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Study of various Improved Apriori Algorithms

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Abstract: The Apriori algorithm is a popular and a classical algorithm in data mining. The main idea of this approach is to find a useful pattern in various sets of data. The algorithm suffers from many drawbacks. This paper deals with the apriori algorithm, and various techniques that were proposed to improve the apriori algorithm. The paper discusses about various approaches use to overcome the drawback of the apriori algorithm as to improve its efficiency.

Keywords - Ariori algorithm, frequent pattern, association rule mining.

I. INTRODUCTION

Association rules problems were first brought out by Agrawal and others in 1993, which were researched by many other researchers after that. They optimized the original algorithm, such as bringing in random sampling, parallel thoughts, adding reference point, declining rules, changing storing framework, etc. Those works were aimed at improving the efficiency of algorithm rules, spreading the applications of association rules from initial business direction to other fields, such as education, scientific research, medicine, etc. [1] Association rules mining is to discover the associations and relations among item sets of large data. Association rules mining is an important branch of data mining research, and association rules is the most typical style of data mining. Presently, association rules mining problems are highly valued by the researchers in database, artificial intelligence, statistic, information retrieval, visible, information science, and many other fields. Many incredible results have been found out. What can efficiently catch the important relationships among data are simple forms of association rules and easily to explanation and understanding. Mining association rules problems from large database has become the most mature, important, and active research contents. Association rules mining is to discover the associations and relations among item sets of large data. Association rules mining is an important branch of data mining research, and association rules is the most typical style of data mining. Presently, association rules mining problems are highly valued by the researchers in database, artificial intelligence, statistic, information retrieval, visible, information science, and many other fields. Many incredible results have been found out. What can efficiently catch the important relationships among data are simple forms of association rules and easily to explanation and understanding. Mining association rules problems from large database has become the most mature, important, and active research contents.

II. ASSOCIATION RULE MINING

Before discussing apriori algorithm, it is necessary to have a look on association rule mining. Data mining has so many techniques, among all association rule is considered as most important and useful technique. It is used to discover the frequently occurring patterns in the database. It helps in discovering the important correlations in the database [4]. Association rule mining has many applications and is best known for decision making and constructive marketing. Association rule can be best explained by this example. If customer buys a shampoo then he may also buy a conditioner. It will help in suspecting the buying behavior of the customers. This can be used as a information which will be helpful in taking important decisions for marketing purposes. Association rule are considered interesting if they are able to satisfy both minimum support threshold and minimum confidence threshold. There are many application domains, in which association rules are used. Some of them are:[5][6].

- Knowledge extraction from software engineering metrics.
- Telecommunication networks
- Supermarket data management.
- Finding of patterns in biological fields.
- Market basket analysis

Consider the following example: Sample Database

Tid	Items Purchased
1	Shampoo
2	Shampoo, Soap, Paste, Face wash
3	Conditioner, Soap, Paste, Oil
4	Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Paste
5	Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Oil

Table: 1

The association rules for the above data:

- {Soap}->Paste
- {Shampoo, conditioner}->{Face Wash, Oil}
- {Shampoo, paste}-> {Conditioner}

Thus interesting patterns can be revealed, which are very beneficial, using association rules. Some common terminologies which are used in algorithm are:

- Itemset- It is the collection of itemsets in the database.
- Transaction- It is database entry which contains collection of items. It is denoted by T.
- Minimum set- This condition should be satisfied by the items. It helps in removing the in-frequent items. Candidate set- The only items which are considered for processing.
- Frequent Itemsets- The items which are frequently occurring, satisfies minimum support condition.
- Support- Suppose we are having two items X and Y, then support is a transaction that contains both X and Y. Confidence- Measures how often items in Y appear in transactions that contain X [77][88].

III. APRIORI ALGORITHM

Apriori algorithm is given by Agrawal. It is used to generate frequent itemsets from the database. The Apriori algorithm uses the Apriori principle, which says that the item set I containing item set (say) X is never large if item set X is not large [1][7] or All the non empty subset of frequent item set must be frequent also.

Notations	Being	Used	In A	priori	Algorithm
1 10 0000				PIIOII	

K	itemset Any itemset which consist of k items.
Ck	Set of Candidate k itemsets
Lk	Set of large k itemsets (frequent k itemsets).

Table: 2

These itemsets are derived for the candidate itemsets in each pass. Based on this principle, the Apriori algorithm generates a set of candidate item sets whose lengths are (k+1) from the large k item sets and prune those candidates, which does not contain large subset. Then, for the rest candidates, only those candidates that satisfy the minimum support threshold (decided previously by the user) are taken to be large (k+1)- item sets. The Apriori generate item sets by using only the large item sets found in the previous pass, without considering the transactions.

Steps involved are:

- 1. Generate the candidate 1-itemsets (C1) and write their support counts during the first scan.
- 2. Find the large 1-itemsets (L1) from C1 by eliminating all those candidates which does not satisfy the support criteria.
- 3. Join the L1 to form C2 and use Apriori principle and repeat until no frequent itemset is found.

Drawbacks of Apriori algorithm:

No doubt apriori algorithm is considered as the most beneficial and best algorithm for generating association rules, it too has some drawbacks. Some of these are listed below:

1. It takes time to scan the database.

- 2. There is a need of several iterations for mining of data.
- 3. Large numbers of in-frequent itemsets are generated and thus increase the space complexity.
- 4. More search space is required and I/O cost will be increased.

IV. IMPROVEMENTS IN APRIORI ALGORITHM

Association Rule Mining has attracted a lot of intention in research area of Data Mining and generation of association rules is completely dependent on finding Frequent Item sets. Various algorithms are available for this purpose.

Comparison Of Improved Versions Of Apriori Algorithm

Authors	Technique	Benefit		
Suhani Nagpal	-Temporary Tables for	-Low system overhead and good		
	scanning.,	operating performance [4].		
	- Logarithmic Decoding	-Efficiency higher than Apriori		
		Algorithm.		
Jaishree Singh, Hari Ram	Variable Size Of Transaction	- Reduces the I/O cost.		
	on the basis of which	- Reduce the size of Candidate Item		
	Transactions are reduced.	sets (Ck) [9].		
Jaio Yabing	-Double Pruning method is	For large datasets, it saves time and		
	used.	cost and increases the efficiency [8].		
	-States that before Ck come			
	out, Prune Lk-1			
Sunil Kumar	-Probability Matrix	Reduced Execution time than Apriori		
	has been used.	Algorithm [5].		
	-Uses Bottom Up			
	approach.			
Kiran R. U., and Reddy P.	-Specify multiple minimum	Different support equirements for		
K	supports to reflect the natures	different rules can be expresses		
	of the items and their varied	effectively[21].		
	frequencies in the database			
	called as minimum item			
	supports (MIS)			
J. S. Park, M. S. Chen, and	Combines the Apriori	-It doesn't generate conditional & sub		
P. S. Y	algorithm and FP tree	conditional patterns of the tree		
	structure of FP-growth	recursively		
	algorithm	- It works faster than Apriori and		
		almost as fast as FP-growth. [22]		
Sujatha Dandu,	Modify the APFT to include	-optimizes the FP-tree & removes		
B.L.Deekshatulu & Priti	correlated items & trim the	loosely associated items from the		
Chandra	non correlated itemsets	frequent itemsets[24].		

Table: 3

V CONCLUSION

Association rule mining is used to discover the frequently occurring patterns in the database. Apriori algorithm can be considered as one of the oldest algorithm in the field of association rule mining. This paper includes a brief overview of apriori algorithm and recent improvements done in the area of apriori algorithm. With the survey on various improved algorithms, it is concluded that the main focus is to generate less candidate sets which contains frequent items within a reasonable amount of time. Also, in future some more algorithms can be developed that requires only single scan for the database and are efficient for large databases.

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