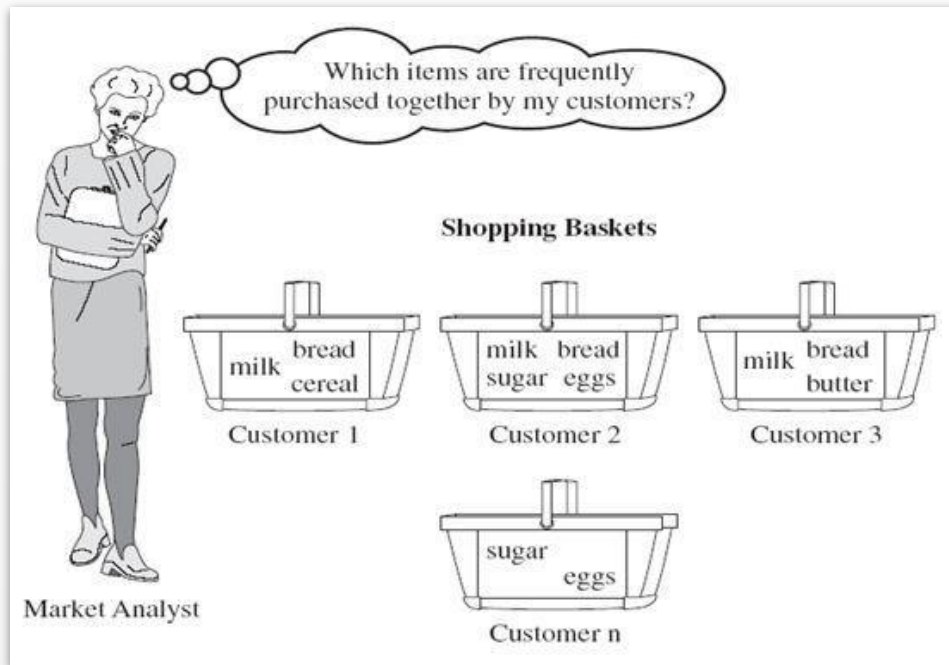


# Mining Frequent Itemsets with A-Priori

# Market Basket Analysis



Baskets of items

<i>TID</i>	<i>Items</i>
1	Bread, Coke, Milk
2	Beer, Bread
3	Beer, Coke, Diaper, Milk
4	Beer, Bread, Diaper, Milk
5	Coke, Diaper, Milk

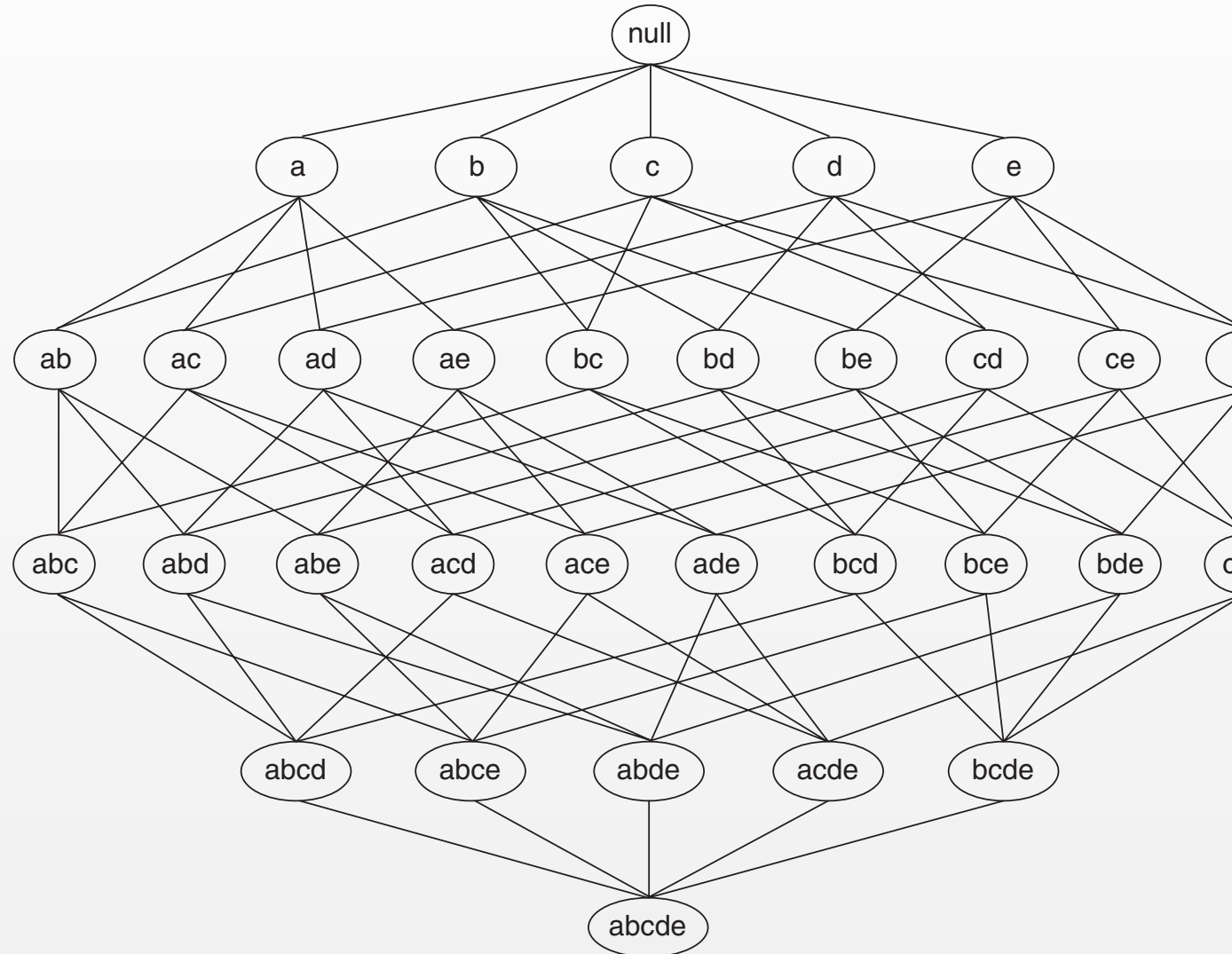
Association Rules

**{Milk} --> {Coke}**  
**{Diaper, Milk} --> {Beer}**

# Finding Frequent Item Sets

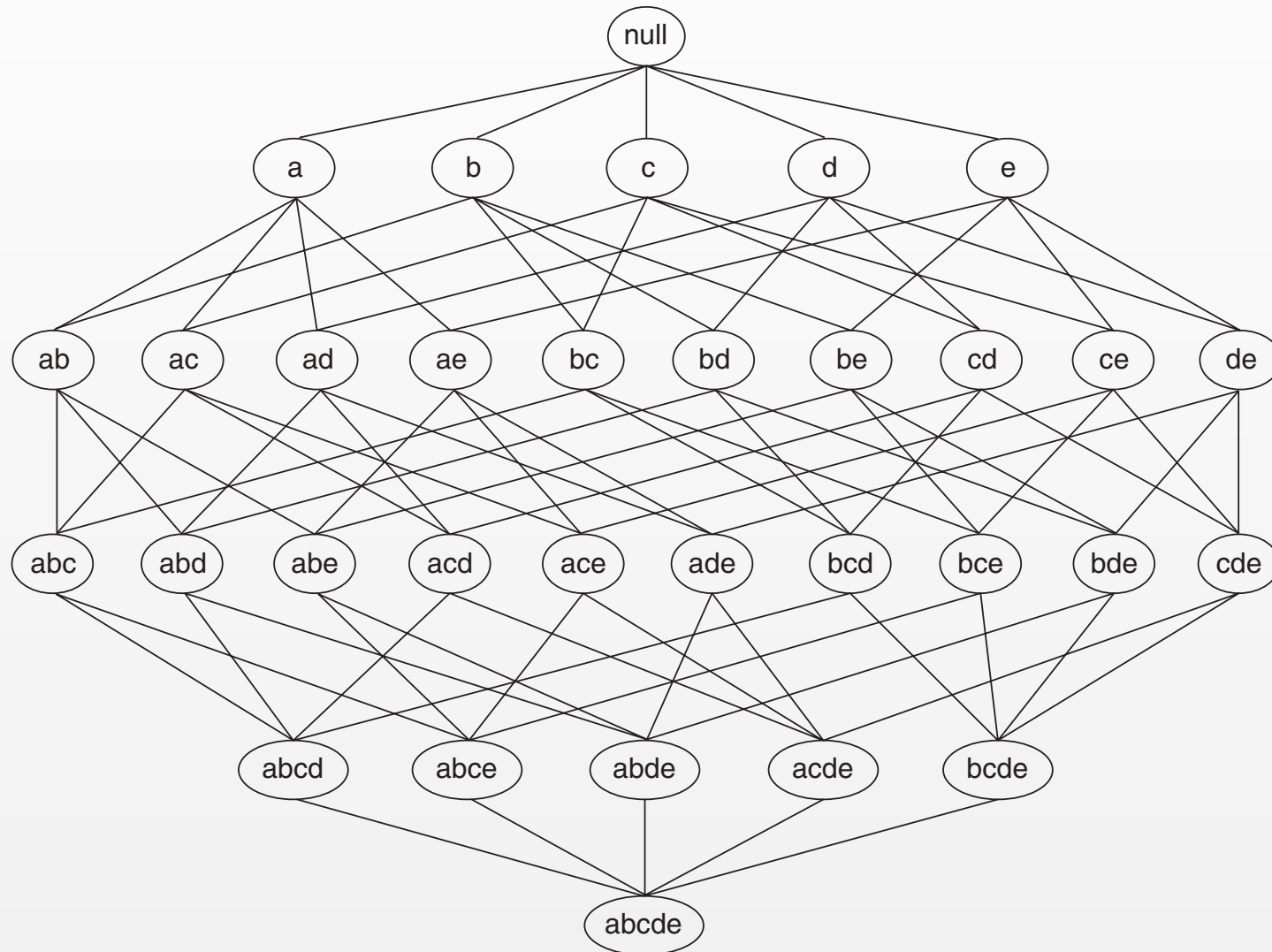
Let  $I$  be the set of all items

$|I| = 5$ , how many possible itemsets are there?



# Finding Frequent Item Sets

Answer:  $2^M - 1$ ; Cannot enumerate all possible sets



# Anti-monotone Property

A function  $f$  (defined on sets) is said to follow the **anti-monotone** property if

$$\forall A, B \in 2^I : A \subseteq B \Rightarrow f(A) \geq f(B)$$

$I$  is the set of all items

$2^I$  denotes the power set of  $I$

**Support** follows the anti-monotone property

$$\sigma(A) = | \{ t \in T : A \subset t \} |$$

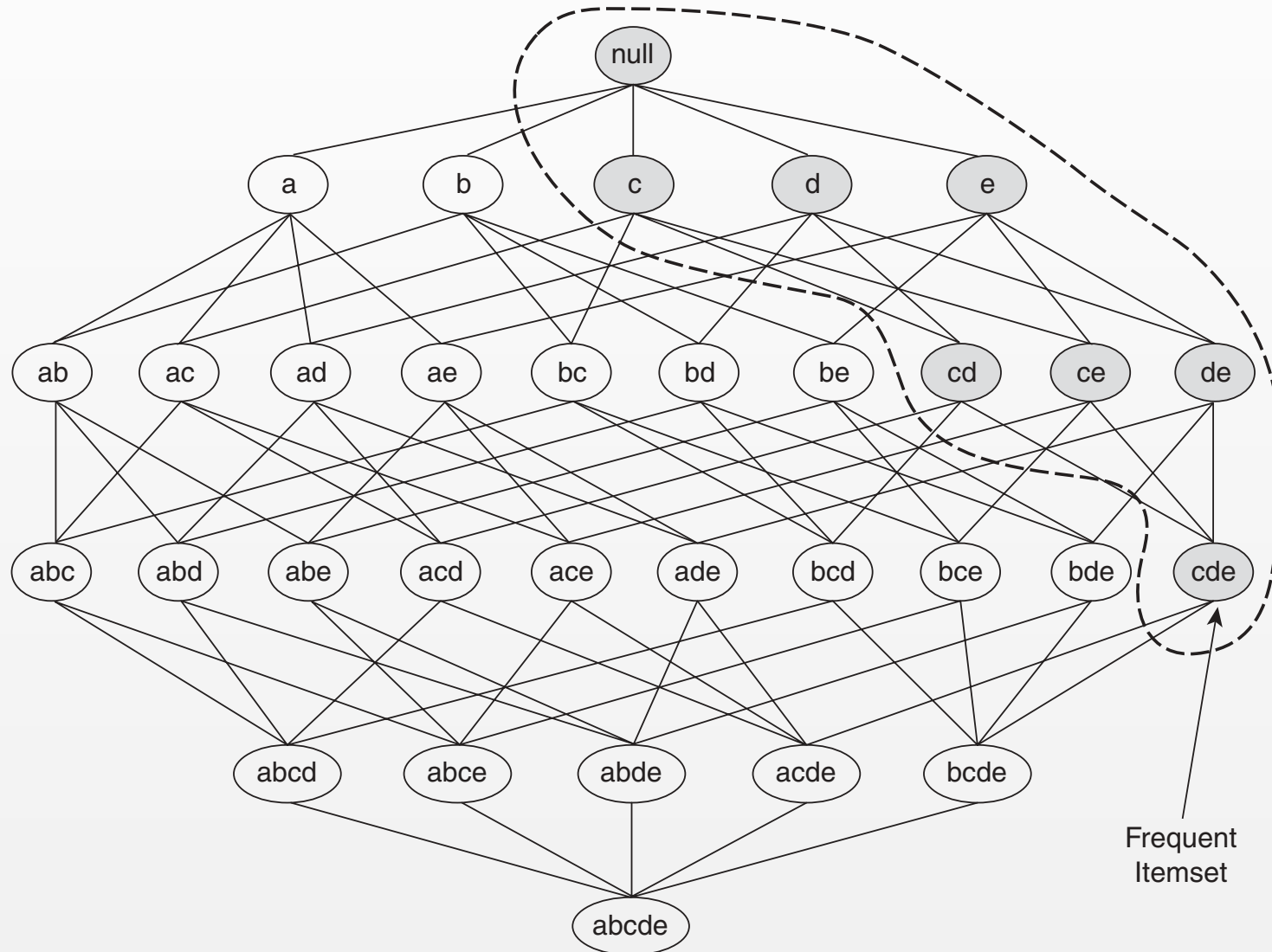
$$\sigma : 2^I \rightarrow \mathbf{N}$$

$\mathbf{N} = \{0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$   
set of natural numbers

$T$ : the set of all transactions

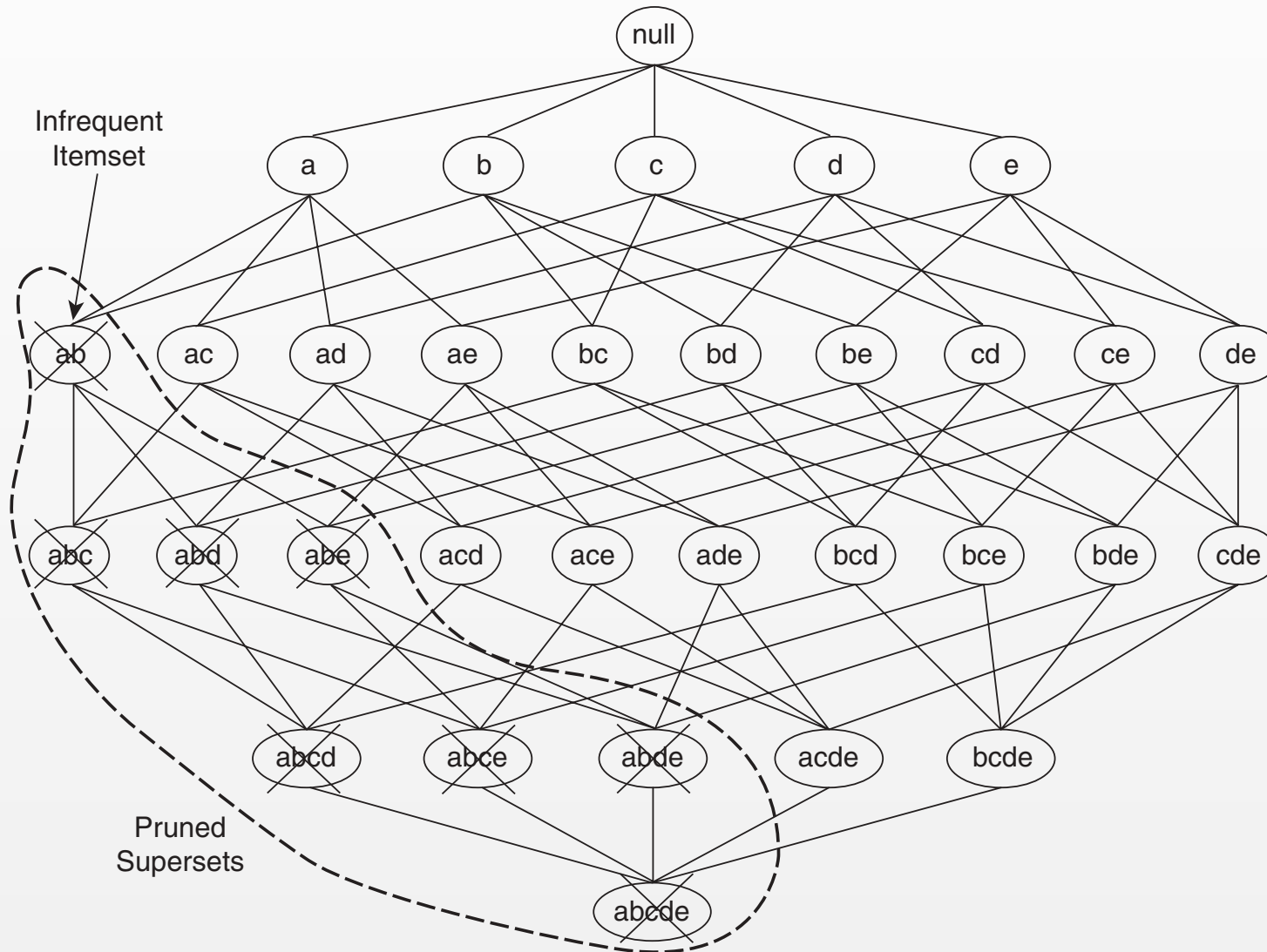
# Intuition: A-priori Principle

**Observation:** Subsets of a frequent item set are also frequent



# Intuition: A-priori Principle

**Property:** If a set is not frequent, then its supersets are also not frequent



# A-priori Algorithm

1. Find all frequent itemsets of size 1  
(*only have to check  $M = |I|$  possible sets*)
2. For  $k = 1, 2, \dots, M$ 
  - Extend frequent itemsets of size  $k - 1$  to create *candidate* itemsets of size  $k$
  - Find candidate sets that are frequent



# A-priori Algorithm

---

**Algorithm 6.1** Frequent itemset generation of the *Apriori* algorithm.

---

```
1:  $k = 1$ .
2:  $F_k = \{ i \mid i \in I \wedge \sigma(\{i\}) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}$ .    {Find all frequent 1-itemsets}
3: repeat                                     Interpret minsup as a fraction here
4:    $k = k + 1$ .
5:    $C_k = \text{apriori-gen}(F_{k-1})$ .    {Generate candidate itemsets}
6:   for each transaction  $t \in T$  do
7:      $C_t = \text{subset}(C_k, t)$ .    {Identify all candidates that belong to  $t$ }
8:     for each candidate itemset  $c \in C_t$  do
9:        $\sigma(c) = \sigma(c) + 1$ .    {Increment support count}
10:    end for
11:  end for
12:   $F_k = \{ c \mid c \in C_k \wedge \sigma(c) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}$ .    {Extract the frequent  $k$ -itemsets}
13: until  $F_k = \emptyset$ 
14: Result =  $\bigcup F_k$ .
```

---

# Mapping Transactions to Candidate S

---

**Algorithm 6.1** Frequent itemset generation of the *Apriori* algorithm.

---

```
 $k = 1.$   
 $F_k = \{ i \mid i \in I \wedge \sigma(\{i\}) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}.$     {Find all frequent 1-itemsets}  
repeat  
     $k = k + 1.$   
     $C_k = \text{apriori-gen}(F_{k-1}).$     {Generate candidate itemsets}  
    for each transaction  $t \in T$  do  
         $C_t = \text{subset}(C_k, t).$     {Identify all candidates that belong to  $t$ }  
        for each candidate itemset  $c \in C_t$  do  
             $\sigma(c) = \sigma(c) + 1.$     {Increment support count}  
        end for  
    end for  
     $F_k = \{ c \mid c \in C_k \wedge \sigma(c) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}.$     {Extract the frequent  $k$ -itemsets}  
until  $F_k = \emptyset$   
Result =  $\bigcup F_k.$ 
```

---

# Generating Candidates $C_k$

## ***Objectives***

1. ***No Duplicates:*** A candidate itemsets must be unique.
2. ***Completeness:*** At least, all frequent k-itemsets should be included.
3. ***No infrequent subsets:*** A candidate should not have any infrequent subset.

# Generating Candidates $C_k$

*Questions*

*How many  $k$ -itemsets are there?*

*How to reduce number of candidates using the computations already performed?*

*$F_{k-1} \times F_1$ : combine frequent  $(k-1)$ -itemsets with frequent 1-itemsets to get candidates of size  $k$ .*

$$\{a, b, c\} \cup \{d\} = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

*$F_{k-1} \times F_{k-1}$ : combine frequent  $(k-1)$ -itemsets with other frequent  $(k-1)$ -itemsets that differs in only 1 item to get candidates of size  $k$ .*

$$\{a, b, c\} \cup \{a, b, d\} = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

# Generating Candidates $C_k$

*Duplicates*

Combining sets arbitrary pairs of sets from  $F_{k-1}$  and  $F_1$  will lead to duplicate candidates

$$\{a, b, c\} \cup \{d\} = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

$$\{a, b, d\} \cup \{c\} = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

Each candidate of size  $k$  could be generated  $k$  times

Combining sets arbitrary pairs of sets from  $F_{k-1}$  will lead to duplicate candidates

$$\{a, b, c\} \cup \{a, b, d\} = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

$$\{a, b, c\} \cup \{a, c, d\} = \{a, b, c, d\}$$

Each candidate of size  $k$  could be generated  $\binom{k}{k-2}$  times

# Generating Candidates $C_k$

*tion to duplicates*

Sort the items

- **Item ordering:** Define an ordering on all items
  - Either by assigning a unique id to each item. The items are ordered based on their ID.
  - Or by a lexicographic ordering on the item string; e.g. 'coke' < 'cookie'
- Assume that the items in the itemsets in  $F_{k-1}$  are sorted.  $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_k$  in  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\}$

ID based  
have co  
advan  
compar  
is che  
compa

# Generating Candidates $C_k$

*tion to duplicates*

×  $F_1$ : Combine  $A \in F_{k-1}$  and  $B = \{b\} \in F_1$  only if  $\forall a \in A \quad a < b$ .  
Combine  $\{a, c, e\}$  with  $\{f\}$  to give candidate  $\{a, c, e, f\}$ .  
Do not combine  $\{a, c, e\}$  with  $\{d\}$ .

**no duplicates:** Each candidate has only one way of being generated.  $\{a, c, e, f\}$  can only be generated by combining  $\{a, c, e\}$  and  $\{f\}$ .

**completeness:** If  $\{a, c, e, f\}$  is indeed frequent,  $\{a, c, e\}$  and  $\{f\}$  have to be present in  $F_3$  and  $F_1$ . And they would get combined to generate  $\{a, c, e, f\}$ .

Subsets of generated candidates might still be infrequent

# Generating Candidates $C_k$

*tion to duplicates*

Combine  
 $k - 2$  items  
are the same  
last element  
than the

×  $F_{k-1}$ : Combine  $A \in F_{k-1}$  and  $B \in F_{k-1}$  only if  
 $i$ , for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k - 2$  and  $a_{k-1} < b_{k-1}$ .

Combine  $\{a, c, e\}$  with  $\{a, c, f\}$  to give candidate  $\{a, c, e, f\}$ .

Do not combine  $\{a, c, e\}$  with  $\{a, b, e\}$ .

**no duplicates:** Each candidate has only one way of being  
generated.  $\{a, c, e, f\}$  can only be generated by combining  $\{a, c, e$   
and  $\{a, c, f\}$ .

**completeness:** If  $\{a, c, e, f\}$  is indeed frequent,  $\{a, c, e\}$  and  $\{a, c, f\}$   
have to be present in  $F_3$ . And they would get combined to  
generate  $\{a, c, e, f\}$ .

Subsets of generated candidates might still be infrequent



# Generating Candidates $C_k$

*to efficiently find itemsets that could be combined*

**Itemset Ordering:** Use the ordering on items to define an ordering on itemsets

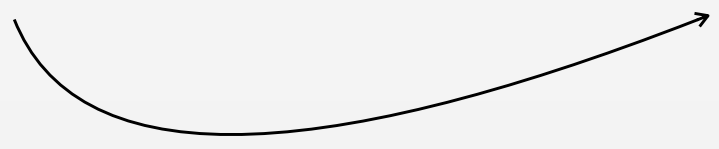
assume that the items in each itemset are presorted.

$a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_k$  in  $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_k\}$

$A < B$  if  $a_i < b_i$ , where  $i$  is the index of the first item differing in  $A$  and  $B$ .  
Example:  $\{\text{apple, bread, coke, sauce}\} < \{\text{apple, bread, cookie, milk}\}$  or  $\{4,7,21,50\} < \{4,7,21,50\}$

elements of  $F_{k-1}$  sorted with the itemset ordering

$\{a, b, c\}, \{a, b, e\}, \{a, b, g\}, \{a, c, d\}, \{a, c, g\}, \dots$



$\{b, c\}$  can't be combined with any itemset beyond  $\{a, b, g\}$ . So no need to compare beyond  $\{a, c, d\}$

Without exploiting the itemset ordering,  $|F_{k-1}|(|F_{k-1}| - 1)/2$  comparisons need to be made

# Generating Candidates $C_k$

*Generating candidates with infrequent subsets*

For a candidate of size  $k$ , one only needs to check subsets of size  $k - 1$ .

Enumerate subsets of size  $k - 1$  by removing one element at a time from the candidate.

Search for the subsets one after the other in  $F_{k-1}$  until a subset is not found or the list of subsets is exhausted.

Binary search could be performed if  $F_{k-1}$  is sorted under the itemset ordering for an efficient search.

Alternatively a hash tree could be built to store the itemsets of  $F_{k-1}$  for an efficient search.

If a subset wasn't found the candidate should be discarded.

If all size  $k - 1$  subsets are frequent subsets of size  $k$ .

Each candidate will give  $k$  subsets of size  $k - 1$ .

For each candidate,  $O(k |F_{k-1}|)$  might be needed.

worst case, naive.

This can be improved by binary search.

$O(k \log(|F_{k-1}|))$

constructing

# Generating Candidates $C_k$

*Self-joining:* Find pairs of sets in  $F_{k-1}$  that have first  $k - 2$  items in common and differ by **one** element.

*Pruning:* Remove all candidates with infrequent subsets

# Example: Generating Candidates $C_k$

*frequent itemsets of size 2:*

$\{a,c\}:5, \{b,m\}:4, \{c,j\}:3 \{c,m\}:3$

*self-joining:*

$\{a,c,m\}, \{c,j,m\}$

*pruning:*

$\{j,m\}$  since  $\{j,m\}$  not frequent

*frequent items of size 3:*

$\{a,c,m\}$

$$B_1 = \{b, c, m\} \quad B_2 = \{j,$$

$$B_3 = \{b, m\} \quad B_4 = \{c,$$

$$B_5 = \{b, c, m\} \quad B_6 = \{b,$$

$$B_7 = \{b, c, j\} \quad B_8 = \{b,$$

# Matching Transactions to Candidate S

---

**Algorithm 6.1** Frequent itemset generation of the *Apriori* algorithm.

---

```
 $k = 1.$   
 $F_k = \{ i \mid i \in I \wedge \sigma(\{i\}) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}. \quad \{\text{Find all frequent 1-itemsets}\}$   
repeat  
   $k = k + 1.$   
   $C_k = \text{apriori-gen}(F_{k-1}). \quad \{\text{Generate candidate itemsets}\}$   
  for each transaction  $t \in T$  do  
     $C_t = \text{subset}(C_k, t). \quad \{\text{Identify all candidates that belong to } t\}$   
    for each candidate itemset  $c \in C_t$  do  
       $\sigma(c) = \sigma(c) + 1. \quad \{\text{Increment support count}\}$   
    end for  
  end for  
   $F_k = \{ c \mid c \in C_k \wedge \sigma(c) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}. \quad \{\text{Extract the frequent } k\text{-itemsets}\}$   
until  $F_k = \emptyset$   
Result =  $\bigcup F_k.$ 
```

---

# A-priori Algorithm

---

**Algorithm 6.1** Frequent itemset generation of the *Apriori* algorithm.

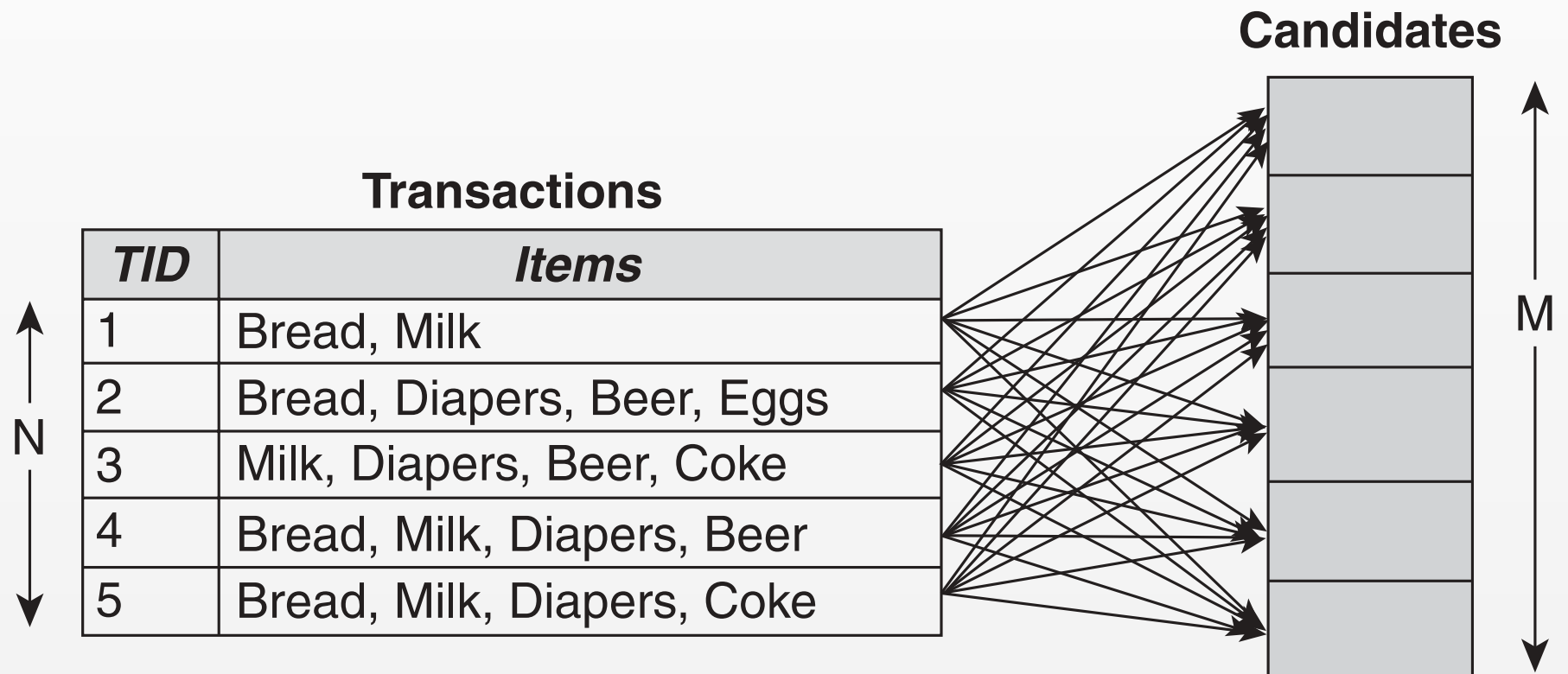
---

```
1:  $k = 1$ .
2:  $F_k = \{ i \mid i \in I \wedge \sigma(\{i\}) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}$ .    {Find all frequent 1-itemsets}
3: repeat                                     Interpret minsup as a fraction here
4:    $k = k + 1$ .
5:    $C_k = \text{apriori-gen}(F_{k-1})$ .    {Generate candidate itemsets}
6:   for each transaction  $t \in T$  do
7:      $C_t = \text{subset}(C_k, t)$ .    {Identify all candidates that belong to  $t$ }
8:     for each candidate itemset  $c \in C_t$  do
9:        $\sigma(c) = \sigma(c) + 1$ .    {Increment support count}
10:    end for
11:  end for
12:   $F_k = \{ c \mid c \in C_k \wedge \sigma(c) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}$ .    {Extract the frequent  $k$ -itemsets}
13: until  $F_k = \emptyset$ 
14: Result =  $\bigcup F_k$ .
```

---

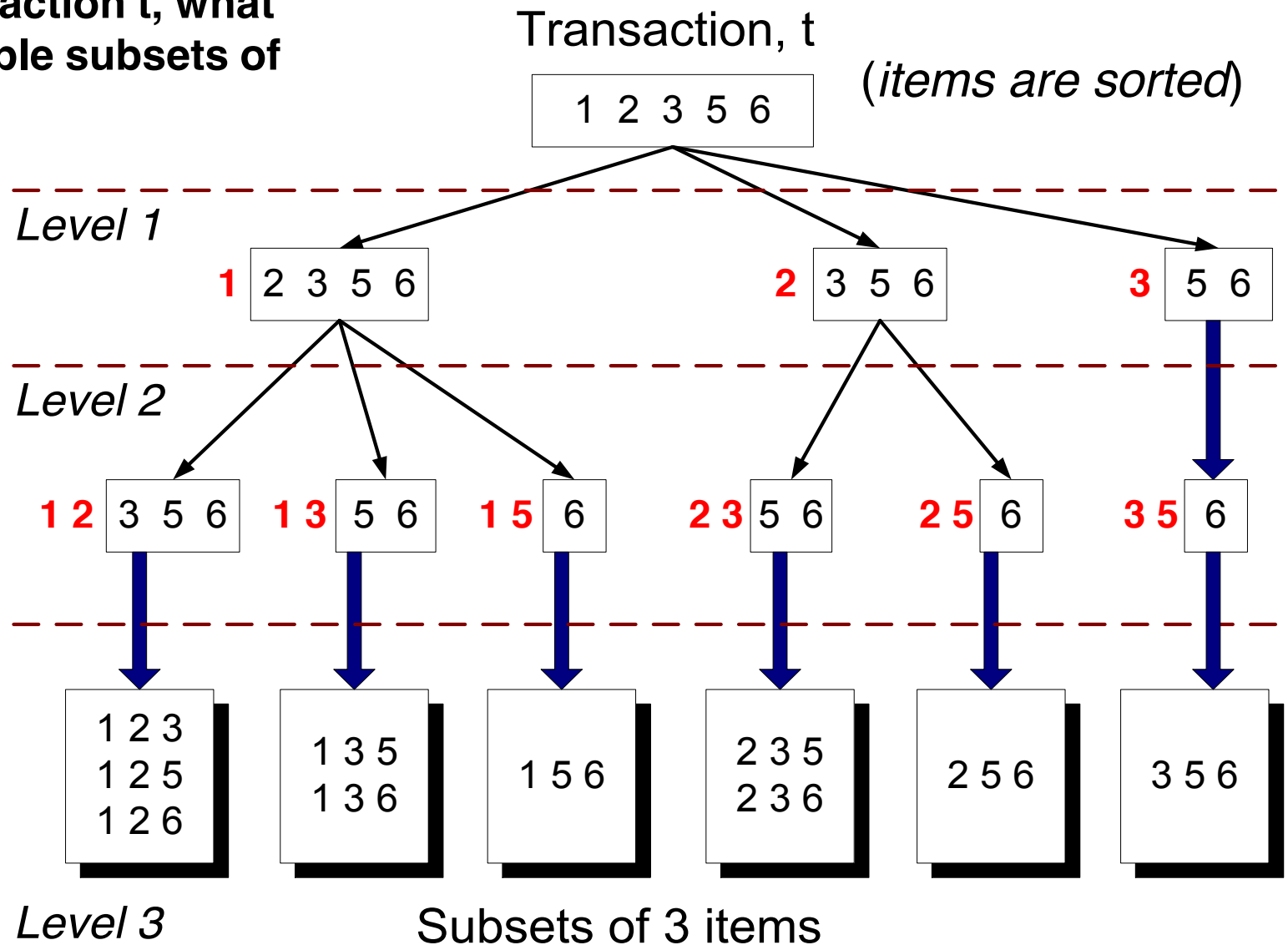
# Problem: Naive Matching is Expensive

$O(N \cdot M)$ , where  $N$  is number of baskets and  $M$  is number of candidates



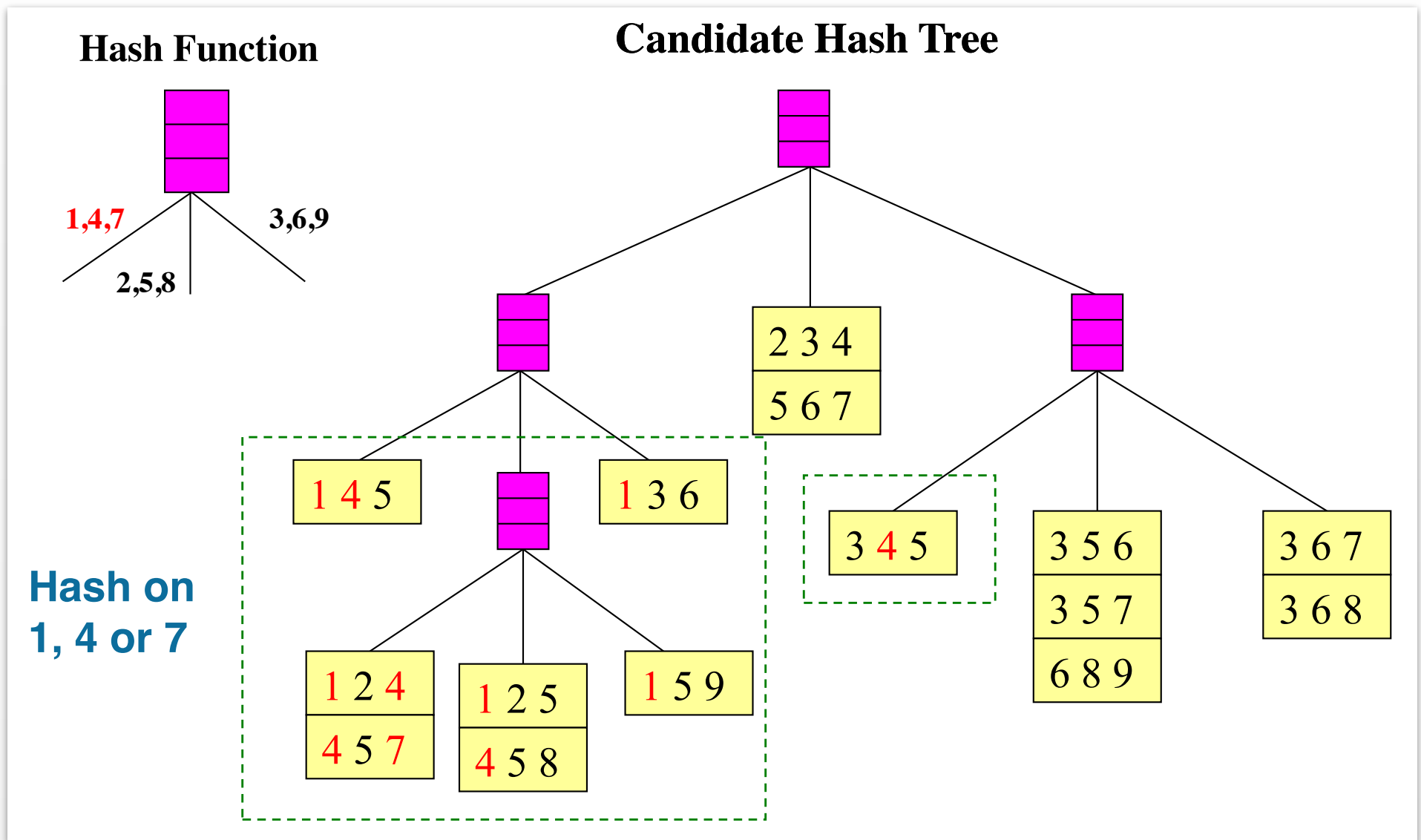
# Strategy 1: Enumerating Transaction Subsets

Given a transaction  $t$ , what are the possible subsets of size 3?



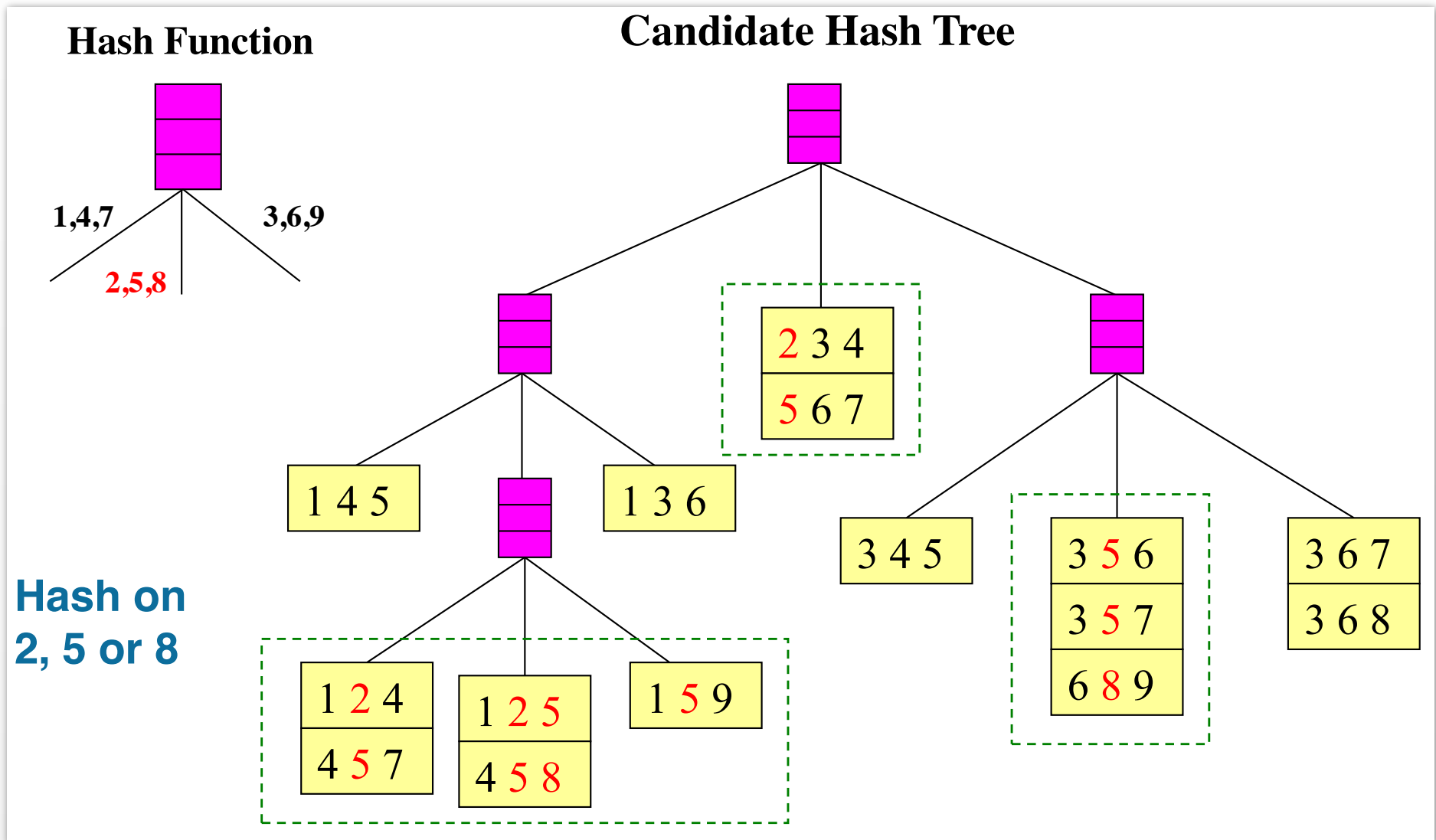


# Hash Tree for Itemsets



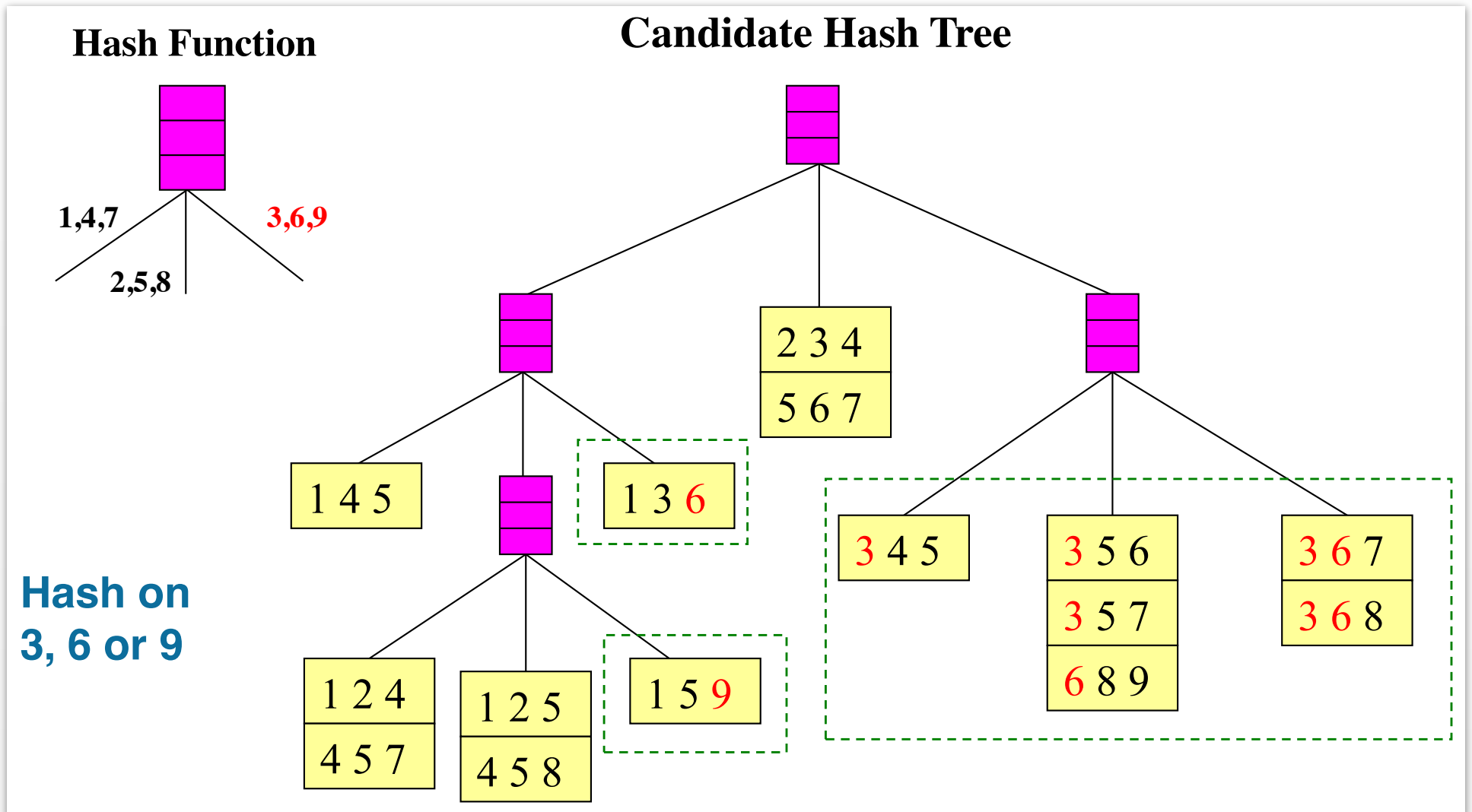
15 candidate 3-itemsets, distributed across 9 leaf nodes

# Hash Tree for Itemsets



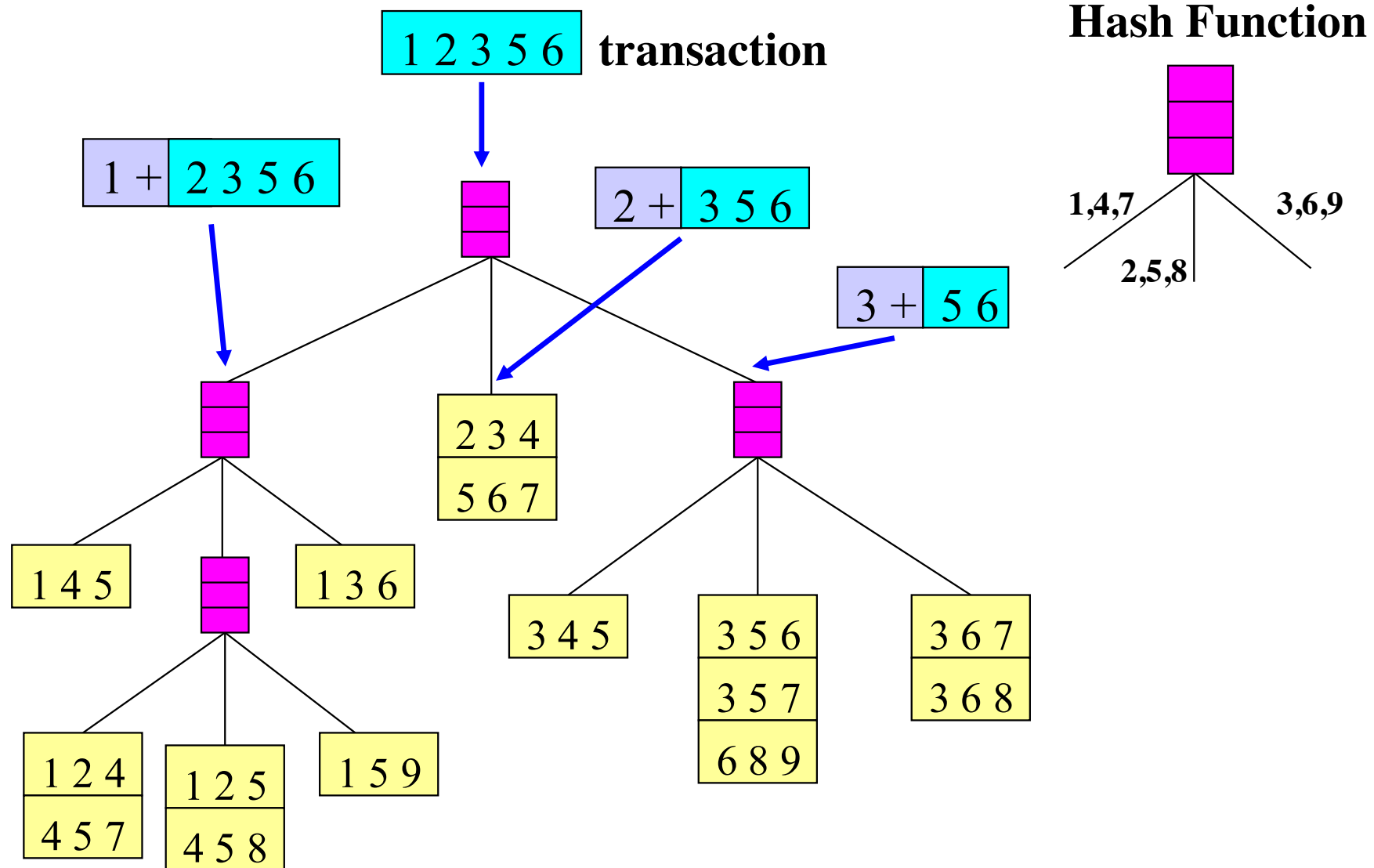
15 candidate 3-itemsets, distributed across 9 leaf nodes

# Strategy 2: Hashing Itemsets

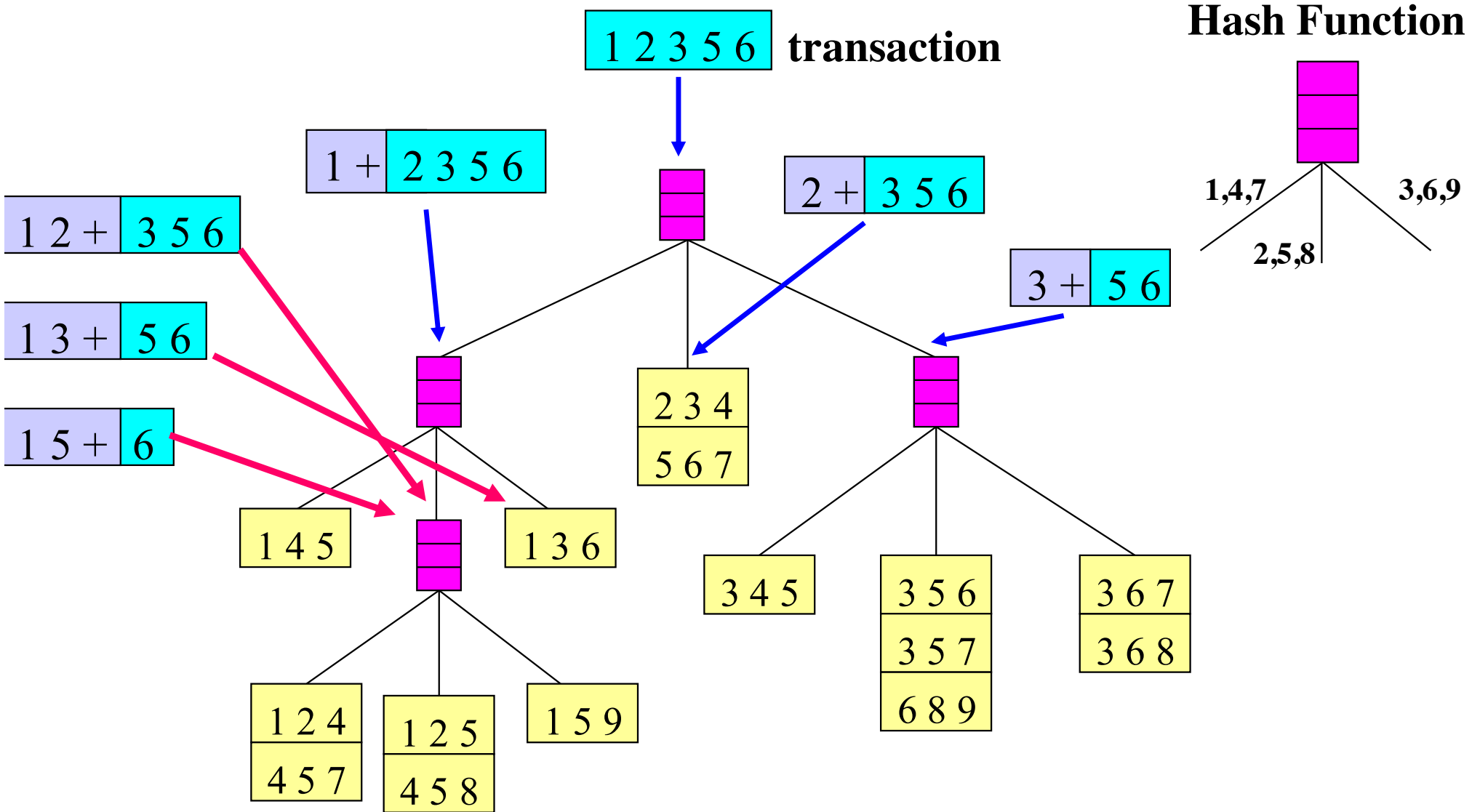


15 candidate 3-itemsets, distributed across 9 leaf nodes

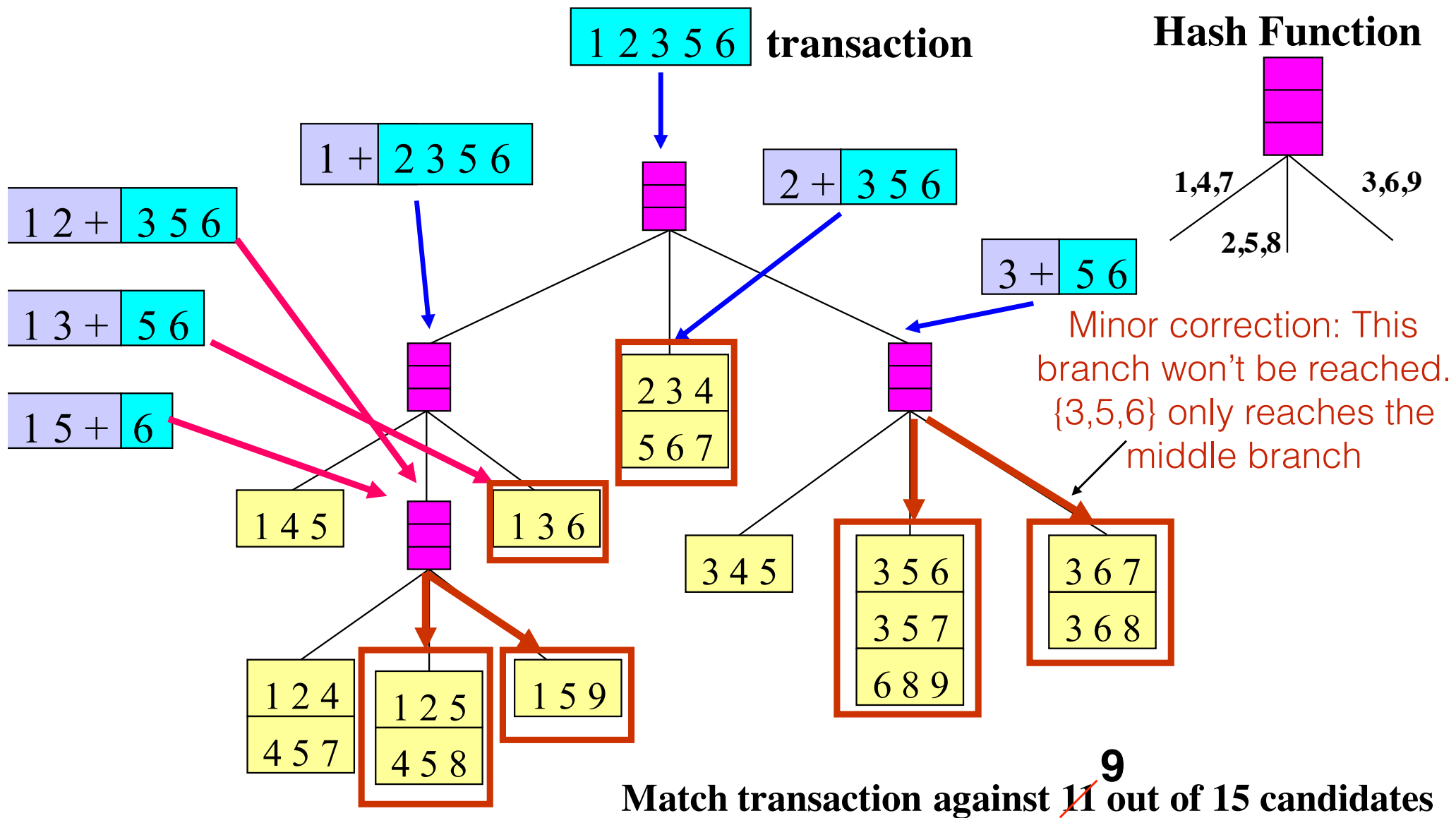
# Strategy 2: Hash Tree for Candidates



# Strategy 2: Hash Tree for Candidates



# Strategy 2: Hash Tree for Candidates



# A-priori Algorithm

---

**Algorithm 6.1** Frequent itemset generation of the *Apriori* algorithm.

---

```
1:  $k = 1$ .
2:  $F_k = \{ i \mid i \in I \wedge \sigma(\{i\}) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}$ .    {Find all frequent 1-itemsets}
3: repeat                                     Interpret minsup as a fraction here
4:    $k = k + 1$ .
5:    $C_k = \text{apriori-gen}(F_{k-1})$ .    {Generate candidate itemsets}
6:   for each transaction  $t \in T$  do
7:      $C_t = \text{subset}(C_k, t)$ .    {Identify all candidates that belong to  $t$ }
8:     for each candidate itemset  $c \in C_t$  do
9:        $\sigma(c) = \sigma(c) + 1$ .    {Increment support count}
10:    end for
11:  end for
12:   $F_k = \{ c \mid c \in C_k \wedge \sigma(c) \geq N \times \text{minsup} \}$ .    {Extract the frequent  $k$ -itemsets}
13: until  $F_k = \emptyset$ 
14: Result =  $\bigcup F_k$ .
```

---

# Rule Generation

Items of each frequent itemset  $Y$  can be partitioned into the consequent and the antecedent to give a rule. For an  $X \subset Y$

$$X \rightarrow Y - X$$

$Y = \{a, b, c\}$  could give the six rules  $\{a, b\} \rightarrow \{c\}$ ,  $\{a, c\} \rightarrow \{b\}$ ,  $\{b, c\} \rightarrow \{a\}$ ,  $\{a\} \rightarrow \{b, c\}$ ,  $\{b\} \rightarrow \{a, c\}$ ,  $\{c\} \rightarrow \{a, b\}$ .

A frequent  $k$ -itemset can potentially give up to  $2^k - 2$  rules.

Not all rules are confident

$$C(X \rightarrow Y - X) = \sigma(Y) / \sigma(X) < \text{minconf}$$

$X$  is also frequent by anti-monotonicity. However, the rule might not meet the minimum confidence threshold.

How to find confident association rules without enumerating them all?

Pick a  
 $k$  it  
conse  
rema  
bec  
anteced  
 $Y \rightarrow \emptyset$



# Rule Generation

## Pruning

**Theorem 6.2.** *If a rule  $X \rightarrow Y - X$  does not satisfy the confidence threshold, then any rule  $X' \rightarrow Y - X'$ , where  $X'$  is a subset of  $X$ , must not satisfy the confidence threshold as well.*

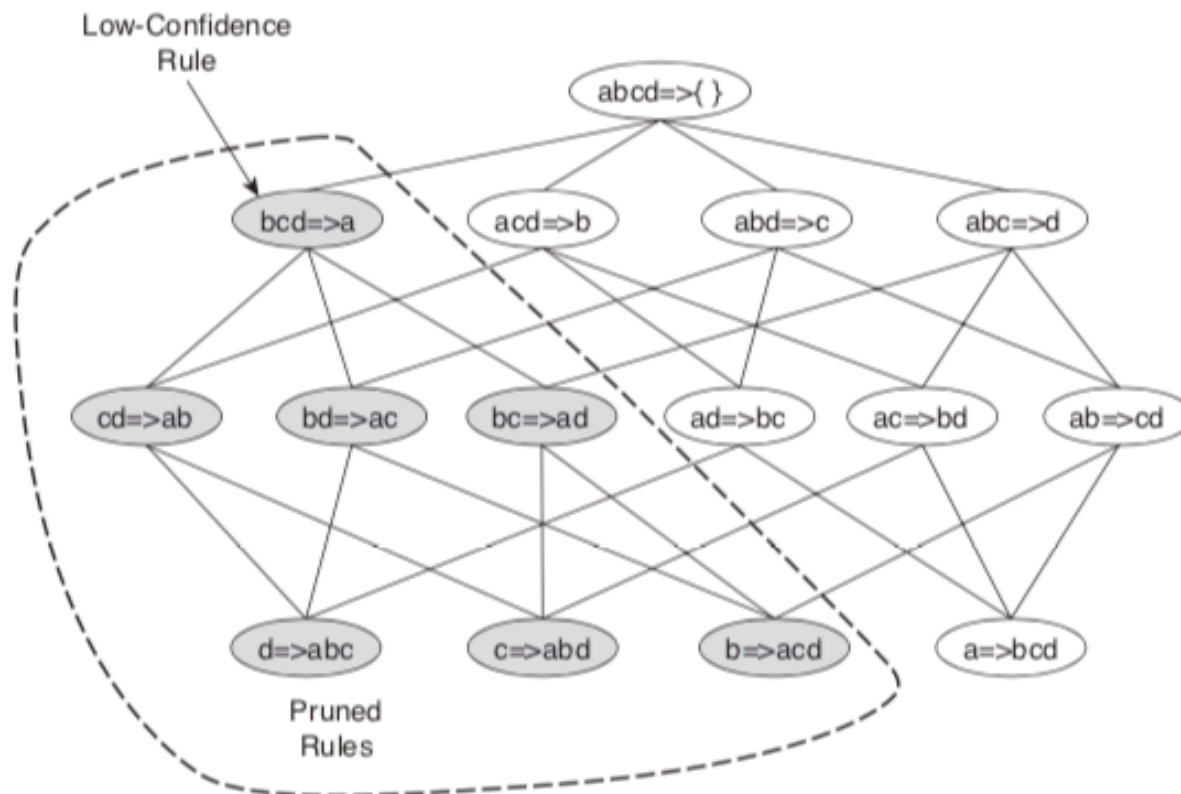


Figure 6.15. Pruning of association rules using the confidence measure.

# Rule Generation

---

**Algorithm 6.2** Rule generation of the *Apriori* algorithm.

---

- 1: **for** each frequent  $k$ -itemset  $f_k$ ,  $k \geq 2$  **do**
  - 2:    $H_1 = \{i \mid i \in f_k\}$       {1-item consequents of the rule.}
  - 3:   **call** ap-genrules( $f_k, H_1$ .)
  - 4: **end for**
- 

---

**Algorithm 6.3** Procedure ap-genrules( $f_k, H_m$ ).

---

- 1:  $k = |f_k|$     {size of frequent itemset.}
  - 2:  $m = |H_m|$     {size of rule consequent.}
  - 3: **if**  $k > m + 1$  **then**
  - 4:    $H_{m+1} = \text{apriori-gen}(H_m)$ .
  - 5:   **for** each  $h_{m+1} \in H_{m+1}$  **do**
  - 6:      $\text{conf} = \sigma(f_k) / \sigma(f_k - h_{m+1})$ .
  - 7:     **if**  $\text{conf} \geq \text{minconf}$  **then**
  - 8:       **output** the rule  $(f_k - h_{m+1}) \longrightarrow h_{m+1}$ .
  - 9:     **else**
  - 10:       **delete**  $h_{m+1}$  from  $H_{m+1}$ .
  - 11:     **end if**
  - 12:   **end for**
  - 13:   **call** ap-genrules( $f_k, H_{m+1}$ .)
  - 14: **end if**
-

# Compacting the Output

Number of frequent itemsets can be exponential in number of items.

It is not useful to work with compact representations

**Maximal frequent itemsets:**  
Immediate superset is infrequent

Enables more pruning

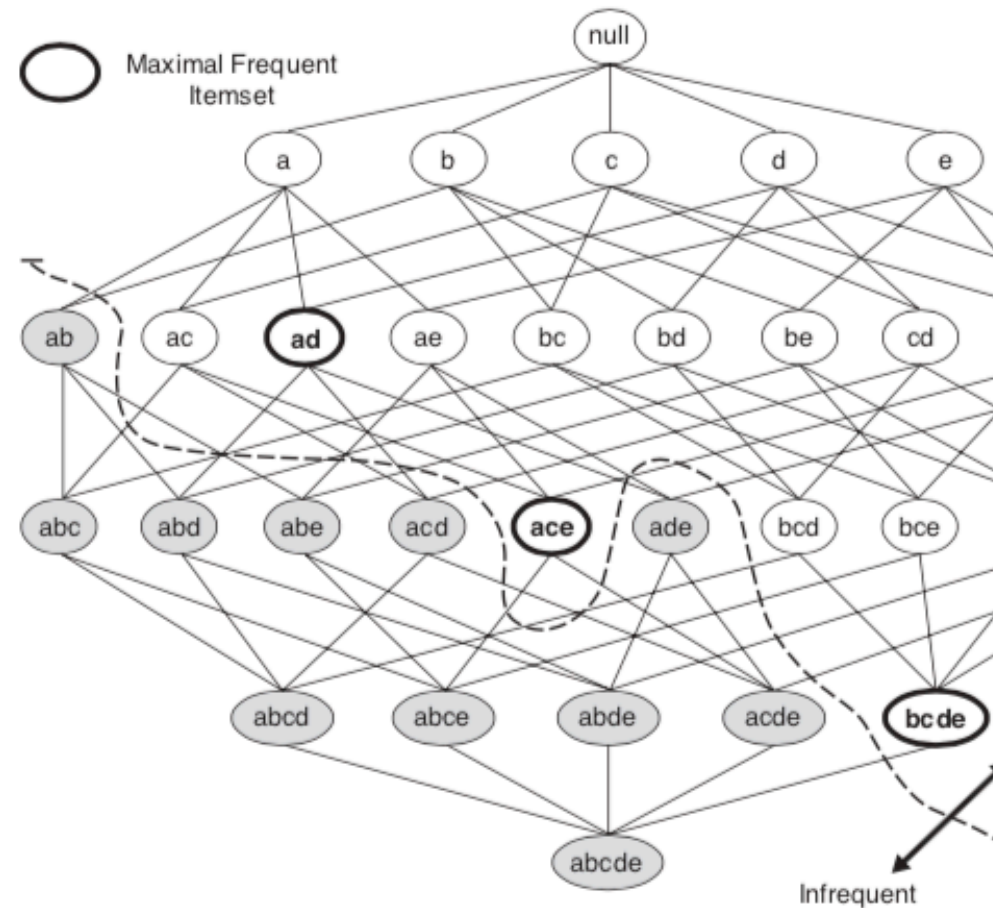


Figure 6.16. Maximal frequent itemset.

# Compacting the Output

frequent itemsets:

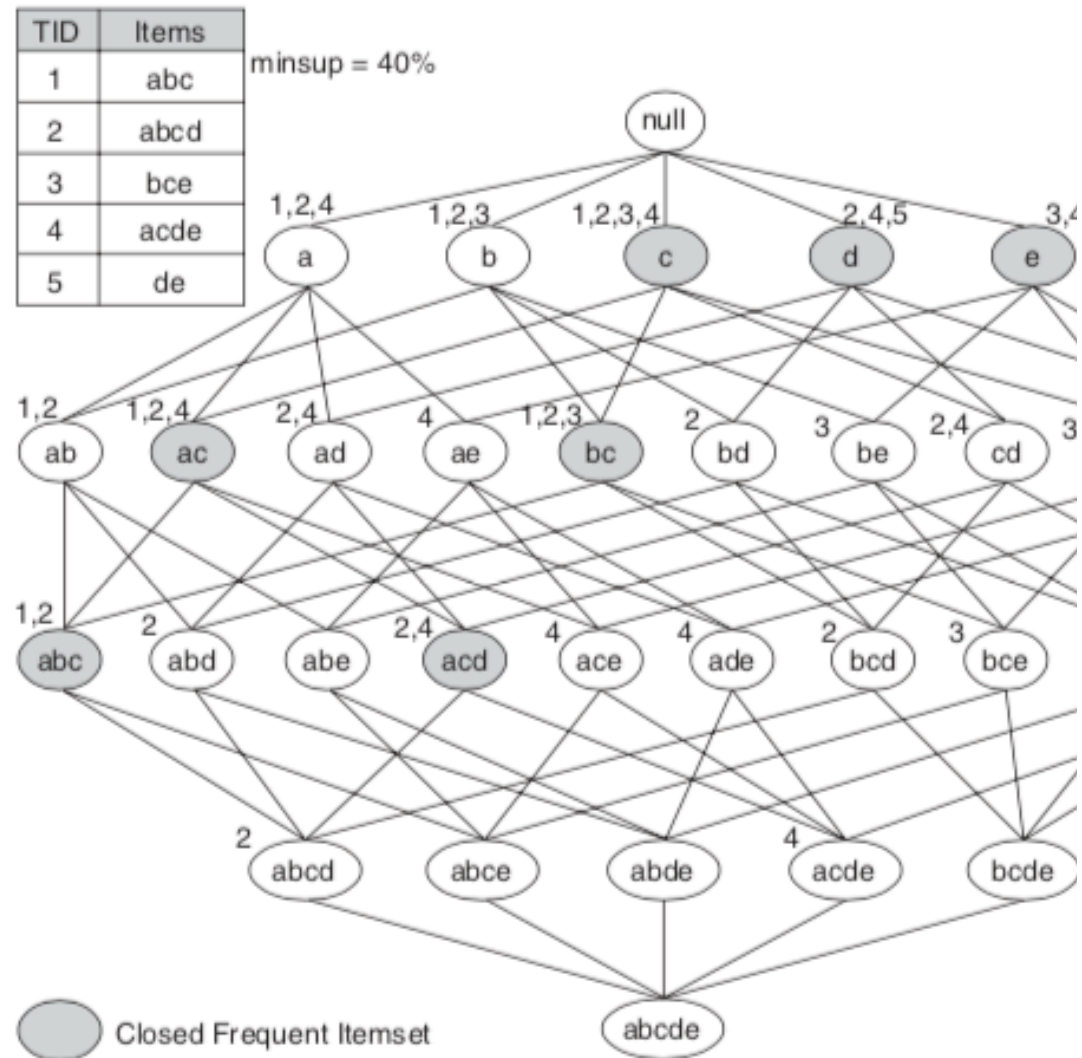
mediate superset has same

not only frequent  
 ation, but exact counts

ounts of non-closed frequent  
 can be obtained as the  
 um of its closed frequent  
 set

duant association rules are  
 nerated if using closed  
 nt itemsets.

→ {a} and {b,c} → {a} will have the  
 same support and confidence  
 cause {b} is not closed, but {b,c} is



# Example: Maximal vs Closed

$$B_1 = \{m, c, b\} \quad B_2 = \{m, p, j\}$$

$$B_3 = \{m, b\} \quad B_4 = \{c, j\}$$

$$B_5 = \{m, c, b\} \quad B_6 = \{m, c, b, j\}$$

$$B_7 = \{c, b, j\} \quad B_8 = \{b, c\}$$

*Frequent itemsets:*

**{m}:5, {c}:6, {b}:6, {j}:4,**  
**{m,c}:3, {m,b}:4, {c,b}:5, {c,j}:3,**  
**{m,c,b}:3**

**Closed**

**Maximal**

# Example: Maximal vs Closed

