

## The Downward Closure Property of Frequent Patterns

Observation: From TDB<sub>1:</sub> T<sub>1</sub>: {a<sub>1</sub>, ..., a<sub>50</sub>}; T<sub>2</sub>: {a<sub>1</sub>, ..., a<sub>100</sub>}
We get a frequent itemset: {a<sub>1</sub>, ..., a<sub>50</sub>}
Also, its subsets are all frequent: {a<sub>1</sub>}, {a<sub>2</sub>}, ..., {a<sub>50</sub>}, {a<sub>1</sub>, a<sub>2</sub>}, ..., {a<sub>1</sub>, ..., a<sub>49</sub>}, ...
There must be some hidden relationships among frequent patterns!
The downward closure (also called "Apriori") property of frequent patterns
If {beer, diaper, nuts} is frequent, so is {beer, diaper}
Eyery transaction containing {beer, diaper, nuts} also contains {beer, diaper}
Apriori: Any subset of a frequent itemset must be frequent
Efficient mining methodology
If any subset of an itemset S is infrequent, then there is no chance for S to be frequent—why do we even have to consider S!?

## **Apriori Pruning and Scalable Mining Methods**

- Apriori pruning principle: If there is any itemset which is infrequent, its superset should not even be generated! (Agrawal & Srikant @VLDB'94, Mannila, et al. @ KDD' 94)
- Scalable mining Methods: Three major approaches
  - Level-wise, join-based approach: Apriori (Agrawal & Srikant@VLDB'94)
  - Vertical data format approach: Eclat (Zaki, Parthasarathy, Ogihara, Li @KDD'97)
  - Frequent pattern projection and growth: FPgrowth (Han, Pei, Yin @SIGMOD'00)

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