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The Apriori algorithm is a classic data mining algorithm used to identify frequent itemsets in a dataset and derive association rules. It's commonly applied in market basket analysis to discover which items are frequently purchased together.

Key Concepts:

1. **Itemset:** A collection of one or more items.
2. **Support:** The proportion of transactions that contain a particular itemset. This is calculated as:
$$\text{Support}(X) = (\text{Count of transactions containing } X) / (\text{Total number of transactions})$$
3. **Confidence:** The probability that item B is bought when item A is bought. This is calculated as:
$$\text{Confidence}(A \rightarrow B) = \text{Support}(A \cup B) / \text{Support}(A)$$
4. **Lift:** The ratio of observed support to expected support if A and B were independent. This is calculated as:
$$\text{Lift}(A \rightarrow B) = \text{Confidence}(A \rightarrow B) / \text{Support}(B)$$

Steps of the Apriori Algorithm:

1. **Generate Candidate Itemsets:**
 - Start with single items (1-itemsets).
 - For each itemset, calculate its support and discard itemsets that don't meet the minimum support threshold. These are considered **frequent itemsets**.
2. **Iterative Process:**
 - Combine the frequent itemsets from the previous step to form larger itemsets (e.g., 2-itemsets, 3-itemsets, etc.).
 - For each candidate itemset, calculate its support. If the support is above the threshold, it is added to the frequent itemsets. Otherwise, it is discarded.
3. **Generate Association Rules:**
 - Once frequent itemsets are identified, generate **association rules**. An association rule is of the form $A \rightarrow B$, meaning if A is bought, B is likely to be bought as well.

- The rule is considered valid if its confidence is greater than or equal to a specified threshold.