Is Apriori Fast Enough? — Performance Bottlenecks

- The core of the Apriori algorithm:
  - Use frequent (k – 1)-itemsets to generate candidate frequent k-itemsets
  - Use database scan and pattern matching to collect counts for the candidate itemsets
- The bottleneck of *Apriori*: candidate generation
  - Huge candidate sets:
    - 10^4 frequent 1-itemsets will generate 10^7 candidate 2-itemsets
    - To discover a frequent pattern of size 100, e.g., $\{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_{100}\}$, one needs to generate $2^{100} \approx 10^{30}$ candidates.
  - Multiple scans of database:
    - Needs n+1 scans, n is the length of the longest pattern

Mining Frequent Patterns Without Candidate Generation

- Compress a large database into a compact, Frequent-Pattern tree (FP-tree) structure
  - highly condensed, but complete for frequent pattern mining
  - avoid costly database scans
- Develop an efficient, FP-tree-based frequent pattern mining method
  - A divide-and-conquer methodology: decompose mining tasks into smaller ones
  - Avoid candidate generation: sub-database test only!

Construct FP-tree from a Transaction DB

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, o*}	{*f, c, a, b, m*}
300	{*b, f, h, j, o*}	{*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*}

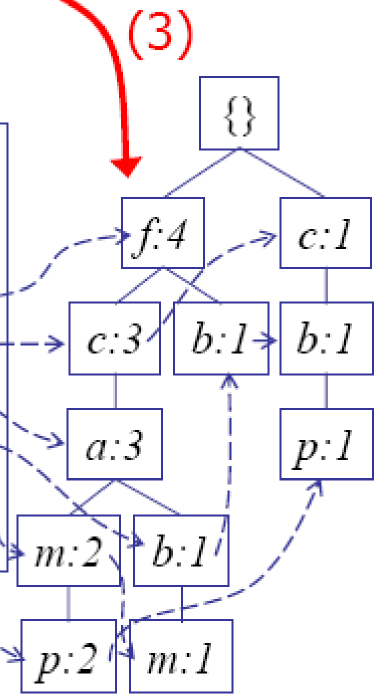
Steps:

1. Scan DB once, find frequent 1-itemsets (single items)
2. Order frequent items in frequency descending order
3. Scan DB again, construct FP-tree starting with most frequent item per transaction

Header Table

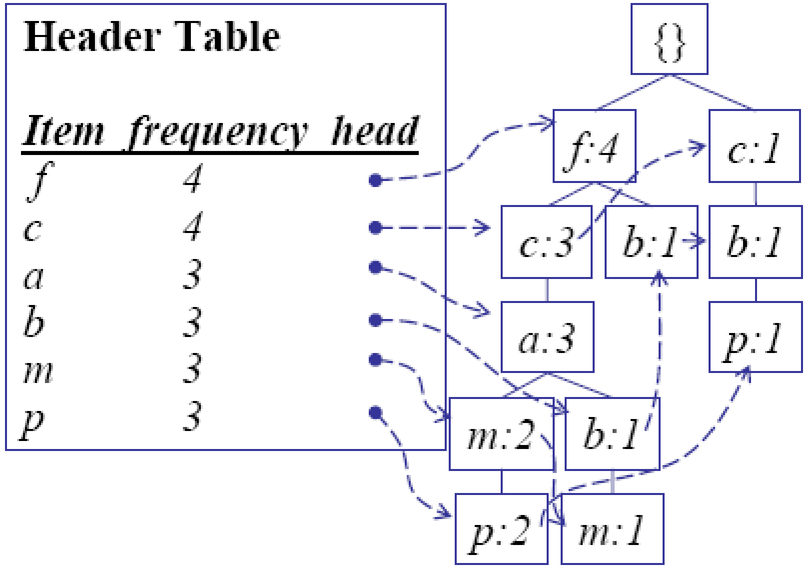
Item	*frequency*	*head*
f	4	
c	4	
a	3	
b	3	
m	3	
p	3	

min_support = 0.5



Step 1: From FP-tree to Conditional Pattern Base

- Starting at the frequent header table in the FP-tree
- Traverse the FP-tree by following the link of each frequent item
- Accumulate all of transformed prefix paths of that item to form a conditional pattern base

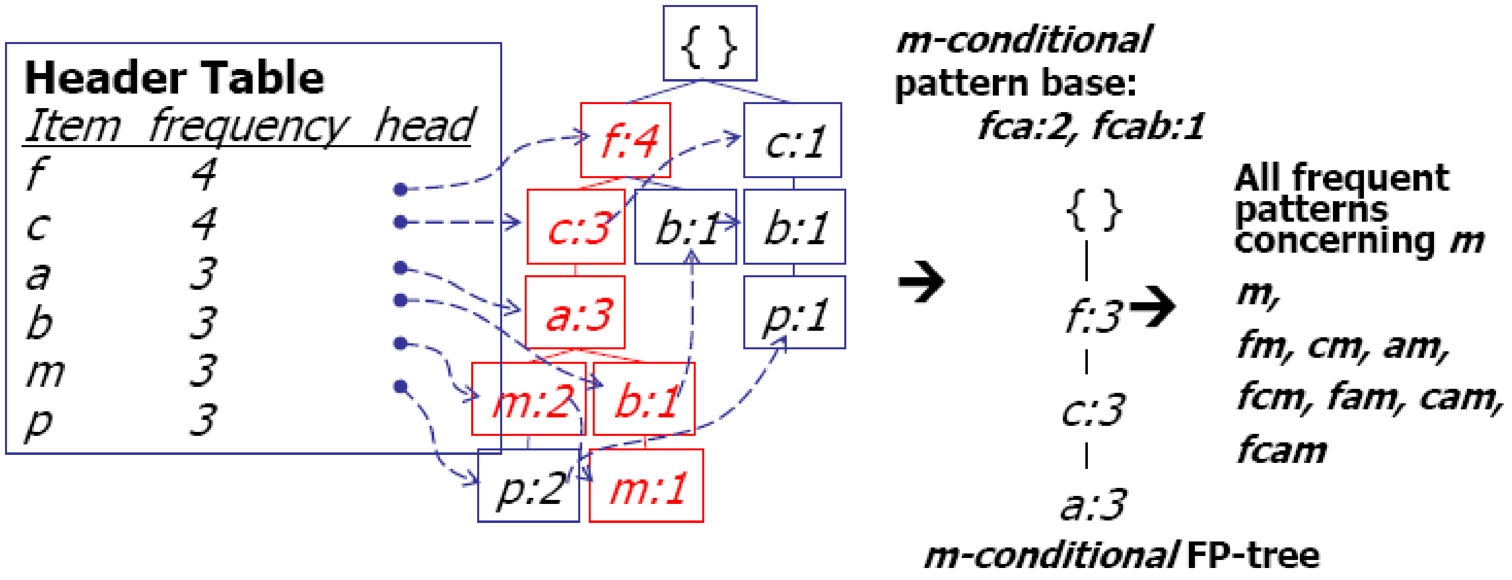


Conditional **pattern bases**

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***

Step 2: Construct Conditional FP-tree

- For each pattern-base
  - Accumulate the count for each item in the base
  - Construct the FP-tree for the frequent items of the pattern base



Mining Frequent Patterns by Creating Conditional Pattern-Bases

Item	Conditional pattern-base	Conditional FP-tree
p	{(fcam:2), (cb:1)}	{(c:3)}|p
m	{(fca:2), (fcab:1)}	{(f:3, c:3, a:3)}|m
b	{(fca:1), (f:1), (c:1)}	Empty
a	{(fc:3)}	{(f:3, c:3)}|a
c	{(f:3)}	{(f:3)}|c
f	Empty	Empty

Lift

- *play basketball* $\Rightarrow$ *eat cereal* [40%, 66.7%] is misleading
  - The overall % of students eating cereal is 75% > 66.7%.
- *play basketball* $\Rightarrow$ *not eat cereal* [20%, 33.3%] is more accurate, although with lower support and confidence
- Measure of dependent/correlated events: lift

$$lift = \frac{P(A \cup B)}{P(A)P(B)}$$

	Basketball	Not basketball	Sum (row)
Cereal	2000	1750	3750
Not cereal	1000	250	1250
Sum(col.)	3000	2000	5000

$$lift(B,C) = \frac{2000/5000}{3000/5000 * 3750/5000} = 0.89 \qquad lift(B,\neg C) = \frac{1000/5000}{3000/5000 * 1250/5000} = 1.33$$