

Research Article

Concept Lattices in Green Farmland Databases and Concept Intent Reduction for the Mass Food Production

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Abstract: Formal Concept Analysis (FCA) in green farmland databases and Concept Intent Reduction for the mass food production provides a method for extracting concepts from binary contexts. However, FCA-concepts cannot describe negations and disjunctions of attributes. Hence, we take the logic operators into consideration in the process of constructing concepts and obtain new extended concepts, which are more expressive than FCA-concepts. This study mainly discusses the connections between FCA-concepts and concepts with logic values in green farmland databases and concept intent reduction for the mass food production and provides a method for reducing concepts. The reduction does not lose essential information. Results can be used in data mining and construction of architecture ontology.

Keywords: Concept lattices, concept intent reduction, green farmland databases, mass food production

INTRODUCTION

In Computer Science and architecture, the semantics of data can be advantageously exploited to better retrieve and efficiently discover relevant patterns which are a concise and semantically rich representation of data. Patterns can be clusters, concepts and so on. In this study we present alternate ways to extract concepts from binary green farmland databases.

Formal Concept Analysis (FCA) (Ganter and Wille, 1999) is a data technique which automatically generates concept lattices from binary relations. A node of concept lattices is an objects/attributes pair, called a formal concept, consisting of two parts: the extent (objects the concept covers) and intent (attributes describing the concept). Concept lattices have already been applied to a wide range of disciplines such as knowledge discovery (Belohlavek *et al.*, 2014; Berghammer and Winter, 2013; Huchard *et al.*, 2007; Jiang and Deogun, 2007; Lei *et al.*, 2009; Missaoui *et al.*, 2012; Poelmans *et al.*, 2010), information retrieval, software engineering (Jay *et al.*, 2008; Tilley and Eklund, 2007), rough set theory (Jiang *et al.*, 2010; Qu *et al.*, 2007; Yao, 2004; Wei and Qi, 2010; Zhou and Yao, 2010), knowledge ontology (Ge *et al.*, 2012; Chunging and Liu, 2012) and the connections with description logics (Bazin and Ganascia, 2012; Ma *et al.*, 2012).

Recently, a main axis of research on FCA has aimed at extending the classical FCA, either by scaling methods (Ganter and Wille, 1999; Lei *et al.*, 2009) or by extending the definition of the Galois connection (Huchard *et al.*, 2007; Jiang *et al.*, 2010). One of the disadvantages of scaling methods is that it is very sensitive to user's selection of scale attributes. Our main contributions in this study are to propose an approach towards constructing concepts, which can extract more interesting concepts from binary relations, without using any scaling method. For example, for the binary relation of an educational film "Living Beings and Water" described, the classical FCA can only describe that Leech, Bream, Frog, Spike-weed and Reed live in water, but not describe that all of Dog, Bean and Maize do not live in water. Similar to conjunction, negation and disjunction are also important logic operators, which are common in human language (e.g., not young). Therefore, it is necessary to extend the classical FCA-concepts to improve the expressiveness of concepts. Hence, we take the logic operators into consideration in the process of constructing concepts and obtain new extended concepts, which are more expressive than the classical FCA-concepts.

This study mainly provides some properties of the extended concepts and a method for reducing their intents. The reduction not only simplifies concept representation, but does not lose essential information.

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Table 1: Relation between objects and ϕ -statements

Objects	a	b	c
r_1	1	1	0
r_2	0	1	1
r_3	1	0	0
r_4	0	0	1

CONCEPTS WITH LOGIC VALUES AND CORRESPONDING CONCEPT LATTICES

Given a binary relation $R = (G, M, I)$, we can built complex statements from attributes in M inductively with negation (\neg), disjunction (\vee), conjunction (\wedge) and implication (\rightarrow). Because for any statements ϕ and φ , " $\phi \rightarrow \varphi \Leftrightarrow \neg\phi \vee \varphi$ ", we can define ϕ -statements with negation and disjunction as follows: $\phi = a|\neg a|\phi_1 \vee \phi_2$, where $a \in M$. Let Φ be the set of ϕ -statements. For any $r \in G$ and $a \in M$, r always possesses or does not have a , that is, r always satisfies the property $a \vee (\neg a)$. Hence, we delete all of ϕ -statements with the form $a \vee (\neg a)$ from Φ .

Example 1: Given the following binary relation $R = (G, M, I)$, we obtain some ϕ -statements such as a , $\neg a$, $a \vee b$, $b \vee (\neg c)$ and $a \vee (\neg b) \vee c$ (Table 1).

Then, we define the satisfaction relation between objects and ϕ -statements as follows: for any object $r \in G$ and ϕ -statement $\phi \in \Phi$, we say that r satisfies ϕ , denoted by $r| = R \phi$, if:

$$\begin{cases} r(a) = 1, & \text{if } \phi = a \\ r(a) = 0, & \text{if } \phi = \neg a \\ r| = \delta \text{ or } r| = \varphi, & \text{if } \phi = \delta \vee \varphi \end{cases}$$

Which correspondingly induces the following two maps α and β between the power $P(G)$ of G and the power set $P(\Phi)$ of Φ . For any $X \subseteq G$, $\alpha(X)$ is defined as follows: $\alpha(X) = \{\phi \in \Phi: \forall r \in X, r| = R \phi\}$, which is the set of ϕ -statements satisfied by the objects in X . For any $Y \subseteq \Phi$, $\beta(Y)$ is defined as follows: $\beta(Y) = \{r \in G: \forall \phi \in Y, r| = R \phi\}$, which is the set of objects which satisfy all ϕ -statements in Y .

Definition 1: The pair (X, Y) is called a R_L -concept, if $X = \beta(Y)$ and $Y = \alpha(X)$. We call X and Y the extent and the intent of (X, Y) , respectively. $LL(R)$ denotes the set of all R_L -concepts.

For any two R_L -concepts (X_1, Y_1) and (X_2, Y_2) , (X_2, Y_2) is called a super-concept of (X_1, Y_1) , denoted by $(X_1, Y_1) \leq (X_2, Y_2)$, if $X_1 \subseteq X_2 (\Leftrightarrow Y_2 \subseteq Y_1)$. Therefore, we have $(X_1, Y_1) \leq (X_2, Y_2) \Leftrightarrow X_1 \subseteq X_2 \Leftrightarrow Y_2 \subseteq Y_1$. Specially, for any object $r \in G$, $(\beta\alpha(r), \alpha(r))$ is always a R_L -concept, called an atomic R_L -concept. The set of all atomic R_L -concept is denoted by $L(\text{Atom}(R))$.

Example 2: The binary relation R in Example 1 has 16 R_L -concepts. For example, $(\{r_1, r_3\}, \{a, \neg c\})$, which is the reduced form.

Similar to the classical FCA-concepts, the intersection of any number extents (intents) of R_L -concepts is always an extent (intent). Generally, the union of extents of the classical FCA-concepts does not result in an extent, while the union of extents of R_L -concepts is exactly the extent of some R_L -concept. The reasons are as follows: from the logic point of view, each intent is actually equivalent to the conjunction of some ϕ -statements, that is, each intent is represented as a Conjunctive Normal Form (CNF). Thus, given two R_L -concepts, we immediately obtain two CNFs from their intents and the disjunction of them can be transformed into a CNF. The set of objects satisfying the CNF is exactly the union of the two extents. Based on the above description, there is therefore the following proposition:

Proposition 1: $\beta(Y_1 \cap (Y_2 \cup Y_3)) = X_1 \cup (X_2 \cap X_3)$

Proof: On the one hand, it is easily inferred that $X_1 \cup (X_2 \cap X_3) \subseteq \beta(Y_1 \cap (Y_2 \cup Y_3))$ holds. On the other hand, $\beta(Y_1 \cap (Y_2 \cup Y_3)) \subseteq X_1 \cup (X_2 \cap X_3)$. Or else, there is an object $r \in \beta(Y_1 \cap (Y_2 \cup Y_3))$ but $r \notin X_1 \cup (X_2 \cap X_3)$ and hence $r \notin X_1$ and $r \notin X_2 \cap X_3$. By $r \notin X_1$, there is $\phi_1 \in Y_1$ satisfying $r_0| \neq R \phi_1$. By $r \notin X_2 \cap X_3$, there is $r \notin X_2$ or $r \notin X_3$. Hence, there are the three cases as follows:

Case 1: $r \notin X_2$ and $r \in X_3$. There is $\phi_2 \in Y_2$ satisfying $r_0| \neq R \phi_2$. Hence, there is $r_0| \neq R \phi_1 \vee \phi_2$. Because $\phi_1 \vee \phi_2 \in Y_1 \cap (Y_2 \cup Y_3)$, there is $r_0| = R \phi_1 \vee \phi_2$, which leads to a contradiction.

Case 2: $r \in X_2$ and $r \notin X_3$. There is $\phi_3 \in Y_3$ satisfying $r_0| \neq R \phi_3$. Hence, there is $r_0| \neq R \phi_1 \vee \phi_3$. Because $\phi_1 \vee \phi_3 \in Y_1 \cap (Y_2 \cup Y_3)$, there is $r_0| = R \phi_1 \vee \phi_3$, which leads to a contradiction.

Case 3: $r \notin X_2$ and $r \notin X_3$. There are $\phi_2 \in Y_2$ and $\phi_3 \in Y_3$ satisfying $r_0| \neq R \phi_2$ and $r_0| \neq R \phi_3$, respectively. Hence, $r_0| \neq R \phi_1 \vee \phi_2 \vee \phi_3$. Because $\phi_1 \vee \phi_2 \vee \phi_3 \in Y_1 \cap (Y_2 \cup Y_3)$, there is $r_0| = R \phi_1 \vee \phi_2 \vee \phi_3$, which leads to a contradiction.

REDUCTION OF R_L -CONCEPTS

Now, we discuss the intents of R_L -concepts and provide a method for reducing the intents of R_L -concepts. Our idea is as follows: We regard ϕ -statements as formulas in predicate logic and then apply the inference rules to reducing the intents of R_L -concepts.

We assume that the ϕ -statements in intents are drawn from a linearly ordered set. That is, we write the ϕ -statement according to the numbers of positive attributes and negative ones contained in these statements. For example, an intent Y can be represented as a set $\{a, b, a \vee b, b \vee c, b \vee c \vee (\neg d)\}$ or $\{b, a, b \vee c, a \vee b, b \vee c \vee (\neg d)\}$ but not $\{a \vee b, a, b, b \vee c, b \vee c \vee (\neg d)\}$. Now, we introduce formal inference rules as follows:

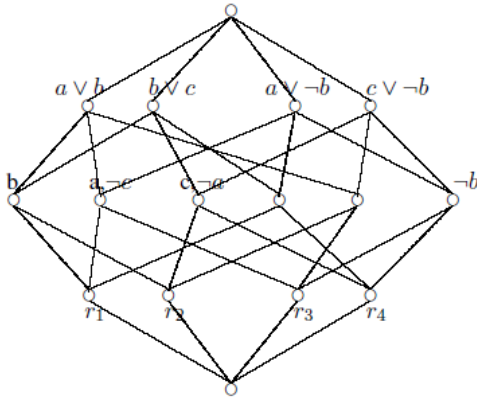


Fig. 1: Concept lattice with operators

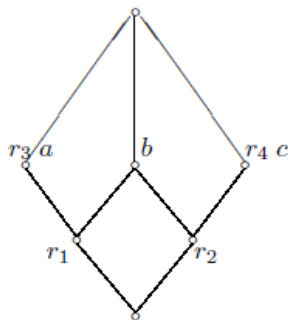


Fig. 2: Concept lattice

(Reflexivity)	$\phi \vdash \phi$
(\vee^+)	If $\phi \vdash \phi_1$, then $\phi \vdash \phi_1 \vee \phi_2$ and $\phi \vdash \phi_2 \vee \phi_1$.

For any three ϕ -statements ϕ , ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 , the inference rules are sound, that is, if $\phi \vdash \phi_1$, then for any object $r \in G$, $r \models R\phi$ implies $r \models R\phi_1$. Given a R_L -concept (X, Y) , for any $\phi \in Y$, we define Thus, we provide the following algorithm for reducing intents.

Algorithm for reducing intents:

Input: A R_L -concept (X, Y)

Output: The reduced form $\text{Core}(Y)$ of the intent Y

Process

1. $\text{Core}(Y) \leftarrow \{ \}$
2. Begin
3. While $Y \neq \emptyset$ Do
4. Begin
5. For the first ϕ -element $\phi \in Y$, computing $\Gamma_Y(\phi)$
6. $Y \leftarrow Y - \Gamma_Y(\phi)$
7. $\text{Core}(Y) \leftarrow \{ \phi \}$
8. End
9. End

Example 3: Let $Y = \{a, b, a \vee b, b \vee c, b \vee c \vee (\neg d)\}$ be an intent. By the algorithm, we can obtain $\text{Core}(Y) = \{a, b\}$ by the following two loops:

Loop 1: The attribute a is the first element in Y and $\Gamma_Y(a) = \{a, a \vee b\}$. Hence, new $Y = \{b, b \vee c, b \vee c \vee (\neg d)\}$ and $\text{Core}(Y) = \{a\}$.

Loop 2: The attribute b is the first element in Y and $\Gamma_Y(b) = \{b, b \vee c, b \vee c \vee (\neg d)\}$. Hence, new $Y = \emptyset$ and $\text{Core}(Y) = \{a, b\}$.

In fact, the union/intersection of extents of R_L -concepts always results in an extent. The relation R in EXAMPLE 1 has 7 concepts. We use the reduced labelling in order to improve the readability of the lattice. The line diagram in Fig. 1 represents the concept lattice with logic operators. Figure 2 is the concept lattice.

By proposition 1, it is easily inferred that $LL(R)$ is a distributive lattice. Furthermore, for R_L -concepts, the set of any number objects is always an extent of some R_L -concept. Hence, given a R_L -concept (X, Y) , $(G-X, \alpha(G-X))$ is also a R_L -concept, called complement R_L -concept of (X, Y) and denoted by $\sim(X, Y)$. Thus, each R_L -concept has corresponding complement R_L -concept and hence $LL(R)$ is a complement distributive lattice.

By Stone representation theorem, $LL(R)$ is isomorphic to the power-set lattice $P(\text{Atom}(R))$.

Proposition 2: Given a binary relation R , $(LL(R), \vee, \wedge, \sim) \cong (P(\text{Atom}(R)), \cup, \cap, -)$.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CONCEPT LATTICES

Now, we discuss the connection between $L(R)$ and $LL(R)$. From example 3, we find that the extent of each classical FCA-concept in R is also the extent of some R_L -concept. Thus, for any classical FCA-concept (X, Y) , we can construct a R_L -concept $(X, \alpha(X))$. Hence, there is a natural mapping from $L(R)$ to $LL(R)$, which is an infimum-preserving order-embedding, as shown in proposition.

Proposition 3: For any FCA-concept $(X, Y) \in L(R)$, let $\tau((X, Y)) = (X, \alpha(X)) \in LL(R)$. Then τ is an infimum-preserving order-embedding.

Proof: Firstly, it is easily inferred that τ is an order-embedding and \vee -preserving. Conversely, for any R_L -concept (X, Y) , $Y \cap M$ is the maximal set of attributes common to the objects in X and then $Y \cap M$ is the intent of some concept of R . Thus, we can obtain a supremum-preserving order-preserving map from $L(R)$ to $LL(R)$, which can be proved in a similar fashion.

Proposition 4: There is a map from $LL(R)$ to $L(R)$ such that for any $(X, Y) \in LL(R)$:

$$\gamma((X, Y)) = (h(Y \cap M), Y \cap M)$$

which is surjective supremum-preserving order-preserving.

CONCLUSION

This study provides a kind of extended FCA-concepts. Compared with the classical FCA-concepts, the extended concepts are more expressive. We provide some interesting connections between $L(R)$ and $LL(R)$. Our results can be used to extract discovery from data and construct architecture ontology.

Two of the interesting problems are how to define concepts in relations with imprecise information. Future works focus on these questions.

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