2020

Lab 8: Association Rules



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Lab Objectives:

The goal of this lab is to explain the role of association rules in mining hidden relationships in data. After completion of this lab, you will be able to:

- Generate association rules using Apriori algorithm
- Evaluate the goodness of the findings rules

Methodology

First you have to install the required library that allow you to run Apriori algorithm. Then, as usual, you have to load and read dataset. After executing the algorithm, a set of generated rules are found. Your task is to analyze these rules and reports only the most interesting.

In class task:

At the end of this lab, the student will be able to:

- Explain how the Apriori algorithm works.
- Extract rules from the generated set.
- Evaluate the findings using Support and Confidence.

home task:

Complete your **Course Project** (See Home task in lab 5).

References:

- Agrawal, Rakesh, and Ramakrishnan Srikant. "Fast algorithms for mining association rules." Proc. 20th int. conf. very large data bases, VLDB. Vol. 1215. 1994.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apriori algorithm

1. Frequent Itemsets via Apriori Algorithm

Apriori function to extract frequent itemsets for association rule mining. To work with apriori algorithm, first you have to install, in this time, mlxtend library as follows:

- add a new jupyter cell
- write down the following code: pip install mlxtend

Now, you can find the required algorithm by import it using the following:

from mlxtend.frequent patterns import apriori

Generating Frequent Itemsets

Suppose we have the following transaction data as depicted in the Table below.

Tid Items bought

1 Drink, Nuts, Diaper

2 Drink, Coffee, Diaper

3 Drink, Diaper, Eggs

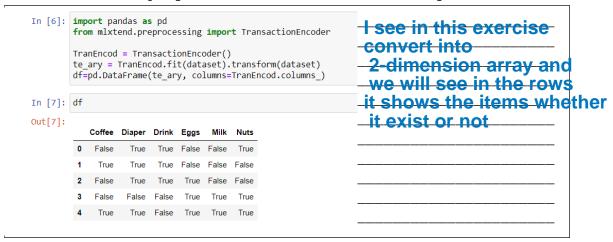
4 Nuts, Eggs, Milk

5 Nuts, Coffee, Diaper, Eggs, Milk

Table 1: Transaction Data

Exercise 1.1: The apriori function expects data in a one-hot encoded pandas DataFrame. Use the transaction data that is presented in the Table 1 and convert the them into 2 dimensional array. Display the output here!

Exercise 1.2: Display the dataset below! What do you see?



Remember that to work with association rules, the algorithm required as input beside the dataset, the minimum support value ε :

```
\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{Apriori}(T,\epsilon) \\ & L_1 \leftarrow \{\operatorname{large} 1 - \operatorname{itemsets}\} \\ & k \leftarrow 2 \\ & \mathbf{while} \ L_{k-1} \neq \emptyset \\ & C_k \leftarrow \{c = a \cup \{b\} \mid a \in L_{k-1} \land b \not\in a, \{s \subseteq c \mid |s| = k-1\} \subseteq L_{k-1}\} \\ & \mathbf{for} \ \operatorname{transactions} \ t \in T \\ & D_t \leftarrow \{c \in C_k \mid c \subseteq t\} \\ & \mathbf{for} \ \operatorname{candidates} \ c \in D_t \\ & count[c] \leftarrow count[c] + 1 \\ & L_k \leftarrow \{c \in C_k \mid count[c] \geq \epsilon\} \\ & k \leftarrow k + 1 \\ & \mathbf{return} \ \bigcup_k L_k \end{aligned}
```

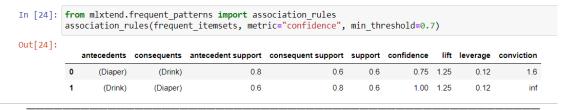
So, let us return the items and itemsets with at least 60% support.

```
apriori(df, min_support=0.6)
```

By default, apriori returns the column indices of the items, which may be useful in downstream operations such as association rule mining. For better readability, we can set use_colnames=True to convert these integer values into the respective item names:

```
apriori(df, min_support=0.6, use_colnames=True)
   support
                 itemsets
0
        0.8
                  (Diaper)
1
        0.6
                   (Drink)
2
        0.6
                    (Eggs)
3
        0.6
                    (Nuts)
        0.6 (Diaper, Drink)
```

Exercise 1.3: Find the possible rules and calculate the confidence of each rule you find?



2. Selecting and Filtering Results

Before moving ahead, let us decrease the minimum support to 30%. This leads to increase the number of returned items and itemsets. Let us now filter out these rules. The advantage of working with pandas DataFrames is that we can use its convenient features to filter the results. For instance, let's assume we are only interested in itemsets of length 2 that have a support of at least 50% percent. First, we create the frequent itemsets via apriori and add a new column that stores the length of each itemset:

Then, you can select the results that satisfy our desired criteria as follows:

Similarly, using the Pandas API, we can select entries based on the "itemsets" column:

```
frequent_itemsets[ frequent_itemsets['itemsets'] == {'Diaper', 'Drink'} ]
```

Good luck