



Chapter 3: Frequent Itemset Mining & Association Rules

崔金华

电子邮箱: jhcui@hust.edu.cn

个人主页: <https://csjhcui.github.io/>

3.1.1 Rules



The Hobby of Detectives!

3.1.1 Association Rule Discovery

Supermarket shelf management – Market-basket model:

- ❑ **Goal:** Identify items that are bought together by sufficiently many customers
- ❑ **Approach:** Process the sales data collected with barcode scanners to find dependencies among items
- ❑ **A classic rule:**
 - If someone buys diaper and milk, then he/she is likely to buy beer
 - Don't be surprised if you find six-packs next to diapers!

3.1.1 The Market-Basket Model

□ A large set of **items(项)**

➤ e.g., things sold in a supermarket, bread, coke...

□ A large set of **baskets(购物篮)**

➤ Each basket is a **small subset of items(多个项的集合, 称作项集)**

➤ e.g., the things one customer buys on one day

□ Want to discover **association rules(关联规则)**

➤ People who bought {x,y,z} tend to buy {v,w}

- 永辉、中百仓储...

Input:

TID	Items
1	Bread, Coke, Milk
2	Beer, Bread
3	Beer, Coke, Diaper, Milk
4	Beer, Bread, Diaper, Milk
5	Coke, Diaper, Milk

Output:

Rules Discovered:

{Milk} --> {Coke}

{Diaper, Milk} --> {Beer}

3.1.2 Applications – (1)

- ❑ **Items** = products; **Baskets** = sets of products someone bought in one trip to the store
- ❑ **Real market baskets:** Chain stores keep TBs of data about what customers buy together
 - Tells how typical customers navigate stores, lets them position tempting items
 - Suggests tie-in “tricks” , e.g., run sale on diapers and raise the price of beer
 - Need the rule to occur frequently, or no \$\$’ s
- ❑ **Amazon’ s people who bought X also bought Y**

3.1.2 Applications – (2)

- **Baskets** = sentences; **Items** = documents containing those sentences
 - Items that appear together too often could represent plagiarism (剽窃, 文档抄袭)
 - Notice items do not have to be “in” baskets

- **Baskets** = patients; **Items** = drugs & side-effects
 - Has been used to detect combinations of drugs that result in particular side-effects
 - **But requires extension:** Absence of an item needs to be observed as well as presence

3.1.2 More generally applications

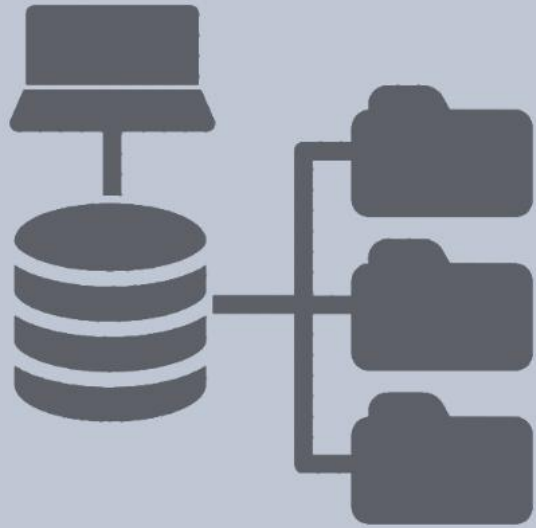
- ❑ **A general many-to-many mapping (association) between two kinds of things**
 - But we ask about connections among “items” , not “baskets”
- ❑ **For example:**
 - Finding communities in graphs (e.g., Twitter)

□ **First: Define**

- Section 3.2: Frequent itemsets, Association rules

□ **Then: Algorithms for finding frequent itemsets**

- Section 3.3: Finding frequent itemsets
- Section 3.4: A-Priori algorithm
- Section 3.5: PCY algorithm
- Section 3.6: 2 refinements
- Section 3.7: Frequent Itemsets in ≤ 2 Passes



Section 3.2: Frequent itemsets, Association rules

Content

- 1 Frequent itemsets
- 2 Association rules
- 3 Compacting Frequent Itemsets Output

3.2.1 Frequent Itemsets

- **Simplest question:** Find sets of items that appear together “frequently” in baskets
- **Support (支持度)** for itemset I : Number of baskets containing all items in I
 - (Often expressed as a fraction of the total number of baskets)
- Given a **support threshold s** , then sets of items that appear in at least s baskets are called **frequent itemsets (频繁项集)**

<i>TID</i>	<i>Items</i>
1	Bread, Coke, Milk
2	Beer, Bread
3	Beer, Coke, Diaper, Milk
4	Beer, Bread, Diaper, Milk
5	Coke, Diaper, Milk

Support of {Beer, Bread} = 2

3.2.1 Example: Frequent Itemsets

□ **Items** = {milk, coke, pepsi, beer, juice}

□ **Find frequent itemsets, support threshold = 3 baskets**

$B_1 = \{m, c, b\}$

$B_3 = \{m, b\}$

$B_5 = \{m, p, b\}$

$B_7 = \{c, b, j\}$

$B_2 = \{m, p, j\}$

$B_4 = \{c, j\}$

$B_6 = \{m, c, b, j\}$

$B_8 = \{b, c\}$

Note: m for milk,
c for coke, p for pepsi,
b for beer, j for juice

□ **Ans:**

$\{m\}, \{c\}, \{b\}, \{j\},$

$\{m, b\}, \{b, c\}, \{c, j\}.$

3.2.2 Association Rules

□ **Association Rules(关联规则)**: If-then rules about the contents of baskets

➤ $\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k\} \rightarrow j$ means: "if a basket contains all of i_1, \dots, i_k then it is *likely* to contain j "

➤ In practice, there are many rules, we only want to find significant/interesting ones!

□ **Confidence (置信度, 可信度)** of this association rule is the probability of j given $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_k\}$:

$$\text{conf}(I \rightarrow j) = \frac{\text{support}(I \cup j)}{\text{support}(I)}$$

3.2.2 Interesting Association Rules

❑ Not all high-confidence rules are interesting

- The rule $X \rightarrow \textit{milk}$ may have high confidence for many itemsets X , because milk is just purchased very often (independent of X) and the confidence will be high

❑ Interest (兴趣度) of an association rule $I \rightarrow j$, difference between its confidence and the fraction of baskets that contain j :

$$\textit{Interest}(I \rightarrow j) = \textit{conf}(I \rightarrow j) - \text{Pr}[j]$$

- Interesting rules are those with high positive or negative interest values (usually above 0.5): {diapers}->beer, {coke}->pepsi

3.2.2 Example: Confidence and Interest

$$B_1 = \{m, c, b\}$$

$$B_3 = \{m, b\}$$

$$B_5 = \{m, p, b\}$$

$$B_7 = \{c, b, j\}$$

$$B_2 = \{m, p, j\}$$

$$B_4 = \{c, j\}$$

$$B_6 = \{m, c, b, j\}$$

$$B_8 = \{b, c\}$$

Note: m for milk,
c for coke, p for pepsi,
b for beer, j for juice

□ Association rule: $\{m, b\} \rightarrow c$, how much interest does it have?

➤ **Confidence** = $2/4 = 0.5$

➤ **Interest** = $|0.5 - 5/8| = 1/8$

- Item c appears in 5/8 of the baskets
- Rule is not very interesting!

$$conf(I \rightarrow j) = \frac{support(I \cup j)}{support(I)}$$

$$Interest(I \rightarrow j) = conf(I \rightarrow j) - Pr[j]$$

3.2.2 Finding Association Rules

□ **Problem:** Find all association rules with support $\geq s$ and confidence $\geq c$

➤ **Note:** $\text{support}(I \rightarrow j) = \text{support}(I)$. Support of an association rule is the support of the set of items on the left side

□ **Hard part:** Finding the frequent itemsets!

➤ If $\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k\} \rightarrow j$ has high support and confidence, then both $\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k\}$ and $\{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_k, j\}$ will be “frequent” .

➤ Why?

$$\text{conf}(I \rightarrow j) = \frac{\text{support}(I \cup j)}{\text{support}(I)}$$

$$\text{Interest}(I \rightarrow j) = \text{conf}(I \rightarrow j) - \text{Pr}[j]$$