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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

## **Using Differential Evolution for Improving Distance Measures**

### of Nominal Values

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## Highlights

- Transform the conditional probability estimation problem into an optimization problem, and exploit three meta-heuristic approaches to solve it
- Using three metaheuristic algorithms to solve the probability estimation problem of distance measures of nominal values; two population-based (i.e., MPDE and GA) and one single-based solution (i.e., SA).
- We propose a new fine-tuning method which we name modified selective finetuning (MSFT) method, a new hybrid fine-tuning method (i.e., a combination of two fine-tuning methods).
- Propose three initial population generators to create the initial population for the MPDE
- The proposed methods significantly improve ISCDM, and VDM.
- Using MPDE\_MSFT achieves better results than the other proposed methods.

#### Abstract

Enhancing distance measures is the key to improve the performance of instance-based learning (IBL) and many machine learning (ML) algorithms. The value difference metrics (VDM) and inverted specific-class distance measure (ISCDM) are among the top

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