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# Performance Comparison based on Attribute Selection Techniques of WEKA and ROSE Tools

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**ABSTRACT**: In this paper firstly, two different rough set based attribute selection techniques available in ROSE 2 such as lattice search and heuristic search has been applied to three datasets and a comparative study between these two techniques is made based upon the performance of classification accuracy. Secondly, five different selected feature selection methods available in WEKA 3.7 tool have been applied to three datasets and compared. Also the performance of feature selection methods in tools like WEKA 3.7 and ROSE2 is compared. The datasets used in this study are hypothyroid dataset, Pima Diabetes dataset and Hepatitis dataset. The result shows that attributes selection with heuristic search gives better results than the lattice search.

KEYWORDS: Rough Set Theory, Attribute Selection, Lattice Search, Heuristic Search, Classification, Performance

### I. INTRODUCTION

The quality of the dataset is one of the most important factors that affect the success of data mining applications. If the dataset contains irrelevant, redundant, noisy and unreliable data, then knowledge discovery during training becomes more difficult. [1] Given a big dataset with a large number of attributes, many of the attributes present in the dataset may be irrelevant or redundant. The process of removing such irrelevant and redundant attributes from the dataset and creating an attribute subset containing the original attributes based on an attribute evaluation criteria used along with a search strategy is called attribute selection or attribute reduction. [2]



Nowadays, many tools are available by which one can carry out attribute selection. In this paper attribute selection is carried out using ROSE2 and WEKA3.7on three different datasets. ROSE (Rough Sets Data Explorer) is a software implementation of Rough Set Theory. [3] It was developed at Laboratory of Intelligent Decision Support Systems of the Institute of Computing Science in Poznan, Poland after years of research on rough set based knowledge discovery and decision support [4]. This tool provides a number of functionalities like processing of data, discretization of numerical attributes, carrying out data reduction by searching core and reducts of attributes, inducing sets of decision



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rules from rough approximations of decision classes and using them as classifiers, and evaluating sets of rules on testing data in classification experiment as shown in the figure 1 [3]. WEKA (Waikato Environment for Knowledge Analysis) is a machine learning software suite developed at the University of Waikato, New Zealand. It provides tasks such as data processing, classification, clustering, association, regression and visualization as shown in the figure 2 [3].

This paper is organized as follows. Related work is given in Section II. A brief description of attribute selection methods is given in Section III. The experiment is described in Section IV followed by the Results and Discussions of the study in Section V. Finally, the Conclusion is given in Section VI followed by the references.

#### II. RELATED WORK

In [3] authors have described the importance of rough set theory (RST) and have summarised two algorithms for reducts calculation. They have conducted a survey of frequently used packages that are used to perform data analysis based on Rough Sets. In [5] authors have compared the performance of attribute selection methods using two technical tools namely WEKA 3.7 and ROSE2 on the internet usage data set. In [6] authors have developed a new feature selection mechanism based on fuzzy forward and backward reducts and also have presented an effective and efficient new entropy- based modification of the original rough set-based approach. Their technique tries to avoid the calculation of discernibility functions or positive regions, which can be computationally expensive. In [7] according to the authors, Rough set theory is a formal methodology that can be employed to reduce the dimensionality of datasets as a preprocessing step to training a learning system on the data. Their work consists of the utilization of the Rough Set Attribute Reduction (RSAR) technique to both supervised learning (used Lozowski's fuzzy Rule Induction Algorithm (RIA) [8] and unsupervised learning (Friedman's Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS) [9]. These were applied in estimating river algae populations as influenced by changes in the concentration of chemicals in the water. The success of the application was evident by the reduction in the number of attributes required and also the accuracy matched closely that was produced by training on the original, unreduced dataset. In [10] the authors have presented a new method for dealing with attribute selection based on conditional mutual information. Their method was able to select feature subset with minimum number of features, which are relevant to get higher average classification accuracy for datasets. The experimental results with UC Irvine datasets and Naïve Bayes classifier showed that their algorithm is effective and efficient in selecting subset with minimum number of features getting higher classification accuracy than the existing feature selection methods. In [11] the authors have developed a new rough set-based unsupervised feature selection using relative dependency measures. The method employs a backward elimination-type search to remove features from the complete set of original features. The subsets returned by this unsupervised method are of similar size to that of the supervised method and classification of the reduced data shows that the method selects useful features which are of comparable quality. In [12] the author in her paper has presented a theoretical comparative review on some existing RST methods with their pros and cons. Three RST based feature selection algorithms like Quickreduct (QR), Relative Reduct (RR) and Entropy based Reduct (EBR) were applied on six public domain datasets available in UCI machine learning repository. From their study it has been found that EBR and QR performance is preferably better than RR on some dataset with respect to number of feature selection and execution time. In [13] the authors have presented a survey about feature selection methods. They identified four steps of a typical feature selection method such as generation procedure, evaluation function, stopping criterion, and validation procedure, and categorized the different existing methods in three categories: complete, heuristic, and random, and the evaluation functions into five categories: distance, information, dependence, consistency, and classifier error rate measures. In [14] the rough set theory approach has been used for conducting attribute selection for classifying hypothyroidism that improved the performance and accuracy of the classifiers.

### III. ATTRIBUTE SELECTION - AN OVERVIEW

Attribute selection refers to the feature subset selection that removes the redundant or irrelevant features from the data set as they can lead to a reduction of the classification accuracy or and can cause unnecessary increase of computational cost [15]. The advantage of attribute selection is that no information about the importance of single features is lost. [16] There are three types of attribute selection approaches: filters [17], wrappers [17], and embedded [18] approaches. In filter approach as shown in the figure 4, attribute selection is performed without taking into account the classification algorithm that will be applied to the selected attributes. Here a subset of attributes that preserves the



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possible relevant information found in the entire set of attributes. [17] In wrapper approach as shown in the figure 3, attribute selection is performed by taking into account the classification algorithm that will be applied to the selected attributes. Here an optimized subset of attributes for a given classification algorithm is selected. [17] The embedded approach as shown in the figure 5 incorporates variable selection as a part of model fitting and the selection technique is specific to the model. The external search algorithms that are used in the filter and wrapper approaches cannot cover all possible variable combinations, excluding problems with only a few variables. Thereby, their solutions are likely to be suboptimal. [19]



### IV. EXPERIMENT

### A. DATASET DESCRIPTION

Three datasets namely hypothyroid dataset, hepatitis dataset and Pima Diabetes dataset were used in this experiment. These datasets were downloaded from UCI Machine Learning Repository ("https://archive.ics.uci.edu /ml/machine-learning -databases). [20] The characteristics of the data sets are summarized in the Table 1.

Data Set	Hypothyroid	Hepatitis	Pima Diabetes
No of Example	500	155	330
Input Attributes	28	19	7
Output Classes	2	2	2
Total No. of Attributes	29	20	8
Missing Attributes status	Yes	Yes	No
Noisy Attributes status	Yes	Yes	No

Table 1	1:	Datasets	Characteristics
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### B. ATTRIBUTE DESCRIPTION

The attributes of the hypothyroid data set includes age, sex, on\_thyroxine,query\_on\_thyroxine, onantithyroid \_medication, sick, pregnant, thyroid\_surgery, I131\_treatment, query hyperthyroid, query hypothyroid, lithium, goitre, tumour, hypopitutory, psych, TSH\_measured, T3\_measured, TT4\_measured, FTI\_measured, TBG\_measured, TSH, T3, TT4, FTI, TBG ,referral source, T4U\_measured and T4U. The attributes of the hepatitis dataset includes age, sex, steroid, antivirals, fatigue, malaise, anorexia, liver big, liver firm, spleen palpable, spiders, ascites, varices, bilirubin,alk phosphate, sgot, albumin, protime, histology and class. The attributes of the Pima Indian Diabetes dataset includes number of times pregnant, plasma glucose concentration, Diastolic blood pressure (mm Hg), Triceps skin fold thickness (mm), 2-Hour serum insulin, Body mass index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>), Diabetes pedigree function, Age and class.

### C. METHODOLOGY

The general framework for conducting this experiment is given in figure 6. In this paper, attribute selection methods which are available in ROSE2 [21] and WEKA 3.7 [22] tools have been applied to the three datasets. The aim of the proposed work is to make a comparison based on the performance of the attribute selection methods of ROSE2 and WEKA 3.7. This experiment consists of the following steps:

- Step1: The datasets namely Hypothyroid dataset, Hepatitis dataset and Pima Indian Diabetes dataset are taken as the input dataset. The data pre-processing is performed on the datasets since the hypothyroid and Hepatitis datasets contains missing and noisy attributes. It is evident from several research studies that the data pre-processing is very essential since it enhances the performance accuracy of the classifiers. [23]
- Step2: Classification accuracy is determined for the three datasets without attribute selection using the classifiers such as J48 [24], Multilayer Perceptron [25] and Jrip [26]. The classification accuracy of the classifiers without attribute selection is given in table 2.
- Step3: Attribute selection is performed on the three datasets using Lattice search [27] and Heuristic search [28] of ROSE2 tool. The number of attributes and the selected attributes are described in the table 3.
- Step4: Performance comparison of the attribute selection on three datasets using Lattice search and Heuristic search is done using classifiers like J48, Multilayer Perceptron and Jrip in WEKA 3.7 based on the classification accuracy as shown in the table 4, table 5 and table 6.
- Step5: Attribute selection is performed on the three datasets using 5 selected methods of WEKA 3.7. This is shown in the table 7.
- Step 6: Performance comparison of the five different selected methods of attribute selection in WEKA3.7 is done using classifiers such as J48, Multilayer Perceptron and Jrip in WEKA 3.7 based on the classification accuracy.
- Step7. Finally, the attribute selection methods of ROSE2 and WEKA 3.7 tools are compared based on the performance accuracy of the classifiers such as J48, Multilayer Perceptron and Jrip in WEKA 3.7.



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Fig-6: A General Framework for the proposed study

Table 2: Performance Comparison before Attribute Selecti	on
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Detect	Before Attribute Selection						
Dataset	Classifiers	Accuracy (%)	Kappa Statistic	Time (in Sec)			
	J48	92	0.793	0.02			
Hyphothyroid	Multilayer Perceptron	90	0.7403	15.21			
	Jrip	90	0.74	0.1			
Pima Indian Diabetes	J48	78	0.4775	0.04			
	Multilayer Perceptron	78	0.4898	0.69			
	Jrip	77	0.4665	0.03			
Hepatitis	J48	84	0.436	0.05			
	Multilayer Perceptron	82	0.4356	1.22			
	Jrip	80	0.2817	0.04			

#### Table 3: Attribute Selection using ROSE2

Tool	Dataset	Method	No of attributes	Attributes Selected
Hypothyroid	Hypothyroid	Lattice Search	13	age, sex, query_ hypothyroid, TSH_ measured, TF, TT4_ measured, T4U,FTI,psych, thyroid_surgery, TT4, referral_ source, TSH
	Heuristic Search	12	age, sex,query_hypothyroid, TSH_measured, TF,TT4_ measured,T4U,FTI,psych, thyroid_surgery,TT4,TSH	
ROSE 2	ROSE 2	Lattice Search	19	all attributes
Hepatitis Pima Indian Diabetes	Heuristic Search	8	age,ascites,SGOT,Bilirubin,albumin,fatigue,alk_phosphate, malaise	
	Pima Indian Diabetes	Lattice Search	7	all attributes
	rina mutan Diabetes	Heuristic Search	3	glu, ped, age



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Table 4: Performance Comparison after Attribute Selection on Hypothyroid dataset

RST based					
Feature Selection	No of				
Techniques	Attributes	Classifiers	Accuracy(%)	Kappa Statistic	Time(in Sec)
		J48	91	0.7697	0.02
Lattice Search	13	Multilayer Perceptron	89	0.7224	6.56
		Jrip	91	0.7622	0.05
		J48	91	0.7697	0.01
Heuristic Search	12	Multilayer Perceptron	91	0.7546	4.04
		Jrip	91	0.7428	0.04

Table 5: Performance Comparison after Attribute Selection on Hepatitis dataset

RST based Feature Selection Techniques	No of Attributes	Classifiers	Accuracy(%)	Kappa Statistic	Time(in Sec)
		J48	84	0.436	0.05
Lattice Search	7	Multilayer Perceptron	82	0.4356	1.22
		Jrip	80	0.2817	0.04
		J48	79	0.3057	0.02
Heuristic Search	3	Multilayer Perceptron	82	0.4487	0.41
		Jrip	79	0.3057	0.02

Table 6: Performance Comparison after Attribute Selection on Pima Indian Diabetes dataset

RST based Feature Selection Techniques	No of Attributes	Classifiers	Accuracy(%)	Kappa Statistic	Time(in Sec)
		J48	78	0.4775	0.04
Lattice Search	7	Multilayer Perceptron	78	0.4898	0.69
		Jrip	77	0.4665	0.03
		J48	79	0.4787	0.01
Heuristic Search	3	Multilayer Perceptron	78	0.4898	0.3
		Jrip	79	0.5044	0.02



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Table 7: Attribute Selection performed using WEKA 3.7

Tool	Dataset	Method	No of attributes	Attributes Selected
		CfsSubsetEval+BestFirst	7	sex, on_thyroxine, query_hypothyroid, goitre, TH, TF, FTI
		ChiSquaredAttributeEval+Ranker	10	sex, TSH, age, TSH_measured, TF, referral source, on_thyroxine, on_ thyroxine, query_ hypothyroid, pregnant
	Hypothyroid	GainRatioAttributeEval+Ranker	10	TSH, sex, FTI, TSH_measured, pregnant, goitre, on_thyroxine, hypopituitary, 11f1 treatment, query_hypothyroid
		InfoGainAttributeEval+Ranker	10	sex, TSH, FTI, TSH_measured, age, TF,referral_source,on thyroxine, query hypothyroid, pregnant
WEKA 3.7		ReliefFAttributeEval+Ranker	10	TSH,sex, TF, TF_measured, TSH_measured, FTI, referral source, on_thyroxine, TT4_measured, TT4
	Hepatitis	CfsSubsetEval+BestFirst	10	age, sex, malaise, spiders, ascites, varices, bilirubin, Albumin, protime, histology
		ChiSquaredAttributeEval+Ranker	10	Albumin, ascites, bilirubin, spiders, varices, histology, malaise, protime, fatigue, spleen palpable
		GainRatioAttributeEval+Ranker	10	ascites, bilirubin, Albumin, varices, spiders,age, fatigue,protime,histology, malaise
		InfoGainAttributeEval+Ranker	10	albumin, bilirubin, ascites, spiders, histology, fatigue, malaise,varices, protime, age
		ReliefFAttributeEval+Ranker	10	spiders, malaise, histology, fatigue, ascites, spleen palpable, varices, liver firm, steroid, antivirals
		CfsSubsetEval+BestFirst	4	glu, bmi, ped, age
		ChiSquaredAttributeEval+Ranker	8	npreg, glu, bp, skin, bmi, ped, age, type
	Pima Indian Diabetes	GainRatioAttributeEval+Ranker	8	npreg, glu, bp, skin, bmi, ped, age, type
		InfoGainAttributeEval+Ranker	8	npreg, glu, bp, skin, bmi, ped, age, type
		ReliefFAttributeEval+Ranker	8	npreg, glu, bp, skin, bmi, ped, age, type

Table 8: Performance Comparison after Attribute Selection on Hypothyroid dataset using WEKA



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Selection Techniques in WEKA	Classifiers	Accuracy(%)	Kappa Statistic	Time(in Sec)
	J48	92	0.7898	0.01
CfsSubsetEval+BestFirst	Multilayer Perceptron	91	0.7602	1.66
	Jrip	91	0.7622	0.03
	J48	91	0.7812	0.01
ChiSquaredAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	91	0.7574	5.27
	Jrip	91	0.7544	0.05
	J48	92	0.7851	0.01
GainRatioAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	92	0.7937	2.53
	Jrip	91	0.7534	0.03
	J48	92	0.7812	0.02
InfoGainAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	91	0.7574	5.34
	Jrip	91	0.7544	0.06
	J48	92	0.7833	0.01
ReliefFAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	91	0.7639	3.95
	Jrip	91	0.7524	0.04

Table 9: Performance Comparison after Attribute Selection on Hepatitis dataset

Selection Techniques in WEKA	Classifiers	Accuracy(%)	Kappa Statistic	Time(in Sec)
	J48	81	0.3458	0.04
CfsSubsetEval+BestFirst	Multilayer Perceptron	80	0.3825	0.53
	Jrip	81	0.3458	0.04
	J48	83	0.3892	0.01
ChiSquaredAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	79	0.3426	0.53
	Jrip	77	0.2189	0.02
	J48	83	0.3743	0.01
GainRatioAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	83	0.4759	0.53
	Jrip	81	0.3092	0.02
	J48	83	0.3743	0.01
InfoGainAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	83	0.4759	0.49
	Jrip	81	0.3092	0.02
	J48	79	0.2269	0.01
ReliefFAttributeEval	Multilayer Perceptron	80	0.3677	0.57
	Jrip	81	0.3653	0.02

Table 10: Performance Comparison after Attribute Selection on Pima Diabetes dataset



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Selection Techniques in WEKA	Classifiers	Accuracy(%)	Kappa Statistic	Time(in Sec)
	J48	78	0.4941	0.01
CfsSubsetEval + BestFirst	Multilayer Perceptron	82	0.5744	0.44
	Jrip	78	0.4833	0.03
	J48	77	0.4665	0.04
ChiSquaredAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	78	0.4898	0.64
	Jrip	77	0.4665	0.04
	J48	77	0.4665	0.04
GainRatioAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	78	0.4898	0.64
	Jrip	77	0.4665	0.04
	J48	77	0.4665	0.04
InfoGainAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	78	0.4898	0.64
	Jrip	77	0.4665	0.04
	J48	77	0.4665	0.04
ReliefFAttributeEval+Ranker	Multilayer Perceptron	78	0.4898	0.64
	Jrip	77	0.4665	0.04

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### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this experiment, a comparative study of attribute selection using ROSE2, a tool that implements rough set theory and WEKA 3.7 with its attribute selection methods on three datasets namely Hypothyroid, Hepatitis and Pima Indian diabetes. Attribute selection is performed using ROSE2 and WEKA3.7. The reduced attributes are then used for conducting classification using classifiers like J48, Multilayer Perceptron and Jrip using WEKA 3.7. The comparison of the attribute selection techniques of ROSE2 and WEKA 3.7 was done on the basis of classification accuracy and Kappa Statistics. In this paper, Lattice search and Heuristic search of ROSE2 tool and five different combination of attribute selection methods namely CfsSubsetEval [29]+BestFirst [30], ChiSquaredAttributeEval [31]+Ranker [32], GainRatioAttributeEval [33]+Ranker, InfoGainAttributeEval [34]+Ranker and ReliefFAttributeEval [35]+Ranker were used for conducting attribute selection. The performance comparison graph before attribute selection is given in the figure 7. After feature selection is performed, it is understood from the analysis of the graphs in the figures that J48 classifier achieves the highest accuracy of 92% with the Hypothyroid dataset, 84% with the Hepatitis dataset and 78% with the Pima Indian Diabetes dataset. The three classifiers J48, Multilayer perceptron and Jrip achieve higher accuracy with the hypothyroid dataset followed by the three classifiers with the Pima Indian Diabetes dataset. From the graph in figure 8, it is found that multilayer perceptron classifier has the lowest classification accuracy with the lattice attribute selection method. From the graph in figure 9, J48 and JRip classifier has the highest accuracy with 79% with the heuristic search on Pima Indian Diabetes dataset.

With attribute selection methods of ROSE2 tool, it was found that the heuristic search performs better than the lattice search with hypothyroid and Pima Indian Diabetes dataset. Heuristic search could achieve 91% of accuracy with the hypothyroid dataset.

In case of the attribute selection methods of WEKA 3.7, with the methods like CfsSubsetEval+BestFirst, GainRatioAttributeEval+Ranker, InfoGainAttributeEval+Ranker and ReliefFAttributeEval+Ranker, J48 classifier has the highest accuracy of 92% with the hypothyroid dataset, 83% classification accuracy with the Hepatitis dataset and multilayer perceptron achieves 82% of classification accuracy with CfsSubsetEval+BestFirst with the Pima Indian Diabetes dataset as shown from the graphs in figure 11, figure 12 and figure 13.



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Fig 7: Performance Comparison before Attribute Selection

Fig 8: Performance Comparison after ROSE2 Attribute Selection on Hypothyroid dataset

The above figure 7 shows the performance comparison of the various classifiers such as J48, Multilayer Perceptron and JRip. From the graph in figure 8, it is clear that the classifiers J48 and JRip shows the highest performance with the lattice search of ROSE2 whereas all the classifiers achieves the same highest performance of 91% with the heuristic search of ROSE2.



Fig 9: Performance Comparison after ROSE2 Attribute Selection on Pima Indian Diabetes dataset Fig 10: Performance Comparison after ROSE2 Attribute Selection on Hepatitis dataset

The graph in the above figure 9 shows that Heuristic search of ROSE2 outperforms the lattice search of the ROSE2 with the Pima Indian Diabetes dataset. In the case of Hepatitis dataset, the J48 classifier achieves the highest performance accuracy with the lattice search of ROSE2. Multilayer Perceptron could achieve the same performance accuracy with the lattice search of ROSE2.



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Fig 11: Performance Comparison after WEKA 3.7 Attribute Selection on Hypothyroid dataset

Fig 12: Performance Comparison after WEKA 3.7 Attribute Selection on Hepatitis dataset

Figure 11 shows the performance comparison of the different classifiers with the selected WEKA3.7 attribute selection methods on the hypothyroid dataset. From the figure it is understood that the J48 classifier could achieve the highest classification accuracy with the ChiSquaredAttributeEval +Ranker, GainRatioAttributeEval +Ranker and InfoGainAttributeEval +Ranker attribute selection methods on hypothyroid dataset. Multilayer Perceptron was able to achieve the same accuracy of J48 in the case of GainRatioAttributeEval +Ranker and InfoGainAttributeEval. Figure 12 shows the performance comparison of different classifiers with the selected WEKA3.7 attribute selection methods on the hepatitis dataset. With this dataset, J48 could achieve the highest accuracy with all the selected attribute selection methods except ChiSquaredAttributeEval +Ranker of WEKA3.7.







When ROSE2 and WEKA 3.7 attribute selection methods were compared, it is found that from figure 14, with CfsSubsetEval+BestFirst, GainRatioAttributeEval+Ranker, InfoGainAttributeEval+Ranker and ReliefFAttributeEval + Ranker, J48 classifier has achieved the highest performance accuracy of 92% in the case of hypothyroid dataset. From figure 15, it is clear that Lattice search of ROSE2 with J48 classifier has achieved the highest accuracy of 84% in the case of hepatitis dataset followed by GainRatioAttributeEval +Ranker, InfoGainAttributeEval+Ranker and



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ChiSquaredAttributeEval+Ranker with J48. From the graph in figure 16, multilayer perceptron classifier with CfsSubsetEval+BestFirst has the highest accuracy of 82% in the case of Pima Indian Diabetes dataset which is followed by J48 classifier with heuristic search, Jrip classifier with heuristic search of ROSE 2 tool.



Fig 15. Comparison of Attribute Selection methods of ROSE2 and WEKA 3.7 on Hepatitis dataset

Fig 16. Comparison of Attribute Selection methods of ROSE2 and WEKA 3.7 on Pima Indian Diabetes dataset

### VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper the relationship between two rough set based feature selection methods and the resulting classification performance and the relation between the five selected attribute selection from WEKA 3.7 and the resulting classification performance has been investigated. From the study it is quite clear that all the attributes are not required for achieving classification accuracy. Only the relevant attributes is required for performing classification. All the redundant, irrelevant and noisy attributes can be removed from the dataset. A comparative study between the attribute selection methods in ROSE2 and WEKA 3.7 has been done. It is clear from the study that attributes selection with heuristic search gives better results than the lattice search of ROSE2.

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