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CIS 453 Project Proposal

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League of Data: Making Intelligent Game Decisions Using Data.

The problem:

League of Legends is the most popular online PC game in the world at this moment. With over 67 million players, *Riot games* (the creators of League of Legends) created a “Big Data” division that tackled the complex task of categorizing and recording games played by each player¹. This “Big Data” Division also does internal data-mining work that is used to balance the game. Every conceivable raw statistic (and a considerable number of computed ones) are available for anyone willing to learn how to use the Riot API.

The Riot API is designed for developers who are interested in using their own tools to work with the results. Many websites have been set up that take advantage of the Riot API to give players access to certain services, such as average statistics about a champion² or what they are currently “ranked as” in game modes that don’t tell you your rank³. Large numbers of players find these statistics useful (including the author), and in op.gg’s case, have extremely large userbases. Both websites use data-mining techniques to generate actionable information for their readers.

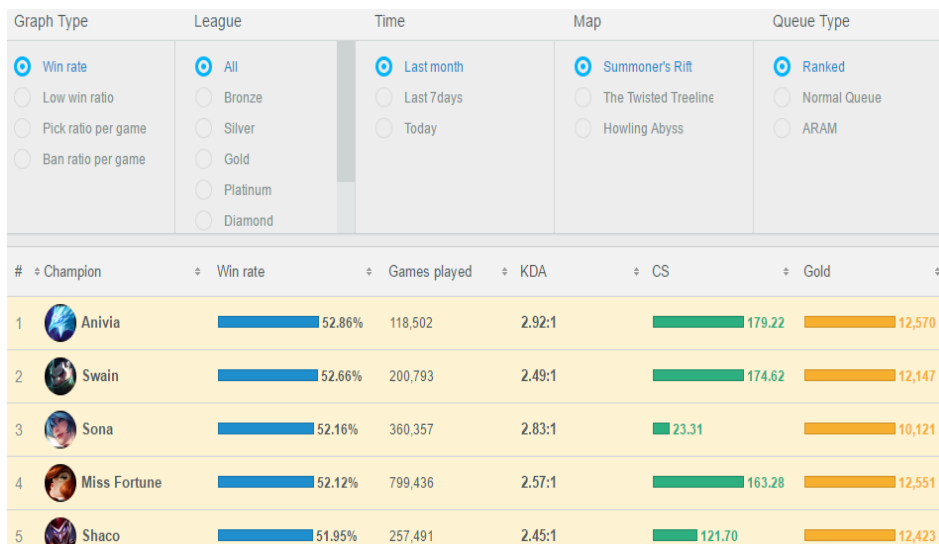


Fig 1: Sample Statistics provided by na.op.gg for the current patch

¹ (more details found here: <http://www.riotgames.com/departments/big-data> also see their section for the riot API).

² <http://champion.gg/>

³ <https://na.op.gg/>

For starters, the amount of games that each website curate through is currently around 2.5 million (and increases nearly every month). That's *Per Patch* which happens around every 2 weeks. That is a *tiny, tiny* slice of the total number of games of League of Legends played. Each website stores it's statistics for previous patches as well. This presents the player base with a magnificent opportunity to mine this massive amount of data for information. We present a number of examples of the novel benefits of data mining League of Legends data.

League of Legends is a 5 vs 5 "Multiplayer Online Battle Arena". Each player on a team will select a "Champion" out of <200 available choices to play for the duration of the game. These champions are picked in a "Drafting" setting, that includes 6 bans before the match. Many champions have abilities which "Synergize" with each other, and many of these "Synergies" are known to players within the community. Champions are divided up into "Archetypes" that are designed to play with specific other Archetypes. Unfortunately, no amount of player learned game-knowledge will suffice for the power of a computer to association mine strong rules about what champions are "successful" when picked with others.

Another Mechanic within the game are "Item sets". When the players get into a game with their selected champion, they will have choices about which "Items" to build. There are over 100 items in the game, and many of them have their own synergies and weaknesses. Some items are plain bad on champions that don't effectively use them, and the study of optimal item builds (which changes each 2 week patch) is one of the main reasons why Professional League of Legends teams hire Data Mining professionals as "Analysts" for their team.

Unfortunately, Riot Games strictly enforces a policy of them being the final curators and distributors of their own data⁴. This prevents any of the websites that curate and beautify the data from independently making it available (like in a zip file). This means that barring the creation of a very good webscraper, the only way that the raw game data will be available to a developer is through using the riot API to retrieve it myself.

The Project Goal:

As such, existing web services are not good enough for anyone that wants to do their own independent analysis of data on their own time. Many Professional League of Legends teams have vested interests in this realm, and the organizations that sponsor them hire professional analysts who very likely utilize riot API data to help their players perform better. I intend to Association Mine and Classify useful League of Legends data.

⁴ <https://developer.riotgames.com/general-policies>

The Data: Conveniently, the Riot API stores and makes it's data available using the JSON format:

```
{
  "gameId": 1726229459,
  "mapId": 11,
  "gameMode": "CLASSIC",
  "gameType": "MATCHED_GAME",
  "participants": [...],
  "observers": {
    "encryptionKey": "P+C3YqI3Mg9oHc6t9eTAKWE4T8prxwzR"
  },
  "platformId": "NA1",
  "gameTypeConfigId": 1,
  "bannedChampions": [...],
  "gameStartTime": 1423594330450,
  "gameLength": 135
}
```

Fig 2: Sample Data

Fig 2: shows an example table. This is an object that stores a currently played game. The total database schema that the RiotAPI can talk to is listed online. This table acts as my starting point for mining additional data from them, so I'll go into some detail about it.

gameId: is a unique number that identifies the specific game in the database. "Crawling the database" will therefore be either be generating random gameId's or using a large list of known ones.

mapId: corresponds to the ID of the map that the game was played on. This is almost always dependent on the gameMode.

gameMode: Usually "CLASSIC", though sometimes other things depending on if it's a custom game or special rule set.

gameType: Either "Matched_Game" or "Custom" depending on what it's set as

Participants: This is an object that gives access to an encryption key that can be used to spectate the game as it's running. I'm not immediately sure how this will be representable in SQL, but it will give richness to the data being processed by both Database Languages.

BannedChampions: this is an array of champion ID's, that correspond to specific banned champions for that game. There are 6 banned champions per match.

gameLength: is stored in seconds and returns a static value at the time of the query. I may need to write some logic to throw out anomalously high values (games that have crashed on the server side and are not properly shut down).

Data's Use-Value:

This table would be useful to an analyst. If you wrote a crawler that could return the information of *all* the currently going games, you'd very quickly have a large sample size of games played. This way I could start to generate ban rates based on what champions are banned by each game.

Within a specific “gameID”, another table labeled “Champions” lists the exact champions picked by each of the 10 players in the match, labeled with which team picked what champion and in what order they were picked in. I can use this to directly farm a large number of “Team compositions” (sets of 5 champion picks which corresponds to the draft of a single team within a single game). I intend to mine the associations between each champion.

Of course, there are many available tables and lots of data available to be used. Listing it all would take a book. Much of my choices for data and quarries will be based on finding interesting association and classification rules.

Project Methodology:

I’ve worked with the RiotAPI before in the CIS 452 project, and I have experience setting up and using a MongoDB database on my home machine. This will easily store the RiotAPI data that I gather. Converting this eventual data into comma separated values may be tricky, but I’m sure that this is a well solved problem.

Regrettably, Riot games has changed the way that the RiotAPI returns data ever since I last used it. The specifics of the change are documented here⁵. It makes it so that in order for me to farm the match history of a specific player, I’m forced to send $O(n)$ requests instead of $O(1)$ requests to acquire it. Since the average ranked-ready league of legends player has played hundreds of games, this means that I will be spending potentially hundreds of requests to the RiotAPI acquiring this data, when in the past it was a single request for the whole match history. The RiotAPI maintains a 500 request per 10 minute interval cap, which is going to do nothing but complicate the data farming. I have my spare data from the CIS 452 project, but it is not necessarily detailed enough for the analysis I want to do. This will be a significant challenge in my project (but there are most likely workarounds to this)

When I finally get the data, I must make choices about how to organize it for learning with. The homework has left me comfortable working with data-sets in the thousands of entries with Excel and other tools. I can use built-in functions found in Weka to convert the data into a readable form.

I imagine that I will have a CSV file listing 10 different champions and try to association mine from that. I run into a problem of enumeration if I want to mark which team a champion is picked on (because it’s important to note if a champion picked in response to a friendly champion, or enemy champion... a champion might be a bad pick on the friendly team but good on the enemy team). I’m not immediately sure how to solve this problem, though researchers in Texas have written a paper that proposes solutions to these problem (Nayak and Cook 2001).

Results:

⁵https://www.reddit.com/r/leagueoflegends/comments/68lakk/changes_to_riot_api_making_everything_harder_for/

I wrote a crawler in Python that scans the top rated master ranked players match history and pulls the champions played in their game. This crawler then looks at the match history of all of the players that played in each game, and pulls match data from those games recursively. I manually appended “B” or “R” to the beginning of each champion name (to distinguish between blue and red side of the map, which also distinguishes between team1 and team2).

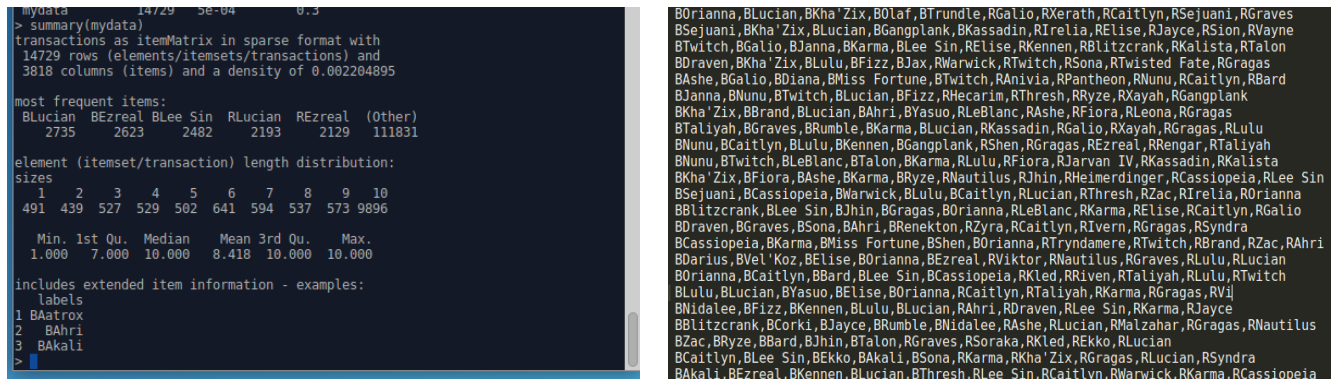


Fig 3: Summary of Data and example transactions

I’d originally planned to simply mine some association rules with my own python implementation of the Apriori Algorithm and try to parse through the information by hand. Besides being tedious, this would not necessary give me interesting data. As a result, I came across a paper from (Hahsler and Chelluboina 2017) about a package written in R called “arulesViz” which helps facilitate the visualization of mined association rules. I used this project as an excuse to learn R, and the results have been very interesting. I generated 8000 association rules with minimum support of 7 (0.0005) games and minimum confidence of 0.30

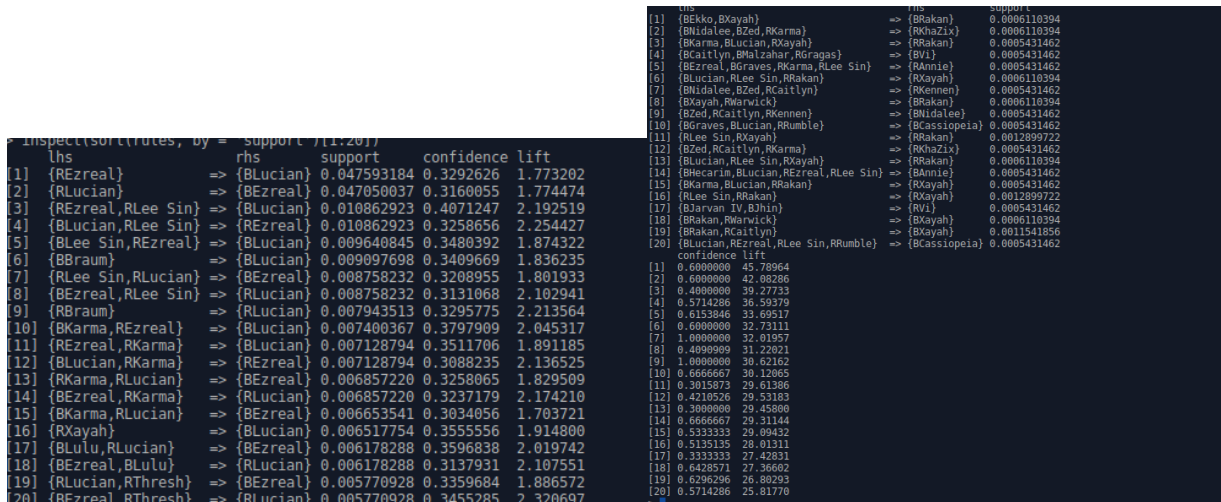


Fig 4: first 20 association rules generated sorted by relative support (left) and by lift (right)

A quick glance at the summary of the gathered association rules tells me that I’m going to have to find ways to visualize them graphically:

```

> summary(rules)
set of 8955 rules

rule length distribution (lhs + rhs):sizes
  2   3   4   5
28 5747 3110  70

   Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
   2.00   3.00   3.00   3.36   4.00   5.00

summary of quality measures:
support      confidence      lift
Min. :0.0005431 Min. :0.3000 Min. : 1.616
1st Qu.:0.0005431 1st Qu.:0.3333 1st Qu.: 2.174
Median :0.0006789 Median :0.3793 Median : 2.679
Mean   :0.0008318 Mean   :0.4213 Mean   : 3.451
3rd Qu.:0.0008147 3rd Qu.:0.4706 3rd Qu.: 3.744
Max.   :0.0475932 Max.   :1.0000 Max.   :45.790

mining info:
data ntransactions support confidence
mydata      14729    5e-04      0.3

```

Fig 5: Statistical Summary of mined association rules, notice the 5 figure summary of Support, Confidence and Lift.

These statistics help to evaluate the data, notably the average lift measure helps us evaluate if a rule is “Interesting” or not relative to the rest.

Still, it’d be best to get a graphical representation of the association rules.

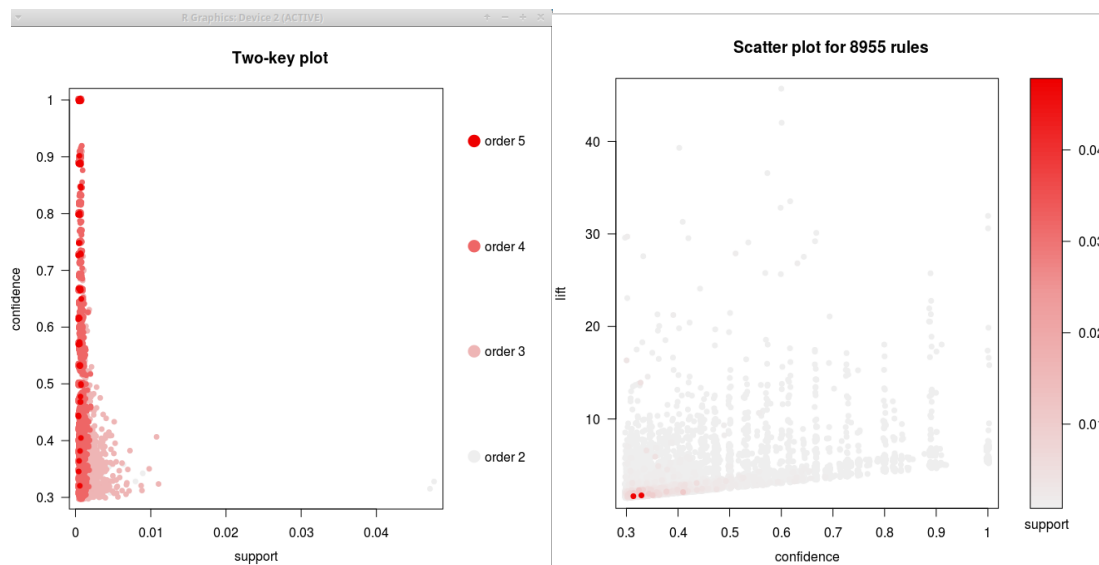


Fig 6: Two-Key Plot of rules (Order = size of rule), Fig 7: Scatterplot of rules, note the two high support rules in the bottom-left.

We see that the rule with high relative support to the rest are mainly grouped in the size 2-3 regions. We also observe that the highest support rules (of which there are 2-3 very strong ones) have a relatively low lift and confidence. These high support red dots correspond to very popular champion in league such as Lucian and Lee-Sin.

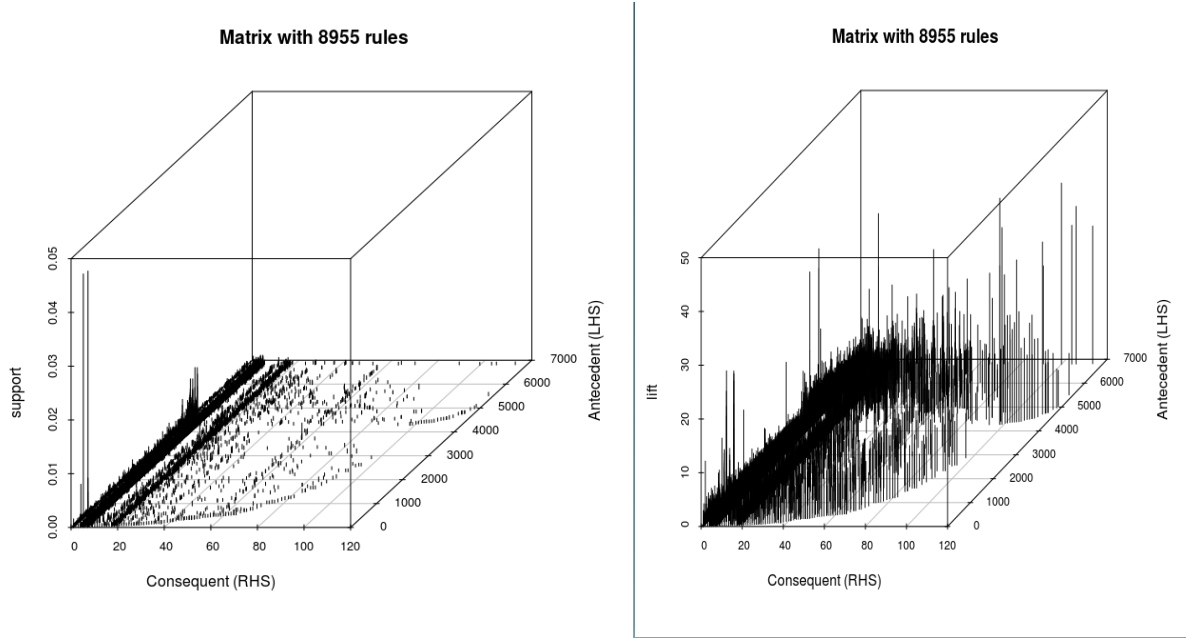


Fig 8: 3D Matrix distribution of rules by Support (left) and Lift (right).

From Fig 8 we observe the same 2 super strong association rules identified in Fig 7 but with a better sense of the support distribution within the remaining rules.

Looking back at this data, we find interesting knowledge within the data. High support champions like Lucian, and Ezreal are found in 4% of analyzed games: considerably higher than the average of 0.2% average champion pick rate.

The high lift rules are for a recently release champion (Xayah) who has a special mechanics with another champion (Rakan) that incentivizes picking them together. The other high lift rules are about certain large team-comps implying less popular champions like Nidalee or Annie.

From this point on, I became interested in analyzing subsets of the mined association rules. I choose to analyze the association rules with Red-side Lucian and Red-Side Karma. This netted me 48 rules.

```
inspect(sort(subset(rules, subset(lhs %in% c('Rkarma', 'Rkarma')), by = '(lift)'))
  lhs                                rhs      support  confidence
[1] {Bkled, Rkarma, RLucian}          => {RGraves}  0.005431462  0.4000000
[2] {Rkarma, RLucian, ROranna}        => {Bkani}   0.006789327  0.4347826
[3] {Bviktor, Rkarma, RLucian}        => {RElise}  0.005431462  0.4705882
[4] {BDraven, Rkarma, RLucian}        => {BAhri}   0.006110394  0.4736842
[5] {Rkarma, RLucian, RTalon}         => {BThresh} 0.005431462  0.5000000
[6] {BDraven, Rkarma, RLucian}        => {BThresh} 0.006110394  0.4736842
[7] {BReingar, Rkarma, RLucian}       => {BEzreal} 0.0010862923  0.6153846
[8] {Rkarma, RKassadin, RLucian}      => {BEzreal} 0.0007468260  0.6111111
[9] {Bollio, Rkarma, RLucian}         => {BLee Sin} 0.005431462  0.5714286
[10] {Rkarma, RLucian, Rumble}        => {BThresh} 0.005431462  0.3200000
[11] {Rfizz, Rkarma, RLucian}         => {BLee Sin} 0.006110394  0.5625000
[12] {BNautilus, Rkarma, RLucian}     => {BEzreal} 0.006789327  0.582353
[13] {BSyndra, Rkarma, RLucian}       => {BEzreal} 0.008147193  0.5454545
[14] {Rkarma, RLucian, RShaco}        => {BEzreal} 0.0007468260  0.4782609
[15] {Rkarma, RLucian, RYaliyah}      => {BEzreal} 0.005431462  0.4705882
[16] {RAhri, Rkarma, RLucian}         => {BEzreal} 0.005431462  0.4705882
[17] {BTwitch, Rkarma, RLucian}       => {BLee Sin} 0.005431462  0.4444444
[18] {Rkarma, RLucian, ROlaf}         => {BLee Sin} 0.006110394  0.4285714
[19] {BDraven, Rkarma, RLucian}       => {BLee Sin} 0.005431462  0.4210526
[20] {BVladimir, Rkarma, RLucian}     => {BEzreal} 0.005431462  0.4444444
[21] {BElise, Rkarma, RLucian}        => {BEzreal} 0.005431462  0.3200000
[22] {RGraves, Rkarma, RLucian}       => {BEzreal} 0.008826125  0.4193548
[23] {Rkarma, RLucian, Rumble}        => {BEzreal} 0.006789327  0.4000000
[24] {BOranna, Rkarma, RLucian}       => {BEzreal} 0.005431462  0.4000000
[25] {BElise, Rkarma, RLucian}        => {BEzreal} 0.006789327  0.4000000
[26] {BAhri, Rkarma, RLucian}          => {BLee Sin} 0.008147193  0.3750000
[27] {Rkarma, RLucian, ROranna}       => {BEzreal} 0.006110394  0.3913043
[28] {BLulu, Rkarma, RLucian}          => {BEzreal} 0.001220709  0.3673469
[29] {BBlitzcrank, Rkarma, RLucian}    => {BEzreal} 0.005431462  0.3636364
[30] {BFiora, Rkarma, RLucian}         => {BLee Sin} 0.008147193  0.3243243
[31] {BGragas, Rkarma, RLucian}        => {BEzreal} 0.008826125  0.3421053
[32] {RElise, Rkarma, RLucian}         => {BEzreal} 0.008147193  0.3333333
[33] {Rkarma, RLucian}               => {BEzreal} 0.0068572204  0.3258065
[34] {RElise, Rkarma, RLucian}        => {BLee Sin} 0.0007468260  0.3055556

  lift
[1] 8.217015
[2] 6.391131
[3] 6.266993
[4] 5.342186
[5] 5.298201
[6] 5.019349
[7] 3.455585
[8] 3.431588
[9] 3.391044
[10] 3.390849
[11] 3.338059
[12] 3.303133
[13] 3.062905
[14] 2.685591
[15] 2.642506
[16] 2.642506
[17] 2.637479
[18] 2.543283
[19] 2.498664
[20] 2.495700
[21] 2.407191
[22] 2.354814
[23] 2.246130
[24] 2.246130
[25] 2.246130
[26] 2.225373
[27] 2.197301
[28] 2.062773
[29] 2.041937
[30] 1.924647
[31] 1.921033
[32] 1.871775
[33] 1.829509
[34] 1.813267
```

Fig 9: RLucian and RKarma rules by lift

Rule number 5 and 6 from Fig 9 interest me especially. They have lift's that are more than double average, and they predict champions that are played in the same lane against Lucian and karma (The bottom lane of the map). They indicate that if red-side Talon or blue-side draven is in the game, it's likely to see blue-side Thresh picked as a response to it. I then visualized the whole set

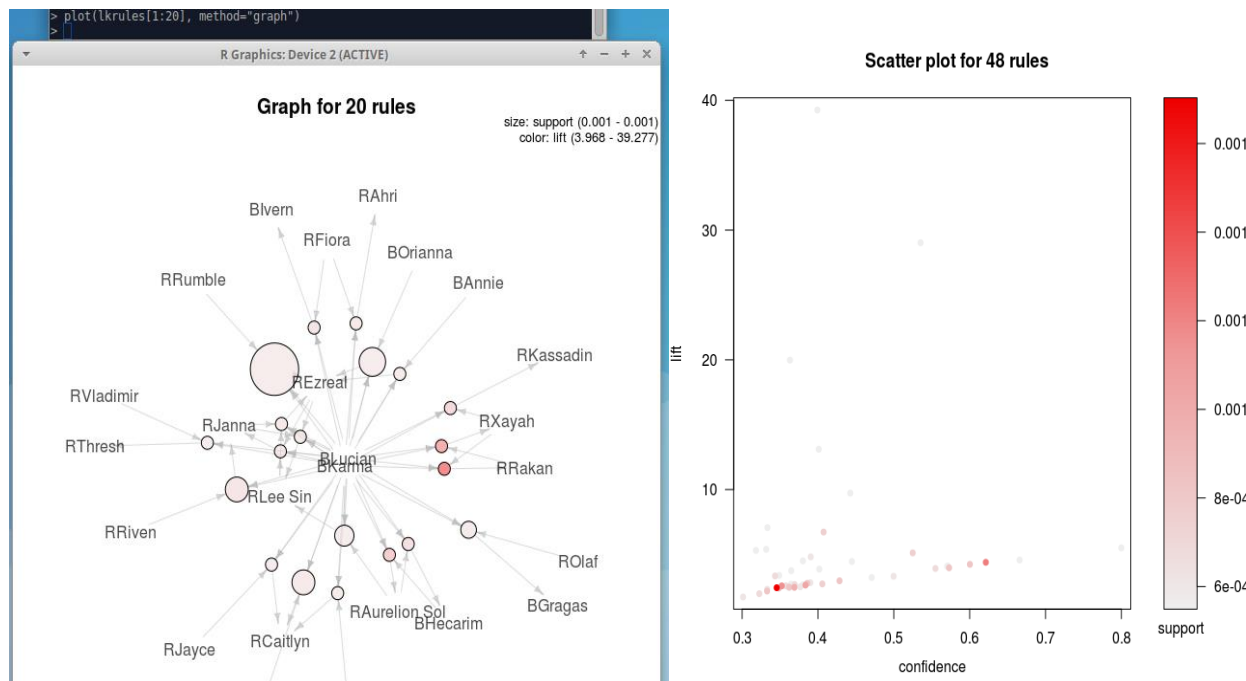


Fig 10: Graphical representation of top 20 rules sorted by lift, Fig 11: confidence-lift plot of full 48 rules.

In Fig 10, the size of the node indicates relative support, the darker color indicates hugger lift. Note the low support but high lift Rakan rules, but high support and low lift Rumble rules. We see these same rules in Fig 11 (there's very faint dots near the 10 lift area).

References:

- Hahsler, Michael, and Sudheer Chelluboina. 2017. "Visualizing Association Rules: Introduction to the R-Extension Package arulesViz." Accessed June 4. <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/arulesViz/vignettes/arulesViz.pdf>.
- Nayak, Jyothsna R, and Diane J Cook. 2017. "Approximate Association Rule Mining." Accessed May 26. <https://www.aaai.org/Papers/FLAIRS/2001/FLAIRS01-050.pdf>.

