

# Mining Frequent Patterns

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# What is Frequent Pattern Mining?

Frequent pattern mining is a core concept in data mining that focuses on identifying common itemsets or subsequences that occur frequently within a dataset. This powerful technique was first introduced by Agrawal et al. in 1993, specifically for discovering compelling associations in transaction data.



## Discovering Associations

It helps uncover hidden relationships between items in large transaction databases.



## Real-world Example

A classic example: customers often buy {Diapers, Beer} together, revealing interesting purchasing habits.



# Why is Frequent Pattern Mining Important?

Frequent pattern mining is crucial because it acts as a foundational pillar for various advanced analytical techniques, revealing hidden relationships that drive strategic decisions across diverse industries.



- Reveals invaluable hidden relationships in vast datasets, such as in comprehensive market basket analyses.
- Forms the bedrock for advanced applications like association rule mining, classification, clustering, and sophisticated recommendation systems.
- Boasts wide-ranging applications spanning retail analytics, web usage mining, bioinformatics research, and many other data-intensive fields.



# Key Concepts in Frequent Pattern Mining

Understanding these core concepts is essential for effective frequent pattern mining, forming the language of data associations.



## Itemset

A collection of one or more items, such as {Milk, Bread}, typically bought together in a transaction.



## Support

The frequency of an itemset within the dataset, expressed as the fraction of transactions containing it.



## Confidence

The conditional probability that item Y is purchased when item X is purchased, represented as  $X \rightarrow Y$ .



## Frequent Itemset

An itemset whose support value exceeds a predefined minimum support threshold, indicating its significance.

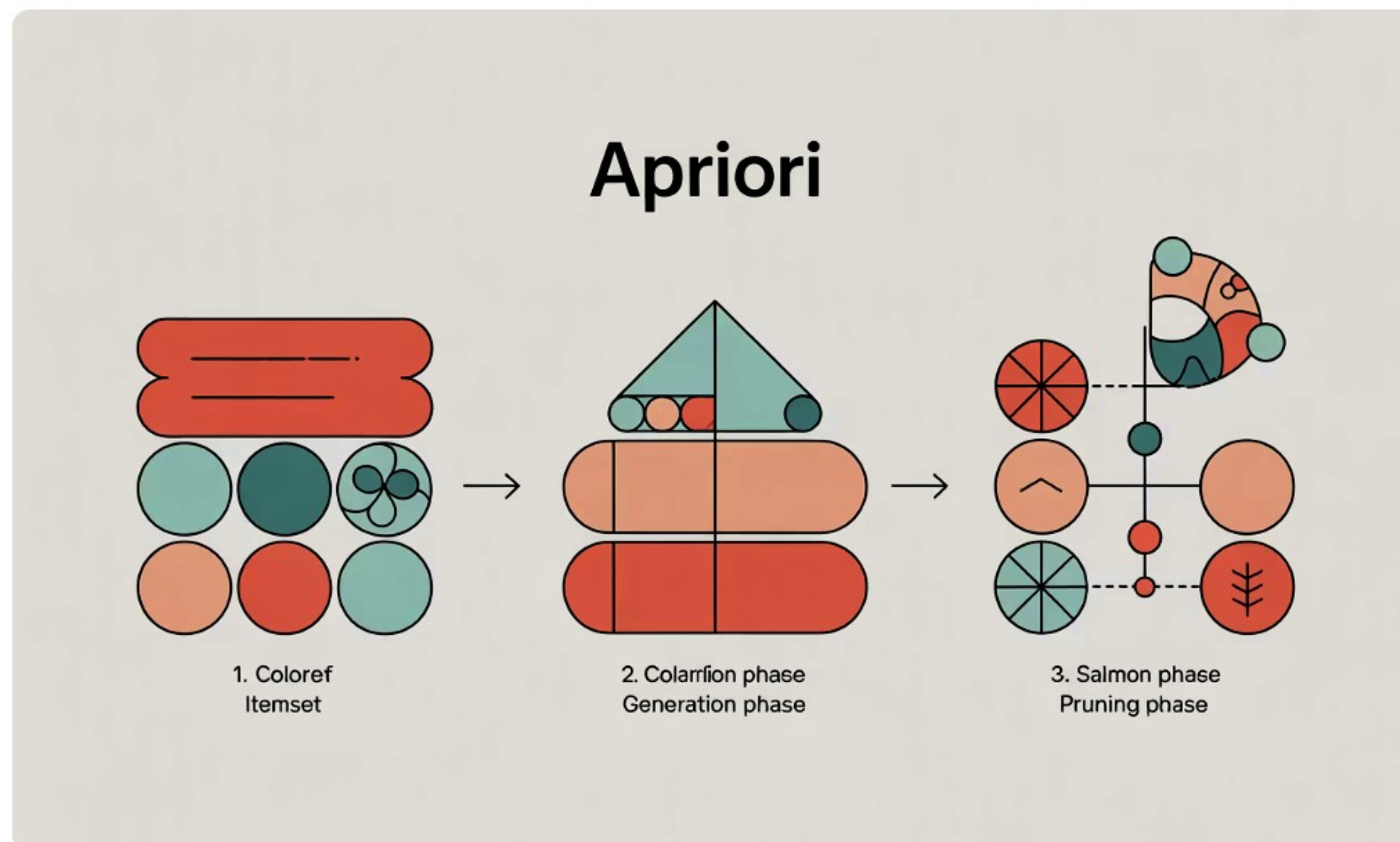


# Popular Frequent Pattern Mining Algorithms

Two prominent algorithms, Apriori and FP-Growth, offer distinct approaches to discovering frequent patterns, each with its own advantages.

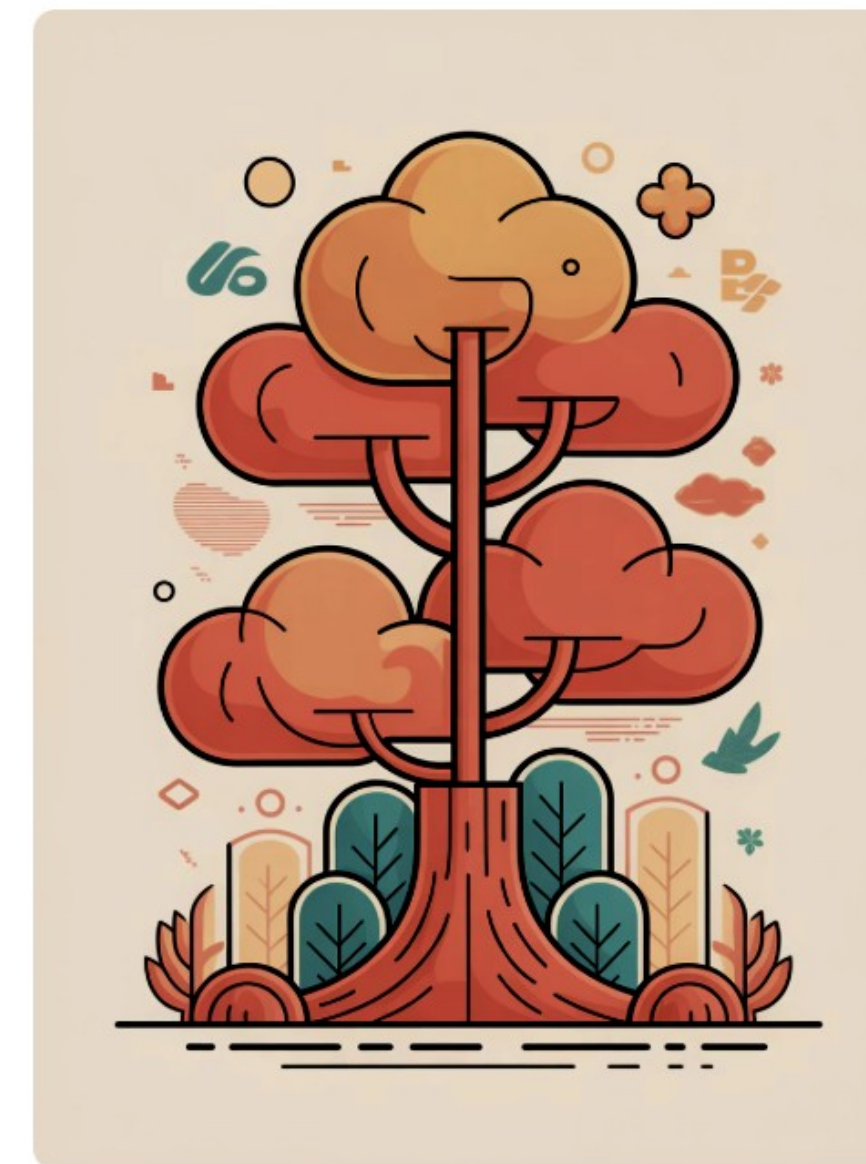
## Apriori Algorithm

- Generates candidate itemsets by joining frequent  $(k-1)$  itemsets.
- Employs the downward closure property to prune infrequent candidates efficiently.
- Often requires multiple scans of the database, which can become resource-intensive for very large datasets.



## FP-Growth Algorithm

- Constructs a compact Frequent Pattern Tree (FP-tree) from the database.
- Mines frequent patterns directly from the FP-tree without the need for candidate generation.
- Demonstrates superior efficiency for larger and denser datasets compared to Apriori.





# Summary: Unlocking Data Insights

Frequent pattern mining is an indispensable tool for extracting valuable knowledge from extensive datasets, offering profound insights into underlying relationships and behaviours.



**Identify Frequent Items**

**Choose Efficient Algorithms**

**Drive Informed Decisions**



## Uncover Patterns

Discover common item combinations and sequences.



## Algorithm Choice

Leverage Apriori or FP-Growth based on data characteristics.



## Drive Analytics

Essential for advanced data mining and informed decisions.