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EMPOWERED NEGATIVE SPECIALIZATION IN INDUCTIVE LOGIC PROGRAMMING



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Inductive Logic Programming aims at learning concepts from examples.

Two **refinement operators**:

- *generalization*: refines hypothesis that does not account for a positive example,
- *specialization*: refines hypothesis that erroneously accounts for a negative example.

The addition of **negative information** may allow to learn a broader range of concepts.

Specializing: adding proper literals to a clause that is **inconsistent** w. r. t. a negative example, in order to avoid its covering that example.

RESIDUAL $\Delta_j(E, C)$ of an Example E w. r. t. a Clause C : all the literals in the example that are not involved in the θ_{OI} -subsumption test, after the antisubstitution phase.

The space of single *consistent negative downward refinements* does not ensure **completeness** w. r. t. the previous positive examples.

Example: Edible Mushrooms

A **MUSHROOM** m is described by the following features:
a stem s , a cap c , spores p , gills g , dots d .

- **Positive examples:** $P_1 = m :- s, c, p, g.$ $P_2 = m :- s, c, d.$
- **Least General Generalization:** $C_1 = m :- s, c.$
- **Negative example:** $N_1 = m :- s, c, p, g, d.$
- **Residuals:**

$$\Delta_1(P_1, C_1) = \{p, g\} \quad \Delta_2(P_2, C_1) = \{d\} \quad \Delta_3(N_1, C_1) = \{p, g, d\}.$$

CORRECT REFINEMENTS of C_1 could be:

$$C'_2 = m :- s, c, \neg(p, d). \quad \text{or} \quad C''_2 = m :- s, c, \neg(g, d).$$

So, we might **invent a new predicate** n , defined as

$$n :- p, d. \quad \text{or} \quad n :- g, d.$$

and specialize C_1 in $C'_1 = m :- s, c, \neg n.$

I.e., an edible mushroom must not have both spores and dots.

Extended Negative Downward Refinement

CHALLENGE: determine a **minimal** subset of the **negative residual**.

The search space is represented as a **binary tree**. To restrict the **search space**:

- Each vertex is a **candidate definition**.
- The number of literals decreases as the depth of the vertex increases.
- Derive two subsets from the whole negative residual, based on a *pair of literals* in it.
- The **tree levels** are explored until the 2-literal level is reached.
- If any of the vertexes is able to restore consistency, the level immediately above is scanned, and so on until a suitable set of literals is found, or the specialization fails.

Consider a hypothesis: $C = h :- a, b.$, four positive examples:

$P_1 = h :- a, b, c, d, e.$

$P_2 = h :- a, b, e, f, g.$

$P_3 = h :- a, b, c, e, f.$

$P_4 = h :- a, b, c, d, f, g.$

and a negative one: $N = h :- a, b, c, d, e, f, g.$

NO TWO-LITERAL SOLUTIONS EXIST

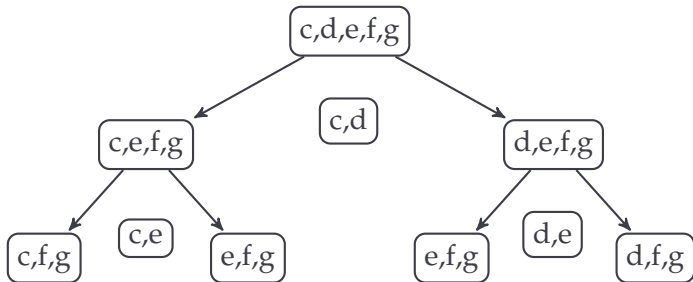


Figure: Minimal residual search space Example

- **Invented predicate:** $n :- c, f, g.$
- **Specialize C in $C' = h :- a, b, \neg n.$**

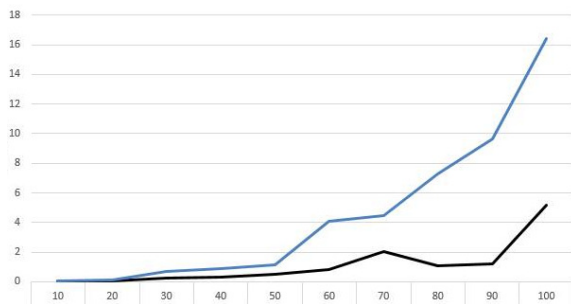


Figure: Runtime (y-axis) by number of literals in the residuals and number of examples for each setting (x-axis).