

Gene Microarray Cancer Classification using Correlation Based Feature Selection Algorithm and Rules Classifiers

<https://doi.org/10.3991/ijoe.v15i08.10617>

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Abstract—Gene microarray classification problems are considered a challenge task since the datasets contain few number of samples with high number of genes (features). The genes subset selection in microarray data play an important role for minimizing the computational load and solving classification problems. In this paper, the Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) algorithm is utilized in the feature selection process to reduce the dimensionality of data and finding a set of discriminatory genes. Then, the Decision Table, JRip, and OneR are employed for classification process. The proposed approach of gene selection and classification is tested on 11 microarray datasets and the performances of the filtered datasets are compared with the original datasets. The experimental results showed that CFS can effectively screen irrelevant, redundant, and noisy features. In addition, the results for all datasets proved that the proposed approach with a small number of genes can achieve high prediction accuracy and fast computational speed. Considering the average accuracy for all the analysis of microarray data, the JRip achieved the best result as compared to Decision Table, and OneR classifier. The proposed approach has a remarkable impact on the classification accuracy especially when the data is complicated with multiple classes and high number of genes.

Keywords—Feature selection, gene expression data, Correlation-based Feature Selection algorithm, Decision Table, JRip, and OneR.

1 Introduction

Cancer is considered as one of the dreadful diseases and diagnosis of cancer is very important in initial stage for its proper treatment [11]. Cancer data is a collection of thousands of genes and DNA microarray is used to determine the expression level of genes [21]. Microarray gene selection and classification is considered very challenges task since the datasets are large and abundant in noisy genes [12]. The main problem in microarray datasets arises from the fact that the genes greatly outnumber the sample observations [27]. Thus, feature selection methods is needed in microarray cancer datasets so as to select suitable feature set that makes the classifier more accurate and faster [7]. The main benefits of using feature selection is improved the performance of

the classifier by minimizing redundancy, removing noisy data and maximizing the relevance [8]. The relevance and the redundancy level of a gene are often measured by correlation coefficients such as: Symmetrical Uncertainty [13], Mutual Information (MI) [32], Pearson's correlation [6][28].

Problems in high-dimensional data analysis have motivated the researchers to search for possible solutions and propose viable algorithms [14]. Alternatively, different meta-heuristic algorithms have been adapted for feature selection issues [19][29]. Examples of these algorithms are Principle Component Analysis [34], Genetic Algorithm [3], Ant Colony Optimization [9], Simulated Annealing [16] and Particle Swarm Optimization [5][33].

Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) is a simple filter algorithm that ranks feature subsets according to a correlation-based heuristic evaluation function [38]. CFS is one of the most well-known feature selection algorithms that take advantage of a redundancy filter. The CFS evaluates subsets of features using the hypothesis "Good feature subset contain features that are highly correlated with the classification and yet uncorrelated to each other" [39].

CFS evaluates the worth of a subset of attributes by considering the individual predictive ability of each feature along with the degree of redundancy between them [19]. Correlation coefficients is used to estimate correlation between subset of attributes and class, as well as inter-correlations between the features. Relevance of a group of features grows with the correlation between features and classes, and decreases with growing inter-correlation. CFS is used to determine the best feature subset and is usually combined with search strategies such as forward selection, backward elimination, bi-directional search, best-first search and genetic search. In this paper, Greedy Stepwise is used as search method with CFS algorithm.

2 Background

Nowadays, various kinds of machine learning and statistical approaches are used to classify tumour cells accurate such as support vector machines [15], k-nearest neighbor [30], and neural network techniques [24]. Also, several researchers thus hybridize the classification techniques with optimization algorithms for further enhancement of accuracy [1][22].

Two-phase hybrid model is suggested in [23] for cancer classification, integrating Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) with improved-Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (iBPSO) using Naive-Bayes classifier as the only classifier.

The Pearson's Correlation Coefficient (PCC) [18] is used in combination with Binary Particle Swarm Optimization (BPSO) or Genetic Algorithm (GA) along with various classifiers for the selection and classification of high dimensional microarray data. It was noticed that the PCC filter showed a remarkable improvement in the classification accuracy when it was combined with BPSO or GA. Also, the results show that the BPSO is working faster and has better performance than GA.

Additionally, the Probabilistic Attribute-Value have used in [4] for Class Distinction (Paviced) algorithm as a feature selection in microarray cancer datasets. The

Pavcd algorithm works on the space of feature values instead of the features' space. Experiments show that Pavcd gets the best performance in terms of running time and classification accuracy when using Ripper-k and C4.5 as classifiers.

A Collaborative Representation (CR)-based classification with regularized least square was developed [31] to classify gene data. The CR codes a testing sample as a sparse linear combination of all training samples and then classifies the testing sample by evaluating which class leads to the minimum representation error. Experiments results on several diseases show that the CR-based algorithm achieves high classification accuracy and fast computational speed than the traditional classifiers, such as support vector machine algorithm.

The K-Nearest Neighbor (K-NN) classifier and feature selection using ANOVA test was developed based on MapReduce programming model [26]. The approach works in a distributed manner on scalable clusters. The algorithms are successfully implemented on Hadoop framework and comparative analysis is done using various microarray datasets.

A multi-test decision tree (MTDT) was applied for solving biological problems [10]. The application of several univariate tests in each non-terminal node of the decision tree is considered. Comparison results with eight classifiers show that MTDT has a statistically significantly higher accuracy than popular decision tree classifiers, and it was highly competitive with ensemble learning algorithms.

Moreover, the Support Vector Machine (SVM) classifier was applied on four microarray datasets [2]. The study analyzed two different kernels of SVM; radial kernel and linear kernels. The results showed that the SVM exceeded the performance and accuracy compared to K-nearest neighbor (KNN) and neural network (NN).

3 The Proposed Work

In this paper, 11 different high dimensional datasets are applied. The Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) with Greedy Stepwise search method is proposed for genes selection. Also, multiple classifiers are utilized to show the quality of each of them.

3.1 Datasets

The performance of three classifiers; Decision Table, JRip, and OneR are investigated using eleven (11) publicly available microarray datasets [37]. A brief overview of these datasets such as number of gene, number of instance, and number of class is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Gene microarray datasets

Dataset	Gene number	Instance number	Class number
Breast Cancer	24481	97	2 classes, 46 relapse, 51 non-relapse
CNS	7129	60	2 types, 21 survivors, 39 failures
Colon Tumor	2000	62	2 types, 40 Tumor, 22 Normal
Leukemia	7129	72	2 types of acute leukemia, 47 Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), 25 Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)
Leukemia_3C	7129	72	3 types of acute leukemia, 38 B-cell ALL, 9 T-cell ALL, 25 AML
Leukemia_4C	7129	72	4 types of acute leukemia, 38 B-cell, 9 T-cell, 21 BM AML, 4 PB AML
Lung Cancer	12600	203	5 types, 139 adenocarcinoma (AD), 17 normal lung (NL), 6 small cell lung cancer (SMCL), 21 squamous cell carcinoma (SQ), 20 pulmonary carcinoid (COID).
Lymphoma	4026	66	3 different adult lymphoid malignancies, 46 diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), 9 Follicular Lymphoma (FL), 11 Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL).
MLL	12582	72	3 types, 24 acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), 20 Mixed-Lineage Leukemia (MLL), 28 acute myeloblastic leukemia (AML).
Ovarian Cancer	15154	253	2 types, 162 Cancer, 91 Normal
SRBCT	2308	83	4 different cases, 29 Ewing sarcoma (EWS), 11 Burkitt lymphoma (BL), 18 neuroblastoma (NB), 25 rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS).

These datasets are related to studies of human cancer, including Breast Cancer, Central Nervous System (CNS), Colon Tumor, Leukemia, Leukemia_3C, Leukemia_4C, Lung Cancer, Lymphoma, Mixed Lineage Leukemia (MLL), Ovarian Cancer, and Small Round Blue-Cell Tumor (SRBCT).

3.2 Correlation based feature selection algorithm

A common procedure for choosing the foremost applicable characteristics within the dataset is to use correlation. Correlation is additionally strictly remarked as Pearson’s coefficient of correlation in statistics. We are able to compute the correlation among every characteristic and also the output variable and choose solely those characteristics that have a moderate-to-high positive or correlational statistics (close to -1 or 1) and drop those characteristics with a coffee correlation (value near zero).

Correlation-based feature selection (CFS) ranks characteristics in keeping with a heuristic analysis operate supported correlations [17]. The operate gauges subsets product of characteristic vectors, that are correlative with the category label, however freelance of every alternative.

The CFS methodology assumes and accepts that impertinent options show a coffee correlation with the category and thus ought to be unheeded by the algorithmic rule. On the opposite hand, excess options ought to be examined, as they’re typically powerfully correlative with one or additional of the opposite attributes [36].

3.3 Classification model

In this paper, three classifiers are applied; Decision Table, JRip, and OneR. The choice of various classifiers is due to the fact that there is no any specific classifier to work perfectly for all datasets and not all classifiers work in the same way on a dataset.

- Decision Table constructs a decision table majority classifier [25]. It evaluates feature subsets using best-first search and can use cross-validation for evaluation.
- JRip implements RIPPER, including heuristic global optimization of the rule set [35].
- OneR is the 1R classifier with one parameter: the minimum bucket size for discretization [20].

4 Experimental Design and Results Discussion

Initially, the Decision Table, JRip, and OneR classifiers were applied on the original datasets. Then, the all eleven datasets were filtered using Correlation-based Feature Selection (CFS) algorithm. After that, the filtered datasets were tested against the applied classifiers. This was done in order to compare the classification accuracy of the dataset with the one before filtration. In each dataset, experiment was performed in full training method and 2-folds to 10-folds cross validation.

The features of the datasets were filtered and the number of selected genes using CFS is tabulated in Table 2. From the results, we can notice that CFS has selected fewer number of genes compared to that of original dataset. The results show that the number of selected genes for Breast Cancer is reduced from 24481 to 138, CNS from 7129 to 39, Colon Tumor from 2000 to 26, Leukemia from 7129 to 79, Leukemia_3C from 7129 to 104, Leukemia_4C from 7129 to 119, Lung Cancer from 12600 to 548, Lymphoma from 4026 to 175, MLL from 12582 to 142, Ovarian Cancer from 15154 to 35, and SRBCT from 2308 to 112 genes.

Table 2. Number of selected genes before/after applying CFS algorithm

Dataset	#Total Genes	#Gene After CFS
Breast Cancer	24481	138
CNS	7129	39
Colon Tumor	2000	26
Leukaemia	7129	79
Leukaemia-3C	7129	104
Leukaemia-4C	7129	119
Lung Cancer	12600	548
Lymphoma	4026	175
MLL	12582	142
Ovarian Cancer	15154	35
SRBCT	2308	112

The accuracy of the classifiers applied on the original and filtered datasets was evaluated as shown in Table 3. Results in bold indicate the best performed classifier for each specific dataset. The results show that generally the accuracy of the classifiers on the filtered dataset performed better results when compared with those applied directly on the original datasets. However, there are some cases with few classifiers in which the accuracy on the original dataset is same as filtered dataset.

In addition, the results show that the Decision Table and Jrip are the best classifiers for the datasets, while the OneR is the worst classifier. The Breast Cancer had the highest accuracy of 88.7% with Jrip, CNS (90.0% with Decision Table), Colon (96.8% with Decision Table and Jrip), Leukemia (98.6% with Decision Table), Leukemia_3C (100.0% with Decision Table), Leukemia_4C (98.6% with Decision Table and JRip), Lung (97.5% with JRip), Lymphoma (100.0% with JRip), MLL (95.8% with JRip), Ovarian (100.0% with Decision Table), and SRBCT (97.6% with JRip).

Table 3. Accuracy for the original and filtered microarray datasets

Datasets	Classifier	Full Train	2-Fold	3-Fold	4-Fold	5-Fold	6-Fold	7-Fold	8-Fold	9-Fold	10-Fold	Average
Breast Cancer	Decision Table	79.4	64.9	50.5	57.7	64.9	50.5	63.9	60.8	55.7	61.9	61.0
	Decision Table-CFS	85.6	68.0	66.0	59.8	75.3	73.2	67.0	62.9	72.2	67.0	69.7
	JRip	84.5	58.8	53.6	57.7	56.7	49.5	54.6	59.8	56.7	66.0	59.8
	Jrip-CFS	88.7	62.9	73.2	59.8	68.0	70.1	71.1	69.1	59.8	68.0	69.1
	OneR	82.5	55.7	46.4	45.4	49.5	52.6	54.6	51.5	42.3	56.7	53.7
	OneR-CFS	81.4	58.8	53.6	59.8	54.6	53.6	61.9	54.6	58.8	57.7	59.5
CNS	Decision Table	90.0	63.3	56.7	56.7	56.7	51.7	63.3	60.0	56.7	75.0	63.0
	Decision Table-CFS	90.0	63.3	71.7	71.7	73.3	66.7	81.7	68.3	70.0	76.7	73.3
	JRip	75.0	61.7	68.3	40.0	68.3	51.7	56.7	60.0	60.0	58.3	60.0
	Jrip-CFS	88.3	71.7	80.0	63.3	68.3	70.0	68.3	71.7	68.3	65.0	71.5
	OneR	88.3	60.0	55.0	55.0	48.3	48.3	56.7	65.0	53.3	48.3	57.8
Colon	Decision Table	96.8	62.9	72.6	71.0	69.4	72.6	75.8	72.6	72.6	77.4	74.4
	Decision Table-CFS	96.8	67.7	85.5	80.6	80.6	80.6	83.9	80.6	88.7	83.9	82.9
	JRip	85.5	71.0	75.8	75.8	67.7	75.8	74.2	72.6	69.4	75.8	74.4
	Jrip-CFS	96.8	88.7	74.2	82.3	80.6	72.6	82.3	87.1	82.3	77.4	82.4
	OneR	88.7	51.6	75.8	74.2	71.0	66.1	79.0	71.0	62.9	69.4	71.0
	OneR-CFS	88.7	64.5	77.4	82.3	79.0	77.4	79.0	71.0	77.4	74.2	77.1
Leukemia	Decision Table	98.6	76.4	88.9	80.6	90.3	83.3	81.9	81.9	84.7	83.3	85.0
	Decision Table-CFS	98.6	76.4	90.3	81.9	91.7	83.3	87.5	83.3	86.1	88.9	86.8
	JRip	95.8	76.4	87.5	80.6	91.7	83.3	84.7	84.7	87.5	87.5	86.0
	Jrip-CFS	95.8	76.4	90.3	84.7	95.8	83.3	90.3	84.7	87.5	91.7	88.1
	OneR	95.8	76.4	87.5	84.7	87.5	90.3	80.6	79.2	86.1	81.9	85.0
	OneR-CFS	95.8	76.4	87.5	84.7	87.5	90.3	80.6	77.8	86.1	83.3	85.0
Leukemia_3C	Decision Table	100.0	72.2	69.4	76.4	81.9	90.3	70.8	86.1	84.7	84.7	81.7
	Decision Table-CFS	98.6	81.9	72.2	79.2	81.9	90.3	84.7	84.7	81.9	81.9	83.7
	JRip	98.6	76.4	77.8	80.6	86.1	88.9	90.3	91.7	90.3	90.3	87.1

Datasets	Classifier	Full Train	2-Fold	3-Fold	4-Fold	5-Fold	6-Fold	7-Fold	8-Fold	9-Fold	10-Fold	Average
	Jrip-CFS	98.6	79.2	83.3	83.3	91.7	91.7	94.4	94.4	94.4	94.4	90.6
	OneR	86.1	58.3	77.8	69.4	70.8	75.0	69.4	68.1	72.2	69.4	71.7
	OneR-CFS	86.1	80.6	77.8	73.6	72.2	75.0	69.4	68.1	72.2	69.4	74.4
Leukemia-4C	Decision Table	98.6	52.8	66.7	69.4	83.3	75.0	76.4	73.6	79.2	77.8	75.3
	Decision Table-CFS	98.6	75.0	72.2	76.4	87.5	81.9	77.8	79.2	80.6	79.2	80.8
	JRip	97.2	55.6	80.6	81.9	81.9	86.1	83.3	83.3	75.0	84.7	81.0
	Jrip-CFS	98.6	72.2	83.3	87.5	80.6	83.3	87.5	90.3	79.2	90.3	85.3
	OneR	83.3	63.9	70.8	70.8	77.8	72.2	69.4	68.1	76.4	76.4	72.9
	OneR-CFS	83.3	65.3	70.8	70.8	77.8	72.2	69.4	68.1	76.4	76.4	73.1
	Decision Table	94.1	77.3	82.3	83.7	81.8	85.2	79.8	84.2	84.2	84.2	83.7
Lung	Decision Table-CFS	95.6	80.8	87.2	81.8	85.7	89.2	87.7	87.2	85.2	84.2	86.5
	JRip	97.5	83.3	85.7	88.7	91.6	88.7	87.2	86.2	84.2	89.7	88.3
	Jrip-CFS	97.5	87.7	92.1	92.1	92.1	92.1	92.1	89.2	88.2	92.6	91.6
	OneR	81.8	77.3	72.9	76.4	73.4	72.9	74.4	73.4	73.9	76.8	75.3
	OneR-CFS	81.8	77.3	74.9	77.3	74.9	73.4	76.8	73.4	73.9	76.8	76.1
	Decision Table	98.5	89.4	80.3	83.3	81.8	78.8	87.9	75.8	83.3	77.3	83.6
Lymphoma	Decision Table-CFS	98.5	89.4	84.8	83.3	84.8	80.3	90.9	80.3	83.3	78.8	85.5
	JRip	100.0	74.2	72.7	81.8	80.3	86.4	90.9	90.9	89.4	93.9	86.1
	Jrip-CFS	100.0	71.2	93.9	95.5	95.5	93.9	97.0	98.5	98.5	93.9	93.8
	OneR	97.0	74.2	86.4	84.8	77.3	80.3	83.3	78.8	81.8	81.8	82.6
	OneR-CFS	97.0	83.3	86.4	84.8	87.9	80.3	83.3	78.8	81.8	81.8	84.5
	Decision Table	94.4	81.9	86.1	86.1	73.6	84.7	84.7	80.6	83.3	83.3	83.9
MLL	Decision Table-CFS	93.1	83.3	86.1	87.5	88.9	87.5	87.5	86.1	83.3	81.9	86.5
	JRip	91.7	68.1	77.8	77.8	79.2	76.4	87.5	87.5	84.7	91.7	82.2
	Jrip-CFS	95.8	81.9	84.7	88.9	86.1	81.9	90.3	88.9	83.3	88.9	87.1
	OneR	90.3	81.9	76.4	81.9	75.0	75.0	77.8	73.6	77.8	75.0	78.5
	OneR-CFS	90.3	81.9	76.4	81.9	79.2	75.0	77.8	75.0	77.8	75.0	79.0
	Decision Table	100.0	92.9	96.0	96.8	96.0	97.6	96.8	96.0	97.6	98.0	96.8
Ovarian	Decision Table-CFS	99.6	95.3	96.8	96.8	97.2	95.7	96.8	96.4	97.2	96.8	96.9
	JRip	99.2	94.9	96.4	96.4	97.6	96.4	98.0	97.6	96.4	98.4	97.2
	Jrip-CFS	99.2	97.6	97.6	96.0	97.6	94.9	96.8	98.0	98.0	96.8	97.3
	OneR	98.0	94.9	97.2	95.7	96.8	97.2	97.2	97.2	97.2	97.2	96.9
	OneR-CFS	98.0	94.9	97.2	95.7	96.8	97.2	97.2	97.2	97.2	97.2	96.9
	Decision Table	95.2	65.1	74.7	62.7	68.7	73.5	71.1	69.9	73.5	67.5	72.2
SRBCT	Decision Table-CFS	94.0	68.7	72.3	69.9	67.5	81.9	72.3	71.1	75.9	65.1	73.9
	JRip	97.6	80.7	89.2	79.5	85.5	81.9	85.5	84.3	85.5	86.7	85.7
	Jrip-CFS	97.6	86.7	90.4	88.0	85.5	85.5	90.4	91.6	90.4	89.2	89.5
	OneR	74.7	44.6	61.4	54.2	57.8	59.0	57.8	60.2	56.6	56.6	58.3
	OneR-CFS	74.7	44.6	61.4	39.8	50.6	63.9	55.4	60.2	56.6	60.2	56.7

Furthermore, it is noticeable that the highest average accuracy is achieved using JRip-CFS as compared to other classifiers. For example, Lymphoma data had the highest accuracy of 93.8% with Jrip-CFS, and 86.1% with JRip, while the accuracy

was 85.5% with Decision Table-CFS, 83.6% with Decision Table, 84.5% with OneR-CFS, and 82.6% with OneR.

Considering the datasets analysis in full training method and 2-folds to 10-folds cross validation. The results showed that the JRip exceeded the performance and accuracy compared to Decision Table and OneR. As example, Figure 1 shows the classification accuracy for the SRBCT dataset using the 3 classifiers in the ten different tests. The results in Figure 1 prove that JRip combined with CFS was the best functional method since it yielded better results than the other methods.

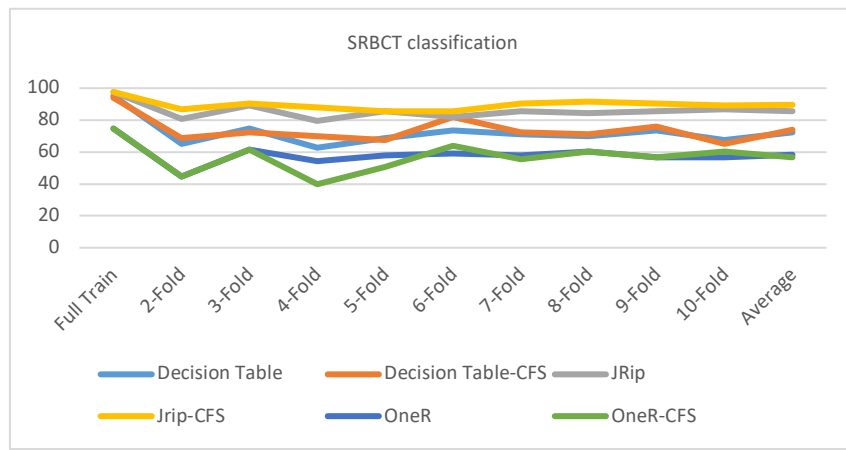


Fig. 1. Accuracy of SRBCT using full training and cross validation method

Moreover, considering the average accuracy for the 11 datasets as shown in Table 4. The average accuracy of all 11 data was 78.2% (Decision Table), 82.4% (Decision Table-CFS), 80.7% (JRip), 86.0% (Jrip-CFS), 73.1% (OneR), and 75.3% (OneR-CFS). It is clear that the classifier’s accuracy is improved after selection process using CFS. Also, we have clearly noticed that the average accuracy of JRip was better than Decision Table and OneR.

Table 4. Average accuracy for the 11 microarray data

Classifier	Accuracy for the full training and cross validation method											Average
	Breast Cancer	CNS	Co-lon	Leu-kemia	Leuke-mia_3C	Leuke-mia_4C	Lung	Lym-phoma	MLL	Ovar-ian	SRBC T	
Decision Table	61.0	63.0	74.4	85.0	81.7	75.3	83.7	83.6	83.9	96.8	72.2	78.2
Decision Table-CFS	69.7	73.3	82.9	86.8	83.7	80.8	86.5	85.5	86.5	96.9	73.9	82.4
JRip	59.8	60.0	74.4	86.0	87.1	81.0	88.3	86.1	82.2	97.2	85.7	80.7
Jrip-CFS	69.1	71.5	82.4	88.1	90.6	85.3	91.6	93.8	87.1	97.3	89.5	86.0
OneR	53.7	57.8	71.0	85.0	71.7	72.9	75.3	82.6	78.5	96.9	58.3	73.1
OneR-CFS	59.5	66.0	77.1	85.0	74.4	73.1	76.1	84.5	79.0	96.9	56.7	75.3

5 Conclusion

Usually, microarray data is characterized by noisiness as well as increased dimensionality. Therefore, selecting relevant genes is an imperative in microarray data analysis. In this paper, CFS is proposed to select the relevant features. Also, Decision Table, JRip, and OneR classifiers are proposed to classify the microarray data. The comparative analysis proved that the accuracy of all classifiers is improved using filtered datasets compared with their accuracy on the original datasets. This indicates that the feature selection by CFS not only improved the efficiency of the classification process but also its accuracy is enhanced. Furthermore, it can be seen that JRip has presented the highest classification accuracy among all the other classifiers. Further, this paper can be extended by considering the applicability of another features selection techniques such as Genetic Algorithm, Principle Component Analysis, Simulated Annealing, Ant Colony Optimization, and Particle Swarm Optimization.

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Article submitted 2019-02-07. Resubmitted 2019-04-20. Final acceptance 2019-04-30. Final version published as submitted by the authors.