

Preface

This book is intended to provide a general and comprehensible overview of the field of pattern mining with evolutionary algorithms. To do so, the book provides formal definitions about patterns, pattern mining, type of patterns, and the usefulness of patterns in the knowledge discovery process. As it is described within the book, the discovery process suffers from both high runtime and memory requirements, especially when high-dimensional datasets are analyzed. To solve this issue, many pruning strategies have been developed. Nevertheless, with the growing interest in the storage of information, more and more datasets comprise such a dimensionality that the discovery of interesting patterns becomes a hard process. In this regard, the use of evolutionary algorithms for mining pattern enables the computation capacity to be reduced, providing sufficiently good solutions.

The book also provides a survey on evolutionary computation with particular emphasis on genetic algorithms and genetic programming. Additionally, this book carries out an analysis of the set of quality measures most widely used in the field of pattern mining with evolutionary algorithms. This book serves as a good review on the most important evolutionary algorithms for pattern mining. In this sense, it considers the analysis of different algorithms for mining different types of patterns and relationships between patterns, such as frequent patterns, infrequent patterns, patterns defined in a continuous domain, or even positive and negative patterns.

The book also introduces a completely new problem in the pattern mining field, which is known by the name of the mining of exceptional relationships between patterns. In this problem, the goal is to identify patterns where distribution is exceptionally different from the distribution in the complete set of data records. Finally, this book deals with the subgroup discovery task, a method to identify a subgroup of interesting patterns that is related to a dependent variable or target attribute. This subgroup of patterns satisfies two essential conditions: interpretability and interestingness.

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