\[6](#page-35-4)] is proposed to extract rare itemsets without the expensive itemset generation and pruning steps. It utilizes a tree data structure, the FP-Tree [\[12](#page-36-6)]. The RP-Tree is based on FP-growth, which uses a divide-and-conquer approach to generate rare itemsets. However, for each rare item, RP-growth generates a conditional tree in the mining process for generating rare itemsets. The RP-growth method becomes costly when datasets are sparse since building RP-trees, which bases on conditional pattern, recurrently makes RP-growth inefficient. It is common that rare itemsets mostly occur in sparse datasets. Hence, how to design efficient mining methods for mining rare itemsets is still a critical research problem.

## <span id="page-28-0"></span>**4 Mining Rare Itemsets with Rare Pre Post (RPP) Algorithm**

Inspired by PrePost algorithm in [\[13](#page-36-8)], we propose the rare pre post algorithm (RPP) to extract meaningful rare itemsets. The RPP involves three sequential phases as follows.

1. At the first step, we build a Rare Pre-Post Code tree (RPPC-tree) to store all information needed to extract rare itemsets. The RPPC-tree is constructed by adding transactions that contain at least one rare item. Each node in the RPPC-tree consists of four fields: item name, count, pre-order rank and post-order rank. Item name represents the name of the item that this node represents. Count registers the number of transactions that reaches this node. Pre-order and post-order ranks stand for the number of traversed nodes from the root to this node when using pre or post order traversal.

- 2. At the second step, we traverse the RPPC-tree to generate the rare pre post code (RPP-code) for each node in the RPPC-tree. For a node X in the RPPCtree, the tuple of  ${ (X-pre-order, X-post-order): count }$  is called the RPP-code of X. For performance reasons, the RPP-codes are sorted in an ascending order according to their pre-order values. The RPP-codes of nodes that contain the same item X in the RPPC-tree is called RN-list of X, which is generated in Step 3.
- 3. For the mining process, the RPP algorithm constructs RN-lists by considering only the rare items. The RPP method iteratively constructs RN-lists of rare itemsets of length k by intersecting RN-lists of rare itemsets of length k−1. Finally, this process is terminated when there is no more RN-list that can be intersected with.

To show how the RPP method works, let us consider our motivating example to illustrate the three required phases of RPP algorithm in the following.

#### **4.1 Construction of the RPPC-tree**

To hold the necessary information from a dataset, the RPPC-tree is constructed. The tree is built by scanning the dataset twice. In the first scan, the support of 1-itemsets is counted. In the second scan, we add a transaction into the tree if the transaction has at least one rare item (item with support no greater than *maxSup* and no less than *minSup*). The RPPC-tree looks like the RP-tree and it can be defined as follows.

<span id="page-29-1"></span>**Definition 3.** The RPPC-tree is a tree structure with the following properties: It consists of one root node, which is labeled as "null" , and a set of nodes as the children of the root.



<span id="page-29-0"></span>**Fig. 1.** RPPC-tree after adding all transactions in Table [1.](#page-27-1)

Except the root, each node in the RPPC-tree consists of four fields: item-name, count, pre-order, and post-order. Item name holds the name of the item that this node represents. Count registers the number of transactions that reaches this node. A pre-post rank of a node registers the pre-order and post-order for each node within the tree, i.e., its position when traversing the tree in pre-order or post-order fashion, respectively.

Following the motivating example, we show how the RPPC-tree is constructed. To build the RPPC-tree, the dataset is scanned twice. In the first scan, we calculate the support of the 1-items and eliminate useless items with support less than *minSup*. For instance, the items g, h are discarded since their support equals 1 which is less than  $minSup = 2$ . The interesting items are sorted in descending support order as in the right column in Table [1.](#page-27-1) In the second scan, the transactions in the right column in the Table [1](#page-27-1) are used to construct the RPPC-tree. Figure [1](#page-29-0) shows the final RPPC-tree after adding all transactions. As it can be seen from Fig. [1,](#page-29-0) each node registers the item that this node represents, the number of transactions that reach this node, and the pre-post rank of the node. For instance, the node c, its item name is c, its count  $=$  3 and  $(2, 3)$ is a pre-post rank of the node c.

#### **4.2 Generating RN-list of Items**

The main purpose of the RPPCtree is to generate the RN-lists of items. The RN-lists hold all necessary information for discovering the whole set of rare itemsets. To construct the RN-lists of items, first, the pre-post codes are generated for each node in the RPPCtree by traversing the tree in pre and post order.

<span id="page-30-0"></span>**Table 2.** RN-lists of interesting rare items.

	Item RPP-codes	Support
	$\{(1, 5): 4\}$	
$\mathbf{c}$	$\{\overline{(2,3)}:3, (7,8):1\}$	
a	$\{(3, 2):3\}$	3
	$\{(4, 0): 1, (6, 4): 1, (8, 7): 1\}$	
е	$\{(5, 1): 1, (9, 6): 1\}$	

For a node X, its pre-post code is called RPP-code ((X.pre-order, X.postorder): count). For instance, the RPP-code of node a is  $((3, 2): 3)$  indicating that a.pre-order is 3, a.post-order is 2, and its count is 3. The list of the RPPcodes of nodes that hold the same item X in the RPPC-tree is called the RN-list of X. The RPP-codes are sorted in ascending order of their pre-order values. For instance, a node (e: 2) in Fig. [1](#page-29-0) has two RPP-codes which are  $((5, 1):1)$ , and  $((9, 1):1)$ 6):1). Then, the RN-list of the itemset e is  $\{(5, 1):1, ((9, 6):1)\}\.$  The advantage of the RN-list approach is its easy support calculation. For the RN-list of itemset X, which is denoted by  $(x1, y1)$ : z1,  $(x2, y2)$ : z2, ...,  $(xm, ym)$ : zm, its support is  $z1+z2+\ldots+z$ m. For instance, the RN-list of the itemset e are  $\{((5, 1) : 1, ((9,$  $6:1$ } and its support is [2](#page-30-0). Following the motivating example, Table 2 shows the RN-list of all interesting 1-itemset.

#### **4.3 Generation of Rare Itemsets**

The rare itemsets can be generated by using the information that is contained in the RN-lists of itemsets. For RN-lists X, Y, the itemset XY can be generated if X is an ancestor of Y. We call a node X as an ancestor of node Y when: X.preorder *<*Y.pre-order and X.post-order*>* Y.post-order (i.e., we call it an ancestordescendant relation). To generate the itemset XY, we traverse the RPP-codes of X and compare them with the RPP-codes of Y. Then, if the ancestor-descendant relation of X and Y holds (i.e., they are in the same path), we add the RPPcode of X to the RN-list of XY. For the support count, we add Y.count to the generated RN-list of XY since the items are sorted according to their descending support (i.e., the itemset X occurs together with itemset Y at most Y.count). Following our motivating example, we illustrate this phase as follows. Table [2](#page-30-0) contains the RN-list of all 1-itemsets. To shrink the search space, we compare the RN-list of itemsets with only the RN-list of rare items that satisfy both of  $minSup = 2$  and  $maxSup = 4$ . Thus, the RN-lists of  $\{a, d, e\}$  are used to generate the whole set of rare itemsets. For instance, to generate rare itemset {ce}, we first check whether the support of item e satisfies Definition [3.](#page-29-1) We find out that  $minSup = 2 \leq Sup(e) = 2 < maxSup = 4$ . Then, we compare the RN-list of c with RN-list of e as follows.

- 1. The RN-list of the itemset c is  $\{(2, 3): 3, (7, 8): 1\}$ , and the RN-list of the itemset e is  $\{(5, 1):1, (9, 6):1\}$ . We compare each RPP-code of c with all RPP-codes of the itemset e to generate the itemset ce.
- 2. The RPP-code of c  $((2, 3): 3)$  is compared with the first RPP-code of e  $((5, 3): 3)$ 1):1). We notice that 2 *<* 5 and 3 *>* 1, which satisfies the ancestor-descendant relation. Then, we add the RPP-code  $\{(2, 3): 1\}$  to the RN-list of ce  $\{(2, 3):$ 1}. Notice, we add the count of itemset e since it is descendant of c and cannot occur together more than e.count.
- 3. The RPP-code of c  $((2, 3): 3)$  is compared with the next RPP-code of e  $((9, 4): 3)$ 6):1). We find that  $2 < 9$  and  $3 < 6$ , which does not satisfy the ancestordescendant relation. Then, we would go for the next RPP-code of e. Since there is no further RPP-code of e, we traverse the next RPP-code of c.
- 4. The RPP-code of c  $((7, 8): 1)$  is compared with the first RPP-code of e  $((5, 8): 1)$ 1):1). We find that  $7 > 5$  and  $8 > 1$ , which does not satisfy the ancestordescendant relation. Hence, we do not add this RPP-code to the RN-list of itemset ce.
- 5. The RPP-code of c  $((7, 8): 1)$  is compared with the next RPP-code of e  $((9, 1): 1)$ 6):1). The ancestor-descendant relation 7 *<* 9 and 8 *>* 1, holds. Thus, we add  $((7, 8): 1)$  to the RN-list of ce  $\{(2, 3): 1, (7, 8): 1\}.$
- 6. The resulted RN-list of the itemset ce is  $\{(2, 3): 1, (7, 8): 1\}.$
- 7. The support of the itemset ce is 2. Thus, the itemset ce is interesting rare itemset since  $minSup = 2 \le sup(ce) = 2 < maxSup = 4$ .

Similar to the above steps, the process is repeated for the remaining itemsets. The final rare itemsets for our example are {a: 3, e: 2, d: 2, ba:3, bd: 2, ca:3, cd: 2, ce: 2, bca:  $3$ . We generate rare itemsets only from rare items  $\{a, d, e\}$ . For instance, the RN-list of the itemset c will not be compared with the RN-list of b since the support of the itemset b is not less than the  $maxSup = 4$  value.

#### <span id="page-32-0"></span>**5 Experimental Results**

To measure the performance of the RRP algorithm, we compare its performance with the state of art algorithm for mining rare itemset,  $RP$ -growth  $[6]$  $[6]$ . We carried out several experiments on four real-world datasets: Mushroom, Retail, Pumsb, and Kosarak. Both, sparse datasets (Kosarak, Retail), and dense datasets (Mushroom, Pumsb) are used for the evaluation process. The characteristics of the datasets are summarized in Table [3.](#page-32-1) For each dataset, the number of transactions, the number of distinct items, and an average transaction are denoted by  $\#$  of Trans,  $\#$  of items, and AvgTrans, respectively. The last column in Table [3](#page-32-1) shows the density of the datasets. The datasets are downloaded from FIMI [\[7\]](#page-36-15). The experiments run on windows 10, 64 bit operating system, Intel Core i7- 7700HQ CPU 2.80 GHz with 16 GB main memory, and 1 TB hard disk. The algorithms are implemented in Java to have a common implementation environment. The source code of RP-growth is downloaded from [\[20\]](#page-36-16).

Dataset	Size(MB)					$\#$ Items $\#$ Trans   AvgTrans   MaxSup   MinSup (%)
Mushroom	19.3	119	8124	23	0.01	$\{0.1, 0.2, \ldots, 0.9\}$
Retail	4.2	16,470	88,126	10.3	0.1	$\{0.1, 0.2, \ldots, 1\}$
Pumsb	16.3	2.113	49046	74	0.8	$\{52.5, 55, \ldots, 70\}$
Kosarak	30.5	41.271	990,002	8.1	0.01	$\{0.1, 0.2, \ldots, 0.9\}$

<span id="page-32-1"></span>**Table 3.** The characteristics of the datasets.

#### **5.1 Execution Time**

We compare our RPP algorithm with RP-growth to evaluate the execution time on all the datasets in Table [3.](#page-32-1) For all experiments, we use two support thresholds (*maxSup* and *minSup*) to extract rare itemsets. For each experiment, we fix the *maxSup* support threshold and vary the minimum rare support threshold (*minSup*), as shown in columns (*maxSup, minSup*) in Table [3.](#page-32-1) The interesting rare itemsets should be less than *maxSup* and greater or equal to *minSup*. In each graph, the X-axis represents the varied values of *minSup*, whereas the Yaxis stands for the execution time. Fig.  $2(a)$  $2(a)$ –(d) show the performance of the proposed algorithm, RPP, and RP-growth algorithm in terms of runtime. The graphs show that our RPP algorithm outperforms RP-growth for all datasets. The advantage of our RPP algorithm is that it utilizes only RN-lists of rare itemsets to generate rare itemsets. In contrast, the RP-growth is costly since it builds conditional trees for each rare item during the mining process. It can be noticed from the graphs that the RPP algorithm is orders of magnitude faster than RP-growth at low *minSup* values. This is a significant improvement since most of the interesting rare itemsets can be generated with low *minSup* value. It can be observed from the graphs that the performance is approximately the same when increasing the *minSup* value. They gained the same performance when the *minSup* value increased since the difference between *maxSup* and *minSup* is decreased, and a small number of rare itemsets will be generated.



<span id="page-33-0"></span>**Fig. 2.** Execution time of RP-growth and our RPP algorithm for different datasets.

#### **5.2 Memory Consumption**

To evaluate the memory cost, we use the same factors that are shown in columns  $(maxSup, minSup)$  in Table [3.](#page-32-1) Fig.  $3(a)$  $3(a)$ –(d) show the memory cost of RPP and RP-growth algorithms on all datasets at different *minSup* values. Similar to the execution time figures, the *maxSup* value is fixed, while the *minSup* value is changed. In all figures, *minSup* values are located at X-axes, whereas the Y-axes represent the memory consumption by both algorithms. Fig.  $3(a)$  $3(a)$ –(b) show the memory cost of RPP algorithm and RP-growth algorithm on the retail and Kosarak datasets. The graphs show that our RPP algorithm consumes less memory than the RP-growth algorithm for the sparse datasets. For the retail dataset, the RPP algorithm consumes less memory than the RP-growth when the *minSup* value exceeds 0.3%, and it consumes a little more memory than the RP-growth when the *minSup* value exceeds 0.6%. Fig. [3\(](#page-34-0)b) shows the memory consumption of RPP and RP growth algorithms on the very sparse datasets, Kosarak. Notably, the RPP algorithm consumes a little less memory than RPgrowth for all *minSup* values. For dense datasets (Mushroom, Pumsb), Fig. [3\(](#page-34-0)c) and Fig. [3\(](#page-34-0)d) show the memory consumption of RPP and RP-growth algorithms. The RPP algorithm consumes more memory than the RP-growth algorithm on Mushroom and Pumsb datasets.



<span id="page-34-0"></span>**Fig. 3.** Memory consumption of RP-growth and our RPP algorithm for different datasets.

#### **5.3 Scalability**

To evaluate the scalability of RPP algorithm and the RP-growth, we choose the largest dataset, Kosarak. It contains about 1 million transactions. The dataset is equally divided into ten parts. For each experiment, we add  $10\%$  to the previous accumulative parts. Fig.  $4(a)$  $4(a)$ –(b) demonstrates the experimental results of the RPP and RP-growth algorithms in terms of time and memory consumption. The graphs illustrate that the proposed RPP algorithm scales better than RP-growth when increasing the size of the dataset. The RPP algorithm requires less time and memory since it depends on RN-lists of rare itemsets during the mining process. For RP-growth, it needs to traverse a big search space and generate a large number of conditional trees to generate rare itemsets. To sum up, our RPP algorithm is faster than RP-growth on all datasets that are given in Table [3.](#page-32-1) For memory consumption, our RPP algorithm requires less memory on sparse datasets, and it consumes more memory on dense datasets. Finally, when the size of the dataset increases, our RPP algorithm scales better than RP-growth.



<span id="page-35-7"></span>**Fig. 4.** Scalability of our RPP algorithm compared to RP-growth for the Kosarak dataset.

## <span id="page-35-5"></span>**6 Conclusion**

In this paper, we proposed the RPP algorithm to discover the whole set of rare itemsets. The RPP algorithm utilizes RN-lists of items, which contains the whole information needed to generate rare itemsets. The RPP algorithm shrinks the search since 1) it avoids redundant scans of the dataset, 2) it extracts the whole set of interesting rare itemsets without generating conditional trees, and 3) the support of the generated itemsets is calculated by intersection operations. To test the performance of the RPP algorithm, we compared its performance with the well-known algorithm for rare itemsets mining on dense and sparse datasets, the RP-growth algorithm. The experimental results showed that the RPP algorithm is significantly better than the RP-growth algorithm in terms of execution time, memory cost, and scalability.

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# **Pareto Optimization in Oil Refinery**

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**Abstract.** This article describes the process of multicriteria optimization of a complex industrial control object using Pareto efficiency. The object is being decomposed and viewed as a hierarchy of embedded orgraphs. Performance indicators and controlling factors lists are created based on the orgraphs and technical specifications of an object, thus allowing to systematize sources of influence. Using statistical data archives to train, the neural network approximates key sensors data to identify the model of the controllable object and optimize it.

**Keywords:** Decomposition · Pareto efficiency · Multicriteria optimization · Identification · SPEA2 · Neural network

### **1 Introduction**

Multicriteria optimization is a process of simultaneous optimization for two or more conflicting functions within one point [\[1\]](#page-43-0). The need to simultaneously optimize different key performance indicators (KPI) exists in both business and industrial production, such as oil refinement facilities.

Oil refinement is an advantageous direction for multicriteria optimization because of its complexity. Optimisation process is preceded by decomposition [\[2\]](#page-43-1) of the refinement sequence, which is followed by model identification [\[3\]](#page-43-2). Pareto optimality principle [\[4\]](#page-43-3) is used in conjunction with aforementioned models to build a front of optimal values.

Part of the refinement process takes place inside a refraction unit (RU). One of these units was taken as a prototype for our model. The model got the following KPIs assigned [\[5\]](#page-43-4): Quality (matching degree between output and established norms), Performance (output product volume), Efficiency (resource usage potency), Reliability (equipment failures per unit of time), Safety (emergencies per unit of time).

Rectification consists of a wide array of parameters, up to several hundreds of characteristics per one refraction unit. These include the splitting section, column head and column plates temperature and pressure. Inside and outside of the rectification column both sequential (multi-layered raw oil refinement, raw oil heating, raw oil pumping, etc.) and parallel (vapor condensation) processes take place. Rectification technology also includes transition products into the process, thus applying an additional, horizontal level of hierarchy between the operations. It is also essential to account for the time delay, added by the inertia of the system itself and enforced by the continuous operating mode.

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Consequently, processes from the highest levels of the hierarchy have unobvious connections with the lower-level processes thus making it impossible to use simple functions like  $y = f(g, u)$  to represent dependencies between them. Yet it is essential to influence top-level processes by changing parameters of the low-level processes and vice-versa.

In this work the aforementioned problem is resolved by decomposing a complex system (such as refraction unit) down to individual units and processes. The resulting structure is represented as a graph. The KPI set takes the top level of the hierarchy. Every KPI is divided into several summands of a lower hierarchy levels. The step is repeated until the summand can be unambiguously interpreted by the  $y = f(x)$  type of dependency. Dependencies are identified using a neural network trained on the RU statistical data archive. Going up by one hierarchy level changes dependency to  $y = g(f(x))$ . Ascending by the hierarchical tree allows to determinate a clean dependency between a KPI and an input parameter from the bottom of the hierarchy.

However, the top-level key performance indicators may directly contradict each other. For instance, raising Performance by forcing aggressive operating parameters will inevitably cause the growth in equipment failures and an overall reduction of Reliability. Which in turn damages Efficiency of the refraction unit or a refinery as a whole. The "Good – Fast – Cheap" triangle encourages us to use a multicriteria optimization algorithm to balance out conflicting key performance indicators.

The aim of this work is to perform a multicriteria optimization to find a Pareto optimal solution. This allows us to find a safe combination of controllable parameters able to keep the target indicators inside the given target intervals.

This analysis is based on statistical data archive taken from a working refinery. It was used to build the graphical representations of dependencies between performance and temperature, characterising the lowest hierarchy level. In order to optimize the top-level KPIs by changing the bottom-level controllable parameters, a strong correlation must be revealed. To grant it, a dependence model identification has been performed [\[6\]](#page-43-5).

### **2 Data Identification**

The refraction unit consists of an oil pre-heater with a heat-exchange unit, a fractionating column, a refrigerator and a boiler. The pre-heated oil is injected into the column feeding zone to be divided into vapour and solid phases. During the rectification process isopentane is extracted from the top part of the column as a fractionator overhead. Heavier fractions are taken from the plates in the middle of the rectification column. The heaviest part, the long residuum, gets extracted from the bottom part of the column [\[7\]](#page-44-0). A simplified scheme, showing distillation inputs and outputs targeted by this work, is present on Fig. [1.](#page-39-0)



**Fig. 1.** Simplified scheme of the rectification process

<span id="page-39-0"></span>The stripper temperature  $(U_4$  in Table [1\)](#page-39-1) has been chosen for optimization. Temperature variation was aimed at maximizing fractions 240–300 and 300–350 output volumes  $(G<sub>2</sub>$  and  $G<sub>3</sub>$  in Table [1\)](#page-39-1).

<span id="page-39-1"></span>

Neyron	Input $(IN)$	Output (ON)	Input weight (IHN)	Output weight (OHN)
$\theta$	0,5329	0,4675	0,9646	0,5356
1	$-0,4489$	0,4218	$-0,8125$	$-1,0897$
2	0,6221	0,6083	1,1261	0,6041
3	$-0,1149$	0,5999	$-0,2079$	$-0,7524$
$\overline{4}$	0,7458	0,5611	1,3499	0,8198
5	2,5314	0,7924	4,5817	3,1874
6	$-1,0151$	0,3031	$-1,8373$	$-1,8294$
7	1,5302	0,7177	2,7695	1,8181
8	$-0,0096$	0,4126	$-0.0174$	$-0.3680$
9	$-0,3281$	0,3505	$-0.5939$	$-0,8191$

**Table 1.** Hidden neural layer for fraction 240–300

To identify dependencies between the stripper temperature and fraction outputs (see Fig. [1\)](#page-39-0), a neural network (NN) was utilized. It was trained on statistical data obtained during 24 h of the prototype column work.

The neural network consists of 1 input, 1 hidden and 1 output layers. Input and output layers both contain one neuron, while the hidden layer contains 10. The NN was trained by the backward propagation of errors method. Hidden and output layers use a sigmoid activation function [\(1\)](#page-39-2):

<span id="page-39-3"></span><span id="page-39-2"></span>
$$
F(x) = \frac{e^x}{e^x + 1} \tag{1}
$$

The general formula for the NN is [\(2\)](#page-39-3):

$$
ON = f\left(\sum_{k=0}^{10} f\left(\sum_{k=0}^{10} IN * IHN\right) * OHN\right)
$$
 (2)

Here *f* stands for sigmoid activation function [\(1\)](#page-39-2), while IN, ON, IHN and OHN are present in Tables [1](#page-39-1) and [2.](#page-40-0)

<span id="page-40-0"></span>

Neyron	Input $(IN)$	Output (ON)	Input weight (IHN)	Output weight (OHN)
$\theta$	$-0,4983$	0,2103	$-0.9457$	0,7026
1	$-3,5414$	0,0843	$-6,7410$	$-3,9722$
2	$-0,7764$	0,3018	$-1,4716$	1,3219
3	0,7931	0,4216	1,5021	$-1,4161$
$\overline{4}$	$-0,7696$	0,3039	$-1,4587$	1,3393
5	$-0,1638$	0,1935	$-0,3109$	0,2529
6	$-0,1228$	0,2843	$-0,2331$	0,1390
7	$-0,2815$	0,2045	$-0,5342$	0,4098
8	$-0,5891$	0,2605	$-1,1171$	0,9753
9	0,0778	0,2562	0,1475	$-0,1713$

**Table 2.** Hidden neural layer for fraction 300–350

Application of the aforementioned neural network to input data allowed to identify dependencies between the stripper temperature and output volumes of 240–300 and 300–350 fractions (see Fig. [2\)](#page-40-1).



<span id="page-40-1"></span>**Fig. 2.** Graphical representation of the identified models

To verify correlation between the models (lines on Fig. [3\)](#page-42-0) and statistical data (crosses on Fig. [2\)](#page-40-1) correlation coefficients  $\rho_{x,y}$  have been calculated. The left graph  $\rho_{x,y}$  = 0, 76312 and the right graph  $\rho_{x,y} = 0$ , 90781. Coefficient formula [\(3\)](#page-41-0) is present below,  $\sigma_x$  and  $\sigma_y$  are the mean values of the corresponding selections.

<span id="page-41-0"></span>
$$
\rho_{x,y} = \frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{n} X_t Y_t - \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{n} X_t\right) \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{n} Y_t\right)}{\sigma_x * \sigma_y} \# \tag{3}
$$

Correlation numbers could be improved by increasing the size of the training selection for the neural network. Amount of NN's hidden layers and/or hidden neurons are also subjects to change. But in order not to deviate from the main theme of the work, achieved correlations have been accepted.

Having mathematical models of interconnections between the basic parameters of the oil refinement process in place, it is now possible to compare them and define the optimal points according to the multicriteria optimization method.

### **3 Pareto Optimality**

Pareto optimality is a state of allocation of resources from which it is impossible to reallocate so as to make any one individual or preference criterion better off without making at least one individual or preference criterion worse off [\[8\]](#page-44-1).

Pareto front within the range of target functions is a combination of solutions, which do not dominate each other, but dominate every other solutions within the search space at the same time. It means that it is impossible to find a single solution able to excel every other solution at reaching every target. Mathematically such problem can be formulated as follows: one must find a vector  $X^* = \begin{bmatrix} x_1^*, x_2^*, \dots, x_n^* \end{bmatrix}^T$ , that would optimize a vector of target functions  $F(X) = [f_1(X), f_2(X), \ldots, f_k(X)]^T$  while having m inequality constraints  $g_i(X) \leq 0, i = \overline{1, m}$ , and p equality constraints  $h_i(X) \leq 0, i = \overline{1, p}$ .

Here  $X^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is a solution vector;  $F(X) \in \mathbb{R}^k$  is a vector of target functions every single one of which must be optimized [\[9\]](#page-44-2).

Strength Pareto Evolutionary Algorithm 2 (SPEA2) [\[10\]](#page-44-3) was used for Pareto optimization. Despite it's relatively old age, it is a well-tested algorithm, effective for select applications [\[11\]](#page-44-4), including more representative spread of non-dominated solutions [\[12\]](#page-44-5), and was chosen over others, including VEGA, FFGA [\[13\]](#page-44-6) and NPGA [\[14\]](#page-44-7).

SPEA2 algorithm can be summarized in 6 steps:

- Step 1, Initialization: Generate an initial population  $P_0$  and create the empty archive (external set)  $\overline{P_0} = \emptyset$ . Set t = 0.
- Step 2, Fitness assignment: Calculate fitness values of individuals in  $P_t$  and  $\overline{P_t}$ .
- Step 3, Environmental selection: Copy all nondominated individuals in  $P_t$  and  $\overline{P_t}$  to  $P_{t+1}$ . If size of  $P_{t+1}$  exceeds  $\overline{N}$ , then reduce  $P_{t+1}$  by means of the truncation operator, otherwise if size of  $P_{t+1}$  is less than  $\overline{N}$ , then fill  $P_{t+1}$  with dominated individuals in  $P_t$  and  $\overline{P_t}$ .
- Step 4, Termination: If  $t \geq T$  or another stopping criterion is satisfied then set A to the set of decision vectors represented by the nondominated individuals in  $P_{t+1}$ . Stop.
- Step 5, Mating selection: Perform binary tournament selection with replacement on  $P_{t+1}$  in order to fill the mating pool.
- Step 6, Variation: Apply recombination and mutation operators to the mating pool and set  $P_{t+1}$  to the resulting population. Increment generation counter (t = t + 1) and go to Step 2.

SPEA2 algorithm has been utilized to find a front of temperatures, maximizing the output of fractions 240–300 and 300–350. Previously identified models have been used as "experimental data" on the graph seen on Fig. [3.](#page-42-0)





<span id="page-42-0"></span>As a result, we got a Pareto front, consisting of eight points (see Table [3\)](#page-42-1). The points are sorted in descending order of preference, thus making the first point the most optimal.

<span id="page-42-1"></span>

Point number	Temperature $(^{\circ}C)$	Fraction 240–300 output volume $(M^3)$	Fraction 300–350 output volume $(M^3)$
	344,823852539063	255,869043673089	313,914703058703
	343,325988769531	255,623350989602	314,04678075533

**Table 3.** Complete stats of the Pareto front

(*continued*)

Point number	Temperature $(^{\circ}C)$	Fraction 240–300 output	Fraction 300–350 output
		volume $(M^3)$	volume $(M^3)$
	343,371765136719	255,636549610692	314,046650398148
$\overline{4}$	344,712951660156	255,866950335304	313,918779855307
	343,374877929688	255,661217222795	314,045467958112
6	343,35595703125	255,672724869121	314,044445521759
	343,364624023438	255,649165327318	314,046207859264
8	343,407836914063	255,683708140522	314,043155299305

**Table 3.** (*continued*)

## **4 Conclusion**

In the course of the work a refraction unit has been decomposed, and it's input, controllable and target parameters were extracted and listed. Based on statistical data analysis the neural network was trained and then used to identify dependency models between the RU parameters. The models allowed us to define eight points of Pareto front.

We are planning on extend the sphere of practical application of this method. First of all, we'll have to decompose complete sets of dependencies from the basic controllable parameters up to top level KPIs. This would allow us to see key performance indicators of separate units and the whole refinery changing in real time.

Further software development enables us to revert the process and guess controllable parameters, able to sustain a pre-defined set of high-level KPIs. Such instrument will not only allow to optimize complex processes, but will also ensure much more effective control over them.

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# **Hypothesis Verification for Designing Flyback Booster by Analysis of Variance Visualized on Triangular Matrix Representations**

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**Abstract.** This study performed data mining for nondominatedsolution datasets of flyback-booster geometry for next-generation space transportation procured by evolutionary computation. We prepared two datasets of nondominated solutions due to two problem definitions, which differ merely in the definition of some design variables based on a design hypothesis gained from evolutionary-computation results. This study aims at verifying the hypothesis by applying mining to these two datasets to elucidate the contrast in the influence of the design variables. We used functional analysis of variance for data mining; scrutinized the effects of single and two-combined design variables. Furthermore, intuitive visualization by triangular matrix representations could distinguish the discrepancy between the obtained results. The consequence has verified the significance of the hypothesis; it revealed that the discontinuous surface naturally evaded in the hypersonic range because of surface temperature upsurge is capable of enhancing the lift-to-drag ratio in the low-speed range; the hypothesis grew into a new design problem.

**Keywords:** Design informatics *·* Space transportation *·* Information visualization *·* Real-world design problems

### **1 Introduction**

High-frequency and price reduction of space transportation are urgent priorities by the recent gains in the demands of small satellites. Under this circumstance, reusable launch systems (RLSs) are one of the realizability in several aspects to attain the purposes as a successor of the Space Shuttle. Hence, studies have

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lately activated again for developing reusable space transportation, mainly in China [\[16](#page-55-0)], Russia [\[11](#page-54-0)], the E.U. [\[14](#page-54-1)], and the U.S [\[7](#page-54-2)]. Meanwhile, Japan is currently conducting a collaborative research project on two-stage RLS among some universities. Launch experiments of a prototype model are underway to establish a control law for launching an authentic vehicle [\[6](#page-54-3)]. The project is designing trajectories and body geometries at the same time; namely, we are studying the conceptual design for an RLS.

The 1st evolutionary optimization for 3D geometry design accidentally created a discontinuous ditch on the back of flyback boosters [\[15\]](#page-54-4). The hypersonic region covered in the trajectory generally eludes the discontinuity of body surface that causes the temperature to rise due to adiabatic compression. Therefore, the geometry representation unit in the optimal design system solved the inverse problem and modified the discontinuous ditch intentionally to make them continuous. When we evolved the 2nd optimization in the equal generation number using the identical initial population as the 1st optimization, the lift-to-drag ratio  $(L/D)$  in the transonic/supersonic range declined wholly [\[8\]](#page-54-5). This result implies the hypothesis for the body design that achieves moderate accomplishments while improving the aerodynamic performance in the low-speed region by the deliberate discontinuity of the body surface promoting the vortex lift.

This study aims to verify the design hypothesis by performing data mining on nondominated-solution sets of flyback-booster geometry procured by evolutionary computations (ECs) and elucidating the contribution of design variables to the  $L/D$ , namely the study is an application of data mining to real-world design. The mining target is two sets of nondominated solutions gained for two problems that vary simply in the definition of some design variables based on the design hypothesis. We scrutinize distinction in the influence of design variables on the  $L/D$ . Since the difference in the optimization results revealed an apparent decrease in the  $L/D$ , it infers that the character of surface ditches would emerge not to be small; the data mining will utilize a functional analysis of variance to examine each design variable and combinations between two design variables thoroughly. Furthermore, visualization by triangular matrix representations (TMR) [\[1\]](#page-54-6) will facilitate intuitive perceptions of the procured distinctions.

We structure this article as follows. Section [2](#page-46-0) explains the problem settings and outlines the ways of data mining concisely. Section [3](#page-49-0) reviews the design information caused by the optimization. In Sect. [4,](#page-51-0) we assess the gained results by data mining. Section [5](#page-53-0) concludes this article.

### <span id="page-46-0"></span>**2 Problem Settings**

At present, we are promoting research on space transportation systems at several domestic universities, including Kyushu Institute of Technology, which designs and develops fully reusable space transportation WIRES  $[6]$ . We tried to design space transportation, commencing from the flight path optimized with WIRES. Initially, although the optimum trajectory also alters according to the change of the geometry, the hurdle for generating the aerodynamic performance matrix necessary for trajectory optimization is high, so it is a future work.

	Section number Design-variable $S/N$ number Symbol (refer to Fig. 2)		
$\left( 2\right)$	1, 3, 5, 7, 9	$V_{u1}, V_{u2}, V_{u3}, V_{u4}, V_{u5}$	
	2, 4, 6, 8, 10	$V_{z1}, V_{z2}, V_{z3}, V_{z4}, V_{z5}$	
$\left 3\right\rangle$	11, 13, 15, 17, 19	$V_{u1}, V_{u2}, V_{u3}, V_{u4}, V_{u5}$	
	12	$V_{z1}$	
	14, 16, 18	$V_{z2}, V_{z3}, V_{z4}$	
	20	$V_{25}$	
	21, 23, 25, 27, 29	$V_{y1}, V_{y2}, V_{y3}, V_{y4}, V_{y5}$	
	22	$V_{z1}$	
	24, 26, 28,	$V_{z2}, V_{z3}, V_{z4}$	
	30	$V_{25}$	
$5^{\circ}$	31, 33, 35, 37, 39	$V_{u1}, V_{u2}, V_{u3}, V_{u4}, V_{u5}$	
	32,	$V_{z1}$	
	34, 36, 38,	$V_{z2}, V_{z3}, V_{z4}$	
	40	$V_{z5}$	

<span id="page-47-0"></span>**Table 1.** Definition of design variables.

The trajectory used in this study assumes an injection of 10 t payload into the orbit from the Tanegashima Space Center and a circular orbit at an altitude of 350 km. Based on this, they were defining the aerodynamic performance optimization in three points of transonic, supersonic, and hypersonic speeds. At the defined transonic/supersonic design point, the booster is the point where we have to obtain a range for fly back to the launch field. At the hypersonic design point where a booster and an orbiter separate, at this point, heave the altitude and take a sequence to secure the range margin.

### **2.1 Optimization Problem**

This problem defines six objective functions: three for aerodynamics (maximizing the  $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65, 2.3,$  and 6.8), one for the structures (minimizing empty weight), and two for aerodynamic heating (minimizing body surface temperature and body surface area where thermal protection systems attaches).

As shown in Fig. [1,](#page-48-1) we generate six cross-sectional shapes for the  $x$  axis direction. We utilize section numbers  $(1)$  and  $(6)$  only to satisfy later-described constraint conditions, and the cross-sectional shape change in optimization is four cross-sections with  $(2)$  to  $(5)$ . Since one cross-section uses ten design variables as shown in Fig. [2,](#page-48-0) the total of design variables is 40. Table [1](#page-47-0) explains the definition of each design variable.



<span id="page-48-1"></span>**Fig. 1.** Left: cross-section positions, right: tail surface. The dotted line describes a fuel tank to be a fixed size.



<span id="page-48-0"></span>**Fig. 2.** Relations among design variables  $V_n$  and control points  $P_m$  at each crosssection. White points from  $P_i$  to  $P_{i+1}$  are the subordinate control points of  $P_m$ .

We define constraints on the geometry; no constraint provides for the objective functions. When making individuals satisfying the geometrical constraints for the population size, the optimization system ceases creating ten individuals for one generation.

#### **2.2 Optimizer**

Since one of the information desired by the multiobjective optimization is the executable structure of the objective-function space, we employed an EC that performs a global search for the optimization method; we made a fully automated design system [\[2\]](#page-54-7). This study adopted the strength Pareto evolutionary algorithm 2 (SPEA2) [\[17\]](#page-55-1) in many ECs due to conventionality. We respectively chose simulated binary crossover [\[4\]](#page-54-8) and polynomial mutation [\[5](#page-54-9)] in the standard.

#### **2.3 Data-Mining Technique**

A functional analysis of variance (ANOVA) quantifies the contribution rates to the variance of a model [\[9\]](#page-54-10). ANOVA decomposes the total variance of the model into that of each design variable and their interactions to estimate their impact into that of each design variable and their interactions<br>quantitatively by integrating values out of the model  $\hat{y}$ quantitatively by integrating values out of the model  $\hat{u}$ . The Kriging model [\[10](#page-54-11)] for an objective value  $y(x)$  of design variables x (dim  $x = N$ )

$$
y(\boldsymbol{x}) = \beta + Z(\boldsymbol{x}) \tag{1}
$$

 $y(\mathbf{x}) = \beta + Z(\mathbf{x})$  (1)<br>predicts the model  $\hat{y}$ .  $\beta$  and  $Z(\mathbf{x})$  are a constant term of the model and a Gaussian random process with zero mean and variance of  $\sigma^2$ , respectively. In this case, the single effect of  $x_i$  is  $\frac{1}{\hat{\mu}}$  $x_i$ <br> $\widehat{y}$ 

$$
\widehat{\mu}(x_i) = -\underbrace{\int_{D^N} \widehat{y}(\mathbf{x}) dx_1 dx_2 \cdots dx_N}_{\widehat{\mu}(\mathbf{x})} + \int_{D^{N-1}} \widehat{y}(\mathbf{x}) dx_1 dx_2 \cdots dx_{i-1} dx_{i+1} \cdots dx_N
$$
\n(2)

and likewise the combined impact of  $x_i$  and  $x_j$  ( $i < j$ ) is  $\frac{1}{\hat{\mu}}$ 

and likewise the combined impact of 
$$
x_i
$$
 and  $x_j$   $(i < j)$  is  
\n
$$
\widehat{\mu}(x_{i, j}) = -\widehat{\mu}(\boldsymbol{x}) - \widehat{\mu}(x_i) - \widehat{\mu}(x_j)
$$
\n
$$
+ \int_{D^{N-2}} \widehat{y}(\boldsymbol{x}) dx_1 dx_2 \cdots dx_{i-1} dx_{i+1} \cdots dx_{j-1} dx_{j+1} \cdots dx_N.
$$
\nThe variance  $\widehat{\varepsilon}(x_i)$  caused by  $x_i$  is

$$
y x_i \text{ is}
$$
  
\n
$$
\hat{\epsilon}(x_i) = \int (\hat{\mu}(x_i))^2 dx_i,
$$
  
\n
$$
p(x_i) = \frac{\hat{\epsilon}(x_i)}{x_i}
$$
  
\n(4)

so

$$
p(x_i) = \frac{\widehat{\varepsilon}(x_i)}{\widehat{\varepsilon}(\boldsymbol{x})}
$$
(5)

distributes the proportion on the contribution of x*i*.

Various information visualization techniques express database search results as sturdy devices for knowledge discovery [\[12](#page-54-12)]. The filtering techniques, including TMR [\[1\]](#page-54-6), have proven to be serviceable for tasks where visual representations can find relationships, clusters, outliers, gaps, and other patterns [\[13\]](#page-54-13).

### <span id="page-49-0"></span>**3 Review of the Optimization Results**

This section concisely reviews the knowledge that the optimizations have already indicated, which is crucial for interpreting the data-mining results.

#### **3.1 Knowledge from the Optimization Results**

The ditch brings a positive effect in the lift; it causes a negative influence on the drag. As a result of the optimization, we anticipate that the ditch will have a positive impact on the low-speed range  $L/D$ . Therefore, this study focuses on improving the low-speed range  $L/D$  and does not discuss the result at  $M = 6.8$ . **Difference of Design Strategies.** Optimal geometries of each objective function for the  $L/D$  explicates the following diversity in design strategies.

- $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$  grows by raising the lift.
- $L/D$  at  $M = 6.8$  rises by reducing the drag. The optimization makes the body slender to reduce the drag in the hypersonic range. Since slim bodies concomitantly enable to decrease the surface temperature, they simultaneously improve three of the six objective functions; it must stipulate the evolutionary trend.
- Strategy for increasing the  $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$  is related to that for the  $L/D$  at  $M = 6.8$ , but with scope for a rising lift.

#### **Influence of Ditch**

- Positive effect in the lift: ditches facilitate vortex form; they grow vortex lift.
- Negative influence on the drag: the induced drag rises due to the vortex lift; the friction drag first increases with the expansion of the wetted area.

#### **3.2 Design Information from SPM**

The 1st and 2nd optimization results shown in Fig. [3](#page-50-0) present the effect of the presence or absence of a ditch on the transonic/supersonic  $L/D$  as follows.

- To eliminate ditch deteriorates the  $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$ , approximately 5.4%.
- To eliminate ditch deteriorates the  $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$ , approximately 1.9%.
- The  $L/D$  at  $M = 6.8$  also declines, but it links to the  $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$ .



<span id="page-50-0"></span>**Fig. 3.** Scatter plot matrix of nondominated solutions for 30 generations by SPEA2 in the objective-function space. Red lines/triangles signify regression lines/optimum directions. Numbers on lower triangular matrices specify correlation coefficients. (Color figure online)

Originally,  $M = 0.65$  is more reliant on the lift than  $M = 2.3$  for improving the  $L/D$ , so we infer that to add ditch produces a more positive effect on the lift than a negative impact on the drag.

# <span id="page-51-0"></span>**4 Results by Data Mining**

The purpose of data mining is to verify whether the accidentally created ditches on the back of boosters contribute to improving  $L/D$ . So, we have to prove the following two perspectives: (1) the dataset of 1st optimization result that considers ditches affects design variables involved in ditch generation, (2) the dataset of 2nd optimization result that excludes ditches does not impact design variables required for ditch representation. Note that the results of ANOVA gained for each objective function quantify the contribution of each design variable, assuming that the total influence on an objective function is 100%. We cannot quantitatively discuss the relative effects among objective functions.

### **4.1 Result for Dataset with Ditch**

 $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$ . TMR shown in Fig. [4\(](#page-53-1)a) indicates that the design variables with substantial influence are  $dv34$ ,  $dv37$ , and  $dv40$  as well as with weak effect are  $dv12$ ,  $dv20$ ,  $dv22$ , and  $dv27$ . The beneficial design variables register that the design strategies for improving  $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$  are (a) spreading the body in the spanwise direction and making the bottom as flat as possible, and (b) providing ditches. To prolong the wetted area, that is, to stretch the body in the spanwise direction is the most valuable for raising the lift, which effects on improving  $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$ . Therefore, the influence of the design variables  $(dv20, dv27, dv37, dv40)$  for expanding the fuselage in the spanwise direction and flattening the bottom surface is relatively more massive than the design variables  $(dv12, dv22, dv34)$  for providing ditches. However, we can affirm that the provision of the ditch is undoubtedly useful in improving the  $L/D$ .

- [1](#page-51-1).  $dv34$   $(V_{z2}^{(5)}$ : to raise the difference from  $V_{z1}$  boosts the curvature of the B-Spline curve from  $P_1$  to  $P_3$ , resulting in a deeper ditch; the ditch affects the low-speed  $L/D$ . Note that  $V_{z1}$  tends to be large to serve the constraint of securing the tank volume, so  $V_{z2}$  inclines to be small.
- 2.  $dv37 \left(V_{y4}^{(5)}\right)$ : decreasing this value widens the flat bottom region in the span direction; growing the pressure on the bottom of the fuselage gains the lift.
- 3.  $dv40 \left(V_{z5}^{(5)}\right)$ : by reducing the bottom thickness and flattening fuselage in the z-direction, the base matures a flat geometry. The identical design concept as dv37 contributes to lift repair.

<span id="page-51-1"></span><sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For example,  $dv34$  symbolizes the design variable  $V_{z2}$  of the fifth cross-section dis-played in Table [1](#page-47-0) and Fig. [2,](#page-48-0) so this paper expresses it as  $V_{z2}^{(5)}$ .

 $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$ . TMR shown in Fig. [4\(](#page-53-1)b) indicates that the design variables with substantial influence are  $dv14$ ,  $dv17$ ,  $dv22$ , and  $dv40$ . Since drag alleviation helps improve  $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$ , unlike optimizing the  $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$ , no geometry widens horizontally and tends to be elongated. Hence, the impact of the design variables  $(dv17, dv40)$  that expand the body horizontally and the design variables  $(dv14, dv22)$  that supplement ditches to the lift is relatively robust in the latter.

#### **4.2 Result for Dataset Without Ditch**

 $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$ . Since all design variables indicated by TMR shown in Fig.  $5(a)$  $5(a)$  are irrelevant to ditches, ditches do not affect on the  $L/D$ . The abilities of design variables that have direct and indirect effects are abstracted below.

- design variables with direct effects
	- 1.  $dv10: V_{z5}^{(2)}$  has the effect of gaining the lift by making the bottom of the body nose as flat as possible.
	- 2.  $dv35$ :  $V_{y3}^{(5)}$  extends the area near the body tail in the spanwise direction and creates a stabilizer to enhance the lift.
- design variables with indirect effects
	- 1.  $dv$ 11,  $dv$ 23:  $V_{y1}^{(3)}$  and  $V_{y2}^{(4)}$  widen the body sideways and gain the lift.
	- 2.  $dv40$ :  $V_{z5}^{(5)}$  raises the lift by flattening the bottom near the body tail.

 $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$ . All design variables indicated by TMR shown in Fig. [5\(](#page-53-2)b) are independent of the ditch, so the impact of the ditch faded away in the  $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$  as well as in the  $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$ . The capabilities of design variables that affect the  $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$ , as shown by TMR, are as follows.

- design variables with direct influences
	- 1.  $dv10: V_{z5}^{(2)}$  is a variable that ultimately transforms the  $L/D$  because it is useful in raising the lift by flattening the bottom of the body's nose and in diminishing the drag by building the curvature.
- design variables with indirect effects
	- 1.  $dv8, dv20, dv40: V_{z4}^{(2)}, V_{z5}^{(3)}, \text{ and } V_{z5}^{(5)}$  have effects comparable to  $dv10$ .
	- 2.  $dv22 \left(V_{z1}^{(4)}\right)$ : the direct effect is weak, and the result is more robust when combined with  $dv10$ , which implies that the cross-sectional shape transformation in the flow direction affects the  $L/D$ . Generally, in the supersonic range, the cross-sectional area distribution of the body in the flow direction desires alteration monotonically from the sonic boom theory [\[3\]](#page-54-14). The combination of  $dv10$  and  $dv22$  must deviate from a monotonic increase, leading to a rise in the wave drag, resulting in the  $L/D$  deterioration. In particular, since  $dv22$  represents the cross-section  $(4)$ , its cross-section is likely to disturb area distribution because there commences forming a stabilizer. In any case, dv22 does not affect the lift.



<span id="page-53-1"></span>**Fig. 4.** TMR of ANOVA results for the dataset of the 1st optimization, which accidentally deals with ditches. (a)  $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$  and (b)  $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$ .



<span id="page-53-2"></span>**Fig. 5.** TMR of ANOVA results for the dataset of the 2nd optimization, which solves the inverse problem to eliminate ditches. (a)  $L/D$  at  $M = 0.65$  and (b)  $L/D$  at  $M = 2.3$ .

### <span id="page-53-0"></span>**5 Conclusion**

This research performed data mining by functional analysis of variance on multidisciplinary many-objective optimization results for a real-world problem and intuitively visualized the mining results using triangular matrix representations. We aimed at verifying a design hypothesis for a flyback booster in space transportation. Ditches avert surface temperature surge caused by adiabatic compression in the hypersonic range. However, they on the body back facilitated the lift rise in the transonic and supersonic ranges. We proved that ditches contributed to the increment in the low-speed lift-to-drag ratio; the study has affirmed that the hypothesis was correct. We have consequently gained a new design problem that examines how to add ditches to the body surface.

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# **Application of Decision Tree Algorithm Based on Clustering and Entropy Method Level Division for Regional Economic Index Selection**

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**Abstract.** The economy of a region is affected by many factors. The purpose of this study is to use the entropy method clustering and decision tree model fusion to find the main factors affecting the regional economy with the support of big data and empirical evidence. First extract some important indicators that affect the regional economy, and use the entropy method to find the relative weights and scores of these indicators. Then use K-means to divide these indicators into several intervals. Based on the entropy fusion model, obtain the ranking of each category of indicators, use these rankings as the objective value of the decision tree, and finally establish an economic indicator screening model. Participate in optimization and build a decision tree model that affects regional economic indicators. Through the visualization of the tree and the analysis of feature importance, you can intuitively see the main indicators that affect the regional economy, thereby achieving the research goals.

**Keywords:** Clustering  $\cdot$  Entropy evaluation method  $\cdot$  Decision tree  $\cdot$  Regional enconomy  $\cdot$  Random forest

### **1 Introduction**

The development of a regional economy is related to many factors, which will positively or negatively affect the development of the regional economy. The entropy method is an objective weighting method. The entropy value is used to judge the degree of discreteness of an indicator The greater the degree, the greater the impact (weight) of the indicator on the comprehensive evaluation, and the smaller its entropy value. In the improved entropy method and its application in the evaluation of economic benefits  $[4]$  $[4]$ , the power factor method mentioned in the article solves some extreme data and indicators but essentially uses the entropy method to evaluate regional economic benefits. Objective It is relatively strong, and lacks certain persuasion for larger data samples and more economic indicators. At the same time, the basic use of the CART decision tree was proposed in [\[5](#page-67-1)], but the application of index screening in the evaluation of the regional economy was still lacking. In this paper, we propose the concept of model fusion that combines CART decision tree and clustering machine learning algorithms for regional economic level evaluation and division based on the use of entropy method, which can more accurately extract the indicators that affect economic effects. As described below.

The entropy method objectively calculates the corresponding weight score based on the degree of discreteness of each feature data, and the distribution of the data is basically discrete, and the data is huge. Here we choose the K-means clustering algorithm based on the division to classify, on large data sets The calculation efficiency is also very high, and then the weight score is used to calculate the average score of each category, and the classification is divided. Because most of the data types are continuous, the CART decision tree is selected as the classification model. However, on the huge data, although the corresponding parameter adjustment and optimization operations are performed, it is inevitable that there will be overfitting and generalization capabilities. Worse. The optimization problem uses the random forest in ensemble learning for optimization, which can not only effectively run on big data but also solve high-dimensional data problems without reducing the dimension, and the estimated model is an unbiased model. To this end, we use several types of algorithm model fusion and use k-fold cross-validation to evaluate and tune the model. Our experiments on the economic data set opened by the Singapore government show that the accuracy rate of the final optimized model fusion is as high as 94%, Analyzed the main indicators affecting regional economic development, and put forward some suggestions to help regional economic sustainable development.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows: Sect. [2](#page-57-0) discusses the main research methods, In Sect. [3](#page-59-0) discussed the establishment of models, how to carry out model fusion, Corresponding experiments are carried out in Sect. [4,](#page-61-0) and the cross-validation results are given at the end. Finally, the work is concluded in Sect. [5.](#page-66-0)

### <span id="page-57-0"></span>**2 Research Methods**

#### **2.1 Introduction to K-Means Clustering Algorithm**

The k-means clustering algorithm is an iterative solution based partitioning cluster analysis algorithm. It uses distance as a standard for measuring the similarity between data objects. Euclidean distance is usually used to calculate the distance between data objects. The formula for calculating the Euclidean distance is given below [1:](#page-57-1)

<span id="page-57-1"></span>
$$
dist(x_i, x_j) = \sqrt{\sum_{d=1}^{D} (x_{i,d} - x_{j,d})^2}
$$
 (1)

Complete k-means algorithm flow, such as Algorithm [1](#page-58-0)

**Algorithm 1:** K-means clustering algorithm

<span id="page-58-0"></span>**Seeding:** *k* initial centers  $\mathcal{C} = \{c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_k\}$ **repeat foreach**  $i \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$  **do**  $C_i \leftarrow \{x \in \mathcal{X} \mid ||x - c_i|| < ||x - c_j|| \,\forall j \neq i\}; \qquad / * C_i$  is assigned the set of all points in  $\mathcal X$  having  $c_i$  as their closest center  $\ast/$ **end**  ${\bf f}$ **oreach**  $i \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$  **do**  $c_i \leftarrow \frac{1}{|C_i|} \sum_{x \in C_i} x;$  /\* modify  $c_i$  to be the center of mass of  $C_i$ \*/ **end until** *no more change of C* ; **return** C;

#### **2.2 An Introduction to the Entropy Method**

The entropy method refers to a mathematical method used to judge the degree of dispersion of a certain index. The greater the degree of dispersion, the greater the impact of this indicator on comprehensive evaluation. You can use the entropy value to judge the degree of dispersion of a certain index because, the information entropy can be used to calculate the weight of each indicator according to the degree of variation of each indicator, which provides a basis for comprehensive evaluation of multiple indicators.

Information entropy refers to the concept of entropy in thermodynamics and describes the average information of the source, as shown in formula [2](#page-58-1)

<span id="page-58-1"></span>
$$
H(x) = E\left[\log \frac{1}{p\left(a_{i}\right)}\right] = -\sum_{i=1}^{q} P\left(a_{i}\right) \log P\left(a_{i}\right) \tag{2}
$$

#### **2.3 Overview of Decision Tree Generation Algorithms**

The entire decision tree is based on the tree structure to make decisions, which can be divided into three progressive processes: optimal feature selection, decision tree generation, and pruning. The internal node corresponds to a test on an attribute, each branch corresponds to a possible result of the test, that is, a certain value of the attribute, and each leaf node corresponds to a prediction result. The main information gain calculation method is as follows:

$$
IG(S|T) = \text{Entropy}(S) - \sum_{value(T)} \frac{(S_v)}{S} \text{Entropy}(S_v)
$$
 (3)

The term before the minus sign in the formula is the entropy of the training set classification, S represents the sample set, T is the set of all feature values, and Sv is the feature equal to v in the feature; the second half of the minus sign is the entropy for classification with v. The subtraction of the two entropies has the following meaning: using this feature classification, it can reduce how much uncertainty and how much information is carried.

### **2.4 Random Forest Algorithm Based on CART Tree**

CART can be used for both regression analysis and classification analysis, and some integrated algorithms based on CART have been extended. To solve the problem of large data size and data volume in the context of big data, this study chose CART as the Basic random forest algorithm.

The CART decision [\[3](#page-67-2)] tree has the advantages of being easy to understand and having certain non-linear classification capabilities, but a single decision tree has some disadvantages.

The above-mentioned defects can be improved by the random forest integration method in integrated learning bagging. Randomforest is composed of many decision trees, and there is no correlation between different decision trees. First, randomly sample the samples, train the decision tree, and then classify the nodes according to the corresponding attributes until they can no longer split the position, and build a large number of decision trees to form a forest.

### <span id="page-59-0"></span>**3 Establishing Model**

Before using the decision tree algorithm to build a tree of regional economic indicators, it is necessary to determine the target value level of the decision tree, which is also the focus of this model. First, use the entropy method to calculate the corresponding weights for the indicators of the regional economy. Select n indicators and m periods So  $X_{ij}$  represents the y-th value of the i-th index  $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, n; j = 1, 2, \ldots, m)$ .

#### **3.1 Indicator Normalization**

The homogeneous indicators are homogeneous. Because the measurement units of the indicators are not uniform before they are used to calculate the comprehensive indicators, they must be standardized, that is, the absolute values of the indicators are converted into relative values, and  $X_{ij} = |X_{ij}|$ , so as to solve the problem of homogeneity of various qualitative index values. The specific method is as follows:

$$
x'_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij} - \min\{x_{1j}, \dots, x_{nj}\}}{\max\{x_{1j}, \dots, x_{nj}\} - \min\{x_{1j}, \dots, x_{nj}\}}
$$
(4)

Then  $X'_{ij}$  is the value of the *j* time period of the *i* index. For convenience, the normalized data are recorded as  $X_{ij}$ .

#### **3.2 Calculate the Weight of Each Indicator**

$$
p_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij}}{\sum_{n=1}^{n} x_{ij}}, i = 1, \dots, n, j = 1, \dots, n
$$
 (5)

$$
e_j = -k \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_{ij} \ln (p_{ij}), j = 1, ..., m
$$
 (6)

Calculate weights for various years:

$$
w_j = \frac{d_j}{\sum_{j=1}^m d_j}, j = 1, 2, \dots, m
$$
\n(7)

Calculate the comprehensive score obtained by each indicator:

$$
s_i = \sum_{j=1}^{m} w_j \cdot p_{ij}, i = 1, \dots, n
$$
 (8)

In this way, the corresponding weights and scores of each index can be obtained. This score is convenient for later determination of the characteristic value of the decision tree.

#### **3.3 Clustering for Rank**

This article clusters the indicators that affect the economy. According to the "Elbow Rule" and the actual economic stage in Singapore history, the categories are finally classified into 4 categories, and then the average score of each category is calculated. It is obtained by adding the scores obtained by the entropy method of each type of index and averaging. These four scores are then ranked and divided into four intervals, and then each sample is compared to which interval the corresponding score is calculated according to the weight. Finally, each sample can obtain a corresponding rank. The rank is the target value to be evaluated by the decision tree.

#### **3.4 Decision Tree Selection of Economic Indicators**

(1) For each feature A and all possible values a, divide the data set into two subsets  $A = a$  and  $A! = A$ , and calculate the Gini index of set D:

$$
Gini(D, A) = \frac{D_1}{D} Gini(D_1) + \frac{D_2}{D} Gini(D_2)
$$
\n(9)

- (2) Iterate through all the features A, calculate all the Gini indexes of its possible values a, select the feature corresponding to the minimum Gini index of D and the cut point as the optimal division, and divide the data into two subsets.
- (3) Recursively call steps (1) (2) on the above two child nodes until the stop condition is satisfied.

## <span id="page-61-0"></span>**4 Experiment**

Before the experiment, we downloaded and organized the data from the Singapore government statistics website [https://www.singstat.gov.sg/.](https://www.singstat.gov.sg/)

### **4.1 Data Source Analysis**

The data preparation stage includes data acquisition and data preprocessing, which is the foundation of data mining. In order to make the analysis results real and effective, the data comes from the official website of the relevant region. Due to the variety of data obtained, we need to select the data appropriately according to the research goals set in advance. With reference to the existing research results, we analyzed more than 20 relevant indicators (GDP), government operating income, employment opportunities, private consumption expenditures, and output investment that affect economic development. Following the principles of scientificity, representativeness, availability, and operability of selected indicators, this article takes Singapore as an example to select 19 representative indicators, and obtains data for each quarter from 1975 to 2017 from the department of statistics of Singapore Make up the data set. The relevant indicators are shown in Table [1](#page-61-1) below.

GDP	Government spending
Aggregate demand index	Gross Fixed Capital Formation
Employee wages	Total operating surplus
Tax cuts subsidies	Residential price index
The birth rate	The company number
Gas Sales	Electricity Generation
Retail consumption index	Inbound Tourism numbers
Tourism Receipts	Air Cargo Loaded
Motor Vehicle Population	Vessel Arrivals number
Vessel Total Cargo (Thousand Tonnes)	

<span id="page-61-1"></span>**Table 1.** The indicator system

### **4.2 Processing Data Missing Values**

From Singapore for the presence of some data of 19 indicators data missing value, according to the usual data before operation is to take the average and median to fill the missing value, but to fill the lack of scientific data and accuracy, so in this paper, the way is through the correlation between indicators and indicators to fill the missing value, through index correlation analysis between

the first, find a missing value indicators and other indicators of relevance, through strong correlation to fill in the missing data. The correlation analysis of these 19 indicators is shown in Fig. [1](#page-62-0) below.



<span id="page-62-0"></span>**Fig. 1.** Correlation scatter plots between indicators

The missing values in the 19 indicators are Total operating surplus, Employee wages, Tax cuts subsidies, The birth rate It can be seen from Fig. [1](#page-62-0) that the linear correlation between features is very high. You can use GDP to predict Total operating surplus, use GDP to predict Employee wages, use Government spending and Total Merchandise Trade, and The company number to predict The birth rate, See Table [2](#page-62-1) in order.

<span id="page-62-1"></span>**Table 2.** Prediction equation

f(x)
$f(x) = 0.5284713 * x - 597.95273615$
$f(x) = 0.0365264104 * x + 289.10634$
$f(x) = 2.2291718.925 * 10^{-5} * x^2 - 1.6824388 * x + 15161.526483621026$

#### **4.3 Ranking by Clustering and Weighting**

The following is the weight of each index obtained by the entropy method, as shown in Table [3](#page-63-0) below.

Index	Weight	Index	Weight
GDP	0.091025	Government spending	0.093909
Aggregate demand index	0.013786	Gross Fixed Capital Formation	0.076256
Employee wages	0.091720	Total operating surplus	0.090709
Tax cuts subsidies	0.036622	Residential price index	0.060454
The birth rate	0.035269	The company number	0.043344
Gas Sales	0.042019	Electricity Generation	0.063323
Retail consumption index	0.044275	Inbound Tourism numbers	0.069598
Tourism Receipts	0.046299	Air Cargo Loaded	0.045678
Motor Vehicle Population	0.046014	Vessel Arrivals number	0.009698

<span id="page-63-0"></span>**Table 3.** Weight of each indicator

Since the data distribution is partitioned, we use the k-means algorithm to cluster the economic data sets accordingly. Before clustering, we first use the PCA dimensionality reduction algorithm to reduce the data set to 3 dimensions because there are many features and the dimensions are inconsistent, which affects the clustering too much. As shown in Fig. [2.](#page-63-1)



<span id="page-63-1"></span>**Fig. 2.** Clustering graph

Based on the above clustering effects, we divide the original indicators into four broad categories. Then calculate the average for each category. The data for each category are shown in Table [4](#page-64-0) below.

<span id="page-64-0"></span>

Level	Interval score
First	$307162.4 \leq x \leq 439842.85$
	Second $222486.69 \leq x \leq 307162.4$
	Third $\vert 116022.01 \leq x \leq 222486.69$
	Fourth $x < 116022.01$

**Table 4.** Composite scores for four types of samples

From the Table [4](#page-64-0) above, we can know the score interval corresponding to each category. We use the weight score and each row of data to calculate the score and determine the level.

#### **4.4 Generate Decision Tree**

Because of the type of data in the dataset, we use the CART algorithm. The Gini index is calculated as follows:

$$
GINI(D) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} p_k \cdot (1 - p_k) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{k} p_k^2 \tag{10}
$$

The decision tree is constructed without pruning. The decision tree is mainly constructed using python machine learning third-party library sklearn. The accuracy rate obtained by the test is 84%. In order to make the model more accurate and the error smaller, a random forest is used to optimize the decision tree. The CART decision tree visualization is shown in Fig. [3.](#page-64-1)



<span id="page-64-1"></span>**Fig. 3.** Economic indicator decision tree

[\[2](#page-67-3)] here we use grid search k-fold cross-validation to adjust the parameters of the random forest parameters, and it is concluded that the effect is best when the estimator is 50. After getting the number of estimators, To further improve the accuracy, due to the limited data provided by the government, the dimension cannot reach several hundred dimensions. Here we mainly discuss the use of cross-validation to obtain the optimal *min impurity split* size for pruning to prevent excessive growth from causing poor generalization ability. The verification curve results are shown in Fig. [4:](#page-65-0)



<span id="page-65-0"></span>**Fig. 4.** Cross validation results

It can be seen from Fig. [4](#page-65-0) that when the impurity index is 0*.*22857142857. Finally, the accuracy of the training set and the test set was 94.7%.

After the random forest model is obtained, each decision tree in the random forest is judged separately when a new sample is entered. The bagging set strategy is relatively simple. For classification problems, the voting method is usually used, and the most votes category or one of the categories is the final model output. The time complexity is *O*(*M*(*mnlogn*)). Some features need to be selected randomly during the calculation process, and additional time is required to process this process, so it may take more time. Where n represents n samples, m represents m features, and M represents the number of decision trees participating in the voting.

#### **4.5 Model Importance Interpretation**

This paper uses the common algorithm xgboost in boosting, and compares and verifies the feature importance obtained from the random forest algorithm in bagging. Since the GBDT algorithm only has a regression tree, it will not be discussed here. This adjusted random forest model consists of 50 lessons of decision trees. Each tree can get an impurity measure about each feature, and then the scores can be added according to the feature to get the relevant feature importance [\[1](#page-67-4)]. At the same time, we use the xgboost algorithm, which is also composed of 50 decision trees, to compare. After adjusting the parameters, the optimal subsample is 0.5204081. The best learning rate is 0.3000012, the import type is modified to weight, and the objective is modified to multisoftprob. After completion, we can get the feature importance corresponding to the two algorithms, see Fig. [5](#page-66-1) below.

As shown in Fig. [5,](#page-66-1) assuming that the sum of the importance of all features is 1, it can be seen that in two well-known algorithms, the importance of Inbound Tourism numbers is the largest, indicating that the largest factor affecting the regional economy is Inbound Tourism numbers during the entire classification This indicator is followed by GDP. Among them, aggregate demand index and tax cuts subsidies and Air Cargo Loaded and other corresponding features account for a small proportion, indicating that in the process of economic development, the impact of these factors is small. We can draw from this model that Singapore can vigorously develop the tourism industry and prompt the corresponding GDP, which needs to be strengthened on the characteristics of lower scores.



<span id="page-66-1"></span>**Fig. 5.** Compare results

### <span id="page-66-0"></span>**5 Conclusion**

The weight of each index is determined by the entropy method, and K-means is used to cluster and divide the levels, and the target value is determined for each index. An economic index screening model based on the CART tree random forest algorithm. Through this model, it is possible to scientifically screen out

those important indicators affecting the regional economy. The accuracy of the fusion of the above models is as high as 94%, and there will not be too much error when analyzing the factors affecting the regional economy. This method helps regional economic decision-makers to provide accurate positioning by providing decision support for regional economic development. The analysis of the above results shows that the Singapore government can vigorously develop the tourism industry because the importance of inbound tourism numbers is very high and the economic level development can be completed accurately.

Based on the research conclusions of this paper, the real-time analysis of larger data can be carried out based on the study of machine learning technology to screen the main factors affecting the regional economy, and an economic impact factor analysis system based on each region or country can be established. If the data supports, the number of indicators can be larger, so that the main factors affecting the regional economy can be analyzed more comprehensively and accurately.

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# **An Evaluation Algorithm of the Importance of Network Node Based on Community Influence**

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**Abstract.** Identifying nodes in social networks that have great influence on information dissemination is of great significance for monitoring and guiding information dissemination. There are few methods to study the influence of communities on social networks among the existing node importance evaluation algorithms, and it is difficult to find nodes that promote information dissemination among communities. In view of this reason, this paper proposes a node importance evaluation algorithm based on community influence (abbreviated as IEBoCI algorithm), which evaluates the importance of the nodes based on the influence degree of the nodes on the communities and the ability to disseminate information the communities to which the nodes are connected. This algorithm firstly calculates the activation probability of nodes to other nodes, which is used to divide communities and evaluate influence. Secondly, the network is divided into communities based on LPA algorithm. Finally, the importance of the node is calculated by combining the influence of the community itself and the influence of the node on the community. Experiments are carried out on real social network data and compared with other community-based methods to verify the effectiveness of the algorithm.

**Keywords:** Complex network · Social network · Node importance · Community detection · Diffusion model

# **1 Introduction**

With the rapid development of Internet and information technology, social networks such as Weibo, Facebook, Flikr, Twitter, etc. have developed rapidly. Social networks have become one of the main platform for human beings to spread information. Identifying nodes with great influence on information dissemination in social networks is helpful for in-depth analysis of information dissemination and evolution in social networks. Finding the guider or pusher in network public opinion is of great significance for controlling and guiding network public opinion, cracking down on network information crimes, and realizing viral marketing and word-of-mouth communication.

There are two main methods for evaluating the importance of nodes, methods based on centralities and methods based on information dissemination scale. The centralitybased method evaluates the centrality of nodes depends on the network structure, which

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represents the degree of nodes in the center of the network. These centrality methods mainly include Degree Centrality [\[1\]](#page-80-0), Betweenness Centrality [\[2\]](#page-80-1), Closeness Centrality [\[3\]](#page-80-2), Eigenvector Centrality [\[4\]](#page-80-3), etc. This kind of method is suitable for finding the important nodes in the network structure, but not for evaluating the influence of nodes.

The method based on information dissemination scale is to use information dissemination model to simulate the information dissemination process, calculate the information dissemination scale of nodes, and find out the nodes with great influence. A greedy algorithm for calculating the propagation scale of nodes was first proposed by Kempe et al. [\[5\]](#page-80-4), which is very time consuming and only suitable for small networks. In order to reduce the computational complexity, Leskovec et al. [\[6\]](#page-80-5) proposed CELF algorithm according to the submodules of influence diffusion, avoiding redundant calculation of activation range. References  $[7-11]$  $[7-11]$  used heuristic strategy instead of Monte Carlo simulation to estimate propagation scale for improving time efficiency. This kind of method finds influential nodes by directly measuring the information dissemination scale of nodes, but it is not suitable for evaluating the importance of nodes in the network that indirectly disseminate influence.

The methods of Cao  $[15]$ , Wang  $[16]$ , Shang  $[17]$ , Zhang  $[18]$  and other teams assume the independence between communities. After dividing the network into communities, they find the node with the greatest local influence in each community, and then find the node with the greatest influence in the whole network. M. M. Tulu [\[19\]](#page-81-5) et al. calculated the node's Shannon Entropy as the node's importance by using the number of nodes outside the community and the number of nodes inside the community after the community was divided. Zhao [\[20\]](#page-81-6) measured the importance of nodes by the number of communities which the nodes connected to after dividing the network into communities. These methods either do not focus on the association between the communities, or do not consider the relationship between the nodes and the different communities, or do not consider the influence of the communities themselves.

In order to deal with the above problems, we propose a node importance evaluation algorithm based on community influence (abbreviated as IEBoCI algorithm). Its basic assumption is that the stronger the ability of the community connected by nodes to disseminate information and the greater the influence of nodes on the community, the higher the importance of nodes. The algorithm first calculates the activation probability of nodes to other nodes; Secondly, the network is divided into communities based on LPA algorithm; Thirdly, calculate the influence of each community and the influence degree of nodes on the connected communities; Finally, the importance of the node is calculated by combining the influence of the community itself and the influence of the node on the community.

#### **2 IEBoCI Algorithm Framework**

If a person has many friends in different societies in social networks, this person does not necessarily directly disseminate a large amount of important information, but he can indirectly disseminate the information in the community through contacts with other community members. From this we can see that this person has a wide influence on information dissemination and plays a more important role in the network.

We believe that the influence of nodes is related to the number and quality of communities connected by nodes based on this assumption. The more communities connected, the greater the influence of the nodes and the higher the importance. Meanwhile, the influence of the nodes is also related to the influence of the connected communities. For the same community, the influence degree of different nodes on the community is also different. If a node has less influence on a community, it is difficult for the node to influence the nodes in the community, and it is not easy to further spread information through the community. Therefore, it is necessary to comprehensively evaluate the influence of the community itself and the influence degree of nodes on the community when evaluating the importance of nodes.

### **3 Algorithm Steps**

Social network is a complex network, which is denoted as directed network  $G = (N, E)$ in this paper, among which N is a collection of nodes in a network, E is a set of directed edges in a network. The IEBoCI algorithm proposed in this paper is based on directed network. The algorithm flow is shown in Fig. [1.](#page-70-0) The steps are as follows:

(1) calculate the activation probability of nodes activating their reachable nodes based on the information propagation model, which is used to divide communities and calculate the influence range of communities and nodes; (2) divide the network based on label propagation algorithm to obtain the community structure of the network; (3) calculate the influence range of communities according to the activation probability of the nodes; (4) calculate the number expectation of the nodes on communities activated by the nodes, and further obtaining the influence degree of the nodes on communities; (5) calculate the importance of nodes by combining the results of the third and fourth steps.



**Fig. 1.** Algorithm flow chart

#### <span id="page-70-0"></span>**3.1 Node Activation Probability Calculation**

This paper calculates the information dissemination scale of nodes and communities based on independent cascade model (IC model). IC model is a probability model, and

there is a probability  $p(v_i, v_i) \in [0, 1]$  for all neighboring nodes  $v_i$  and  $v_j$  in network G. A value between 0 and 1 is randomly assigned, which indicates the probability that the active node  $v_i$  successfully directly activates the neighbor node  $v_i$ . For non-adjacent nodes  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ , if  $v_i$  to  $v_j$  are unreachable, the probability of  $v_i$  activating  $v_j$  is 0, that is  $p(v_i, v_i) = 0$ . If  $v_i$  is reachable to  $v_i$ , the probability that node  $v_i$  activates node  $v_i$  along the path is the product of one node directly activating another node on each side of the path [\[22\]](#page-81-7). If there are m paths between  $v_i$  and  $v_j$ , one of the paths is Path $(v_i, v_j)_x = \langle v_j \rangle$  $= v_1, v_2,..., v_j = v_k$ , the probability Pp( $v_i, v_j$ )<sub>x</sub> that node  $v_i$  activates node  $v_j$  along this path is calculated as follows:

$$
Pp(v_i, v_j)_x = \prod_{u=1}^{k-1} p(v_u, v_{u+1})
$$
\n(1)

Where Pp( $v_i$ ,  $v_j$ )<sub>x</sub> is the probability that  $v_i$  activates  $v_j$  through Path( $v_i$ ,  $v_j$ )<sub>x</sub> and  $p(v_u, v_{u+1})$  is the probability that node  $v_u$  activates neighbor node  $v_{u+1}$ . If the activation probabilities of different paths are different, the maximum probability is taken as the probability  $p(v_i, v_i)$  for node  $v_i$  to activate non-adjacent reachable node  $v_i$ .

#### **3.2 Community Detection**

We divide network into communities based on label propagation algorithm (LPA algorithm) to obtain a collection of communities on the network. LPA algorithm is applicable to undirected and unweighted networks. The social network constructed in this paper is a directed network. Therefore, when calculating the labels to be updated of node  $v_i$ , only the in-neighbors of node  $v_i$  are calculated, and the labels with the highest activation probability among the neighbors are counted. The steps are as follows:

step1: Label initialization: each node in the network is randomly assigned a unique label l, which represents the community in which the node is located

step2: Determining the node order of the asynchronous updating labels: calculate the degree of the nodes, and arrange the node order of the asynchronous updating labels from large to small according to the degree of the nodes;

step3: Updating the labels of nodes: according to the node order of updating the labels, the labels of nodes are updated one by one, and the label of node  $v_i$  is updated to the label with the maximum sum of activation probabilities in its in-neighbor nodes. The label updating formula is as follows:

$$
l_{v_j} = \arg \max_l \sum_{i \in IN(v_j)} p(v_i, v_j) \delta(l_{v_i}, l)
$$
 (2)

 $l_{v_i}$  represents the label of node  $v_i$  to be updated,  $l_{v_i}$  represents the label of node  $v_i$ , IN( $v_j$ ) represents the set of nodes with out-edges to node  $v_j$ ,  $p(v_i, v_j)$  represents the activation probability from node  $v_i$  to node  $v_i$ , and  $\delta(l_i, l)$  is a Kronecker function.
When there is more than one label with the maximum sum of the calculated activation probabilities, one label is randomly selected from them as the new label of the node.

Step4: Termination judgment: it is judged whether the labels of all nodes in the network are the labels with the largest sum of activation probabilities among neighbor nodes. If not, step3 is repeatedly executed, if so, calculation is terminated, and nodes with the same label belong to the same community.

#### **3.3 Evaluation of Influence of Communities**

In this paper, the number expectation of network nodes activated by a community is taken as the influence of the community. The steps are as follows: firstly, the activation probability between nodes calculated by 3.1 is used to calculate the joint activation probability of all nodes in the community to nodes in the network; then calculate the number expectation of nodes activated by the community according to the joint activation probability to obtain the influence of the community.

In the independent cascade model, whether a node activates another node and whether other nodes activate the node are independent events, so the joint activation probability  $Ps(C_1, v_i)$  [\[23\]](#page-81-0) of the community  $C_1$  to a node  $v_i$  in the network is calculated according to the probability multiplication of the independent events, and the calculation formula is:

$$
P_s(C_l, v_j) = 1 - \prod_{v_i \in C_l} (1 - p(v_i, v_j))
$$
\n(3)

With the joint activation probability  $Ps(Cl, v<sub>i</sub>)$ , the influence scale expectation of the community EXPs(Cl) is calculated as follows:

$$
EXPs(C_l) = \sum_{v_j \in N} Ps(C_l, v_j)
$$
\n(4)

Where N is the set of all nodes in the network.

#### **3.4 Evaluation of Influence of Nodes on Communities**

The number expectation of nodes in a community activated by a node indicates how many nodes in the community a node can successfully activate. The number of nodes in the community indicates the total scale of the community. The greater the proportion of nodes in the community that a node can activate in all nodes of the community, the greater the influence of the node on the community. Therefore, this paper regards the ratio of number expectation of nodes in a community activated by a node to the number of nodes in the community as the influence degree of the node on the community.

Limiting the range of nodes activated by node  $v_i$  in the community  $C_l$ , the number expectation of nodes  $EXPn(v_i, C_l)$  in the community C<sub>l</sub> activated by node  $v_i$  is obtained, which is equal to the sum of the probabilities of each node in the community Cl being successfully activated by node  $v_i$ , and the calculation formula is as follows:

$$
EXPn(v_i, C_l) = \sum_{v_j \in C_l} p(v_i, v_j)
$$
\n<sup>(5)</sup>

Where  $C_1$  represents the set of all nodes in the community  $C_1$ .

 $EXPn(v_i, C_l)$  represents the number of nodes that node  $v_i$  can activate in community Cl. The ratio of this expectation to the total number of nodes  $n(C_1)$  in community  $C_1$  is the influence degree *Inf* ( $v_i$ ,  $C_l$ ) of node  $v_i$  on community  $v_i$ . The formula is:

$$
Inf(v_i, C_l) = \frac{EXPn(v_i, C_l)}{n(C_l)}
$$
\n
$$
(6)
$$

### **3.5 Node Importance Evaluation**

Node  $v_i$  can use influence of communities directly connected by node  $v_i$  to spread influence indirectly. We calculate the sum of the influence of communities that node  $v_i$ can indirectly use, and get the importance  $I(v_i)$  of node  $V_i$ . The importance  $I(v_i)$  of the node  $v_i$  is calculated by the following formula using influence of communities and the influence of a node on community:

$$
I(v_i) = \sum_{C_l \in Com(v_i)} Inf(v_i, C_l) EXPs(C_l)
$$
\n(7)

Where  $Com(v_i)$  represents the set of communities in which node  $v_i$  and its outneighbors are located.

## **4 Experimental Results and Discussions**

### **4.1 Experimental Data and Initial Setup**

The experimental data used in this paper are commonly used public social network data sets, which are downloaded from Internet. The name, data scale and description of the network are shown in Table [1.](#page-73-0)

<span id="page-73-0"></span>

Data set	Number of nodes	Number   of edges	Network density	Average out degree	out degree	out degree	Minimum   Maximum   Description
Facebook <sup>a</sup>	4039	176468	0.0108200	43.691		1045	Friends on Facebook
E-Mail <sup>b</sup>	1866	5517	$0.0015853$   2.9566		$\Omega$	330	Communication between users

**Table 1.** Basic information of datasets

Note: [ahttps://snap.stanford.edu/data/ego-Facebook.html](https://snap.stanford.edu/data/ego-Facebook.html) [bhttp://konect.uni-koblenz.de/networks/dnc-temporalGraph](http://konect.uni-koblenz.de/networks/dnc-temporalGraph)

The nodes in Facebook are friends relationship, and the formed network is an undirected network. In this experiment, each edge is converted into two directed edges to convert undirected network into directed network. The nodes in the mail are communication relationship. Each communication forms a directed edge from one node to another node.

In order to simulate the dissemination of information on the network, this paper uses node  $v_i$  as the initial activation node, and the scale of the nodes that can be affected by node  $v_i$  as a measure of the node's information dissemination capability, which is referred to as the Influence scale. In order to simulate the influence propagation process of nodes and calculate the influence scale of nodes, the commonly used independent cascade model (IC model) [\[21\]](#page-81-1) is adopted in this paper.

The activation probability p between nodes is randomly assigned a value between 0 and 1 when constructing a network using data sets. Due to the randomness of the independent cascade model, the results may be different when calculating the influence scale of nodes. To sum up, each node is taken as the initial activated node to calculate the influence scale for 50 times when calculating the influence scale of nodes, and then the arithmetic average value is taken as the final result.

#### **4.2 The Division and Influence of Communities**

The two data sets are divided into communities after the network construction is completed, according to the activation probability between nodes by using the LPA algorithm improved previously. The division results are shown in Tables [2](#page-74-0) and [3.](#page-74-1)

Community size	Number of communities	Community size	Number of communities
$\overline{2}$	10	40	1
3	1	43	1
$\overline{\mathcal{L}}$	$\overline{2}$	54	1
6	3	72	1
7	$\mathbf{1}$	84	1
8	$\overline{4}$	106	1
10	1	189	1
12	$\mathbf{1}$	225	1
14	1	226	1
19	$\overline{2}$	266	1
24	$\mathbf{1}$	344	1
25	$\mathbf{1}$	347	1
27	1	467	1
33	1	514	1
38	$\mathbf{1}$	753	1
	Total number of communities	46	

<span id="page-74-0"></span>**Table 2.** Communities of Facebook data sets

<span id="page-74-1"></span>**Table 3.** Communities of mail data sets





**Fig. 2.** Influence of communities

<span id="page-75-0"></span>According to the results of community detection, it can be seen that the structural characteristics of Facebook and email are quite different: Facebook has 4039 nodes and 46 communities are divided, with a small number of communities and a large scale of communities, which indicates that the network is relatively close. There are 1866 nodes in the mail network, 532 of which are divided into communities. The number of communities is large, but the number of large-scale communities is small. More communities are 1 node and 2 nodes, which shows that the network is sparse.

The influence of communities is calculated after the community detection is completed, according to the method proposed in this paper, and the calculation results are shown in Fig. [2.](#page-75-0) Figure [2.](#page-75-0) (a) shows the influence of communities in Facebook data. The number of communities is small, and the size of communities (the number of members of communities) varies greatly. From the overall trend, the larger the size of communities, the greater the influence of communities. When the influence of the community reaches a certain degree (the number of nodes affected reaches more than 90% of the total number of nodes), the increase in influence becomes less and less obvious, which is consistent with the reality. Figure [2.](#page-75-0) (b) shows the influence of communities in E-Mail data. Generally speaking, there is also a trend that "the larger the community size, the greater the influence of the community". As there are a large number of 1-node and 2-node communities in the network, the data in the lower left corner of the image is relatively dense, and the influence of communities is not necessarily the same under the same scale.

#### **4.3 The Importance of Node**

According to the method proposed in this paper, the importance I of all nodes in data sets and the Influence scale of nodes are calculated, and compared with a method of indirectly measuring the importance of nodes through communities (the number of directly connected communities V-community [\[20\]](#page-81-2)). The Degreeout and Betweenness are analyzed as statistical data.

**Distribution of Node Importance.** After calculating the importance of nodes, numbers of nodes with different values of importance were counted in Facebook and E-Mail data sets. The number of nodes was counted in Facebook data set according to the importance

with 100 as an interval, and the number of nodes was counted in E-Mail data set according to the importance with 20 as an interval. The distribution of statistical results is shown in Fig. [3.](#page-76-0) The distribution in the two data sets is different. The distribution in Facebook is positively skew distribution and the distribution in mail is power law distribution. The difference between the two results lies in the different characteristics of the two data sets. The network in Facebook data is a directed network transformed from an undirected network, and each node has an out-degree greater than 0, so each node can transmit information to other nodes. In the mail data, the directed network is constructed according to the communication relationship. There are a large number of nodes in the data set that receive mail but do not send mail, which have an out-degree of 0 and do not carry out information dissemination to the outside. Therefore, a large number of nodes with an out-degree of 0 result in a large number of nodes with low importance in the data statistics. So the distribution of importance presents a power law distribution.



**Fig. 3.** Node importance statistics

#### <span id="page-76-0"></span>**Comparison of Node Importance and Number of Directly Connected Communities.**

The number distribution statistics of the Influence scale of nodes in the two data sets are shown in Fig. [4.](#page-76-1)



**Fig. 4.** Node influence scale statistics

<span id="page-76-1"></span>In Fig. [4,](#page-76-1) (a) Facebook data counts the number of nodes according to the node Influence scale with 100 as an interval, and (b) E-Mail data counts the number of nodes according to the node Influence scale with 20 as an interval.

Most of the nodes in the Facebook dataset have a large scale of influence, with 1746 nodes in the [3900, 4000) interval and 1649 nodes in the [3800, 3900) interval. Facebook dataset has 4,039 nodes, of which three-quarters can affect 95% of the network. This result is also related to the close connection of nodes in the data set. The density of the network is high, the average outdegree of nodes is also large, and the influence spread range of most nodes is large.

The influence scale of most nodes in E-Mail data set is very small, 921 nodes are in [0, 20) interval. This result is related to the fact that nodes in the data set are not closely related. Different nodes have different impact sizes. There are 1866 nodes in the data set, of which 800 nodes have an output of 0. These nodes cannot transmit information outward, so nodes with low Influence scale account for the majority.

The relationship between node outdegree, betweenness and node influence scale is shown in Fig. [5.](#page-77-0) In the chart, the X axis represents the node outdegree and betweenness for the corresponding data set, and the Y axis represents the node Influence scale. In Fig. [5.](#page-77-0) (a) (b), it can be seen that there is almost no correlation between the node influence scale and the node output. In Fig. 5, (c) (d), it can also be seen that there is almost no correlation between node influence scale and node betweenness.



<span id="page-77-0"></span>**Fig. 5.** Relationship between outdegree, betweenness and node influence scale

The relationship between number of directly connected communitie (V-community), node importance and node influence scale is shown in Fig. [6.](#page-78-0) In the chart, theX axis represents V-community and node importance for the corresponding data set, and the Y axis represents the node Influence scale. In Fig.  $6.$  (a) (b), it can be seen that there is a certain correlation between the influence scale of nodes and the number of communities directly connected by nodes. Nodes with a large number of directly connected communities have a larger influence scale, but the number of communities connected by nodes

with a larger influence scale is not necessarily large. It can be seen from Fig. [6.](#page-78-0) (c) (d) that there is a strong correlation between node Influence scale and node importance. The image in Fig. [6.](#page-78-0) (c) has a larger value range of X axis and a larger image density on the left. for convenience of observation, the distribution image in the range of importance 0 to 5000 is captured, as shown in Fig. [7.](#page-78-1) As can be seen from Fig. [7,](#page-78-1) nodes with low importance may have a higher Influence scale, nodes with high importance have a higher Influence scale. In Fig. [6.](#page-78-0) (d), the correlation between node influence scale and node importance is more obvious, and the image is basically scattered between two oblique lines passing through the origin (oblique lines have been marked in the figure). There is a strong correlation between node influence scale and node importance, which shows that the nodes with high importance we find through this method have high Influence scale.



<span id="page-78-0"></span>**Fig. 6.** Relationship between V-community, node importance and node influence scale



<span id="page-78-1"></span>**Fig. 7.** Node importance and node influence scale in Facebook dataset

The data of the top ten nodes in Facebook data set are shown in Table [4,](#page-79-0) and the data of the top ten nodes in mail data set are shown in Table [5.](#page-79-1)

It can be observed that for nodes with high I, the Influence scale is very high from Table [4](#page-79-0) and Table [5;](#page-79-1) for nodes with high I, the Degree<sub>out</sub> is not necessarily high, and some are even very low. I high node's Betweenness is not necessarily high, some even very low; for nodes with high I, the V-community is not necessarily high, and some are even very low.

In conclusion, the influence of nodes in the network is not related to structural features such as node degree and betweenness. The method in this paper evaluates the importance of nodes based on community influence. Nodes with higher importance

<span id="page-79-0"></span>

Node number	$Degree_{out}$	<b>Betweenness</b>	V-community	I	Influence scale
107	1045	0.480518	11	12227.468	3874.939
3437	547	0.236115	14	11849.017	3622.140
563	91	0.062780	7	8008.597	3791.743
1593	32	0.000553	6	7922.979	3495.210
$\overline{0}$	347	0.146305	11	7714.364	3700.363
1173	115	0.000942	6	7627.214	3602.769
606	91	0.000997	5	7343.892	3440.250
1687	43	0.000907	5	7064.857	3796.674
1684	792	0.337797	8	6935.021	3478.205
428	115	0.064309	$\overline{7}$	6397.974	3582.737

**Table 4.** Top ten nodes in Facebook data set in node importance

**Table 5.** Top ten nodes of node importance in E-Mail data set

<span id="page-79-1"></span>

Node number	$Degree_{out}$	<b>Betweenness</b>	V-community	I	Influence scale
1957	3	$\Omega$	3	803.4425465	693.26
1159	155	0.050850	5	778.5791855	703.88
1312	6	$\Omega$	5	756.1487419	647.72
993	44	0.015875	3	718.0338654	704.08
1882	$\overline{4}$	$\Omega$	$\overline{4}$	714.651491	645.12
1669	241	0.128871	3	693.0661212	701.62
869	36	0.003789	3	683.0508954	702.42
1	96	0.025603	3	674.3651542	706.34
1618	17	$\Omega$	5	667.307672	704.86
585	75	0.008709	$\overline{2}$	653.1068147	708.86

have greater influence, which can promote information dissemination, and can find some nodes with less prominent structural characteristics but larger actual influence.

## **5 Conclusion**

Identifying nodes that have greater influence on the dissemination of information in social networks is a hot research field in social networks. However, there are few methods in the existing algorithms for evaluating node importance to study the influence of communities on the dissemination of information in social networks. In this paper, a node importance evaluation algorithm based on community influence is proposed. After the network is divided into communities, the influence of communities and the influence of nodes on communities are evaluated. Finally, the importance of nodes is comprehensively evaluated by combining both. The experimental results show that the nodes with high importance evaluated by the algorithm have high influence in the network, which can promote the dissemination of information, and can find some nodes with high influence but not prominent structural characteristics.

For the next step, we plan to introduce content features and user behavior features in social networks to integrate the importance of computing nodes.

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# **PCA Based Kernel Initialization for Convolutional Neural Networks**

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**Abstract.** The initialization of Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) is about providing reasonable initial values for the convolution kernels and the fully connected layers. In this paper, we proposed a convolution kernel initialization method based on the two-dimensional principal component analysis (2DPCA), in which a parametric equalization normalization method is used to adjust the scale between each neuron weight. After that the weight initial value can be adaptively adjusted according to different data samples. This method enables each neuron to fully back-propagate errors and accelerate network model training. Finally, a network model was built and experiments were performed using  $Tanh$ and ReLU activation functions. The experimental results verify the effectiveness of the proposed method through the distribution of histograms and the curve comparison diagrams of model training.

**Keywords:** Convolutional neural networks · Convolution kernel initialization  $\cdot$  PCA  $\cdot$  Parametric equalization normalization

## **1 Introduction**

The Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) [\[2](#page-93-0)], as representative deep learning models, have a remarkable ability to extract features directly from the original images and recognize the rules of these visual images with minimal preprocessing. The most common form of the CNNs architecture stacks a number of convolutional and pooling layers optionally followed by fully connected layers. Most notable among these is the convolution kernel which is a small trainable matrix used for features detection. The initialization of CNNs is about providing reasonable initial values for the convolution kernels and the fully connected layers.

The kernel initialization of the CNNs is an issue worthy of discussion. For simple Neural Networks (NN), random initialization would be a good choice. G. Thimm and E. Fiesler designed experiments to test the random weight initialization methods on the multilayer perceptron and the high order networks [\[8](#page-93-1)]. He et al. found that the rectifying activation unit is very important for the neural network, and proposed a Parametric Rectified Linear Unit (PReLU) to generalize the traditional rectified units. It is well to be reminded that they derived a robust initialization method, particularly considering the rectifier nonlinearities [\[1](#page-92-0)]. Sun et al. proposed Multi-layer Maxout Networks (MMN) with multi-layer which can train active function, and deduced a new initialization method dedicated to the activation of MMN. The method can reduce the movement of internal covariates when the signal propagates through the layer [\[6\]](#page-93-2). A. Pacheco determined the input weights and bias for the Extreme Learning Machine (ELM) by using the Restricted Boltzmann Machine (RBM), named as RBM-ELM [\[4\]](#page-93-3). Similarly, Zhang and Ji also constructed a RBM model to pre-train convolution kernels. The trained weight matrix is transformed to initialize the convolution kernel parameters of the CNNs [\[11\]](#page-93-4). Liu et al. proposed an image extraction algorithm by mixing the AutoEncoder and the CNNs. They utilized the AutoEncoder to train the basic elements of image and initialized the convolution kernel of the CNNs [\[3\]](#page-93-5). Yang et al. used sparse coding to extract the convolution kernel for initialization, which can shorten the training time and raise the recognition rate [\[9](#page-93-6)]. In target super resolution, Li et al. proposed a Multi-channel Convolution image Super-Resolution (MCSR) algorithm, which used a residual CNN based on sparse coding and an MSRA initialization method to accelerate model training the convergence  $[10]$ . M. S. Seyfioğlu compared two NN initialization methods, unsupervised pre-training and transfer-learning, in training the deep NN on small data sets  $[5]$ . Tang et al. employed k-means unsupervised feature learning as the pre-training process, instead of the traditional random initialization weights [\[7\]](#page-93-9). So far, there are no unified understanding and development methods for the initialization problem of the CNNs. Moreover, the current initialization methods gave no considerations to the sample information and cannot automatically adapt to variation of the samples. In this paper, we attempt to employ the Principal Component Analysis (PCA) into kernel initialization and propose a parametric equalization normalization to adjust the scale among the neuron weights.

The rest of the article is organized as follows. Section [2](#page-83-0) reviews the methods of the convolution kernel initialization. Section [3](#page-85-0) proposed the PCA-based convolution kernel initialization with balanced normalization. Section [4](#page-89-0) presents the experimental configuration and results; finally, the conclusions are presented in Sect. [5.](#page-92-1)

## <span id="page-83-0"></span>**2 Convolution Kernel Initialization**

There are mainly three initialization methods: random initialization, Xavier initialization and MSRA Initialization.

### **2.1 Random Initialization**

The random initialization method generally refers to the normal distribution randomization method. It defines a random variable  $x$ , which obeys a probability distribution  $f(x)$  with mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$ . We have the following probability density function.

$$
f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)
$$
 (1)

The random variable distribution obeys the normal distribution, referred to as  $f(x) \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  are set as different values. The mean  $\mu$  affects the symmetry center of the curve, and the standard deviation  $\sigma$  influences the smoothness of the curve. The larger the  $\mu$  is, the smoother the curve will be. The random initialization method initializes each parameter of the convolution kernel according to the Gaussian probability distribution.

### **2.2 Xavier Initialization**

Xavier Glorot et al. [\[12](#page-93-10)] proposed the Xavier initialization method whose core idea is to keep the variance of input and output consistent and prevent all output values from going to 0. The literature derivation gives the specific form of Xavier initialization:

$$
W \sim U\left(-\frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{n_j + n_{j+1}}}, \frac{\sqrt{6}}{\sqrt{n_j + n_{j+1}}}\right) \tag{2}
$$

where  $n_i$  is the total number of input neurons for each feature map of the layer, and  $n_{i+1}$  is the total number of output neurons. The U denotes a uniform distribution within this range. Each weight parameter is randomly initialized to random value which obeys this uniformly distribution. The parameters of the method only depend on the number of input and output neurons, do not need to manually set parameters, and are completely adaptive to the size of the network model itself, and are more stable and easy to use than the random initialization method.

#### **2.3 MSRA Initialization**

The MSRA initialization method is an improved method for Xavier. It is particularly applicable to the most popular  $Relu$  function. Its specific form is shown in  $(3)$ . It is a normal distribution with a mean 0 and a variance  $2/n$ .

<span id="page-84-0"></span>
$$
W \sim G\left[0, \sqrt{\frac{2}{n}}\right] \tag{3}
$$

where  $n$  is the number of inputs to the layer, and  $G$  denotes that obeys a normal distribution. The parameters of this method are only dependent on the number of neurons of one input, less than the two parameters of Xavier, and are particularly suitable for Relu functions.

## <span id="page-85-0"></span>**3 PCA-Based Convolution Kernel Initialization with Balanced Normalization**

In this section, we employ the Two-Dimensional Principal Component Analysis (2DPCA) to extract the feature vectors of the image and introduce an equalization normalization method to adjust the scale of the weight between layers.

## **3.1 Two-Dimensional Principal Component Analysis**

Suppose there is an image sample set  $X = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N\}$ , the number of sample sets is N, and the dimension is  $m \times n$ . Projecting images in both row and column directions, so that the variance remaining in the subspace is the largest. The fact that 2DPCA uses orthogonal transformation to eliminate the correlation between the original vectors should be paid attention too. The two principal components obtained are linearly independent. Therefore, the principal component may represent higher information than the original data. The specific 2DPCA calculation steps are as follows:

- (1) Calculate the average of all image samples:  $\overline{X} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} X_i$ ;
- (2) Calculate the covariance matrix:  $G_t = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N (X_i \overline{X})^T (X_i \overline{X});$
- (3) The eigenvalue decomposition of the covariance matrix  $G_t$  is performed by using the Jacobian method to obtain the corresponding eigenvalue  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \cdots, \lambda_d$  and the eigenvector corresponding to each eigenvalue. The eigenvector corresponding to the largest  $k$  eigenvalues is selected to compose the projection matrix  $U=[u_1, u_2, \cdots, u_k] \in R^{n \times k}$ ;
- (4) Do feature extraction to every sample data by column:  $F_i = X_i \cdot U \in R^{m \times k}$ , what is obtained is the feature of  $X_i$ . The original two-dimensional  $m \times n$ size image is now reduced to  $m \times k$ , that is, the number of bits of the matrix column vectoris compressed after the feature extraction, and the number of row is not changed;
- (5) After the above process, a new sample  $F_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, N$  is obtained. On the new sample, repeat step (1) (2) construct a new covariance matrix  $G_t^*$ :  $G^*_t = \frac{1}{N}\sum^{\cdot}$ N  $\sum_{i=1}$  $(F_i - \overline{F})^T (F_i - \overline{F});$
- (6) Similarly, repeat step (3) to take the feature vector corresponding to the largest d eigenvalues to obtain the projection matrix in the row direction  $V = [v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_d].$

Since the variance of each principal component is gradually reduced, the key information included is also decremented. So generally, the contribution rate can indicate the amount of information occupied by a principal component. Specifically, it refers to the proportion of the cumulative value of the total variance of a principal component, also, the proportion of the sum of a feature value to the sum of all feature values, which is:

$$
\eta = \frac{\lambda_i}{\sum\limits_{i=1}^d \lambda_i} \tag{4}
$$

### <span id="page-86-1"></span>**3.2 2DPCA Initialization**

The 2DPCA method is used to initialize each convolution kernel in the network. The initialization is based on training sample data. The size of the convolution kernel is  $R_k \times R_k$ . The size of the input map for each layer is set to  $C_k \times C_k$ . There are a total of  $D_k$  maps. The process is as follows.

- (1) Manually select one picture for each category from all the data. That is, a total of n pictures can be selected. Each picture can correspond to a category of its own.
- (2) Count the number of neurons input and output for each convolutional layer, and use the Xavier initialization method to initialize all the parameter weights  $W_{k,i,j}$  for each convolutional layer in turn. The  $W_{k,i,j}$  denotes the weight of the j-th window of the *i*-th convolution kernel in the *k*-th layer, and all offsets are initialized to 0.
- (3) Do forward-propagating to each picture, and obtain the corresponding feature map  $C_{k,i,z}$ ,  $z \in [1,N]$ , which denotes the *i*-th feature map of the *k*-th layer of the z-th picture. The size  $r_k$  of the feature map obtained between different layers is different. The inputting size of picture of each layer is  $C_k - R_k + 1.$
- (4) Combine the feature maps of the same location corresponding to different pictures into a set  $P_{k,i}$ , which indicates the *i*-th feature map of the *k*-th layer, and sample the  $R_k \times R_k$  window size of all the graphs in the set to obtain the image set  $P_{k,i}$ . And the number of sampling result in  $P_{k,i}$  is  $n \times (r_k - R_k + 1) \times (r_k - R_k + 1).$
- (5) Calculating all the images in the set  $P_{k,j}$  according to the 2DPCA steps in 3.3.1, then obtain the corresponding projection matrix  $U_{k,j}, V_{k,j} \in R^{R_k \times R_k}$ , which correspond to the two columns and rows, and the feature value sets  $\lambda_u$  and  $\lambda_v$  corresponding to each feature vector.
- (6) After arbitrarily adding the eigenvalues in  $\lambda_u$  and  $\lambda_v$  get a new set  $\lambda^*$ , take the largest  $D_k$  values before. Every value corresponds to the two eigenvectors  $\xi_u^a$  and  $\xi_v^b$  respectively. Calculating  $\xi_v^b * \xi_u^{aT}$  in turn yields a set of evaluation matrices  $M = \{M_1, M_2, \cdots M_T\}$ , where the maximum value of T is  $R_k^2$ . Then the initialize the convolution kernel in turn.

#### **3.3 Parametric Equalization Normalization**

For an N-layer convolutional neural network, the loss function is defined as  $\ell(z_N)$ . We usually want the gradient of the weight  $W_k(i, j)$  of the k-th layer to satisfy the following form:

<span id="page-86-0"></span>
$$
C_{k,i,j}^2 = E_{z_0} \sim D\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial W_k(i,j)}\ell(z_N)\right] = E_{z_0} \sim D\left[z_{k-1}(j)\frac{\partial}{\partial z_k(i)}\ell(z_N)\right] \quad (5)
$$

where D is the set of input images and  $y_k = \frac{\partial}{\partial z_k} \ell(z_N)$  is the backpropagation error. A similar formula can also be applied to offset  $b_k$ , except that the coefficient becomes constant 1.

In order to make all parameters be able to learn at the same speed, we need to scale [\(5\)](#page-86-0) proportionally, hoping to be a constant for all weights:

<span id="page-87-0"></span>
$$
\overline{C}_{k,i,j}^2 = \frac{C_{k,i,j}^2}{\|W_k\|_2^2}
$$
 (6)

Among them,  $\|W_k\|_2^2$  represents the 2-norm square of matrix  $W_k$ , but due to the effect of nonlinear activation function, this condition is difficult to control and guarantee, and the change of weight will directly affect the final output value  $y_k$ . We therefore need to simplify [\(6\)](#page-87-0) so that each convolution kernel in the same layer  $W_k$  satisfies about a constant, rather than strictly for all weights:

$$
\overline{C}_{k,j}^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i} \overline{C}_{k,i,j}^2 = \frac{1}{N \left\| W_k \right\|_2^2} E_{z_0} \sim D \left[ z_{k-1}^2 \left( j \right) \left\| y_k \right\|_2^2 \right] \tag{7}
$$

where  $N$  is the number of rows of the weight matrix. This formula makes all the values in the same weight matrix have the same trend. At the same time, we can note that for the input in the layer has little effect on the gradient in the entire network. It can be seen that  $z_{k-1}$  (j) and  $||y_k||$  are independent of each other, so we can further simplify the objective function:

$$
\overline{C}_{k,j}^2 \approx E_{z_0} \sim D\left[z_{k-1}(j)^2\right] \frac{E_{z_0} \sim D\left[\|y_k\|_2^2\right]}{N\left\|W_k\right\|_2^2}
$$
\n(8)

The method taking the approximate value is convenient to adjust the change rate of the weight of each layer.

**Intra-layer Equalization Normalization.** For the sake of clarity, the pseudocode of the intra-layer equalization normalization is shown in Algorithm 1. For all hidden layers  $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$  in the network, we calculate the mean and standard deviation of all output values, and make all the output values satisfy the unit mean  $\beta$  and unit variance, that is, calculate the average value  $\hat{\mu}_k(i)$ and the variance value  $\hat{\sigma}_k(i)^2$  of the output value of each channel  $z_k(i)$  first, and then the weights  $W_k$  and offsets  $b_k$  are divided by the coefficients respectively to make adjustment.

$$
W_k(i,:) \leftarrow W_k(i,:) / \hat{\sigma}_k(i)
$$
\n
$$
(9)
$$

$$
b_{k}(i) \leftarrow \beta = \hat{\mu}_{k}(i) / \hat{\sigma}_{k}(i)
$$
\n(10)

**Inter-layer Equalization Normalization.** The parameter adjustment method in Intra-layer Equalization Normalization makes the output of each layer satisfy a variance of 1, and for all the rate of change  $C_{k,i}^2$  in  $W_k$  is a constant. However, it does not guarantee the rate of change between layers. Here we use an iterative method to make the rate of change  $C_{k,i}^2$  between all layers be a constant. The pseudo-code of crossover operator is shown in Algorithm 2.



9: **return** W*k*, b*<sup>k</sup>*

**Algorithm 2.** Inter-layer Equalization Normalization

**Input:** the number of layers N

**Output:** the weights  $W_k$  and offsets  $b_k$ 

- 1: Randomly initializes weights  $W_k$
- 2: Set all the offsets as  $b_k=0$
- 3: Select a part of the sample data  $z_0 \in \overline{D} \subset D$  from the training data set;
- 4: **for all** N layers **do**
- 5: Calculate the ratio  $\overline{C}_k = E_j \left| \overline{C}_{k,j} \right|$  for each layer;
- 6: Calculate a scale change coefficient  $r_k = (\bar{C}/\bar{C}_k)^{\alpha/2}$ ,  $\alpha$  is an attenuation factor;
- 7: Update the weight and offset of each layer:  $W_k \leftarrow r_k W_k$  and  $b_k \leftarrow r_k b_k \pounds$
- 8: **end for**
- 9: **return**  $W_k$ ,  $b_k$

### **3.4 Convolution Kernel Initialization Procedure Based on 2DPCA and Equalization Normalization**

Assume that there are a total of n categories of picture data to be trained, the size of the convolution kernel of each convolution layer k is  $R_k \times R_k$ , the number of convolution kernels per layer is  $p_i$ , and N is the number of convolutional layers which determined by the model:

- (1) Get the evaluation matrix set M according to the 2DPCA initialization process in Sect. [3.2;](#page-86-1)
- (2) If the number of sets  $M$  is greater than or equal to the number of convolution kernels  $p_k$ , initialize all the  $p_k$  convolution kernels by taking the matrix corresponding to the previous  $p_k$  eigenvalue according to the value size  $\lambda^*$ ; If the number of feature vectors  $d_k$  is less than the number of convolution kernels  $p_k$ , initialize the first  $d_k$  convolution kernels with all the assignment matrices, and the remaining uninitialized convolution kernel roulette algorithm randomly selects the assignment matrix into the weight matrix  $W_k$ of the current convolution layer;
- (3) Using Algorithm 1, each convolutional layer is calculated separately, and calculate the mean  $\hat{\mu}_k$  and variance  $\hat{\sigma}_k^2$  of  $p_k$  convolution kernels within each layer;
- (4) Using Algorithm 2, the entire set of weight matrixes are firstly extracted in the entire network model. The dimensions of each weight are different. The number of columns and rows in the matrix are the size and the number of the k-th layer convolution kernel, respectively. Then the iterative operation of the weight adjustment is performed:
- (4.1) Traverse all N weight matrices and calculate  $\overline{C}_k$  for each layer;
- $(4.2)$  Calculate the global average ratio C;
- $(4.3)$  Then calculate the scale factor  $r_k$ ;
- $(4.4)$  Adjust the weight  $W_k$  and bias  $b_k$ .

The above operations are iterated until the weight adjustment approaches convergence, and a new set of weight matrices  $\{W', W', w', \cdots, W'\}$  is obtained and assigned (approximately 10 iterations).

## <span id="page-89-0"></span>**4 Experiments and Results**

The experiment of this article is trained on Alibaba Cloud Server. The CPU model is Intel Xeon Platinum 8163 (dual core). The processor is clocked at 2.5 GHz. It uses only the CPU for training. The operating system is Windows server 2012R, and the memory size is 8 GB. The programming language is  $c/c++$ .

## **4.1 Histogram Analysis**

The output values of six hidden layers are counted in turn. The activation function uses the Tanh and Relu functions to draw the distribution histograms of the output values. Their histograms respectively as shown in Fig.  $1$  and Fig.  $2$ , respectively.

From Fig. [1](#page-90-0) and Fig. [2,](#page-90-1) it is relatively reasonable for the distribution of each layer of the two models. The distribution of the output values of each layer is not much different, and the parameters of back propagation adjustment are all better, which makes the model easier to training. At the same time, since the algorithm is based on the specific training sample data after the principal component analysis is performed for initialization, the initial value of the convolution kernel is more suitable for this sample data, and there will be a good starting point for the optimization of such nonconvex functions.



Fig. 1. The output distribution histogram with Tanh activation function.

<span id="page-90-0"></span>

<span id="page-90-1"></span>**Fig. 2.** The output distribution histogram with Relu activation function.

#### **4.2 Model Comparison**

In order to verify the performance of the initialization algorithm proposed in this chapter, the algorithm was applied to the classical hand-written digital data set MNIST for verification. Relu and  $Tanh$  were used as activation functions to calculate the accuracy rate after each training. The experimental results were compared with other classical Gaussian random initialization, Xavier initialization, and MSRA initialization methods to detect the rate of increase in recognition rate. Draw a graph of the accuracy rate of the training process.

The experiment adopts the classical Lenet-5 convolutional neural network model. The model consists of two convolutional layers and two alternating pooling layers, finally connects to a fully connected layer. Among them, the convolution kernel size is  $5 \times 5$ , the step length is 1, the pooling window size is  $2 \times 2$ , and the step size is also 2. That is, using the non-overlapping pooling and the pooling method is the maximum pooling. Whats more, the dropout regularization mechanism is added in the full connection layer to enhance the generalization ability of the network. The batch size is 1, that is, every time an image is passed

in, it will adjust weight values by back-propagating and calculate the error. In order to make comparison images more clearly and avoid the interference caused by the curve crossover, calculate the overall accuracy rate after every 10 training charts, that is, the accuracy rate equels the correct number of identification pictures/the number of trained pictures. The total number of iterations is 400, that is, the curve obtained by training 4000 images. Each algorithm counts 5 times and takes the average value.

When the activation function takes  $Relu$ , the comparison curve of the accuracy during the training of the three different initialization methods is shown in Fig. [3.](#page-91-0)

<span id="page-91-0"></span>

Fig. 3. The accuracy curves of different initialization methods with Relu activation function.

This experiment mainly contrasts the rising rate of recognition rate during training, that is, the convergence speed of the network model. From this experimental comparison chart, it can be seen that the accuracy of the four initialization methods rises as the training progresses. The recognition rate of the 2DPCA initialization method proposed in this paper rises fastest in the early stage, and it can reach the accuracy rate of 0.3 at the beginning of the training. However, the accuracy of the other methods is only 0.1 at the beginning. And for the 10 classification problem, the probability of random selection is 0.1. It can be seen that since the 2DPCA initialization is based on the actual data image initialization, a weight value suitable for the sample data can be initialized directly, and the optimization is started from a good starting point, and the accuracy rate is increased faster. And the other three methods are not based on sample data. The MSRA initialization effect is relatively good, it proves that it is indeed suitable for Relu activation function (Fig. [4\)](#page-92-2).

It can be seen from this experiment that MSRA and Xavier have similar effects, when Tanh is used as an activation function. Since MSRA is not particularly suitable for  $Tanh$  functions, the effect is lower than  $Relu$  as an activation function, and the Xavier effect on the Tanh function is slightly higher than the MSRA initialization. Among them, the effect of 2DPCA initialized based on the sample data is still the best, and the accuracy rate of the initial period is the

<span id="page-92-2"></span>

**Fig. 4.** The accuracy curves of different initialization methods with Tanh activation function.

fastest. It can be seen that the 2DPCA initialization method both has a good effect in the Relu activation function and the Tanh activation function, and is not limited by the type of the specific activation function.

### <span id="page-92-1"></span>**5 Conclusion**

This paper studies the initialization method of convolutional neural network, statistics the output value of each layer under different initialization methods and draws a histogram, and analyzes the distribution of output values from the histogram. 2DPCA-based convolution kernel initialization method is proposed for the problem of its distribution. 2DPCA is used to extract key features from the sample data and initialize the convolution kernel, and an equalization normalization method is introduced to adjust the size of the weights between the layers. The method does not need to manually set hyper-parameters, avoids random values, and does not have limitations on the types of activation functions. The parameters are completely determined according to the characteristics of specific training sample data. Finally, the histogram distribution and the curve comparison diagram of the model training show that the proposed method can effectively avoid the uncertainty caused by initializing the weights and accelerate the training speed of the entire model.

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# **Research on PM2.5 Integrated Prediction Model Based on Lasso-RF-GAM**

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**Abstract.** PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration is very difficult to predict, for it is the result of complex interactions among various factors. This paper combines the random forest-recursive feature elimination algorithm and lasso regression for joint feature selection, puts forward a  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  concentration prediction model based on GAM. Firstly, the original data is standardized in the data input layer. Secondly, features were selected with RF-RFE and lasso regression algorithm in the feature selection layer. Meanwhile, weighted average method fused the two feature subsets to obtain the final subset, RF-lasso-T. Finally, the generalized additive models (GAM) is used to predict PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration on the RF-lasso-T. Simulated experiments show that feature selection allows GAM model to run more efficiently. The deviance explained by the model reaches 91.5%, which is higher than only using a subset of RF-RFE. This model also reveals the influence of various factors on  $PM<sub>2</sub>$ , which provides the decision-making basis for haze control.

**Keywords:** PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration  $\cdot$  Random Forest-RFE  $\cdot$  Lasso method  $\cdot$ Feature fusion · GAM model

## **1 Introduction**

In recent years, PM  $_2$  s concentration has increased astronomically on almost every continent, and studies show that the damage done are catastrophic and some are even irreversible. Not long-ago the data collected by the Chinese Ministry of Environmental protection presented a sharp increase in both PM2.5 concentration and cardiovascular disease. Researchers have shown that high  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration is the main cause of lung cancer, respiratory disease, and metabolic disease [\[1\]](#page-105-0).

Predicting  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration has been done in article [\[2\]](#page-105-1), Professor Joharestani and Professor Cao collected  $PM_{2,5}$  air pollution data and climatic features. With Random Forest Modeling and Extreme Gradient Boosting, they were able to form a model to predict  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  in the certain areas. But unfortunately, meteorological phenomes caused their data inaccuracy. The data in our experiment was professionally measured and provided by China's National Population and Health Science Data Sharing Service Platform.

The rest of the paper is arranged as the following: In the second part of this paper, the relevant research work is introduced, and in the third part, a  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration

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prediction model is proposed. This model combines RF-RFE method and lasso model for joint feature selection. Then, the  $PM_2$  s concentration prediction model based on GAM is constructed. The model is verified by using the meteorological monitoring data and pollution index monitoring data of the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The experimental results show the effectiveness of the integrated model. In the fourth part, it is summarized that the model can be used to predict the concentration of  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$ , which is helpful for the relevant departments to better understand the influencing factors of  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$ concentration and provide auxiliary decision-making basis for air pollution control.

## **2 Related Research Work**

### **2.1 RF-RFE Method**

RF(Random forest) and RF-RFE(Random Forest-Recursive Feature Elimination algorithm) are both descendants of machine-learning. RF is compatible with highdimensional problems and can predict nonlinear relationships with the downside of its frequent inability to identify strong predictors in the presence of other correlated predictors [\[3\]](#page-105-2).

Random forest can be used for parallel operation, regression analysis, classification, unsupervised learning, and other statistical data analysis; even when there is a large proportion of data missing from the data set, it has the ability to estimate the absent data value, and keep the accuracy unchanged. Based on the above characteristics, this study will select random forest for RFE and RF-RFE for feature selection of PM2.5 concentration influencing factors.

### **2.2 Lasso Regression**

The lasso method (Least Absolute Shrinkage and Selection Operator) was first introduced by Professor Robert Tibshirani. The Lasso method which include the regression shrinkage and selection. It is said to "minimize the residual sum of squares subject to the sum of the absolute value of the coefficients being less than a constant." [\[4\]](#page-105-3) Ultimately, Lasso has the ability to achieve two main tasks, regularization and feature selection. In a recent study with Professor Lingzhen Dai and his colleagues, they used the adaptive Lasso method to identify PM2.5 components associated with Blood Pressure in Elderly man. [\[5\]](#page-105-4) Adaptive Lasso is a more recent version of Lasso, it uses weight to penalize different predictors and allows the researchers in this study to identify the right subset model and satisfy asymptotic normality.

For the given data  $(X^i, y_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \ldots N$ ,  $X^i = (X_{i1}, \ldots X_{ip})^T$  are the predictor variables and  $y_i$  are the responses. The mathematical expression of lasso method is

$$
(\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}) = \arg\min\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{N} (y_i - \alpha - \sum_j \beta_j x_{ij})^2\right\}, \text{ subject to } \sum_j |\beta_j| \le t. \tag{1}
$$

Where,  $t \ge 0$  is a tuning parameter.  $\alpha$  is the penalty parameter, which has a negative correlation with the number of features finally selected; β is the coefficient corresponding to the characteristic words in each column of the independent variable x. L1 regularization adds the L1 norm of coefficient β as the penalty term to the loss function, because the regular term is non-zero, thus forcing the coefficient corresponding to the weak feature to become 0.

### **2.3 Generalized Additive Models (GAM)**

In order to reach a better understanding of GAM (Generalized Additive Models), one should be familiar with its close relative GLM (Generalized Linear Models). GLM is a generalization for logistic regression in a linear regression.

The general form of GAM is:

$$
\log(\lambda) = \alpha + \sum_{i=1}^{P} f_i(x_i)
$$
 (2)

Where  $f_i$  represents smoothing functions such as smooth spline, natural cubic spline and local regression [\[6\]](#page-105-5).

## **3 PM2.5 Integrated Prediction Model Based on Feature Selection and GAM Model**

The RF-RFE-lasso and GAM algorithms are used to form the  $PM_{2,5}$  integrated prediction model.

The model structure is shown as Fig. [1.](#page-96-0)



<span id="page-96-0"></span>**Fig. 1.** PM $_2$  5 concentration integration model

## **3.1 Data Preprocessing**

### **3.1.1 Data Source**

The experimental data are provided by China's National Population and Health Science Data Sharing Service Platform and released by the Ministry of Environmental Protection. [\(http://www.ncmi.cn/\)](http://www.ncmi.cn/). Data Set 1 is the air pollution index of provincial capitals from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016. Data set 2 is the surface meteorological data from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016. The variables selected for this specific experiment are listed in Table [1.](#page-97-0)

<span id="page-97-0"></span>

Variable	Parameter	Unit	Period
X1	$PM_{10}$	$\mu$ g/m <sup>3</sup>	2015.1-2016.12
X2	SO <sub>2</sub>	$\mu$ g/m <sup>3</sup>	
X <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	$\mu$ g/m <sup>3</sup>	
X <sub>4</sub>	O <sub>3</sub>	$\mu$ g/m <sup>3</sup>	
X5	Pressure	$0.1$ hPa	
X6	Pressure max	$0.1$ hPa	
X7	Pressure min	$0.1$ hPa	
X8	Temperature	$0.1 \text{ }^{\circ}C$	
X9	Temperature max	$0.1 \text{ }^{\circ}C$	
X10	Temperature min	$0.1 \text{ }^{\circ}C$	
X11	Relative humidity	$1\%$	
X12	Relative humidity min	$1\%$	
X13	Daily rainfall	$0.1$ mm	
X14	Wind speed	$0.1 \text{ m/s}$	
X15	Wind speed max	$0.1$ m/s	
X16	Direction of Wind speed max		
X17	Wind speed extreme max	$0.1$ m/s	
X18	Direction of Wind speed max		
X19	sun	0.1 <sub>h</sub>	

**Table 1.** Parameter information

### **3.1.2 Data Standardization**

As presented in Table [1,](#page-97-0) each data item has different dimensions. When joint analysis is carried out, Z-Score standardization method is selected for dimensionless standardization processing, as shown in Formula [\(3\)](#page-98-0).

<span id="page-98-0"></span>
$$
Znorm(x_i) = \frac{x_i - \overline{X}}{\sigma(X)}.
$$
\n(3)

Where  $x_i$  represents the original value,  $\overline{X}$  represents the mean value of the original data,  $\sigma(X)$  is the standard deviation of the original data, and **Znorm** $(x_i)$  is the standardized result.

#### **3.2 Feature Selection**

The complex nonlinear relationship between various indexes of air quality monitoring and  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration and the multicollinearity among air quality indexes affects the performance of the model. For our specific experiment, the RF-RFE algorithm is utilized alongside Lasso algorithm to select a feature subset with stronger correlation with the results, so as to improve the prediction accuracy and efficiency of the model.

### **3.2.1 Feature Selection Based on RF-RFE**

The RF-RFE algorithm is used to filter the 19 variables in Table [1,](#page-97-0) and the resulting feature subset is the subset corresponding to the minimum root mean square error (RMSE).

The implementation process of the RFE method is as follows:

- (1) Construct a feature matrix with the given feature vectors in the data set, each row represents a sample and each column corresponds to a feature;
- (2) Set the control parameters for constructing RFE function and adopt random forest function as well as the 20-fold cross-validation sampling method;
- (3) RFE algorithm is used to sort these features according to their correlation with PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration;
- (4) Based on the ranking results, the first N (N is the number of features meeting the user's needs) features with the highest correlation with  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  concentration are selected as the featured subset.

The final number of features is 9, namely  $PM_{10}$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $RH_$ ave,  $SO_2$ ,  $RH_$ min, wind\_ex, sun,  $O_3$ , and wind\_max. As shown in Fig. [2.](#page-99-0)



**Fig. 2.** RF-RFE result graph

### <span id="page-99-0"></span>**3.2.2 Feature Selection Based on Lasso**

Lasso estimation is carried out on all independent variables, and the change process of regression coefficient is shown in Fig. [3.](#page-99-1)



**Fig. 3.** Lasso estimation path map

<span id="page-99-1"></span>In the figure, the abscissa serves as the value of β, or the number of steps, and the parameters represented by the ordinate appear as the vertical lines. The vertical line in the figure corresponds to the number of iterations in lasso.

The final selected feature subset is shown in Table [2.](#page-100-0)

<span id="page-100-0"></span>

Variable	$PM_{10}$	NO <sub>2</sub>	RH ave	RH min	SO <sub>2</sub>
Range	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00
Variable	O <sub>3</sub>	wind direction max	season	wind ave	wind direction ex
Range	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00
Variable	precipitation	wind max	pre_ave	wind ex	temp_min
Range	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00

**Table 2.** Feature selected with Lasso

### **3.2.3 Feature Subset Fusion**

Common feature subset fusion methods include feature element intersection method and weighted fusion method. The general form of the weighted fusion formula is.

$$
\frac{(a_1 * mathod1 + a_2 ... a_n * methodn)}{n}
$$
 (4)

 $a_1, a_2$ , etc. are the weighting coefficients of the feature subset, where  $a_1 + a_2 + a_3$  $\ldots a_n = 1$ .

The weighted average method is used to obtain the fused subset of the RF-RFE and the lasso feature subsets. The process is as follows: in line with the ordering of each feature in the RF-RFE feature subset and the lasso subset, the corresponding score is assigned in ascending order based on rank. The weights coefficients of both subsets are set to 50% and the total score of each feature is added and averaged. Finally, the top 12 features with the highest average score are selected as the final feature subsets and given the corresponding name. RF-lasso-T, as shown in Table [3:](#page-100-1)

<span id="page-100-1"></span>

Serial number	Features	Score	Average value
1	$PM_{10}$	15	7.5
2	NO <sub>2</sub>	14	7
3	RH ave	26	13
$\overline{4}$	SO <sub>2</sub>	23	11.5
5	RH_min	23	11.5
6	$O_3$	18	9
$\tau$	wind ex	12	6
8	wind_max	11	5.5
9	sun	9	4.5
10	wind_direction_max	9	4.5
11	season	8	4
12	wind_ave	7	3.5

**Table 3.** Joint feature subset

#### **3.3 Construction of PM2.5 Concentration Prediction Model**

#### **3.3.1 Prediction Model of PM2.5 Concentration and Influencing Factors**

Based on the joint feature subsets obtained by RF-RFE and lasso methods,  $PM_{10}$ ,  $SO_2$ , NO<sub>2</sub> concentration and other explanatory variables were introduced into the model. The effects of explanatory variables are eliminated as a result of a smoothing spline function while seasonal dummy variables are introduced to eliminate periodic effects. The degree of freedom is selected by determining the smallest sum of the absolute values of the model partial autocorrelation (PACF). The GAM model constructed by the joint feature subset RF-lasso-T is shown in formula  $(5)$ :

<span id="page-101-0"></span>
$$
Y(PM2.5) = \sum_{i=1}^{j} s(X) + \alpha.
$$
 (5)

Where Y is the concentration of  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$ , X refers to the variable, I is the serial number of each variable, J is the number of variables, and S is the smooth function of the model. The entire model adopts the Gaussian iteration method.

### **3.3.2 Analysis of Prediction Results**

In agreement with the 80% and 20% proportion, the whole data set is divided into a training set and a test set.

On the training set, two GAM models were constructed, one being with the feature fusion subset RF-lasso-T and the other using the full feature subset. The execution duration of the two models is compared shown as in the following figure (Fig. [4\)](#page-101-1):



**Fig. 4.** Model time-consuming comparison chart

<span id="page-101-1"></span>Evidently, the prediction time of the integrated GAM model is lower than that of the GAM model only whereas the deviance explained by GAM model based on RF-lasso-T is 91.5%, which is higher than that of GAM model based on RF-RFE (90.9%). The test results of RF-lasso-T-GAM model are shown in Table [4:](#page-102-0)

<span id="page-102-0"></span>

Coefficient	F	P
7.932	77.965	$< 2.00E - 16$
6.81	13.437	$< 2.00E - 16$
5.745	6.716	0.000000154
1.768	6.836	0.000861
6.637	2.26	0.019107
1.524	23.223	$7.36E - 10$
8.395	2.62	0.004357
2.816	1.226	0.420072
1	0.161	0.688202
1	1.297	0.255324
6.39	1.776	0.072678

**Table 4.** RF-lasso-T GAM model hypothesis test results

Note: the bold ones are significant influence factors.



Fig. 5. Effect chart of PM<sub>2.5</sub> influencing factors

<span id="page-102-1"></span>Figure [5](#page-102-1) displays the effect of the influencing factors on  $PM_{2,5}$ . Dotted line in the figure shows the point by point standard deviation of fitting variables, i.e. the upper and the lower limits of signal interval; solid line portrays the smooth fitting curve of  $PM_{2.5}$ concentration. Abscissa represents the measured value of each influence factor while ordinate denote the smooth fitting value of influence factors on  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration. The value in ordinate brackets represents the estimated freedom value. The results show that the concentrations of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $RH_{av}$ ,  $RH_{min}$ , wind\_ex, wind\_max, wind\_ave and PM<sub>2.5</sub> boast a non-linear relationship, while the concentrations of  $SO_2$ ,  $O_3$ , sun, wind\_direction\_max and  $PM_{2.5}$  consists of a linear relationship.

The overall data set was divided into training and test sets based on the ratio of 80% and 20%. The training model was used to simulate a 146-day data in the test set, and the  $PM_{2.5}$  daily concentration value was predicted. The model prediction fit is shown in Fig. [6.](#page-103-0) The average value of  $PM_{2.5}$  is 76.25, the average value of the predicted  $PM_{2.5}$  is 76.27, and the root mean square error is 0.377.



**Fig. 6.** Prediction fitting chart of PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration

## <span id="page-103-0"></span>**3.3.3 Analysis of Interaction Model of Influencing Factors**

The change in  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration can be affected by the interactions between influencing factors. In pursuance of the relationship between interactions and the concentration of  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$ , the smooth spline function is used to connect the influencing factors. With the combination of various pollutants and meteorological factors, an RF-lasso-T-GAM model was established. The deviance explained by the interaction model was 95.7% with an adjustment decision coefficient of 0.947. The results of the model show that cross variables such as  $PM_{10}$  and  $NO_2$ ,  $PM_{10}$  and  $RH_{\perp}$  are,  $PM_{10}$  and  $O_3$ ,  $PM_{10}$  and sun,  $NO_2$  and  $SO_2$ ,  $NO_2$  and  $RH_{\text{min}}$ ,  $NO_2$  and  $O_3$ ,  $NO_2$  and wind\_ex,  $RH_{\text{ave}}$  and  $SO_2$ , RH\_min and  $O_3$ , RH\_ave and  $O_3$ , RH\_ave and wind\_ex are significant at the level of  $P < 0.001$ . The cross terms include the interaction between air pollutants  $SO_2$ ,  $NO_2$ , PM<sub>10</sub> and meteorological elements as well as the interaction among air pollutants. All the above observations indicate that the change in  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration is affected by the interaction between air pollutants and meteorological elements.

Taking the remarkable interaction between  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  and various factors as an example, the interaction model is visually plotted and shown in Fig. [7.](#page-104-0)



<span id="page-104-0"></span>**Fig. 7.** Effect of interaction of influencing factors on  $PM_2$   $\varsigma$  concentration

As can be seen from Fig.  $7(1)$  $7(1)$ , when the NO<sub>2</sub> concentration is constant, with the increase of  $SO_2$ , the  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration increases first, then decreases and then increases, which demonstrates a wave-like upward trend. When  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  is constant, with the increase of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration, the concentration of  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  shows a trend of increasing first, then decreasing and then increasing. From Fig.  $7(2)$  $7(2)$ , when NO<sub>2</sub> concentration is constant, with the increase of RH\_min, the concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$  increases first, then decreases and then increases, but the overall trend is relatively stable. When RH\_min is constant, with the increase of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration, the concentration of  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  shows a wave-like upward trend of increasing first, then decreasing and then increasing. From Fig.  $7(3)$  $7(3)$ , when NO<sub>2</sub> concentration is constant, with the increase of wind ex, the concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$  decreases first and then increases, then increases again after a large decrease. When wind\_ex is constant, with the increase of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration, the concentration of  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  decreases first and then increases, then increases again after a large decrease. As can be seen from Fig.  $7(4)$  $7(4)$ , when the NO<sub>2</sub> concentration is constant, with the increase of  $O_3$ , the PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration increases sharply first and then decreases, and then gradually increases in a wave shape. When  $O_3$  is constant, with the increase of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$  concentration, the concentration of  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  shows a wave trend of decreasing first and then increasing, then there is a large decrease, and then it continues to rise.

## **4 Conclusion**

In this study, RF-RFE and Lasso method are used to select the characteristics of the air quality data set. The runtime efficiency of the RF-lasso-T based on GAM model is higher than the GAM model constructed directly on data sets without feature selection and the deviance explained by this model is higher than the GAM model using a single feature subset of RF-RFE. The fitting results of this model can be further analyzed to obtain the meteorological and pollution factors with significant influence on  $PM_{2.5}$ , as well as the linear and nonlinear relationship between meteorological factors and  $PM<sub>25</sub>$ concentration. Visual results are provided to support auxiliary decision-making basis for  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$  prediction and air pollution control.

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# **Research on Short-Term Urban Traffic Congestion Based on Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation and Machine Learning**

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Abstract. There are many factors that affect urban traffic flow. In the case of severe traffic congestion, the vehicle speed is very slow, which results in the GPS positioning system's estimation of the vehicle speed being very inaccurate, which in turn leads to poor reliability of the estimated congestion time of the road segment. The main contents of this study are: in the case of urban traffic congestion, the prediction and analysis of the degree of traffic congestion and the length of congestion. Taking the dynamic traffic data of Shenzhen on June 9, 2014 as an example, the road section of Binhe Avenue is selected, and the data of traffic flow, average speed of traffic volume and traffic volume density in the current time period are calculated after data preprocessing, as a measure of traffic. The main impact indicators of congestion status. Then we use the fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method to divide TSI as a traffic congestion evaluation index and divide the road congestion into four levels. In this way, we can get the congestion of the road in each time period of the day and the time required to pass. Then we use the random forest, adaboost, GBDT, Lasso CV and BP neural networks in the machine learning algorithm to build models to measure traffic congestion for training and testing. Finally, the BP neural network has the best effect on this problem, and mean square error is 0.0190. Finally, we used BP neural network to predict and congest the road in the next three hours. From the experimental simulation results, this method can effectively analyze and predict the real-time traffic congestion.

**Keywords:** Random forest · Adaboost · GBDT · Lasso CV · BP neural network · Fuzzy comprehensive evaluation

## **1 Introduction**

At present, there are many solutions for urban road congestion, such as the use of single and double day limit traffic. But the daily congestion on some roads is still not optimistic. There have been many studies on congestion, such as Fu Gui's short-term traffic flow

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prediction model based on support vector machine regression [\[1\]](#page-118-0), Dewey's short-term traffic prediction based on the combination of K nearest neighbor algorithm and support vector regression [\[2\]](#page-118-1) but its prediction There is a certain deviation between the result and the true value. Kang Danqing's research on short-term traffic flow prediction methods based on deep learning [\[3\]](#page-118-2) has better results but is more complicated. To this end, this paper compares the effects of various machine learning algorithms on this problem, and proposes that the back propagation based BP neural network has a better effect on the problem of short-term traffic flow prediction and is simpler than deep learning. The specific research content is as follows.

In this paper, the GPS data was collected in real time on a taxi on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange on June 19, 2014. After preprocessing by deleting invalid data, erroneous data, filling missing data, etc. The traffic flow, average speed of traffic volume and traffic volume density are extracted as the measurement indicators of traffic congestion, and the main influencing factors are determined by calculating the correlation between the indicators. Then through the use of various machine learning algorithms (random forest, adaboost, GBDT, LassoCV, BP neural network), through grid search cross-validation, the best parameters of each algorithm and accuracy under the best parameters are obtained. Comparing the effects of various models, it is obtained that the BP neural network has the highest effect in the current situation, and its mean squared error is 0.0190.

Based on the BP neural network, the BinHe avenue was selected, and a model based on fuzzy comprehensive evaluation to measure the time required for vehicles to pass through the congested road section was established. The congestion situation is divided into four levels: very smooth, unobstructed, congested, and severely congested. The congestion situation on the road section was analyzed on that day. Finally, the TSI evaluation index is used to analyze the effect of the model.

## **2 Research Methods**

## **2.1 Random Forest Algorithm of CART Tree**

CART can be used for regression analysis and classification analysis, and expanded some integrated algorithms based on CART. In order to solve the problem of large data volume and large data volume in a big data environment, this study chose CART as the basic random forest algorithm. The CART decision tree has the advantages of being easy to understand and has some nonlinear classification capabilities, but the single decision tree has some disadvantages. In integrated learning, the above defects can be improved through the random forest integration method. Random forest is composed of many decision trees, and there is no correlation between different decision trees, and the model generalization ability is stronger. The algorithm is mainly to randomly sample the samples, train the decision tree, and then classify the nodes according to the corresponding attributes until they are no longer split, and finally build a large number of decision trees to form a forest [\[4\]](#page-118-3).

## **2.2 Adaboost Algorithm**

Adaptive Boosting is a boosting method that combines multiple weak classifiers into a strong classifier. Its self-adaptation lies in: the weight of the sample that was divided by
the previous weak classifier (the weight corresponding to the sample) will be strengthened, and the sample with the updated weight will be used again to train the next new weak classifier. In each round of training, a new weak classifier is trained with the population (sample population) to generate new sample weights and the speech weight of the weak classifier, and iterates until it reaches a predetermined error rate or the specified maximum number of iterations.

# **2.3 GBDT Algorithm**

Gradient Boosting Decision Tree is a combination of GB (Gradient boosting) and DT (Decision Tree), that is, when a single learner in GB is a decision tree. Decision trees are divided into two categories, regression trees and classification trees. The former is used to predict real values, and the latter is used to classify label values. Through multiple iterations, each iteration generates a weak classifier, and each classifier is trained on the basis of the residuals of the previous classifier. The requirements for weak classifiers are generally simple enough and have low variance and high deviation. Because the training process is to continuously improve the accuracy of the final classifier by reducing the deviation.

# **2.4 LassoCV Algorithm**

Least absolute shrinkage and selection operator is a linear model used to estimate sparse parameters, especially suitable for reducing the number of parameters. For this reason, the Lasso regression model is widely used in compressed sensing. Mathematically, Lasso adds an L1 regular term to the linear model. No matter whether the dependent variable is continuous or discrete, lasso can handle it. In general, lasso has extremely low data requirements, so it is widely used; in addition, lasso can also filter and The complexity of the model is reduced. Variable selection here refers to not putting all variables into the model for fitting, but selectively putting variables into the model to get better performance parameters.

## **2.5 Neural Network Algorithm**

BP neural network is an algorithm that transforms a set of sample input and output problems into nonlinear optimization [\[5\]](#page-118-0). It has a three-layer structure and interconnects neurons (Fig. [1\)](#page-109-0).



**Fig. 1.** Neural network structure diagram

<span id="page-109-0"></span>The neurons from left to right are the input layer, hidden layer and output layer. The weight of the input layer to the hidden layer (the connection weight of neuron i and neuron j), the threshold; the size of the hidden layer to the output layer may be (the connection weight of neuron i and neuron k).

Usually, two nodes are input, the second layer is hidden, and the output of the three nodes in each layer is one node. The algorithm flow is as follows.

```
Algorithm: BP neural network algorithm
Seeding: Initialize the weight and bias of network.
repeat
         foreach Each training tuple X in D do
          // Forward propagation input
          foreach Each input unit j do
          O_i = I_i;// The output of the input unit is its actual input value
          end
          foreach hide or export each cell of the layer j do
            I_j = \sum_i W_{ij} O_i + \theta_j; //Regarding the previous layer, the net input of calculation unit j// O_j =\frac{1}{1+e_1^{-1}};// Output of calculation unit j
          _{\mathrm{end}}// Back propagation error
          foreach each unit of the output layer j do
          ETr_i = O_i(1 - O_i) \sum_k Err_kW_{ik}/\text{Calculate the error about the next higher layer k}end
          foreach every right in the network W_{ii}\Delta W_{ij} = (l)Err_jO_i;// Weight increment
          W_{ij} = W_{\overline{ij}} + \Delta W_{ij}; // Weight update
          end
          for each \theta_{ij} each bias in the network
           \Delta\theta_i = (l)Err_i;//Bias increment
          \theta_i = \theta_i + \Delta \theta_i;// Bias update
          end
        end
 until termination condition
 return forecast result
```
## **3 Establishing Model**

#### **3.1 Selection of Indicators**

For the prediction and evaluation of traffic congestion status, we must first select the factor indicators that can accurately and effectively characterize the traffic congestion status. The principle of selection is to have overall completeness, objectivity, operability, and comparability. However, we cannot just pass a certain traffic flow. The parameters evaluate the traffic congestion. The average speed of a vehicle can intuitively represent the state of traffic congestion, but when the vehicle is waiting for a red light at an intersection, although the speed is very small, it does not mean that the road is congested at the moment. Therefore, this paper selects three traffic flow parameters, traffic flow, average speed of traffic flow, and density of traffic flow as factor indicators.

#### **3.2 Calculate Relevance**

The average speed of traffic flow refers to the average distance traveled by all vehicles on a road per unit time. This indicator can intuitively reflect the current road traffic congestion. Generally speaking, the greater the speed, the smoother the road; the lower the speed, the more congested the road [\[6\]](#page-118-1). Calculated as follows:

$$
\overline{v_i} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} v_i
$$
 (1)

 $\overline{v_i}$ ——Average speed of traffic flow (Km/h); N——The number of all vehicles on the road in unit time;  $v_i$ ——The number of all vehicles on the road in unit time.

Traffic flow density refers to the total number of vehicles on a road per unit length in a unit of time. When the road is congested, the vehicle stalls and the change in traffic flow is almost zero, but the traffic density is very large, so it is decisive for the traffic congestion state. effect. The calculation method is as follows:

$$
D = \frac{f}{v} \tag{2}
$$

D is the required traffic flow density (vehicles/km), and f is the monitored traffic flow every five minutes; v——Average speed.

Calculate the Pearson correlation coefficient between features. The correlation is a non-deterministic relationship, and the correlation coefficient is the amount of linear correlation between the variables studied.

$$
r(X, Y) = \frac{Cov(X, Y)}{\sqrt{Var[X]Var[Y]}}
$$
(3)

Among them, Cov  $(X, Y)$  is the covariance of X and Y, Var  $[X]$  is the variance of X, Var [Y] is the variance of Y.

#### **3.3 Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation**

Through analysis and selection, and taking traffic flow and average traffic speed as the basic indicators of traffic state characteristics, a weighted calculation model is applied to the traffic state assessment of road segments and road networks, and a road and road network traffic state characterization model is established.

Calculate the degree of composition of each index state, and then obtain the singlefactor fuzzy discrimination matrix of the entire system, as shown below.

$$
R = \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1^1 & \mu_1^2 & \mu_1^3 & \mu_1^4 \\ \mu_2^1 & \mu_2^2 & \mu_2^3 & \mu_2^4 \\ \mu_3^1 & \mu_3^2 & \mu_3^3 & \mu_3^4 \end{bmatrix}
$$
 (4)

Among them, the  $\mu_1^1$  strongly transitive fuzzy matrix reflects the membership of each traffic state level of each evaluation index pair corresponding to the calculated value of the membership function.

Determining weights Describe the importance of each indicator according to the traffic situation. It is necessary to determine the weight of the basic indicators. Each indicator weight constitutes a weight set, namely:

$$
\omega = (\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3) \tag{5}
$$

Establish an evaluation system-construct a judgment matrix for comparison According to the 9-scale method, the importance between n elements of the same layer can be obtained, thereby establishing a judgment matrix.

$$
I = \begin{bmatrix} W_{11} & \cdots & W_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ W_{m1} & \cdots & W_{mn} \end{bmatrix}
$$
 (6)

The elements of the judgment matrix are normalized. The formula is as follows:

$$
\alpha_{ij} = \frac{\alpha_{ij}}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_{ij}} \tag{7}
$$

n——Index factor number of each column judgment matrix

The judgment matrix generated after normalization is added row by row:

$$
w_i = \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ij} \tag{8}
$$

In——The number of index factors for each judgment matrix

Based on the judgment matrix obtained above, normalization is performed to obtain a maximum feature vector, which is the weight of each factor.  $w = [w_1, w_2, w_3, \dots, w_n]$ . For a multi-level evaluation system, the weights of the upper layer indicators of each factor indicator can be determined from top to bottom, and finally the weight of each layer factor relative to the target layer is obtained.

Fuzzy comprehensive evaluation, after determining the single-factor discriminant matrix of evaluation index weights, comprehensive evaluation can be conducted through fuzzy transformation.

$$
B = (w_1, w_2, w_3)^{\circ} \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1^1 & \mu_1^2 & \mu_1^3 & \mu_1^4 \\ \mu_2^1 & \mu_2^2 & \mu_2^3 & \mu_2^4 \\ \mu_3^1 & \mu_3^2 & \mu_3^3 & \mu_3^4 \end{bmatrix} = (b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4)
$$
(9)

$$
b_j = \sum_{i=1}^{3} \omega_i \mu_i^j, j = 1, 2, 3, 4
$$
 (10)

 $b_i$ ——For the final fuzzy comprehensive evaluation index, comprehensively consider the membership degree of all basic indexes in the evaluation set to the jth element. According to the principle of maximum membership, the evaluation element with the largest membership is selected as the evaluation result.

#### **3.4 Classification of Congestion Grade Based on Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation**

According to the calculation method of traffic congestion in Shenzhen issued by the state in 2011. It quantifies the traffic condition based on the average speed of the statistical interval. The value range is 0–100. Eventually, four traffic congestion states of Smoother, Smooth, Crowded and Blockage. The basic calculation model and the weighted calculation model are suitable for the traffic state assessment of road segments and road networks, respectively. The specific method is as follows:

The key parameter of the TSI calculation model is the formation speed, which is used to evaluate the traffic state of the road section. The formula is as follows:

$$
TSI = \frac{V_f - V_i}{V_f} \times 100\tag{11}
$$

 $V_f$ ——Study actual road speed

Vi——Study free flow speed

<span id="page-112-0"></span>Quantify traffic conditions based on the average speed of the statistical interval. The value range is 0–100, which divides the traffic operation status into very stable, stable, congested and congested. The table shows the correspondence between TSI and road network traffic (Table [1\)](#page-112-0).





The basic calculation model is relatively simple, and the results can be calculated from the average stroke speed and free flow speed of the link. However, in practical

applications, the evaluation of the traffic congestion status of road sections is not enough, and the traffic status of the road network needs to be carried out. Therefore, considering the influence of the number of road segments and miles on the degree of congestion, the formula for the weighted calculation model is as follows.

$$
TSI = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{1} K_i I_i \left[ \frac{V_f - V_i}{V_f} \right]}{\sum_{i=1}^{1} K_i} \times 100
$$
 (12)

K*i*——Lane number i

li—Section i Road length, *km*.

l——Total number of road segments

After obtaining the road network TSI, convert it to a traffic status level according to the table. According to the comparison of TSI road travel time, Shenzhen looks at the traffic status of the road network.

# **3.5 Comparison of Various Algorithm Effects**

Through the selected traffic congestion measurement indicators, and then use random forest, adaboost, GBDT, LassoCV, BP neural network algorithms to train and test the data, and compare the effectiveness of various algorithms in dealing with the problem.

## **3.6 BP Neural Network Regression Prediction**

Through the "training" to obtain this input, the appropriate nonlinear relationship between the output. The "training" process can be divided into two stages of forward transmission and backward transmission:

Forward transmission phase:

Take a sample from the sample set  $P_i$ ,  $Q_i$ ; Enter  $P_i$  into the network; Calculate the error measure E<sub>i</sub> and the actual output  $O_i = F_L(\dots(F_2(F_1(P_iW^{(1)})W^{(2)}))W^{(L)})$ ; Make adjustments to the weight values  $W^{(1)}$  .... $W^{(2)}$  ...  $W^{L}$ , and repeat this cycle until  $\sum E_i < \varepsilon$ .

Backward propagation stage-error propagation stage:

Calculate the difference between the actual output  $O_P$  and the ideal output  $Q_i$ ; Adjust the weight matrix of the output layer with the error of the output layer.

$$
E_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{m} (Q_{ij} - O_{ij})^2
$$
 (13)

Use this error to estimate the error of the direct leader layer of the output layer, and then use the error estimation of the output layer leader layer. Change the error of the previous layer. In this way, the error estimates of all other layers are obtained. And use these estimates to modify the weight matrix. Form a process of gradually transmitting the error displayed at the output to the output in the opposite direction to the output signal.

The error measure of the network about the entire sample set:

$$
E = \sum E_{\rm I} \tag{14}
$$

# **4 Experiment**



# **4.1 Index Correlation Coefficient**

**Fig. 2.** Correlation coefficients of various indicators

<span id="page-114-0"></span>As shown in Fig. [2,](#page-114-0) the c or relationship coefficient of the number of vehicles, average speed and traffic density extracted according to data processing. It is known from the correlation that although the number of taxis is extracted, there is no difference between the average speed of vehicles on the same road segment and the average speed of nonrented vehicles, so the calculated traffic after observing the extracted data The trend of density change is still representative on the road section.

## **4.2 Analysis of Congestion in Fuzzy Comprehensive Evaluation**

The following figure is obtained by analyzing the relationship between traffic flow and traffic flow density.



**Fig. 3.** Relationship between traffic flow and traffic flow density

<span id="page-114-1"></span>In the relationship between the number of vehicles and the traffic density in Fig. [3,](#page-114-1) it can be found that the early, middle, and late high stages are generally between 8:00–9:00, 12:00–1:00, and 19:00–20:00 (Table [2\)](#page-115-0).

<span id="page-115-0"></span>

Period of time	Number of vehicles	Congestion level	Expected congestion time (min)
$8:00 - 8:20$	5	Soomther	$5 - 10$
$8:20 - 8:40$	124	Crowded	$10 - 20$
$8:40 - 9:00$	367	<b>Blockage</b>	$20 - 30$
$12:00 - 12:20$	188	Blockage	$20 - 35$
$12:20 - 12:40$	218	Blockage	$35 - 50$
$12:40-13:00$	324	Blockage	$30 - 40$
$19:00 - 19:20$	334	Blockage	$35 - 50$
19:20-19:40	184	<b>Blockage</b>	$35 - 55$
$19:40 - 20:00$	136	Blockage	$25 - 35$

**Table 2.** Congestion level and time prediction during congestion period

Through fuzzy comprehensive evaluation, the degree of congestion is divided into 4 levels, and the analysis of the congestion in each time period is shown in the figure above. It was found that the congestion situation was the most serious in the morning, middle and evening peak congestion time within a day at 8:40–9:00, 12:40–1:00, 19:20–19:40, and the number of vehicles coming out of GPS vehicles was 367, 324, 388, providing conditions for future short-term traffic forecast.

### **4.3 Comparison of Various Algorithms**

We used Anaconda3's Jupiter-notebook software and called the linear model. Lasso CV algorithm module corresponding to the sklearn library and the Random Forest Regressor, Ada Boost Regressor, Gradient Boosting Regressor algorithm modules corresponding to the sklearn. ensemble library, and the Grid Search CV model regulator corresponding to sklearn. model selection Then each algorithm was trained and adjusted, and the relationship between the obtained test set and the real value is shown in Fig. [4.](#page-115-1)



<span id="page-115-1"></span>**Fig. 4.** Comparison of accuracy of various algorithms

As can be seen from Fig. [4,](#page-115-1) various algorithms have a good effect on traffic congestion analysis, but there are still deviations in certain data. Therefore, we use Anaconda's jupyter notebook software, call the tensorflow module to implement the BP neural network model, and train and test the data. The relationship between the obtained test results and the true value is shown in Fig. [5.](#page-116-0)



**Fig. 5.** BP neural network accuracy chart

<span id="page-116-0"></span>It can be seen from the prediction results of the BP neural network that the algorithm has a significant deviation in processing a small part of the data in processing this problem, and the overall effect is better. The accuracy of its various algorithms and the optimal parameters for tuning are as follows.



<span id="page-116-1"></span>

It can be seen from Table [3](#page-116-1) that various algorithms have better effects on this problem after training and adjustment. Among them, the BP neural network has the best effect, and the mean squared error has reached 0.0190.

### **4.4 BP Neural Network Prediction**



**Fig. 6.** BP neural network predicts the future time period diagram

<span id="page-117-0"></span>By using the data from June 9 to train and test the BP neural network, the mean square error (MSE) of the model is 0.01905, which is relatively reliable. Then predict the congestion of the road within three hours. It can be seen that during the time period from 00:00 to 03:00 on June 10, the road congestion will maintain a small fluctuation trend, but the overall amplitude does not change significantly, that is, the road will not appear serious in the short term Congestion. In addition, you can use the above method-fuzzy comprehensive evaluation in this article to process the prediction results, that is, you can get the congestion situation and congestion time in this period (Fig. [6\)](#page-117-0).

# **5 Conclusion**

It can be seen from the above analysis that the various algorithms after parameter optimization are consistent with the short-term traffic prediction results and recorded values, and the results obtained by these algorithms are all valid. However, the prediction result of BP neural network is more accurate than other algorithms, which shows that BP neural network has stronger data expression ability and can better simulate short-term traffic conditions. Within the acceptable error range, the prediction results can provide effective decision-making information for emergency rescue of urban center road accidents. In the future 5G mobile network, cars with GPS positioning system can accurately analyze the current location of the vehicle and the traffic flow of the next section and the surrounding sections that will pass. Immediately before entering the traffic jam section, the most accurate algorithm is used to recommend a new relatively smooth section for the vehicle. On this basis, the number of vehicles in each section is regulated in a balanced manner to prevent the congestion from further deteriorating, and at the same time provide a guarantee for citizens to travel smoothly and efficiently, laying a foundation for the development of intelligent traffic control systems. Although with the increase of traffic congestion, the prediction results of the model may be deviated to a certain extent, and various traffic parameters will change with time, but it can ensure that the driver occurs in a traffic accident or bad weather. The accident allows the command center to give a rescue plan based on the traffic situation that occurred within a short period of time and arrive at the scene as soon as possible.

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<span id="page-119-0"></span>

# **Analysis of Breast Cancer Detection Using Different Machine Learning Techniques**

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**Abstract.** Data mining algorithms play an important role in the prediction of early-stage breast cancer. In this paper, we propose an approach that improves the accuracy and enhances the performance of three different classifiers: Decision Tree (J48), Naïve Bayes (NB), and Sequential Minimal Optimization (SMO). We also validate and compare the classifiers on two benchmark datasets: Wisconsin Breast Cancer (WBC) and Breast Cancer dataset. Data with imbalanced classes are a big problem in the classification phase since the probability of instances belonging to the majority class is significantly high, the algorithms are much more likely to classify new observations to the majority class. We address such problem in this work. We use the data level approach which consists of resampling the data in order to mitigate the effect caused by class imbalance. For evaluation, 10 fold cross-validation is performed. The efficiency of each classifier is assessed in terms of true positive, false positive, Roc curve, standard deviation (Std), and accuracy (AC). Experiments show that using a resample filter enhances the classifier's performance where SMO outperforms others in the WBC dataset and J48 is superior to others in the Breast Cancer dataset.

**Keywords:** Breast cancer · Classification · Data mining

# **1 Introduction**

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women worldwide [\[1\]](#page-127-0). In 2019, 268,600 new cases of invasive breast cancer were expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with 62,930 new cases of non-invasive breast cancer [\[2\]](#page-127-1). Early detection is the best way to increase the chance of treatment and survivability. Data mining has become a popular tool for knowledge discovery which shows good results in marketing, social science, finance and medicine [\[19,](#page-128-0) [20\]](#page-128-1). Recently, multiple classifiers algorithms are applied on medical datasets to perform predictive analysis about patients and their medical diagnosis [\[6,](#page-127-2) [9,](#page-127-3) [10,](#page-127-4) [21\]](#page-128-2). For example, using machine learning techniques to assess tumor behavior for breast cancer patients. One problem is that there is a class

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imbalance in the training data, since the probability of not having this disease is higher than the one of having it. This paper introduces a comparison between three different classifiers: J48, NB, and SMO with respect to accuracy in detection of breast cancer. Our aim is to prepare the dataset by proposing a suitable method that can manage the imbalanced dataset and the missing values, to enhance the classifier's performance. All tasks were conducted using Weka 3.8.3.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section [2](#page-120-0) presents literature review. Section [3](#page-120-1) introduces the datasets. Section [4](#page-121-0) describes the research methodology including pre-processing experiments, classification and performance evaluation criteria. The experimental results are presented in Sect. [5.](#page-123-0) Finally, Sect. [6](#page-127-5) shows the conclusion and future work.

# <span id="page-120-0"></span>**2 Literature Review**

In recent years, several studies have applied data mining algorithms on different medical datasets to classify Breast Cancer. These algorithms show good classification results and encourage many researchers to apply these kind of algorithms to solve challenging tasks. In [\[21\]](#page-128-2), a convolutional neural network (CNN) was used to predict and classify the invasive ductal carcinoma in breast histology images with an accuracy of almost 88%. Moreover, data mining is used widely in medical fields to predict and classify abnormal events to create a better understanding of any incurable diseases such as cancer. The outcomes of using data mining in classification are promising for breast cancer detection. Therefore, data mining approach is used in this work. A list of some literature studies related to this method is presented in Table [1.](#page-121-1)

# <span id="page-120-1"></span>**3 Datasets**

The datasets that are used in this paper are available at the UCI Machine Learning Repository [\[13\]](#page-127-6).

### **3.1 WBC Dataset**

The WBC dataset contains 699 instances and 11 attributes in which 458 were benign and 241 were malignant cases [\[14\]](#page-127-7). In the WBC, the value of the attribute (Bare Nuclei) status was missing for 16 records. Hence data preprocessing is essential and important for this dataset, requiring us to manage the imbalanced data and the missing values.

## **3.2 Breast Cancer Dataset**

The feature form this dataset are computed from a digitized image of a fine needle aspirate (FNA) of a breast tumor. The target feature records the prognosis (i.e., malignant or benign). The dataset contains 286 instances and 10 attributes in which 201 were norecurrence-events and 85 were recurrence events. In the Breast Cancer dataset, the value of the attribute (node-caps) status was missing in 8 records.

<span id="page-121-0"></span>

Paper title	Datasets	Algorithms	Results
Integration of data mining classification techniques and ensemble learning for predicting the type of breast cancer recurrence [3], 2019	<b>Breast Cancer</b>	NB, SVM, GRNN and J48	GRNN & J48 accuracy: 91% NB & SVM: 89%
A study on prediction of breast cancer recurrence using data mining techniques $[4]$ , 2017	<b>WPBC</b>	Classification: KNN, SVM, NB and C5.0, Clustering: K-means, EM, PAM and Fuzzy c-means	Classification accuracy is better than clustering, SVM & C5.0: 81%
Predicting breast cancer recurrence using effective classification and feature selection technique $[5]$ , 2016	<b>WPBM</b>	NB, C4.5, SVM	NB: 67.17%, C4.5: 73.73%, SVM: 75.75%
Using machine learning algorithms for breast cancer risk prediction and diagnosis $[6]$ , 2016	<b>WBC</b>	SVM, C4.5, NB, KNN	SVM outperform others: 97.13%
Study and analysis of breast cancer cell detection using Naïve Bayes, SVM and ensemble algorithms [7], 2016	<b>WDBC</b>	NB, SVM, Ensemble	SVM: 98.5%, NB & Ensemble: 97.3%
Analysis of Wisconsin breast cancer dataset and machine learning for breast cancer detection $[8]$ , 2015	<b>WDBC</b>	NB, J48	NB: 97.51%, J48: 96.5%
Comparative study on different classification techniques for breast cancer dataset [9], 2014	<b>Breast Cancer</b>	J48, MLP, rough set	J48: 79.97%, MLP: 75.35%, rough set: 71.36%
A novel approach for breast cancer detection using data mining techniques $[10]$ , 2014	WBC	SMO, IBK, BF Tree	SMO: 96.19%, IBK: 95.90%, BF Tree: 95.46%
Experiment comparison of classification for breast cancer diagnosis $[11]$ , 2012	<b>WBC</b> WDBC <b>WPBC</b>	J48, SMO, MLP, NB, IBK	In WBC: MLP & J48: 97.2818%. In WDBC: $SMO: 97.7\%$ or fusion on SMO & MLP: 97.7% In WPBC: fusion of MLP, J48, SMO and IBK: 77%
Analysis of feature selection with classification: breast cancer datasets [12], 2011	WBC WDBC <b>Breast Cancer</b>	Decision Tree with and without feature selection	Feature selection enhances the results WBC: 96.99% WDBC: 94.77% Breast Cancer: 71.32%

<span id="page-121-1"></span>**Table 1.** Breast cancer detection research using different machine learning algorithms.

# **4 Research Methodology**

The two datasets used in this work are vulnerable to missing and imbalanced data therefore, before performing the experiments, a large fraction of this work will be for preprocessing the data in order to enhance the classifier's performance. Preprocessing will focus on managing the missing values and the imbalanced data. To manage the missing attributes, all the instances with missing values are removed. The imbalance data problem needs to adjust either the classifier or the training set balance. To do so, the resample filter is used to rebalance the data artificially. Then, 10 fold cross validation is applied and finally a comparison between these three classifiers is implemented.

### **4.1 Preprocessing Phase**

First, the data were discretized using discretize filter, then missing values were removed from the dataset. Second, instances were resampled using the resample filter in order to maintain the class distribution in the subsample and to bias the class distribution toward a uniform distribution. Section [5](#page-123-0) will show that this idea is improving the classifier's performance. Third, 10 fold cross validation was applied then experiments were carried out over three classifiers Naïve Bayes, SMO and J48, as illustrated in Fig. [1.](#page-122-0)



<span id="page-122-0"></span>**Fig. 1.** Proposed breast cancer detection model using Breast Cancer and WBC datasets.

In Fig. [1,](#page-122-0) the data preprocessing technique has been applied including three steps: discretization, instances resampling and removing the missing values. After that, 10 fold cross validation has been applied. Then, three classifiers have been evaluated over the prepared datasets.

# **4.2 Training and Classification**

In order to minimize the bias associated with the random sampling of the training data, we use 10 fold cross validation after the pre-processing phase. In k-fold cross-validation, the original dataset is randomly partitioned into k equal size subsets. The classification model is trained and tested k times. Each time, a single subset is retained as the validation data for testing the model, and the remaining k−1 subsets are used as training data. Three classification techniques were selected: a Naïve Bayes (NB), a Decision Tree built on the J48 algorithm, and a Sequential Minimal Optimization (SMO). The NB classifier is a probabilistic classifier based on the Bayes rule. It works by estimating the portability of each class value that a given instance belongs to that class [\[15\]](#page-127-15). The J48 algorithm [\[16\]](#page-128-3) uses the concept of information entropy and works by splitting each data attributers into smaller datasets in order to examine entropy differences. It is an improved and enhanced version of C4.5 [\[17\]](#page-128-4). The SMO model implements John Platt's sequential minimal optimization algorithm for training a support vector classifiers. This implementation globally replaces all missing values and transforms nominal attributes into binary ones. It also normalizes all attributes by default [\[18\]](#page-128-5).

## **4.3 Performance Evaluation Criteria**

In this study, we use five performance measures to evaluate all the classifiers: true positive, false positive, ROC curve, standard deviation (Std) and accuracy (AC).

$$
AC = (TP + TN)/(TP + TN + FP + FN). \tag{1}
$$

Where TP, TN, FP and FN denote true positive, true negative, false positive and false negative, respectively.

# <span id="page-123-0"></span>**5 Experimental Results**

First, the three classifications algorithms were tested on the WBC and the Breast Cancer datasets without applying the preprocessing techniques. Among them, the best result was recorded for J48: 75.52% in the Breast Cancer dataset and for SMO: 96.99% in the WBC dataset. Next, after applying preprocessing techniques accuracy increases to 98.20% with J48 in the Breast Cancer dataset and 99.56% with SMO in the WBC dataset.

## **5.1 Experiment Using the Breast Cancer Dataset**

First, the three classifiers are tested over original data (without any preprocessing).The results show that J48 is the best one with 75.52% accuracy where the accuracy of NB and SMO are 71.67% and 69.58%, respectively. Next, we apply discretization filter and remove the records with missing values, results improved with NB and SMO as follows: NB: 75.53% and SMO: 72.66% where J48: 74.82%. After that, resample filter was applied for 7 times. The Performance of the classifiers are improved and enhanced as shown in Table [2.](#page-124-0)

<span id="page-124-0"></span>

Experiments steps	Classifier accuracy			
	J48	<b>NB</b>	<b>SMO</b>	
Original without preprocessing	75.52%	71.67%	69.58%	
After removing missing values & discretization	74.82%	75.53%	72.66%	
After applying resample filter (first time)	79.49%	77.33%	80.93%	
Applying resample filter (second time)	81.65%	78.05%	80.57%	
Applying resample filter (third time)	87.41%	78.41%	82.73%	
Applying resample filter (fourth time)	92.08%	77.69%	88.84%	
Applying resample filter (fifth time)	95.68%	79.13%	91.72%	
Applying resample filter (sixth time)	97.48%	79.85%	95.68%	
Applying resample filter (seventh time)	98.20%	76.61%	95.32%	

**Table 2.** Performance of the classifiers in the Breast Cancer Dataset.

As illustrated in Table [2,](#page-124-0) we can obviously notice that the more resample filter we apply, the improved accuracy we obtain. That is because the data is imbalanced and the filter maintains the class distribution. For the Breast cancer dataset, J48 outperforms others with 98.20%. Accuracy measures for J48 classifier is shown in Table [3](#page-124-1) and Roc curve of J48 is shown in Fig. [2.](#page-124-2)

**Table 3.** Accuracy measures for J48 in the Breast Cancer Dataset.

<span id="page-124-1"></span>

TP	FP	Precision	Recall	Roc curve	Std	$\text{Class}$
1.000	0.049	0.980	0.996	1.000	0.5678	No-recurrence-events
0.951	0.000	.000.	0.996	0.951		Recurrence-events



<span id="page-124-2"></span>**Fig. 2.** J48 ROC curve in Breast Cancer Dataset.

To measure the performance of the proposed model, we compare the obtained results with the study proposed in [\[9\]](#page-127-3). The same dataset and three classifiers including J48 algorithm are used to evaluate the model's performance. According to the results, the J48 classifier of the proposed model achieves high accuracy comparing to other classifiers. This is because of using the resample filter for the pre-processing phase in the proposed model rather than feature selection technique that used in [\[9\]](#page-127-3) as illustrated in Table [4.](#page-125-0)

<span id="page-125-0"></span>

Methodology	Study $[9]$	Proposed method
With out pre-processing	None	J48: 75.52%, NB: 71.67% SMO: 69.58%
With pre-processing	Missing values were replaced with WEKA pre-processing techniques and feature selection was applied J48: 79.97%, MLP: 75.35% & rough set: 71.36%	Delete records of missing values and Descretization J48: 74.82%, NB: 75.53% SMO: 72.66%
Using the resample filter	None	Applying the resample filter for 7 times J48: 98.20%, NB: 76.61% SMO: 95.32%

**Table 4.** Compression of accuracy measures for the Breast Cancer Dataset.

## **5.2 Experiment Using the WBC Dataset**

Same experiments were applied with the WBC dataset. With respect to applying preprocessing techniques all algorithms present higher classification accuracy, the difference lies in the fact that using the resample filter several times improves the classification accuracy. SMO classifier achieve 99.56% efficiency compared to 99.12% of the Naïve Bayes and 99.24% of the J48. Results are illustrated in Table [5.](#page-125-1)

<span id="page-125-1"></span>

Experiments steps	Classifier accuracy		
	J48	NB	<b>SMO</b>
Original Without preprocessing	94.56%	95.99%	96.99%
After removing missing values & discretization	95.91%	97.37%	96.78%
After applying resample filter (first time)	95.91%	$97.51\%$	98.97%
Applying resample filter (second time)	97.95%	98.10%	99.41%
Applying resample filter (third time)	98.68%	98.10%	99.12%
Applying resample filter (fourth time)	99.24%	99.12%	99.56%

**Table 5.** Performance of the classifiers in WBC dataset.

<span id="page-126-0"></span>In the WBC dataset, SMO superior than others with 99.56%. Accuracy measures for SMO classifier is shown in Table [6](#page-126-0) and Roc curve of SMO is shown in Fig. [3.](#page-126-1)

TP	FP	Precision	Recall	Roc curve	Std	Class
0.996	0.004	0.998	0.996	0.996	0.2220	Benign
0.996	0.004	0.992	0.996	0.996		Malignant

**Table 6.** Accuracy measures for SMO in WBC Dataset.



**Fig. 3.** SMO ROC curve in WBC Dataset.

<span id="page-126-1"></span>In terms of the WBC dataset, our proposed method is compared with two studies [\[6,](#page-127-2) [10\]](#page-127-4). Results shows that the performance of SMO classifier is better since our model employs pre-processing, and resampling approaches. Thus, utilizing pre-processing, and resampling techniques play an important role in increasing the SMO accuracy comparable to the other techniques in [\[6,](#page-127-2) [10\]](#page-127-4). Details are shown below in Table [7.](#page-126-2)

**Table 7.** Compression of accuracy measures for the WBC Dataset.

<span id="page-126-2"></span>

Methodology	Study $[6]$	Study $[10]$	Proposed method
Without pre-processing	$C4.5:95\%$ NB: 95.9% SVM: 97.3%	SMO: 96.19%, IBK: 95.90%, BF Tree: 95.46%	J48: 94.56%, NB: 95.99% SMO: 96.99%
With pre-processing	None	None	Delete records of missing values and Descretization J48: 95.91%, NB: 97.37% and SMO: 96.78%
Using the resample filter	None	None	Applying the resample filter for 4 times J48: 99.24%, NB: 99.12%, SMO: 99.56%

# <span id="page-127-5"></span>**6 Conclusion**

Breast cancer is considered to be one of the significant causes of death in women. Early detection of breast cancer plays an essential role to save women's life. Breast cancer detection can be done with the help of modern machine learning algorithms. In this paper, we focus on how to deal with imbalanced data that have missing values using resampling techniques to enhance the classification accuracy of detecting breast cancer. In our work, three classifiers algorithms J48, NB, and SMO applied on two different breast cancer datasets. Results show that using the resample filter in the preprocessing phase enhances the classifier's performance. In the future, the same experiments will apply to different classifiers and different datasets.

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