Mining Maximal Sequential Patterns without Candidate Maintenance

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Reference: Pierre Schauss

Let's take a comparison for the article's authors

Pierre Schauss is a UCL professor, you might know him

H-index: 10

Citations: 283



Authors

Vincent S. Tseng



Cheng-Wei Wu







Authors: Vincent S. Tseng

Ph.D. in Computer Science

Professor, Dept. Computer Science, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

H-index: 32

3,2x more

Citations: 3308

11,7x more



Authors: Philippe Fournier-Viger

Ph.D. in Computer Science

Associate Professor, Harbin Institute of Technology, Shenzhen Graduate School

He created the SPMF library

H-index: 17

1,7x more

Citations: 712

2,5x more



Authors: Cheng-Wei Wu

H-index: 12

1,2x more

Citations: 518

1,83x more



First Concepts

Sequence Database

Sequential pattern

Closed sequential pattern

Maximal sequential pattern

Sequence Database

A sequence database consist of:

```
A set of items
{1, 2, 3, 4, ..., N}

Itemset (set of item, distinct and unordered)
{1, 2, 3, 5} or {4, 5} or {3, 7} or ...

Sequence (set of itemsets)
<{1,2}, {3}, {5}> or <{4}, {6}> or ...
```

The sequence database is a set of sequences What do theses concepts represents?

Sequence Database: Illustration

Let's take as an example a book

```
Set of item → The words
    {He, nice, the, is, a, guy, sun, shine, ...}
Itemset → A sentence (where words are distinct and unordered)
    {He, a, nice, guy, is}
    {The, sun, shine, in, the, sky}
Sequence → A chapter of the book
Sequence Database → The book
```

Sequential pattern

Synonyms are *sub-sequence* or *frequent sequence*

It is a sequence of item that appears a certain number of time, that number is the *minimum* support threshold (or *minsup*)

Sequence database

```
<{1,2},{3},{4},{6}>
<{2},{5},{6}>
<{1,3},{5},{6}>
```

With minsup = 2, some examples of sequential pattern

```
{5},{6}
```

{1}

{3},{6}

. . .

Closed sequential pattern

A closed sequential pattern is a sequential pattern not included in another closed pattern having the same frequency.

```
<{1},{1 2 3},{1 3},{4},{3 6}>
<{1 4},{3},{2 3},{1 5}>
<{5 6},{1 2},{4 6},{3},{2}>
<{5},{7},{1 6},{3},{2},{3}>
```

With support 2 (or 2/4 entry → 50 %), here are some closed sequential pattern

```
{1}, {3} 100 % (4/4)

{1}, {3}, {2} 75 % (3/4)

{5}, {1}, {3}, {2} 50% (2/4)

{5} 75 % (3/4)
```

And this one is **NOT**

{1} 100 % (4/4)

Maximal sequential pattern

The same as the closed sequential pattern, but if one sequence is in another one, it is not maximal.

Interesting property:

You can derive every closed sequential patterns from the maximal sequential patterns

MaxSP Algorithm

Find the maximal sequential pattern

It is build uppon the PrefixSpan Algorithm

Why the need for a new algorithm?

- → Less memory usage
- → Faster to find sequential pattern

PrefixSpan: Start

First let's explain the PrefixSpan Algorithm

We start with a sequence database

- <{1},{1 2 3},{1 3},{4},{3 6}>
- <{1 4},{3},{2 3},{1 5}>
- <{5 6},{1 2},{4 6},{3},{2}>
- <{5},{7},{1 6},{3},{2},{3}>

PrefixSpan: Pattern-growth

It works by pattern-growth, which does not generate any candidates (saving memory)

- 1. Scan: Calculate support for each item
- 2.

MinSup 75 % (3)

<{1},{1 2 3},{1 3},{4},{3 6}>

<{1 4},{3},{2 3},{1 5}>

<{5 6},{1 2},{4 6},{3},{2}>

<{5},{7},{16},{3},{2},{3}>

Item	Support
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

MinSup 75 % (3)

<{1},{1 2 3},{1 3},{4},{3 6}>

<{1 4},{3},{2 3},{1 5}>

<{5 6},{1 2},{4 6},{3},{2}>

<{5},{7},{1 6},{3},{2},{3}>

Item	Support
1	100 % (4)
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

MinSup 75 % (3)

<{ },{ 23},{ 3},{4},{36}>

<{ 4},{3},{23},{ 5}>

<{5 6},{ 2},{4 6},{3},{2}>

<{5},{7},{ 6},{3},{2},{3}>

Item	Support
1	100 % (4)
2	100 % (4)
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

Item	Support
1	100 % (4)
2	100 % (4)
3	100 % (4)
4	
5	
6	
7	

Item	Support
1	100 % (4)
2	100 % (4)
3	100 % (4)
4	75 % (3)
5	
6	
7	

Item	Support
1	100 % (4)
2	100 % (4)
3	100 % (4)
4	75 % (3)
5	75 % (3)
6	
7	

Item	Support
1	100 % (4)
2	100 % (4)
3	100 % (4)
4	75 % (3)
5	75 % (3)
6	75 % (3)
7	

Item	Support
1	100 % (4)
2	100 % (4)
3	100 % (4)
4	75 % (3)
5	75 % (3)
6	75 % (3)
7	25 % (1)

MinSup 75 % (3)

<{1},{1 2 3},{1 3},{4},{3 6}>

<{1 4},{3},{2 3},{1 5}>

<{5 6},{1 2},{4 6},{3},{2}>

<{5},{7},{16},{3},{2},{3}>

Item	Support
1	100 % (4)
2	100 % (4)
3	100 % (4)
4	75 % (3)
5	75 % (3)
6	75 % (3)
7	25 % (1)