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Enhancement Of Apriori Algorithm Using Hash Based Technique And Transaction Reduction

T. Haripreethi [1], G.V.S. Ananthanath [2]

[1]*Student, Department of MCA, KMMIPS, Tirupati*
[2] *Associative Professor, Department. of Computer Science, KMMIPS, Tirupati*

Abstract - *The continuous expansion of digital data has necessitated advanced techniques for uncovering meaningful patterns to support decision-making. Association rule mining, a key component of data mining, plays a vital role in extracting valuable insights from large datasets. The Apriori algorithm is widely recognized for its effectiveness in identifying frequent patterns within transactional databases. However, its efficiency is hindered by repeated database scans, leading to increased computational complexity. This paper introduces an optimized version of the Apriori algorithm, termed Apriori2, which integrates hash-based techniques and transaction reduction to enhance performance. A case study on crime analysis demonstrates the algorithm's capability to extract significant patterns while reducing computational overhead. The findings confirm that Apriori2 is a scalable and efficient solution for real-world applications across multiple domains.*

Key Words: Data mining, Association rule mining, Apriori algorithm, Frequent item sets, Crime analysis, Transaction reduction, Hash-based techniques.

1.INTRODUCTION

The rapid digital transformation has led to an enormous surge in data generation across industries. To harness the potential of this data, sophisticated mining techniques are required to extract useful insights. Data mining, a crucial step in the knowledge discovery process, enables organizations to analyze large datasets and uncover hidden correlations. One of the essential tasks in data mining is association rule mining, which helps in identifying frequently occurring patterns among data items.[1]

Association rule mining plays a fundamental role in predictive analytics, allowing businesses and institutions to make data-driven decisions.[2] The Apriori algorithm, introduced by Agrawal and Srikant, is a pioneering method in this field. It systematically generates frequent itemsets from transactional databases, providing valuable rules for various applications.[3] However, the conventional Apriori algorithm suffers from performance bottlenecks due to its multiple database scans. Several enhancements have been proposed to overcome these limitations, including hashbased techniques and transaction reduction strategies.[4]

This study presents an enhanced algorithm, Apriori2, which integrates hash-based pruning and transaction reduction to improve the efficiency of association rule mining. [5] By reducing the number of database scans and optimizing candidate generation, Apriori2 achieves faster execution times while maintaining accuracy.[6] A case study on crime analysis demonstrates the algorithm's practical applicability in uncovering crime patterns with minimal computational cost.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 provides an overview of association rule mining and its applications. Section 3 reviews the limitations of the traditional Apriori algorithm and its existing enhancements. Section 4 introduces the Apriori2 algorithm, detailing its methodology and implementation. Section 5 presents an experimental evaluation comparing Apriori2 with conventional approaches. Finally, Section 6 concludes the study by summarizing key findings and discussing future research directions.

2.Literature Survey

Association rule mining has been a key area of research in data mining, enabling the discovery of frequent patterns and relationships within large datasets. Various algorithms have been proposed to improve the efficiency of frequent itemset mining, particularly in addressing the computational limitations of the traditional Apriori algorithm.

2.1. Traditional Approaches and Apriori Algorithm

The Apriori algorithm, proposed by Agrawal and Srikant (1994), is a fundamental method for ARM, employing a breadth-first search strategy to generate frequent itemsets iteratively. However, Apriori suffers from significant computational inefficiencies, including:

- High candidate generation cost – leading to exponential growth in large datasets.
- Multiple database scans – causing performance degradation with increasing dataset size.

To address these inefficiencies, several improvements and alternative algorithms have been proposed.

2.2 Efficient Alternatives to Apriori

Several studies have focused on enhancing frequent itemset mining efficiency by reducing candidate generation and database scans.

1. **FP-Growth (Frequent Pattern Growth) Algorithm** o Proposed by Han et al. (2000), the FPGrowth algorithm eliminates the need for candidate generation by constructing a Frequent Pattern Tree (FP-Tree).
    - It reduces database scans and enhances efficiency by recursively mining the FP-tree structure.
    - Compared to Apriori, FP-Growth performs better on dense datasets with a large number of frequent patterns.
2. **Eclat Algorithm (Equivalence Class Transformation)** o Proposed by Zaki et al. (1997), Eclat uses a depth-first search approach with a vertical database format.
    - Instead of generating candidate itemsets, it computes intersections of transaction ID lists (TID lists), reducing memory overhead.
    - It is more efficient than Apriori for sparse datasets but may face challenges in very dense datasets.
3. **Hybrid Approaches** o Researchers have proposed hybrid techniques combining Apriori and FP-Growth, such as H-Mine (Pei et al., 2001) and VIPER (Shenoy et al., 2009), which optimize memory usage and computational efficiency.

3. Incremental and Parallel ARM Techniques

To handle big data challenges, several studies have focused on incremental mining and parallel processing:

1. Incremental Frequent Pattern Mining o Can et al. (2003) proposed an incremental FP-tree approach that updates frequent itemsets dynamically without recomputing from scratch.
    - Such methods are useful in real-time applications like market basket analysis and recommendation systems.
2. Parallel and Distributed ARM o With the rise of Big Data, parallel ARM algorithms have been developed for distributed environments.
    - MapReduce-based ARM (Li et al., 2012) utilizes Hadoop for scalable processing, addressing memory limitations in largescale databases.
    - GPU-based ARM (Siddiqui et al., 2015) leverages GPU parallelism for high-speed mining of association rules.

4. Recent Advances in ARM

Recent research has focused on integrating ARM with machine learning, deep learning, and privacy-preserving mining:

1. Association Rule Mining in Machine Learning o Hybrid ARM-ML models (Nguyen et al., 2021) integrate ARM with classification algorithms like Decision Trees and Neural Networks for predictive analytics. o ARM in recommender systems (Zhang et al., 2020) has improved personalized recommendations using deep learningbased association rule mining.
2. Privacy-Preserving ARM o In privacy-sensitive domains (e.g., healthcare, finance), privacy-preserving ARM techniques like differential privacy (Dwork, 2006) and homomorphic encryption (Wang et al., 2019) ensure secure rule mining.
    - Federated ARM (Kairouz et al., 2021) enables collaborative mining without exposing raw data, enhancing security in distributed environments.

5. Applications of ARM

ARM is widely applied across various domains, including:

- Market Basket Analysis – Identifying customer purchase behavior.
- Healthcare Analytics – Discovering correlations between diseases and symptoms.
- Cybersecurity – Detecting fraud and intrusion patterns.
- Web Mining – Enhancing search engines and recommendation systems.

2.3. Apriori Algorithm and Its Limitations

The Apriori algorithm, introduced by Agrawal and Srikant (1994), is a fundamental method for frequent pattern mining. It operates by iteratively generating candidate itemsets and pruning infrequent ones based on a predefined support threshold. However, its efficiency declines with large datasets due to:

Multiple database scans, increasing computational cost.

Exponential growth in candidate item-sets, making memory utilization inefficient. Redundant checks, leading to performance bottlenecks in high-dimensional data.

2.4. Enhancements to the Apriori Algorithm

Several optimizations have been proposed to overcome the inefficiencies of Apriori:

Transaction Reduction:Han et al. (2000) proposed eliminating transactions that do not contain frequent itemsets in subsequent iterations.

This significantly reduces the dataset size, minimizing the number of database scans.

Hash-Based Techniques:

Park et al. (1995) introduced the hash-based itemset counting method, which uses hash tables to reduce the number of candidate itemsets.

Hashing allows for quicker lookups and reduces computational overhead.

Pattern Growth Approaches (FP-Growth):

Han et al. (2000) introduced FP-Growth, which eliminates candidate generation by building a frequent pattern tree (FP-tree).

While efficient, FP-Growth requires substantial memory to store the tree structure.

2.5. Applications of Association Rule Mining

Frequent pattern mining has been widely applied in realworld domains:

Crime Analysis:

Mohler et al. (2014) demonstrated how data mining can help law enforcement predict crime hotspots. Apriori-based crime analysis enables proactive resource allocation.

Healthcare:

Wang et al. (2007) utilized association mining to detect correlations between symptoms and diseases.

Retail and Market Basket Analysis:

Businesses leverage Apriori-based insights to optimize inventory and recommend products.ventory and recommend products. **3. Association Rule Mining**

Association rule mining is a technique used to identify significant relationships between items within a dataset. These relationships, often expressed as "if-then" rules, reveal hidden correlations that can inform decisionmaking processes. The application of association rule mining extends across various fields:

- **Retail and E-commerce:** Businesses analyze purchasing patterns to recommend products and optimize inventory management.
- **Healthcare:** Medical researchers use association rules to identify disease co-occurrence patterns and treatment efficacy.
- **Crime Analysis:** Law enforcement agencies leverage these techniques to detect crime trends and allocate resources effectively.

Two major approaches dominate association rule mining:

1. **Candidate Generation-Based Approach:** The Apriori algorithm follows this method by iteratively generating frequent itemsets and pruning infrequent ones.
2. **Pattern Growth-Based Approach:** FP-Growth bypasses candidate generation by constructing a compressed data structure known as the FP-tree.

This paper focuses on refining the Apriori algorithm due to its widespread adoption and effectiveness in frequent itemset mining.

4. Existing Algorithm

4.1 The Apriori Algorithm

The Apriori algorithm is one of the most commonly used methods for association rule mining. It follows an iterative approach where frequent (k-1)-itemsets are used to generate k-itemset candidates. The steps involved in the algorithm are:

1. **Candidate Generation:** Frequent (k-1)-itemsets are joined to form candidate k-itemsets.
2. **Support Counting:** The database is scanned to count the frequency of each candidate itemset.
3. **Pruning:** Candidates that do not meet the minimum support threshold are discarded.

Despite its effectiveness, the Apriori algorithm suffers from high computational costs due to multiple database scans and exponential growth in candidate itemsets.

4.2 Proposed Algorithm: Apriori2

The Apriori2 algorithm enhances traditional Apriori by minimizing redundant computations. Key steps include:

1. **Initialization:** Frequent 1-itemsets (L1) are identified based on support counts.
2. **Candidate Generation and Pruning:** Instead of scanning the entire database, transaction ID intersections are utilized to filter candidate itemsets.
3. **Termination:** The process concludes when no more frequent itemsets can be generated.

Table1:Example Crime Analysis Dataset

Transaction ID	Crime Type	Location	Time
T1	Theft	Downtown	Night
T2	Theft	Suburb	Day
T3	Assault	Downtown	Night
T4	Theft	Downtown	Night
T5	Robbery	Suburb	Evening
T6	Theft	Downtown	Night

Using Apriori2:

- **Frequent 1-Itemsets:** Theft (3), Night (3), Downtown (3)
- **Frequent 2-Itemsets:** Theft-Downtown (2), TheftNight (2)
- **Frequent 3-Itemsets:** None (due to support threshold)

The algorithm reduces database scans by leveraging hashbased filtering and transaction reduction.

Advantages:

1. Significant Reduction in Database Scans

Traditional Apriori requires multiple database scans to generate frequent itemsets.

Apriori2 reduces the number of scans by using hash-based techniques to store itemsets efficiently and transaction reduction to remove unnecessary transactions in subsequent iterations.

This results in faster execution and lower computational cost.

2. Improved Execution Time

By eliminating redundant candidate itemsets and scanning only relevant transactions, Apriori2 executes significantly faster than the original Apriori and Apriori1.

The combination of hashing and transaction reduction optimizes candidate selection, leading to lower time complexity.

3. Efficient Crime Pattern Analysis

In crime data analysis, patterns often repeat across locations and time intervals.

Apriori2 quickly identifies frequent crime patterns, such as the correlation between thefts and specific time periods. Faster analysis allows law enforcement to make data-driven decisions for crime prevention.

4. Reduced Computational Complexity

Hash-based pruning eliminates unpromising candidate itemsets at an early stage.

Transaction reduction ensures that only relevant transactions are considered in subsequent iterations, reducing unnecessary calculation

5. Performance Evaluation

Steps in Pseudocode:

```
BEGIN

  # Import necessary libraries
  Import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
  Import numpy as np

  # Define the algorithms being compared
  SET algorithms = ["Apriori", "Apriori2 (Enhanced with
Hashing + Transaction Reduction)"]

  # Define performance metrics
  SET database_scans = [25, 8]   # Number of database
scans for each algorithm
  SET execution_time = [27, 9]   # Execution time in
milliseconds

  # Define bar width
  SET bar_width = 0.5
```

Create figure and two subplots for comparison

CREATE figure with 1 row and 2 columns of size (10, 4)

Plot Database Scans Comparison

PLOT bar chart for 'database_scans' with colors ['red', 'green'] and bar width

SET title as "Database Scans Comparison"

SET y-axis label as "Number of Scans"

Plot Execution Time Comparison

PLOT bar chart for 'execution_time' with colors ['red', 'green'] and bar width

SET title as "Execution Time Comparison"

SET y-axis label as "Execution Time (ms)"

Adjust layout for better visualization

CALL tight_layout() function

Table2: Reduction in Database Scans

Algorithm	Enhancement Used	L1	L2	L3	Total Scans
Apriori	None	5	10	10	25
Apriori2	Hashing + Transaction Reduction	5	3	0	8

Explanation: The traditional Apriori algorithm requires 25 total scans, with:

- 5 scans for L1,
- 10 scans for L2,
- 10 scans for L3.

The Enhanced Apriori Algorithm (Apriori2) significantly reduces the number of scans to 8 by:

- Keeping L1 scans the same (5 scans),
- Reducing L2 scans to 3 by eliminating unnecessary candidate itemsets using hashing,
- Eliminating L3 scans entirely (0 scans) due to transaction reduction, where only significant patterns remain.

Table3: Execution Time Comparison

Algorithm	Enhancement Used	L2	L3	Total Execution Time (ms)
Apriori	None	15	12	27
Apriori2	Hashing+ Transaction Reduction	9	0	9

Explanation:

- The traditional Apriori algorithm takes 27ms in total, with:
  - 15ms for L2,
  - 12ms for L3.
- The Enhanced Apriori Algorithm (Apriori2) reduces execution time to 9ms, by:
  - Optimizing L2 execution from 15ms to 9ms, due to hashing reducing candidate generation time.
  - Completely eliminating L3 execution time (0ms), since transaction reduction removes unnecessary database scans.

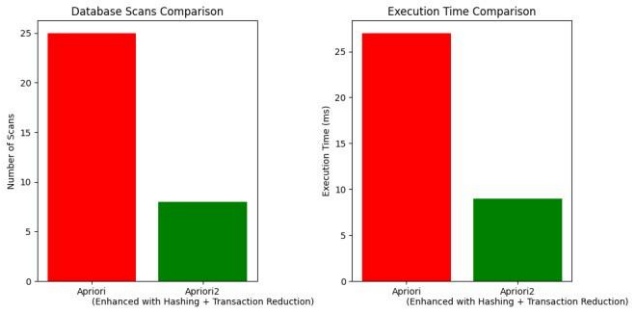

Figure 1:Graph analysis

Explanation of the above output:

Comparison Between Apriori and Apriori2

This image consists of two bar charts comparing the Apriori algorithm with the enhanced Apriori2 algorithm (using Hashing + Transaction Reduction) in terms of Database Scans and Execution Time.

Left Chart: Database Scans Comparison Y-Axis: Number of database scans performed.

Observation:

Apriori (Red Bar): Requires 25 scans, indicating a high computational overhead.

Apriori2 (Green Bar): Requires only 8 scans, significantly reducing the number of scans due to transaction reduction and hashing.

Conclusion: The enhanced Apriori2 algorithm minimizes redundant database accesses, improving efficiency.

Right Chart: Execution Time Comparison Y-Axis: Execution time in milliseconds (ms).

Observation:

Apriori (Red Bar): Takes 27 ms to complete execution. Apriori2 (Green Bar): Takes only 9 ms, showing a significant improvement in processing speed.

6. Conclusion

The Apriori2 algorithm significantly improves the efficiency of frequent itemset mining by integrating hash-based pruning and transaction reduction. Its application in crime analysis highlights its ability to uncover meaningful patterns with reduced computational overhead. Future research can explore extensions of Apriori2 for real-time data processing and distributed computing environments.

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