Sequential Pattern Mining

Lecture Notes for Chapter 7 – Introduction to Data Mining

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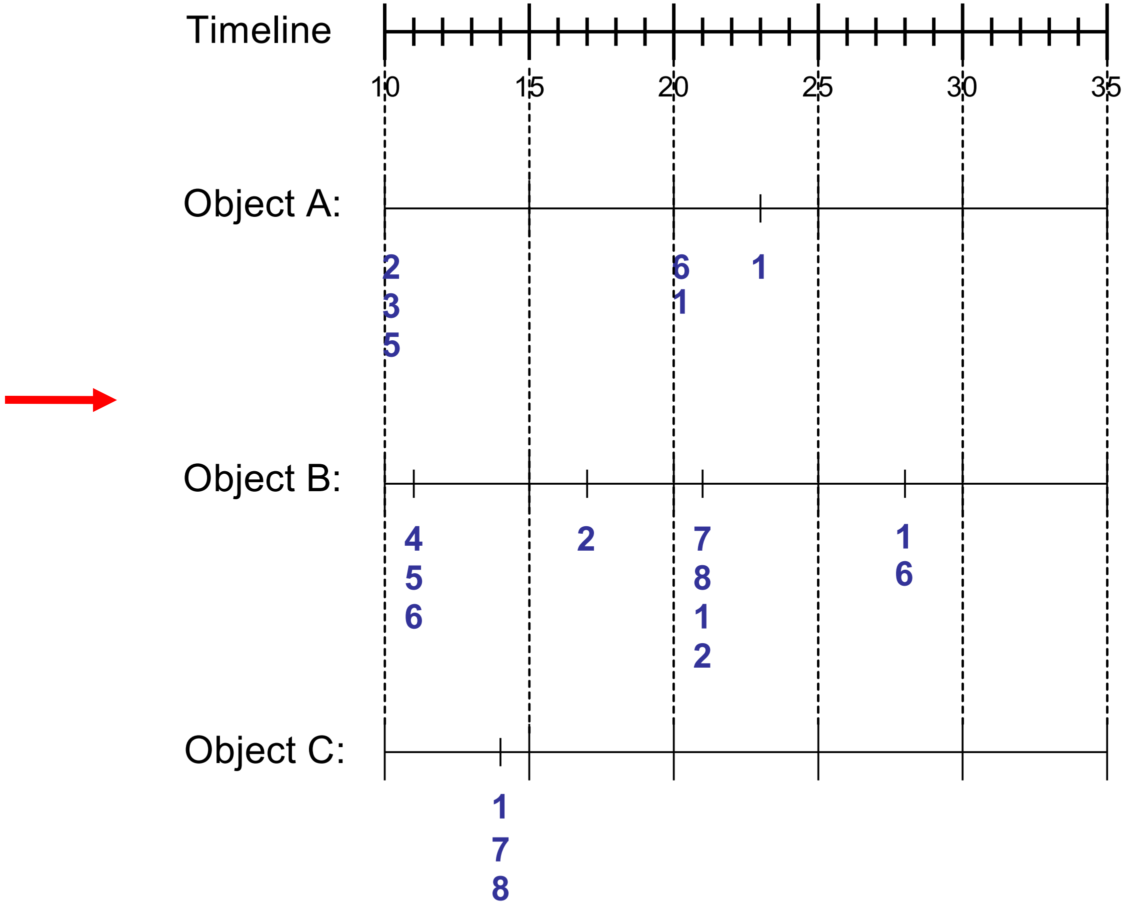
From itemsets to sequences

- Frequent itemsets and association rules focus on transactions and the items that appear there
- Databases of transactions usually have a temporal information
  - Sequential patter exploit it
- Example data:
  - Market basket transactions
  - Web server logs
  - Tweets
  - Workflow production logs

Sequence Data

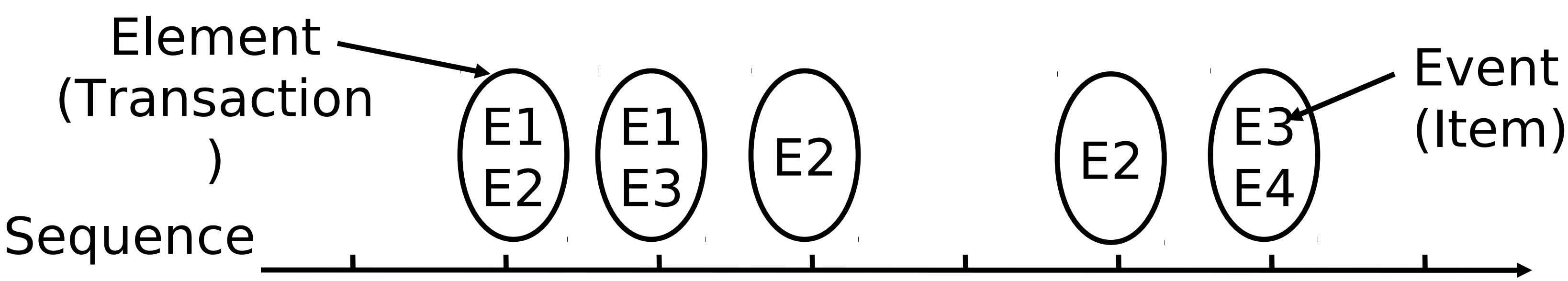
Sequence Database:

Object	Timestamp	Events
A	10	2, 3, 5
A	20	6, 1
A	23	1
B	11	4, 5, 6
B	17	2
B	21	7, 8, 1, 2
B	28	1, 6
C	14	1, 8, 7



Examples of Sequence Data

Sequence Database	Sequence	Element (Transaction)	Event (Item)
Customer	Purchase history of a given customer	A set of items bought by a customer at time t	Books, diary products, CDs, etc
Web Data	Browsing activity of a particular Web visitor	A collection of files viewed by a Web visitor after a single mouse click	Home page, index page, contact info, etc
Event data	History of events generated by a given sensor	Events triggered by a sensor at time t	Types of alarms generated by sensors
Genome sequences	DNA sequence of a particular species	An element of the DNA sequence	Bases A,T,G,C



Formal Definition of a Sequence

- A sequence is an ordered list of elements (transactions)

  $s = \langle e_1 e_2 e_3 \ldots \rangle$

  – Each element contains a collection of events (items)

  $e_i = \{i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_k\}$

  – Each element is attributed to a specific time or location

- Length of a sequence, $|s|$, is given by the number of elements of the sequence

- A k-sequence is a sequence that contains k events (items)

Examples of Sequence

- Web sequence:

  < {Homepage} {Electronics} {Digital Cameras} {Canon Digital Camera} {Shopping Cart} {Order Confirmation} {Return to Shopping} >

- Sequence of initiating events causing the nuclear accident at 3-mile Island:
  (http://stellar-one.com/nuclear/staff_reports/summary_SOE_the_initiating_event.htm)

  < {clogged resin} {outlet valve closure} {loss of feedwater} {condenser polisher outlet valve shut} {booster pumps trip} {main waterpump trips} {main turbine trips} {reactor pressure increases}>

- Sequence of books checked out at a library:

  <{Fellowship of the Ring} {The Two Towers} {Return of the King}>

Formal Definition of a Subsequence

- A sequence $<a_1\ a_2 \ldots\ a_n>$ is contained in another sequence $<b_1\ b_2 \ldots\ b_m>$ $(m \geq n)$ if there exist integers $i_1 < i_2 < \ldots < i_n$ such that $a_1 \subseteq b_{i1}$, $a_2 \subseteq b_{i1}$, …, $a_n \subseteq b_{in}$

Data sequence	Subsequence	Contain?
< {2,4} {3,5,6} {8} >	< {2} {3,5} >	Yes
< {1,2} {3,4} >	< {1} {2} >	No
< {2,4} {2,4} {2,5} >	< {2} {4} >	Yes

- The support of a subsequence w is defined as the fraction of data sequences that contain w
- A *sequential pattern* is a frequent subsequence (i.e., a subsequence whose support is ≥ *minsup*)

Sequential Pattern Mining: Definition

- Given:
  - a database of sequences
  - a user-specified minimum support threshold, *minsup*
- Task:
  - Find all subsequences with support ≥ *minsup*

Sequential Pattern Mining: Challenge

- Given a sequence: <{a b} {c d e} {f} {g h i}>
  - Examples of subsequences:

<{a} {c d} {f} {g} >, < {c d e} >, < {b} {g} >, etc.

- How many k-subsequences can be extracted from a given n-sequence?

<{a b} {c d e} {f} {g h i}> n = 9

k=4: Y _ _ Y Y _ _ _ Y

<{a} {d e} {i}>

Answer:

$$\binom{n}{k} = \binom{9}{4} = 126$$

Sequential Pattern Mining: Example

Object	Timestamp	Events
A	1	1,2,4
A	2	2,3
A	3	5
B	1	1,2
B	2	2,3,4
C	1	1, 2
C	2	2,3,4
C	3	2,4,5
D	1	2
D	2	3, 4
D	3	4, 5
E	1	1, 3
E	2	2, 4, 5

Minsup = 50%

Examples of Frequent Subsequences:

< {1,2} >	s=60%
< {2,3} >	s=60%
< {2,4}>	s=80%
< {3} {5}>	s=80%
< {1} {2} >	s=80%
< {2} {2} >	s=60%
< {1} {2,3} >	s=60%
< {2} {2,3} >	s=60%
< {1,2} {2,3} >	s=60%

Exercises

- find instances/occurrence of the following patterns

  <{C} {H} {C}>

  <{A} {F} >

  <{A} {A} {D}>

  <{A} {A,B} {F}>

- in the input sequence below

<	{A,C}	{C,D}	{F,H}	{A,B}	{B,C,D}	{E}	{A,B,D}	{F}	>
	t=0	t=1	t=2	t=3	t=4	t=5	t=6	t=7	

Exercises

- find instances/occurrence of the following patterns

    <{C} {H} {C}>
    <{A} {B} >
    <{C} {C} {E}>
    <{A} {E}>

- in the input sequence below

<	{A,C}	{C,D,E}	{F}	{A,H}	{B,C,D}	{E}	{A,B,D}	>
	t=0	t=1	t=2	t=3	t=4	t=5	t=6	

Extracting Sequential Patterns

- Given n events: $i_1, i_2, i_3, \ldots, i_n$
- Candidate 1-subsequences:

$<\{i_1\}>, <\{i_2\}>, <\{i_3\}>, \ldots, <\{i_n\}>$

- Candidate 2-subsequences:

$<\{i_1, i_2\}>, <\{i_1, i_3\}>, \ldots, <\{i_1\} \{i_1\}>, <\{i_1\} \{i_2\}>, \ldots, <\{i_{n-1}\} \{i_n\}>$

- Candidate 3-subsequences:

$<\{i_1, i_2, i_3\}>, <\{i_1, i_2, i_4\}>, \ldots, <\{i_1, i_2\} \{i_1\}>, <\{i_1, i_2\} \{i_2\}>, \ldots,$

$<\{i_1\} \{i_1, i_2\}>, <\{i_1\} \{i_1, i_3\}>, \ldots, <\{i_1\} \{i_1\} \{i_1\}>, <\{i_1\} \{i_1\} \{i_2\}>,$

$\ldots$

Generalized Sequential Pattern (GSP)

- **Step 1**:
  - Make the first pass over the sequence database D to yield all the 1-element frequent sequences
- **Step 2**:

  Repeat until no new frequent sequences are found
  - **Candidate Generation**:
    - Merge pairs of frequent subsequences found in the (k-1)*th* pass to generate candidate sequences that contain k items
  - **Candidate Pruning**:
    - Prune candidate *k*-sequences that contain infrequent (*k-1)*-subsequences
  - **Support Counting**:
    - Make a new pass over the sequence database D to find the support for these candidate sequences
  - **Candidate Elimination**:
    - Eliminate candidate *k*-sequences whose actual support is less than *minsup*

Candidate Generation

- Base case (k=2):
  - Merging two frequent 1-sequences <{i_1}> and <{i_2}> will produce two candidate 2-sequences: <{i_1} {i_2}> and <{i_1 i_2}>
- General case (k>2):
  - A frequent *(k-1)*-sequence w_1 is merged with another frequent *(k-1)*-sequence w_2 to produce a candidate *k*-sequence if the subsequence obtained by removing the first event in w_1 is the same as the subsequence obtained by removing the last event in w_2
    - The resulting candidate after merging is given by the sequence w_1 extended with the last event of w_2.
      - If the last two events in w_2 belong to the same element, then the last event in w_2 becomes part of the last element in w_1
      - Otherwise, the last event in w_2 becomes a separate element appended to the end of w_1

Candidate Generation Examples

- Merging the sequences
  w_1=<{1} {2 3} {4}> and w_2 =<{2 3} {4 5}>
  will produce the candidate sequence < {1} {2 3} {4 5}> because the last two events in w_2 (4 and 5) belong to the same element

- Merging the sequences
  w_1=<{1} {2 3} {4}> and w_2 =<{2 3} {4} {5}>
  will produce the candidate sequence < {1} {2 3} {4} {5}> because the last two events in w_2 (4 and 5) do not belong to the same element

- We do not have to merge the sequences
  w_1 =<{1} {2 6} {4}> and w_2 =<{1} {2} {4 5}>
  to produce the candidate < {1} {2 6} {4 5}> because if the latter is a viable candidate, then it can be obtained by merging w_1 with
  < {1} {2 6} {5}>

GSP Example

Frequent 3-sequences

< {1} {2} {3} >
< {1} {2 5} >
< {1} {5} {3} >
< {2} {3} {4} >
< {2 5} {3} >
< {3} {4} {5} >
< {5} {3 4} >

Candidate Generation

< {1} {2} {3} {4} >
< {1} {2 5} {3} >
< {1} {5} {3 4} >
< {2} {3} {4} {5} >
< {2 5} {3 4} >

Candidate Pruning

< {1} {2 5} {3} >

GSP Exercise

- Given the following dataset of sequences

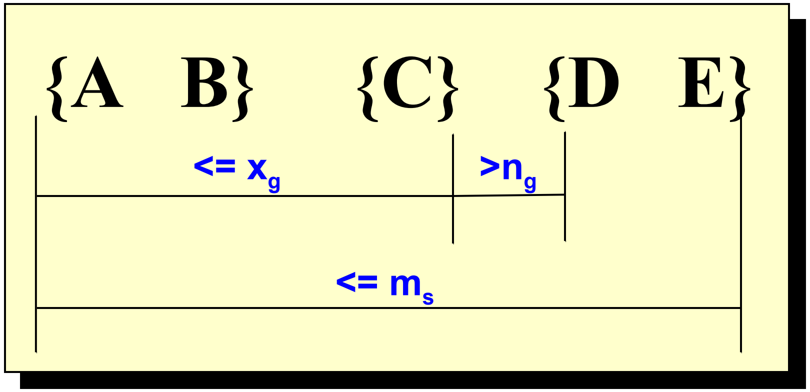
ID	Sequence				
1	a b	→	a	→	b
2	b	→	a	→	c d
3	a	→	b		
4	a	→	a	→	b d

- Generate sequential patterns if min_sup = 35%

GSP Exercise - solution

Sequential pattern	Support
a	100 %
b	100 %
d	50 %
a → a	50 %
a → b	75 %
a → d	50 %
b → a	50 %
a → a → b	50 %

Timing Constraints (I)



x_g: max-gap

n_g: min-gap

m_s: maximum span

$x_g = 2$, $n_g = 0$, $m_s = 4$

Data sequence	Subsequence	Contain?
< {2,4} {3,5,6} {4,7} {4,5} {8} >	< {6} {5} >	Yes
< {1} {2} {3} {4} {5}>	< {1} {4} >	No
< {1} {2,3} {3,4} {4,5}>	< {2} {3} {5} >	Yes
< {1,2} {3} {2,3} {3,4} {2,4} {4,5}>	< {1,2} {5} >	No

Mining Sequential Patterns with Timing Constraints

- Approach 1:
  - Mine sequential patterns without timing constraints
  - Postprocess the discovered patterns

- Approach 2:
  - Modify GSP to directly prune candidates that violate timing constraints
  - Question:
    - Does Apriori principle still hold?

Apriori Principle for Sequence Data

Object	Timestamp	Events
A	1	1,2,4
A	2	2,3
A	3	5
B	1	1,2
B	2	2,3,4
C	1	1, 2
C	2	2,3,4
C	3	2,4,5
D	1	2
D	2	3, 4
D	3	4, 5
E	1	1, 3
E	2	2, 4, 5

Suppose:

$x_g = 1$ (max-gap)

$n_g = 0$ (min-gap)

$m_s = 5$ (maximum span)

minsup = 60%

<{2} {5}> support = 40%

but

<{2} {3} {5}> support = 60%

Problem exists because of max-gap constraint

No such problem if max-gap is infinite

Contiguous Subsequences

- s is a contiguous subsequence of

  w = $<e_1>< e_2>\ldots< e_k>$

  if any of the following conditions hold:

1. s is obtained from w by deleting an item from either e_1 or e_k
2. s is obtained from w by deleting an item from any element e_i that contains more than 2 items
3. s is a contiguous subsequence of s' and s' is a contiguous subsequence of w (recursive definition)

- Examples: s = < {1} {2} >
  - is a contiguous subsequence of

    < {1} {2 3}>, < {1 2} {2} {3}>, and < {3 4} {1 2} {2 3} {4} >
  - is not a contiguous subsequence of

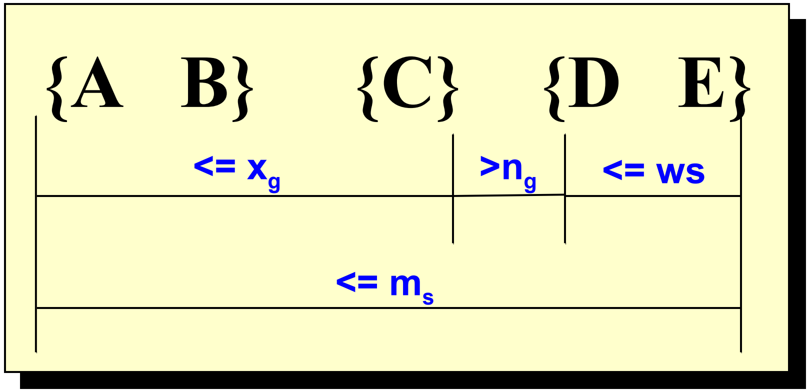
    < {1} {3} {2}> and < {2} {1} {3} {2}>

Modified Candidate Pruning Step

- Without maxgap constraint:
  – A candidate k-sequence is pruned if at least one of its (k-1)-subsequences is infrequent

- With maxgap constraint:
  – A candidate *k*-sequence is pruned if at least one of its **contiguous** (*k-1*)-subsequences is infrequent

Timing Constraints (II)



x_g: max-gap

n_g: min-gap

ws: window size

m_s: maximum span

$x_g = 2$, $n_g = 0$, ws = 1, $m_s = 5$

Data sequence	Subsequence	Contain?
< {2,4} {3,5,6} {4,7} {4,6} {8} >	< {3} {5} >	No
< {1} {2} {3} {4} {5}>	< {1,2} {3} >	Yes
< {1,2} {2,3} {3,4} {4,5}>	< {1,2} {3,4} >	Yes

Modified Support Counting Step

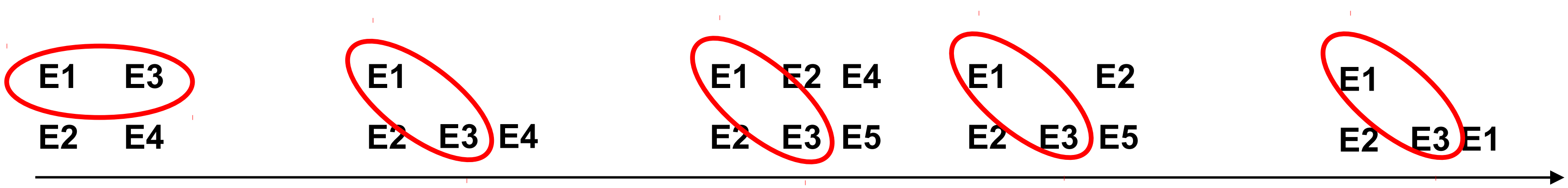
- Given a candidate pattern: <{a, c}>
  - Any data sequences that contain

<… {a c} … >,
<… {a} … {c}…> (where time({c}) – time({a}) $\leq$ ws)
<…{c} … {a} …> (where time({a}) – time({c}) $\leq$ ws)

will contribute to the support count of candidate pattern

Other Formulation

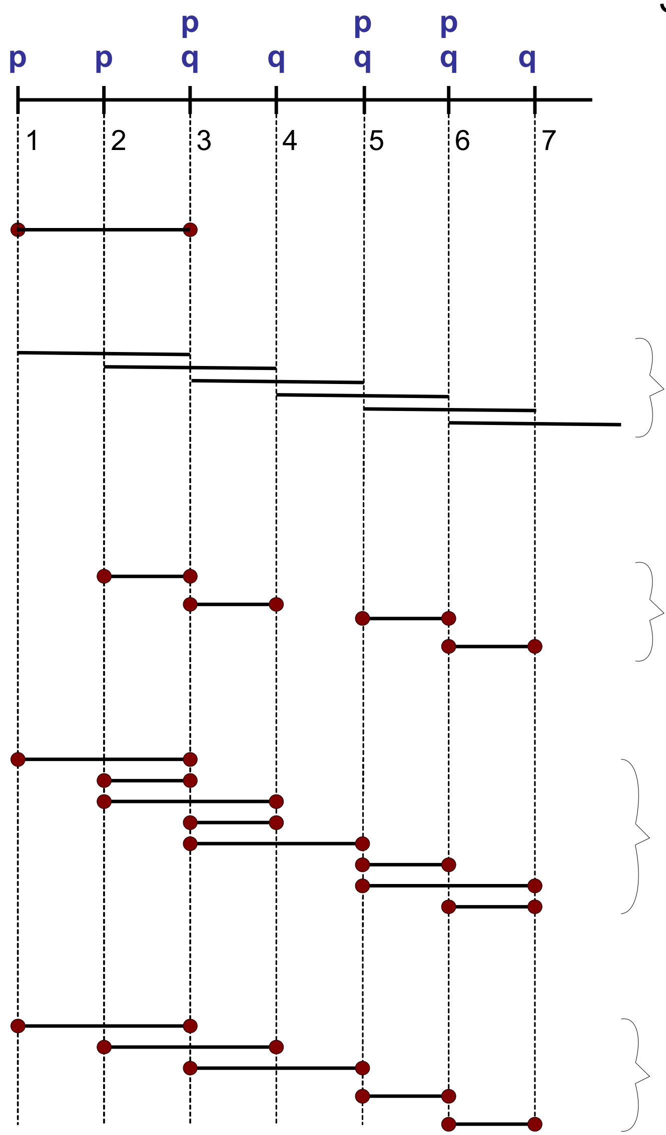
- In some domains, we may have only one very long time series
  - Example:
    - monitoring network traffic events for attacks
    - monitoring telecommunication alarm signals
- Goal is to find frequent sequences of events in the time series
  - This problem is also known as frequent episode mining



Pattern: <E1> <E3>

General Support Counting Schemes

Object's Timeline



Sequence: (p) (q)

Method	Support Count
COBJ	1
CWIN	6
CMINWIN	4
CDIST_O	8
CDIST	5

Assume:

x_g = 2 (max-gap)

n_g = 0 (min-gap)

ws = 0 (window size)

m_s = 2 (maximum span)