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By Rodrigo C. Barros, André C.P.L.F. de Carvalho, Alex A. Freitas

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Presents a detailed study of the major design components that constitute a top-down decision-tree induction algorithm, including aspects such as split criteria, stopping criteria, pruning and the approaches for dealing with missing values. Whereas the strategy still employed nowadays is to use a 'generic' decision-tree induction algorithm regardless of the data, the authors argue on the benefits that a bias-fitting strategy could bring to decision-tree induction, in which the ultimate goal is the automatic generation of a decision-tree induction algorithm tailored to the application domain of interest. For such, they discuss how one can effectively discover the most suitable set of components of decision-tree induction algorithms to deal with a wide variety of applications through the paradigm of evolutionary computation, following the emergence of a novel field called hyper-heuristics.

*"Automatic Design of Decision-Tree Induction Algorithms"* would be highly useful for machine learning and evolutionary computation students and researchers alike.

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- Sales Rank: #5292540 in Books
- Published on: 2015-02-05
- Released on: 2015-02-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .43" w x 6.10" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages



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