Abstract

Decision tree is a data mining technique used for the classification and forecasting of the data. It is the supervised learning algorithm that follows the greedy approach and works in a top down manner. Decision tree uses white box model approach and classifies the data in a hierarchical structure. It makes data easy to represent and understand. It can handle a large database and works well with both numerical and categorical variables. A variety of decision tree algorithms are proposed in the literature like ID3 (Iterative Dichotomiser 3), C4.5 (successor of ID3), CART (Classification and Regression tree), CHAID (Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detector). These algorithms have specific mechanisms based on certain criteria's. The study of these criteria are important and requisite for analysis of DT algorithms. The aim of this paper is to identify and inspect these vital criteria’s or factors of DT algorithms. The major contribution of this review is to provide a path to select a specific factor for improvement of DT algorithm as per requirement or problem.

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**Index Terms**

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