

Rough Sets: Theoretical aspects of reasoning about data

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1 Knowledge

1.1 Knowledge base

Given a finite set $U \neq \emptyset$ (the universe). Any subset $X \subset U$ of the universe is called a **concept** or a **category** in U . And any family of concepts in U will be referred to as **abstract knowledge** about U .

partition or **classification** of a certain universe U is a family $C = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ s.t. $X_i \subset U, X_i \neq \emptyset, X_i \cap X_j = \emptyset$ and $\bigcup X_i = U$

A family of classifications is called a **knowledge base** over U

R an equivalence relation over U , U/R family of all equivalence classes of R , referred to be **categories** or **concepts** of R , and $[x]_R$ denotes a category in R containing an element $x \in U$

By a **knowledge base** we can understand a relational system $K = (U, \mathbf{R})$, \mathbf{R} is a family of equivalence relations over U

If $\mathbf{P} \subset \mathbf{R}$ and $\mathbf{P} \neq \emptyset$, then $\bigcap \mathbf{P}$ is also an equivalence relation, and will be denoted by $IND(\mathbf{P})$, called an **indiscernibility relation** over \mathbf{P}

$$[x]_{IND(\mathbf{P})} = \bigcap_{R \in \mathbf{P}} [x]_R$$

$U/IND(\mathbf{P})$ called **\mathbf{P} -basic knowledge about U** in K . For simplicity, $U/\mathbf{P} = U/IND(\mathbf{P})$ and \mathbf{P} will be also called **\mathbf{P} -basic knowledge**. Equivalence classes of $IND(\mathbf{P})$ are called **basic categories** of knowledge \mathbf{P} . If $Q \in \mathbf{R}$, then Q is a **Q -elementary knowledge** and equivalence classes of Q are referred to as **Q -elementary concepts** of knowledge \mathbf{R}

The family of all ***P***-basic categories for all $\neq \mathbf{P} \subset \mathbf{R}$ will be called the **family of basic categories** in knowledge base $K = (U, \mathbf{R})$

Let $K = (U, \mathbf{R})$ be a knowledge base. By $IND(K)$ we denote the family of all equivalence relations defined in K as $IND(K) = \{IND(\mathbf{P}) : \emptyset \neq \mathbf{P} \subseteq \mathbf{R}\}$.

Thus $IND(K)$ is the minimal set of equivalence relations.

Every union of ***P***-basic categories will be ***P***-category

The family of all categories in the knowledge base $K = (U, \mathbf{R})$ will be referred to as ***K***-categories

1.2 Equivalence, generalization and specialization of knowledge

Let $K = (U, \mathbf{P}), K' = (U, \mathbf{Q})$. K and K' are **equivalent** $K \simeq K', (\mathbf{P} \simeq \mathbf{Q})$ if $IND(\mathbf{P}) = IND(\mathbf{Q})$. Hence $K \simeq K'$ if both K and K' have the same set of elementary categories. *This means that knowledge in knowledge bases K and K' enables us to express exactly the same facts about the universe.*

If $IND(\mathbf{P}) \subset IND(\mathbf{Q})$ then knowledge ***P*** is **finer** than knowledge ***Q*** (coarser). ***P*** is **specialization** of ***Q*** and ***Q*** is **generalization** of ***P***

2 Imprecise categories, approximations and rough sets

2.1 Rough sets

Let $X \subseteq U$. X is ***R***-definable or ***R***-exact if X is the union of some ***R***-basic categories. otherwise ***R***-undefinable, ***R***-rough, ***R***-inexact .

2.2 Approximations of set

Given $K = (U, \mathbf{R}), R \in IND(K)$

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{R}X &= \bigcup \{Y \in U/R : Y \subseteq X\} \\ \overline{R}X &= \bigcup \{Y \in U/R : Y \cap X \neq \emptyset\}\end{aligned}$$

called the ***R***-lower and ***R***-upper approximation of X

$BN_R(X) = \overline{R}X - \underline{R}X$ is ***R***-boundary of X . $BN_R(X)$ is the set of elements which cannot be classified either to X or to $-X$ having knowledge ***R***

$$\begin{aligned}
POS_R(X) &= \underline{R}X, R\text{-positive region of } X \\
NEG_R(X) &= U - \overline{R}X, R\text{-negative region of } X \\
BN_R(X) &= R\text{-borderline region of } X
\end{aligned}$$

If $x \in POS(X)$, then x will be called an **R -positive example of X**

Proposition 2.1. 1. X is R -definable if and only if $\underline{R}X = \overline{R}X$
 2. X is rough w.r.t. R if and only if $\underline{R}X \neq \overline{R}X$

2.3 Properties of approximations

Proposition 2.2 (2.2). 1. $\underline{R}X \subseteq X \subseteq \overline{R}X$

2. $\underline{R}\emptyset = \underline{R}\emptyset = \emptyset$; $\underline{R}U = \overline{R}U = U$
3. $\overline{R}(X \cup Y) = \overline{R}X \cup \overline{R}Y$
4. $\underline{R}(X \cap Y) = \underline{R}X \cap \underline{R}Y$
5. $X \subseteq Y$ implies $\underline{R}X \subseteq \underline{R}Y$
6. $X \subseteq Y$ implies $\overline{R}X \subseteq \overline{R}Y$
7. $\underline{R}(X \cup Y) \subseteq \underline{R}X \cup \underline{R}Y$
8. $\underline{R}(-X) = -\overline{R}X$
9. $\overline{R}(-X) = -\underline{R}X$
10. $\overline{R}(-X) = -\underline{R}X$
11. $\underline{R}\underline{R}X = \overline{R}\underline{R}X = \underline{R}X$
12. $\overline{R}\overline{R}X = \underline{R}\overline{R}X = \overline{R}X$

The equivalence relation R over U uniquely defines a topological space $T = (U, DIS(R))$ where $DIS(R)$ is the family of all open and closed set in T and U/R is a base for T . The R -lower and R -upper approximation of X in A are **interior** and **closure** operations in the topological space T

2.4 Approximations and membership relation

$x \underline{\in}_R X$ if and only if $x \in \underline{R}X$

$x \overline{\in}_R X$ if and only if $x \in \overline{R}X$

where $\underline{\in}_R$ read " x **surely belongs** to X w.r.t. R " and $\overline{\in}_R$ - " x **possibly belongs** to X w.r.t. R ". The **lower** and **upper** membership.

Proposition 2.3. 1. $x \underline{\in} X$ implies $x \in X$ implies $x \overline{\in} X$

2. $X \subset Y$ implies ($x \underline{\in} X$ implies $x \underline{\in} Y$ and $x \overline{\in} X$ implies $x \overline{\in} Y$)

3. $x \overline{\in} (X \cup Y)$ if and only if $x \overline{\in} X$ or $x \overline{\in} Y$

4. $x \underline{\in} (X \cap Y)$ if and only if $x \underline{\in} X$ and $x \underline{\in} Y$

5. $x \underline{\in} X$ or $x \underline{\in} Y$ implies $x \underline{\in} (X \cup Y)$

6. $x \overline{\in} X \cap Y$ implies $x \overline{\in} X$ and $x \overline{\in} Y$

7. $x \underline{\in} (-X)$ if and only if non $x \overline{\in} X$

8. $x \overline{\in} (-X)$ if and only if non $x \underline{\in} X$

2.5 Numerical characterization of imprecision

accuracy measure

$$\alpha_R(X) = \frac{\text{card } \underline{R}}{\text{card } \overline{R}}$$

2.6 Topological characterization of imprecision

Definition 2.1. 1. If $\underline{R}X \neq \emptyset$ and $\overline{R}X \neq U$, then we say that X is **roughly R-definable**. We can decide whether some elements belong to X or $-X$

2. If $\underline{R}X = \emptyset$ and $\overline{R}X \neq U$, then we say that X is **internally R-undefinable**. We can decide whether some elements belong to $-X$

3. If $\underline{R}X \neq \emptyset$ and $\overline{R}X = U$, then we say that X is **externally R-undefinable**. We can decide whether some elements belong to X

4. If $\underline{R}X = \emptyset$ and $\overline{R}X = U$, then we say that X is **totally R-undefinable**. unable to decide

- Proposition 2.4** (2.4). 1. *Set X is R -definable (roughly R -definable, totally R -undefinable) if and only if so is $-X$*
2. *Set X is externally R -undefinable if and only if $-X$ is internally R -undefinable*

Proof. 1.

$$\begin{aligned}
R\text{-definable} &\Leftrightarrow \underline{R}X = \overline{R}X, \underline{R} \neq \emptyset, \overline{R} \neq U \\
&\Leftrightarrow -\underline{R}X = -\overline{R}X \\
&\Leftrightarrow \overline{R}(-X) = \underline{R}(-X)
\end{aligned}$$

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