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Analysis and Implement of Customer Purchase Transections Pattern Using Transaction Reduction Technique of Apriori Algorithm

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ABSTRACT

Understanding customer purchasing patterns behaviour, helps businesses to improve their strategies and customer satisfaction level in this highly competitive marketplace of today.

This research paper focuses on the use of the apriori algorithm in customer purchase data analysis to identify frequent itemsets and generate association rules to improve business. One important data mining procedure called the apriori algorithm is excellent in finding relationships and frequent item combinations in transaction datasets. When a group of items appears frequently together, it gradually develops to a larger itemset by comparing each individual item to a support threshold. This approach not only optimizes inventory management but it is also help to improves marketing strategies by identifying product relationships. The algorithm's effectiveness is based on well complete data pre-processing and leading with computational complexities. This investigation contains the practical application of apriori, which is the main source of the appliance's transaction data in the electronics shop to illustrate the way it works and also identify its potential in decision-making, customer satisfaction, and sales. Despite its advantages, challenges such as computational demands and scalability persist. The apriori algorithm very significant details into customer behaviour, supporting businesses plan strategically and improve overall operational effectiveness.

Using consumer transaction data with a minimum support value not less than 10% and a minimum confidence value of above 65%, information extracted by using apriori algorithms may be utilized to identify consumer purchasing patterns.

Keywords: Apriori Algorithm, Association Rules, Transaction pattern, Data Mining, Transaction Reduction Technique.

Introduction:

In today's fast-paced and highly competitive market, understanding customer purchasing patterns is essential for businesses to stay ahead. One very interesting application is analyzing the customer purchase patterns to achieve ideas about consumer behaviour[1]. There is where the Apriori algorithm performs exceptionally well. By analyzing these patterns, sellers can make more wiser judgments about to improve customer satisfaction, improve their marketing strategies, and also optimize inventory management[2]. Customer purchase patterns are the repeating behaviours and trends seen in customers' purchasing habits. This apriori algorithm identifies the frequent item sets i.e. "groups of items that appear together frequently" and by uses these to generate association rules[2,7]. Which is designed to operate on databases structure containing transactions. It's an effective approach to figuring out frequent item sets in transactional data, ensuring the Businesses to better understand which products are frequently purchased together[3]. Many business Companies may use these information for improving their strategies for marketing, increase overall satisfaction for customers and also developed product placements[4].

This algorithms use the Transaction Reduction approach to reduce transactions that cannot include frequent item sets[5]. This is based on the fact that if an itemset is not frequent, any transaction including it cannot contribute to identify frequent itemsets in following iterations. Remove items that are not included in any frequent item sets. This implies that if an item is not included in any of the previous step's frequent itemsets, any transaction including this item can be pruned because it will not be helpful in identifying of frequent item sets[4].

These patterns might include purchasing frequency, supported items, and frequently used product combinations. Businesses that identify these patterns may use to develop a better understanding of their consumers' requirements and preferences[6]. The Apriori Algorithm is useful for identifying frequent item sets and generating the association rules. These rules can provide valuable information into customer behavior, leading businesses to improve their products and enhance their sales[7]. Most seller companies implement data mining techniques in transaction databases system for help and support decision-making power and improve interactions between sellers and customers[8].

Literature review:

Apriori algorithm

Apriori algorithm works by identifying the most frequent individual items i.e. Those that match the support threshold and then extending them to bigger itemsets that appear frequently in the dataset[7]. This iterative approach continues until the no more frequent itemsets have been identified.

Data mining

The extracting usable information from large datasets is an important challenge in data mining. Data mining is the process of identifying patterns, correlations, and anomalies in huge data sets in order to anticipate outcomes[9]. Data mining helps businesses to make data-driven decisions through analyzing data from many different perspectives and summarizing it into significant information[10,11].

IT is a fundamental component of knowledge discovery in databases (KDD), which involves gathering useful information from big datasets[12]. The Apriori Algorithm is a major data mining technique that is commonly used to extract mining association rules[9,12]. This article explores data mining in the context of the Apriori Algorithm, including its relevance, functionality, and practical applications.

Importance of data mining:

There are some important of data mining:

i. Identifying trends:

Data mining enables businesses to identify patterns and trends in massive amounts of transactional data. Companies may gain a knowledge of their consumers' behavior, preferences, tastes, and purchasing patterns by analyzing trends[13,14]. For example, a retailer may note that certain items are frequently purchased together, presenting a potential for cross-selling and upselling.

Market and consumer trends: In order to adaptively respond with their strategy, businesses can employ historical data of consumer preference fluctuations. An instance would be an electronics store that notice an increasing demand for environmentally friendly products and adapts its inventory appropriately[14].

ii. Predictive analysis:

The analysis of past transaction data enables the predictive analytics to forecast future customer actions. Businesses may use statistical models plus machine learning algorithms in order to come up with a prediction on what specific items customers will buy and when they will buy them or even how many they are likely to purchase[9,14]. It allows businesses to optimize inventory management, develop marketing campaigns, and improve sales techniques. It helps for Risk Management for Businesses can identify possible risks and develop strategies to manage them[15]. For example, businesses in finance utilize predictive models to identify possible credit issues and fraud.

iii. Decision support:

Data mining provides vital support for decision-making procedures. Businesses may make evidence-based decision by transforming raw transaction data into usable insights[16]. In one instance, a business may utilize data mining to identify the optimal timing to launch a new product or to discover underperforming areas that require attention. It supports the development of long-term strategies and goals[17]. Like that, a corporation may utilize data analysis to enter new markets or diversify its range of products based on market demand.

iv. Customer insights:

Understanding consumers is essential for every business. Data mining provides complete details into the customer preferences, demographics, and behaviors. This information allows the businesses to personalize their products and services, improve marketing interaction, and increase customer satisfaction[18].

For example, a business may utilize data mining to organize customers into different groups based on their purchase patterns of behavior, and then develop corresponding marketing strategies for each group.

Benefits of apriori algorithm:

The Apriori algorithm offers numerous benefits to businesses:

I. Improved decision-making power or capability

Apriori algorithm builds decision-making capability by finding frequently used item sets and developing association rules from massive data sets[6]. Businesses can use these information for making strategic decisions. The seller might use the algorithm to identify which products are frequently purchased together and then improve the store layouts or promotional methods appropriately.

II. Enhanced customer experience:

The Apriori algorithm helps businesses to improve their customer experience by identifying patterns and relationships in customer transactions[4]. Understanding which items customers frequently purchase together allows businesses to deliver tailored suggestions and targeted promotions. This not only efficiently serves the demands of the customer, but it also enhances their fulfilment and loyalty[19].

III. Increased sales and revenue

The information which are generated from the Apriori algorithm can lead to in improved sales and income. Businesses can implement productive crossselling and upsell technique by identifying products that are frequently purchased together[20]. I.e. identifying related products based on a customer's purchasing history might increase average order value and overall revenue.

Challenges and limitations:

I. Computational complexity

One of the most major problems associated with the Apriori Algorithm is its computational complexity. As the dataset develops in size, it also increases the number of potential item sets, which leads to more time for processing and resource consumption[21].

II. Scalability issues

Scalability remains a major challenge, especially for large-scale businesses. Researchers have investigated several strategies for increasing the algorithm's scalability, including parallel processing and distributed computing technologies[4].

III. Data quality and preprocessing

The quality of the data utilized for analysis has an important impact on the outcomes. Effective data preprocessing, including cleaning and transforming data, is essential for achieving accurate and useful insights from the Apriori Algorithm. Accuracy of Algorithm is strongly dependent on the quality of the input data[22].

IV. Computational complexity

The Apriori Algorithm can be computationally costly, especially with large datasets. The number of potential itemsets increases exponentially with the number of items, resulting in excessive processing time and resource utilization[4].

An iterative approach of an apriori algorithm follows:

1. Frequent itemsets generation:

It proceeds by identifying individual items that meet the support threshold, which are subsequently extended to larger item sets as long as they are present frequently in the dataset[22]. Frequent itemsets are groups of items that appear in a transaction dataset with a frequency that is greater than a user-defined threshold. For instance, in an electronic store, a frequent itemset could be {laptop,mouse} if these items are frequently purchased together.

2. Rules of association generation:

Once frequent item sets are identified, the algorithm generates association rules that describe how items are associated with other items. Association rules are "if-then" implications that define how the appearance of one thing correlates with the occurrence of another[22,23]. For example, an association rule could be "if a customer purchases a laptop, they are likely to purchases External Hard Drive.

- 1. The system scans the database to get a 1-itemet candidate (set of items consisting of 1 item) and calculates the support value. Then the support value is compared with the specified minimum support, if the value is greater or equal to the minimum support then the itemset is included in a large itemset.
- 2. Itemset which is not included in large itemsets is not included in the next iteration in pruning.
- 3. In the second iteration the system will use large itemset results in the first iteration (L1) to form the second itemset candidate (L2). In the next iteration, the system will use the results of large itemset in the iteration and then will use large itemset results in the previous iteration (Lk-1) to form the following itemset candidate (Lk). The system will join Lk-1 with Lk-1 to get Lk, as in the previous iteration the system will delete / prune the itemset combination which is not included in the large itemset.
- 4. After the join operation, the new itemset result from the join process is calculated for support.
- 5. The candidate formation process which consists of a join and prune process will continue to be carried out until the candidate itemset set is null, or there are no more candidates to be formed.
- 6. After that, the result of frequent itemset was formed an association rule that met the specified support and confidence values.
- 7. In the formation of association rule, the same value is considered as one value.

8. The association rule that is formed must meet the specified minimum value.

Apriori algorithm analyst:

The Apriori algorithm processes by identifying the number of frequent individual items from a dataset and extending that number into larger itemsets, provided that those itemsets appear frequently in the database[24]. The core concepts of the Apriori algorithm are support, confidence, and lift.

Support:

The frequency with which an itemset appears in the dataset (itemset).

The support value of an item is obtained by the formula

The support value of 2 items is obtained from the following formula:

Support (X, Y)= $P(X \cap Y)$

Confidence:

The likelihood that an item Y is purchased when item X is purchased. Or, The likelihood that a transaction containing one item will also contain another item.

Lift: The ratio of the observed support to that expected if X and Y were independent. OR, The ratio of observed support to expected support if the items were independent. A lift greater than 1 indicates a positive association between the items.

The Lift Ratio shows the power possessed by the rules of association result. [21.24]. Overall, the Lift Ratio summarizes the strength of associations between products [24]. The formula of the Lift Ratio can be seen in equation

 $\text{Lift ratio} = (X \to Y) = \frac{(Confidance X \cap Y)}{(\sum Support(X)support(Y)} \dots 4$

Results analyzing methodology and discussion:

Steps in the Apriori Algorithm:

I. Data collection and preparation

The first step is gathering transaction data. This is the collection of data from the sales records database of electronic store. There is the 20 number of total transaction whereas product category is 27.

Table:-Total of sales data

S no.	Table name description	Records
1	Total no of transaction	20
2	Total product category	27
3	Transaction detail	76

The data that will be used in processing data mining is transaction data that has an appearance with a minimum support of 10%. The variable used in this study is the product category of sales transactions in 20 records, namely transactions with a minimum of 2 product categories in one shopping basket.

II. Preprocessing data

Data preprocessing involves cleaning and formatting the data to ensure it's suitable for analysis. This might include removing duplicates, handling missing values, and transforming the data into a format compatible with the Apriori Algorithm[22].

III. Selection of attributes

In this process data will be filtered and converted into tabular data by excel so that it becomes data that is ready to be processed in the data mining system process with apriori algorithm[22]. From the total no of transection data amounting to approximately 76 data product records of the data that is ready to use. There are 20 transection data records with the attributes used, namely the product category.

IV. Generating frequent itemsets

Using the Apriori Algorithm, frequent itemsets are generated by identifying sets of items that appear together in transactions with a frequency above the support threshold[24].

V. Deriving association rules

Once the frequent itemsets are identified, association rules are derived to uncover relationships between items[23]. For example, if {laptop, External Hard Drive} is a frequent itemset, the rule "if laptop, then External Hard Drive" might be derived with a certain confidence level.

For this case study, electronics store looking to analyze customer transactions. The store collects data on all purchases, including product transections and timestamps.

Interpreting the output of the Apriori algorithm is crucial for gaining actionable insights. The frequent itemsets and association rules provide valuable information about item co-occurrence patterns[23,24]

Case studies and practical implementations:

The data used for this research, namely electronics store transaction data obtained from case studies is a history of purchases made by customers[9]. However, in this paper, the transaction data used are only 20 transaction data that started from T1 toT20. After transaction data is presented as table 1, the transaction data is modelled by applying the Apriori Algorithm to look for the associated association rules, then look for support and confidence values.

Customer purchase transaction data sample:

The sample data used in this study were taken from electronics store and field observations. Table 1 below attaches a sample of purchase transaction data.

Table-1

Customer purchase transaction data

S no.	Transaction	Product items
1	T1	Laptop, HUB, Joystick, External Hard Drive, Flashdisk
2	T2	Mousepad, Laptop Charger
3	Т3	Flashdisk, Laptop, Keyboard, External Hard Drive
4	T4	Laptop charger, Joystick, Printer
5	Т5	Laptop, HVS Paper, USB cable, Repeater, External Hard Drive, Printer Ink, Mouse
6	T6	RAM, External Hard Drive, Mother board, Pendrive, Laptop Charger
7	T7	Processor cooling fan, Pendrive, Flashdisk, Bridge
8	Т8	HVS Paper, Laptop Charger, Keyboard
9	Т9	Headset, Scanner, Processor
10	T10	Mother board, SMPS, Scanner, Speaker
11	T11	RJ45 connector, Router, Network card, Flashdisk
12	T12	RAM, Flashdisk, Joystick, Scanner
13	T13	Pendrive, Scanner, Printer
14	T14	Processor, Laptop Charger, Mousepad
15	T15	Router, Network card, HDMI cable, Scanner
16	T16	Scanner, Printer, HDMI cable
17	T17	Monitor, Projector, Keyboard
18	T18	HVS Paper, printer, Card Reader, Laptop
19	T19	Laptop bag, HDMI cable, Mouse, Speaker
20	T20	Printer Ink, SMPS, Webcam, Mouse, Card Reader

The table-1 shows the Customer purchase Transaction data, the association rule calculation is performed using the Apriori algorithm to produce rules that have support and confidence values. The results of calculations with formulas 1 and 2 can be seen in table 2. Based on the steps in the calculation process of the association rules, the following results are obtained in the table -2.

Calculation on K=1 (support_1-itemset) with support value > 10% and confidence value > 65%

Table -2

Support_1-itemset(K=1)

S no.	Item	Amount	Support (%)
1.	Laptop	4	4/20 * 100 = 20
2.	Joystick	3	3/20 * 100 = 15
3.	External Hard Drive	4	4/20 * 100 = 20
4.	Mousepad	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
5	Laptop Charger	5	5/20 * 100 = 25
6	Flashdisk	5	5/20 * 100 = 25
7	Keyboard	3	3/20 * 100 = 15
8	Printer	4	4/20 * 100 = 20
9	HVS Paper	3	3/20 * 100 = 15
10	Printer Ink	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
11	Mouse	3	3/20 * 100 = 15
12	RAM	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
13	Mother board	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
14	Pendrive	3	3/20 * 100 = 15
15	Scanner	6	6/20 * 100 = 30
16	Processor	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
17	SMPS	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
18	Speaker	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
19	Router	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
20	Network card	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
21	HDMI cable	3	3/20 * 100 = 15
22	Card Reader	2	2/20 * 100 = 10

Final association rules with apriori algorithms. The results of the rules of the association are based on the minimum confidence and minimum support that has been fulfilled as follows:

Support rules of association for 2-itemset, K=2

Table-3

Support_2 itemset (K=2)

S no.	Item-1	Item-2	Amount	Support%
1.	Laptop	External hard drive	3	3/20 * 100 = 15
2.	Laptop	HVS paper	3	3/20 * 100 = 15
3.	Laptop	Flashdisk	2	2/20 * 100 = 10

4.	Joystick	Flashdisk	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
5.	External Hard Drive	Flashdisk	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
6.	Mouse	Printer ink	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
7.	Mousepad	laptop charge	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
8.	Printer	scanner	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
9.	Scanner	HDMI cable	2	2/20 * 100 = 10
10.	Router	Network card	2	2/20 * 100 = 10

Final association rules:

Association rules are sequential based on minimum support and minimum confidence that meet the following:

Table-4

Confidence of itemset 2

S no	A→B	Support%	Support %	Confidence%
		$\mathbf{X} \cap \mathbf{Y}$	X	
1	Laptop \rightarrow External Hard Drive	3/20 * 100 = 15	4/20 * 100 = 20	3/4*100=75
2	External Hard Drive →Laptop	3/20 * 100 = 15	4/20 * 100 = 20	3/4*100=75
3	Laptop \rightarrow HVS paper	3/20 * 100 = 15	4/20 * 100 = 20	3/4*100=75
4	HVS paper →Laptop	3/20 * 100 = 15	3/20 * 100 = 15	3/3*100=100
5	Laptop →Flashdisk	2/20 * 100 = 10	4/20 * 100 = 20	2/4*100=50
6	Flashdisk →Laptop	2/20 * 100 = 10	5/20 * 100 = 25	2/5*100=40
7	$Flashdisk \rightarrow Joystick$	2/20 * 100 = 10	5/20 * 100 = 25	2/5*100=40
8	Joystick \rightarrow Flashdisk	2/20 * 100 = 10	3/20 * 100 = 15	2/3*100=66.67
9	External Hard Drive →Flashdisk	2/20 * 100 = 10	4/20 * 100 = 20	2/4*100=50
10	Flashdisk→ External Hard Drive	2/20 * 100 = 10	5/20 * 100 = 25	2/5*100=40
11	Mouse \rightarrow Printer ink	2/20 * 100 = 10	3/20 * 100 = 15	2/3*100=66.67
12	Printer ink →Mouse	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/2*100=100
13	Mousepad →laptop charge	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/2*100=100
14	laptop charge→ Mousepad	2/20 * 100 = 10	5/20 * 100 = 25	2/5*100=40
15	Printer →scanner	2/20 * 100 = 10	4/20 * 100 = 20	2/4*100=50
16	scanner→ Printer	2/20 * 100 = 10	6/20 * 100 = 30	2/6*100=33.33
17	Scanner →HDMI cable	2/20 * 100 = 10	6/20 * 100 = 30	2/6*100=33.33
18	HDMI cable →Scanner	2/20 * 100 = 10	3/20 * 100 = 15	2/3*100=66.67
19	Router \rightarrow Network card	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/2*100=100
20	Network card→ Router	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/2*100=100

Table-4 shows that the support value of the two items is greater than the predetermined minimum support value is 10 transactions, from table 3, 4 we can see that it is the confidence value of a combination of 10 existing transactions. Then the calculation process that will be carried out is to calculate the lift test value to help see the amount of consumer confidence in buying the product and look for the support value and the confidence value of the 3 existing itemset.

Final association rules:

Association rules are sequential based on minimum support and minimum confidence that meet the Support rules of association for 3-itemset K=3

Table-5

Support_3 itemset(K=3)

S no.	Item1	Item2	Item3	Total	Support%
1	Laptop	Flashdisk	External hard drive	2	2/20 * 100 = 10

Table-5 shows that the support value of the three items with predetermined minimum support value is 10 for a transactions.

Table-6

Confidence itemset-3

S no.	X→Y	Support%	Support %	Confidence%
		$\mathbf{X} \cap \mathbf{Y}$	X	
1	laptop→flash disk, External Hard Drive	2/20 * 100 = 10	4/20 * 100 = 20	2/4*100=50
2	flash disk \rightarrow External Hard Drive laptop	2/20 * 100 = 10	5/20 * 100 = 25	2/4*100=40
3	External Hard Drive →flash disk, laptop	2/20 * 100 = 10	4/20 * 100 = 20	2/4*100=40
4	laptop, flash disk →External Hard Drive	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/2*100=100
5	External Hard Drive, flash disk \rightarrow laptop	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/20 * 100 = 10	2/2*100=100
6	laptop, External Hard Drive \rightarrow flash disk	2/20 * 100 = 10	3/20 * 100 = 15	2/3*100=66.67

From table-6 it can be seen that it is the confidence value of the existing transaction combination. It obtained, the results of rules that occur when using 20 transactions with a minimum absolute support of 10% and a minimum confidence of 65% as below.

Analyzing result:

Confidence $(X \rightarrow Y)$ support of Y

Table -7

Confidence with lift ratio

S no.	X→Y	Confidence%	Lift ratio
1	laptop, flash disk →External Hard Drive	2/2*100=100	100/20=5
2	External Hard Drive, flash disk \rightarrow laptop	2/2*100=100	100/20=5
3	laptop, External Hard Drive \rightarrow flash disk	2/3*100=66.67	66.67/25=2.67
4	Laptop →External Hard Drive	3/4*100=75	75/20=3.75
5	External Hard Drive →Laptop	3/4*100=75	75/20=3.75
6	Laptop \rightarrow HVS paper	3/4*100=75	75/15=3
7	HVS paper →Laptop	3/3*100=100	100/20=5
8	Joystick \rightarrow Flashdisk	2/3*100=66.67	66.67/25=2.67
9	Mouse \rightarrow Printer ink	2/3*100=66.67	66.67/10=6.67
10	Printer ink →Mouse	2/2*100=100	100/15=6.67

11	Mousepad →laptop charge	2/2*100=100	100/25=4
12	HDMI cable →Scanner	2/3*100=66.67	66.67/30=2.22
13	Router \rightarrow Network card	2/2*100=100	100/10=10
14	Network card \rightarrow Router	2/2*100=100	100/10=10

Table-7 is the final result of the calculations that have been carried out. The results for the combination of 2 and 3 items with the highest confidence value of 100% and their lift ratio value

Result:

There is the final product with 100% confidence with minimum support and lift ratio

Product	Confidence	Lift ratio
If customer buy Laptop, flashdisk, then the customer will also buy External Hard Drive	100%	5
If customer buy External Hard Drive, flashdisk, then the customer will also buy laptop	100%	5
If customer buy HVS paper, then the customer will also buy laptop	100%	5
If customer buy Printer ink, then the customer will also buy mouse	100%	6.67
If customer buy Mousepad, then the customer will also buy laptop charge	100%	4
If customer buy router, then the customer will also buy network card or vice versa	100%	10

Based on user observation and testing, the Consumer Purchase Pattern Information System shows that the application of the Apriori algorithm is very good to be implemented because it can produce a purchase pattern based on the transaction data used in this study. It is expected that the results of consumer purchasing patterns can help minimarket managers in making decisions to get even better profits.

Conclusion:

The apriori algorithm can analyze transaction data at electronics Store by finding association rules that meet the minimum support and minimum confidence requirements. The results by inserting the minimum support and confidence that is if the level of the minimum support is 10% and confidence 65%. Then the resulting rules are as many as 14 rules, based on the items in the transaction From the results of the analysis in this research, it can be concluded that for the combination of 2 or 3 items with the highest confidence value of 100% with 10% support, there are 6 rules that have a value of 100% confidence and 10% support, Based on the final results of the association rules in this study, for a combination of 3 items, if a consumer buys a Laptop, flashdisk then they will also buy External Hard Drive and consumer buys External Hard Drive, flashdisk then they will also buy laptop with the lift ratio value is 5, for a combination of 2 items, if a consumer buys HVS paper, then the customer will also buy laptop with lift ratio 4, If customer buy router, then the customer will also buy network card or vice versa with lift ratio 10.

Data mining, particularly through the use of the Apriori Algorithm, plays a pivotal role in uncovering hidden patterns in large datasets. This powerful tool helps businesses understand customer behavior, optimize marketing strategies, manage inventory efficiently, and enhance the overall customer experience. Despite its challenges, the Apriori Algorithm remains a cornerstone in data mining, and ongoing advancements in technology promise to expand its capabilities and applications even further.

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