

# Chapter V: Mining frequent patterns, associations and correlations

## Knowledge Discovery in Databases

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## Chapter V: Mining frequent patterns, associations and correlations

### Basic Concepts.

Scalable frequent-itemset-mining methods.

- Apriori: a candidate-generation-and-test approach.

- Improving the efficiency of apriori.

- FPGrowth: a frequent-pattern-growth approach.

- ECLAT: frequent-pattern mining with vertical data format.

- Mining closed itemsets and max-itemsets.

Generating association rules from frequent itemsets.

Which patterns are interesting? Pattern-evaluation methods.

Summary.

## What is frequent-pattern analysis?

### **Frequent pattern:**

A pattern (a set of items, subsequences, substructures, etc.) that occurs frequently in a dataset.

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### **Motivation: Finding inherent regularities in data:**

What products are often purchased together? Beer and diapers?!

What are the subsequent purchases after buying a PC?

FPGrowth: a frequent-pattern-growth approach.

"Who bought this has often also bought . . ."

What kinds of DNA are sensitive to this new drug?

Can we automatically classify Web documents?

### **Applications:**

Basket-data analysis, cross-marketing, catalog design, sale-campaign analysis, Web-log (click-stream) analysis, and DNA-sequence analysis.

## Why is frequent-pattern mining important?

**A frequent pattern is an intrinsic and important property of a dataset.**

**Foundation for many essential data-mining tasks:**

Association, correlation, and causality analysis.

Sequential, structural (e.g., sub-graph) patterns.

Pattern analysis in spatiotemporal, multimedia, time-series, and stream data.

Classification: discriminative, frequent-pattern analysis.

Cluster analysis: frequent-pattern-based clustering.

Data warehousing: iceberg cube and cube gradient.

Semantic data compression: fascicles (Jagadish, Madar, and Ng, VLDB'99).

Broad applications.

## An example

**From: Martin Lindstrom: Brandwashed. Random House, 2011:**

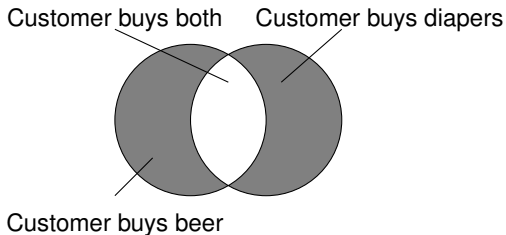
*It is by crunching these numbers that the data-mining industry has uncovered some even more surprising factoids:*

*Did you know, for example, that at Walmart a shopper who buys a Barbie doll is 60 percent more likely to purchase one of three types of candy bars? Or that toothpaste is most often bought alongside canned tuna? Or that a customer who buys a lot of meat is likely to spend more money in a health-food store than a non-meat-eater? Or what about the data revealed to one Canadian grocery chain that customers who bought coconuts also tended to buy prepaid calling cards? At first, no one in store management could figure out what was going on. What could coconuts possibly have to do with calling cards?*

*Finally it occurred to them that the store served a huge population of shoppers from the Caribbean islands and Asia, both of whose cuisines use coconuts in their cooking. Now it made perfect sense that these Caribbean and Asian shoppers were buying prepaid calling cards to check in with their extended families back home.*

## An example

TID	Items bought
10	Beer, Nuts, Diapers
20	Beer, Coffee, Diapers
30	Beer, Diapers, Eggs
40	Nuts, Eggs, Milk
50	Nuts, Coffee, Diapers, Eggs, Milk



### Itemset:

A set of one or more items.

$k$ -itemset  $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k\}$ .

### (Absolute) Support, or support count of $X$ :

Frequency or occurrence of  $X$ .

### (Relative) Support $s$ :

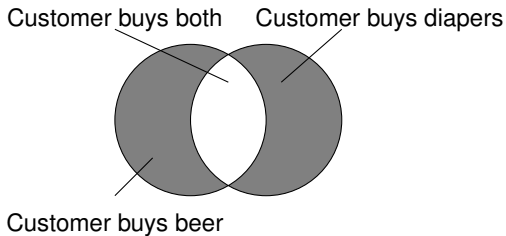
The fraction of the transactions that contain  $X$ .

I.e. the **probability** that a transaction contains  $X$ .

**An itemset  $X$  is frequent, if  $X$ 's support is no less than a `min_sup` threshold.**

## An example

TID	Items bought
10	Beer, Nuts, Diapers
20	Beer, Coffee, Diapers
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50	Nuts, Coffee, Diapers, Eggs, Milk



Find all the rules  $X \rightarrow Y$  with minimum support and confidence.

**Support**  $s$ : probability that a transaction contains  $X \cup Y$ .

**Confidence**  $c$ : conditional probability that a transaction having  $X$  also contains  $Y$ .

### Example:

Let  $\text{min\_sup} = 50\%$  and  $\text{min\_conf} = 50\%$ .

Frequent itemsets:

Beer: 3, Nuts: 3,  
Diapers: 4, Eggs: 3,  
{Beer, Diapers}: 3.

### Association rules:

Beer  $\rightarrow$  Diapers (60%, 100%).  
Diapers  $\rightarrow$  Beer (60%, 75%).

## Basic concepts: association rules (2)

**Implication of the form  $A \rightarrow B$ :**

where  $A \neq \emptyset$ ,  $B \neq \emptyset$  and  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ .

**Strong rule:**

Satisfies both min\_sup and min\_conf

$$\text{support}(A \rightarrow B) = P(A \cup B), \quad (1)$$

$$\text{confidence}(A \rightarrow B) = P(B|A) \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{\text{support}(A \cup B)}{\text{support}(A)} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{\text{support\_count}(A \cup B)}{\text{support\_count}(A)}. \quad (4)$$

I.e. confidence of rule can be easily derived from the support counts of  $A$  and  $A \cup B$ .

**Association-rule mining:**

Find all frequent itemsets.

Generate strong association rules from the frequent itemsets.



## Closed itemsets and max-itemsets

**A long itemset contains a combinatorial number of sub-itemsets.**

E.g.  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{100}\}$  contains

$$\binom{100}{1} + \binom{100}{2} + \dots + \binom{100}{100} = 2^{100} - 1 \approx 1.27 \cdot 10^{30} \text{ sub-itemsets!} \quad (5)$$

**Solution:**

Mine closed itemsets and max-itemsets instead.

**An itemset  $X$  is closed, if  $X$  is frequent and there exists no super-itemset  $X \subset Y$  with the same support as  $X$ .**

Proposed by (Pasquier et al., ICDT'99).

**An itemset  $X$  is a max-itemset, if  $X$  is frequent and there exists no frequent super-itemset  $X \subset Y$ .**

Proposed by (Bayardo, SIGMOD'98).

**Closed itemset is a lossless "compression" of frequent itemsets.**

Reducing the number of itemsets (and rules).

## Closed itemsets and max-itemsets (II)

### Example:

$$DB = \{ \langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{100} \rangle, \langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{100} \rangle \}.$$

I.e. just two transactions.

$$\text{min\_sup} = 1.$$

### What are the closed itemsets?

$$\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{100} \rangle : 1,$$

$$\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{50} \rangle : 2,$$

Number behind the colon: support\_count.

### What are the max-itemsets?

$$\langle a_1, a_2, \dots, a_{100} \rangle : 1.$$

### What is the set of all frequent itemsets?

## Chapter V: Mining frequent patterns, associations and correlations

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**Apriori: a candidate-generation-and-test approach.**

Improving the efficiency of apriori.

FPGrowth: a frequent-pattern-growth approach.

ECLAT: frequent-pattern mining with vertical data format.

Mining closed itemsets and max-itemsets.

Generating association rules from frequent itemsets.

Which patterns are interesting? Pattern-evaluation methods.

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## The downward-closure property and scalable mining methods

**The downward-closure property of frequent patterns:**

**Any subset of a frequent itemset must also be frequent.**

If  $\{\text{Beer, Diapers, Nuts}\}$  is frequent, so is  $\{\text{Beer, Diapers}\}$ .

I.e. every transaction having  $\{\text{Beer, Diapers, Nuts}\}$  also contains  $\{\text{Beer, Diapers}\}$ .

**Scalable mining methods: three major approaches.**

A priori (Agrawal & Srikant, VLDB'94).

Frequent-pattern growth (FPgrowth) (Han, Pei & Yin, SIGMOD'00).

Vertical-data-format approach (CHARM) (Zaki & Hsiao, SDM'02).

## A priori: a candidate generation & test approach

### A priori pruning principle:

If there is any itemset which is infrequent,  
its supersets should not be generated/tested!

(Agrawal & Srikant, VLDB'94; Mannila et al., KDD'94)

### Method:

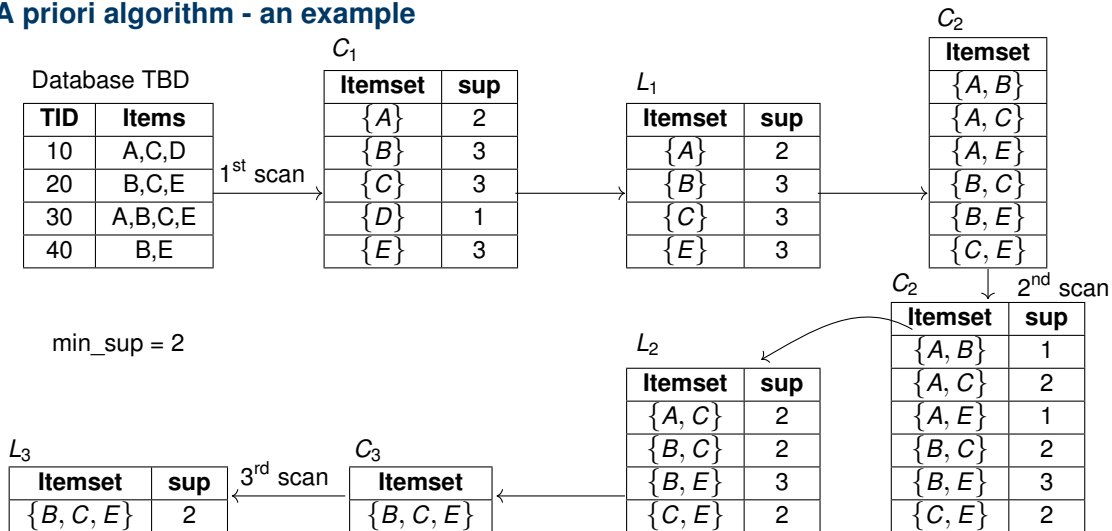
Initially, scan DB once to get frequent 1-itemsets.

Generate length- $(k + 1)$  candidate itemsets from length- $k$  frequent itemsets.

Test the candidates against DB, discard those that are infrequent.

Terminate when no further candidate or frequent itemset can be generated.

## A priori algorithm - an example



## A priori algorithm (pseudo code)

$C_k$ : candidate itemsets of size  $k$

$L_k$ : frequent itemsets of size  $k$

$L_1 = \{\text{frequent items}\};$

**for** ( $k = 1; L_k \neq \emptyset; k++$ ) **do begin**

$C_{k+1}$  = candidates generated from  $L_k$ ;

**for each** transaction  $t$  in database **do**

        increment the count of all candidates in  $C_{k+1}$  that are contained in  $t$ ;

$L_{k+1}$  = candidates in  $C_{k+1}$  with min\_sup;

**end;**

**return**  $\bigcup_k L_k$ ;

## Implementation of a priori

### How to generate candidates?

Step 1: self-joining  $L_k$  (or joining  $L_k$  with  $L_1$ ).

Step 2: pruning.

### Example of candidate generation:

$$L_3 = \{abc, abd, acd, ace, bcd\}.$$

Self-joining:  $L_3 \bowtie L_3$ :

*abcd* from *abc* and *abd*.

*acde* from *acd* and *ace*.

### Pruning:

*acde* is removed because *ade* is not in  $L_3$ .

$$C_4 = \{abcd\}.$$



## Implementation of a priori

### Why is counting supports of candidates a problem?

The total number of candidates can be huge.

One transaction may contain many candidates.

### Method:

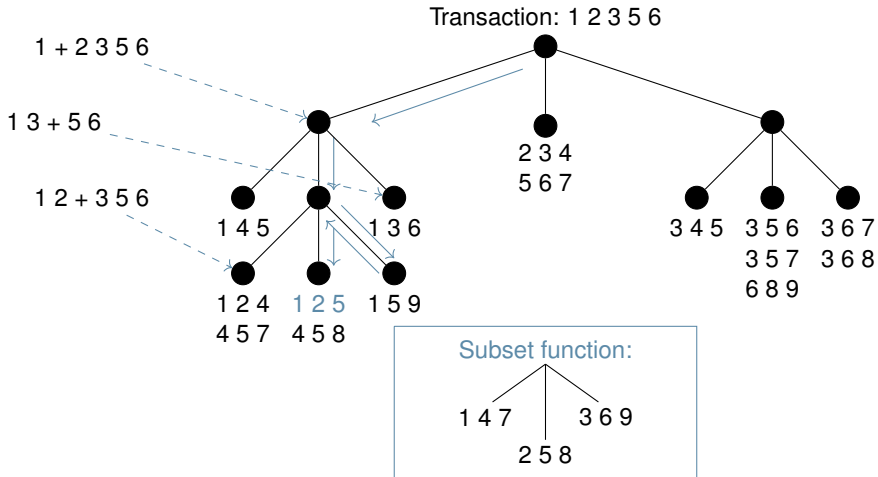
Candidate itemsets are stored in a **hash tree**.

Leaf node of hash tree contains a list of itemsets and counts.

Interior node contains a hash table.

Subset function: finds all the candidates contained in a transaction.

## Counting supports of candidates using hash tree



## Candidate generation: an SQL implementation

### SQL implementation of candidate generation.

Suppose the items in  $L_{k-1}$  are listed in order.

1. Self-joining  $L_{k-1}$ .

```
INSERT INTO  $C_k$ 
  (SELECT p.item1, p.item2, ..., p.itemk-1, q.itemk-1
   FROM  $L_{k-1}p, L_{k-1}q$ 
   WHERE p.item1 = q.item1, ..., p.itemk-2 = q.itemk-2,
         p.itemk-1 < q.itemk-1);
```

2. Pruning.

```
forall itemsets  $c$  in  $C_k$  do
  forall  $(k-1)$ -subsets  $s$  of  $c$  do
    if ( $s$  is not in  $L_{k-1}$ ) then DELETE  $c$  FROM  $C_k$ ;
```

**Use object-relational extensions like UDFs, BLOBs, and table functions for efficient implementation.**

(Sarawagi, Thomas & Agrawal, SIGMOD'98)

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## Further improvement of the a priori method

### Major computational challenges.

- Multiple scans of transaction database.

- Huge number of candidates.

- Tedious workload of support counting for candidates.

### Improving a priori: general ideas.

- Reduce passes of transaction-database scans.

- Shrink number of candidates.

- Facilitate support counting of candidates.

## Hashing: reduce the number of candidates

**A  $k$ -itemset whose corresponding hashing-bucket count is below the threshold cannot be frequent.**

Candidates:  $a, b, c, d, e$ .

While scanning DB for frequent 1-itemsets, create hash entries for 2-itemsets:

$\{ab, ad, ae\}$

$\{bd, be, de\}$

...

Frequent 1-itemset:  $a, b, d, e$ .

$ab$  is not a candidate 2-itemset, if the sum of count of  $\{ab, ad, ae\}$  is below support threshold.

(Park, Chen & Yu, SIGMOD'95)

**Hash table:**

count	itemsets
35	$\{ab, ad, ae\}$
88	$\{bd, be, de\}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
102	$\{yz, qs, wt\}$

## Partition: scan database only twice

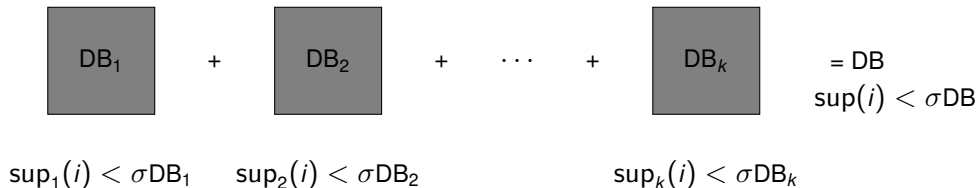
**Any itemset that is potentially frequent in DB must be frequent in at least one of the partitions of DB.**

Scan 1: partition database and find local frequent patterns:

$$\min\_sup_i = \min\_sup[\%] \cdot |DB_i|.$$

Scan 2: consolidate global frequent patterns.

(Savasere, Omiecinski & Navathe, VLDB'95)



## Sampling for frequent patterns

**Select a sample of original database,  
mine frequent patterns within sample using a priori.**

**Scan database once to verify frequent itemsets found in sample,  
only *borders* of closure of frequent patterns are checked.**

Example: check *abcd* instead of *ab*, *ac*, . . . , etc.

**Scan database again to find missed frequent patterns.**  
(Toivonen, VLDB'96)



## Dynamic itemset counting: reduce number of scans

### Adding candidate itemsets at different points during a scan.

DB partitioned into blocks marked by **start points**.

New candidate itemsets can be added at any start point during a scan.

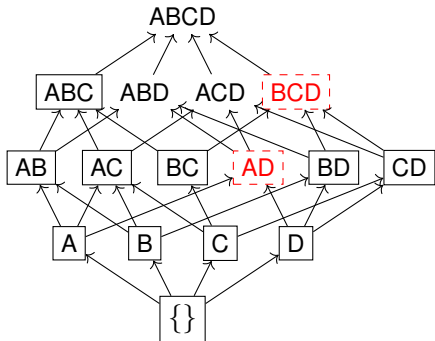
E.g. if  $A$  and  $B$  are already found to be frequent,  
 $AB$  are also counted from that starting point on.

Uses the count-so-far as the lower bound of the actual count.

If count-so-far passes minimum support, itemset is added to frequent-itemset collection.

Can then be used to generate even longer candidates.

## Dynamic itemset counting: reduce number of scans (II)

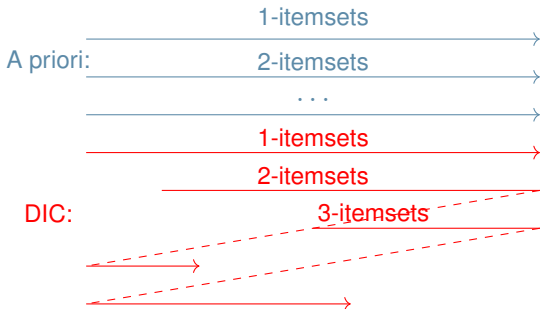


Itemset lattice

Once both *A* and *D* are determined frequent, the counting of *AD* begins.

Once length-2 subsets of *BCD* are determined frequent, the counting of *BCD* begins.

### Transactions



(Brin, Motwani, Ullman & Tsur, SIGMOD'97)

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## Pattern-growth approach: mining frequent patterns without candidate generation

### Bottlenecks of the a priori approach.

- Breadth-first (i.e., level-wise) search.

- Candidate generation and test.

- Often generates a huge number of candidates.

### The FPGrowth Approach. (Han, Pei & Yin, SIGMOD'00)

- Depth-first search.

- Avoid explicit candidate generation.

### Major philosophy: Grow long patterns from short ones using local frequent items only.

- $abc$  is a frequent pattern.

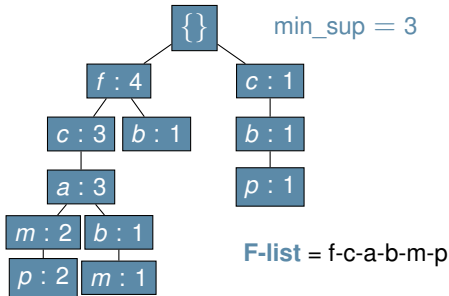
- Get all transactions having  $abc$ , i.e. restrict DB on  $abc$ :  $DB|_{abc}$ .

- $d$  is a local frequent item in  $DB|_{abc \rightarrow abcd}$  is a frequent pattern.

## Construct FP-tree from a transaction database

TID	Items bought	(ordered) frequent items
100	$\{f, a, c, d, g, i, m, p\}$	$\{f, c, a, m, p\}$
200	$\{a, b, c, f, l, m, p\}$	$\{f, c, a, b, m\}$
300	$\{b, f, h, j, o, w\}$	$\{f, b\}$
400	$\{b, c, k, s, p\}$	$\{c, b, p\}$
500	$\{a, f, c, e, l, p, m, n\}$	$\{f, c, a, m, p\}$

1. Scan DB once, find frequent 1-itemsets (single-item patterns).
2. Sort frequent items in frequency-descending order, creating the **f-list**.
3. Scan DB again, construct **FP-tree**.



## Partition itemsets and databases

**Frequent itemsets can be partitioned into subsets according to f-list.**

F-list = f-c-a-b-m-p.

Patterns containing p.

    The least-frequent item (at the end of the f-list, suffix).

Patterns having m but not p.

⋮

Patterns having c but not a nor b, m, p.

Pattern f.

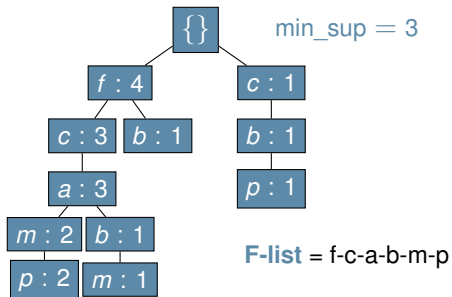
**This processing order guarantees completeness and non-redundancy.**

## Find itemsets having item $p$ from $p$ 's conditional pattern base

Starting at the frequent-item header table in the FP-tree.

Traverse the FP-tree by following the link of frequent item  $p$ .

Accumulate all transformed **prefix paths** of item  $p$  to form  $p$ 's **conditional pattern base**.



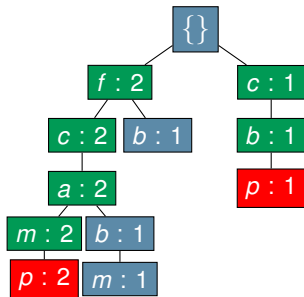
Header table:

item	Frequency
f	4
c	4
a	3
b	3
m	3
p	3

Conditional pattern bases:

item	pattern base
c	f:3
a	fc:3
b	fca:1, f:2, c:1
m	fca:3, fcab:1
p	fcam:2, cb:1

## $p$ 's conditional pattern base



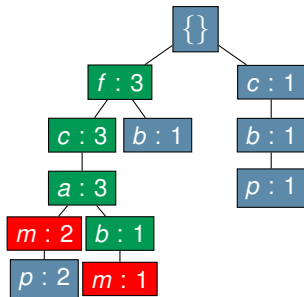
Header table:

item	Frequency
f	4
c	4
a	3
b	3
m	3
<b>p</b>	<b>3</b>

Hence,  $p$ 's conditional pattern base is  
fcam:2, cb:1  
both below min\_sup.



## $m$ 's conditional pattern base



Header table:

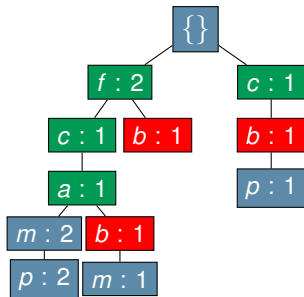
item	Frequency
f	4
c	4
a	3
b	3
<b>m</b>	<b>3</b>
p	3

Hence,  $m$ 's conditional pattern base is

fca:3, fcab:1

fca has min\_sup.

## $b$ 's conditional pattern base

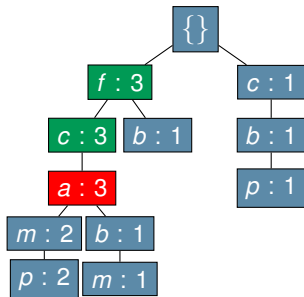


Header table:

item	Frequency
f	4
c	4
a	3
<b>b</b>	<b>3</b>
m	3
p	3

Hence,  $b$ 's conditional pattern base is  
fca:1, f:2, c:1  
all below min\_sup.

## $a$ 's conditional pattern base



Header table:

item	Frequency
f	4
c	4
<b>a</b>	<b>3</b>
b	3
m	3
p	3

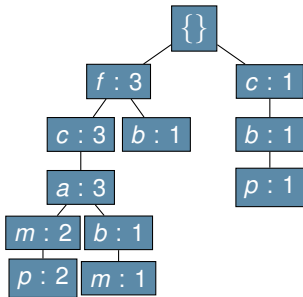
Hence,  $a$ 's conditional pattern base is  
fc:3  
has min\_sup.

## From conditional pattern bases to conditional FP-trees

### For each conditional pattern base:

Accumulate the count for each item in the base.

Construct the conditional FP-tree for the frequent items of the pattern base.



### Header table:

item	Frequency
f	4
c	4
a	3
b	3
m	3
p	3

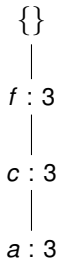
### All frequent patterns related to *m*:

m, fm, cm, am, fcm, fam, cam, fcam;

*m*'s conditional pattern base:

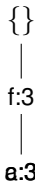
fca:3, fcab:1;

*m*'s conditional FP-tree:



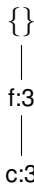
## Recursion: mining each conditional FP-tree

*m*'s conditional FP-tree:



Cond. pattern base of "am": (fc:3)

*am*'s conditional FP-tree:



*am*'s conditional FP-tree:



Cond. pattern base of "cm": (f:3)

*am*'s conditional FP-tree:



Cond. pattern base of "cam": (f:3)

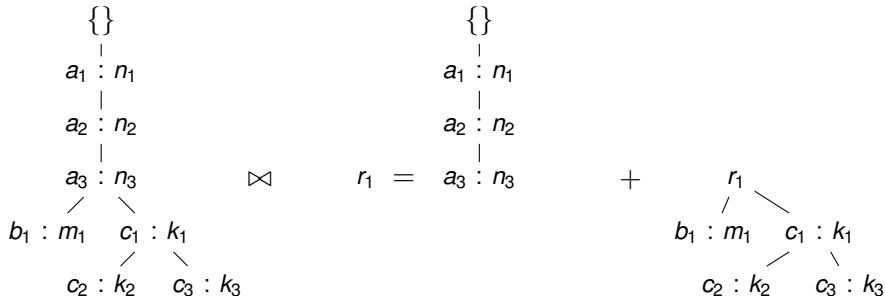
## A special case: single prefix path in FP-tree

Suppose a (conditional) FP-tree  $T$  has a shared single prefix-path  $P$ .

Mining can be decomposed into two parts.

Reduction of the single prefix path into one node.

Concatenation of the mining results of the two parts.



## A special case: single prefix path in FP-tree

### **Completeness.**

- Preserve complete information for frequent-pattern mining.
- Never break a long pattern of any transaction.

### **Compactness.**

- Reduce irrelevant info - infrequent items are gone.
- Items in frequency-descending order.
  - The more frequently occurring, the more likely to be shared.
- Never larger than the original database.
  - Not counting node links and the count fields.

## The frequent-pattern-growth mining method

### **Idea: Frequent-pattern growth.**

Recursively grow frequent patterns by pattern and database partition.

### **Method:**

For each frequent item, construct its conditional pattern base, and then its conditional FP-tree.

Repeat the process on each newly created conditional FP-tree.

Until the resulting FP-tree is empty, or it contains only one path.

Single path will generate all the combinations of its sub-paths, each of which is a frequent pattern.



## Scaling FP-growth by database projection

**What if FP-tree does not fit in memory?**

DB projection.

**First partition database into a set of projected DBs.**

**Then construct and mine FP-tree for each projected DB.**

**Parallel-projection vs. partition-projection techniques:**

### **Parallel projection:**

Project the DB in parallel for each frequent item.

Parallel projection is space costly.

All the partitions can be processed in parallel.

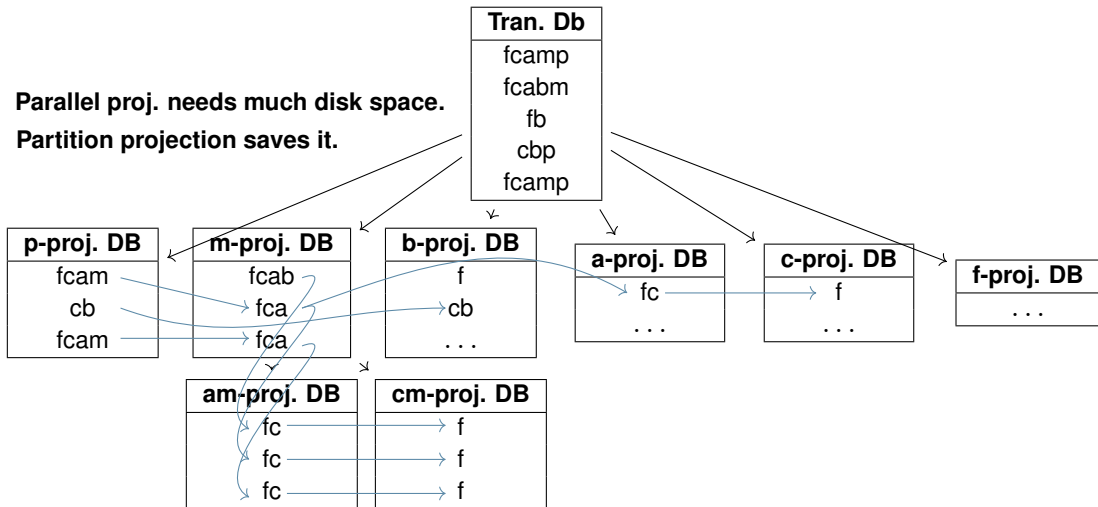
### **Partition projection:**

Partition the DB based on the ordered frequent items.

Passing the unprocessed parts to the subsequent partitions.

## Partition-based projection

Parallel proj. needs much disk space.  
Partition projection saves it.



## Advantages of the pattern-growth approach

### **Divide-and-conquer:**

Decompose both the mining task and DB according to the frequent patterns obtained so far.

Leading to focused search of smaller databases.

### **Other factors:**

No candidate generation, no candidate test.

Compressed database: FP-tree structure.

No repeated scan of entire database.

Basic ops: counting local frequent items and building sub FP-tree, no pattern search and matching.

### **A good open-source implementation and refinement of FP-growth:**

FPGrowth+ (Grahne & Zhu, FIMI'03)

## Further improvements of mining methods

### **AFOPT** (Liu et al., KDD'03)

A "push-right" method for mining condensed frequent-pattern (CFP) tree.

### **Carpenter** (Pan et al., KDD'03)

Mine datasets with small rows but numerous columns.

Construct a row-enumeration tree for efficient mining.

### **FPgrowth+** (Grahne & Zhu, FIMI'03)

Efficiently using prefix-trees in mining frequent itemsets.

### **TD-Close** (Liu et al., SDM'06)

## Extension of pattern-growth mining methodology

### **Mining closed frequent itemsets and max-patterns.**

CLOSET (DMKD'00), FPclose, and FPMMax (Grahne & Zhu, FIMI'03)

### **Mining sequential patterns.**

PrefixSpan (ICDE'01), CloSpan (SDM'03), BIDE (ICDE'04)

### **Mining graph patterns.**

gSpan (ICDM'02), CloseGraph (KDD'03)

### **Constraint-based mining of frequent patterns.**

Convertible constraints (ICDE'01), gPrune (PAKDD'03)

### **Computing iceberg data cubes with complex measures.**

H-tree, H-cubing, and Star-cubing (SIGMOD'01, VLDB'03)

### **Pattern-growth-based clustering.**

MaPle (Pei et al., ICDM'03)

### **Pattern-growth-based classification.**

Mining frequent and discriminative patterns (Cheng et al., ICDE'07)

## Chapter V: Mining frequent patterns, associations and correlations

Basic Concepts.

Scalable frequent-itemset-mining methods.

Apriori: a candidate-generation-and-test approach.

Improving the efficiency of apriori.

FPGrowth: a frequent-pattern-growth approach.

**ECLAT: frequent-pattern mining with vertical data format.**

Mining closed itemsets and max-itemsets.

Generating association rules from frequent itemsets.

Which patterns are interesting? Pattern-evaluation methods.

Summary.

## ECLAT: mining by exploring vertical data format

**Vertical format:**  $t(AB) = \{T_{11}, T_{25}, \dots\}$

Tid-list: list of transaction ids containing an itemset.

**Deriving frequent itemsets based on vertical intersections.**

$t(X) = t(Y) : X \text{ and } Y \text{ always happen together.}$

$t(X) \rightarrow t(Y) : \text{transaction having } X \text{ always has } Y.$

**Using diffset to accelerate mining.**

Only keep track of differences of tids.

$t(X) = \{T_1, T_2, T_3\}, t(XY) = \{T_1, T_3\}.$

$\text{Diffset}(XY, X) = \{T_2\}.$

**ECLAT** (Zaki et al., KDD'97)

**Mining closed itemsets using vertical format: CHARM** (Zaki & Hsiao, SDM'02)

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## Mining closed itemsets: CLOSET

**Flist:** list of all frequent items  
in support-ascending order.

Flist: d-a-f-e-c.

**Divide search space.**

Itemsets having d.

Itemsets having d but not a, etc.

**Find closed itemsets recursively.**

Every transaction having d also has *cfa*  $\rightarrow$  *cfad* is a  
closed itemset.

(Pei, Han & Mao, DMKD'00)

$\text{min\_sup} = 2$

TID	Items
10	a,c,d,e,f
20	a,b,e
30	c,e,f
40	a,c,d,f
50	c,e,f

## Mining closed itemsets: CLOSET

### Itemset merging:

If  $Y$  appears in each occurrence of  $X$ , then  $Y$  is merged with  $X$ .

### Sub-itemset pruning:

If  $X \subset Y$  and  $\text{sup}(X) = \text{sup}(Y)$ ,  $X$  and all of  $X$ 's descendants in the set enumeration tree can be pruned.

### Hybrid tree projection:

Bottom-up physical tree projection.

Top-down pseudo tree projection.

### Item skipping:

If a local frequent item has the same support in several header tables at different levels, one can prune it from the header table at higher levels.

### Efficient subset checking.

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## References: Vertical format and row enumeration methods

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## References: Mining correlations and interesting rules

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Thank you for your attention.  
**Any questions about the fifth chapter?**

Ask them now, or again, drop me a line:  
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