Chapter 6. Mining Frequent Patterns, Association and Correlations: Basic Concepts and Methods

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Introduction to Data Mining

Mining Frequent Patterns, Association and Correlations: Basic Concepts and Methods

- **Basic Concepts**
- Frequent Pattern (Itemset) Mining Methods
- Pattern Evaluation Methods

Pattern Discovery: Definition

- What are patterns?
  - Patterns: A set of items, subsequences, or substructures that occur frequently together (or strongly correlated) in a data set
  - Patterns represent intrinsic and important properties of datasets
- Pattern discovery: Uncovering patterns from massive data
- Motivation examples:
  - What products were often purchased together?
  - What are the subsequent purchases after buying an iPad?
  - What code segments likely contain copy-and-paste bugs?
  - What word sequences likely form phrases in this corpus?

Pattern Discovery: Why Is It Important?

- Finding inherent regularities in a data set
- Foundation for many essential data mining tasks
  - Association, correlation, and causality analysis
  - Mining sequential, structural (e.g., sub-graph) patterns
  - Pattern analysis in spatiotemporal, multimedia, time-series, and stream data
  - Classification: Discriminative pattern-based analysis
  - Cluster analysis: Pattern-based subspace clustering
- Broad applications
  - Market basket analysis, cross-marketing, catalog design, sale campaign analysis, Web log analysis, biological sequence analysis

Frequent Patterns (Itemsets)

- Itemset: A set of one or more items
- k-itemset: $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_k\}$
- (*absolute*) *support* (*count*) of X: Frequency or the number of occurrences of an itemset X
- (*relative*) *support*, *s:* The fraction of transactions that contains X (i.e., the probability that a transaction contains X)
- An itemset X is *frequent* if the support of X is no less than a *minsup* threshold (denoted as σ)

Tid	Items bought
10	Beer, Nuts, Diaper
20	Beer, Coffee, Diaper
30	Beer, Diaper, Eggs
40	Nuts, Eggs, Milk
50	Nuts, Coffee, Diaper, Eggs, Milk

Let *minsup = 50%*

Freq. 1-itemsets:

Beer: 3 (60%); Nuts: 3 (60%)

Diaper: 4 (80%); Eggs: 3 (60%)

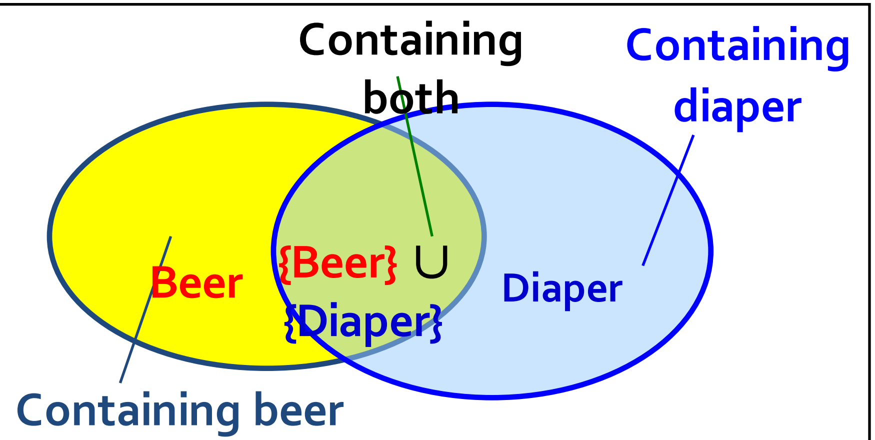
Freq. 2-itemsets:

{Beer, Diaper}: 3 (60%)

From Frequent Itemsets to Association Rules

- Association rules: $X \rightarrow Y$ (s, c)
  - Support, *s*: The probability that a transaction contains $X \cup Y$
  - Confidence, *c: The* conditional probability that a transaction containing X also contains *Y*
  - $c = sup(X \cup Y) / sup(X)$
- **Association rule mining**: Find all of the rules, $X \rightarrow Y$, with minimum support and confidence
- Frequent itemsets: Let *minsup = 50%*
  - Freq. 1-itemsets: Beer: 3, Nuts: 3, Diaper: 4, Eggs: 3
  - Freq. 2-itemsets: {Beer, Diaper}: 3
- Association rules: Let *minconf = 50%*
  - *Beer* → *Diaper* (60%, 100%)
  - *Diaper* → *Beer* (60%, 75%)

Tid	Items bought
10	Beer, Nuts, Diaper
20	Beer, Coffee, Diaper
30	Beer, Diaper, Eggs
40	Nuts, Eggs, Milk
50	Nuts, Coffee, Diaper, Eggs, Milk



$\{Beer\} \cup \{Diaper\} = \{Beer, Diaper\}$

Note: Itemset: $X \cup Y$, a subtle notation!

Challenge: There Are Too Many Frequent Patterns!

- A long pattern contains a combinatorial number of sub-patterns
- How many frequent itemsets does the following TDB_1 contain?
  - TDB_1: T_1: $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{50}\}$; T_2: $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{100}\}$
  - Assuming (absolute) *minsup* = 1
  - Let's have a try

1-itemsets: $\{a_1\}$: 2, $\{a_2\}$: 2, …, $\{a_{50}\}$: 2, $\{a_{51}\}$: 1, …, $\{a_{100}\}$: 1,

2-itemsets: $\{a_1, a_2\}$: 2, …, $\{a_1, a_{50}\}$: 2, $\{a_1, a_{51}\}$: 1 …, …, $\{a_{99}, a_{100}\}$: 1, …

99-itemsets: $\{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_{99}\}$: 1, …, $\{a_2, a_3, \ldots, a_{100}\}$: 1

100-itemset: $\{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_{100}\}$: 1

  - In total: $\binom{100}{1} + \binom{100}{2} + \ldots + \binom{100}{100} = 2^{100} - 1$ sub-patterns!

A too huge set for any computer to compute or store!

Expressing Patterns in Compressed Form: Closed Patterns

- How to handle such a challenge?
- Solution 1: **Closed patterns**: A pattern (itemset) X is closed if X is *frequent*, and there exists *no super-pattern* Y ⊃ X, *with the same support* as X
  - Let Transaction DB TDB_1: T_1: $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{50}\}$; T_2: $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{100}\}$
  - Suppose *minsup* = 1. How many closed patterns does TDB_1 contain?
    - Two: P_1: "$\{a_1, \ldots, a_{50}\}$: 2"; P_2: "$\{a_1, \ldots, a_{100}\}$: 1"
- Closed pattern is a lossless compression of frequent patterns
  - Reduces the # of patterns but does not lose the support information!
  - You will still be able to say: "$\{a_2, \ldots, a_{40}\}$: 2", "$\{a_5, a_{51}\}$: 1"

Expressing Patterns in Compressed Form: Max-Patterns

- Solution 2: **Max-patterns**: A pattern X is a max-pattern if X is frequent and there exists no frequent super-pattern Y ⊃ X
- Difference from close-patterns?
  - Do not care the real support of the sub-patterns of a max-pattern
  - Let Transaction DB TDB_1: T_1: $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{50}\}$; T_2: $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{100}\}$
  - Suppose *minsup* = 1. How many max-patterns does TDB_1 contain?
    - One: P: "$\{a_1, \ldots, a_{100}\}$: 1"
- Max-pattern is a lossy compression!
  - We only know $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{40}\}$ is frequent
  - But we do not know the real support of $\{a_1, \ldots, a_{40}\}$, …, any more!
- Thus in many applications, mining close-patterns is more desirable than mining max-patterns

Mining Frequent Patterns, Association and Correlations: Basic Concepts and Methods

- Basic Concepts
- **Frequent Pattern (Itemset) Mining Methods**
- Pattern Evaluation Methods

Efficient Pattern Mining Methods

- The Downward Closure Property of Frequent Patterns
- The Apriori Algorithm
- Extensions or Improvements of Apriori
- Mining Frequent Patterns by Exploring Vertical Data Format
- FPGrowth: A Frequent Pattern-Growth Approach
- Mining Closed Patterns

The Downward Closure Property of Frequent Patterns

- Observation: From TDB$_{1:}$ T_1: {a_1, …, a_{50}}; T_2: {a_1, …, a_{100}}
  - We get a frequent itemset: {a_1, …, a_{50}}
  - Also, its subsets are all frequent: {a_1}, {a_2}, …, {a_{50}}, {a_1, a_2}, …, {a_1, …, a_{49}}, …
  - There must be some hidden relationships among frequent patterns!
- The downward closure (also called "Apriori") property of frequent patterns
  - If **{beer, diaper, nuts}** is frequent, so is **{beer, diaper}**
  - Every transaction containing {beer, diaper, nuts} also contains {beer, diaper}
  - Apriori: Any subset of a frequent itemset must be frequent
- Efficient mining methodology
  - If any subset of an itemset S is infrequent, then there is no chance for S to be frequent—why do we even have to consider S!?

A sharp knife for pruning!

Apriori Pruning and Scalable Mining Methods

- Apriori pruning principle: If there is any itemset which is infrequent, its superset should not even be generated! (Agrawal & Srikant @VLDB'94, Mannila, et al. @ KDD' 94)
- Scalable mining Methods: Three major approaches
  - Level-wise, join-based approach: Apriori (Agrawal & Srikant@VLDB'94)
  - Vertical data format approach: Eclat (Zaki, Parthasarathy, Ogihara, Li @KDD'97)
  - Frequent pattern projection and growth: FPgrowth (Han, Pei, Yin @SIGMOD'00)

Apriori: A Candidate Generation & Test Approach

- Outline of Apriori (level-wise, candidate generation and test)
  - Initially, scan DB once to get frequent 1-itemset
  - Repeat
    - Generate length-(k+1) candidate itemsets from length-k frequent itemsets
    - Test the candidates against DB to find frequent (k+1)-itemsets
    - Set k := k +1
  - Until no frequent or candidate set can be generated
  - Return all the frequent itemsets derived

The Apriori Algorithm (Pseudo-Code)

C_k: Candidate itemset of size k
F_k : Frequent itemset of size k

K := 1;
F_k := {frequent items}; // frequent 1-itemset

While (F_k != $\emptyset$) **do {** // when F_k is non-empty
  C_{k+1} := candidates generated from F_k; // candidate generation
  Derive F_{k+1} by counting candidates in C_{k+1} with respect to *TDB* at minsup;
  k := k + 1
}

return $\cup_k F_k$ // return F_k generated at each level

The Apriori Algorithm: An Example

Database TDB

Tid	Items
10	A, C, D
20	B, C, E
30	A, B, C, E
40	B, E

minsup = 2

1st scan

C_1

Itemset	sup
{A}	2
{B}	3
{C}	3
{D}	1
{E}	3

F_1

Itemset	sup
{A}	2
{B}	3
{C}	3
{E}	3

C_2

Itemset
{A, B}
{A, C}
{A, E}
{B, C}
{B, E}
{C, E}

2nd scan

C_2

Itemset	sup
{A, B}	1
{A, C}	2
{A, E}	1
{B, C}	2
{B, E}	3
{C, E}	2

F_2

Itemset	sup
{A, C}	2
{B, C}	2
{B, E}	3
{C, E}	2

C_3

Itemset
{B, C, E}

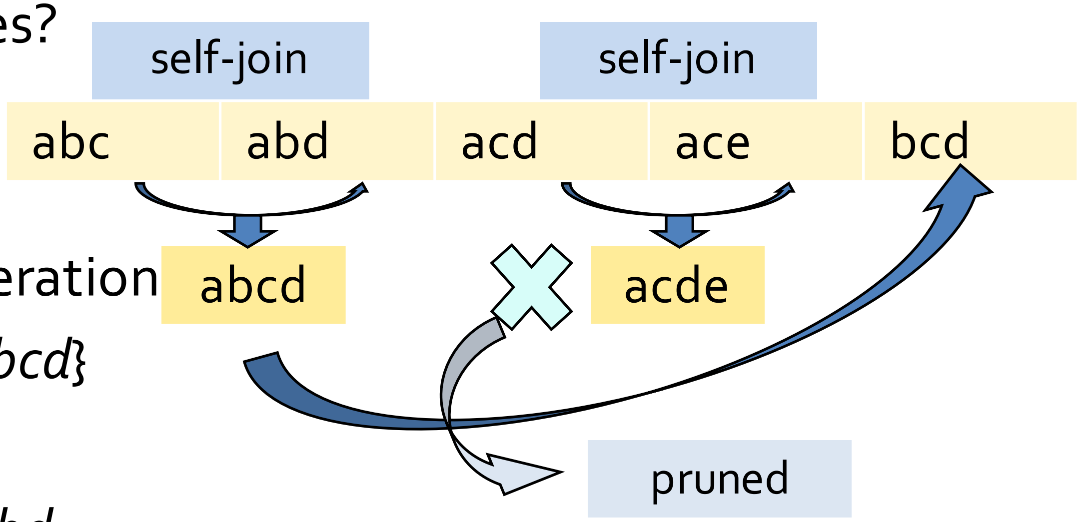
3rd scan

F_3

Itemset	sup
{B, C, E}	2

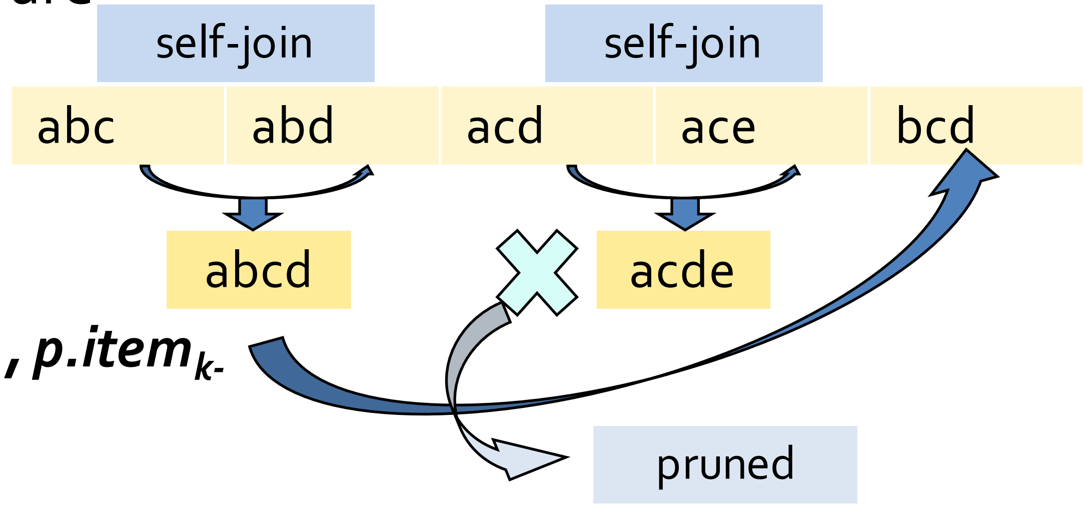
Apriori: Implementation Tricks

- How to generate candidates?
  - Step 1: self-joining F_k
  - Step 2: pruning
- Example of candidate-generation
  - $F_3 = \{abc, abd, acd, ace, bcd\}$
  - Self-joining: $F_3 * F_3$
    - *abcd* from *abc* and *abd*
    - *acde* from *acd* and *ace*
  - Pruning:
    - *acde* is removed because *ade* is not in F_3
  - $C_4 = \{abcd\}$



Candidate Generation: An SQL Implementation

- Suppose the items in F_{k-1} are listed
  in an order
- Step 1: self-joining F_{k-1}
  insert into $\boldsymbol{C_k}$
  select ***p.item$_1$, p.item$_2$, …, p.item$_{k-1}$, q.item$_{k-1}$***
  from ***F_{k-1} as p, F_{k-1} as q***
  where ***p.item$_1$= q.item$_1$, …, p.item$_{k-2}$ = q.item$_{k-2}$, p.item$_{k-1}$ < q.item$_{k-1}$***
- Step 2: pruning
  for all ***itemsets c in C_k*** do
  for all ***(k-1)-subsets s of c*** do
  if *(s is not in F_{k-1})* **then delete** *c* **from** C_k

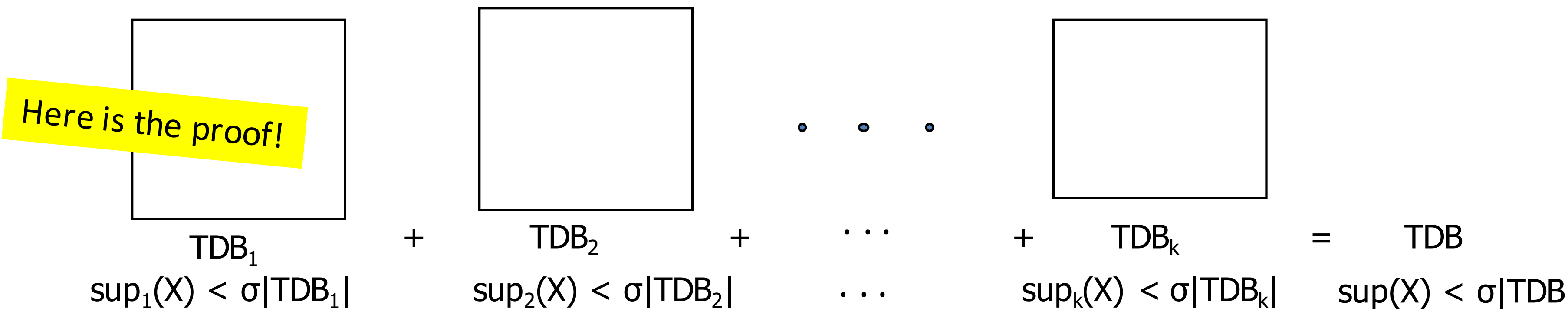


Apriori: Improvements and Alternatives

- Reduce passes of transaction database scans
  - Partitioning (e.g., Savasere, et al., 1995)
  - Dynamic itemset counting (Brin, et al., 1997)
- Shrink the number of candidates
  - Hashing (e.g., DHP: Park, et al., 1995)
  - Pruning by support lower bounding (e.g., Bayardo 1998)
  - Sampling (e.g., Toivonen, 1996)
- Exploring special data structures
  - Tree projection (Agarwal, et al., 2001)
  - H-miner (Pei, et al., 2001)
  - Hypecube decomposition (e.g., LCM: Uno, et al., 2004)

Partitioning: Scan Database Only Twice

- Theorem: Any itemset that is potentially frequent in TDB must be frequent in at least one of the partitions of TDB



- Method: (A. Savasere, E. Omiecinski and S. Navathe, VLDB'95)
  - Scan 1: Partition database (how?) and find local frequent patterns
  - Scan 2: Consolidate global frequent patterns (how to?)
- Why does this method guarantee to scan TDB only twice?

Direct Hashing and Pruning (DHP)

- DHP (Direct Hashing and Pruning): Reduce the number of candidates (J. Park, M. Chen, and P. Yu, SIGMOD'95)
- Observation: A *k*-itemset whose corresponding hashing bucket count is below the threshold cannot be frequent
  - Candidates: a, b, c, d, e
  - Hash entries
    - {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

Itemsets	**Count**
{ab, ad, ae}	35
{bd, be, de}	298
……	…
{yz, qs, wt}	58

Hash Table

Exploring Vertical Data Format: ECLAT

- ECLAT (Equivalence Class Transformation): A depth-first search algorithm using set intersection [Zaki et al. @KDD'97]
- Tid-List: List of transaction-ids containing an itemset
- Vertical format: $t(e) = \{T_{10}, T_{20}, T_{30}\}$; $t(a) = \{T_{10}, T_{20}\}$; $t(ae) = \{T_{10}, T_{20}\}$

A transaction DB in Horizontal Data Format

Tid	Itemset
10	a, c, d, e
20	a, b, e
30	b, c, e

The transaction DB in Vertical Data Format

Item	TidList
a	10, 20
b	20, 30
c	10, 30
d	10
e	10, 20, 30

Exploring Vertical Data Format: ECLAT

- ECLAT (Equivalence Class Transformation): A depth-first search algorithm using set intersection [Zaki et al. @KDD'97]
- Tid-List: List of transaction-ids containing an itemset
- Vertical format: $t(e) = \{T_{10}, T_{20}, T_{30}\}$; $t(a) = \{T_{10}, T_{20}\}$; $t(ae) = \{T_{10}, T_{20}\}$
- Properties of Tid-Lists
  - $t(X) = t(Y)$: X and Y always happen together (e.g., $t(ac\} = t(d\})$)
  - $t(X) \subset t(Y)$: transaction having X always has Y (e.g., $t(ac) \subset t(ce)$)
- Deriving frequent patterns based on vertical intersections
- Using diffset to accelerate mining
  - Only keep track of differences of tids
  - $t(e) = \{T_{10}, T_{20}, T_{30}\}$, $t(ce) = \{T_{10}, T_{30}\} \rightarrow$ Diffset $(ce, e) = \{T_{20}\}$

FPGrowth: Mining Frequent Patterns by Pattern Growth

- Idea: Frequent pattern growth (FPGrowth)
  - Find frequent single items and partition the database based on each such item
  - Recursively grow frequent patterns by doing the above for each partitioned database (also called *conditional database*)
  - To facilitate efficient processing, an efficient data structure, FP-tree, can be constructed
- Mining becomes
  - Recursively construct and mine (conditional) FP-trees
  - Until the resulting FP-tree is empty, or until it contains only one path—single path will generate all the combinations of its sub-paths, each of which is a frequent pattern

Example: Construct FP-tree from a Transactional DB

TID	Items in the Transaction	Ordered, frequent items
100	*{f, a, c, d, g, i, m, p}*	*{f, c, a, m, p}*
200	*{a, b, c, f, l, m, o}*	*{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 single item frequent pattern:

Let min_support = 3

f:4, a:3, c:4, b:3, m:3, p:3

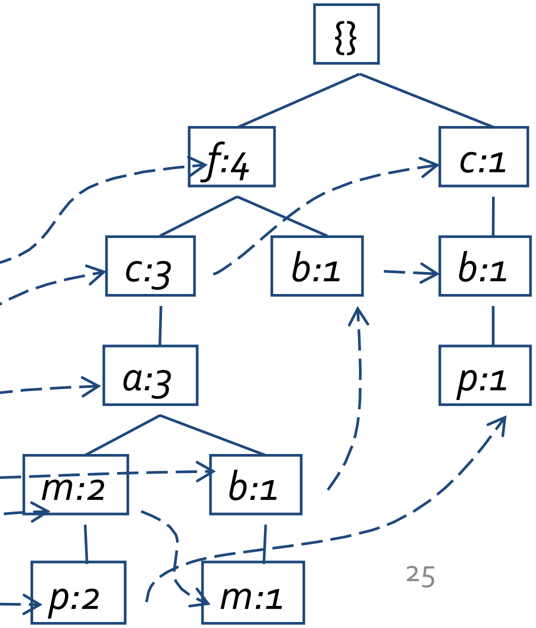
2. Sort frequent items in frequency descending order, f-list

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

3. Scan DB again, construct FP-tree

Header Table

Item	Frequency	Header
f	4	
c	4	
a	3	
b	3	
m	3	
p	3	

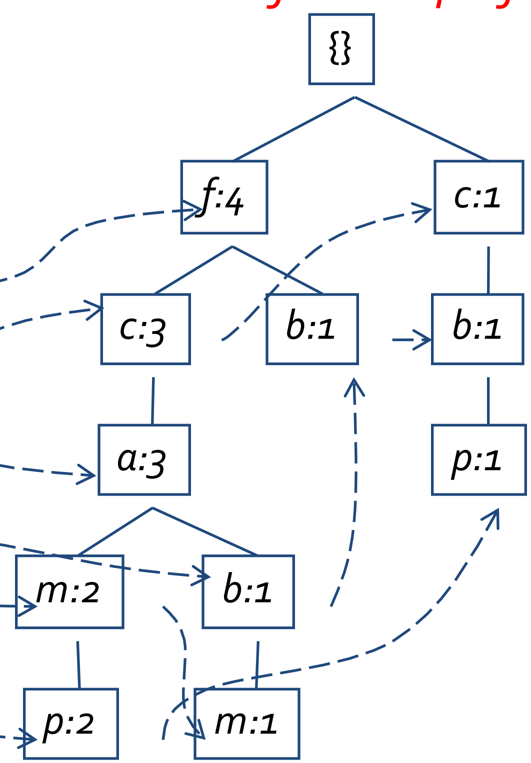


Divide and Conquer
Based on Patterns and Data

- Pattern mining can be partitioned according to current patterns
  - Patterns containing p: p's conditional database: *fcam:2*, *cb:1*
  - Patterns having m but no p: m's conditional database: *fca:2*, *fcab:1*
  - …… ……
- *p*'s conditional pattern base: *transformed prefix paths* of item *p*

min_support = 3

Item	Frequency	Header
f	4	
c	4	
a	3	
b	3	
m	3	
p	3	



***Conditional* pattern bases**

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

Mine Each Conditional Pattern-Base Recursively

Conditional **pattern bases**

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

min_support = 3

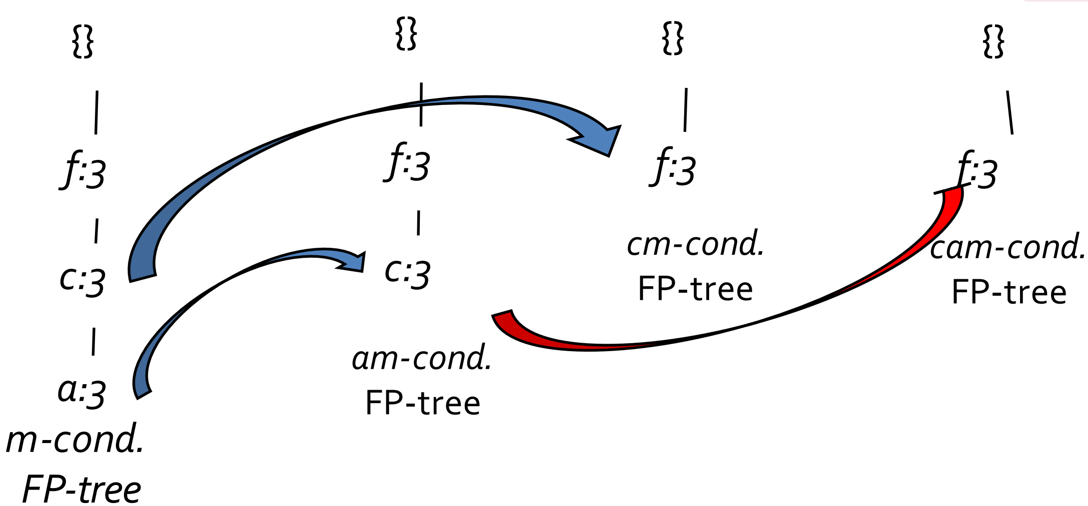
For each conditional pattern-base

- Mine single-item patterns
- Construct its FP-tree & mine it

p-conditional PB: ***fcam:2, cb:1 → c: 3***

m-conditional PB: ***fca:2, fcab:1 → fca: 3***

b-conditional PB: ***fca:1, f:1, c:1 → ϕ***

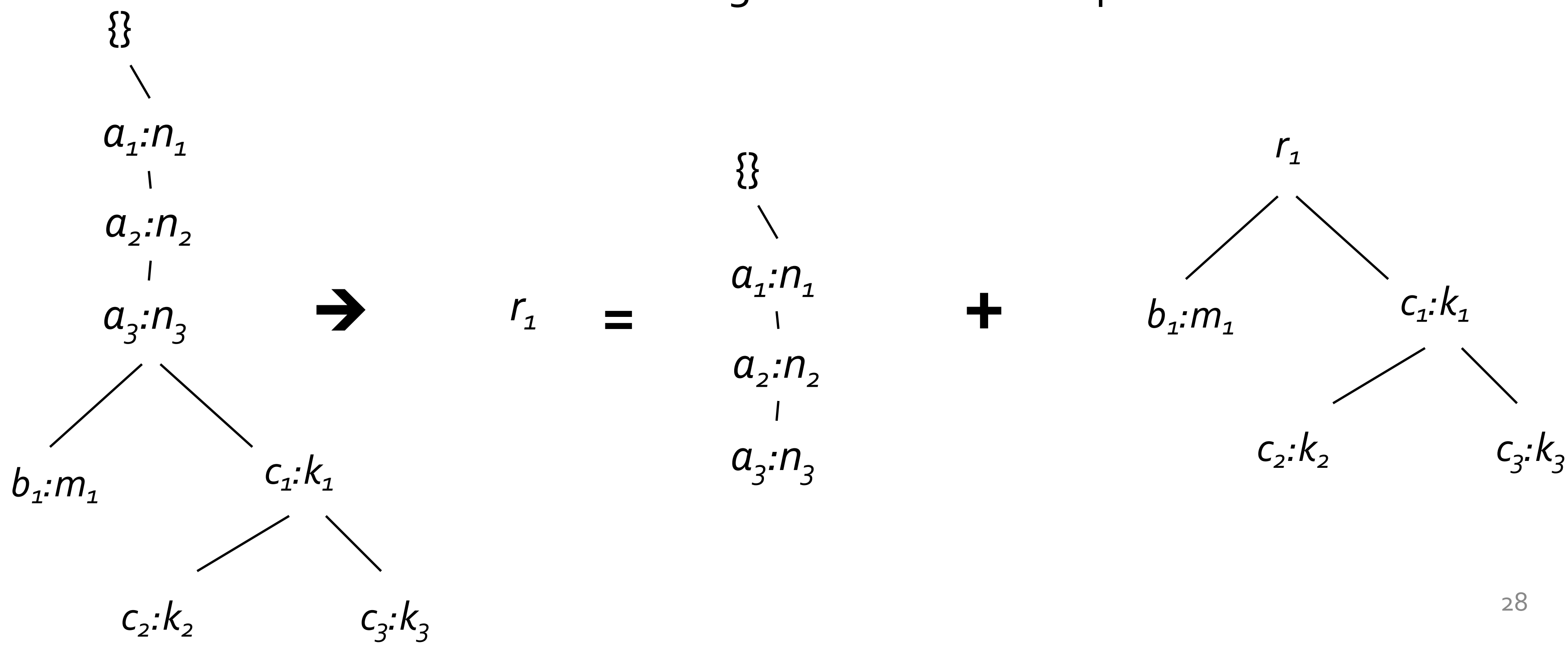


Actually, for single branch FP-tree, all frequent patterns can be generated in one shot

m: 3
fm: 3, cm: 3, am: 3
fcm: 3, fam:3, cam: 3
fcam: 3

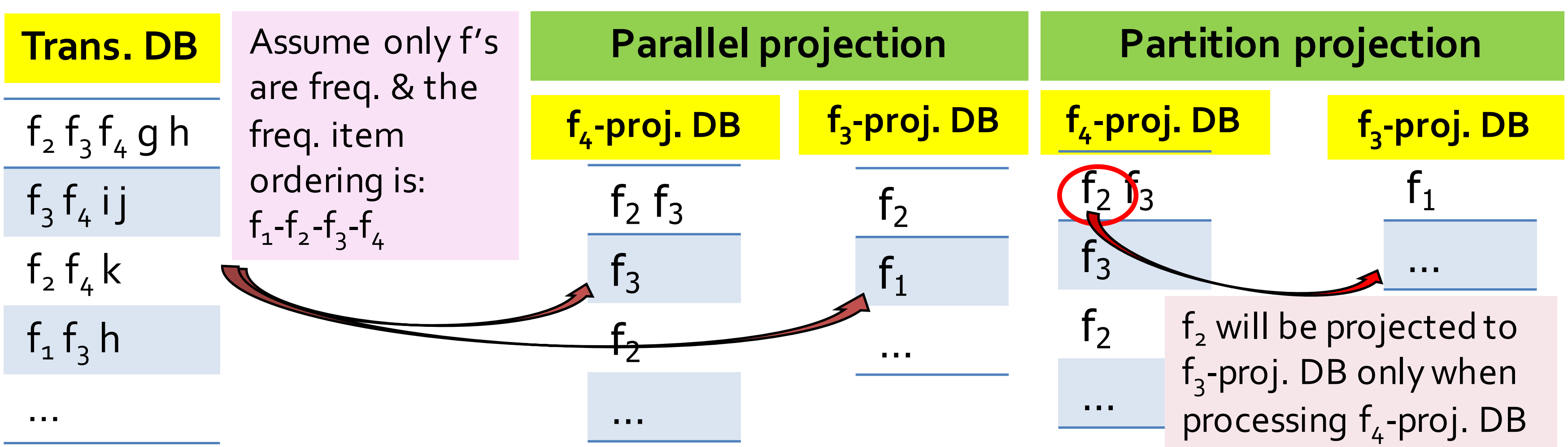
A Special Case: Single Prefix Path in FP-tree

- 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



Scaling FP-growth by Database Projection

- What if FP-tree cannot fit in memory? — DB projection
  - Project the DB based on patterns
  - Construct & mine FP-tree for each projected DB
- Parallel projection vs. partition projection
  - Parallel projection: Project the DB on each frequent item
    - Space costly, all partitions can be processed in parallel
  - Partition projection: Partition the DB in order
    - Passing the unprocessed parts to subsequent partitions



CLOSET+: Mining Closed Itemsets by Pattern-Growth

- Efficient, *direct* mining of closed itemsets
- Ex. Itemset merging: If Y appears in every occurrence of X, then Y is merged with X
  - d-proj. db: {acef, acf} ➔ acfd-proj. db: {e}, thus we get: acfd:2
- Many other tricks (but not detailed here), such as
  - Hybrid tree projection
    - Bottom-up physical tree-projection
    - Top-down pseudo tree-projection
  - Sub-itemset pruning
  - Item skipping
  - Efficient subset checking
- For details, see J. Wang, et al., "CLOSET+: ......", KDD'03

TID	Items
1	acdef
2	abe
3	cefg
4	acdf

Let minsupport = 2

a:3, c:3, d:2, e:3, f:3

F-List: a-c-e-f-d

Mining Frequent Patterns, Association and Correlations: Basic Concepts and Methods

- Basic Concepts
- Frequent Pattern (Itemset) Mining Methods
- **Pattern Evaluation Methods**

How to Judge if a Rule/Pattern Is Interesting?

- Pattern-mining will generate a large set of patterns/rules
  - Not all the generated patterns/rules are interesting
- Interestingness measures: Objective vs. subjective
  - Objective interestingness measures
    - Support, confidence, correlation, …
  - Subjective interestingness measures: One man’s trash could be another man’s treasure
    - Query-based: Relevant to a user’s particular request
    - Against one’s knowledge-base: unexpected, freshness, timeliness
    - Visualization tools: Multi-dimensional, interactive examination

Limitation of the Support-Confidence Framework

- Are s and c interesting in association rules: "A $\Rightarrow$ B" [s, c]?
- Example: Suppose one school may have the following statistics on # of students who may play basketball and/or eat cereal:

Be careful!

2-way contingency table

	play-basketball	not play-basketball	sum (row)
eat-cereal	400	350	750
not eat-cereal	200	50	250
sum(col.)	600	400	1000

- Association rule mining may generate the following:
  - play-basketball $\Rightarrow$ eat-cereal [40%, 66.7%] (higher s & c)
- But this strong association rule is misleading: The overall % of students eating cereal is 75% > 66.7%, a more telling rule:
  - ¬ play-basketball $\Rightarrow$ eat-cereal [35%, 87.5%] (high s & c)

Interestingness Measure: Lift

- Measure of dependent/correlated events: **lift**

$$lift(B,C) = \frac{c(B \rightarrow C)}{s(C)} = \frac{s(B \cup C)}{s(B) \times s(C)}$$

Lift is more telling than s & c

	B	¬B	$\sum_{row}$
C	400	350	750
¬C	200	50	250
$\sum_{col.}$	600	400	1000

- Lift(B, C) may tell how B and C are correlated
  - Lift(B, C) = 1: B and C are independent
  - > 1: positively correlated
  - < 1: negatively correlated
- For our example,

$$lift(B,C) = \frac{400/1000}{600/1000 \times 750/1000} = 0.89$$

$$lift(B,\neg C) = \frac{200/1000}{600/1000 \times 250/1000} = 1.33$$

- Thus, B and C are negatively correlated since lift(B, C) < 1;
  - B and ¬C are positively correlated since lift(B, ¬C) > 1

Interestingness Measure: χ²

- Another measure to test correlated events: χ²

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(Observed - Expected)^2}{Expected}$$

Observed value — Expected value

	B	¬B	$\sum_{row}$
C	400 (450)	350 (300)	750
¬C	200 (150)	50 (100)	250
$\sum_{col}$	600	400	1000

- General rules
  - χ² = 0: independent
  - χ² > 0: correlated, either positive or negative, so it needs additional test
- Now, $\chi^2 = \frac{(400-450)^2}{450} + \frac{(350-300)^2}{300} + \frac{(200-150)^2}{150} + \frac{(50-100)^2}{100} = 55.56$
- χ² shows B and C are negatively correlated since the expected value is 450 but the observed is only 400
- χ² is also more telling than the support-confidence framework

Lift and χ^2 : Are They Always Good Measures?

- Null transactions: Transactions that contain neither B nor C
- Let's examine the dataset D
  - BC (100) is much rarer than B¬C (1000) and ¬BC (1000), but there are many ¬B¬C (100000)
  - Unlikely B & C will happen together!
- But, Lift(B, C) = 8.44 >> 1 (Lift shows B and C are strongly positively correlated!)
- χ^2 = 670: Observed(BC) >> expected value (11.85)
- Too many null transactions may "spoil the soup"!

	B	¬B	$\sum_{row}$
C	100	1000	1100
¬C	1000	100000	101000
$\sum_{col.}$	1100	101000	102100

null transactions

Contingency table with expected values added

	B	¬B	$\sum_{row}$
C	100 (11.85)	1000	1100
¬C	1000 (988.15)	100000	101000
$\sum_{col.}$	1100	101000	102100

Interestingness Measures & Null-Invariance

- *Null invariance:* Value does not change with the # of null-transactions
- A few interestingness measures: Some are null invariant

Measure	Definition	Range	Null-Invariant
$\chi^2(A, B)$	$\sum_{i,j=0,1} \frac{(e(a_i b_j) - o(a_i b_j))^2}{e(a_i b_j)}$	$[0, \infty]$	No
$Lift(A, B)$	$\frac{s(A \cup B)}{s(A) \times s(B)}$	$[0, \infty]$	No
$AllConf(A, B)$	$\frac{s(A \cup B)}{max\{s(A), s(B)\}}$	$[0, 1]$	Yes
$Jaccard(A, B)$	$\frac{s(A \cup B)}{s(A) + s(B) - s(A \cup B)}$	$[0, 1]$	Yes
$Cosine(A, B)$	$\frac{s(A \cup B)}{\sqrt{s(A) \times s(B)}}$	$[0, 1]$	Yes
$Kulczynski(A, B)$	$\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{s(A \cup B)}{s(A)} + \frac{s(A \cup B)}{s(B)}\right)$	$[0, 1]$	Yes
$MaxConf(\mathrm{A, B})$	$max\{\frac{s(A)}{s(A \cup B)}, \frac{s(B)}{s(A \cup B)}\}$	$[0, 1]$	Yes

Χ² *and lift are not null-invariant*

Jaccard, consine, AllConf, MaxConf, and *Kulczynski* are *null-invariant measures*

Null Invariance: An Important Property

- Why is null invariance crucial for the analysis of massive transaction data?
  - Many transactions may contain neither milk nor coffee!

milk vs. coffee contingency table

	$milk$	$\neg milk$	Σ_{row}
$coffee$	mc	$\neg mc$	c
$\neg coffee$	$m\neg c$	$\neg m \neg c$	$\neg c$
Σ_{col}	m	$\neg m$	Σ

- Lift and χ^2 are not null-invariant: not good to evaluate data that contain too many or too few null transactions!
- Many measures are not null-invariant!

Null-transactions w.r.t. m and c

Data set	mc	$\neg mc$	$m\neg c$	$\neg m \neg c$	χ^2	$Lift$
D_1	10,000	1,000	1,000	100,000	90557	9.26
D_2	10,000	1,000	1,000	100	0	1
D_3	100	1,000	1,000	100,000	670	8.44
D_4	1,000	1,000	1,000	100,000	24740	25.75
D_5	1,000	100	10,000	100,000	8173	9.18
D_6	1,000	10	100,000	100,000	965	1.97

Comparison of Null-Invariant Measures

- Not all null-invariant measures are created equal
- Which one is better?
  - D_4—D_6 differentiate the null-invariant measures
  - Kulc (Kulczynski 1927) holds firm and is in balance of both directional implications

2-variable contingency table

	$milk$	$\neg milk$	Σ_{row}
$coffee$	mc	$\neg mc$	c
$\neg coffee$	$m\neg c$	$\neg m \neg c$	$\neg c$
Σ_{col}	m	$\neg m$	Σ

All 5 are null-invariant

Data set	mc	$\neg mc$	$m\neg c$	$\neg m \neg c$	$AllConf$	Jaccard	$Cosine$	$Kulc$	$MaxConf$
D_1	10,000	1,000	1,000	100,000	0.91	0.83	0.91	0.91	0.91
D_2	10,000	1,000	1,000	100	0.91	0.83	0.91	0.91	0.91
D_3	100	1,000	1,000	100,000	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.09	0.09
D_4	1,000	1,000	1,000	100,000	0.5	0.33	0.5	0.5	0.5
D_5	1,000	100	10,000	100,000	0.09	0.09	0.29	0.5	0.91
D_6	1,000	10	100,000	100,000	0.01	0.01	0.10	0.5	0.99

Subtle: They disagree on those cases

Analysis of DBLP Coauthor Relationships

- Recent DB conferences, removing balanced associations, low sup, etc.

ID	Author A	Author B	$s(A \cup B)$	$s(A)$	$s(B)$	Jaccard	$Cosine$	$Kulc$
1	Hans-Peter Kriegel	Martin Ester	28	146	54	0.163 (2)	0.315 (7)	0.355 (9)
2	Michael Carey	Miron Livny	26	104	58	0.191 (1)	0.335 (4)	0.349 (10)
3	Hans-Peter Kriegel	Joerg Sander	24	146	36	0.152 (3)	0.331 (5)	0.416 (8)
4	Christos Faloutsos	Spiros Papadimitriou	20	162	26	0.119 (7)	0.308 (10)	0.446 (7)
5	Hans-Peter Kriegel	Martin Pfeifle	18	146	18	0.123 (6)	0.351 (2)	0.562 (2)
6	Hector Garcia-Molina	Wilburt Labio	16	144	18	0.110 (9)	0.314 (8)	0.500 (4)
7	Divyakant Agrawal	Wang Hsiung	16	120	16	0.133 (5)	0.365 (1)	0.567 (1)
8	Elke Rundensteiner	Murali Mani	16	104	20	0.148 (4)	0.351 (3)	0.477 (6)
9	Divyakant Agrawal	Oliver Po	12	120	12	0.100 (10)	0.316 (6)	0.550 (3)
10	Gerhard Weikum	Martin Theobald	12	106	14	0.111 (8)	0.312 (9)	0.485 (5)

Advisor-advisee relation: Kulc: high, Jaccard: low, cosine: middle

- Which pairs of authors are strongly related?
  - Use Kulc to find Advisor-advisee, close collaborators

Imbalance Ratio with Kulczynski Measure

- IR (Imbalance Ratio): measure the imbalance of two itemsets A and B in rule implications: $$IR(A,B) = \frac{|s(A)-s(B)|}{s(A)+s(B)-s(A\cup B)}$$
- Kulczynski and Imbalance Ratio (IR) together present a clear picture for all the three datasets D_4 through D_6
  - D_4 is neutral & balanced; D_5 is neutral but imbalanced
  - D_6 is neutral but very imbalanced

Data set	mc	$\neg mc$	$m\neg c$	$\neg m\neg c$	Jaccard	$Cosine$	$Kulc$	IR
D_1	10,000	1,000	1,000	100,000	0.83	0.91	0.91	0
D_2	10,000	1,000	1,000	100	0.83	0.91	0.91	0
D_3	100	1,000	1,000	100,000	0.05	0.09	0.09	0
D_4	1,000	1,000	1,000	100,000	0.33	0.5	0.5	0
D_5	1,000	100	10,000	100,000	0.09	0.29	0.5	0.89
D_6	1,000	10	100,000	100,000	0.01	0.10	0.5	0.99

What Measures to Choose for Effective Pattern Evaluation?

- Null value cases are predominant in many large datasets
  - Neither milk nor coffee is in most of the baskets; neither Mike nor Jim is an author in most of the papers; ……
- Null-invariance is an important property
- Lift, χ^2 and cosine are good measures if null transactions are not predominant
  - Otherwise, Kulczynski + Imbalance Ratio should be used to judge the interestingness of a pattern
- Exercise: Mining research collaborations from research bibliographic data
  - Find a group of frequent collaborators from research bibliographic data (e.g., DBLP)
  - Can you find the likely advisor-advisee relationship and during which years such a relationship happened?
  - Ref.: C. Wang, J. Han, Y. Jia, J. Tang, D. Zhang, Y. Yu, and J. Guo, "Mining Advisor-Advisee Relationships from Research Publication Networks", KDD'10

Summary

- Basic Concepts:
  - Frequent Patterns, Association Rules, Closed Patterns and Max-Patterns
- Frequent Itemset Mining Methods
  - The Downward Closure Property and The Apriori Algorithm
  - Extensions or Improvements of Apriori
  - Mining Frequent Patterns by Exploring Vertical Data Format
  - FPGrowth: A Frequent Pattern-Growth Approach
  - Mining Closed Patterns
- Which Patterns Are Interesting?—Pattern Evaluation Methods
  - Interestingness Measures: Lift and χ^2
  - Null-Invariant Measures
  - Comparison of Interestingness Measures

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