
Preface

Statistical implicative analysis is a data analysis method created by Régis Gras almost thirty years ago which has a significant impact on a variety of areas ranging from pedagogical and psychological research to data mining. This new concept has developed into a unifying methodology, and has generated a powerful convergence of thought between mathematicians, statisticians, psychologists, specialists in pedagogy and last, but not least, computer scientists specialized in data mining.

Statistical implicative analysis (SIA) provides a framework for evaluating the strength of implications; such implications are formed through common knowledge acquisition techniques in any learning process, human or artificial. Therefore, the epistemological interest of SIA is, in my opinion, of universal interest for researchers. In many applications implications appear as “rules” and, as it is often the case, rules have exceptions. SIA provides a powerful instrument for quantifying the quality of a rule taking into account the reality of these exceptions. Many applications, especially in data mining, extract large sets of rules that are impossible to assimilate by humans and used efficiently in decision processes. Therefore, it is important to develop measures of interestingness for these rules and the success of SIA-based techniques in this direction is indisputable.

This volume collects significant research contributions of several rather distinct disciplines that benefit from SIA. Contributions range from psychological and pedagogical research, bioinformatics, knowledge management, and data mining.

The first applications of SIA were in the realm of didactics and this field is richly represented here by several contributions that focus on such diverse problems as didactics of algebra and geometry, the teaching of functions representations and graphing, Bayesian inference, and student representations of physical activities.

Interesting data mining applications authored by leading researchers in the field range from applying SIA in the study of rules produced by decision trees, association rules generated by the analysis of transactional data, temporal

rules, measures of interestingness for various types of rules, and hierarchical organization of rules. A novel method for analyzing DNA microarrays is formulated using SIA concepts. Furthermore, applications of SIA to the study of ontologies and textual taxonomies, as well as applications to fuzzy knowledge discovery are also included.

We have here a new volume that confirms the validity of a novel and powerful statistical methodology, though many convincing applications. The contributors have done a masterful job of exposition.

After reading this book, I have in mind a few applications of SIA in my own research. I am convinced that the readers will find this volume as stimulating as I did.

Boston,
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