

fcaR, Spreading FCA to the Data Science World

Motivation, success stories and future work with the **fcaR** library

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Existing **T**ools and **A**pplications for **F**ormal **C**oncept **A**alysis

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Why to develop an R package for FCA?

- R, together with Python, are the two most widely used programming languages in Machine Learning and Data Science.
- In R there are already libraries for association rule mining that have become standard: **arules**.
- There is no library in R that implements the basic ideas and functions of FCA and allows them to be used in other contexts.

Our purpose

- To help disseminate FCA as a knowledge discovery tool.
- To be able to perform rapid testing of new ideas, algorithms, etc., both from a theoretical and practical point of view.
- Rapid prototyping of new solutions that can be integrated into more complex computational systems.
- To enable the application of FCA to real problems: automatic reasoning and recommender systems.

Usability

- Direct execution of most classical algorithms (even in the fuzzy setting).
- Provide methods to operate on contexts, concept lattice and implications.
- **Logic**: include the SL_{FD} logic to compute closure wrt implication sets.
- Interoperability:
 - Read/write datasets in various formats (CSV, CTX, ...).
 - Import and export to **arules**.
- Allow reproducible research.
- Provide lots of documentation with examples.

Implementation

- Modern programming paradigms (object-oriented).
- Classes representing entities: contexts, lattices, implications...
- Allow for extensions: new algorithms, new ideas...
- Use base R for the interface, but bottlenecks implemented in C.



Available Packages

Currently, the CRAN package repository features 18994 available packages.

Contributed Packages

The package is in a stable phase in a repository on Github and on CRAN.

- Unit tests
- Vignettes with demos
- Status:
 - lifecycle: stable
 - CRAN version: 1.1.1
 - downloads: ~22K

Class name	Use
"Set"	A basic class to store a fuzzy set using sparse matrices
"Concept"	A pair of sets (extent, intent) forming a concept for a given formal context
"ConceptLattice"	A set of concepts with their hierarchical relationship. It provides methods to compute notable elements, sublattices and plot the lattice graph
"ImplicationSet"	A set of implications, with functions to apply logic and compute closure of attribute sets
"FormalContext"	It stores a formal context, given by a table, and provides functions to use derivation operators, simplify the context, compute the concept lattice and the Duquenne-Guigues basis of implications

Table 1: Main classes found in **fcaR**.

Main methods

Formal Contexts

intent
extent
closure
clarify
reduce
standardize
find_concepts
find_implications

Concept Lattice

supremum
infimum
sublattice
meet_irreducibles
join_irreducibles
subconcepts
superconcepts
lower_neighbours
upper_neighbours

Implication Set

closure
recommend
apply_rules
to_basis

Fuzzy extension

Let $\mathbb{K} = (G, M, I)$ be a formal context and $\mathbb{L} = \langle L, \wedge, \vee, \otimes, \rightarrow, 0, 1 \rangle$ a complete residuated lattice, and define the operators $\uparrow : L^G \rightarrow L^M, \downarrow : L^M \rightarrow L^G$ as:

$$A^\uparrow(m) := \bigwedge_{g \in G} (A(g) \rightarrow I(g, m))$$

$$B^\downarrow(g) := \bigwedge_{m \in M} (B(m) \rightarrow I(g, m))$$

This operators form a Galois connection, which allow us to study the associated closure system by means of the concept lattice and of the basis of implications.

Sample of use in fuzzy setting

	a1	a2	a3	a4	a5	a6
o1	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0
o2	1	1	1	0	0	0
o3	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	1
o4	0	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0
o5	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0
o6	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Fuzzy (graded) formal context named “fc”.

With a fuzzy formal context we can perform the most common operations in FCA, as mentioned before.

We can use the derivation operators.

```
S <- Set$new(fc$attributes)
S$assign(a5 = 1)
# Extent
fc$extent(S)
```

```
{o1, o4 [0.5]}
```

```
# Attribute closure
fc$closure(S)
```

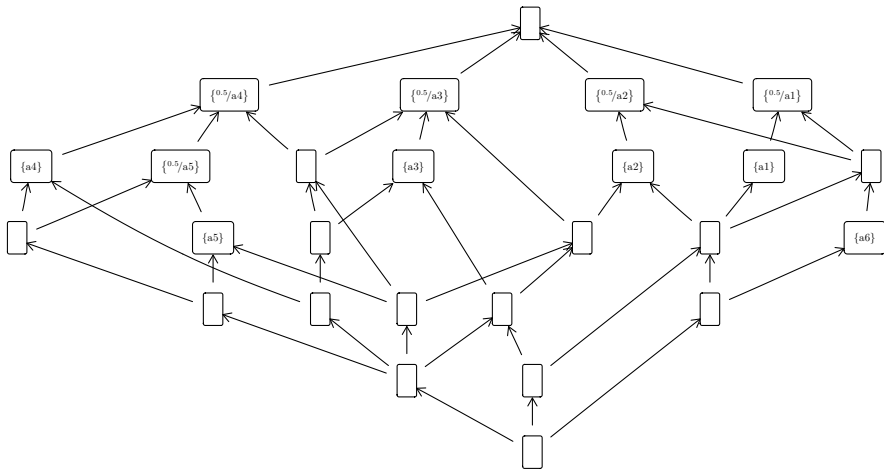
```
{a4 [0.5], a5}
```

And use the NextClosure algorithm to compute both concepts and attribute implications.

```
fc$find_implications()
```

Concept lattice

```
fc$concepts$plot(to_latex = TRUE)
```



Basis of implications

fc\$implications

1:	$\{^{0.5}/a6\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{^{0.5}/a1, ^{0.5}/a2, a6\}$
2:	$\{^{0.5}/a5\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{^{0.5}/a4\}$
3:	$\{^{0.5}/a3, ^{0.5}/a4, ^{0.5}/a5\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a2, a5\}$
4:	$\{^{0.5}/a3, a4\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a3\}$
5:	$\{^{0.5}/a2, ^{0.5}/a4\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a2, ^{0.5}/a3, a5\}$
6:	$\{^{0.5}/a2, ^{0.5}/a3\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a2\}$
7:	$\{a2, a3, ^{0.5}/a4, a5\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a4\}$
8:	$\{^{0.5}/a1, ^{0.5}/a4\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a1, a2, a3, a4, a5, a6\}$
9:	$\{^{0.5}/a1, ^{0.5}/a3\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a1, a2, a3\}$
10:	$\{^{0.5}/a1, a2\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a1\}$
11:	$\{a1, ^{0.5}/a2\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a2\}$
12:	$\{a1, a2, a3, a6\}$	\Rightarrow	$\{a4, a5\}$

A remark on the Simplification Logic

SL_{FD}	Equivalence rules
[Ref] $\frac{A \supseteq B}{A \Rightarrow B}$	
[Frag] $\frac{A \Rightarrow B \cup C}{A \Rightarrow B}$	$\{A \Rightarrow B\} \equiv \{A \Rightarrow B \setminus A\}$
[Comp] $\frac{A \Rightarrow B, C \Rightarrow D}{A \cup C \Rightarrow B \cup D}$	$\{A \Rightarrow B, A \Rightarrow C\} \equiv \{A \Rightarrow BC\}$
[Simp] $\frac{A \Rightarrow B, C \Rightarrow D}{A(C \setminus B) \Rightarrow D \setminus B}$	$A \subseteq C \Rightarrow \{A \Rightarrow B, C \Rightarrow D\} \equiv \{A \Rightarrow B, A(C \setminus B) \Rightarrow D \setminus B\}$ $A \subseteq D \rightarrow \{A \Rightarrow B, C \Rightarrow BD\} \equiv \{A \Rightarrow B, C \Rightarrow D\}$

The SL_{FD} **closure** algorithm makes use of the above equivalence rules to compute the closure X^+ of a set X using a set of implications Σ , and return a simplified Σ' where the attributes in X^+ do not appear, and such that:

$$\{\emptyset \Rightarrow X\} \cup \Sigma \equiv \{\emptyset \Rightarrow X^+\} \cup \Sigma'$$

```
S <- Set$new(fc$attributes)
S$assign(a5 = 1)
fc$implications$closure(S, reduce = TRUE)
```

```
$closure
{a4 [0.5], a5}
```

```
$implications
```

Implication set with 6 implications.

Rule 1: {a3 [0.5], a4} -> {a3}

Rule 2: {a2, a3} -> {a4}

Rule 3: {a1 [0.5]} -> {a1, a2, a3, a4, a6}

Rule 4: {a3 [0.5]} -> {a2}

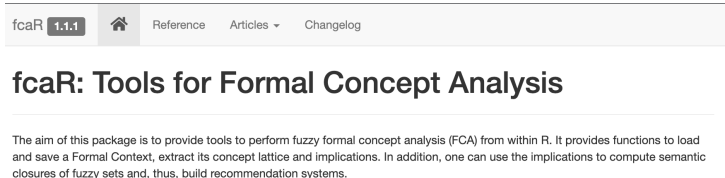
Rule 5: {a2 [0.5]} -> {a2, a3 [0.5]}

Rule 6: {a6 [0.5]} -> {a1 [0.5], a2 [0.5], a6}

The *extra* knowledge captured in the reduced set of implications can be used with different purposes: recommender systems, minimal generators, etc.

Where to find help

<https://malaga-fca-group.github.io/fcaR/>

A screenshot of the fcaR package website. The header shows the package name 'fcaR' with version '1.1.1', a home icon, and navigation links for 'Reference', 'Articles', and 'Changelog'. The main heading is 'fcaR: Tools for Formal Concept Analysis'. Below it, a paragraph describes the package's purpose: 'The aim of this package is to provide tools to perform fuzzy formal concept analysis (FCA) from within R. It provides functions to load and save a Formal Context, extract its concept lattice and implications. In addition, one can use the implications to compute semantic closures of fuzzy sets and, thus, build recommendation systems.'

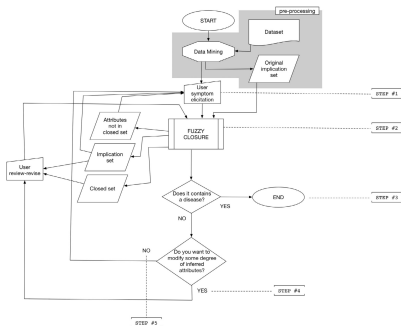


A conversational recommender system for diagnosis using fuzzy rules

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Comparison of the current proposal to other recommender systems and machine learning methods.

	Accuracy	Sensitivity	Specificity	Precision
ALS	0.360	0.333	0.380	0.290
IBCF (Cosine)	0.555	0.475	0.615	0.483
IBCF (Pearson)	0.770	0.466	1.000	1.000
LIBMF	0.491	0.901	0.181	0.455
SVD	0.376	0.515	0.271	0.349
SVDF	0.431	1.000	0.000	0.431
UBCF (Cosine)	0.608	0.967	0.335	0.524
UBCF (Pearson)	0.525	0.783	0.330	0.470
C5.0	0.674	0.636	1.000	1.000
PART	0.883	0.847	0.950	0.970
JRip	0.752	0.814	0.688	0.731
Random Forest	0.953	0.924	1.000	1.000
xgboost	0.818	0.963	0.713	0.706
k-nn	0.589	0.603	0.544	0.815
Proposal	0.982	0.996	0.948	0.955

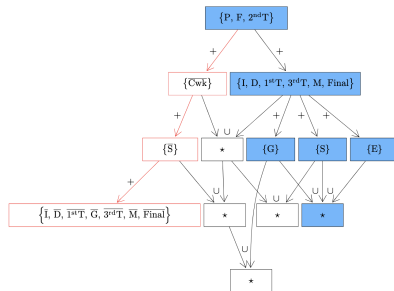
Mixed attributes

Used for knowledge spaces and learning paths (IJCIS, submitted)

Minimal generators from positive and negative attributes: analysing the knowledge space of a maths course






Closed set	Min. gen.	Closed set	Min. gen.
$\{c, \bar{a}, \bar{d}\}$	$\{\bar{a}, \bar{d}\}$	$\{b, d, \bar{a}, \bar{c}\}$	$\{\bar{a}, \bar{c}\}$
$\{c, \bar{a}, b, \bar{d}\}$	$\{\bar{a}, b\}$	$\{c, b, \bar{d}\}$	$\{b, \bar{d}\}, \{c, b\}$
$\{b, c, d, \bar{a}\}$	$\{c, d\}$	$\{b, d, \bar{a}\}$	$\{d, \bar{a}\}, \{b, d\}$
$\{b, c, \bar{a}\}$	$\{b, c\}$	$\{a, d, \bar{b}, \bar{c}\}$	$\{\bar{b}, \bar{c}\}, \{d, \bar{b}\}, \{a, d\}$
$\{a, c, b, \bar{d}\}$	$\{a, c\}$	$\{a, b, c, \bar{d}\}$	$\{\bar{c}, \bar{d}\}, \{a, b\}$

Minimal generators	
Closed set	
$M \cup \bar{M}$	$\{\bar{b}, \bar{c}, \bar{d}\}, \{\bar{a}, \bar{c}, \bar{d}\}, \{\bar{a}, \bar{b}, \bar{c}\}, \{d, \bar{a}, \bar{b}\}, \{d, \bar{d}\}, \{c, d, \bar{b}\}, \{c, \bar{c}\}, \{a, c, d\}, \{b, \bar{b}\}, \{a, b, d\}, \{a, b, c\}, \{a, \bar{a}\}$



Article

Simplifying Implications with Positive and Negative Attributes: A Logic-Based Approach

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Theorem 3. Consider $A, B, C, D \subseteq M\bar{M}$:

[KeyEq] If there exist $x \in A \cap D$, $y \in B \cap \bar{C}$ with $A \setminus x = C \setminus \bar{y}$, then

$$\{A \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow D\} \equiv \{A \rightarrow B \setminus y, C \setminus \bar{y} \rightarrow y\} \equiv \{A \rightarrow B \setminus y, C \rightarrow M\bar{M}\}.$$

[KeyEq''] If $A \subseteq C \neq \emptyset$ and $B \cap \bar{D} \neq \emptyset$, for any $x \in C$ we have that then

$$\{A \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow D\} \equiv \{A \rightarrow B, C \setminus x \rightarrow \bar{x}\}.$$

[RedEq] If $D \subseteq B$ and there exists $x \in A \cap \bar{C}$ such that $A \setminus x = C \setminus \bar{x}$, then

$$\{A \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow D\} \equiv \{A \rightarrow B \setminus D, C \setminus \bar{x} \rightarrow D\}.$$

[RftEq] If there exist $x \in A$, $y \in B \cap \bar{C}$ and $A \setminus x = C \setminus \bar{y}$, then

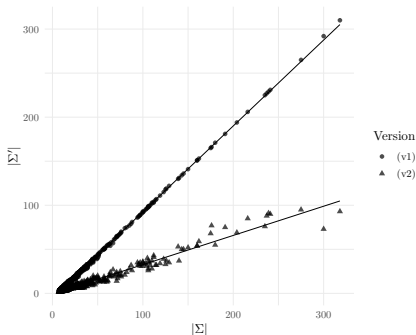
$$\{A \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow D\} \equiv \{A \rightarrow B \setminus y, C \rightarrow D\bar{x}\}.$$

[RftEq'] If there exist $x \in A \cap \bar{D}$, $y \in B \cap \bar{C}$ and $A \setminus x \subseteq C \setminus \bar{y}$, then

$$\{A \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow D\} \equiv \{A \rightarrow B, C \rightarrow D \setminus \bar{x}\}.$$

[MixUnEq] If there exist $x \in A$, $y \in C$ such that $A \setminus x = C \setminus y$ and $b \in D$, then

$$\{A \rightarrow b, C \rightarrow D\} \equiv \{(A \setminus x) \bar{b} \rightarrow \bar{x}y, C \rightarrow D \setminus b\}.$$



Future developments

Web application

- Web app for **fcaR** to improve the usability by non-experts.

Some extensions

- Integrate association rules in the library (Luxenburger's basis).
- Logic for mixed attributes: new algorithms to compute bases of mixed implications, iterative closure algorithm...
- Other extensions: $\{\circ, +, -, \imath\}$.

Other algorithms

- Concept lattice (InClose, FastCbO, NextNeighbour)
- Canonical basis of implications
- Direct bases and minimal generators.
- Parallelization of the above.

Ad hoc algorithms for the computation of the fuzzy concept lattice

Preliminary results

	Concepts	Algorithm	Tests	PartialTests	Intents	Time
	<int>	<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	<u>131260</u>	NextClosure	17 <u>641654</u>	0	317 <u>549772</u>	10.8
2	<u>131260</u>	Fuzzy_FCb0	179 <u>1025</u>	179 <u>1025</u>	537 <u>30780</u>	0.940
3	<u>131260</u>	Fuzzy_InClose2	19 <u>58250</u>	2019 <u>504</u>	1269 <u>1526</u>	0.299
4	<u>131260</u>	Fuzzy_InClose4	186 <u>5932</u>	1927 <u>163</u>	1249 <u>6417</u>	0.269
5	<u>131260</u>	Fuzzy_InClose5	89 <u>5211</u>	9564 <u>42</u>	7587 <u>263</u>	0.203
6	<u>131260</u>	Fuzzy_InClose7	303 <u>520</u>	3647 <u>51</u>	4713 <u>802</u>	0.163

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