Associative Classification Based on Incremental Mining (ACIM)

Mohammed H. Alnababteh, M. Alfyoumi, A. Aljumah, and J. Ababneh

Abstract—Associative classification (AC) is an approach in data mining that uses association rule to build classification systems that are easy to interpret by end-user. When different data operations (adding, deleting, updating) are applied against certain training data set, the majority of current AC algorithms must scan the complete training dataset again to update the results (classifier) in order to reflect change caused by such operations. This paper deals with data insertion issue within the incremental learning in AC mining. Particularly, we modified a known AC algorithm called CBA to treat one aspect of the incremental data problem which is data insertion. The new algorithm called Associative Classification based on Incremental Mining (ACIM). Experimental results against six data sets from UCI data repository showed that the proposed incremental algorithm reduces the computational time if compared to CBA, and almost derives the same accuracy of it.

Index Terms—Associative classification, CBA, data mining, Incremental mining.

I. INTRODUCTION

Recent developments of information technology and computer networks caused the production of large quantities of databases. These databases normally contain hidden useful information that can be utilized in decision making and corporate planning. Therefore, efficiently finding and managing the useful information from these large databases become a necessity. One of the common tools which discovers and extracts non obvious knowledge from different types of data is data mining. The importance of data mining is growing rapidly in recent years since it can be used for several different tasks including classification, clustering, regression, association rule discovery, and outlier analysis [1].

Incremental learning is one of the challenges related to data mining tasks especially association rule and classification. In classification context, this problem involves updating the classification model (classifier) whenever the training data collection gets updated. In most real world applications like stock market exchange, online transaction, retail marketing, and banking, data usually are updated on a daily basis, and therefore handling the incremental learning problem becomes crucial in these applications.

In association rule discovery several incremental algorithms have been developed such as Fast Update (FUP) [2], FUP2 [3], Insertion, Deletion and Updating [4], Galois Lattice theory [5], and New Fast Update (NFUP) [6]. However, in classification data mining especially associative classification [7] and rule induction [8], scholars have paid little attention to the incremental learning issue. Further, since classification is a common task in data mining and has a great number of important applications in which data are often collected by these applications on daily, weekly or monthly there is a great interest to develop or at least enhance the current classification methods to handle the incremental learning problem. This is the primary motivation of our algorithm.

In the last few years an approach that integrates association rule and classification called Associative Classification (AC) was proposed [7]. Several research studies, i.e. [7], [9], [10] provide evidence that AC often successfully builds more accurate classifiers than traditional classification approaches such as rule induction and decision trees. Furthermore, many application domains including image analysis [11] and document classification [12] have adopted AC since it generates simple “IF-THEN” rules that are easy to interpret by end-user.

One of the well-known AC algorithms is CBA [7], which operates in two phases where in phase one it discovers candidate class association rules (CARs). In the second phase CBA selects the highest accurate rules from the complete set of CARs to represent the classifier. However, what if the training data which the CARs have been derived from, is updated.

In AC algorithms, when new dataset added to original dataset, we can deal with it in two ways, first use the current classifier without any consideration to incremental dataset (d’) to classify unseen data, thus the classifier will not reflect the changes on the dataset, consequently the accuracy of classifier will be decreased, because a lot of previous CARs (class association rule) of classifier become invalid after dataset update, second rebuild the classifier from scratch depending on the original dataset (D) and the incremental dataset (d’) (i.e. D U d’), but this approach require a complete scan to the whole training data set in order to reflect the new changes on the classifier. This means regenerating most of the CARs that were produced in the previous scan. Now, since new rules are generated and existed rules may be discarded after a data operation is executed against the training data set, which definitely causes time overhead [13].

This paper, presents a new AC based on incremental mining algorithm called ACIM it based on CBA algorithm to
deal only with row insertion aspect of the incremental learning.

It is the firm belief of the authors that all current AC algorithms do not consider the problem of incremental learning into consideration. Thus, when the original data set gets updated these algorithms do not reflect the changes done on the classifier, consequently, the classification accuracy may negatively be impacted since the complete set of knowledge in the classifier are not represented within the input data set.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section II describes the framework of the proposed Associative Classification based on Incremental Mining (ACIM), and the algorithm details. The experimental results are demonstrated in Section III.

II. THE DEVELOPED ALGORITHM ACIM DESCRIPTION

Fig. 1 depicts the developed AC based on incremental mining (ACIM) algorithm which work as the following:

The first classifier is built from the original database $D$; when increment data $d_i$ added to the original dataset, the new classifier builds using the incremental data and original data $D$ by utilizing the classifier which built in previous phase.

The proposed algorithm extract all strong rules (CARs) which satisfy minimum support and minimum confidence threshold of the increment data ($d_i$) where the minimum support and confidence threshold of $d_i$ is equal to original minimum support and confidence, the new CARs which generated from the $d_i$ are match with the current classifier to update the support and confidence of the CARs that exist in the current classifier and frequent in the $d_i$, then remove any CAR if same or general rule exist in the classifier.

The CARs that generated from $d_i$ but not exist in the classifier are check against original database then remove all CARs which don’t satisfy minimum support and minimum confidence.

The rules of the classifier that not frequent in the incremental data will check against incremental data $d_i$ to update their supports and confidences; the CARs which already exist in the classifier but don’t satisfy minimum support and confidence after database update will not remove from the classifier because they will use for prediction, that will explain later in this section. The CARs in the classifier and the generated frequent CARs from $d_i$ that satisfies minsup and minconf will merge together as in Fig. 2. The whole previous rules will take a weight as follow:

1) The CARs that were exist in the classifier and generated as frequent from $d_i$ will take very high weight.
2) The CARs which is frequent in $d_i$ and satisfy minsup and minconf against whole database but not exist in current classifier will take high weight.
3) The CARs that were exist in the classifier and infrequent in incremental data $d_i$ but still frequent in the entire database will take mid weight.
4) The CARs that were exist in the classifier but become infrequent in the whole database will take low weight.

The whole remaining CARs will rearrange according to following criteria:

If there are two rules $r_1$ and $r_2$, then $r_1 > r_2$ if and only if:
1) If weight of the $r_1$ is greater than the weight of $r_2$
2) If the weight of $r_1$ and $r_2$ is equal but the confidence of $r_1$ is greater than confidence of $r_2$.
3) If the weight and confidence of $r_1$ and $r_2$ are equal but the support of $r_1$ greater than the support of $r_2$.
4) If the weight, confidence and support are equal of $r_1$ and $r_2$ but $r_1$ has minimum attributes in the left-hand side than $r_2$.

After rule generation from $d_i$ and amalgamation with classifier rules, we must have a relatively large number of rules and accordingly there are a lot of redundant rules that impact negatively on the efficiency and accuracy of the final classifier. We cannot preserve all the rules that generated in previous step.

In ACIM algorithm the database coverage pruning method used as in Fig. 2 to test all rules against whole database. The database coverage pruning technique finds all the training data case that fully match by any rule, which is ranked in previous step. First all rules cover weight is set 0 (where the cover weight is weight indicate to the number of times the rule entry to level I or level II) If at least one training case match the rule, It rule will insert to the end of level I classifier and its cover weight (coverw) increased by 1 and all the cases (tuples) in the training data discard, else the rule insert into level II classifier and its cover weight decreased by 1.

Fig. 1 Incremental Mining of CARs.
Our algorithm divides the classifier into two levels, where the first level contains the rules which cover at least one case in the training dataset, the level II contain the rules that didn’t cover any training data set. The rules in the level II almost have weight less than level I rules. Our algorithm try to control the number of rules that exist in level I and level II (i.e. the final classifier) by remove all the rules the don’t satisfy the minimum cover weight threshold \( \delta \).

The pseudo code in Fig. 3 demonstrates how the ACIM build a new classifier in which the notations used is explained in Table I.

![Fig. 2. Generate the classifier in ACIM.](image)

![Fig. 3. Building classifier in ACIM.](image)

**Inputs:** Original Database (D), minsup, minconf, weight threshold \( \delta \), weight constant.

1. **Output:** new classifier.
2. //build the classifier using original data
3. buildclassifier_CBA(D)
4. do until (no incremental data)
5. CARs= CBA_RG(d_i)
6. For each rule r \( \in \) CAR\(_d_i\) do
7. |
8. For each rule r \( \in \) classifier do
9. // if any rule R in classifier is general or same to r
10. // then the support and confidence of R is update based on r
11. //and the weight is assign to R, also r will remove from CAR\(_d_i\).
12. //all of that encapsulate in function match
13. Match(r, R);
14. }
15. // check remaining rule in CAR\(_d_i\) against original dataset D
16. For each r \( \in \) CAR\(_d_i\) do
17. For each row C D do
18. |
19. // update the support, confidence and weight
20. // for the rule that not exist in the classifier
21. if row satisfies the conditions of r then
22. |
23. Update_supp(r);
24. Update_weight(r);
25. }
26. }
27. // check the rules which exist in the classifier but infrequent in d_i
28. For each R \( \in \) classifier do
29. For each row C d_i do
30. |
31. // update the support, confidence and weight for all R
32. // for rules which exist in the classifier but infrequent
33. // in CAR\(_d_i\)
34. Update_supp(R);
35. Update_weight(R);
36. }
37. // rearrange all rules
38. NCAR=Sort(R U r);
39. For each rule r \( \in \) NCAR do
40. |
41. for each row C D do
42. |
43. if row satisfies the conditions of r then
44. |
45. store d.id in array1 and store r in array2 if it correctly classifies d;
46. }
47. if r is In array2 then
48. |
49. insert r at the level I classifier C and increased its cover weight;
50. delete all the rows which has id in array1 from D;
51. }
52. Else
53. |
54. insert r at the level II classifier C and decreased its cover weight;
55. }
56. }
57. // the default class is the major class in level I and level II
58. selecting a default class for the current classifier C;
59. // remove all rules that don’t satisfy minicover weight
60. // threshold from level II
61. remove all rules don’t satisfy minicoverweight \( \delta \);
28-36 the algorithm check the rules $R$ which exist in the classifier but infrequent in $d_i$ and update the support, confidence and weight for all rules which exist in the classifier but infrequent in CARDi.

In line 38, the algorithm rearranges all rules according the weight, support and confidence and stores the final rules in NCAR. In line 39-62, the database coverage is applied on the NCAR against entire dataset (D U $d_i$). The final rules stored in the classifier, where the rule which match at least one object in dataset enter to level I and the rule does not satisfy any object insert to level II else the rule remove from the final classifier. At the end of process the default class is selected and all the rules that did not satisfy minicoverweight $\delta$ will be removed.

When new unseen object give the algorithm search in level I of the first rule which has antecedent (left-hand side) match the given object and assign its class to this object, if no rules match in level I the proposed algorithm seek in level II, if no rule also match the given object the default class will assign to given object.

### III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Performance study have been conducted to evaluate the classification accuracy and the efficiency for the proposed associative classification based on incremental mining algorithm ACIM in on hand, on the other hand the classic CBA algorithm. The proposed method adopts CBA algorithm for rule generation, pruning and prediction procedures to build the first classifier i.e. from original dataset D. Different data sets from UCI machine learning repository [14] are used during the experimentation. These are “Car eval. ”, “led7”, “pageblocks “, “pen digits “, “waveform “, “wine qu.”. The selection of these data sets is based on the size and the data quality since we have looked for medium to large size training data set because we divide the dataset into original and incremental data, also the above data sets don’t contain missing values. Explanation of the characteristics of each dataset can be found in [14]. Table II shows the characteristics of the using datasets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data set</th>
<th>Number of attributes</th>
<th>Number of records</th>
<th>Class no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car evaluation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1728</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page block</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5473</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen digit</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10992</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wav form</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine quality</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4898</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3200</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each UCI data set has been divided into two partitions one for training and one for the incremental learning process (data to be inserted). Then, we further divided the incremental data set into five data blocks for testing purposes and particularly to perform multiple data insertions on the training data set during training and evaluation steps.

All experiments were performed on Celeron 2.16 a computing machine with the following specifications: 1GB main memory, and running Microsoft windows XP. The LUCS-KDD implementation of the CBA algorithm is used [15]. The main threshold that control the number of rules generated and prediction accuracy in AC mining are minimum support and minimum confidence, and for both the proposed algorithm (ACIM) and CBA, these thresholds have been set to 1% and 50%, respectively. This setting is similar to other previous research conducted in AC, i.e. [16], [7]. Our experimental study on the developed algorithm is study the effect of the following issue on the performance of the developed algorithm (ACIM) against CBA algorithm:

1) Mining the frequent rules from incremental data.
2) Update the current classifier through incremental data.
3) Merge classifier rules with frequent rules from incremental data.
4) Rule ranking.
5) Rule pruning.
6) Prediction techniques.

In the experiments ACIM algorithm which shown in Fig. 3, the training dataset divided into two parts one for original training data and one for incremental data, the incremental data divided into five parts.

The implementation performed on five incremental data, thus the second part of the training data that dedicated for incremental data will be divided into five parts.

In the experiments, The first classifier built from original training data (i.e. first part of training data), then the accuracy of this classifier after applying TCV (Ten-Cross Validation) stored. After that new incremental data (first part of incremental data-$1/5$) add to original data. The developed algorithm implemented and the accuracy stored. At the end of this step the algorithm add the incremental data to the original data and consider both as original data in the second step. The above process repeat on the five incremental training data and the average accuracy of the classifier on the five steps will be computed.

Table III and Table IV show the average accuracy and average runtime for CBA and our algorithm respectively. Where, the minimum cover threshold is set to 0 to disable it in our implementation. The weight for very high, high, mid and low rules is set 4,3,2,1 respectively.

Table III shows the average accuracy of CBA and the ACIM. We can see from Table III our method achieve better accuracy than CBA in three datasets that’s refer to reduce the dependency on default class because our method go to level II classifier if no rules match the unseen object.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data set</th>
<th>CBA Average Accuracy</th>
<th>ACIM Average accuracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car evaluation</td>
<td>90.90</td>
<td>92.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led7</td>
<td>71.90</td>
<td>71.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page blocks</td>
<td>93.68</td>
<td>92.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen digits</td>
<td>91.30</td>
<td>92.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wav form</td>
<td>75.60</td>
<td>76.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine quality</td>
<td>44.09</td>
<td>44.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table IV shows the runtime of CBA and ACIM. The
ACIM algorithm outperform on CBA in all dataset and that’s make sense because our method doesn’t build the new classifier from scratch, the developed method utilize the previous classifier to build new one. The developed method generates all candidate itemsets for incremental data only.

Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 show the average accuracy and average runtime of CBA and ACIM graphically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data set</th>
<th>CBA Avg. runtime(s) in seconds</th>
<th>Our method Avg. runtime(s) in seconds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car evaluation</td>
<td>.26</td>
<td>.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led7</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page blocks</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen digits</td>
<td>145.0</td>
<td>35.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waveform</td>
<td>140.4</td>
<td>45.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine quality</td>
<td>3.55</td>
<td>2.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 4. Average accuracy of CBA and ACIM.

Fig. 5. Average runtime of CBA and ACIM.

### IV. SUMMARY

In this paper we introduced associative classification based on incremental mining algorithm called ACIM. This algorithm deals with data insertion problem in associative classification context. The method uses new technique to build the classifier when nontrivial data insertion operation occur on the original dataset which used to build the old classifier before update. The experimental results against six UCI data collection showed that our method reduces the computational time for all data sets comparing with that of CBA, and almost gives the same accuracy of it.

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