CMSC5724: Exercise List 10

Consider the mining of association rules on the transactions:

transaction id	items
1	A, B, E
2	A, B, D, E
3	B, C, D, E
4	B, D, E
5	A, B, D
6	B, E
7	A, E

Problem 1. What is the support of the itemset $\{B, D, E\}$?

Answer.
The support count is 3 because transactions 2, 3 and 4 contain the itemset.

Problem 2. What is the support and confidence of the association rule $BD \rightarrow E$?

Answer.
The support $BD \rightarrow E$ is the support of $\{B, D, E\}$ which is 3. The confidence is

$$conf(BD \rightarrow E) = \frac{support(\{B, D, E\})}{support(\{B, D\})} = \frac{3}{4}.$$

Problem 3. Consider the application of the Apriori algorithm to find all the frequent itemsets whose counts are at least 3. Recall that the algorithm scans the transaction list a number of times, where the i-th scan generates the set F_i of all size-i frequent itemsets from a candidate set C_i. Show C_i and F_i for each possible i.

Answer.
For the first scan, the candidate set C_1 contains all the singleton sets, i.e., C_1 includes $\{A\}$, $\{B\}$, $\{C\}$, $\{D\}$ and $\{E\}$. After the scan, only $\{A\}$, $\{B\}$, $\{D\}$ and $\{E\}$ remain in F_1. In particular, $\{C\}$ is eliminated because its count 1 is smaller than 3.

From F_1, the algorithm generates:

$$C_2 = \{\{A, B\}, \{A, D\}, \{A, E\}, \{B, D\}, \{B, E\}, \{D, E\}\}$$

The second scan produces:

$$F_2 = \{\{A, B\}, \{A, E\}, \{B, D\}, \{B, E\}, \{D, E\}\}$$

$\{A, D\}$ is removed because its count 2 is lower than 3.

From F_2, the algorithm generates:

$$C_3 = \{\{A, B, E\}, \{B, D, E\}\}$$

as follows. For each pair of distinct itemsets $\{a_1, a_2\}$ and $\{b_1, b_2\}$ in F_2, the algorithm adds to C_3 an itemset $\{a_1, a_2, b_2\}$ if and only if $a_1 = b_1$. Hence, $\{A, B\}$ and $\{A, E\}$ give rise to $\{A, B, E\}$, whereas $\{B, D\}$ and $\{B, E\}$ give rise to $\{B, D, E\}$.

Finally, the third scan produces:

$$F_3 = \{\{B, D, E\}\}$$

as you can verify easily by yourself. The algorithm terminates here.

Problem 4. Find all the association rules with support at least 3 and confidence at least 3/4. For your convenience, all the itemsets with support at least 3 are $\{\{A\}, \{B\}, \{D\}, \{E\}, \{A, B\}, \{A, E\}, \{B, D\}, \{B, E\}, \{D, E\}, \{B, D, E\}\}$.

Answer.
The following table lists all the possible association rules and their confidence values. The ones in bold are the final answers.

rule	confidence
$\boldsymbol{A \to B}$	3/4
$B \to A$	1/2
$\boldsymbol{A \to E}$	3/4
$E \to A$	1/2
$B \to D$	2/3
$\boldsymbol{D \to B}$	1
$\boldsymbol{B \to E}$	5/6
$\boldsymbol{E \to B}$	5/6
$\boldsymbol{D \to E}$	3/4
$E \to D$	1/2
$B \to DE$	1/2
$\boldsymbol{BD \to E}$	3/4
$BE \to D$	3/5
$\boldsymbol{D \to BE}$	3/4
$\boldsymbol{DE \to B}$	1
$E \to BD$	1/2