

# Preface

The field of data mining has four main “super-problems” corresponding to clustering, classification, outlier analysis, and frequent pattern mining. Compared to the other three problems, the frequent pattern mining model for formulated relatively recently. In spite of its shorter history, frequent pattern mining is considered the marquee problem of data mining. The reason for this is that interest in the data mining field increased rapidly soon after the seminal paper on association rule mining by Agrawal, Imielinski, and Swami. The earlier data mining conferences were often dominated by a large number of frequent pattern mining papers. This is one of the reasons that frequent pattern mining has a very special place in the data mining community. At this point, the field of frequent pattern mining is considered a mature one.

While the field has reached a relative level of maturity, very few books cover different aspects of frequent pattern mining. Most of the existing books are either too generic or do not cover frequent pattern mining in an exhaustive way. A need exists for an exhaustive book on the topic that can cover the different nuances in an exhaustive way.

This book provides comprehensive surveys in the field of frequent pattern mining. Each chapter is designed as a survey that covers the key aspects of the field of frequent pattern mining. The chapters are typically of the following types:

- *Algorithms*: In these cases, the key algorithms for frequent pattern mining are explored. These include join-based methods such as *A priori*, and pattern-growth methods.
- *Variations*: Many variations of frequent pattern mining such as interesting patterns, negative patterns, constrained pattern mining, or compressed patterns are explored in these chapters.
- *Scalability*: The large sizes of data in recent years has led to the need for big data and streaming frameworks for frequent pattern mining. Frequent pattern mining algorithms need to be modified to work with these advanced scenarios.
- *Data Types*: Different data types lead to different challenges for frequent pattern mining algorithms. Frequent pattern mining algorithms need to be able to work with complex data types, such as temporal or graph data.

- *Applications*: In these chapters, different applications of frequent pattern mining are explored. These includes the application of frequent pattern mining methods to problems such as clustering and classification. Other more complex algorithms are also explored.

This book is, therefore, intended to provide an overview of the field of frequent pattern mining, as it currently stands. It is hoped that the book will serve as a useful guide for students, researchers, and practitioners.



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