



Unsupervised Learning: Association Rule Learning

AAA-Python Edition



Plan

- 1- Association Rules Learning
- 2- Apriori
- 3- apriori optimization
- 4- apriori implementation
- 5- apriori implementation part 2
- 6- apriori



1- Association Rule Learning

Concept and terminology

- The learning concerns identifying **associations** between data **attributes**.
- This association is expressed by : **associations rules** in the form:
 - If X then Y Or in the form: $X \implies Y$
 - Where X and Y are subsets of attributes. These attributes are generally called: **items**. And the subsets of attributes are called: **itemsets**.
 - The data samples described by these attributes are called **transactions**.
- These rules are obtained by identifying the **frequent itemsets**.
- The rules permit to **predict** the presence of items knowing the existence of other ones.



1- Association Rule Learning

Measures

- The following measures are used in the association rules identification process: (where X and Y are itemsets from the transactions set T , and form the rule $X \Rightarrow Y$)
- **Support_count (X):** = frequency of X in T = Number of occurrences of X in T
- **Support (X):** $= \frac{\text{frequency of } X \text{ in } T}{\text{size of } T}$
- **Support (X,Y)** $= \frac{\text{frequency of } X \text{ and } Y \text{ together in } T}{\text{size of } T} = \text{Support}(X \Rightarrow Y)$
- **Confidence($X \Rightarrow Y$):** $= \frac{\text{frequency of } X \text{ and } Y \text{ together in } T}{\text{frequency of } X}$
- **Lift :** $= \frac{\text{Support}(X, Y)}{\text{Support}(X) \times \text{Support}(Y)}$



1- Association Rule Learning

Frequent itemsets and association rules

- An **itemset A** is **frequent** if :
 - $\text{Support}(A) \geq \text{minimum support threshold}$
- An association rule ($X \Rightarrow Y$) is generated as follow:
 - Select **All** itemsets that are **frequent**
 - **Split each frequent** itemset in all possible subsets: X and Y that satisfy the condition:
 - $\text{Confidence}(X \Rightarrow Y) \geq \text{minimum confidence threshold}$
- In association rules **learning**, we apply **specific algorithms** on the **transactions dataset** (the training data) to identify the **frequent itemsets** in order to generate the **association rules**.
- Some of these algorithms:
 - **Apriori** (Breath First Search)
 - **FP-growth** (Frequent Pattern Growth)
 - **Eclat** (Depth First Search)



Naive Apriori: frequent itemsets

- There is the “**naive**” approach, which describe the original **apriori** algorithm. Some improvements were introduced to this algorithm, which lead to different versions. We are going to describe the steps of the naive algorithm described in [Agrawal et al., 1994]
- The steps of frequent itemsets generation:
 - Define the $L_1 = \{\text{frequent 1-itemset}\}$ (k -itemset = itemset with k items).
 - For ($k=2, L_{k-1} \neq \emptyset, k++$)
 - ➔ C_k = from L_{k-1} generate-all candidates k -itemsets (using only frequent itemsets)
 - ➔ For all transactions $t \in T$ (T is the set of all transactions)
 - Increment the count of all itemsets in C_k and contained in t
 - ➔ L_k = frequent itemsets in C_k (itemsets with count \geq min support threshold)
 - The final frequent itemsets is $\cup_k L_k$



Naive apriori: rules generation

- The steps of rules generation are:
 - For all frequent itemsets l_k , $k \geq 2$
 - ➔ Generate all valid rules $\bar{a} \rightarrow (l_k - \bar{a})$ for each $\bar{a} \subset l_k$
a valid rule is the one that have **confidence \geq min confidence threshold**
- To generate all valid rules $\bar{a} \rightarrow (l_k - \bar{a})$ for each $\bar{a} \subset l_k$
 - 1- Set $a_m = l_k$
 - 2- $A =$ all a_{m-1} itemsets that are subsets of a_m
 - 3- For each $a_{m-1} \in A$
 - ➔ Compute confidence of the rule $r = (a_{m-1} \Rightarrow l_k - a_{m-1}) = \frac{\text{support}(l_k)}{\text{support}(a_{m-1})}$
 - ➔ If (confidence (r) \geq **min confidence threshold**) then
 - select r as a valid rule
 - If $(m-1 > 1)$ set $a_m = a_{m-1}$ and go to 2.



2- Apriori

Remarks

- When we generate the C_k candidates, we eliminate all the ones created by subsets that are not frequent. We call it the **prune** step.
- As an improvement, we can consider only transactions that contain frequent itemsets
- The min support and min confidence thresholds must be chosen wisely:
 - A small threshold will lead to more iterations of the algorithm
 - A high threshold can eliminate rare items.



3- Apriori illustration: Frequent itemsets

The data

- We will run the algorithm on the example cited in [Gollapudi, 2016] (after correction)
- We suppose we have the dataset T of transactions that represent the items bought together in each purchase.

T=

1	A, B,E
2	B, D
3	B, C
4	A, B , D
5	A, D
6	B, C
7	A, D
8	A, B, C, E
9	A, B,C

- Where each letter represents an item:
 - A = iPad
 - B = iPad case
 - C = iPad scratch guard
 - D = Apple care
 - E = iPhone
- The numbers in left column represent the TID: transaction identifier



3- Apriori: illustration

Frequent itemsets

- We suppose that the **minimum support count = 2, (min support threshold (2/9))**

L₁

Itemset	Support count ≥ 2
A	6
B	7
C	4
D	4
E	2

C₂

Itemset	Support count
A,B	4
A,C	2
A,D	3
A,E	2
B,C	4
B,D	2
B,E	2
C,D	0
C,E	1
D,E	0

L₂

Itemset	Support count ≥ 2
A,B	4
A,C	2
A,D	3
A,E	2
B,C	4
B,D	2
B,E	2

T

1	A, B, E
2	B, D
3	B, C
4	A, B, D
5	A, D
6	B, C
7	A, D
8	A, B, C, E
9	A, B, C



3- Apriori: illustration

Frequent items sets: prune steps

L_2

Itemset	SC ≥ 2
A,B	4
A,C	2
A,D	3
A,E	2
B,C	4
B,D	2
B,E	2

Not found in L_2

C_3

Itemset	Subsets
A,B,C	AB, AC, BC
A,B,D	AB, AD, BD
A,B,E	AB, AE, BE
A,C,D	AC, AD, CD
A,C,E	AC, AE, CE
A,D,E	AD, AE, DE
B,C,D	BC, BD, BE
B,C,E	BC, BE, CE
B,D,E	BD, BE, DE

Prune

C_3

Itemset	Support count
A,B,C	2
A,B,D	1
A,B,E	2
B,C,D	0

Itemset	SC ≥ 2
A,B,C	2
A,B,E	2

L_3

L_4

Itemset	SC
---------	----

C_4

Itemset	SC
---------	----

We stop here, because if we want to prune C_4 , we will eliminate the generated subsets (ABCD, ABCE) since they contain subsets of 3 items that are not in L_3



4- Apriori Application

ML-xtend The data

- **mlxtend** library implements the **apriori** algorithm.
- But, before applying the algorithm on the previous example, we have to create the corresponding data.

```
import pandas as pd
from mlxtend.preprocessing import TransactionEncoder

# the previous data
data = [{"A", "B", "E"}, {"B", "D"}, {"B", "C"}, {"A", "B", "D"}, {"A", "D"}, {"B", "C"}, {"A", "D"}, {"A", "B", "C"},

# encode the data, so we can apply the algorithm
TE = TransactionEncoder()
dataEnc = TE.fit(data).transform(data)
df = pd.DataFrame(dataEnc, columns=TE.columns_)
```

	A	B	C	D	E
0	True	True	False	False	True
1	False	True	False	True	False
2	False	True	True	False	False
3	True	True	False	True	False
4	True	False	False	True	False
5	False	True	True	False	False
6	True	False	False	True	False
7	True	True	True	False	True
8	True	True	True	False	False



4- Apriori Application

MI-extend frequent itemsets

```
1 from mlxtend.frequent_patterns import apriori
2
3 frequent_itemsets= apriori(df, min support=0.22, use_colnames=True)
```

	support	itemsets		support	itemsets
0	0.666667	(A)	10	0.222222	(B, D)
1	0.777778	(B)	11	0.222222	(E, B)
2	0.444444	(C)	12	0.222222	(C, B, A)
3	0.444444	(D)	13	0.222222	(E, B, A)
4	0.222222	(E)			
5	0.444444	(B, A)			
6	0.222222	(C, A)			
7	0.333333	(D, A)			
8	0.222222	(E, A)			
9	0.444444	(C, B)			

The result is the union of all previous L_i we found ($L_1 \cup L_2 \cup L_3$)



4- Apriori Application

Mlxtend: generated rules

- we will generate the **association rules** corresponding to the found **frequent itemsets**

```
1 from mlxtend.frequent_patterns import association_rules
2
3 AR= association_rules(frequent_itemsets, metric="confidence", min_threshold=0.7)
4 AR.iloc[:, [0,1,4,5,6]]
```

	antecedents	consequents	support	confidence	lift
0	(D)	(A)	0.333333	0.75	1.125000
1	(E)	(A)	0.222222	1.00	1.500000
2	(C)	(B)	0.444444	1.00	1.285714
3	(E)	(B)	0.222222	1.00	1.285714
4	(C, A)	(B)	0.222222	1.00	1.285714
5	(B, E)	(A)	0.222222	1.00	1.500000
6	(E, A)	(B)	0.222222	1.00	1.285714
7	(E)	(B, A)	0.222222	1.00	2.250000

Min
confidence
threshold

Correspond to
the rule: $E \rightarrow B, A$



Concept

- It is based on the relationship between subset inclusion and support values.
- In this algorithm, an item is represented by the list of transactions it belongs to. They are the TidLists
- The support is computed from the intersection of these TidLists.
- If N is the size of T (the transactions dataset), then:

$$\text{support}(X, Y) = \frac{|Tid(X) \cap Tid(Y)|}{N} = \frac{\text{frequency of } X \text{ and } Y \text{ together}}{N}$$

- It also relies on the concept that:
 - If $X \subseteq Y$, and $\text{support}(Y) = S \Rightarrow \text{support}(X) \geq S$
 - If $Y \subseteq X$, and $\text{support}(X) \leq \text{min_s} \Rightarrow \text{support}(Y) < \text{min_s}$



5- Eclat

Algorithm

- The algorithm is defined by a recursive function **eclat**
- A recursive function is a function that calls itself directly or indirectly. It stops when a certain condition is met.
- The steps are:
 - set $p = \{\}$, $Items = \{\text{all items}\}$
 - Call $Eclat(P, Items)$
- Eclat (P,I) definition:
 - $F = \{\}$, $C_{it} = \{\}$
 - If $Items = \{\}$ return F
 - else
 - ➔ $C =$ for each i in $Items$ and not in P generate $(P \cup i, i)$ tuples
 - ➔ Filter out C so it will contain only frequent $P \cup i$ itemsets
 - ➔ For each $(P \cup i, i)$ in c add i to C_{it}
 - ➔ For each (X, i) in C :
 - $C_{it} = C_{it} - \{i\}$
 - $F = F \cup X \cup Eclat(X, C_{it})$
 - ➔ Return F



5- Eclat

Illustration

- We will run the algorithm on the example cited in [Eclat] (in the reference it is actually run for threshold=2 and not 3):
- $I = \{a, c, b, e, d, f\}$, $\text{min_support_count_threshold} = 3$
- $T = [[a, b, c], [a, c, d, e, f], [a, b, c], [d, e]]$
- $P = \{\}$, $\text{Items} = \{a, b, c, d, e\}$
- $\text{Eclat}(P = \{\}, \text{Items} = \{a, b, c, d, e\}) \text{ ----- (1)}$
 - $\text{Eclat}(P = \{\}, \text{Items} = \{a, b, c, d, e\}) \text{ (from 1)}$
 - ➔ $F = \{\}$; $C_{it} = \{\}$
 - ➔ $C = \{(a, a), (b, b), (c, c), (d, d), (e, e), (f, f)\}$
 - ➔ $C = \{(a, a), (c, c)\}$, $C_{it} = \{a, c\}$
 - 1) $X = a$, $i = a$
 - $C_{it} = \{c\}$
 - $F = \{a\} \cup \text{Eclat}(P = \{a\}, \text{Items} = \{c\}) \text{ ----- (11)}$
 - $\text{Eclat}(P = \{a\}, \text{Items} = \{c\}) \text{ (from 11)}$
 - $F = \{\}$, $C_{it} = \{\}$
 - $C = \{(ac, c)\}$



Illustration (suite)

- $C = \{(ac, c)\}, C_{it} = \{c\}$
 - $X = \{ac\}, i = c$
 - $Items = \{\}$
 - $F = \{ac\} \cup Eclat(P = \{ac\}, Items = \{\})$ ---- (111)
 - $Eclat(P = \{ac\}, Items = \{\})$ (from 111)
 - $F = \{\}, C_{it} = \{\}$
 - $Items = \{\},$ return F (return to 111)
 - $F = \{ac\}$
- Return F (return to ---- (11))
- $F = \{a, ac\}$
- 2) $X = \{c\}, i = c$
- $C_{it} = \{a\}$
- $F = \{a, ac, c\} \cup Eclat(P = \{c\}, Items = \{a\})$ ----- (12)
 - $Eclat(P = \{c\}, Items = \{a\})$ (from 1)



Illustration (suite)

- Eclat($P=\{c\}$, Items= a}) (from 12)
 - $F = \{\}, C_{it} = \{\}$
 - $C = \{(ca, a)\}$
 - $C_{it} = \{a\}$
 - $X = \{ca\}, i=a$
 - $C_{it} = \{\}$
 - $F = \{ca\} \cup \text{Eclat}(P=\{ca\}, \text{Items}=\{\})$ ---- (121)
 - Eclat ($P=\{ca\}$, Items= $\{\}$) (from 121)
 - $F = \{\}, C_{it} = \{\}$
 - Items == $\{\}$, return F (return to 121)
 - $F = \{ca\}$
 - Return F (return to ---- (12))
- $F = \{a, ac, c\}$
 - Return F (return to (1))
- Final $F = \{a, ac, c\}$



Library and data

- fim is a library comprised of a module that implements a set of functions dedicated to frequent itemset mining.
- The functions are related to the algorithm they implement.
- For example, the library implements “Eclat”, “apriori”, et “fpgrowth” functions.
- To have a list of all the the represented algorithms, take a look at its homepage ([PyFIM - Frequent Item Set Mining for Python](#)).
- To install the library, just use the **pip** command:
- Concerning the data, we do not need to do any transformation. So, we will use the transactions of the example, as we defined them (list of lists):

```
1 !pip install fim
```

```
T = [[ "a", "b", "c"], [ "a", "c", "d", "e", "f"], [ "a", "b", "c"], [ "d", "e"]]
```



Eclat application

```
import fim as fim
from fim import eclat
fis = eclat(T, supp=75)
```

- Supp =75 means Support = 0.75 ($\frac{3}{4}$)
- By default it prints support_count values

```
[(('c',), 3), (('a', 'c'), 3), (('a',), 3)]
```

“S” to print the support as fractions

```
1 fis_p = eclat(T, supp = 75, report = "s")
2 fis_p
```

```
[(('c',), 0.75), (('a', 'c'), 0.75), (('a',), 0.75)]
```

The same frequent itemsets we found earlier in the illustration



Apriori application

- We will use the “apriori” function on the previous example we saw in apriori section.

```
from fim import apriori  
fis_a = apriori(data, supp=22, report="s")
```

Support_count = 2 is
equivalent to
support = 2/9

```
[(('E', 'A', 'B'), 0.2222222222222222),  
 (('E', 'A'), 0.2222222222222222),  
 (('E', 'B'), 0.2222222222222222),  
 (('E', ), 0.2222222222222222),  
 (('D', ), 0.4444444444444444),  
 (('D', 'A'), 0.3333333333333333),  
 (('D', 'B'), 0.2222222222222222),  
 (('C', 'B'), 0.4444444444444444),  
 (('C', ), 0.4444444444444444),  
 (('C', 'A', 'B'), 0.2222222222222222),  
 (('C', 'A'), 0.2222222222222222),  
 (('A', ), 0.6666666666666666),  
 (('A', 'B'), 0.4444444444444444),  
 (('B', ), 0.7777777777777778)]
```



References

- [Agrawal et al., 1994] Agrawal, R., Srikant, R., et al. (1994). Fast algorithms for mining association rules. In Proc. 20th int. conf. very large data bases, VLDB, volume 1215, pages 487–499.
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Thank you!

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