

ASSOCIATION RULES ANALYSIS

On Student Alcohol Consumption Dataset

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Introduction

The aim of this report is to identify any relationship between students' social factors and their likelihood to consume alcohol. Alcohol consumption in secondary education has been a pertaining problem. Alcohol is in fact the most commonly abused drug among youth in the USA. According to the CDC, individuals aged between 12 and 21 years old made approximately 119,000 emergency rooms visits for injuries and conditions related to alcohol in 2013. Disruptive consumption of alcohol among minors may lead to education failure, physical problems, death from alcohol poisoning and unwanted sexual activity. We will be using the association rules mining to analyze the Student Alcohol Consumption dataset. The method uses the Apriori algorithm to identify frequent patterns and find association between attributes in a set. The algorithm generate rules based on statistical metrics such as support and confidence. Support is the probability an antecedent occurs in the dataset divided by the total number of observations. Confidence shows the probability of occurrence of the consequent based on the probability of the antecedents. We hope the Apriori rule method will help us derive the combination of factors that may lead to alcohol consumption among students

Data Description

The Student Alcohol Consumption dataset analyzed using R programming in this report was taken from the archives of the Machine Learning repository of the University of California, Irvine (UCI). The data is a multivariate dataset collected from a survey from high school students with a mix of categorical and

numerical variables. we used the str() function to check the data structure and identify the type of variables present. The output in figure 1 reveals that the dataset contains 33 attributes and 395 cases representing students. The variables name as well as the type are also displayed in figure 1. Some variables name include age, gender, family size, education background, daily alcohol consumption, health, absences and grades. A full detail of the variables is listed in the appendix section. We can also note that there is no identification key in the output, so we will not need to drop a column from the data.

```
395 obs. of 33 variables:
'data.frame':
                  : Factor w/ 2 levels "GP", "MS": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
: Factor w/ 2 levels "F", "M": 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 1 2 2 ...
$ school
 $ sex
$ age
                  : int 18 17 15 15 16 16 16 17 15 15 ...
                  : Factor w/ 2 levels "R","U": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
: Factor w/ 2 levels "GT3","LE3": 1 1 2 1 1 2 2 1 2 1
: Factor w/ 2 levels "A","T": 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 2 ...
 $ address
                                                                   1 1 2 1 1 2 2 1 2 1 ...
$ famsize
$ Pstatus
                  : int 4114342433...
$ Medu
% Medu    : int 4 1 1 4 3 4 2 4 5 5 ...
$ Fedu    : int 4 1 1 2 3 3 2 4 2 4 ...
$ Mjob     : Factor w/ 5 levels "at_home", "health", ..: 1 1 1 2 3 4 3 3 4 3 ...
$ Fjob     : Factor w/ 5 levels "at_home", "health", ..: 5 3 3 4 3 3 3 5 3 3 ...
$ reason     : Factor w/ 4 levels "course", "home", ..: 1 1 3 2 2 4 2 2 2 2 2 ...
$ guardian     : Factor w/ 3 levels "father", "mother", ..: 2 1 2 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 ...
$ traveltime: int 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 ...
 $ studytime :
                    int
                            2 2 2 3 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
$ failures : int 003000000...
$ schoolsup : Factor w/ 2 levels "no","yes": 2 1 2 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 ...
$ famsup : Factor w/ 2 levels "no","yes": 1 2 1 2 2 2 1 2 2 2 ...
                                      levels "no","yes": 1 1 2 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 levels "no","yes": 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 1 1 2
$ paid
                  : Factor w/ 2
$ activities: Factor w/ 2 levels
                                                       ,"yes": 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
                 : Factor w/ 2 levels
                                                "no"
   nursery
                  : Factor w/ 2
                                                 "no"
                                                               ': 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
$ higher
                                      levels
                                                         'yes
                  : Factor w/ 2 levels "no"
                                                         "yes": 1 2 2 2 1 2 2 1 2 2
$ internet
                                                "no"
                  : Factor w/ 2 levels
                                                         "yes": 1 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
$ romantic
                  : int 4 5 4 3 4 5 4 4 4 5
$ famrel
$ freetime
                    int
                           3 3 3
                                    2
                                       3 4 4 1 2
$ goout
                    int 4 3 2
$ Dalc
                    int
                            11211111
$ walc
                  : int
                            1131221111
$ health
                  : int
                            3 3 3 5 5 5 3 1 1 5
                            6 4 10 2 4 10 0 6 0 0 ...
$ absences : int
                            5 5 7 15 6 15 12 6 16 14 ...
$ G1
                  : int
$ G2
                  : int
                            6 5 8 14 10 15 12 5 18 15 ...
                  : int
                           6 6 10 15 10 15 11 6 19 15 ...
```

Figure 1: Student Alcohol Consumption Dataset Structure

Next, we use the summary() function to understand the data distribution. The output in figure 2 shows six descriptive statistics for numeric variables in the dataset. Those statistics include the minimum value, maximum value, 1st and 3rd quartile,

median, and mean. Additionally, we can note that there's no missing values in the dataset; however, given the nature of the analysis being performed, we will need to transform all numerical variables to categorical in order to conduct the Apriori rules method. We can also observe that most numerical variables have small range. The attribute age for example ranges between 15 and 22, and the daily alcohol consumption (dalc) ranges between 1 and . We can also note the large range of the absence variable, having a range between 0 and 75. This variable will be helpful in determining if alcohol use has an impact on absences.

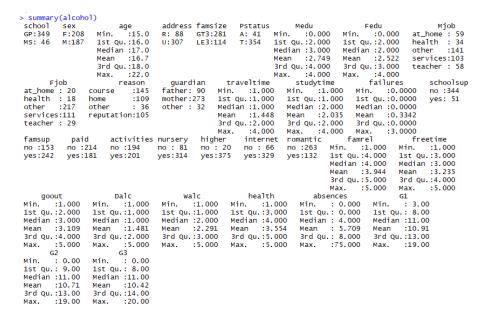
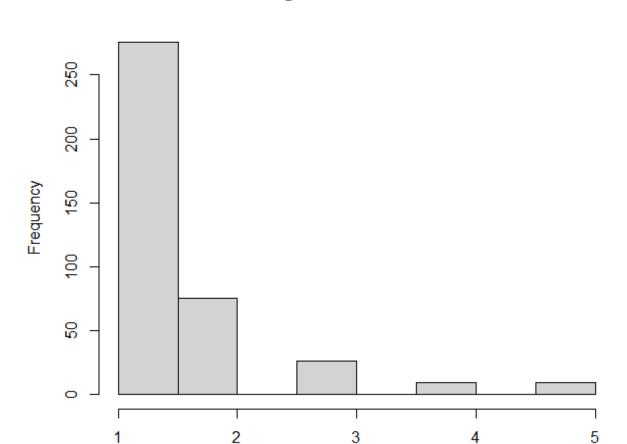


Figure 2: Descriptive Statistics for All Variables.

Since we are interested in determining the effect of alcohol consumption on other variables, it will be interesting to look at the distribution of the daily alcohol distribution (Dalc). We can see from the histogram in figure 3 that the daily alcohol consumption is skewed to the right, with more than 75% of students having a low daily consumption.



Histogram of alcohol\$Dalc

Figure 3: Student Daily Alcohol Consumption

Data Preprocessing

alcohol\$Dalc

As noted above, in order to use the Apriori Rule method, we will need to convert all the numerical variables to discrete or factor variables. For variables with small range like age and medium use (medu), we will use the factor() function to covert to categorical variables. Because this is a survey dataset, most variables have limited values allowed, favorizing scaled responses (low/high, bad/good, etc.). For

variable with relatively large range (G1, G2, & G3), we will use an interval method discretization, and the fixed method discretization for absence variable. The commands for discretization are included in the appendix below. We also added labels to the study time, family relation (famrel), free time, go out, daily alcohol consumption and health variables to facilitate the supervised learning. Figure 4 below display the summary of the all variable in the dataset after conversion of numerical variables to categorical variables.

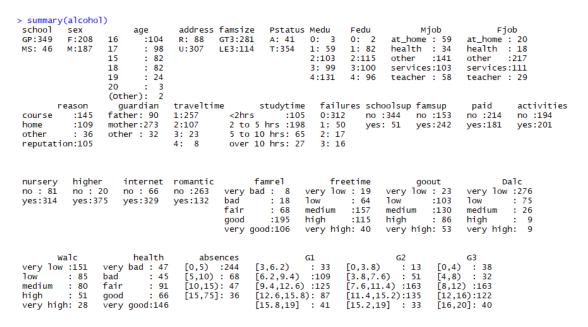


Figure 4: Summary of the Discretized Outputs

As we can see in figure 4, all variables are now categorical and we are now ready to run association rules method

Association Rules Analysis

The main goal of the analysis is to generate association rules linked to alcohol consumption. In the previous steps, we labeled the daily consumption of alcohol as very low, low, medium, high and very high. We ran two separate sets of

rules one on Dalc: one with low or very low and another one with high or very high, then we compared the results of the two runs.

For te run where Dalc is very low/low, we used a minimum support of 0.2, a minimum confidence level of 0.8, and a minimum length of 2. The result for this run is displayed in figure 5 below.

```
> #Run apriori method rules to get rules for low daily alcohol use
> alclow<-apriori(alcohol, parameter= list(supp=0.2, conf=0.8, minlen=2), appearance=l
ist(rhs=c("Dalc=very low", "Dalc=low"), default="lhs"))</pre>
Parameter specification:
 confidence minval smax arem aval original Support maxtime support minlen maxlen
                                                                     0.2
        0.8
               0.1 1 none FALSE
                                                  TRUE 5
 target ext
  rules TRUE
Algorithmic control:
 filter tree heap memopt load sort verbose
    0.1 TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE 2
Absolute minimum support count: 79
set item appearances ...[2 item(s)] done [0.00s].
set transactions ... [122 item(s), 395 transaction(s)] done [0.06s]. sorting and recoding items ... [67 item(s)] done [0.00s].
creating transaction tree ... done [0.00s].
checking subsets of size 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 done [0.77s].
writing ... [1404 rule(s)] done [0.13s].
creating S4 object ... done [0.15s].
Warning message:
In apriori(alcohol, parameter = list(supp = 0.2, conf = 0.8, minlen = 2), :
  Mining stopped (maxlen reached). Only patterns up to a length of 10 returned!
> alclow
set of 1404 rules
> [
```

Figure 5: Apriori Output for Dalc = very low / low On the Left-Hand Side

The above run took 122 items as the method input and returned 1,404 rules.

Next, we ran some commands to sort the rules by lift and eliminate the redundant rules or any subset of a more general rule. The lift parameter help us evaluate the strength of the rule by providing the degree of correlation between the antecedent and the consequent. Figure 6 below display the summary of the rules after the

pruning step. The number of rules has decreased from 1,404 to 362 rules, and Figure 7 displays the top 5 strongest rules, arranged by lift value.

```
> summary(rules.pruned)
set of 362 rules
rule length distribution (lhs + rhs):sizes
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2 19 60 92 87 63 33 6
 Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu.
                              Max.
 2.000 5.000 6.000 5.641 7.000
                              9.000
summary of quality measures:
  support confidence coverage
                                         lift
Min.
    :0.2000 Min. :0.8000 Min. :0.2000 Min.
                                         :1.145
Median :0.2278 Median :0.8148 Median :0.2785
                                     Median :1.166
    :0.2398 Mean :0.8249 Mean :0.2911
                                     Mean :1.181
Mean
count
Min. : 79.00
1st Qu.: 83.00
Median : 90.00
Mean : 94.72
3rd Qu.:101.00
Max. :167.00
mining info:
  data ntransactions support confidence
alcohol 395 0.2 0.8
```

Figure 6: Remaining Rules After Pruning Redundant Rules

```
> # preview the top 5 rules by lift
> inspect(head(sort(rules.pruned, by="lift")),n=5)
    1hs
                                                                confidence
                                      rhs
                                                      support
[1] {activities=yes, Walc=very low} => {Dalc=very low} 0.2177215 1.0000000
[2] {sex=F,Walc=very low}
                                   => {Dalc=very low} 0.2379747 1.0000000
[3] {Fjob=other,Walc=very low}
                                   => {Dalc=very low} 0.2000000 1.0000000
[4] {romantic=no,Walc=very low}
                                   => {Dalc=very low} 0.2531646 1.0000000
[5] {higher=yes, Walc=very low}
                                   => {Dalc=very low} 0.3645570 1.0000000
[6] {Walc=very low}
                                   => {Dalc=very low} 0.3797468 0.9933775
    coverage lift
                       count
[1] 0.2177215 1.431159 86
[2] 0.2379747 1.431159 94
[3] 0.2000000 1.431159 79
[4] 0.2531646 1.431159 100
[5] 0.3645570 1.431159 144
[6] 0.3822785 1.421682 150
```

Figure 7: Top 5 Association rules by lift Value

The top five rules suggest that all students (confidence = 1) who have activities and drink less over the weekend are less likely to have high daily alcohol intake. A set of 362 rules is still quite high. Increasing the minimum support value to 0.35 have reduced the number of rules to 13, thus improving the algorithm efficiency. We then plot a parallel coordinate of 12 rules to better highlight the rules.

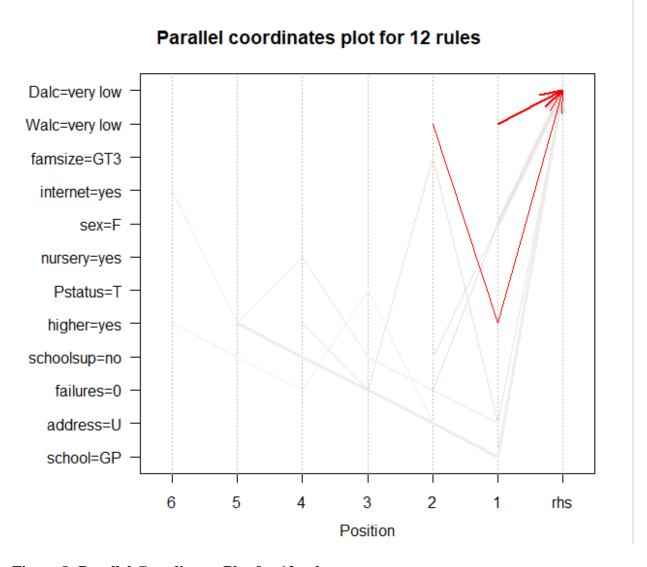


Figure 8: Parallel Coordinates Plot for 12 rules

Figure 8 shows that female students going to GP school who have internet and are not in a relationship are likely to have a very low daily alcohol intake.

Simultaneously, we run the algorithm to generate the rules leading to a medium/high/very high daily alcohol intake, with the same parameter as the first run (a minimum support of 0.2, a minimum confidence level of 0.8, and a minimum length of 2.). However, the algorithm returned zero rules. So, we adjusted the

parameters as follow: min-supp = 0.05, confidence = 0.1 and min length = 2, and

the algorithm generated 3 non redundant rules as seen in figure 9 below.

```
> #Run apriori method rules to get rules for high daily alcohol use
> alchigh<-apriori(alcohol, parameter= list(supp=0.05, conf=0.1, minlen=2), appeara
nce=list(rhs=c("Dalc=very high", "Dalc=high", "Dalc=medium"), default="lhs"))
Apriori
Parameter specification:
confidence minval smax arem aval original Support maxtime support minlen maxlen
              0.1 1 none FALSE
                                             TRUE
                                                       5
                                                             0.05
       0.1
target ext
 rules TRUE
Algorithmic control:
filter tree heap memopt load sort verbose
   0.1 TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE 2
Absolute minimum support count: 19
set item appearances ...[3 item(s)] done [0.00s].
set transactions ...[122 item(s), 395 transaction(s)] done [0.02s].
sorting and recoding items ... [107 item(s)] done [0.00s].
creating transaction tree ... done [0.00s].
checking subsets of size 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 done [6.30s].
writing ... [3 rule(s)] done [0.33s].
creating S4 object ... done [0.23s].
Warning message:
In apriori(alcohol, parameter = list(supp = 0.05, conf = 0.1, minlen = 2), :
 Mining stopped (time limit reached). Only patterns up to a length of 8 returned!
> alchigh
set of 3 rules
```

Figure 9: Apriori Output for Medium Daily Alcohol Intake in the RHS

Figure 10 displays the 3 generated rules, which can be visualized in figure 11.

```
> # view the 3 generated rules by lift
> inspect(head(sort(rules.pruned1, by="lift")))
    1hs
                            rhs
                                          support
                                                     confidence coverage
                        => {Dalc=medium} 0.05063291 0.1169591 0.4329114
[1] {sex=M,higher=yes}
[2] {sex=M,schoolsup=no} => {Dalc=medium} 0.05063291 0.1162791 0.4354430
                        => {Dalc=medium} 0.05316456 0.1122995 0.4734177
[3] {sex=M}
    lift
             count
[1] 1.776878 20
[2] 1.766547 20
[3] 1.706088 21
```

Figure 10: 3 Rules Generated for Medium Daily Alcohol Intake in RHS

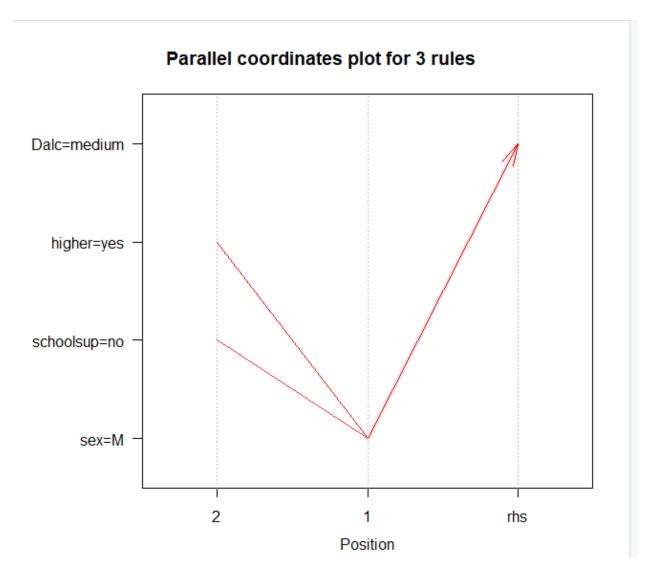


Figure 11: Parallel Coordinates Plot for the 3 rules With Dalc in RHS

The rules indicates that moderate daily alcohol consumption is positively correlated with male students with no school sup.

Conclusion

Association rules are useful in identifying frequent patterns in the data. They can scan a large database and provide many "if this, then that" rules. The method was efficient in answering our research question; however, multiple parameter must be tested to generate the desired rules. We derived from the analysis

Association Rules Mining

that students with low alcohol consumption are mostly single females who have internet. The data set provided in this analysis can be analyzed in various ways. Similar analysis could be done to evaluate the student's academic performance based on other attributes in the data. Or how alcohol may influence a student GPA or class attendance.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Alcohol-Related Disease Impact (ARDI). Atlanta, GA: CDC.

https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/STUDENT+ALCOHOL+CONSUMPTION

Appendix

Attributes for both student-mat.csv (Math course) and student-por.csv (Portuguese language course) datasets:

- school student's school (binary: 'GP' Gabriel Pereira or 'MS' Mousinho da Silveira)
- 2. sex student's sex (binary: 'F' female or 'M' male)
- 3. age student's age (numeric: from 15 to 22)
- 4. address student's home address type (binary: 'U' urban or 'R' rural)
- 5. famsize family size (binary: 'LE3' less or equal to 3 or 'GT3' greater than 3)
- 6. Pstatus parent's cohabitation status (binary: 'T' living together or 'A' apart)
- Medu mother's education (numeric: 0 none, 1 primary education (4th grade), 2
 5th to 9th grade, 3 secondary education or 4 higher education)
- 8. Fedu father's education (numeric: 0 none, 1 primary education (4th grade), 2 5th to 9th grade, 3 secondary education or 4 higher education)
- 9. Mjob mother's job (nominal: 'teacher', 'health' care related, civil 'services' (e.g. administrative or police), 'at_home' or 'other')
- 10. Fjob father's job (nominal: 'teacher', 'health' care related, civil 'services' (e.g. administrative or police), 'at_home' or 'other')
- 11. reason reason to choose this school (nominal: close to 'home', school 'reputation', 'course' preference or 'other')
- 12. guardian student's guardian (nominal: 'mother', 'father' or 'other')
- 13. traveltime home to school travel time (numeric: 1 <15 min., 2 15 to 30 min., 3 30 min. to 1 hour, or 4 >1 hour)

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- 14. studytime weekly study time (numeric: 1 <2 hours, 2 2 to 5 hours, 3 5 to 10 hours, or 4 >10 hours)
- 15. failures number of past class failures (numeric: n if 1<=n<3, else 4)
- 16. schoolsup extra educational support (binary: yes or no)
- 17. famsup family educational support (binary: yes or no)
- 18. paid extra paid classes within the course subject (Math or Portuguese) (binary: yes or no)
- 19. activities extra-curricular activities (binary: yes or no)
- 20. nursery attended nursery school (binary: yes or no)
- 21. higher wants to take higher education (binary: yes or no)
- 22. internet Internet access at home (binary: yes or no)
- 23. romantic with a romantic relationship (binary: yes or no)
- 24. famrel quality of family relationships (numeric: from 1 very bad to 5 excellent)
- 25. freetime free time after school (numeric: from 1 very low to 5 very high)
- 26. goout going out with friends (numeric: from 1 very low to 5 very high)
- 27. Dalc workday alcohol consumption (numeric: from 1 very low to 5 very high)
- 28. Walc weekend alcohol consumption (numeric: from 1 very low to 5 very high)
- 29. health current health status (numeric: from 1 very bad to 5 very good)
- 30. absences number of school absences (numeric: from 0 to 93)
 - **Copied directly from https://www.kaggle.com/uciml/student-alcohol-consumption/home

R Code for the analysis

```
#load libraries
library("arules")
library("arulesViz")
#Load the Student Alcohol consumption data
alcohol<-read.csv(file="student-mat.csv", head=TRUE, sep=";", as.is = FALSE)
#run the Str and summary commands to acquaint ourself with the data
str(alcohol)
summary(alcohol)
#graph and review daily alcohol consumption
hist(alcohol$Dalc)
#Discretize numerical variables and add labels for supervised learning
alcohol$age<-factor(alcohol$age)</pre>
alcohol$Medu <-factor(alcohol$Medu)</pre>
alcohol$Fedu <-factor(alcohol$Fedu)</pre>
alcohol$traveltime <-factor(alcohol$traveltime)</pre>
alcohol$studytime <-factor(alcohol$studytime, labels = c("<2hrs", "2 to 5 hrs", "5
to 10 hrs","over 10 hrs"))
```

```
alcohol$famrel
                   <-factor(alcohol$famrel,
                                                labels
                                                                c("very
                                                                            bad",
"bad", "fair", "good", "very good"))
alcohol$failures <-factor(alcohol$failures)</pre>
alcohol$freetime
                    <-factor(alcohol$freetime,
                                                  labels
                                                                 c("very
                                                                            low",
"low", "medium", "high", "very high"))
alcohol$goout
                   <-factor(alcohol$goout,
                                               labels
                                                                c("very
                                                                            low",
"low", "medium", "high", "very high"))
alcohol$Dalc
                  <-factor(alcohol$Dalc,
                                              labels
                                                               c("very
                                                                            low",
                                                         =
"low", "medium", "high", "very high"))
alcohol$Walc
                  <-factor(alcohol$Walc,
                                              labels
                                                                c("very
                                                                            low",
"low", "medium", "high", "very high"))
alcohol$health
                   <-factor(alcohol$health,
                                               labels
                                                                            bad",
                                                                c("very
"bad", "fair", "good", "very good"))
alcohol$G1<-discretize(alcohol$G1, method="interval", breaks=5)
alcohol$G2<-discretize(alcohol$G2, method="interval", breaks=5)
alcohol$G3<-discretize(alcohol$G3, method="interval", breaks=5)
alcohol$absences<-discretize(alcohol$absences, method="fixed", breaks=c(0, 5,
10, 15, 75))
# Structure and summary of the discretized data
str(alcohol)
summary(alcohol)
```

```
#Run apriori method rules to get rules for low daily alcohol use
alclow<-apriori(alcohol, parameter= list(supp=0.35, conf=0.8, minlen=2),
appearance=list(rhs=c("Dalc=very low", "Dalc=low"), default="lhs"))
alclow
#remove the redundant rules and display the remaining rules
rules.sorted <- sort(alclow, by="lift")
inspect(rules.sorted)
subset.matrix <- is.subset(rules.sorted, rules.sorted)</pre>
subset.matrix[lower.tri(subset.matrix, diag=T)] <- F
redundant <- colSums(subset.matrix, na.rm=T) >= 1
which(redundant)
rules.pruned <- rules.sorted[!redundant]</pre>
inspect(rules.pruned)
summary(rules.pruned)
# preview the top 5 rules by lift
inspect(head(sort(rules.pruned, by="lift")),n=5)
# reduce the number of rules by changing the min-supp to 0.3
alclow<-apriori(alcohol, parameter= list(supp=0.35, conf=0.8, minlen=2),
appearance=list(rhs=c("Dalc=very low", "Dalc=low"), default="lhs"))
```

```
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alclow
#Graph the data
plot(rules.pruned, method="paracoord", control=list(reorder=TRUE))
#Run apriori method rules to get rules for high daily alcohol use
alchigh<-apriori(alcohol, parameter= list(supp=0.05, conf=0.1, minlen=2),
                                      high",
                                                 "Dalc=high","Dalc=medium"),
appearance=list(rhs=c("Dalc=very
default="lhs"))
alchigh
# view the 3 generated rules by lift
inspect(head(sort(rules.pruned1, by="lift")))
#Graph the data
plot(rules.pruned1, method="paracoord", control=list(reorder=TRUE))
# End Script
```