

# A Discernibility Degree and Rough Set Based Classification Rule Generation Algorithm (RGD)

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**Abstract**—A new concept of discernibility degree of a condition attribute value and a new rough set theory based classification rule generation algorithm are proposed. The first key feature of the new algorithm, in comparison with standard rough set method and other rule induction methods, is its ability to calculate the core value without attributes reduction before; the second feature is not calculating the core values for the inconsistent examples; and the third feature is that in rule generation for inconsistent examples the condition attribute value that has the maximum discernibility degree should be selected first. Experimental results on 28 medical data sets show that the classification accuracy is much better than the standard rough set based classification algorithms, its variants, and a little better than C4.5, and RIPPERk.

**Index Terms**—C4.5, CBA, classification rule, rough sets, JRip

## I. INTRODUCTION

Rule learning has played an important role in machine learning and is known for inducing interpretable and comprehensible classifiers. Methods from statistical machine learning, on the other hand, have traditionally focused on predictive accuracy, often at the expense of interpretability. The goal of this work is to obtain highly predictive, yet interpretable classifiers.

The main rule based techniques are decision trees based rule learner [1], sequential covering [2], associative rules, and rough set [3] based methods, representative algorithms or softwares are C4.5, RIPPERk, CBA [4], and ROSETTA [5].

It is well known that C4.5 and RIPPERk are two excellent classifiers in classification performance, and there are little rule based algorithms comparable to them in classification accuracy [6-10] including the rough sets based classifiers.

Can rough set based rule generation methods be revised to get higher classification accuracy? This paper introduces a new rough set based rule generation method to construct a higher accuracy classifier compared to C4.5 and RIPPERk.

In standard rough set method an attribute reduction step

should be carried out before rule generation, which may delete some important attributes and some attribute values may become indispensable that may not in original attribute set. And in standard rough set theory the method of inducing rules for the inconsistent examples are the same as for the consistent examples. However, the precision of the rules induced from inconsistent examples may be improved, because an inconsistent example in original decision table is a rule that has the original precision that may lower than the rule generated by selecting some of original condition attribute values as its antecedent.

In order to overcome these two shortcomings the new algorithm generates the core value for every consistent example first and generate rule on basis of it directly. And for inconsistent examples not generating core value first and selecting the condition attribute value first that has the maximum discernibility degree in rule inducing.

CBA use exhaustive search to find all the associative rules that satisfy the user-specified minimum support and minimum confidence. Two problems should be overcome in CBA that are the time complexity of exhaustive search and how to select good ones from very large amount of rules to final rules set to form the classifier.

RIPPERk producing decision lists are also known as sequential covering algorithms, since rules are learnt one at a time. For each rule, all instances covered by this rule are removed from the data set and the next rule is learnt from the remaining instances. The problem encountered in RIPPERk is that there are fewer rules induced to be selected for forming a better classifier.

C4.5 generates rules by transforming the decision tree into rules, the problem in C4.5 is that the post-pruning strategy, though its ability to avoid over-fitting in noise data sets, may reduce the accuracy in perfect data sets.

## II. PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS OF ROUGH SET THEORY

Rough set theory was developed by Zdzislaw Pawlak in the early 1980's. It offers mathematical tools to discover patterns hidden in data. It can be used for feature selection, data reduction, decision rule generation, and pattern extraction etc.

### A. Condition Attributes and Decision Attributes

Usually we distinguish in an information table two classes of attributes, called condition and decision (action) attributes. For example, attributes Headache, Muscle-pain and Temperature can be considered as condition attributes, whereas the attribute Flu as a decision attribute.

Manuscript received January 8, 2014; revised January 30, 2014

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### B. Decision Systems/Tables

$DS$  is a pair  $(U, A \cup \{d\})$ ,  $U$  is a non-empty finite set of objects.  $A$  is a non-empty finite set of condition attributes such that  $a: U \rightarrow V_a$  for every  $a \in A$ ,  $V_a$  is called the value set of  $a$ .  $d \notin A$ , is the decision attribute (instead of one we can consider more decision attributes).

### C. Indiscernibility

The equivalence relation: A binary relation  $R \subseteq X \times X$ , which is reflexive ( $xRx$  for any object  $x$ ), symmetric (if  $xRy$  then  $yRx$ ), and transitive (if  $xRy$  and  $yRz$  then  $xRz$ ). The equivalence class  $[x]_R$  of an element  $x \in X$  consists of all objects  $y \in X$  such that  $xRy$ . Let  $T = (U, A)$  be an information system, then with any  $B \subseteq A$  there is an associated equivalence relation:

$$U / IND_{IS}(B) = \{(x, x') \in U^2 \mid \forall a \in B, a(x) = a(x')\} \quad (1)$$

Where  $(x, x') \in IND_{IS}(B)$  is called the  $B$ -indiscernibility relation.

If  $(x, x') \in IND_{IS}(B)$ , then objects  $x$  and  $x'$  are indiscernible from each other by attributes from  $B$ .

### D. Dispensable & indispensable attribute values for an example $x$

Suppose we are given a dependency  $C \Rightarrow D$  where  $C$  is relative  $D$ -reduct of  $C$ . We say that value of attribute  $a \in C$ , is  $D$ -dispensable for  $x \in U$ , if

$$[x]_C \subseteq [x]_D \text{ implies } [x]_{C-\{a\}} \subseteq [x]_D \quad (2)$$

otherwise the value of attribute  $a$  is  $D$ -indispensable for  $x$ .

### E. Attribute set independent for an example $x$

If for every attribute  $a \in C$  value of  $a$  is  $D$ -indispensable for  $x$ , then  $C$  will be called  $D$ -independent (orthogonal) for  $x$ .

### F. Value core for an example $x$

The set of all  $D$ -indispensable for  $x$  values of attributes in  $C$  will be called the  $D$ -core of  $C$  for  $x$  (the value core), and will be denoted  $CORE_D^x(C)$ .

### G. Value reduct for an example $x$

Subset  $C' \subseteq C$  is a  $D$ -reduct of  $C$  for  $x$  (a value reduct), iff  $C'$  is  $D$ -independent for  $x$  and

$$[x]_{C'} \subseteq [x]_D \text{ implies } [x]_{C'} \subseteq [x]_D \quad (3)$$

We have also the following property

$$CORE_D^x(C) = \bigcap Red_D^x(C) \quad (4)$$

where  $Red_D^x(C)$  is the family of all  $D$ -reducts of  $C$  for  $x$ .

### H. Rough Membership

The rough membership function quantifies the degree of relative overlap between the set  $X$  and the equivalence class  $[x]_B$  to which  $x$  belongs  $\mu_x^B: U \rightarrow [0, 1]$ .

$$\mu_x^B(x) = \frac{|[x]_B \cap X|}{|[x]_B|} \quad (5)$$

### I. Decision Rule and its generalization

Each row of a decision table determines a decision rule, which specifies decisions (actions) that should be taken when conditions pointed out by condition attributes are satisfied. For example, the condition (Headache=no) and (Muscle-pain=yes) and (Temperature=high) determines uniquely the decision (Flu=yes). Objects in a decision table are used as labels of decision rules.

Given condition attributes set  $C = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n\}$  and decision attribute set  $D$ , an example is an original and specific rule  $r$  in the form of  $\wedge(C_i = C_i(x))$ ,  $C_i \in C$ , with the rule strength  $\mu$ , if there is another attribute set  $R$ ,  $R \subset C$  exists; the rule  $r'$  of the form  $\wedge(C_i = C_i(x))$ ,  $C_i \in R$ , with the same rule strength  $\mu$ , holds, and there are not any attribute set  $R' \subset R$ , the other rule  $r''$  of the form of  $\wedge(C_i = C_i(x))$ ,  $C_i \in R'$ , with the same rule strength  $\mu$ , holds, we have that  $R$  is one of the minimum reducts of example  $x$  with respect to  $C$ ; and  $r'$  is one of the generalization of the rule  $r$  of  $x$ .

### J. Inconsistent Decision Rule and Inconsistent Examples

Decision rules (or examples) that have the same conditions but different decisions are called inconsistent; otherwise the rules are referred to as consistent. Decision tables containing inconsistent decision rules are called inconsistent; otherwise the table is consistent.

### K. Discernibility Degree of a Condition Attribute Value

Discernibility degree of a condition attribute value is defined as  $DIS$  that

$$DIS(C_j(x)) = \{y \mid C_j(y) \neq C_j(x)\} \quad (6)$$

## III. NEW CLASSIFICATION RULE INDUCTION ALGORITHM

### A. Algorithm RGD

Input: Data set  $U$ , condition attribute set  $C$ , decision attribute set  $D$

Output: Set of decision rules

begin

    getDIS(A, I);

    getInconsistentExamples();

    getCoreValue ();

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <pre> getRules(); end </pre>  | <pre> E. Method getRules() begin </pre>  |
| <pre> B. Method getDIS(A, I) begin     Attribute set A, instance set I     DIS(A, I) = <math>\phi</math>     for each example x         DIS(A, I) = {x}     for each attribute a         for each example y ( y <math>\neq</math> x );             if a(x) <math>\neq</math> a(y)                 add y to DIS(A, I)         endfor     endfor     endfor     return DIS(A, I) end </pre> | <pre>     rule set RULES = <math>\phi</math>     rule RULE = <math>\phi</math>     condition attribute set A     for every example x         if x is consistent             RULE = <math>\wedge(C_i = C_i(x))</math> where <math>C_i(x) \in CORE(x)</math>             for every condition attribute <math>C_j</math> in <math>A - C_i</math> where             <math>C_i(x) \in CORE(x)</math>                 add <math>C_j = C_j(x)</math> to RULE that maximize                 <math>\mu(x)</math>             endfor         endif         else if x is inconsistent             RULE = <math>(C_i = C_i(x))</math> that maximize <math>\mu(x)</math>             for every condition attribute <math>C_j</math> in <math>A - C_i</math>                 add <math>C_j = C_j(x)</math> to RULE that maximize                 <math>\mu^{\{C_i\} \cup \{C_j\}}(x)</math>             endfor         endelse     endfor     add RULE to RULES     return RULES end </pre>  |
| <pre> C. Method getInconsistentExamples(instance inst) begin     inconsistent example set INCON = <math>\phi</math>     for every example <math>x_i</math>         if <math>DIS_D(x_i) - \bigcup DIS_{A_i}(x_i) \neq \phi</math>             add <math>x_i</math> to INCON         endfor     return INCON end </pre>   |  |
| <pre> D. Method getCoreValue () begin     Core value set CORE = <math>\phi</math>     for every consistent example         if <math>DIS_D(x) - (\bigcup DIS_{a_i}(x) - DIS_{a_j}(x)) \cup INCON(x) \neq \phi</math>,         (i <math>\neq</math> j)             add <math>a_j(x)</math> to CORE         endfor     return CORE end </pre>  | <pre> IV. EXPERIMENTAL DATA SETS  The data sets were obtained from the repository of Machine Learning databases at UCI [11], see their characteristics in Table 1. Some data sets are discretized by supervised discretization methods with WEKA and denoted as like australian_dis, and some data sets are discretized by unsupervised discretization methods with WEKA and denoted as like autos_undis. The original data sets and their corresponding abbreviation are as follows: Arrhythmia, blood_tranfusion(Transfus), breast-cancer-wisconsin (Prognostic)( b-c-w-p), sick_supdis(sick), primary-tumor, breast-cancer-wisconsin-cell-nucleus-diagnosis-superdis(b- c-w-c), mammographic_masses_supdis (mammo_dis), breast-cancer-wisconsin-digitized-image-diagnosis- unsuperdis(b-c-w-d), breastCancer, Dermatology_supdis(Derm), echocardiogram- unsupdis(echocardiogram), lung-cancer, splice,ecoli_supdis(ecoli_dis), urinary_supdis(urinary) , lymphography Habermans_Survival_unsupdis(Haberman), heart_disease_Long_Beach_VA_discrated_unsupdis(heart_ </pre> |

d), heart-c-supdis(heart-s), hepatitis\_unsupdis(hepatitis\_dis), horse-colic\_supdis(hepatitis\_dis), SPECT\_train(SPECT\_t), liver-disorders-unsupdis(liver), thyroid\_supdis(thyroid), pima-diabetes\_supdis(pima-diabetes\_dis), promoter\_gene(promoter).

TABLE I. EXPERIMENTAL DATA SETS

| Data sets         | features | classes | cases |
|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|
| Arrhythmia        | 133      | 13      | 452   |
| Transfus          | 3        | 2       | 748   |
| b-c-w-p           | 9        | 2       | 699   |
| b-c-w-c           | 27       | 2       | 569   |
| b-c-w-d           | 32       | 2       | 198   |
| breastCancer      | 9        | 2       | 286   |
| Derm              | 34       | 6       | 366   |
| echocardiogram    | 12       | 2       | 132   |
| ecoli_dis         | 7        | 8       | 336   |
| Haberman          | 2        | 2       | 306   |
| cleve             | 11       | 2       | 303   |
| hungarian         | 13       | 2       | 467   |
| heart-s           | 9        | 2       | 270   |
| heart_d           | 13       | 4       | 200   |
| hepatitis_dis     | 18       | 2       | 155   |
| horse-colic_dis   | 27       | 2       | 300   |
| liver             | 7        | 2       | 345   |
| lung-cancer       | 51       | 2       | 32    |
| Lymphography      | 18       | 4       | 148   |
| mammo_dis         | 15       | 2       | 961   |
| pima-diabetes_dis | 8        | 2       | 768   |
| primary-tumor     | 17       | 21      | 339   |
| promoter          | 58       | 2       | 106   |
| sick              | 30       | 2       | 2800  |
| SPECT_t           | 23       | 2       | 80    |
| splice            | 60       | 3       | 3190  |
| thyroid           | 21       | 3       | 3772  |
| urinary           | 6        | 4       | 120   |

## V. EXPERIMENT IMPLEMENTATION

With the Experimenter module of WEKA 14 rule based or tree based classification algorithms are compared with the new algorithm using a ten-fold cross validation procedure that performs 10 randomized train and test runs on the dataset. The 14 existing algorithms are CBA, ConjunctiveRule, DecisionTable, Explore, J48, JRip, LEM2, NNge, OneR, RandomTree, Ridor, Standard Rough Set, Variable Precision Rough Set, and ZeroR. Explore, LEM2, Standard Rough Set, and Variable Precision Rough Set are programmed with JAVA and embedded into WEKA 3.5.6. The others like JRip are from WEKA. The parameters in every algorithm are adopted default ones except that the minimum confidence in CBA is adopted 50%.

## VI. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Table 2 describes the experimental results in terms of percent correct. The first row lists the 15 algorithms, and the first column 28 data sets. The annotation v or \* indicates that a specific result is statistically better (v) or worse (\*) than the baseline scheme (in this case, the new algorithm RGD) at the significance level specified (currently 0.05). At the bottom of each column after the first column is a count (xx/ yy/ zz) of the number of times that the scheme was better than (xx), the same as (yy), or worse than (zz), the baseline scheme on the datasets used in the experiment.

TABLE II. PERCENT\_CORRECT RESULTS

| Dataset    | RGD   | Ridor  | Standa | VPRoug | ZeroR' |
|------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Arrhythmia | 62.83 | 72.57v | 55.76  | 55.76  | 54.20* |
| Transfus   | 75.27 | 75.41  | 75.27  | 76.21  | 76.21  |
| b-c-w-w    | 96.71 | 93.99  | 93.71  | 93.71  | 65.52* |
| b-c-w-c    | 96.67 | 95.44  | 91.92  | 88.76* | 62.74* |
| b-c-w-d    | 66.03 | 76.29  | 69.74  | 67.18  | 76.29  |
| breastCan  | 64.69 | 72.73  | 70.30v | 69.94v | 70.30  |
| Derm       | 90.16 | 94.53  | 61.75* | 63.36* | 30.60* |
| echocard   | 43.85 | 56.59  | 44.67  | 50.77  | 43.96v |
| ecoli      | 82.73 | 83.91  | 77.99  | 74.17  | 42.56* |
| Haberman   | 75.82 | 73.17  | 75.82  | 78.77v | 73.53  |
| Cleveland  | 81.46 | 81.52  | 82.83  | 82.84  | 54.45* |
| hungarian  | 80.97 | 78.30  | 79.57  | 78.87  | 63.95* |
| heart-s    | 80.74 | 80.74  | 81.85  | 81.85  | 55.56* |
| heart_d    | 20.50 | 27.50  | 20.00  | 20.00  | 28.00  |
| hepatitis  | 81.96 | 78.08  | 78.17  | 79.42  | 79.38  |
| horse-co   | 78.33 | 87.00  | 55.33* | 55.00* | 67.00* |
| liver      | 64.08 | 62.31  | 60.88  | 60.88  | 57.98  |
| lung-ca    | 74.17 | 60.83  | 71.67  | 71.67  | 71.67  |
| lymph      | 77.71 | 78.52  | 47.81* | 48.48* | 54.76* |
| mammo      | 80.96 | 82.83  | 80.33  | 82.10  | 53.69* |
| pima       | 75.52 | 74.75  | 74.62  | 75.92  | 65.11* |
| primary    | 38.37 | 40.69  | 38.65  | 38.65  | 24.79* |
| promoter   | 71.45 | 79.27  | 49.82* | 43.00* | 47.27* |
| sick       | 96.89 | 97.46  | 93.82* | 93.89* | 93.89* |
| SPECT_t    | 66.25 | 68.75  | 68.75  | 68.75  | 50.00* |
| splice     | 89.78 | 92.10v | 50.03* | 49.91* | 51.88* |
| thyroid    | 95.30 | 91.65  | 95.80  | 96.73  | 69.81* |
| urinary    | 100.0 | 100.00 | 83.33* | 83.33* | 33.33* |

(v/ /\*) | (2/26/0) (1/20/7) (2/18/8) (0/9/19) v

| Dataset    | RGD    | CBA    | Conjunc | Decisio | Explo  | J48 |
|------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|-----|
| Arrhythmia | 63.94  | 55.08  | 55.97   | 50.38   | 71.47v |     |
| Transfus   | 75.27  | 76.21  | 76.21   | 76.21   | 76.21  |     |
| b-c-w-p    | 95.85  | 87.84* | 88.2*   | 93.99*  | 94.42  |     |
| b-c-w-c    | 96.49  | 90.34* | 90.51*  | 91.22*  | 95.96  |     |
| b-c-w-d    | 70.74  | 75.29  | 73.24   | 75.76   | 76.29  |     |
| breastCan  | 64.27  | 71.34  | 72.07   | 70.96   | 74.14v |     |
| Derm       | 91.00  | 50.27* | 50.27*  | 72.38*  | 93.73  |     |
| echocard   | 53.79  | 48.41  | 50.71   | 53.68   | 55.16  |     |
| ecoli      | 80.94  | 64.88* | 64.88*  | 70.51*  | 82.15  |     |
| Haberman   | 74.84  | 72.88  | 71.23*  | 75.77   | 72.87  |     |
| Cleveland  | 78.49  | 71.23* | 71.55*  | 78.18   | 78.80  |     |
| hungarian  | 82.32  | 77.95  | 78.63   | 80.29   | 77.63  |     |
| heart-s    | 82.96  | 73.33  | 72.59*  | 81.48   | 81.85  |     |
| heart_d    | 28.50  | 28.00  | 30.00v  | 28.50   | 33.00v |     |
| hepatitis  | 76.83  | 78.67  | 77.46   | 79.96   | 81.88  |     |
| horse-co   | 83.00  | 79.00  | 82.67   | 79.33   | 87.67v |     |
| liver      | 71.03v | 57.98  | 57.98   | 63.22   | 61.15  |     |
| lung-ca    | 78.33  | 81.67  | 74.17   | 62.50   | 77.50  |     |
| lymph      | 80.33  | 67.48  | 75.67   | 60.81*  | 76.29  |     |
| mammo      | 81.27  | 81.37  | 81.37   | 80.23   | 82.62  |     |
| pima       | 76.96  | 72.65  | 74.74   | 75.92   | 78.26  |     |
| primary    | 39.25  | 27.74* | 28.91*  | 24.79*  | 43.08  |     |
| promoter   | 87.64v | 73.45  | 70.64   | 50.00*  | 79.00  |     |
| sick       | 97.57  | 96.75  | 96.75   | 96.93   | 98.00v |     |
| SPECT_t    | 66.25  | 63.75  | 70.00   | 70.00   | 68.75  |     |
| splice     | 68.24* | 62.38* | 62.38*  | 67.65*  | 94.36v |     |
| thyroid    | 93.46  | 79.98* | 79.98*  | 93.01   | 95.32  |     |
| urinary    | 100.00 | 59.17* | 59.17*  | 70.00*  | 100.00 |     |

(v/ /\*) | (2/25/1) (0/19/9) (0/17/10) (0/19/9) (6/22/0) +

| Dataset    | RGD    | NNge   | OneR   | RandomT | JRip   | LEM2   |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| Arrhythmia | 68.83  | 58.18  | 60.40  | 54.20*  | 63.71  | 75.27  |
| Transfus   | 72.61  | 76.21  | 75.27  | 76.21   | 75.27  | 75.27  |
| b-c-w-w    | 95.71  | 92.71* | 92.85* | 93.85   | 93.56  | 93.56  |
| b-c-w-c    | 94.56  | 91.05* | 92.45  | 96.84   | 92.80  | 92.80  |
| b-c-w-d    | 76.76  | 74.26  | 65.11  | 75.82   | 51.00* | 51.00* |
| breastCan  | 66.51  | 69.63  | 69.89  | 73.79   | 61.87  | 61.87  |
| Derm       | 96.44v | 49.73* | 81.70  | 87.43*  | 89.62  | 89.62  |
| echocard   | 62.25v | 60.71v | 52.36  | 57.64   | 48.46  | 48.46  |
| ecoli      | 79.14  | 66.07* | 82.44  | 82.75   | 81.22  | 81.22  |
| Haberman   | 63.76* | 75.14  | 75.49  | 74.52   | 76.46  | 76.46  |
| Cleveland  | 77.24  | 71.55* | 74.86  | 80.80   | 71.54* | 71.54* |
| hungarian  | 79.29  | 78.63  | 78.90  | 78.60   | 77.89  | 77.89  |
| heart-s    | 80.00  | 72.59  | 81.85  | 84.07   | 82.22  | 82.22  |
| heart_d    | 25.00  | 29.50v | 27.00  | 27.00   | 21.00  | 21.00  |
| hepatitis  | 80.00  | 84.38  | 77.96  | 80.54   | 69.54* | 69.54* |
| horse-co   | 79.67  | 82.67  | 70.67  | 84.00   | 76.00  | 76.00  |
| liver      | 60.63  | 55.35  | 61.43  | 59.39   | 58.86  | 58.86  |
| lung-ca    | 81.67  | 87.50  | 55.00  | 81.67   | 55.00  | 55.00  |
| lymph      | 73.57  | 74.29  | 73.00  | 79.10   | 72.33  | 72.33  |
| mammo      | 76.07  | 81.68  | 81.06  | 82.83   | 80.54  | 80.54  |
| pima       | 70.05  | 74.74  | 77.22  | 77.48   | 76.70  | 76.70  |
| primary    | 37.76  | 26.86* | 33.02  | 41.59   | 37.75  | 37.75  |
| promoter   | 76.82  | 69.73  | 63.36  | 78.27   | 71.55  | 71.55  |
| sick       | 96.68  | 96.75  | 97.25  | 97.64   | 97.07  | 97.07  |
| SPECT_t    | 68.75  | 72.50  | 68.75  | 71.25   | 60.00  | 60.00  |
| splice     | 86.52  | 63.35* | 56.93* | 94.14v  | 77.77* | 77.77* |
| thyroid    | 96.73  | 91.10  | 93.94  | 93.92   | 93.92  | 93.92  |
| urinary    | 100.00 | 57.50* | 100.00 | 100.00  | 100.00 | 100.00 |

(v/ \*) (2/25/1) (2/18/8) (0/26/2) (1/25/2) (0/24/4).

Table 3 shows the comparison results about the 14 algorithms against RGD in term of 8 classification performance measures. The 8 measures are (1)mean absolute error, (2)percent correct, (3)weighted average area under ROC, (4)weighted average F-measure, (5)weighted average IR precision, (6)weighted average IR recall, (7)weighted average true negative rate, and (8)weighted average true positive rate. The other 6 measures (9-14) are for analysis of above performance measures, and they are (9) total length of all rules, (10) amount of attributes in the rule set, (11) mean length of the rules, (12) mean coverage of the rules, (13) mean accuracy of the rules. (14) amount of rules in the rule set.

## VII. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

(1) From the comparing results in Table 3 it shows that RGD achieve a good classification performance across the 28 medical data sets compared to other 14 algorithms.

(2) Among all the 15 algorithms NNge and Ridor are KNN variants and the others are rule or tree based methods. Among the rule or tree based methods CBA and RGD have the lowest measure of mean absolute error. The only consistent factor between CBA and RGD is that they all have higher rules' mean accuracy. So we can infer that the measure of mean absolute error of a classifier is strongly related to the metric of mean accuracy of the rules.

(3)The rules in LEM2 have bigger mean coverage, but longer mean length and lower mean accuracy than RGD. The bigger mean coverage because LEM2 select the attribute values with biggest coverage to construct a rule. The longer mean length and lower mean accuracy is due to that LEM2 use the formula (1) as the stop schema when forming a rule, and as a result for an inconsistent example the rule's length is as long as the example itself, and the final classification performance is worsened.

(4) The two differences between RGD and Standard Rough Set are that Standard Rough Set has the attribute reduction step before rule generation and does not handle the inconsistent examples. So the metric of amount of attribute

in rule set in Standard Rough Set is very small (see Table 3) and may remove some significant attributes.

TABLE III. PERFORMANCE COMPARISON IN TERM OF 8 MEASURES OF 15 ALGORITHMS AGAINST RGD

|     | CBA                                  | Conju                          | Decis     | Explo     | J48      |
|-----|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1.  | (2/21/5)                             | (20/8/0)                       | (18/10/0) | (11/17/0) | (8/19/1) |
| 2.  | (2/25/2)                             | (0/17/11)                      | (0/17/11) | (0/18/10) | (1/27/0) |
| 3.  | (2/23/3)                             | (0/13/15)                      | (1/15/12) | (1/14/13) | (1/26/1) |
| 4.  | (3/24/1)                             | (0/16/12)                      | (1/16/11) | (0/19/9)  | (4/23/1) |
| 5.  | (3/23/2)                             | (0/15/13)                      | (1/13/14) | (1/18/9)  | (4/23/1) |
| 6.  | (2/25/1)                             | (0/19/9)                       | (1/17/10) | (0/19/9)  | (6/22/0) |
| 7.  | (3/23/2)                             | (1/14/13)                      | (2/14/12) | (1/19/8)  | (4/23/1) |
| 8.  | (2/25/1)                             | (0/19/9)                       | (1/17/10) | (0/19/9)  | (6/22/0) |
| 9.  | (0/0/28)                             | (*/*/*)                        | (*/*/*)   | (19/2/7)  | (*/*/*)  |
| 10. | (0/18/10)                            | (*/*/*)                        | (*/*/*)   | (6/15/7)  | (*/*/*)  |
| 11. | (9/5/14)                             | (*/*/*)                        | (*/*/*)   | (19/2/7)  | (*/*/*)  |
| 12. | (28/0/0)                             | (*/*/*)                        | (*/*/*)   | (21/2/5)  | (*/*/*)  |
| 13. | (10/6/12)                            | (*/*/*)                        | (*/*/*)   | (6/14/8)  | (*/*/*)  |
| 14. | (0/0/28)                             | (*/*/*)                        | (*/*/*)   | (19/2/7)  | (*/*/*)  |
|     | Jrip                                 | LEM2                           | NNge      | OneR      | Rand     |
| 1.  | (10/17/1)                            | (3/25/0)                       | (0/24/4)  | (7/15/6)  | (2/26/0) |
| 2.  | (1/27/0)                             | (0/22/6)                       | (1/25/2)  | (0/19/9)  | (1/23/4) |
| 3.  | (1/23/4)                             | (0/22/6)                       | (0/20/8)  | (0/12/16) | (0/24/4) |
| 4.  | (1/27/0)                             | (0/25/3)                       | (2/26/0)  | (1/17/10) | (0/26/2) |
| 5.  | (1/27/0)                             | (0/27/1)                       | (1/26/1)  | (0/18/10) | (0/25/3) |
| 6.  | (1/27/0)                             | (0/24/4)                       | (2/25/1)  | (2/18/8)  | (0/26/2) |
| 7.  | (3/22/3)                             | (1/25/2)                       | (2/25/1)  | (1/15/12) | (1/22/5) |
| 8.  | (1/27/0)                             | (0/24/4)                       | (2/25/1)  | (2/18/8)  | (0/26/2) |
| 9.  | (*/*/*)                              | (11/3/14)                      | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)  |
| 10. | (*/*/*)                              | (3/24/1)                       | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)  |
| 11. | (*/*/*)                              | (28/0/0)                       | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)  |
| 12. | (*/*/*)                              | (16/6/6)                       | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)  |
| 13. | (*/*/*)                              | (0/9/19)                       | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)  |
| 14. | (*/*/*)                              | (4/1/23)                       | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)   | (*/*/*)  |
|     | Rido                                 | Stan                           | VPro      | Zero      |          |
| 1.  | (0/20/8)                             | (11/17/0)                      | (12/15/1) | (23/5/0)  |          |
| 2.  | (1/27/0)                             | (1/18/10)                      | (2/16/10) | (0/8/20)  |          |
| 3.  | (0/24/4)                             | (0/19/9)                       | (0/21/7)  | (0/6/22)  |          |
| 4.  | (3/25/0)                             | (1/20/7)                       | (1/18/9)  | (0/6/22)  |          |
| 5.  | (3/25/0)                             | (1/19/8)                       | (1/18/9)  | (0/3/25)  |          |
| 6.  | (2/26/0)                             | (1/20/7)                       | (2/18/8)  | (0/9/19)  |          |
| 7.  | (4/24/0)                             | (0/20/8)                       | (0/20/8)  | (0/4/24)  |          |
| 8.  | (2/26/0)                             | (1/20/7)                       | (2/18/8)  | (0/9/19)  |          |
| 9.  | (*/*/*)                              | (16/9/3)                       | (16/7/5)  | (*/*/*)   |          |
| 10. | (*/*/*)                              | (0/10/18)                      | (0/10/18) | (*/*/*)   |          |
| 11. | (*/*/*)                              | (26/2/0)                       | (24/0/4)  | (*/*/*)   |          |
| 12. | (*/*/*)                              | (10/13/5)                      | (16/10/2) | (*/*/*)   |          |
| 13. | (*/*/*)                              | (7/17/4)                       | (7/10/11) | (*/*/*)   |          |
| 14. | (*/*/*)                              | (1/9/18)                       | (2/9/17)  | (*/*/*)   |          |
| 1.  | Mean_absolute_error                  | 2. Percent_correct             |           |           |          |
| 3.  | Weighted_avg_area_under_ROC          |                                |           |           |          |
| 4.  | Weighted_avg_F_measure               |                                |           |           |          |
| 5.  | Weighted_avg_IR_precision            |                                |           |           |          |
| 6.  | Weighted_avg_IR_recall               |                                |           |           |          |
| 7.  | Weighted_avg_true_negative_rate      |                                |           |           |          |
| 8.  | Weighted_avg_true_positive_rate      |                                |           |           |          |
| 9.  | Total_Length_of_All_Rules            |                                |           |           |          |
| 10. | amount of attributes in the rule set |                                |           |           |          |
| 11. | mean length of the rules             | 12. mean coverage of the rules |           |           |          |
| 13. | mean accuracy of the rules           |                                |           |           |          |
| 14. | amount of rules in the rule set.     |                                |           |           |          |

(5) The measure of mean absolute error of J48 and Jrip is higher significantly than RGD, but in terms of percent of correct, weighted average IR recall, and weighted average true positive rate J48 ranks first. The significant feature of



J48 and Jrip is their pruning technique that generates many rules with larger coverage but lower accuracy resulting the lower measure of mean absolute error and higher measure of percent of correct.

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